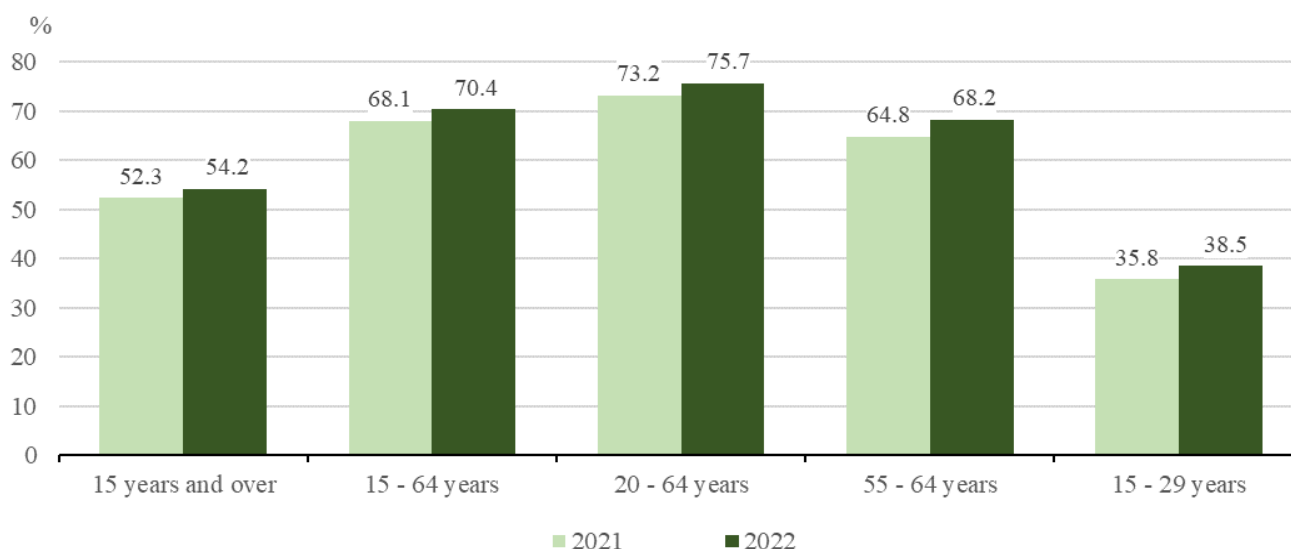


## LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2022 MAIN RESULTS

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.

- In 2022 the number of **economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 3 191.2 thousand and represented 73.6% of population in the same age group. Compared with 2021, the activity rate increased by 1.6 percentage points.
- There were 3 150.5 thousand **employed persons**, of whom 1 678.4 thousand (53.3%) men and 1 472.1 thousand (46.7%) women. **The employment rate for population aged 15 and over** was 54.2% (60.3% for men and 48.5% for women).
- The number of **employed persons aged 15 - 64** was 3 053.3 thousand. **The employment rate for the same age group** was 70.4% (73.8% for men and 66.8% for women). Compared with 2021, this rate increased by 2.3 percentage points.

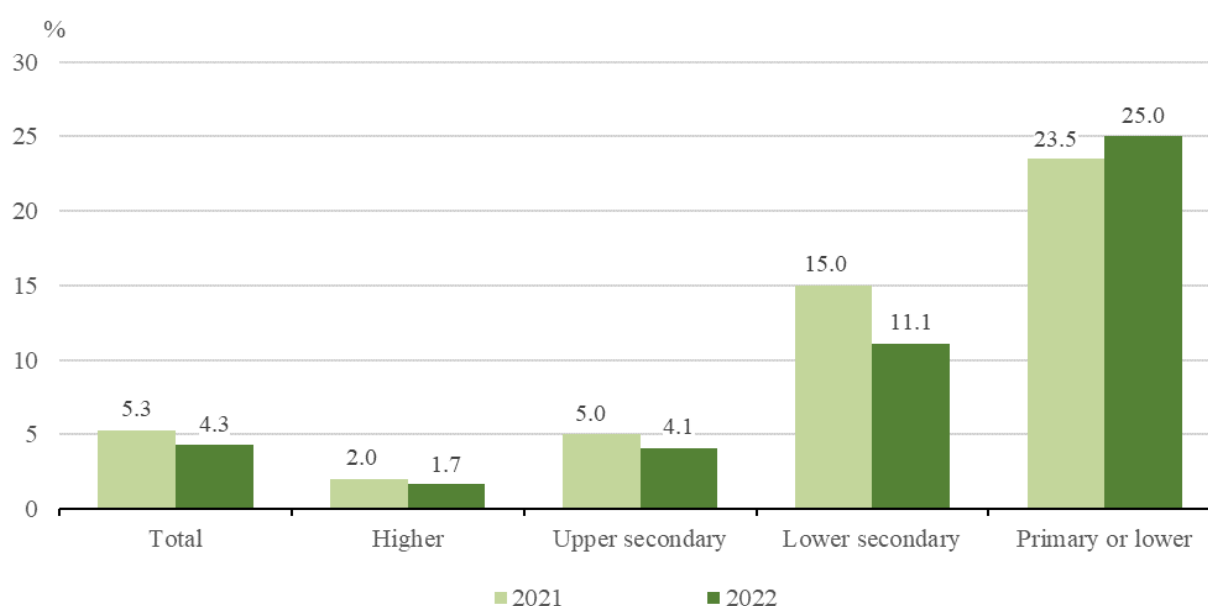
**Figure 1. Employment rates by age groups in 2021 and 2022**



- **The employment rate for population in the age group 20 - 64 years** was 75.7% (79.5% for men and 71.8% for women).
- **The employment rate for population in the age group 55 - 64 years** was 68.2% (73.3% for men and 63.5% for women).

- In 2022 there were 140.4 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 78.2 thousand (55.7%) men and 62.2 thousand (44.3%) women.
- **The unemployment rate** was 4.3% (4.5% for men and 4.1% for women) and compared with 2021 decreased by 1.0 percentage point.

**Figure 2. Unemployment rates for age group 15 - 64 years by level of education in 2021 and 2022**



- **The unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 7.9%.
- The long-term unemployed represented 53.8% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 2.3% (2.5% for men and 2.1% for women).
- In 2022 there were 1 147.1 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, of whom 498.5 thousand men and 648.6 thousand women. **The inactivity rate (15 - 64 years)** was 26.4% (22.7% for men and 30.3% for women).
- The number of **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64** was 51.7 thousand representing 4.5% of the economically inactive population in this age group.
- The proportion of **early leavers from education and training** of population aged 18 - 24 was 10.5%.
- The proportion of **population aged 25 - 34, having completed tertiary education** was 33.8%.
- The proportion of **young people aged 15 - 29 neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)** was 15.1%.



## 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. The households participating in the survey were randomly selected and were interviewed through a face-to-face interview.

**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 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 (in the respective group).

**Employment rate** - ratio between the employed population and the total population (in the respective 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 (in the respective 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 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 and 2022

	2021	2022	Change (2022 minus 2021)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.0	73.6	1.6
Employed persons - total - in thousands	3076.5	3150.5	74.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2986.7	3053.3	66.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	104.0	123.8	19.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	348.4	368.6	20.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2976.8	3042.4	65.6
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	598.8	619.3	20.5
Employment rate - %	52.3	54.2	1.9
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	68.1	70.4	2.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.8	19.8	3.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	35.8	38.5	2.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	73.2	75.7	2.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	64.8	68.2	3.4
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	171.1	140.4	-30.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	168.6	137.9	-30.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	19.6	14.9	-4.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	40.6	31.7	-8.9
Unemployment rate - %	5.3	4.3	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.3	4.3	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.8	10.7	-5.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.4	7.9	-2.5
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.6	2.3	-0.3
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	59.7	53.5	-6.2
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	57.2	51.7	-5.5



Table 1

Main labour market indicators in 2021 and 2022

(Continued)

	2021	2022	Change (2022 minus 2021)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	76.2	77.3	1.1
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1648.7	1678.4	29.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1595.3	1621.8	26.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	64.5	74.9	10.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	200.4	209.8	9.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1589.6	1615.4	25.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	311.3	321.4	10.1
Employment rate - %	58.6	60.3	1.7
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	72.0	73.8	1.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	20.3	23.4	3.1
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	40.2	42.7	2.5
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	77.3	79.5	2.2
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	69.9	73.3	3.4
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	95.5	78.2	-17.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	93.9	76.1	-17.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	12.4	9.1	-3.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	24.8	19.8	-5.0
Unemployment rate - %	5.5	4.5	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.6	4.5	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.1	10.8	-5.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	11.0	8.6	-2.4
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.7	2.5	-0.2
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	33.1	26.7	-6.4
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	31.4	25.5	-5.9



Table 1

Main labour market indicators in 2021 and 2022

(Continued and end)

	2021	2022	Change (2022 minus 2021)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	67.7	69.7	2.0
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1427.8	1472.1	44.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1391.4	1431.5	40.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	39.5	49.0	9.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	148.0	158.8	10.8
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1387.2	1426.9	39.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	287.5	297.9	10.4
Employment rate - %	46.6	48.5	1.9
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	64.2	66.8	2.6
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	13.1	16.1	3.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	31.2	34.1	2.9
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.9	71.8	2.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	60.1	63.5	3.4
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	75.6	62.2	-13.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	74.7	61.7	-13.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	7.2	5.8	-1.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	15.8	12.0	-3.8
Unemployment rate - %	5.0	4.1	-0.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.1	4.1	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.3	10.7	-4.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.6	7.0	-2.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.4	2.1	-0.3
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	26.5	26.8	0.3
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	25.7	26.1	0.4