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In the third quarter last year, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 2.1 per cent in employment compared to the previous year. The employment rate stood at 60 per cent, while the unemployment rate was 6.6 per cent.

Labour Force Survey: Q3/2012

Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, at 174,126, almost half the population aged 15 and over was employed during the third quarter of 2012. On the other hand, the number of unemployed persons reached 12,283 (3 per cent), while 171,728 persons (48 per cent) were inactive (Table 1).

The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 64 per cent (Table 3) - 2 percentage points more than the corresponding quarter in 2011. The male activity rate remained practically unchanged when compared to 2011, while that for females increased by 4 percentage points.

The Employed Population

The employment rate for the third quarter last year was estimated at 60 per cent, with the 25-54 age bracket recording the highest rate (Table 4).

A third of employed men were engaged in wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants and transport and communication. On the other hand, employed women were mostly engaged in other service activities, which include jobs in Public administration, Education, the Health sector, and Other Community, Social and Personal service activities (Table 7).

Nearly a quarter of females employed were engaged in service-oriented jobs (Table 11). This category includes occupations such as hairdressers, waiters and salespersons. Moreover, men were mostly engaged in craft-related jobs (16 per cent) such as builders, plasterers, and maintenance persons, among other occupations.

The self-employed accounted for 13 per cent of the total work force (Table 15). The majority of employed persons, 148,833, were on a full-time basis whereas an estimated 21,061 persons (12 per cent) were on a part-time basis. A further 4,232 were in full-time jobs with reduced hours (Table 16).

The average gross annual salary of employees was estimated at €15,513. This amount refers to the basic salary and excludes extra payments such as overtime, bonuses and allowances. The highest average gross annual salary for employees was recorded in financial, real estate, renting and business activities (Table 9). Results from the Labour Force Survey also revealed that Legislators, Senior Officials and Managerial grades had an average annual salary of €23,805 (Table 13).

The Unemployed Population

LFS results estimate that out of every 100 persons in the labour supply, 6.6 were unemployed (Table 5). The unemployment rate for males stood at 5 per cent while the female unemployment rate rose to 9 per cent. The increase in the female unemployment rate may be attributed to a shift in the number of inactive females to the labour supply (i.e employed + unemployed). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 15-24 (Table 17). The majority, or 51 per cent of the unemployed, stated they had been seeking work for 12 months or more (Table 18) ■

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Table 1. Persons aged 15 and over by labour status

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
July-September 2012						
Employed	111,644	63.0	62,482	34.5	174,126	48.6
Unemployed	6,421	3.6	5,862	3.2	12,283	3.4
Inactive	59,084	33.4	112,644	62.2	171,728	48.0
Total	**177,149**	**100.0**	**180,988**	**100.0**	**358,137**	**100.0**
July-September (revised) 2011						
Employed	111,288	63.3	59,178	32.9	170,466	48.0
Unemployed	7,001	4.0	4,217	2.3	11,218	3.2
Inactive	57,449	32.7	116,230	64.7	173,679	48.9
Total	**175,738**	**100.0**	**179,625**	**100.0**	**355,363**	**100.0**

Table 2. Labour force distribution

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
July-September 2012						
Employed	111,644	94.6	62,482	91.4	174,126	93.4
Unemployed	6,421	5.4	5,862	8.6	12,283	6.6
Total	**118,065**	**100.0**	**68,344**	**100.0**	**186,409**	**100.0**
July-September (revised) 2011						
Employed	111,288	94.1	59,178	93.3	170,466	93.8
Unemployed	7,001	5.9	4,217	6.7	11,218	6.2
Total	**118,289**	**100.0**	**63,395**	**100.0**	**181,684**	**100.0**

Table 3. Activity rates by age

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
July-September 2012			
15-24	57.2	53.7	55.5
25-54	94.7	57.1	76.3
55-64	54.0	17.3	35.4
Total	**79.1**	**48.1**	**63.9**
July-September (revised) 2011			
15-24	60.3	49.7	55.2
25-54	94.7	53.7	74.6
55-64	49.4	13.9	31.5
Total	**78.8**	**44.6**	**62.0**

