

During the third quarter of 2021, the Labour Force Survey estimates that total number of persons in employment was 268,987, 3.6 per cent higher when compared to the previous year.

Labour Force Survey: Q3/2021

Labour Status

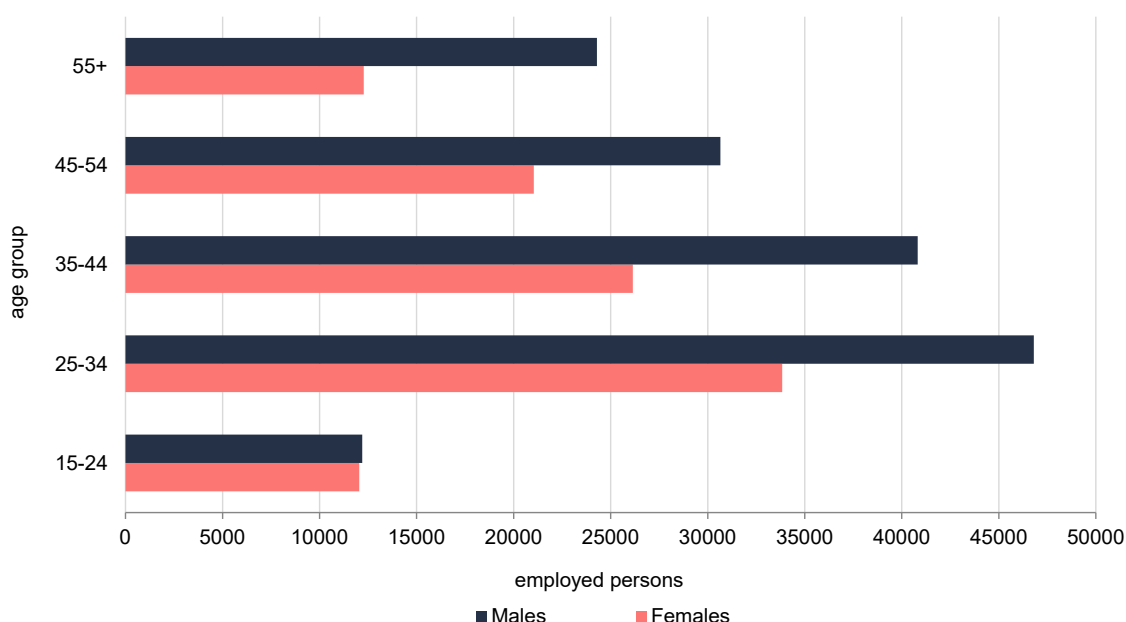
Labour Force Survey estimates indicated that, during the third quarter, total employment stood at 268,987 accounting for 60.7 per cent of the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 9,897 (2.2 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 163,938 (37.0 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 78.0 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25 to 54 (88.3 per cent) (Table 2).

The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 and 64 years, 75 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 83.0 per cent while that for females stood at 66.2 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).



Chart 1. Employment by age group and sex



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

Self-employed persons accounted for 15.5 per cent of all persons with a main job (Table 5). The majority of employed persons worked on a full-time basis and amounted to 239,362. A further 29,625 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers usually worked 41.4 hours while part-timers worked 22.6 hours per week. In the third quarter of 2021, employed persons actually worked 33.5 hours per week, 0.5 hours less when compared to the previous year (Table 7).

The average monthly basic salary of employees for the third quarter of 2021 was estimated at €1,635. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and insurance activities sector (Table 10). Average monthly salaries varied from €1,013 among persons employed in elementary occupations to €2,824 among managers (Table 14).

The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2021, stood at 3.6 per cent (Table 17). The largest share of unemployed persons was recorded among persons aged 25 to 74 years (Table 16). Females accounted for 60.7 per cent of total inactive persons and those over 65 years made up the highest share of the inactive (Table 19). Over 40 per cent were inactive because they had reached retirement age or were taking up early retirement (Table 20).

Education Attainment

Almost half of the persons aged 15 years and over had attained a low level of education (Table 21). By contrast, 33.8 per cent of the employed had a tertiary level education (Table 22).

