REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

EMPLOYEES UNDER LABOUR CONTRACT AND GROSS AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES, THIRD QUARTER OF 2023
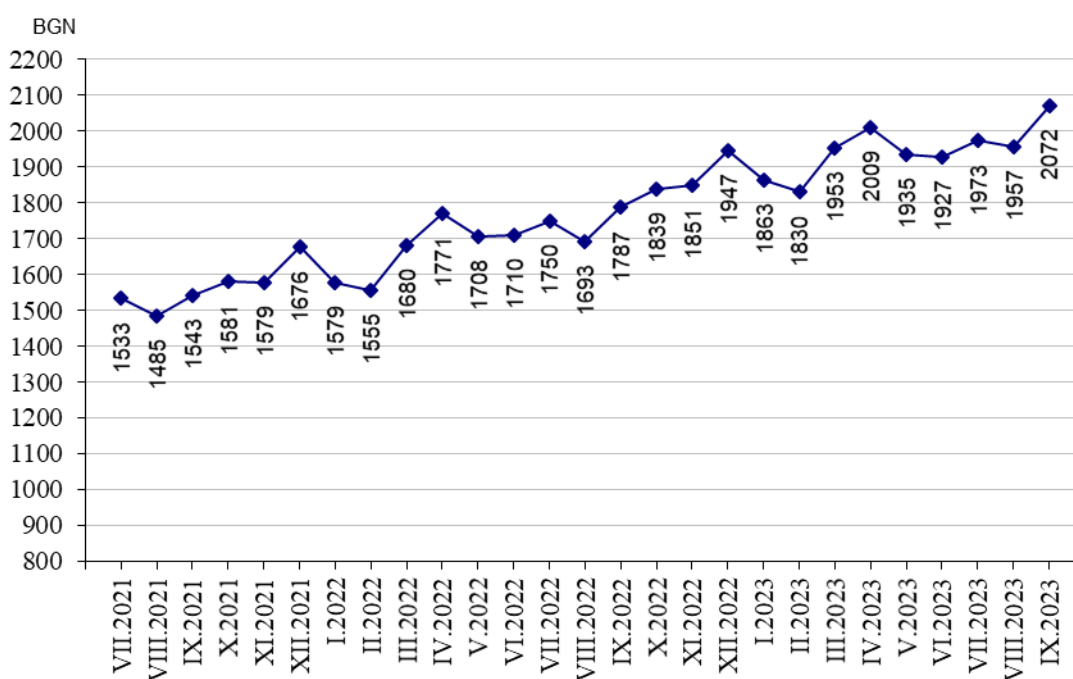
The **number of employees** under labour contract at the end of September 2023 decreased by 34.1 thousand, or 1.5%, compared to the end of June 2023 and reached 2.30 million according to the preliminary data of the National Statistical Institute (NSI). The highest decrease was observed in economic activities: 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 15.8%, 'Administrative and support service activities' - by 2.7%, and 'Manufacturing' - by 1.4%. The highest increase of the number of employees by 1.1% was recorded in economic activity 'Human health and social work activities'.
In the structure of employees by economic activities, the biggest relative share of employees was in 'Manufacturing' - 19.9%, and 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles' - 16.7%.

At the end of September 2023, compared to September 2022, the number of employees under labour contract increased by 22.1 thousand, or 1.0%. The highest increase in absolute figures was observed in economic activities 'Human health and social work activities' - 17.4 thousand, 'Accommodation and food service activities' - 6.8 thousand, and 'Information and communication' - 4.0 thousand, and the highest decrease was in 'Manufacturing' - 9.0 thousand, and in 'Administrative and support service activities' - 8.2 thousand. In percentages, the highest increase at the end of September 2023 compared to September 2022 was in economic activity 'Human health and social work activities' - by 10.4%, 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 7.2%, and in 'Information and communication' - by 3.4%, as the highest decrease was reported in 'Administrative and support service activities' - by 6.7%, and in 'Mining and quarrying' - by 2.1%.
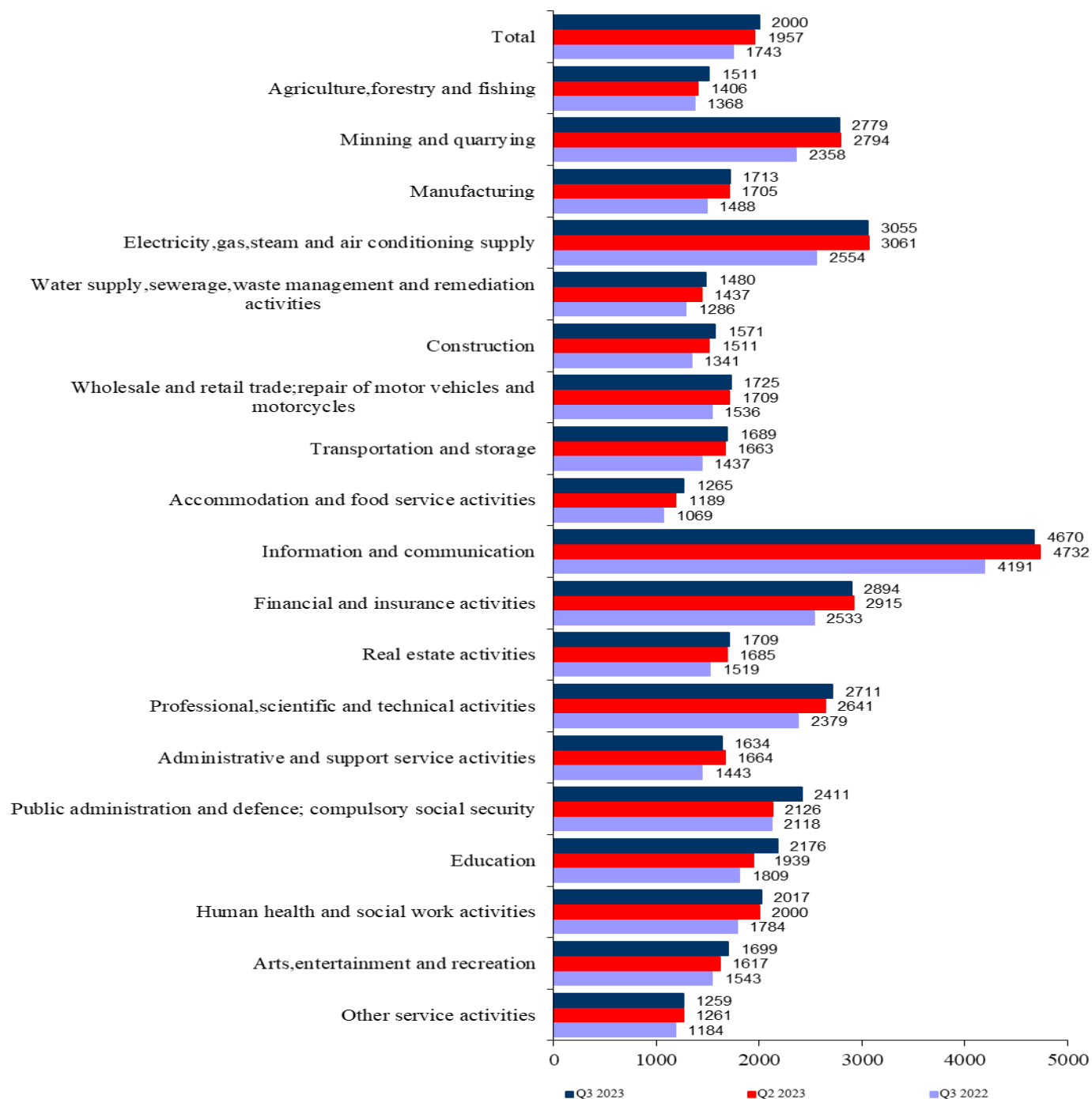
The **average monthly wages and salaries** of the employees under labour contract in July was 1973 BGN, in August - 1 957 BGN, and in September 2023 - 2 072 BGN.

Figure 1. Gross average wages and salaries by months

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In the third quarter of 2023, in comparison with the second quarter of 2023, the average monthly wages and salaries increased by 2.2% and reached 2 000 BGN. The highest increase in wages and salaries was reported in 'Public administration and defence; compulsory social security'[1] - by 13.4%, 'Education'[1] - by 12.2%, and in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 7.5%.

Figure 2. Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities (BGN)

Economic activity	Q3 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2022
Total	2000	1957	1743
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1511	1406	1368
Minning and quarrying	2779	2794	2358
Manufacturing	1713	1705	1488
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	3055	3061	2554
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1480	1437	1286
Construction	1571	1511	1341
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1725	1709	1536
Transportation and storage	1689	1663	1437
Accommodation and food service activities	1265	1189	1069
Information and communication	4670	4732	4191
Financial and insurance activities	2894	2915	2533
Real estate activities	1709	1685	1519
Professional, scientific and technical activities	2711	2641	2379
Administrative and support service activities	1634	1664	1443
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2411	2126	2118
Education	2176	1939	1809
Human health and social work activities	2017	2000	1784
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1699	1617	1543
Other service activities	1259	1261	1184

[1] The third quarter data accumulate the effect of backdated pay increase of wages and salaries in 'Education' sector and some organizations from sector 'Public administration and defence; compulsory social security'.

