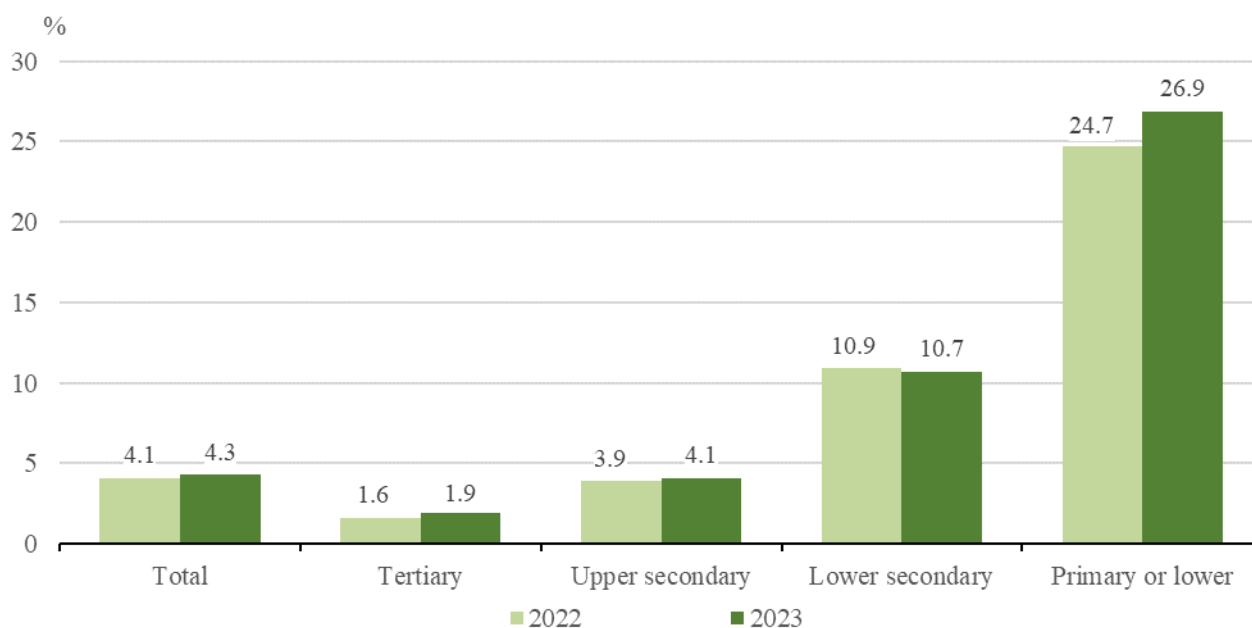


LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2023 MAIN RESULTS

The Labour Force Survey in all EU Member States, incl. in Bulgaria, is carried out in compliance with the Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples and subsequent Commission implementing regulations in the field of labour force statistics.

- In 2023 there were 132.4 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 71.7 thousand (54.1%) men and 60.7 thousand (45.9%) women.
- **The unemployment rate** was 4.3% (4.4% for men and 4.2% for women) and compared with 2022 increased by 0.2 percentage points.
- Among all unemployed persons, 14.4% had attained tertiary education, 53.8% had completed upper secondary education and 31.8% had at most lower secondary education.

