

Labour Market Latest Trends

4th quarter 2005 data

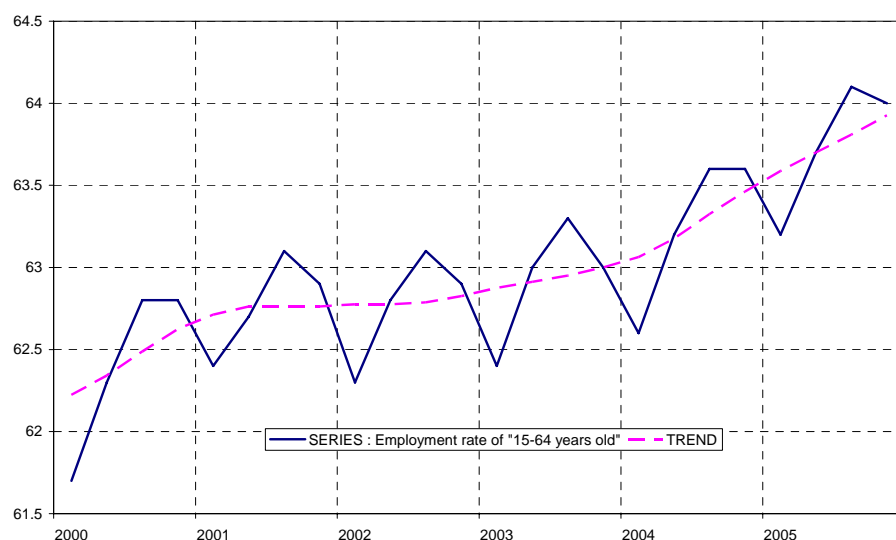
Increasing trend for the employment rate

This publication belongs to a quarterly series presenting the European Union Labour Force Survey main results for the EU-25 and for all Member States.

The employment rate in the EU-25 increased by 0.4 percentage points in the fourth quarter 2005 compared with the same quarter one year before. Indeed, in the fourth quarter 2005, 64.0% of the working age population (15-64 years of age) had a job or were engaged in any economic activity in the EU-25, compared with 63.6% in the fourth quarter of 2004. Spain recorded the highest rise of the member states, reaching 64.0%¹.

The analysis of the employment rate series² shows a significant increase since the beginning of 2004 (chart 1).

Chart 1: Evolution of the employment rate (15-64 years) from 2000Q1 to 2005Q4 (%)



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

The employment rate rose for both men and women, respectively by 0.3 and 0.5 percentage points in one year. In the fourth quarter 2005, 71.5% of the men and 56.6% of the women aged 15 to 64 years were employed in the European Union. The highest yearly increases in female employment rate were recorded in Spain (from 49.2% in 2004Q4 to 52.1% in 2005Q4) and in Estonia (from 59.4% in 2004Q4 to 62.2% in 2005Q4).

As a result of the rise in the employment rate, the share of active population (employed plus unemployed people) in the whole population aged 15-64 increased to 70.3% in the 4th quarter 2005, compared to 70.0% one year before. The unemployment rate did not significantly decrease in this period³ (see chart 2, page 2).

¹ Quarterly data are not yet available for Luxembourg. Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes.

² The figures of the series come from the Labour Force Survey when data are available; in case of missing data, estimates based on national figures are calculated. The trend is calculated at an EU-25 level using moving averages. In this publication, the data have not been adjusted for seasonal variation, due to the shortness of the available time series in some countries.

³ The unemployment rate calculated in this paper is directly derived from the Labour Force Survey data. The adjusted unemployment series (15-74) published on a monthly basis by Eurostat can slightly differ from these results.

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

11/2006

Labour market

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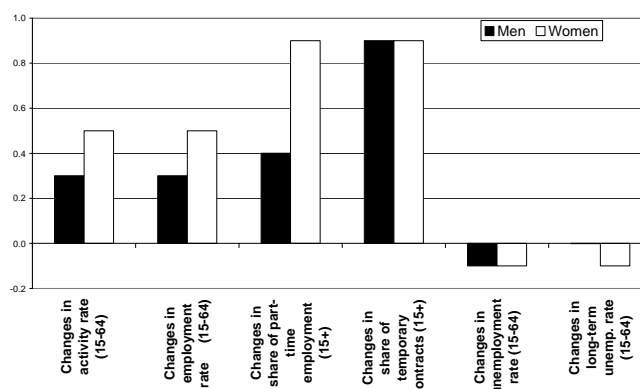
Part-time jobs and temporary contracts on the rise

The increase in employment rate was combined with increased prevalence of part-time employment as well as an increase of the share of employees having temporary contracts.

The share of part time employment in total employment showed a significant growth between the fourth quarters 2004 and 2005. In the fourth quarter 2005, 7.4% of the employed men (+0.4 percentage points) and 32.2% of the employed women (+0.9 percentage points) worked part-time.

The share of employees having temporary contracts in the EU25 went up as well, reaching 14.2% (+0.9 p.p.) of male employees and 15.2% (+0.9 p.p.) of female employees.

Chart 2: Changes in labour market indicators from 2004Q4 to 2005Q4 (in percentage points), EU-25

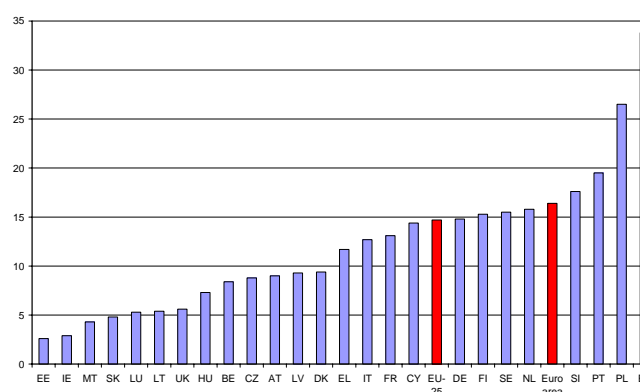


Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

The share of employees having temporary contracts ranged from 2.6% in Estonia to 33.8% in Spain

On average in the EU-25, 14.7% of the employees had a temporary contract in the fourth quarter 2005. But this average hides disparities by age, economic activities, and by member states. Firstly, young people (aged 15 to 24 years) are much more likely to have a temporary contract when employed: 41.3% of the young employees had a temporary contract, compared with 11.7% of the employees aged 25 to 54 years, and 7.3% of the employees aged 55 years or more. Secondly, temporary contracts were most prevalent in agriculture (33.9%) and in construction (21.9%). Finally, Chart 3 shows a wide disparity by country: in four member states (Estonia, Ireland, Malta and Slovakia), this rate was less than 5%; at the other end of the scale, the rate of temporary contracts is higher than 20% in Poland (26.5%) and Spain (33.8%).

Chart 3: Share of employees with temporary contracts, 2005Q4 (%)



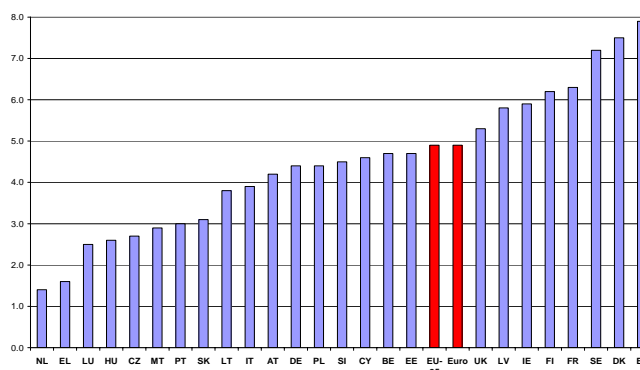
Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

4.9% of employed people in the EU-25 started their job within past 3 months

The prevalence of persons whose job started within the past 3 months is an indicator of worker's mobility and labour market flexibility. The indicator measures both the number of persons changing job in the last 3 months and those newly employed in the same period, after unemployment or inactivity.

In the fourth quarter of 2005, this indicator reached 4.9% on average in the EU-25. In three countries this rate it was over 7%: Spain, Denmark and Sweden.

Chart 4: Share of persons whose job started within past 3 months, 2005Q4 (%)



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 1. Activity rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 4th quarter 2005

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	70.1	44.5	83.9	44.3	70.3	45.1	84.1	46.0
Less than upper secondary	56.5	35.3	74.7	35.3	53.8	31.4	73.2	35.8
Upper secondary level	75.3	54.4	86.1	47.5	75.6	57.5	85.7	50.1
Tertiary level	85.9	63.7	91.6	64.6	87.0	69.9	92.0	67.1
Men	78.3	47.7	92.9	54.2	77.9	48.3	92.2	56.0
Less than upper secondary	68.6	40.6	89.9	46.8	65.0	36.2	87.8	46.7
Upper secondary level	81.9	57.8	93.4	53.7	82.0	61.8	92.6	56.6
Tertiary level	89.5	61.0	95.7	70.1	90.2	68.5	95.9	71.3
Women	61.9	41.1	74.8	34.9	62.9	41.8	76.0	36.6
Less than upper secondary	44.6	29.2	59.6	26.6	43.0	25.8	58.7	27.6
Upper secondary level	68.7	51.3	78.7	40.8	69.1	53.3	78.7	42.8
Tertiary level	82.3	65.6	87.5	55.9	83.8	70.9	88.4	60.9

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 2. Activity rates by countries, quarters and sex

15-64 years	2005q4 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4
EU-25	215,154	70.3	70.4	70.0	77.9	78.2	77.6	62.9	62.7	62.4
EU-15	181,330	71.2	71.2	70.8	78.9	79.2	78.7	63.5	63.2	63.0
Euro area	144,750	70.1	70.0	69.7	78.3	78.5	78.0	61.9	61.5	61.4
Belgium	4,611	66.8	67.1	66.2	74.0	74.6	73.5	59.6	59.5	58.8
Czech Republic	5,149	70.7	70.7	70.2	78.3	78.7	78.2	63.0	62.7	62.3
Denmark	2,858	80.1	80.0	79.6	83.2	83.7	83.1	76.8	76.3	76.1
Germany	40,566	74.0	74.0	73.3	80.7	80.9	79.8	67.3	67.0	66.7
Estonia	639	70.1	69.7	69.5	73.6	73.6	74.2	66.8	66.2	65.3
Greece	4,768	66.9	66.9	66.6	79.1	79.2	79.0	54.7	54.7	54.3
Spain	21,007	70.1	69.8	69.1	81.0	81.3	80.5	58.9	58.2	57.6
France	26,981	69.4	69.9	69.5	74.9	75.5	75.1	64.1	64.4	64.1
Ireland	2,034	71.0	72.2	69.8	80.8	82.3	79.9	61.0	62.1	59.7
Italy	24,316	62.9	61.9	63.2	74.7	74.2	75.2	51.2	49.6	51.3
Cyprus	360	72.0	72.5	72.6	82.3	83.5	82.9	62.3	62.3	62.9
Latvia	1,097	69.4	69.9	69.4	73.4	75.4	73.8	65.6	64.8	65.2
Lithuania	1,577	68.0	68.4	68.8	71.4	72.4	72.3	64.8	64.7	65.5
Luxembourg	202	66.6	.	66.0	76.0	.	75.9	57.0	.	55.9
Hungary	4,201	61.7	61.8	60.8	68.3	68.5	67.4	55.3	55.4	54.5
Malta	159	58.1	57.7	58.1	79.7	77.9	78.9	36.1	37.0	37.0
Netherlands	8,439	77.1	77.0	76.6	83.6	83.8	83.7	70.4	70.0	69.4
Austria	4,005	72.5	73.6	71.6	79.7	80.7	78.7	65.4	66.5	64.6
Poland	16,987	64.6	65.2	64.1	70.9	71.5	70.4	58.5	59.1	58.0
Portugal	5,254	73.7	73.5	73.3	79.3	79.1	79.1	68.3	68.1	67.7
Slovenia	1,001	71.3	71.2	69.5	75.8	75.7	74.5	66.6	66.6	64.3
Slovakia	2,654	69.2	68.9	69.5	77.0	76.6	76.6	61.4	61.2	62.6
Finland	2,568	73.7	75.1	72.9	75.7	77.2	75.0	71.7	73.0	70.8
Sweden	4,609	78.0	79.4	76.3	80.1	81.9	78.1	75.7	76.9	74.3
United Kingdom	29,112	75.4	75.5	75.3	82.1	82.2	82.1	68.9	69.0	68.7
Bulgaria	3,278	62.2	63.8	61.5	67.4	68.7	66.4	57.2	58.9	56.6
Croatia	.	.	.	63.4	.	.	69.6	.	.	57.4
Romania	9,267	61.6	61.8	62.7	68.7	68.8	69.7	54.6	54.9	55.8
Iceland	159	85.6	86.8	83.7	88.8	91.3	87.3	82.3	82.2	80.0
Norway	2,343	78.6	79.1	78.4	82.0	82.2	81.7	75.0	75.9	75.0
EEA-28	217,656	70.4	70.5	70.1	77.9	78.2	77.6	63.0	62.8	62.5
Switzerland	.	.	80.8	.	.	87.4	.	.	74.3	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005 and 2004. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2004 refer to the 2nd half year 2004. The data for Germany in 2004 are not from the LFS but based on national estimates. The data for Switzerland refer to 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (June to August for q3, September to November for q4).

¹ Number of persons aged 15-64 in the labour force.

Table 3. Employment rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 4th quarter 2005

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	63.8	36.7	77.2	41.0	64.0	36.9	77.4	43.0
Less than upper secondary	49.7	28.3	66.4	32.5	47.0	24.6	64.6	33.1
Upper secondary level	68.7	45.8	79.5	43.3	68.7	47.6	78.9	46.5
Tertiary level	81.0	53.5	86.8	61.3	82.5	59.6	87.8	64.2
Men	72.0	39.8	86.5	50.2	71.5	39.6	85.8	52.3
Less than upper secondary	61.5	33.1	81.7	43.3	57.7	28.7	79.2	43.2
Upper secondary level	75.5	49.3	87.2	49.1	75.2	51.4	86.2	52.5
Tertiary level	85.0	52.4	91.3	66.4	86.0	59.1	91.9	68.0
Women	55.5	33.4	67.8	32.1	56.6	34.0	69.1	34.2
Less than upper secondary	38.2	22.8	51.1	24.5	36.7	19.9	50.1	25.6
Upper secondary level	61.8	42.5	71.7	37.1	62.0	43.9	71.4	39.9
Tertiary level	76.8	54.2	82.2	53.2	79.1	59.9	83.8	58.7

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 4. Employment rates by countries, quarters and sex

