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Labour Force Survey

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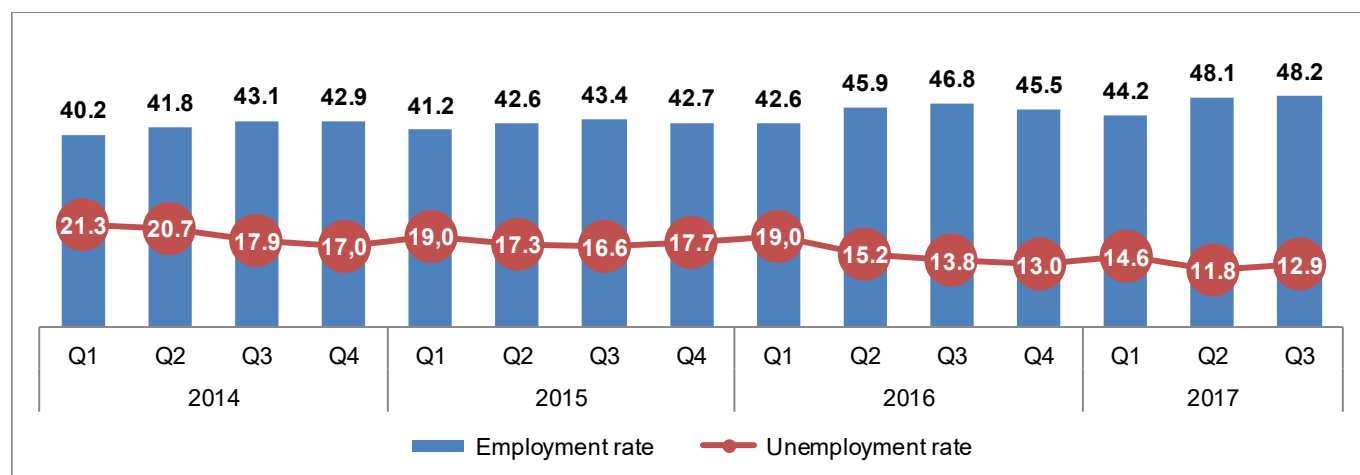
Labour Force Survey, III quarter 2017

– 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.

In the third quarter of 2017, employment rate of population aged 15 and over amounted to 48.2%, unemployment rate to 12.9%, and inactivity rate to extremely low 44.7%.

Graph 1 Trend of employment/unemployment rates (in %), population 15+, 2014-2017



Comparison with the previous quarter

Relative to the previous quarter, number of employed population aged 15 and over remained unchanged.

Simultaneously, in population group aged 35–64 there was a shifting from inactive to unemployed. Number of inactive was decreased by 52 100, while number of unemployed was increased by 44 100, which caused decreased inactivity rate to 44.7% and increased unemployment rate to 12.9%.

Although the number of employed remained unchanged, employment of young population (15–24) increased by 20 800. Therefore, employment rate of young population increased by 2.9 p.p, amounting to 23.7%.

Comparison with the same period of the previous year

Relative to the same quarter of the previous year, number of employed population aged 15 and over increased by 67 900, while number of unemployed population of the same age decreased by 21 900. The mentioned trends in employment and unemployment resulted in increased employment rate by 1.4 p.p. and decreased unemployment rate by 0.9 p.p. Unemployment was primarily decreased in the population group aged 25–34, while it was increased in age group 55 and over. Long term unemployment rate was decreased by 1.3 p.p. and amounts now to 7.7%.

Unlike informal employment which was decreased by 49 000, number of formally employed persons aged 15 and over increased by 117 000, mostly in manufacturing and scientific, professional and technical activities. Increased employment in the mentioned sectors was also confirmed in the data on registered employment, obtained from the records of Central register of compulsory social insurance (CRCSI) even though increase of registered employment (by 54 800 persons) was more moderate than formal employment increase in the observed period¹.

Informal employment, which by definition applied in the Survey, comprise self-employed in unregistered business, employees without written contract, as well as contributing family workers, in the same period was decreased by 49 000, provoking decreased informal employment rate by 2.3 p.p., and now it amounts to 21.8%.

