



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2018

### Main labour market indicators for the second quarter of 2018

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 71.8%, the same as in the second quarter of 2017.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 67.9%, up by 0.7 percentage points from the same quarter of 2017.

**The unemployment rate** was 5.5%, by 0.8 percentage points lower compared to the second quarter of 2017.

There were 1 278.5 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 28.2% of population in the same age group. Of them 84.4 thousand (6.6%) were **discouraged persons**.

### Employment

In the second quarter of 2018 there were 3 157.1 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 678.1 thousand men and 1 479.0 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 52.5%, up by 0.3 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2017. This share was 58.1% for men and 47.3% for women.

In the second quarter of 2018, 2 002.3 thousand persons, representing about two thirds of all employed persons, worked in the service sector, 940.7 thousand persons (29.8%) worked in the industry sector and 214.1 thousand persons (6.8%) worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.9% (123.5 thousand) were employers, 7.1% (223.9 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.2% (2 785.6 thousand) were employees and 0.8% (24.1 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 123.4 thousand persons (76.2%), worked in private sector while 662.2 thousand (23.8%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees, 118.1 thousand persons (4.2%) had temporary job.

In the second quarter of 2018, the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

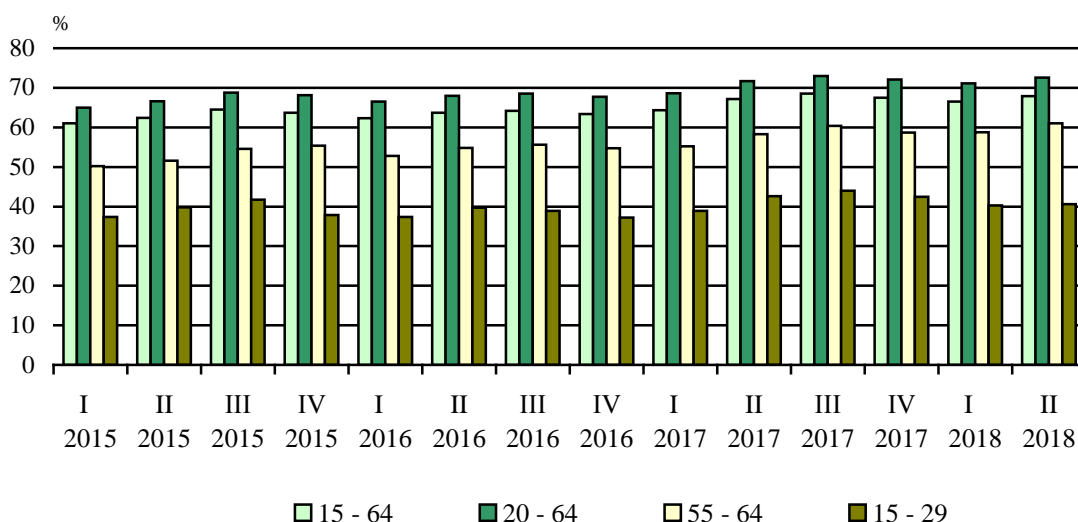
There were 3 078.2 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 67.9% (71.2% for men and 64.4% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 40.6% (46.3% for men and 34.6% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 72.6%, 76.1% and 68.9% for men and women respectively. This rate was by 0.9 percentage points higher than in the second quarter of 2017, registering almost the same increase for men and women.

There were 590.1 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 61.0% of population in the same age group (64.9% of men and 57.5% of women). In comparison with a year ago, the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 2.7 percentage points.

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



## Unemployment

In the second quarter of 2018 there were 182.2 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 109.8 thousand (60.3%) men and 72.4 thousand (39.7%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 5.5% and went down by 0.8 percentage points from the second quarter of 2017. The unemployment rate decreased from 6.9% to 6.1% for men and from 5.7% to 4.7% for women.

Among all unemployed persons, 13.6% had higher level of educational attainment, 49.1% had completed upper secondary education and 37.3% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 2.4% for higher education, 4.8% for upper secondary and 16.1% for education lower than upper secondary.

