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During the third quarter of 2015, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 2.8 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2014.

Labour Force Survey: Q3/2015

Labour status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the third quarter, total employment stood at 189,565 accounting for more than half the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 10,485 (2.9 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 160,978 (44.6 per cent) (Table 1).

The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 68.9 per cent. The highest activity rate was recorded among persons aged 25-54 (81.9 per cent) (Table 3). When compared to the previous year, the total activity rate increased by 1.4 percentage points.

The employed population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged 15 to 64, 65 were employed. The highest employment rate was recorded among persons aged between 25 and 54 and stood at 78.7 per cent (Table 4). The male employment rate for this age bracket was 92.2 per cent while that for females stood at 64.4 per cent.

Employed men were mostly engaged in wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities (29.4 per cent). On the other hand, at 40.8 per cent, employed women were mostly engaged in public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities (Table 7).

Self-employed persons accounted for 13.7 per cent of the total employed population (Table 15). The majority of employed persons worked on a full-time basis and totalled 158,761. An estimated 24,756 (13.1 per cent) had a part-time job as their primary employment. A further 6,048 were working on a full-time with reduced hours basis (Table 16).

The average annual basic salary of employees for the third quarter of 2015 was estimated at €16,634. This amount refers to the annual basic salary and excludes extra payments such as overtime, bonuses and allowances, as explained in the methodological notes. The highest average annual basic salary for employees was recorded in the information and communication sector (Table 9). Average annual salaries varied from €29,576 among managers to €10,840 among persons engaged in elementary occupations (Table 13).

The unemployed population

Survey results estimate that the unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2015 stood at 5.3 per cent (Table 5). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 and over (Table 17). Among the unemployed, 45.3 per cent stated that they had been seeking work for at least 12 months (Table 18) ■

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Table 1. Persons aged 15 and over by sex and labour status

Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2015					
Employed	115,153	63.8	74,412	41.2	189,565	52.5
Unemployed	6,623	3.7	3,862	2.1	10,485	2.9
Inactive	58,722	32.5	102,256	56.6	160,978	44.6
Total	180,498	100.0	180,530	100.0	361,028	100.0
Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2014 (Revised)					
Employed	112,626	63.1	71,759	40.0	184,385	51.6
Unemployed	7,220	4.0	4,230	2.4	11,450	3.2
Inactive	58,531	32.8	103,262	57.6	161,793	45.2
Total	178,377	100.0	179,251	100.0	357,628	100.0

Table 2. Labour force distribution by sex

Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2015					
Employed	115,153	94.6	74,412	95.1	189,565	94.8
Unemployed	6,623	5.4	3,862	4.9	10,485	5.2
Total	121,776	100.0	78,274	100.0	200,050	100.0
Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2014 (Revised)					
Employed	112,626	94.0	71,759	94.4	184,385	94.2
Unemployed	7,220	6.0	4,230	5.6	11,450	5.8
Total	119,846	100.0	75,989	100.0	195,835	100.0

Table 3. Activity rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%		%		%	
	July-September 2015					
15-24	54.4		53.2		53.8	
25-54	95.9		67.1		81.9	
55-64	63.4		24.6		43.9	
15-64	81.6		55.6		68.9	
Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%		%		%	
	July-September 2014 (Revised)					
15-24	56.1		53.5		54.8	
25-54	94.6		64.7		80.0	
55-64	60.8		24.1		42.5	
15-64	80.4		54.1		67.5	

Table 4. Employment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	%	%	%
July-September 2015			
15-24	45.7	47.7	46.6
25-54	92.2	64.4	78.7
55-64	60.2	24.1	42.1
15-64	77.1	52.8	65.2
July-September 2014 (Revised)			
15-24	48.7	47.9	48.3
25-54	90.5	61.7	76.4
55-64	55.7	23.4	39.5
15-64	75.4	51.1	63.5

Table 5. Unemployment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	%	%	%
July-September 2015			
15-24	16.0 ^u	10.4 ^u	13.3
25-74	4.0	3.8 ^u	3.9
15-74	5.5	4.9	5.3
July-September 2014 (Revised)			
15-24	13.2 ^u	10.5 ^u	12.0
25-74	5.0	4.5 ^u	4.8
15-74	6.0	5.6	5.9

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

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

Table 6. Distribution of employed persons by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
July-September 2015						
15-24	12,417	10.8	12,185	16.4	24,602	13.0
25-34	29,151	25.3	21,985	29.5	51,136	27.0
35-44	27,868	24.2	19,015	25.6	46,883	24.7
45-54	25,212	21.9	13,387	18.0	38,599	20.4
55-64	17,645	15.3	7,097	9.5	24,742	13.1
65+	2,860	2.5	:	:	3,603	1.9
Total	115,153	100.0	74,412	100.0	189,565	100.0
July-September 2014 (Revised)						
15-24	13,535	12.0	12,421	17.3	25,956	14.1
25-34	28,746	25.5	21,688	30.2	50,434	27.4
35-44	27,025	24.0	17,734	24.7	44,759	24.3
45-54	23,851	21.2	12,661	17.6	36,512	19.8
55-64	16,358	14.5	6,889	9.6	23,247	12.6
65+	3,111	2.8	:	:	3,477	1.9
Total	112,626	100.0	71,759	100.0	184,385	100.0

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Table 7. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity: July-September 2015

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,650 ^u	2.3 ^u	:	:	2,974 ^u	1.6 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	18,962	16.5	5,345	7.2	24,307	12.8
Construction	11,150	9.7	:	:	11,656	6.1
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	33,910	29.4	18,473	24.8	52,383	27.6
Information and communication	4,777	4.1	1,867 ^u	2.5 ^u	6,644	3.5
Financial and insurance activities	4,624	4.0	4,439	6.0	9,063	4.8
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,392	9.0	7,448	10.0	17,840	9.4
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	23,426	20.3	30,332	40.8	53,758	28.4
Other services	4,547	3.9	5,334	7.2	9,881	5.2
Total	115,153	100.0	74,412	100.0	189,565	100.0

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

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Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity: July-September 2014 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,205 ^u	2.0 ^u	:	:	2,393 ^u	1.3 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	20,100	17.8	6,398	8.9	26,498	14.4
Construction	9,487	8.4	:	:	10,545	5.7
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	34,656	30.8	18,921	26.4	53,577	29.1
Information and communication	4,658	4.1	2,373 ^u	3.3 ^u	7,031	3.8
Financial and insurance activities	3,966	3.5	3,936	5.5	7,902	4.3
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	8,772	7.8	6,540	9.1	15,312	8.3
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	23,360	20.7	26,074	36.3	49,434	26.8
Other services	4,734	4.2	5,795	8.1	10,529	5.7
Total	112,626	100.0	71,759	100.0	184,385	100.0

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Table 9. Average annual basic salary* for employees by sex and economic activity: July-September 2015

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,091 ^u	15,427 ^u	:	:	1,191 ^u	15,047 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	16,885	16,136	5,265	14,399	22,150	15,723
Construction	8,151	15,150	:	:	8,581	15,100
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	25,297	14,966	15,901	11,739	41,198	13,721
Information and communication	4,362	26,203	1,762 ^u	13,962 ^u	6,124	22,681
Financial and insurance activities	4,509	25,164	4,383	19,821	8,892	22,530
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	8,787	18,817	6,790	15,748	15,577	17,479
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,865	19,278	29,844	16,516	52,709	17,714
Other services	3,013	19,793	3,737	12,920	6,750	15,988
Total	95,228	17,743	68,379	15,090	163,607	16,634

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

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

* Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions.

Table 10. Average annual basic salary* for employees by sex and economic activity: July-September 2014 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	17,911	16,018	6,239	15,068	24,150	15,773
Construction	6,498	15,194	:	:	7,486	15,301
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	25,765	14,878	17,358	11,677	43,123	13,590
Information and communication	4,094	21,801	2,146 ^u	1,2342 ^u	6,240	18,548
Financial and insurance activities	3,807	26,396	3,936	20,697	7,743	23,499
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	6,720	17,807	5,640	15,094	12,360	16,569
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,975	18,959	25,902	15,611	48,877	17,185
Other services	3,256 ^u	18,920 ^u	3,797	11,621	7,053	14,991
Total	92,324	17,280	66,510	14,433	158,834	16,088

* Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions.

