

During the first quarter of 2017, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 2.7 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2016.

## Labour Force Survey: Q1/2017

### Labour Status

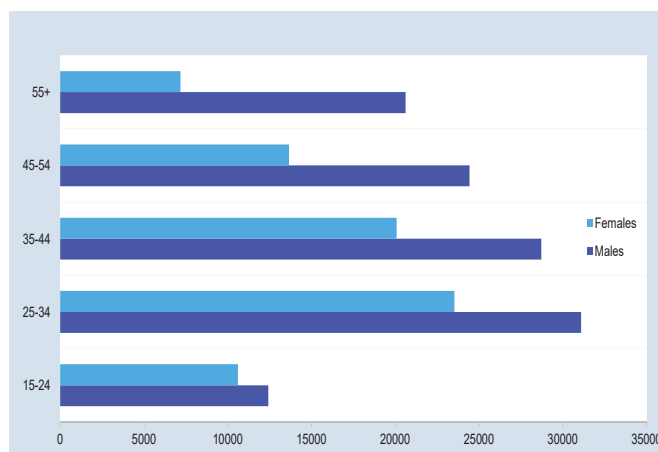
Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the first quarter, total employment stood at 192,277 accounting to more than half the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 8,359 (2.3 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 166,385 (45.3 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 68.7 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25-54 (82.6 per cent) (Table 2).

### The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 to 64 years, 66 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 77.9 per cent while that for females stood at 53.0 per cent (Table 4).

Self-employed persons accounted for 13.3 per cent of all persons with a main job (Table 5). The majority of employed persons worked on a full-time basis totalling 164,727 and 27,550 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers work 41.3 hours while part-timers work 23.5 hours per week (Table 7).

Employment by age groups and sex



The average annual basic salary of employees (refer to methodological note 3) for the first quarter of 2017 was estimated at €18,029. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and Insurance Service sector (Table 10). Average annual salaries varied from €30,299 among managers to €11,771 among persons employed in elementary occupations (Table 14).

### The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2017, stood at 4.2 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 to 74 years (Table 16). Among the unemployed, 51.7 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 (42.3 per cent) (Table 20).

### Education Attainment

According to the Labour Force Survey 56.7 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 26.0 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.	%	
	January-March 2017						
Employed	117,245	63.7	75,032	41.0	192,277	52.4	
Unemployed	4,815	2.6	3,544	1.9	8,359	2.3	
Inactive	62,142	33.7	104,243	57.0	166,385	45.3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>184,202</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>182,819</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367,021</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
	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>	

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total		
	%						
	January-March 2017						
15-24	54.8		46.6		50.7		
25-54	94.9		69.4		82.6		
55-64	61.5		22.9		42.4		
<b>Total (15-64)</b>	<b>81.2</b>		<b>55.6</b>		<b>68.7</b>		
	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>		

**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 2017					
15-24	12,415	10.6	10,602	14.1	23,017	12.0
25-34	31,087	26.5	23,523	31.4	54,610	28.4
35-44	28,707	24.5	20,078	26.8	48,785	25.4
45-54	24,425	20.8	13,656	18.2	38,081	19.8
55-64	17,813	15.2	6,462	8.6	24,275	12.6
65+	2,798 <sup>u</sup>	2.4 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	3,509	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,245</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>75,032</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,277</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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>

<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	
	%		%		%	
	January-March 2017					
15-24	48.8		41.8		45.3	
25-54	91.9		66.9		79.8	
55-64	59.7		22.1		41.1	
<b>Total (15-64)</b>	<b>77.9</b>		<b>53.0</b>		<b>65.8</b>	
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>	

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	January-March 2017					
Self-employed without employees	13,166	11.2	4,335	5.8	17,501	9.1
Self-employed with employees	6,931	5.9	:	:	8,095	4.2
Employee	97,148	82.9	69,533	92.7	166,681	86.7
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,245</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>75,032</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,277</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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	:	:	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>

<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.	%
	January-March 2017					
Full-time job	109,219	93.2	55,508	74.0	164,727	85.7
Part-time job	8,026	6.8	19,524	26.0	27,550	14.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,245</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>75,032</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,277</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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>

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

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	Average (Hours)					
	January-March 2017					
Full-time job	42.2		39.5		41.3	
Part-time job	22.6		23.9		23.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.9</b>		<b>35.5</b>		<b>38.8</b>	
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>	

Note: Refer to methodological note 3.

**Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: January-March 2017**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,925 <sup>u</sup>	1.6 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,232 <sup>u</sup>	1.2 <sup>u</sup>
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	19,012	16.2	6,476	8.6	25,488	13.3
Construction	10,403	8.9	:	:	10,865	5.7
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	34,780	29.7	18,749	25.0	53,529	27.8
Information and communication	5,879	5.0	1,658 <sup>u</sup>	2.2 <sup>u</sup>	7,537	3.9
Financial and insurance activities	4,520	3.9	5,528	7.4	10,048	5.2
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	1,708 <sup>u</sup>	0.9 <sup>u</sup>
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,034	8.6	7,186	9.6	17,220	9.0
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	23,430	20.0	29,452	39.3	52,882	27.5
Other services	6,127	5.2	4,641	6.2	10,768	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,245</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>75,032</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,277</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: 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> 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: January-March 2017**

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	16,405	18,521	6,443	15,610	22,848	17,700
Construction	6,742	15,789	:	:	7,135	15,867
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	26,872	17,153	16,965	12,753	43,837	15,450
Information and communication	5,585	23,033	1,552 <sup>u</sup>	18,378 <sup>u</sup>	7,137	22,021
Financial and insurance activities	4,377	29,445	5,528	19,954	9,905	24,148
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	8,153	18,617	6,475	16,372	14,628	17,623
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	22,739	20,143	28,750	17,618	51,489	18,733
Other services	4,971	21,319	2,849 <sup>u</sup>	18,282 <sup>u</sup>	7,820	20,212
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,148</b>	<b>19,221</b>	<b>69,533</b>	<b>16,367</b>	<b>166,681</b>	<b>18,029</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: January-March 2016 (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	16,918	17,549	5,904	13,742	22,822	16,564
Construction	5,376	15,164	:	:	6,238	15,364
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	27,155	16,702	15,145	11,608	42,300	14,878
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>	26,155 <sup>u</sup>	5,987	17,665	9,278	20,676
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	7,667	19,005	5,404	16,092	13,071	17,801
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	21,995	18,714	29,063	16,995	51,058	17,736
Other services	4,780	19,690	3,224 <sup>u</sup>	13,649 <sup>u</sup>	8,004	17,257
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,193</b>	<b>18,329</b>	<b>67,637</b>	<b>15,300</b>	<b>161,830</b>	<b>17,063</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: January-March 2017**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	1,798 <sup>u</sup>	1.5 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	1,952 <sup>u</sup>	1.0 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	12,810	10.9	5,579	7.4	18,389	9.6
Professionals	17,348	14.8	15,389	20.5	32,737	17.0
Technicians and associate professionals	17,104	14.6	11,666	15.5	28,770	15.0
Clerical support workers	9,269	7.9	12,266	16.3	21,535	11.2
Service and sales workers	19,452	16.6	21,151	28.2	40,603	21.1
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,111 <sup>u</sup>	1.8 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,212 <sup>u</sup>	1.2 <sup>u</sup>
Craft and related trades workers	16,665	14.2	:	:	17,546	9.1
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,709	7.4	2,614 <sup>u</sup>	3.5 <sup>u</sup>	11,323	5.9
Elementary occupations	11,979	10.2	5,231	7.0	17,210	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,245</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>75,032</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,277</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: 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> 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: January-March 2017**

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	1,798 <sup>u</sup>	16,899 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	1,952 <sup>u</sup>	17,112 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	10,203	32,386	5,227	26,227	15,430	30,299
Professionals	15,583	25,262	14,235	21,686	29,818	23,555
Technicians and associate professionals	14,525	20,050	11,291	18,717	25,816	19,467
Clerical support workers	9,015	15,837	12,037	14,780	21,052	15,232
Service and sales workers	14,069	14,721	18,610	11,477	32,679	12,874
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	11,843	16,568	:	:	12,455	16,306
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,126	14,602	2,518 <sup>u</sup>	13,728 <sup>u</sup>	10,644	14,395
Elementary occupations	10,878	12,887	4,849	9,267	15,727	11,771
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,148</b>	<b>19,221</b>	<b>69,533</b>	<b>16,367</b>	<b>166,681</b>	<b>18,029</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: January-March 2016 (Revised)**

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	26,283	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	17,522	25,343	18,561
Clerical support workers	9,928	14,994	11,738	13,484	21,666	14,176
Service and sales workers	13,965	14,251	18,747	10,813	32,712	12,281
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	11,122	14,891	:	:	11,768	14,753
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,101	14,187	2,660 <sup>u</sup>	12,587 <sup>u</sup>	10,761	13,791
Elementary occupations	8,968	12,013	4,260	9,617	13,228	11,241
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,193</b>	<b>18,329</b>	<b>67,637</b>	<b>15,300</b>	<b>161,830</b>	<b>17,063</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.	%
	January-March 2017					
15-24	1,517 <sup>u</sup>	31.5 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,727 <sup>u</sup>	32.6 <sup>u</sup>
25-74	3,298 <sup>u</sup>	68.5 <sup>u</sup>	2,334 <sup>u</sup>	65.9 <sup>u</sup>	5,632	67.4
<b>Total (15-74)</b>	<b>4,815</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,544</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,359</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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>

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

<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	
	%					
	January-March 2017					
15-24	10.9 <sup>u</sup>		:		10.6 <sup>u</sup>	
25-74	3.1 <sup>u</sup>		3.5 <sup>u</sup>		3.2	
<b>Total (15-74)</b>	<b>3.9</b>		<b>4.5</b>		<b>4.2</b>	
January-March 2016						
15-24	10.9 <sup>u</sup>		:		9.2 <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>	

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

<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.	%
	January-March 2017					
Less than 12 months	2,495 <sup>u</sup>	51.8 <sup>u</sup>	1,823 <sup>u</sup>	51.4 <sup>u</sup>	4,318	51.7
12 months or more	2,320 <sup>u</sup>	48.2 <sup>u</sup>	1,721 <sup>u</sup>	48.6 <sup>u</sup>	4,041	48.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,815</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,544</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,359</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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>

<sup>‡</sup> 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.	%
	January-March 2017					
15-24	11,510	18.5	13,543	13.0	25,053	15.1
25-34	1,709 <sup>u</sup>	2.8 <sup>u</sup>	5,933	5.7	7,642	4.6
35-44	1,429 <sup>u</sup>	2.3 <sup>u</sup>	8,505	8.2	9,934	6.0
45-54	1,511 <sup>u</sup>	2.4 <sup>u</sup>	11,756	11.3	13,267	8.0
55-64	11,501	18.5	22,499	21.6	34,000	20.4
65+	34,482	55.5	42,007	40.3	76,489	46.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>104,243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>166,385</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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>

<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.	%
	January-March 2017					
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	26,108	25.0	26,811	16.1
Education or training	11,022	17.7	12,578	12.1	23,600	14.2
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	42,565	68.5	27,742	26.6	70,307	42.3
Other reasons	7,852	12.6	37,815	36.3	45,667	27.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>104,243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>166,385</b>	<b>100.0</b>
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>

<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.	%	
	January-March 2017						
Low	102,465	55.6	105,526	57.7	207,991	56.7	
Medium	50,445	27.4	48,993	26.8	99,438	27.1	
High	31,292	17.0	28,300	15.5	59,592	16.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>184,202</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>182,819</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367,021</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
	January-March 2016						
	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>	

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

	Employed		Unemployed		Inactive		Total		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
	January-March 2017								
Low	77,268	40.2	4,831	57.8	125,892	75.7	207,991	56.7	
Medium	64,952	33.8	2,296	27.5	32,190	19.3	99,438	27.1	
High	50,057	26.0	1,232	14.7	8,303	5.0	59,592	16.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>192,277</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,359</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>166,385</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>367,021</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
	January-March 2016								
	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>	

<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 Jobplus, 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	192,277	3,968	192,277 ± 3,968
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	65.77	1.35	65.77 ± 1.35
<i>Males</i>	77.90	1.50	77.90 ± 1.50
<i>Females</i>	53.05	1.58	53.05 ± 1.58
15-24	45.31	3.43	45.31 ± 3.43
25-54	79.84	1.64	79.84 ± 1.64
55-64	41.13	3.19	41.13 ± 3.19
Unemployment	8,359	1,784	8,359 ± 1,784
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	4.17	0.88	4.17 ± 0.88
<i>Males</i>	3.95	1.19	3.95 ± 1.19
<i>Females</i>	4.51	1.29	4.51 ± 1.29
15-24	10.59	3.22	10.59 ± 3.22
25+	3.22	0.89	3.22 ± 0.89
Inactivity	166,385	3,737	166,385 ± 3,737
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	68.68	1.26	68.68 ± 1.26
<i>Males</i>	81.17	1.34	81.17 ± 1.34
<i>Females</i>	55.58	1.56	55.58 ± 1.56
15-24	50.68	3.33	50.68 ± 3.33
25-54	82.59	1.46	82.59 ± 1.46
55-64	42.39	3.18	42.39 ± 3.18

Note: Prior to 2017, the margin of error was calculated using the Bootstrap method. From Quarter 1 2017 the Ultimate Cluster Method was used for the margin of error calculations. This method is in line with current Eurostat's recommendations for best practice.

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 192,277 and the margin of error is 3,968. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 188,309 and 196,245 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)