



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2012

Main labour market results for the second quarter of 2012

The activity rate of population aged 15 - 64 was 66.6%, by 1.1 percentage points higher in comparison with the second quarter of 2011¹.

The employment rate of population aged 15 - 64 was 58.3%, by 0.2 percentage points above its value for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 12.3%, by 1.1 percentage points higher compared to the same quarter of 2011.

Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 were 236.8 thousand, representing 14.4% of the total number of inactive persons in the same age group (1 645.2 thousand).

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



Employment

In the second quarter of 2012, the total number of **employed persons (aged 15 years and over)** was 2 913.7 thousand, representing 46.2% of population in the same age group. In comparison with the second quarter of 2011 the number of employed declined by 32.3 thousand (by 1.1%), while their proportion of the population aged 15 years and over remained almost unchanged.

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



Between second quarters of 2011 and 2012, a decrease of employment was observed only for men - the number of employed men decreased by 2.1%, and the share of those in employment among men aged 15 years and over decreased by 0.6 percentage points. In the second quarter of 2012, 1 528.7 thousand (52.5%) of all employed persons were men and 1 385.0 thousand (47.5%) were women.

Employed who had attained tertiary education were 814.1 thousand, accounting 27.9% of all in work, 1 773.1 thousand (60.9%) had completed upper secondary education and 326.5 thousand (11.2%) had lower secondary education or less. As compared with the second quarter of 2011 a decrease was registered in the number of employed with lower education and with higher education as well.

Among all employed persons 3.5% (102.4 thousand) were employers, 7.3% (212.7 thousand) were own account workers (without employees), 88.4% (2 576.8 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (21.8 thousand) were unpaid family workers. In private sector held job 1 860.0 thousand employees (72.2%), and 716.8 thousand employees (27.8%) were in public sector.

In the second quarter of 2012 in services worked 1 812.4 thousand people (62.2% of all employed persons), in industry - 907.2 thousand (31.1%), and 194.1 thousand (6.7%) were in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Under the age of 65 were 2 875.4 thousand employed persons. The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 58.3% and by sex it was 60.8% for men and 55.9% for women.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 29 years was 36.4% (40.1% for men and 32.5% for women).

The employment rate for population aged 20 - 64 (an Europe 2020 indicator) remained the same as in the second quarter of 2011 - 62.6% (65.4% for men and 59.8% for women), but at the same time went up by 0.4 percentage points for women and decrease by 0.4 percentage points for men.

Employed persons aged 55 - 64 years were 481.3 thousand, 46.0% of population of the same age group, and as compared with one year before an increase in female participation in employment was observed.

Unemployment

In the second quarter of 2012 **unemployed** were 409.5 thousand persons, of whom 242.7 thousand were men and 166.8 thousand were women. In comparison with the second quarter of 2011 the number of unemployed rose by 10.0%.

The **unemployment rate** increased by 1.1 percentage points and in the second quarter of 2012 was 12.3%. The rate went up by 1.5 percentage point for men and by 0.7 percentage points for women, reaching 13.7% and 10.8% respectively.

The number of long-term unemployed was 227.9 thousand, which was 55.6% of all unemployed and compared to the second quarter of previous year rose by 9.8%. The long-term unemployment rate went up by 0.6 percentage points and reached 6.9% in the second quarter of 2012. This rate increased by 0.9 percentage points for men and by 0.3 percentage points for women, achieving 7.7% for men and 5.9% for women.



In the second quarter of 2012, previous employment experience had 338.5 thousand (82.7%) of all unemployed persons and 71.0 thousand (17.3%) were looking for their first job.

The unemployment rate for the population aged 15 - 29 was 20.7% (22.7% for men and 18.0% for women) and in comparison with the second quarter of 2011 it rose by 1.7 percentage points. The increase was entirely due to rising unemployment rate among men in this age group (by 3.2 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 the weighting of the results of the survey the current population estimates as of 31 March 2012 for the population living in non-institutional households were used. Since the beginning of



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2012 a new weighting procedure has been implemented and the results from the survey were 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 respective quarter of 2011 (shown in Table 1), using 2011 Population Census data.

Like 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 second quarter of 2012 are as follows:

- total number of employed - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed - 3.8%;
- 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.



ANNEX

Table 1

Main labour market indicators,
second quarter of 2011 and 2012

	Second quarter 2011 ¹	Second quarter 2012	Change (Second quarter 2012 minus Second quarter 2011)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	65.5	66.6	1.1
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	2946.0	2913.7	-32.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	2910.6	2875.4	-35.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	185.3	170.7	-14.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	490.3	476.3	-14.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands	2901.4	2865.5	-35.9
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands	476.7	481.3	4.6
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	46.3	46.2	-0.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	58.1	58.3	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.5	20.8	-0.7
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	36.3	36.4	0.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	62.6	62.6	0.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	44.8	46.0	1.2
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	372.3	409.5	37.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	370.8	407.9	37.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	59.8	67.7	7.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	115.1	124.5	9.4
Unemployment rate - %	11.2	12.3	1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	11.3	12.4	1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.4	28.4	4.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	19.0	20.7	1.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.3	6.9	0.6
Discouraged persons - thousands	233.4	238.7	5.3

¹ Revised data



**Main labour market indicators,
second quarter of 2011 and 2012**

(Continued)

	Second quarter 2011 ¹	Second quarter 2012	Change (Second quarter 2012 minus Second quarter 2011)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	69.6	70.5	0.9
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	1560.7	1528.7	-32.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	1535.4	1506.2	-29.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	107.9	98.0	-9.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	277.3	270.0	-7.3
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands	1529.7	1502.6	-27.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands	259.9	254.3	-5.6
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	50.9	50.3	-0.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	61.0	60.8	-0.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.4	23.3	-1.1
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	39.9	40.1	0.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	65.8	65.4	-0.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	52.1	51.6	-0.5
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	215.9	242.7	26.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	215.3	241.8	26.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	36.9	44.1	7.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	67.0	79.2	12.2
Unemployment rate - %	12.2	13.7	1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	12.3	13.8	1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	25.5	31.0	5.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	19.5	22.7	3.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.8	7.7	0.9
Discouraged persons - thousands	131.2	129.1	-2.1

¹ Revised data



Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2011 and 2012

(Continued and end)

	Second quarter 2011 ¹	Second quarter 2012	Change (Second quarter 2012 minus Second quarter 2011)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	61.4	62.7	1.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	1385.3	1385.0	-0.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	1375.1	1369.2	-5.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	77.4	72.7	-4.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	213.0	206.3	-6.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands	1371.8	1362.9	-8.9
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands	216.7	227.1	10.4
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	42.0	42.4	0.4
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	55.2	55.9	0.7
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.5	18.2	-0.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	32.5	32.5	0.0
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	59.4	59.8	0.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	38.4	40.9	2.5
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	156.4	166.8	10.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	155.6	166.1	10.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	22.8	23.6	0.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	48.2	45.4	-2.8
Unemployment rate - %	10.1	10.8	0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	10.2	10.8	0.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.8	24.5	1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	18.4	18.0	-0.4
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.6	5.9	0.3
Discouraged persons - thousands	102.2	109.6	7.4

¹ Revised data