



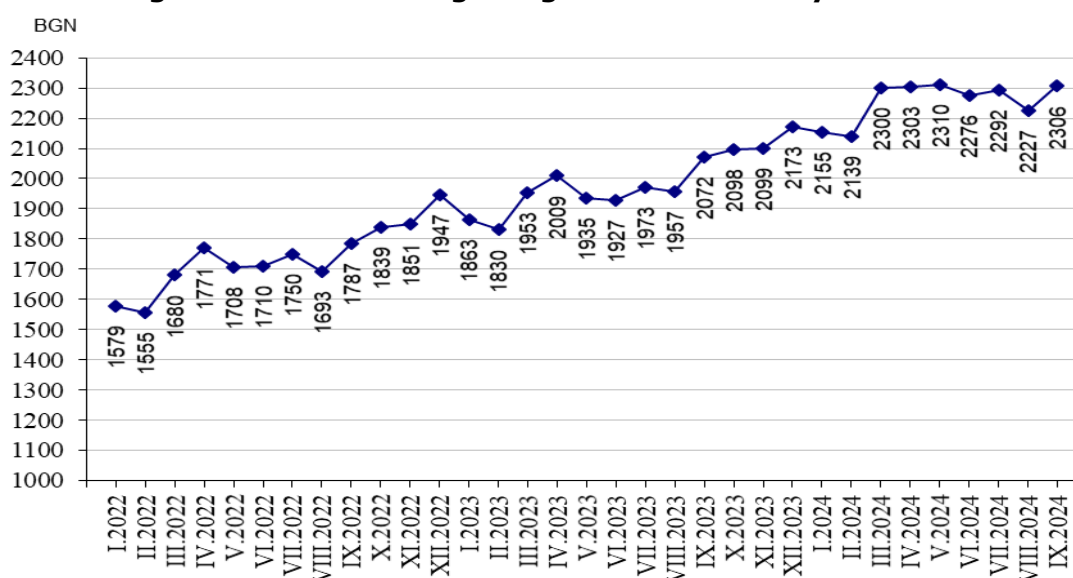
EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, THIRD QUARTER OF 2024

The **number of employees** under labour contract at the end of September 2024 decreased by 22.8 thousand, or 1.0%, as compared to the end of June 2024 and reached 2.33 million according to the preliminary data of the National Statistical Institute (NSI). The highest decrease was observed in the economic activities: 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 11.5%, 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 3.2%, and 'Arts, entertainment and recreation' - by 2.8%. The highest increase of the number of employees - by 1.2% was recorded in the economic activity 'Human health and social work activities'.

At the end of September 2024, as compared to September 2023, the number of employees under labour contract increased by 26.9 thousand, or 1.2%. The highest increase in absolute figures was observed in economic activities 'Human health and social work activities' - 12.8 thousand, 'Accommodation and food service activities' - 8.8 thousand, and 'Information and communication' - 6.0 thousand, and the highest decrease was in 'Manufacturing' - 11.8 thousand, and in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - 3.3 thousand. In percentages, the highest increase at the end of September 2024 as compared to September 2023 was in economic activity 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 8.6%, 'Human health and social work activities' - by 6.9%, and in 'Information and communication' - by 5.0%, as the highest decrease was reported in 'Mining and quarrying' - by 4.8%, and in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 4.7%.

The **average monthly wages and salaries** of the employees under labour contract in July was 2 292 BGN, in August - 2 227 BGN, and in September 2024 - 2 306 BGN.

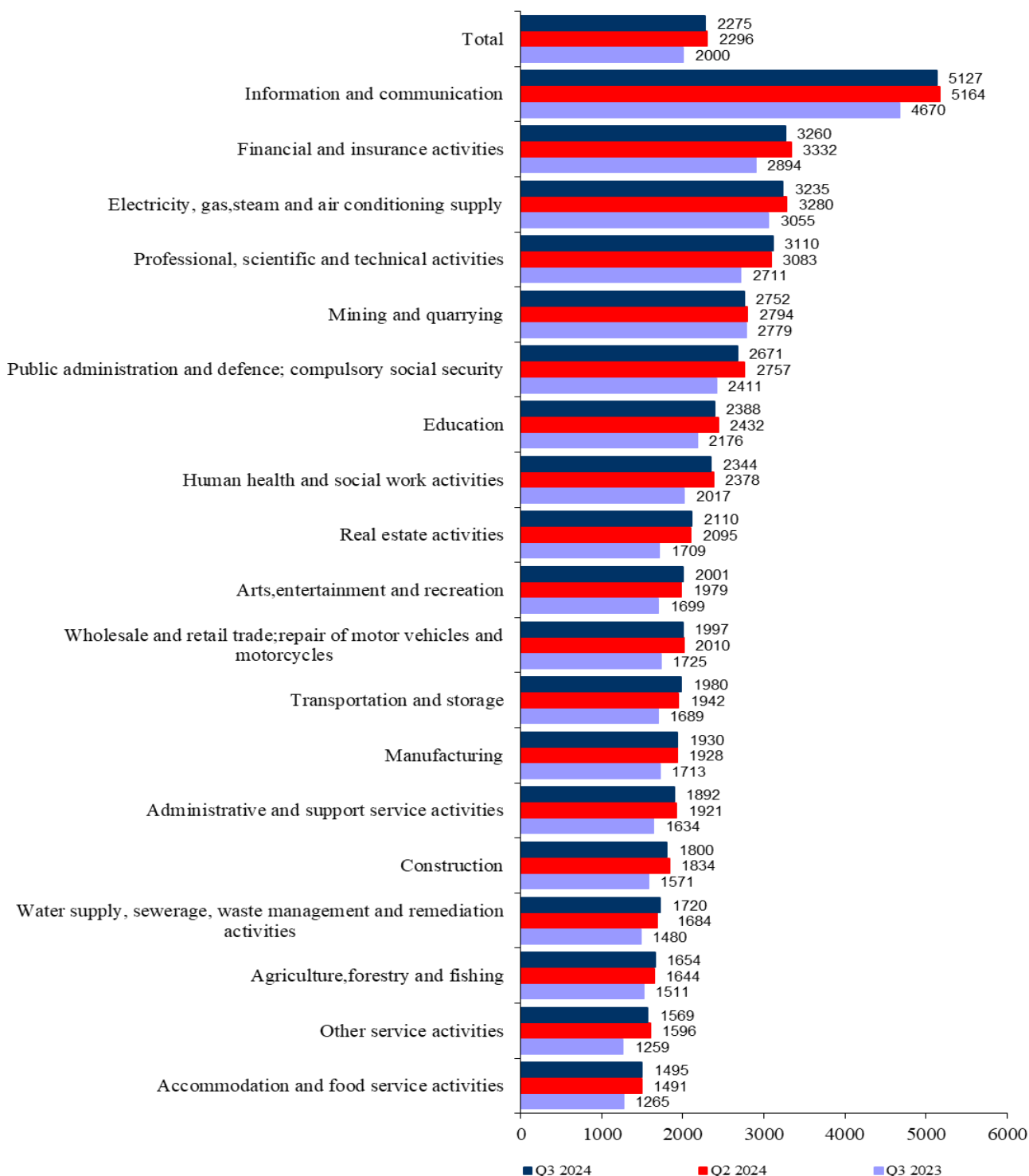
Figure 1. Gross average wages and salaries by months



EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES

In the third quarter of 2024, in comparison with the second quarter of 2024, the average monthly wages and salaries decreased by 0.9% and reached 2 275 BGN. The highest decrease in wages and salaries was reported in 'Public administration and defence; compulsory social security' - by 3.1%, 'Financial and insurance activities' - by 2.2%, and in 'Construction' - by 1.9%.

Figure 2. Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities (BGN)



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Compared to the third quarter of 2023, the average monthly wages and salaries in the third quarter of 2024 rose by 13.8%. The highest growth rates were recorded in the economic activities: 'Other service activities' - by 24.6%, 'Real estate activities' - by 23.5% and 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 18.2%.

The economic activities with the highest wages and salaries in the third quarter of 2024 were:

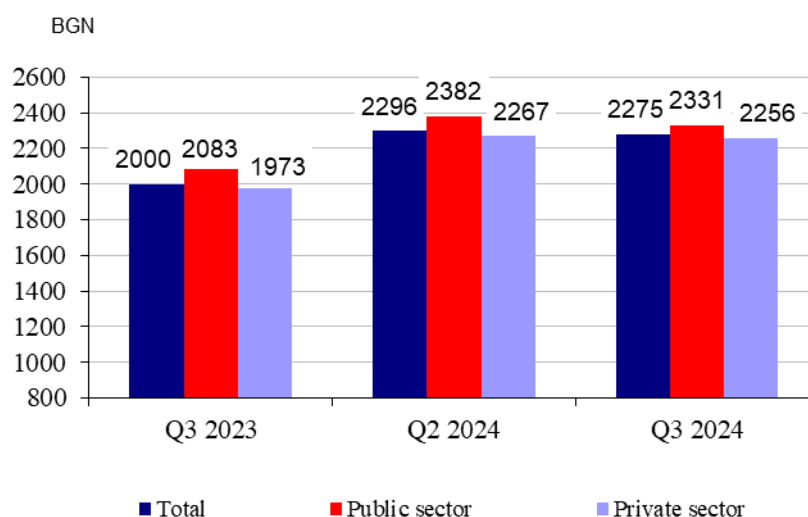
- 'Information and communication' - 5 127 BGN;
- 'Financial and insurance activities' - 3 260 BGN;
- 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply' - 3 235 BGN.

The lowest wages and salaries were recorded in:

- 'Accommodation and food service activities' - 1 495 BGN;
- 'Other service activities' - 1 569 BGN;
- 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - 1 654 BGN.

In comparison with a year earlier, the average monthly wages and salaries in the public sector grew by 11.9% and in the private sector by 14.3%.

Figure 3. Gross average monthly wages and salaries by kind of ownership



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Methodological notes

The source of information is the 'Quarterly Survey on employees, hours worked, wages and salaries, and other expenditures paid by the employer'. The main purpose of this sample survey is to make a study of the current state and dynamics of some main aspects of labour market. The sample used for the survey is a stratified random sample without replacement. Stratification criteria used include: economic activity (NACE rev. 2), size of the enterprise (according to the number of employees) and regional breakdown (28 districts, NUTS3).

More methodological information on the quarterly survey and data can be found on NSI official website:

http://www.nsi.bg/sites/default/files/files/metadata/Labour_Method_1.1_EN.pdf;

<http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/6398/short-term-statistics>.

EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES

Annex

Table 1

Employees under labour contract at the end of the month by economic activities in 2024¹

(Number)

Economic activities	2024		
	July	August	September
Total	2354692	2344073	2325353
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	67687	67306	66826
Mining and quarrying	18150	18171	17850
Manufacturing	448050	445311	445079
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	28484	28282	28262
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	37155	36904	36740
Construction	129860	131131	130914
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	391487	389532	384520
Transportation and storage	142485	142463	142353
Accommodation and food service activities	130400	125234	109952
Information and communication	127828	127136	127260
Financial and insurance activities	57491	57365	57172
Real estate activities	22026	22022	21548
Professional, scientific and technical activities	85077	84826	84842
Administrative and support service activities	116645	116918	115676
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	114600	114719	114585
Education	166125	164908	171038
Human health and social work activities	195915	196723	197559
Arts, entertainment and recreation	38308	38238	36839
Other service activities	36919	36884	36338

¹ Preliminary data.

EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES

Table 2

**Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract
by economic activities in 2024¹**

Economic activities	(BGN)		
	2024		
	July	August	September
Total	2292	2227	2306
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1654	1636	1671
Mining and quarrying	2855	2673	2726
Manufacturing	1922	1914	1955
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	3358	3117	3231
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1698	1711	1751
Construction	1821	1786	1792
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1984	1981	2024
Transportation and storage	1972	1966	2003
Accommodation and food service activities	1479	1481	1527
Information and communication	5109	5018	5254
Financial and insurance activities	3242	3261	3277
Real estate activities	2093	2117	2120
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3144	3021	3166
Administrative and support service activities	1897	1865	1915
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	3194	2402	2417
Education	2294	2279	2588
Human health and social work activities	2351	2313	2367
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2041	1929	2033
Other service activities	1573	1563	1572

¹ Preliminary data.