



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2017

### Main labour market indicators for the fourth quarter of 2017

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 71.6%, by 3.6 percentage points higher compared to the fourth quarter of 2016.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 67.5%, up by 4.1 percentage points from the same quarter of 2016.

**The unemployment rate** was 5.6%, by 1.1 percentage points lower compared to the fourth quarter of 2016.

There were 1 301.5 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 28.4% of population in the same age group. Of them 98.3 thousand (7.6%) were **discouraged persons**.

### Employment

In the fourth quarter of 2017 there were 3 167.6 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 704.3 thousand men and 1 463.3 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 52.3%, up by 3.1 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter of 2016. In employment were 58.6% of men and 46.5% of women in the age group concerned.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, in the service sector worked 1 990.3 thousand persons, representing 62.8% of all employed persons, in the industry sector worked 966.7 thousand persons (30.5% of all employed), while in agriculture, forestry and fishing worked 210.7 thousand (6.7%).

Of all employed persons 3.5% (112.0 thousand) were employers, 7.6% (241.2 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.1% (2 790.4 thousand) were employees and 0.8% (24.0 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 108.7 thousand persons (75.6%), worked in private sector while 681.6 thousand (24.4%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees, 110.2 thousand persons (3.9%) had temporary job.

In the fourth quarter of 2017 the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

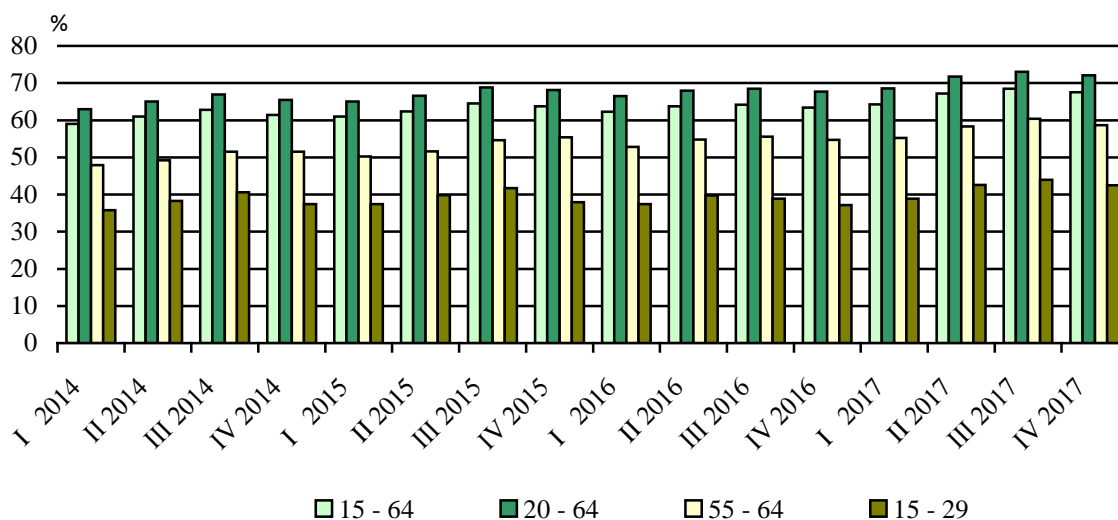
There were 3 091.3 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 67.5% (71.7% for men and 63.2% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 42.5% (48.1% for men and 36.5% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 72.1%, 76.6% and 67.5% for men and women respectively. This rate was by 4.4 percentage points higher than in the fourth quarter of 2016. It increased by 4.9 percentage points for men and by 3.9 percentage points for women.

There were 572.1 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 58.7% of population in the same age group (63.6% of men and 54.3% of women). In comparison with a year ago, the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 4.0 percentage points, as the increase for men and women was by 5.2 and 2.9 percentage points respectively.

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



## Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2017 there were 189.3 thousand **unemployed persons** and the **unemployment rate** was 5.6%. In comparison with the fourth quarter of 2016 the number of unemployed persons went down by 11.9% and the unemployment rate declined by 1.1 percentage points.

Over the same period the unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points for men and by 0.8 percentage points for women achieving almost the same values for men and women (5.6% and 5.7% respectively) in the fourth quarter of 2017. There were 101.4 thousand unemployed men (53.6% of all unemployed persons) and 87.9 thousand unemployed women (46.4%).

Among all unemployed persons 16.8% had higher level of educational attainment, 48.0% had completed upper secondary education and 35.2% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 3.1% for higher education, 4.7% for upper secondary and 16.6% for lower than upper secondary education.

