

EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023

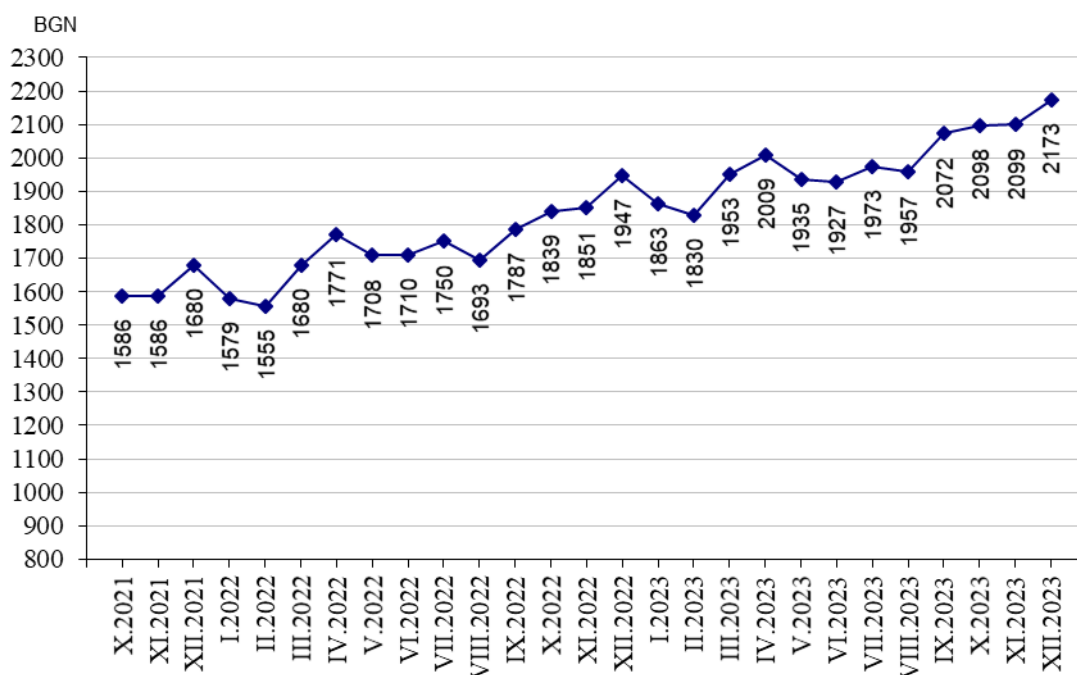
The **number of employees** under labour contract at the end of December 2023 decreased by 10.5 thousand, or 0.5%, as compared to the end of September 2023 and reached 2.29 million according to the preliminary data of the National Statistical Institute (NSI). The highest decrease was observed in economic activities: ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - by 6.6%, ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ - by 5.9%, and ‘Transportation and storage’ - by 1.3%. The highest increase of the number of employees was recorded in economic activities ‘Arts, entertainment and recreation’ - by 1.6%, and ‘Human health and social work activities’ - by 1.5%.

In the structure of employees by economic activities, the biggest relative share of employees was in ‘Manufacturing’ - 19.8%, and ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ - 16.8%.

At the end of December 2023, as compared to December 2022, the number of employees under labour contract increased by 28.1 thousand, or 1.2%. The highest increase in absolute figures was observed in economic activities ‘Human health and social work activities’ - 19.8 thousand, ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - 5.6 thousand, and ‘Construction’ - 4.3 thousand, and the highest decrease was in ‘Manufacturing’ - 10.3 thousand, and in ‘Administrative and support service activities’ - 1.5 thousand. In percentages, the highest increase at the end of December 2023 as compared to December 2022 was in economic activity ‘Human health and social work activities’ - by 11.8%, ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - by 6.3%, and in ‘Real estate activities’ - by 4.2%, as the highest decrease was reported in ‘Manufacturing’ - by 2.2%, and in ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ - by 1.8%.

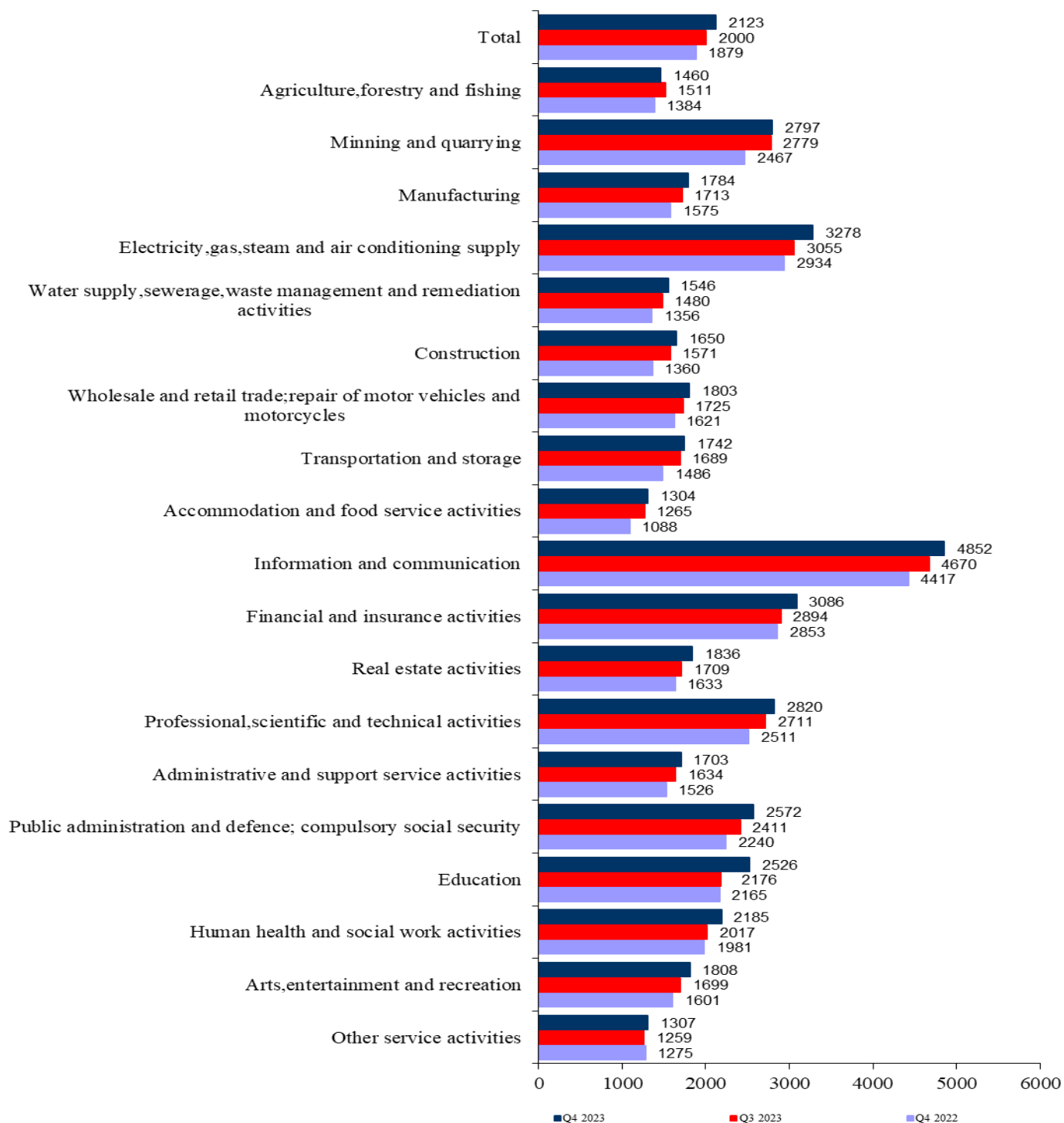
The **average monthly wages and salaries** of the employees under labour contract in October was 2 098 BGN, in November - 2 099 BGN, and in December 2023 - 2 173 BGN.

Figure 1. Gross average wages and salaries by months



In the fourth quarter of 2023, in comparison with the third quarter of 2023, the average monthly wages and salaries increased by 6.2% and reached 2 123 BGN. The highest increase in wages and salaries was reported in ‘Education’ - by 16.1%, ‘Human health and social work activities’ - by 8.3%, and in ‘Real estate activities’ - by 7.4%.

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



Compared to the fourth quarter of 2022, the average monthly wages and salaries in the fourth quarter of 2023 rose by 13.0%. The highest growth rates were recorded in economic activities: ‘Construction’ - by 21.3%, in ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - by 19.9%, and in ‘Transportation and storage’ - by 17.2%.

The economic activities with the highest wages and salaries in the fourth quarter of 2023 were:

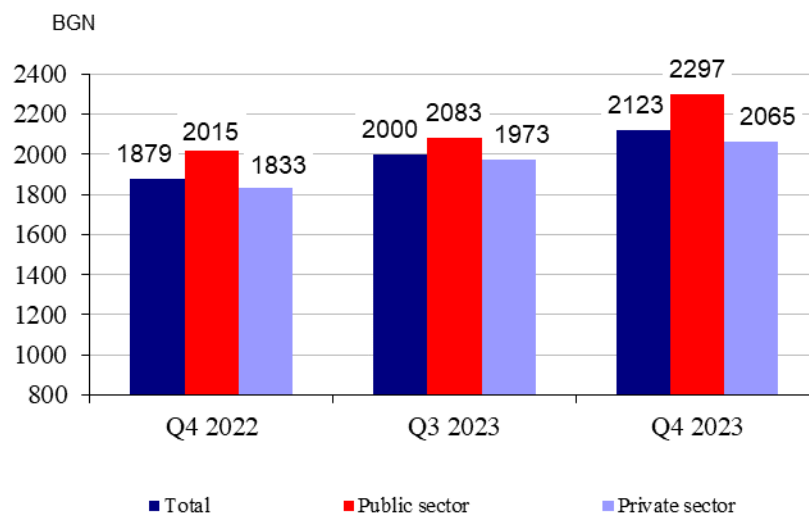
- ‘Information and communication’ - 4 852 BGN;
- ‘Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’ - 3 278 BGN;
- ‘Financial and insurance activities’ - 3 086 BGN.

The lowest wages and salaries were recorded in:

- ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - 1 304 BGN;
- ‘Other service activities’ - 1 307 BGN;
- ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ - 1 460 BGN.

In comparison with a year earlier, the average monthly wages and salaries in the public sector grew by 14.0%, while in the private sector - by 12.7%.

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 a 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 can 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/en/content/6398/short-term-statistics>.



Annex

Table 1

Employees under labour contract at the end of the month by economic activities in 2023¹

(Number)

Economic activities	2023		
	October	November	December
Total	2290750	2296415	2287929
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	69245	67708	65951
Mining and quarrying	18732	18749	18617
Manufacturing	456948	457250	454037
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	28763	28772	28752
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	36469	36527	36358
Construction	126739	126423	125948
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	383479	386041	384093
Transportation and storage	140391	140284	139082
Accommodation and food service activities	92971	92974	94546
Information and communication	121129	121624	121435
Financial and insurance activities	55962	56182	56102
Real estate activities	21797	21840	21708
Professional, scientific and technical activities	82872	82722	82310
Administrative and support service activities	112053	113544	113091
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	114277	113868	113813
Education	171328	172504	172064
Human health and social work activities	185711	186969	187581
Arts, entertainment and recreation	36270	36563	36598
Other service activities	35614	35871	35843

¹ Preliminary data.



Table 2

Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities in 2023¹

(BGN)

Economic activities	2023		
	October	November	December
Total	2098	2099	2173
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1459	1429	1494
Mining and quarrying	2573	3002	2818
Manufacturing	1735	1815	1801
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	3094	3286	3455
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1500	1523	1615
Construction	1612	1676	1662
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1749	1803	1858
Transportation and storage	1692	1733	1801
Accommodation and food service activities	1274	1281	1356
Information and communication	4780	4732	5043
Financial and insurance activities	2855	3064	3339
Real estate activities	1739	1905	1863
Professional, scientific and technical activities	2718	2817	2925
Administrative and support service activities	1664	1692	1755
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2929	2460	2328
Education	2608	2292	2678
Human health and social work activities	2158	2182	2216
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1781	1775	1868
Other service activities	1266	1296	1360

¹ Preliminary data.