

FACTSHEET ON EMPLOYMENT IN BELGIUM



Table of contents

1) Employment/ Unemployment	3
1.1 Employment Rate of Young People	3
1.2 Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24	3
1.3 Unemployment Rate of Young People	4
2) Types and Quality of Employment.....	4
2.1 Type of Employment	4
3) Education	5
3.1 Educational Level.....	5
3.2 Early School-Leavers	5
3.3 Formal and non-formal learning	5
3.4 Support structures.....	5

1) Employment/ Unemployment

1.1 Employment Rate of Young People

	Sources	Year	
Total rate of employment, age specific rate for 15-24 years old	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	27,60
Total rate of employment, age specific rate for 25-29 years old	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	78,70
Total rate of employment for men 15-24 years old	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	30,40
Total rate of employment for men 25-29 years old	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	83,00
Total rate of employment for women 15-24 years old	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	24,70
Total rate of employment for women 25-29 years old	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	74,40
Employment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2000	Eurostat	2006	29,10
Employment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2001	Eurostat	2006	29,70
Employment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2002	Eurostat	2006	29,40
Employment rate of 15-24 years olds: year 2003	Eurostat	2006	27,10
Employment rate of 15-24 years olds: year 2004	Eurostat	2006	28,10
Employment rate of 15-24 years olds: year 2005	Eurostat	2006	27,50
Employment rate of 15-24 years olds: year 2006	Eurostat	2006	27,60
Employment rate of 15-24 years olds: year 2007	Eurostat	2006	27,50
Activity rate, age range 15-24 ¹	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	34,70
Activity rates by time (12 months) since leaving continuous education for the first time	Eurostat (Data- Education & Training-Education-Youth transitions from education to working life in Europe)	2000	92,70

¹ (Activity rate = The economically active proportion of the working age population (aged 15–64) – i.e. that part of the population in employment or actively looking for a job.)

1.2 Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24

	Sources	Year	
Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24: Legislators, senior officials and managers	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	498,40 (1000 of persons)
Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24: Professionals	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	919,80 (1000 of persons)
Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24: Technicians and associate professionals	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	524,70 (1000 of persons)
Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24: Clerks	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	626,50 (1000 of persons)
Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24: Service workers and shop or market sale workers	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	488,20 (1000 of persons)
Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24: Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	81,70 (1000 of persons)
Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24: Craft and related trades workers	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	441,00 (1000 of persons)
Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24: Plant and machines	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	341,80 (1000 of persons)
Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24: Elementary occupations	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	411,80 (1000 of persons)
Sector of Employment, for age range 15-24: Armed forces	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	32,60 (1000 of persons)

1.3 Unemployment Rate of Young People

	Sources	Year	%
Total rate of unemployment of young people, age 15-24	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	20,50
Total rate of unemployment of young people, age	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	10,10
Total rate of unemployment, for men 15-24 years old	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	18,80
Total rate of unemployment, for men 25-29 years old	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	9,30
Total rate of unemployment, for women 15-24 years old	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	22,60
Total rate of unemployment, for women 25-29 years old	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	11,00
Unemployment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2000	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	16,70
Unemployment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2001	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	16,80
Unemployment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2002	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	17,70
Unemployment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2003	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	21,80
Unemployment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2004	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	21,20
Unemployment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2005	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	21,50
Unemployment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2006	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	20,50
Unemployment rate of under 25 years olds: year 2007	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	18,80
Long-term unemployment of young people, age range 15-24	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	28,30
Long term unemployment of young people, age range 25-29	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	36,10
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, age range 20-24, low education, total ¹	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	38,40
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, age range 20-24, low education, men	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	31,00
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, age range 20-24, low education, women	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	49,40
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, age range 20-24, medium education, total	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	12,80
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, age range 20-24, medium education, men	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	10,60
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, age range 20-24, medium education, women	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	15,20
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, age range 20-24, high education, total	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	13,40
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, age range 20-24, high education, men	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	13,50
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, age range 20-24, high education, women	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	13,30

(1) : (“Around 43% of 15–29 year olds who are inactive and not in education do not participate in the labour market because of taking care of children or other family members or because of other family responsibilities, the vast majority of them women. Another 43% of those inactive and not in education – most of them young males – are either discouraged by the labour market or name other reasons, with the rest being ill or suffering from a disability.”) p. 37

2) Types and Quality of Employment

2.1 Type of Employment

	Sources	Year	
Temporary Work, age range 15-24	Employment in Europe 2007	2006	20,70%
Main reason for the temporary employment by age group 15-24: Could not find permanent job	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	30,00%
Main reason for the temporary employment by age group 15-24: Did not want permanent job	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	64,30%
Main reason for the temporary employment by age group 15-24: In education or training	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	16,00%
Main reason for the temporary employment by age group 15-24: probationary period	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	19,70%
Full-time work, age range 15-24	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	280,90 (1000 of persons)
Part-Time Work, age range 15-24	Eurostat	2007 (1. quarter)	72,30 (1000 of persons)
Main reason for part-time employment by age group 15-24:	Eurostat	2007	21,30%

Other reasons			
Main reason for part-time employment by age group 15-24: Could not find a full-time work	Eurostat	2007	36,60%
Main reason for part-time employment by age group 15-24: Own disability or illness	Eurostat	2007	-
Main reason for part-time employment by age group 15-24: Other personal or family responsibilities	Eurostat	2007	9,50%
Main reason for part-time employment by age group 15-24: Looking for children or incapacitated adults	Eurostat	2007	6,70%
Main reason for part-time employment by age group 15-24: In education or training	Eurostat	2007	25,40%
Proportion of self-employed by time (12 months) since leaving continuous education for the first time	Eurostat	2007	8,70%
Self-employment by men, age groups 15 -24 and highest level of education attained	Eurostat	2007	5,60%
Self-employment by women, age groups 15-24 and highest level of education attained	Eurostat	2007	-
Apprenticeship	Annex 1		

3) Education

3.1 Educational Level

	Sources	Year	%
Percentages of the population aged 20 to 24 having completed at least secondary education	Eurostat	2007	82,60

3.2 Early School-Leavers

Percentages of the population aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and not in further education	Gender inequalities in the risks of poverty and social exclusion for disadvantaged groups in thirty European countries, 2006 (Eurostat)	2004	11,90%
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3.3 Formal and non-formal learning

	Sources	Year	%
Percentage of people aged 25-34 who takes part of formal education	Eurostat	2005	8,10
Percentage of people aged 25-34 who takes part of non formal education	Eurostat	2005	24,60

3.4 Support structures

Guidance and counselling for learning, career and employment	Annex 2		
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ANNEX 1 : APPRENTICESHIP

In Belgium, apprenticeship is a well-established form of alternance training whose origins date from the year 1947 (cf. relevant Royal Decree). In Belgium, apprenticeships are only available in more than 200 occupations recognized by the Commercial Sector Governing Council. These occupations, access to which is regulated by law, are in the fields of commerce, crafts, small-scale industry, liberal professions offering services, and SMEs. In addition to commercial sector apprenticeships, there are apprenticeships in industry. From 1959 to 1976, apprenticeships were organized by a single national body for the whole of Belgium. Subsequently, separate institutes were set up for each of the Belgian communities (cf. moves towards regionalisation and cultural autonomy; the Flemish community and the French community). Young people applying for an apprenticeship need

to fulfil a number of legal requirements. They must: be over the age of 15 (or 16 for a certain number of occupations) and have attended at least the first two years of lower secondary school. Training lasts for a period of three years.

French community: the number of apprenticeship contracts ranges from 4,3 % to 7,8 % compared to the number of school students in the comparable age groups (full-time students over the age of 16 in secondary education in the French community). A survey carried out between 1995 and 1996 by the University of Liège has revealed f. ex. the following: Apprenticeship contracts are mainly taken up by young people with only a primary school (31,7 % in 1996) or lower secondary school leaving certificate (16,4 %). They mostly complete their apprenticeship before the age of 20. Girls generally make up only 20 % of apprentices. They tend to be concentrated in occupations related to food and care services. In 1996, 40,6 % of apprentices come from a working class background while less than 20 % have a father who is a tradesperson, craftsman or manager. The unemployment rate among the former apprentices taking part in the surveys was generally around 16% (but 13% in 1996). That is slightly below the national rate of unemployment among young people, which is about 20%. Flemish community: The number of apprenticeship contracts compared to the number of school students ranges from 3,2 % to 5,3 % in similar age groups (full-time students over the age of 16 in secondary education in the Flemish community). In addition to this, there was a study entitled "Apprenticeship in Commercial Sector Training - The Policy to Pursue", which was carried out in 1991 by the European "Work and Society" Centre. Apprenticeship in French and Flemish community: the most attractive sectors (approved 2 ja 3 years contracts in 1997, by occupational group) were retail trading (1 357), metals (1 151), food (1 947), personal services (1 069) and mechanical engineering (976)

Source: <http://www2.trainingvillage.gr/etv/library/apprenticeship/country.asp>

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ANNEX 2 : GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING FOR LEARNING, CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT

No data available.