

Labour Market Latest Trends

1st quarter 2006 data

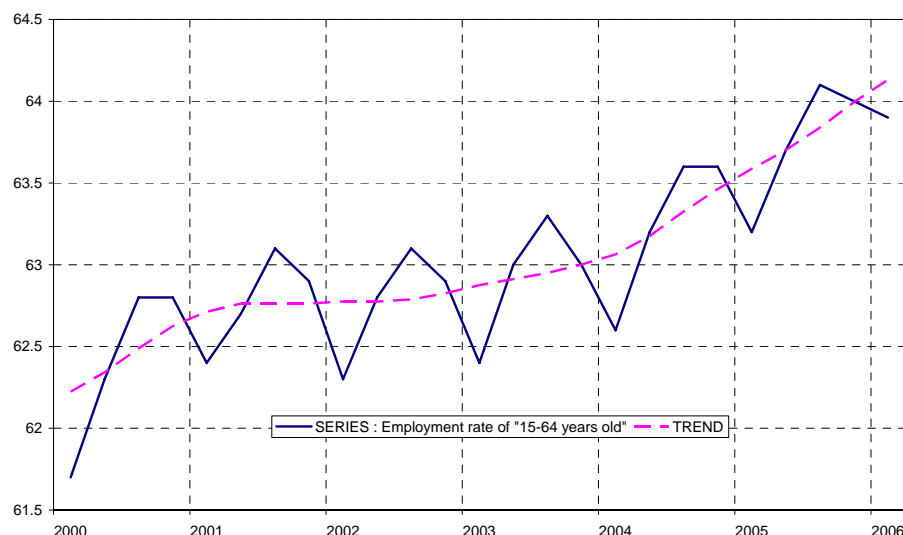
Employment rate in the EU: trend still up

This publication belongs to a quarterly series presenting the European Union Labour Force Survey main results for the EU-25 and for all Member States.

The employment rate in the EU-25 increased by 0.7 percentage points in the first quarter 2006 compared with the same quarter one year before. In the first quarter 2006, 63.9% of the working age population (15-64 years of age) had a job or were engaged in any economic activity in the EU-25, compared with 63.2% in the first quarter of 2005. Estonia recorded the highest rise among the member states, reaching 67.4%¹, up from 63.2%.

The analysis of the employment rate series² shows a significant increase since the beginning of 2004 (*chart 1*).

Chart 1: Evolution of the employment rate (15-64 years) from 2000Q1 to 2006Q1 (%)



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

The employment rate rose for both men and women, by 0.5 and 0.9 percentage points respectively in one year. In the first quarter 2006, 71.1% of men and 56.7% of women aged 15 to 64 years were employed in the EU-25. The highest yearly increase in female employment rate were recorded in Estonia (from 61.4% in 2005Q1 to 64.9% in 2006Q1).

As a result of the rise in the employment rate, the share of the active population (employed plus unemployed people) in the whole population aged 15-64 was up to 70.2% in the 1st quarter 2006, compared to 69.8% one year before. The unemployment rate showed a significant decrease in this period³ (*see chart 2, page 2*).

¹ Quarterly data are not yet available for Luxembourg. Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes.

² Quarterly EU Labour Force Survey data are used when they are available. Otherwise, estimations are performed on the basis of quarterly national labour force data or interpolations with reference to the quarter(s) available. The trend is calculated at an EU-25 level using moving averages. In this publication, the data have not been adjusted for seasonal variation, due to the shortness of the available time series in some countries.

³ The unemployment rate calculated in this paper is directly derived from the Labour Force Survey data. The adjusted unemployment series (15+) published on a monthly basis by Eurostat can slightly differ from these results.

Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

17/2006

Labour market

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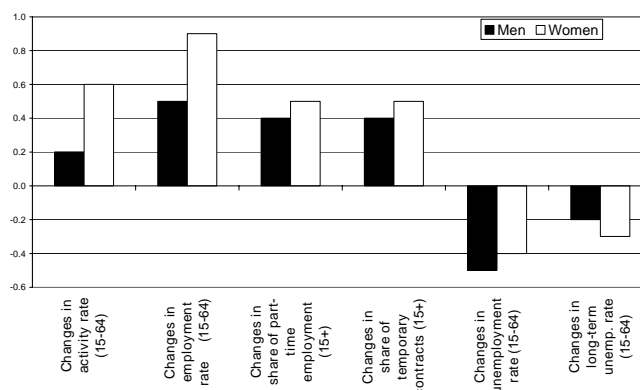
Part-time jobs and temporary contracts on the rise for men and for women

The increase in employment rate was combined with increased prevalence of part-time employment as well as an increase of the share of employees having temporary contracts.

The share of part time employment in total employment showed a significant growth between the first quarters 2005 and 2006. In the first quarter 2006, 7.9% of employed men (+0.4 percentage points) and 33.1% of the employed women (+0.5 percentage points) worked part-time.

The share of employees having temporary contacts in the EU25 went up as well, to reach 13.7% (+0.4 p.p.) of male employees and 14.9% (+0.5 p.p.) of female employees.

Chart 2: Changes in labour market indicators from 2005Q1 to 2006Q1 (in percentage points)

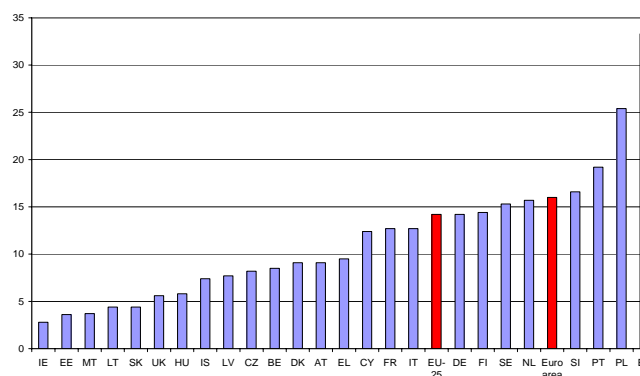


Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Four out of ten young employees had a temporary contract in the 1st quarter 2006

On average in the EU-25, 14.2% of employees had a temporary contract in the first quarter 2006. This average hides disparities by age, economic activity, and by member state. Firstly, young people (aged 15 to 24 years) are much more likely to have a temporary contract when employed: 40.1% of young employees had a temporary contract, compared with 11.4% of employees aged 25 to 54 years. Secondly, temporary contracts were most prevalent in agriculture (29.9%) and in construction (20.6%). Finally, Chart 3 shows a significant disparity by country: in five member states (Estonia, Ireland, Lithuania, Malta and Slovakia), this rate was less than 5%; at the other end of the scale, the rate of temporary contracts is higher than 20% in Poland (25.4%) and Spain (33.3%).

