

An **unemployed** person is defined by [Eurostat](#) , according to the guidelines of the [International Labour Organization](#) , as:

- someone aged 15 to 74;
- not employed during the reference week according to the definition of [employed](#) ;
- currently available for work, i.e. available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the 2 weeks following the reference week;
- actively seeking work, i.e. had either carried out activities in the four-week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or found a job to start within a period of at most 3 months from the end of the reference week.

The **unemployment rate** is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the [labour force](#) .

Related concepts

- [Employment](#)

Statistical data

- [Unemployment statistics](#)