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Labour Force Survey

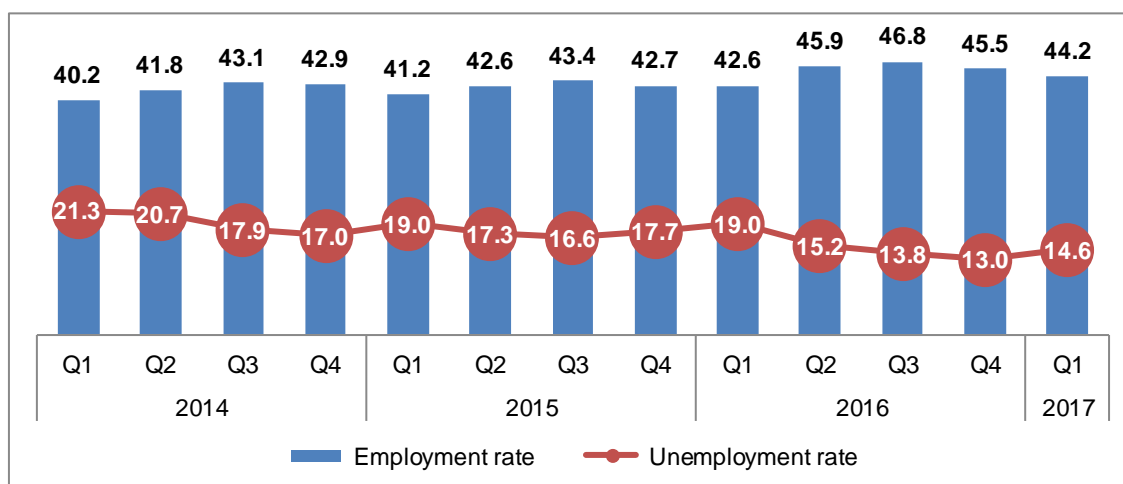
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Labour Force Survey, I quarter 2017

– 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+, 2014-2017



In the first quarter 2017, labour force survey was conducted on the sample of 14 857 households, whereof 11 915 households were interviewed, i.e. 28 730 persons aged 15 and over.

According to the Survey results, in the first quarter 2017 relative to the previous quarter, recorded was the decrease of employed persons (by 79 200), while number of unemployed increased by 43 000. Employment was more significantly decreased in informal area (by 66 600 persons), primarily in agriculture, due to decreased volume of seasonal works in the observed period of the year. Decrease of employment negatively affected both unemployment and inactivity. Persons that in the period from IV quarter 2016 up to I quarter 2017 lost jobs partly moved to the contingent of unemployed population and partly to inactive, thus causing increased unemployment rate by 1.5 percentage points and inactivity rate by 0.5 percentage points.

Compared with the first quarter of the previous year, unemployment was significantly decreased: number of unemployed persons decreased by 149 300, thus significantly decreasing the unemployment rate by 4.4 percentage points. Formal employment increased by 99 400, primarily in the activity of Manufacturing and Accommodation and food service activities, which is in accordance with the data on registered employment that the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia also monitors and publishes. In the same period, informal employment in Agriculture was decreased, resulting in decreased informal employment rate by 1.3 percentage points.

A half of “newly employed persons” in the period I quarter 2016 – I quarter 2017 related to persons aged over 55. Unemployment was the most significantly decreased in the age group 25-44, by 82 600 persons, whereof most of them changed the unemployment status to inactive and not to employed.

Observed by regions, increase of employment and decrease of unemployment during the previous year (I quarter 2016 – I quarter 2017) almost completely referred to Beogradski region and Region Vojvodine, while in Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije, noted was the increase of population inactivity.

Positive trend of increased employment and decreased unemployment from I quarter 2016 to I quarter 2017 also reflected to the young population (aged 15-24). However, decreased unemployment rate in this age group by 7.1 percentage points, relative to the same period of the previous year is not only the result of the decreased number of unemployed, but also the result of negative demographic trend, and, consequently, more and more decreasing volume of 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 increased by 2.2 percentage points relative to the previous quarter, amounting now to 18.7%. Regarding the population aged 15-29, such share amounts to 24.2%, meaning that almost a quarter 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 3 105 000 persons in the first quarter 2017, out of which 2 652 200 related to employed and 452 800 to unemployed ones. Activity rate was 51.8%, being by 0.5 p.p. lower relative to the previous quarter, and by 0.8 p.p. lower relative to the same quarter 2016.

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

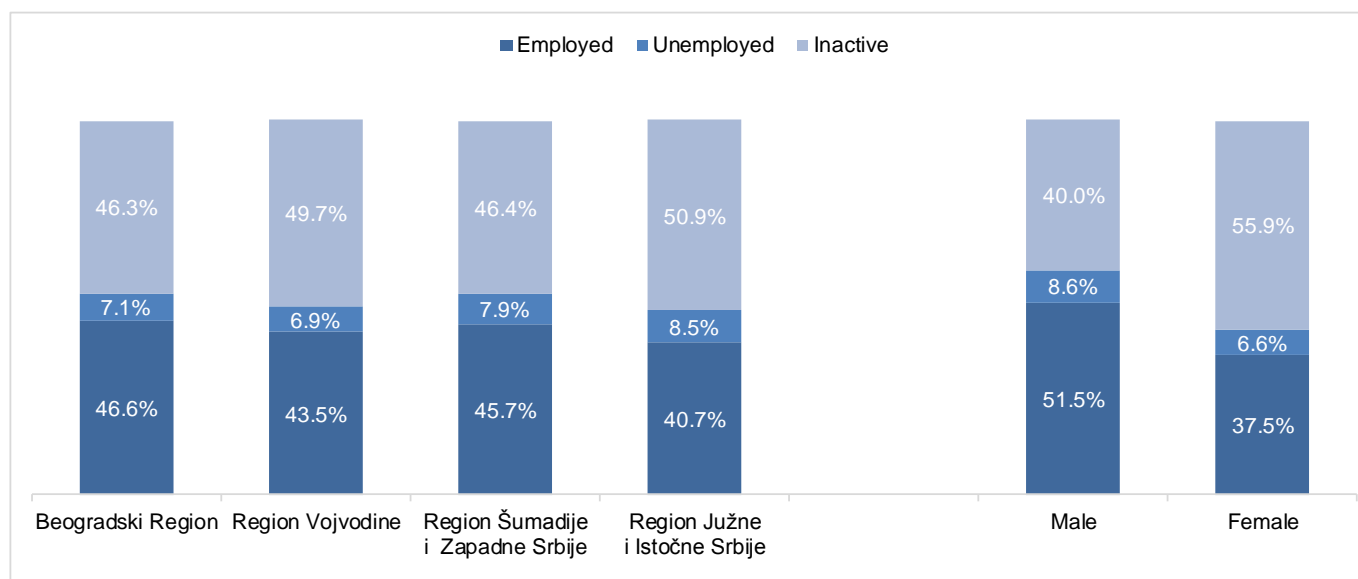
Activity rate (share of labour force) presents the percentage share of active population in total population aged 15 and over.

Compared with the previous quarter, number of active women decreased by 14 500, and number of active men by 21 700. In all regions, excluding Beogradski region, recorded was the decrease of activity. The greatest activity rate decrease was recorded in Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije (19 000) and in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (14 900).

Relative to the same quarter 2016, number of active women was decreased by 25 600, and number of active men by 42 300. Activity in the mentioned period was decreased in all regions, and the greatest decrease was recorded in Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije (30 800).

In the structure of population by employment status, regions have different distribution. Rates of activity and employment are the greatest in Beogradski Region (53.7% and 46.6%, respectively), and in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (53.6% and 45.7%, 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, Q1 2017



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 60.0%, regarding females, it amounted to only 44.1%. Employment rate of males is by even 14.0 p.p. higher than of females (Graph 2).

Employed population

Number of employed persons in the first quarter 2017 amounted to 2 652 200, presenting the decrease of 79 200 persons relative to previous quarter and increase of 81 500 persons relative to the first quarter 2016. Employment rate was 44.2%, being by 1.3 p.p. less than in previous quarter and by 1.6 p.p. more than in the same quarter 2016.

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 percentage 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 contributing family workers of the household.

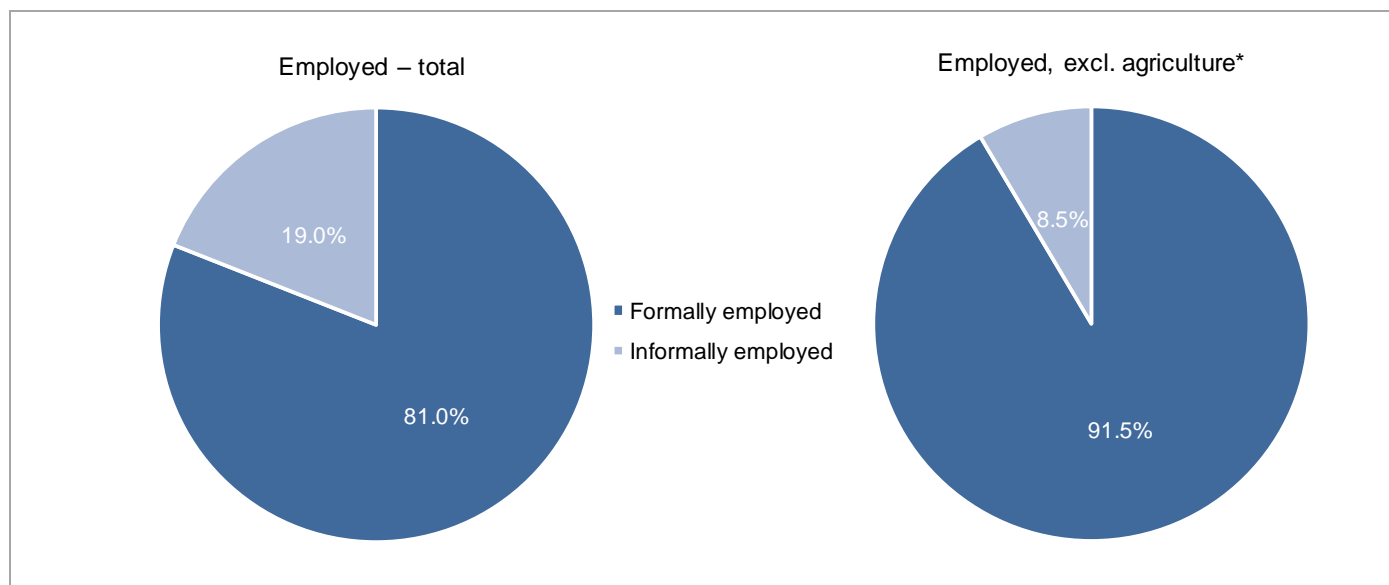
Informal employment rate is the percentage share of informally employed in total employment.

During 2016 (from the first quarter 2016 to the first quarter 2017), employment in formal sector increased by 99 400, and in informal sector recorded was the decrease of 17 900 persons.

Rate of informal employment in the first quarter 2017 amounted to 19.0% on the level of all activity sections (Graph 3).

In non-agriculture, informal employment rate significantly decreased, amounting to 8.5%.

