

233/2016 - 25 November 2016

Second quarter 2016 compared with first quarter 2016

1 in 5 unemployed persons in the EU found a job

Out of all persons in the **European Union (EU)** who were unemployed in the first quarter 2016, 63.2% (12.6 million persons) remained unemployed in the second quarter 2016, while 19.5% (3.9 million) moved into employment and 17.3% (3.5 million) towards economic inactivity. Economically inactive individuals are those neither employed nor unemployed. Examples are students, pensioners and housewives or -men, provided that they are not working at all and not available or looking for work either.

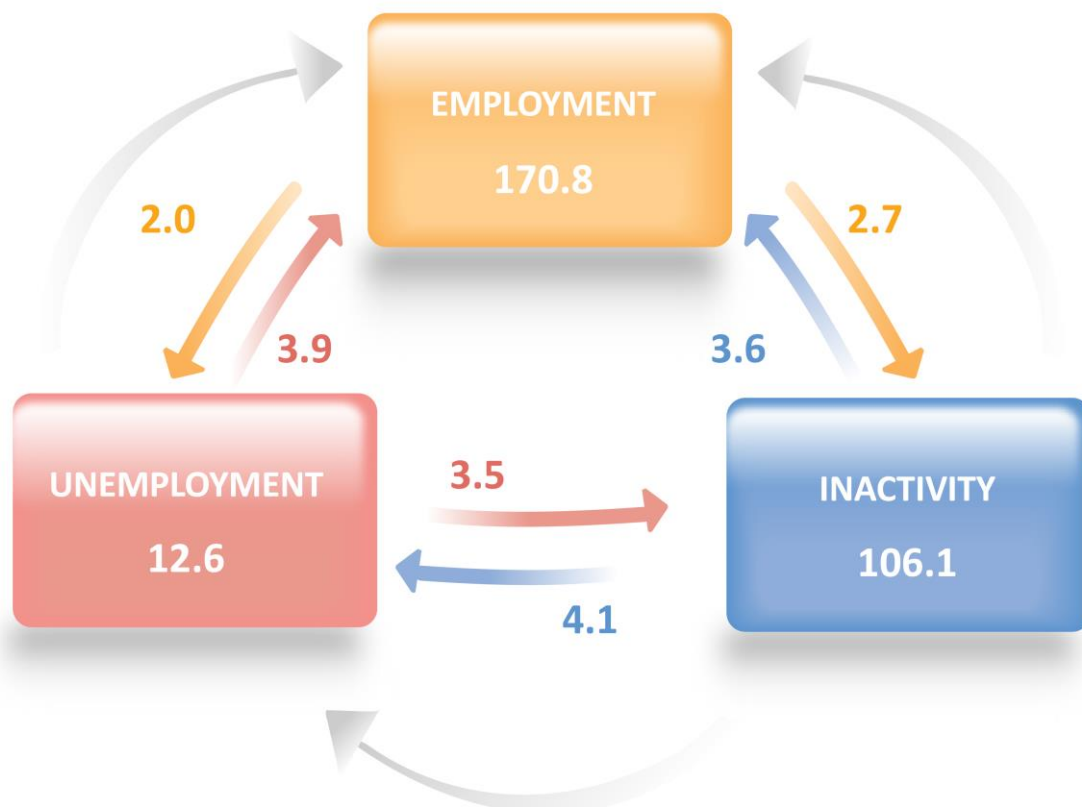
Of all those initially in employment, 97.3% (170.8 million persons) remained in employment, while 1.2% (2.0 million) of those employed in the first quarter 2016 were observed to be unemployed in the second quarter 2016, and 1.6% (2.7 million) transitioned into economic inactivity.

Of all those initially in economic inactivity, 93.3% (106.1 million persons) remained in inactivity, while 6.7% entered the labour market: 3.1% (3.6 million) of those inactive in the first quarter 2016 moved into employment in the second quarter 2016, and 3.6% (4.1 million) transitioned into unemployment.

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.

Transitions in labour market status in the EU*, Q1 2016-Q2 2016

(in millions; population aged 15-74)



* The graphic gives an overview of all possible transitions and shows the aggregate transitions for 26 EU Member States between the different labour market statuses. Data is shown in absolute numbers. 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 direction of net flows.

Transitions in labour market status in the EU*, Q1 2016-Q2 2016

(in % of initial status; population aged 15-74)

FROM	TO		
	Employment Q2 2016	Unemployment Q2 2016	Inactivity Q2 2016
Employment Q1 2016	97.3%	1.2%	1.6%
Unemployment Q1 2016	19.5%	63.2%	17.3%
Inactivity Q1 2016	3.1%	3.6%	93.3%

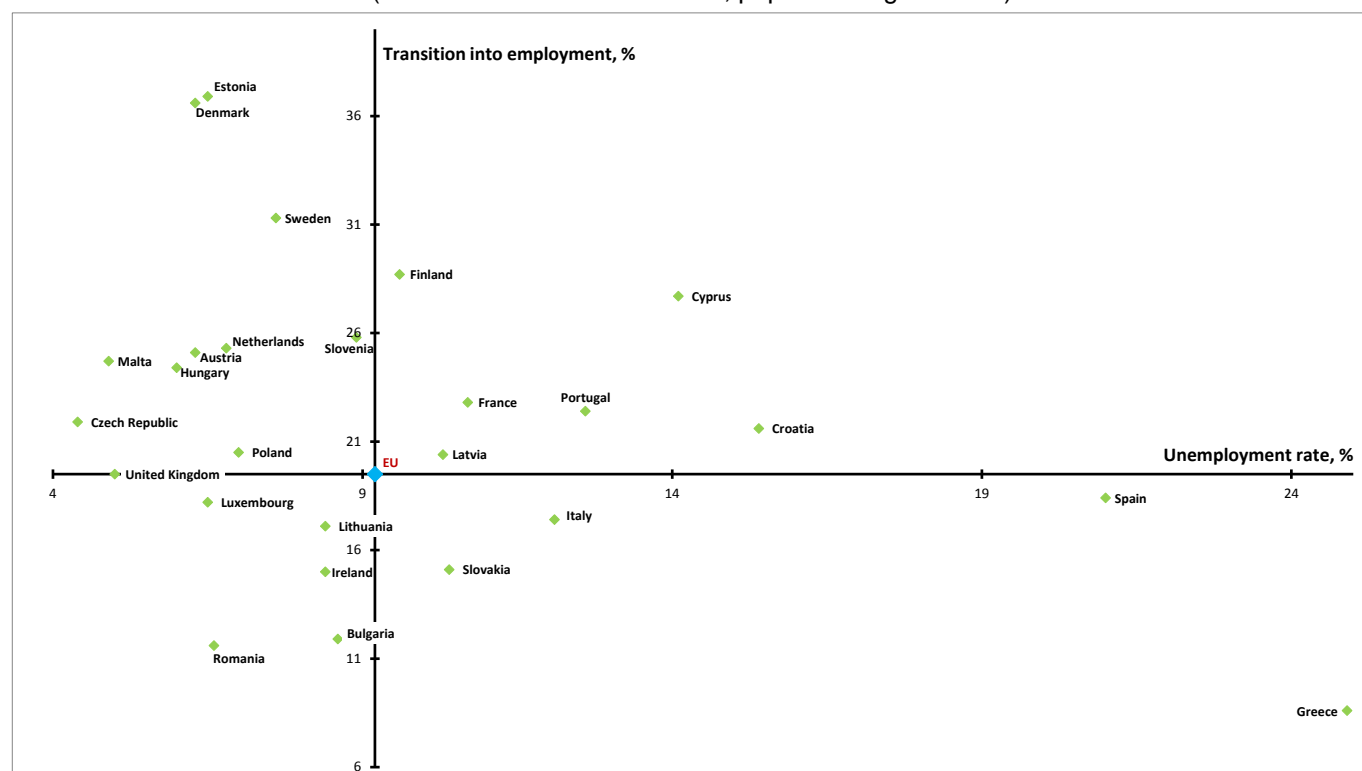
* EU aggregate based on 26 Member States.

Labour market flows show the movements of individuals between employment, unemployment, and economic inactivity and enrich the analysis of the net changes in stocks. In particular, outflows from unemployment yield insights into the degree of flexibility or rigidity of the labour market, especially when combined with data on the stock of unemployment in each Member State. Four stylized situations can be distinguished, and the combination of the unemployment rate and the probability of transitioning into employment determines the location on the spectrum.

- Member States with relatively low unemployment and high transitions into employment
- Examples are **Denmark, Estonia or Sweden**
- Member States with relatively high unemployment and high transitions into employment
- Examples are **Cyprus, Croatia or Portugal**
- Member States with relatively high unemployment and low transitions into employment
- Examples are **Greece, Spain or Italy**
- Member States with relatively low unemployment and low transitions into employment
- Examples are **Romania, Bulgaria or Ireland**

Unemployment rate Q1 2016 and transition from unemployment to employment Q1 2016-Q2 2016

(transition in % of initial status; population aged 15-74)



Quarterly data on labour market flows not available for Belgium and Germany.

Outflow from unemployment, Q1 2016-Q2 2016, compared to same flow each year since 2011
(in % of unemployed persons aged 15-74 in initial quarter)

	Into employment in					
	Q2 2011	Q2 2012	Q2 2013	Q2 2014	Q2 2015	Q2 2016
EU*	18.2%	16.5%	16.0%	17.1%	18.7%	19.5%
Belgium	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bulgaria	10.6%	10.4%	13.0%	14.5%	10.7%	11.9%
Czech Republic	19.7%	19.1%	18.5%	21.9%	22.2%	21.9%
Denmark	37.2%	29.7%	39.8%	34.7%	38.4%	36.6%
Germany	:	:	:	:	:	:
Estonia	15.5%	21.6%	25.8%	31.3%	29.2%	36.9%
Ireland	11.2%	9.8%	11.0%	10.7%	16.4%	15.0%
Greece	4.6%	2.2%	5.0%	7.4%	8.6%	8.6%
Spain	18.8%	14.6%	13.9%	16.0%	17.9%	18.4%
France	24.2%	21.8%	22.1%	21.7%	22.9%	22.8%
Croatia	7.9%	13.8%	12.4%	14.4%	16.3%	21.6%
Italy	17.7%	17.4%	12.7%	13.2%	16.1%	17.4%
Cyprus	31.8%	18.6%	15.8%	18.9%	21.1%	27.7%
Latvia	20.9%	21.6%	19.3%	20.8%	24.0%	20.4%
Lithuania	12.3%	15.6%	17.7%	18.2%	18.6%	17.1%
Luxembourg	:	:	:	:	17.2%	18.2%
Hungary	17.2%	16.7%	22.6%	19.8%	23.1%	24.4%
Malta	-	-	-	-	-	24.7%
Netherlands	24.8%	22.9%	20.9%	20.4%	21.9%	25.3%
Austria	37.1%	28.8%	32.2%	27.3%	26.3%	25.1%
Poland	15.9%	14.9%	15.1%	17.0%	15.8%	20.5%
Portugal	22.1%	17.6%	16.7%	20.7%	25.0%	22.4%
Romania	12.3%	11.3%	14.2%	11.2%	17.7%	11.6%
Slovenia	21.0%	21.3%	16.8%	20.9%	19.3%	25.8%
Slovakia	9.3%	7.8%	7.6%	9.0%	13.4%	15.1%
Finland	32.5%	30.0%	31.6%	28.7%	25.6%	28.7%
Sweden	29.6%	28.4%	29.0%	30.9%	29.6%	31.3%
United Kingdom	14.8%	18.4%	16.6%	18.8%	18.8%	19.5%
Iceland	33.8%	41.4%	38.2%	39.1%	48.1%	58.8%
Norway	30.1%	33.6%	30.0%	28.5%	26.6%	24.0%
Switzerland	38.2%	35.4%	33.8%	33.2%	34.8%	33.2%
FYR of Macedonia	9.0%	8.0%	10.3%	9.9%	15.6%	16.9%
Turkey	41.6%	42.3%	39.9%	42.0%	40.0%	35.5%

* EU aggregate based on 26 Member States.

: Data not available.

- Data not published due to small sample size.

Data marked in green show an improvement compared with the same quarter of the previous year, those marked in red show deterioration.

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

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

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. 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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