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No turn-around yet for the EU-27 labour market

Latest Labour Market Trends – 2009Q4 data¹

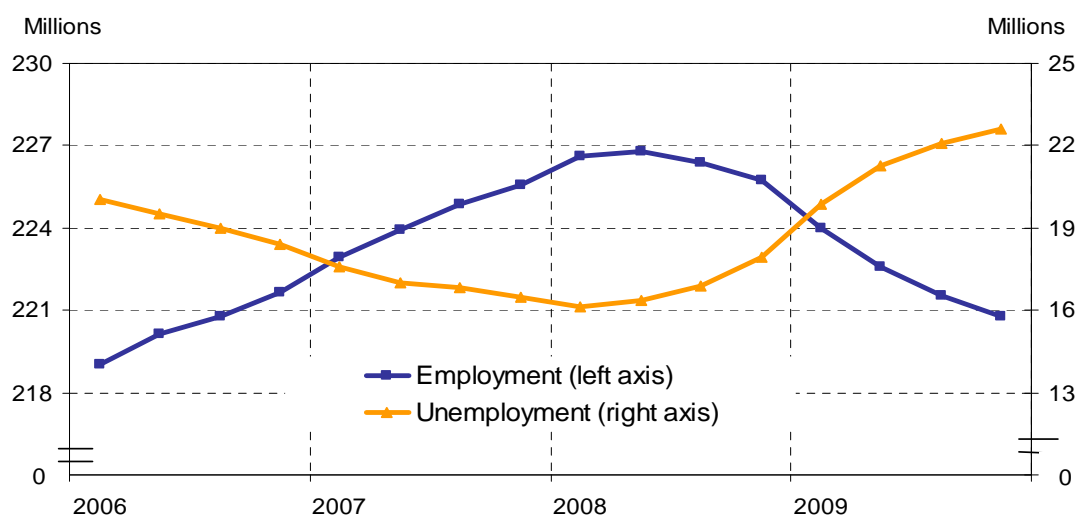
In 2009Q4, the number of persons in employment² (seasonally adjusted) in the EU-27 fell to 220.8 million, 0.3 % less (-0.7 million) than in 2009Q3. This was the sixth quarter-on-quarter reduction in a row. Since the peak reached in 2008Q2, employment has fallen by 6.0 million persons.

Between 2009Q3 and 2009Q4, employment fell in most EU Member States. The largest drops were recorded in Latvia (-4.0 %), Estonia (-3.4 %) and Lithuania (-2.3 %). However, in the four biggest EU countries employment remained stable (in Germany and the United Kingdom), or decreased less than the EU average, (-0.1 % in Italy and -0.2 % in France). Employment remained unchanged also in Portugal, while it grew slightly in Austria, the Czech Republic and Luxembourg.

In 2009Q4, unemployment (seasonally adjusted) in the EU-27 continued its upward trend and reached 22.6 million. It rose by 2.3 % (0.5 million people) on 2009Q3, and by 40.2 % (6.5 million) compared to its lowest level in 2008Q1.

In 2009Q4, the highest quarter-on-quarter increases in the number of unemployed were observed in Bulgaria (+15.1 %), Denmark (+13.2 %), Slovakia (+11.2 %) and Lithuania (+10.0 %). In Hungary, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Spain and Estonia the rise was below the EU-27 average. The number of unemployed persons remained unchanged in Slovenia, while it decreased in Portugal, Malta, the United Kingdom and Austria, for the first time after several quarters of growth, and in Germany for the second quarter in a row.

Chart 1: Employment and unemployment. EU-27. Seasonally adjusted (million persons)



Sources: Eurostat-NA ([namq_aux_pem](#)) and EU-LFS ([une_nb_q](#))

¹ This publication is part of a quarterly series presenting the main results of the EU labour force survey for the EU-27 and for all Member States, candidate and EFTA countries, except the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Liechtenstein.

² National accounts, domestic concept. See also Eurostat News release 38/2010 of 15 March 2010 at: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-15032010-AP/EN/2-15032010-AP-EN.PDF.

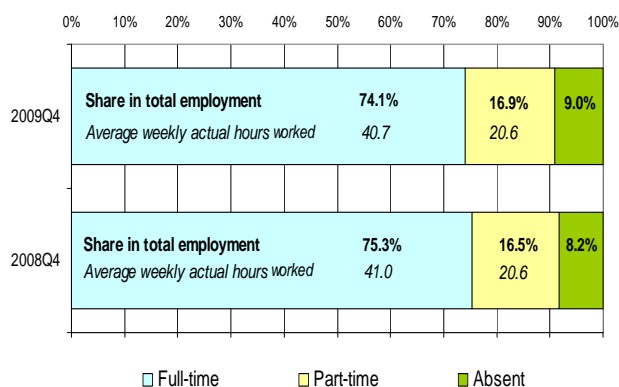
Average working hours fell

In addition to shrinking employment and rising unemployment, another phenomenon observed in the EU labour market is a gradual reduction in weekly hours actually worked by employed persons. According to the results of the EU labour force survey, the actual weekly working time in all jobs for an average person in employment has been falling since the second half of 2008 in the EU-27 (year-on-year; see Chart 2). In 2009Q4 the reduction from 2008Q4 was 2.0 %, which brought the average down to 33.6 hours (not seasonally adjusted).

The reduction in the weekly working hours is partly due to an increase in the share of persons absent from work³, e.g. in the context of flexible working time arrangements or because of temporary lay-off. This share has been rising year-on-year since the beginning of 2009, and reached 9.0 % in the fourth quarter, up by 0.8 percentage points from one year before (see Chart 2). The increasing importance of part-time work also contributes to the drop in average weekly working hours. In 2009Q4, the share of part-timers

(who worked at least one hour in the reference week) reached 16.9 % of total employed persons, close to 0.5 p.p. up year-on-year. A third factor is the number of full-timers working fewer hours since 2008Q3. In 2009Q4 they worked on average 40.7 hours a week, 0.3 hours less than one year before.

Chart 2: Shares and average hours worked of full-time, part-time and absent workers. EU-27, 2009Q4 and 2008Q4



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Number of inactives willing to work is rising

The EU-LFS also allows breakdowns by the main characteristics of employment and unemployment. In 2009Q4, the employment⁴ rate (not seasonally adjusted) of the population aged 15-64 in the EU-27 fell once more year-on-year (-1.4 p.p., see Chart 3), down to 64.4 % (see Table 4).

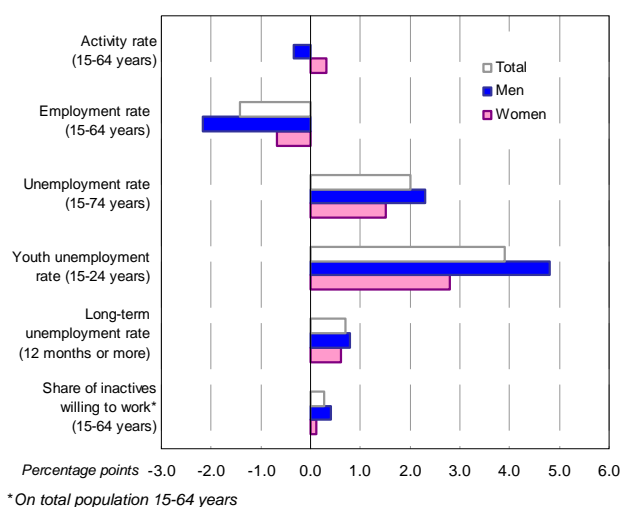
The unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) in the EU-27 showed a new increase on a yearly basis (by 2.0 p.p. from 2008Q4), reaching 9.3 % (see Table 13). The youth unemployment rate (age 15-24) continued to go up (by 3.9 p.p.), to 20.3%, as did the long-term unemployment rate (by 0.7p.p.), which attained 3.2%.

As in the previous quarter, the activity rate of the working age population (15-64 years) remained unchanged over the year at 71.0 % (see Table 2). The drop registered for men was exactly matched by the increase observed for women.

In 2009Q4, 16.6 million people (i.e. 5.0 % of the population between 15 and 64 years) were inactive but seeking employment or willing to work,

0.9 million more than one year before. This marks an increase of 0.3 p.p. over the year in the share of inactives willing to work (see Table 16).

Chart 3: Changes from 2008Q4 to 2009Q4 in selected labour-market indicators. EU-27 (percentage points), by sex



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

([lfsq_arqan](#), [lfsq_ergan](#), [lfsq_urgan](#), [lfsq_upgal](#), [lfsq_igaww](#))

³ See the definition of employment in the Methodological Notes.

⁴ See the LFS resident population concept in the Methodological Notes.

Table 1. Activity rates, 2009Q4, %, by age group, sex and nationality

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	71.0	43.1	85.0	49.3	71.6	43.2	85.4	48.8
Nationals	71.0	42.9	85.5	49.2	71.6	42.9	86.1	48.7
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	76.5	52.1	85.1	52.4	75.6	50.3	84.5	50.5
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	68.5	42.8	76.5	52.4	68.6	43.2	76.7	50.3
Men	77.6	46.2	91.7	58.8	78.4	46.2	92.6	57.9
Nationals	77.3	45.9	91.8	58.7	78.1	45.8	92.7	57.7
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	84.1	53.3	93.5	61.2	83.4	52.8	93.3	59.5
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	80.0	48.1	89.7	62.6	80.6	48.2	90.5	61.2
Women	64.4	39.9	78.3	40.4	64.8	40.1	78.3	40.1
Nationals	64.7	39.8	79.2	40.3	65.2	39.9	79.5	40.1
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	69.3	51.0	76.9	43.3	68.1	47.9	76.2	41.0
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	57.2	37.2	63.3	43.5	56.7	38.0	62.9	40.6

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_argan](#))**Table 2. Labour force and activity rates, by country and sex**

15-64 years	Labour Force (15-64 years) (1000)	Activity rates (15-64 years) (%)					
		2009Q4			2008Q4		
		Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	235,262	71.0	77.6	64.4	71.0	77.9	64.1
EA-16	154,432	71.6	78.4	64.8	71.5	78.7	64.4
Belgium	4,806	67.3	73.3	61.1	67.0	73.2	60.6
Bulgaria	3,396	66.5	71.4	61.7	67.8	72.8	62.8
Czech Republic	5,233	70.4	78.8	61.8	69.9	78.5	61.2
Denmark	2,862	79.7	83.2	76.1	81.2	84.7	77.6
Germany	41,704	77.3	82.4	72.0	76.7	82.1	71.2
Estonia	665	73.4	76.5	70.5	75.5	79.3	72.0
Ireland	2,095	69.3	76.8	61.7	71.0	79.8	62.2
Greece	4,904	67.9	79.0	56.7	67.1	78.9	55.4
Spain	22,803	72.8	80.5	65.0	73.0	81.5	64.3
France	28,145	70.6	75.2	66.2	70.3	75.0	65.8
Italy	24,680	62.5	73.7	51.4	63.0	74.4	51.6
Cyprus	395	74.6	82.5	66.8	73.6	81.7	65.8
Latvia	1,139	73.0	75.5	70.7	74.0	78.6	69.7
Lithuania	1,610	69.7	71.3	68.2	69.4	72.1	66.8
Luxembourg	227	68.5	76.2	60.5	66.2	73.8	58.4
Hungary	4,193	62.0	68.3	55.9	61.7	68.1	55.5
Malta	174	59.4	76.0	42.0	58.7	77.0	39.7
Netherlands	8,723	79.5	84.9	74.1	79.7	85.4	73.9
Austria	4,207	75.2	81.5	69.0	75.3	81.4	69.2
Poland	17,128	64.9	71.9	58.2	64.3	71.4	57.5
Portugal	5,260	73.6	78.2	69.1	74.0	79.4	68.7
Romania	9,350	62.3	69.9	54.7	62.0	69.7	54.4
Slovenia	1,025	72.2	76.1	68.0	72.0	75.5	68.2
Slovakia	2,694	68.7	76.5	61.0	68.9	76.7	61.2
Finland	2,590	73.4	74.5	72.2	74.8	76.6	72.9
Sweden	4,745	77.9	80.6	75.1	78.3	80.7	75.8
United Kingdom	30,509	75.5	81.5	69.6	76.1	82.7	69.5
Croatia	1,692	62.4	67.4	57.5	63.5	70.2	57.1
Turkey	24,045	51.1	74.3	28.2	50.8	75.0	26.7
Iceland	170	83.8	86.1	81.4	84.9	88.5	81.0
Norway	2,498	77.9	80.2	75.6	79.5	82.0	76.9
Switzerland	4,334	82.6	87.9	77.3	82.3	88.0	76.6

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_argan](#))

Table 3. Employment rates, 2009Q4, %, by age group, sex and nationality

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	64.4	34.4	77.9	46.1	64.5	34.5	77.8	45.3
Nationals	64.7	34.4	79.0	46.1	65.1	34.6	79.2	45.4
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	67.8	41.5	76.1	46.7	65.9	38.7	74.5	44.5
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	54.8	30.0	61.9	43.4	54.0	30.1	61.0	41.4
Men	70.3	36.2	84.2	54.8	70.8	36.4	84.5	53.8
Nationals	70.5	36.2	84.9	54.9	71.2	36.5	85.6	54.0
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	74.4	43.6	83.5	54.3	72.7	41.9	81.8	52.4
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	63.2	33.2	72.0	49.7	62.6	33.2	71.2	48.7
Women	58.5	32.4	71.7	37.9	58.3	32.4	71.0	37.2
Nationals	59.0	32.5	73.0	37.9	59.1	32.6	72.7	37.3
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	61.4	39.6	69.1	38.8	59.4	35.6	67.5	36.2
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	46.4	26.5	52.0	38.0	45.4	27.0	50.9	34.8

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_ergan](#))**Table 4. Employment and employment rates, by country and sex**

15-64 years	Employment Confidence (1000) limits		Employment rates (%)					
			2009Q4			2008Q4		
			Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	213,211	± 510	64.4 ± 0.2	70.3	58.5	65.8	72.4	59.2
EA-16	139,210	± 351	64.5 ± 0.2	70.8	58.3	65.8	72.8	58.8
Belgium	4,417	± 49	61.8 ± 0.7	67.3	56.2	62.4	68.8	55.9
Bulgaria	3,124	± 72	61.2 ± 1.4	65.3	57.2	64.3	69.2	59.6
Czech Republic	4,849	± 43	65.3 ± 0.6	73.6	56.7	66.8	75.8	57.7
Denmark	2,666	± 24	74.2 ± 0.7	77.0	71.4	78.3	81.6	74.9
Germany	38,649	± 215	71.6 ± 0.4	76.0	67.1	71.3	76.3	66.2
Estonia	559	± 20	61.7 ± 2.2	60.8	62.5	69.6	72.6	66.8
Ireland	1,831	± 16	60.6 ± 0.5	64.5	56.6	65.6	72.3	58.9
Greece	4,391	± 82	60.8 ± 1.1	72.8	48.7	61.7	74.6	48.8
Spain	18,484	± 130	59.0 ± 0.4	65.4	52.5	62.8	70.9	54.5
France	25,400	± 164	63.7 ± 0.4	67.9	59.6	64.7	69.5	60.1
Italy	22,543	± 124	57.1 ± 0.3	68.1	46.1	58.5	69.8	47.2
Cyprus	371	± 9	70.0 ± 1.7	77.2	62.9	71.1	79.2	63.2
Latvia	910	± 20	58.4 ± 1.3	57.5	59.2	66.5	69.3	63.9
Lithuania	1,355	± 42	58.7 ± 1.8	57.1	60.2	63.8	65.9	61.9
Luxembourg	215	± 4	64.8 ± 1.3	72.8	56.6	62.6	69.8	55.3
Hungary	3,751	± 31	55.5 ± 0.5	61.0	50.2	56.7	62.6	51.1
Malta	161	± 5	54.9 ± 1.7	70.9	38.3	55.0	72.7	36.5
Netherlands	8,392	± 44	76.5 ± 0.4	81.7	71.3	77.6	83.4	71.8
Austria	4,007	± 45	71.6 ± 0.8	77.4	66.0	72.2	78.4	66.1
Poland	15,658	± 141	59.4 ± 0.5	65.9	53.0	60.0	67.1	53.1
Portugal	4,698	± 53	65.7 ± 0.7	70.3	61.3	67.9	73.6	62.2
Romania	8,619	± 289	57.4 ± 1.9	64.0	50.8	58.3	64.9	51.7
Slovenia	958	± 19	67.5 ± 1.3	71.2	63.5	68.8	72.5	65.0
Slovakia	2,320	± 24	59.2 ± 0.6	66.1	52.2	62.9	70.8	55.1
Finland	2,375	± 17	67.3 ± 0.5	67.8	66.8	70.3	72.0	68.5
Sweden	4,345	± 21	71.3 ± 0.3	73.4	69.1	73.4	75.8	71.0
United Kingdom	28,164	± 149	69.7 ± 0.4	74.4	65.1	71.3	77.0	65.7
Croatia	1,530	± 71	56.4 ± 2.6	61.9	51.1	57.8	65.1	50.7
Turkey	21,154	± 112	44.9 ± 0.2	65.4	24.8	45.2	66.7	23.8
Iceland	158	± 3	78.1 ± 1.6	79.0	77.1	81.4	84.0	78.6
Norway	2,425	± 17	75.7 ± 0.5	77.4	73.8	77.5	79.8	75.1
Switzerland	4,153	± 49	79.2 ± 0.9	84.5	73.8	79.5	85.4	73.5

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_ergan](#))

Table 5. Share of part-time employment on total employment, 2009Q4, %, by age group, sex and economic activity

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	19.0	28.5	16.5	26.2	20.3	27.6	18.6	25.2
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	21.4	31.8	15.0	32.6	19.8	29.3	12.0	34.2
Industry, incl. Energy	7.1	8.2	6.2	11.9	8.4	8.7	7.7	12.6
Construction	6.4	5.6	5.5	13.0	6.8	5.3	6.2	12.0
Trade, transport and communication services	20.2	39.1	16.0	25.5	21.2	37.2	18.2	24.2
Business activities and financial services	21.0	25.2	18.8	30.4	22.7	28.2	21.1	29.1
Other services	26.8	33.3	25.1	32.0	28.6	33.1	27.8	30.0
Men	8.4	21.2	5.3	15.9	8.1	20.1	5.5	14.3
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	15.9	28.5	9.4	27.0	13.0	26.6	5.2	26.8
Industry, incl. Energy	3.0	5.8	1.9	7.4	3.2	6.1	2.2	7.2
Construction	3.9	4.9	2.8	9.3	3.7	4.7	2.9	8.2
Trade, transport and communication services	10.1	31.8	5.7	15.4	9.6	29.8	6.0	14.0
Business activities and financial services	10.0	23.1	6.2	21.1	10.0	26.2	6.7	18.8
Other services	12.3	30.1	9.0	18.5	12.3	29.1	10.1	15.5
Women	31.8	36.9	29.6	40.4	35.2	36.4	34.2	40.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	30.3	39.3	24.3	41.0	33.6	38.3	26.1	47.2
Industry, incl. Energy	17.2	14.5	16.2	26.9	22.4	15.7	22.1	30.4
Construction	32.8	15.5	32.1	46.5	38.7	14.7	39.2	48.3
Trade, transport and communication services	33.5	46.6	29.7	41.5	36.6	44.7	34.6	40.9
Business activities and financial services	32.5	27.1	31.2	45.0	35.7	30.0	35.0	45.3
Other services	34.1	34.8	32.8	40.6	36.9	34.8	36.6	39.7

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_epgn62](#))

Table 6. Part-time employment, by country and sex

15 years and more	Part-time employment (1000)	Confidence limits	Share on total employment (%)					
			2009Q4			2008Q4		
			Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	41,309	± 321	19.0	8.4	31.8	18.3	7.8	31.2
EA-16	28,746	± 222	20.3	8.1	35.2	19.6	7.4	34.7
Belgium	1,088	± 29	24.4	9.6	42.4	22.8	7.8	41.6
Bulgaria	68	± 9	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.0	1.6	2.4
Czech Republic	283	± 15	5.7	2.9	9.6	5.0	2.3	8.6
Denmark	703	± 25	25.8	14.4	38.6	25.4	15.0	37.1
Germany	10,267	± 135	26.1	9.6	45.2	25.6	8.9	45.1
Estonia	54	± 8	9.3	5.7	12.6	7.6	4.2	11.0
Ireland	413	± 13	22.0	11.3	34.4	19.0	8.0	32.8
Greece	277	± 17	6.2	3.3	10.5	5.7	2.9	10.1
Spain	2,471	± 72	13.3	5.3	23.4	12.5	4.4	23.3
France	4,577	± 117	17.9	6.3	30.8	16.8	5.7	29.3
Italy	3,265	± 82	14.2	4.9	28.2	14.2	5.0	27.8
Cyprus	33	± 3	8.6	5.2	12.7	7.9	4.5	12.1
Latvia	84	± 13	9.0	8.1	9.8	6.7	5.4	8.0
Lithuania	117	± 13	8.4	7.5	9.3	6.7	5.5	7.8
Luxembourg	36	± 3	16.5	4.2	32.9	18.3	3.9	36.9
Hungary	217	± 13	5.7	4.2	7.6	4.9	3.4	6.7
Malta	19	± 2	11.5	4.9	24.3	11.3	4.1	26.5
Netherlands	4,154	± 44	48.6	25.3	75.9	47.6	24.2	75.4
Austria	1,005	± 27	24.6	9.1	42.7	23.8	8.1	42.3
Poland	1,295	± 70	8.1	5.6	11.2	8.5	5.5	12.1
Portugal	599	± 36	11.9	8.1	16.3	11.6	7.2	16.8
Romania	875	± 102	9.7	9.1	10.4	9.7	9.1	10.4
Slovenia	105	± 8	10.7	8.2	13.7	9.2	7.4	11.2
Slovakia	79	± 8	3.4	2.4	4.6	2.9	1.8	4.4
Finland	358	± 13	14.9	9.9	20.0	14.2	9.4	19.4
Sweden	1,233	± 25	27.7	14.6	42.1	26.9	13.6	41.8
United Kingdom	7,635	± 190	26.5	12.0	42.9	25.5	11.5	41.8
Croatia	138	± 20	8.7	6.7	11.0	9.3	6.8	12.2
Turkey	2,424	± 139	11.1	6.4	23.4	9.6	5.5	20.9
Iceland	44	± 3	26.7	14.1	40.3	24.3	11.7	38.9
Norway	709	± 18	28.5	15.1	43.3	28.3	14.9	43.1
Switzerland	1,472	± 35	34.6	13.5	59.3	34.3	13.5	59.0

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_epgn62](#))

Table 7. Share of employees with temporary contracts, 2009Q4, %, by age group, sex and economic activity

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	13.6	40.8	10.9	7.5	15.3	50.4	12.1	6.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	31.2	52.0	30.0	22.2	38.8	59.8	37.3	28.5
Industry, incl. Energy	10.1	43.1	7.4	4.5	10.2	50.7	6.7	3.4
Construction	17.4	41.4	14.5	8.6	19.5	49.3	15.7	9.0
Trade, transport and communication services	13.1	35.4	9.4	6.2	14.6	45.1	10.1	5.4
Business activities and financial services	12.2	39.1	9.7	8.3	13.5	49.6	10.7	6.5
Other services	14.7	47.6	12.9	8.2	17.2	58.1	15.4	6.9
Men	12.8	40.5	10.0	7.3	14.2	49.9	10.8	6.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	29.0	50.2	27.5	20.4	36.5	58.6	34.6	26.6
Industry, incl. Energy	9.4	43.8	6.5	4.2	9.6	51.2	5.9	3.5
Construction	18.5	41.8	15.5	9.3	20.5	48.9	16.6	9.9
Trade, transport and communication services	11.7	35.0	8.1	5.9	13.1	44.8	8.8	5.2
Business activities and financial services	12.0	40.2	9.3	9.4	13.4	51.1	10.4	7.0
Other services	14.1	46.8	12.4	8.3	15.9	59.6	14.3	6.8
Women	14.3	41.0	11.8	7.6	16.4	51.0	13.4	6.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	36.6	57.5	35.5	27.7	44.1	63.4	43.1	34.5
Industry, incl. Energy	11.6	41.3	9.4	5.2	11.7	49.5	8.6	3.1
Construction	8.5	35.7	6.4	3.6	10.5	56.8	7.4	1.5
Trade, transport and communication services	14.8	35.7	11.0	6.7	16.4	45.3	11.6	5.6
Business activities and financial services	12.4	38.2	10.0	7.1	13.6	48.4	10.9	5.9
Other services	15.0	48.0	13.1	8.0	17.8	57.5	15.9	7.0

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_etqan2](#))

Table 8. Employees with temporary contracts, by country and sex

15 years and more	Employees with temp. contracts (1000)	Share on total employees (%)					
		2009Q4			2008Q4		
		Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	24,528	13.6	12.8	14.3	13.8	13.0	14.7
EA-16	18,053	15.3	14.2	16.4	15.8	14.7	17.0
Belgium	318	8.4	6.9	10.2	8.2	6.8	9.7
Bulgaria	121	4.4	5.1	3.5	4.8	5.1	4.4
Czech Republic	371	9.0	7.6	10.7	8.0	6.4	9.9
Denmark	214	8.7	8.4	9.0	8.2	7.7	8.8
Germany	5,114	14.7	14.6	14.8	14.9	14.9	14.8
Estonia	13	2.5	(3.9)	:	2.9	(4.1)	:
Ireland	133	8.7	7.4	9.8	8.3	7.0	9.5
Greece	350	12.2	10.6	14.3	11.8	10.2	13.9
Spain	3,886	25.1	23.9	26.5	27.9	25.9	30.4
France	2,962	13.2	11.9	14.5	13.7	12.4	14.9
Italy	2,174	12.6	10.9	14.7	12.9	11.1	15.2
Cyprus	40	13.1	6.5	20.2	13.8	8.6	19.4
Latvia	43	5.2	6.4	4.1	3.5	5.1	2.0
Lithuania	20	1.7	(2.2)	(1.2)	2.1	(2.3)	(2.0)
Luxembourg	15	7.8	7.3	8.4	5.8	4.8	7.1
Hungary	308	9.3	9.8	8.7	8.2	9.2	7.1
Malta	7	4.7	(3.2)	7.4	4.2	3.4	(5.7)
Netherlands	1,353	18.5	16.5	20.6	18.1	16.3	20.0
Austria	323	9.1	9.5	8.6	8.8	8.9	8.7
Poland	3,278	26.5	26.3	26.8	26.9	26.4	27.5
Portugal	870	22.7	21.7	23.8	22.3	21.0	23.8
Romania	67	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.4	0.9
Slovenia	140	17.1	15.8	18.7	16.9	14.7	19.4
Slovakia	90	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.9	5.0	4.8
Finland	279	13.5	9.6	17.0	13.4	9.4	17.2
Sweden	586	14.8	12.6	17.0	14.7	11.9	17.7
United Kingdom	1,453	5.9	5.6	6.1	5.6	5.0	6.2
Croatia	138	11.0	10.5	11.6	11.0	10.7	11.4
Turkey	1,511	11.4	10.8	13.4	12.4	11.9	14.2
Iceland	12	8.1	8.1	8.1	5.5	5.9	5.0
Norway	180	7.9	6.4	9.4	8.3	6.7	10.0
Switzerland	477	13.2	12.9	13.6	13.2	13.3	13.1

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_etqan2](#))

Table 9. Average weekly actual hours worked in all jobs by persons who worked at least one hour in the reference week, by full-time/part-time distinction, sex and economic activity

	EU-27				EA-16			
	Total		Full-time Part-time		Total		Full-time Part-time	
	2009Q4	2008Q4	2009Q4	2009Q4	2009Q4	2008Q4	2009Q4	2009Q4
Men and women	36.9	37.4	40.7	20.6	36.5	37.0	40.6	20.4
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	38.7	38.9	43.3	21.6	41.5	41.8	46.9	19.0
Industry, incl. Energy	38.7	39.2	40.0	21.4	38.1	38.7	39.6	21.3
Construction	40.2	40.7	41.5	20.6	39.5	40.0	40.9	20.1
Trade, transport and communication services	37.8	38.2	42.3	19.7	37.6	38.1	42.4	19.8
Business activities and financial services	36.6	37.2	40.9	20.1	36.3	36.9	41.0	20.1
Other services	34.1	34.3	38.8	21.1	33.4	33.6	38.4	21.0
Men	40.1	40.5	41.8	20.6	40.0	40.5	41.7	20.3
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	41.8	42.2	45.4	22.6	44.7	45.0	48.4	19.5
Industry, incl. Energy	39.8	40.4	40.3	22.1	39.4	40.1	39.9	22.3
Construction	40.9	41.5	41.6	21.8	40.3	40.8	41.0	21.0
Trade, transport and communication services	40.9	41.3	43.2	19.2	41.0	41.5	43.3	18.9
Business activities and financial services	40.3	40.8	42.4	20.1	40.3	40.9	42.5	20.1
Other services	37.9	38.3	40.2	21.0	37.6	38.0	39.8	21.2
Women	33.1	33.4	38.9	20.6	32.2	32.5	38.6	20.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	33.6	33.8	39.2	20.7	34.8	35.5	42.8	18.6
Industry, incl. Energy	35.9	36.3	39.0	21.1	34.5	34.9	38.4	20.9
Construction	32.7	32.8	39.1	19.2	31.4	31.7	39.0	19.4
Trade, transport and communication services	33.7	34.0	40.6	19.9	33.0	33.4	40.5	20.1
Business activities and financial services	32.8	33.4	38.8	20.1	32.0	32.7	38.7	20.1
Other services	32.1	32.2	37.8	21.1	31.2	31.3	37.3	20.9

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_ewhan2](#), [lfsq_ewh2n2](#))

Table 10. Persons who worked at least one hour in the reference week and corresponding average weekly actual hours in all jobs, by country and sex

15 years and more	Persons who worked at least 1 hour (1000)	Average weekly actual hours					
		2009Q4			2008Q4		
		Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	197,616	36.9 ± 0.1	40.1	33.1	37.4	40.5	33.4
EA-16	128,053	36.5 ± 0.1	40.0	32.2	37.0	40.5	32.5
Belgium	3,964	36.8 ± 0.3	40.4	32.4	36.8	40.3	32.3
Bulgaria	2,854	40.7 ± 0.2	41.0	40.2	41.0	41.5	40.3
Czech Republic	4,621	40.0 ± 0.1	41.7	37.6	40.8	42.6	38.3
Denmark	2,400	34.7 ± 0.3	37.4	31.4	35.1	37.5	32.1
Germany	35,807	35.8 ± 0.2	40.3	30.4	36.2	40.9	30.6
Estonia	541	37.8 ± 0.5	39.1	36.7	38.6	39.9	37.3
Ireland	1,701	34.8 ± 0.6	38.9	29.7	36.6	40.9	31.0
Greece	4,320	40.9 ± 0.2	42.9	37.7	41.3	43.4	38.0
Spain	16,700	37.6 ± 0.2	40.3	34.3	38.4	41.1	34.8
France	22,268	36.4 ± 0.1	39.4	33.0	36.7	39.6	33.3
Italy	21,326	37.0 ± 0.1	40.0	32.6	37.3	40.2	32.8
Cyprus	366	38.7 ± 0.3	40.9	36.1	39.1	41.3	36.3
Latvia	887	39.0 ± 0.5	39.4	38.7	39.6	40.2	39.0
Lithuania	1,305	39.1 ± 0.3	39.8	38.4	39.8	40.6	39.0
Luxembourg	190	38.1 ± 0.8	41.8	33.2	37.2	40.3	32.9
Hungary	3,691	39.7 ± 0.1	40.6	38.6	40.1	41.2	38.8
Malta	159	39.9 ± 0.5	42.0	35.8	39.7	42.0	34.7
Netherlands	7,678	32.2 ± 0.1	37.5	26.0	32.5	37.9	25.9
Austria	3,643	36.3 ± 0.3	40.4	31.4	37.5	41.8	32.1
Poland	15,176	39.3 ± 0.3	41.4	36.8	39.8	42.0	37.0
Portugal	4,690	37.9 ± 0.4	39.7	35.9	38.3	40.1	36.3
Romania	8,872	39.3 ± 0.3	40.1	38.3	39.6	40.5	38.4
Slovenia	896	39.6 ± 0.3	40.8	38.1	39.7	41.1	38.0
Slovakia	2,220	39.6 ± 0.2	40.5	38.4	40.0	41.1	38.6
Finland	2,124	36.1 ± 0.2	38.3	33.7	36.8	39.0	34.3
Sweden	3,903	35.5 ± 0.2	37.8	32.7	36.2	38.8	33.2
United Kingdom	25,313	35.7 ± 0.1	39.9	30.7	35.8	40.0	30.8
Croatia	1,522	39.2 ± 0.5	40.3	37.9	39.2	40.4	37.7
Turkey	21,108	48.3 ± 0.4	51.6	39.8	49.4	52.3	41.3
Iceland	152	38.9 ± 0.7	42.9	34.5	39.4	43.8	34.3
Norway	2,077	34.1 ± 0.2	37.1	30.5	34.7	37.9	31.1
Switzerland	3,754	37.1 ± 0.2	42.9	30.0	37.6	43.5	30.3

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_ewhan2](#), [lfsq_ewh2n2](#))

Table 11. Share of persons whose job started within the past 3 months, 2009Q4, %, by economic activity, age group and sex

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	4.2	15.9	3.3	1.5	4.5	17.6	3.6	1.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	3.3	10.6	3.3	1.3	5.2	17.7	5.4	2.3
Industry, incl. Energy	2.9	12.8	2.3	1.0	3.1	13.7	2.3	0.8
Construction	5.0	13.6	4.3	1.9	5.7	15.5	4.9	2.3
Trade, transport and communication services	4.8	16.0	3.4	1.7	4.9	17.3	3.6	1.6
Business activities and financial services	4.1	17.2	3.3	1.6	4.2	18.4	3.4	1.5
Other services	4.3	19.2	3.6	1.6	4.6	21.0	3.8	1.5
Men	3.9	14.9	3.1	1.5	4.1	16.3	3.3	1.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	3.6	10.8	3.6	1.7	5.3	16.3	5.3	2.7
Industry, incl. Energy	2.7	12.6	2.1	1.0	2.8	13.4	2.1	0.8
Construction	5.2	13.4	4.5	1.9	5.8	15.2	5.0	2.5
Trade, transport and communication services	4.3	15.6	3.1	1.6	4.4	16.7	3.2	1.6
Business activities and financial services	3.9	17.2	3.2	1.7	4.0	19.4	3.3	1.5
Other services	3.7	18.4	3.0	1.5	3.8	19.9	3.1	1.4
Women	4.6	17.1	3.6	1.5	4.9	19.0	3.9	1.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	2.6	10.3	2.8	0.8	4.9	22.5	5.5	1.7
Industry, incl. Energy	3.4	13.3	2.8	0.9	3.7	14.4	3.0	0.7
Construction	3.8	16.6	3.1	1.2	4.3	20.7	3.6	0.1
Trade, transport and communication services	5.4	16.4	3.8	1.8	5.6	18.0	4.1	1.7
Business activities and financial services	4.4	17.2	3.5	1.4	4.3	17.6	3.5	1.3
Other services	4.6	19.5	3.8	1.6	5.1	21.5	4.2	1.5

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 12. Persons whose job started within the past 3 months, by country and sex

15 years and more	Persons whose job started within past 3 months (1000)	Share on total employment (%)					
		2009Q4			2008Q4		
		Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	8,981	4.2	3.9	4.6	4.5	4.1	5.0
EA-16	6,221	4.5	4.1	4.9	4.9	4.4	5.5
Belgium	179	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.7	4.2	5.3
Bulgaria	75	2.4	2.6	2.1	2.9	3.1	2.7
Czech Republic	137	2.8	2.3	3.4	2.6	2.2	3.3
Denmark	175	6.5	5.8	7.2	6.6	6.0	7.2
Germany	1,735	4.5	4.1	4.9	5.0	4.6	5.4
Estonia	25	4.4	4.5	4.3	6.0	6.1	5.8
Ireland	68	3.6	3.4	3.9	4.8	4.0	5.7
Greece	81	1.8	1.6	2.2	1.7	1.4	2.0
Spain	1,157	6.2	5.8	6.7	6.5	5.8	7.5
France	1,527	6.0	5.8	6.2	6.5	6.3	6.6
Italy	766	3.3	2.8	4.1	3.5	2.9	4.5
Cyprus	18	4.6	3.8	5.6	5.1	3.9	6.5
Latvia	50	5.4	6.0	4.8	4.4	4.9	3.8
Lithuania	34	2.5	2.6	2.3	3.2	2.6	3.8
Luxembourg	8	3.8	(2.8)	5.0	(2.1)	:	:
Hungary	114	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.5
Malta	5	2.9	:	:	(2.3)	:	:
Netherlands	112	1.6	1.4	1.8	2.2	1.9	2.6
Austria	182	4.5	4.0	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.9
Poland	586	3.7	3.4	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0
Portugal	174	3.5	3.1	3.8	3.7	3.4	4.1
Romania	146	1.6	1.9	1.3	1.7	1.8	1.6
Slovenia	39	4.0	3.9	4.2	4.6	4.1	5.1
Slovakia	47	2.0	1.8	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.5
Finland	122	5.1	4.1	6.1	6.0	4.8	7.3
Sweden	308	6.9	6.4	7.6	7.2	6.1	8.4
United Kingdom	1,110	3.9	3.6	4.1	4.4	4.0	4.8
Croatia	(30)	1.9	2.0	1.7	2.4	2.8	1.9
Turkey	2,627	12.1	11.6	13.3	10.6	10.3	11.6
Iceland	8	5.0	(5.2)	(4.7)	5.7	5.9	(5.5)
Norway	99	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.1	4.9
Switzerland	139	3.3	3.0	3.6	4.3	4.0	4.6

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 13. Unemployment rates, 2009Q4, %, by age group, sex and nationality

	EU-27					EA-16				
	15-74		15-24	25-54	55-74	15-74		15-24	25-54	55-74
	Total	Long-term				Total	Long-term			
Men and women	9.3	3.2	20.3	8.3	6.1	9.8	3.7	20.2	8.9	6.6
Nationals	8.7	3.1	19.9	7.6	5.7	8.9	3.5	19.4	8.1	6.2
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	11.4	3.5	20.3	10.5	10.4	12.7	4.1	23.0	11.9	11.1
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	20.0	6.6	30.0	19.0	16.7	21.3	7.3	30.3	20.4	17.6
Men	9.3	3.2	21.5	8.2	6.3	9.6	3.6	21.1	8.7	6.5
Nationals	8.7	3.0	21.2	7.5	5.9	8.7	3.3	20.4	7.6	6.0
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	11.4	3.2	18.2	10.8	10.7	12.8	3.9	20.6	12.3	11.3
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	21.0	6.7	30.9	19.8	19.8	22.3	7.3	31.2	21.3	20.0
Women	9.2	3.3	18.8	8.4	5.8	9.9	3.9	19.1	9.2	6.8
Nationals	8.7	3.1	18.3	7.8	5.6	9.3	3.7	18.3	8.6	6.5
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	11.4	3.9	22.3	10.2	9.8	12.6	4.5	25.6	11.3	10.9
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	18.8	6.5	28.7	18.0	12.7	19.9	7.2	29.0	19.1	14.1

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_urgan](#), [lfsq_upgal](#))**Table 14. Unemployment and unemployment rates, by country and sex**

15-74 years	Unemployment (1000)			Unemployment rates (%)								
				2009Q4				2008Q4				
	Total	Confidence limits	Long-term	Men and women		Men	Women	Men and women		Men	Women	
				Total	Long-term			Total	Long-term			
EU-27	22,121	± 232	7,755	9.3	± 0.1	3.2	9.3	9.2	7.3	2.5	7.0	7.7
EA-16	15,260	± 191	5,801	9.8	± 0.2	3.7	9.6	9.9	7.9	2.9	7.4	8.6
Belgium	390	± 29	169	8.1	± 0.6	3.5	8.1	8.0	6.8	3.0	6.0	7.8
Bulgaria	273	± 22	117	7.9	± 0.6	3.4	8.4	7.4	5.0	2.7	4.9	5.1
Czech Republic	385	± 18	114	7.3	± 0.3	2.1	6.5	8.2	4.4	2.0	3.4	5.7
Denmark	196	± 13	22	6.7	± 0.5	0.7	7.3	6.1	3.5	0.5	3.6	3.5
Germany	3,061	± 87	1,405	7.2	± 0.2	3.3	7.6	6.8	6.9	3.6	7.0	6.9
Estonia	107	± 13	33	15.5	± 1.7	4.9	19.8	11.2	7.6	2.0	8.2	6.9
Ireland	264	± 13	101	12.4	± 0.6	4.7	15.7	8.2	7.5	1.9	9.2	5.2
Greece	514	± 24	212	10.3	± 0.5	4.3	7.7	14.0	8.0	3.6	5.4	11.7
Spain	4,327	± 99	1,267	18.8	± 0.4	5.5	18.7	19.1	13.9	2.5	13.0	15.1
France	2,753	± 103	1,001	9.7	± 0.4	3.5	9.6	9.8	7.9	2.7	7.4	8.6
Italy	2,145	± 71	981	8.6	± 0.3	3.9	7.5	10.2	7.1	3.1	6.1	8.6
Cyprus	24	± 3	3	6.0	± 0.7	0.7	6.2	5.8	3.4	0.5	3.0	3.8
Latvia	229	± 17	70	19.7	± 1.3	6.0	23.5	16.0	9.9	2.3	11.4	8.2
Lithuania	255	± 19	72	15.6	± 1.0	4.4	19.6	11.6	7.9	1.9	8.5	7.4
Luxembourg	12	± 2	(3)	5.3	± 0.9	(1.2)	4.5	6.4	5.4	1.8	5.5	5.2
Hungary	442	± 19	191	10.5	± 0.5	4.5	10.7	10.2	8.0	3.8	8.0	8.0
Malta	13	± 2	6	7.4	± 1.0	3.3	6.7	8.8	6.3	2.7	5.5	8.0
Netherlands	336	± 15	72	3.8	± 0.2	0.8	3.8	3.8	2.6	0.8	2.4	2.8
Austria	200	± 15	48	4.7	± 0.3	1.1	4.9	4.4	4.0	0.9	3.6	4.4
Poland	1,471	± 76	448	8.5	± 0.4	2.6	8.2	8.8	6.7	2.1	6.0	7.7
Portugal	563	± 33	268	10.3	± 0.6	4.8	9.7	10.9	7.9	3.4	6.9	9.1
Romania	731	± 52	170	7.5	± 0.5	1.7	8.1	6.7	5.8	2.3	6.7	4.6
Slovenia	67	± 8	19	6.4	± 0.7	1.8	6.3	6.6	4.3	1.8	3.9	4.7
Slovakia	375	± 18	203	13.9	± 0.9	7.5	13.5	14.3	8.6	5.6	7.6	9.9
Finland	215	± 9	44	8.2	± 0.3	1.7	8.9	7.5	6.0	1.2	5.8	6.1
Sweden	403	± 13	66	8.3	± 0.3	1.4	8.7	7.9	6.2	0.8	6.0	6.4
United Kingdom	2,369	± 80	650	7.6	± 0.3	2.1	8.6	6.4	6.2	1.4	6.8	5.4
Croatia	162	± 19	84	9.3	± 1.0	4.8	8.0	10.8	8.7	5.4	7.0	10.7
Turkey	2,898	± 101	717	11.8	± 0.4	2.9	11.8	11.8	10.9	2.5	11.0	10.8
Iceland	12	± 2	1	6.7	± 1.0	0.8	8.0	5.2	4.0	:	5.0	2.9
Norway	74	± 8	15	2.9	± 0.3	0.6	3.4	2.3	2.5	0.4	2.7	2.3
Switzerland	182	± 13	51	4.1	± 0.3	1.1	3.8	4.5	3.4	1.1	2.8	4.0

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS ([lfsq_urgan](#), [lfsq_upgal](#))

Table 15. Inactives willing to work as a share of total population, 2009Q4, %, by age group, sex and nationality

	EU-27				EA-16			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	5.0	7.5	4.6	3.9	4.7	6.9	4.4	3.5
Nationals	4.9	7.4	4.5	3.9	4.5	6.7	4.2	3.4
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	4.8	6.7	4.7	3.6	5.0	6.9	4.9	3.2
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	7.7	9.9	7.3	6.1	7.6	9.4	7.4	6.0
Men	4.0	7.1	3.1	3.8	3.6	6.5	2.9	3.2
Nationals	3.9	7.0	3.0	3.8	3.5	6.4	2.8	3.1
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	3.4	6.0	2.9	3.7	3.6	6.9	3.1	2.9
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	5.9	9.1	5.1	6.3	5.9	9.1	5.1	6.0
Women	6.0	7.8	6.1	4.0	5.7	7.2	5.9	3.8
Nationals	5.8	7.7	5.9	4.0	5.5	7.0	5.6	3.7
Non nationals citizens of other EU-27 countries	6.2	7.4	6.4	3.4	6.3	6.9	6.7	3.6
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	9.4	10.7	9.6	5.9	9.3	9.8	9.6	5.9

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS (lfsq.igaww)

Table 16. Inactives willing to work, by country and sex

15-64 years	Inactives willing to work (1000)	Share on total population 15-64 (%)					
		2009Q4			2008Q4		
		Men and women	Men	Women	Men and women	Men	Women
EU-27	16,592	5.0	4.0	6.0	4.7	3.6	5.9
EA-16	10,086	4.7	3.6	5.7	4.6	3.3	5.8
Belgium	189	2.6	2.4	2.9	2.6	2.1	3.2
Bulgaria	303	5.9	6.2	5.7	4.9	4.6	5.1
Czech Republic	172	2.3	1.8	2.8	2.5	1.9	3.2
Denmark	147	4.1	3.7	4.5	3.4	2.7	4.1
Germany	2,052	3.8	3.1	4.5	4.2	3.3	5.1
Estonia	50	5.5	5.6	5.4	4.0	3.2	4.8
Ireland	117	3.9	4.2	3.5	2.7	2.6	2.8
Greece	124	1.7	0.9	2.5	1.6	0.9	2.4
Spain	1,649	5.3	3.5	7.1	4.6	2.8	6.5
France	959	2.4	1.9	2.9	2.1	1.7	2.6
Italy	3,721	9.4	7.0	11.9	9.5	6.5	12.5
Cyprus	12	2.3	1.7	2.8	2.0	1.6	2.4
Latvia	128	8.2	7.1	9.2	7.0	5.0	8.9
Lithuania	85	3.7	4.0	3.3	3.8	4.2	3.4
Luxembourg	16	4.9	2.6	7.4	(0.8)	:	(1.1)
Hungary	341	5.0	4.7	5.3	4.9	4.5	5.3
Malta	16	5.6	3.9	7.4	4.6	2.6	6.6
Netherlands	445	4.1	3.4	4.7	3.6	3.1	4.2
Austria	387	6.9	6.0	7.9	6.9	5.7	8.1
Poland	1,739	6.6	4.9	8.2	6.5	5.2	7.9
Portugal	99	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.9
Romania	923	6.1	4.7	7.6	4.1	2.0	6.1
Slovenia	63	4.5	3.8	5.2	3.6	3.4	3.8
Slovakia	90	2.3	1.6	3.0	2.0	1.6	2.5
Finland	147	4.2	4.7	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.3
Sweden	237	3.9	3.5	4.3	3.3	2.9	3.7
United Kingdom	2,382	5.9	5.2	6.6	5.3	4.5	6.2
Croatia	103	3.8	3.3	4.3	3.9	3.2	4.7
Turkey	2,151	4.6	3.8	5.4	4.2	3.5	4.9
Iceland	5	2.5	2.7	2.3	3.1	3.3	2.9
Norway	128	4.0	3.8	4.2	4.0	3.5	4.5
Switzerland	438	8.3	6.3	10.4	8.3	5.9	10.7

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS (lfsq.igaww)

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Sources: All statistics presented in this publication are derived from the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS), except the seasonally adjusted employment series in Chart 1, whose source is national accounts (NA). The EU-LFS is a quarterly, large sample survey providing results for the population in private households in the EU, EFTA, and the Candidate Countries (except Liechtenstein and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The achieved sampling rates in 2009Q4 vary between 0.14 % and 1.47 %. The figures in this publication are not seasonally adjusted, except for Chart 1.

Symbols: Figures in brackets lack reliability due to small sample size; ':' colons are used for unavailable or extremely unreliable data. Quarter 4 of the year 2009 is written as 2009Q4. European Union (27 countries) is written as EU-27, Euro Area (16 countries) as EA-16.

Rounding: Although data in percentages are presented rounded to the first decimal, calculations of changes over time take into account all available decimal digits. For this reason, estimates of changes may differ slightly from the variations that can be obtained by using the figures as presented in the tables.

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

- **Employment (LFS concept)** covers persons aged 15 years and over (16 and over in Italy, Spain and UK; 15-74 years in Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Romania, Finland, Sweden and Norway; 16-74 in Iceland) who during the reference week performed work, even for just one hour a week, for pay, profit or family gain or were not at work (**absent from 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.
- **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.
- **Inactives willing to work** are persons who are neither employed nor unemployed but are seeking employment or, if not seeking, would nevertheless like to work.
- **Activity rates** show the active population, i.e. the sum of the employed and the unemployed, as a percentage of the population of the same age.
- **Employment rates** show the employed persons as a percentage of the population of the same age.
- **Unemployment rates** show the unemployed persons as a percentage of the active population of the same age.

In calculating the shares of part-time employment (Tables 6 and 7), employees with temporary contracts (Tables 8 and 9), and persons whose job started within the last three months (Tables 12 and 13), non-responses to the relevant variables are excluded. The job characteristics in Tables 6 to 13 refer to the main job, unless explicitly specified otherwise.

Main conceptual differences between national accounts (NA) and EU-LFS employment: EU-LFS employment figures refer to the resident population aged 15 years or more living in private households. It excludes conscripts in military or community service. NA employment figures refer to domestic employment, with no limit as to age or type of household, also including the non-resident population contributing to GDP and conscripts in military or community service. Further details can be found at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/national_accounts/documents/employment/LFS-ESA.PDF

Reference periods: In Ireland, the data for 2008Q4 refer to the seasonal quarter March to May.

Coverage: The data for France exclude overseas regions.

Aggregates: When data are unavailable for a country, the relevant aggregates are calculated from the data for the same country one year before.

Confidence limits: All confidence limits are calculated at a confidence level 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 quarter available is taken. For calculating limits of aggregates, it is assumed that the EU-LFS is a stratified sample with the country as the first stratum.

Economic activity: In Tables 6, 8, 10, 12 breakdowns are based on the industry of the main job. The aggregation to six sectors is based on the new Rev.2 of the NACE classification, except for Turkey for 2008Q4, for which version 1.1 of NACE is used.

Seasonal adjustment: EU-27 seasonal adjustment for NA employment is done indirectly, i.e. seasonally adjusted series are calculated from seasonally adjusted Member State data. These are produced directly by Member States by different methods of seasonal adjustment, following either the X11 or the TRAMO/SEATS methods (more information at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_SDDS/EN/nam_q_esms.htm). EU-27 seasonal adjustment for unemployment figures is also done indirectly. Seasonal adjustment for most Member States is carried out by Eurostat using TRAMO/SEATS. Data for Germany, Italy, Finland and Sweden are seasonally adjusted by the National Statistical Institutes of the countries concerned.

Further information

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

Data on "Employment and unemployment (Labour force survey (LFS))"

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

More information about "Employment and unemployment (Labour force survey (LFS))"

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

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Manuscript completed on: 26.05.2010

Data extracted on: 22.04.2010

ISSN 1977-0316

Catalogue number: KS-SF-10-022-EN-N

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