

News Release



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Labour Force Survey

January - March 2006

Theme:
**Population and Social
Conditions**

Labour Status

For the first quarter of 2006, the number of persons over 15 years was estimated to be 326,003. Of these 151,018 or 46.3 per cent were employed, 12,737 were unemployed and 162,248 persons were inactive.

In the period January to March 2006, out of every 100 persons between the age of 15 and 64, 58.9 per cent were either working or unemployed (activity rate). The total activity rate for the same period last year stood at 58.8 per cent. The activity rate for persons in the 15 to 24 age bracket stood at 52.7 per cent, which is less than the activity rate estimated for same period last year (54.8%).

With regard to employment for the first quarter 2006, out of every 100 persons between the age of 15 and 64, 54.3 were working. Of these, the employment rate for males was 74.9 per cent and that of females stood at 33.3 per cent. The total employment rate remained stable when compared to the period January to March 2005 (54.3%). For persons in the 15 to 24 age bracket, the employment rate stood at 43.3 per cent.

The Employed Population

During January to March 2006, the total number of employed persons was estimated at 151,018 persons, with the majority or 25.5 per cent aged between 25 to 34 years. The mean age of employed males was 39 years, whilst that for females worked out at 34 years.

Classification of the total employed persons by economic activity is illustrated in Table 7. For the first quarter of this year, the majority or 17.9 per cent worked in the manufacturing sector, whilst a further 14.5 per cent worked in the wholesale and retail trade. The most common category of occupations illustrated in table 11 was service workers, shop and sales workers which amounted to 24,170 persons or 16.0 per cent, followed by technicians and associate professionals, a 15.4 per cent of the total employed.

Information on the average gross annual salary of employees is presented in tables 9 and 13. During the first quarter 2006, this was estimated at Lm5,294 per annum. The average gross annual salary for male employees was estimated to be Lm5,561 whereas that of female employees was Lm4,756.

Table 16 illustrates the total number of employed classified by type of employment. For the first quarter 2006, the number of full timers amounted to 136,034 persons. Of these 73.9 per cent were males and the remainder of 26.1 per cent were females. On the other hand, 14,984 persons worked either full time with reduced or part time, of whom 31.4 per cent were males and 68.6 per cent were females. Similar distributions can be found in estimates for 2005.

The Unemployed Population

For the first three months of 2006, the total number of unemployed persons was estimated to be 12,737 persons. The unemployment rate which is defined as the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labour force increased to 7.8 per cent for the first quarter 2006. For the same period last year, the unemployment rate was estimated at 6.7 per cent.

Among the total number of unemployed in 2006, 40.0 per cent had been looking for a job for over a year, whilst a further 39.9 per cent had been looking for a job for less than 5 months. Similar distributions can be found in estimates for 2005 ■

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Table 1. Labour status

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January - March 2006						
Employed	105,261	65.7	45,757	27.6	151,018	46.3
Unemployed	7,936	5.0	4,801	2.9	12,737	3.9
Inactive	47,021	29.3	115,227	69.5	162,248	49.8
Total	160,218	100.0	165,785	100.0	326,003	100.0
January - March 2005						
Employed	102,777	65.2	46,959	28.5	149,736	46.4
Unemployed	6,806	4.3	4,032	2.5	10,838	3.4
Inactive	48,184	30.5	113,515	69.0	161,699	50.2
Total	157,767	100.0	164,506	100.0	322,273	100.0

Table 2. Distribution of the labour force

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January - March 2006						
Employed	105,261	93.0	45,757	90.5	151,018	92.2
Unemployed	7,936	7.0	4,801	9.5	12,737	7.8
Total	113,197	100.0	50,558	100.0	163,755	100.0
January - March 2005						
Employed	102,777	93.8	46,959	92.1	149,736	93.3
Unemployed	6,806	6.2	4,032	7.9	10,838	6.7
Total	109,583	100.0	50,991	100.0	160,574	100.0

Table 3. Activity Rates by age groups

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
January - March 2006			
15-24	59.5	45.3	52.7
25-54	94.5	40.3	67.7
55-64	53.4	10.7	31.2
Total	80.6	36.8	58.9
January - March 2005			
15-24	56.9	52.8	54.8
25-54	93.1	38.4	66.0
55-64	57.0	13.9	34.5
Total	79.8	37.8	58.8

