

PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SERVICES: A KEY SECTOR FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

For the first time, the newly published PHS Industry Monitor gives an accurate overview of the PHS sector

BRUSSELS, 18 April 2018: EFSI publishes today the PHS Industry Monitor presenting new statistical estimates on the size and characteristics of employment in the personal and household services (PHS)¹ sector. *“PHS are a dynamic and fundamental sector for our society which suffer from a lack of consideration. Its importance in terms of both employment and economic contribution is relatively unknown across the European Union. This is partly due to a lack of European – but also national - statistics on the sector.”* said Philippe Symons, EFSI’s President. Building on a new statistical approach, this report aims at filling this gap.

In particular, the PHS Industry Monitor reveals that the sector employs about **8 million workers**, which amounts to **4% of EU total employment**. Furthermore, this sector is also important for women’s social inclusion since it represents **7,5% of women total employment** in the EU. On the other hand, the share of female workers in PHS reaches **91%** in EU24.

Moreover, this report highlights the prevalence of undeclared work in the PHS field. Indeed, about **12 million** EU citizens buy PHS on the undeclared market across Europe, and **the share of the undeclared provision reaches 70%** in some Member States. However, the report sheds light on its potential growth driven by population ageing, women’s employment increase and EU workers’ desire to better balance their work and private lives. As such, the sector could potentially employ **12.4 to 13 million** workers in the EU.

This new statistical approach aims at giving a better overview of the PHS sector within the European Union for a better account of its weight in our economies and societies. PHS encompass a wide range of activities that do not constitute a simple aggregate of traditional activities in statistical nomenclatures. As a consequence, previous estimates overshadowed a large share of the sector.

Being the first exercise of this kind, this report aims to be regularly updated and expanded in order to follow more closely the evolution trends of this ever growing sector. This is why, EFSI calls towards EU institutions and National Statistical bodies to launch a thorough work in order to improve European statistics on the PHS sector.

The report can be downloaded [here](#)

¹ **Personal and Household Services (PHS)** : activities carried out mainly in users’ home relating to personal assistance services (early childhood, child care, dependence, disability, invalidity, etc.) summarized under the term “care-related services” and to services of daily living (cleaning, ironing, gardening, small DIY, maintenance, remedial classes, etc.) united under the term “household support”.

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As the European Federation for Services to Individuals, **EFSI** is the representative body of national federations and associations as well as companies involved in the development of personal and household services in Europe. Through its members, EFSI is present in 22 EU Members' States.