

News Release

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Labour Market



Labour Force Survey: January-March 2008

For the first quarter 2008, the Labour Force Survey showed that there was a statistically significant change in the average employment over the previous year.

The Labour Force Survey is an enquiry which is carried out using a random sample of 3,200 private households per quarter. 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 refer to persons 15 years and over.

As from 2008, the weighting procedures are based on 2007 population estimates, which are calculated using the Census of Population and Housing 2005 as a benchmark. The first quarter 2007 estimates were revised accordingly to reflect the above methodology and therefore, are not to be compared to previous data that were worked out using the 1995 Census as a benchmark.

Labour Status

For the first quarter of 2008, the number of persons over 15 years was estimated to be 344,046. Of these 157,777 or 45.9 per cent were employed, 10,137 were unemployed and 176,132 persons were inactive.

In the period January to March 2008, out of every 100 persons between the age of 15 and 64, 58 were either working or unemployed (activity rate). The total activity rate remained stable when compared to the period January to March 2007 (58.1%).

With regard to employment for the first quarter 2008, 55 from every 100 persons between the age of 15 and 64 were working. In this regard, the employment rate for males was 72.8 per cent whereas that of females stood at 36 per cent. For persons in the 15 to 24 age bracket, the employment rate stood at 45.9 per cent.

The Employed Population

During the first quarter of this year, there was a statistically significant increase in the number of employed persons when compared to the same period in 2007. Most of this increase was attributed to females.

For the period under review, the majority of employed persons worked in the manufacturing or wholesale and retail trade; repairs sector. Additionally, the most common occupations were in the technicians and associate professionals category and in services related jobs.

Information related to employee income is now being illustrated in Euro. During the first quarter of 2008, the average gross annual salary was estimated at €13,299.45 per annum equivalent to Lm5,709.45. Better paid jobs were estimated to be in the financial intermediation sector with an average of €17,992 per annum.

Table 15 illustrates a significant increase in the total number of employees for the first quarter of 2008, when compared to the same period last year. In addition, the rise in employment was also reflected in a statistical significant increase in the number of full time employment (Table 16).

The Unemployed Population

For the first three months of 2008, the total number of unemployed persons was estimated to be 10,137 persons.

Among the total number of unemployed in 2008, 51.0 per cent had been looking for a job for over a year, whilst a further 33.1 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	%
January-March 2008						
Employed	106,673	62.8	51,104	29.3	157,777	45.9
Unemployed	6,143	3.6	3,994	2.3	10,137	2.9
Inactive	57,054	33.6	119,078	68.4	176,132	51.2
Total	169,870	100.0	174,176	100.0	344,046	100.0
January-March 2007 (Revised)						
Employed	105,482	62.9	47,674	27.8	153,156	45.1
Unemployed	8,155	4.9	3,840	2.2	11,995	3.6
Inactive	53,944	32.2	120,273	70.0	174,217	51.3
Total	167,581	100.0	171,787	100.0	339,368	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	%
January-March 2008						
Employed	106,673	94.6	51,104	92.8	157,777	94.0
Unemployed	6,143	5.4	3,994	7.2	10,137	6.0
Total	112,816	100.0	55,098	100.0	167,914	100.0
January-March 2007 (Revised)						
Employed	105,482	92.8	47,674	92.5	153,156	92.7
Unemployed	8,155	7.2	3,840	7.5	11,995	7.3
Total	113,637	100.0	51,514	100.0	165,151	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

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

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
January-March 2008			
15-24	56.2	48.4	52.4
25-54	94.2	43.9	69.7
55-64	45.5	15.6	30.1
Total	77.0	38.8	58.2
January-March 2007 (Revised)			
15-24	61.4	42.9	52.4
25-54	95.4	43.6	70.1
55-64	43.6	11.1	27.1
Total	78.6	37.0	58.1

Table 4. Employment Rates by age groups

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

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	
January-March 2008			
15-24	47.8	43.9	45.9
25-54	90.5	41.0	66.3
55-64	44.3	14.7	29.1
Total	72.8	36.0	54.7
January-March 2007 (Revised)			
15-24	49.6	38.4	44.1
25-54	90.4	40.7	66.1
55-64	42.5	10.6	26.3
Total	72.9	34.2	53.9

