



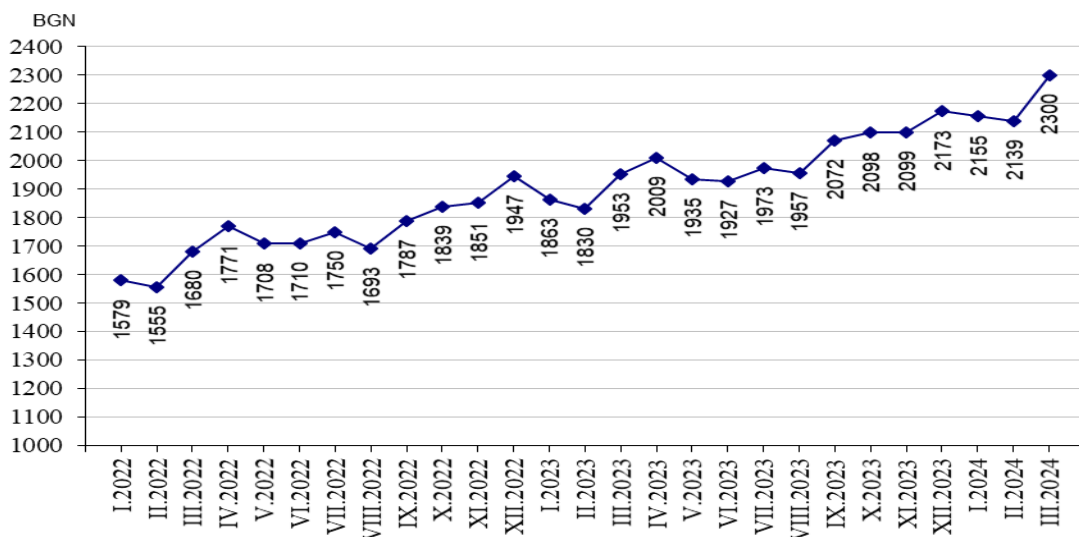
EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, FIRST QUARTER OF 2024

The **number of employees** under labour contract at the end of March 2024 increased by 32.2 thousand, or 1.4%, as compared to the end of December 2023 and reached 2.32 million according to the preliminary data of the National Statistical Institute (NSI). The highest increase was observed in the economic activities: 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 6.1%, 'Information and communication' - by 5.3%, and 'Professional, scientific and technical activities' - by 3.2%. The highest decrease of the number of employees - by 0.6% was recorded in the economic activities 'Mining and quarrying', and 'Administrative and support service activities'.

At the end of March 2024, as compared to March 2023, the number of employees under labour contract increased by 12.8 thousand, or 0.6%. The highest increase in absolute figures was observed in economic activities 'Human health and social work activities' - 12.1 thousand, 'Accommodation and food service activities' - 7.2 thousand, and 'Information and communication' - 6.0 thousand, and the highest decrease was in 'Manufacturing' - 11.4 thousand, and in 'Administrative and support service activities' - 4.0 thousand. In percentages, the highest increase at the end of March 2024 as compared to March 2023 was in economic activity 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 7.7%, 'Human health and social work activities' - by 6.7%, and in 'Information and communication' - by 4.9%, as the highest decrease was reported in 'Administrative and support service activities' - by 3.4%, and in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 3.3%.

The **average monthly wages and salaries** of the employees under labour contract in January was 2 155 BGN, in February - 2 139 BGN, and in March 2023 - 2 300 BGN.

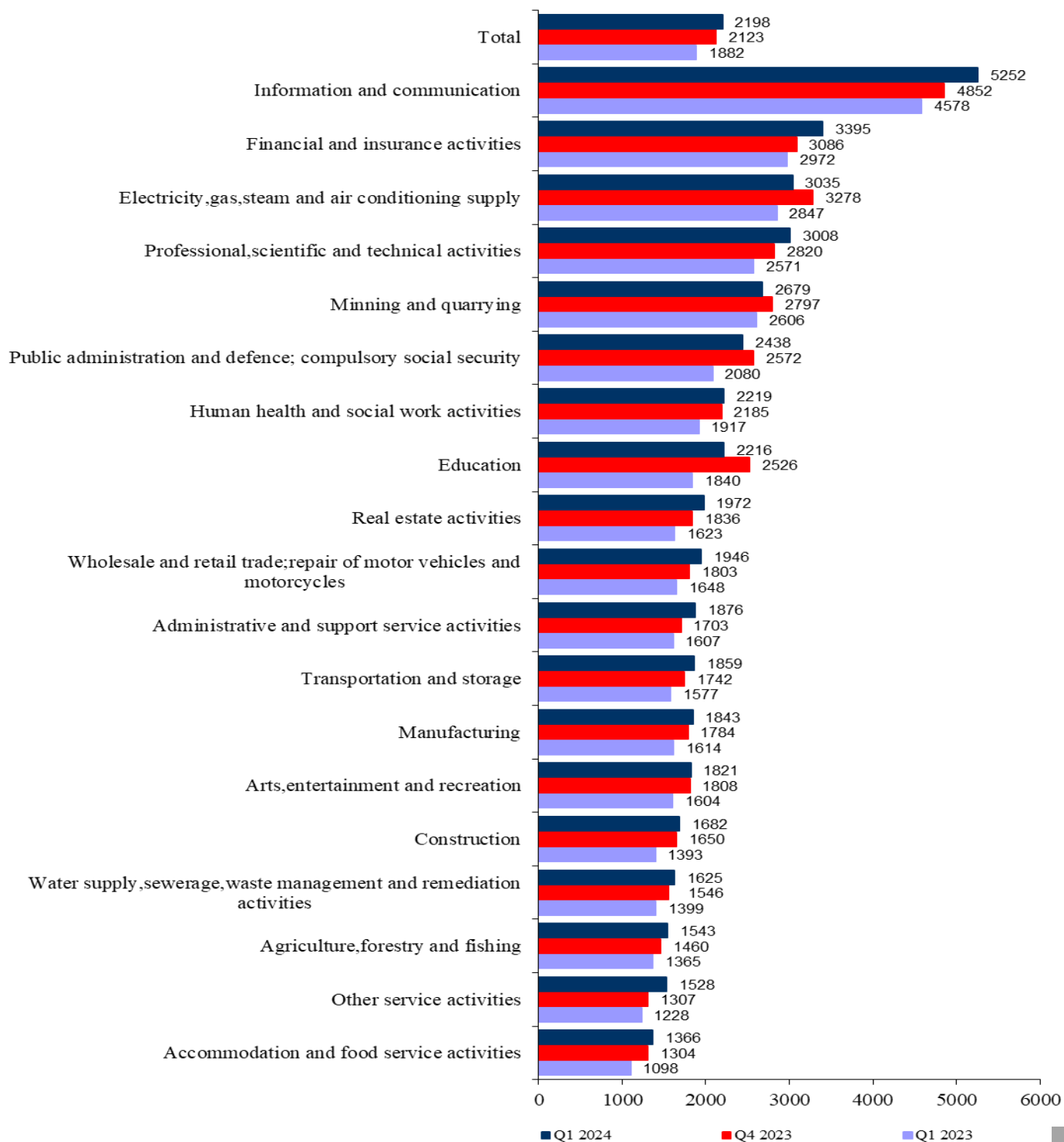
Figure 1. Gross average wages and salaries by months



EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES

In the first quarter of 2024, in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2023, the average monthly wages and salaries increased by 3.5% and reached 2 198 BGN. The highest increase in wages and salaries was reported in 'Other service activities' - by 16.9%, 'Administrative and support service activities' - by 10.2%, and in 'Financial and insurance activities' - by 10.0%.