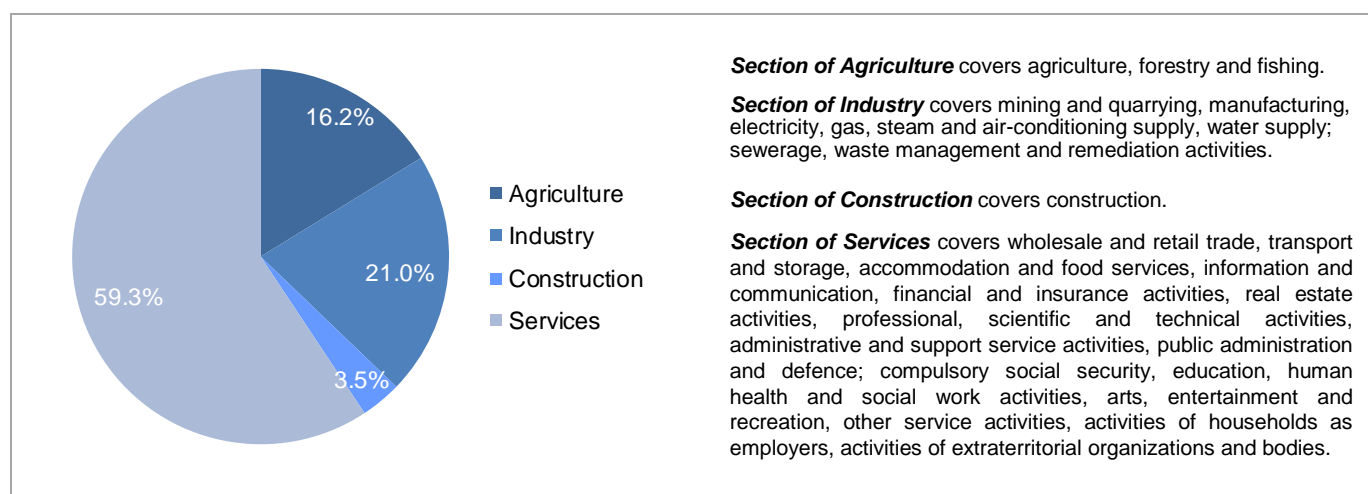
Graph 3 Share of formal/informal employment in total employment of population aged 15+, Q1 2017



Informal employment rate excluding agriculture* presents the percentage 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 (59.3%), followed by industry, with the share of 21% in total employment (Graph 4).

Graph 4 Structure of employed by section of activity, 15+, Q1 2017



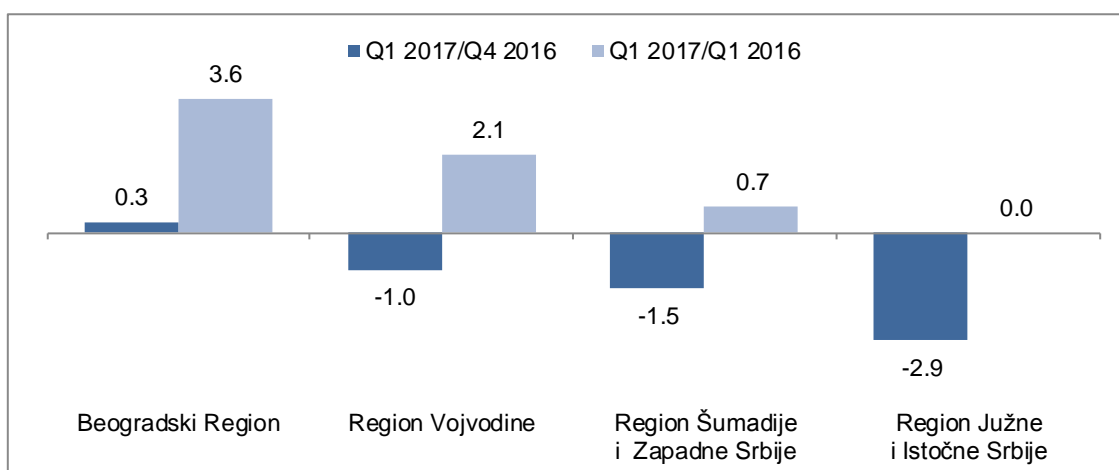
Employment rate is the greatest in Beogradski Region (46.6%), followed by Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (45.7%), Region Vojvodine (43.5%), while employment rate is the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (40.7%).

Relative to the previous quarter, recorded was the decrease of employment rate in all regions excluding Beogradski Region, where insignificant increase was noted (0.3 p.p.). The most significant decrease of employment rate was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (2.9 p. p.).