Besides 628 400 informally employed, additional 207 000 of (formally) employed can exercise neither the right to health nor pension insurance. If those persons are considered, in accordance with recommendation of International Labour Organization² (since there is no official definition of informal employment), as informally employed, number of informally employed would amount to 835 400, and informal employment rate would be 29%.

Regarding the young population aged 15–24, there were no greater changes in the number of employed and unemployed, but due to negative demographic trends, decreased was the number of inactive, i.e. total population of that age, thus leading to increased employment and unemployment rates of the young population by 1.3, i.e. 0.4 p.p. respectively. Employment rate of the young now amounted to 23.7%, and unemployment rate to 28.8%. in total population of the same age, 15–24, share of the young that neither work nor are in the system of education, the so called NEET rate decreased by 1.1 p.p. and amounts to 17.1%.

Labour Force

Number of active population aged 15 and over amounted to 3 310 100 persons in the third quarter 2017, out of which 2 881 900 related to employed and 428 200 to unemployed ones. **Activity rate** was 55.3%, being by 0.8 p.p. higher relative to the previous quarter, and by 1.1 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, population activity increased in all regions. The greatest activity rate increase was recorded in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (by 20 400). Number of active women increased by 19 200, and number of active men by 25 900.

Relative to the same quarter 2016, activity was increased in all regions except in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije, where the decrease was recorded, by 5 700. The greatest activity increase in this period was recorded in Beogradski Region (by 36 800). Number of active women was increased by 29 400, and number of active men by 16 600.

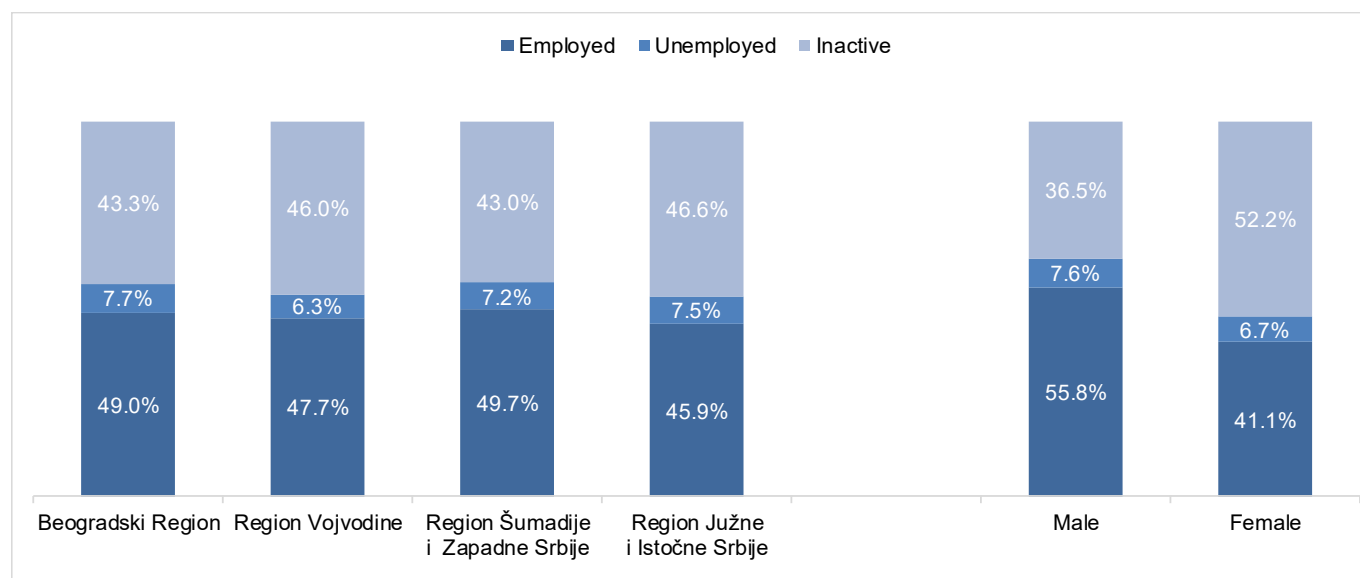
¹ For conceptual differences between registered and survey employment, visit:

<http://www.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/userFiles/file/Zaposlenost%20i%20zarade/Koncepti%20zaposlenosti%20-%20registrovana%20i%20anketna%20zaposlenost.doc>

