

European Union Labour Force Survey - Annual results 2011

In 2011 the picture of the EU labour market was still being determined by the economic and financial crisis, although the negative trend of recent years came to a halt. The EU employment rate¹ for those persons of working age (15-64) was up slightly by 0.1 p.p. in 2011 to 64.3 % (see Figure 1). It was unchanged at 70.1 % for men and rose to 58.5 % (+0.3 p.p.) for women.

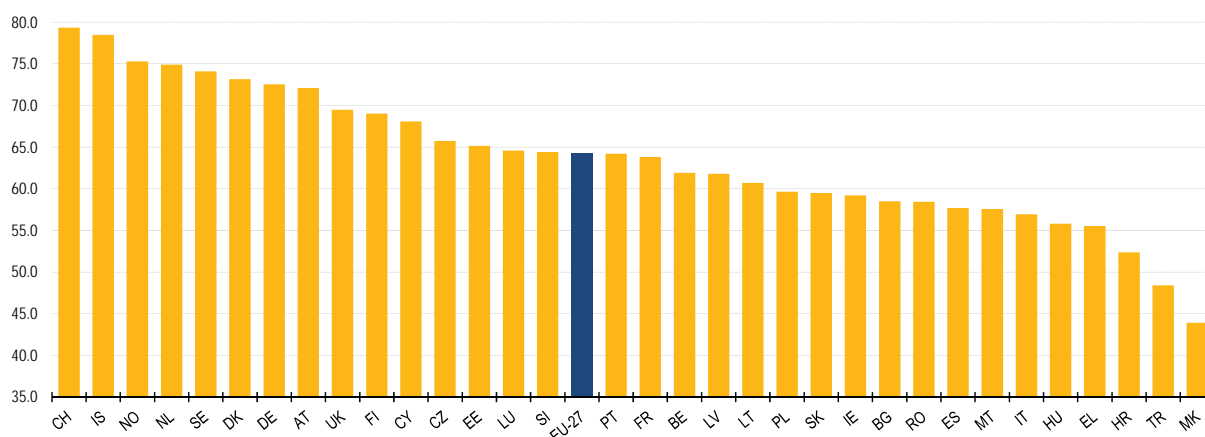
This publication presents the main results of the EU Labour Force Survey for the year 2011.

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 (74.9 %), Sweden (74.1 %), Denmark (73.1 %), Germany (72.5 %) and Austria (72.1 %). However, there were ten Member States that did not reach 60 %. The lowest employment rates were observed in Greece (55.6 %), Hungary (55.8 %), Italy (56.9 %), Malta (57.6 %) and Spain (57.7 %).

The employment rates for the participating EFTA countries were above 75 %, with Switzerland and Iceland recording 79.3 % and 78.5 % respectively in 2011. Compared with 2010, the employment rate rose in fourteen Member States. The highest increases were recorded in Estonia (+4.1 percentage points), Lithuania (+2.9 p.p.), Latvia (+2.5 p.p.), Malta (+1.5 p.p.), Sweden and Germany (+1.4 p.p.). On the other hand, the employment rate fell in twelve Member States, notably in Greece (-4.0 p.p.), Slovenia (-1.8 p.p.) and Cyprus (-1.6 p.p.).

In the context of the Europe 2020 strategy², the employment rate for the narrower age group of 20 to 64 year-olds is used as one of the headline indicators. The EU employment rate for persons within this age class remained stable at 68.6 % from 2010 to 2011, but was still well below the target rate of 75 %. The EU employment rate for the 20-64 age group was 75.0 % for men and 62.3 % for women.

Figure 1: Employment rate¹ of persons aged 15-64 years, 2011



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

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 European Strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive 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](#)).
 For detailed data at EU and at national level for the 20-64 age group see dedicated section [Europe 2020 indicators](#).

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

The labour force in the EU (i.e. the total of employed and unemployed persons) reached 240.2 million persons in 2011, which was an increase of 0.9 million, or 0.4 % compared with 2010. The number of persons in employment rose by 0.7 million, to 217.2 million persons in 2011; this rise was mainly due to an increase in the number of women employed (+0.5 million persons) which was more than double the rise for men (+0.2 million).

The employment rate of persons aged 55-64 in the EU rose to 47.4 % (+1.1 p.p. compared with 2010). It also rose to 40.2% for women (+1.6 p.p.) and to 55.2 % for men (+0.6 p.p.). Sweden recorded a very high employment rate of 72.3 % in this age

group. The countries with the lowest employment rates for persons aged 55-64 were Slovenia (31.2 %), Malta (31.7 %), Hungary (35.8 %) and Poland (36.9 %).

Part-time employment continued its upward trend in 2011. Its share of total employment reached 18.8 % in the EU, up by 0.3 p.p. from 2010.

Among the EU countries it was highest in the Netherlands (48.5 %) and lowest in Bulgaria (2.2 %) and Slovakia (3.9 %). The percentage of women in part-time employment in the EU (31.6 %) is about four times higher than that for men (8.1 %).

