



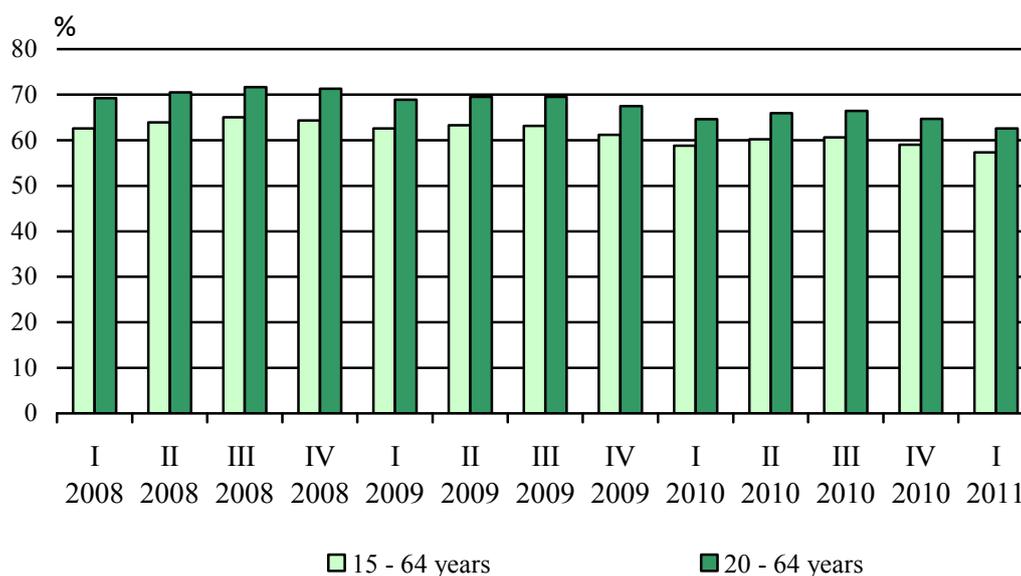
MAIN LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS FIRST QUARTER 2011

1. Main labour market indicators for the population aged 15 - 64

According to the results from the Labour Force Survey, carried out by the National Statistical Institute in the first quarter of 2011 **the economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 3 243.1 thousand, representing 65.2% of the population in the same age group. The activity rate was by 0.3 percentage points lower as compared with a year ago, but a decrease was observed only for men - by 0.8 percentage points, while small increase was registered for women - by 0.3 percentage points.

In the first quarter of 2011 **the employment rate for population aged 15-64** went down by **1.5 percentage points** as compared to the same quarter of 2010 to 57.3% (59.9% for men and 54.8% for women). The reduction of employment rate for men (by 2.4 percentage points) was higher than that for women (by 0.5 percentage points).

Figure 1. Employment rate by age group and by quarter



Between the first quarters of 2010 and 2011 **the employment rate for population aged 20 - 64 years (an Europe 2020 indicator)** dropped by 2.0 percentage points to 62.6%, 65.5% for men and 59.7% for women respectively.

The employment decline over the last year affected less the population in the age group 55-64 years. The employment rate for this age group was 43.5% in the first quarter of 2011, by 0.4 percentage points lower in comparison with the first quarter of 2010 and a decrease was observed only among men. By sex the employment rate (55 - 64 years) was 49.8% for men and 38.2% for women.



In the first quarter of 2011 34.8% (1 727.6 thousand) of population aged 15 - 64 was **not economically active (not in labour force)**. Inactive were 762.8 thousand (30.9%) of men, aged 15 - 64 and 964.8 thousand (38.6%) of women in the same age group.

Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 were 254.5 thousand in the first quarter of 2011 accounting 14.7% of the inactive population in the same age group. In comparison with the first quarter of 2010 their number increased by 28.0 thousand.

2. Main characteristics of employed persons aged 15 and over

In the first quarter of 2011 the total number of **employed persons aged 15 and over** was 2 890.7 thousand and had a relative share of 44.7% of population of the same age. Compared with the same period of 2010 their number decreased by 120.6 thousand (by 4.0%) and their relative share - by 1.4 percentage points.

Of the employed persons aged 15 and over 1 508.2 thousand (52.2%) were men and 1 382.5 thousand (47.8%) were women.

According to their level of education employed persons in this age group were: having attained higher level of education - 817.8 thousand (28.3%), upper secondary level of education - 1 755.3 thousand (60.7%) and lower secondary or lower level of education - 317.6 thousand (11.0%). Between first quarters of 2010 and 2011 the number of employed with low level of education (lower secondary or less) marked the highest drop (by 16.0%).

Of the total number of working population aged 15 and over 4.0% were employers, 7.5% - self-employed, 87.5% - employees and 1.1% - unpaid family workers. Of all employees 1 803.9 thousand (71.3%) were working in the private sector and 724.9 thousand (28.7%) - in the public sector. The share of women of all employees in the private sector was 45.9%, and of the employees in the public sector - 57.7%.

In the first quarter of 2011 largest part (61.7%) of the total number of employed persons - 1 784.6 thousand, were engaged in the Service sector, 928.3 thousand (32.1%) - in the Industry, and 177.8 thousand (6.2%) - in the Agriculture and forestry sector. Compared with the first quarter of 2010 the biggest drop in the number of employed persons was in the Industry - by 9.2%.

3. Unemployment

In the first quarter of 2011, the **number of unemployed** was 395.5 thousand and the **unemployment rate** - 12.0%. In comparison with the same quarter of 2010 the number of unemployed went up by 54.5 thousand and the unemployment rate - by 1.8 percentage points.

The unemployment growth was higher for men than for women (the unemployment rate rose by 2.4 and 1.3 percentage points respectively), and in the first quarter of 2011 the male unemployment rate (13.2%) surpassed the female unemployment rate (10.8%) by 2.4 percentage points.



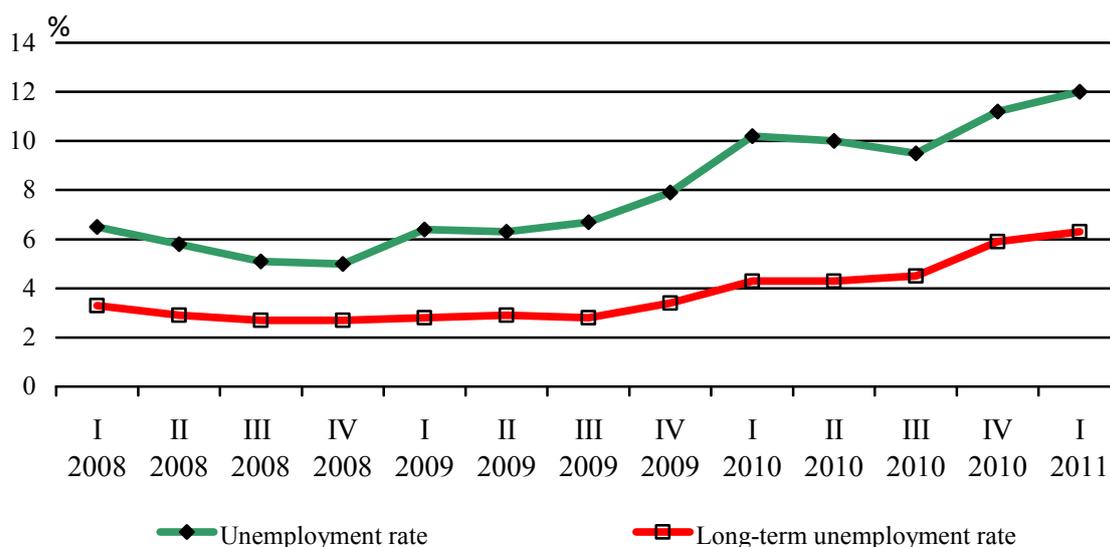
The young unemployed (15 - 24 years of age) were 67.3 thousand, and the youth unemployment rate reached 29.1%, 32.0% for men and 25.1% for women respectively.

The number of long-term unemployed was 208.4 thousand, which was 52.7% of all unemployed and compared to the first quarter of 2010 their number increased by 46.1%. The long-term unemployment rate went up by 2.0 percentage points and achieved 6.3% in the first quarter of 2011.

The number of unemployed with duration of the unemployment less than a year decreased (by 5.6%) compared to the first quarter of 2010.

