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Labour Force Survey

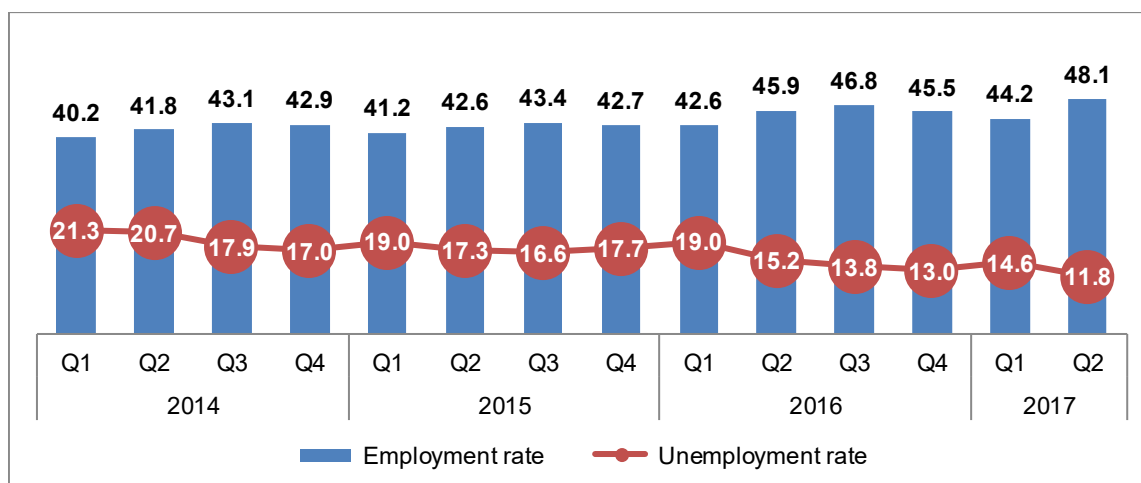
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Labour Force Survey, II quarter 2017

– 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 second quarter 2017, labour force survey was conducted on the sample of 14 769 households, whereof 11 493 households were interviewed, i.e. 27 593 persons aged 15 and over.

In the second quarter 2017, recorded was the greatest number of employed, 2 881 000 and the smallest number of unemployed, 384 100, observing the period 2014-2017, for which the comparable data series are available regarding the Labour force survey; therefore, activity and employment rates are the highest, amounting to 54.5% and 48.1%, respectively, and the unemployment rate is the lowest (11.8%) in the mentioned period.

In the second quarter 2017 relative to the previous quarter, recorded was the significant decrease of the contingent of inactive (by 167 000) and unemployed population (by 68 800), while number of employed increased by 228 800, whereof by 95 000 persons in formal area and by 133 800 in informal area. More than a half of new employed was engaged in agriculture activities¹. Employment was increased exclusively regarding persons with primary and secondary education completed, while number of employed with tertiary education was even decreased.

¹ Agricultural activities cover the section of Agriculture, forestry and fishing, as well as a part of the section of Activities of households as employers, referring to tasks in agriculture.

Compared with the second quarter of the previous year, contingent of active population did not significantly changed, but within the contingent, noted was the decreased unemployment by 111 400 and increased employment by 119 400, primarily in formal area, in the activity of Manufacturing, which is in accordance with the data on registered employment provided by Central register of compulsory social insurance (CRCSI). Informal employment did not significantly changed relative to the same period of the previous year.

A half of new employed persons in the period II quarter 2016 – II quarter 2017 related to persons aged over 55. Unemployment was the most significantly decreased in the age group 35-54, by 57 500 persons, resulting in the increase of employment in the referent age group.

In the same period (II quarter 2016 – II quarter 2017), unemployment rate in the group of the youngest working age population (aged 15 – 24) was decreased by 7.3 percentage point (p.p.) not as the consequence of the increased employment, but due to decreased total population of this age, causing the decreased number of unemployed. Share of the young population who neither work nor are in the system of education in total population aged 15-24 (so called NEET rate) is lower by 1.9 percentage points relative to the same period last year, amounting now to 15.3%.

While the Survey records the significant increase of employment both relative to the previous quarter (by 228 000 persons) and relative to the same quarter last year (by 119 400 persons), the Central register of compulsory social insurance (CRCSI) shows more moderate increase of employment in the referent period. The difference is caused, apart from other reasons¹, by the definition of formal employment which in the Survey relates to existence of written or oral working contract between the employee and the employer, but not to realization of employee's right to health insurance. According to "strict" definition of formal employment in the Survey, which besides the working contract implies also compulsory health insurance of employee, thus better corresponding with the definition of registered employment from CRCSI, number of formally employed in the second quarter 2017 amounted to 2 023 400, which is by 219 600 less than the number of formally employed persons, regularly published on the basis of the Survey.

While the Survey on registered employment records relatively stable increase of registered number of vacancies, the Labour Force Survey records every form of employment, both formal and informal, regardless of the quality or constancy of those "jobs". The latest LFS data confirm the increasing trend of unstable, low-productive and not quality employment:

1. Out of total increased employment (by 228 000) relative to the first quarter 2017, 122 000 of new employed persons were engaged in agricultural activities;
2. Compared to the first quarter, a half of new employed related to those older than 55;
3. Almost a quarter of the employed (22.1%) refers to informal employment;
4. Number of employed persons performing jobs for definite time period, seasonal or occasional jobs is increased by 56 700 relative to the previous quarter, reaching now the share of 22.7% in total number of employed;
5. Apart from 637 900 of informally employed, another 219 600 of formally employed do not exercise the right to health insurance. Together, they make 37% of total number of employed;
6. Almost a fourth part of employment (23.4%) relates to employment in agricultural activities.

Considering all of the before mentioned, it can be concluded that it is necessary to wait until the end of the agricultural works' season so as to realize to which extent the trend of decreased unemployment, i.e. increased employment, recorded in the second quarter, will be stable.

¹ The Survey on registered employment, unlike the Labour Force Survey, does not cover the agricultural farmers older than 65, as well as the pensioners who work additionally under the contract (as their main status in CRCSI is pensioners, and in the LFS, it is the formally employed person). Additionally, the Survey on registered employment encompass those who are registered as employed in CRCSI on the last day in a month, when the cross-section is observed in CRCSI, while in LFS, which is conducted continuously, covered are also the persons who were employed on short-term basis, anytime during a week / month/ quarter.

Labour Force

Number of active population aged 15 and over amounted to 3 265 000 persons in the second quarter 2017, out of which 2 881 000 related to employed and 384 100 to unemployed ones. Activity rate was 54.5%, being by 2.7 p.p. higher relative to the previous quarter, and by 0.4 p.p. higher relative to the same quarter 2016.

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

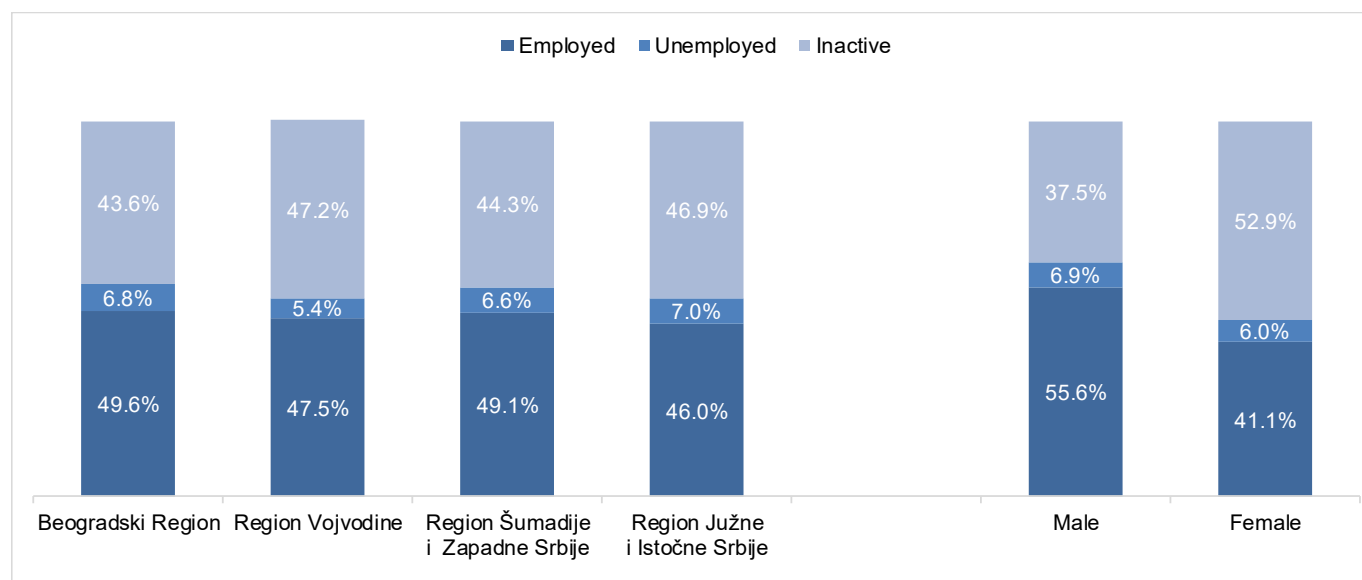
Activity rate (share of labour force) presents the percentage share of active population in total population aged 15 and over.

