

Question in Project:

European Working Conditions Survey 2024

Question Topic:

Job and career/ Job situation & professional activity

Construct:

Locations of work

General Information:

Note: The item was tested in English, German and Polish.

Introduction:

English version:

The next questions are about the locations in which you work.

German version:

In den folgenden Fragen geht es um die Orte, an denen Sie arbeiten.

Question Text:

English version:

During the last 12 months, how often have you worked in any of the following locations?

German version:

Wie häufig haben Sie seit Beginn Ihrer Tätigkeit an den folgenden Orten gearbeitet?

Answer Categories:

English version 1:

Your employer's premises (office, factory, shop, school, etc.) [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely/Never]

Your own business' premises other than at home (office, factory, shop, etc.) [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely/Never]

Locations you're sent to by your employer or requested to go to by clients [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely/Never]

In a car or another vehicle [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely/Never]

Your own home [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely/Never]

Other locations [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely/Never]

English version 2, Part A (CATA):

Your employer's premises (office, factory, shop, school, etc.)

Your own business' premises other than at home (office, factory, shop, etc.)

Locations you're sent to by your employer or requested to go to by clients

In a car or another vehicle

Your own home

Other locations

English version 2, Part B (Frequency)

Your employer's premises (office, factory, shop, school, etc.) [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

Locations you're sent to by your employer or requested to go to by clients [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

In a car or another vehicle [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

Your own home [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

Other locations [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

English version 3, Part A (Item-by-Item):

Your employer's premises (office, factory, shop, school, etc.) [Yes/No]

Your own business' premises other than at home (office, factory, shop, etc.) [Yes/No]

Locations you're sent to by your employer or requested to go to by clients [Yes/No]

In a car or another vehicle [Yes/No]

Your own home [Yes/No]

Other locations [Yes/No]

English version 3, Part B (Frequency):

Your employer's premises (office, factory, shop, school, etc.) [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

Your own business' premises other than at home (office, factory, shop, etc.) [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

Locations you're sent to by your employer or requested to go to by clients [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

In a car or another vehicle [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

Your own home [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

Other locations [Always/Often/Sometimes/Rarely]

German version 1:

In den Räumlichkeiten Ihres Arbeitgebers (Büro, Fabrik, Laden, Schule usw.) [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten/Nie]

In Ihren eigenen Geschäftsräumen außer Haus [Büro, Fabrik, Laden usw.] [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten/Nie]

An Orten, an die Sie von Ihrem Arbeitgeber oder Kunden geschickt werden [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten/Nie]

In einem Auto oder anderem Fahrzeug [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten/Nie]

In Ihrem eigenen Zuhause [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten/Nie]

An sonstigen Orten [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten/Nie]

German version 2, Part A (CATA)

In den Räumlichkeiten Ihres Arbeitgebers (Büro, Fabrik, Laden, Schule usw.)

In Ihren eigenen Geschäftsräumen außer Haus

An Orten, an die Sie von Ihrem Arbeitgeber oder Kunden geschickt werden
In einem Auto oder anderem Fahrzeug
In Ihrem eigenen Zuhause
An sonstigen Orten

German version 2, Part B (Frequency)

In den Räumlichkeiten Ihres Arbeitgebers (Büro, Fabrik, Laden, Schule usw.) [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

In Ihren eigenen Geschäftsräumen außer Haus [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

An Orten, an die Sie von Ihrem Arbeitgeber oder Kunden geschickt werden [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

In einem Auto oder anderem Fahrzeug [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

In Ihrem eigenen Zuhause [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

An sonstigen Orten [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

German version 3, Part A (Item-by-Item):

In den Räumlichkeiten Ihres Arbeitgebers (Büro, Fabrik, Laden, Schule usw.) [Ja/Nein]

In Ihren eigenen Geschäftsräumen außer Haus [Ja/Nein]

An Orten, an die Sie von Ihrem Arbeitgeber oder Kunden geschickt werden [Ja/Nein]

In einem Auto oder anderem Fahrzeug [Ja/Nein]

In Ihrem eigenen Zuhause [Ja/Nein]

An sonstigen Orten [Ja/Nein]

German version 3, Part B (Frequency):

In den Räumlichkeiten Ihres Arbeitgebers (Büro, Fabrik, Laden, Schule usw.) [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

