NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE • MALTA

NEWS RELEASE

26 June 2012 | 1100 hrs | 123/2012

EUROPEAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM

In the first quarter this year, Labour Force Survey estimates indicate an increase of 1.9 per cent in employment when compared to the corresponding quarter of 2011.

Labour Force Survey: Q1/2012

Labour Status

During the first quarter of 2012, nearly half the persons aged 15 and over were employed. Total employment during the first quarter stood at 171,270, while the number of unemployed and inactive persons stood at 11,040 (3 per cent) and 174,805 (49 per cent) respectively (Table 1).

The activity rate for the 15-64 age bracket was estimated at 62 per cent (Table 3). This rate increased by 3 percentage points among females and declined by 1 percentage point among males. More than 75 per cent of the surveyed population aged 25-54 were economically active during the period under review.

The Employed Population

Out of every 100 persons aged 15-64 that were surveyed during the first quarter, 59 were employed. The highest employment rate was recorded among persons aged between 25-54, which varied from 55 per cent among females to 89 per cent among males (Table 4).

The largest share of employed men (33 per cent) were engaged in wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants and transport and communication. On the other hand, nearly half the female employed population worked in other service activities, which include jobs in the Public sector, Education, the Health sector, and Other Community, Social and Personal service activities.

Nearly 18 per cent of the employed population worked in service-oriented jobs (Table 11). This category includes occupations such as hairdressers, waiters and salespersons. Craft-related jobs were predominant among men (16 per cent), while service-oriented occupations were more common among female workers (21 per cent).

In terms of professional status, self-employed accounted for nearly 13 per cent of the total work force (Table 15). Most employed persons, 147,789 or 86 per cent, worked on a full-time basis despite increases in part-time employment (Table 16).

During the period under review, the average gross annual salary of employees was estimated at €15,620. This amount refers to the basic salary and excludes extra payments such as overtime, bonuses and allowances, as explained in the methodological notes. The highest average gross annual salary for employees was recorded in financial, real estate, renting and business activities (Table 9). Results of the Labour Force Survey also revealed that Legislators, Senior Officials and Managerial grades had an average annual salary of €26,369 (Table 13).

The Unemployed Population

The unemployment rate recorded for the first quarter this year declined marginally when compared to 2011 levels, to 6.1 per cent.

The unemployment rate for males stood at 6 per cent and that for females was recorded at 7 per cent (Table 5). Unemployment was higher among persons aged below 25 by over 8 percentage points, when compared to the older counterparts (Table 5). Within the unemployed population, 51 per cent stated that they had been seeking work for at least 12 months (Table 18) ■

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Table 1. Persons aged 15 and over by labour status

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January-March 2012						
Employed	108,934	61.8	62,336	34.5	171,270	48.0
Unemployed	6,491	3.7	4,549	2.5	11,040	3.1
Inactive	60,967	34.6	113,838	63.0	174,805	48.9
Total	**176,392**	**100.0**	**180,723**	**100.0**	**357,115**	**100.0**
January-March (revised) 2011						
Employed	110,218	63.0	57,805	32.3	168,023	47.5
Unemployed	7,046	4.0	4,471	2.5	11,517	3.3
Inactive	57,567	32.9	116,708	65.2	174,275	49.3
Total	**174,831**	**100.0**	**178,984**	**100.0**	**353,815**	**100.0**

Table 2. Labour force distribution

Labour Status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January-March 2012						
Employed	108,934	94.4	62,336	93.2	171,270	93.9
Unemployed	6,491	5.6	4,549	6.8	11,040	6.1
Total	**115,425**	**100.0**	**66,885**	**100.0**	**182,310**	**100.0**
January-March (revised) 2011						
Employed	110,218	94.0	57,805	92.8	168,023	93.6
Unemployed	7,046	6.0	4,471	7.2	11,517	6.4
Total	**117,264**	**100.0**	**62,276**	**100.0**	**179,540**	**100.0**

Table 3. Activity rates by age

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
January-March 2012			
15-24	53.5	46.6	50.2
25-54	93.8	58.2	76.3
55-64	51.6	14.6	32.9
Total	**77.4**	**46.8**	**62.4**
January-March (revised) 2011			
15-24	54.9	43.4	49.4
25-54	95.1	54.3	75.0
55-64	53.3	13.7	33.2
Total	**78.6**	**43.7**	**61.4**

