



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2017

### Main labour market indicators for the first quarter of 2017

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 69.2%, by 0.9 percentage points higher compared to the first quarter of 2016.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 64.3%, up by 2.0 percentage points from the respective quarter of 2016.

**The unemployment rate** was 6.9%, by 1.7 percentage points lower compared to the same quarter of 2016.

There were 1 422.5 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 30.8% of population in the same age group. Of them 132.1 thousand (9.3%) were **discouraged persons**.

### Employment

In the first quarter of 2017 there were 3 036.7 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 624.7 thousand men and 1 412.0 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 50.0%, up by 1.5 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2016. In employment were 55.7% of men and 44.7% of women in the age group concerned.

In the first quarter of 2017, in the service sector worked 1 937.7 thousand persons representing 63.8% of all employed persons, in the industry sector worked 904.2 thousand persons (29.8% of all employed), while in agriculture, forestry and fishing worked 194.8 thousand (6.4%).

Of all employed persons 3.6% (110.6 thousand) were employers, 7.4% (225.9 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.2% (2 679.3 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (20.9 thousand) were unpaid family workers. About three-fourths of all employees - 2 016.5 thousand persons (75.3%), worked in private sector while 662.8 thousand (24.7%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees, 94.4 thousand persons (3.5%) had temporary job.

In the first quarter of 2017 the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

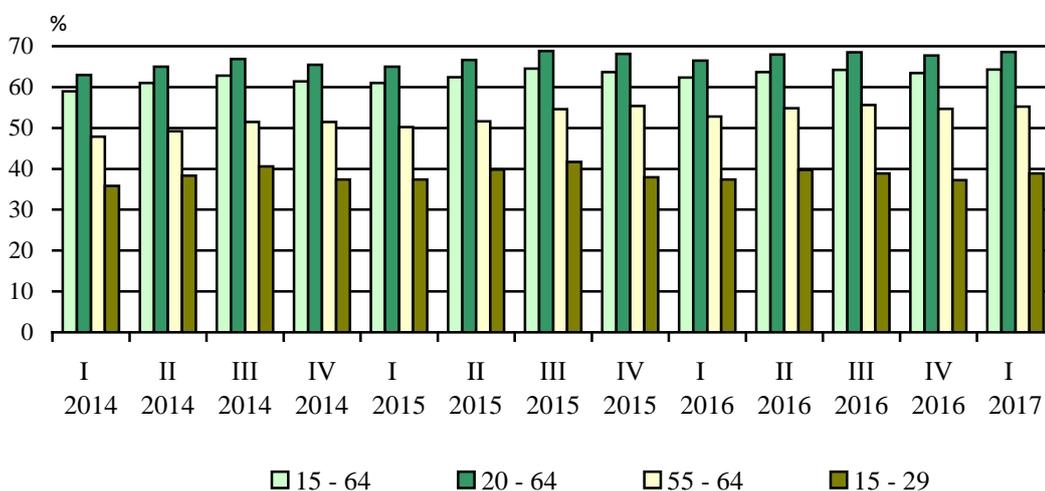
There were 2 967.3 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. **The employment rate for the same age group** was 64.3% (68.1% for men and 60.6% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 38.9% (44.6% for men and 32.9% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 68.6%, 72.6% and 64.6% for men and women respectively. This rate was by 2.1 percentage points higher than in the first quarter of 2016. It increased by 2.4 percentage points for men and by 1.8 percentage points for women.

There were 541.2 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 55.2% of population in the same age group (59.5% of men and 51.3% of women). In comparison with a year earlier the employment rate (55 - 64 years) increased by 2.4 percentage points, by 2.9 percentage points for men and by 1.8 percentage points for women.

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



## Unemployment

In the first quarter of 2017 there were 224.4 thousand **unemployed persons** and **the unemployment rate** was 6.9%. In comparison with the first quarter of 2016 the number of unemployed persons went down by 55.2 thousand and **the unemployment rate** decreased by 1.7 percentage points.

Over the same period the unemployment rate declined to a greater extent for men and achieved 6.8% for men and 6.9% for women. Of the total number of unemployed persons in the first quarter of 2017, 119.0 thousand (53.0%) were men and 105.4 thousand (47.0%) were women.

Among all unemployed persons 12.5% had higher education, 48.7% had upper secondary education and 38.8% had lower secondary education or less.

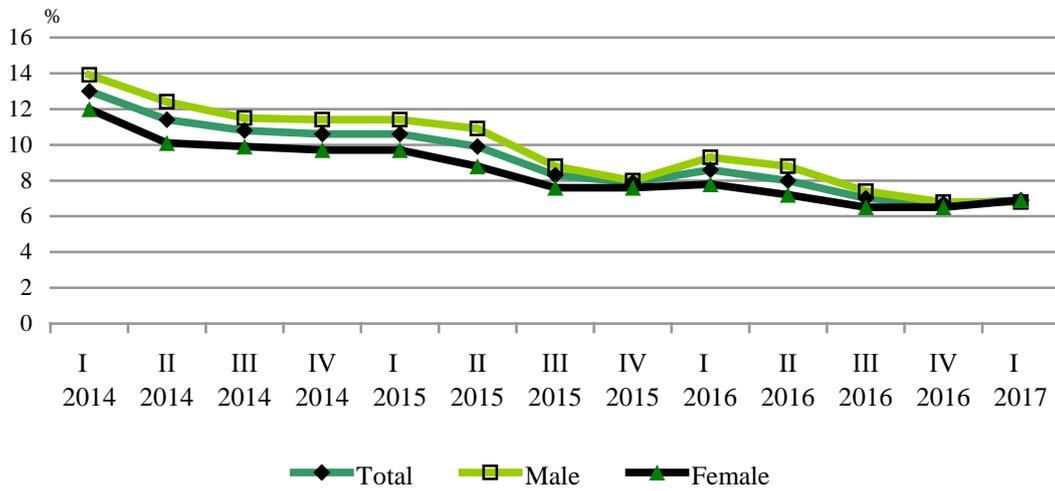
In the first quarter of 2017 there were 122.2 thousand **long-term unemployed persons**, representing 54.4% of all unemployed. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 3.7%, and in comparison with the respective quarter of 2016 it decreased by 1.1 percentage points. The long-term unemployment rate by sex was 3.9% for men and 3.6% for women.

Of the total number of unemployed persons 33.0 thousand (14.7%) were looking for a first job.

In the first quarter of 2017 **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 10.8% (11.1% for men and 10.4% for women). In comparison with the first quarter of 2016 this rate was lower by 3.1 percentage points as the decline was higher for men than for women (by 4.7 and 0.7 percentage points respectively).



**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.

**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 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 first quarter of 2017 data on population as of 31 December 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 first quarter of 2017 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.3%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 4.3%;
- unemployment rate - 4.2%.



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, first quarter of 2016 and 2017

	First quarter 2016	First quarter 2017	Change (First quarter 2017 minus First quarter 2016)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	68.3	69.2	0.9
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	2975.1	3036.7	61.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2915.3	2967.3	52.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	132.8	133.7	0.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	435.0	434.9	-0.1
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2905.4	2954.5	49.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	521.5	541.2	19.7
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	48.5	50.0	1.5
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	62.3	64.3	2.0
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.4	20.4	1.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	37.4	38.9	1.5
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	66.5	68.6	2.1
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	52.8	55.2	2.4
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	279.6	224.4	-55.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	278.0	222.2	-55.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	29.9	19.6	-10.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	70.0	52.5	-17.5
Unemployment rate - %	8.6	6.9	-1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	8.7	7.0	-1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.4	12.8	-5.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	13.9	10.8	-3.1
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.8	3.7	-1.1
Discouraged persons - in thousands	179.3	134.6	-44.7
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	176.4	132.1	-44.3



**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2016 and 2017**

(Continued)

	First quarter 2016	First quarter 2017	Change (First quarter 2017 minus First quarter 2016)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.5	73.1	0.6
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1586.1	1624.7	38.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1549.3	1584.6	35.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	80.5	81.3	0.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	247.7	255.9	8.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1544.2	1576.0	31.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	265.3	278.1	12.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	53.8	55.7	1.9
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	65.7	68.1	2.4
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.9	24.1	1.2
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	41.5	44.6	3.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	70.2	72.6	2.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	56.6	59.5	2.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	162.7	119.0	-43.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	162.0	118.2	-43.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	18.5	10.8	-7.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	46.6	31.8	-14.8
Unemployment rate - %	9.3	6.8	-2.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	9.5	6.9	-2.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.7	11.8	-6.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	15.8	11.1	-4.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.1	3.9	-1.2
Discouraged persons - in thousands	97.0	72.3	-24.7
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	95.4	71.1	-24.3



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2016 and 2017

(Continued and end)

	First quarter 2016	First quarter 2017	Change (First quarter 2017 minus First quarter 2016)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	64.0	65.1	1.1
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1389.1	1412.0	22.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1366.0	1382.7	16.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	52.3	52.4	0.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	187.3	179.0	-8.3
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1361.2	1378.4	17.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	256.2	263.2	7.0
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	43.6	44.7	1.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	59.0	60.6	1.6
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.7	16.4	0.7
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	33.1	32.9	-0.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	62.8	64.6	1.8
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	49.5	51.3	1.8
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	116.9	105.4	-11.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	116.0	103.9	-12.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	11.4	8.7	-2.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	23.4	20.7	-2.7
Unemployment rate - %	7.8	6.9	-0.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	7.8	7.0	-0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	17.9	14.3	-3.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	11.1	10.4	-0.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.5	3.6	-0.9
Discouraged persons - in thousands	82.3	62.3	-20.0
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	81.0	61.0	-20.0