

During the first quarter of 2020, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 5.5 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2019.

Labour Force Survey: Q1/2020

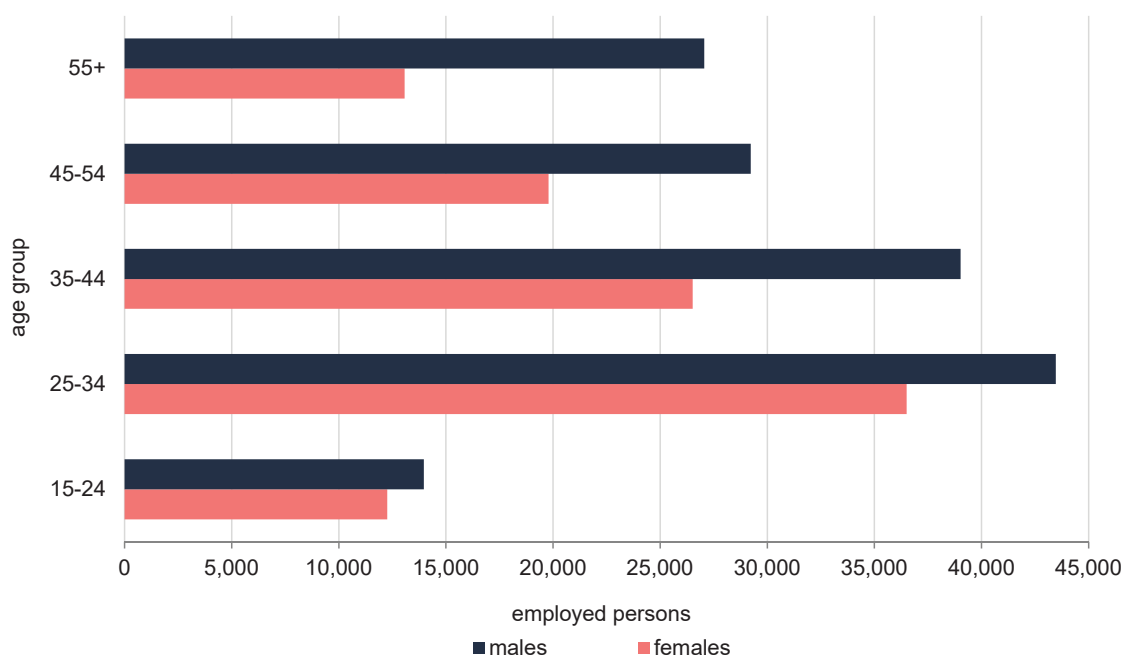
Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the first quarter, total employment stood at 260,827 accounting for 60.3 per cent of the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 9,006 (2.1 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 162,656 (37.6 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 77.2 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25 to 54 (89.4 per cent) (Table 2).

The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 and 64 years, 75 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 82.6 per cent while that for females stood at 65.7 per cent (Table 4). The largest share of employed persons was recorded among persons aged between 25 and 34 years, for both males and females (Chart 1).

Chart 1. Employment by age group and sex



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

Self-employed persons accounted for 15.5 per cent of all persons with a main job (Table 5). The majority of employed persons worked on a full-time basis totalling 225,836 and 34,991 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers usually worked 41.6 hours while part-timers worked 21.4 hours per week (Table 7).

The average annual basic salary of employees for the first quarter of 2020 was estimated at €20,196. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and insurance activities sector (Table 10). Average annual salaries varied from €13,138 among persons employed in elementary occupations to €34,950 among managers (Table 14).

The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2020, stood at 3.3 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 to 74 years (Table 16). Females accounted for 60.6 per cent of total inactive persons and those over 65 years made up the highest share of the inactive (Table 19). Over 40 per cent were inactive because they had reached retirement age or were taking up early retirement (Table 20).

Education Attainment

According to the Labour Force Survey nearly half of those over 15 years had attained a low level of education (Table 21). By contrast 33.3 per cent of those employed had a tertiary level education (Table 22).

