



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2015

Main labour market data for the first quarter of 2015

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 68.3%, by 0.3 percentage points higher in comparison with the first quarter of 2014.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 61.0%, by 2.0 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 2014.

There were 191.0 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 12.7% of the total number of inactive persons in the same age group (1 505.4 thousand).

Employment

In the first quarter of 2015 the total number of **employed persons aged 15 years and over** was 2 949.8 thousand and represented 47.7% of population in the same age group (52.5% for men и 43.3% for women). In comparison with the first quarter of 2014 the proportion of employed persons rose by 1.2 percentage points and the increase was observed for both men and women, by 1.3 percentage points and by 1.1 percentage points respectively.

In services worked 1 886.5 thousand persons (64.0% of all in employment), in industry worked 878.6 thousand persons (29.8%), and 184.6 thousand persons (6.3%) were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.8% (110.7 thousand) were employers, 7.7% (227.8 thousand) were own account workers without employees, 87.9% (2 594.2 thousand) were employees and 0.6% (17.0 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of the employees 1 883.8 thousand (72.6%) worked in private sector while 710.4 thousand (27.4%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees 96.4 thousand (3.7%) had a temporary job.

In the first quarter of 2015 the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

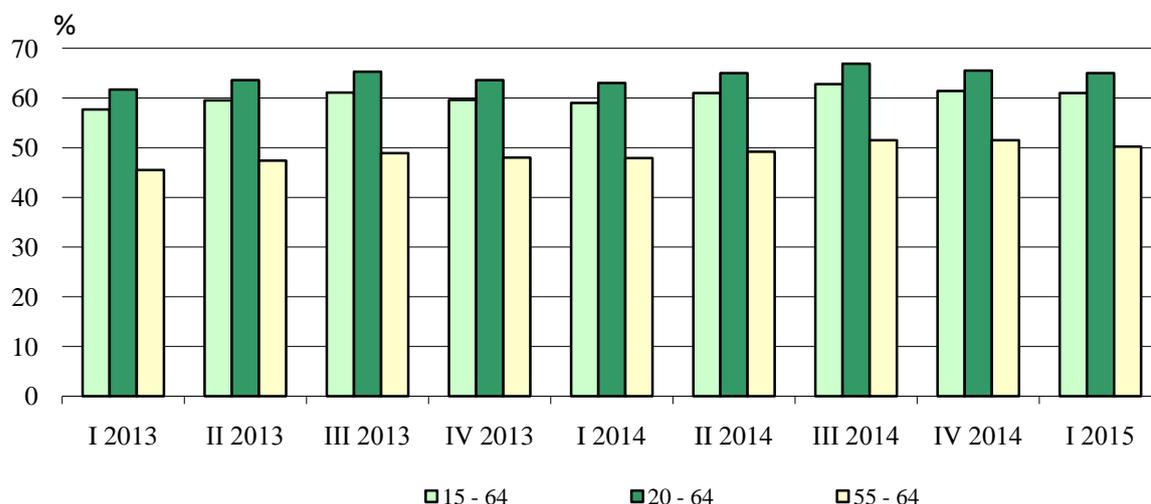
There were 2 894.8 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64**. **The employment rate** for the same age group was 61.0%, 63.8% and 58.1% for men and women respectively.

The employment rate for age group 15 - 29 was 37.4%, 40.8% for men and 33.7% for women.

The employment rate for age group 20 - 64 was 65.0%, up by 2.0 percentage points from the first quarter of 2014. The increase of this rate was the same for men and women and it stood at 68.1% and 61.9% respectively.

There were 506.2 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64**, representing 50.2% of population in the same age group. In comparison with the first quarter of 2014 **the employment rate (55 - 64)** increased by 2.3 percentage points, and the rise for men and women was by 2.0 percentage points and by 2.5 percentage points respectively.

Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Unemployment

In the first quarter of 2015 there were 349.2 thousand **unemployed persons** and the **unemployment rate** was 10.6%. The number of unemployed persons was by 19.4% lower than in the first quarter of 2014 and the unemployment rate decreased by 2.4 percentage points.

In the period concerned the unemployment rate for men and for women declined uniformly and achieved 11.4% for men and 9.7% for women. Of the total number of unemployed persons in the first quarter of 2015, 200.4 thousand (57.4%) were men and 148.9 thousand (42.6%) were women.

Among all unemployed persons 13.7% had higher education, 51.8% had upper secondary education and 34.5% had lower secondary education or less.

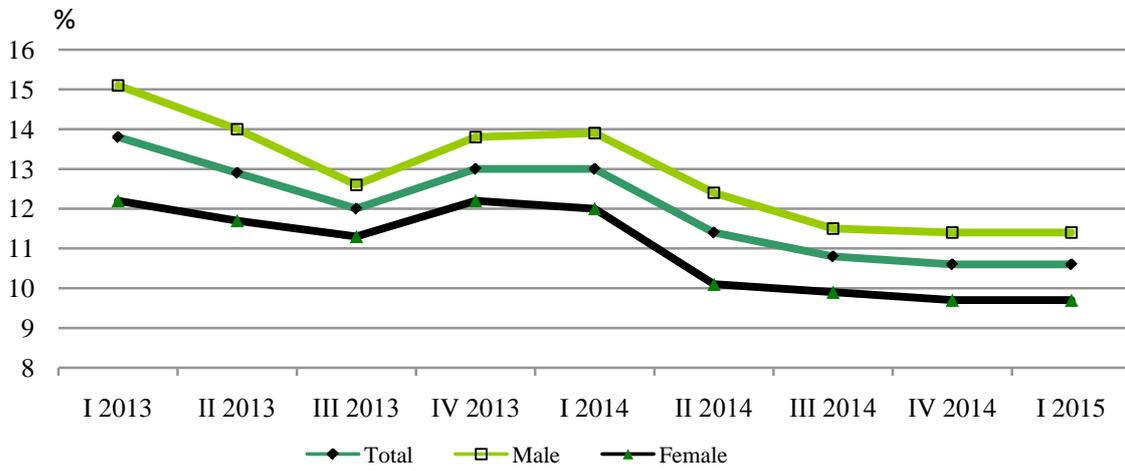
In the first quarter of 2015 there were 206.9 thousand **long-term unemployed persons** accounted for 59.2% of all unemployed. The long-term unemployment rate was 6.3%, registered a decline of 1.4 percentage points as compared to the first quarter of 2014. The long-term unemployment rate by sex was 6.7% for men and 5.7% for women.

Of the total number of unemployed persons 49.7 thousand (14.2%) were looking for a first job.

In the first quarter of 2015 **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29** was 16.9%, 18.4% and 15.0% for men and women respectively. The unemployment rate (15 - 29) was by 3.9 percentage points lower in comparison with a year ago, and that for women declined to a large extent than that for men (by 5.5 and 2.6 percentage points respectively).



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 first quarter of 2015 the data on population as of 31 December 2014 (excluding 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 first quarter of 2015 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, first quarter of 2014 and 2015

	First quarter 2014	First quarter 2015	Change (First quarter 2015 minus First quarter 2014)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	68.0	68.3	0.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	2894.1	2949.8	55.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2842.3	2894.8	52.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	138.7	141.2	2.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	441.7	447.5	5.8
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2834.2	2884.3	50.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	492.3	506.2	13.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	46.5	47.7	1.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	59.0	61.0	2.0
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.6	19.8	1.2
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	35.8	37.4	1.6
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	63.0	65.0	2.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	47.9	50.2	2.3
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	433.0	349.2	-83.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	430.3	346.1	-84.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	51.1	42.7	-8.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	116.2	91.2	-25.0
Unemployment rate - %	13.0	10.6	-2.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	13.1	10.7	-2.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	26.9	23.2	-3.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	20.8	16.9	-3.9
Long-term unemployment rate - %	7.7	6.3	-1.4
Discouraged persons - in thousands	206.2	193.6	-12.6
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	203.0	191.0	-12.0



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2014 and 2015

(Continued)

	First quarter 2014	First quarter 2015	Change (First quarter 2015 minus First quarter 2014)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.0	72.1	0.1
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1533.5	1561.3	27.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1500.1	1527.4	27.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	83.1	85.0	1.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	249.9	251.3	1.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1495.7	1521.3	25.6
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	253.8	259.1	5.3
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	51.2	52.5	1.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	61.8	63.8	2.0
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.7	23.2	1.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	39.4	40.8	1.4
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	66.1	68.1	2.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	52.3	54.3	2.0
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	247.1	200.4	-46.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	246.4	198.3	-48.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	29.7	25.5	-4.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	66.6	56.6	-10.0
Unemployment rate - %	13.9	11.4	-2.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	14.1	11.5	-2.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	26.3	23.1	-3.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	21.0	18.4	-2.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	8.4	6.7	-1.7
Discouraged persons - in thousands	116.1	103.8	-12.3
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	114.2	102.6	-11.6



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2014 and 2015

(Continued and end)

	First quarter 2014	First quarter 2015	Change (First quarter 2015 minus First quarter 2014)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	63.9	64.4	0.5
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1360.6	1388.4	27.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1342.2	1367.4	25.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	55.6	56.2	0.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	191.8	196.2	4.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1338.4	1363	24.6
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	238.4	247.1	8.7
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	42.2	43.3	1.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	56.2	58.1	1.9
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.3	16.2	0.9
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	32.0	33.7	1.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	59.9	61.9	2.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	44.0	46.5	2.5
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	185.8	148.9	-36.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	183.9	147.8	-36.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	21.4	17.2	-4.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	49.5	34.5	-15.0
Unemployment rate - %	12.0	9.7	-2.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	12.1	9.8	-2.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	27.8	23.4	-4.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	20.5	15.0	-5.5
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.8	5.7	-1.1
Discouraged persons - in thousands	90.1	89.8	-0.3
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	88.7	88.4	-0.3