Chart 3: Share of employees with temporary contracts, 15 years and more, 2006Q1 (%)



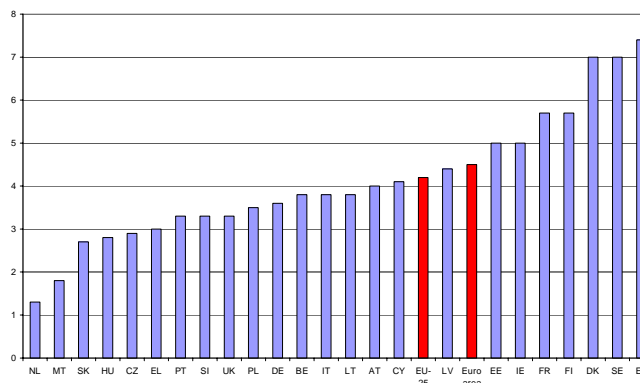
Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

High mobility of workers in Spain, Denmark and Sweden

The prevalence of persons whose job started within the past 3 months is an indicator of worker mobility and labour market flexibility. The indicator measures both the number of persons changing job in the last 3 months and those newly employed in the same period, after unemployment or inactivity.

In the first quarter of 2006, this indicator reached 4.2% on average in the EU-25. In three countries this rate was 7% or more: Spain, Denmark and Sweden.

Chart 4: Share of persons whose job started within past 3 months, 2006Q1 (%)



Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 1. Activity rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 1st quarter 2006

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	70.2	44.0	84.1	44.5	70.2	44.3	84.2	46.0
Less than upper secondary	56.2	34.6	74.9	35.3	54.6	31.8	73.9	36.7
Upper secondary level	75.9	55.2	86.5	47.6	75.6	57.2	86.0	49.3
Tertiary level	86.2	64.1	91.7	65.1	87.1	70.0	92.1	67.1
Men	78.2	47.6	92.9	54.0	77.7	47.6	92.1	55.8
Less than upper secondary	68.2	40.0	89.9	46.5	65.2	36.9	87.9	46.7
Upper secondary level	82.3	59.1	93.5	53.8	81.9	61.3	92.6	56.3
Tertiary level	89.7	61.9	95.8	70.3	90.2	68.6	96.0	71.1
Women	62.1	40.3	75.3	35.3	62.8	40.8	76.2	36.8
Less than upper secondary	44.6	28.5	59.9	26.8	44.5	26.0	60.4	29.2
Upper secondary level	69.3	51.5	79.4	41.1	69.1	53.2	79.0	41.4
Tertiary level	82.6	65.6	87.7	57.0	84.0	71.0	88.5	61.3

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 2. Activity rates by countries, quarters and sex

15-64 years	2006q1 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1
EU-25	214,957	70.2	70.3	69.8	77.7	77.9	77.5	62.8	62.9	62.2
Euro area	145,006	70.2	70.1	69.6	78.2	78.3	77.9	62.1	61.9	61.2
Belgium	4,569	66.1	66.8	66.7	73.2	74.0	73.9	58.9	59.6	59.4
Czech Republic	5,142	70.5	70.7	70.0	78.2	78.3	78.2	62.6	63.0	61.8
Denmark	2,856	80.2	80.1	79.8	83.4	83.2	84.0	76.9	76.8	75.6
Germany	40,662	74.6	74.0	73.4	81.0	80.7	80.1	68.2	67.3	66.7
Estonia	658	72.1	70.1	69.9	75.8	73.6	73.4	68.8	66.8	66.7
Greece	4,785	67.0	66.9	66.5	79.3	79.1	79.2	54.8	54.7	54.0
Spain	21,192	70.4	70.1	69.2	81.1	81.0	80.5	59.5	58.9	57.6
France	27,033	69.4	69.4	69.3	74.8	74.9	74.8	64.1	64.1	63.8
Ireland	2,048	71.0	71.0	69.7	80.8	80.8	79.6	61.1	61.0	59.7
Italy	24,271	62.7	62.9	62.5	74.6	74.7	74.7	50.9	51.2	50.4
Cyprus	363	72.6	72.0	72.5	82.2	82.3	82.8	63.5	62.3	62.7
Latvia	1,102	69.8	69.4	69.5	75.1	73.4	74.6	64.8	65.6	64.8
Lithuania	1,562	67.3	68.0	68.6	70.9	71.4	72.0	63.9	64.8	65.4
Luxembourg	.	.	66.6	.	.	76.0	.	.	57.0	.
Hungary	4,186	61.4	61.7	60.7	67.9	68.3	67.2	55.3	55.3	54.6
Malta	163	59.1	58.1	58.6	81.0	79.7	79.5	36.8	36.1	37.5
Netherlands	8,437	77.0	77.1	76.6	83.4	83.6	83.6	70.5	70.4	69.6
Austria	3,995	72.2	72.5	71.3	78.5	79.7	77.5	66.0	65.4	65.1
Poland	16,540	62.8	64.6	63.7	69.4	70.9	70.3	56.4	58.5	57.2
Portugal	5,234	73.6	73.7	73.1	79.3	79.3	78.9	68.1	68.3	67.5
Slovenia	993	70.9	71.3	70.0	74.7	75.8	74.5	66.9	66.6	65.4
Slovakia	2,649	68.6	69.2	69.1	76.6	77.0	76.2	60.6	61.4	62.1
Finland	2,576	74.0	73.7	73.5	75.6	75.7	75.0	72.3	71.7	72.0
Sweden	4,603	77.7	78.0	75.9	80.0	80.1	78.2	75.3	75.7	73.6
United Kingdom	29,133	75.3	75.4	75.3	81.7	82.1	81.9	69.1	68.9	68.8
Bulgaria	3,223	61.5	62.2	59.9	65.9	67.4	64.6	57.1	57.2	55.3
Croatia	.	.	63.2	.	.	70.3	.	.	56.3	.
Romania	9,357	62.3	61.6	62.2	68.9	68.7	69.4	55.8	54.6	55.1
Iceland	160	84.8	85.6	83.9	87.4	88.8	86.0	82.1	82.3	81.8
Norway	2,367	77.6	78.6	77.3	80.9	82.0	80.6	74.3	75.0	73.9
EEA-28	217,484	70.3	70.4	69.9	77.7	77.9	77.5	63.0	63.0	62.3
Switzerland	.	.	80.8	.	.	87.4	.	.	74.3	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2005 refer to the 2nd half year 2005. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK (2005), the data refer to seasonal quarter (December to February for q1, September to November for q4).

