

During the fourth quarter of 2022, the Labour Force Survey estimates that total number of persons in employment was 290,995, 5.5 per cent higher when compared to the previous year.

Labour Force Survey: Q4/2022

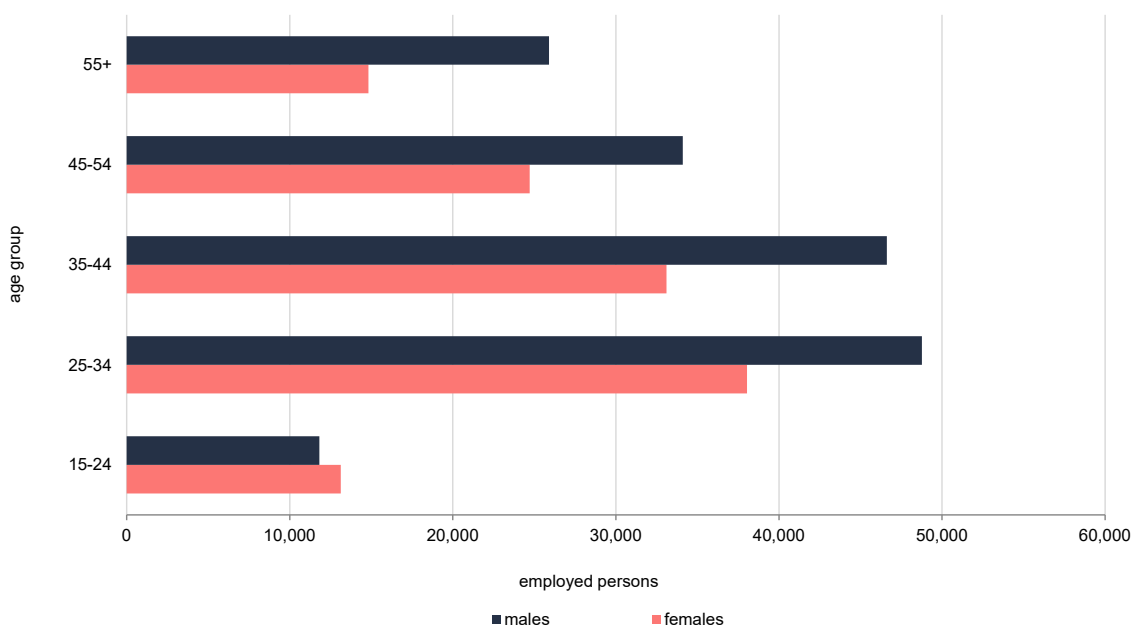
Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicated that, during the fourth quarter, total employment stood at 290,995, accounting for 63.3 per cent of the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 8,732 (1.9 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 159,622 (34.7 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 80.9 per cent, with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25 to 54 (91.3 per cent) (Table 2).

The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 and 64 years, 79 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 84.0 per cent, while that for females stood at 72.3 per cent (Table 4). The largest share of employed persons was recorded among those aged between 25 and 34 years, for both males and females (Chart 1).

Chart 1. Employment by age group and sex



Self-employed persons accounted for 15.0 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 254,780. A further 36,215 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers usually worked 41.0 hours while part-timers worked 22.7 hours per week. In the fourth quarter of 2022, employed persons actually worked 33.8 hours per week, 0.2 hours more when compared to the same quarter of the previous year (Table 7).

The average monthly basic salary of employees for the fourth quarter of 2022 was estimated at €1,785. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and insurance activities sector (Table 10). Average monthly salaries varied from €1,163 among persons employed in elementary occupations to €2,802 among managers (Table 14).

The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2022 stood at 2.9 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among those aged 25 to 74 years (Table 16). Females accounted for 58.0 per cent of total inactive persons and those over 65 years made up the highest share of the inactive population (Table 19). The main reason for inactivity relates to persons reaching retirement age or taking up early retirement (42.5 per cent) (Table 20).

Education Attainment

More than 40 per cent of persons aged 15 years and over had attained a low level of education (41.3 per cent) (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 2022					
Employed	167,198	69.8	123,797	56.3	290,995	63.3
Unemployed	5,209 ^u	2.2 ^u	3,523 ^u	1.6 ^u	8,732	1.9
Inactive	67,087	28.0	92,535	42.1	159,622	34.7
Total	239,494	100.0	219,855	100.0	459,349	100.0
	October-December 2021 (Revised)					
Employed	160,785	69.6	114,942	54.2	275,727	62.2
Unemployed	5,136 ^u	2.2 ^u	3,427 ^u	1.6 ^u	8,563	1.9
Inactive	65,005	28.1	93,840	44.2	158,845	35.8
Total	230,926	100.0	212,209	100.0	443,135	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 2022					
15-24	53.7		58.2		55.9	
25-54	96.6		85.2		91.3	
55-64	70.0		44.4		57.5	
Total (15-64)	86.7		74.3		80.9	
	October-December 2021 (Revised)					
15-24	57.7		51.6		54.8	
25-54	97.1		84.8		91.5	
55-64	66.5		40.4		53.7	
Total (15-64)	86.6		71.9		79.8	

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 2022					
15-24	11,814	7.1	13,119	10.6	24,933	8.6
25-34	48,765	29.2	38,039	30.7	86,804	29.8
35-44	46,623	27.9	33,099	26.7	79,722	27.4
45-54	34,104	20.4	24,718	20.0	58,822	20.2
55-64	20,836	12.5	12,903	10.4	33,739	11.6
65+	5,056	3.0	1,919 ^u	1.6 ^u	6,975	2.4
Total	167,198	100.0	123,797	100.0	290,995	100.0
	October-December 2021 (Revised)					
15-24	13,255	8.2	11,250	9.8	24,505	8.9
25-34	47,706	29.7	36,925	32.1	84,631	30.7
35-44	43,615	27.1	31,684	27.6	75,299	27.3
45-54	31,517	19.6	22,257	19.4	53,774	19.5
55-64	19,897	12.4	11,636	10.1	31,533	11.4
65+	4,795	3.0	1,190 ^u	1.0 ^u	5,985	2.2
Total	160,785	100.0	114,942	100.0	275,727	100.0

^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 2022					
15-24	46.3		55.7		50.8	
25-54	94.6		82.8		89.2	
55-64	67.9		44.2		56.3	
Total (15-64)	84.0		72.3		78.6	
	October-December 2021 (Revised)					
15-24	50.8		47.4		49.2	
25-54	94.8		83.2		89.5	
55-64	65.3		39.8		52.8	
Total (15-64)	83.8		70.1		77.4	

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2022					
Self-employed without employees	23,138	13.8	8,538	6.9	31,676	10.9
Self-employed with employees	9,519	5.7	2,524 ^u	2.0 ^u	12,043	4.1
Employee	134,541	80.5	112,675	91.0	247,216	85.0
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	167,198	100.0	123,797	100.0	290,995	100.0
October-December 2021 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	22,516	14.0	7,983	6.9	30,499	11.1
Self-employed with employees	9,417	5.9	2,208 ^u	1.9 ^u	11,625	4.2
Employee	128,742	80.1	104,673	91.1	233,415	84.7
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	160,785	100.0	114,942	100.0	275,727	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^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 2022					
Full-time job	155,772	93.2	99,008	80.0	254,780	87.6
Part-time job	11,426	6.8	24,789	20.0	36,215	12.4
Total	167,198	100.0	123,797	100.0	290,995	100.0
October-December 2021 (Revised)						
Full-time job	149,713	93.1	92,460	80.4	242,173	87.8
Part-time job	11,072	6.9	22,482	19.6	33,554	12.2
Total	160,785	100.0	114,942	100.0	275,727	100.0

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

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	Average Normal Hours ¹				Average Actual Hours ²	
	October-December 2022					
Full-time job	41.6	40.0	41.0	35.7		
Part-time job	21.6	23.2	22.7	20.1		
Total	40.3	36.6	38.7	33.8		
October-December 2021 (Revised)						
Full-time job	41.4	40.1	40.9	35.6		
Part-time job	20.6	23.8	22.8	19.6		
Total	40.0	36.9	38.7	33.6		

¹ Normal hours worked: refer 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 worked: refer 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 include 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 2022**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,876 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	2,310 ^u	0.8 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	25,799	15.4	6,480	5.2	32,279	11.1
Construction	16,293	9.7	:	:	18,146	6.2
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	44,365	26.5	26,012	21.0	70,377	24.2
Information and communication	9,457	5.7	4,212 ^u	3.4 ^u	13,669	4.7
Financial and insurance activities	9,549	5.7	8,651	7.0	18,200	6.3
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	3,672 ^u	1.3 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	17,310	10.4	14,156	11.4	31,466	10.8
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	27,971	16.7	47,082	38.0	75,053	25.8
Other services	12,302	7.4	13,521	10.9	25,823	8.9
Total	167,198	100.0	123,797	100.0	290,995	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 2021 (Revised)**

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,821 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	2,197 ^u	0.8 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	24,246	15.1	7,499	6.5	31,745	11.5
Construction	17,159	10.7	:	:	17,895	6.5
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	41,132	25.6	24,743	21.5	65,875	23.9
Information and communication	8,111	5.0	2,201 ^u	1.9 ^u	10,312	3.7
Financial and insurance activities	7,732	4.8	8,498	7.4	16,230	5.9
Real estate activities	3,405 ^u	2.1 ^u	:	:	4,590 ^u	1.7 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	18,062	11.2	11,639	10.1	29,701	10.8
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	28,648	17.8	41,757	36.3	70,405	25.5
Other services	10,469	6.5	16,308	14.2	26,777	9.7
Total	160,785	100.0	114,942	100.0	275,727	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 2022

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	22,992	1,723	6,265	1,583	29,257	1,693
Construction	8,618	1,428	:	:	10,347	1,458
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	33,486	1,686	22,585	1,266	56,071	1,517
Information and communication	8,611	2,188	3,628 ^u	2,343 ^u	12,239	2,234
Financial and insurance activities	8,262	2,373	8,550	2,447	16,812	2,411
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	14,964	1,894	12,932	1,884	27,896	1,890
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	26,446	1,961	46,077	1,712	72,523	1,802
Other services	10,168	2,022	9,873	1,599	20,041	1,814
Total	134,541	1,859	112,675	1,697	247,216	1,785

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Notes:

1. Estimates include both public and private sectors.
2. Data is provisional and subject to revisions.

Table 11. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity in the main occupation: October-December 2021 (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	19,639	1,619	7,153	1,245	26,792	1,519
Construction	10,566	1,230	:	:	11,302	1,249
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	31,704	1,313	22,358	1,066	54,062	1,211
Information and communication	7,700	2,229	1,950 ^u	1,868 ^u	9,650	2,156
Financial and insurance activities	7,002	2,602	8,395	2,266	15,397	2,419
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	14,264	1,764	11,016	1,449	25,280	1,626
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	27,341	1,877	39,525	1,763	66,866	1,809
Other services	8,811	2,597	12,597	1,434	21,408	1,913
Total	128,742	1,740	104,673	1,542	233,415	1,651

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Notes:

1. Estimates include both public and private sectors.
2. Data is provisional and subject to revisions.

Table 12. Distribution of total employed persons by sex and occupational group: October-December 2022

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,305 ^u	1.4 ^u	:	:	2,305 ^u	0.8 ^u
Managers	23,226	13.9	10,436	8.4	33,662	11.6
Professionals	28,866	17.3	31,656	25.6	60,522	20.8
Technicians and associate professionals	23,527	14.1	14,163	11.4	37,690	13.0
Clerical support workers	11,677	7.0	18,494	14.9	30,171	10.4
Service and sales workers	19,639	11.7	34,858	28.2	54,497	18.7
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1,919 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	2,199 ^u	0.8 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	26,136	15.6	:	:	28,136	9.7
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	13,234	7.9	3,055 ^u	2.5 ^u	16,289	5.6
Elementary occupations	16,669	10.0	8,855	7.2	25,524	8.8
Total	167,198	100.0	123,797	100.0	290,995	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 13. Distribution of total employed persons by sex and occupational group: October-December 2021 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,928 ^u	1.8 ^u	:	:	2,928 ^u	1.1 ^u
Managers	21,869	13.6	9,302	8.1	31,171	11.3
Professionals	27,507	17.1	29,919	26.0	57,426	20.8
Technicians and associate professionals	24,435	15.2	11,529	10.0	35,964	13.0
Clerical support workers	11,355	7.1	17,250	15.0	28,605	10.4
Service and sales workers	19,835	12.3	34,202	29.8	54,037	19.6
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1,589 ^u	1.0 ^u	:	:	1,797 ^u	0.7 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	25,893	16.1	:	:	26,690	9.7
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	11,705	7.3	3,377 ^u	2.9 ^u	15,082	5.5
Elementary occupations	13,669	8.5	8,358	7.3	22,027	8.0
Total	160,785	100.0	114,942	100.0	275,727	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 occupational group: October-December 2022

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,305 ^u	1,959 ^u	:	:	2,305 ^u	1,959 ^u
Managers	18,490	2,732	10,087	2,930	28,577	2,802
Professionals	25,806	2,478	29,605	2,321	55,411	2,394
Technicians and associate professionals	18,969	1,919	12,318	1,606	31,287	1,796
Clerical support workers	11,521	1,435	18,296	1,400	29,817	1,414
Service and sales workers	13,932	1,453	29,851	1,110	43,783	1,219
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	16,902	1,407	:	:	17,930	1,397
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	10,117	1,393	2,846 ^u	1,368 ^u	12,963	1,388
Elementary occupations	15,861	1,216	8,644	1,067	24,505	1,163
Total	134,541	1,859	112,675	1,697	247,216	1,785

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Note: Data is provisional and subject to revisions.

Table 15. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and occupational group: October-December 2021 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,928 ^u	1,913 ^u	:	:	2,928 ^u	1,913 ^u
Managers	16,062	3,172	8,869	2,422	24,931	2,905
Professionals	24,045	2,354	27,755	2,151	51,800	2,245
Technicians and associate professionals	18,907	1,601	10,989	1,570	29,896	1,589
Clerical support workers	11,243	1,322	17,129	1,206	28,372	1,252
Service and sales workers	15,409	1,315	29,002	1,113	44,411	1,183
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	17,313	1,137	:	:	18,000	1,138
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,213	1,193	3,174 ^u	917 ^u	12,387	1,122
Elementary occupations	12,994	1,085	7,068	896	20,062	1,018
Total	128,742	1,740	104,673	1,542	233,415	1,651

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Note: Data is provisional and subject to revisions.

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2022					
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,470 ^u	28.3 ^u
25-74	3,328 ^u	63.9 ^u	2,934 ^u	83.3 ^u	6,262 ^u	71.7 ^u
Total (15-74)	5,209^u	100.0^u	3,523^u	100.0^u	8,732	100.0
October-December 2021 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,791 ^u	32.6 ^u
25-74	3,344 ^u	65.1 ^u	:	:	5,772 ^u	67.4 ^u
Total (15-74)	5,136^u	100.0^u	3,427^u	100.0^u	8,563	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 2022					
15-24	:	:	:	:	9.0 ^u	
25-74	2.1 ^u		2.6 ^u		2.3 ^u	
Total (15-74)	3.0^u		2.8^u		2.9	
October-December 2021 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	10.2 ^u	
25-74	2.2 ^u		:	:	2.3 ^u	
Total (15-74)	3.1^u		2.9^u		3.0	

: 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 2022					
Less than 12 months	3,943 ^u	75.7 ^u	:	:	5,903	67.6
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	5,209^u	100.0^u	3,523^u	100.0^u	8,732	100.0
October-December 2021 (Revised)						
Less than 12 months	3,899 ^u	75.9 ^u	:	:	5,736 ^u	67.0 ^u
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	2,827 ^u	33.0 ^u
Total	5,136	100.0	3,427^u	100.0^u	8,563	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 2022						
15-24	11,794	17.6	9,856	10.7	21,650	13.6
25-34	:	:	4,068 ^u	4.4 ^u	5,749 ^u	3.6 ^u
35-44	:	:	6,701	7.2	7,548	4.7
45-54	:	:	6,410	6.9	8,586	5.4
55-64	9,216	13.7	16,246	17.6	25,462	16.0
65+	41,373	61.7	49,254	53.2	90,627	56.8
Total	67,087	100.0	92,535	100.0	159,622	100.0
October-December 2021 (Revised)						
15-24	11,024	17.0	11,490	12.2	22,514	14.2
25-34	:	:	4,279 ^u	4.6 ^u	5,605 ^u	3.5 ^u
35-44	:	:	5,211	5.6	6,048	3.8
45-54	:	:	7,138	7.6	8,690	5.5
55-64	10,208	15.7	17,440	18.6	27,648	17.4
65+	40,058	61.6	48,282	51.5	88,340	55.6
Total	65,005	100.0	93,840	100.0	158,845	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 2022						
Care or family responsibilities	:	:	34,338	37.5	34,983	22.1
Education or training	11,425	17.2	9,822	10.7	21,247	13.4
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	45,624	68.5	21,574	23.5	67,198	42.5
Other reasons	8,867	13.3	25,951	28.3	34,818	22.0
Total	66,561	100.0	91,685	100.0	158,246	100.0
October-December 2021 (Revised)						
Care or family responsibilities	:	:	37,453	40.0	38,265	24.2
Education or training	10,910	16.9	10,696	11.4	21,606	13.6
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	47,649	73.7	22,179	23.7	69,828	44.1
Other reasons	5,242	8.1	23,393	25.0	28,635	18.1
Total	64,613	100.0	93,721	100.0	158,334	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

Note: Figures in this table refer to persons between the age of 15 and 90 years

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

Education level	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2022					
Secondary level education or less	99,684	41.6	90,231	41.0	189,915	41.3
Post-Secondary level education	80,561	33.6	71,389	32.5	151,950	33.1
Tertiary level education	59,249	24.7	58,235	26.5	117,484	25.6
Total	239,494	100.0	219,855	100.0	459,349	100.0
October-December 2021 (Revised)						
Secondary level education or less	100,405	43.5	91,735	43.2	192,140	43.4
Post-Secondary level education	77,064	33.4	64,571	30.4	141,635	32.0
Tertiary level education	53,457	23.1	55,903	26.3	109,360	24.7
Total	230,926	100.0	212,209	100.0	443,135	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 2022							
Secondary level education or less	78,531	27.0	2,909 ^u	33.3 ^u	108,475	68.0	189,915	41.3
Post-Secondary level education	111,582	38.3	4,523 ^u	51.8 ^u	35,845	22.5	151,950	33.1
Tertiary level education	100,882	34.7	:	:	15,302	9.6	117,484	25.6
Total	290,995	100.0	8,732	100.0	159,622	100.0	459,349	100.0
October-December 2021 (Revised)								
Secondary level education or less	79,762	28.9	3,507 ^u	41.0 ^u	108,871	68.5	192,140	43.4
Post-Secondary level education	101,977	37.0	4,576 ^u	53.4 ^u	35,082	22.1	141,635	32.0
Tertiary level education	93,988	34.1	:	:	14,892	9.4	109,360	24.7
Total	275,727	100.0	8,563	100.0	158,845	100.0	443,135	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 statistique des activités économiques dans la Communauté européenne). Educational attainment is classified according to ISCED 2011 (International Standard Classification of Education).
3. As from January 2021, Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/257 of 16th December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying the number and the title of the variables for the labour force domain, came into force.
4. This legislation has mainly led to changes in the LFS questionnaire and mode of data collection. An analysis of the impact of this change on LFS estimates was conducted in order to assess the divergence of LFS results from pre-IESS to post-IESS levels. Technical notes on these divergences are found in: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C2/Labour_Market_Statistics/Pages/Labour-Force-Survey.aspx.
5. **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 workplaces 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 quarter under review had their monthly salary modified to account for this change in their income. Data for this variable is provisional and subject to revisions.
 - **Educational 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 2 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 2 ordinary level qualifications or equivalent or more, and persons with a post-secondary level attainment who have obtained at least 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:** comprise persons aged 15 to 89 who, during the reference week, were in one of the following categories:
 - **worked for at least 1 hour for pay or profit**, including contributing family workers and paid casual work
 - **persons with a job or business who were temporarily not at work** during the reference week but had an attachment to their job, including:
 - (a) persons not at work due to holidays, working time arrangements, sick leave, maternity or paternity leave;
 - (b) persons in job-related training or formal education;
 - (c) persons on parental leave, either receiving and/or being entitled to job-related income or benefits, or whose parental leave is expected to be 3 months or less;
 - (d) seasonal workers during the off-season, where they continue to regularly perform tasks and duties for the job or business, excluding fulfilment of legal or administrative obligations;
 - (e) persons temporarily not at work for other reasons where the expected duration of the absence is 3 months or less.
 - **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:** i.e. had either carried out activities in the four-week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or found a job to start within a period of at most 3 months from the end of the reference week. Examples of active job search include contacting Jobsplus, studying job advertisements or placing or updating CVs online.
 - **currently available for work:** i.e. available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the 2 weeks following the reference week.
- **Unemployment rate:** unemployed persons (15-74 years) as a percentage of the labour force (15-74 years).

6. 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	290,995	3,953	290,995 ± 3,953
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	78.55	1.07	78.55 ± 1.07
<i>Males</i>	83.98	3.73	83.98 ± 3.73
<i>Females</i>	72.32	1.58	72.32 ± 1.58
15-24	50.83	4.16	50.83 ± 4.16
25-54	89.20	1.26	89.20 ± 1.26
55-64	56.32	3.73	56.32 ± 3.73
Unemployment	8,732	2,238	8,732 ± 2,238
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	2.92	0.74	2.92 ± 0.74
<i>Males</i>	3.04	1.00	3.04 ± 1.00
<i>Females</i>	2.77	1.18	2.77 ± 1.18
15-24	9.01	4.12	9.01 ± 4.12
25-74	2.31	0.72	2.31 ± 0.72
Inactivity	159,622	4,080	159,622 ± 4,080
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	80.92	1.08	80.92 ± 1.08
<i>Males</i>	86.68	1.20	86.68 ± 1.20
<i>Females</i>	74.32	1.55	74.32 ± 1.55
15-24	55.86	4.07	55.86 ± 4.07
25-54	91.34	1.18	91.34 ± 1.18
55-64	57.50	3.62	57.50 ± 3.62

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 290,995 and the margin of error is 3,953. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 287,042 and 294,948 persons.

Key

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

7. 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 were being experienced by employees as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (Tables 10-11 and Tables 14-15).
8. Percentage totals may not add up due to rounding.
9. 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.
10. More information is available from the NSO upon written request.
<https://workflow.gov.mt/Runtime/Runtime/Form/01+NSO+Request+for+Statistical+Information/?language=en>
11. 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>
12. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
13. Statistics in this news release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.
14. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx