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During the first quarter of 2016, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 2.6 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2015.

## Labour Force Survey: Q1/2016

### Labour status

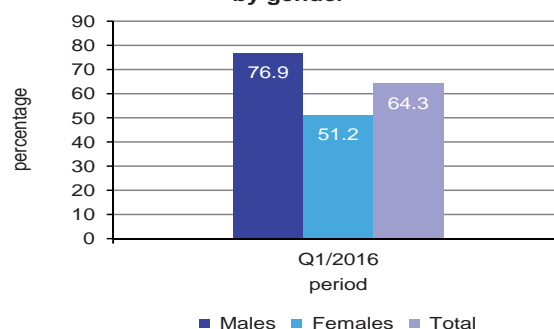
Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the first quarter, total employment stood at 187,171 accounting to more than half the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 9,698 (2.7 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 165,761 (45.7 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate was estimated at 67.7 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25-54 (81.3 per cent) (Table 2).

### The employed population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 to 64 years, 64 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 76.9 per cent while that for females stood at 51.2 per cent (Table 4).

Self-employed persons accounted for 13.5 per cent of all persons with a main job (Table 5). The largest share of employed persons worked on a full-time basis totalling 160,160, while 27,011 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6).

**Chart 1. Employment rate (15-64 years) by gender**



Results show that, on average, full-timers work 41.3 hours while part-timers work 21.2 hours per week (Table 7).

The average annual basic salary of employees for the first quarter of 2016 was estimated at €17,086. The highest basic salary was recorded in the information and communication sector (Table 10). Average annual salaries varied from €29,279 among managers to €11,257 among persons employed in elementary occupations (Table 14).

### The unemployed and inactive population

The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2016, stood at 4.9 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 and over (Table 16). Among the unemployed, 50.3 per cent stated that they had been seeking work for at least 12 months (Table 18). The main reason for inactivity relates to persons reaching retirement age or taking up early retirement (39.4 per cent) (Table 20).

### Education attainment

According to the Labour Force Survey 57.8 per cent of the 15 plus population have a low level of education. This comprises persons with less than 5 ordinary level or equivalent qualifications. Among the employed population 26.2 per cent have attained a tertiary level of education (Tables 21 and 22) ■

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

Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2016					
Employed	115,217	63.4	71,954	39.8	187,171	51.6
Unemployed	5,835	3.2	3,863	2.1	9,698	2.7
Inactive	60,585	33.4	105,176	58.1	165,761	45.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>180,993</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>362,630</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	January-March 2015 (Revised)					
Employed	112,999	62.9	69,360	38.6	182,359	50.7
Unemployed	7,092	4.0	3,922	2.2	11,014	3.1
Inactive	59,418	33.1	106,603	59.3	166,021	46.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>179,509</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>179,885</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>359,394</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 2. Activity rates by sex and age group**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	January-March 2016					
15-24	51.6		47.4		49.6	
25-54	96.2		65.7		81.3	
55-64	61.5		25.4		43.6	
<b>Total (15-64)</b>	<b>80.9</b>		<b>54.0</b>		<b>67.7</b>	
	January-March 2015 (Revised)					
15-24	55.0		48.1		51.7	
25-54	94.7		64.4		79.9	
55-64	61.0		18.5		39.7	
<b>Total (15-64)</b>	<b>80.4</b>		<b>51.7</b>		<b>66.3</b>	

**Table 3. Distribution of employed persons with a main job by sex and age group**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2016					
15-24	12,410	10.8	11,128	15.5	23,538	12.6
25-34	29,916	26.0	23,334	32.4	53,250	28.4
35-44	28,004	24.3	18,027	25.1	46,031	24.6
45-54	24,192	21.0	11,836	16.4	36,028	19.2
55-64	17,559	15.2	7,141	9.9	24,700	13.2
65+	3,136 <sup>u</sup>	2.7 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	3,624	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71,954</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>187,171</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	January-March 2015 (Revised)					
15-24	13,430	11.9	11,323	16.3	24,753	13.6
25-34	28,262	25.0	23,026	33.2	51,288	28.1
35-44	27,344	24.2	17,122	24.7	44,466	24.4
45-54	24,054	21.3	11,728	16.9	35,782	19.6
55-64	16,786	14.9	5,189	7.5	21,975	12.1
65+	3,123	2.8	:	:	4,095	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,999</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>69,360</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>182,359</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 4. Employment rates by sex and age group**

