



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2012

Main labour market results for the fourth quarter of 2012

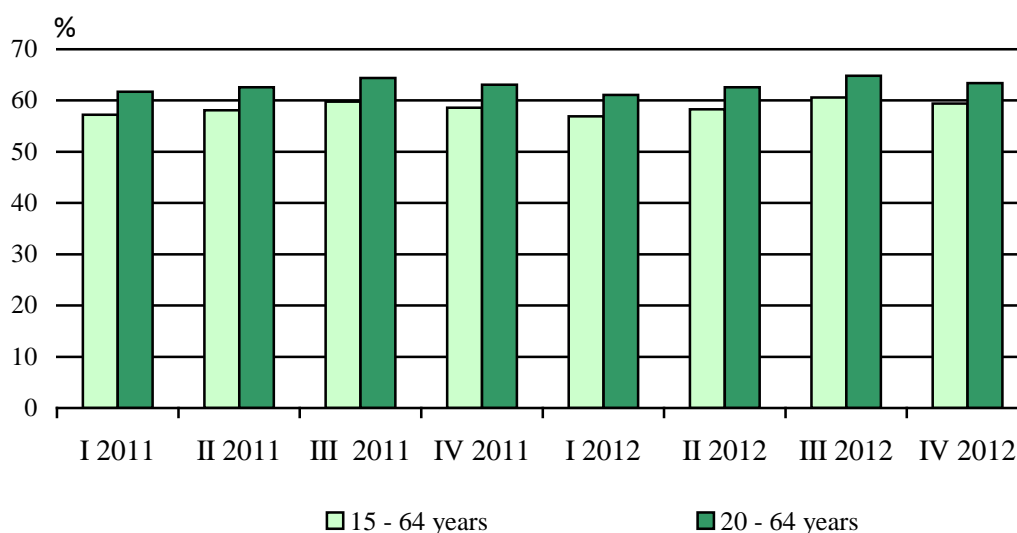
The activity rate of population aged 15 - 64 was 67.9%, by 1.7 percentage points higher in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2011¹.

The employment rate of population aged 15 - 64 was 59.4%, by 0.8 percentage points above its value for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 12.4%, by 1.0 percentage point higher compared to the same quarter of 2011.

Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 were 210.2 thousand, representing 13.3% of the total number of inactive persons in the same age group.

Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Employment

In the fourth quarter of 2012, the total number of **employed persons on age 15 years and over** was 2 951.8 thousand, representing 47.0% of population in the same age group. In comparison with the same quarter of 2011 the relative share was higher by 0.3 percentage points, marking an increase of 0.7 percentage points for men and decline of 0.2 percentage points for women. Among all employed persons in the last quarter of 2012, 1 560.9 thousand (52.9%) were men and 1 390.9 thousand (47.1%) were women.

The share of employed persons having attained higher education stood at 29.9%. With upper secondary education were 59.8% of all employed and 10.3% were with lower educational level.

Of the total number of employed 3.6% (107.5 thousand) were employers, 7.4% (218.0 thousand) were own account workers (without employees), 88.1% (2 601.3 thousand) were

¹ Revised data.

employees and 0.8% (25.0 thousand) - unpaid family workers. In private sector were employed 1 879.1 thousand employees (72.2% of all employees) and 722.0 thousand (27.8%) were employed in public sector.

In the fourth quarter of 2012, 1 842.7 thousand (62.4%) had job or business in services, 925.2 thousand (31.3%) worked in industries and 183.9 thousand (6.2%) - in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

The employment in particular age groups was as follows:

Employed persons aged 15 - 64 were 2 909.9 thousand. The employment rate of population in the same age group was 59.4%, 62.2% and 56.5% for men and women respectively.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 29 was 38.0%, 42.4% and 33.4% for men and women respectively.

The employment rate for population aged 20 - 64 (a Europe 2020 indicator) was 63.4%, by 0.3 percentage points higher than in the corresponding quarter of 2011. The male employment rate (20 - 64) increased by 0.9 percentage points while female employment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points.

Employed persons aged 55 - 64 were 481.3 thousand and represented 46.1% of population in the same age group. The employment rate (55 - 64) increased by 1.6 percentage points as compared to the fourth quarter of 2011.

Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2012 **unemployed** were 417.3 thousand persons and in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2011 their number rose by 8.6%. Of all unemployed 237.8 thousand were men and 179.5 thousand were women.

The **unemployment rate** increased by 1.0 percentage point and in the fourth quarter of 2012 was 12.4%. The rate went up by 0.5 percentage points for men and by 1.4 percentage points for women, reaching 13.2% and 11.4% respectively.

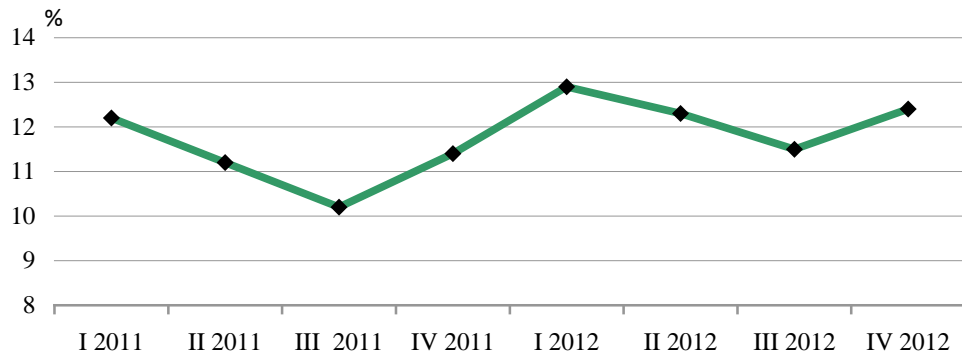
The number of long-term unemployed was 230.1 thousand, which was 55.1% of all unemployed and compared to the fourth quarter of 2011 the number rose by 7.5%. The long-term unemployment rate went up by 0.4 percentage points and reached 6.8% in the fourth quarter of 2012. This rate increased by 0.2 percentage points for men and by 0.7 percentage points for women, achieving 7.7% for men and 5.8% for women.

In the fourth quarter of 2012, previous employment experience had 347.7 thousand (83.3%) of all unemployed persons and 69.6 thousand (16.7%) were looking for their first job.

The unemployment rate for the population aged 15 - 29 was 20.7% (21.3% for men and 20.0% for women) and in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2011 it rose by 0.7 percentage points as the increase was higher for women (by 1.5 percentage points) than for men (by 0.2 percentage points).



Figure 2. Unemployment rate by quarters





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 fourth quarter of 2012 the current population estimates as of 30 September 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 fourth quarter of 2012 are as follows:

- total number of employed - 1.2%;
- total number of unemployed - 3.2%;
- unemployment rate - 2.9%.

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, fourth quarter of 2011 and 2012

	Fourth quarter 2011 ¹	Fourth quarter 2012	Change (Fourth quarter 2012 minus Fourth quarter 2011)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	66.2	67.9	1.7
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	2973.8	2951.8	-22.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	2935.6	2909.9	-25.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	190.0	178.1	-11.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	504.4	489.1	-15.3
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands	2925.3	2894.3	-31.0
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands	472.9	481.3	8.4
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	46.7	47.0	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	58.6	59.4	0.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.1	22.3	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	37.4	38.0	0.6
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	63.1	63.4	0.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	44.5	46.1	1.6
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	384.2	417.3	33.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	382.6	416.1	33.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	70.0	70.8	0.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	125.8	127.8	2.0
Unemployment rate - %	11.4	12.4	1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	11.5	12.5	1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	26.9	28.5	1.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	20.0	20.7	0.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.4	6.8	0.4
Discouraged persons - thousands	224.8	212.6	-12.2
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - thousands	223.4	210.2	-13.2

¹ Revised data


Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2011 and 2012

(Continued)

	Fourth quarter 2011¹	Fourth quarter 2012	Change (Fourth quarter 2012 minus Fourth quarter 2011)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	69.9	71.8	1.9
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	1558.7	1560.9	2.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	1532.6	1534.3	1.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	111.2	107.8	-3.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	282.4	280.6	-1.8
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands	1526.7	1525.2	-1.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands	242.6	249.2	6.6
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	50.8	51.5	0.7
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	60.9	62.2	1.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	25.2	26.3	1.1
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	40.6	42.4	1.8
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	65.7	66.6	0.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	48.6	50.7	2.1
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	226.8	237.8	11.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	226.5	237.1	10.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	42.5	41.9	-0.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	75.4	75.8	0.4
Unemployment rate - %	12.7	13.2	0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	12.9	13.4	0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	27.7	28.0	0.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	21.1	21.3	0.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	7.5	7.7	0.2
Discouraged persons - thousands	125.0	120.4	-4.6
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - thousands	124.3	119.3	-5.0

¹ Revised data



Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2011 and 2012

(Continued and end)

	Fourth quarter 2011 ¹	Fourth quarter 2012	Change (Fourth quarter 2012 minus Fourth quarter 2011)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	62.5	63.8	1.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	1415.1	1390.9	-24.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	1403.0	1375.7	-27.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	78.8	70.3	-8.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	222.0	208.5	-13.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands	1398.6	1369.1	-29.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands	230.3	232.1	1.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	42.9	42.7	-0.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	56.3	56.5	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.8	18.0	-0.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	33.9	33.4	-0.5
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	60.5	60.3	-0.2
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	40.8	42.0	1.2
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	157.4	179.5	22.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	156.1	178.9	22.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	27.5	29.0	1.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - thousands	50.4	52.0	1.6
Unemployment rate - %	10.0	11.4	1.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	10.0	11.5	1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	25.8	29.2	3.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	18.5	20.0	1.5
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.1	5.8	0.7
Discouraged persons - thousands	99.7	92.2	-7.5
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - thousands	99.1	90.8	-8.3

¹ Revised data