



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2016

### Main labour market indicators for the third quarter of 2016

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 69.1%, down by 1.3 percentage points from the third quarter of 2015.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 64.2%, decreasing by 0.3 percentage points in comparison with the respective quarter of 2015.

**The unemployment rate** was 7.0%, by 1.3 percentage points lower compared to the same quarter of 2015.

There were 1 437.7 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 30.9% of population in the same age group. 157.6 thousand (11.0%) of them were **discouraged persons** and their number remained the same as in the third quarter of 2015.

### Employment

In the third quarter of 2016 there were 3 052.7 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 623.7 thousand men and 1 429.1 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 49.9% and went down by 0.4 percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2015. In employment were 55.2% of men and 45.0% of women in the age group concerned.

In the third quarter of 2016, 63.5% of employed persons worked in the service sector whereas their number achieved 1 939.1 thousand. In the industry sector worked 893.5 thousand persons (29.3% of all employed), while in agriculture, forestry and fishing worked 220.1 thousand (7.2%).

Of all employed persons 3.5% (105.6 thousand) were employers, 7.6% (232.7 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.4% (2 697.3 thousand) were employees and 0.6% (17.2 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Among the employees 2 010.2 thousand persons (74.5%) worked in private sector and 687.1 thousand (25.5%) worked in public sector. In comparison with the third quarter of 2015 the number of employees decreased in both sectors, by 1.0% in private sector and by 0.6% in public sector.

Of all employees 140.9 thousand persons (5.2%) had temporary job.

In the third quarter of 2016 the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

There were 2 988.1 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. **The employment rate for the same age group** was 64.2% (67.5% for men and 60.9% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 38.9% (44.0% for men and 33.6% for women).

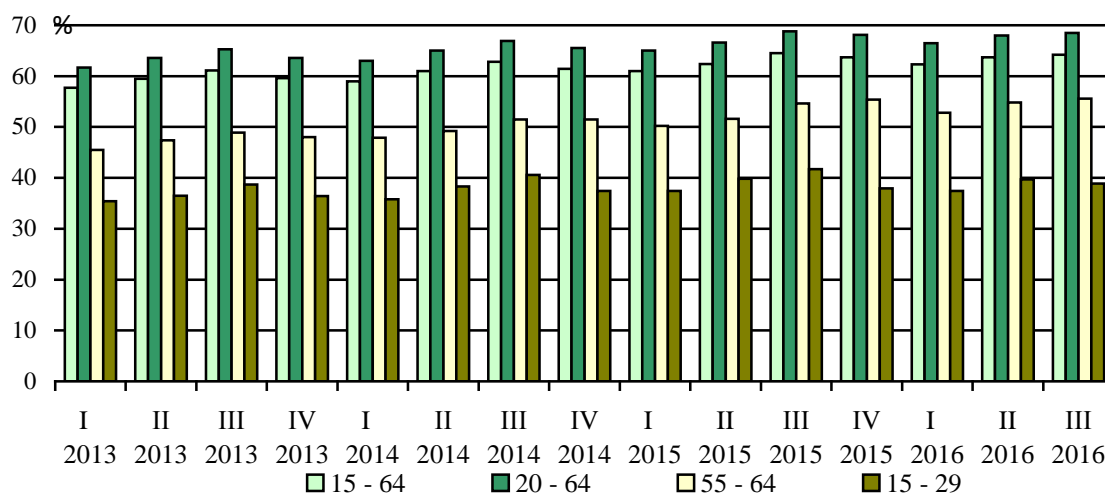
**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 68.5%, 72.0% and 65.0% for men and women respectively. Compared to the third quarter of 2015 this rate was lower by 0.3 percentage points, by 0.1 percentage points for men and by 0.4 percentage points for women.

There were 547.5 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 55.6% of population in the same age group (59.4% of men and 52.1% of women). In comparison with a year earlier



the employment rate (55 - 64 years) was higher by 1.0 percentage points, by 0.7 percentage points for men and by 1.2 percentage points for women.

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



## Unemployment

In the third quarter of 2016 there were 229.0 thousand **unemployed persons** and **the unemployment rate** was 7.0%. In comparison with the third quarter of 2015 the number of unemployed persons went down by 50.3 thousand and **the unemployment rate** decreased by 1.3 percentage points.

Over the same period the unemployment rate declined for both, men and women, and achieved 7.4% for men and 6.5% for women. Of the total number of unemployed persons in the third quarter of 2016, 130.1 thousand (56.8%) were men and 98.9 thousand (43.2%) were women.

Among all unemployed persons 14.2% had higher education, 50.3% had upper secondary education and 35.5% had lower secondary education or less.

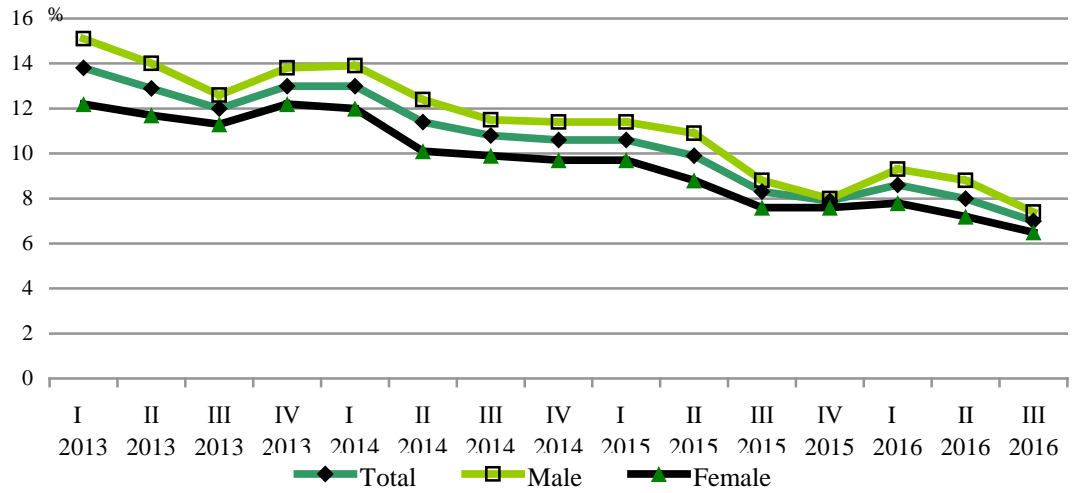
In the third quarter of 2016 there were 142.4 thousand **long-term unemployed persons**, representing 62.2% of all unemployed. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 4.3%, and in comparison with the respective quarter of 2015 it decreased by 0.9 percentage points. The long-term unemployment rate was 4.7% for men and 3.9% for women.

Of the total number of unemployed persons 41.0 thousand (17.9%) were looking for a first job.

In the third quarter of 2016 **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 11.8% (12.6% for men and 10.7% for women). In comparison with the third quarter of 2015 this rate was lower by 0.6 percentage points, but a decline was observed only for women - by 2.2 percentage points.



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.

For the weighting of the results of the survey for the third quarter of 2016 preliminary data on population as of 30 June 2016 (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 third quarter of 2016 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.3%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 4.5%;
- unemployment rate - 4.3%.



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 2015 and 2016

	Third quarter 2015	Third quarter 2016	Change (Third quarter 2016 minus Third quarter 2015)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	70.4	69.1	-1.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3104.7	3052.7	-52.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3044.1	2988.1	-56.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	158.6	131.3	-27.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	494.6	445.5	-49.1
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	3030.7	2975.2	-55.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	545.4	547.5	2.1
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	50.3	49.9	-0.4
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	64.5	64.2	-0.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.6	19.6	-3.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	41.7	38.9	-2.8
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.8	68.5	-0.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	54.6	55.6	1.0
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	279.3	229.0	-50.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	276.6	227.3	-49.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	37.7	30.4	-7.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	70.3	59.6	-10.7
Unemployment rate - %	8.3	7.0	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	8.3	7.1	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.2	18.8	-0.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	12.4	11.8	-0.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.2	4.3	-0.9
Discouraged persons - in thousands	160.4	159.3	-1.1
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	157.5	157.6	0.1



**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2015 and 2016**

(Continued)

	Third quarter 2015	Third quarter 2016	Change (Third quarter 2016 minus Third quarter 2015)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	74.2	73.0	-1.2
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1646.0	1623.7	-22.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1608.6	1584.6	-24.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	95.3	77.0	-18.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	284.6	258.4	-26.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1600.7	1576.0	-24.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	277.9	278.5	0.6
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	55.5	55.2	-0.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.6	67.5	-0.1
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	26.5	22.3	-4.2
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	46.7	44.0	-2.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	72.1	72.0	-0.1
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	58.7	59.4	0.7
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	159.1	130.1	-29.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	157.5	128.8	-28.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	22.8	18.5	-4.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	39.2	37.2	-2.0
Unemployment rate - %	8.8	7.4	-1.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	8.9	7.5	-1.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.3	19.4	0.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	12.1	12.6	0.5
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.7	4.7	-1.0
Discouraged persons - in thousands	86.9	88.0	1.1
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	85.5	87.0	1.5



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2015 and 2016

(Continued and end)

	Third quarter 2015	Third quarter 2016	Change (Third quarter 2016 minus Third quarter 2015)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	66.5	65.2	-1.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1458.7	1429.1	-29.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1435.6	1403.5	-32.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	63.3	54.3	-9.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	210.1	187.1	-23.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1430.0	1399.1	-30.9
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	267.5	269.0	1.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	45.6	45.0	-0.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	61.4	60.9	-0.5
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.6	16.6	-2.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	36.4	33.6	-2.8
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	65.4	65.0	-0.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	50.9	52.1	1.2
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	120.1	98.9	-21.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	119.2	98.4	-20.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	14.9	11.8	-3.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	31.1	22.3	-8.8
Unemployment rate - %	7.6	6.5	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	7.7	6.6	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.1	17.9	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	12.9	10.7	-2.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.6	3.9	-0.7
Discouraged persons - in thousands	73.4	71.4	-2.0
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	71.9	70.5	-1.4