Table 4. Employment Rates by age groups

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
January - March 2006			
15-24	47.1	39.1	43.3
25-54	90.1	36.9	63.8
55-64	52.7	10.7	30.8
Total	74.9	33.3	54.3
January - March 2005			
15-24	47.4	44.1	45.8
25-54	88.9	35.6	62.6
55-64	53.3	13.5	32.5
Total	74.5	34.1	54.3

Table 5. Unemployment Rates by age groups

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
January - March 2006			
15-24	20.9	13.6	17.8
25+	4.2	8.0	5.3
Total	7.0	9.5	7.8
January - March 2005			
15-24	17.6	13.3	15.5
25+	4.0	5.4	4.4
Total	6.2	7.9	6.7

Table 6. Age distribution of total employed persons

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January - March 2006						
15-24	15,038	14.3	11,681	25.5	26,719	17.7
25-34	24,319	23.1	14,139	30.9	38,458	25.5
35-44	26,714	25.4	9,276	20.3	35,990	23.8
45-54	27,779	26.4	8,124	17.8	35,903	23.8
55-64	10,408	9.9	2,306	5.0	12,714	8.4
65+	1,003 ^U	0.9	231 ^U	0.5	1,234 ^U	0.8
Total	105,261	100.0	45,757	100.0	151,018	100.0
January - March 2005						
15-24	14,730	14.3	13,533	28.8	28,263	18.9
25-34	24,720	24.1	14,153	30.1	38,873	26.0
35-44	25,346	24.7	7,971	17.0	33,317	22.2
45-54	26,871	26.1	8,433	18.0	35,304	23.6
55-64	10,442	10.2	2,869	6.1	13,311	8.9
65+	668 ^U	0.6	-	-	668 ^U	0.4
Total	102,777	100.0	46,959	100.0	149,736	100.0

^U - under-represented

Table 7. Total employed persons classified by economic activity in January - March 2006

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	2,366	2.2	166 ^U	0.4	2,532	1.7
Fishing	502 ^U	0.5	-	-	502 ^U	0.3
Mining and quarrying	467 ^U	0.5	-	-	467 ^U	0.3
Manufacturing	21,443	20.4	5,626	12.3	27,069	17.9
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,806	2.7	253 ^U	0.6	3,059	2.0
Construction	12,458	11.8	230 ^U	0.5	12,688	8.4
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	15,107	14.4	6,857	15.0	21,964	14.6
Hotels and restaurants	7,997	7.6	4,074	8.9	12,071	8.0
Transport, storage and communication	10,719	10.2	2,258	4.9	12,977	8.6
Financial intermediation	3,397	3.2	2,907	6.4	6,304	4.2
Real estate, renting and business activities	5,302	5.0	2,997	6.5	8,299	5.5
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	9,085	8.6	3,955	8.6	13,040	8.6
Education	4,001	3.8	6,426	14.0	10,427	6.9
Health and social work	5,149	4.9	6,636	14.5	11,785	7.8
Other community, social and personal service activities	4,321	4.1	3,120	6.8	7,441	4.9
Private households with employed persons	-	-	84 ^U	0.2	84 ^U	0.1
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	141 ^U	0.1	168 ^U	0.4	309 ^U	0.2
Total	105,261	100.0	45,757	100.0	151,018	100.0

^U - under-represented

Note: Data for the two reference periods depicted are not comparable on a like-with-like basis

Table 8. Total employed persons classified by economic activity in January - March 2005

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	2,203	2.1	42 ^U	0.1	2,245	1.5
Fishing	415 ^U	0.4	64 ^U	0.1	479 ^U	0.3
Mining and quarrying	1,179 ^U	1.1	71 ^U	0.2	1,250 ^U	0.8
Manufacturing	21,443	20.9	7,509	16.0	28,952	19.3
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,391	2.3	267 ^U	0.6	2,658	1.8
Construction	11,835	11.5	521 ^U	1.1	12,356	8.3
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	15,360	14.9	6,338	13.5	21,698	14.5
Hotels and restaurants	7,964	7.7	4,921	10.5	12,885	8.6
Transport, storage and communication	8,824	8.6	2,695	5.7	11,519	7.7
Financial intermediation	2,970	2.9	2,466	5.3	5,436	3.6
Real estate, renting and business activities	5,394	5.3	2,268	4.8	7,662	5.1
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	10,907	10.6	3,254	6.9	14,161	9.5
Education	4,492	4.4	7,544	16.1	12,036	8.0
Health and social work	4,260	4.2	6,269	13.3	10,529	7.0
Other community, social and personal service activities	2,755	2.7	2,582	5.5	5,337	3.6
Private households with employed persons	-	-	148 ^U	0.3	148 ^U	0.1
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	385 ^U	0.4	-	-	385 ^U	0.3
Total	102,777	100.0	46,959	100.0	149,736	100.0

