

Quarterly Labour Force Survey

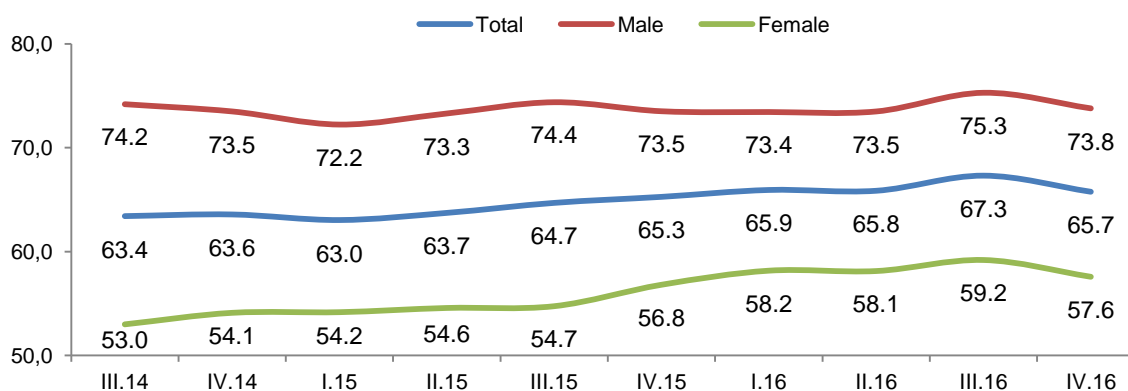
Fourth quarter 2016

Tirana, March 10, 2017: During the fourth quarter of 2016, the employment rate for the population aged from 15 to 64 is 56.2 %. Over this quarter, in annual terms, employment has an increasing trend: compared to the same quarter of 2015, employment increased with 5.8 %. Whereas, in quarterly terms, comparison made with the third quarter of 2016, employment decreased with 1.4 %.

In the fourth quarter of 2016, the official unemployment rate in Albania, for the population aged 15 years and over is 14.2 %. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2015, the official unemployment rate decreased with 3.1 percentage points. Compared to the third quarter 2016, the official unemployment rate decreased with 0.5 percentage points.

In the fourth quarter of 2016, the labour force participation rate for the population aged from 15 to 64 is 65.7 %. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2015, the labour force participation rate is 0.4 percentage points higher. Compared with the previous quarter this indicator decreased by 1.6 percentage points.

Fig. 1 Labour Force Participation Rate, population aged 15 to 64, Q.3/14 - Q.4/16



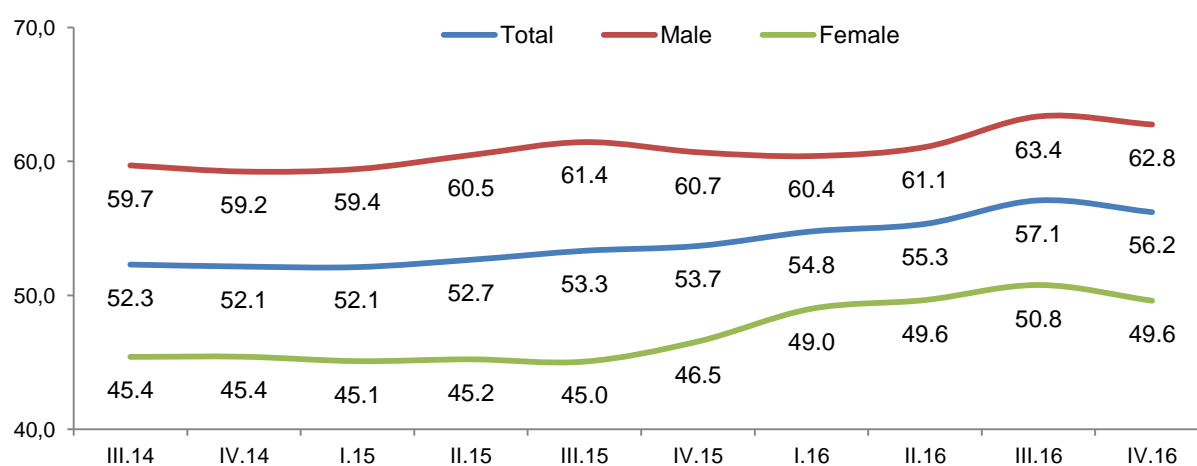
The female labour force participation rate is 57.6 %, whereas for males this indicator is 73.8 %. The male labour force participation rate is 16.2 percentage points higher than females. Compared to the same quarter of 2015, the female labour force participation rate increased by 0.8 percentage points and for males by 0.3 percentage points.

Over the fourth quarter 2016, the youth labour force participation rate (population aged from 15 to 29) is 45.2 %. For the population aged from 30 to 64, in the fourth quarter 2016, labour force participation rate is 75.8 %.

Employment

The male employment rate is 62.8 %, whereas for females is 49.6 %. Compared to the same quarter of 2015, the employment rate for males increased by 2.1 percentage points, while for females it increased by 3.0 percentage points. The youth employment rate is 32.5 %. For the population aged 30 to 64, in the fourth quarter 2016, the employment rate is 67.8 %.

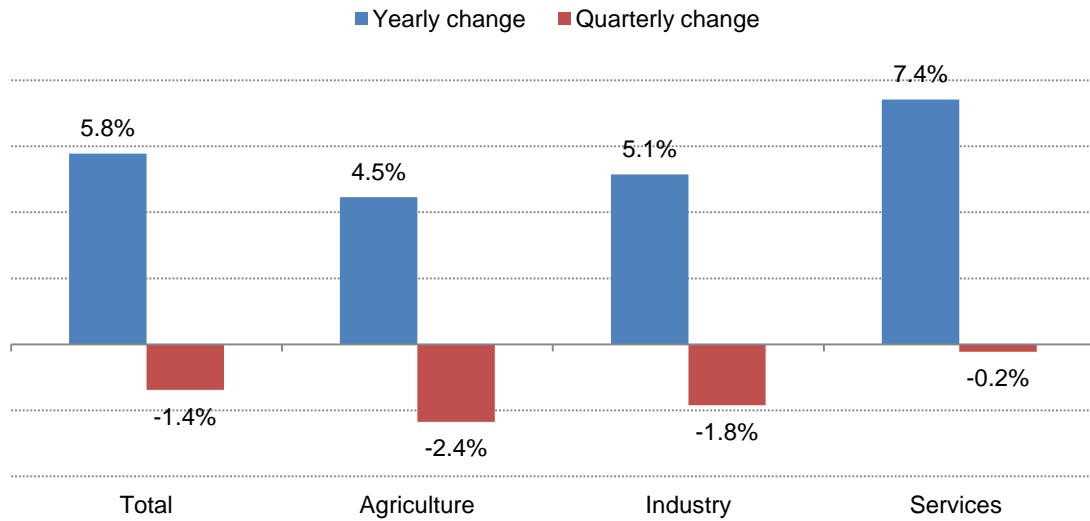
Fig. 2 Employment Rate, population aged 15 to 64, Q.3/14 - Q.4/16



In annual terms, the employment growth rate for the population aged 15 and over, from fourth quarter 2015 to fourth quarter 2016, is 5.8 %. The annual employment growth rate by main economic sectors is: 7.4 % in the services sector, 5.1 % in industry, and 4.5 % in agriculture sector.

Compared to the previous quarter, in fourth quarter 2016 employment for the population aged 15 years and over, decreased by 1.4 %. The decrease of employment in the agriculture sector is estimated to be 2.4 %, and in the industry sector 1.8 %. While in the service sector employment remained almost in the same level as in the previous quarter of this year.

