

23 March 2016 | 1100 hrs | 050/2016

During the fourth quarter of 2015, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 3.0 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2014.

## Labour Force Survey: Q4/2015

### Labour status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the fourth quarter, total employment stood at 186,897 accounting to more than half the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 10,285 (2.8 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 164,916 (45.6 per cent) (Table 1).

The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 67.5 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25-54 (80.9 per cent) (Table 3). When compared to the previous year, the total activity rate increased by 1.8 percentage points.

### The employed population

On average, out of every 100 persons between 15 to 64 years, 64 were employed. The highest employment rate was recorded among persons aged between 25 and 54 and stood at 77.4 per cent (Table 4). The male employment rate for this age bracket was 92.2 per cent while that for females stood at 61.7 per cent.

Employed men were mostly engaged in wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities (30.7 per cent). On the other hand, at 40.6 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 14.1 per cent of the total employed population (Table 15). Among the employed, the majority worked on a full-time basis and totalled 158,176. An estimated 23,463 (12.6 per cent) had a part-time job as their primary employment. A further 5,258 were working on a full-time with reduced hours basis (Table 16).

The average annual basic salary of employees for the fourth quarter of 2015 was estimated at €16,882. 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 financial and insurance activities sector (Table 9). Average annual salaries varied from €29,917 among managers to €11,227 among elementary occupations (Table 13).

### The unemployed population

Survey results estimate that the unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2015, stood at 5.2 per cent (Table 5). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 and over (Table 17). Among the unemployed, 39.0 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.	%
<b>October-December 2015</b>						
Employed	115,315	63.8	71,582	39.5	186,897	51.6
Unemployed	6,274	3.5	4,011	2.2	10,285	2.8
Inactive	59,172	32.7	105,744	58.3	164,916	45.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>180,761</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>181,337</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>362,098</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>October-December 2014 (Revised)</b>						
Employed	113,034	63.2	68,480	38.1	181,514	50.6
Unemployed	7,242	4.0	3,623	2.0	10,865	3.0
Inactive	58,685	32.8	107,484	59.9	166,169	46.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>178,961</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>179,587</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>358,548</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 2. Labour force distribution by sex**

Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>October-December 2015</b>						
Employed	115,315	94.8	71,582	94.7	186,897	94.8
Unemployed	6,274	5.2	4,011	5.3	10,285	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,589</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>75,593</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>197,182</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>October-December 2014 (Revised)</b>						
Employed	113,034	94.0	68,480	95.0	181,514	94.4
Unemployed	7,242	6.0	3,623	5.0	10,865	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,276</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72,103</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,379</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 3. Activity rates by sex and age group**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%		%		%	
<b>October-December 2015</b>						
15-24	52.2		50.2		51.2	
25-54	95.9		65.1		80.9	
55-64	61.7		22.8		42.3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>80.9</b>		<b>53.5</b>		<b>67.5</b>	
<b>October-December 2014 (Revised)</b>						
15-24	53.0		49.8		51.4	
25-54	95.3		62.5		79.2	
55-64	60.0		18.3		39.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>80.1</b>		<b>50.8</b>		<b>65.7</b>	

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%		%		%	
<b>October-December 2015</b>						
15-24	45.0		46.6		45.8	
25-54	92.2		61.7		77.4	
55-64	60.0		22.1		40.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>76.6</b>		<b>50.7</b>		<b>63.9</b>	
<b>October-December 2014 (Revised)</b>						
15-24	46.0		48.0		47.0	
25-54	91.3		59.1		75.6	
55-64	54.0		17.5		35.7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>75.1</b>		<b>48.3</b>		<b>62.0</b>	

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%		%		%	
<b>October-December 2015</b>						
15-24	13.8 <sup>u</sup>		:		10.6 <sup>u</sup>	
25+	4.1		4.9 <sup>u</sup>		4.4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.2</b>		<b>5.3</b>		<b>5.2</b>	
<b>October-December 2014 (Revised)</b>						
15-24	13.1 <sup>u</sup>		:		8.7 <sup>u</sup>	
25+	5.1		5.3 <sup>u</sup>		5.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.0</b>		<b>5.0</b>		<b>5.7</b>	

