

EU-27 downward employment trend flattening out Latest Labour Market Trends – 2010Q1 data¹

In 2010Q1, the number of persons in employment² (seasonally adjusted) in the EU-27 fell for the seventh time in a row, down to 220.5 million, 0.2 % (0.5 million) fewer than in 2009Q4 (see Chart 1). However, the pace of the reduction slowed down further.

In 2010Q1, unemployment (seasonally adjusted) in the EU-27 grew once more, passing 23 million. The quarterly increase amounted to 2.2 % (0.5 million in absolute terms, matching the reduction in employment) and was the eighth rise in a row.

The EU labour force survey provides deeper insight into the latest labour market trends, as it allows breakdowns by the main characteristics of employment and unemployment.

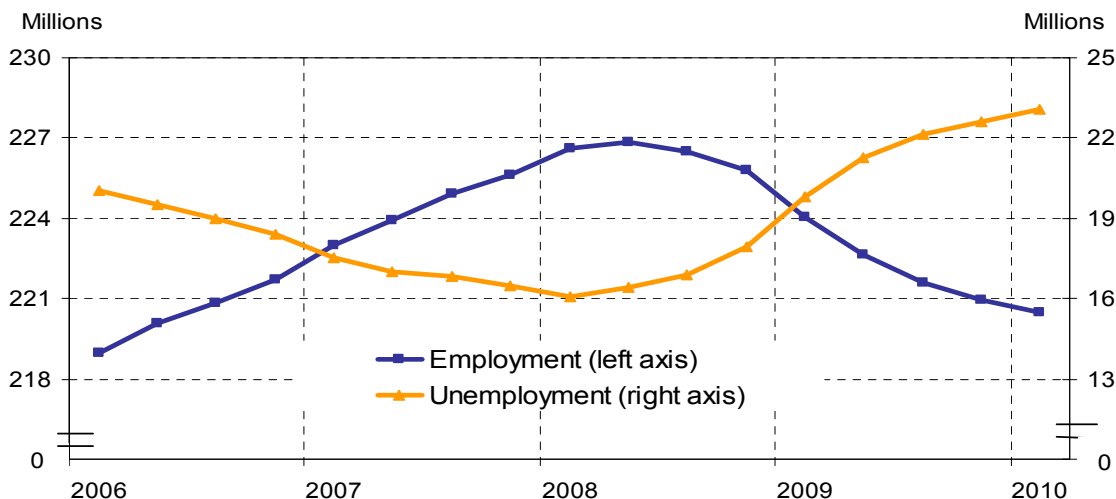
In 2010Q1, the employment³ rate (not seasonally adjusted) of the population aged 15 to 64 years in the EU-27 fell by 0.9 percentage points (p.p.) to 63.7 % from 2009Q1.

Over the same period, the unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) in the EU-27 rose by 1.4 p.p. to 10.0 %. The decrease in the employment rate and the increase in the unemployment rate were higher for men (-1.5 p.p. and +1.6 p.p. respectively) than for women (-0.4 p.p. and +1.0 p.p.).

In 2010Q1, the unemployment rate of people aged 15 to 24 years in the EU-27 rose to 21.4 %, up 2.5 p.p. year-on-year. The long-term unemployment rate went up to 3.7 %, 1.0 p.p. more than one year earlier.

The activity rate of the working age population (15-64 years) in the EU-27 increased slightly to 70.9 %, up 0.1 p.p. compared with one year earlier. The share of inactive persons willing to work (i.e. those outside the labour force who would nevertheless like to work) in the total population aged 15 to 64 increased by 0.3 p.p. over the year, ending at 5.3 % in 2010Q1.

Chart 1: Employment and unemployment, EU-27, seasonally adjusted (million persons)



Sources: Eurostat-NA ([namq_aux_pem](#)) and EU-LFS ([une_nb_q](#))

¹ This publication is part of a quarterly series presenting the main results of the EU labour force survey for the EU-27 and for all Member States and candidate and EFTA countries, except Liechtenstein.

² National accounts, domestic concept. See also Eurostat News release 84/2010 of 15 June 2010 at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-15062010-AP/EN/2-15062010-AP-EN.PDF.

³ See the explanation of the LFS resident population concept in the Methodological Notes.

Average working hours increase for the first time since 2008Q2

The actual weekly working time in all jobs for an average person in employment in the EU-27 increased from 33.6 hours in 2009Q1 to 34.0 in 2010Q1 (not seasonally adjusted), showing the first year-on-year growth since 2008Q2. In 2010Q1, the average working time grew in eighteen EU, EFTA and candidate countries (see Chart 2). The increase exceeded 2 hours in Belgium and was between about 1 hour and 1 hour 40 minutes in Bulgaria, France, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Italy, Estonia and Sweden, between about 25 and 45 minutes in Finland, Ireland, Croatia, Hungary, Germany, Cyprus and Austria and about 15 minutes in Malta, the Netherlands and Turkey. The average weekly working time remained nearly unchanged in Latvia, Portugal, Iceland, Spain, Romania, Denmark and Greece, while shrinking by at least 10 and up to 75 minutes in seven other countries.

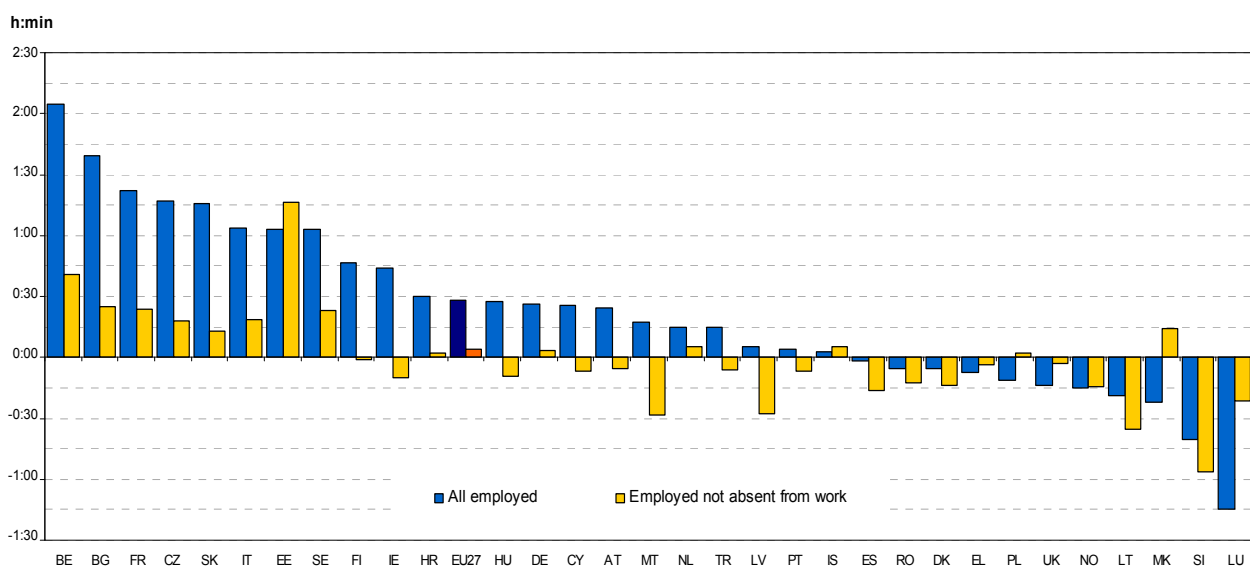
The figures above include people who had a job but did not work in the reference week, e.g. because of illness, holidays, a temporary lay-off or short-time working arrangements, who are counted as employed temporarily absent from work⁴. If only the working time of persons at work during the reference week is considered, in 2010Q1 the year-on-year increase in the weekly working time was generally smaller than the value reported above for all persons in employment (i.e. including those absent from work).

