

LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS

Labour market issues such as employment, unemployment, quality of work, productivity, earnings and labour costs are at the heart of EU social and political debate. The Lisbon strategy – relaunched in 2005 – clearly focuses on growth and jobs. The implementation of the European Employment Strategy (EES), which is a key component of the Lisbon process, requires analytical support to help assess and monitor labour market developments.

In order to meet the requirements for reliable statistics on labour market developments Eurostat offers harmonised data on various aspects of the labour market.

Employment and unemployment – the largest collection of harmonised data on the labour market is the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS), an indispensable tool for the description and analysis of labour market developments. The EU-LFS provides a wealth of information on employment and unemployment, working time (full-time or part-time work), and type of employment contracts (temporary or permanent contracts). The survey covers all persons in private households aged 15 years or older; information can be broken down by numerous characteristics of the individual, such as age, gender, educational attainment, occupation, or economic activity of the employer. The EU-LFS is the largest household sample survey in the European Union. It covers more than 100 variables on an annual basis; many of them are also available quarterly. In addition, monthly information pertaining to unemployment rates is derived through combining EU-LFS data with other sources. Each year, the core EU-LFS is supplemented by so-called ad-hoc modules covering specific topics, e.g. the employment of disabled people, lifelong learning, reconciliation between work and family life, or the transition into retirement.

Job vacancies – these statistics cover the demand side of the labour market; data are available on a quarterly and an annual basis for the number of job vacancies, the number of occupied jobs and job vacancy rates for different economic activities.

Labour costs and earnings – monetary information on the labour market relates, in particular, to labour costs and earnings. Statistics on labour costs provide a comprehensive and detailed picture of the level, structure and short-term development of labour costs across economic activities. Data

are available with different periodicities: quarterly, annually and – for the very detailed labour costs surveys – every four years. At the centre of earnings statistics is the four-yearly structure of earnings survey. This enterprise survey provides detailed data on the level and structure of employee remuneration and allows for comprehensive analyses. Statistics on earnings also cover annual gross and net earnings, as well as information relating to minimum wages and gender pay gaps. All statistics are based on a harmonised set of definitions.

Labour market policies – annual information on labour market interventions is available through the labour market policy (LMP) database, which is based on information from administrative sources relating to public expenditure associated with LMP interventions and to participants in these interventions.

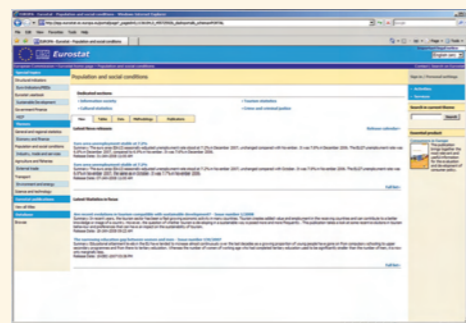
WEBSITE

The website is organised according to nine themes: this leaflet presents **labour market statistics** that are found within the **population and social conditions** theme.

Eurostat provides users with free access to all of its databases, as well as PDF versions of its publications. To discover more, open a web browser and go to the Eurostat homepage at: ec.europa.eu/eurostat.

From the Eurostat homepage, statistical Themes may be accessed from the left-hand menu. Click on the link to Population and social conditions in order to access information on:

- (Latest) new(s)
- Tables
- Data
- Methodology
- Publications



Dedicated sections regrouping information relating to labour market statistics are currently in preparation and will appear at the top of the page.



A selection of key indicators on the labour market are found under the tab for Tables – by selecting Labour market under the heading Long-term indicators. Expand/collapse the data tree by using the +/- icons. Select the information required by clicking on the table, graph, map icon or the pre-defined table icon.

More detailed statistics and larger volumes of data can be downloaded through open tables, with the help of Eurostat's data extraction utility. Advanced query functions are available to those who register on the website – allowing downloads in a variety of file formats (text, HTML, Excel, etc.). Data are presented in multidimensional tables, with total flexibility to preselect and extract data. To access these tables, click on the tab for Data, select Labour market and then browse through the data tree and its submenus to choose a particular table.