Table 4. Employment rates by age

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
July-September 2012			
15-24	50.3	44.2	47.4
25-54	90.2	53.7	72.4
55-64	52.4	15.9	34.0
Total	**74.7**	**44.0**	**59.6**
July-September (revised) 2011			
15-24	52.0	44.6	48.4
25-54	89.9	50.5	70.6
55-64	48.4	13.7	30.9
Total	**74.0**	**41.6**	**58.1**

Table 5. Unemployment rates by age

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
July-September 2012			
15-24	12.1	17.7	14.7
25+	4.3	6.1	4.9
Total	**5.4**	**8.6**	**6.6**
July-September (revised) 2011			
15-24	13.8	10.3	12.3
25+	4.5	5.6	4.9
Total	**5.9**	**6.7**	**6.2**

Table 6. Distribution of employed persons by age

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
July-September 2012						
15-24	14,782	13.2	12,026	19.2	26,808	15.4
25-34	29,746	26.6	21,060	33.7	50,806	29.2
35-44	25,052	22.4	14,684	23.5	39,736	22.8
45-54	24,803	22.2	9,754	15.6	34,557	19.8
55-64	15,239	13.6	4,714	7.5	19,953	11.5
65+	2,022	1.8	244[u]	0.4[u]	2,266	1.3
Total	**111,644**	**100.0**	**62,482**	**100.0**	**174,126**	**100.0**
July-September (revised) 2011						
15-24	15,368	13.8	12,232	20.7	27,600	16.2
25-34	29,385	26.4	20,370	34.4	49,755	29.2
35-44	24,076	21.6	14,272	24.1	38,348	22.5
45-54	25,956	23.3	8,121	13.7	34,077	20.0
55-64	14,115	12.7	4,053	6.8	18,168	10.7
65+	2,388	2.1	130[u]	0.2[u]	2,518	1.5
Total	**111,288**	**100.0**	**59,178**	**100.0**	**170,466**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 7. Distribution of employed persons by economic activity: July-September 2012

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing	2,222	2.0	400[u]	0.6[u]	2,622	1.5
Industry, including energy	22,246	19.9	6,971	11.2	29,217	16.8
Construction	10,271	9.2	403[u]	0.6[u]	10,674	6.1
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communication	35,116	31.5	17,060	27.3	52,176	30.0
Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	13,557	12.1	9,056	14.5	22,613	13.0
Other service activities (incl. extra-territorial activities)	28,232	25.3	28,592	45.8	56,824	32.6
Total	**111,644**	**100.0**	**62,482**	**100.0**	**174,126**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 8. Distribution of persons employed by economic activity: July-September 2011 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing	2,279	2.0	156[u]	0.3[u]	2,435	1.4
Industry, including energy	24,054	21.6	6,893	11.6	30,947	18.2
Construction	10,545	9.5	554[u]	0.9[u]	11,099	6.5
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communication	35,269	31.7	16,056	27.1	51,325	30.1
Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	12,550	11.3	8,014	13.5	20,564	12.1
Other service activities (incl. extra-territorial activities)	26,591	23.9	27,505	46.5	54,096	31.7
Total	**111,288**	**100.0**	**59,178**	**100.0**	**170,466**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 9. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity: July-September 2012

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro
Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing	832[u]	-	241[u]	-	1,073[u]	-
Industry, including energy	20,637	15,772	6,910	13,692	27,547	15,251
Construction	6,523	13,674	298[u]	-	6,821	13,761
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communication	27,607	14,946	16,009	10,225	43,616	13,213
Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	11,040	22,505	8,457	17,006	19,497	20,120
Other service activities (incl. extra-territorial activities)	27,010	16,978	26,419	15,206	53,429	16,102
Total	**93,649**	**16,515**	**58,334**	**13,905**	**151,983**	**15,513**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 10. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity: July-September 2011 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro
Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing	1,274[u]	-	156[u]	-	1,430[u]	-
Industry, including energy	21,817	14,672	6,757	12,928	28,574	14,260
Construction	7,177	13,577	480[u]	-	7,657	13,614
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communication	27,015	14,879	14,483	11,265	41,498	13,618
Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	10,279	22,033	7,262	15,603	17,541	19,371
Other service activities (incl. extra-territorial activities)	25,499	16,382	26,135	14,472	51,634	15,415
Total	**93,061**	**15,891**	**55,273**	**13,596**	**148,334**	**15,036**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 11. Main occupation of total employed persons: July-September 2012

