



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2015

### Main labour market data for the fourth quarter of 2015

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 69.2%, by 0.4 percentage points higher in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2014.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 63.7%, by 2.3 percentage points above its value for the corresponding quarter of 2014.

**The unemployment rate** was 7.9%, by 2.7 percentage points lower compared to the same quarter of 2014.

There were 1 447.9 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 30.8% of population in the same age group. 165.7 thousand of them (11.4%) were **discouraged persons**. The number of discouraged persons (aged 15 - 64) decreased by 19.4 thousand, as compared with a year ago.

### Employment

In the fourth quarter of 2015 there were 3 061.7 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of which 1 627.3 thousand men and 1 434.5 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 49.7%, up by 1.5 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter of 2014. In employment were 54.9% of men and 44.8% of women of the age group concerned.

Between the fourth quarters of 2014 and 2015 was observed an increase of 0.4 percentage points in regards of the share of employed persons in the services sector, where the number of employed persons achieved 1 937.3 thousand (63.3% of all in employment). In the industry sector worked 927.1 thousand persons (30.3%), while in agriculture, forestry and fishing worked 197.3 thousand (6.4%).

Of all employed persons 3.6% (109.6 thousand) were employers, 7.4% (226.0 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.4% (2 705.2 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (20.9 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Among the employees 2 012.1 thousand persons (74.4%) worked in private sector and 693.1 thousand (25.6%) worked in public sector. As compared with the fourth quarter of 2014 the number of employees in private sector increased by 4.8%, while those in public sector remained almost the same.

Of all employees 100.1 thousand (3.7%) had temporary job.

In the fourth quarter of 2015 the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

There were 2 999.6 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 63.7% (67.0% for men and 60.4% for women).

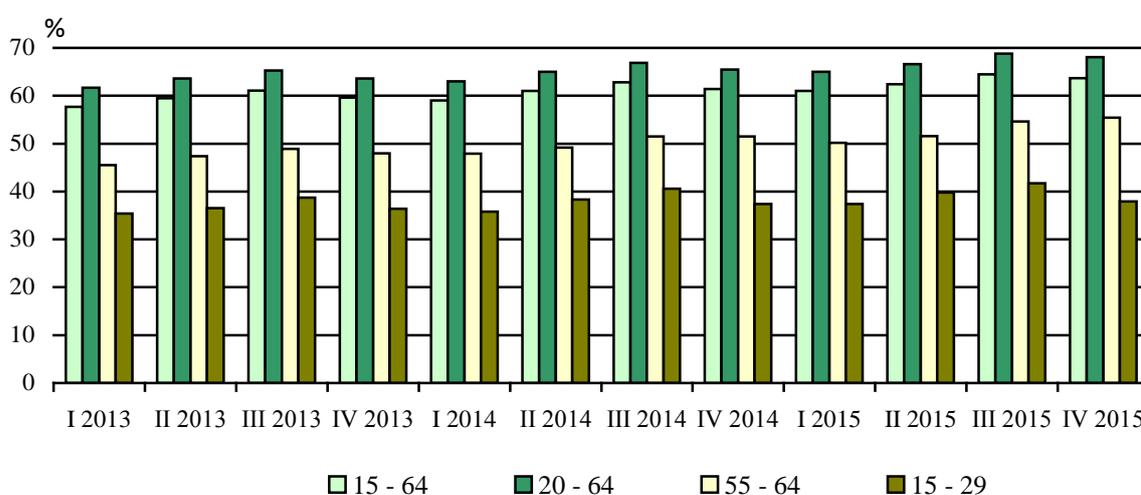
**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 37.9% (40.9% for men and 34.7% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 68.1%, 71.7% and 64.5% for men and women respectively. From the fourth quarter of 2014 it increased by 2.6 percentage points as the increase was higher for men (by 3.4 percentage points) than for women (by 1.9 percentage points).



There were 550.8 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 55.4% of population in the same age group (58.9% of men и 52.3% of women). In comparison with a year earlier the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 3.9 percentage points, by 3.4 percentage points for men and by 4.3 percentage points for women.

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



## Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2015 there were 261.0 thousand **unemployed persons** and **the unemployment rate** was 7.9%. The number of unemployed persons was by 26.4% lower than in the fourth quarter of 2014 and the unemployment rate decreased by 2.7 percentage points.

In the period concerned the unemployment rate went down for men and for women, but its value remained higher for men (8.0%) than for women (7.6%). Of the total number of unemployed persons in the fourth quarter of 2015, 142.4 thousand (54.5%) were men and 118.7 thousand (45.5%) were women.

Among all unemployed persons 13.9% had higher education, 52.0% had upper secondary education and 34.1% had lower secondary education or less.

In the fourth quarter of 2015 there were 156.4 thousand **long-term unemployed persons**, representing 59.9% of all unemployed. The long-term unemployment rate was 4.7%, and compared to the same quarter of 2014 dropped by 2.1 percentage points. The long-term unemployment rate declined for both, men and women, and achieved 5.0% for men and 4.4% for women.