Table 1. Persons aged 15 and over by sex and labour status

Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2020					
Employed	152,717	68.7	108,110	51.4	260,827	60.3
Unemployed	5,460 ^u	2.5 ^u	3,546 ^u	1.7 ^u	9,006	2.1
Inactive	64,077	28.8	98,579	46.9	162,656	37.6
Total	222,254	100.0	210,235	100.0	432,489	100.0
	January-March 2019 (Revised)					
Employed	146,860	68.1	100,383	48.8	247,243	58.7
Unemployed	5,252 ^u	2.4 ^u	4,084 ^u	2.0 ^u	9,336	2.2
Inactive	63,600	29.5	101,260	49.2	164,860	39.1
Total	215,712	100.0	205,727	100.0	421,439	100.0

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 2. Activity rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	January-March 2020					
15-24	54.2		49.9		52.2	
25-54	96.9		81.0		89.4	
55-64	72.8		39.0		56.2	
Total (15-64)	85.6		67.9		77.2	
	January-March 2019 (Revised)					
15-24	53.0		53.2		53.1	
25-54	96.4		76.5		87.0	
55-64	70.7		36.7		53.9	
Total (15-64)	84.8		65.1		75.4	

Table 3. Distribution of employed persons with a main job by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2020					
15-24	13,974	9.2	12,251	11.3	26,225	10.1
25-34	43,460	28.5	36,495	33.8	79,955	30.7
35-44	39,015	25.5	26,514	24.5	65,529	25.1
45-54	29,220	19.1	19,781	18.3	49,001	18.8
55-64	23,052	15.1	11,767	10.9	34,819	13.3
65+	3,996	2.6	:	:	5,298	2.0
Total	152,717	100.0	108,110	100.0	260,827	100.0
	January-March 2019 (Revised)					
15-24	13,439	9.2	12,489	12.4	25,928	10.5
25-34	41,678	28.4	31,923	31.8	73,601	29.8
35-44	38,268	26.1	26,246	26.1	64,514	26.1
45-54	27,679	18.8	17,556	17.5	45,235	18.3
55-64	21,643	14.7	11,166	11.1	32,809	13.3
65+	4,153	2.8	1,003 ^u	1.0 ^u	5,156	2.1
Total	146,860	100.0	100,383	100.0	247,243	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

Table 4. Employment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	January-March 2020					
15-24	47.6		46.4		47.0	
25-54	94.3		78.8		87.0	
55-64	71.7		37.8		55.0	
Total (15-64)	82.6		65.7		74.6	
	January-March 2019 (Revised)					
15-24	47.4		48.4		47.9	
25-54	93.6		73.7		84.2	
55-64	69.4		36.7		53.3	
Total (15-64)	81.8		62.5		72.6	

Table 5. Distribution of employed persons by sex and professional status in main occupation

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2020					
Self-employed without employees	20,622	13.5	7,569	7.0	28,191	10.8
Self-employed with employees	9,967	6.5	:	:	12,178	4.7
Employee	122,091	79.9	98,220	90.9	220,311	84.5
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	152,717	100.0	108,110	100.0	260,827	100.0
January-March 2019 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	17,531	11.9	7,461	7.4	24,992	10.1
Self-employed with employees	10,953	7.5	:	:	12,528	5.1
Employee	118,308	80.6	91,056	90.7	209,364	84.7
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	146,860	100.0	100,383	100.0	247,243	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

Table 6. Distribution of employed persons by sex and type of employment in main occupation

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2020					
Full-time job	141,307	92.5	84,529	78.2	225,836	86.6
Part-time job	11,410	7.5	23,581	21.8	34,991	13.4
Total	152,717	100.0	108,110	100.0	260,827	100.0
January-March 2019 (Revised)						
Full-time job	135,127	92.0	78,012	77.7	213,139	86.2
Part-time job	11,733	8.0	22,371	22.3	34,104	13.8
Total	146,860	100.0	100,383	100.0	247,243	100.0

Table 7. Normal hours worked by sex and type of employment in main occupation

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	Average Hours					
	January-March 2020					
Full-time job	42.3		40.6		41.6	
Part-time job	19.3		22.5		21.4	
Total	40.6		36.6		39.0	
January-March 2019 (Revised)						
Full-time job	42.7		40.8		42.0	
Part-time job	22.4		22.1		22.2	
Total	41.1		36.7		39.3	

**Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity
in the main occupation: January-March 2020**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,304 ^u	1.5 ^u	:	:	2,572 ^u	1.0 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	23,480	15.4	5,806	5.4	29,286	11.2
Construction	13,564	8.9	:	:	14,891	5.7
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	47,918	31.4	24,134	22.3	72,052	27.6
Information and communication	7,260	4.8	2,894 ^u	2.7 ^u	10,154	3.9
Financial and insurance activities	6,288	4.1	9,106	8.4	15,394	5.9
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	2,311 ^u	0.9 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	13,087	8.6	13,051	12.1	26,138	10.0
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	25,566	16.7	37,242	34.4	62,808	24.1
Other services	12,358	8.1	12,863	11.9	25,221	9.7
Total	152,717	100.0	108,110	100.0	260,827	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

**Table 9. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity
in the main occupation: January-March 2019 (Revised)**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,672 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	2,165 ^u	0.9 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	24,574	16.7	6,458	6.4	31,032	12.6
Construction	13,778	9.4	:	:	14,756	6.0
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	45,276	30.8	22,838	22.8	68,114	27.5
Information and communication	6,592	4.5	2,890 ^u	2.9 ^u	9,482	3.8
Financial and insurance activities	4,121 ^u	2.8 ^u	6,530	6.5	10,651	4.3
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	1,932 ^u	0.8 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	12,784	8.7	10,954	10.9	23,738	9.6
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	26,589	18.1	37,200	37.1	63,789	25.8
Other services	10,552	7.2	11,032	11.0	21,584	8.7
Total	146,860	100.0	100,383	100.0	247,243	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 10. Average annual basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity in the main occupation: January-March 2020

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average ^p (€)	No. of employees	Average ^p (€)	No. of employees	Average ^p (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	20,650	19,571	5,580	15,973	26,230	18,805
Construction	8,267	18,456	:	:	9,551	19,062
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	37,016	17,962	21,023	13,340	58,039	16,288
Information and communication	5,121 ^u	23,111 ^u	2,661 ^u	22,957 ^u	7,782	23,058
Financial and insurance activities	5,664 ^u	31,419 ^u	8,576	25,780	14,240	28,023
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	8,451	21,927	11,807	19,241	20,258	20,362
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	24,907	22,434	36,093	20,776	61,000	21,453
Other services	10,901	27,802	10,267	17,584	21,168	22,846
Total	122,091	21,260	98,220	18,874	220,311	20,196

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

^p Provisional

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 11. Average annual basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity in the main occupation: January-March 2019 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average ^p (€)	No. of employees	Average ^p (€)	No. of employees	Average ^p (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	21,064	18,472	6,127	14,367	27,191	17,547
Construction	9,413	18,914	:	:	10,391	19,193
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	33,506	18,457	20,001	12,831	53,507	16,354
Information and communication	4,606 ^u	23,986 ^u	2,397 ^u	20,296 ^u	7,003	22,723
Financial and insurance activities	3,742 ^u	26,737 ^u	6,530	25,739	10,272	26,102
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,217	20,683	9,451	18,066	19,668	19,425
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	25,843	21,147	36,294	19,401	62,137	20,127
Other services	8,909	29,901	8,276	15,958	17,185	23,186
Total	118,308	20,644	91,056	17,648	209,364	19,341

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

^p Provisional

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: January-March 2020

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,040 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	2,040 ^u	0.8 ^u
Managers	20,056	13.1	10,087	9.3	30,143	11.6
Professionals	25,987	17.0	28,175	26.1	54,162	20.8
Technicians and associate professionals	23,109	15.1	13,534	12.5	36,643	14.0
Clerical support workers	12,175	8.0	16,131	14.9	28,306	10.9
Service and sales workers	20,972	13.7	29,403	27.2	50,375	19.3
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,051 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	2,130 ^u	0.8 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	23,061	15.1	:	:	24,100	9.2
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	11,328	7.4	2,140 ^u	2.0 ^u	13,468	5.2
Elementary occupations	11,938	7.8	7,522	7.0	19,460	7.5
Total	152,717	100.0	108,110	100.0	260,827	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 13. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: January-March 2019 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	1,710 ^u	0.7 ^u
Managers	18,016	12.3	8,865	8.8	26,881	10.9
Professionals	23,648	16.1	22,035	22.0	45,683	18.5
Technicians and associate professionals	22,603	15.4	14,380	14.3	36,983	15.0
Clerical support workers	11,273	7.7	16,811	16.7	28,084	11.4
Service and sales workers	21,178	14.4	27,627	27.5	48,805	19.7
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1,653 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	1,704 ^u	0.7 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	22,565	15.4	:	:	23,146	9.4
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	10,302	7.0	3,079 ^u	3.1 ^u	13,381	5.4
Elementary occupations	14,174	9.7	6,692	6.7	20,866	8.4
Total	146,860	100.0	100,383	100.0	247,243	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 14. Average annual basic salary for employees by sex and main occupation: January-March 2020

