

Main results from the EU Labour Force Survey

Labour market latest trends -

3rd quarter 2004 data

The European Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) provides quarterly results for all Member States¹. This publication is the third of a quarterly series presenting the EU-LFS main results².

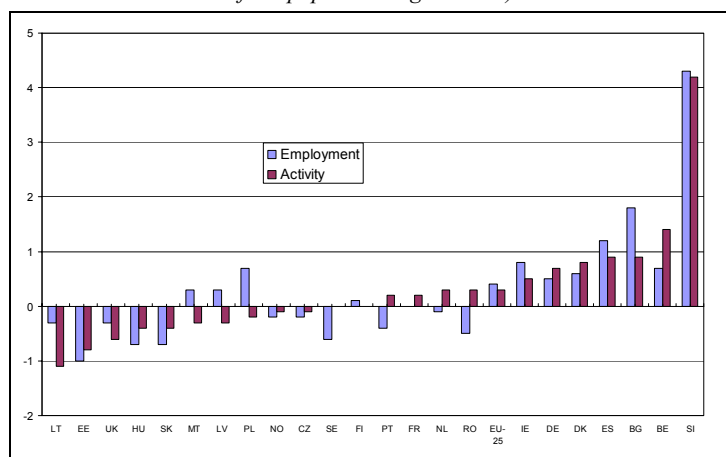
Employment and activity rates increase

In the third quarter 2004, 63.7% of the working age population (15-64 years of age) held a job or other business activity in the EU-25, compared to 63.3% one year before. Between the third quarters 2003 and 2004, the employment rate of men remained unchanged at 71.4%, while the female employment rate gained 0.8 point, to reach 56.1%.

Among Member States, total employment rate rose in this period by more than 0.5 point in Denmark, Belgium, Poland, Spain and Slovenia. In contrast, it went down by more than 0.5 point in Sweden, Hungary, Slovakia and Estonia³.

As a result of employment rate dynamism, the share of active population (employed plus unemployed people) in the whole population aged 15-64 (activity rate) increased in the EU-25. Countries showing different patterns were: Malta, Latvia and Poland, where activity rate decreased while employment rate increased, and Portugal and the Netherlands, where the situation was the opposite (a rise in activity, a diminution in employment rate).

Figure 1: Changes in employment and activity rates from 2003Q3 to 2004Q3 (percentage point of the population aged 15-64).



Source: Eurostat, LFS

The rise in EU-25 employment rate was not sufficient to cause a significant decrease in unemployment rate⁴ for people aged 15-64: in the third quarter 2004, 8.1% of active men and 9.8% of active women were unemployed (respectively 8.2% and 10.0% in the third quarter 2003).

¹ The Federal Statistical Office of Germany provides quarterly estimates for the main variables until the German LFS becomes quarterly from 2005 onwards. The design of the continuous LFS in Luxembourg does not provide quarterly results for the moment.

² In this publication, as in the previous ones, the data have not been seasonally-adjusted, due to the short time series available. Therefore data have to be compared from one quarter to the same quarter one year before.

³ Data for the third quarter 2004 are not yet available in Greece and Luxembourg. Due to a transition to a continuous survey, Austrian and Italian data for 2004 cannot be compared with the data one year before.

⁴ The unemployment rate is calculated in this paper as the number of unemployed persons aged 15-64, divided by the number of active persons aged 15-64. The unemployment series published on a monthly basis by Eurostat differ from these results.

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

3/2005

Population and living conditions

Authors

Ómar S. HARDARSON
Fabrice ROMANS

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More than 40% of people aged 55 to 64 hold a job or a business activity in the EU-25

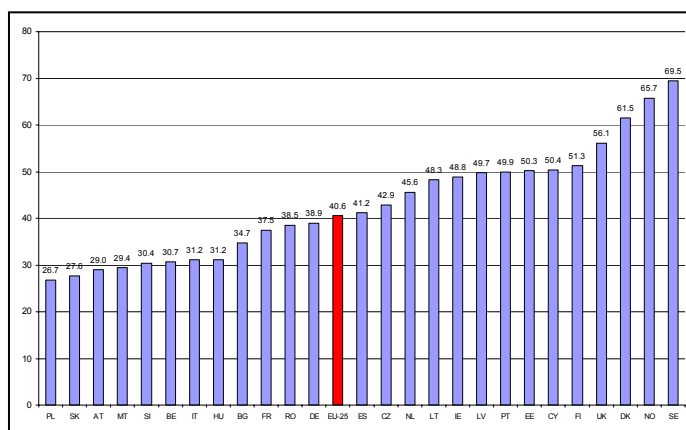
In the third quarter 2004, 50.5% of men and 31.2% of women aged 55-64 were in employment in the EU-25. The average employment rate of people aged 55-64 stood at 40.6% in the EU-25, but this indicator varies strongly by country. Indeed, less than 30% of people aged 55-64 were in employment in Poland, Slovakia, Austria and Malta, while more than 60% of people of this age class held a job or business activity in Denmark and Sweden.

The working conditions of "older workers" differ from the others age classes. First, older workers are more likely to hold part-time jobs than other employed people : it was the case in the third quarter 2004 for 25.3% of employed people aged 55 or more, compared to 23.4% of employed people aged 15-24, and only 15.3% of employed people aged 25-54.

The older people's jobs are less precarious than younger workers' ones: only 7.0% of the employees in

this age group have temporary contracts, compared to 10.6% for people in the age group 25-54 years, and 40.6% in the age group 15-24 years.

Figure 2: Employment rate of people aged 55 to 64 years (in percentage of the same age population)



Source: Eurostat, LFS

More than 40% of unemployed people have been unemployed for one year or more

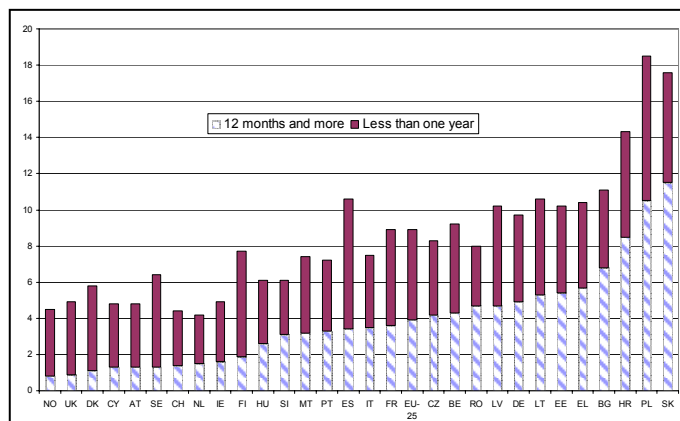
In the EU-25, 44% of unemployed people had been unemployed for one year or more in the third quarter 2004. In the whole economically active population, long-term unemployment represented 3.9% (3.5% of men and 4.4% of women).

Across Member States, the lower long-term unemployment rates were noticed in United Kingdom, Denmark, Cyprus, Austria and Sweden and the higher ones were shown in Poland and Slovakia, where more than 10% of the active population had been unemployed for one year or more in the third quarter 2004.

Female long-term unemployment rate is higher than male long-term unemployment rate in all Member States, except in Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Hungary,

Finland, Sweden and United Kingdom. The highest gender gap in long-term unemployment is shown in Spain, where 5.2% of active women and only 2.2% of active men were long-term unemployed persons.

Figure 3: Unemployment rate by duration of persons aged 15-64 (in percentage of the active population of the same age)



Source: Eurostat, LFS

Part-time employment goes on growing

In the EU-25, part-time employment went up from 16.8% of total employment in the third quarter 2003 to 17.4% in the same quarter of 2004. The increase was stronger for women (from 30.0% to 30.9%) than for men (from 6.5% to 6.8%).

Across the Member States, part-time employment shares vary from 2.7% in Slovakia to 45.2% in the Netherlands, where nearly three quarters of employed women held a part-time job in the last quarters.

Table 1. Activity rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 3rd quarter 2004

	Euro-zone				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	69.5	45.1	83.8	40.8	69.9	46.1	83.8	43.3
Less than upper secondary	56.3	35.8	74.5	33.4	53.8	32.1	73.0	34.2
Upper secondary level	75.1	55.6	86.5	42.3	75.7	59.3	85.8	47.0
Tertiary level	86.1	63.6	91.9	62.9	86.9	70.2	92.0	65.6
Men	78.0	49.4	92.7	51.6	77.7	50.0	91.9	53.9
Less than upper secondary	69.1	42.1	89.8	46.0	65.4	37.8	87.5	45.8
Upper secondary level	81.5	59.7	93.3	49.5	81.9	64.0	92.4	54.1
Tertiary level	89.7	62.1	95.9	68.7	90.1	69.4	95.8	70.3
Women	61.0	40.8	74.8	30.4	62.2	42.2	75.8	33.2
Less than upper secondary	43.9	28.6	59.4	23.8	42.8	25.7	59.0	25.4
Upper secondary level	68.6	51.7	79.6	34.5	69.3	54.7	79.0	39.1
Tertiary level	82.4	64.6	87.9	53.0	83.6	70.7	88.4	58.5

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Table 2. Activity rates by countries, quarters and sex

15-64 years	2004q3 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3
EU-25	210,990	69.9	69.5	69.6	77.7	77.3	77.8	62.2	61.8	61.4
EU-15	177,489	70.8	70.4	70.3	78.8	78.4	78.9	62.8	62.4	61.8
Euro-zone	141,090	69.5	69.2	68.9	78.0	77.7	77.9	61.0	60.6	59.9
Belgium	4,533	66.5	65.3	65.1	73.9	72.7	73.2	58.7	57.7	56.9
Czech Republic	5,075	70.1	69.9	70.2	78.1	77.6	78.0	62.2	62.1	62.5
Denmark	2,890	81.3	80.2	80.5	85.2	84.2	84.6	77.4	76.1	76.3
Germany	39,667	72.9	72.4	72.2	79.2	79.0	79.0	66.4	65.8	65.3
Estonia	641	70.5	70.2	71.3	75.4	74.5	77.0	66.0	66.2	66.0
Greece	.	.	66.5	65.4	.	79.1	78.4	.	54.1	52.5
Spain	19,167	68.6	68.2	67.7	80.4	79.9	80.2	56.6	56.3	55.0
France ²	26,706	69.8	69.2	69.6	75.6	74.9	75.7	64.2	63.6	63.6
Ireland ³	1,954	70.7	68.7	70.2	81.3	79.2	80.5	60.0	58.0	59.8
Italy	23,956	62.5	62.7	61.7	75.0	75.1	74.8	50.1	50.4	48.6
Cyprus	344	72.6	72.7	.	83.3	82.9	.	62.7	63.1	.
Latvia	1,119	70.5	69.2	70.8	75.3	74.4	75.5	66.0	64.3	66.4
Lithuania	1,603	69.0	69.3	70.1	73.0	73.4	73.9	65.3	65.5	66.6
Luxembourg	.	.	.	65.1	.	.	75.5	.	.	54.5
Hungary	4,134	60.6	60.2	61.0	67.4	67.1	68.1	54.0	53.6	54.2
Malta	159	58.3	58.0	58.6	79.9	81.2	80.4	36.7	34.6	36.6
Netherlands	8,413	76.7	76.6	76.4	84.1	83.9	84.0	69.2	69.2	68.6
Austria	3,968	72.2	71.1	72.4	79.6	78.6	80.1	65.0	63.7	64.9
Poland	16,769	64.1	63.7	64.3	70.2	69.9	70.4	58.2	57.6	58.3
Portugal	5,184	73.1	72.8	72.9	79.2	79.1	79.8	67.2	66.7	66.2
Slovenia	997	71.1	69.9	66.9	75.7	74.2	71.9	66.3	65.6	61.9
Slovakia	2,659	69.9	69.7	70.3	76.7	76.5	77.0	63.1	63.0	63.8
Finland	2,603	75.1	76.2	75.1	77.5	78.4	78.2	72.7	74.1	72.1
Sweden	4,590	78.3	77.7	78.3	80.2	79.8	80.3	76.5	75.5	76.2
United Kingdom ³	28,919	75.3	74.9	75.9	82.3	81.6	83.2	68.5	68.4	68.5
Iceland	.	.	.	87.6	.	.	91.1	.	.	84.1
Norway	2,348	79.3	78.7	79.4	82.6	81.8	82.4	76.0	75.5	76.2
EEA-28	213,493	70.0	69.6	69.7	77.7	77.4	77.8	62.3	62.0	61.6
Switzerland	.	.	81.0	.	.	88.0	.	.	73.9	.
Bulgaria	3,347	63.1	62.8	62.2	67.5	67.2	66.7	58.7	58.4	57.8
Croatia	.	.	62.3	.	.	69.7	.	.	.	55.2
Romania	9,644	64.4	63.9	64.1	71.0	70.8	70.8	58.0	57.2	57.5

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Notes: The quarterly data for Germany are not from the LFS. The data for Luxembourg in the 3rd quarter 2003 refer to the whole year. The data for Iceland refer to 2nd quarter 2002. The data for Croatia refer to the first half of 2003.

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

² Metropolitan France (excluding overseas regions).

³ In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (March to May for q2, June to August for q3)

"|" vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series, due to the transition to a continuous survey in Italy and Austria.

Table 3. Employment rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 3rd quarter 2004

	Euro-zone				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	63.5	37.5	77.4	37.9	63.7	37.8	77.3	40.6
Less than upper secondary	50.0	29.1	66.8	31.1	47.3	25.5	64.8	31.9
Upper secondary level	68.9	47.2	80.2	38.8	68.9	49.1	79.1	43.8
Tertiary level	81.1	52.3	87.0	60.0	82.3	58.7	87.7	63.1
Men	72.0	41.5	86.6	48.1	71.4	41.2	85.5	50.5
Less than upper secondary	62.3	34.8	81.9	42.9	58.2	30.4	79.0	42.6
Upper secondary level	75.6	51.3	87.5	45.7	75.2	53.2	86.0	50.4
Tertiary level	85.3	51.3	91.7	65.7	86.0	58.0	91.9	67.5
Women	54.9	33.4	68.1	28.1	56.1	34.3	69.1	31.2
Less than upper secondary	38.2	22.6	51.9	22.2	37.0	20.0	51.1	23.7
Upper secondary level	62.0	43.4	72.8	31.4	62.3	45.0	71.9	36.5
Tertiary level	76.7	53.1	82.4	50.4	78.6	59.1	83.6	56.3

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Table 4. Employment rates by countries, quarters and sex

15-64 years	2004q3 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3
EU-25	192,247	63.7	63.3	63.3	71.4	70.9	71.4	56.1	55.7	55.3
EU-15	163,426	65.2	64.8	64.8	73.1	72.7	73.2	57.2	56.9	56.3
Euro-zone	128,892	63.5	63.1	62.9	72.0	71.6	71.9	54.9	54.6	53.9
Belgium	4,116	60.4	60.5	59.7	68.1	67.9	67.7	52.3	53.0	51.5
Czech Republic	4,656	64.4	64.1	64.6	72.7	72.1	73.1	56.0	56.1	56.1
Denmark	2,724	76.6	76.0	76.0	80.5	79.9	80.4	72.8	72.0	71.5
Germany	35,807	65.8	65.4	65.3	71.3	71.0	71.3	60.2	59.7	59.2
Estonia	576	63.3	62.9	64.3	67.1	65.8	69.7	59.9	60.3	59.3
Greece			59.6	59.2		74.0	73.8		45.5	44.8
Spain	17,137	61.3	60.7	60.1	74.1	73.5	73.7	48.4	47.7	46.4
France ²	24,322	63.6	63.2	63.6	69.4	69.0	69.8	57.8	57.4	57.5
Ireland ³	1,859	67.2	65.5	66.4	77.1	75.2	76.0	57.3	55.8	56.7
Italy	22,162	57.8	57.7	56.5	70.6	70.3	70.0	45.1	45.2	43.1
Cyprus	327	69.1	69.4		80.3	79.9		58.7	59.7	
Latvia	1,005	63.3	62.2	63.0	67.3	67.4	66.6	59.6	57.4	59.8
Lithuania	1,432	61.7	61.4	62.0	65.6	65.2	65.1	58.0	57.8	59.1
Luxembourg				62.7			73.3			52.0
Hungary	3,880	56.8	56.6	57.5	63.4	63.1	64.1	50.6	50.5	51.2
Malta	148	54.0	53.8	53.7	75.0	75.5	74.2	32.9	31.9	33.1
Netherlands	8,061	73.5	73.1	73.6	80.7	80.2	81.0	66.2	65.7	66.0
Austria	3,779	68.8	67.7	69.6	76.3	75.1	77.0	61.4	60.3	62.3
Poland	13,669	52.3	51.4	51.6	57.8	56.8	57.3	46.8	46.1	46.1
Portugal	4,809	67.8	68.0	68.2	74.1	74.4	75.1	61.7	61.7	61.4
Slovenia	937	66.8	65.6	62.5	71.4	69.9	67.3	62.0	61.3	57.5
Slovakia	2,191	57.6	56.7	58.3	64.2	62.9	64.3	51.1	50.6	52.4
Finland	2,403	69.3	68.3	69.2	71.9	70.3	72.2	66.7	66.2	66.1
Sweden	4,295	73.3	72.4	73.9	74.9	74.0	75.6	71.6	70.8	72.2
United Kingdom ³	27,516	71.7	71.5	72.0	78.0	77.6	78.5	65.5	65.6	65.3
Iceland				85.0			88.0			81.9
Norway	2,241	75.7	75.3	75.9	78.7	78.0	78.5	72.7	72.5	73.2
EEA-28	194,639	63.8	63.4	63.5	71.4	71.0	71.5	56.3	55.9	55.5
Switzerland			77.4			84.5			70.3	
Bulgaria	2,974	56.0	55.1	54.2	59.6	58.7	58.0	52.6	51.6	50.5
Croatia				53.4			60.7			46.3
Romania	8,874	59.3	58.7	59.8	64.6	64.1	65.9	54.0	53.5	53.8

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Notes: The quarterly data for Germany are not from the LFS. The data for Luxembourg in the 3rd quarter 2003 refer to the whole year. The data for Iceland refer to 2nd quarter 2002. The data for Croatia refer to the first half of 2003.

¹ The number of employed persons aged 15-64.

² Metropolitan France (excluding overseas regions)

³ In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (March to May for q2, June to August for q3)

"|" vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series, due to the transition to a continuous survey in Italy and Austria.

Table 5. Part-time employment as share of total employment by broad groups of economic activity in the main job, age groups and sex, 3rd quarter 2004

	Euro-zone				EU-25			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	17.5	20.4	16.3	22.4	17.4	23.4	15.3	25.3
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	16.6	21.4	11.4	28.3	19.2	33.2	12.8	31.8
Industry, incl. Energy	7.9	7.5	7.3	13.3	7.2	7.4	6.4	13.3
Construction	5.2	4.3	4.8	9.2	5.3	4.5	4.6	11.2
Trade, transport and communication services	18.7	28.8	16.6	20.9	19.7	34.2	15.9	24.5
Business activities and financial services	19.2	21.1	18.2	25.9	18.4	20.4	16.7	29.2
Other services	24.9	24.3	24.7	27.0	24.5	25.9	23.2	31.1
Men	6.1	14.1	4.1	12.0	6.8	16.9	4.1	14.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	10.0	18.9	4.2	21.5	12.8	28.8	6.3	24.5
Industry, incl. Energy	2.8	5.7	1.8	7.5	2.8	5.7	1.7	8.1
Construction	2.6	4.0	1.8	6.3	2.8	4.0	1.9	8.0
Trade, transport and communication services	7.0	21.4	4.2	10.3	8.4	26.7	4.3	13.1
Business activities and financial services	7.3	18.2	5.0	15.9	7.9	17.9	4.8	20.6
Other services	9.1	19.5	7.5	12.9	9.7	22.1	7.1	17.1
Women	32.5	28.1	32.2	39.4	30.9	31.1	29.4	41.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	29.7	29.1	25.2	40.4	30.6	44.9	24.2	44.1
Industry, incl. Energy	21.2	11.7	21.3	33.0	17.9	11.5	17.5	30.7
Construction	35.2		37.4	45.9	32.9	(12.3)	33.8	45.9
Trade, transport and communication services	34.0	35.9	33.0	38.6	34.0	41.5	31.0	43.0
Business activities and financial services	33.0	23.4	33.2	45.3	30.7	22.5	30.3	45.1
Other services	34.4	26.6	34.7	38.6	32.8	27.8	32.0	41.4

Source: Eurostat, LFS

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

15+ years	2004q3 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3
EU-25	33,931	17.4	17.6	16.8	6.8	6.9	6.5	30.9	31.3	30.0
EU-15	31,535	19.1	19.3	18.4	7.0	7.1	6.7	34.6	35.0	33.7
Euro-zone	22,721	17.5	17.6	16.7	6.1	6.1	5.8	32.5	32.9	31.3
Belgium	869	21.0	21.6	20.1	7.1	6.8	6.4	39.8	41.0	38.4
Czech Republic	222	4.7	5.0	4.9	2.2	2.3	2.4	8.0	8.5	8.3
Denmark	604	21.8	22.4	21.8	12.2	12.5	11.5	32.7	33.7	33.6
Germany				21.7			6.1			40.8
Estonia	47	7.9	7.8	8.6	5.8	5.0	5.7	10.1	10.7	11.7
Greece			4.6	4.2		2.2	2.2		8.6	7.4
Spain	1,466	8.5	8.6	7.6	2.8	2.7	2.4	17.2	17.9	16.0
France ²	4,042	16.5	16.6	16.3	5.2	5.2	5.3	29.8	30.1	29.3
Ireland ³	317	16.8	16.9	16.9	6.2	6.1	6.8	31.4	31.9	30.6
Italy	2,760	12.3	12.7	8.6	4.6	4.9	3.2	24.3	24.8	17.4
Cyprus	28	8.3	8.7		4.3	5.2		13.6	13.2	
Latvia	95	9.2	10.5	9.2	6.9	7.8	7.7	11.7	13.5	10.8
Lithuania	105	7.3	8.6	8.7	5.2	6.9	6.4	9.4	10.4	11.0
Luxembourg				13.3			1.5			30.3
Hungary	183	4.7	4.6	4.0	3.3	3.2	2.3	6.4	6.2	6.0
Malta	13	8.8	8.1	9.2	3.9	4.0	3.5	20.1	17.8	22.2
Netherlands	3,688	45.2	45.6	45.1	21.9	22.5	22.2	74.6	74.8	74.0
Austria	679	17.8	18.9	19.1	4.4	4.8	4.7	34.4	36.3	36.5
Poland	1,545	11.1	10.5	10.4	8.1	8.1	8.0	14.6	13.4	13.3
Portugal	572	11.2	11.2	11.5	7.0	7.0	7.2	16.2	16.1	16.6
Slovenia	98	10.1	9.6	5.2	8.6	7.7	4.4	12.0	11.7	6.1
Slovakia	60	2.7	2.7	2.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	4.3	4.2	3.6
Finland	316	13.0	13.1	11.8	8.7	8.7	8.0	17.8	17.8	16.1
Sweden	993	22.8	23.8	22.0	11.4	12.4	10.7	35.1	36.3	34.4
United Kingdom ³	7,217	25.7	26.2	25.1	10.4	10.6	9.9	43.6	44.2	43.8
Iceland				27.8			12.7			44.8
Norway	636	27.9	29.6	28.0	13.6	15.0	13.5	43.7	45.8	43.9
EEA-28	34,610	17.6	17.8	16.9	6.9	7.0	6.6	31.1	31.5	30.2
Switzerland			33.0			11.8			58.8	
Bulgaria	66	2.2	2.9	1.9	1.8	2.5	1.6	2.6	3.2	2.3
Croatia			8.4				6.2			11.1
Romania	858	9.2	10.2	12.0	8.7	9.7	11.2	9.7	10.8	13.0

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Note: The data for Germany refer to 2nd quarter 2003. The data for Luxembourg in the 3rd quarter 2003 refer to the whole year. The data for Iceland refer to 2nd quarter 2002. The data for Croatia refer to the first half of 2003.

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

² Metropolitan France (excluding overseas regions). ³ In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (March to May for q2, June to August for q3)

() data between brackets lack reliability due to small sample size. "|" vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series.

Table 7. Average actual hours worked in all jobs per week by broad groups of economic activity in the main job, full-time/part-time distinction and sex, 3rd quarter 2004

	Euro-zone			EU-25		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time
Men and women	38.0	41.7	20.6	38.4	42.1	20.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	45.0	49.6	21.1	44.3	49.6	21.4
Industry, incl. Energy	39.0	40.6	20.7	39.7	41.1	21.0
Construction	40.8	41.9	20.5	41.6	42.8	20.5
Trade, transport and communication services	39.3	43.6	20.2	39.2	43.8	20.2
Business activities and financial services	37.5	41.6	20.4	37.8	41.7	20.4
Other services	34.5	39.1	20.9	35.0	39.5	21.0
Men	41.4	42.7	21.2	41.8	43.3	21.2
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	48.4	51.3	22.5	47.7	51.4	22.5
Industry, incl. Energy	40.4	41.0	20.9	41.0	41.6	21.2
Construction	41.5	42.0	22.0	42.4	43.0	22.6
Trade, transport and communication services	42.9	44.6	20.1	42.9	44.9	20.3
Business activities and financial services	41.4	43.0	20.7	41.4	43.1	20.7
Other services	38.8	40.5	22.3	39.1	40.9	21.9
Women	33.3	39.7	20.4	33.9	39.9	20.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	38.1	45.3	20.2	38.0	45.5	20.6
Industry, incl. Energy	35.2	39.2	20.6	36.3	39.7	20.9
Construction	32.2	39.4	19.3	32.5	39.3	18.6
Trade, transport and communication services	34.5	41.8	20.3	34.5	41.8	20.2
Business activities and financial services	32.9	39.3	20.3	33.6	39.4	20.3
Other services	31.8	37.9	20.7	32.5	38.4	20.8

Source: Eurostat, LFS

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

15+ years	2004q3 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3
EU-25	164,560	38.4	37.7	38.5	41.8	41.1	41.8	33.9	33.2	34.1
EU-15	138,124	37.7	37.0	37.9	41.3	40.7	41.3	32.9	32.2	33.0
Euro-zone	109,253	38.0	37.4	38.1	41.4	40.9	41.4	33.3	32.8	33.6
Belgium	3,156	37.3	36.6	37.5	40.7	40.3	40.9	32.4	31.7	32.8
Czech Republic	4,016	42.2	42.3	43.0	44.4	44.6	45.2	39.3	39.4	39.9
Denmark	2,201	36.5	34.4	36.4	39.5	37.5	39.6	33.0	30.7	32.6
Germany				37.1			41.7			31.4
Estonia	542	40.9	40.5	41.0	42.7	42.4	42.9	38.8	38.7	38.9
Greece			42.5	43.3		44.4	44.9		39.3	40.5
Spain	14,094	39.6	38.6	39.5	41.6	40.6	41.4	36.3	35.3	36.5
France ²	18,167	37.6	36.4	37.4	40.6	39.3	40.3	33.9	32.9	33.7
Ireland ³	1,702	38.4	37.4	38.2	42.6	41.8	42.3	32.2	31.0	32.4
Italy	17,859	38.9	38.6	39.7	41.6	41.6	41.8	34.4	33.9	36.1
Cyprus	279	41.4	39.3		44.1	41.3		37.9	36.6	
Latvia	967	42.5	42.0	43.3	44.3	43.8	44.8	40.6	40.0	41.7
Lithuania	1,304	39.4	38.6	39.2	40.5	39.8	40.3	38.1	37.3	38.1
Luxembourg				37.9			40.8			33.7
Hungary	3,521	40.9	40.9	41.2	42.4	42.4	42.7	39.0	39.1	39.2
Malta	140	38.7	38.8	39.2	40.5	40.8	42.0	34.5	34.1	33.0
Netherlands	6,307	32.6	31.0	32.6	37.9	36.3	37.8	25.7	24.2	25.8
Austria	3,195	40.6	39.7	39.3	44.6	43.8	42.6	35.4	34.3	35.0
Poland	12,913	42.8	41.6	42.9	45.5	44.4	45.5	39.4	38.2	39.6
Portugal	4,404	39.9	39.4	39.9	41.8	41.2	41.8	37.5	37.1	37.4
Slovenia	774	41.2	40.1	41.4	42.5	41.7	42.2	39.4	38.3	40.2
Slovakia	1,980	41.1	40.9	40.8	42.1	41.9	41.7	39.7	39.6	39.7
Finland	1,859	38.5	37.0	39.1	40.9	39.4	41.6	35.8	34.4	36.1
Sweden	3,059	37.1	35.0	37.1	39.7	37.5	39.7	33.9	32.0	34.0
United Kingdom ³	23,611	36.6	35.8	36.8	41.2	40.6	41.5	30.8	30.0	30.6
Iceland				43.0			48.6			36.4
Norway	1,698	35.9	33.6	36.0	39.4	37.2	39.6	31.8	29.3	31.8
EEA-28	166,404	38.4	37.7	38.5	41.8	41.1	41.8	33.9	33.2	34.1
Switzerland			37.6			43.5			30.2	
Bulgaria	2,673	40.9	40.7	41.0	41.3	41.3	41.4	40.4	40.1	40.6
Croatia			40.9				42.2			39.2
Romania	9,176	41.8	41.2	41.7	43.1	42.4	43.1	40.4	39.8	40.0

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Note: Tables 7 and 8 refer only to persons at work (working 1 hour or more) during the reference week in either the main or second job. The data for Germany refer to 2nd quarter 2003. The data for Luxembourg in the 3rd quarter 2003 refer to the whole year. The data for Iceland refer to 2nd quarter 2002. The data for Croatia refer to the first half of 2003.

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

² Metropolitan France (excluding overseas regions). ³ In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (March to May for q2, June to August for q3)

"|" vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series, due to the transition to a continuous survey in Italy and Austria.

Table 9. Share of employees with temporary contracts by broad groups of economic activity in the main job, age groups and sex, 3rd quarter 2004

	Euro-zone				EU-25			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	15.3	48.5	11.3	6.4	13.9	40.6	10.6	7.0
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	38.2	59.5	34.4	32.0	32.5	55.0	29.5	24.4
Industry, incl. Energy	10.9	48.1	6.7	3.5	10.8	42.1	7.4	4.5
Construction	23.0	48.6	18.3	13.1	20.5	42.5	17.0	10.9
Trade, transport and communication services	15.5	45.4	9.9	5.0	13.9	36.3	9.2	5.3
Business activities and financial services	12.7	45.6	9.3	5.4	11.6	37.0	8.6	7.3
Other services	15.8	53.7	13.4	6.2	14.1	45.6	11.9	7.5
Men	14.4	49.2	10.3	6.3	13.3	41.2	9.8	6.9
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	35.1	56.6	30.8	30.1	30.3	53.0	26.9	22.4
Industry, incl. Energy	10.3	48.9	6.0	3.4	10.1	42.4	6.5	4.1
Construction	23.8	48.4	19.2	13.9	21.5	42.6	18.0	11.6
Trade, transport and communication services	13.6	46.9	8.1	4.1	12.2	36.7	7.7	4.6
Business activities and financial services	11.9	45.6	8.9	6.4	11.1	37.3	8.3	8.3
Other services	14.1	56.5	11.9	5.4	13.3	47.5	11.1	7.5
Women	16.3	47.8	12.6	6.6	14.5	40.0	11.4	7.2
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	45.4	67.8	42.4	37.1	38.0	61.1	35.4	30.3
Industry, incl. Energy	12.4	46.3	8.5	(3.9)	12.6	41.3	9.5	5.6
Construction	13.9	51.6	9.2		11.2	40.7	7.6	
Trade, transport and communication services	17.7	44.0	12.1	6.3	15.8	36.0	11.1	6.3
Business activities and financial services	13.4	45.7	9.7	(4.0)	12.1	36.8	8.9	6.0
Other services	16.8	52.4	14.3	6.8	14.5	44.6	12.3	7.5

Source: Eurostat, LFS

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

15+ years	2004q3 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3
EU-25	22,501	13.9	13.3	13.2	13.3	12.6	12.6	14.5	14.1	14.0
EU-15	19,015	13.7	13.1	13.1	13.0	12.2	12.2	14.5	14.1	14.2
Euro-zone	16,552	15.3	14.8	14.7	14.4	13.7	13.7	16.3	16.0	16.0
Belgium	321	9.2	8.7	8.6	6.9	6.3	6.6	12.1	11.6	11.0
Czech Republic	351	9.0	9.5	9.5	7.9	8.0	8.4	10.1	11.3	10.7
Denmark	259	10.3	9.8	9.9	9.6	9.1	8.9	11.0	10.5	10.9
Germany				12.1			12.1			12.2
Estonia	16	2.9	3.0	3.0	(3.6)	4.1	(3.4)	(2.2)	(2.0)	(2.6)
Greece			12.4	11.9		11.0	10.3		14.5	14.3
Spain	4,393	31.2	30.4	30.7	29.2	28.4	28.9	34.1	33.2	33.5
France ²	2,968	13.6	12.9	13.3	12.7	11.7	11.8	14.6	14.2	15.0
Ireland ³	80	5.1	3.4	6.6	4.9	3.0	5.8	5.5	3.9	7.5
Italy	2,039	12.6	11.9	10.5	11.0	9.7	8.7	14.8	14.9	13.0
Cyprus	34	13.1	13.1		9.3	8.2		17.3	18.2	
Latvia	81	9.1	9.2	13.0	11.1	11.4	15.7	7.0	6.9	10.4
Lithuania	78	6.6	6.6	8.2	9.3	9.8	10.8	3.9	3.5	5.8
Luxembourg				3.2			2.5			4.1
Hungary	245	7.3	6.9	8.0	8.1	7.8	8.8	6.4	6.0	7.0
Malta	6	5.0	3.2	3.8	4.0	(2.4)	(3.3)	(6.9)	(5.0)	(4.7)
Netherlands	1,080	15.1	14.5	15.0	13.6	13.1	13.5	16.8	16.1	16.7
Austria	312	9.4	8.6	7.2	9.7	9.0	7.3	9.0	8.2	7.2
Poland	2,397	23.8	22.6	20.4	24.4	23.7	22.3	23.0	21.3	18.3
Portugal	750	19.8	19.9	20.6	18.9	18.7	19.1	20.9	21.1	22.2
Slovenia	158	19.3	18.0	13.7	18.6	16.4	13.0	20.2	19.8	14.5
Slovakia	122	6.3	5.5	5.8	7.1	5.8	6.5	5.5	5.1	5.1
Finland	395	18.7	17.1	18.1	15.6	13.2	15.2	21.9	20.9	21.1
Sweden	673	17.2	15.7	16.3	15.3	13.7	14.4	19.2	17.7	18.2
United Kingdom ³	1,530	6.3	5.7	6.1	5.9	5.2	5.6	6.7	6.2	6.7
Iceland				5.4			5.3			5.5
Norway	223	10.6	10.2	10.4	9.1	8.4	8.6	12.1	12.0	12.2
EEA-28	22,731	13.8	13.3	13.2	13.3	12.6	12.5	14.5	14.1	13.9
Switzerland			12.1			11.8			12.5	
Bulgaria	203	8.0	7.4	7.2	8.0	7.8	7.6	8.0	7.0	6.8
Croatia				11.4			11.3			11.4
Romania	140	2.3	2.6	2.2	2.7	2.9	2.4	1.8	2.2	1.9

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Note: The data for Germany refer to 2nd quarter 2003. The data for Luxembourg in the 3rd quarter 2003 refer to the whole year. The data for Iceland refer to 2nd quarter 2002. The data for Croatia refer to the first half of 2003.

¹ The number of persons in employment having temporary job contracts.

² Metropolitan France (excluding overseas regions). ³ In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (March to May for q2, June to August for q3) () data between brackets lack reliability due to small sample size. “|” vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series.

Table 11. Share of persons whose job started within past 3 months by broad groups of economic activity in the main job, age groups and sex, 3rd quarter 2004

	Euro-zone				EU-25			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	4.7	16.4	3.6	1.5	4.7	16.6	3.6	1.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	6.2	24.5	5.4	2.7	5.3	20.9	4.4	2.0
Industry, incl. Energy	3.7	14.7	2.7	0.9	3.9	14.8	2.8	1.3
Construction	6.4	13.6	5.6	3.0	6.4	14.5	5.5	2.8
Trade, transport and communication services	5.8	18.5	4.1	1.3	5.9	17.9	4.0	1.7
Business activities and financial services	4.5	16.2	3.6	1.6	4.6	16.7	3.6	1.8
Other services	3.8	15.7	3.1	1.3	3.9	16.4	3.1	1.5
Men	4.4	16.1	3.4	1.6	4.6	16.0	3.5	1.7
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	6.2	22.5	5.2	3.0	5.6	20.4	4.5	2.3
Industry, incl. Energy	3.5	14.7	2.5	(0.9)	3.6	14.6	2.6	1.2
Construction	6.6	13.9	5.6	3.2	6.5	14.7	5.6	2.9
Trade, transport and communication services	5.1	18.1	3.6	1.3	5.2	17.2	3.6	1.7
Business activities and financial services	3.9	16.2	3.2	(1.5)	4.1	16.2	3.3	1.7
Other services	3.3	15.8	2.6	1.2	3.6	16.3	2.8	1.5
Women	5.0	16.8	3.9	1.5	5.0	17.2	3.7	1.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	6.1	30.8	5.7	(2.2)	4.7	22.1	4.2	(1.5)
Industry, incl. Energy	4.3	14.5	3.2	.	4.5	15.2	3.4	(1.5)
Construction	4.9	.	4.8	.	4.7	(11.6)	4.3	.
Trade, transport and communication services	6.8	18.9	4.8	(1.4)	6.8	18.5	4.6	1.6
Business activities and financial services	5.1	16.2	4.0	(1.9)	5.2	17.2	3.9	(1.9)
Other services	4.2	15.6	3.3	1.4	4.1	16.4	3.2	1.5

Source: Eurostat, LFS

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

15+ years	2004q3 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3
EU-25	9,228	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.4	5.0	4.4	4.7
EU-15	8,033	4.9	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.4	5.2	4.6	4.9
Euro-zone	6,117	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	5.0	4.5	4.8
Belgium	156	3.8	2.9	3.2	3.4	2.9	2.8	4.2	3.0	3.9
Czech Republic	118	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.7	3.1	3.4
Denmark	236	8.5	6.9	7.9	7.5	6.9	7.2	9.6	7.0	8.8
Germany	.	.	.	3.6	.	.	3.5	.	.	3.6
Estonia	28	4.6	5.2	4.6	5.1	5.4	5.6	4.2	4.9	3.4
Greece	.	.	3.5	1.5	.	3.3	1.3	.	3.8	1.7
Spain	1,256	7.3	6.4	6.9	6.4	5.8	6.0	8.7	7.3	8.3
France ²	1,634	6.7	5.8	6.3	6.7	5.8	6.2	6.6	5.8	6.4
Ireland ³	113	5.9	3.8	6.5	5.6	3.5	5.8	6.5	4.2	7.3
Italy	858	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.1	4.5	4.0	4.1
Cyprus	15	4.3	4.9	.	3.6	4.5	.	5.3	5.5	.
Latvia	61	5.9	4.3	6.6	6.8	5.3	7.1	5.0	3.3	6.1
Lithuania	66	4.5	4.9	4.8	5.3	6.3	5.2	3.7	3.4	4.3
Luxembourg	.	.	.	2.6	.	.	2.2	.	.	3.2
Hungary	118	3.0	3.5	3.1	3.2	4.0	3.4	2.8	2.9	2.9
Malta	5	3.4	3.3	3.4	(2.8)	(2.4)	(2.2)	(4.6)	(5.2)	(6.1)
Netherlands	117	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.4
Austria	180	4.7	4.0	3.2	4.3	4.2	2.9	5.2	3.8	3.4
Poland	655	4.7	4.5	4.5	5.1	5.4	5.1	4.2	3.4	3.9
Portugal	153	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.3
Slovenia	48	4.9	4.1	3.5	4.8	3.8	3.3	5.1	4.5	3.8
Slovakia	82	3.7	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.4	3.8	3.2	2.9	3.2
Finland	211	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.2	8.4	8.5	9.2	8.9	8.8
Sweden	250	5.7	4.8	5.6	5.6	4.9	5.6	5.9	4.7	5.7
United Kingdom ³	1,430	5.1	4.6	5.1	4.9	4.6	5.1	5.3	4.6	5.2
Iceland	.	.	.	4.4	.	.	4.8	.	.	3.9
Norway	.	.	4.6	.	.	4.8	.	.	4.5	.
EEA-28	9,340	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.4	5.0	4.4	4.7
Switzerland	.	.	4.0	.	.	3.5	.	.	4.7	.
Bulgaria	144	4.8	6.9	5.3	4.8	7.2	6.0	4.7	6.5	4.6
Croatia	.	.	4.4	.	.	4.9	.	.	3.8	.
Romania	297	3.2	3.7	2.2	3.7	4.4	2.5	2.6	2.9	1.9

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Note: The data for Germany refer to 2nd quarter 2003. The data for Luxembourg in the 3rd quarter 2003 refer to the whole year. The data for Iceland refer to 2nd quarter 2002. The data for Croatia refer to the first half of 2003.

