



MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS, THIRD QUARTER OF 2019

Main labour market indicators in the third quarter of 2019

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 74.2%, by 1.7 percentage points higher compared to the third quarter of 2018.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 increased by 2.6 percentage points from the same quarter of 2018 and achieved 71.4%.

The unemployment rate was 3.7%, by 1.3 percentage points lower compared to the third quarter of 2018.

There were 61.4 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 5.3% of the economically inactive population in the same age group.

Employment

In the third quarter of 2019 there were 3 299.2 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 771.3 thousand men and 1 527.9 thousand women. The share of employed persons in the total population aged 15 years and over was 55.3% (61.9% for men and 49.2% for women).

In the third quarter of 2019, most employed persons - 2 079.2 thousand (63.0%) worked in the service sector, 989.8 thousand persons (30.0%) worked in the industry sector and 230.3 thousand persons (7.0%) worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.6% (118.3 thousand) were employers, 6.4% (210.1 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 89.5% (2 953.3 thousand) were employees and 0.5% (17.5 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 262.3 thousand persons (76.6%) worked in private sector while 690.9 thousand (23.4%) worked in public sector.

The number of employees with temporary job increased by 14.5% in comparison with the third quarter of 2018 and achieved 159.7 thousand, representing 5.4% of all employees.

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

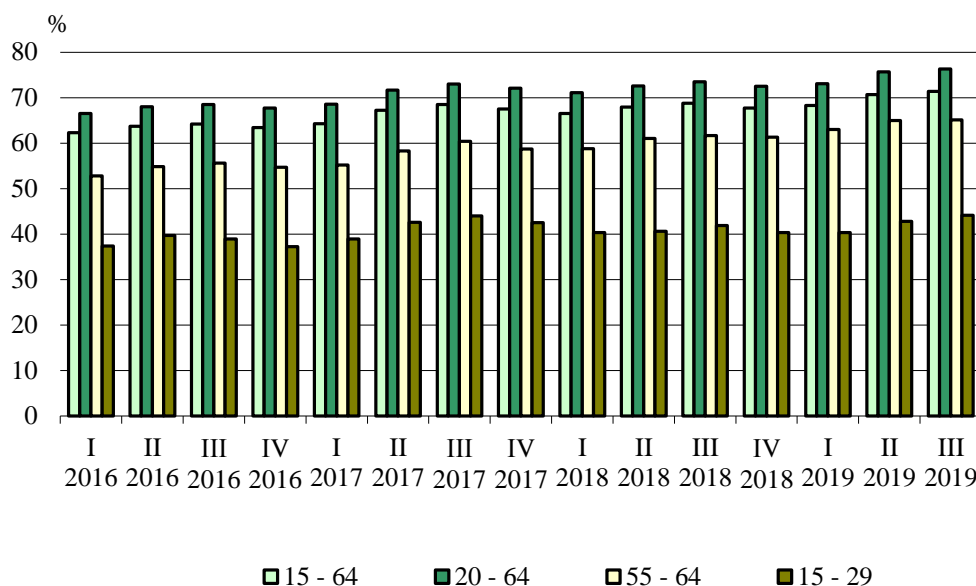
There were 3 194.1 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 71.4% (75.7% for men and 67.1% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years was 44.1% (49.2% for men and 38.8% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years was 76.3%, 80.9% and 71.7% for men and women respectively. This rate was by 2.8 percentage points higher than in the third quarter of 2018. It increased by 3.3 percentage points for men and by 2.4 percentage points for women.

There were 620.9 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64 years**, representing 65.1% of population in the same age group (70.1% of men and 60.4% of women). In comparison with the third quarter of 2018, the employment rate (55 - 64 years) went up by 3.4 percentage points.

Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Unemployment

In the third quarter of 2019 there were 125.4 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 70.9 thousand (56.5%) men and 54.5 thousand (43.5%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 3.7% and went down by 1.3 percentage points from the third quarter of 2018. The unemployment rate was 3.8% for men and 3.4% for women.

Among all unemployed persons, 14.8% had attained tertiary education, 44.7% had completed upper secondary education and 40.5% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 1.8% for higher education, 2.9% for upper secondary and 10.8% for education lower than upper secondary.

