

Labour Force Survey

Employment rate for those aged 20 to 64 in the EU27 decreased to 68.6% in 2010

Full-time employees worked 40.4 hours a week on average

The total employment rate¹ for people in the **EU27** aged 20 to 64, which is the age group targeted in the Europe 2020 strategy², rose steadily from 66.8% in 2002 to 70.4% in 2008, then fell to 69.1% in 2009, and decreased further in 2010 to 68.6%. The employment rate for women in this age group, which increased continuously from 57.3% in 2000 to 63.0% in 2008, dropped for the first time in 2009 to 62.5%, then fell slightly again in 2010 to 62.1%. In contrast, the rate for older people, i.e. those aged 55 to 64, has continued to grow, reaching 46.3% in 2010, compared with 36.9% in 2000.

This information comes from a report³ published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the 2010 results of the European Labour Force Survey.

Highest employment rates in Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark and Cyprus

In 2010, the employment rate for persons aged 20 to 64 was highest in **Sweden** (78.7%), the **Netherlands** (76.8%), **Denmark** (76.1%), **Cyprus** (75.4%), **Germany** and **Austria** (both 74.9%). The lowest rates were recorded in **Malta** (59.9%), **Hungary** (60.4%), **Italy** (61.1%), **Spain** (62.5%) and **Romania** (63.3%).

The employment rates for women aged 20 to 64 ranged from 41.4% in **Malta** and 49.5% in **Italy** to 75.7% in **Sweden** and 73.1% in **Denmark**, while for men in this age group it varied between 63.6% in **Lithuania** and 65.1% in **Latvia**, and 82.8% in the **Netherlands** and 82.5% in **Cyprus**. In all Member States, the male employment rate was higher than the female rate in 2010, except in **Lithuania**.

The employment rates for those aged 55 to 64 were highest in **Sweden** (70.5%), **Germany** (57.7%), **Denmark** (57.6%) and the **United Kingdom** (57.1%), and lowest in **Malta** (30.2%), **Poland** (34.0%) and **Hungary** (34.4%).

Employment rates, 2010 (%)

	20-64 years			15-64 years	55-64 years
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Total
EU27	68.6	62.1	75.1	64.2	46.3
EA17*	68.4	61.7	75.2	64.2	45.8
Belgium	67.6	61.6	73.5	62.0	37.3
Bulgaria	65.4	61.7	69.1	59.7	43.5
Czech Republic	70.4	60.9	79.6	65.0	46.5
Denmark	76.1	73.1	79.0	73.4	57.6
Germany	74.9	69.6	80.1	71.1	57.7
Estonia	66.7	65.7	67.7	61.0	53.8
Ireland	64.9	60.4	69.4	60.0	50.0
Greece	64.0	51.7	76.2	59.6	42.3
Spain	62.5	55.8	69.1	58.6	43.6
France	69.2	64.9	73.8	64.0	39.7
Italy	61.1	49.5	72.8	56.9	36.6
Cyprus	75.4	68.5	82.5	69.7	56.8
Latvia	65.0	64.9	65.1	59.3	48.2
Lithuania	64.4	65.1	63.6	57.8	48.6
Luxembourg	70.7	62.0	79.2	65.2	39.6
Hungary	60.4	55.0	66.0	55.4	34.4
Malta	59.9	41.4	77.7	56.0	30.2
Netherlands	76.8	70.8	82.8	74.7	53.7
Austria	74.9	69.6	80.2	71.7	42.4
Poland	64.6	57.7	71.6	59.3	34.0
Portugal	70.5	65.6	75.4	65.6	49.2
Romania	63.3	55.9	70.8	58.8	41.1
Slovenia	70.3	66.5	74.0	66.2	35.0
Slovakia	64.6	57.4	71.9	58.8	40.5
Finland	73.0	71.5	74.5	68.1	56.2
Sweden	78.7	75.7	81.7	72.7	70.5
United Kingdom	73.6	67.9	79.3	69.5	57.1
Iceland	80.4	77.6	83.1	78.2	79.8
Norway	79.6	76.9	82.1	75.3	68.6
Switzerland	81.1	74.6	87.6	78.6	68.0
Croatia	58.6	52.9	64.7	54.1	35.7
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	48.1	37.5	58.4	43.5	34.2
Turkey	50.0	28.0	72.7	46.3	29.6

