

During the last quarter of 2017, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 5.1 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2016.

Labour Force Survey: Q4/2017

Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the fourth quarter, total employment stood at 203,651 accounting to more than half the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 7,891 (2.1 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 159,967 (43.1 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 72.0 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25-54 (83.6 per cent) (Table 2).

The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 to 64 years, 69 were employed (Chart 1). The male employment rate for this age bracket was 81.3 per cent while that for females stood at 56.7 per cent (Table 4).

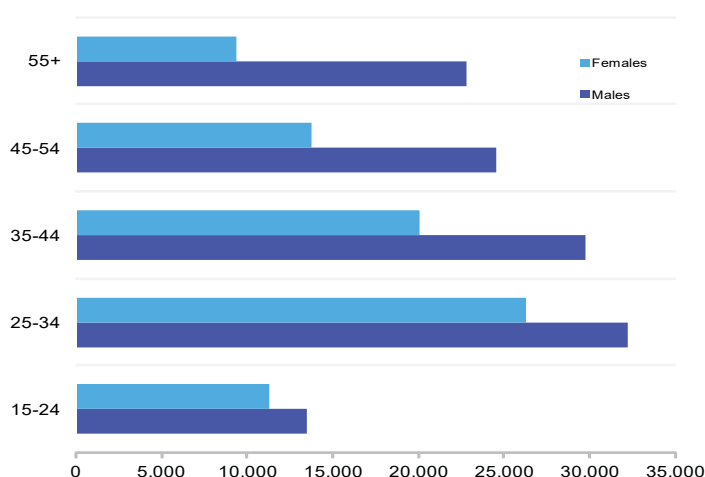
Self-employed persons accounted for 13.6 per cent of all persons with a main job (Table 5). The majority of employed persons worked on a full-time basis totalling 176,478 and 27,173 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers work 41.2 hours while part-timers work 22.2 hours per week (Table 7).

The average annual basic salary of employees for the final quarter of 2017 was estimated at €17,911. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and Insurance Service sector (€26,741) (Table 10). Average annual salaries varied from €30,754 among managers to €12,102 among persons employed in elementary occupations (Table 14).

The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2017, stood at 3.7 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 and over (Table 16). Among the unemployed, 62.4 per cent stated that they had been seeking work for less than 12 months (Table 18). The main reason for inactivity relates to persons reaching retirement age or taking up early retirement (41.3 per cent) (Table 20).

Employment by age groups and sex



Education Attainment

According to the Labour Force Survey 56.5 per cent of the 15 plus population have attained a low level of education (Table 21). This comprises persons with less than 5 ordinary level or equivalent qualifications. Among the employed population 25.3 per cent 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.	%
	October-December 2017					
Employed	122,948	66.1	80,703	43.5	203,651	54.8
Unemployed	4,976	2.7	2,915 ^u	1.6 ^u	7,891	2.1
Inactive	58,030	31.2	101,937	54.9	159,967	43.1
Total	185,954	100.0	185,555	100.0	371,509	100.0
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
Employed	118,463	64.4	75,223	41.0	193,686	52.7
Unemployed	4,511	2.5	4,047	2.2	8,558	2.3
Inactive	60,835	33.1	104,343	56.8	165,178	45.0
Total	183,809	100.0	183,613	100.0	367,422	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	
	%					
	October-December 2017					
15-24	58.8		51.0		55.0	
25-54	96.3		70.2		83.6	
55-64	70.0		31.4		50.7	
Total (15-64)	84.6		58.8		72.0	
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
15-24	55.2		47.7		51.5	
25-54	95.6		67.1		81.7	
55-64	63.6		29.5		46.6	
Total (15-64)	82.0		55.8		69.1	

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2017					
15-24	13,472	11.0	11,255	13.9	24,727	12.1
25-34	32,265	26.2	26,263	32.5	58,528	28.7
35-44	29,791	24.2	20,103	24.9	49,894	24.5
45-54	24,566	20.0	13,725	17.0	38,291	18.8
55-64	20,052	16.3	9,039	11.2	29,091	14.3
65+	2,802	2.3	:	:	3,120	1.5
Total	122,948	100.0	80,703	100.0	203,651	100.0
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
15-24	12,747	10.8	10,510	14.0	23,257	12.0
25-34	31,867	26.9	23,251	30.9	55,118	28.5
35-44	28,944	24.4	18,733	24.9	47,677	24.6
45-54	24,119	20.4	13,871	18.4	37,990	19.6
55-64	18,124	15.3	8,471	11.3	26,595	13.7
65+	2,662 ^u	2.2 ^u	:	:	3,049	1.6
Total	118,463	100.0	75,223	100.0	193,686	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	
	%		%		%	
	October-December 2017					
15-24	53.1		46.1		49.7	
25-54	93.3		68.5		81.2	
55-64	67.8		30.6		49.2	
Total (15-64)	81.3		56.7		69.3	
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
15-24	48.9		41.8		45.4	
25-54	93.1		64.4		79.1	
55-64	61.5		28.7		45.1	
Total (15-64)	78.9		52.9		66.2	

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2017					
Self-employed without employees	14,675	11.9	3,838	4.8	18,513	9.1
Self-employed with employees	7,045	5.7	2,092 ^u	2.6 ^u	9,137	4.5
Employee	101,228	82.3	74,600	92.4	175,828	86.3
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	122,948	100.0	80,703	100.0	203,651	100.0
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	14,619	12.3	3,372 ^u	4.5 ^u	17,991	9.3
Self-employed with employees	7,424	6.3	:	:	8,839	4.6
Employee	96,420	81.4	70,436	93.6	166,856	86.1
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	118,463	100.0	75,223	100.0	193,686	100.0

[‡] 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.	%
	October-December 2017					
Full-time job	114,330	93.0	62,148	77.0	176,478	86.7
Part-time job	8,618	7.0	18,555	23.0	27,173	13.3
Total	122,948	100.0	80,703	100.0	203,651	100.0
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
Full-time job	110,158	93.0	55,264	73.5	165,422	85.4
Part-time job	8,305	7.0	19,959	26.5	28,264	14.6
Total	118,463	100.0	75,223	100.0	193,686	100.0

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

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	Average (Hours)					
	October-December 2017					
Full-time job	42.2		39.5		41.2	
Part-time job	21.4		22.5		22.2	
Total	40.7		35.6		38.7	
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
Full-time job	42.2		39.3		41.2	
Part-time job	22.8		23.3		23.1	
Total	40.9		35.1		38.6	

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: October-December 2017

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,192 ^u	1.8 ^u	:	:	2,526 ^u	1.2 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	20,484	16.7	8,032	10.0	28,516	14.0
Construction	12,014	9.8	:	:	12,410	6.1
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	34,599	28.1	18,924	23.4	53,523	26.3
Information and communication	4,093 ^u	3.3 ^u	2,318 ^u	2.9 ^u	6,411	3.1
Financial and insurance activities	4,826	3.9	4,674	5.8	9,500	4.7
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	1,967 ^u	1.0 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	11,937	9.7	9,835	12.2	21,772	10.7
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	25,392	20.7	30,532	37.8	55,924	27.5
Other services	6,099	5.0	5,003	6.2	11,102	5.5
Total	122,948	100.0	80,703	100.0	203,651	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: October-December 2016 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,967 ^u	2.5 ^u	:	:	3,072 ^u	1.6 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	20,065	16.9	6,667	8.9	26,732	13.8
Construction	11,596	9.8	:	:	12,127	6.3
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	34,958	29.5	17,667	23.5	52,625	27.2
Information and communication	5,091	4.3	1,903 ^u	2.5 ^u	6,994	3.6
Financial and insurance activities	3,756	3.2	5,333	7.1	9,089	4.7
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,209	8.6	8,000	10.6	18,209	9.4
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	23,384	19.7	29,766	39.6	53,150	27.4
Other services	5,403	4.6	4,938	6.6	10,341	5.3
Total	118,463	100.0	75,223	100.0	193,686	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: October-December 2017

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	17,952	18,181	7,655	13,430	25,607	16,761
Construction	8,324	17,147	:	:	8,720	16,955
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	27,018	17,058	17,239	12,765	44,257	15,386
Information and communication	3,720 ^u	21,967 ^u	2,248 ^u	16,869 ^u	5,968	20,047
Financial and insurance activities	4,396	29,335	4,674	24,300	9,070	26,741
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	8,865	18,105	8,975	15,882	17,840	16,987
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	24,659	20,383	29,637	17,404	54,296	18,757
Other services	5,001	25,592	3,126 ^u	15,805 ^u	8,127	21,827
Total	101,228	19,289	74,600	16,041	175,828	17,911

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

* 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: October-December 2016 (Revised)

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	17,205	17,117	6,599	13,717	23,804	16,175
Construction	7,227	14,629	:	:	7,758	15,027
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	27,068	17,774	15,890	12,915	42,958	15,977
Information and communication	4,515	22,019	1,903 ^u	19,343 ^u	6,418	21,225
Financial and insurance activities	3,531 ^u	29,900 ^u	5,333	20,460	8,864	24,221
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	7,837	18,040	7,167	15,101	15,004	16,636
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,748	20,019	29,342	17,595	52,090	18,654
Other services	4,485	24,002	3,533 ^u	14,914 ^u	8,018	19,997
Total	96,420	18,842	70,436	16,065	166,856	17,670

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* 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: October-December 2017

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,297 ^u	1.9 ^u	:	:	2,590 ^u	1.3 ^u
Managers	13,183	10.7	5,235	6.5	18,418	9.0
Professionals	18,306	14.9	16,306	20.2	34,612	17.0
Technicians and associate professionals	19,415	15.8	11,125	13.8	30,540	15.0
Clerical support workers	8,668	7.1	13,469	16.7	22,137	10.9
Service and sales workers	18,718	15.2	22,648	28.1	41,366	20.3
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,573 ^u	2.1 ^u	:	:	2,722 ^u	1.3 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	18,226	14.8	:	:	19,260	9.5
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,090	7.4	4,320 ^u	5.4 ^u	13,410	6.6
Elementary occupations	12,472	10.1	6,124	7.6	18,596	9.1
Total	122,948	100.0	80,703	100.0	203,651	100.0

ⁱ 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: October-December 2016 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,436 ^u	2.1 ^u	:	:	2,436 ^u	1.3 ^u
Managers	12,387	10.5	5,182	6.9	17,569	9.1
Professionals	16,252	13.7	16,843	22.4	33,095	17.1
Technicians and associate professionals	17,393	14.7	11,549	15.4	28,942	14.9
Clerical support workers	9,510	8.0	11,657	15.5	21,167	10.9
Service and sales workers	19,662	16.6	20,686	27.5	40,348	20.8
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,902 ^u	2.4 ^u	:	:	2,952 ^u	1.5 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	17,808	15.0	:	:	18,859	9.7
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,715	6.5	3,277 ^u	4.4 ^u	10,992	5.7
Elementary occupations	12,398	10.5	4,928	6.6	17,326	8.9
Total	118,463	100.0	75,223	100.0	193,686	100.0