Table 5. Unemployment Rates by age groups

Unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	
January-March 2008			
15-24	15.0	9.2	12.4
25+	3.8	6.6	4.6
Total	5.4	7.2	6.0
January-March 2007 (Revised)			
15-24	18.3	9.5	14.7
25+	4.9	6.9	5.4
Total	7.2	7.6	7.3

Table 6. Age distribution of total employed persons

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
January-March 2008						
15-24	14,244	13.3	12,517	24.5	26,761	17.0
25-34	29,201	27.4	17,151	33.5	46,352	29.4
35-44	24,085	22.6	10,025	19.6	34,110	21.6
45-54	26,000	24.4	6,987	13.7	32,987	20.9
55-64	12,564	11.8	4,375	8.6	16,939	10.7
65+	579 ^U	0.5	49 ^U	0.1	628 ^U	0.4
Total	106,673	100.0	51,104	100.0	157,777	100.0
January-March 2007 (Revised)						
15-24	14,798	14.1	10,833	22.7	25,631	16.7
25-34	27,451	26.0	16,993	35.6	44,444	29.0
35-44	25,025	23.7	9,035	19.0	34,060	22.3
45-54	26,025	24.7	7,857	16.5	33,882	22.1
55-64	11,519	10.9	2,956	6.2	14,475	9.5
65+	664 ^U	0.6	-	-	664 ^U	0.4
Total	105,482	100.0	47,674	100.0	153,156	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution
 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 January-March 2008

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	2,474	2.3	112 ^U	0.2	2,586	1.6
Fishing	153 ^U	0.1	-	-	153 ^U	0.1
Mining and quarrying	392 ^U	0.4	-	-	392 ^U	0.2
Manufacturing	19,455	18.2	5,295	10.4	24,750	15.7
Electricity, gas and water supply	3,679	3.4	106 ^U	0.2	3,785	2.4
Construction	11,559	10.8	511 ^U	1.0	12,070	7.7
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	16,702	15.7	8,145	15.9	24,847	15.7
Hotels and restaurants	7,748	7.3	5,013	9.8	12,761	8.1
Transport, storage and communication	9,303	8.7	3,287	6.4	12,590	8.0
Financial intermediation	2,486	2.3	3,345	6.5	5,831	3.7
Real estate, renting and business activities	7,631	7.2	3,641	7.1	11,272	7.1
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	9,505	8.9	4,380	8.6	13,885	8.8
Education	4,601	4.3	8,125	15.9	12,726	8.1
Health and social work	5,926	5.6	6,125	12.0	12,051	7.6
Other community, social and personal service activities	4,843	4.6	2,796	5.5	7,639	4.9
Private households with employed persons	-	-	90 ^U	0.2	90 ^U	0.1
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	216 ^U	0.2	133 ^U	0.3	349 ^U	0.2
Total	106,673	100.0	51,104	100.0	157,777	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution

Table 8. Total employed persons classified by economic activity in January-March 2007 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1,776	1.7	144 ^U	0.3	1,920	1.2
Fishing	239 ^U	0.2	-	-	239 ^U	0.2
Mining and quarrying	408 ^U	0.4	-	-	408 ^U	0.3
Manufacturing	18,982	18.0	6,366	13.4	25,348	16.5
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,603	2.5	91 ^U	0.2	2,694	1.7
Construction	11,658	11.1	371 ^U	0.8	12,029	7.9
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	17,427	16.5	7,069	14.8	24,496	16.0
Hotels and restaurants	8,312	7.9	3,750	7.9	12,062	7.9
Transport, storage and communication	9,967	9.4	2,024	4.2	11,991	7.8
Financial intermediation	3,805	3.6	4,149	8.7	7,954	5.2
Real estate, renting and business activities	7,326	6.9	3,013	6.3	10,339	6.8
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	9,662	9.2	4,277	9.0	13,939	9.1
Education	4,387	4.2	8,800	18.4	13,187	8.6
Health and social work	5,677	5.4	5,080	10.6	10,757	7.0
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,064	2.9	2,224	4.7	5,288	3.5
Private households with employed persons	35 ^U	0.0	276 ^U	0.6	311 ^U	0.2
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	154 ^U	0.1	40 ^U	0.1	194 ^U	0.1
Total	105,482	100.0	47,674	100.0	153,156	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution

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 January-March 2008

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Euro
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	952 ^U	13,973.24 ^U	60 ^U	7,221.06 ^U	1,012 ^U	13,572.92 ^U
Fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining and quarrying	392 ^U	18,335.78 ^U	-	-	392 ^U	18,335.78 ^U
Manufacturing	17,292	13,259.74	5,136	11,744.22	22,428	12,912.69
Electricity, gas and water supply	3,637	15,345.91	106 ^U	13,258.31 ^U	3,743	15,286.79
Construction	8,285	11,126.15	434 ^U	10,583.41 ^U	8,719	11,099.14
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	11,595	12,896.75	7,099	9,501.03	18,694	11,607.23
Hotels and restaurants	6,782	11,809.21	4,913	8,876.98	11,695	10,577.40
Transport, storage and communication	8,496	16,241.65	3,287	12,276.97	11,783	15,135.66
Financial intermediation	2,363	22,594.94	3,345	14,740.10	5,708	17,991.85
Real estate, renting and business activities	5,409	16,027.74	3,315	12,435.16	8,724	14,662.61
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	9,432	13,996.23	4,236	12,541.12	13,668	13,545.26
Education	4,523	16,831.28	8,125	13,019.32	12,648	14,382.50
Health and social work	5,743	15,921.05	5,959	10,656.40	11,702	13,240.14
Other community, social and personal service activities	4,417	15,071.15	1,708	10,254.66	6,125	13,728.04
Private households with employed persons	-	-	43 ^U	3,436.64 ^U	43 ^U	3,436.64 ^U
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	216 ^U	18,349.22 ^U	133 ^U	25,855.72 ^U	349 ^U	21,209.86 ^U
Total	89,534	14,246.89	47,899	11,528.47	137,433	13,299.45

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution

Table 10. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity in January-March 2007 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Euro
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	666 ^U	13,437.06 ^U	101 ^U	13,976.24 ^U	787 ^U	13,506.25 ^U
Fishing	128 ^U	9,617.60 ^U	-	-	128 ^U	9,617.60 ^U
Mining and quarrying	368 ^U	12,894.05 ^U	-	-	368 ^U	12,894.05 ^U
Manufacturing	17,632	13,119.22	6,212	10,473.62	23,844	12,429.97
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,603	13,658.64	91 ^U	12,574.78 ^U	2,694	13,622.03
Construction	7,420	10,767.96	371 ^U	12,732.91 ^U	7,791	10,861.53
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	11,902	12,133.37	6,133	9,239.20	18,035	11,149.18
Hotels and restaurants	6,918	11,694.26	3,598	8,818.76	10,516	10,710.42
Transport, storage and communication	8,858	15,972.98	1,688 ^U	12,184.89 ^U	10,546	15,366.65
Financial intermediation	3,549	21,166.82	4,108	14,532.07	7,657	17,607.26
Real estate, renting and business activities	5,788	14,674.77	2,536	13,998.10	8,324	14,468.62
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	9,662	13,308.03	4,277	12,569.44	13,939	13,081.40
Education	4,308	14,557.25	8,726	12,790.43	13,034	13,374.40
Health and social work	5,496	14,794.25	4,887	11,544.56	10,383	13,264.71
Other community, social and personal service activities	2,825	12,807.03	1,618 ^U	8,866.21 ^U	4,443	11,371.91
Private households with employed persons	35 ^U	5,450.73 ^U	198 ^U	9,144.62 ^U	233 ^U	8,589.75 ^U
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	154 ^U	22,132.07 ^U	40 ^U	11,893.78 ^U	194 ^U	20,021.08 ^U
Total	88,332	13,598.76	44,584	11,549.43	132,916	12,911.36

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution

Table 11. Main occupation of total employed persons in January-March 2008

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Armed Forces	2,106	2.0	-	-	2,106	1.3
Legislators, senior officials and managers	9,826	9.2	2,183	4.3	12,009	7.6
Professionals	11,423	10.7	8,081	15.8	19,504	12.3
Technicians and associate professionals	16,949	15.9	8,711	17.0	25,660	16.3
Clerks	6,725	6.3	12,311	24.1	19,036	12.1
Service workers and shop and sales workers	13,718	12.8	9,974	19.5	23,692	15.0
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	2,022	1.9	52 ^u	0.1	2,074	1.3
Craft and related trades workers	20,981	19.7	262 ^u	0.5	21,243	13.5
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,572	9.0	3,351	6.6	12,923	8.2
Elementary occupations	13,351	12.5	6,179	12.1	19,530	12.4
Total	106,673	100.0	51,104	100.0	157,777	100.0