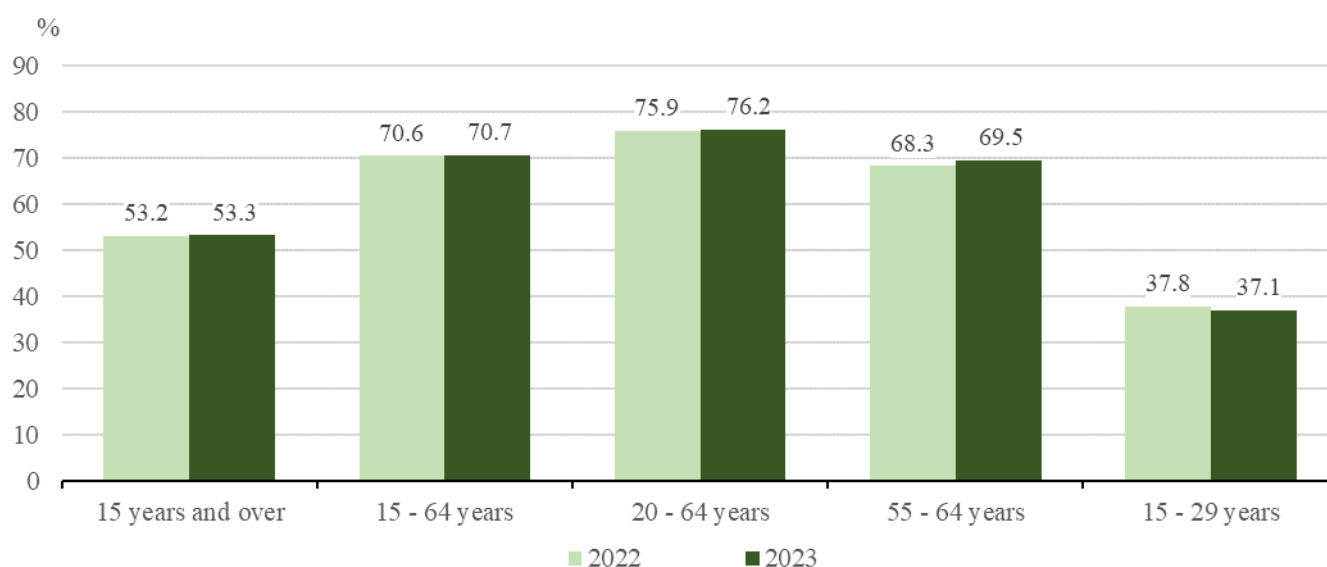
Figure 1. Unemployment rates by level of education in 2022 and 2023



- **The unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 8.0%.
- The long-term unemployed represented 52.3% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 2.3% (2.4% for men and 2.1% for women).

- In 2023 there were 2 931.9 thousand **employed persons**, of whom 1 553.5 thousand (53.0%) men and 1 378.4 thousand (47.0%) women. **The employment rate for the population aged 15 and over** was 53.3% (59.4% for men and 47.7% for women).
- In the service sector, worked 1 898.4 thousand persons (64.8% of all in employment), in the industry sector - 867.1 thousand (29.6%), and in the agriculture, forestry and fishing - 166.4 thousand (5.7%).
- According to the status in employment, the distribution of employed persons was as follows: 4.1% (119.6 thousand) employers, 6.8% (198.1 thousand) self-employed persons without employees, 88.7% (2 600.8 thousand) employees and 0.5% (13.4 thousand) unpaid family workers. Of all employees, 2 003.2 thousand persons (77.0%) worked in the private sector, while 597.6 thousand (23.0%) worked in the public sector.
- The number of **employed persons aged 15 - 64** was 2 821.7 thousand. **The employment rate for the same age group** was 70.7% (73.9% for men and 67.4% for women).

Figure 2. Employment rates by age groups in 2022 and 2023



- **The employment rate for the population in the age group 20 - 64 years** was 76.2% (79.9% for men and 72.6% for women).
- **The employment rate for the population in the age group 55 - 64 years** was 69.5% (74.0% for men and 65.3% for women).



- In 2023 the number of **economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 2 951.4 thousand and represented 73.9% of the population in the same age group. Compared with 2022, the activity rate increased by 0.2 percentage points.
- There were 1 041.2 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, of whom 457.3 thousand men and 583.9 thousand women. **The inactivity rate (15 - 64 years)** was 26.1% (22.7% for men and 29.6% for women).
- The number of **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64** was 37.0 thousand representing 3.6% of the economically inactive population in this age group.
- The proportion of **early leavers from education and training** of the population aged 18 - 24 was 9.3%.
- The proportion of the **population aged 25 - 34, having completed tertiary education** was 35.8%.
- The proportion of **young people aged 15 - 29 neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)** was 13.8%.



