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Labour Force Survey

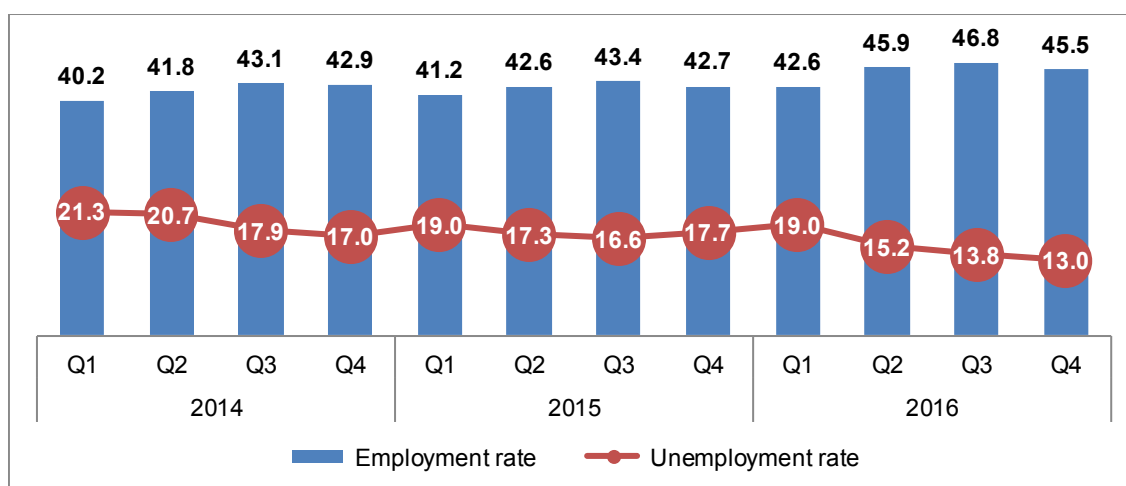
SERB047 RS10 280217

Labour Force Survey, IV 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 fourth quarter 2016, labour force survey was conducted on the sample of 15 037 households, whereof 12 068 households were interviewed, i.e. 29 205 persons aged 15 and over.

According to the Survey results, in the fourth quarter 2016 relative to the previous quarter, recorded were the decrease of employment (by 82 600) and decrease of unemployment (by 40 300), whereof total employment decrease was influenced by decreased informal employment (by 106 700), primarily in agriculture, due to decreased volume of seasonal works in the observed period of the year, while formal employment increased (by 24 200), first of all in manufacturing. Estimated number of formally employed persons reached to 2 160 700, while the number of informally employed was 570 700, out of which two thirds (374 900) were engaged in agriculture.

Result of such employment and unemployment trend is, on one hand, record low rate of unemployment (13.0%), and on the other hand, increased contingent of inactive population (by 114 000), involving, besides pensioners, pupils and students, also the inactive persons wanting and being able to start working even though not

actively seeking a job (therefore, such persons are not involved in unemployed), and their number is by 50 100 greater than in the previous quarter, amounting now to 378 500.

Relative to the fourth quarter 2015, volume of labour force contingent, encompassing employed and unemployed persons, has not significantly changed, but recorded was overflow from status of unemployed into the employed within the contingent. Number of unemployed was decreased by 144 900, and number of employed was increased by 150 600, denoting that informal employment was, mostly in agriculture, increased by 43 400, and formal employment, primarily in Manufacturing and Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles increased by 107 200. Such trend of formal employment is in accordance with the data on registered employment, also monitored and published by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

Positive trend of increased employment and decreased unemployment from the last quarter 2015 up to the last quarter 2016 also reflected on the population of young (aged 15-24). However, decreased unemployment rate of this population by 13.8 percentage points relative to the same period of the previous year is not only the result of decreased number of unemployed, but also the result of negative demographic trend, and consequently, more and more decreasing volume of the population aged 15-24.

Share of young population who neither work nor are in the system of education in total population aged 15-24 (so called NEET rate) has been also decreased compared to the same quarter 2015, amounting now to 16.5%. Regarding the population aged 15-29, such share amounts to 21.4%, meaning that more than a fifth of the young people of that age presents the unused resource, both from the aspect of labour and aspect of education.

