

During the fourth quarter of 2020, the Labour Force Survey estimated that total number of persons in employment was 260,109. This is 0.8 per cent less when compared to the previous year.

Labour Force Survey: Q4/2020

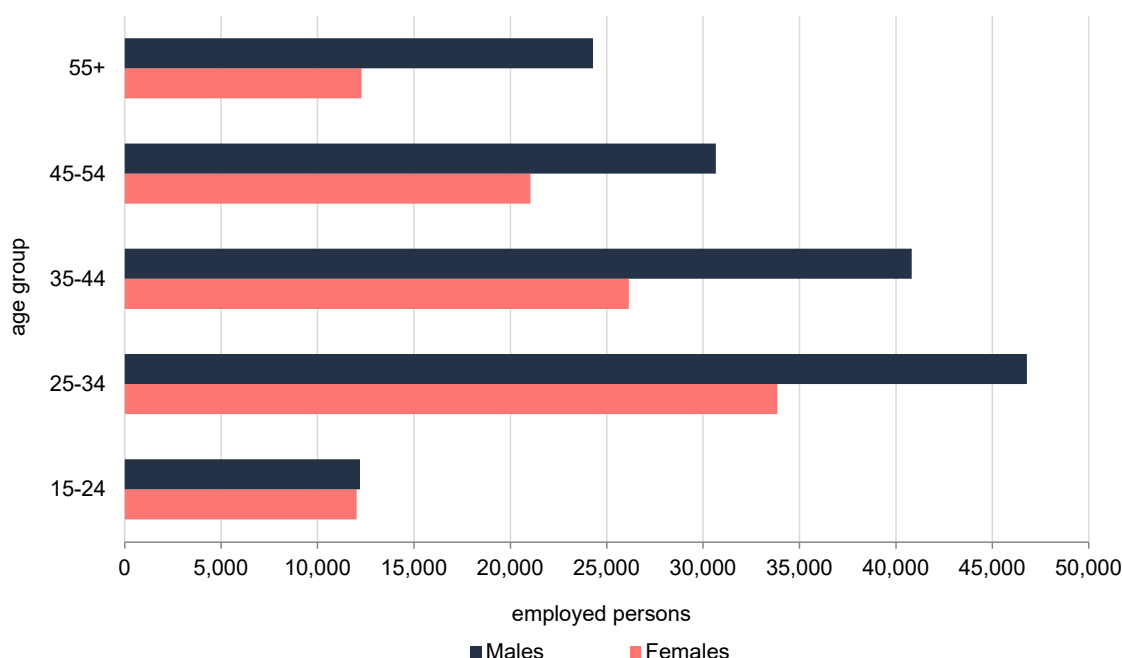
Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the fourth quarter, total employment stood at 260,109 accounting for 59.5 per cent of the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 11,886 (2.7 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 165,008 (37.8 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 77.3 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25 to 54 (88.7 per cent) (Table 2).

The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 and 64 years, 74 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 82.4 per cent while that for females stood at 64.2 per cent (Table 4). The largest share of employed persons was recorded among persons aged between 25 and 34 years, for both males and females (Chart 1).

Chart 1. Employment by age group and sex



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

Self-employed persons accounted for 16.0 per cent of all persons with a main job (Table 5). The majority of employed persons worked on a full-time basis and amounted to 229,255. A further 30,854 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers usually worked 41.9 hours while part-timers worked 21.8 hours per week. In the fourth quarter of 2020, employed persons actually worked an average of 34.6 hours per week, 2.6 hours less when compared to the previous year (Table 7).

The average monthly basic salary of employees for the fourth quarter of 2020 was estimated at €1,555. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and insurance activities sector (Table 10). Average monthly salaries varied from €1,041 among persons employed in elementary occupations to €2,264 among managers (Table 14).

The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2020, stood at 4.4 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 to 74 years (Table 16). Females accounted for 60.8 per cent of total inactive persons and those over 65 years made up the highest share of the inactive (Table 19). Over 40 per cent were inactive because they had reached retirement age or were taking up early retirement (Table 20).