Table 4. Employment rates by age

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
January-March 2012			
15-24	46.2	40.8	43.6
25-54	89.3	55.0	72.5
55-64	50.4	13.9	31.9
Total	**73.0**	**43.6**	**58.6**
January-March (revised) 2011			
15-24	48.1	36.2	42.4
25-54	90.0	51.6	71.1
55-64	51.3	13.2	32.0
Total	**73.8**	**40.5**	**57.4**

Table 5. Unemployment rates by age

Age group	Sex		Total
	Males	Females	
	%	%	%
January-March 2012			
15-24	13.6	12.5	13.1
25+	4.4	5.5	4.8
Total	**5.6**	**6.8**	**6.1**
January-March (revised) 2011			
15-24	12.3	16.7	14.1
25+	5.0	4.9	5.0
Total	**6.0**	**7.2**	**6.4**

Table 6. Distribution of employed persons by age

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January-March 2012						
15-24	13,494	12.4	11,166	17.9	24,660	14.4
25-34	28,649	26.3	21,639	34.7	50,288	29.4
35-44	25,092	23.0	14,281	22.9	39,373	23.0
45-54	25,357	23.3	10,780	17.3	36,137	21.1
55-64	14,653	13.5	4,133	6.6	18,786	11.0
65+	1,689[u]	1.6[u]	337[u]	0.5[u]	2,026	1.2
Total	**108,934**	**100.0**	**62,336**	**100.0**	**171,270**	**100.0**
January-March (revised) 2011						
15-24	14,401	13.1	9,966	17.2	24,367	14.5
25-34	29,285	26.6	21,094	36.5	50,379	30.0
35-44	23,825	21.6	12,321	21.3	36,146	21.5
45-54	25,966	23.6	10,295	17.8	36,261	21.6
55-64	14,935	13.6	3,935	6.8	18,870	11.2
65+	1,806[u]	1.6[u]	194[u]	0.3[u]	2,000[u]	1.2[u]
Total	**110,218**	**100.0**	**57,805**	**100.0**	**168,023**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 7. Distribution of employed persons by economic activity: January-March 2012

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing	1,509[u]	1.4[u]	201[u]	0.3[u]	1,710[u]	1.0[u]
Industry, including energy	20,696	19.0	6,496	10.4	27,192	15.9
Construction	10,784	9.9	478[u]	0.8[u]	11,262	6.6
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communication	35,916	33.0	16,907	27.1	52,823	30.8
Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	13,172	12.1	8,993	14.4	22,165	12.9
Other service activities (incl. extra-territorial activities)	26,857	24.7	29,261	46.9	56,118	32.8
Total	**108,934**	**100.0**	**62,336**	**100.0**	**171,270**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 8. Distribution of persons employed by economic activity: January-March 2011 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing	1,723[u]	1.6[u]	258[u]	0.4[u]	1,981	1.2
Industry, including energy	22,602	20.5	6,874	11.9	29,476	17.5
Construction	12,183	11.1	494[u]	0.9[u]	12,677	7.5
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communication	34,962	31.7	16,165	28.0	51,127	30.4
Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	11,253	10.2	7,148	12.4	18,401	11.0
Other service activities (incl. extra-territorial activities)	27,495	24.9	26,866	46.5	54,361	32.4
Total	**110,218**	**100.0**	**57,805**	**100.0**	**168,023**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 9. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity: January-March 2012

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro
Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing	724[u]	-	0[u]	-	724[u]	-
Industry, including energy	18,693	16,768	6,401	12,882	25,094	15,776
Construction	6,479	13,709	478[u]	-	6,957	13,661
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communication	27,693	15,062	15,671	11,507	43,364	13,777
Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	10,913	19,700	8,468	16,846	19,381	18,453
Other service activities (incl. extra-territorial activities)	25,686	17,782	27,247	14,931	52,933	16,314
Total	**90,188**	**16,636**	**58,265**	**14,047**	**148,453**	**15,620**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 10. Average gross annual salary for employees by economic activity: January-March 2011 (Revised)

