



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2015

Main labour market data for the second quarter of 2015

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 69.4%, by 0.6 percentage points higher in comparison with the second quarter of 2014.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 62.4%, by 1.4 percentage points above its value for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 9.9%, by 1.5 percentage points lower compared to the same quarter of 2014.

There were 1 449.8 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 30.6% of population in the same age group. Of them 165.7 thousand (11.4%) were **discouraged persons**. The number of discouraged persons (aged 15 - 64) decreased by 26.2 thousand, as compared with a year ago.

Employment

In the second quarter of 2015 the total number of **employed persons aged 15 years and over** was 3 011.2 thousand representing 48.7% of population in the same age group. In employment were 53.7% (1 595.5 thousand) of all men aged 15 years and over and respectively 44.2% (1 415.7 thousand) of women. In comparison with the second quarter of 2014 the proportion of employed persons rose by 0.8 percentage points, by 1.0 percentage points for men and by 0.7 percentage points for women.

Between second quarters of 2014 and 2015 the employment increased mainly in services and in this sector the number of employed persons achieved 1 897.8 thousand (63.0% of all employed persons), in industry worked 897.4 thousand persons (29.8%), and 216.0 thousand persons (7.2%) were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.5% (104.5 thousand) were employers, 8.0% (240.9 thousand) were own account workers without employees, 87.9% (2 646.7 thousand) were employees and 0.6% (19.1 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of the employees 1 945.4 thousand (73.5%) worked in private sector and 701.4 thousand (26.5%) worked in public sector. In comparison with a year ago the number of employees in private sector increased by 2.5% while that of employees in public sector declined by 2.0%.

Of all employees 121.6 thousand (4.6%) had a temporary job.

In the second quarter of 2015 the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

There were 2 955.5 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64**. **The employment rate** for the same age group was 62.4% (65.4% and 59.5% for men and women respectively).

The employment rate for age group 15 - 29 was 39.8% (45.1% for men and 34.3% for women).

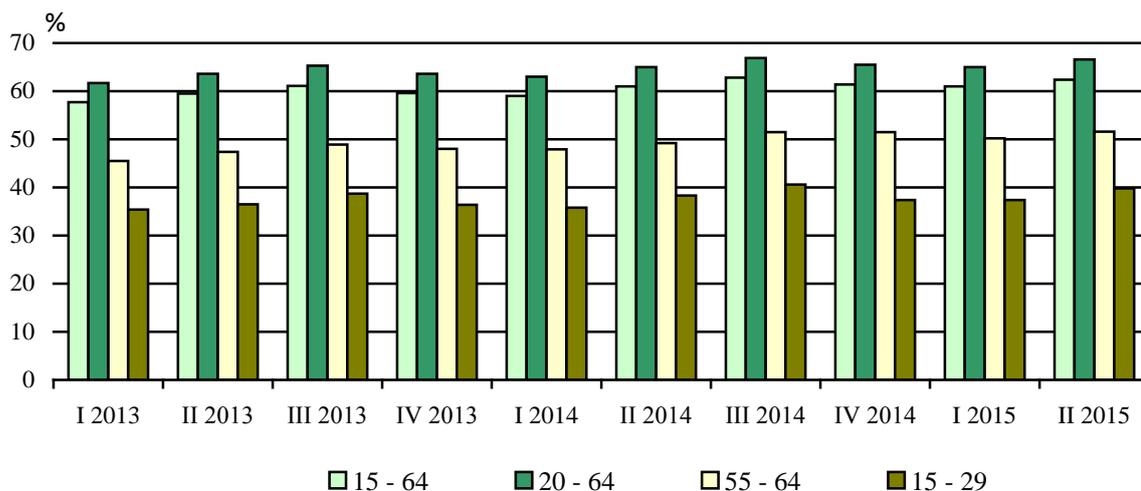
The employment rate for age group 20 - 64 was 66.6%, up by 1.6 percentage points from the second quarter of 2014. The employment rate (20 - 64) increased by 1.8 percentage points for men and by 1.5 percentage points for women standing at 69.8% and 63.4% respectively.