² Statistical definition of informal employment: Guidelines endorsed by the Seventeenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2003)

In the structure of population by employment status, regions have similar distribution. Rates of activity and employment are somewhat greater in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (57.0% and 49.7%, respectively) and in Beogradski Region (56.7% and 49.0%, respectively), while the rates in Region Vojvodine (54.0% and 47.7%) and Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (53.4% and 45.9%, 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, Q3 2017



Gender inequality on labour market is still present. Namely, while activity rate of males aged 15 and over amounted to 63.5%, regarding females, it amounted to only 47.8%. Employment rate of males is by even 14.7 p.p. higher than of females (Graph 2).

Employed population

Number of employed persons in the third quarter 2017 amounted to 2 881 900, presenting almost unchanged situation relative to previous quarter and increase of 67 900 persons relative to the third quarter 2016. **Employment rate** was 48.2%, being by 0.1 p.p. more than in the previous quarter and by 1.4 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.

Informally employed are employees without written contract, self-employed in unregistered business, as well as contributing family workers.

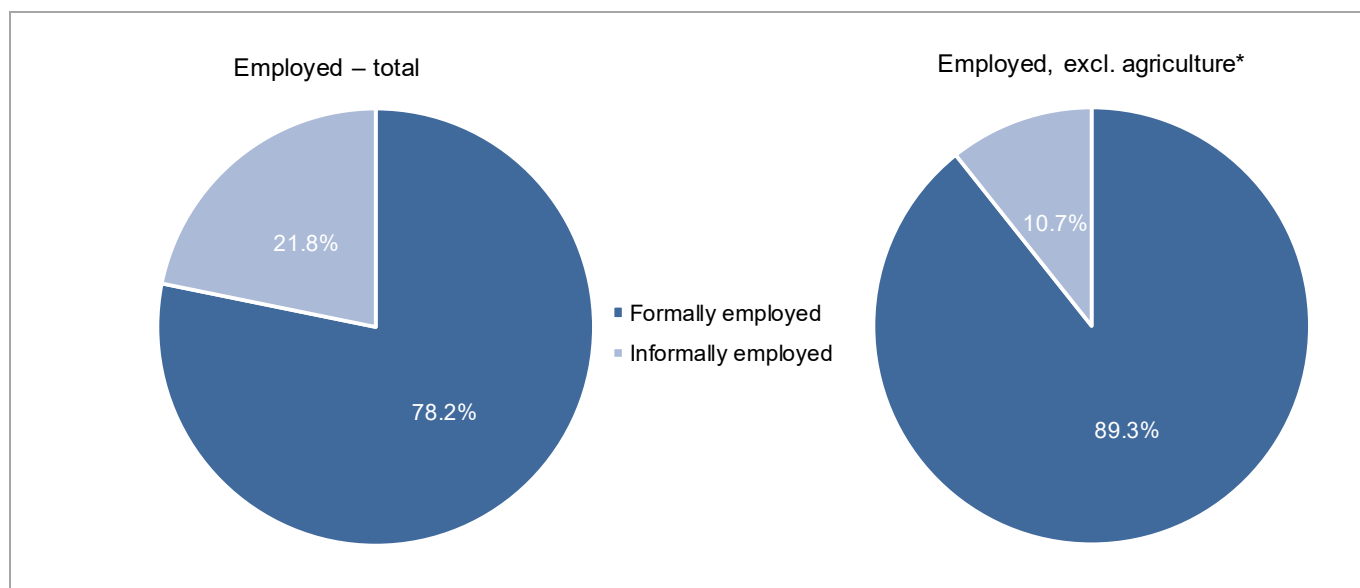
Informal employment rate is the percentage share of informally employed in total employment.

During 2016 (from the third quarter 2016 to the third quarter 2017), **employment in formal sector** increased by 117 000, and in **informal sector** recorded was the decrease of 49 000 persons.

Rate of informal employment in the third quarter 2017 amounted to 21.8% on the level of all activity sections (Graph 3).

In non-agriculture, informal employment rate is significantly lower, amounting to 10.7%.