Economic Activity	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro
Agriculture, hunting and forestry; fishing	894[u]	-	72[u]	-	966[u]	-
Industry, including energy	20,637	15,386	6,874	12,883	27,511	14,761
Construction	7,588	13,871	357[u]	-	7,945	13,921
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and household goods, hotels and restaurants; transport and communication	26,787	15,304	15,220	11,956	42,007	14,091
Financial, real estate, renting and business activities	8,893	19,624	6,588	15,751	15,481	17,976
Other service activities (incl. extra-territorial activities)	26,067	16,539	24,981	14,408	51,048	15,496
Total	**90,866**	**15,967**	**54,092**	**13,688**	**144,958**	**15,117**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 11. Main occupation of total employed persons: January-March 2012

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Armed Forces	1,839[u]	1.7[u]	90[u]	0.1[u]	1,929[u]	1.1[u]
Legislators, senior officials and managers	11,818	10.8	4,049	6.5	15,867	9.3
Professionals	12,491	11.5	11,599	18.6	24,090	14.1
Technicians and associate professionals	14,325	13.2	12,478	20.0	26,803	15.6
Clerks	8,931	8.2	12,972	20.8	21,903	12.8
Service workers and shop and sales workers	16,651	15.3	13,237	21.2	29,888	17.5
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	1,316[u]	1.2[u]	201[u]	0.3[u]	1,517[u]	0.9[u]
Craft and related trades workers	17,820	16.4	346[u]	0.6[u]	18,166	10.6
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,548	8.8	2,867	4.6	12,415	7.2
Elementary occupations	14,195	13.0	4,497	7.2	18,692	10.9
Total	**108,934**	**100.0**	**62,336**	**100.0**	**171,270**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 12. Main occupation of total employed persons: January-March 2011 (Revised)

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Armed Forces	1,653[u]	1.5[u]	0[u]	0.0[u]	1,653[u]	1.0[u]
Legislators, senior officials and managers	11,202	10.2	3,492	6.0	14,694	8.7
Professionals	12,565	11.4	10,364	17.9	22,929	13.6
Technicians and associate professionals	14,853	13.5	10,558	18.3	25,411	15.1
Clerks	7,869	7.1	12,118	21.0	19,987	11.9
Service workers and shop and sales workers	16,181	14.7	12,816	22.2	28,997	17.3
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	1,373[u]	1.2[u]	186[u]	0.3[u]	1,559[u]	0.9[u]
Craft and related trades workers	19,076	17.3	210[u]	0.4[u]	19,286	11.5
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	10,124	9.2	3,685	6.4	13,809	8.2
Elementary occupations	15,322	13.9	4,376	7.6	19,698	11.7
Total	**110,218**	**100.0**	**57,805**	**100.0**	**168,023**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 13. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation: January-March 2012

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro
Armed Forces	1,839[u]	-	90[u]	-	1,929[u]	-
Legislators, senior officials and managers	9,044	28,030	3,688	22,295	12,732	26,369
Professionals	11,105	21,957	11,099	18,826	22,204	20,392
Technicians and associate professionals	12,491	17,999	11,902	15,280	24,393	16,672
Clerks	8,777	14,317	12,507	12,837	21,284	13,447
Service workers and shop and sales workers	12,894	13,614	11,606	9,571	24,500	11,699
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	511[u]	-	0[u]	-	511[u]	-
Craft and related trades workers	12,052	13,905	298[u]	-	12,350	13,907
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,366	13,820	2,867	11,719	11,233	13,284
Elementary occupations	13,109	12,075	4,208	8,292	17,317	11,156
Total	**90,188**	**16,636**	**58,265**	**14,047**	**148,453**	**15,620**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 14. Average gross annual salary for employees by main occupation: January-March 2011 (Revised)

Occupational Group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro	No	Average Euro
Armed Forces	1,653[u]	-	0[u]	-	1,653[u]	-
Legislators, senior officials and managers	7,954	25,892	2,596	22,346	10,550	25,020
Professionals	10,920	21,108	9,903	18,530	20,823	19,882
Technicians and associate professionals	13,500	17,205	10,277	14,552	23,777	16,058
Clerks	7,526	13,896	12,053	12,327	19,579	12,930
Service workers and shop and sales workers	12,327	13,793	11,512	10,464	23,839	12,185
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	492[u]	-	0[u]	-	492[u]	-
Craft and related trades workers	13,396	13,959	137[u]	-	13,533	13,941
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,540	13,512	3,574	11,422	12,114	12,895
Elementary occupations	14,558	11,914	4,040	9,367	18,598	11,361
Total	**90,866**	**15,967**	**54,092**	**13,688**	**144,958**	**15,117**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 15. Distribution of employed persons by professional status of main occupation

Professional status	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January-March 2012						
Self-employed without employees	12,816	11.8	2,830	4.5	15,646	9.1
Self-employed with employees	5,930	5.4	1,141[u]	1.8[u]	7,071	4.1
Employee	90,188	82.8	58,265	93.5	148,453	86.7
Family worker	0[u]	0.0[u]	100[u]	0.2[u]	100[u]	0.1[u]
Total	**108,934**	**100.0**	**62,336**	**100.0**	**171,270**	**100.0**
January-March (revised) 2011						
Self-employed without employees	13,198	12.0	2,608	4.5	15,806	9.4
Self-employed with employees	6,154	5.6	1,105[u]	1.9[u]	7,259	4.3
Employee	90,866	82.4	54,092	93.6	144,958	86.3
Family worker	0[u]	0.0[u]	0[u]	0.0[u]	0[u]	0.0[u]
Total	**110,218**	**100.0**	**57,805**	**100.0**	**168,023**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 16. Distribution of employed persons by type of employment in main occupation

Type of Employment	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January-March 2012						
Full-time job	101,706	93.4	46,083	73.9	147,789	86.3
Full-time with reduced hours job	153[u]	0.1[u]	3,269	5.2	3,422	2.0
Part-time job	7,075	6.5	12,984	20.8	20,059	11.7
Total	**108,934**	**100.0**	**62,336**	**100.0**	**171,270**	**100.0**
January-March (revised) 2011						
Full-time job	103,501	93.9	42,256	73.1	145,757	86.7
Full-time with reduced hours job	0[u]	0.0[u]	3,525	6.1	3,525	2.1
Part-time job	6,717	6.1	12,024	20.8	18,741	11.2
Total	**110,218**	**100.0**	**57,805**	**100.0**	**168,023**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 17. Distribution of unemployed persons by age

Age group	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January-March 2012						
15-24	2,119	32.6	1,590[u]	35.0[u]	3,709	33.6
25-34	1,658[u]	25.5[u]	1,198[u]	26.3[u]	2,856	25.9
35-44	1,193[u]	18.4[u]	886[u]	19.5[u]	2,079	18.8
45-54	1,063[u]	16.4[u]	668[u]	14.7[u]	1,731[u]	15.7[u]
55+	458[u]	7.1[u]	207[u]	4.6[u]	665[u]	6.0[u]
Total	**6,491**	**100.0**	**4,549**	**100.0**	**11,040**	**100.0**
January-March (revised) 2011						
15-24	2,012[u]	28.6[u]	2,003[u]	44.8[u]	4,015	34.9
25-34	1,644[u]	23.3[u]	393[u]	8.8[u]	2,037[u]	17.7[u]
35-44	1,483[u]	21.0[u]	885[u]	19.8[u]	2,368	20.6
45-54	1,280[u]	18.2[u]	1,050[u]	23.5[u]	2,330	20.2
55+	627[u]	8.9[u]	140[u]	3.1[u]	767[u]	6.7[u]
Total	**7,046**	**100.0**	**4,471**	**100.0**	**11,517**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Table 18. Duration of job search of unemployed persons

Duration	Sex				Total	
	Males		Females			
	No	%	No	%	No	%
January-March 2012						
Less than 5 months	1,567[u]	24.1[u]	2,163	47.5	3,730	33.8
6 - 11 months	997[u]	15.4[u]	703[u]	15.5[u]	1,700[u]	15.4[u]
12 + months	3,927	60.5	1,683[u]	37.0[u]	5,610	50.8
Total	**6,491**	**93.0**	**4,549**	**100.2**	**11,040**	**95.9**
January-March (revised) 2011						
Less than 5 months	1,546[u]	21.9[u]	1,844[u]	41.2[u]	3,390	29.4
6 - 11 months	1,295[u]	18.4[u]	824[u]	18.4[u]	2,119	18.4
12 + months	4,205	59.7	1,803[u]	40.3[u]	6,008	52.2
Total	**7,046**	**100.0**	**4,471**	**100.0**	**11,517**	**100.0**

[u] - under-represented due to small sample size. Please note that these data must be interpreted with caution.

