

News Release



Date: 12 October 2006
No. : 227/2006
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

Labour Force Survey

April-June 2006

The Labour Force Survey registered no statistically significant changes in average employment and unemployment levels for the second quarter of 2006 compared to last year.

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

Labour Status

Results from the Labour Force Survey for the second quarter of 2006 show that the number of employed persons averaged 151,953, while the unemployed were estimated at 12,726. Both these figures imply no statistically significant changes compared to the same period of 2005. The number of inactive persons is estimated to have increased in a statistically significant manner to an estimate of 162,711.

The estimates for April to June 2006 show that out of all persons aged between 15 and 64 years, 58.9 per cent were in the labour force while 54.3 per cent were employed. The unemployment rate is estimated to have averaged 7.7 per cent, implying no significant change over the same period of last year. Persons aged between 15 to 24 are more inclined to be in the labour market, as shown in activity, employment and unemployment rates. Labour market participation for persons aged 15 to 24 is not influenced by gender. However, for higher ages, participation by men is significantly more pronounced than that by women, as Tables 3 and 4 show.

Employed Population

Labour Force Survey results indicate that the age category with the largest proportion of workers was the 25 to 34 year group, with 25.9 per cent of the total. The mean age of employed males was 39 years, whilst that for females worked out at 34 years.

During the second quarter of this year, 17.2 per cent of the employed population worked in the manufacturing sector, whilst 14.5 per cent worked in the wholesale and retail trade. A statistically significant drop was registered in the manufacturing sector, which coincided with a decline in persons working as plant and machine operators. An increase in service workers and shop and sales workers was registered on a year to year comparison.

Information on the average gross annual salary of employees is presented in Tables 9 and 13. For the period April to June 2006, this was estimated at Lm5,360 per annum. The average gross annual salary for full time employees was estimated to be Lm5,633 whereas that of part-time employees was Lm2,819.

Unemployed Population

Labour Force Survey results indicate no significant changes with respect to the unemployed population during the survey period when compared to last year, with the majority of the unemployed being in the 15 to 24 age bracket irrespective of gender.

Among the total number of unemployed in the second quarter of 2006, 43.9 per cent had been looking for a job for over a year, whilst a further 36.5 per cent had been looking for a job for less than 5 months ■

Theme:
**Population and Social
Conditions**

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Table 1. Labour status

Labour status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
April-June 2006						
Employed	104,133	64.9	47,820	28.6	151,953	46.4
Unemployed	7,241	4.5	5,485	3.3	12,726	3.9
Inactive	48,984	30.6	113,727	68.1	162,711	49.7
Total	160,358	100.0	167,032	100.0	327,390	100.0
April-June 2005 (Revised)						
Employed	102,858	65.0	47,873	28.9	150,731	46.5
Unemployed	7,857	4.9	4,984	3.0	12,841	4.0
Inactive	47,608	30.1	112,801	68.1	160,409	49.5
Total	158,323	100.0	165,658	100.0	323,981	100.0

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 2. Distribution of the labour force

Labour status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
April-June 2006						
Employed	104,133	93.5	47,820	89.7	151,953	92.3
Unemployed	7,241	6.5	5,485	10.3	12,726	7.7
Total	111,374	100.0	53,305	100.0	164,679	100.0
April-June 2005 (Revised)						
Employed	102,858	92.9	47,873	90.6	150,731	92.1
Unemployed	7,857	7.1	4,984	9.4	12,841	7.9
Total	110,715	100.0	52,857	100.0	163,572	100.0

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 3. Activity rates by age groups

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
April-June 2006			
15-24	54.9	49.0	52.0
25-54	93.8	41.5	68.0
55-64	53.2	11.2	31.3
Total	79.1	38.5	58.9
April-June 2005 (Revised)			
15-24	57.0	54.3	55.7
25-54	93.6	38.6	66.4
55-64	55.1	15.4	34.4
Total	79.9	38.5	59.2

Labour force (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).

Table 4. Employment rates by age groups

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
April-June 2006			
15-24	45.3	39.9	42.6
25-54	89.3	38.6	64.3
55-64	52.1	10.6	30.5
Total	73.9	34.5	54.3
April-June 2005 (Revised)			
15-24	47.4	43.6	45.6
25-54	88.7	36.6	62.9
55-64	51.9	15.4	32.9
Total	74.2	34.8	54.5

Persons in employment (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).

