

News Release



Date: 27 July 2006
No : 168/2006
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

Labour Force Survey

April 2006

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

The month's estimates are based on three-month rolling averages. Hence, figures for this release contain information on February, March and April 2006. Data has been grossed up separately for each month and a combined average for producing April 2006 data was worked out. For further details, the methodological notes on the end pages of this release should be consulted.

Theme:
Population and Social
Conditions

Labour Status

For the month of April 2006, the number of persons over 15 years was estimated to be 326,712. Table 1 shows that the majority or 50.2 per cent were inactive. On the other hand, the total number of employed persons reached 150,786 persons or 46.2 per cent of all persons over 15 years, whilst 11,955 persons or 3.6 per cent were unemployed. On a year to year comparison, the percentage distribution of the labour status remained nearly the same, for persons aged 15 years and over.

The activity rate which is defined as the number of persons in the labour force aged between 15 to 64 years as a percentage of the working population, stood at 58.3 per cent. The activity rate for males stood at 79.4 per cent whilst that of females reached 36.9 per cent.

Compiled by:

Labour Market Unit
e-mail: labourmarket.nso@gov.mt
Tel: 25997669

Table 3 shows that out of the working population aged between 15 to 64 years, 54 per cent were employed. Chart 1 shows time series trends for employment and activity rates, where the graph illustrates a gradual increase in both rates as from December 2005.

For the three months to April 2006, the unemployment rate was estimated to be 7.3 per cent. The unemployment rate for males stood at 6.4 per cent whilst that for females reached 9.5 per cent.

For the month under review, the self employed was made up of 14,845 sole proprietors and 7,348 self employed with employees for a total of 22,193 persons or 14.7 per cent of the total employed. Moreover, the majority or 85.1 per cent of the total employed were employees.

Table 6 shows the number of employed persons categorized by economic sector. The number of persons working in the agriculture sector reached 3,434 persons. A drop in the industry sector was registered when compared to the same period last year to reach the estimate of 42,428 persons. This drop was mostly attributed to decreases in employment in the manufacturing sector. The majority of persons or 69.6 per cent of the total employed worked in the services sector ■

The monthly calendar of NSO News Releases may be consulted on the Office's website at www.nso.gov.mt

National Statistics Office
Library & Information Unit
Lascaris, Valletta CMR 02, Malta
Tel: (+356) 25997219
Fax: (+356) 25997205
e-mail: nso@gov.mt
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>

Table 1. Labour status

Labour status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
April 2006						
Employed	104,816	65.3	45,971	27.7	150,786	46.2
Unemployed	7,131	4.4	4,824	2.9	11,955	3.6
Inactive	48,578	30.3	115,393	69.4	163,971	50.2
Total	160,525	100.0	166,188	100.0	326,712	100.0
April 2005						
Employed	104,133	65.9	47,767	29.0	151,900	46.1
Unemployed	6,456	4.1	4,893	3.0	11,349	3.7
Inactive	47,425	30.0	111,937	68.0	159,362	50.2
Total	158,014	100.0	164,597	100.0	322,611	100.0

Table 2. Activity rate

	Males	Females	Total
April 2006	79.4	36.9	58.3
April 2005	80.1	38.7	59.5

Table 3. Employment rate

	Males	Females	Total
April 2006	74.3	33.3	54.0
April 2005	75.4	35.1	55.3

Table 4. Unemployment rate

	Males	Females	Total
April 2006	6.4	9.5	7.3
April 2005	5.8	9.3	7.0

Chart 1. Time series for employment and activity rates

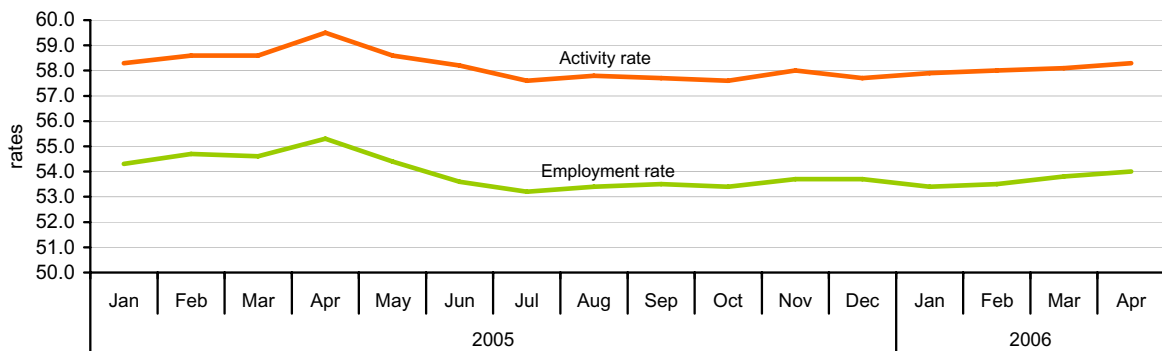


Table 5. Professional status of main occupation for total employed persons

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
April 2006						
Self-employed without employees	12,521	11.9	2,324	5.0	14,845	9.8
Self-employed with employees	6,263	6.0	1,085 ^u	2.4	7,348	4.9
Employee	85,967	82.0	42,389	92.2	128,356	85.1
Family worker	64 ^u	0.1	173 ^u	0.4	237 ^u	0.2
Total	104,816	100.0	45,971	100.0	150,786	100.0
April 2005						
Self-employed without employees	11,272	10.8	2,718	5.7	13,991	9.2
Self-employed with employees	6,340	6.1	797 ^u	1.6	7,137	4.7
Employee	86,520	83.1	44,175	92.5	130,696	86.0
Family worker	-	-	77 ^u	0.2	77 ^u	0.1
Total	104,133	100.0	47,767	100.0	151,900	100.0

^u - under-represented

Table 6. Type of employment (main occupation)

Type of employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
April 2006						
Agriculture	3,120	3.0	314 ^u	0.7	3,434	2.3
Industry	36,282	34.6	6,146	13.4	42,428	28.1
Services	65,414	62.4	39,511	85.9	104,925	69.6
Total	104,816	100.0	45,971	100.0	150,786	100.0
April 2005						
Agriculture	2,550	2.5	181 ^u	0.4	2,731	1.8
Industry	36,175	34.7	8,267	17.3	44,442	29.3
Services	65,408	62.8	39,319	82.3	104,727	68.9
Total	104,133	100.0	47,767	100.0	151,900	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, which is then quantified by the sampling variability. The coefficient of variation and the sampling variabilities give 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	Variability
Employment	150,786	1.59	± 4719
Employment Rate (%)	54.0	1.51	± 1.59
Unemployment	11,955	7.58	± 1777
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.3	5.25	± 0.76
Inactive	163,971	1.47	± 4733
Activity Rate (%)	58.3	1.38	± 1.58

The above table gives indications on the coefficient of variation and sampling variability. For example the LFS estimate for employment is 150,786 and the coefficient of variation is 1.59%. For the three months to April 2006, the sampling variability of employment was ±4719 persons. Hence, the true figure lies between 146,067 and 155,505 persons.