

MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS, SECOND QUARTER OF 2023

The unemployment rate was 4.6%, or 0.1 percentage points higher compared to the second quarter of 2022.¹

The employment rate of the population aged 15 - 64 increased by 0.3 percentage points in comparison with the same quarter of 2022 and stood at 70.3%.

The activity rate of the population aged 15 - 64 was 73.7%, or 0.3 percentage points higher compared to the second quarter of 2022.

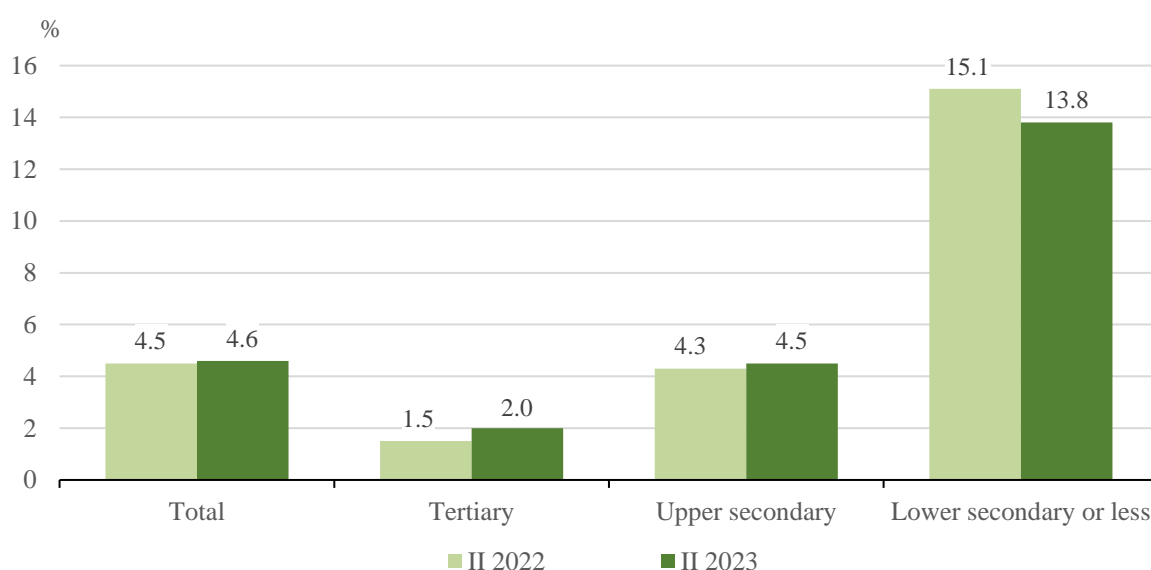
There were 29.6 thousand **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64**, representing 2.8% of the economically inactive population in the same age group.

Unemployment

In the second quarter of 2023, there were 141.0 thousand unemployed persons, of whom 75.1 thousand (53.3%) men and 65.9 thousand (46.7%) women. **The unemployment rate** was 4.6% (compared to 4.5% in the second quarter of 2022), the same for men and women.

Among all unemployed persons, 14.2% had attained tertiary education, 55.0% had completed upper secondary education and 30.8% had at most lower secondary education. The unemployment rate by level of educational attainment was as follows: 2.0% for tertiary education, 4.5% for upper secondary education and 13.8% for lower education (lower secondary or less).

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



¹ Comparisons are made with revised data for the second quarter of 2022 (see Methodological notes).



In the second quarter of 2023, there were 73.8 thousand **long-term unemployed people** (unemployed for one year or more), representing 52.3% of all unemployed. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 2.4%, 2.5% and 2.3% for men and women respectively.

Among all unemployed, 21.5 thousand persons (15.2%) were looking for their first job.

In the second quarter of 2023, **the youth unemployment rate (age group 15 - 29)** was 8.8% (9.6% for men and 7.7% for women). In comparison with the same quarter of 2022, the unemployment rate (age group 15 - 29) increased by 1.0 percentage point, by 0.4 percentage points for men and by 1.8 percentage points for women.

