

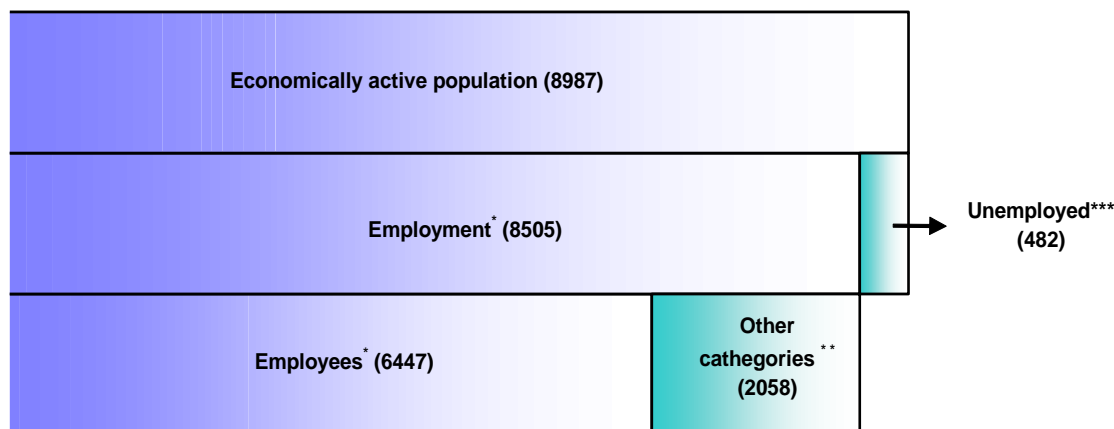
Area: Employment and unemployment

**In the second quarter of 2020, the employment rate for the working age population (15-64 years) was 65.2%, decreasing as against the one recorded during the previous quarter**

- In the second quarter of 2020, the employment rate<sup>1</sup> for the population aged 20-64 years was 70.4 %, 0.4 percentage points over the national target of 70% established in the context of the Strategy Europe 2020.
- In the second quarter of 2020, the economically active population of Romania was 8987 thousand persons, out of which 8505 thousand were employed persons and 482 thousand unemployed persons.

Population categories in the second quarter of 2020

- thou. persons -



\* Including military staff and assimilated and the persons working in underground economy.

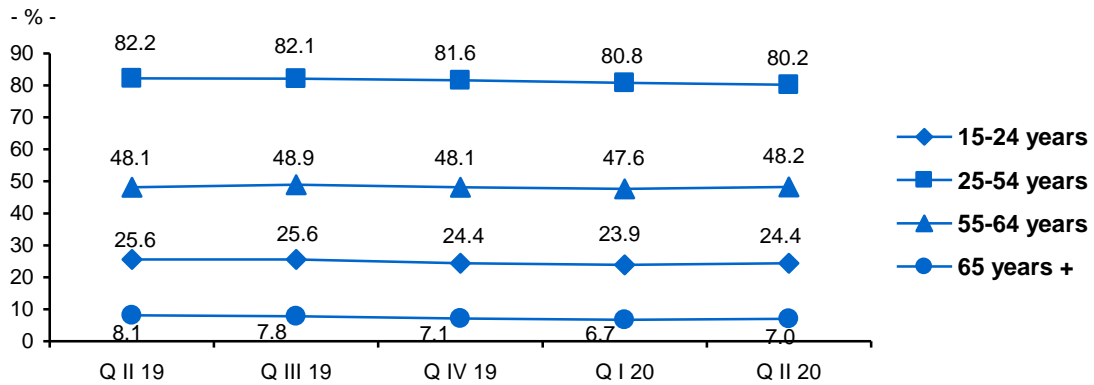
\*\* Other categories: employers, self-employed persons, contributing family worker, members of agricultural holdings or non agricultural co-operatives.

\*\*\* According to the standards of International Labour Office (ILO).

In the second quarter of 2020, the employment rate for the working age population (15-64 years) was 65.2%, decreasing as against the one recorded during the previous quarter by 0.2 percentage points. The employment rate was higher for men (73.6% as against 56.4% for women) and for residents in the urban area (66.1% as against 64.0% in rural area).

The employment rate for youth (15-24 years) was 24.4%.

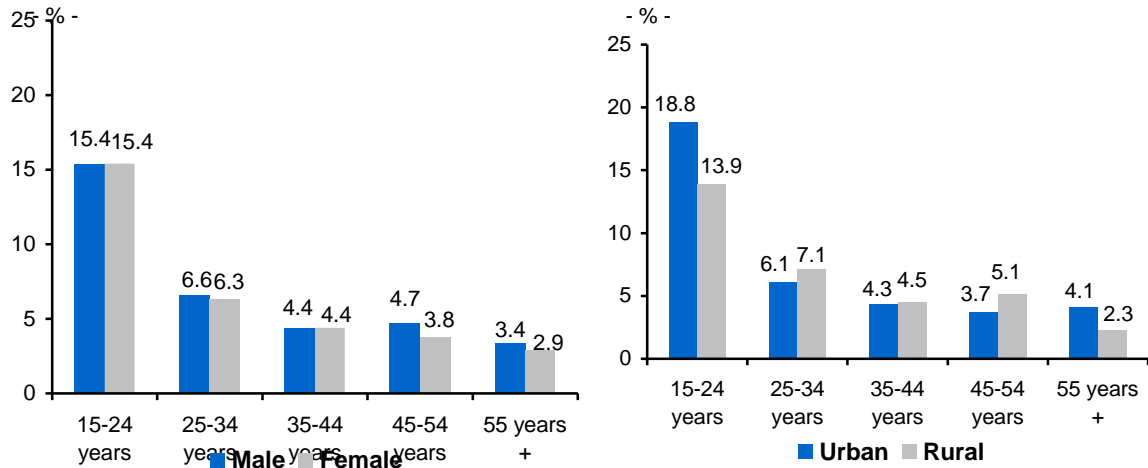
### Evolution of employment rate for population aged 15 years and over, by age groups



[Chart data \(xls\)](#)

Unemployment rate<sup>2</sup> in the second quarter of 2020 was 5.4%, increasing with 1.1 percentage points as compared with the one recorded for the previous quarter.

### Unemployment rate by age groups, sex and area, in the second quarter of 2020



[Chart data \(xls\)](#)

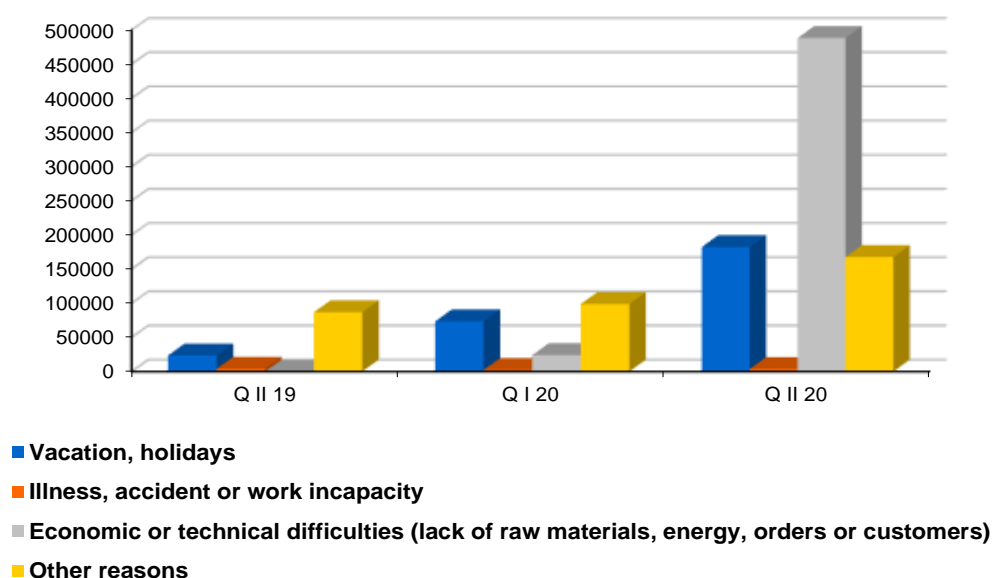
By sex, the gap between the two unemployment rates was 0.5 percentage points (5.6% for men as against 5.1% for women), while by residential areas it was 0.6 percentage points (5.7% for rural area, as against 5.1% for urban area).

By age groups, the unemployment rate reached the highest level (15.4%) among young persons (15-24 years).

The COVID19 pandemic affected the labor market in the sense of a moderate decline in the number of employed population and the employment rate and an increase in the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate. However, the most visible effects refer to **the increase in the number of employed persons absent from work** (employed persons who, although in employment, did not work even one hour during the reference week, being on leave - of various types, days off, temporary interruption of work for various reasons, etc.).

The number of employed persons who did not work even for one hour in the reference week<sup>1</sup> was 841 thousand persons (9.9% of total employment) in the second quarter of 2020 – which is **more than four times higher than the value recorded in the first quarter of 2020 and seven times higher than the one in the corresponding quarter of the previous year**. Economic or technical difficulties of the employer (lack of raw materials, customers or orders) - was indicated as a reason for the absence by 58.0% of persons. Little over on fifth of persons absent from work (21.7%) were on vacation (including holidays, compensation leave), while 0.4% were absent due to illness. 19.9% of the persons absent from work indicated other reasons (including unpaid leave, parental leave up to 2 years, maternity leave, etc.).

### Employed persons absent from work, by reasons of absence

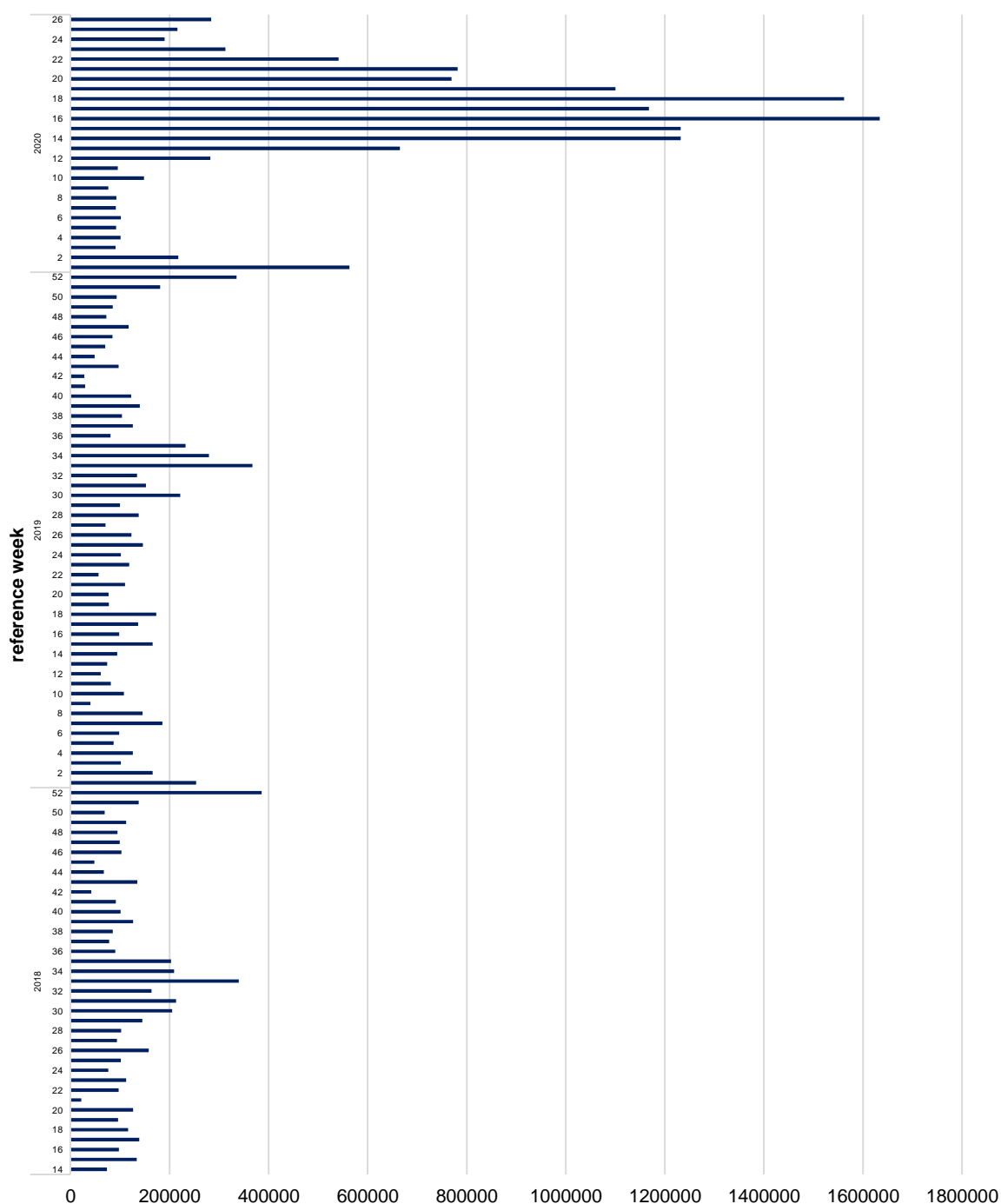


[Chart data \(xls\)](#)

In interpreting the results, it should be borne in mind that the Household Labor Force Survey measures the situation in each week of the calendar year, this week representing the reference period. Being a continuous survey, whose sample is evenly distributed over the 13 weeks of the quarter (and over the 52 weeks of the year), the quarterly indicators reflect **the average situation** in the weeks that make up the quarter. For additional information, strictly experimental, we present below detailed results, by reference weeks, for the period 2018 - II quarter 2020. As can be seen, the most affected were the weeks in the first half of the quarter (the period 30 March to 10 May), when over one million employed persons were absent from work. The number of these people decreased gradually in the following weeks, reaching 284 thousand people in the last week of the quarter.

<sup>1</sup> The household labor force survey - the source of the data for this release - measures the labor market situation during all weeks of the year. The data published for the second quarter cover the period March 30, 2020 - June 28, 2020 (weeks 14 - 26 of the year) and reflect the **average situation** during this period.

## Employed persons absent from work, by reference week, during the second quarter 2018 - second quarter 2020 period



[Chart data \(xls\)](#)

### Additional information:

<sup>1</sup> **The employment rate** represents the weight of employment from the age group x in total population belonging to the same age group x.

<sup>2</sup> **The unemployment rate** represents the weight of unemployed persons in total economically active population. For an accurate interpretation of the indicators, please see the [Methodological explanations](#).

The main indicators of labor force participation of the population are shown in [Annex](#).

The next press release about the data for the Q III 2020 is to be issued on Tuesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2020.

Press release archive: <https://insse.ro/cms/en/communicate-de-presa-view>.

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