

Modest positive signs in the EU-27 labour market

Latest labour market trends — data for the fourth-quarter 2010¹

In 2010Q4, the number of persons in employment² (seasonally adjusted) increased compared with 2010Q3, albeit very slightly (+180 thousand persons; +0.1%). For the first time since 2008Q4 a year-on-year rise was recorded (+580 thousand persons, +0.3%), after seven quarters of continuous falls. In the same period unemployment (seasonally adjusted) was down for the second quarter in row, by 80 thousand persons (-0.3%) compared to 2010Q3. However, the number of unemployed persons in the EU27 was still higher than in 2009Q4, by 390 thousand persons (+ 1.7%).

The EU labour force survey provides further insight into the latest labour market developments. In 2010Q4, the shares of part-time employment and of temporary work arrangements continued to grow in the EU27. Compared with 2009Q4, the share of part-time employment increased by 0.3 p.p. to 19.3% (not seasonally adjusted), as a result of 0.5 million more part-timers and 0.7 million fewer full-timers. Over the same period, the share of employees with fixed-term contracts rose from

13.7 % to 14.1 %, as the number of temporary employees rose by +0.7 million, and the number of permanent employees fell by -1.2 million.

The employment³ rate (not seasonally adjusted) among the population aged 15 to 64 in the EU-27 in the same period fell by 0.1 p.p. compared with 2009Q4 to 64.2 %. The employment rate for women decreased over the year by 0.2 p.p. to 58.3%. On the other hand, no change was observed for men, as their rate remained at 70.2%.

The unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) rose by 0.2 p.p. year-on-year, i.e. at a slower pace than in previous quarters of 2010, and reached 9.5 %. The unemployment rate for men was 9.3%, which was 0.1 p.p. less than one year before in 2009Q4. For women, the unemployment rate continued its rising trend, up by 0.4 p.p. to 9.6%.

In 2010Q4, for the EU-27, the unemployment rates of both young people and the long-term unemployed continued to increase (+0.3 p.p. and +0.8 p.p. up on the year before, to 20.6 % and 4.0 % respectively).

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



Source: Eurostat-NA (online data code: [namq_aux_pem](#)) and EU-LFS (online data code: [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, candidate countries and EFTA countries, except Liechtenstein and Montenegro.

² National accounts, domestic concept. See also http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/national_accounts/methodology/employment

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

Part-time employment continues to gain importance in the EU

Over the last four years part-time employment in the EU27 has been continuously increasing. This trend continued in the last quarter of 2010, when 41.8 million persons were working part-time in the EU27, making up 19.3% of the employed population. These trends concern both men and women, for whom the share of part-time in 2010Q4 is 8.8% and 31.9% of total employment respectively.

Figure 2 shows the year-on-year change of part-time employment among men and women in the EU27 in the last four years. Part-time work grew throughout this period, with the only exception being the female component in 2010Q4, when it showed a slight decrease.

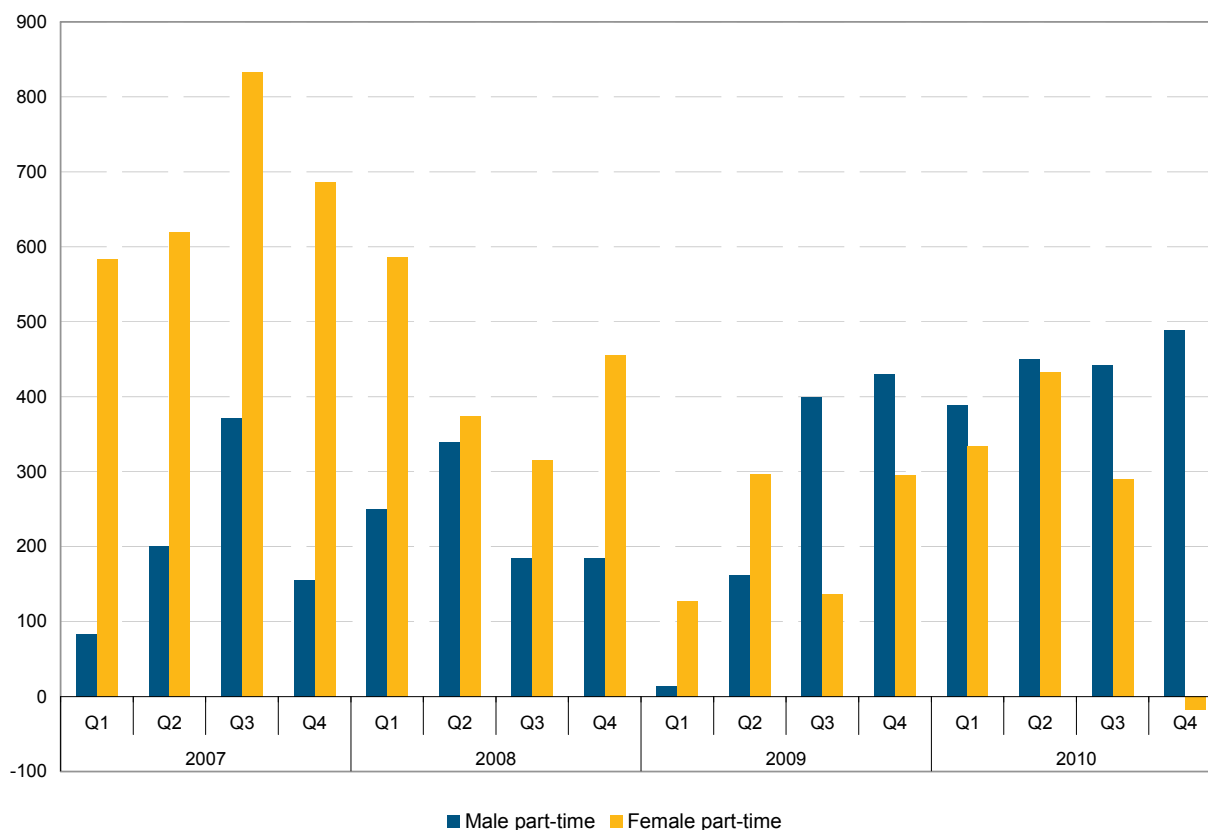
However, this growth was not stable over time, nor was the trend the same for men and women. Female part-time work grew strongly in 2007 and early 2008, i.e. just before the onset of the economic crisis. During this period, the number of women in part-time work grew year-on-year by about 600 thousand persons each quarter on

average. After peaking in 2007Q3, growth slowed down, reaching a minimum in 2009Q1. Since then, the growth in female part-time work gradually picked up, although not as strongly as in 2007-2008. After 2010Q2 it slowed down again and finally turned negative in 2010Q4.

