



Brief summary of key points

In the field of academic research, the Employment Surveys conducted by the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training and the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BIBB/BAuA Employment Survey) of the Working Population on Qualification and Working Conditions in Germany have established themselves as a major study in the area of qualification and vocational (education) research. The two main topics cover questions of changes in work and occupations as well as acquisition and utilisation of professional and vocational qualifications. The BIBB/BAuA Employment Survey 2012 alone is currently being used in over 200 research projects both nationally and internationally. The representative sample allows describing changes in work and occupations and the possibilities for utilisation of professional and vocational qualifications in a highly detailed and differentiated way. At the same time, the BIBB/BAuA Employment Surveys provide a basis for deeper, hypothesis-led research work. Because the survey is designed as a regular questionnaire with a different main focus each time, analyses can be conducted over time for part of the questionnaire and current research questions are also addressed and investigated.

For example, the BIBB/BAuA Employment Surveys permit information on occupations exercised, which is included as standard in most surveys, to be supplemented by data on occupational contents, i.e. specific tasks and occupational requirements. The BIBB/BAuA Employment Surveys also hold detailed information on the trained occupation along to the (highest) qualification level of respondents. This is useful given the fact that previous analyses have shown that the aggregate of “vocational education and training” frequently used in research is multi-segmented and that the heterogeneity of non-academic VET cannot be adequately mapped solely via the category of “vocational education and training”.

In overall terms, the BIBB/BAuA Employment Surveys exhibit six characteristics which differentiate them from other quantitative surveys.

- *Unique* indicators of work and occupation and of the utilisation of professional and vocational qualifications
- Opportunities for occupational differentiation on the basis of the *large sample size* (around 20,000)
- *Detailed* recording of all professional and vocational qualifications (type and duration, including upgrading training)
- Signing of occupations – exercised as well as trained (Classification of Occupations 2010, 1992, ISCO08, 88)
- *Comparisons* with earlier surveys 1979, 1986, 1992, 1999, 2006, 2012
- Possibility of *follow-up surveys* of special topics