

STATISTICS ON CROSS-BORDER WORKERS IN THE GREATER REGION

Dr Agnieszka Walczak

Data Centre

Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)

11 Porte des Sciences

4366 Esch-sur-Alzette

Luxembourg

Dr Thomas Mathae

Economics and Research Department

Banque centrale du Luxembourg (BCL)

2 bd Royal

2983 Luxembourg

Luxembourg

Short Summary - English

Since 2010, the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economics Research (LISER) has been conducting, on behalf of the Central Bank of Luxembourg (BCL), the Household Finance and Consumption Survey among cross-border workers in Luxembourg. This survey collects information on the financial situation and behaviour of cross-border commuters, including their employment, access to banking and credit, housing decisions, education as well as consumption. It is the only source that collects detailed household level information on assets and liabilities of cross-border workers. The survey is important for Luxembourgish institutions and the community of researchers as Luxembourg's labour market is highly reliant on foreign workers from the Grande Région, which consists of Luxembourg, Wallonia and the German-speaking community in Belgium, Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany) and Lorraine in France. This presentation will shed light on the HFCS Cross-border workers survey – its methodology and results from the three waves of the survey conducted so far.

Key words: survey methodology, cross-border workers, Luxembourg, Greater Region

Résumé court - français

Depuis 2010, l'Institut de recherche socio-économique du Luxembourg (LISER) réalise, pour le compte de la Banque centrale du Luxembourg (BCL), l'enquête sur les dépenses et la consommation des ménages auprès des travailleurs frontaliers. Cette enquête recueille des informations sur la situation financière et le comportement des travailleurs transfrontaliers, notamment en ce qui concerne leur emploi, leur accès aux banques et au crédit, les décisions en matière de logement, d'éducation et de consommation. C'est la seule source qui recueille des informations détaillées au niveau des ménages sur les actifs et les passifs des travailleurs transfrontaliers. L'enquête est importante pour les institutions et la communauté de chercheurs luxembourgeoises car le marché du travail luxembourgeois est fortement dépendant des travailleurs étrangers originaires de la Grande Région, composée du Luxembourg, de la Wallonie et de la communauté germanophone de Belgique, de la Sarre et de la Rhénanie-Palatinat (Allemagne), et de la Lorraine en France. Cette présentation mettra en lumière l'enquête HFCS sur les travailleurs transfrontaliers - sa méthodologie et les résultats des trois vagues de l'enquête menée jusqu'à présent.

ABSTRACT

Luxembourg's labour market is highly reliant on foreign workers from neighbouring regions, who commute to Luxembourg every day (cross-border commuters). These regions are part of the "Grande Région" (Greater Region) of Luxembourg, which consists of Luxembourg, Wallonia and the German-speaking community of Belgium (Belgium), Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany) and Lorraine (France), presenting a total area of 65 401km². In 2014, approximately 161 000 individuals were cross-border commuters to Luxembourg, accounting for 43,5% of Luxembourg labour force (Statec, 2014). In 2018, the number of cross-border workers increased slightly to 166 800 individuals crossing borders to Luxembourg every single day (Statec, 2018). Cross-border workers do not only contribute to economic output and tax revenues, but also support the demand of products and services through their consumption.

In order to assess the financial and economic situation of cross-border commuters, the Banque Centrale du Luxembourg (BCL), in cooperation with the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), conducts the Cross-border Household Finance and Consumption Survey (HFCS-XB). The first wave of this survey was launched in 2010 together with a survey of private households resident in Luxembourg, the Luxembourg Household Finance and Consumption Survey (LU-HFCS). While the LU-HFCS is part of a wider European Project, the Eurosystem HFCS survey coordinated by the European Central Bank (ECB), the HFCS-XB survey is specifically designated to complement the LU-HFCS with information on cross-border commuters and their households. The information contained in these surveys contributes to the understanding of households' economic decisions, which is important to guide economic policy.

The HFCS-XB survey collects information on the financial situation and behaviour of cross-border commuters, including their employment, access to banking and credit, housing decisions, education as well as consumption. It is one of the few sources that collects detailed data about cross-border commuters and their households, and the only source that collects detailed household-level information on assets and liabilities. The HFCS-XB survey is a cross-sectional survey, which aims at being representative of the household population in the reference year of the data collection.

The presentation will shed light on two aspects. Firstly, the methodology used for selecting the sample of cross-border workers and statistical aspects of data preparation (such as weighting). Secondly, we will present results from the latest wave of the survey and compare the results with results from the previous waves.

The presentation will take place within the panel organised by the Statistical Society of Luxembourg (LSS).

References

- Statec (2014): Note de conjoncture : La situation économique au Luxembourg – Evolution récente et perspectives, Number 2-14
- Statec (2018): Statistiques en Bref: http://www.grande-region.lu/portal//images/publications/documents/Statistiques_en_bref_2018.pdf

