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Labour Force estimates indicate that, during 2014, 16,278 migrants aged between 15 and 64 years were in the labour market.

## Labour Force Survey: The Labour Market Situation of Migrants

### Demographic profile

The number of economically-active migrants living in households during 2014 was estimated at 16,278, with males making up 58.1 per cent of the total. Almost 40 per cent of the migrant population had a tertiary level of education, as against 23.2 per cent of the non-migrant component (Table 1).

### Language skills

Three-fourths of the surveyed active migrants had a beginners' level of understanding of the Maltese language; however, the majority did not participate in a language course since they did not deem it to be necessary (Table 3).

### The employed population

Employment rates among migrants resulted as slightly higher than the rates among non-migrants, with the rate for males exceeding that of females for both groups (Table 5).

As Table 7 illustrates, a slightly higher amount of migrants considered themselves to be over-qualified for the job they were engaged in during the time of the interview. Among the employed population, it is estimated that 46.6 per cent of migrants worked in highly skilled non-manual occupations as against 39.5 per cent of non-migrant workers (Table 8). Among persons who had found their current job in the previous five years, the most common method used was through direct contact with the employer, followed by the use of adverts, or through information provided by relatives and friends.

### General information on data

The data provided in this release are extracted from a Labour Force Survey ad hoc module carried out during 2014. The module, which was co-financed by Eurostat, was carried out to fulfil a European Statistical System (ESS) agreement.

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The results in this release refer to persons aged between 15 and 64 years who were economically active during 2014. The data is broken down by whether the person is a migrant or non-migrant. Refer to methodological notes for definition of "migrant" ■

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**Table 1. Demographic profile of employed/unemployed migrants and non-migrants**

	Migrants		Non-migrants		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	9,458	58.1	104,551	61.5	114,009	61.2
Female	6,820	41.9	65,422	38.5	72,242	38.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,278</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>169,973</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186,251</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age group</b>						
15-24	1,330 <sup>u</sup>	8.2 <sup>u</sup>	25,575	15.0	26,905	14.4
25-54	13,316	81.8	122,226	71.9	135,542	72.8
55-64	1,632 <sup>u</sup>	10.0 <sup>u</sup>	22,172	13.0	23,804	12.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,278</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>169,973</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186,251</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Educational attainment</b>						
Primary education or less	:	:	5,533	3.3	5,642	3.0
Secondary education	6,002	36.9	72,467	42.6	78,469	42.1
Post-secondary education	3,754	23.1	52,605	30.9	56,359	30.3
Tertiary education	6,413	39.4	39,368	23.2	45,781	24.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,278</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>169,973</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186,251</b>	<b>100.0</b>

: Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units.

<sup>u</sup> Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49.

**Table 2. Skills in national language for employed/unemployed migrants**

	No.	%
Language is mother tongue	2,345 <sup>u</sup>	14.4 <sup>u</sup>
Advanced/Intermediate	1,788 <sup>u</sup>	11.0 <sup>u</sup>
Beginner or less skilled	12,145	74.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,278</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>u</sup> Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49.

**Table 3. Participation in a Maltese-language course**

	Migrants		Migrants with a basic understanding of the Maltese language	
	No.	%	No.	%
Participated in a language course	2,699 <sup>u</sup>	16.6 <sup>u</sup>	1,460 <sup>u</sup>	12.0 <sup>u</sup>
Not deemed to be necessary to participate in a language course	7,689	47.2	5,834	48.0
Did not participate in a language course for other reasons	5,890	36.2	4,851	39.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,278</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,145</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>u</sup> Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49.

**Table 4. Activity rates by sex and age group**

		<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Migrants</b>	15-24	:	:	48.1 <sup>u</sup>
	25+	90.6	60.6	74.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>71.5</b>
<b>Non-migrants</b>	15-24	51.9	50.5	51.2
	25+	85.5	51.5	68.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>65.4</b>

: Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units.

<sup>u</sup> Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49.

**Table 5. Employment rates by sex and age group**

		<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Migrants</b>	15-24	:	:	:
	25+	83.1	56.6	69.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>64.9</b>
<b>Non-migrants</b>	15-24	45.1	46.1	45.6
	25+	81.1	49.7	65.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>74.2</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>61.8</b>

: Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units.

**Table 6. Unemployment rates by sex for persons aged 15 to 64**

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Migrants</b>	:	:	9.3 <sup>u</sup>
<b>Non-migrants</b>	6.1	4.4 <sup>u</sup>	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.8</b>

: Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units.

<sup>u</sup> Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49.

