23 June 2023

Economically Active Population Survey (EAPS)
Module on professional skills
Year 2022

Main results

- 41.88% of employed people spent half or more of their time to working with digital devices in 2022.
- 70.76% of the self-employed had a large influence on the order of the tasks of their main job and some influence on their content.
- 80.21% of employed people performed repetitive tasks in their main job, at least to some degree.

Time spent working on specific tasks in their main or their last job

10.25% of the 20,373,400 employed people in 2022 spend more than half of their time *performing relatively complex calculations*; 11.92% *reading manuals and technical documents related to their job*, and 15.13% *advising, training or teaching other people*.

Tasks in which half or more of the time was spent in highest proportion were: *interacting with people from the same company or organization* (46.65% of employed people), *interacting with people outside the company or organisation* (43.73%) and *working with digital devices* (41.88%).

Employed persons between 16 and 74 years of age, according to the time spent working on certain tasks in the main job

	Time spent working on certain tasks							
	Total		A half or more		Less than a half		No answer/ Don't know	
Tasks	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage
To work on digital devices	20,373.4	100.00	8,532.8	41.88	11,520.2	56.55	320.4	1.57
To read manuals and technical documents related to the job	20,373.4	100.00	2,428.7	11.92	17,047.2	83.67	897.5	4.41
To perform relatively complex calculations	20,373.4	100.00	2,088.9	10.25	17,642.6	86.60	642.0	3.15
To perform hard physical labour	20,373.4	100.00	5,423.4	26.62	14,650.6	71.91	299.4	1.47
To perform tasks that involve finger dexterity	20,373.4	100.00	3,856.0	18.93	16,134.0	79.19	383.5	1.88
To interact with people from the same enterprise or organization	20,373.4	100.00	9,504.9	46.65	10,254.4	50.33	614.2	3.01
To interact with people outside the enterprise or organization	20,373.4	100.00	8,909.8	43.73	10,894.7	53.47	569.0	2.79
To advise, train or teach other people	20,373.4	100.00	3,083.4	15.13	16,637.8	81.66	652.2	3.20

By sex, 30.63% of men spent half of their time or more *performing physically strenuous tasks*, compared to 21.96% of women. And 21.64% spent that time performing tasks requiring finger dexterity, compared to 15.77% of women.

On the other hand, 51.06% of employed women spent half of their time or more *interacting with people outside their company or organisation,* compared to 37.43% of men. And 45.50% spent half of their working time or more *working with digital devices*, compared to 38.77% of men.

Employed persons between 16 and 74 years of age, by sex, according to the time spent working on certain tasks in the main job

	Time spent working on certain tasks							
	Total		A half or more		Less than a half		No answer/ Don't know	
Sex/ Tasks	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage
Males								
To work on digital devices	10,953.3	100.00	4,246.6	38.77	6,513.6	59.47	193.1	1.76
To read manuals and technical documents related to the job	10,953.3	100.00	1,278.2	11.67	9,130.1	83.36	544.9	4.97
To perform relatively complex calculations	10,953.3	100.00	1,211.1	11.06	9,320.4	85.09	421.8	3.85
To perform hard physical labour	10,953.3	100.00	3,354.5	30.63	7,427.8	67.81	171.0	1.56
To perform tasks that involve finger dexterity	10,953.3	100.00	2,370.7	21.64	8,353.5	76.26	229.1	2.09
To interact with people from the same enterprise or organization	10,953.3	100.00	5,065.0	46.24	5,523.1	50.42	365.2	3.33
To interact with people outside the enterprise or organization	10,953.3	100.00	4,099.6	37.43	6,494.7	59.29	359.0	3.28
To advise, train or teach other people	10,953.3	100.00	1,405.5	12.83	9,146.4	83.50	401.3	3.66

	Time spent working on certain tasks							
	Total		A half or more		Less than a half		No answer/ Don't know	
Sex/ Tasks	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage
Females								
To work on digital devices	9,420.2	100.00	4,286.2	45.50	5,006.6	53.15	127.3	1.35
To read manuals and technical documents related to the job	9,420.2	100.00	1,150.5	12.21	7,917.1	84.04	352.6	3.74
To perform relatively complex calculations	9,420.2	100.00	877.8	9.32	8,322.2	88.34	220.1	2.34
To perform hard physical labour	9,420.2	100.00	2,069.0	21.96	7,222.8	76.67	128.4	1.36
To perform tasks that involve finger dexterity	9,420.2	100.00	1,485.3	15.77	7,780.5	82.59	154.4	1.64
To interact with people from the same enterprise or organization	9,420.2	100.00	4,440.0	47.13	4,731.3	50.23	248.9	2.64
To interact with people outside the enterprise or organization	9,420.2	100.00	4,810.2	51.06	4,400.0	46.71	210.0	2.23
To advise, train or teach other people	9,420.2	100.00	1,677.9	17.81	7,491.4	79.53	250.8	2.66

The percentages of employed people who dedicated half or more of their time increased with their level of education (low, medium or high) on the following tasks: *working with digital devices*, *reading manuals and technical documents related to their job*, *performing relatively complex calculations*, *interacting with people from the same company or organisation*, *interacting with people outside the company or organisation*, and *advising, training or teaching other people*.

The opposite was true for *performing physically strenuous tasks* and *performing tasks requiring finger dexterity.*

Employed persons between 16 and 74 years of age, by level of education attained, according to the time spent working on certain tasks in the main job

	Time spent working on certain tasks							
	Total		A half or more		Less than a half		No answer/ Don't know	
Level of education attained / Tasks	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage
Total								
To work on digital devices	20,373.4	100.00	8,532.8	41.88	11,520.2	56.55	320.4	1.57
To read manuals and technical documents related to the job	20,373.4	100.00	2,428.7	11.92	17,047.2	83.67	897.5	4.41
To perform relatively complex calculations	20,373.4	100.00	2,088.9	10.25	17,642.6	86.60	642.0	3.15
To perform hard physical labour	20,373.4	100.00	5,423.4	26.62	14,650.6	71.91	299.4	1.47
To perform tasks that involve finger dexterity	20,373.4	100.00	3,856.0	18.93	16,134.0	79.19	383.5	1.88
To interact with people from the same enterprise or organization	20,373.4	100.00	9,504.9	46.65	10,254.4	50.33	614.2	3.01
To interact with people outside the enterprise or organization	20,373.4	100.00	8,909.8	43.73	10,894.7	53.47	569.0	2.79
To advise, train or teach other people	20,373.4	100.00	3,083.4	15.13	16,637.8	81.66	652.2	3.20
First stage and lower secondary education								
To work on digital devices	6,055.3	100.00	920.0	15.19	5,012.5	82.78	122.8	2.03
To read manuals and technical documents related to the job	6,055.3	100.00	217.9	3.60	5,614.1	92.71	223.3	3.69
To perform relatively complex calculations	6,055.3	100.00	264.5	4.37	5,608.5	92.62	182.3	3.01
To perform hard physical labour	6,055.3	100.00	2,673.5	44.15	3,266.5	53.94	115.3	1.90
To perform tasks that involve finger dexterity	6,055.3	100.00	1,514.2	25.01	4,391.0	72.51	150.2	2.48
To interact with people from the same enterprise or organization	6,055.3	100.00	2,356.1	38.91	3,466.8	57.25	232.5	3.84
To interact with people outside the enterprise or organization	6,055.3	100.00	1,947.5	32.16	3,881.3	64.10	226.5	3.74
To advise, train or teach other people	6,055.3	100.00	414.8	6.85	5,402.7	89.22	237.9	3.93
Second stage secondary education								
To work on digital devices	4,959.8	100.00	1,673.1	33.73	3,209.5	64.71	77.2	1.56
To read manuals and technical documents related to the job	4,959.8	100.00	402.5	8.11	4,344.7	87.60	212.6	4.29
To perform relatively complex calculations	4,959.8	100.00	391.4	7.89	4,427.6	89.27	140.8	2.84
To perform hard physical labour	4,959.8	100.00	1,592.9	32.12	3,295.4	66.44	71.5	1.44
To perform tasks that involve finger dexterity	4,959.8	100.00	1,055.8	21.29	3,817.1	76.96	86.8	1.75
To interact with people from the same enterprise or organization	4,959.8	100.00	2,389.8	48.18	2,425.8	48.91	144.1	2.91
To interact with people outside the enterprise or organization	4,959.8	100.00	2,229.1	44.94	2,600.5	52.43	130.2	2.62
To advise, train or teach other people	4,959.8	100.00	515.7	10.40	4,280.5	86.31	163.6	3.30
Higher education								
To work on digital devices	9,358.4	100.00	5,939.7	63.47	3,298.3	35.24	120.4	1.29
To read manuals and technical documents related to the job	9,358.4	100.00	1,808.3	19.32	7,088.5	75.74	461.6	4.93
To perform relatively complex calculations	9,358.4	100.00	1,433.0	15.31	7,606.5	81.28	318.9	3.41
To perform hard physical labour	9,358.4	100.00	1,157.0	12.36	8,088.7	86.43	112.6	1.20
To perform tasks that involve finger dexterity	9,358.4	100.00	1,286.0	13.74	7,925.9	84.69	146.5	1.57
To interact with people from the same enterprise or organization	9,358.4	100.00	4,759.0	50.85	4,361.8	46.61	237.6	2.54
To interact with people outside the enterprise or organization	9,358.4	100.00	4,733.3	50.58	4,412.8	47.15	212.3	2.27
To advise, train or teach other people	9,358.4	100.00	2,153.0	23.01	6,954.7	74.31	250.7	2.68

Comparing the results of non-employed people of 16-74 years of age[1] who left employment in the last two years with those of employed people in that same age range, the former spent half of their time or more *working with digital devices* in a lower proportion (23.40%, compared to 41.88%). On the other hand, a higher proportion of unemployed people spent half of their time or more *performing physically strenuous tasks* (37.12%, compared to 26.62%).

By sex, the behaviour of the non-employed was similar to that of the employed.

Analysing non-employed people by age group, a higher percentage of those who spend half or more of their time *performing physically strenuous tasks* was observed in the 35-54 age range (42.83%, compared to 31.37% for the 16-34 age range and 37.65% for the 55-74 age range).

Non-employed people with middle level education represent the highest percentage of people who spent half or more of their time *performing physically strenuous tasks* (51.13%, compared to 37.12% for people with lower level education and 18.04% for people with higher level education). In the case of employed people, the proportion who spent half or more of their time performing physically strenuous tasks decreased the higher their level of education

Degree of influence on the order and content of tasks in the main job

The number of self-employed workers who had a large or very large influence on both the order and the content of tasks in their main job was 2,289,400, which is 70.76% of the total. In the case of employees, the number was 4,432,000 persons (25.86%).

In contrast, 1.45% of self-employed workers and 6.35% of employees had *some influence on the order of their tasks and little or no influence on their content*.

The distribution of percentages between categories of degree of influence on the order and content of tasks in the main job was similar for different levels of education (lower, middle and higher), except for the following categories: *large or very large influence on the order of tasks and some influence on their content*, in which the percentage increased along with the level of education (4.99% for lower education, 5.75% for middle education and 8.67% for higher education), and *little influence on both the order of the tasks and their content*, in which the opposite was true (27.21% for lower education, 25.19% for middle education and 14.45% for higher education).

Distinguishing between sexes and level of education attained, men with middle or higher education had a greater degree of influence on the order and content of tasks than women.

Thus, the percentage of men with middle education and a *large or very large influence both on the order of the tasks and their content* was 32.84%, compared to 27.57% for women. For higher education, percentages were 39.35% for men and 32.71% for women.

[1] The target population of the module consists of employed people and those people who left their last job in the last 24 months

Self-employed and employees, between 16 and 74 years of age, according to their degree of influence in the order and content of tasks of the tasks of their main job

	Both sexes			
	Self-employed		Employees	
Degree of influence in the order and content of tasks	Abs. Value	Percentage	Abs. Value	Percentage
Total	3,235.4	100.00	17,138.1	100.00
Broad or very broad influence in both order and content	2,289.4	70.76	4,432.0	25.86
Broad or very broad influence in the order and some influence in the content	175.9	5.44	1,222.6	7.13
Broad or very broad influence in the order and little or none in the content	46.7	1.44	594.5	3.47
Some influence in the order and broad or very broad in the content	105.5	3.26	555.8	3.24
Some influence in both order and content	305.4	9.44	3,511.2	20.49
Some influence in the order and little or none in the content	47.1	1.45	1,088.7	6.35
Little or no influence in the order and broad or very broad in the content	28.8	0.89	227.3	1.33
Little or no influence in the order and some influence in the content	34.3	1.06	579.1	3.38
Little influence in both order and content	112.4	3.48	4,137.3	24.14
No answer/ Don't know	89.7	2.77	789.6	4.61

Job task repetitiveness

The number of employed people between 16-74 years of age that *always, to a great extent or to some extend* performed repetitive tasks in their main job was 16,341,900, which was 80.21% of the total. By sex, this percentage was higher in women (82.04%, compared to 78.64% for men).

The percentage of those who performed repetitive tasks regularly increased with age, being 78.26% for those aged 16-34, 80.33% for those aged 35-54, and 82.25% for those aged 55-74.

Based on the level of education attained, a decrease in the performance of repetitive tasks was observed the higher the level of education of the person in question. Going from 86.56% for employed people with a lower level of education, to 84.27% for those with a middle level of education and 73.95% for those with a higher level of education.

For non-employed people who left their job in the last 24 months, the percentage of those who *always, to a great extent* or *to some extent* performed repetitive tasks in their last job was 81.74%, which is higher than that of employed people. Behaviour by sex, age group and level of education was similar to that of the employed.

Tasks described accurately via strict procedures

The number of employed people between 16-74 years of age who stated that the tasks of their main job were described with accuracy *always*, *to a great extent* or *to some extent* was 12,390,100, while those who considered the degree of accuracy to be *very low* or *non-existent* was 6,582,600 (60.82% and 32.31% of the total, respectively).

By sex, the percentage of women who stated that the tasks of their main job were described with accuracy *always*, *to a great extent* or *to some extent* was slightly higher than that of men (60.86%, compared to 60.77%).

By age group, the 35-54 age range showed the highest percentage (62.14%) of people who always, to a great extent or to some extent performed tasks that were accurately described in their main job.

The higher education level had the highest percentage (68.12%) among those who described tasks accurately *always*, *to a great extent* or *to some extent*.

For non-employed people who left their job in the last 24 months, the percentage of those who *always, to a great extent* or *to some extent* performed accurately described tasks in their last job was 52.74%.

By sex, the percentage of men who stated their tasks to be accurately described was higher than that of women (53.74%, compared to 51.88%). By age group, the 55-74 age range showed the highest percentage: 54.87% of the total.

Regarding the education of the unemployed, those with higher levels of education displayed the highest percentage, 60.22%.

Data Review and Update

The data published today are final. All results are available at INEBase.

Methodological note

The 2022 module of the Labour Force Survey, carried out in collaboration with Eurostat (European Statistical Office), investigates the professional skills of people aged 16-74 years old who are in employment or who left their last job in the last two years.

The variables in this module have been established according to the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2240 of 16 December 2019 and are intended to provide harmonized information on this issue at the European level. The Commission has co-financed the implementation costs of this module.

This press release comments on different aspects in relation with the labour market, comparing the employed and non-employed population, according to relevant variables (sex, age groups and level of education attained).

The module questions were posed to the EPA subsample, found in sixth interview that includes the additional subsample collected by the Galician Institute of Statistics in Galicia.

Type of operation: annual continuous statistics (each year is on a different subject related to the labour market).

Population scope: population residing in family homes.

Geographical scope: the entire national territory.

Reference period of the results: year 2022

Information reference period: usual situation at the time of the interview**.**

Collection method: personal, telephone and web interviews.

For more information, both the module's methodology and the EPA's standardised methodological report, which is the module's base survey, may be consulted for more information.

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