^U - under-represented

Table 9. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity in January - March 2006

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Lm
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1,038 ^U	5,242.89 ^U	166 ^U	5,139.36 ^U	1,204 ^U	5,228.62 ^U
Fishing	147 ^U	4,352.35 ^U	-	-	147 ^U	4,352.35 ^U
Mining and quarrying	398 ^U	5,048.66 ^U	-	-	398 ^U	5,048.66 ^U
Manufacturing	19,358	5,308.75	5,626	4,216.98	24,984	5,062.90
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,806	6,074.20	253 ^U	5,941.72 ^U	3,059	6,063.24
Construction	9,605	4,810.29	230 ^U	4,868.30 ^U	9,835	4,811.65
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	8,225	5,056.48	5,998	3,886.95	14,223	4,563.28
Hotels and restaurants	7,162	4,953.51	3,870	3,639.87	11,032	4,492.69
Transport, storage and communication	9,079	6,426.66	2,090	4,689.78	11,169	6,101.65
Financial intermediation	3,269	7,635.26	2,832	5,383.02	6,101	6,589.80
Real estate, renting and business activities	4,467	5,561.46	2,753	5,737.89	7,220	5,628.73
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	8,955	5,978.25	3,955	5,142.20	12,910	5,722.12
Education	3,821	5,953.05	6,426	5,723.81	10,247	5,809.30
Health and social work	4,748	5,980.67	6,636	4,885.03	11,384	5,342.00
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,788	4,972.18	2,082	4,479.93	5,870	4,797.59
Private households with employed persons	-	-	84 ^U	3,000.00 ^U	84 ^U	3,000.00 ^U
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	141 ^U	6,997.92 ^U	84 ^U	4,232.56 ^U	225 ^U	5,965.52 ^U
Total	87,007	5,560.72	43,085	4,756.05	130,092	5,294.22

^U - under-represented

Table 10. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity in January - March 2005

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Lm
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1,325 ^U	4,666.19 ^U	-	-	1,325 ^U	4,666.19 ^U
Fishing	99 ^U	3,120.00 ^U	-	-	99 ^U	3,120.00 ^U
Mining and quarrying	834 ^U	6,010.99 ^U	71 ^U	4,900.00 ^U	905 ^U	5,923.83 ^U
Manufacturing	18,510	5,132.07	7,388	4,145.71	25,898	4,850.68
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,342	5,653.62	267 ^U	4,911.63 ^U	2,609	5,577.68
Construction	9,094	4,667.33	447 ^U	4,477.36 ^U	9,541	4,658.43
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	9,343	4,731.72	5,195	3,918.14	14,538	4,441.00
Hotels and restaurants	6,932	4,899.86	4,731	3,682.75	11,663	4,406.15
Transport, storage and communication	7,930	6,183.58	2,590	5,338.37	10,520	5,975.49
Financial intermediation	2,737	8,764.12	2,466	6,014.19	5,203	7,460.77
Real estate, renting and business activities	3,848	7,294.16	1,970 ^U	4,256.65 ^U	5,818	6,265.65
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	10,867	5,502.75	3,146	5,302.61	14,013	5,457.55
Education	4,253	6,224.30	7,480	5,494.78	11,733	5,759.21
Health and social work	4,055	5,523.26	6,133	4,533.65	10,188	4,927.53
Other community, social and personal service activities	2,012	4,832.23	1,501 ^U	4,230.01 ^U	3,513	4,574.92
Private households with employed persons	-	-	148 ^U	2,022.00 ^U	148 ^U	2,022.00 ^U
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	385 ^U	4,295.10 ^U	-	-	385 ^U	4,295.10 ^U
Total	84,566	5,457.15	43,533	4,625.14	128,099	5,174.40

^U - under-represented

Table 11. Main occupation of total employed persons in January - March 2006

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Armed Forces	1,456 ^U	1.4	-	-	1,456 ^U	1.0
Legislators, senior officials and managers	11,553	11.0	3,011	6.6	14,564	9.6
Professionals	9,521	9.0	7,329	16.0	16,850	11.2
Technicians and associate professionals	15,421	14.7	7,764	17.0	23,185	15.4
Clerks	7,363	7.0	10,705	23.4	18,068	12.0
Service workers and shop and sales workers	14,271	13.6	9,899	21.6	24,170	16.0
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	2,474	2.3	-	-	2,474	1.6
Craft and related trades workers	18,979	18.0	400 ^U	0.9	19,379	12.8
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,978	9.5	3,787	8.3	13,765	9.1
Elementary occupations	14,245	13.5	2,862	6.2	17,107	11.3
Total	105,261	100.0	45,757	100.0	151,018	100.0

^U - under-represented

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons in January - March 2005

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Armed Forces	1,441 ^U	1.4	-	-	1,441 ^U	1.0
Legislators, senior officials and managers	11,194	10.9	2,287	4.9	13,481	9.0
Professionals	9,123	8.9	7,227	15.4	16,350	10.9
Technicians and associate professionals	13,358	13.0	7,975	17.0	21,333	14.2
Clerks	8,139	7.9	9,462	20.1	17,601	11.8
Service workers and shop and sales workers	12,870	12.5	9,620	20.5	22,490	15.0
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	1,711 ^U	1.7	42 ^U	0.1	1,753 ^U	1.2
Craft and related trades workers	20,633	20.1	467 ^U	1.0	21,100	14.1
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	10,838	10.5	4,757	10.1	15,595	10.4
Elementary occupations	13,470	13.1	5,122	10.9	18,592	12.4
Total	102,777	100.0	46,959	100.0	149,736	100.0

^U - under-represented

Table 13. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation in January - March 2006

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Lm
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm		
Armed Forces	1,456 ^U	5,158.34 ^U	-	-	1,456 ^U	5,158.34 ^U
Legislators, senior officials and managers	6,949	8,955.90	2,287	7,014.98	9,236	8,475.29
Professionals	8,606	7,393.77	7,198	6,481.81	15,804	6,978.41
Technicians and associate professionals	14,062	6,203.72	7,604	5,234.86	21,666	5,863.69
Clerks	7,282	4,984.72	10,627	4,264.48	17,909	4,557.34
Service workers and shop and sales workers	11,323	4,778.18	8,473	3,778.97	19,796	4,350.50
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	728 ^U	4,558.97 ^U	-	-	728 ^U	4,558.97 ^U
Craft and related trades workers	14,650	4,845.60	331 ^U	4,910.21 ^U	14,981	4,847.03
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,473	4,839.91	3,703	3,924.88	12,176	4,561.63
Elementary occupations	13,478	4,265.56	2,862	3,113.95	16,340	4,063.85
Total	87,007	5,560.72	43,085	4,756.05	130,092	5,294.22

^U - under-represented

Table 14. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation in January - March 2005

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Lm
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm		
Armed Forces	1,441 ^U	5,229.32 ^U	-	-	1,441 ^U	5,229.32 ^U
Legislators, senior officials and managers	5,635	9,494.64	1,646 ^U	7763.38 ^U	7,281	9,103.26
Professionals	7,608	7,281.62	6,740	6,112.71	14,348	6,732.52
Technicians and associate professionals	12,260	5,825.85	7,665	5,289.82	19,925	5,619.39
Clerks	7,968	4,947.46	9,462	4,476.53	17,430	4,691.81
Service workers and shop and sales workers	11,248	5,063.43	8,065	3,602.04	19,313	4,453.16
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	580 ^U	4,492.64 ^U	-	-	580 ^U	4,492.64 ^U
Craft and related trades workers	15,472	4,915.52	346 ^U	4307.64 ^U	15,818	4,902.23
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,568	4,457.50	4,632	3,926.71	14,200	4,284.36
Elementary occupations	12,786	4,375.53	4,977	3,161.59	17,763	4,035.40
Total	84,566	5,457.14	43,533	4,625.14	128,099	5,174.40

^U - under-represented

Table 15. Professional status of main occupation for total employed persons

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January - March 2006						
Self-employed without employees	12,240	11.6	2,003	4.4	14,243	9.4
Self-employed with employees	5,951	5.7	669 ^u	1.4	6,620	4.4
Employee	87,007	82.6	43,085	94.2	130,092	86.1
Family worker	63 ^u	0.1	-	-	63 ^u	0.1
Total	105,261	100.0	45,757	100.0	151,018	100.0
January - March 2005						
Self-employed without employees	12,130	11.8	2,708	5.8	14,838	9.9
Self-employed with employees	6,081	5.9	718 ^u	1.5	6,799	4.6
Employee	84,566	82.3	43,533	92.7	128,099	85.5
Family worker	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	102,777	100.0	46,959	100.0	149,736	100.0