* Euro area (EA17): Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

Longest working hours for full-time employees in the United Kingdom and Austria, shortest in Denmark and Ireland

In the **EU27** in 2010, 81.5% of persons employed worked full-time⁴, with shares of 68.6% for women and 92.2% for men. On average in the **EU27**, employees working full-time usually worked 40.4 hours a week, with women averaging 39.3 hours and men 41.1 hours. The longest weekly working hours for full-time employees were observed in the **United Kingdom** (42.2 hours), **Austria** (42.0), **Bulgaria** and the **Czech Republic** (both 41.2), and the shortest in **Denmark** (37.7), **Ireland** (38.4), the **Netherlands** (38.9) and **Italy** (39.0). In all Member States, men had longer working hours than women among full-time employees.

Working hours of employees in full time regime and share of persons employed part-time, 2010

	Full-time number of hours usually worked per week for employees aged 15 years and over			Part-time share of all persons employed aged 15 to 64 working part-time		
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men
EU27	40.4	39.3	41.1	18.5	31.4	7.8
EA17*	39.9	38.9	40.6	19.9	34.8	7.6
Belgium	39.2	38.2	39.8	23.7	42.1	8.4
Bulgaria	41.2	41.0	41.4	2.2	2.4	2.0
Czech Republic	41.2	40.3	41.8	5.1	9.1	2.2
Denmark	37.7	37.3	38.1	25.8	38.6	14.1
Germany	40.6	39.8	41.0	25.5	45.0	8.7
Estonia	40.7	40.2	41.2	9.8	13.1	6.2
Ireland	38.4	36.6	39.9	21.9	34.2	11.1
Greece	40.5	39.3	41.4	6.2	10.2	3.4
Spain	40.4	39.3	41.1	13.1	23.1	5.2
France	39.4	38.5	40.1	17.5	29.8	6.4
Italy	39.0	36.9	40.1	14.8	29.0	5.1
Cyprus	41.1	40.2	41.8	8.1	11.8	4.9
Latvia	40.4	40.0	40.8	9.3	11.0	7.5
Lithuania	39.6	39.3	40.0	7.7	8.9	6.3
Luxembourg	40.0	39.0	40.5	17.5	35.8	3.4
Hungary	40.5	40.1	40.8	5.5	7.6	3.6
Malta	40.5	39.2	41.2	11.6	24.5	4.9
Netherlands	38.9	38.1	39.2	48.3	76.2	24.2
Austria	42.0	40.9	42.5	24.3	43.3	7.8
Poland	40.9	39.5	42.1	7.6	10.8	5.0
Portugal	40.2	39.4	41.0	8.4	12.3	4.9
Romania	41.1	40.8	41.3	9.7	9.9	9.6
Slovenia	41.1	40.7	41.4	10.3	13.6	7.4
Slovakia	40.6	40.1	41.0	3.8	5.2	2.6
Finland	39.1	38.2	40.0	13.9	19.0	8.9
Sweden	39.9	39.8	40.0	25.3	39.7	12.2
United Kingdom	42.2	40.1	43.5	25.7	42.4	11.0
Iceland	43.8	40.9	45.9	22.4	34.5	11.2
Norway	38.4	38.0	38.7	27.6	42.4	14.3
Switzerland	41.8	41.6	41.9	34.1	60.0	12.3
Croatia	41.2	40.9	41.6	7.6	10.1	5.4
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	43.1	42.4	43.6	5.6	7.1	4.7
Turkey	52.2	48.4	53.3	11.1	23.2	6.2

* Euro area (EA17): Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

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 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.

3. **Eurostat**, Statistics in focus, 30/2011, "**European Union Labour Force Survey - Annual results 2010**". Available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website.
4. The full-time/part-time distinction is declared by the respondent. Among multiple jobholders, the distinction full-time/part-time refers to the main job.

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