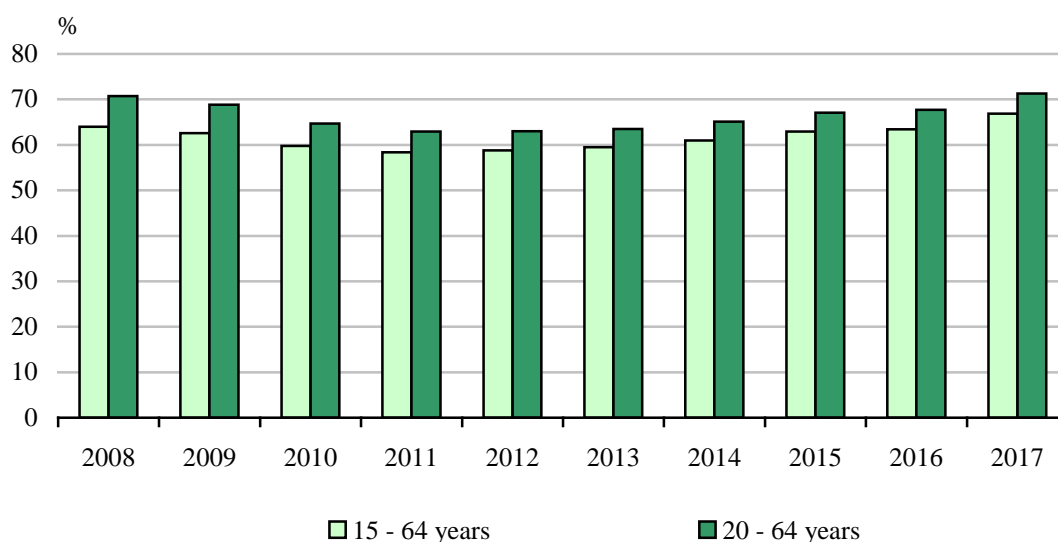




LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2017 MAIN RESULTS

- In 2017 the number of **economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 3 277.5 thousand and represented 71.3% of population in the same age group. The activity rate (15 - 64 years) went up by 2.6 percentage points compared to 2016.
- The **total number of employed persons** was 3 150.3 thousand, representing 51.9% of population aged 15 and over.
- There were 3 073.4 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64**. The **employment rate for the same age group** was 66.9% (70.6% for men and 63.1% for women).
- **The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 71.3%, by 3.6 percentage points higher compared to 2016. The employment rate (20 - 64 years) increased by 4.0 percentage points for men and by 3.3 percentage points for women, achieving 75.3% and 67.3% respectively.

Figure 1. Employment rates by age group

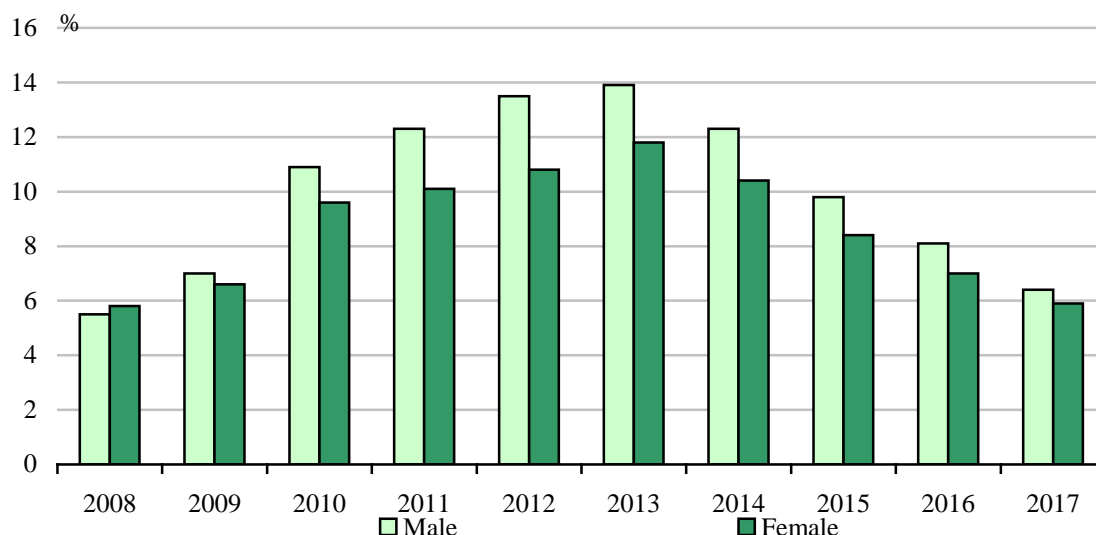


- **The employment rate for people aged 55 - 64** was 58.2%. In comparison with 2016 it registered an increase of 3.7 percentage points, 4.2 percentage points for men and 3.3 for women.
- There were 206.9 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 114.2 thousand men and 92.8 thousand women. From 2016 the number of unemployed persons has declined by 16.3%.
- **The unemployment rate** went down by 1.4 percentage points in comparison with 2016 and stood at 6.2%. Over the same period the unemployment rate decreased by 1.7 percentage



points for men and by 1.1 percentage points for women, achieving 6.4% and 5.9% respectively.

