

80/2016 - 26 April 2016

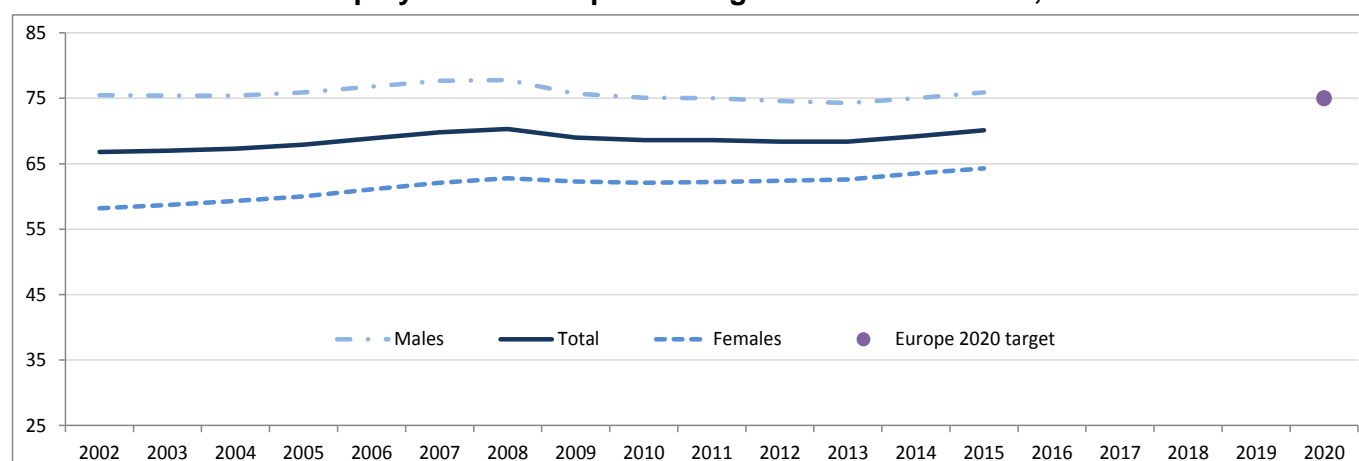
## Europe 2020 employment indicators

**Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the EU above 70% in 2015****New peaks for women and those aged 55-64**

In 2015, the employment rate of the population aged 20 to 64 in the **European Union** (EU) stood at 70.1%, up compared with 2014 (69.2%) although still remaining slightly below its 2008 peak (70.3%). A similar pattern can be observed for men: their employment rate hit 75.9% in 2015, an increase compared with 2014 (75.0%) but still below its 2008 level (77.8%). As for women, their employment rate has continuously risen since 2010 to reach 64.3% in 2015, above previous peaks of 63.5% in 2014 and 62.8% in 2008. The Europe 2020 strategy target is to reach a total employment rate for 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.

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 53.3% in 2015. The greater participation of older workers is also one of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy on employment.