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

Labour status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2021					
Employed	159,439	69.3	109,548	51.5	268,987	60.7
Unemployed	6,187	2.7	3,710 ^u	1.7 ^u	9,897	2.2
Inactive	64,460	28.0	99,478	46.8	163,938	37.0
Total	230,086	100.0	212,736	100.0	442,822	100.0
	July-September 2020 (Revised)					
Employed	152,526	67.0	107,140	50.7	259,666	59.2
Unemployed	7,542	3.3	5,862 ^u	2.8 ^u	13,404	3.1
Inactive	67,680	29.7	98,124	46.5	165,804	37.8
Total	227,748	100.0	211,126	100.0	438,874	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	
	%					
	July-September 2021					
15-24	58.2		55.8		57.1	
25-54	95.5		79.9		88.3	
55-64	71.4		36.4		54.2	
Total (15-64)	86.3		68.5		78.0	
	July-September 2020 (Revised)					
15-24	58.0		56.1		57.1	
25-54	95.1		79.1		87.8	
55-64	64.9		41.7		53.5	
Total (15-64)	84.5		68.7		77.1	

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2021					
15-24	13,649	8.6	12,549	11.5	26,198	9.7
25-34	45,684	28.7	33,674	30.7	79,358	29.5
35-44	42,264	26.5	28,975	26.4	71,239	26.5
45-54	31,317	19.6	22,678	20.7	53,995	20.1
55-64	21,041	13.2	10,085	9.2	31,126	11.6
65+	5,484	3.4	1,587 ^u	1.4 ^u	7,071	2.6
Total	159,439	100.0	109,548	100.0	268,987	100.0
	July-September 2020 (Revised)					
15-24	14,014	9.2	12,407	11.6	26,421	10.2
25-34	44,401	29.1	32,276	30.1	76,677	29.5
35-44	40,460	26.5	27,671	25.8	68,131	26.2
45-54	29,818	19.5	21,527	20.1	51,345	19.8
55-64	19,689	12.9	11,949	11.2	31,638	12.2
65+	4,144 ^u	2.7 ^u	:	:	5,454	2.1
Total	152,526	100.0	107,140	100.0	259,666	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 4. Employment rates by sex and age group

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	July-September 2021					
15-24	52.3		52.9		52.6	
25-54	92.6		77.7		85.7	
55-64	68.6		34.1		51.7	
Total (15-64)	83.0		66.2		75.1	
	July-September 2020 (Revised)					
15-24	51.0		50.1		50.6	
25-54	91.0		75.6		83.9	
55-64	63.5		39.9		51.9	
Total (15-64)	80.4		65.1		73.3	

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2021					
Self-employed without employees	22,781	14.3	6,967	6.4	29,748	11.1
Self-employed with employees	9,340	5.9	2,461 ^u	2.2 ^u	11,801	4.4
Employee	127,247	79.8	99,912	91.2	227,159	84.4
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	159,439	100.0	109,548	100.0	268,987	100.0
	July-September 2020 (Revised)					
Self-employed without employees	20,862	13.7	8,630	8.1	29,492	11.4
Self-employed with employees	9,749	6.4	2,493 ^u	2.3 ^u	12,242	4.7
Employee	121,770	79.8	95,888	89.5	217,658	83.8
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	152,526	100.0	107,140	100.0	259,666	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.	%
	July-September 2021					
Full-time job	149,720	93.9	89,642	81.8	239,362	89.0
Part-time job	9,719	6.1	19,906	18.2	29,625	11.0
Total	159,439	100.0	109,548	100.0	268,987	100.0
	July-September 2020 (Revised)					
Full-time job	143,799	94.3	85,475	79.8	229,274	88.3
Part-time job	8,727	5.7	21,665	20.2	30,392	11.7
Total	152,526	100.0	107,140	100.0	259,666	100.0

Table 7. Hours worked per week by sex and type of employment in main occupation

Type of employment	Males		Females		Total	
	Average Normal Hours ¹				Average Actual Hours ²	
	July-September 2021					
Full-time job	41.8		40.7		41.4	35.2
Part-time job	21.1		23.2		22.6	20.0
Total	40.7		37.7		39.5	33.5
	July-September 2020 (Revised)					
Full-time job	43.0		41.0		42.2	36.0
Part-time job	22.6		22.4		22.5	19.1
Total	41.8		37.3		40.0	34.0

¹ Normal hours worked: refer 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).

² Actual hours worked: refer to the number of hours actually spent at the place of work during the reference week for the main job. A person may work extra hours (e.g. overtime, variable hours) or work less hours than usual (e.g. vacation leave, education, sick leave or slack work) due to various reasons. Owing to increased flexibility at work places coupled with technology, the place of work may also include one's home. In this regard, actual hours worked also include the hours of work carried out by persons who telework.

Table 8. Distribution of employed persons by sex and economic activity in the main occupation: July-September 2021

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,767 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	2,164 ^u	0.8 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	22,535	14.1	7,860	7.2	30,395	11.3
Construction	16,645	10.4	:	:	17,305	6.4
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	42,952	26.9	19,564	17.9	62,516	23.2
Information and communication	8,721	5.5	:	:	10,868	4.0
Financial and insurance activities	7,200	4.5	9,784	8.9	16,984	6.3
Real estate activities	3,491 ^u	2.2 ^u	:	:	5,757 ^u	2.1 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	16,638	10.4	12,353	11.3	28,991	10.8
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	28,511	17.9	39,824	36.4	68,335	25.4
Other services	10,979	6.9	14,693	13.4	25,672	9.5
Total	159,439	100.0	109,548	100.0	268,987	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 in the main occupation: July-September 2020 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,020 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	2,167 ^u	0.8 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	25,224	16.5	8,267	7.7	33,491	12.9
Construction	14,849	9.7	:	:	16,032	6.2
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	39,595	26.0	23,091	21.6	62,686	24.1
Information and communication	6,969	4.6	:	:	9,813	3.8
Financial and insurance activities	9,298	6.1	6,256	5.8	15,554	6.0
Real estate activities	2,863 ^u	1.9 ^u	:	:	4,858 ^u	1.9 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	13,339	8.7	10,780	10.1	24,119	9.3
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	26,403	17.3	40,066	37.4	66,469	25.6
Other services	11,966	7.8	12,511	11.7	24,477	9.4
Total	152,526	100.0	107,140	100.0	259,666	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 monthly basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity in the main occupation: July-September 2021

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	18,941	1,367	7,496	1,183	26,437	1,315
Construction	9,848	1,276	:	:	10,437	1,275
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	31,640	1,204	17,237	996	48,877	1,131
Information and communication	8,332	2,462	:	:	9,718	2,390
Financial and insurance activities	6,829	2,855	9,661	2,230	16,490	2,489
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	13,011	1,880	11,654	1,508	24,665	1,704
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	26,413	1,856	38,002	1,716	64,415	1,773
Other services	9,877	2,207	12,729	1,527	22,606	1,824
Total	127,247	1,700	99,912	1,553	227,159	1,635

¹ The average monthly basic salary takes into account the COVID-19 wage supplement scheme but not the COVID-19 Social Security benefits (parent, medical and benefit to persons with disability) since the latter do not qualify as a form of employment income. As a result, employees whose income was entirely dependent on Social Security benefits had their salary set to 0 (zero). This approach is in line with LFS guidelines.

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 11. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity in the main occupation: July-September 2020 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	:	:	:	:	:	:
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	21,444	1,513	7,621	1,131	29,065	1,413
Construction	9,473	1,457	:	:	10,133	1,454
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	29,271	1,120	19,606	860	48,877	1,016
Information and communication	5,510 ^u	1,782 ^u	:	:	8,266	1,659
Financial and insurance activities	8,708	2,694	6,167	1,853	14,875	2,346
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	10,531	1,847	9,949	1,352	20,480	1,606
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	25,938	1,898	38,977	1,666	64,915	1,759
Other services	8,812	2,683	9,405	1,314	18,217	1,976
Total	121,770	1,704	95,888	1,393	217,658	1,567

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Note: Estimates include both public and private sectors.

Table 12. Distribution of total employed persons by sex and occupational group: July-September 2021

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,564 ^u	1.6 ^u	:	:	2,564 ^u	1.0 ^u
Managers	20,837	13.1	8,810	8.0	29,647	11.0
Professionals	28,889	18.1	29,692	27.1	58,581	21.8
Technicians and associate professionals	22,941	14.4	13,575	12.4	36,516	13.6
Clerical support workers	10,066	6.3	18,527	16.9	28,593	10.6
Service and sales workers	22,374	14.0	29,804	27.2	52,178	19.4
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	1,500 ^u	0.6 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	24,465	15.3	1,339 ^u	1.2 ^u	25,804	9.6
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	12,114	7.6	1,909 ^u	1.7 ^u	14,023	5.2
Elementary occupations	13,885	8.7	5,696	5.2	19,581	7.3
Total	159,439	100.0	109,548	100.0	268,987	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 13. Distribution of total employed persons by sex and occupational group: July-September 2020 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,319 ^u	1.5 ^u	:	:	2,430 ^u	0.9 ^u
Managers	21,962	14.4	8,104	7.6	30,066	11.6
Professionals	26,560	17.4	27,827	26.0	54,387	20.9
Technicians and associate professionals	22,621	14.8	12,645	11.8	35,266	13.6
Clerical support workers	11,137	7.3	16,934	15.8	28,071	10.8
Service and sales workers	20,320	13.3	28,516	26.6	48,836	18.8
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1,703 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	1,759 ^u	0.7 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	21,985	14.4	2,882 ^u	2.7 ^u	24,867	9.6
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	12,441	8.2	1,911 ^u	1.8 ^u	14,352	5.5
Elementary occupations	11,478	7.5	8,154	7.6	19,632	7.6
Total	152,526	100.0	107,140	100.0	259,666	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 14. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and occupational group: July-September 2021

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)	No. of employees	Average ¹ (€)
Armed Forces	2,564 ^u	1,938 ^u	:	:	2,564 ^u	1,938 ^u
Managers	16,235	2,961	8,078	2,550	24,313	2,824
Professionals	25,243	2,366	27,795	2,096	53,038	2,224
Technicians and associate professionals	18,120	1,526	11,792	1,696	29,912	1,593
Clerical support workers	9,212	1,247	18,088	1,125	27,300	1,166
Service and sales workers	17,455	1,272	25,676	1,111	43,131	1,176
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	16,117	1,082	:	:	17,054	1,078
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8,990	1,155	1,850 ^u	890 ^u	10,840	1,110
Elementary occupations	12,833	1,086	5,696	848	18,529	1,013
Total	127,247	1,700	99,912	1,553	227,159	1,635

¹ The average monthly basic salary takes into account the COVID-19 wage supplement scheme but not the COVID-19 Social Security benefits (parent, medical and benefit to persons with disability) since the latter do not qualify as a form of employment income. As a result, employees whose income was entirely dependent on Social Security benefits had their salary set to 0 (zero). This approach is in line with LFS guidelines.

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Table 15. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and occupational group: July-September 2020 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,319 ^u	1,429 ^u	:	:	2,430 ^u	1,414 ^u
Managers	17,311	2,784	7,823	2,038	25,134	2,552
Professionals	23,399	2,333	25,958	1,935	49,357	2,123
Technicians and associate professionals	19,016	1,680	10,113	1,398	29,129	1,582
Clerical support workers	10,992	1,276	16,817	1,144	27,809	1,196
Service and sales workers	14,483	1,259	23,680	972	38,163	1,081
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	13,883	1,140	:	:	15,481	1,123
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	10,547	1,046	1,911 ^u	1,232 ^u	12,458	1,075
Elementary occupations	9,254	1,050	7,877	892	17,131	977
Total	121,770	1,704	95,888	1,393	217,658	1,567

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2021					
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,244 ^u	22.7 ^u
25-74	4,641 ^u	75.0 ^u	3,012 ^u	81.2 ^u	7,653	77.3
Total (15-74)	6,187	100.0	3,710^u	100.0^u	9,897	100.0
July-September 2020 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	3,425 ^u	25.6 ^u
25-74	5,616 ^u	74.5 ^u	4,363 ^u	74.4 ^u	9,979 ^u	74.4 ^u
Total (15-74)	7,542	100.0	5,862^u	100.0^u	13,404	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	
	%					
	July-September 2021					
15-24	:	:	:	:	7.9 ^u	
25-74	3.1 ^u		:		3.1 ^u	
Total (15-74)	3.7		3.3^u		3.6	
July-September 2020 (Revised)						
15-24	:	:	:	:	11.5 ^u	
25-74	3.9 ^u		4.4 ^u		4.1	
Total (15-74)	4.7		5.2^u		4.9	

: 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.	%
	July-September 2021					
Less than 12 months	3,666 ^u	59.3 ^u	:	:	6,866	69.4
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	3,031 ^u	30.6 ^u
Total	6,187	100.0	3,710^u	100.0^u	9,897	100.0
July-September 2020 (Revised)						
Less than 12 months	5,379 ^u	71.3 ^u	4,201 ^u	71.7 ^u	9,580	71.5
12 months or more	2163 ^u	28.7 ^u	:	:	3,824 ^u	28.5 ^u
Total	7,542	100.0	5,862^u	100.0^u	13,404	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.	%
	July-September 2021					
15-24	10,891	16.9	10,496	10.6	21,387	13.0
25-34	:	:	7,870 ^u	7.9 ^u	10,218	6.2
35-44	:	:	7,881	7.9	9,338	5.7
45-54	1,989 ^u	3.1 ^u	6,339	6.4	8,328	5.1
55-64	8,772	13.6	18,802	18.9	27,574	16.8
65+	39,003	60.5	48,090	48.3	87,093	53.1
Total	64,460	100.0	99,478	100.0	163,938	100.0
July-September 2020 (Revised)						
15-24	11,535	17.0	10,864	11.1	22,399	13.5
25-34	:	:	7,898 ^u	8.0 ^u	10,694	6.4
35-44	:	:	8,391	8.6	9,847	5.9
45-54	:	:	6,191	6.3	8,102	4.9
55-64	10,866	16.1	17,484	17.8	28,350	17.1
65+	39,116	57.8	47,296	48.2	86,412	52.1
Total	67,680	100.0	98,124	100.0	165,804	100.0

: 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 for inactivity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
July-September 2021						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	44,180	44.6	44,914	27.5
Education or training	10,317	16.1	9,030	9.1	19,347	11.9
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	45,020	70.4	22,756	22.9	67,776	41.5
Other reasons	7,895	12.3	23,189	23.4	31,084	19.1
Total	63,966	100.0	99,155	100.0	163,121	100.0
July-September 2020 (Revised)						
Personal or family responsibilities	:	:	32,077	32.7	33,620	20.3
Education or training	10,840	16.0	9,715	9.9	20,555	12.4
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	46,307	68.4	23,792	24.2	70,099	42.3
Other reasons	8,990	13.3	32,540	33.2	41,530	25.0
Total	67,680	100.0	98,124	100.0	165,804	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Note: Q3 2021 covers persons between the age of 15 and 90 years while Q3 2020 covers persons from the age of 15+.

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

Education level	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
July-September 2021						
Secondary level education or less	102,364	44.5	98,777	46.4	201,141	45.4
Post-Secondary level education	74,918	32.6	58,186	27.4	133,104	30.1
Tertiary level education	52,804	22.9	55,773	26.2	108,577	24.5
Total	230,086	100.0	212,736	100.0	442,822	100.0
July-September 2020 (Revised)						
Secondary level education or less	104,935	46.1	98,513	46.7	203,448	46.4
Post-Secondary level education	70,637	31.0	58,080	27.5	128,717	29.3
Tertiary level education	52,176	22.9	54,533	25.8	106,709	24.3
Total	227,748	100.0	211,126	100.0	438,874	100.0

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

Education level	Employed		Unemployed		Inactive		Total		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
	July-September 2021								
Secondary level education or less	80,707	30.0	4,274 ^u	43.2 ^u	116,160	70.9	201,141	45.4	
Post-Secondary level education	97,332	36.2	3,209 ^u	32.4 ^u	32,563	19.9	133,104	30.1	
Tertiary level education	90,948	33.8	2,414 ^u	24.4 ^u	15,215	9.3	108,577	24.5	
Total	268,987	100.0	9,897	100.0	163,938	100.0	442,822	100.0	
	July-September 2020 (Revised)								
Secondary level education or less	80,393	31.0	5,383 ^u	40.2 ^u	117,672	71.0	203,448	46.4	
Post-Secondary level education	91,564	35.3	3,910 ^u	29.2 ^u	33,243	20.0	128,717	29.3	
Tertiary level education	87,709	33.8	4,111 ^u	30.7 ^u	14,889	9.0	106,709	24.3	
Total	259,666	100.0	13,404	100.0	165,804	100.0	438,874	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). Educational attainment is classified according to ISCED 2011 (International Standard Classification of Education).
3. As from January 2021, Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/257 of 16th December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying the number and the title of the variables for the labour force domain, came into force.

This legislation has mainly led to changes in the LFS questionnaire and mode of data collection. Currently the NSO is undertaking an analysis of the impact of this change on LFS estimates in order to assess the divergence of LFS results from pre-IESS to post-IESS levels.

4. Definitions:

- **Activity rate:** labour force (15-64 years) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years).
- **Actual hours worked:** refers to the number of hours actually spent at the place of work during the reference week for the main job. A person may work extra hours (e.g. overtime, variable hours) or work less hours than usual (e.g. vacation leave, education, sick leave or slack work) due to various reasons. Owing to increased flexibility at work places coupled with technology, the place of work may also include one's home. In this regard, actual hours worked also includes the hours of work carried out by persons who telework.
- **Average monthly basic salary:** refers to the average monthly basic salary received by employees before any social contributions and tax deductions. This amount excludes payments for overtime, allowances and bonuses. The monthly basic salary takes into account the wage supplement scheme. As a result persons who stated that they were receiving this supplement during the first quarter of 2021 had their monthly salary modified to account for this change in their income. COVID-19 Social Security Benefits (parent, medical and benefit to persons with disability) do not feature in the monthly salary figures provided since they do not qualify as a form of employment income. However persons receiving these benefits were considered to be employed if they fulfilled the ILO employment criteria. Data for this variable is provisional and subject to revisions.
- **Educational 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 2 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 2 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:** comprise persons aged 15+ years who, during the reference week, were in one of the following categories:
 - **worked for at least 1 hour for pay or profit**, including contributing family workers and paid casual work
 - persons with a job or business who were temporarily not at work during the reference week but had an attachment to their job, including:
 - (a) persons not at work due to holidays, working time arrangements, sick leave, maternity or paternity leave;
 - (b) persons in job-related training or formal education;
 - (c) persons on parental leave, either receiving and/or being entitled to job-related income or benefits, or whose parental leave is expected to be 3 months or less;
 - (d) seasonal workers during the off-season, where they continue to regularly perform tasks and duties for the job or business, excluding fulfilment of legal or administrative obligations;
 - (e) persons temporarily not at work for other reasons where the expected duration of the absence is 3 months or less.

- **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:** i.e. had either carried out activities in the four-week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or found a job to start within a period of at most 3 months from the end of the reference week. Examples of active job search include contacting Jobsplus, studying job advertisements or placing or updating CVs online.
 - **currently available for work:** i.e. available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the 2 weeks following the reference week.
- **Unemployment rate:** unemployed persons (15 to 74 years) as a percentage of the labour force (15-74 years).

5. 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 gives an indication of where the true population parameters lie.

Sampling variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Margin of error	95% confidence interval
Employment	268,987	4,095	268,987 ± 4,095
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	75.12	1.21	75.12 ± 1.21
<i>Males</i>	82.95	1.57	82.95 ± 1.57
<i>Females</i>	66.21	1.88	66.21 ± 1.88
15-24	52.58	3.92	52.58 ± 3.92
25-54	85.74	1.54	85.74 ± 1.54
55-64	51.70	4.15	51.70 ± 4.15
Unemployment	9,897	2,877	9,897 ± 2,877
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	3.56	1.01	3.56 ± 1.01
<i>Males</i>	3.75	1.36	3.75 ± 1.36
<i>Females</i>	3.28	1.74	3.28 ± 1.74
15-24	7.89	2.96	7.89 ± 2.96
25-74	3.06	1.06	3.06 ± 1.06
Inactivity	163,938	4,411	163,938 ± 4,411
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	77.96	1.28	77.96 ± 1.28
<i>Males</i>	86.28	1.33	86.28 ± 1.33
<i>Females</i>	68.49	1.92	68.49 ± 1.92
15-24	57.08	3.80	57.08 ± 3.80
25-54	88.31	1.58	88.31 ± 1.58
55-64	54.20	4.00	54.20 ± 4.00

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 268,987 and the margin of error is 4,095. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 264,892 and 273,082 persons.

Key

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

6. Amendments were carried out in this news release to allow for more accurate interpretations of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market.
 - In Table 7 'Hours worked by sex and type of employment in main occupation' more information is given with regards to the actual number of hours worked.
 - The annual basic salary has been replaced by the monthly basic salary in order to better reflect the changes in salary levels which are being experienced by employees as a result of the impact of COVID-19 (Tables 10-11 and Tables 14-15).
7. Percentage totals may not add up due to rounding.
8. 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.
9. More information is available from the NSO upon written request.
10. 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: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=33>
Classification: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCO%202008>
<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=NACE%20Rev.%20>
<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED%202011>
11. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
12. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx