

Area: Employment and unemployment - underemployment and potential additional labour force

In 2020, 117.9 thousand economically inactive persons wanted to work, but were either not seeking a job or not available to start working

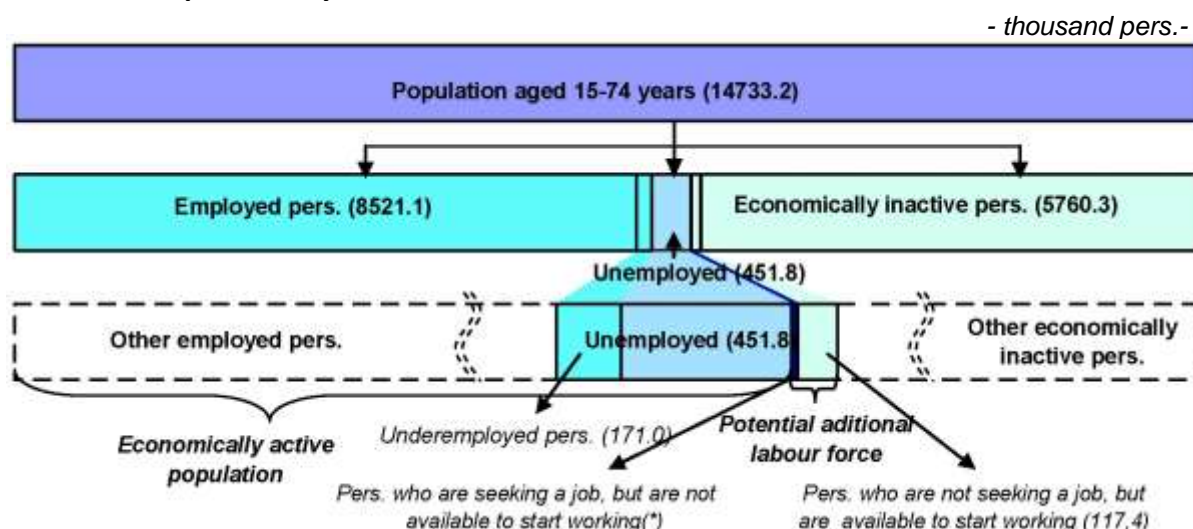
- In 2020 the share of underemployed persons¹ in the total economically active population was 1.9%, with 0.2 percentage points lower than the previous year
- Potential additional labour force² comprised a number of 117.9 thousand persons, increasing with 1.8% as compared to the previous year

The unemployment rate is the most visible indicator resulted from the Households Labour Force Survey, used to characterize many of the economic and social aspects. Aiming to offer an enhanced and richer picture of the labour market situation and evolution, NIS also publish annually a set of 3 indicators, representing categories of employed or economically inactive persons, having some similarities with unemployed persons and different degrees of attachment to the labour market (comparative with the standard situation of the category they are part of), namely:

- underemployed persons;
- economically inactive persons who are seeking a job, but are not immediately available to start working;
- economically inactive persons who are not seeking a job, but are immediately available to start working.

The last 2 indicators ("economically inactive persons who are seeking a job, but are not immediately available to start working" and "economically inactive persons who are not seeking a job, but are immediately available to start working"), constitute together "the potential additional labour force". Those 3 indicators constitute overlap „areas" between employment and unemployment, on one side, and between unemployed and economically inactive, on the other side, as one can see in the diagram below.

Population by labour status and those 3 additional indicators in 2020



In 2020, 171.0 thousand persons were employed with part-time working programme wishing to work more hours than in present and were available to do so, being considered underemployed persons. This category of persons represented 1.9% of economically active population, 2.0% of employment and 29.4% of the total number of persons who worked part-time. The number of underemployed persons decreased as compared to the previous year with 21.6 thousand persons.

Underemployed persons in 2020

	Underemployed persons			
	- thousand persons -	- % in economically active population -	- % in employment -	- % in part-time employment -
Total	171.0	1.9	2.0	29.4
Male	109.1	2.1	2.2	34.2
Female	61.9	1.6	1.7	23.6
Urban	19.9	0.4	0.4	24.8
Rural	151.1	3.7	4.0	30.1

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

Among the economically inactive population aged 15-74 years (5760.3 thousand persons), 117.9 thousand persons were part of the potential additional labour force (up from previous year with 2.1 thousands). Among them:

- 117.4 thousand persons were available to start working but did not look for a job. In year 2020 the ratio between this category of persons and active population was of 1.3%.
- only an insignificant number of persons* looked for a job but were not available to start working.

Potential additional labour force in 2020

	Potential additional labour force		
	Total	of which:	
		persons available to start working but who do not seek a job	
	- thousand persons -	- thousand persons -	- % in economically active population -
Total	117.9	117.4	1.3
Male	48.4	47.9	0.9
Female	69.5	69.5	1.8
Urban	49.4	49.1	1.0
Rural	68.5	68.3	1.7

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

Additional information:

¹ **Underemployed persons** are employed persons who are working part-time and who wish and are available to work more hours than at present.

² **Potential additional labour force** represents the sum of two categories of persons: „economically inactive persons who are seeking a job, but are not available to start working” and „economically inactive persons who are not seeking a job, but are available to start working”.

For an accurate interpretation of the indicators, please see the [Methodological explanations](#).

The main indicators of underemployed persons and potential additional labour force are shown in [Annex](#).

The next press release, on data for the first quarter of 2021, will be issued in June 18, 2021.

Press release archive: <http://www.insse.ro/cms/en/comunicate-de-presa-view>.

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* Value less than 6500, not reliable due to small number of observations