^u - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons in January-March 2007 (Revised)

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Armed Forces	2,446	2.3	-	-	2,446	1.6
Legislators, senior officials and managers	9,881	9.4	2,015	4.2	11,896	7.8
Professionals	9,128	8.7	9,209	19.3	18,337	12.0
Technicians and associate professionals	16,090	15.3	9,211	19.3	25,301	16.5
Clerks	7,762	7.4	10,698	22.4	18,460	12.0
Service workers and shop and sales workers	15,117	14.3	7,818	16.4	22,935	15.0
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	1,658 ^u	1.6	43 ^u	0.1	1,701 ^u	1.1
Craft and related trades workers	20,615	19.5	490 ^u	1.0	21,105	13.8
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,513	9.0	3,784	7.9	13,297	8.7
Elementary occupations	13,272	12.6	4,406	9.2	17,678	11.5
Total	105,482	100.0	47,674	100.0	153,156	100.0

^u - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

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 January-March 2008

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Euro
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro		
Armed Forces	2,106	11,623.10	-	-	2,106	11,623.10
Legislators, senior officials and managers	7,218	23,444.18	1,724	18,249.24	8,942	22,442.60
Professionals	10,034	18,722.36	7,533	15,455.18	17,567	17,321.34
Technicians and associate professionals	15,161	15,890.32	8,533	13,360.15	23,694	14,979.12
Clerks	6,697	12,758.97	12,127	10,986.46	18,824	11,617.07
Service workers and shop and sales workers	10,780	12,090.23	8,298	8,421.75	19,078	10,494.62
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	431 ^u	9,866.27 ^u	-	-	431 ^u	9,866.27 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	15,323	12,101.66	262 ^u	9,156.77 ^u	15,585	12,052.15
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,958	12,151.98	3,351	10,728.36	12,309	11,764.41
Elementary occupations	12,826	10,820.73	6,071	8,046.19	18,897	9,929.36
Total	89,534	14,246.89	47,899	11,528.47	137,433	13,299.45

^u - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution

Table 14. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation in January-March 2007 (Revised)

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Euro
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro		
Armed Forces	2,446	11,808.15	-	-	2,446	11,808.15
Legislators, senior officials and managers	6,828	23,140.83	1,627 ^u	17,610.92 ^u	8,455	22,076.70
Professionals	8,215	17,525.16	8,605	15,494.12	16,820	16,486.09
Technicians and associate professionals	14,704	15,199.57	8,894	12,229.39	23,598	14,080.12
Clerks	7,762	12,641.96	10,535	11,056.30	18,297	11,728.97
Service workers and shop and sales workers	11,383	11,348.68	6,560	7,603.34	17,943	9,979.37
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	457 ^u	12,271.00 ^u	-	-	457 ^u	12,271.00 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	14,883	11,609.32	335 ^u	9,873.14 ^u	15,218	11,571.10
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,975	11,601.87	3,700	10,220.76	12,675	11,198.70
Elementary occupations	12,679	10,807.53	4,328	8,477.70	17,007	10,214.63
Total	88,332	13,598.76	44,584	11,549.43	132,916	12,911.36

^u - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

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

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January-March 2008						
Self-employed without employees	11,410	10.7	2,384	4.7	13,794	8.7
Self-employed with employees	5,729	5.4	821 ^U	1.6	6,550	4.2
Employee	89,534	83.9	47,899	93.7	137,433	87.1
Family worker	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	106,673	100.0	51,104	100.0	157,777	100.0
January-March 2007 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	11,771	11.2	2,225	4.7	13,996	9.1
Self-employed with employees	5,379	5.1	831 ^U	1.8	6,210	4.1
Employee	88,332	83.7	44,584	93.5	132,916	86.8
Family worker	-	-	34 ^U	0.1	34 ^U	0.0
Total	105,482	100.0	47,674	100.0	153,156	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 16. Type of employment for main occupation

