

European Union Labour Force Survey - Annual results 2010

The picture of the EU labour market in 2010 was still being determined by the negative trends triggered by the recent economic crisis, although with less intensity than the year before. The EU employment rate¹ of persons of working age (15-64) fell in 2010 by 0.4 p.p. to 64.2% (see figure 1). It decreased to 70.1% (-0.6 p.p.) for men and to 58.2% (-0.4 p.p.) for women.

This publication presents the main EU Labour Force Survey results for the year 2010.

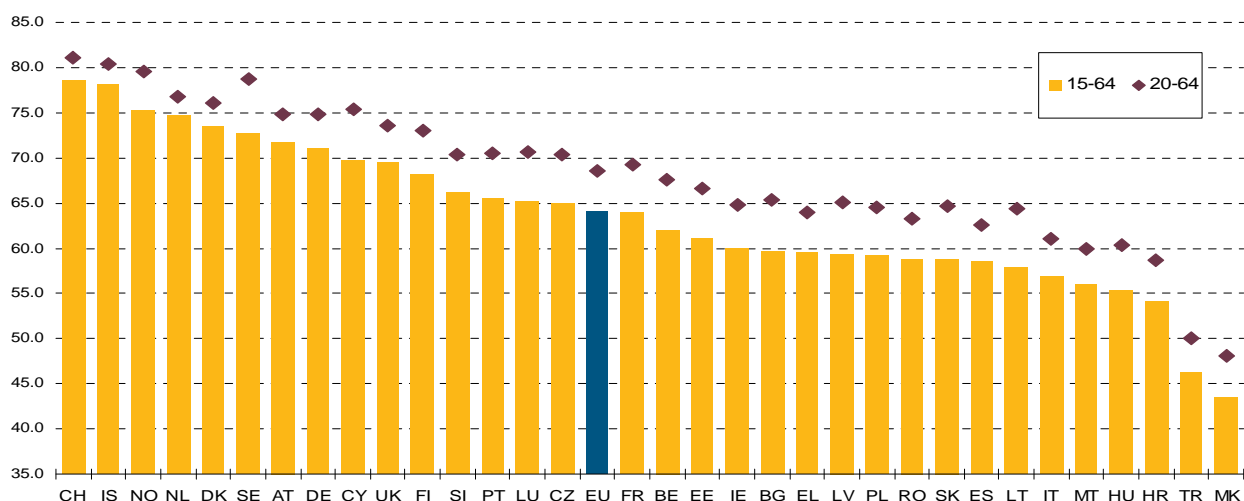
The employment rate for the population aged 15-64 was higher than the EU average in twelve EU Member States. The highest rates were recorded by the Netherlands (74.7%), Denmark (73.4%), Sweden (72.7%), Austria (71.7%) and Germany (71.1%). These rates were all above the 2010 Lisbon strategy target of 70%. By contrast, eleven Member States did not reach 60%. The lowest employment rates were observed in Hungary (55.4%), Malta (56.0%), Italy (56.9%) and Lithuania (57.8%).

The employment rates for all EFTA countries were above 75%; Switzerland and Iceland recorded 78.6% and 78.2% respectively in 2010.

Compared with 2009, the employment rates decreased in eighteen Member States, in particular in Bulgaria (-2.9 percentage points), Estonia (-2.5 p.p.), the Netherlands, Lithuania and Denmark (-2.3 p.p.). On the other hand, the employment rates increased in six Member States: Malta (+1.0 p.p.), Sweden (+0.5 p.p.), Belgium (+0.4 p.p.), Romania, Germany (+0.2 p.p.) and Austria (+0.1 p.p.). The employment rates remained unchanged in 2010 in Luxembourg, Hungary and Poland.

In the context of the Europe 2020 strategy, the employment rate for the narrower age group of the 20 to 64 year-olds is used as one of the key indicators. In 2010, the EU employment rate for persons within this age class was down to 68.6% from 69.1% in 2009². The EU employment rate for the 20-64 age range was 75.1% for men and 62.1% for women.

