

Labour Force Survey

Employment rate in the EU27 fell to 64.6% in 2009

But rate for older workers up to 46.0%

The total employment rate¹ for people aged 15-64 in the **EU27** rose steadily from 62.4% in 2002² to 65.9% in 2008, but fell to 64.6% in 2009. The employment rate for women, which increased continuously from 53.7% in 2000² to 59.1% in 2008, dropped for the first time in 2009 to 58.6%. In contrast, the rate for older people, i.e. those aged 55-64, has continued to grow, reaching 46.0% in 2009, compared with 36.9% in 2000² and 45.6% in 2008.

In 2009, 217.8 million resident persons in the **EU27** aged 15 years or more had a job or a business activity¹.

This information comes from a report³ published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the results of the 2009 Labour Force Survey.

Male and female employment rates nearly equal in Baltic Member States

In 2009, the employment rate for persons aged 15-64 was above 70% in the **Netherlands** (77.0%), **Denmark** (75.7%), **Sweden** (72.2%), **Austria** (71.6%) and **Germany** (70.9%), and below 60% in **Malta** (54.9%), **Hungary** (55.4%), **Italy** (57.5%), **Romania** (58.6%), **Poland** (59.3%) and **Spain** (59.8%).

Denmark (73.1%), the **Netherlands** (71.5%), **Sweden** (70.2%) and **Finland** (67.9%) registered the highest rates of female employment in 2009, while **Malta** (37.7%), **Italy** (46.4%), **Greece** (48.9%) and **Hungary** (49.9%) had the lowest.

In all Member States the male employment rate was higher than the female rate in 2009, except for **Lithuania**, where the female rate was 1 percentage point higher than that for men, and **Latvia**, where the rates were nearly equal. Apart from these Member States, **Estonia** (1 pp) and **Finland** (2 pp) recorded the smallest differences between male and female employment rates, while **Malta** (34 pp), **Greece** (25 pp) and **Italy** (22 pp) recorded the greatest.

The employment rate for those aged 55-64 was highest in 2009 in **Sweden** (70.0%), **Estonia** (60.4%), **Denmark** and the **United Kingdom** (both 57.5%) and **Germany** (56.2%). It was lowest in **Malta** (28.1%), **Poland** (32.3%) and **Hungary** (32.8%).

Share of part time employment ranged from 2% in Bulgaria to 48% in the Netherlands

The share of part-time employment in total employment⁴ in the **EU27** grew from 15.7% in 2002 to 18.1% in 2009. The highest shares of part-time employment were observed in the **Netherlands** (47.7%), **Sweden** (26.0%), **Germany** (25.4%), **Denmark** (25.2%) and the **United Kingdom** (25.0%), and the lowest in **Bulgaria** (2.1%), **Slovakia** (3.4%), the **Czech Republic** (4.8%) and **Hungary** (5.2%).

Share of limited duration contracts ranged from 1% in Romania to 27% in Poland

The share of employees with limited duration contracts⁵ in the **EU27** grew from 12.3% in 2002 to 14.5% in 2007. It then fell to 14.0% in 2008 and 13.5% in 2009. The highest shares of limited duration contracts were observed in **Poland** (26.5%), **Spain** (25.4%), **Portugal** (22.0%) and the **Netherlands** (18.2%), and the lowest in **Romania** (1.0%), **Lithuania** (2.2%) and **Estonia** (2.5%).

Employment rates, part time employment and limited duration contracts, EU27 (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Employment rate 15-64 years - total	62.2	62.6	62.4	62.6	63.0	63.5	64.5	65.4	65.9	64.6
Employment rate 15-64 years - men	70.8	70.9	70.4	70.3	70.4	70.8	71.6	72.5	72.8	70.7
Employment rate 15-64 years - women	53.7	54.3	54.4	54.9	55.6	56.3	57.3	58.3	59.1	58.6
Employment rate 55-64 years - total	36.9	37.7	38.5	40.0	40.7	42.3	43.5	44.6	45.6	46.0
Part time employment as a share of total employment 15-64 years	15.8	15.7	15.7	16.1	16.7	17.3	17.5	17.6	17.6	18.1
Share of employees with limited duration contract 15 and older	12.3	12.4	12.3	12.7	13.3	14.0	14.4	14.5	14.0	13.5

Employment rates, part time employment and limited duration contracts, 2009 (%)

	Employment rate 15-64 years			Employment rate 55-64 years	Part time employment as a share of total employment 15-64 years	Share of employees with limited duration contract 15 and older
	Total	Men	Women	Total		
EU27	64.6	70.7	58.6	46.0	18.1	13.5
EA16	64.7	71.2	58.3	45.1	19.5	15.2
Belgium	61.6	67.2	56.0	35.3	23.2	8.2
Bulgaria	62.6	66.9	58.3	46.1	2.1	4.7
Czech Republic	65.4	73.8	56.7	46.8	4.8	8.5
Denmark	75.7	78.3	73.1	57.5	25.2	8.9
Germany	70.9	75.6	66.2	56.2	25.4	14.5
Estonia	63.5	64.1	63.0	60.4	9.4	2.5
Ireland	61.8	66.3	57.4	51.0	20.7	8.5
Greece	61.2	73.5	48.9	42.2	5.8	12.1
Spain	59.8	66.6	52.8	44.1	12.6	25.4
France	64.2	68.5	60.1	38.9	17.1	13.5
Italy	57.5	68.6	46.4	35.7	14.1	12.5
Cyprus	69.9	77.6	62.5	56.0	7.4	13.4
Latvia	60.9	61.0	60.9	53.2	8.4	4.3
Lithuania	60.1	59.5	60.7	51.6	8.0	2.2
Luxembourg	65.1	73.2	57.0	38.2	17.6	7.2
Hungary	55.4	61.1	49.9	32.8	5.2	8.5
Malta	54.9	71.5	37.7	28.1	10.8	4.8
Netherlands	77.0	82.4	71.5	55.1	47.7	18.2
Austria	71.6	76.9	66.4	41.1	23.7	9.1
Poland	59.3	66.1	52.8	32.3	7.7	26.5
Portugal	66.3	71.1	61.6	49.7	8.4	22.0
Romania	58.6	65.2	52.0	42.6	8.5	1.0
Slovenia	67.5	71.0	63.8	35.6	9.5	16.4
Slovakia	60.2	67.6	52.8	39.5	3.4	4.4
Finland	68.7	69.5	67.9	55.5	13.3	14.6
Sweden	72.2	74.2	70.2	70.0	26.0	15.3
United Kingdom	69.9	74.8	65.0	57.5	25.0	5.7
Iceland	78.3	80.0	76.5	80.2	23.0	9.7
Norway	76.4	78.3	74.4	68.7	27.8	8.1
Switzerland	79.2	84.5	73.8	68.4	33.4	13.2
Croatia	56.6	62.4	51.0	38.4	6.9	11.6
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	43.3	52.8	33.5	34.6	5.3	15.5
Turkey	44.3	64.5	24.2	28.2	10.6	10.7

1. The **employment rate** represents employed persons (Labour Force Survey concept) as a percentage of the same age population. **Persons in employment** according to the LFS concept are those aged 15 years and over living in private households who did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour during the reference week of the survey, or who were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent. Family workers are included. The LFS employment concept differs from national accounts domestic employment, as the latter sets no limit for age or type of household, and also includes the non-resident population contributing to GDP and conscripts in military or community service.
2. In 2000, the Lisbon European Council set long-term targets for employment rates for 2010: 70% for the population aged 15-64 and 60% for women of the same age group. The 2001 Stockholm European Council set mid-term employment targets to be reached in 2005: 67% for the total employment rate and 57% for the female employment rate. The Stockholm Council also set a long term target for the employment rate of persons aged 55-64: 50% in 2010.
In June 2010, the European Council set a new EU headline target under the Europe 2020 Strategy, aiming to raise to 75% the employment rate for women and men aged 20-64, including through the greater participation of young people, older workers and low-skilled workers and the better integration of legal migrants. This headline target will be translated into specific targets for each Member State later this year.
3. **Eurostat**, Data in focus, 35/2010, "**European Union Labour Force Survey - Annual results 2009**". Available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website.
4. The full-time/part-time distinction is declared by the respondent.
5. Employees with a limited duration job/contract are employees whose main job 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.

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