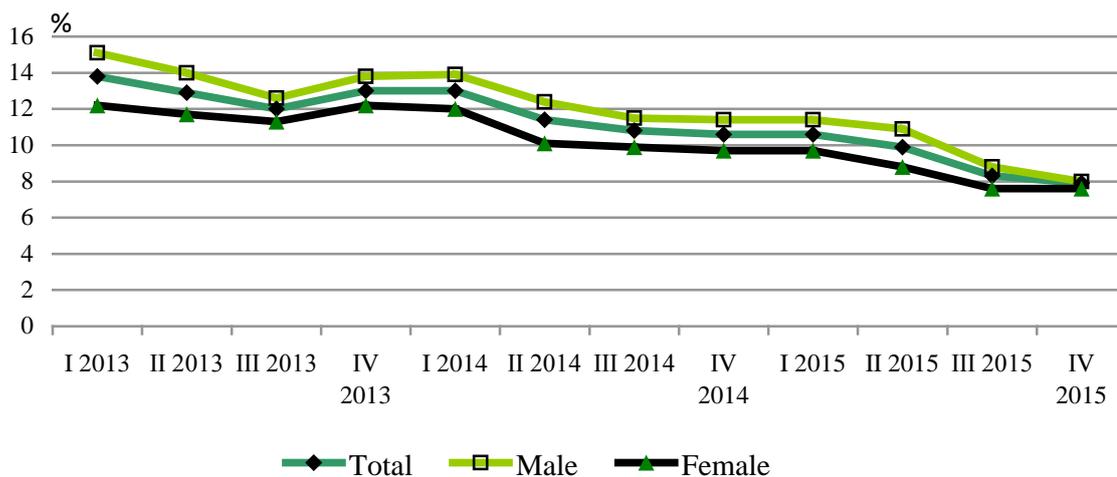
Of the total number of unemployed persons 44.9 thousand (17.2%) were looking for a first job.

In the fourth quarter of 2015 **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29** was 14.5%, 15.0% and 13.9% for men and women respectively. In comparison with the same period of 2014 the unemployment



rate (15 - 29 years) decreased by 3.1 percentage points, by 3.5 percentage points for men and by 2.6 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.

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

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 fourth quarter of 2015 the preliminary data on population as of 30 September 2015 (excluding population living in 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 fourth quarter of 2015 are as follows:



- total number of employed persons - 1.2%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 4.1%;
- unemployment rate - 3.9%.

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, fourth quarter of 2014 and 2015

	Fourth quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2015	Change (Fourth quarter 2015 minus Fourth quarter 2014)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	68.8	69.2	0.4
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	2989.7	3061.7	72.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2934.0	2999.6	65.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	143.0	127.9	-15.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	453.5	446.3	-7.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2923.0	2992.5	69.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	523.1	550.8	27.7
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	48.2	49.7	1.5
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	61.4	63.7	2.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.7	18.4	-1.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	37.4	37.9	0.5
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	65.5	68.1	2.6
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	51.5	55.4	3.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	354.5	261.0	-93.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	351.4	259.3	-92.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	45.2	37.0	-8.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	97.1	75.8	-21.3
Unemployment rate - %	10.6	7.9	-2.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	10.7	8.0	-2.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.0	22.4	-1.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	17.6	14.5	-3.1
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.8	4.7	-2.1
Discouraged persons - in thousands	188.5	167.7	-20.8
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	185.1	165.7	-19.4

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2014 and 2015

(Continued)

	Fourth quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2015	Change (Fourth quarter 2015 minus Fourth quarter 2014)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.3	72.9	0.6
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1574.4	1627.3	52.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1541.4	1590.6	49.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	82.1	75.4	-6.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	253.4	247.7	-5.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1534.7	1586.8	52.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	266.7	277.9	11.2
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	52.7	54.9	2.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	64.0	67.0	3.0
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.1	21.1	-1.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	40.7	40.9	0.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.3	71.7	3.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	55.5	58.9	3.4
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	203.0	142.4	-60.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	201.1	141.5	-59.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	26.9	20.3	-6.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	57.5	43.8	-13.7
Unemployment rate - %	11.4	8.0	-3.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	11.5	8.2	-3.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.7	21.2	-3.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	18.5	15.0	-3.5
Long-term unemployment rate - %	7.7	5.0	-2.7
Discouraged persons - in thousands	103.3	91.1	-12.2
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	101.6	90.2	-11.4



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2014 and 2015

(Continued and end)

	Fourth quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2015	Change (Fourth quarter 2015 minus Fourth quarter 2014)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	65.2	65.5	0.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1415.3	1434.5	19.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1392.6	1409.0	16.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	61.0	52.5	-8.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	200.1	198.6	-1.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1388.3	1405.7	17.4
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	256.4	272.9	16.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	44.0	44.8	0.8
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	58.8	60.4	1.6
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	17.3	15.5	-1.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	34.0	34.7	0.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	62.6	64.5	1.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	48.0	52.3	4.3
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	151.5	118.7	-32.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	150.3	117.9	-32.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	18.3	16.7	-1.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	39.6	32.0	-7.6
Unemployment rate - %	9.7	7.6	-2.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	9.7	7.7	-2.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.1	24.1	1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	16.5	13.9	-2.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.8	4.4	-1.4
Discouraged persons - in thousands	85.2	76.6	-8.6
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	83.4	75.5	-7.9