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. The households participating in the survey were randomly selected and were interviewed through a face-to-face interview.

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 business, from which they were temporarily absent due to holiday, illness, maternity leave, leave for looking after a child below the age of 2 years, flexible working time, work-related education or training as well as other absence if its duration is 3 months or less.

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 (in the respective group).

Employment rate - ratio between the employed population and the total population (in the respective 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.

Inactivity rate - ratio between the economically inactive population and the total population (in the respective group).



Early leavers from education and training - persons aged 18 to 24 who have completed at most lower secondary education and not received any (formal or non-formal) education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey.

People neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET) are those who were not employed during the reference period (i.e. were unemployed or economically inactive) and at the same time did not receive any (formal or non-formal) education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey.

Average annual data are calculated as an average of the four quarters of the respective year.

In order to ensure comparability, the LFS estimates for 2022 have been recalculated with population data, based on the 2021 Census.

Because of the rounding of the figures, some of the totals are not equal to the sum of the components.

More detailed data from the Labour Force Survey can be found on the NSI website www.nsi.bg/en, section 'Labour Market', [Labour Force Survey](#) and at the [Information System INFOSTAT](#).



Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators in 2022 and 2023

	2022	2023	Change (2023 minus 2022)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	73.7	73.9	0.2
Employed persons - total - in thousands	2940.6	2931.9	-8.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2840.7	2821.7	-19.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	108.0	108.3	0.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	319.8	315.3	-4.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2830.8	2812.7	-18.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	618.7	621.8	3.1
Employment rate - %	53.2	53.3	0.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	70.6	70.7	0.1
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	19.4	18.8	-0.6
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	37.8	37.1	-0.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	75.9	76.2	0.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	68.3	69.5	1.2
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	127.3	132.4	5.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	124.7	129.7	5.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	12.8	14.9	2.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	27.3	27.4	0.1
Unemployment rate - %	4.1	4.3	0.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.2	4.4	0.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	10.6	12.1	1.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	7.9	8.0	0.1
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.2	2.3	0.1
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	48.8	38.3	-10.5
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	46.9	37.0	-9.9



Table 1

Main labour market indicators in 2022 and 2023

(Continued)

	2022	2023	Change (2023 minus 2022)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	77.4	77.3	-0.1
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1561.1	1553.5	-7.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1503.2	1489.8	-13.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	64.9	62.9	-2.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	181.5	176.7	-4.8
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1497.5	1485.8	-11.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	318.7	318.5	-0.2
Employment rate - %	59.4	59.4	0.0
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	74.0	73.9	-0.1
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	22.7	21.2	-1.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	41.9	40.5	-1.4
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	79.6	79.9	0.3
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	73.3	74.0	0.7
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	70.8	71.7	0.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	68.8	70.0	1.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	7.8	9.2	1.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	17.1	16.5	-0.6
Unemployment rate - %	4.3	4.4	0.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.4	4.5	0.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	10.8	12.8	2.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	8.6	8.5	-0.1
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.4	2.4	0.0
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	24.4	22.0	-2.4
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	23.3	21.2	-2.1



Table 1

Main labour market indicators in 2022 and 2023

(Continued and end)

	2022	2023	Change (2023 minus 2022)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	70.0	70.4	0.4
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1379.5	1378.4	-1.1
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1337.5	1331.9	-5.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	43.1	45.3	2.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	138.3	138.5	0.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1333.4	1326.9	-6.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	299.9	303.3	3.4
Employment rate - %	47.5	47.7	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.2	67.4	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.9	16.2	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	33.6	33.5	-0.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	72.1	72.6	0.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	63.6	65.3	1.7
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	56.4	60.7	4.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	55.9	59.7	3.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	5.0	5.7	0.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	10.3	11.0	0.7
Unemployment rate - %	3.9	4.2	0.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.0	4.3	0.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	10.4	11.1	0.7
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	6.9	7.3	0.4
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.1	2.1	0.0
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	24.3	16.3	-8.0
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	23.6	15.8	-7.8