

During the third quarter of 2016, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 2.3 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2015.

Labour Force Survey: Q3/2016

Labour status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the third quarter, total employment stood at 193,893 accounting to more than half the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 9,870 (2.7 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 161,744 (44.3 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 70.0 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25-54 (82.0 per cent) (Table 2).

The employed population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 to 64 years, 67 were employed (Chart 1). The male employment rate for this age bracket was 79.0 per cent while that for females stood at 53.6 per cent (Table 4).

Self-employed persons accounted for 13.4 per cent of all persons with a main job (Table 5). The majority worked on a full-time basis totalling 164,904 and 28,989 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6).

Results show that, on average, full-timers work 41.5 hours while part-timers work 22.5 hours per week (Table 7).

The average annual basic salary of employees for the third quarter of 2016 was estimated at €17,239. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and Insurance Service sector (Table 10). Average annual salaries varied from €29,040 among managers to €12,090 among persons employed in elementary occupations (Table 14).

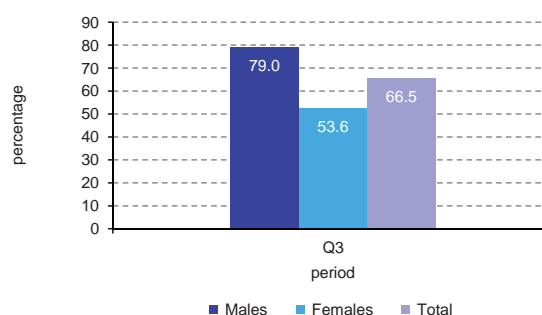
The unemployed and inactive population

The unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2016, stood at 4.8 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 and over (Table 16). Among the unemployed, 43.5 per cent stated that they had been seeking work for at least 12 months (Table 18). The main reason for inactivity relates to persons reaching retirement age or taking up early retirement (42.0 per cent) (Table 20).

Education attainment

According to the Labour Force Survey 57.5 per cent of the 15 plus population had attained a low level of education (Table 21). This comprises persons with less than 5 ordinary level or equivalent qualifications. Among the employed population 24.7 per cent had a tertiary level education (Table 22) ■

Chart 1. Employment rate (15-64 years) by sex



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

Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2016					
Employed	117,994	64.7	75,899	41.4	193,893	53.0
Unemployed	5,747	3.2	4,123	2.3	9,870	2.7
Inactive	58,536	32.1	103,208	56.3	161,744	44.3
Total	182,277	100.0	183,230	100.0	365,507	100.0
	July-September 2015					
Employed	115,153	63.8	74,412	41.2	189,565	52.6
Unemployed	6,623	3.7	3,862	2.1	10,485	2.9
Inactive	58,722	32.5	102,256	56.6	160,978	44.6
Total	180,498	100.0	180,530	100.0	361,028	100.0

Table 2. Activity rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	July-September 2016					
15-24	57.5		51.7		54.6	
25-54	95.6		67.7		82.0	
55-64	66.2		28.4		47.3	
Total (15-64)	82.9		56.6		70.0	
	July-September 2015					
15-24	54.4		53.2		53.8	
25-54	95.9		67.1		81.9	
55-64	63.4		24.6		43.9	
Total (15-64)	81.6		55.6		68.9	

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2016					
15-24	12,930	11.0	11,737	15.5	24,667	12.7
25-34	30,865	26.2	23,226	30.6	54,091	27.9
35-44	29,318	24.8	18,253	24.0	47,571	24.5
45-54	23,675	20.1	14,019	18.5	37,694	19.4
55-64	18,584	15.7	8,261	10.9	26,845	13.8
65+	2,622 ^u	2.2 ^u	:	:	3,025	1.6
Total	117,994	100.0	75,899	100.0	193,893	100.0
July-September 2015						
15-24	12,417	10.8	12,185	16.4	24,602	13.0
25-34	29,151	25.3	21,985	29.5	51,136	27.0
35-44	27,868	24.2	19,015	25.6	46,883	24.7
45-54	25,212	21.9	13,387	18.0	38,599	20.4
55-64	17,645	15.3	7,097	9.5	24,742	13.1
65+	2,860	2.5	:	:	3,603	1.9
Total	115,153	100.0	74,412	100.0	189,565	100.0

ⁱ Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 4. Employment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	%	%	%
	July-September 2016		
15-24	49.5	46.1	47.9
25-54	92.6	64.7	79.0
55-64	63.1	28.0	45.5
Total (15-64)	79.0	53.6	66.5
July-September 2015			
15-24	45.7	47.7	46.6
25-54	92.2	64.4	78.7
55-64	60.2	24.1	42.1
Total (15-64)	77.1	52.8	65.2