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average ^P (€)	No. of employees	Average ^P (€)	No. of employees	Average ^P (€)
Armed Forces	2,040 ^u	17,529 ^u	:	:	2,040 ^u	17,529 ^u
Managers	15,467	36,388	9,557	32,623	25,024	34,950
Professionals	20,843	27,256	25,928	24,410	46,771	25,678
Technicians and associate professionals	20,276	22,198	11,748	18,543	32,024	20,857
Clerical support workers	11,454	16,240	15,945	16,141	27,399	16,182
Service and sales workers	15,800	14,672	25,257	12,765	41,057	13,499
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	15,374	16,354	:	:	16,159	16,213
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,534	15,249	1,860 ^u	12,044 ^u	11,394	14,726
Elementary occupations	10,797	14,551	7,140	11,000	17,937	13,138
Total	122,091	21,260	98,220	18,874	220,311	20,196

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

^P Provisional

Table 15. Average annual basic salary for employees by sex and main occupation: January-March 2019 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average ^P (€)	No. of employees	Average ^P (€)	No. of employees	Average ^P (€)
Armed Forces	1,448 ^u	19,110 ^u	:	:	1,710 ^u	18,398 ^u
Managers	13,563	35,851	8,068	32,833	21,631	34,726
Professionals	19,828	26,034	20,281	23,362	40,109	24,683
Technicians and associate professionals	19,406	20,586	12,824	18,240	32,230	19,652
Clerical support workers	11,098	16,915	16,370	14,542	27,468	15,501
Service and sales workers	14,969	15,712	23,648	12,230	38,617	13,580
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	15,469	17,008	:	:	15,905	17,011
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,655	16,011	2,762 ^u	11,645 ^u	11,417	14,955
Elementary occupations	13,182	13,540	6,354	9,882	19,536	12,350
Total	118,308	20,644	91,056	17,648	209,364	19,341

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

^P Provisional

Table 16. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2020					
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,872 ^u	31.9 ^u
25-74	3,506 ^u	64.2 ^u	2,628 ^u	74.1 ^u	6,134 ^u	68.1 ^u
Total (15-74)	5,460^u	100.0^u	3,546^u	100.0^u	9,006	100.0
January-March 2019 (Revised)						
15-24	1,598 ^u	30.4 ^u	:	:	2,836 ^u	30.4 ^u
25-74	3,654 ^u	69.6 ^u	:	:	6,500 ^u	69.6 ^u
Total (15-74)	5,252^u	100.0^u	4,084^u	100.0^u	9,336	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 17. Unemployment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	January-March 2020					
15-24	:	:	:	:	9.9 ^u	
25-74	2.5 ^u		2.7 ^u		2.6 ^u	
Total (15-74)	3.5^u		3.2^u		3.3	
January-March 2019 (Revised)						
15-24	10.6 ^u		:		9.9 ^u	
25-74	2.7 ^u		:		2.9 ^u	
Total (15-74)	3.5^u		3.9^u		3.6	

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 18. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and duration of job search

Duration	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2020					
Less than 12 months	3,170 ^u	58.1 ^u	2,643 ^u	74.5 ^u	5,813	64.5
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	3,193 ^u	35.5 ^u
Total	5,460^u	100.0^u	3,546^u	100.0^u	9,006	100.0
January-March 2019 (Revised)						
Less than 12 months	2,522 ^u	48.0 ^u	3,642 ^u	89.2 ^u	6,164 ^u	66.0 ^u
12 months or more	2730 ^u	52.0 ^u	:	:	3,172 ^u	34.0 ^u
Total	5,252^u	100.0^u	4,084^u	100.0^u	9,336	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 19. Distribution of inactive persons by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2020					
15-24	13,444	21.0	13,227	13.4	26,671	16.4
25-34	:	:	3,619 ^u	3.7 ^u	5,113 ^u	3.1 ^u
35-44	:	:	8,399	8.5	9,416	5.8
45-54	1,194 ^u	1.9 ^u	7,963	8.1	9,157	5.6
55-64	8,758	13.7	18,986	19.3	27,744	17.1
65+	38,170	59.6	46,385	47.1	84,555	52.0
Total	64,077	100.0	98,579	100.0	162,656	100.0

