

During the third quarter of 2022, the Labour Force Survey estimates that the total number of persons in employment was 284,571, 5.1 per cent higher when compared to the previous year.

Labour Force Survey: Q3/2022

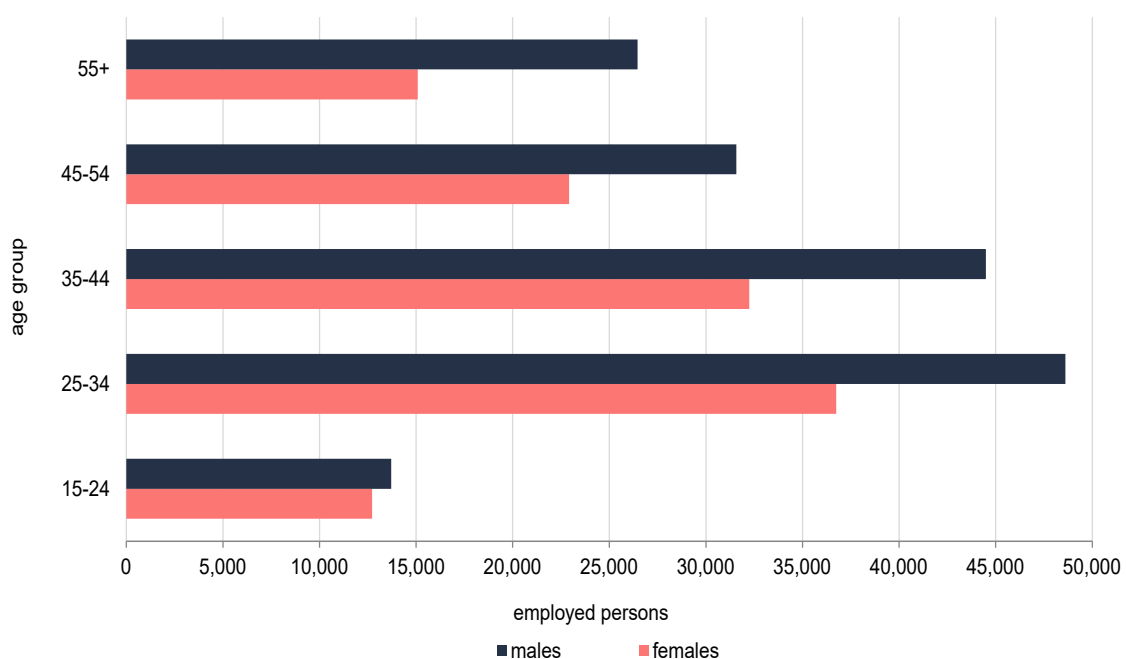
Labour Status

Labour Force Survey estimates indicated that, during the third quarter, total employment stood at 284,571 accounting for 62.8 per cent of the population aged 15 and over. Unemployed persons stood at 8,566 (1.9 per cent) while inactive persons totalled 160,078 (35.3 per cent) (Table 1). The activity rate for the quarter under review was estimated at 79.9 per cent with the highest rate recorded among persons aged 25 to 54 (89.7 per cent) (Table 2).

The Employed Population

On average, out of every 100 persons aged between 15 and 64 years, 78 were employed. The male employment rate for this age bracket was 83.4 per cent while that for females stood at 70.8 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



Self-employed persons accounted for 15.0 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 250,031. A further 34,540 had a part-time job as their primary employment (Table 6). Results show that, on average, full-timers usually worked 40.9 hours while part-timers worked 23.0 hours per week. In the third quarter of 2022, employed persons actually worked 32.4 hours per week, 1.1 hours less when compared to the previous year (Table 7).

The average monthly basic salary of employees for the third quarter of 2022 was estimated at €1,763. The highest basic salary was recorded in the Financial and insurance activities sector (Table 10). Average monthly salaries varied from €1,155 among persons employed in elementary occupations to €2,753 among managers (Table 14).

The Unemployed and Inactive Population

The unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2022, stood at 2.9 per cent (Table 17). Females accounted for 58.7 per cent of total inactive persons, and those over 65 years made up the highest share of the inactive (Table 19). The main reason for inactivity relates to persons reaching retirement age or taking up early retirement (42.7 per cent) (Table 20).

