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## PRESS RELEASE

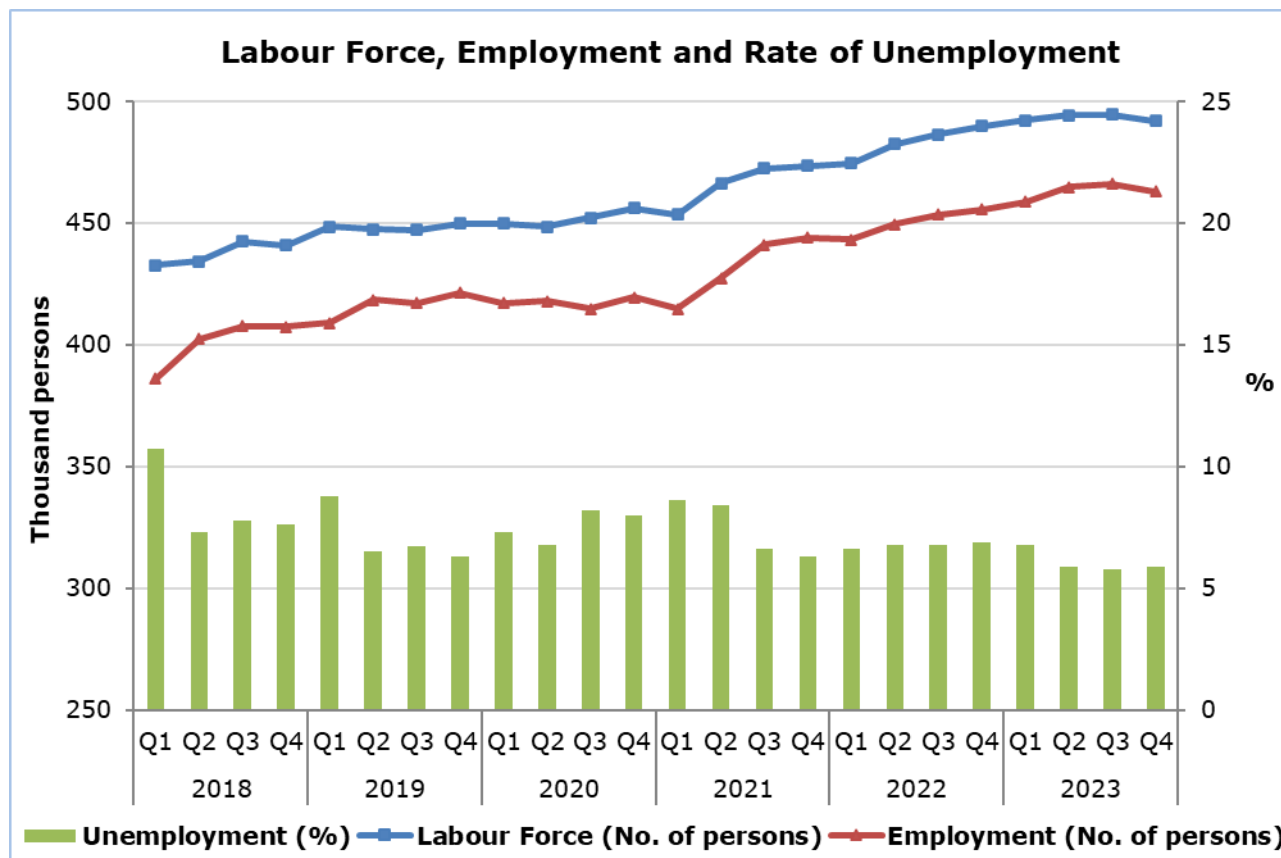
### LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (LFS): 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER 2023

#### Unemployment 5,9%

According to the results of the Labour Force Survey, the labour force in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023 amounted to 491.929 persons or 64,9% of the population (males 69,2%, females 60,9%) in comparison to 489.650 persons (65,5%) in the corresponding quarter of 2022 (Table 1).

The number of employed persons was 462.881 and the employment rate 61,1% (males 65,0%, females 57,4%) in comparison to 455.727 persons (61,0%) in the corresponding quarter of 2022.

The number of unemployed persons amounted to 29.047 and the unemployment rate to 5,9% of the labour force (males 6,0%, females 5,8%) in comparison to 33.922 persons (6,9%) in the corresponding quarter of 2022.



## **Employment** (Table 2)

For the age group 20-64, the employment rate was 78,6%. The rate for males was 82,4% and for females 75,0%. In the corresponding quarter of 2022, the rate was 78,1% (males 84,2%, females 72,5%). For the age group 55-64 the employment rate was 68,0% in comparison to 65,3% in the corresponding quarter of 2022.

