

Working time and absences – results of 2021 renewal

Pertti Taskinen
LFS methodology workshop
26/26.5.2023 Lisbon

624

statistical releases

840

experts, of whom

150

statistical interviewers



3.57 personnel
job satisfaction index,
on a scale of 1-5

Funding

EUR 51.5 millio

from the state budget



EUR 8.5 million

income from charged services



156

years
of data and statistics



150

statistics



4 700

tables in the database

Data needed for statistics



95% from registers
5% with inquiries

95.5% of inquiries
could be answered online

Statistical inquiries

168 000 responses from organisations

181 000 responses from persons
and households

for researchers

423

user licences

204

data deliveries



90%

of Finns know
Statistics Finland

90%

of Finns consider
Statistics Finland impartial



8 000

contacts
answered by
the information
service



16 500

followers
on Twitter

1 048

service deliveries subject to charge



3.8 million

users on the
stat.fi
website



Read more: stat.fi



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Special questions of working time

- **Full time / part time dimension**
 - Part-time: as a reasoning like a vicious circle: If part time, then few hours <-> if few hours, then part time
 - In this presentation: full-time (not "total" = full-time and part-time)
- **Employees / self-employed dimension**
 - Not in this presentation (all employed)
- **Hours per employed at yearly level / weekly level dimension**
 - Yearly includes second job
 - OECD: "actual hours worked from LFS are highly suspect of overestimating annual actual working time estimates"
 - Which is better output for worked hours, weekly or yearly?
- **Does weekly hours include those on a leave whole week?**
 - Most often (and in this presentation) only those on a work at the week
 - If those on a leave whole week: weekly average considerably lower
- **High hours (weekly or yearly) and lower employment rate possible because of low participation rate**
 - High average worked hours not always "the best"

Task force on measurement of working time and absences 2013-2015

- The adjustment of the measurement of absences and working time was a part of the larger overall revision of the core LFS
- Variables for weekly
 - Contractual hours (new)
 - Usual hours
 - Absences (3)
 - Extra hours
 - Actual hours

Task force on measurement of working time and absences 2013-2015

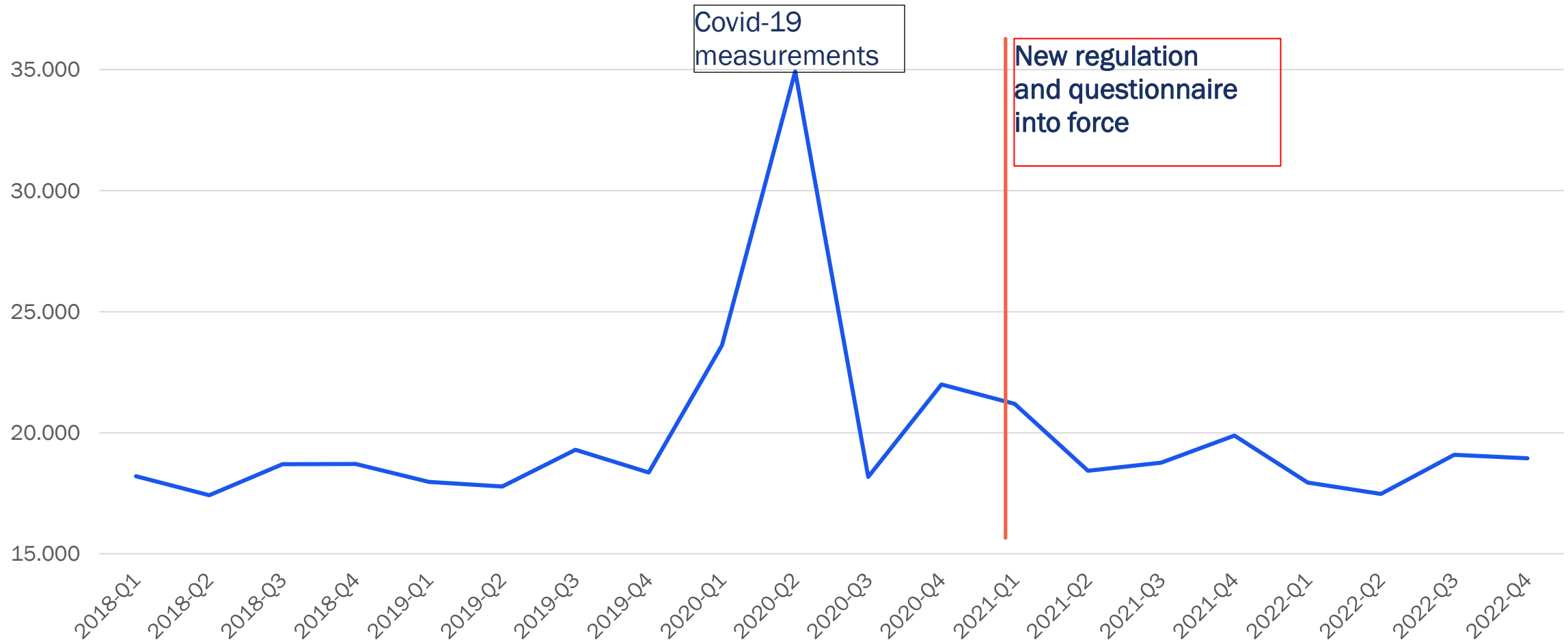
- Model questionnaire for working time
- Presentation in 2016 LFS Methodology Workshop in Cardiff (web page?)
- “The analyses undertaken by the task force have shown that in many Member States there is a **substantial under-reporting by respondents of their absences**, which leads to serious limitations regarding the international comparability of estimates on hours actually worked.” (Final report, Eurostat/F3/LAMAS/22/15)