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Table 11. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: July-September 2015

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,400 ^u	2.1 ^u	:	:	2,541 ^u	1.3 ^u
Managers	12,325	10.7	4,443	6.0	16,768	8.8
Professionals	14,252	12.4	16,362	22.0	30,614	16.1
Technicians and associate professionals	16,704	14.5	11,739	15.8	28,443	15.0
Clerical support workers	10,146	8.8	10,586	14.2	20,732	10.9
Service and sales workers	18,586	16.1	22,266	29.9	40,852	21.6
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,487 ^u	2.2 ^u	:	:	2,711 ^u	1.4 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	16,805	14.6	:	:	17,334	9.1
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,637	7.5	2,725 ^u	3.7 ^u	11,362	6.0
Elementary occupations	12,811	11.1	5,397	7.3	18,208	9.6
Total	115,153	100.0	74,412	100.0	189,565	100.0

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Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: July-September 2014 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	1,752 ^u	1.6 ^u	:	:	1,876 ^u	1.0 ^u
Managers	12,855	11.4	4,195	5.8	17,050	9.2
Professionals	14,295	12.7	14,735	20.5	29,030	15.7
Technicians and associate professionals	16,742	14.9	9,847	13.7	26,589	14.4
Clerical support workers	8,676	7.7	12,116	16.9	20,792	11.3
Service and sales workers	18,880	16.8	21,244	29.6	40,124	21.8
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1,449 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	1,502 ^u	0.8 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	16,602	14.7	:	:	17,584	9.5
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,445	7.5	2,829 ^u	3.9 ^u	11,274	6.1
Elementary occupations	12,930	11.5	5,634	7.9	18,564	10.1
Total	112,626	100.0	71,759	100.0	184,385	100.0

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

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Table 13. Average annual basic salary* for employees by sex and main occupation: July-September 2015

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,400 ^u	16,416 ^u	:	:	2,541 ^u	16,527 ^u
Managers	9,290	30,732	3,793	26,744	13,083	29,576
Professionals	12,592	25,599	15,336	20,306	27,928	22,692
Technicians and associate professionals	15,151	17,899	11,169	17,130	26,320	17,572
Clerical support workers	9,933	15,388	10,586	12,576	20,519	13,938
Service and sales workers	13,931	13,817	18,843	10,899	32,774	12,139
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	11,242	14,171	:	:	11,695	14,231
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,914	14,521	2,725 ^u	12,009 ^u	10,639	13,877
Elementary occupations	11,939	11,770	5,333	8,757	17,272	10,840
Total	95,228	17,743	68,379	15,090	163,607	16,634

* Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions.

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

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Table 14. Average annual basic salary* for employees by sex and main occupation: July-September 2014 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	1,752 ^u	16,388 ^u	:	:	1,876 ^u	16,429 ^u
Managers	9,378	27,037	3,781	25,430	13,159	26,575
Professionals	12,547	24,161	13,840	19,359	26,387	21,643
Technicians and associate professionals	14,474	18,843	9,347	16,686	23,821	17,997
Clerical support workers	8,460	14,618	12,116	12,775	20,576	13,533
Service and sales workers	14,046	13,980	18,319	10,360	32,365	11,931
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	11,592	14,596	:	:	12,385	14,500
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,234	13,524	2,829 ^u	13,195 ^u	10,063	13,432
Elementary occupations	12,201	11,630	5,361	8,482	17,562	10,669
Total	92,324	17,280	66,510	14,433	158,834	16,088

* Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions.

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Table 15. Distribution of employed persons by sex and professional status of main occupation

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2015					
Self-employed without employees	13,437	11.7	4,379	5.9	17,816	9.4
Self-employed with employees	6,488	5.6	1,606 ^u	2.2 ^u	8,094	4.3
Employee	95,228	82.7	68,379	91.9	163,607	86.3
Family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	115,153	100.0	74,412	100.0	189,565	100.0
July-September 2014 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	12,980	11.5	4,167	5.8	17,147	9.3
Self-employed with employees	7,322	6.5	:	:	8,404	4.6
Employee	92,324	82.0	66,510	92.7	158,834	86.1
Family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	112,626	100.0	71,759	100.0	184,385	100.0

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Table 16. Distribution of employed persons by sex and type of employment in main occupation