Table 5. Unemployment rates by age groups

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
April-June 2006			
15-24	17.6	18.6	18.1
25+	4.4	6.9	5.1
Total	6.5	10.3	7.7
April-June 2005 (Revised)			
15-24	16.8	19.6	18.1
25+	5.3	4.8	5.1
Total	7.1	9.4	7.9

Unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

Table 6. Age distribution of total employed persons

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
April-June 2006						
15-24	14,554	14.0	12,512	26.2	27,066	17.8
25-34	24,758	23.8	14,670	30.7	39,428	25.9
35-44	24,990	24.0	9,338	19.5	34,328	22.6
45-54	28,376	27.2	8,915	18.6	37,291	24.6
55-64	10,295	9.9	2,276	4.8	12,571	8.3
65+	1,160 ^U	1.1	109 ^U	0.2	1,269 ^U	0.8
Total	104,133	100.0	47,820	100.0	151,953	100.0
April-June 2005 (Revised)						
15-24	14,692	14.3	13,200	27.6	27,892	18.5
25-34	24,297	23.6	13,742	28.7	38,039	25.2
35-44	25,164	24.4	8,878	18.5	34,042	22.6
45-54	27,559	26.8	8,562	17.9	36,121	24.0
55-64	10,164	9.9	3,293	6.9	13,457	8.9
65+	982 ^U	1.0	198 ^U	0.4	1,180 ^U	0.8
Total	102,858	100.0	47,873	100.0	150,731	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 7. Total employed persons classified by economic activity in April-June 2006

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	2,111	2.0	118 ^U	0.2	2,229	1.5
Fishing	467 ^U	0.5	-	-	467 ^U	0.3
Mining and quarrying	766 ^U	0.7	-	-	766 ^U	0.5
Manufacturing	19,385	18.6	6,793	14.2	26,178	17.2
Electricity, gas and water supply	3,288	3.2	267 ^U	0.6	3,555	2.4
Construction	12,796	12.3	168 ^U	0.4	12,964	8.5
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	16,026	15.4	7,690	16.1	23,716	15.6
Hotels and restaurants	7,931	7.6	3,124	6.5	11,055	7.3
Transport, storage and communication	8,513	8.2	2,174	4.6	10,687	7.0
Financial intermediation	3,029	2.9	2,887	6.0	5,916	3.9
Real estate, renting and business activities	6,162	5.9	2,483	5.2	8,645	5.7
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	9,150	8.8	4,842	10.1	13,992	9.2
Education	4,612	4.4	8,316	17.4	12,928	8.5
Health and social work	6,050	5.8	6,467	13.5	12,517	8.2
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,659	3.5	2,291	4.8	5,950	3.9
Private households with employed persons	-	-	104 ^U	0.2	104 ^U	0.1
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	188 ^U	0.2	96 ^U	0.2	284 ^U	0.2
Total	104,133	100.0	47,820	100.0	151,953	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 April-June 2005 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	2,249	2.2	240 ^U	0.5	2,489	1.7
Fishing	298 ^U	0.3	-	-	298 ^U	0.2
Mining and quarrying	689 ^U	0.7	-	-	689 ^U	0.5
Manufacturing	21,319	20.7	8,688	18.1	30,007	19.9
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,360	2.3	-	-	2,360	1.6
Construction	10,824	10.5	517 ^U	1.1	11,341	7.5
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	14,995	14.6	7,314	15.3	22,309	14.8
Hotels and restaurants	8,224	8.0	3,747	7.8	11,971	7.9
Transport, storage and communication	8,201	8.0	3,043	6.3	11,244	7.5
Financial intermediation	3,380	3.3	3,089	6.5	6,469	4.3
Real estate, renting and business activities	5,669	5.5	2,654	5.5	8,323	5.5
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	10,224	9.9	2,571	5.4	12,795	8.5
Education	4,779	4.6	6,353	13.3	11,132	7.4
Health and social work	5,427	5.3	6,370	13.3	11,797	7.8
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,948	3.8	3,044	6.4	6,992	4.6
Private households with employed persons	-	-	162 ^U	0.3	162 ^U	0.1
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	272 ^U	0.3	81 ^U	0.2	353 ^U	0.2
Total	102,858	100.0	47,873	100.0	150,731	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 9. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity in April-June 2006

