

Statistical Product**Employment and unemployment (LFS)****General information**

The sample survey on labour forces (LFS), organized by the Directorate General Statistics and Economic Information of the FPS Economy, is a socio-economic household survey. Its objective is to classify the population of working age (15 and older) into three groups (persons employed, unemployed and inactive persons) and to provide descriptive and explanatory data on every category. This survey belongs to the community sample surveys on active population that are coordinated by the Statistical Office of the European Communities, EUROSTAT, together with the national statistical institutes and carried out by under the responsibility of the latest. The purpose is obtaining information that is comparable at European level on the employment and unemployment rates according to the definitions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) but also collecting and disseminating results that are not available elsewhere (mobility of the workers, reasons for working part-time, education level of the population, profession,).

<i>Domain</i>	3.7.05. Labour market
<i>Related statistics</i>	Labour costs (four-yearly survey) ; Pay trends ; Structure and distribution of earnings ; Vacancy
<i>Keywords</i>	-
<i>Update of the document</i>	14/08/2013

<i>Periodicity</i>	Quarterly
<i>Timeliness</i>	Results available +/- 4 months after the reference period
<i>Legal references</i>	Council Regulation (EC) N° 577/98 of 9 March 1998 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community ; Royal decree of 10 January 1999 on the labour force sample survey
<i>Dissemination format</i>	Press release ; Publication on the Internet (www.statbel.fgov.be)

Methodological notes

Concepts and classifications

<i>Concepts</i>	AVP (Absolut Variation Period -1) ; AVY (Absolut Variation Year -1) ; Active population ; Activity rate ; Employed population ; Employment rate ; Inactive population ; People who are available but not seeking work ; People who are seeking work but are not immediately available ; RVP (Relatif Variation Period -1) ; RVY (Relatif Variation Year -1) ; Total population ; Underemployed part-time workers ; Unemployed (ILO) ; Unemployment rate
<i>Classifications</i>	Age (5 groups) ; Education level (3 groups) ; Quarter ; Region

Coverage

<i>Geographical coverage</i>	Belgium
<i>First available period</i>	1st quarter 1999
<i>Statistical unit</i>	Members of private households
<i>Statistical population</i>	Members of private households that are 15 years old and more

Source data

<i>Surveys</i>	Labour Force Survey (LFS)
<i>Administrative data</i>	-
<i>Statistical products</i>	-
<i>Base period</i>	-
<i>Methods of aggregation</i>	-
<i>Corrections</i>	-

Definitions

<i>Title</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Unit/ Nomenclature</i>
AVP (Absolut Variation Period -1)	Difference in absolute numbers compared to the previous reference period	N (Absolute frequency)
AVY (Absolut Variation Year -1)	Difference in absolute numbers compared to the same reference period in the previous year	N (Absolute frequency)
Active population	The labour force or economically active population (15 years and older) consists of people with an occupation (persons employed) and the unemployed.	N (Absolute frequency)

Activity rate	The economic activity rate represents the share of the labour force (employed and unemployed) in the population aged 15 to 64.	% (Percentage point)
Age (5 groups)	-	Age (5 classes)
Education level (3 groups)	Low-skilled people or people with a low level of education are people who list lower secondary education as their highest level of education. Average-skilled people or people with an average level of education are people who obtained a diploma of higher secondary education but not of higher education. High-skilled people or people with a high level of education obtained a diploma of higher education.	Education level (3 classes)
Employed population	The employed comprise all persons aged 15 and over who during the reference period performed some work for wage or salary, in cash or in kind, or who were temporarily not at work during the reference period and had a formal attachment to their job. This also includes family workers. The employed are divided into three groups according to their professional status: - Employees: Employees comprise all persons aged 15 and over who during the reference period performed some work (with or without a formal contract) for wage or salary, or who were temporarily not at work during the reference period (because of illness, maternity leave, holidays, social conflict, weather conditions or other reasons) and had a formal attachment to their job. - Non-employees: Non-employees comprise all persons who do not work for an employer and who during the reference week performed some work for profit or who were temporarily not at work during the reference period. This includes self-employed people (without employees) and employers (with employees) and unpaid workers.	N (Absolute frequency)
Employment rate	The employment rate represents the share of persons employed in the population aged 15 to 64.	% (Percentage point)

Inactive population	The economically inactive population comprises all people who were neither employed nor unemployed (according to the ILO definitions) during the reference week. E.g. househusbands/housewives, students, volunteers, retired people etc. on the condition that they did not perform paid labour.	N (Absolute frequency)
People who are available but not seeking work	People who are available but not seeking work are people who are neither employed nor ILO unemployed, who wish to work and are available to start working in the next two weeks but who are not seeking work.	Unknown
People who are seeking work but are not immediately available	The category people seeking work but who are not immediately available comprises the following groups of people: - persons who are neither employed nor ILO unemployed, have actively sought work in the last four weeks but are unavailable to start working in the next two weeks. - persons who are neither employed nor ILO unemployed, have found work that starts in the next three months and are unavailable to start working in the next two weeks. - persons who are neither employed nor ILO unemployed, have found work that starts in more than three months. - persons who are neither employed nor ILO unemployed, have only passively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start working in the next two weeks. An example of passively seeking work is waiting for the results of a job interview.	Unknown
Quarter	-	N (Absolute frequency)
RVP (Relatif Variation Period -1)	Difference in relative numbers compared to the previous reference period	% (Percentage point)
RVY (Relatif Variation Year -1)	Difference in relative numbers compared to the same reference period in the previous year	% (Percentage point)
Region	-	REFNIS

Total population	The total population comprises all persons living on national territory, even if they are temporarily absent.	N (Absolute frequency)
Underemployed part-time workers	Underemployed part-time workers are people who work part-time but who wish to work more hours and are available to do so. The respondents themselves indicate whether they work full-time or part-time.	Unknown
Unemployed (ILO)	In accordance with the standards established by the International Labour Organization, the unemployed comprises persons aged 15 years and older who were: (a) without work during the reference week (b) currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week (c) actively seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in the four weeks period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or who found a job to start later, i.e. within a period of maximum three months.	N (Absolute frequency)
Unemployment rate	The unemployment rate is the number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force (employed + unemployed) aged 15 to 64	% (Percentage point)