

MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS, THIRD QUARTER OF 2020

Main labour market indicators in the third quarter of 2020

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 73.2%, by 1.0 percentage point lower compared to the third quarter of 2019.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 decreased by 1.8 percentage points from the same quarter of 2019 and stood at 69.6%.

The unemployment rate was 4.8%, by 1.1 percentage points higher compared to the third quarter of 2019.

There were 58.6 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 5.0% of the economically inactive population in the same age group.

Employment

In the third quarter of 2020 there were 3 173.2 thousand **employed persons aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 703.0 thousand men and 1 470.2 thousand women. Compared to the third quarter of 2019, the number of employed persons decreased by 3.8%. The employment rate for the same age group was 53.5% (59.9% for men and 47.6% for women).

In the third quarter of 2020, 1 995.1 thousand persons (62.9% of all employed persons) worked in the service sector, 948.5 thousand persons (29.9%) worked in the industry sector and 229.6 thousand persons (7.2%) worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.6% (114.9 thousand) were employers, 6.9% (219.6 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 88.8% (2 818.1 thousand) were employees and 0.6% (20.6 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 139.6 thousand persons (75.9%) worked in private sector while 678.5 thousand (24.1%) worked in public sector.

The number of employees with temporary job was 128.5 thousand, representing 4.6% of all employees.

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

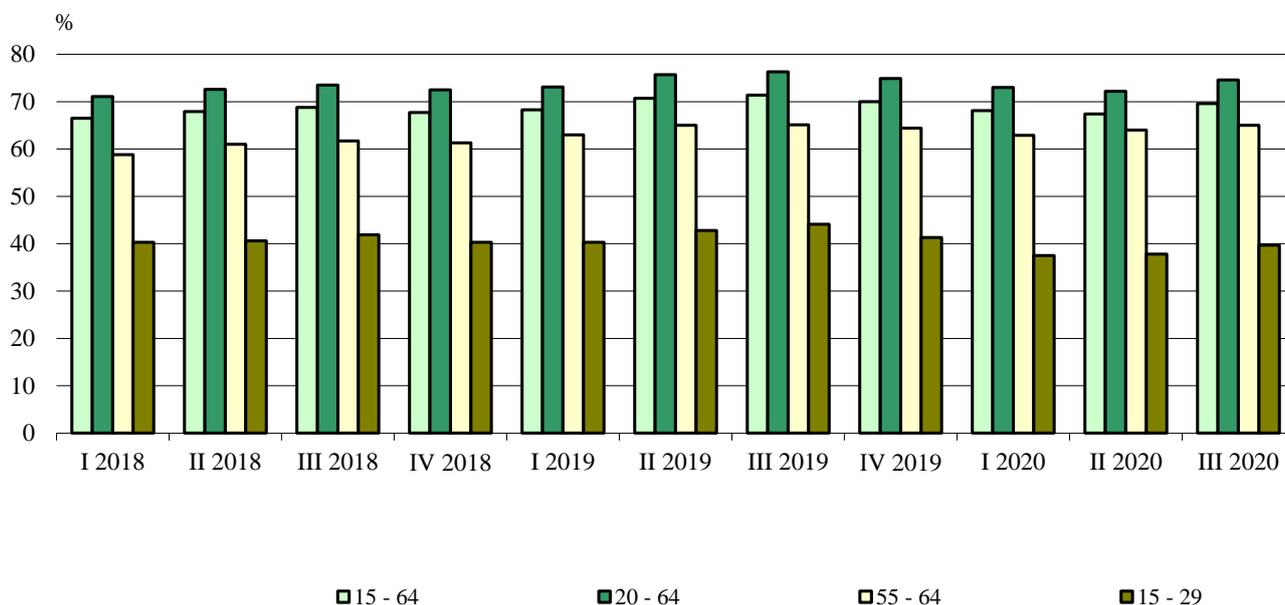
There were 3 072.8 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 69.6% (73.6% for men and 65.6% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years was 39.7% (44.5% for men and 34.7% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years was 74.6%, 78.9% and 70.3% for men and women respectively. In comparison with the third quarter of 2019 this rate registered a decrease by 1.7 percentage points, by 2.0 percentage points for men and by 1.4 percentage points for women.

