

EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, FIRST QUARTER OF 2023

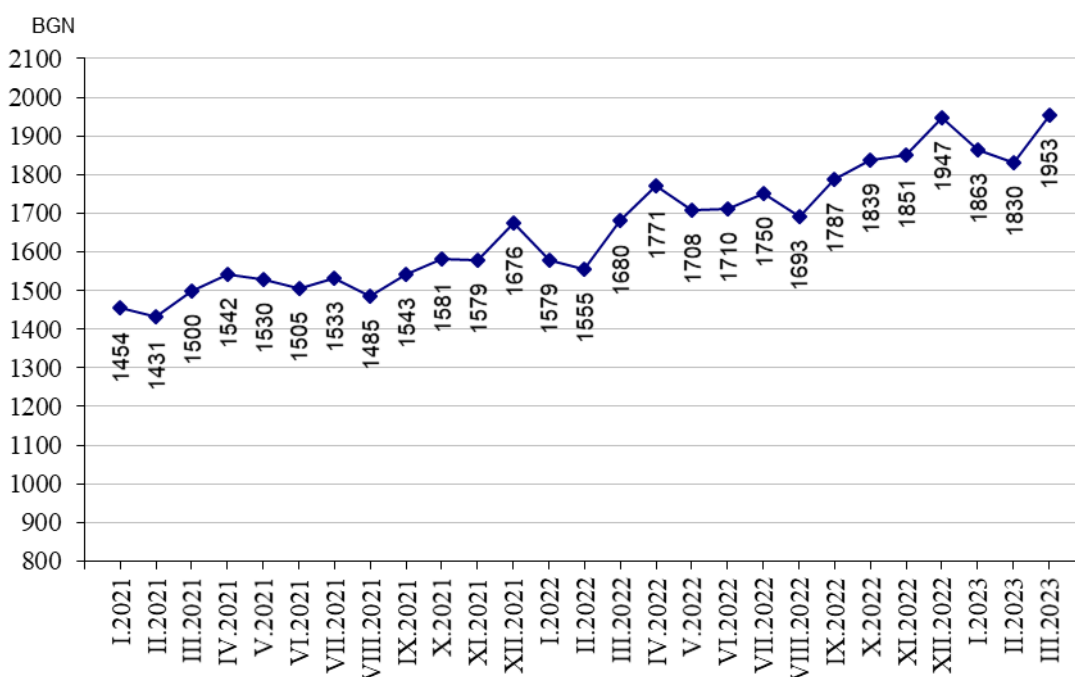
The **number of employees** under labour contract at the end of March 2023 increased by 47.5 thousand, or 2.1%, as compared to the end of December 2022 and reached 2.31 million according to the preliminary data of the National Statistical Institute (NSI). The highest increase was observed in economic activities: ‘Human health and social work activities’ - by 7.1%, ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - by 4.7%, and ‘Construction’ - by 4.3%. Decrease of the number of employees by 0.2% was recorded in economic activity ‘Public administration and defence; compulsory social security’.

In the structure of employees by economic activities, the biggest relative share of employees was in ‘Manufacturing’ - 20.3%, and ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ - 16.7%.

At the end of March 2023, as compared to March 2022, the number of employees under labour contract increased by 33.3 thousand, or 1.5%. The highest increase in absolute figures was observed in economic activities ‘Human health and social work activities’ - 14.5 thousand, ‘Information and communication’ - 7.1 thousand, and ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - 6.0 thousand, and the highest decrease was in ‘Manufacturing’ - 3.0 thousand, and in ‘Administrative and support service activities’ - 2.0 thousand. In percentages, the highest increase at the end of March 2023 as compared to March 2022 was in economic activity ‘Human health and social work activities’ - by 8.8%, ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - by 6.9%, and in ‘Information and communication’ - by 6.2%, as the highest decrease was reported in ‘Administrative and support service activities’ - by 1.7%, and in ‘Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’ - by 1.1%.

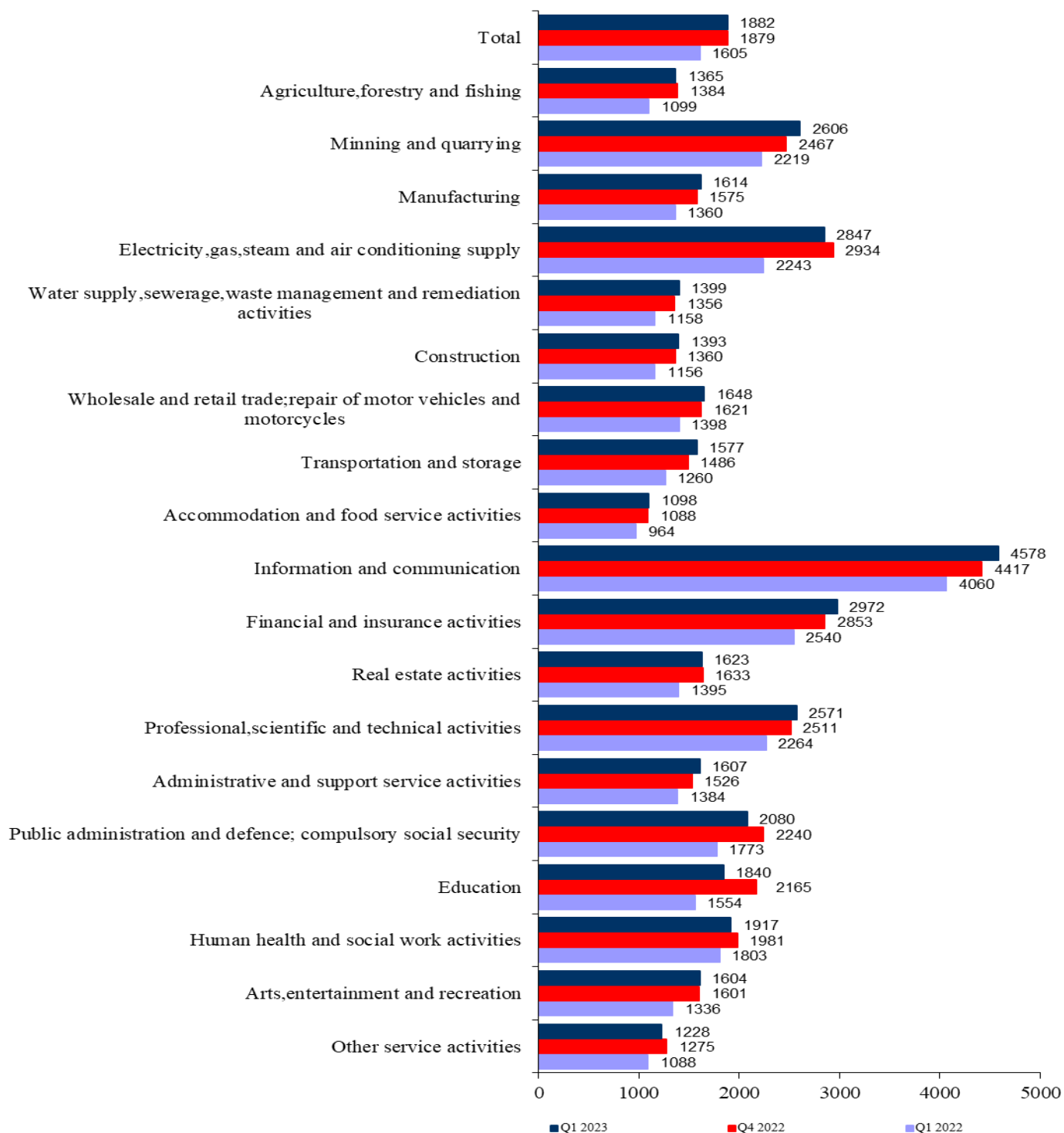
The **average monthly wages and salaries** of the employees under labour contract in January was 1 863 BGN, in February - 1 830 BGN, and in March 2023 - 1 953 BGN.

Figure 1. Gross average wages and salaries by months



In the first quarter of 2023, in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2022, the average monthly wages and salaries increased by 0.2% and reached 1 882 BGN. The highest increase in wages and salaries was reported in ‘Transportation and storage’ - by 6.1%, ‘Mining and quarrying’ - by 5.6%, in ‘Administrative and support service activities’ - by 5.3%, and in ‘Financial and insurance activities’ - by 4.2%.

Figure 2. Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities (BGN)



Compared to the first quarter of 2022, the average monthly wages and salaries in the first quarter of 2023 rose by 17.3%. The highest growth rates were recorded in economic activities: ‘Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’ - by 26.9%, in ‘Transportation and storage’ - by 25.2%, and in ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ - by 24.2%.

The economic activities with the highest wages and salaries in the first quarter of 2023 were:

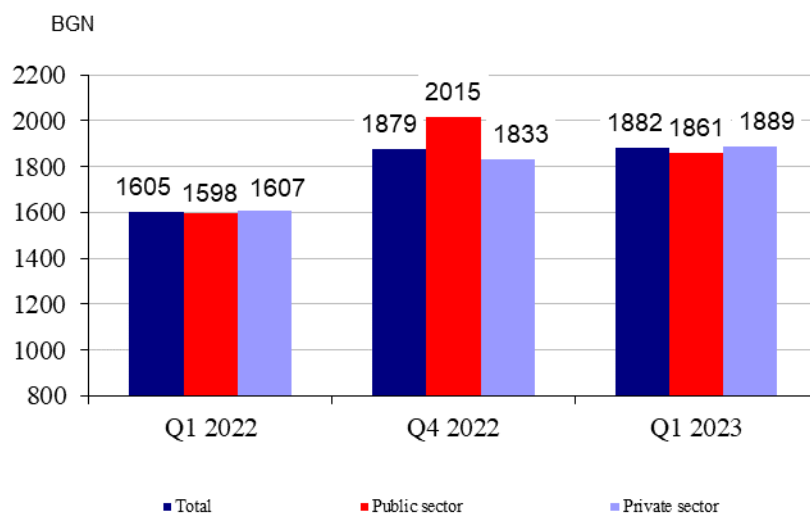
- ‘Information and communication’ - 4 578 BGN;
- ‘Financial and insurance activities’ - 2 972 BGN;
- ‘Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’ - 2 847 BGN.

The lowest wages and salaries were recorded in:

- ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - 1 098 BGN;
- ‘Other service activities’ - 1 228 BGN;
- ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ - 1 365 BGN.

In comparison with a year earlier, the average monthly wages and salaries in the public sector grew by 16.5%, while in the private sector - by 17.5%.

Figure 3. Gross average monthly wages and salaries by kind of ownership





Methodological notes

The source of information is the Quarterly Survey on employees, hours worked, wages and salaries, and other expenditures paid by the employer. It is a sample survey which main purpose is to make a study of the current state and dynamics of some main aspects of labour market. The sample used for the survey is a stratified random sample without replacement. Stratification criteria used include: economic activity (NACE.BG - 2008, rev. 2), size of the enterprise (according to the number of employees) and regional breakdown (28 districts, NUTS3).

More methodological information on the quarterly survey and data can be found on the NSI official website:

http://www.nsi.bg/sites/default/files/files/metadata/Labour_Method_1.1_EN.pdf;

<http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/6398/short-term-statistics>.



Annex

Table 1

Employees under labour contract at the end of the month by economic activities in 2023¹

(Number)

Economic activities	2023		
	January	February	March
Total	2300421	2304925	2307357
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	66170	66014	68263
Mining and quarrying	18877	18881	18924
Manufacturing	468328	469118	469484
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	28983	29030	29068
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	36754	36904	36687
Construction	126459	127335	126901
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	384008	384472	384748
Transportation and storage	143444	143149	142610
Accommodation and food service activities	92924	93274	93137
Information and communication	121991	122144	121931
Financial and insurance activities	56020	56181	56063
Real estate activities	21818	21807	21503
Professional, scientific and technical activities	84421	84436	84358
Administrative and support service activities	115971	116077	116433
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	113440	113348	113321
Education	170660	171079	171208
Human health and social work activities	177190	178572	179698
Arts, entertainment and recreation	36058	36288	36350
Other service activities	36905	36816	36670

¹ Preliminary data.



Table 2

Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities in 2023¹

(BGN)

Economic activities	2023		
	January	February	March
Total	1863	1830	1953
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1300	1324	1467
Mining and quarrying	2503	2454	2860
Manufacturing	1594	1586	1664
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	2865	2761	2914
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1403	1389	1405
Construction	1363	1371	1444
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1625	1621	1698
Transportation and storage	1568	1551	1612
Accommodation and food service activities	1089	1080	1123
Information and communication	4432	4393	4911
Financial and insurance activities	2714	2704	3499
Real estate activities	1620	1609	1641
Professional, scientific and technical activities	2463	2477	2773
Administrative and support service activities	1560	1560	1700
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2414	1896	1928
Education	1820	1838	1862
Human health and social work activities	1898	1881	1971
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1589	1568	1656
Other service activities	1197	1233	1255

¹ Preliminary data.