



## PRELIMINARY LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2011

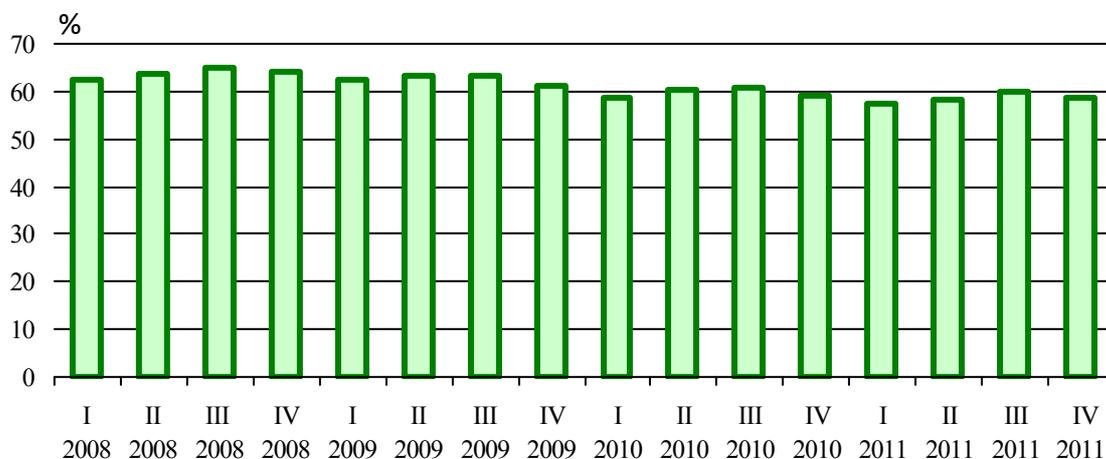
### 1. Main labour market indicators for the population aged 15 - 64

According to the preliminary results from the Labour Force Survey, carried out by the National Statistical Institute in the fourth quarter of 2011 **the economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 3 291.8 thousand, representing 66.3% of the population in the same age group. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2010 the number of economically active population went down by 67.1 thousand and the activity rate was by 0.3 percentage points lower.

**In the fourth quarter of 2011 the number of employed persons aged 15 - 64** was 2 913.2 thousand. **The employment rate for the population** of the same age group was 58.7%, down by 0.3 percentage points as compared to the same quarter of 2010.

**In comparison with the third quarter of 2011** the number of employed persons aged 15 - 64 decreased by 62.1 thousand and the employment rate for the population of the same age group by 1.2 percentage points.

Figure 1. Employment rate (15 - 64 years) by quarter<sup>1</sup>



In the fourth quarter of 2011 **the economically inactive population aged 15 - 64 (not in the labour force)** was 1 672.1 thousand, and the inactivity rate was 33.7%.

### 2. Main characteristics of employed persons aged 15 and over

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the total number of **employed persons aged 15 and over** was 2 955.2 thousand and had a relative share of 45.7% of population of the same age.

<sup>1</sup> The data for the IV<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2011 are preliminary.



Compared to the same period of 2010 their number decreased by 68.5 thousand (by 2.3%) and their relative share - by 0.6 percentage points.

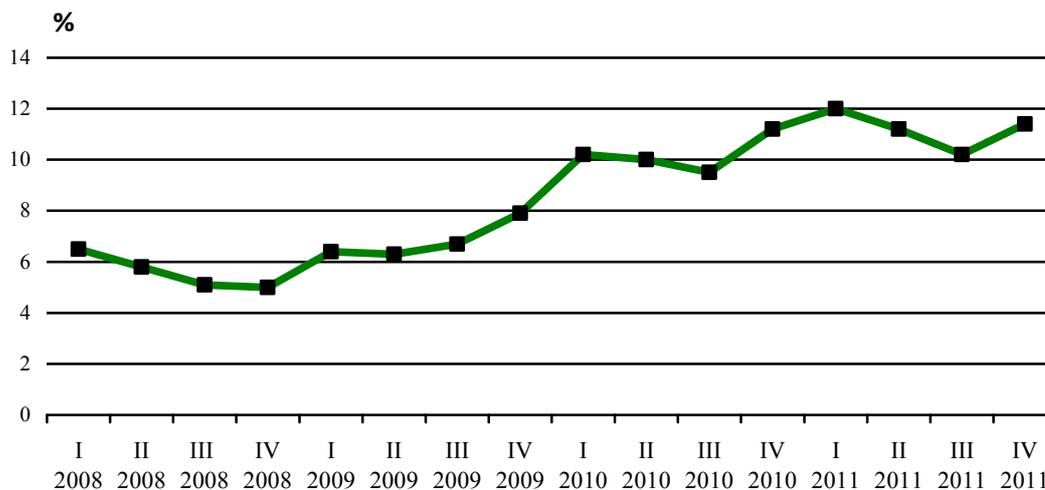
In comparison with the third quarter of 2011 the number of employed persons aged 15 and over fell by 63.1 thousand and their relative share - by 0.9 percentage points.

### 3. Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the **number of unemployed** was 380.6 thousand and the **unemployment rate** - 11.4%.

In comparison with the same quarter of 2010 the unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points, while in comparison with the third quarter of 2011 its increase was by 1.2 percentage points.

Figure 2. Unemployment rate by quarter<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The data for the IV<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2011 are preliminary.



## 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 of 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.

**Inactive population** (persons not in the labour force) includes persons aged 15 and over who were neither employed, nor unemployed during the reference period.

**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.

**Inactivity rate** - ratio between the economically inactive population and the total population of the same age group.

For the weighting of the results of the survey the demographic estimates as of 31 December 2010 for the total population are used.

Final LFS data for the fourth quarter of 2011 will be presented on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012 (according to the Calendar presenting the results of the statistical surveys) on the NSI website - [www.nsi.bg](http://www.nsi.bg), section "Labor Market", Labour Force Survey.

APPENDIX

Table 1

MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS,  
FOURTH QUARTER OF 2010 AND 2011

	Fourth quarter 2010	Fourth quarter 2011 <sup>1</sup>	Change (Fourth quarter 2011 minus Fourth quarter 2010)
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	66.6	66.3	-0.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	3023.7	2955.2	-68.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	2978.7	2913.2	-65.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	46.3	45.7	-0.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	59.0	58.7	-0.3
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	382.4	380.6	-1.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	380.2	378.6	-1.6
Unemployment rate - %	11.2	11.4	0.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	11.3	11.5	0.2

<sup>1</sup>Preliminary data.