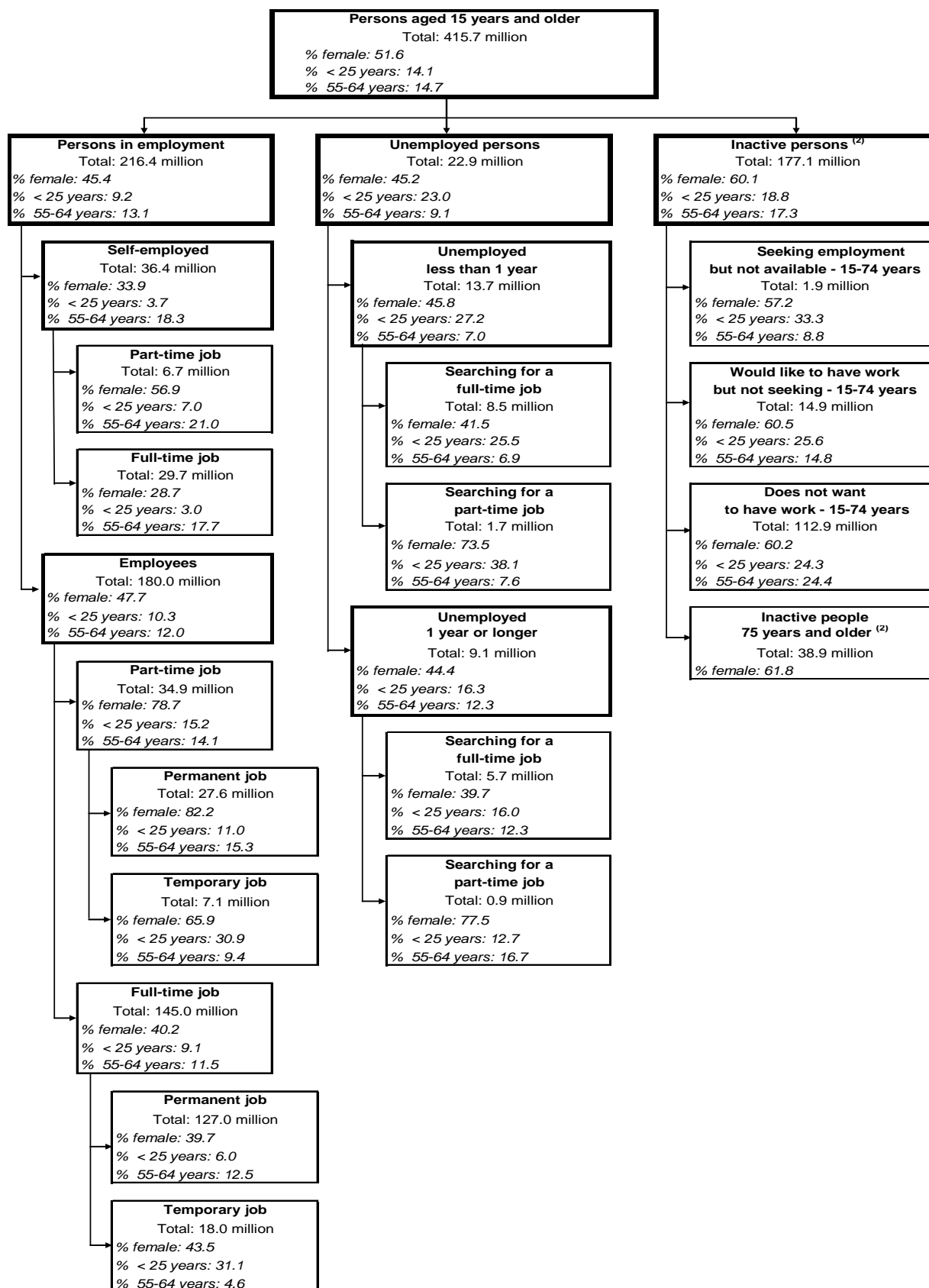
Figure 1: Employment rate¹ of persons in age groups 15-64 years and 20-64 years, 2010



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

Notes: (1) Employment rates represent employed persons (LFS concept. See methodological notes) as a percentage of the population in the same age group. (2) The new European Strategy for Jobs and Growth (Europe 2020) aims to raise to 75% the employment rate for men and women aged 20-64 for the EU as a whole. This headline target is translated into specific targets for each Member State (See [Conclusions of the European Council – 17 June 2010](#))

Figure 2: Labour status of persons aged 15 years and older, EU-27, 2010 (1)



Notes: (1) Due to non-response, certain sub-totals may not exactly sum up to the corresponding aggregate
 (2) Due to unavailability of 2010 data for Swedish population aged 75+, 2009Q4 results were used for needs of calculation of EU 27 aggregates for inactive persons

Total employment, employment rates and share of part-time employment

The labour force (i.e. the total of employed and unemployed persons) in the EU reached 239.3 million persons in 2010, which was a slight increase over 2009 (+0.3 million, 0.1%). However, the number of persons in employment decreased by 1.4 million, to 216.4 million persons in 2010. The crisis hit mostly men, for whom the drop in employment amounted to almost 0.9 million persons between 2009 and 2010. This decrease was more than double than that registered for women.

In contrast to the overall development, the EU employment rate of persons aged 55-64 went up to 46.3% (+0.3 p.p. compared to 2009). For females, it rose

to 38.6% (+0.8 p.p.) but for men it went down to 54.6% (-0.2 p.p.). Sweden recorded a very high employment rate of 70.5% in this age group. The countries with the lowest employment rates for persons aged 55-64 were Malta (30.2%), Poland (34.0%) and Hungary (34.4%).

