

This News Release has been revised on 8 May 2015 to reflect recent upward revisions in Europe 2020 national employment targets for Croatia and Malta. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

## Europe 2020 employment indicators

# Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the EU up to 69.2% in 2014

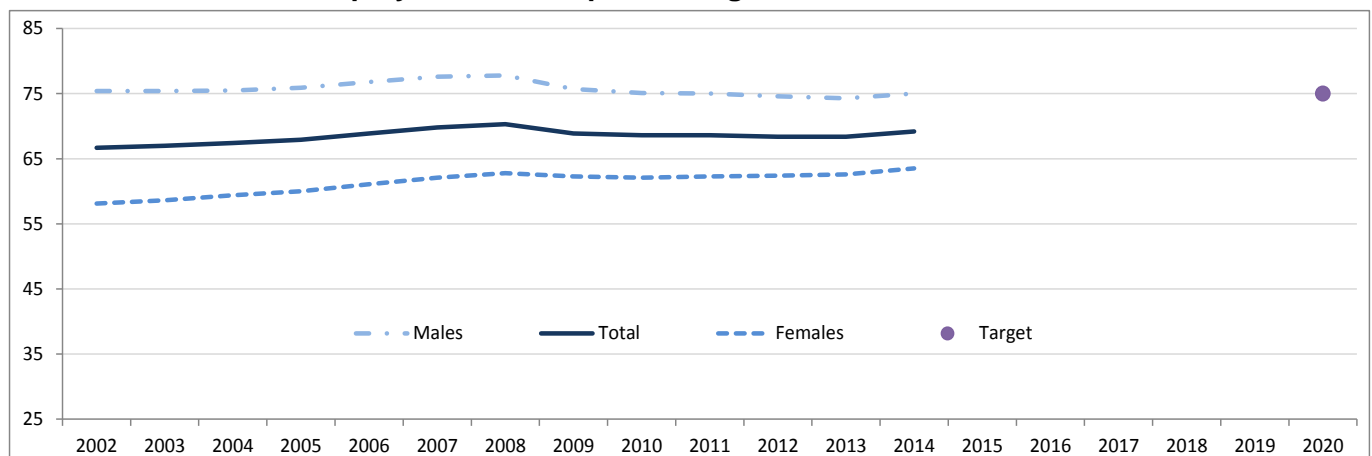
## New peaks for women and those aged 55-64

For the first time since the financial crisis, the employment rate<sup>1</sup> of the population aged 20 to 64 in the **European Union** (EU) increased in 2014, reaching 69.2% but not yet its 2008 peak (70.3%). A similar pattern can be observed for men: their employment rate has hit 75.0% in 2014, up compared with 2013 but still below its 2008 level. In contrast, the employment rate of women has continuously risen since 2010 to 63.5% in 2014, above its previous 2008 peak of 62.8%. The Europe 2020 strategy<sup>2</sup> target is to reach a total employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 of at least 75% in the **EU** by 2020. This objective has been translated into national targets in order to reflect the situation and possibilities of each Member State to contribute to the common goal.

Similarly to that of women, the employment rate of persons aged 55 to 64 in the **EU** has grown steadily over the last years, from 38.4% in 2002 to 51.8% in 2014. The greater participation of older workers is also one of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy on employment.

This information comes from an [article](#)<sup>3</sup> issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the 2014 results of the European Labour Force Survey<sup>4</sup>. This survey collects data on employment and unemployment, as well as on a large range of other variables<sup>5</sup> related to the labour market, of which only a small selection is shown in this News Release.

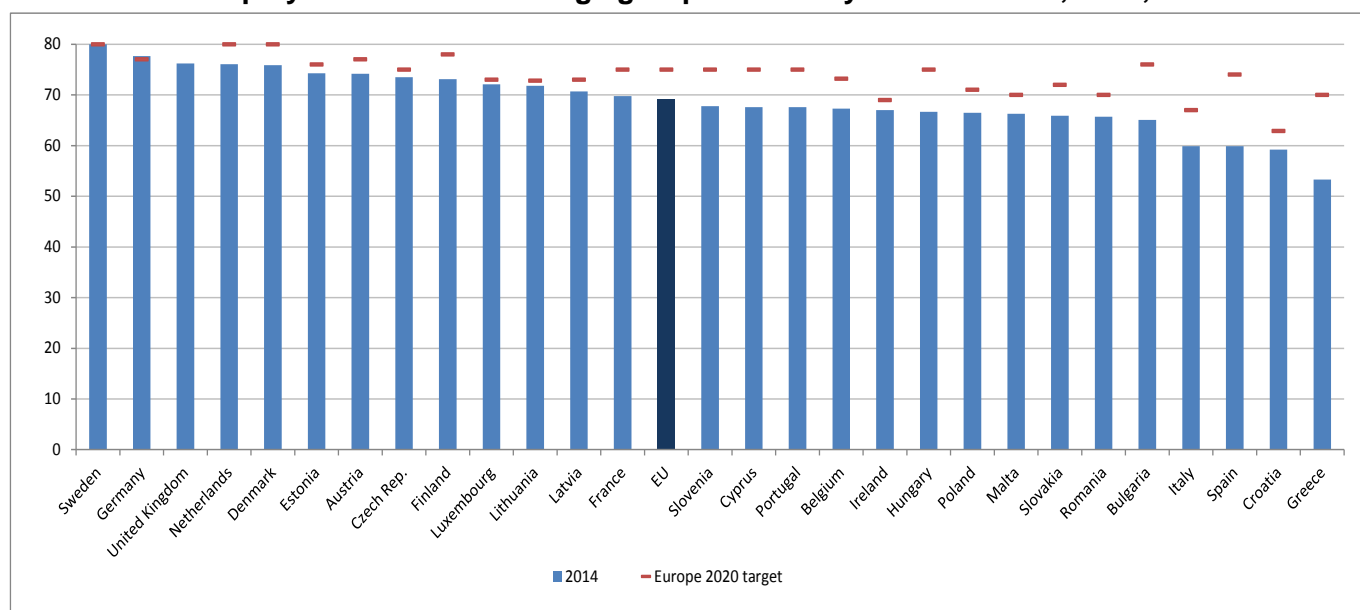
Employment rate of persons aged 20 to 64 in the EU, %



### Germany and Sweden already achieved their Europe 2020 overall employment target

Compared with 2013, the employment rate for those aged 20 to 64 increased in 2014 in almost every Member State, and most strongly in **Hungary, Portugal, Croatia** and **Lithuania**. Employment rates above 75% were recorded in **Sweden** (80.0%), **Germany** (77.7%), the **United Kingdom** (76.2%), the **Netherlands** (76.1%) and **Denmark** (75.9%). On the opposite, employment rates below 60% were observed in **Greece** (53.3%), **Croatia** (59.2%), **Spain** and **Italy** (both 59.9%). Two Member States have already met or exceeded their 2020 national targets for this indicator in 2014: **Germany** and **Sweden**.

