

News Release

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Labour Market

Labour Force Survey: October-December 2006

The Labour Force Survey for the last quarter of 2006, showed that 46.8 per cent of those aged 15 years and over were employed while 3.4 per cent were unemployed. The inactive population was estimated at 49.8 per cent.

The Labour Force Survey is an enquiry which is carried out using a random sample of 2,500 private households per quarter. The criteria used for this survey are on the same lines as international methodologies used by ILO as further explained in the methodological notes. All data contained within this release refers to persons 15 years and over.

Labour Status

For the fourth quarter of 2006, the number of persons over 15 years was estimated to be 326,185. Of these 152,743 or 46.8 per cent were employed, 11,009 were unemployed and 162,433 persons were inactive.

The estimates for October to December 2006 show that out of all persons aged between 15 and 64 years, 59.1 per cent were in the labour force. The activity rate for persons in the 15 to 24 age group stood at 55.0 per cent.

With regard to employment for the fourth quarter 2006, out of every 100 persons between the age of 15 and 64, 55.1 per cent were working. Of these, the employment rate for men was 74.5 per cent and that of women stood at 35.4 per cent.

The Employed Population

For the period October to December 2006 of this year, the majority of the total employed were aged between 25 to 34 years with the mean age for employed men being 39 years, whilst that for women worked out at 34 years.

For the fourth quarter of 2006, the majority or 17.4 per cent worked in the manufacturing sector, whilst a further 16.5 per cent worked in the wholesale and retail trade. Table 11 shows that the most common occupational group was technicians and associate professionals (15.8%), followed by service workers and shop and sales workers (15.7%).

Self employed persons made up 13.0 per cent of the total number of employed persons. As Table 15 illustrates there was a significant increase in the total number of employees for the fourth quarter 2006, when compared to the same period in 2005. The average gross annual salary of employees was estimated at Lm5,394 per annum.

Further comparisons reveal that the number of persons working in the private sector increased significantly over the same period of the previous year.

The Unemployed Population

The total number of unemployed persons reached 11,009, which indicates no significant changes during the survey period when compared to 2005 estimates. Out of every 100 persons in the labour force, 6.7 per cent were unemployed. Additionally, the majority of the unemployed were in the 15 to 24 age group irrespective of gender. As Table 5 indicates, 14.3 per cent of the labour force in this age group were unemployed ■

Theme:
**Population and Social
Conditions**

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Table 1. Labour status

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
October - December 2006						
Employed	104,133	65.1	48,610	29.2	152,743	46.8
Unemployed	6,924	4.3	4,085	2.5	11,009	3.4
Inactive	48,845	30.6	113,588	68.3	162,433	49.8
Total	159,902	100.0	166,283	100.0	326,185	100.0
October - December 2005 (Revised)						
Employed	105,379	66.4	45,605	27.8	150,984	46.8
Unemployed	6,901	4.3	4,484	2.8	11,385	3.5
Inactive	46,429	29.3	113,741	69.4	160,170	49.7
Total	158,709	100.0	163,830	100.0	322,539	100.0

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 2. Distribution of the labour force

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
October - December 2006						
Employed	104,133	93.8	48,610	92.2	152,743	93.3
Unemployed	6,924	6.2	4,085	7.8	11,009	6.7
Total	111,057	100.0	52,695	100.0	163,752	100.0
October - December 2005 (Revised)						
Employed	105,379	93.9	45,605	91.0	150,984	93.0
Unemployed	6,901	6.1	4,484	9.0	11,385	7.0
Total	112,280	100.0	50,089	100.0	162,369	100.0

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 3. Activity Rates by age groups

Labour force (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
October - December 2006			
15-24	60.1	49.8	55.0
25-54	93.9	40.9	67.8
55-64	46.4	12.2	28.6
Total	79.5	38.4	59.1
October - December 2005 (Revised)			
15-24	59.9	51.3	55.8
25-54	94.2	38.9	66.9
55-64	53.7	10.1	31.0
Total	80.7	37.0	59.1

Table 4. Employment Rates by age groups

Persons in employment (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
October - December 2006			
15-24	49.2	44.9	47.1
25-54	90.2	38.0	64.5
55-64	45.3	11.7	27.8
Total	74.5	35.4	55.1
October - December 2005 (Revised)			
15-24	48.5	44.0	46.3
25-54	90.6	36.1	63.7
55-64	52.6	10.1	30.5
Total	75.7	33.7	54.9

Table 5. Unemployment Rates by age groups

Unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
October - December 2006			
15-24	18.0	9.8	14.3
25+	3.8	6.9	4.7
Total	6.2	7.8	6.7
October - December 2005 (Revised)			
15-24	19.0	14.3	16.9
25+	3.6	6.7	4.4
Total	6.1	9.0	7.0

Table 6. Age distribution of total employed persons

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
October - December 2006						
15-24	15,468	14.9	13,700	28.2	29,168	19.1
25-34	24,765	23.8	15,252	31.4	40,017	26.2
35-44	27,017	25.9	8,058	16.5	35,075	22.9
45-54	27,379	26.3	9,081	18.7	36,460	23.9
55-64	8,954	8.6	2,519	5.2	11,473	7.5
65+	550 ^u	0.5	-	-	550 ^u	0.4
Total	104,133	100.0	48,610	100.0	152,743	100.0
October - December 2005 (Revised)						
15-24	15,068	14.3	12,716	27.9	27,784	18.4
25-34	24,467	23.2	13,245	29.0	37,712	25.0
35-44	26,269	24.9	9,392	20.6	35,661	23.6
45-54	28,263	26.8	8,028	17.6	36,291	24.0
55-64	10,295	9.8	2,149	4.7	12,444	8.3
65+	1,017 ^u	1.0	75 ^u	0.2	1,092 ^u	0.7
Total	105,379	100.0	45,605	100.0	150,984	100.0

^u - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 7. Total employed persons classified by economic activity in October - December 2006

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1,782 ^U	1.7	194 ^U	0.4	1,976	1.3
Fishing	231 ^U	0.2	-	-	231 ^U	0.2
Mining and quarrying	410 ^U	0.4	127 ^U	0.3	537 ^U	0.3
Manufacturing	19,674	18.9	6,927	14.3	26,601	17.4
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,878	2.8	65 ^U	0.1	2,943	1.9
Construction	11,057	10.6	374 ^U	0.8	11,431	7.5
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	17,445	16.8	7,803	16.1	25,248	16.5
Hotels and restaurants	7,171	6.9	3,860	7.9	11,031	7.2
Transport, storage and communication	8,990	8.6	2,938	6.0	11,928	7.8
Financial intermediation	4,210	4.0	3,056	6.3	7,266	4.8
Real estate, renting and business activities	6,608	6.4	3,102	6.4	9,710	6.4
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	10,872	10.5	4,068	8.4	14,940	9.8
Education	4,614	4.4	8,022	16.5	12,636	8.3
Health and social work	4,908	4.7	5,613	11.5	10,521	6.9
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,040	2.9	2,194	4.5	5,234	3.4
Private households with employed persons	-	-	210 ^U	0.4	210 ^U	0.1
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	243 ^U	0.2	57 ^U	0.1	300 ^U	0.2
Total	104,133	100.0	48,610	100.0	152,743	100.0

^U - under-represented

Note: Data for the two reference periods depicted are not comparable on a like-with-like basis

Table 8. Total employed persons classified by economic activity in October - December 2005 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	2,702	2.6	271 ^U	0.6	2,973	2.0
Fishing	522 ^U	0.5	-	-	522 ^U	0.3
Mining and quarrying	484 ^U	0.5	-	-	484 ^U	0.3
Manufacturing	21,226	20.1	5,514	12.1	26,740	17.7
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,993	2.8	319 ^U	0.7	3,312	2.2
Construction	12,080	11.5	192 ^U	0.4	12,272	8.1
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	15,899	15.1	7,109	15.6	23,008	15.2
Hotels and restaurants	8,186	7.8	5,330	11.7	13,516	9.0
Transport, storage and communication	10,086	9.6	2,096	4.6	12,182	8.1
Financial intermediation	3,267	3.1	3,056	6.7	6,323	4.2
Real estate, renting and business activities	6,264	5.9	2,387	5.2	8,651	5.7
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	9,136	8.7	2,787	6.1	11,923	7.9
Education	3,913	3.7	7,343	16.1	11,256	7.5
Health and social work	4,826	4.6	5,702	12.5	10,528	7.0
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,600	3.4	3,499	7.7	7,099	4.7
Private households with employed persons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	195 ^U	0.2	-	-	195 ^U	0.1
Total	105,379	100.0	45,605	100.0	150,984	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 9. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity in October - December 2006

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Lm
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	884	5759.12 ^U	140 ^U	4607.14 ^U	1024	5601.62 ^U
Fishing	46 ^U	5121.00 ^U	-	-	46 ^U	5121.00 ^U
Mining and quarrying	410 ^U	4081.14 ^U	127 ^U	4966.93 ^U	537 ^U	4290.62 ^U
Manufacturing	18,294	5544.07	6,781	4754.63	25,075	5330.58
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,878	5571.46	65 ^U	6305.00 ^U	2,943	5587.66
Construction	7,424	4688.96	374 ^U	5185.00 ^U	7,798	4712.75
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	11,137	5093.86	6,585	3705.40	17,722	4577.95
Hotels and restaurants	6,478	4904.18	3,732	3558.61	10,210	4412.34
Transport, storage and communication	8,045	6312.62	2,836	5280.02	10,881	6043.48
Financial intermediation	3,935	8393.35	3,056	6,526.28	6,991	7577.19
Real estate, renting and business activities	4,515	5984.91	2,696	5162.92	7,211	5677.59
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	10,801	5741.56	4,068	5231.65	14,869	5602.05
Education	4,564	6370.11	8,022	5686.60	12,586	5934.45
Health and social work	4,779	6037.57	5,538	4843.63	10,317	5396.68
Other community, social and personal service activities	2,692	5228.15	1,552 ^U	3838.98 ^U	4,244	4720.14
Private households with employed persons	-	-	145 ^U	4028.51 ^U	145 ^U	4028.51 ^U
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	243 ^U	5169.42 ^U	57 ^U	5200.00 ^U	300 ^U	5175.23
Total	87,125	5668.57	45,774	4870.61	132,899	5393.73

^U - under-represented

Table 10. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity in October - December 2005 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Lm
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1,090 ^U	4948.29 ^U	271 ^U	3827.18 ^U	1,361 ^U	4725.06 ^U
Fishing	158 ^U	5202.66 ^U	-	-	158 ^U	5202.66 ^U
Mining and quarrying	423 ^U	6040.23 ^U	-	-	423 ^U	6040.23 ^U
Manufacturing	18,994	5290.24	5441	4368.20	24,435	5084.27
Electricity, gas and water supply	2,993	5670.52	319 ^U	5408.78 ^U	3,312	5645.31
Construction	9,219	4761.69	109 ^U	3068.00 ^U	9,328	4741.90
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	9,653	4979.58	6211	3514.98	15,864	4406.17
Hotels and restaurants	6,972	4862.07	4995	3500.61	11,967	4293.80
Transport, storage and communication	8,660	6502.84	2096	5107.89	10,756	6231.01
Financial intermediation	3,206	7896.70	2987	5995.40	6,193	6979.67
Real estate, renting and business activities	5,039	5817.18	2313	4727.83	7,352	5474.46
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	9,000	5713.92	2787	4839.06	11,787	5507.07
Education	3,852	5861.44	7,270	5673.53	11,122	5738.61
Health and social work	4,699	6024.10	5,702	4533.95	10,401	5209.65
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,034	5103.26	3,033	4084.97	6,067	4594.20
Private households with employed persons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	195 ^U	8239.95 ^U	-	-	195 ^U	8239.95 ^U
Total	87,187	5533.55	43,534	4564.43	130,721	5210.80

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 11. Main occupation of total employed persons in October - December 2006

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Armed Forces	2,271	2.2	-	-	2,271	1.5
Legislators, senior officials and managers	10,677	10.3	1,819	3.7	12,496	8.2
Professionals	9,192	8.8	8,388	17.3	17,580	11.5
Technicians and associate professionals	15,232	14.6	8,861	18.2	24,093	15.8
Clerks	8,746	8.4	9,943	20.5	18,689	12.2
Service workers and shop and sales workers	14,188	13.6	9,766	20.1	23,954	15.7
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	1,940	1.9	119 ^u	0.2	2,059	1.3
Craft and related trades workers	19,347	18.6	173 ^u	0.4	19,520	12.8
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,981	8.6	4,324	8.9	13,305	8.7
Elementary occupations	13,559	13.0	5,217	10.7	18,776	12.3
Total	104,133	100.0	48,610	100.0	152,743	100.0

^u - under-represented

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons in October - December 2005 (Revised)

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Armed Forces	1,071 ^u	1.0	-	-	1,071 ^u	0.7
Legislators, senior officials and managers	10,949	10.4	3,331	7.3	14,280	9.5
Professionals	9,390	8.9	6,779	14.9	16,169	10.7
Technicians and associate professionals	14,919	14.2	7,398	16.2	22,317	14.8
Clerks	6,984	6.6	10,295	22.6	17,279	11.4
Service workers and shop and sales workers	13,150	12.5	10,164	22.3	23,314	15.4
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	2,871	2.7	-	-	2,871	1.9
Craft and related trades workers	20,539	19.5	275 ^u	0.6	20,814	13.8
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	11,156	10.6	3,381	7.4	14,537	9.6
Elementary occupations	14,350	13.6	3,982	8.7	18,332	12.2
Total	105,379	100.0	45,605	100.0	150,984	100.0

^u - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 13. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation in October - December 2006

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm
Armed Forces	2,271	5198.74	-	-	2,271	5198.74
Legislators, senior officials and managers	6,636	9745.28	1,400 ^u	7772.88 ^u	8,036	9401.66
Professionals	7,822	7536.39	8,236	6672.99	16,058	7093.56
Technicians and associate professionals	14,212	6034.87	8,479	5012.95	22,691	5653.01
Clerks	8,517	5244.33	9,886	4736.58	18,403	4971.57
Service workers and shop and sales workers	10,894	4766.56	8,154	3565.62	19,048	4252.47
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	639 ^u	4851.76 ^u	65 ^u	3000.00 ^u	704 ^u	4680.79 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	14,870	5029.41	173 ^u	5293.75 ^u	15,043	5032.45
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,104	4837.99	4,324	4624.53	12,428	4763.72
Elementary occupations	13,160	4482.81	5,057	3479.25	18,217	4204.22
Total	87,125	5668.57	45,774	4870.61	132,899	5393.73

^u - under-represented

Table 14. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation in October - December 2005 (Revised)

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm
Armed Forces	1,071 ^u	5329.92 ^u	-	-	1,071 ^u	5329.92 ^u
Legislators, senior officials and managers	7,033	8589.14	2,851	7015.10	9,884	8135.11
Professionals	8,637	7216.45	6,592	6283.47	15,229	6812.61
Technicians and associate professionals	14,141	6129.60	7,150	5184.91	21,291	5812.35
Clerks	6,905	5061.57	10,221	4180.49	17,126	4535.73
Service workers and shop and sales workers	10,231	4619.11	9,238	3304.00	19,469	3996.45
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	7369 ^u	4629.38 ^u	-	-	7369 ^u	4629.38 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	14,773	4935.19	119 ^u	3580.74 ^u	14,892	4924.36
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,622	4750.13	3,381	4087.25	13,003	4576.73
Elementary occupations	14,038	4490.73	3,982	3182.06	18,020	4201.55
Total	87,187	5533.55	43,534	4564.43	130,721	5210.80

^u - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 15. Professional status of main occupation for total employed persons

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
October - December 2006						
Self-employed without employees	11,523	11.0	2,452	5.0	13,975	9.2
Self-employed with employees	5,485	5.3	384 ^U	0.8	5,869	3.8
Employee	87,125	83.7	45,774	94.2	132,899	87.0
Family worker	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	104,133	100.0	48,610	100.0	152,743	100.0
October - December 2005 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	12,648	12.0	1,113 ^U	2.4	13,761	9.1
Self-employed with employees	5,544	5.3	903 ^U	2.0	6,447	4.2
Employee	87,187	82.7	43,534	95.5	130,721	86.6
Family worker	-	-	55 ^U	0.1	55 ^U	0.1
Total	105,379	100.0	45,605	100.0	150,984	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 16. Type of employment (main occupation)

Type of Employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
October - December 2006						
Full-time job	99,361	95.4	37,558	77.3	136,919	89.6
Full-time with reduced hours job	222 ^U	0.2	1,709 ^U	3.5	1,931	1.3
Part-time job	4,550	4.4	9,343	19.2	13,893	9.1
Total	104,133	100.0	48,610	100.0	152,743	100.0
October - December 2005 (Revised)						
Full-time job	100,266	95.1	35,957	78.8	136,223	90.2
Full-time with reduced hours job	207 ^U	0.2	1,588 ^U	3.5	1,795 ^U	1.2
Part-time job	4,906	4.7	8,060	17.7	12,966	8.6
Total	105,379	100.0	45,605	100.0	150,984	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error

Table 17. Total employed persons classified by economic sector

Economic Sector	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
October - December 2006						
Private	73,006	70.1	34,532	71.0	107,538	70.4
Public majority	3,245	3.1	827 ^U	1.7	4,072	2.7
Independent statutory bodies	7,771	7.5	2,295	4.7	10,066	6.6
Government departments and ministries	20,111	19.3	10,956	22.6	31,067	20.3
Total	104,133	100.0	48,610	100.0	152,743	100.0
October - December 2005 (Revised)						
Private	73,113	69.4	30,853	67.6	103,966	68.8
Public majority	4,824	4.6	722 ^U	1.6	5,546	3.7
Independent statutory bodies	8,916	8.4	2,090	4.6	11,006	7.3
Government departments and ministries	18,526	17.6	11,940	26.2	30,466	20.2
Total	105,379	100.0	45,605	100.0	150,984	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 18. Unemployed persons classified by age groups

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
October - December 2006						
15-24	3,400	49.1	1,483	36.3	4,883	44.4
25-34	927 ^U	13.4	823 ^U	20.1	1,750	15.9
35-44	772 ^U	11.2	741 ^U	18.2	1,513 ^U	13.7
45-54	1,600 ^U	23.1	931 ^U	22.8	2,531	23.0
55-64	225 ^U	3.2	107 ^U	2.6	332 ^U	3.0
Total	6,924	100.0	4,085	100.0	11,009	100.0
October - December 2005 (Revised)						
15-24	3,540	51.3	2,127	47.4	5,667	49.8
25-34	1,521 ^U	22.1	1,063 ^U	23.7	2,584	22.7
35-44	692 ^U	10.0	584 ^U	13.0	1,276 ^U	11.2
45-54	924 ^U	13.4	710 ^U	15.9	1,634 ^U	14.3
55-64	224 ^U	3.2	-	-	224 ^U	2.0
Total	6,901	100.0	4,484	100.0	11,385	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 19. Duration of job search of unemployed persons

Duration	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
October - December 2006						
Less than 5 months	2,626	37.9	1,933	47.3	4,559	41.4
6 - 11 months	851 ^U	12.3	1,095 ^U	26.8	1,946	17.7
12 + months	3,447	49.8	1,057 ^U	25.9	4,504	40.9
Total	6,924	100.0	4,085	100.0	11,009	100.0
October - December 2005 (Revised)						
Less than 5 months	2,228	32.3	1,693 ^U	37.7	3,921	34.5
6 - 11 months	1,318 ^U	19.1	895 ^U	20.0	2,213	19.4
12 + months	3,355	48.6	1,896	42.3	5,251	46.1
Total	6,901	100.0	4,484	100.0	11,385	100.0

^U - under-represented

Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Methodological Notes

The Labour Force Survey is an enquiry which is carried out on using a random sample of 2,500 private households. The criteria used for this survey match international methodologies used by ILO as outlined underneath. The Labour Force Survey is carried out on an ongoing basis. 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.

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 the results with other EU member states and countries following ILO definitions of employment and unemployment. Occupations are classified according to the ISCO classification (International Standard Classification of Occupations) whilst the economic activity is classified according to the NACE classification (Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les Communautés européennes).

Revision to Population Estimates

As from 2006, the weighting procedures are based on 2005 population estimates. Data for 2005 were revised to correct for sample bias arising out of differential non response and non representative probabilities of selection. All data contained within this release refers to persons aged 15 years and over.

Under represented figures are indicated for each table and should be treated with caution .

Absolute changes between one survey and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (ie, less than 1,800 persons) might be the result of sampling error.

EMPLOYEE: The distinction between employees and self-employed is based on the respondent's own judgement as stated during the interview.

EMPLOYMENT: This comprises all persons above 15 years of age 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 employees but were not at work and were: on paid or sick leave, did not work due to 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: a person who runs 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.

INACTIVE PERSONS: All persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as inactive.

LABOUR FORCE: This comprises persons in employment and unemployed persons.

REFERENCE WEEK - The week to which the collected data relate.

UNEMPLOYMENT: This comprises 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 , e.g. includes contacting the ETC, applied 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.

Sampling Variability

The data in this release are based on statistical samples, and as such, estimates carry a sampling error. A measure of the sampling error is the standard error. The standard error as a percentage of the estimate is referred to as the coefficient of variation (CV). The CV is generally computed and expressed as a percentage, which is the quantified by the sampling variability. The coefficient of variation and the sampling variabilities give an indication of the confidence limits. The confidence limits are obtained based on the assumption that the data follows a normal distribution.

Sampling Variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval
Employment	152,743	1.71	± 4706
Employment Rate (%)	55.1	1.57	± 1.70
Unemployment	11,009	8.61	± 1592
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.7	8.46	± 1.11
Inactive	162,433	1.37	± 4736
Activity Rate (%)	59.1	1.47	± 1.70

The above table give indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 152,743 and the coefficient of variation is 1.71 per cent. For the period October to December 2006, the 95% confidence interval was ± 4,706 persons. Hence, the figure lies between 148,037 and 157,449 persons.