More specifically, the weekly working time for people at work increased by at least 10 and up to 76 minutes in only nine countries, whereas it went down by at least 10 and up to 56 minutes in nine more and remained nearly stable in the remaining fifteen countries and for the EU-27 as a whole.

The limited rise in the working time of people at work was, to some extent, due to the new increase in the share of part-time workers. In 2010Q1, this share among those who were at work in the reference week in the EU-27 grew year-on-year by 0.6 p.p. to 18.8 %. The share of part-time workers (out of those not absent from work) increased in all but five countries.

Hence, the increase in the time actually worked by those at work in the reference week accounts for only a limited part of the growth in the overall average working time. Instead, the increase in the average working time for all people in employment was generally associated with substantial reductions in the share of people absent from work. In 2010Q1, the share in the EU-27 went down to 8.3 %, 1.1 p.p. less than one year earlier. It was the first year-on-year reduction since 2008Q3. In 2010Q1, the share diminished in all the eighteen countries where the average working time increased, except Estonia. At the opposite end of the scale, the share of those absent from work increased in all seven countries where the average working hours went down, except Lithuania and Slovenia.

Chart 2: Average weekly actual hours worked in all jobs by all people in employment and by those not absent from work in the reference week, changes between 2009Q1 and 2010Q1, by country



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_ewhan2](#), [lfsq_ewh2n2](#))

⁴ See the definition of employment in the Methodological Notes.

Table 1. Activity rates, 2010Q1, by age group, sex and nationality, %

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	70.9	42.5	84.9	49.5	71.5	42.6	85.3	49.2
Nationals	70.2	40.0	85.4	47.9	71.5	42.2	86.0	49.1
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	76.9	52.0	85.0	55.0	75.9	50.2	84.4	53.5
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	68.6	43.1	76.4	51.8	68.9	44.1	76.7	50.1
Men	77.4	45.7	91.6	58.7	78.3	45.7	92.4	58.0
Nationals	76.6	43.2	91.7	57.1	77.9	45.2	92.6	57.9
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	84.0	54.8	93.2	61.3	83.2	53.1	92.8	59.9
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	80.3	48.9	89.9	61.3	81.0	50.3	90.6	60.5
Women	64.4	39.3	78.2	40.8	64.7	39.4	78.2	40.8
Nationals	63.9	36.7	79.1	39.3	65.1	39.2	79.4	40.7
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	69.9	49.5	77.1	48.0	68.7	47.6	76.3	46.3
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	57.1	36.8	63.2	43.6	56.8	37.5	63.1	40.7

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_argan](#))**Table 2. Labour force and activity rates, by country and sex**

15-64 years	Labour Force (15-64 years) (1000)	Activity rates (15-64 years) (%)					
		2010Q1			2009Q1		
		Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	234,623	70.9	77.4	64.4	70.8	77.7	64.0
EA-16	154,084	71.5	78.3	64.7	71.4	78.4	64.3
Belgium	4,849	67.7	73.0	62.4	67.1	73.0	61.0
Bulgaria	3,308	65.5	69.9	61.1	66.9	71.8	62.2
Czech Republic	5,174	69.8	78.2	61.2	69.6	78.1	61.0
Denmark	2,869	79.4	83.1	75.6	80.5	83.9	77.0
Germany	41,357	77.0	82.4	71.6	76.6	82.2	70.9
Estonia	669	74.0	76.4	71.7	74.0	77.2	71.1
Ireland	2,067	68.7	76.3	61.1	70.0	78.1	61.9
Greece	4,927	68.2	79.1	57.2	67.4	78.8	55.9
Spain	22,855	73.1	80.4	65.5	73.1	81.5	64.6
France	28,168	70.6	75.0	66.2	70.4	75.0	65.9
Italy	24,634	62.4	73.6	51.2	62.4	73.6	51.3
Cyprus	397	74.4	81.2	67.7	72.9	80.6	65.5
Latvia	1,127	72.7	75.5	70.1	75.0	77.8	72.3
Lithuania	1,596	69.5	71.2	67.9	69.3	71.6	67.2
Luxembourg	229	68.2	75.8	60.4	68.4	75.4	61.2
Hungary	4,186	61.9	67.7	56.2	61.0	67.5	54.8
Malta	175	59.6	77.0	41.5	58.8	76.8	40.0
Netherlands	8,714	79.4	84.5	74.3	79.9	85.4	74.3
Austria	4,146	74.1	79.4	68.9	74.4	79.5	69.3
Poland	17,180	65.1	71.9	58.5	64.2	71.3	57.4
Portugal	5,274	74.1	78.4	69.9	73.9	78.8	69.1
Romania	9,341	62.3	70.5	54.1	61.8	69.8	53.8
Slovenia	1,017	71.5	75.6	67.2	70.5	73.8	67.0
Slovakia	2,681	68.4	75.7	61.0	68.1	76.0	60.2
Finland	2,593	73.4	75.2	71.6	74.2	75.6	72.9
Sweden	4,770	78.3	80.9	75.5	78.2	80.4	75.9
United Kingdom	30,320	75.1	81.0	69.2	75.8	82.3	69.4
Iceland	169	83.4	86.6	80.0	83.0	86.2	79.5
Norway	2,505	77.9	80.2	75.5	79.1	81.4	76.8
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	82.6	87.9	77.3
Croatia	1,704	62.0	68.0	56.4	62.6	68.7	56.7
FYR of Macedonia ¹	918	63.6	77.6	49.2	63.3	77.2	49.1
Turkey	23,856	50.5	73.3	27.9	48.5	72.1	25.2

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_argan](#))¹ The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Table 3. Employment rates, 2010Q1, by age group, sex and nationality, %