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Armed Forces	2,415	2.2	47[u]	0.1[u]	2,462	1.4
Legislators, senior officials and managers	11,739	10.5	4,617	7.4	16,356	9.4
Professionals	13,605	12.2	11,027	17.6	24,632	14.1
Technicians and associate professionals	15,288	13.7	11,559	18.5	26,847	15.4
Clerks	9,160	8.2	12,439	19.9	21,599	12.4
Service workers and shop and sales workers	15,065	13.5	14,119	22.6	29,184	16.8
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	1,861	1.7	159[u]	0.3[u]	2,020	1.2
Craft and related trades workers	17,943	16.1	482[u]	0.8[u]	18,425	10.6
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	10,357	9.3	2,651	4.2	13,008	7.5
Elementary occupations	14,211	12.7	5,382	8.6	19,593	11.3
Total	**111,644**	**100.0**	**62,482**	**100.0**	**174,126**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons: July-September 2011 (Revised)

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Armed Forces	2,057[u]	1.8[u]	197[u]	0.3[u]	2,254[u]	1.3[u]
Legislators, senior officials and managers	11,042	9.9	3,527	6.0	14,569	8.5
Professionals	12,917	11.6	10,328	17.5	23,245	13.6
Technicians and associate professionals	15,952	14.3	11,210	18.9	27,162	15.9
Clerks	8,415	7.6	12,334	20.8	20,749	12.2
Service workers and shop and sales workers	16,188	14.5	13,742	23.2	29,930	17.6
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	2,001	1.8	0[u]	0.0[u]	2,001	1.2
Craft and related trades workers	18,418	16.5	489[u]	0.8[u]	18,907	11.1
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,464	8.5	2,903	4.9	12,367	7.3
Elementary occupations	14,834	13.3	4,448	7.5	19,282	11.3
Total	**111,288**	**100.0**	**59,178**	**100.0**	**170,466**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 13. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation: July-September 2012

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro
Armed Forces	2,415	16,347	47[u]	-	2,462	16,333
Legislators, senior officials and managers	9,357	24,327	4,204	22,643	13,561	23,805
Professionals	11,728	22,854	10,734	19,222	22,462	21,118
Technicians and associate professionals	13,995	18,362	11,164	15,814	25,159	17,231
Clerks	9,040	13,906	12,218	12,446	21,258	13,067
Service workers and shop and sales workers	11,157	14,040	12,136	8,904	23,293	11,364
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	547[u]	-	0[u]	-	547[u]	-
Craft and related trades workers	12,230	14,394	360[u]	-	12,590	14,325
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,563	12,487	2,504	11,775	12,067	12,339
Elementary occupations	13,617	12,449	4,967	7,730	18,584	11,188
Total	**93,649**	**16,515**	**58,334**	**13,905**	**151,983**	**15,513**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 14. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation: July-September 2011 (Revised)

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro
Armed Forces	2,003[u]	-	197[u]	-	2,200[u]	-
Legislators, senior officials and managers	8,396	26,405	2,844	22,288	11,240	25,363
Professionals	11,244	21,091	10,003	18,483	21,247	19,863
Technicians and associate professionals	14,681	17,518	10,809	14,447	25,490	16,216
Clerks	8,211	14,094	12,101	12,249	20,312	12,995
Service workers and shop and sales workers	12,198	13,416	11,750	10,249	23,948	11,862
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	1,052[u]	-	0[u]	-	1,052[u]	-
Craft and related trades workers	12,299	12,534	417[u]	-	12,716	12,489
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,729	13,074	2,760	11,771	11,489	12,761
Elementary occupations	14,248	12,047	4,392	8,647	18,640	11,246
Total	**93,061**	**15,891**	**55,273**	**13,596**	**148,334**	**15,036**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 15. Distribution of employed persons by professional status of main occupation

