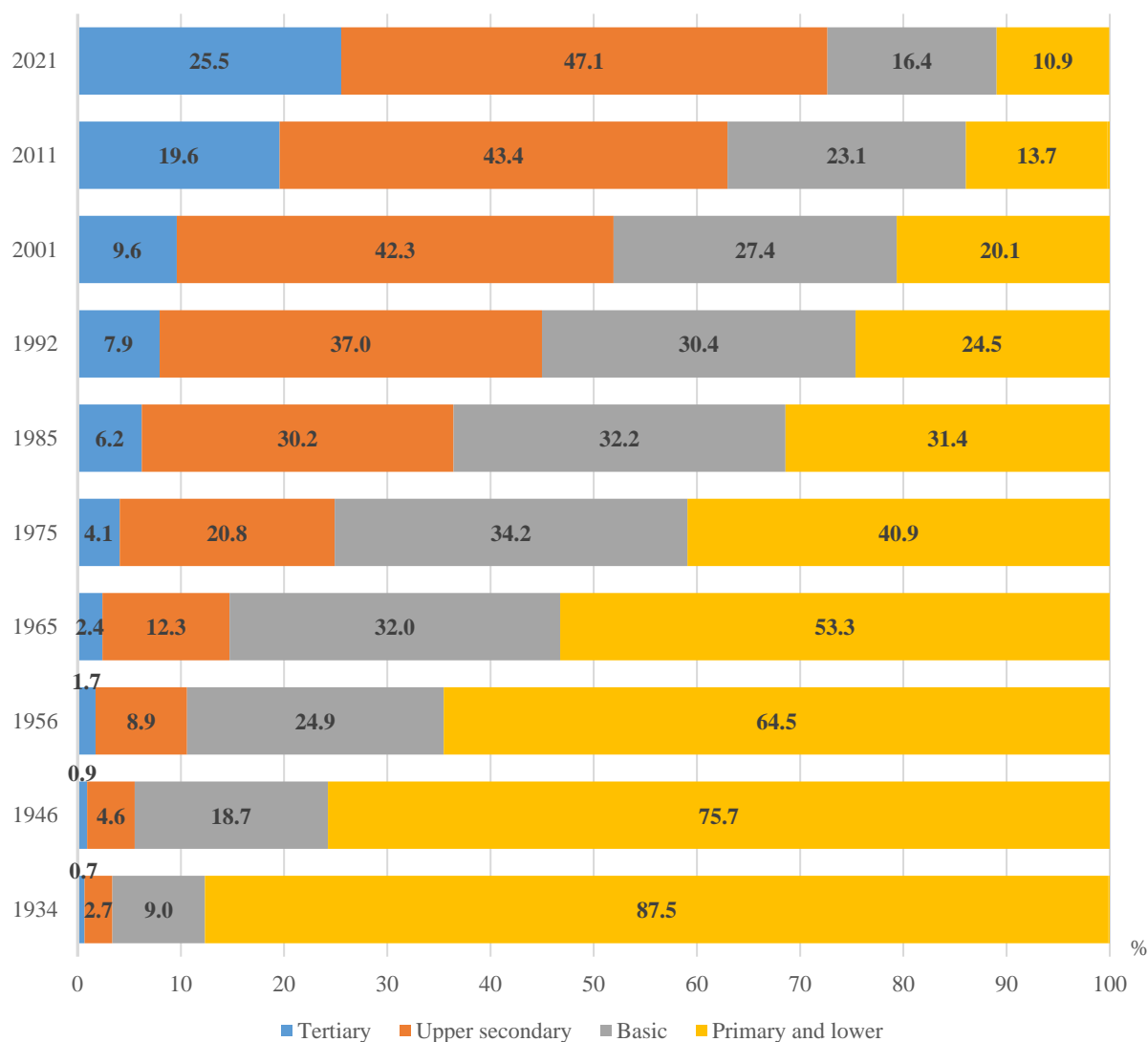


SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION AS OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Educational structure of the population

Observation of the highest level of education completed begins with the census conducted in 1934. For the whole period up to 2021, the educational structure of the population aged 7 and over significantly improves, following a clearly expressed trend for increase in the number and share of the population with tertiary and upper secondary education and decrease in the number of persons with basic and lower education.

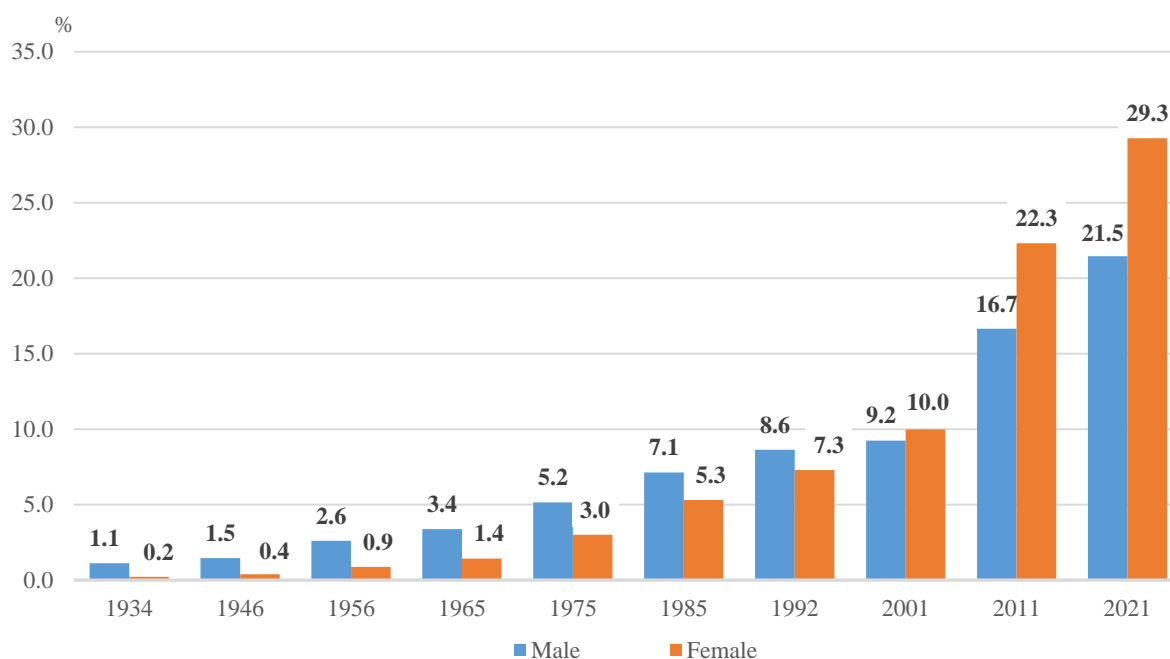
Figure 1. Educational structure of the population aged 7 and over by year of census



As of September 7, 2021, the number of persons with tertiary education was 1 560.0 thousand, or every fourth person (25.5%) was a graduate. Compared to the previous census, the relative share of persons with tertiary education increased by 5.9 percentage points. The gender gap between tertiary education graduates

also increased. The relative share of women with tertiary education reached 29.3% and that of men was 21.5%, while compared to 2011, they increased respectively by 7.0 and 4.8 percentage points.

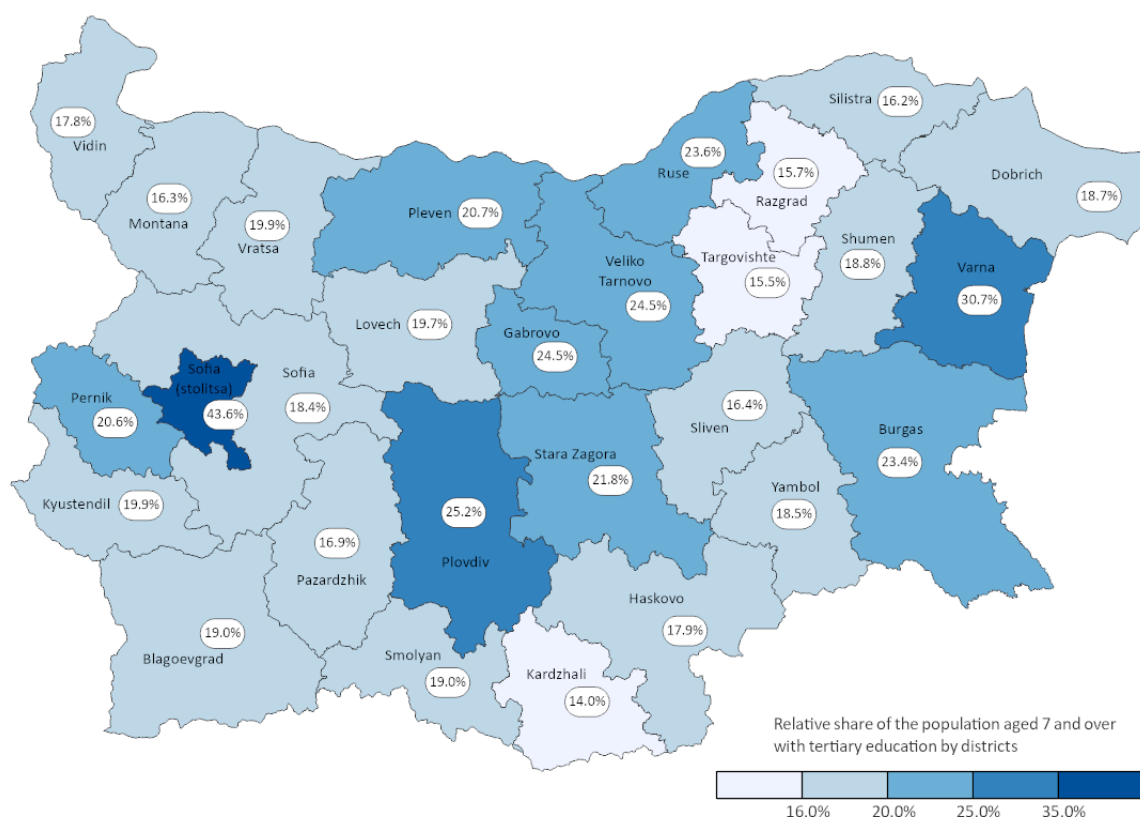
Figure 2. Relative share of the population aged 7 and over with tertiary education by year of census and sex



There were also significant differences in the educational structure of the individuals by place of residence. While the relative share of persons with tertiary education in urban areas was 31.2%, in rural areas it was 10.2%, or three times less.

In regional aspect, the highest was the relative share of graduates in Sofia (stolitsa) district - 43.6%, followed by the districts of Varna (30.7%) and Plovdiv (25.2%), and the lowest was in the districts of Kardzhali (14.0%), Targovishte (15.5%) and Razgrad (15.7%).

Figure 3. Relative share of the population aged 7 and over with tertiary education by district as of September 7, 2021

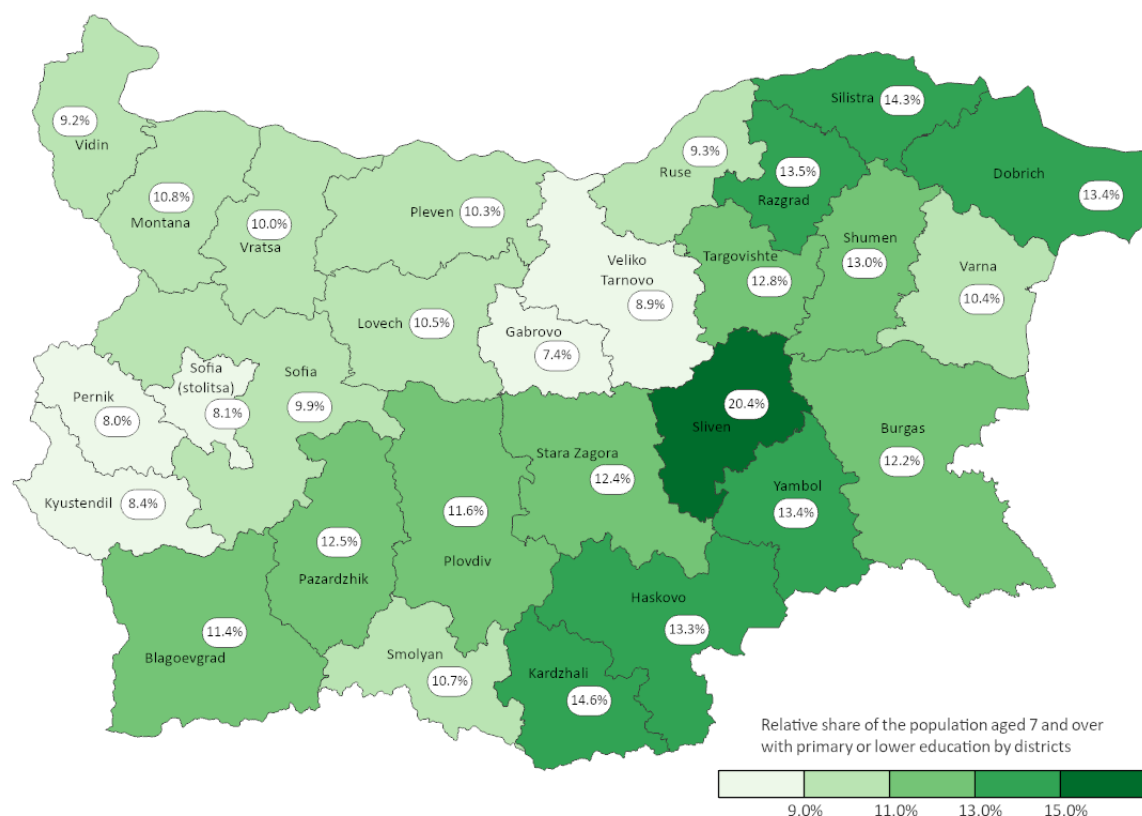


As of September 7, 2021, persons with upper secondary educational attainment were 2 695.8 thousand. Of them, 33.6% had completed general education programs, and 66.4% - vocational education programs, which include programs for attaining a second or third level of professional qualification, or the equivalent of technical schools and upper-secondary vocational technical schools in the past. Vocational upper secondary education was more common among men (57.2%) than among women (42.8%). 78.9 thousand persons had completed vocational training programs after upper secondary education (fourth level of professional qualification), and 103.8 thousand persons had completed the first gymnasium stage of upper secondary education.

The positive trend of decreasing the number of persons with low or no education continues. 353.5 thousand persons had graduated from primary education; 271.7 thousand had started but not completed primary education; and 41.6 thousand have never attended school. Compared to 2011, the relative shares of the population aged 7 and over decreased by 2.0, 0.3 and 0.5 percentage points, respectively.

Regionally, the share of persons with primary and lower education was lowest in the districts of Gabrovo (7.4%), Pernik (8.0%) and Sofia (stolitsa) (8.1%), and the highest was in the districts of Sliven (20.4 %), Kardzhali (14.6%) and Silistra (14.3%).

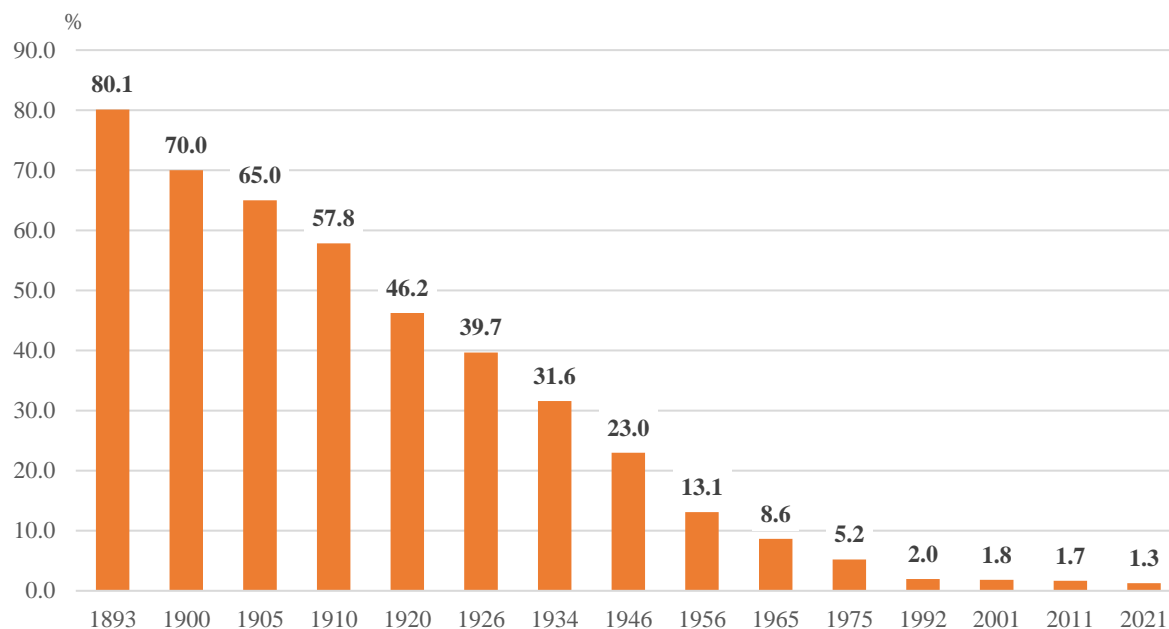
Figure 4. Relative share of the population aged 7 and over with primary and lower education by district as of September 7, 2021



Population literacy

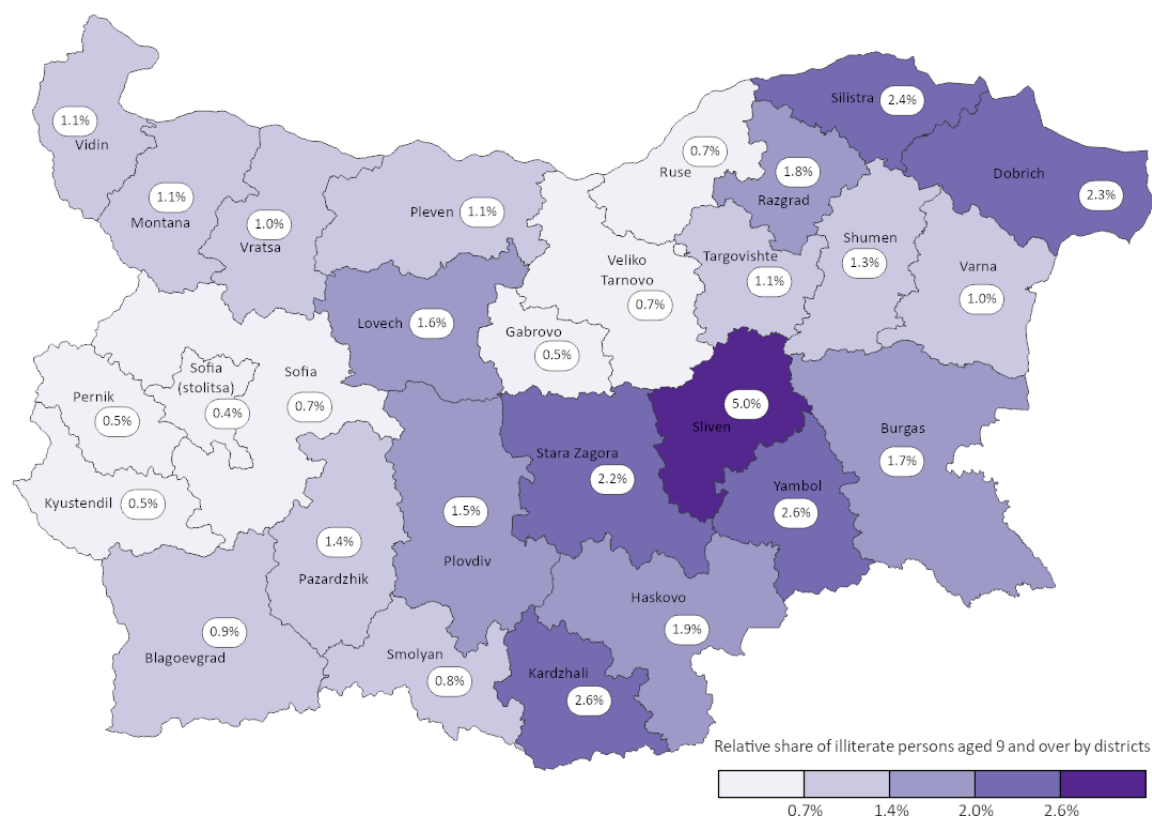
Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write and is a traditional question in population censuses. While in 1893, 80.1% of the population aged 9 and over was illiterate, this share drops to 1.3% in 2021. Compared to 2001, the reduction in the share of illiterates was 0.4 percentage points.

Figure 5. Relative share of the illiterate population aged 9 and over by year of census



The share of the illiterate population was higher in rural areas (2.3%) than in urban areas (0.9%). The highest relative share of illiterates was in the districts of Sliven (5.0%), Kardzhali and Yambol with 2.6% each, and the lowest was in the district of Sofia (stolitsa) - 0.4%.

Figure 6. Relative share of the illiterates aged 9 and over by district as of September 7, 2021



Participation in formal education

As of September 7, 2021, 951.6 thousand persons, or 14.6% of the country's population, were enrolled in the formal education system to acquire an education level and/or a level of professional qualification. There were 24 913 children of compulsory school age (7 - 15 years) who did not participate in the educational process.

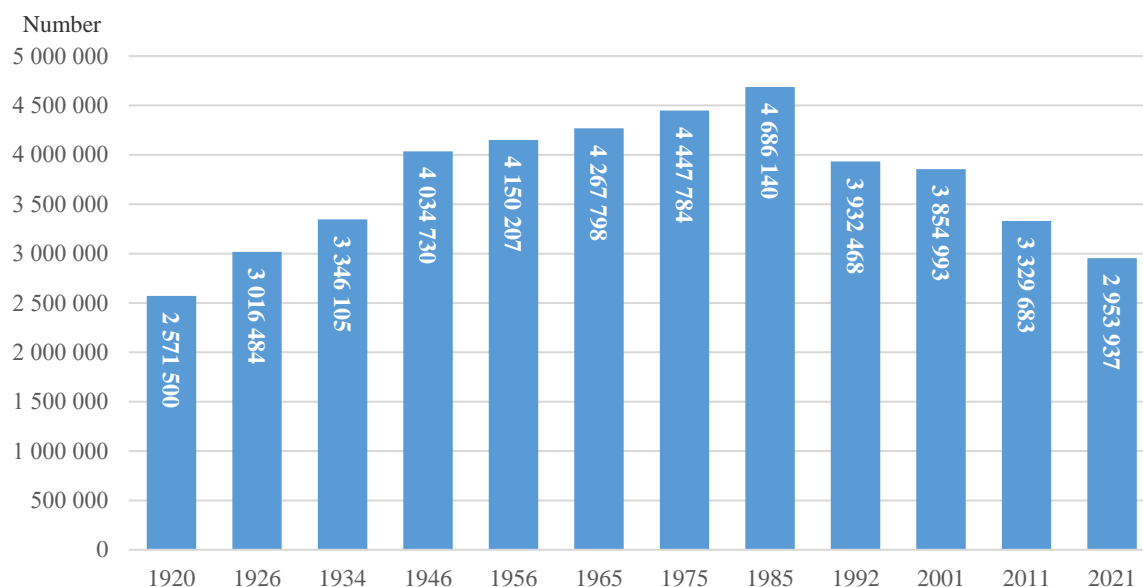
Economic characteristics of the population

All data on economic characteristics of the population refer to the position of persons on the labour market in the week preceding the critical moment of the census, August 31 - September 6, 2021.

The economically active population includes all persons aged 15 and over who are employed or unemployed during the observed period.

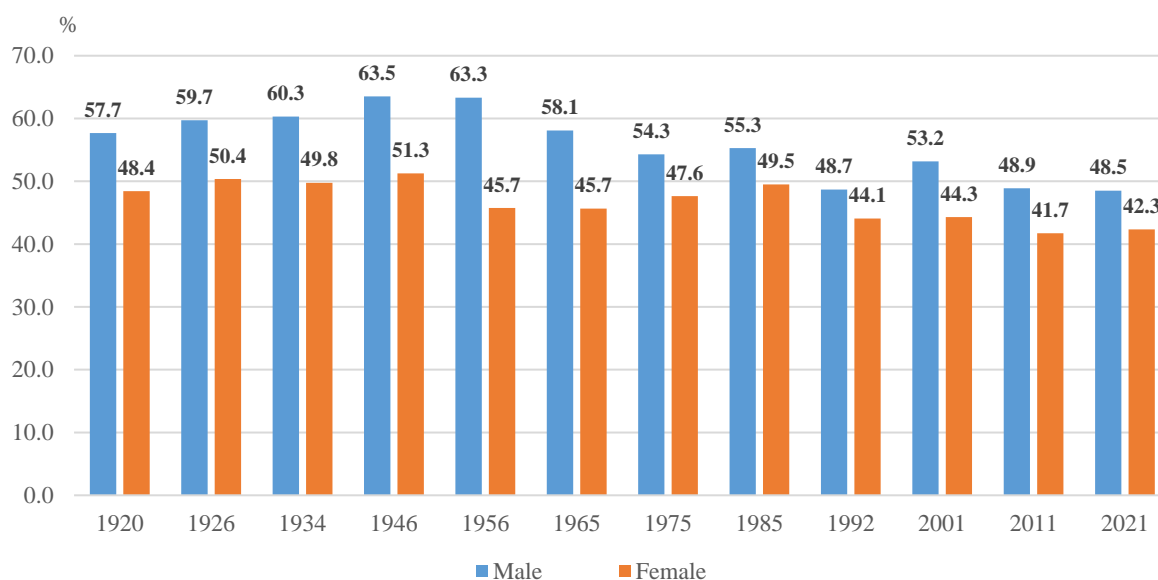
During the observed period, there were 2 953 937 economically active persons aged 15 and over in the country, or 45.3% of the country's population. Of them, 2 661 292 were employed and 292 645 were unemployed.

Figure 7. Economically active population by year of census



The number of economically active persons increased until 1985, when it reached its highest value - 4 686 140 persons. In the following years, it decreased and reached 2 953 937 persons as of September 7, 2021. Compared to 2011, the number of economically active persons decreased by 376 thousand people, or by 11.3%.

Figure 8. Relative share of the economically active population by sex and year of census

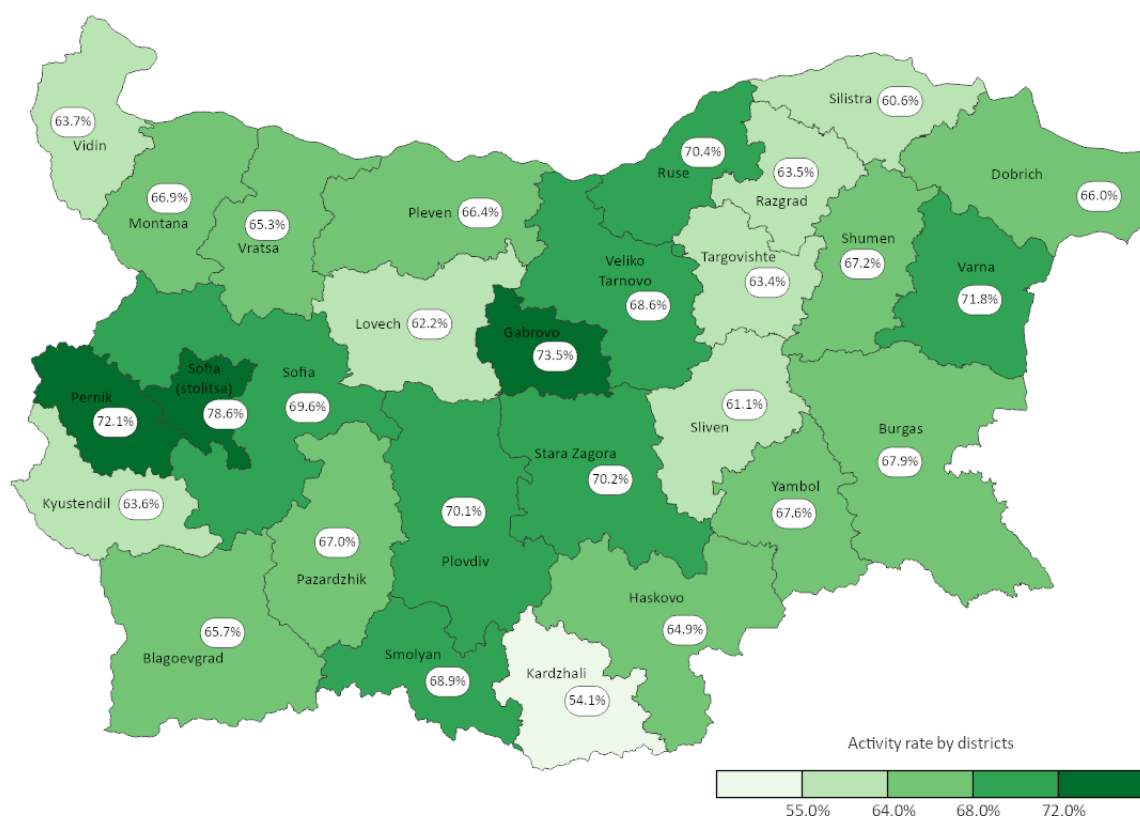


Economically active population aged 15 - 64 years

During the observed period, there were 2 835 thousand economically active persons between the ages of 15 and 64 in the country. A relative measure of the degree of participation of the population in the labour market is the activity rate, calculated as a ratio of the number of economically active population to the total population in the age group 15 - 64 years. In general, the activity rate of the country was 69.7% (70.8% for men and 68.5% for women).

With highest activity rate was Sofia (stolitsa) district - 78.6%, followed by Gabrovo - 73.5%, and Pernik - 72.1%. This indicator was lowest in the districts of Kardzhali - 54.1%, Silistra - 60.6%, and Sliven - 61.1%.

Figure 9. Activity rate by district during the period August 31 - September 6, 2021



Employed persons aged 15 - 64 years

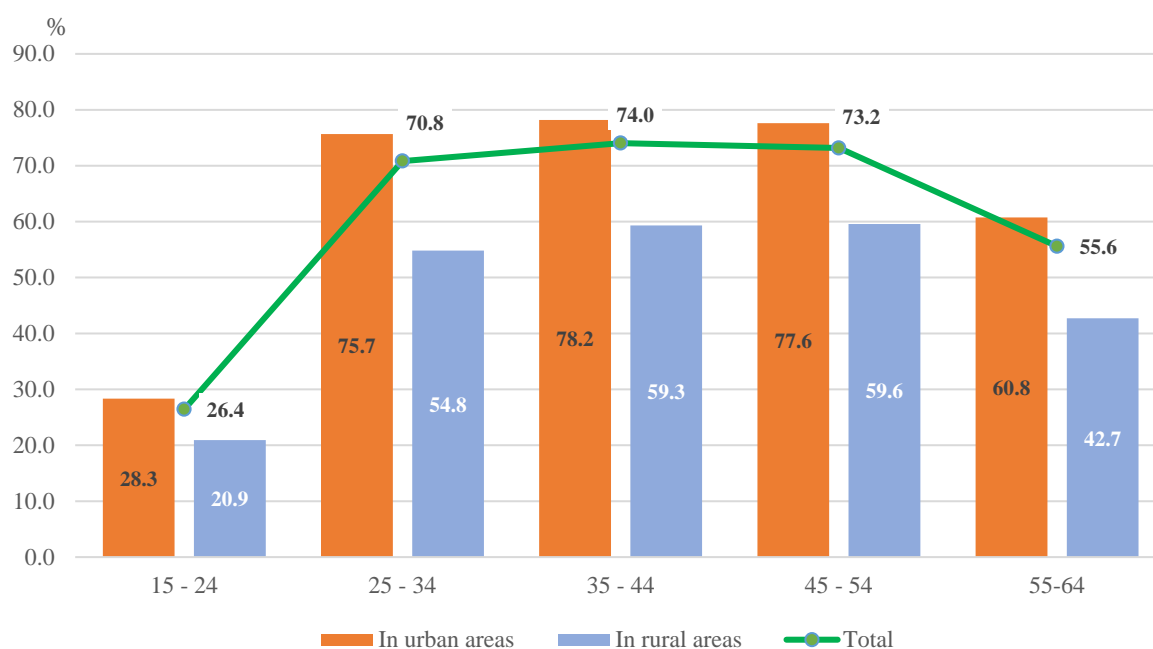
Of the total number of economically active persons aged 15 - 64, 2 549 000 were employed. Women were 1 248 thousand, or 49.0%, and men - 1 301 thousand, or 51%.

The employment rate, calculated as a ratio of employed persons to the total population in the age group 15 - 64 years, was 62.6%. The employment rate of men was higher than that of women, at 63.3% and 62.0%, respectively.

Age-related employment rates show that participation in the labour market was lowest in 15 - 24 age group (26.4%). With the increase in age, the value of the indicator increases, and its highest value was among

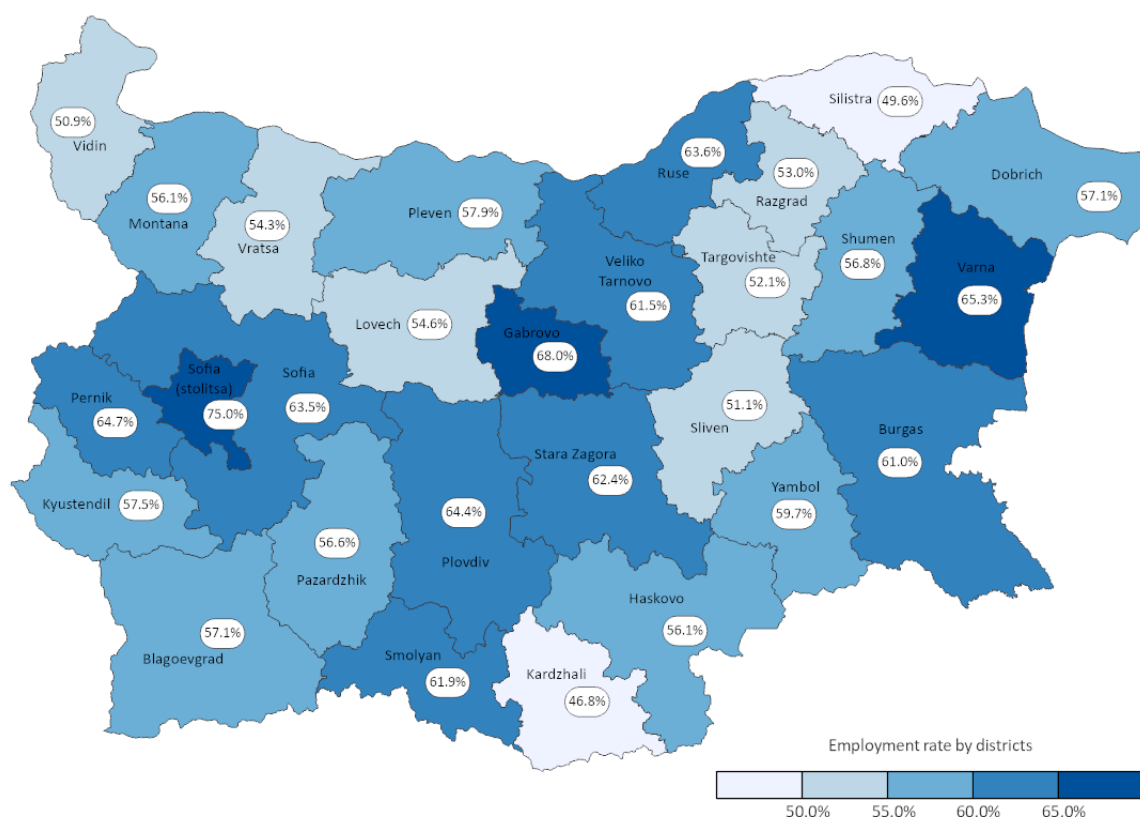
persons aged 35 - 44 (74.0%). The employment rate was lower in rural areas than in urban areas for all age groups.

Figure 10. Age-related employment rates by place of residence during the period August 31 - September 6, 2021



In a regional aspect, the highest employment rates were in the districts of Sofia (stolitsa) - 75.0%, Gabrovo - 68.0% and Varna - 65.3%, and the lowest were in the districts of Vidin - 50.9%, Silistra - 49.6% and Kardzhali - 46.8%. In total, in 21 districts, this indicator was lower than the average for the country.

Figure 11. Employment rate of persons aged 15 - 64 by district during the period August 31 - September 6, 2021

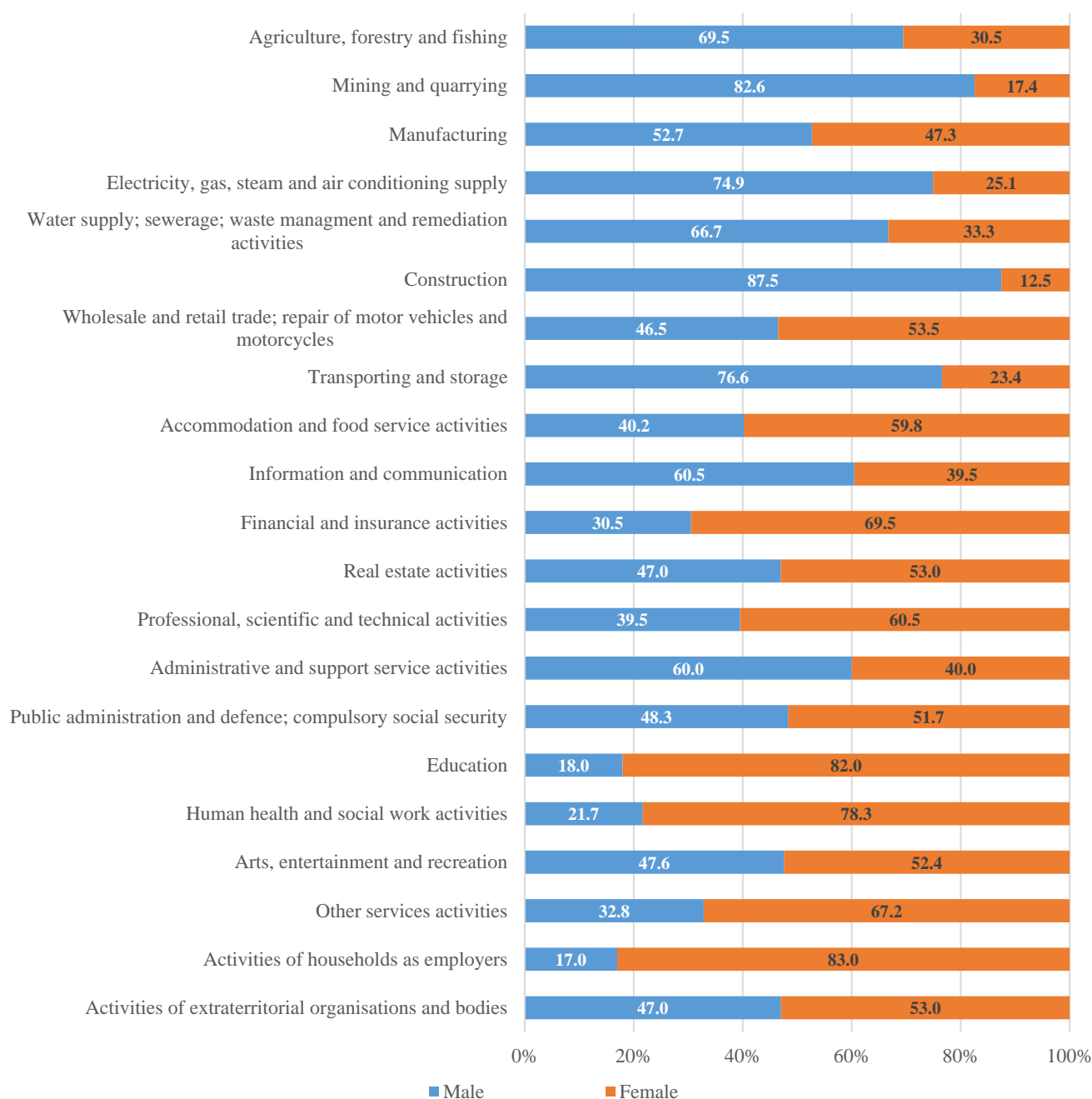


The upward trend in the educational status of employed persons continues. During the observed period, there were 1 001 thousand persons with tertiary education, or 39.3% of the persons employed. Compared to 2011, this share increased by 6.6 percentage points. The education status of employed women was higher compared to that of employed men. The share of women with tertiary education among all employed women was 47.5%, respectively 31.4% for men.

During the observed period, the largest number of persons were employed in economic activities: 'manufacturing' - 474 thousand persons, or 18.6%, 'wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' - 418 thousand, or 16.4%, and 'public administration and defence; compulsory social security' - 202 thousand, or 7.9% of the employed persons aged 15 - 64.

There were gender differences among those employed in the different economic activities. Men predominated in economic activities such as 'construction', 'mining and quarrying' and 'transporting and storage', and women predominated in economic activities 'activities of households as employers', 'education' and 'human health and social work activities'.

Figure 12. Distribution of employed persons aged 15 - 64 by economic activity and sex during the period August 31 - September 6, 2021



The distribution by occupation shows that the most employed were in 'professionals' major group (18.8%), followed by 'services and sales workers' major group (18.3%) and 'elementary occupations' (11.6%). Here, significant gender differences are observed as well.

Figure 13. Distribution of employed persons aged 15 - 64 by occupation and sex during the period August 31 - September 6, 2021



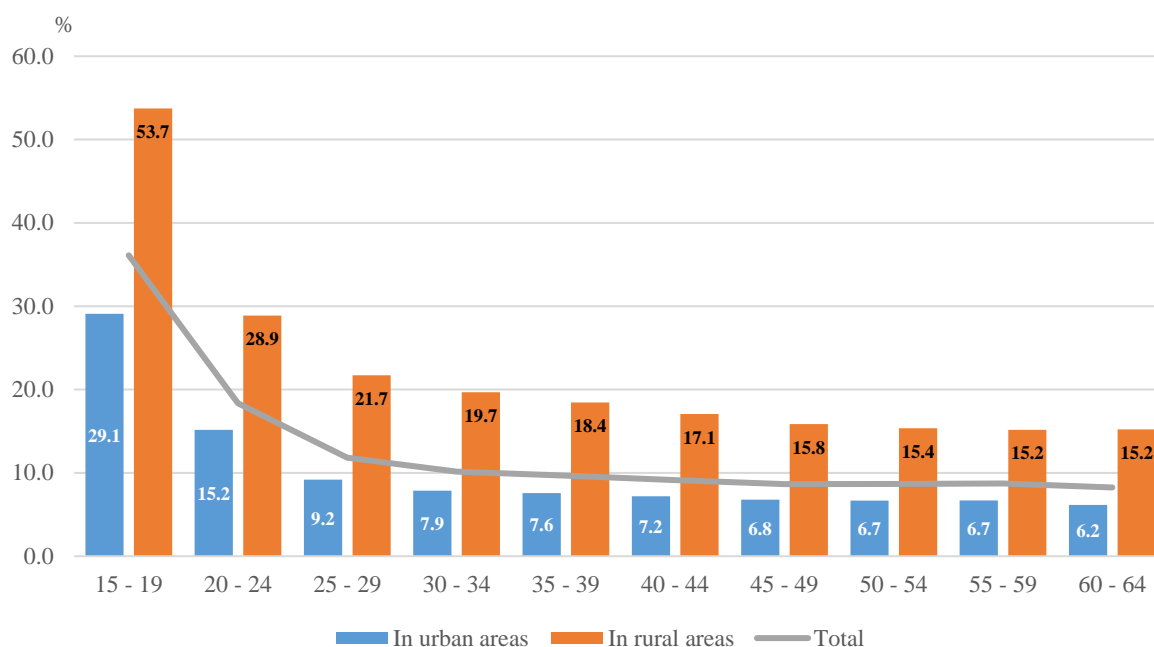
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64

