



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2012

Main labour market results for the third quarter of 2012

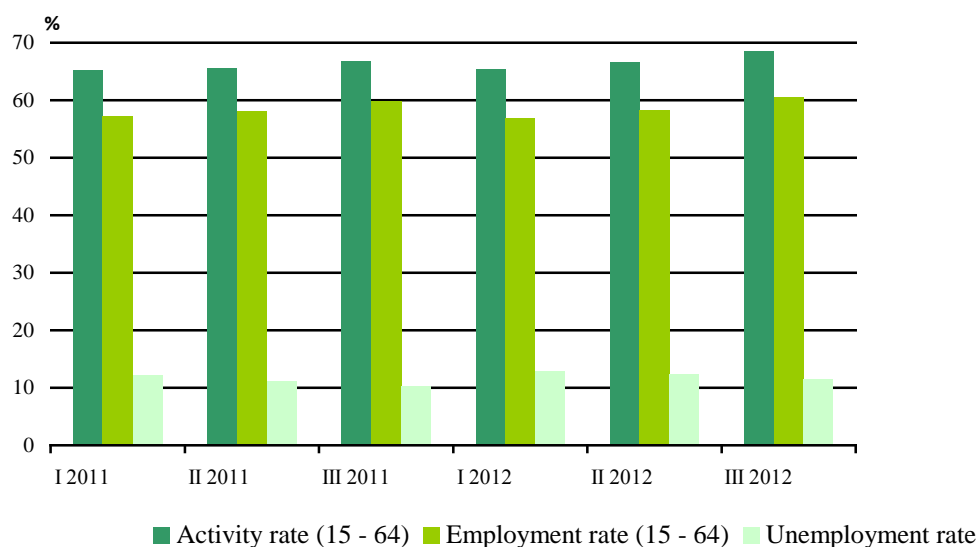
The activity rate of population aged 15 - 64 was 68.6%, by 1.9 percentage points higher in comparison with the third quarter of 2011¹.

The employment rate of population aged 15 - 64 was 60.6%, by 0.8 percentage points above its value for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 11.5%, by 1.3 percentage points higher compared to the same quarter of 2011.

Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 were 210.0 thousand, representing 13.6% of the total number of inactive persons in the same age group.

Figure 1. Activity, employment and unemployment rates by quarters



Employment

In the third quarter of 2012 the total number of **employed persons (aged 15 years and over)** was 3 017.1 thousand, representing 47.9% of population in the same age group. In comparison with the same quarter of 2011 the number of employed declined by 19.4 thousand, and their relative share was by 0.2 percentage points higher.

Between third quarters of 2011 and 2012 a decrease of employment was observed only for men - the number of employed men decreased by 1.6%, and the share of those in employment among men aged 15 years and over by 0.2 percentage points. In the third quarter of 2012,

¹ Revised quarterly data for 2011 are used in the press release (see methodological notes).



1 584.6 thousand (52.5%) of all employed persons were men and 1 432.5 thousand (47.5%) were women.

Employed who had attained tertiary education were 840.1 thousand, accounting 27.8% of all in work, 1 836.0 thousand (60.9%) had completed upper secondary education and 341.0 thousand (11.3%) had lower secondary education or less. As compared with the third quarter of 2011 a decrease was registered in the number of employed with lower secondary education and with upper secondary education as well.

Out of the total number of employed persons 3.5% (105.0 thousand) were employers, 7.5% (224.8 thousand) were self-employed (without employees), 88.2% (2 660.7 thousand) were employees and 0.9% (26.6 thousand) were unpaid family workers. In the private sector 1 934.7 thousand (72.7%) were at work, and in the public sector - 726.0 thousand (27.3%).

In the third quarter of 2012 in services worked 1 868.3 thousand people (61.9% of all employed persons), in industry - 933.9 thousand (31.0%), and 215.0 thousand (7.1%) were in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Under the age of 65 were 2 978.4 thousand employed persons. The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 60.6% and by sex it was 63.1% for men and 58.0% for women.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 29 years was 40.3% (44.1% for men and 36.1% for women).

The employment rate for population aged 20 - 64 (a Europe 2020 indicator) was 64.8%, by 0.4 percentage points higher compared to the same quarter of the previous year. The employment rate for women (61.9%) rose by 0.9 percentage points while for men (67.6%) decreased by 0.2 percentage points.

Employed persons aged 55 - 64 years were 492.5 thousand, 47.0% of population of the same age group, and compared with the third quarter of 2011 an increase in participation in employment was observed for both women (by 3.0 percentage points) and men (by 1.1 percentage points) from this age group.

Unemployment

In the third quarter of 2012 **unemployed** were 393.2 thousand persons, of whom 231.5 were men and 161.8 were women. In comparison with the third quarter of 2011 the number of unemployed rose by 13.5%.

The **unemployment rate** increased for the same period by 1.3 percentage points and during the third quarter of 2012 was 11.5%. The rate went up by 1.7 percentage points for men and by 0.7 percentage points for women and reached 12.7 and 10.1% respectively.

The number of long-term unemployed was 221.7 thousand, which was 56.4% of all unemployed and compared to the third quarter of previous year their number rose by 6.5%. The long-term unemployment rate went up by 0.3 percentage points and achieved 6.5% in the third quarter of the current year, respectively 7.2% for men and 5.7% for women.

In the third quarter of 2012 previous employment experience had 323.3 thousand (82.2%) of all unemployed persons, as their number went up by 14.7% compared to the same quarter of



2011. Unemployed, who were looking for their first job rose by 8.3% and during the third quarter of 2012 reached 70.0 thousand.

The unemployment rate for the population aged 15 - 29 was 18.9% (20.4% for men and 16.9% for women) and in comparison with the third quarter of 2011 grew up by 2.7 percentage points as the increase was higher for men (by 4.2 percentage points) than women (by 0.7 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 for the third quarter of 2012 the current population estimates as of 30 June 2012 for the population living in non-institutional



households were used. Since the beginning of 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, 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 third quarter of 2012 are as follows:

- total number of employed - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed - 3.5%;
- unemployment rate - 3.2%.

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, third quarter of 2011 and 2012

	Third quarter 2011 ¹	Third quarter 2012	Change (Third quarter 2012 minus Third quarter 2011)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	66.7	68.6	1.9
Employed persons aged 15 and over - Thousands	3036.5	3017.1	-19.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - Thousands	2997.2	2978.4	-18.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - Thousands	211.7	200.6	-11.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - Thousands	537.8	521.8	-16.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - Thousands	2984.8	2961.1	-23.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - Thousands	477.4	492.5	15.1
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	47.7	47.9	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	59.8	60.6	0.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.6	24.8	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	39.8	40.3	0.5
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	64.4	64.8	0.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	44.9	47.0	2.1
Unemployed persons - total - Thousands	346.5	393.2	46.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - Thousands	345.5	392.3	46.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - Thousands	59.3	65.3	6.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - Thousands	104.3	121.6	17.3
Unemployment rate - %	10.2	11.5	1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	10.3	11.6	1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.9	24.6	2.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	16.2	18.9	2.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.2	6.5	0.3
Discouraged persons - Thousands	229.1	212.1	-17.0

¹ Revised data.



Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2011 and 2012

(Continued)

	Third quarter 2011 ¹	Third quarter 2012	Change (Third quarter 2012 minus Third quarter 2011)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	70.8	72.5	1.7
Employed persons aged 15 and over - Thousands	1610.3	1584.6	-25.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - Thousands	1583.9	1560.3	-23.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - Thousands	127.1	117.7	-9.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - Thousands	309.0	294.4	-14.6
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - Thousands	1576.1	1551.8	-24.3
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - Thousands	254.0	256.2	2.2
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	52.5	52.3	-0.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	62.9	63.1	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	28.8	28.3	-0.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	44.4	44.1	-0.3
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	67.8	67.6	-0.2
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	50.9	52.0	1.1
Unemployed persons - total - Thousands	199.3	231.5	32.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - Thousands	198.7	231.1	32.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - Thousands	35.0	42.3	7.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - Thousands	59.9	75.3	15.4
Unemployment rate - %	11.0	12.7	1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	11.1	12.9	1.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.6	26.4	4.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	16.2	20.4	4.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.9	7.2	0.3
Discouraged persons - Thousands	132.3	116.5	-15.8

¹ Revised data.



Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2011 and 2012

(Continued and end)

	Third quarter 2011 ¹	Third quarter 2012	Change (Third quarter 2012 minus Third quarter 2011)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	62.6	64.6	2.0
Employed persons aged 15 and over - Thousands	1426.2	1432.5	6.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - Thousands	1413.3	1418.0	4.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - Thousands	84.7	82.9	-1.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - Thousands	228.8	227.4	-1.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - Thousands	1408.7	1409.3	0.6
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - Thousands	223.4	236.3	12.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	43.3	43.9	0.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	56.7	58.0	1.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	20.2	21.0	0.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	35.0	36.1	1.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	61.0	61.9	0.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	39.6	42.6	3.0
Unemployed persons - total - Thousands	147.2	161.8	14.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - Thousands	146.8	161.2	14.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - Thousands	24.4	23.0	-1.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - Thousands	44.3	46.3	2.0
Unemployment rate - %	9.4	10.1	0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	9.4	10.2	0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.4	21.7	-0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	16.2	16.9	0.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.3	5.7	0.4
Discouraged persons - Thousands	96.8	95.6	-1.2

¹ Revised data.