



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2014

Main labour market data for the fourth quarter of 2014

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 68.8%, by 0.2 percentage point higher in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2013.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 61.4%, by 1.8 percentage points above its value for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The unemployment rate was 10.6%, by 2.4 percentage points lower compared to the same quarter of 2013.

There were 185.1 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 12.4% of the total number of inactive persons in the same age group (1 491.2 thousand).

Employment

In the fourth quarter of 2014 the total number of **employed persons aged 15 years and over** was 2 989.7 thousand, of which 1 574.4 thousand were men and 1 415.3 thousand were women. The proportion of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 48.2% and it was 52.7% for men and 44.0% for women. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2013 the proportion of employed persons increased by 1.2 percentage points and the higher increase was registered for women (by 1.5 percentage points) than for men (by 0.9 percentage points).

In services worked 1 881.0 thousand persons (62.9% of all in employment), in industry worked 908.0 thousand persons (30.4%), and 200.7 thousand persons (6.7%) were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 4.0% (120.1 thousand) were employers, 7.8% (234.3 thousand) were own account workers without employees, 87.4% (2 612.9 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (22.3 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of the employees 1 920.6 thousand (73.5%) worked in private sector while 692.4 thousand (26.5%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees 114.0 thousand (4.4%) had a temporary job.

In the fourth quarter of 2014 the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

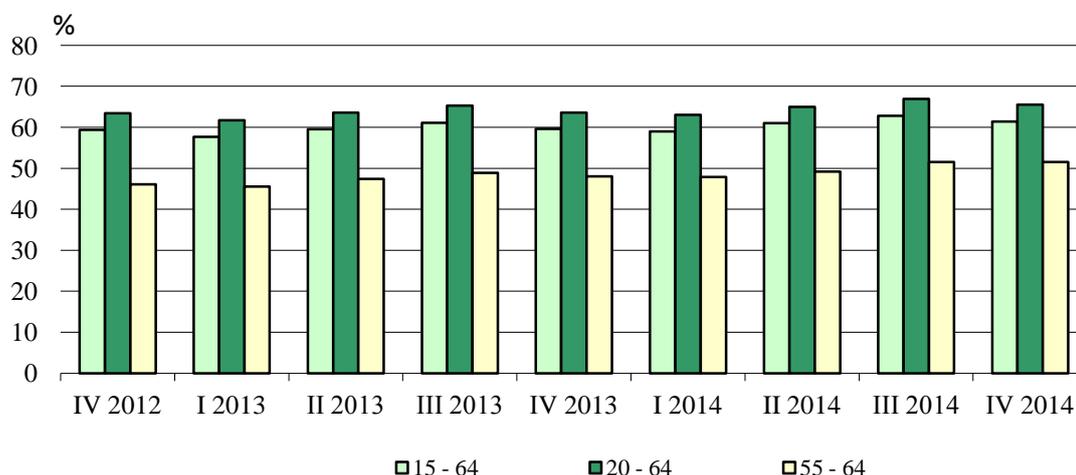
There were 2 934.0 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64**. **The employment rate** for the same age group was 61.4%, 64.0% and 58.8% for men and women respectively.

The employment rate for age group 15 - 29 was 37.4%, 40.7% for men and 34.0% for women.

The employment rate for age group 20 - 64 was 65.5%, up by 1.9 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2013. The employment rate (20 - 64) increased by 1.5 percentage points for men and by 2.2 percentage points for women, standing at 68.3% and 62.6% respectively.

There were 523.1 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64**, representing 51.5% of population in the same age group. In comparison with a year ago **the employment rate (55 - 64)** rose by 3.5 percentage points, by 3.2 percentage points for men and by 3.9 percentage points for women.

Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2014 the number of **unemployed people** was 354.5 thousand and the **unemployment rate** was 10.6%. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2013 the number of unemployed was lower by 19.4% and the unemployment rate went down by 2.4 percentage points.

A decrease of unemployment over the period concerned was observed for both men and women. The unemployment rate decreased by 2.4 percentage points for men and by 2.5 percentage points for women, reaching 11.4% and 9.7% respectively. Of the total number of unemployed in the fourth quarter of 2014, 203.0 thousand (57.3%) were men and 151.5 thousand (42.7%) were women.

Among all unemployed persons 13.8% had completed tertiary level of education, 51.4% had upper secondary education and 34.8% were with lower secondary or lower education.

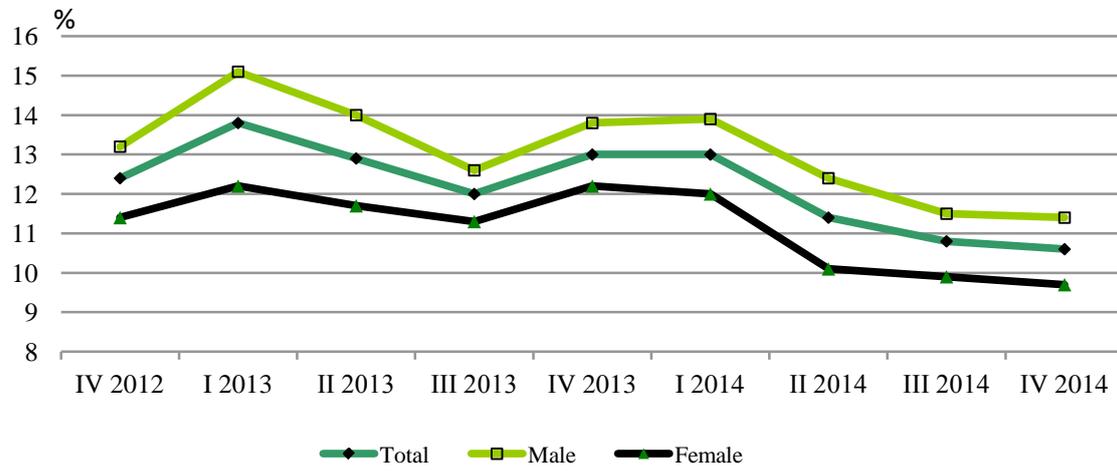
There were 226.7 thousand **long-term unemployed persons (for one year or over)**, accounting for 63.9% of all unemployed and that proportion went up by 3.9 percentage points as compared to the fourth quarter one year ago. The long-term unemployment rate was 6.8%, being 1.9 percentage points higher for men compared to women (7.7% and 5.8% respectively).

Of the total number of unemployed persons 56.9 thousand (16.0%) were looking for a first job.

In the fourth quarter of 2014 the **unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29** was 17.6% (18.5% for men and 16.5% for women). That rate was by 4.6 percentage points lower than in the fourth quarter of 2013, marking decrease of 4.3 percentage points for men and 5.0 percentage points for women.



Figure 2. Unemployment rate by sex and by quarter





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 2014 the preliminary population estimates as of 30 September 2014 for the population living in non-institutional households were used.

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 2014 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.3%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 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, fourth quarter of 2013 and 2014

	Fourth quarter 2013	Fourth quarter 2014	Change (Fourth quarter 2014 minus Fourth quarter 2013)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	68.6	68.8	0.2
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	2931.6	2989.7	58.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2880.2	2934.0	53.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	155.3	143.0	-12.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	453.2	453.5	0.3
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2871.5	2923.0	51.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	493.8	523.1	29.3
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	47.0	48.2	1.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	59.6	61.4	1.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	20.5	19.7	-0.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	36.4	37.4	1.0
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	63.6	65.5	1.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	48.0	51.5	3.5
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	439.8	354.5	-85.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	437.4	351.4	-86.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	61.7	45.2	-16.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	129.6	97.1	-32.5
Unemployment rate - %	13.0	10.6	-2.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	13.2	10.7	-2.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	28.4	24.0	-4.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	22.2	17.6	-4.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	7.8	6.8	-1.0
Discouraged persons - in thousands	192.2	188.5	-3.7
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	188.0	185.1	-2.9

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2013 and 2014

(Continued)

	Fourth quarter 2013	Fourth quarter 2014	Change (Fourth quarter 2014 minus Fourth quarter 2013)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.8	72.3	-0.5
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1555.6	1574.4	18.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1522.6	1541.4	18.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	91.7	82.1	-9.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	262.7	253.4	-9.3
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1516.7	1534.7	18.0
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	254.4	266.7	12.3
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	51.8	52.7	0.9
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	62.5	64.0	1.5
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.6	22.1	-1.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	41.0	40.7	-0.3
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	66.8	68.3	1.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	52.3	55.5	3.2
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	249.5	203.0	-46.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	248.5	201.1	-47.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	39.7	26.9	-12.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	77.4	57.5	-19.9
Unemployment rate - %	13.8	11.4	-2.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	14.0	11.5	-2.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	30.2	24.7	-5.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	22.8	18.5	-4.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	8.3	7.7	-0.6
Discouraged persons - in thousands	105.2	103.3	-1.9
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	103.3	101.6	-1.7



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2013 and 2014

(Continued and end)

	Fourth quarter 2013	Fourth quarter 2014	Change (Fourth quarter 2014 minus Fourth quarter 2013)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	64.4	65.2	0.8
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1376.0	1415.3	39.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1357.6	1392.6	35.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	63.6	61.0	-2.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	190.5	200.1	9.6
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1354.8	1388.3	33.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	239.5	256.4	16.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	42.5	44.0	1.5
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	56.6	58.8	2.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	17.2	17.3	0.1
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	31.4	34.0	2.6
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	60.4	62.6	2.2
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	44.1	48.0	3.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	190.3	151.5	-38.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	188.9	150.3	-38.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	22.0	18.3	-3.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	52.2	39.6	-12.6
Unemployment rate - %	12.2	9.7	-2.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	12.2	9.7	-2.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	25.7	23.1	-2.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	21.5	16.5	-5.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	7.3	5.8	-1.5
Discouraged persons - in thousands	87.0	85.2	-1.8
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	84.7	83.4	-1.3