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LABOUR FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, 2025 – ANNUAL AVERAGE

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) results are presented for the annual period from January to December 2025.

According to the Labour Force Survey, there were 1 702 thousand employed persons in the Republic of Croatia in 2025, which is an increase of 19 thousand, or **1.1%**, as compared to 2024. In the same reference period, the number of unemployed persons in the Republic of Croatia amounted to 87 thousand, which is a decrease of 2 thousand, or **2.7%**, as compared to 2024.

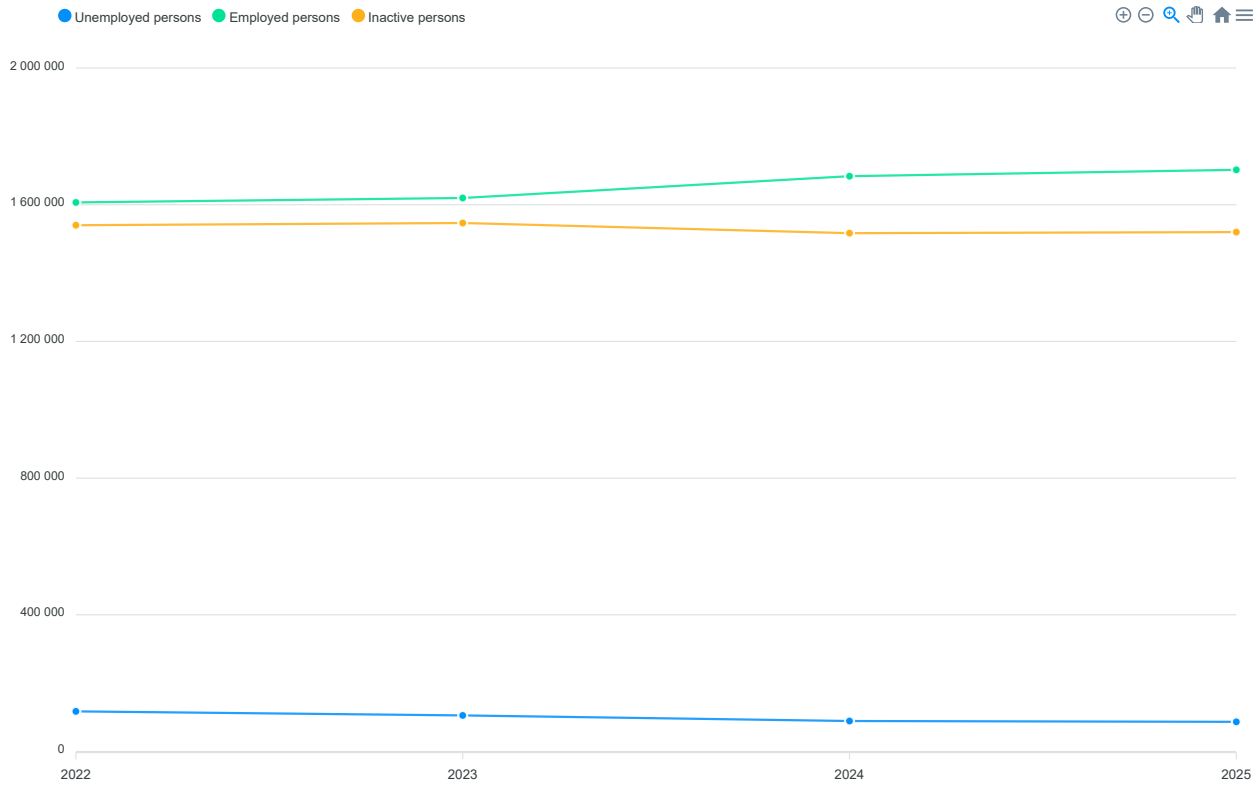
In 2025, the employment rate for persons aged 15 to 64 was **68.8%**, which is an increase of 0.5 percentage points compared to 2024. The ILO unemployment rate for persons aged 15 to 64 years, was **4.9%**, which is 0.2 percentage points less than in 2024.

Having in mind that the Labour Force Survey methodology is harmonised with the methodology prescribed by the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the results for the Republic of Croatia are comparable with the results of all EU Member States. A continuous application of the methodological concept, as prescribed by Eurostat and the International Labour Organisation, ensured that the Labour Force Survey results on an annual basis clearly point to the labour market trends of the Republic of Croatia.

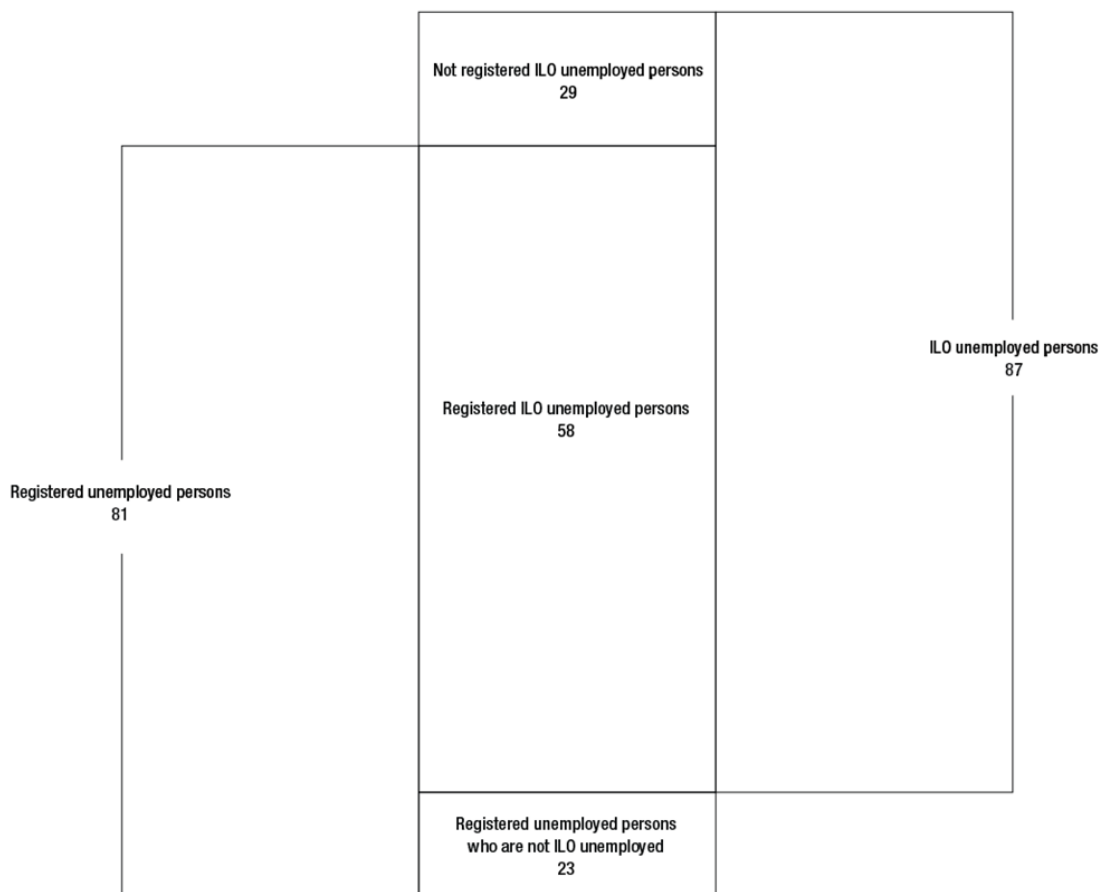
More detailed results of the Labour Force Survey can be downloaded from Eurostat's website at [Database - Employment and unemployment \(LFS\) - Eurostat](#).

Data presented for the period from 2022 to 2025 are averages of four quarterly results.

G-1 CHANGES IN CATEGORIES OF WORKING-AGE POPULATION, 2022 – 2025



G-2 COMPARISON BETWEEN ILO AND REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT DATA FOR 2025, '000



The comparison of unemployment data obtained by the Labour Force Survey with those according to the Croatian Employment Service (CES) and those obtained from other administrative data records shows that the average unemployment rate in 2025, according to the administrative records, was lower (4.5%) than the ILO unemployment rate (4.9%). In the same period, the average number of unemployed persons according to the Labour Force Survey was six thousand persons higher than the number obtained from the CES. Since interviewed persons provided information on their registration with the CES, the data comparison shows that 58 thousand, or 66.7%, out of a total of 87 thousand unemployed persons, were registered with the CES, 33.1% of persons who were classified as unemployed in the Labour Force Survey were not interested in registering with the CES, and the remaining 0.2% did not respond to the question on registration. At the same time, 23 thousand, or 28.6% of a total of 81 thousand persons who were registered with the CES did not fulfil the international criteria of unemployment.

1 WORKING-AGE POPULATION, BY ACTIVITY AND SEX¹⁾

'000

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total				
Working-age population (15+)	3 264	3 272	3 290	3 309
Labour force	1 724	1 725	1 773	1 789
Employed persons	1 607	1 620	1 684	1 702
Unemployed persons	117	106	89	87
Inactive population (15+)	1 540	1 547	1 517	1 520
%				
Activity rate	52,8	52,7	53,9	54,1
Employment rate	49,2	49,5	51,2	51,4
Unemployment rate	6,8	6,1	5,0	4,9
Men				
Working-age population (15+)	1 564	1 575	1 592	1 610
Labour force	913	912	936	951
Employed persons	859	860	889	900
Unemployed persons	54	51	47	51
Inactive population (15+)	651	663	656	660
%				
Activity rate	58,4	57,9	58,8	59,0
Employment rate	54,9	54,6	55,8	55,9
Unemployment rate	5,9	5,7	5,0	5,4
Women				
Working-age population (15+)	1 700	1 697	1 697	1 699
Labour force	811	813	837	838
Employed persons	747	759	795	803
Unemployed persons	64	54	42	36
Inactive population (15+)	889	883	860	860
%				
Activity rate	47,7	47,9	49,3	49,4
Employment rate	44,0	44,8	46,8	47,2
Unemployment rate	7,9	6,7	5,0	4,3

1) The sum total may not equal the sum of individual categories due to the rounding.

2 WORKING-AGE POPULATION, BY ACTIVITY, AGE AND SEX

'000

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Labour force				Employed persons				
Total								
Total	1 724	1 725	1 773	1 789	1 607	1 620	1 684	1 702
15 – 24	133	122	121	117	109	99	101	95
25 – 49	1 067	1 077	1 117	1 129	999	1 019	1 067	1 081
50 – 64	496	495	502	510	471	471	485	493
65 and over	28 p	31	32	33	28 p	30	31	32
55 – 64	299	296	301	303	285	283	291	293
15 – 64	1 696	1 695	1 741	1 756	1 579	1 589	1 653	1 670
20 – 64	1 674	1 672	1 720	1 737	1 565	1 575	1 639	1 658
25 – 29	180	182	191	197	162	166	174	178
15 – 29	314	304	312	313	271	265	275	274
Men								
Total	913	912	936	951	859	860	889	900
15 – 24	78	76	74	73	67	63	62	60
25 – 49	560	568	591	603	530	541	563	574
50 – 64	257	249	252	254	246	238	245	245
65 and over	17 p	19 p	19 p	21 p	17 p	19 p	19 p	21 p
55 – 64	157	152	152	151	150	147	148	146
15 – 64	896	893	917	930	842	842	870	879
20 – 64	881	878	902	916	831	832	859	870
25 – 29	98	97	104	109	93	91	93	99
15 – 29	177	173	178	182	159	153	156	158
Women								
Total	811	813	837	838	747	759	795	803
15 – 24	55	47	47	44	43	37 p	39	36
25 – 49	506	509	527	527	469	478	504	507
50 – 64	239	246	250	256	225	233	240	248
65 and over	11 n	12 n	13 n	12 n	10 n	12 n	12 n	12 n
55 – 64	142	144	149	152	135	137	143	147
15 – 64	800	802	824	826	737	748	783	791
20 – 64	793	794	817	821	734	743	779	787
25 – 29	82	84	87	87	69	75	81	80
15 – 29	137	131	134	131	112	111	119	115
Unemployed persons				Inactive population				
Total								
Total	117	106	89	87	1 540	1 547	1 517	1 520
15 – 24	24 p	23 p	20 p	21 p	258	268	271	276
25 – 49	67	58	51	48	151	148	119	119
50 – 64	26 p	24 p	17 p	17 p	315	306	291	275
65 and over	.	.	.	.	816	824	836	849
55 – 64	14 p	13 n	10 n	11 n	257	252	240	230
15 – 64	117	105	88	86	724	722	680	671
20 – 64	109	97	81	79	557	553	507	493
25 – 29	19 n	16 n	17 n	18 n	37 p	42 p	38 p	38 p
15 – 29	42	39 p	37 p	40 p	296	310	309	315
Men								
Total	54	51	47	51	651	663	656	660
15 – 24	12 n	13 n	12 n	13 n	124	127	131	134
25 – 49	31 p	28 p	28 p	28 p	55	56	46	47

50 - 64	11 n	11 n	7 n	9 n	134	137	131	125
65 and over	.	.	.	.	339	343	349	354
55 - 64	7 n	6 n	4 n	6 n	108	109	105	102
15 - 64	53	51	47	51	312	320	307	306
20 - 64	50	47	43	46	229	236	221	217
25 - 29	6 n	7 n	11 n	11 n	14 n	19 n	16 n	15 n
15 - 29	17 p	20 p	22 p	24 p	137	146	147	149

Women

Total	64	54	42	36	889	883	860	860
15 - 24	12 n	10 n	9 n	8 n	135	141	140	143
25 - 49	37 p	31 p	23 p	20 p	96	92	73	73
50 - 64	14 p	13 n	10 n	8 n	181	169	160	150
65 and over	.	.	.	.	477	482	487	495
55 - 64	7 n	7 n	6 n	5 n	149	144	134	128
15 - 64	63	54	41	36	412	402	373	365
20 - 64	59	50	38	33 p	328	317	286	275
25 - 29	13 n	9 n	6 n	8 n	24 p	23 n	22 p	23 p
15 - 29	25 p	20 n	15 n	16 n	158	164	162	166

3 POPULATION ACTIVITY MEASURES, BY AGE AND SEX

%

	Activity rate				Employment rate				Unemployment rate			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total												
Total	52,8	52,7	53,9	54,1	49,2	49,5	51,2	51,4	6,8	6,1	5,0	4,9
15 - 24	34,0	31,3	30,9	29,7	28,0	25,4	25,8	24,3	17,7 p	18,9 p	16,8 p	18,3 p
25 - 49	87,6	87,9	90,4	90,5	82,1	83,2	86,3	86,6	6,3	5,4	4,5	4,3
50 - 64	61,2	61,8	63,4	65,0	58,0	58,8	61,2	62,8	5,2 p	4,8 p	3,4 p	3,3 p
65 and over	3,4 p	3,6	3,7	3,7	3,3 p	3,6	3,5	3,7	.	.	.	.
55 - 64	53,8	54,0	55,7	56,9	51,3	51,6	53,9	54,9	4,7 p	4,4 n	3,3 n	3,5 n
15 - 64	70,1	70,1	71,9	72,4	65,3	65,8	68,3	68,8	6,9	6,2	5,1	4,9
20 - 64	75,1	75,1	77,2	77,9	70,2	70,8	73,6	74,4	6,5	5,8	4,7	4,5
25 - 29	82,8	81,4	83,3	83,7	74,2	74,1	76,0	75,9	10,4 n	8,9 n	8,8 n	9,3 n
15 - 29	51,5	49,5	50,3	49,9	44,5	43,1	44,3	43,6	13,5	13,0 p	11,9 p	12,7 p
Men												
Total	58,4	57,9	58,8	59,0	54,9	54,6	55,8	55,9	5,9	5,7	5,0	5,4
15 - 24	38,8	37,4	36,1	35,2	33,1	31,0	30,4	28,8	14,7 n	17,1 n	15,9 n	18,1 n
25 - 49	91,1	91,0	92,8	92,8	86,1	86,6	88,4	88,5	5,5 p	4,9 p	4,7 p	4,7 p
50 - 64	65,7	64,4	65,9	67,0	62,9	61,7	64,0	64,5	4,4 n	4,2 n	2,9 n	3,7 n
65 and over	4,9 p	5,2 p	5,2 p	5,6 p	4,8 p	5,2 p	5,1 p	5,5 p	.	.	.	.
55 - 64	59,3	58,4	59,1	59,7	56,8	56,2	57,6	57,3	4,3 n	3,8 n	2,6 n	3,9 n
15 - 64	74,1	73,6	74,9	75,3	69,7	69,4	71,1	71,2	6,0	5,8	5,1	5,5
20 - 64	79,4	78,8	80,3	80,8	74,9	74,6	76,5	76,8	5,7	5,3	4,8	5,0
25 - 29	87,7	84,0	86,6	87,7	82,7	78,1	77,7	79,2	5,7 n	7,0 n	10,2 n	9,8 n
15 - 29	56,2	54,3	54,8	55,0	50,8	48,1	47,9	47,8	9,7 p	11,4 p	12,6 p	13,1 p
Women												
Total	47,7	47,9	49,3	49,4	44,0	44,8	46,8	47,2	7,9	6,7	5,0	4,3
15 - 24	28,9	24,9	25,3	23,6	22,5	19,4 p	20,7	19,2	22,1 n	21,9 n	18,2 n	18,5 n
25 - 49	84,1	84,7	87,8	87,9	78,0	79,6	84,0	84,6	7,2 p	6,0 p	4,4 p	3,8 p
50 - 64	57,0	59,3	61,0	63,0	53,5	56,1	58,6	61,2	6,1 p	5,3 n	3,9 n	3,0 n
65 and over	2,3 n	2,4 n	2,6 n	2,4 n	2,2 n	2,4 n	2,4 n	2,3 n	.	.	.	.
55 - 64	48,8	50,1	52,6	54,4	46,3	47,5	50,5	52,6	5,2 n	5,1 n	4,1 n	3,1 n
15 - 64	66,0	66,6	68,8	69,4	60,8	62,1	65,4	66,4	7,9	6,7	5,0	4,3
20 - 64	70,8	71,5	74,1	74,9	65,5	66,9	70,7	71,8	7,5	6,4	4,6	4,1 p
25 - 29	77,7	78,5	79,7	79,2	65,2	69,8	74,1	72,2	16,0 n	11,1 n	7,0 n	8,8 n
15 - 29	46,4	44,4	45,3	44,2	37,8	37,7	40,3	38,9	18,5 p	15,0 n	11,0 n	12,1 n

4 SHARE IN WORKING-AGE POPULATION, BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND SEX

%

	Labour force								Inactive population				
	Employed persons				Unemployed persons								
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Total													
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	
Uncompleted basic school	0,2 n	8,4	8,0	7,1	6,5
Basic school (8 years)	6,0	5,2	4,7	4,7	10,5 n	10,4 n	11,2 n	9,8 n	28,5	28,1	29,1	28,9	
Vocational schools	60,5	58,6	57,6	56,8	62,7	66,3	62,0	65,3	44,1	43,9	43,1	44,5	
Grammar school	3,4	3,2	3,3	3,6	4,2 n	.	.	4,9 n	6,7	7,0	7,2	7,0	
Higher education (professional and university study, master of science degree, doctorate)	29,9	32,9	34,2	34,8	21,5 p	18,8 p	22,0 n	19,5 n	12,3	13,0	13,5	13,1	
Women													
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	
Uncompleted basic school	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	-	11,0	10,3	9,2	8,3
Basic school (8 years)	5,6	4,9	4,7	4,7	11,6 n	10,5 n	8,9 n	8,2 n	31,0	30,2	32,1	31,9	
Vocational schools	52,8	50,7	49,0	48,6	58,9 p	60,3 p	60,7 p	61,5 p	39,0	39,4	37,9	39,4	
Grammar school	4,2 p	3,9 p	3,7 p	3,8 p	.	.	.	.	7,8	8,1	8,4	8,5
Higher education (professional and university study, master of science degree, doctorate)	37,2	40,3	42,6	42,8	24,4 n	25,7 n	26,0 n	25,2 n	11,2	12,0	12,4	11,9	

5 EMPLOYED PERSONS, BY STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT AND SEX

'000

	Total				Men				Women			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total												
Employed persons	1 607	1 620	1 684	1 702	859	860	889	900	747	759	795	803
Employees	1 388	1 400	1 464	1 479	712	710	739	750	676	690	725	729
Self-employed persons	200	205	208	213	139	144	145	145	61	62	64	68
Unpaid family workers	18 p	14 p	11 n	10 n	8 n	6 n	5 n	5 n	10 n	8 n	6 n	6 n
%												
Employed persons	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Employees	86,4	86,4	86,9	86,9	82,9	82,6	83,1	83,4	90,4	90,9	91,2	90,9
Self-employed persons	12,5	12,7	12,4	12,5	16,2	16,7	16,3	16,1	8,2	8,1	8,0	8,4
Unpaid family workers	1,1 p	0,9 p	0,7 n	0,6 n	0,9 n	0,7 n	0,6 n	0,5 n	1,4 n	1,0 n	0,8 n	0,7 n

6 EMPLOYED PERSONS, ACCORDING TO NKD 2007 SECTIONS AND BY SEX

'000

	Total			Men			Women		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Total ¹⁾	1 620	1 684	1 702	860	889	900	759	795	803
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	75	75	74	50	52	53	25 p	23 p	22 p
Mining and quarrying	6 n	7 n	6 n	5 n	6 n	6 n	.	.	.
Manufacturing	272	268	263	175	173	176	97	95	87
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	12 n	13 n	17 p	10 n	11 n	14 n	.	.	.
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	31 p	34 p	32 p	25 p	27 p	25 p	5 n	7 n	7 n
Construction	121	123	122	112	113	111	9 n	10 n	11 n
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	229	237	238	91	103	108	138	134	130
Transportation and storage	102	108	108	82	88	90	20 p	20 p	18 p
Accommodation and food service activities	96	110	110	48 p	50	48	49	59	62
Information and communication	63	74	76	42 p	47	49	20 n	27 p	26 p
Financial and insurance activities	30 p	40 p	38	8 n	13 n	14 n	22 p	27 p	23 p
Real estate activities	5 n	5 n	9 n	.	.	4 n	.	.	5 n
Professional, scientific and technical activities	80	86	85	38 p	40 p	38 p	42 p	46	47
Administrative and support service activities	41	42	47	17 p	19 n	23 p	24 p	23 p	24 p
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	116	116	112	59	60	55	57	57	57
Education	142	136	141	31 p	26 p	26 p	111	110	114
Human health and social work activities	118	127	142	26 p	25 p	25 p	93	102	116
Arts, entertainment and recreation	31 p	33 p	36 p	17 n	16 n	18 p	13 n	17 n	18 p
Other service activities	40 p	38 p	39	15 n	13 n	11 n	24 p	25 p	28 p
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use	.	.	-	.	-	-	.	.	-
Activities of extra-territorial organisations and bodies	.	.	.	-	.	.	.	.	.
Unknown	11 n	11 n	7 n	6 n	7 n	.	.	.	.

1) Due to unreliable estimates marked by ".", "n" and "p", the sum of data at lower levels does not add up to the total.

7 STRUCTURE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS, ACCORDING TO NKD 2007 SECTIONS AND BY SEX

%

	Total			Men			Women		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Total ¹⁾	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4,6	4,5	4,4	5,9	5,8	5,8	3,2 p	2,9 p	2,7 p
Mining and quarrying	0,4 n	0,4 n	0,4 n	0,6 n	0,7 n	0,6 n	.	.	.
Manufacturing	16,8	15,9	15,5	20,3	19,4	19,6	12,8	12,0	10,9
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0,7 n	0,8 n	1,0 p	1,1 n	1,2 n	1,5 n	.	.	.
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1,9 p	2,0 p	1,9 p	3,0 p	3,0 p	2,8 p	0,7 n	0,9 n	0,9 n
Construction	7,5	7,3	7,2	13,0	12,7	12,4	1,2 n	1,3 n	1,4 n
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	14,1	14,1	14,0	10,6	11,6	12,1	18,1	16,9	16,2
Transportation and storage	6,3	6,4	6,3	9,6	9,9	10,0	2,6 p	2,5 p	2,3 p
Accommodation and food service activities	5,9	6,5	6,5	5,5 p	5,7	5,3	6,4	7,5	7,7
Information and communication	3,9	4,4	4,5	4,9 p	5,3	5,5	2,7 n	3,4 p	3,3 p
Financial and insurance activities	1,8 p	2,4 p	2,2	0,9 n	1,5 n	1,6 n	2,9 p	3,4 p	2,9 p
Real estate activities	0,3 n	0,3 n	0,5 n	.	.	0,5 n	.	.	0,6 n
Professional, scientific and technical activities	4,9	5,1	5,0	4,4 p	4,5 p	4,2 p	5,5 p	5,8	5,8
Administrative and support service activities	2,5	2,5	2,8	2,0 p	2,1 p	2,5 p	3,2 p	2,9 p	3,0 p
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	7,1	6,9	6,6	6,9	6,7	6,1	7,5	7,2	7,1
Education	8,7	8,0	8,3	3,6 p	2,9 p	2,9 p	14,6	13,8	14,2
Human health and social work activities	7,3	7,5	8,3	3,0 p	2,8 p	2,8 p	12,2	12,9	14,5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,9 p	1,9 p	2,1 p	2,0 n	1,8 n	2,0 p	1,8 n	2,1 n	2,2 p
Other service activities	2,5 p	2,3 p	2,3	1,8 n	1,5 n	1,2 n	3,2 p	3,1 p	3,5 p
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use	.	.	-	.	.	-	.	.	-
Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	.	.	.	-	.	.	.	.	.
Unknown	0,7 n	0,7 n	0,4 n	0,7 n	0,7 n	.	.	.	.

1) Due to unreliable estimates marked by ".", "n" and "p", the sum of data at lower levels does not add up to the total.

8 EMPLOYED PERSONS, ACCORDING TO NKZ 2010 MAJOR GROUPS OF OCCUPATIONS AND BY SEX

'000

	Total			Men			Women		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Total ¹⁾	1 620	1 684	1 702	860	889	900	759	795	803
Managers	97	118	114	74	85	77	23 p	32 p	37
Professionals	334	350	353	129	129	132	206	221	221
Technicians and associate professionals	218	244	261	109	125	139	109	120	122
Clerical support workers	138	147	157	39 p	45	51	100	102	106
Service and sales workers	298	293	293	111	103	102	186	190	190
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	41	39	42	29 p	27 p	31	12 p	12 p	11 n
Craft and related trades workers	196	193	197	180	177	181	16 n	16 p	16 p
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	154	157	155	117	125	127	37	32	28 p
Elementary occupations	125	119	109	59	56	45	66	63	65
Armed forces occupations	12 n	15 n	16 n	10 n	11 n	12 n	.	.	.
Unknown	6 n	8 n	5 n	.	5 n	.	.	.	.
	%								
Total ¹⁾	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Managers	6,0	7,0	6,7	8,6	9,6	8,5	3,1 p	4,1 p	4,6
Professionals	20,7	20,8	20,7	14,9	14,5	14,7	27,1	27,8	27,5
Technicians and associate professionals	13,5	14,5	15,4	12,6	14,0	15,5	14,4	15,1	15,2
Clerical support workers	8,5	8,7	9,2	4,5 p	5,1	5,7	13,1	12,8	13,2
Service and sales workers	18,4	17,4	17,2	13,0	11,6	11,4	24,6	23,9	23,7
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	2,5	2,3	2,5	3,4 p	3,1 p	3,5	1,5 p	1,5 p	1,4 n
Craft and related trades workers	12,1	11,5	11,6	21,0	19,9	20,1	2,0 n	2,0 p	2,0 p
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	9,5	9,3	9,1	13,6	14,1	14,1	4,9	4,0	3,5 p
Elementary occupations	7,7	7,1	6,4	6,9	6,3	5,0	8,7	7,9	8,0
Armed forces occupations	0,7 n	0,9 n	0,9 n	1,2 n	1,3 n	1,3 n	.	.	.
Unknown	0,4 n	0,5 n	0,3 n	.	0,5 n	.	.	.	.

1) Due to unreliable estimates marked by ".", "n" and "p", the sum of data at lower levels does not add up to the total.

9 AVERAGE HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED BY EMPLOYED PERSONS ON MAIN JOB DURING REFERENCE WEEK, ACCORDING TO NKD 2007 ACTIVITY SECTIONS AND BY SEX

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total				
Total	37,8	37,9	37,6	37,5
Agriculture	37,0	38,7	38,4	37,6
Industry	38,0	37,9	37,8	37,6
Services	37,7	37,8	37,5	37,4
Men				
Total	38,4	38,4	38,2	38,1
Agriculture	38,0	40,2	40,0	38,5
Industry	38,4	38,2	38,0	37,9
Services	38,5	38,4	38,1	38,1
Women				
Total	37,0	37,3	36,9	36,8
Agriculture	35,2	35,5	35,0	35,3
Industry	37,0	36,9	37,1	36,7
Services	37,1	37,4	37,0	36,9

10 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, BY DURATION OF JOB SEARCH

	Total, '000				Total, %			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total ¹⁾	117	106	89	87	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Less than 1 month	7 n	6 n	5 n	7 n	6,0 n	5,6 n	5,4 n	7,6 n
1 – 5 months	43	35 p	26 p	28 p	36,6	33,2 p	29,2 p	32,6 p
6 – 11 months	23 p	21 p	20 p	16 p	19,3 p	20,2 p	22,3 p	18,3 p
12 – 23 months	16 p	16 n	15 n	14 n	13,6 p	15,3 n	16,8 n	16,6 n
24 months and longer	17 p	16 n	16 n	18 p	14,5 p	15,0 n	17,9 n	20,4 p

1) Due to the non-response of respondents, the sum of data at lower levels does not add up to the total.

11 REGISTERED BUT NOT ILO UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

	Total, '000				Total, %			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total								
ILO unemployed persons ¹⁾	117	106	89	87	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Registered with CES	82	76	62	58	69,7	71,7	69,1	66,7
Not registered with CES	36 p	30 p	28 p	29 p	30,3 p	28,3 p	30,9 p	33,1 p
Registered unemployed persons	116	109	95	81	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Of which not ILO unemployed	34	33	34	23	29,3	30,3	35,3	28,6
Men								
ILO unemployed persons ¹⁾	54	51	47	51	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Registered with CES	34 p	33 p	30 p	33 p	64,3 p	64,7 p	63,7 p	64,1 p
Not registered with CES	19 n	18 n	17 n	18 p	35,7 n	35,1 n	36,3 n	35,6 p
Registered unemployed persons	49	47	42	38	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Of which not ILO unemployed	15	14	12	5	30,6	29,8	28,7	13,6
Women								
ILO unemployed persons ¹⁾	64	54	42	36	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Registered with CES	47	42	32 p	25 p	74,2	78,3	75,1 p	70,5 p
Not registered with CES	16 n	12 n	10 n	11 n	25,8 n	21,7 n	24,9 n	29,5 n
Registered unemployed persons	67	62	53	43	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Of which not ILO unemployed	20	20	22	18	29,9	32,3	40,5	41,7

1) Due to the non-response of respondents, the sum of data at lower levels does not add up to the total.

12 COMPARISON BETWEEN ILO AND REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT DATA, BY SEX

	Total				Men				Women			
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025	2022	2023	2024	2025
Unemployed persons registered with CES, '000	116	109	95	81	49	47	42	38	67	62	53	43
ILO unemployed persons, '000	117	106	89	87	54	51	47	51	64	54	42	36
ILO unemployment rate, %	6,8	6,1	5,0	4,9	5,9	5,7	5,0	5,4	7,9	6,7	5,0	4,3
Registered unemployment rate ¹⁾ , %	6,7	6,1	5,3	4,5	5,4	5,0	4,4	3,9	8,1	7,4	6,3	5,1

1) Rates for 2025 were calculated from provisional administrative data, and for previous years they were calculated from final revised administrative data.

NOTES ON METHODOLOGY

Data sources

The data presented here have been calculated from the data collected in the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The Labour Force Survey is the most comprehensive official survey on the labour market characteristics in the Republic of Croatia that is conducted on the sample of randomly selected private households.

Data collected by the Labour Force Survey are related to socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of households, with the special emphasis on the status in activity according to the methodological standards of the International Labour Organisation (employed persons, unemployed persons and persons outside the labour force), activity and occupation

characteristics on the current, second and previous job, hours of work and working time, unemployment characteristics and educational attainment characteristics.

The Labour Force Survey is harmonised with the EU regulations and Eurostat's methodology prescribed for the EU-Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS). The Labour Force Survey is binding at the EU level and it is a reference data source that provides observing and comparability of labour market statistics at the international level.

Background

The Labour Force Survey was introduced in the statistical system of the Republic of Croatia in November 1996 as an annual survey. It was carried out in the same manner in June 1997. From 1998 to 2006 it was carried out by interviewing sampled households every month and data were published for each half-year period.

Starting from 2007, the Labour Force Survey has been carried out continuously on a weekly basis, that is, households are interviewed throughout the year. This means that every week is both a reference and an interviewing, i.e. implementation week. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics processes and publishes results in quarterly dynamics.

Since the beginning of 2016, the earlier method of data collection on printed questionnaires was replaced by interviewing methods using laptops and telephones.

Since the beginning of 2021, the new Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019 establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples, amending Regulations (EC) No 808/2004, (EC) No 452/2008 and (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 has been applied, as well as the related Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2240 of 16 December 2019 specifying the technical items of the data set, establishing the technical formats for transmission of information and specifying the detailed arrangements and content of the quality reports on the organisation of a sample survey in the labour force domain in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The implementation of the new legal basis has brought some changes in the survey, starting with changes in the questionnaire design, the application of strictly prescribed and harmonised sequence of questions modification and elimination of the existing questions as well as adding new ones, to changes in the coverage and definitions of employment and unemployment.

Although it was expected that the data released before and after the implementation of the new legal background would not be consistent and comparable, the analyses that had been carried out showed that there were no breaks in the time series. A brief review of the approach and methodology applied in the mentioned analyses can be found in the Methodological summary on the breaks in time series exercise, a document that can be downloaded from the table available at the link [Input for break correction](#). The exception are indicators of working hours, for which it was determined that the breaks in time series were present, which makes them incomparable with data in previous periods.

Data collection

The Labour Force Survey is a panel survey conducted on a weekly basis. Every sampled household is interviewed four times over a year-and-a-half period following the 2- (2) -2 rotation scheme. In other words, households are interviewed in two subsequent quarters, omitted from the sample for the next two quarters and then in the next two subsequent quarters they are interviewed again. This allows for timely monitoring of flows of persons at the labour market, in quarterly and annual dynamics. Every household selected into the sample receives an announcement letter from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

Interviews are carried out by applying the CAPI and CATI data collection methods.

The CAPI method (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) includes personal interviewing using laptops. All households selected into the sample for the first time and households that either do not have a telephone/cell phone or do not want, for whatever reason, to be interviewed by telephone, are interviewed in this way.

The CATI method (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing) includes interviewing by telephone from the CATI Centre. All households that accepted in the first interviewing to be interviewed by telephone are interviewed in this way.

Accordingly, interviewers visit private households every week and conduct interviews at selected addresses. The interview lasts approximately 20 minutes. On the basis of the Act on Official Statistics (NN, Nos 25/20, 155/23 and 124/25 – corr.), all information given by interviewed persons are confidential. The data collected are used for statistical purposes only.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, in the period from the second quarter of 2020 until the second quarter of 2022, the Labour Force Survey was facing difficulties in the collection and processing of data. The data collection was adjusted to the new circumstances and 'face-to-face' interviewing using laptops was partly or entirely replaced by telephone interviewing. In announcement letters sent to the selected addresses, households were asked to provide their phone number if it was not available in the phone book in order to contact them later.

Basic concepts and definitions

The Labour Force Survey measures the economic activity of the population in a short survey period of one week.

Reference period is every week in the whole year.

Target population includes all persons residing in private households who make the usual population of the Republic of Croatia.

A household is a small economic group of persons that is usually, although not always, a group of relatives. There are one-person and multi-person households, providing that the multi-person households consist of two or more persons who jointly reside in a housing unit or a part of it and share costs for food and basic household needs or jointly contribute to the household income and/or mutually share all or a major part of household costs.

Working-age population is comprised of all persons aged 15 years and over.

Employed persons comprise persons aged 15 to 89 who, during the reference week, were in one of the following categories:

a) persons who during the reference week worked **for at least one hour** for pay in cash or in kind, including unpaid family workers

b) persons having a job or their own business who were **temporarily not at work** due to annual leave, working time arrangements, sick leave, maternity or paternity leave, or persons in job-related training.

Accordingly, a pensioner, a housewife, a student or a person not in formal employment can also be classified as employed persons.

Employed persons are also:

– persons on **parental leave**, either receiving and/or being entitled to job-related income or benefits, or whose parental leave is expected to be three months or less

– seasonal workers **during the off-season**, where they continue to regularly perform tasks and duties for the job or business, excluding fulfilment of legal or administrative obligations

– persons **temporarily not at work** for other reasons where the expected duration of the absence is three months or less

– **persons that produce agricultural goods** whose main part is intended for sale or barter.

Regarding the status in employment, employed persons are classified either as persons in paid employment (employees), as self-employed persons or as unpaid family workers.

Persons in paid employment are those who work for an employer in the state or private sector and are paid for their work in cash or in kind.

Self-employed persons are employers who run an enterprise and employ one or more employees, as well as own-account workers who have no employees.

Unpaid family workers are those who are not in paid employment or self-employment, but work in an enterprise owned by a family member and do not receive a payment for their work. They can also be relatives who do not reside in the same household where the owner of the family business resides.

Unemployed persons are those between 15 and 74 years old, who meet the following three criteria:

a) not employed during the reference week

b) currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment before the end of the two weeks following the reference week

c) actively seeking work, i.e. had either carried out activities in the four-week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment or found a job to start within a period of at most three months from the end of the reference week.

Active population (labour force) comprises employed and unemployed persons.

Inactive population (persons outside the labour force) comprise persons who are in one of the following categories:

a) aged below 15

b) aged 15 to 89 and neither employed nor unemployed during the reference week

c) aged above 89.

Activity rate represents the labour force as a percentage of the working-age population.

Employment rate represents employed persons as a percentage of working-age population.

Unemployment rate represents unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

In certain tables, the sum total may not equal the sum of individual figures due to the rounding to thousands.

Changes in the Labour Force Survey since 2021

Definition of employment

Until 2020, employed persons included persons who turned 15 years of age and over, while since 2021 and onwards, they have included persons aged from **15 to 89** years.

Persons temporarily not at work but have a job to return to after the reason for their absence ceases to exist have been classified since 2021 as employed only if the total expected duration of their absence is three months or less, i.e. if during their absence they continue to receive income or benefit for their work. Until 2020, all persons temporarily absent from work who had a job to return to after the reason for their absence ceased to exist (irrespective of the reason for absence) were classified as employed persons.

Persons on parental leave have been classified since 2021 as employed only if they either receive and/or are entitled to job-related income or benefits, or if their parental leave is expected to last three months or less. Until 2020, all persons on parental leave were classified as employed persons.

Seasonal workers who did not work in the reference week (**off-season period**) have been classified since 2021 as employed persons if they continue to regularly perform tasks and duties for the job or business, excluding fulfilment of legal or administrative obligations. Until 2020, seasonal workers were classified as employed persons if they signed a contract/agreement with an employer to return to the same job at the beginning of the new season and/or if they continued to receive at least 50% or more of income or benefits during the off-season.

Persons that produce agricultural goods whose main part is intended for consumption in own household were until 2020 classified as employed persons, while they have been excluded from employment since 2021. Only if the main part of their agricultural production is intended for sale or barter are such persons classified as employed.

Unpaid family workers who perform work for members of their families have been classified since 2021 as employed persons, even if they do not reside in the same household with their relatives who own the trade/enterprise/agricultural holding, while until 2020 they were classified as employed only if they resided in a joint household with them.

Definition of unemployment

Until 2020, unemployed persons included persons who turned 15 years and over, while since 2021 and onwards, they have included persons aged from **15 to 74** years. Changes in the definition of unemployment and inactivity derive from the described changes in definitions of employment.

Questionnaire design

In order to improve the comparability of data across countries, a unique, strictly prescribed and harmonised sequence of questions has been applied for defining of major survey categories (employed persons, unemployed persons, persons outside of the labour force).

Further on, new questions have been introduced (e.g. questions related to migrations, economic and organisational dependence of self-employed persons, etc.). Some questions have been removed, e.g. questions related to the situation of the respondent a year prior to the interview and certain questions concerning informal education characteristics. Particular questions and answers offered to respondents have been changed in order to achieve standardisation of questions in the Labour Force Survey with those in other surveys in the social statistics domain.

In addition, certain blocks of questions have been modified more substantially, e.g. the block of questions related to working hours (contracted working hours have been monitored since 2021 along with usual and actually worked ones, etc.). Moreover, the location of certain blocks of questions in the questionnaire has also been changed.

Survey and administrative sources

Besides survey data on employment and unemployment, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics also publishes data on employment and unemployment according to administrative sources in the Republic of Croatia (including registered unemployment rate).

The following text provides methodological characteristics that cause mutual differences between data on employed persons.

Source and coverage: until 2016, data from administrative sources were based on monthly and annual statistical surveys (RAD-1 and RAD-1G forms) covering employed persons in legal entities of all types of ownership, government bodies and bodies of local and regional self-government units on the territory of the Republic of Croatia. The monthly survey covered 70% of all employed persons in each NKD 2007 division. Since 2016, data on employed persons in legal entities have been gathered by processing data from the "Report on Income, Income Tax and Surtax as well as Contributions for Mandatory Insurances" (JOPPD form), in effect since 1 January 2014, and are not comparable to previously published monthly data. Data on employed persons in crafts and trades and free-lances as well as on employed insured persons – private farmers are taken over from the records on active pension insurance beneficiaries kept by the Croatian Institute for Pension Insurance. The Labour Force Survey results are estimated on the basis of a representative statistical sample of private households in the Republic of Croatia.

Reference period: administrative data on employed persons refer to the last day of the previous month, while the Labour Force Survey data are related to a reference week.

Observation period: administrative data are processed and published in monthly dynamics, while the Labour Force Survey results are related to a quarterly period.

Definitions of employed persons: administrative sources apply the formal definition of employment (persons who have signed the work contract with the employer for a fixed or unspecified period of time, irrespective of type of ownership and of whether they work full time or less than full time), while the Labour Force Survey shows employed persons as all persons who were, in the reference week for at least one hour, engaged in any work for payment in cash or in kind, as well as those who were absent from work during the reference week, but had a job to return to with the same employer after the reason for absence no longer existed.

Released data: administrative data on employed persons are published monthly in the First Release "Persons in Paid Employment, by Activities" and in the Statistics in Line on the web site of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

The First Release "Active Population in the Republic of Croatia" is the publications in which survey results on employed persons are published in quarterly dynamics. The RAD-1G annual survey data are also published at lower territorial levels, while the Labour Force Survey results are available at classification levels HR_NUTS 2021 – HR NUTS 2.

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Croatia publishes data on unemployed persons taken over from administrative sources as well as those obtained through the Labour Force Survey. These data differ due to the following methodological characteristics.

Source and coverage: data on registered unemployment are obtained from the Register of Unemployed Persons kept by the Croatian Employment Service, while the Labour Force Survey results are collected by interviewing private households. Register contains data on all unemployed persons in the Republic of Croatia, while the Labour Force Survey results are estimated on the basis of the representative statistical sample.

Reference period: the Register data refer to the last day of each month, while the Labour Force Survey data are collected for each reference week.

Observation period: the Register data are taken over in monthly dynamics, while the Labour Force Survey results are processed and published for a quarterly period.

Definitions of unemployed persons: a registered unemployed person is a person aged from 15 to 65 years who is fully or partly capable to work, who is not employed, who is actively seeking job and who is available for work, and a person who meets the criteria as defined in provisions of the Labour Market Act and is registered with the Croatian Employment Service. According to the Labour Force Survey, an unemployed person is, in line with the international definition, either a person who did not perform any work for payment in cash or in kind in the reference week, and was actively seeking job in the course of four weeks before the interview and is prepared to start performing an offered job in the following two weeks, or a person who has found a job and will start working in the next three months.

Released data: data on registered unemployment and registered unemployment rate are published monthly in the First Release "Persons in Employment, by Activities" and in the Statistics in Line on the web site of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. The First Release "Active Population in the Republic of Croatia" is a publication in which the comparison of unemployment rate obtained from the Labour Force Survey results and the one from administrative sources are published. At the same time, the Croatian Employment Service publishes administrative data on unemployment at lower territorial levels, while the Labour Force Survey data are available at classification levels HR_NUTS 2021 – HR NUTS 2.

The data show that the unemployment rate based on the administrative data sources is higher than the Labour Force Survey rate. This is, on one hand, due to the fact that some categories of population formally classified as unemployed or inactive are nevertheless active, and on the other, administrative sources, besides actually unemployed persons, include a significant share of persons who are not classified as unemployed according to the definition of the Labour Force Survey, but are through this status entitled to some social or economic rights and benefits.

Classifications used

a) The National Classification of Activities, 2007 version, comparable to the international Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community, NACE Rev. 2, was used in the coding of economic activities.

b) The National Classification of Occupations 2010, NKZ 10, comparable to the International Standard Classification of Occupations, ISCO-08, was used in the coding of occupations.

Coverage and comparability

Data from the 1991 Census on Population, Households and Dwellings were used as a sample frame in the period from 1996 to 1999. In this period, the parts of Croatian territory with still ongoing war operations could not be included in the sample frame.

The database of the Croatian Electrical Utility (HEP) containing data on households spread on the whole Croatian territory was used as a sample frame for 2000 and 2001. Hence, since 2000 the sample and the Labour Force Survey results have related to the whole Republic of Croatia.

Starting from 2002, the sample frame based on the data from the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia in 2001 had been used for the Labour Force Survey, while since the beginning of 2014, the new sample frame based on the data from the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in 2011 has been in use.

The Labour Force Survey methodology determines that the population residing in institutions (such as homes, convents, hospitals for long-term treatments, etc.) is not included in the sample frame.

Data revision

Revisions of the Labour Force Survey data are expected and justified in order to maintain coherence with demographic statistics and the results of censuses of population, households and dwellings.

By using the revised estimates of the total population of the Republic of Croatia according to the results of the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia in 2021, which were calculated for the entire intercensal period starting with 2012, as well as the final population estimates of the Republic of Croatia, a revision of the Labour Force Survey data has been made for the period from the first quarter of 2012 to the first quarter of 2024.

During this revision, and in order to align with the survey methodology, survey data estimates were calculated according to the number of residents in private households, while before 2012, they were calculated based on the total number of residents in private and institutional households. This difference in population coverage during data weighting caused a break in the data time series. In order to ensure the comparability of the time series, revised data for the period 2007 – 2011 were published on 11 March 2026.

Since the Survey switched to continuous weekly implementation in 2007 with a panel component built into the sample design, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics has provided a time series of comparable data, starting from 2007.

Revised data for the entire period specified are available at [Statistics in Line – Active population](#).

Sample design

The Labour Force Survey is based on a random sample of private households. In the period from 1996 to 2006, the sample was separately defined for each period, that is, the interviews were not repeated, which means that the sample did not have a panel component. As from 2007, the panel component was introduced in the sample design and households were repeatedly interviewed four times. However, since the beginning of 2014, the repeated interviewing of previously selected households has been abandoned due to changes in the methodology of processing and implementation of the Labour Force Survey. Having in mind that the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in 2011 has been used as a new sample frame, all households in the first quarter of 2014 were selected for the first time, but the interviewing dynamics remained the same.

Since the second quarter of 2023, the sample frame has been the 2021 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia. The sample consists of four separately selected subsamples, rotation groups (panels). The sample design is two-stage and stratified. The sample frame is stratified in seven strata at HR_NUTS 2021 classification levels – HR NUTS 2 and further separated into urban and rural parts. The random sample of inhabited dwellings is selected in two stages and the sample design used is a two-stage cluster sampling. Before selecting the sample, the so-called segments are formed. Segments are territorial units formed by grouping of one or several neighbouring enumeration districts, which were established for the purpose of carrying out the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia in 2021.

In the first stage, the random sample of segments is chosen from each stratum and in the second one, the random sample of inhabited dwellings within the selected segments.

On average, 8 580 dwellings are selected in the sample in one quarter. All members of private households permanently living in these dwellings and accepting to participate in the Labour Force Survey were interviewed. In 2025, a total of 41 904 persons aged 15 and over were interviewed in 20 009 households.

Weighting

The weighting procedure is carried out in order to calculate the estimate for the whole household population. This procedure provides for the compensation of the design and sample size impact as well as the impact of the non-response of households to the Labour Force Survey.

Since the beginning of 2014, the new process of weighting the collected data has been determined. In the first phase of the process, the calculation included the weights of the selection of units into the sample taken over from both sampling stages (segments and dwellings) and, in the second one, the weights due to the adjustment to the non-response of units included in the sample. In the last phase of weighting, the final weights calculated in the first two phases were calibrated at the population distribution estimated by age groups, sex and statistical spatial units at the 2nd level.

Calibration is a technique used to adjust the weights of probability sample so that the estimates in survey data match the estimated population of the Republic of Croatia based on the 2021 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia.

The overall non-response rate for 2025 was 38.6%, and the refusal rate was 20.0%.

Abbreviations

EC	European Community
EU	European Union
CES	Croatian Employment Service
COVID-19	COrona Vlrus Disease-19
HR_NUTS 2021 – HR NUTS 2	National Classification of Statistical Regions 2021 – 2 nd level statistical regions
ILO	International Labour Organisation
NKD 2007	National Classification of Activities, 2007 version
NKZ 10	National Classification of Occupations, 2010 version
NN	Narodne novine, official gazette of the Republic of Croatia
NUTS	common classification of territorial units for statistics
'000	thousand

Symbols

-	no occurrence
.	not zero, but extremely inaccurate estimation
n	inaccurate estimation
p	less accurate estimation

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