

WORKING POPULATION BY WORKPLACE COMMUNE

This map shows, for each workplace commune, the distribution of employees occupied in different types of activity, as well as the distribution of this working population according to the economic sectors. The statistics used were those provided by the Census of 31 December 1970 (Ministry of Economic Affairs, National Institute of Statistics, Tome 8). These were related to the communes which existed at that date with their limits at that time: for the Brussels agglomeration (19 communes) it was not possible to separate the communes (by reason of the technical difficulties of precisely determining the workplace communes in the midst of that agglomeration).

The working population was taken to include those who at the time of the census exercised a profession, a function or a lucrative activity and those who, at the time of the census were unemployed or doing their military service. These totalled 3 637 818 (37,7 % of the total population), respectively 2 559 731 men (54,2 %) and 1 078 087 women (21,9 %). The total included 80 359 unemployed and 32 900 doing their military service.

Of this total working population 71 936 persons worked in a foreign country, 65 310 in several communes, and for 51 019 the workplace commune was not known: these last evidently did not return the relevant facts to the workplace commune.

The division into primary, secondary and tertiary sectors was made following the classification used in Belgium at the time of the census. The working population was divided according to activity, that is to say according to the rules and by code numbers of the General Systematic Nomenclature of Economic Activity of the European Communities (NACE).

The primary sector includes agriculture, forestry and fishing: the secondary sector energy, water, extraction and processing of non energy producing minerals and their by-products, other manufacturing industries and construction; the tertiary sector comprises commerce, accommodation and catering, repair works, transport and communication, banking, insurance, furnishing, agencies and other services. The definition « poorly defined activities » accounts only for a much reduced and negligible number of persons.

The number of the working population by workplace commune is represented by circles whose area corresponds to the total. Those communes accounting for less than 20 000 persons have been shown in eight size-classes. All communes belonging to the same class are represented by the same size of circle whose area is proportional to the mid-value of that class. For more than 20 000 persons the areas are exactly proportional to the number in each commune: the actual number is written on the map. Because of the uneven spread of the active working population over the country — in particular the concentration in the large agglomerations — we were brought to show, in a series of insets, the detail by communes for the agglomerations of Antwerp (311 846 active population), Liège (199 048), Ghent (114 569) and Charleroi (99 785). The composition of these agglomerations (similarly with Brussels and its 609 922 active working population) is that of the National Institute of Statistics.

The centre of the circle coincides wherever possible with the official centre of the communes. Where the circles overlap, care has been taken to make the sector divisions clearly visible.

In dividing the active population into three sectors at least for the classes 5 to 8 the totals have been shown as percentage figures for each sector. Where it was technically impossible to subdivide the circles (in the case of communes of classes 1 to 4, that is to say for less than 1 000 active population), the communes have been classed by types in such a manner that they can be represented in a single colour. The grouping of the communes in types, was achieved according to criteria adapted to the Belgian situation. The principles according to which category was established are described below. In order to select thresholds, a matter which is always somewhat arbitrary, the total population of the country was taken as being divided between the three sectors.

The number of active population by workplace gives a total for Belgium of 3 336 294 (a total figure of 3 637 818 minus those unemployed, doing their military service, working in foreign countries, working in several communes, or for whom the Belgium workplace was not known). These were divided as follows: primary sector 160 820 (4,81 %); secondary sector 1 473 204 (44,16 %); tertiary sector 1 702 270 (51,02 %).

Group I (less than 100 active population) includes communes that in practice are preponderantly agricultural, but still the secondary or tertiary sectors although low in absolute terms may be high in relative values. The significance of these percentages should not be over-emphasised. For that reason the division of these communes into three types is mainly based on the variation of the percentages of active population in the primary sector. So we distinguish agrarian communes (more than 35 % in the primary sector) where agriculture is practically the only economic activity and to which elementary everywhere existing services are naturally added, semi-agricultural communes (10 to 35 % in the primary sector) and mixed communes (less than 10 % in the primary sector).

Group 2 (100-999 active population) includes for each of the three size-classes five types: agricultural communes (more than 35 % in the primary sector); industrial communes (more than 60 % in the secondary sector); service communes (more than 65 % in the tertiary sector); mixed communes with a marked agricultural trend (still 10-35 % in the primary sector), in which the other percentages noted above are not reached; mixed communes with a relatively feeble or almost nil primary sector (less than 10 %).

For communes including at least 1 000 active population, the circle has been divided into sectors proportional to the percentage in each sector of activity. On the maps at 1 : 500 000 for the large agglomerations (where the primary sector part is negligible) the sectors have been coloured in subdued tones so that the situation in the communes surrounding the agglomeration remains clearly visible.

Insets of the four large agglomerations (Brussels agglomeration has been excluded for the reasons given above) are shown at the scale of 1 : 250 000 but the size of the circles has been calculated in the same way as those of the map of the whole country.

A certain number of the communes including less than 5 000 active population are designated by name in very small type: this applies to the chief towns of arrondissements, to a few communes chosen to provide reference points and to all the communes of the large agglomerations (in the insets).