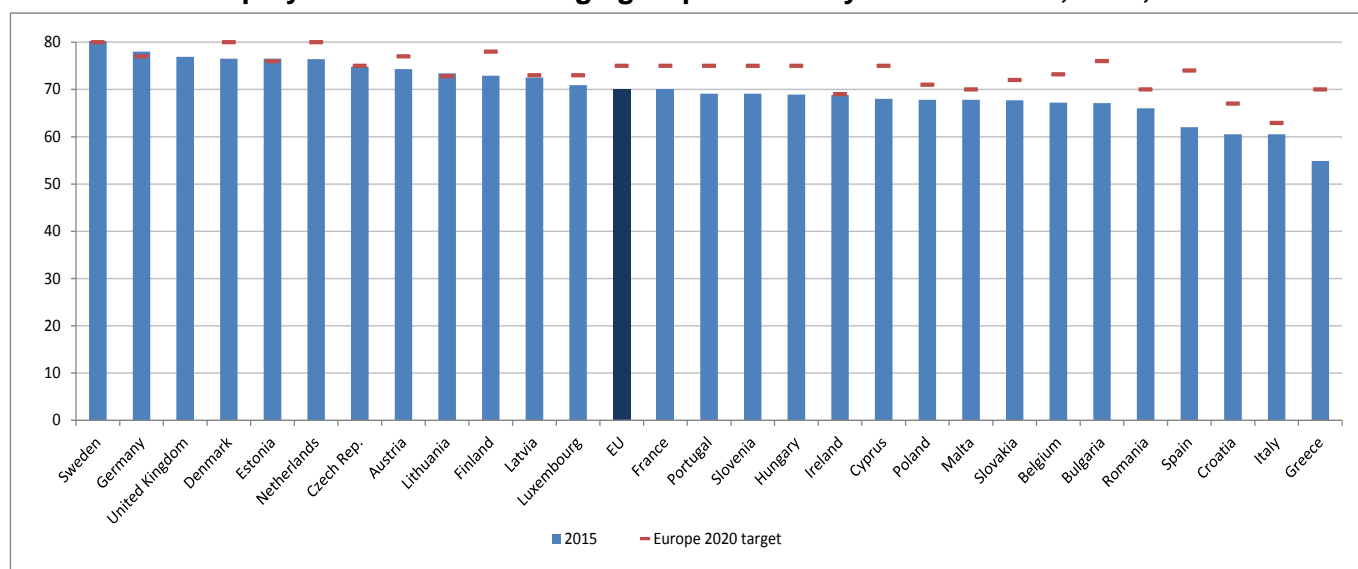
This information comes from an [article](#) issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the 2015 results of the European Labour Force Survey. This survey collects data on employment and unemployment, as well as on a large range of other variables related to the labour 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, Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden already achieved their Europe 2020 employment target**

Compared with 2014, the employment rate for those aged 20 to 64 increased in 2015 in almost every Member State, and most strongly in **Hungary, Estonia, Spain, Bulgaria, Latvia, Ireland** and **Slovakia**. Employment rates above 75% were recorded in **Sweden** (80.5%), **Germany** (78.0%), the **United Kingdom** (76.9%), **Denmark** and **Estonia** (both 76.5%) and the **Netherlands** (76.4%). Among these Member States, **Germany, Estonia** and **Sweden** have already met or exceeded their 2020 national targets for this indicator in 2015, as has **Lithuania**. Moreover, the **Czech Republic, Ireland** and **Latvia** are 0.5 pp or less from their respective targets.

On the other hand, the lowest employment rate was observed in **Greece** (54.9%), followed by **Croatia** and **Italy** (both 60.5%) as well as **Spain** (62.0%).