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	63.7	33.4	77.1	46.0	64.0	33.6	77.1	45.5
Nationals	63.3	31.5	77.9	44.5	64.6	33.7	78.5	45.6
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	67.3	40.4	75.2	49.8	65.7	37.6	73.7	48.3
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	54.1	29.6	61.1	41.6	53.4	30.4	60.3	39.6
Men	69.3	35.1	83.2	54.3	70.0	35.5	83.7	53.5
Nationals	69.0	33.5	83.7	53.0	70.5	35.5	84.8	53.7
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	73.5	41.1	82.4	55.2	71.8	37.8	81.0	53.6
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	62.5	33.1	71.2	46.3	62.0	34.2	70.4	45.6
Women	58.0	31.7	71.1	38.2	58.0	31.7	70.5	37.9
Nationals	57.7	29.4	72.0	36.7	58.7	31.8	72.2	37.9
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	61.4	39.7	68.2	43.9	59.7	37.3	66.6	42.3
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	45.8	25.9	51.1	37.4	44.9	26.4	50.3	34.2

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_ergan](#))**Table 4. Employment and employment rates, by country and sex**

15-64 years	Employment Confidence (1000) limits		Employment rates (%)						
			2010Q1			2009Q1			
			Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women	
EU-27	210,759	± 493	63.7	± 0.1	69.3	58.0	64.6	70.8	58.4
EA-16	137,880	± 330	64.0	± 0.2	70.0	58.0	64.7	71.2	58.1
Belgium	4,428	± 68	61.9	± 0.9	66.9	56.8	61.7	67.5	55.9
Bulgaria	2,969	± 71	58.8	± 1.4	62.3	55.3	62.6	67.1	58.3
Czech Republic	4,752	± 42	64.1	± 0.6	72.3	55.7	65.6	74.2	56.8
Denmark	2,639	± 23	73.0	± 0.6	75.0	71.0	76.2	78.9	73.5
Germany	38,022	± 194	70.8	± 0.4	75.1	66.4	70.4	75.2	65.5
Estonia	532	± 21	58.9	± 2.3	56.6	61.0	65.3	66.2	64.5
Ireland	1,797	± 16	59.7	± 0.5	63.5	55.9	62.8	67.8	57.7
Greece	4,342	± 81	60.1	± 1.1	71.8	48.2	61.0	73.4	48.6
Spain	18,245	± 125	58.3	± 0.4	64.3	52.2	60.4	67.7	52.9
France	25,416	± 149	63.7	± 0.4	67.7	59.7	64.1	68.5	59.9
Italy	22,367	± 118	56.6	± 0.3	67.6	45.7	57.4	68.5	46.3
Cyprus	367	± 9	68.8	± 1.7	75.2	62.6	69.5	77.1	62.1
Latvia	894	± 22	57.7	± 1.4	55.9	59.4	64.3	64.2	64.3
Lithuania	1,303	± 40	56.8	± 1.8	54.5	58.9	61.0	61.0	60.9
Luxembourg	217	± 4	64.8	± 1.3	72.3	57.2	64.5	71.5	57.2
Hungary	3,688	± 31	54.5	± 0.5	59.2	50.0	55.1	60.8	49.6
Malta	162	± 5	55.3	± 1.6	71.4	38.5	54.9	72.0	37.0
Netherlands	8,319	± 44	75.8	± 0.4	80.6	71.0	77.4	82.7	71.9
Austria	3,948	± 46	70.6	± 0.8	75.1	66.0	70.8	75.4	66.3
Poland	15,347	± 138	58.2	± 0.5	64.3	52.2	58.9	65.7	52.3
Portugal	4,683	± 51	65.8	± 0.7	70.2	61.5	67.0	72.1	62.1
Romania	8,554	± 287	57.0	± 1.9	64.0	50.0	57.4	64.1	50.7
Slovenia	943	± 18	66.3	± 1.3	69.9	62.6	66.7	69.6	63.6
Slovakia	2,273	± 25	58.0	± 0.6	64.3	51.6	61.0	68.7	53.3
Finland	2,350	± 17	66.5	± 0.5	67.2	65.8	68.5	69.2	67.8
Sweden	4,326	± 19	71.0	± 0.3	73.1	68.8	71.9	73.8	70.0
United Kingdom	27,874	± 146	69.0	± 0.4	73.5	64.6	70.4	75.7	65.2
Iceland	156	± 3	77.0	± 1.5	78.5	75.4	76.9	78.1	75.7
Norway	2,413	± 17	75.0	± 0.5	76.7	73.2	76.7	78.4	75.0
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	79.2	84.5	73.8
Croatia	1,508	± 74	54.9	± 2.7	60.7	49.4	56.5	63.2	50.0
FYR of Macedonia	609	± 32	42.2	± 2.2	51.5	32.7	42.5	52.6	32.1
Turkey	20,691	± 109	43.8	± 0.2	63.6	24.2	41.4	61.5	21.6

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_ergan](#))

Table 5. Share of part-time employment on total employment, 2010Q1, by age group, sex and economic activity, %

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	19.3	29.2	16.7	26.6	20.6	28.1	18.7	25.9
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	21.2	30.7	15.3	31.9	19.8	26.5	12.4	33.9
Industry, incl. Energy	7.3	8.4	6.3	12.7	8.6	8.5	7.8	13.4
Construction	6.6	5.9	5.7	13.1	7.0	5.7	6.3	12.3
Trade, transport and communication services	20.5	40.2	16.1	26.2	21.3	37.8	18.1	25.3
Business activities and financial services	21.1	24.2	18.9	31.0	22.9	26.4	21.3	30.6
Other services	27.1	34.2	25.3	32.1	28.8	34.5	28.0	30.1
Men	8.6	21.8	5.4	16.3	8.2	20.4	5.5	14.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	16.0	27.7	10.0	26.4	12.8	23.5	5.6	26.1
Industry, incl. Energy	3.1	6.3	1.9	7.9	3.2	6.1	2.1	7.6
Construction	3.9	5.2	2.9	9.0	3.7	5.0	2.9	7.9
Trade, transport and communication services	10.3	32.8	5.8	16.3	9.8	30.5	6.0	15.1
Business activities and financial services	10.0	22.7	6.3	21.0	10.0	25.0	6.8	18.7
Other services	12.4	29.4	9.0	19.4	12.4	28.9	9.9	16.4
Women	32.1	37.7	29.9	40.6	35.6	37.0	34.4	41.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	30.0	37.8	24.4	40.5	34.0	36.6	26.6	48.4
Industry, incl. Energy	17.7	14.0	16.7	28.8	23.2	14.9	22.8	33.3
Construction	33.1	15.2	32.1	48.6	38.2	14.9	38.3	52.0
Trade, transport and communication services	34.0	47.8	30.0	41.9	36.8	45.4	34.6	42.0
Business activities and financial services	32.8	25.6	31.5	46.6	36.2	27.6	35.3	48.8
Other services	34.4	36.3	33.0	40.1	37.1	36.9	36.8	39.2

