

# The employment of seniors in the European Union

## Statistics in focus

### POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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#### Labour market

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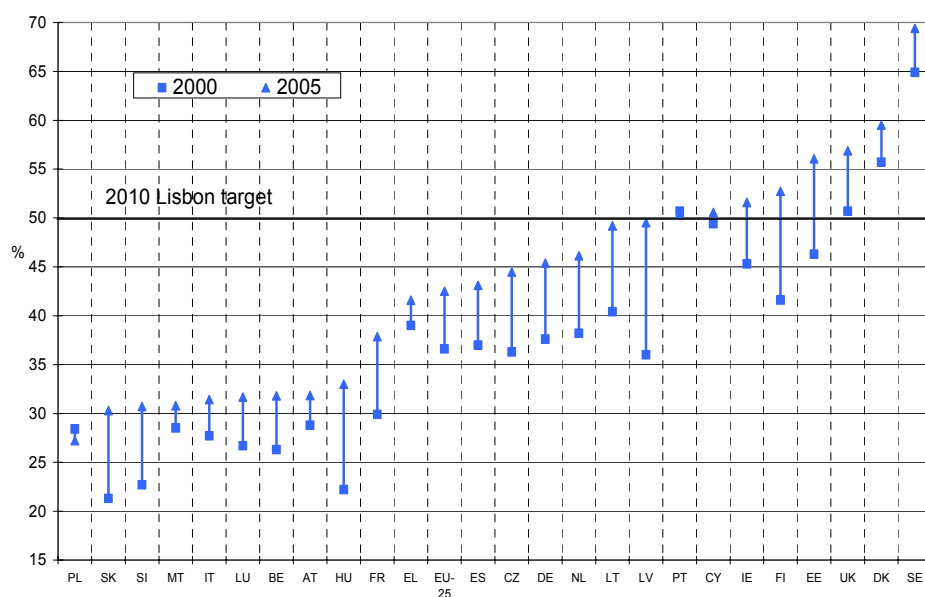
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In 2005, in the EU-25, 22.2 million people aged 55-64 were in employment, 1.6 million were unemployed and 28.5 million were inactive. Increasing the participation of seniors in the labour market is part of the Lisbon Strategy, which sets out the strategic goal "to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion". In March 2001, the Stockholm Council set up the following target: the employment rate of seniors (i.e. people aged 55 to 64 years) should be raised to 50% by 2010 in the European Union.

In the EU-25 as a whole, the employment rate of seniors went up from 36.6% in 2000 to 42.5% in 2005 (chart 1). The rate increased in every country between 2000 and 2005, excepted in Poland and Portugal. In 2005, the rate of employed people aged 55-64 was higher or equal to the 2010 target in Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Cyprus and Portugal.

In 2005, the employment rate of seniors reached 51.8% for men while it stood at 33.7% for women in the EU-25. However, the increase in the employment rate between 2000 and 2005 was higher for women (+6.8 percentage points) than for men (+4.9 percentage points).

Chart 1: Employment rate of seniors (55-64 years old) from 2000 to 2005



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Annual averages (see Methodological notes)



## The population aged 55-64 is heterogeneous in terms of employment

The population aged 55 to 64 years is not homogeneous in terms of situation in the labour market. Table 1 shows significant differences in the employment rate by five year age categories. In the EU-25, in 2005, the employment rate of persons aged 55-59 was 55.3%, while it stood at 26.7% for those aged 60-64. For men as for women, the gap between age categories 55-59

and 60-64 was much wider than the gap between age categories 50-54 and 55-59.

In 2005, Sweden showed the highest employment rate for both categories 55-59 (79.4%) and 60-64 (56.8%). The lowest rates were recorded in Poland for the category 55-59 (32.1%) and in Luxembourg for the category 60-64 (12.6%).

Table 1: Employment rate of seniors by sex and age in 2005 (%)