Table 1: Employed persons: number, employment rates and share of part-time employment, by sex, 2011

	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	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU-27	217 169	118 449	98 719	64.3	70.1	58.5	47.4	55.2	40.2	18.8	8.1	31.6
EA-17	141 471	77 558	63 913	64.2	70.3	58.2	47.1	54.6	40.0	20.3	8.1	35.2
BE	4 509	2 462	2 047	61.9	67.1	56.7	38.7	46.0	31.6	24.7	9.2	43.3
BG	2 950	1 536	1 413	58.5	60.9	56.2	43.9	49.9	38.8	2.2	2.0	2.4
CZ	4 904	2 794	2 110	65.7	74.0	57.2	47.6	58.9	37.2	4.7	1.8	8.5
DK	2 703	1 421	1 282	73.1	75.9	70.4	59.5	63.8	55.3	25.1	14.2	37.0
DE	39 738	21 404	18 334	72.5	77.3	67.7	59.9	67.0	53.0	25.7	9.0	45.1
EE	609	301	308	65.1	67.7	62.8	57.2	57.3	57.1	9.3	5.0	13.5
IE	1 809	966	842	59.2	63.1	55.4	50.0	57.2	42.9	22.9	12.2	35.1
EL	4 091	2 441	1 649	55.6	65.9	45.1	39.4	52.3	27.3	6.6	4.2	10.0
ES	18 105	9 991	8 113	57.7	63.2	52.0	44.5	53.9	35.6	13.7	5.9	23.4
FR	25 764	13 535	12 229	63.8	68.1	59.7	41.4	44.0	39.0	17.6	6.5	29.9
IT	22 967	13 619	9 349	56.9	67.5	46.5	37.9	48.4	28.1	15.2	5.5	29.3
CY	376	205	170	68.1	74.7	61.6	55.2	69.8	41.2	8.7	5.9	12.1
LV	971	479	492	61.8	62.8	60.8	51.1	52.6	49.9	8.8	7.3	10.3
LT	1 371	667	704	60.7	60.9	60.5	50.5	54.5	47.4	8.2	6.5	9.8
LU	225	127	97	64.6	72.1	56.9	39.3	47.0	31.3	18.0	4.3	36.0
HU	3 812	2 057	1 755	55.8	61.2	50.6	35.8	39.8	32.4	6.4	4.4	8.8
MT	169	110	58	57.6	73.6	41.0	31.7	50.1	13.8	12.4	5.4	25.5
NL	8 369	4 499	3 870	74.9	79.8	69.9	56.1	65.8	46.4	48.5	24.3	76.5
AT	4 144	2 228	1 916	72.1	77.8	66.5	41.5	50.6	32.9	24.3	7.8	43.4
PL	16 130	8 892	7 239	59.7	66.3	53.1	36.9	47.8	27.3	7.3	4.7	10.4
PT	4 837	2 575	2 263	64.2	68.1	60.4	47.9	54.2	42.1	10.1	7.0	13.7
RO	9 138	5 026	4 112	58.5	65.0	52.0	40.0	48.9	32.2	9.3	8.7	10.1
SI	936	506	430	64.4	67.7	60.9	31.2	39.5	22.7	9.5	7.1	12.2
SK	2 351	1 310	1 041	59.5	66.3	52.7	41.4	52.6	31.5	3.9	2.6	5.6
FI	2 474	1 278	1 196	69.0	70.6	67.4	57.0	56.8	57.2	14.1	9.4	19.0
SE	4 642	2 443	2 199	74.1	76.3	71.8	72.3	75.7	68.9	24.7	12.0	38.7
UK	29 078	15 576	13 502	69.5	74.5	64.5	56.7	64.2	49.6	25.5	11.0	42.2
IS	166	86	80	78.5	80.3	76.6	79.2	82.0	76.3	20.5	9.9	31.7
NO	2 536	1 332	1 204	75.3	77.1	73.4	69.6	72.9	66.1	27.3	13.7	42.1
CH	4 365	2 378	1 988	79.3	85.3	73.2	69.5	79.1	60.0	34.0	12.5	59.4
HR	1 493	813	680	52.4	57.9	47.0	37.1	48.4	27.0	7.6	5.9	9.6
MK	645	389	256	43.9	52.3	35.3	35.4	47.3	24.0	6.0	5.5	6.7
TR	24 099	17 131	6 969	48.4	69.2	27.8	31.4	45.4	17.9	11.3	6.2	24.1

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsa_eqan](#), [lfsa_ergan](#), [lfsa_eppga](#))

Structure of employment by economic activity of the main job

Almost 70 % of employed persons in the EU in 2011 worked in services. 39.4 % produced market-oriented services such as trade, transportation, accommodation and food services, information and financial activities and real estate. 30.4 % were employed in public administration, education, human health, arts, entertainment and recreation and other services. A further 25.2 % of employed persons worked in industry and construction, while 5.0 % worked in agriculture.

Differences still persist between the EU Member States. Agriculture¹ continues to be a very significant source of employment in Romania (28.6 % of the working population in 2011), whereas it accounts for only 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 (38.4 %) and Slovakia (37.4 %), and lowest in Luxembourg (13.4 %). The share of market services was highest in Cyprus (45.3 %), and non-market services were most prominent in Luxembourg (41.7 %). 44.5 % of the women employed in the EU worked in non-market services and 12.6 % in industry and construction. For men, the picture is almost the reverse, as 35.7 % worked in industry and 18.6 % in non-market services. The percentage of women and men in market services was nearly the same (38.8 % and 39.9 % respectively).