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2016					
Self-employed without employees	13,625	11.5	3,711	4.9	17,336	8.9
Self-employed with employees	7,646	6.5	:	:	8,689	4.5
Employee	96,723	82.0	71,145	93.7	167,868	86.6
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	117,994	100.0	75,899	100.0	193,893	100.0
July-September 2015						
Self-employed without employees	13,437	11.7	4,379	5.9	17,816	9.4
Self-employed with employees	6,488	5.6	1,606 ^u	2.2 ^u	8,094	4.3
Employee	95,228	82.7	68,379	91.9	163,607	86.3
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	115,153	100.0	74,412	100.0	189,565	100.0

ⁱ Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 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.	%
	July-September 2016					
Full-time job	109,260	92.6	55,644	73.3	164,904	85.0
Part-time job	8,734	7.4	20,255	26.7	28,989	15.0
Total	117,994	100.0	75,899	100.0	193,893	100.0
July-September 2015						
Full-time job	105,243	91.4	53,518	71.9	158,761	83.8
Part-time job	9,910	8.6	20,894	28.1	30,804	16.2
Total	115,153	100.0	74,412	100.0	189,565	100.0

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

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	Average (Hours)					
	July-September 2016					
Full-time job	42.4		39.7		41.5	
Part-time job	21.9		22.8		22.5	
Total	40.9		35.2		38.7	
July-September 2015						
Full-time job	42.5		39.6		41.5	
Part-time job	24.3		22.2		22.9	
Total	41.0		34.7		38.5	

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: July-September 2016

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,063 ^u	1.7 ^u	:	:	2,181 ^u	1.1 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	20,793	17.6	5,980	7.9	26,773	13.8
Construction	11,394	9.7	:	:	11,889	6.1
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	37,155	31.5	19,930	26.3	57,085	29.4
Information and communication	4,199	3.6	1,881 ^u	2.5 ^u	6,080	3.1
Financial and insurance activities	3,960	3.4	4,672	6.2	8,632	4.5
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,798	9.2	8,648	11.4	19,446	10.0
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,542	19.1	29,912	39.4	52,454	27.1
Other services	4,064	3.4	4,080	5.4	8,144	4.2
Total	117,994	100.0	75,899	100.0	193,893	100.0

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 9. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: July-September 2015

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,650 ^u	2.3 ^u	:	:	2,974 ^u	1.6 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	18,962	16.5	5,345	7.2	24,307	12.8
Construction	11,150	9.7	:	:	11,656	6.1
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	33,910	29.4	18,473	24.8	52,383	27.6
Information and communication	4,777	4.1	1,867 ^u	2.5 ^u	6,644	3.5
Financial and insurance activities	4,624	4.0	4,439	6.0	9,063	4.8
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,392	9.0	7,448	10.0	17,840	9.4
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	23,426	20.3	30,332	40.8	53,758	28.4
Other services	4,547	3.9	5,334	7.2	9,881	5.2
Total	115,153	100.0	74,412	100.0	189,565	100.0

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 10. Average annual basic salary* for employees by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: July-September 2016

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	18,200	16,426	5,661	13,495	23,861	15,731
Construction	8,013	14,858	:	:	8,508	15,062
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	28,314	16,541	17,879	12,046	46,193	14,802
Information and communication	3,730 ^u	24,122 ^u	1,823 ^u	17,633 ^u	5,553	21,992
Financial and insurance activities	3,689	24,800	4,672	21,780	8,361	23,113
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	8,347	21,981	7,963	14,813	16,310	18,481
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	21,777	19,709	29,545	17,357	51,322	18,355
Other services	3,145 ^u	25,818 ^u	3,018 ^u	14,439 ^u	6,163	20,246
Total	96,723	18,435	71,145	15,613	167,868	17,239

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

* Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

Table 11. Average annual basic salary* for employees by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: July-September 2015

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,091 ^u	15,427 ^u	:	:	1,191 ^u	15,047 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	16,885	16,135	5,265	14,399	22,150	15,723
Construction	8,151	15,149	:	:	8,581	15,099
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	25,297	14,961	15,901	11,735	41,198	13,715
Information and communication	4,362	26,203	1,762 ^u	13,853 ^u	6,124	22,650
Financial and insurance activities	4,509	25,164	4,383	19,821	8,892	22,530
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	8,787	18,811	6,790	15,733	15,577	17,469
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,865	19,278	29,844	16,515	52,709	17,713
Other services	3,013 ^u	19,793 ^u	3,737	12,920	6,750	15,988
Total	95,228	17,741	68,379	15,084	163,607	16,630

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

* Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: July-September 2016

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	1,880 ^u	1.6 ^u	:	:	1,942 ^u	1.0 ^u
Managers	12,556	10.6	5,141	6.8	17,697	9.1
Professionals	15,110	12.8	16,772	22.1	31,882	16.4
Technicians and associate professionals	18,142	15.4	10,658	14.0	28,800	14.9
Clerical support workers	9,153	7.8	11,290	14.9	20,443	10.5
Service and sales workers	19,264	16.3	22,956	30.2	42,220	21.8
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,202 ^u	1.9 ^u	:	:	2,320 ^u	1.2 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	17,326	14.7	1,309	1.7	18,635	9.6
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,907	8.4	2,681	3.5	12,588	6.5
Elementary occupations	12,454	10.6	4,912	6.5	17,366	9.0
Total	117,994	100.0	75,899	100.0	193,893	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: July-September 2015

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,400 ^u	2.1 ^u	:	:	2,541 ^u	1.3 ^u
Managers	12,325	10.7	4,443	6.0	16,768	8.8
Professionals	14,252	12.4	16,362	22.0	30,614	16.1
Technicians and associate professionals	16,704	14.5	11,739	15.8	28,443	15.0
Clerical support workers	10,146	8.8	10,586	14.2	20,732	10.9
Service and sales workers	18,586	16.1	22,266	29.9	40,852	21.6
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,487 ^u	2.2 ^u	:	:	2,711 ^u	1.4 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	16,805	14.6	:	:	17,334	9.1
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,637	7.5	2,725 ^u	3.7 ^u	11,362	6.0
Elementary occupations	12,811	11.1	5,397	7.3	18,208	9.6
Total	115,153	100.0	74,412	100.0	189,565	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: July-September 2016

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	1,880 ^u	15,668 ^u	:	:	1,942 ^u	15,657 ^u
Managers	8,880	30,880	4,691	25,557	13,571	29,040
Professionals	12,698	26,692	15,845	20,888	28,543	23,470
Technicians and associate professionals	16,923	18,760	10,507	17,964	27,430	18,455
Clerical support workers	8,981	15,225	11,220	12,777	20,201	13,865
Service and sales workers	14,493	14,814	20,077	11,273	34,570	12,757
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	11,370	15165	1,209 ^u	14,366 ^u	12,579	15,088
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,914	15,212	2,681	12435	11,595	14,570
Elementary occupations	11,666	12,849	4,853	10,268	16,519	12,090
Total	96,723	18,435	71,145	15,613	167,868	17,239

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

* Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

Table 15. Average annual basic salary* for employees by sex and main occupation: July-September 2015

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,400 ^u	16,416 ^u	:	:	2,541 ^u	16,527 ^u
Managers	9,290	30,732	3,793	26,744	13,083	29,576
Professionals	12,592	25,599	15,336	20,293	27,928	22,685
Technicians and associate professionals	15,151	17,899	11,169	17,130	26,320	17,572
Clerical support workers	9,933	15,388	10,586	12,576	20,519	13,937
Service and sales workers	13,931	13,817	18,843	10,895	32,774	12,137
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	11,242	14,171	:	:	11,695	14,231
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,914	14,521	2,725 ^u	12,009 ^u	10,639	13,877
Elementary occupations	11,939	11,751	5,333	8,732	17,272	10,819
Total	95,228	17,741	68,379	15,084	163,607	16,630

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

* Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2016					
15-24	2,068 ^u	36.0 ^u	1,403 ^u	34.0 ^u	3,471 ^u	35.2 ^u
25-74	3,679	64.0	2,720 ^u	66.0 ^u	6,399	64.8
Total (15-74)	5,747	100.0	4,123	100.0	9,870	100.0
July-September 2015						
15-24	2,364 ^u	35.7 ^u	1,411 ^u	36.5 ^u	3,775	36.0
25-74	4,259	64.3	2,451 ^u	63.5 ^u	6,710	64.0
Total (15-74)	6,623	100.0	3,862	100.0	10,485	100.0

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

Table 17. Unemployment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	July-September 2016					
15-24	13.8 ^u		10.7 ^u		12.3 ^u	
25-74	3.4		4.1 ^u		3.6	
Total (15-74)	4.7		5.2		4.8	
July-September 2015						
15-24	16.0 ^u		10.4 ^u		13.3	
25-74	4.0		3.8 ^u		3.9	
Total (15-74)	5.5		4.9		5.3	

