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During the fourth quarter of 2016, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 3.2 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2015.

## Labour Force Survey: Q4/2016

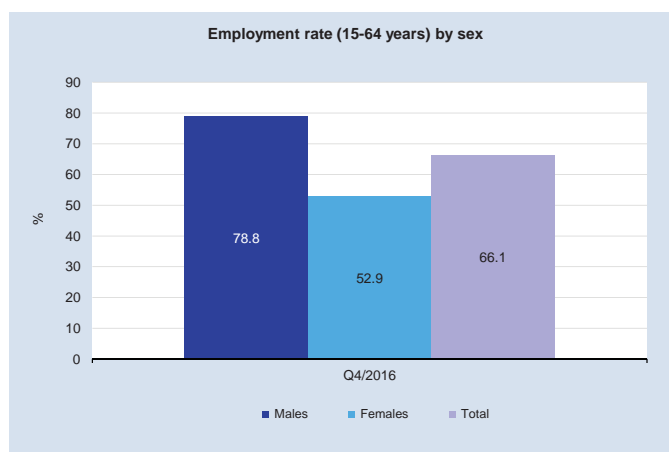
### Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the fourth quarter, total employment stood at 192,807 accounting to more than half the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 8,522 (2.3 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 165,180 (45.1 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 69.1 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25-54 (81.7 per cent) (Table 2).

### The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 to 64 years, 66 were employed (Chart 1). The male employment rate for this age bracket was 78.8 per cent while that for females stood at 52.9 per cent (Table 4).

Self-employed persons accounted for 13.8 per cent of all persons with a main job (Table 5). The majority of employed persons worked on a full-time basis totalling 164,741, while 28,066 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers work 41.2 hours while part-timers work 23.1 hours per week (Table 7).



The average annual basic salary of employees for the fourth quarter of 2016 was estimated at €17,666. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and Insurance Service sector (Table 10). Average annual salaries varied from €31,076 among managers to €11,573 among persons employed in elementary occupations (Table 14).

### The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2016, stood at 4.2 per cent (Table 17). Among the unemployed, 59.7 per cent stated that they had been seeking work for less than 12 months (Table 18). The main reason for inactivity relates to persons reaching retirement age or taking up early retirement (43.5 per cent) (Table 20).

### Education Attainment

According to the Labour Force Survey 57.3 per cent of the 15 plus population have attained a low level of education (Table 21). This comprises persons with less than 5 ordinary level or equivalent qualifications. Among the employed population 26.9 per cent have a tertiary level education (Table 22) ■

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

Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2016					
Employed	117,975	64.3	74,832	40.9	192,807	52.6
Unemployed	4,492	2.4	4,030	2.2	8,522	2.3
Inactive	60,955	33.2	104,225	56.9	165,180	45.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>183,422</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>183,087</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>366,509</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	October-December 2015					
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	45.5
<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>

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	October-December 2016					
15-24	55.1		47.7		51.5	
25-54	95.6		67.0		81.7	
55-64	63.6		29.5		46.6	
<b>Total (15-64)</b>	<b>81.9</b>		<b>55.7</b>		<b>69.1</b>	
	October-December 2015					
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 (15-64)</b>	<b>80.9</b>		<b>53.5</b>		<b>67.5</b>	

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2016					
15-24	12,737	10.8	10,460	14.0	23,197	12.0
25-34	31,417	26.6	22,964	30.7	54,381	28.2
35-44	28,860	24.5	18,671	25.0	47,531	24.7
45-54	24,150	20.5	13,887	18.6	38,037	19.7
55-64	18,146	15.4	8,460	11.3	26,606	13.8
65+	2,665 <sup>u</sup>	2.3 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	3,055	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,975</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>74,832</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,807</b>	<b>100.0</b>
October-December 2015						
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	25.0
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>

<sup>:</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

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

Age group	Males	Females	Total
	%	%	%
	October-December 2016		
15-24	48.8	41.8	45.3
25-54	93.1	64.4	79.1
55-64	61.5	28.7	45.1
<b>Total (15-64)</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>66.1</b>
October-December 2015 (revised)			
15-24	45.0	46.6	45.8
25-54	92.2	61.7	77.4
55-64	58.0	22.1	40.1
<b>Total (15-64)</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>63.9</b>

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2016					
Self-employed without employees	14,522	12.3	3,348 <sup>u</sup>	4.5 <sup>u</sup>	17,870	9.3
Self-employed with employees	7,376	6.3	:	:	8,784	4.6
Employee	96,077	81.4	70,076	93.6	166,153	86.2
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,975</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>74,832</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,807</b>	<b>100.0</b>
October-December 2015						
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
Unpaid 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>

<sup>‡</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

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

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2016					
Full-time job	109,739	93.0	55,002	73.5	164,741	85.4
Part-time job	8,236	7.0	19,830	26.5	28,066	14.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,975</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>74,832</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,807</b>	<b>100.0</b>
October-December 2015						
Full-time job	106,546	92.4	51,630	72.1	158,176	84.6
Part-time job	8,769	7.6	19,952	27.9	28,721	15.4
<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>

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

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	Average (Hours)					
	October-December 2016					
Full-time job	42.2		39.3		41.2	
Part-time job	22.8		23.3		23.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.9</b>		<b>35.1</b>		<b>38.6</b>	
October-December 2015						
Full-time job	42.2		39.2		41.2	
Part-time job	21.9		21.9		21.9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.7</b>		<b>34.3</b>		<b>38.3</b>	

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

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

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,967 <sup>u</sup>	2.5 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	3,071 <sup>u</sup>	1.6 <sup>u</sup>
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	19,972	16.9	6,672	8.9	26,644	13.8
Construction	11,520	9.8	:	:	12,050	6.2
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	34,806	29.5	17,589	23.5	52,395	27.2
Information and communication	5,058	4.3	1,884 <sup>u</sup>	2.5 <sup>u</sup>	6,942	3.6
Financial and insurance activities	3,729	3.2	5,279	7.1	9,008	4.7
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,162	8.6	7,937	10.6	18,099	9.4
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	23,369	19.8	29,625	39.6	52,994	27.5
Other services	5,370	4.6	4,900	6.5	10,270	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,975</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>74,832</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,807</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>:</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Table 9. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: 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	9.5
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	23,567	20.4	29,034	40.6	52,601	28.1
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>:</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Table 10. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: October-December 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	17,151	17,100	6,605	13,723	23,756	16,161
Construction	7,195	14,628	:	:	7,725	15,035
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	26,943	17,773	15,813	12,970	42,756	15,996
Information and communication	4,492	22,030	1,884 <sup>u</sup>	19,313 <sup>u</sup>	6,376	21,227
Financial and insurance activities	3,506 <sup>u</sup>	2,981 <sup>u</sup>	5,279	20,466	8,785	24,203
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	7,804	18,024	7,112	15,071	14,916	16,616
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,732	20,000	29,204	17,597	51,936	18,649
Other services	4,454	23,933 <sup>u</sup>	3,511 <sup>u</sup>	14,969 <sup>u</sup>	7,965	19,981 <sup>u</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,077</b>	<b>18,826</b>	<b>70,076</b>	<b>16,076</b>	<b>166,153</b>	<b>17,666</b>

<sup>‡</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

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

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

**Table 11. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: October-December 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	15,446	17,304	5,856	13,771	21,302	16,333
Construction	6,302	15,114	:	:	6,792	15,516
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	26,748	16,319	14,404	11,346	41,152	14,579
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	17,716	8,449	20,667
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	7,611	18,249	7,742	15,774	15,353	17,001
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,846	19,829	28,529	16,802	51,375	18,148
Other services	4,360	18,292 <sup>u</sup>	3,049 <sup>u</sup>	11,612 <sup>u</sup>	7,409	15,543 <sup>u</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,483</b>	<b>18,235</b>	<b>66,921</b>	<b>14,988</b>	<b>160,404</b>	<b>16,881</b>

<sup>‡</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

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

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

**Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: October-December 2016**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,421 <sup>u</sup>	2.1 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,421 <sup>u</sup>	1.3 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	12,316	10.4	5,163	6.9	17,479	9.1
Professionals	16,127	13.7	16,716	22.3	32,843	17.0
Technicians and associate professionals	17,358	14.7	11,482	15.3	28,840	15.0
Clerical support workers	9,476	8.0	11,595	15.5	21,071	10.9
Service and sales workers	19,607	16.6	20,573	27.5	40,180	20.8
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,899 <sup>u</sup>	2.5 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,948 <sup>u</sup>	1.5 <sup>u</sup>
Craft and related trades workers	17,715	15.0	:	:	18,769	9.7
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,688	6.5	3,279 <sup>u</sup>	4.4 <sup>u</sup>	10,967	5.7
Elementary occupations	12,368	10.5	4,921	6.6	17,289	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,975</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>74,832</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,807</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>∴</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Table 13. 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	11.5
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	6.9	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> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Table 14. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and main occupation: October-December 2016**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,421 <sup>u</sup>	17,266 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,421 <sup>u</sup>	17,266 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	9,437	32,807	4,758	27,643	14,195	31,076
Professionals	13,930	24,857	15,758	21,135	29,688	22,881
Technicians and associate professionals	15,676	19,978	11,265	18,357	26,941	19,300
Clerical support workers	9,087	16,211	11,414	13,591	20,501	14,753
Service and sales workers	14,897	14,609	18,066	11,477	32,963	12,893
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	10,924	15,575	:	:	11,715	15,430
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,090	14,041	3,279 <sup>u</sup>	12,216 <sup>u</sup>	10,369	13,464
Elementary occupations	11,233	12,717	4,745	8,864	15,978	11,573
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,077</b>	<b>18,826</b>	<b>70,076</b>	<b>16,076</b>	<b>166,153</b>	<b>17,666</b>

<sup>‡</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

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

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

**Table 15. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and main occupation: October-December 2015 (Revised)**

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	12,289	4,450	8,669	14,915	11,209
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,483</b>	<b>18,235</b>	<b>66,921</b>	<b>14,988</b>	<b>160,404</b>	<b>16,881</b>

<sup>‡</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations or the estimate is subject to a high sampling variability.

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

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.



**Table 16. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and age group**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2016					
15-24	1,644 <sup>u</sup>	36.6 <sup>u</sup>	1,484 <sup>u</sup>	36.8 <sup>u</sup>	3,128 <sup>u</sup>	36.7 <sup>u</sup>
25-74	2,848 <sup>u</sup>	63.4 <sup>u</sup>	2,546 <sup>u</sup>	63.2 <sup>u</sup>	5,394	63.3
<b>Total (15-74)</b>	<b>4,492</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,522</b>	<b>100.0</b>
October-December 2015						
15-24	1,919 <sup>u</sup>	30.6 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,859 <sup>u</sup>	27.8 <sup>u</sup>
25-74	4,355	69.4	3,071 <sup>u</sup>	76.6 <sup>u</sup>	7,426	72.2
<b>Total (15-74)</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>

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Table 17. Unemployment rates by sex and age group**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	October-December 2016					
15-24	11.4 <sup>u</sup>		12.4 <sup>u</sup>		11.9 <sup>u</sup>	
25-74	2.6 <sup>u</sup>		3.8 <sup>u</sup>		3.1	
<b>Total (15-74)</b>	<b>3.7</b>		<b>5.1</b>		<b>4.2</b>	
October-December 2015						
15-24	13.8 <sup>u</sup>		:		10.6 <sup>u</sup>	
25-74	4.1		4.9 <sup>u</sup>		4.4	
<b>Total (15-74)</b>	<b>5.2</b>		<b>5.3</b>		<b>5.2</b>	

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

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

Duration	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2016					
Less than 12 months	2,546 <sup>u</sup>	56.7 <sup>u</sup>	2,544 <sup>u</sup>	63.1 <sup>u</sup>	5,090	59.7
12 months or more	1,946 <sup>u</sup>	43.3 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	3,432 <sup>u</sup>	40.3 <sup>u</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,492</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,522</b>	<b>100.0</b>
October-December 2015						
Less than 12 months	3,445	54.9	2,830 <sup>u</sup>	70.6 <sup>u</sup>	6,275	61.0
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>

⋮ Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Table 19. Distribution of inactive persons by sex and age group**

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2016					
15-24	11,723	19.2	13,109	12.6	24,832	15.0
25-34	:	:	7,096	6.8	8,388	5.1
35-44	:	:	9,913	9.5	10,953	6.6
45-54	1,653 <sup>u</sup>	2.7 <sup>u</sup>	11,440	11.0	13,093	7.9
55-64	10,738	17.6	20,797	20.0	31,535	19.1
65+	34,509	56.6	41,870	40.2	76,379	46.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,955</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>104,225</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>165,180</b>	<b>100.0</b>
October-December 2015						
15-24	12,744	21.5	12,864	12.2	25,608	15.5
25-34	:	:	7,226	6.8	8,594	5.2
35-44	:	:	9,052	8.6	9,741	5.9
45-54	1,609 <sup>u</sup>	2.7 <sup>u</sup>	13,340	12.6	14,949	9.1
55-64	11,346	19.2	22,605	21.4	33,951	20.6
65+	31,416	53.1	40,657	38.4	72,073	43.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,172</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>105,744</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>164,916</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>‡</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

