

MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS, SECOND QUARTER OF 2020

Main labour market indicators in the second quarter of 2020

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 71.7%, by 2.1 percentage points lower compared to the second quarter of 2019.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 decreased by 3.3 percentage points from the same quarter of 2019 and was 67.4%.

The unemployment rate was 5.9%, by 1.7 percentage points higher compared to the second quarter of 2019. There were 58.2 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 4.6% of the economically inactive population in the same age group.

Employment

In the second quarter of 2020 there were 3 079.6 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 642.0 thousand men and 1 437.6 thousand women. Compared to the second quarter of 2019, the number of employed persons decreased by 5.6%. The employment rate for the same age group was 52.0% (57.8% for men and 46.6% for women).

In the second quarter of 2020, 1 936.7 thousand persons (62.9% of all employed persons) worked in the service sector, 938.5 thousand persons (30.5%) worked in the industry sector and 204.5 thousand persons (6.6%) worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.8% (117.8 thousand) were employers, 6.9% (212.5 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.6% (2 728.7 thousand) were employees and 0.7% (20.6 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 016.6 thousand persons (73.9%) worked in private sector while 712.1 thousand (26.1%) worked in public sector.

The number of employees with temporary job was 96.7 thousand, representing 3.5% of all employees.

In the second quarter of 2020, the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

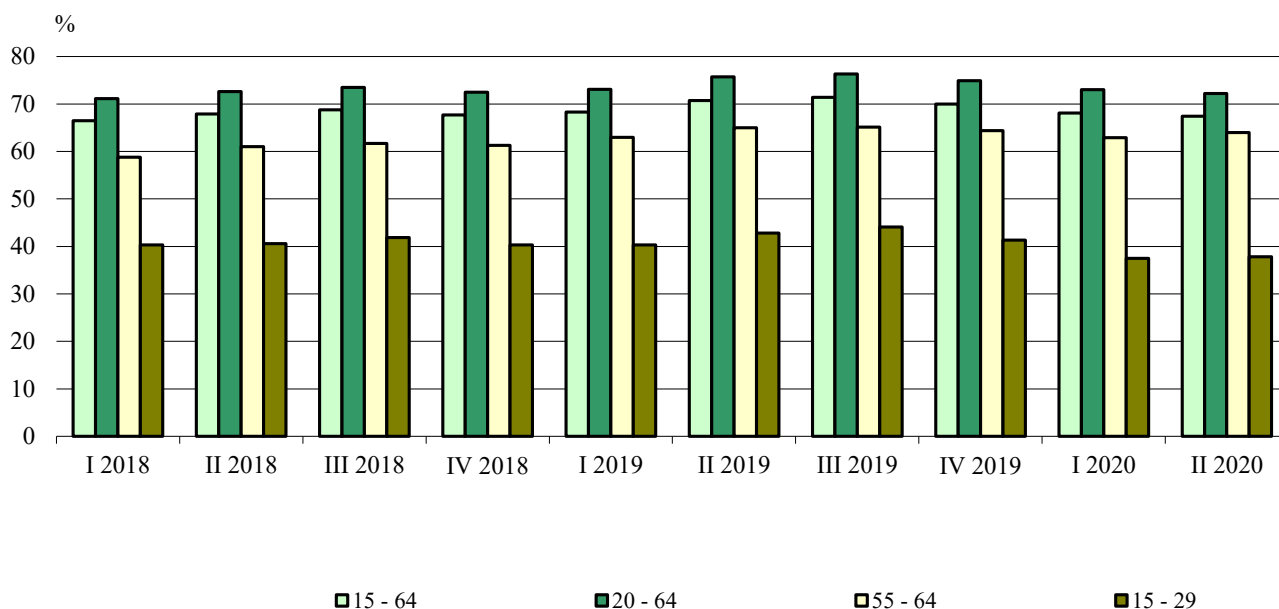
There were 2 979.5 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 67.4% (70.9% for men and 63.8% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years was 37.8% (42.4% for men and 32.8% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years was 72.2%, 76.0% and 68.4% for men and women respectively. In comparison with the second quarter of 2019 this rate registered a decrease by 3.5 percentage points, by 3.3 percentage points for men and by 3.7 percentage points for women.