There were 517.9 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64**, representing 51.6% of population in the same age group (55.3% of men and 48.3% of women). In comparison with the second quarter of 2014 **the**



employment rate (55 - 64) increased by 2.4 percentage points, by 1.1 percentage points for men and by 3.6 percentage points for women.

Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Unemployment

In the second quarter of 2015 there were 330.9 thousand **unemployed persons** and **the unemployment rate** was 9.9%. In comparison with the same quarter of 2014 the number of unemployed persons went down by 50.9 thousand and **the unemployment rate** decreased by 1.5 percentage points.

In the period concerned the unemployment rate declined for both, men and women, and achieved 10.9% for men and 8.8% for women. Of the total number of unemployed persons in the second quarter of 2015 195.0 thousand (58.9%) were men and 135.9 thousand (41.1%) were women.

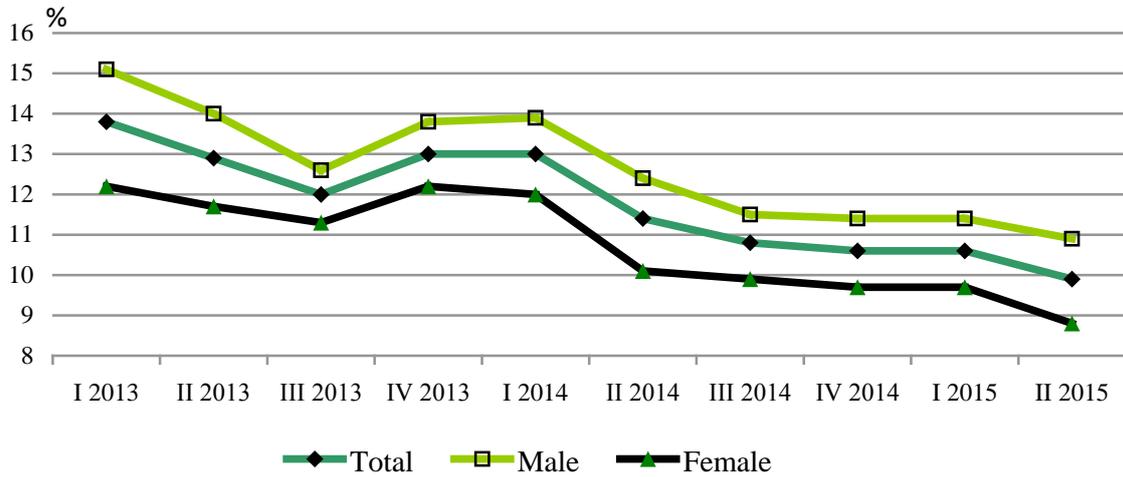
In the second quarter of 2015 there were 208.8 thousand **long-term unemployed persons**, represented 63.1% of all unemployed. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 6.2%, and in comparison with the respective quarter of 2014 decreased by 0.4 percentage points. The long-term unemployment rate by sex was 7.0% for men and 5.4% for women.

Of the total number of unemployed persons 48.6 thousand (14.7%) were looking for a first job.

In the second quarter of 2015 **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29** was 13.9% (14.2% and 13.3% for men and women respectively). In comparison with the second quarter of 2014 this rate was lower by 2.9 percentage points as the decline was higher for men than for women (by 3.3 and 2.6 percentage points respectively).



Figure 2. Unemployment rate by sex and by quarter





Methodological notes

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a continuous sample survey providing quarterly and annual data on the economic activity of the population aged 15 and over. The survey covers non-institutional households.

Reference period - the characteristics of each interviewee refer to his/her status during a defined calendar week.

Economically active population (labour force) comprises all employed and unemployed persons.

Employed are persons aged 15 and over who during the reference period:

- performed some work for at least one hour for pay in cash or in kind or other income;
- did not work but had a job or an enterprise, a business from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, annual leave, full-paid maternity leave, parental leave, strike or another labour dispute, etc.

Unemployed are persons aged 15 to 74 who:

- did not work at all during the reference period;
- were actively seeking work within the preceding four weeks, including the reference one or have found a new job or business that is expected to start within 3 months following the reference period;
- were available to start working within two weeks following the reference period.

Long-term unemployed are persons who have been unemployed for one or more years.

Inactive population (persons not in the labour force) includes persons aged 15 and over who were neither employed, nor unemployed during the reference period.

Discouraged persons are persons not in the labour force who want to work but they do not actively look for a job, because they do not believe they will find one.

Activity rate - ratio between the economically active population and the total population of the same age group.

Employment rate - ratio between the employed population and the total population of the same age group.

Unemployment rate - ratio between the unemployed persons and the economically active population.

Long-term unemployment rate - ratio between the long-term unemployed persons and the economically active population.

Inactivity rate - ratio between the economically inactive population and the total population of the same age group.

The distribution of the employed persons by economic sector is done in accordance with the Classification of Economic Activities - 2008.

For the weighting of the results of the survey for the second quarter of 2015 the preliminary data on population as of 31 March 2015 (excluding population living in non-institutional households) were used.

Like all sample surveys data from the Labour Force Survey are subject of errors due to the sample (stochastic errors). The calculated relative standard errors for the main LFS indicators for the second quarter of 2015 are as follows:



- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 4.0%;
- unemployment rate - 3.8%.

Because of the rounding of the figures some of the totals (rows and columns) are not equal to the sum of the components.

More detailed data from the Labour Force Survey could be found on the NSI website - www.nsi.bg, section 'Labour Market', Labour Force Survey.

Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2014 and 2015

	Second quarter 2014	Second quarter 2015	Change (Second quarter 2015 minus Second quarter 2014)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	68.8	69.4	0.6
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	2979.8	3011.2	31.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2926.3	2955.5	29.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	155.1	145.3	-9.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	469.6	475.3	5.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2914.4	2945.2	30.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	503.8	517.9	14.1
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	47.9	48.7	0.8
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	61.0	62.4	1.4
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.0	20.5	-0.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	38.3	39.8	1.5
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	65.0	66.6	1.6
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	49.2	51.6	2.4
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	381.8	330.9	-50.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	378.5	328.0	-50.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	47.0	40.8	-6.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	94.9	76.4	-18.5
Unemployment rate - %	11.4	9.9	-1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	11.5	10.0	-1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.3	21.9	-1.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	16.8	13.9	-2.9
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.6	6.2	-0.4
Discouraged persons - in thousands	195.2	169.8	-25.4
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	191.9	165.7	-26.2



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2014 and 2015

(Continued)

	Second quarter 2014	Second quarter 2015	Change (Second quarter 2015 minus Second quarter 2014)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.9	73.5	0.6
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1576.4	1595.5	19.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1541.9	1560.2	18.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	93.5	91.9	-1.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	268.6	276.5	7.9
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1534.4	1553.8	19.4
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	262.5	263.0	0.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	52.7	53.7	1.0
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	63.7	65.4	1.7
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.6	25.3	0.7
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	42.6	45.1	2.5
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.0	69.8	1.8
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	54.2	55.3	1.1
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	224.0	195.0	-29.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	222.3	193.0	-29.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	28.3	25.1	-3.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	57.1	45.8	-11.3
Unemployment rate - %	12.4	10.9	-1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	12.6	11.0	-1.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.2	21.5	-1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	17.5	14.2	-3.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	7.3	7.0	-0.3
Discouraged persons - in thousands	112.3	93.1	-19.2
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	109.9	90.5	-19.4

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2014 and 2015

(Continued and end)

	Second quarter 2014	Second quarter 2015	Change (Second quarter 2015 minus Second quarter 2014)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	64.7	65.2	0.5
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1403.4	1415.7	12.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1384.4	1395.3	10.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	61.6	53.5	-8.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	201.0	198.8	-2.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1380.0	1391.3	11.3
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	241.3	254.9	13.6
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	43.5	44.2	0.7
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	58.1	59.5	1.4
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	17.1	15.5	-1.6
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	33.7	34.3	0.6
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	61.9	63.4	1.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	44.7	48.3	3.6
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	157.8	135.9	-21.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	156.2	135.0	-21.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	18.7	15.7	-3.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	37.9	30.6	-7.3
Unemployment rate - %	10.1	8.8	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	10.1	8.8	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.3	22.7	-0.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	15.9	13.3	-2.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.8	5.4	-0.4
Discouraged persons - in thousands	82.9	76.7	-6.2
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	82.0	75.2	-6.8