



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2016

### Main labour market indicators for the fourth quarter of 2016

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 68.0%, down by 1.2 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2015.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 63.4%, decreasing by 0.3 percentage points in comparison with the respective quarter of 2015.

**The unemployment rate** was 6.7%, by 1.2 percentage points lower than in the same quarter of 2015.

There were 1 487.2 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 32.0% of population in the same age group. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2015 their number increased by 2.7%. The number of **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64** was 160.7 thousand (10.8% of the same age economically inactive population).

### Employment

In the fourth quarter of 2016 there were 3 005.9 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 612.6 thousand men and 1 393.4 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 49.2% and went down by 0.5 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter of 2015. In employment were 54.9% of men and 43.9% of women in the age group concerned.

In the fourth quarter of 2016, 63.6% of employed persons worked in the service sector whereas their number achieved 1 910.9 thousand. In the industry sector worked 905.9 thousand persons (30.1% of all employed), while in agriculture, forestry and fishing worked 189.1 thousand (6.3%).

Of all employed persons 3.5% (105.1 thousand) were employers, 7.4% (222.2 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.6% (2 662.3 thousand) were employees and 0.5% (16.3 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Among the employees 1974.0 thousand persons (74.1%) worked in private sector and 688.3 thousand (25.9%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees 97.0 thousand persons (3.6%) had temporary job.

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

There were 2 941.9 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. **The employment rate for the same age group** was 63.4% (67.1% for men and 59.6% for women).

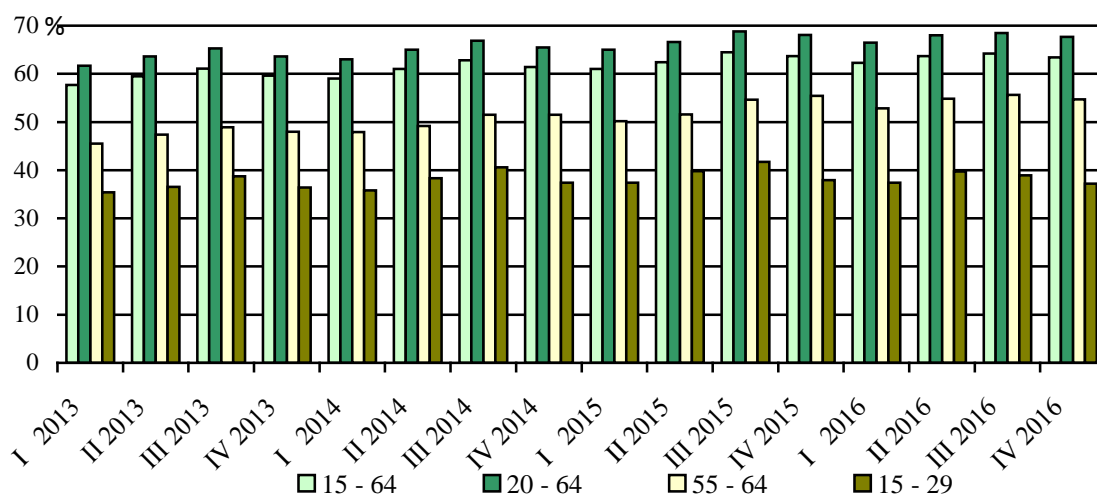
**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 37.2% (42.7% for men and 31.3% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 67.7%, 71.7% and 63.6% for men and women respectively. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2015 this rate was lower by 0.4 percentage points, as the decrease was observed only for women - by 0.9 percentage points, while for men this rate remained the same.



There were 537.6 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 54.7% of population in the same age group (58.4% of men and 51.4% of women). In comparison with a year earlier the employment rate (55 - 64 years) was lower by 0.7 percentage points, by 0.5 percentage points for men and by 0.9 percentage points for women.

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



## Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2016 there were 214.9 thousand **unemployed persons** and **the unemployment rate** was 6.7%. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2015 the number of unemployed persons went down by 46.1 thousand and the unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points.

Of the total number of unemployed persons in the fourth quarter of 2016, 118.3 thousand (55.1%) were men and 96.6 thousand (44.9%) were women. The unemployment rate was 6.8% for men and 6.5% for women and compared to the same quarter of 2015 it decreased by 1.2 percentage points and 1.1 percentage points respectively.

Among all unemployed persons 14.8% had higher education, 50.4% had upper secondary education and 34.8% had lower secondary education or less. The unemployment rate for the respective levels of education were 3.1%, 5.9% and 20.2%.

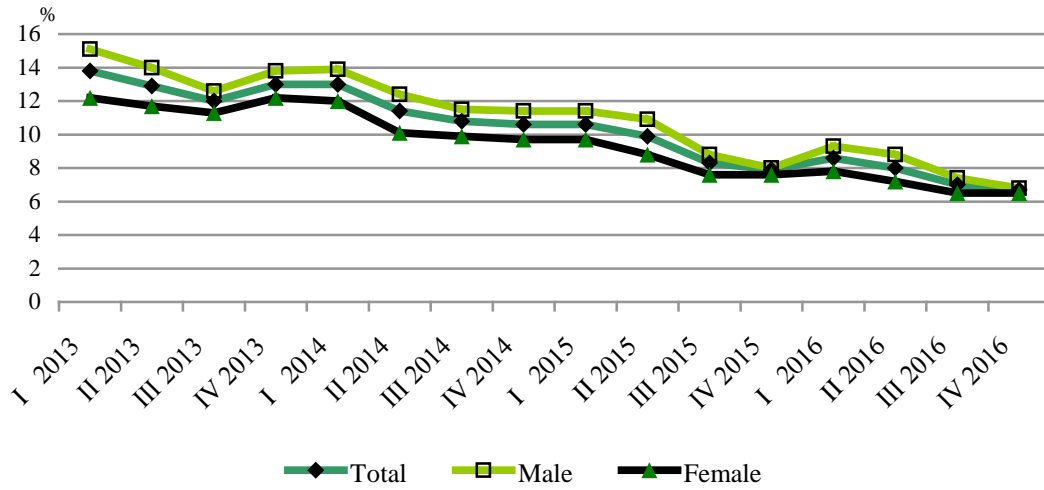
In the fourth quarter of 2016 there were 124.4 thousand **long-term unemployed persons**, representing 57.9% of all unemployed. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 3.9%, and in comparison with the respective quarter of 2015 it decreased by 0.8 percentage points. The long-term unemployment rate was 4.0% for men and 3.7% for women.

Of the total number of unemployed persons 34.3 thousand (15.9%) were looking for a first job.

In the fourth quarter of 2016 **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 12.4% (12.0% for men and 13.0% for women). In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2015 this rate was lower by 2.1 percentage points, as the decline was higher for men than for women (by 3.0 percentage points and 0.9 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.

**Economically 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 fourth quarter of 2016 preliminary data on population as of 30 September 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 fourth quarter of 2016 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.3%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 4.5%;
- unemployment rate - 4.3%.



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, fourth quarter of 2015 and 2016

	Fourth quarter 2015	Fourth quarter 2016	Change (Fourth quarter 2016 minus Fourth quarter 2015)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	69.2	68.0	-1.2
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3061.7	3005.9	-55.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2999.6	2941.9	-57.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	127.9	125.5	-2.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	446.3	422.2	-24.1
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2992.5	2932.2	-60.3
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	550.8	537.6	-13.2
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	49.7	49.2	-0.5
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	63.7	63.4	-0.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.4	18.9	0.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	37.9	37.2	-0.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.1	67.7	-0.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	55.4	54.7	-0.7
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	261.0	214.9	-46.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	259.3	211.9	-47.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	37.0	26.4	-10.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	75.8	59.8	-16.0
Unemployment rate - %	7.9	6.7	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	8.0	6.7	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.4	17.4	-5.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	14.5	12.4	-2.1
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.7	3.9	-0.8
Discouraged persons - in thousands	167.7	163.5	-4.2
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	165.7	160.7	-5.0



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2015 and 2016

(Continued)

	Fourth quarter 2015	Fourth quarter 2016	Change (Fourth quarter 2016 minus Fourth quarter 2015)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.9	72.1	-0.8
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1627.3	1612.6	-14.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1590.6	1572.6	-18.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	75.4	74.8	-0.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	247.7	249.1	1.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1586.8	1566.0	-20.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	277.9	273.2	-4.7
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	54.9	54.9	0.0
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.0	67.1	0.1
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.1	21.9	0.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	40.9	42.7	1.8
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	71.7	71.7	0.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	58.9	58.4	-0.5
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	142.4	118.3	-24.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	141.5	116.8	-24.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	20.3	14.7	-5.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	43.8	33.9	-9.9
Unemployment rate - %	8.0	6.8	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	8.2	6.9	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.2	16.4	-4.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	15.0	12.0	-3.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.0	4.0	-1.0
Discouraged persons - in thousands	91.1	92.2	1.1
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	90.2	90.6	0.4



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2015 and 2016

(Continued and end)

	Fourth quarter 2015	Fourth quarter 2016	Change (Fourth quarter 2016 minus Fourth quarter 2015)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	65.5	63.7	-1.8
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1434.5	1393.4	-41.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1409.0	1369.3	-39.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	52.5	50.6	-1.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	198.6	173.1	-25.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1405.7	1366.2	-39.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	272.9	264.3	-8.6
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	44.8	43.9	-0.9
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	60.4	59.6	-0.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.5	15.6	0.1
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	34.7	31.3	-3.4
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	64.5	63.6	-0.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	52.3	51.4	-0.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	118.7	96.6	-22.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	117.9	95.1	-22.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	16.7	11.8	-4.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	32.0	25.9	-6.1
Unemployment rate - %	7.6	6.5	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	7.7	6.5	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.1	18.9	-5.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	13.9	13.0	-0.9
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.4	3.7	-0.7
Discouraged persons - in thousands	76.6	71.3	-5.3
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	75.5	70.1	-5.4