Labour Force

Number of active population aged 15 and over amounted to 3 141 200 persons in the fourth quarter 2016, out of which 2 731 400 related to employed and 409 800 to unemployed ones. Activity rate was 52.3%, being by 2.0 p.p. lower relative to the previous quarter, and by 0.4 p.p. higher relative to the same quarter 2015.

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

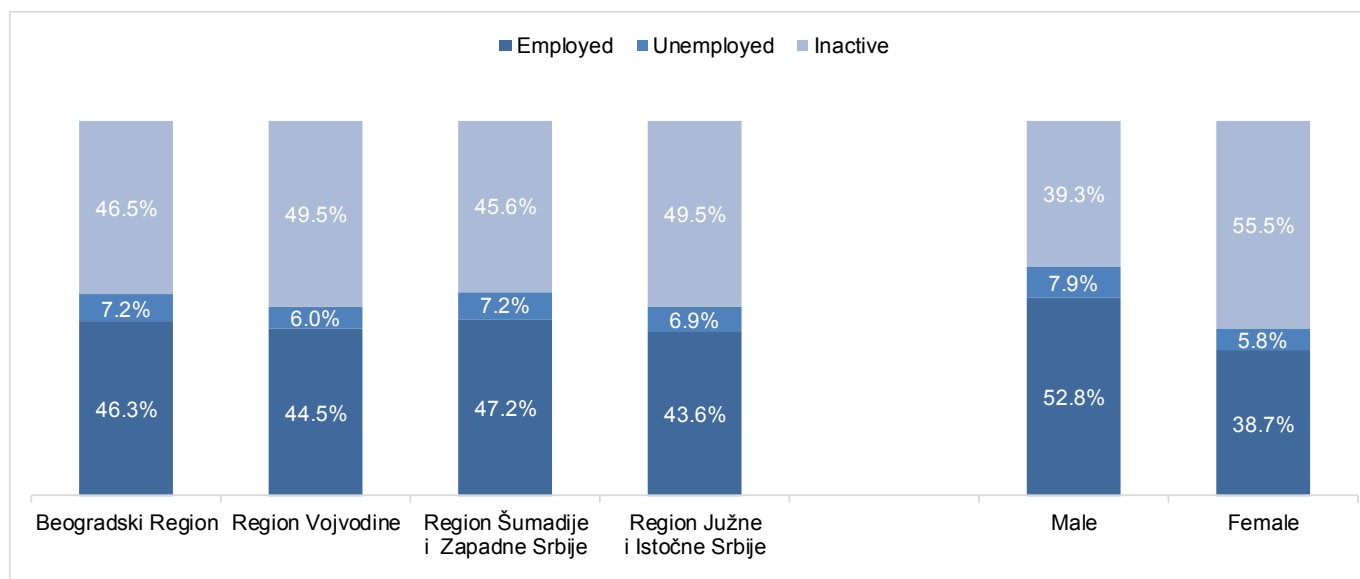
Activity rate (share of labour force) presents the percentage share of active population in total population aged 15 and over.

Compared with the previous quarter, number of active women decreased by 65 900, and number of active men by 57 000. In all regions, recorded was the decrease of activity. The greatest activity rate decrease was recorded in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (43 800), and in Region Vojvodine (41 500), while in Beogradski Region, the smallest activity decrease was noted (9 400).

Relative to the same quarter 2015, activity was increased regarding women (by 23 500) and regarding men, it decreased (by 17 800). Activity in the mentioned period increased in Beogradski Region (17 600), as well as in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (10 600), and it decreased in Region Vojvodine (19 800) and Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije (2 800).

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 (54.4% and 47.2%, respectively) and in Beogradski Region (53.5% and 46.3%, 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, Q4 2016



Unlike the regions, where no significant difference exists regarding the employment chances, distribution of male and female population by working status indicates significant gender inequality on labour market. Namely, while activity rate of males aged 15 and over amounted to 60.7%, regarding females, it amounted to only 44.5%. Employment rate of males is by even 14.1 p.p. higher than of females (Graph 2).