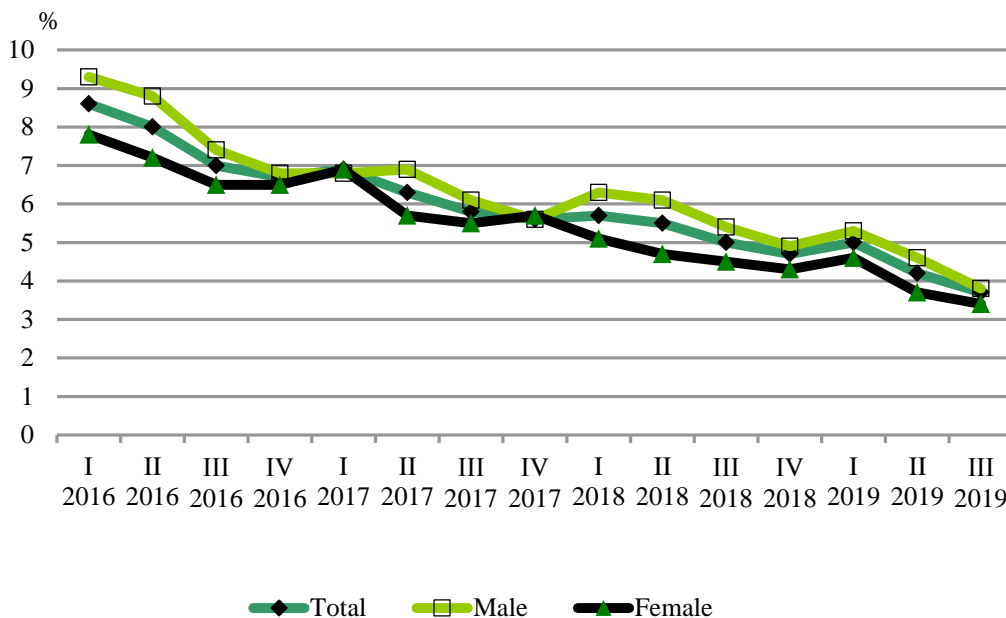
In the third quarter of 2019 there were 78.4 thousand **long-term unemployed persons (unemployed for one or more years)**, representing 62.5% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 2.3%, 2.5% for men and 2.1% for women.

Of all unemployed people 22.3 thousand (17.8%) were looking for first job.

In the third quarter of 2019, **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 6.1%, by 2.1 percentage points lower than in a year earlier. Over the period concerned the unemployment rate for men (15 - 29 years) decreased by 1.8 percentage points, and for women - by 2.3 percentage points, achieving 7.0% for men and 4.9% for women.



Figure 2. Unemployment rate by sex and by quarter



Economic inactivity

In the third quarter of 2019 there were 2 538.6 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 017.2 thousand (40.1%) men and 1 521.4 thousand (59.9%) women. **In the age group 15 - 64 years** 1 153.6 thousand persons were economically inactive, accounting for 25.8% of population in the same age group. Of them 34.3% did not work and not looking for work due to participation in education or training.



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 2019 preliminary data on population as of 30 June 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 third quarter of 2019 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 6.0%;
- unemployment rate - 5.9%.

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 2018 and 2019

	Third quarter 2018	Third quarter 2019	Change (third quarter 2019 minus third quarter 2018)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	72.5	74.2	1.7
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3205.3	3299.2	93.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3115.1	3194.1	79.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	139.7	152.9	13.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	444.6	451.8	7.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	3096.4	3173.1	76.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	595.5	620.9	25.4
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	53.3	55.3	2.0
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	68.8	71.4	2.6
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.2	24.8	2.6
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	41.9	44.1	2.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	73.5	76.3	2.8
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	61.7	65.1	3.4
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	168.3	125.4	-42.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	165.6	122.7	-42.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	21.7	12.4	-9.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	39.6	29.5	-10.1
Unemployment rate - %	5.0	3.7	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.0	3.7	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	13.4	7.5	-5.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	8.2	6.1	-2.1
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.1	2.3	-0.8
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	82.3	63.3	-19.0
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	78.8	61.4	-17.4



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2018 and 2019

(Continued)

	Third quarter 2018	Third quarter 2019	Change (third quarter 2019 minus third quarter 2018)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	76.8	78.7	1.9
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1712.2	1771.3	59.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1660.8	1709.8	49.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	80.9	86.9	6.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	257.1	258.1	1.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1650.3	1697.3	47.0
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	307.3	321.2	13.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	59.4	61.9	2.5
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	72.6	75.7	3.1
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	25.1	27.4	2.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	47.2	49.2	2.0
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	77.6	80.9	3.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	66.5	70.1	3.6
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	97.2	70.9	-26.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	95.6	69.1	-26.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	13.7	7.5	-6.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	25.0	19.5	-5.5
Unemployment rate - %	5.4	3.8	-1.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.4	3.9	-1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	14.5	7.9	-6.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	8.8	7.0	-1.8
Long-term unemployment rate - %	3.4	2.5	-0.9
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	43.2	32.6	-10.6
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	41.5	31.7	-9.8



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2018 and 2019

(Continued and end)

	Third quarter 2018	Third quarter 2019	Change (third quarter 2019 minus third quarter 2018)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	68.1	69.6	1.5
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1493.2	1527.9	34.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1454.3	1484.3	30.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	58.9	66.0	7.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	187.5	193.7	6.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1446.1	1475.8	29.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	288.2	299.7	11.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	47.8	49.2	1.4
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	65.0	67.1	2.1
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.2	22.0	2.8
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	36.3	38.8	2.5
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	69.3	71.7	2.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	57.3	60.4	3.1
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	71.1	54.5	-16.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	70.0	53.6	-16.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	8.0	4.9	-3.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	14.6	10.0	-4.6
Unemployment rate - %	4.5	3.4	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.6	3.5	-1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	11.9	7.0	-4.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	7.2	4.9	-2.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.8	2.1	-0.7
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	39.2	30.7	-8.5
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	37.3	29.8	-7.5