



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



STATISTICAL SERVICE  
OF CYPRUS  
1444 NICOSIA

8 December, 2023

## PRESS RELEASE

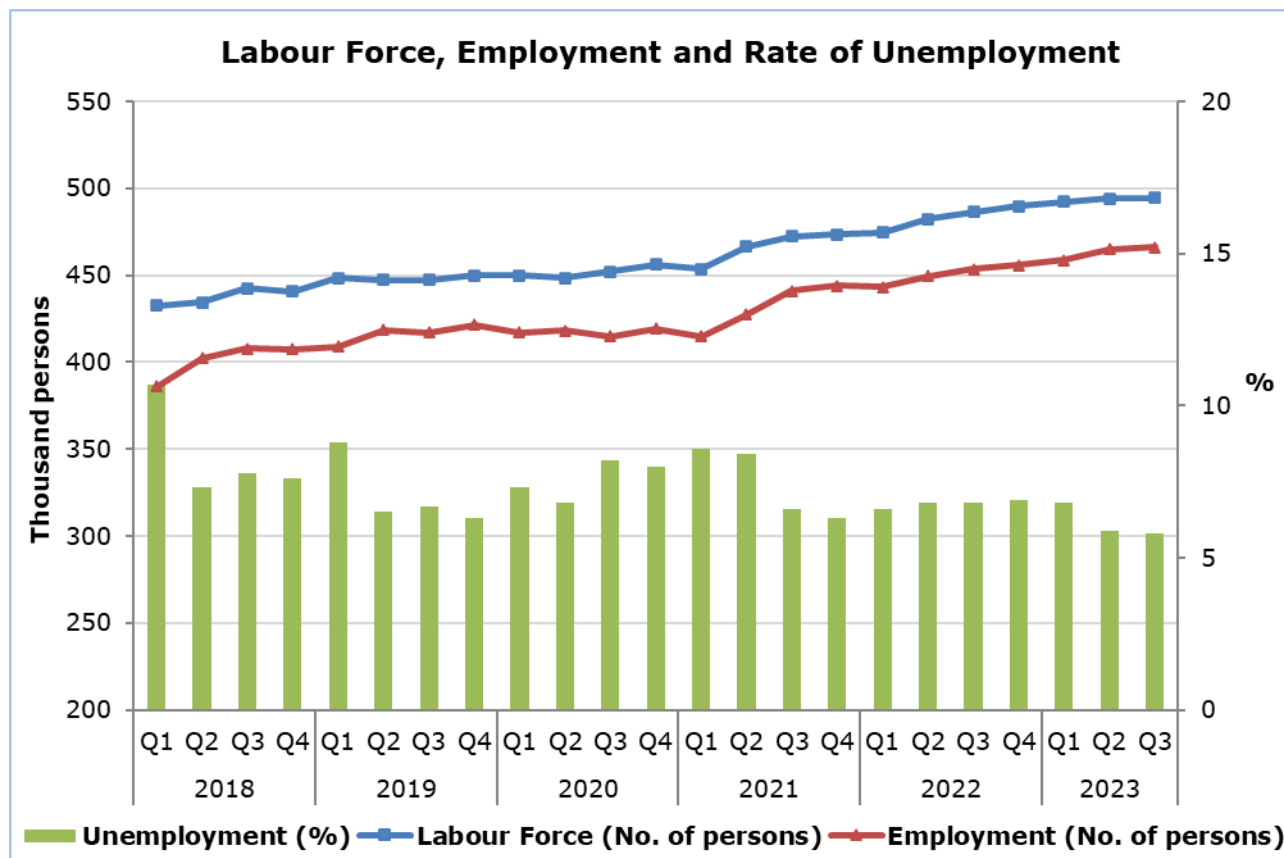
### LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS): 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 2023

#### Unemployment 5,8%

According to the results of the Labour Force Survey, the labour force in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023 amounted to 494.622 persons or 65,5% of the population (males 70,6%, females 60,9%) in comparison to 486.492 persons (65,4%) in the corresponding quarter of 2022 (Table 1).

The number of employed persons was 466.117 and the employment rate 61,7% (males 66,5%, females 57,4%) in comparison to 453.625 persons (61,0%) in the corresponding quarter of 2022.

The number of unemployed persons amounted to 28.504 and the unemployment rate to 5,8% of the labour force (males 5,8%, females 5,8%) in comparison to 32.868 persons (6,8%) in the corresponding quarter of 2022.



**Employment** (Table 2)

For the age group 20-64, the employment rate was 79,3%. The rate for males was 84,1% and for females 74,8%. In the corresponding quarter of 2022, the rate was 78,3% (males 84,8%, females 72,3%). For the age group 55-64 the employment rate was 66,8% in comparison to 65,2% in the corresponding quarter of 2022.

According to the distribution of employment by sector, the biggest percentage of employed persons was in Services (81,8%), followed by Manufacturing (15,7%) and Agriculture (2,5%). For the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022, the corresponding percentages were: Services 80,5%, Manufacturing 17,2% and Agriculture 2,3%.

The share of part-time employment to total employment was 8,7% or 40.743 persons (males 6,7%, females 10,9%). The corresponding rate for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022 was 9,8% (males 8,3%, females 11,6%).

89,6% or 417.847 of the total employed persons were employees, of which 14,1% (58.805 persons) had a temporary job. In the corresponding quarter of 2022 employees accounted for 89,1% of total employment of which 11,5% had a temporary job.