The year-on-year growth of male part-time employment was less pronounced than for females during the period 2007-2008. However, from the second half of 2009 male part-time employment rose faster than in the previous period, and also faster than female part-time employment. In 2010Q4, the number of men employed part-time in the EU-27 increased by 490 thousand persons from 2009Q4.

Throughout the period 2007Q1 – 2010Q4, the number of men working part-time in the EU-27 increased by 1.1 million persons. The corresponding increase for women was 1.2 million persons. When measured as a percentage of total employment, part-time employment in the EU-27 rose from 18.3% in 2007Q1 to 19.3% in 2010Q4.

Figure 2: Year-on-year part-time employment changes by sex, EU-27 (000's persons)



Source: Eurostat (online data code : [lfsq_eftpt](#))

Table 1. Activity rates, 2010Q4, 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
Total	71.1	42.7	85.0	49.9	71.5	42.4	85.3	49.7
Nationals	71.0	42.5	85.6	49.8	71.5	42.1	86.0	49.6
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	76.2	52.2	84.6	52.7	75.2	49.4	83.9	51.8
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	68.8	43.1	76.6	51.3	68.9	43.7	76.7	50.5
Men	77.6	45.9	91.7	59.0	78.2	45.3	92.3	58.5
Nationals	77.3	45.6	91.7	58.9	77.8	44.8	92.4	58.4
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	83.9	55.3	93.0	59.9	83.1	54.0	92.8	58.4
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	81.2	49.1	90.6	60.8	81.4	49.8	90.7	60.8
Women	64.6	39.4	78.3	41.4	64.8	39.4	78.3	41.3
Nationals	64.8	39.3	79.3	41.3	65.2	39.3	79.6	41.2
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	68.9	49.5	76.5	45.4	67.6	45.2	75.5	45.0
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	57.1	37.3	63.2	42.8	57.0	37.8	63.1	40.9

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_argan](#))

Table 2. Labour force and activity rates, by country and sex

15-64 years	Labour force (1000)	Activity rates (%)					
		2010Q4			2009Q4		
		2010Q4	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men
EU-27	235,515	71.1	77.6	64.6	71.0	77.6	64.4
EA-16	154,139	71.5	78.2	64.8	71.5	78.4	64.7
Belgium	4,907	68.1	73.7	62.5	67.3	73.3	61.1
Bulgaria	3,359	66.6	70.3	62.9	66.5	71.4	61.7
Czech Republic	5,203	70.4	78.7	61.9	70.4	78.8	61.8
Denmark	2,861	78.8	82.6	74.9	79.7	83.2	76.1
Germany	41,136	76.8	82.4	71.2	77.3	82.4	72.0
Estonia	667	73.8	77.7	70.3	73.4	76.5	70.5
Ireland	2,073	69.2	76.6	61.9	69.3	76.8	61.7
Greece	4,928	68.1	78.5	57.7	67.9	79.0	56.7
Spain	22,946	73.4	80.4	66.4	72.8	80.5	65.0
France	28,178	70.4	74.8	66.1	70.5	75.1	66.0
Italy	24,741	62.5	73.4	51.7	62.5	73.7	51.4
Cyprus	396	74.3	81.5	67.3	74.6	82.5	66.8
Latvia	1,124	72.5	75.4	69.8	73.0	75.5	70.7
Lithuania	1,626	71.6	73.6	69.8	69.7	71.3	68.2
Luxembourg	231	68.4	76.1	60.7	68.5	76.2	60.5
Hungary	4,235	62.6	68.5	56.8	62.0	68.3	55.9
Malta	173	60.4	77.5	42.8	59.3	76.0	42.0
Netherlands	8,622	78.2	83.6	72.9	79.5	84.9	74.1
Austria	4,241	75.5	81.3	69.7	75.2	81.5	69.0
Poland	17,478	65.7	72.7	59.0	64.9	71.9	58.2
Portugal	5,258	73.9	78.3	69.7	73.6	78.2	69.1
Romania	9,389	62.6	70.5	54.7	62.3	69.9	54.7
Slovenia	1,019	71.4	75.4	67.2	72.2	76.1	68.0
Slovakia	2,706	68.9	76.3	61.6	68.7	76.5	61.0
Finland	2,584	73.2	75.0	71.2	73.4	74.5	72.2
Sweden	4,815	78.8	81.6	75.9	77.9	80.6	75.1
United Kingdom	30,619	75.6	81.8	69.3	75.5	81.5	69.6
Iceland	171	83.9	86.9	80.9	83.8	86.1	81.4
Norway	2,520	77.7	80.2	75.0	77.9	80.2	75.6
Switzerland ¹	4,371	82.4	88.3	76.3	82.5	87.8	77.1
Croatia	1,687	61.5	67.1	56.0	62.4	67.4	57.5
FYR of Macedonia ²	945	65.1	77.9	52.0	63.4	77.2	49.2
Turkey	24,716	51.7	74.2	29.5	51.1	74.3	28.2

¹ For Switzerland 2009 data refer to Q2.

² Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_argan](#))

Table 3. Employment rates, 2010Q4, 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
Total	64.2	33.9	77.8	46.5	64.3	33.8	77.5	46.0
Nationals	64.6	33.9	78.8	46.6	64.9	33.9	78.9	46.2
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	67.1	41.9	75.0	47.2	64.9	38.0	73.0	46.1
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	55.3	30.3	62.4	41.7	54.6	30.7	61.6	40.0
Men	70.2	36.3	84.1	54.7	70.5	36.1	84.2	54.1
Nationals	70.4	36.3	84.7	54.9	70.9	36.1	85.1	54.4
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	74.5	44.8	83.3	53.1	72.5	42.2	81.7	51.3
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	65.4	34.0	74.4	47.7	64.6	34.3	73.3	46.8
Women	58.3	31.4	71.4	38.8	58.0	31.4	70.7	38.3
Nationals	58.9	31.4	72.8	38.8	58.9	31.6	72.5	38.4
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	60.1	39.3	67.1	41.3	57.8	34.3	64.8	40.7
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	45.7	26.8	51.0	36.3	44.9	27.2	50.2	33.7