**Table 7. Perception of job over-qualification by employed migrants and non-migrants**

	Migrants		Non-migrants		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Over-qualified	3,710	25.1	29,614	18.4	33,324	19.0
Not over-qualified	11,058	74.9	131,040	81.6	142,098	81.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,768</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>160,654</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>175,422</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 8. Migrants and non-migrants by main occupation**

	Migrants		Non-migrants		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Highly skilled non-manual occupations	6,888	46.6	63,458	39.5	70,346	40.1
Low skilled non-manual occupations	3,689	25.0	53,341	33.2	57,030	32.5
Skilled manual occupations	2,960 <sup>u</sup>	20.0 <sup>u</sup>	29,526	18.4	32,486	18.5
Elementary occupations	:	:	14,329	8.9	15,560	8.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,768</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>160,654</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>175,422</b>	<b>100.0</b>

: Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units.

<sup>u</sup> Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49.

**Table 9. Method of finding current job by for migrant and non-migrant employees**

	Migrants		Non-migrants		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Via adverts or through relatives or friends	3,313	39.3	22,770	35.7	26,083	36.1
Via an employment agency	:	:	5,275	8.3	5,732	7.9
Through an education or training institution	:	:	2,832 <sup>u</sup>	4.4 <sup>u</sup>	3,010 <sup>u</sup>	4.2 <sup>u</sup>
Through direct contact with employer	3,429	40.6	28,742	45.0	32,171	44.5
Other method	:	:	4,236	6.6	5,297	7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,438</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>63,855</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72,293</b>	<b>100.0</b>

: Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units.

<sup>u</sup> Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49.

Note: This table applies only to those employees who started their employment in the last 5 years.

## Methodological Notes

1. The 2014 ad-hoc module is part of the three-year programme of ad-hoc modules, covering the years 2013, 2014, 2015 and defined by Commission Regulation (EC) No 220/2010. The data provided in this release is based on European Statistical System Agreement concerning the 2014 ad hoc module on the labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants.
2. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is carried out on an ongoing basis using a quarterly gross sample of 3,200 private households. 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. One-fourth of the sample is made up of households who have been selected to participate in the LFS for the first time. Three-fourths of the quarterly sample is made up of households who were selected to participate in the survey in previous instances, either one quarter before, or one year before, or one year and a quarter before (2-(2)-2). Figures provided in this release refer to persons aged 15 to 64 and living in private households during the reference period. All criteria used for this survey match international methodologies used by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
3. 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 results with other EU Member States and countries that follow ILO definitions of employment and unemployment. Occupations are classified according to the ISCO - 08 classification (International Standard Classification of Occupations) whereas the economic activity is classified according to NACE Rev. 2 (Nomenclature générale des Activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes).
4. During 2014, the ad hoc module was carried out on a sample of persons conducting the LFS survey in Quarters 1 and 2. The sample was made up of those persons taking part in the survey for the first and fourth time.

### 5. Definitions:

- **Activity rate:** Labour force (15-64) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).
- **Migrants:** A migrant is defined as a person who has not resided in Malta for at least one year. By default a migrant therefore includes both Maltese-born citizens living in private households who migrated outside the country and are now back in Malta as well as persons living in private households who were not born in Malta but recently migrated to Malta.
- **Employment:** All persons aged 15 to 64 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 employed but absent from work:** reasons include sick leave, 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:** covers persons who run 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.
- **Employment rate:** Persons in employment (15-64) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).
- **Occupation group breakdown**
  - **highly skilled non-manual occupations:** includes legislators, senior officials and managers, professionals, technicians and associate professionals.
  - **low skilled non-manual occupations:** includes clerks, service workers and shop and sales workers and the armed forces.
  - **skilled manual workers:** includes skilled agricultural and fishery workers, craft and related trades workers, plant and machine operators and assemblers.
  - **elementary occupations**
- **Reference week:** The week to which the collected data relates.

- **Unemployment:** 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:** example of active job search include contacting the ETC, applying 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.
- **Unemployment rate:** For the purpose of this release the unemployment rate refers to the number unemployed persons (15-64 years) as a percentage of the labour force (15-64 years).

## 6. Sampling variability

Data in this release is based on sample data and is therefore subject to sampling error. Sampling error is measured by a quantity known as the margin of error, which in turn, expresses the variability between the true population parameters and their corresponding sample estimates. In the table below, the margin of error is used to construct a set of 95 per cent confidence intervals for specific variables, which give an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

**Sampling variability of LFS figures**

	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Margin of error</b>	<b>95% confidence interval</b>
Activity rate migrants	71.5	4.5	71.5 ± 4.5
Activity rate non-migrants	65.4	1.5	65.4 ± 1.5
Employment rate migrants	64.9	5.0	64.9 ± 5.0
Employment rate non-migrants	61.8	1.5	61.8 ± 1.5

The table gives indications on the sampling variability. With respect to activity rate of migrants the LFS estimate is 71.5% and the margin of error is 4.5%. Hence, the rate lies between 67.0% and 76.0%.

7. Absolute changes between one survey and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (i.e. less than 1,800 persons) might be the result of sampling error.
8. More information is available from the NSO upon written request.
9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=33>

Classification: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO 2008>