



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2018

### Main labour market indicators for the first quarter of 2018

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 70.6%, by 1.4 percentage points higher compared to the first quarter of 2017.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 66.5%, up by 2.2 percentage points from the same quarter of 2017.

**The unemployment rate** was 5.7%, by 1.2 percentage points lower compared to the first quarter of 2017.

There were 1 337.3 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 29.4% of population in the same age group. Of them 91.6 thousand (6.8%) were **discouraged persons**.

### Employment

In the first quarter of 2018 there were 3 099.3 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 655.8 thousand men and 1 443.6 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 51.5%, up by 1.5 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2017. In employment were 57.3% of men and 46.1% of women in the age group concerned.

In the first quarter of 2018, in the service sector worked 1 971.2 thousand persons, representing 63.6% of all employed persons, in the industry sector worked 931.1 thousand persons (30.0% of all employed), while in agriculture, forestry and fishing worked 197.0 thousand (6.4%).

Of all employed persons 3.8% (119.0 thousand) were employers, 7.2% (223.8 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.2% (2 733.5 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (23.0 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 078.4 thousand persons (76.0%), worked in private sector while 655.1 thousand (24.0%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees, 98.1 thousand persons (3.6%) had temporary job.

In the first quarter of 2018, the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

There were 3 023.8 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 66.5% (70.1% for men and 62.8% for women).

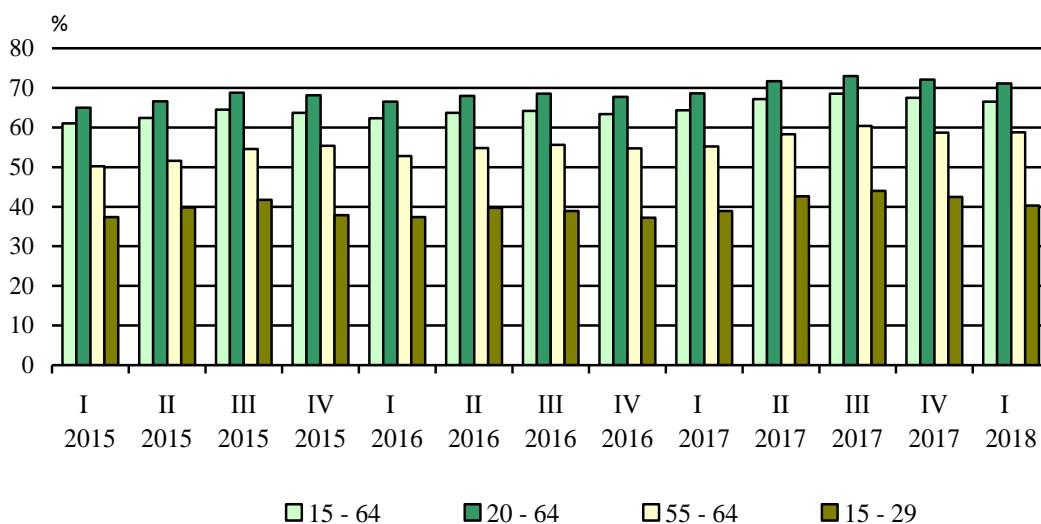
**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 40.3% (45.4% for men and 34.9% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 71.1%, 75.0% and 67.1% for men and women respectively. This rate was by 2.5 percentage points higher than in the first quarter of 2017, as the increase for men and women was almost the same.

There were 570.0 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 58.8% of population in the same age group (63.6% of men and 54.5% of women). In comparison with a year ago, the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 3.6 percentage points, as the increase for men and women was by 4.1 and 3.2 percentage points respectively.



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



## Unemployment

In the first quarter of 2018 there were 188.7 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 111.7 thousand (59.2%) men and 77.1 thousand (40.8%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 5.7% and went down by 1.2 percentage points from the first quarter of 2017. The decrease of the unemployment rate was larger for women (by 1.8 percentage points) than for men (by 0.5 percentage points), and as a result of that in the first quarter of 2018 the unemployment rate for women was lower than that for men - 5.1 percentage points and 6.3 percentage points respectively.

Among all unemployed persons, 13.7% had higher level of educational attainment, 48.1% had completed upper secondary education and 38.2% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 2.5% for higher education, 4.9% for upper secondary and 18.2% for education lower than upper secondary.

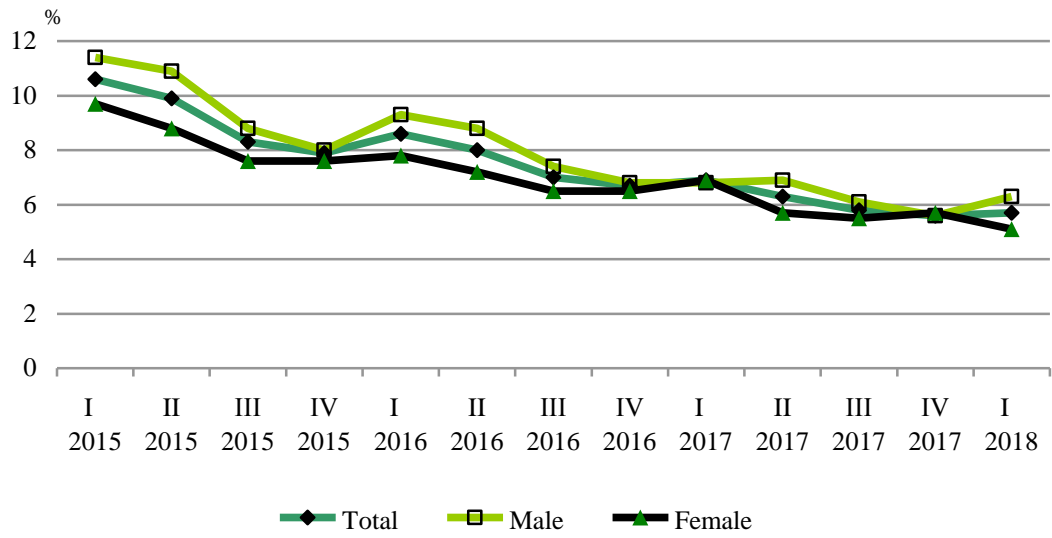
In the first quarter of 2018 there were 99.0 thousand **long-term unemployed persons (unemployed for one or more years)**, representing 52.4% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 3.0%, down by 0.7 percentage points from the first quarter of 2017. The long-term unemployment rate was 3.5% for men and 2.5% for women.

Of all unemployed people 29.7 thousand (15.8%) were looking for a first job.

In the first quarter of 2018 the **unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 8.2%, by 2.6 percentage points lower than in a year earlier. The unemployment rate for men (15 - 29 years) decreased by 1.9 percentage points and that for women - by 3.5 percentage points, achieving 9.2% for men and 6.9% for 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.

**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 first quarter of 2018 data on population as of 31 December 2017 (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 relative standard errors for the main LFS indicators for the first quarter of 2018 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.2%;
- 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, first quarter of 2017 and 2018

	First quarter 2017	First quarter 2018	Change (first quarter 2018 minus first quarter 2017)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	69.2	70.6	1.4
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3036.7	3099.3	62.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2967.3	3023.8	56.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	133.7	126.5	-7.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	434.9	433.9	-1.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2954.5	3011.6	57.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	541.2	570.0	28.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	50.0	51.5	1.5
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	64.3	66.5	2.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	20.4	19.9	-0.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	38.9	40.3	1.4
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.6	71.1	2.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	55.2	58.8	3.6
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	224.4	188.7	-35.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	222.2	186.4	-35.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	19.6	17.0	-2.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	52.5	38.8	-13.7
Unemployment rate - %	6.9	5.7	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	7.0	5.8	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	12.8	11.8	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.8	8.2	-2.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.7	3.0	-0.7
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	134.6	95.7	-38.9
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	132.1	91.6	-40.5



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2017 and 2018

(Continued)

	First quarter 2017	First quarter 2018	Change (first quarter 2018 minus first quarter 2017)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	73.1	74.9	1.8
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1624.7	1655.8	31.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1584.6	1610.6	26.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	81.3	78.6	-2.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	255.9	251.1	-4.8
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1576.0	1603.7	27.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	278.1	294.6	16.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	55.7	57.3	1.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	68.1	70.1	2.0
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.1	24.1	0.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	44.6	45.4	0.8
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	72.6	75.0	2.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	59.5	63.6	4.1
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	119.0	111.7	-7.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	118.2	110.5	-7.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	10.8	10.0	-0.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	31.8	25.3	-6.5
Unemployment rate - %	6.8	6.3	-0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.9	6.4	-0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	11.8	11.3	-0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	11.1	9.2	-1.9
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.9	3.5	-0.4
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	72.3	47.6	-24.7
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	71.1	45.5	-25.6



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2017 and 2018

(Continued and end)

	First quarter 2017	First quarter 2018	Change (first quarter 2018 minus first quarter 2017)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	65.1	66.2	1.1
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1412.0	1443.6	31.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1382.7	1413.2	30.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	52.4	47.9	-4.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	179.0	182.8	3.8
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1378.4	1407.9	29.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	263.2	275.4	12.2
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	44.7	46.1	1.4
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	60.6	62.8	2.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.4	15.5	-0.9
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	32.9	34.9	2.0
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	64.6	67.1	2.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	51.3	54.5	3.2
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	105.4	77.1	-28.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	103.9	75.9	-28.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	8.7	7.0	-1.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	20.7	13.5	-7.2
Unemployment rate - %	6.9	5.1	-1.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	7.0	5.1	-1.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	14.3	12.7	-1.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.4	6.9	-3.5
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.6	2.5	-1.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	62.3	48.1	-14.2
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	61.0	46.1	-14.9