



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2018

Main labour market indicators for the third quarter of 2018

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 72.5%, by 0.3 percentage points lower compared to the third quarter of 2017.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 68.8%, up by 0.3 percentage points from the same quarter of 2017.

The unemployment rate was 5.0%, by 0.8 percentage points lower compared to the third quarter of 2017.

There were 1 244.8 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 27.5% of population in the same age group. Of them 78.8 thousand (6.3%) were **discouraged persons**.

Employment

In the third quarter of 2018 there were 3 205.3 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 712.2 thousand men and 1 493.2 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 53.3%. This share was 59.4% for men and 47.8% for women.

In the third quarter of 2018, 2 006.5 thousand persons, representing 62.6% of all employed persons, worked in the service sector, 974.1 thousand persons (30.4%) worked in the industry sector and 224.7 thousand persons (7.0%) worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.6% (116.5 thousand) were employers, 7.3% (233.1 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.3% (2 831.9 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (23.9 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 150.3 thousand persons (75.9%), worked in private sector while 681.7 thousand (24.1%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees, 139.5 thousand persons (4.9%) had temporary job.

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

There were 3 115.1 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 68.8% (72.6% for men and 65.0% for women).

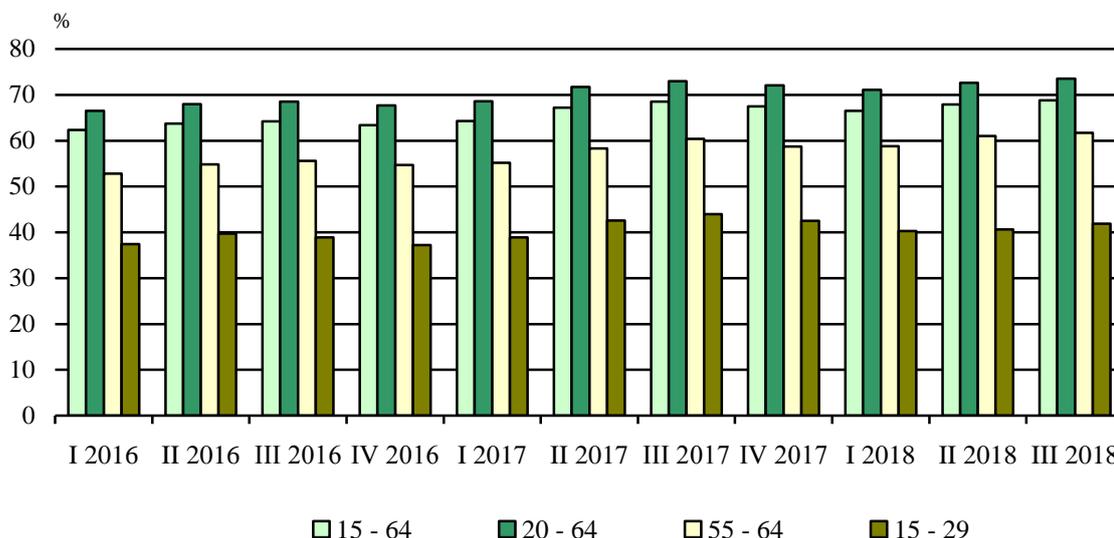
The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years was 41.9% (47.2% for men and 36.3% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years was 73.5%, 77.6% and 69.3% for men and women respectively. The employment rate (20 - 64 years) was by 0.5 percentage points higher than in the third quarter of 2017, registering an increase of 0.7 percentage points for men and 0.3 percentage points for women.

There were 595.5 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 61.7% of population in the same age group (66.5% of men and 57.3% of women). In comparison with a year ago, the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 1.3 percentage points, by 2.0 percentage points for men and by 0.6 percentage points for women.



Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Unemployment

In the third quarter of 2018 there were 168.3 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 97.2 thousand (57.7%) men and 71.1 thousand (42.3%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 5.0% and went down by 0.8 percentage points from the third quarter of 2017. The unemployment rate was 5.4% for men and 4.5% for women.

Among all unemployed persons, 13.7% had higher level of educational attainment, 49.2% had completed upper secondary education and 37.1% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 2.3% for higher education, 4.3% for upper secondary and 14.0% for education lower than upper secondary.

