

Labour Force Survey: Q4/2025

NR 042/2026

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During the fourth quarter of 2025, the Labour Force Survey estimates that total number of persons in employment was 330,614, 2.9 per cent higher when compared to the same quarter in 2024.



Labour Status

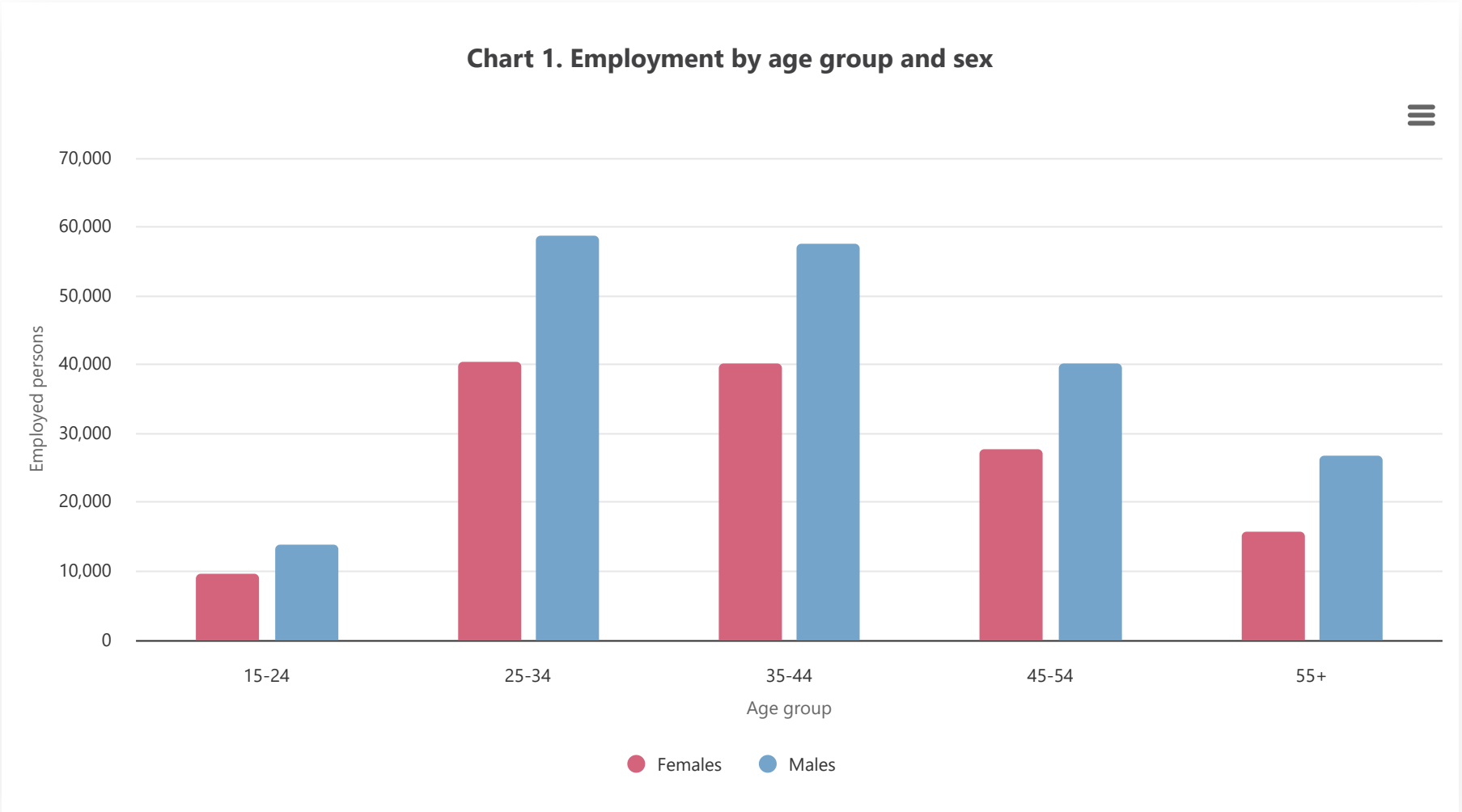
Labour Force Survey estimates indicated that, during the fourth quarter, total employment stood at 330,614 accounting for 65.1 per cent of the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 11,544 (2.3 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 165,967 (32.7 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 82.7 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25 to 54 (91.9 per cent) (Table 2).

The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 and 64 years, 80 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 85.9 per cent while that for females stood at 72.4 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 (Table 3, Chart 1).

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 and amounted to 296,068. A further 34,546 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers usually worked 40.9 hours while part-timers worked 22.3 hours per week. In the fourth quarter of 2025, employed persons actually worked 35.1 hours per week, 0.4 hours less when compared to the same quarter of the previous year (Table 7).

The average monthly basic salary of employees for the fourth quarter of 2025 was estimated at €2,146. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and insurance activities sector (€2,941) (Table 9). Average monthly salaries varied from €1,353 among persons employed in elementary occupations to €3,462 among managers (Table 11).



The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2025, stood at 3.4 per cent (Table 13). Females accounted for 58.3 per cent of total inactive persons and those over 65 years made up the highest share of the inactive (Table 15). The main reason for inactivity relates to persons reaching retirement age or taking up early retirement (43.7 per cent) (Table 16).

Education Attainment

39.1 per cent of persons aged 15 years and over had attained a secondary level of education or less (Table 17). By contrast, 39.7 per cent of the employed had a tertiary level education (Table 18).

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

Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025					
Employed	196,818	72.2	133,796	56.8	330,614	65.1
Unemployed	6,454 ^u	2.4 ^u	5,090 ^u	2.2 ^u	11,544	2.3
Inactive	69,286	25.4	96,681	41.0	165,967	32.7
Total	272,558	100.0	235,567	100.0	508,125	100.0
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employed	190,999	72.1	130,150	56.6	321,149	64.9
Unemployed	5,912 ^u	2.2 ^u	4,245 ^u	1.8 ^u	10,157	2.1
Inactive	67,863	25.6	95,405	41.5	163,268	33.0
Total	264,774	100.0	229,800	100.0	494,574	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 2025		
15-24	57.0	46.0	51.8
25-54	96.5	86.0	91.9
55-64	75.2	51.0	63.5
Total (15-64)	88.8	75.2	82.7
	October-December 2024 (Revised)		
15-24	56.4	53.9	55.3
25-54	96.3	84.1	90.9
55-64	77.7	50.5	64.5
Total (15-64)	88.6	74.6	82.2

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 2025					
15-24	13,829	7.0	9,666	7.2	23,495	7.1
25-34	58,680	29.8	40,380	30.2	99,060	30.0
35-44	57,557	29.2	40,171	30.0	97,728	29.6
45-54	40,062	20.4	27,780	20.8	67,842	20.5
55-64	22,124	11.2	14,180	10.6	36,304	11.0
65+	4,566	2.3	1,619 ^u	1.2 ^u	6,185	1.9
Total	196,818	100.0	133,796	100.0	330,614	100.0
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
15-24	14,429	7.6	12,073	9.3	26,502	8.3
25-34	58,653	30.7	40,959	31.5	99,612	31.0
35-44	53,855	28.2	37,056	28.5	90,911	28.3
45-54	37,551	19.7	24,381	18.7	61,932	19.3
55-64	22,202	11.6	14,088	10.8	36,290	11.3
65+	4,309	2.3	:	:	5,902	1.8
Total	190,999	100.0	130,150	100.0	321,149	100.0

: 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 2025		
15-24	50.5	39.6	45.4
25-54	94.2	83.5	89.5
55-64	72.6	49.8	61.5
Total (15-64)	85.9	72.4	79.8
	October-December 2024 (Revised)		
15-24	50.9	48.9	50.0
25-54	94.3	81.8	88.8
55-64	73.9	49.7	62.2
Total (15-64)	85.8	72.2	79.7

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025					
Self-employed without employees	21,887	11.1	10,321	7.7	32,208	9.7
Self-employed with employees	10,586	5.4	:	:	12,671	3.8
Employee	164,345	83.5	121,313	90.7	285,658	86.4
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	196,818	100.0	133,796	100.0	330,614	100.0
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Self-employed without employees	20,500	10.7	10,861	8.3	31,361	9.8
Self-employed with employees	10,101	5.3	:	:	12,423	3.9
Employee	160,333	83.9	116,777	89.7	277,110	86.3
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	190,999	100.0	130,150	100.0	321,149	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025					
Full-time job	185,385	94.2	110,683	82.7	296,068	89.6
Part-time job	11,433	5.8	23,113	17.3	34,546	10.4
Total	196,818	100.0	133,796	100.0	330,614	100.0
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full-time job	178,695	93.6	106,503	81.8	285,198	88.8
Part-time job	12,304	6.4	23,647	18.2	35,951	11.2
Total	190,999	100.0	130,150	100.0	321,149	100.0