For additional information on metadata or methodology, click on the Methodology tab and then select Labour market, after which an extensive list of links is provided:

- Employment and unemployment (Labour Force Survey)
- Job vacancy statistics
- Earnings
- Labour costs
- Labour market policy
- Industrial disputes
- Labour market - structural indicators

RAPID RELEASES

Press releases (headline figures)

News releases monthly unemployment

News releases quarterly labour cost index

News releases employment growth

For more information on the specific timing of these press releases, please refer to the release calendar, directly accessible from the Eurostat homepage or via this link: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/url/page/PGP_RELEASE/PGE_DS_RELEASE

Data in focus

Labour market latest trends – 3rd quarter 2007 data (issue number 4/2008)

European Union Labour Force Survey – annual results 2006 (issue number 10/2007)

Statistics in focus

People outside the labour force: the downward trend continues (issue number 122/2007)

Men and women employed on fixed-term contracts involuntarily (issue number 98/2007)

The flexibility of working time arrangements for women and men (issue number 96/2007)

Minimum wages 2007 – variations from 92 to 1 570 euro gross per month (issue number 71/2007)

Men and women participating in Labour Market Policies, 2004 (issue number 66/2007)

KEY PUBLICATIONS

Employment in Europe 2007 (Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities)

Format: paper, PDF

Language versions: EN only

Catalogue number: KE-AH-07-001-EN-C

ISBN: 978-92-79-06669-6

ISSN: 1016-5444



The social situation in the European Union 2005-2006 (Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Eurostat)

Format: paper, PDF

Language versions: EN only

Catalogue number: KE-AG-06-001

ISBN: 92-79-03139-2

ISSN: 1681-1658

Labour market policy - expenditure and participants

Format: paper, PDF

Language versions: EN only

Catalogue number: KS-DO-07-001-EN-N

ISBN: 978-92-79-06543-9

ISSN: 1725-602X



Labour market statistics may also be found in a range of horizontal publications produced by Eurostat, such as:

Europe in figures – Eurostat yearbook

Regions: statistical yearbook

Key figures on Europe – statistical pocketbook

Living conditions in Europe – statistical pocketbook

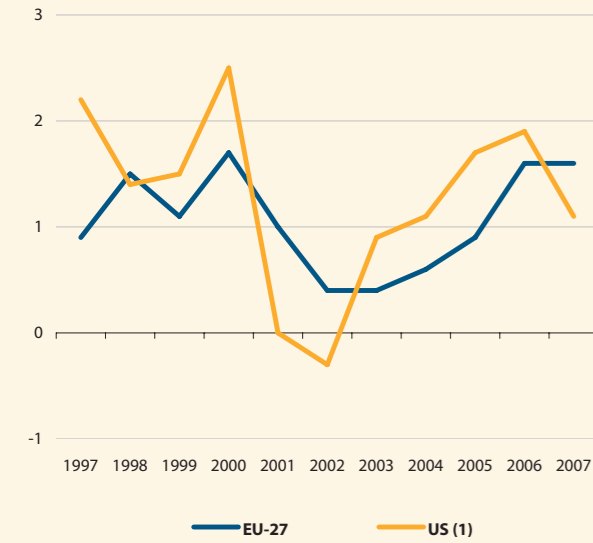
METHODOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

Labour force survey in the EU, Candidate and EFTA Countries – main characteristics of the national surveys (released annually)

Quality report of the European Union Labour Force Survey (released annually)

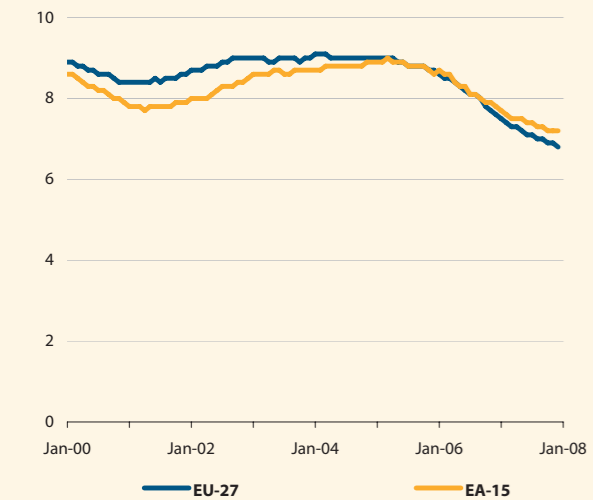
Labour market policy database – Methodology – Revision of June 2006

Annual employment growth
(% change compared with previous year)



(1) 2007, provisional estimate.
The indicator gives the change in percentage terms from one year to the next for the total number of persons employed on the economic territory of the country or the geographical area. The indicator is based on National Accounts data.

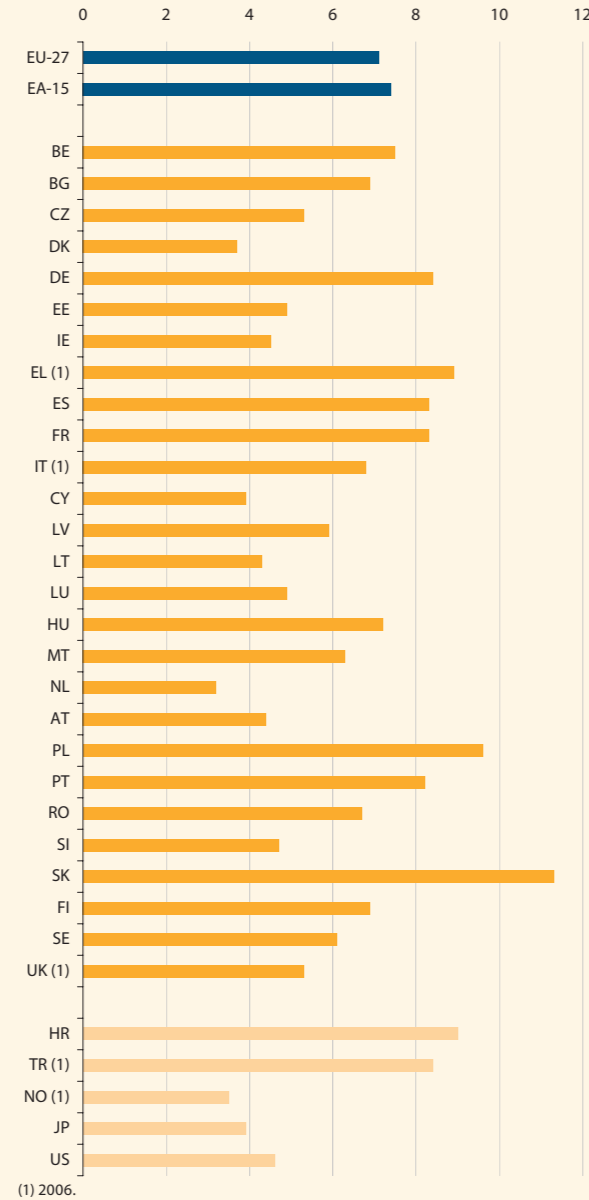
Monthly unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted (%)



Unemployment rates represent unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed. Unemployed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 74 who were: a) without work, b) currently available for work, c) actively seeking work.

EA-15: euro area composed of 15 members

Unemployment rates, 2007
(%)



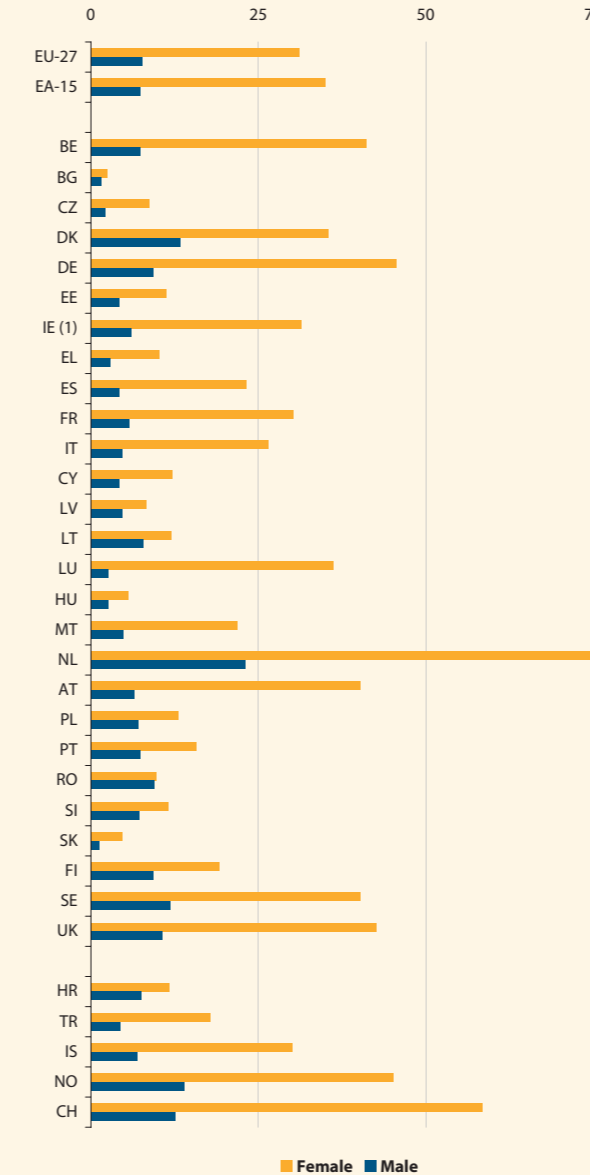
(1) 2006.