Type of Employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January-March 2008						
Full-time job	101,495	95.1	38,993	76.3	140,488	89.1
Full-time with reduced hours job	269 ^U	0.3	2,909	5.7	3,178	2.0
Part-time job	4,909	4.6	9,202	18.0	14,111	8.9
Total	106,673	100.0	51,104	100.0	157,777	100.0
January-March 2007 (Revised)						
Full-time job	100,565	95.3	36,856	77.3	137,421	89.7
Full-time with reduced hours job	270 ^U	0.3	1,947	4.1	2,217	1.5
Part-time job	4,647	4.4	8,871	18.6	13,518	8.8
Total	105,482	100.0	47,674	100.0	153,156	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. 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	%
January-March 2008						
Private	75,166	70.5	35,430	69.3	110,596	70.1
Public majority	2,968	2.8	560 ^U	1.1	3,528	2.2
Independent statutory bodies	9,423	8.8	2,104	4.1	11,527	7.3
Government departments and ministries	19,116	17.9	13,010	25.5	32,126	20.4
Total	106,673	100.0	51,104	100.0	157,777	100.0
January-March 2007 (Revised)						
Private	74,821	70.9	31,894	66.9	106,715	69.7
Public majority	3,455	3.3	871 ^U	1.8	4,326	2.8
Independent statutory bodies	7,834	7.4	2,365	5.0	10,199	6.7
Government departments and ministries	19,372	18.4	12,544	26.3	31,916	20.8
Total	105,482	100.0	47,674	100.0	153,156	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. 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	%
January-March 2008						
15-24	2,522	41.1	1,265 ^U	31.7	3,787	37.3
25-34	846 ^U	13.8	665 ^U	16.6	1,511 ^U	14.9
35-44	1,122 ^U	18.3	873 ^U	21.9	1,995	19.7
45-54	1,324 ^U	21.5	925 ^U	23.2	2,249	22.2
55-64	329 ^U	5.3	266 ^U	6.6	595 ^U	5.9
Total	6,143	100.0	3,994	100.0	10,137	100.0
January-March 2007 (Revised)						
15-24	3,504	43.0	1,281 ^U	33.4	4,785	39.9
25-34	2,105	25.8	537 ^U	14.0	2,642	22.0
35-44	998 ^U	12.2	1,144 ^U	29.8	2,142	17.9
45-54	1,244 ^U	15.3	738 ^U	19.2	1,982	16.5
55-64	304 ^U	3.7	140 ^U	3.6	444 ^U	3.7
Total	8,155	100.0	3,840	100.0	11,995	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. 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	%
January-March 2008						
Less than 5 months	1,851	30.1	1,506 ^U	37.7	3,357	33.1
6 - 11 months	785 ^U	12.8	823 ^U	20.6	1,608 ^U	15.9
12 + months	3,507	57.1	1,665 ^U	41.7	5,172	51.0
Total	6,143	100.0	3,994	100.0	10,137	100.0
January-March 2007 (Revised)						
Less than 5 months	2,714	33.3	1,906	49.6	4,620	38.5
6 - 11 months	1,076 ^U	13.2	375 ^U	9.8	1,451 ^U	12.1
12 + months	4,365	53.5	1,559 ^U	40.6	5,924	49.4
Total	8,155	100.0	3,840	100.0	11,995	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. 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 3,200 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 2008, the weighting procedures are based on 2007 population estimates, which are calculated using the Census of Population and Housing 2005 as a benchmark. The first quarter 2007 estimates were revised accordingly to reflect the above methodology and therefore, are not to be compared to previous data that were worked out using the 1995 Census as a benchmark. All data contained in 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 on maternity or parental leave, did not work due to slack work for technical or economic reasons, were absent from work for a period of less than 3 months, or were not working because on layoff and receiving at least 50 per cent of the salary/wage.

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.

GROSS ANNUAL SALARY: Refers to the gross annual basic salary received by employees, i.e. excludes payments for overtime, allowances and bonuses. As from 2006, the same method for imputation is used, however it is based on occupational category, type of employment and gender. As from 2008, the average gross annual salary is given in Eurostat.

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 **without work**

actively seeking work during the previous 4 weeks, e.g. includes contacting the ETC, applied directly with an **currently available for work** – available to start work within 2 weeks of the reference week.

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 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	Confidence Interval
Employment	157,777	1.50	± 4,385
Employment Rate (%)	54.7	1.37	± 1.46
Unemployment	10,137	7.51	± 1,499
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.0	7.37	± 0.87
Inactive	176,132	1.22	± 4,412
Activity Rate (%)	58.2	1.27	± 1.44

The above table give indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 157,777 and the coefficient of variation is 1.50 per cent. Hence, the figure lies between 153,392 and 162,162 persons.