January-March 2019 (Revised)						
15-24	13,322	20.9	12,088	11.9	25,410	15.4
25-34	:	:	6,276 ^u	6.2 ^u	7,832	4.8
35-44	:	:	8,182	8.1	8,768	5.3
45-54	1,957 ^u	3.1 ^u	9,675	9.6	11,632	7.1
55-64	9,127	14.4	19,266	19.0	28,393	17.2
65+	37,052	58.3	45,773	45.2	82,825	50.2
Total	63,600	100.0	101,260	100.0	164,860	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 20. Main reasons for being inactive by sex

Reason for inactivity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2020					
Personal or family responsibilities	1,819 ^u	2.8 ^u	26,267	26.6	28,086	17.3
Education or training	12,845	20.0	12,622	12.8	25,467	15.7
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	43,649	68.1	24,131	24.5	67,780	41.7
Other reasons	5,764	9.0	35,559	36.1	41,323	25.4
Total	64,077	100.0	98,579	100.0	162,656	100.0

January-March 2019 (Revised)						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	27,702	27.4	28,689	17.4
Education or training	14,026	22.1	12,363	12.2	26,389	16.0
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	43,828	68.9	22,237	22.0	66,065	40.1
Other reasons	4,759	7.5	38,958	38.5	43,717	26.5
Total	63,600	100.0	101,260	100.0	164,860	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

Table 21. Persons aged 15 years and over by sex and highest educational attainment

Education level	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2020					
Secondary level education or less	109,896	49.4	105,300	50.1	215,196	49.8
Post-Secondary level education	61,213	27.5	55,088	26.2	116,301	26.9
Tertiary level education	51,145	23.0	49,847	23.7	100,992	23.4
Total	222,254	100.0	210,235	100.0	432,489	100.0
	January-March 2019 (Revised)					
Secondary level education or less	107,295	49.7	103,724	50.4	211,019	50.1
Post-Secondary level education	62,864	29.1	53,058	25.8	115,922	27.5
Tertiary level education	45,553	21.1	48,945	23.8	94,498	22.4
Total	215,712	100.0	205,727	100.0	421,439	100.0

Table 22. Persons aged 15 years and over by labour status and highest educational attainment

Education level	Employed		Unemployed		Inactive		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2020							
Secondary level education or less	94,990	36.4	5,532 ^u	61.4 ^u	114,674	70.5	215,196	49.8
Post-Secondary level education	79,024	30.3	2,494 ^u	27.7 ^u	34,783	21.4	116,301	26.9
Tertiary level education	86,813	33.3	:	:	13,199	8.1	100,992	23.4
Total	260,827	100.0	9,006	100.0	162,656	100.0	432,489	100.0
	January-March 2019 (Revised)							
Secondary level education or less	92,377	37.4	5,405 ^u	57.9 ^u	113,237	68.7	211,019	50.1
Post-Secondary level education	76,929	31.1	2,535 ^u	27.2 ^u	36,458	22.1	115,922	27.5
Tertiary level education	77,937	31.5	:	:	15,165	9.2	94,498	22.4
Total	247,243	100.0	9,336	100.0	164,860	100.0	421,439	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Methodological Notes

1. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is carried out on an ongoing basis using a quarterly gross 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 LFS for the first time. Three-fourths of the quarterly sample is made up of households who were selected to participate in the survey in previous instances, either one quarter before, or one year before, or one year and a quarter before (2-(2)-2). Unless otherwise indicated, figures provided in this release refer to persons aged 15 and over and living in private households during the reference period. All criteria used for this survey match international methodologies used by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
2. 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 results with other EU member states and countries following ILO definitions of employment and unemployment. Occupations are classified according to the ISCO - 08 classification (International Standard Classification of Occupations), whereas the economic activity is classified according to NACE Rev. 2 (Nomenclature générale des Activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes). Education attainment is classified according to ISCED 2011 (International Standard Classification of Education).
3. **Definitions:**
 - **Activity rate:** labour force (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).
 - **Annual basic salary:** refers to the annual basic salary received by employees before any social contributions and tax deductions. This amount excludes payments for overtime, allowances and bonuses. Data for this variable is provisional and subject to revisions.
 - **Education Attainment:**
 - **secondary or less level of education:** comprising persons with no schooling, primary education, schools for children with special needs and persons who attained a secondary level education and have less than 5 ordinary level qualifications or equivalent. In the context of the ISCED classification, 'low' includes ISCED 0 to 2.
 - **post-secondary level of education:** comprising persons with a secondary level education and having 5 ordinary level qualifications or equivalent or more, persons with a post-secondary level attainment who have at least obtained 1 intermediate or advanced level qualification or equivalent. In the context of the ISCED classification, 'medium' refers to ISCED 3 and 4.
 - **tertiary level of education:** comprising persons with a tertiary level education and with qualifications ranging from diploma to doctorate level. In the context of the ISCED classification, 'high' refers to ISCED 5 to 8.
 - **Employees:** are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind.
 - **Employed persons:** all persons aged 15 and over 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 employed but absent from work:** due to sick leave, 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:** covers persons who run 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 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).
 - **Inactive persons:** all persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as inactive.
 - **Labour force:** all persons in employment and unemployed persons.

- **Normal hours worked:** refers to the number of usual hours worked per week in the main job over a long reference period, excluding weeks when an absence from work occurs (e.g. holidays, vacation leave or sick leave).
- **Part time employment:** a part-time worker is an employed person whose normal hours are less than those of comparable full-time workers. Persons employed on a full-time with reduced hours basis are included in this category.
- **Reference week:** the week to which the collected data relate.
- **Unemployed persons:** 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:** example of active job search include contacting Jobsplus, applying 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 (15 to 74 years) as a percentage of the labour force (15-74 years).

4. Sampling variability

Data included in this release are based on sample data and are therefore subject to sampling error. Sampling error is measured by a quantity known as the margin of error, which in turn, expresses the variability between the true population parameters and their corresponding sample estimates. In the table below, the margin of error is used to construct a set of 95 per cent confidence intervals for specific variables, which gives an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

Sampling variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Employment	260,827	4,105	260,827 ± 4,105
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	74.59	1.21	74.59 ± 1.21
<i>Males</i>	82.60	1.37	82.60 ± 1.37
<i>Females</i>	65.71	1.70	65.71 ± 1.70
15-24	47.03	3.89	47.03 ± 3.89
25-54	87.01	1.46	87.01 ± 1.46
55-64	54.99	3.90	54.99 ± 3.90
Unemployment	9,006	2,282	9,006 ± 2,282
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	3.35	0.83	3.35 ± 0.83
<i>Males</i>	3.46	1.17	3.46 ± 1.17
<i>Females</i>	3.18	1.25	3.18 ± 1.25
15-24	9.87	4.01	9.87 ± 4.01
25-74	2.55	0.82	2.55 ± 0.82
Inactivity	162,656	4,148	162,656 ± 4,148
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	77.20	1.20	77.20 ± 1.20
<i>Males</i>	85.61	1.18	85.61 ± 1.18
<i>Females</i>	67.89	1.69	67.89 ± 1.69
15-24	52.18	3.66	52.18 ± 3.66
25-54	89.40	1.37	89.40 ± 1.37
55-64	56.18	3.86	56.18 ± 3.86

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 260,827 and the margin of error is 4,105. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 256,722 and 264,932 persons.

Key

- : Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.
- ^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

5. Percentage totals may not add up due to rounding.
6. Absolute changes between one survey estimate and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (i.e. less than 2,100 persons) might be the result of sampling error.
7. More information is available from the NSO upon written request.
8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Sources and Methods:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C2/Labour_Market_Statistics/Pages/Labour-Force-Survey.aspx

Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=33>

Classification: https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE_Rev._2

https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO_2008

<https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED%202011>

9. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx