

# National Accounts vs. Labour Force Survey: exploring differences in concepts, definitions and numbers of employment

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# Introduction to the issue

- There are **two main datasets** measuring employment: NA and LFS
- **Warwick workshop**: a first examination
- **Process of validating the data**: development of detailed workbooks, invitation to experts, development of detailed questionnaire, feedback.

# Introduction to the datasets

- NA: compiled by national statistical agencies using various sources: employment registers; administrative records; censuses; labour force surveys etc.
- LFS: data collected by NSA, cover the whole population, common definitions and methods are used across member states.

# Differences in concepts and definitions

- Geographical coverage: National vs Domestic concept
- Groups included in the measurements : age groups, conscripts, persons in extended parental leave
- Sectoral and occupational classifications
- People employed by temporary employment agencies

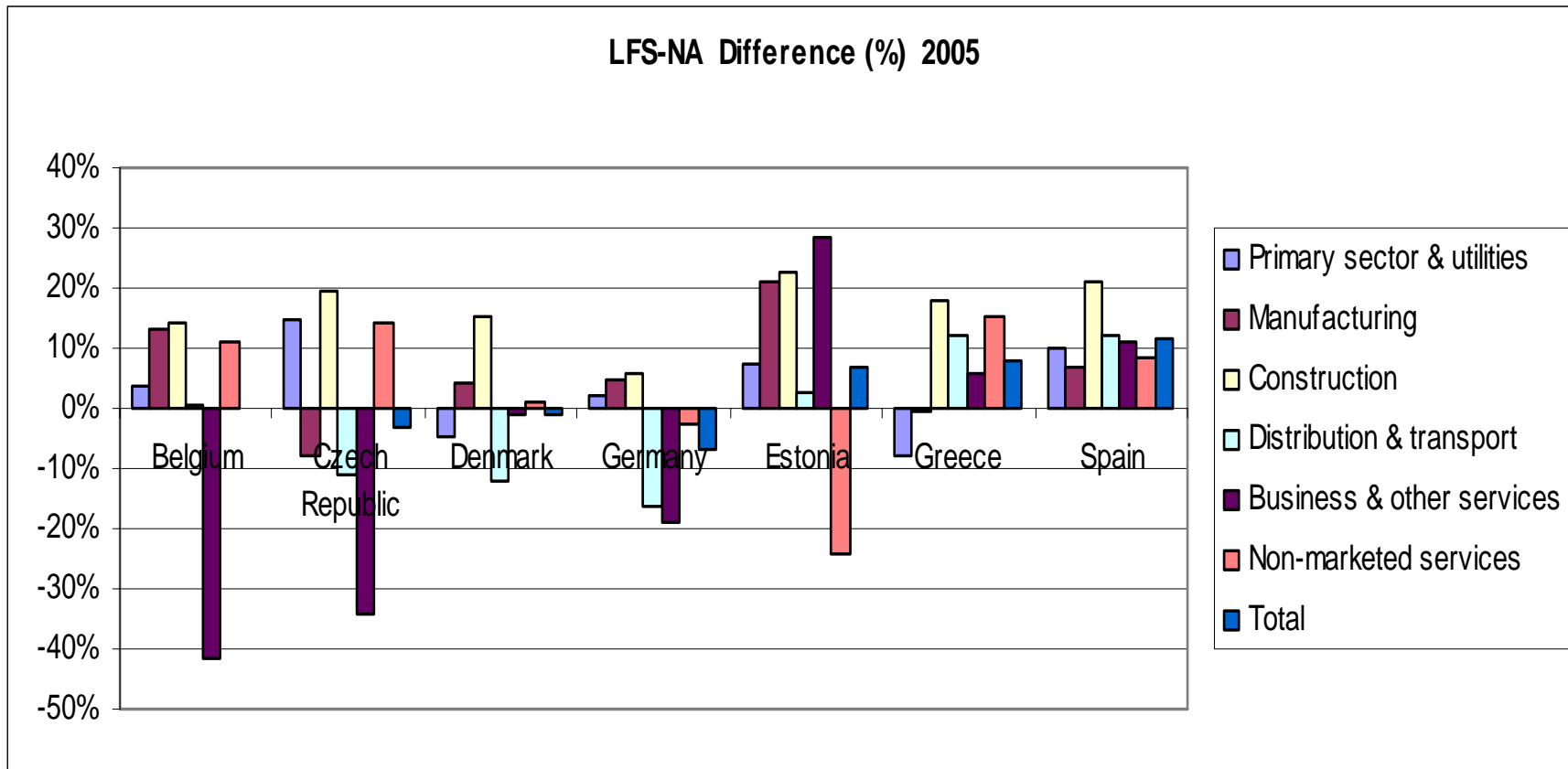
# Discussing the strengths and weaknesses: LFS

- Large sample – but large enough?
- Continuous
- Contains detailed information
- Harmonized among EU
- Common definitions and concepts

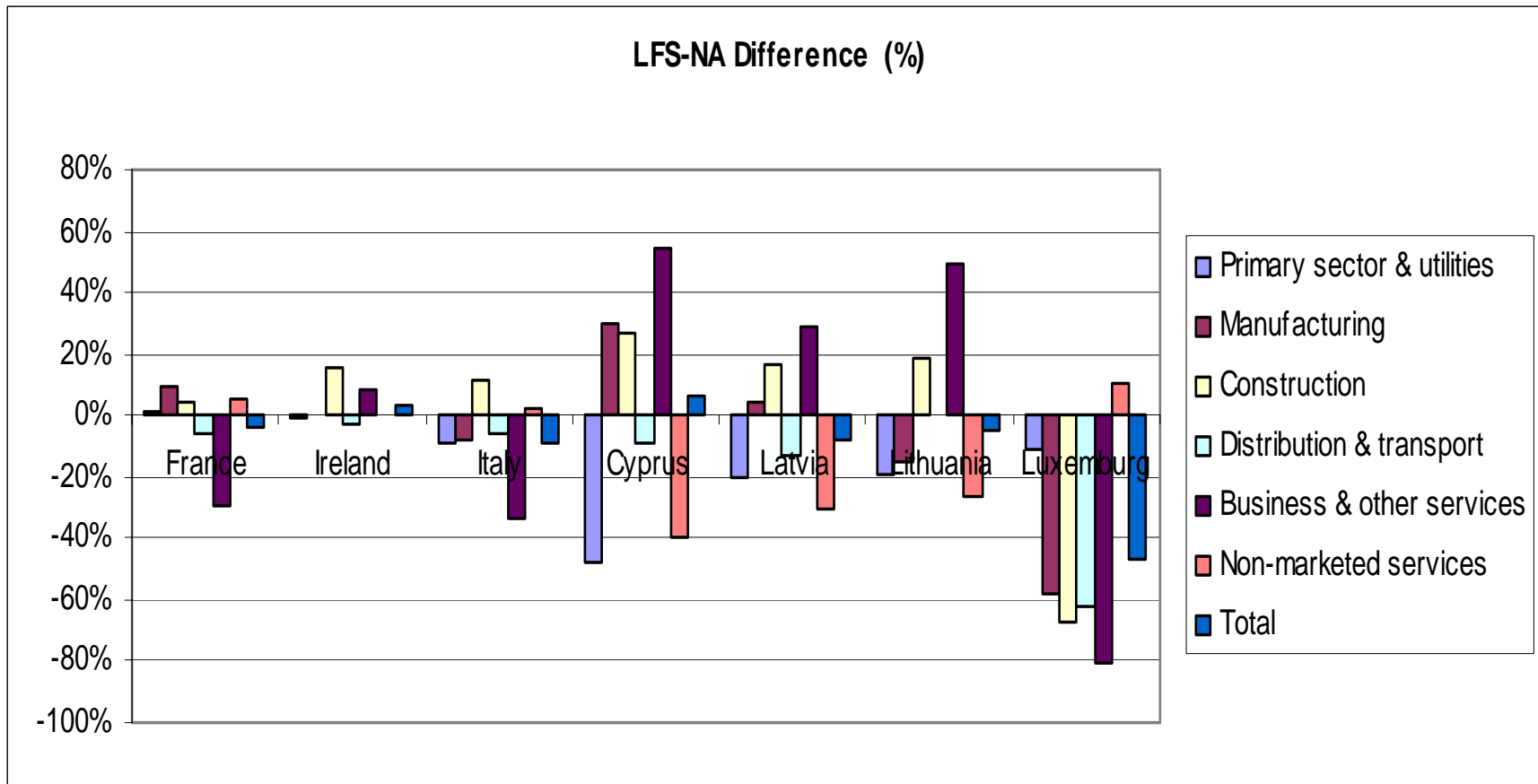
# Discussing the strengths and weaknesses: NA

- Consistent with other variables
- Not a sample survey, covers all individuals within the economic boundary of the system
- More robust than LFS for disaggregations by sector

# Differences by broad sector and country 2005

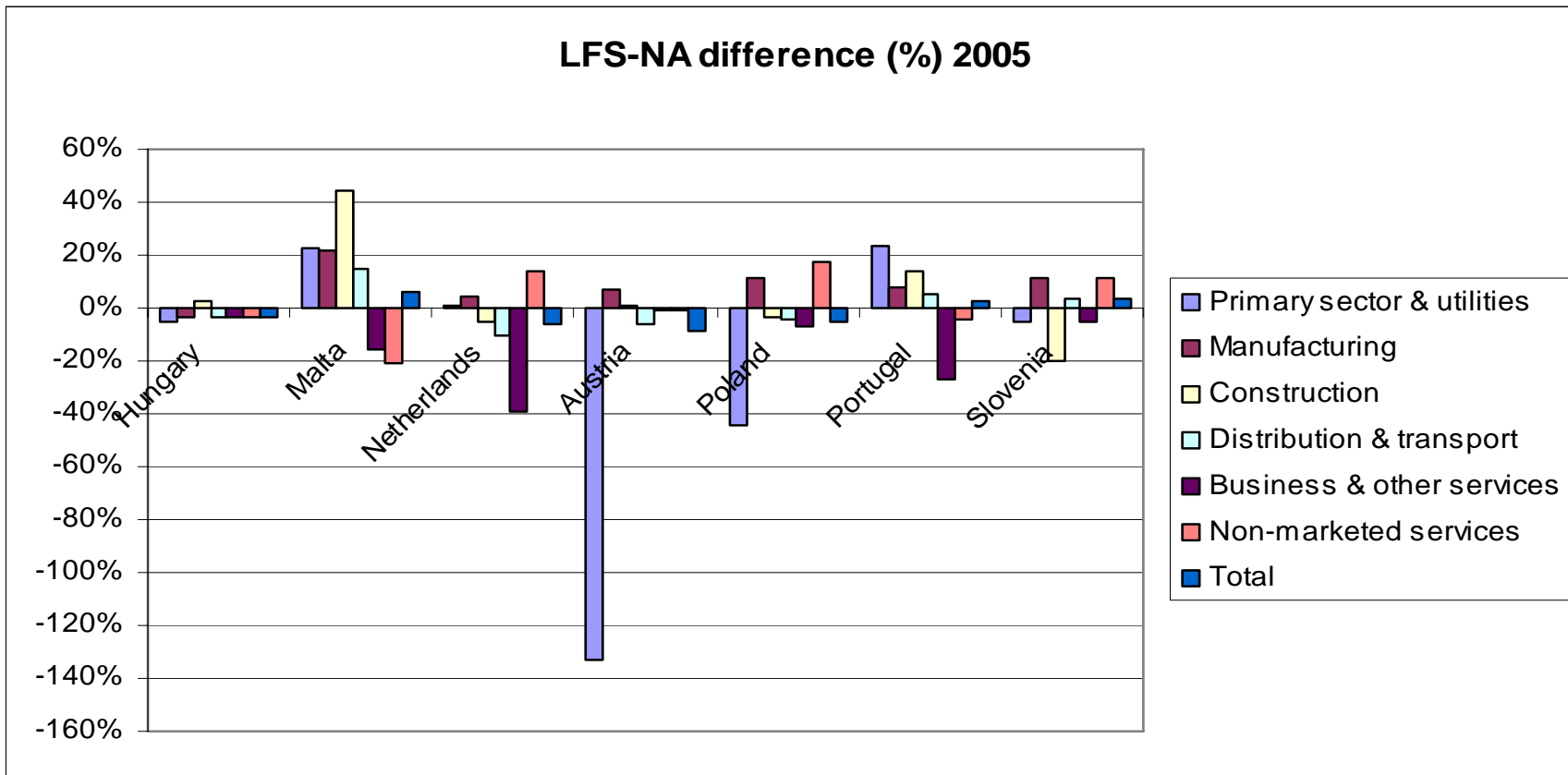


# Differences by broad sector and