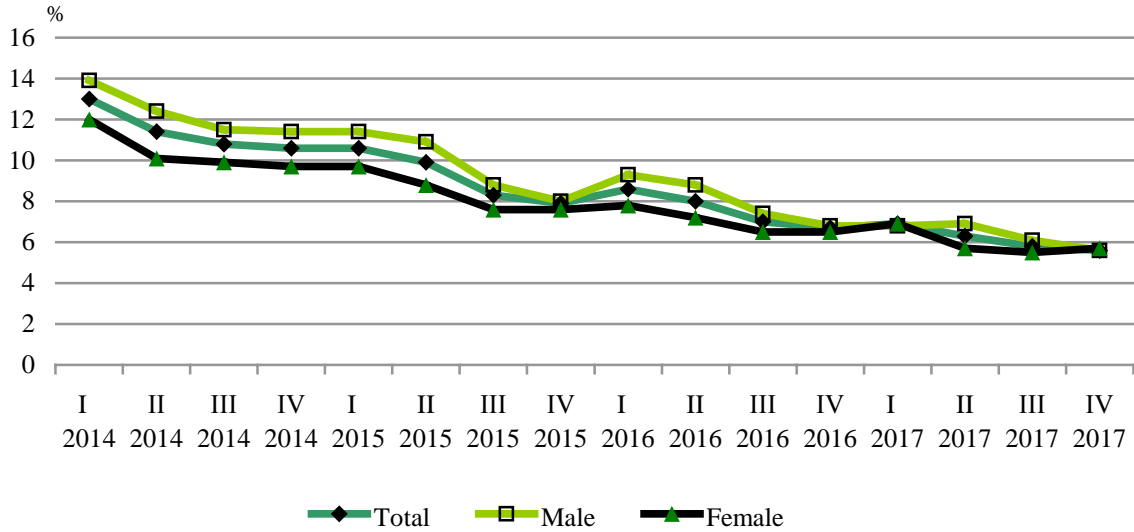
In the fourth quarter of 2017 there were 105.2 thousand **long-term unemployed persons (unemployed for one or more years)**, representing 55.6% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 3.1%, down by 0.8 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2016. The long-term unemployment rate was 3.2% for men and 3.1% for women.

Of all unemployed people 33.2 thousand (17.5%) were looking for a first job.

In the fourth quarter of 2017 the **unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 9.4%, by 3.0 percentage points lower than in a year earlier. The unemployment rate for men (15 - 29 years) decreased by 2.5 percentage points and that for women - by 3.7 percentage points, achieving 9.5% for men and 9.3% 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.

**Economically 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.

For the weighting of the results of the survey for the fourth quarter of 2017 preliminary data on population as of 30 September 2017 (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 relative standard errors for the main LFS indicators for the fourth quarter of 2017 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.2%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 4.5%;
- unemployment rate - 4.4%.



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, fourth quarter of 2016 and 2017

	Fourth quarter 2016	Fourth quarter 2017	Change (fourth quarter 2017 minus fourth quarter 2016)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	68.0	71.6	3.6
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3005.9	3167.6	161.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2941.9	3091.3	149.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	125.5	146.7	21.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	422.2	464.6	42.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2932.2	3078.6	146.4
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	537.6	572.1	34.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	49.2	52.3	3.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	63.4	67.5	4.1
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.9	22.8	3.9
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	37.2	42.5	5.3
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	67.7	72.1	4.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	54.7	58.7	4.0
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	214.9	189.3	-25.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	211.9	185.8	-26.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	26.4	19.3	-7.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	59.8	48.3	-11.5
Unemployment rate - %	6.7	5.6	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.7	5.7	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	17.4	11.6	-5.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	12.4	9.4	-3.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.9	3.1	-0.8
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	163.5	101.7	-61.8
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	160.7	98.3	-62.4



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2016 and 2017

(Continued)

	Fourth quarter 2016	Fourth quarter 2017	Change (fourth quarter 2017 minus fourth quarter 2016)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.1	76.0	3.9
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1612.6	1704.3	91.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1572.6	1658.5	85.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	74.8	88.1	13.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	249.1	270.1	21.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1566.0	1650.6	84.6
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	273.2	296.1	22.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	54.9	58.6	3.7
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.1	71.7	4.6
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.9	26.7	4.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	42.7	48.1	5.4
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	71.7	76.6	4.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	58.4	63.6	5.2
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	118.3	101.4	-16.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	116.8	99.4	-17.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	14.7	11.2	-3.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	33.9	28.4	-5.5
Unemployment rate - %	6.8	5.6	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.9	5.7	-1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.4	11.3	-5.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	12.0	9.5	-2.5
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.0	3.2	-0.8
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	92.2	53.3	-38.9
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	90.6	51.8	-38.8



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2016 and 2017

(Continued and end)

	Fourth quarter 2016	Fourth quarter 2017	Change (fourth quarter 2017 minus fourth quarter 2016)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	63.7	67.1	3.4
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1393.4	1463.3	69.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1369.3	1432.8	63.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	50.6	58.5	7.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	173.1	194.5	21.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1366.2	1428.0	61.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	264.3	276.1	11.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	43.9	46.5	2.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	59.6	63.2	3.6
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.6	18.7	3.1
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	31.3	36.5	5.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	63.6	67.5	3.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	51.4	54.3	2.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	96.6	87.9	-8.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	95.1	86.3	-8.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	11.8	8.1	-3.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	25.9	19.9	-6.0
Unemployment rate - %	6.5	5.7	-0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.5	5.7	-0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.9	12.2	-6.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	13.0	9.3	-3.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.7	3.1	-0.6
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	71.3	48.4	-22.9
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	70.1	46.5	-23.6