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_epgn62](#))

Table 6. Part-time employment, by country and sex

15 years and more	Part-time employment (1000)	Confidence limits	Share on total employment (%)					
			2010Q1			2009Q1		
			Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	41,411	± 324	19.3	8.6	32.1	18.6	8.1	31.4
EA-16	28,792	± 216	20.6	8.2	35.6	19.9	7.7	34.9
Belgium	1,082	± 44	24.2	9.1	42.3	23.0	8.1	41.1
Bulgaria	73	± 9	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.3	1.9	2.8
Czech Republic	298	± 15	6.2	3.2	10.2	5.3	2.7	8.9
Denmark	735	± 26	27.2	15.5	40.0	26.1	15.6	37.8
Germany	10,181	± 119	26.3	9.5	45.7	25.9	9.2	45.4
Estonia	62	± 10	11.2	7.3	14.6	10.4	6.4	14.2
Ireland	406	± 13	22.0	11.3	34.5	20.5	9.4	33.8
Greece	283	± 17	6.4	3.5	10.8	6.1	3.2	10.7
Spain	2,452	± 79	13.3	5.2	23.5	12.7	4.6	23.3
France	4,598	± 117	18.0	6.5	30.6	17.1	5.8	29.6
Italy	3,405	± 78	15.0	5.2	29.5	14.2	4.9	28.0
Cyprus	36	± 3	9.4	6.5	12.8	8.3	5.0	12.5
Latvia	101	± 12	11.1	9.1	12.9	9.3	7.4	11.1
Lithuania	121	± 13	9.1	8.5	9.6	8.0	7.1	8.9
Luxembourg	42	± 3	19.0	4.0	38.6	21.6	7.9	39.5
Hungary	210	± 13	5.6	3.8	7.8	5.0	3.4	6.9
Malta	21	± 2	12.8	5.2	27.5	10.8	5.0	22.8
Netherlands	4,118	± 44	48.7	25.3	75.8	48.1	24.6	75.7
Austria	1,021	± 28	25.4	9.1	43.9	24.7	8.4	43.3
Poland	1,327	± 72	8.5	5.9	11.7	8.7	6.1	11.8
Portugal	595	± 36	11.9	8.5	15.7	11.7	7.4	16.6
Romania	874	± 110	9.8	9.8	9.8	8.9	8.7	9.2
Slovenia	109	± 8	11.3	8.3	14.8	9.5	7.3	12.0
Slovakia	79	± 8	3.5	2.5	4.7	3.3	2.5	4.4
Finland	364	± 13	15.3	10.4	20.4	14.6	9.5	19.9
Sweden	1,201	± 24	27.1	14.4	41.2	27.3	14.2	41.6
United Kingdom	7,617	± 197	26.7	12.2	43.1	25.8	11.5	42.3
Iceland	43	± 3	26.7	14.7	39.5	24.9	13.6	37.5
Norway	724	± 18	29.2	15.7	44.1	28.8	15.3	43.5
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	34.6	13.5	59.3
Croatia	150	± 27	9.6	7.0	12.6	9.4	7.1	12.1
FYR of Macedonia	42	± 7	6.8	5.1	9.4	7.4	5.9	9.9
Turkey	3,027	± 174	14.2	8.8	28.2	12.8	7.8	26.9

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_epgn62](#))

Table 7. Share of employees with temporary contracts, 2010Q1, by age group, sex and economic activity, %

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	13.2	40.6	10.6	7.2	14.9	50.2	11.8	6.4
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	30.2	51.8	29.1	19.0	38.9	61.4	37.5	25.8
Industry, incl. Energy	9.9	42.4	7.4	4.5	9.9	49.8	6.6	3.2
Construction	15.8	39.5	13.1	7.6	17.9	47.6	14.2	7.8
Trade, transport and communication services	12.8	35.5	9.1	5.8	14.4	45.7	9.8	5.3
Business activities and financial services	11.9	38.9	9.4	8.3	13.0	47.8	10.3	6.2
Other services	14.6	47.9	12.7	8.2	17.0	58.1	15.2	7.2
Men	12.5	40.5	9.7	7.0	13.9	49.9	10.5	6.2
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	28.3	50.1	26.9	18.4	36.9	59.5	35.1	25.4
Industry, incl. Energy	9.3	43.0	6.6	4.1	9.4	49.9	6.0	3.1
Construction	16.7	40.0	14.0	8.2	18.8	47.7	15.1	8.8
Trade, transport and communication services	11.4	35.1	7.9	5.8	13.0	45.8	8.6	5.4
Business activities and financial services	11.8	40.1	9.1	9.0	13.0	49.2	10.1	6.8
Other services	14.2	49.4	12.3	8.5	16.3	61.3	14.5	7.1
Women	14.0	40.7	11.6	7.4	16.0	50.5	13.1	6.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	35.0	57.2	34.6	20.7	43.7	67.4	42.9	27.2
Industry, incl. Energy	11.4	40.8	9.3	5.5	11.4	49.5	8.3	3.6
Construction	8.4	33.7	6.5	3.2	10.0	47.0	7.3	0.5
Trade, transport and communication services	14.5	35.9	10.7	5.9	16.1	45.7	11.3	5.2
Business activities and financial services	11.9	37.9	9.6	7.6	13.1	46.7	10.5	5.5
Other services	14.7	47.2	12.9	8.1	17.4	56.7	15.6	7.3

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_etqan2](#))

