

Labour Force Survey: Q1/2024

NR 108/2024

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During the first quarter of 2024, the Labour Force Survey estimates that total number of persons in employment was 306,571, 4.6 per cent higher when compared to the previous year.



Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicated that, during the first quarter, total employment stood at 306,571 accounting for 64.3 per cent of the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 9,301 (1.9 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 161,243 (33.8 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 81.3 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25 to 54 (91.6 per cent) (Table 2).

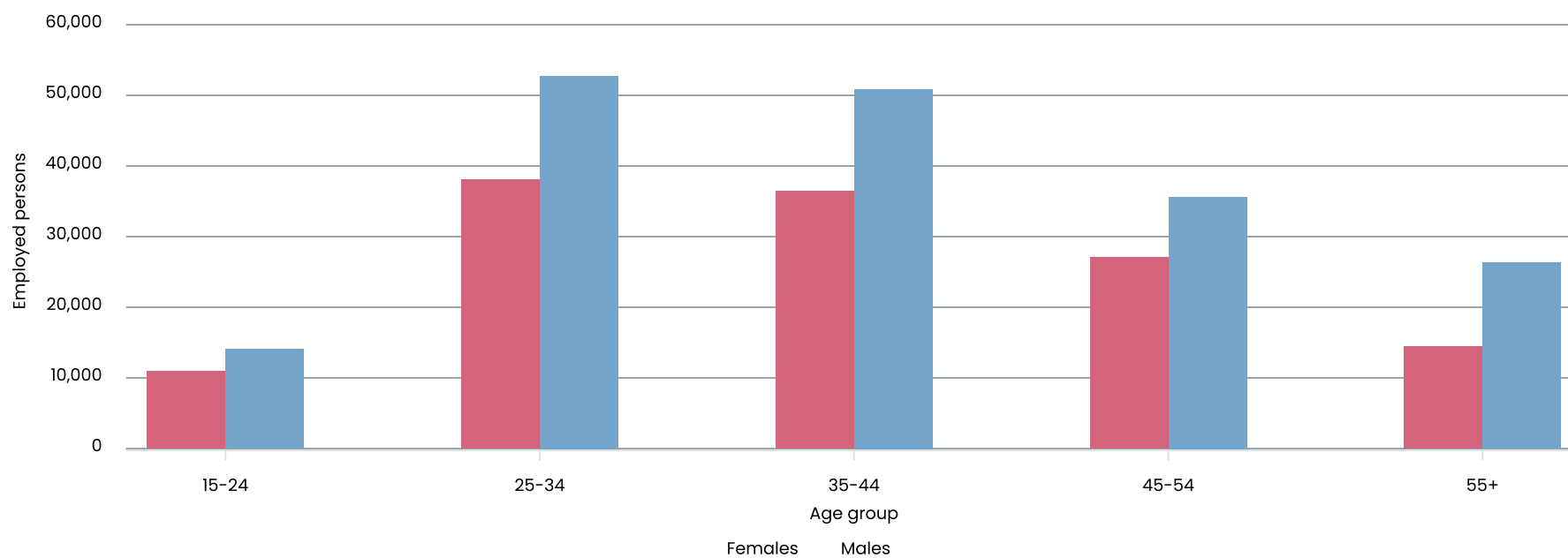
The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 and 64 years, 79 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 84.7 per cent while that for females stood at 72.0 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 13.8 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 271,309. A further 35,262 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 21.5 hours per week. In the first quarter of 2024, employed persons actually worked 34.1 hours per week, 1.4 hours less when compared to the same quarter of the previous year (Table 7).

The average monthly basic salary of employees for the first quarter of 2024 was estimated at €1,928. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and insurance activities sector (Table 9). Average monthly salaries varied from €1,223 among persons employed in elementary occupations to €3,132 among managers (Table 11).

Chart 1. Employment by age group and sex



The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 stood at 3.0 per cent (Table 13). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 to 74 years (Table 12). Females accounted for 58.7 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 (41.7 per cent) (Table 16).

Education Attainment

Forty per cent of persons aged 15 years and over had attained a low level of education (Table 17). By contrast, 37.0 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.	%	
	January-March 2024						
Employed	179,654	71.2	126,917	56.4	306,571	64.3	
Unemployed	6,002	2.4	3,299 ^u	1.5 ^u	9,301	1.9	
Inactive	66,618	26.4	94,625	42.1	161,243	33.8	
Total	252,274	100.0	224,841	100.0	477,115	100.0	
	January-March 2023 (Revised)						
	Employed	171,552	69.4	121,493	55.2	293,045	62.7
	Unemployed	6,766	2.7	3,633 ^u	1.7 ^u	10,399	2.2
	Inactive	68,798	27.8	95,044	43.2	163,842	35.1
	Total	247,116	100.0	220,170	100.0	467,286	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
	%		
	January-March 2024		
15-24	58.3	48.9	53.9
25-54	96.4	85.9	91.6
55-64	70.5	44.0	57.6
Total (15-64)	87.5	73.8	81.3
	January-March 2023 (Revised)		
15-24	55.0	48.4	51.9
25-54	96.1	84.5	90.9
55-64	66.4	42.5	54.7
Total (15-64)	86.0	72.2	79.7

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2024					
15-24	14,094	7.8	10,985	8.7	25,079	8.2
25-34	52,749	29.4	38,055	30.0	90,804	29.6
35-44	50,864	28.3	36,391	28.7	87,255	28.5
45-54	35,631	19.8	27,057	21.3	62,688	20.4
55-64	20,760	11.6	12,581	9.9	33,341	10.9
65+	5,556	3.1	1,848 ^u	1.5 ^u	7,404	2.4
Total	179,654	100.0	126,917	100.0	306,571	100.0
	January-March 2023 (Revised)					
15-24	12,971	7.6	11,133	9.2	24,104	8.2
25-34	51,815	30.2	36,935	30.4	88,750	30.3
35-44	48,328	28.2	34,844	28.7	83,172	28.4
45-54	34,349	20.0	24,460	20.1	58,809	20.1
55-64	19,394	11.3	12,158	10.0	31,552	10.8
65+	4,695	2.7	1,963 ^u	1.6 ^u	6,658	2.3
Total	171,552	100.0	121,493	100.0	293,045	100.0

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

Table 4. Employment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	%		
	January-March 2024		
15-24	52.4	46.2	49.5
25-54	93.9	83.9	89.4
55-64	68.1	43.4	56.0
Total (15-64)	84.7	72.0	78.8
	January-March 2023 (Revised)		
15-24	46.6	46.1	46.4
25-54	93.5	82.0	88.4
55-64	64.1	41.8	53.1
Total (15-64)	82.6	70.1	76.9

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2024					
Self-employed without employees	21,185	11.8	9,928	7.8	31,113	10.1
Self-employed with employees	9,508	5.3	:	:	11,238	3.7
Employee	148,961	82.9	115,026	90.6	263,987	86.1
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	179,654	100.0	126,917	100.0	306,571	100.0
January-March 2023 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	22,729	13.2	9,183	7.6	31,912	10.9
Self-employed with employees	9,375	5.5	2,564 ^u	2.1 ^u	11,939	4.1
Employee	139,448	81.3	109,542	90.2	248,990	85.0
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	171,552	100.0	121,493	100.0	293,045	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 the main occupation

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
January-March 2024						
Full-time job	168,854	94.0	102,455	80.7	271,309	88.5
Part-time job	10,800	6.0	24,462	19.3	35,262	11.5
Total	179,654	100.0	126,917	100.0	306,571	100.0
January-March 2023 (Revised)						
Full-time job	160,567	93.6	98,525	81.1	259,092	88.4
Part-time job	10,985	6.4	22,968	18.9	33,953	11.6
Total	171,552	100.0	121,493	100.0	293,045	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
	January-March 2024			
Full-time job	41.4	40.1	40.9	36.2
Part-time job	20.5	22.0	21.5	18.0
Total	40.1	36.6	38.6	34.1
January-March 2023 (Revised)				
Full-time job	40.9	39.9	40.6	37.5
Part-time job	20.0	22.2	21.5	20.1
Total	39.6	36.6	38.4	35.5

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.	%
	January-March 2024					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,234 ^u	1.2 ^u	:	:	2,636 ^u	0.9 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	25,727	14.3	8,708	6.9	34,435	11.2
Construction	18,770	10.4	2,164 ^u	1.7 ^u	20,934	6.8
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	48,502	27.0	28,037	22.1	76,539	25.0
Information and communication	10,605	5.9	3,403 ^u	2.7 ^u	14,008	4.6
Financial and insurance activities	9,239	5.1	8,370	6.6	17,609	5.7
Real estate activities	1,888 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	2,709 ^u	0.9 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	16,411	9.1	14,751	11.6	31,162	10.2
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	32,200	17.9	46,521	36.7	78,721	25.7
Other services	14,078	7.8	13,740	10.8	27,818	9.1
Total	179,654	100.0	126,917	100.0	306,571	100.0
	January-March 2023 (Revised)					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,980 ^u	1.2 ^u	:	:	2,266 ^u	0.8 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	24,804	14.5	8,592	7.1	33,396	11.4
Construction	17,005	9.9	:	:	18,626	6.4
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	45,820	26.7	25,173	20.7	70,993	24.2
Information and communication	10,017	5.8	4,126 ^u	3.4 ^u	14,143	4.8
Financial and insurance activities	10,517	6.1	8,594	7.1	19,111	6.5
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	3,265 ^u	1.1 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	16,513	9.6	15,290	12.6	31,803	10.9
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	30,965	18.0	42,167	34.7	73,132	25.0
Other services	11,780	6.9	14,530	12.0	26,310	9.0
Total	171,552	100.0	121,493	100.0	293,045	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 (€)
	January-March 2024					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	23,152	1,870	8,605	1,646	31,757	1,810
Construction	12,119	1,702	:	:	14,216	1,727
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	39,164	1,703	25,729	1,422	64,893	1,591
Information and communication	8,959	2,574	2,841 ^u	2,077 ^u	11,800	2,455
Financial and insurance activities	8,777	2,878	8,370	2,561	17,147	2,723
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	13,309	2,110	14,189	1,851	27,498	1,976
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	30,095	2,009	44,312	1,907	74,407	1,948
Other services	11,605	2,449	8,733	1,900	20,338	2,213
Total	148,961	2,010	115,026	1,823	263,987	1,928
	January-March 2023 (Revised)					
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	22,859	1,854	7,845	1,546	30,704	1,775
Construction	11,015	1,521	:	:	12,561	1,591
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	34,807	1,571	22,510	1,321	57,317	1,473
Information and communication	8,191	2,307	3,261 ^u	2,113 ^u	11,452	2,251
Financial and insurance activities	8,837	2,933	8,518	2,417	17,355	2,680
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	13,659	2,057	13,636	1,776	27,295	1,916
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	29,218	1,960	41,258	1,855	70,476	1,898
Other services	10,068	2,367	10,433	1,806	20,501	2,082
Total	139,448	1,932	109,542	1,761	248,990	1,857

: 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.	%
	January-March 2024					
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	23,499	13.1	11,043	8.7	34,542	11.3
Professionals	28,479	15.9	34,308	27.0	62,787	20.5
Technicians and associate professionals	24,556	13.7	14,365	11.3	38,921	12.7
Clerical support workers	12,917	7.2	17,586	13.9	30,503	9.9
Service and sales workers	25,479	14.2	34,289	27.0	59,768	19.5
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,233 ^u	1.2 ^u	:	:	2,628 ^u	0.9 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	29,557	16.5	:	:	31,254	10.2
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	15,143	8.4	2,845 ^u	2.2 ^u	17,988	5.9
Elementary occupations	16,047	8.9	10,277	8.1	26,324	8.6
Total	179,654	100.0	126,917	100.0	306,571	100.0
	January-March 2023 (Revised)					
Armed Forces	2,474 ^u	1.4 ^u	:	:	2,474 ^u	0.8 ^u
Managers	23,149	13.5	11,126	9.2	34,275	11.7
Professionals	29,882	17.4	31,229	25.7	61,111	20.9
Technicians and associate professionals	23,858	13.9	14,252	11.7	38,110	13.0
Clerical support workers	14,053	8.2	17,208	14.2	31,261	10.7
Service and sales workers	22,094	12.9	32,763	27.0	54,857	18.7
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,472 ^u	1.4 ^u	:	:	2,680 ^u	0.9 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	26,433	15.4	:	:	28,379	9.7
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	12,286	7.2	3,169 ^u	2.6 ^u	15,455	5.3
Elementary occupations	14,851	8.7	9,592	7.9	24,443	8.3
Total	171,552	100.0	121,493	100.0	293,045	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 (€)
	January-March 2024					
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	18,396	3,262	10,377	2,902	28,773	3,132
Professionals	25,250	2,762	31,846	2,356	57,096	2,535
Technicians and associate professionals	21,361	2,091	12,679	1,835	34,040	1,996
Clerical support workers	12,659	1,612	17,430	1,539	30,089	1,570
Service and sales workers	20,976	1,474	28,835	1,296	49,811	1,371
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	20,519	1,630	:	:	22,079	1,616
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	12,331	1,349	2,500 ^u	1,420 ^u	14,831	1,361
Elementary occupations	14,865	1,274	9,687	1,146	24,552	1,223
Total	148,961	2,010	115,026	1,823	263,987	1,928
	January-March 2023 (Revised)					
Armed Forces	2,474 ^u	1,926 ^u	:	:	2,474 ^u	1,926 ^u
Managers	18,710	3,085	10,466	2,851	29,176	3,001
Professionals	25,365	2,627	28,816	2,348	54,181	2,478
Technicians and associate professionals	19,118	1,902	13,156	1,802	32,274	1,861
Clerical support workers	13,428	1,446	16,726	1,411	30,154	1,427
Service and sales workers	16,881	1,369	27,840	1,179	44,721	1,250
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	17,988	1,552	:	:	19,383	1,532
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	10,292	1,412	2,660 ^u	1,512 ^u	12,952	1,432
Elementary occupations	14,458	1,236	8,483	1,118	22,941	1,193
Total	139,448	1,932	109,542	1,761	248,990	1,857

: 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.	%
January-March 2024						
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,221 ^u	23.9 ^u
25-74	4,417 ^u	73.6 ^u	2,663 ^u	80.7 ^u	7,080	76.1
Total (15-74)	6,002	100.0	3,299^u	100.0^u	9,301	100.0
January-March 2023 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,889 ^u	27.8 ^u
25-74	4,418 ^u	65.3 ^u	3,092 ^u	85.1 ^u	7,510	72.2
Total (15-74)	6,766	100.0	3,633^u	100.0^u	10,399	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
	%		
	January-March 2024		
15-24	:	:	8.1 ^u
25-74	2.6 ^u	2.2 ^u	2.5
Total (15-74)	3.3	2.5^u	3.0
	January-March 2023 (Revised)		
15-24	:	:	10.7 ^u
25-74	2.7 ^u	2.7 ^u	2.7
Total (15-74)	3.8	2.9^u	3.4

: 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.	%
January-March 2024						
Less than 12 months	4,220 ^u	70.3 ^u	2,810 ^u	85.2 ^u	7,030	75.6
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	2,271 ^u	24.4 ^u
Total	6,002	100.0	3,299^u	100.0^u	9,301	100.0
January-March 2023 (Revised)						
Less than 12 months	5,176 ^u	76.5 ^u	2,880 ^u	79.3 ^u	8,056	77.5
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	2,343 ^u	22.5 ^u
Total	6,766	100.0	3,633^u	100.0^u	10,399	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.	%
January-March 2024						
15-24	11,223	16.8	12,142	12.8	23,365	14.5
25-34	:	:	4,211 ^u	4.5 ^u	6,134 ^u	3.8 ^u
35-44	:	:	6,686	7.1	7,849	4.9
45-54	:	:	6,223	6.6	8,527	5.3
55-64	8,992	13.5	16,234	17.2	25,226	15.6
65+	41,013	61.6	49,129	51.9	90,142	55.9
Total	66,618	100.0	94,625	100.0	161,243	100.0
January-March 2023 (Revised)						
15-24	12,543	18.2	12,468	13.1	25,011	15.3
25-34	:	:	4,889 ^u	5.1 ^u	7,042 ^u	4.3 ^u
35-44	:	:	5,731	6.0	7,366	4.5
45-54	:	:	7,581	8.0	9,368	5.7
55-64	10,177	14.8	16,742	17.6	26,919	16.4
65+	40,503	58.9	47,633	50.1	88,136	53.8
Total	68,798	100.0	95,044	100.0	163,842	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.	%
	January-March 2024					
Care or family responsibilities	:	:	32,891	35.3	33,229	20.8
Education or training	11,041	16.6	11,888	12.8	22,929	14.4
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	46,070	69.3	20,552	22.1	66,622	41.7
Other reasons	9,027	13.6	27,767	29.8	36,794	23.1
Total	66,476	100.0	93,098	100.0	159,574	100.0
January-March 2023 (Revised)						
Care or family responsibilities	:	:	36,069	38.3	37,073	22.8
Education or training	12,480	18.2	11,927	12.7	24,407	15.0
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	45,838	67.0	21,267	22.6	67,105	41.3
Other reasons	9,088	13.3	24,958	26.5	34,046	20.9
Total	68,410	100.0	94,221	100.0	162,631	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 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.	%
	January-March 2024					
Secondary level education or less	102,035	40.4	88,750	39.5	190,785	40.0
Post-Secondary level education	86,507	34.3	69,350	30.8	155,857	32.7
Tertiary level education	63,732	25.3	66,741	29.7	130,473	27.3
Total	252,274	100.0	224,841	100.0	477,115	100.0
January-March 2023 (Revised)						
Secondary level education or less	101,326	41.0	89,438	40.6	190,764	40.8
Post-Secondary level education	86,005	34.8	70,717	32.1	156,722	33.5
Tertiary level education	59,785	24.2	60,015	27.3	119,800	25.6
Total	247,116	100.0	220,170	100.0	467,286	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.	%
	January-March 2024							
Secondary level education or less	78,852	25.7	2,872 ^u	30.9 ^u	109,061	67.6	190,785	40.0
Post-Secondary level education	114,232	37.3	3,861 ^u	41.5 ^u	37,764	23.4	155,857	32.7
Tertiary level education	113,487	37.0	:	:	14,418	8.9	130,473	27.3
Total	306,571	100.0	9,301	100.0	161,243	100.0	477,115	100.0
January-March 2023 (Revised)								
Secondary level education or less	74,188	25.3	4,240 ^u	40.8 ^u	112,336	68.6	190,764	40.8
Post-Secondary level education	115,313	39.3	4,169 ^u	40.1 ^u	37,240	22.7	156,722	33.5
Tertiary level education	103,544	35.3	:	:	14,266	8.7	119,800	25.6
Total	293,045	100.0	10,399	100.0	163,842	100.0	467,286	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 to post-IESS levels. Technical notes on these divergences are found [here](#).

5. Figures in this release are weighted on the Census of Population and Housing 2021. The [release](#) with revisions from Q1/2018 onwards was published on 8 March 2024. Revised LFS figures and technical notes are found [here](#).

6. 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. The monthly basic salary takes into account the wage supplement scheme. As a result, persons who stated that they were receiving this supplement during the quarter under review had their monthly salary modified to account for this change in their income. 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).

7. 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 gives an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

Sampling variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Employment	306,571	3,592	306,571 ± 3,592
Employment rate (%)			
Total	78.84	0.88	78.84 ± 0.88
Males	84.65	1.14	84.65 ± 1.14
Females	71.96	1.34	71.96 ± 1.34
15-24	49.50	3.63	49.50 ± 3.63
25-54	89.39	0.98	89.39 ± 0.98
55-64	56.05	3.16	56.05 ± 3.16
Unemployment	9,301	2,065	9,301 ± 2,065
Unemployment rate (%)			
Total	2.96	0.65	2.96 ± 0.65
Males	3.25	0.9	3.25 ± 0.90
Females	2.54	0.99	2.54 ± 0.99
15-24	8.14	3.34	8.14 ± 3.34
25-74	2.46	0.64	2.46 ± 0.64
Inactivity	161,243	3,691	161,243 ± 3,691
Activity rate (%)			
Total	81.26	0.91	81.26 ± 0.91
Males	87.55	1.05	87.55 ± 1.05
Females	73.82	1.32	73.82 ± 1.32
15-24	53.88	3.52	53.88 ± 3.52
25-54	91.64	0.96	91.64 ± 0.96
55-64	57.59	3.12	57.59 ± 3.12

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 306,571 and the margin of error is 3,592. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 302,979 and 310,163 persons.

Key

: Unreliable – less than 20 sample observations.

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

8. Percentage totals may not add up due to rounding.

9. 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.

10. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

- [Sources and Methods](#)
- [Statistical Concepts](#)
- [Metadata](#)
- [ISCO Classification](#)
- [NACE Classification](#)
- [ISCED Classification](#)

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

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

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