



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2014

### Main labour market data for the third quarter of 2014

**The activity rate of population aged 15 - 64** was 70.4%, by 0.8 percentage point higher in comparison with the third quarter of 2013.

**The employment rate of population aged 15 - 64** was 62.8%, by 1.7 percentage points above its value for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

**The unemployment rate** was 10.8%, by 1.2 percentage points lower compared to the same quarter of 2013.

There were 174.9 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 12.3% of the total number of inactive persons in the same age group (1 418.2 thousand).

### Employment

In the third quarter of 2014 the total number of **employed persons aged 15 years and over** was 3 061.9 thousand and represented 49.3% of the population in the same age group. In comparison with the third quarter of 2013 the proportion of employed persons rose by 1.1 percentage points and an increase was registered for both men (by 1.4 percentage points) and women (by 0.7 percentage points). Among all men aged 15 years and over 1 624.1 thousand (54.3%) had job, while among women from the same age group in employment were 1 437.7 thousand (44.6%).

In services worked 1 900.9 thousand persons (62.1% of all employed persons), in industry worked 926.3 thousand persons (30.3%), and 234.7 thousand persons (7.7%) were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.7% (113.8 thousand) were employers, 8.3% (254.2 thousand) were own account workers without employees, 87.2% (2 669.4 thousand) were employees and 0.8% (24.5 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of the employees 1 979.5 thousand (74.2%) worked in private sector and 689.9 thousand (25.8%) worked in public sector

About 171 thousand employees, accounting for 6.4% of all employees, had temporary job. Among them 81.4% were in private sector, 61.6% worked in services.

In the third quarter of 2014 the employment in particular age groups was as follows:

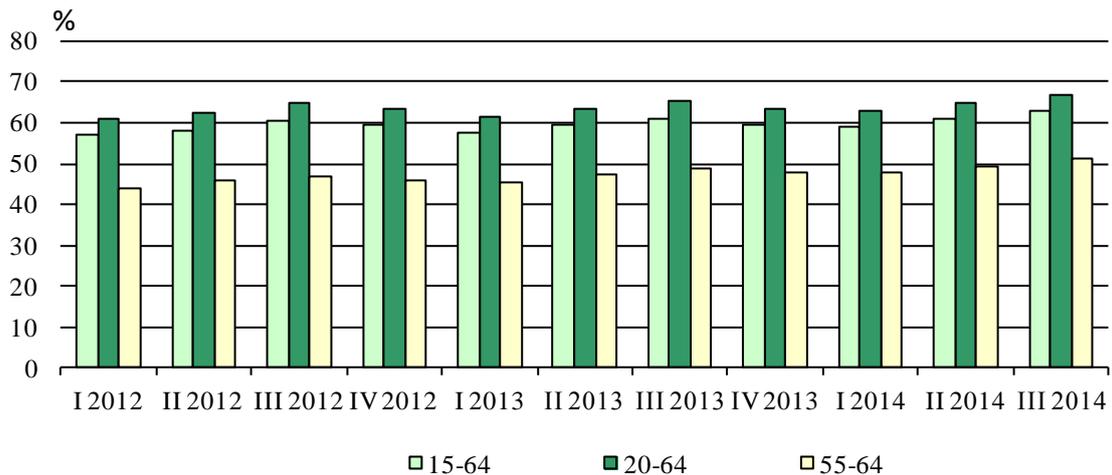
There were 3 007.2 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64**. The employment rate for this age group was 62.8%, 65.8% and 59.7% for men and women respectively.

**The employment rate for age group 15 - 29** was 40.6%, 45.8% for men and 35.2% for women.

**The employment rate for age group 20 - 64** was 66.9%, by 1.6 percentage points higher than in the same quarter of 2013. It went up by 1.9 percentage points for men and by 1.3 percentage points for women, standing at 70.2% and 63.5% respectively.

There were 525.6 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64**, representing 51.5% of population in the same age group. In comparison with the third quarter of 2013 the employment rate (55 - 64 years) rose by 2.6 percentage points and the increase did not differ considerably for men and women.

**Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter**



## Unemployment

In the third quarter of 2014 there were 368.8 thousand **unemployed persons** and the **unemployment rate** was 10.8%. In comparison with the third quarter of 2013 the number of unemployed persons was by 10.4% lower, and the unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points. The decrease of unemployment was a bit higher for women compared to men - the unemployment rate declined by 1.4 and 1.1 percentage points respectively and reached 9.9% (for women) and 11.5% (for men). Of all unemployed persons in the third quarter of 2014, 211.6 thousand (57.4%) were men and 157.2 thousand (42.6%) were women.

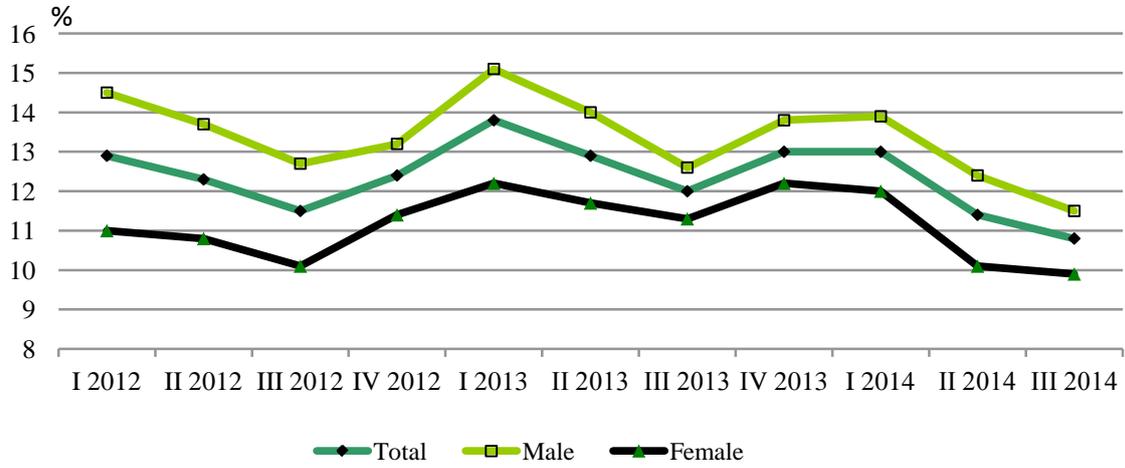
**Long-term unemployed (for one year and over)** were 226.2 thousand persons or 61.3% of the total number of unemployed people in the third quarter of 2014 and in comparison with the third quarter of previous year their share was by 2.3 percentage points higher. For the period concerned the **long-term unemployment rate** went down by 0.5 percentage points and stood at 6.6%, remaining higher for men than for women (7.4 and 5.7% respectively).

Of the total number of unemployed persons 56.0 thousand (15.2%) were looking for a first job.

In the third quarter of 2014 the unemployment rate for **young people aged 15 - 29** was 15.7% (15.3% for men and 16.2% for women). The rate was by 4.2 percentage points lower than in the same quarter of 2013, marking decrease of 5.2 percentage points for men and 2.8 percentage points for women.



**Figure 2. Unemployment rate by sex and by quarter**





## 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.

**Long-term unemployed** are persons who have been unemployed for one or more years.

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

**Discouraged persons** are persons not in the labour force who want to work but they do not actively look for a job, because they do not believe they will find one.

**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.

**Long-term unemployment rate** - ratio between the long-term unemployed persons and the economically active population.

The distribution of the employed persons by economic sector is done in accordance with the Classification of Economic Activities - 2008.

For the weighting of the results of the survey for the third quarter of 2014 the preliminary population estimates as of 30 June 2014 for the population living in non-institutional households were used.



Like all sample surveys data from the Labour Force Survey are subject of errors due to the sample (stochastic errors). The calculated relative standard errors for the main LFS indicators for the third quarter of 2014 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.3%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 3.7%;
- unemployment rate - 3.5%.

Because of the rounding of the figures some of the totals (rows and columns) 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](http://www.nsi.bg), section 'Labour Market', Labour Force Survey.



Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2013 and 2014

	Third quarter 2013	Third quarter 2014	Change (Third quarter 2014 minus Third quarter 2013)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	69.6	70.4	0.8
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3012.9	3061.9	49.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2965.0	3007.2	42.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	176.7	173.9	-2.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	486.0	494.9	8.9
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2953.8	2993.8	40.0
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	506.2	525.6	19.4
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	48.2	49.3	1.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	61.1	62.8	1.7
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.0	23.7	0.7
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	38.7	40.6	1.9
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	65.3	66.9	1.6
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	48.9	51.5	2.6
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	411.6	368.8	-42.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	409.0	365.1	-43.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	64.7	47.2	-17.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	120.6	92.3	-28.3
Unemployment rate - %	12.0	10.8	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	12.1	10.8	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	26.8	21.4	-5.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	19.9	15.7	-4.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	7.1	6.6	-0.5
Discouraged persons - in thousands	192.2	178.5	-13.7
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	189.6	174.9	-14.7


**Table 1**
**Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2013 and 2014**

(Continued)

	<b>Third quarter 2013</b>	<b>Third quarter 2014</b>	<b>Change (Third quarter 2014 minus Third quarter 2013)</b>
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	73.3	74.5	1.2
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1592.3	1624.1	31.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1560.7	1589.9	29.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	98.6	104.6	6.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	275.7	286.8	11.1
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1553.4	1582.1	28.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	261.0	270.6	9.6
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	52.9	54.3	1.4
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	63.9	65.8	1.9
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	25.0	27.8	2.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	42.7	45.8	3.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.3	70.2	1.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	53.4	56.1	2.7
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	230.3	211.6	-18.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	229.1	209.5	-19.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	42.4	28.6	-13.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	71.2	52.0	-19.2
Unemployment rate - %	12.6	11.5	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	12.8	11.6	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	30.1	21.5	-8.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	20.5	15.3	-5.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	7.5	7.4	-0.1
Discouraged persons - in thousands	109.7	99.6	-10.1
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	108.8	97.5	-11.3


**Table 1**
**Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2013 and 2014**

(Continued and end)

	<b>Third quarter 2013</b>	<b>Third quarter 2014</b>	<b>Change (Third quarter 2014 minus Third quarter 2013)</b>
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	65.8	66.2	0.4
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1420.7	1437.7	17.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1404.3	1417.2	12.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	78.1	69.2	-8.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	210.3	208.1	-2.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1400.5	1411.7	11.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	245.3	255.1	9.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	43.9	44.6	0.7
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	58.3	59.7	1.4
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	20.9	19.4	-1.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	34.5	35.2	0.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	62.2	63.5	1.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	44.9	47.4	2.5
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	181.3	157.2	-24.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	179.9	155.6	-24.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	22.3	18.7	-3.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	49.5	40.3	-9.2
Unemployment rate - %	11.3	9.9	-1.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	11.4	9.9	-1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.2	21.2	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	19.0	16.2	-2.8
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.6	5.7	-0.9
Discouraged persons - in thousands	82.4	78.9	-3.5
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	80.8	77.5	-3.3