Part-time employment also maintained its upward trend in 2010. Part-time employment as a percentage of total employment reached 18.5% in the EU, up by 0.4 p.p. from 2009. Among EU countries it was highest in the Netherlands (48.3%) and lowest in Bulgaria (2.2%) and Slovakia (3.8%)

Table 1 – Employed persons: number, employment rates and share of part-employment, by sex, 2010

	Total employment (1000)				Employment rates (%)						Part-time employment as a share of total employment (%)			
	Age 15 and older				Age 15-64				Age 55-64			Age 15-64		
	Total	Confidence limit	Men	Women	Total	Confidence limit	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU-27	216,449	± 529	118,256	98,194	64.2	± 0.2	70.1	58.2	46.3	54.6	38.6	18.5	7.8	31.4
EA16	140,470	± 259	77,281	63,188	64.2	± 0.1	70.5	57.9	45.7	53.8	38.1	19.9	7.6	34.9
BE	4,489	± 34	2,458	2,031	62.0	± 0.5	67.4	56.5	37.3	45.6	29.2	23.7	8.4	42.1
BG	3,053	± 56	1,608	1,445	59.7	± 1.1	63.0	56.4	43.5	50.3	37.7	2.2	2.0	2.4
CZ	4,885	± 35	2,798	2,087	65.0	± 0.5	73.5	56.3	46.5	58.4	35.5	5.1	2.2	9.1
DK	2,718	± 16	1,425	1,293	73.4	± 0.4	75.8	71.1	57.6	62.7	52.5	25.8	14.1	38.6
DE	38,738	± 105	20,892	17,846	71.1	± 0.2	76.0	66.1	57.7	65.0	50.5	25.5	8.7	45.0
EE	571	± 14	275	296	61.0	± 1.5	61.5	60.6	53.8	52.2	54.9	9.8	6.2	13.1
IE	1,844	± 22	987	856	60.0	± 0.7	63.9	56.0	50.0	58.1	42.0	21.9	11.1	34.2
EL	4,389	± 72	2,627	1,762	59.6	± 1.0	70.9	48.1	42.3	56.5	28.9	6.2	3.4	10.2
ES	18,456	± 112	10,290	8,167	58.6	± 0.4	64.7	52.3	43.6	54.7	33.2	13.1	5.2	23.1
FR	25,736	± 151	13,515	12,221	64.0	± 0.4	68.3	59.9	39.7	42.1	37.5	17.5	6.4	29.8
IT	22,872	± 82	13,634	9,238	56.9	± 0.2	67.7	46.1	36.6	47.6	26.2	14.8	5.1	29.0
CY	385	± 8	211	174	69.7	± 1.4	76.6	63.0	56.8	71.2	43.0	8.1	4.9	11.8
LV	941	± 12	455	486	59.3	± 0.7	59.2	59.4	48.2	47.5	48.7	9.3	7.5	11.0
LT	1,344	± 42	640	703	57.8	± 1.8	56.8	58.7	48.6	52.3	45.8	7.7	6.3	8.9
LU	221	± 4	125	96	65.2	± 1.3	73.1	57.2	39.6	47.7	31.3	17.5	3.4	35.8
HU	3,781	± 27	2,023	1,759	55.4	± 0.4	60.4	50.6	34.4	39.6	30.1	5.5	3.6	7.6
MT	165	± 2	108	56	56.0	± 0.8	72.3	39.2	30.2	47.9	12.9	11.6	4.9	24.4
NL	8,370	± 43	4,526	3,844	74.7	± 0.4	80.0	69.3	53.7	64.5	42.8	48.3	24.2	76.2
AT	4,096	± 39	2,197	1,899	71.7	± 0.7	77.1	66.4	42.4	51.6	33.7	24.3	7.8	43.3
PL	15,961	± 97	8,746	7,214	59.3	± 0.4	65.6	53.0	34.0	45.3	24.2	7.6	5.0	10.8
PT	4,978	± 53	2,645	2,334	65.6	± 0.7	70.1	61.1	49.2	55.7	43.5	8.4	4.9	12.3
RO	9,239	± 172	5,111	4,128	58.8	± 1.1	65.7	52.0	41.1	50.3	33.0	9.7	9.6	9.9
SI	966	± 15	523	443	66.2	± 1.0	69.6	62.6	35.0	45.5	24.5	10.3	7.4	13.6
SK	2,317	± 17	1,285	1,033	58.8	± 0.4	65.2	52.3	40.5	54.0	28.7	3.8	2.6	5.2
FI	2,447	± 12	1,259	1,188	68.1	± 0.3	69.4	66.9	56.2	55.6	56.9	13.9	8.9	19.0
SE	4,546	± 18	2,401	2,145	72.7	± 0.3	75.1	70.3	70.5	74.2	66.7	25.3	12.2	39.7
UK	28,942	± 410	15,491	13,451	69.5	± 1.0	74.5	64.6	57.1	65.0	49.5	25.7	11.0	42.4
IS	166	± 2	86	79	78.2	± 0.7	80.1	76.2	79.9	83.2	76.4	22.4	11.2	34.5
NO	2,501	± 16	1,315	1,186	75.3	± 0.5	77.3	73.3	68.6	72.2	65.0	27.6	14.3	42.4
CH	4,281	± 47	2,328	1,953	78.6	± 0.9	84.6	72.5	68.0	77.6	58.5	34.1	12.3	60.0
HR	1,541	± 53	830	711	54.1	± 1.9	59.5	48.8	35.7	47.0	25.8	7.6	5.4	10.1
MK	638	± 25	392	246	43.5	± 1.7	52.8	34.0	34.2	46.7	22.4	5.6	4.6	7.1
TR	22,593	± 230	16,169	6,424	46.3	± 0.5	66.7	26.2	29.6	42.7	17.1	11.1	6.2	23.2

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

Structure of employment by economic activity of the main job

Almost 70% of persons employed in the EU in 2010 worked in services. 39.2% produced market-oriented services such as trade, transportation, accommodation and food services, information and financial activities, and real estate. 30.3% were employed in public administration, education, human health, arts, entertainment and recreation and other services. A further 25.4% of the employed persons worked in industry and construction while 5.2% worked in agriculture.

Large differences remain between the EU Member States. Agriculture¹ is still the main source of employment in Romania (30.1% of the working population in 2010), whereas it accounts for a very small share (below 2%) in Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Malta. The relevance of industry was highest in the Czech Republic (38.0%) and Slovakia (37.1%) and lowest in Luxembourg (13.3%). The share of market services was highest in Cyprus (46.2%) and non-market services were most prominent in Luxembourg (41.5%).

Table 2 – Employed persons aged 15 years and older by sex: composition by economic activity (main job), 2010

(%)	Total				Men				Women			
	Agriculture	Industry	Market services	Non-market services	Agriculture	Industry	Market services	Non-market services	Agriculture	Industry	Market services	Non-market services
EU27	5.2	25.4	39.2	30.3	5.9	36.0	39.6	18.5	4.3	12.6	38.6	44.5
EA16	3.6	25.4	40.0	31.1	4.4	36.3	40.1	19.2	2.6	12.1	39.8	45.5
BE	1.4	23.4	38.0	37.3	1.7	34.3	40.9	23.1	0.9	10.1	34.5	54.5
BG ¹	6.8	33.3	38.1	21.9	8.2	40.9	36.4	14.5	5.2	24.8	39.9	30.1
CZ	3.1	38.0	35.2	23.7	4.0	49.0	33.1	13.9	1.9	23.2	38.0	36.9
DK	2.4	19.7	39.4	38.4	3.9	29.2	44.3	22.7	0.8	9.3	34.1	55.8
DE	1.6	28.4	39.6	30.4	2.0	40.3	38.6	19.1	1.2	14.4	40.8	43.7
EE	4.2	30.6	37.7	27.5	5.8	43.8	36.9	13.6	(2.8)	18.3	38.5	40.4
IE	4.6	19.5	44.2	31.6	7.7	28.8	45.9	17.6	1.1	8.8	42.3	47.8
EL	12.5	19.7	41.2	26.6	12.4	27.7	41.0	18.9	12.7	7.8	41.4	38.0
ES	4.3	23.1	43.3	29.3	5.7	33.9	41.9	18.5	2.5	9.5	45.0	42.9
FR	2.9	22.3	38.2	36.7	3.9	33.2	40.4	22.5	1.8	10.2	35.6	52.4
IT	3.8	28.8	40.4	27.1	4.5	38.7	39.8	17.0	2.8	14.1	41.2	42.0
CY	3.8	20.8	46.2	29.2	4.8	30.3	45.0	20.0	2.6	9.5	47.6	40.3
LV	8.8	24.0	40.7	26.5	12.0	34.6	39.7	13.7	5.8	14.0	41.7	38.6
LT	9.0	24.6	38.6	27.7	11.5	33.6	39.2	15.7	6.8	16.5	38.0	38.7
LU	(1.1)	13.3	44.0	41.5	(1.4)	19.9	47.5	31.1	:	4.8	39.5	55.0
HU	4.5	30.7	37.7	27.2	6.4	40.3	37.0	16.3	2.3	19.6	38.4	39.7
MT	(1.3)	24.9	44.0	29.8	(1.8)	31.1	45.3	21.9	:	13.0	41.6	45.1
NL	3.1	17.6	42.0	37.3	4.1	27.2	45.8	22.9	1.9	6.8	37.6	53.8
AT	5.2	24.9	42.2	27.7	5.4	36.5	39.9	18.1	5.0	11.5	44.8	38.7
PL	12.9	30.2	33.7	23.3	13.2	41.8	31.9	13.2	12.5	16.1	35.9	35.5
PT	10.9	27.7	34.9	26.5	11.1	37.8	36.1	15.0	10.7	16.2	33.5	39.6
RO	30.1	28.7	25.4	15.8	29.1	35.5	24.7	10.7	31.4	20.2	26.3	22.2
SI	8.8	32.6	35.2	23.4	9.1	42.8	34.5	13.7	8.5	20.6	36.2	34.8
SK	3.2	37.1	34.9	24.8	4.4	50.0	31.9	13.7	1.8	21.1	38.6	38.6
FI	4.4	23.3	39.1	33.2	6.0	35.9	41.4	16.7	2.8	9.9	36.6	50.7
SE	2.1	20.0	40.6	37.3	3.2	31.0	45.9	19.9	0.9	7.7	34.7	56.7
UK	1.2	19.3	43.5	36.0	1.7	29.5	46.8	21.9	0.6	7.5	39.6	52.3
IS	5.6	18.4	40.4	35.5	8.6	28.2	43.2	19.9	2.3	7.8	37.4	52.6
NO	2.5	19.7	38.2	39.6	3.9	31.2	42.8	22.1	1.0	7.0	33.0	59.0
CH	3.4	22.2	43.7	30.7	4.2	31.7	45.1	19.0	2.5	10.6	42.1	44.8
HR	14.9	27.3	35.8	22.0	13.7	38.2	35.1	13.0	16.3	14.5	36.7	32.5
MK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
TR	23.7	26.2	31.7	18.4	17.5	30.3	35.9	16.3	39.3	15.9	21.0	23.8

Source: Eurostat (online data code : [lfsa_eqan2](#)).

Figures shown in brackets lack reliability due to small sample size; ":" colons are used for unavailable or extremely unreliable data.

Note: (1) The estimates of employment in agriculture are influenced by persons growing agricultural products for own-consumption, as they are recorded as employed under some conditions.

Structure of employment by occupation in the main job

The largest occupational group in the EU in 2010 was that of skilled non-manual workers (comprising legislators, senior officials, managers, professionals, technicians and associate professionals) grouping together 39.9% of all employed persons. The share was the highest in Luxembourg (55.9%). Low-skilled non-manual workers (e.g. clerks, service, shop and market sales workers) and skilled manual workers (e.g. plant

and machine operators, craft workers) each accounted for around 25% of the EU total employment. The highest values for these two occupational groups were recorded in Ireland (32.3%) and Romania (50.2%) respectively. Lastly, 9.8% of employed persons in the EU had an elementary occupation, with the highest share being measured in Cyprus (17.7%).

Table 3- Employed persons aged 15 years and older by sex: composition by occupation (main job), 2010

(%)	Total				Men				Women			
	Skilled non manual	Low skilled non manual	Skilled manual	Elementary occup.	Skilled non manual	Low skilled non manual	Skilled manual	Elementary occup.	Skilled non manual	Low skilled non manual	Skilled manual	Elementary occup.
EU-27	39.9	24.9	25.5	9.8	38.2	14.3	38.9	8.6	41.8	37.5	9.4	11.2
EA16	40.7	25.2	24.1	10.0	39.4	14.8	37.8	8.0	42.2	37.7	7.5	12.5
BE	45.8	25.8	19.1	9.4	45.2	16.0	30.9	7.8	46.4	37.5	4.9	11.2
BG	30.4	24.8	32.4	12.5	25.6	16.6	44.5	13.3	35.6	33.7	19.0	11.6
CZ	40.8	20.3	33.8	5.1	37.2	10.8	48.5	3.5	45.7	33.0	14.2	7.1
DK	45.8	27.2	16.5	10.5	45.3	14.5	28.5	11.6	46.3	41.1	3.4	9.2
DE	43.6	24.8	23.2	8.4	41.5	13.3	37.9	7.4	46.1	38.1	6.2	9.6
EE	43.1	18.5	28.6	9.8	36.1	9.1	47.0	7.8	49.6	27.1	11.7	11.6
IE	43.2	32.3	16.8	7.7	43.8	18.6	28.8	8.9	42.4	48.1	3.2	6.3
EL	34.7	25.5	32.0	7.8	32.6	18.7	42.7	6.0	37.8	35.6	16.2	10.4
ES	35.2	26.7	23.9	14.1	33.6	17.2	38.6	10.6	37.3	38.7	5.5	18.6
FR	42.4	24.8	23.1	9.7	43.2	12.7	37.8	6.3	41.6	38.1	7.0	13.4
IT	38.3	24.2	26.8	10.7	35.9	16.6	38.8	8.6	41.6	35.3	9.3	13.8
CY	32.5	29.1	20.7	17.7	34.3	17.8	34.8	13.1	30.4	42.5	3.8	23.3
LV	40.4	20.3	25.8	13.5	34.1	9.5	42.6	13.7	46.3	30.4	10.1	13.2
LT	42.6	17.7	31.3	8.4	33.9	9.5	48.6	8.0	50.5	25.1	15.6	8.7
LU	55.9	20.5	15.0	8.6	55.6	14.9	24.6	4.9	56.2	27.7	(2.7)	13.4
HU	35.4	24.4	31.4	8.8	29.9	15.6	47.2	7.3	41.8	34.5	13.3	10.4
MT	36.7	29.9	21.1	12.3	33.9	23.0	28.7	14.4	41.9	43.1	6.7	8.2
NL	49.7	26.2	15.4	8.8	50.4	14.7	26.0	8.8	48.8	39.6	3.0	8.7
AT	38.0	27.6	23.4	10.9	39.8	14.7	36.4	9.1	36.0	42.5	8.5	13.0
PL	35.2	19.7	37.5	7.6	28.6	12.2	52.9	6.3	43.1	28.6	19.1	9.2
PT	25.6	25.1	36.8	12.5	25.5	16.2	50.4	7.9	25.7	35.1	21.5	17.8
RO	22.0	16.1	50.2	11.7	18.3	10.0	59.3	12.4	26.7	23.5	39.2	10.7
SI	41.5	21.1	29.1	8.3	37.6	14.6	41.4	6.4	46.0	28.7	14.7	10.6
SK	37.7	21.0	32.8	8.6	30.3	12.0	48.7	9.0	46.8	32.0	13.2	8.0
FI	46.6	22.4	23.1	7.8	46.3	9.1	37.6	6.9	47.0	36.5	7.8	8.8
SE	47.1	26.5	20.7	5.8	45.5	14.2	34.7	5.6	48.8	40.1	5.1	5.9
UK	43.7	30.4	15.7	10.2	45.7	15.3	27.2	11.8	41.4	47.6	2.6	8.4
IS	47.4	25.8	21.1	5.7	41.4	17.3	35.8	5.5	53.9	35.1	5.1	5.9
NO	44.9	31.1	19.5	4.4	43.7	19.3	33.7	3.3	46.3	44.2	3.8	5.7
CH	47.9	24.3	21.8	5.9	48.7	13.9	33.5	3.9	47.0	36.7	8.0	8.2
HR	32.1	25.9	34.8	7.3	30.8	16.8	45.9	6.5	33.5	36.3	22.0	8.2
MK	27.0	22.0	25.1	25.9	24.4	19.8	30.0	25.8	31.0	25.5	17.4	26.2
TR	21.4	19.0	44.7	14.9	22.1	18.5	45.8	13.6	19.6	20.1	42.0	18.3

Source: Eurostat (online data code : [lfsa_eqais](#)).

Figures shown in brackets lack reliability due to small sample size; “:” colons are used for unavailable or extremely unreliable data.

Main characteristics of employees

Employees accounted for 83.1% of total EU employment in 2010. Their share was over 90% of all employed persons in Estonia (91.8%), Luxembourg (91.7%) and Denmark (91.2%), but it was below 70% in Greece (64.0%) and Romania (65.6%).

In 2010 employees in a full-time regime usually worked 40.4 hours per week. In the United Kingdom and Austria, full-time employees worked longer weekly hours, 42.2 and 42.0, respectively, whereas the usual weekly working hours by full-time employees were lower than 39.0 in Denmark (37.7), Ireland (38.4) and

the Netherlands (38.9). The usual weekly hours worked by part-time employees amounted to 20.2 on average in EU in 2010. They were highest in Romania (24.6), Sweden (24.5), Hungary (24.2) and Belgium (24.1), and lowest in Germany (18.4), Ireland (18.8), Denmark and Spain (18.9). The share of employees with temporary work contracts averaged 14.0% in the EU, most of them in Poland (27.3%) and Spain (24.9%), whereas it was below 5% in Romania (1.1%), Lithuania (2.4%), Estonia (3.7%) and Bulgaria (4.5%).

Table 4 – Employees aged 15 years and older: number, average hours usually worked per week and share of temporary contracts (main job), by sex, 2010

	Number of employees			Hours usually worked per week						Share of employees with limited duration contract (%)		
	(1000)			Full time			Part time			Total	Men	Women
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women			
EU-27	179,970	94,154	85,816	40.4	41.1	39.3	20.2	19.3	20.5	14.0	13.4	14.6
EA16	117,692	61,918	55,773	39.9	40.6	38.9	20.2	19.4	20.4	15.7	14.8	16.6
BE	3,844	2,032	1,812	39.2	39.8	38.2	24.1	24.7	23.9	8.1	6.8	9.6
BG	2,663	1,368	1,295	41.2	41.4	41.0	20.5	21.1	20.2	4.5	5.0	4.0
CZ	4,019	2,186	1,833	41.2	41.8	40.3	21.8	21.1	22.1	8.9	7.5	10.6
DK	2,478	1,254	1,224	37.7	38.1	37.3	18.9	14.7	20.6	8.6	8.3	8.8
DE	34,260	17,914	16,346	40.6	41.0	39.8	18.4	17.0	18.7	14.7	14.5	14.9
EE	524	244	280	40.7	41.2	40.2	21.2	21.5	21.1	3.7	(4.7)	(2.8)
IE	1,529	738	791	38.4	39.9	36.6	18.8	19.4	18.6	9.3	8.6	10.0
EL	2,811	1,601	1,210	40.5	41.4	39.3	20.7	21.9	20.1	12.4	10.9	14.4
ES	15,347	8,195	7,151	40.4	41.1	39.3	18.9	18.5	19.0	24.9	23.9	26.1
FR	22,779	11,487	11,291	39.4	40.1	38.5	23.2	22.1	23.4	15.1	14.2	16.0
IT	17,110	9,581	7,528	39.0	40.1	36.9	22.1	22.5	22.0	12.8	11.4	14.5
CY	313	161	152	41.1	41.8	40.2	20.9	19.1	21.7	13.5	7.0	20.5
LV	833	393	440	40.4	40.8	40.0	21.8	21.9	21.7	6.8	8.9	5.0
LT	1,196	557	640	39.6	40.0	39.3	21.1	20.9	21.2	2.4	3.3	(1.7)
LU	202	113	89	40.0	40.5	39.0	21.2	19.7	21.4	7.1	6.2	8.3
HU	3,317	1,714	1,603	40.5	40.8	40.1	24.2	24.6	24.0	9.7	10.1	9.2
MT	141	89	53	40.5	41.2	39.2	21.0	20.8	21.0	5.7	4.7	7.3
NL	7,113	3,709	3,404	38.9	39.2	38.1	19.9	19.3	20.1	18.5	17.3	19.9
AT	3,533	1,848	1,684	42.0	42.5	40.9	20.9	19.0	21.3	9.3	9.8	8.8
PL	12,327	6,547	5,780	40.9	42.1	39.5	22.2	22.6	22.0	27.3	27.4	27.1
PT	3,845	1,981	1,864	40.2	41.0	39.4	20.0	21.4	19.5	23.0	22.4	23.6
RO	6,061	3,320	2,742	41.1	41.3	40.8	24.6	(26.7)	23.5	1.1	1.3	1.0
SI	799	419	381	41.1	41.4	40.7	19.9	19.7	20.0	17.3	15.4	19.3
SK	1,947	1,011	936	40.6	41.0	40.1	20.5	19.5	21.2	5.8	5.6	5.9
FI	2,120	1,038	1,082	39.1	40.0	38.2	20.4	19.5	20.8	15.5	12.4	18.4
SE	4,048	2,041	2,007	39.9	40.0	39.8	24.5	21.3	25.5	15.8	14.0	17.6
UK	24,810	12,612	12,199	42.2	43.5	40.1	19.3	18.4	19.5	6.1	5.8	6.5
IS	144	72	72	43.8	45.9	40.9	20.4	17.1	21.5	12.4	12.0	12.8
NO	2,308	1,174	1,134	38.4	38.7	38.0	19.6	17.4	20.4	8.4	7.0	9.8
CH	3,624	1,922	1,702	41.8	41.9	41.6	21.4	23.1	21.0	13.1	13.0	13.2
HR	1,193	637	556	41.2	41.6	40.9	(21.2)	:	(21.3)	12.3	12.1	12.6
MK	456	271	185	43.1	43.6	42.4	(21.8)	(22.1)	(21.6)	16.4	18.6	13.3
TR	13,759	10,499	3,259	52.2	53.3	48.4	20.6	20.9	20.1	11.5	11.1	12.5

Source: Eurostat (online data codes : [lfsi_emp_a](#), [lfsa_ewhuis](#)).

Figures shown in brackets lack reliability due to small sample size; ":" colons are used for unavailable or extremely unreliable data.

Unemployment

In 2010 unemployment¹ in the EU increased by 1.6 million persons to reach 22.9 million. For both men and women, it went up by 0.8 million persons to 12.5 million and 10.4 million, respectively.

The EU unemployment rate reached 9.6% in 2010, for both men and women, growing on average by 0.7 p.p. compared with 2009. In 2010 the rate ranged from 4.4% in Luxembourg and in Austria, and 4.5% in the Netherlands to 20.1% in Spain, followed by Latvia (18.7%), Lithuania (17.8%) and Estonia (16.9%).

Almost 40% of the unemployed in the EU in 2010 had been without work for 12 months or more. The long-

term unemployed accounted for over half of total unemployment in Slovakia (64%) and Portugal (52.3%), while their share was below or just over 20% in Sweden (17.8%), Denmark (19.1%) and Cyprus (20.4%).

Nine percent of the young population aged 15-24 in the EU were unemployed in 2010. The highest ratio² of youth unemployment was recorded in Spain (17.8%). This value was almost 4 p.p. higher than that observed in the second country in the ranking, Latvia (13.9%). The lowest ratios, below or just above 5%, were recorded in Luxembourg, Germany and Austria.

Table 5 – Unemployed persons: number, unemployment rate, share of long-term unemployment and youth unemployment ratio, by sex, 2010

	Total unemployment (1000)				Unemployment rate (%)			Share of long-term-unemployment (%)			Youth unemployment ratio (%)
	Total	Confidence limit	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
EU-27	22,892	± 233	12,538	10,354	9.6	9.6	9.6	39.9	40.5	39.1	9.0
EA16	15,562	± 182	8,382	7,180	10	9.8	10.2	42.5	42.5	42.5	8.7
BE	406	± 18	217	189	8.3	8.1	8.5	48.8	49.6	47.8	7.3
BG	348	± 22	196	152	10.2	10.9	9.5	46.4	46.3	46.5	6.7
CZ	384	± 15	191	193	7.3	6.4	8.5	40.9	40.0	41.9	5.7
DK	218	± 11	128	91	7.4	8.2	6.6	19.1	20.6	16.9	9.3
DE	2,946	± 40	1,696	1,249	7.1	7.5	6.6	47.3	48.1	46.3	5.1
EE	116	± 8	67	49	16.9	19.5	14.3	45.4	48.4	41.2	12.6
IE	288	± 10	198	90	13.5	16.8	9.5	49.0	53.9	38.2	11.6
EL	629	± 22	289	340	12.6	9.9	16.2	45.0	38.8	50.3	10.0
ES	4,632	± 85	2,529	2,103	20.1	19.7	20.5	36.6	35.9	37.4	17.8
FR	2,643	± 67	1,333	1,310	9.3	9.0	9.7	40.1	41.5	38.7	8.9
IT	2,102	± 42	1,114	989	8.4	7.6	9.7	48.5	47.2	49.9	7.9
CY	25	± 3	13	12	6.2	6.1	6.4	20.4	21.0	19.8	6.8
LV	216	± 10	126	90	18.7	21.7	15.7	45.0	48.2	40.6	13.9
LT	291	± 22	172	119	17.8	21.2	14.5	41.4	42.3	40.2	10.4
LU	10	± 1	5	5	4.4	3.8	5.1	(29.3)	(32.3)	(26.5)	(3.5)
HU	475	± 18	264	210	11.2	11.6	10.7	49.3	49.9	48.6	6.6
MT	12	± 1	8	4	6.9	6.8	7.1	46.2	50.6	(38.0)	6.7
NL	390	± 14	208	182	4.5	4.4	4.5	27.6	27.6	27.5	6.0
AT	188	± 9	105	83	4.4	4.6	4.2	25.2	27.8	22.0	5.2
PL	1,699	± 60	896	803	9.6	9.3	10.0	31.1	30.8	31.5	8.2
PT	603	± 30	287	315	11.0	10.0	12.1	52.3	51.7	52.8	8.2
RO	725	± 46	437	288	7.3	7.9	6.5	34.9	36.9	32.0	6.9
SI	75	± 5	42	33	7.3	7.5	7.1	43.3	45.0	41.2	5.9
SK	389	± 18	213	177	14.4	14.2	14.6	64.0	63.2	65.1	10.4
FI	224	± 6	126	98	8.4	9.1	7.6	24.0	27.8	19.1	10.6
SE	417	± 8	224	194	8.4	8.5	8.3	17.8	19.7	15.5	13.0
UK	2,440	± 115	1,455	985	7.8	8.6	6.8	32.7	37.2	26.0	11.6
IS	14	± 1	8	6	7.6	8.3	6.7	17.5	18.7	:	11.9
NO	91	± 8	55	36	3.5	4.0	2.9	20.6	22.9	17.0	5.3
CH	204	± 14	101	103	4.6	4.2	5.0	31.7	28.6	34.8	5.3
HR	206	± 15	107	99	11.8	11.4	12.3	44.4	41.4	47.7	11.9
MK	300	± 14	183	117	32.0	31.9	32.3	83.1	83.5	82.4	17.9
TR	2,696	± 70	1,870	826	10.7	10.4	11.4	26.1	22.6	34.2	7.4

Source: Eurostat (online data codes : [une_nb_a](#), [une_rt_a](#), [une_ltu_a](#)).

Figures shown in brackets lack reliability due to small sample size; “:” colons are used for unavailable or extremely unreliable data.

Notes: (1) Total unemployment, the unemployment rate and the share of long-term unemployment refer to persons aged 15-74.

(2) While the unemployment rate is defined as the share of unemployed in the labour force, the unemployment ratio relates the number of unemployed of a given age to the total population of that age.

(3) Portugal recently released 2011Q1 unemployment figures with a new methodology leading to a break with the 2010 data reported here

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Source: the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) is a large sample, quarterly survey providing results for the population in private households in the EU, EFTA, and the Candidate Countries. Conscripts in military or community service are not included in the results.

The yearly sampling rates (population aged 15 and older) vary between 0.68% and 6.33%. The concepts and definitions used in the survey follow the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation.

Reference period: Yearly results are obtained as annual averages of quarterly results.

Coverage: The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions)

Country codes: 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), the United Kingdom (UK), Iceland (IS), Norway (NO), Switzerland (CH), Croatia (HR), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK), 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.

European aggregates: EU refers to the sum of EU-27 Member States. When data are unavailable for a country, the calculation of the corresponding aggregates takes into account the data for the same country one year before.

Definitions: Employment (LFS concept) covers persons aged 15 years and over, living in private households, who during the reference week performed work, even for just one hour, for pay, profit or family gain, or were not at work but had a job or business from which they were

temporarily absent, for example because of illness, holidays, industrial dispute or education and training. The LFS employment concept differs from NA domestic employment, as the latter sets no limit on age or type of household, and also includes the non-resident population contributing to GDP and conscripts in military or community service.

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. Youth unemployment is the unemployment level among persons aged 15 to 24.

Definitions of indicators presented in this publication are on the Eurostat website:

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

Classifications: Economic activity: the breakdown of employed persons by economic activity is based on the classification NACE Rev 2 with the following correspondence: NACE section A - agriculture, sections B to F - industry, sections G to N - market services, and sections O to U - non-market services.

Occupation: The breakdown of employed persons by occupation is based on the classification ISCO 88-COM (groups 1 to 3 for 'skilled non manual', 4 to 5 for 'low skilled non manual', 6 to 8 for 'skilled manual' and 9 for 'elementary occupations'; armed forces are excluded from the calculation).

Confidence limits: All confidence limits in tables 1 and 5 are calculated at a level of confidence 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 year available is used instead. To calculate the limits of aggregates, it is assumed that the EU-LFS is a stratified sample, with the country as the first stratum.

Further information

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

Data on 'Population and Social conditions, Labour force survey':

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

Further information about 'Population and Social conditions, Labour force survey':

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

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