F.1. Methods of data collection

7.132. Statistics on working time can be collected through statistical censuses and surveys of households and establishments, and through access to administrative registers.

7.133. When possible and pertinent, the use of a combination of data sources may be preferable for meeting user requirements (such as coverage, scope, response rates, sample size, response burden and costs) and evaluating the quality of statistics obtained.

7.134. To ensure greater coherence for analytical purposes, working-time statistics should be collected for the same reference period and for the same disaggregation or groups of jobs as those used for the statistics collected, inter alia, for employment, wages and labour costs.

7.135. Household-based surveys are well suited for the collection of data:
   (a) On hours actually worked and hours usually worked, on formalized working-time arrangements and the characteristics of arrangements. They may also be used to produce statistics on hours paid for, or normal or contractual hours;
   (b) For all persons working and all jobs, including in informal employment, household service and volunteer work;
   (c) For a short reference period such as a day or a week and when the survey is continuous; and for a long reference period such as a month or a year;
   (d) For persons individually and for the economy as a whole.

7.136. Establishment-based surveys are well suited to collect data:
   (a) On hours paid for, contractual hours, paid overtime hours and absence-from-work hours usually recorded to monitor entitlements to leave, and on formalized working-time arrangements. They may also be used to produce statistics on normal hours of work or hours actually worked;
   (b) For all or a subset of paid-employment jobs in the establishment, or all or a subset of establishments;
   (c) For a reference period, such as a week, month, year or pay period;
   (d) For jobs individually, on averages for groups of jobs or for the establishment as a whole.

7.137. The importance of the working-time variable is demonstrated by the extent of its measurement in the Labour Force Survey of Lithuania, where 14 questions are asked for the purpose of collecting data on various concepts of working time (see Annex III, questions 1316, 24, and 3846).