

During the third quarter of 2020, the Labour Force Survey estimates that total number of persons in employment was 259,731, almost at par with the previous quarter.

Labour Force Survey: Q3/2020

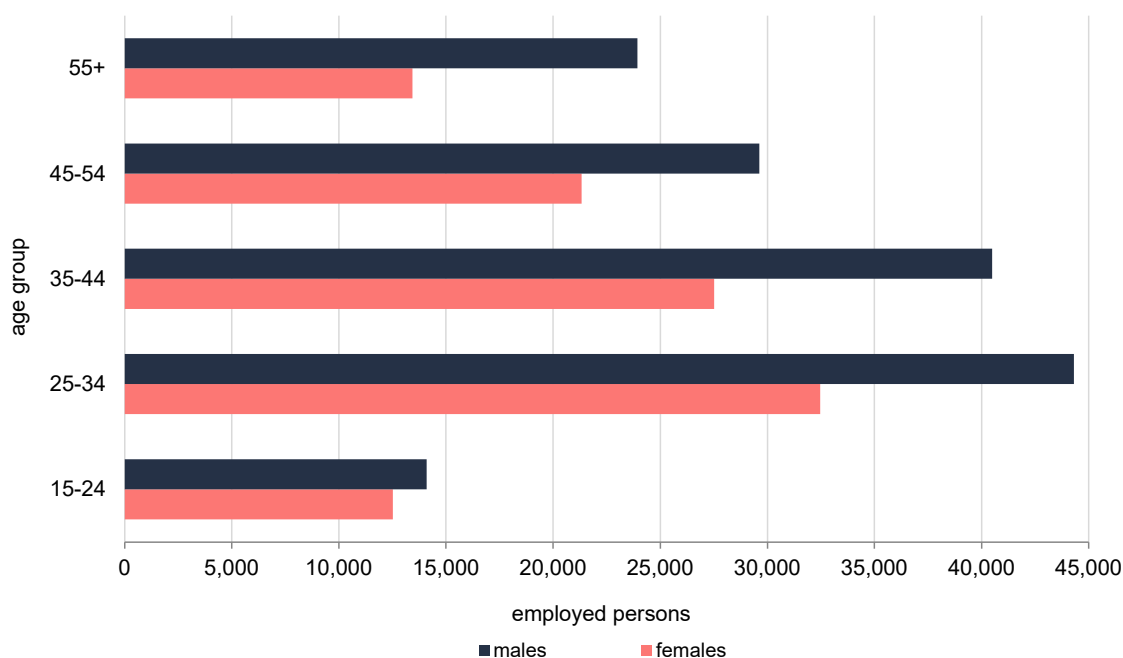
Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the third quarter, total employment stood at 259,731 accounting for 59.4 per cent of the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 12,589 (2.9 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 164,659 (37.7 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 (87.9 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 80.8 per cent while that for females stood at 65.5 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



Self-employed persons accounted for 16.1 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 229,690. A further 30,041 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers usually worked 42.2 hours while part-timers worked 22.5 hours per week. In the third quarter of 2020, employed persons actually worked 34.0 hours per week, 1.6 hours less when compared to the previous year (Table 7).

The average monthly basic salary of employees for the third quarter of 2020 was estimated at €1,536. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and insurance activities sector (Table 10). Average monthly salaries varied from €994 among persons employed in elementary occupations to €2,197 among managers (Table 14).

The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2020, stood at 4.6 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 to 74 years (Table 16). Females accounted for 59.3 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, 33.2 per cent of the employed had a tertiary level education (Table 22).

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

Table 1. Persons aged 15 and over by sex and labour status

Labour status	Males		Females		Total		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
	July-September 2020						
Employed	152,456	67.3	107,275	51.0	259,731	59.4	
Unemployed	7,218	3.2	5,371 ^u	2.6 ^u	12,589	2.9	
Inactive	67,000	29.6	97,659	46.4	164,659	37.7	
Total	226,674	100.0	210,305	100.0	436,979	100.0	
	April-June 2020						
	Employed	153,595	67.6	105,928	50.2	259,523	59.2
	Unemployed	6,673	2.9	5,358 ^u	2.5 ^u	12,031	2.7
Inactive	66,926	29.5	99,935	47.3	166,861	38.1	
Total	227,194	100.0	211,221	100.0	438,415	100.0	
	July-September 2019 (Revised)						
	Employed	154,233	69.1	102,064	48.8	256,297	59.3
	Unemployed	5,279 ^u	2.4 ^u	4,555 ^u	2.2 ^u	9,834	2.3
Inactive	63,605	28.5	102,651	49.1	166,256	38.5	
Total	223,117	100.0	209,270	100.0	432,387	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		
	%						
	July-September 2020						
15-24	58.5		56.3		57.5		
25-54	95.2		79.3		87.9		
55-64	65.1		41.7		53.6		
Total (15-64)	84.7		68.8		77.3		
	July-September 2019 (Revised)						
	15-24	64.4		56.8		60.7	
	25-54	96.8		75.5		86.9	
55-64	63.2		35.6		49.6		
Total (15-64)	86.0		65.1		76.1		

Table 3. Distribution of employed persons with a main job by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2020					
15-24	14,092	9.2	12,526	11.7	26,618	10.2
25-34	44,311	29.1	32,470	30.3	76,781	29.6
35-44	40,492	26.6	27,521	25.7	68,013	26.2
45-54	29,627	19.4	21,324	19.9	50,951	19.6
55-64	19,798	13.0	12,170	11.3	31,968	12.3
65+	4,136 ^u	2.7 ^u	:	:	5,400	2.1
Total	152,456	100.0	107,275	100.0	259,731	100.0
	July-September 2019 (Revised)					
15-24	15,978	10.4	13,498	13.2	29,476	11.5
25-34	45,728	29.6	32,221	31.6	77,949	30.4
35-44	40,447	26.2	24,409	23.9	64,856	25.3
45-54	29,005	18.8	20,242	19.8	49,247	19.2
55-64	19,430	12.6	10,362	10.2	29,792	11.6
65+	3,645	2.4	:	:	4,977	1.9
Total	154,233	100.0	102,064	100.0	256,297	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

Table 4. Employment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	July-September 2020					
15-24	51.8		50.3		51.1	
25-54	91.3		75.9		84.2	
55-64	63.6		40.8		52.4	
Total (15-64)	80.8		65.5		73.6	
	July-September 2019 (Revised)					
15-24	57.2		52.6		55.0	
25-54	94.3		72.6		84.2	
55-64	62.4		34.2		48.5	
Total (15-64)	83.1		62.3		73.3	

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2020					
Self-employed without employees	20,977	13.8	8,596	8.0	29,573	11.4
Self-employed with employees	9,767	6.4	2,438 ^u	2.3 ^u	12,205	4.7
Employee	121,563	79.7	96,125	89.6	217,688	83.8
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	152,456	100.0	107,275	100.0	259,731	100.0
	July-September 2019 (Revised)					
Self-employed without employees	22,325	14.5	6,638	6.5	28,963	11.3
Self-employed with employees	8,490	5.5	3,223 ^u	3.2 ^u	11,713	4.6
Employee	123,299	79.9	92,011	90.2	215,310	84.0
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	154,233	100.0	102,064	100.0	256,297	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.	%
	July-September 2020					
Full-time job	143,853	94.4	85,837	80.0	229,690	88.4
Part-time job	8,603	5.6	21,438	20.0	30,041	11.6
Total	152,456	100.0	107,275	100.0	259,731	100.0
	July-September 2019 (Revised)					
Full-time job	142,283	92.3	80,448	78.8	222,731	86.9
Part-time job	11,950	7.7	21,616	21.2	33,566	13.1
Total	154,233	100.0	102,064	100.0	256,297	100.0

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

Type of employment	Males	Females	Total	Total
	Average Normal Hours ¹			Average Actual Hours ²
	July-September 2020			
Full-time job	43.0	41.0	42.2	36.0
Part-time job	22.7	22.4	22.5	19.1
Total	41.9	37.3	40.0	34.0
	July-September 2019 (Revised)			
Full-time job	43.4	40.5	42.3	38.0
Part-time job	21.8	22.8	22.5	19.9
Total	41.8	36.7	39.8	35.6

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: July-September 2020

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,969 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	2,122 ^u	0.8 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	24,976	16.4	9,562	8.9	34,538	13.3
Construction	14,551	9.5	:	:	15,752	6.1
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	39,873	26.2	22,840	21.3	62,713	24.1
Information and communication	6,489 ^u	4.3 ^u	:	:	9,220	3.5
Financial and insurance activities	8,805	5.8	6,235	5.8	15,040	5.8
Real estate activities	2,911 ^u	1.9 ^u	:	:	4,922 ^u	1.9 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	13,422	8.8	9,904	9.2	23,326	9.0
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	26,088	17.1	39,738	37.0	65,826	25.3
Other services	13,372	8.8	12,900	12.0	26,272	10.1
Total	152,456	100.0	107,275	100.0	259,731	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: July-September 2019 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,983 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	2,490 ^u	1.0 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	22,386	14.5	9,245	9.1	31,631	12.3
Construction	17,487	11.3	:	:	18,601	7.3
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	43,410	28.1	23,225	22.8	66,635	26.0
Information and communication	7,205	4.7	3,618 ^u	3.5 ^u	10,823	4.2
Financial and insurance activities	6,518	4.2	5,266	5.2	11,784	4.6
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	3,174 ^u	1.2 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	14,075	9.1	11,813	11.6	25,888	10.1
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	26,259	17.0	37,386	36.6	63,645	24.8
Other services	12,863	8.3	8,763	8.6	21,626	8.4
Total	154,233	100.0	102,064	100.0	256,297	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: July-September 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	21,184	1,398	8,916	1,308	30,100	1,371
Construction	9,170	1,498	:	:	9,849	1,507
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	29,523	1,181	19,428	1,065	48,951	1,135
Information and communication	5,031 ^u	2,051 ^u	:	:	7,667	1,794
Financial and insurance activities	8,182	2,472	6,145	1,865	14,327	2,212
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,564	1,673	9,102	1,314	19,666	1,507
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	25,619	1,808	38,636	1,676	64,255	1,729
Other services	10,228	1,899	9,801	1,318	20,029	1,615
Total	121,563	1,605	96,125	1,448	217,688	1,536

¹ The average monthly basic salary takes into account the COVID wage supplement scheme. 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: July-September 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	18,837	1,787	8,850	1,264	27,687	1,620
Construction	11,674	1,591	:	:	12,640	1,580
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	34,220	1,538	20,670	1,146	54,890	1,390
Information and communication	5,580 ^u	2,244 ^u	3,103 ^u	1,420 ^u	8,683	1,950
Financial and insurance activities	5,834	2,480	5,147	1,774	10,981	2,149
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	9,795	1,986	10,659	1,588	20,454	1,779
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	25,545	1,814	35,798	1,692	61,343	1,743
Other services	10,770	2,204	6,030 ^u	1,418 ^u	16,800	1,922
Total	123,299	1,808	92,011	1,488	215,310	1,671

: 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: July-September 2020

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,355 ^u	1.5 ^u	:	:	2,473 ^u	1.0 ^u
Managers	21,912	14.4	8,122	7.6	30,034	11.6
Professionals	26,636	17.5	27,912	26.0	54,548	21.0
Technicians and associate professionals	22,604	14.8	12,541	11.7	35,145	13.5
Clerical support workers	11,156	7.3	16,987	15.8	28,143	10.8
Service and sales workers	20,335	13.3	28,479	26.5	48,814	18.8
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1,728 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	1,779 ^u	0.7 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	22,075	14.5	2,863 ^u	2.7 ^u	24,938	9.6
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	12,184	8.0	1,961 ^u	1.8 ^u	14,145	5.4
Elementary occupations	11,471	7.5	8,241	7.7	19,712	7.6
Total	152,456	100.0	107,275	100.0	259,731	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: July-September 2019 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	20,853	13.5	7,400	7.3	28,253	11.0
Professionals	27,000	17.5	23,068	22.6	50,068	19.5
Technicians and associate professionals	24,714	16.0	13,059	12.8	37,773	14.7
Clerical support workers	10,669	6.9	17,113	16.8	27,782	10.8
Service and sales workers	20,242	13.1	28,333	27.8	48,575	19.0
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,567 ^u	1.7 ^u	:	:	2,795 ^u	1.1 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	23,424	15.2	:	:	24,880	9.7
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,650	6.3	3,891 ^u	3.8 ^u	13,541	5.3
Elementary occupations	13,390	8.7	7,516	7.4	20,906	8.2
Total	154,233	100.0	102,064	100.0	256,297	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: July-September 2020

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)
Armed Forces	2,355 ^u	1,438 ^u	:	:	2,473 ^u	1,422 ^u
Managers	17,291	2,230	7,869	2,126	25,160	2,197
Professionals	23,481	2,201	26,031	1,948	49,512	2,068
Technicians and associate professionals	18,949	1,616	10,020	1,487	28,969	1,571
Clerical support workers	11,007	1,338	16,878	1,187	27,885	1,246
Service and sales workers	14,423	1,226	23,676	1,078	38,099	1,134
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	13,892	1,162	:	:	15,485	1,146
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	10,338	1,149	1,961 ^u	1,208 ^u	12,299	1,158
Elementary occupations	9,242	1,074	7,979	902	17,221	994
Total	121,563	1,605	96,125	1,448	217,688	1,536

¹ The average monthly basic salary takes into account the COVID wage supplement scheme. 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: July-September 2019 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	14,715	3,137	6,730	2,431	21,445	2,915
Professionals	22,729	2,461	21,101	2,048	43,830	2,262
Technicians and associate professionals	20,810	1,773	10,763	1,656	31,573	1,733
Clerical support workers	10,240	1,442	16,836	1,231	27,076	1,311
Service and sales workers	16,931	1,272	24,527	1,103	41,458	1,172
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	15,646	1,333	:	:	16,803	1,322
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,841	1,329	3,799 ^u	1,118 ^u	11,640	1,260
Elementary occupations	11,679	1,087	7,098	862	18,777	1,002
Total	123,299	1,808	92,011	1,488	215,310	1,671

: 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.	%
July-September 2020						
15-24	:	:	:	:	3,317 ^u	26.3 ^u
25-74	5,378 ^u	74.5 ^u	3,894 ^u	72.5 ^u	9,272	73.7
Total (15-74)	7,218	100.0	5,371^u	100.0^u	12,589	100.0
July-September 2019 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	3,057 ^u	31.1 ^u
25-74	3,288 ^u	62.3 ^u	3,489 ^u	76.6 ^u	6,777 ^u	68.9 ^u
Total (15-74)	5,279^u	100.0^u	4,555^u	100.0^u	9,834	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	
	%					
July-September 2020						
15-24	:	:	:	:	11.1 ^u	
25-74	3.7 ^u		4.0 ^u		3.8	
Total (15-74)	4.5		4.8^u		4.6	
July-September 2019 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	9.4 ^u	
25-74	2.3 ^u		3.8 ^u		2.9 ^u	
Total (15-74)	3.3^u		4.3^u		3.7	

: 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.	%
July-September 2020						
Less than 12 months	5,114 ^u	70.9 ^u	3,884 ^u	72.3 ^u	8,998	71.5
12 months or more	2,104 ^u	29.1 ^u	:	:	3,591 ^u	28.5 ^u
Total	7,218	100.0	5,371^u	100.0^u	12,589	100.0
July-September 2019 (Revised)						
Less than 12 months	3,340 ^u	63.3 ^u	3,248 ^u	71.3 ^u	6588	67.0
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	3,246 ^u	33.0 ^u
Total	5,279^u	100.0^u	4,555^u	100.0^u	9,834	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.	%
	July-September 2020					
15-24	11,288	16.8	10,880	11.1	22,168	13.5
25-34	:	:	7,621 ^u	7.8 ^u	10,314	6.3
35-44	:	:	8,412	8.6	9,775	5.9
45-54	:	:	6,117	6.3	8,045	4.9
55-64	10,867	16.2	17,413	17.8	28,280	17.2
65+	38,861	58.0	47,216	48.3	86,077	52.3
Total	67,000	100.0	97,659	100.0	164,659	100.0
July-September 2019 (Revised)						
15-24	9,952	15.6	11,080	10.8	21,032	12.7
25-34	:	:	8,344	8.1	10,057	6.0
35-44	:	:	9,837	9.6	10,669	6.4
45-54	:	:	7,748	7.5	9,081	5.5
55-64	11,473	18.0	19,500	19.0	30,973	18.6
65+	38,302	60.2	46,142	45.0	84,444	50.8
Total	63,605	100.0	102,651	100.0	166,256	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.	%
	July-September 2020					
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	31,403	32.2	32,870	20.0
Education or training	10,563	15.8	9,759	10.0	20,322	12.3
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	46,129	68.8	24,136	24.7	70,265	42.7
Other reasons	8,841	13.2	32,361	33.1	41,202	25.0
Total	67,000	100.0	97,659	100.0	164,659	100.0
July-September 2019 (Revised)						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	28,519	27.8	29,056	17.5
Education or training	9,552	15.0	10,537	10.3	20,089	12.1
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	45,955	72.3	22,618	22.0	68,573	41.2
Other reasons	7,561	11.9	40,977	39.9	48,538	29.2
Total	63,605	100.0	102,651	100.0	166,256	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.	%
	July-September 2020					
Secondary level education or less	109,694	48.4	104,008	49.5	213,702	48.9
Post-Secondary level education	66,264	29.2	52,132	24.8	118,396	27.1
Tertiary level education	50,716	22.4	54,165	25.8	104,881	24.0
Total	226,674	100.0	210,305	100.0	436,979	100.0
	July-September 2019 (Revised)					
Secondary level education or less	106,220	47.6	107,484	51.4	213,704	49.4
Post-Secondary level education	68,432	30.7	51,260	24.5	119,692	27.7
Tertiary level education	48,465	21.7	50,526	24.1	98,991	22.9
Total	223,117	100.0	209,270	100.0	432,387	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.	%
	July-September 2020							
Secondary level education or less	84,989	32.7	5,467 ^u	43.4 ^u	123,246	74.8	213,702	48.9
Post-Secondary level education	88,473	34.1	3,283 ^u	26.1 ^u	26,640	16.2	118,396	27.1
Tertiary level education	86,269	33.2	3,839 ^u	30.5 ^u	14,773	9.0	104,881	24.0
Total	259,731	100.0	12,589	100.0	164,659	100.0	436,979	100.0
	July-September 2019 (Revised)							
Secondary level education or less	91,388	35.7	3,464 ^u	35.2 ^u	118,852	71.5	213,704	49.4
Post-Secondary level education	85,062	33.2	3,676 ^u	37.4 ^u	30,954	18.6	119,692	27.7
Tertiary level education	79,847	31.2	:	:	16,450	9.9	98,991	22.9
Total	256,297	100.0	9,834	100.0	166,256	100.0	432,387	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. At a national level the NSO publishes labour market data generated from two different sources, namely the Labour Force Survey and administrative data from Jobsplus. Both sets of data are considered as official statistics; however one has to bear in mind that there may be differences between the sources owing to different definitions. While the count of employed and unemployed is based on persons registering for work, the LFS definition is based on the ILO criteria as explained in the methodological notes.

The LFS is a household survey which provides an insight into the labour market dynamics among private households. The survey is designed to satisfy the concepts and definitions as outlined by Eurostat and allows the comparability of results with other EU member states and countries following ILO definitions of employment and unemployment.

When comparing unemployment levels between the two sources of data, one notes a variable gap between the two levels. This is mainly the result of different definitions. Unemployment in LFS includes all persons who do not have a job, are looking for a job and are ready to start working within two weeks of the reference period. This makes the LFS definition wider in scope when compared to that of Jobsplus.

Over the past years, there has been an increase in the number of unemployed who do not register with Jobsplus but who result to be unemployed when using the LFS criteria. In this regard, LFS unemployment levels encompass individuals who may not necessarily resort to Jobsplus to find a job.

Due to these reasons, one can observe that Jobsplus unemployment levels are highly determined by eligibility criteria and national policies addressing work. LFS levels are on the other hand, determined by the dynamics of the labour market. Consequently, there may be instances when trends may not be completely aligned.

4. 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 third quarter of 2020 had their monthly salary modified to account for this change in their income. 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).

5. 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	259,731	4,205	259,731 ± 4,205
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	73.61	1.23	73.61 ± 1.23
<i>Males</i>	80.75	1.56	80.75 ± 1.56
<i>Females</i>	65.51	1.82	65.51 ± 1.82
15-24	51.09	4.05	51.09 ± 4.05
25-54	84.21	1.50	84.21 ± 1.50
55-64	52.44	3.98	52.44 ± 3.98
Unemployment	12,589	2,876	12,589 ± 2,876
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	4.63	1.02	4.63 ± 1.02
<i>Males</i>	4.53	1.32	4.53 ± 1.32
<i>Females</i>	4.77	1.84	4.77 ± 1.84
15-24	11.08	4.12	11.08 ± 4.12
25-74	3.83	1.05	3.83 ± 1.05
Inactivity	164,659	4,496	164,659 ± 4,496
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	77.26	1.28	77.26 ± 1.28
<i>Males</i>	84.68	1.43	84.68 ± 1.43
<i>Females</i>	68.83	1.81	68.83 ± 1.81
15-24	57.45	3.80	57.45 ± 3.80
25-54	87.90	1.47	87.90 ± 1.47
55-64	53.61	3.92	53.61 ± 3.92

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 259,731 and the margin of error is 4,205. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 255,526 and 263,936 persons.

Key

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

6. 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 1 'Persons aged 15 and over by sex and labour status' figures for Q1 2020 are also included to compare the situation of the labour market before and during the COVID-19 scenario.
- 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).

7. Percentage totals may not add up due to rounding.

8. 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.
9. More information is available from the NSO upon written request.
10. 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/>

Classification: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE%20Rev.%20202>

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

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

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