

Labour Force Survey 2014

Almost 10 million part-time workers in the EU would have preferred to work more

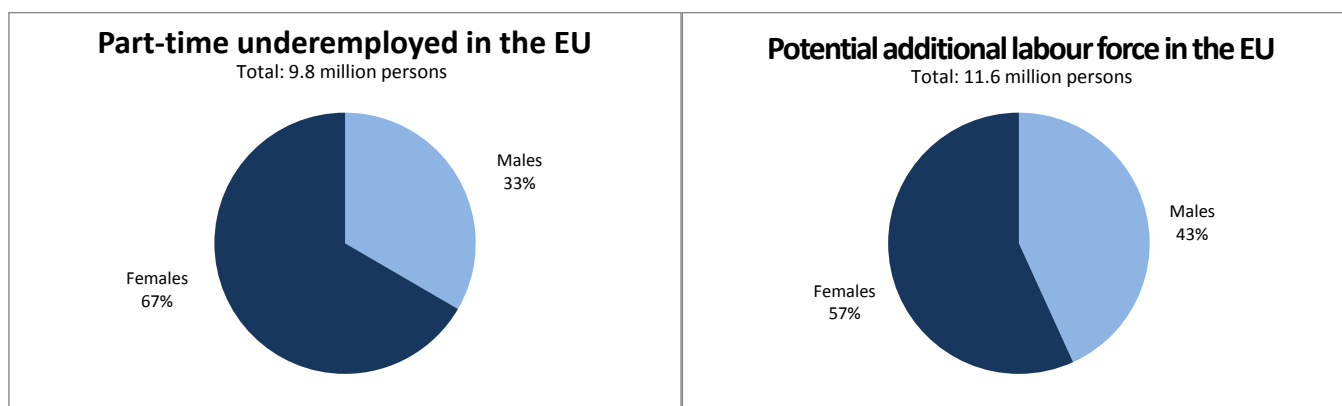
Two-thirds were women

Among the 44.1 million persons in the **European Union (EU)** working part-time in 2014, 9.8 million were underemployed¹ meaning they wished to work more hours and were available to do so. This corresponds to 22.2% of all part-time workers and 4.5% of total employment in the **EU** in 2014. The large majority of part-time workers being underemployed in the **EU** were women (67%)

Alongside the economically active population², 11.6 million economically inactive persons aged 15-74 in the **EU** had in 2014 a certain attachment to the labour market and could be considered as a potential additional labour force, equivalent to 4.8% of the **EU** labour force. Among them, 9.5 million were available to work but not seeking³, such as discouraged job seekers, and 2.2 million seeking work but not immediately available⁴, for example students seeking a job to start after graduation. The majority of this almost 12 million total potential additional labour force in the **EU** in 2014 were also women (57%)

This information comes from an [article](#)⁵ published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the 2014 detailed results of the European Labour Force Survey.

Part-time underemployed & potential additional labour force in the EU, by sex, 2014



Largest shares of underemployed part-time workers in Greece, Cyprus and Spain

In 2014, the proportion of underemployed part-time workers among total part-time workers varied significantly across the EU Member States. A majority of part-time workers wished to work more hours while being available to do so in **Greece** (72.1%), **Cyprus** (65.9%) and **Spain** (57.3%). At the opposite end of the scale, the **Netherlands** (4.0%) registered by far the smallest share of underemployed part-time workers, followed by **Luxembourg** (10.5%), **Denmark** (10.7%), **Estonia** (11.2%) and the **Czech Republic** (11.4%).

At EU level, 22.2% of persons working part-time were underemployed in 2014.

It should be noted that underemployed part-time workers were predominantly women in every EU Member State except **Romania** and **Slovakia**.

Underemployment and part-time work, 2014

	Persons aged 15 to 74 working part-time and being underemployed				Part-time employed aged 15 to 74, in % of total employment
	In thousands	Share of women (%)	As % of part time employed	As % of total employment	
EU	9 803	67%	22.2%	4.5%	20.3%
Belgium	154	72%	14.2%	3.4%	24.0%
Bulgaria	34	53%	43.5%	1.1%	2.6%
Czech Republic	35	71%	11.4%	0.7%	6.2%
Denmark⁶	74	63%	10.7%	2.7%	25.5%
Germany	1 626	73%	14.9%	4.1%	27.5%
Estonia	7	55%	11.2%	1.1%	9.6%
Ireland	128	54%	28.7%	6.7%	23.4%
Greece	239	55%	72.1%	6.8%	9.4%
Spain	1 576	69%	57.3%	9.1%	15.9%
France⁷	1 561	74%	32.1%	6.1%	18.9%
Croatia	34	59%	36.6%	2.2%	6.0%
Italy	742	61%	18.3%	3.3%	18.3%
Cyprus	34	57%	65.9%	9.3%	14.0%
Latvia	27	62%	40.5%	3.0%	7.4%
Lithuania	31	60%	26.1%	2.4%	9.0%
Luxembourg	5	77%	10.5%	2.0%	18.8%
Hungary	80	55%	30.6%	2.0%	6.4%
Malta	5	61%	15.5%	2.5%	16.4%
Netherlands	169	63%	4.0%	2.0%	50.5%
Austria	169	74%	14.9%	4.1%	27.7%
Poland	377	63%	31.2%	2.4%	7.6%
Portugal	245	61%	45.8%	5.5%	12.1%
Romania	238	34%	27.7%	2.8%	10.0%
Slovenia	26	60%	26.2%	2.8%	10.8%
Slovakia	47	47%	37.8%	2.0%	5.2%
Finland	90	64%	23.9%	3.7%	15.4%
Sweden	238	66%	19.1%	5.0%	26.1%
United Kingdom	1 813	64%	22.4%	5.9%	26.5%
Iceland	:	:	:	:	20.4%
Norway	70	73%	10.0%	2.7%	26.6%
Switzerland	279	74%	16.5%	6.2%	37.6%
FYR of Macedonia	20	24%	48.7%	2.9%	5.9%
Turkey	390	35%	13.1%	1.5%	11.5%

: Data not available

Largest potential additional labour force in Italy

The potential additional labour force also varied significantly between Member States, with the largest proportion registered by far in **Italy** (equivalent to 13.6% of the labour force), ahead of **Croatia** (9.6%), **Bulgaria** (7.6%) and **Finland** (7.4%). It should be noted that in every EU Member State, the potential labour force consisted mainly of persons available to work but not seeking. Women made up the largest part of the total potential additional labour force in all EU Member States except **Ireland** and **Finland**.

At **EU** level, the potential labour force, made up of 57% women, was equivalent to 4.8% of the total labour force.

Potential additional labour force, 2014

	Available to work but not seeking ³	Seeking work, but not immediately available ⁴	Total potential additional labour force	Share of women in total potential additional labour force (%)	Potential additional labour force compared with the labour force ¹ aged 15-74, in %
	In thousands				
EU	9 488	2 151	11 639	57%	4.8%
Belgium	100	52	151	55%	3.1%
Bulgaria	232	25	257	46%	7.6%
Czech Republic	56	16	72	61%	1.4%
Denmark⁶	56	24	80	50%	2.8%
Germany	510	479	989	53%	2.4%
Estonia	32	(2)	35	55%	5.1%
Ireland	31	15	46	43%	2.1%
Greece	92	42	134	70%	2.8%
Spain	1 084	219	1 304	65%	5.7%
France⁷	646	303	949	55%	:
Croatia	164	(18)	182	55%	9.6%
Italy	3 355	102	3 457	60%	13.6%
Cyprus	20	3	23	60%	5.4%
Latvia	49	6	55	53%	5.6%
Lithuania	9	12	21	:	1.4%
Luxembourg	15	2	17	63%	6.5%
Hungary	175	10	185	51%	4.2%
Malta	3	(0)	3	70%	1.6%
Netherlands	356	110	466	55%	5.2%
Austria	157	44	201	51%	4.6%
Poland	652	97	749	56%	4.3%
Portugal	273	27	300	58%	5.8%
Romania	376	3	379	:	4.1%
Slovenia	34	(3)	38	52%	3.7%
Slovakia	46	16	61	57%	2.2%
Finland	136	64	199	48%	7.4%
Sweden	136	106	242	53%	4.7%
United Kingdom	693	351	1 044	55%	3.2%
Iceland	7	2	9	52%	4.8%
Norway	58	17	75	47%	2.8%
Switzerland	173	53	226	59%	4.8%
FYR of Macedonia	:	8	:	:	0.8%
Turkey	1 843	70	1 913	60%	6.7%

: Data not available

() Data with reduced reliability due to sample size.

1. Underemployed part-time workers are persons aged 15-74 working part-time who wish to work additional hours and are available to do so. Part-time work is recorded as self-reported by individuals.
2. The economically active persons, also called labour force, are those aged 15-74 either employed or unemployed. Conversely, the economically inactive population gathers people aged 15-74 neither employed nor unemployed.
3. Persons available to work but not seeking are persons aged 15-74 neither employed nor unemployed who want to work, are available to work in the next 2 weeks but do not seek work.
4. Persons seeking work but not immediately available are those aged 15-74 neither employed nor unemployed who actively sought work during the last 4 weeks but are not available to work in the next 2 weeks. For completeness this category also includes three smaller groups: those who found a job to start in less than 3 months and are not available to work in the next 2 weeks; those who found a job to start in 3 months or more; those who passively sought work during the last 4 weeks and are available to work in the next 2 weeks. Passive job search is e.g. waiting the results of a job interview.
5. Eurostat, Statistics Explained article "**Underemployment and potential additional labour force statistics**" available on Eurostat's website:
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Underemployment_and_potential_additional_labour_force_statistics
6. Due to methodological issues, the categories "underemployed", "persons seeking work" and "persons available to work" for Denmark should be considered as 'uncertain'.
7. Data for France exclude the overseas departments.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Vincent BOURGEAIS
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Production of data:

Martin TEICHGRÄBER
Tel: +352-4301-34 487
martin.teichgraber@ec.europa.eu

 [@EU Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)



Media requests: Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu