

21 December 2018 | 1100 hrs | 202/2018

During the third quarter of 2018, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 6.8 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2017.

Labour Force Survey: Q3/2018

Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the third quarter of 2018, total employment stood at 239,544 accounting to more than half the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 9,065 (2.2 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 161,742 (39.4 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 75.6 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25-54 (87.2 per cent) (Table 2).

The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 to 64 years, 73 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 81.9 per cent while that for females stood at 63.1 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).

Self-employed persons accounted for 13.9 per cent of all persons with a main job (Table 5). The majority of employed persons worked on a full-time basis totalling 204,494 and 35,050 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers work 41.6 hours while part-timers work 22.8 hours per week (Table 7).

The average annual basic salary of employees for the third quarter of 2018 was estimated at €19,076. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Information and communication sector (Table 10). Average annual salaries varied from €32,979 among managers to €11,691 among persons employed in elementary occupations (Table 14).

The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2018, stood at 3.7 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 to 74 years (Table 16). Among the unemployed, 66.4 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 (41.7 per cent) (Table 20).

Education Attainment

According to the Labour Force Survey 52.2 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 30.6 per cent had a tertiary level education (Table 22) ■

Chart 1. Employment by age group and sex

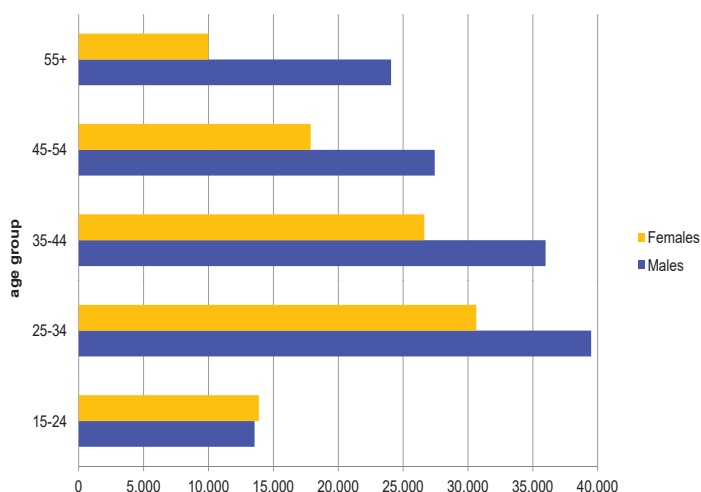


Table 1. Persons aged 15 and over by sex and labour status

Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2018					
Employed	140,536	67.5	99,008	49.0	239,544	58.4
Unemployed	5,558	2.7	3,507 ^u	1.7 ^u	9,065	2.2
Inactive	62,080	29.8	99,662	49.3	161,742	39.4
Total	208,174	100.0	202,177	100.0	410,351	100.0
	July-September 2017 (Revised)					
Employed	134,447	66.7	89,899	45.6	224,346	56.3
Unemployed	5,401	2.7	3,944 ^u	2.0 ^u	9,345	2.3
Inactive	61,682	30.6	103,370	52.4	165,052	41.4
Total	201,530	100.0	197,213	100.0	398,743	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	
	%					
	July-September 2018					
15-24	57.1		59.3		58.1	
25-54	96.6		77.0		87.2	
55-64	69.7		32.0		50.9	
Total (15-64)	85.2		65.3		75.6	
	July-September 2017 (Revised)					
15-24	54.2		53.1		53.6	
25-54	96.7		72.1		84.9	
55-64	67.2		33.0		50.1	
Total (15-64)	83.9		61.1		72.9	

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 2018					
15-24	13,549	9.6	13,877	14.0	27,426	11.4
25-34	39,491	28.1	30,641	30.9	70,132	29.3
35-44	35,982	25.6	26,630	26.9	62,612	26.1
45-54	27,437	19.5	17,870	18.0	45,307	18.9
55-64	20,738	14.8	9,319	9.4	30,057	12.5
65+	3,339	2.4	:	:	4,010	1.7
Total	140,536	100.0	99,008	100.0	239,544	100.0
July-September 2017 (Revised)						
15-24	13,589	10.1	12,197	13.6	25,786	11.5
25-34	36,670	27.3	29,050	32.3	65,720	29.3
35-44	34,185	25.4	22,510	25.0	56,695	25.3
45-54	26,482	19.7	15,723	17.5	42,205	18.8
55-64	19,951	14.8	9,660	10.7	29,611	13.2
65+	3,570	2.7	:	:	4,329	1.9
Total	134,447	100.0	89,899	100.0	224,346	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

