

Methodological Notes

New methodology in the **EU Labour Force Survey** from 2021 with the entry into force of the Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS) Framework Regulation, resulting in [updated definitions of the labour status](#), to further improve comparability of labour market data in the EU. A discussion on changes resulting from the implementation of the IESS regulation can be found in a Eurostat *Statistics Explained* [article](#)

Statistics for the OECD *Quarterly Employment Situation* News Release, compiled for all 38 OECD member countries, are drawn from *Labour Force Surveys* based on [definitions provided by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians](#) (generally referred to as the ILO guidelines).

Under these definitions (from the 19th Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2013), persons in employment are defined as all those of working age who, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit. They comprise:

- employed persons “at work”, i.e. who worked in a job for at least one hour;
- employed persons “not at work” due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangements (such as shift work, flexitime and compensatory leave for overtime).

The uniform application of these definitions across all OECD member countries results in employment estimates that are internationally comparable.

The data shown in this release refer to the number of people in employment (total for people aged 15-64, as well as by gender and age-groups) employment rates (persons employed in a given group as a ratio of the total number of people in that same group) and labour force participation rates (share of persons of working-age who are either employed or unemployed).

Employment data for the OECD member countries that are also member states of European Union (EU) – as well as those for Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey and for the euro area and the European Union are collected from the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat). The OECD collects data for the remaining OECD member countries (Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Israel, Korea, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States) from National Statistics Offices. The Labour Force Survey data used here, while ensuring cross-country comparability, may differ from those conventionally used in some countries (e.g. establishment surveys in the United States) to monitor employment conditions. The Labour Force Survey data used here may also differ from employment data compiled for the national accounts, which refer to a domestic employment concept.

The OECD undertakes seasonal adjustment (based on the TRAMO-SEATS method) for all OECD member countries, the euro area and the European Union.

Geographical groupings:

- the OECD Total covers all 38 OECD member countries.
- the euro area covers the 19 participating member states;
- the European Union covers the EU 27 member states;

The *OECD Quarterly Employment Situation News Release – 4th Quarter 2021* presents time series which extend beyond the date of the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union on 1 February 2020. In order to maintain consistency over time, the “European Union” aggregate presented here excludes the UK for the entire time series. Interested readers may refer to the [Eurostat website](#) for further information on Eurostat’s plans for disseminating EU aggregates and to the [Eurostat database](#) for the actual series.

Contacts:

For further information data users are invited to contact the OECD’s Media Relations Division on (33) 1 45 24 97 00 or email news.contact@oecd.org
For technical questions please contact stat.contact@oecd.org.
