



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY FIRST QUARTER 2012¹

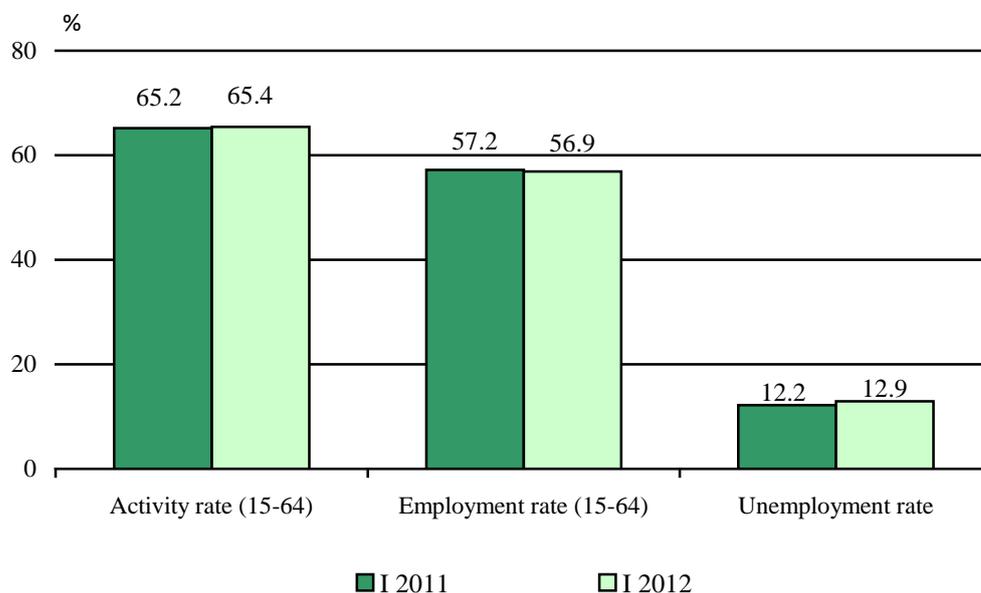
According to the **preliminary results** from the Labour Force Survey, carried out by the National Statistical Institute in the first quarter of 2012 **the economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 3 234.6 thousand, representing 65.4% of the population in the same age group. In comparison with the first quarter of 2011 the activity rate was by 0.2 percentage points higher.

The total number of employed persons was 2 851.3 thousand and their relative share of population aged 15 and over was 45.1%.

The number of employed persons aged 15 - 64 was 2 813.7 thousand. **The employment rate for the population** of the same age group was 56.9%, down by 0.3 percentage points as compared to the same quarter of 2011.

The number of unemployed persons was 422.5 thousand and the unemployment rate - 12.9%. **In comparison with the same quarter of 2011** the unemployment rate rose by 0.7 percentage points.

Figure 1. Activity, employment and unemployment rates in the first quarter of 2011 и 2012



¹ Preliminary results



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.

Inactive population (persons not in the labour force) includes persons aged 15 and over who were neither employed, nor unemployed during the reference period.

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.

For the 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.

Final Labour Force Survey data for the first quarter of 2012 will be presented on 22nd of May 2012 (according to the Calendar presenting the results of the statistical surveys) on the NSI website www.nsi.bg, section "Labor Market", Labour Force Survey.



APPENDIX

Table 1

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

	First quarter 2011 ¹	First quarter 2012 ²	Change (First quarter 2012 minus First quarter 2011)
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	65.2	65.4	0.2
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	2904.4	2851.3	-53.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	2866.6	2813.7	-52.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	45.6	45.1	-0.5
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	57.2	56.9	-0.3
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	402.0	422.5	20.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	400.4	420.9	20.5
Unemployment rate - %	12.2	12.9	0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	12.3	13.0	0.7

¹ Revised data

² Preliminary data