

During the fourth quarter of 2018, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 5.4 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2017.

Labour Force Survey: Q4/2018

Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicate that, during the fourth quarter, total employment stood at 239,427 accounting for more than half the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons numbered 8,713 (2.1 per cent) whereas the number of inactive persons stood at 164,245 (39.8 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 75.0 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25 to 54 (85.9 per cent) (Table 2).

The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 to 64 years, 72 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 82.3 per cent while that for females stood at 61.5 per cent (Table 4). The largest share of employed persons was recorded among persons aged between 25 and 34 years, for both males and females (Chart 1).

Self-employed persons accounted for 14.1 per cent of all persons with a main job (Table 5). The majority of employed persons worked on a full-time basis totalling 204,683 and a further 34,744 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers work 41.7 hours while part-timers work 20.5 hours per week (Table 7).

The average annual basic salary of employees for the fourth quarter of 2018 was estimated at €19,036. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and insurance activities sector (Table 10). Average annual salaries varied from €32,942 among managers to €12,210 among persons employed in elementary occupations (Table 14).

The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2018, stood at 3.5 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons were between 25 and 74 years old (Table 16). Among the unemployed, 59.4 per cent stated that they had been seeking work for less than 12 months (Table 18). The main reason for inactivity relates to persons reaching retirement age or taking up early retirement (42.1 per cent) (Table 20).

Education Attainment

According to the Labour Force Survey, 51.4 per cent of persons aged 15 years and over had a secondary or less level of education (Table 21). Among the employed population, 29.6 per cent had a tertiary level of education (Table 22) ■

Chart 1. Employment by age group and sex

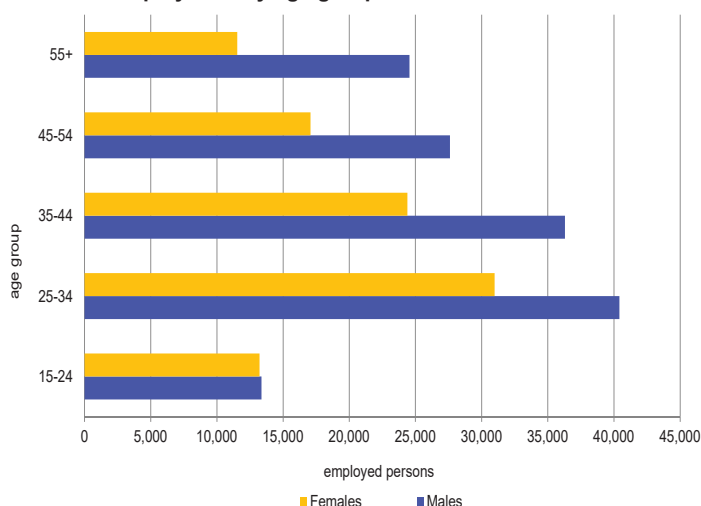


Table 1. Persons aged 15 and over by sex and labour status

Labour status	Males		Females		Total		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
	October-December 2018						
Employed	142,229	67.9	97,198	47.9	239,427	58.1	
Unemployed	5,336 ^u	2.5 ^u	3,377 ^u	1.7 ^u	8,713	2.1	
Inactive	61,884	29.5	102,361	50.4	164,245	39.8	
Total	209,449	100.0	202,936	100.0	412,385	100.0	
	October-December 2017 (Revised)						
	Employed	136,395	67.1	90,772	45.8	227,167	56.6
	Unemployed	5,645	2.8	3,792 ^u	1.9 ^u	9,437	2.4
Inactive	61,220	30.1	103,686	52.3	164,906	41.1	
Total	203,260	100.0	198,250	100.0	401,510	100.0	

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 2. Activity rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	October-December 2018					
15-24	55.2		56.6		55.9	
25-54	97.1		73.7		85.9	
55-64	70.6		36.5		53.7	
Total (15-64)	85.5		63.7		75.0	
	October-December 2017 (Revised)					
	15-24	56.6		52.6		54.7
	25-54	96.3		72.0		84.7
55-64	69.6		35.7		52.8	
Total (15-64)	84.6		61.6		73.5	

Table 3. Distribution of employed persons with a main job by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2018					
15-24	13,362	9.4	13,223	13.6	26,585	11.1
25-34	40,403	28.4	30,982	31.9	71,385	29.8
35-44	36,295	25.5	24,391	25.1	60,686	25.3
45-54	27,614	19.4	17,067	17.6	44,681	18.7
55-64	21,075	14.8	10,552	10.9	31,627	13.2
65+	3,480	2.4	:	:	4,463	1.9
Total	142,229	100.0	97,198	100.0	239,427	100.0
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
15-24	13,967	10.2	12,246	13.5	26,213	11.5
25-34	37,816	27.7	29,466	32.5	67,282	29.6
35-44	34,271	25.1	23,463	25.8	57,734	25.4
45-54	26,450	19.4	14,766	16.3	41,216	18.1
55-64	20,624	15.1	10,546	11.6	31,170	13.7
65+	3,267	2.4	:	:	3,552	1.6
Total	136,395	100.0	90,772	100.0	227,167	100.0

⋮ Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

Table 4. Employment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%		%		%	
	October-December 2018					
15-24	49.0		52.4		50.6	
25-54	94.5		71.9		83.7	
55-64	68.2		34.7		51.6	
Total (15-64)	82.3		61.5		72.3	
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
15-24	50.4		47.8		49.1	
25-54	93.3		69.6		81.9	
55-64	67.6		34.9		51.3	
Total (15-64)	81.2		59.1		70.5	

Table 5. Distribution of employed persons by sex and professional status of main occupation

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2018					
Self-employed without employees	16,977	11.9	6,494	6.7	23,471	9.8
Self-employed with employees	7,761	5.5	2,553 ^u	2.6 ^u	10,314	4.3
Employee	117,491	82.6	88,088	90.6	205,579	85.9
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	142,229	100.0	97,198	100.0	239,427	100.0
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	19,929	14.6	4,933 ^u	5.4 ^u	24,862	10.9
Self-employed with employees	8,023	5.9	2,508 ^u	2.8 ^u	10,531	4.6
Employee	108,443	79.5	83,234	91.7	191,677	84.4
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	136,395	100.0	90,772	100.0	227,167	100.0

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 6. Distribution of employed persons by sex and type of employment in main occupation

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2018					
Full-time job	129,352	90.9	75,331	77.5	204,683	85.5
Part-time job	12,877	9.1	21,867	22.5	34,744	14.5
Total	142,229	100.0	97,198	100.0	239,427	100.0
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
Full-time job	123,878	90.8	69,112	76.1	192,990	85.0
Part-time job	12,517	9.2	21,660	23.9	34,177	15.0
Total	136,395	100.0	90,772	100.0	227,167	100.0

Table 7. Normal hours worked by sex and type of employment in main occupation

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	Average (Hours)					
	October-December 2018					
Full-time job	42.5		40.2		41.7	
Part-time job	19.5		21.1		20.5	
Total	40.4		36.0		38.6	
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
Full-time job	42.4		39.7		41.4	
Part-time job	24.7		22.8		23.5	
Total	40.7		35.7		38.7	

Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: October-December 2018

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,908 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	1,985 ^u	0.8 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	21,547	15.1	7,734	8.0	29,281	12.2
Construction	14,290	10.0	:	:	15,113	6.3
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	38,949	27.4	24,644	25.4	63,593	26.6
Information and communication	6,308	4.4	2,664 ^u	2.7 ^u	8,972	3.7
Financial and insurance activities	6,305	4.4	4,950	5.1	11,255	4.7
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	1,995 ^u	0.8 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	14,899	10.5	8,369	8.6	23,268	9.7
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	25,272	17.8	37,551	38.6	62,823	26.2
Other services	11,319	8.0	9,823	10.1	21,142	8.8
Total	142,229	100.0	97,198	100.0	239,427	100.0

[:] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 9. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: October-December 2017 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,706 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	1,965 ^u	0.9 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	21,675	15.9	8,915	9.8	30,590	13.5
Construction	15,847	11.6	:	:	16,264	7.2
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	37,898	27.8	22,789	25.1	60,687	26.7
Information and communication	4,407 ^u	3.2 ^u	2,557 ^u	2.8 ^u	6,964	3.1
Financial and insurance activities	5,754	4.2	5,153	5.7	10,907	4.8
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	2,940 ^u	1.3 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	15,234	11.2	10,593	11.7	25,827	11.4
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	24,658	18.1	31,207	34.4	55,865	24.6
Other services	7,730	5.7	7,428	8.2	15,158	6.7
Total	136,395	100.0	90,772	100.0	227,167	100.0

[:] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 10. Average annual basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: October-December 2018

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	18,644	19,779	7,185	14,810	25,829	18,397
Construction	9,441	18,834	:	:	10,264	18,905
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	30,701	17,567	22,275	13,482	52,976	15,849
Information and communication	5,229	22,739	2,177 ^U	20,616 ^U	7,406	22,115
Financial and insurance activities	5,696	28,594	4,950	25,451	10,646	27,132
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	12,079	20,490	6,415	16,747	18,494	19,192
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	25,030	21,408	36,746	18,049	61,776	19,410
Other services	9,260	26,773	7,080	16,474	16,340	22,311
Total	117,491	20,638	88,088	16,898	205,579	19,036

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^U Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

^P Provisional

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 11. Average annual basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity of the main occupation: October-December 2017 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	18,546	18,568	7,987	13,032	26,533	16,902
Construction	10,410	16,519	:	:	10,827	16,381
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	28,615	17,066	20,991	12,416	49,606	15,099
Information and communication	3,647 ^U	22,738 ^U	2,412 ^U	20,667 ^U	6,059	21,913
Financial and insurance activities	5,499	29,249	5,153	25,551	10,652	27,460
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,418	18,283	9,264	16,060	19,682	17,236
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	23,859	21,244	30,753	17,685	54,612	19,240
Other services	6,438	28,771	4,888 ^U	19,036 ^U	11,326	24,570
Total	108,443	19,799	83,234	16,262	191,677	18,263

[‡] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^U Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

^P Provisional

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: October-December 2018

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	18,809	13.2	5,998	6.2	24,807	10.4
Professionals	22,000	15.5	22,219	22.9	44,219	18.5
Technicians and associate professionals	23,777	16.7	13,188	13.6	36,965	15.4
Clerical support workers	11,469	8.1	15,160	15.6	26,629	11.1
Service and sales workers	19,658	13.8	29,264	30.1	48,922	20.4
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,383 ^u	1.7 ^u	:	:	2,383 ^u	1.0 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	19,914	14.0	:	:	21,624	9.0
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,296	6.5	3,354 ^u	3.5 ^u	12,650	5.3
Elementary occupations	13,367	9.4	6,305	6.5	19,672	8.2
Total	142,229	100.0	97,198	100.0	239,427	100.0

[:] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 13. Main occupation of total employed persons by sex: October-December 2017 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,441 ^u	1.8 ^u	:	:	2,631 ^u	1.2 ^u
Managers	17,685	13.0	6,192	6.8	23,877	10.5
Professionals	20,329	14.9	18,150	20.0	38,479	16.9
Technicians and associate professionals	20,810	15.3	11,204	12.3	32,014	14.1
Clerical support workers	8,949	6.6	16,234	17.9	25,183	11.1
Service and sales workers	19,975	14.6	25,528	28.1	45,503	20.0
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,415 ^u	1.8 ^u	:	:	2,527 ^u	1.1 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	21,986	16.1	:	:	23,812	10.5
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,521	6.2	4,251 ^u	4.7 ^u	12,772	5.6
Elementary occupations	13,284	9.7	7,085	7.8	20,369	9.0
Total	136,395	100.0	90,772	100.0	227,167	100.0

[:] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 14. Average annual basic salary for employees by sex and main occupation: October-December 2018

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P
Armed Forces	:	:	:	:	:	:
Managers	14,792	33,841	5,723 ^u	30,618 ^u	20,515	32,942
Professionals	19,746	26,188	20,357	22,508	40,103	24,320
Technicians and associate professionals	20,712	21,572	11,854	18,842	32,566	20,578
Clerical support workers	10,629	18,068	14,803	14,460	25,432	15,968
Service and sales workers	15,147	14,806	24,784	12,164	39,931	13,166
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	13,343	15,916	:	:	14,561	15,841
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,237	15,045	3,240 ^u	12,023 ^u	11,477	14,192
Elementary occupations	12,579	13,455	6,109	9,647	18,688	12,210
Total	117,491	20,638	88,088	16,898	205,579	19,036

⋮ Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

^P Provisional

Table 15. Average annual basic salary for employees by sex and main occupation: October-December 2017 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P	No. of employees	Average (€) ^P
Armed Forces	2,441 ^u	16,627 ^u	:	:	2,631 ^u	16,841 ^u
Managers	12,571	32,675	5,647	31,705	18,218	32,374
Professionals	16,609	25,438	16,478	20,884	33,087	23,170
Technicians and associate professionals	17,875	21,239	10,716	18,358	28,591	20,159
Clerical support workers	8,811	17,652	15,675	14,751	24,486	15,795
Service and sales workers	15,059	15,670	22,616	12,004	37,675	13,469
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	14,027	15,543	:	:	14,807	15,368
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7,654	14,816	4,210 ^u	12,006 ^u	11,864	13,819
Elementary occupations	12,759	12,805	6,922	9,700	19,681	11,713
Total	108,443	19,799	83,234	16,262	191,677	18,263

⋮ Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

^P Provisional

Table 16. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
October-December 2018						
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,755 ^u	31.6 ^u
25-74	3,649 ^u	68.4 ^u	2,309 ^u	68.4 ^u	5,958	68.4
Total (15-74)	5,336^u	100.0^u	3,377^u	100.0^u	8,713	100.0
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
15-24	1,730 ^u	30.6 ^u	:	:	2,949 ^u	31.2 ^u
25-74	3,915 ^u	69.4 ^u	2,573 ^u	67.9 ^u	6,488	68.8
Total (15-74)	5,645	100.0	3,792^u	100.0	9,437	100.0

[:] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 17. Unemployment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
October-December 2018						
15-24	:	:	:	:	9.4 ^u	
25-74	2.8 ^u		2.7 ^u		2.7	
Total (15-74)	3.6^u		3.4^u		3.5	
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
15-24	11.0 ^u		:		10.1 ^u	
25-74	3.1 ^u		3.2 ^u		3.1	
Total (15-74)	4.0		4.0^u		4.0	

[:] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 18. Distribution of unemployed persons by sex and duration of job search

Duration	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
October-December 2018						
Less than 12 months	2,769 ^u	51.9 ^u	2,406 ^u	71.2 ^u	5,175	59.4
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	3,538 ^u	40.6 ^u
Total	5,336^u	100.0^u	3,377^u	100.0^u	8,713	100.0
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
Less than 12 months	3,545 ^u	62.8 ^u	2,691 ^u	71.0 ^u	6,236	66.1
12 months or more	2,100 ^u	37.2 ^u	:	:	3,201 ^u	33.9 ^u
Total	5,645	100.0	3,792^u	100.0^u	9,437	100.0

[:] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 19. Distribution of inactive persons by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2018					
15-24	12,210	19.7	10,941	10.7	23,151	14.1
25-34	:	:	6,393 ^u	6.2 ^u	7,520	4.6
35-44	:	:	9,797	9.6	10,825	6.6
45-54	:	:	10,345	10.1	11,365	6.9
55-64	9,076	14.7	19,337	18.9	28,413	17.3
65+	37,423	60.5	45,548	44.5	82,971	50.5
Total	61,884	100.0	102,361	100.0	164,245	100.0
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
15-24	12,030	19.7	12,158	11.7	24,188	14.7
25-34	:	:	6,697 ^u	6.5 ^u	8,101	4.9
35-44	:	:	9,086	8.8	10,196	6.2
45-54	1,365 ^u	2.2 ^u	11,489	11.1	12,854	7.8
55-64	9,271	15.1	19,430	18.7	28,701	17.4
65+	36,040	58.9	44,826	43.2	80,866	49.0
Total	61,220	100.0	103,686	100.0	164,906	100.0

ⁱ Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Table 20. Main reasons for being inactive by sex

Reason	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2018					
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	31,962	31.2	32,723	19.9
Education or training	11,868	19.2	10,516	10.3	22,384	13.6
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	44,144	71.3	24,965	24.4	69,109	42.1
Other reasons	5,111	8.3	34,918	34.1	40,029	24.4
Total	61,884	100.0	102,361	100.0	164,245	100.0
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	28,131	27.1	29,047	17.6
Education or training	11,236	18.4	11,312	10.9	22,548	13.7
Reached retirement age, or uptake of early retirement	42,739	69.8	24,928	24.0	67,667	41.0
Other reasons	6,329	10.3	39,315	37.9	45,644	27.7
Total	61,220	100.0	103,686	100.0	164,906	100.0

ⁱ Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

Table 21. Persons aged 15 years and over by sex and highest educational attainment

	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2018					
Secondary level education or less	103,902	49.6	108,016	53.2	211,918	51.4
Post-Secondary level education	60,258	28.8	53,869	26.5	114,127	27.7
Tertiary level education	45,289	21.6	41,051	20.2	86,340	20.9
Total	209,449	100.0	202,936	100.0	412,385	100.0
October-December 2017 (Revised)						
Secondary level education or less	105,060	51.7	107,361	54.2	212,421	52.9
Post-Secondary level education	57,808	28.4	52,224	26.3	110,032	27.4
Tertiary level education	40,392	19.9	38,665	19.5	79,057	19.7
Total	203,260	100.0	198,250	100.0	401,510	100.0

Table 22. Persons aged 15 years and over by labour status and highest educational attainment

	Employed		Unemployed		Inactive		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	October-December 2018							
Secondary level education or less	89,489	37.4	5,001	57.4	117,428	71.5	211,918	51.4
Post-Secondary level education	78,982	33.0	:	:	33,012	20.1	114,127	27.7
Tertiary level education	70,956	29.6	:	:	13,805	8.4	86,340	20.9
Total	239,427	100.0	8,713	100.0	164,245	100.0	412,385	100.0
October-December 2017 (Revised)								
Secondary level education or less	85,354	37.6	5,642	59.8	121,425	73.6	212,421	52.9
Post-Secondary level education	77,855	34.3	2,353 ^u	24.9 ^u	29,824	18.1	110,032	27.4
Tertiary level education	63,958	28.2	:	:	13,657	8.3	79,057	19.7
Total	227,167	100.0	9,437	100.0	164,906	100.0	401,510	100.0

[†] Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

Methodological Notes

1. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is carried out on an ongoing basis using a quarterly gross sample of 3,200 private households. The objective is to have a continuous assessment of labour market trends given that the reference weeks are evenly spread throughout the 13 weeks of the quarter. One-fourth of the sample is made up of households who have been selected to participate in the LFS for the first time. Three-fourths of the quarterly sample is made up of households who were selected to participate in the survey in previous instances, either one quarter before, or one year before, or one year and a quarter before (2-(2)-2). Unless otherwise indicated, figures provided in this release refer to persons aged 15 and over and living in private households during the reference period. All criteria used for this survey match international methodologies used by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
2. The LFS is designed to satisfy the concepts and definitions as outlined by Eurostat, which is the EU Statistical Agency. This allows the comparability of results with other EU member states and countries following ILO definitions of employment and unemployment. Occupations are classified according to the ISCO - 08 classification (International Standard Classification of Occupations), whereas the economic activity is classified according to NACE Rev. 2 (Nomenclature générale des Activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes). Education attainment is classified according to ISCED 2011.

3. Definitions:

- **Activity rate:** labour force (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).
- **Annual basic salary:** refers to the annual basic salary received by employees before any social contributions and tax deductions. This amount excludes payments for overtime, allowances and bonuses. Data for this variable is provisional and subject to revisions.
- **Education Attainment:**
 - **Secondary or less level of education:** comprising persons with no schooling, primary education, schools for children with special needs, and persons who attained a secondary level education and have less than 5 ordinary level qualifications or equivalent. In the context of the ISCED classification, 'low' includes ISCED 0 to 2.
 - **Post-secondary level of education:** comprising persons with a secondary level education and having 5 ordinary level qualifications or equivalent or more, persons with a post secondary level attainment who have at least obtained 1 intermediate or advanced level qualification or equivalent. In the context of the ISCED classification, 'medium' refers to ISCED 3 and 4.
 - **Tertiary level of education:** comprising persons with a tertiary level education and with qualifications ranging from diploma to doctorate level. In the context of the ISCED classification, 'high' refers to ISCED 5 to 8.
- **Employees:** are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind.
- **Employed persons:** all persons aged 15 and over who, during the reference week, were in one of the following categories:
 - **paid employment:** includes those who during the reference week worked for at least one hour for a wage or salary, in cash or in kind.
 - **were employed but absent from work:** due to sick leave, bad weather, were undergoing training or education, did not work due to a labour dispute, were on maternity or parental leave, did not work due to slack work for technical or economic reasons, were absent from work for a period of less than 3 months, or were not working because on layoff and receiving at least 50 per cent of the salary/wage.
 - **self-employed:** covers persons who run a trade or business, rather than working as an employee for someone else. A person is self-employed if s/he is a sole proprietor or a partner working in a business.
 - **unpaid family workers:** refers to people who worked without pay in a family business or farm. Excluded from this definition are housewives.
- **Employment rate:** persons in employment (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years)
- **Inactive persons:** all persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as inactive.
- **Labour force:** all persons in employment and unemployed persons.

- **Normal hours worked:** refers to the number of usual hours worked per week in the main job over a long reference period, excluding weeks when an absence from work occurs (e.g. holidays, vacation leave or sick leave).
- **Part time employment:** a part-time worker is an employed person whose normal hours are less than those of comparable full-time workers. Persons employed on a full-time with reduced hours basis are included in this category.
- **Reference week:** the week to which the collected data relate.
- **Unemployed persons:** all persons above 15 years of age who, during the reference week, satisfied the following criteria:
 - **without work**
 - **actively seeking work during the previous 4 weeks:** example of active job search include contacting Jobplus, applying directly with an employer, contacting a private employment agency, inserting or answering to an advert in a newspaper.
 - **currently available for work:** available to start work within 2 weeks of the reference week.
- **Unemployment rate:** unemployed persons (15 to 74 years) as a percentage of the labour force (15-74 years).

4. Sampling variability

Data included in this release are based on sample data and are therefore subject to sampling error. Sampling error is measured by a quantity known as the margin of error, which in turn, expresses the variability between the true population parameters and their corresponding sample estimates. In the table below, the margin of error is used to construct a set of 95 per cent confidence intervals for specific variables, which give an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

Sampling variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Employment	239,427	4,884	239,427 ± 4,884
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	72.31	1.46	72.31 ± 1.46
<i>Males</i>	82.32	1.42	82.32 ± 1.42
<i>Females</i>	61.52	1.92	61.52 ± 1.92
15-24	50.65	3.82	50.65 ± 3.82
25-54	83.72	1.78	83.72 ± 1.78
55-64	51.55	3.53	51.55 ± 3.53
Unemployment	8,713	2,297	8,713 ± 2,297
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	3.52	0.92	3.52 ± 0.92
<i>Males</i>	3.63	1.29	3.63 ± 1.29
<i>Females</i>	3.36	1.25	3.36 ± 1.25
15-24	9.39	3.61	9.39 ± 3.61
25-74	2.73	0.93	2.73 ± 0.93
Inactivity	164,245	4,586	164,245 ± 4,586
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	74.99	1.37	74.99 ± 1.37
<i>Males</i>	85.49	1.18	85.49 ± 1.18
<i>Females</i>	63.68	1.90	63.68 ± 1.90
15-24	55.90	3.59	55.90 ± 3.59
25-54	85.93	1.61	85.93 ± 1.61
55-64	53.69	3.55	53.69 ± 3.55

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 239,427 and the margin of error is 4,884. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 234,543 and 244,311 persons.

Key

- : Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.
- ^u Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

5. Percentage totals may not add up due to rounding.
6. Absolute changes between one survey estimate and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (i.e. less than 2,100 persons) might be the result of sampling error.
7. More information is available from the NSO upon written request.
8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Sources and Methods: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C2/Labour_Market_Statistics/Pages/Labour-Force-Survey.aspx
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=33>
Classification: https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE_Rev._2
https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO_2008
<https://nso.gov.mt/metadata/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED%202011>
9. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on: https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx
11. Labour Force survey data for 2017 has been revised in line with demographic updates published on the 12th of February 2018 (Release No: 022/2018). These updates are reflected in the grossing up methodology used for the survey.