**Table 20. Main reasons for being inactive by sex**

Reason	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2016					
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	25,517	24.5	26,122	15.8
Education or training	11,706	19.2	12,960	12.4	24,666	14.9
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	42,618	69.9	29,243	28.1	71,861	43.5
Other reasons	6,026	9.9	36,505	35.0	42,531	25.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,955</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>104,225</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>165,180</b>	<b>100.0</b>
October-December 2015						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	28,866	27.3	29,581	17.9
Education or training	12,411	21.0	11,950	11.3	24,361	14.8
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	38,347	64.8	24,076	22.8	62,423	37.9
Other reasons	7,699	13.0	40,852	38.6	48,551	29.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,172</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>105,744</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>164,916</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>‡</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2016					
Low	104,177	56.8	105,661	57.7	209,838	57.3
Medium	49,345	26.9	46,326	25.3	95,671	26.1
High	29,900	16.3	31,100	17.0	61,000	16.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>183,422</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>183,087</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>366,509</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	October-December 2015					
	October-December 2015					
Low	103,281	57.1	108,986	60.1	212,267	58.6
Medium	48,435	26.8	43,711	24.1	92,146	25.4
High	29,045	16.1	28,640	15.8	57,685	15.9
<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>

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

	Employed		Unemployed		Inactive		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2016							
Low	79,462	41.2	5,872	68.9	124,504	75.4	209,838	57.3
Medium	61,543	31.9	2,091 <sup>u</sup>	24.5 <sup>u</sup>	32,037	19.4	95,671	26.1
High	51,802	26.9	:	:	8,639	5.2	61,000	16.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>192,807</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,522</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>165,180</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>366,509</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	October-December 2015							
	October-December 2015							
Low	79,090	42.3	7,613	74.0	125,564	76.1	212,267	58.6
Medium	60,083	32.1	1,939 <sup>u</sup>	18.9 <sup>u</sup>	30,124	18.3	92,146	25.4
High	47,724	25.5	:	:	9,228	5.6	57,685	15.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>186,897</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,285</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>164,916</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>362,098</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>‡</sup> Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

## 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). Unless otherwise indicated, 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). Education attainment is classified according to ISCED 2011.

### 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 for 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.
- **Employees:** are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind.
- **Employed persons:** 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.
- **Unemployed persons:** 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 Jobsplus, 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	192,807	6025	192,807 ± 6,025
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	66.10	1.96	66.10 ± 1.96
<i>Males</i>	78.85	3.44	78.85 ± 3.44
<i>Females</i>	52.86	3.23	52.86 ± 3.23
15-24	45.34	5.43	45.34 ± 5.43
25-54	79.11	3.09	79.11 ± 3.09
55-64	45.09	4.12	43.09 ± 4.12
Unemployment	8,522	1593	8,522 ± 1,593
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	4.25	0.81	4.25 ± 0.81
<i>Males</i>	3.68	0.91	3.68 ± 0.91
<i>Females</i>	5.11	1.40	5.11 ± 1.40
15-24	11.88	3.86	11.88 ± 3.86
25+	3.09	0.72	3.09 ± 0.72
Inactivity	165,180	5339	165,180 ± 5,339
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	69.07	1.96	69.07 ± 1.96
<i>Males</i>	81.92	3.44	81.92 ± 3.44
<i>Females</i>	55.72	3.29	55.72 ± 3.29
15-24	51.46	5.74	51.46 ± 5.74
25-54	81.67	3.13	82.67 ± 3.13
55-64	46.56	4.18	46.56 ± 4.18

The table gives indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 192,807 and the margin of error is 6,025. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 186,782 and 198,832 persons.

Key

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

<sup>u</sup> Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

5. Percentage Totals may not add up due to rounding.
6. Absolute changes between one survey estimate 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=ISCO 2008>  
<http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED%202011>
9. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
10. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at [www.nso.gov.mt](http://www.nso.gov.mt)