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The National Statistics Office is publishing a series of revised Labour Force Survey estimates for the period 2012 to 2017.

## Labour Force Survey Revisions: 2012-2017

The revisions are in line with updates to population figures published by this Office in February this year (Population Statistics (Revisions): 2012-2016, News release 022/2018). This release provides annual estimates for the main Labour Force Survey indicators. Quarterly revised estimates are found in a separate annex to this release.

### Labour Force

Estimates for the Labour Force Survey indicate that the activity rate increased from 63.9 per cent in 2012 to 72.2 per cent in 2017. This growth was mainly attributed to the increase in female participation in the labour force. In fact, between 2012 and 2017, the male activity rate increased by 4.9 percentage points, while the rate for females increased by 11.4 percentage points (Table 1).

### Employment Characteristics

In 2017, out of every 100 persons between 15 and 64 years of age, 69 were employed. Results also indicate an increase of 9.3 percentage points in the employment rate between 2012 and 2017. The employment rates for males and that for females increased by 6.1 and 12.3 percentage points respectively (Table 1). In 2017, among those having a main job, 29.6 per cent were between 25 and 34 years and a further 25.3 per cent were between 35 and 44 years (Table 2).

During 2017, the share of females working on a full-time basis was 74.9 per cent, indicating an increase of 1.1 percentage points when compared to 2012 levels (Table 3). On average from 2012 to 2017, the share of full-time employed males was 92 per cent.

On average, over the past six years, 20 per cent worked in service and sales-related occupations followed by a further 17 per cent working in professional jobs (Table 5). Over the same six year period, an average of 28 per cent of employed persons were engaged in wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities. An additional 26 per cent worked in public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities (Table 4).

### Unemployment Characteristics

During the period under review, the unemployment rate dropped by 2.2 percentage points, from 6.2 per cent in 2012 to 4.0 per cent in 2017 (Table 1). Across all years, the highest number of unemployed persons was recorded in the 15 to 24 age category (Table 2).

### Education Attainment

Between 2012 and 2017, the number of persons with a low level of education dropped by 9.1 percentage points. In addition, over the same period, an increase was recorded in the number of persons attaining medium or high level of education (Table 6) ■

Table 1. Labour market main indicators: 2012-2017

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Employed population</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,161</b>	<b>181,614</b>	<b>190,871</b>	<b>198,322</b>	<b>208,132</b>	<b>220,489</b>
Males	109,050	112,217	116,495	121,162	126,088	132,440
Females	64,111	69,397	74,376	77,160	82,044	88,049
<b>Unemployed population</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,442</b>	<b>11,810</b>	<b>11,586</b>	<b>11,260</b>	<b>10,231</b>	<b>9,184</b>
Males	6,465	7,278	7,586	6,871	5,765	5,278
Females	4,977	4,532	4,000	4,389	4,466	3,906
<b>Inactive population</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,593</b>	<b>164,007</b>	<b>163,785</b>	<b>166,399</b>	<b>166,555</b>	<b>166,973</b>
Males	58,832	58,451	59,122	60,722	61,701	62,571
Females	107,761	105,556	104,663	105,677	104,854	104,402
<b>Activity rate (15-64)</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>63.9%</b>	<b>66.3%</b>	<b>67.8%</b>	<b>68.8%</b>	<b>70.6%</b>	<b>72.2%</b>
Males	78.5%	80.0%	80.8%	81.5%	82.5%	83.4%
Females	48.8%	52.0%	54.3%	55.6%	58.0%	60.2%
<b>Employment rate (15-64)</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.9%</b>	<b>62.1%</b>	<b>63.9%</b>	<b>65.1%</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	<b>69.2%</b>
Males	74.0%	75.1%	75.7%	77.0%	78.9%	80.1%
Females	45.3%	48.8%	51.5%	52.6%	55.0%	57.6%
<b>Unemployment rate (15-74)</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
Males	5.6%	6.1%	6.1%	5.4%	4.4%	3.8%
Females	7.2%	6.1%	5.1%	5.4%	5.2%	4.3%

**Table 2. Distribution of persons aged 15 years and over by labour status and age group: 2012-2017**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Employed</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,161</b>	<b>181,614</b>	<b>190,871</b>	<b>198,322</b>	<b>208,132</b>	<b>220,489</b>
15 - 24	24,389	25,566	25,603	24,867	24,882	25,306
25 - 34	48,635	51,124	53,650	56,466	61,191	65,203
35 - 44	41,122	43,557	46,926	49,598	51,666	55,821
45 - 54	35,902	36,469	37,317	38,359	39,369	41,842
55 - 64	20,557	21,856	23,393	25,135	27,509	28,589
65+	2,556	3,042	3,982	3,897	3,515	3,728
<b>Unemployed</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,442</b>	<b>11,810</b>	<b>11,586</b>	<b>11,260</b>	<b>10,231</b>	<b>9,184</b>
15 - 24	3,927	3,728	3,386	3,274	2,981	2,989
25 - 34	2,541	2,995	2,644	2,896	2,050	2,825
35 - 44	2,054	1,844	2,047	2,032	2,210	1,474
45 - 54	1,971	2,004	1,960	1,569	1,904	1,152
55 +	949	1,239	1,549	1,489	1,086	744 <sup>u</sup>
<b>Inactive</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,593</b>	<b>164,007</b>	<b>163,785</b>	<b>166,399</b>	<b>166,555</b>	<b>166,973</b>
15 - 24	26,479	25,469	25,820	26,399	26,000	25,176
25 - 34	9,054	7,890	8,428	8,776	8,083	7,831
35 - 44	11,350	10,790	9,829	10,102	10,328	10,391
45 - 54	18,379	16,890	15,734	14,842	13,610	12,557
55 - 64	37,718	35,922	34,233	32,948	31,523	31,213
65+	63,613	67,046	69,741	73,332	77,011	79,805

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Table 3. Employment characteristics of main occupation by sex: 2012-2017**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Full time employed</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>148,772</b>	<b>154,634</b>	<b>159,742</b>	<b>167,818</b>	<b>177,467</b>	<b>188,414</b>
Males	101,434	103,374	106,589	111,461	116,963	122,427
Females	47,338	51,260	53,153	56,357	60,504	65,987
<b>Part time employed</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,389</b>	<b>26,980</b>	<b>31,129</b>	<b>30,504</b>	<b>30,665</b>	<b>32,075</b>
Males	7,616	8,843	9,906	9,701	9,125	10,013
Females	16,773	18,137	21,223	20,803	21,540	22,062
<b>Self employed</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,086</b>	<b>24,921</b>	<b>25,731</b>	<b>27,381</b>	<b>29,180</b>	<b>32,721</b>
Males	18,925	20,590	20,657	21,854	24,160	25,421
Females	4,161	4,331	5,074	5,527	5,020	7,300
<b>Employees and unpaid family workers</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>150,075</b>	<b>156,693</b>	<b>165,140</b>	<b>170,941</b>	<b>178,952</b>	<b>187,768</b>
Males	90,125	91,627	95,838	99,308	101,928	107,019
Females	59,950	65,066	69,302	71,633	77,024	80,749

**Table 4. Distribution of total employed persons by economic activity of the main occupation: 2012-2017**

<b>Economic activity</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,161</b>	<b>181,614</b>	<b>190,871</b>	<b>198,322</b>	<b>208,132</b>	<b>220,489</b>
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,813	2,298	2,469	2,909	2,430	2,193
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	27,513	27,487	27,574	26,929	27,260	28,472
Construction	10,880	11,706	11,966	12,748	14,063	15,186
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	48,913	52,312	54,741	54,000	59,234	60,413
Information and communication	7,442	7,265	7,336	7,720	7,962	8,124
Financial and insurance activities	7,537	8,422	8,726	9,517	10,447	11,723
Real estate activities	798 <sup>u</sup>	1,096	1,281	1,530	1,454	2,425
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	11,770	13,473	16,234	18,680	19,435	21,414
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	48,057	47,644	49,166	52,440	52,999	55,588
Other services	8,438	9,911	11,378	11,849	12,848	14,951

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Table 5. Main occupation of total employed persons: 2012-2017**

<b>Main occupation</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,161</b>	<b>181,614</b>	<b>190,871</b>	<b>198,322</b>	<b>208,132</b>	<b>220,489</b>
Armed Forces	2,092	1,803	1,823	2,156	2,082	2,066
Managers	16,314	17,730	19,238	18,833	20,510	22,637
Professionals	28,374	30,342	30,790	32,762	35,137	38,504
Technicians and associate professionals	24,573	26,275	27,097	29,315	30,408	32,257
Clerical support workers	19,864	20,565	20,977	22,093	22,519	22,799
Service and sales workers	33,816	35,353	39,267	41,211	44,755	45,757
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1,727	1,906	1,885	2,429	2,225	2,308
Craft and related trades workers	18,418	19,068	19,226	20,167	20,599	22,215
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	11,499	11,758	12,635	11,668	11,999	12,756
Elementary occupations	16,484	16,814	17,933	17,688	17,898	19,190

**Table 6. Persons aged 15 years and over by sex and highest educational attainment: 2012-2017**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Low</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>218,903</b>	<b>215,209</b>	<b>214,796</b>	<b>213,731</b>	<b>210,740</b>	<b>210,901</b>
Males	105,279	104,565	105,059	105,612	105,031	104,149
Females	113,624	110,644	109,737	108,119	105,709	106,752
<b>Medium</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,220</b>	<b>85,453</b>	<b>89,356</b>	<b>96,611</b>	<b>105,196</b>	<b>109,368</b>
Males	43,070	45,638	46,994	51,241	54,585	57,249
Females	37,150	39,815	42,362	45,370	50,611	52,119
<b>High</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,073</b>	<b>56,769</b>	<b>62,090</b>	<b>65,639</b>	<b>68,982</b>	<b>76,377</b>
Males	25,998	27,743	31,150	31,902	33,938	38,891
Females	26,075	29,026	30,940	33,737	35,044	37,486

## Methodological Notes

### 1. Reason for Revisions

#### a. Weighting methodology

The revisions contained in this release were undertaken in line with revised demographic updates published on the 12th of February 2018 (Release No: 022/2018). These updates are reflected in the grossing up methodology used for the survey.

This revision takes on board the changes in methodology of the weighting computation. The weighting methodology moved from post-stratification technique to the calibration method using the logit function. The benchmarks used for calibration are represented by individuals as follows:

- NUTS 4
- Sex, and 5 year age-groups (0-14,15-19,20-24...,75+)
- Citizenship
- Citizenship in 15-64 age group
- The four panels
- Number of households represented by reference persons
- Number of employed non-nationals

Across the period 2012-2017, shifts were recorded in levels. On the whole, trends remained the same.

#### b. Inclusion of SSC&P qualification and shift of ISCED 4 to ISCED 3

The revision also takes on board a new qualification (SSC&P) which was introduced in the education system in academic year 2014/2015. In addition, the classifications related to vocational qualifications have been aligned to the guidelines provided by the Tourism and Education Statistics Unit (within the NSO). In this regard, persons obtaining a vocational qualification from academic year 2012/2013 will be classified to ISCED 3 instead of ISCED 4.

### 2. Description of the Survey

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). 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).

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).

### 3. Availability of Revised Quarterly Data

Quarterly data in respect of 2012 to 2017 are available as an [Annex](#) in the online Excel version of this release.

Annual estimates are not equal to the average of the four quarters since annual weights are computed separately.

### 4. Definitions:

- **Activity rate:** Labour force (15-64) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).
- **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.
- **Employee:** The distinction between employees and self-employed is based on the respondent's own judgement as stated during the interview.

- **Employment:** 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.
- **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.
- **Unemployment:** 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 the ETC, 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).

## 5. 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.

Key

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

6. Percentage Totals may not add up due to rounding.

7. 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.

8. Revised figures for core LFS indicators will be available on Eurostat's website on the 5th October whereas revisions to LFS education-related indicators will be on available on Eurostat's website on 11th October.

9. More information is available from the NSO upon written request.

10. 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](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=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>

11. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.

12. A detailed news release calendar is available on

[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)