During the observed period, there were 287 thousand unemployed persons aged 15 - 64. Women were 131 thousand, or 45.6%, and men were 156 thousand, or 54.4%.

The unemployment rate, calculated as a ratio of number of unemployed persons to the economically active population in the age group 15 - 64 years, was 10.1% in total for the country, respectively 10.7% for men and 9.5% for women.

The age-related unemployment rates show that the highest share of unemployed was in 15 - 19 age group (36.1%). With the increase in age, the value of the indicator decreases. The unemployment rate was lower in urban areas than in rural areas for all age groups.

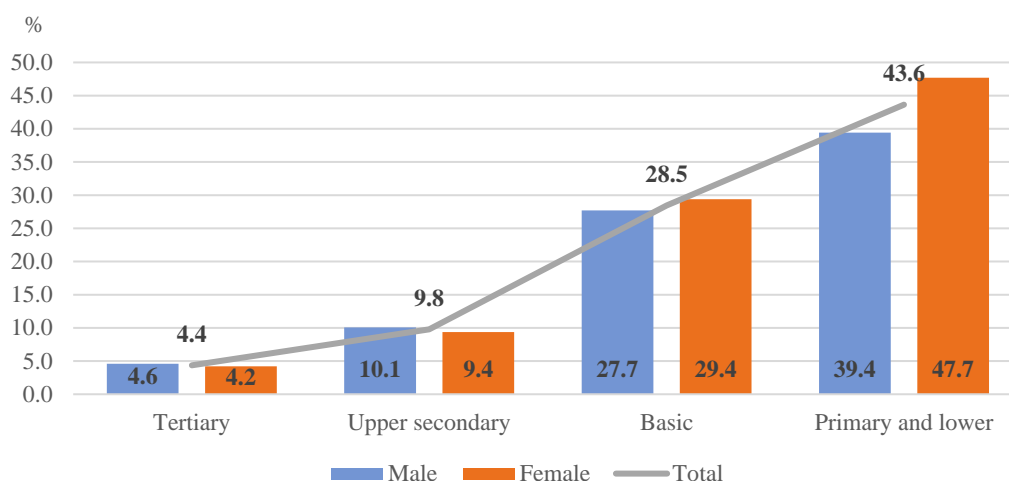
Figure 14. Age-related unemployment rates in urban and rural areas during the period August 31 - September 6, 2021



The share of unemployed with upper secondary education was the highest - 50.6% of all unemployed, followed by those with basic (24.1%), tertiary (15.9%) and primary and lower education (9.4%). The share of unemployed women among the tertiary education graduates was the highest - 57.0%, and the lowest was among the persons with upper secondary education (40.2%).

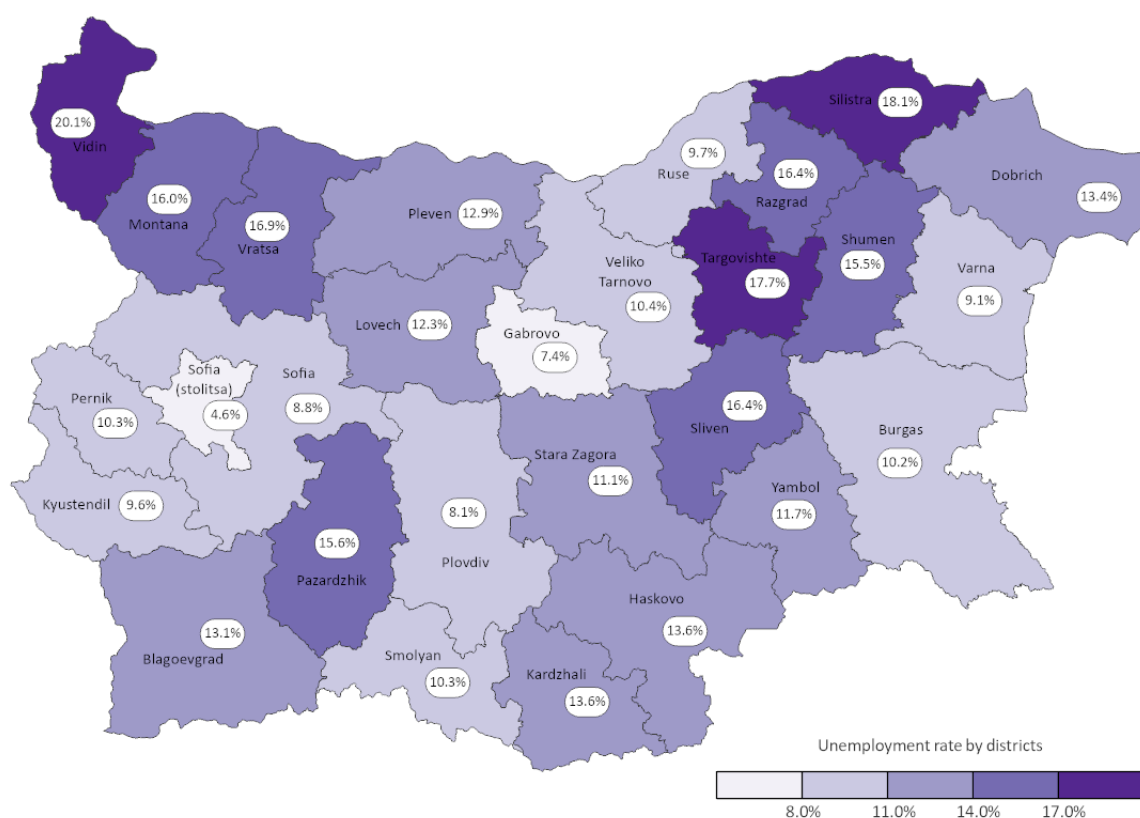
The unemployment rate of persons aged 15 - 64 with tertiary education was 4.4%, 4.6% for men and 4.2% for women, respectively. For persons with primary and lower education, the unemployment rate was 43.6%, 39.4% for men and 47.7% for women, respectively.

Figure 15. Unemployment rates by level of education completed and sex during the period August 31 - September 6, 2021



The unemployment rate was lowest in the districts of Sofia (stolitsa) - 4.6%, Gabrovo - 7.4% and Plovdiv - 8.1%, and was highest in the districts of Vidin - 20.1%, Silistra - 18.1% and Targovishte - 17.7%. For seven districts, this indicator was lower than the national average.

Figure 16. Unemployment rate by district during the period August 31 - September 6, 2021

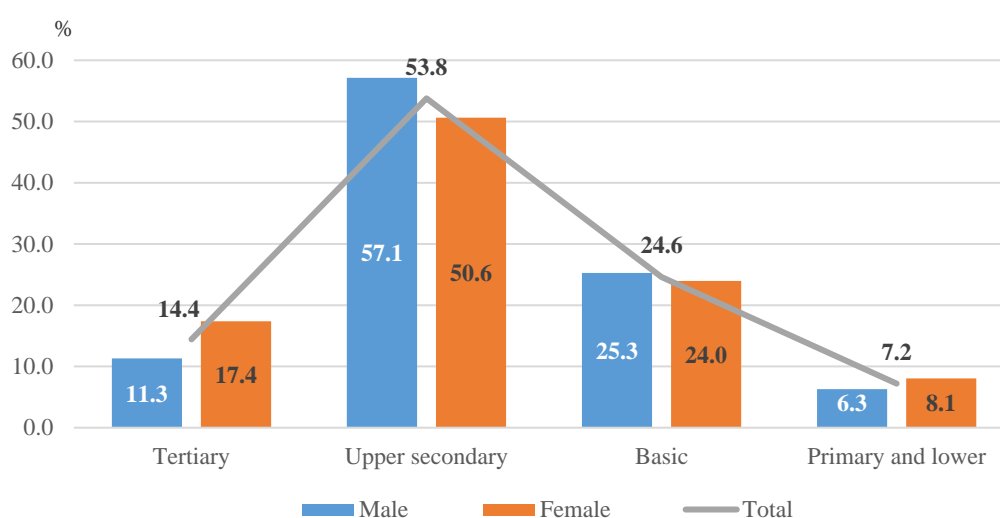


Economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64

The economically inactive population aged 15 - 64 was 1 234 thousand persons, or 30.3% of the population in the corresponding age group. Of them, 307 thousand were students, 313 thousand were pensioners, 18 thousand were persons receiving income from property and 595 thousand were 'others'.

The share of the economically inactive population with upper secondary education was the highest - 53.8%. It was followed by the share of individuals with basic (24.6%) and tertiary (14.4%) education.

Figure 17. Distribution of economically inactive persons by education and sex during the period August 31 - September 6, 2021



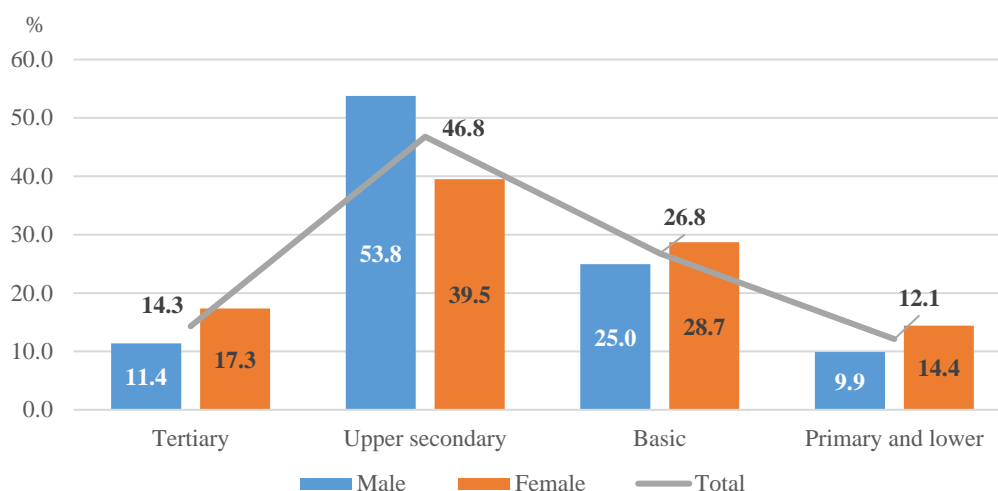
In a regional aspect, Kardzhali was the district with the highest relative share of economically inactive population - 45.9%, followed by Silistra - 39.4% and Sliven - 38.9%. The share of the economically inactive population was the lowest in Sofia (stolitsa) - 21.4%.

15 - 29 years-old not in employment, education, or training (NEET)

During the observed period, 185 thousand persons aged 15 - 29, or 21.7% of the population of the same age, were not in employment, education, or training. Of the total number of NEETs, 44.1% were aged 25 - 29, 37.5% were aged 20 - 24 and 18.4% were aged 15 - 19.

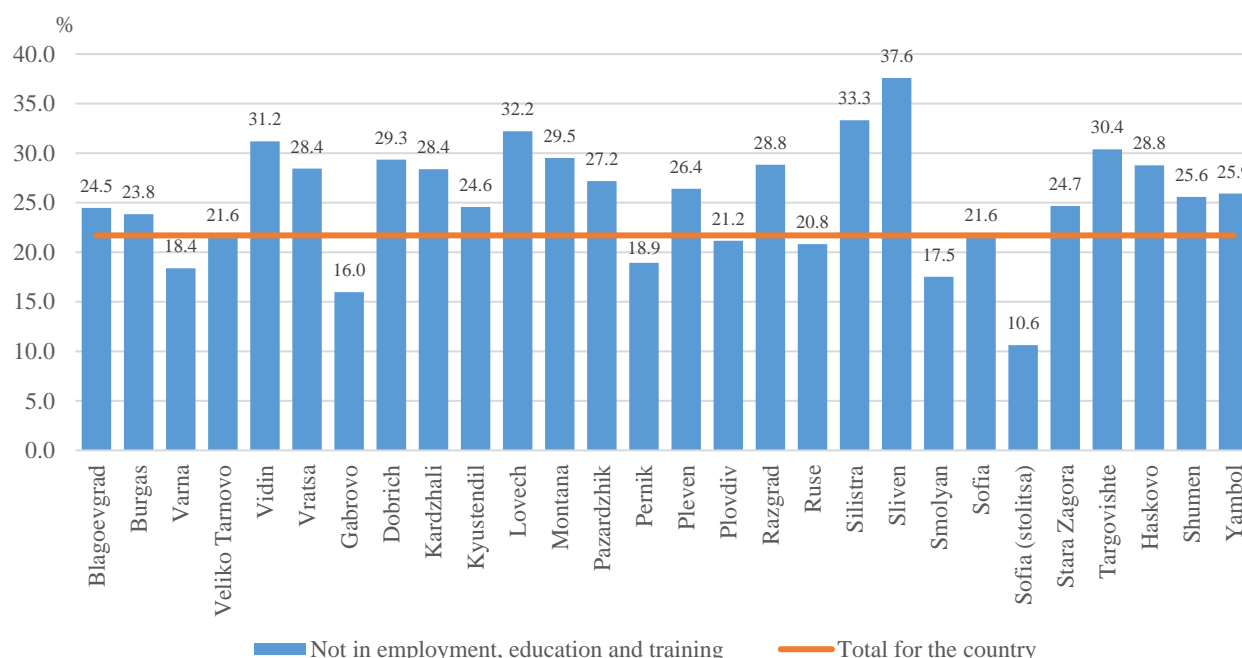
Persons with completed upper secondary (48.2%) and basic education (25.4%) predominate. Those who had completed tertiary education among the NEETs were 14.3%.

Figure 18. Distribution of persons not in employment, education, or training by education and sex during the period August 31 - September 6, 2021



In a regional aspect, the share of persons aged 15 - 29 who were not employed and did not participate in education and training was the highest for the districts of Sliven (37.6%) and Silistra (33.3%), and the lowest for the Sofia (stolitsa) district - 10.6%. In total, for 19 districts, this indicator was above the national average.

Figure 19. 15 - 29 years-old not in employment, education, or training by district for the period August 31 - September 6, 2021



The schedule for publishing Census 2021 data can be found [here](#). Basic data from the census will be published on the INFOSTAT Information System, as well as provided upon user request in accordance with the [List of standard statistical indicators](#) and the [Regulations for dissemination of statistical products and services](#).

Annex

Table 1

Educational structure of the population aged 7 and over by year of census and sex

(Number)

Census year ¹	Total	Level of education completed				Without level of education completed	Child	Unknown
		Tertiary	Upper secondary ²	Basic ³	Primary			
Total								
1934	4941848	33031	133111	443113	1733350	2593059	-	6184
1946	6008354	55238	276694	1125410	2202557	2347748	-	707
1956	6495229	112506	575397	1616225	2367812	1823289	-	-
1965	7211375	173319	888328	2309436	2286716	1553576	-	-
1975	7658498	311851	1594991	2617963	2043989	1089704	-	-
1985	8102363	503330	2447933	2605539	1689313	856248	-	-
1992	7797602	619294	2888144	2370214	1231727	680347	-	7876
2001	7467839	716863	3160492	2049443	933329	565937	20513	21262
2011	6891177	1348650	2990424	1591348	536686	409766	14303	-
2021	6110165	1560028	2878386	1001825	353450	313297	3179	-
Male								
1934	2474774	27578	76240	287345	1011328	1068828	-	3455
1946	2996051	43655	159854	679577	1165278	947362	-	325
1956	3228369	84014	297341	937642	1200904	708468	-	-
1965	3593032	121464	432200	1308727	1118177	612464	-	-
1975	3808490	196184	759193	1453025	966163	433925	-	-
1985	3998374	285274	1197407	1391886	761475	362332	-	-
1992	3817044	329277	1416360	1225306	543982	298054	-	4065
2001	3625965	334311	1574103	1036099	401684	259678	10377	9713
2011	3343236	556900	1568705	793143	227656	189351	7481	-
2021	2925778	627901	1511578	475014	159460	150109	1716	-
Female								
1934	2467074	5453	56871	155768	722022	1524231	-	2729
1946	3012303	11583	116840	445833	1037279	1400386	-	382
1956	3266860	28492	278056	678583	1166908	1114821	-	-
1965	3618343	51855	456128	1000709	1168539	941112	-	-
1975	3850008	115667	835798	1164938	1077826	655779	-	-
1985	4103989	218056	1250526	1213653	927838	493916	-	-
1992	3980558	290017	1471784	1144908	687745	382293	-	3811
2001	3841874	382552	1586389	1013344	531645	306259	10136	11549
2011	3547941	791750	1421719	798205	309030	220415	6822	-
2021	3184387	932127	1366808	526811	193990	163188	1463	-

¹ For the period 1934 - 1992 incl. the educational structure refers to the population aged 8 and over.

² Including those who have completed vocational education with admission after upper secondary education (fourth level of professional qualification) and those who have completed the first gymnasium stage of upper secondary education.

³ Including graduates from vocational technical schools (first level of professional qualification).

Table 2

Educational structure of the population aged 7 and over by sex and place of residence as of September 7, 2021

(Number)

Level of education	Total	By sex		By place of residence	
		Male	Female	In urban areas	In rural areas
Tertiary - Doctoral degree	39341	19789	19552	37126	2215
Tertiary - Master's degree	899220	364651	534569	822871	76349
Tertiary - Bachelor's degree	458515	194323	264192	399280	59235
Tertiary - Professional bachelor's or equivalent degree	162952	49138	113814	134757	28195
Post-secondary non-tertiary vocational education - with admission after upper secondary education (fourth level of professional qualification)	78882	37925	40957	67600	11282
Upper secondary vocational specialized education (technical school, vocational gymnasium - third level of professional qualification)	1231450	674972	556478	947179	284271
Upper secondary vocational technical education (upper-secondary vocational technical school, vocational gymnasium - second level of professional qualification)	558868	349930	208938	366815	192053
Upper secondary general education	905433	394325	511108	665813	239620
First gymnasium stage of upper secondary education	103753	54426	49327	77558	26195
Vocational technical school with admission after completion of basic education (first level of professional qualification)	29524	18758	10766	17648	11876
Vocational technical school with admission after completion of VI/VII grade (first level of professional qualification)	11686	6893	4793	7007	4679
Basic education	960615	449363	511252	501289	459326
Primary education (first stage of basic education)	353450	159460	193990	217660	135790
Uncompleted first stage of basic education	271653	133823	137830	189989	81664
Never enrolled in education	41644	16286	25358	20294	21350
A child up to 7 years incl. not yet enrolled in education	3179	1716	1463	2279	900

Table 3

Literacy of the population aged 9 and over by district and sex as of September 7, 2021

(Number)

District	Total		Male		Female	
	Literates	Illiterates	Literates	Illiterates	Literates	Illiterates
Total	5913363	75678	2832816	30827	3080547	44851
Blagoevgrad	265375	2397	128612	1017	136763	1380
Burgas	341377	6071	163667	2728	177710	3343
Varna	391264	3865	187443	1579	203821	2286
Veliko Tarnovo	190982	1373	91269	538	99713	835
Vidin	69936	769	33541	402	36395	367
Vratsa	139273	1384	67400	638	71873	746
Gabrovo	91499	478	43139	220	48360	258
Dobrich	135925	3250	65275	1138	70650	2112
Kardzhali	127725	3435	63287	950	64438	2485
Kyustendil	103543	512	49623	256	53920	256
Lovech	105922	1718	51185	782	54737	936
Montana	110160	1246	53405	542	56755	704
Pazardzhik	208380	2877	100836	1202	107544	1675
Pernik	104997	578	50038	269	54959	309
Pleven	206945	2378	99526	1019	107419	1359
Plovdiv	571001	8817	271124	3443	299877	5374
Razgrad	93870	1700	45263	550	48607	1150
Ruse	178562	1323	84888	542	93674	781
Silistra	88389	2148	42815	791	45574	1357
Sliven	146078	7714	70572	3026	75506	4688
Smolyan	89805	751	43097	285	46708	466
Sofia	211340	1529	102853	701	108487	828
Sofia (stolitsa)	1158504	4334	546237	2291	612267	2043
Stara Zagora	265540	6046	127257	2575	138283	3471
Targovishte	89838	1037	43716	318	46122	719
Haskovo	191163	3620	92321	1264	98842	2356
Shumen	138313	1761	66973	702	71340	1059
Yambol	97657	2567	47454	1059	50203	1508

Table 4

Economically active population by place of residence and year of census

Year of census	Number				%			
	Total	Economically active	Economically inactive	Unknown	Total	Economically active	Economically inactive	Unknown
Total								
1920	4846971	2571500	2275471	-	100.0	53.1	46.9	-
1926	5478741	3016484	2462257	-	100.0	55.1	44.9	-
1934	6077939	3346105	2731834	-	100.0	55.1	44.9	-
1946	7029349	4034730	2994619	-	100.0	57.4	42.6	-
1956	7613709	4150207	3463502	-	100.0	54.5	45.5	-
1965	8227866	4267798	3960068	-	100.0	51.9	48.1	-
1975	8727771	4447784	4279987	-	100.0	51.0	49.0	-
1985	8948649	4686140	4262509	-	100.0	52.4	47.6	-
1992	8487317	3932468	4546368	8481	100.0	46.3	53.6	0.1
2001	7928901	3854993	4049101	24807	100.0	48.6	51.1	0.3
2011	7364570	3329683	4034887	-	100.0	45.2	54.8	-
2021	6519789	2953937	3565852	-	100.0	45.3	54.7	-
In urban areas								
1920	966375	378562	587813	-	100.0	39.2	60.8	-
1926	1130131	471231	658900	-	100.0	41.7	58.3	-
1934	1302551	515751	786800	-	100.0	39.6	60.4	-
1946	1735188	702418	1032770	-	100.0	40.5	59.5	-
1956	2556071	1134229	1421842	-	100.0	44.4	55.6	-
1965	3822824	1859139	1963685	-	100.0	48.6	51.4	-
1975	5061087	2659935	2401152	-	100.0	52.6	47.4	-
1985	5799939	3160593	2639346	-	100.0	54.5	45.5	-
1992	5704552	2784860	2911267	8425	100.0	48.8	51.0	0.1
2001	5474534	2805102	2651054	18378	100.0	51.2	48.4	0.3
2011	5338261	2649756	2688505	-	100.0	49.6	50.4	-
2021	4782064	2327863	2454201	-	100.0	48.7	51.3	-
In rural areas								
1920	3880596	2192938	1687658	-	100.0	56.5	43.5	-
1926	4348610	2545253	1803357	-	100.0	58.5	41.5	-
1934	4775388	2830354	1945034	-	100.0	59.3	40.7	-
1946	5294161	3332312	1961849	-	100.0	62.9	37.1	-
1956	5057638	3015978	2041660	-	100.0	59.6	40.4	-
1965	4405042	2408659	1996383	-	100.0	54.7	45.3	-
1975	3666684	1787849	1878835	-	100.0	48.8	51.2	-
1985	3148710	1525547	1623163	-	100.0	48.4	51.6	-
1992	2782765	1147608	1635101	56	100.0	41.2	58.8	0.0
2001	2454367	1049891	1398047	6429	100.0	42.8	57.0	0.3
2011	2026309	679927	1346382	-	100.0	33.6	66.4	-
2021	1737725	626074	1111651	-	100.0	36.0	64.0	-

Table 5
Population aged 15 - 64 by economic activity and district for the
period August 31 - September 6, 2021

(Number)

District	Total	Employed	Unemployed	Economically inactive
Total for the country	4069400	2548691	286697	1234012
Blagoevgrad	187711	107156	16177	64378
Burgas	239731	146176	16638	76917
Varna	275693	179964	18012	77717
Veliko Tarnovo	125194	76976	8901	39317
Vidin	42984	21874	5515	15595
Vratsa	93879	50971	10374	32534
Gabrovo	57155	38870	3113	15172
Dobrich	91376	52203	8083	31090
Kardzhali	87436	40892	6427	40117
Kyustendil	67128	38595	4075	24458
Lovech	68604	37443	5253	25908
Montana	70894	39805	7599	23490
Pazardzhik	143603	81258	15025	47320
Pernik	69970	45255	5191	19524
Pleven	133990	77514	11520	44956
Plovdiv	399794	257513	22808	119473
Razgrad	64695	34315	6740	23640
Ruse	117929	74948	8084	34897
Silistra	58627	29091	6409	23127
Sliven	102151	52192	10205	39754
Smolyan	60116	37195	4254	18667
Sofia	144277	91544	8857	43876
Sofia (stolitsa)	838390	628749	30417	179224
Stara Zagora	180951	112936	14073	53942
Targovishte	60491	31536	6787	22168
Haskovo	128309	71961	11305	45043
Shumen	94026	53395	9786	30845
Yambol	64296	38364	5069	20863