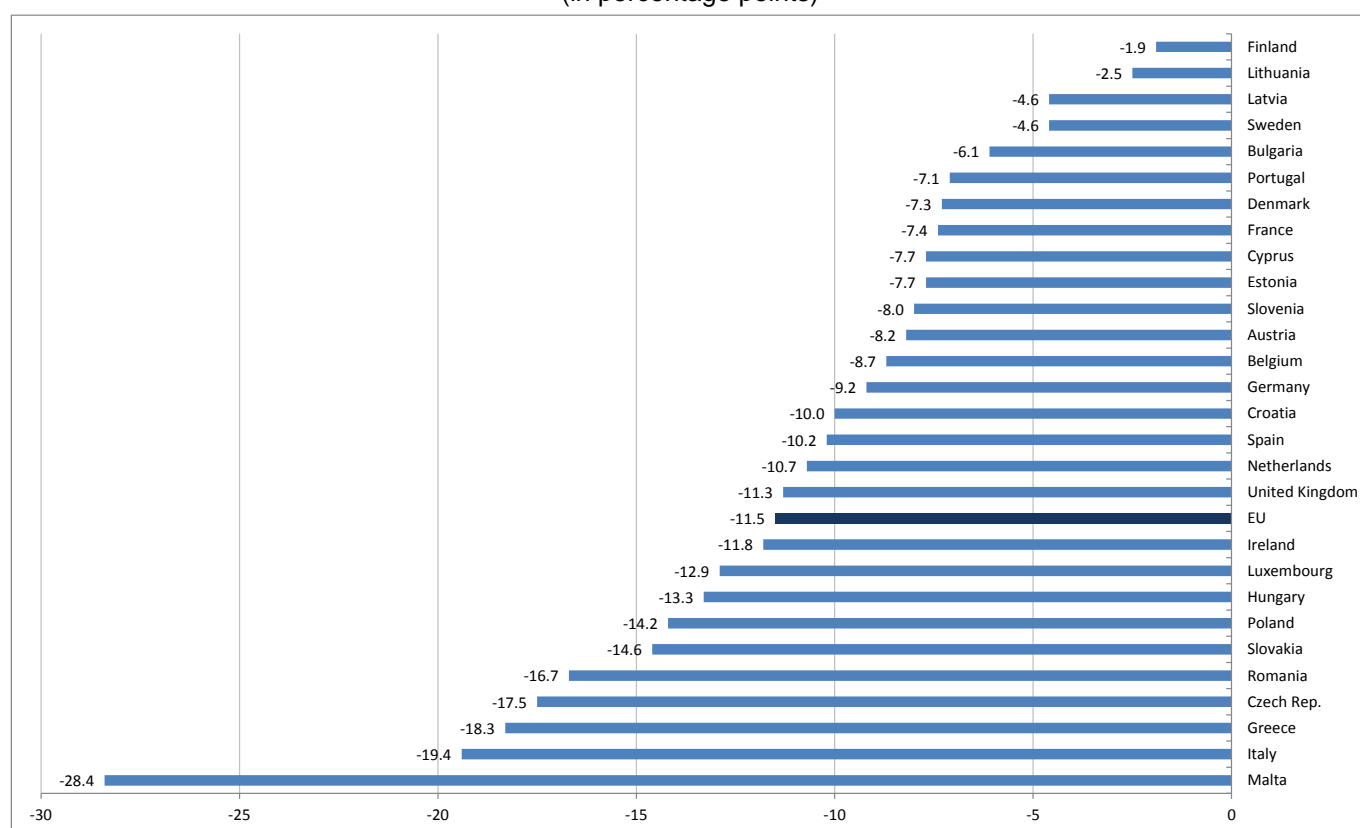
## Employment rates for the age group 20 to 64 by Member State, 2014, %



### Narrowest gender employment gap in Finland, widest in Malta

Employment rates of men and women continued to vary considerably in many Member States in 2014. The difference between the employment rate of women and that of men aged 20-64 was lowest in **Finland** (72.1% for women vs. 74.0% for men, or -1.9 percentage points), **Lithuania** (-2.5 pp), **Latvia** and **Sweden** (both -4.6 pp). At the opposite end of the scale, the largest difference between the employment rate of women and that of men was observed in **Malta** (51.9% for women vs. 80.3% for men, or -28.4 pp). Big gaps were also recorded in **Italy** (-19.4 pp), **Greece** (-18.3 pp), the **Czech Republic** (-17.5 pp) and **Romania** (-16.7 pp). At **EU** level, the difference between the employment rate of women aged 20-64 (63.5%) and that of men aged 20-64 (75.0%) was -11.5 pp in 2014, compared with -17.3 pp in 2002.

### Differences in employment rate for women and men aged 20-64, 2014 (in percentage points)



### Employment rates for the age group 20 to 64 (%)

	2013			2014			Europe 2020 targets (Total)
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
<b>EU</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>74.3</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>75.0</b>
Belgium	67.2	72.3	62.1	67.3	71.6	62.9	73.2
Bulgaria	63.5	66.4	60.7	65.1	68.1	62.0	76.0
Czech Republic	72.5	81.0	63.8	73.5	82.2	64.7	75.0
Denmark	75.6	78.7	72.4	75.9	79.5	72.2	80.0
Germany	77.3	82.1	72.5	77.7	82.3	73.1	77.0
Estonia	73.3	76.7	70.1	74.3	78.3	70.6	76.0
Ireland	65.5	70.9	60.3	67.0	73.0	61.2	69.0
Greece	52.9	62.7	43.3	53.3	62.6	44.3	70.0
Spain	58.6	63.4	53.8	59.9	65.0	54.8	74.0
France <sup>6</sup>	69.6	73.7	65.6	69.8	73.6	66.2	75.0
Croatia	57.2	61.6	52.8	59.2	64.2	54.2	62.9
Italy	59.7	69.7	49.9	59.9	69.7	50.3	67.0
Cyprus	67.2	72.6	62.2	67.6	71.6	63.9	75.0
Latvia	69.7	71.9	67.7	70.7	73.1	68.5	73.0
Lithuania	69.9	71.2	68.6	71.8	73.1	70.6	72.8
Luxembourg	71.1	78.0	63.9	72.1	78.4	65.5	73.0
Hungary	63.0	69.3	56.9	66.7	73.5	60.2	75.0
Malta	64.8	79.4	49.8	66.3	80.3	51.9	70.0
Netherlands	76.5	81.3	71.6	76.1	81.4	70.7	80.0
Austria	74.6	79.1	70.0	74.2	78.3	70.1	77.0
Poland	64.9	72.1	57.6	66.5	73.6	59.4	71.0
Portugal	65.4	68.7	62.3	67.6	71.3	64.2	75.0
Romania	64.7	72.8	56.5	65.7	74.0	57.3	70.0
Slovenia	67.2	71.2	63.0	67.8	71.6	63.6	75.0
Slovakia	65.0	72.2	57.8	65.9	73.2	58.6	72.0
Finland	73.3	74.7	71.9	73.1	74.0	72.1	78.0
Sweden	79.8	82.2	77.2	80.0	82.2	77.6	80.0
United Kingdom	74.8	80.4	69.3	76.2	81.9	70.6	-
Iceland	82.8	86.0	79.5	83.5	86.5	80.5	-
Norway	79.6	82.1	77.1	79.6	81.9	77.1	-
Switzerland	82.1	87.4	76.6	82.3	87.1	77.4	-
FYR of Macedonia	50.3	59.7	40.7	51.3	61.6	40.8	-
Turkey	:	:	:	53.2	75.0	31.6	-

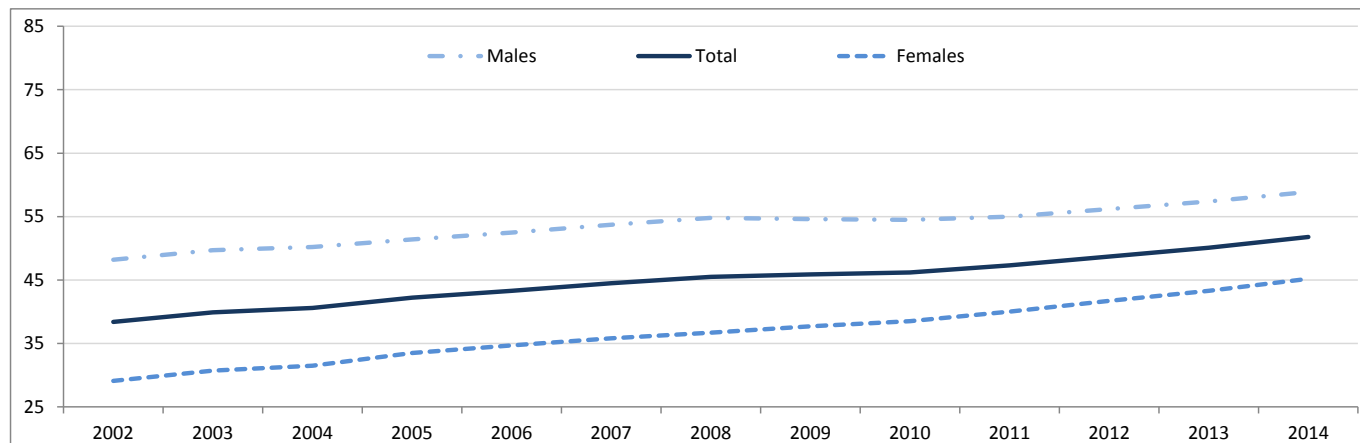
: Break in the series for Turkey in 2014. Data not comparable before that year and therefore not shown.

- No national target or not applicable

## Continuous increase in employment rate for those aged 55 to 64 in the EU

From 2002 onwards, the employment rate of people aged 55-64 in the **EU** has grown steadily to reach 51.8% in 2014, compared with 38.4% in 2002. The growth was stronger for women (from 29.1% in 2002 to 45.2% in 2014) than for men (48.2% in 2002 vs. 58.9% in 2014). As a consequence, the gap between the employment rate of women and men aged 55-64 in the **EU** has been reduced, from a 19.1 percentage points difference in 2002 to a 13.7 pp difference in 2014.

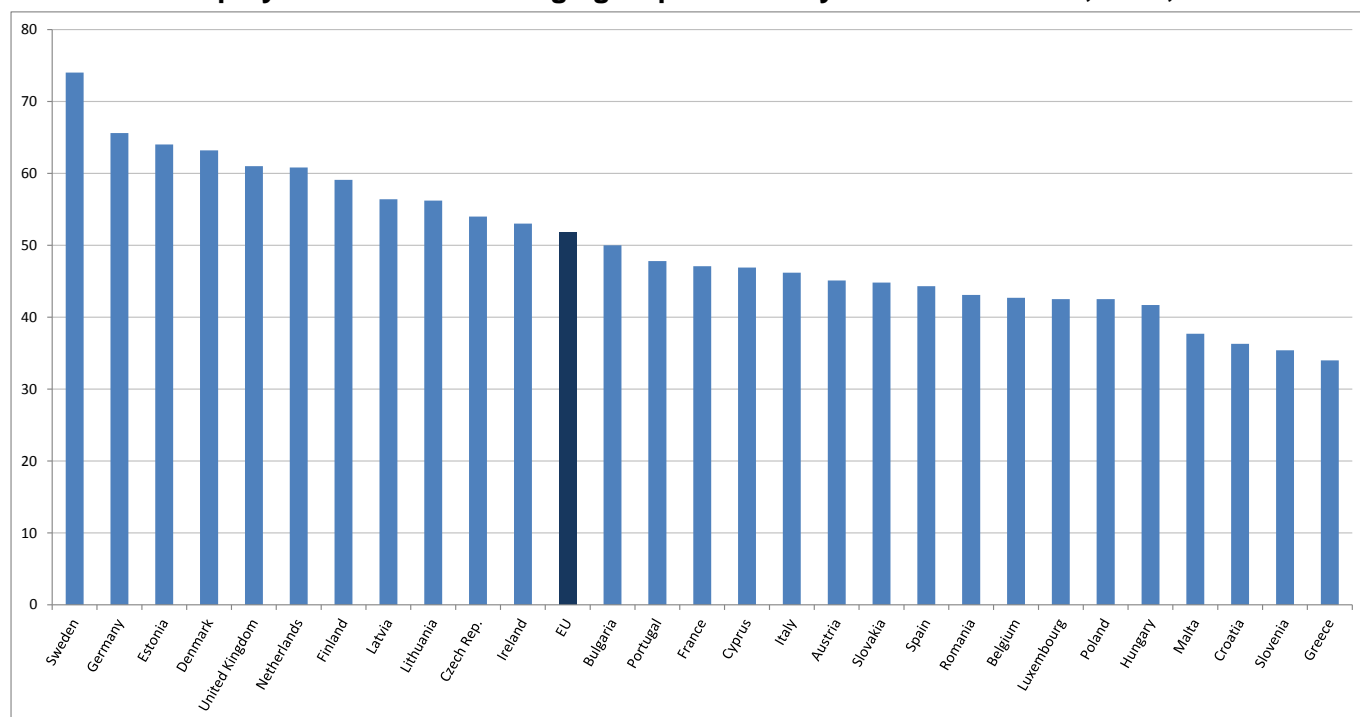
Employment rate of persons aged 55 to 64 in the EU, %



## Almost 3 persons out of 4 aged 55 to 64 in Sweden have a job

In 2014, at least half of the population aged 55 to 64 was in employment in twelve EU Member States. The highest employment rate for this age group was observed in **Sweden** (74.0%), followed by **Germany** (65.6%), **Estonia** (64.0%), **Denmark** (63.2%), the **United Kingdom** (61.0%) and the **Netherlands** (60.8%). On the other hand, the lowest employment rates were registered in **Greece** (34.0%), **Slovenia** (35.4%), **Croatia** (36.3%) and **Malta** (37.7%). Compared with 2013, the employment rate for those aged 55 to 64 increased in 2014 in all EU Member States, except **Greece**, **Croatia** and **Cyprus**.

Employment rates for the age group 55 to 64 by EU Member State, 2014, %



## Employment rates for the age group 55 to 64 (%)

	2013			2014		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
<b>EU</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>45.2</b>
Belgium	41.7	47.7	35.8	42.7	48.4	37.0
Bulgaria	47.4	51.9	43.4	50.0	54.5	46.0
Czech Republic	51.6	62.5	41.4	54.0	64.8	43.8
Denmark	61.7	66.5	56.8	63.2	68.9	57.6
Germany	63.6	69.9	57.6	65.6	71.4	60.0
Estonia	62.6	61.4	63.6	64.0	65.1	63.1
Ireland	51.3	59.3	43.4	53.0	61.4	44.7
Greece	35.6	46.0	26.0	34.0	44.0	25.0
Spain	43.2	50.5	36.3	44.3	51.2	37.8
France <sup>6</sup>	45.6	48.4	43.1	47.1	48.9	45.4
Croatia	37.8	45.0	31.0	36.3	45.8	27.3
Italy	42.7	52.8	33.2	46.2	56.5	36.6
Cyprus	49.6	61.1	38.3	46.9	57.1	36.9
Latvia	54.8	55.2	54.6	56.4	56.3	56.4
Lithuania	53.4	56.1	51.2	56.2	58.8	54.3
Luxembourg	40.5	48.3	32.4	42.5	49.8	35.0
Hungary	37.9	44.8	32.1	41.7	49.6	35.2
Malta	36.3	53.9	18.7	37.7	55.7	19.8
Netherlands	60.1	70.2	50.0	60.8	70.7	50.8
Austria	43.8	52.8	35.2	45.1	54.3	36.4
Poland	40.6	51.3	31.0	42.5	53.1	32.9
Portugal	46.9	53.5	41.0	47.8	54.3	42.1
Romania	41.8	51.4	33.2	43.1	53.2	34.2
Slovenia	33.5	41.8	25.2	35.4	41.8	29.0
Slovakia	44.0	53.3	35.7	44.8	53.1	37.2
Finland	58.5	56.5	60.5	59.1	56.8	61.4
Sweden	73.6	76.9	70.3	74.0	76.5	71.5
United Kingdom	59.8	66.8	53.0	61.0	67.8	54.4
Iceland	81.1	87.2	75.1	83.6	87.1	80.1
Norway	71.1	74.9	67.1	72.2	75.8	68.5
Switzerland	71.7	79.9	63.6	71.6	78.7	64.4
FYR of Macedonia	37.9	49.4	26.6	38.6	50.3	27.1
Turkey	:	:	:	31.4	45.6	17.5

: Break in the series for Turkey in 2014. Data not comparable before that year and therefore not shown.

1. The employment rate represents employed persons as a percentage of the population in the same age group. The employment status is measured according to the definition of the International Labour Organisation. It should be noted that the employment situation of individuals depends on the availability of jobs as well as the decision/willingness to work among the population.
2. For more information on the Europe 2020 strategy: [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm).  
See also the dedicated section on the Eurostat website:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy>
3. Eurostat, Statistics Explained "European Union Labour force survey - Annual results 2014".  
[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Labour\\_market\\_and\\_Labour\\_force\\_survey\\_%28LFS%29\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Labour_market_and_Labour_force_survey_%28LFS%29_statistics)

4. 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 see the Eurostat EU-LFS publication: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU\\_labour\\_force\\_survey](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/EU_labour_force_survey)
5. Some further information and infographics on the labour market in the EU and the Member States are presented in the “**Themes in the spotlight**” section of the Eurostat website:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/news/themes-in-the-spotlight/employment>  
See also **Eurostat news release** 75/2015 of 27 April 2014 on LFS supplementary indicators 2014:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/6800423/3-27042015-AP-EN.pdf/08a0ac51-c63d-44d0-ad29-248127fd01c3>
6. Data for France exclude the overseas departments.

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