



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS, FIRST QUARTER OF 2019

Main labour market indicators in the first quarter of 2019

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 71.9%, by 1.3 percentage points higher compared to the first quarter of 2018.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 68.3%, up by 1.8 percentage points from the same quarter of 2018.

The unemployment rate was 5.0%, by 0.7 percentage points lower compared to the first quarter of 2018.

There were 63.6 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 5.0% of the economically inactive population in the same age group.

Employment

In the first quarter of 2019 there were 3 147.8 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 681.4 thousand men and 1 466.4 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 52.7% (58.7% for men and 47.2% for women).

In the first quarter of 2019, 2 016.0 thousand persons, representing 64.0% of all employed persons, worked in the service sector, 934.6 thousand persons (29.7%) worked in the industry sector and 197.2 thousand persons (6.3%) worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.6% (112.4 thousand) were employers, 7.1% (223.2 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.6% (2 789.8 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (22.3 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 111.3 thousand persons (75.7%) worked in private sector while 678.5 thousand (24.3%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees, 92.1 thousand persons (3.3%) had temporary job.

In the first quarter of 2019, the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

There were 3 062.4 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 68.3% (71.9% for men and 64.5% for women).

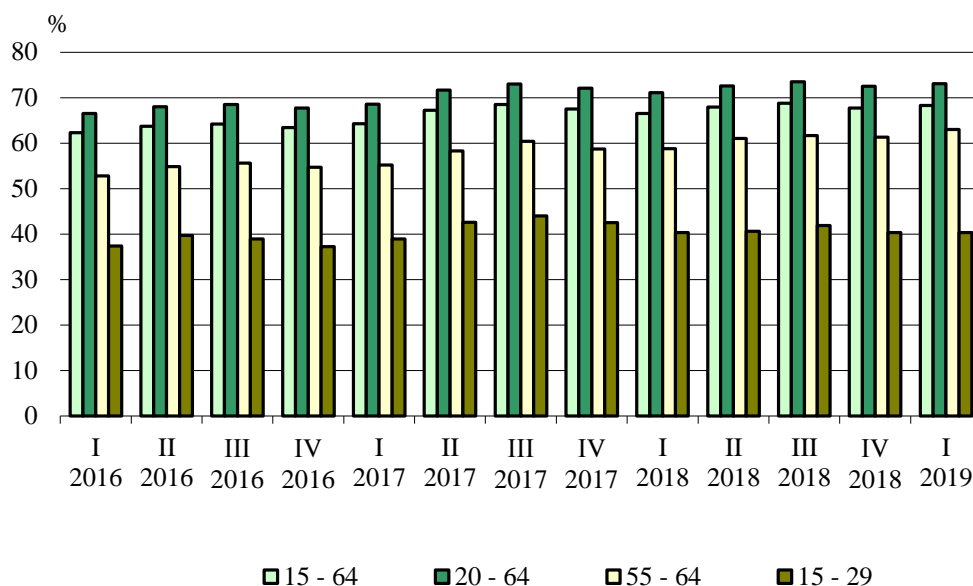
The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years was 40.3% (45.1% for men and 35.3% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years was 73.1%, 77.0% and 69.2% for men and women respectively. This rate was by 2.0 percentage points higher than in the first quarter of 2018, registering almost the same increase for men and women.

There were 601.9 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 63.0% of population in the same age group (67.5% of men and 58.8% of women). In comparison with a year ago, the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 4.2 percentage points (by 3.9 percentage points for men and by 4.3 percentage points for women).



Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Unemployment

In the first quarter of 2019 there were 165.3 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 95.0 thousand (57.5%) men and 70.3 thousand (42.5%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 5.0% and went down by 0.7 percentage points from the first quarter of 2018. The unemployment rate was 5.3% for men and 4.6% for women.

Among all unemployed persons, 15.4% had attained tertiary education, 44.3% had completed upper secondary education and 40.3% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 2.4% for higher education, 4.0% for upper secondary and 15.8% for education lower than upper secondary.