<sup>†</sup> 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 6. Distribution of employed persons by sex and age group**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>October-December 2015</b>						
15-24	12,011	10.4	12,051	16.8	24,062	12.9
25-34	29,205	25.3	22,133	30.9	51,338	27.5
35-44	28,594	24.8	18,211	25.4	46,805	25.1
45-54	24,463	21.2	12,011	16.8	36,474	19.5
55-64	17,169	14.9	6,471	9.0	23,640	12.6
65+	3,873	3.4	:	:	4,578	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,315</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71,582</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186,897</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>October-December 2014 (Revised)</b>						
15-24	12,749	11.3	12,373	18.1	25,122	13.8
25-34	28,394	25.1	21,412	31.3	49,806	27.4
35-44	27,369	24.2	17,309	25.3	44,678	24.6
45-54	24,809	22.0	11,259	16.4	36,068	19.9
55-64	15,846	14.0	5,166	7.5	21,012	11.6
65+	3,867	3.4	:	:	4,828	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,034</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>68,480</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>181,514</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>†</sup> Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units

**Table 7. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity: October-December 2015**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,127 <sup>u</sup>	2.7 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	3,228 <sup>u</sup>	1.7 <sup>u</sup>
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry*	17,960	15.6	6,054	8.5	24,014	12.8
Construction	9,750	8.5	:	:	10,240	5.5
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	35,398	30.7	16,246	22.7	51,644	27.6
Information and communication	4,974	4.3	1,733 <sup>u</sup>	2.4 <sup>u</sup>	6,707	3.6
Financial and insurance activities	3,671 <sup>u</sup>	3.2 <sup>u</sup>	4,899	6.8	8,570	4.6
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	2,112 <sup>u</sup>	1.1 <sup>u</sup>
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	9,568	8.3	8,273	11.6	17,841	9.6
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	23,567	20.4	29,034	40.6	52,601	28.2
Other services	5,581	4.8	4,359	6.1	9,940	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,315</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71,582</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186,897</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>i</sup> 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

\* As from this release, employees working in the economic activity: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (NACE 35) have been reclassified to Employment activities (NACE 78). In view of this reclassification, there was a shift in employment figures from the economic activity aggregate 'Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry' to the 'Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities' aggregate. It is therefore advisable that users take this change on board when analysing data longitudinally. In line with other releases published by this Office, this reclassification will be taken on board as from Q3/2014.

**Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity: October-December 2014 (Revised)**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,526 <sup>u</sup>	2.2 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,926 <sup>u</sup>	1.6 <sup>u</sup>
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	20,355	18.0	6,466	9.4	26,821	14.8
Construction	9,592	8.5	:	:	10,079	5.6
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	34,686	30.7	17,378	25.4	52,064	28.7
Information and communication	4,203	3.7	2,094 <sup>u</sup>	3.1 <sup>u</sup>	6,297	3.5
Financial and insurance activities	3,889	3.4	4,129	6.0	8,018	4.4
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	9,369	8.3	6,123	8.9	15,492	8.5
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,844	20.2	25,566	37.3	48,410	26.7
Other services	4,862	4.3	5,370	7.8	10,232	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,034</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>68,480</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>181,514</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>i</sup> 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. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and economic activity: October-December 2015**

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**	15,446	17,308	5,856	13,771	21,302	16,335
Construction	6,302	15,114	:	:	6,792	15,516
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	26,748	16,325	14,404	11,347	41,152	14,583
Information and communication	4,477	22,509	1,673 <sup>u</sup>	12,863 <sup>u</sup>	6,150	19,885
Financial and insurance activities	3,550 <sup>u</sup>	24,740 <sup>u</sup>	4,899	17,720	8,449	20,669
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	7,611	18,250	7,742	15,774	15,353	17,002
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,846	19,829	28,529	16,803	51,375	18,149
Other services	4,360	18,292	3,049 <sup>u</sup>	11,612 <sup>u</sup>	7,409	15,543
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,483</b>	<b>18,238</b>	<b>66,921</b>	<b>14,989</b>	<b>160,404</b>	<b>16,882</b>

<sup>‡</sup> 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

\* Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deduction:

**Table 10. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and economic activity: October-December 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	17,987	17,030	6,402	14,152	24,389	16,275
Construction	6,639	15,444	:	:	7,126	15,388
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	25,616	15,314	16,094	11,224	41,710	13,736
Information and communication	3,891	21,035	2,041 <sup>u</sup>	13,284 <sup>u</sup>	5,932	18,368
Financial and insurance activities	3,827	23,475	4,129	17,340	7,956	20,291
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	7,380	18,621	5,620	15,152	13,000	17,121
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,459	19,254	25,517	16,350	47,976	17,709
Other services	3,252 <sup>u</sup>	16,186 <sup>u</sup>	3,712	12,401	6,964	14,169
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,144</b>	<b>17,491</b>	<b>64,603</b>	<b>14,427</b>	<b>156,747</b>	<b>16,228</b>

\* Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deduction:

<sup>‡</sup> 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 11. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: October-December 2015**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	1,915 <sup>u</sup>	1.7 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,125 <sup>u</sup>	1.1 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	12,364	10.7	4,004	5.6	16,368	8.8
Professionals	15,259	13.2	16,651	23.3	31,910	17.1
Technicians and associate professionals	17,229	14.9	11,231	15.7	28,460	15.2
Clerical support workers	9,651	8.4	11,932	16.7	21,583	11.6
Service and sales workers	19,707	17.1	19,416	27.1	39,123	20.9
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,906 <sup>u</sup>	2.5 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,972 <sup>u</sup>	1.6 <sup>u</sup>
Craft and related trades workers	16,741	14.5	:	:	17,297	9.3
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,014	7.0	2,885 <sup>u</sup>	4.0 <sup>u</sup>	10,899	5.8
Elementary occupations	11,529	10.0	4,631	6.5	16,160	8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,315</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71,582</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186,897</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>‡</sup> 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 12. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: October-December 2014 (Revised)**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	1,874 <sup>u</sup>	1.7 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,062 <sup>u</sup>	1.1 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	12,312	10.9	4,273	6.2	16,585	9.1
Professionals	14,516	12.8	14,985	21.9	29,501	16.3
Technicians and associate professionals	15,795	14.0	8,782	12.8	24,577	13.5
Clerical support workers	9,030	8.0	11,186	16.3	20,216	11.1
Service and sales workers	19,562	17.3	19,749	28.8	39,311	21.7
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,616 <sup>u</sup>	2.3 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,716 <sup>u</sup>	1.5 <sup>u</sup>
Craft and related trades workers	16,784	14.8	:	:	17,581	9.7
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,810	7.8	3,190 <sup>u</sup>	4.7 <sup>u</sup>	12,000	6.6
Elementary occupations	11,735	10.4	5,230	7.6	16,965	9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,034</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>68,480</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>181,514</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>‡</sup> 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 13. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and main occupation: October-December 2015**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	1,915 <sup>u</sup>	16,595 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,125 <sup>u</sup>	16,610 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	9,507	31,222	3,544	26,417	13,051	29,917
Professionals	13,109	25,220	15,458	20,074	28,567	22,436
Technicians and associate professionals	15,256	18,604	11,141	16,802	26,397	17,843
Clerical support workers	9,443	15,491	11,843	13,302	21,286	14,273
Service and sales workers	14,353	13,732	17,042	10,207	31,395	11,819
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	11,104	15,595	:	:	11,515	15,525
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,429	13,965	2,822 <sup>u</sup>	11,597 <sup>u</sup>	10,251	13,313
Elementary occupations	10,465	12,308	4,450	8,684	14,915	11,227
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,483</b>	<b>18,238</b>	<b>66,921</b>	<b>14,989</b>	<b>160,404</b>	<b>16,882</b>

\* 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

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

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

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	1,874 <sup>u</sup>	17096 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,062 <sup>u</sup>	17,029 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	9,002	27,841	3,956	25,494	12,958	27,124
Professionals	12,601	24,385	14,184	19,637	26,785	21,871
Technicians and associate professionals	13,518	19,441	8,195	16,024	21,713	18,151
Clerical support workers	8,625	15,132	11,130	13,240	19,755	14,066
Service and sales workers	14,722	13,499	17,967	10,227	32,689	11,701
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	11,690	14,764	:	:	12,436	14,735
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,236	13,831	3,128 <sup>u</sup>	11,306 <sup>u</sup>	11,364	13,136
Elementary occupations	10,909	11,967	5,109	8,049	16,018	10,718
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,144</b>	<b>17,491</b>	<b>64,603</b>	<b>14,427</b>	<b>156,747</b>	<b>16,228</b>

