



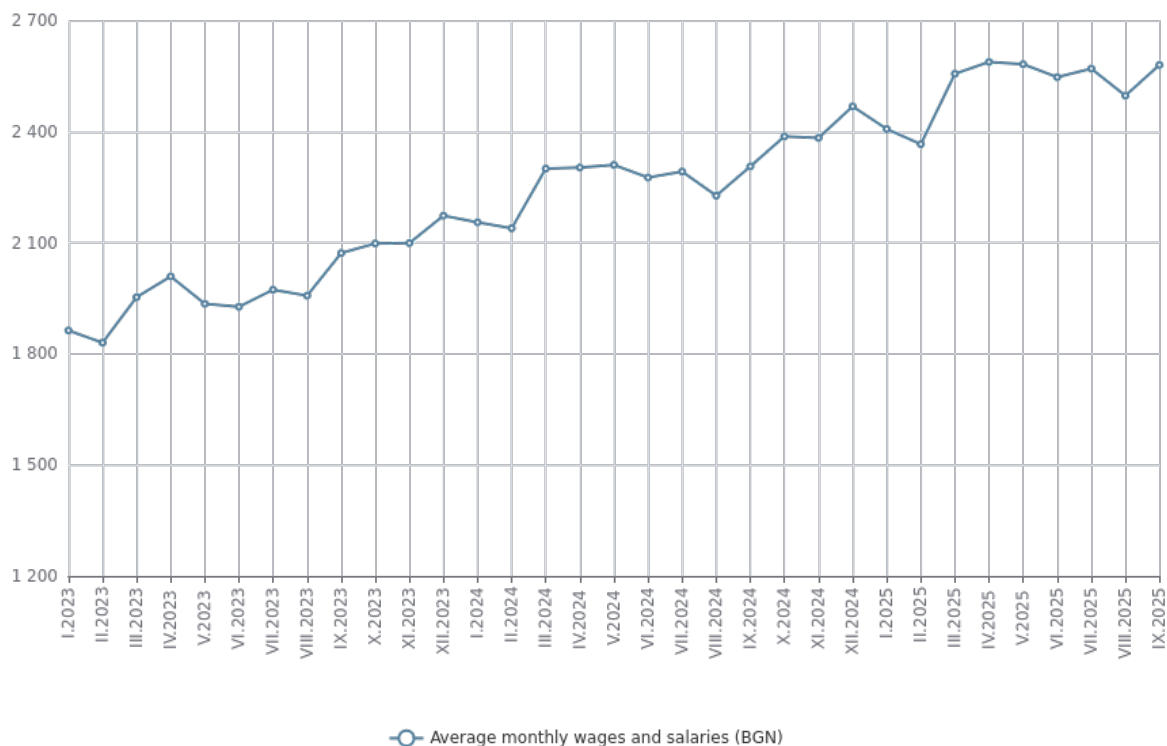
EMPLOYEES AND AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES - THIRD QUARTER OF 2025

The **number of employees** under labour contract at the end of September 2025 decreased by 28.9 thousand, or 1.2%, as compared to the end of June 2025, and reached 2.36 million according to the preliminary data of the National Statistical Institute (NSI). The highest decrease was observed in the following economic activities: 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 14.9%, 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 3.3%, and 'Real estate activities' - by 3.0%.

At the end of September 2025, as compared to September 2024, the number of employees under labour contract increased by 30.1 thousand, or 1.3%. The highest increase in absolute figures was observed in the economic activities 'Human health and social work activities' - by 11.8 thousand, 'Construction' - by 8.0 thousand, and 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' - by 5.5 thousand, and the highest decrease was in 'Manufacturing' - by 8.1 thousand, and in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 3.0 thousand. In percentages, the highest increase at the end of September 2025 as compared to September 2024 was in the economic activity 'Arts, entertainment and recreation' - by 6.2%, in 'Construction' - by 6.1%, and in 'Human health and social work activities' - by 6.0%, as the highest decrease was reported in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 4.5%, and in 'Mining and quarrying' - by 1.9%.