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

Table 3. Employment rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 1st quarter 2006

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	63.8	36.3	77.3	40.9	63.9	36.2	77.4	42.9
Less than upper secondary	49.3	27.6	66.4	32.4	47.7	24.9	65.3	33.9
Upper secondary level	69.0	46.6	79.6	43.0	68.6	47.7	78.9	45.5
Tertiary level	81.5	54.4	87.1	61.8	82.8	60.5	88.0	64.3
Men	71.7	39.5	86.3	49.9	71.1	39.0	85.5	52.0
Less than upper secondary	60.9	32.4	81.6	42.8	57.7	29.0	79.2	43.1
Upper secondary level	75.4	50.2	86.7	48.7	74.9	51.2	85.6	52.0
Tertiary level	85.3	52.7	91.6	66.8	86.2	59.3	92.0	68.1
Women	55.8	32.9	68.2	32.3	56.7	33.4	69.4	34.3
Less than upper secondary	38.0	22.2	51.2	24.5	38.2	20.1	51.8	27.1
Upper secondary level	62.5	43.1	72.4	37.0	62.1	44.3	71.7	38.3
Tertiary level	77.6	55.5	82.8	54.1	79.6	61.4	84.3	58.9

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 4. Employment rates by countries, quarters and sex

15-64 years	2006q1 (1000) ¹	Margin of error ²	Men and women			Men			Women		
			2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1
EU-25	195,493	± 429	63.9 ± 0.1	64.0	63.2	71.1	71.5	70.6	56.7	56.6	55.8
Euro area	131,717	± 360	63.8 ± 0.2	63.8	63.0	71.7	72.0	71.1	55.8	55.5	54.8
Belgium	4,170	± 62	60.3 ± 0.9	61.2	60.9	67.2	68.2	68.1	53.4	54.0	53.7
Czech Republic	4,730	± 40	64.8 ± 0.5	65.2	64.1	73.0	73.6	72.4	56.5	56.7	55.8
Denmark	2,726	± 27	76.5 ± 0.7	76.8	75.2	80.1	79.9	79.2	72.9	73.6	71.1
Germany	36,005	± 212	66.1 ± 0.4	65.9	64.9	71.4	71.8	70.3	60.7	60.0	59.4
Estonia	615	± 22	67.4 ± 2.4	65.0	63.2	70.0	68.0	65.2	64.9	62.2	61.4
Greece	4,314	± 76	60.4 ± 1.1	60.3	59.5	74.2	74.2	73.9	46.7	46.5	45.3
Spain	19,258	± 109	64.0 ± 0.4	64.0	62.1	75.5	75.6	74.2	52.2	52.1	49.7
France	24,430	± 192	62.7 ± 0.5	62.8	62.8	68.2	68.5	68.4	57.3	57.2	57.4
Ireland	1,961	± 12	68.0 ± 0.4	67.8	66.8	77.2	77.0	76.0	58.7	58.4	57.5
Italy	22,397	± 123	57.9 ± 0.3	57.8	57.3	69.9	70.0	69.5	45.8	45.7	45.1
Cyprus	341	± 9	68.2 ± 1.7	68.1	68.4	77.7	78.0	79.3	59.2	58.8	58.1
Latvia	1,015	± 30	64.3 ± 1.9	63.9	62.5	68.6	67.3	67.2	60.2	60.7	58.1
Lithuania	1,461	± 48	63.0 ± 2.1	63.1	61.4	65.7	66.1	64.5	60.4	60.3	58.6
Luxembourg	.	.	.	63.6	.	.	73.3	.	.	53.7	.
Hungary	3,863	± 61	56.7 ± 0.9	57.1	56.4	62.7	63.4	62.5	51.0	51.2	50.6
Malta	150	± 5	54.4 ± 1.8	53.8	54.6	75.2	74.5	74.5	33.3	32.8	34.5
Netherlands	8,053	± 79	73.5 ± 0.7	73.6	72.5	79.9	80.1	79.3	67.0	67.0	65.6
Austria	3,772	± 37	68.2 ± 0.7	68.8	67.6	74.2	75.8	73.4	62.3	61.8	61.7
Poland	13,841	± 163	52.6 ± 0.6	53.7	51.5	58.5	59.8	57.5	46.8	47.6	45.6
Portugal	4,805	± 57	67.6 ± 0.8	67.4	67.3	73.8	73.4	73.4	61.5	61.7	61.4
Slovenia	923	± 18	65.9 ± 1.3	66.0	65.2	70.6	70.6	69.9	61.1	61.3	60.2
Slovakia	2,251	± 22	58.3 ± 0.6	58.5	56.9	65.8	65.9	63.1	50.8	51.2	50.8
Finland	2,358	± 16	67.7 ± 0.5	68.0	66.7	69.2	70.2	67.9	66.1	65.9	65.6
Sweden	4,238	± 18	71.5 ± 0.3	72.3	70.7	73.8	74.4	72.4	69.2	70.2	68.9
United Kingdom	27,622	± 130	71.4 ± 0.3	71.6	71.8	77.0	77.6	77.7	65.9	65.7	66.0
Bulgaria	2,908	± 70	55.5 ± 1.3	56.0	53.0	59.6	60.6	56.9	51.5	51.6	49.2
Croatia	.	.	.	55.2	.	.	62.5	.	.	48.2	.
Romania	8,595	± 160	57.2 ± 1.1	57.2	56.6	62.8	63.4	62.7	51.7	51.1	50.7
Iceland	156	± 2	82.8 ± 1.3	83.3	81.3	85.5	85.9	82.9	79.9	80.5	79.7
Norway	2,275	± 14	74.6 ± 0.5	75.5	73.8	77.6	78.6	76.7	71.5	72.2	70.9
EEA-28	197,924	± 429	64.0 ± 0.1	64.2	63.3	71.2	71.6	70.6	56.8	56.7	56.0
Switzerland	.	.	.	77.2	.	.	83.9	.	.	70.4	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Tables 3 and 4 refer to EMPLOYMENT rates, whereas tables 1 and 2 refer to ACTIVITY rates. Both concepts are defined in the methodological notes (p11). Breaks in series are also mentioned in the methodological notes.

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2005 refer to the 2nd half year 2005. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK (2005), the data refer to seasonal quarter (December to February for q1, September to November for q4).

¹ Number of persons aged 15-64 in employment.

² Confidence limit of the number of persons aged 15-64 in employment, at a level of confidence of 95%, in thousands of people.

Table 5. Part-time employment as share of total employment, by broad groups of economic activity in the main job, age groups and sex, 1st quarter 2006

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	20.0	25.0	18.4	25.5	19.1	26.3	16.8	26.9
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	19.3	21.1	13.2	33.9	20.7	29.9	14.5	35.3
Industry, incl. Energy	9.3	11.3	8.3	15.1	8.1	10.4	7.0	14.5
Construction	6.0	5.1	5.3	12.1	5.9	5.3	5.0	12.4
Trade, transport and communication services	21.3	33.9	18.7	24.3	21.2	37.5	17.2	26.1
Business activities and financial services	21.6	25.8	20.1	29.5	19.9	22.5	18.0	30.3
Other services	28.5	31.3	28.0	29.9	26.9	31.1	25.4	32.6
Men	7.7	17.6	5.3	14.5	7.9	19.2	4.9	16.0
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	12.0	18.3	5.5	26.6	14.1	25.7	7.4	28.6
Industry, incl. Energy	3.7	9.0	2.4	8.6	3.5	8.3	2.1	8.6
Construction	3.1	4.3	2.2	8.3	3.2	4.4	2.1	8.9
Trade, transport and communication services	9.2	26.9	5.7	14.0	9.9	30.2	5.5	15.3
Business activities and financial services	8.8	23.8	6.1	17.6	8.7	20.7	5.5	19.9
Other services	11.7	24.5	9.7	15.8	11.7	26.4	8.7	18.8
Women	35.9	34.1	35.2	42.3	33.1	34.9	31.4	43.0
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	34.2	30.4	28.9	46.6	33.5	42.2	27.7	47.2
Industry, incl. Energy	23.9	17.4	23.4	35.9	19.8	16.1	18.7	33.0
Construction	39.5	.	39.2	56.8	36.6	21.7 ^u	35.9	52.5
Trade, transport and communication services	37.2	41.0	35.9	41.3	35.8	44.5	32.7	43.9
Business activities and financial services	36.1	27.5	35.5	50.5	32.8	23.9	32.0	47.7
Other services	38.1	34.6	38.1	40.7	35.2	33.4	34.2	42.4

