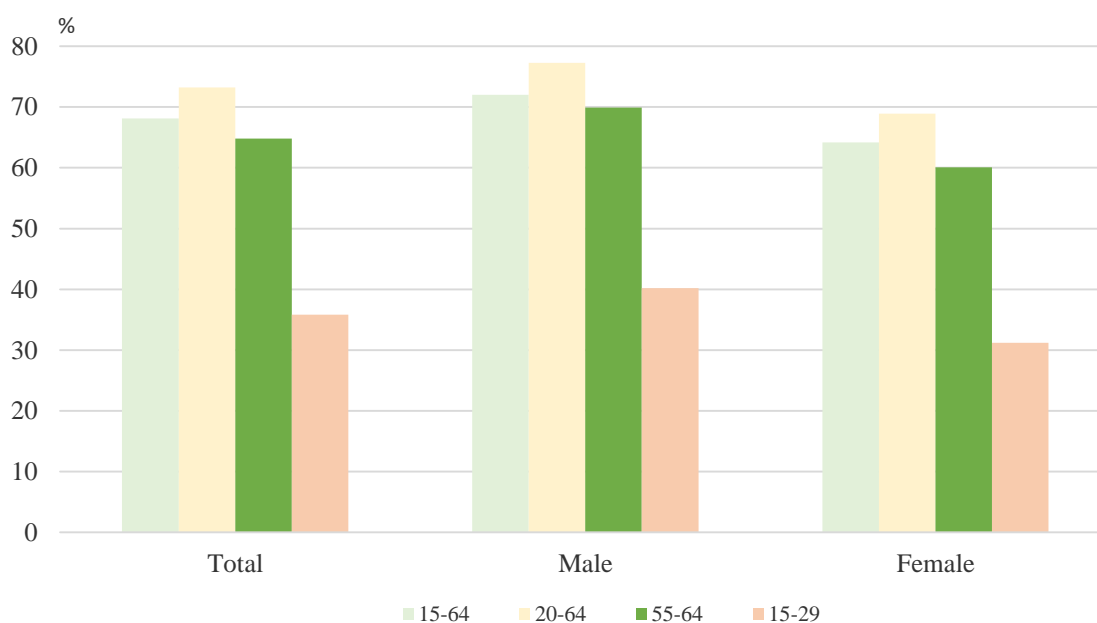


## LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2021 MAIN RESULTS

Since the beginning of 2021 the Labour Force Survey in all EU Member States, incl. in Bulgaria, is carried out in compliance with the Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples and subsequent Commission implementing regulations in the field of labour force statistics. These regulations implied changes in the methodology of the Labour Force Survey, primarily related to **the definitions of employment and unemployment**, and in consequence, the 2021 data are not fully comparable to that for previous quarters<sup>1</sup>.

- In 2021 the number of **economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 3 155.3 thousand and represented 72.0% of population in the same age group. Compared with 2020, the activity rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points.
- The **total number of employed persons** was 3 076.5 thousand, representing 52.3% of population aged 15 and over. Among all employed persons 1 648.7 thousand (53.6%) were men and 1 427.8 thousand (46.4%) were women.
- There were 2 986.7 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64**. **The employment rate for the same age group** was 68.1% (72.0% for men and 64.2% for women). Compared with 2020, it increased by 0.5 percentage points.

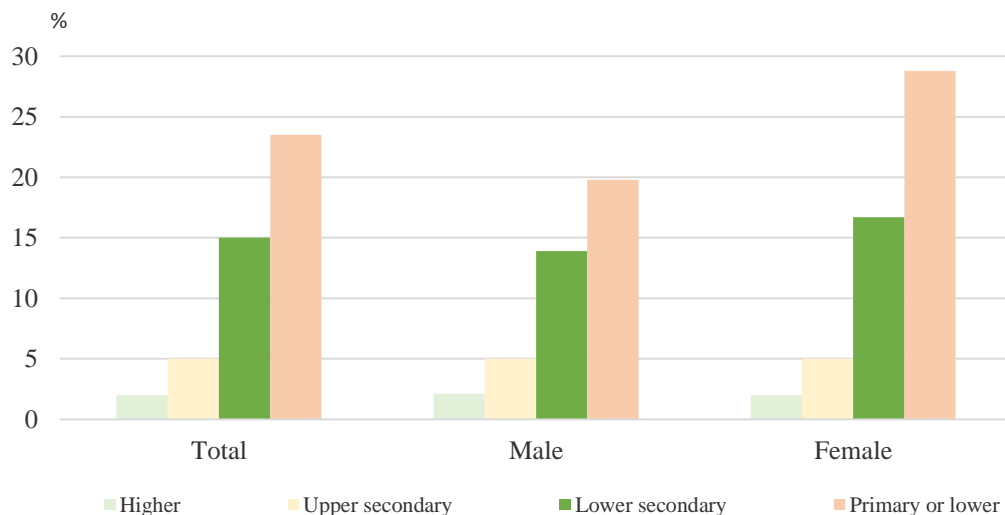
**Figure 1. Employment rates by age group and sex in 2021**



<sup>1</sup> The main changes are described in the Methodological notes.

- **The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 73.2% (77.3% for men and 68.9% for women).
- **The employment rate for people aged 55 - 64 years** was 64.8% (69.9% for men and 60.1% for women).
- There were 171.1 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 95.5 thousand were men and 75.6 thousand were women.
- **The unemployment rate** was 5.3% (5.5% for men and 5.0% for women). Compared with 2020 the unemployment rate decreased by 0.8 percentage points.

**Figure 2. Unemployment rates for age group 15 - 64 years of age by level of education and sex in 2021**



- **The unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 10.4%.
- The long-term unemployed represented 49.5% out of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 2.6% (2.7% for men and 2.4% for women).
- There were 1 227.4 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, of whom 527.0 thousand men and 700.4 thousand women. **The inactivity rate (15 - 64 years)** was 28.0% (23.8% for men and 32.3% for women).
- The number of **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64** was 57.2 thousand representing 4.7% of the economically inactive population in this age group.
- The proportion of **early leavers from education and training** of population aged 18 - 24 was 12.2%.
- The proportion of **population aged 25 - 34, having completed tertiary education** was 33.6%.



- The proportion of **young people aged 15 - 29 neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)** was 17.6%.

### 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.

Certain changes in the methodology of the Labour Force Survey took place in the beginning of 2021 in line with the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples, and consequent implementing regulations of the European Commission in the field of Labour Force statistics. These changes concern mainly **employment and unemployment definitions**, in particular:

- Persons on leave for looking after a child between one and two years of age who are receiving fixed compensation for the duration of the leave are considered employed (they used to be considered economically inactive persons up to the end of 2020);
- Persons on an unpaid parental leave for looking after a child of two to eight years of age are considered employed only if the one time duration of using that leave is at most three months, i. e. they do not use all the leave they are entitled to (six months for each parent). These persons used to be considered employed up to 2020;
- Persons who are absent from work due to different reason than holidays, illness, accident or maternity and parental leave are considered employed only if the duration of their absence is up to 3 months (even they are being partially compensated);
- Persons who produce agricultural products for self-consumption are excluded from the employed persons' category even if they satisfy their household's main consumption needs by that production. Employed are considered only persons growing agricultural produce, the main part of which is intended for sale or barter;
- Persons on a seasonal job are defined as employed out of the active work season if they regularly continue to do tasks and activities connected with their work or business, not including execution of legal or administrative tasks;
- Persons receiving social benefits who are obliged to do free community services are not considered employed. They used to be considered employed up to 2020 if they performed such activity during the reference week.

**For comparison with previous year the preliminary revised estimates for activity, employment and unemployment rates in 2020 are used, which are recalculated to reflect the changes in the survey methodology in 2021.**

**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 to 89 who during the reference period:

- did some work for at least one hour for salary or other form of payment;
- did not work but had a job or an enterprise, a business from which they were temporarily absent due to holiday, illness, maternity leave, leave for looking after a child below the age of 2 years, flexible



working time, work-related education or training as well as other absence if its duration is 3 months or less.

**Unemployed** are persons aged 15 to 74 who:

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

**Long-term unemployed** are persons who have been unemployed for one year or longer.

**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, incl. all persons aged 90 and over.

**Discouraged persons** are persons not in the labour force, aged 15 to 74, who want to work but do not actively look for a job as they believe there are no suitable job available.

**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.

**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.

**Early leavers from education and training** - persons aged from 18 to 24 having attained lower secondary education as a highest and not received any (formal or non-formal) education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey.

**People neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET)** are those who were not employed during the reference period (i.e. were unemployed or economically inactive) and in the same time did not receive any (formal or non-formal) education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey.

Average annual data are calculated as average of the four quarters of the respective year.

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



Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators in 2021

	Total	Male	Female
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.0	76.2	67.7
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3076.5	1648.7	1427.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2986.7	1595.3	1391.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	104.0	64.5	39.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	348.4	200.4	148.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2976.8	1589.6	1387.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	598.8	311.3	287.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	52.3	58.6	46.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	68.1	72.0	64.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.8	20.3	13.1
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	35.8	40.2	31.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	73.2	77.3	68.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	64.8	69.9	60.1
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	171.1	95.5	75.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	168.6	93.9	74.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	19.6	12.4	7.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	40.6	24.8	15.8
Unemployment rate - %	5.3	5.5	5.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.3	5.6	5.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.8	16.1	15.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.4	11.0	9.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.6	2.7	2.4
Discouraged persons - in thousands	59.7	33.1	26.5
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	57.2	31.4	25.7