

## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOURTH QUARTER 2011

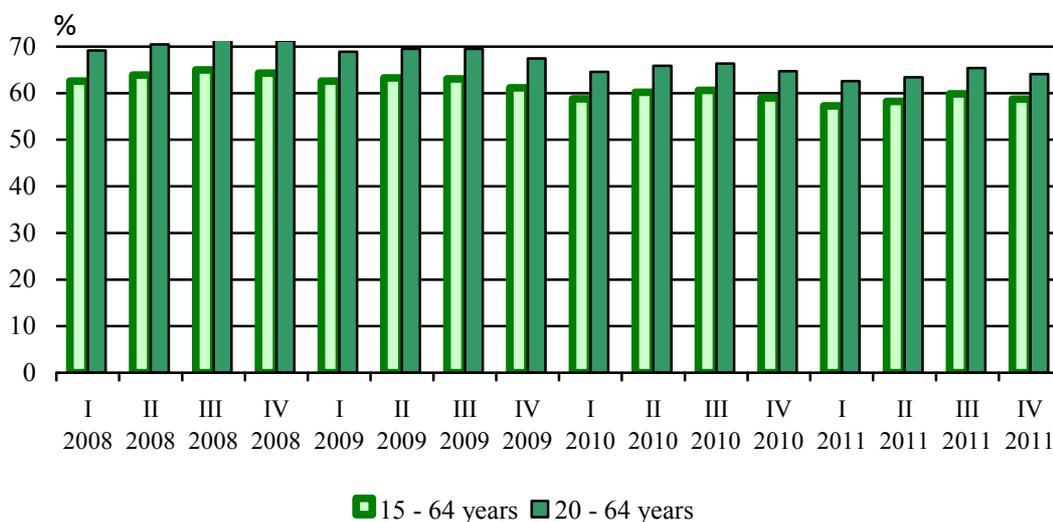
### 1. Main labour market indicators for the population aged 15 - 64

According to the results from the Labour Force Survey, carried out by the National Statistical Institute in the fourth quarter of 2011 **the economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 3 292.1 thousand. The total activity rate was 66.3% and in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2010 was by 0.3 percentage points lower.

In the fourth quarter of 2011 **the employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 58.7% - respectively 60.6% for men and 56.8% for women. Compared to the same period of 2010 employment rate (15 - 64 years) fell by 0.3 percentage points, as a decrease was observed only for men - by 1.1 percentage points.

Between the fourth quarters of 2010 and 2011 **the employment rate for population aged 20 - 64 years** (an Europe 2020 indicator) went down by 0.6 percentage points and reached 64.1% - 66.1% for men and 62.0% for women respectively.

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



In the fourth quarter of 2011 **the employment rate for the age group 55 - 64 years** was 43.8% and compared to the same quarter of 2010 rose by 0.9 percentage points and it was wholly due to the increase of female employment - by 2.1 percentage points. The employment rate for this age group was 47.9% for men and 40.1% for women respectively.

In the fourth quarter of 2011 **inactive population aged 15 - 64** was 1 671.7 thousand, 33.7% of the population in the same age group. Out of the total inactive population 753.1 thousand were men and 918.6 thousand - women, and the inactivity rate by sex was 30.4% and 37.0% respectively.



Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 were 225.4 thousand (124.8 thousand men and 100.6 thousand women), as compared to the fourth quarter of 2010 their number remained almost the same.

## 2. Main characteristics of employed persons aged 15 years and over

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the total number of **employed persons aged 15 years and over** was 2 955.2 thousand, accounting 45.7% of population in the same age group. In comparison with the same quarter of 2010 their number decreased by 68.5 thousand (2.3%), and their proportion of population by 0.6 percentage points respectively. Out of the total number of employed 1 529.8 thousand were men and 1 425.5 thousand were women. Over a year the number of employed men went down by 3.2% and that of women by 1.2%.

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the number of employed persons having attained higher education was 807.6 thousand (27.3% of employed), 1 807.4 thousand (61.2%) had completed upper secondary education and 340.2 thousand (11.5%) had lower secondary education or less. In all three groups by level of education the number of employed was lower than in the fourth quarter of 2010.

The decrease in employment between fourth quarters of 2010 and 2011 affected more persons running their own businesses and other independent workers than the employees. Self-employed persons (incl. employers and unpaid family workers) declined by 38.7 thousand (10.2%) over that period and employees by 29.8 thousand (1.1%) respectively. In the fourth quarter of 2011 the employers represented 3.4% of total employment, 7.3% were self-employed without employees, 88.4% were employees and 0.9% were unpaid family workers. Among employees 1 895.1 thousand (72.5%) worked in private sector and 717.8 thousand (27.5%) in public sector. Women had a larger proportion than men in public sector, accounted 58.5% of public employees, while in private sector the majority of employees (53.9%) were men.

In the fourth quarter of 2011 in service sector worked 1 813.2 thousand (61.4%) of all employed persons, in industry sector worked 950.5 thousand (32.2%), and in agriculture, forestry and fishing 191.6 thousand (6.5%). The employed in services and industry decreased by 1.5 and 4.2% respectively as compared with the same quarter of 2010, while those in agriculture, forestry and fishing remained virtually unchanged.

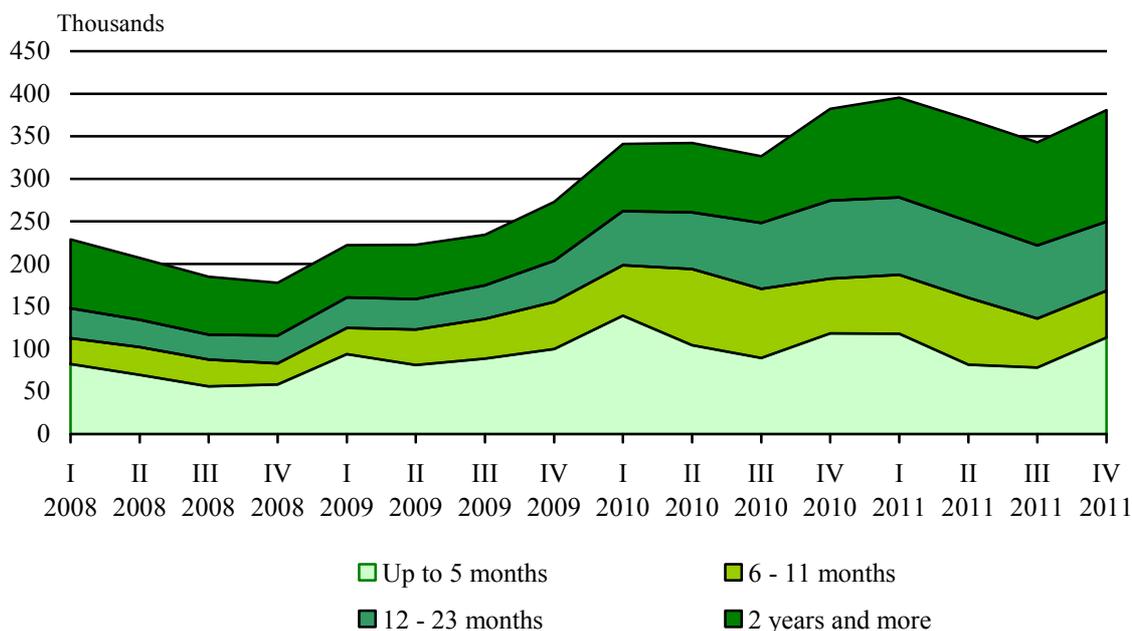
## 3. Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2011 the **number of unemployed** was 380.9 thousand and the **unemployment rate** - 11.4%. In comparison with the same quarter of 2010 the unemployment rate increased for men (by 0.7 percentage points) and decreased for women (by 0.4 percentage points) and in the fourth quarter of 2011 male unemployment (12.8%) was by 2.9 percentage points higher than female unemployment (9.9%).

The young unemployed (15 - 24 years of age) were 72.9 thousand, and the youth unemployment rate reached 28.9%. The rate was 29.8% for men and 27.5% for women respectively.

The number of long-term unemployed was 212.3 thousand, which was 55.7% of all unemployed and compared to the fourth quarter of 2010 their number rose by 6.3%. The long-term unemployment rate went up by 0.5 percentage points and achieved 6.4% in the fourth quarter of 2011. The rate increased for men (by 1.3 percentage points) and decreased for women (by 0.4 percentage points), and reached 7.5% for men and 5.1% for women.

**Figure 2. Unemployed by duration of unemployment and by quarter**



In the fourth quarter of 2011 previous employment experience had 310.2 thousand (81.4%) of all unemployed persons and 70.7 thousand (18.6%) were looking for their first job.



## 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 working within two weeks following the reference period.

**Long-term unemployed** are persons who have been unemployed for one or more years.

**Inactive population** (persons not in the labour force) are 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.

**Inactivity rate** - ratio between the economically inactive population and the total population of the same age group.



The distribution of the employed persons by economic sector is done in accordance with the Classification of Economic Activities - 2008.

**For the weighting of the results of the survey the current demographic data as of 31 December 2010 for the total population are used.**

As in 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 fourth quarter of 2011 are as follows:

- total number of employed - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed - 3.7%;
- unemployment rate - 3.4%.

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 "Labor Market", Labour Force Survey.



APPENDIX

Table 1

MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS,  
FOURTH QUARTER OF 2010 AND 2011

|   | Fourth quarter 2010 | Fourth quarter 2011 | Change (fourth quarter 2011 minus fourth quarter 2010) |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Total</b>                                  |                     |                     |  |
| Activity rate (15 - 64) - %                   | 66.6                | 66.3                | -0.3   |
| Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands | 3023.7              | 2955.2              | -68.5  |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands     | 2978.7              | 2913.2              | -65.5  |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands     | 195.4               | 179.3               | -16.1  |
| Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands     | 2966.5              | 2901.5              | -65.0  |
| Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands     | 416.4               | 421.0               | 4.6  |
| Employment rate (15 and over) - %             | 46.3                | 45.7                | -0.6   |
| Employment rate (15 - 64) - %                 | 59.0                | 58.7                | -0.3   |
| Employment rate (15 - 24) - %                 | 20.9                | 20.1                | -0.8   |
| Employment rate (20 - 64) - %                 | 64.7                | 64.1                | -0.6   |
| Employment rate (55 - 64) - %                 | 42.9                | 43.8                | 0.9  |
| Unemployed persons - total - thousands        | 382.4               | 380.9               | -1.5   |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands   | 380.2               | 379.0               | -1.2   |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands   | 70.4                | 72.9                | 2.5  |
| Unemployment rate - %                         | 11.2                | 11.4                | 0.2  |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %               | 11.3                | 11.5                | 0.2  |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %               | 26.5                | 28.9                | 2.4  |
| Long-term unemployment rate - %               | 5.9                 | 6.4                 | 0.5  |
| Discouraged persons - total - thousands       | 228.0               | 226.9               | -1.1   |
| Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands  | 225.7               | 225.4               | -0.3   |



Table 1

**MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS,  
FOURTH QUARTER OF 2010 AND 2011**

(Continued)

|   | Fourth<br>quarter<br>2010 | Fourth<br>quarter<br>2011 | Change<br>(fourth quarter<br>2011 minus<br>fourth quarter<br>2010) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Male</b>                                   |                           |                           |  |
| Activity rate (15 - 64) - %                   | 70.3                      | 69.6                      | -0.7   |
| Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands | 1581.0                    | 1529.8                    | -51.2  |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands     | 1550.0                    | 1501.4                    | -48.6  |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands     | 110.9                     | 105.3                     | -5.6   |
| Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands     | 1543.3                    | 1495.1                    | -48.2  |
| Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands     | 217.8                     | 214.7                     | -3.1   |
| Employment rate (15 and over) - %             | 50.5                      | 49.4                      | -1.1   |
| Employment rate (15 - 64) - %                 | 61.7                      | 60.6                      | -1.1   |
| Employment rate (15 - 24) - %                 | 23.2                      | 23.0                      | -0.2   |
| Employment rate (20 - 64) - %                 | 67.7                      | 66.1                      | -1.6   |
| Employment rate (55 - 64) - %                 | 48.5                      | 47.9                      | -0.6   |
| Unemployed persons - total - thousands        | 216.8                     | 224.4                     | 7.6  |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands   | 215.7                     | 224.0                     | 8.3  |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands   | 44.9                      | 44.8                      | -0.1   |
| Unemployment rate - %                         | 12.1                      | 12.8                      | 0.7  |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %               | 12.2                      | 13.0                      | 0.8  |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %               | 28.8                      | 29.8                      | 1.0  |
| Long-term unemployment rate - %               | 6.2                       | 7.5                       | 1.3  |
| Discouraged persons - total - thousands       | 127.8                     | 125.6                     | -2.2   |
| Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands  | 126.1                     | 124.8                     | -1.3   |



Table 1

**MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS,  
FOURTH QUARTER OF 2010 AND 2011**

(Continued and end)

|   | Fourth<br>quarter<br>2010 | Fourth<br>quarter<br>2011 | Change<br>(fourth quarter<br>2011 minus<br>fourth quarter<br>2010) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Female</b>                                 |                           |                           |  |
| Activity rate (15 - 64) - %                   | 62.9                      | 63.0                      | 0.1  |
| Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands | 1442.7                    | 1425.5                    | -17.2  |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands     | 1428.7                    | 1411.7                    | -17.0  |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands     | 84.5                      | 74.1                      | -10.4  |
| Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands     | 1423.3                    | 1406.4                    | -16.9  |
| Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands     | 198.6                     | 206.3                     | 7.7  |
| Employment rate (15 and over) - %             | 42.4                      | 42.3                      | -0.1   |
| Employment rate (15 - 64) - %                 | 56.4                      | 56.8                      | 0.4  |
| Employment rate (15 - 24) - %                 | 18.6                      | 17.0                      | -1.6   |
| Employment rate (20 - 64) - %                 | 61.8                      | 62.0                      | 0.2  |
| Employment rate (55 - 64) - %                 | 38.0                      | 40.1                      | 2.1  |
| Unemployed persons - total - thousands        | 165.6                     | 156.5                     | -9.1   |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands   | 164.5                     | 155.0                     | -9.5   |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands   | 25.5                      | 28.1                      | 2.6  |
| Unemployment rate - %                         | 10.3                      | 9.9                       | -0.4   |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %               | 10.3                      | 9.9                       | -0.4   |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %               | 23.2                      | 27.5                      | 4.3  |
| Long-term unemployment rate - %               | 5.5                       | 5.1                       | -0.4   |
| Discouraged persons - total - thousands       | 100.2                     | 101.3                     | 1.1  |
| Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands  | 99.6                      | 100.6                     | 1.0  |