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_ergan](#))

Table 4. Employment and employment rates, by country and sex

15-64 years	Employment (1000)	Confidence limits	Employment rates (%)						
			2010Q4			2009Q4			
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
EU-27	212,919	± 509	64.2	± 0.2	70.2	58.3	64.3	70.2	58.5
EA-16	138,635	± 355	64.3	± 0.2	70.5	58.0	64.5	70.7	58.2
Belgium	4,520	± 66	62.7	± 0.9	68.0	57.5	61.8	67.3	56.2
Bulgaria	2,979	± 71	59.0	± 1.4	61.7	56.4	61.2	65.3	57.2
Czech Republic	4,841	± 43	65.5	± 0.6	74.0	56.8	65.3	73.6	56.7
Denmark	2,647	± 20	72.9	± 0.6	76.3	69.5	74.2	77.0	71.4
Germany	38,411	± 210	71.7	± 0.4	76.7	66.7	71.6	76.0	67.1
Estonia	575	± 20	63.6	± 2.2	66.5	61.0	61.7	60.8	62.5
Ireland	1,779	± 26	59.4	± 0.9	63.1	55.7	60.6	64.5	56.6
Greece	4,217	± 79	58.3	± 1.1	69.3	47.2	60.8	72.8	48.7
Spain	18,253	± 122	58.4	± 0.4	64.3	52.5	59.0	65.4	52.5
France	25,516	± 170	63.7	± 0.4	68.3	59.4	63.5	67.8	59.5
Italy	22,567	± 137	57.0	± 0.3	67.6	46.5	57.1	68.1	46.1
Cyprus	374	± 9	70.1	± 1.6	77.1	63.3	70.0	77.2	62.9
Latvia	931	± 22	60.1	± 1.5	61.4	58.8	58.4	57.5	59.2
Lithuania	1,344	± 42	59.2	± 1.8	59.4	59.1	58.7	57.1	60.2
Luxembourg	220	± 9	65.3	± 2.6	73.3	57.2	64.8	72.8	56.6
Hungary	3,774	± 32	55.8	± 0.5	60.9	50.8	55.5	61.0	50.2
Malta	161	± 5	56.3	± 1.7	71.9	40.0	54.9	70.9	38.3
Netherlands	8,255	± 45	74.9	± 0.4	80.1	69.7	76.5	81.7	71.3
Austria	4,065	± 45	72.3	± 0.8	78.1	66.6	71.6	77.4	66.0
Poland	15,831	± 99	59.6	± 0.4	66.2	53.1	59.4	65.9	53.0
Portugal	4,640	± 55	65.2	± 0.8	69.9	60.7	65.7	70.3	61.3
Romania	8,676	± 298	57.9	± 2.0	64.7	51.0	57.4	64.0	50.8
Slovenia	938	± 18	65.7	± 1.3	69.3	62.0	67.5	71.2	63.5
Slovakia	2,329	± 24	59.3	± 0.6	65.7	52.9	59.2	66.1	52.2
Finland	2,389	± 17	67.6	± 0.5	68.9	66.4	67.3	67.8	66.8
Sweden	4,455	± 20	72.9	± 0.3	75.4	70.3	71.3	73.4	69.1
United Kingdom	28,231	± 151	69.7	± 0.4	74.9	64.4	69.7	74.4	65.1
Iceland	158	± 3	77.5	± 1.4	79.4	75.6	78.1	79.0	77.1
Norway	2,437	± 17	75.1	± 0.5	77.1	73.0	75.7	77.4	73.8
Switzerland¹	4,185	± 46	78.9	± 0.9	84.8	72.8	79.0	84.4	73.6
Croatia	1,477	± 77	53.8	± 2.8	58.7	49.1	56.4	61.9	51.1
FYR of Macedonia	650	± 35	44.8	± 2.4	53.9	35.5	42.7	51.8	33.4
Turkey	22,255	± 96	46.5	± 0.2	67.1	26.2	44.9	65.4	24.8

¹ For Switzerland 2009 data refer to Q2.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_ergan](#))

Table 5. Share of part-time employment in total employment, 2010Q4, by age group, sex and economic activity, %

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Total	19.3	29.1	16.7	26.4	20.5	27.7	18.7	25.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	21.9	31.8	16.0	32.9	19.3	27.3	12.2	32.9
Industry, incl. Energy	7.1	7.4	6.2	12.2	8.5	8.0	7.9	12.9
Construction	7.0	6.8	5.7	14.1	7.4	6.3	6.6	13.6
Trade, transport and communication services	20.6	40.3	16.4	25.4	21.6	37.7	18.6	25.0
Business activities and financial services	20.9	25.3	18.6	31.2	22.7	27.3	20.9	30.6
Other services	26.8	34.3	25.0	31.8	28.4	33.7	27.7	29.9
Men	8.8	22.1	5.6	16.4	8.5	20.2	5.9	14.9
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	16.6	28.8	10.7	26.9	12.8	25.1	6.0	25.3
Industry, incl. Energy	3.1	5.2	2.0	7.9	3.3	5.6	2.3	7.8
Construction	4.4	6.2	3.1	10.4	4.4	5.7	3.3	9.7
Trade, transport and communication services	10.6	33.4	6.2	15.8	10.1	29.8	6.6	15.2
Business activities and financial services	10.1	22.3	6.3	21.4	10.1	24.0	6.9	19.4
Other services	12.6	31.7	9.2	19.1	12.6	31.1	10.2	15.7
Women	31.9	37.5	29.7	40.0	35.2	36.6	34.1	40.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	30.9	39.4	25.0	41.8	32.6	34.3	25.5	46.0
Industry, incl. Energy	17.2	13.3	16.4	26.3	22.5	14.7	22.3	30.0
Construction	33.4	15.4	32.5	47.8	38.8	14.2	39.6	49.2
Trade, transport and communication services	33.9	47.4	30.3	40.3	37.0	46.0	34.9	40.5
Business activities and financial services	32.5	28.2	30.8	46.3	35.7	30.5	34.5	47.7
Other services	33.9	35.5	32.6	39.7	36.6	34.9	36.2	39.2

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_epgn62](#))

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

15 years and above	Part-time employment (1000)	Confidence limits	Share of total employment (%)					
			2010Q4			2009Q4		
			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU-27	41,779	± 316	19.3	8.8	31.9	19.0	8.4	31.8
EA-16	28,896	± 219	20.5	8.5	35.2	20.3	8.1	35.2
Belgium	1,115	± 44	24.5	9.4	42.5	24.4	9.6	42.4
Bulgaria	73	± 10	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.1	1.9	2.4
Czech Republic	282	± 15	5.7	2.7	9.8	5.7	2.9	9.6
Denmark	701	± 21	25.9	15.2	38.1	25.8	14.4	38.6
Germany	10,143	± 125	25.9	9.6	45.0	26.1	9.6	45.2
Estonia	66	± 10	11.2	7.2	15.2	9.3	5.7	12.6
Ireland	423	± 13	23.2	12.3	35.6	22.0	11.3	34.4
Greece	281	± 17	6.5	4.1	10.1	6.2	3.3	10.5
Spain	2,474	± 67	13.4	5.5	23.3	13.3	5.3	23.4
France	4,568	± 117	17.8	7.0	29.8	17.9	6.3	30.9
Italy	3,523	± 85	15.4	5.7	29.4	14.2	4.9	28.2
Cyprus	38	± 3	9.8	7.0	13.3	8.6	5.2	12.7
Latvia	94	± 11	9.9	8.0	11.6	9.0	8.1	9.8
Lithuania	113	± 12	8.3	6.6	9.8	8.4	7.5	9.3
Luxembourg	39	± 4	17.4	4.8	33.9	16.5	4.2	32.9
Hungary	228	± 14	6.0	4.1	8.2	5.7	4.2	7.6
Malta	20	± 2	12.2	6.4	23.1	11.5	4.9	24.3
Netherlands	4,103	± 44	48.9	25.3	76.6	48.6	25.3	75.9
Austria	1,032	± 28	25.0	8.8	43.8	24.6	9.1	42.7
Poland	1,331	± 56	8.3	5.6	11.5	8.1	5.6	11.2
Portugal	571	± 34	11.5	8.1	15.4	11.9	8.1	16.3
Romania	949	± 106	10.5	10.3	10.7	9.7	9.1	10.4
Slovenia	106	± 8	11.0	8.4	14.1	10.7	8.2	13.7
Slovakia	91	± 9	3.9	2.6	5.4	3.4	2.4	4.6
Finland	368	± 14	15.2	10.5	20.2	14.9	9.9	20.0
Sweden	1,212	± 25	26.6	14.1	40.7	27.7	14.6	42.1
United Kingdom	7,834	± 189	27.0	12.8	43.4	26.5	12.0	42.9
Iceland	44	± 3	26.7	14.0	40.3	26.7	14.1	40.3
Norway	702	± 18	28.0	15.3	42.2	28.5	15.1	43.3
Switzerland ¹	1,531	± 35	35.7	14.6	60.9	34.8	13.6	59.8
Croatia	148	± 26	9.7	8.0	11.7	8.7	6.7	11.0
FYR of Macedonia	41	± 5	6.2	5.6	7.2	5.1	4.5	5.9
Turkey	2,686	± 135	11.8	6.9	24.2	11.1	6.4	23.4

¹ For Switzerland 2009 data refer to Q2.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_epgn62](#))

Table 7. Share of employees with temporary contracts, 2010Q4, by age group, sex and economic activity, %

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Total	14.1	42.1	11.5	7.6	15.8	51.9	12.6	6.9
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	31.8	51.6	30.8	20.7	40.1	59.9	39.1	26.9
Industry, incl. Energy	11.3	45.3	8.6	4.7	11.5	53.7	8.0	3.4
Construction	17.5	42.4	14.4	10.1	19.1	49.1	15.0	9.9
Trade, transport and communication services	13.8	36.8	10.2	6.4	15.5	47.4	11.0	6.1
Business activities and financial services	12.9	40.2	10.4	9.1	14.2	49.6	11.5	7.5
Other services	14.8	48.4	13.0	8.0	17.1	58.4	15.3	7.2
Men	13.6	42.2	10.7	7.6	15.1	51.8	11.7	6.9
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	30.6	50.1	29.4	20.6	39.3	58.6	38.1	27.0
Industry, incl. Energy	10.7	45.8	7.8	4.4	10.9	53.5	7.4	3.1
Construction	18.4	42.3	15.2	10.8	19.9	48.8	15.8	10.7
Trade, transport and communication services	12.4	36.4	8.8	6.2	14.1	47.4	9.7	6.2
Business activities and financial services	13.3	40.6	10.6	10.2	14.9	50.4	12.2	8.3
Other services	14.6	50.4	12.7	8.3	16.5	62.4	14.7	7.2
Women	14.6	42.1	12.2	7.6	16.5	52.0	13.7	6.9
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	34.7	56.4	34.2	21.2	42.0	63.8	41.3	26.7
Industry, incl. Energy	12.7	44.0	10.5	5.8	12.9	54.1	9.7	4.4
Construction	10.2	43.6	7.4	5.0	12.0	52.6	8.7	3.5
Trade, transport and communication services	15.4	37.2	11.8	6.7	17.3	47.4	12.6	6.0
Business activities and financial services	12.5	39.8	10.2	7.8	13.6	48.8	10.9	6.7
Other services	14.9	47.5	13.2	7.8	17.4	56.7	15.6	7.2

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_etgan2](#))