Employment

In the second quarter of 2023, there were 2 914.3 thousand **employed persons** - 1 545.1 thousand men and 1 369.3 thousand women. Compared to the second quarter of 2022, the number of employed persons was almost unchanged. The employment rate for the population aged 15 years and over was 52.9%, 59.1% for men and 47.4% for women.

In the second quarter of 2023, the majority of employed persons worked in the service sector - 1 873.3 thousand (64.3%), followed by those in the industry sector - 871.6 thousand (29.9%), and in agriculture, forestry and fishing - 169.4 thousand (5.8%).

Of all employed persons, 4.0% (116.2 thousand) were employers, 6.3% (184.8 thousand) were self-employed persons without employees, 89.3% (2 601.1 thousand) were employees and 0.4% (12.3 thousand) were unpaid family workers. Of all employees, 1 986.8 thousand persons (76.4%) worked in the private sector, while 614.3 thousand (23.6%) worked in the public sector. Of all employees, 90.2 thousand persons (3.5%) had a temporary job (with limited duration).

In the second quarter of 2023, the employment in specific age groups was as follows:

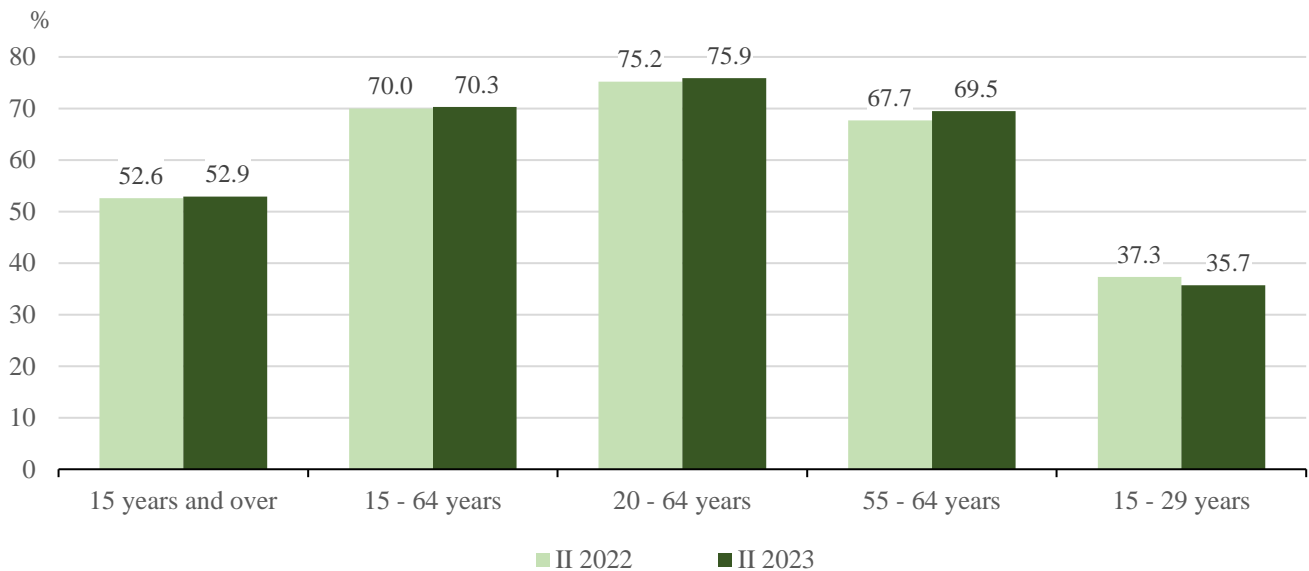
There were 2 806.6 thousand **employed persons aged 15 - 64**. The employment rate for the same age group was 70.3% (73.5% for men and 67.0% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 15 - 29 was 35.7% (38.7% for men and 32.6% for women).

The employment rate for the age group 20 - 64 was 75.9%, 79.5% and 72.2% for men and women, respectively. In comparison with the second quarter of 2022, this rate registered an increase of 0.7 percentage points.

There were 621.2 thousand **employed persons aged 55 - 64**, representing 69.5% of the population in the same age group (73.8% of men and 65.5% of women). In comparison with the second quarter of 2022, the employment rate for the age group 55 - 64 increased by 1.8 percentage points.

Figure 2. Employment rates by age groups in the second quarter of 2022 and 2023



Economic inactivity

In the second quarter of 2023, there were 2 450.3 thousand **economically inactive persons (persons not in the labour force) aged 15 years and over**, of whom 993.8 thousand (40.6%) men and 1 456.5 thousand (59.4%) women.

The economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64 were 1 050.2 thousand (462.1 thousand men and 588.1 thousand women), representing 26.3% of the population in the same age group (22.9% of men and 29.8% of women). Among all persons not in the labour force aged 15 - 64, 40.0% were inactive 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. 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.

The 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, 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.

The 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 jobs available.

Activity rate - the ratio between the economically active population and the total population (in the respective group).

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

Unemployment rate - the ratio between the unemployed persons and the economically active population.

Long-term unemployment rate - the ratio between the long-term unemployed persons and the economically active population.

For weighting of the results of the Labour Force Survey for the second quarter of 2023, preliminary data of the population as of 31 March 2023 were used. The population living in institutional households was excluded. In order to ensure comparability, the LFS estimates for the second quarter of 2022 have been recalculated with population data, based on the 2021 Census and differ from those published in 2022.

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 2023 are as follows:

- total number of employed persons - 1.4%;
- total number of unemployed persons - 5.9%;
- unemployment rate - 5.7%.

Some of the totals 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 2023 can be found on the NSI website - www.nsi.bg/en, section 'Labour Market', Labour Force Survey.



Annex

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2022 and 2023

	Second quarter 2022	Second quarter 2023	Change (second quarter 2023 minus second quarter 2022)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	73.4	73.7	0.3
Employed persons - total - in thousands	2913.6	2914.3	0.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2818.1	2806.6	-11.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	103.5	104.3	0.8
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	314.9	303.7	-11.2
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2809.6	2801.5	-8.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	614.3	621.2	6.9
Employment rate - %	52.6	52.9	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	70.0	70.3	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.7	18.1	-0.6
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	37.3	35.7	-1.6
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	75.2	75.9	0.7
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	67.7	69.5	1.8
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	138.8	141.0	2.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	136.2	138.0	1.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	26.8	29.3	2.5
Unemployment rate - %	4.5	4.6	0.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.6	4.7	0.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	7.8	8.8	1.0
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.6	2.4	-0.2
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	46.3	30.3	-16.0
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	44.9	29.6	-15.3



Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2022 and 2023

(Continued)

	Second quarter 2022	Second quarter 2023	Change (second quarter 2023 minus second quarter 2022)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	77.0	77.1	0.1
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1545.3	1545.1	-0.2
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1488.2	1482.5	-5.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	61.7	60.1	-1.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	181.7	168.8	-12.9
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1483.4	1480.6	-2.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	315.5	317.0	1.5
Employment rate - %	58.8	59.1	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	73.2	73.5	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.7	20.4	-1.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	42.0	38.7	-3.3
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	78.8	79.5	0.7
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	72.5	73.8	1.3
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	79.3	75.1	-4.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	77.0	73.4	-3.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	18.5	17.9	-0.6
Unemployment rate - %	4.9	4.6	-0.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.9	4.7	-0.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	9.2	9.6	0.4
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.7	2.5	-0.2
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	21.2	18.3	-2.9
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	20.6	17.9	-2.7

Table 1

Main labour market indicators, second quarter of 2022 and 2023

(Continued and end)

	Second quarter 2022	Second quarter 2023	Change (second quarter 2023 minus second quarter 2022)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	69.7	70.2	0.5
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1368.3	1369.3	1.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1329.9	1324.0	-5.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	41.8	44.2	2.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	133.2	134.9	1.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1326.2	1320.8	-5.4
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	298.9	304.2	5.3
Employment rate - %	47.1	47.4	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	66.7	67.0	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	15.5	15.8	0.3
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	32.4	32.6	0.2
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	71.6	72.2	0.6
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	63.3	65.5	2.2
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	59.5	65.9	6.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	59.2	64.5	5.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	8.3	11.3	3.0
Unemployment rate - %	4.2	4.6	0.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.3	4.6	0.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	5.9	7.7	1.8
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.4	2.3	-0.1
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	25.1	12.0	-13.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	24.3	11.7	-12.6