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Compared to the third quarter of 2022, the average monthly wages and salaries in the third quarter of 2023 rose by 14.7%. The highest growth rates were recorded in economic activities: 'Education' - by 20.3%, in 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply'- by 19.6%, and in 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 18.3%.

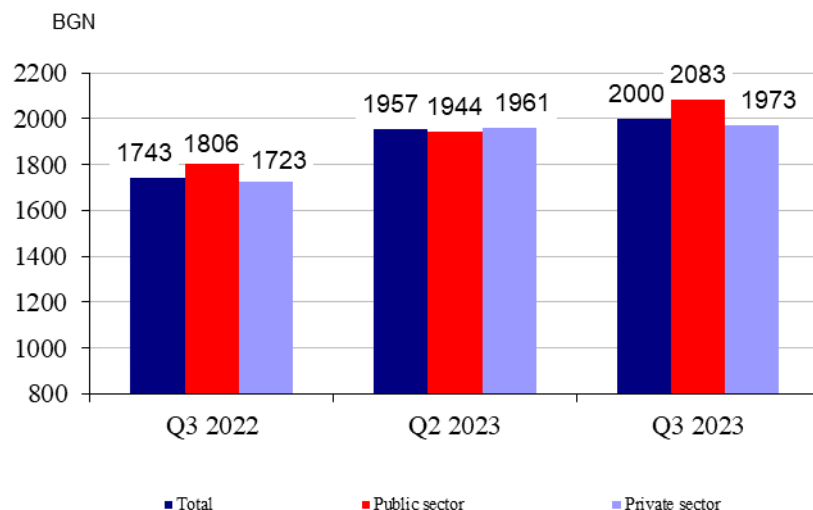The economic activities with the highest wages and salaries in the third quarter of 2023 were:

- 'Information and communication' - 4 670 BGN;
- 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply' - 3 055 BGN;
- 'Financial and insurance activities' - 2 894 BGN.

The lowest wages and salaries were recorded in:

- 'Other service activities' - 1 259 BGN;
- 'Accommodation and food service activities' - 1 265 BGN;
- 'Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities' - 1 480 BGN.

In comparison with a year earlier, the average monthly wages and salaries in the public sector grew by 15.3%, while in the private sector - by 14.5%.

Figure 3. Gross average monthly wages and salaries by kind of ownership

Methodological notes

The source of information is the Quarterly Survey on employees, hours worked, wages and salaries, and other expenditures paid by the employer. It is a sample survey which main purpose is to make a study of the current state and dynamics of some main aspects of labour market. The sample used for the survey is a stratified random sample without replacement. Stratification criteria used include: economic activity (NACE rev. 2), size of the enterprise (according to the number of employees) and regional breakdown (28 districts, NUTS3).

More methodological information on the quarterly survey and data can be found on the NSI official website:

http://www.nsi.bg/sites/default/files/files/metadata/Labour_Method_1.1_EN.pdf;
http://www.nsi.bg/en/content/6398/short-term-statistics.

Annex

Table 1

Employees under labour contract at the end of the month by economic activities in 2023[1]

(Number)

Economic activities	2023		
	July	August	September
Total	**2334688**	**2321004**	**2298467**
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	70634	70264	70088
Mining and quarrying	18826	18824	18753
Manufacturing	461816	459585	456925
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	28814	28767	28898
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	36534	36304	36320
Construction	126810	125882	125343
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	389808	387610	383756
Transportation and storage	142048	141014	140844
Accommodation and food service activities	125506	121503	101199
Information and communication	121825	121407	121239
Financial and insurance activities	56122	56020	55831
Real estate activities	22090	22022	21897
Professional, scientific and technical activities	83674	83394	83122
Administrative and support service activities	115766	114690	113601
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	114177	114035	114439
Education	164407	163479	169971
Human health and social work activities	183316	183979	184782
Arts, entertainment and recreation	36848	36602	36028
Other service activities	35667	35623	35431

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[1] Preliminary data.

Table 2

Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities in 2023[1]

(BGN)

Economic activities	2023		
	July	August	September
Total	**1973**	**1957**	**2072**
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1523	1423	1588
Mining and quarrying	2801	2601	2936
Manufacturing	1702	1691	1746
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	3109	2905	3150
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1446	1449	1546
Construction	1551	1569	1594
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1705	1720	1752
Transportation and storage	1679	1661	1728
Accommodation and food service activities	1228	1268	1306
Information and communication	4621	4593	4798
Financial and insurance activities	2891	2902	2889
Real estate activities	1732	1666	1730
Professional, scientific and technical activities	2709	2685	2738
Administrative and support service activities	1617	1619	1666
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2576	2336	2321
Education	1899	1996	2620
Human health and social work activities	1999	1956	2096
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1715	1659	1723
Other service activities	1242	1238	1299

[1] Preliminary data.