

Quarterly Labour Force Survey

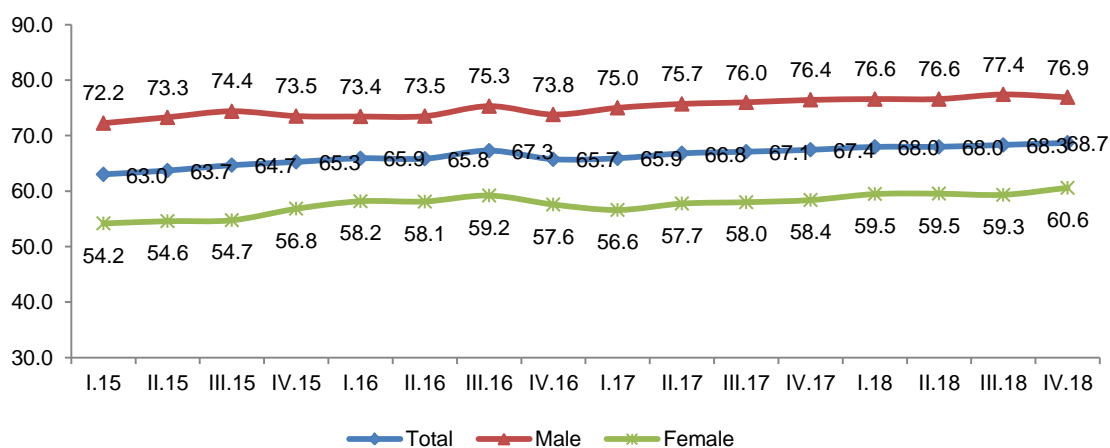
Fourth quarter 2018

Tirana, March 11, 2019: During the fourth quarter of 2018, the employment rate for the population aged from 15 to 64 is 60.0 %. In this quarter, compared to the same quarter of 2017, the total number of employed increased with 1.6 %. Compared to the third quarter of 2018, this indicator increased with 0.3 %.

In the third quarter of 2018, the official unemployment rate in Albania, for the population aged 15 years and over is 12.3 %. Compared to the third quarter of 2017, the official unemployment rate decreased with 1.1 percentage points. Compared to the third quarter 2018, the official unemployment rate increased with 0.1 percentage points.

In the fourth quarter of 2018, the labour force participation rate for the population aged from 15 to 64 is 68.7 %. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2017, the labour force participation rate is 1.3 percentage points higher. Compared with the previous quarter this indicator increased by 0.4 percentage points.

Fig. 1 Labour Force Participation Rate, population aged 15 to 64, Q.1/15 - Q.4/18



The female labour force participation rate is 60.6 %, whereas for males this indicator is 76.9 %. The male labour force participation rate is 16.3 percentage points higher than females. Compared to the same quarter of 2017, the female labour force participation rate increased by 2.2 percentage points and for males increased by 0.5 percentage points.

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Over the fourth quarter 2018, the youth labour force participation rate (population aged from 15 to 29) is 52.5 %. For the population aged from 30 to 64, in the fourth quarter 2018, the labour force participation rate is 77.6 %.

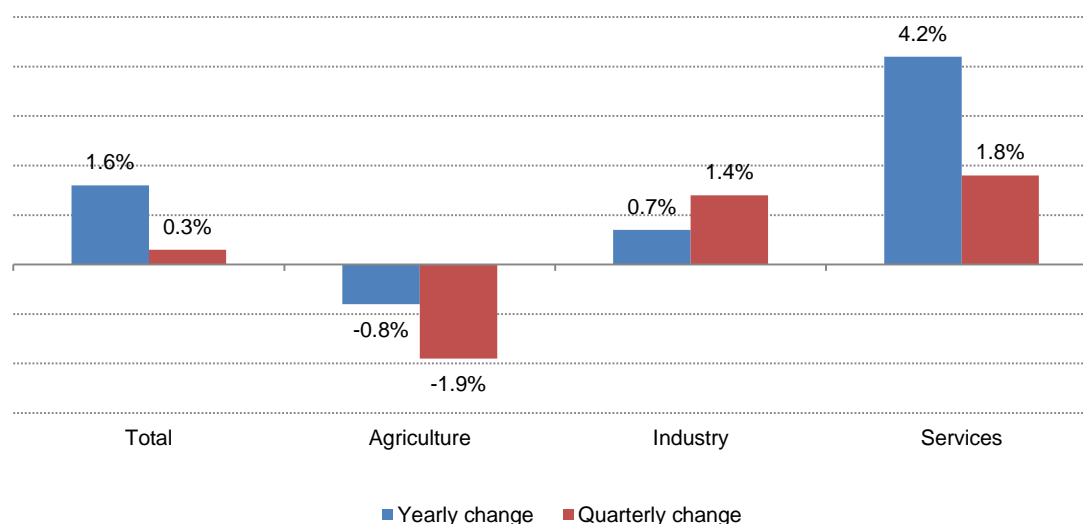
Employment

During the fourth quarter 2018, the employment rate for the population 15-64 is 60.0 %.

The employment growth rate for the population aged 15 and over, from the fourth quarter 2017 to the fourth quarter 2018, is 1.6 %. The annual employment growth rate by main economic sectors is: 0.7 % in industry and 4.2 % in the services while there is a decrease by 0.8 % in the agriculture.

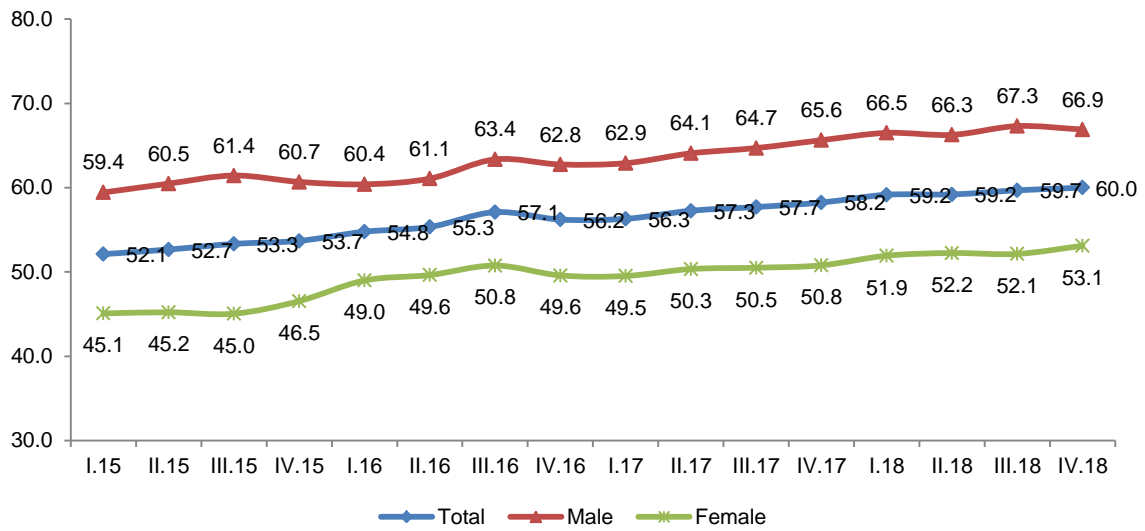
Compared to the previous quarter, in the fourth quarter 2018, employment for the population aged 15 years and over, increased by 0.3 %. Employment increased in services with 1.8 %, in industry with 1.4 % while decreased in the agriculture sector by 1.9 %.

Fig. 2 Employment growth rate in yearly and quarterly basis, population aged 15 and over



The male employment rate is 66.9 %, whereas for females is 53.1 %. Compared to the same quarter of 2017, the employment rate for males increased by 1.3 percentage points while for females by 2.3 percentage points. The youth employment rate is 40.8 %. For the population aged 30 to 64, in the fourth quarter 2018, the employment rate is 70.5 %.

