

News Release



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Labour Market

Labour Force Survey: July-September 2007

For the third quarter 2007, the Labour Force Survey showed that there was a statistically significant change in average employment, while unemployment levels did not change in a statistically significant manner when compared to the same period in 2006.

The Labour Force Survey is an enquiry which is carried out using a random sample of 3,200 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 period July to September, the total number of employed stood at 156,930 persons. Increases in employment over the previous quarter reflect increases in summer related jobs. The total number of unemployed was 10,348 persons and the total labour force reached 167,278 persons. The total inactive remained unchanged when compared to the same period in 2006.

The activity rate as illustrated in Table 3 stood at 59.9 per cent. The activity rate for males was 78.8 per cent whilst that for females reached 40.6 per cent. The activity gender gap was 38.2 per cent. Furthermore, for the third quarter 2007, the total employment rate stood at 56.1 per cent (Table 4).

The Employed Population

The distribution of employed persons by age groups reveals that the majority were between 25 to 34 years. The mean age for employed men during the third quarter of 2007 was 39 years, whilst that for women stood at 34 years.

For the period under review, the majority, of employed persons worked in the manufacturing sector, followed by 15.2 per cent that worked in the wholesale and retail trade; repairs sector. For the period July to September 2007, the most common occupations were within the service works; shop and sales workers category. This subgroup includes jobs such as sales persons, waiters, and chefs.

Increases in employment were reflected in a statistically significant increases in the number of female part-time workers (Table 16).

Self employed made up 13.8 per cent of the total number of employed persons. Table 15 illustrates a significant increase in the total number of employees for the third quarter 2007, when compared to the same period last year.

The Unemployed Population

For the third quarter 2007, the total number of unemployed was estimated at 10,348 persons. The unemployment rate, as illustrated in Table 5, stood at 6.2 per cent. Furthermore, the unemployment rate for persons aged more than 25 years stood at 4.4 per cent.

Table 18 illustrates the total number of unemployed persons by age group. The majority or 43.3 per cent were between 15 to 24 years. The mean age for unemployed men was 30 years, whilst that for women stood at 31 years ■

Theme:
**Population and Social
Conditions**

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Table 1. Labour status

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
July-September 2007						
Employed	104,982	65.1	51,948	31.1	156,930	47.8
Unemployed	6,065	3.8	4,283	2.6	10,348	3.2
Inactive	50,078	31.1	110,769	66.3	160,847	49.0
Total	161,125	100.0	167,000	100.0	328,125	100.0
July-September 2006 (Revised)						
Employed	103,871	65.1	49,869	30.0	153,740	47.2
Unemployed	6,730	4.2	4,399	2.7	11,129	3.4
Inactive	48,921	30.7	111,821	67.3	160,742	49.4
Total	159,522	100.0	166,089	100.0	325,611	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	%
July-September 2007						
Employed	104,982	94.5	51,948	92.4	156,930	93.8
Unemployed	6,065	5.5	4,283	7.6	10,348	6.2
Total	111,047	100.0	56,231	100.0	167,278	100.0
July-September 2006 (Revised)						
Employed	103,871	93.9	49,869	91.9	153,740	93.2
Unemployed	6,730	6.1	4,399	8.1	11,129	6.8
Total	110,601	100.0	54,268	100.0	164,869	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	
	%	%	%
July-September 2007			
15-24	56.9	54.2	55.6
25-54	93.3	42.9	68.4
55-64	50.3	12.2	30.5
Total	78.8	40.6	59.9
July-September 2006 (Revised)			
15-24	54.6	52.5	53.5
25-54	94.3	42.0	68.4
55-64	52.9	11.9	31.6
Total	79.4	39.6	59.6

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	
	%	%	%
July-September 2007			
15-24	48.8	48.1	48.5
25-54	89.7	40.4	65.4
55-64	48.8	11.2	29.2
Total	74.5	37.5	56.1
July-September 2006 (Revised)			
15-24	47.4	44.0	45.8
25-54	89.6	39.9	65.0
55-64	51.1	11.4	30.4
Total	74.5	36.4	55.5

Table 5. Unemployment Rates by age groups

Unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
July-September 2007			
15-24	14.1	11.4	12.8
25+	3.8	6.0	4.4
Total	5.5	7.6	6.2
July-September 2006 (Revised)			
15-24	13.1	16.1	14.5
25+	4.8	4.9	4.8
Total	6.1	8.1	6.8

Table 6. Age distribution of total employed persons

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
July-September 2007						
15-24	15,691	14.9	14,729	28.4	30,420	19.4
25-34	24,419	23.3	15,848	30.5	40,267	25.6
35-44	24,916	23.7	9,875	19.0	34,791	22.2
45-54	29,550	28.2	8,890	17.1	38,440	24.5
55-64	9,683	9.2	2,421	4.7	12,104	7.7
65+	723 ^U	0.7	185 ^U	0.3	908 ^U	0.6
Total	104,982	100.0	51,948	100.0	156,930	100.0
July-September 2006 (Revised)						
15-24	14,967	14.4	13,159	26.4	28,126	18.3
25-34	24,805	23.9	15,866	31.8	40,671	26.5
35-44	26,188	25.2	9,455	19.0	35,643	23.2
45-54	27,155	26.2	8,933	17.9	36,088	23.5
55-64	10,089	9.7	2,456	4.9	12,545	8.1
65+	667 ^U	0.6	-	-	667 ^U	0.4
Total	103,871	100.0	49,869	100.0	153,740	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. 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 July-September 2007

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	2,797	2.7	234 ^U	0.5	3,031	1.9
Fishing	237 ^U	0.2	-	-	237 ^U	0.2
Mining and quarrying	485 ^U	0.5	48 ^U	0.1	533 ^U	0.3
Manufacturing	19,689	18.8	5,860	11.3	25,549	16.3
Electricity, gas and water supply	3,118	3.0	251 ^U	0.5	3,369	2.2
Construction	11,053	10.5	411 ^U	0.8	11,464	7.3
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	15,686	14.9	8,106	15.6	23,792	15.2
Hotels and restaurants	8,502	8.1	5,679	10.9	14,181	9.0
Transport, storage and communication	9,492	9.0	2,704	5.2	12,196	7.8
Financial intermediation	2,179	2.1	3,059	5.9	5,238	3.3
Real estate, renting and business activities	7,126	6.8	5,013	9.7	12,139	7.7
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	10,595	10.1	3,476	6.7	14,071	9.0
Education	4,969	4.7	7,542	14.5	12,511	8.0
Health and social work	4,587	4.4	6,750	13.0	11,337	7.2
Other community, social and personal service activities	4,346	4.1	2,572	4.9	6,918	4.4
Private households with employed persons	-	-	66 ^U	0.1	66 ^U	0.0
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	121 ^U	0.1	177 ^U	0.3	298 ^U	0.2
Total	104,982	100.0	51,948	100.0	156,930	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution

Table 8. Total employed persons classified by economic activity in July-September 2006 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	2,066	2.0	74 ^U	0.2	2,140	1.4
Fishing	478 ^U	0.5	66 ^U	0.1	544 ^U	0.4
Mining and quarrying	667 ^U	0.9	63 ^U	0.1	730 ^U	0.5
Manufacturing	19,118	18.4	7,644	15.3	26,762	17.4
Electricity, gas and water supply	3,605	3.5	297 ^U	0.6	3,902	2.5
Construction	11,578	11.1	215 ^U	0.4	11,793	7.7
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	16,272	15.7	8,082	16.2	24,354	15.9
Hotels and restaurants	8,859	8.5	3,151	6.3	12,010	7.8
Transport, storage and communication	7,535	7.2	2,961	6.0	10,496	6.8
Financial intermediation	3,198	3.1	2,959	5.9	6,157	4.0
Real estate, renting and business activities	6,490	6.1	3,124	6.3	9,614	6.3
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	11,080	10.7	4,313	8.7	15,393	10.0
Education	4,523	4.3	8,452	16.9	12,975	8.4
Health and social work	5,243	5.0	6,141	12.3	11,384	7.4
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,059	2.9	2,223	4.5	5,282	3.4
Private households with employed persons	-	-	60 ^U	0.1	60 ^U	0.0
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	100 ^U	0.1	44 ^U	0.1	144 ^U	0.1
Total	103,871	100.0	49,869	100.0	153,740	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution
 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 July-September 2007

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	1,405 ^U	5,257.84 ^U	87 ^U	3,250.00 ^U	1,492 ^U	5,140.76 ^U
Fishing	89 ^U	5,954.89 ^U	-	-	89 ^U	5,954.89 ^U
Mining and quarrying	429 ^U	7,217.59 ^U	48 ^U	7,255.81 ^U	477 ^U	7,221.43 ^U
Manufacturing	17,579	5,679.04	5,860	4,464.39	23,439	5,375.37
Electricity, gas and water supply	3,118	6,285.19	251 ^U	3,854.24 ^U	3,369	6,104.08
Construction	7,592	5,221.80	411 ^U	4,979.52 ^U	8,003	5,209.35
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	9,786	5,469.03	6,800	3,855.94	16,586	4,807.69
Hotels and restaurants	7,987	4,929.88	5,540	3,663.97	13,527	4,411.43
Transport, storage and communication	7,668	6,644.80	2,457	5,300.19	10,125	6,318.51
Financial intermediation	2,064	9,978.95	3,059	5,678.88	5,123	7,411.33
Real estate, renting and business activities	5,038	6,937.55	4,399	4,991.19	9,437	6,030.27
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	10,538	5,965.23	3,476	5,286.64	14,014	5,796.91
Education	4,908	6,525.53	7,467	6,028.39	12,375	6,225.56
Health and social work	4,468	6,311.04	6,557	4,686.69	11,025	5,344.98
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,898	6,122.81	1,814	4,048.70	5,712	5,464.12
Private households with employed persons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	121 ^U	5,312.81 ^U	177 ^U	11,571.64 ^U	298 ^U	9,030.31 ^U
Total	86,688	5,964.82	48,403	4,797.00	135,091	5,546.39

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution

Table 10. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity in July-September 2006 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	733 ^U	5,145.30 ^U	-	-	733 ^U	5,145.30 ^U
Fishing	77 ^U	5,804.28 ^U	66 ^U	2,896.26 ^U	143 ^U	4,462.12 ^U
Mining and quarrying	567 ^U	6,811.64 ^U	63 ^U	5,300.00 ^U	630 ^U	6,660.48 ^U
Manufacturing	17,025	5,647.26	7,491	4,590.38	24,516	5,324.33
Electricity, gas and water supply	3,605	5,674.78	297 ^U	5,117.45 ^U	3,902	5,632.36
Construction	7,699	4,861.27	215 ^U	4,207.28 ^U	7,914	4,843.51
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs	10,187	4,948.75	6,943	4,063.69	17,130	4,590.03
Hotels and restaurants	7,911	4,511.71	2,940	4,050.95	10,851	4,386.87
Transport, storage and communication	6,679	6,487.85	2,961	6,095.03	9,640	6,367.19
Financial intermediation	3,074	8,801.61	2,959	6,634.30	6,033	7,738.61
Real estate, renting and business activities	4,618	7,365.22	2,976	5,188.95	7,594	6,512.37
Public admin and defence; compulsory social security	11,080	6,142.02	4,313	5,441.24	15,393	5,945.67
Education	4,460	6,855.19	8,452	5,432.39	12,912	5,923.85
Health and social work	4,817	6,000.63	6,060	5,144.06	10,877	5,523.40
Other community, social and personal service activities	2,878	4,819.27	1,676 ^U	4,348.65 ^U	4,554	4,646.07
Private households with employed persons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	100 ^U	5,804.28 ^U	44 ^U	7,000.00 ^U	144 ^U	6,169.64 ^U
Total	85,510	5,784.11	47,456	5,030.61	132,966	5,515.18

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution

Please note that imputation methods for the average annual salaries have been revised as from 2006, hence estimates for salaries are not comparable on a like with like basis. Further details are provided in the methodological notes.

Table 11. Main occupation of total employed persons in July-September 2007

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Armed Forces	1,486 ^u	1.4	-	-	1,486 ^u	1.0
Legislators, senior officials and managers	9,415	9.0	2,418	4.6	11,833	7.6
Professionals	9,921	9.4	8,338	16.1	18,259	11.6
Technicians and associate professionals	15,088	14.4	8,084	15.6	23,172	14.8
Clerks	7,302	7.0	11,474	22.1	18,776	12.0
Service workers and shop and sales workers	13,963	13.3	12,130	23.3	26,093	16.6
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	2,402	2.3	147 ^u	0.3	2,549	1.6
Craft and related trades workers	19,919	19.0	811 ^u	1.6	20,730	13.2
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,592	9.1	3,816	7.3	13,408	8.5
Elementary occupations	15,894	15.1	4,730	9.1	20,624	13.1
Total	104,982	100.0	51,948	100.0	156,930	100.0

^u - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons in July-September 2006 (Revised)

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	%
	No	%	No	%		
Armed Forces	1,861	1.8	-	-	1,861	1.2
Legislators, senior officials and managers	10,813	10.4	2,282	4.6	13,095	8.5
Professionals	9,941	9.6	7,619	15.3	17,560	11.4
Technicians and associate professionals	13,957	13.4	10,423	20.9	24,380	15.9
Clerks	8,333	8.0	9,912	19.9	18,245	11.9
Service workers and shop and sales workers	14,151	13.6	10,202	20.5	24,353	15.8
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	2,339	2.3	74 ^u	0.1	2,413	1.6
Craft and related trades workers	19,570	18.8	611 ^u	1.2	20,181	13.1
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,267	8.0	4,589	9.2	12,856	8.4
Elementary occupations	14,639	14.1	4,157	8.3	18,796	12.2
Total	103,871	100.0	49,869	100.0	153,740	100.0

^u - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

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 July-September 2007

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Lm
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm		
Armed Forces	1486 ^U	5,551.35 ^U	-	-	1486 ^U	5,551.35 ^U
Legislators, senior officials and managers	6,019	9,888.55	2,232	7,383.20	8,251	9,210.82
Professionals	8,727	8,405.13	7,886	7,140.38	16,613	7,804.77
Technicians and associate professionals	13,274	6,413.46	7,764	5,212.58	21,038	5,970.28
Clerks	7,196	5,285.58	11,284	4,487.83	18,480	4,798.47
Service workers and shop and sales workers	10,926	5,153.39	10,328	3,417.74	21,254	4,309.98
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	933 ^U	5,244.02 ^U	-	-	933 ^U	5,244.02 ^U
Craft and related trades workers	14,673	5,005.00	406 ^U	3,717.91 ^U	15,079	4,970.34
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,110	5,556.94	3,816	4,334.92	11,926	5,165.93
Elementary occupations	15,344	4,763.22	4,687	3,187.46	20,031	4,394.51
Total	86,688	5,964.82	48,403	4,797.00	135,091	5,546.39

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution

Table 14. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation in July-September 2006 (Revised)

Occupation	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females		No	Average Lm
	No	Average Lm	No	Average Lm		
Armed Forces	1,861	5,363.06	-	-	1,861	5,363.06
Legislators, senior officials and managers	6,797	9,902.36	1,407 ^U	7,138.61 ^U	8,204	9,428.37
Professionals	8,412	7,677.65	7,538	6,512.95	15,950	7,127.21
Technicians and associate professionals	12,813	6,318.81	10,192	5,452.11	23,005	5,934.84
Clerks	8,108	5,308.26	9,912	4,782.19	18,020	5,018.89
Service workers and shop and sales workers	11,426	4,561.42	9,182	4,133.44	20,608	4,370.73
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	592 ^U	5,085.46 ^U	-	-	592 ^U	5,085.46 ^U
Craft and related trades workers	13,812	5,043.30	539 ^U	5,850.90 ^U	14,351	5,073.63
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	7,269	5,113.60	4,589	4,540.70	11,858	4,891.89
Elementary occupations	14,420	4,630.17	4,097	3,583.30	18,517	4,398.55
Total	85,510	5,784.11	47,456	5,030.61	132,966	5,515.18

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Please note that imputation methods for the average annual salaries have been revised as from 2006, hence estimates for salaries are not comparable on a like with like basis. Further details are provided in the methodological notes.

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

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
July-September 2007						
Self-employed without employees	11,520	11.0	2,736	5.3	14,256	9.0
Self-employed with employees	6,774	6.4	738 ^U	1.4	7,512	4.8
Employee	86,688	82.6	48,403	93.2	135,091	86.1
Family worker	-	-	71 ^U	0.1	71 ^U	0.1
Total	104,982	100.0	51,948	100.0	156,930	100.0
July-September 2006 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	12,235	11.8	1,529 ^U	3.1	13,764	9.0
Self-employed with employees	6,126	5.9	884 ^U	1.8	7,010	4.5
Employee	85,510	82.3	47,456	95.1	132,966	86.5
Family worker	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	103,871	100.0	49,869	100.0	153,740	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. Absolute changes between one survey and another, smaller than 1,800, may be due to sampling error.

Table 16. Type of employment for main occupation

Type of Employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
July-September 2007						
Full-time job	99,936	95.2	38,368	73.9	138,304	88.1
Full-time with reduced hours job	59 ^U	0.1	2,664	5.1	2,723	1.8
Part-time job	4,987	4.7	10,916	21.0	15,903	10.1
Total	104,982	100.0	51,948	100.0	156,930	100.0
July-September 2006 (Revised)						
Full-time job	98,313	94.6	39,757	79.7	138,070	89.8
Full-time with reduced hours job	275 ^U	0.3	1,421 ^U	2.9	1,696 ^U	1.1
Part-time job	5,283	5.1	8,691	17.4	13,974	9.1
Total	103,871	100.0	49,869	100.0	153,740	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. 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	%
July-September 2007						
Private	73,277	69.8	36,989	71.2	110,266	70.3
Public majority	1,729 ^U	1.7	603 ^U	1.2	2,332	1.5
Independent statutory bodies	9,884	9.4	2,719	5.2	12,603	8.0
Government departments and ministries	20,092	19.1	11,637	22.4	31,729	20.2
Total	104,982	100.0	51,948	100.0	156,930	100.0
July-September 2006 (Revised)						
Private	73,361	70.6	34,624	69.4	107,985	70.2
Public majority	1,889	1.8	903 ^U	1.8	2,792	1.8
Independent statutory bodies	8,512	8.2	2,222	4.5	10,734	7.0
Government departments and ministries	20,109	19.4	12,120	24.3	32,229	21.0
Total	103,871	100.0	49,869	100.0	153,740	100.0

^U - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. 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	%
July-September 2007						
15-24	2,582	42.6	1,896	44.3	4,478	43.3
25-34	1,461 ^u	24.1	713 ^u	16.7	2,174	21.0
35-44	910 ^u	15.0	730 ^u	17.0	1,640 ^u	15.8
45-54	804 ^u	13.2	725 ^u	16.9	1,529 ^u	14.8
55-64	308 ^u	5.1	219 ^u	5.1	527 ^u	5.1
Total	6,065	100.0	4,283	100.0	10,348	100.0
July-September 2006 (Revised)						
15-24	2,252	33.5	2,519	57.3	4,771	42.9
25-34	1,052 ^u	15.6	561 ^u	12.7	1,613 ^u	14.5
35-44	1,190 ^u	17.7	549 ^u	12.5	1,739 ^u	15.6
45-54	1,866	27.7	663 ^u	15.1	2,529	22.7
55-64	370 ^u	5.5	107 ^u	2.4	477 ^u	4.3
Total	6,730	100.0	4,399	100.0	11,129	100.0

^u - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. 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	%
July-September 2007						
Less than 5 months	2,382	39.3	2,341	54.7	4,723	45.6
6 - 11 months	992 ^u	16.4	640 ^u	14.9	1,632 ^u	15.8
12 + months	2,691	44.3	1,302 ^u	30.4	3,993	38.6
Total	6,065	100.0	4,283	100.0	10,348	100.0
July-September 2006 (Revised)						
Less than 5 months	2,451	36.5	2,106	47.9	4,557	40.9
6 - 11 months	1,120 ^u	16.6	1,072 ^u	24.4	2,192	19.7
12 + months	3,159	46.9	1,221 ^u	27.7	4,380	39.4
Total	6,730	100.0	4,399	100.0	11,129	100.0

^u - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution. 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 2007, the weighting procedures are based on 2006 population estimates. 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.

GROSS ANNUAL SALARY: Refers to the gross annual basic salary received by employees, i.e. excludes payments for overtime, allowances and bonuses. Between 2004 and 2005, means within classes were used for imputation methods based on occupational category, economic activity and type of employment. As from 2006, the same method for imputation is used, however it is based on occupational category, type of employment and gender.

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 **without work**

actively seeking work during the previous 4 weeks, e.g. includes contacting the ETC, applied directly with an **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 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	156,930	1.47	± 4,240
Employment Rate (%)	56.1	1.36	± 1.49
Unemployment	10,348	7.49	± 1,465
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.2	7.35	± 0.89
Inactive	160,847	1.27	± 4,260
Activity Rate (%)	59.9	1.26	± 1.48

The above table give indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 156,930 and the coefficient of variation is 1.47 per cent. Hence, the figure lies between 152,690 and 161,170 persons.