In the first quarter of 2011, 331.4 thousand of all unemployed persons (83.8%) had previous employment experience, and 64.2 thousand (16.2%) were looking for their first job.

Figure 2. Unemployment rate and long-term unemployment rate by quarter





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 of 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.

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.

Inactivity rate - ratio between the economically inactive population and the total population of the same age group.



The distribution of the employed persons by economic sector is done in accordance with the Classification of Economic Activities - 2008.

The distribution of the employed persons by occupations is done in accordance with the National Classification of Occupations - 2011 (1st digit - occupational class), in force since 1 January 2011, comparable to the International Standard Classification of Occupations – ISCO '08.

For the weighting of the results of the survey the current demographic data as of 31 December 2010 for the total population are used.

As in all sample surveys data from the labour force survey are subject of errors due to the sample (stochastic errors). The calculated relative standard errors for the main LFS indicators for the first quarter of 2011 are as follows:

- total number of employed - 1.3%;
- total number of unemployed - 3.9%;
- unemployment rate - 3.5%.

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 “Labor Market”, Labour Force Survey.



APPENDIX

Table 1

MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS,
FIRST QUARTER OF 2010 AND 2011

	First quarter 2010	First quarter 2011	Change (first quarter 2011 minus first quarter 2010)
Total			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	65.5	65.2	-0.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	3011.3	2890.7	-120.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	2969.1	2849.4	-119.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	193.2	163.9	-29.3
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands	2954.9	2840.7	-114.2
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands	424.9	418.0	-6.9
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	46.1	44.7	-1.4
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	58.8	57.3	-1.5
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	20.7	18.4	-2.3
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	64.6	62.6	-2.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	43.9	43.5	-0.4
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	341.0	395.5	54.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	339.0	393.8	54.8
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	60.2	67.3	7.1
Unemployment rate - %	10.2	12.0	1.8
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	10.2	12.1	1.9
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	23.8	29.1	5.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.3	6.3	2.0
Discouraged persons - total - thousands	229.5	256.0	26.5
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	226.5	254.5	28.0



Table 1

**MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS,
FIRST QUARTER OF 2010 AND 2011**

(Continued)

	First quarter 2010	First quarter 2011	Change (first quarter 2011 minus first quarter 2010)
Male			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	69.9	69.1	-0.8
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	1591.8	1508.2	-83.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	1561.5	1479.8	-81.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	115.0	91.5	-23.5
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands	1553.6	1475.1	-78.5
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands	229.2	217.8	-11.4
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	50.8	48.7	-2.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	62.3	59.9	-2.4
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	24.1	20.0	-4.1
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	68.5	65.5	-3.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	51.3	49.8	-1.5
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	192.6	228.7	36.1
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	192.0	228.2	36.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	39.0	43.1	4.1
Unemployment rate - %	10.8	13.2	2.4
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	10.9	13.4	2.5
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	25.3	32.0	6.7
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.5	6.8	2.3
Discouraged persons - total - thousands	123.2	138.5	15.3
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	121.5	137.3	15.8



Table 1

**MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS,
FIRST QUARTER OF 2010 AND 2011**

(Continued and end)

	First quarter 2010	First quarter 2011	Change (fourth quarter 2011 minus fourth quarter 2010)
Female			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	61.1	61.4	0.3
Employed persons aged 15 and over - thousands	1 419.5	1 382.5	-37.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	1 407.6	1 369.6	-38.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	78.2	72.3	-5.9
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - thousands	1401.3	1365.6	-35.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - thousands	195.7	200.2	4.5
Employment rate (15 and over) - %	41.7	41.0	-0.7
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	55.3	54.8	-0.5
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	17.2	16.6	-0.6
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	60.7	59.7	-1.0
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	37.5	38.2	0.7
Unemployed persons - total - thousands	148.4	166.9	18.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	147.1	165.6	18.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - thousands	21.1	24.2	3.1
Unemployment rate - %	9.5	10.8	1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	9.5	10.8	1.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.3	25.1	3.8
Long-term unemployment rate - %	4.0	5.8	1.8
Discouraged persons - total - thousands	106.3	117.5	11.2
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - thousands	105.0	117.2	12.2