Fig. 3 Employment Rate, population aged 15 to 64, Q.1/15 - Q.4/18

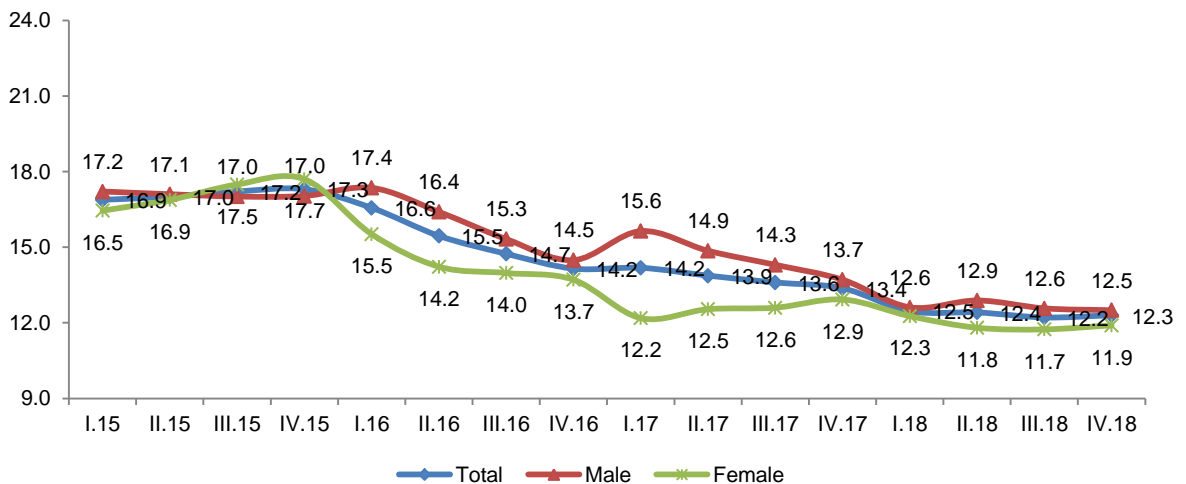


Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2018, the official unemployment rate in Albania is 12.3 %. In annual terms, the official unemployment rate decreased by 1.1 percentage points. Compared to the previous quarter, the official unemployment rate increased with 0.1 percentage points.

The official unemployment rate for males is 12.5 % and for females is 11.9 %. The female unemployment rate is 0.6 percentage points lower than for male. Compared to the same quarter of 2017, the unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points for males, whereas for females decreased by 1.0 percentage points.

Fig. 4 Official Unemployment Rate, population aged 15 and over, Q.1/15 - Q.4/18



The official youth unemployment rate is 22.3 %. In annual terms, the youth unemployment rate has a decreasing trend. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2017, the youth unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of 2018 is 2.3 percentage points lower. Compared to the third quarter of 2018, the youth unemployment rate decreased with 0.9 percentage points.

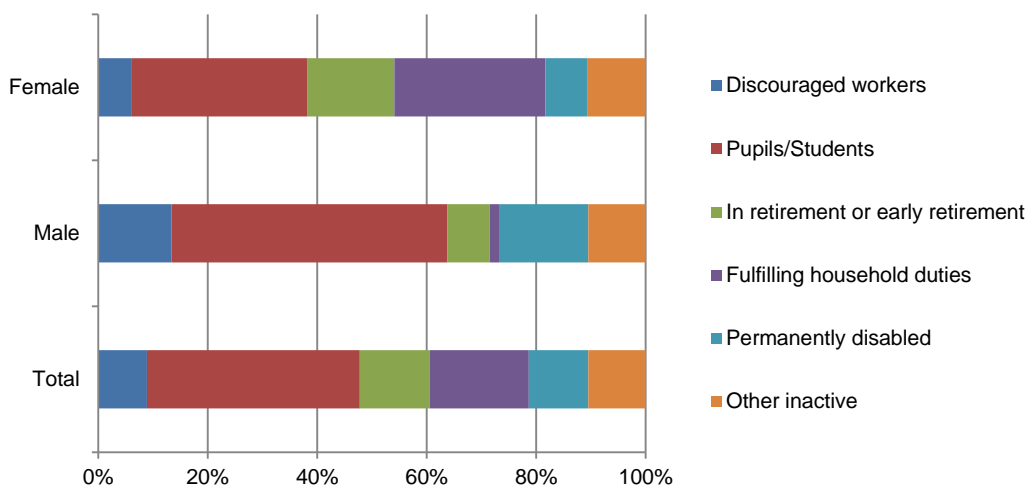
The unemployment rate for the population aged 30 to 64 is 9.2 %. In annual terms this indicator decreased by 1.3 percentage points. Compared to the previous quarter, the unemployment rate for this age group increased with 0.3 percentage points.

The economically inactive population

Over the fourth quarter of 2018, 18.1 % of the economically inactive population and at working age (15 to 64 years), were fulfilling household duties, 12.8 % was in retirement or early retirement, while 10.9 % were permanently disabled.

In the fourth quarter of 2018, 8.9 % of the economically inactive population (aged 15 to 64) declared that the reason for not looking for work is because they believe that no work is available, so classified as discouraged workers.

Fig. 5 Structure of the economically inactive population by sex and inactivity status



Within the non-economically active youth population aged 15 to 29, 71.9 % are pupils/students or pursuing a training while 6.4 % are classified as discouraged workers. In the adult economically inactive population (aged 30 to 64), discouraged workers account for 11.7 %.

Tab. 1 Unemployment Rate, Q.1/15-Q.4/18

Age	Sex	Q.1.2015	Q.2.2015	Q.3.2015	Q.4.2015	Q.1.2016	Q.2.2016	Q.3.2016	Q.4.2016	Q.1.2017	Q.2.2017	Q.3.2017	Q.4.2017	Q.1.2018	Q.2.2018	Q.3.2018	Q.4.2018
15 years and over	Total	16.9	17.0	17.2	17.3	16.6	15.5	14.7	14.2	14.2	13.9	13.6	13.4	12.5	12.4	12.2	12.3
	Male	17.2	17.1	17.0	17.0	17.4	16.4	15.3	14.5	15.6	14.9	14.3	13.7	12.6	12.9	12.6	12.5
	Female	16.5	16.9	17.5	17.7	15.5	14.2	14.0	13.7	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.9	12.3	11.8	11.7	11.9
15-64 years	Total	17.3	17.3	17.5	17.7	16.9	15.9	15.2	14.5	14.6	14.3	14.0	13.6	13.0	12.9	12.7	12.7
	Male	17.7	17.5	17.4	17.5	17.8	17.0	15.9	15.0	16.1	15.4	14.8	14.1	13.2	13.5	13.1	13.0
	Female	16.8	17.2	17.7	18.1	15.8	14.5	14.3	13.9	12.5	12.8	12.8	13.0	12.7	12.2	12.1	12.3
15-29 years	Total	34.1	34.2	32.3	32.2	30.4	29.9	27.4	28.1	26.6	26.4	26.0	24.6	24.5	22.6	23.2	22.3
	Male	33.5	33.3	31.0	31.6	30.7	31.2	27.7	29.3	28.6	27.4	26.6	25.6	24.2	23.4	22.8	22.4
	Female	35.1	35.9	34.8	33.1	30.1	28.0	26.9	26.2	23.4	24.7	25.0	23.1	24.9	21.5	23.8	22.2
30-64 years	Total	12.0	12.1	12.9	13.1	12.9	11.9	11.7	10.6	11.2	10.8	10.6	10.5	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.2
	Male	12.3	11.9	12.4	12.4	13.5	12.6	12.1	10.5	12.3	11.5	11.1	10.6	9.3	9.7	9.2	9.4
	Female	11.6	12.5	13.4	13.9	12.2	11.0	11.1	10.7	9.8	9.9	10.0	10.4	9.0	9.5	8.5	8.9

Tab. 2 Employment Rate, Q.1/15 - Q.4/18

Age	Sex	Q.1.2015	Q.2.2015	Q.3.2015	Q.4.2015	Q.1.2016	Q.2.2016	Q.3.2016	Q.4.2016	Q.1.2017	Q.2.2017	Q.3.2017	Q.4.2017	Q.1.2018	Q.2.2018	Q.3.2018	Q.4.2018
15 years and over	Total	45.6	45.8	46.3	47.0	47.5	48.4	49.9	49.1	49.2	50.0	50.7	51.2	51.9	52.0	52.2	52.3
	Male	52.5	53.0	54.1	53.7	53.1	54.0	56.1	55.4	55.6	56.7	57.7	58.2	58.9	58.7	59.4	59.0
	Female	39.0	38.9	38.5	40.2	41.9	42.8	43.7	42.8	42.7	43.4	43.8	44.2	45.0	45.4	45.0	45.7
15-64 years	Total	52.1	52.7	53.3	53.7	54.8	55.3	57.1	56.2	56.3	57.3	57.7	58.2	59.2	59.2	59.7	60.0
	Male	59.4	60.5	61.4	60.7	60.4	61.1	63.4	62.8	62.9	64.1	64.7	65.6	66.5	66.3	67.3	66.9
	Female	45.1	45.2	45.0	46.5	49.0	49.6	50.8	49.6	49.5	50.3	50.5	50.8	51.9	52.2	52.1	53.1
15-29 years	Total	28.9	28.6	30.4	31.1	32.1	31.6	33.5	32.5	33.0	33.6	33.5	34.9	35.9	37.9	39.5	40.8
	Male	33.6	35.1	38.0	36.3	36.5	34.8	37.9	35.9	36.9	38.4	39.2	39.7	41.6	44.5	46.8	46.0
	Female	23.9	21.6	21.9	25.2	27.0	28.0	28.4	28.6	28.4	28.1	26.9	29.7	29.8	31.1	31.8	35.1
30-64 years	Total	64.4	65.4	65.4	65.6	65.7	66.8	68.5	67.8	67.5	68.6	69.3	69.4	71.9	70.8	70.7	70.5
	Male	74.4	75.3	74.9	74.6	73.0	74.8	76.7	77.0	76.6	77.8	78.1	79.0	80.6	78.6	79.1	78.8
	Female	55.4	56.6	56.3	56.9	58.6	59.2	60.6	58.9	58.7	60.0	60.9	60.3	63.5	63.3	62.6	62.4

