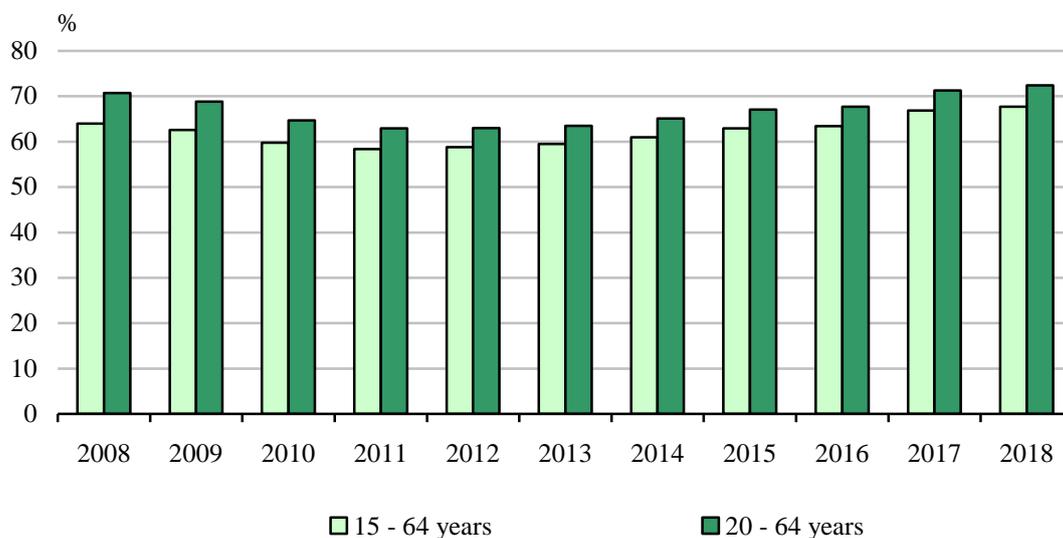




## LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2018 MAIN RESULTS

- In 2018 the number of **economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 3 239.6 thousand and represented 71.5% of population in the same age group.
- The **total number of employed persons** was 3 152.7 thousand, representing 52.4% of population aged 15 and over. Of them 1 685.3 thousand (53.5%) were men and 1 467.3 thousand (46.5%) were women.
- There were 3 068.9 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64**. The **employment rate for the same age group** was 67.7% (71.5% for men and 63.9% for women).
- **The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 72.4%, by 1.1 percentage points higher compared to 2017. The employment rate (20 - 64 years) increased by 1.2 percentage points for men and by 1.0 percentage point for women, achieving 76.5% and 68.3% respectively.

**Figure 1. Employment rates by age group**

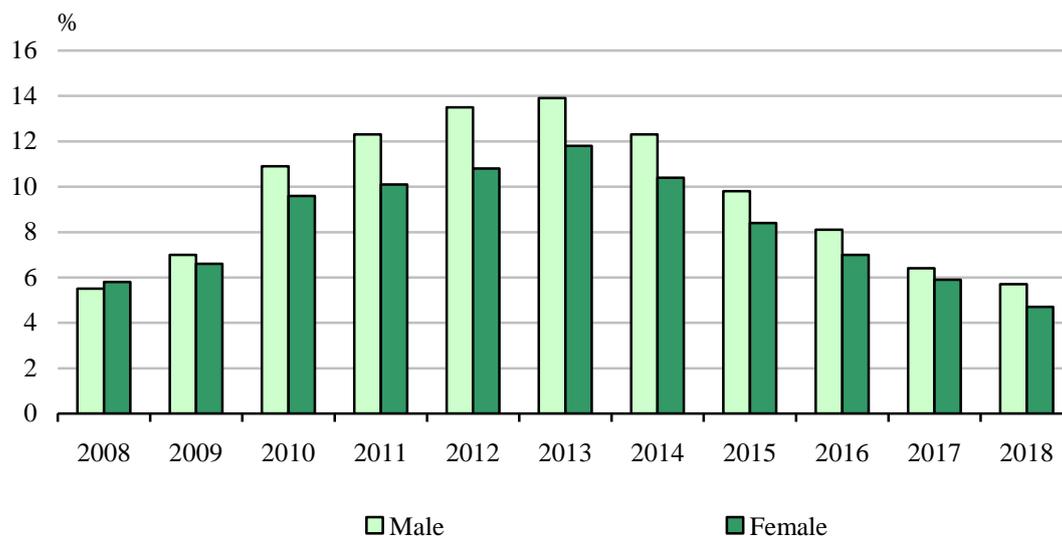


- **The employment rate for people aged 55 - 64** achieved 60.7% (65.4% for men and 56.4% for women). In comparison with 2017 it increased by 2.5 percentage points (by 2.9 percentage points for men and by 2.1 percentage points for women).
- There were 173.3 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 101.7 thousand men and 71.6 thousand women. From 2017 the number of unemployed persons has declined by 16.2%.
- **The unemployment rate** went down by 1.0 percentage point in comparison with 2017 and stood at 5.2%. Over the same period the unemployment rate decreased by 0.7 percentage



points for men and by 1.2 percentage points for women, achieving 5.7% and 4.7% respectively.

**Figure 2. Unemployment rates by sex**



- **The unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 8.3%. Compared to 2017 the unemployment rates for this age group declined by 1.6 percentage points.
- The number of **long-term unemployed persons** was 101.6 thousand, accounting for 58.6% of all unemployed. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 3.1% (3.4% for men and 2.6% for women).
- There were 1 291.4 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, of whom 552.5 thousand men and 739.0 thousand women. **The inactivity rate (15 - 64 years)** was 28.5% (24.1% for men and 33.0% for women).
- The number of **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64** was 81.4 thousand representing 6.3% of the economically inactive population in this age group.
- The proportion of **early leavers from education and training** of population aged 18 - 24 was 12.7%, the same as in 2017.
- The proportion of **population aged 30 - 34, having completed tertiary education** was 33.7%, by 0.9 percentage points higher than in 2017.
- The proportion of **young people aged 15 - 29 neither in employment nor in education and training** was 18.1% (compared to 18.9% in 2017).



## 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 (formal or non-formal) education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey.



**People neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET)** are those who were not employed during the reference period (i.e. were unemployed or economically inactive) and in the same time did not receive any (formal or non-formal) education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey.

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](http://www.nsi.bg/en), section 'Labour Market', Labour Force Survey.



Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, 2017 and 2018

	2017	2018	Change (2018 minus 2017)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	71.3	71.5	0.2
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3150.3	3152.7	2.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3073.4	3068.9	-4.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	148.6	130.3	-18.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	464.5	434.0	-30.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	3058.4	3054.6	-3.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	568.7	586.1	17.4
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	51.9	52.4	0.5
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	66.9	67.7	0.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.9	20.7	-2.2
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	42.0	40.8	-1.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	71.3	72.4	1.1
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	58.2	60.7	2.5
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	206.9	173.3	-33.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	204.1	170.8	-33.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	22.1	18.9	-3.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	51.0	39.1	-11.9
Unemployment rate - %	6.2	5.2	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.2	5.3	-0.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	12.9	12.7	-0.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.9	8.3	-1.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.4	3.1	-0.3
Discouraged persons - in thousands	115.8	85.4	-30.4
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	112.2	81.4	-30.8



**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators, 2017 and 2018**

(Continued)

	2017	2018	Change (2018 minus 2017)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	75.4	75.9	0.5
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1682.6	1685.3	2.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1638.6	1636.6	-2.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	88.3	78.2	-10.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	270.7	251.3	-19.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1628.7	1628.1	-0.6
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	291.4	302.2	10.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	57.8	58.4	0.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	70.6	71.5	0.9
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	26.5	24.2	-2.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	47.6	46.0	-1.6
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	75.3	76.5	1.2
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	62.5	65.4	2.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	114.2	101.7	-12.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	112.5	100.2	-12.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	13.5	11.9	-1.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	30.9	25.4	-5.5
Unemployment rate - %	6.4	5.7	-0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.4	5.8	-0.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	13.3	13.2	-0.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.2	9.2	-1.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.6	3.4	-0.2
Discouraged persons - in thousands	60.7	44.3	-16.4
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	58.9	42.3	-16.6



**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators, 2017 and 2018**

(Continued and end)

	2017	2018	Change (2018 minus 2017)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	67.1	67.0	-0.1
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1467.7	1467.3	-0.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1434.8	1432.2	-2.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	60.3	52.2	-8.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	193.8	182.7	-11.1
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1429.7	1426.5	-3.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	277.3	284.0	6.7
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	46.6	46.9	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	63.1	63.9	0.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.1	17.0	-2.1
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	36.0	35.3	-0.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	67.3	68.3	1.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	54.3	56.4	2.1
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	92.8	71.6	-21.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	91.6	70.6	-21.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	8.6	7.0	-1.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	20.2	13.7	-6.5
Unemployment rate - %	5.9	4.7	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.0	4.7	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	12.4	11.9	-0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.4	7.0	-2.4
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.2	2.6	-0.6
Discouraged persons - in thousands	55.2	41.0	-14.2
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	53.4	39.2	-14.2