In Ihren eigenen Geschäftsräumen außer Haus [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

An Orten, an die Sie von Ihrem Arbeitgeber oder Kunden geschickt werden [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

In einem Auto oder anderem Fahrzeug [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

In Ihrem eigenen Zuhause [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

An sonstigen Orten [Immer/Häufig/Manchmal/Selten]

Cognitive Techniques:

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Findings for Question:

Findings Web Probing:

Respondents who were employed in the main paid job were asked about the location "Your employer's premises", whereas respondents who were self-employed in the main paid job were asked about "Your own business' premises other than at home (office, factory, shop, etc.)". All other items were shown to all respondents in the same version.

In total, 39% ($n = 306$) respondents indicated that they (at least rarely) worked in one location, while 61% ($n = 479$) reported working at two or more locations. There were no significant differences in the number of work locations reported by country. However, the number of reported work locations differed significantly by question version (see Table 33). Respondents who answered using the check-all-that-apply format reported a lower number of work locations than respondents who received one of the other question versions. Most strikingly, 61% ($n = 161$) of respondents in the check-all-that-apply format reported exactly one working location, while 25% ($n = 67$) and 30% ($n = 78$) did this in the other formats. In the UK and Germany, there were no significant differences between the number of reported work locations between question versions 1 and 3. However, in Poland, respondents reported a significantly higher number of work locations when they were presented the frequency scale directly (question version 1) than when they first answered an item-by-item "yes/no" format followed by a frequency scale (question version 3); the data showed the same (albeit non-significant) tendency in the other two countries.

The most commonly named location was the employer's premises, which 84% of employed respondents had visited at least rarely in the past 12 months or since they started their (main) job. The second most common location was one's own home (53%), though this result is certainly strongly influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Among self-employed respondents, one's own business premises were named by 52% of the respondents. Clients' premises were frequented by 44% of respondents, vehicles served as a work location for 29% and other locations were named by 30% of respondents.

The table shows the share of respondents who visited different work locations by question version (Table 34). For question version 1, this means that respondents answered "Rarely" or more often. In question versions 2 and 3, this means that respondents reported these locations as locations they had visited in part A of the question. Respondents in question version 2 (CATA) were less likely to report any given location. Respondents in question version 1 were more likely to report work locations than respondents in question version 2 in many, but not all cases. There were no significant differences for the item "Your employer's premises" in any of the three countries. Differences between question versions for the location "Your own business premises" were significant for Poland only, and "Locations you're sent to by your employer or requested to go to by clients" was significant in the UK and Poland, but not Germany. For the other three locations, "In a car or vehicle", "Your own home" and "Other locations", the frequency of reporting differed significantly between question versions for all three countries. Applying a Bonferroni correction for multiple testing to the p-values would make some of these differences non-significant; however, the T-tests above based on the number of reported work locations confirmed the result.

Tables 35 to 40 show the reported frequency of visiting work locations. For this, the responses to the two question parts in question versions 2 and 3 were combined to form a frequency scale as in question version 1. A look at the frequencies confirms the results from above. There were significant differences in the reported frequencies of visiting

work locations for all locations except "Your employer's premises" and "Your own business premises", though even these two items show the same tendency (A1: $\chi^2(8,792) = 15.328$, $p = .053$; A2: $\chi^2(8,792) = 14.736$, $p = .064$; B: $\chi^2(8,792) = 79.555$, $p < .001$; C: $\chi^2(8,792) = 76.922$, $p < .001$; E: $\chi^2(8,792) = 43.342$, $p < .001$; F: $\chi^2(8,792) = 118.335$, $p < .001$).

A closer look at the frequencies shows that respondents in the check-all-that-apply format tended to either not report a certain work location or report a high frequency of working there. This effect is particularly strong for locations that are typically not the main working place.

Summary:

- Respondents reported significantly fewer work locations in the check-all-that-apply format than in the other two question versions.
- There were no significant differences in response behaviour between question versions for the main location(s) at which respondents work, that is the employer's premises for employees and one's own business premises for the self-employed.
- For locations that were not the main place of work, check-all-that-apply formats led respondents not to report locations they "Sometimes" or "Rarely" work from.

Recommendations:

We recommend keeping the question format from question version 1, as was recommended in the course of the adaptation to an online questionnaire.