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

Compared to the first quarter of 2023, the average monthly wages and salaries in the first quarter of 2024 rose by 16.8%. The highest growth rates were recorded in the economic activities: 'Other service activities' and 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 24.4%, 'Real estate activities' - by 21.5% and 'Construction' - by 20.7%.

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

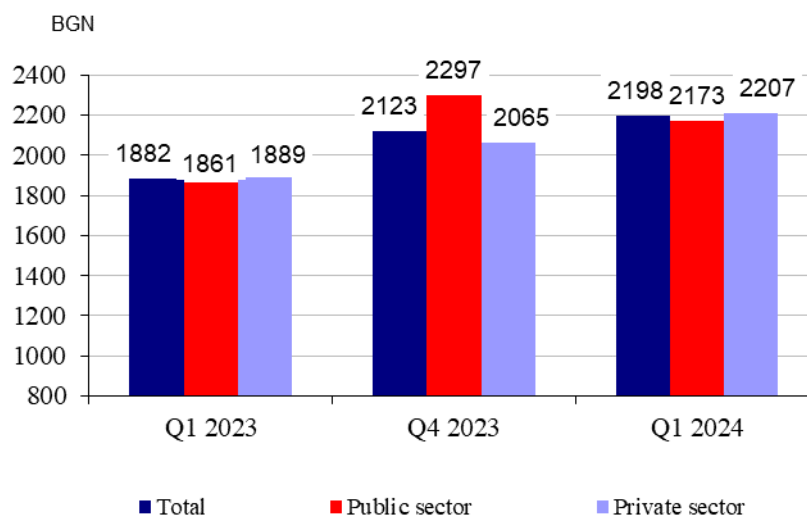
- 'Information and communication' - 5 252 BGN;
- 'Financial and insurance activities' - 3 395 BGN;
- 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply' - 3 035 BGN.

The lowest wages and salaries were recorded in:

- 'Accommodation and food service activities' - 1 366 BGN;
- 'Other service activities' - 1 528 BGN;
- 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - 1 543 BGN.

In comparison with a year earlier, the average monthly wages and salaries both in the public sector and in the private sector grew by 16.8%.

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



EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES

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

**EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS
AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES**

Annex

Table 1

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

(Number)

Economic activities	2024		
	January	February	March
Total	2318500	2320257	2320110
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	65183	65362	66005
Mining and quarrying	18603	18570	18502
Manufacturing	461671	460551	458097
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	28960	28942	28875
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	36915	36851	36833
Construction	127894	128220	128796
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	385258	385254	384343
Transportation and storage	142127	141951	142178
Accommodation and food service activities	99403	100081	100287
Information and communication	128024	128115	127895
Financial and insurance activities	56712	56869	57000
Real estate activities	21557	21582	21635
Professional, scientific and technical activities	84842	84998	84979
Administrative and support service activities	112089	111912	112441
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	113550	113576	113782
Education	172334	172717	172643
Human health and social work activities	189225	190310	191778
Arts, entertainment and recreation	37426	37445	37348
Other service activities	36727	36951	36693

¹ Preliminary data.

**EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS
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Table 2

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

(BGN)

Economic activities	2024		
	January	February	March
Total	2155	2139	2300
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1499	1527	1602
Mining and quarrying	2598	2577	2863
Manufacturing	1813	1809	1908
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	3046	2951	3108
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1602	1623	1652
Construction	1628	1691	1726
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1914	1901	2023
Transportation and storage	1843	1816	1919
Accommodation and food service activities	1351	1343	1404
Information and communication	4925	5115	5717
Financial and insurance activities	3115	3077	3992
Real estate activities	1926	1963	2029
Professional, scientific and technical activities	2845	2926	3255
Administrative and support service activities	1819	1800	2009
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2725	2180	2410
Education	2191	2220	2238
Human health and social work activities	2171	2177	2307
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1826	1779	1857
Other service activities	1501	1521	1563

¹ Preliminary data.