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	%	%	%
	January-March 2016		
15-24	46.0	44.0	45.0
25-54	92.1	62.6	77.7
55-64	59.3	24.4	42.0
<b>Total (15-64)</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>64.3</b>
	January-March 2015 (Revised)		
15-24	48.9	44.2	46.6
25-54	89.9	61.3	75.9
55-64	57.2	17.6	37.4
<b>Total (15-64)</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>62.5</b>

**Table 5. Distribution of employed persons by sex and professional status of main occupation**

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2016					
Self-employed without employees	12,908	11.2	3,076 <sup>u</sup>	4.3 <sup>u</sup>	15,984	8.5
Self-employed with employees	8,116	7.0	:	1.6	9,234	4.9
Employee	94,193	81.8	67,637	94.0	161,830	86.5
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71,954</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>187,171</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	January-March 2015 (Revised)					
Self-employed without employees	14,186	12.6	3,335 <sup>u</sup>	4.8 <sup>u</sup>	17,521	9.6
Self-employed with employees	6,918	6.1	:	:	8,033	4.4
Employee	91,895	81.3	64,910	93.6	156,805	86.0
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,999</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>69,360</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>182,359</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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**Table 6. Distribution of employed persons by sex and type of employment in main occupation**

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2016					
Full-time job	107,688	93.5	52,472	72.9	160,160	85.6
Part-time job	7,529	6.5	19,482	27.1	27,011	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71,954</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>187,171</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	January-March 2015 (Revised)					
Full-time job	104,101	92.1	49,759	71.7	153,860	84.4
Part-time job	8,898	7.9	19,601	28.3	28,499	15.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,999</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>69,360</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>182,359</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 7. Normal hours worked by sex and type of employment in main occupation**

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	Average (Hours)					
	January-March 2016					
Full-time job	42.3		39.5		41.3	
Part-time job	19.9		21.7		21.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.8</b>		<b>34.7</b>		<b>38.5</b>	
	January-March 2015 (Revised)					
Full-time job	42.4		39.2		41.4	
Part-time job	20.7		21.1		20.9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.7</b>		<b>34.1</b>		<b>38.2</b>	

**Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: January-March 2016**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,624 <sup>u</sup>	2.3 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,865 <sup>u</sup>	1.5 <sup>u</sup>
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry*	19,270	16.7	6,120	8.5	25,390	13.6
Construction	8,941	7.8	:	:	9,855	5.3
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	35,376	30.7	16,385	22.8	51,761	27.7
Information and communication	6,222	5.4	1,501 <sup>u</sup>	2.1 <sup>u</sup>	7,723	4.1
Financial and insurance activities	3,508	3.0	5,987	8.3	9,495	5.1
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	1,727 <sup>u</sup>	0.9 <sup>u</sup>
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	9,693	8.4	5,970	8.3	15,663	8.4
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,686	19.7	29,823	41.4	52,509	28.1
Other services	5,748	5.0	4,435	6.2	10,183	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71,954</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>187,171</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 9. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: January-March 2015 (Revised)**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,671 <sup>u</sup>	2.4 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,954 <sup>u</sup>	1.6 <sup>u</sup>
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	20,640	18.3	6,534	9.4	27,174	14.9
Construction	10,598	9.4	:	:	10,998	6.0
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	34,751	30.8	17,084	24.6	51,835	28.4
Information and communication	5,361	4.7	1,836 <sup>u</sup>	2.6 <sup>u</sup>	7,197	3.9
Financial and insurance activities	3,232 <sup>u</sup>	2.9	4,529	6.5	7,761	4.3
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	9,601	8.5	7,130	10.3	16,731	9.2
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	19,916	17.6	26,528	38.2	46,444	25.5
Other services	5,592	4.9	4,477	6.5	10,069	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,999</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>69,360</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>182,359</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 10. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: January-March 2016**

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**	16,918	17,604	5,904	13,742	22,822	16,605
Construction	5,376	15,164	:	:	6,238	15,364
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	27,155	16,712	15,145	11,608	42,300	14,885
Information and communication	5,780	22,333	1,501 <sup>u</sup>	16,980 <sup>u</sup>	7,281	21,230
Financial and insurance activities	3,291 <sup>u</sup>	26,389 <sup>u</sup>	5,987	17,665	9,278	20,759
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	7,667	19,006	5,404	16,092	13,071	17,801
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	21,995	18,726	29,063	17,043	51,058	17,768
Other services	4,780	19,690	3,224 <sup>u</sup>	13,652 <sup>u</sup>	8,004	17,257
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,193</b>	<b>18,353</b>	<b>67,637</b>	<b>15,320</b>	<b>161,830</b>	<b>17,086</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

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

**Table 11. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: January-March 2015 (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	18,596	17,390	6,280	13,554	24,876	16,422
Construction	6,427	15,151	:	:	6,827	14,994
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	27,235	15,472	15,768	10,729	43,003	13,733
Information and communication	4,734	22,915	1,836 <sup>u</sup>	17,191 <sup>u</sup>	6,570	21,315
Financial and insurance activities	3,116 <sup>u</sup>	24,621 <sup>u</sup>	4,529	17,498	7,645	20,401
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	7,587	19,173	6,524	14,270	14,111	16,906
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	19,362	19,094	26,328	16,537	45,690	17,621
Other services	3,787	17,817	2,748 <sup>u</sup>	12,125 <sup>u</sup>	6,535	15,424
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,895</b>	<b>17,666</b>	<b>64,910</b>	<b>14,467</b>	<b>156,805</b>	<b>16,342</b>

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

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**Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: January-March 2016**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,683 <sup>u</sup>	2.3 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,836 <sup>u</sup>	1.5 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	13,099	11.4	4,465	6.2	17,564	9.4
Professionals	14,609	12.7	16,298	22.7	30,907	16.5
Technicians and associate professionals	18,239	15.8	10,261	14.3	28,500	15.2
Clerical support workers	9,988	8.7	11,845	16.5	21,833	11.7
Service and sales workers	19,788	17.2	20,654	28.7	40,442	21.6
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,334 <sup>u</sup>	2.0 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,334 <sup>u</sup>	1.2 <sup>u</sup>
Craft and related trades workers	15,911	13.8	:	:	16,894	9.0
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,896	7.7	2,767 <sup>u</sup>	3.8 <sup>u</sup>	11,663	6.2
Elementary occupations	9,670	8.4	4,528	6.3	14,198	7.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,217</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71,954</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>187,171</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. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: January-March 2015 (Revised)**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	1,659 <sup>u</sup>	1.5 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	1,880 <sup>u</sup>	1.0 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	12,122	10.7	4,691	6.8	16,813	9.2
Professionals	14,485	12.8	14,344	20.7	28,829	15.8
Technicians and associate professionals	15,771	14.0	9,498	13.7	25,269	13.9
Clerical support workers	8,844	7.8	11,335	16.3	20,179	11.1
Service and sales workers	18,862	16.7	20,195	29.1	39,057	21.4
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,581 <sup>u</sup>	2.3 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,632 <sup>u</sup>	1.4 <sup>u</sup>
Craft and related trades workers	18,822	16.7	:	:	19,567	10.7
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,637	7.6	3,393	4.9	12,030	6.6
Elementary occupations	11,216	9.9	4,887	7.0	16,103	8.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,999</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>69,360</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>182,359</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 14. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and main occupation: January-March 2016**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,683 <sup>u</sup>	16,539 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,836 <sup>u</sup>	16,443 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	10,846	30,439	4,199 <sup>u</sup>	26,283 <sup>u</sup>	15,045	29,279
Professionals	12,519	24,792	15,267	19,923	27,786	22,117
Technicians and associate professionals	15,376	19,235	9,967	17,523	25,343	18,561
Clerical support workers	9,928	15,144	11,738	13,499	21,666	14,253
Service and sales workers	13,965	14,252	18,747	10,866	32,712	12,311
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	11,122	14,917	:	:	11,768	14,777
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,101	14,247	2,660 <sup>u</sup>	12,587 <sup>u</sup>	10,761	13,836
Elementary occupations	8,968	12,014	4,260	9,663	13,228	11,257
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,193</b>	<b>18,353</b>	<b>67,637</b>	<b>15,320</b>	<b>161,830</b>	<b>17,086</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 15. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and main occupation: January-March 2015 (Revised)**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	1,659 <sup>u</sup>	15,400 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	1,880 <sup>u</sup>	15,193 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	9,436	29,756	4,245 <sup>u</sup>	22,811 <sup>u</sup>	13,681	27,601
Professionals	12,152	23,042	13,596	19,463	25,748	21,152
Technicians and associate professionals	13,761	19,236	8,913	17,489	22,674	18,549
Clerical support workers	8,759	15,521	11,168	13,299	19,927	14,276
Service and sales workers	13,731	13,362	18,002	10,248	31,733	11,595
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	12,962	15,277	:	:	13,521	15,086
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,870	14,622	3,319 <sup>u</sup>	11,816 <sup>u</sup>	11,189	13,790
Elementary occupations	10,769	11,947	4,887	8,285	15,656	10,804
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,895</b>	<b>17,666</b>	<b>64,910</b>	<b>14,467</b>	<b>156,805</b>	<b>16,342</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 16. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and age group**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2016					
15-24	1,511 <sup>u</sup>	25.9 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,388 <sup>u</sup>	24.6 <sup>u</sup>
25-74	4,324	74.1	2,986 <sup>u</sup>	77.3 <sup>u</sup>	7,310	75.4
<b>Total (15-74)</b>	<b>5,835</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,863</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,698</b>	<b>100.0</b>
January-March 2015 (Revised)						
15-24	1,696 <sup>u</sup>	23.9 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,685 <sup>u</sup>	24.4 <sup>u</sup>
25-74	5,396	76.1	2,933 <sup>u</sup>	74.8 <sup>u</sup>	8,329	75.6
<b>Total (15-74)</b>	<b>7,092</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,922</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,014</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 17. Unemployment rates by sex and age group**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	January-March 2016					
15-24	10.9 <sup>u</sup>		:		9.3 <sup>u</sup>	
25-74	4.1		4.7 <sup>u</sup>		4.3	
<b>Total (15-74)</b>	<b>4.8</b>		<b>5.1</b>		<b>4.9</b>	
January-March 2015 (Revised)						
15-24	11.2 <sup>u</sup>		:		9.8 <sup>u</sup>	
25-74	5.2		4.8 <sup>u</sup>		5.0	
<b>Total (15-74)</b>	<b>5.9</b>		<b>5.4</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 18. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and duration of job search**

Duration	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2016					
Less than 12 months	2,716 <sup>u</sup>	46.5 <sup>u</sup>	2,106 <sup>u</sup>	54.5 <sup>u</sup>	4,822	49.7
12 months or more	3,119 <sup>u</sup>	53.5 <sup>u</sup>	1,757 <sup>u</sup>	45.5 <sup>u</sup>	4,876	50.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,835</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,863</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,698</b>	<b>100.0</b>
January-March 2015 (Revised)						
Less than 12 months	2,937 <sup>u</sup>	41.4 <sup>u</sup>	2,780 <sup>u</sup>	70.9 <sup>u</sup>	5,717	51.9
12 months or more	4,155	58.6	:	:	5,297	48.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,092</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,922</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,014</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 19. Distribution of inactive persons by sex and age group**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2016					
15-24	13,046	21.5	13,308	12.7	26,354	15.9
25-34	:	:	6,252	5.9	7,167	4.3
35-44	:	:	9,497	9.0	10,187	6.1
45-54	1,775 <sup>u</sup>	2.9 <sup>u</sup>	13,393	12.7	15,168	9.2
55-64	11,384	18.8	21,800	20.7	33,184	20.0
65+	32,775	54.1	40,926	38.9	73,701	44.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,585</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>105,176</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>165,761</b>	<b>100.0</b>
January-March 2015 (Revised)						
15-24	12,363	20.8	13,308	12.5	25,671	15.5
25-34	1,782 <sup>u</sup>	3.0 <sup>u</sup>	6,187	5.8	7,969	4.8
35-44	:	:	10,075	9.5	10,815	6.5
45-54	2,192 <sup>u</sup>	3.7 <sup>u</sup>	13,891	13.0	16,083	9.7
55-64	11,432	19.2	24,002	22.5	35,434	21.3
65+	30,909	52.0	39,140	36.7	70,049	42.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,418</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>106,603</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>166,021</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 20. Reasons for being inactive by sex**

Reason	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2016					
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	28,004	26.6	28,611	17.3
Education or training	13,019	21.5	12,077	11.5	25,096	15.1
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	39,646	65.4	25,638	24.4	65,284	39.4
Other reasons	7,313	12.1	39,457	37.5	46,770	28.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,585</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>105,176</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>165,761</b>	<b>100.0</b>
January-March 2015 (Revised)						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	30,444	28.6	31,507	19.0
Education or training	11,990	20.2	12,048	11.3	24,038	14.5
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	38,066	64.1	23,305	21.9	61,371	37.0
Other reasons	8,299	14.0	40,806	38.3	49,105	29.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,418</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>106,603</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>166,021</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 21. Persons aged 15 years and over by sex and highest education attainment**

	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>January-March 2016</b>						
Low	103,838	57.2	105,935	58.5	209,773	57.8
Medium	49,033	27.0	45,464	25.1	94,497	26.1
High	28,766	15.8	29,594	16.4	58,360	16.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,637</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>180,993</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>362,630</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>January-March 2015 (Revised)</b>						
Low	105,775	58.9	108,334	60.2	214,109	59.6
Medium	45,349	25.3	44,059	24.5	89,408	24.9
High	28,385	15.8	27,492	15.3	55,877	15.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>179,509</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>179,885</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>359,394</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 22. Persons aged 15 years and over by labour status and highest education attainment**

	Employed		Unemployed		Inactive		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>January-March 2016</b>								
Low	77,246	41.3	7,496	77.3	125,031	75.4	209,773	57.8
Medium	60,961	32.6	1,549 <sup>u</sup>	16.0 <sup>u</sup>	31,987	19.3	94,497	26.1
High	48,964	26.2	:	:	8,743	5.3	58,360	16.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>187,171</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9,698</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>165,761</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>362,630</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>January-March 2015 (Revised)</b>								
Low	79,323	43.5	7,592	68.9	127,194	76.6	214,109	59.6
Medium	57,107	31.3	2,800 <sup>u</sup>	25.4 <sup>u</sup>	29,501	17.8	89,408	24.9
High	45,929	25.2	:	:	9,326	5.6	55,877	15.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>182,359</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,014</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>166,021</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>359,394</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 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).
- **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.
- **Education Attainment:**
  - **low:** comprising persons with no schooling, primary education, special schools from disabled, and persons who attained a secondary level education and have less than 5 ordinary level qualifications or equivalent. In the context of the ISCED classification, low includes ISCED 0 to 2.
  - **medium:** comprising persons with a secondary level education and having 5 ordinary level qualifications or equivalent or more, persons with a post secondary level attainment who have at least obtained 1 intermediate or advanced level qualification or equivalent. In the context of the ISCED classification, medium refers to ISCED 3 and 4.
  - **high** - comprising persons with a tertiary level education and with qualifications ranging from diploma to doctorate level. In the context of the ISCED classification, high refers to ISCED 5 to 8.
- **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).
- **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.

- **Normal hours worked:** Refers to the number of usual hours worked per week in the main job over a long reference period, excluding weeks when an absence from work occurs (e.g. holidays, vacation leave or sick leave).
- **Part time employment:** A part-time worker is an employed person whose normal hours are less than those of comparable full-time workers. Persons employed on a full-time with reduced hours basis are included in this category.
- **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	187,171	6,088	187,171 ± 6,088
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	64.35	1.94	64.35 ± 1.94
<i>Males</i>	76.91	2.80	76.91 ± 2.80
<i>Females</i>	51.22	2.73	51.22 ± 2.73
15-24	45.02	3.86	45.02 ± 3.86
25-54	77.70	2.48	77.70 ± 2.48
55-64	41.99	3.31	41.99 ± 3.31
Unemployment	9,698	1,686	9,698 ± 1686
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	4.94	0.82	4.94 ± 0.82
<i>Males</i>	4.85	1.01	4.85 ± 1.01
<i>Females</i>	5.10	1.35	5.10 ± 1.35
15-24	9.21	3.12	9.21 ± 3.12
25+	4.29	0.89	4.29 ± 0.89
Inactivity	165,761	5,181	165,761 ± 5,181
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	67.73	1.92	67.73 ± 1.92
<i>Males</i>	80.92	2.74	80.92 ± 2.74
<i>Females</i>	53.95	2.70	53.95 ± 2.70
15-24	49.59	3.87	49.59 ± 3.87
25-54	81.33	2.40	81.33 ± 2.40
55-64	43.58	3.28	43.58 ± 3.28

The table gives indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 187,171 and the margin of error is 6,088. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 181,083 and 193,259 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

5. Percentage Totals may not add up due to rounding.
6. 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.
7. More information is available from the NSO upon written request.
8. 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=NACE_Rev._2)  
[http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO 2008](http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO_2008)  
<http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED%202011>