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Lm
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1,140 ^U	4,864.84 ^U	54 ^U	5,000.00 ^U	1,194 ^U	4,870.95 ^U
Fishing	101 ^U	4,232.56 ^U	-	-	101 ^U	4,232.56 ^U
Mining and quarrying	766 ^U	4,680.21 ^U	-	-	766 ^U	4,680.21 ^U
Manufacturing	17,059	5,438.02	6,736	4,519.75	23,795	5,178.07
Electricity, gas and water supply	3,288	5,994.41	267 ^U	6,829.69 ^U	3,555	6,057.15
Construction	9,453	4,658.51	168 ^U	4,338.80 ^U	9,621	4,652.93
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	9,576	4,615.34	6,329	3,768.62	15,905	4,278.41
Hotels and restaurants	7,220	4,566.66	2,918	3,964.51	10,138	4,393.34
Transport, storage and communication	7,251	6,542.31	2,078	5,991.86	9,329	6,419.70
Financial intermediation	2,903	7,999.43	2,887	6,275.77	5,790	7,139.98
Real estate, renting and business activities	4,611	6,339.64	1,954	4,967.13	6,565	5,931.13
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	8,999	6,208.75	4,775	5,450.67	13,774	5,945.95
Education	4,386	6,144.10	8,316	5,759.76	12,702	5,892.47
Health and social work	5,463	5,946.13	6,467	4,954.35	11,930	5,408.51
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,353	5,165.01	1,653	4,191.82	5,006	4,843.66
Private households with employed persons	-	-	49 ^U	4,200.00 ^U	49 ^U	4,200.00 ^U
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	188 ^U	6,138.63 ^U	-	-	188 ^U	6,138.63 ^U
Total	85,757	5,561.17	44,651	4,973.29	130,408	5,359.88

^U - under-represented

Table 10. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity in April-June 2005 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Lm
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1,488 ^U	4,558.58 ^U	-	-	1,488 ^U	4,558.58 ^U
Fishing	208 ^U	4,810.00 ^U	-	-	208 ^U	4,810.00 ^U
Mining and quarrying	689 ^U	4,204.65 ^U	-	-	689 ^U	4,204.65 ^U
Manufacturing	18,858	5,276.07	8,608	4,294.88	27,466	4,968.56
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,360	5,877.02	-	-	2,360	5,877.02
Construction	7,928	4,937.97	423 ^U	4,471.12 ^U	8,351	4,914.32
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	9,275	4,687.38	6,040	3,770.66	15,315	4,325.84
Hotels and restaurants	7,125	4,892.83	3,538	3,545.73	10,663	4,445.86
Transport, storage and communication	7,045	6,106.63	2,837	4,615.74	9,882	5,678.61
Financial intermediation	3,240	7,860.24	3,089	6,444.91	6,329	7,169.46
Real estate, renting and business activities	4,557	7,111.78	2,353	4,641.22	6,910	6,270.50
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	9,907	5,770.71	2,571	5,776.10	12,478	5,771.82
Education	4,694	6,651.76	6,274	5,177.37	10,968	5,808.37
Health and social work	5,021	5,764.42	6,147	4,783.47	11,168	5,224.49
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,337	5,276.27	2,050	4,267.67	5,387	4,892.45
Private households with employed persons	-	-	81 ^U	3,420.00 ^U	81 ^U	3,420.00 ^U
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	272 ^U	5,626.47 ^U	81 ^U	3,023.26 ^U	353 ^U	5,029.13 ^U
Total	86,004	5,569.47	44,092	4,629.25	130,096	5,250.64

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 11. Main occupation of total employed persons in April-June 2006

Occupational group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Armed Forces	1,522 ^u	1.5	-	-	1,522 ^u	1.0
Legislators, senior officials and managers	10,893	10.5	2,940	6.1	13,833	9.1
Professionals	9,810	9.4	7,482	15.6	17,292	11.4
Technicians and associate professionals	14,642	14.1	9,084	19.0	23,726	15.6
Clerks	7,589	7.3	10,170	21.3	17,759	11.7
Service workers and shop and sales workers	14,639	14.1	9,597	20.1	24,236	15.9
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	2,035	1.9	64 ^u	0.1	2,099	1.4
Craft and related trades workers	19,914	19.1	516 ^u	1.1	20,430	13.4
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,975	8.6	4,183	8.8	13,158	8.7
Elementary occupations	14,114	13.5	3,784	7.9	17,898	11.8
Total	104,133	100.0	47,820	100.0	151,953	100.0