	Men and women					Men					Women				
	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	55-64	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	55-64	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	55-64
EU-25	72.3	55.3	26.7	8.2	42.3	81.2	65.2	34.8	11.4	51.5	63.6	45.8	19.2	5.4	33.6
EU-15	74.0	57.7	27.8	8.1	43.9	83.7	67.1	35.9	11.2	52.9	64.6	48.4	20.1	5.2	35.3
NMS-10	64.6	43.1	20.3	8.9	33.5	70.1	54.6	28.0	12.3	43.6	59.4	33.0	13.8	6.4	24.8
Belgium	69.3	43.3	17.0	2.5	32.1	79.4	54.2	23.8	3.9	41.3	59.1	32.5	10.5	(1.3)	23.0
Czech Republic	82.7	60.9	22.3	7.9	44.2	86.1	77.7	33.8	10.7	59.1	79.3	45.2	12.1	5.8	30.6
Denmark	82.7	78.8	36.7	14.4	59.8	86.5	82.7	47.3	22.4	66.8	78.9	74.8	26.3	7.1	52.9
Germany	75.1	63.2	27.8	6.3	44.9	80.7	71.3	34.8	8.1	52.7	69.7	55.1	21.2	4.7	37.3
Estonia	74.7	70.5	43.9	(18.3)	57.1	68.3	67.1	52.7	(25)	60.0	80.1	73.1	37.5	:	55.0
Greece	66.0	50.8	30.8	9.4	41.6	86.8	70.8	43.7	15.5	58.8	45.6	31.2	20.0	4.4	25.8
Spain	65.8	52.7	31.8	4.4	43.1	84.1	71.1	45.8	6.5	59.5	47.9	35.2	18.8	2.6	27.6
France	78.0	54.5	13.0	3.0	37.8	84.7	58.8	13.6	3.4	40.5	71.7	50.4	12.4	2.7	35.2
Ireland	70.5	58.5	42.9	15.3	51.7	83.1	71.6	58.1	23.9	65.7	57.7	45.1	27.5	7.1	37.4
Italy	67.1	42.5	18.1	7.2	31.2	85.7	55.1	27.5	12.2	42.4	49.1	30.4	9.5	2.7	20.6
Cyprus	76.3	60.7	37.9	19.8	50.4	90.5	81.3	57.9	31.8	70.8	62.5	41.2	19.1	(8.8)	31.2
Latvia	77.3	63.0	31.9	18.7	47.4	76.1	69.1	36.4	25.2	53.2	78.3	58.2	28.6	14.6	43.0
Lithuania	72.2	63.6	36.9	(7.6)	50.4	77.1	64.8	53.0	(9.8)	59.1	68.1	62.7	25.2	(6.2)	43.8
Luxembourg	72.4	46.8	(12.6)	:	31.7	89.2	56.6	(14.3)	:	38.3	54.9	36.2	(11)	:	24.8
Hungary	67.9	47.9	15.0	3.6	32.8	69.9	55.8	21.0	5.8	40.2	66.0	41.2	10.3	2.1	26.7
Malta	50.7	43.4	(15.5)	:	32.0	79.5	67.9	(26.6)	:	50.9	21.1	(21.1)	:	:	14.6
Netherlands	77.3	61.9	25.0	10.3	46.2	87.5	75.5	32.4	13.8	57.3	67.0	48.0	17.6	6.8	35.0
Austria	74.5	48.1	13.7	5.2	30.5	81.2	61.0	20.3	8.0	40.4	67.8	35.6	7.6	(2.8)	21.2
Poland	55.8	32.1	18.3	10.2	26.8	63.5	42.3	24.4	13.9	35.5	48.5	23.1	13.1	7.5	19.2
Portugal	73.3	59.0	41.3	28.4	50.9	80.7	68.0	47.3	36.3	58.6	66.4	50.9	36.1	21.8	44.1
Slovenia	71.6	44.8	(15.5)	(11.1)	31.2	74.1	58.2	(22)	(14.8)	42.5	69.1	30.0	(10)	(7.8)	20.1
Slovakia	74.3	43.4	12.7	(2.4)	29.7	77.9	67.2	20.4	(4)	47.0	70.9	22.5	6.6	:	15.3
Finland	80.0	64.8	33.9	5.8	52.7	79.2	62.8	36.4	8.1	52.6	80.8	66.8	31.4	3.7	52.8
Sweden	83.2	79.4	56.8	14.6	68.9	85.0	82.0	60.0	20.0	71.8	81.4	76.8	53.5	9.4	66.0
United Kingdom	79.3	68.6	42.0	14.5	56.8	84.6	75.1	53.8	19.0	65.7	74.2	62.2	30.6	10.4	48.2

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Spring Data (see Methodological notes)

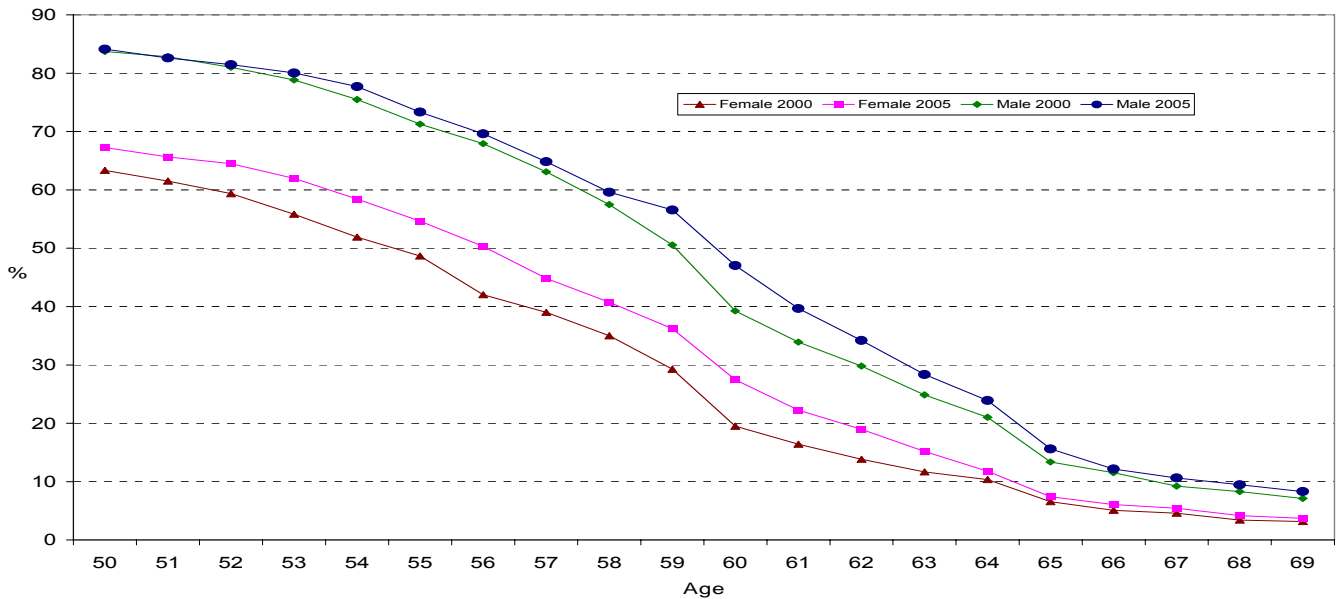
( ) The reliability of data shown between brackets may be affected by small sample size.

: Data not available or extremely unreliable

In the EU-25, the employment rates of people aged 50-69 in 2005 decreased as age increased (chart 2). They lost on average less than 3 points per year of age until the age of 54, then an average of 4 points per year of age until 59. The decrease reached 9 points between 59 and 60 years old. Employment rates then decreased by 5 points on average per year until age 64 and tended to flatten out between 65 and 69. Thus "60 years old"

seems to be a kind of "decisive age" in terms of employment in the European Union. Considering data by country (table 2), the drop in employment rate between the age of 59 and 60 was significantly higher than the average decrease per year of age between 55 and 59, and between 60 and 64, in all the countries where the data are reliable enough, excepted in the Czech Republic, Poland and Sweden.

Chart 2: Employment rate of seniors by age and sex in 2000 and 2005, EU-25 (%)



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Spring Data (see Methodological notes)

Table 2: Average change in the employment rate by age (percentage points change per year of age)

	Between 55 and 59 years old	Between 59 and 60 years old	Between 60 and 64 years old
EU-25	-4.4	-9.2	-4.8
EU-15	-4.3	-10.3	-5.1
NMS10	-5.4	-4.7	-3.0
Belgium	-6.6	-8.2	-3.8
Czech Republic	-8.8	-6.8	-5.8
Denmark	-3.2	-16.0	-8.8
Germany	-2.9	-12.8	-7.5
Estonia	:	:	:
Greece	-4.7	-5.5	-2.2
Spain	-2.7	-7.0	-4.4
France	-7.3	-18.1	-3.2
Ireland	-2.3	-5.4	-3.5
Italy	-5.4	-9.0	-2.3
Cyprus	-0.9	-18.6	-3.9
Latvia	-2.2	-14.4	(-5.5)
Lithuania	(-4.4)	(-0.7)	(-6.2)
Luxembourg	-8.5	(-9.3)	:
Hungary	-6.8	-9.7	-3.4
Malta	(-0.4)	:	:
Netherlands	-4.4	-11.5	-6.6
Austria	-7.4	-7.8	-4.3
Poland	-4.7	-2.5	-1.0
Portugal	-0.9	-15.3	-1.6
Slovenia	(-6.3)	(-11.2)	(-2.1)
Slovakia	-7.0	-4.6	(-5.0)
Finland	-4.0	-10.8	-7.5
Sweden	-2.1	-3.2	-8.5
United Kingdom	-3.4	-7.8	-5.7

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Spring Data

( ) The reliability of data shown between brackets may be affected by small sample size.

: Data not available or extremely unreliable

## Variations of employment rates of seniors are impacted by demographic changes

The significant gap in employment rates of seniors when distinguishing persons aged 55-59 and 60-64 suggests taking into account the demographic effects when analysing the increase in employment rate of the whole population aged 55-64. Indeed, an increase of the population in one age group is likely to have an impact on the evolution of the employment rate of the whole age group 55-64.

In the EU-25, the employment rate of people aged 55-64 increased by 5.9 percentage points from Spring 2000 to 2005. One fifth of this rise (1.2 points) is due to the change in the population structure by age (table 3). The difference in age structure effects from one country to another is strong, ranging from -2.6 in Austria to +4.0 in

France, where it contributes to almost half of the rate increase between 2000 and 2005.

Then countries can be compared considering variations in the employment rate "net of demographic effects". Among countries where this analysis is significant, the higher "net" variations are in Estonia (+13.1 percentage points), Latvia (+11.9 p.p.), Hungary (+10.8 p.p.) and Lithuania (+9.2 p.p.), Finland (+8.7 p.p.) and Czech Republic (+8.6 p.p.), while Poland (-4.3 p.p.) and Portugal (-1.2 p.p.) record negative "net" variations.

Globally, even though significant structural age effects are estimated, the results show net increases in employment rate of seniors between 2000 and 2005 in all countries except Poland and Portugal.

Table 3: Variation of employment rates 2005/2000 (percentage points)

	Variation rates 2005/2000	of which age structure effect	of which "net" effects
EU-25	5.9	1.2	4.8
EU-15	6.4	1.0	5.4
NMS-10	3.8	1.8	2.0
Belgium	7.0	2.0	5.1
Czech Republic	8.1	-0.4	8.6
Denmark	5.2	-1.5	6.7
Germany	7.5	-0.6	8.2
Estonia*	13.9	0.7	13.1
Greece	2.2	1.8	0.4
Spain	6.3	0.7	5.5
France	8.4	4.0	4.4
Ireland	6.6	0.4	6.2
Italy	3.9	1.0	2.9
Cyprus	1.0	-0.2	1.1
Latvia*	12.0	0.2	11.9
Lithuania*	9.2	0.0	9.2
Luxembourg*	4.5	1.4	3.1
Hungary	10.9	0.0	10.8
Malta*	3.4	2.2	1.3
Netherlands	8.3	1.1	7.2
Austria*	1.3	-2.6	3.9
Poland	-2.2	2.1	-4.3
Portugal	-0.4	0.8	-1.2
Slovenia*	8.9	0.9	8.0
Slovakia*	8.3	0.6	7.7
Finland	11.5	2.8	8.7
Sweden	4.6	-0.4	4.9
United Kingdom	6.4	0.9	5.5

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Spring Data

\* Countries for which the calculation is based on "five-year age classes"

Due to rounding, the figures presented in the second and in the third columns may not exactly sum up to the figures presented in the first column.

### Box 1: An assessment method of the impact of demographic effects

To assess the effects of the evolution of the age structure on the variation of employment rate, the weighted average of employment rate in 2005 by "one-year age class" (or five-year age classes when the sample size did not allow calculating each rate above the reliability limits) were calculated with the age structure of 2000. Then the decomposition of the variation of the employment rate of people aged 55-64 is the following:

$$R_{2005} - R_{2000} = \sum_{sex, age} \left[ R_{s,a,2005} \times \left( \frac{P_{s,a,2005}}{\sum_{sex, age} P_{s,a,2005}} - \frac{P_{s,a,2000}}{\sum_{sex, age} P_{s,a,2000}} \right) \right] + \frac{\sum_{sex, age} P_{s,a,2000} \times (R_{s,a,2005} - R_{s,a,2000})}{\sum_{sex, age} P_{s,a,2000}}$$

Where:

$R_y$  = employment rate of people aged 55-64 in the year y

$R_{s,a,y}$  = employment rate for a given sex s, age a, and year y

$P_{s,a,y}$  = population for a given sex s, age a, and year y

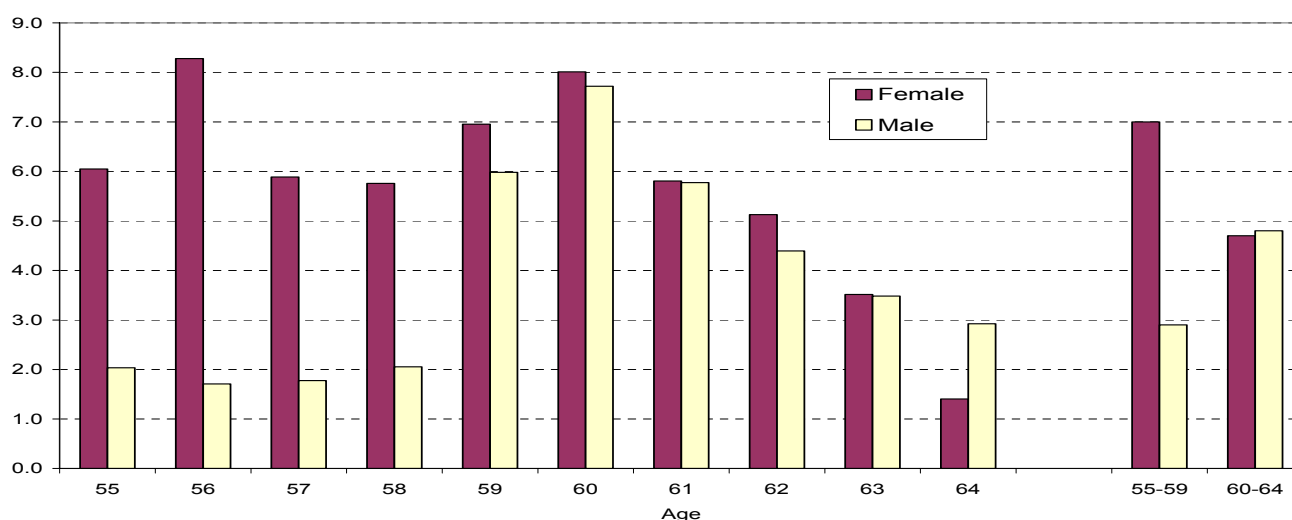
The first part of the expression denotes the structure effects on the employment rate of people aged 55-64, the second member denoting the variation of this indicator net of structure effects.

### The increase in employment rates between 55 and 64 is more concentrated in the older group for men and in the younger group for women

In the EU-25, the increase in employment rate of people aged 55-64 between 2000 and 2005 is not equally distributed by age and sex (chart 3). The employment rates of seniors aged 55-59 increased by 7 percentage

points for women and 2.9 percentage points for men, while the increases for seniors aged 60-64 are 4.7 points for women and 4.8 points for men.

Chart 3: Change in employment rates by age and sex 2000/2005 (percentage points), EU-25



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Spring Data

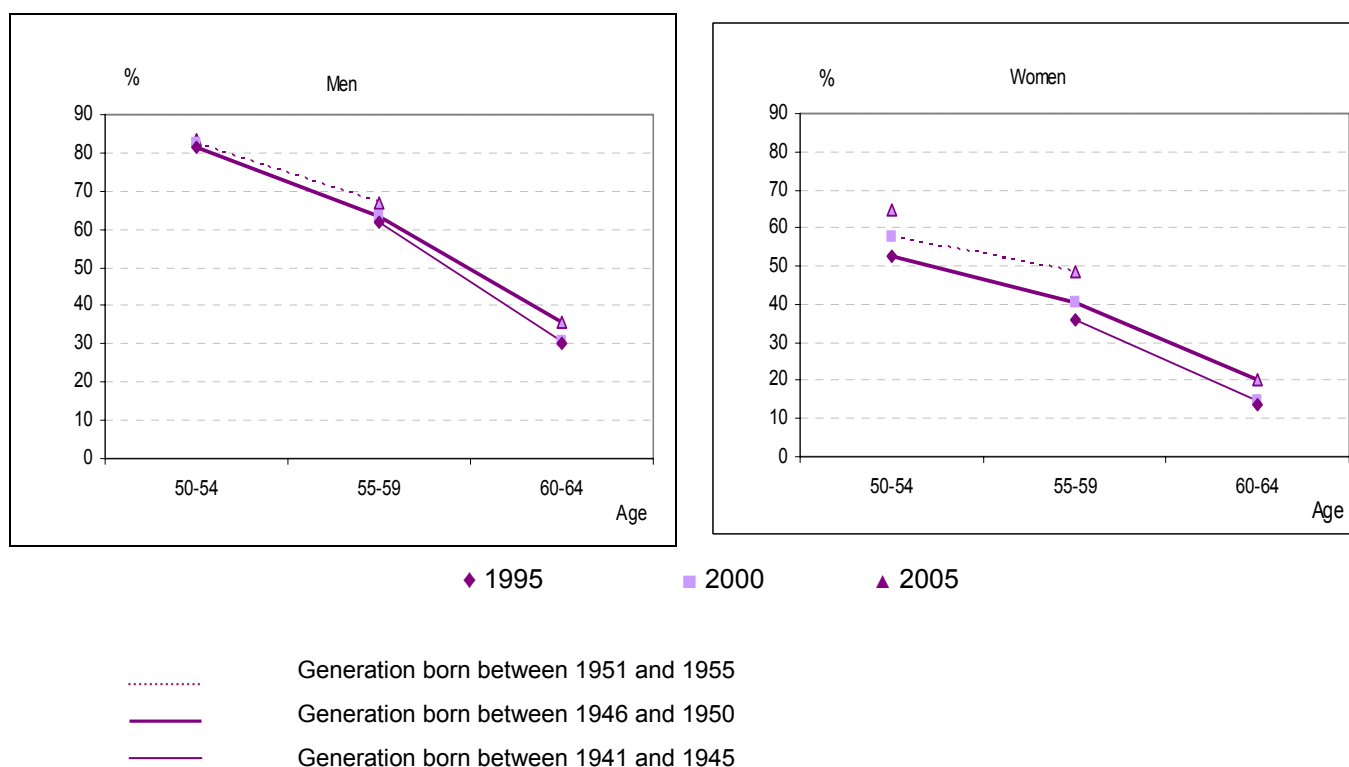
For men, the increase in employment rates between 2000 and 2005 is more concentrated in the older group (59-64), which suggests that older workers remained in work for longer in 2005 than in 2000.

For women, the increase in the employment rates is more concentrated in the younger group. Particularly high increases compared to men are recorded for 55-58 years old. This result may correspond to the entering in the age category 55-64 of a generation of women who were more likely to be in employment than their elders. Here the objective of improving the employability of

women meets the one of improving the employability of seniors.

Chart 4 shows the employment rate of women and men for the successive generations that can be analysed (data is only available for the EU-15). It illustrates that being in employment is more common for recent generations of women. For example, for the age group 55-59, the generation born between 1941 and 1945 counted 36.1% of women in employment, the generation born between 1946 and 1950 counted 40.7% and the generation born between 1951 and 1955, 48.4%.

Chart 4: Employment rates in EU-15 – age and generations effects



*Note:* Chart 4 shows employment rates of women and men by age class and generation. By linking the results for the 1995, 2000 and 2005 LFS, one can follow the evolution of the generations up to a 10 year period. One can also consider a given age class and observe its situation in 1995, 2000 and 2005, which corresponds to comparing the different generations at the same age. Observing only the symbols corresponding to a given survey year gives a picture of the population for this year.

For example, in 2005, in EU-15, 64.6% of women aged 50-54 (born between 1951 and 1955) are in employment versus 20.1% for those aged 60-64 (born between 1941 and 1945). This difference results partly from generation effects. Indeed, between 50-54 years old, the generations born between 1941 and 1945 count 52.8% of women in employment in 1995; those born ten years later, between 1951 and 1955, count 64.6% of women in employment in 2005: this corresponds to the generation effect. The age effect is isolated as follows: women born between 1941 and 1945 were 50-54 years old in 1995; in the period 1995-2005, the employment rate among these women decreased from 52.8% to 20.1%.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Spring Data

## Employment rates of seniors: big differences between level of education

The level of education is a relevant factor in the employability of seniors. Table 4 shows the differences in employment rate between levels of education. For men as for women, persons with the highest education level (defined as tertiary education) more often have a job than those with the lowest. In EU-25, 30.8% of persons aged 55-64 with the lowest education level have a job, compared to 61.8% for those with the highest.

The impact of levels of education on employment rates is also observed for persons aged 30-49. However, the

ratio between the employment rate of people aged 55-64 and people aged 30-49 is higher for the higher educated than for those with lower education. This may suggest that highly qualified older people are globally better maintained in the labour market than lower qualified older people. This result can also be partly explained by the fact that lower educated people may have entered the labour market before the better educated, which could contribute to their earlier retirement.

Table 4: Employment rate of people aged 55-64 and 30-49 by level of education, in 2005, EU-25

	55-64									30-49								
	Men and women			Men			Women			Men and women			Men			Women		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
EU-25	30.8	43.3	61.8	41.0	49.5	65.8	23.0	36.3	55.6	65.8	80.9	89.5	81.3	88.6	94.2	51.0	73.0	84.7
EU-15	30.9	43.0	60.7	41.7	48.9	64.5	22.3	35.7	53.9	65.1	80.9	88.9	82.7	90.1	94.0	49.4	71.3	83.3
NMS-10	20.3	33.4	57.0	29.6	42.7	66.1	14.6	24.0	47.5	55.4	77.6	91.2	61.2	83.3	94.6	50.6	71.5	88.5
Belgium	16.9	32.3	45.4	24.6	43.0	57.6	10.5	20.2	29.5	64.4	81.4	90.7	80.4	91.8	95.7	47.6	70.4	85.9
Czech Republic	17.6	42.2	69.1	35.3	54.2	77.0	11.5	28.7	57.0	65.1	87.1	92.3	67.4	93.0	97.3	63.9	80.8	85.6
Denmark	37.6	55.3	70.5	50.8	60.8	75.5	28.9	48.3	64.2	72.1	86.8	91.9	79.5	91.1	94.6	65.1	81.8	89.3
Germany	26.8	38.8	59.1	37.4	45.2	62.7	22.0	31.9	50.0	63.4	79.7	89.3	76.2	88.3	94.1	54.6	71.4	82.2
Estonia	:	50.4	65.8	:	58.1	(76.4)	:	44.2	58.7	(63.6)	78.5	87.2	(63.9)	80.3	92.1	(63.2)	76.5	84.4
Greece	40.6	32.6	51.4	59.9	48.0	59.2	25.4	15.0	32.7	66.5	72.6	89.0	90.4	92.8	94.5	44.6	53.6	82.5
Spain	32.0	48.0	63.7	49.8	58.3	68.9	17.0	35.0	53.0	58.6	73.1	84.4	81.5	89.3	92.6	36.1	56.7	75.7
France	24.8	33.6	51.2	27.3	36.6	57.0	23.0	29.8	44.4	68.9	83.0	87.7	81.4	90.9	93.1	58.4	74.2	82.8
Ireland	38.5	46.9	66.7	57.5	66.6	75.8	18.5	31.6	55.8	58.5	74.7	87.5	76.9	92.3	95.1	37.2	60.6	80.1
Italy	23.6	42.3	63.9	37.1	51.3	73.6	12.0	30.4	47.4	62.4	79.8	88.6	87.0	92.8	94.3	38.0	66.4	82.8
Cyprus	47.2	48.0	61.5	73.1	61.2	65.3	28.4	31.0	53.2	68.2	80.6	89.2	87.3	93.9	95.9	52.5	67.6	81.9
Latvia	28.2	39.2	61.2	38.6	52.5	67.8	19.2	30.7	55.3	57.3	76.6	87.8	57.7	79.8	91.5	56.8	73.4	85.5
Lithuania	(28.2)	48.0	(60.9)	(40.4)	60.7	(70.8)	(19.8)	37.6	(53.2)	(54.9)	76.0	87.0	(54.7)	77.4	88.3	(55.1)	74.4	86.2
Luxembourg	16.2	30.3	62.6	23.8	37.0	68.9	11.3	20.4	(46.9)	69.4	80.5	88.8	92.1	96.7	97.5	50.6	62.1	77.3
Hungary	12.0	28.4	52.0	19.0	36.4	60.1	7.7	20.2	41.9	53.8	78.7	89.9	58.0	82.9	95.4	51.0	73.8	85.5
Malta	27.5	:	:	49.0	:	:	(9.8)	:	:	53.0	82.9	91.1	87.6	95.9	98.4	23.1	62.2	80.2
Netherlands	26.0	40.3	55.2	39.6	48.6	61.1	17.6	28.4	45.0	68.2	83.5	90.8	85.7	93.8	95.4	53.0	72.8	85.0
Austria	21.7	30.5	58.6	33.5	39.7	64.5	15.4	19.0	42.5	70.6	84.7	92.1	82.6	92.4	95.9	63.7	75.6	87.3
Poland	27.2	29.5	55.9	36.4	37.1	66.7	21.1	21.5	44.9	59.6	76.1	93.3	66.8	83.0	95.4	52.8	68.9	91.6
Portugal	47.8	49.7	62.8	59.6	56.5	72.0	37.8	39.0	53.7	79.0	88.5	95.4	89.5	93.6	96.7	68.8	83.4	94.5
Slovenia	(22.6)	20.5	44.7	(31.6)	27.9	54.9	(18.0)	(10.2)	(30.2)	72.9	88.7	95.3	76.5	90.1	95.2	70.0	87.1	95.3
Slovakia	8.9	29.8	57.2	20.7	42.8	66.3	(3.7)	15.3	43.6	50.1	81.3	92.0	48.8	84.8	95.4	50.9	77.5	88.3
Finland	31.8	41.8	59.5	33.8	41.8	59.0	29.9	41.9	60.0	70.7	79.0	88.3	73.1	81.8	91.9	67.6	76.1	85.2
Sweden	57.8	67.3	79.2	62.6	70.0	78.3	52.6	64.6	80.0	74.5	83.8	89.6	79.0	85.5	90.1	68.2	82.2	89.1
United Kingdom	53.4	65.6	69.2	50.8	63.8	66.8	56.2	69.5	73.4	67.0	82.9	90.6	76.3	89.2	94.7	60.0	75.9	86.1

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Spring Data (see Methodological notes)

( ) The reliability of data shown between brackets may be affected by small sample size.

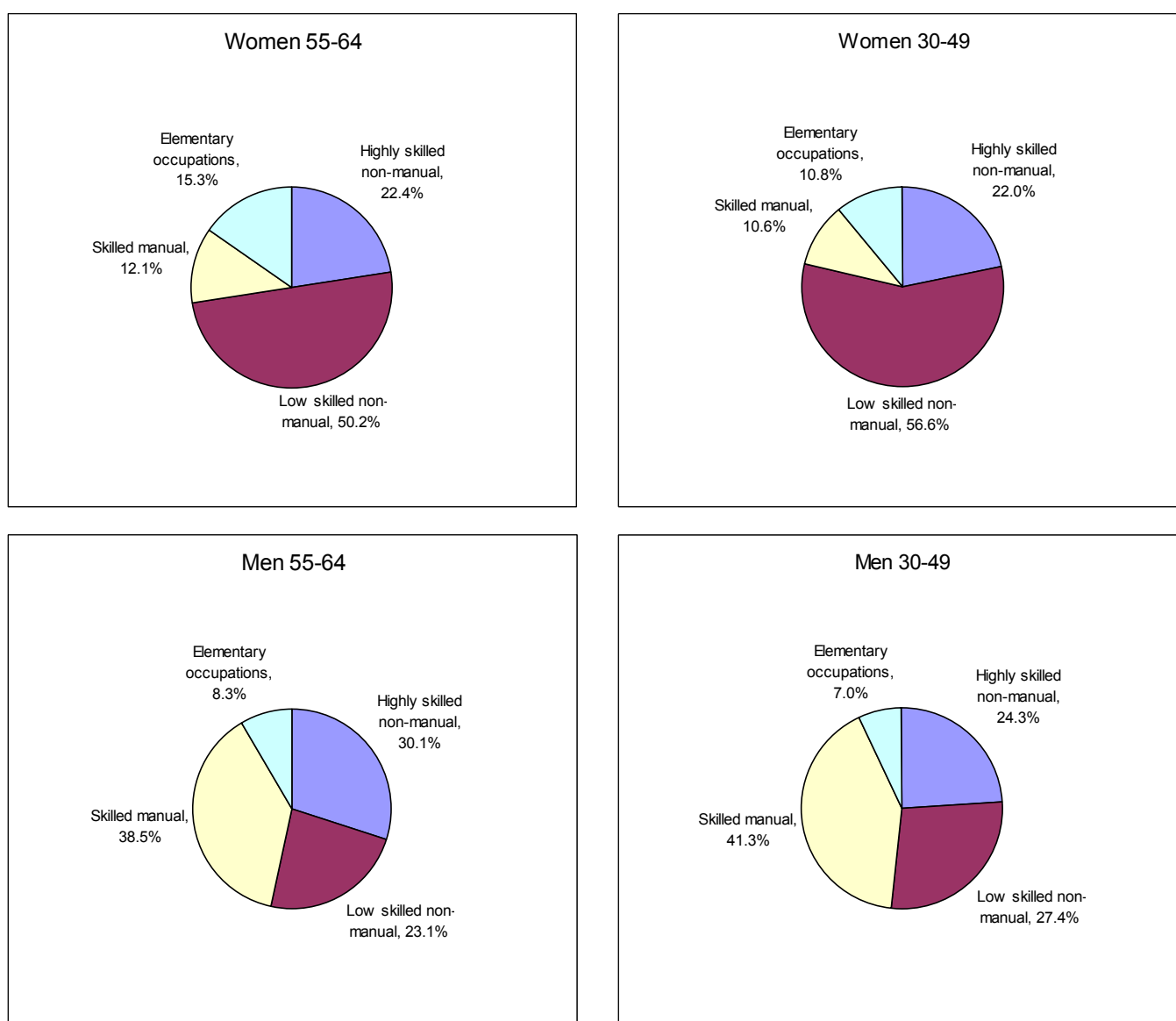
: Data not available or extremely unreliable

## 30% of the employed men aged 55 to 64 have a highly skilled occupation

The prevalence of highly skilled non-manual occupations in the employed male population is higher in the age class 55-64 than in the age class 30-49 (30.1% and 24.3% respectively, see chart 5). This result may be explained by the experience acquired during their professional career. It may also confirm the analysis of employment rates by level of education, suggesting that high skilled people are better maintained in employment than the low skilled.

For women, the result is different: the prevalence of highly skilled non-manual occupations is the same for both age classes 55-64 and 30-49, about 22%. This may be partly explained by gender differences in accessing highly skilled occupations for the older generations.

*Chart 5: Population employed by occupation of the main job, for age class 55-64 and 30-49, by sex, EU-25, 2005 data*



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Spring Data (see Methodological notes)



## Part-time work is more common in the age group 55-64 than the age group 30-49

In 2005, in the EU-25, part-time work accounts for 22.2% of total employment in the age group 55-64. It is much more common for women than for men - 39.5% for women and 10.3% for men. This is also the case for younger populations (table 5).

Part-time work is generally more common among workers aged 55-64 than among those aged 30-49: 22.2% of total employment compared to 16.8%. This

situation is observed in all the EU countries except Spain and Italy.

Part-time work for persons aged 55-64 increased slightly between 2000 and 2005, from 21.1% to 22.2%. This increase is explained by a slight increase of part-time work among men (from 9.4% to 10.3%) and by the increase of the total number of women in employment during this period.

Table 5: Part-time for men and women aged 55-64 and 30-49 (in % of total employment)

	2005						2000					
	30-49			55-64			30-49			55-64		
	All	Women	Men	All	Women	Men	All	Women	Men	All	Women	Men
EU-25	16.8	32.6	4.0	22.2	39.5	10.3	15.0	30.1	3.4	21.1	40.3	9.4
EU-15	18.8	37.2	4.1	23.3	42.0	10.4	16.8	34.7	3.4	21.3	41.8	8.8
NMS-10	5.1	7.7	2.9	14.0	21.2	9.3	5.2	7.3	3.3	19.6	28.9	13.9
Belgium	22.2	44.3	4.5	25.4	47.1	13.0	21.2	42.8	4.0	21.6	44.4	11.1
Czech Republic	3.9	7.6	0.8	8.4	14.5	5.0	4.2	8.2	0.8	12.5	27.3	5.4
Denmark	13.7	24.2	4.4	19.6	31.3	10.3	15.4	28.9	3.7	20.5	40.4	7.6
Germany	24.3	48.3	4.7	26.7	51.0	9.1	20.4	42.2	3.2	22.7	48.3	6.7
Estonia	5.4	(7.0)	:	(8.3)	:	:	4.5	(5.3)	(3.7)	(11.3)	(18.0)	:
Greece	3.8	7.6	1.3	5.0	11.2	2.0	3.6	6.7	1.7	4.8	10.0	2.2
Spain	11.4	24.2	2.7	10.9	26.7	3.2	7.0	16.1	1.8	6.5	18.8	1.8
France	17.1	32.1	4.1	21.1	33.9	9.4	16.4	32.0	3.6	22.4	37.0	10.2
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:	:	15.9	33.2	3.8	19.5	44.0	9.2
Italy	13.1	27.6	3.3	9.9	18.5	5.5	8.6	18.1	2.9	7.5	13.9	4.9
Cyprus	7.0	12.9	2.1	11.8	20.4	7.8	6.7	13.3	2.0	13.5	25.5	7.6
Latvia	7.5	7.8	7.1	11.8	13.3	(10.3)	9.7	10.1	9.3	15.7	18.3	13.9
Lithuania	5.2	6.9	(3.5)	(11.0)	(13.2)	(8.9)	7.5	8.3	6.7	14.1	18.6	10.3
Luxembourg	19.1	43.1	(1.8)	20.6	47.2	:	12.8	30.7	(1.4)	(11.1)	(30.3)	:
Hungary	3.3	5.2	1.7	11.0	14.1	8.5	2.8	4.3	1.3	11.8	21.6	6.6
Malta	8.1	24.3	:	(13.9)	:	:	6.4	20.8	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	41.5	76.9	12.4	49.0	83.4	28.2	38.3	74.9	10.7	44.3	79.5	26.1
Austria	22.4	44.3	3.6	23.9	44.4	12.5	18.7	37.9	3.2	16.6	37.2	7.2
Poland	6.4	9.4	3.9	20.7	32.0	13.7	6.2	8.4	4.3	28.0	35.9	22.6
Portugal	6.3	10.9	2.3	19.3	31.3	9.2	6.2	11.6	1.6	20.8	33.7	10.9
Slovenia	3.7	4.8	(2.6)	15.7	(27.5)	(10.0)	3.1	4.1	(2.2)	(15.4)	(24.9)	(10.6)
Slovakia	1.7	2.8	0.7	7.2	18.9	(2.7)	1.7	2.6	(0.8)	5.9	(13.4)	:
Finland	7.4	12.0	3.3	20.2	22.6	17.6	6.6	10.4	3.3	19.6	21.9	17.2
Sweden	21.3	38.3	6.2	27.2	40.6	15.0	19.3	35.0	5.0	27.6	41.2	15.7
United Kingdom	22.3	43.1	3.8	31.7	53.7	15.1	22.8	45.6	3.2	31.7	56.8	13.7

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Spring Data

( ) The reliability of data shown between brackets may be affected by small sample size.

: Data not available or extremely unreliable

Data in *Italic*: non-response > 5%

## More self-employed in the age group 55-64 than the age group 30-49

The proportion of self-employed is higher in the age group 55-64 than in the age group 30-49 in all countries except in Slovakia. In 2005, in the EU-25 15.4% of employed persons aged between 30 and 49 were self-employed while this percentage was 23% in the population aged between 55 and 64 (table 6).

For women, the percentage of self-employed among workers in the EU-25 was 10.4% in the age group 30-49 and 15.6% in the age-group 55-64.

For men, the difference in the percentage of self-employed workers between the two age classes was even greater: 19.3% in the 30-49 age group and 28.1% in the 55-64 age group.

For both women and men, the difference in the percentage of self-employed workers between the two age classes was highest in Greece and Portugal, countries where the level of self-employment is the highest. This difference is least significant in Latvia.

Table 6: Percentage of self-employed among employed people in 2005

	All		Women		Men	
	30-49	55-64	30-49	55-64	30-49	55-64
EU-25	15.4	23.0	10.4	15.6	19.3	28.1
EU-15	14.9	22.9	10.1	15.1	18.8	28.2
NMS-10	17.8	23.8	12.5	19.0	22.5	27.0
Belgium	13.7	23.8	8.4	18.0	18.0	27.0
Czech Republic	17.5	16.2	10.0	11.3	23.6	19.0
Denmark	7.6	14.1	3.7	6.7	11.1	20.0
Germany	11.9	16.0	8.4	9.7	14.7	20.4
Estonia	9.6	:	(6.0)	:	13.5	:
Greece	29.3	51.8	19.5	44.2	35.7	55.5
Spain	16.6	29.6	12.5	24.9	19.4	32.0
France	9.7	17.9	5.7	10.8	13.1	24.4
Ireland	18.8	28.4	7.9	12.1	26.9	37.6
Italy	24.7	37.7	18.0	25.5	29.3	43.9
Cyprus	20.9	34.9	11.0	20.5	29.2	41.6
Latvia	11.2	11.5	8.2	(8.4)	14.1	14.9
Lithuania	14.8	21.5	10.6	(19.7)	19.1	(23.2)
Luxembourg	8.1	14.9	6.5	(13.5)	9.2	(15.8)
Hungary	13.9	20.3	9.4	13.3	17.9	25.9
Malta	17.1	(18.6)	(8.6)	:	20.2	(19.3)
Netherlands	12.4	19.5	9.1	17.0	15.1	21.1
Austria	12.9	23.9	9.6	22.5	15.8	24.6
Poland	21.1	34.3	16.2	30.1	25.4	36.8
Portugal	18.9	44.1	16.7	42.3	20.8	45.6
Slovenia	9.2	21.0	5.1	(16.8)	13.0	(23.0)
Slovakia	14.3	13.5	7.5	(10.0)	20.3	14.9
Finland	12.1	18.0	7.8	12.0	16.0	24.2
Sweden	10.0	13.9	5.3	6.6	14.1	20.5
United Kingdom	13.1	18.9	8.0	11.0	17.6	24.9

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS - Spring Data

( ) The reliability of data shown between brackets may be affected by small sample size.

: Data not available or extremely unreliable

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) is conducted in the 25 Member States of the European Union and 3 countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No. 577/98 of 9 March 1998.

The EU-LFS is a large household sample survey providing annual and quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over as well as on persons outside the labour force. Its sampling rates vary between 0.3% and 3.3%.

From 1998 to 2005, the Labour Force Survey moved progressively from an annual survey conducted in spring towards a quarterly continuous survey, with reference periods spread over the year. The employment rate of people aged 55-64, presented on page 1 and chart 1 is then calculated as a yearly average of the continuous survey. When only a "spring" survey is available (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter), the estimates for the missing quarters are based on auxiliary data or on interpolations.

As estimation of missing quarters is not possible for every variable and age group, data presented from page 2 onwards are based on the surveys conducted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (called "Spring data"). Small differences appear between "Yearly data" and "Spring data".

### Basic concepts and definitions

All definitions apply to persons living in private households. The concepts and definitions used in the survey follow the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation.

Employed persons are defined as persons who during the reference week did any work for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour, 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 and education or training.

Unemployed persons comprise persons who were without work during the reference week, were currently available for work and were either actively seeking work or who found a job to start within the next three months.

Inactive persons are defined as persons who are neither employed nor unemployed.

Employment rates represent employed persons as a percentage of the same age population.

Self-employed persons are defined as persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit.

The full-time/part-time distinction is declared by the respondent except in NL, IS and NO 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 SE where this criterion is applied to the self-employed.

Level of education is defined according to the International Standard Classification of Education 1997. Three levels are distinguished: low (ISCED <=2; less than upper secondary), medium (ISCED 3-4; upper secondary level) and high (ISCED 5-6; tertiary level).

Occupation is defined according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88 (com)). Four categories are distinguished: highly skilled non-manual (ISCO 1-2; legislators, senior officials, managers, professionals), low skilled non-manual (ISCO 3-5; technicians and associate professionals, clerks, service workers, shop/market sales workers), skilled manual (ISCO 6-8; skilled agricultural/fishery workers, craft and related trades workers, plant and machine operators and assemblers), elementary occupations (ISCO 9; elementary occupations).





In the present publication, all rates and ratios are calculated excluding non-responses.

Country codes used in this publication: BE (Belgium), CZ (Czech Republic), DK (Denmark), DE (Germany), EE (Estonia), EL (Greece), ES (Spain), FR (France, excluding the overseas regions, i.e. Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane and Réunion), IE (Ireland), IT (Italy), CY (Cyprus), LV (Latvia), LT (Lithuania), LU (Luxembourg), HU (Hungary), MT (Malta), NL (Netherlands), AT (Austria), PL (Poland), PT (Portugal), SI (Slovenia), SK (Slovakia), FI (Finland), SE (Sweden), UK (United Kingdom), EU-25 (European Union of 25 Member States), EU-15 (European Union 15 Member States), NMS10 (New Member States 10).

## Further information:

Data: [EUROSTAT Website/Home page/Population and social conditions/Data](#)

Population and social conditions

- [-]  Labour market
  - [-]  Employment and unemployment (Labour Force Survey)
    - [+]  LFS main indicators
    - [+]  LFS series - Quarterly survey results

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