

MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS, FOURTH QUARTER OF 2022

Main labour market indicators in the fourth quarter of 2022

The activity rate of the population aged 15 - 64 was 74.4%, or 2.6 percentage points higher compared with the fourth quarter of 2021.

The employment rate of the population aged 15 - 64 increased by 3.0 percentage points in comparison with the same quarter of 2021 and stood at 71.5%.

The unemployment rate was 3.9%, or 0.6 percentage points lower compared with the fourth quarter of 2021.

There were 50.9 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 4.6% of the economically inactive population in the same age group.

Employment

In the fourth quarter of 2022, there were 3 197.1 thousand **employed persons** - 1 702.5 thousand men and 1 494.6 thousand women. Compared with the fourth quarter of 2021, the number of employed persons increased by 3.8%. The employment rate for the population aged 15 years and over was 54.9%, 61.1% for men and 49.2% for women.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, the majority of employed persons worked in the service sector - 2 037.2 thousand (63.7%), followed by those in the industry sector - 967.2 thousand (30.3%) and in agriculture, forestry and fishing - 192.6 thousand (6.0%).

Of all employed persons, 3.7% (119.4 thousand) were employers, 7.3% (233.1 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.4% (2 826.3 thousand) were employees and 0.6% (18.2 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees, 2 208.5 thousand persons (78.1%) worked in the private sector, while 617.9 thousand (21.9%) worked in the public sector. Of all employees, 101.1 thousand persons (3.6%) had a temporary job (with limited duration).

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

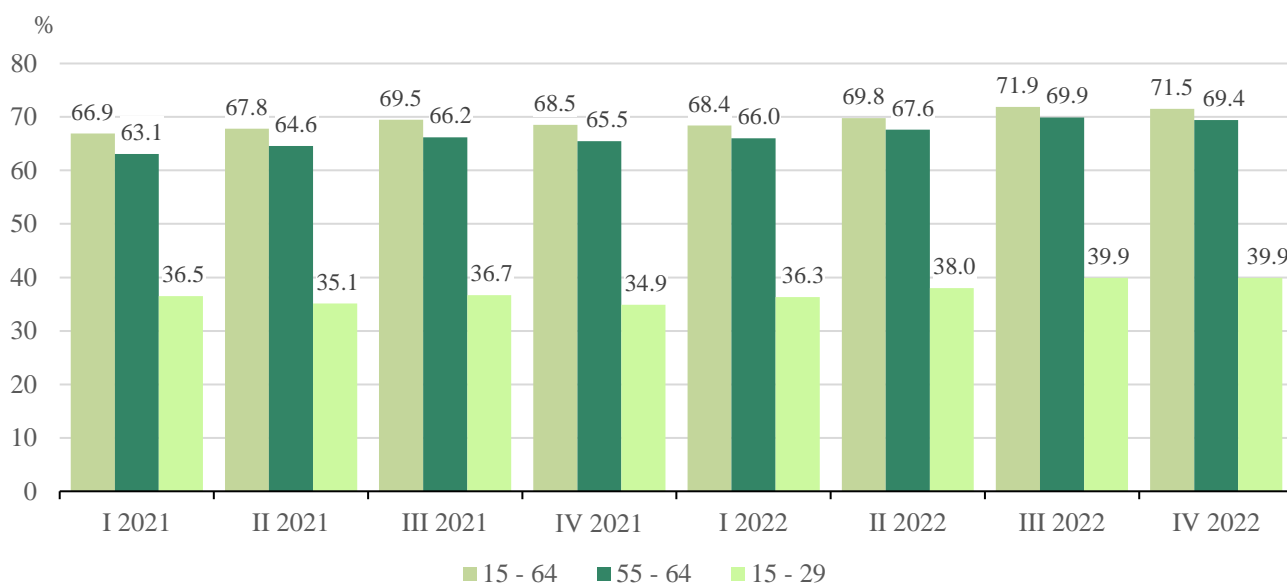
There were 3 095.1 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64**. The employment rate for the same age group was 71.5% (74.9% for men and 67.9% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 was 39.9% (42.9% for men and 36.7% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 was 76.9%, 80.7% and 72.9% for men and women respectively. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2021, this rate registered an increase of 3.3 percentage points (2.9 percentage points for men and 3.5 percentage points for women).

There were 628.7 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64**, representing 69.4% of the population in the same age group (74.7% of men and 64.5% of women). In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2021, the employment rate for the age group 55 - 64 increased by 3.9 percentage points.

Figure 1. Employment rates by age groups and by quarters



Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2022, the number of **unemployed persons** was 128.3 thousand - 70.8 thousand (55.2%) men and 57.5 thousand (44.8%) women. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2021, the number of unemployed persons dropped by 18.4 thousand (12.5%). Over the same period, **the unemployment rate** decreased by 0.6 percentage points and stood at 3.9%. The unemployment rate went down by 0.9 percentage points for men and by 0.5 percentage points for women, and in the fourth quarter of 2022 it reached 4.0% for men and 3.7% for women.

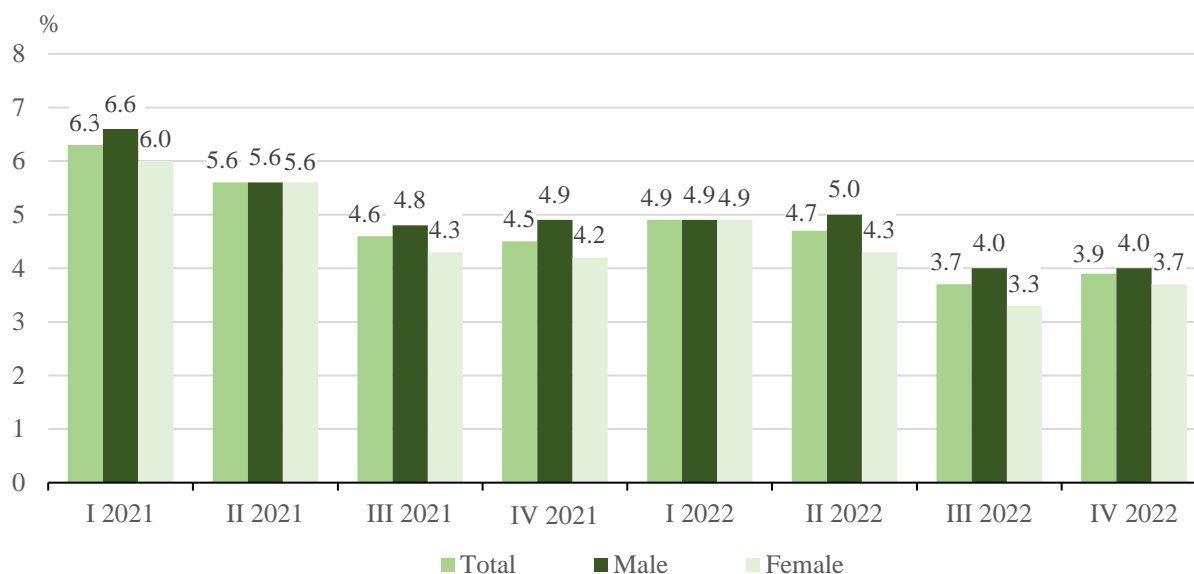
Among all unemployed persons, 14.7% had attained tertiary education, 52.5% had completed upper secondary education and 32.8% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 1.8% for tertiary education, 3.6% for upper secondary education and 11.0% for lower education (lower secondary or less).

In the fourth quarter of 2022, there were 67.6 thousand **long-term unemployed people** (unemployed for one year or more), representing 52.7% of all unemployed. **The long-term unemployment rate** declined by 0.5 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2021 to 2.0%, being higher for men (2.1%) as compared to women (1.9%).

Among all unemployed, 17.9 thousand persons (14.0%) were looking for their first job.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, **the youth unemployment rate (age group 15 - 29)** was 7.5% (7.9% for men and 7.0% for women), down by 2.2 percentage points in comparison with the same quarter of 2021. The unemployment rate (age group 15 - 29) went down by 1.2 percentage points for men and by 3.6 percentage points for women.

Figure 2. Unemployment rates by sex and by quarters



Economic inactivity

In the fourth quarter of 2022, there were 2 499.6 thousand **economically inactive persons (persons not in the labour force) aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 014.0 thousand (40.6%) men and 1 485.6 thousand (59.4%) women. **The economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64** were 1 110.9 thousand (481.5 thousand men and 629.4 thousand women), representing 25.6% of the population in the same age group (21.9% of men and 29.4% of women). Among all persons not in the labour force aged 15 - 64, 39.0% were inactive due to participation in education or training.



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, 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 jobs 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.

For weighting of the results of the survey for the fourth quarter of 2022, preliminary estimates of the population as of 30 September 2022 were used (based on the current demographic statistics), which did not reflect the data from the 2021 Census. The population living in institutional households was excluded.

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 fourth quarter of 2022 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 6.3%;
- unemployment rate - 6.2%.

Some of the totals 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 fourth quarter of 2022 can be found on the NSI website - www.nsi.bg, section 'Labour Market', Labour Force Survey.



Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2021 and 2022

	Fourth quarter 2021	Fourth quarter 2022	Change (fourth quarter 2022 minus fourth quarter 2021)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	71.8	74.4	2.6
Employed persons - total - in thousands	3080.5	3197.1	116.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2990.4	3095.1	104.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	99.5	135.9	36.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	337.3	380.8	43.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2983.9	3081.6	97.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	599.5	628.7	29.2
Employment rate - %	52.6	54.9	2.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	68.5	71.5	3.0
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.0	21.6	5.6
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	34.9	39.9	5.0
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	73.6	76.9	3.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	65.5	69.4	3.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	146.7	128.3	-18.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	144.5	125.5	-19.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	36.4	30.9	-5.5
Unemployment rate - %	4.5	3.9	-0.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.6	3.9	-0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.7	7.5	-2.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.5	2.0	-0.5
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	58.5	52.4	-6.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	56.3	50.9	-5.4

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2021 and 2022

(Continued)

	Fourth quarter 2021	Fourth quarter 2022	Change (fourth quarter 2022 minus fourth quarter 2021)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	75.9	78.1	2.2
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1647.5	1702.5	55.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1594.4	1643.9	49.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	60.5	77.2	16.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	193.4	210.5	17.1
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1591.5	1636.8	45.3
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	309.9	327.6	17.7
Employment rate - %	58.8	61.1	2.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	72.2	74.9	2.7
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.0	23.9	4.9
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	39.0	42.9	3.9
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	77.8	80.7	2.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	70.2	74.7	4.5
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	84.2	70.8	-13.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	82.8	68.7	-14.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	19.3	18.1	-1.2
Unemployment rate - %	4.9	4.0	-0.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.9	4.0	-0.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.1	7.9	-1.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.8	2.1	-0.7
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	30.6	26.3	-4.3
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	28.9	25.0	-3.9

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2021 and 2022

(Continued and end)

	Fourth quarter 2021	Fourth quarter 2022	Change (fourth quarter 2022 minus fourth quarter 2021)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	67.5	70.6	3.1
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1432.9	1494.6	61.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1396.0	1451.2	55.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	39.0	58.6	19.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	143.8	170.3	26.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1392.4	1444.8	52.4
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	289.6	301.2	11.6
Employment rate - %	46.9	49.2	2.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	64.7	67.9	3.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	12.9	19.2	6.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	30.5	36.7	6.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	69.4	72.9	3.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	61.1	64.5	3.4
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	62.5	57.5	-5.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	61.7	56.8	-4.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	17.0	12.8	-4.2
Unemployment rate - %	4.2	3.7	-0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.2	3.8	-0.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.6	7.0	-3.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.2	1.9	-0.3
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	27.9	26.2	-1.7
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	27.5	25.8	-1.7