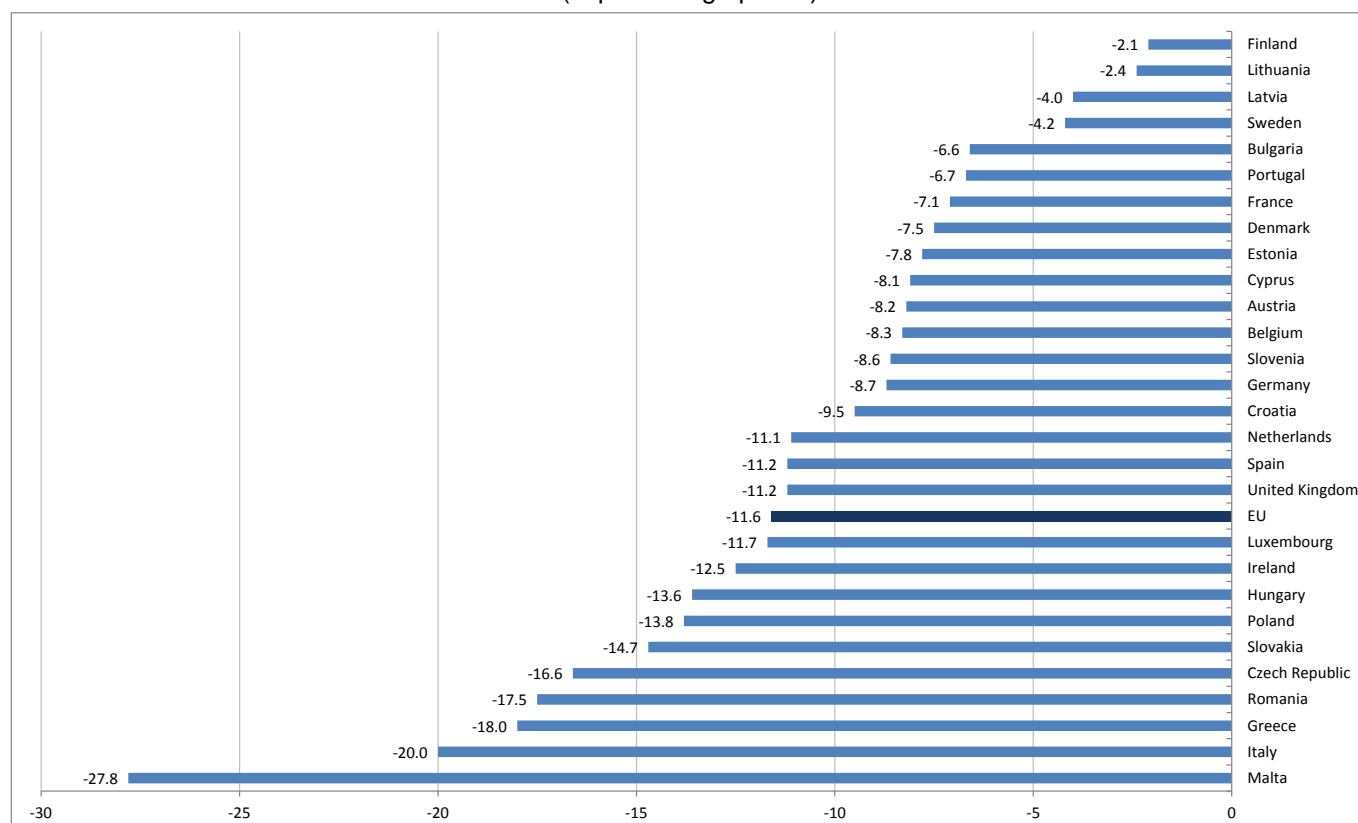
## Employment rates for the age group 20 to 64 by Member State, 2015, %



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

Employment rates of men and women continued to vary considerably in many Member States in 2015. The difference between the employment rate of women and that of men aged 20-64 was lowest in **Finland** (71.8% for women vs. 73.9% for men, or -2.1 percentage points), **Lithuania** (-2.4 pp), **Latvia** (-4.0 pp) and **Sweden** (-4.2 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** (53.6% for women vs. 81.4% for men, or -27.8 pp). Big gaps were also recorded in **Italy** (-20.0 pp), **Greece** (-18.0 pp), **Romania** (-17.5 pp) and the **Czech Republic** (-16.6 pp). At EU level, the difference between the employment rate of women aged 20-64 (64.3%) and that of men aged 20-64 (75.9%) was -11.6 pp in 2015, compared with -17.3 pp in 2002.