Compared with the previous quarter, number of active women increased by 90 600, and number of active men by 69 400. Activity was increased in all regions. The greatest activity rate increase was recorded in Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije (by 49 100).

Relative to the same quarter 2016, number of active women was increased by 24 700, and number of active men was decreased by 16 700. Activity in the mentioned period was insignificantly decreased in all regions, excluding Beogradski Region, where the increase was recorded (17 300).

In the structure of population by employment status, regions have similar distribution. Rates of activity and employment are somewhat greater in Beogradski Region (56.4% and 49.6%, respectively), and in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (55.7% and 49.1%, respectively), while the rates in Region Vojvodine (52.8% and 47.5%) and Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije (53.1% and 46.0%, respectively) were lower. 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, Q2 2017



Gender inequality on labour market is still present. Namely, while activity rate of males aged 15 and over amounted to 62.5%, regarding females, it amounted to only 47.1%. Employment rate of males is by even 14.5 p.p. higher than of females (Graph 2).

Employed population

Number of employed persons in the second quarter 2017 amounted to 2 881 000, presenting the increase of 228 800 persons relative to previous quarter and increase of 119 400 persons relative to the second quarter 2016. Employment rate was 48.1%, being by 3.9 p.p. more than in the previous quarter and by 2.3 p.p. more than in the same quarter 2016.

Employed persons are persons who performed a paid job (in money or in kind) for at least one hour in the reference week, as well as persons who had an employment, but were absent from work in that 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.

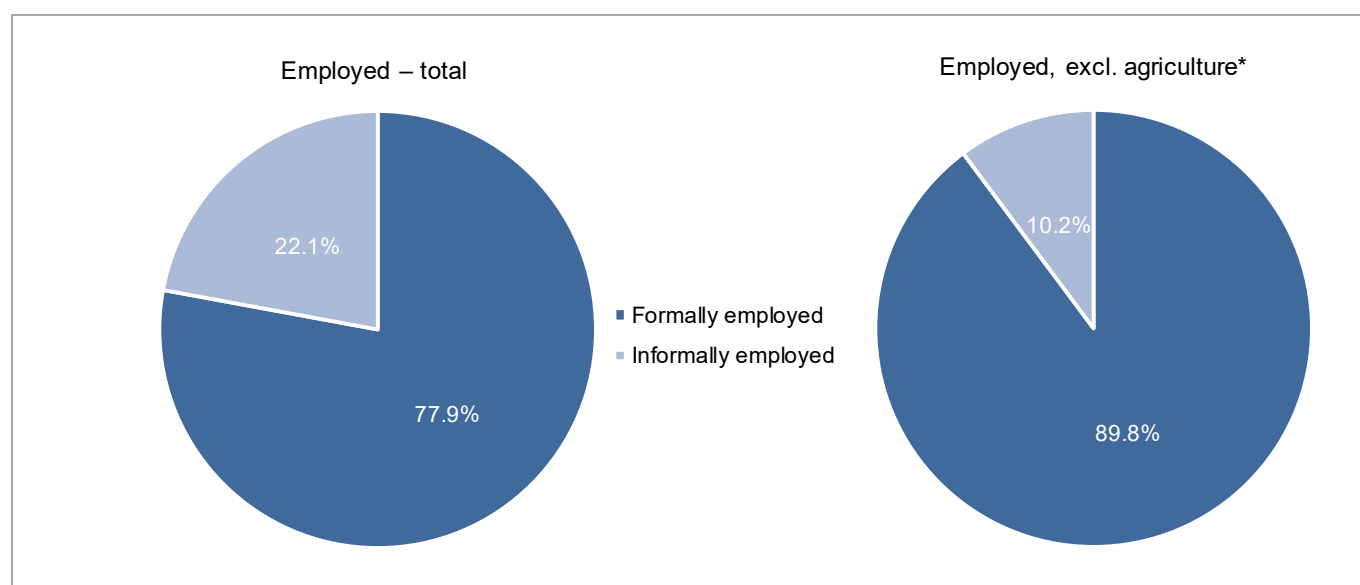
Informal employment rate is the percentage share of informally employed in total employment.

