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Labour Force Survey

Labour Force Survey: October 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

The month's estimates are based on three-month rolling averages. Hence, figures for this release contain information on August, September and October 2005. Data has been grossed up separately for each month and a combined average for producing October 2005 data was worked out. For further details, the methodological notes on the end pages of this release should be consulted.

Labour Status

In the three months to October 2005, the number of persons over 15 years was estimated to be 323,743. Table 1 shows the classification of the labour status into 3 categories namely, employed, unemployed and inactive. The total employed amounted to 147,340 persons or 45.5 per cent of all persons aged 15 years and over. The total number of unemployed reached 11,546 persons, whilst the inactive reached 164,857 persons or 50.9 per cent. The distribution of the labour status remained nearly the same on comparing October 2005 with the same period last year.

The activity rate 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. Table 2 shows that for the 3 months to October 2005, the activity rate stood at 57.6 per cent, whilst for the previous year, the activity rate stood at 57.8 per cent. The activity rate for males was 78.0 per cent, whilst that for females reached 36.6 per cent.

Table 3 shows the employment rate for the month under review. Out of all persons aged between 15 and 64 years, 53.4 persons were employed. The males' employment rate stood at 72.7 per cent whereas that of females was 33.5 per cent.

Table 4, illustrates the unemployment rate which for October 2005 stood at 7.3 per cent, whilst for the same month last year the unemployment rate was 7.5 per cent. The unemployment rate for males was 6.7 per cent, whilst the female unemployment rate reached 8.4 per cent.

Table 5 illustrates the total number of employed persons by professional status. For the three months to October 2005, the majority or 86.9 per cent of the employed population were employees. An increase in employees has been estimated when comparing October 2005 with the same month last year. Additionally, for October 2005, the self employed amounted to 19,296 persons or 13.1 per cent of the total number of employed persons.

Furthermore, amongst the employed 2.3 per cent worked in the agriculture sector, 29.6 per cent worked in the industry sector, whilst the majority or 68.1 per cent were engaged in the services sector. The majority of persons working in the services sector worked in wholesale and retail trade ■

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Table 1. Labour status

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
October 2005						
Employed	101,748	63.7	45,592	27.8	147,340	45.5
Unemployed	7,358	4.6	4,188	2.6	11,546	3.6
Inactive	50,579	31.7	114,278	69.6	164,857	50.9
Total	159,685	100.0	164,058	100.0	323,743	100.0
October 2004						
Employed	101,948	64.6	44,989	27.4	146,937	45.6
Unemployed	6,855	4.4	4,987	3.0	11,842	3.7
Inactive	48,949	31.0	114,555	69.6	163,504	50.7
Total	157,752	100.0	164,531	100.0	322,283	100.0

Table 2. Activity rate

	Males	Females	Total
October 2005	78.0	36.6	57.6
October 2004	78.8	36.7	57.8

Table 3. Employment rate

	Males	Females	Total
October 2005	72.7	33.5	53.4
October 2004	73.8	33.0	53.5

Table 4. Unemployment rate

	Males	Females	Total
October 2005	6.7	8.4	7.3
October 2004	6.3	10.0	7.5

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

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
October 2005						
Self-employed without employees	11,503	11.3	1,215	2.7	12,718	8.6
Self-employed with employees	5,836	5.7	742 ^u	1.6	6,578	4.5
Employee	84,409	83.0	43,635	95.7	128,044	86.9
Total	101,748	100.0	45,592	100.0	147,340	100.0
October 2004						
Self-employed without employees	12,361	12.1	1,714	3.8	14,075	9.6
Self-employed with employees	5,487	5.4	544 ^u	1.2	6,031	4.1
Employee	84,100	82.5	42,586	94.7	126,685	86.2
Family Worker	-	-	145 ^u	0.3	145 ^u	0.1
Total	101,948	100.0	44,989	100.0	146,937	100.0

^u - under-represented

Table 6. Type of employment (main occupation)

Type of Employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
October 2005						
Agriculture	3,215	3.2	212 ^u	0.5	3,427	2.3
Industry	36,585	35.9	6,957	15.2	43,542	29.6
Services	61,948	60.9	38,423	84.3	100,371	68.1
Total	101,748	100.0	45,592	100.0	147,340	100.0
October 2004						
Agriculture	2,304	2.2	264 ^u	0.6	2,569	1.7
Industry	34,933	34.3	8,077	17.9	43,010	29.3
Services	64,710	63.5	36,648	81.5	101,358	69.0
Total	101,948	100.0	44,989	100.0	146,937	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	147,340	1.65	± 2432
Employment Rate (%)	53.4	1.56	± 0.83
Unemployment	11,546	7.85	± 906
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.3	5.39	± 0.39
Inactive	164,857	1.48	± 2442
Activity Rate (%)	57.6	1.43	± 0.83

The above table gives indications on the coefficient of variation and sampling variability. For example the LFS estimate for employment is 147,340 and the coefficient of variation is 1.65%. For the three months to October 2005, the sampling variability of employment was ± 2432 persons. Hence, the true figure lies between 144,908 and 149,772 persons.