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2015					
Full-time job	105,243	91.4	53,518	71.9	158,761	83.8
Full-time with reduced hours job	1,713 ^u	1.5 ^u	4,335	5.8	6,048	3.2
Part-time job	8,197	7.1	16,559	22.3	24,756	13.1
Total	115,153	100.0	74,412	100.0	189,565	100.0
July-September 2014 (Revised)						
Full-time job	101,179	89.8	50,186	69.9	151,365	82.1
Full-time with reduced hours job	:	:	5,612	7.8	6,642	3.6
Part-time job	10,417	9.2	15,961	22.2	26,378	14.3
Total	112,626	100.0	71,759	100.0	184,385	100.0

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

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Table 17. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
July-September 2015						
15-24	2,364 ^u	35.7 ^u	1,411 ^u	36.5 ^u	3,775	36.0
25+	4,259	64.3	2,451 ^u	63.5 ^u	6,710	64.0
Total	6,623	100.0	3,862	100.0	10,485	100.0
July-September 2014 (Revised)						
15-24	2,066 ^u	28.6 ^u	1,463 ^u	34.6 ^u	3,529	30.8
25+	5,154	71.4	2,767 ^u	65.4 ^u	7,921	69.2
Total	7,220	100.0	4,230	100.0	11,450	100.0

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Table 18. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and duration of job search

Duration	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
July-September 2015						
Less than 5 months	2,228 ^u	33.6 ^u	2,149 ^u	55.6 ^u	4,377	41.7
6-11 months	:	:	:	:	1,355 ^u	12.9 ^u
12 months or more	3,838	57.9	:	:	4,753	45.3
Total	6,623	100.0	3,862	100.0	10,485	100.0
July-September 2014 (Revised)						
Less than 5 months	2,246 ^u	31.1 ^u	2,216 ^u	52.4 ^u	4,462	39.0
6-11 months	:	:	:	:	1,607 ^u	14.0 ^u
12 months or more	3,797	52.6	1,584 ^u	37.4 ^u	5,381	47.0
Total	7,220	100.0	4,230	100.0	11,450	100.0

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Methodological Notes

1. 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 and over 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).
2. 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 following 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).

3. Definitions:

- **Activity rate:** Labour force (15-64) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).
- **Employee:** The distinction between employees and self-employed is based on the respondent's own judgement as stated during the interview.
- **Employment:** All persons aged 15 and over 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:** due to 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 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).
- **Annual basic salary:** Refers to the annual basic salary received by employees before any social contributions and tax deductions. This amount excludes payments for overtime, allowances and bonuses.
- **Inactive persons:** All persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as inactive.
- **Labour force:** All persons in employment and unemployed persons.
- **Reference week:** The week to which the collected data relate.
- **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:** Unemployed persons (15 to 74 years) as a percentage of the labour force (15-74 years).

4. Sampling variability

Data included in this release are based on sample data and are 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

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Employment	189,565	5,834	189,565 ± 5,834
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	65.21	1.84	65.21 ± 1.84
<i>Males</i>	77.06	2.42	77.06 ± 2.42
<i>Females</i>	52.82	2.60	52.82± 2.60
15-24	46.64	4.47	46.64 ± 4.47
25-54	78.68	2.22	78.68 ± 2.22
55-64	42.08	3.23	42.08 ± 3.23
Unemployment	10,485	1,905	10,485 ± 1,905
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	5.25	0.96	5.25 ± 0.96
<i>Males</i>	5.46	1.30	5.46 ± 1.30
<i>Females</i>	4.93	1.31	4.93 ± 1.31
15-24	13.30	4.12	13.30 ± 4.12
25+	3.92	0.83	3.92 ± 0.83
Inactivity	160,978	5,348	160,978 ± 5,348
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	68.87	1.82	68.87 ± 1.82
<i>Males</i>	81.57	2.73	81.57 ± 2.73
<i>Females</i>	55.59	2.63	55.59 ± 2.63
15-24	53.80	4.67	53.80 ± 4.67
25-54	81.90	2.15	81.90 ± 2.15
55-64	43.91	3.22	43.91± 3.22

The table gives indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 189,565 and the margin of error is 5,834. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 183,731 and 195,399 persons.

Key

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

^u Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49

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.

More information is available from the NSO upon written request.

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=NACE Rev. 2>
<http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO 2008>