A person is outside the labour force, according to the International Labour Organisation definition, if he or she is not part of the labour force, meaning he or she is neither employed nor unemployed. The set of people outside the labour is also called the "inactive population" and can include pre-school children, school children, students, pensioners and housewives or -men, for example, provided that they are not working at all and not available or looking for work either; some of these may be of working-age.

The inactivity rate is the proportion of people outside the labour force (i.e. economically inactive persons) in the total population of the same age group.

Related concepts

- Employee
- Labour force survey

Statistical data

- Labour market slack - employment supply and demand mismatch