According to the distribution of employment by sector, the biggest percentage of employed persons was in Services (81,5%), followed by Manufacturing (16,0%) and Agriculture (2,5%). For the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022, the corresponding percentages were: Services 80,3%, Manufacturing 17,4% and Agriculture 2,3%.

The share of part-time employment to total employment was 8,5% or 39.124 persons (males 6,6%, females 10,4%). The corresponding rate for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022 was 10,1% (males 7,5%, females 13,0%).

89,4% or 413.837 of the total employed persons were employees, of which 12,8% (53.143 persons) had a temporary job. In the corresponding quarter of 2022 employees accounted for 89,3% of total employment of which 11,3% had a temporary job.

## **Unemployment** (Table 3)

For young persons aged 15-24 years old, the unemployment rate was 18,6% of the labour force of the same age group (males 21,2%, females 16,1%) in comparison to 19,2% (males 21,3%, females 17,2%) in the corresponding quarter of last year.

As far as the duration of unemployment is concerned, 57,0% of the total unemployed persons searched for a job for a period of less than 6 months, 15,5% for a period of 6-11 months, whereas a percentage of 27,5% were long-term unemployed. The corresponding rates for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022 were 54,0%, 13,6% and 32,4%.

**Table 1**

	Number		Percentage (%)	
	Q4 2023	Q4 2022	Q4 2023	Q4 2022
<b><u>Labour Force</u></b>				
Total	491.929	489.650	64,9	65,5
Males	251.491	254.354	69,2	71,0
Females	240.437	235.295	60,9	60,4
<b><u>Employment</u></b>				
Total	462.881	455.727	61,1	61,0
Males	236.284	239.064	65,0	66,8
Females	226.597	216.664	57,4	55,6
<b><u>Unemployment</u></b>				
Total	29.047	33.922	5,9	6,9
Males	15.207	15.291	6,0	6,0
Females	13.841	18.631	5,8	7,9

**Table 2**

Employment	Number						Percentage (%)					
	Q4 2023			Q4 2022			Q4 2023			Q4 2022		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
<b>Age</b>												
15+	462.881	236.284	226.597	455.727	239.064	216.664	61,1	65,0	57,4	61,0	66,8	55,6
20-64	442.513	223.538	218.975	435.459	226.017	209.443	78,6	82,4	75,0	78,1	84,2	72,5
55-64	74.365	40.599	33.766	70.685	40.905	29.780	68,0	74,7	61,4	65,3	76,3	54,6
<b>Sector</b>												
Agriculture	11.430	9.256	2.174	10.622	9.043	1.579	2,5	3,9	1,0	2,3	3,8	0,7
Industry	73.940	58.657	15.283	79.256	62.049	17.207	16,0	24,8	6,7	17,4	26,0	7,9
Services	377.512	168.371	209.140	365.849	167.971	197.878	81,5	71,3	92,3	80,3	70,3	91,3
<b>Prof. Status</b>												
Full-time	423.758	220.646	203.112	409.811	221.242	188.569	91,5	93,4	89,6	89,9	92,5	87,0
Part-time	39.124	15.639	23.485	45.916	17.821	28.095	8,5	6,6	10,4	10,1	7,5	13,0
<b>Self-employed</b>												
	49.044	29.369	19.676	48.820	28.551	20.270	10,6	12,4	8,7	10,7	11,9	9,4
<b>Employees</b>												
Total	413.837	206.916	206.921	406.907	210.513	196.394	89,4	87,6	91,3	89,3	88,1	90,6
Permanent	360.693	185.317	175.376	360.856	192.019	168.837	87,2	89,6	84,8	88,7	91,2	86,0
Temporary	53.143	21.598	31.545	46.051	18.494	27.557	12,8	10,4	15,2	11,3	8,8	14,0

**Table 3**

Unemployment	Number						Percentage (%)					
	Q4 2023			Q4 2022			Q4 2023			Q4 2022		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
<b>Age</b>												
15+	29.047	15.207	13.841	33.922	15.291	18.631	5,9	6,0	5,8	6,9	6,0	7,9
15-24	7.466	4.118	3.349	7.952	4.276	3.676	18,6	21,2	16,1	19,2	21,3	17,2
25-64	21.432	11.037	10.395	25.704	10.818	14.886	4,9	5,0	4,9	6,0	4,9	7,1
<b>Duration</b>												
< 6 months	16.546	8.742	7.803	18.305	8.055	10.251	57,0	57,5	56,4	54,0	52,7	55,0
6-11 months	4.517	1.752	2.765	4.605	2.428	2.176	15,5	11,5	20,0	13,6	15,9	11,7
12+ months	7.984	4.712	3.272	11.011	4.806	6.205	27,5	31,0	23,6	32,4	31,4	33,3

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.**

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