Employed population

Number of employed persons in the fourth quarter 2016 amounted to 2 731 400, presenting the decrease of 82 600 persons relative to previous quarter and increase of 150 600 persons relative to the fourth quarter 2015. Employment rate was 45.5%, being by 1.3 p.p. less than in previous quarter and by 2.8 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.

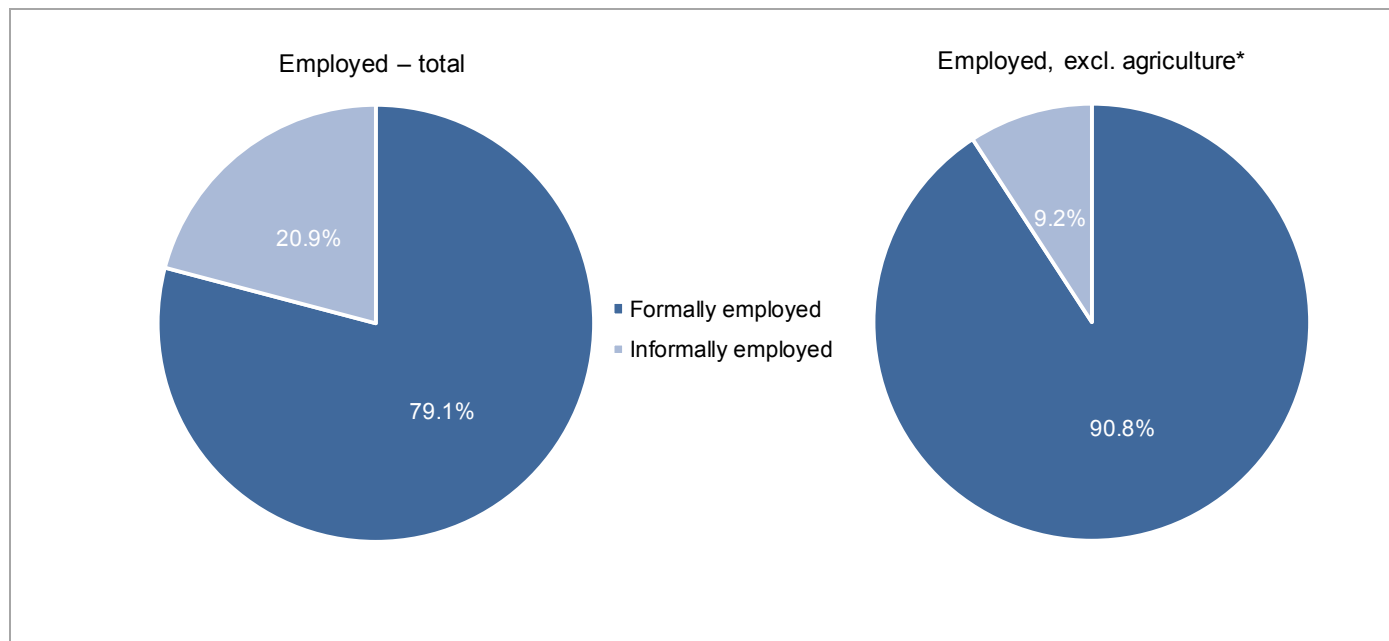
Employment rate is the share of employed in the total population aged 15 and over.

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 fourth quarter 2015 to the fourth quarter 2016), employment in formal sector increased by 107 200, and in informal sector by 43 400 persons, whereby, increase of informal employment was mostly recorded in agricultural activities*, where the number of employed increased by 30 800. Rate of informal employment in the fourth quarter 2016 amounted to 20.9% on the level of all activity sections (Graph 3). In non-agriculture, informal employment rate significantly decreased, amounting to 9.2%.

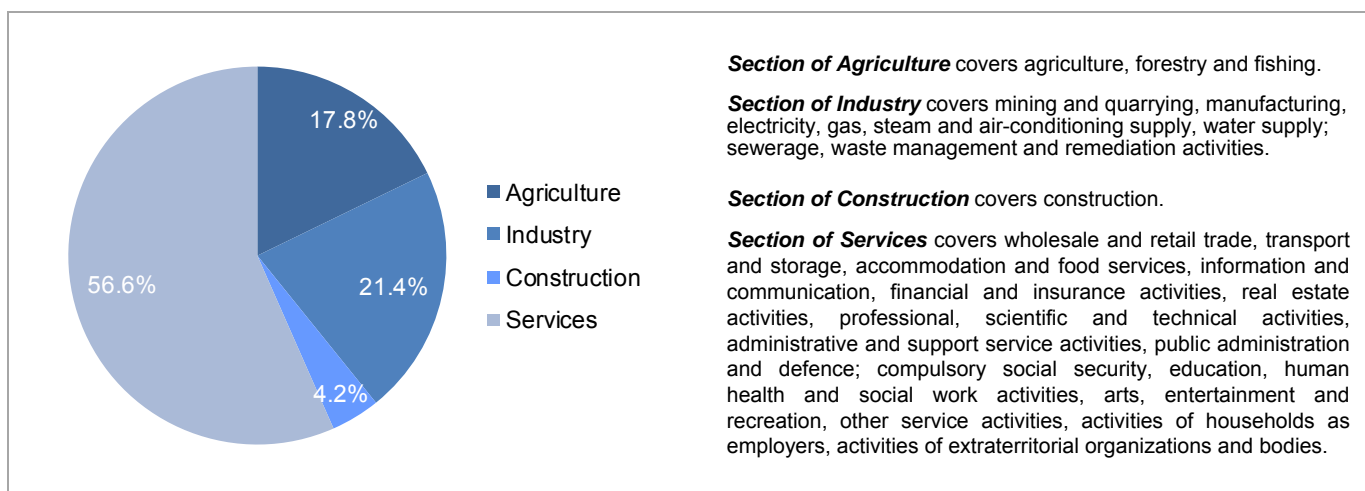
Graph 3 Share of formal/informal employment in total employment of population aged 15+, Q4 2016



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

Regarding the section division of employment, the prevailing are service activities (56.6%), while the share of industry in total employment is 21.4% (Graph 4).

Graph 4 Structure of employed by section of activity, 15+, Q4 2016

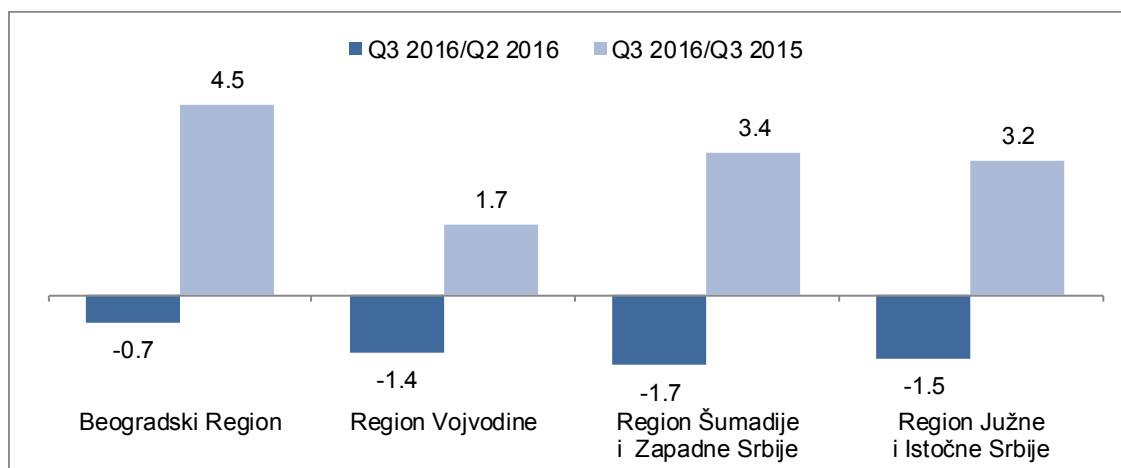


* Employment in agriculture comprises the whole section of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, as well as a part of the section Activities of households as employers referring to agriculture.

Employment rate is the greatest in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (47.2%), followed by Beogradski Region (46.3%) and Region Vojvodine (44.5%), while employment rate is the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (43.6%).

Relative to the previous quarter, recorded was the decrease of employment rate in all regions. The most significant decrease was recorded in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (1.7 p.p). Compared with the same quarter 2015, increased was the employment rate in all regions, and the greatest was in Beogradski Region (4.5 p.p.) (Graph 5).

Graph 5 Changes in employment rates (in percentage points), 15+, by regions, Q4 2016



Compared with the previous quarter, employment rate decrease was the lowest in Beogradski Region (0.7 p.p.), and relative to the same quarter 2015, it was the lowest in Region Vojvodine (1.7 p.p.).

Unemployed population

In the fourth quarter 2016, unemployment of persons aged 15 and over was 409 800, which is by 40 300 persons less than in the previous quarter and by 144 900 persons less than in the fourth quarter 2015. Unemployment noted more significant decrease regarding females than males, relative to the previous quarter, and relative to the same quarter of 2015, unemployment decrease was slightly greater regarding males.

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.

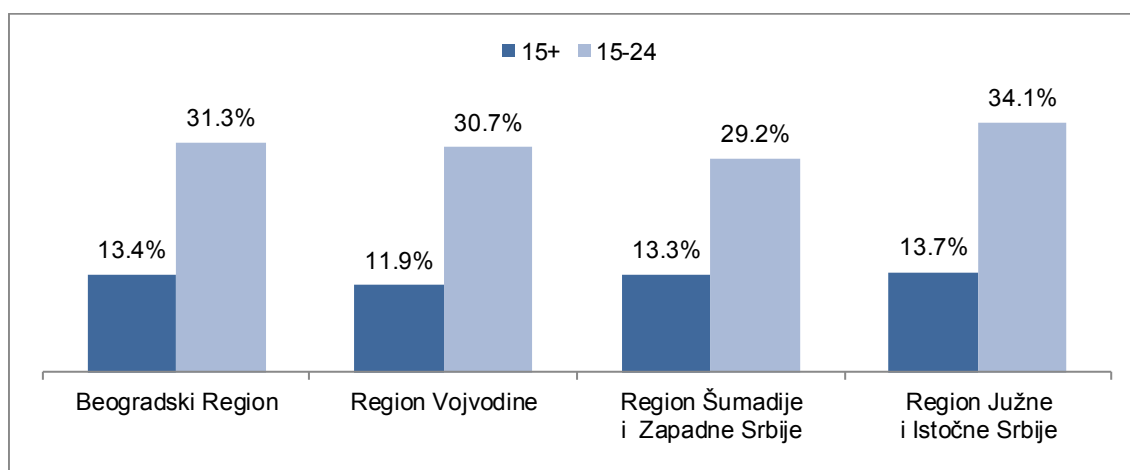
Unemployment rate presents the percentage share of unemployed population in labour force (employed and unemployed), aged 15 and over.

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 13.0% on the level of whole territory of Serbia, where the highest value was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (13.7%), and the lowest in Region Vojvodine (11.9%) (Graph 6).

Graph 6 Unemployment rates of persons aged 15+ and 15-24, by regions, Q4 2016



Unemployment rate of young population aged 15-24 was the highest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (34.1%), and the lowest in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (29.2%).

Compared with the previous quarter, decrease of unemployment was the most significant in Region Vojvodine (by 18 400 persons), while in Beogradski Region, the number of unemployed remained on the same level.

Long-term unemployment rate is 8.3%, being by 0.7 p.p. less relative to the previous quarter and by 4.3 p.p. less relative to same period 2015.

NEET rate was 16.5%, denoting decrease of 1.7 p.p. relative to the previous quarter, i.e. decrease of 3.3 p.p. relative to the same quarter 2015.

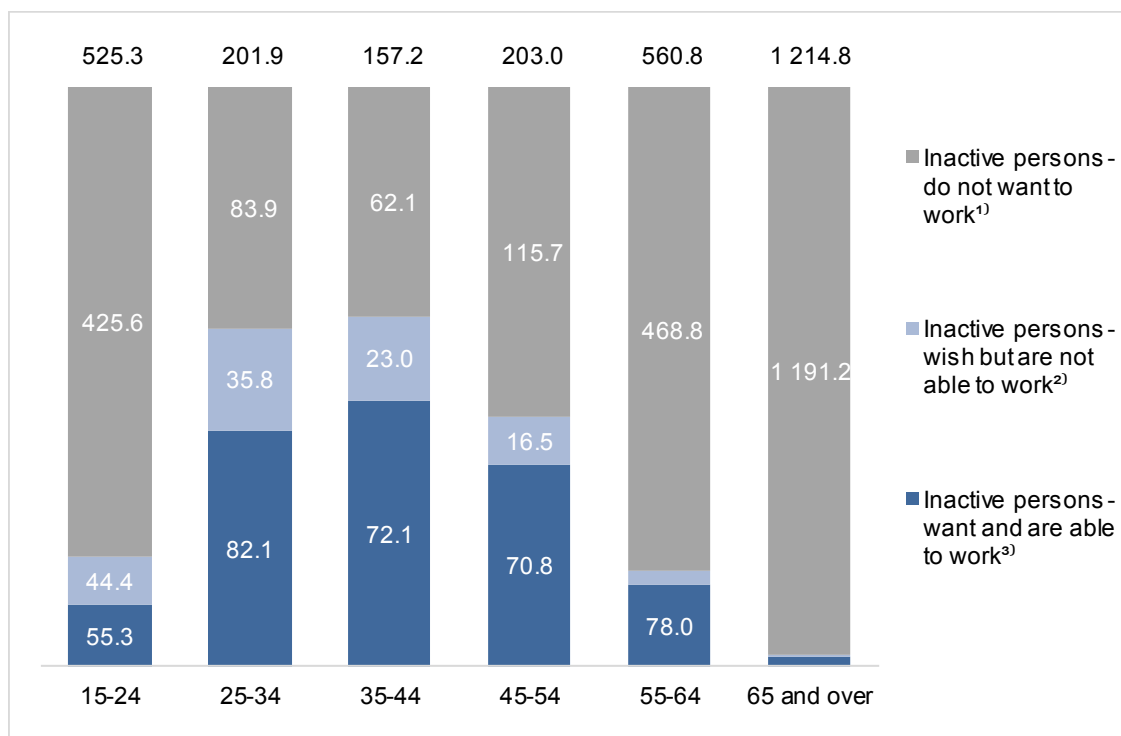
Inactive population

Number of inactive population in the fourth quarter 2016 amounted to 2 863 000, being by 114 000 more relative to the previous quarter and by 40 700 less compared to the fourth quarter 2015. Inactivity rate is 47.7%, i.e. by 2.0 p.p. more than in the previous quarter, simultaneously being significantly greater in female population (55.5%) than in male population (39.3%). Relative to the fourth quarter 2015, inactivity rate decreased by 0.4 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), Q4 2016



¹⁾ 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.

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

³⁾ 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.

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, Q4 2016

	Q4 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Total	6004.2	-8.9	-0.1	-35.1	-0.6
Active	3141.2	-122.9	-3.8	5.6	0.2
Employed	2731.4	-82.6	-2.9	150.6	5.8
Unemployed	409.8	-40.3	-9.0	-144.9	-26.1
Inactive	2863.0	114.0	4.1	-40.7	-1.4
Male	2895.7	-4.3	-0.1	-16.9	-0.6
Active	1757.6	-57.0	-3.1	-17.8	-1.0
Employed	1529.4	-55.8	-3.5	58.7	4.0
Unemployed	228.2	-1.2	-0.5	-76.5	-25.1
Inactive	1138.1	52.7	4.9	1.0	0.1
Female	3108.5	-4.6	-0.1	-18.2	-0.6
Active	1383.6	-65.9	-4.5	23.5	1.7
Employed	1202.0	-26.8	-2.2	91.9	8.3
Unemployed	181.6	-39.1	-17.7	-68.4	-27.4
Inactive	1724.9	61.3	3.7	-41.7	-2.4

Table 1a Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 and over, Q4 2016

	Q4 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2015
	(%)	p.p.	
Total			
Activity rate	52.3	-2.0	0.4
Employment rate	45.5	-1.3	2.8
Unemployment rate	13.0	-0.7	-4.6
Inactivity rate	47.7	2.0	-0.4
Male			
Activity rate	60.7	-1.9	-0.3
Employment rate	52.8	-1.8	2.3
Unemployment rate	13.0	0.3	-4.2
Inactivity rate	39.3	1.9	0.3
Female			
Activity rate	44.5	-2.1	1.0
Employment rate	38.7	-0.8	3.2
Unemployment rate	13.1	-2.1	-5.3
Inactivity rate	55.5	2.1	-1.0

Table 2 Main contingents of labour force by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q4 2016

	Q4 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Total	749.9	-4.6	-0.6	-18.6	-2.4
Active	224.6	-11.4	-4.8	-7.5	-3.2
Employed	154.6	-14.2	-8.4	26.9	21.0
Unemployed	70.0	2.8	4.1	-34.4	-32.9
Inactive	525.3	6.8	1.3	-11.1	-2.1
Male	385.9	-2.4	-0.6	-9.4	-2.4
Active	139.5	-9.5	-6.4	-4.7	-3.3
Employed	95.2	-16.4	-14.7	7.9	9.1
Unemployed	44.4	6.9	18.3	-12.7	-22.2
Inactive	246.3	7.2	3.0	-4.7	-1.9
Female	364.0	-2.2	-0.6	-9.2	-2.5
Active	85.0	-1.9	-2.2	-2.8	-3.2
Employed	59.4	2.2	3.9	18.9	46.7
Unemployed	25.6	-4.1	-13.8	-21.7	-45.9
Inactive	279.0	-0.4	-0.1	-6.4	-2.2

Table 2a Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q4 2016

	Q4 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2015
	(%)	p.p.	
Total			
Activity rate	29.9	-1.3	-0.3
Employment rate	20.6	-1.8	4.0
Unemployment rate	31.2	2.7	-13.8
Inactivity rate	70.1	1.3	0.3
Male			
Activity rate	36.2	-2.2	-0.3
Employment rate	24.7	-4.1	2.6
Unemployment rate	31.8	6.6	-7.7
Inactivity rate	63.8	2.2	0.3
Female			
Activity rate	23.4	-0.4	-0.2
Employment rate	16.3	0.7	5.5
Unemployment rate	30.1	-4.1	-23.8
Inactivity rate	76.6	0.4	0.2
NEETs (15-24)	16.5	-1.7	-3.3
Early school leaving (18-24) ¹⁾	6.1	-1.1	-0.4

¹⁾ 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, Q4 2016

	Q4 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Active - total	3141.2	-122.9	-3.8	5.6	0.2
Sex					
Male	1757.6	-57.0	-3.1	-17.8	-1.0
Female	1383.6	-65.9	-4.5	23.5	1.7
Region					
Beogradski Region	768.1	-9.4	-1.2	17.6	2.3
Region Vojvodine	812.5	-41.5	-4.9	-19.8	-2.4
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	909.6	-43.8	-4.6	10.6	1.2
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	651.0	-28.2	-4.1	-2.8	-0.4
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 4 Employed persons aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q4 2016

	Q4 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Employed - total	2731.4	-82.6	-2.9	150.6	5.8
Sex					
Male	1529.4	-55.8	-3.5	58.7	4.0
Female	1202.0	-26.8	-2.2	91.9	8.3
Region					
Beogradski Region	664.8	-9.4	-1.4	54.2	8.9
Region Vojvodine	715.6	-23.1	-3.1	15.4	2.2
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	788.9	-29.4	-3.6	50.2	6.8
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	562.1	-20.8	-3.6	30.8	5.8
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 5 Formally/Informally employed persons aged 15 and over, Q4 2016

	Q4 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Employed persons	2731.4	-82.6	-2.9	150.6	5.8
Formally employed	2160.7	24.2	1.1	107.2	5.2
- Formally employed, excl. agriculture ¹⁾	1931.5	30.3	1.6	94.0	5.1
- Formally employed in agriculture	229.2	-6.2	-2.6	13.2	6.1
Informally employed	570.7	-106.7	-15.8	43.4	8.2
- Informally employed, excl. agriculture	195.8	-37.0	-15.9	12.6	6.8
- Informally employed in agriculture	374.9	-69.8	-15.7	30.8	9.0
	%	(p.p.)			
Rate of informal employment (total)	20.9		-3.2		0.5
Rate of informal employment, excl. agriculture	9.2		-1.7		0.1

¹⁾ 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, Q4 2016

	Q4 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Unemployed - total	409.8	-40.3	-9.0	-144.9	-26.1
Sex					
Male	228.2	-1.2	-0.5	-76.5	-25.1
Female	181.6	-39.1	-17.7	-68.4	-27.4
Region					
Beogradski Region	103.3	0.0	0.0	-36.6	-26.1
Region Vojvodine	96.9	-18.4	-16.0	-35.2	-26.7
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	120.7	-14.4	-10.7	-39.5	-24.7
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	88.9	-7.4	-7.7	-33.6	-27.4
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...
	%	(p.p.)			
Long-term unemployment rate	8.3		-0.7		-4.3

Table 7 Inactive population aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q4 2016

	Q4 2016	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2015	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Inactive - total	2863.0	114.0	4.1	-40.7	-1.4
Sex					
Male	1138.1	52.7	4.9	1.0	0.1
Female	1724.9	61.3	3.7	-41.7	-2.4
Region					
Beogradski Region	666.6	9.5	1.5	-16.8	-2.5
Region Vojvodine	795.6	39.0	5.2	9.8	1.2
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	762.6	40.4	5.6	-24.0	-3.0
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	638.2	25.0	4.1	-9.7	-1.5
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 8 Main contingents of labour force by region and age groups, Q4 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)					
Population aged 15+	6004.2	1434.7	1608.1	1672.2	1289.2	...
Active	3141.2	768.1	812.5	909.6	651.0	...
Employed	2731.4	664.8	715.6	788.9	562.1	...
Unemployed	409.8	103.3	96.9	120.7	88.9	...
Inactive	2863.0	666.6	795.6	762.6	638.2	...
	%					
Activity rate	52.3	53.5	50.5	54.4	50.5	...
Employment rate	45.5	46.3	44.5	47.2	43.6	...
Unemployment rate	13.0	13.4	11.9	13.3	13.7	...
Inactivity rate	47.7	46.5	49.5	45.6	49.5	...
	(in thousand)					
Young population (15–24)	749.9	164.7	203.5	216.4	165.3	...
Active	224.6	43.0	68.5	63.4	49.7	...
Employed	154.6	29.5	47.4	44.9	32.8	...
Unemployed	70.0	13.5	21.0	18.5	17.0	...
Inactive	525.3	121.7	135	153	115.6	...
	%					
Activity rate	29.9	26.1	33.7	29.3	30.1	...
Employment rate	20.6	17.9	23.3	20.7	19.8	...
Unemployment rate	31.2	31.3	30.7	29.2	34.1	...
Inactivity rate	70.1	73.9	66.3	70.7	69.9	...
	(in thousand)					
Working – age population (15–64)	4652.6	1126.0	1263.0	1290.9	972.7	...
Active	3004.3	755.0	795.5	844.7	609.1	...
Employed	2595.0	651.9	698.6	724.0	520.6	...
Unemployed	409.3	103.2	96.9	120.7	88.5	...
Inactive	1648.2	371	467.5	446.2	363.6	...
	%					
Activity rate	64.6	67.1	63.0	65.4	62.6	...
Employment rate	55.8	57.9	55.3	56.1	53.5	...
Unemployment rate	13.6	13.7	12.2	14.3	14.5	...
Inactivity rate	35.4	32.9	37.0	34.6	37.4	...

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).