Fig. 3 Employment growth rate in yearly and quarterly basis, population aged 15 and over

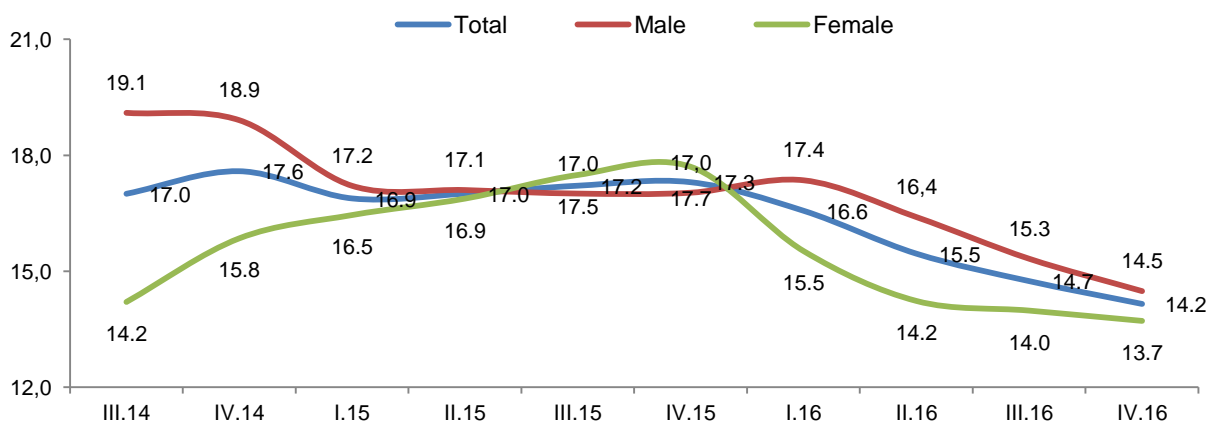


Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2016, the official unemployment rate in Albania is 14.2 %. Compared to the same quarter of 2015, the male unemployment rate decreased by 2.5 percentage points and for females it decreased by 4.0 percentage points.

The official male unemployment rate is 14.5 % and for females is 13.7 %. The female unemployment rate is 0.8 percentage points lower than the male one.

Fig. 4 Official Unemployment Rate, population aged 15 and over, Q.3/14 - Q.4/16



The official youth unemployment rate is 28.1 %. In annual terms, the youth unemployment rate has a decreasing trend. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2015, the youth unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of 2016 is 4.1 percentage points lower.

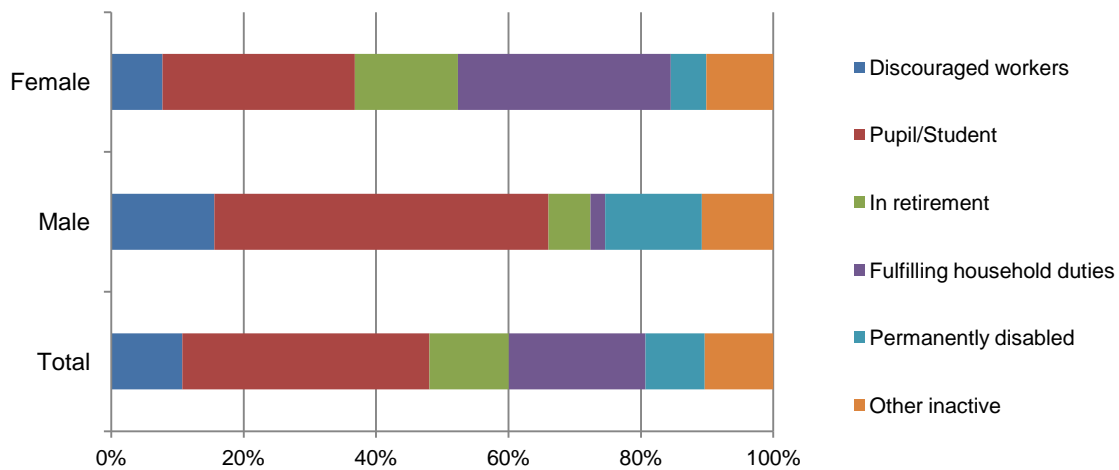
Compared to the previous quarter of this year youth unemployment rate increased by 0.7 percentage points. The unemployment rate for the population aged 30 to 64 is 10.6 %. In annual terms this indicator decreased by 2.5 percentage points. Compared to the previous quarter of this year, unemployment rate for this age group has decreased by 1.1 percentage points.

The economically inactive population

Over the fourth quarter of 2016, 20.6 % of the economically inactive population and at the working age (15 to 64 years old), were fulfilling household duties, 12.0 % was in retirement or early retirement, while 8.9 % were permanently disabled.

In the fourth quarter of 2016, 10.8 % of the working age population (aged 15 to 64) declared as the main reason for not looking for work is because of believe that no work is available.

Fig. 4 Structure of the economically inactive population by sex and inactivity status



Within the non-economically active youth population aged 15 to 29, 70.6 % are pupils/students or pursuing a training. Among the economically inactive youth population aged 15 to 29, 7.8 % are classified as discouraged workers. In the adult economically inactive population (aged 30 to 64), discouraged workers account for 14.0 %.

Tab. 1 Unemployment Rate, Q.1/13-Q.4/16

Age	Sex	Q.1.2013	Q.2.2013	Q.3.2013	Q.4.2013	Q.1.2014	Q.2.2014	Q.3.2014	Q.4.2014	Q.1.2015	Q.2.2015	Q.3.2015	Q.4.2015	Q.1.2016	Q.2.2016	Q.3.2016	Q.4.2016
15 years and over	Total	14.3	16.0	16.8	16.8	18.2	17.2	17.0	17.6	16.9	17.0	17.2	17.3	16.6	15.5	14.7	14.2
	Male	15.4	18.0	19.3	18.6	19.4	19.3	19.1	18.9	17.2	17.1	17.0	17.0	17.4	16.4	15.3	14.5
	Female	13.1	13.3	13.5	14.3	16.4	14.4	14.2	15.8	16.5	16.9	17.5	17.8	15.5	14.2	14.0	13.7
15-64 years	Total	14.8	16.4	17.2	17.1	18.6	17.7	17.4	18.0	17.3	17.3	17.5	17.7	16.9	15.9	15.2	14.5
	Male	16.0	18.6	19.8	18.9	19.9	19.8	19.6	19.4	17.7	17.5	17.4	17.5	17.8	17.0	15.9	15.0
	Female	13.4	13.6	13.8	14.6	16.8	14.7	14.5	16.1	16.8	17.2	17.7	18.1	15.8	14.5	14.3	13.9
15-29 years	Total	25.4	27.9	27.3	28.3	30.2	33.5	32.4	33.9	34.1	34.2	32.3	32.2	30.4	29.9	27.4	28.1
	Male	26.4	32.1	31.4	28.9	33.0	37.1	35.7	36.5	33.5	33.3	31.0	31.6	30.7	31.2	27.7	29.3
	Female	24.0	21.6	21.2	27.4	25.4	27.1	26.9	29.7	35.1	35.9	34.8	33.1	30.1	28.0	26.9	26.2
30-64 years	Total	11.7	13.0	14.2	13.5	15.1	12.8	12.4	12.8	12.0	12.1	12.9	13.1	12.9	11.9	11.7	10.6
	Male	12.7	14.2	16.1	15.5	15.5	13.8	13.6	13.3	12.3	11.9	12.4	12.4	13.5	12.6	12.1	10.5
	Female	10.6	11.5	11.8	11.0	14.6	11.5	11.0	12.3	11.6	12.5	13.4	13.9	12.2	11.0	11.1	10.7

Tab. 2 Employment Rate, Q.1/13 - Q.4/16

Age	Sex	Q.1.2013	Q.2.2013	Q.3.2013	Q.4.2013	Q.1.2014	Q.2.2014	Q.3.2014	Q.4.2014	Q.1.2015	Q.2.2015	Q.3.2015	Q.4.2015	Q.1.2016	Q.2.2016	Q.3.2016	Q.4.2016
15 years and over	Total	47.0	44.1	42.9	42.4	41.5	44.4	45.8	45.6	45.6	45.8	46.3	46.7	47.5	48.4	49.9	49.1
	Male	53.0	50.7	49.2	49.8	48.3	52.2	52.7	52.3	52.5	53.0	54.1	53.4	53.1	54.0	56.1	55.4
	Female	41.5	38.1	37.1	35.5	34.9	37.1	39.2	39.3	39.0	38.9	38.5	39.9	41.9	42.8	43.7	42.8
15-64 years	Total	52.8	49.9	48.6	48.2	47.1	50.5	52.3	52.1	52.1	52.7	53.3	53.7	54.8	55.3	57.1	56.2
	Male	59.5	57.2	55.8	56.7	54.4	58.7	59.7	59.2	59.4	60.5	61.4	60.7	60.4	61.1	63.4	62.8
	Female	46.7	43.3	42.1	40.5	39.9	42.7	45.4	45.4	45.1	45.2	45.0	46.5	49.0	49.6	50.8	49.6
15-29 years	Total	30.1	27.6	27.3	27.8	25.8	27.5	30.5	29.2	28.9	28.6	30.4	31.1	32.1	31.6	33.5	32.5
	Male	35.6	32.3	32.0	34.8	30.2	32.8	35.4	33.7	33.6	35.1	38.0	36.3	36.5	34.8	37.9	35.9
	Female	24.8	23.1	22.8	21.3	21.1	22.1	25.5	24.5	23.9	21.6	21.9	25.2	27.0	28.0	28.4	28.6
30-64 years	Total	65.1	62.4	60.2	59.6	59.4	62.9	64.1	64.5	64.4	65.4	65.4	65.6	65.7	66.8	68.5	67.8
	Male	73.0	71.7	69.1	69.3	69.4	73.5	73.7	74.0	74.4	75.3	74.9	74.6	73.0	74.8	76.7	77.0
	Female	58.2	54.2	52.3	50.9	50.0	53.2	55.3	55.9	55.4	56.6	56.3	56.9	58.6	59.2	60.6	58.9

Tab. 3 Labour Force Participation Rate, Q.1/13 - Q.4/16

Age	Sex	Q.1.2013	Q.2.2013	Q.3.2013	Q.4.2013	Q.1.2014	Q.2.2014	Q.3.2014	Q.4.2014	Q.1.2015	Q.2.2015	Q.3.2015	Q.4.2015	Q.1.2016	Q.2.2016	Q.3.2016	Q.4.2016
		15 years and over	Total	54.9	52.5	51.5	50.9	50.8	53.6	55.2	55.3	54.8	55.2	55.9	56.8	56.9	57.2
	Male	62.6	61.9	60.9	61.2	59.9	64.7	65.1	64.5	63.4	63.9	65.1	64.7	64.3	64.7	66.3	64.8
	Female	47.7	43.9	42.9	41.4	41.8	43.3	45.8	46.7	46.7	46.8	46.6	48.9	49.5	49.9	50.8	49.5
15-64 years	Total	62.0	59.7	58.6	58.1	57.9	61.3	63.4	63.6	63.0	63.7	64.7	65.3	65.9	65.8	67.3	65.7
	Male	70.9	70.3	69.6	70.0	68.0	73.2	74.2	73.5	72.2	73.3	74.4	73.5	73.4	73.5	75.3	73.8
	Female	53.9	50.2	48.8	47.4	47.9	50.1	53.0	54.1	54.2	54.6	54.7	56.8	58.2	58.1	59.2	57.6
15-29 years	Total	40.3	38.3	37.5	38.8	36.9	41.4	45.1	44.2	43.9	43.4	45.0	45.9	46.2	45.0	46.1	45.2
	Male	48.5	47.6	46.6	49.0	45.1	52.2	55.0	53.0	50.5	52.5	55.1	53.1	52.7	50.6	52.5	50.8
	Female	32.6	29.5	29.0	29.3	28.2	30.3	34.9	34.9	36.7	33.6	33.5	37.7	38.6	38.9	38.8	38.8
30-64 years	Total	73.8	71.7	70.2	68.9	69.9	72.1	73.2	74.0	73.2	74.4	75.1	75.5	75.4	75.8	77.5	75.8
	Male	83.6	83.5	82.4	82.0	82.1	85.3	85.3	85.3	84.8	85.4	85.5	85.2	84.4	85.6	87.3	86.0
	Female	65.1	61.3	59.3	57.2	58.6	60.1	62.2	63.7	62.6	64.7	65.1	66.1	66.7	66.5	68.1	66.0

Labour market indicators by prefectures

Tab. 4 Main labour market indicators, population aged 15 and over

Prefectures	Labour force participation rate				Employment rate				Unemployment rate			
	Q1.16	Q2.16	Q3.16	Q4.16	Q1.16	Q2.16	Q3.16	Q4.16	Q1.16	Q2.16	Q3.16	Q4.16
Albania	56.9	57.3	58.5	57.2	47.5	48.4	49.9	49.1	16.6	15.5	14.7	14.2
Berat	58.5	58.8	62.7	58.4	53.3	53.6	57.2	51.9	9.0	8.9	8.7	11.1
Dibër	56.9	54.7	60.4	59.2	52.4	50.3	55.6	53.9	8.0	8.1	7.9	8.9
Durrës	55.5	53.6	53.6	53.3	46.5	45.7	45.2	46.3	16.1	14.7	15.6	13.2
Elbasan	63.8	66.8	68.3	67.2	55.4	57.2	59.8	58.5	13.1	14.4	12.4	12.9
Fier	61.6	62.8	63.2	63.0	53.4	54.9	54.7	54.5	13.3	11.9	13.5	13.5
Gjirokastrë	63.1	62.0	57.6	56.7	52.4	53.4	50.3	51.0	17.1	13.8	12.7	10.0
Korçë	55.0	54.1	57.9	52.3	50.0	48.7	52.9	48.3	8.9	9.9	8.6	7.7
Kukës	45.9	48.3	55.8	54.5	37.1	39.3	46.7	46.7	19.0	18.7	16.3	14.3
Lezhë	54.3	56.1	56.8	55.8	45.4	48.1	48.3	47.8	16.4	14.3	14.9	14.5
Shkodër	58.5	59.5	57.6	57.3	50.7	51.3	51.6	49.5	13.4	13.9	10.4	13.6
Tirana	53.5	53.0	54.4	53.6	41.2	42.6	43.8	44.5	23.0	19.5	19.5	16.9
Vlorë	59.3	62.1	60.2	58.4	43.7	45.7	46.4	44.9	26.3	26.4	22.9	23.1

Tab. 5 Main labour market indicators, population aged 15 to 64

Prefectures	Labour force participation rate				Employment rate				Unemployment rate			
	Q1.16	Q2.16	Q3.16	Q4.16	Q1.16	Q2.16	Q3.16	Q4.16	Q1.16	Q2.16	Q3.16	Q4.16
Albania	65.9	65.8	67.3	65.7	54.8	55.3	57.1	56.2	16.9	15.9	15.2	14.5
Berat	67.9	67.6	71.0	66.2	61.7	61.3	64.5	58.5	9.1	9.2	9.2	11.6
Dibër	66.5	62.2	68.6	66.4	61.0	56.9	62.8	60.2	8.2	8.5	8.3	9.3
Durrës	64.9	62.7	62.8	62.5	54.4	53.5	52.9	54.2	16.2	14.8	15.7	13.2
Elbasan	72.2	75.1	76.7	75.8	62.3	63.6	66.7	65.5	13.8	15.2	13.1	13.6
Fier	70.3	71.2	72.0	71.8	60.6	61.8	61.9	61.6	13.9	12.4	14.1	14.1
Gjirokastrë	74.6	72.5	67.2	64.8	61.9	62.3	58.5	58.0	17.1	14.0	12.9	10.4
Korçë	62.8	60.8	65.2	60.0	57.0	54.5	59.3	55.2	9.2	10.5	9.1	7.9
Kukës	54.5	57.2	66.1	63.3	44.1	46.5	55.2	55.4	19.1	18.8	16.4	12.5
Lezhë	62.3	64.6	64.8	63.9	51.8	55.1	54.8	54.4	16.8	14.7	15.5	15.0
Shkodër	67.4	68.1	65.7	64.3	58.0	58.3	58.5	55.1	13.9	14.4	10.9	14.2
Tirana	62.7	61.8	63.8	62.7	48.2	49.7	51.3	52.1	23.1	19.6	19.5	17.0
Vlorë	68.8	71.4	69.7	68.3	50.5	52.0	53.5	52.3	26.7	27.1	23.3	23.4

Tab. 6 Employment structure by main economic sectors, population aged 15 and over (%)

Prefectures	Agriculture				Industry				Services			
	Q1.16	Q2.16	Q3.16	Q4.16	Q1.16	Q2.16	Q3.16	Q4.16	Q1.16	Q2.16	Q3.16	Q4.16
Albania	40.7	40.4	40.1	39.7	19.1	19.1	19.6	19.5	40.1	40.5	40.3	40.8
Berat	65.8	62.8	61.3	59.2	14.8	17.7	18.9	16.7	19.4	19.5	19.8	24.1
Dibër	70.9	73.3	68.6	64.5	7.5	7.0	11.5	12.7	21.6	19.7	20.0	22.8
Durrës	25.0	20.6	20.7	23.5	34.7	35.5	35.7	35.4	40.4	43.9	43.6	41.1
Elbasan	63.2	65.4	65.8	63.9	12.5	10.3	9.8	10.0	24.3	24.4	24.4	26.2
Fier	65.1	60.6	58.9	63.7	9.8	11.8	11.9	9.8	25.1	27.7	29.2	26.5
Gjirokastrë	40.3	44.0	47.1	47.2	20.9	27.2	27.7	21.0	38.9	28.8	25.2	31.7
Korçë	58.5	58.6	59.3	57.7	14.0	10.1	10.3	14.0	27.6	31.4	30.4	28.3
Kukës	68.4	72.0	73.0	66.7	5.1	6.3	7.9	10.3	26.5	21.7	19.1	22.9
Lezhë	35.7	36.7	40.8	40.1	18.3	17.8	19.0	20.3	46.0	45.5	40.2	39.6
Shkodër	48.4	50.6	49.2	44.4	17.8	16.5	17.8	21.5	33.8	32.9	33.0	34.0
Tirana	4.7	6.5	4.2	6.1	25.7	26.6	27.1	25.0	69.4	66.9	68.7	69.0
Vlorë	23.7	22.4	25.2	26.8	28.5	25.7	25.3	26.6	44.2	51.9	49.5	46.2

Methodology

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey is a household based survey. Its main objective is to provide information on the labour market situation in Albania, which serves policymakers to design labour market policies and to assess their effectiveness, and to meet user needs for updated information on the labour market dynamics.

The sample frame used for the QLFS is based on data of Enumeration Areas according to the Housing and Population Census of 2011. The sample size for the fourth quarter of 2016 is 7,965 households. The sample is based in a two-stage sampling procedure. In the first stage are selected the geographical areas with a proportional probability to the size of the enumeration area. In the second stage within each of the geographical areas (once selected in the first stage) are selected a fix number of households by equal probability systematic sampling method.

The QLFS uses a rotational sampling design, whereby a household once initially selected for interview, is retained in the sample for five consecutive quarters. The same household is scheduled to be interviewed exactly after 13 weeks apart, so that the fifth interview takes place one year after the first. In the fourth quarter of 2016, the household response rate is 86.7 %.

Data collection in the fieldwork is spread during all months of the year. In the selected households, were surveyed by face-to-face interview, all household members aged 15 years and above. The QLFS questionnaire was drafted with the technical assistance from EUROSTAT and in complete compliance with its recommendations and regulations. The methodological part fulfils all EUROSTAT standards linked with the representation of the sample, coefficient of the variation of the main indicators, the questionnaire design, and data weighting procedures.

As for the weighting procedure of LFS data, it is used the estimated annual population, based on last census data and vital statistics provided from the General Directory of Civil Status.

Employed are considered all the persons who have worked even for one hour with a respective salary or profit during the reference week. The **reference week** is the calendar week from Monday to Sunday before the date of the interview.

As employed are considered also all persons who were receiving a salary or wage while they were in training during their work. Employed are also considered persons temporarily absent at work during the reference week for some reasons: (1) maternity leave, illness, injury or temporary disability and expect to return to work, education / training directly related to the actual work; (2) salaried employees absent from work for some reasons other than the above that (a) lack of the duration is three months or less, and the person is not a seasonal worker or (b) the person takes 50% or more salary; (3) the self-

employed who intend to return to the business / farm / or professional practice; (4) workers not being paid who expect to return to work in three months or less.

People who work on their small farm, who do not sell their products, but produce only for self-consumption, are considered as employed.

Unemployed comprise persons who during the reference week were:

- a) Without work, i.e. neither had a job nor were at work (for one hour or more) in paid employment or self-employment;
- b) Currently available for work, (were available before the end of the two weeks following the reference week);
- c) Actively seeking work, (had taken specific steps in the four week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment) or who found a job to start later, (within a period of at most three months).

The following are considered as specific steps:

- Having been in contact with a public employment office to find work;
- Having been in contact with a private employment agency to find work;
- Applying to employers directly;
- Asking friends, relatives, unions, etc., to find work;
- Placing or answering job advertisements;
- Studying job advertisements;
- Taking a recruitment test or examination or being interviewed;
- Looking for land, premises or equipment;
- Applying for permits, licences or financial resources.

Explanatory note on the labour market indicators

The headline labour force participation and employment rates are based on the population aged 15 to 64. Whereas, the headline unemployment rate is based on the economically active population (labour force) aged 15 and over.

The employment and labour force participation rates for those aged 15 and over are affected by the inclusion of the retired population in the denominators and are therefore less meaningful than the rates for those aged from 15 to 64. However, for the unemployment rate for those aged 15 and over, the denominator for the unemployment rate is the economically active population which includes people in work or actively seeking and able to work. Therefore, this indicator is not affected by the retired population.

Working age population is the population between 15-64 years old.

Labour Force includes employed and unemployed persons.

Non-economically active population comprises all persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed (pupils/students, housekeepers, in a compulsory military service, retired, disabled, discouraged unemployed).

The employment rate is the proportion of employed 15-64 years compared to the working age population.

The unemployment rate is the ratio of the unemployed to the labour force.

Labour force participation rate is the proportion of the labour force compared to the working age population.

The quality of labour market statistics

The main labour market indicators are estimates based on the quarterly labour force survey. The survey is based on a probability sample of 7,965 households. The selection of households is made such as to insure as much as possible the accuracy of estimates for the main labour market indicators. Thus, from a survey are obtained estimates and not precise figures for the number of employed and unemployed. For each estimate obtained by a survey is calculated the generalised sampling variability in order to explore how the estimate would change if we were drawing different random samples with the same size and for the same period, instead of just one sample. This allows defining the range within which should lie the estimate (which in the statistical terminology is known as confidence interval).

In general, the lower the relative standard deviation of an estimate, the higher the accuracy level of that estimate. Table 7 below shows the relative standard deviation and the confidence interval for the three main labour market indicators for the population aged 15-64.

Tab. 7 Generalised sampling standard deviations for the main labour market indicators

Indicators	Estimate (for population aged 15-64)	Standard deviation	Relative standard deviation	95 % confidence interval	
				Lower limit	Upper limit
Labour force participation rate	65.7%	0.1%	0.1%	65.6%	65.9%
Employment rate	56.2%	0.1%	0.2%	56.0%	56.4%
Unemployment rate	14.5%	0.1%	0.5%	14.4%	14.6%

The unemployment rate, for a 95 % confidence level, lies within the range 14.4 % to 14.6 %, with a relative standard deviation of 0.5 %. The relative standard error for the proportion of population aged 15-64 in employment is 0.1 % and for a 95 % confidence level, the sample estimate of employment rate is between the values 56.0 % to 56.4 %.