^u - under-represented

Table 16. Type of employment (main occupation)

Type of Employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January - March 2006						
Full-time job	100,557	95.5	35,477	77.5	136,034	90.1
Full-time with reduced hours job	250 ^u	0.3	1,556 ^u	3.4	1,806	1.2
Part-time job	4,454	4.2	8,724	19.1	13,178	8.7
Total	105,261	100.0	45,757	100.0	151,018	100.0
January - March 2005						
Full-time job	98,873	96.2	36,346	77.4	135,219	90.3
Full-time with reduced hours job	260 ^u	0.3	1,321 ^u	2.8	1,581 ^u	1.1
Part-time job	3,644	3.5	9,292	19.8	12,936	8.6
Total	102,777	100.0	46,959	100.0	149,736	100.0

^u - under-represented

Table 17. Total employed persons classified by economic sector

Economic Sector	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January - March 2006						
Private	72,888	69.3	30,060	65.7	102,948	68.2
Public majority	5,341	5.1	1,007 ^u	2.2	6,348	4.2
Independent statutory bodies	9,199	8.7	2,140	4.7	11,339	7.5
Government departments and ministries	17,833	16.9	12,550	27.4	30,383	20.1
Total	105,261	100.0	45,757	100.0	151,018	100.0
January - March 2005						
Private	68,956	67.1	30,728	65.4	99,684	66.6
Public majority	5,116	5.0	1,604 ^u	3.4	6,720	4.5
Independent statutory bodies	9,077	8.8	2,570	5.5	11,647	7.8
Government departments and ministries	19,628	19.1	12,057	25.7	31,685	21.1
Total	102,777	100.0	46,959	100.0	149,736	100.0

^u - under-represented

Table 18. Unemployed persons classified by age groups

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January - March 2006						
15-24	3,969	50.0	1,834	38.2	5,803	45.6
25-34	1,835	23.1	1,684 ^U	35.1	3,519	27.6
35-44	672 ^U	8.5	659 ^U	13.7	1,331 ^U	10.4
45-54	1,311 ^U	16.5	624 ^U	13.0	1,935	15.2
55-64	149 ^U	1.9	-	-	149 ^U	1.2
Total	7,936	100.0	4,801	100.0	12,737	100.0
January - March 2005						
15-24	3,068	45.1	2,144	53.2	5,212	48.1
25-34	1,105 ^U	16.2	526 ^U	13.0	1,631 ^U	15.0
35-44	571 ^U	8.4	362 ^U	9.0	933 ^U	8.6
45-54	1,390 ^U	20.4	1,000 ^U	24.8	2,390	22.1
55-64	672 ^U	9.9	-	-	672 ^U	6.2
Total	6,806	100.0	4,032	100.0	10,838	100.0

^U - under-represented

Table 19. Duration of job search of unemployed persons

Duration	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January - March 2006						
Less than 5 months	2,801	35.3	2,277	47.4	5,078	39.9
6 - 11 months	1,640 ^U	20.7	928 ^U	19.3	2,568	20.1
12 + months	3,495	44.0	1,596 ^U	33.3	5,091	40.0
Total	7,936	100.0	4,801	100.0	12,737	100.0
January - March 2005						
Less than 5 months	2,162	31.8	1,837 ^U	45.6	3,999	36.9
6 - 11 months	714 ^U	10.5	806 ^U	20.0	1,520 ^U	14.0
12 + months	3,930	57.7	1,389 ^U	34.4	5,319	49.1
Total	6,806	100.0	4,032	100.0	10,838	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 2006, the weighting procedures are based on 2005 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 of the estimate, which is the quantified by the sampling variability. The coefficient of variation and the sampling variabilities give an indication of the confidence limits. The confidence limits are obtained based on the assumption that the data follows a normal distribution.

Sampling Variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval
Employment	151,018	1.69	± 5002
Employment Rate (%)	54.3	1.56	± 1.67
Unemployment	12,737	7.77	± 1939
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	7.60	± 1.18
Inactive	162,248	1.39	± 4420
Activity Rate (%)	58.9	1.43	± 1.65

The above table give indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 151,018 and the coefficient of variation is 1.69 per cent. Hence, the figure lies between 146,016 and 156,020 persons.