During 2016 (from the second quarter 2016 to the second quarter 2017), employment in formal sector increased by 108 100, and in informal sector recorded was the increase of 11 300 persons.

Rate of informal employment in the second quarter 2017 amounted to 22.1% on the level of all activity sections (Graph 3).

In non-agriculture, informal employment rate significantly decreased, amounting to 10.2%.

Graph 3 Share of formal/informal employment in total employment of population aged 15+, Q2 2017

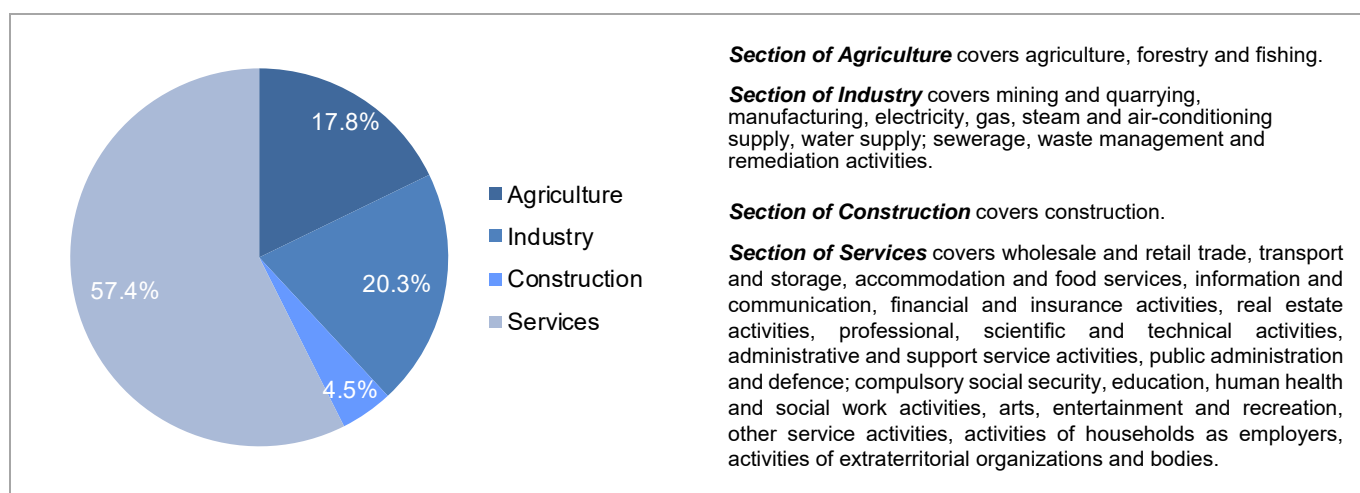


Informal employment rate excluding agriculture* presents the percentage share of informally employed whose activity is non-agricultural in total non-agricultural employment.

Regarding the section division of employment, the prevailing are service activities (57.4%), followed by industry, with the share of 20.3% in total employment (Graph 4).

*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 4 Structure of employed by section of activity, 15+, Q2 2017

