Tutorial:Country codes and protocol order

Statistics Explained

Tutorial updated in April 2019.

This page describes the rules for the abbreviations, codes and protocol order to use for countries.

These rules were taken from the Interinstitutional style guide and should be applied to all publications, namely Statistics Explained articles, statistical books and statistical working papers.

EU and euro area aggregates

Code	English	French	German	Comment
EU	European Union	Union européenne	Europäische Union	data refers to the EU composition of the reference period
EU-28	European Union (28 countries)	Union européenne (28 pays)	Europäische Union (28 Länder)	data refers to the EU composition with 28 Member States (as from 1.7.2013)
EA	euro area	zone euro	Euroraum	data refers to the euro area composition of the reference period
EA-18	euro area (18 countries)	zone euro (18 pays)	Euroraum (18 Länder)	data refers to the euro area composition of 2014
EA-19	euro area (19 countries)	zone euro (19 pays)	Euroraum (19 Länder)	data refers to the euro area composition of 2015

If EU and EA-19 aggregates are available, other EU aggregates should not be shown. However, if appropriate, moving compositions of the EU and EA aggregates can also be presented. Outdated EU and EA aggregates (such as EU-27, EU-25 or EA-16) should only be used if data for the latest joining countries is not available.

The following aggregates should in general never be used, unless there is very specific domain need for their usage: EU-15, EU-10, EU-12. **Aggregates referring to 'new' Member States (e.g. countries having joined in 2004 and/or 2007) must not be used: NMS-10, NMS-12, etc.**

As Lithuania joined the euro area on 1.1.2015, EA-18 needs to be replaced by EA-19. For a transition period, both aggregates can be used.

Codes, names and protocol order of European Union (EU) Member States

The two-letter ISO code is used (ISO 3166 alpha-2) except for Greece and the United Kingdom, for which the abbreviations EL and UK have to be used.

For more information consult the Interinstitutional style guide .

Code	Country language	English	French	German
BE	Belgique/België	Belgium	Belgique	Belgien
BG	Bulgarija	Bulgaria	Bulgarie	Bulgarien
CZ	Česko	Czechia	Tchéquie	Tschechien
DK	Danmark	Denmark	Danemark	Dänemark
DE	Deutschland	Germany	Allemagne	Deutschland
EE	Eesti	Estonia	Estonie	Estland
IE	Éire/Ireland	Ireland	Irlande	Irland
EL	Elláda	Greece	Grèce	Griechenland
ES	España	Spain	Espagne	Spanien
FR	France	France	France	Frankreich
HR	Hrvatska	Croatia	Croatie	Kroatien
IT	Italia	Italy	Italie	Italien
CY	Kýpros	Cyprus	Chypre	Zypern
LV	Latvija	Latvia	Lettonie	Lettland
LT	Lietuva	Lithuania	Lituanie	Litauen
LU	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxemburg
HU	Magyarország	Hungary	Hongrie	Ungarn
MT	Malta	Malta	Malte	Malta
NL	Nederland	Netherlands	Pays-Bas	Niederlande
AT	Österreich	Austria	Autriche	Österreich
PL	Polska	Poland	Pologne	Polen
PT	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal	Portugal
RO	România	Romania	Roumanie	Rumänien
SI	Slovenija	Slovenia	Slovénie	Slowenien
SK	Slovensko	Slovakia	Slovaquie	Slowakei
FI	Suomi/Finland	Finland	Finlande	Finnland
SE	Sverige	Sweden	Suède	Schweden
UK	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	Royaume-Uni	Vereinigtes Königreich

Codes and names of **EFTA** countries

Code	Country language	English	French	German
IS	Ísland	Iceland	Islande	Island
LI	Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein	Liechtenstein
NO	Norge	Norway	Norvège	Norwegen
CH	Schweiz/Suisse/Svizzera	Switzerland	Suisse	Schweiz

The two-letter ISO code is used (ISO 3166 alpha-2).

Codes and names of candidate countries

Code	Country language	English	French	German
ME	Crna Gora	Montenegro	Monténégro	Montenegro
MK	Северна Македонија	North Macedonia	Macédoine du Nord	Nordmazedonien
AL	Shqipëria	Albania	Albanie	Albanien
RS	Србија/Srbija	Serbia	Serbie	Serbien
TR	Türkiye	Turkey	Turquie	Türkei

The two-letter ISO code is used (ISO 3166 alpha-2).

The Republic of North Macedonia (full name of the country) will be 'North Macedonia' (capital N, never "Northern") in statistical tables and graphs and in plain text.Nationality: Macedonian/citizen of the Republic of North MacedoniaOfficial language: Macedonian language

Codes and names of potential candidates

Code	Country language	English
BA	Bosna i Hercegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina
XK		Kosovo*

Kosovo should be accompanied by the following footnote: *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.*

Please note also that, as Kosovo is not recognised by the EU as a country, it is recommended to use the term **potential candidates** rather than 'potential candidate countries'

Protocol order of countries

In tables **Tables** must always respect the protocol order of countries. The following protocol order is to be applied (see example 1 below):

1. EU and EA aggregates;

2. EU Member States in alphabetical order of their official name (see list above);

3. EFTA countries in alphabetical order of their official name (IS, LI, NO, CH);

4. Candidate countries in alphabetical order of their official name (see list above);

5. Potential candidates in alphabetical order of their official name

6. Other countries outside Europe (Japan, United States for example)

GDP at current market prices, 2003–04 and 2012–14

	GDP (billion EUR)					GDP (billion PPS)			GDP per capita (PPS, EU-28 = 100)			(EUR)
	2003	2004	2012	2013	2014	2003	2012 (*)	2013	2003	2012 (*)	2013	2014
EU-28	10 490	11 016	13 426	13 520	13 921	10 490	13 426	13 520	100	100	100	27 300
Euro area (EA-19)	7 825	8 157	9 846	9 931	10 111	7 599	9 607	9 621	109	107	107	29 800
Belgium	282	298	388	395	402	271	350	351	123	120	119	36 000
Bulgaria	19	21	41	41	42	55	87	86	33	45	45	5 800
Czechia	88	96	161	157	155	169	229	230	77	82	82	14 700
Denmark	193	202	251	253	257	142	185	186	124	125	124	45 600
Germany	2 217	2 268	2 750	2 809	2 904	2 040	2 661	2 673	116	123	122	35 200
Estonia	9	10	18	19	20	15	25	26	52	71	73	14 800
Ireland	145	155	173	175	185	121	158	159	141	130	130	40 200
Greece	179	193	194	182	179	219	217	214	93	74	73	16 300
Spain	803	861	1 055	1 049	1 058	901	1 166	1 165	100	94	94	22 800
France	1 637	1 711	2 091	2 114	2 142	1 474	1 863	1 869	111	107	107	32 400
Croatia	31	33	44	44	43	51	69	69	56	61	61	10 200
Italy	1 391	1 449	1 615	1 609	1 616	1 376	1 608	1 595	112	101	99	26 600
Cyprus	13	14	19	18	18	14	21	20	94	93	89	20 500
Latvia	10	12	22	23	24	22	32	34	45	60	64	12 100
Lithuania	:	18	33	35	36	:	55	57	48	69	73	12 400
Luxembourg	26	28	44	45	:	23	37	37	240	264	257	:
Hungary	75	83	99	101	103	133	170	174	62	65	66	10 500
Malta	5	5	7	8	8	7	9	10	82	84	86	18 600
Netherlands	506	520	641	643	655	461	587	586	133	132	131	38 900
Austria	231	242	317	323	329	220	288	289	127	129	128	38 500
Poland	192	205	386	396	413	388	670	689	48	66	67	10 700
Portugal	146	152	168	169	173	175	211	217	78	76	79	16 600
Romania	53	61	134	144	150	142	281	289	31	53	55	7 500
Slovenia	26	28	36	36	37	35	44	45	83	82	82	18 100
Slovakia	30	35	72	74	75	63	106	108	55	74	75	13 900
Finland	152	158	200	202	204	127	166	164	114	115	113	37 400
Sweden	293	307	423	436	429	242	318	324	127	126	127	44 300
United Kingdom	1 720	1 850	2 041	2 017	2 222	1 568	1 810	1 852	123	107	109	34 400
Iceland	10	11	11	12	13	8	10	10	126	116	119	39 500
Norway	202	213	397	393	377	150	253	252	154	190	186	73 400
Switzerland	312	317	518	516	:	225	340	348	136	162	163	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	39	40	:
North Macedonia	4	5	8	8	:	11	19	20	27	34	36	:
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	:	21	:	:	28	28	:
Serbia	19	20	32	34	33	:	70	70	:	37	37	:
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	35	52	53	:
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	28	29	:
Japan	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	111	102	103	:
United States	10 176	9 868	12 580	12 626	13 112	9 704	12 289	12 662	157	148	150	41 100

(:) not available
(*) Break in series.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nama_10_gdp, nama_10_pc and tec00114)

eurostat

Example 1:GDP at current market prices, 2005 and 2013–2015

In country tables, all EU countries should be present. Other countries (EFTA, candidate, potential candidate) should only be added if data are available. It is also advised to use the full country names instead of the country codes whenever possible.
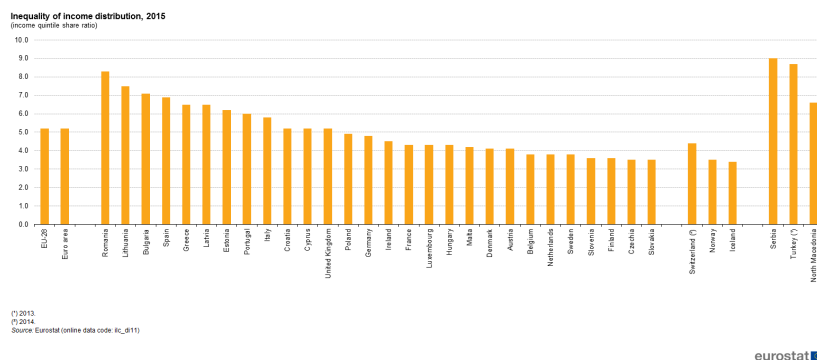
In graphs

As for tables, it is advised to use the full country names instead of the country codes.