Education Attainment

Almost half of the persons aged 15 years and over had attained a low level of education (Table 21). By contrast, 34.7 per cent of the employed had 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 2020					
Employed	154,772	68.4	105,337	50.0	260,109	59.5
Unemployed	6,939	3.1	4,947 ^u	2.3 ^u	11,886	2.7
Inactive	64,713	28.6	100,295	47.6	165,008	37.8
Total	226,424	100.0	210,579	100.0	437,003	100.0
	October-December 2019 (Revised)					
Employed	157,446	69.7	104,647	49.7	262,093	60.1
Unemployed	5,414 ^u	2.4 ^u	4,136 ^u	2.0 ^u	9,550	2.2
Inactive	63,016	27.9	101,649	48.3	164,665	37.7
Total	225,876	100.0	210,432	100.0	436,308	100.0

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 2. Activity rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	October-December 2020					
15-24	53.0		52.8		52.9	
25-54	97.2		78.7		88.7	
55-64	70.1		37.9		54.2	
Total (15-64)	86.1		67.2		77.3	
	October-December 2019 (Revised)					
15-24	55.9		60.2		57.9	
25-54	97.5		75.3		87.2	
55-64	70.2		36.0		53.4	
Total (15-64)	86.5		65.6		76.7	

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 2020					
15-24	12,207	7.9	12,035	11.4	24,242	9.3
25-34	46,798	30.2	33,843	32.1	80,641	31.0
35-44	40,816	26.4	26,145	24.8	66,961	25.7
45-54	30,660	19.8	21,038	20.0	51,698	19.9
55-64	20,469	13.2	10,835	10.3	31,304	12.0
65+	3,822	2.5	:	:	5,263	2.0
Total	154,772	100.0	105,337	100.0	260,109	100.0
	October-December 2019 (Revised)					
15-24	14,021	8.9	14,354	13.7	28,375	10.8
25-34	46,895	29.8	33,705	32.2	80,600	30.8
35-44	40,995	26.0	24,801	23.7	65,796	25.1
45-54	29,981	19.0	19,228	18.4	49,209	18.8
55-64	21,636	13.7	10,593	10.1	32,229	12.3
65+	3,918	2.5	1,966 ^u	1.9 ^u	5,884	2.2
Total	157,446	100.0	104,647	100.0	262,093	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 4. Employment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	October-December 2020					
15-24	45.6		49.0		47.3	
25-54	94.3		75.5		85.6	
55-64	66.0		36.1		51.3	
Total (15-64)	82.4		64.2		73.8	
	October-December 2019 (Revised)					
15-24	49.7		56.1		52.7	
25-54	94.8		72.6		84.5	
55-64	69.4		35.1		52.5	
Total (15-64)	83.6		63.1		73.9	

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2020					
Self-employed without employees	20,627	13.3	8,538	8.1	29,165	11.2
Self-employed with employees	10,373	6.7	2,242 ^u	2.1 ^u	12,615	4.8
Employee	123,772	80.0	94,367	89.6	218,139	83.9
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	154,772	100.0	105,337	100.0	260,109	100.0
	October-December 2019 (Revised)					
Self-employed without employees	21,344	13.6	7,143	6.8	28,487	10.9
Self-employed with employees	8,982	5.7	3,765 ^u	3.6 ^u	12,747	4.9
Employee	127,120	80.7	93,583	89.4	220,703	84.2
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	157,446	100.0	104,647	100.0	262,093	100.0

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^u 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 2020					
Full-time job	144,758	93.5	84,497	80.2	229,255	88.1
Part-time job	10,014	6.5	20,840	19.8	30,854	11.9
Total	154,772	100.0	105,337	100.0	260,109	100.0
	October-December 2019 (Revised)					
Full-time job	144,861	92.0	81,641	78.0	226,502	86.4
Part-time job	12,585	8.0	23,006	22.0	35,591	13.6
Total	157,446	100.0	104,647	100.0	262,093	100.0

Table 7. Hours worked per week by sex and type of employment in main occupation

Type of employment	Males	Females	Total	Total
	Average Normal Hours ¹			Average Actual Hours ²
	October-December 2020			
Full-time job	42.2	41.5	41.9	36.6
Part-time job	19.5	22.9	21.8	19.6
Total	40.8	37.8	39.6	34.6
	October-December 2019 (Revised)			
Full-time job	42.9	40.6	42.1	39.9
Part-time job	19.5	22.9	21.7	19.5
Total	41.1	36.7	39.3	37.2

¹ 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).