Employment rates by gender, 2006
(%)

	Female	Male
EU-27	57.3	71.6
EA-15	56.8	72.7
BE	54.0	67.9
BG	54.6	62.8
CZ	56.8	73.7
DK	73.4	81.2
DE	62.2	72.8
EE	65.3	71.0
IE	59.3	77.7
EL	47.4	74.6
ES	53.2	76.1
FR	58.8	69.0
IT	46.3	70.5
CY	60.3	79.4
LV	62.4	70.4
LT	61.0	66.3
LU	54.6	72.6
HU	51.1	63.8
MT	34.9	74.5
NL	67.7	80.9
AT	63.5	76.9
PL	48.2	60.9
PT	62.0	73.9
RO	53.0	64.6
SI	61.8	71.1
SK	51.9	67.0
FI	67.3	71.4
SE	70.7	75.5
UK	65.8	77.3
HR	49.4	62.0
TR	23.9	68.1
IS	80.8	88.1
NO	72.2	78.4
CH	71.1	84.7
JP	58.8	81.0
US	66.1	78.1

The female/male employment rate is calculated by dividing the number of women/men aged 15 to 64 in employment by the total female/male population of the same age group. The indicator is based on the EU Labour Force Survey. The survey covers the entire population living in private households and excludes those in collective households such as boarding houses, halls of residence and hospitals. The employed population consists of those persons who did any work for pay or profit, or were not working but had jobs from which they were temporarily absent.

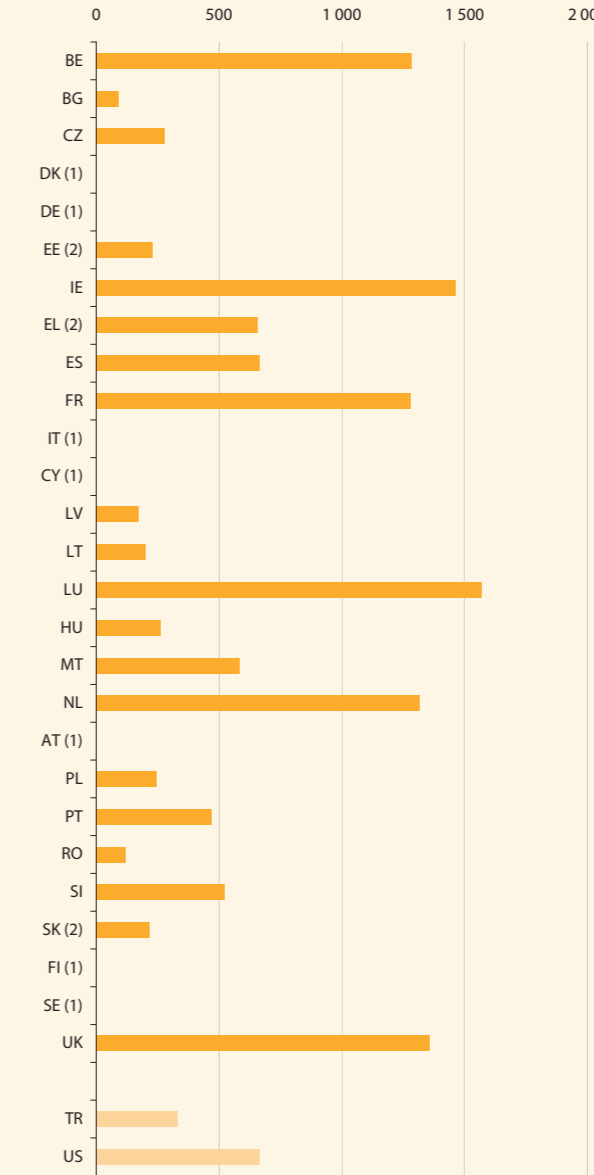
Persons employed part-time, 2006
(% of those employed)



(1) 2004.

The distinction between full-time and part-time work is in most countries made on the basis of a spontaneous answer given by the respondent. Spontaneous self-classification of respondents is judged the best method to distinguish between part-time and full-time work, due to variations in working hours between Member States and economic activities.

Minimum monthly wages, second semester 2007
(EUR/month)

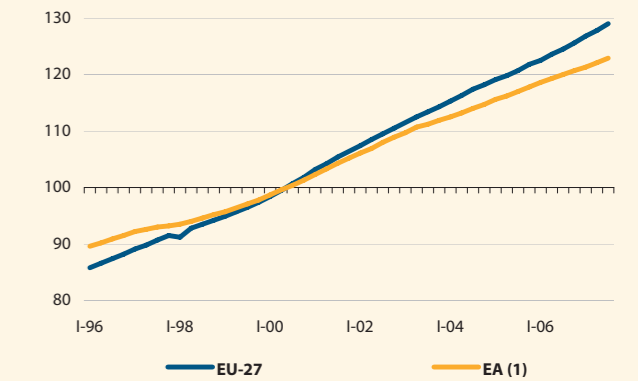


(1) Not applicable.

(2) First semester 2007.

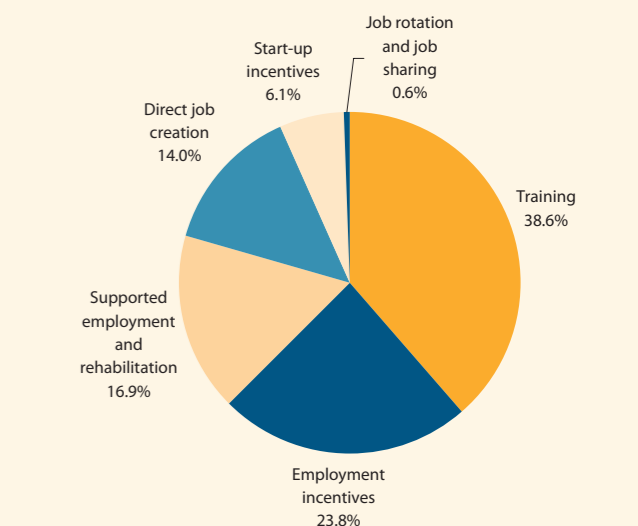
Minimum wages are enforced by law and apply nationwide to the majority of full-time employees in each country. Minimum wages are gross amounts, that is, before the deduction of income tax and social security contributions. Such deductions vary from country to country. For most countries, the minimum wage is agreed in terms of a monthly rate. For some countries, the minimum wage is defined hourly or daily and the monthly value is estimated on the basis of the number of working hours/days. In Denmark, Germany, Italy, Cyprus, Austria, Finland and Sweden there was no national minimum wage in 2007.

Quarterly labour cost index, seasonally adjusted
(2000=100)



(1) Euro area (EA-11 up to 2000, EA-12, 2001-2006, EA-13, 2007).
The quarterly labour cost index measures short-term trends in average hourly labour costs, defined as (total) labour costs (wages and other costs) divided by the corresponding number of hours worked in the quarter in question. The data are presented in the form of index numbers (current reference year: 2000). The index covers all market economic activities except agriculture, fisheries, forestry, education, health and social work and community, social and personal service activities (NACE Sections C-K).

Labour market policy expenditure on active measures, EU-27, 2005
(% of total) (1)



(1) Estimates.
Total labour market policy expenditure on active measures refers to public expenditure on programmes targeted at unemployed, employed at risk and inactive persons who would like to enter the labour market. The coverage includes six categories of measures: training, job rotation/job sharing, employment incentives, supported employment and rehabilitation, direct job creation and start-up incentives.