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

15 years and above	Employees with temp. contracts (1000)	Share of total employees (%)					
		2010Q4			2009Q4		
		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU-27	25,424	14.1	13.6	14.6	13.7	13.0	14.5
EA-16	18,621	15.8	15.1	16.5	15.4	14.4	16.6
Belgium	336	8.7	7.4	10.1	8.4	6.9	10.2
Bulgaria	106	4.0	4.5	3.5	4.4	5.1	3.5
Czech Republic	362	9.0	7.6	10.6	9.0	7.6	10.7
Denmark	210	8.6	8.4	8.8	8.7	8.4	9.0
Germany	5,193	15.0	15.1	14.9	14.7	14.6	14.8
Estonia	19	3.4	(4.2)	(2.7)	2.5	(3.9)	:
Ireland	141	9.4	8.8	10.0	8.7	7.4	9.8
Greece	338	12.3	11.0	14.1	12.2	10.6	14.3
Spain	3,800	24.8	23.8	25.9	25.1	23.9	26.5
France	3,422	15.1	14.4	15.8	14.2	12.9	15.4
Italy	2,285	13.2	11.9	14.9	12.6	10.9	14.7
Cyprus	42	13.4	6.9	20.4	13.1	6.5	20.2
Latvia	62	7.3	9.2	5.6	5.2	6.4	4.1
Lithuania	28	2.3	3.3	(1.4)	1.7	(2.2)	(1.2)
Luxembourg	15	7.3	6.8	8.1	7.8	7.3	8.4
Hungary	329	9.8	10.4	9.2	9.3	9.8	8.7
Malta	9	6.1	5.4	7.2	4.9	(3.3)	7.6
Netherlands	1,281	18.1	17.1	19.2	18.5	16.5	20.6
Austria	336	9.4	10.1	8.6	9.1	9.5	8.6
Poland	3,451	27.7	28.0	27.4	26.5	26.3	26.8
Portugal	863	22.5	21.8	23.3	22.7	21.7	23.8
Romania	70	1.2	1.4	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.0
Slovenia	132	16.7	14.9	18.7	17.1	15.8	18.7
Slovakia	120	6.1	6.0	6.2	4.6	4.7	4.4
Finland	308	14.7	11.1	18.1	13.5	9.6	17.0
Sweden	630	15.5	13.8	17.2	14.8	12.6	17.0
United Kingdom	1,536	6.2	5.7	6.7	5.9	5.6	6.1
Iceland	15	10.8	9.8	11.7	8.1	8.1	8.1
Norway	186	8.0	6.8	9.3	7.9	6.4	9.4
Switzerland ¹	471	12.9	12.9	13.0	13.3	13.1	13.4
Croatia	140	11.9	11.5	12.2	11.0	10.5	11.6
FYR of Macedonia	75	16.2	17.5	14.3	15.0	17.1	12.1
Turkey	1,644	11.6	11.2	13.0	11.4	10.8	13.4

¹ For Switzerland 2009 data refer to Q2.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_etgan2](#))

Table 9. Average actual weekly 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	
	2010Q4	2009Q4	2010Q4	2010Q4	2010Q4	2009Q4	2010Q4	2010Q4
Total	36.9	37.0	40.7	20.7	36.5	36.5	40.5	20.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	38.6	38.7	43.3	21.8	41.2	41.5	46.3	19.4
Industry, incl. Energy	38.9	38.7	40.2	21.6	38.3	38.1	39.8	21.5
Construction	39.8	40.2	41.2	20.3	39.0	39.5	40.5	19.9
Trade, transport and communication services	37.7	37.8	42.3	19.8	37.6	37.6	42.4	20.0
Business activities and financial services	36.7	36.6	40.9	20.3	36.3	36.3	40.9	20.4
Other services	34.0	34.1	38.7	21.1	33.3	33.4	38.2	20.9
Men	40.0	40.1	41.8	20.9	39.8	40.0	41.6	20.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	41.7	41.8	45.4	23.0	44.5	44.8	47.9	20.5
Industry, incl. Energy	40.0	39.8	40.6	21.7	39.6	39.4	40.2	21.6
Construction	40.5	40.9	41.3	21.5	39.8	40.3	40.6	20.8
Trade, transport and communication services	40.7	40.9	43.2	19.6	40.9	41.0	43.3	19.5
Business activities and financial services	40.2	40.3	42.3	20.4	40.2	40.3	42.3	20.4
Other services	37.7	37.9	40.0	21.3	37.3	37.6	39.6	21.7
Women	33.1	33.1	38.9	20.6	32.2	32.2	38.6	20.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	33.3	33.6	38.8	20.8	34.4	34.8	41.9	18.5
Industry, incl. Energy	36.1	35.9	39.1	21.6	34.7	34.5	38.6	21.5
Construction	32.1	32.7	38.9	18.7	30.9	31.4	38.7	18.9
Trade, transport and communication services	33.7	33.7	40.6	19.9	33.1	33.0	40.7	20.2
Business activities and financial services	32.9	32.8	39.0	20.3	32.2	32.1	38.9	20.4
Other services	32.1	32.2	37.8	21.0	31.2	31.2	37.2	20.8

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsq_ewhan2](#), [lfsq_ewh2n2](#))

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

15 years and above	Persons who worked at least 1 hour (1000)	Average actual weekly hours					
		2010Q4			2009Q4		
		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU-27	197,540	36.9 ± 0.1	40.0	33.1	37.0	40.1	33.1
EA-16	127,876	36.5 ± 0.1	39.8	32.2	36.5	40.0	32.2
Belgium	4,010	36.9 ± 0.4	40.4	32.6	36.8	40.4	32.4
Bulgaria	2,777	40.5 ± 0.2	40.8	40.2	40.7	41.0	40.2
Czech Republic	4,590	39.5 ± 0.2	41.0	37.3	40.0	41.7	37.6
Denmark	2,351	34.7 ± 0.3	37.4	31.5	34.7	37.4	31.4
Germany	35,874	36.0 ± 0.2	40.5	30.6	35.8	40.3	30.4
Estonia	565	38.6 ± 0.5	39.6	37.7	37.8	39.1	36.7
Ireland	1,633	34.5 ± 0.0	38.7	29.5	34.8	38.9	29.7
Greece	4,152	41.1 ± 0.4	42.8	38.3	40.9	42.9	37.7
Spain	16,393	37.1 ± 0.2	39.7	33.9	37.6	40.3	34.3
France	22,517	36.3 ± 0.2	39.2	33.1	36.5	39.5	33.1
Italy	21,454	36.8 ± 0.1	39.8	32.5	37.0	40.0	32.6
Cyprus	369	39.3 ± 0.3	41.1	37.1	38.7	40.9	36.1
Latvia	907	38.8 ± 0.4	39.3	38.2	39.0	39.4	38.7
Lithuania	1,294	39.0 ± 0.3	39.8	38.1	39.1	39.8	38.4
Luxembourg	191	37.7 ± 0.7	41.0	33.4	38.1	41.8	33.2
Hungary	3,722	39.8 ± 0.1	40.7	38.7	39.7	40.6	38.6
Malta	156	38.7 ± 0.6	40.9	34.4	39.4	41.8	34.9
Netherlands	7,580	32.3 ± 0.1	37.7	25.9	32.2	37.5	26.0
Austria	3,703	36.2 ± 0.3	40.3	31.2	36.3	40.4	31.4
Poland	15,433	39.5 ± 0.2	41.6	36.9	39.3	41.4	36.8
Portugal	4,573	37.5 ± 0.4	39.0	35.8	37.9	39.7	35.9
Romania	8,896	39.3 ± 0.3	40.0	38.5	39.3	40.1	38.3
Slovenia	885	39.4 ± 0.3	40.7	37.8	39.6	40.8	38.1
Slovakia	2,222	39.2 ± 0.2	40.2	38.0	39.6	40.5	38.4
Finland	2,165	36.4 ± 0.2	38.6	34.0	36.1	38.3	33.7
Sweden	4,069	36.3 ± 0.2	38.8	33.4	35.5	37.8	32.7
United Kingdom	25,059	35.5 ± 0.1	39.7	30.5	35.7	39.9	30.7
Iceland	149	38.2 ± 0.7	42.3	33.7	38.9	42.9	34.5
Norway	2,138	34.2 ± 0.2	37.3	30.7	34.1	37.1	30.5
Switzerland ¹	3,808	37.5 ± 0.2	43.2	30.6	36.9	42.8	29.8
Croatia	1,460	39.2 ± 0.5	40.1	38.1	39.2	40.3	37.9
FYR of Macedonia	630	41.2 ± 0.8	42.0	40.0	41.9	42.9	40.4
Turkey	22,239	48.7 ± 0.3	51.9	40.6	48.3	51.6	39.8

¹ For Switzerland 2009 data refer to Q2.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsq_ewhan2](#), [lfsq_ewh2n2](#))

Table 11. Share of persons whose job started within the past 3 months, 2010Q4, by economic activity, age group and sex, %

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Total	4.5	16.3	3.6	1.7	4.8	18.2	3.9	1.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	3.2	10.6	3.3	1.2	5.2	18.5	5.3	2.0
Industry, incl. Energy	3.8	15.6	3.1	1.2	4.2	17.8	3.3	0.9
Construction	5.0	13.2	4.3	2.4	5.5	14.8	4.7	2.6
Trade, transport and communication services	5.3	16.4	4.0	1.8	5.5	18.0	4.2	1.6
Business activities and financial services	4.7	18.0	3.9	2.0	4.8	19.4	4.0	1.9
Other services	4.1	18.0	3.4	1.7	4.4	19.4	3.6	1.7
Men	4.2	15.2	3.4	1.7	4.5	17.1	3.7	1.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	3.6	11.0	3.6	1.5	5.3	17.3	5.2	2.4
Industry, incl. Energy	3.5	14.4	2.8	1.1	3.9	16.3	3.1	0.8
Construction	5.1	13.1	4.4	2.5	5.6	14.6	4.8	2.8
Trade, transport and communication services	4.7	15.7	3.6	1.8	4.9	17.4	3.8	1.5
Business activities and financial services	4.7	17.8	4.1	1.8	4.8	19.8	4.2	1.7
Other services	3.6	17.5	2.9	1.7	3.7	18.7	3.0	1.7
Women	4.8	17.6	3.8	1.7	5.2	19.4	4.2	1.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	2.5	9.7	2.7	0.7	4.8	22.3	5.4	1.3
Industry, incl. Energy	4.6	19.0	3.6	1.3	5.2	21.9	4.0	1.3
Construction	4.2	15.1	3.6	1.3	4.5	17.8	3.8	0.9
Trade, transport and communication services	6.1	17.2	4.5	1.7	6.3	18.5	4.8	1.7
Business activities and financial services	4.7	18.2	3.7	2.2	4.8	19.0	3.9	2.2
Other services	4.4	18.3	3.6	1.8	4.7	19.7	3.9	1.7

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_eqdn2](#))

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

15 years and above	Persons whose job started within past 3 months (1000)	Share of total employment (%)					
		2010Q4			2009Q4		
		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU-27	9,636	4.5	4.2	4.8	4.2	3.9	4.6
EA-16	6,731	4.8	4.5	5.2	4.5	4.1	4.9
Belgium	200	4.4	4.0	4.8	4.0	3.9	4.1
Bulgaria	85	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.4	2.6	2.1
Czech Republic	144	2.9	2.3	3.8	2.8	2.3	3.4
Denmark	187	7.0	6.6	7.3	6.5	5.8	7.2
Germany	1,929	5.0	4.8	5.3	4.5	4.1	4.9
Estonia	37	6.3	6.6	6.0	4.4	4.5	4.3
Ireland	74	4.1	3.6	4.6	3.6	3.4	3.9
Greece	71	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.6	2.2
Spain	1,060	5.8	5.3	6.3	6.2	5.8	6.7
France	1,630	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.9	6.1
Italy	803	3.5	3.0	4.3	3.3	2.8	4.1
Cyprus	19	5.0	4.5	5.6	4.6	3.8	5.6
Latvia	66	6.9	8.0	5.9	5.4	6.0	4.8
Lithuania	47	3.5	4.4	2.6	2.5	(2.6)	(2.3)
Luxembourg	11	5.0	4.5	5.7	3.8	2.8	5.0
Hungary	124	3.3	3.1	3.5	3.0	2.9	3.2
Malta	5	3.2	(2.5)	(4.4)	2.9	(2.2)	(4.2)
Netherlands	320	4.0	3.8	4.2	1.6	1.4	1.8
Austria	207	5.0	4.5	5.7	4.5	4.0	4.9
Poland	584	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.4	4.0
Portugal	159	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.8
Romania	126	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.9	1.3
Slovenia	35	3.6	3.4	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.2
Slovakia	53	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.8	2.4
Finland	156	6.5	5.5	7.5	5.1	4.1	6.1
Sweden	348	7.7	7.1	8.4	6.9	6.4	7.6
United Kingdom	1,155	4.0	3.7	4.3	3.9	3.6	4.1
Iceland	7	4.1	4.1	4.1	5.0	5.2	4.7
Norway	117	4.7	4.2	5.2	4.0	3.9	4.1
Switzerland ¹	:	:	:	:	3.3	3.0	3.6
Croatia	(29)	(2.0)	(1.8)	(2.3)	(1.9)	(2.0)	(1.7)
FYR of Macedonia	22	3.4	3.2	(3.7)	3.2	3.6	(2.6)
Turkey	2,763	12.1	11.7	13.1	12.1	11.6	13.3

¹ For Switzerland 2009 data refer to Q2.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_eqdn2](#))

Table 13. Unemployment rates, 2010Q4, 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			
Total	9.5	4.0	20.6	8.5	6.3	10.0	4.4	20.2	9.2	6.9
Nationals	8.9	3.8	20.2	7.9	6.0	9.2	4.1	19.5	8.3	6.4
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	11.9	4.3	19.8	11.3	9.9	13.5	5.0	23.0	13.0	10.6
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	19.6	8.0	29.7	18.5	18.3	20.8	8.6	29.7	19.7	20.0
Men	9.3	4.0	20.8	8.3	6.6	9.6	4.3	20.2	8.8	7.0
Nationals	8.8	3.8	20.4	7.7	6.2	8.8	4.0	19.4	7.9	6.4
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	11.1	4.0	19.1	10.4	10.9	12.7	4.8	21.9	12.0	11.6
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	19.4	8.0	30.8	17.9	21.0	20.6	8.5	31.2	19.2	22.2
Women	9.6	3.9	20.3	8.8	5.9	10.4	4.5	20.2	9.7	6.7
Nationals	9.1	3.7	19.9	8.2	5.6	9.6	4.2	19.6	8.8	6.4
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	12.7	4.5	20.6	12.3	8.7	14.5	5.3	24.2	14.2	9.1
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	19.9	8.1	28.2	19.3	14.9	21.1	8.8	27.9	20.5	17.0

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsq_urgan](#), [lfsq_upgal](#))

Table 14. Unemployment and unemployment rates, by country and sex

15-74 years	Unemployment (1000)			Unemployment rates (%)							
				2010Q4				2009Q4			
	Total	Confidence limits	Long-term	Total		Men	Women	Total		Men	Women
				Total	Long-term			Total	Long-term		
EU-27	22,657	± 231	9,506	9.5 ± 0.1	4.0	9.3	9.6	9.3	3.2	9.4	9.2
EA-16	15,533	± 193	6,845	10.0 ± 0.2	4.4	9.6	10.4	9.8	3.7	9.6	9.9
Belgium	388	± 36	191	7.9 ± 0.7	3.9	7.7	8.0	8.1	3.5	8.1	8.0
Bulgaria	382	± 27	199	11.2 ± 0.7	5.8	12.1	10.3	7.9	3.4	8.4	7.4
Czech Republic	363	± 18	160	6.9 ± 0.3	3.0	5.9	8.2	7.3	2.1	6.5	8.2
Denmark	214	± 12	48	7.3 ± 0.4	1.6	7.5	7.2	6.7	0.7	7.3	6.1
Germany	2,729	± 79	1,321	6.5 ± 0.2	3.2	6.8	6.2	7.2	3.3	7.6	6.8
Estonia	93	± 11	45	13.6 ± 1.5	6.6	14.2	13.0	15.5	4.9	19.8	11.2
Ireland	295	± 12	161	14.0 ± 0.6	7.6	17.3	9.9	12.4	4.7	15.7	8.2
Greece	712	± 31	326	14.2 ± 0.6	6.5	11.6	17.9	10.3	4.3	7.7	14.0
Spain	4,697	± 98	1,882	20.3 ± 0.4	8.1	20.0	20.8	18.8	5.5	18.7	19.1
France	2,670	± 104	1,057	9.4 ± 0.4	3.7	8.8	10.2	9.8	3.6	9.7	9.9
Italy	2,180	± 75	1,055	8.7 ± 0.3	4.2	7.8	10.0	8.6	3.9	7.5	10.2
Cyprus	22	± 3	6	5.4 ± 0.6	1.4	5.1	5.7	6.0	0.7	6.2	5.8
Latvia	193	± 19	106	16.9 ± 1.5	9.3	18.4	15.4	19.7	6.0	23.5	16.0
Lithuania	282	± 22	140	17.1 ± 1.2	8.5	19.2	15.1	15.6	4.4	19.6	11.6
Luxembourg	11	± 3	4	4.5 ± 1.1	1.6	3.7	5.7	5.3	(1.2)	4.5	6.4
Hungary	462	± 21	240	10.8 ± 0.5	5.6	11.0	10.6	10.5	4.5	10.7	10.2
Malta	12	± 2	6	6.9 ± 0.9	3.3	7.1	6.5	7.4	3.2	6.6	8.7
Netherlands	371	± 15	115	4.2 ± 0.2	1.3	4.1	4.4	3.8	0.8	3.8	3.8
Austria	176	± 14	47	4.1 ± 0.3	1.1	3.9	4.3	4.7	1.1	4.9	4.4
Poland	1,649	± 58	575	9.3 ± 0.3	3.2	8.9	9.9	8.5	2.6	8.2	8.8
Portugal	619	± 36	323	11.3 ± 0.7	5.8	10.3	12.5	10.3	4.8	9.7	10.9
Romania	714	± 64	254	7.3 ± 0.6	2.6	7.9	6.5	7.5	1.7	8.1	6.7
Slovenia	81	± 8	37	7.8 ± 0.7	3.6	7.9	7.6	6.4	1.8	6.3	6.6
Slovakia	377	± 17	258	13.9 ± 0.9	9.5	13.8	14.0	13.9	7.5	13.5	14.3
Finland	195	± 9	56	7.4 ± 0.3	2.1	8.0	6.8	8.2	1.7	8.9	7.5
Sweden	362	± 12	71	7.4 ± 0.2	1.4	7.4	7.3	8.3	1.4	8.7	7.9
United Kingdom	2,409	± 78	821	7.7 ± 0.2	2.6	8.3	6.9	7.6	2.1	8.6	6.4
Iceland	13	± 2	3	7.4 ± 1.1	1.6	8.4	6.4	6.7	0.8	8.0	5.2
Norway	83	± 8	17	3.2 ± 0.3	0.7	3.8	2.6	2.9	0.6	3.4	2.3
Switzerland¹	187	± 13	63	4.2 ± 0.3	1.4	3.8	4.5	4.1	1.2	3.8	4.5
Croatia	210	± 23	98	12.1 ± 1.2	5.6	12.1	12.1	9.3	4.8	8.0	10.8
FYR of Macedonia	295	± 27	248	31.0 ± 2.2	25.9	30.6	31.5	32.4	26.0	32.6	32.1
Turkey	2,468	± 90	641	9.8 ± 0.4	2.5	9.3	10.9	11.8	2.9	11.8	11.8

¹ For Switzerland 2009 data refer to Q2.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsq_urgan](#), [lfsq_upgal](#))

Table 15. Inactive willing to work as a share of total population, 2010Q4, 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
Total	5.0	7.3	4.6	4.1	4.6	6.6	4.4	3.5
Nationals	4.9	7.2	4.5	4.1	4.4	6.4	4.2	3.4
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	5.0	7.7	4.7	4.1	5.1	7.7	4.9	3.8
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	7.5	9.2	7.2	6.1	7.4	9.1	7.3	5.7
Men	4.0	7.0	3.2	4.1	3.6	6.4	2.9	3.3
Nationals	4.0	6.9	3.1	4.0	3.5	6.3	2.8	3.2
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	3.3	6.4	2.6	4.5	3.4	6.6	2.7	4.1
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	5.5	8.4	4.7	7.0	5.6	8.2	4.9	7.1
Women	6.0	7.6	6.1	4.1	5.7	6.9	6.0	3.7
Nationals	5.8	7.5	5.9	4.1	5.4	6.6	5.6	3.7
Non-nationals — citizens of other EU-27 countries	6.6	8.8	6.7	3.7	6.7	8.7	7.0	3.5
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	9.3	10.0	9.6	5.2	9.1	9.9	9.5	4.5

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfsq_igaww](#))

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

15-64 years	Inactive willing to work (1000)	Share of total population 15-64 (%)					
		2010Q4			2009Q4		
		Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU-27	16,599	5.0	4.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	6.0
EA-16	9,999	4.6	3.6	5.7	4.7	3.6	5.7
Belgium	191	2.6	2.3	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.9
Bulgaria	318	6.3	6.8	5.8	5.9	6.2	5.7
Czech Republic	174	2.4	1.9	2.8	2.3	1.8	2.8
Denmark	183	5.0	4.1	6.0	4.1	3.7	4.5
Germany	1,965	3.7	3.0	4.4	3.8	3.1	4.5
Estonia	46	5.1	4.4	5.8	5.5	5.6	5.4
Ireland	119	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.2
Greece	124	1.7	0.9	2.5	1.7	0.9	2.5
Spain	1,607	5.1	3.3	7.0	5.3	3.5	7.1
France	922	2.3	2.0	2.6	2.4	1.9	2.8
Italy	3,743	9.5	7.1	11.8	9.4	7.0	11.9
Cyprus	20	3.7	3.2	4.2	2.3	1.7	2.8
Latvia	121	7.8	6.8	8.8	8.2	7.1	9.2
Lithuania	61	2.7	2.4	2.9	3.7	4.0	3.3
Luxembourg	19	5.5	4.0	7.0	4.9	2.6	7.4
Hungary	361	5.3	4.8	5.9	5.0	4.7	5.3
Malta	18	6.2	3.8	8.6	5.7	4.0	7.4
Netherlands	460	4.2	3.6	4.7	4.1	3.4	4.7
Austria	386	6.9	6.0	7.8	6.9	6.0	7.9
Poland	1,808	6.8	5.2	8.4	6.6	4.9	8.2
Portugal	111	1.6	1.2	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.6
Romania	929	6.2	5.0	7.3	6.1	4.7	7.6
Slovenia	56	3.9	3.3	4.6	4.5	3.8	5.2
Slovakia	100	2.6	2.2	2.9	2.3	1.6	3.0
Finland	159	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.2	4.7	3.7
Sweden	233	3.8	3.4	4.2	3.9	3.5	4.3
United Kingdom	2,365	5.8	5.1	6.6	5.9	5.2	6.6
Iceland	6	2.9	3.4	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.3
Norway	135	4.2	3.5	4.9	4.0	3.8	4.2
Switzerland ¹	923	17.4	11.5	23.4	8.4	6.4	10.5
Croatia	111	4.0	3.4	4.7	3.8	3.3	4.3
FYR of Macedonia	63	4.3	3.4	5.2	4.7	4.2	5.3
Turkey	2,126	4.4	3.6	5.3	4.6	3.8	5.4

¹ For Switzerland 2009 data refer to Q2.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [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 Figure 1, which are taken from the 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 and Montenegro). The achieved sampling rates in 2010Q4 vary between 0.16 % and 1.61 %. The figures in this publication are not seasonally adjusted, except for Figure 1.

Symbols: Figures in brackets lack reliability due to the small sample size; ':' colon indicates unavailable or extremely unreliable data. Quarter 4 of the year 2010 is written as 2010Q4.

Country codes: The European Union (27 countries) is written 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 written as EA-16 and consists of Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland. The EFTA countries are Iceland (IS), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH). The 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 that does not prejudice in any way the definitive nomenclature for this country, which will be agreed following the conclusions of negotiations currently taking place on this subject at the United Nations.

Rounding: Although data in percentages are presented rounded to the first decimal, calculations of changes over time take into account all available decimal digits. For this reason, estimates of changes may differ slightly from the variations that can be obtained by using the figures as 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 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, holiday, temporary lay-off, flexible working time arrangements, industrial dispute or education and training.
- **Unemployment** covers persons aged 15-74 (16-74 in Italy, Spain, 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.

- **Inactive willing to work** refers to 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 employed persons as a percentage of the population of the same age.
- **Unemployment rates** show unemployed persons as a percentage of the active population of the same age.
- **Youth unemployment rate** is the unemployment rate among persons aged 15 to 24.

In 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 specified 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. They exclude conscripts in military or community service. NA employment figures refer to domestic employment, with no limit as to 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

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 before.

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, breakdowns are based on the industry of the main job. The aggregation to six sectors is based on the new Rev.2 of the NACE classification.

Seasonal adjustment: EU-27 seasonal adjustment for NA employment is done indirectly, i.e. seasonally adjusted series are calculated from seasonally adjusted Member State data. These are produced directly by Member States using different methods of seasonal adjustment, following either the X11 or the TRAMO/SEATS methods (more information 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

Journalists can contact the media support service:

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