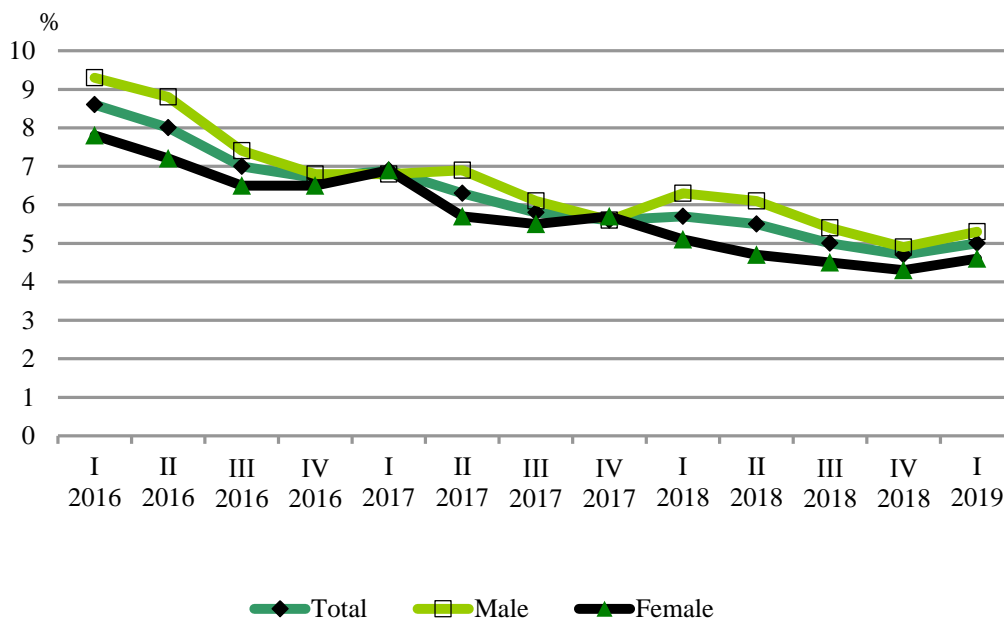
In the first quarter of 2019 there were 87.5 thousand **long-term unemployed persons (unemployed for one or more years)**, representing 52.9% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 2.6%, 2.9% for men and 2.3% for women.

Of all unemployed people 26.5 thousand (16.0%) were looking for first job.

In the first quarter of 2019, **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 7.8%, by 0.4 percentage points lower than in a year earlier. Over the period concerned the unemployment rate for men (15 - 29 years) decreased by 0.8 percentage points while that for women increased by 0.3 percentage points achieving 8.4% for men and 7.2% for women.



Figure 2. Unemployment rate by sex and by quarter



Inactivity

In the first quarter of 2019 there were 2 657.0 thousand **economically inactive persons (persons not in the labour force) aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 086.8 thousand (40.9%) men and 1 570.2 thousand (59.1%) women. Inactive were 1 260.3 thousand persons aged 15 - 64, representing 28.1% of population in the same age group. For more than one third of them (36.0%) the reason for inactivity was participation in education and training while 23.7% were inactive due to personal or family reasons.



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 first quarter of 2019 data on population as of 31 December 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 first quarter of 2019 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.3%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 5.3%;
- unemployment rate - 5.2%.



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, first quarter of 2018 and 2019

	First quarter 2018	First quarter 2019	Change (first quarter 2019 minus first quarter 2018)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	70.6	71.9	1.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3099.3	3147.8	48.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3023.8	3062.4	38.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	126.5	117.7	-8.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	433.9	417.9	-16.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	3011.6	3051.0	39.4
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	570.0	601.9	31.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	51.5	52.7	1.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	66.5	68.3	1.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.9	19.0	-0.9
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	40.3	40.3	0.0
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	71.1	73.1	2.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	58.8	63.0	4.2
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	188.7	165.3	-23.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	186.4	163.1	-23.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	17.0	12.8	-4.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	38.8	35.6	-3.2
Unemployment rate - %	5.7	5.0	-0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.8	5.1	-0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	11.8	9.8	-2.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	8.2	7.8	-0.4
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.0	2.6	-0.4
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	95.7	65.8	-29.9
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	91.6	63.6	-28.0



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2018 and 2019

(Continued)

	First quarter 2018	First quarter 2019	Change (first quarter 2019 minus first quarter 2018)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	74.9	76.0	1.1
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1655.8	1681.4	25.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1610.6	1630.2	19.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	78.6	71.0	-7.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	251.1	239.8	-11.3
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1603.7	1621.5	17.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	294.6	309.1	14.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	57.3	58.7	1.4
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	70.1	71.9	1.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.1	22.3	-1.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	45.4	45.1	-0.3
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	75.0	77.0	2.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	63.6	67.5	3.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	111.7	95.0	-16.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	110.5	93.3	-17.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	10.0	7.7	-2.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	25.3	21.9	-3.4
Unemployment rate - %	6.3	5.3	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.4	5.4	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	11.3	9.8	-1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.2	8.4	-0.8
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.5	2.9	-0.6
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	47.6	35.4	-12.2
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	45.5	33.2	-12.3



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, first quarter of 2018 and 2019

(Continued and end)

	First quarter 2018	First quarter 2019	Change (first quarter 2019 minus first quarter 2018)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	66.2	67.7	1.5
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1443.6	1466.4	22.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1413.2	1432.2	19.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	47.9	46.7	-1.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	182.8	178.1	-4.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1407.9	1429.5	21.6
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	275.4	292.8	17.4
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	46.1	47.2	1.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	62.8	64.5	1.7
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.5	15.5	0.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	34.9	35.3	0.4
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	67.1	69.2	2.1
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	54.5	58.8	4.3
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	77.1	70.3	-6.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	75.9	69.8	-6.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	7.0	5.1	-1.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	13.5	13.7	0.2
Unemployment rate - %	5.1	4.6	-0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.1	4.6	-0.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	12.7	9.8	-2.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	6.9	7.2	0.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.5	2.3	-0.2
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	48.1	30.4	-17.7
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	46.1	30.4	-15.7