Compared with the same quarter 2016, increased was the employment rate in all regions excluding Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, where employment rate remained on the same level as it was last year. The greatest increase of employment rate was recorded in Beogradski Region (3.6 p.p.) (Graph 5).

*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.

Graph 5 Changes in employment rates (in percentage points), 15+, by regions, Q1 2017



Unemployed population

In the first quarter 2017, unemployment of persons aged 15 and over was 452 800, which is by 43 000 persons more than in the previous quarter and by 149 300 persons less than in the first quarter 2016.

Unemployment noted increase both regarding females and males, relative to the previous quarter.

Relative to the same quarter of 2016, unemployment decrease was recorded regarding both genders, being slightly greater in males population (by 12 500 persons).

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.

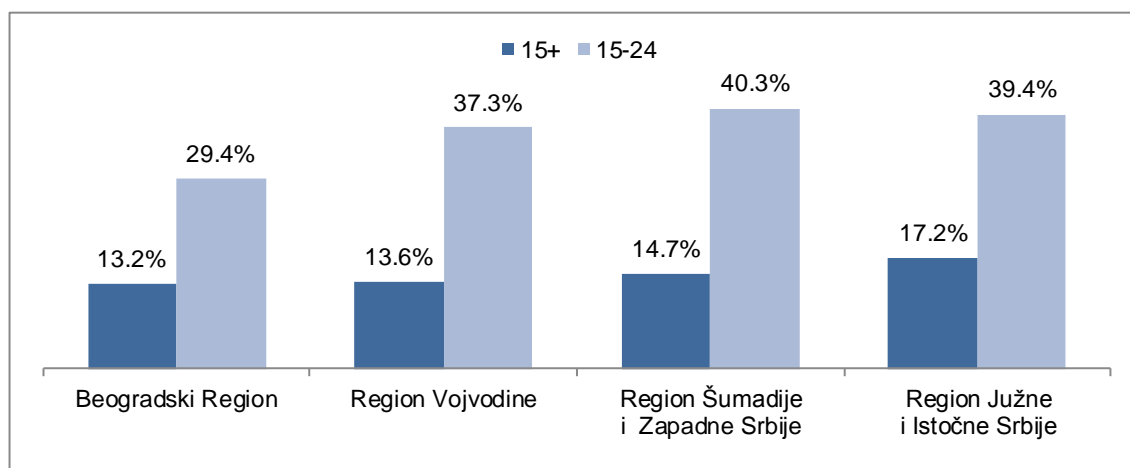
Unemployment rate presents the percentage share of unemployed population in labour force (employed and unemployed), aged 15 and over.

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 14.6% on the level of whole territory of Serbia, where the highest value was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (17.2%), and the lowest in Beogradski Region (13.2%) (Graph 6).

Graph 6 Unemployment rates of persons aged 15+ and 15-24, by regions, Q1 2017



Unemployment rate of young population aged 15-24 was the highest in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (40.3%), and the lowest in Beogradski Region (29.4%).

Compared with the previous quarter, increase of unemployment was noted in all regions excluding Beogradski Region, where slight decrease of unemployment was recorded (by 1 400). The most significant increase of unemployment was in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (by 19 900 persons).

Compared to the same quarter 2016, unemployment was decreased in all regions, whereof the most significantly in Beogradski Region (by 57 400 persons).

Long-term unemployment rate is 8.8%, being by 0.5 p.p. more relative to the previous quarter and by 3.4 p.p. less relative to the same quarter 2016.

NEET rate was 18.7%, denoting increase of 2.2 p.p. relative to the previous quarter, i.e. decrease of 0.3 p.p. relative to the same quarter 2016.

Inactive population

Number of inactive population in the first quarter 2017 amounted to 2 890 200, being by 27 200 more relative to the previous quarter and by 32 000 more compared to the first quarter 2016.

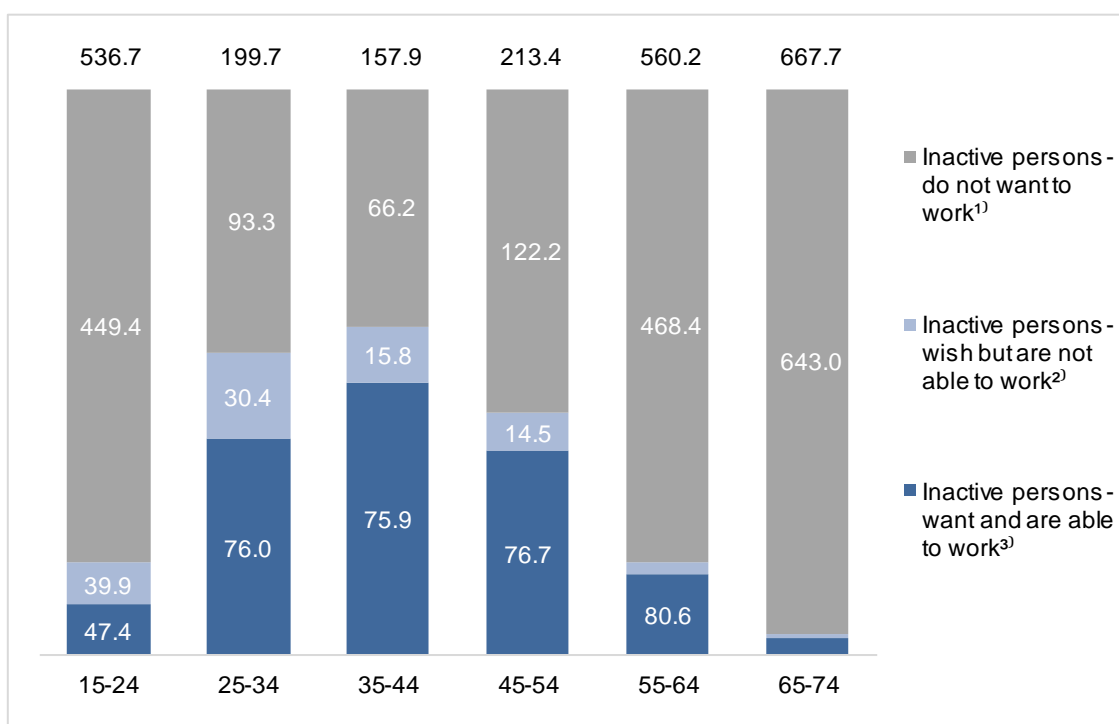
Inactivity rate is 48.2%, i.e. by 0.5 p.p. more than in the previous quarter, being significantly greater in female population (55.9%) than in male population (40.0%).

Relative to the first quarter 2016, inactivity rate increased by 0.8 p.p.

Inactive population includes all persons aged 15 and over who are not classified in employed and unemployed population. Inactive population 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 - 74, by employment opportunities and age groups (in thousands), Q1 2017



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, Q1 2017

	Q1 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Total	5995.3	-9.0	-0.1	-35.8	-0.6
Active	3105.0	-36.2	-1.2	-67.8	-2.1
Employed	2652.2	-79.2	-2.9	81.5	3.2
Unemployed	452.8	43.0	10.5	-149.3	-24.8
Inactive	2890.2	27.2	1.0	32.0	1.1
Male	2891.4	-4.3	-0.1	-17.3	-0.6
Active	1735.9	-21.7	-1.2	-42.3	-2.4
Employed	1488.0	-41.4	-2.7	38.7	2.7
Unemployed	247.9	19.7	8.6	-80.9	-24.6
Inactive	1155.5	17.3	1.5	25.0	2.2
Female	3103.9	-4.6	-0.1	-18.5	-0.6
Active	1369.1	-14.5	-1.1	-25.6	-1.8
Employed	1164.2	-37.8	-3.1	42.8	3.8
Unemployed	204.9	23.3	12.8	-68.4	-25.0
Inactive	1734.8	9.9	0.6	7.1	0.4

Table 1a Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 and over, Q1 2017

	Q1 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2016
	(%)	p.p.	
Total			
Activity rate	51.8	-0.5	-0.8
Employment rate	44.2	-1.3	1.6
Unemployment rate	14.6	1.5	-4.4
Inactivity rate	48.2	0.5	0.8
Male			
Activity rate	60.0	-0.7	-1.1
Employment rate	51.5	-1.4	1.6
Unemployment rate	14.3	1.3	-4.2
Inactivity rate	40.0	0.7	1.1
Female			
Activity rate	44.1	-0.4	-0.6
Employment rate	37.5	-1.2	1.6
Unemployment rate	15.0	1.8	-4.6
Inactivity rate	55.9	0.4	0.6

Table 2 Main contingents of labour force by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q1 2017

	Q1 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Total	745.3	-4.6	-0.6	-18.5	-2.4
Active	208.6	-16.0	-7.1	-13.8	-6.2
Employed	131.2	-23.4	-15.2	7.1	5.7
Unemployed	77.4	7.4	10.6	-20.9	-21.3
Inactive	536.7	11.4	2.2	-4.7	-0.9
Male	383.5	-2.4	-0.6	-9.5	-2.4
Active	127.5	-12.1	-8.6	-11.7	-8.4
Employed	82.3	-12.9	-13.6	0.1	0.1
Unemployed	45.2	0.8	1.9	-11.7	-20.6
Inactive	256.0	9.7	3.9	2.2	0.8
Female	361.8	-2.3	-0.6	-9.0	-2.4
Active	81.1	-4.0	-4.6	-2.1	-2.6
Employed	48.9	-10.6	-17.7	7.1	16.9
Unemployed	32.2	6.6	25.8	-9.2	-22.2
Inactive	280.7	1.7	0.6	-6.9	-2.4

Table 2a Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q1 2017

	Q1 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2016
	(%)	p.p.	
Total			
Activity rate	28.0	-2.0	-1.1
Employment rate	17.6	-3.0	1.4
Unemployment rate	37.1	6.0	-7.1
Inactivity rate	72.0	2.0	1.1
Male			
Activity rate	33.2	-2.9	-2.2
Employment rate	21.5	-3.2	0.5
Unemployment rate	35.5	3.7	-5.5
Inactivity rate	66.8	2.9	2.2
Female			
Activity rate	22.4	-0.9	0.0
Employment rate	13.5	-2.8	2.2
Unemployment rate	39.7	9.6	-10.0
Inactivity rate	77.6	0.9	0.0
NEETs (15-24)	18.7	2.2	-0.3
Early school leavers (18-24) ¹⁾	6.2	0.1	-0.4

¹⁾ The indicator consist of persons aged 18-24 whose highest level of completed education is primary education or less 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, Q1 2017

	Q1 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Active – total	3105.0	-36.2	-1.2	-67.9	-2.1
Sex					
Male	1735.9	-21.7	-1.2	-42.3	-2.4
Female	1369.1	-14.5	-1.1	-25.6	-1.8
Region					
Beogradski Region	770.1	2.0	0.3	-6.4	-0.8
Region Vojvodine	808.3	-4.3	-0.5	-18.6	-2.2
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	894.7	-14.9	-1.6	-11.9	-1.3
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	632.0	-19.0	-2.9	-30.8	-4.6
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 4 Employed persons aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q1 2017

	Q1 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Employed - total	2652.2	-79.2	-2.9	81.5	3.2
Sex					
Male	1488.0	-41.4	-2.7	38.7	2.7
Female	1164.2	-37.8	-3.1	42.8	3.8
Region					
Beogradski Region	668.1	3.4	0.5	51.0	8.3
Region Vojvodine	698.1	-17.5	-2.4	29.9	4.5
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	762.8	-26.1	-3.3	6.3	0.8
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	523.1	-38.9	-6.9	-5.7	-1.1
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 5 Formally/Informally employed persons aged 15 and over, Q1 2017

	Q1 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Employed persons	2652.2	-79.2	-2.9	81.5	3.2
Formally employed	2148.1	-12.6	-0.6	99.4	4.9
- Formally employed, excl. agriculture ¹⁾	1919.7	-11.8	-0.6	89.7	4.9
- Formally employed in agriculture	228.4	-0.8	-0.4	9.7	4.4
Informally employed	504.1	-66.6	-11.7	-17.9	-3.4
- Informally employed, excl. agriculture	178.9	-16.9	-8.6	7.8	4.6
- Informally employed in agriculture	325.2	-49.6	-13.2	-25.7	-7.3
	%	(p.p.)			
Rate of informal employment (total)	19.0		-1.9		-1.3
Rate of informal employment, excl. agriculture	8.5		-0.7		0.0

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, Q1 2017

	Q1 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Unemployed - total	452.8	43.0	10.5	-149.3	-24.8
Sex					
Male	247.9	19.7	8.6	-80.9	-24.6
Female	204.9	23.3	12.8	-68.4	-25.0
Region					
Beogradski Region	101.9	-1.4	-1.3	-57.4	-36.0
Region Vojvodine	110.1	13.2	13.7	-48.5	-30.6
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	131.9	11.2	9.3	-18.2	-12.1
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	108.8	19.9	22.4	-25.2	-18.8
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...
	%	(p.p.)			
Long-term unemployment rate	8.8		0.5		-3.4

Table 7 Inactive population aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q1 2017

	Q1 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Inactive - total	2890.2	27.2	1.0	32.0	1.1
Sex					
Male	1155.5	17.3	1.5	25.0	2.2
Female	1734.8	9.9	0.6	7.1	0.4
Region					
Beogradski Region	664.8	-1.8	-0.3	7.0	1.1
Region Vojvodine	797.3	1.8	0.2	8.6	1.1
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	774.1	11.5	1.5	-1.7	-0.2
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	654.0	15.8	2.5	18.1	2.8
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 8 Main contingents of labour force by region and age groups, Q1 2017

	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+	5995.3	1434.8	1605.6	1668.8	1286.0	...
Active	3105.0	770.1	808.3	894.7	632.0	...
Employed	2652.2	668.1	698.1	762.8	523.1	...
Unemployed	452.8	101.9	110.1	131.9	108.8	...
Inactive	2890.2	664.8	797.3	774.1	654.0	...
	%					
Activity rate	51.8	53.7	50.3	53.6	49.1	...
Employment rate	44.2	46.6	43.5	45.7	40.7	...
Unemployment rate	14.6	13.2	13.6	14.7	17.2	...
Inactivity rate	48.2	46.3	49.7	46.4	50.9	...
	(in thousand)					
Young population (15–24)	745.3	163.8	202.1	215.0	164.3	...
Active	208.6	39.9	62.8	61.7	44.1	...
Employed	131.2	28.2	39.4	36.9	26.7	...
Unemployed	77.4	11.7	23.4	24.9	17.4	...
Inactive	536.7	123.9	139.3	153.3	120.2	...
	%					
Activity rate	28.0	24.3	31.1	28.7	26.8	...
Employment rate	17.6	17.2	19.5	17.2	16.2	...
Unemployment rate	37.1	29.4	37.3	40.3	39.4	...
Inactivity rate	72.0	75.7	68.9	71.3	73.2	...
	(in thousand)					
Working – age population (15–64)	4636.3	1123.8	1258.7	1285.5	968.3	...
Active	2968.4	751.4	789.3	831.7	596.0	...
Employed	2517.0	650.2	679.3	700.4	487.1	...
Unemployed	451.4	101.3	110.0	131.3	108.8	...
Inactive	1667.9	372.4	469.4	453.8	372.3	...
	%					
Activity rate	64.0	66.9	62.7	64.7	61.6	...
Employment rate	54.3	57.9	54.0	54.5	50.3	...
Unemployment rate	15.2	13.5	13.9	15.8	18.3	...
Inactivity rate	36.0	33.1	37.3	35.3	38.4	...

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).