Table 4. Employment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%		%		%	
	July-September 2018					
15-24	49.4		54.7		52.0	
25-54	94.1		75.0		85.0	
55-64	67.4		30.7		49.2	
Total (15-64)	81.9		63.1		72.8	
July-September 2017 (Revised)						
15-24	48.9		47.4		48.2	
25-54	93.4		69.8		82.1	
55-64	65.5		32.0		48.8	
Total (15-64)	80.6		58.5		69.9	

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2018					
Self-employed without employees	17,832	12.7	5,354	5.4	23,186	9.7
Self-employed with employees	8,017	5.7	2,108 ^u	2.1 ^u	10,125	4.2
Employee	114,582	81.5	91,364	92.3	205,946	86.0
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	140,536	100.0	99,008	100.0	239,544	100.0
	July-September 2017 (Revised)					
Self-employed without employees	17,215	12.8	5,940	6.6	23,155	10.3
Self-employed with employees	9,173	6.8	:	:	10,452	4.7
Employee	108,020	80.3	82,623	91.9	190,643	85.0
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	134,447	100.0	89,899	100.0	224,346	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.	%
	July-September 2018					
Full-time job	129,100	91.9	75,394	76.1	204,494	85.4
Part-time job	11,436	8.1	23,614	23.9	35,050	14.6
Total	140,536	100.0	99,008	100.0	239,544	100.0
	July-September 2017 (Revised)					
Full-time job	124,417	92.5	67,132	74.7	191,549	85.4
Part-time job	10,030	7.5	22,767	25.3	32,797	14.6
Total	134,447	100.0	89,899	100.0	224,346	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 2018					
Full-time job	42.7		39.7		41.6	
Part-time job	23.9		22.3		22.8	
Total	41.2		35.6		38.9	
	July-September 2017 (Revised)					
Full-time job	42.3		39.7		41.4	
Part-time job	23.4		22.6		22.8	
Total	40.9		35.4		38.7	

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: July-September 2018

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,415 ^u	1.7 ^u	:	:	2,710 ^u	1.1 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	21,886	15.6	7,270	7.3	29,156	12.2
Construction	14,164	10.1	:	:	15,359	6.4
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	36,668	26.1	23,552	23.8	60,220	25.1
Information and communication	7,264	5.2	2,134 ^u	2.2 ^u	9,398	3.9
Financial and insurance activities	6,068	4.3	5,674	5.7	11,742	4.9
Real estate activities	1,869 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	2,864 ^u	1.2 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	14,424	10.3	10,062	10.2	24,486	10.2
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	24,992	17.8	36,992	37.4	61,984	25.9
Other services	10,786	7.7	10,839	10.9	21,625	9.0
Total	140,536	100.0	99,008	100.0	239,544	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 of the main occupation: July-September 2017 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,255 ^u	1.7 ^u	:	:	2,352 ^u	1.0 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	21,350	15.9	8,053	9.0	29,403	13.1
Construction	15,176	11.3	:	:	15,764	7.0
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	38,431	28.6	23,509	26.2	61,940	27.6
Information and communication	5,507	4.1	2,653 ^u	3.0 ^u	8,160	3.6
Financial and insurance activities	6,265	4.7	5,026	5.6	11,291	5.0
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	2,686 ^u	1.2 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	12,271	9.1	8,014	8.9	20,285	9.0
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	24,068	17.9	33,107	36.8	57,175	25.5
Other services	7,454	5.5	7,836	8.7	15,290	6.8
Total	134,447	100.0	89,899	100.0	224,346	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 of the main occupation: July-September 2018

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	18,552	20,061	6,633	13,219	25,185	18,259
Construction	8,979	17,584	:	:	10,174	17,290
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	28,756	18,695	21,988	14,037	50,744	16,676
Information and communication	5,756	24,964	:	:	7,424	24,594
Financial and insurance activities	5,356	29,628	5,674	19,651	11,030	24,496
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	1,850 ^U	17,966 ^U
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	12,002	21,441	8,948	18,287	20,950	20,094
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	24,301	21,888	36,246	17,857	60,547	19,475
Other services	9,120	22,860	8,190	16,978	17,310	20,077
Total	114,582	20,966	91,364	16,707	205,946	19,076

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. For definition of average annual basic salary refer to methodological note 3.
2. Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 11. Average annual basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: July-September 2017 (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	18,461	18,158	6,546	13,451	25,007	16,926
Construction	10,388	15,053	:	:	10,976	15,017
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	28,621	18,226	21,401	12,495	50,022	15,774
Information and communication	4,206 ^U	22,564 ^U	2,594 ^U	18,216 ^U	6,800	20,905
Financial and insurance activities	5,947	26,575	5,026	21,005	10,973	24,024
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	1,484 ^U	15,062 ^U
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	8,595	18,584	6,855	15,315	15,450	17,134
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	23,669	20,181	32,371	18,456	56,040	19,185
Other services	6,487	29,657	6,607 ^U	13,960 ^U	13,094	21,737
Total	108,020	19,644	82,623	15,998	190,643	18,064