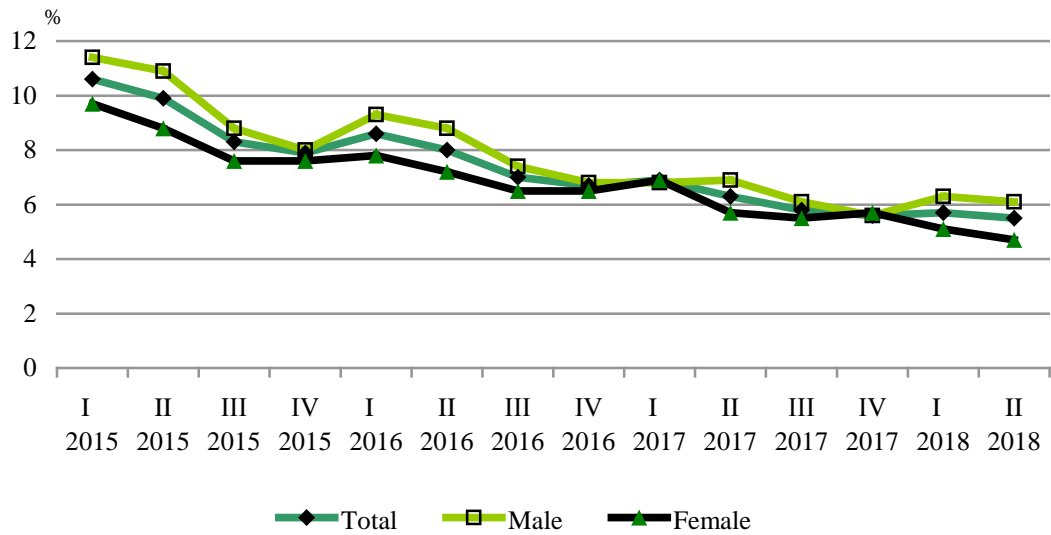
In the second quarter of 2018 there were 106.3 thousand **long-term unemployed persons** (unemployed for one or more years), representing 58.4% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 3.2%, down by 0.3 percentage points from the second quarter of 2017. The long-term unemployment rate was 3.7% for men and 2.6% for women.

Of all unemployed people 35.1 thousand (19.3%) were looking for a first job.

In the second quarter of 2018, **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 9.3%, by 0.2 percentage points lower than in a year earlier. The unemployment rate for men (15 - 29 years) was 10.3%, by 0.2 percentage points higher than in the second quarter of 2017, while for women the rate decreased by 1.0 percentage point achieving 7.8%.



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 second quarter of 2018 preliminary data on population as of 31 March 2018 (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 second quarter of 2018 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.2%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 4.7%;
- unemployment rate - 4.6%.



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, second quarter of 2017 and 2018

	Second quarter 2017	Second quarter 2018	Change (second quarter 2018 minus second quarter 2017)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	71.8	71.8	0.0
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3171.7	3157.1	-14.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3092.9	3078.2	-14.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	151.3	129.8	-21.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	473.7	433.8	-39.9
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	3076.2	3064.4	-11.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	570.6	590.1	19.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	52.2	52.5	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.2	67.9	0.7
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.2	20.6	-2.6
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	42.6	40.6	-2.0
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	71.7	72.6	0.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	58.3	61.0	2.7
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	213.9	182.2	-31.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	211.0	179.9	-31.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	23.0	23.2	0.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	49.9	44.3	-5.6
Unemployment rate - %	6.3	5.5	-0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.4	5.5	-0.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	13.2	15.1	1.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.5	9.3	-0.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.5	3.2	-0.3
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	119.6	89.8	-29.8
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	115.6	84.4	-31.2



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2017 and 2018

(Continued)

	Second quarter 2017	Second quarter 2018	Change (second quarter 2018 minus second quarter 2017)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	75.7	75.9	0.2
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1681.4	1678.1	-3.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1638.3	1632.2	-6.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	89.1	78.7	-10.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	276.3	253.9	-22.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1627.8	1623.1	-4.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	290.5	300.2	9.7
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	57.6	58.1	0.5
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	70.5	71.2	0.7
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	26.6	24.3	-2.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	48.4	46.3	-2.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	75.2	76.1	0.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	62.2	64.9	2.7
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	123.9	109.8	-14.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	121.8	108.5	-13.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	14.4	15.6	1.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	31.0	29.1	-1.9
Unemployment rate - %	6.9	6.1	-0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.9	6.2	-0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	13.9	16.5	2.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.1	10.3	0.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.1	3.7	-0.4
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	60.4	45.1	-15.3
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	58.2	42.3	-15.9



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2017 and 2018

(Continued and end)

	Second quarter 2017	Second quarter 2018	Change (second quarter 2018 minus second quarter 2017)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	67.8	67.6	-0.2
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1490.4	1479.0	-11.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1454.6	1446.0	-8.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	62.2	51.1	-11.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	197.4	179.8	-17.6
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1448.4	1441.3	-7.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	280.1	290.0	9.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	47.2	47.3	0.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	63.9	64.4	0.5
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.6	16.6	-3.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	36.5	34.6	-1.9
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.1	68.9	0.8
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	54.7	57.5	2.8
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	90.0	72.4	-17.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	89.3	71.5	-17.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	8.7	7.6	-1.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	18.9	15.1	-3.8
Unemployment rate - %	5.7	4.7	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.8	4.7	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	12.2	13.0	0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	8.8	7.8	-1.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.9	2.6	-0.3
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	59.2	44.7	-14.5
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	57.4	42.1	-15.3