

## Labour Force Survey 2010

# Among part-time employed in the EU27, 21% would like to work more hours and are available to do so

## New labour market indicators released today

In the **EU27**, there were 41.3 million persons working part-time in 2010, of which three quarters were women. Among those employed part-time, 8.5 million, or 21%, wished to work more hours, were available to do so<sup>1</sup> and can therefore be considered to be underemployed. The share of part-time workers who are underemployed was higher for men (27%) than for women (19%).

The largest proportions of people wishing to work more hours and available to do so among part-time workers were found in **Latvia** (65%), **Greece** (49%), **Spain** (46%), **Bulgaria** (39%) and **Slovakia** (38%), all 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** (3%), where part-time working is most common, followed by **Belgium** (4%), the **Czech Republic** and **Luxembourg** (both 10%).

This information comes from two reports<sup>2</sup> published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, based on the 2010 results of the European Labour Force Survey. These reports present three new indicators: "underemployed part-time workers", "persons seeking work but not immediately available<sup>3</sup>" and "persons available to work but not seeking<sup>4</sup>". These indicators 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 8.2 million persons aged 15 to 74 available to work, but not seeking and 2.4 million seeking work, but not available in the **EU27** in 2010. While considered to be economically inactive, both groups have a certain attachment to the labour market. Together these two groups constitute a potential additional labour force<sup>5</sup> of 10.6 million people. In the **EU27** these two groups were equivalent to 4.5% of the current labour force, a percentage varying between Member States, from 1.4% in the **Czech Republic** to 11.6% in **Italy**.

### Underemployment and part-time work, 2010

	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	
<b>EU27</b>	<b>8 539</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>19.1</b>
<b>EA17*</b>	<b>5 782</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>20.3</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	37	3.5	0.8	23.9
<b>Bulgaria</b>	28	38.8	0.9	2.3
<b>Czech Republic</b>	29	10.4	0.6	5.8
<b>Denmark</b>	86	11.9	3.2	26.5
<b>Germany</b>	2 232	22.1	5.8	26.1
<b>Estonia</b>	12	20.0	2.2	11.0
<b>Ireland</b>	109	26.4	5.9	22.4
<b>Greece</b>	135	48.7	3.1	6.3
<b>Spain</b>	1 120	45.8	6.1	13.2
<b>France</b>	1 216	26.6	4.7	17.8
<b>Italy</b>	434	12.7	1.9	15.0
<b>Cyprus</b>	11	32.0	2.8	8.8
<b>Latvia</b>	59	65.1	6.3	9.7
<b>Lithuania</b>	38	34.9	2.8	8.0
<b>Luxembourg</b>	4	9.8	1.7	17.8
<b>Hungary</b>	58	26.1	1.5	5.8
<b>Malta</b>	4	21.6	2.7	12.3
<b>Netherlands</b>	112	2.7	1.3	48.8
<b>Austria</b>	123	12.1	3.0	25.0
<b>Poland</b>	309	23.7	1.9	8.2
<b>Portugal</b>	99	19.5	2.0	10.4
<b>Romania</b>	244	24.0	2.6	11.0
<b>Slovenia</b>	19	18.1	2.0	11.1
<b>Slovakia</b>	34	37.8	1.5	3.9
<b>Finland</b>	80	22.2	3.3	14.6
<b>Sweden</b>	222	18.5	4.9	26.4
<b>United Kingdom</b>	1 684	21.9	5.8	26.7
<b>Norway</b>	77	10.8	3.1	28.4
<b>Switzerland</b>	241	16.2	5.7	34.9
<b>Croatia</b>	41	29.1	2.7	9.2
<b>former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>	13	35.6	2.1	5.9
<b>Turkey</b>	451	17.4	2.0	11.5

\* 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 force<sup>5</sup>, 2010

	Persons available to work but not seeking	Persons seeking work, but not immediately available	Potential additional labour force in % of labour force <sup>5</sup> aged 15-74
	Thousands		
<b>EU27</b>	<b>8 250</b>	<b>2 384</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>EA17</b>	<b>5 465</b>	<b>1 737</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Belgium	36	93	2.6
Bulgaria	283	25	9.0
Czech Republic	55	20	1.4
Denmark	59	20	2.7
Germany	530	624	2.8
Estonia	41	(2)	6.2
Ireland	39	12	2.4
Greece	55	17	1.5
Spain	973	233	5.2
France	309	424	2.6
Italy	2 764	126	11.6
Cyprus	9	3	3.1
Latvia	93	5	8.5
Lithuania	29	16	2.8
Luxembourg	11	2	5.4
Hungary	199	11	4.9
Malta	:	(2)	(1.4)
Netherlands	309	71	4.3
Austria	150	37	4.4
Poland	643	116	4.3
Portugal	74	11	1.5
Romania	455	:	4.6
Slovenia	18	6	2.3
Slovakia	45	14	2.2
Finland	99	62	6.0
Sweden	132	97	4.6
United Kingdom	837	334	3.7
Iceland	4	2	3.2
Norway	63	19	3.2
Switzerland	159	53	4.7
Croatia	110	(13)	7.1
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	(5)	(0.5)
Turkey	1 713	132	7.3

: 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.
- Eurostat**, Statistics in focus, 56/2011, "**8.5 million underemployed part-time workers in the EU-27 in 2010**" and 57/2011, "**New data measures of labour attachment**". Available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website.
- 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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