



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2016

Main labour market indicators for the second quarter of 2016

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 69.4%, remaining the same as in the second quarter of 2015.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 63.7%, up by 1.3 percentage points from the respective quarter of 2015.

The unemployment rate was 8.0%, by 1.9 percentage points lower compared to the same quarter of 2015.

There were 1 428.2 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 30.6% of population in the same age group. 158.9 thousand (11.1%) of them were **discouraged persons**. Compared with a year ago the number of discouraged persons (aged 15 - 64) decreased by 6.8 thousand.

Employment

In the second quarter of 2016 there were 3 033.4 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 608.3 thousand men and 1 425.1 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 49.5%, up by 0.8 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2015. In employment were 54.6% of men and 44.8% of women in the age group concerned.

In the second quarter of 2016, 63.2% of employed persons worked in the service sector whereas their number achieved 1 916.3 thousand. In the industry sector worked 893.7 thousand persons (29.5% of all employed), while in agriculture, forestry and fishing worked 223.4 thousand (7.4%).

3.6% (109.4 thousand) of all employed persons were employers, 7.7% (234.5 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.0% (2 669.7 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (19.7 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Among the employees 1 991.8 thousand persons (74.6%) worked in private sector and 677.9 thousand (25.4%) worked in public sector. In comparison with the second quarter of 2015 the number of employees in private sector increased by 2.4%, while that in public sector declined by 3.4%.

119.2 thousand persons (4.5%) of all employees had temporary job.

In the second quarter of 2016 the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

There were 2 972.1 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 63.7% (66.7% for men and 60.7% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years was 39.7% (44.6% for men and 34.6% for women).

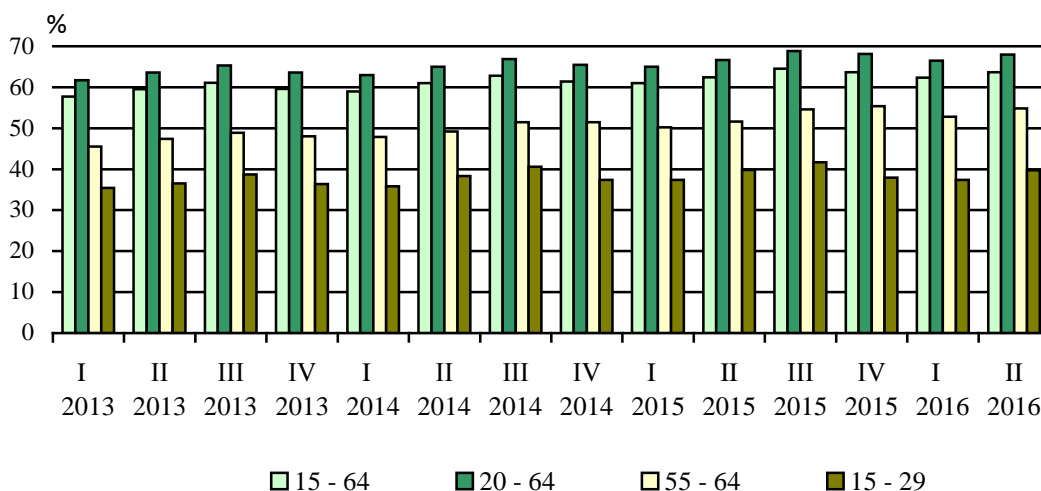
The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years was 68.0%, 71.3% and 64.6% for men and women respectively. Compared to the second quarter of 2015 this rate increased by 1.4 percentage points, by 1.5 percentage points for men and by 1.2 percentage points for women.

There were 539.7 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 54.8% of population in the same age group (58.8% of men and 51.2% of women). In comparison with a year earlier



the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 3.2 percentage points, by 3.5 percentage points for men and by 2.9 percentage points for women.

Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Unemployment

In the second quarter of 2016 there were 265.6 thousand **unemployed persons** and the **unemployment rate** was 8.0%. In comparison with the second quarter of 2015 the number of unemployed persons went down by 65.3 thousand and the **unemployment rate** decreased by 1.9 percentage points.

Over the same period the unemployment rate declined for both, men and women, and achieved 8.8% for men and 7.2% for women. Of the total number of unemployed persons in the second quarter of 2016, 155.7 thousand (58.6%) were men and 109.9 thousand (41.4%) were women.

Among all unemployed persons 12.9% had higher education, 48.9% had upper secondary education and 38.2% had lower secondary education or less.

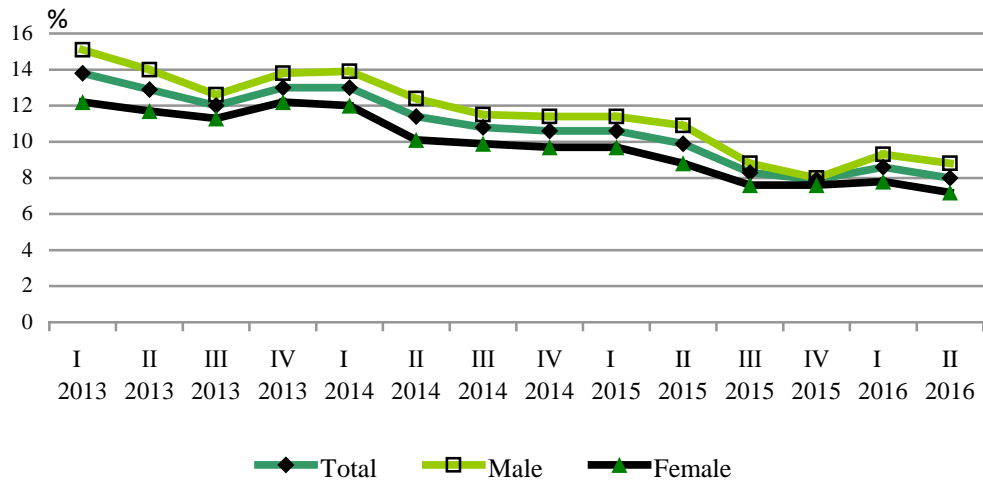
In the second quarter of 2016 there were 161.1 thousand **long-term unemployed persons**, representing 60.6% of all unemployed. The **long-term unemployment rate** was 4.9%, and in comparison with the respective quarter of 2015 it decreased by 1.3 percentage points. The long-term unemployment rate by sex was 5.3% for men and 4.4% for women.

Of the total number of unemployed persons 37.9 thousand (14.3%) were looking for a first job.

In the second quarter of 2016 the **unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 10.9% (12.7% for men and 8.4% for women). In comparison with the second quarter of 2015 this rate was lower by 3.0 percentage points as the decline was higher for women than for men (by 4.9 and 1.5 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.

For the weighting of the results of the survey for the second quarter of 2016 preliminary data on population as of 31 March 2016 (excluding population living in 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 2016 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.3%;
- 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, section 'Labour Market', Labour Force Survey.

Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2015 and 2016

| | Second quarter 2015 | Second quarter 2016 | Change (Second quarter 2016 minus Second quarter 2015) |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Total | | | |
| Activity rate (15 - 64) - % | 69.4 | 69.4 | 0.0 |
| Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands | 3011.2 | 3033.4 | 22.2 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands | 2955.5 | 2972.1 | 16.6 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands | 145.3 | 143.9 | -1.4 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands | 475.3 | 458.6 | -16.7 |
| Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands | 2945.2 | 2959.0 | 13.8 |
| Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands | 517.9 | 539.7 | 21.8 |
| Employment rate (15 and over) - % | 48.7 | 49.5 | 0.8 |
| Employment rate (15 - 64) - % | 62.4 | 63.7 | 1.3 |
| Employment rate (15 - 24) - % | 20.5 | 21.2 | 0.7 |
| Employment rate (15 - 29) - % | 39.8 | 39.7 | -0.1 |
| Employment rate (20 - 64) - % | 66.6 | 68.0 | 1.4 |
| Employment rate (55 - 64) - % | 51.6 | 54.8 | 3.2 |
| Unemployed persons - total - in thousands | 330.9 | 265.6 | -65.3 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands | 328.0 | 264.0 | -64.0 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands | 40.8 | 24.3 | -16.5 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands | 76.4 | 56.2 | -20.2 |
| Unemployment rate - % | 9.9 | 8.0 | -1.9 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - % | 10.0 | 8.2 | -1.8 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - % | 21.9 | 14.4 | -7.5 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - % | 13.9 | 10.9 | -3.0 |
| Long-term unemployment rate - % | 6.2 | 4.9 | -1.3 |
| Discouraged persons - in thousands | 169.8 | 161.1 | -8.7 |
| Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands | 165.7 | 158.9 | -6.8 |

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2015 and 2016

(Continued)

| | Second quarter 2015 | Second quarter 2016 | Change (Second quarter 2016 minus Second quarter 2015) |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Male | | | |
| Activity rate (15 - 64) - % | 73.5 | 73.3 | -0.2 |
| Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands | 1595.5 | 1608.3 | 12.8 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands | 1560.2 | 1570.7 | 10.5 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands | 91.9 | 87.9 | -4.0 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands | 276.5 | 264.3 | -12.2 |
| Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands | 1553.8 | 1563.7 | 9.9 |
| Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands | 263.0 | 275.4 | 12.4 |
| Employment rate (15 and over) - % | 53.7 | 54.6 | 0.9 |
| Employment rate (15 - 64) - % | 65.4 | 66.7 | 1.3 |
| Employment rate (15 - 24) - % | 25.3 | 25.3 | 0.0 |
| Employment rate (15 - 29) - % | 45.1 | 44.6 | -0.5 |
| Employment rate (20 - 64) - % | 69.8 | 71.3 | 1.5 |
| Employment rate (55 - 64) - % | 55.3 | 58.8 | 3.5 |
| Unemployed persons - total - in thousands | 195.0 | 155.7 | -39.3 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands | 193.0 | 154.6 | -38.4 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands | 25.1 | 15.9 | -9.2 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands | 45.8 | 38.5 | -7.3 |
| Unemployment rate - % | 10.9 | 8.8 | -2.1 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - % | 11.0 | 9.0 | -2.0 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - % | 21.5 | 15.3 | -6.2 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - % | 14.2 | 12.7 | -1.5 |
| Long-term unemployment rate - % | 7.0 | 5.3 | -1.7 |
| Discouraged persons - in thousands | 93.1 | 88.7 | -4.4 |
| Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands | 90.5 | 87.8 | -2.7 |



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2015 and 2016

(Continued and end)

| | Second quarter 2015 | Second quarter 2016 | Change (Second quarter 2016 minus Second quarter 2015) |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Female | | | |
| Activity rate (15 - 64) - % | 65.2 | 65.4 | 0.2 |
| Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands | 1415.7 | 1425.1 | 9.4 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands | 1395.3 | 1401.3 | 6.0 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands | 53.5 | 56.0 | 2.5 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands | 198.8 | 194.3 | -4.5 |
| Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands | 1391.3 | 1395.4 | 4.1 |
| Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands | 254.9 | 264.2 | 9.3 |
| Employment rate (15 and over) - % | 44.2 | 44.8 | 0.6 |
| Employment rate (15 - 64) - % | 59.5 | 60.7 | 1.2 |
| Employment rate (15 - 24) - % | 15.5 | 17.0 | 1.5 |
| Employment rate (15 - 29) - % | 34.3 | 34.6 | 0.3 |
| Employment rate (20 - 64) - % | 63.4 | 64.6 | 1.2 |
| Employment rate (55 - 64) - % | 48.3 | 51.2 | 2.9 |
| Unemployed persons - total - in thousands | 135.9 | 109.9 | -26.0 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands | 135.0 | 109.4 | -25.6 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands | 15.7 | 8.4 | -7.3 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands | 30.6 | 17.7 | -12.9 |
| Unemployment rate - % | 8.8 | 7.2 | -1.6 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - % | 8.8 | 7.2 | -1.6 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - % | 22.7 | 13.0 | -9.7 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - % | 13.3 | 8.4 | -4.9 |
| Long-term unemployment rate - % | 5.4 | 4.4 | -1.0 |
| Discouraged persons - in thousands | 76.7 | 72.4 | -4.3 |
| Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands | 75.2 | 71.1 | -4.1 |