Table 2: Employed persons aged 15 years and older by sex: composition by economic activity (main job), 2011
(in %)

	Total				Men				Women			
	Agriculture ¹	Industry	Market services	Non-market services	Agriculture ¹	Industry	Market services	Non-market services	Agriculture ¹	Industry	Market services	Non-market services
EU-27	5.0	25.2	39.4	30.4	5.7	35.7	39.9	18.6	4.1	12.6	38.8	44.5
EA-17	3.5	25.1	40.2	31.2	4.3	35.9	40.4	19.4	2.5	12.1	39.8	45.6
BE	1.3	23.2	38.4	37.1	1.6	34.5	41.0	22.8	0.9	9.7	35.2	54.2
BG	6.8	31.8	39.0	22.4	8.6	38.4	38.0	15.0	4.9	24.6	40.0	30.5
CZ	3.0	38.4	35.5	23.1	3.8	49.4	33.6	13.2	1.9	23.9	38.0	36.2
DK	2.4	19.9	39.3	38.4	3.8	29.4	44.0	22.9	0.9	9.4	34.1	55.6
DE	1.6	28.3	39.8	30.3	2.0	40.3	39.0	18.7	1.2	14.3	40.7	43.9
EE	4.4	32.6	37.2	25.8	6.5	46.2	34.6	12.7	(2.4)	19.2	39.8	38.6
IE	4.6	18.9	44.6	31.9	7.7	27.7	46.8	17.8	1.0	8.8	42.0	48.1
EL	12.4	17.8	42.5	27.3	12.2	24.7	42.7	20.4	12.7	7.6	42.2	37.5
ES	4.2	21.8	44.1	29.9	5.6	32.3	42.6	19.4	2.4	8.8	45.8	42.9
FR	2.9	22.2	38.3	36.6	3.9	32.6	40.7	22.8	1.9	10.6	35.6	51.9
IT	3.7	28.5	40.2	27.7	4.4	38.2	40.0	17.4	2.7	14.3	40.5	42.6
CY	3.9	21.4	45.3	29.4	5.0	32.0	43.9	19.0	2.5	8.7	46.9	41.8
LV	9.5	23.6	40.9	26.0	13.4	32.9	40.2	13.5	5.6	14.6	41.5	38.3
LT	8.5	24.6	39.4	27.5	10.7	33.3	40.2	15.8	6.5	16.3	38.7	38.5
LU	(1.2)	13.4	43.7	41.7	(1.6)	20.4	46.7	31.3	:	4.2	39.7	55.3
HU	4.8	30.7	37.7	26.7	6.7	40.1	36.8	16.4	2.6	19.8	38.8	38.8
MT	(1.1)	24.6	43.4	30.8	(1.6)	31.0	44.6	22.8	:	12.7	41.1	46.0
NL	2.8	17.1	42.4	37.7	3.8	26.6	46.6	23.0	1.7	6.6	37.7	54.0
AT	5.3	26.0	42.0	26.7	5.5	37.7	39.3	17.5	5.1	12.4	45.0	37.5
PL	12.7	30.6	33.9	22.8	13.2	42.1	31.7	13.0	12.0	16.5	36.6	34.9
PT	9.9	27.3	35.2	27.6	11.0	37.2	35.7	16.1	8.6	16.1	34.7	40.6
RO	28.6	28.8	26.3	16.3	27.3	35.9	25.6	11.3	30.2	20.1	27.2	22.5
SI	8.6	31.7	35.8	24.0	9.2	42.9	34.4	13.5	7.9	18.4	37.3	36.4
SK	3.0	37.4	34.9	24.7	4.3	50.2	32.0	13.5	1.4	21.3	38.5	38.8
FI	4.2	23.0	39.0	33.8	5.9	35.8	41.0	17.3	2.4	9.3	36.9	51.4
SE	2.0	20.0	40.7	37.4	3.0	31.1	45.8	20.0	0.9	7.6	34.9	56.6
UK	1.2	19.2	43.6	36.0	1.7	29.3	47.3	21.7	0.7	7.5	39.4	52.4
IS	5.5	18.6	42.2	33.8	8.8	28.2	44.0	19.0	1.9	8.1	40.1	49.9
NO	2.4	20.2	37.7	39.7	3.7	31.8	42.4	22.1	0.9	7.4	32.5	59.2
CH	3.6	22.1	43.8	30.6	4.1	31.9	45.2	18.8	2.9	10.2	42.1	44.8
HR	15.4	27.5	35.5	21.7	14.7	37.2	35.1	13.0	16.2	15.9	35.8	32.0
MK	18.7	30.0	29.1	22.1	18.7	33.0	29.9	18.4	18.8	25.5	27.9	27.9
TR	24.2	26.5	31.2	18.2	18.0	31.1	35.1	15.9	39.4	15.2	21.5	24.0

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

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

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

Skilled non-manual workers (i.e. legislators, senior officials, managers, professionals, technicians and associate professionals) were the largest occupational group in the EU in 2011, accounting for 39.4 % of all employed persons. Luxembourg had the highest share, at 56.4 %. 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) accounted for 27.1 % and 24.0 % respectively of EU total employment. In 2011, Greece recorded the highest value for the low-skilled non-manual occupational group, at 32.1 %, and Romania for

skilled manual workers (49.3 %). Lastly, 9.4 % of employed persons in the EU had an elementary occupation, with Cyprus accounting for the highest share (17.4 %). The percentage of men and women who worked as skilled non-manual workers was fairly similar (38.2 % and 40.8 % respectively). The groups of skilled manual and low-skilled non-manual workers recorded bigger differences, with 36.8 % of men working as skilled manual workers and 17.0 % as low-skilled non-manual workers. The figures were the reverse for women (8.8 % skilled manual workers and 39.1 % low-skilled non-manual workers).

Table 3: Employed persons 15 and older by sex: composition by occupation (main job), 2011
(in %)

	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	39.4	27.1	24.0	9.4	38.2	17.0	36.8	7.9	40.8	39.1	8.8	11.2
EA-17	39.7	28.2	22.2	9.9	39.2	18.1	35.1	7.7	40.3	40.4	6.8	12.5
BE	43.8	27.3	18.8	10.1	43.9	17.9	31.5	6.7	43.6	38.4	3.7	14.2
BG	29.9	28.6	31.7	9.8	24.9	20.2	43.9	10.9	35.2	37.5	18.7	8.6
CZ	36.8	24.8	33.0	5.4	35.6	13.4	47.7	3.3	38.4	39.8	13.5	8.3
DK	44.3	28.8	16.3	10.7	42.4	18.8	28.0	10.8	46.4	39.8	3.4	10.5
DE	43.1	27.6	20.6	8.7	42.2	17.3	33.8	6.7	44.2	39.6	5.3	10.9
EE	41.6	18.8	30.6	9.1	35.3	9.0	48.3	7.4	47.7	28.3	13.3	10.7
IE	40.1	30.7	20.3	8.9	38.5	16.6	34.5	10.4	42.0	46.8	4.2	7.1
EL	30.2	32.1	30.5	7.3	27.4	26.8	40.4	5.4	34.1	39.7	16.0	10.1
ES	32.0	31.8	22.8	13.3	31.9	21.8	37.0	9.3	32.2	44.0	5.6	18.3
FR	44.7	26.9	18.4	10.0	46.6	15.4	30.2	7.8	42.6	39.4	5.6	12.4
IT	34.9	28.8	26.0	10.4	33.4	19.8	37.9	8.9	37.0	41.6	8.8	12.6
CY	34.3	28.0	20.2	17.4	34.5	19.3	34.5	11.8	34.2	38.4	3.2	24.2
LV	38.8	20.6	26.1	14.5	31.7	10.3	42.7	15.2	45.7	30.5	10.0	13.8
LT	43.0	18.1	31.2	7.7	34.6	10.3	47.5	7.5	50.9	25.4	15.8	7.9
LU	56.4	20.6	15.4	7.5	55.2	15.8	25.6	3.4	58.0	27.0	(2.2)	12.8
HU	35.8	23.8	31.7	8.7	30.3	15.4	46.7	7.6	42.2	33.5	14.3	10.0
MT	38.3	31.3	20.4	10.0	38.0	22.8	27.6	11.6	38.8	47.2	7.0	7.0
NL	46.8	29.1	15.9	8.1	48.4	16.8	26.8	8.0	44.9	43.3	3.5	8.3
AT	37.8	28.8	24.9	8.5	39.4	16.1	38.3	6.2	36.1	43.4	9.3	11.2
PL	34.7	21.2	37.2	7.0	28.0	14.1	52.5	5.5	42.8	29.8	18.6	8.8
PT	29.4	24.7	34.1	11.8	29.4	17.0	47.7	5.9	29.4	33.4	18.8	18.4
RO	23.1	17.1	49.3	10.6	19.5	11.6	58.5	10.4	27.3	23.8	38.1	10.8
SI	42.2	20.7	28.6	8.4	36.5	15.0	42.3	6.3	49.0	27.4	12.7	10.9
SK	36.0	23.4	31.8	8.8	29.9	14.1	47.9	8.2	43.6	35.1	11.7	9.5
FI	43.6	26.4	23.7	6.3	42.6	13.3	39.3	4.7	44.7	40.3	7.1	7.9
SE	47.4	26.9	20.7	5.0	45.1	15.4	35.2	4.2	50.0	39.4	4.7	5.8
UK	45.7	29.6	15.1	9.6	47.1	16.5	26.1	10.4	44.2	44.6	2.5	8.7
IS	48.4	24.5	21.7	5.5	41.3	16.4	36.9	5.4	56.1	33.2	5.2	5.6
NO	46.8	29.9	19.0	4.4	47.4	17.4	32.0	3.2	46.1	44.4	3.8	5.7
CH	49.1	25.6	20.9	4.4	50.3	15.3	31.7	2.6	47.7	37.9	7.9	6.5
HR	30.5	27.4	34.8	7.4	29.3	19.1	45.3	6.3	31.8	37.1	22.3	8.7
MK	29.3	21.9	24.8	24.1	26.5	20.1	29.7	23.7	33.4	24.5	17.6	24.6
TR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

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

Main characteristics of employees

Employees accounted for 83.3 % of total EU employment in 2011. Their share exceeded 90 % of all employed persons in Estonia (91.6 %), Luxembourg (91.4 %) and Denmark (90.9 %), although it fell below 70 % in both Greece (63.5 %) and Romania (67.3 %). Employees on a full-time regime usually worked 40.4 hours per week in 2011. In the United Kingdom and Austria, full-time employees worked longer weekly hours, 42.2 and 41.8 respectively, whereas the usual weekly hours worked by full-time employees were below 39.0 in Denmark (37.7), Ireland (38.4) and

Italy (38.8). The usual weekly hours worked by part-time employees amounted to 20.1 on average in the EU in 2011. They were highest in Sweden (24.4), Romania (24.3) and Belgium (24.0) and lowest in Portugal (17.9), Germany (18.1), Denmark (18.7) and Ireland (18.9). Employees with temporary work contracts accounted for 14.1% of all employees in the EU. The highest share was in Poland (26.9%) and Spain (25.3 %), but it was below 5 % in Romania (1.5 %), Lithuania (2.8 %), Bulgaria (4.1 %) and Estonia (4.5 %).

Table 4: Employees aged 15 and older: number, average hours usually worked per week and share of temporary contracts (main job), by sex, 2011

	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	180 982	94 532	86 450	40.4	41.1	39.3	20.1	19.0	20.4	14.1	13.6	14.6
EA-17	118 797	62 253	56 544	40.0	40.7	38.9	20.1	19.0	20.4	15.8	15.1	16.5
BE	3 864	2 032	1 833	39.2	39.9	38.1	24.0	24.3	23.9	9.0	7.7	10.3
BG	2 589	1 311	1 279	40.9	41.0	40.8	20.4	21.1	20.1	4.1	4.5	3.7
CZ	4 020	2 183	1 838	41.0	41.6	40.3	21.7	21.5	21.7	8.5	7.2	10.1
DK	2 456	1 245	1 212	37.7	38.1	37.2	18.7	14.5	20.5	8.8	8.3	9.4
DE	35 099	18 322	16 778	40.7	41.1	39.9	18.1	16.2	18.6	14.7	14.6	14.8
EE	558	266	292	40.6	41.0	40.2	21.0	(19.7)	21.3	4.5	5.4	(3.6)
IE	1 507	727	780	38.4	40.0	36.5	18.9	19.6	18.7	9.9	9.5	10.4
EL	2 599	1 471	1 128	40.4	41.2	39.3	20.6	21.2	20.3	11.6	10.5	12.9
ES	15 105	7 994	7 111	40.3	41.0	39.3	19.0	18.7	19.1	25.3	24.2	26.6
FR	22 764	11 487	11 277	39.5	40.2	38.6	23.3	21.9	23.6	15.3	14.7	15.8
IT	17 240	9 596	7 645	38.8	40.0	36.8	22.0	22.4	21.9	13.4	12.3	14.7
CY	307	157	149	41.1	41.7	40.4	20.6	20.3	20.8	13.6	7.0	20.7
LV	860	413	447	40.3	40.7	39.9	21.5	21.7	21.4	6.5	7.8	5.2
LT	1 226	584	642	39.6	39.9	39.2	20.9	20.6	21.1	2.8	3.8	(1.9)
LU	205	115	90	39.8	40.3	38.8	22.2	21.6	22.3	7.1	6.3	8.2
HU	3 352	1 747	1 605	40.4	40.7	40.1	23.4	23.2	23.6	8.9	9.4	8.4
MT	146	91	55	40.7	41.4	39.2	21.4	20.8	21.6	6.6	5.7	7.9
NL	7 114	3 688	3 426	39.0	39.2	38.1	19.9	19.2	20.2	18.4	17.3	19.6
AT	3 574	1 874	1 700	41.8	42.4	40.8	20.7	18.6	21.2	9.6	9.6	9.4
PL	12 482	6 661	5 821	40.9	42.0	39.6	22.5	22.8	22.3	26.9	27.6	26.2
PT	3 815	1 937	1 878	41.1	42.0	40.1	17.9	19.5	17.3	22.2	22.0	22.4
RO	6 153	3 381	2 772	41.0	41.2	40.7	24.3	(25.6)	23.8	1.5	1.8	1.3
SI	779	406	372	41.0	41.4	40.5	19.9	19.3	20.3	18.2	16.5	19.9
SK	1 977	1 037	940	40.8	41.3	40.2	19.1	18.2	19.7	6.6	6.4	6.9
FI	2 143	1 052	1 091	39.1	40.0	38.1	20.3	19.1	20.9	15.6	12.7	18.4
SE	4 156	2 089	2 067	39.9	40.0	39.8	24.4	21.1	25.5	16.4	14.5	18.3
UK	24 889	12 666	12 222	42.2	43.6	39.9	19.2	18.3	19.5	6.2	5.9	6.5
IS	144	72	72	43.9	46.1	40.9	20.4	16.4	21.6	12.2	12.2	12.2
NO	2 357	1 202	1 155	38.4	38.7	38.0	19.6	17.2	20.4	8.0	6.5	9.4
CH	3 693	1 967	1 726	41.8	41.9	41.6	21.6	23.5	21.1	12.9	12.6	13.3
HR	1 154	622	531	41.0	41.3	40.7	(23.4)	(24.0)	(23.1)	12.7	12.7	12.7
MK	463	269	194	43.0	43.3	42.6	21.7	(21.1)	(22.2)	14.9	16.7	12.3
TR	14 872	11 273	3 599	52.1	53.1	48.6	20.3	20.6	20.1	12.2	12.4	11.8

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

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsa_eqaps](#), [lfsa_etpga](#), [lfsa_ewhun2](#))

Main characteristics of self-employed persons

Self-employed persons accounted for 15.1 % of total EU employment in 2011. The highest shares of self-employed persons were recorded in Greece (31.0 %), Italy (23.4 %), Portugal (20.5 %) and Romania (20.0 %). The lowest shares were registered in Luxembourg (8.1 %), Estonia (8.2 %), Denmark (8.9 %) and Lithuania (9.1 %). 28.9 % of self-employed persons in the EU also employed staff. Among these, the shares were highest in Estonia (46.3 %), Hungary (45.4 %), Germany (42.9 %), Austria (41.7 %) and Denmark (41.1 %). Self-employed persons worked mainly in market services (45.9 %) with the highest shares in Spain (58.2 %), Italy (55.8 %) and Malta (54.9 %). In agriculture there are major discrepancies between

countries. Agriculture was a relatively important economic activity for self-employed persons in Romania (71.3 %), Poland (42.7 %), Lithuania (41.6 %) and Portugal (38.7 %), whereas it accounted for less than a 5 % share in Slovakia (4.5 %), the Czech Republic (4.6 %) and the United Kingdom (4.9 %). The highest share of self-employed persons in total employment is in the age group of 65 and above (49.9 %). This is probably because self-employed persons keep their business longer and postpone retirement, as compared to employees in that age group, or remain involved in some agricultural activity for their personal consumption after retirement.

Table 5: Self-employed persons aged 15 years and older: number, share of total employment by status and age and composition by status and economic activity (main job), 2011

	Number of self-employed persons (1000)			Status (%)		Economic activity (%)				Self-employed as a share of total employment				
	Total	Men	Women	with employees	without employees	Agriculture ¹	Industry	Market service	Non-market service	Total	Age 15-24	Age 25-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+
EU-27	32 750	22 700	10 050	28.9	71.1	17.5	20.4	45.9	16.2	15.1	4.1	13.9	19.2	49.9
EA-17	21 281	14 786	6 495	33.5	66.5	12.1	20.3	50.5	17.2	15.0	3.5	14.0	19.1	54.5
BE	595	418	177	31.3	68.7	6.1	21.1	52.9	19.9	13.2	4.8	12.5	16.2	56.7
BG	330	214	116	32.8	67.2	27.6	13.6	49.7	9.1	11.2	(3.3)	10.6	13.8	30.3
CZ	858	606	251	20.5	79.5	4.6	33.2	47.2	15.0	17.5	9.1	17.2	19.2	37.0
DK	239	174	65	41.1	58.9	12.7	18.6	49.0	19.7	8.9	(1.1)	8.8	11.4	30.7
DE	4 404	3 009	1 395	42.9	57.1	5.3	18.6	51.7	24.4	11.1	1.7	10.7	13.6	39.9
EE	50	35	15	46.3	53.7	(14.3)	24.2	48.2	(13.2)	8.2	:	8.9	7.8	:
IE	292	234	57	30.6	69.4	20.9	19.9	45.3	13.9	16.1	(1.8)	13.3	24.8	58.3
EL	1 269	889	380	25.1	74.9	28.8	14.6	47.2	9.5	31.0	8.7	26.5	44.5	67.3
ES	2 853	1 936	918	33.0	67.0	10.3	21.2	58.2	10.4	15.8	4.2	13.7	23.2	49.9
FR	2 862	2 013	850	40.1	59.9	15.8	19.7	42.9	21.7	11.1	2.4	10.3	15.0	42.0
IT	5 366	3 869	1 497	28.3	71.7	6.9	23.0	55.8	14.2	23.4	10.9	21.9	26.3	75.6
CY	62	45	17	28.8	71.2	11.1	24.8	46.8	17.3	16.5	(3.8)	13.3	23.5	59.1
LV	100	60	40	35.5	64.5	33.6	18.0	32.0	16.3	10.3	:	10.4	11.8	:
LT	125	74	51	25.9	74.1	41.6	(13.5)	36.0	(8.9)	9.1	:	8.6	11.2	(18.0)
LU	18	12	7	32.7	67.3	(11.3)	(7.2)	52.5	29.1	8.1	:	6.6	12.6	(47.0)
HU	443	305	138	45.4	54.6	11.7	21.4	52.0	14.8	11.6	2.4	10.3	16.2	43.0
MT	23	19	4	31.6	68.5	:	27.9	54.9	(12.5)	13.5	:	12.9	20.2	:
NL	1 203	797	406	26.5	73.5	9.9	16.2	45.8	28.1	14.4	4.0	14.2	18.4	53.8
AT	483	311	172	41.7	58.3	25.3	12.8	46.2	15.7	11.6	(1.4)	10.9	18.3	29.5
PL	3 052	2 009	1 043	22.1	77.9	42.7	15.2	34.8	7.3	18.9	5.4	17.6	25.0	46.2
PT	992	626	366	25.0	75.0	38.7	17.8	34.5	9.1	20.5	3.6	13.2	29.2	85.4
RO	1 824	1 289	535	5.8	94.2	71.3	12.4	11.8	4.5	20.0	10.7	15.6	27.0	66.8
SI	118	83	35	28.6	71.4	28.0	23.2	39.6	9.2	12.6	(2.4)	10.9	18.4	(41.7)
SK	372	272	100	22.1	77.9	4.5	41.8	40.9	12.8	15.8	10.4	16.1	16.4	(21.9)
FI	319	218	101	31.7	68.3	20.2	19.8	41.7	18.3	12.9	3.2	11.7	16.4	48.8
SE	476	349	127	36.5	63.5	10.8	21.0	51.7	16.6	10.3	2.2	8.7	13.5	44.0
UK	4 023	2 834	1 189	18.2	81.8	4.9	26.3	44.8	24.0	13.8	4.8	12.8	17.9	38.0
IS	21	14	7	33.5	66.5	18.0	21.5	37.5	22.9	12.4	:	11.7	17.6	25.3
NO	174	127	47	26.7	73.3	19.1	19.0	37.4	24.5	6.9	1.7	6.2	9.4	20.0
CH	579	373	206	45.1	54.9	13.5	17.4	48.5	20.6	13.3	1.5	11.2	19.8	46.1
HR	292	181	111	23.9	76.1	53.1	(12.9)	27.2	(6.8)	19.6	(7.3)	15.3	23.9	69.9
MK	120	96	24	30.5	69.5	40.6	17.7	34.7	(6.9)	18.6	(6.4)	17.9	23.1	(42.5)
TR	5 929	5 028	902	21.0	79.0	41.7	15.2	34.1	9.0	24.6	4.9	22.3	47.5	70.3

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

(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 in some countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsa_egaps](#), [lfsa_esgan2](#))

Unemployment

Unemployment¹ rose slightly in the EU by 0.2 million persons in 2011 to reach 23.0 million. The increase affected women rather than men. For women, it rose by 0.3 million persons to 10.6 million, and for men it fell by 0.1 million to 12.4 million.

The EU unemployment rate in 2011 was 9.6 %. It remained unchanged from 2010, in spite of the slight increase in the number of unemployed, because there was also an increase in the active population. In 2011, the rate ranged from 4.2 % in Austria, 4.4 % in the Netherlands and 4.9 % in Luxembourg to 21.7 % in Spain, followed by Greece (17.7 %), Latvia and Lithuania (both 15.4 %).

Some 42.9 % (+ 3.0 p.p compared with 2010) of unemployed persons in the EU in 2011 had been without work for 12 months or longer. The long-term unemployed accounted for over half of total

unemployment in Slovakia (67.8 %), Ireland (59.4 %), Estonia, (56.8 %), Bulgaria (56.2 %), Latvia (54.6 %), Lithuania and Italy (both 51.9 %), while the share was below 25 % in Sweden (18.6 %), Cyprus (20.9 %), Finland (22.2 %) and Denmark (24.4 %).

In 2011, 9.1 % of the young population aged 15-24 in the EU were unemployed. This is the unemployment ratio. 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. The highest ratio of youth unemployment was recorded in Spain (19.0 %). The value observed in Greece – which is the second country after Spain in the ranking - was 6 p.p. lower than the latter. The lowest ratios (5 % or lower) were recorded in Luxembourg, Germany and Austria.

Table 6: Unemployed persons^{*}: number, unemployment rate, share of long-term unemployment and youth unemployment ratio, by sex, 2011

	Total unemployment			Unemployment rate (%)			Share of long-term unemployment (%)			Youth unemployment ratio (%)
	(1000)			Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	
	Total	Men	Women							
EU-27	23 045	12 440	10 605	9.6	9.5	9.7	42.9	43.5	42.2	9.1
EA-17	15 839	8 451	7 388	10.1	9.9	10.4	45.2	45.3	45.0	8.7
BE	347	188	158	7.2	7.1	7.2	48.3	47.1	49.8	6.0
BG	372	216	157	11.2	12.3	10.0	56.2	57.1	54.8	7.3
CZ	354	172	181	6.7	5.8	7.9	40.5	40.6	40.5	5.4
DK	221	118	103	7.6	7.7	7.5	24.4	26.2	22.3	9.6
DE	2 501.5	1 407	1 095	5.9	6.2	5.6	48.0	49.3	46.2	4.5
EE	87	46	41	12.5	13.1	11.8	56.8	59.7	53.6	9.1
IE	304	204	100	14.4	17.5	10.6	59.4	65.4	47.2	11.7
EL	877	429	448	17.7	15.0	21.4	49.6	45.0	54.0	13.0
ES	4 999	2 689	2 310	21.7	21.2	22.2	41.6	40.6	42.7	19.0
FR	2 628	1 307	1 321	9.3	8.8	9.8	41.4	42.1	40.7	8.5
IT	2 108	1 114	993	8.4	7.6	9.6	51.9	51.4	52.4	8.0
CY	31	17	14	7.8	7.9	7.7	20.9	21.6	20.1	8.5
LV	176	102	74	15.4	17.6	13.1	54.6	59.0	48.6	11.2
LT	249	144	105	15.4	17.8	13.0	51.9	52.2	51.4	9.6
LU	12	5	7	4.9	3.8	6.3	28.8	(33.1)	(25.5)	(4.2)
HU	468	253	215	10.9	11.0	10.9	47.9	47.5	48.3	6.4
MT	12	7	4	6.5	6.2	7.1	46.1	53.1	(34.7)	7.1
NL	389	211	178	4.4	4.5	4.4	33.5	35.1	31.6	5.3
AT	179	93	86	4.2	4.0	4.3	25.9	27.5	24.2	5.0
PL	1 723	879	843	9.7	9.0	10.5	37.2	36.2	38.2	8.7
PT	706	366	340	12.9	12.7	13.2	48.2	47.9	48.5	11.7
RO	730	431	299	7.4	7.9	6.8	41.9	42.6	40.9	7.4
SI	83	45	38	8.2	8.2	8.2	44.2	45.1	43.1	5.9
SK	368	205	163	13.5	13.5	13.6	67.8	69.1	66.2	10.0
FI	209	117	91	7.8	8.4	7.1	22.2	26.2	17.1	10.1
SE	379	200	178	7.5	7.6	7.5	18.6	20.6	16.3	12.0
UK	2 534	1 472	1 061	8.0	8.7	7.3	33.5	37.8	27.5	12.4
IS	13	7	5	7.0	7.8	6.2	23.9	22.5	25.9	10.6
NO	84	47	37	3.2	3.4	3.0	23.8	25.6	21.5	4.8
CH	184	91	93	4.1	3.7	4.5	36.0	34.6	37.3	5.3
HR	232	129	103	13.5	13.8	13.2	63.8	62.7	65.2	11.3
MK	295	181	114	31.4	31.8	30.8	82.6	83.6	81.0	17.7
TR	2 324	1 544	781	8.8	8.3	10.1	23.7	19.6	31.7	6.4