Table 8. Employees with temporary contracts, by country and sex

15 years and more	Employees with temp. contracts (1000)	Share on total employees (%)					
		2010Q1			2009Q1		
		Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	23,562	13.2	12.5	14.0	13.1	12.2	14.1
EA-16	17,429	14.9	13.9	16.0	14.9	13.8	16.2
Belgium	305	8.0	6.3	9.9	8.2	6.3	10.5
Bulgaria	95	3.6	4.0	3.2	3.8	4.0	3.6
Czech Republic	335	8.4	6.8	10.3	7.8	6.2	9.7
Denmark	199	8.0	7.9	8.2	8.8	8.5	9.1
Germany	4,839	14.2	14.0	14.4	14.4	14.5	14.4
Estonia	14	2.8	(4.1)	:	(2.0)	:	(2.0)
Ireland	130	8.6	7.7	9.5	8.0	6.8	9.2
Greece	324	11.5	10.0	13.6	11.3	9.9	13.3
Spain	3,721	24.4	23.2	25.8	25.4	23.4	27.9
France	2,990	13.3	12.1	14.6	13.0	11.6	14.5
Italy	2,047	12.0	10.7	13.8	11.9	10.2	14.0
Cyprus	38	12.5	5.8	19.6	12.3	6.5	18.5
Latvia	45	5.6	7.7	3.7	3.0	4.5	1.6
Lithuania	21	1.8	(2.5)	(1.1)	1.6	(2.2)	(1.1)
Luxembourg	11	5.3	4.2	6.8	5.3	4.2	6.6
Hungary	282	8.7	8.7	8.7	7.1	7.5	6.6
Malta	7	5.1	3.6	7.6	4.0	(3.0)	(5.8)
Netherlands	1,325	18.3	16.6	20.2	17.6	15.9	19.6
Austria	307	8.8	9.2	8.5	8.8	8.7	8.9
Poland	3,124	26.0	25.5	26.6	25.7	24.7	26.8
Portugal	893	23.3	22.7	23.9	21.5	20.3	22.9
Romania	61	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.8
Slovenia	136	16.8	14.6	19.3	14.1	12.5	15.9
Slovakia	86	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.0	4.1	3.8
Finland	271	13.2	9.7	16.4	13.1	8.6	17.2
Sweden	554	14.1	12.1	16.1	14.1	11.5	16.7
United Kingdom	1,403	5.7	5.4	6.1	5.4	4.8	5.9
Iceland	13	9.1	9.5	8.7	6.7	5.7	7.7
Norway	176	7.7	6.4	9.1	7.7	5.8	9.7
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	13.2	12.9	13.6
Croatia	142	11.6	11.3	12.0	11.0	10.7	11.4
FYR of Macedonia	72	16.2	17.9	13.7	15.8	17.3	13.6
Turkey	1,132	8.8	8.3	10.2	7.7	7.6	7.9

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_etqan2](#))

Table 9. Average weekly actual hours worked in all jobs by persons who worked at least one hour in the reference week, by full-time/part-time distinction, sex and economic activity

	EU-27				EA-16			
	Total		Full-time Part-time		Total		Full-time Part-time	
	2010Q1	2009Q1	2010Q1	2010Q1	2010Q1	2009Q1	2010Q1	2010Q1
Men and women	37.1	37.1	40.9	20.6	36.8	36.6	40.9	20.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	37.4	37.6	41.8	20.8	40.8	40.7	46.0	18.8
Industry, incl. Energy	39.2	38.9	40.5	21.7	38.5	38.2	40.0	21.6
Construction	39.8	39.9	41.2	20.4	39.2	39.3	40.6	20.4
Trade, transport and communication services	38.0	37.9	42.7	19.5	37.9	37.8	42.8	19.7
Business activities and financial services	37.2	37.0	41.5	20.4	36.8	36.6	41.5	20.4
Other services	34.4	34.3	39.1	21.3	33.7	33.6	38.7	21.3
Men	40.2	40.1	42.0	20.6	40.2	40.1	41.9	20.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	40.6	40.9	44.1	21.6	44.2	44.2	47.6	19.2
Industry, incl. Energy	40.3	40.0	40.8	22.4	39.8	39.5	40.3	22.2
Construction	40.6	40.7	41.3	21.7	40.0	40.0	40.7	21.8
Trade, transport and communication services	41.1	41.0	43.6	19.1	41.3	41.2	43.7	19.0
Business activities and financial services	40.7	40.5	42.8	20.2	40.7	40.6	42.9	20.1
Other services	38.2	38.3	40.5	21.4	37.9	37.9	40.1	21.8
Women	33.3	33.2	39.2	20.6	32.5	32.3	39.1	20.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	32.0	32.3	37.0	20.0	33.8	33.9	41.5	18.5
Industry, incl. Energy	36.4	36.2	39.5	21.5	34.9	34.6	38.9	21.4
Construction	32.7	32.6	39.4	19.0	31.7	31.6	39.4	19.2
Trade, transport and communication services	33.8	33.8	41.0	19.7	33.2	33.2	41.0	20.0
Business activities and financial services	33.4	33.2	39.6	20.5	32.7	32.4	39.5	20.5
Other services	32.5	32.3	38.2	21.3	31.6	31.3	37.7	21.2

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_ewhan2](#), [lfsq_ewh2n2](#))

Table 10. Persons who worked at least one hour in the reference week and corresponding average weekly actual hours in all jobs, by country and sex

15 years and more	Persons who worked at least 1 hour (1000)	Average weekly actual hours					
		2010Q1			2009Q1		
		Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	196,841	37.1 ± 0.1	40.2	33.3	37.1	40.1	33.2
EA-16	128,385	36.8 ± 0.1	40.2	32.5	36.6	40.1	32.3
Belgium	4,079	37.8 ± 0.5	41.3	33.6	37.1	40.6	32.9
Bulgaria	2,755	40.2 ± 0.2	40.5	39.9	39.8	40.3	39.3
Czech Republic	4,604	41.3 ± 0.1	43.0	39.0	41.0	42.7	38.7
Denmark	2,366	34.6 ± 0.3	37.4	31.3	34.8	37.2	32.0
Germany	35,474	35.6 ± 0.2	40.1	30.4	35.6	40.1	30.2
Estonia	526	39.1 ± 0.5	40.4	38.0	37.8	38.6	37.0
Ireland	1,736	35.1 ± 0.6	39.4	30.0	35.3	39.6	29.9
Greece	4,272	40.2 ± 0.2	42.1	37.1	40.2	42.2	37.0
Spain	16,533	37.6 ± 0.2	40.3	34.2	37.9	40.6	34.3
France	23,160	37.5 ± 0.1	40.4	34.3	37.2	40.1	33.8
Italy	21,564	37.4 ± 0.1	40.4	32.8	37.1	40.0	32.6
Cyprus	363	38.1 ± 0.3	39.9	35.9	38.2	40.4	35.5
Latvia	868	38.9 ± 0.5	39.6	38.2	39.3	40.4	38.3
Lithuania	1,249	38.6 ± 0.3	39.1	38.1	39.2	39.9	38.5
Luxembourg	191	37.6 ± 0.8	41.6	32.1	37.9	41.7	32.6
Hungary	3,631	39.8 ± 0.1	40.6	38.7	39.9	40.8	38.9
Malta	161	38.9 ± 0.5	41.3	34.1	39.3	41.4	35.0
Netherlands	7,404	31.6 ± 0.1	36.7	25.6	31.6	36.7	25.4
Austria	3,598	36.8 ± 0.3	41.0	31.9	36.9	41.2	31.9
Poland	14,738	40.0 ± 0.3	42.1	37.5	40.0	42.0	37.5
Portugal	4,697	38.4 ± 0.3	40.1	36.6	38.6	40.4	36.4
Romania	8,798	38.7 ± 0.3	39.4	37.9	38.9	39.7	38.0
Slovenia	857	38.7 ± 0.3	40.2	36.8	39.6	40.7	38.2
Slovakia	2,176	39.5 ± 0.2	40.3	38.6	39.3	40.1	38.3
Finland	2,118	36.2 ± 0.2	38.3	34.0	36.2	38.3	34.0
Sweden	3,974	35.9 ± 0.2	38.3	33.1	35.5	38.0	32.7
United Kingdom	24,947	35.5 ± 0.1	39.7	30.5	35.5	39.7	30.6
Iceland	149	38.9 ± 0.7	43.2	34.2	38.9	43.2	34.0
Norway	2,129	34.3 ± 0.2	37.4	30.7	34.6	37.8	30.9
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	37.1	42.9	30.0
Croatia	1,490	38.7 ± 0.6	40.0	37.2	38.6	39.7	37.3
FYR of Macedonia	564	40.7 ± 2.2	41.6	39.3	40.5	41.1	39.4
Turkey	20,112	47.0 ± 0.3	50.5	38.2	47.1	50.4	38.2

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_ewhan2](#), [lfsq_ewh2n2](#))

Table 11. Share of persons whose job started within the past 3 months, 2010Q1, by economic activity, age group and sex, %

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	3.6	11.0	3.1	1.5	3.8	12.0	3.3	1.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	3.2	8.1	3.5	1.4	4.9	14.7	5.5	1.8
Industry, incl. Energy	2.9	9.4	2.5	1.1	3.0	9.6	2.6	1.0
Construction	4.4	8.9	4.2	1.8	4.8	9.2	4.7	2.1
Trade, transport and communication services	4.1	11.3	3.3	1.5	4.3	12.5	3.5	1.6
Business activities and financial services	3.9	13.2	3.4	2.0	4.1	14.6	3.6	2.0
Other services	3.2	11.8	2.8	1.5	3.3	12.4	2.9	1.5
Men	3.5	10.6	3.0	1.6	3.7	11.7	3.2	1.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	3.4	7.9	3.6	1.7	4.9	13.6	5.2	2.3
Industry, incl. Energy	2.7	9.2	2.3	1.0	2.7	9.1	2.4	1.0
Construction	4.5	9.0	4.3	2.0	5.0	9.3	4.8	2.3
Trade, transport and communication services	3.8	11.2	3.1	1.5	4.0	12.7	3.2	1.6
Business activities and financial services	3.9	14.5	3.4	1.8	3.9	15.7	3.4	1.8
Other services	3.1	11.7	2.6	1.9	3.1	13.2	2.6	1.9
Women	3.7	11.4	3.2	1.4	4.0	12.4	3.5	1.4
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	2.9	8.6	3.3	0.9	5.0	18.5	6.2	1.0
Industry, incl. Energy	3.4	10.1	3.0	1.2	3.8	11.1	3.4	1.1
Construction	3.4	7.3	3.5	0.7	3.7	8.8	3.7	0.7
Trade, transport and communication services	4.5	11.4	3.6	1.5	4.7	12.3	3.8	1.6
Business activities and financial services	4.0	12.1	3.4	2.2	4.4	13.7	3.8	2.3
Other services	3.3	11.9	2.9	1.3	3.4	12.1	3.1	1.3

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_egdn2](#))

Table 12. Persons whose job started within the past 3 months, by country and sex

15 years and more	Persons whose job started within past 3 months (1000)	Share on total employment (%)					
		2010Q1			2009Q1		
		Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	7,573	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.7
EA-16	5,239	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.4	4.0
Belgium	133	3.0	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.1
Bulgaria	66	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.9	2.9	2.8
Czech Republic	130	2.7	2.3	3.2	2.5	2.2	2.9
Denmark	148	5.5	4.9	6.2	6.2	5.6	6.9
Germany	1,393	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.5
Estonia	22	4.0	5.2	(3.1)	4.5	4.3	4.6
Ireland	55	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0
Greece	66	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.7
Spain	949	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.2	4.8	5.8
France	1,294	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.9	4.6	5.2
Italy	717	3.2	2.9	3.6	2.9	2.5	3.4
Cyprus	13	3.3	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.0	3.5
Latvia	48	5.3	7.5	3.3	3.1	3.8	2.4
Lithuania	30	2.3	(2.8)	(1.8)	2.4	(2.4)	(2.4)
Luxembourg	3	1.6	(1.0)	(2.3)	3.4	2.9	4.0
Hungary	104	2.8	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5
Malta	5	2.8	(2.4)	(3.6)	(1.6)	:	:
Netherlands	103	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.9
Austria	161	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.2	4.1
Poland	572	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.2	3.4	3.1
Portugal	149	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.6	3.3
Romania	158	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.3
Slovenia	30	3.1	2.5	3.7	3.1	2.5	3.7
Slovakia	56	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.0	1.9	2.2
Finland	113	4.8	4.5	5.0	5.0	4.1	5.9
Sweden	290	6.6	5.9	7.4	6.4	5.5	7.4
United Kingdom	766	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.6	3.0
Iceland	7	4.2	4.7	3.7	3.7	4.2	3.1
Norway	88	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	3.3	3.0	3.6
Croatia	(33)	(2.3)	(1.8)	(2.8)	(1.6)	(1.4)	(1.9)
FYR of Macedonia	19	3.1	3.2	(2.9)	4.1	4.8	(2.9)
Turkey	2,198	10.3	10.4	10.3	8.3	8.3	8.2

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_egdn2](#))

Table 13. Unemployment rates, 2010Q1, by age group, sex and nationality, %

	EU-27					EA-16				
	15-74		15-24	25-54	55-74	15-74		15-24	25-54	55-74
	Total	Long-term				Total	Long-term			
Men and women	10.0	3.7	21.4	9.1	6.5	10.4	4.1	21.0	9.6	7.0
Nationals	9.7	3.6	21.2	8.8	6.5	9.6	3.8	20.2	8.7	6.6
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	12.3	4.0	22.4	11.6	8.8	13.4	4.6	25.2	12.7	9.3
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	21.2	7.9	31.3	20.1	19.2	22.4	8.6	31.0	21.4	20.6
Men	10.3	3.7	23.0	9.2	6.9	10.4	4.0	22.2	9.5	7.2
Nationals	9.7	3.6	22.4	8.6	6.6	9.4	3.7	21.4	8.4	6.6
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	12.5	3.7	24.9	11.6	9.6	13.7	4.2	28.9	12.7	10.1
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	22.2	8.1	32.4	20.7	23.4	23.4	8.6	32.0	22.2	24.0
Women	9.7	3.6	19.4	9.0	5.9	10.4	4.3	19.5	9.8	6.8
Nationals	9.6	3.7	19.7	8.9	6.2	9.7	4.0	18.8	9.1	6.5
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	12.1	4.4	19.8	11.6	7.8	13.0	5.1	21.5	12.6	8.0
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	19.8	7.6	29.7	19.1	14.0	21.0	8.4	29.5	20.3	15.9

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_urgan](#), [lfsq_upgal](#))**Table 14. Unemployment and unemployment rates, by country and sex**

15-74 years	Unemployment (1000)			Unemployment rates (%)								
				2010Q1				2009Q1				
	Total	Confidence limits	Long-term	Men and women		Men	Women	Men and women		Men	Women	
				Total	Long-term			Total	Long-term			
EU-27	23,931	± 252	8,801	10.0	± 0.1	3.7	10.3	9.7	8.7	2.7	8.7	8.7
EA-16	16,230	± 203	6,429	10.4	± 0.2	4.1	10.4	10.4	9.3	3.1	9.1	9.6
Belgium	420	± 35	194	8.6	± 0.7	4.0	8.4	8.9	7.9	3.3	7.6	8.3
Bulgaria	341	± 26	142	10.2	± 0.7	4.3	10.8	9.5	6.4	2.8	6.6	6.2
Czech Republic	423	± 19	151	8.1	± 0.4	2.9	7.5	8.9	5.8	2.0	5.0	6.8
Denmark	230	± 16	36	7.8	± 0.5	1.2	9.4	6.0	5.2	0.5	5.8	4.5
Germany	3,338	± 87	1,491	8.0	± 0.2	3.6	8.7	7.1	8.0	3.5	8.4	7.5
Estonia	137	± 15	51	19.8	± 2.0	7.4	25.2	14.6	11.4	3.0	13.8	9.0
Ireland	271	± 13	120	12.9	± 0.6	5.7	16.5	8.4	10.1	2.5	12.8	6.7
Greece	587	± 27	250	11.7	± 0.5	5.0	9.1	15.5	9.4	3.7	6.8	13.0
Spain	4,613	± 106	1,512	20.1	± 0.4	6.6	20.0	20.2	17.4	3.3	16.9	18.0
France	2,760	± 114	1,056	9.7	± 0.4	3.7	9.7	9.8	8.9	2.8	8.7	9.1
Italy	2,273	± 72	1,041	9.1	± 0.3	4.2	8.1	10.5	8.0	3.2	6.9	9.6
Cyprus	30	± 4	5	7.3	± 0.9	1.2	7.2	7.3	4.6	0.6	4.2	5.2
Latvia	235	± 17	91	20.4	± 1.2	7.9	25.6	15.1	13.9	3.4	16.9	10.8
Lithuania	293	± 20	100	18.1	± 1.1	6.1	23.2	13.1	11.9	2.3	14.6	9.2
Luxembourg	11	± 2	3	4.9	± 0.9	1.3	4.5	5.3	5.8	(1.2)	5.1	6.7
Hungary	498	± 22	217	11.8	± 0.5	5.2	12.5	11.0	9.7	4.0	9.9	9.3
Malta	13	± 2	6	7.2	± 1.0	3.2	7.2	7.2	6.6	2.7	6.1	7.4
Netherlands	399	± 16	96	4.5	± 0.2	1.1	4.6	4.4	3.2	0.9	3.1	3.2
Austria	198	± 15	48	4.7	± 0.4	1.1	5.2	4.1	4.7	1.0	5.0	4.3
Poland	1,839	± 95	504	10.6	± 0.5	2.9	10.5	10.7	8.3	2.4	7.8	8.9
Portugal	592	± 34	293	10.8	± 0.6	5.2	10.0	11.6	9.0	3.6	8.3	9.8
Romania	787	± 65	250	8.1	± 0.6	2.6	8.8	7.1	6.9	2.4	7.9	5.5
Slovenia	74	± 8	26	7.1	± 0.7	2.5	7.4	6.8	5.3	1.8	5.5	5.1
Slovakia	407	± 18	237	15.2	± 0.8	8.8	15.0	15.4	10.4	6.0	9.6	11.4
Finland	244	± 10	52	9.3	± 0.4	2.0	10.5	8.0	7.6	1.2	8.4	6.9
Sweden	447	± 13	70	9.2	± 0.2	1.4	9.5	8.8	7.9	0.9	8.0	7.7
United Kingdom	2,471	± 78	759	8.0	± 0.3	2.4	9.1	6.6	7.0	1.6	7.9	6.0
Iceland	13	± 2	2	7.6	± 1.1	1.1	9.2	5.7	7.1	:	9.1	4.8
Norway	93	± 8	18	3.6	± 0.3	0.7	4.2	3.0	3.0	0.4	3.7	2.4
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	4.1	1.1	3.8	4.5
Croatia	197	± 22	75	11.2	± 1.2	4.3	10.6	12.0	9.5	5.5	7.8	11.4
FYR of Macedonia	310	± 29	246	33.5	± 2.4	26.6	33.5	33.5	32.8	26.9	31.7	34.5
Turkey	3,173	± 111	785	13.0	± 0.5	3.2	13.1	13.0	14.3	2.5	14.4	13.8

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_urgan](#), [lfsq_upgal](#))

Table 15. Inactives willing to work as a share of total population, 2010Q1, by age group, sex and nationality, %

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	5.3	8.0	4.8	4.2	4.9	7.5	4.6	3.6
Nationals	5.0	7.6	4.6	3.9	4.7	7.3	4.4	3.5
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	5.2	8.5	4.8	4.1	5.4	9.2	4.9	4.0
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	7.9	9.9	7.4	7.7	7.7	9.6	7.3	7.0
Men	4.2	7.6	3.3	4.1	3.8	7.1	3.1	3.3
Nationals	4.0	7.2	3.2	3.6	3.7	6.9	2.9	3.1
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	3.8	8.6	2.8	4.4	4.0	9.8	3.0	4.1
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	6.1	9.6	5.0	8.2	6.0	9.3	5.0	7.5
Women	6.3	8.4	6.3	4.3	6.0	7.8	6.2	4.0
Nationals	6.1	8.1	6.1	4.2	5.8	7.7	5.9	3.9
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	6.6	8.5	6.6	3.8	6.7	8.7	6.8	3.9
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	9.6	10.2	9.8	7.2	9.4	10.0	9.6	6.5

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_igaww](#))

