

Labour Force Survey

Proportion of underemployed part-time workers up to 21.4% in the EU27 in 2012

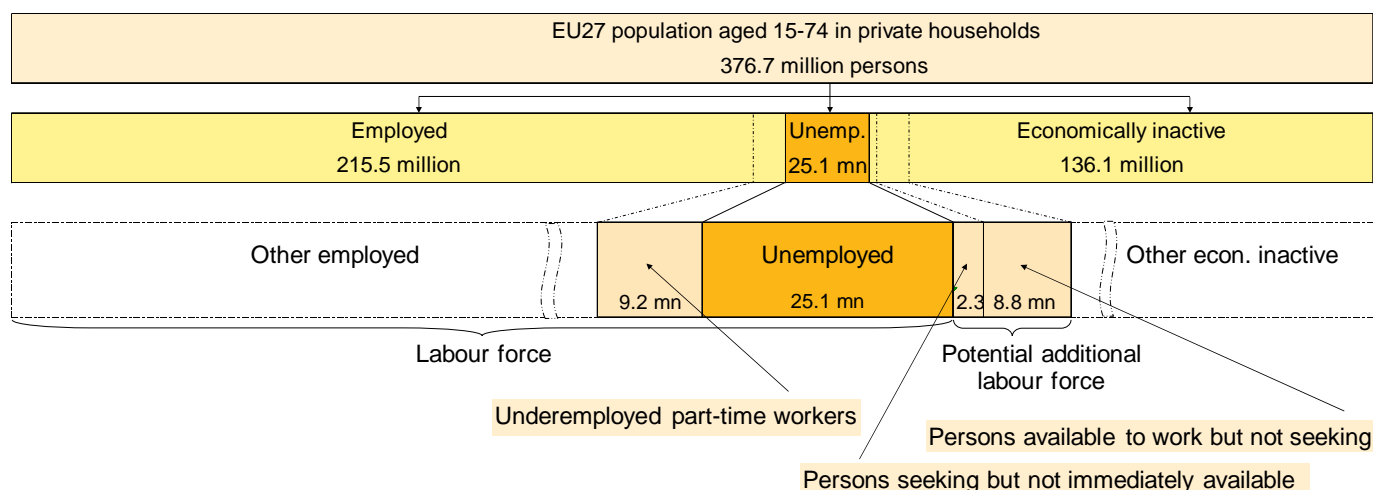
Among the 43 million part-time workers in the **EU27** in 2012, 9.2 million wished to work more hours, were available to do so¹ and can therefore be considered to be underemployed. Since the start of the economic crisis the proportion of part-time workers wishing to work more hours and available to do so has grown steadily, from 18.5% in 2008 to 20.5% in 2011 and 21.4% in 2012.

In 2012, the largest proportions of people wishing to work more hours and available to do so among part-time workers were found in Member States where the share of employed persons working part-time is relatively low: **Greece** (66%), **Spain** (55%), **Latvia** (53%) and **Cyprus** (50%). On the other hand, the smallest proportion was found in the **Netherlands** (3%), where part-time working is the most common, followed by **Estonia** (8%) and the **Czech Republic** (10%).

This information² is published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the 2012 results of the European Labour Force Survey. 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 11 million persons in the EU27

Among the economically inactive population (those persons neither employed nor unemployed), there were 8.8 million persons aged 15 to 74 available to work, but not seeking³ and 2.3 million seeking work, but not available⁴ in the **EU27** in 2012, compared with 8.6 million and 2.3 million respectively in 2011 and 7.3 million and 2.4 million respectively in 2008. 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 force⁵ of 11.0 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 1.5% in the **Czech Republic** to 12.1% in **Italy**.



Underemployment and part-time work, 2012

	Persons aged 15 to 74 working part-time, 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	9 185	21.4	4.3	19.9
EA17*	6 150	20.4	4.4	21.4
Belgium	158	14.0	3.5	25.0
Bulgaria	28	38.8	0.9	2.4
Czech Republic	27	9.6	0.5	5.7
Denmark	88	12.7	3.3	25.7
Germany	1 810	17.1	4.5	26.5
Estonia	10	8.0	1.7	10.4
Ireland	147	33.6	8.0	23.9
Greece	190	66.0	5.1	7.7
Spain	1 385	54.5	8.0	14.7
France**	1 144	24.7	4.4	18.0
Italy	605	15.6	2.6	17.0
Cyprus	20	50.4	5.3	10.5
Latvia	44	53.1	5.0	9.4
Lithuania	37	30.8	2.9	9.3
Luxembourg	5	11.7	2.2	18.9
Hungary	86	31.8	2.2	7.0
Malta	5	21.3	3.0	13.9
Netherlands	138	3.3	1.6	49.8
Austria	146	13.7	3.5	25.5
Poland	344	28.5	2.2	7.8
Portugal	256	42.8	5.6	13.2
Romania	239	25.3	2.6	10.2
Slovenia	18	20.6	2.0	9.5
Slovakia	37	38.0	1.6	4.1
Finland	75	20.1	3.0	15.1
Sweden	237	19.3	5.1	26.5
United Kingdom	1 907	24.1	6.5	27.0
Norway	81	11.1	3.1	28.1
Switzerland	264	16.9	6.0	35.6
Croatia	30	26.9	2.1	7.8
Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	14	33.6	2.2	6.4
Turkey	340	11.6	1.4	11.9

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

** Excluding the overseas departments

Potential additional labour force⁵, 2012

	Persons available to work but not seeking	Persons seeking work, but not immediately available	Potential additional labour force in % of labour force ⁵ aged 15-74
	Thousands		
EU27	8 752	2 279	4.6
EA17	6 056	1 646	4.9
Belgium	100	60	3.3
Bulgaria	270	26	8.9
Czech Republic	62	17	1.5
Denmark	69	24	3.2
Germany	562	508	2.5
Estonia	41	3	3.1
Ireland	44	13	2.6
Greece	91	36	2.6
Spain	1 071	235	5.7
France*	285	444	2.6
Italy	2 975	111	12.1
Cyprus	15	3	4.3
Latvia	67	6	7.0
Lithuania	16	(8)	1.6
Luxembourg	13	2	5.7
Hungary	215	11	5.2
Malta	5	(1)	2.8
Netherlands	308	85	4.4
Austria	144	39	4.2
Poland	632	102	4.2
Portugal	232	29	4.8
Romania	458	:	4.6
Slovenia	18	(4)	2.1
Slovakia	41	13	2.0
Finland	111	63	6.5
Sweden	134	101	4.6
United Kingdom	774	334	3.5
Iceland	7	2	4.9
Norway	67	22	3.4
Switzerland	160	52	4.6
Croatia	151	11	9.5
Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	:	6	0.7
Turkey	1 636	92	6.4

: Data missing or not published due to small sample size

() Data with reduced reliability due to sample size.

* Excluding the overseas departments.

1. 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.
2. See Statistics Explained article for more details at the following link:
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Underemployment_and_potential_additional_labour_force_statistics
3. 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.

4. 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
5. 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".

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