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

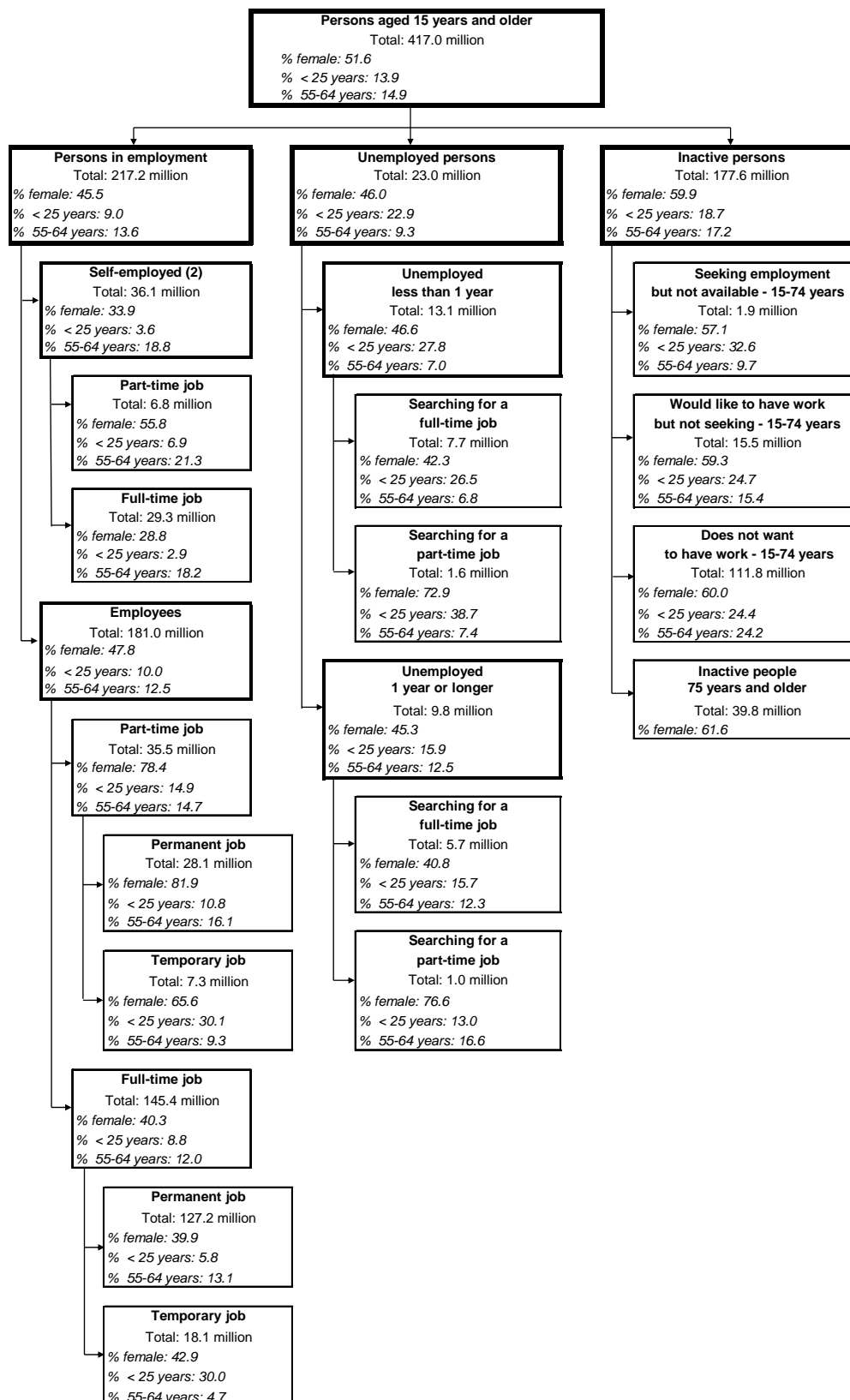
* Portugal released 2011 unemployment figures with a new methodology leading to a break with the 2010 data.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [lfsa_uqan](#), [lfsa_urqan](#), [lfsa_upqal](#), [lfsa_pqanws](#))

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

Synoptic overview of different categories in the labour market

Figure 2: Labour status of persons aged 15 years and older, EU-27, 2011 ⁽¹⁾



(1) Due to non-response, certain sub-totals may not exactly sum up to the corresponding aggregate

(2) The self-employed persons include in this Figure also family workers

Source: Eurostat

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.

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 for the most recent period available.

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

Employment (LFS concept) covers persons aged 15 years and over (16 and over in Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom, 15-74 years in Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and 16-74 years in Iceland), 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. Employment rates are calculated for different age groups as a percentage of the population in the same age group.

The LFS employment concept differs from national accounts 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, the United Kingdom 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 among persons aged 15 to 24.

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

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

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

Occupation: The International Labour Organisation has revised the International Standard Classification of Occupations. The LFS uses the revised classification (ISCO 08) from 2011 onwards. The breakdown of employed persons by occupation is based on the classification ISCO 08 (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 calculations). Due to this revision, the 2011 results are not comparable with former years.

Further information

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

Data on 'Employment and Unemployment':

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

Further information on 'Employment and Unemployment':

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

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