Methodological Notes

The Labour Force Survey is an enquiry which is carried out on an ongoing basis using a quarterly sample of 3,200 private households. The objective is to have a continuous assessment of labour market trends given that the reference weeks are evenly spread throughout the 13 weeks of the quarter. One fourth of the sample is made up of households who have been selected to participate in the Labour Force Survey for the first time. Three fourths of the quarterly sample is made up of households who were selected to carry out the survey in previous instances, namely either one quarter before, or one year before, or one year and quarter (2-(2)-2). The criteria used for this survey match international methodologies used by ILO as outlined below.

The LFS is designed to satisfy the concepts and definitions as outlined by Eurostat, which is the EU Statistical Agency. This allows the comparability of the results with other EU member states and countries following ILO definitions of employment and unemployment. Occupations are classified according to the ISCO classification (International Standard Classification of Occupations) whilst the economic activity is classified according to the NACE classification (Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les Communautés européennes).

Revision to Population Estimates

As from 2008, the weighting procedures are based on 2007 population estimates, which are calculated using the Census of Population and Housing 2005 as a benchmark. All data contained in this release refers to persons aged 15 years and over.

Under-represented figures are indicated for each table and should be treated with caution .

Absolute changes between one survey and another must be treated with caution since minor changes (ie, less than 1,800 persons) might be the result of sampling error.

ACTIVITY RATE: Labour force (15-64) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).

EMPLOYEE: The distinction between employees and self-employed is based on the respondent's own judgement as stated during the interview.

EMPLOYMENT: This comprises all persons above 15 years of age who, during the reference week, were in one of the following categories:

> **paid employment**: includes those who during the reference week worked for at least one hour for a wage or salary, in cash or in kind.
>
> **were employees but were not at work and were:** on paid or sick leave, did not work due to bad weather, were undergoing training or education, did not work due to a labour dispute, were on maternity or parental leave, did not work due to slack work for technical or economic reasons, were absent from work for a period of less than 3 months, or were not working because on layoff and receiving at least 50 per cent of the salary/wage.
>
> **self-employed**: a person who runs a trade or business, rather than working as an employee for someone else. A person is self-employed if s/he is a sole proprietor or a partner working in a business.
>
> **unpaid family workers**: refers to people who worked without pay in a family business or farm. Excluded from this definition are housewives.

EMPLOYMENT RATE: Persons in employment (15-64) as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64).

GROSS ANNUAL SALARY: Refers to the gross annual basic salary received by employees, i.e. excludes payments for overtime, allowances and bonuses.

INACTIVE PERSONS: All persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as inactive.

LABOUR FORCE: This comprises persons in employment and unemployed persons.

REFERENCE WEEK - The week to which the collected data relate.

UNEMPLOYMENT: This comprises all persons above 15 years of age who, during the reference week, satisfied the following criteria:

without work

actively seeking work during the previous 4 weeks, e.g. includes contacting the ETC, applied directly with an employer, contacting a private employment agency, inserting or answering to an advert in a newspaper.

currently available for work – available to start work within 2 weeks of the reference week.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: Unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

Sampling Variability

The data in this release are based on statistical samples, and as such, estimates carry a sampling error. A measure of the sampling error is the standard error. The standard error as a percentage of the estimate is referred to as the coefficient of variation (CV). The CV is generally computed and expressed as a percentage, which is the quantified by the sampling variability. The coefficient of variation and the sampling variabilities give indication of the confidence limits. The confidence limits are obtained based on the assumption that the data follows a normal distribution.

Sampling Variability of LFS figures

	Estimate	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval
Employment	171,270	1.50	±4,805
Employment Rate (%)	58.59	1.35	±1.55
Unemployment	11,040	7.66	±1,680
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.06	7.53	±0.89
Inactive	174,805	1.35	±4,821
Activity Rate (%)	62.37	1.25	±1.52

The above table give indications on the sampling variability. For example, with respect to employment the LFS estimate is 171,270 and the coefficient of variation is 1.50 per cent. Hence, the figure lies between 166,465 and 176,075 persons.

Information

More information is available from the NSO upon written request.