

## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS, FIRST QUARTER OF 2022

### Main labour market indicators in the first quarter of 2022

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 72.0%, by 0.6 percentage points higher compared with the first quarter of 2021.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** increased by 1.5 percentage points from the same quarter of 2021 and stood at 68.4%.

**The unemployment rate** was 4.9%, by 1.4 percentage points lower compared with the first quarter of 2021.

There were 55.3 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 4.5% of the economically inactive population in the same age group.

### Employment

In the first quarter of 2022 there were 3 068.3 thousand **employed persons**, of whom 1 632.2 thousand men and 1 436.0 thousand women. Compared with the first quarter of 2021, the number of employed persons increased by 1.3%. The employment rate was 52.7% (58.6% for men and 47.3% for women).

In the first quarter of 2022, 1 982.8 thousand persons (64.6% of all employed persons) worked in the service sector, 906.6 thousand persons (29.5%) worked in the industry sector and 178.9 thousand persons (5.8%) worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing. Compared with the same quarter of 2021 the number of employed persons increased in the service sector with 94.9 thousand (5.0%), decreased in the industry sector with 55.5 thousand (5.8%) and stood almost unchanged in agriculture, forestry and fishing sector.

Of all employed persons 3.7% (114.1 thousand) were employers, 6.3% (193.0 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 89.5% (2 744.9 thousand) were employees and 0.5% (16.2 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 101.3 thousand persons (76.6%) worked in the private sector while 643.6 thousand (23.4%) worked in the public sector.

In the first quarter of 2022, the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

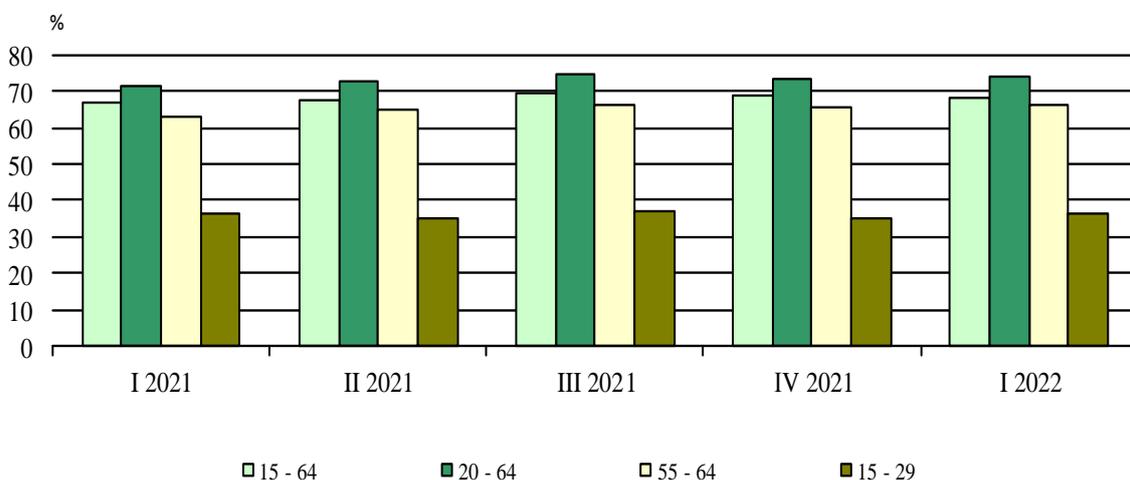
There were 2 975.3 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 68.4% (71.8% for men and 64.9% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 36.3% (40.2% for men and 32.2% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 73.7%, 77.4% and 69.8% for men and women respectively. In comparison with the first quarter of 2021 this rate registered an increase of 2.0 percentage points, 1.2 percentage points for men and 2.6 percentage points for women.

There were 601.4 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64 years**, representing 66.0% of population in the same age group (70.7% of men and 61.7% of women).

**Figure 1. Employment rates by age groups and by quarters**



## Unemployment

In the first quarter of 2022 the number of **unemployed persons** was 158.7 thousand, of whom 84.3 thousand (53.1%) men and 74.4 thousand (46.9%) women. In comparison with the first quarter of 2021 the number of unemployed persons dropped by 45.3 thousand (22.2%). Over the same period, **the unemployment rate** decreased by 1.4 percentage points and stood at 4.9%. The unemployment rate went down by 1.7 percentage points for men and by 1.1 percentage points for women and in the first quarter of 2022 achieved equal values for men and women.

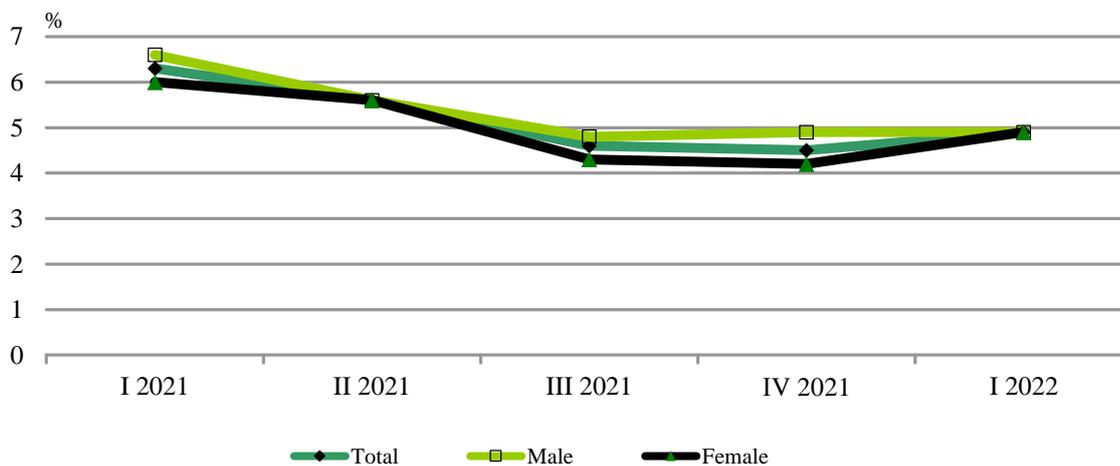
Among all unemployed persons 10.6% had attained tertiary education, 52.1% had completed upper secondary education and 37.3% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 1.6% for tertiary education, 4.6% for upper secondary education and 16.4% for lower education (lower secondary or less).

In the first quarter of 2022 the share of people unemployed for less than a year and that of **long-term unemployed people** were almost the same - 49.7% (78.8 thousand) and 50.3% (79.9 thousand) respectively. **The long-term unemployment rate** declined by 0.2 percentage points from the first quarter of 2021 to 2.5%, remaining higher for men (2.7%) as compared to women (2.2%).

Among all unemployed 19.2 thousand persons (12.1%) were looking for first job.

In the first quarter of 2022 **the youth unemployment rate (age group 15 - 29)** was 8.3%, (8.1% for men and 8.6% for women), down by 2.7 percentage points in comparison with the same quarter of 2021. A decrease of youth unemployment rate (age group 15 - 29) was registered only for men (by 5.0 percentage points) while for women an increase of 0.4 percentage points was observed.

Figure 2. Unemployment rates by sex and by quarters



### Economic inactivity

In the first quarter of 2022 there were 2 594.3 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 068.9 thousand (41.2%) men and 1 525.3 thousand (58.8%) women. Of all economically inactive persons 1 216.7 thousand persons were in **the age group 15 - 64**, representing 28.0% of the population in the same age group. Among them over one-third (455.3 thousand persons) are inactive due to participation in education or training.



## Methodological notes

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is 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 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, etc.

**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.

For weighting of the results of the survey for Q1 2022, data on population as of 31 December 2021 (excluding population living in institutional households) were used.

Like all sample surveys, data from the Labour Force Survey have sample errors (stochastic errors). The relative standard errors for the main LFS indicators for the first quarter of 2022 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 5.6%;
- unemployment rate - 5.4%.

Some of the totals (including rows and columns) are not equal to the sum of their components due to the rounding of the numbers.

More detailed data from the Labour Force Survey for the first quarter of 2022 can 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 2021 and 2022

	First quarter 2021	First quarter 2022	Change (first quarter 2022 minus first quarter 2021)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	71.4	72.0	0.6
Employed persons - total - in thousands	3028.7	3068.3	39.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2940.2	2975.3	35.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	105.5	106.0	0.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	357.6	348.4	-9.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2931.1	2969.1	38.0
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	587.4	601.4	14.0
Employment rate - %	51.4	52.7	1.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	66.9	68.4	1.5
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	17.1	17.1	0.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	36.5	36.3	-0.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	71.7	73.7	2.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	63.1	66.0	2.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	204.0	158.7	-45.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	201.6	156.0	-45.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	21.3	15.5	-5.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	44.3	31.5	-12.8
Unemployment rate - %	6.3	4.9	-1.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.4	5.0	-1.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.8	12.8	-4.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	11.0	8.3	-2.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.7	2.5	-0.2
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	62.2	57.4	-4.8
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	60.0	55.3	-4.7



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2021 and 2022

(Continued)

	First quarter 2021	First quarter 2022	Change (first quarter 2022 minus first quarter 2021)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	76.0	75.6	-0.4
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1626.4	1632.2	5.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1577.7	1580.5	2.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	66.3	65.5	-0.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	202.8	197.9	-4.9
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1572.5	1577.4	4.9
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	307.5	310.9	3.4
Employment rate - %	57.7	58.6	0.9
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	71.0	71.8	0.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	20.9	20.6	-0.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	40.4	40.2	-0.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	76.2	77.4	1.2
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	68.6	70.7	2.1
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	114.0	84.3	-29.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	112.3	82.1	-30.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	13.4	7.6	-5.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	30.5	17.4	-13.1
Unemployment rate - %	6.6	4.9	-1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.6	4.9	-1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.9	10.4	-6.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	13.1	8.1	-5.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.8	2.7	-0.1
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	35.2	32.0	-3.2
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	33.9	31.0	-2.9



Table 1

**Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2021 and 2022**

(Continued and end)

	First quarter 2021	First quarter 2022	Change (first quarter 2022 minus first quarter 2021)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	66.8	68.4	1.6
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1402.3	1436.0	33.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1362.5	1394.8	32.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	39.2	40.5	1.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	154.9	150.5	-4.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1358.6	1391.7	33.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	279.9	290.5	10.6
Employment rate - %	45.6	47.3	1.7
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	62.7	64.9	2.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	13.1	13.4	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	32.5	32.2	-0.3
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	67.2	69.8	2.6
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	58.0	61.7	3.7
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	90.0	74.4	-15.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	89.2	74.0	-15.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	7.9	7.9	0.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	13.8	14.1	0.3
Unemployment rate - %	6.0	4.9	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.1	5.0	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.7	16.3	-0.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	8.2	8.6	0.4
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.7	2.2	-0.5
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	27.0	25.4	-1.6
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	26.2	24.3	-1.9