

## Third quarter 2015 compared with second quarter 2015

# 18% of unemployed persons in the EU found a job

Out of all persons in the **European Union** (EU) who were unemployed in the second quarter 2015, 62.7% (12.9 million persons) remained unemployed in the third quarter 2015, while 17.9% (3.7 million) moved into employment and 19.4% (4.0 million) towards economic inactivity in Q3 2015.

Of all those initially in employment, 96.7% (169.6 million persons) remained in employment, while 1.4% (2.4 million) of those employed in the second quarter were observed to be unemployed in the third quarter, and 2.0% (3.5 million) transitioned into economic inactivity.

Today, **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, publishes quarterly labour market flows, based on non-seasonally adjusted labour market data from the European Union Labour Force Survey.

Labour market flows show the movements of individuals between employment, unemployment, and economic inactivity and enrich the analysis of the net changes in stocks. These statistics help to understand and interpret changes in the levels of labour market indicators. In order to ensure comparability, data published by Eurostat are based on a harmonised methodology. This may result in small differences between these data and those published nationally.

**Transitions in labour market status in the EU\*, Q2-Q3 2015**  
(in millions; population aged 15-74)



\* The graphic gives an overview of all possible transitions and shows the aggregate transitions for Q2-Q3 2015 for 26 EU Member States between the different labour market statuses. Data is shown in absolute numbers to allow a comparison of the actual size of the different flows. The levels indicated for employment, unemployment and inactivity refer to the share remaining in each status between the two quarters, respectively. The grey arrows indicate the net direction of flows between two statuses.

**Transitions in labour market status in the EU\*, Q2-Q3 2015**  
(in % of initial status; population aged 15-74)

FROM	TO		
	Employment Q3 2015	Unemployment Q3 2015	Inactivity Q3 2015
Employment Q2 2015	96.7%	1.4%	2.0%
Unemployment Q2 2015	17.9%	62.7%	19.4%
Inactivity Q2 2015	3.4%	3.6%	93.0%

\* EU aggregate based on 26 Member States.

**Outflow from unemployment, Q2-Q3 2015**  
(in % of unemployed persons aged 15-74 in Q2 2015)

	Into employment in Q3 2015	Remaining unemployed in Q3 2015	Into inactivity in Q3 2015
<b>EU*</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>62.7%</b>	<b>19.4%</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	:	:	:
<b>Bulgaria</b>	19.7%	72.7%	7.6%
<b>Czech Republic</b>	16.8%	67.5%	15.7%
<b>Denmark</b>	33.9%	44.0%	22.1%
<b>Germany</b>	:	:	:
<b>Estonia</b>	33.0%	46.3%	20.7%
<b>Ireland</b>	12.5%	67.0%	20.6%
<b>Greece</b>	5.9%	93.6%	0.4%
<b>Spain</b>	19.0%	66.6%	14.4%
<b>France</b>	20.4%	58.8%	20.7%
<b>Croatia</b>	12.3%	85.8%	(1.9%)
<b>Italy</b>	14.3%	44.2%	41.6%
<b>Cyprus</b>	15.1%	73.2%	11.6%
<b>Latvia</b>	11.9%	59.2%	28.9%
<b>Lithuania</b>	22.5%	72.2%	5.3%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	20.1%	63.0%	16.9%
<b>Hungary</b>	20.5%	69.9%	9.6%
<b>Malta</b>	-	-	-
<b>Netherlands</b>	22.5%	49.7%	27.8%
<b>Austria</b>	23.7%	55.7%	20.6%
<b>Poland</b>	16.1%	65.7%	18.2%
<b>Portugal</b>	19.8%	64.2%	16.0%
<b>Romania</b>	-	(72.7%)	-
<b>Slovenia</b>	19.5%	59.5%	21.0%
<b>Slovakia</b>	10.1%	87.6%	2.2%
<b>Finland</b>	26.1%	39.9%	34.0%
<b>Sweden</b>	28.4%	46.0%	25.6%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	22.1%	65.7%	12.2%
<b>Iceland</b>	58.3%	-	-
<b>Norway</b>	24.4%	42.1%	33.5%
<b>Switzerland</b>	31.6%	50.1%	18.3%
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	26.6%	73.0%	(0.4%)
<b>Turkey</b>	33.8%	38.6%	27.6%

\* EU aggregate based on 26 Member States.

: Data not available.

- Data not published due to small sample size.

Data shown in brackets are calculated as the balance of the available flows.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

These labour market flows are highly seasonal, which means that both the size and the direction of a flow in and out of unemployment depend not only on general economic conditions, but also on seasonal factors such as students seeking jobs after graduation. As seasonally adjusted flows data are not yet available, only changes compared with the same quarter of the previous year are presented in the following table.

In this table, a negative sign means a lower proportion of persons moving to or remaining in a category compared with the same quarter of the previous year, while a positive sign means a higher proportion of persons moving to or remaining in a category. For instance in the EU, the proportion of persons moving from unemployment to employment from the second to the third quarter of 2015 increased by 0.9 percentage point (pp) compared with the flows between the same two quarters of 2014, while the share of those remaining unemployed decreased by 1.7 pp.

**Outflow from unemployment, change Q3 2015 compared with Q3 2014**  
(in percentage points)

	<b>Into employment</b>	<b>Remaining unemployed</b>	<b>Into inactivity</b>
<b>EU*</b>	<b>+0.9</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>+0.8</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	:	:	:
<b>Bulgaria</b>	+8.9	-8.0	-0.8
<b>Czech Republic</b>	-0.9	-1.4	+2.3
<b>Denmark</b>	-1.7	+1.7	0.0
<b>Germany</b>	:	:	:
<b>Estonia</b>	+10.6	-12.2	+1.7
<b>Ireland</b>	-1.7	-0.7	+2.4
<b>Greece</b>	-1.1	+2.9	-1.9
<b>Spain</b>	+2.0	-2.8	+0.8
<b>France</b>	+0.2	+1.6	-1.8
<b>Croatia</b>	-1.4	+1.6	(-0.2)
<b>Italy</b>	-0.3	-2.9	+3.3
<b>Cyprus</b>	-2.3	-4.1	+6.3
<b>Latvia</b>	-0.7	-3.4	+4.1
<b>Lithuania</b>	+4.8	+0.2	-5.0
<b>Luxembourg</b>	:	:	:
<b>Hungary</b>	-0.1	+0.7	-0.5
<b>Malta</b>	-	-	-
<b>Netherlands</b>	+1.1	-1.2	+0.1
<b>Austria</b>	-0.1	+1.9	-1.8
<b>Poland</b>	0.0	+0.4	-0.3
<b>Portugal</b>	+0.3	+0.4	-0.7
<b>Romania</b>	-	-4.4	-
<b>Slovenia</b>	-1.7	+0.6	+1.1
<b>Slovakia</b>	-0.3	+1.1	-0.9
<b>Finland</b>	-1.3	+1.3	0.0
<b>Sweden</b>	-0.2	-0.9	+1.0
<b>United Kingdom</b>	+3.8	-2.9	-0.9
<b>Iceland</b>	-3.7	-2.1	+5.9
<b>Norway</b>	-7.5	+8.4	-0.9
<b>Switzerland</b>	+1.5	-4.4	+3.0
<b>FYR of Macedonia</b>	+11.0	+5.0	(-16.0)
<b>Turkey</b>	+1.2	-0.8	-0.3

\* EU aggregate based on 26 Member States.

: Data not available.

- Data not published due to small sample size.

Data shown in brackets are calculated as the balance of the available flows.

## Geographical information

Data for the **European Union** (EU) presented in this news release cover 26 out of the 28 Member States: Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Data are not available for Belgium and Germany.

For Belgium, data are expected to become available from Q1 2017 onwards.

For Germany, data are expected to become available from Q1 2019 onwards.

## Methods and definitions

The quality of this data is not yet fully explored, but the statistics are judged sufficiently reliable for policy analysis and other purposes. The methodology applied aims at producing comparable figures across countries and may differ from national approaches. Data are derived from the EU-LFS by exploiting the quarterly overlap of a share of the sample; this overlapping data is weighted to be compatible with stock data derived from the EU-LFS for the initial quarter as well as the final quarter with the exception of inactivity in the initial quarter. Further information on the methodology is available in the Eurostat Statistics Explained article on [labour market flow statistics](#).

**Employed persons** are all persons who worked at least one hour for pay or profit during the reference week or were temporarily absent from such work.

**Unemployed persons** are all persons who were not employed during the reference week, had actively sought work during the past four weeks, and were ready to begin working immediately or within two weeks.

The **inactive population** consists of all persons who are classified neither as employed nor as unemployed. It can include in particular students, pensioners and housewives or -men, for example, provided that they are not working at all and not available or looking for work either; some of these may be of working-age.

## Revisions and time table

Data in this news release have a provisional nature and can be subject to revisions due to improvements and refinements in the methods used.

## For more information

Eurostat [database](#) on labour market statistics.

Eurostat [metadata](#) on labour market transitions.

Eurostat Statistics Explained article on [labour market flow statistics](#) in the EU.

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