



## LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2024, MAIN RESULTS

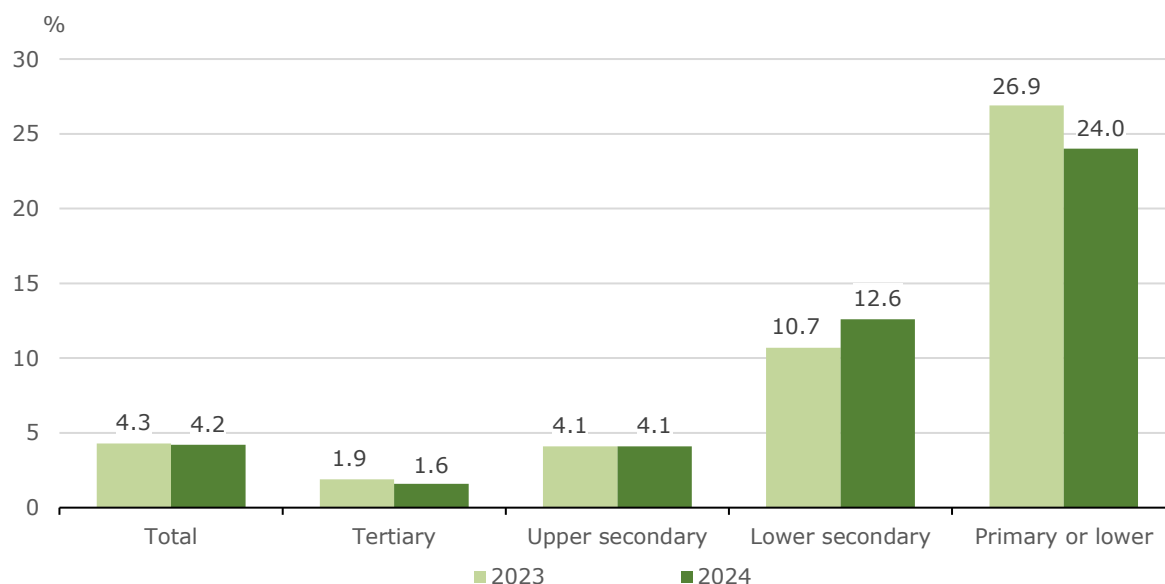
The Labour Force Survey in all EU Member States, including in Bulgaria, is carried out in compliance with the Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual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

In 2024, there were 127.4 thousand **unemployed persons**, of whom 71.4 thousand (56.0%) men and 56.1 thousand (44.0%) women.

**The unemployment rate** was 4.2% (4.4% for men and 3.9% for women) and compared to 2023 it decreased by 0.1 percentage points.

Among all unemployed persons, 14.2% had attained tertiary education, 53.6% had completed upper secondary education and 32.2% had at most lower secondary education.

**Figure 1. Unemployment rates by level of education in  
2023 and 2024**



**The unemployment rate for the age group 15 - 29 years** was 7.7%.

**The long-term unemployed** represented 51.6% of all unemployed persons. **The long-term unemployment rate** was 2.1% (2.2% for men and 2.1% for women).

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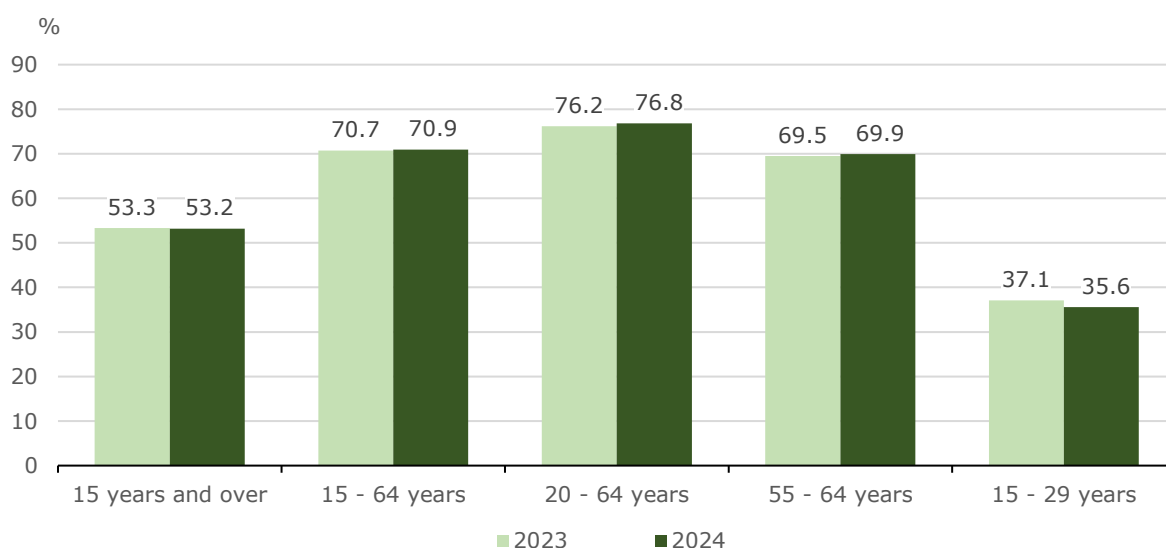
In 2024, there were 2 932.9 thousand **employed persons**, of whom 1 554.1 thousand (53.0%) men and 1 378.7 thousand (47.0%) women. **The employment rate for the population aged 15 and over** was 53.2% (59.4% for men and 47.6% for women).

In the service sector worked 1 967.0 thousand persons (67.1% of all in employment), in the industry sector - 824.0 thousand (28.1%), and in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector - 141.9 thousand (4.8%).

According to the status in employment, the distribution of employed persons was as follows: 4.9% (142.8 thousand) employers, 6.7% (197.2 thousand) self-employed persons without employees, 88.1% (2 582.7 thousand) employees and 0.3% (10.1 thousand) unpaid family workers. Of all employees, 1 950.6 thousand persons (75.5%) worked in the private sector, while 632.1 thousand (24.5%) worked in the public sector.

The number of **employed persons aged 15 - 64** was 2 820.8 thousand. **The employment rate for the same age group** was 70.9% (74.1% for men and 67.6% for women).

**Figure 2. Employment rates by age groups in 2023 and 2024**



**The employment rate for the population in the age group 20 - 64 years** was 76.8% (80.3% for men and 73.1% for women).

**The employment rate for the population in the age group 55 - 64 years** was 69.9% (73.8% for men and 66.2% for women).

In 2024 the number of **economically active population aged 15 - 64** was 2 945.6 thousand and represented 74.0% of the population in the same age group. Compared with 2023, **the activity rate** increased by 0.1 percentage points.

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There were 1 033.3 thousand **economically inactive persons aged 15 - 64**, of whom 451.6 thousand men and 581.7 thousand women. **The inactivity rate (15 - 64 years)** was 26.0% (22.4% for men and 29.6% for women).

The number of **discouraged persons aged 15 - 64** was 23.2 thousand, representing 2.2% 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 8.2%.

The proportion of the **population aged 25 - 34, having completed tertiary education**, was 40.5%.

The proportion of **young people aged 15 - 29, neither in employment nor in education and training** (NEET), was 12.7%.

### 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 (from Monday to Sunday).

**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;
- 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;
- were available to start working within two weeks following the reference period.

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**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 is 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.

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 website of NSI - [www.nsi.bg/en](http://www.nsi.bg/en), section 'Labour Market', [Labour Force Survey](#) and at the [Information System INFOSTAT](#).

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**Annex**

**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators in 2023 and 2024**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Growth (2024 minus 2023)</b>
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	73.9	74.0	0.1
Employed persons - total - in thousands	2931.9	2932.9	1.0
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	2821.7	2820.8	-0.9
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	108.3	102.9	-5.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	315.3	307.6	-7.7
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	2812.7	2812.0	-0.7
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	621.8	628.8	7.0
Employment rate - %	53.3	53.2	-0.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	70.7	70.9	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	18.8	17.3	-1.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	37.1	35.6	-1.5
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	76.2	76.8	0.6
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	69.5	69.9	0.4
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	132.4	127.4	-5.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	129.7	124.8	-4.9
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	14.9	14.5	-0.4
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	27.4	25.7	-1.7
Unemployment rate - %	4.3	4.2	-0.1
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.4	4.2	-0.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	12.1	12.3	0.2
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	8.0	7.7	-0.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.3	2.1	-0.2
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	38.3	24.2	-14.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	37.0	23.2	-13.8

**LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2024,  
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**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators in 2023 and 2024**

(Continued)

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Growth (2024 minus 2023)</b>
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	77.3	77.6	0.3
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1553.5	1554.1	0.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1489.8	1490.4	0.6
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	62.9	63.3	0.4
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	176.7	174.1	-2.6
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1485.8	1485.0	-0.8
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	318.5	320.6	2.1
Employment rate - %	59.4	59.4	0.0
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	73.9	74.1	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	21.2	20.7	-0.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	40.5	39.2	-1.3
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	79.9	80.3	0.4
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	74.0	73.8	-0.2
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	71.7	71.4	-0.3
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	70.0	69.8	-0.2
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	9.2	9.2	0.0
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	16.5	15.5	-1.0
Unemployment rate - %	4.4	4.4	0.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.5	4.5	0.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	12.8	12.8	0.0
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	8.5	8.2	-0.3
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.4	2.2	-0.2
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	22.0	14.0	-8.0
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	21.2	13.5	-7.7

**LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2024,  
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**Table 1**

**Main labour market indicators in 2023 and 2024**

(Continued and end)

	2023	2024	Growth (2024 minus 2023)
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate (15 - 64) - %	70.4	70.4	0.0
Employed persons - total - in thousands	1378.4	1378.7	0.3
Employed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	1331.9	1330.4	-1.5
Employed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	45.3	39.6	-5.7
Employed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	138.5	133.5	-5.0
Employed persons aged 20 - 64 - in thousands	1326.9	1327.0	0.1
Employed persons aged 55 - 64 - in thousands	303.3	308.2	4.9
Employment rate - %	47.7	47.6	-0.1
Employment rate (15 - 64) - %	67.4	67.6	0.2
Employment rate (15 - 24) - %	16.2	13.7	-2.5
Employment rate (15 - 29) - %	33.5	31.8	-1.7
Employment rate (20 - 64) - %	72.6	73.1	0.5
Employment rate (55 - 64) - %	65.3	66.2	0.9
Unemployed persons - total - in thousands	60.7	56.1	-4.6
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	59.7	55.0	-4.7
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 24 - in thousands	5.7	5.2	-0.5
Unemployed persons aged 15 - 29 - in thousands	11.0	10.2	-0.8
Unemployment rate - %	4.2	3.9	-0.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 64) - %	4.3	4.0	-0.3
Unemployment rate (15 - 24) - %	11.1	11.7	0.6
Unemployment rate (15 - 29) - %	7.3	7.1	-0.2
Long-term unemployment rate - %	2.1	2.1	0.0
Discouraged persons - total - in thousands	16.3	10.2	-6.1
Discouraged persons aged 15 - 64 - in thousands	15.8	9.8	-6.0