INSTAT
Republika e Shqipërisë
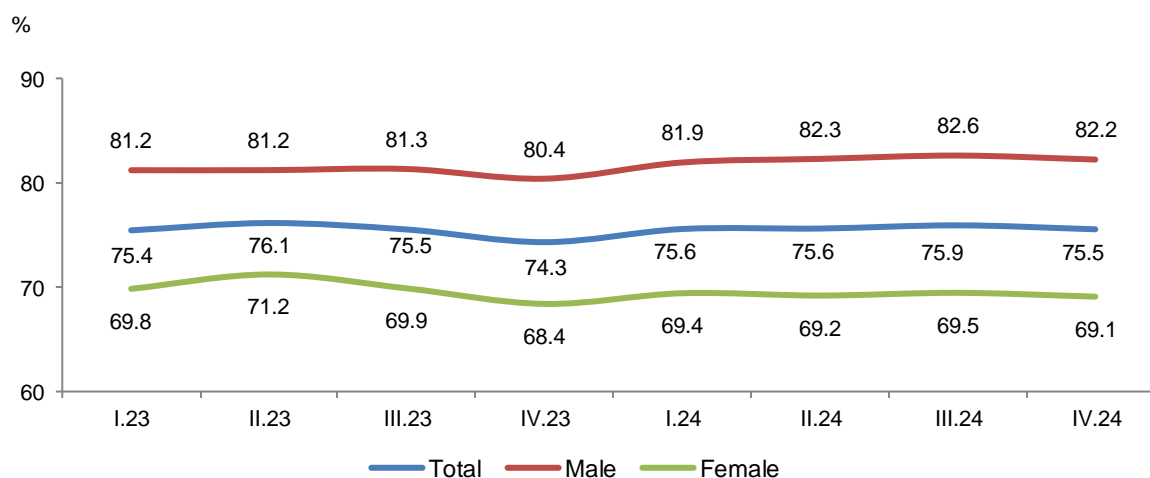Instituti i Statistikave

Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Fourth quarter 2024

Tirana, 12 March, 2024: In the fourth quarter of 2024[*], the employment rate for the population aged 15-64 was 68.3%, showing an annual increase of 1.6 percentage points and a quarterly decrease of 0.8 percentage points.

The official unemployment rate in Albania in the fourth quarter of 2024, for the population aged 15 and above, was 8.8%, reflecting an annual decrease of 0.8 percentage points and a quarterly increase of 0.7 percentage points.

The labor force participation rate for the population aged 15-64 in the fourth quarter of 2024 was 75.5%, with an annual increase of 1.2 percentage points and a quarterly decrease of 0.4 percentage points.

Fig. 1 Labour Force Participation Rate, population aged 15 to 64, Q.1/23-Q.4/24

%

	I.23	II.23	III.23	IV.23	I.24	II.24	III.24	IV.24
Male	81.2	81.2	81.3	80.4	81.9	82.3	82.6	82.2
Total	75.4	76.1	75.5	74.3	75.6	75.6	75.9	75.5
Female	69.8	71.2	69.9	68.4	69.4	69.2	69.5	69.1

— Total — Male — Female

_____

*The Labour Force Survey results presented in this press release have been calibrated using the resident population according to the results of the 2023 Population and Housing Census.
*The data presented have been re-evaluated from the first quarter of 2023 to the fourth quarter of 2024.
*Labour Market Indicators will be subject to further revision

For Release 12/03/2025

The women labour force participation rate is 69.1 %, whereas for men this indicator is 82.2 %. The men labour force participation rate is 13.1 percentage points higher than women. The labour force participation rate for women increased by 0.7 percentage points and for men by 1.8 percentage points compared to the same quarter of 2023.

During the fourth quarter 2024, the youth labour force participation rate (population aged from 15 to 29) is 53.6%. This indicator increased by 2.0 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter of 2023, and decreased by 2.4 percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2024. In the fourth quarter 2024, for the population aged from 30 to 64, the labour force participation rate is 83.9 %.
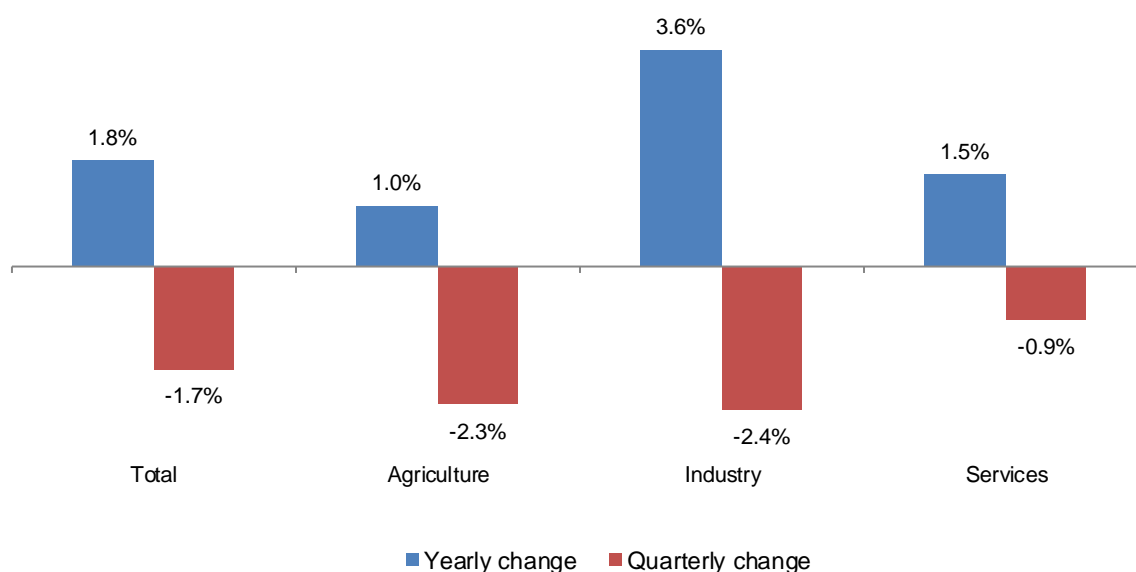
Employment

During the fourth quarter of 2024, the employment rate for the population 15-64 is 68.3 %.

The number of employees for the population 15 years and over, from the fourth quarter of 2023 to the fourth quarter of 2024, increased by 1.8%. In annual terms, employment increased by 1.0% in the agriculture sector, by 3.6% in the industry sector and by 1.5% in the service sector.
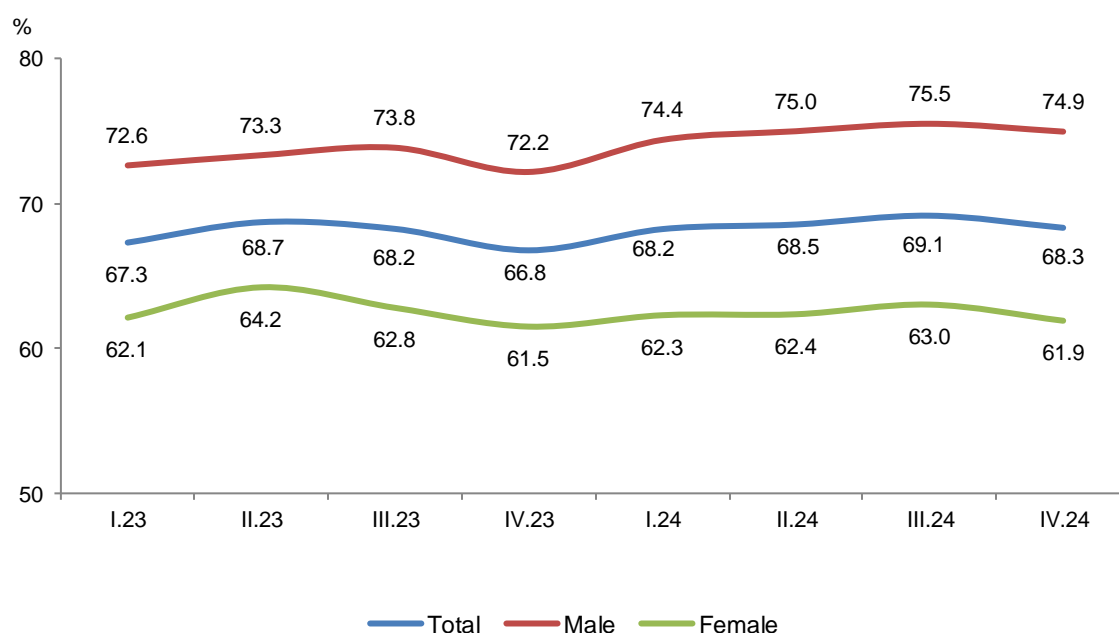
In the fourth quarter 2024, the employment for the population aged 15 years and over, decreased by 1.7 % compared to the previous quarter. Employment decreased by 2.3 % in the agriculture sector, by 0.9 % in the services sector and by 2.4 %. In the industry sector.

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

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: https://www.instat.gov.al/

The employment rate for men 15-64 years old is 74.9 %, whereas for women is 61.9 %. Compared to the same quarter of 2023, the employment rate increased by 2.8 percentage points for men and by 0.4 percentage points for women. In the fourth quarter of 2024, the youth employment rate is 43.4 %. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2023, the youth employment rate increased by 2.7 percentage point and decreased by 2.7 percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2024. For the population aged 30-64, in the fourth quarter 2024, the employment rate is 77.8 %.
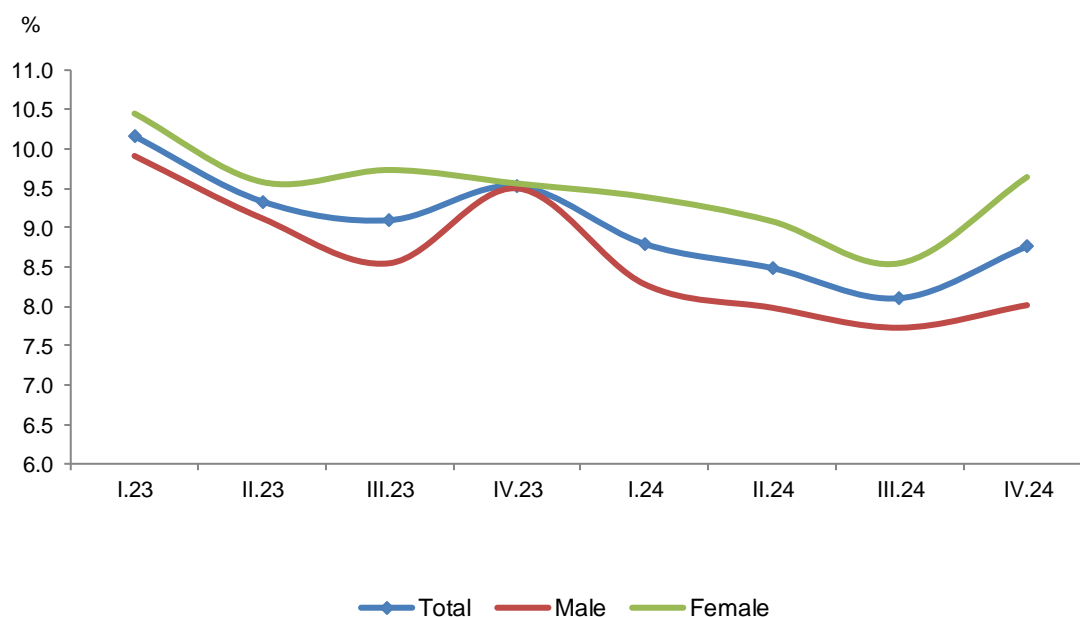
Fig. 3 Employment Rate, population aged 15 to 64, Q.1/23-Q.4/24

Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2024, the official unemployment rate in Albania for the population aged 15 and over was 8.8%. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.8 percentage points compared to the same quarter of 2023, and increased by 0.7 percentage points compared to the previous quarter.

The unemployment rate for men was 8.0%, while for women it was 9.6%. Compared to the same quarter of 2023, the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points for women, while it decreased by 1.5 percentage points for men.

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: https://www.instat.gov.al/

Fig. 4 Official Unemployment Rate, population aged 15 and over, Q.1/23-Q.4/24

The official unemployment rate for young people aged 15-29 is 19.1 %. The youth unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of 2024 decreased by 2.1 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter of 2023. This indicator increased by 1.4 percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2024.
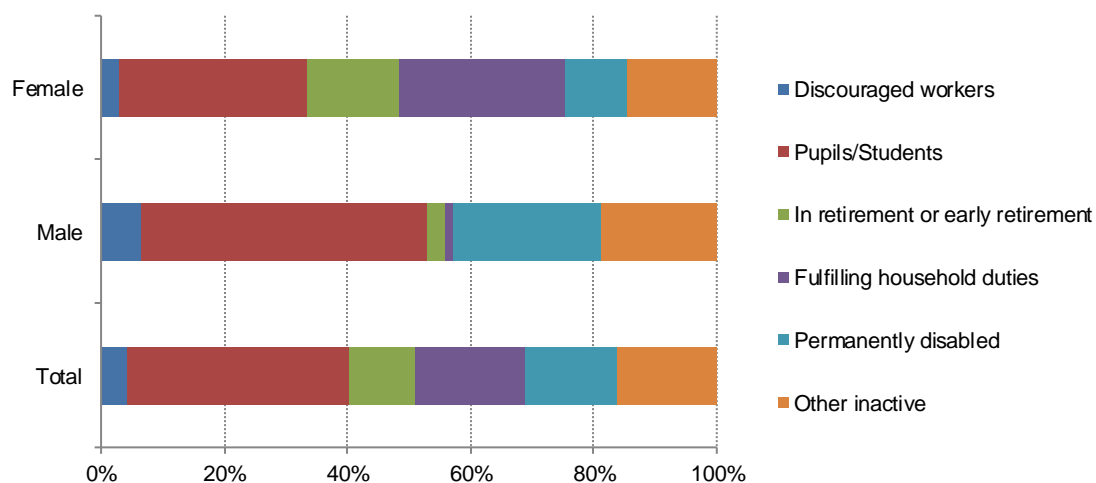
The unemployment rate for the 30-64 age group is 7.3 %. In annual terms, this indicator decreased by 0.2 percentage point, while compared to the previous quarter it increased by 0.6 percentage points.

The economically inactive population

During the fourth quarter of 2024, 17.8 % of the inactive population (15 to 64 years) were fulfilling household duties, 10.6 % were in retirement or early retirement, while 14.9 % were permanently disabled.

In the fourth quarter of 2024, 4.1 % of the inactive population (15 to 64 years) declared that the reason for not looking for work is because they believe that there is no work available, so they are classified as discouraged workers.

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: https://www.instat.gov.al/

Fig 5 Structure of the economically inactive population by sex and inactivity status, population 15-64 years

Inactive youth population (aged 15 to 29) are 69.7 % pupils/students or pursuing training, while 1.7 % are classified as discouraged workers. Discouraged workers consist of 16.1 % of the inactive population aged 30 to 64.

Tab. 1 Unemployment Rate, Q.1/23-Q.4/24

Age	Sex	Q.1.2023	Q.2.2023	Q.3.2023	Q.4.2023	Q.1.2024	Q.2.2024	Q.3.2024	Q.4.2024
15 years and over	Total	10.2	9.3	9.1	9.5	8.8	8.5	8.1	8.8
	Male	9.9	9.1	8.5	9.5	8.3	8.0	7.7	8.0
	Female	10.4	9.6	9.7	9.6	9.4	9.1	8.5	9.6
15-64 years	Total	10.8	9.8	9.6	10.2	9.7	9.4	8.9	9.6
	Male	10.6	9.7	9.2	10.2	9.2	8.9	8.6	8.8
	Female	11.1	9.8	10.1	10.1	10.3	9.9	9.3	10.4
15-29 years	Total	23.4	21.6	20.6	21.2	20.3	18.4	17.8	19.1
	Male	22.2	21.3	20.6	22.2	20.6	18.5	18.0	18.0
	Female	24.8	21.9	20.5	20.0	19.8	18.4	17.5	20.6
30-64 years	Total	7.6	6.8	6.9	7.5	7.1	7.1	6.7	7.3
	Male	7.4	6.6	6.2	7.1	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.5
	Female	7.7	7.1	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.9	7.3	8.1

Tab. 2 Employment Rate, Q.1/23-Q.4/24

Age	Sex	Q.1.2023	Q.2.2023	Q.3.2023	Q.4.2023	Q.1.2024	Q.2.2024	Q.3.2024	Q.4.2024
15 years and over	Total	56.2	56.7	56.9	55.9	58.3	58.4	58.6	57.6
	Male	61.4	61.8	62.6	61.5	64.3	64.8	65.1	64.2
	Female	51.3	51.8	51.5	50.6	52.5	52.3	52.4	51.3
15-64 years	Total	67.3	68.7	68.2	66.8	68.2	68.5	69.1	68.3
	Male	72.6	73.3	73.8	72.2	74.4	75.0	75.5	74.9
	Female	62.1	64.2	62.8	61.5	62.3	62.4	63.0	61.9
15-29 years	Total	42.2	42.1	42.5	40.7	43.8	44.4	46.1	43.4
	Male	46.3	46.4	46.8	44.5	47.8	49.1	50.7	49.2
	Female	37.8	37.5	38.2	36.7	39.8	39.8	41.4	37.5
30-64 years	Total	77.1	79.1	78.3	77.0	77.5	77.7	77.9	77.8
	Male	83.6	84.4	84.8	83.3	84.8	85.1	85.3	85.1
	Female	71.1	74.1	72.1	70.9	70.6	70.7	70.9	70.8

Tab. 3 Labour Force Participation Rate, Q.1/23-Q.4/24

Age	Sex	Q.1.2023	Q.2.2023	Q.3.2023	Q.4.2023	Q.1.2024	Q.2.2024	Q.3.2024	Q.4.2024
15 years and over	Total	62.6	62.6	62.6	61.8	63.9	63.8	63.8	63.2
	Male	68.1	68.0	68.4	67.9	70.1	70.4	70.5	69.8
	Female	57.2	57.3	57.0	55.9	57.9	57.5	57.3	56.8
15-64 years	Total	75.4	76.1	75.5	74.3	75.6	75.6	75.9	75.5
	Male	81.2	81.2	81.3	80.4	81.9	82.3	82.6	82.2
	Female	69.8	71.2	69.9	68.4	69.4	69.2	69.5	69.1
15-29 years	Total	55.1	53.6	53.5	51.6	55.0	54.5	56.1	53.6
	Male	59.5	59.0	58.9	57.3	60.3	60.2	61.8	60.0
	Female	50.3	48.1	48.1	45.9	49.6	48.7	50.2	47.2
30-64 years	Total	83.4	84.9	84.1	83.2	83.4	83.6	83.5	83.9
	Male	90.2	90.4	90.4	89.7	90.4	90.9	90.8	91.0
	Female	77.0	79.8	78.1	77.0	76.7	76.7	76.5	77.1

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: https://www.instat.gov.al/

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 2023. The sample size for the fourth quarter of 2024 is 7917 households. The sample is based in a two-stage sampling procedure. In the second 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 second 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 second. In the fourth quarter of 2024, the household response rate was 75.3 %.

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 over. 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 2023 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.

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: https://www.instat.gov.al/

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 results of the Labor Force Survey presented in this press release have been revised based on the data from the 2023 Population and Housing Census, starting from the first quarter of 2023 through to the fourth quarter of 2024.

 The Labor Market indicators will be subject to further revisions. The main labour market indicators are estimates based on the quarterly labour force survey. The survey is based on a probability sample of 7917 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 4 below shows the relative standard deviation and the confidence interval for the main labour market indicators for the population aged 15+.

The unemployment rate, for a 95 % confidence level, lies between 8.23 % to 9.29 %, with a standard error of 0.27 %. The standard error for the proportion of population aged 15+ in employment is 0.01 % and for a 95 % confidence level, the estimate of employment rate is between the values 57.61 % to 57.65 %.

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: https://www.instat.gov.al/