country 2005

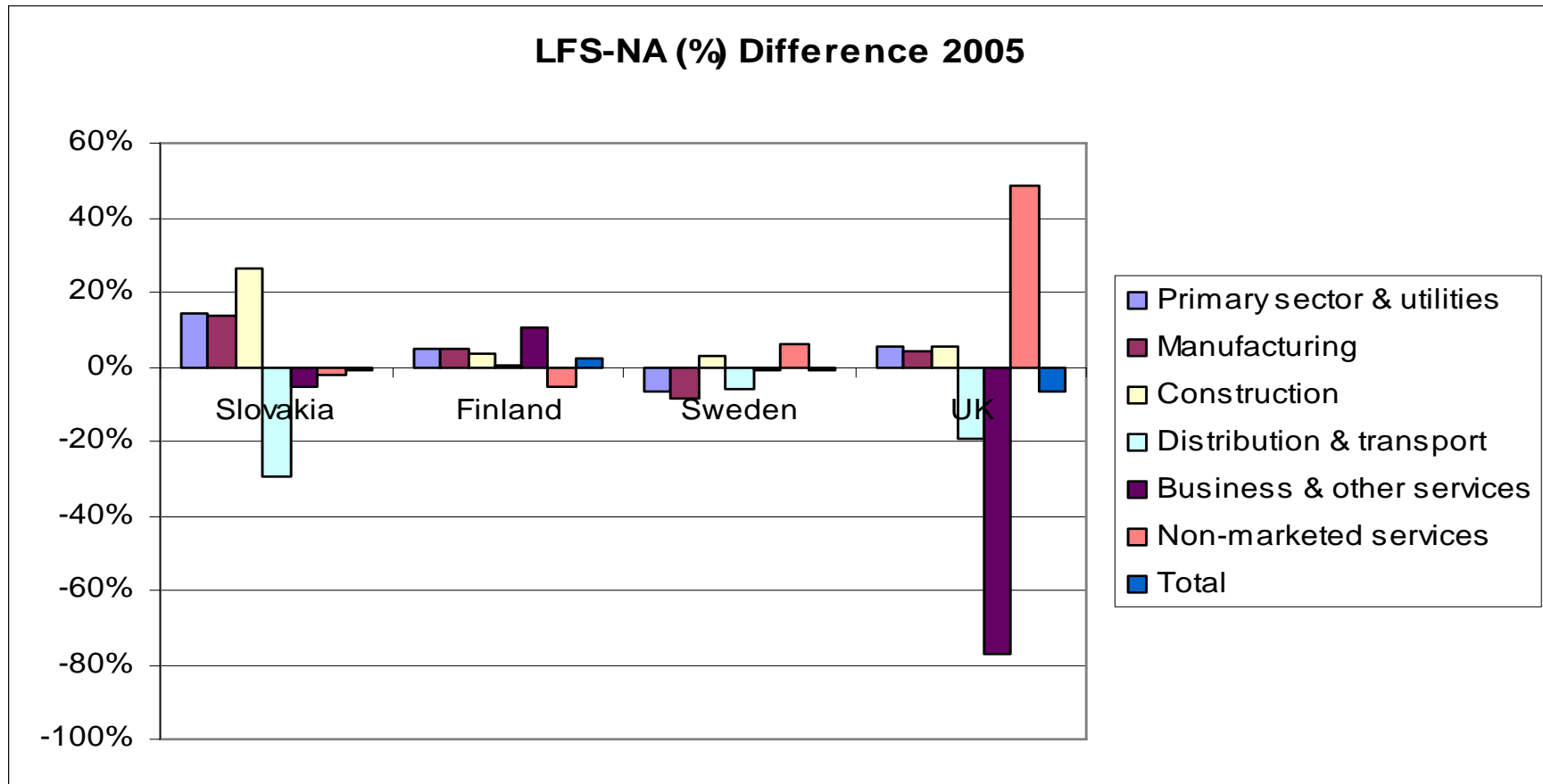




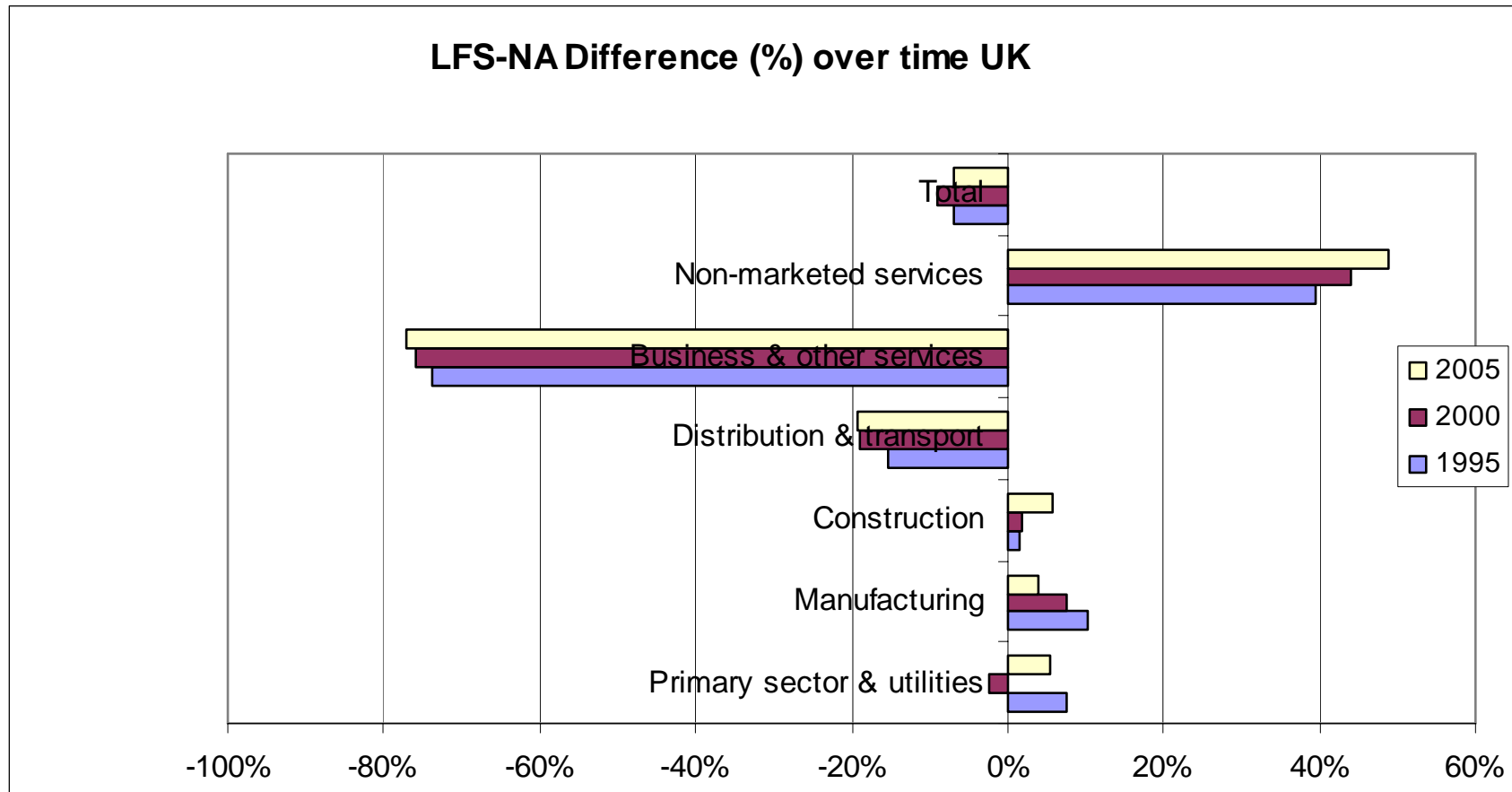
# Differences by broad sector and country 2005



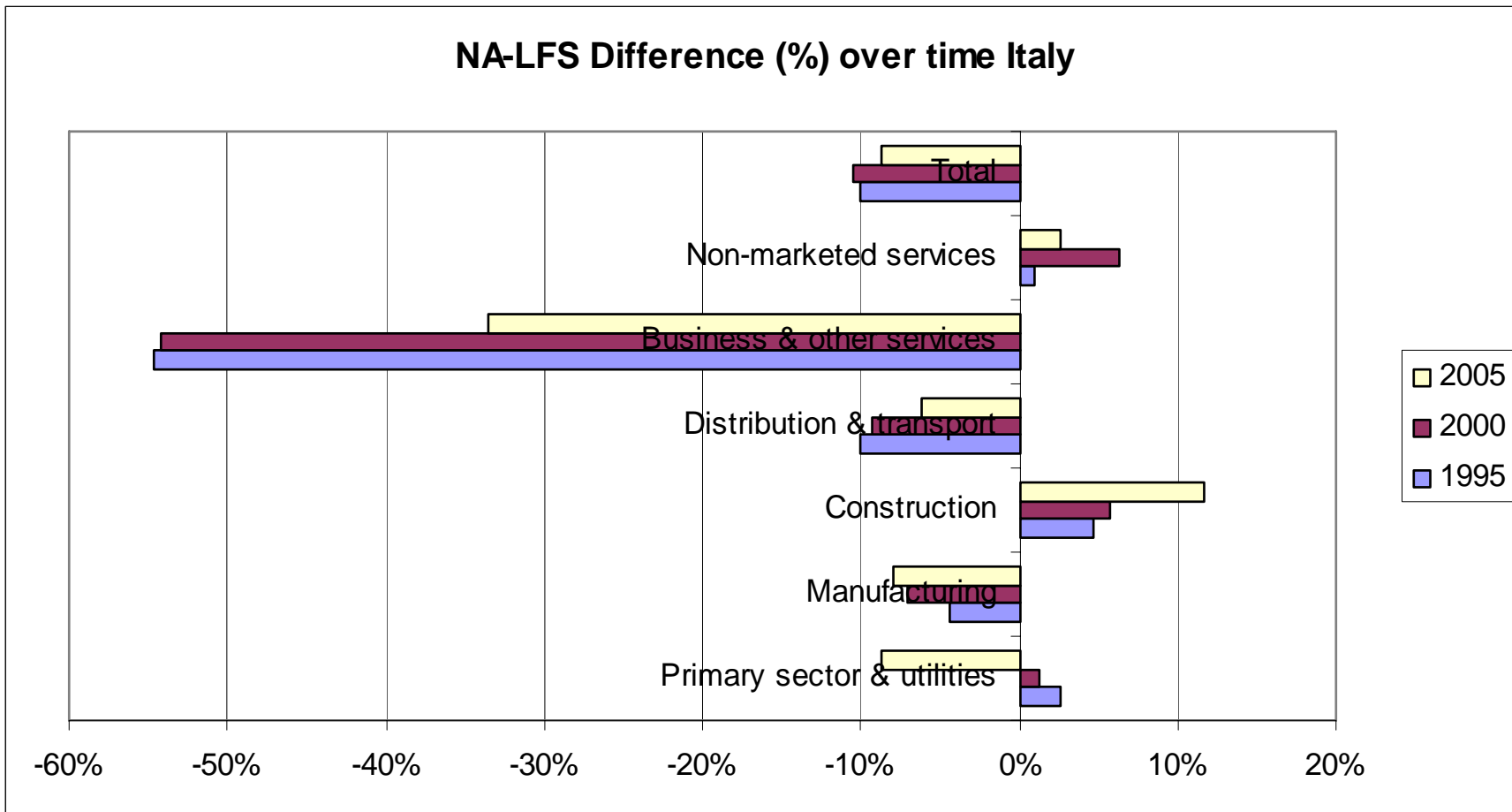
# Differences by broad sector and country 2005



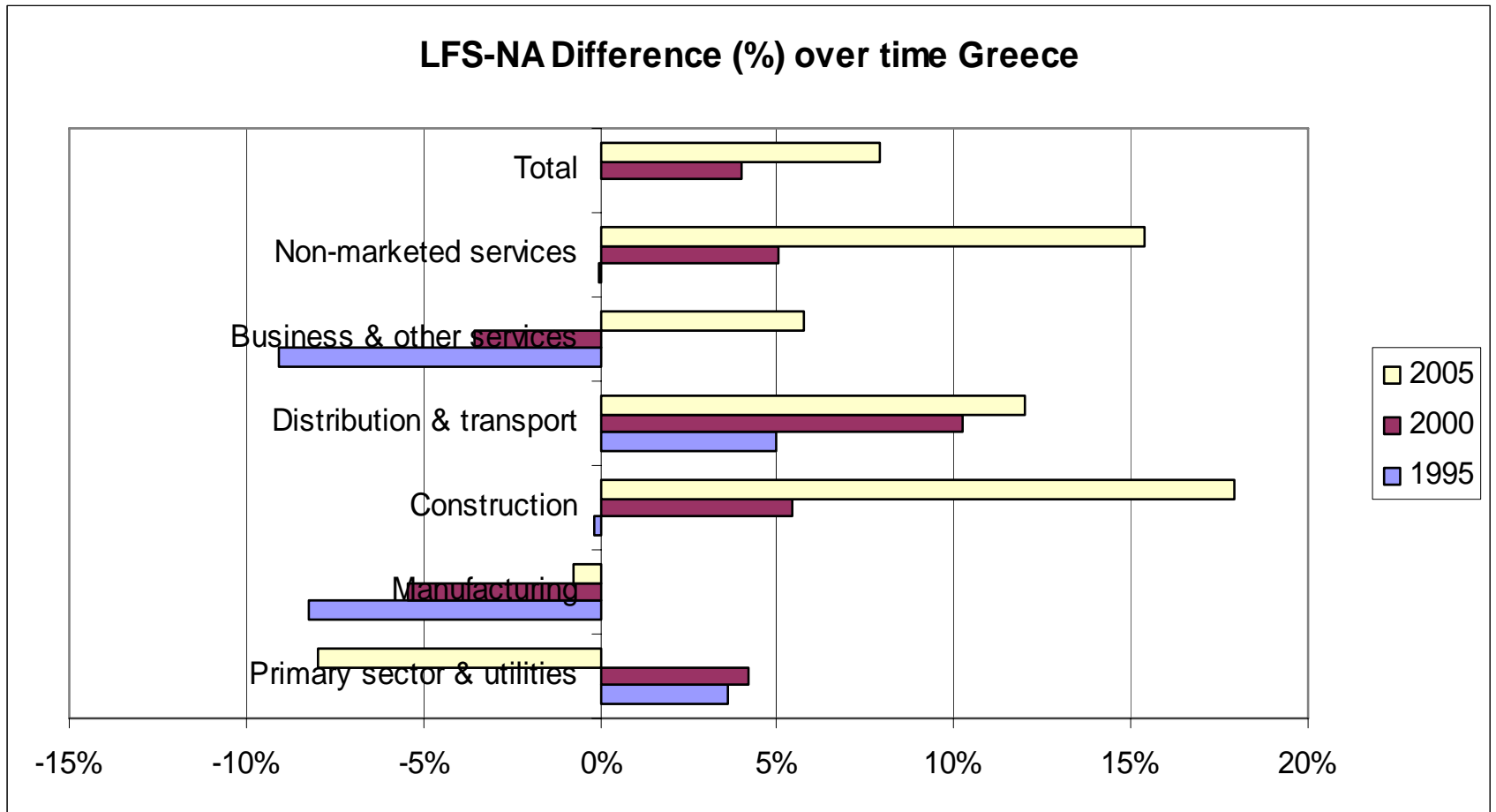
# Differences by broad sector over time UK



