

# NEWS RELEASE



22 September 2015 | 1100 hrs | 172/2015

During the second quarter of 2015, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 1.8 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2014.

Labour Force Survey: Q2/2015

#### Labour status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the second quarter, total employment stood at 184,871 accounting to more than half the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 10,594 (2.9 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 164,855 (45.8 per cent) (Table 1).

The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 67.6 per cent. The highest activity rate was recorded among persons aged 25-54 (81.2 per cent) (Table 3). When compared to the previous year, the total activity rate increased by 1.2 percentage points.

### The employed population

On average, 64 out of every 100 persons aged between 15 and 64 were employed. The highest employment rate was recorded among persons aged between 25 and 54 and stood at 77.7 per cent (Table 4). The males' employment rate for this age bracket was 90.8 per cent while that for females stood at 64.1 per cent.

Employed men were mostly engaged in wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities (29.5 per cent). On the other hand, at 40.6 per cent, employed women were mostly engaged in public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities (Table 7).

Self-employed persons accounted for 13.8 per cent of the total employed population (Table 15). The majority of employed persons worked on a full-time basis and totalled 156,603. An estimated 23,617 (12.8 per cent) had a part-time job as their primary employment. A further 4,651 were working on a full-time with reduced hours basis (Table 16).

The average annual basic salary of employees for the second quarter of 2015 was estimated at €16,406. This amount refers to the annual basic salary and excludes extra payments such as overtime, bonuses and allowances, as explained in the methodological notes. The highest average annual basic salary for employees was recorded in information and communication sector (Table 9). Average annual salaries varied from €28,074 among managers to €11,359 among elementary staff (Table 13).

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#### The unemployed population

Survey results estimate that the unemployment rate for the second quarter of 2015, stood at 5.4 per cent (Table 5). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 and over (Table 17). Among the unemployed, 45.7 per cent stated that they had been seeking work for at least 12 months (Table 18)

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

Labour status	Male	S	Femal	es	Total	
Labour Status	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
		April-	-June 2015			
Employed	112,340	62.4	72,531	40.2	184,871	51.3
Unemployed	6,598	3.7	3,996	2.2	10,594	2.9
Inactive	60,991	33.9	103,864	57.6	164,855	45.8
Total	179,929	100.0	180,391	100.0	360,320	100.0
		April-June	2014 (Revised)			
Employed	111,577	62.7	70,062	39.2	181,639	50.9
Unemployed	7,105	4.0	4,039	2.3	11,144	3.1
Inactive	59,252	33.3	104,741	58.6	163,993	46.0
Total	177,934	100.0	178,842	100.0	356,776	100.0

Table 2. Labour force distribution by sex

Labour status	atus Males %		Femal	es	Total		
Labour Status			No.	%	No.	%	
		April-	June 2015				
Employed	112,340	94.5	72,531	94.8	184,871	94.6	
Unemployed	6,598	5.5	3,996	5.2	10,594	5.4	
Total	118,938	100.0	76,527	100.0	195,465	100.0	
		April-June	2014 (Revised)				
Employed	111,577	94.0	70,062	94.5	181,639	94.2	
Unemployed	7,105	6.0	4,039	5.5	11,144	5.8	
Total	118,682	100.0	74,101	100.0	192,783	100.0	

Table 3. Activity rates by sex and age group

Ago group	Males	Females	Total							
Age group	%	%	%							
	April-June 2015									
15-24	51.6	47.7	49.7							
25-54	95.0	66.8	81.2							
55-64	62.5	24.6	43.5							
Total	80.2	54.4	67.6							
	April-Ju	ine 2014 (Revised)								
15-24	53.0	51.8	52.4							
25-54	95.0	63.6	79.6							
55-64	59.4	21.7	40.5							
Total	79.7	52.6	66.4							

Table 4. Employment rates by sex and age group

A	Males	Females	Total
Age group	Age group %		%
	Арі	ril-June 2015	
15-24	44.1	42.0	43.1
25-54	90.8	64.1	77.7
55-64	59.9	23.7	41.8
Total	75.7	51.5	63.9
	April-Ju	ne 2014 (Revised)	
15-24	46.6	45.0	45.8
25-54	90.0	61.2	75.9
55-64	56.3	21.0	38.6
Total	74.8	49.7	62.5

Table 5. Unemployment rates by sex and age group

A ma mraum	Males	Females	Total
Age group	Age group %		%
15-24	14.5 <sup>u</sup>	12.0 <sup>u</sup>	13.4
25+	4.3	3.9 <sup>u</sup>	4.2
Total	5.6	5.2	5.4
	April-Ju	ne 2014 (Revised)	
15-24	12.1 <sup>u</sup>	13.1 <sup>u</sup>	12.6
25+	5.1	3.8 <sup>u</sup>	4.6
Total	6.0	5.5	5.8

Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units

Table 6. Distribution of employed persons by sex and age group

A == =====	Mal	es	Fem	ales	Tot	Total					
Age group	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%					
April-June 2015											
15-24	12,119	10.8	10,718	14.8	22,837	12.4					
25-34	28,952	25.8	23,070	31.8	52,022	28.1					
35-44	27,640	24.6	17,709	24.4	45,349	24.5					
45-54	23,813	21.2	13,570	18.7	37,383	20.2					
55-64	17,579	15.6	6,984	9.6	24,563	13.3					
65+	2,237 <sup>u</sup>	2.0 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,717 <sup>u</sup>	1.5 <sup>u</sup>					
Total	112,340	100.0	72,531	100.0	184,871	100.0					
		April-Jur	ne 2014 (Revised)	)							
15-24	13,019	11.7	11,773	16.8	24,792	13.6					
25-34	28,392	25.4	21,648	30.9	50,040	27.5					
35-44	26,831	24.0	17,814	25.4	44,645	24.6					
45-54	23,815	21.3	12,061	17.2	35,876	19.8					
55-64	16,527	14.8	6,185	8.8	22,712	12.5					
65+	2,993 <sup>u</sup>	2.7 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	3,574	2.0					
Total	111,577	100.0	70,062	100.0	181,639	100.0					

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>u</sup> Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49

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Table 7. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity: April-June 2015

Foonemic activity	Male	es	Fema	les	Tota	al
Economic activity	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,466 <sup>u</sup>	2.2 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,874 <sup>u</sup>	1.6 <sup>u</sup>
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry*	20,707	18.4	5,490	7.6	26,197	14.2
Construction	11,027	9.8	:	:	11,701	6.3
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	33,189	29.5	17,683	24.4	50,872	27.5
Information and communication	4,755	4.2	2,060 <sup>u</sup>	2.8 <sup>u</sup>	6,815	3.7
Financial and insurance activities	3,554	3.2	5,265	7.3	8,819	4.8
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	1,387 <sup>u</sup>	0.8 <sup>u</sup>
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	9,606	8.6	6,299	8.7	15,905	8.6
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	21,196	18.9	29,450	40.6	50,646	27.4
Other services	4,932	4.4	4,723	6.5	9,655	5.2
Total	112,340	100.0	72,531	100.0	184,871	100.0

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Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity: April-June 2014 (Revised)

Economic activity	Male	es	Fema	les	Total	
Economic activity	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,745 <sup>u</sup>	1.6 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,067 <sup>u</sup>	1.1 <sup>u</sup>
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	21,302	19.1	6,322	9.0	27,624	15.2
Construction	10,473	9.4	:	:	11,342	6.2
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	35,096	31.5	18,185	26.0	53,281	29.3
Information and communication	4,934	4.4	2,180 <sup>u</sup>	3.1 <sup>u</sup>	7,114	3.9
Financial and insurance activities	3,019 <sup>u</sup>	2.7 <sup>u</sup>	4,480	6.4	7,499	4.1
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	8,175	7.3	6,905	9.9	15,080	8.3
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	20,809	18.6	25,680	36.7	46,489	25.6
Other services	5,254	4.7	4,616	6.6	9,870	5.4
Total	111,577	100.0	70,062	100.0	181,639	100.0

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<sup>\*</sup> As from this release, employees working in the economic activity: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (NACE 35) have been reclassified to Employment activities (NACE 78). In view of this reclassification, there was a shift in employment figures from the economic activity aggregate 'Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry' to the 'Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities' aggregate. It is therefore advisable that users take this change on board when analysing data longitudinally. In line with other releases published by this Office, this reclassification will be taken on board as from Q3/2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>u</sup> Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49

Table 9. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and economic activity: April-June 2015

	Ma	les	Fem	ales	Total	
Economic activity	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry**	18,623	15,795	5,215	12,876	23,838	15,156
Construction	7,532	14,161	:	:	8,139	14,108
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	24,826	15,110	15,848	11,193	40,674	13,584
Information and communication	4,148	25,752	1,999 <sup>u</sup>	15,842 <sup>u</sup>	6,147	22,529
Financial and insurance activities	3,325 <sup>u</sup>	25,369 <sup>u</sup>	5,185	19,970	8,510	22,079
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	7,931	21,737	5,920	14,261	13,851	18,542
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	20,552	19,026	29,247	16,408	49,799	17,488
Other services	3,773	18,471	3,127 <sup>u</sup>	13,197 <sup>u</sup>	6,900	16,081
Total	91,928	17,619	67,444	14,751	159,372	16,406

Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units

Table 10. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and economic activity: April-June 2014 (Revised)

	Ma	les	Fem	ales	Total	
Economic activity	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	18,733	16,548	6,263	13,464	24,996	15,775
Construction	6,631	16,032	:	:	7,500	15,810
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	26,852	15,175	16,366	10,801	43,218	13,519
Information and communication	4,184	21,727	2,122 <sup>u</sup>	13,284 <sup>u</sup>	6,306	18,886
Financial and insurance activities	2,854 <sup>u</sup>	25,309 <sup>u</sup>	4,422	19,317	7,276	21,668
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	6,964	20,023	6,039	14,566	13,003	17,489
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	20,156	18,823	25,432	15,796	45,588	17,134
Other services	4,053	18,737	2,641 <sup>u</sup>	11,948 <sup>u</sup>	6,694	16,058
Total	91,308	17,441	64,575	14,149	155,883	16,078

<sup>\*</sup> Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions

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<sup>\*</sup> Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions

<sup>\*\*</sup> As from this release, employees working in the economic activity: Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (NACE 35) have been reclassified to Employment activities (NACE 78). In view of this reclassification, there was a shift in employment figures from the economic activity aggregate 'Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry' to the 'Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities' aggregate. It is therefore advisable that users take this change on board when analysing data longitudinally. In line with other releases published by this Office, this reclassification will be taken on board as from Q3/2014.

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Table 11. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: April-June 2015

	Male	s	Femal	es	Tota	ıl
Occupational group	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,536 <sup>u</sup>	2.3 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,700 <sup>u</sup>	1.5 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	11,783	10.5	4,954	6.8	16,737	9.1
Professionals	14,390	12.8	15,522	21.4	29,912	16.2
Technicians and associate professionals	15,360	13.7	10,050	13.9	25,410	13.7
Clerical support workers	9,478	8.4	11,063	15.3	20,541	11.1
Service and sales workers	17,081	15.2	21,861	30.1	38,942	21.1
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,083 <sup>u</sup>	1.9 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,214 <sup>u</sup>	1.2 <sup>u</sup>
Craft and related trades workers	18,538	16.5	:	:	19,453	10.5
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,185	8.2	2,632 <sup>u</sup>	3.6 <sup>u</sup>	11,817	6.4
Elementary occupations	11,906	10.6	5,239	7.2	17,145	9.3
Total	112,340	100.0	72,531	100.0	184,871	100.0

Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: April-June 2014 (Revised)

Occupational masses	Male	s	Femal	es	Tota	ıl
Occupational group	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	1,517 <sup>u</sup>	1.4 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	1,612 <sup>u</sup>	0.9 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	12,402	11.1	4,355	6.2	16,757	9.2
Professionals	15,850	14.2	13,943	19.9	29,793	16.4
Technicians and associate professionals	16,333	14.6	9,509	13.6	25,842	14.2
Clerical support workers	7,781	7.0	11,779	16.8	19,560	10.8
Service and sales workers	16,515	14.8	21,648	30.9	38,163	21.0
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1,498 <sup>u</sup>	1.3 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	1,640 <sup>u</sup>	0.9 <sup>u</sup>
Craft and related trades workers	18,483	16.6	:	:	19,300	10.6
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,786	8.8	2,886 <sup>u</sup>	4.1 <sup>u</sup>	12,672	7.0
Elementary occupations	11,412	10.2	4,888	7.0	16,300	9.0
Total	111,577	100.0	70,062	100.0	181,639	100.0

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Table 13. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and main occupation: April-June 2015

Occupational group	Ma	les	Fem	ales	Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,536 <sup>u</sup>	15,718 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	2,700 <sup>u</sup>	15,621 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	8,794	29,787	4,181	24,471	12,975	28,074
Professionals	12,286	24,757	14,966	19,630	27,252	21,941
Technicians and associate professionals	13,469	17,838	9,444	17,010	22,913	17,497
Clerical support workers	9,418	15,040	11,063	13,222	20,481	14,058
Service and sales workers	12,216	14,630	18,985	10,784	31,201	12,290
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	13,052	14,252	:	:	13,822	14,160
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,255	14,256	2,632 <sup>u</sup>	11,081 <sup>u</sup>	10,887	13,488
Elementary occupations	11,400	12,547	5,239	8,772	16,639	11,359
Total	91,928	17,619	67,444	14,751	159,372	16,406

<sup>\*</sup> Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions

Table 14. Average annual basic salary\* for employees by sex and main occupation: April-June 2014 (Revised)

Occupational group	Ма	les	Females		Total	
	No.	Average (€)	No.	Average ( <del>€</del> )	No.	Average (€)
Armed Forces	1,517 <sup>u</sup>	15,683 <sup>u</sup>	:	:	1,612 <sup>u</sup>	15,679 <sup>u</sup>
Managers	9,622	27,623	3,901	21,967	13,523	25,991
Professionals	13,776	22,592	13,073	18,854	26,849	20,772
Technicians and associate professionals	13,966	17,926	9,104	15,999	23,070	17,166
Clerical support workers	7,729	14,538	11,627	13,365	19,356	13,833
Service and sales workers	12,584	14,251	18,393	10,202	30,977	11,847
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	13,085	14,591	:	:	13,792	14,499
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,003	14,552	2,886 <sup>u</sup>	13,668 <sup>u</sup>	10,889	14,318
Elementary occupations	10,573	12,949	4,710	8,872	15,283	11,693
Total	91,308	17,441	64,575	14,149	155,883	16,078

<sup>\*</sup> Amount given is prior to tax and social contribution deductions

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Table 15. Distribution of employed persons by sex and professional status of main occupation

Professional status	Males	3	Females		Total	
Professional status	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
		April-June 2	015			
Self-employed without employees	13,671	12.2	3,797	5.2	17,468	9.4
Self-employed with employees	6,741	6.0	1,290 <sup>u</sup>	1.8 <sup>u</sup>	8,031	4.4
Employee	91,928	81.8	67,444	93.0	159,372	86.2
Family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	112,340	100.0	72,531	100.0	184,871	100.0
	Αŗ	oril-June 2014 (l	Revised)	•		
Self-employed without employees	13,548	12.1	4,032	5.8	17,580	9.7
Self-employed with employees	6,721	6.0	1,455 <sup>u</sup>	2.1 <sup>u</sup>	8,176	4.5
Employee	91,308	81.8	64,575	92.2	155,883	85.8
Family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	111,577	100.0	70,062	100.0	181,639	100.0

Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units

Table 16. Distribution of employed persons by sex and type of employment in main occupation

Type of ampleyment	Males	flales Females		es	Total	
Type of employment	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
		April-June 2	015			
Full-time job	103,860	92.5	52,743	72.7	156,603	84.7
Full-time with reduced hours job	:	:	4,024	5.5	4,651	2.5
Part-time job	7,853	7.0	15,764	21.7	23,617	12.8
Total	112,340	100.0	72,531	100.0	184,871	100.0
	A	oril-June 2014 (l	Revised)			
Full-time job	101,976	91.4	49,023	70.0	150,999	83.1
Full-time with reduced hours job	:	:	4,559	6.5	5,278	2.9
Part-time job	8,882	8.0	16,480	23.5	25,362	14.0
Total	111,577	100.0	70,062	100.0	181,639	100.0

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Table 17. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and age group

Age group	Male	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
	Α	pril-June 2015					
15-24	2,061 <sup>u</sup>	31.2 <sup>u</sup>	1,459 <sup>u</sup>	36.5 <sup>u</sup>	3,520	33.2	
25+	4,537	68.8	2,537 <sup>u</sup>	63.5 <sup>u</sup>	7,074	66.8	
Total	6,598	100.0	3,996	100.0	10,594	100.0	
	April-J	une 2014 (Revi	sed)				
15-24	1,793 <sup>u</sup>	25.2 <sup>u</sup>	1,767 <sup>u</sup>	43.7 <sup>u</sup>	3,560	31.9	
25+	5,312	74.8	2,272 <sup>u</sup>	56.3 <sup>u</sup>	7,584	68.1	
Total	7,105	100.0	4,039	100.0	11,144	100.0	

Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units

Table 18. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and duration of job search

Duration	Male	s	Femal	es	Tota	I
Duration	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	Α	pril-June 2015				
Less than 5 months	1,616 <sup>u</sup>	24.5 <sup>u</sup>	2,345 <sup>u</sup>	58.7 <sup>u</sup>	3,961	37.4
6-11 months	:	:	:	:	1,790 <sup>u</sup>	16.9 <sup>u</sup>
12 months or more	3,897	59.1	:	:	4,843	45.7
Total	6,598	100.0	3,996	100.0	10,594	100.0
	April-J	une 2014 (Revis	sed)			
Less than 5 months	1,662 <sup>u</sup>	23.4 <sup>u</sup>	1,852 <sup>u</sup>	45.9 <sup>u</sup>	3,514	31.5
6-11 months	:	:	:	:	2,158 <sup>u</sup>	19.4 <sup>u</sup>
12 months or more	4,278	60.2	:	:	5,472	49.1
Total	7,105	100.0	4,039	100.0	11,144	100.0

Data not published due to unreliable survey estimates as a result of less than 20 reporting units

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#### **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). 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).

#### 3. Definitions:

- Activity rate: Labour force (15-64) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).
- Employee: The distinction between employees and self-employed is based on the respondent's own judgement as stated during the interview.
- Employment: 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) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).
- Annual basic salary: Refers to the annual basic salary received by employees before any social contributions and tax deductions. This amount excludes payments for overtime, allowances and bonuses.
- 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.
- Reference week: The week to which the collected data relate.
- Unemployment: 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 the ETC, applying directly with an employer, contacting a private employment agency, inserting or answering to an advert in a newspaper.
  - currently available for work: available to start work within 2 weeks of the reference week.
- Unemployment rate: Unemployed persons (15 to 74 years) as a percentage of the labour force (15-74 years).

#### 4. Sampling variability

Data included in this release are based on sample data and are therefore subject to sampling error. Sampling error is measured by a quantity known as the margin of error, which in turn, expresses the variability between the true population parameters and their corresponding sample estimates. In the table below, the margin of error is used to construct a set of 95 per cent confidence intervals for specific variables, which give an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

## Sampling variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Employment	184,871	5,429	184,871 ± 5,429
Employment rate (%)			
Total	63.87	1.62	63.87 ± 1.62
Males	75.74	2.11	75.74 ± 2.11
Females	51.53	2.45	51.53 ± 2.45
15-24	43.09	3.64	43.09 ± 3.64
25-54	77.72	1.83	77.72 ± 1.83
55-64	41.77	3.11	41.77 ± 3.11
Unemployment	10,594	1,688	10,594 ± 1,688
Unemployment rate (%)			
Total	5.43	0.86	$5.43 \pm 0.86$
Males	5.56	1.11	5.56 ± 1.11
Females	5.23	1.32	5.23 ± 1.32
15-24	13.36	3.52	13.36 ± 3.52
25+	4.19	0.86	4.19 ± 0.86
Inactivity	164,855	4,778	164,855 ± 4,778
Activity rate (%)			
Total	67.57	1.58	67.57 ± 1.58
Males	80.24	2.03	80.24 ± 2.03
Females	54.39	2.44	54.39 ± 2.44
15-24	49.73	3.69	49.73 ± 3.69
25-54	81.19	1.76	81.19 ± 1.76
55-64	43.47	3.12	43.47 ± 3.12

The table gives indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 184,871 and the margin of error is 5,429. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 179,442 and 190,300 persons.

## Key

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- <sup>U</sup> Figures to be used with caution since they are derived from a number of readings ranging between 20 and 49

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

More information is available from the NSO upon written request.

More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Statistical Concepts: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx">http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx</a>
Metadata: <a href="http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=33">http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=33</a>

Classification: http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE Rev. 2

http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO 2008