



## MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS, SECOND QUARTER OF 2019

### Main labour market indicators in the second quarter of 2019

**The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64** was 73.8%, by 2.0 percentage points higher compared to the second quarter of 2018.

**The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64** increased by 2.8 percentage points from the same quarter of 2018 and achieved 70.7%.

**The unemployment rate** was 4.2%, by 1.3 percentage points lower compared to the second quarter of 2018.

There were 61.2 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 5.2% of the economically inactive population in the same age group.

### Employment

In the second quarter of 2019 there were 3 262.8 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 733.2 thousand men and 1 529.7 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 54.7% (60.5% for men and 49.2% for women).

In the second quarter of 2019, 2 065.3 thousand persons, representing 63.3% of all employed persons, worked in the service sector, 980.2 thousand persons (30.0%) worked in the industry sector and 217.4 thousand persons (6.7%) worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.6% (116.5 thousand) were employers, 6.5% (213.4 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 89.3% (2 912.6 thousand) were employees and 0.6% (20.4 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 217.5 thousand persons (76.1%) worked in private sector while 695.1 thousand (23.9%) worked in public sector.

Of all employees, 134.0 thousand persons (4.6%) had temporary job.

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

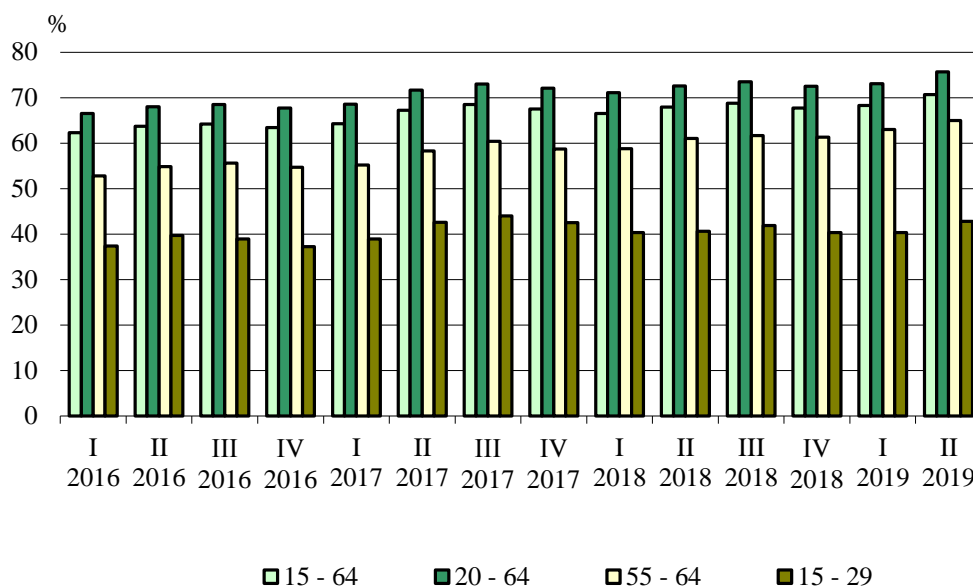
There were 3 165.1 thousand **employed persons aged from 15 to 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 70.7% (74.0% for men and 67.3% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 42.8% (47.5% for men and 37.7% for women).

**The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years** was 75.7%, 79.3% and 72.1% for men and women respectively. This rate was by 3.1 percentage points higher than in the second quarter of 2018, registering almost the same increase for men and women.

There were 621.1 thousand **employed persons aged from 55 to 64 years**, representing 65.0% of population in the same age group (68.8% of men and 61.5% of women). In comparison with a year ago, the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 4.0 percentage points.

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



## Unemployment

In the second quarter of 2019 there were 142.0 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 82.7 thousand (58.2%) men and 59.3 thousand (41.8%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 4.2% and went down by 1.3 percentage points from the second quarter of 2018. The unemployment rate decreased from 6.1% to 4.6% for men and from 4.7% to 3.7% for women.

Among all unemployed persons, 15.1% had higher level of educational attainment, 45.1% had completed upper secondary education and 39.8% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 2.0% for higher education, 3.4% for upper secondary and 12.2% for education lower than upper secondary.

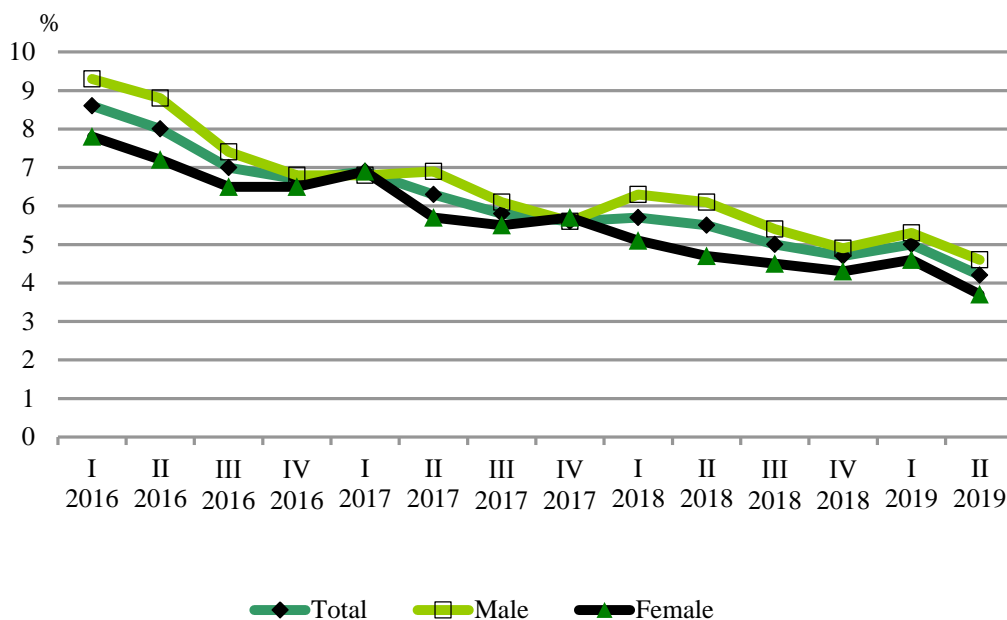
In the second quarter of 2019 there were 84.5 thousand **long-term unemployed persons** (unemployed for one or more years), representing 59.5% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 2.5%, down by 0.7 percentage points from the second quarter of 2018. The long-term unemployment rate was 2.7% for men and 2.2% for women.

Of all unemployed people 25.1 thousand (17.7%) were looking for a first job.

In the second quarter of 2019, **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 6.9%, by 2.4 percentage points lower than in a year earlier. The unemployment rate was 7.3% for men (15 - 29 years) and 6.3% for women. In comparison with the second quarter of 2018, this rate went down by 3.0 percentage points for men and by 1.5 percentage points for women.



**Figure 2. Unemployment rate by sex and by quarter**



### Economic inactivity

There were 2 564.3 thousand **economically inactive persons**, of them 1 046.8 thousand (40.8%) men and 1 517.5 thousand (59.2%) women. **In the age group 15 - 64 years** 1 173.1 thousand persons were economically inactive, accounting for 26.2% of population in the same age group. Participation in education or training and personal or family reasons were the most common causes for economic inactivity - they concerned 36.9% and 23.1% of persons out of labour force aged 15 - 64.



## 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 2019 preliminary data on population as of 31 March 2019 (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 2019 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 5.4%;
- unemployment rate - 5.3%.

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 2018 and 2019

	Second quarter 2018	Second quarter 2019	Change (second quarter 2019 minus second quarter 2018)
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	71.8	73.8	2.0
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3157.1	3262.8	105.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3078.2	3165.1	86.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	129.8	130.9	1.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	433.8	440.5	6.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	3064.4	3154.1	89.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	590.1	621.1	31.0
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	52.5	54.7	2.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.9	70.7	2.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	20.6	21.2	0.6
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	40.6	42.8	2.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	72.6	75.7	3.1
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	61.0	65.0	4.0
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	182.2	142.0	-40.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	179.9	139.8	-40.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	23.2	13.7	-9.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	44.3	32.6	-11.7
Unemployment rate - %	5.5	4.2	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.5	4.2	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.1	9.5	-5.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.3	6.9	-2.4
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.2	2.5	-0.7
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	89.8	63.3	-26.5
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	84.4	61.2	-23.2



**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2018 and 2019**

(Continued)

	Second quarter 2018	Second quarter 2019	Change (second quarter 2019 minus second quarter 2018)
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	75.9	77.6	1.7
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1678.1	1733.2	55.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1632.2	1674.8	42.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	78.7	78.3	-0.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	253.9	251.2	-2.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1623.1	1667.5	44.4
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	300.2	315.4	15.2
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	58.1	60.5	2.4
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	71.2	74.0	2.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.3	24.7	0.4
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	46.3	47.5	1.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	76.1	79.3	3.2
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	64.9	68.8	3.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	109.8	82.7	-27.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	108.5	81.3	-27.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	15.6	8.1	-7.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	29.1	19.8	-9.3
Unemployment rate - %	6.1	4.6	-1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	6.2	4.6	-1.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.5	9.4	-7.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.3	7.3	-3.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.7	2.7	-1.0
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	45.1	33.0	-12.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	42.3	31.8	-10.5



**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2018 and 2019**

(Continued and end)

	Second quarter 2018	Second quarter 2019	Change (second quarter 2019 minus second quarter 2018)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	67.6	69.9	2.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1479.0	1529.7	50.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1446.0	1490.3	44.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	51.1	52.6	1.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	179.8	189.3	9.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1441.3	1486.5	45.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	290.0	305.8	15.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	47.3	49.2	1.9
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	64.4	67.3	2.9
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.6	17.5	0.9
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	34.6	37.7	3.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.9	72.1	3.2
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	57.5	61.5	4.0
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	72.4	59.3	-13.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	71.5	58.5	-13.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	7.6	5.6	-2.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	15.1	12.8	-2.3
Unemployment rate - %	4.7	3.7	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.7	3.8	-0.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	13.0	9.6	-3.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	7.8	6.3	-1.5
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.6	2.2	-0.4
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	44.7	30.3	-14.4
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	42.1	29.4	-12.7