² Actual hours: refers to the number of hours actually spent at the place of work during the reference week for the main job. A person may work extra hours (e.g. overtime, variable hours) or work less hours than usual (e.g. vacation leave, education, sick leave or slack work) due to various reasons. Owing to increased flexibility at work places coupled with technology, the place of work may also include one's home. In this regard, actual hours worked also includes the hours of work carried out by persons who telework.

**Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity
in the main occupation: October-December 2020**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,502 ^u	2.3 ^u	:	:	3,870 ^u	1.5 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	25,446	16.4	8,458	8.0	33,904	13.0
Construction	14,199	9.2	:	:	15,570	6.0
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	39,826	25.7	20,792	19.7	60,618	23.3
Information and communication	7,947	5.1	:	:	9,581	3.7
Financial and insurance activities	7,375	4.8	7,639	7.3	15,014	5.8
Real estate activities	2,526 ^u	1.6 ^u	:	:	3,566 ^u	1.4 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	15,263	9.9	10,457	9.9	25,720	9.9
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	25,794	16.7	40,351	38.3	66,145	25.4
Other services	12,894	8.3	13,227	12.6	26,121	10.0
Total	154,772	100.0	105,337	100.0	260,109	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

**Table 9. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity
in the main occupation: October-December 2019 (Revised)**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,463 ^u	1.6 ^u	:	:	2,525 ^u	1.0 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	22,629	14.4	7,605	7.3	30,234	11.5
Construction	17,674	11.2	:	:	19,111	7.3
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	45,645	29.0	25,098	24.0	70,743	27.0
Information and communication	7,237	4.6	2,401 ^u	2.3 ^u	9,638	3.7
Financial and insurance activities	5,935 ^u	3.8 ^u	7,785	7.4	13,720	5.2
Real estate activities	2,090 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	2,626 ^u	1.0 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	13,481	8.6	10,693	10.2	24,174	9.2
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	27,212	17.3	40,359	38.6	67,571	25.8
Other services	13,080	8.3	8,671	8.3	21,751	8.3
Total	157,446	100.0	104,647	100.0	262,093	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 10. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity in the main occupation: October-December 2020

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	21,587	1,265	8,330	1,221	29,917	1,253
Construction	7,683	1,354	:	:	8,386	1,354
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	30,757	1,143	18,727	995	49,484	1,087
Information and communication	6,387 ^u	2,069 ^u	:	:	7,843	1,921
Financial and insurance activities	7,133	2,673	7,639	2,098	14,772	2,376
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	11,356	1,574	9,459	1,342	20,815	1,469
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	25,224	2,113	38,789	1,706	64,013	1,866
Other services	11,209	1,614	8,160	1,581	19,369	1,600
Total	123,772	1,604	94,367	1,490	218,139	1,555

¹ The average monthly basic salary takes into account the COVID wage supplement scheme but not the COVID-19 Social Security benefits (parent, medical and benefit to persons with disability) since the latter do not qualify as a form of employment income. As a result, employees whose income was entirely dependent on Social Security benefits had their salary set to 0 (zero). This approach is in line with LFS guidelines.

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 11. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity in the main occupation: October-December 2019 (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	19,019	1,720	7,406	1,270	26,425	1,594
Construction	9,986	1,401	:	:	10,949	1,403
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	36,960	1,370	22,129	1,131	59,089	1,281
Information and communication	6,169 ^u	2,157 ^u	2,185 ^u	1,625 ^u	8,354	2,018
Financial and insurance activities	5,202 ^u	2,248 ^u	7,430	2,250	12,632	2,249
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,479	1,955	8,771	1,555	19,250	1,773
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	26,806	1,810	38,357	1,610	65,163	1,692
Other services	10,634	2,126	5,889 ^u	1,321 ^u	16,523	1,839
Total	127,120	1,712	93,583	1,493	220,703	1,619