¹ The number of persons whose job started within the past 3 months.

² Metropolitan France (excluding overseas regions). ³ In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (March to May for q2, June to August for q3)

() data between brackets lack reliability due to small sample size. “|” vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series.

Table 13. Unemployment rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 3rd quarter 2004

	Euro-zone				EU-25			
	15-64	15-25	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	8.6	16.8	7.7	6.9	8.9	18.1	7.8	6.2
Less than upper secondary	11.1	18.7	10.3	7.0	12.0	20.5	11.2	6.7
Upper secondary level	8.3	15.0	7.3	8.2	9.0	17.2	7.8	6.8
Tertiary level	5.8	17.7	5.3	4.6	5.3	16.4	4.7	3.9
Men	7.6	15.8	6.6	6.6	8.1	17.7	6.9	6.2
Less than upper secondary	9.8	17.2	8.7	6.9	10.9	19.5	9.7	6.9
Upper secondary level	7.3	14.2	6.2	7.6	8.2	16.8	6.8	6.8
Tertiary level	4.9	17.5	4.4	4.4	4.6	16.4	4.1	4.0
Women	9.9	18.0	9.0	7.5	9.8	18.7	8.9	6.2
Less than upper secondary	13.1	21.2	12.7	7.1	13.5	22.1	13.3	6.5
Upper secondary level	9.6	16.0	8.6	9.1	10.0	17.7	8.9	6.8
Tertiary level	6.9	17.8	6.3	4.9	6.0	16.3	5.4	3.9

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Table 14. Unemployment rates by countries, quarters and sex

15-64 years	2004q3 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3
EU-25	18,743	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.1	8.3	8.2	9.8	9.8	10.0
EU-15	14,063	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.2	7.3	7.2	8.8	8.8	8.9
Euro-zone	12,198	8.6	8.8	8.6	7.6	7.8	7.6	9.9	10.0	10.0
Belgium	416	9.2	7.4	8.4	7.9	6.7	7.6	10.8	8.3	9.4
Czech Republic	419	8.3	8.3	8.1	7.0	7.1	6.3	9.9	9.7	10.2
Denmark	166	5.8	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.1	5.0	6.0	5.5	6.3
Germany	3,860	9.7	9.8	9.6	10.0	10.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	9.3
Estonia	65	10.2	10.4	9.8	11.0	11.7	9.5	9.3	9.0	10.1
Greece			10.4	9.4		6.5	5.9		16.0	14.7
Spain	2,031	10.6	11.0	11.2	7.9	8.0	8.2	14.4	15.3	15.7
France ²	2,384	8.9	8.7	8.6	8.1	7.9	7.8	9.9	9.7	9.5
Ireland ³	96	4.9	4.6	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.6	4.5	3.9	5.2
Italy	1,795	7.5	8.0	8.3	5.8	6.4	6.4	10.0	10.3	11.3
Cyprus	17	4.8	4.4		3.5	3.6		6.4	5.5	
Latvia	115	10.2	10.1	11.0	10.7	9.4	11.9	9.7	10.7	10.0
Lithuania	171	10.6	11.4	11.7	10.2	11.2	12.0	11.1	11.6	11.3
Luxembourg				3.7			3.0			4.6
Hungary	254	6.1	5.9	5.8	6.0	5.8	5.9	6.3	5.9	5.5
Malta	12	7.4	7.3	8.3	6.1	7.0	7.6	10.2	7.9	9.8
Netherlands	352	4.2	4.7	3.6	4.1	4.4	3.5	4.3	5.0	3.8
Austria	189	4.8	4.9	3.9	4.1	4.4	3.9	5.6	5.4	4.0
Poland	3,100	18.5	19.4	19.7	17.7	18.8	18.6	19.5	20.0	20.9
Portugal	375	7.2	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.0	5.9	8.2	7.6	7.2
Slovenia	61	6.1	6.1	6.7	5.7	5.8	6.3	6.6	6.5	7.1
Slovakia	468	17.6	18.6	17.1	16.4	17.8	16.5	19.1	19.6	17.9
Finland	201	7.7	10.4	7.9	7.3	10.3	7.7	8.2	10.6	8.2
Sweden	295	6.4	6.8	5.6	6.5	7.3	5.9	6.3	6.2	5.2
United Kingdom ³	1,403	4.9	4.6	5.2	5.3	5.0	5.7	4.4	4.2	4.6
Iceland				3.0			3.4			2.6
Norway	106	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.3	4.0	3.9
EEA-28	18,854	8.8	9.0	8.9	8.1	8.3	8.2	9.7	9.8	9.9
Switzerland			4.4			4.0			4.8	
Bulgaria	373	11.1	12.2	12.9	11.7	12.6	13.1	10.5	11.7	12.7
Croatia				14.3			12.9			16.1
Romania	770	8.0	8.1	6.7	8.9	9.4	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.4

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Note: The quarterly data for Germany are not from the LFS. The data for Luxembourg in the 3rd quarter 2003 refer to the whole year. The data for Iceland refer to 2nd quarter 2002. The data for Croatia refer to the first half of 2003.

¹ The number of unemployed persons, aged 15-64.

² Metropolitan France (excluding overseas regions)

³ In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (March to May for q2, June to August for q3)

"|" vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series, due to the transition to a continuous survey in Italy and Austria.

The unemployment rate is calculated in this table as the number of unemployed persons aged 15-64, divided by the number of active persons aged 15-64. The unemployment series published on a monthly basis by Eurostat differ from these results.

Table 15. Long term unemployment rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 3rd quarter 2004

	Euro-zone				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	3.7	4.4	3.5	4.7	3.9	5.1	3.7	3.9
Less than upper secondary	5.1	5.8	5.0	4.4	5.6	6.4	5.7	4.1
Upper secondary level	3.6	3.6	3.4	5.8	4.0	4.9	3.8	4.4
Tertiary level	2.2	2.3	2.0	3.2	1.8	2.3	1.7	2.4
Men	3.2	4.0	2.9	4.4	3.5	5.0	3.2	3.9
Less than upper secondary	4.3	5.3	4.0	4.3	4.9	6.3	4.8	4.2
Upper secondary level	3.0	3.1	2.8	5.2	3.5	4.6	3.3	4.3
Tertiary level	1.8	(1.8)	1.6	3.1	1.6	(1.9)	1.5	2.5
Women	4.4	4.8	4.3	5.2	4.4	5.1	4.3	3.9
Less than upper secondary	6.3	6.7	6.5	4.6	6.5	6.7	7.0	4.0
Upper secondary level	4.3	4.2	4.1	6.7	4.6	5.1	4.5	4.6
Tertiary level	2.5	2.6	2.4	3.2	2.1	2.6	2.0	2.2

Source: Eurostat, IFS

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

15-64 years	2004q3 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3	2004q3	2004q2	2003q3
EU-25	8,228	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.6	4.4	4.4	4.5
EU-15	5,628	3.2	3.2	3.3	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.7	3.7
Euro-zone	5,276	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.2	3.3	3.3	4.4	4.5	4.5
Belgium	197	4.3	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.1	5.0	4.0	4.2
Czech Republic	213	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.5	3.4	2.9	5.1	5.2	5.2
Denmark	32	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.1
Germany				4.9			4.9			4.8
Estonia	34	5.4	5.4	4.7	5.6	6.4	5.1	5.1	4.5	4.2
Greece			5.7	5.4		3.0	2.9		9.5	9.0
Spain	653	3.4	3.7	3.8	2.2	2.2	2.4	5.2	5.7	6.0
France ²	969	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.8	4.1	3.9	3.6
Ireland ³	31	1.6	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	0.8	0.9
Italy	839	3.5	3.8	4.8	2.5	2.9	3.7	4.9	5.2	6.3
Cyprus	4	1.3	1.2		0.9	1.0		1.7	1.5	
Latvia	52	4.7	4.4	3.8	4.7	4.8	3.6	4.6	4.0	4.1
Lithuania	85	5.3	6.1	5.7	4.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	6.3	5.5
Luxembourg				0.9			1.0			(0.8)
Hungary	108	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.3
Malta	5	3.2	3.7	3.1	3.2	4.0	3.4	(3.3)		
Netherlands	125	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.5	1.4	1.1
Austria	52	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.3	0.9
Poland	1,762	10.5	10.4	11.0	10.0	9.7	10.4	11.1	11.2	11.8
Portugal	169	3.3	2.9	2.3	3.0	2.6	2.0	3.6	3.2	2.8
Slovenia	31	3.1	3.3	3.6	2.9	3.1	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.8
Slovakia	305	11.5	11.9	11.3	10.7	11.3	10.8	12.4	12.6	11.8
Finland	51	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.4	1.9	2.0	1.9
Sweden	59	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.0	0.8
United Kingdom ⁴	261	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.4	0.6	0.7	0.7
Iceland				0.4			0.3			0.4
Norway	19	0.8	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	
EEA-28	8,248	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.6	4.3	4.4	4.5
Switzerland			1.4			1.2			1.7	
Bulgaria	226	6.8	7.0	8.6	6.8	7.0	8.5	6.7	7.0	8.6
Croatia				8.5			7.5			9.8
Romania	450	4.7	4.8	4.2	5.5	5.5	4.4	3.7	3.9	4.0

Source: Eurostat, LFS

Note: The data for Luxembourg in the 3rd quarter 2003 refer to the whole year. The data for Iceland refer to 2nd quarter 2002. The data for Croatia refer to the first half of 2003.

¹ The number of persons in long-term unemployment, aged 15-64 years.

² Metropolitan France (excluding overseas regions)

³ In Ireland and UK, the data refer to seasonal quarter (March to May for q2, June to August for q3)

() data between brackets lack reliability due to small sample size.

"|" vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series, due to the transition to a continuous survey in Italy and Austria.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Definitions and sources

Source: the European Union Labour Force Survey is a quarterly (except in Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland where it is annual), large sample survey providing results for the population in private households in the EU, EFTA and the Candidate Countries. **Conscripts** in military or community service are not included in the results. The sampling rates vary between 0.2% and 3.3%. The survey provides quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over as well as on persons outside the labour force. The figures in this publication are **not seasonally adjusted**, due to the short time series available. The concepts and definitions used in the survey follow the guidelines of International Labour Organisation.

PRELIMINARY DATA. The estimates for the United Kingdom in 2003 are based on population estimates that predate the most recent Census of the Population. These estimates may therefore differ from that of the most recently published national data and will change when new data arrive. Employment estimates for Germany in the 2nd quarter 2004 have been revised from last publication. Data for Greece and Ireland have been revised from 1998 to take into account new weights derived from 2001 Census.

BREAKS. As of 1st and 2nd quarter 2004, the samples for the Austrian and Italian Labour Force Surveys are spread over all weeks of the quarter. At the same time the sampling and weighting procedures in Greece were revised in order to improve coverage. Accordingly estimates for 2004 are not fully comparable with previous years.

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

Long-term unemployed persons are persons who have been unemployed for one year or more, i.e. unemployed persons who have searched for employment for one year or longer or left last job one year or more ago, whichever period is shorter.

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

Employees are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, payment by results or payment in kind; non-conscript members of the armed forces are also included. **Employees with temporary contracts** are those who declare themselves as having a fixed term employment contract or a job which will terminate if certain objective criteria are met, such as completion of an assignment or return of the employee who was temporarily replaced.

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

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

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

The reference week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday. In all of the countries providing quarterly data the quarterly sample is spread uniformly over all weeks of the quarter. In Luxembourg the reference week is spread over the year, in Switzerland over the 2nd quarter, but in Germany the LFS data refer to one week in the spring. The **reference quarter** is the calendar quarter except in Ireland and the United Kingdom, which use the seasonal quarter (Dec-Feb, Mar-May, Jun-Aug and Sep-Nov).

Classification by economic activity: six economic activities are distinguished on the basis of an aggregation of the sections of the Standard Classification of Economic Activities (NACE rev.1).

The Netherlands did not provide data on the economic activity for this publication. For the Netherlands the last known distribution is applied (2002q4) in order to produce figures for the EU aggregates by broad groups of economic activity.

Level of educational attainment is defined according to the International Classification of Education 1997 (ISCED 1997). Three levels are distinguished: Less than upper secondary (ISCED 1 or 2), upper secondary (ISCED 3-4), and third level (ISCED 5-6). In this publication Germany and the Netherlands do not provide data on the level of educational attainment. For these countries the last known distribution is applied (Germany 2003q2, the Netherlands 2002q4) in order to produce figures with aggregate distribution by level of educational attainment.

Country codes applied in this publication: EU-25 (European Union), EU-15 (former European Union of 15 Member States), Euro-zone (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland), EEA-28 (European Economic Area, including all EU-25 Member States, Iceland and Norway, but without Liechtenstein). In this publication, French and aggregated data exclude "départements d'Outre-mer", because of a lack of harmonized data.

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

Symbols: () data between brackets lack reliability due to small sample size; "." dots are used for unavailable or extremely unreliable data. "I" vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series. Quarter 3 of the year 2004 is written as 2004q3.

Further information:

➤ **Databases**

[EUROSTAT website/Population and social conditions/Labour market](#)

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ORIGINAL TEXT: English