# Differences by broad sector over time Italy



# Differences by broad sector over time Greece



# Other issues to be considered

- Differences between EU LFS micro - and published data
- Differences between E3ME and Eurostat data on National Accounts

# LFS micro – aggregate employment data differences, 2005

LFS micro and aggregate data difference %	Greece	UK	Cyprus	Germany	Netherlands
Armed forces	-2.3	1.1	-5.5	4.0	-3.3
Legislators, senior officials and managers	0.4	-0.9	-1.0	3.5	3.7
Professionals	1.1	1.3	1.1	-1.4	1.8
Technicians and associate professionals	2.8	-1.0	-0.5	-3.3	-0.2
Clerks	1.1	-1.6	4.0	-0.3	0.3
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	2.6	-1.8	-0.3	-0.4	0.8
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	-0.8	-1.6	-4.7	-4.5	3.3
Craft and related trades workers	0.5	-1.6	0.4	-2.8	0.8
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	0.7	2.1	0.0	-0.8	-1.1
Elementary occupations	7.3	0.2	4.0	2.1	1.4

# E3ME and Eurostat differences on NA employment, 2005

2005 E3ME and Eurostat estimates of NA employment

	EUROSTAT	E3ME	Difference
1 Belgium	4,214	4188.5	0.6%
2 Bulgaria	3,286	n/a	
3 Czech Rep.	5,009	4,913	1.9%
4 Denmark	2,761	2,760	0.0%
5 Germany	38,823	38,378	1.1%
6 Estonia	604		
7 Ireland	1,956	1,954	0.1%
8 Greece <sup>e</sup>	4,033	4,047	-0.3%
9 Spain	19,212	16,837	12.4%
10 France	25,028	25,070	-0.2%
11 Italy	24,281	24,536	-1.1%
12 Cyprus	366	336	8.3%
13 Latvia	1,024	1024	0.0%
14 Lithuania	1,461	1,429	2.2%
15 Luxemburg	307	307	-0.1%
16 Hungary	3,879	3,900	-0.5%
17 Malta	153	153	0.0%
18 Netherlands	8,208	8,221	-0.2%
19 Austria	n/a	4,089	
20 Poland <sup>e</sup>	14,116	14,746	-4.5%
21 Portugal	5,016	4,995	0.4%
22 Romania	8,354	n/a	
23 Slovenia	916	900	1.8%
24 Slovakia	2,084	2,093	-0.4%
25 Finland	2,397	2,397	0.0%
26 Sweden	4,328	4,287	0.9%
27 UK	28,730	30,205	-5.1%

e = estimated value

Source: E3ME, Eurostat on-line database, see

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# Initial feedback

- Feedback already received from various countries (e.g. Poland, Czech, Germany, UK, Greece, Spain)
- Many detailed differences in levels by sector and by occupation
- But broad agreement on trends

# Roundtable discussion

- Comments on the process (e.g. any issues regarding the comparisons, procedure that experts followed, further clarifications needed etc.)
- Detailed comments (level, trends, patterns, common trends amongst countries)
- General discussion: NA or LFS