



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY, THIRD QUARTER OF 2012 (PRELIMINARY DATA)

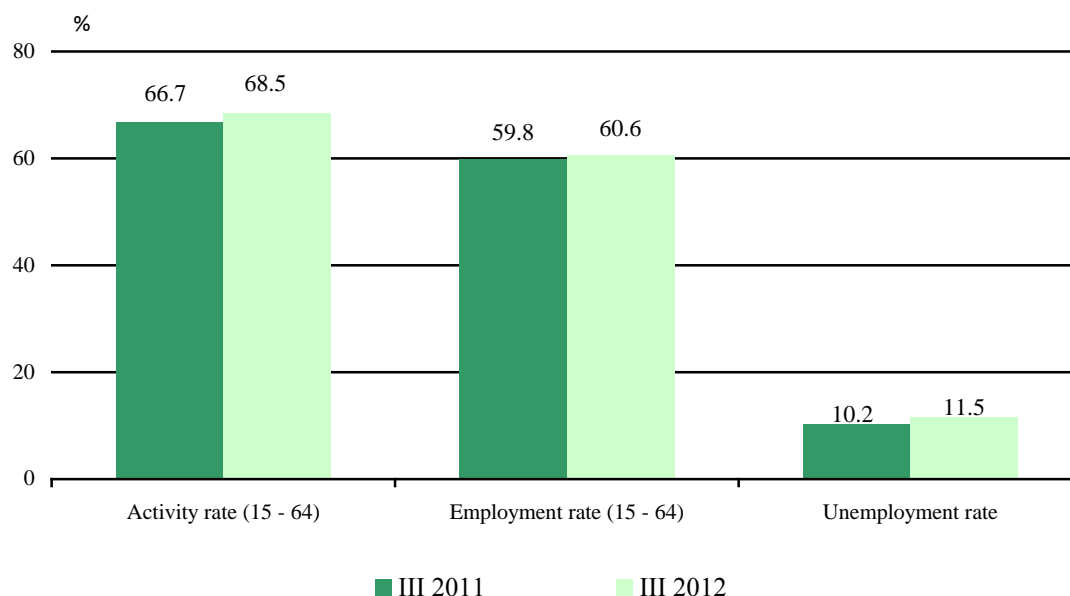
According to the preliminary results from the Labour Force Survey, carried out by the National Statistical Institute in the third quarter of 2012 **the economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 3 369.3 thousand, representing 68.5% of the population in the same age group. In comparison with the third quarter of 2011 the activity rate was by 1.8 percentage points higher¹.

The total number of employed persons was 3 015.9 thousand and their proportion of population aged 15 and over was 47.9%.

The number of employed persons aged 15 - 64 was 2 977.3 thousand. **The employment rate for the population** of the same age group was 60.6%, by 0.8 percentage points higher than in the third quarter of 2011.

The number of unemployed persons was 392.9 thousand and **the unemployment rate** was 11.5%. In comparison with the same quarter of 2011 the unemployment rate increased by 1.3 percentage points.

**Figure 1. Activity, employment and unemployment rates
in the third quarter of 2011 and 2012**



¹ Comparisons are made with the revised data for the third quarter of 2011 (see methodological notes).



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 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.

For the weighting of the results of the survey the current population estimates as of 30 June 2012 for the population living in non-institutional households were used. Since the beginning of 2012 a new weighting procedure has been implemented and the results from the survey were adjusted to the population of the country by sex, urban/rural areas and five-year age groups. With the view to ensure comparability the same method was used for reweighting and adjustment of the results for the respective quarter of 2011 (shown in Table 1), using 2011 Population Census data.

Final Labour Force Survey data for the third quarter of 2012 will be presented on 21st of November 2012 on the NSI website - www.nsi.bg, section "Labour Market", Labour Force Survey.



Annex

Table 1

**Main labour market indicators,
third quarter of 2011 and 2012**

	Third quarter of 2011 ¹	Third quarter of 2012 ²	Change (third quarter of 2012 minus third quarter of 2011)
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	66.7	68.5	1.8
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	3036.5	3015.9	-20.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	2997.2	2977.3	-19.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	47.7	47.9	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	59.8	60.6	0.8
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	346.5	392.9	46.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	345.5	392.0	46.5
Unemployment rate - %	10.2	11.5	1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	10.3	11.6	1.3

¹ Revised data.

² Preliminary data.