^u - under-represented

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons in April-June 2005 (Revised)

Occupational group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Armed Forces	1,992 ^u	2.0	164 ^u	0.3	2,156	1.4
Legislators, senior officials and managers	11,804	11.5	2,181	4.6	13,985	9.3
Professionals	10,054	9.8	7,186	15.0	17,240	11.4
Technicians and associate professionals	14,410	14.0	8,028	16.8	22,438	14.9
Clerks	7,822	7.6	10,889	22.7	18,711	12.4
Service workers and shop and sales workers	12,162	11.8	9,087	19.0	21,249	14.1
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	1,350 ^u	1.3	240 ^u	0.5	1,590 ^u	1.1
Craft and related trades workers	19,860	19.3	430 ^u	0.9	20,290	13.5
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	10,198	9.9	5,097	10.6	15,295	10.1
Elementary occupations	13,206	12.8	4,571	9.6	17,777	11.8
Total	102,858	100.0	47,873	100.0	150,731	100.0

^u - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 13. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation in April-June 2006

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm
Armed Forces	1,522 ^U	5,431.62 ^U	-	-	1,522 ^U	5,431.62 ^U
Legislators, senior officials and managers	6,448	8,962.36	2,037	7,174.33	8,485	8,533.11
Professionals	8,384	7,450.76	7,333	6,881.62	15,717	7,185.22
Technicians and associate professionals	13,102	6,296.78	8,689	5,269.63	21,791	5,887.21
Clerks	7,589	5,082.17	10,103	4,642.15	17,692	4,830.90
Service workers and shop and sales workers	11,435	4,582.24	8,303	3,810.67	19,738	4,257.67
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	710 ^U	4,403.16 ^U	-	-	710 ^U	4,403.16 ^U
Craft and related trades workers	14,659	4,697.70	377 ^U	5,572.62 ^U	15,036	4,719.64
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,149	5,226.77	4,183	4,363.27	12,332	4,933.87
Elementary occupations	13,759	4,385.22	3,626	3,393.64	17,385	4,178.41
Total	85,757	5,561.17	44,651	4,973.29	130,408	5,359.88

^U - under-represented

Table 14. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation in April-June 2005 (Revised)

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm
Armed Forces	1,992 ^U	5,362.87 ^U	164 ^U	4,549.52 ^U	2,156	5,301.00
Legislators, senior officials and managers	7,645	9,133.81	1,387	7,004.68	9,032	8,806.85
Professionals	8,564	7,175.38	6,549	6,299.30	15,113	6,794.00
Technicians and associate professionals	13,007	5,986.61	7,956	5,282.49	20,963	5,719.37
Clerks	7,653	4,797.38	10,637	4,439.29	18,290	4,589.12
Service workers and shop and sales workers	9,877	4,892.40	7,672	3,331.16	17,549	4,209.87
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	546 ^U	4,084.93 ^U	-	-	546 ^U	4,084.93 ^U
Craft and related trades workers	14,580	4,832.60	377 ^U	3,338.91 ^U	14,957	4,794.95
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,333	4,880.96	5,032	4,242.26	14,365	4,657.23
Elementary occupations	12,807	4,372.51	4,318	3,470.70	17,125	4,145.12
Total	86,004	5,569.47	44,092	4,629.25	130,096	5,250.64

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

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

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
April-June 2006						
Self-employed without employees	11,924	11.5	2,106	4.4	14,030	9.2
Self-employed with employees	6,452	6.2	992 ^U	2.1	7,444	4.9
Employee	85,757	82.3	44,651	93.4	130,408	85.8
Family worker	-	-	71 ^U	0.1	71 ^U	0.1
Total	104,133	100.0	47,820	100.0	151,953	100.0
April-June 2005 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	10,628	10.3	2,847	5.9	13,475	8.9
Self-employed with employees	6,226	6.1	855 ^U	1.8	7,081	4.7
Employee	86,004	83.6	44,092	92.1	130,096	86.3
Family worker	-	-	79 ^U	0.2	79 ^U	0.1
Total	102,858	100.0	47,873	100.0	150,731	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 16. Type of employment (main occupation)

Type of employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
April-June 2006						
Full-time job	99,461	95.5	37,403	78.2	136,864	90.1
Full-time with reduced hours job	138 ^U	0.1	1,586 ^U	3.3	1,724 ^U	1.1
Part-time job	4,534	4.4	8,831	18.5	13,365	8.8
Total	104,133	100.0	47,820	100.0	151,953	100.0
April-June 2005 (Revised)						
Full-time job	98,062	95.3	38,729	80.9	136,791	90.8
Full-time with reduced hours job	215 ^U	0.2	1,165 ^U	2.4	1,380 ^U	0.9
Part-time job	4,581	4.5	7,979	16.7	12,560	8.3
Total	102,858	100.0	47,873	100.0	150,731	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 17. Total employed persons classified by economic sector

Economic sector	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
April-June 2006						
Private	73,025	70.1	30,627	64.0	103,652	68.2
Public majority	3,935	3.8	1,424 ^U	3.0	5,359	3.5
Independent statutory bodies	8,839	8.5	2,281	4.8	11,120	7.3
Government departments and ministries	18,334	17.6	13,488	28.2	31,822	21.0
Total	104,133	100.0	47,820	100.0	151,953	100.0
April-June 2005 (Revised)						
Private	68,239	66.3	33,124	69.2	101,363	67.2
Public majority	4,394	4.3	1,475 ^U	3.1	5,869	3.9
Independent statutory bodies	9,253	9.0	1,728	3.6	10,981	7.3
Government departments and ministries	20,972	20.4	11,546	24.1	32,518	21.6
Total	102,858	100.0	47,873	100.0	150,731	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 18. Unemployed persons classified by age groups

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
April-June 2006						
15-24	3,103	42.9	2,867	52.3	5,970	46.9
25-34	1,083 ^u	15.0	1,461 ^u	26.6	2,544	20.0
35-44	1,205 ^u	16.6	236 ^u	4.3	1,441 ^u	11.3
45-54	1,632 ^u	22.5	789 ^u	14.4	2,421	19.0
55-64	218 ^u	3.0	132 ^u	2.4	350 ^u	2.8
Total	7,241	100.0	5,485	100.0	12,726	100.0
April-June 2005 (Revised)						
15-24	2,962	37.7	3,221	64.6	6,183	48.2
25-34	1,502 ^u	19.1	889 ^u	17.8	2,391	18.6
35-44	957 ^u	12.2	408 ^u	8.2	1,365 ^u	10.6
45-54	1,816	23.1	466 ^u	9.4	2,282	17.8
55-64	620 ^u	7.9	-	-	620 ^u	4.8
Total	7,857	100.0	4,984	100.0	12,841	100.0

^u - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 19. Duration of job search of unemployed persons

Duration	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
April-June 2006						
Less than 5 months	1,899	26.2	2,750	50.1	4,649	36.5
6 - 11 months	1,164 ^u	16.1	1,322 ^u	24.1	2,486	19.6
12 + months	4,178	57.7	1,413 ^u	25.8	5,591	43.9
Total	7,241	100.0	5,485	100.0	12,726	100.0
April-June 2005 (Revised)						
Less than 5 months	2,270	28.9	2,497	50.1	4,767	37.1
6 - 11 months	1,224 ^u	15.6	686 ^u	13.8	1,910	14.9
12 + months	4,363	55.5	1,801	36.1	6,164	48.0
Total	7,857	100.0	4,984	100.0	12,841	100.0

^u - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

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. Data for 2005 were revised to correct for sample bias arising out of differential non response and non representative probabilities of selection. All data contained within this release refers to persons aged 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.

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. 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	151,953	1.64	± 4892
Employment Rate (%)	54.3	1.51	± 1.61
Unemployment	12,726	7.82	± 1951
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.7	7.69	± 1.16
Inactive	162,711	1.40	± 4478
Activity Rate (%)	58.9	1.39	± 1.61

The above table give indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 151,953 and the coefficient of variation is 1.64 per cent. For the period April to June 2006, the 95% confidence interval was ±4892 persons. Hence, the figure lies between 147,061 and 156,845 persons.