Table 16. Inactives willing to work, by country and sex

15-64 years	Inactives willing to work (1000)	Share on total population 15-64 (%)					
		2010Q1			2009Q1		
		Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	17,395	5.3	4.2	6.3	4.9	3.8	6.1
EA-16	10,596	4.9	3.8	6.0	4.7	3.5	5.9
Belgium	207	2.9	2.4	3.4	2.7	2.1	3.3
Bulgaria	357	7.1	7.7	6.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Czech Republic	183	2.5	2.0	3.0	2.6	2.0	3.2
Denmark	165	4.6	4.1	5.0	3.6	2.9	4.4
Germany	2,139	4.0	3.2	4.8	4.1	3.2	5.0
Estonia	45	4.9	4.6	5.3	4.2	4.0	4.4
Ireland	117	3.9	4.1	3.6	3.1	3.0	3.2
Greece	113	1.6	0.9	2.3	1.7	1.0	2.4
Spain	1,647	5.3	3.6	7.0	4.7	2.8	6.7
France	947	2.4	2.0	2.7	2.3	1.8	2.7
Italy	3,941	10.0	7.3	12.6	9.8	7.0	12.6
Cyprus	17	3.2	2.5	3.8	2.1	1.9	2.4
Latvia	164	10.6	9.0	12.0	7.7	6.9	8.4
Lithuania	93	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.0
Luxembourg	15	4.6	3.6	5.7	7.7	5.7	9.8
Hungary	356	5.3	5.0	5.5	5.2	4.9	5.4
Malta	15	5.0	3.2	6.8	5.0	3.1	7.0
Netherlands	495	4.5	4.1	4.9	3.8	3.3	4.3
Austria	457	8.2	7.6	8.8	7.8	7.2	8.4
Poland	1,879	7.1	5.6	8.6	7.0	5.6	8.3
Portugal	96	1.4	0.9	1.8	1.4	1.1	1.7
Romania	887	5.9	4.4	7.4	4.7	2.3	7.1
Slovenia	63	4.5	3.7	5.3	3.8	3.5	4.2
Slovakia	94	2.4	1.7	3.1	2.2	1.7	2.6
Finland	233	6.6	6.4	6.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Sweden	294	4.8	4.3	5.4	4.5	4.2	4.8
United Kingdom	2,377	5.9	5.1	6.6	5.3	4.4	6.2
Iceland	8	3.9	3.6	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.0
Norway	141	4.4	4.1	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.5
Switzerland	:	:	:	:	8.3	6.3	10.4
Croatia	121	4.4	3.8	5.0	4.4	3.9	5.0
FYR of Macedonia	51	3.5	2.6	4.6	5.4	4.1	6.7
Turkey	2,481	5.2	4.5	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.8

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_igaww](#))

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Sources: All statistics presented in this publication are derived from the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS), except the seasonally adjusted employment series in Chart 1, where the source is national accounts (NA). The EU-LFS is a quarterly, large sample survey providing results for the population in private households in the EU, EFTA and the candidate countries (except Liechtenstein). The sampling rates achieved in 2010Q1 vary between 0.18 % and 1.67 %. The figures in this publication are not seasonally adjusted, except for Chart 1.

Symbols: Figures in brackets lack reliability due to the small sample size; colons (:) are used for unavailable or extremely unreliable data. The first quarter of 2010 is abbreviated as 2010Q1.

Country codes: The European Union (27 countries) is abbreviated as EU-27 and includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK). The euro area (16 countries) is abbreviated as EA-16 and consists of Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland. EFTA countries are Iceland (IS), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH). Candidate countries are Croatia (HR), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK) and Turkey (TR). The abbreviation MK used for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a provisional code which does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusion of negotiations currently taking place on this subject at the United Nations.

Rounding: Although percentages are rounded to the first decimal place, calculations of changes over time take into account all available decimal places. For this reason, estimates of changes may differ slightly from the variations that can be obtained from the figures presented in the tables.

Definitions: The concepts and definitions used in the survey follow the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

- **Employment (LFS concept)** covers persons aged 15 years and over (16 and over in Italy, Spain and the UK; 15-74 years in Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Romania, Finland, Sweden and Norway; 16-74 in Iceland) who, during the reference week, performed work, even for just one hour a week, for pay, profit or family gain or were not at work (**temporarily absent from work**) but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent, for example because of illness, holidays, a temporary lay-off, flexible working time arrangements, an industrial dispute or education and training.
- **Unemployment** covers persons aged 15-74 (16-74 in Italy, Spain, the UK and Iceland) who were without work during the reference week, were currently available for work and had either been actively seeking work in the past four weeks or had already found a job to start within the next three months.
- **Long-term unemployment** covers persons unemployed for one year or more.

- **Inactives willing to work** are persons who are neither employed nor unemployed but are seeking employment or, if not seeking, would nevertheless like to work.
- **Activity rates** show the active population, i.e. the sum of the employed and the unemployed, as a percentage of the population of the same age.
- **Employment rates** show the employed as a percentage of the population of the same age.
- **Unemployment rates** show the unemployed as a percentage of the active population of the same age.

When calculating the shares of part-time employment (Tables 6 and 7), employees with temporary contracts (Tables 8 and 9) and persons whose job started within the last three months (Tables 12 and 13), non-responses to the relevant variables are excluded. The job characteristics in Tables 6 to 13 refer to the main job, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Main conceptual differences between national accounts (NA) and EU-LFS employment: EU-LFS employment figures refer to the resident population aged 15 years or more living in private households. It excludes conscripts in military or community service. NA employment figures refer to domestic employment, with no limit on age or type of household, also including the non-resident population contributing to GDP and conscripts in military or community service. Further details can be found at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/national_accounts/documents/employment/LFS-ESA.PDF

Reference periods: The 2009 data for Switzerland refer to the second quarter.

Coverage: The data for France exclude overseas regions.

Aggregates: When data are unavailable for a country, the relevant aggregates are calculated from the data for the same country one year earlier.

Confidence limits: All confidence limits are calculated at a confidence level of 95 %. The country limits are derived from coefficients of variation calculated by the national statistical institutes. When a coefficient is not available, the coefficient for the last quarter available is taken. For calculating limits of aggregates, it is assumed that the EU-LFS is a stratified sample with the country as the first stratum.

Economic activity: In Tables 6, 8, 10 and 12, the breakdowns are based on the industry of the main job. The aggregation to six sectors is based on the new Rev. 2 NACE classification.

Seasonal adjustment: EU-27 seasonal adjustment for NA employment is performed indirectly, i.e. seasonally adjusted series are calculated from seasonally adjusted Member State data. These are produced directly by Member States by different methods of seasonal adjustment, following either the X11 or the TRAMO/SEATS methods (further information is available at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/EN/nam_q_esms.htm). EU-27 seasonal adjustment for unemployment figures is also done indirectly. Seasonal adjustment for most Member States is carried out by Eurostat using TRAMO/SEATS. Data for Germany, Italy, Finland and Sweden are seasonally adjusted by the national statistical institutes of the countries concerned.

Further information

Eurostat Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Data on "Employment and unemployment (Labour force survey (LFS))"

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment_unemployment_lfs/data/database

More information about "Employment and unemployment (Labour force survey (LFS))"

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment_unemployment_lfs/introduction

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