^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.	%
	July-September 2016					
Less than 12 months	2,709 ^u	47.1 ^u	2,872 ^u	69.7 ^u	5,581	56.5
12 months or more	3,038 ^u	52.9 ^u	1,251 ^u	30.3 ^u	4,289	43.5
Total	5,747	100.0	4,123	100.0	9,870	100.0
July-September 2015						
Less than 12 months	2,785 ^u	42.1 ^u	2,947 ^u	76.3 ^u	5,732	54.7
12 months or more	3,838	57.9	:	:	4,753	45.3
Total	6,623	100.0	3,862	100.0	10,485	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.	%
	July-September 2016					
15-24	11,101	19.0	12,294	11.9	23,395	14.5
25-34	:	:	6,935	6.7	8,102	5.0
35-44	:	:	9,573	9.3	10,588	6.5
45-54	1,798 ^u	3.1 ^u	11,210	10.9	13,008	8.0
55-64	9,945	17.0	21,140	20.5	31,085	19.2
65+	33,510	57.2	42,056	40.7	75,566	46.7
Total	58,536	100.0	103,208	100.0	161,744	100.0
July-September 2015						
15-24	12,414	21.1	11,956	11.7	24,370	15.1
25-34	1,705 ^u	2.9 ^u	6,626	6.5	8,331	5.2
35-44	:	:	8,644	8.5	9,423	5.9
45-54	1,213 ^u	2.1 ^u	12,466	12.2	13,679	8.5
55-64	10,741	18.3	22,236	21.7	32,977	20.5
65+	31,870	54.3	40,328	39.4	72,198	44.8
Total	58,722	100.0	102,256	100.0	160,978	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	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2016					
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	25,428	24.6	26,119	16.1
Education or training	10,810	18.5	12,013	11.6	22,823	14.1
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	40,295	68.8	27,706	26.8	68,001	42.0
Other reasons	6,740	11.5	38,061	36.9	44,801	27.7
Total	58,536	100.0	103,208	100.0	161,744	100.0
July-September 2015						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	26,570	26.0	27,286	17.0
Education or training	12,119	20.6	11,295	11.0	23,414	14.5
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	38,977	66.4	23,780	23.3	62,757	39.0
Other reasons	6,910	11.8	40,611	39.7	47,521	29.5
Total	58,722	100.0	102,256	100.0	160,978	100.0

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
July-September 2016						
Low	103,694	56.9	106,387	58.1	210,081	57.5
Medium	50,473	27.7	45,882	25.0	96,355	26.4
High	28,110	15.4	30,961	16.9	59,071	16.2
Total	182,277	100.0	183,230	100.0	365,507	100.0
July-September 2015						
Low	103,501	57.3	108,106	59.9	211,607	58.6
Medium	49,259	27.3	43,074	23.9	92,333	25.6
High	27,738	15.4	29,350	16.3	57,088	15.8
Total	180,498	100.0	180,530	100.0	361,028	100.0

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

	Employed		Unemployed		Inactive		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
July-September 2016								
Low	82,523	42.6	6,656	67.4	120,902	74.7	210,081	57.5
Medium	63,449	32.7	2,414 ^u	24.5 ^u	30,492	18.9	96,355	26.4
High	47,921	24.7	:	:	10,350	6.4	59,071	16.2
Total	193,893	100.0	9,870	100.0	161,744	100.0	365,507	100.0
July-September 2015								
Low	80,426	42.4	7,825	74.6	123,356	76.6	211,607	58.6
Medium	62,200	32.8	1,451 ^u	13.8 ^u	28,682	17.8	92,333	25.6
High	46,939	24.8	:	:	8,940	5.6	57,088	15.8
Total	189,565	100.0	10,485	100.0	160,978	100.0	361,028	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.

3. Definitions:

- **Activity rate:** Labour force (15-64) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).
- **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.
- **Education Attainment:**
 - **low:** comprising persons with no schooling, primary education, special schools for disabled, 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.
 - **medium:** 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.
 - **high** - 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) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).
- **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 give an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

Sampling variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Employment	193,893	6037	193,893 ± 6,037
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	66.53	1.91	66.53 ± 1.91
<i>Males</i>	78.97	3.16	78.97 ± 3.16
<i>Females</i>	53.63	4.03	53.63 ± 4.03
15-24	47.87	5.16	47.87 ± 5.16
25-54	79.01	2.25	79.01 ± 2.25
55-64	45.54	3.26	45.54 ± 3.26
Unemployment	9,870	1801	9,870 ± 1,801
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	4.84	0.94	4.84 ± 0.94
<i>Males</i>	4.65	1.28	4.65 ± 1.28
<i>Females</i>	5.15	2.25	5.15 ± 2.25
15-24	12.34	3.83	12.34 ± 3.83
25+	3.64	0.88	3.64 ± 0.88
Inactivity	161,744	5025	161,744 ± 5,025
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	69.96	1.84	69.96 ± 1.84
<i>Males</i>	82.87	2.99	82.87 ± 2.99
<i>Females</i>	56.56	4.05	56.56 ± 4.05
15-24	54.60	4.49	54.60 ± 4.49
25-54	82.03	2.19	82.03 ± 2.19
55-64	47.27	3.25	47.27 ± 3.25

The table gives indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 193,893 and the margin of error is 6,037. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 187,856 and 199,930 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 1,800 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:

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

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

Classification: [http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE_Rev. 2](http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE_Rev.2)
[http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO 2008](http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO_2008)
<http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED%202011>