## Differences in employment rate for women and men aged 20-64, 2015 (in percentage points)



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

	2014			2015			Europe 2020 targets (Total)
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
<b>EU</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>75.0</b>
Belgium	67.3	71.6	62.9	67.2	71.3	63.0	73.2
Bulgaria	65.1	68.1	62.0	67.1	70.4	63.8	76.0
Czech Republic	73.6	82.2	64.7	74.8	83.0	66.4	75.0
Denmark	75.9	79.5	72.2	76.5	80.2	72.7	80.0
Germany	77.7	82.3	73.1	78.0	82.3	73.6	77.0
Estonia	74.4	78.3	70.6	76.5	80.5	72.7	76.0
Ireland	67.0	73.0	61.2	68.8	75.1	62.6	69.0
Greece	53.3	62.6	44.3	54.9	64.0	46.0	70.0
Spain	59.9	65.0	54.8	62.0	67.6	56.4	74.0
France	69.9	73.7	66.2	70.0	73.6	66.5	75.0
Croatia	59.2	64.3	54.2	60.5	65.3	55.8	62.9
Italy	59.9	69.7	50.3	60.5	70.6	50.6	67.0
Cyprus	67.6	71.7	63.9	68.0	72.2	64.1	75.0
Latvia	70.7	73.1	68.5	72.5	74.6	70.6	73.0
Lithuania	71.8	73.1	70.6	73.4	74.6	72.2	72.8
Luxembourg	:	:	:	70.9	76.7	65.0	73.0
Hungary	66.7	73.5	60.2	68.9	75.8	62.2	75.0
Malta	66.4	80.4	52.0	67.8	81.4	53.6	70.0
Netherlands	75.1	81.1	69.8	76.4	81.9	70.8	80.0
Austria	74.2	78.3	70.1	74.3	78.4	70.2	77.0
Poland	66.5	73.7	59.4	67.8	74.7	60.9	71.0
Portugal	67.6	71.3	64.2	69.1	72.6	65.9	75.0
Romania	65.7	74.0	57.3	66.0	74.7	57.2	70.0
Slovenia	67.7	71.6	63.6	69.1	73.3	64.7	75.0
Slovakia	65.9	73.2	58.6	67.7	75.0	60.3	72.0
Finland	73.1	74.0	72.1	72.9	73.9	71.8	78.0
Sweden	80.0	82.2	77.6	80.5	82.5	78.3	80.0
United Kingdom	76.2	81.9	70.6	76.9	82.5	71.3	-
Iceland	84.9	88.0	81.7	86.5	89.6	83.3	-
Norway	79.6	81.9	77.1	79.1	81.3	76.7	-
Switzerland	82.3	87.1	77.4	82.8	87.3	78.2	-
FYR of Macedonia	51.3	61.6	40.8	51.9	61.5	42.1	-
Turkey	53.2	75.0	31.6	53.9	75.3	32.5	-

: Break in the series for Luxembourg in 2015. Data not comparable before that year and therefore not shown.

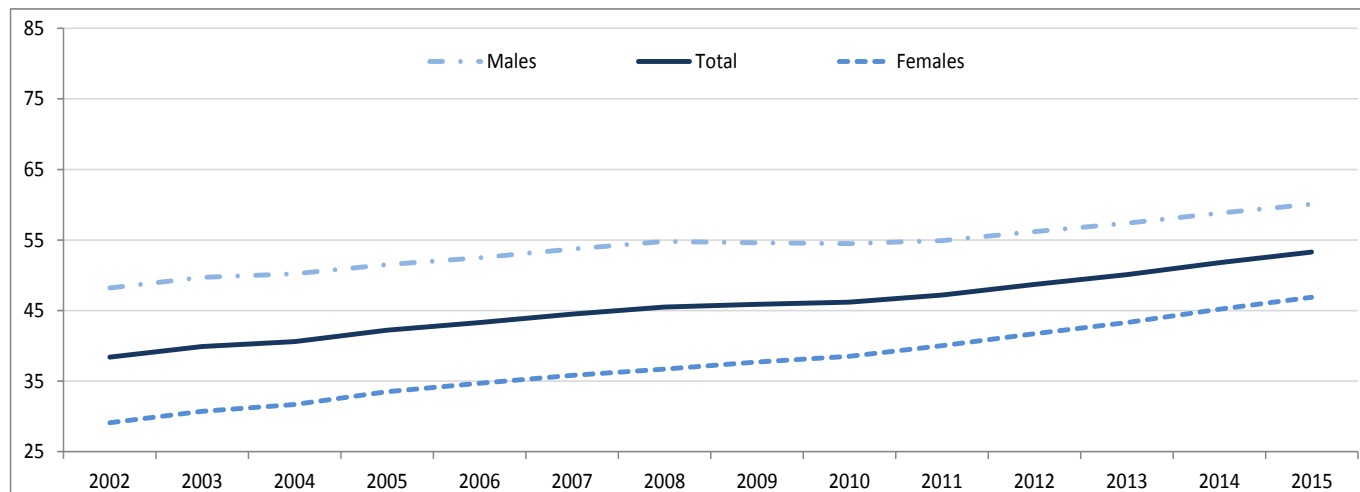
- No national target or not applicable.

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

## 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 53.3% in 2015, compared with 38.4% in 2002. The growth was stronger for women (from 29.1% in 2002 to 46.9% in 2015) than for men (48.2% in 2002 vs. 60.1% in 2015). 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 13.2 pp difference in 2015.

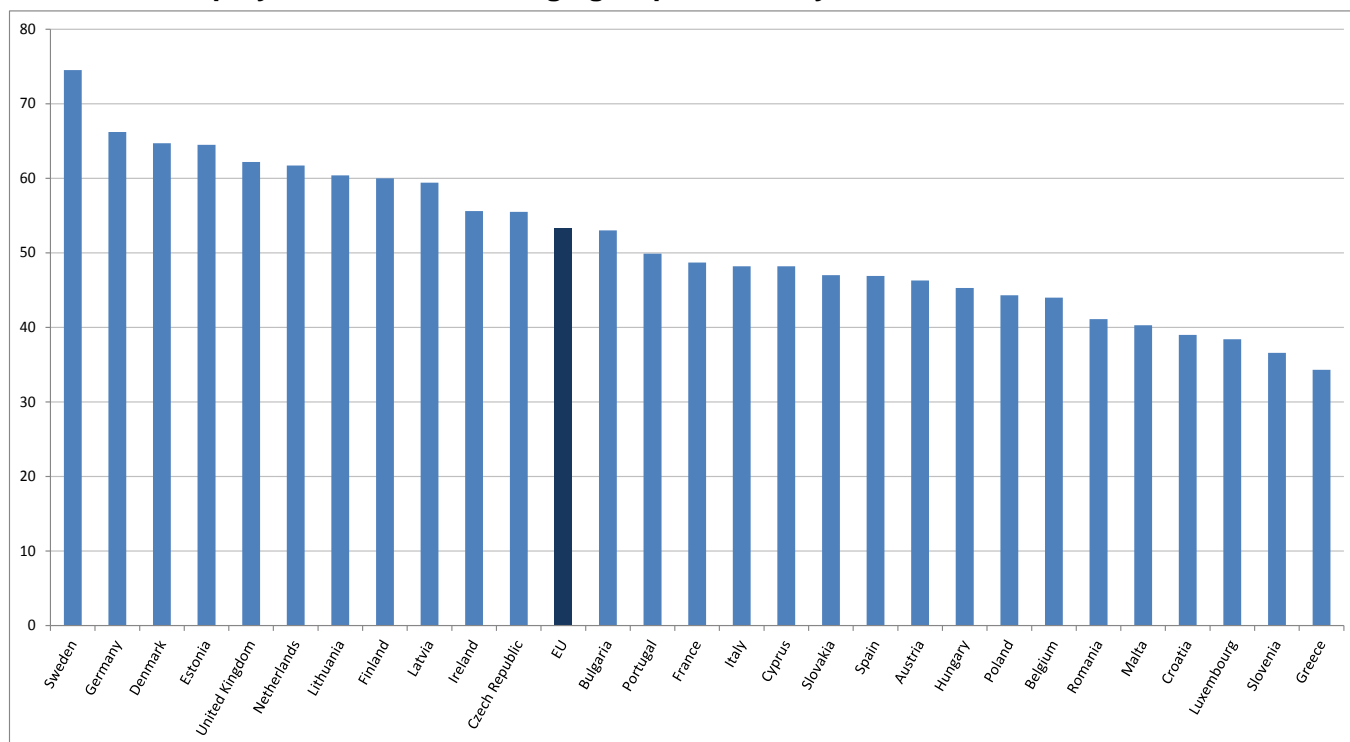
Employment rate of persons aged 55 to 64 in the EU, %



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

In 2015, 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** (74.5%), followed by **Germany** (66.2%), **Denmark** (64.7%), **Estonia** (64.5%), the **United Kingdom** (62.2%) and the **Netherlands** (61.7%). On the other hand, the lowest employment rates were registered in **Greece** (34.3%), **Slovenia** (36.6%), **Luxembourg** (38.4%) and **Croatia** (39.0%). Compared with 2014, the employment rate for those aged 55 to 64 increased in 2015 in nearly all EU Member States.

Employment rates for the age group 55 to 64 by EU Member State, 2015, %



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

	2014			2015		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
<b>EU</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>46.9</b>
Belgium	42.7	48.5	37.0	44.0	48.9	39.3
Bulgaria	50.0	54.5	46.0	53.0	56.8	49.5
Czech Republic	54.0	64.8	43.8	55.5	65.5	45.9
Denmark	63.2	68.9	57.6	64.7	69.9	59.6
Germany	65.6	71.4	60.0	66.2	71.3	61.2
Estonia	64.0	65.1	63.1	64.5	63.1	65.7
Ireland	53.0	61.4	44.7	55.6	64.9	46.4
Greece	34.0	44.0	25.0	34.3	44.9	24.7
Spain	44.3	51.2	37.8	46.9	54.0	40.2
France	47.0	48.9	45.3	48.7	50.7	46.9
Croatia	36.3	45.8	27.3	39.0	48.0	30.6
Italy	46.2	56.5	36.6	48.2	59.3	37.9
Cyprus	46.9	57.1	36.9	48.2	57.5	39.2
Latvia	56.4	56.3	56.4	59.4	60.1	58.9
Lithuania	56.3	58.8	54.3	60.4	62.4	58.8
Luxembourg	:	:	:	38.4	43.0	33.7
Hungary	41.8	49.6	35.2	45.3	54.4	37.7
Malta	37.8	55.7	19.9	40.3	58.8	21.9
Netherlands	59.9	69.4	50.4	61.7	71.1	52.4
Austria	45.1	54.3	36.4	46.3	54.1	38.8
Poland	42.5	53.1	32.9	44.3	54.2	35.5
Portugal	47.8	54.3	42.1	49.9	56.0	44.6
Romania	43.1	53.2	34.2	41.1	51.2	32.1
Slovenia	35.4	41.8	29.0	36.6	42.6	30.5
Slovakia	44.8	53.2	37.2	47.0	53.6	41.0
Finland	59.1	56.8	61.4	60.0	57.4	62.5
Sweden	74.0	76.5	71.5	74.5	76.8	72.1
United Kingdom	61.0	67.8	54.4	62.2	68.7	56.0
Iceland	84.8	88.7	80.8	84.8	89.0	80.5
Norway	72.2	75.8	68.5	72.2	75.6	68.8
Switzerland	71.6	78.7	64.4	72.8	78.9	66.7
FYR of Macedonia	38.6	50.3	27.1	40.1	52.2	28.3
Turkey	31.4	45.6	17.5	31.8	46.3	17.7

: Break in the series for Luxembourg in 2015. Data not comparable before that year and therefore not shown.  
The source dataset can be found [here](#).

## 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.

Data for France, including Europe 2020 target, exclude the overseas departments.

## 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 average of quarterly results.

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.

## Timetable

A news release on Europe 2020 education indicators is planned for 27 April 2016.

A news release on regional unemployment in 2015 is planned for 28 April 2016.

## 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 employment rates and Europe 2020 national targets.

The European Commission [website](#) dedicated to the Europe 2020 strategy.

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