There were 612.2 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64 years**, representing 65.0% of population in the same age group (70.9% of men and 59.5% of women).

Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Unemployment

In the third quarter of 2020 there were 160.4 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 95.4 thousand (59.5%) men and 65.0 thousand (40.5%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 4.8%, 5.3% and 4.2% for men and women respectively. In comparison with the third quarter of 2019, the unemployment rate rose by 1.1 percentage points, registering an increase by 1.5 percentage points for men and by 0.8 percentage points for women.

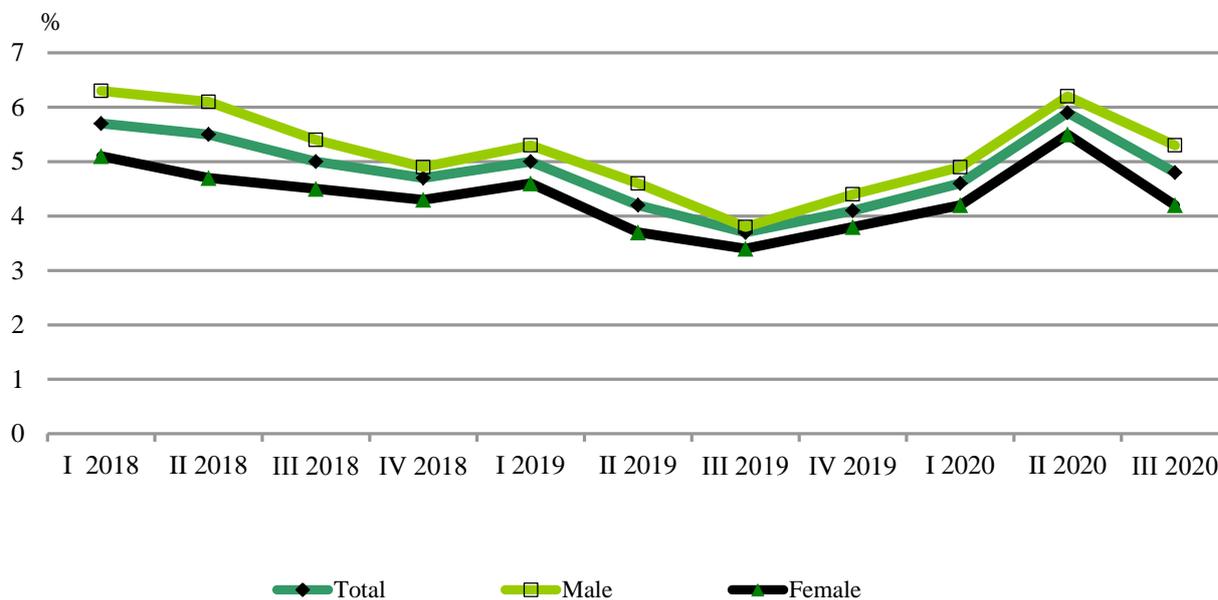
Among all unemployed persons 18.5% had attained tertiary education, 46.9% had completed upper secondary education and 34.6% had at most lower secondary education. The share of unemployed persons with tertiary and with upper secondary education was higher than in the third quarter of 2019 by 3.7 percentage points and 2.2 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: 2.8% for tertiary education, 4.1% for upper secondary and 13.0% for education lower than upper secondary.

The growth of unemployment between the third quarters of 2019 and 2020 is due to the increase of number of persons unemployed for less than a year. In the period concerned, it went up by 41.6 thousand to 88.6 thousand persons (more than a half of the total number of unemployed). In the third quarter of 2020 there were 71.7 thousand **long-term unemployed persons (unemployed for one or more years)**, representing 44.7% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** declined by 0.1 percentage points to 2.2% (2.4% for men and 1.9% for women).

Of all unemployed people 31.1 thousand (19.4%) were looking for first job.

In the third quarter of 2020, **the unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 8.3%, by 2.2 percentage points higher than in a year earlier. The unemployment rate (15 - 29 years) increased almost equally for men and for women, achieving 9.1% and 7.1% respectively.

Figure 2. Unemployment rate by sex and by quarter



Economic inactivity

In the third quarter of 2020 there were 1 182.7 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, of whom 496.0 thousand (41.9%) men and 686.7 thousand (58.1%) women. The proportion of economically inactive persons in total population aged 15 - 64 was 26.8%, 22.2% and 31.5% for men and women respectively.

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 2020 preliminarily data on population as of 30 June 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 third quarter of 2020 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 5.6%;
- unemployment rate - 5.4%.

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 2019 and 2020

	Third quarter 2019	Third quarter 2020	Change (third quarter 2020 minus third quarter 2019)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	74.2	73.2	-1.0
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	3299.2	3173.2	-126.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	3194.1	3072.8	-121.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	152.9	125.1	-27.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	451.8	391.9	-59.9
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	3173.1	3061.6	-111.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	620.9	612.2	-8.7
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	55.3	53.5	-1.8
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	71.4	69.6	-1.8
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.8	20.4	-4.4
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	44.1	39.7	-4.4
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	76.3	74.6	-1.7
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	65.1	65.0	-0.1
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	125.4	160.4	35.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	122.7	158.2	35.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	12.4	19.0	6.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	29.5	35.4	5.9
Unemployment rate - %	3.7	4.8	1.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	3.7	4.9	1.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	7.5	13.2	5.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	6.1	8.3	2.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.3	2.2	-0.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	63.3	61.2	-2.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	61.4	58.6	-2.8

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2019 and 2020

(Continued)

	Third quarter 2019	Third quarter 2020	Change (third quarter 2020 minus third quarter 2019)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	78.7	77.8	-0.9
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1771.3	1703.0	-68.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1709.8	1642.0	-67.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	86.9	72.0	-14.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	258.1	225.1	-33.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1697.3	1634.7	-62.6
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	321.2	321.7	0.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	61.9	59.9	-2.0
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	75.7	73.6	-2.1
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	27.4	22.9	-4.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	49.2	44.5	-4.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	80.9	78.9	-2.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	70.1	70.9	0.8
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	70.9	95.4	24.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	69.1	93.9	24.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	7.5	12.6	5.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	19.5	22.6	3.1
Unemployment rate - %	3.8	5.3	1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	3.9	5.4	1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	7.9	14.9	7.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	7.0	9.1	2.1
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.5	2.4	-0.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	32.6	33.1	0.5
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	31.7	32.0	0.3

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, third quarter of 2019 and 2020

(Continued and end)

	Third quarter 2019	Third quarter 2020	Change (third quarter 2020 minus third quarter 2019)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	69.6	68.5	-1.1
Employed persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	1527.9	1470.2	-57.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1484.3	1430.8	-53.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	66.0	53.1	-12.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	193.7	166.8	-26.9
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1475.8	1426.9	-48.9
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	299.7	290.5	-9.2
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	49.2	47.6	-1.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.1	65.6	-1.5
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.0	17.8	-4.2
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	38.8	34.7	-4.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	71.7	70.3	-1.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	60.4	59.5	-0.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	54.5	65.0	10.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	53.6	64.4	10.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	4.9	6.5	1.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	10.0	12.8	2.8
Unemployment rate - %	3.4	4.2	0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	3.5	4.3	0.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	7.0	10.9	3.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	4.9	7.1	2.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.1	1.9	-0.2
Discouraged persons aged 15 and over - in thousands	30.7	28.1	-2.6
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	29.8	26.6	-3.2