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## PRESS RELEASE

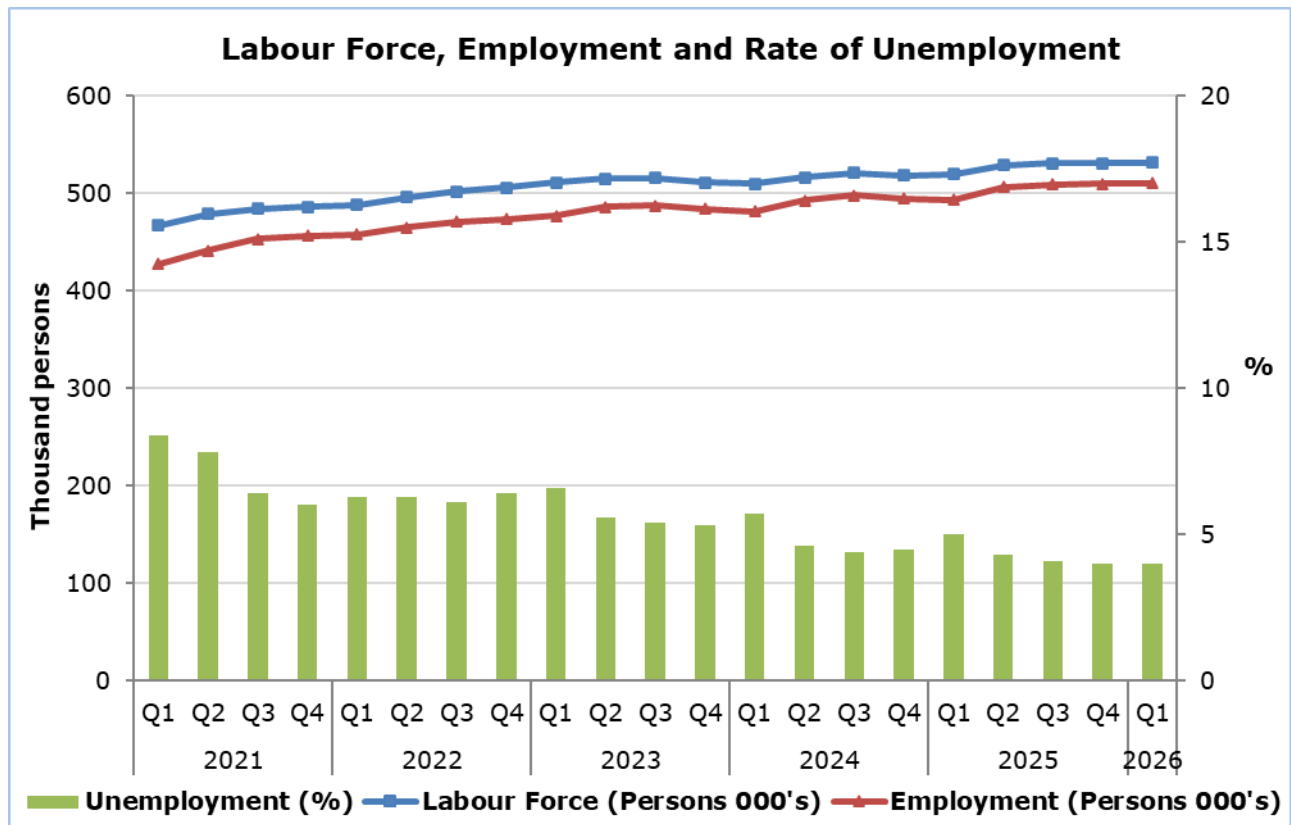
### LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS): 1st QUARTER 2026

#### Unemployment 4,0%

According to the results of the Labour Force Survey, the labour force in the 1st quarter of 2026 amounted to 531.511 persons or 64,7% of the population (males 69,6%, females 60,1%) in comparison to 519.433 persons (64,4%) in the corresponding quarter of 2025 (Table 1).

The number of employed persons was 510.265 and the employment rate 62,1% (males 66,8%, females 57,7%) in comparison to 493.272 persons (61,2%) in the corresponding quarter of 2025.

The number of unemployed persons amounted to 21.246 and the unemployment rate to 4,0% of the labour force (males 4,0%, females 4,0%) in comparison to 26.161 persons (5,0%) in the corresponding quarter of 2025.



## **Employment** (Table 2)

For the age group 20-64, the employment rate was 81,5%. The rate for males was 86,0% and for females 77,3%. In the corresponding quarter of 2025, the rate was 80,0% (males 85,5%, females 74,6%). For the age group 55-64 the employment rate was 70,9% in comparison to 69,9% in the corresponding quarter of 2025.

According to the distribution of employment by sector, the biggest percentage of employed persons was in Services (81,8%), followed by Manufacturing (16,3%) and Agriculture (1,9%). For the 1st quarter of 2025, the corresponding percentages were: Services 81,1%, Manufacturing 16,8% and Agriculture 2,1%.

The share of part-time employment to total employment was 8,9% or 45.173 persons (males 7,2%, females 10,7%). The corresponding rate for the 1st quarter of 2025 was 8,8% (males 6,4%, females 11,6%).

90,0% or 459.205 of the total employed persons were employees, of which 14,5% (66.524 persons) had a temporary job. In the corresponding quarter of 2025 employees accounted for 90,3% of total employment of which 12,9% had a temporary job.

## **Unemployment** (Table 3)

For young persons aged 15-24 years old, the unemployment rate was 13,1% of the labour force of the same age group (males 15,8%, females 10,5%) in comparison to 11,2% (males 13,0%, females 9,2%) in the corresponding quarter of last year.

As far as the duration of unemployment is concerned, 63,9% of the total unemployed persons searched for a job for a period of less than 6 months, 15,8% for a period of 6-11 months, whereas a percentage of 20,3% were long-term unemployed. The corresponding rates for the 1st quarter of 2025 were 61,3%, 15,2% and 23,5%.

**Table 1**

	Number		Percentage (%)	
	Q1 2026	Q1 2025	Q1 2026	Q1 2025
<b><u>Labour Force</u></b>				
Total	531.511	519.433	64,7	64,4
Males	277.373	275.358	69,6	69,8
Females	254.137	244.075	60,1	59,3
<b><u>Employment</u></b>				
Total	510.265	493.272	62,1	61,2
Males	266.357	263.020	66,8	66,6
Females	243.908	230.252	57,7	55,9
<b><u>Unemployment</u></b>				
Total	21.246	26.161	4,0	5,0
Males	11.017	12.338	4,0	4,5
Females	10.229	13.823	4,0	5,7

**Table 2**

Employment	Number						Percentage (%)					
	Q1 2026			Q1 2025			Q1 2026			Q1 2025		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
<b>Age</b>												
15+	510.265	266.357	243.908	493.272	263.020	230.252	62,1	66,8	57,7	61,2	66,6	55,9
20-64	484.294	248,363	235.932	471.272	248.226	223.046	81,5	86,0	77,3	80,0	85,5	74,6
55-64	84.787	45.415	39.373	83.101	46.212	36.889	70,9	79,7	62,9	69,9	81,7	59,3
<b>Sector</b>												
Agriculture	9.752	7.435	2.316	105.38	8.292	2.247	1,9	2,8	1,0	2,1	3,1	1,0
Industry	83.395	68.889	14.506	82.932	68.342	14.590	16,3	25,9	5,9	16,8	26,0	6,3
Services	417.118	190.032	227.086	399.802	186.387	213.415	81,8	71,3	93,1	81,1	70,9	92,7
Full-time	465.092	247.173	217.920	449.744	246.221	203.522	91,1	92,8	89,3	91,2	93,6	88,4
Part-time	45.173	19.184	25.989	43.529	16.799	26.729	8,9	7,2	10,7	8,8	6,4	11,6
<b>Prof. Status</b>												
Self-employed	51.060	30.424	20.636	47.675	29.593	18.082	10,0	11,4	8,5	9,7	11,3	7,9
<b>Employees</b>												
Total	459.205	235.933	223.272	445.598	233.428	212.170	90,0	88,6	91,5	90,3	88,7	92,1
Permanent	392.681	212.443	180.238	388.047	214.714	173.333	85,5	90,0	80,7	87,1	92,0	81,7
Temporary	66.524	23.490	43.034	57.550	18.714	38.836	14,5	10,0	19,3	12,9	8,0	18,3

**Table 3**

Unemployment	Number						Percentage (%)					
	Q1 2026			Q1 2025			Q1 2026			Q1 2025		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
<b>Age</b>												
15+	21.246	11.017	10.229	26.161	12.338	13.823	4,0	4,0	4,0	5,0	4,5	5,7
15-24	3.652	2.195	1.457	3.196	1.949	1.248	13,1	15,8	10,5	11,2	13,0	9,2
25-64	17.137	8.631	8.506	22.203	10.028	12.176	3,6	3,5	3,6	4,7	4,1	5,4
<b>Duration</b>												
< 6 months	13.580	6.864	6.716	16.050	7.082	8.969	63,9	62,3	65,7	61,3	57,4	64,9
6-11 months	3.357	1.370	1.986	3.973	2.092	1.881	15,8	12,5	19,4	15,2	17,0	13,6
12+ months	4.310	2.781	1.525	6.139	3.163	2.975	20,3	25,2	14,9	23,5	25,6	21,5

M: Males F: Females

Note: The figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

## **METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

### **Survey Identity**

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is conducted in all European Union Member States every quarter in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council, which entered into force on 1.1.2021. Until 2020, the LFS was conducted in accordance with Regulation 577/98 of the Council of the European Union. In Cyprus the survey was carried out in 1999 for the first time and until 2003 it was conducted in the second quarter of every year. As from the second quarter of 2004 onwards, the LFS is conducted every quarter, on a continuous basis.

The main objective of the LFS is to distribute the population aged 15 years and over into three main categories, regarding their labour status, the employed, the unemployed and the persons outside the labour force (inactive). In addition, the survey collects data related to the main job, the occupation, the working hours, the highest level of education, the search of a job, as well as other useful information that is used in policy formulation on labour matters and for pursuing and evaluating programmes that are applied both by the Government and by the European Union.

### **Coverage and Collection of Data**

The LFS covers a sample of 3.800 households in all districts of Cyprus, which are allocated according to the number of households that reside in urban and rural areas.

For comparability of the results, in all Member States, the survey covers the population of private households only. It does not cover persons residing in collective households (i.e. institutions, homes for the aged, hospitals, monasteries etc.), conscripts on compulsory military service as well as students who study abroad and Cypriots who work abroad.

The collection of the data from the Statistical Service is done with personal interviews and the use of portable computers as well as with telephone interviews.

### **Methodological Changes**

With the adoption of the new European Regulation on Social Statistics (2019/1700), the LFS is conducted with significant changes in the design and implementation of the questionnaire, so that it is fully harmonized with this new regulation. The most important changes in the context of the adoption of the new regulation are:

#### **Employed - up to 2020 (persons 15 years and over)**

(a) Persons who during the reference week worked for at least 1 hour for pay or profit. Unpaid family workers are also included.

(b) Persons who had a job from which they were temporarily absent during the reference week:

- due to sick leave or maternity or paternity leave,
- due to other reasons with duration of absence 3 months or less,
- due to other reasons with duration of absence longer than 3 months and receiving at least 50% of their salary.

#### **Employed - as from 2021 onwards (persons 15 - 89 years old)**

(a) Persons who during the reference week worked for at least 1 hour for pay or profit. Unpaid family workers are also included.

(b) Persons who had a job from which they were temporarily absent during the reference week:

- due to holidays or leave, working time arrangements, sick leave, maternity or paternity leave or job related training,
- due to other reasons with duration of absence 3 months or less,
- seasonal workers who continue to perform regular duties for their job during the off-season.

The above changes in the regulations have not affected the comparability of the results of the LFS, from 2021 onwards. A special study conducted to check the above changes in the regulations shows that the implementation of the new regulation from 2021 onwards had no impact on the results of the LFS.

It is noted that, the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) had affected both employment and unemployment, as the measures taken by the government for the restraint of the pandemic had affected businesses of various economic activities, (e.g. total or partial suspension of their operation). As a result, persons employed in these businesses did not work for a significant period of time (more than 3 months) and therefore were not considered as employed. Additionally, persons who were not employed were not actively seeking for work (since there were no jobs) although they were available to work within 2 weeks following the reference week and hence were not considered as unemployed.

## **Definitions**

**Labour Force / Economically Active Population** – The total number of the employed and unemployed persons aged 15 years and over.

**Employed** - Persons aged 15 – 89 years old who during the reference week worked for at least one hour, as well as persons who had a job but were temporarily absent from work.

**Unemployed** – Persons aged 15 – 74 years old who comply to the following standards:

- Neither worked nor had a job from which they were temporarily absent during the reference week.
- They had actively sought for work, i.e. had taken specific steps during the previous 4 weeks to find work or found a job which will start within a period of at most 3 months.
- They were available to start work within the 2 weeks following the reference week.

**Long-term unemployed** – Persons aged 15 – 74 years old who searched for work for a period of 12 months or more.

**Inactive** – Persons aged 15 years and over who are neither employed nor unemployed.

**Labour Force participation rate** – The number of persons in the Labour Force for any group expressed as a percentage of the total population in the same group.

**Employment rate** - The number of employed persons for any group expressed as a percentage of the total population in the same group.

**Unemployment rate** – The number of unemployed persons of any group expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

### **Employment Estimation LFS Vs National Accounts**

National Accounts employment estimates differ from the results of other statistics and surveys, especially from those obtained from the LFS. In particular, there are differences due to both integration of sources and conceptual reasons.

The differences are presented in the file: [Differences in employment estimates](#)

### ***For more information:***

CYSTAT Portal, subtheme [Labour Market](#)

[CYSTAT-DB](#) (Online Database)

[Methodological Information](#)

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