Figure 2. Unemployment rates by sex



- **The unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 24 years** was 12.9%, and for the **age group 15 - 29 years** - 9.9%. Compared to 2016 the unemployment rates for these age groups declined by 4.3 percentage points and by 2.3 percentage points respectively,
- The number of **long-term unemployed persons** was 113.8 thousand, representing 55.0% of all unemployed. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 3.4% (3.6% for men and 3.2% for women).
- There were 1 317.7 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, of whom 569.8 thousand men and 747.9 thousand women. **The inactivity rate (15 - 64 years)** was 28.7% (24.6% for men and 32.9% for women).
- The number of **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64** was 112.2 thousand.
- The share of **early leavers from education and training** of population aged 18 - 24 was 12.7%.
- The share of population **aged 30 - 34, having completed tertiary education** was 32.8%.



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 work within two weeks following the reference period.

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

Economically 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 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.

Early leavers from education and training - persons aged from 18 to 24 having attained lower secondary education as a highest and not received any education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey.



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Average annual data are calculated as average of the four quarters of the respective year.

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/en, section 'Labour Market', Labour Force Survey.



Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, 2016 and 2017

	2016	2017	Change (2017 minus 2016)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	68.7	71.3	2.6
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3016.8	3150.3	133.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2954.3	3073.4	119.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	133.4	148.6	15.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	440.3	464.5	24.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2943.0	3058.4	115.4
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	536.5	568.7	32.2
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	49.3	51.9	2.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	63.4	66.9	3.5
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.8	22.9	3.1
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	38.3	42.0	3.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	67.7	71.3	3.6
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	54.5	58.2	3.7
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	247.2	206.9	-40.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	245.3	204.1	-41.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	27.7	22.1	-5.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	61.4	51.0	-10.4
Unemployment rate - %	7.6	6.2	-1.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	7.7	6.2	-1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	17.2	12.9	-4.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	12.2	9.9	-2.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.5	3.4	-1.1
Discouraged persons - in thousands	165.8	115.8	-50.0
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	163.4	112.2	-51.2



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, 2016 and 2017

(Continued)

	2016	2017	Change (2017 minus 2016)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.7	75.4	2.7
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1607.6	1682.6	75.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1569.3	1638.6	69.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	80.1	88.3	8.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	254.9	270.7	15.8
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1562.5	1628.7	66.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	273.1	291.4	18.3
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	54.6	57.8	3.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	66.7	70.6	3.9
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.1	26.5	3.4
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	43.2	47.6	4.4
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	71.3	75.3	4.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	58.3	62.5	4.2
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	141.7	114.2	-27.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	140.5	112.5	-28.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	16.9	13.5	-3.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	39.1	30.9	-8.2
Unemployment rate - %	8.1	6.4	-1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	8.2	6.4	-1.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	17.4	13.3	-4.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	13.3	10.2	-3.1
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.8	3.6	-1.2
Discouraged persons - in thousands	91.5	60.7	-30.8
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	90.2	58.9	-31.3



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, 2016 and 2017

(Continued and end)

	2016	2017	Change (2017 minus 2016)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	64.6	67.1	2.5
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1409.2	1467.7	58.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1385.0	1434.8	49.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	53.3	60.3	7.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	185.4	193.8	8.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1380.5	1429.7	49.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	263.4	277.3	13.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	44.3	46.6	2.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	60.0	63.1	3.1
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.3	19.1	2.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	33.2	36.0	2.8
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	64.0	67.3	3.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	51.0	54.3	3.3
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	105.6	92.8	-12.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	104.7	91.6	-13.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	10.9	8.6	-2.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	22.3	20.2	-2.1
Unemployment rate - %	7.0	5.9	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	7.0	6.0	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.9	12.4	-4.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.8	9.4	-1.4
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.1	3.2	-0.9
Discouraged persons - in thousands	74.3	55.2	-19.1
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	73.2	53.4	-19.8