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>October-December 2015</b>						
Self-employed without employees	14,252	12.4	3,215	4.5	17,467	9.3
Self-employed with employees	7,528	6.5	:	:	8,974	4.8
Employee	93,483	81.1	66,921	93.5	160,404	85.8
Family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,315</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71,582</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186,897</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>October-December 2014 (Revised)</b>						
Self-employed without employees	13,939	12.3	2,889 <sup>u</sup>	4.2 <sup>u</sup>	16,828	9.3
Self-employed with employees	6,951	6.2	:	:	7,939	4.4
Employee	92,144	81.5	64,603	94.3	156,747	86.3
Family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,034</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>68,480</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>181,514</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>‡</sup> 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 16. Distribution of employed persons by sex and type of employment in main occupation**

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>October-December 2015</b>						
Full-time job	106,546	92.4	51,630	72.1	158,176	84.6
Full-time with reduced hours job	:	:	4,695	6.6	5,258	2.8
Part-time job	8,206	7.1	15,257	21.3	23,463	12.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,315</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71,582</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186,897</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>October-December 2014 (Revised)</b>						
Full-time job	103,836	91.9	49,331	72.0	153,167	84.4
Full-time with reduced hours job	:	:	3,957	5.8	4,427	2.4
Part-time job	8,728	7.7	15,192	22.2	23,920	13.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,034</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>68,480</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>181,514</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>‡</sup> Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units



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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>October-December 2015</b>						
15-24	1,919 <sup>u</sup>	30.6 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,859 <sup>u</sup>	27.8 <sup>u</sup>
25+	4,355	69.4	3,071 <sup>u</sup>	76.6 <sup>u</sup>	7,426	72.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,274</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,011</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,285</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>October-December 2014 (Revised)</b>						
15-24	1,920 <sup>u</sup>	26.5 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,395 <sup>u</sup>	22.0 <sup>u</sup>
25+	5,322	73.5	3,148 <sup>u</sup>	86.9 <sup>u</sup>	8,470	78.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,242</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,623</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,865</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>‡</sup> 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 18. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and duration of job search

Duration	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>October-December 2015</b>						
Less than 5 months	2,691 <sup>u</sup>	42.9 <sup>u</sup>	2,040 <sup>u</sup>	50.9 <sup>u</sup>	4,731	46.0
6-11 months	:	:	:	:	1,544 <sup>u</sup>	15.0 <sup>u</sup>
12 months or more	2,829 <sup>u</sup>	45.1 <sup>u</sup>	1,181 <sup>u</sup>	29.4 <sup>u</sup>	4,010	39.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,274</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,011</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,285</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>October-December 2014 (Revised)</b>						
Less than 5 months	2,541 <sup>u</sup>	35.1 <sup>u</sup>	1,341 <sup>u</sup>	37.0 <sup>u</sup>	3,882	35.7
6-11 months	:	:	:	:	1,779 <sup>u</sup>	16.4 <sup>u</sup>
12 months or more	3,597	49.7	1,607 <sup>u</sup>	44.4 <sup>u</sup>	5,204	47.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,242</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,623</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,865</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>‡</sup> 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

## 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 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).
- **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**

	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Margin of error</b>	<b>95% confidence interval</b>
Employment	186,897	5,742	186,897 ± 5,742
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	63.88	1.82	63.88 ± 1.82
<i>Males</i>	76.61	2.48	76.61 ± 2.48
<i>Females</i>	50.65	2.54	50.65 ± 2.54
15-24	45.81	4.04	45.81 ± 4.04
25-54	77.37	2.24	77.37 ± 2.24
55-64	40.14	3.06	40.14 ± 3.06
Unemployment	10,285	1,705	10,285 ± 1,705
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	5.23	0.87	5.23 ± 0.87
<i>Males</i>	5.18	1.14	5.18 ± 1.14
<i>Females</i>	5.31	1.40	5.31 ± 1.40
15-24	10.62	3.13	10.62 ± 3.13
25+	4.37	0.85	4.37 ± 0.85
Inactivity	164,916	5,263	164,916 ± 5,263
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	67.47	1.79	67.47 ± 1.79
<i>Males</i>	80.92	2.47	80.92 ± 2.47
<i>Females</i>	53.48	2.55	53.48 ± 2.55
15-24	51.24	4.02	51.25 ± 4.02
25-54	80.87	2.22	80.87 ± 2.22
55-64	42.34	3.02	42.35 ± 3.02

The table gives indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 186,897 and the margin of error is 5,742. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 181,155 and 192,639 persons.

#### Key

: 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

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>