Tab. 3 Labour Force Participation Rate, Q.1/15 - Q.4/18

Age	Sex	Q.1.2015	Q.2.2015	Q.3.2015	Q.4.2015	Q.1.2016	Q.2.2016	Q.3.2016	Q.4.2016	Q.1.2017	Q.2.2017	Q.3.2017	Q.4.2017	Q.1.2018	Q.2.2018	Q.3.2018	Q.4.2018
15 years and over	Total	54.8	55.2	55.9	56.8	56.9	57.2	58.5	57.2	57.3	58.1	58.7	59.1	59.3	59.3	59.4	59.6
	Male	63.4	63.9	65.1	64.7	64.3	64.7	66.3	64.8	66.0	66.6	67.3	67.4	67.4	67.4	68.0	67.5
	Female	46.7	46.8	46.6	48.9	49.5	49.9	50.8	49.5	48.6	49.6	50.1	50.8	51.3	51.4	51.0	51.9
15-64 years	Total	63.0	63.7	64.7	65.3	65.9	65.8	67.3	65.7	65.9	66.8	67.1	67.4	68.0	68.0	68.3	68.7
	Male	72.2	73.3	74.4	73.5	73.4	73.5	75.3	73.8	75.0	75.7	76.0	76.4	76.6	76.6	77.4	76.9
	Female	54.2	54.6	54.7	56.8	58.2	58.1	59.2	57.6	56.6	57.7	58.0	58.4	59.47	59.5	59.3	60.6
15-29 years	Total	43.9	43.4	45.0	45.9	46.2	45.0	46.1	45.2	44.9	45.7	45.2	46.3	47.5	49.0	51.4	52.5
	Male	50.5	52.5	55.1	53.1	52.7	50.6	52.5	50.8	51.6	52.9	53.4	53.3	54.9	58.1	60.5	59.3
	Female	36.7	33.6	33.5	37.7	38.6	38.9	38.8	38.8	37.1	37.3	35.9	38.6	39.7	39.6	41.7	45.1
30-64 years	Total	73.2	74.4	75.1	75.5	75.4	75.8	77.5	75.8	76.0	76.9	77.5	77.6	79.1	78.3	77.5	77.6
	Male	84.8	85.4	85.5	85.2	84.4	85.6	87.3	86.0	87.3	87.9	87.8	88.3	88.9	87.1	87.1	87.0
	Female	62.6	64.7	65.1	66.1	66.7	66.5	68.1	66.0	65.1	66.6	67.7	67.3	69.8	69.9	68.4	68.5

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 2018 is 7,932 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 2018, the household response rate was 83.9 %.

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 2011 housing and population census data and vital statistics (births and deaths) provided from the General Directory of Civil Status.

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

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 the persons who were receiving a salary or wage while they were in training during their work and the persons temporarily absent at work during the reference week for the following 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 when (a) the duration of absence is three months or less, and the person is not a seasonal worker or (b) the person takes 50 % or more of the 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 also 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, (within 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 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.

Labour Force includes employed and unemployed persons.

Non-economically active population comprises all the persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed (pupils/students, housekeepers, 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.

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.

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 7,932 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 the survey are obtained estimates and not precise figures for the number of employed and unemployed. For each estimate obtained by the 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 lay 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	68.7%	0.1%	0.1%	68.6%	68.9%
Employment rate	60.0%	0.1%	0.2%	59.8%	60.2%
Unemployment rate	12.7%	0.1%	0.5%	12.6%	12.8%

The unemployment rate, for a 95 % confidence level, lies within the range of 12.6 % to 12.8 %, with a relative standard deviation of 0.5 %. The relative standard error for the proportion of population aged 15-64 in employment is 0.2 % and for a 95 % confidence level, the estimate of employment rate is between the values 59.8 % to 60.2 %.