The **average monthly wages and salaries** of the employees under labour contract in July was 2 570 BGN, in August - 2 497 BGN, and in September 2025 - 2 580 BGN.

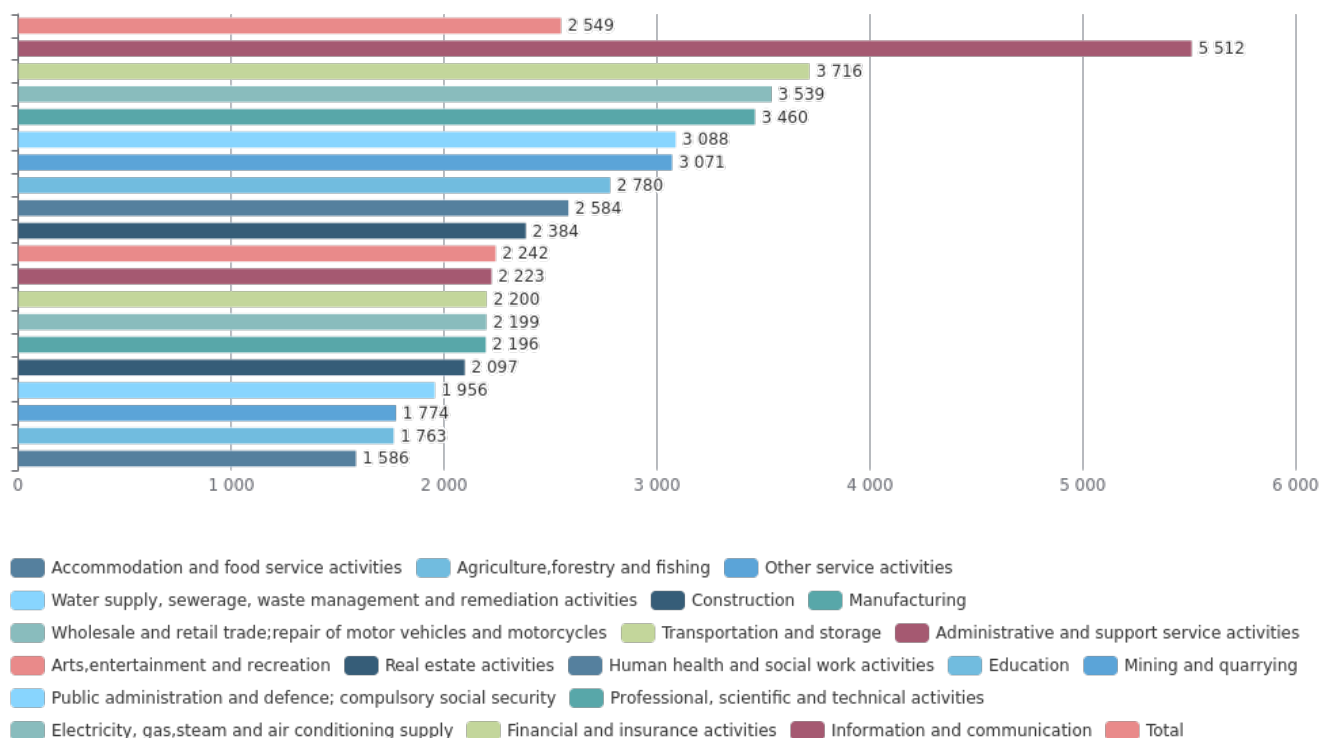
Figure 1. Gross average wages and salaries by months



In the third quarter of 2025, in comparison with the second quarter of 2025, the average monthly wages and salaries decreased by 0.9% and reached 2 549 BGN. The highest decrease in wages and salaries was reported in: 'Education' - by 4.0%, 'Arts, entertainment and recreation' - by 3.8%, and in 'Human health and social work activities' - by 1.8%.

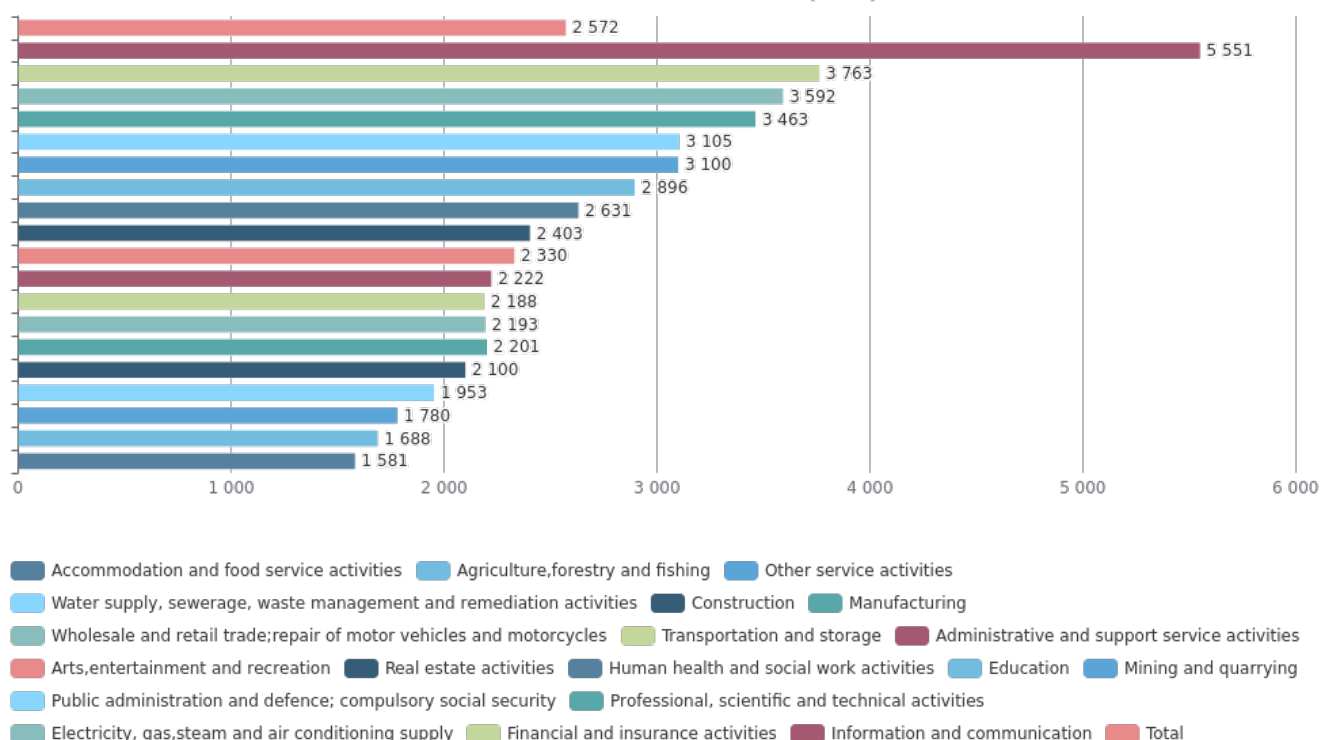
Q3 2025

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



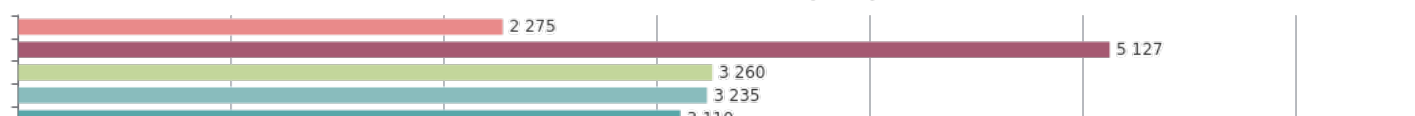
Q2 2025

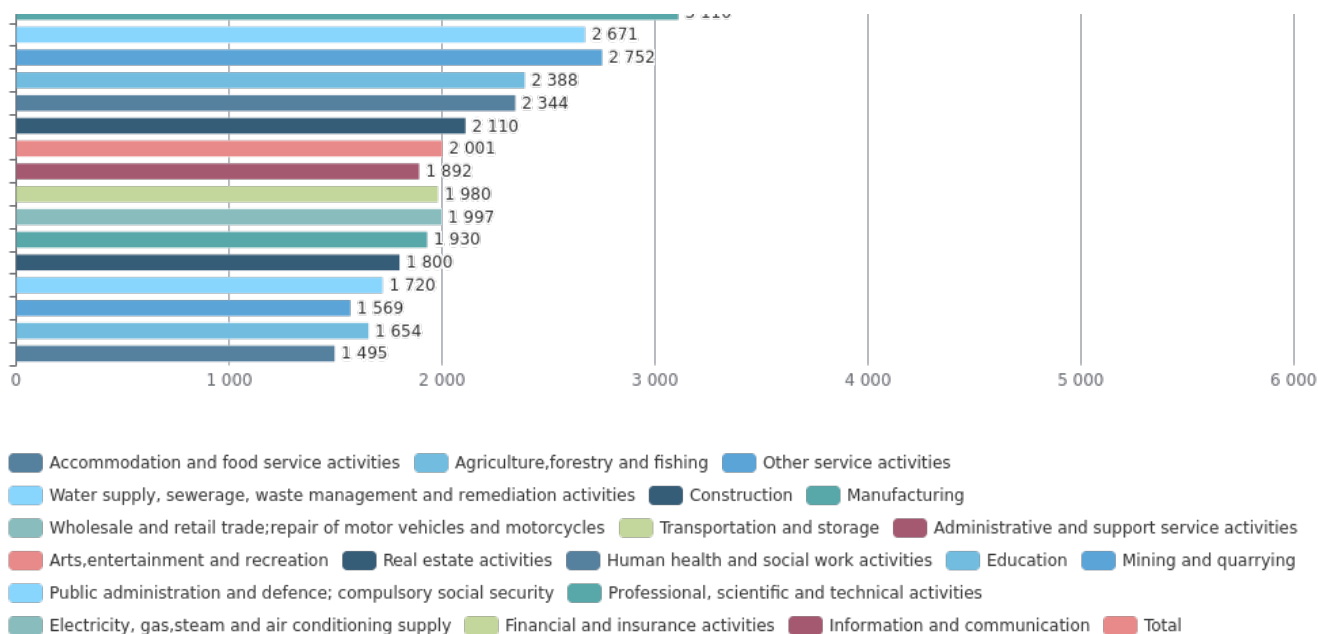
Figure 2. Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities (BGN)



Q3 2024

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





Compared to the third quarter of 2024, the average monthly wages and salaries in the third quarter of 2025 rose by 12.0%. The highest growth rates were recorded in the economic activities: 'Administrative and support service activities' - by 17.5%, 'Construction' - by 16.5%, and 'Education' - by 16.4%.

The economic activities with the highest wages and salaries in the third quarter of 2025 were:

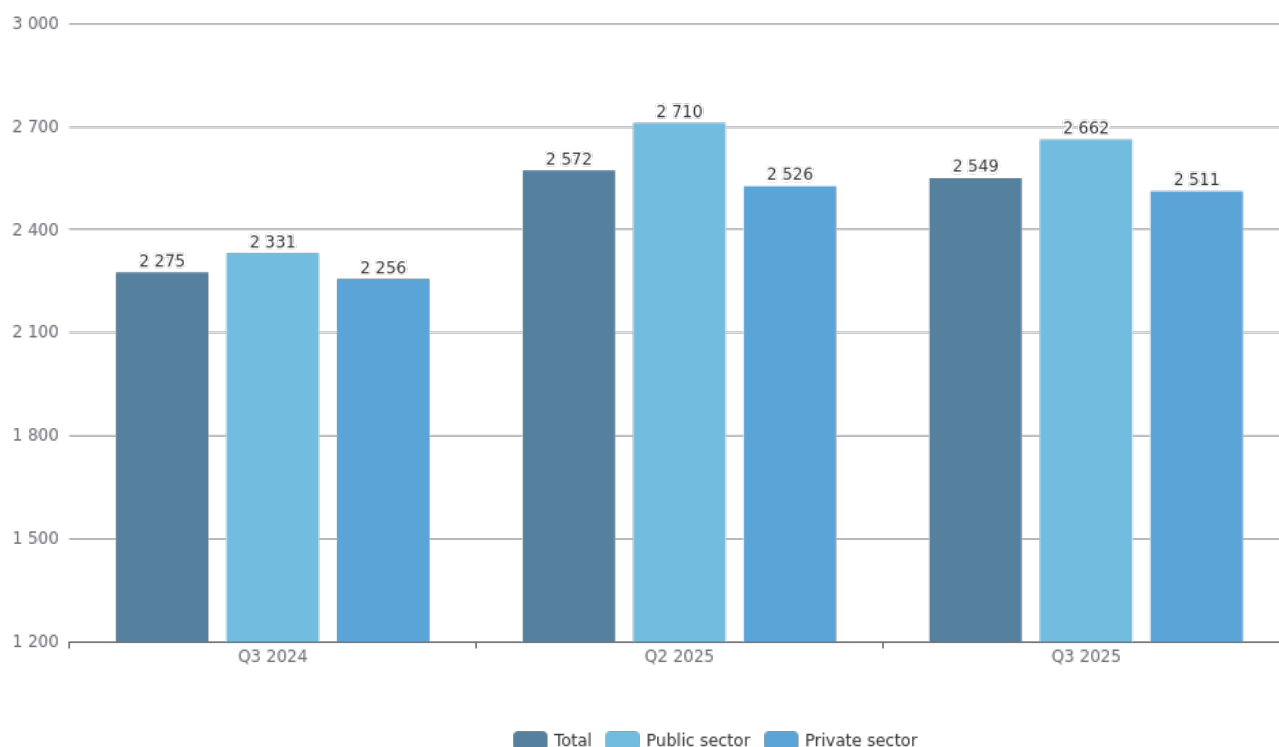
- 'Information and communication' - 5 512 BGN;
- 'Financial and insurance activities' - 3 716 BGN;
- 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply' - 3 539 BGN.

The lowest wages and salaries were recorded in:

- 'Accommodation and food service activities' - 1 586 BGN;
- 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - 1 763 BGN;
- 'Other service activities' - 1 774 BGN.

In comparison with a year earlier, the average monthly wages and salaries in the public sector grew by 14.2% and by 11.3% in the private sector.

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



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 the 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).

Annex

Table 1. Employees under labour contract at the end of the month by economic activities in 2025 (Numbers)[1]

Economic activities	VII.2025	VIII.2025	IX.2025
Total	2390952	2374438	2355499
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	65847	64536	63818
Mining and quarrying	17643	17544	17510
Manufacturing	439849	437275	436968
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	28450	28366	28500
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	37847	37664	37734
Construction	140393	140030	138948
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	395758	393731	389975
Transportation and storage	144233	143540	143420
Accommodation and food service activities	133636	129007	110412
Information and communication	129739	129446	129554
Financial and insurance activities	58644	58591	58445
Real estate activities	22544	22132	21835
Professional, scientific and technical activities	87790	87280	87198
Administrative and support service activities	117980	117082	116648
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	114534	114322	114281
Education	168882	166771	173914
Human health and social work activities	207937	208562	209357
Arts, entertainment and recreation	40847	40333	39121
Other service activities	38399	38226	37861
[1] Preliminary data.			

Table 2. Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities in 2025 (BGN)[1]

Economic activities	VII.2025	VIII.2025	IX.2025
Total	2570	2497	2580
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1778	1702	1810
Mining and quarrying	3069	3031	3112
Manufacturing	2200	2167	2220
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	3592	3421	3604
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1921	1953	1995
Construction	2103	2085	2105
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2196	2175	2226
Transportation and storage	2187	2183	2229
Accommodation and food service activities	1553	1574	1636
Information and communication	5449	5394	5693
Financial and insurance activities	3707	3715	3725
Real estate activities	2403	2344	2406
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3513	3410	3458
Administrative and support service activities	2232	2202	2235
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	3657	2820	2785
Education	2716	2683	2937
Human health and social work activities	2616	2547	2590
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2249	2183	2294
Other service activities	1775	1764	1783
[1] Preliminary data.			