

MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS, SECOND QUARTER OF 2022

Main labour market indicators in the second quarter of 2022

The activity rate for population aged 15 - 64 was 73.2%, by 1.3 percentage points higher compared with the second quarter of 2021.

The employment rate for population aged 15 - 64 increased by 2.0 percentage points from the same quarter of 2021 and stood at 69.8%.

The unemployment rate was 4.7%, by 0.9 percentage points lower compared with the second quarter of 2021.

There were 49.6 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 4.3% of the economically inactive population in the same age group.

Employment

In the second quarter of 2022 there were 3 121.0 thousand **employed persons**, of whom 1 661.4 thousand men and 1 459.6 thousand women. Compared with the second quarter of 2021, the number of employed persons increased by 1.9%. The employment rate was 53.7% (59.7% for men and 48.1% for women).

In the second quarter of 2022, 1 980.8 thousand persons (63.5% of all employed persons) worked in the service sector, 932.4 thousand persons (29.9%) worked in the industry sector and 207.8 thousand persons (6.7%) worked in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Of all employed persons 3.8% (119.0 thousand) were employers, 6.3% (197.3 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 89.3% (2 788.1 thousand) were employees and 0.5% (16.5 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees 2 158.0 thousand persons (77.4%) worked in the private sector while 630.2 thousand (22.6%) worked in the public sector.

In the second quarter of 2022, the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

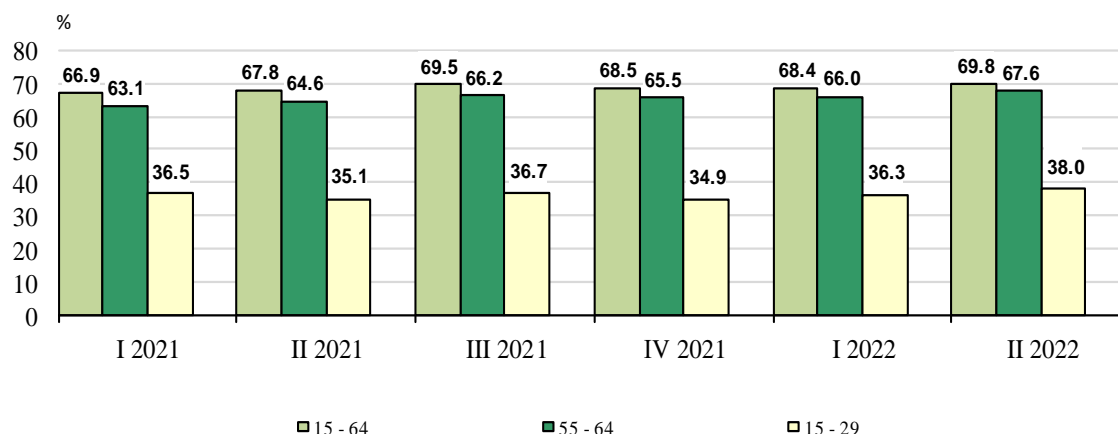
There were 3 028.4 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64 years**. The employment rate for the same age group was 69.8% (73.1% for men and 66.4% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years was 38.0% (42.9% for men and 32.9% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 years was 75.0%, 78.7% and 71.3% for men and women respectively. In comparison with the second quarter of 2021 this rate registered an increase of 2.3 percentage points, 1.7 percentage points for men and 2.9 percentage points for women.

There were 614.2 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64 years**, representing 67.6% of population in the same age group (72.4% of men and 63.2% of women).

Figure 1. Employment rates by age groups and by quarters



Unemployment

In the second quarter of 2022 the number of **unemployed persons** was 152.2 thousand, of whom 86.9 thousand (57.1%) men and 65.3 thousand (42.9%) women. In comparison with the second quarter of 2021 the number of unemployed persons dropped by 30.7 thousand (16.8%). Over the same period, **the unemployment rate** decreased by 0.9 percentage points and stood at 4.7%. The unemployment rate went down by 0.6 percentage points for men and by 1.3 percentage points for women and in the second quarter of 2022 reached 5.0% for men and 4.3% for women.

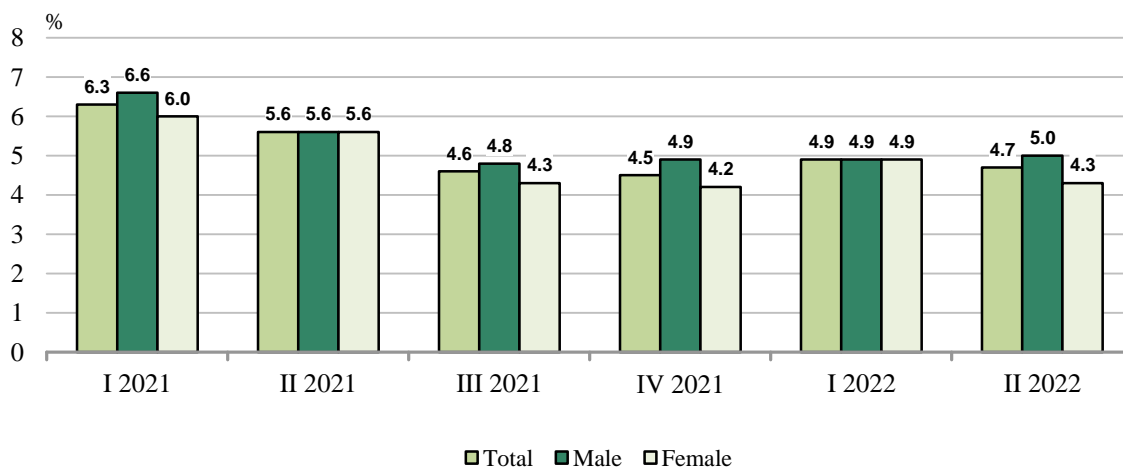
Among all unemployed persons 10.7% had attained tertiary education, 52.5% had completed upper secondary education and 36.7% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 1.5% for tertiary education, 4.3% for upper secondary education and 15.2% for lower education (lower secondary or less).

In the second quarter of 2022 there were 85.4 thousand **long-term unemployed people** (unemployed for one year or more, representing 56.1% of all unemployed). **The long-term unemployment rate** declined by 0.2 percentage points from the second quarter of 2021 to 2.6%, being higher for men (2.8%) as compared to women (2.4%).

Among all unemployed 20.1 thousand persons (13.2%) were looking for first job.

In the second quarter of 2022 **the youth unemployment rate (age group 15 - 29)** was 7.9%, (9.3% for men and 6.0% for women), down by 2.7 percentage points in comparison with the same quarter of 2021. The unemployment rate (age group 15 - 29) went down by 1.7 percentage points for men and by 4.0 percentage points for women.

Figure 2. Unemployment rates by sex and by quarters



Economic inactivity

In the second quarter of 2022 there were 2 543.6 thousand **economically inactive persons (persons not in the labour force) aged 15 years and over**, of whom 1 034.9 thousand (40.7%) men and 1 508.7 thousand (59.3%) women. The economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64 were 1 162.4 thousand (506.9 thousand men and 655.5 thousand women), representing 26.8% of the population in the same age group (23.1% of men and 30.6% of women). Among all persons not in the labour force aged 15 - 64, 39.0% are inactive due to participation in education or training.



Methodological notes

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is 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 to 89 who, during the reference period:

- did some work for at least one hour for salary or other form of payment;
- did not work but had a job or an enterprise, a business from which they were temporarily absent due to holiday, illness, maternity leave, etc.

Unemployed are persons aged 15 to 74 who:

- did not work at all during the reference period; and
- were actively looking for work during the preceding four weeks, including the reference one, or have found a new job that is expected to start within 3 months following the reference period; and
- were available to start working within two weeks following the reference period.

Long-term unemployed are persons who have been unemployed for one year or longer.

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, incl. all persons aged 90 and over.

Discouraged persons are persons not in the labour force, aged 15 to 74, who want to work but do not actively look for a job as they believe there are no suitable job available.

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.

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 weighting of the results of the survey for the second quarter of 2022, preliminarily data on population as of 31 March 2022 (excluding population living in institutional households) were used.

Like all sample surveys, data from the Labour Force Survey have sample errors (stochastic errors). The relative standard errors for the main LFS indicators for the second quarter of 2022 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 5.7%;
- unemployment rate - 5.6%.

Some of the totals (including rows and columns) are not equal to the sum of their components due to the rounding of the numbers.

More detailed data from the Labour Force Survey for the second quarter of 2022 can 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 2021 and 2022

	Second quarter 2021	Second quarter 2022	Change (second quarter 2022 minus second quarter 2021)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	71.9	73.2	1.3
Employed persons - total - in thousands	3062.2	3121.0	58.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2974.1	3028.4	54.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	100.1	119.3	19.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	342.4	364.1	21.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2963.5	3018.7	55.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	598.1	614.2	16.1
Employment rate - %	52.1	53.7	1.6
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.8	69.8	2.0
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.2	19.2	3.0
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	35.1	38.0	2.9
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	72.7	75.0	2.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	64.6	67.6	3.0
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	182.9	152.2	-30.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	180.2	149.7	-30.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	40.6	31.3	-9.3
Unemployment rate - %	5.6	4.7	-0.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.7	4.7	-1.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.6	7.9	-2.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.8	2.6	-0.2
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	62.2	50.9	-11.3
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	59.0	49.6	-9.4



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2021 and 2022

(Continued)

	Second quarter 2021	Second quarter 2022	Change (second quarter 2022 minus second quarter 2021)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	76.0	76.9	0.9
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1643.5	1661.4	17.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1589.9	1605.7	15.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	63.5	71.5	8.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	198.8	210.8	12.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1583.6	1600.3	16.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	311.7	317.8	6.1
Employment rate - %	58.4	59.7	1.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	71.7	73.1	1.4
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	20.0	22.4	2.4
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	39.8	42.9	3.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	77.0	78.7	1.7
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	69.8	72.4	2.6
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	98.3	86.9	-11.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	96.5	84.7	-11.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	24.6	21.5	-3.1
Unemployment rate - %	5.6	5.0	-0.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.7	5.0	-0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	11.0	9.3	-1.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.8	2.8	0.0
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	38.3	23.2	-15.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	36.1	22.6	-13.5



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2021 and 2022

(Continued and end)

	Second quarter 2021	Second quarter 2022	Change (second quarter 2022 minus second quarter 2021)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	67.7	69.4	1.7
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1418.7	1459.6	40.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1384.3	1422.6	38.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	36.7	47.7	11.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	143.6	153.3	9.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1379.9	1418.4	38.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	286.4	296.4	10.0
Employment rate - %	46.3	48.1	1.8
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	63.8	66.4	2.6
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	12.2	15.8	3.6
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	30.2	32.9	2.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.4	71.3	2.9
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	59.7	63.2	3.5
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	84.6	65.3	-19.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	83.7	65.0	-18.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	15.9	9.8	-6.1
Unemployment rate - %	5.6	4.3	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	5.7	4.4	-1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	10.0	6.0	-4.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.8	2.4	-0.4
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	23.9	27.7	3.8
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	22.9	27.0	4.1