Table 7. Hours worked per week by sex and type of employment in the main occupation

Type of employment	Males	Females	Total	Total
	Average Normal Hours ¹			Average Actual Hours ²
	October-December 2025			
Full-time job	41.2	40.5	40.9	36.9
Part-time job	19.8	23.5	22.3	19.8
Total	39.9	37.5	39.0	35.1
	October-December 2024 (Revised)			
Full-time job	41.5	40.4	41.1	36.6
Part-time job	20.7	24.4	23.2	20.0
Total	40.1	37.4	39.1	34.7

¹ Normal hours worked: refer 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).

² Actual hours worked: refer to the number of hours actually spent at the place of work during the reference week for the main job. A person may work extra hours (e.g. overtime, variable hours) or work less hours than usual (e.g. vacation leave, education, sick leave or slack work) due to various reasons. Owing to increased flexibility at work places coupled with technology, the place of work may also include one's home. In this regard, actual hours worked also include the hours of work carried out by persons who telework.

Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity in the main occupation

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	25,412	12.9	10,173	7.6	35,585	10.8
Construction	24,696	12.5	:	:	25,427	7.7
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	57,505	29.2	27,289	20.4	84,794	25.6
Information and communication	10,452	5.3	5,085 ^u	3.8 ^u	15,537	4.7
Financial and insurance activities	9,992	5.1	7,619	5.7	17,611	5.3
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	3,444 ^u	1.0 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	18,301	9.3	15,579	11.6	33,880	10.2
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	32,458	16.5	49,051	36.7	81,509	24.7
Other services	13,790	7.0	17,618	13.2	31,408	9.5
Total	196,818	100.0	133,796	100.0	330,614	100.0
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	2,224 ^u	0.7 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	25,819	13.5	7,791	6.0	33,610	10.5
Construction	20,783	10.9	:	:	22,331	7.0
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	54,734	28.7	27,132	20.8	81,866	25.5
Information and communication	11,826	6.2	5,709 ^u	4.4 ^u	17,535	5.5
Financial and insurance activities	9,468	5.0	9,216	7.1	18,684	5.8
Real estate activities	2,406 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	3,181 ^u	1.0 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	16,371	8.6	16,874	13.0	33,245	10.4
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	32,757	17.2	47,026	36.1	79,783	24.8
Other services	14,843	7.8	13,847	10.6	28,690	8.9
Total	190,999	100.0	130,150	100.0	321,149	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. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity in the main occupation

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
	October-December 2025					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	22,975	1,928	9,806	1,824	32,781	1,897
Construction	16,477	1,780	:	:	17,208	1,807
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	46,041	1,898	24,068	1,621	70,109	1,803
Information and communication	9,402	2,748	4,597 ^u	2,706 ^u	13,999	2,735
Financial and insurance activities	9,234	3,164	7,549	2,668	16,783	2,941
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	14,690	2,177	13,695	2,011	28,385	2,097
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	31,369	2,347	47,416	2,214	78,785	2,267
Other services	11,340	2,768	13,008	2,314	24,348	2,525
Total	164,345	2,181	121,313	2,098	285,658	2,146
Economic activity	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	22,373	1,870	7,584	1,652	29,957	1,815
Construction	14,815	1,726	:	:	16,363	1,729
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	43,243	1,702	23,891	1,622	67,134	1,674
Information and communication	10,939	2,484	5,116 ^u	2,315 ^u	16,055	2,430
Financial and insurance activities	8,710	2,942	9,064	2,603	17,774	2,769
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	2,180 ^u	1,777 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	12,929	2,023	14,762	1,852	27,691	1,932
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	31,269	2,213	45,025	2,008	76,294	2,092
Other services	13,028	2,463	9,547	2,310	22,575	2,399
Total	160,333	2,037	116,777	1,967	277,110	2,007

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Notes:

1. Estimates include both public and private sectors.
2. Data is provisional and subject to revisions.

Table 10. Distribution of total employed persons by sex and occupational group

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025					
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	22,047	11.2	15,520	11.6	37,567	11.4
Professionals	31,854	16.2	38,508	28.8	70,362	21.3
Technicians and associate professionals	31,679	16.1	13,021	9.7	44,700	13.5
Clerical support workers	13,673	6.9	17,560	13.1	31,233	9.4
Service and sales workers	25,636	13.0	33,861	25.3	59,497	18.0
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	32,119	16.3	2,663 ^u	2.0 ^u	34,782	10.5
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	18,163	9.2	3,101 ^u	2.3 ^u	21,264	6.4
Elementary occupations	17,610	8.9	9,458	7.1	27,068	8.2
Total	196,818	100.0	133,796	100.0	330,614	100.0
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	22,264	11.7	14,731	11.3	36,995	11.5
Professionals	33,790	17.7	35,190	27.0	68,980	21.5
Technicians and associate professionals	27,587	14.4	15,162	11.6	42,749	13.3
Clerical support workers	14,383	7.5	16,457	12.6	30,840	9.6
Service and sales workers	25,831	13.5	34,134	26.2	59,965	18.7
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,102 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	2,334 ^u	0.7 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	30,836	16.1	2,179 ^u	1.7 ^u	33,015	10.3
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	16,242	8.5	:	:	18,108	5.6
Elementary occupations	15,944	8.3	10,099	7.8	26,043	8.1
Total	190,999	100.0	130,150	100.0	321,149	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 11. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and occupational group

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
	October-December 2025					
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	19,366	3,609	14,136	3,261	33,502	3,462
Professionals	27,168	2,892	35,808	2,652	62,976	2,755
Technicians and associate professionals	28,456	2,182	11,701	2,261	40,157	2,205
Clerical support workers	13,519	1,787	17,401	1,626	30,920	1,697
Service and sales workers	20,105	1,708	28,292	1,420	48,397	1,539
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	22,680	1,736	2,373 ^u	1,447 ^u	25,053	1,709
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	13,614	1,541	3,101 ^u	1,529 ^u	16,715	1,539
Elementary occupations	16,179	1,421	8,397	1,222	24,576	1,353
Total	164,345	2,181	121,313	2,098	285,658	2,146
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	17,881	3,335	13,470	3,034	31,351	3,206
Professionals	30,875	2,805	32,803	2,420	63,678	2,607
Technicians and associate professionals	24,466	2,027	13,962	2,167	38,428	2,078
Clerical support workers	14,043	1,579	16,365	1,600	30,408	1,591
Service and sales workers	20,980	1,489	27,408	1,359	48,388	1,415
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	21,782	1,593	:	:	23,605	1,581
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	12,237	1,442	:	:	14,103	1,422
Elementary occupations	14,734	1,286	8,980	1,164	23,714	1,240
Total	160,333	2,037	116,777	1,967	277,110	2,007

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Note: Data is provisional and subject to revisions.

Table 12. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025					
15-24	:	:	:	:	3,326 ^u	28.8 ^u
25-74	4,675 ^u	72.4 ^u	:	:	8,218 ^u	71.2 ^u
Total (15-74)	6,454^u	100.0^u	5,090^u	100.0^u	11,544	100.0
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,796 ^u	27.5 ^u
25-74	4,349 ^u	73.6 ^u	:	:	7,361 ^u	72.5 ^u
Total (15-74)	5,912^u	100.0^u	4,245^u	100.0^u	10,157	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 13. Unemployment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	%		
	October-December 2025		
15-24	:	:	12.4 ^u
25-74	2.5 ^u	:	2.6 ^u
Total (15-74)	3.2^u	3.7^u	3.4
	October-December 2024 (Revised)		
15-24	:	:	9.5 ^u
25-74	2.4 ^u	:	2.4 ^u
Total (15-74)	3.0^u	3.2^u	3.1

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 14. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and duration of job search

Duration	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025					
Less than 12 months	4,196 ^u	65.0 ^u	4,988 ^u	98.0 ^u	9,184	79.6
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	6,454^u	100.0^u	5,090^u	100.0^u	11,544	100.0
	October-December 2024 (Revised)					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 12 months	4,837 ^u	81.8 ^u	3,139 ^u	73.9 ^u	7,976 ^u	78.5 ^u
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	5,912^u	100.0^u	4,245^u	100.0^u	10,157	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 15. Distribution of inactive persons by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025					
15-24	11,785	17.0	13,173	13.6	24,958	15.0
25-34	:	:	4,295 ^u	4.4 ^u	6,845 ^u	4.1 ^u
35-44	:	:	6,224 ^u	6.4 ^u	7,577 ^u	4.6 ^u
45-54	:	:	7,646	7.9	9,487	5.7
55-64	7,550	10.9	13,951	14.4	21,501	13.0
65+	44,207	63.8	51,392	53.2	95,599	57.6
Total	69,286	100.0	96,681	100.0	165,967	100.0
October-December 2024 (Revised)						
15-24	12,338	18.2	11,367	11.9	23,705	14.5
25-34	:	:	:	:	5,322 ^u	3.3 ^u
35-44	:	:	7,096	7.4	8,975	5.5
45-54	:	:	9,628	10.1	11,497	7.0
55-64	6,696	9.9	14,035	14.7	20,731	12.7
65+	42,968	63.3	50,070	52.5	93,038	57.0
Total	67,863	100.0	95,405	100.0	163,268	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 16. Main reasons for being inactive by sex

Reason for inactivity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025					
Care or family responsibilities	:	:	31,840	33.3	32,955	20.1
Education or training	12,752	18.6	12,665	13.2	25,417	15.5
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	48,458	70.7	23,381	24.4	71,839	43.7
Other reasons	6,258 ^u	9.1 ^u	27,787	29.0	34,045	20.7
Total	68,583	100.0	95,673	100.0	164,256	100.0
October-December 2024 (Revised)						
Care or family responsibilities	:	:	33,757	35.8	34,676	21.5
Education or training	12,643	18.9	10,227	10.8	22,870	14.2
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	46,811	69.9	22,618	24.0	69,429	43.0
Other reasons	6,597	9.9	27,733	29.4	34,330	21.3
Total	66,970	100.0	94,335	100.0	161,305	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Note: Figures in this table refer to persons between the age of 15 and 90 years

Table 17. Persons aged 15 years and over by sex and highest educational attainment

Education level	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025					
Secondary level education or less	109,082	40.0	89,767	38.1	198,849	39.1
Post-Secondary level education	88,106	32.3	67,095	28.5	155,201	30.5
Tertiary level education	75,370	27.7	78,705	33.4	154,075	30.3
Total	272,558	100.0	235,567	100.0	508,125	100.0
October-December 2024 (Revised)						
Secondary level education or less	106,215	40.1	86,143	37.5	192,358	38.9
Post-Secondary level education	89,373	33.8	71,224	31.0	160,597	32.5
Tertiary level education	69,186	26.1	72,433	31.5	141,619	28.6
Total	264,774	100.0	229,800	100.0	494,574	100.0

Table 18. Persons aged 15 years and over by labour status and highest educational attainment

Education level	Employed		Unemployed		Inactive		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2025							
Secondary level education or less	86,669	26.2	4,643 ^u	40.2 ^u	107,537	64.8	198,849	39.1
Post-Secondary level education	112,612	34.1	3,848 ^u	33.3 ^u	38,741	23.3	155,201	30.5
Tertiary level education	131,333	39.7	:	:	19,689	11.9	154,075	30.3
Total	330,614	100.0	11,544	100.0	165,967	100.0	508,125	100.0
October-December 2024 (Revised)								
Secondary level education or less	84,251	26.2	:	:	105,290	64.5	192,358	38.9
Post-Secondary level education	115,218	35.9	3,991 ^u	39.3 ^u	41,388	25.3	160,597	32.5
Tertiary level education	121,680	37.9	:	:	16,590	10.2	141,619	28.6
Total	321,149	100.0	10,157	100.0	163,268	100.0	494,574	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 statistique des Activités économiques dans la Communauté Européenne). Educational attainment is classified according to ISCED 2011 (International Standard Classification of Education).

3. As from January 2021, [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1700](#) establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples and [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/257](#) of 16th December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying the number and the title of the variables for the labour force domain, came into force.

4. This legislation has mainly led to changes in the LFS questionnaire and mode of data collection. An analysis of the impact of this change on LFS estimates was conducted in order to assess the divergence of LFS results from pre-IESS (Integrated European Social Statistics) to post-IESS levels. Technical notes on these divergences are found [here](#).

5. Definitions:

- **Activity rate:** labour force (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).
- **Actual hours worked:** refers to the number of hours actually spent at the place of work during the reference week for the main job. A person may work extra hours (e.g. overtime, variable hours) or work less hours than usual (e.g. vacation leave, education, sick leave or slack work) due to various reasons. Owing to increased flexibility at workplaces coupled with technology, the place of work may also include one's home. In this regard, actual hours worked also includes the hours of work carried out by persons who telework.
- **Average monthly basic salary:** refers to the average monthly 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.
- **Educational Attainment:**
 - secondary level of education or less: 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 2 ordinary level qualifications or equivalent. In the context of the ISCED classification, 'low' includes ISCED 0 to 2.
 - post-secondary level of education: comprising persons with a secondary level education and having 2 ordinary level qualifications or equivalent or more, and persons with a post-secondary level attainment who have obtained at least 1 intermediate or advanced level qualification or equivalent. In the context of the ISCED classification, 'medium' refers to ISCED 3 and 4.
 - tertiary level of education: comprising persons with a tertiary level education and with qualifications ranging from diploma to doctorate level. In the context of the ISCED classification, 'high' refers to ISCED 5 to 8.
- **Employees:** are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind.
- **Employed persons:** comprises of persons aged 15 to 89 who, during the reference week, were in one of the following categories:
 - worked for at least 1 hour for pay or profit, including contributing family workers and paid casual work
 - persons with a job or business who were temporarily not at work during the reference week but had an attachment to their job, including:
 - (a) persons not at work due to holidays, working time arrangements, sick leave, maternity or paternity leave;
 - (b) persons in job-related training or formal education;
 - (c) persons on parental leave, either receiving and/or being entitled to job-related income or benefits, or whose parental leave is expected to be 3 months or less;
 - (d) seasonal workers during the off-season, where they continue to regularly perform tasks and duties for the job or business, excluding fulfilment of legal or administrative obligations;
 - (e) persons temporarily not at work for other reasons where the expected duration of the absence is 3 months or less.
- **Employment rate:** persons in employment (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).
- **Inactive persons:** all persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as inactive.
- **Labour force:** all persons in employment and unemployed persons.
- **Normal hours worked:** refers to the number of usual hours worked per week in the main job over a long reference period, excluding weeks when an absence from work occurs (e.g. holidays, vacation leave or sick leave).
- **Part-time employment:** a part-time worker is an employed person whose normal hours are less than those of comparable full-time workers. Persons employed on a full-time with reduced hours basis are included in this category.
- **Reference week:** the week to which the collected data relate.
- **Unemployed persons:** all persons above 15 years of age who, during the reference week, satisfied the following criteria:
 - without work
 - actively seeking work during the previous 4 weeks: i.e. had either carried out activities in the four-week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or found a job to start within a period of at most 3 months from the end of the reference week. Examples of active job search include contacting Jobsplus, studying job advertisements or placing or updating CVs online.
 - currently available for work: i.e. available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the 2 weeks following the reference week.
- **Unemployment rate:** unemployed persons (15-74 years) as a percentage of the labour force (15-74 years).

6. Sampling variability

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

Sampling variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Employment	330,614	4,298	330,614 ± 4,298
Employment rate (%)			
Total	79.84	1.01	79.84 ± 1.01
Males	85.91	1.44	85.91 ± 1.44
Females	72.40	1.99	72.40 ± 1.99
15-24	45.38	4.36	45.38 ± 4.36
25-54	89.53	1.22	89.53 ± 1.22
55-64	61.55	3.95	61.55 ± 3.95
Unemployment	11,544	2,824	11,544 ± 2,824
Unemployment rate (%)			
Total	3.39	0.81	3.39 ± 0.81
Males	3.19	1.09	3.19 ± 1.09
Females	3.67	1.33	3.67 ± 1.33
15-24	12.40	5.21	12.40 ± 5.21
25-74	2.62	0.78	2.62 ± 0.78
Inactivity	165,967	4,459	165,967 ± 4,459
Activity rate (%)			
Total	82.68	1.05	82.68 ± 1.05
Males	88.79	1.27	88.79 ± 1.27
Females	75.19	1.98	75.19 ± 1.98
15-24	51.80	4.22	51.80 ± 4.22
25-54	91.91	1.15	91.91 ± 1.15
55-64	63.55	3.85	63.55 ± 3.85

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 330,614 and the margin of error is 4,298. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 326,316 and 334,912 persons.

7. The following key indicates the reliability of each data point:
- : Unreliable – less than 20 sample observations.
 - ^u Under represented – between 20 and 49 sample observations.
8. Revisions to the data in this news release are carried out intermittently to align the estimates with updated population figures.
9. Percentage totals may not add up due to rounding.
10. 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.
11. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
- [Sources and Methods](#)
 - [Statistical Concepts](#)
 - [Metadata](#)
 - [ISCO Classification](#)
 - [NACE Classification](#)
 - [ISCED Classification](#)

12. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our [dedicated webpage](#).

13. A detailed news release calendar is available [online](#).

14. For more information please submit a request for information through the [online form](#).