Education Attainment

More than 40 per cent of persons aged 15 years and over had attained a low level of education (42.7 per cent) (Table 21). By contrast, 33.0 per cent of the employed had a tertiary level of 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 2022					
Employed	164,846	69.8	119,725	55.2	284,571	62.8
Unemployed	5,234 ^u	2.2 ^u	3,332 ^u	1.5 ^u	8,566	1.9
Inactive	66,110	28.0	93,968	43.3	160,078	35.3
Total	236,190	100.0	217,025	100.0	453,215	100.0
July-September 2021 (Revised)						
Employed	160,409	69.6	110,453	52.0	270,862	61.2
Unemployed	5,901	2.6	3,407 ^u	1.6 ^u	9,308	2.1
Inactive	64,146	27.8	98,429	46.4	162,575	36.7
Total	230,456	100.0	212,289	100.0	442,745	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 2022					
15-24	59.7		57.4		58.6	
25-54	95.3		83.1		89.7	
55-64	68.0		44.7		56.6	
Total (15-64)	86.1		72.7		79.9	
July-September 2021 (Revised)						
15-24	58.7		56.4		57.6	
25-54	95.7		80.6		88.8	
55-64	71.7		36.6		54.5	
Total (15-64)	86.5		69.1		78.4	

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 2022					
15-24	13,706	8.3	12,729	10.6	26,435	9.3
25-34	48,603	29.5	36,755	30.7	85,358	30.0
35-44	44,491	27.0	32,238	26.9	76,729	27.0
45-54	31,577	19.2	22,925	19.1	54,502	19.2
55-64	20,307	12.3	12,897	10.8	33,204	11.7
65+	6,162	3.7	:	:	8,343	2.9
Total	164,846	100.0	119,725	100.0	284,571	100.0
July-September 2021 (Revised)						
15-24	13,901	8.7	12,794	11.6	26,695	9.9
25-34	46,253	28.8	33,946	30.7	80,199	29.6
35-44	42,276	26.4	29,203	26.4	71,479	26.4
45-54	31,274	19.5	22,698	20.5	53,972	19.9
55-64	21,118	13.2	10,175	9.2	31,293	11.6
65+	5,587	3.5	1,637 ^u	1.5 ^u	7,224	2.7
Total	160,409	100.0	110,453	100.0	270,862	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 2022					
15-24	53.8		54.3		54.0	
25-54	92.9		81.0		87.4	
55-64	66.5		44.2		55.6	
Total (15-64)	83.4		70.8		77.5	
July-September 2021 (Revised)						
15-24	52.7		53.4		53.0	
25-54	93.0		78.7		86.4	
55-64	68.9		34.6		52.1	
Total (15-64)	83.3		67.0		75.7	

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

Professional status	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2022					
Self-employed without employees	23,522	14.3	7,772	6.5	31,294	11.0
Self-employed with employees	9,099	5.5	2,179 ^u	1.8 ^u	11,278	4.0
Employee	132,151	80.2	109,774	91.7	241,925	85.0
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	164,846	100.0	119,725	100.0	284,571	100.0
July-September 2021 (Revised)						
Self-employed without employees	22,927	14.3	7,069	6.4	29,996	11.1
Self-employed with employees	9,367	5.8	2,470 ^u	2.2 ^u	11,837	4.4
Employee	128,042	79.8	100,706	91.2	228,748	84.5
Unpaid family worker	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	160,409	100.0	110,453	100.0	270,862	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 2022					
Full-time job	153,227	93.0	96,804	80.9	250,031	87.9
Part-time job	11,619	7.0	22,921	19.1	34,540	12.1
Total	164,846	100.0	119,725	100.0	284,571	100.0
July-September 2021 (Revised)						
Full-time job	149,608	93.3	89,432	81.0	239,040	88.3
Part-time job	10,801	6.7	21,021	19.0	31,822	11.7
Total	160,409	100.0	110,453	100.0	270,862	100.0

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

Type of employment	Males	Females	Total	Total
	Average Normal Hours ¹			Average Actual Hours ²
	July-September 2022			
Full-time job	41.5	39.9	40.9	34.2
Part-time job	22.3	23.3	23.0	19.8
Total	40.2	36.8	38.7	32.4
July-September 2021 (Revised)				
Full-time job	41.8	40.7	41.4	35.2
Part-time job	22.6	23.8	23.4	20.4
Total	40.7	37.7	39.5	33.5

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 2022

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,843 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	2,473 ^u	0.9 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	23,716	14.4	6,030	5.0	29,746	10.5
Construction	15,668	9.5	:	:	17,272	6.1
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	45,638	27.7	22,464	18.8	68,102	23.9
Information and communication	9,000	5.5	3,587 ^u	3.0 ^u	12,587	4.4
Financial and insurance activities	7,749	4.7	10,229	8.5	17,978	6.3
Real estate activities	2,459 ^u	1.5 ^u	:	:	4,267 ^u	1.5 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	16,972	10.3	14,421	12.0	31,393	11.0
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	28,936	17.6	45,164	37.7	74,100	26.0
Other services	12,865	7.8	13,788	11.5	26,653	9.4
Total	164,846	100.0	119,725	100.0	284,571	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 2021 (Revised)

Economic activity	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,771 ^u	1.1 ^u	:	:	2,168 ^u	0.8 ^u
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	22,584	14.1	7,902	7.2	30,486	11.3
Construction	16,762	10.4	:	:	17,421	6.4
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	43,397	27.1	19,717	17.9	63,114	23.3
Information and communication	8,779	5.5	:	:	10,951	4.0
Financial and insurance activities	7,221	4.5	9,834	8.9	17,055	6.3
Real estate activities	3,509 ^u	2.2 ^u	:	:	5,838 ^u	2.2 ^u
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	16,748	10.4	12,464	11.3	29,212	10.8
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	28,561	17.8	40,105	36.3	68,666	25.4
Other services	11,077	6.9	14,874	13.5	25,951	9.6
Total	160,409	100.0	110,453	100.0	270,862	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 2022

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	21,054	1,692	5,557	1,359	26,611	1,622
Construction	9,465	1,552	:	:	11,069	1,510
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	34,910	1,593	20,549	1,341	55,459	1,500
Information and communication	8,570	2,249	2,805 ^u	2,203 ^u	11,375	2,238
Financial and insurance activities	7,453	2,834	10,116	2,360	17,569	2,561
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	12,363	1,809	12,880	1,642	25,243	1,724
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	27,027	1,986	44,238	1,658	71,265	1,782
Other services	9,768	2,312	11,017	1,339	20,785	1,796
Total	132,151	1,878	109,774	1,625	241,925	1,763

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Notes:

1. Estimates include both public and private sectors.
2. Data is provisional and subject to revisions.

Table 11. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and economic activity in the main occupation: July-September 2021 (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	18,996	1,441	7,538	1,303	26,534	1,402
Construction	9,912	1,274	:	:	10,499	1,273
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	31,990	1,263	17,381	1,125	49,371	1,214
Information and communication	8,387	2,252	:	:	9,784	2,216
Financial and insurance activities	6,847	2,485	9,711	2,232	16,558	2,336
Real estate activities	:	:	:	:	:	:
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	13,103	1,890	11,758	1,589	24,861	1,748
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	26,460	1,851	38,276	1,720	64,736	1,773
Other services	9,975	2,243	12,895	1,564	22,870	1,860
Total	128,042	1,694	100,706	1,601	228,748	1,653

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Notes:

1. Estimates include both public and private sectors.
2. Data is provisional and subject to revisions.

Table 12. Distribution of total employed persons by sex and occupational group: July-September 2022

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,100 ^u	1.3 ^u	:	:	2,213 ^u	0.8 ^u
Managers	21,048	12.8	11,797	9.9	32,845	11.5
Professionals	28,451	17.3	30,546	25.5	58,997	20.7
Technicians and associate professionals	25,562	15.5	11,906	9.9	37,468	13.2
Clerical support workers	10,983	6.7	18,781	15.7	29,764	10.5
Service and sales workers	19,616	11.9	33,064	27.6	52,680	18.5
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	1,519 ^u	0.9 ^u	:	:	1,919 ^u	0.7 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	27,095	16.4	:	:	27,952	9.8
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	13,119	8.0	2,713 ^u	2.3 ^u	15,832	5.6
Elementary occupations	15,353	9.3	9,548	8.0	24,901	8.8
Total	164,846	100.0	119,725	100.0	284,571	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 2021 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Armed Forces	2,569 ^u	1.6 ^u	:	:	2,569 ^u	0.9 ^u
Managers	20,960	13.1	8,863	8.0	29,823	11.0
Professionals	29,109	18.1	29,958	27.1	59,067	21.8
Technicians and associate professionals	22,997	14.3	13,729	12.4	36,726	13.6
Clerical support workers	10,117	6.3	18,664	16.9	28,781	10.6
Service and sales workers	22,512	14.0	30,044	27.2	52,556	19.4
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	1,500 ^u	0.6 ^u
Craft and related trades workers	24,612	15.3	1,348 ^u	1.2 ^u	25,960	9.6
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	12,236	7.6	1,917 ^u	1.7 ^u	14,153	5.2
Elementary occupations	13,994	8.7	5,733	5.2	19,727	7.3
Total	160,409	100.0	110,453	100.0	270,862	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 2022

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,100 ^u	1,903 ^u	:	:	2,213 ^u	1,912 ^u
Managers	18,469	2,847	10,608	2,589	29,077	2,753
Professionals	23,209	2,604	28,962	2,184	52,171	2,371
Technicians and associate professionals	20,178	1,858	10,308	1,583	30,486	1,765
Clerical support workers	10,545	1,509	18,431	1,340	28,976	1,401
Service and sales workers	14,275	1,351	28,722	1,176	42,997	1,234
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	18,739	1,362	:	:	19,237	1,353
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	10,064	1,452	2,713 ^u	1,033 ^u	12,777	1,363
Elementary occupations	14,154	1,264	9,344	989	23,498	1,155
Total	132,151	1,878	109,774	1,625	241,925	1,763

Table 15. Average monthly basic salary for employees by sex and occupational group: July-September 2021 (Revised)

Occupational group	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)	No. of employees	Average (€)
Armed Forces	2,569 ^u	1,866 ^u	:	:	2,569 ^u	1,866 ^u
Managers	16,340	2,793	8,125	2,602	24,465	2,730
Professionals	25,461	2,325	28,048	2,155	53,509	2,236
Technicians and associate professionals	18,156	1,620	11,889	1,708	30,045	1,655
Clerical support workers	9,258	1,297	18,222	1,232	27,480	1,254
Service and sales workers	17,589	1,279	25,888	1,132	43,477	1,191
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	:	:	:	:	:	:
Craft and related trades workers	16,209	1,096	:	:	17,152	1,092
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9,043	1,208	1,858 ^u	945 ^u	10,901	1,163
Elementary occupations	12,938	1,098	5,733	848	18,671	1,022
Total	128,042	1,694	100,706	1,601	228,748	1,653

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Note: Data is provisional and subject to revisions.

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

Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2022					
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,253 ^u	26.3 ^u
25-74	:	:	:	:	6,313 ^u	73.7 ^u
Total (15-74)	5,234^u	100.0^u	3,332^u	100.0^u	8,566	100.0
Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2021 (Revised)					
15-24	:	:	:	:	2,288 ^u	24.6 ^u
25-74	4,323 ^u	73.3 ^u	:	:	7,020 ^u	75.4 ^u
Total (15-74)	5,901	100.0	3,407^u	100.0^u	9,308	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 2022					
15-24	:	:	:	:	7.9 ^u	
25-74	:	:	:	:	2.4 ^u	
Total (15-74)	3.1^u		2.7^u		2.9	
Age group	Males		Females		Total	
	%					
	July-September 2021 (Revised)					
15-24	:	:	:	:	7.9 ^u	
25-74	2.9 ^u		:	:	2.8	
Total (15-74)	3.6		3.0^u		3.3	

: 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 2022					
Less than 12 months	3,523 ^u	67.3 ^u	:	:	5,010 ^u	58.5 ^u
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	5,234^u	100.0^u	3,332^u	100.0^u	8,566	100.0
Duration	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2021 (Revised)					
Less than 12 months	3,521 ^u	59.7 ^u	:	:	6,409	68.9
12 months or more	:	:	:	:	2,899 ^u	31.1 ^u
Total	5,901	100.0	3,407^u	100.0^u	9,308	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 2022					
15-24	10,274	15.5	9,993	10.6	20,267	12.7
25-34	:	:	5,972 ^u	6.4 ^u	7,518 ^u	4.7 ^u
35-44	:	:	6,376	6.8	8,052	5.0
45-54	3,123 ^u	4.7 ^u	6,862	7.3	9,985	6.2
55-64	9,759	14.8	16,128	17.2	25,887	16.2
65+	39,732	60.1	48,637	51.8	88,369	55.2
Total	66,110	100.0	93,968	100.0	160,078	100.0
July-September 2021 (Revised)						
15-24	10,893	17.0	10,450	10.6	21,343	13.1
25-34	:	:	7,446 ^u	7.6 ^u	9,726	6.0
35-44	:	:	7,441	7.6	8,805	5.4
45-54	1,899 ^u	3.0 ^u	6,240	6.3	8,139	5.0
55-64	8,684	13.5	18,682	19.0	27,366	16.8
65+	39,026	60.8	48,170	48.9	87,196	53.6
Total	64,146	100.0	98,429	100.0	162,575	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 2022					
Care or family responsibilities	:	:	36,881	39.5	37,790	23.8
Education or training	10,163	15.5	10,049	10.8	20,212	12.7
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	46,565	71.1	21,270	22.8	67,835	42.7
Other reasons	7,880	12.0	25,167	27.0	33,047	20.8
Total	65,517	100.0	93,367	100.0	158,884	100.0
July-September 2021 (Revised)						
Care or family responsibilities	:	:	43,267	44.1	43,998	27.2
Education or training	10,303	16.2	9,013	9.2	19,316	11.9
Reached retirement age or uptake of early retirement	44,945	70.6	22,791	23.2	67,736	41.9
Other reasons	7,671	12.1	23,034	23.5	30,705	19.0
Total	63,650	100.0	98,105	100.0	161,755	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

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

Note: Figures in this table refer to persons between the age of 15 and 90 years

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

Education level	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	July-September 2022					
Secondary level education or less	102,502	43.4	90,978	41.9	193,480	42.7
Post-Secondary level education	78,001	33.0	69,334	31.9	147,335	32.5
Tertiary level education	55,687	23.6	56,713	26.1	112,400	24.8
Total	236,190	100.0	217,025	100.0	453,215	100.0
July-September 2021 (Revised)						
Secondary level education or less	98,674	42.8	94,912	44.7	193,586	43.7
Post-Secondary level education	79,035	34.3	61,870	29.1	140,905	31.8
Tertiary level education	52,747	22.9	55,507	26.1	108,254	24.5
Total	230,456	100.0	212,289	100.0	442,745	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 2022							
Secondary level education or less	80,528	28.3	:	:	110,301	68.9	193,480	42.7
Post-Secondary level education	110,066	38.7	2,628 ^u	30.7 ^u	34,641	21.6	147,335	32.5
Tertiary level education	93,977	33.0	:	:	15,136	9.5	112,400	24.8
Total	284,571	100.0	8,566	100.0	160,078	100.0	453,215	100.0
July-September 2021 (Revised)								
Secondary level education or less	77,481	28.6	3,971 ^u	42.7 ^u	112,134	69.0	193,586	43.7
Post-Secondary level education	101,808	37.6	3,167 ^u	34.0 ^u	35,930	22.1	140,905	31.8
Tertiary level education	91,573	33.8	:	:	14,511	8.9	108,254	24.5
Total	270,862	100.0	9,308	100.0	162,575	100.0	442,745	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.
4. This legislation has mainly led to changes in the LFS questionnaire and mode of data collection. An analysis of the impact of this change on LFS estimates was conducted in order to assess the divergence of LFS results from pre-IESS to post-IESS levels. Technical notes on these divergences are found in:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C2/Labour_Market_Statistics/Pages/Labour-Force-Survey.aspx

5. 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 quarter under review had their monthly salary modified to account for this change in their income. 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 to 89 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 advertisement 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 (15-74 years) as a percentage of the labour force (15-74 years).

6. 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	284,571	4,438	284,571 ± 4,438
Employment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	77.51	1.27	77.51 ± 1.27
<i>Males</i>	83.39	1.58	83.39 ± 1.58
<i>Females</i>	70.77	1.99	70.77 ± 1.99
15-24	54.00	4.28	54.00 ± 4.28
25-54	87.43	1.56	87.43 ± 1.56
55-64	55.63	4.44	55.63 ± 4.44
Unemployment	8,566	2,688	8,566 ± 2,688
Unemployment rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	2.93	0.90	2.93 ± 0.90
<i>Males</i>	3.09	1.29	3.09 ± 1.29
<i>Females</i>	2.71	1.38	2.71 ± 1.38
15-24	7.85	3.49	7.85 ± 3.49
25-74	2.39	0.95	2.39 ± 0.95
Inactivity	160,078	4,565	160,078 ± 4,565
Activity rate (%)			
<i>Total</i>	79.88	1.25	79.88 ± 1.25
<i>Males</i>	86.14	1.43	86.14 ± 1.43
<i>Females</i>	72.71	1.98	72.71 ± 1.98
15-24	58.60	4.31	58.60 ± 4.31
25-54	89.68	1.46	89.68 ± 1.46
55-64	56.63	4.32	56.63 ± 4.32

The table above provides estimated measures of sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 284,571 and the margin of error is 4,438. Hence, the actual figure in the population lies between 280,133 and 289,009 persons.

Key

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations.

⊔ Under represented - between 20 and 49 sample observations.

7. 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).
8. Percentage totals may not add up due to rounding.
9. 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.
10. More information is available from the NSO upon written request.
<https://workflow.gov.mt/Runtime/Runtime/Form/01+NSO+Request+for+Statistical+Information/?language=en>
11. 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.%202008>
<https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/classificationdetails.aspx?id=ISCED%202011>
12. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
13. Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.
14. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx