

## TRENDS OF HUMAN RESOURCE INDICATORS IN CYPRUS 2009 - 2015

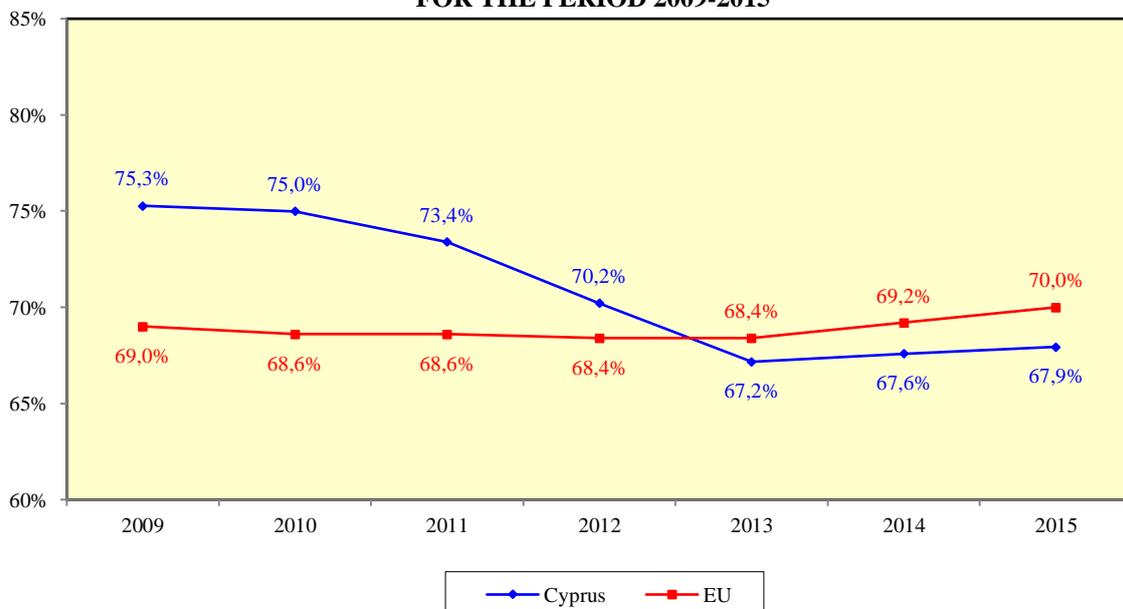
Among the **central objectives of every state is the creation of a modern and flexible labour market and highly trained human resources** capable of responding effectively to the ever-increasing challenges and demands of the economy. An **important tool** for monitoring the fulfillment of this objective is the **systematic monitoring of trends in the labour market and in the education and training sector**.

In this context, the HRDA has introduced the periodic preparation of this study. **The main goal of the study** is the comprehensive and in-depth examination of trends of indicators on employment and unemployment, participation and supply in the labour market, and participation in education and training in Cyprus during the period 2009-2015.

### A. Employment

As a consequence of the recent economic crisis, **the employment rate of the population aged 20-64** has shown a considerable decrease and for the first time, since 2013, is lower than the EU average. The **biggest problems** seem to have occurred among **men, young persons aged 15-24** and persons with **upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education** but also those with **upto lower secondary education**.

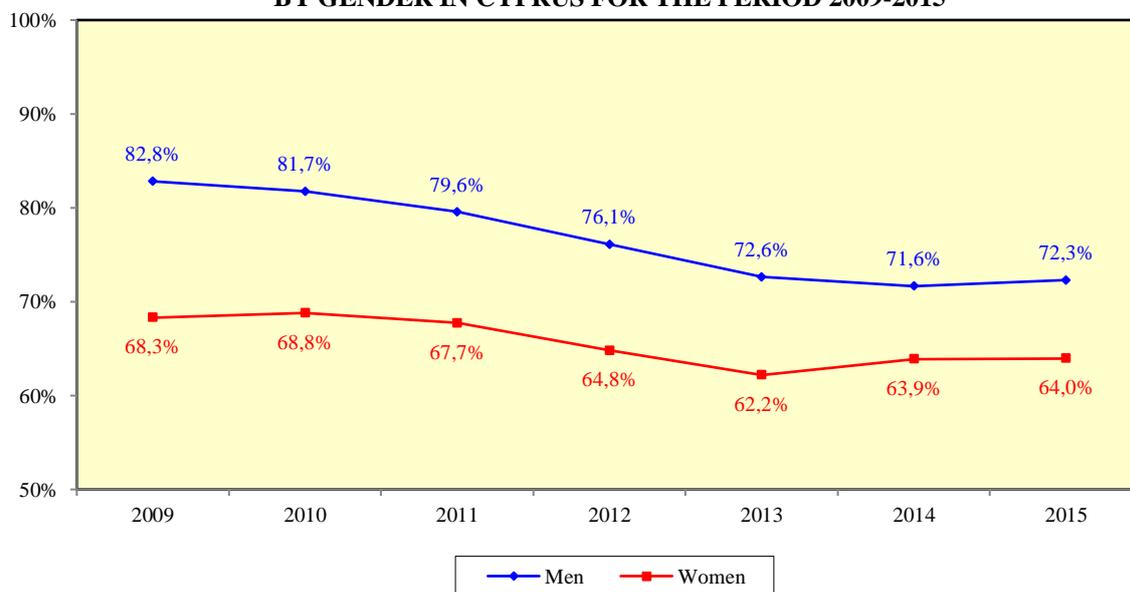
EMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE POPULATION AGED 20-64  
IN CYPRUS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION  
FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2015



The employment rate was 67,9% in 2015 and despite its marginal improvement compared to 2014 (67,6%), it seems **unlikely that the national target (75-77%) for 2020 will be achieved** and, most probably, it will need to be redefined. However, it is noted that the **employment rates by gender, age and educational level** showed **minor improvements in 2015**.

The employment rate for men in Cyprus is considerably higher than the corresponding rate for women. It should be noted however, that while the gap between these rates in 2009 was 14,5% (biggest gap), in 2015 it dropped significantly to 8,3%.

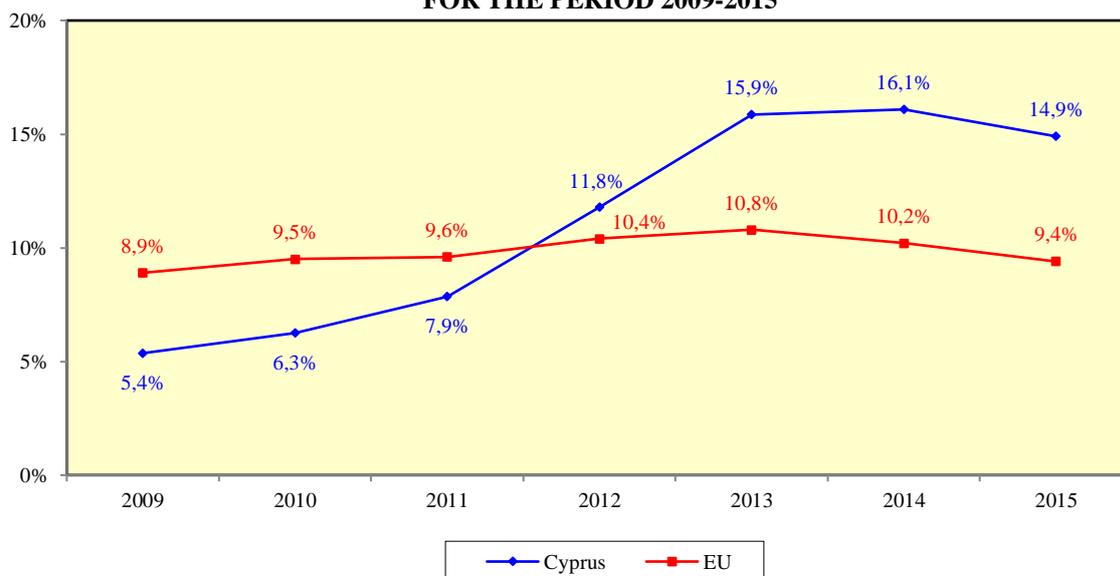
**EMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE POPULATION AGED 20-64 BY GENDER IN CYPRUS FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2015**



## B. Unemployment

The unemployment rate of the population aged 15+ in Cyprus showed a dramatic increase from 2009 until 2014, as it tripled, while in 2015, for the first time in this period, it declined. It must be noted that since 2012, the unemployment rate in Cyprus is higher than the EU average. The gap between Cyprus and EU rates reached its peak in 2014 (5,9%), while in 2015 it fell to 5,5%.

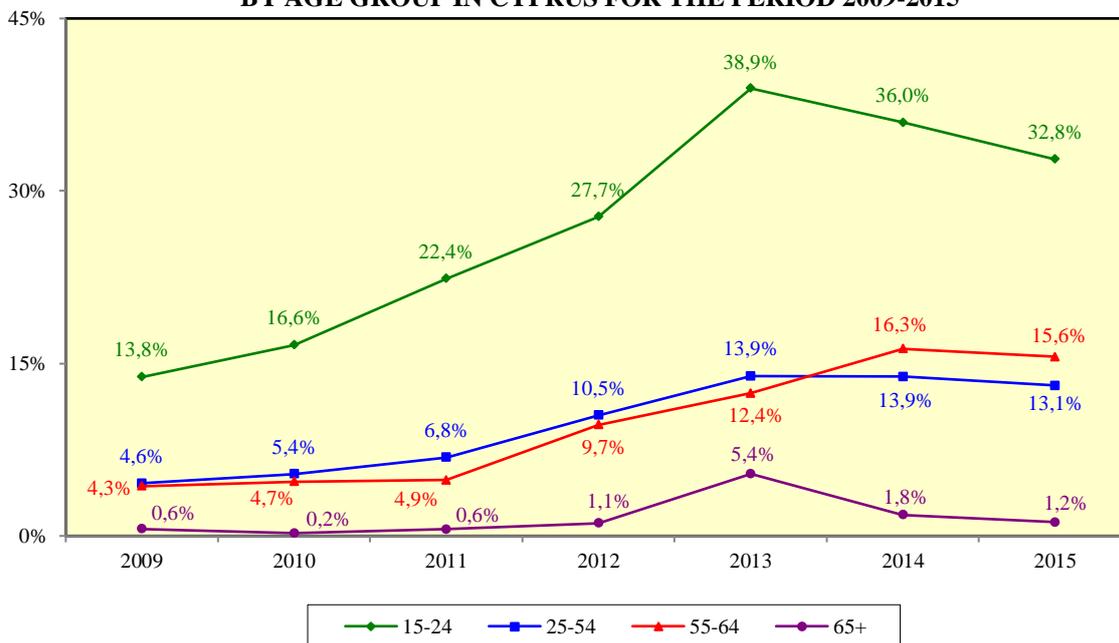
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15+ IN CYPRUS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2015**



Unemployment hit both men and women and was particularly acute among young persons and persons with upto lower secondary education but also with upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education. Additionally, the number of long-term unemployed persons showed a very big increase despite the fall during 2015.

Although the increase in unemployment affected all age groups, it was **significantly highest** in the **population aged 15-24** (almost 1 in 3 young persons were unemployed in 2015). An improvement occurred in all age groups during 2015.

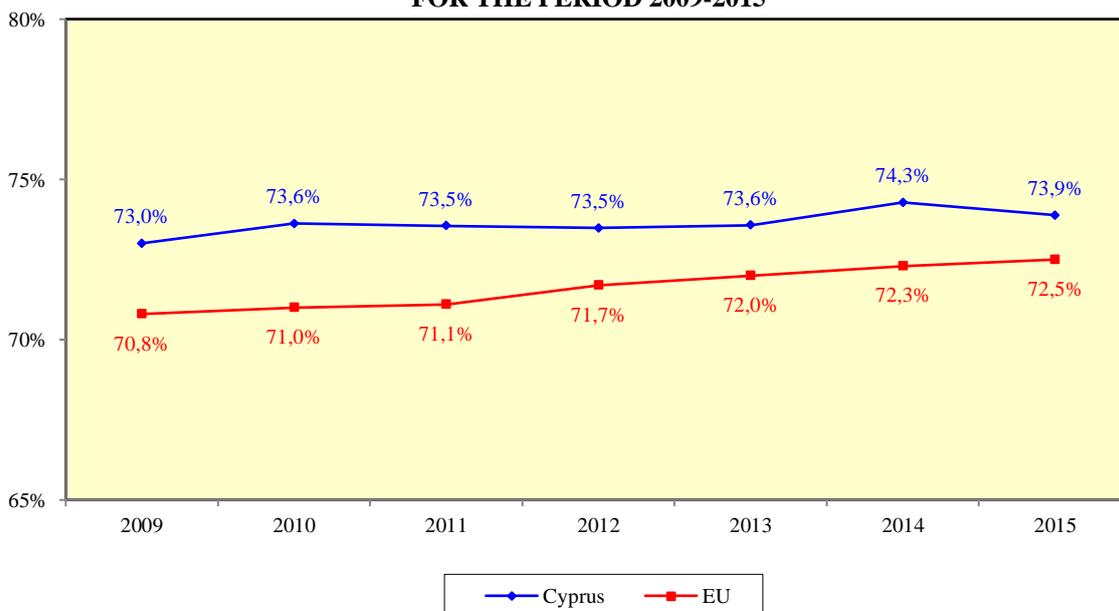
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15+  
BY AGE GROUP IN CYPRUS FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2015**



### C. Participation in the labour market

The **activity rate of the population aged 15-64** in Cyprus remained at **around the same levels having small fluctuations** during the period 2009-2015 and is at higher levels than the EU average.

**ACTIVITY RATE FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15-64  
IN CYPRUS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION  
FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2015**

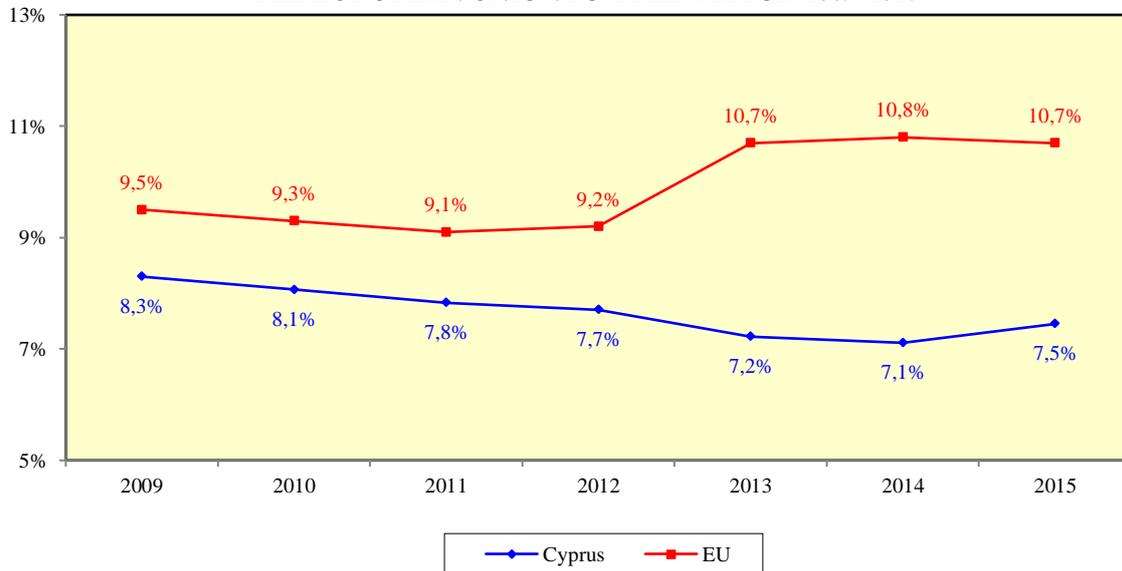


The **significant change in the composition of the economically active population** is worth mentioning, as the number of **employed persons fell** while the number of **unemployed persons showed a very sharp increase**.

## D. Participation in education and training

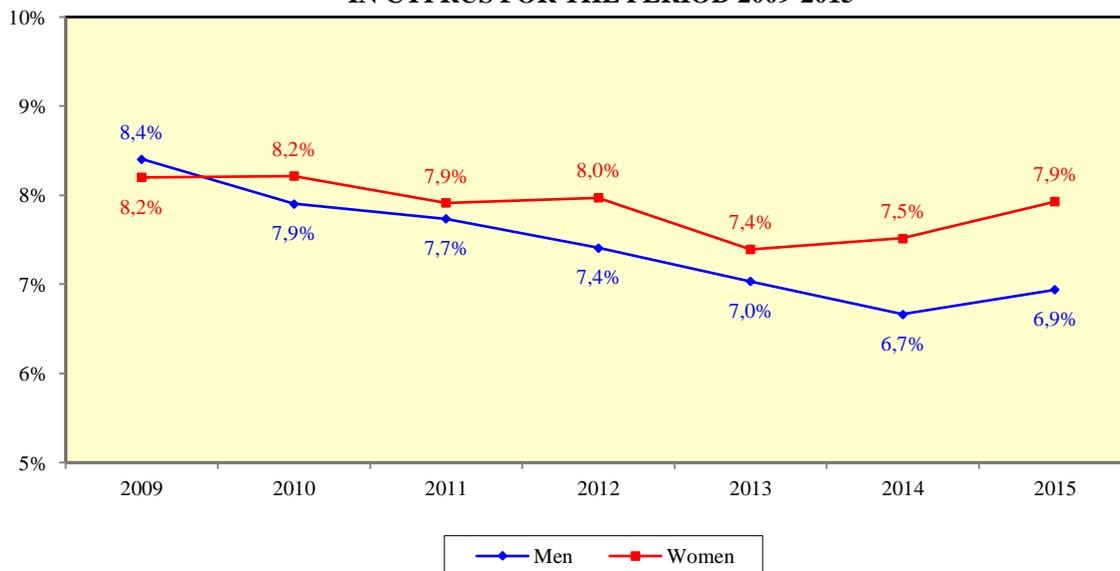
The participation rate in education and training of the population aged 25-64 in Cyprus rose marginally to 7,5% in 2015 but is still lower than the EU average. This level indicates that it will be extremely difficult to achieve the national target (12%) by 2020.

**PARTICIPATION RATE IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE POPULATION AGED 25-64 IN CYPRUS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2015**



**Women participate to a greater extent** in education and training than men. The participation rates in education and training for both genders remain at low levels compared to the European Union rates, despite their improvement in 2015.

**PARTICIPATION RATE IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE POPULATION AGED 25-64 BY GENDER IN CYPRUS FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2015**



The participation rates in education and training of the **unemployed** and **inactive population** remain low. The participation rates of **employed persons** in the **primary** and **secondary economic sectors** as well as in **low** and **middle level occupations** remain at very low levels. Finally, it is noted that **the participation rate decreases with age**.