How did it go? What are the results now?



Absences, EU-27 countries

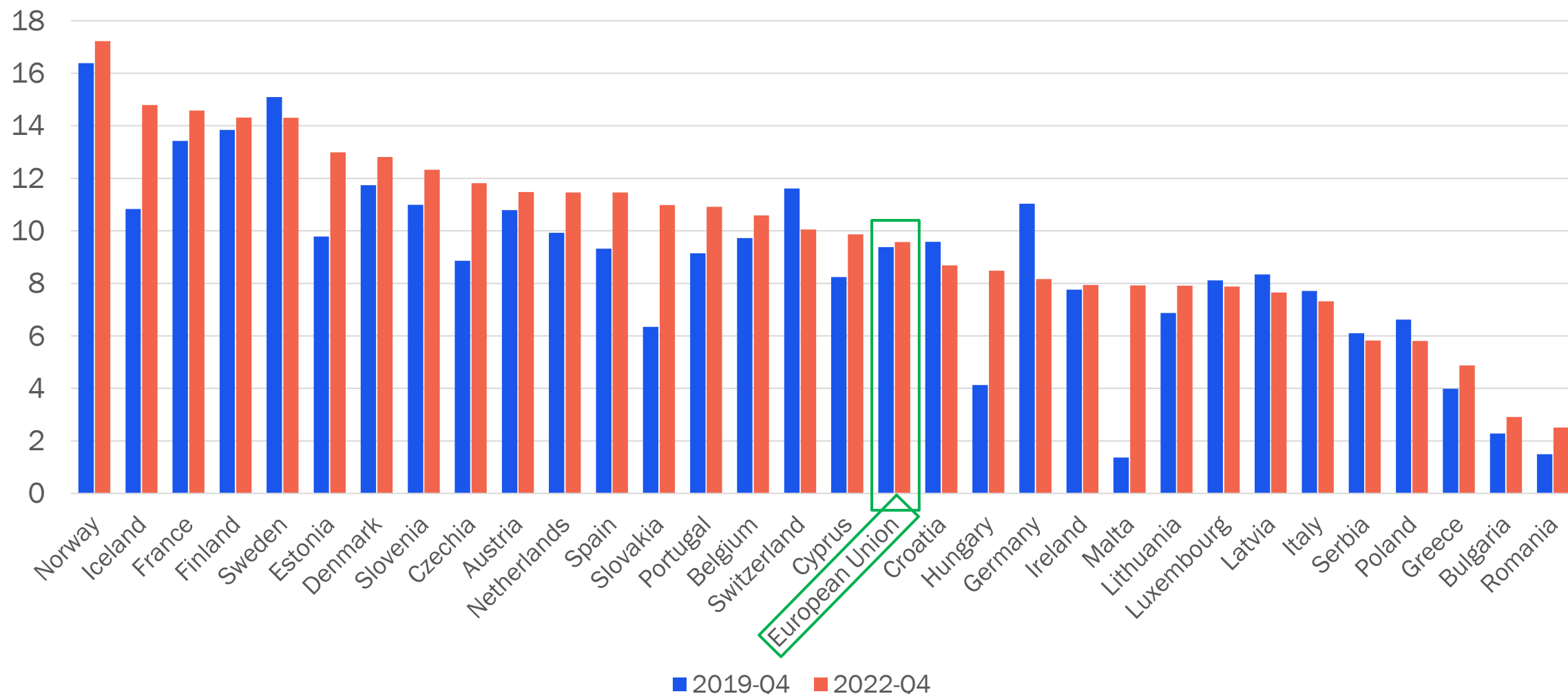
2018-2022 quarterley. Source: Eurostat, total absences from work, seasonally adjusted data, 20-64 y:s



