

Object, scope and units of observation

Resident population of Bulgaria is covered by the Labour Force Survey. Only private households are surveyed. The survey covers all the persons of 15 years age and over, members of the selected households.

The periodical surveys of labour force provide information about:

- economic activity of the population (employed, unemployed and economically inactive persons);
- kinds of employment, incl. employed in private sector, self-employed and unpaid family workers;
- unemployed, incl. not registered at the employment offices;
- calculation of analytic indicators.

The main results of the labour force (employed and unemployed) sample survey held in March, June, September and December 2000 are published in Tables 9 - 16.

The surveys are based on stratified (by town and village) two-stage cluster sample. Clusters at the first stage are the enumeration districts according to the Census of the population as of 4.12.1992 and at the second stage - households. With probability proportional to the size of regional population are chosen 2000 enumeration districts, within which systematically 12 households are selected. All members of 15 years of age and over from 12 households of each of these 2000 enumeration districts are interviewed (about 55 000 persons). According to the rotation scheme 6 of these 12 households (1/2) are replaced in the next survey. The results are adjusted in accordance with the current demographic statistics data.

Main definitions

The basic methodological concepts and definitions are set according to the international standards on similar surveys in other countries and the International Labour Organization (ILO) recommendations.

LABOUR FORCE - employed and unemployed persons, 15 years of age and over.

EMPLOYED PERSONS - all persons, 15 years of age and over, who during the survey period:

- a) worked at least 1 hour on producing goods and services for payment in cash or in kind, profit or another income;
- b) were temporarily absent due to leave, illness, pregnancy, maternity leave, bad weather, strike, labour management dispute or other similar reasons.

Employed persons are all those who did every work as paid employees (in cash and in kind), managed their own enterprise, firm, farm or profession, or in other business of their own; those who worked as unpaid workers in family-operated firm, enterprise or farm.

Students, housewives and pensioners who have worked at least 1 hour during the survey period are included in the employed.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS - persons, 15 years of age and over, who did not work at all during the reference period, but were actively seeking job within preceding four weeks and were available to start working within a defined short period of time.

As an exception, persons who did not seek job actively, but expect to start a new job within 30 days and persons who, under promise are awaiting recall at fixed date to a job from which they had been laid off for more than 1 month, are also classified as unemployed.

Students, homemakers, pensioners and other persons who are usually not economically active are considered as unemployed during the reference period if they meet the above definition of unemployment.

PERSONS NOT IN LABOUR FORCE - persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed. Not in labour force are all persons on additional paid or unpaid extra maternity leave.

STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT - according to the status in employment persons are classified in the following groups:

a) employers - persons who manage own enterprises (firms, farms) sole or in association with other people; those who work on lease or perform other work employing one or more persons;

b) own - account workers - persons who manage own enterprises (firms, farms) sole or in association with other people; self-employed and those who perform other work without employing other persons. The members of producers' co-operatives are also included in this group;

c) employees - persons who work and receive compensations in cash or in kind as salary or wage, remuneration under civil contract, in public enterprises or for private employer;

d) unpaid family workers - persons who work without payment in family-operated enterprise or farm.

ACTIVITY RATE - ratio between labour force and population of 15 years of age and over.

EMPLOYMENT RATE - employed population related to the population of 15 years of age and over.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - ratio between unemployed persons and labour force.

Some total rows in Tables 9 -16 are not equal to the sum of the components due to the rounding of figures.

Harmonization of the methodology and the statistical tools according to Eurostat requirements and EU directives

The basic methodological concepts and definitions are set according to the international standards on similar surveys in other countries and the International Labour Organization (ILO) recommendations.

New questions will be included in the questionnaire according to Art. 4. of Council Regulation No 577/98 as a step of increasing the degree of compliance with Eurostat requirements.

Metadata about labour market (employed and employees, unemployed and wages and salaries) are included in IMF General Data Dissemination System (GDDS).

More detailed information about labour market could be found in the publication 'Employment and Unemployment', issued by NSI and in the NSI WEB site.