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
July-September 2012						
Self-employed without employees	11,808	10.6	3,132	5.0	14,940	8.6
Self-employed with employees	6,187	5.5	1,016[u]	1.6[u]	7,203	4.1
Employee	93,649	83.9	58,334	93.4	151,983	87.3
Unpaid family worker	0[u]	0.0[u]	0[u]	0.0[u]	0[u]	0.0[u]
Total	**111,644**	**100.0**	**62,482**	**100.0**	**174,126**	**100.0**
July-September (revised) 2011						
Self-employed without employees	12,591	11.3	2,564	4.3	15,155	8.9
Self-employed with employees	5,636	5.1	1,341[u]	2.3[u]	6,977	4.1
Employee	93,061	83.6	55,273	93.4	148,334	87.0
Unpaid family worker	0[u]	0.0[u]	0[u]	0.0[u]	0[u]	0.0[u]
Total	**111,288**	**100.0**	**59,178**	**100.0**	**170,466**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 16. Distribution of employed persons by type of employment in main occupation

Type of Employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
July-September 2012						
Full-time job	103,523	92.7	45,310	72.5	148,833	85.5
Full-time with reduced hours job	359[u]	0.3[u]	3,873	6.2	4,232	2.4
Part-time job	7,762	7.0	13,299	21.3	21,061	12.1
Total	**111,644**	**100.0**	**62,482**	**100.0**	**174,126**	**100.0**
July-September (revised) 2011						
Full-time job	103,122	92.7	43,733	73.9	146,855	86.1
Full-time with reduced hours job	200[u]	0.2[u]	3,953	6.7	4,153	2.4
Part-time job	7,966	7.2	11,492	19.4	19,458	11.4
Total	**111,288**	**100.0**	**59,178**	**100.0**	**170,466**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 17. Distribution of unemployed persons by age

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
July-September 2012						
15-24	2,032[u]	31.6[u]	2,582	44.0	4,614	37.6
25-34	1,411[u]	22.0[u]	793[u]	13.5[u]	2,204[u]	17.9[u]
35-44	929[u]	14.5[u]	1,318[u]	22.5[u]	2,247	18.3
45-54	1,590[u]	24.8[u]	764[u]	13.0[u]	2,354	19.2
55+	459[u]	7.1[u]	405[u]	6.9[u]	864[u]	7.0[u]
Total	**6,421**	**100.0**	**5,862**	**100.0**	**12,283**	**100.0**
July-September (revised) 2011						
15-24	2,452	35.0	1,412[u]	33.5[u]	3,864	34.4
25-34	1,647[u]	23.5[u]	1,366[u]	32.4[u]	3,013	26.9
35-44	1,652[u]	23.6[u]	827[u]	19.6[u]	2,479	22.1
45-54	915[u]	13.1[u]	540[u]	12.8[u]	1,455[u]	13.0[u]
55+	335[u]	4.8[u]	72[u]	1.7[u]	407[u]	3.6[u]
Total	**7,001**	**100.0**	**4,217**	**100.0**	**11,218**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 18. Duration of job search of unemployed persons

Duration	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
July-September 2012						
Less than 5 months	1,710[u]	26.6[u]	2,576	43.9	4,286	34.9
6 - 11 months	761[u]	11.9[u]	1,029[u]	17.6[u]	1,790[u]	14.6[u]
12 + months	3,950	61.5	2,257	38.5	6,207	50.5
Total	**6,421**	**100.0**	**5,862**	**100.0**	**12,283**	**100.0**
July-September (revised) 2011						
Less than 5 months	2,166[u]	30.9[u]	2,284	54.2	4,450	39.7
6 - 11 months	811[u]	11.6[u]	587[u]	13.9[u]	1,398[u]	12.5[u]
12 + months	4,024	57.5	1,346[u]	31.9[u]	5,370	47.9
Total	**7,001**	**100.0**	**4,217**	**100.0**	**11,218**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Methodological Notes

