Most countries use a Labour Force Survey (LFS) to get information about different characteristics of the labour force. The LFS produces statistics about the number of persons employed, unemployed and inactive. Perhaps the most well known parameters are the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate, for the country as a whole and for its most important geographical and other domains.

In principle, there is a lot of co-ordination in the LFS, such as the planning phase, the fieldwork, the estimation and analysis phase. The same holds for the LFS of different countries. But still, great differences exist in the way that these phases are carried out in different countries.

The aim of this Master's thesis is to give an overview and a comparison of the LFS procedures in three countries, Finland, the United Kingdom (UK) and Canada. The main reason for choosing these countries is that they are considered among the leaders in regard to the quality of statistics production. Also, detailed written documentation about the LFS is easily obtainable for these countries.

The thesis consists of two major parts, the examination of the LFS sampling design in the three countries and the examination of the LFS estimation procedures in the three countries.