



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2012

1. Main labour market results for the first quarter of 2012

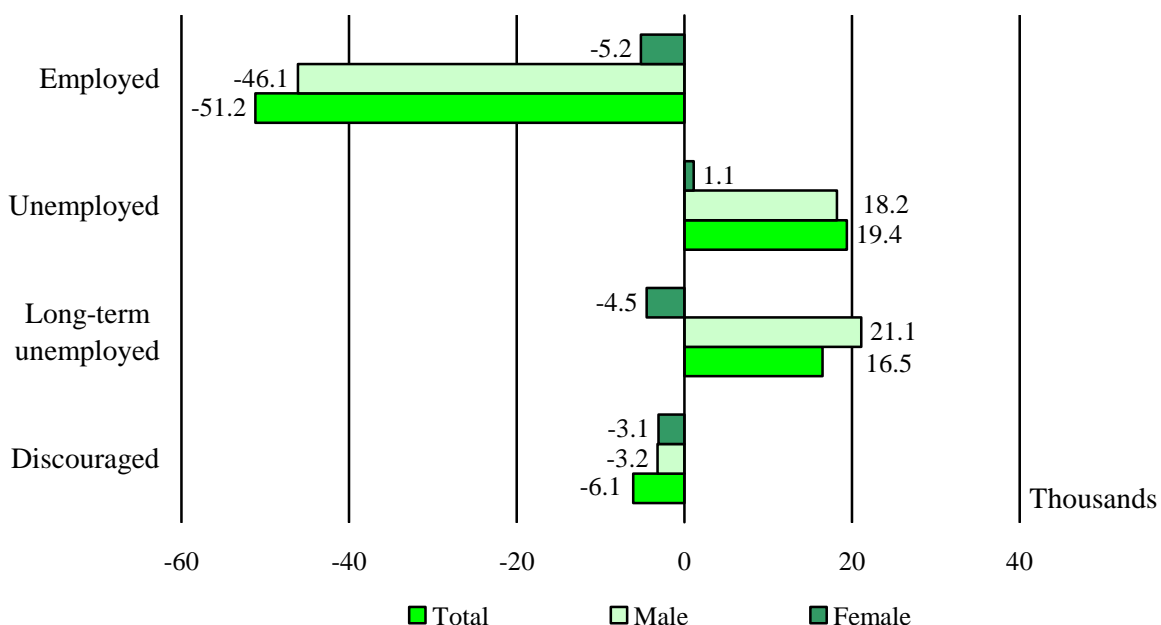
The activity rate of population aged 15 - 64 was 65.4%, by 0.2 percentage points higher in comparison with the first quarter of 2011¹.

The employment rate of population aged 15 - 64 was 56.9%, or by 0.3 percentage points below the level registered during the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 12.9%, or by 0.7 percentage points higher compared to the same period of 2011.

Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 were 245.7 thousand, or 14.3% of the total number of inactive persons in the same age group (1 712.7 thousand).

**Figure 1. Change in the labour status of population
between first quarters of 2011 and 2012**



2. Employment

In the first quarter of 2012 the **total number of employed persons (aged 15 and over)** was 2 853.2 thousand, representing 45.1% of population in the same age group. From all employed persons 1 492.5 thousand (52.3%) were men and 1 360.7 thousand (47.7%) were women. As

¹ Comparisons are made with the revised data for the first quarter of 2011 (see methodological notes).



compared to the first quarter of 2011 the number of employed decreased by 51.2 thousand (1.8%) and the proportion of the population (aged 15 and over) declined by 0.5 percentage points. The drop in the number of men in employment (by 46.1 thousand) made up around 90% of total decrease of employed persons for the period concerned.

Employed who had attained tertiary education were 813.8 thousand, accounting 28.5% of all employed persons, those who had completed upper secondary education were 1 729.5 thousand (60.6%) and 309.9 thousand (10.9%) had lower secondary educational level or less.

From the total number of employed persons 3.6% (103.3 thousand) were employers, 6.6% (188.1 thousand) were own account workers (without employees), 88.9% (2 537.4 thousand) were employees and 0.9% (24.5 thousand) were unpaid family workers. In comparison with the first quarter of 2011 a decrease was registered mainly for self-employed (with or without employees) and unpaid family workers - 11.8% total for these categories. In private sector worked 1 816.2 thousand (71.6%) of employees while 721.2 thousand (28.4%) were in public sector.

In the first quarter of 2012 jobs in services have 1780.8 thousand (62.4%) of the employed persons, 909.6 thousand (31.9%) in industries and 162.8 thousands (5.7%) in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

From all employed persons 2 815.9 thousand were up to the age of 64 years. **The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 56.9% and by sex it was 59.0% for men and 54.8% for women.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 29 was 35.5% (38.7 and 32.1% for men and women respectively).

The employment rate for population aged 20 - 64 (an Europe 2020 indicator) dropped by 0.6 percentage points as compared with the first quarter of 2011, reaching 61.1% (63.5% for men and 58.7% for women).

Persons in employment aged 55 - 64 were 461.6 thousand and represented 43.9% of population in the same age group.

3. Unemployment

In the first quarter of 2012 **unemployed** were 421.4 thousand persons, of whom 252.3 thousand were men and 169.0 thousand were women. In comparison with the first quarter of 2011 the number of unemployed rose by 4.8%.

The **unemployment rate** increased by 0.7 percentage points and during the first quarter of 2012 was 12.9%. The rate went up by 1.3 percentage point for men and by 0.1 percentage points for women and reached 14.5 and 11.0% respectively.

The number of long-term unemployed was 226.7 thousand, which was 53.8% of all unemployed and compared to the first quarter of previous year their number rose by 7.9%. The long-term unemployment rate went up by 0.5 percentage points and reaching 6.9% in the first quarter of 2012. This rate increased for men (by 1.3 percentage points) and decreased for women (by 0.2 percentage points), and stood at 8.1% for men and 5.6% for women.



In the first quarter of 2012 with previous employment experience were 350.6 thousand (83.2%) of all unemployed persons, as their number went up by 3.9% compared to the same quarter of 2011. The number of unemployed, who were looking for their first job rose by 9.7% and in the first quarter of 2012 reached 70.8 thousand.

The unemployment rate for the population aged 15 - 29 was 23.0% (24.0% for men and 21.7% for women) and in comparison with the first quarter of 2011 rose by 1.7 percentage points. The increase was higher for women (with 2.4 percentage points) than for men (1.2 percentage points).



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 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) includes 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.

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

For weighting of the results of the survey the current demographic data as of 31 December 2011 for the population living in non-institutional households are used. For the first quarter of 2012 the new weighting procedure is implemented and the results from the survey are adjusted to the population of the country by sex, urban/rural areas and five-year age groups. With the view to



ensure comparability the same method was used for reweighting and adjustment of the results for the first quarter of 2011 (shown in Table 1), using 2011 Population Census data.

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 first quarter of 2012 are as follows:

- total number of employed - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed - 3.9%;
- unemployment rate - 3.5%.

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, section “Labour Market”, Labour Force Survey.



APPENDIX

Table 1

MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS,
FIRST QUARTER OF 2011 AND 2012

| | First quarter 2011 ¹ | First quarter 2012 | Change (First quarter 2012 minus First quarter 2011) |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Total | | | |
| Activity rate (15 - 64) - % | 65.2 | 65.4 | 0.2 |
| Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands | 2904.4 | 2853.2 | -51.2 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands | 2866.6 | 2815.9 | -50.7 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands | 173.7 | 163.6 | -10.1 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands | 476.5 | 467.2 | -9.3 |
| Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands | 2858.7 | 2807.7 | -51.0 |
| Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands | 469.5 | 461.6 | -7.9 |
| Employment rate (15 and over) - % | 45.6 | 45.1 | -0.5 |
| Employment rate (15 - 64) - % | 57.2 | 56.9 | -0.3 |
| Employment rate (15 - 24) - % | 20.2 | 19.7 | -0.5 |
| Employment rate (15 - 29) - % | 35.3 | 35.5 | 0.2 |
| Employment rate (20 - 64) - % | 61.7 | 61.1 | -0.6 |
| Employment rate (55 - 64) - % | 44.2 | 43.9 | -0.3 |
| Unemployed persons - total - thousands | 402 | 421.4 | 19.4 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands | 400.4 | 419.7 | 19.3 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands | 64.8 | 74.8 | 10.0 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands | 128.9 | 139.9 | 11.0 |
| Unemployment rate - % | 12.2 | 12.9 | 0.7 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - % | 12.3 | 13 | 0.7 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - % | 27.2 | 31.4 | 4.2 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - % | 21.3 | 23 | 1.7 |
| Long-term unemployment rate - % | 6.4 | 6.9 | 0.5 |
| Discouraged persons - thousands | 253.4 | 247.3 | -6.1 |

¹ Revised data.

MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS,
FIRST QUARTER OF 2011 AND 2012

(Continued)

| | First quarter 2011 ¹ | First quarter 2012 | Change (First quarter 2012 minus First quarter 2011) |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Male | | | |
| Activity rate (15 - 64) - % | 69.4 | 69.1 | -0.3 |
| Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands | 1538.6 | 1492.5 | -46.1 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands | 1512.4 | 1467.9 | -44.5 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands | 96.7 | 92.4 | -4.3 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands | 266.9 | 262.2 | -4.7 |
| Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands | 1508.2 | 1464.4 | -43.8 |
| Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands | 252 | 240.8 | -11.2 |
| Employment rate (15 and over) - % | 50.1 | 49.0 | -1.1 |
| Employment rate (15 - 64) - % | 60.1 | 59.0 | -1.1 |
| Employment rate (15 - 24) - % | 21.9 | 21.7 | -0.2 |
| Employment rate (15 - 29) - % | 38.4 | 38.7 | 0.3 |
| Employment rate (20 - 64) - % | 64.9 | 63.5 | -1.4 |
| Employment rate (55 - 64) - % | 50.5 | 48.7 | -1.8 |
| Unemployed persons - total - thousands | 234.1 | 252.3 | 18.2 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands | 233.6 | 251.9 | 18.3 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands | 41.2 | 46.0 | 4.8 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands | 78.8 | 83.0 | 4.2 |
| Unemployment rate - % | 13.2 | 14.5 | 1.3 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - % | 13.4 | 14.6 | 1.2 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - % | 29.9 | 33.2 | 3.3 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - % | 22.8 | 24.0 | 1.2 |
| Long-term unemployment rate - % | 6.8 | 8.1 | 1.3 |
| Discouraged persons - thousands | 138.8 | 135.6 | -3.2 |

¹ Revised data.


**MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS,
FIRST QUARTER OF 2011 AND 2012**

(Continued and end)

| | First quarter 2011 ¹ | First quarter 2012 | Change (First quarter 2012 minus First quarter 2011) |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Female | | | |
| Activity rate (15 - 64) - % | 61.0 | 61.6 | 0.6 |
| Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands | 1365.9 | 1360.7 | -5.2 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands | 1354.2 | 1348 | -6.2 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands | 76.9 | 71.2 | -5.7 |
| Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands | 209.6 | 205 | -4.6 |
| Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands | 1350.5 | 1343.3 | -7.2 |
| Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands | 217.5 | 220.8 | 3.3 |
| Employment rate (15 and over) - % | 41.5 | 41.5 | 0 |
| Employment rate (15 - 64) - % | 54.3 | 54.8 | 0.5 |
| Employment rate (15 - 24) - % | 18.4 | 17.6 | -0.8 |
| Employment rate (15 - 29) - % | 32 | 32.1 | 0.1 |
| Employment rate (20 - 64) - % | 58.5 | 58.7 | 0.2 |
| Employment rate (55 - 64) - % | 38.6 | 39.6 | 1.0 |
| Unemployed persons - total - thousands | 167.9 | 169 | 1.1 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands | 166.7 | 167.8 | 1.1 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands | 23.6 | 28.8 | 5.2 |
| Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands | 50.1 | 56.9 | 6.8 |
| Unemployment rate - % | 10.9 | 11.0 | 0.1 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - % | 11.0 | 11.1 | 0.1 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - % | 23.5 | 28.8 | 5.3 |
| Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - % | 19.3 | 21.7 | 2.4 |
| Long-term unemployment rate - % | 5.8 | 5.6 | -0.2 |
| Discouraged persons - thousands | 114.7 | 111.6 | -3.1 |

¹ Revised data.