15-64 years	2005q4 (1000) ¹	Margin of error ²	Men and women			Men			Women		
			2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4
EU-25	195,827	± 495	64.0 ± 0.2	64.1	63.6	71.5	71.8	71.2	56.6	56.5	56.1
EU-15	166,360	± 399	65.3 ± 0.2	65.5	65.0	73.0	73.4	72.8	57.6	57.6	57.3
Euro area	131,713	± 376	63.8 ± 0.2	63.9	63.4	72.0	72.4	71.7	55.5	55.3	55.0
Belgium	4,218	± 61	61.2 ± 0.9	61.2	60.6	68.2	69.0	67.9	54.0	53.4	53.3
Czech Republic	4,746	± 41	65.2 ± 0.6	65.2	64.5	73.6	73.8	72.8	56.7	56.5	56.1
Denmark	2,741	± 27	76.8 ± 0.8	76.1	75.6	79.9	80.2	79.4	73.6	72.1	71.6
Germany	36,126	± 248	65.9 ± 0.5	65.7	65.9	71.8	71.8	71.6	60.0	59.5	60.1
Estonia	592	± 24	65.0 ± 2.7	64.7	63.4	68.0	68.4	67.9	62.2	61.3	59.4
Greece	4,298	± 76	60.3 ± 1.1	60.3	59.6	74.2	74.3	73.8	46.5	46.4	45.5
Spain	19,168	± 101	64.0 ± 0.3	63.9	61.8	75.6	76.0	74.2	52.1	51.6	49.2
France	24,389	± 191	62.8 ± 0.5	63.6	62.9	68.5	69.4	68.5	57.2	57.9	57.4
Ireland	1,943	± 15	67.8 ± 0.5	68.8	66.7	77.0	78.2	76.0	58.4	59.3	57.2
Italy	22,339	± 114	57.8 ± 0.3	57.4	58.0	70.0	70.0	70.2	45.7	44.8	45.9
Cyprus	341	± 9	68.1 ± 1.7	68.7	68.8	78.0	79.9	79.8	58.8	58.2	58.6
Latvia	1,011	± 27	63.9 ± 1.7	63.8	62.2	67.3	68.8	65.9	60.7	59.1	58.7
Lithuania	1,464	± 44	63.1 ± 1.9	63.4	61.4	66.1	67.4	64.9	60.3	59.6	58.1
Luxembourg	193	± 3	63.6 ± 0.9	.	62.6	73.4	.	73.1	53.7	.	51.9
Hungary	3,893	± 61	57.1 ± 0.9	57.3	57.0	63.4	63.7	63.3	51.2	51.2	51.0
Malta	147	± 5	53.8 ± 1.8	53.5	54.0	74.5	72.8	74.3	32.8	33.7	33.5
Netherlands	8,061	± 79	73.6 ± 0.7	73.6	73.1	80.1	80.4	80.0	67.0	66.7	66.1
Austria	3,798	± 37	68.8 ± 0.7	69.8	68.1	75.8	77.1	75.2	61.8	62.7	61.0
Poland	14,101	± 276	53.7 ± 1.1	53.7	52.4	59.8	59.9	58.4	47.6	47.6	46.5
Portugal	4,807	± 49	67.4 ± 0.7	67.5	67.8	73.4	73.4	73.8	61.7	61.7	62.0
Slovenia	927	± 18	66.0 ± 1.3	66.6	64.9	70.6	70.9	70.1	61.3	62.2	59.5
Slovakia	2,245	± 22	58.5 ± 0.6	58.0	57.5	65.9	65.3	64.0	51.2	50.8	51.1
Finland	2,371	± 16	68.0 ± 0.5	69.6	67.1	70.2	72.0	69.0	65.9	67.3	65.1
Sweden	4,276	± 19	72.3 ± 0.3	73.6	71.5	74.4	75.8	73.1	70.2	71.3	69.9
United Kingdom	27,630	± 130	71.6 ± 0.3	71.9	71.8	77.6	77.9	78.0	65.7	66.0	65.7
Bulgaria	2,950	± 69	56.0 ± 1.3	57.9	54.1	60.6	62.3	58.0	51.6	53.5	50.3
Croatia	.	.	.	.	54.5	.	.	61.3	.	.	47.9
Romania	8,601	± 157	57.2 ± 1.0	57.8	57.4	63.4	63.9	63.2	51.1	51.8	51.6
Iceland	154	± 2	83.3 ± 1.2	85.4	81.6	85.9	90.3	85.6	80.5	80.3	77.6
Norway	2,251	± 14	75.5 ± 0.5	75.4	75.3	78.6	78.3	78.1	72.2	72.5	72.5
EEA-28	198,232	± 765	64.2 ± 0.2	64.3	63.7	71.6	71.9	71.2	56.7	56.7	56.3
Switzerland	.	.	.	77.2	.	83.9	.	.	.	70.4	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Tables 3 and 4 refer to EMPLOYMENT rates, whereas tables 1 and 2 refer to ACTIVITY rates. Both concepts are defined in the methodological notes (p11). Breaks in series are also mentioned in the methodological notes.

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005 and 2004. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2004 refer to the 2nd half year 2004. The data for Germany in 2004 are not from the LFS but based on national estimates. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (June to August for q3, September to November for q4).

¹ Number of persons aged 15-64 in employment.

² Confidence limit of the number of persons aged 15-64 in employment, at a level of confidence of 95%, in thousands of people.

Table 5. Part-time employment as share of total employment, by broad groups of economic activity in the main job, age groups and sex, 4th quarter 2005

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	18.9	23.6	17.6	23.6	18.3	25.2	16.1	25.8
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	17.6	20.6	12.0	30.5	20.1	33.1	13.5	33.7
Industry, incl. Energy	8.5	9.8	7.8	12.9	7.6	9.1	6.6	13.1
Construction	6.0	5.0	5.5	10.9	5.8	4.7	5.1	12.0
Trade, transport and communication services	20.4	32.5	17.9	22.1	20.6	36.3	16.7	25.0
Business activities and financial services	20.9	25.9	19.4	28.4	19.4	22.7	17.5	29.6
Other services	27.1	29.7	26.6	28.7	25.8	29.1	24.4	31.6
Men	7.0	16.5	4.7	13.0	7.4	18.2	4.5	15.1
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	10.6	19.1	4.6	23.6	13.6	28.6	6.8	26.9
Industry, incl. Energy	3.0	7.3	1.9	7.0	3.0	6.7	1.8	7.8
Construction	3.0	4.0	2.2	7.4	3.1	3.8	2.2	8.5
Trade, transport and communication services	8.4	25.6	5.2	11.9	9.3	29.5	5.0	13.9
Business activities and financial services	8.4	22.9	5.6	17.8	8.5	19.8	5.2	20.2
Other services	10.8	24.9	8.8	14.4	10.8	25.0	8.0	17.9
Women	34.6	32.4	34.1	40.2	32.2	33.6	30.5	41.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	31.5	24.7	27.1	42.3	31.9	44.3	25.6	45.4
Industry, incl. Energy	22.8	16.4	22.6	31.5	19.0	15.2	18.2	30.0
Construction	40.6	.	41.4	52.7	36.7	18.5	36.8	51.4
Trade, transport and communication services	36.1	39.1	35.1	38.9	35.0	42.8	32.1	43.0
Business activities and financial services	35.4	28.6	34.9	46.6	32.3	25.4	31.5	45.4
Other services	36.6	31.9	36.5	40.1	34.0	31.0	33.1	41.5

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 6. Part-time employment as share of total employment by countries, quarters and sex

15+ years	2005q4 (1000) ¹	Margin of error ²	Men and women			Men			Women		
			2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4
EU-25	36,443	± 270	18.3	18.0	17.7	7.4	7.2	7.0	32.2	31.8	31.3
EU-15	34,030	± 252	20.2	19.8	19.4	7.7	7.5	7.2	36.0	35.6	34.9
Euro area	25,260	± 226	18.9	18.5	17.9	7.0	6.8	6.3	34.6	34.0	33.1
Belgium	931	± 41	21.8	21.8	21.5	7.4	7.9	6.9	40.5	40.1	40.5
Czech Republic	241	± 13	5.0	4.9	4.8	2.2	2.1	2.2	8.8	8.5	8.3
Denmark	613	± 29	22.0	22.4	22.1	12.1	12.9	12.4	33.2	33.2	33.2
Germany	8,829	± 138	24.1	23.5	.	7.9	7.6	.	43.8	43.1	.
Estonia	46	± 9	7.5	6.3	7.7	(4.4)	(4.2)	6.1	10.5	8.4	9.4
Greece	229	± 15	5.2	5.0	4.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	9.6	9.2	8.5
Spain	2,315	± 50	12.0	11.6	8.7	4.4	4.2	2.9	23.3	22.7	17.7
France	4,198	± 123	17.1	17.0	16.9	5.6	5.5	5.5	30.6	30.4	30.3
Ireland	245	± 8	12.4	12.4	16.7	5.0	5.1	5.9	22.4	22.4	31.4
Italy	2,980	± 78	13.1	12.4	12.8	4.8	4.4	4.8	26.1	24.8	25.2
Cyprus	32	± 3	9.1	8.7	8.5	5.3	4.6	4.7	14.1	14.0	13.4
Latvia	86	± 15	8.2	7.4	11.1	6.5	5.3	8.2	9.9	9.7	14.1
Lithuania	117	± 14	7.9	6.5	8.0	5.7	4.2	6.0	10.2	9.0	10.1
Luxembourg	34	± 1	17.4	.	16.3	2.5	.	2.4	38.1	.	36.2
Hungary	155	± 12	4.0	4.1	4.7	2.6	2.6	3.3	5.6	5.9	6.4
Malta	14	± 2	9.7	9.9	8.9	4.8	4.8	3.8	21.2	21.2	20.6
Netherlands	3,764	± 66	46.2	46.0	45.8	22.9	22.5	22.7	74.9	75.0	74.6
Austria	837	± 23	21.8	21.1	19.7	6.4	6.2	4.8	40.5	39.3	38.0
Poland	1,570	± 92	10.9	10.8	11.1	8.2	7.5	8.4	14.2	14.9	14.5
Portugal	559	± 33	10.9	11.1	11.5	6.7	7.0	7.3	15.8	15.9	16.5
Slovenia	92	± 7	9.6	8.8	8.8	7.2	7.3	7.6	12.5	10.6	10.3
Slovakia	59	± 6	2.6	2.6	2.6	1.3	1.5	1.3	4.3	4.1	4.2
Finland	338	± 12	14.1	12.7	14.4	9.3	8.6	9.4	19.3	17.2	19.7
Sweden	1,064	± 22	24.5	23.7	24.0	11.5	11.0	12.4	38.7	37.8	36.7
United Kingdom	7,092	± 104	25.1	25.3	25.3	10.3	10.3	10.2	42.3	42.5	42.9
Bulgaria	56	± 10	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.3	2.0	2.2
Croatia	.	.	.	.	8.3	.	.	5.7	.	.	11.4
Romania	887	± 99	9.8	10.6	9.2	9.8	9.6	9.0	9.8	11.7	9.5
Iceland	41	± 2	25.8	18.6	24.4	11.0	6.7	10.0	42.2	32.9	40.9
Norway	635	± 16	27.7	27.4	29.4	13.3	13.6	14.6	43.9	42.7	45.7
EEA-28	37,119	± 273	18.4	18.1	17.8	7.5	7.3	7.1	32.3	32.0	31.5
Switzerland	.	.	.	33.1	.	.	11.8	.	.	58.8	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005 and 2004. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2004 refer to the 2nd half year 2004. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (June to August for q3, September to November for q4).

¹ Number of persons aged 15 years or more in part-time employment.

² Confidence limit of the number of part-time employed people, at a level of confidence of 95%, in thousands of people.

Table 7. Average actual hours worked in all jobs per week by broad groups of economic activity in the main job, full-time/part-time distinction and sex, 4th quarter 2005

	Euro area			EU-25		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time
Men and women	37.3	41.3	20.4	37.7	41.5	20.4
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	42.9	47.8	19.9	40.9	46.2	19.4
Industry, incl. Energy	38.8	40.5	20.3	39.4	40.9	20.7
Construction	40.3	41.5	19.9	41.0	42.3	20.4
Trade, transport and communication services	38.7	43.5	19.9	38.7	43.5	19.8
Business activities and financial services	37.1	41.5	20.2	37.6	41.7	20.3
Other services	33.7	38.5	20.8	34.4	39.0	21.0
Men	40.9	42.4	20.4	41.1	42.8	20.3
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	46.3	49.3	20.7	44.2	47.9	20.1
Industry, incl. Energy	40.3	40.9	19.9	40.8	41.4	20.5
Construction	41.1	41.6	21.1	41.8	42.4	21.9
Trade, transport and communication services	42.5	44.6	19.2	42.3	44.6	19.2
Business activities and financial services	41.1	43.0	20.3	41.3	43.1	20.3
Other services	38.2	40.2	21.5	38.6	40.7	21.4
Women	32.6	39.0	20.4	33.2	39.3	20.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	36.2	43.9	19.3	34.8	42.1	18.8
Industry, incl. Energy	34.7	39.0	20.4	35.9	39.4	20.8
Construction	31.4	39.8	19.0	32.2	39.8	19.1
Trade, transport and communication services	33.8	41.5	20.1	34.0	41.4	20.0
Business activities and financial services	32.4	39.1	20.2	33.2	39.3	20.3
Other services	31.1	37.2	20.7	32.0	37.7	20.9

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 8. Average actual hours worked in all jobs per week by countries, quarters and sex

15+ years	2005q4 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4
EU-25	181,469	37.7	38.5	37.5	41.1	41.9	40.9	33.2	34.0	33.1
EU-15	152,725	37.2	37.8	37.0	40.9	41.4	40.6	32.3	32.9	32.2
Euro area	121,322	37.3	38.1	37.1	40.9	41.6	40.5	32.6	33.3	32.5
Belgium	3,698	36.6	37.0	36.2	40.0	40.3	39.7	32.3	32.5	31.6
Czech Republic	4,443	41.3	41.9	41.2	43.2	43.9	43.1	38.8	39.0	38.5
Denmark	2,447	35.8	36.7	35.0	38.7	39.3	38.0	32.3	33.5	31.6
Germany	33,839	37.3	37.5		42.1	42.2		31.3	31.6	
Estonia	599	40.2	40.9	40.1	41.6	42.4	41.3	38.8	39.4	38.9
Greece	4,242	42.1	43.3	42.2	44.1	45.2	44.1	38.8	40.2	39.1
Spain	17,047	38.3	39.7	37.5	40.9	42.2	39.4	34.3	35.9	34.5
France	21,715	36.6	37.4	36.4	39.5	40.5	39.5	33.0	33.6	32.8
Ireland	1,877	37.9	38.5	38.1	42.3	42.7	42.5	31.6	32.3	31.9
Italy	20,787	37.9	38.7	37.8	40.8	41.4	40.8	33.4	34.3	33.1
Cyprus	335	39.8	40.8	40.2	42.2	43.2	42.6	36.8	37.4	37.0
Latvia	1,021	42.0	43.1	41.4	43.7	44.5	43.0	40.3	41.4	39.7
Lithuania	1,428	38.4	39.6	38.7	39.6	41.0	39.6	37.0	37.9	37.6
Luxembourg	170	38.1		38.4	41.3		41.5	33.4		33.7
Hungary	3,799	40.8	40.8	40.6	42.0	42.1	41.9	39.3	39.1	39.0
Malta	140	39.0	38.9	38.6	41.0	40.9	40.5	34.1	34.2	34.2
Netherlands	7,454	32.5	32.6	32.2	38.1	37.9	37.8	25.3	25.7	25.1
Austria	3,466	38.7	40.0	38.8	43.0	44.1	42.9	33.2	34.6	33.5
Poland	13,926	40.3	42.7	40.3	42.8	45.4	42.7	37.2	39.2	37.3
Portugal	4,880	38.5	40.0	37.9	40.2	41.9	39.9	36.4	37.6	35.5
Slovenia	893	40.5	41.2	41.2	41.9	42.5	42.3	38.8	39.5	39.7
Slovakia	2,160	41.2	41.2	40.9	42.2	42.2	42.0	39.8	39.9	39.6
Finland	2,146	37.0	38.9	37.2	39.2	41.2	39.4	34.5	36.2	34.6
Sweden	3,851	36.4	37.1	36.0	39.2	39.8	38.8	33.1	33.9	32.8
United Kingdom	25,105	36.5	36.5	36.6	41.1	41.0	41.4	31.0	31.0	30.8
Bulgaria	2,709	41.1	40.8	40.6	41.5	41.3	41.1	40.6	40.3	40.1
Croatia				40.8			42.0			39.2
Romania	8,933	40.1	41.5	40.4	41.0	42.8	41.5	38.9	39.9	39.2
Iceland	146	41.7	44.0	41.4	47.5	48.5	46.8	35.0	37.8	34.7
Norway	2,020	35.4	35.8	34.6	39.0	39.1	38.3	31.1	31.8	30.3
EEA-28	183,635	37.7	38.5	37.5	41.1	41.9	40.9	33.2	33.9	33.1
Switzerland			37.7			43.7			30.3	

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005 and 2004. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2004 refer to the 2nd half year 2004. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (June to August for q3, September to November for q4).

¹ Number of persons aged 15 years or more at work during the reference week.

Table 9. Share of employees with temporary contracts by broad groups of economic activity in the main job, age groups and sex, 4th quarter 2005

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	16.4	50.1	12.8	6.7	14.7	41.3	11.7	7.3
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	42.2	64.0	39.8	29.6	33.9	54.6	31.9	23.2
Industry, incl. Energy	12.0	49.4	8.1	3.7	11.8	43.0	8.7	4.7
Construction	24.7	50.9	20.4	12.8	21.9	43.5	18.7	10.9
Trade, transport and communication services	16.2	46.3	10.9	5.4	14.5	36.8	10.2	5.5
Business activities and financial services	14.3	48.0	11.2	5.3	12.8	37.6	10.2	7.0
Other services	16.8	55.6	14.7	7.0	14.7	46.6	12.6	8.2
Men	15.7	50.8	11.8	6.4	14.2	41.7	11.1	7.3
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	37.4	60.5	34.4	25.8	30.4	51.7	28.2	20.5
Industry, incl. Energy	11.4	50.6	7.2	3.3	11.0	43.8	7.6	4.4
Construction	25.7	50.6	21.5	13.9	22.9	43.4	19.8	11.6
Trade, transport and communication services	14.6	47.2	9.5	4.9	13.0	36.6	8.9	5.3
Business activities and financial services	13.6	47.7	10.7	5.6	12.4	37.1	9.9	8.1
Other services	15.3	59.8	13.3	6.0	14.0	49.2	12.0	8.2
Women	17.3	49.3	14.0	7.1	15.2	40.8	12.4	7.4
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	53.3	72.7	51.5	39.7	42.1	62.3	40.4	31.0
Industry, incl. Energy	13.6	46.3	10.3	4.8	13.7	40.9	11.2	5.5
Construction	14.0	55.2	9.7	.	12.0	44.8	8.5	.
Trade, transport and communication services	18.2	45.5	12.6	6.2	16.3	37.1	11.8	5.6
Business activities and financial services	15.0	48.3	11.7	4.9	13.1	38.1	10.5	5.6
Other services	17.7	53.6	15.5	7.7	15.0	45.4	13.0	8.2

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 10. Share of employees with temporary contracts by countries, quarters and sex

15+ years	2005q4 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4
EU-25	24,380	14.7	14.9	13.8	14.2	14.5	13.3	15.2	15.4	14.3
EU-15	20,485	14.4	14.7	13.6	13.8	14.1	12.9	15.2	15.4	14.3
Euro area	18,273	16.4	16.7	15.3	15.7	16.0	14.5	17.3	17.5	16.3
Belgium	305	8.4	9.0	8.6	6.7	7.3	6.3	10.5	11.1	11.4
Czech Republic	358	8.8	8.8	9.1	7.6	7.9	7.9	10.3	10.0	10.4
Denmark	238	9.4	10.2	8.8	8.3	8.3	7.7	10.5	12.3	9.9
Germany	4,756	14.8	14.3	.	15.0	14.5	.	14.6	14.0	.
Estonia	(15)	(2.6)	2.7	2.4	(3.6)	(3.8)	(3.6)	.	.	.
Greece	329	11.7	12.1	11.7	10.2	10.2	10.3	14.0	15.0	13.9
Spain	5,350	33.8	34.4	32.9	32.0	32.6	31.1	36.3	36.9	35.6
France	2,858	13.1	14.2	12.7	12.8	13.6	12.0	13.5	14.9	13.4
Ireland	48	2.9	4.9	3.6	2.5	4.3	3.2	3.3	5.6	4.1
Italy	2,121	12.7	12.3	12.0	10.6	10.9	9.8	15.6	14.2	15.1
Cyprus	39	14.4	14.9	12.6	9.2	10.2	8.4	20.0	20.3	17.3
Latvia	88	9.3	7.2	8.9	13.4	8.3	11.2	5.3	6.0	6.6
Lithuania	67	5.4	6.2	5.8	7.7	8.2	7.3	(3.2)	4.1	4.3
Luxembourg	9	5.3	.	4.8	4.9	.	4.1	5.8	.	5.8
Hungary	247	7.3	7.6	7.1	7.8	8.4	7.5	6.7	6.7	6.6
Malta	6	4.3	4.3	5.1	3.9	(3.2)	4.2	(5.3)	(6.6)	(7.1)
Netherlands	1,128	15.8	15.9	15.1	14.6	14.7	13.7	17.2	17.2	16.8
Austria	300	9.0	9.8	8.7	9.3	10.1	8.9	8.7	9.4	8.5
Poland	2,841	26.5	26.4	24.0	27.4	27.0	25.3	25.5	25.7	22.3
Portugal	747	19.5	19.9	19.4	18.6	19.2	18.4	20.4	20.8	20.4
Slovenia	141	17.6	18.1	17.7	15.2	16.0	17.1	20.2	20.5	18.5
Slovakia	94	4.8	5.4	5.7	4.8	5.6	6.2	4.8	5.1	5.1
Finland	321	15.3	18.0	14.7	11.7	14.8	11.4	18.9	21.1	18.0
Sweden	601	15.5	17.3	15.2	13.6	15.4	13.5	17.4	19.1	16.8
United Kingdom	1,374	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.1	5.3	5.4	6.1	6.5	6.5
Bulgaria	149	5.8	7.5	6.9	6.1	7.7	7.1	5.5	7.3	6.7
Croatia	.	.	.	12.1	.	.	11.7	.	.	12.6
Romania	115	2.0	2.6	2.0	2.3	2.9	2.4	1.5	2.1	1.5
Iceland	9	7.0	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.5	4.1	8.0	5.5	7.4
Norway	187	8.8	10.7	10.1	6.8	8.6	8.3	11.0	13.0	12.0
EEA-28	24,576	14.6	14.9	13.7	14.1	14.4	13.2	15.2	15.4	14.3
Switzerland	.	.	12.7	.	.	12.4	.	.	12.9	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005 and 2004. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2004 refer to the 2nd half year 2004. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (June to August for q3, September to November for q4).

¹ Number of employees aged 15 years having temporary job contracts.

Table 11. Share of persons whose job started within past 3 months by broad groups of economic activity in the main job, age groups and sex, 4th quarter 2005

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	4.9	16.8	3.9	1.4	4.9	16.5	3.8	1.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	5.2	17.4	5.2	1.6	3.8	12.5	3.7	1.2
Industry, incl. Energy	3.9	14.4	3.0	0.9	3.9	14.3	3.0	1.2
Construction	6.9	17.7	5.7	2.4	6.5	17.0	5.4	2.1
Trade, transport and communication services	5.5	16.3	4.2	1.5	5.8	16.6	4.2	1.8
Business activities and financial services	5.1	19.3	4.2	1.2	5.1	18.5	4.1	1.8
Other services	4.3	18.1	3.6	1.3	4.4	18.2	3.6	1.6
Men	4.5	15.9	3.6	1.3	4.5	15.6	3.6	1.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	5.0	16.6	4.7	.	3.8	12.0	3.6	(1.4)
Industry, incl. Energy	3.5	14.2	2.5	.	3.6	14.1	2.6	1.1
Construction	7.0	17.7	5.8	2.3	6.6	17.0	5.5	2.1
Trade, transport and communication services	4.7	14.6	3.7	1.5	5.0	15.3	3.7	1.7
Business activities and financial services	4.8	19.2	4.1	.	4.9	18.5	4.0	1.9
Other services	3.4	17.3	2.8	.	3.6	17.0	3.0	1.3
Women	5.4	17.8	4.3	1.5	5.3	17.7	4.2	1.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	5.5	(19.9)	6.3	.	3.8	13.8	3.9	.
Industry, incl. Energy	4.9	14.9	4.1	.	4.8	14.9	4.0	.
Construction	5.3	.	4.1	.	4.9	(17.2)	3.9	.
Trade, transport and communication services	6.6	17.9	4.9	(1.5)	6.8	17.8	4.8	1.8
Business activities and financial services	5.5	19.3	4.4	.	5.4	18.5	4.2	.
Other services	4.9	18.4	4.0	1.6	4.8	18.7	3.9	1.8

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 12. Share of persons whose job started within past 3 months by countries, quarters and sex

15+ years	2005q4 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4
EU-25	9,683	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.6	5.3	5.0	5.2
EU-15	8,542	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.6	4.9	4.7	5.6	5.3	5.4
Euro area	6,527	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.5	5.4	5.1	5.2
Belgium	200	4.7	4.0	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.2	5.5	3.9	4.6
Czech Republic	129	2.7	2.5	2.9	2.3	2.2	2.4	3.2	2.9	3.5
Denmark	210	7.5	8.6	7.2	6.7	7.7	6.5	8.5	9.5	8.0
Germany	1,603	4.4	4.5	.	4.0	4.6	.	4.9	4.4	.
Estonia	29	4.7	5.6	4.4	(4.1)	6.5	5.0	5.4	(4.8)	3.9
Greece	69	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.9	2.0
Spain	1,518	7.9	8.1	7.7	6.9	7.5	6.7	9.3	9.1	9.3
France	1,550	6.3	6.7	6.1	6.7	6.9	6.1	5.9	6.5	6.2
Ireland	118	5.9	.	5.0	5.2	.	4.3	7.0	.	6.0
Italy	890	3.9	3.1	4.3	3.2	2.9	3.6	5.1	3.5	5.3
Cyprus	16	4.6	4.0	4.5	3.7	3.6	3.9	5.8	4.5	5.3
Latvia	61	5.8	5.1	4.1	7.0	5.8	4.6	4.5	4.3	3.6
Lithuania	57	3.8	4.8	3.4	4.1	6.0	3.6	3.5	3.5	(3.3)
Luxembourg	5	2.5	.	2.7	2.3	.	2.3	2.9	.	3.2
Hungary	103	2.6	3.2	2.8	2.4	3.4	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.9
Malta	4	2.9	3.3	3.2	(2.2)	(2.4)	(2.3)	(4.4)	(5.3)	(5.2)
Netherlands	111	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.3
Austria	161	4.2	5.2	4.2	3.6	5.0	3.7	4.9	5.5	4.6
Poland	630	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.0	3.9	3.9
Portugal	153	3.0	2.9	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.1
Slovenia	43	4.5	5.1	3.9	4.2	5.0	3.8	4.7	5.2	4.0
Slovakia	69	3.1	3.6	3.3	2.9	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.6
Finland	149	6.2	8.8	5.9	5.4	8.1	5.0	7.1	9.6	6.9
Sweden	314	7.2	8.6	4.1	6.4	8.0	4.3	8.1	9.3	3.9
United Kingdom	1,491	5.3	4.7	6.0	4.8	4.6	5.7	5.8	4.8	6.4
Bulgaria	137	4.6	4.6	5.5	4.9	5.0	5.7	4.3	4.2	5.4
Croatia	.	.	.	4.5	.	.	4.6	.	.	4.3
Romania	196	.	2.7	2.3	2.4	3.1	2.6	1.9	2.2	1.8
Iceland	11	7.1	8.5	6.8	6.3	7.6	6.4	8.0	9.5	7.4
Norway	.	.	2.4	.	.	2.4	.	.	2.3	.
EEA-28	9,804	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.6	5.3	5.0	5.1
Switzerland	.	.	4.0	.	.	3.7	.	.	4.3	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005 and 2004. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2004 refer to the 2nd half year 2004. The data for Norway and Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In UK and Ireland, the data refer to seasonal quarter (June to August for q3, September to November for q4). So far data are not available in Ireland in 2005q3.

¹ Number of persons aged 15 years or more whose job started within the past 3 months.

Table 13. Unemployment rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 4th quarter 2005

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	9.0	17.5	8.0	7.5	9.0	18.3	7.9	6.6
Less than upper secondary	12.0	19.8	11.1	7.8	12.6	21.5	11.8	7.4
Upper secondary level	8.8	15.8	7.7	8.8	9.1	17.2	8.0	7.2
Tertiary level	5.8	16.1	5.3	5.1	5.1	14.8	4.7	4.3
Men	8.0	16.5	6.9	7.3	8.2	17.9	6.9	6.7
Less than upper secondary	10.4	18.6	9.1	7.5	11.3	20.7	9.9	7.5
Upper secondary level	7.7	14.7	6.6	8.6	8.2	16.7	6.9	7.4
Tertiary level	5.0	14.0	4.6	5.3	4.6	13.7	4.2	4.7
Women	10.3	18.7	9.4	7.9	10.0	18.7	9.1	6.4
Less than upper secondary	14.4	21.8	14.2	8.2	14.6	22.7	14.7	7.4
Upper secondary level	10.0	17.0	8.9	9.2	10.2	17.7	9.2	6.9
Tertiary level	6.6	17.4	6.0	4.8	5.7	15.5	5.1	3.7

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 14. Unemployment rates by countries, quarters and sex

15-64 years	2005q4 (1000) ¹	Margin of error ²	Men and women			Men			Women		
			2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4
EU-25	19,327	± 237	9.0 ± 0.1	8.9	9.1	8.2	8.1	8.3	10.0	9.8	10.1
EU-15	14,970	± 202	8.3 ± 0.1	8.0	8.2	7.5	7.3	7.5	9.2	8.9	9.1
Euro area	13,037	± 193	9.0 ± 0.1	8.8	9.0	8.0	7.8	8.0	10.3	10.0	10.3
Belgium	393	± 30	8.5 ± 0.7	8.7	8.4	7.8	7.6	7.6	9.4	10.2	9.5
Czech Republic	404	± 19	7.8 ± 0.4	7.8	8.2	6.1	6.2	6.9	10.0	9.9	9.9
Denmark	117	± 13	4.1 ± 0.5	4.8	5.1	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.2	5.5	5.9
Germany	4,439	± 123	10.9 ± 0.3	11.2	10.1	11.0	11.3	10.3	10.9	11.1	9.9
Estonia	46	± 10	7.3 ± 1.5	7.2	8.7	7.5	7.0	8.5	7.0	7.5	9.0
Greece	470	± 21	9.8 ± 0.4	9.8	10.5	6.2	6.1	6.5	15.1	15.1	16.2
Spain	1,839	± 59	8.8 ± 0.3	8.5	10.6	6.7	6.5	7.8	11.7	11.2	14.6
France	2,592	± 107	9.6 ± 0.4	9.0	9.5	8.6	8.1	8.7	10.8	10.1	10.4
Ireland	91	± 5	4.5 ± 0.2	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.2	4.4	4.1
Italy	1,977	± 69	8.1 ± 0.3	7.2	8.3	6.3	5.6	6.7	10.7	9.6	10.6
Cyprus	19	± 3	5.4 ± 0.7	5.3	5.2	5.2	4.2	3.8	5.6	6.6	6.9
Latvia	86	± 13	7.9 ± 1.2	8.8	10.3	8.3	8.8	10.7	7.4	8.8	9.9
Lithuania	113	± 14	7.2 ± 0.9	7.3	10.7	7.5	6.8	10.2	6.9	7.9	11.3
Luxembourg	9	± 1	4.5 ± 0.4	.	5.1	3.5	.	3.7	5.9	.	7.1
Hungary	308	± 17	7.3 ± 0.4	7.3	6.3	7.2	7.0	6.2	7.5	7.6	6.5
Malta	12	± 2	7.4 ± 1.2	7.3	7.0	6.6	6.5	5.8	9.2	9.1	9.5
Netherlands	378	± 17	4.5 ± 0.2	4.4	4.6	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.9	4.8	4.9
Austria	207	± 15	5.2 ± 0.4	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.5
Poland	2,886	± 119	17.0 ± 0.6	17.6	18.3	15.6	16.2	17.0	18.6	19.4	19.8
Portugal	447	± 28	8.5 ± 0.5	8.2	7.5	7.5	7.1	6.7	9.7	9.4	8.3
Slovenia	74	± 7	7.4 ± 0.7	6.5	6.6	6.8	6.3	5.9	8.0	6.7	7.4
Slovakia	409	± 16	15.4 ± 0.8	15.7	17.3	14.4	14.7	16.4	16.6	17.0	18.4
Finland	197	± 8	7.7 ± 0.3	7.3	8.0	7.2	6.7	7.9	8.1	7.9	8.0
Sweden	333	± 12	7.2 ± 0.3	7.4	6.2	7.2	7.4	6.4	7.3	7.3	6.0
United Kingdom	1,482	± 55	5.1 ± 0.2	4.8	4.7	5.4	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.4
Bulgaria	328	± 26	10.0 ± 0.7	9.3	12.0	10.2	9.3	12.6	9.8	9.2	11.3
Croatia	.	.	.	.	14.0	.	.	12.0	.	.	16.5
Romania	666	± 51	7.2 ± 0.6	6.5	8.5	7.8	7.1	9.3	6.5	5.7	7.5
Iceland	4	± 1	2.7 ± 0.7	1.7	2.4	3.2	.	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.9
Norway	92	± 7	3.9 ± 0.3	4.7	3.9	4.1	4.8	4.4	3.7	4.5	3.4
EEA-28	19,424	± 245	8.9 ± 0.1	8.8	9.0	8.1	8.0	8.2	9.9	9.8	10.0
Switzerland	.	.	.	4.5	.	.	4.0	.	.	5.2	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Notes: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The unemployment rate calculated here is directly derived from the Labour Force Survey data. The adjusted unemployment series (15-74) published on a monthly basis by Eurostat can differ from these results.

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005 and 2004. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2004 refer to the 2nd half year 2004. The data from Germany are not from LFS but based on national estimates. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (June to August for q3, September to November for q4).

¹ Number of unemployed persons aged 15-64.

² Confidence limit of the number of unemployed persons aged 15-64, at a level of confidence of 95%, in thousands of people.

Table 15. Long term unemployment rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 4th quarter 2005

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	4.0	5.1	3.8	4.9	4.1	5.3	3.9	4.1
Less than upper secondary	5.6	6.6	5.6	4.9	6.1	7.2	6.1	4.7
Upper secondary level	4.0	4.3	3.7	5.9	4.2	4.9	4.0	4.6
Tertiary level	2.1	2.3	2.0	3.2	1.8	2.1	1.7	2.5
Men	3.6	5.0	3.2	4.7	3.7	5.4	3.3	4.2
Less than upper secondary	4.8	6.3	4.5	4.5	5.4	7.3	5.1	4.6
Upper secondary level	3.5	4.0	3.1	5.7	3.7	4.7	3.4	4.7
Tertiary level	2.0	.	1.7	3.4	1.8	2.2	1.6	2.9
Women	4.6	5.2	4.5	5.1	4.5	5.2	4.5	4.0
Less than upper secondary	6.9	7.0	7.2	5.3	7.1	7.1	7.6	4.7
Upper secondary level	4.6	4.7	4.4	6.1	4.8	5.2	4.7	4.4
Tertiary level	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.9	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.0

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 16. Long term unemployment rates by countries, quarters and sex

15-64 years	2005q4 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4	2005q4	2005q3	2004q4
EU-25	8,728	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.7	4.5	4.4	4.6
EU-15	6,213	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.6	3.8
Euro area	5,826	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.6	4.6	4.4	4.7
Belgium	201	4.3	4.4	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.9	5.0	5.2	4.8
Czech Republic	212	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	5.1	5.2	5.3
Denmark	26	0.9	1.1	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4
Germany	2,460	6.1	6.0	.	6.2	6.1	.	5.9	5.8	.
Estonia	24	3.7	4.1	5.1	(3.2)	(3.5)	5.3	(4.2)	4.8	4.9
Greece	238	5.0	5.2	5.7	2.6	2.6	3.0	8.4	8.9	9.6
Spain	446	2.1	2.0	3.4	1.4	1.3	2.2	3.1	3.1	5.0
France	1,009	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.5	4.3	4.2	4.2
Ireland	29	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.9	0.8	1.0
Italy	959	3.9	3.3	4.0	2.9	2.4	2.9	5.4	4.8	5.5
Cyprus	4	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.6	1.5	2.0
Latvia	38	3.4	3.9	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.8	2.6	3.7	4.2
Lithuania	56	3.6	3.7	6.0	3.6	3.3	5.5	3.5	4.1	6.6
Luxembourg	2	1.2	.	1.1	(1.2)	.	(0.8)	(1.2)	.	(1.4)
Hungary	142	3.4	3.3	2.8	3.5	3.2	2.8	3.3	3.4	2.8
Malta	5	3.3	3.4	2.7	3.0	3.6	2.9	(4.0)	(3.1)	.
Netherlands	157	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.7
Austria	52	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.3
Poland	1,697	10.0	10.3	10.0	8.9	9.2	9.3	11.2	11.5	10.9
Portugal	218	4.2	3.9	3.4	3.6	3.4	2.9	4.8	4.4	3.9
Slovenia	35	3.5	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.9	3.0	3.8
Slovakia	303	11.4	11.4	11.8	10.6	10.8	11.3	12.4	12.3	12.3
Finland	53	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.9	1.9
Sweden	.	.	.	1.3	.	.	1.6	.	.	1.1
United Kingdom	304	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.6
Bulgaria	197	6.0	5.7	7.2	6.0	5.8	7.6	6.1	5.7	6.8
Croatia	.	.	.	7.6	.	.	6.1	.	.	9.4
Romania	368	4.0	4.1	4.8	4.6	4.6	5.5	3.2	3.5	4.0
Iceland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Norway	18	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6
EEA-28	8,747	4.0	3.9	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.7	4.5	4.4	4.5
Switzerland	.	.	1.7	.	.	1.4	.	.	2.0	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005 and 2004. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2004 refer to the 2nd half year 2004. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (June to August for q3, September to November for q4). Due to ongoing corrections, data are not available in Sweden in 2005q3 and 2005q4.

¹ Number of persons aged 15-64 years in long-term unemployment.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Source: the European Union Labour Force Survey is a quarterly (except in Luxembourg and Switzerland where it is annual, and in Croatia where every survey covers half a year), large sample 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. The sampling rates vary between 0.2% and 3.3%. The survey provides quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over as well as on persons outside the labour force. The figures in this publication are **not seasonally adjusted**, due to the short times series available. The concepts and definitions used in the survey follow the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation.

BREAKS. Until 2004, Germany data were based on a Spring Labour Force Survey for the 2nd quarter and on national estimates for other quarters. From 2005, the sample of the German Labour Force Survey is spread over all weeks of the year. Accordingly, estimates for 2005 are not fully comparable with previous years. From 2005q2 onwards, Swedish data are derived from a revised questionnaire. In particular students looking for a job and available to work are now considered as unemployed according to EU definitions. Therefore Swedish figures for 2005q4 and 2005q3 are not fully comparable with previous quarters. In the 1st quarter 2005, the Spanish questionnaire has been revised to improve the coverage of small duration jobs and of methods used to find work. The impact of these changes has been estimated at +0.4 percentage point on employment rate (16-64 years old), +0.2 p.p. on activity rate (16-64 years old), and -0.4 p.p. on unemployment rate.

Confidence limits: All confidence limits are calculated at a level of confidence of 95%. The country limits are derived from coefficients of variation calculated by the National Statistic Institutes. When a coefficient is not available, the coefficient for the last quarter available is taken. For the calculation of limits of aggregates, we assume that the EU-LFS is a stratified sample with the country as the first stratum.

The economically active population comprises employed and unemployed persons. **Employed persons** are persons aged 15 and over (Spain, United Kingdom: 16 and over; Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Sweden, Finland: 15-74; Iceland, Norway: 16-74) who during the reference week performed work, even for just one hour per week, for pay, profit or family gain or were not at work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of, e.g., illness, holidays, industrial dispute, education or training. **Unemployed persons** are persons aged 15-74 (in Spain, United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway: 16-74) who were without work during the reference week, were currently available for work and were either actively seeking work in the past four weeks or had already found a job to start within the next three months.

Duration of unemployment is the duration of the search for employment or the length of the period since leaving last job, whichever period is shorter. **Long-term unemployed persons** are persons who have been unemployed for one year or more.

Employment/activity rates represent employed/active persons as the percentage of the same age population. **(Long-term) unemployment rates** are measured relative to the active population

of the same sex and age. All rates focus on the working age population (at most 15-64 years).

Employees are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, payment by results or payment in kind; non-conscript members of the armed forces are also included. Employees with **temporary contracts** are those who declare themselves as having an employment contract or a job which will terminate either after a period fixed in advance, or after a period not known in advance, but nevertheless defined by objective criteria, such as the completion of an assignment or the period of absence of an employee temporarily replaced.

Average actual hours worked in all jobs are the sum of hours in the main and second jobs in the reference week divided by the number of persons who were actually working at least one hour in either main or second job during the reference week. These hours include all hours including overtime, whether paid or not.

The full-time/part-time distinction in the main job is declared by the respondent except in the Netherlands, Iceland and Norway where part-time is determined if the usual hours are fewer than 35 hours and full-time if the usual hours are 35 hours or more, and in Sweden where such criterion is applied to the self-employed.

Persons having a "new" job are persons who have been in their present employment (main job) for less than three months. This should not be confused with the concept of "job creation" as the jobs are only "new" from the perspective of the respondents.

The reference week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday. In all of the countries providing quarterly data the quarterly sample is spread uniformly over all or most weeks of the quarter.

Classification by economic activity: six economic activities are distinguished on the basis of an aggregation of the sections of the Standard Classification of Economic Activities (NACE rev.1.1).

Level of educational attainment is defined according to the International Classification of Education 1997 (ISCED 1997). Three levels are distinguished: Less than upper secondary (less than ISCED2), upper secondary (ISCED 3-4), and third level (ISCED 5-6).









Country codes applied in this publication: EU-25 (European Union), EU-15 (former European Union of 15 Member States), Euro area (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland), EEA-28 (European Economic Area, including all EU-25 Member States, Iceland and Norway, but without Liechtenstein).

Aggregates: When data are unavailable for a country, the calculation of the corresponding aggregates takes into account the data for the same country one year before.

Symbols: () data between brackets lack reliability due to small sample size; "." dots are used for unavailable or extremely unreliable data. "|" vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series. Quarter 4 of the year 2005 is written as 2005q4.

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