

61/2012 - 19 April 2012

Labour Force Survey in 2011

Around 8.5 million part-time workers in the EU27 wished to work more hours

Among the 42 million part-time workers in the **EU27** in 2011, 8.6 million wished to work more hours, were available to do so¹ and can therefore be considered to be underemployed. These accounted for 20.5% of part-time workers and 4.0% of total employment. In 2010, the corresponding figures were very similar: 41.3 million persons worked part time and 8.5 million were underemployed.

The largest proportions of people wishing to work more hours and available to do so among part-time workers were found in **Greece** (58%), **Latvia** (57%), **Spain** (49%) and **Cyprus** (42%), and these are Member States where the shares of employed persons working part-time are relatively low. On the other hand, the smallest proportion was found in the **Netherlands** and **Belgium** (both 3%), where part-time working is common, followed by the **Czech Republic** (10%) and **Luxembourg** (9%).

This information is published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the 2011 results of the European Labour Force Survey released today. The three indicators presented in this News Release provide an enhanced and richer picture of the labour market, by supplementing the existing information which classifies people as employed, unemployed or economically inactive.

A potential additional labour force of almost 11 million persons in the EU27

Among the economically inactive population (those persons neither employed nor unemployed), there were 8.6 million persons aged 15 to 74 available to work, but not seeking² and 2.4 million seeking work, but not available³ in the **EU27** in 2011, compared with 8.2 million and 2.4 million respectively in 2010. While not part of the economically active population, both groups have a certain attachment to the labour market. Together these two groups constitute a potential additional labour force⁴ of 10.9 million people. In the **EU27** these two groups were equivalent to 4.6% of the current labour force, a percentage varying between Member States, from 1.4% in the **Czech Republic** to 12.1% in **Italy**.

Underemployment and part-time work, 2011

	Persons working part-time aged 15 to 74 wishing and being available to work more hours			Part-time employed aged 15 to 74, in % of total employment
	In thousands	As % of part time employed	As % of total employment	
EU27	8 596	20.5	4.0	19.4
EA17*	5 744	19.5	4.1	20.8
Belgium	38	3.3	0.8	25.0
Bulgaria	26	37.9	0.9	2.3
Czech Republic	26	9.9	0.5	5.4
Denmark	92	13.1	3.4	25.9
Germany	1 963	18.7	5.0	26.5
Estonia	12	19.2	2.0	10.6
Ireland	133	31.6	7.4	23.4
Greece	159	58.1	3.9	6.7
Spain	1 230	49.3	6.8	13.8
France	1 136	24.7	4.4	17.9
Italy	451	12.8	2.0	15.4
Cyprus	15	42.0	4.0	9.6
Latvia	51	56.9	5.2	9.2
Lithuania	41	34.3	3.0	8.6
Luxembourg	4	9.2	1.7	18.3
Hungary	69	26.8	1.8	6.8
Malta	4	19.0	2.5	13.1
Netherlands	114	2.8	1.4	49.1
Austria	135	13.1	3.3	25.0
Poland	320	25.4	2.0	7.8
Portugal	220	37.8	4.6	12.2
Romania	237	24.8	2.6	10.5
Slovenia	19	20.4	2.1	10.1
Slovakia	37	37.8	1.6	4.1
Finland	77	20.7	3.1	14.9
Sweden	218	18.1	4.7	26.0
United Kingdom	1 773	23.0	6.1	26.7
Norway	82	11.5	3.2	28.1
Switzerland	243	16.1	5.6	35.0
Turkey	376	13.2	1.6	11.8

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

Potential additional labour force⁴, 2011

	Persons available to work but not seeking	Persons seeking work, but not immediately available	Potential additional labour force in % of labour force ⁴ aged 15-74
	Thousands		
EU27	8 566	2 383	4.6
EA17	5 803	1 751	4.8
Belgium	109	70	3.6
Bulgaria	286	28	9.5
Czech Republic	55	18	1.4
Denmark	75	26	3.5
Germany	591	578	2.8
Estonia	44	(2)	6.1
Ireland	42	13	2.6
Greece	64	22	1.7
Spain	961	243	5.3
France	306	469	2.8
Italy	2 897	121	12.1
Cyprus	14	2	3.7
Latvia	85	9	8.2
Lithuania	19	9	1.7
Luxembourg	12	2	5.5
Hungary	218	11	5.4
Malta	4	:	:
Netherlands	286	79	4.2
Austria	141	35	4.1
Poland	644	106	4.2
Portugal	172	33	3.8
Romania	487	(7)	4.8
Slovenia	18	5	2.3
Slovakia	43	13	2.1
Finland	100	66	6.1
Sweden	121	99	4.4
United Kingdom	772	320	3.4
Iceland	4	2	3.5
Norway	59	21	3.1
Switzerland	152	48	4.4
Turkey	1 558	95	6.3

: Data missing or not published due to small sample size

() Data with reduced reliability due to sample size.

- Persons aged 15-74 working part-time who wish to work additional hours and are available to do so. Part-time work is recorded as self-reported by individuals.
- Persons seeking work but not immediately available are those aged 15-74 neither employed nor unemployed who actively sought work during the last 4 weeks but are not available to work in the next 2 weeks. For completeness this category also includes three smaller groups: those who found a job to start in less than 3 months and are not available to work in the next 2 weeks; those who found a job to start in 3 months or more; those who passively sought work during the last 4 weeks and are available to work in the next 2 weeks. Passive job search is e.g. waiting the results of a job interview
- Persons available to work but not seeking are persons aged 15-74 neither employed nor unemployed who want to work, are available to work in the next 2 weeks but do not seek work.
- The labour force consists of persons in employment and unemployed. The potential additional labour force is the total of the groups "Persons seeking work but not immediately available" and "Persons available to work but not seeking".

Published by **Eurostat Press Office**

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