Graphs sorted by value

1) **It is recommended** in graphs to display the countries sorted by value in ascending or descending order. It is also recommended to group the countries as it is done in tables in the following order (see example 2):

- EU and EA (if relevant) aggregates, followed by a blank space

- Member States, followed by a blank space

- EFTA countries, followed by a blank space

- Candidate countries, followed by a blank space
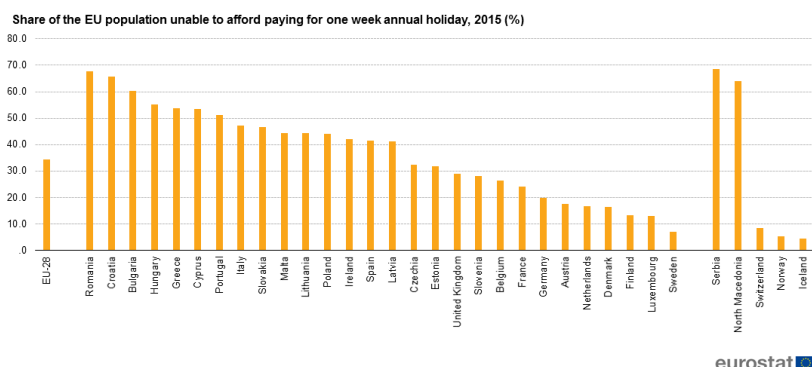
- Potential candidates, followed by a blank space

- Other countries.

Inequality of income distribution, 2015
(income quintile share ratio)

(¹) 2013.
(²) 2014.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_di11)

eurostat

Example 2: Inequality of income distribution, 2015 (income quintile share ratio)

2) Under certain circumstances, the following option to group all together all non-EU countries could be accepted:

- EU and EA (if relevant) aggregates, followed by a blank space

- Member States, followed by a blank space

- EFTA countries, candidate countries, potential candidates and other countries are represented in descending or ascending order independently of the protocol order (see example 3).
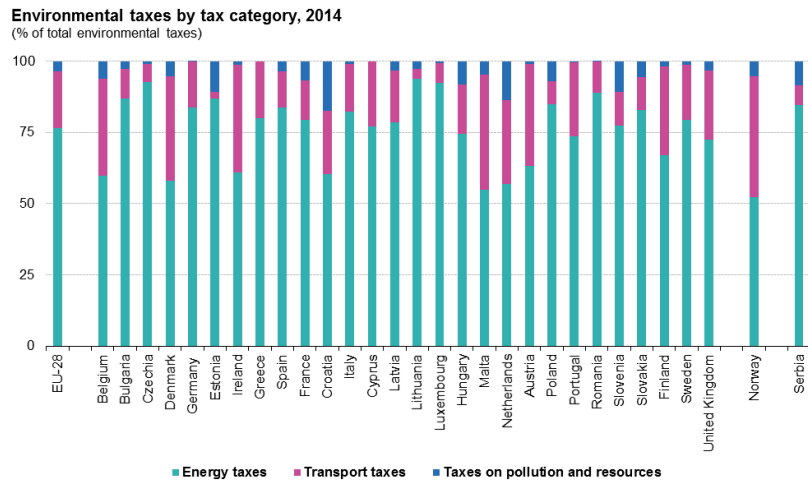
Share of the EU population unable to afford paying for one week annual holiday, 2015 (%)

eurostat

Example 3: Share of the EU population unable to afford paying for one week annual holiday, 2015 (%)

Graphs not sorted by value

If, **as an exception to the rule** , the graphs are **not** sorted by value, the protocol order should be used (see example 4):

- EU and EA (if relevant) aggregates, followed by a blank space

- EU Member states, followed by a blank space,

- EFTA countries, followed by a blank space

- Candidate countries, followed by a blank space

- Potential candidates, followed by a blank space

- Other countries.

Environmental taxes by tax category, 2014
(% of total environmental taxes)

Example 4: Environmental taxes by tax category, 2014 (% of total environmental taxes)

In country graphs, all **available** EU and EFTA countries should be present. Missing countries should be mentioned in a 'Note' under the chart e.g.: Note: xx not available / or not applicable'. Other countries (candidate, potential candidate, other) should only be added if relevant and if data are available.

It is also advised to use the full country names instead of the country codes whenever possible.

In text

Lists of country or region names in **text** should however *not* follow the protocol order, for reasons of user-friendliness: they should be in the alphabetical order of the language of the text (the same rule is also applied in tutorials and glossary pages, for instance in the many language versions of Glossary:European Union (EU)). Another option is to mention the countries by statistical order (ranking).

Source data for tables and graphs

- Layout rules - graphs and tables -table

- Layout rules - graphs and tables - bar graph

- Layout rules - graphs and tables - stacked bar graph

Other articles

- Country codes (glossary, more extensive)