

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THEME 3 – 19/2002

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Labour Force Survey Principal results 2001 EU and EFTA countries

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The spring 2001 Labour Force Survey provides the following estimates for the 372.7 million people living in private households in the EU:

- 161.3 million had a job during the reference week of the survey:
 - The employment rate reached 63.9% of the population aged 15-64. The rate was as high as 70% or more in Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden (2000) and the United Kingdom, as well as in Iceland, Norway and Switzerland (EFTA countries).
 - 18% of employed persons declared themselves as working part-time. Part-time employment represented 33.8% of total female employment (from 71% in the Netherlands to 7% in Greece).
 - 135.9 million workers were employees (84.3% of total employment) and 13.4% of them had a contract with limited duration (18% or more in Spain, Portugal and Finland).
 - The average usual working hours were 40.1 hours a week for full time employees and 19.8 hours for part-time employees (respectively 38.8 and 19.9 for females). The largest gender gaps were reached in the United Kingdom (by 3 hours) and Iceland (5 hours), where usual hours were also the highest among EU and EFTA countries, respectively 43.5 and 48.3 hours for full time employees.
- 12.7 million people were unemployed, which represented 7.3% of the overall EU labour force (8.5% for women):
 - 8.9 million of them were looking for full-time employment with 3.9 million of them looking for more than one year. Long term unemployment (one year and more) represented 44% of unemployment as a whole.
 - 14% of the labour force aged 15-24 years old was unemployed, ie. 6.6% of the total population of the same age.
- 136.3 million people aged 15 years and more were inactive.

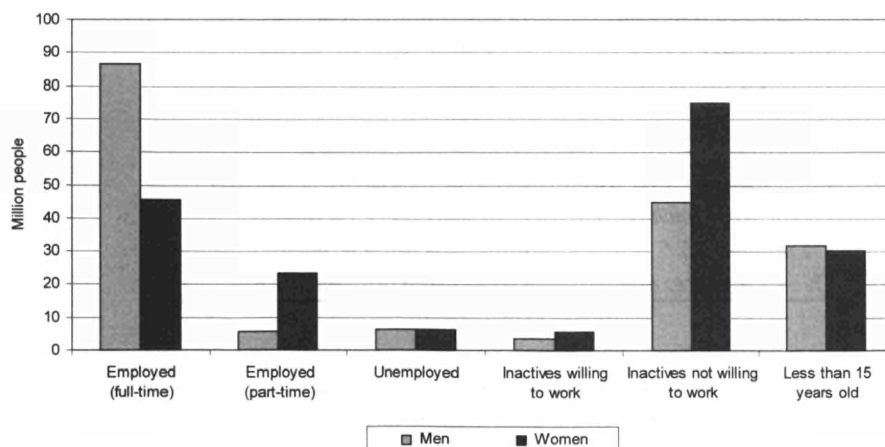
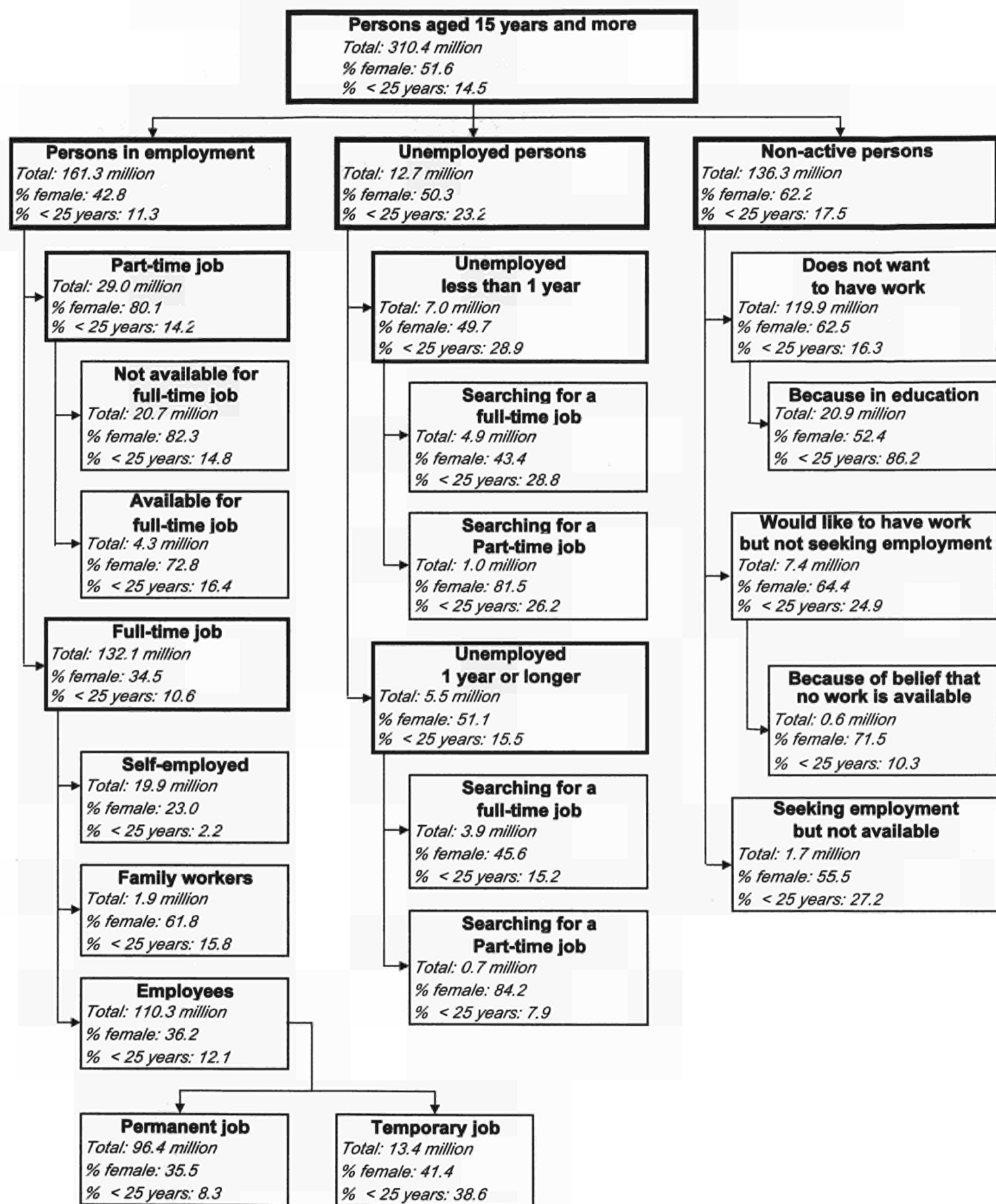


Figure 1: Population by sex and activity, EU-15, 2001



Work status of persons aged 15 years and more, EU-15, 2001 (1) (2)



notes: (1) Due to non-response, certain sub-totals may not exactly sum up to the corresponding aggregate
(2) Results estimated on the basis of 2000 data for Sweden

➤ EXPLANATORY NOTES

The European Labour Force Survey was conducted in spring 2001 in the 15 Member States of the European Union and 3 countries of the European Free Trade Association in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No. 577/98 of 9 March 1998.

A detailed description of the sampling methods, the adjustment procedures, the definitions and the common Community coding currently used in the labour force survey is presented in the publication *Labour Force Survey – Methods and definitions, 1998*.

Basic concepts and definitions

All these definitions apply to persons aged 15 years and over, living in private households. The concepts and definitions used in the survey follow the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation. Persons carrying out obligatory military service are not included.

Persons in employment were those who during the reference week did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour, or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. Family workers are included.

As from 2001 (Commission Regulation (EC) No 1897/2000 of 7 September 2000), **unemployed persons** comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were:

- (a) without work during the reference week, i.e. neither had a job nor were at work (for one hour or more) in paid employment or self-employment;
- (b) currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week;
- (c) actively seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in the four weeks period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or who found a job to start later, i.e. within a period of at most three months.

Comparability with results prior to 2001: unemployment results used to refer to persons aged 15 and more. Persons who found a job to start later used to be considered as unemployed with the unique condition of having no job in the reference week; however, the two new conditions on availability for work and/or time limit of at most three months are not yet applied by Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Austria and Norway.

Duration of unemployment is defined as:

- (a) the duration of search for a job, or
- (b) the length of the period since the last job was held (if this period is shorter than the duration of search for a job).

The **active population** (labour force) is defined as the sum of persons in employment and unemployed persons.

Inactive persons are those who are not classified as persons in employment nor as unemployed persons.

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; non-conscript members of the armed forces are also included.

The **number of usual hours worked per week** corresponds to the number of hours the person normally work including extra hours, either paid or unpaid, which the person normally works, but excludes the travel time between the home and the place of work as well as the main meal breaks.

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

Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons as a percentage of the active population.

Youth unemployment ratio represents unemployed aged less than 25 years as a percentage of the population of this age group.

Population in education includes persons who had followed any kind of education during the 4 weeks preceding the week of reference (in France, information on training is collected only if this is under way on the date of the survey). Students who were on holidays in this period are not included.

Early school leavers includes all the persons aged 18 to 24 who are not in education/training and with at most lower secondary education (ISCED 0-2).

All rates and ratios are calculated excluding non responses.

Table 1 - Labour force survey 2001 - Males and females

		EU-15	EUR12	B	DK	D	EL	E(1)	F	IRL	I	L
Population (1000)												
-Total		372 728	299 913	10 263	5 321	81 284	10 354	39 929	57 616	3 839	57 203	433
-aged 15-64		249 332	201 596	6 729	3 533	54 998	6 860	27 404	37 619	2 589	38 640	294
-aged >64		61 020	49 846	1 730	819	13 905	2 094	6 691	9 064	429	10 302	57
Highest level of education completed (25-64 years) - %												
-At most lower secondary level		36.2	39.9	40.8	19.8	17.5	48.4	60.0	36.8	40.8	56.8	40.8
-Upper secondary level		42.2	40.1	31.3	53.7	59.0	34.5	16.6	40.7	35.6	33.2	41.1
-Third level		21.6	20.0	27.8	26.5	23.5	17.1	23.5	22.6	23.7	10.0	18.1
Participation to education												
-In education or training (25-64 years) - %	(4)	8.4	5.5	7.3	17.8	5.2	1.4	4.9	2.7	-	5.1	5.3
-Early school leavers (18-24 years) - %	(4)	19.3	19.6	13.6	16.8	12.5	16.5	28.6	13.5	-	26.4	18.1
Total employment												
-1000		161 295	126 462	4 039	2 717	36 528	3 918	15 877	23 678	1 718	21 373	185
-Employment rate (%)												
15-24 years		40.4	37.2	28.5	61.7	46.5	26.0	33.2	29.3	47.0	26.2	32.3
25-54 years		77.0	76.0	76.6	84.5	79.4	70.4	69.3	79.4	76.4	69.1	78.7
55-64 years		38.2	34.6	25.2	56.5	37.7	38.0	39.1	30.7	46.7	26.9	24.8
15-64 years		63.9	62.0	59.7	75.9	65.7	55.6	57.5	62.7	65.1	54.5	63.0
-Part-time - %		18.0	16.3	18.2	20.1	20.3	4.1	8.1	16.4	16.6	9.1	11.3
-In the agriculture - %		4.2	4.8	1.4	3.5	2.6	16.0	6.5	4.1	7.0	5.2	1.5
-In the industry - %		28.7	29.7	25.5	25.4	32.8	22.8	31.6	26.0	29.1	31.7	21.4
-In the services - %		67.1	65.4	73.1	71.1	64.6	61.2	61.9	69.9	63.9	63.1	77.0
Employees												
-1000		135 914	105 069	3 424	2 476	32 461	2 358	12 692	21 097	1 406	15 411	172
-% of total employment		84.3	83.1	84.8	91.1	88.9	60.2	79.9	89.1	81.9	72.1	92.7
Contract of limited duration - %		13.4	15.0	8.8	9.4	12.4	12.9	31.6	14.9	3.7	9.5	4.4
Usual hours worked per week												
- employees working full time		40.1	39.4	39.2	39.2	39.9	41.1	40.6	38.3	39.7	38.5	39.3
- employees working part-time		19.8	20.0	22.2	20.1	18.0	21.4	18.2	23.3	18.8	23.6	20.8
Unemployment												
-1000		12 735	10 998	266	118	3 078	445	1 833	2 231	65	2 268	3
-Unemployment rate - %												
15-24 years		14.0	15.2	15.3	8.3	7.8	28.0	20.7	18.0	6.1	27.8	(7.3)
25-64 years		6.5	7.1	5.2	3.5	7.9	8.2	8.8	7.6	3.1	7.7	1.4
15+ years		7.3	8.0	6.2	4.2	7.8	10.2	10.4	8.6	3.6	9.6	1.8
-Youth unemployment ratio (15-24 years) - %		6.6	6.7	5.2	5.5	3.9	10.1	8.6	6.4	3.1	10.1	(2.2)
Unemployment by duration (%):	(5)											
-less than 6 months		39.4	36.7	33.5	61.5	33.8	31.0	43.1	45.1	-	22.6	55.1
-6 to 11 months		16.6	16.7	14.8	16.3	15.8	16.2	19.9	18.0	-	14.0	(16.4)
-12 months and more		44.0	46.6	51.7	22.2	50.4	52.8	36.9	36.8	-	63.4	(28.4)
Unemployed (%):												
-seeking a first job		19.9	20.8	25.3	13.2	5.1	46.7	17.6	9.9	46.5	51.2	(25.0)
-seeking a part-time job		14.1	13.1	12.8	14.5	11.7	4.1	6.4	15.9	17.7	16.2	(16.5)
Total of non-actives (1000)												
		198 698	162 452	5 959	2 485	41 678	5 991	22 219	31 708	2 056	33 562	244

Notes: data in brackets may lack reliability due to the small sample size

(1) E: the comparability with results disseminated before this issue of 'Statistics in focus' may be made difficult due to a significant revision of weighting procedures

(2) S: 2000 data

(3) Estimates cover only the population aged 15-74 in IS and NO, 15+ in CH

(4) EU15, EUR12 and EEA: results estimated on the basis of 1997 data for IRL. UK: comparable data not yet available. F: information on training is collected if this is under way on the date of the survey (instead of the 4 weeks preceding the survey in the other countries, 12 months in CH).

(5) EU15, EUR12 and EEA: results estimated on the basis of a reduced sample for NL and without IRL

Table 1 - Labour force survey 2001 - Males and females

NL	A	P	FIN	S (2)	UK	IS (3)	NO (3)	EEA (3)	CH (3)	
15 821	7 959	10 045	5 166	8 864	58 631	193	3 201	376 123	5 957	Population (1000)
10 792	5 400	6 820	3 451	5 694	38 509	175	2 892	252 398	4 848	-Total
2 046	1 212	1 534	781	1 530	8 825	18	310	61 348	1 109	-aged 15-64
										-aged >64
										Highest level of education completed (25-64 years) - %
33.1	22.7	80.2	26.5	22.8	19.0	37.0	14.3	36.0	12.6	-At most lower secondary level
42.9	62.8	10.7	41.0	47.5	52.5	39.3	51.9	42.3	62.0	-Upper secondary level
24.0	14.5	9.1	32.5	29.7	28.6	23.8	33.8	21.7	25.4	-Third level
										Participation to education
16.3	8.2	3.3	19.3	21.6	21.7	23.5	14.2	8.5	36.0	-In education or training (25-64 years) - % (4)
15.3	10.2	45.2	10.3	7.7	-	30.0	9.2	16.3	4.7	-Early school leavers (18-24 years) - % (4)
										Total employment
8 065	3 697	4 984	2 403	4 125	27 990	158	2 276	163 729	3 938	-1000
										-Employment rate (%)
70.4	51.4	43.4	46.2	36.9	55.6	75.9	58.1	40.6	64.0	15-24 years
82.8	82.2	82.3	81.8	82.5	80.7	90.6	85.3	77.1	86.1	25-54 years
39.3	27.4	50.7	45.5	64.3	52.2	86.1	66.0	38.6	67.1	55-64 years
74.1	67.8	68.8	69.1	71.1	71.6	86.9	77.5	64.1	79.1	15-64 years
42.2	17.2	11.1	12.0	22.8	24.8	26.9	26.0	18.1	31.8	-Part-time - %
3.1	5.8	12.9	5.8	2.9	1.4	7.7	4.1	4.2	4.4	-In the agriculture - %
21.6	29.4	34.0	27.1	24.4	24.9	22.9	21.8	28.6	25.0	-In the industry - %
75.3	64.8	53.0	67.1	72.7	73.7	69.4	74.2	67.2	70.6	-In the services - %
										Employees
7 132	3 200	3 625	2 091	3 668	24 701	131	2 102	138 147	3 262	-1000
88.4	86.6	72.7	87.0	88.9	88.3	82.9	92.3	84.4	82.8	-% of total employment
14.3	8.1	20.3	17.9	14.7	6.7	5.7	9.1	13.3	11.6	Contract of limited duration - %
										Usual hours worked per week
39.0	40.1	40.2	39.3	40.0	43.5	48.3	38.5	40.1	40.9	- employees working full time
19.0	22.0	19.9	20.6	22.8	18.8	22.0	21.9	19.8	20.2	- employees working part-time
										Unemployment
175	154	204	276	239	1 381	3	88	12 827	100	-1000
										-Unemployment rate - %
4.4	6.0	8.8	26.6	9.5	10.3	5.1	12.2	13.9	5.6	15-24 years
1.7	3.7	3.3	7.5	5.1	3.8	1.2	2.3	6.4	2.0	25-64 years
2.1	4.0	3.9	10.3	5.5	4.7	1.9	3.7	7.3	2.5	15+ years
3.2	3.3	4.2	16.7	3.9	6.4	4.1	8.0	6.6	3.8	-Youth unemployment ratio (15-24 years) - %
										Unemployment by duration (%): (5)
50.7	58.2	42.0	60.4	52.6	56.4	(87.2)	81.0	39.7	56.6	-less than 6 months
16.2	15.8	19.9	16.0	16.7	15.9	-	8.6	16.5	14.1	-6 to 11 months
33.1	26.1	38.1	23.6	30.7	27.7	-	10.4	43.8	29.3	-12 months and more
										Unemployed (%):
24.5	7.0	15.3	13.1	7.9	15.6	-	15.0	19.9	24.1	-seeking a first job
58.1	20.3	-	14.1	11.3	22.0	-	20.0	14.1	48.0	-seeking a part-time job
7 582	4 108	4 858	2 488	4 500	29 260	32	837	199 567	1 918	Total of non-actives (1000)

Table 2 - Labour force survey 2001 - Females

		EU-15	EUR12	B	DK	D	EL	E(1)	F	IRL	I	L
Population (1000)												
-Total	(3)	190 620	153 788	5 245	2 690	41 587	5 362	20 385	29 665	1 932	29 455	219
-aged 15-64		124 553	100 895	3 341	1 744	27 267	3 535	13 676	19 016	1 289	19 390	145
-aged >64	(3)	35 661	29 241	1 023	474	8 263	1 139	3 873	5 304	243	6 056	33
Highest level of education completed (25-64 years) - %												
-At most lower secondary level		38.7	42.3	41.7	21.3	22.0	50.4	61.0	39.4	38.6	57.4	46.4
-Upper secondary level		41.1	39.2	30.3	49.7	59.8	34.1	16.1	37.6	37.2	32.7	38.4
-Third level		20.1	18.5	28.0	29.0	18.3	15.6	22.9	23.0	24.2	9.9	15.1
Participation to education												
-In education or training (25-64 years) - %	(4)	9.0	5.5	6.9	19.1	4.8	1.2	5.5	3.0	-	5.2	4.7
-Early school leavers (18-24 years) - %	(4)	16.7	17.0	12.3	16.7	12.8	13.0	22.2	12.0	-	22.6	17.2
Total employment												
-1000		68 964	53 164	1 700	1 260	16 152	1 486	5 870	10 635	703	8 015	74
-Employment rate (%)												
15-24 years		36.9	33.5	25.0	59.0	44.3	21.8	26.9	25.6	42.3	22.2	30.3
25-54 years		66.7	64.7	66.4	80.1	71.7	53.0	52.5	70.8	64.1	52.8	63.8
55-64 years		28.6	24.7	15.6	49.8	29.3	22.7	21.4	26.7	28.5	15.3	14.4
15-64 years		54.8	52.2	50.7	71.4	58.7	41.2	42.7	55.7	54.0	40.9	50.8
-Part-time - %		33.8	31.2	36.6	31.6	39.3	7.2	17.3	30.4	31.1	17.8	25.6
-In the agriculture - %		3.3	4.0	0.9	1.7	2.1	17.7	4.5	2.8	1.8	4.4	(1.1)
-In the industry - %		15.1	16.1	11.8	14.4	17.9	11.8	14.6	14.0	14.8	20.4	6.8
-In the services - %		81.6	79.9	87.2	83.9	80.0	70.4	80.9	83.2	83.4	75.2	94.2
Employees												
-1000		60 937	46 203	1 479	1 201	14 775	951	4 896	9 792	646	6 290	70
-% of total employment		88.4	86.9	87.0	95.3	91.5	64.0	83.4	92.1	91.9	78.5	94.1
Contract of limited duration - %		14.5	16.3	12.1	11.2	12.7	15.4	34.1	16.3	4.5	11.5	5.3
Usual hours worked per week												
- employees working full time		38.8	38.3	37.9	37.9	39.2	39.8	39.5	37.4	37.9	36.4	37.4
- employees working part-time		19.9	20.0	22.1	21.8	18.3	20.9	18.0	23.4	18.9	22.5	20.3
Unemployment												
-1000		6 404	5 699	126	63	1 363	270	1 045	1 249	25	1 201	2
-Unemployment rate - %												
15-24 years		14.9	16.9	16.6	9.3	6.4	35.7	26.7	20.5	5.8	31.6	-
25-64 years		7.6	8.7	5.9	4.1	8.0	12.5	13.2	9.5	2.9	10.7	(1.9)
15+ years		8.5	9.7	6.9	4.8	7.8	15.4	15.1	10.5	3.5	13.0	2.2
-Youth unemployment ratio (15-24 years) - %		6.4	6.8	5.0	6.0	3.0	12.1	9.8	6.6	2.6	10.2	-
Unemployment by duration (%):	(5)											
-less than 6 months		37.9	34.8	35.5	62.0	31.1	26.3	38.0	44.6	-	21.5	64.2
-6 to 11 months		17.4	17.4	13.8	19.2	16.0	17.2	20.4	18.6	-	15.4	(12.1)
-12 months and more		44.8	47.8	50.8	18.8	52.9	56.6	41.6	36.8	-	63.1	(23.7)
Unemployed (%):												
-seeking a first job		22.6	23.6	28.4	13.1	5.9	51.5	20.7	10.7	49.8	55.0	-
-seeking a part-time job		22.9	21.3	20.9	19.1	22.4	4.9	9.7	24.4	36.4	27.1	(31.2)
Total of non-actives (1000)		115 251	94 925	3 419	1 367	24 073	3 606	13 470	17 780	1 203	20 239	143

Notes: data in brackets may lack reliability due to the small sample size

(1) E: the comparability with results disseminated before this issue of 'Statistics in focus' may be made difficult due to a significant revision of weighting procedures

(2) S: 2000 data

(3) Estimates cover only the population aged 15-74 in IS and NO, 15+ in CH

(4) EU15, EUR12 and EEA: results estimated on the basis of 1997 data for IRL. UK: comparable data not yet available. F: information on training is collected if this is under way on the date of the survey (instead of the 4 weeks preceding the survey in the other countries, 12 months in CH).

(5) EU15, EUR12 and EEA: results estimated on the basis of a reduced sample for NL and without IRL

Table 2 - Labour force survey 2001 - Females

NL	A	P	FIN	S (2)	UK	IS (3)	NO (3)	EEA (3)	CH (3)	
7 964	4 109	5 213	2 653	4 482	29 659	95	1 593	192 309	3 079	Population (1000)
5 327	2 711	3 482	1 716	2 801	19 112	86	1 428	126 067	2 420	-Total (3)
1 179	741	906	480	883	5 063	10	165	35 836	658	-aged 15-64
										-aged >64 (3)
										Highest level of education completed (25-64 years) - %
36.8	29.0	79.3	24.5	21.2	21.7	43.9	14.8	38.5	15.3	-At most lower secondary level
41.8	59.2	10.2	39.5	46.7	50.9	32.0	50.8	41.2	68.9	-Upper secondary level
21.4	11.8	10.5	36.0	32.1	27.3	24.1	34.4	20.3	15.8	-Third level
										Participation to education
15.5	7.7	3.7	21.4	24.1	25.6	28.1	14.5	9.1	30.2	-In education or training (25-64 years) - % (4)
14.1	10.7	38.0	7.7	6.2	-	25.4	8.4	14.2	3.7	-Early school leavers (18-24 years) - % (4)
										Total employment
3 495	1 634	2 252	1 147	1 976	12 565	73	1 067	70 105	1 748	-1000
										-Employment rate (%)
69.2	47.2	37.2	44.5	37.1	53.0	76.0	56.9	37.1	63.2	15-24 years
72.6	74.0	74.6	78.8	80.9	73.6	85.9	81.3	66.8	76.8	25-54 years
28.0	17.4	40.7	45.2	61.7	43.2	78.7	60.9	29.0	53.5	55-64 years
65.3	59.8	61.0	66.6	69.7	64.9	82.9	73.8	55.0	70.6	15-64 years
71.3	33.6	16.5	16.7	36.3	44.4	45.4	42.7	33.9	57.2	-Part-time - %
2.4	6.3	14.6	3.8	1.4	0.7	3.4	2.2	3.2	3.5	-In the agriculture - %
8.9	13.9	22.4	13.8	11.5	11.4	10.9	9.3	15.0	12.6	-In the industry - %
88.7	79.8	63.0	82.4	87.1	87.9	85.7	88.6	81.8	83.9	-In the services - %
										Employees
3 153	1 434	1 673	1 045	1 860	11 673	66	1 009	62 013	1 497	-1000
90.2	87.7	74.3	91.1	94.1	92.9	90.3	94.6	88.5	85.6	-% of total employment
17.5	9.4	22.1	22.0	16.9	7.5	5.8	11.6	14.5	12.6	Contract of limited duration - %
										Usual hours worked per week
38.1	39.9	39.3	38.3	39.7	40.7	43.4	37.6	38.7	40.2	- employees working full time
19.0	21.9	19.5	20.9	23.6	19.0	22.8	22.4	20.0	20.0	- employees working part-time
										Unemployment
90	70	120	138	104	538	2	40	6 446	62	-1000
										-Unemployment rate - %
4.5	5.8	11.9	27.5	8.1	8.7	-	12.0	14.8	5.5	15-24 years
2.1	3.9	4.3	7.7	4.7	3.3	1.8	2.1	7.5	3.1	25-64 years
2.5	4.1	5.1	10.8	5.0	4.1	2.2	3.6	8.4	3.4	15+ years
3.3	2.9	5.0	16.9	3.3	5.0	-	7.8	6.5	3.7	-Youth unemployment ratio (15-24 years) - %
										Unemployment by duration (%): (5)
50.9	53.7	39.0	63.8	55.2	64.2	(86.4)	88.3	38.2	48.7	-less than 6 months
(17.9)	19.6	21.1	16.0	17.1	16.3	-	(6.0)	17.2	16.4	-6 to 11 months
31.3	26.7	39.9	20.2	27.7	19.5	-	(5.7)	44.5	34.8	-12 months and more
										Unemployed (%):
23.4	10.7	15.9	13.6	-	15.9	-	14.9	22.6	18.9	-seeking a first job
77.2	39.9	-	18.2	19.2	41.5	-	29.6	23.0	60.8	-seeking a part-time job
4 379	2 405	2 840	1 368	2 402	16 557	21	486	115 758	1 268	Total of non-actives (1000)

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