

# News Release



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## Labour Force Survey

January 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 November, December 2005 and January 2006. Data has been grossed up separately for each month and a combined average for producing January 2006 data was worked out. For further details, the methodological notes on the end pages of this release should be consulted.

### Labour Status

For the first month of 2006, the number of persons over 15 years was estimated to be 324,702. Table 1 shows that the majority or 50.7 per cent were inactive. The total number of employed persons reached 147,907 persons or 45.5 per cent of all persons over 15 years. Additionally, the total number of unemployed for the three months to January 2006 reached 12,229 persons.

Table 2 shows that for the three months to January 2006, 58 persons out of every 100 of the working population aged between 15 to 64 years were in the labour force (activity rate). The activity rate for males stood at 79.5 per cent whilst that of females reached 36 per cent.

The employment rate is defined as the number of employed aged between 15 to 64 years as a percentage of the working age population. For the first month of 2006, the total employment rate stood at 53.4. The male employment rate was 74 per cent whilst the female employment rate reached 32.6 per cent.

Table 4 shows the unemployment rate, which is the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The total unemployment rate was estimated to be 7.6 per cent. The unemployment rate for males was 6.9 per cent whilst that for females stood at 9.4 per cent.

The number of employed persons were categorized by professional status in table 5. The majority or 85.4 per cent were employees of whom 66.8 per cent were males and 33.2 per cent were females. The total number of self employed reached 21,462 persons. The total number of males self employed was 18,810 persons or 87.6 per cent of the total self employed. On the other hand, the number of female self employed persons stood at 2,652 persons or 12.4 per cent of the total self employed.

Table 6 shows the number of employed persons by broad economic activity. The number of persons working in the agriculture sector reached 3,449 persons, whilst a further 44,169 persons worked in the industry sector. The majority of persons or 67.8 per cent of the total employed worked in the services sector ■

Theme:  
Population and Social  
Conditions

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Table 1. Labour status

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>January 2006</b>						
Employed	103,212	64.8	44,694	27.0	147,907	45.5
Unemployed	7,606	4.8	4,623	2.8	12,229	3.8
Inactive	48,431	30.4	116,136	70.2	164,566	50.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>159,249</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>165,453</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>324,702</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>January 2005</b>						
Employed	103,100	65.4	46,295	28.2	149,395	46.1
Unemployed	6,740	4.2	4,256	2.6	10,996	3.7
Inactive	47,878	30.4	113,715	69.2	161,594	50.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>157,719</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>164,266</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>321,985</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 2. Activity rate

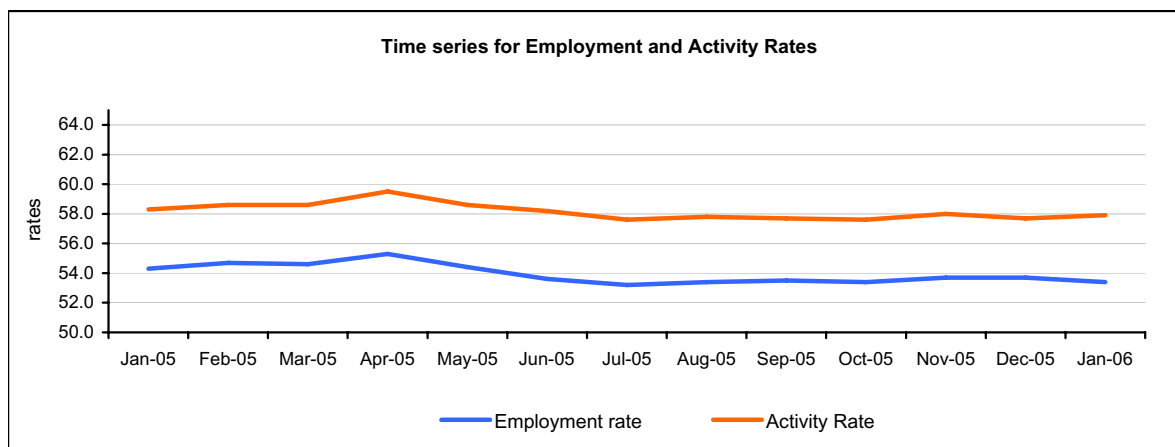
	Males	Females	Total
January 2006	79.5	36.0	57.9
January 2005	79.3	37.1	58.3

Table 3. Employment rate

	Males	Females	Total
January 2006	74.0	32.6	53.4
January 2005	74.3	34.0	54.3

Table 4. Unemployment rate

	Males	Females	Total
January 2006	6.9	9.4	7.6
January 2005	6.1	8.4	6.9



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

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>January 2006</b>						
Self-employed without employees	12,562	12.2	1,648	3.7	14,210	9.6
Self-employed with employees	6,248	6.0	1,004 <sup>u</sup>	2.2	7,252	4.9
Employee	84,402	81.8	41,961	93.9	126,363	85.4
Family worker	-	-	81 <sup>u</sup>	0.2	81 <sup>u</sup>	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,212</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44,694</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>147,907</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>January 2005</b>						
Self-employed without employees	11,880	11.5	2,341	5.1	14,221	9.4
Self-employed with employees	6,481	6.3	738 <sup>u</sup>	1.6	7,219	4.8
Employee	84,740	82.2	43,139	93.2	127,879	85.7
Family worker	-	-	77 <sup>u</sup>	0.2	77 <sup>u</sup>	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,100</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>46,295</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>149,395</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>u</sup> - under-represented

**Table 6. Type of employment (main occupation)**

Type of Employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>January 2006</b>						
Agriculture	3,366	3.3	83 <sup>u</sup>	0.2	3,449	2.3
Industry	37,998	36.8	6,171	13.8	44,169	29.9
Services	61,848	59.9	38,441	86.0	100,289	67.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,212</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44,694</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>147,907</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>January 2005</b>						
Agriculture	2,625	2.5	205 <sup>u</sup>	0.4	2,830	1.9
Industry	35,558	34.5	8,803	19.0	44,361	29.7
Services	64,917	63.0	37,287	80.5	102,204	68.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,100</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>46,295</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>149,395</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>u</sup> - 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 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**

	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Coefficient of Variation</b>	<b>Variability</b>
Employment	147,907	1.63	± 2403
Employment Rate (%)	53.4	1.53	± 0.82
Unemployment	12,229	7.53	± 916
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.6	5.18	± 0.39
Inactive	164,566	1.46	± 2413
Activity Rate (%)	57.9	1.40	± 0.80

The above table gives indications on the coefficient of variation and sampling variability. For example the LFS estimate for employment is 147,907 and the coefficient of variation is 1.63%. For the three months to January 2006, the sampling variability of employment was ± 2403 persons. Hence, the true figure lies between 145,504 and 150,310 persons.