

**ECB STATISTICS BULLETIN – EURO AREA**  
**STATISTICS METHODOLOGICAL NOTES**

***CHAPTER 5 – PRICES, OUTPUT, DEMAND AND LABOUR MARKETS***

**SECTION 5.3 – LABOUR MARKETS**

**TABLE 5.3.1 EMPLOYMENT**

Statistics on employment are published by the European Commission (Eurostat) and are based on national accounts data under the European System of Accounts 2010 (ESA 2010). A quarterly euro area estimate for total employment with a breakdown by employees and self-employed persons is published about 75 days after the reference quarter. Employment covers employees and the self-employed working in resident production units. The employment data shown are measured in number of persons in employment and the number of hours worked; other possible measures for employment are full-time equivalents and jobs.

**TABLE 5.3.2 UNEMPLOYMENT**

The statistics on unemployment are published by the European Commission (Eurostat) and follow the guidelines of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Unemployed persons are defined as those aged 15 years and over who are without work, are available to start work within two weeks and have actively sought employment during the previous four weeks. It should be noted that this definition of unemployment can differ from those definitions used at the national level. Adult workers are defined as those 25 years old and over; those below 25 years of age are classified as youth workers.

The unemployment estimates are based on the results of the continuous European Community Labour Force Survey (LFS), which is currently being carried out in all euro area countries. Monthly estimates are then either obtained at a national level from the same source or are extrapolated from the comparable benchmark figures supplied in the LFS using national unemployment data, which are partly based on labour force surveys and partly on information from unemployment registers.

The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the civilian labour force (people living in collective households are excluded). The labour force is the total of the employed and the unemployed.

Seasonally adjusted results are compiled from seasonally adjusted country series where available. In some cases Member States provide trend series instead. The European Commission (Eurostat) generally publishes results on the last working day of the month following the reference period, including estimates for missing country data.

All data shown in Tables 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 are available in CSV files that can be downloaded from the “Statistics” section of this website (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/prices/labour/html/index.en.html>). More detailed data and national results are available from Eurostat’s NewCronos data bank on Eurostat’s website

(<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/data/database>), which also provides further information on data and data sources.

### ***References***

[Council Regulation \(EC\) No 549/2013 of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union](#), Official Journal of the European Communities, L 174/1, 26.06.2013.

[Council Regulation \(EC\) No 577/98 of 9 March 1998 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community](#), Official Journal of the European Communities, L 77, 14.03.1998, p. 3.