



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2016

### Main labour market data for the first quarter of 2016

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 68.3%, remaining the same as in the first quarter of 2015.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 62.3%, up by 1.3 percentage points from the respective quarter of 2015.

**The unemployment rate** was 8.6%, by 2.0 percentage points lower compared to the same quarter of 2015.

There were 1 483.7 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 31.7% of population in the same age group. Of them 176.4 thousand (11.9%) were **discouraged persons**. Compared with a year ago the number of discouraged persons (aged 15 - 64) decreased by 14.6 thousand.

### Employment

In the first quarter of 2016 there were 2 975.1 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 586.1 thousand men and 1 389.1 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 48.5%, up by 0.8 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2015. In employment were 53.8% of men and 43.6% of women of the age group concerned.

In the first quarter of 2016 the number of employed persons in the industry sector achieved 901.7 thousand, representing 30.3% of all in employment. In the services sector worked 1 891.1 thousand persons (63.6% of all employed), while in agriculture, forestry and fishing worked 182.3 thousand (6.1%).

Of all employed persons 3.7% (108.9 thousand) were employers, 7.5% (223.7 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.1% (2 622.3 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (20.3 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Among the employees 1 951.1 thousand persons (74.4%) worked in private sector and 671.2 thousand (25.6%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees 86.5 thousand (3.3%) had temporary job.

In the first quarter of 2016 the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

There were 2 915.3 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 62.3% (65.7% for men and 59.0% for women).

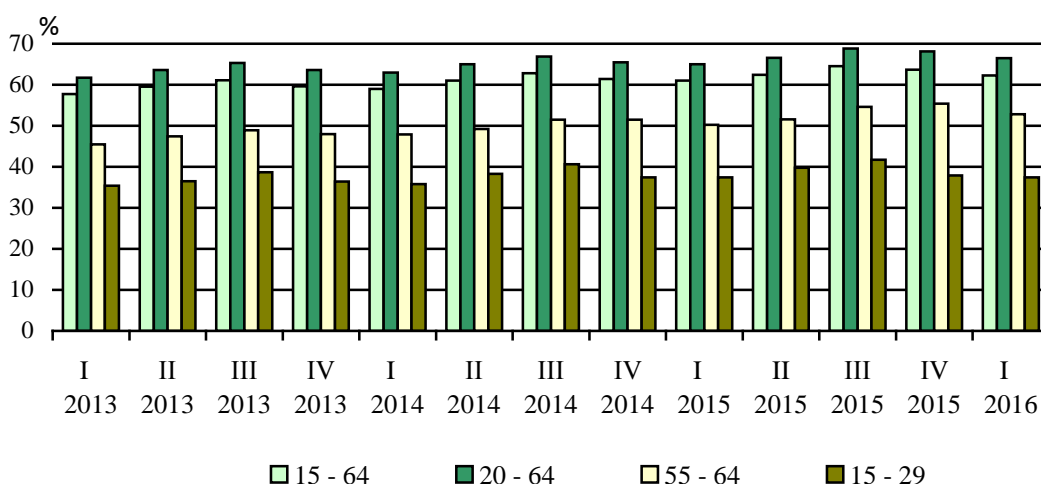
**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 37.4% (41.5% for men and 33.1% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 66.5%, 70.2% and 62.8% for men and women respectively. Compared to the first quarter of 2015 it increased by 1.5 percentage points as the increase was higher for men (by 2.1 percentage points) than for women (by 0.9 percentage points).

There were 521.5 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 52.8% of population in the same age group (56.6% of men and 49.5% of women). In comparison with a year earlier the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 2.6 percentage points, by 2.3 percentage points for men and by 3.0 percentage points for women.



**Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter**



## Unemployment

In the first quarter of 2016 there were 279.6 thousand **unemployed persons** and **the unemployment rate** was 8.6%. The number of unemployed persons was by 19.9% lower than in the first quarter of 2015 and the unemployment rate decreased by 2.0 percentage points.

Of the total number of unemployed persons in the first quarter of 2016, 162.7 thousand (58.2%) men and 116.9 thousand (41.8%) women. The unemployment rate was 9.3% for men and 7.8% for women, falling by 2.1 percentage points and 1.9 percentage points respectively from a year ago.

Among all unemployed persons 13.5% had obtained higher education, 51.4% had upper secondary education and 35.1% had lower secondary education or less. The unemployment rate for the respective levels of education were 3.7%, 7.8% and 25.0%.

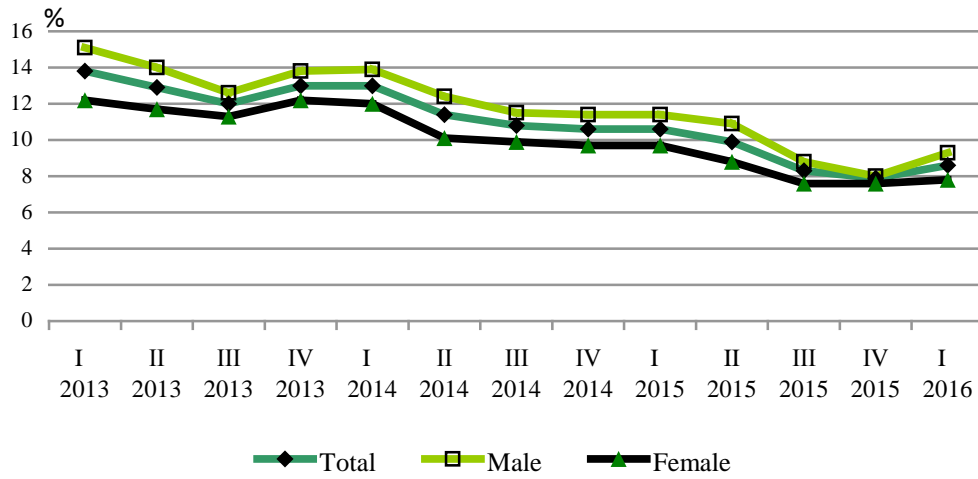
In the first quarter of 2016 there were 156.7 thousand **long-term unemployed persons**, representing 56.1% of all unemployed persons. The long-term unemployment rate was 4.8%, dropped by 1.5 percentage points from the same quarter of 2015. The long-term unemployment rate declined by 1.6 percentage points for men and by 1.2 percentage points for women, reaching 5.1% and 4.5% respectively.

Of the total number of unemployed persons 40.6 thousand (14.5%) were looking for a first job.

In the first quarter of 2016 **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29** was 13.9% (15.8% and 11.1% for men and women respectively). In comparison with the first quarter of 2015 the unemployment rate (15 - 29 years) decreased by 3.0 percentage points, by 2.6 percentage points for men and by 3.9 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.

**Inactivity rate** - ratio between the economically inactive population and the total population of the same age group.

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 2016 data on population as of 31 December 2015 (excluding population living in 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 2016 are as follows:



- total number of employed persons - 1.2%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 4.2%;
- unemployment rate - 4.0%.

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](http://www.nsi.bg), section 'Labour Market', Labour Force Survey.

Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2015 and 2016

	First quarter 2015	First quarter 2016	Change (First quarter 2016 minus First quarter 2015)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	68.3	68.3	0.0
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	2949.8	2975.1	25.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2894.8	2915.3	20.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	141.2	132.8	-8.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	447.5	435.0	-12.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2884.3	2905.4	21.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	506.2	521.5	15.3
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	47.7	48.5	0.8
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	61.0	62.3	1.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.8	19.4	-0.4
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	37.4	37.4	0.0
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	65.0	66.5	1.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	50.2	52.8	2.6
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	349.2	279.6	-69.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	346.1	278.0	-68.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	42.7	29.9	-12.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	91.2	70.0	-21.2
Unemployment rate - %	10.6	8.6	-2.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	10.7	8.7	-2.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.2	18.4	-4.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	16.9	13.9	-3.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.3	4.8	-1.5
Discouraged persons - in thousands	193.6	179.3	-14.3
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	191.0	176.4	-14.6



**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2015 and 2016**

(Continued)

	First quarter 2015	First quarter 2016	Change (First quarter 2016 minus First quarter 2015)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.1	72.5	0.4
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1561.3	1586.1	24.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1527.4	1549.3	21.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	85.0	80.5	-4.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	251.3	247.7	-3.6
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1521.3	1544.2	22.9
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	259.1	265.3	6.2
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	52.5	53.8	1.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	63.8	65.7	1.9
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.2	22.9	-0.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	40.8	41.5	0.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.1	70.2	2.1
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	54.3	56.6	2.3
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	200.4	162.7	-37.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	198.3	162.0	-36.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	25.5	18.5	-7.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	56.6	46.6	-10.0
Unemployment rate - %	11.4	9.3	-2.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	11.5	9.5	-2.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.1	18.7	-4.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	18.4	15.8	-2.6
Long-term unemployment rate - %	6.7	5.1	-1.6
Discouraged persons - in thousands	103.8	97.0	-6.8
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	102.6	95.4	-7.2



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2015 and 2016

(Continued and end)

	First quarter 2015	First quarter 2016	Change (First quarter 2016 minus First quarter 2015)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	64.4	64.0	-0.4
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1388.4	1389.1	0.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1367.4	1366.0	-1.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	56.2	52.3	-3.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	196.2	187.3	-8.9
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1363.0	1361.2	-1.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	247.1	256.2	9.1
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	43.3	43.6	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	58.1	59.0	0.9
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.2	15.7	-0.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	33.7	33.1	-0.6
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	61.9	62.8	0.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	46.5	49.5	3.0
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	148.9	116.9	-32.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	147.8	116.0	-31.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	17.2	11.4	-5.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	34.5	23.4	-11.1
Unemployment rate - %	9.7	7.8	-1.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	9.8	7.8	-2.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.4	17.9	-5.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	15.0	11.1	-3.9
Long-term unemployment rate - %	5.7	4.5	-1.2
Discouraged persons - in thousands	89.8	82.3	-7.5
Discouraged persons (15 - 64) - in thousands	88.4	81.0	-7.4