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

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

15+ years	2006q1 (1000) ¹	Margin of error ²	Men and women			Men			Women		
			2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1
EU-25	37,864	± 279	19.1	18.4	18.6	7.9	7.4	7.5	33.1	32.4	32.6
Euro area	26,645	± 240	20.0	19.1	19.3	7.7	7.0	7.1	35.9	34.8	35.2
Belgium	935	± 40	22.2	21.8	22.4	7.5	7.4	8.2	41.0	40.5	40.8
Czech Republic	243	± 13	5.1	5.0	4.9	2.3	2.2	2.1	8.7	8.8	8.4
Denmark	636	± 27	23.0	22.0	22.0	13.2	12.1	13.0	34.0	33.2	32.4
Germany	9,657	± 151	26.4	24.1	24.3	9.8	7.9	7.8	46.4	43.8	44.1
Estonia	50	± 8	7.9	7.5	9.7	5.1	4.4 ^u	6.2	10.6	10.5	13.1
Greece	255	± 19	5.8	5.2	4.9	2.9	2.5	2.2	10.4	9.6	9.1
Spain	2,414	± 87	12.4	12.0	13.1	4.5	4.4	4.8	24.1	23.3	25.8
France	4,242	± 116	17.3	17.1	17.4	5.8	5.6	5.8	30.7	30.6	30.9
Ireland	.	.	.	.	17.1	.	.	6.3	.	.	31.8
Italy	3,067	± 74	13.5	13.1	13.1	4.9	4.8	4.8	26.7	26.1	25.9
Cyprus	30	± 3	8.5	9.1	9.0	4.7	5.3	5.0	13.4	14.1	14.2
Latvia	83	± 18	7.8	8.2	8.0	5.7	6.5	5.8	10.1	9.9	10.5
Lithuania	181	± 18	12.2	7.9	7.4	10.2	5.7	6.0	14.2	10.2	8.8
Luxembourg	.	.	.	17.4	.	.	2.5	.	.	38.2	.
Hungary	150	± 11	3.9	4.0	4.0	2.5	2.6	2.6	5.5	5.6	5.6
Malta	15	± 2	10.0	9.7	9.7	4.6	4.8	3.8	22.4	21.2	22.6
Netherlands	3,794	± 67	46.5	46.2	46.1	23.2	22.9	22.6	75.0	74.9	75.3
Austria	858	± 24	22.5	21.8	21.0	6.9	6.4	5.9	40.9	40.5	38.9
Poland	1,440	± 82	10.2	10.9	10.7	7.6	8.2	8.4	13.4	14.2	13.6
Portugal	566	± 32	11.0	10.9	11.5	7.1	6.7	7.1	15.8	15.8	16.7
Slovenia	86	± 6	9.1	9.6	8.8	7.0	7.2	7.4	11.5	12.5	10.4
Slovakia	60	± 7	2.6	2.6	2.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	4.3	4.3	3.9
Finland	344	± 12	14.4	14.1	14.5	9.3	9.3	9.9	19.9	19.3	19.3
Sweden	1,062	± 21	24.6	24.5	24.3	11.8	11.5	12.5	38.9	38.7	37.2
United Kingdom	7,185	± 107	25.4	25.1	25.4	10.4	10.3	10.4	42.6	42.3	42.6
Bulgaria	58	± 8	2.0	1.9	2.1	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.6	2.3	2.5
Croatia	.	.	.	10.0	.	.	7.3	.	.	13.4	.
Romania	880	± 98	9.8	9.8	9.8	10.2	9.8	10.5	9.3	9.8	9.0
Iceland	42	± 2	25.9	25.8	25.0	11.8	11.0	10.1	42.0	42.2	41.2
Norway	665	± 17	28.8	27.7	29.1	14.0	13.3	14.6	45.2	43.9	45.2
EEA-28	38,572	± 280	19.2	18.6	18.7	8.0	7.5	7.6	33.3	32.5	32.8
Switzerland	.	.	.	33.1	.	.	11.8	.	.	58.8	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2005 refer to the 2nd half year 2005. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK (2005), the data refer to seasonal quarter (December to February for q1, September to November for q4). Data on part-time / full-time distinction are missing for Ireland since the second quarter 2005.

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

² Confidence limit of the number of part-time employed people, at a level of confidence of 95%, in thousands of people.

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, 1st quarter 2006

	Euro area			EU-25		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time
Men and women	37.3	41.4	20.6	37.5	41.5	20.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	41.6	46.7	20.2	39.3	44.3	19.6
Industry, incl. Energy	38.9	40.7	20.7	39.4	41.1	20.8
Construction	40.2	41.5	20.2	40.7	42.0	20.1
Trade, transport and communication services	38.4	43.4	19.9	38.3	43.3	19.6
Business activities and financial services	37.5	42.0	20.8	37.8	41.9	20.7
Other services	33.9	39.0	21.1	34.4	39.3	21.1
Men	40.8	42.4	20.7	40.9	42.6	20.4
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	44.8	48.0	21.5	42.4	45.9	20.3
Industry, incl. Energy	40.4	41.1	20.8	40.8	41.5	20.9
Construction	41.0	41.6	21.4	41.5	42.1	21.5
Trade, transport and communication services	42.1	44.3	19.4	41.9	44.3	19.3
Business activities and financial services	41.5	43.4	20.7	41.4	43.3	20.5
Other services	38.2	40.4	21.7	38.6	40.8	21.3
Women	32.6	39.4	20.6	33.2	39.5	20.5
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	34.8	42.9	19.3	33.3	40.3	19.0
Industry, incl. Energy	34.9	39.4	20.7	36.0	39.7	20.8
Construction	31.7	39.9	19.2	32.1	39.8	18.8
Trade, transport and communication services	33.6	41.6	20.1	33.7	41.4	19.8
Business activities and financial services	32.9	39.7	20.8	33.6	39.8	20.8
Other services	31.4	37.8	21.0	32.2	38.1	21.1

