

EMPLOYMENT IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN 1988

2.3 millions more employed in the Community of twelve

In 1988, for the first time since the early 1970's, all Member States reported a rise in the level of employment. Over 2.3 millions more persons were in employment compared to 1987, 2.1 millions of these in the service sector.

First estimates produced by the Member States show that over 130 million people were employed in the Community in 1988, an increase of 1.8% over 1987.

The growth in the level of employment in Europe, which resumed in 1985 following recession in the labour market during the early 1980's, thus reached its highest level in the current upswing. In contrast, growth in employment in the United States, which has been almost continuous throughout the 1980's, reached a peak of over 4% in 1984 and has since slowed, although continuing at a rate of over 2% per annum. In 1988 the growth rate was still slightly above that recorded in the Community. The number of persons employed in the United States in 1988 rose by 2.5 millions to a level of just over 117 millions.

Although employment grew in all Member States in 1988 there were marked differences in the rates of growth achieved. Denmark and France recorded a relatively modest 0.7% increase, closely followed by Ireland (0.9%),

while above average increases were reported by Portugal (2.5%), the Netherlands (2.9%), and Luxembourg (3.1%). The growth rate was highest in Spain and the United Kingdom (3.3%).

Chart 1 : Trends in total employment

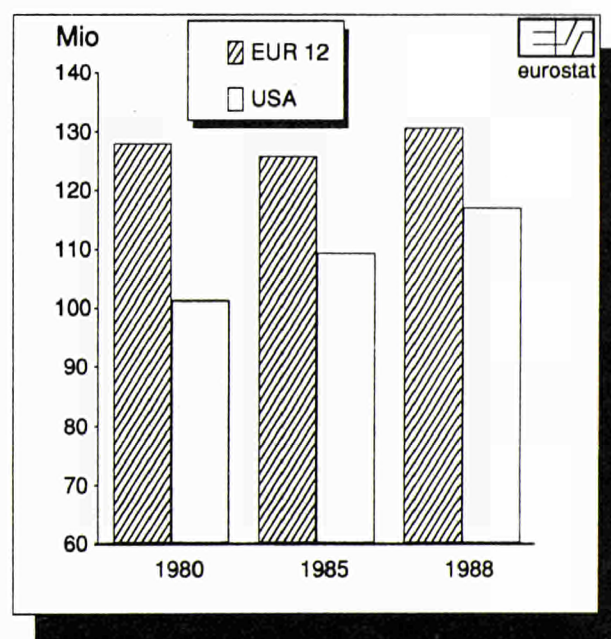


Chart 2 : Changes in employment by sector, 1987-1988

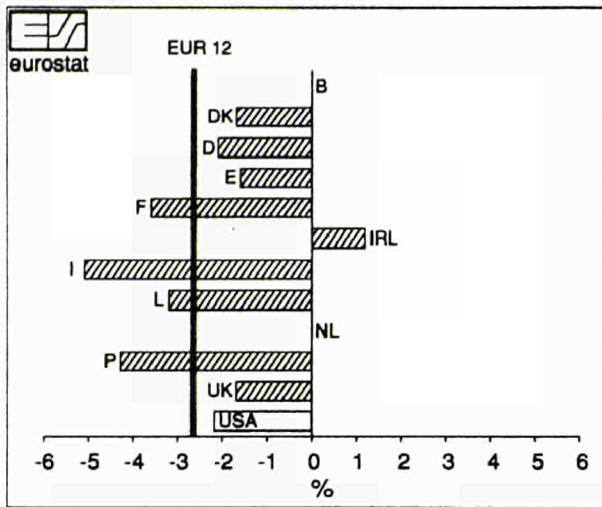
EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR

In terms of total employment, the service sector is by far the largest, comprising 60% of all those in employment in the Community. This figure is even higher in the United States (70%).

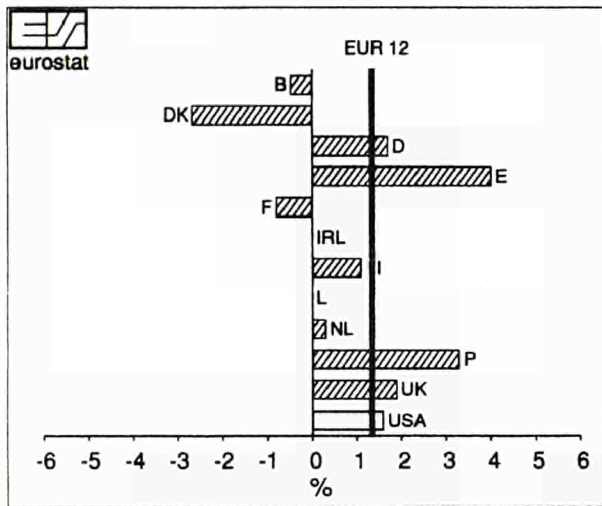
Between 1987 and 1988 the service sector once again accounted for the greatest proportion of the increase in employment in the Community. Numbers employed in this sector rose by 2.1 millions (2.7%), representing more than 90% of the overall increase in employment. Over the same period there was a somewhat smaller increase of 0.5 million (1.3%) in employment in industry, continuing the modest recovery which began in 1987 following an unbroken period of decline since the mid 1970's. The number of persons employed in agriculture fell by 0.3 million (2.6%) further extending a long-established and continuous downward trend in this sector. In percentage terms, changes in employment by sector in the United States between 1987 and 1988 were very similar to those recorded in the Community. Employment in services grew by 2.6%, in industry by 1.6% and employment in agriculture fell by 2.2%.

Chart 2 shows that as in the case of total employment, the numbers of those employed in services rose in all Member States. Increases ranged from just under 1% in the Federal Republic of Germany, to 5% and over in Luxembourg and Portugal. By contrast only Ireland recorded an increase in employment in agriculture (1.2%). All other Member States, with the exception of Belgium and the Netherlands, where there was no change, reported falls, the largest of these being in Italy (-5.1%) and Portugal (-4.3%). Employment in industry rose in the majority of Community countries. The biggest increases were recorded in Spain (4%) and Portugal (3.3%), while there was no change in Ireland and Luxembourg. Employment in industry fell slightly in Belgium (-0.5%) and France (-0.8%), and more steeply in Denmark (-2.7%).

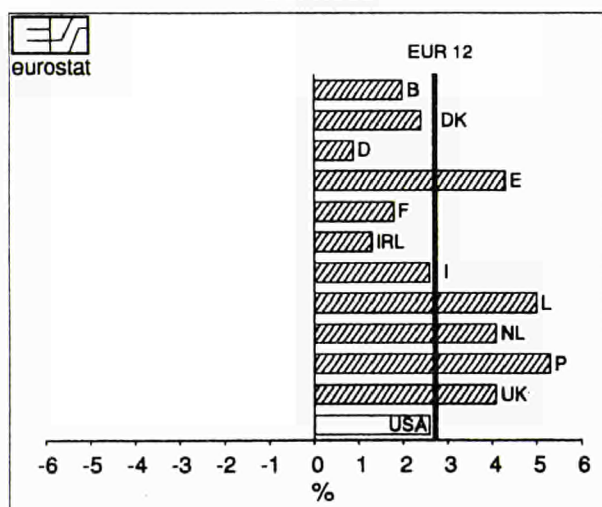
Agriculture



Industry



Services



EMPLOYMENT BY SEX

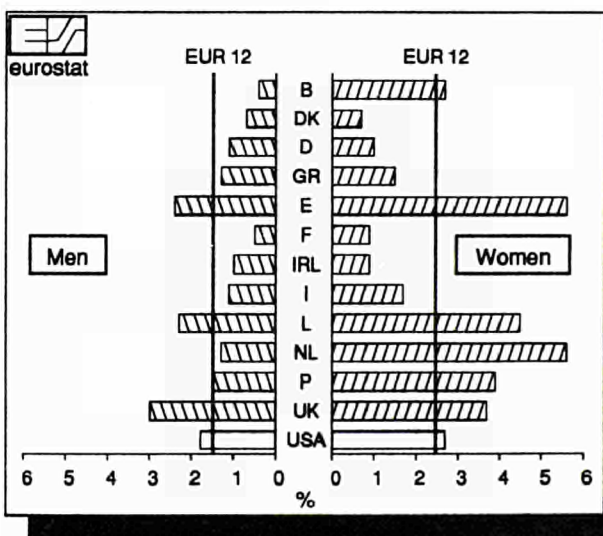
Employment growth in 1988 reflects a rise in the numbers of both men and women in employment. However the rate of increase in female employment in the Community (2.4%) was significantly higher than that for men (1.5%). There was a very similar development in the United States, where growth rates of 2.7% and 1.8% respectively were recorded.

Chart 3 shows that in all but two Member States, namely the Federal Republic of Germany and Ireland, the percentage growth in female employment in 1988 was higher than that for men. The difference was particularly marked in Belgium, Spain, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal.

Nevertheless, in spite of the continuation of this well-established trend of higher growth in female activity, almost two thirds of all those employed in the Community in 1988 were men (62%).

Growth in female activity has been accommodated by the expansion of the service sector and the consequent increase in demand for labour. Almost three quarters (74%) of women in employment in 1988 were working in services, representing nearly half of all those employed in this sector.

Chart 3 : Changes in employment by sex, 1987-1988



Within the service sector, women tend to be found in greater concentration in education and medical and other health services and to a lesser extent in retail distribution, hotels and catering, banking, insurance, and real estate. They still remain largely confined to occupations traditionally regarded as female. Moreover the organisation of working time in these areas may be more easily reconciled with other responsibilities. Consequently a greater proportion of women in the Community work part-time (28% in 1987) compared to men (4%). Amongst married women the percentage working part-time is even higher (35%). Therefore, although the number of women in employment is rising, this does not necessarily imply an increase in the volume of work.

EMPLOYMENT BY STATUS

Employees account for over 80% of all employment in the Community and their numbers grew at a faster rate in 1988 (2.1%) than did the remainder of the employed population i.e. employers, self-employed and family workers (0.8%).

In industry however, the number of employers, self-employed and family workers rose by 2.8%, compared to a 1.1% rise in employees who comprise 89% of all employment in this sector. In contrast only 27% of those who work in agriculture are employees and although their numbers rose slightly (0.4%) in 1988, thus breaking a long uninterrupted downward trend of over two decades, overall employment in the sector fell due to a decline in the number of employers, self-employed and family workers (-3.7%). The rise in the number of employees in agriculture must be qualified as in the case of female employment in services, by stressing that, due to a trend towards part-time working, the volume of work may not have risen. Employment growth in services in 1988 was evenly distributed among employees, who account for 84% of employment in this sector, and the rest of the employed population.

	EUR 12	B	DK	D ⁽¹⁾	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL ⁽²⁾	P	UK	USA
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (1000)														
1987	128489	3712	2721	27083	3782	11727	21564	1081	21212	169.6	5864	4195	25378	114697
1988	130828	3759	2740	27366	3835	12118	21708	1091	21493	174.8	6032	4299	26212	117197
of which : women														
1987	48813	1422	1222	10505	1236	3477	8831	347	7065	58.0	2105	1728	10817	50555
1988	49964	1460	1231	10607	1255	3671	8909	350	7187	60.6	2223	1795	11215	51919
Agriculture														
1987	9769	100	172	1180	971	1723	1481	164	2169	6.2	285	927	591	3400
1988	9514	100	169	1155	:	1695	1428	166	2058	6.0	285	887	581	3326
Industry														
1987	41371	1040	731	10868	1007	3681	6470	300	6716	55.0	1571	1455	7477	30475
1988	41903	1035	711	11048	:	3829	6421	300	6788	55.0	1575	1503	7617	30965
Services														
1987	77348	2572	1817	15035	1804	6323	13614	617	12327	108.4	4008	1813	17310	80822
1988	79412	2624	1860	15163	:	6596	13859	625	12647	113.8	4172	1909	18013	82906
EMPLOYEES IN EMPLOYMENT (1000)														
1987	104302	3047	2412	24000	1979	8290	18279	822	15084	151.4	5166	2865	22207	104660
1988	106443	3084	2434	24305	:	8658	18440	823	15337	156.8	5334	2981	22883	:
of which : women														
1987	40842	1176	1120	9386	577	2354	7721	314	5220	50.8	1828	1121	9974	47232
1988	41971	1210	1129	9493	:	2525	7809	316	5350	53.4	1949	1203	10348	:
Agriculture														
1987	2569	12	56	264	38	539	269	22	795	0.9	99	152	322	1762
1988	2578	14	57	278	:	542	265	22	779	0.9	95	153	333	:
Industry														
1987	36953	931	686	10274	713	3104	5903	269	5568	52.9	1502	1272	6678	25291
1988	37360	924	667	10470	:	3236	5854	267	5625	53.0	1495	1311	6735	:
Services														
1987	64781	2104	1670	13462	1228	4647	12107	531	8721	97.6	3565	1441	15207	77607
1988	66504	2146	1710	13556	:	4881	12321	534	8933	102.9	3743	1517	15815	:

(1) The full results of the 1987 census in F.R.Germany are not yet available. Data for F.R.Germany are therefore based on the results of the 1987 and 1988 "Mikrozensus". The 1987 results have been partially adjusted using available 1987 census data, and are therefore not comparable with previously published data.

(2) Provisional estimates.

For further information : EUROSTAT
- Employment and Unemployment 1989
- CRONOS Database