

## EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, FIRST QUARTER OF 2020

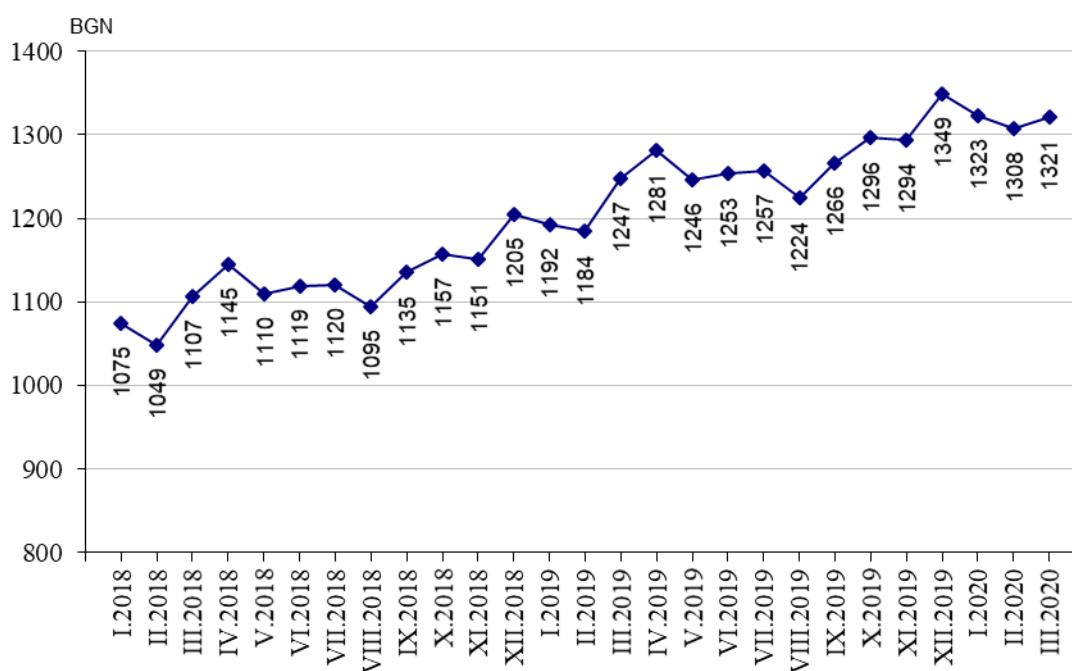
According to the preliminary data of the National Statistical Institute (NSI) at the end of March 2020 the **number of employees** under labour contract decreased by 25.1 thousand or 1.1% as compared to the end of December 2019 and reached 2.26 million. The highest decrease was observed in economic activities: ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - 19.8%, ‘Construction’ - 3.4% and in ‘Other service activities’ - by 2.0%. The highest increase of the number of employees was recorded in ‘Information and communication’ - by 5.5%.

In the structure of employees by economic activities the biggest relative share of employees was in ‘Manufacturing’ - 21.5% and ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ - 17.2%.

At the end of March 2020 as compared to March 2019 the number of employees under labour contract decreased by 54.0 thousand or 2.3%. The highest decrease in absolute figures was observed in economic activities ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - 24.9 thousand, ‘Manufacturing’ - 20.6 thousand, and ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ - 8.1 thousand and the highest increase - in ‘Information and communication’ - 8.4 thousand. In percentages the highest decrease at the end of March 2020 as compared to March 2019 was in economic activity ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - by 22.8%, ‘Manufacturing’ - by 4.1%, and ‘Arts, entertainment and recreation’ - by 3.9%, as the highest increase was reported in ‘Information and communication’ - by 9.0%.

The **average monthly wages and salaries** of the employees under labour contract in January was 1 323 BGN, in February - 1 308 BGN and in March 2020 - 1 321 BGN.

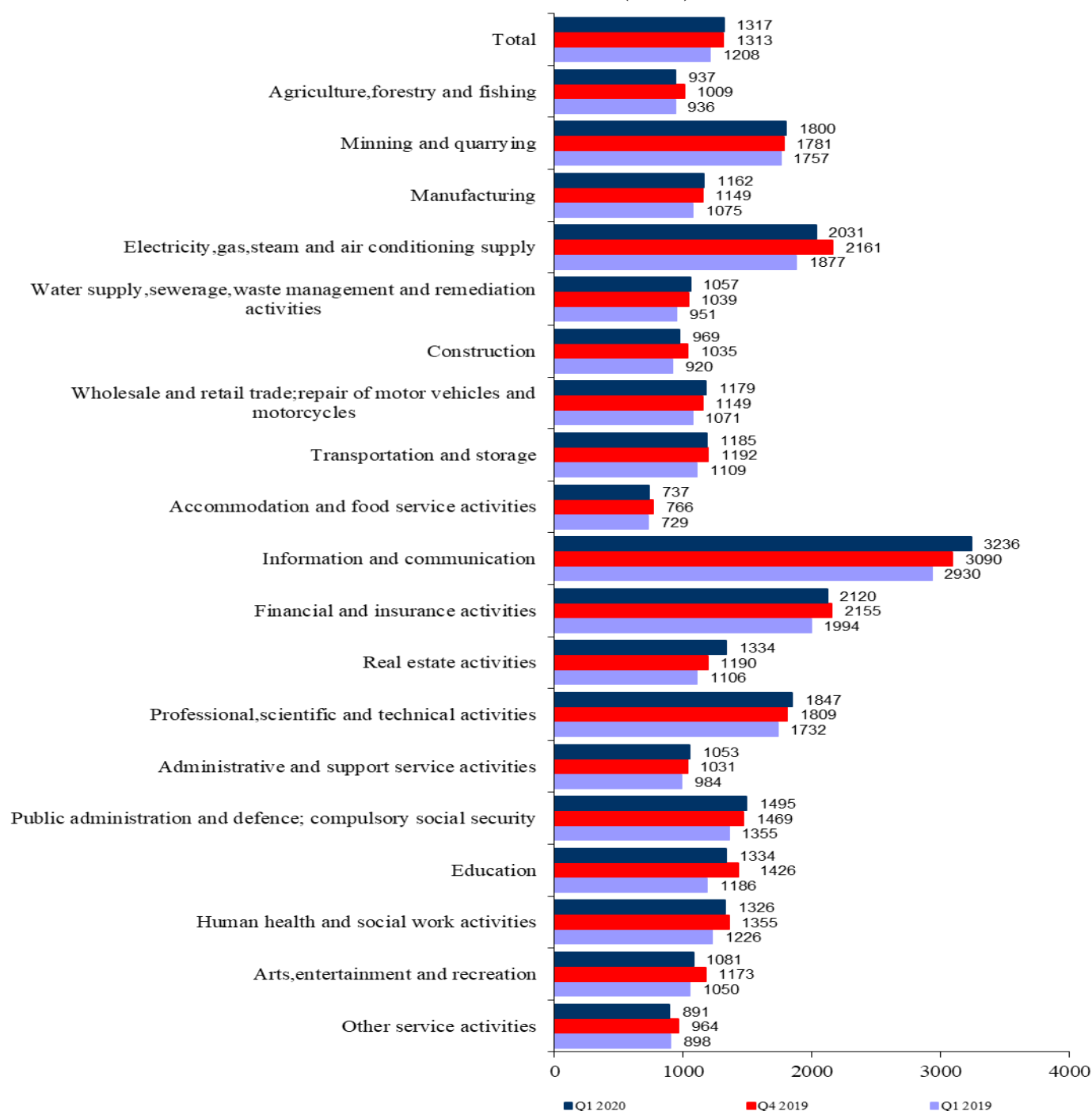
**Figure 1. Gross average wages and salaries by months**



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In the first quarter of 2020 in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2019 the average monthly wages and salaries increased by 0.3% getting 1 317 BGN. The highest increase in wages and salaries was reported in 'Real estate activities' - by 12.1% and in 'Information and communication' - by 4.7%. The highest decrease was in the economic activities 'Arts, entertainment and recreation' - by 7.8%, 'Other service activities' - by 7.6% and in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 7.1%.

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



Compared to the first quarter of 2019 the average monthly wages and salaries in the first quarter of 2020 rose by 9.0%. The highest growth rates were recorded in economic activities: ‘Real estate activities’ - 20.6%, ‘Education’ - 12.5% and ‘Information and communication’ - 10.4%.

The economic activities with the highest wages and salaries in the first quarter of 2020 were:

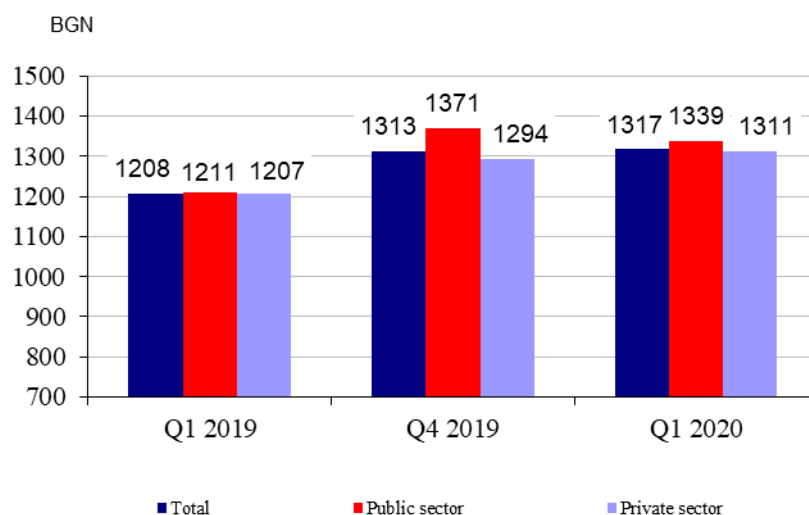
- ‘Information and communication’ - 3 236 BGN
- ‘Financial and insurance activities’ - 2 120 BGN
- ‘Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’ - 2 031 BGN.

The lowest wages and salaries were recorded in:

- ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - 737 BGN
- ‘Other service activities’ - 891 BGN
- ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ - 937 BGN.

In comparison with a year earlier the average monthly wages and salaries in public sector grew by 10.6% while in private sector - by 8.6%.

**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. It is sample survey which main purpose 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 could be found on the 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_Method_1.1_EN.pdf);

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

## Annex

**Table 1**

**Employees under labour contract at the end of the month by economic activities in 2020<sup>1</sup>**

(Number)

Economic activities	2020		
	January	February	March
<b>Total</b>	<b>2309964</b>	<b>2310656</b>	<b>2263469</b>
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	66887	66960	68372
Mining and quarrying	21213	21142	21044
Manufacturing	496092	495875	486909
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	29901	29912	29893
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	36986	36902	36720
Construction	127344	126197	124555
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	397610	397287	389237
Transportation and storage	142533	142930	141187
Accommodation and food service activities	105200	104773	84073
Information and communication	101219	101541	101643
Financial and insurance activities	57798	57626	57462
Real estate activities	22407	22644	21797
Professional, scientific and technical activities	82375	82408	81483
Administrative and support service activities	118739	119903	118911
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	112864	112944	113301
Education	167332	167260	166577
Human health and social work activities	148922	150001	150424
Arts, entertainment and recreation	37646	37593	34794
Other service activities	36896	36758	35087

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary data.

**Table 2**

**Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities in 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Economic activities	(BGN)		
	2020		
	January	January	January
<b>Total</b>	<b>1323</b>	<b>1308</b>	<b>1321</b>
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	927	933	949
Mining and quarrying	1885	1688	1826
Manufacturing	1163	1159	1162
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	2047	1983	2062
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1047	1063	1061
Construction	976	979	951
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1182	1174	1181
Transportation and storage	1210	1182	1164
Accommodation and food service activities	793	769	639
Information and communication	3204	3150	3353
Financial and insurance activities	2096	2068	2198
Real estate activities	1361	1336	1303
Professional, scientific and technical activities	1796	1829	1918
Administrative and support service activities	1048	1025	1085
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1605	1412	1468
Education	1319	1363	1320
Human health and social work activities	1329	1344	1306
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1119	1130	994
Other service activities	905	909	858

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary data.