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Labour Market

Labour Force Survey: May 2005

The Labour Force Survey is an enquiry which is carried out using a random sample of 2,500 private households. The criteria used for this survey are on the same lines as international methodologies used by ILO as further explained in the methodological notes. All data contained within this release refers to persons 15 years and over.

Methodology for monthly estimates

This release describes the methods used and presents results which are being published on an experimental basis. The month's estimates are based on three-month rolling averages. Hence, figures for this release contain information on March, April and May 2005. Data has been grossed up separately for each month and a combined average for producing May 2005 data was worked out. For further details, the methodological notes on the end pages of this release should be consulted.

Labour status

Table 1 illustrates persons by labour status for persons aged 15 years and over. For the labour status, the population is divided into 3 categories namely, employed, unemployed and inactive. In the three months to May 2005, the inactive amounted to 161,517 persons or 50.1 per cent of all persons aged 15 years and over. The number of employed reached 149,562, whilst 11,549 were unemployed.

In the three months to May 2005, the activity rate which is defined as the number of persons in the labour force (aged between 15 and 64 years) as a percentage of the working population in the same age bracket stood at 58.6 per cent, which is equivalent to the results for the first quarter of 2005. The activity rate for males was 80.2 per cent, whilst that for females reached 36.6 per cent.

Table 3 shows the employment rate which is defined as the number of persons in employment (aged between 15 and 64 years) as a percentage of the working population in the same age bracket. The employment rate for the three months to May stood at 54.4 per cent. The employment rate for males stood at 75.4 per cent whereas that of females was 33.3 per cent.

Table 4 illustrates the unemployment rate for the period under review. In the three months to May 2005, the unemployment rate was 7.2 per cent. Whilst the male unemployment rate stood at 6.2 per cent which is equivalent to Quarter 1 2005, the female unemployment rate reached 9.2 per cent.

Table 5 shows the total employed by professional status. Self employed persons made up 13.5 per cent of the total number of employed persons, whilst the majority or 86.5 per cent of the employed population were employees.

For the three months to May, 1.8 per cent worked in the agriculture sector, 29.6 per cent worked in the industry sector whilst 68.6 per cent were engaged in the services sector. The majority of persons working in the services sector were engaged in wholesale and retail trade ■

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Table 1. Labour status

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
May 2005						
Employed	104,153	66.0	45,409	27.5	149,562	46.3
Unemployed	6,943	4.4	4,606	2.8	11,549	3.6
Inactive	46,666	29.6	114,851	69.7	161,517	50.1
Total	157,762	100.0	164,866	100.0	322,628	100.0

Table 2. Activity rate

	Males	Females	Total
January-March 2005	79.5	37.5	58.6
May 2005	80.2	36.6	58.6

Table 3. Employment rate

	Males	Females	Total
January-March 2005	74.5	34.5	54.6
May 2005	75.4	33.3	54.4

Table 4. Unemployment rate

	Males	Females	Total
January-March 2005	6.2	7.9	6.7
May 2005	6.2	9.2	7.2

Table 5. Professional status of main occupation for total employed persons

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
May 2005						
Self-employed without employees	10,513	10.1	3,007	6.6	13,520	9.0
Self-employed with employees	5,860	5.6	750 ^u	1.7	6,610	4.4
Employee	87,780	84.3	41,575	91.6	129,355	86.5
Family worker	-	-	77 ^u	0.2	77 ^u	0.1
Total	104,153	100.0	45,409	100.0	149,562	100.0

^u - under-represented

Table 6. Type of employment (main occupation)

Type of Employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
May 2005						
Agriculture	2,503	2.4	230 ^u	0.5	2,733	1.8
Industry	36,245	34.8	8,054	17.7	44,299	29.6
Services	65,405	62.8	37,125	81.8	102,530	68.6
Total	104,153	100.0	45,409	100.0	149,562	100.0

^u - under-represented

Methodological Notes

The Labour Force Survey is an enquiry which is carried out on using a random sample of 2,500 private households. The criteria used for this survey match international methodologies used by ILO as outlined underneath. The Labour Force Survey is carried out on an ongoing basis. 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.

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 the results with other EU member states and countries following ILO definitions of employment and unemployment. Occupations are classified according to the ISCO classification (International Standard Classification of Occupations) whilst the economic activity is classified according to the NACE classification (Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les Communautés européennes).

Revision to Population Estimates

As from 2005, the weighting procedures are based on 2004 population estimates. All data contained within this release refers to persons 15 years and over.

Under represented figures are indicated for each table and should be treated with caution .

Absolute changes between one survey and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (ie, less than 1,800 persons) might be the result of sampling error.

EMPLOYEE: The distinction between employees and self-employed is based on the respondent's own judgement as stated during the interview.

EMPLOYMENT: This comprises all persons above 15 years of age 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 employees but were not at work and were: on paid or sick leave, did not work due to bad weather, were undergoing training or education, did not work due to a labour dispute, were absent from work for a period of less than 3 months, were absent from work for a period of more than 3 months and were still receiving some type of payment whilst being absent from work.

self-employed: a person who runs 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.

INACTIVE PERSONS: All persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as inactive.

LABOUR FORCE: This comprises persons in employment and unemployed persons.

RATES: The above groups are used to derive the following measures;

Activity rates – represent the labour force (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).

Employment rates – represent persons in employment (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).

Unemployment rates – represent unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

REFERENCE WEEK - The week to which the collected data relate.

UNEMPLOYMENT: This comprises 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, e.g. includes contacting the ETC, applied 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.

Included with the unemployed are persons who were without work and were not actively seeking work since they had found a job which would start later.

Sampling Variability

The data in this release are based on statistical samples, and as such, estimates carry a sampling error. A measure of the sampling error is the standard error. The standard error as a percentage of the estimate is referred to as the coefficient of variation (CV). The CV is generally computed and expressed as a percentage, which is the quantified by the sampling variability. The coefficient of variation and the sampling variabilities and hence gives indication of the confidence limits.

Sampling Variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Coefficient of Variation	Variability
Employment	149,562	1.66	± 2488
Employment Rate (%)	54.4	1.57	± 0.86
Unemployment	11,549	8.03	± 927
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.2	5.57	± 0.40
Inactive	161,517	1.54	± 2495
Activity Rate (%)	58.6	1.45	± 0.85

The above table gives indications on the coefficient of variation and sampling variability. For example the LFS estimate for employment is 149,562 and the coefficient of variation is 1.66%. For the three months to May 2005, the sampling variability of employment was ± 2488 persons. Hence, the true figure lies between 147,074 and 152,050 persons.