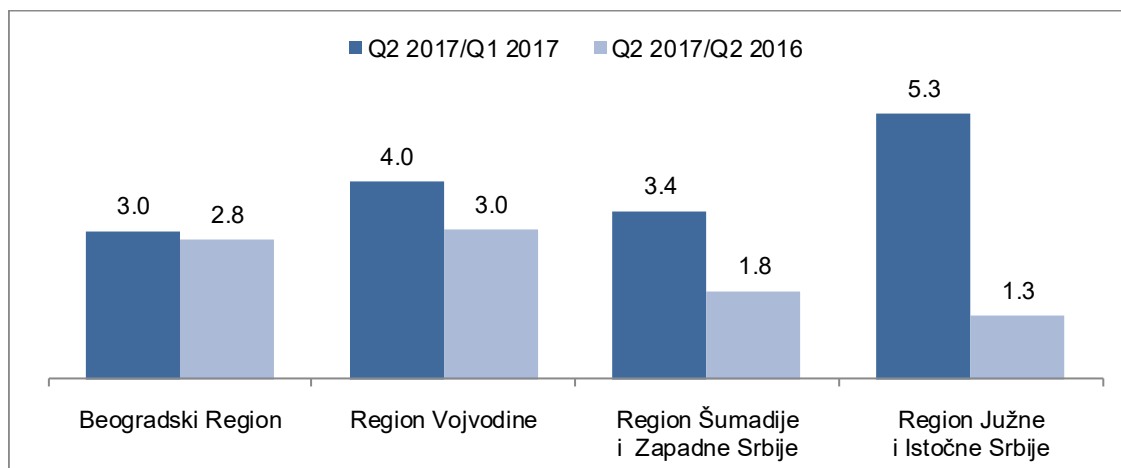


Employment rate is the greatest in Beogradski Region (49.6%), followed by Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (49.1%), Region Vojvodine (47.5%), while employment rate is the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (46.0%).

Relative to the previous quarter, recorded was the increase of employment rate in all regions, the most significantly in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (5.3 p. p.).

Compared with the same quarter 2016, increased was the employment rate in all regions. The greatest increase of employment rate was recorded in Region Vojvodine (3.0 p.p.) (Graph 5).

Graph 5 Changes in employment rates (in percentage points), 15+, by regions, Q2 2017



Unemployed population

In the second quarter 2017, unemployment of persons aged 15 and over was 384 100, which is by 68 800 persons less than in the previous quarter and by 111 400 persons less than in the second quarter 2016.

Unemployment noted decrease both regarding females and males, relative to the previous quarter. More significant decrease was recorded in male population (49 700) than in female (19 100).

Relative to the same quarter of 2016, unemployment decrease was recorded regarding both genders, being slightly greater in males population (by 61 600 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.

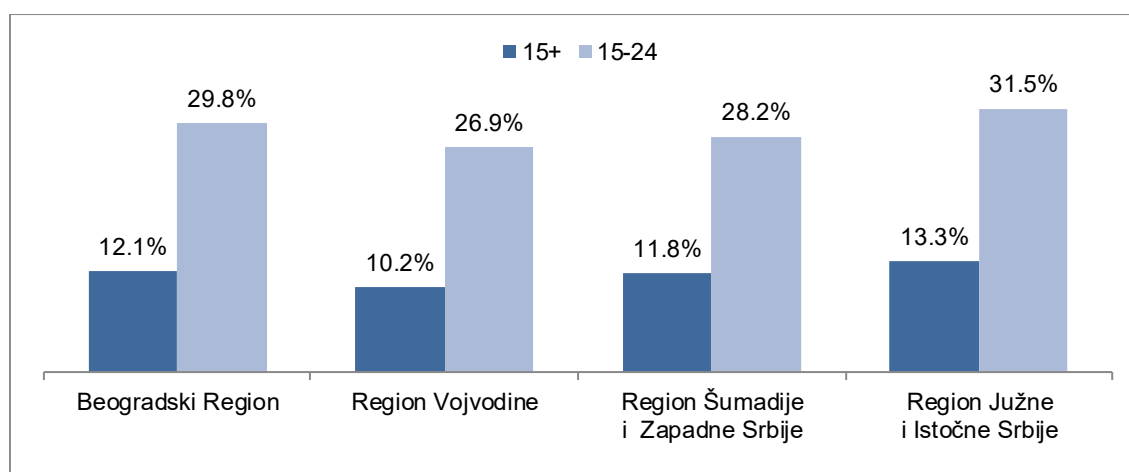
Unemployment rate presents the percentage share of unemployed population in labour force (employed and unemployed), aged 15 and over.

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 11.8% on the level of whole territory of Serbia, where the highest value was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (13.3%), and the lowest in Region Vojvodine (10.2%) (Graph 6).

Graph 6 Unemployment rates of persons aged 15+ and 15-24, by regions, Q2 2017



As is the case with population aged 15 and over, unemployment rate of young population aged 15-24 was the highest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (31.5%), and the lowest in Region Vojvodine (26.9%).

