

# STATISTICAL RELEASE

# RS10

Number 321 - Year LXVI, 30.11.2016

## Labour Force Survey

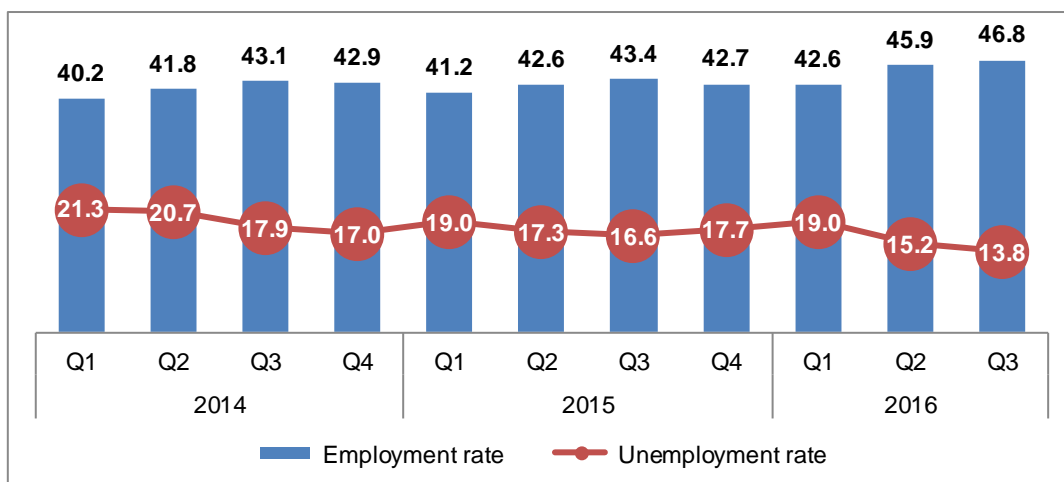
SERB321 RS10 301116

### Labour Force Survey, III quarter 2016

– Preliminary results –

Labour Force Survey (LFS) is the most complex and the only internationally comparable instrument for labour trends monitoring, registering demographic and socio-economic characteristics of population aged 15 and over. The main aim of the survey is estimating the labour force volume, i.e. employed and unemployed population, where employment relates to work in both formal and informal section. Additionally, LFS deals with characteristics of employment (professional status of the employed persons, their activity, occupation, rights realized at work...) and unemployment (acquired education, duration of job seeking, previous working experience...), as well as characteristics of inactive population – their education, age, income source and readiness for involvement in labour market.

**Graph 1** Trend of employment/unemployment rates (in %), population 15+, 2014-2016



In the third quarter 2016, labour force survey was conducted on the sample of approximately 15 200 households, whereof 11 990 households were interviewed, i.e. 29 006 persons aged 15 and over.

According to the Survey results, relative to the previous quarter, as well as to the same quarter last year, significant increase of employment and decrease of unemployment were noted.

Employment increase was primarily recorded in agricultural and manufacturing activities, referring to population aged over 55, with lower and secondary education level, mostly relating to seasonal and temporary jobs.

Moreover, employment also increased among the young population who mostly found jobs of limited duration in the sections of Manufacturing, Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles, in private, registered ownership section. Employment growth in the mentioned activities is in accordance with the data of registered employment, also available in the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

On the other hand, employment for unlimited duration in state ownership section noted the decreasing trend.

## Labour Force

Number of active population aged 15 and over amounted to 3 264 100 persons in the third quarter 2016, out of which 2 814 000 related to employed and 450 100 to unemployed ones. Activity rate was 54.3%, being by 0.2 p.p. higher relative to the previous quarter, and by 2.3 p.p. higher relative to the same quarter 2015.

**Active population (labour force)** includes all employed and unemployed persons.

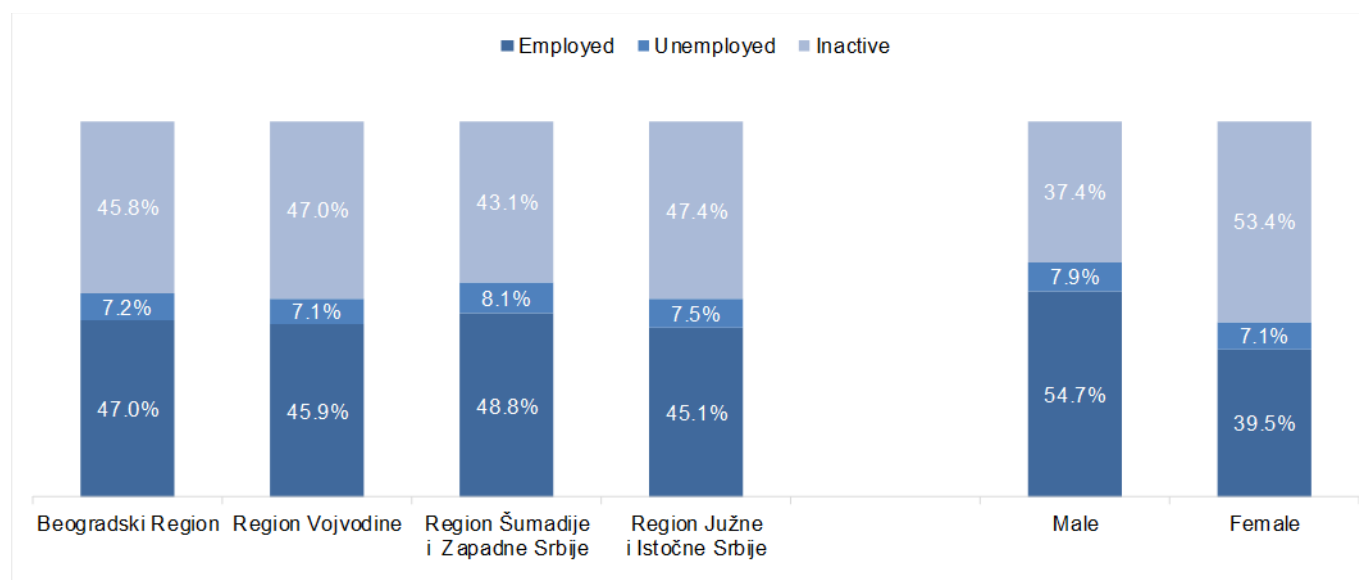
**Activity rate (share of labour force)** presents the percentage share of active population in total population aged 15 and over.

Compared with the previous quarter, number of active women increased by 14 500, while number of active men decreased by 7 400. More significant activity rate increase was recorded in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (22 600), while in Beogradski Region and Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, activity was decreased in the same period, by 14 500 and 3 200, respectively.

Relative to the same quarter 2015, activity was increased both regarding men (31 600) and women (85 300). Activity increased in all regions, the most significant was increase in Region Vojvodine (42 800) and Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (39 800).

In the structure of population by activity, regions have different distribution. Rates of activity and employment are the greatest in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (56.9% and 48.8%, respectively) and in Beogradski Region (54.2% and 47.0%, respectively), while the share of unemployed in total population aged 15 and over was almost equal in all regions (Graph 2).

**Graph 2** Structure of population 15+, by activity, regions and sex, Q3 2016



Unlike the regions, where no significant difference exists regarding the employment chances, distribution of male and female population by working status indicates significant sex inequality on labour market. Namely, while activity rate of males aged 15 and over amounted to 62.6%, regarding females, it amounted to only 46.6%. Employment rate of males is by even 15.2 p.p. higher than of females (Graph 2).

## Employed population

Number of employed persons in the third quarter 2016 amounted to 2 814 000, presenting the increase of 52 400 persons relative to previous quarter and increase of 190 100 persons relative to the third quarter 2015. Employment rate was 46.8%, being by 0.9 p.p. more than in previous quarter and by 3.4 p.p. more than in the same quarter 2015.

**Employed persons** are those that during the reference week worked for payment (in money or goods) for an employer, as self-employed or as an unpaid family member. Included are also those persons that have work but have been absent from it during the reference week, but which have a guaranty to return to it.

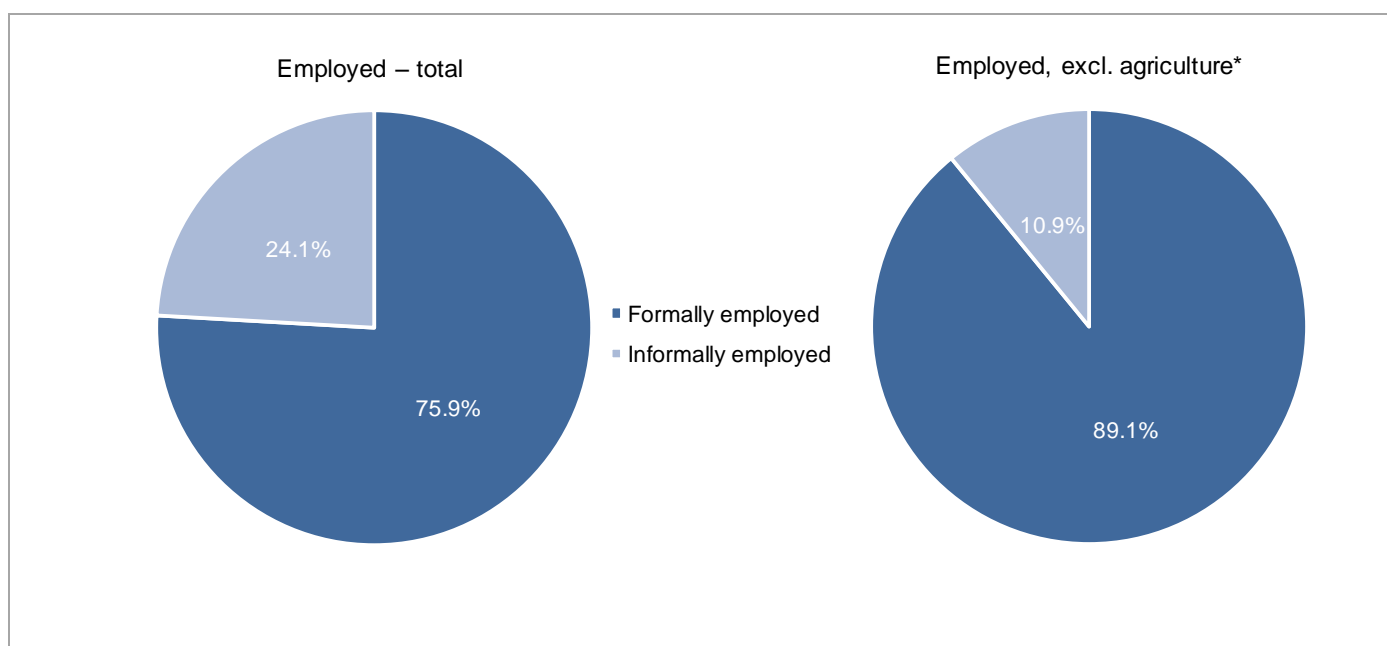
**Employment rate** is the share of employed in the total population aged 15 and over.

**Informal employment** is considered a work in unregistered companies, work in registered companies but without a contract, and the work of helping members of the household.

**Informal employment rate** is the share of informally employed in total employment.

During 2015 (from the third quarter 2015 to the third quarter 2016), employment in formal sector increased by 78 000, and in informal sector by 112 100 persons, whereby, increase of informal employment was mostly recorded in agricultural activities\*, where the number of employed increased by 78 200. Rate of informal employment in the third quarter 2016 amounted to 24.1% on the level of all activity sections (Graph 3). In non-agriculture, informal employment rate significantly decreased, amounting to 10.9%.

**Graph 3** Formal/Informal employment, 15+, Q3 2016

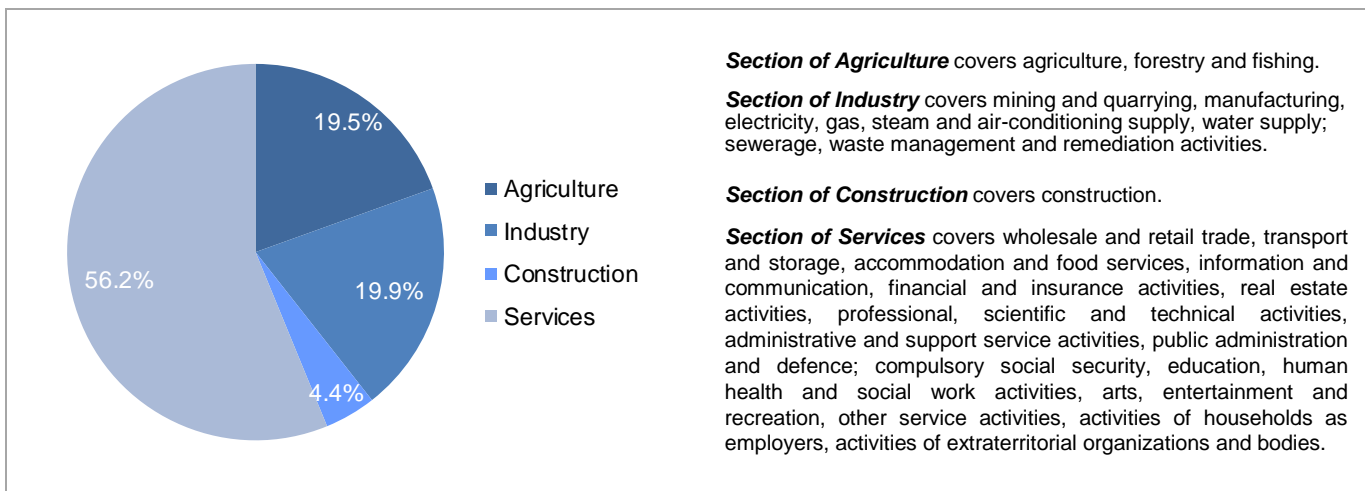


**Informal employment rate excluding agriculture\*** presents the share of informally employed whose activity is non-agricultural in total non-agricultural employment.

\* Employment in agriculture comprises the whole section of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, as well as a part of the section Activities of households as employers referring to agriculture.

Regarding the section division of employment, the prevailing are service activities (56.2%), while the share of industry in total employment is below 20% (Graph 4).

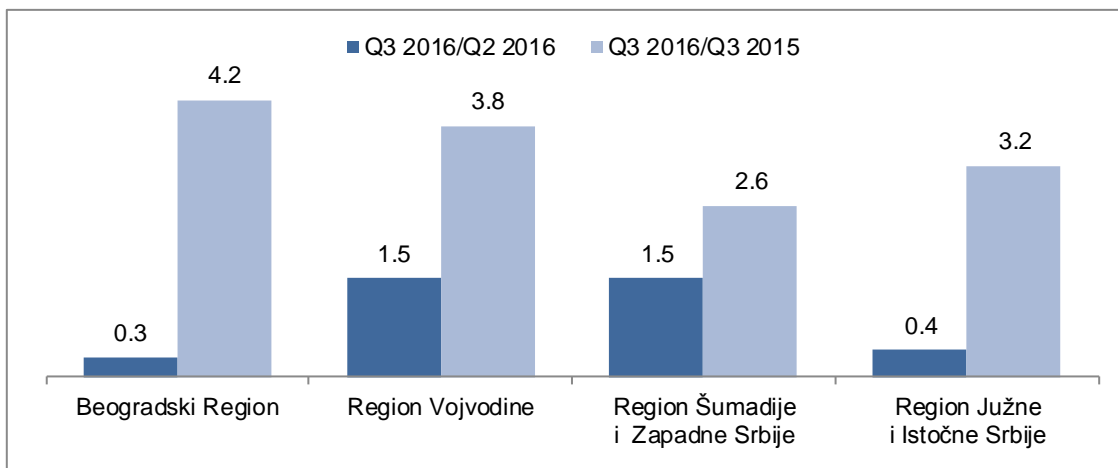
**Graph 4** Structure of employed by section of activity, 15+, Q3 2016



Employment rate is the greatest in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (48.8%), followed by Beogradski Region (47.0%) and Region Vojvodine (45.9%), while employment rate is the lowest Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (45.1%).

Relative to the previous quarter, the most significant increase of employment rate was recorded in Region Vojvodine and Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (by 1.5 p.p.), while relative to the same quarter 2015, the greatest increase of employment rate was noted in Beogradski Region (4.2 p.p.) (Graph 5).

**Graph 5** Changes in employment rates (in percentage points), 15+, by regions, Q3 2016



Employment in the observed periods noted the lowest increase in Beogradski Region (0.3 p.p.), relative to the previous quarter, that is, in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (2.6 p.p.) relative to the same quarter of the previous year.

## Unemployed population

In the third quarter 2016, unemployment of persons aged 15 and over was 450 100, which is by 45 300 persons less than in the previous quarter and by 73 200 persons less than in the third quarter 2015. Unemployment noted more significant decrease regarding males than females, both relative to the previous quarter, and relative to the same quarter of 2015.

**Unemployed persons** are the persons who, in the respective week, did no work for remuneration, who undertook active steps to find a job during four-week period preceding the respective week and who were able to start working in two-week time after the referent week.

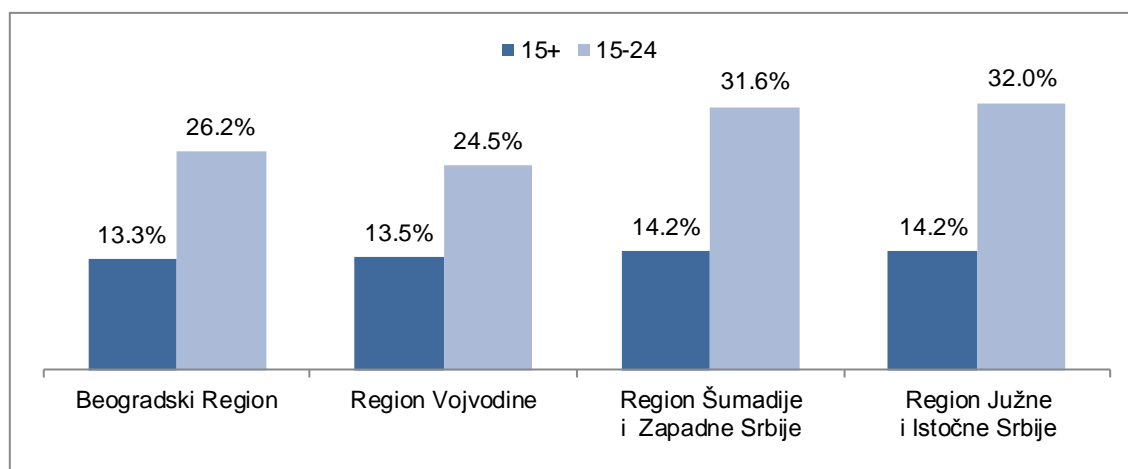
**Unemployment rate** presents the percentage share of unemployed population in labour force (employed and unemployed), aged 15 and over.

**Long-term unemployment rate** presents the percentage share of the unemployed for one year and more, in the total labour force (employed and unemployed), aged 15 and over.

**NEET rate** – refers to share of persons aged 15 to 24, neither employed, nor in education, training, in total population of that age.

Unemployment rate of population aged 15 and over amounted to 13.8% on the level of whole territory of Serbia, where the highest value was recorded in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije and Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (14.2%), and the lowest in Beogradski Region (13.3%) (Graph 6).

**Graph 6** Unemployment rates of persons aged 15+ and 15-24, by regions, Q3 2016



Unemployment rate of young population aged 15-24 was the highest in Region Južne I Istočne Srbije (32.0%), and the lowest in Region Vojvodine (24.5%).

Compared with the previous quarter, decrease of unemployment was most significantly noted in Region Vojvodine and Beogradski Region (by 19 700 and 18 200 persons, respectively).

Long-term unemployment rate is 9.0%, being by 2.1 p.p. less relative to the same period 2015.

NEET rate was 18.2%, denoting increase of 1.0 p.p. relative to the previous quarter, i.e. decrease of 2.6 p.p. relative to the same quarter 2015.

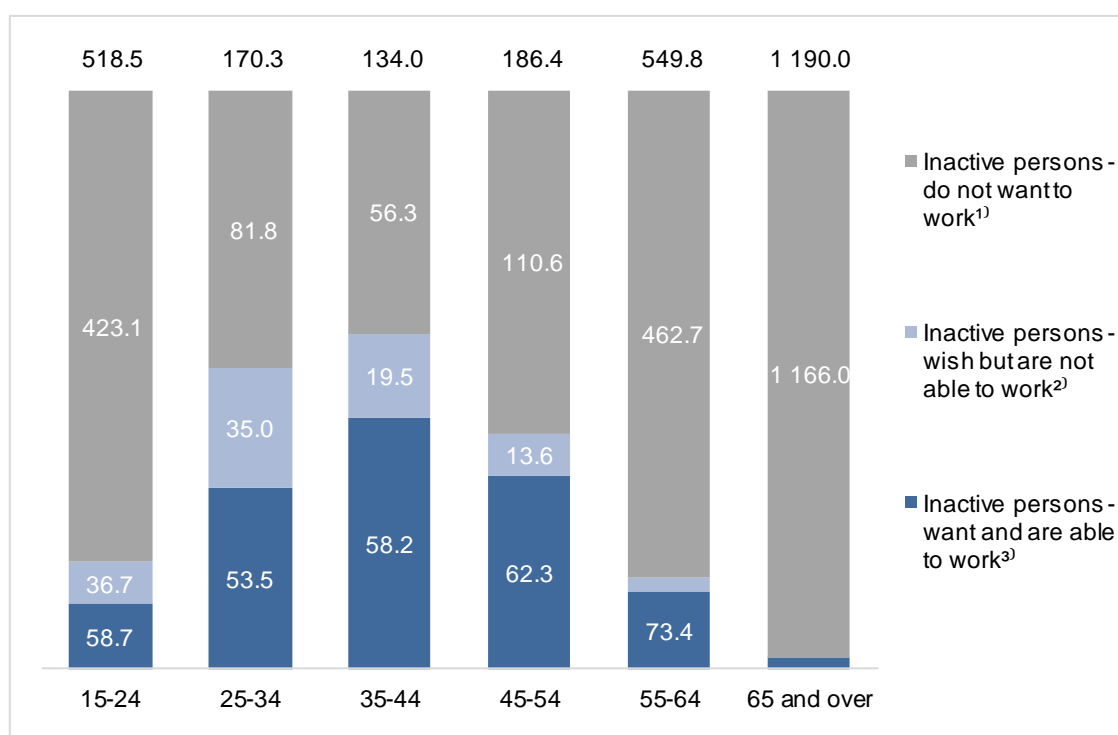
## Inactive population

Number of inactive population in the third quarter 2016 amounted to 2 749 000, being by 16 100 less relative to the previous quarter and by 151 200 less compared to the third quarter 2015. Inactivity rate is 45.7%, i.e. by 0.2 p.p. less than in the previous quarter, simultaneously being significantly greater in female population (53.4%) than in male population (37.4%). Relative to the third quarter 2015, inactivity rate decreased by 2.3 p.p.

**Inactive population** includes all persons aged 15 and over who are not classified in employed and unemployed population. Inactive population also comprises students, pensioners, persons performing household tasks, as well as all other persons who performed no paid job in the observed week, did not actively seek a job and who were not able to start working in two-week time after the observed week.

**Inactivity rate** presents the percentage share of inactive population in total population aged 15 and over.

**Graph 7** Inactive population aged 15+, by employment opportunities and age groups (in thousands), Q3 2016



<sup>1)</sup> Reasons for not wanting to work can be: schooling or training, disease or incapacity, pension, care of children or incapable adults, lost hope in possibility of finding a job or other personal or family reasons.

<sup>2)</sup> Persons who wish but are not able to start working due to schooling, disease or incapacity, compulsory social work or personal reasons.

<sup>3)</sup> Persons who want to work (would accept job in case it is offered) and are able to start working, but they do not actively seek a job.

For more detailed description of the Survey and definitions of labour force, see the methodology of Labour Force Survey on [www.stat.gov.rs](http://www.stat.gov.rs).

### Rules of rounding numbers

Results of Labour Force Survey are published as round numbers, in thousands, with one decimal place.

Totals (sums) do not always correspond with the sum of separate data, considering that provided estimates in statistical publications are calculated using unrounded numbers (obtaining more precise data).

Graphs in publications are also designed on the basis of unrounded data.

## RESULTS

**Table 1** Main contingents of labour force by sex, population aged 15 and over, Q3 2016

	Q3 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
<b>Total</b>	6013.2	-9.0	-0.1	-34.3	-0.6
Active	3264.1	7.1	0.2	116.9	3.7
Employed	2814.0	52.4	1.9	190.1	7.2
Unemployed	450.1	-45.3	-9.2	-73.2	-14.0
Inactive	2749.0	-16.1	-0.6	-151.2	-5.2
<b>Male</b>	2900.0	-4.3	-0.2	-16.4	-0.6
Active	1814.6	-7.4	-0.4	31.6	1.8
Employed	1585.2	22.9	1.5	81.9	5.4
Unemployed	229.4	-30.3	-11.7	-50.3	-18.0
Inactive	1085.4	3.1	0.3	-48.0	-4.2
<b>Female</b>	3113.1	-4.7	-0.2	-17.9	-0.6
Active	1449.5	14.5	1.0	85.3	6.3
Employed	1228.8	29.5	2.5	108.3	9.7
Unemployed	220.7	-15.0	-6.4	-22.9	-9.4
Inactive	1663.6	-19.2	-1.1	-103.2	-5.8

**Table 1a** Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 and over, Q3 2016

	Q3 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2015
	(%)	p.p.	
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate	54.3	0.2	2.3
Employment rate	46.8	0.9	3.4
Unemployment rate	13.8	-1.4	-2.8
Inactivity rate	45.7	-0.2	-2.3
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate	62.6	-0.2	1.5
Employment rate	54.7	0.9	3.2
Unemployment rate	12.6	-1.6	-3.1
Inactivity rate	37.4	0.2	-1.5
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate	46.6	0.5	3.0
Employment rate	39.5	1.0	3.7
Unemployment rate	15.2	-1.2	-2.7
Inactivity rate	53.4	-0.5	-3.0

**Table 2** Main contingents of labour force by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q3 2016

	Q3 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
<b>Total</b>	754.5	-4.6	-0.6	-18.7	-2.4
Active	236.0	1.7	0.7	0.7	0.3
Employed	168.8	19.2	12.8	23.1	15.9
Unemployed	67.2	-17.5	-20.7	-22.4	-25.0
Inactive	518.5	-6.4	-1.2	-19.4	-3.6
<b>Male</b>	388.2	-2.4	-0.6	-9.4	-2.4
Active	149.1	3.8	2.6	-1.3	-0.9
Employed	111.6	11.8	11.9	16.7	17.6
Unemployed	37.5	-8.1	-17.8	-18.0	-32.4
Inactive	239.2	-6.1	-2.5	-8.0	-3.2
<b>Female</b>	366.3	-2.3	-0.6	-9.3	-2.5
Active	86.9	-2.0	-2.4	2.1	2.4
Employed	57.2	7.4	14.6	6.4	12.6
Unemployed	29.7	-9.4	-24.0	-4.4	-12.9
Inactive	279.4	-0.2	-0.1	-11.4	-3.9

**Table 2a** Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q3 2016

	Q3 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2015
	(%)	p.p.	
<b>Total</b>			
Activity rate	31.3	0.4	0.9
Employment rate	22.4	2.7	3.5
Unemployment rate	28.5	-7.7	-9.6
Inactivity rate	68.7	-0.4	-0.9
<b>Male</b>			
Activity rate	38.4	1.2	0.6
Employment rate	28.7	3.2	4.9
Unemployment rate	25.2	-6.2	-11.7
Inactivity rate	61.6	-1.2	-0.6
<b>Female</b>			
Activity rate	23.7	-0.4	1.1
Employment rate	15.6	2.1	2.1
Unemployment rate	34.2	-9.8	-6.0
Inactivity rate	76.3	0.4	-1.1
NEETs (15-24)	18.2	1.0	-2.6
Early school leaving (18-24) <sup>1)</sup>	7.2	-0.8	-0.4

<sup>1)</sup> The indicator consist of persons aged 18-24 whose highest level of completed education is primary education and who did not attend any formal or non-formal education in the last 4 weeks.



**Table 3** Active population aged 15 and over by sex and region, Q3 2016

	Q3 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
<b>Active - total</b>	3264.1	7.1	0.2	116.9	3.7
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	1814.6	-7.4	-0.4	31.6	1.8
Female	1449.5	14.5	1.0	85.3	6.3
<b>Region</b>					
Beogradski Region	777.5	-14.5	-1.8	23.5	3.1
Region Vojvodine	854.1	2.1	0.2	42.8	5.3
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	953.4	22.6	2.4	39.8	4.4
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	679.2	-3.2	-0.5	10.8	1.6
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

**Table 4** Employed persons aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q3 2016

	Q3 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
<b>Employed - total</b>	2814.0	52.4	1.9	190.1	7.2
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	1585.2	22.9	1.5	81.9	5.4
Female	1228.8	29.5	2.5	108.3	9.7
<b>Region</b>					
Beogradski Region	674.1	3.7	0.6	60.3	9.8
Region Vojvodine	738.7	21.8	3.0	55.8	8.2
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	818.3	23.8	3.0	37.4	4.8
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	582.8	3.1	0.5	36.6	6.7
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

**Table 5** Formally/ Informally employed persons aged 15 and over, Q3 2016

	Q3 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
<b>Employed persons</b>	<b>2814.0</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>190.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Formally employed	2136.5	1.7	0.1	78.0	3.8
- Formally employed, excl. agriculture <sup>1)</sup>	1901.2	12.0	0.6	56.1	3.0
- Formally employed in agriculture	235.3	-10.3	-4.2	21.8	10.2
Informally employed	677.4	50.8	8.1	112.1	19.8
- Informally employed, excl. agriculture	232.8	8.6	3.8	33.9	17.1
- Informally employed in agriculture	444.7	42.2	10.5	78.2	21.4
	<b>%</b>	<b>(p.p.)</b>			
Rate of informal employment (total)	24.1		1.4		2.5
Rate of informal employment, excl. agriculture	10.9		0.3		1.2

<sup>1)</sup> Employment in agriculture comprises the whole section of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishers, as well as a part of the section Activities of households as employers referring to agriculture.

**Table 6** Unemployed persons aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q3 2016

	Q3 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
<b>Unemployed - total</b>	<b>450.1</b>	<b>-45.3</b>	<b>-9.2</b>	<b>-73.2</b>	<b>-14.0</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	229.4	-30.3	-11.7	-50.3	-18.0
Female	220.7	-15.0	-6.4	-22.9	-9.4
<b>Region</b>					
Beogradski Region	103.3	-18.2	-15.0	-36.9	-26.3
Region Vojvodine	115.3	-19.7	-14.6	-12.9	-10.1
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	135.1	-1.2	-0.9	2.4	1.8
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	96.3	-6.3	-6.1	-25.8	-21.2
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...
	%	(p.p.)			
<b>Long-term unemployment rate</b>	<b>9.0</b>		<b>-1.2</b>		<b>-2.1</b>

**Table 7** Inactive population aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q3 2016

	Q3 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
<b>Inactive - total</b>	<b>2749.0</b>	<b>-16.1</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-151.2</b>	<b>-5.2</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	1085.4	3.1	0.3	-48.0	-4.2
Female	1663.6	-19.2	-1.1	-103.2	-5.8
<b>Region</b>					
Beogradski Region	657.1	14.6	2.3	-22.4	-3.3
Region Vojvodine	756.6	-4.7	-0.6	-52.8	-6.5
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	722.2	-26.0	-3.5	-53.0	-6.8
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	613.2	0.0	0.0	-23.0	-3.6
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

**Table 8** Main contingents of labour force by region and age groups, Q3 2016

	Total	Srbija – North		Srbija – South		
		Beogradski Region	Region Vojvodine	Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	Region Kosovo i Metohija
(in thousand)						
<b>Population aged 15+</b>	6013.2	1434.5	1610.6	1675.6	1292.4	...
Active	3264.1	777.5	854.1	953.4	679.2	...
Employed	2814.0	674.1	738.7	818.3	582.8	...
Unemployed	450.1	103.3	115.3	135.1	96.3	...
Inactive	2749.0	657.1	756.6	722.2	613.2	...
%						
Activity rate	54.3	54.2	53.0	56.9	52.6	...
Employment rate	46.8	47.0	45.9	48.8	45.1	...
Unemployment rate	13.8	13.3	13.5	14.2	14.2	...
Inactivity rate	45.7	45.8	47.0	43.1	47.4	...
(in thousand)						
<b>Young population (15–24)</b>	754.5	165.6	204.9	217.7	166.4	...
Active	236.0	42.8	73.3	72.8	47.1	...
Employed	168.8	31.6	55.3	49.8	32.0	...
Unemployed	67.2	11.2	17.9	23.0	15.1	...
Inactive	518.5	122.8	131.6	144.9	119.3	...
%						
Activity rate	31.3	25.9	35.8	33.4	28.3	...
Employment rate	22.4	19.1	27.0	22.9	19.2	...
Unemployment rate	28.5	26.2	24.5	31.6	32.0	...
Inactivity rate	68.7	74.1	64.2	66.6	71.7	...
(in thousand)						
<b>Working – age population (15–64)</b>	4668.8	1128.2	1267.3	1296.2	977.1	...
Active	3109.8	760.9	829.0	887.6	632.3	...
Employed	2661.4	657.9	714.4	752.8	536.2	...
Unemployed	448.3	103.0	114.5	134.7	96.1	...
Inactive	1559.0	367.3	438.3	408.7	344.8	...
%						
Activity rate	66.6	67.4	65.4	68.5	64.7	...
Employment rate	57.0	58.3	56.4	58.1	54.9	...
Unemployment rate	14.4	13.5	13.8	15.2	15.2	...
Inactivity rate	33.4	32.6	34.6	31.5	35.3	...

Starting from 1999 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has not at disposal and may not provide available certain data relative to AP Kosovo and Metohija and therefore these data are not included in the coverage for the Republic of Serbia (total).