Absences, % of employed persons absent from work

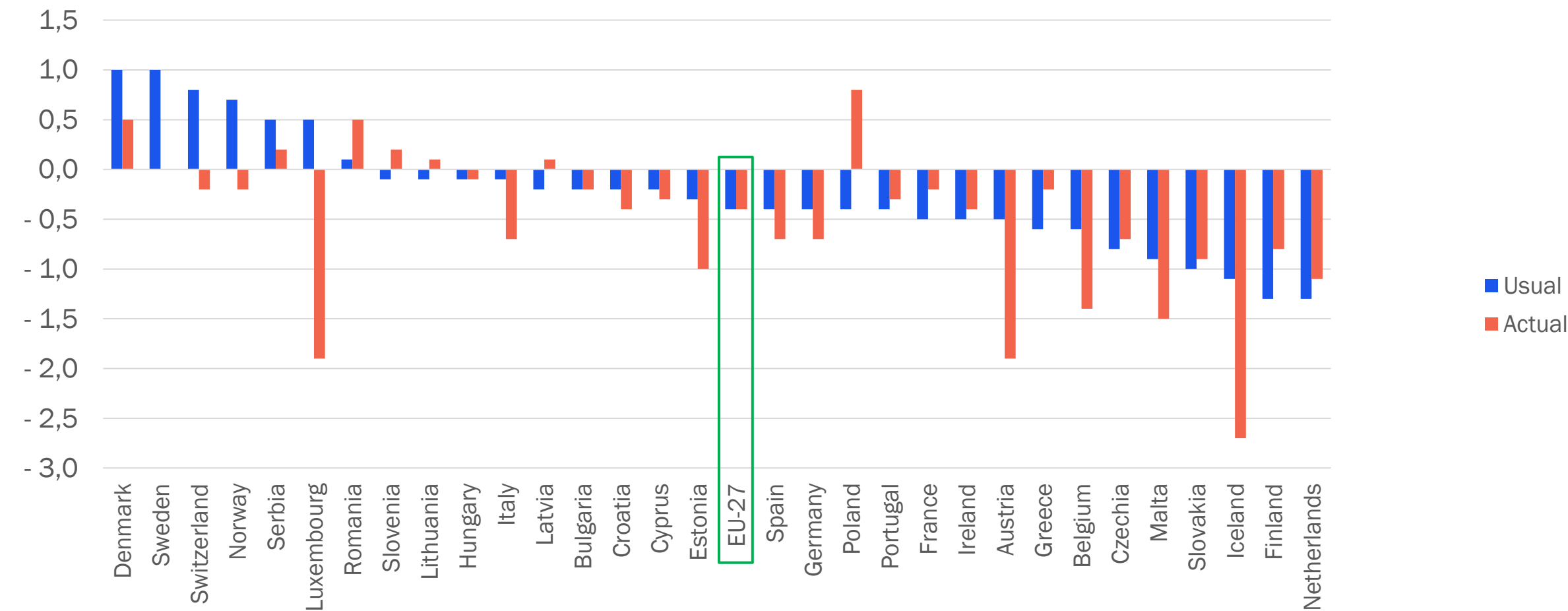
2019/Q4 and 2022/Q4 in comparison

Source: Eurostat, employed persons/total absences, 15-64 y:s



Usual and actual hours: difference between 2019/2021, hours

Source: Eurostat, usual and actual hours, full-time employed person, 15-64 y:s



Direction of change 2019/2021

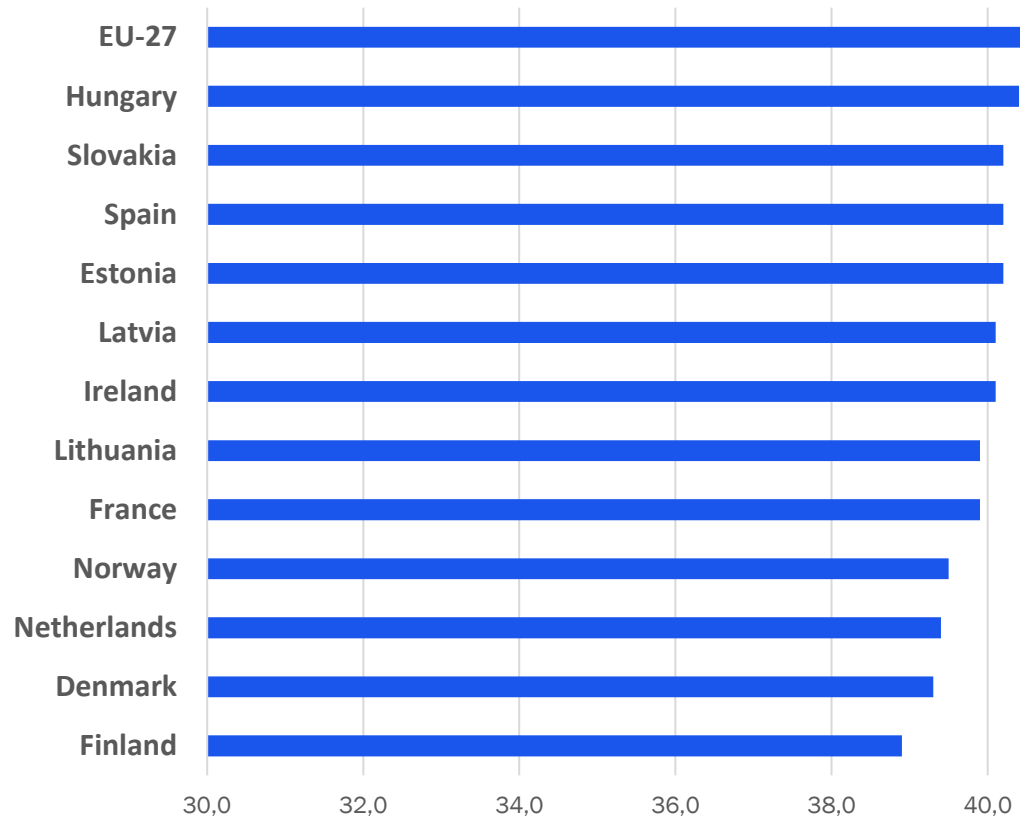
	Usual +	Usual -
Actual +	Denmark, Serbia, Romania, Slovenia	Slovenia, Latvia, Poland, (Lithuania)
Actual -	Switzerland, Norway, Luxemburg	Italy, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Spain, Germany, Portugal, France, Ireland, Austria, Greece, Belgium, Czechia, Malta, Slovakia, Iceland, Finland, Netherlands, (Hungary), EU

