



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2015

### Main labour market data for the third quarter of 2015

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 70.4% and remained the same as in the third quarter of 2014.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 64.5%, by 1.7 percentage points above its value for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

**The unemployment rate** was 8.3%, by 2.5 percentage points lower compared to the same quarter of 2014.

There were 1 399.3 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 29.6% of population in the same age group. 157.5 thousand of them (11.3%) were **discouraged persons**. The number of discouraged persons (aged 15 - 64) decreased by 17.4 thousand, as compared with a year ago.

### Employment

In the third quarter of 2015 there were 3 104.7 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of which 1 646.0 thousand men and 1 458.7 thousand women. The percentage of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 50.3%, up by 1.0 percentage point from the third quarter of 2014. The employed persons accounted for 55.5% of men and 45.6% of women of the age group concerned.

Between the third quarters of 2014 and 2015 an increase of employment was registered only in the services sector, where the number of employed persons achieved 1 948.9 thousand (62.8% of all in employment). In the industry sector worked 922.4 thousand persons (29.7%), while in agriculture, forestry and fishing worked 233.5 thousand (7.5%).

Of all employed persons 3.5% (108.5 thousand) were employers, 8.1% (252.5 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 87.7% (2 722.7 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (21.2 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Among the employees 2 031.5 thousand persons (74.6%) worked in private sector and 691.2 thousand (25.4%) worked in public sector. As compared with the third quarter of 2014 the number of employees in private sector increased by 2.6%, while those in public sector remained almost the same.

Of all employees 157.3 thousand (5.8%) had temporary job.

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

There were 3 044.1 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 64.5% (67.6% for men and 61.4% for women).

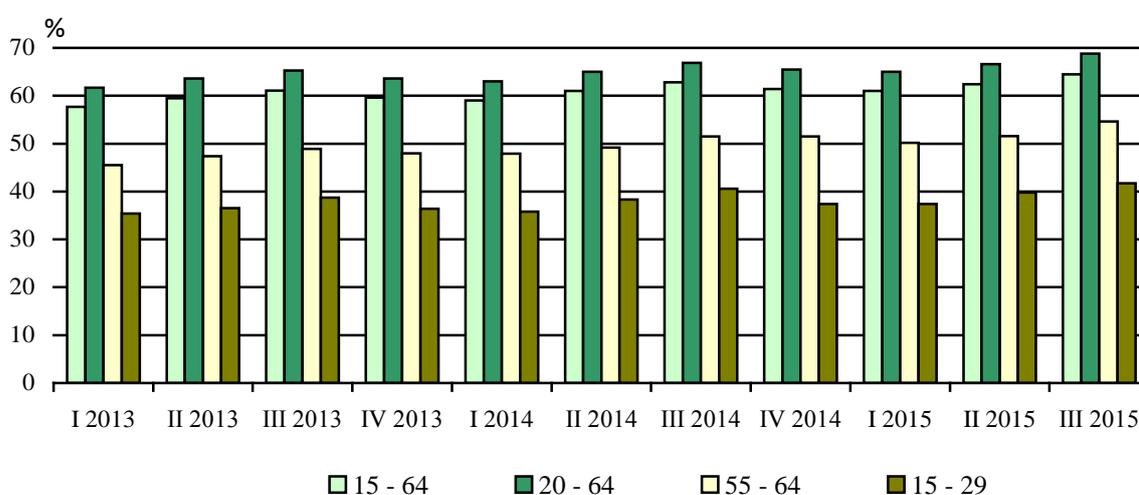
**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 41.7% (46.7% for men and 36.4% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 68.8%, 72.1% and 65.4% for men and women respectively. From the third quarter of 2014 it increased by 1.9 percentage points, equally for men and women.



There were 545.4 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 54.6% of population in the same age group (58.7% of men и 50.9% of women). In comparison with a year earlier the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 3.1 percentage points, by 2.6 percentage points for men and by 3.5 percentage points for women.

**Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter**



## Unemployment

In the third quarter of 2015 there were 279.3 thousand **unemployed persons** and **the unemployment rate** was 8.3%. The number of unemployed persons was by 24.3% lower than in the third quarter of 2014 and the unemployment rate decreased by 2.5 percentage points.

In the period concerned the unemployment rate went down for men and for women, but its value was kept higher for men (8.8%) than for women (7.6%). Of the total number of unemployed persons in the third quarter of 2015, 159.1 thousand (57.0%) were men and 120.1 thousand (43.0%) were women.

Among all unemployed persons 12.7% had higher education, 50.9% had upper secondary education and 36.4% had lower secondary education or less.

In the third quarter of 2015 there were 176.0 thousand **long-term unemployed persons**, representing 63.0% of all unemployed. The long-term unemployment rate was 5.2%, and compared to the same quarter of 2014 dropped by 1.4 percentage points. The long-term unemployment rate decreased to a greater extent for men than for women and achieved 5.7% and 4.6%, respectively.

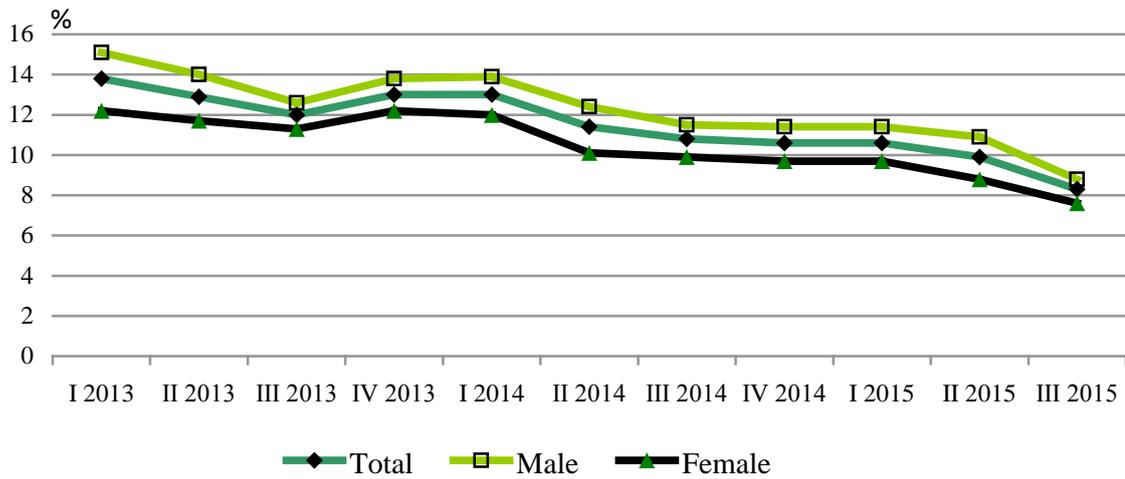
Of the total number of unemployed persons 50.2 thousand (18.0%) were looking for a first job.

In the third quarter of 2015 **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29** was 12.4%, 12.1% and 12.9% for men and women respectively. In comparison with the same period of 2014 the unemployment



rate (15 - 29) was by 3.3 percentage points lower as the decline was almost the same for both men and women.

**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 third quarter of 2015 the preliminary data on population as of 30 June 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 third quarter of 2015 are as follows:



- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 4.3%;
- unemployment rate - 4.1%.

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](http://www.nsi.bg), section 'Labour Market', Labour Force Survey.

Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2014 and 2015

	Third quarter 2014	Third quarter 2015	Change (Third quarter 2015 minus Third quarter 2014)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	70.4	70.4	0.0
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3061.9	3104.7	42.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3007.2	3044.1	36.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	173.9	158.6	-15.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	494.9	494.6	-0.3
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2993.8	3030.7	36.9
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	525.6	545.4	19.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	49.3	50.3	1.0
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	62.8	64.5	1.7
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.7	22.6	-1.1
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	40.6	41.7	1.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	66.9	68.8	1.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	51.5	54.6	3.1
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	368.8	279.3	-89.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	365.1	276.6	-88.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	47.2	37.7	-9.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	92.3	70.3	-22.0
Unemployment rate - %	10.8	8.3	-2.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	10.8	8.3	-2.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.4	19.2	-2.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	15.7	12.4	-3.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.6	5.2	-1.4
Discouraged persons - in thousands	178.5	160.4	-18.1
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	174.9	157.5	-17.4



**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2014 and 2015**

(Continued)

	Third quarter 2014	Third quarter 2015	Change (Third quarter 2015 minus Third quarter 2014)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	74.5	74.2	-0.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1624.1	1646.0	21.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1589.9	1608.6	18.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	104.6	95.3	-9.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	286.8	284.6	-2.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1582.1	1600.7	18.6
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	270.6	277.9	7.3
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	54.3	55.5	1.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	65.8	67.6	1.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	27.8	26.5	-1.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	45.8	46.7	0.9
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	70.2	72.1	1.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	56.1	58.7	2.6
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	211.6	159.1	-52.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	209.5	157.5	-52.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	28.6	22.8	-5.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	52.0	39.2	-12.8
Unemployment rate - %	11.5	8.8	-2.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	11.6	8.9	-2.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.5	19.3	-2.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	15.3	12.1	-3.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	7.4	5.7	-1.7
Discouraged persons - in thousands	99.6	86.9	-12.7
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	97.5	85.5	-12.0



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2014 and 2015

(Continued and end)

	Third quarter 2014	Third quarter 2015	Change (Third quarter 2015 minus Third quarter 2014)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	66.2	66.5	0.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1437.7	1458.7	21.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1417.2	1435.6	18.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	69.2	63.3	-5.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	208.1	210.1	2.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1411.7	1430.0	18.3
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	255.1	267.5	12.4
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	44.6	45.6	1.0
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	59.7	61.4	1.7
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.4	18.6	-0.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	35.2	36.4	1.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	63.5	65.4	1.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	47.4	50.9	3.5
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	157.2	120.1	-37.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	155.6	119.2	-36.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	18.7	14.9	-3.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	40.3	31.1	-9.2
Unemployment rate - %	9.9	7.6	-2.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	9.9	7.7	-2.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.2	19.1	-2.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	16.2	12.9	-3.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.7	4.6	-1.1
Discouraged persons - in thousands	78.9	73.4	-5.5
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	77.5	71.9	-5.6