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. For definition of average annual basic salary refer to methodological note 3.
2. Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: July-September 2018

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	18,231	13.0	7,614	7.7	25,845	10.8
Professionals	21,977	15.6	22,016	22.2	43,993	18.4
Technicians and associate professionals	23,250	16.5	13,330	13.5	36,580	15.3
Clerical support workers	11,056	7.9	14,640	14.8	25,696	10.7
Service and sales workers	18,860	13.4	28,231	28.5	47,091	19.7
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	3,343 ^u	2.4 ^u	:	:	3,564 ^u	1.5 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	21,218	15.1	:	:	22,603	9.4
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,653	6.2	3,992 ^u	4.0 ^u	12,645	5.3
Elementary occupations	12,132	8.6	7,579	7.7	19,711	8.2
Total	140,536	100.0	99,008	100.0	239,544	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 2017 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,072 ^u	1.5 ^u	:	:	2,072 ^u	0.9 ^u
Managers	16,321	12.1	6,674	7.4	22,995	10.2
Professionals	20,456	15.2	19,160	21.3	39,616	17.7
Technicians and associate professionals	22,458	16.7	10,961	12.2	33,419	14.9
Clerical support workers	8,857	6.6	14,785	16.4	23,642	10.5
Service and sales workers	19,338	14.4	25,990	28.9	45,328	20.2
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,493 ^u	1.9 ^u	:	:	2,590 ^u	1.2 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	20,016	14.9	:	:	21,846	9.7
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,997	7.4	3,477 ^u	3.9 ^u	13,474	6.0
Elementary occupations	12,439	9.3	6,925	7.7	19,364	8.6
Total	134,447	100.0	89,899	100.0	224,346	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 2018

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	13,885	34,749	6,886	29,410	20,771	32,979
Professionals	18,649	26,316	20,105	22,754	38,754	24,468
Technicians and associate professionals	20,553	21,993	12,126	19,131	32,679	20,931
Clerical support workers	10,769	18,231	14,574	14,058	25,343	15,831
Service and sales workers	15,823	15,788	25,725	11,732	41,548	13,276
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	13,708	16,277	:	:	14,507	16,168
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,686	15,614	3,853 ^u	12,774 ^u	11,539	14,665
Elementary occupations	10,594	13,407	7,296	9,200	17,890	11,691
Total	114,582	20,966	91,364	16,707	205,946	19,076

[:] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

^P Provisional

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

Table 15. Average annual basic salary for employees by sex and main occupation: July-September 2017 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P
Armed Forces	2,072 ^u	15,572 ^u	:	:	2,072 ^u	15,572 ^u
Managers	11,871	31,936	6,040	23,409	17,911	29,060
Professionals	16,860	26,631	17,253	22,005	34,113	24,291
Technicians and associate professionals	19,276	20,085	10,034	18,675	29,310	19,602
Clerical support workers	8,685	16,632	14,785	13,921	23,470	14,924
Service and sales workers	15,606	15,599	23,289	12,231	38,895	13,582
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	13,088	15,049	:	:	14,051	14,864
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,543	15,461	3,438 ^u	13,118 ^u	11,981	14,789
Elementary occupations	11,484	13,134	6,821	9,637	18,305	11,830
Total	108,020	19,644	82,623	15,998	190,643	18,064

[:] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

^P Provisional

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 2018					
15-24	2,093 ^u	37.7 ^u	:	:	3,262 ^u	36.0 ^u
25-74	3,465 ^u	62.3 ^u	2,338 ^u	66.7 ^u	5,803	64.0
Total (15-74)	5,558	100.0	3,507^u	100.0^u	9,065	100.0
July-September 2017 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	2902 ^u	31.1 ^u
25-74	3,945 ^u	73.0 ^u	2,498 ^u	63.3 ^u	6,443	68.9
Total (15-74)	5,401	100.0	3,944^u	100.0^u	9,345	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	
	%					
	July-September 2018					
15-24	13.4 ^u	:	:	:	10.6 ^u	:
25-74	2.7 ^u	:	2.7 ^u	:	2.7	:
Total (15-74)	3.8	:	3.4^u	:	3.7	:
July-September 2017 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	10.1 ^u	:
25-74	3.2 ^u	:	3.1 ^u	:	3.2	:
Total (15-74)	3.9	:	4.2^u	:	4.0	:

[‡] 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.	%
	July-September 2018					
Less than 12 months	3,564 ^u	64.1 ^u	2,455 ^u	70.0 ^u	6,019	66.4
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	3,046 ^u	33.6 ^u
Total	5,558	100.0	3,507^u	100.0^u	9,065	100.0
July-September 2017 (Revised)						
Less than 12 months	2,472 ^u	45.8 ^u	2,802 ^u	71.0 ^u	5,274	56.4
12 months or more	2,929 ^u	54.2 ^u	:	:	4,071 ^u	43.6 ^u
Total	5,401	100.0	3,944^u	100.0^u	9,345	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 2018					
15-24	11,774	19.0	10,328	10.4	22,102	13.7
25-34	:	:	6,713	6.7	7,832	4.8
35-44	:	:	7,188	7.2	8,598	5.3
45-54	:	:	9,148	9.2	10,283	6.4
55-64	9,336	15.0	20,660	20.7	29,996	18.5
65+	37,306	60.1	45,625	45.8	82,931	51.3
Total	62,080	100.0	99,662	100.0	161,742	100.0
July-September 2017 (Revised)						
15-24	12,720	20.6	12,071	11.7	24,791	15.0
25-34	:	:	6,189	6.0	6,986	4.2
35-44	:	:	9,643	9.3	10,463	6.3
45-54	1,795 ^u	2.9 ^u	11,039	10.7	12,834	7.8
55-64	9,999	16.2	20,258	19.6	30,257	18.3
65+	35,551	57.6	44,170	42.7	79,721	48.3
Total	61,682	100.0	103,370	100.0	165,052	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 2018					
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	29,639	29.7	30,102	18.6
Education or training	11,472	18.5	10,000	10.0	21,472	13.3
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	44,405	71.5	23,078	23.2	67,483	41.7
Other reasons	5,740	9.2	36,945	37.1	42,685	26.4
Total	62,080	100.0	99,662	100.0	161,742	100.0
July-September 2017 (Revised)						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	23,742	23.0	24,471	14.8
Education or training	11,696	19.0	11,501	11.1	23,197	14.1
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	41,922	68.0	24,864	24.1	66,786	40.5
Other reasons	7,335	11.9	43,263	41.9	50,598	30.7
Total	61,682	100.0	103,370	100.0	165,052	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 2018					
Low	106,315	51.1	107,882	53.4	214,197	52.2
Medium	60,399	29.0	50,260	24.9	110,659	27.0
High	41,460	19.9	44,035	21.8	85,495	20.8
Total	208,174	100.0	202,177	100.0	410,351	100.0
	July-September 2017 (Revised)					
Low	104,326	51.8	106,632	54.1	210,958	52.9
Medium	57,802	28.7	50,715	25.7	108,517	27.2
High	39,402	19.6	39,866	20.2	79,268	19.9
Total	201,530	100.0	197,213	100.0	398,743	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 2018							
Low	86,713	36.2	6,037	66.6	121,447	75.1	214,197	52.2
Medium	79,591	33.2	2,526 ^u	27.9 ^u	28,542	17.6	110,659	27.0
High	73,240	30.6	:	:	11,753	7.3	85,495	20.8
Total	239,544	100.0	9,065	100.0	161,742	100.0	410,351	100.0
	July-September 2017 (Revised)							
Low	83,151	37.1	6,071	65.0	121,736	73.8	210,958	52.9
Medium	75,451	33.6	2,347 ^u	25.1 ^u	30,719	18.6	108,517	27.2
High	65,744	29.3	:	:	12,597	7.6	79,268	19.9
Total	224,346	100.0	9,345	100.0	165,052	100.0	398,743	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. Data for this variable is provisional and subject to revisions.
- **Education Attainment:**
 - **low:** 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.
 - **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 Jobplus, 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	239,544	4,584	239,544 ± 4,584
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	72.83	1.39	72.83 ± 1.39
<i>Males</i>	81.89	1.34	81.89 ± 1.34
<i>Females</i>	63.08	1.85	63.08 ± 1.85
15-24	51.95	3.90	51.95 ± 3.90
25-54	84.99	1.65	84.99 ± 1.65
55-64	49.17	3.22	49.17 ± 3.22
Unemployment	9,065	2,039	9,065 ± 2,039
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	3.65	0.82	3.65 ± 0.82
<i>Males</i>	3.82	1.12	3.82 ± 1.12
<i>Females</i>	3.42	1.58	3.42 ± 1.58
15-24	10.63	3.25	10.63 ± 3.25
25-74	2.67	0.81	2.67 ± 0.81
Inactivity	161,742	4389	161,742 ± 4,389
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	75.63	1.32	75.63 ± 1.32
<i>Males</i>	85.21	1.24	85.21 ± 1.24
<i>Females</i>	65.33	1.80	65.33 ± 1.80
15-24	58.13	3.90	58.13 ± 3.90
25-54	87.25	1.51	87.25 ± 1.51
55-64	50.93	3.25	50.93 ± 3.25

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 239,544 and the margin of error is 4,584. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 234,960 and 244,128 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
11. Labour Force survey data for 2017 has been revised in line with 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.