There were 604.2 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64 years**, representing 64.0% of population in the same age group (68.2% of men and 60.1% of women).

Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Unemployment

In the second quarter of 2020 there were 192.2 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 108.1 thousand (56.2%) men and 84.1 thousand (43.8%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 5.9%, 6.2% and 5.5% for men and women respectively. In comparison with the second quarter of 2019, the unemployment rate rose by 1.7 percentage points, registering an increase by 1.6 percentage points for men and by 1.8 percentage points for women.

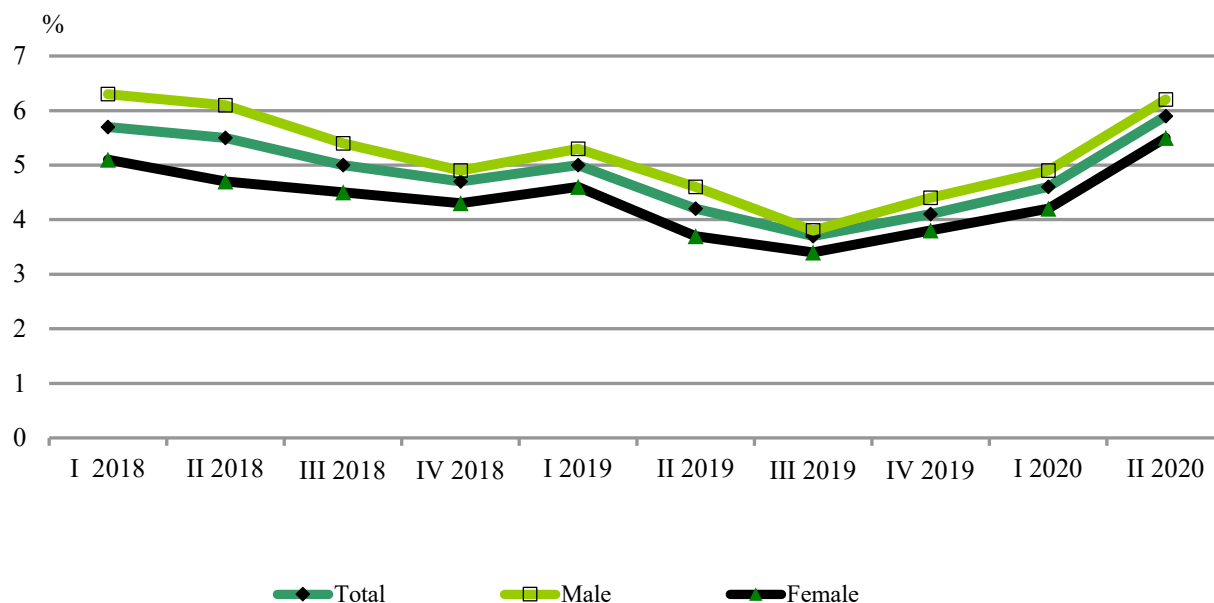
Among all unemployed persons, 17.3% had attained tertiary education, 55.5% had completed upper secondary education and 27.2% had at most lower secondary education. The share of unemployed persons with tertiary and with upper secondary education was higher than in the second quarter of 2019 by 2.2 percentage points and 10.4 percentage points respectively, on the expense of the share of unemployed persons with at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 3.1% for tertiary education, 5.9% for upper secondary and 13.4% for education lower than upper secondary.

The growth of unemployment between the second quarters of 2019 and 2020 is mainly due to the increase of number of persons unemployed for less than six months. In the period concerned it went up by 56.8 thousand to 91.4 thousand persons (near half of the total number of unemployed). In the second quarter of 2020 there were 72.2 thousand **long-term unemployed persons (unemployed for one or more years)**, representing 37.5% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** declined by 0.3 percentage points to 2.2% (2.6% for men and 1.7% for women).

Of all unemployed people 19.5 thousand (10.2%) were looking for first job.

In the second quarter of 2020, **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 9.7%, by 2.8 percentage points higher than in a year earlier. The unemployment rate (15 - 29 years) increased by 2.0 percentage points for men and by 3.9 percentage points for women achieving 9.3% and 10.2% respectively.

Figure 2. Unemployment rate by sex and by quarter



Economic inactivity

In the second quarter of 2020 there were 2 655.0 thousand **economically inactive persons** aged 15 years and over, of whom 1 089.9 thousand (41.0%) men and 1 565.1 thousand (59.0%) women. **In the age group 15 - 64 years** 1 253.0 thousand persons were economically inactive, accounting for 28.3% of population in the same age group.

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 2020 preliminary data on population as of 31 March 2020 (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 2020 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.6%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 5.9%;
- unemployment rate - 5.6%.

In relation to the measures taken to contain the spread of coronavirus, the National Statistical Institute suspended surveys, which are conducted via direct personal contact between March 16 and May 13, 2020 and part of the households were interviewed by telephone. As a result, the share of non-interviewed households in the Labor Force Survey in the second quarter of 2020 is higher than usual, which may affect the accuracy of the results.

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, second quarter of 2019 and 2020

	Second quarter 2019	Second quarter 2020	Change (second quarter 2020 minus second quarter 2019)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	73.8	71.7	-2.1
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3262.8	3079.6	-183.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3165.1	2979.5	-185.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	130.9	108.8	-22.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	440.5	374.9	-65.6
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	3154.1	2970.3	-183.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	621.1	604.2	-16.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	54.7	52.0	-2.7
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	70.7	67.4	-3.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.2	17.8	-3.4
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	42.8	37.8	-5.0
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	75.7	72.2	-3.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	65.0	64.0	-1.0
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	142.0	192.2	50.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	139.8	189.4	49.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	32.6	40.1	7.5
Unemployment rate - %	4.2	5.9	1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.2	6.0	1.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	6.9	9.7	2.8
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.5	2.2	-0.3
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	63.3	60.5	-2.8
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	61.2	58.2	-3.0

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2019 and 2020

(Continued)

	Second quarter 2019	Second quarter 2020	Change (second quarter 2020 minus second quarter 2019)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	77.6	75.7	-1.9
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1733.2	1642.0	-91.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1674.8	1584.7	-90.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	78.3	67.1	-11.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	251.2	216.0	-35.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1667.5	1578.3	-89.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	315.4	309.6	-5.8
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	60.5	57.8	-2.7
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	74.0	70.9	-3.1
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.7	21.4	-3.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	47.5	42.4	-5.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	79.3	76.0	-3.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	68.8	68.2	-0.6
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	82.7	108.1	25.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	81.3	106.5	25.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	19.8	22.1	2.3
Unemployment rate - %	4.6	6.2	1.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.6	6.3	1.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	7.3	9.3	2.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.7	2.6	-0.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	33.0	31.7	-1.3
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	31.8	30.3	-1.5

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2019 and 2020

(Continued and end)

	Second quarter 2019	Second quarter 2020	Change (second quarter 2020 minus second quarter 2019)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	69.9	67.6	-2.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1529.7	1437.6	-92.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1490.3	1394.8	-95.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	52.6	41.8	-10.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	189.3	158.9	-30.4
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1486.5	1392.0	-94.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	305.8	294.6	-11.2
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	49.2	46.6	-2.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.3	63.8	-3.5
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	17.5	14.0	-3.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	37.7	32.8	-4.9
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	72.1	68.4	-3.7
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	61.5	60.1	-1.4
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	59.3	84.1	24.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	58.5	82.9	24.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	12.8	18.0	5.2
Unemployment rate - %	3.7	5.5	1.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	3.8	5.6	1.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	6.3	10.2	3.9
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.2	1.7	-0.5
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	30.3	28.8	-1.5
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	29.4	27.9	-1.5