Compared with the previous quarter, decrease of unemployment was noted in all regions – the smallest decrease was in Beogradski Region (by 3 900). Decrease of unemployment was significantly greater in other three regions: in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (by 18 400 persons), in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (by 22 700) and in Region Vojvodine (by 23 800).

Compared to the same quarter 2016, unemployment was decreased in all regions, whereof the most significantly in Region Vojvodine (by 48 700 persons) and the smallest decrease was in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (by 12 200 persons).

Long-term unemployment rate is 7.4%, being by 1.4 p.p. less relative to the previous quarter and by 2.8 p.p. less relative to the same quarter 2016.

NEET rate was 15.3%, denoting decrease of 3.4 p.p. relative to the previous quarter, i.e. decrease of 1.9 p.p. relative to the same quarter 2016.

Inactive population

Number of inactive population in the second quarter 2017 amounted to 2 723 200, being by 167 000 less relative to the previous quarter and by 41 900 less compared to the second quarter 2016.

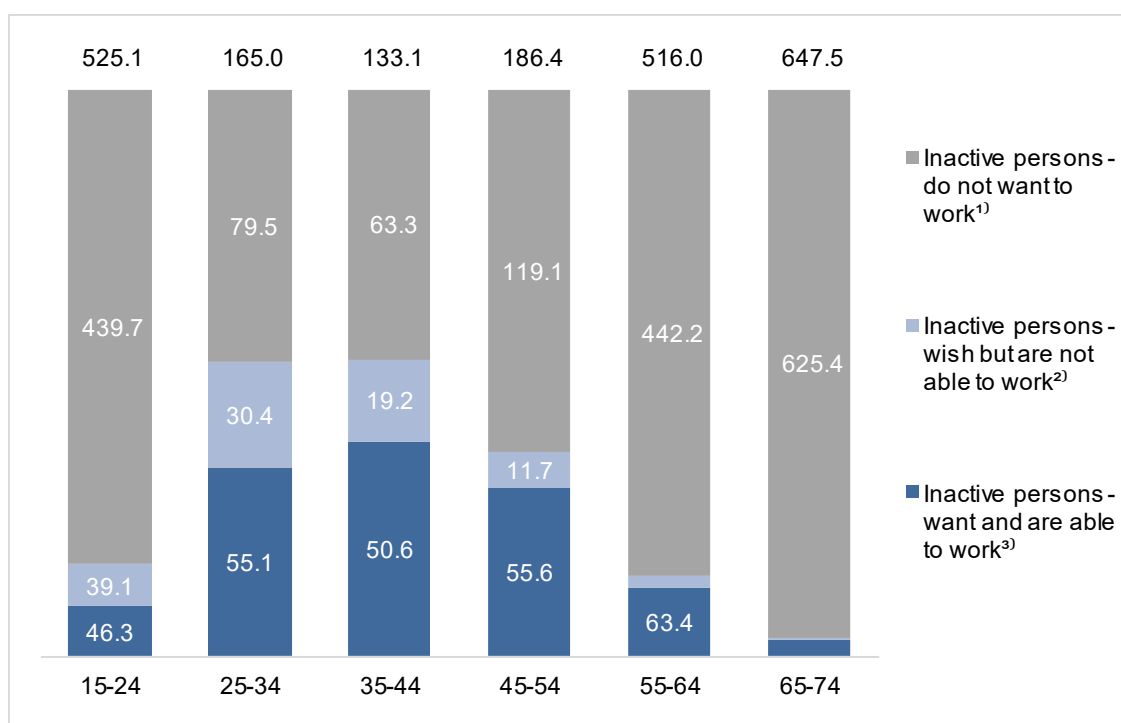
Inactivity rate is 45.5%, i.e. by 2.7 p.p. less than in the previous quarter, being significantly greater in female population (52.9%) than in male population (37.5%).

Relative to the second quarter 2016, 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 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), Q2 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, Q2 2017

	Q2 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Total	5988.2	-7.0	-0.1	-33.9	-0.6
Active	3265.0	160.0	5.2	8.0	0.2
Employed	2881.0	228.8	8.6	119.4	4.3
Unemployed	384.1	-68.8	-15.2	-111.4	-22.5
Inactive	2723.2	-167.0	-5.8	-41.9	-1.5
Male	2888.1	-3.3	-0.1	-16.3	-0.6
Active	1805.3	69.4	4.0	-16.7	-0.9
Employed	1607.1	119.1	8.0	44.9	2.9
Unemployed	198.2	-49.7	-20.1	-61.6	-23.7
Inactive	1082.8	-72.7	-6.3	0.4	0.0
Female	3100.2	-3.7	-0.1	-17.6	-0.6
Active	1459.7	90.6	6.6	24.7	1.7
Employed	1273.8	109.7	9.4	74.6	6.2
Unemployed	185.9	-19.1	-9.3	-49.8	-21.1
Inactive	1640.5	-94.3	-5.4	-42.3	-2.5

Table 1a Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 and over, Q2 2017

	Q2 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2016
	(%)	p.p.	
Total			
Activity rate	54.5	2.7	0.4
Employment rate	48.1	3.9	2.3
Unemployment rate	11.8	-2.8	-3.4
Inactivity rate	45.5	-2.7	-0.4
Male			
Activity rate	62.5	2.5	-0.2
Employment rate	55.6	4.2	1.9
Unemployment rate	11.0	-3.3	-3.3
Inactivity rate	37.5	-2.5	0.2
Female			
Activity rate	47.1	3.0	1.1
Employment rate	41.1	3.6	2.6
Unemployment rate	12.7	-2.2	-3.7
Inactivity rate	52.9	-3.0	-1.1

Table 2 Main contingents of labour force by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q2 2017

	Q2 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Total	741.8	-3.5	-0.5	-17.4	-2.3
Active	216.7	8.2	3.9	-17.5	-7.5
Employed	154.1	23.0	17.5	4.5	3.0
Unemployed	62.6	-14.8	-19.1	-22.1	-26.1
Inactive	525.1	-11.6	-2.2	0.2	0.0
Male	381.8	-1.7	-0.5	-8.9	-2.3
Active	133.9	6.4	5.0	-11.4	-7.8
Employed	100.2	17.9	21.7	0.4	0.4
Unemployed	33.8	-11.5	-25.3	-11.8	-26.0
Inactive	247.9	-8.2	-3.2	2.5	1.0
Female	360.0	-1.8	-0.5	-8.5	-2.3
Active	82.8	1.7	2.1	-6.1	-6.9
Employed	54.0	5.1	10.4	4.1	8.2
Unemployed	28.8	-3.4	-10.5	-10.2	-26.2
Inactive	277.2	-3.5	-1.2	-2.4	-0.8

Table 2a Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q2 2017

	Q2 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2016
	(%)	p.p.	
Total			
Activity rate	29.2	1.2	-1.6
Employment rate	20.8	3.2	1.1
Unemployment rate	28.9	-8.2	-7.3
Inactivity rate	70.8	-1.2	1.6
Male			
Activity rate	35.1	1.8	-2.1
Employment rate	26.2	4.8	0.7
Unemployment rate	25.2	-10.3	-6.2
Inactivity rate	64.9	-1.8	2.1
Female			
Activity rate	23.0	0.6	-1.1
Employment rate	15.0	1.5	1.5
Unemployment rate	34.8	-4.9	-9.1
Inactivity rate	77.0	-0.6	1.1
		0.0	0.0
NEETs (15-24)	15.3	-3.4	-1.9
Early school leavers (18-24) ¹⁾	5.8	-0.4	-2.2

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, Q2 2017

	Q2 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Active – total	3265.0	160.0	5.2	8.0	0.2
Sex					
Male	1805.3	69.4	4.0	-16.7	-0.9
Female	1459.7	90.6	6.6	24.7	1.7
Region					
Beogradski Region	809.3	39.2	5.1	17.3	2.2
Region Vojvodine	847.4	39.1	4.8	-4.6	-0.5
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	927.3	32.6	3.6	-3.5	-0.4
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	681.1	49.1	7.8	-1.3	-0.2
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 4 Employed persons aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q2 2017

	Q2 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Employed - total	2881.0	228.8	8.6	119.4	4.3
Sex					
Male	1607.1	119.1	8.0	44.9	2.9
Female	1273.8	109.7	9.4	74.6	6.2
Region					
Beogradski Region	711.2	43.1	6.4	40.8	6.1
Region Vojvodine	761.1	62.9	9.0	44.2	6.2
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	818.0	55.2	7.2	23.6	3.0
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	590.7	67.5	12.9	10.9	1.9
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 5 Formally/Informally employed persons aged 15 and over, Q2 2017

	Q2 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Employed persons	2881.0	228.8	8.6	119.4	4.3
Formally employed	2243.0	95.0	4.4	108.1	5.1
- Formally employed, excl. agriculture ¹⁾	1980.7	61.0	3.2	91.5	4.8
- Formally employed in agriculture	262.3	33.9	14.9	16.6	6.8
Informally employed	637.9	133.8	26.5	11.3	1.8
- Informally employed, excl. agriculture	224.9	46.0	25.7	0.7	0.3
- Informally employed in agriculture	413.0	87.8	27.0	10.6	2.6
	%	(p.p.)			
Rate of informal employment (total)	22.1	3.1		-0.6	
Rate of informal employment, excl. agriculture	10.2	1.7		-0.4	

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, Q2 2017

	Q2 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Unemployed - total	384.1	-68.8	-15.2	-111.4	-22.5
Sex					
Male	198.2	-49.7	-20.1	-61.6	-23.7
Female	185.9	-19.1	-9.3	-49.8	-21.1
Region					
Beogradski Region	98.0	-3.9	-3.8	-23.5	-19.3
Region Vojvodine	86.3	-23.8	-21.6	-48.7	-36.1
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	109.3	-22.7	-17.2	-27.1	-19.8
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	90.4	-18.4	-16.9	-12.2	-11.9
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...
	%	(p.p.)			
Long-term unemployment rate	7.4		-1.4		-2.8

Table 7 Inactive population aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q2 2017

	Q2 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Inactive - total	2723.2	-167.0	-5.8	-41.9	-1.5
Sex					
Male	1082.8	-72.7	-6.3	0.4	0.0
Female	1640.5	-94.3	-5.4	-42.3	-2.5
Region					
Beogradski Region	626.0	-38.8	-5.8	-16.5	-2.6
Region Vojvodine	756.2	-41.1	-5.2	-5.0	-0.7
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	738.8	-35.3	-4.6	-9.4	-1.3
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	602.2	-51.8	-7.9	-11.0	-1.8
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 8 Main contingents of labour force by region and age groups, Q2 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+	5988.2	1435.2	1603.6	1666.1	1283.3	...
Active	3265.0	809.3	847.4	927.3	681.1	...
Employed	2881.0	711.2	761.1	818.0	590.7	...
Unemployed	384.1	98.0	86.3	109.3	90.4	...
Inactive	2723.2	626.0	756.2	738.8	602.2	...
	%					
Activity rate	54.5	56.4	52.8	55.7	53.1	...
Employment rate	48.1	49.6	47.5	49.1	46.0	...
Unemployment rate	11.8	12.1	10.2	11.8	13.3	...
Inactivity rate	45.5	43.6	47.2	44.3	46.9	...
	(in thousand)					
Young population (15–24)	741.8	163.1	201.1	214.0	163.5	...
Active	216.7	47.2	63.3	58.3	48.0	...
Employed	154.1	33.1	46.3	41.8	32.9	...
Unemployed	62.6	14.0	17.0	16.4	15.1	...
Inactive	525.1	116.0	137.8	155.7	115.6	...
	%					
Activity rate	29.2	28.9	31.5	27.2	29.3	...
Employment rate	20.8	20.3	23.0	19.5	20.1	...
Unemployment rate	28.9	29.8	26.9	28.2	31.5	...
Inactivity rate	70.8	71.1	68.5	72.8	70.7	...
	(in thousand)					
Working – age population (15–64)	4624.4	1122.5	1255.5	1281.4	965.0	...
Active	3098.8	788.8	820.5	857.1	632.5	...
Employed	2717.3	692.1	734.4	748.8	542.0	...
Unemployed	381.5	96.7	86.1	108.3	90.4	...
Inactive	1525.6	333.7	435.0	424.3	332.6	...
	%					
Activity rate	67.0	70.3	65.4	66.9	65.5	...
Employment rate	58.8	61.7	58.5	58.4	56.2	...
Unemployment rate	12.3	12.3	10.5	12.6	14.3	...
Inactivity rate	33.0	29.7	34.6	33.1	34.5	...

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).