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

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

15+ years	2006q1 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1
EU-25	182,715	37.5 ± 0.1	37.7	37.4	40.9	41.1	40.8	33.2	33.2	33.0
Euro area	123,357	37.3 ± 0.1	37.3	37.2	40.8	40.9	40.8	32.6	32.6	32.5
Belgium	3,762	37.6 ± 0.5	36.6	37.1	41.1	40.0	40.8	33.1	32.3	32.4
Czech Republic	4,538	42.1 ± 0.1	41.3	41.9	43.8	43.2	43.7	39.8	38.8	39.5
Denmark	2,462	35.9 ± 0.4	35.8	35.2	38.7	38.7	38.0	32.6	32.3	31.7
Germany	34,770	35.8 ± 0.2	37.3	36.6	40.6	42.1	41.3	30.1	31.3	30.8
Estonia	616	40.0 ± 0.4	40.2	39.5	41.1	41.6	40.9	38.9	38.8	38.2
Greece	4,245	41.6 ± 0.4	42.1	41.6	43.6	44.1	43.5	38.3	38.8	38.3
Spain	17,393	39.1 ± 0.2	38.3	38.3	41.8	40.9	41.0	35.1	34.3	34.3
France	22,310	37.4 ± 0.1	36.6	37.0	40.5	39.5	40.1	33.8	33.0	33.4
Ireland	1,822	37.0	37.9	37.0	41.2	42.3	41.2	31.1	31.6	31.1
Italy	21,225	38.2 ± 0.1	37.9	37.9	40.7	40.8	40.8	34.0	33.4	33.2
Cyprus	336	39.3 ± 0.4	39.8	38.8	41.5	42.2	41.1	36.4	36.8	35.7
Latvia	1,028	41.2 ± 0.6	42.0	42.0	42.7	43.7	43.3	39.6	40.3	40.7
Lithuania	1,430	38.1 ± 0.3	38.4	38.2	39.3	39.6	39.2	36.9	37.0	37.0
Luxembourg	.	.	38.1	.	.	41.3	.	.	33.4	.
Hungary	3,756	40.3 ± 0.1	40.8	40.0	41.4	42.0	41.1	39.1	39.3	38.7
Malta	147	39.4 ± 0.6	39.0	40.5	41.4	41.0	42.9	34.7	34.1	35.2
Netherlands	7,197	32.0	32.5	31.7	37.3	38.1	37.0	25.2	25.3	24.9
Austria	3,421	39.1 ± 0.3	38.7	39.0	43.4	43.0	43.2	33.7	33.2	33.9
Poland	13,547	40.3 ± 0.2	40.3	40.1	42.5	42.8	42.2	37.7	37.2	37.4
Portugal	4,932	39.4 ± 0.2	38.5	38.8	41.3	40.2	40.8	37.2	36.4	36.4
Slovenia	867	40.2 ± 0.3	40.5	40.5	41.4	41.9	41.7	38.6	38.8	38.9
Slovakia	2,185	40.9 ± 0.2	41.2	41.0	42.0	42.2	42.0	39.6	39.8	39.8
Finland	2,110	37.3 ± 0.2	37.0	36.5	39.5	39.2	38.5	35.0	34.5	34.3
Sweden	3,830	36.3 ± 0.1	36.4	35.3	39.1	39.2	38.1	33.1	33.1	32.1
United Kingdom	24,617	35.6 ± 0.2	36.5	35.4	40.1	41.1	40.0	30.3	31.0	30.1
Bulgaria	2,645	40.8 ± 0.2	41.1	40.5	41.3	41.5	41.0	40.3	40.6	40.0
Croatia	.	.	40.2	.	.	41.5	.	.	38.6	.
Romania	8,841	39.1 ± 0.3	40.1	39.4	39.8	41.0	40.1	38.3	38.9	38.6
Iceland	149	41.3 ± 0.6	41.7	40.7	46.4	47.5	46.7	35.3	35.0	33.9
Norway	2,061	35.3 ± 0.4	35.4	34.4	38.9	39.0	37.8	31.0	31.1	30.4
EEA-28	184,924	37.5 ± 0.1	37.7	37.4	40.9	41.1	40.7	33.2	33.2	33.0
Switzerland	.	.	37.7	.	.	43.7	.	.	30.3	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2005 refer to the 2nd half year 2005. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK (2005), the data refer to seasonal quarter (December to February for q1, September to November for q4).

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

Table 9. Share of employees with temporary contracts by broad groups of economic activity in the main job, age groups and sex, 1st quarter 2006

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	16.0	48.6	12.6	6.7	14.2	40.1	11.4	7.2
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	37.2	57.0	34.5	26.9	29.9	49.9	27.7	21.2
Industry, incl. Energy	11.6	47.7	7.9	3.7	11.4	42.4	8.4	4.4
Construction	24.3	49.0	20.4	12.9	20.6	40.8	17.7	10.3
Trade, transport and communication services	15.3	44.3	10.3	5.5	13.7	34.9	9.7	5.6
Business activities and financial services	13.7	45.4	10.9	5.8	12.3	35.6	9.9	7.3
Other services	17.3	55.8	15.1	6.8	14.9	47.2	12.9	7.9
Men	15.3	48.8	11.6	6.6	13.7	40.3	10.7	7.1
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	33.2	54.5	29.3	26.2	27.2	48.0	24.1	20.3
Industry, incl. Energy	11.1	47.9	7.2	3.6	10.8	42.5	7.5	4.3
Construction	25.2	48.8	21.4	13.5	21.5	40.8	18.7	10.9
Trade, transport and communication services	14.0	45.0	9.1	5.6	12.4	34.8	8.5	5.7
Business activities and financial services	12.8	44.9	10.3	5.9	11.7	35.6	9.5	7.9
Other services	15.8	60.1	13.6	6.2	14.3	50.4	12.2	7.8
Women	17.0	48.3	13.8	6.7	14.9	39.9	12.2	7.2
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	46.8	65.2	46.1	.	36.7	56.0	35.9	23.5u
Industry, incl. Energy	13.0	47.2	9.7	4.0u	13.1	42.3	10.5	5.0
Construction	13.5	52.4	10.2	.	11.5	40.3	8.7	.
Trade, transport and communication services	16.9	43.7	11.7	5.4	15.3	35.1	11.1	5.4
Business activities and financial services	14.5	45.8	11.4	5.6	12.8	35.7	10.3	6.6
Other services	18.1	53.7	16.0	7.2	15.3	45.6	13.3	7.9

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

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

15+ years	2006q1 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1
EU-25	23,611	14.2	14.7	13.8	13.7	14.2	13.3	14.9	15.2	14.4
Euro area	17,804	16.0	16.4	15.5	15.3	15.7	14.7	17.0	17.3	16.3
Belgium	302	8.5	8.4	8.9	6.8	6.7	6.4	10.5	10.5	11.9
Czech Republic	331	8.2	8.8	8.1	7.0	7.6	7.1	9.7	10.3	9.3
Denmark	230	9.1	9.4	9.8	8.5	8.3	8.4	9.7	10.5	11.3
Germany	4,548	14.2	14.8	13.9	14.4	15.0	14.1	13.9	14.6	13.7
Estonia	21	3.6	2.6u	2.1u	4.0u	3.6u	.	3.2u	.	.
Greece	264	9.5	11.7	11.4	8.1	10.2	9.9	11.6	14.0	13.6
Spain	5,296	33.3	33.8	31.9	31.3	32.0	30.4	36.1	36.3	34.0
France	2,768	12.7	13.1	12.4	12.3	12.8	11.6	13.2	13.5	13.3
Ireland	47	2.8	2.9	4.3	2.5	2.5	3.4	3.2	3.3	5.4
Italy	2,112	12.7	12.7	11.7	10.6	10.6	9.9	15.4	15.6	14.1
Cyprus	34	12.4	14.4	12.7	7.3	9.2	8.1	18.0	20.0	18.0
Latvia	72	7.7	9.3	8.6	8.8	13.4	9.7	6.5	5.3	7.4
Lithuania	54	4.4	5.4	5.5	6.5	7.7	7.5	2.3u	3.2u	3.6u
Luxembourg	.	.	5.3	.	.	4.9	.	.	5.8	.
Hungary	198	5.8	7.3	6.1	6.3	7.8	6.3	5.4	6.7	5.8
Malta	5	3.7	4.3	5.4	2.7u	3.9	4.4	5.6u	5.3u	7.3
Netherlands	1,118	15.7	15.8	14.8	14.7	14.6	13.8	16.8	17.2	16.1
Austria	300	9.1	9.0	8.7	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.0	8.7	8.4
Poland	2,694	25.4	26.5	24.1	26.2	27.4	25.2	24.6	25.5	22.8
Portugal	742	19.2	19.5	19.1	18.2	18.6	18.2	20.4	20.4	20.1
Slovenia	131	16.6	17.6	16.9	14.4	15.2	15.4	19.0	20.2	18.5
Slovakia	87	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.3	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.8	4.9
Finland	298	14.4	15.3	14.3	10.4	11.7	10.3	18.2	18.9	18.0
Sweden	587	15.3	15.5	14.5	13.4	13.6	12.4	17.2	17.4	16.5
United Kingdom	1,362	5.6	5.6	5.8	4.8	5.1	5.2	6.4	6.1	6.4
Bulgaria	124	4.8	5.8	4.7	5.0	6.1	4.6	4.7	5.5	4.8
Croatia	.	.	11.9	.	.	12.1	.	.	11.6	.
Romania	115	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.8	1.5	1.5	2.0
Iceland	10	7.4	7.0	6.8	6.6	5.9	5.1	8.1	8.0	8.4
Norway	210	9.9	8.8	9.0	7.3	6.8	7.1	12.6	11.0	10.9
EEA-28	23,830	14.2	14.6	13.7	13.6	14.1	13.2	14.8	15.2	14.3
Switzerland	.	.	12.7	.	.	12.4	.	.	12.9	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2005 refer to the 2nd half year 2005. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK (2005), the data refer to seasonal quarter (December to February for q1, September to November for q4).

¹ Number of employees aged 15 years having temporary job contracts.

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, 1st quarter 2006

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15+	15-24	25-54	55+	15+	15-24	25-54	55+
Men and women	4.5	12.4	3.9	1.5	4.2	11.9	3.6	1.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	4.9	13.3	5.1	1.9u	3.7	11.1	3.7	1.5
Industry, incl. Energy	3.6	11.0	3.1	1.1u	3.5	10.9	3.0	1.2
Construction	6.8	12.0	6.4	3.0	6.0	11.6	5.6	2.4
Trade, transport and communication services	5.0	12.9	4.1	1.7	4.8	12.0	3.8	1.8
Business activities and financial services	5.1	14.5	4.7	1.5u	4.8	13.6	4.3	1.7
Other services	3.7	12.0	3.3	1.3	3.5	12.0	3.1	1.4
Men	4.3	12.0	3.8	1.6	4.1	11.6	3.5	1.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	4.7	13.0	4.6	2.2u	3.7	10.5	3.5	1.8u
Industry, incl. Energy	3.3	10.9	2.7	1.0u	3.3	11.0	2.6	1.2
Construction	7.0	12.3	6.6	3.2	6.2	11.8	5.7	2.6
Trade, transport and communication services	4.5	12.7	3.7	1.3	4.3	12.0	3.5	1.5
Business activities and financial services	4.9	14.2	4.6	.	4.7	13.4	4.4	1.7
Other services	2.9	10.5	2.6	1.3	3.0	11.1	2.6	1.4
Women	4.7	12.8	4.1	1.5	4.4	12.2	3.8	1.6
Agriculture, hunting and fishing	5.1	.	6.1	.	3.7	12.8u	4.0	.
Industry, incl. Energy	4.4	11.1	4.0	.	4.2	10.7	3.8	.
Construction	4.4	.	4.5	.	4.1	.	4.1	.
Trade, transport and communication services	5.6	13.0	4.5	2.2	5.4	12.1	4.2	2.2
Business activities and financial services	5.4	14.7	4.7	.	5.0	13.7	4.3	1.8u
Other services	4.1	12.7	3.7	1.3	3.8	12.5	3.4	1.5

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

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

15+ years	2006q1 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1
EU-25	8,374	4.2	4.9	4.0	4.1	4.5	3.9	4.4	5.3	4.2
Euro area	5,970	4.5	4.9	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.1	4.7	5.4	4.3
Belgium	160	3.8	4.7	3.3	3.5	4.1	3.2	4.2	5.5	3.5
Czech Republic	137	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.7	3.3	3.2	3.3
Denmark	193	7.0	7.5	6.2	6.3	6.7	5.4	7.8	8.5	7.0
Germany	1,307	3.6	4.4	3.4	3.3	4.0	3.4	3.9	4.9	3.5
Estonia	32	5.0	4.7	4.2	5.6	4.1u	4.8u	4.4u	5.4	3.6u
Greece	130	3.0	1.6	1.5	3.2	1.4	1.5	2.6	1.8	1.6
Spain	1,430	7.4	7.9	7.2	6.7	6.9	6.8	8.2	9.3	7.8
France	1,395	5.7	6.3	5.5	5.9	6.7	5.5	5.4	5.9	5.4
Ireland	101	5.0	5.9	5.3	4.8	5.2	4.9	5.4	7.0	5.9
Italy	873	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.7	3.2	3.2	4.1	5.1	3.7
Cyprus	14	4.1	4.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.0	4.6	5.8	4.3
Latvia	46	4.4	5.8	5.2	4.9	7.0	5.1	3.7	4.5	5.4
Lithuania	56	3.8	3.8	3.1	4.6	4.1	3.6	2.9u	3.5	2.5u
Luxembourg	.	.	2.5	.	.	2.3	.	.	2.9	.
Hungary	110	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.4	3.0	2.9	2.3
Malta	3u	1.8u	2.9	1.7u	1.9u	2.2u	.	.	4.4u	.
Netherlands	108	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.1
Austria	154	4.0	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.7	4.3	4.9	3.9
Poland	492	3.5	4.4	3.3	3.7	4.7	3.4	3.3	4.0	3.2
Portugal	170	3.3	3.0	2.9	3.2	2.8	2.8	3.5	3.2	3.0
Slovenia	32	3.3	4.5	3.5	3.1	4.2	3.6	3.6	4.7	3.5
Slovakia	61	2.7	3.1	3.4	2.9	2.9	3.3	2.5	3.3	3.5
Finland	136	5.7	6.2	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.1	6.2	7.1	5.7
Sweden	302	7.0	7.2	3.9	6.2	6.4	4.0	7.9	8.1	3.9
United Kingdom	928	3.3	5.3	4.0	3.1	4.8	3.9	3.5	5.8	4.2
Bulgaria	143	4.9	4.6	5.0	5.4	4.9	5.3	4.3	4.3	4.7
Croatia	.	.	4.1	.	.	4.2	.	.	4.0	.
Romania	605	6.7	2.2	7.4	5.4	2.4	6.6	8.3	1.9	8.3
Iceland	10	6.1	7.1	4.6	5.8	6.3	4.7	6.5	8.0	4.5
Norway	112	4.8	2.4	.	4.9	2.4	.	4.7	2.3	.
EEA-28	8,496	4.2	4.9	4.0	4.1	4.5	3.9	4.4	5.3	4.2
Switzerland	.	.	4.0	.	.	3.7	.	.	4.3	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2005 refer to the 2nd half year 2005. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK (2005), the data refer to seasonal quarter (December to February for q1, September to November for q4).

