

Labour Force Survey 2015

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

Two-thirds were women

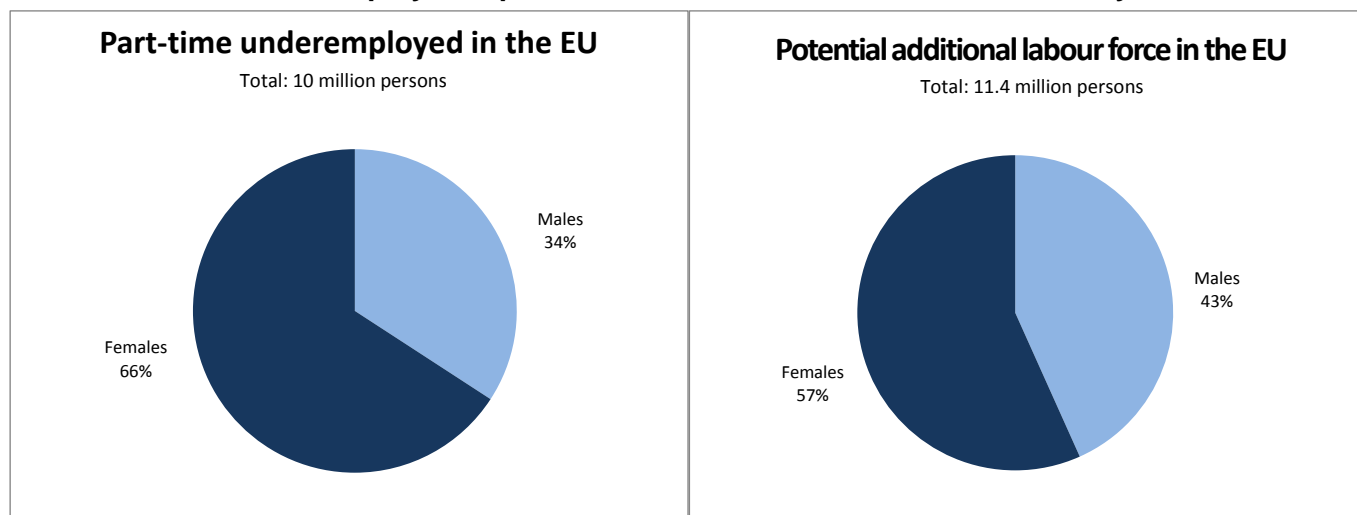
Among the population aged 15 to 74 in the **European Union (EU)**, 220 million were employed, 23 million were unemployed and 136 million were economically inactive in 2015.

Around 8 in every 10 persons employed in the **EU** were working full time and 2 in 10 part-time. Among these 44.7 million persons in the **EU** working part-time in 2015, 10.0 million were under-employed, meaning they wished to work more hours and were available to do so. This corresponds to more than a fifth (22.4%) of all part-time workers and 4.6% of total employment in the **EU** in 2015. Two thirds of these underemployed part-time workers were women (66%).

Alongside the economically active population (employed and unemployed), 11.4 million economically inactive persons aged 15-74 in the **EU** had in 2015 a certain attachment to the labour market and could be considered as a potential additional labour force, equivalent to 4.7% of the **EU** labour force. Among them, around 9.3 million were available to work but not seeking, such as discouraged job seekers, and almost 2.2 million seeking work but not immediately available, for example students seeking a job to start after graduation. The majority of this potential additional labour force in the **EU** in 2015 was also women (56.7%).

This information comes from an [article](#) published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the 2015 detailed results of the European Labour Force Survey.

Part-time underemployed & potential additional labour force in the EU, by sex, 2015



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

In 2015, 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 aged 15 to 74 wished to work more hours while being available to do so in **Greece** (71.8%), **Cyprus** (68.0%) and **Spain** (54.2%), closely followed by **Portugal** (46.4%). At the opposite end of the scale, **Denmark** (9.5%), the **Czech Republic** (9.6%), **Estonia** (12.0%), **Luxembourg** (13.2%), the **Netherlands** (13.4%) and **Germany** (14.0%) registered the smallest shares of underemployed part-time workers. At **EU** level, 22.4% of persons working part-time were underemployed in 2015.

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

Underemployment and part-time work, 2015

	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	10 005	66%	22.4%	4.6%	20.3%
Belgium	169	71%	15.1%	3.7%	24.6%
Bulgaria	26	53%	36.7%	0.9%	2.4%
Czech Republic	30	70%	9.6%	0.6%	6.1%
Denmark	66	64%	9.5%	2.4%	25.4%
Germany	1 553	72%	14.0%	3.9%	27.8%
Estonia	8	67%	12.0%	1.3%	10.8%
Ireland	111	54%	25.1%	5.7%	22.7%
Greece	244	54%	71.8%	6.8%	9.4%
Spain	1 523	67%	54.2%	8.5%	15.7%
France	1 630	73%	33.0%	6.2%	18.8%
Croatia	43	51%	39.9%	2.7%	6.8%
Italy	748	60%	18.1%	3.3%	18.5%
Cyprus	33	55%	68.0%	9.2%	13.6%
Latvia	27	65%	37.8%	3.0%	7.9%
Lithuania	23	64%	20.7%	1.7%	8.2%
Luxembourg	6	75%	13.2%	2.5%	18.6%
Hungary	68	55%	26.7%	1.6%	6.0%
Malta	4	56%	14.9%	2.3%	15.5%
Netherlands	563	65%	13.4%	6.8%	50.7%
Austria	182	73%	15.7%	4.4%	28.0%
Poland	322	63%	27.5%	2.0%	7.3%
Portugal	240	63%	46.4%	5.3%	11.5%
Romania	268	33%	31.6%	3.1%	9.9%
Slovenia	31	64%	32.3%	3.4%	10.6%
Slovakia	58	54%	39.7%	2.4%	6.0%
Finland	99	62%	26.1%	4.1%	15.5%
Sweden	213	65%	17.0%	4.4%	26.0%
United Kingdom	1 718	64%	21.0%	5.6%	26.4%
Iceland	10	65%	21.4%	5.2%	24.2%
Norway	77	68%	10.8%	2.9%	27.0%
Switzerland	304	74%	17.6%	6.6%	37.8%
FYR of Macedonia	15	32%	47.1%	2.1%	4.4%
Turkey	317	35%	11.1%	1.2%	10.8%

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

Potential additional labour force by far the largest in Italy

The potential additional labour force also varied significantly between Member States, with the largest proportion registered by far in **Italy** (with more than 3.5 million persons, equivalent to 14.0% of the labour force), ahead of **Croatia** (9.2%), **Luxembourg** (7.8%), **Finland** (7.7%) and **Bulgaria** (7.1%). 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 a vast majority of EU Member States, with the exceptions of **Ireland, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Denmark, Finland, Hungary** and **Austria**.

At **EU** level, the potential additional labour force, made up of 57% women, was equivalent to 4.7% of the total labour force.

Potential additional labour force, 2015

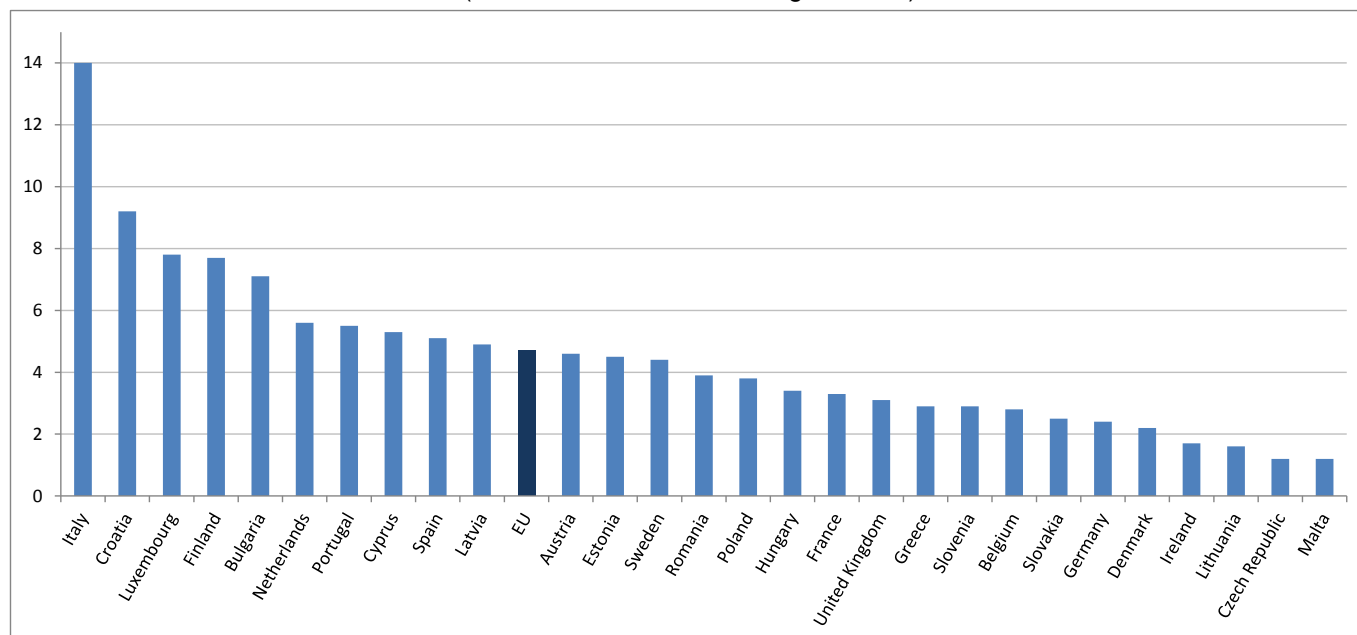
	Available to work but not seeking	Seeking work, but not immediately available	Total potential additional labour force	Share of women in total potential additional labour force (%)	Potential additional labour force compared with the labour force aged 15-74, in %
	In thousands				
EU	9 255	2 184	11 440	57%	4.7%
Belgium	86	54	139	53%	2.8%
Bulgaria	215	23	238	46%	7.1%
Czech Republic	49	16	65	57%	1.2%
Denmark	44	21	65	47%	2.2%
Germany	533	476	1 009	52%	2.4%
Estonia	28	3	31	56%	4.5%
Ireland	23	13	36	45%	1.7%
Greece	100	41	141	66%	2.9%
Spain	949	220	1 169	65%	5.1%
France	674	305	979	53%	3.3%
Croatia	162	12	174	56%	9.2%
Italy	3 451	104	3 555	60%	14.0%
Cyprus	20	3	22	61%	5.3%
Latvia	43	5	49	53%	4.9%
Lithuania	13	11	23	46%	1.6%
Luxembourg	14	8	22	55%	7.8%
Hungary	145	9	154	50%	3.4%
Malta	2	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	344	156	500	54%	5.6%
Austria	161	40	201	50%	4.6%
Poland	559	103	662	56%	3.8%
Portugal	260	23	283	58%	5.5%
Romania	357	:	:	:	:
Slovenia	25	(4)	29	(55%)	(2.9%)
Slovakia	56	14	70	56%	2.5%
Finland	141	65	206	48%	7.7%
Sweden	123	109	231	51%	4.4%
United Kingdom	681	344	1 024	54%	3.1%
Iceland	8	2	10	56%	5.0%
Norway	72	24	96	47%	3.5%
Switzerland	186	55	241	60%	5.0%
FYR of Macedonia	:	7	:	:	:
Turkey	1 824	62	1 886	58%	6.4%

: Data not available or not published due to too small sample size.

() Data with reduced reliability due to sample size.

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

Potential additional labour force in the EU Member States, 2015 (as % of total labour force aged 15-74)



Geographical information

The **European Union (EU)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, 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.

Methods and definitions

The **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** is a large sample survey among private households. LFS data refer to the resident population and therefore LFS results relate to the persons resident in the country irrespective of the country where those persons work. This difference may be significant in countries with large cross-border flows. For further information, please consult the Eurostat [EU-LFS publication](#).

Annual results presented in this news release are calculated as an average of quarterly results.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Together, persons available to work but not seeking and persons seeking work but not immediately available constitute the **potential additional labour force**.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Eurostat [database](#) on EU-LFS results.

Main [concepts and definitions](#) of the EU-LFS.

Eurostat [Statistics Explained](#) article on underemployment and potential additional labour force statistics.

Eurostat [news release 80/2016](#) of 26 April 2016 on Europe 2020 employment indicators.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**


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

 ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Production of data:

Havard LIEN
Tel: +352-4301-35 226
havard.lien@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