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: October-December 2020

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,432 ^u	1.6 ^u	:	:	2,499 ^u	1.0 ^u
Managers	22,595	14.6	6,431	6.1	29,026	11.2
Professionals	25,599	16.5	28,683	27.2	54,282	20.9
Technicians and associate professionals	20,743	13.4	14,184	13.5	34,927	13.4
Clerical support workers	11,081	7.2	16,362	15.5	27,443	10.6
Service and sales workers	21,782	14.1	29,130	27.7	50,912	19.6
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,841 ^u	1.8 ^u	:	:	2,980 ^u	1.1 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	22,668	14.6	:	:	24,178	9.3
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	11,212	7.2	2,701 ^u	2.6 ^u	13,913	5.3
Elementary occupations	13,819	8.9	6,130	5.8	19,949	7.7
Total	154,772	100.0	105,337	100.0	260,109	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 13. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: October-December 2019 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,257 ^u	1.4 ^u	:	:	2,392 ^u	0.9 ^u
Managers	20,141	12.8	8,571	8.2	28,712	11.0
Professionals	25,855	16.4	23,928	22.9	49,783	19.0
Technicians and associate professionals	23,704	15.1	13,573	13.0	37,277	14.2
Clerical support workers	11,658	7.4	16,390	15.7	28,048	10.7
Service and sales workers	21,933	13.9	29,505	28.2	51,438	19.6
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,274 ^u	1.4 ^u	:	:	2,336 ^u	0.9 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	24,609	15.6	:	:	26,067	9.9
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	11,075	7.0	3,073 ^u	2.9 ^u	14,148	5.4
Elementary occupations	13,940	8.9	7,952	7.6	21,892	8.4
Total	157,446	100.0	104,647	100.0	262,093	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 14. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and main occupation: October-December 2020

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)
Armed Forces	2,432 ^u	1,614 ^u	:	:	2,499 ^u	1,599 ^u
Managers	16,337	2,206	5,977	2,423	22,314	2,264
Professionals	22,019	2,377	26,059	1,989	48,078	2,167
Technicians and associate professionals	17,692	1,749	12,590	1,713	30,282	1,734
Clerical support workers	10,846	1,188	16,286	1,096	27,132	1,133
Service and sales workers	17,238	1,167	24,409	1,071	41,647	1,111
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	14,409	1,175	:	:	15,209	1,168
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,413	1,167	2,701 ^u	972 ^u	12,114	1,124
Elementary occupations	12,370	1,081	5,446	950	17,816	1,041
Total	123,772	1,604	94,367	1,490	218,139	1,555

¹ The average monthly basic salary takes into account the COVID wage supplement scheme but not the COVID-19 Social Security benefits (parent, medical and benefit to persons with disability) since the latter do not qualify as a form of employment income. As a result, employees whose income was entirely dependent on Social Security benefits had their salary set to 0 (zero). This approach is in line with LFS guidelines.

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 15. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and main occupation: October-December 2019 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,257 ^u	1,578 ^u	:	:	2,392 ^u	1,560 ^u
Managers	14,694	2,704	8,237	2,838	22,931	2,752
Professionals	22,319	2,353	21,624	1,895	43,943	2,128
Technicians and associate professionals	20,508	1,814	11,236	1,587	31,744	1,734
Clerical support workers	11,425	1,309	16,071	1,289	27,496	1,297
Service and sales workers	17,116	1,203	25,079	1,049	42,195	1,111
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	15,914	1,358	:	:	16,651	1,346
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,396	1,279	2,987 ^u	1,009 ^u	12,383	1,214
Elementary occupations	12,823	1,147	7,477	869	20,300	1,044
Total	127,120	1,712	93,583	1,493	220,703	1,619

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2020					
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,896 ^u	24.4 ^u
25-74	4,964 ^u	71.5 ^u	4,026 ^u	81.4 ^u	8,990	75.6
Total (15-74)	6,939	100.0	4,947^u	100.0^u	11,886	100.0
October-December 2019 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,777 ^u	29.1 ^u
25-74	3,678 ^u	67.9 ^u	3,095 ^u	74.8 ^u	6,773 ^u	70.9 ^u
Total (15-74)	5,414^u	100.0^u	4,136^u	100.0^u	9,550	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 17. Unemployment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	October-December 2020					
15-24	:	:	:	:	10.7 ^u	
25-74	3.4 ^u		4.1 ^u		3.7	
Total (15-74)	4.3		4.5^u		4.4	
October-December 2019 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	8.9 ^u	
25-74	2.5 ^u		3.3 ^u		2.8 ^u	
Total (15-74)	3.3^u		3.8^u		3.5	

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u 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 2020					
Less than 12 months	3,388 ^u	48.8 ^u	3,996 ^u	80.8 ^u	7,384	62.1
12 months or more	3,551 ^u	51.2 ^u	:	:	4,502 ^u	37.9 ^u
Total	6,939	100.0	4,947^u	100.0^u	11,886	100.0
October-December 2019 (Revised)						
Less than 12 months	2,263 ^u	41.8 ^u	2,982 ^u	72.1 ^u	5,245 ^u	54.9 ^u
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	4,305 ^u	45.1 ^u
Total	5,414^u	100.0^u	4,136^u	100.0^u	9,550	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u 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 2020					
15-24	12,560	19.4	11,588	11.6	24,148	14.6
25-34	:	:	6,355 ^u	6.3 ^u	8,004 ^u	4.9 ^u
35-44	:	:	9,711	9.7	10,602	6.4
45-54	:	:	6,753	6.7	7,754	4.7
55-64	9,290	14.4	18,655	18.6	27,945	16.9
65+	39,322	60.8	47,233	47.1	86,555	52.5
Total	64,713	100.0	100,295	100.0	165,008	100.0

October-December 2019 (Revised)						
15-24	12,445	19.7	10,195	10.0	22,640	13.7
25-34	:	:	7,552 ^u	7.4 ^u	8,536 ^u	5.2 ^u
35-44	:	:	10,414	10.2	11,386	6.9
45-54	:	:	8,500	8.4	9,608	5.8
55-64	9,278	14.7	19,313	19.0	28,591	17.4
65+	38,229	60.7	45,675	44.9	83,904	51.0
Total	63,016	100.0	101,649	100.0	164,665	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 20. Main reasons for being inactive by sex

Reason for inactivity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2020					
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	31,969	31.9	33,718	20.4
Education or training	11,962	18.5	10,264	10.2	22,226	13.5
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	46,018	71.1	24,581	24.5	70,599	42.8
Other reasons	4,984	7.7	33,481	33.4	38,465	23.3
Total	64,713	100.0	100,295	100.0	165,008	100.0

October-December 2019 (Revised)						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	31,012	30.5	33,034	20.1
Education or training	10,779	17.1	9,188	9.0	19,967	12.1
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	44,530	70.7	23,428	23.0	67,958	41.3
Other reasons	5,685	9.0	38,021	37.4	43,706	26.5
Total	63,016	100.0	101,649	100.0	164,665	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Education level	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2020					
Secondary level education or less	110,779	48.9	101,949	48.4	212,728	48.7
Post-Secondary level education	62,453	27.6	53,896	25.6	116,349	26.6
Tertiary level education	53,192	23.5	54,734	26.0	107,926	24.7
Total	226,424	100.0	210,579	100.0	437,003	100.0
	October-December 2019 (Revised)					
Secondary level education or less	110,141	48.8	104,507	49.7	214,648	49.2
Post-Secondary level education	65,960	29.2	54,635	26.0	120,595	27.6
Tertiary level education	49,775	22.0	51,290	24.4	101,065	23.2
Total	225,876	100.0	210,432	100.0	436,308	100.0

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

Education level	Employed		Unemployed		Inactive		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2020							
Secondary level education or less	87,410	33.6	5,465	46.0	119,853	72.6	212,728	48.7
Post-Secondary level education	82,406	31.7	2,718 ^u	22.9 ^u	31,225	18.9	116,349	26.6
Tertiary level education	90,293	34.7	:	:	13,930	8.4	107,926	24.7
Total	260,109	100.0	11,886	100.0	165,008	100.0	437,003	100.0
	October-December 2019 (Revised)							
Secondary level education or less	96,518	36.8	5,008 ^u	52.4 ^u	113,122	68.7	214,648	49.2
Post-Secondary level education	83,558	31.9	:	:	34,769	21.1	120,595	27.6
Tertiary level education	82,017	31.3	:	:	16,774	10.2	101,065	23.2
Total	262,093	100.0	9,550	100.0	164,665	100.0	436,308	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u 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 (International Standard Classification of Education).
3. **Definitions:**
 - **Activity rate:** labour force (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).
 - **Actual hours worked:** refers to the number of hours actually spent at the place of work during the reference week for the main job. A person may work extra hours (e.g. overtime, variable hours) or work less hours than usual (e.g. vacation leave, education, sick leave or slack work) due to various reasons. Owing to increased flexibility at work places coupled with technology, the place of work may also include one's home. In this regard, actual hours worked also includes the hours of work carried out by persons who telework.
 - **Average monthly basic salary:** refers to the average monthly basic salary received by employees before any social contributions and tax deductions. This amount excludes payments for overtime, allowances and bonuses. The monthly basic salary takes into account the wage supplement scheme. As a result persons who stated that they were receiving this supplement during the second quarter of 2020 had their monthly salary modified to account for this change in their income. COVID-19 Social Security Benefits (parent, medical and benefit to persons with disability) do not feature in the monthly salary figures provided since they do not qualify as a form of employment income. However persons receiving these benefits were considered to be employed if they fulfilled the ILO employment criteria. Data for this variable is provisional and subject to revisions.
 - **Education Attainment:**
 - **secondary or less level of education:** comprising persons with no schooling, primary education, schools for children with special needs 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.
 - **post-secondary level of education:** 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.
 - **tertiary level of education:** 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 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).

- **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 gives an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

Sampling variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Employment	260,109	4,312	260,109 ± 4,312
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	73.84	1.24	73.84 ± 1.24
<i>Males</i>	82.39	1.46	82.39 ± 1.46
<i>Females</i>	64.17	1.82	64.17 ± 1.82
15-24	47.27	3.83	47.27 ± 3.83
25-54	85.62	1.54	85.62 ± 1.54
55-64	51.28	4.33	51.28 ± 4.33
Unemployment	11,886	2,850	11,886 ± 2,850
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	4.38	1.02	4.38 ± 1.02
<i>Males</i>	4.30	1.36	4.30 ± 1.36
<i>Females</i>	4.49	1.77	4.49 ± 1.77
15-24	10.67	4.28	10.67 ± 4.28
25-74	3.68	1.06	3.68 ± 1.06
Inactivity	165,008	4,462	165,008 ± 4,462
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	77.27	1.26	77.27 ± 1.26
<i>Males</i>	86.14	1.23	86.14 ± 1.23
<i>Females</i>	67.23	1.81	67.23 ± 1.81
15-24	52.92	3.60	52.92 ± 3.60
25-54	88.68	1.49	88.68 ± 1.49
55-64	54.23	4.09	54.23 ± 4.09

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 260,109 and the margin of error is 4,312. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 255,797 and 264,421 persons.

Key

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

5. Amendments were carried out in this news release to allow for more accurate interpretations of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market.
 - In Table 7 'Hours worked by sex and type of employment in main occupation' more information is given with regards to the actual number of hours worked.
 - The annual basic salary has been replaced by the monthly basic salary in order to better reflect the changes in salary levels which are being experienced by employees as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (Tables 10-11 and Tables 14-15).
6. Percentage totals may not add up due to rounding.
7. Absolute changes between one survey estimate and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (i.e. less than 2,100 persons) might be the result of sampling error.
8. More information is available from the NSO upon written request.
9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Sources and Methods:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C2/Labour_Market_Statistics/Pages/Labour-Force-Survey.aspx

Statistical Concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=33>

Classification: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO%202008>

<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE%20Rev.%2020>

<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED%202011>

10. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
11. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx