



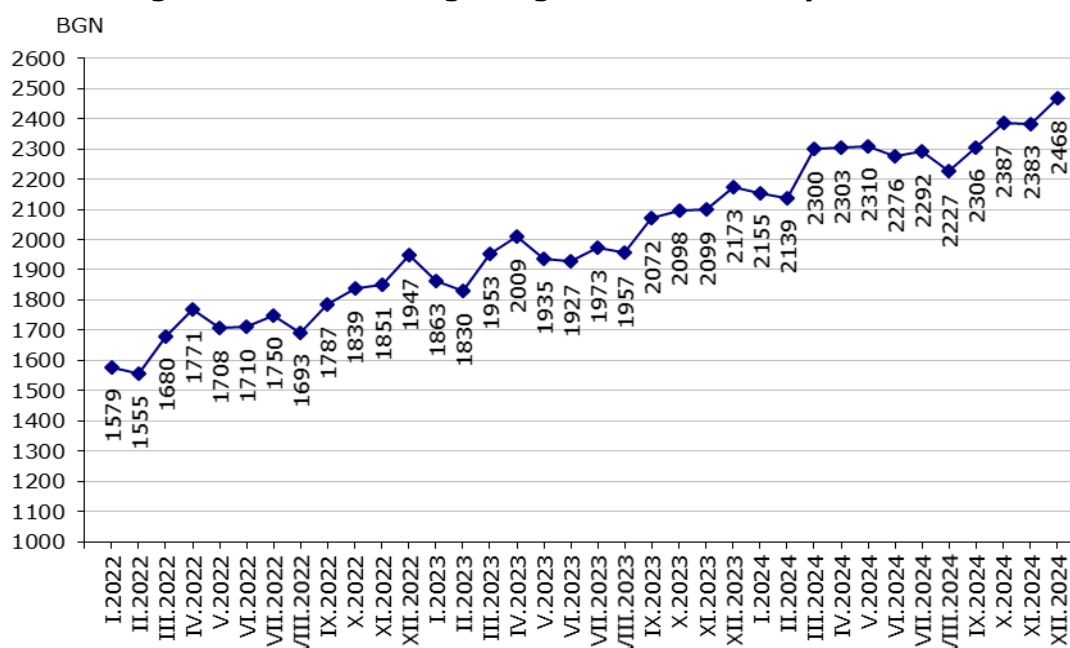
EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, FOURTH QUARTER OF 2024

The **number of employees** under labour contract at the end of December 2024 decreased by 11.7 thousand, or 0.5%, as compared to the end of September 2024, and reached 2.31 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 7.7%, 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 6.9%, and 'Real estate activities' - by 1.8%. The highest increase of the number of employees - by 1.7%, was recorded in the economic activity 'Arts, entertainment and recreation'.

At the end of December 2024, as compared to December 2023, the number of employees under labour contract increased by 25.7 thousand, or 1.1%. The highest increase in absolute figures was observed in economic activities 'Human health and social work activities' - 12.7 thousand, 'Accommodation and food service activities' - 7.0 thousand, and 'Construction' - 5.4 thousand, and the highest decrease was in 'Manufacturing' - 12.7 thousand, and in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - 3.7 thousand. In percentages, the highest increase at the end of December 2024 as compared to December 2023 was in economic activity 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 7.4%, 'Human health and social work activities' - by 6.8%, and in 'Construction' - by 4.3%, as the highest decrease was reported in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 5.6%, and in 'Mining and quarrying' - by 4.9%.

The **average monthly wages and salaries** of the employees under labour contract in October was 2 387 BGN, in November - 2 383 BGN, and in December 2024 - 2 468 BGN.

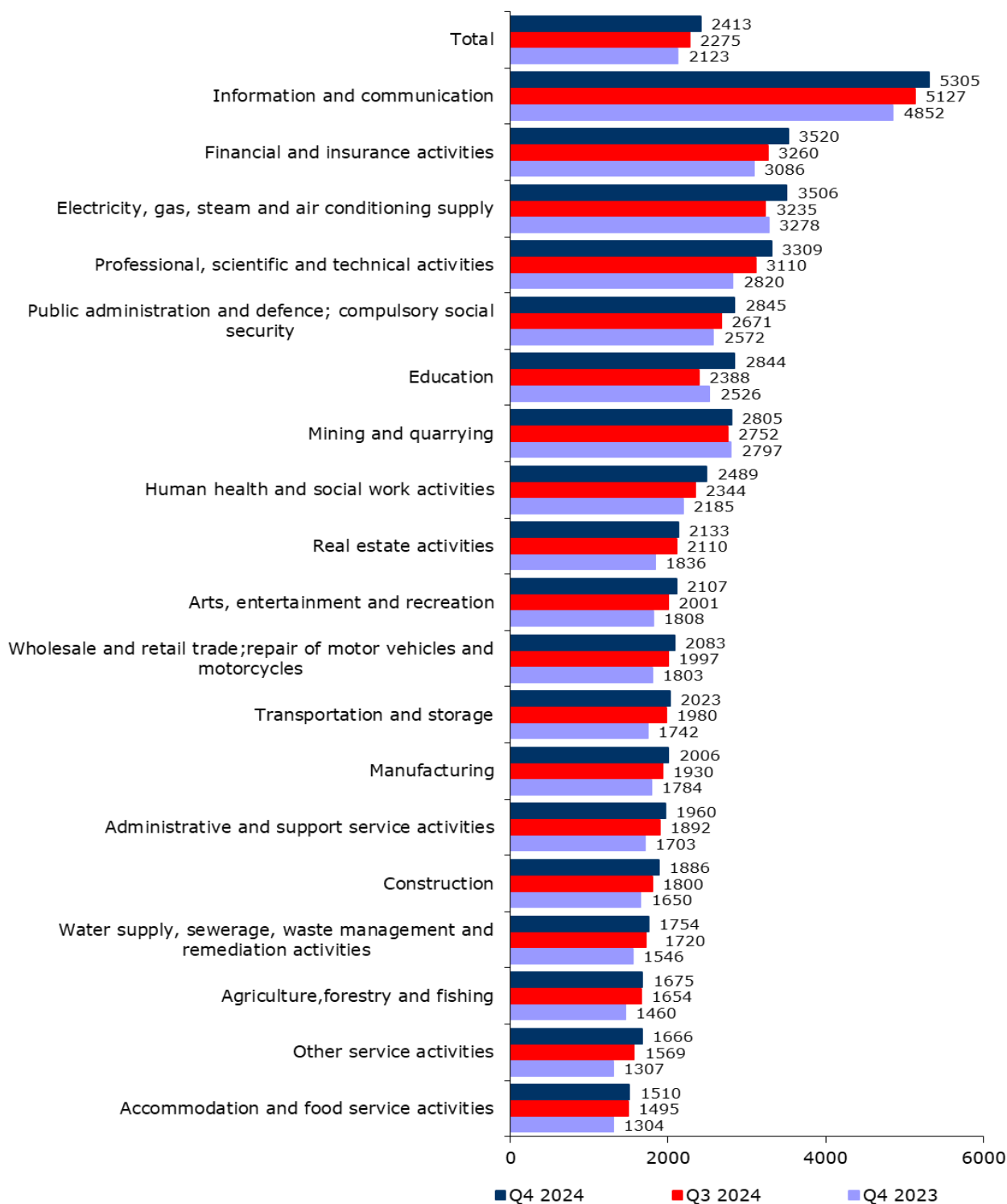
Figure 1. Gross average wages and salaries by months



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

In the fourth quarter of 2024, in comparison with the third quarter of 2024, the average monthly wages and salaries increased by 6.1% and reached 2 413 BGN. The highest increase in wages and salaries was reported in 'Education' - by 19.1%, 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply' - by 8.4%, and in 'Financial and insurance activities' - by 8.0%.

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



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

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2023, the average monthly wages and salaries in the fourth quarter of 2024 rose by 13.7%. The highest growth rates were recorded in the economic activities: 'Other service activities' - by 27.5%, 'Professional, scientific and technical activities' - by 17.3%, and 'Arts, entertainment and recreation' - by 16.5%.

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

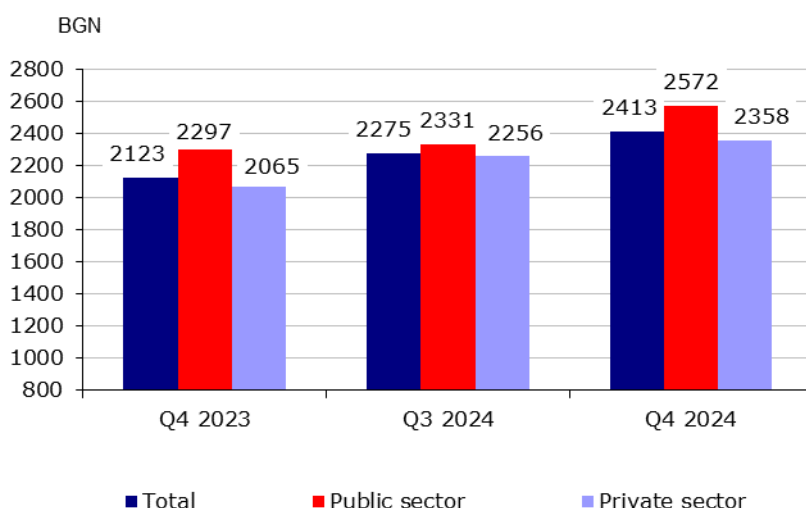
- 'Information and communication' - 5 305 BGN;
- 'Financial and insurance activities' - 3 520 BGN;
- 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply' - 3 506 BGN.

The lowest wages and salaries were recorded in:

- 'Accommodation and food service activities' - 1 510 BGN;
- 'Other service activities' - 1 666 BGN;
- 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - 1 675 BGN.

In comparison with a year earlier, the average monthly wages and salaries in the public sector grew by 12.0% and in the private sector - by 14.2%.

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



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/sites/default/files/files/metadata/Labour%20Method%201.1%20EN.pdf);

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

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

Annex

Table 1

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

(Number)

Economic activities	2024		
	October	November	December
Total	2317979	2320309	2313666
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	66152	63692	62228
Mining and quarrying	17792	17821	17708
Manufacturing	445642	444781	441361
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	28193	28181	28260
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	36919	37116	36993
Construction	131666	131657	131321
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	385473	386891	386331
Transportation and storage	141330	140649	140117
Accommodation and food service activities	100941	99915	101500
Information and communication	127011	127139	126537
Financial and insurance activities	57280	57322	57288
Real estate activities	21277	21197	21165
Professional, scientific and technical activities	84803	85002	85312
Administrative and support service activities	114663	117032	115554
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	114563	114919	114826
Education	172710	173534	173280
Human health and social work activities	198340	200063	200305
Arts, entertainment and recreation	36790	36904	37448
Other service activities	36434	36494	36132

¹ Preliminary data.

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

Table 2

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

(BGN)

Economic activities	2024		
	October	November	December
Total	2387	2383	2468
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1698	1675	1652
Mining and quarrying	2700	2852	2864
Manufacturing	1955	2036	2026
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	3312	3532	3674
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1705	1732	1826
Construction	1859	1908	1889
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2029	2094	2126
Transportation and storage	1948	2027	2096
Accommodation and food service activities	1490	1484	1557
Information and communication	5145	5218	5553
Financial and insurance activities	3226	3461	3872
Real estate activities	2025	2134	2240
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3270	3246	3411
Administrative and support service activities	1925	1940	2015
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	3339	2634	2562
Education	2918	2597	3016
Human health and social work activities	2435	2505	2527
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2072	2073	2175
Other service activities	1599	1632	1768

¹ Preliminary data.