**Unemployment** (Table 3)

For young persons aged 15-24 years old, the unemployment rate was 17,3% of the labour force of the same age group (males 18,4%, females 16,2%) in comparison to 19,9% (males 18,0%, females 21,6%) in the corresponding quarter of last year.

As far as the duration of unemployment is concerned, 50,7% of the total unemployed persons searched for a job for a period of less than 6 months, 18,0% for a period of 6-11 months, whereas a percentage of 31,3% were long-term unemployed. The corresponding rates for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022 were 56,2%, 14,9% and 28,9%.

**Table 1**

	Number		Percentage (%)	
	Q3 2023	Q3 2022	Q3 2023	Q3 2022
<b><u>Labour Force</u></b>				
Total	494.622	486.492	65,5	65,4
Males	254.762	253.465	70,6	71,3
Females	239.860	233.029	60,9	60,0
<b><u>Employment</u></b>				
Total	466.117	453.625	61,7	61,0
Males	240.065	239.397	66,5	67,4
Females	226.052	214.228	57,4	55,2
<b><u>Unemployment</u></b>				
Total	28.504	32.868	5,8	6,8
Males	14.697	14.067	5,8	5,5
Females	13.807	18.801	5,8	8,1

Table 2

Employment	Number						Percentage (%)					
	Q3 2023			Q3 2022			Q3 2023			Q3 2022		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
<b>Age</b>												
15+	466.117	240.065	226.052	453.625	239.397	214.228	61,7	66,5	57,4	61,0	67,4	55,2
20-64	445.829	227.775	218.055	435.325	227.204	208.122	79,3	84,1	74,8	78,3	84,8	72,3
55-64	73.045	40.206	32.840	70.148	40.548	29.600	66,8	73,9	59,7	65,2	76,0	54,5
<b>Sector</b>												
Agriculture	11.839	10.248	1.591	10.445	8.220	2.225	2,5	4,3	0,7	2,3	3,4	1,0
Industry	73.016	57.952	15.065	77.918	61.714	16.204	15,7	24,1	6,7	17,2	25,8	7,6
Services	381.261	171.865	209.396	365.262	169.463	195.799	81,8	71,6	92,6	80,5	70,8	91,4
Full-time	425.374	223.987	201.387	408.994	219.547	189.447	91,3	93,3	89,1	90,2	91,7	88,4
Part-time	40.743	16.078	24.665	44.631	19.850	24.781	8,7	6,7	10,9	9,8	8,3	11,6
<b>Prof. Status</b>												
Self-employed	48.270	28.489	19.781	49.612	29.586	20.026	10,4	11,9	8,8	10,9	12,4	9,3
<b>Employees</b>												
Total	417.847	211.575	206.271	404.013	209.811	194.202	89,6	88,1	91,2	89,1	87,6	90,7
Permanent	359.042	186.434	172.608	357.377	192.541	164.836	85,9	88,1	83,7	88,5	91,8	84,9
Temporary	58.805	25.141	33.664	46.636	17.271	29.366	14,1	11,9	16,3	11,5	8,2	15,1

Table 3

Unemployment	Number						Percentage (%)					
	Q3 2023			Q3 2022			Q3 2023			Q3 2022		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
<b>Age</b>												
15+	28.504	14.697	13.807	32.868	14.067	18.801	5,8	5,8	5,8	6,8	5,5	8,1
15-24	7.223	3.950	3.273	8.025	3.523	4.502	17,3	18,4	16,2	19,9	18,0	21,6
25-64	21.100	10.707	10.393	24.507	10.363	14.144	4,8	4,8	4,8	5,7	4,7	6,8
<b>Duration</b>												
< 6 months	14.455	7.523	6.932	18.476	7.109	11.367	50,7	51,2	50,2	56,2	50,5	60,5
6-11 months	5.132	2.401	2.731	4.887	2.596	2.292	18,0	16,3	19,8	14,9	18,5	12,2
12+ months	8.918	4.772	4.144	9.505	4.361	5.143	31,3	32,5	30,0	28,9	31,0	27,3

M: Males F: Females

Note: Figures in the tables may not add up to totals due to rounding error.

## **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 aim of the survey is the collection of data which are useful in the formulation of policy on labour matters (employment, unemployment) and for pursuing and evaluating of the programmes that are applied both by 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 employment and unemployment, 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.

#### **Unemployed - up to 2020**

##### **(persons 15 - 74 years old)**

- Persons who do not meet the criteria for employment (above)
- and
- are available to start work within 2 weeks
- and
- seeking for a job or have already found a job which will start within a period of at most 3 months.

#### **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.

#### **Unemployed - as from 2021 onwards**

##### **(persons 15 - 74 years old)**

- Persons who do not meet the criteria for employment (above)
- and
- are available to start work within 2 weeks
- and
- are actively seeking for a job or have already found a job which will start within a period of at most 3 months.

The above changes in the regulations have not affected 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) has affected both employment and unemployment, as the measures taken by the government for the restraint of the pandemic have affected businesses of various economic activities, (e.g. total or partial suspension of 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)

[Predefined Tables](#) (Excel)

[Methodological Information](#)

**The data included in the Predefined Tables in Excel format are available up to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. Data from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022 onwards are available only in the CYSTAT-DB Online Database.**

## ***Contact***

Maria Hadjiprokopi: Tel: +35722602146, Email: [mhadjiprokopi@cystat.mof.gov.cy](mailto:mhadjiprokopi@cystat.mof.gov.cy)

Christophoros Michaelides: Tel: +35722602154, Email: [cmichaelides@cystat.mof.gov.cy](mailto:cmichaelides@cystat.mof.gov.cy)