ⁱ 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: October-December 2017

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,297 ^u	16,561 ^u	:	:	2,590 ^u	16,904 ^u
Managers	9,819	32,376	4,792	27,430	14,611	30,754
Professionals	15,492	25,551	14,928	20,782	30,420	23,211
Technicians and associate professionals	16,918	20,525	10,791	18,374	27,709	19,687
Clerical support workers	8,583	16,237	13,154	14,264	21,737	15,043
Service and sales workers	14,586	15,689	19,777	12,305	34,363	13,742
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	12,700	15,442	:	:	13,347	15,240
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,049	15,116	4,213 ^u	12,600 ^u	12,262	14,252
Elementary occupations	11,952	13,196	6,005	9,925	17,957	12,102
Total	101,228	19,289	74,600	16,041	175,828	17,911

[∴] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

* 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: October-December 2016 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,436 ^u	17,259 ^u	:	:	2,436 ^u	17,259 ^u
Managers	9,487	32,818	4,776	27,639	14,263	31,084
Professionals	14,038	24,878	15,877	21,124	29,915	22,885
Technicians and associate professionals	15,703	19,998	11,328	18,356	27,031	19,310
Clerical support workers	9,121	16,208	11,476	13,594	20,597	14,752
Service and sales workers	14,938	14,606	18,161	11,427	33,099	12,862
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	10,941	15,575	:	:	11,729	15,433
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,116	14,060	3,277 ^u	12,209 ^u	10,393	13,477
Elementary occupations	11,257	12,718	4,753	8,860	16,010	11,572
Total	96,420	18,842	70,436	16,065	166,856	17,670

[∴] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

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* 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.	%
October-December 2017						
15-24	1,432 ^u	28.8 ^u	:	:	2,638 ^u	33.4 ^u
25-74	3,544 ^u	71.2 ^u	1,709 ^u	58.6 ^u	5,253	66.6
Total (15-74)	4,976	100.0	2,915^u	100.0	7,891	100.0
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
15-24	1,640 ^u	36.4 ^u	1,489 ^u	36.8 ^u	3,129 ^u	36.6 ^u
25-74	2,871 ^u	63.6 ^u	2,558 ^u	63.2 ^u	5,429	63.4
Total (15-74)	4,511	100.0	4,047	100.0	8,558	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
	%		
October-December 2017			
15-24	9.6 ^u	:	9.6 ^u
25-74	3.1 ^u	2.4 ^u	2.9
Total (15-74)	3.9	3.5^u	3.7
October-December 2016 (Revised)			
15-24	11.4 ^u	12.4 ^u	11.9 ^u
25-74	2.7 ^u	3.8 ^u	3.1
Total (15-74)	3.7	5.1	4.2

[‡] 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.	%
October-December 2017						
Less than 12 months	2,908 ^u	58.4 ^u	2,015 ^u	69.1 ^u	4,923	62.4
12 months or more	2,068 ^u	41.6 ^u	:	:	2,968 ^u	37.6 ^u
Total	4,976	100.0	2,915^u	100.0	7,891	100.0
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
Less than 12 months	2,545 ^u	56.4 ^u	2,551 ^u	63.0 ^u	5,096	59.5
12 months or more	1,966 ^u	43.6 ^u	:	:	3,462 ^u	40.5 ^u
Total	4,511	100.0	4,047	100.0	8,558	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.	%
	October-December 2017					
15-24	10,449	18.0	11,956	11.7	22,405	14.0
25-34	:	:	5,217 ^u	5.1 ^u	5,821	3.6
35-44	:	:	9,338	9.2	10,979	6.9
45-54	:	:	11,582	11.4	12,770	8.0
55-64	8,869	15.3	20,264	19.9	29,133	18.2
65+	35,279	60.8	43,580	42.8	78,859	49.3
Total	58,030	100.0	101,937	100.0	159,967	100.0
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
15-24	11,678	19.2	13,131	12.6	24,809	15.0
25-34	:	:	7,152	6.9	8,463	5.1
35-44	:	:	9,941	9.5	10,979	6.6
45-54	1,656 ^u	2.7 ^u	11,460	11.0	13,116	7.9
55-64	10,717	17.6	20,789	19.9	31,506	19.1
65+	34,435	56.6	41,870	40.1	76,305	46.2
Total	60,835	100.0	104,343	100.0	165,178	100.0

ⁱ 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.	%
	October-December 2017					
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	29,953	29.4	30,595	19.1
Education or training	9,800	16.9	11,512	11.3	21,312	13.3
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	41,649	71.8	24,352	23.9	66,001	41.3
Other reasons	5,939	10.2	36,120	35.4	42,059	26.3
Total	58,030	100.0	101,937	100.0	159,967	100.0
October-December 2016 (Revised)						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	28,661	27.5	29,267	17.7
Education or training	11,672	19.2	12,992	12.5	24,664	14.9
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	42,527	69.9	26,172	25.1	68,699	41.6
Other reasons	6,030	9.9	36,518	35.0	42,548	25.8
Total	60,835	100.0	104,343	100.0	165,178	100.0

ⁱ 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.	%	
	October-December 2017						
Low	102,029	54.9	107,710	58.0	209,739	56.5	
Medium	52,572	28.3	46,523	25.1	99,095	26.7	
High	31,353	16.9	31,322	16.9	62,675	16.9	
Total	185,954	100.0	185,555	100.0	371,509	100.0	
	October-December 2016 (Revised)						
	Low	104,273	56.7	105,790	57.6	210,063	57.2
	Medium	49,429	26.9	46,515	25.3	95,944	26.1
High	30,107	16.4	31,308	17.1	61,415	16.7	
Total	183,809	100.0	183,613	100.0	367,422	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.	%	
	October-December 2017								
Low	82,335	40.4	4,914	62.3	122,490	76.6	209,739	56.5	
Medium	69,879	34.3	1,889 ^u	23.9 ^u	27,327	17.1	99,095	26.7	
High	51,437	25.3	:	:	10,150	6.4	62,675	16.9	
Total	203,651	100.0	7,891	100.0	159,967	100.0	371,509	100.0	
	October-December 2016 (Revised)								
	Low	79,671	41.1	5,901	69.0	124,491	75.4	210,063	57.2
	Medium	61,836	31.9	2,096 ^u	24.5 ^u	32,012	19.4	95,944	26.1
High	52,179	26.9	:	:	8,675	5.3	61,415	16.7	
Total	193,686	100.0	8,558	100.0	165,178	100.0	367,422	100.0	

^o 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).

- **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	203,651	3,980	203,651 ± 3,980
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	69.27	1.35	69.27 ± 1.35
<i>Males</i>	81.27	1.33	81.27 ± 1.33
<i>Females</i>	56.74	1.69	56.74 ± 1.69
15-24	49.68	3.56	49.68 ± 3.56
25-54	81.24	1.67	81.24 ± 1.67
55-64	49.20	2.76	49.20 ± 2.76
Unemployment	7,891	1,649	7,891 ± 1,649
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	3.73	0.78	3.73 ± 0.78
<i>Males</i>	3.89	1.06	3.89 ± 1.06
<i>Females</i>	3.49	1.15	3.49 ± 1.15
15-24	9.64	3.17	9.64 ± 3.17
25+	2.86	0.75	2.86 ± 0.75
Inactivity	159,967	3763	159,967 ± 3,763
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	71.98	1.27	71.98 ± 1.27
<i>Males</i>	84.61	1.19	84.61 ± 1.19
<i>Females</i>	58.80	1.65	58.80 ± 1.65
15-24	54.98	3.48	54.98 ± 3.48
25-54	83.63	1.55	83.63 ± 1.55
55-64	50.73	2.68	50.73 ± 2.68

Note: Prior to 2017, the margin of error was calculated using the Bootstrap method. From Quarter 1 2017 the Ultimate Cluster Method was used for the margin of error calculations. This method is in line with current Eurostat's recommendations for best practice.

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 203,651 and the margin of error is 3,980. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 199,671 and 207,631 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:
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: 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=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
11. 2016 data has been revised due to demographic revisions.