Case Finland

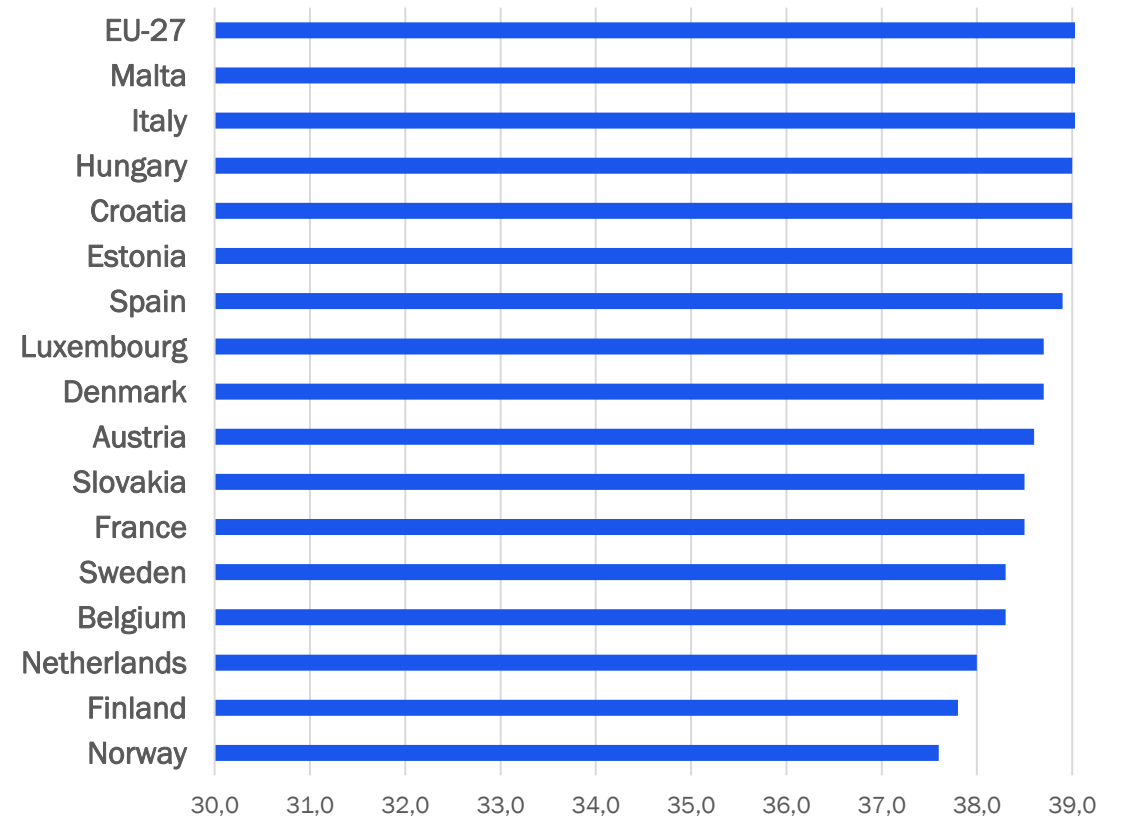


Finland: at the bottom of weekly hours

Usual hours (full-time) 2021, 15-64 y, EU average and below



Actual hours (full-time) 2021, 15-64 y, EU average and below

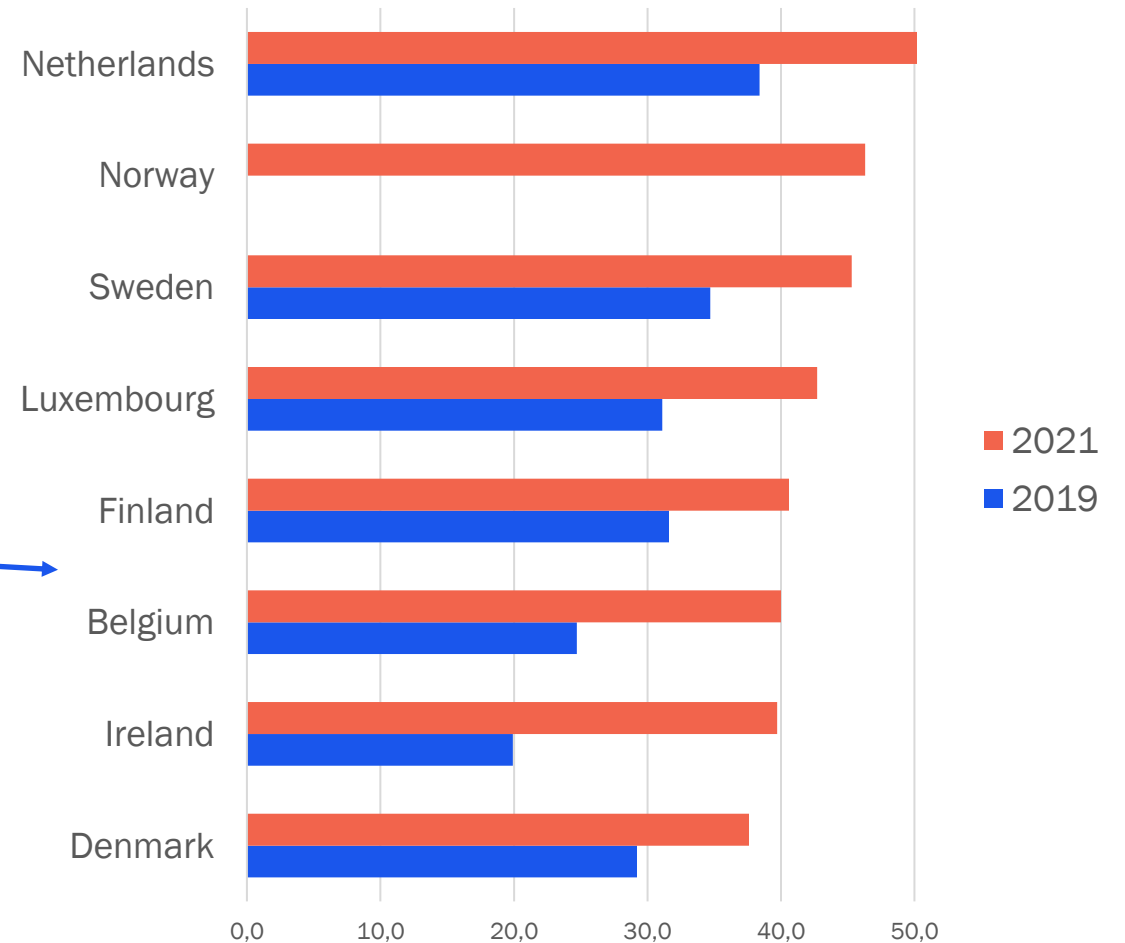


Finland: structure of LFS questionnaire

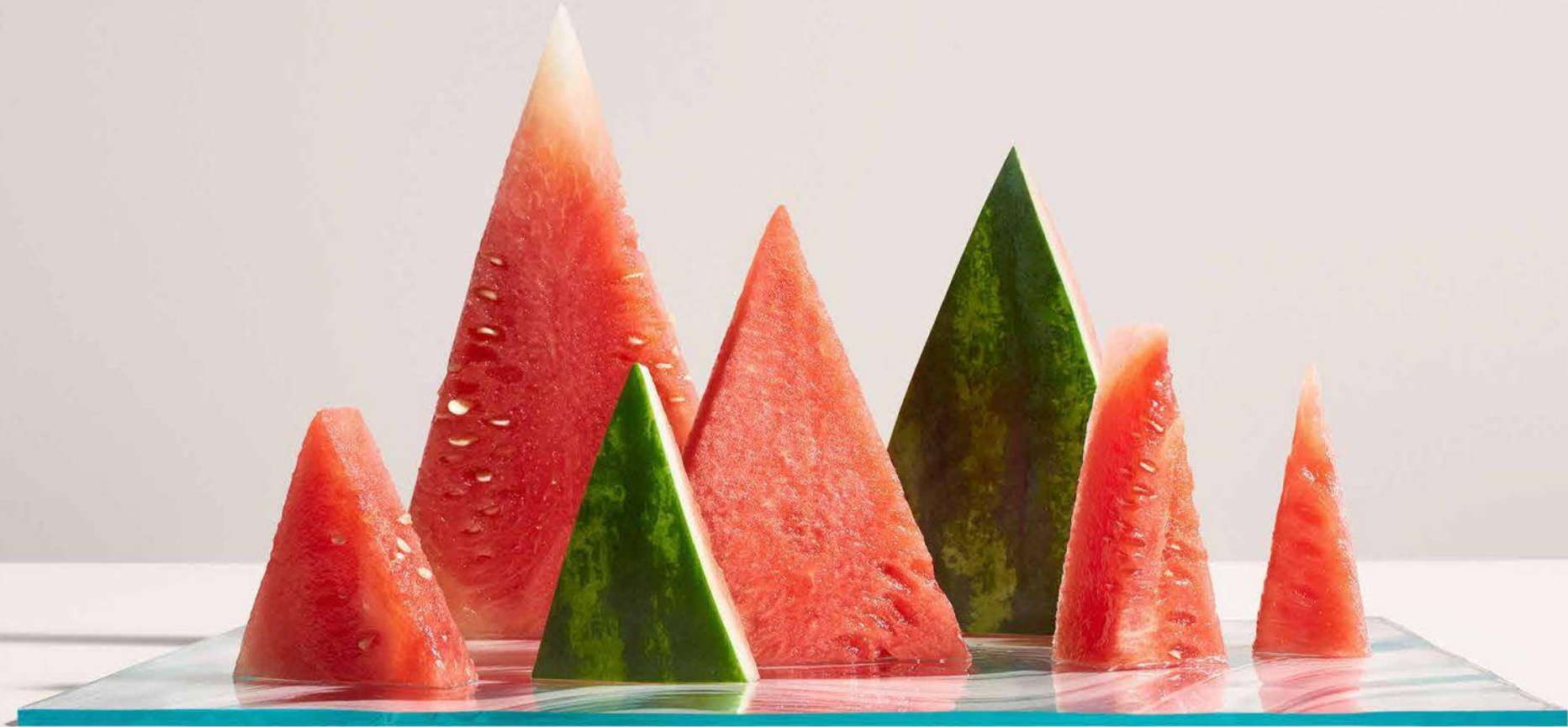
- Type of employment contract (national question)
 - Depending type, some more questions
- CONTRHRS: agreed weekly working time
- HWUSUAL: do usually work number of contract hours OR, how many hours usually work
- ABSILLIN/ABSHOLID/ABSOTHER
 - if public holidays on a week, also taken account unpaid leave
- Working on weekend and number of working days (national questions)
- EXTRAHRS: "count paid and unpaid overtime and work exceeding regular working time within flexible scheme"
 - Overtime compensation, for how many hours (national question)
- HWACTUAL: "leave out even short absences (at least one hour)"

Possible reasons for decreased hours (Finland)

- Mixed mode data collection (from 2021)?
 - Lower hours at web questionnaire
- Remembering of *contract type* and contractual hours (from 2021)?
- Working at home? →
- Part time working increased
- Other unknown factors?



Run-through and conclusions



1

Absences at the same level in EU

Absences by country either dropped, rose or remained the same after 2021 reform, no uniform line in results

2

Difference in development of usual and actual hours

At the EU level both usual and actual weekly hours same change (-0.4), results quite heterogenous between countries

3

Data collection and mode effect (Finland)

- Very difficult to exclude possible mode effect
- CAWI giving more correct results (no social desirability bias)?

4

LFS working hours results in Finland

- Worked hours decreased for multiple reasons
- The effect of questionnaire change in 2021 is unclear

To conclude

- The renewal has a minor effect on results in working time and absences, not a uniform line across countries
- How to test comparability between countries now - own assessment in each country welcome
- Differencies may remain; at least partly the reason is different labour market structure in each country

Kiitos!

