



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2018

Main labour market indicators for the fourth quarter of 2018

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 71.1%, by 0.5 percentage points lower compared to the fourth quarter of 2017.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 67.7%, up by 0.2 percentage points from the same quarter of 2017.

The unemployment rate was 4.7%, by 0.9 percentage points lower compared to the fourth quarter of 2017.

There were 1 305.1 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, accounting for 28.9% of population in the same age group. Of them 71.0 thousand (5.4%) were **discouraged persons**.

Employment

In the fourth quarter of 2018 there were 3 148.9 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 695.3 thousand men and 1 453.6 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 52.5%. This share was 58.9% for men and 46.6% for women.

In the fourth quarter of 2018, 2 003.6 thousand persons, representing 63.6% of all employed persons, worked in the service sector, 951.6 thousand persons (30.2%) worked in the industry sector and 193.6 thousand persons (6.1%) worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.5% (109.8 thousand) were employers, 7.2% (225.5 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.6% (2 790.6 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (23.0 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 102.0 thousand persons (75.3%), worked in private sector while 688.6 thousand (24.7%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees, 101.3 thousand persons (3.6%) had temporary job.

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

There were 3 058.4 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 67.7% (72.0% for men and 63.4% for women).

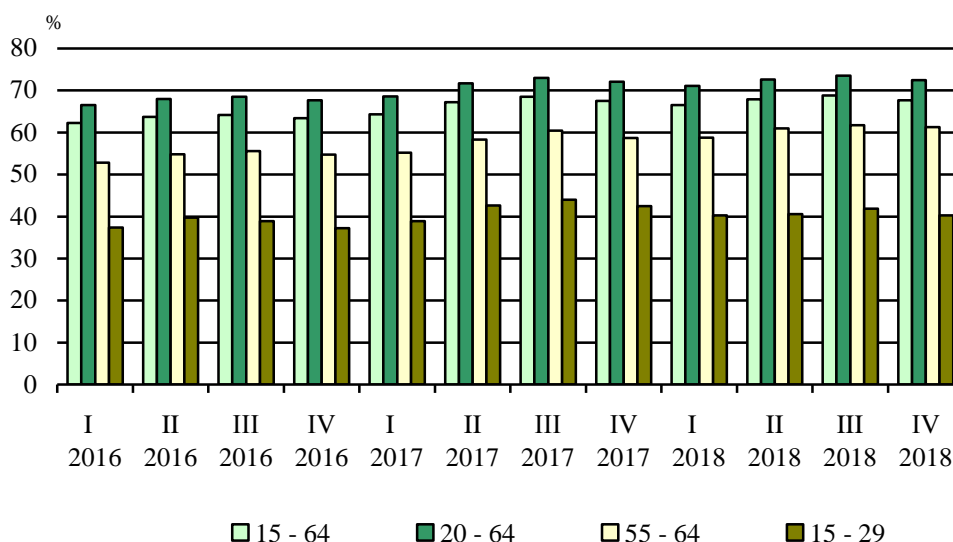
The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years was 40.3% (45.0% for men and 35.3% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years was 72.5%, 77.2% and 67.8% for men and women respectively. The employment rate (20 - 64 years) was by 0.4 percentage points higher than in the fourth quarter of 2017, registering an increase of 0.6 percentage points for men and 0.3 percentage points for women.

There were 588.9 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 61.3% of population in the same age group (66.6% of men and 56.4% of women). In comparison with a year ago, the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 2.6 percentage points, by 3.0 percentage points for men and by 2.1 percentage points for women.



Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Unemployment

In the fourth quarter of 2018 there were 154.1 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 88.2 thousand (57.2%) men and 65.9 thousand (42.8%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 4.7%, 4.9% for men and 4.3% for women. From the fourth quarter of 2017 the unemployment rate went down by 0.9 percentage points, by 0.7 percentage points for men and by 1.4 percentage points for women.

Among all unemployed persons, 13.5% had attained tertiary education, 50.1% had completed upper secondary education and 36.4% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 2.1% for tertiary education, 4.1% for upper secondary and 13.8% for education lower than upper secondary.

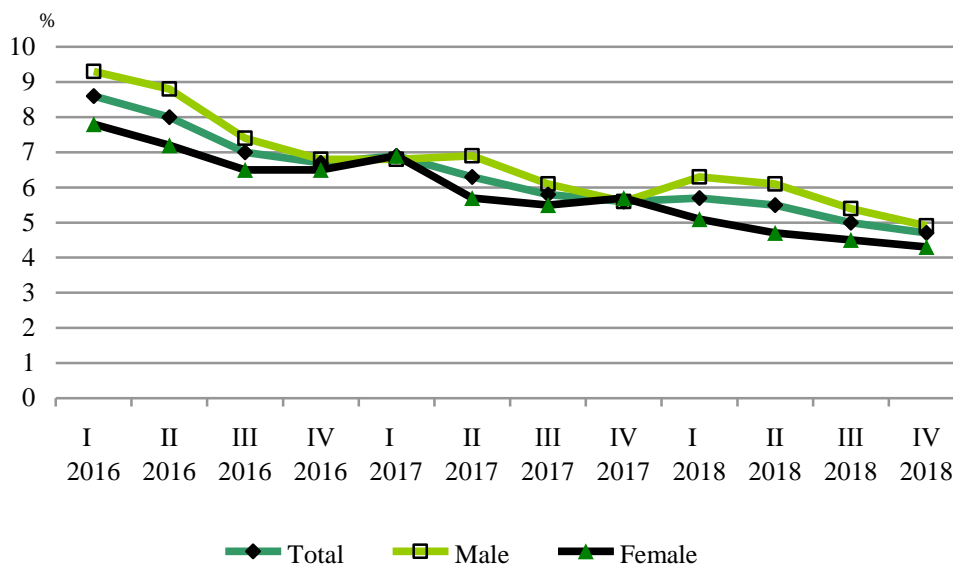
In the fourth quarter of 2018 there were 95.7 thousand **long-term unemployed persons** (unemployed for one or more years), representing 62.1% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 2.9%, 3.1% for men and 2.7% for women.

Of all unemployed people 26.0 thousand (16.8%) were looking for a first job.

In the fourth quarter of 2018, **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 7.4%, by 2.0 percentage points lower than in a year earlier. The unemployment rate (15 - 29 years) was 8.4% for men and 6.0% for women and in the period concerned decreased by 1.1 and 3.3 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 fourth quarter of 2018 preliminary data on population as of 30 September 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 fourth quarter of 2018 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 5.2%;
- unemployment rate - 5.1%.



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, fourth quarter of 2017 and 2018

	Fourth quarter 2017	Fourth quarter 2018	Change (fourth quarter 2018 minus fourth quarter 2017)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	71.6	71.1	-0.5
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3167.6	3148.9	-18.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3091.3	3058.4	-32.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	146.7	125.3	-21.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	464.6	423.9	-40.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	3078.6	3046.2	-32.4
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	572.1	588.9	16.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	52.3	52.5	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.5	67.7	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.8	20.0	-2.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	42.5	40.3	-2.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	72.1	72.5	0.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	58.7	61.3	2.6
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	189.3	154.1	-35.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	185.8	151.2	-34.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	19.3	13.8	-5.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	48.3	33.8	-14.5
Unemployment rate - %	5.6	4.7	-0.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.7	4.7	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	11.6	9.9	-1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.4	7.4	-2.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.1	2.9	-0.2
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	101.7	73.6	-28.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	98.3	71.0	-27.3



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2017 and 2018

(Continued)

	Fourth quarter 2017	Fourth quarter 2018	Change (fourth quarter 2018 minus fourth quarter 2017)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	76.0	75.8	-0.2
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1704.3	1695.3	-9.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1658.5	1642.9	-15.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	88.1	74.5	-13.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	270.1	243.1	-27.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1650.6	1635.5	-15.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	296.1	306.6	10.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	58.6	58.9	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	71.7	72.0	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	26.7	23.2	-3.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	48.1	45.0	-3.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	76.6	77.2	0.6
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	63.6	66.6	3.0
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	101.4	88.2	-13.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	99.4	86.1	-13.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	11.2	8.3	-2.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	28.4	22.2	-6.2
Unemployment rate - %	5.6	4.9	-0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.7	5.0	-0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	11.3	10.0	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.5	8.4	-1.1
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.2	3.1	-0.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	53.3	41.4	-11.9
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	51.8	39.8	-12.0



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, fourth quarter of 2017 and 2018

(Continued and end)

	Fourth quarter 2017	Fourth quarter 2018	Change (fourth quarter 2018 minus fourth quarter 2017)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	67.1	66.3	-0.8
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1463.3	1453.6	-9.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1432.8	1415.4	-17.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	58.5	50.8	-7.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	194.5	180.8	-13.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1428.0	1410.7	-17.3
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	276.1	282.3	6.2
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	46.5	46.6	0.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	63.2	63.4	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.7	16.7	-2.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	36.5	35.3	-1.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	67.5	67.8	0.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	54.3	56.4	2.1
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	87.9	65.9	-22.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	86.3	65.1	-21.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	8.1	5.6	-2.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	19.9	11.6	-8.3
Unemployment rate - %	5.7	4.3	-1.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.7	4.4	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	12.2	9.9	-2.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.3	6.0	-3.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.1	2.7	-0.4
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	48.4	32.2	-16.2
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	46.5	31.3	-15.2