

First quarter 2016 compared with fourth quarter 2015

15% of unemployed persons in the EU found a job

Out of all persons in the **European Union** (EU) who were unemployed in the fourth quarter 2015, 65.7% (13.0 million persons) remained unemployed in the first quarter 2016, while 15.4% (3.0 million) moved into employment and 18.9% (3.7 million) towards economic inactivity in Q1 2016.

Of all those initially in employment, 96.2% (169.7 million persons) remained in employment, while 1.7% (2.9 million) of those employed in the fourth quarter 2015 were observed to be unemployed in the first quarter 2016, and 2.2% (3.8 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. 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*, Q4 2015-Q1 2016
(in millions; population aged 15-74)



* The graphic gives an overview of all possible transitions and shows the aggregate transitions for Q4 2015-Q1 2016 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*, Q4 2015-Q1 2016
(in % of initial status; population aged 15-74)

FROM	TO		
	Employment Q1 2016	Unemployment Q1 2016	Inactivity Q1 2016
Employment Q4 2015	96.2%	1.7%	2.2%
Unemployment Q4 2015	15.4%	65.7%	18.9%
Inactivity Q4 2015	2.4%	3.6%	94.0%

* EU aggregate based on 26 Member States.

Outflow from unemployment, Q4 2015-Q1 2016
(in % of unemployed persons aged 15-74 in Q4 2015)

	Into employment in Q1 2016	Remaining unemployed in Q1 2016	Into inactivity in Q1 2016
EU*	15.4%	65.7%	18.9%
Belgium	:	:	:
Bulgaria	3.2%	82.3%	14.5%
Czech Republic	18.6%	69.0%	12.5%
Denmark	30.3%	50.0%	19.7%
Germany	:	:	:
Estonia	-	51.2%	-
Ireland	12.5%	69.0%	18.5%
Greece	4.3%	94.6%	1.1%
Spain	16.1%	69.8%	14.2%
France	19.9%	63.0%	17.1%
Croatia	13.0%	62.5%	24.5%
Italy	12.8%	50.0%	37.1%
Cyprus	14.3%	77.2%	8.4%
Latvia	14.9%	64.6%	20.5%
Lithuania	17.5%	77.9%	(4.6%)
Luxembourg	-	69.0%	-
Hungary	18.1%	68.8%	13.1%
Malta	(3.1%)	78.4%	18.5%
Netherlands	17.8%	53.9%	28.4%
Austria	22.3%	58.0%	19.7%
Poland	10.3%	65.8%	24.0%
Portugal	20.2%	62.3%	17.5%
Romania	5.3%	80.0%	14.7%
Slovenia	18.7%	61.4%	19.9%
Slovakia	14.6%	81.4%	4.1%
Finland	18.1%	58.5%	23.4%
Sweden	22.5%	63.0%	14.5%
United Kingdom	19.5%	65.3%	15.2%
Iceland	-	-	-
Norway	23.4%	43.5%	33.2%
Switzerland	32.2%	54.4%	13.4%
FYR of Macedonia	:	:	:
Turkey	32.3%	40.8%	26.9%

* 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 other two 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 fourth quarter 2015 to the first quarter of 2016 increased by 1.6 percentage point (pp) compared with the flows between the same two quarters of 2014/2015, while the share of those remaining unemployed decreased by 2.6 pp.

Outflow from unemployment, change Q1 2016 compared with Q1 2015
(in percentage points)

	Into employment	Remaining unemployed	Into inactivity
EU*	+1.6	-2.6	+1.1
Belgium	:	:	:
Bulgaria	-1.7	-1.4	+3.1
Czech Republic	+4.0	-4.9	+1.0
Denmark	+3.5	+3.9	-7.3
Germany	:	:	:
Estonia	-	-6.9	-
Ireland	+2.5	-2.6	+0.1
Greece	+0.6	-1.2	+0.6
Spain	+2.6	-3.5	+1.0
France	+2.3	-1.0	-1.3
Croatia	+1.7	-22.7	(+21.0)
Italy	+1.8	-2.3	+0.4
Cyprus	+2.8	-4.0	+1.1
Latvia	-7.8	+10.6	-2.8
Lithuania	-	+2.7	-
Luxembourg	:	:	:
Hungary	+1.7	-6.1	+4.4
Malta	-	-16.6	-
Netherlands	-1.0	-3.7	+4.8
Austria	-3.7	+5.5	-1.8
Poland	+1.7	-6.6	+5.0
Portugal	+1.5	-4.6	+3.1
Romania	-	-	-
Slovenia	+1.3	+3.1	-4.5
Slovakia	+3.3	-5.7	(+2.4)
Finland	-0.6	+0.2	+0.4
Sweden	+1.8	-1.1	-0.7
United Kingdom	-0.4	-0.7	+1.2
Iceland	-	-	-
Norway	+2.1	-3.2	+1.3
Switzerland	-0.3	-0.1	+0.4
FYR of Macedonia	:	:	:
Turkey	+0.5	-1.9	+1.4

* 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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