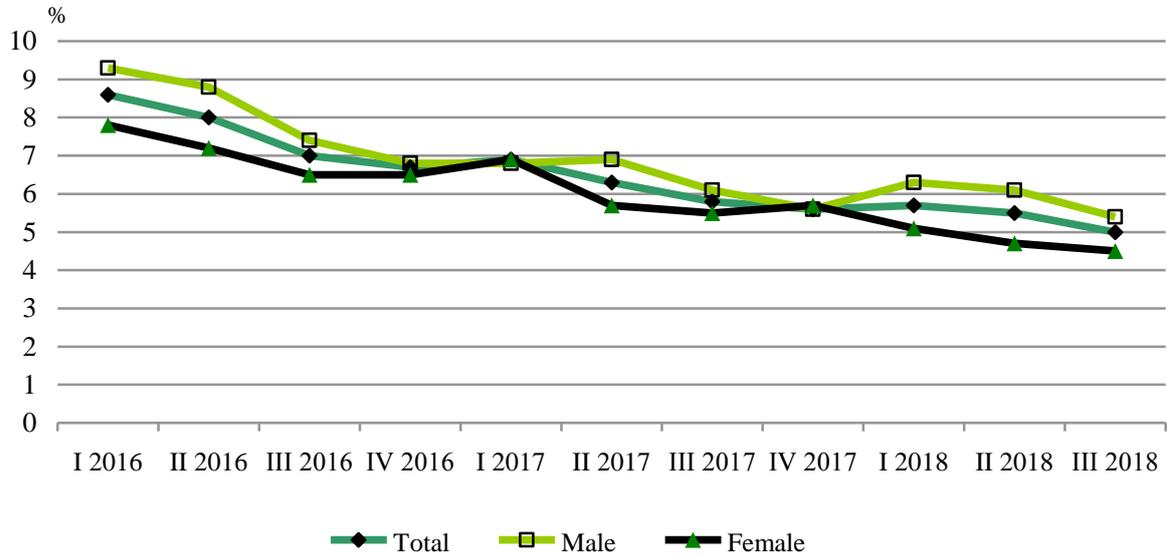
In the third quarter of 2018 there were 105.2 thousand **long-term unemployed persons** (unemployed for one or more years), representing 62.5% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 3.1%, 3.4% for men and 2.8% for women.

Of all unemployed people 33.0 thousand (19.6%) were looking for a first job.

In the third quarter of 2018, **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 8.2%, by 1.7 percentage points lower than in a year earlier. The unemployment rate (15 - 29 years) was 8.8% for men and 7.2% for women and in the period concerned decreased by 1.5 and 2.2 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.

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 third quarter of 2018 preliminary data on population as of 30 June 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 third quarter of 2018 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 4.9%;
- unemployment rate - 4.7%.



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, third quarter of 2017 and 2018

	Third quarter 2017	Third quarter 2018	Change (third quarter 2018 minus third quarter 2017)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.8	72.5	-0.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3225.0	3205.3	-19.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3142.0	3115.1	-26.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	162.9	139.7	-23.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	484.9	444.6	-40.3
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	3124.3	3096.4	-27.9
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	590.7	595.5	4.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	53.2	53.3	0.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	68.5	68.8	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	25.2	22.2	-3.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	44.0	41.9	-2.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	73.0	73.5	0.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	60.4	61.7	1.3
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	200.2	168.3	-31.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	197.5	165.6	-31.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	26.3	21.7	-4.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	53.4	39.6	-13.8
Unemployment rate - %	5.8	5.0	-0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.9	5.0	-0.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	13.9	13.4	-0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.9	8.2	-1.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.2	3.1	-0.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	107.4	82.3	-25.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	103.0	78.8	-24.2



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2017 and 2018

(Continued)

	Third quarter 2017	Third quarter 2018	Change (third quarter 2018 minus third quarter 2017)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	76.9	76.8	-0.1
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1719.9	1712.2	-7.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1672.8	1660.8	-12.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	94.7	80.9	-13.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	280.6	257.1	-23.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1660.5	1650.3	-10.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	301.0	307.3	6.3
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	59.1	59.4	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	72.2	72.6	0.4
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	28.5	25.1	-3.4
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	49.6	47.2	-2.4
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	76.9	77.6	0.7
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	64.5	66.5	2.0
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	112.4	97.2	-15.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	110.7	95.6	-15.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	17.5	13.7	-3.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	32.3	25.0	-7.3
Unemployment rate - %	6.1	5.4	-0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.2	5.4	-0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.6	14.5	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.3	8.8	-1.5
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.3	3.4	0.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	56.6	43.2	-13.4
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	54.5	41.5	-13.0



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2017 and 2018

(Continued and end)

	Third quarter 2017	Third quarter 2018	Change (third quarter 2018 minus third quarter 2017)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	68.5	68.1	-0.4
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1505.1	1493.2	-11.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1469.3	1454.3	-15.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	68.2	58.9	-9.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	204.3	187.5	-16.8
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1463.8	1446.1	-17.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	289.7	288.2	-1.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	47.8	47.8	0.0
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	64.7	65.0	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.7	19.2	-2.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	38.1	36.3	-1.8
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	69.0	69.3	0.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	56.7	57.3	0.6
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	87.8	71.1	-16.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	86.8	70.0	-16.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	8.8	8.0	-0.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	21.1	14.6	-6.5
Unemployment rate - %	5.5	4.5	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.6	4.6	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	11.4	11.9	0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.4	7.2	-2.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.1	2.8	-0.3
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	50.8	39.2	-11.6
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	48.5	37.3	-11.2