The Labour Force Survey is an enquiry which is carried out on an ongoing basis using a quarterly sample of 3,200 private households. The objective is to have a continuous assessment of labour market trends given that the reference weeks are evenly spread throughout the 13 weeks of the quarter. One fourth of the sample is made up of households who have been selected to participate in the Labour Force Survey for the first time. Three fourths of the quarterly sample is made up of households who were selected to carry out the survey in previous instances, namely either one quarter before, or one year before, or one year and quarter (2-(2)-2). The criteria used for this survey match international methodologies used by ILO as outlined below.

The LFS is designed to satisfy the concepts and definitions as outlined by Eurostat, which is the EU Statistical Agency. This allows the comparability of the results with other EU member states and countries following ILO definitions of employment and unemployment. Occupations are classified according to the ISCO classification (International Standard Classification of Occupations) whilst the economic activity is classified according to the NACE classification (Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les Communautés européennes).

Revision to Population Estimates

As from 2008, the weighting procedures are based on 2007 population estimates, which are calculated using the Census of Population and Housing 2005 as a benchmark. All data contained in this release refers to persons aged 15 years and over.

Under-represented figures are indicated for each table and should be treated with caution .

Absolute changes between one survey and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (ie, less than 1,800 persons) might be the result of sampling error.

ACTIVITY RATE: Labour force (15-64) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).

EMPLOYEE: The distinction between employees and self-employed is based on the respondent's own judgement as stated during the interview.

EMPLOYMENT: This comprises all persons above 15 years of age who, during the reference week, were in one of the following categories:

> **paid employment**: includes those who during the reference week worked for at least one hour for a wage or salary, in cash or in kind.
>
> **were employees but were not at work and were:** on paid or sick leave, did not work due to bad weather, were undergoing training or education, did not work due to a labour dispute, were on maternity or parental leave, did not work due to slack work for technical or economic reasons, were absent from work for a period of less than 3 months, or were not working because on layoff and receiving at least 50 per cent of the salary/wage.
>
> **self-employed**: a person who runs a trade or business, rather than working as an employee for someone else. A person is self-employed if s/he is a sole proprietor or a partner working in a business.
>
> **unpaid family workers**: refers to people who worked without pay in a family business or farm. Excluded from this definition are housewives.

EMPLOYMENT RATE: Persons in employment (15-64) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).

GROSS ANNUAL SALARY: Refers to the gross annual basic salary received by employees, i.e. excludes payments for overtime, allowances and bonuses.

INACTIVE PERSONS: All persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as inactive.

LABOUR FORCE: This comprises persons in employment and unemployed persons.

REFERENCE WEEK - The week to which the collected data relate.

UNEMPLOYMENT: This comprises all persons above 15 years of age who, during the reference week, satisfied the following criteria:

without work

actively seeking work during the previous 4 weeks, e.g. includes contacting the ETC, applied directly with an employer, contacting a private employment agency, inserting or answering to an advert in a newspaper.

currently available for work – available to start work within 2 weeks of the reference week.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: Unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

Sampling Variability

The data in this release are based on statistical samples, and as such, estimates carry a sampling error. A measure of the sampling error is the standard error. The standard error as a percentage of the estimate is referred to as the coefficient of variation (CV). The CV is generally computed and expressed as a percentage, which is the quantified by the sampling variability. The coefficient of variation and the sampling variabilities give indication of the confidence limits. The confidence limits are obtained based on the assumption that the data follows a normal distribution.

Sampling Variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval
Employment	174,126	1.46	±4,826
Employment Rate (%)	59.63	1.30	±1.52
Unemployment	12,283	7.48	±1,722
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.59	7.35	±0.95
Inactive	171,728	1.39	±4,834
Activity Rate (%)	63.89	1.19	±1.50

The above table give indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 174,126 and the coefficient of variation is 1.46 per cent. Hence, the figure lies between 169,300 and 178,952 persons.

Information

More information is available from the NSO upon written request.