¹ Number of persons aged 15 years or more whose job started within the past 3 months.

Table 13. Unemployment rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 1st quarter 2006

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	9.2	17.5	8.2	7.9	9.1	18.2	8.0	6.8
Less than upper secondary	12.3	20.2	11.4	8.1	12.6	21.9	11.7	7.5
Upper secondary level	9.0	15.7	8.0	9.6	9.3	16.6	8.2	7.7
Tertiary level	5.5	15.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	13.6	4.4	4.1
Men	8.3	17.0	7.2	7.7	8.4	18.2	7.3	6.8
Less than upper secondary	10.7	19.0	9.3	7.9	11.5	21.2	9.9	7.8
Upper secondary level	8.3	15.2	7.2	9.4	8.6	16.5	7.5	7.7
Tertiary level	4.9	14.8	4.4	5.0	4.5	13.6	4.1	4.3
Women	10.3	18.2	9.4	8.3	9.8	18.2	9.0	6.7
Less than upper secondary	14.7	22.1	14.6	8.4	14.3	22.9	14.1	7.0
Upper secondary level	9.9	16.2	8.9	9.9	10.1	16.8	9.2	7.7
Tertiary level	6.1	15.3	5.6	5.0	5.2	13.6	4.8	3.8

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Table 14. Unemployment rates by countries, quarters and sex

15-64 years	2006q1 (1000) ¹	Margin of error ²	Men and women			Men			Women		
			2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1
EU-25	19,465	± 221	9.1 ± 0.1	9.0	9.5	8.4	8.2	8.9	9.8	10.0	10.2
Euro area	13,289	± 184	9.2 ± 0.1	9.0	9.5	8.3	8.0	8.7	10.3	10.3	10.5
Belgium	399	± 32	8.7 ± 0.7	8.5	8.6	8.2	7.8	7.9	9.4	9.4	9.6
Czech Republic	412	± 18	8.0 ± 0.4	7.8	8.4	6.7	6.1	7.4	9.7	10.0	9.7
Denmark	130	± 14	4.6 ± 0.5	4.1	5.8	3.9	4.0	5.7	5.3	4.2	6.0
Germany	4,657	± 119	11.5 ± 0.3	10.9	11.7	11.8	11.0	12.2	11.0	10.9	11.0
Estonia	44	± 8	6.6 ± 1.2	7.3	9.6	7.6	7.5	11.2	5.7	7.0	7.9
Greece	471	± 20	9.8 ± 0.4	9.8	10.6	6.4	6.2	6.7	14.8	15.1	16.2
Spain	1,933	± 55	9.1 ± 0.3	8.8	10.3	6.9	6.7	7.8	12.3	11.7	13.7
France	2,603	± 102	9.6 ± 0.4	9.6	9.3	8.9	8.6	8.7	10.5	10.8	10.0
Ireland	88	± 6	4.3 ± 0.3	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.0	4.2	3.7
Italy	1,873	± 64	7.7 ± 0.3	8.1	8.3	6.2	6.3	6.9	10.0	10.7	10.4
Cyprus	22	± 3	6.1 ± 0.8	5.4	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.3	6.7	5.6	7.4
Latvia	87	± 16	7.9 ± 1.4	7.9	10.2	8.7	8.3	9.9	7.0	7.4	10.4
Lithuania	101	± 13	6.5 ± 0.8	7.2	10.4	7.4	7.5	10.4	5.5	6.9	10.4
Luxembourg	.	.	.	4.5	.	.	3.5	.	.	5.8	.
Hungary	323	± 18	7.7 ± 0.4	7.3	7.1	7.7	7.2	7.0	7.8	7.5	7.2
Malta	13	± 2	7.9 ± 1.2	7.4	6.8	7.2	6.6	6.2	9.5	9.2	7.9
Netherlands	384	± 18	4.5 ± 0.2	4.5	5.3	4.2	4.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.6
Austria	223	± 15	5.6 ± 0.4	5.2	5.3	5.6	4.9	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.3
Poland	2,699	± 101	16.3 ± 0.6	17.0	19.1	15.8	15.6	18.2	17.0	18.6	20.3
Portugal	430	± 16	8.2 ± 0.3	8.5	7.9	7.0	7.5	6.9	9.6	9.7	9.1
Slovenia	70	± 6	7.0 ± 0.6	7.4	6.9	5.5	6.8	6.2	8.8	8.0	7.9
Slovakia	398	± 16	15.0 ± 0.8	15.4	17.6	14.1	14.4	17.1	16.2	16.6	18.2
Finland	218	± 9	8.5 ± 0.3	7.7	9.2	8.5	7.2	9.5	8.5	8.1	8.9
Sweden	365	± 11	7.9 ± 0.3	7.2	6.9	7.8	7.2	7.4	8.1	7.3	6.4
United Kingdom	1,511	± 56	5.2 ± 0.2	5.1	4.6	5.7	5.4	5.1	4.6	4.7	4.1
Bulgaria	315	± 24	9.8 ± 0.7	10.0	11.5	9.6	10.2	11.9	9.9	9.8	11.0
Croatia	.	.	.	12.6	.	.	11.2	.	.	14.4	.
Romania	762	± 52	8.1 ± 0.6	7.2	8.9	8.8	7.8	9.7	7.3	6.5	7.9
Iceland	4	± 1	2.4 ± 0.5	2.7	3.1	2.2	3.2	3.6	2.7	2.2	2.5
Norway	92	± 7	3.9 ± 0.3	3.9	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.8	3.7	3.7	4.1
EEA-28	19,560	± 221	9.0 ± 0.1	8.9	9.4	8.4	8.1	8.9	9.7	9.9	10.1
Switzerland	.	.	.	4.5	.	.	4.0	.	.	5.2	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Notes: Breaks in series are mentioned in the methodological notes (p11).

The unemployment rate calculated here is directly derived from the Labour Force Survey data. The adjusted unemployment series (15+) published on a monthly basis by Eurostat can differ from these results.

The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2005 refer to the 2nd half year 2005. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK (2005), the data refer to seasonal quarter (December to February for q1, September to November for q4).¹ Number of unemployed persons aged 15-64.² Confidence limit of the number of unemployed persons aged 15-64, at a level of confidence of 95%, in thousands of people.

Table 15. Long term unemployment rates by levels of educational attainment, age groups and sex, 1st quarter 2006

	Euro area				EU-25			
	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64	15-64	15-24	25-54	55-64
Men and women	3.9	4.8	3.7	5.1	3.9	5.1	3.7	4.1
Less than upper secondary	5.6	6.6	5.5	5.0	5.7	6.9	5.7	4.5
Upper secondary level	3.9	3.8	3.6	6.2	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.6
Tertiary level	2.0	2.1	1.8	3.4	1.7	2.1	1.5	2.6
Men	3.5	4.6	3.1	4.9	3.6	5.1	3.3	4.1
Less than upper secondary	4.6	5.9	4.3	4.7	5.0	6.7	4.6	4.6
Upper secondary level	3.5	3.7	3.2	6.0	3.8	4.4	3.6	4.6
Tertiary level	1.9	.	1.7	3.6	1.7	2.0u	1.4	2.8
Women	4.5	4.9	4.3	5.4	4.3	5.0	4.2	4.0
Less than upper secondary	7.0	7.5	7.3	5.4	6.7	7.2	7.1	4.3
Upper secondary level	4.3	3.9	4.2	6.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.7
Tertiary level	2.1	.	2.0	3.2	1.7	2.2	1.6	2.2

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

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

15-64 years	2006q1 (1000) ¹	Men and women			Men			Women		
		2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1	2006q1	2005q4	2005q1
EU-25	8,435	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.3	4.5	4.6
Euro area	5,726	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.5	4.5	4.6	4.6
Belgium	199	4.4	4.3	4.6	3.8	3.8	4.0	5.1	5.0	5.2
Czech Republic	217	4.2	4.1	4.5	3.6	3.3	3.7	5.0	5.1	5.6
Denmark	27	1.0	0.9	1.3	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.4
Germany	2,417	5.9	6.1	5.6	5.9	6.2	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.5
Estonia	22	3.3	3.7	5.0	3.7u	3.2u	5.6	3.0u	4.2u	4.4u
Greece	244	5.1	5.0	5.4	2.8	2.6	2.7	8.5	8.4	9.3
Spain	418	2.0	2.1	2.5	1.3	1.4	1.6	2.9	3.1	3.9
France	1,039	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.3	4.2	4.3	4.2
Ireland	29	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.9	2.0	0.8	0.9	0.9
Italy	882	3.6	3.9	4.0	2.8	2.9	3.2	4.8	5.4	5.2
Cyprus	4	1.0	1.2	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.6	1.8
Latvia	38	3.4	3.4	4.9	4.1	4.2	4.5	2.7	2.6	5.4
Lithuania	49	3.1	3.6	5.7	3.5u	3.6	5.5	2.8u	3.5	5.9
Luxembourg	.	.	1.2	.	.	1.2u	.	.	1.2u	.
Hungary	135	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.1
Malta	5	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.2u	4.0u	.
Netherlands	163	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1
Austria	56	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.5
Poland	1,502	9.1	10.0	10.7	8.5	8.9	9.9	9.8	11.2	11.7
Portugal	222	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.2	5.0	4.8	4.3
Slovenia	32	3.2	3.5	3.1	2.3	3.2	2.9	4.2	3.9	3.5
Slovakia	300	11.3	11.4	12.3	10.5	10.6	12.1	12.3	12.4	12.6
Finland	55	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.7	1.9	1.8	2.1
Sweden	.	.	1.2	.	.	1.4	.	.	1.0	.
United Kingdom	322	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.7
Bulgaria	178	5.5	6.0	6.5	5.3	6.0	6.6	5.8	6.1	6.4
Croatia	.	.	7.3	.	.	6.4	.	.	8.5	.
Romania	438	4.7	4.0	4.7	5.1	4.6	5.3	4.2	3.2	3.9
Iceland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Norway	21	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8
EEA-28	8,456	3.9	4.0	4.1	3.6	3.7	3.7	4.3	4.5	4.5
Switzerland	.	.	1.7	.	.	1.4	.	.	2.0	.

Source: Eurostat, EU-LFS

Note: The data for Luxembourg refer to the whole year 2005. The data for Croatia in the 4th quarter 2005 refer to the 2nd half year 2005. The data for Switzerland refer to the 2nd quarter 2005. The data for France cover the metropolitan territory (excluding overseas regions). In Ireland and UK (2005), the data refer to seasonal quarter (December to February for q1, September to November for q4). Due to ongoing corrections, data are not available in Sweden in 2005q4 and 2006q1.

¹ Number of persons aged 15-64 years in long-term unemployment.

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Source: the European Union Labour Force Survey is a quarterly (except in Luxembourg and Switzerland where it is annual, and in Croatia where every survey covers half a year), large sample survey providing results for the population in private households in the EU, EFTA, Acceding Countries 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 times series available. The concepts and definitions used in the survey follow the guidelines of International Labour Organisation.

BREAKS. From 2005q2 onwards, Swedish data are derived from a revised questionnaire. In particular students looking for a job and available to work are now considered as unemployed according to EU definitions. Therefore Swedish figures for 2006q1 and 2005q4 are not fully comparable with previous quarters.

Confidence limits: All confidence limits are calculated at a level of confidence of 95%. The country limits are derived from coefficients of variation calculated by the National Statistic Institutes. When a coefficient is not available, the coefficient for the last quarter available is taken. For the calculation of limits of aggregates, we assume that the EU-LFS is a stratified sample with the country as the first stratum.

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 and Norway (2006): 15-74; Iceland, Norway (until 2005): 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 (until 2005): 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.

Duration of unemployment is the duration of the search for employment or the length of the period since leaving last job, whichever period is shorter. Long-term unemployed persons are persons who have been unemployed for one year or more.

Employment/activity rates represent employed/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. All rates focus on the working age population (at most 15-64 years).

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 an employment contract or a job which will terminate either after a period fixed in advance, or after a period not known in advance, but nevertheless defined by objective criteria, such as the completion of an assignment or the period of absence of an employee 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 overtime, whether paid or not.

The full-time/part-time distinction in the main job is declared by the respondent except in the Netherlands and Iceland 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.

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 or most weeks of the quarter.

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).

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).









Country codes applied in this publication: EU-25 (European Union), Euro area (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).

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

Symbols: figures flagged with "u" lack reliability due to small sample size or the non-response for the underlying variable is more than 10%; ":" colons are used for unavailable or extremely unreliable data. "I" vertical lines are used to indicate breaks in time-series. Quarter 1 of the year 2006 is written as 2006q1.

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