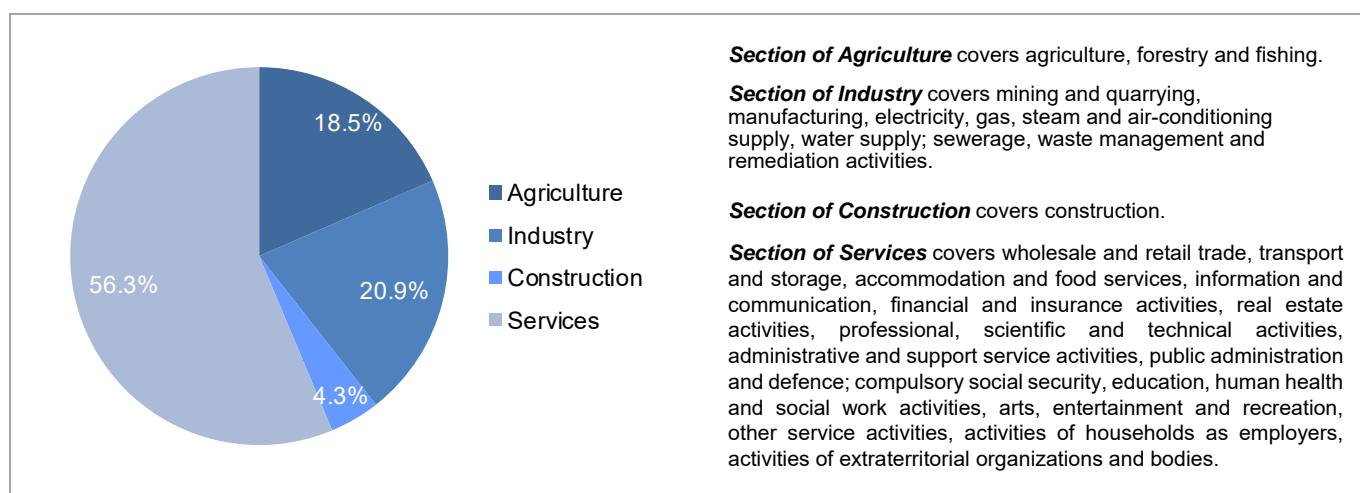
Graph 3 Share of formal/informal employment in total employment of population aged 15+, Q3 2017



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 (56.3%), followed by industry, with the share of 20.9% in total employment (Graph 4).

Graph 4 Structure of employed by section of activity, 15+, Q3 2017

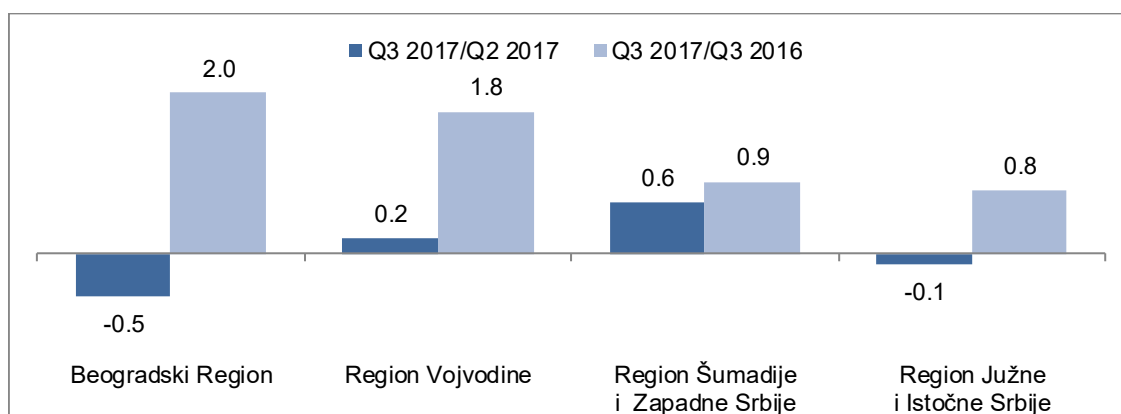


Relative to the previous quarter, employment rate was insignificantly increased in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije and Region Vojvodine (0.6 p.p. and 0.2 p.p. respectively), while it was slightly decreased in Beogradski Region and in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (0.5 p.p. and 0.1 p.p. respectively).

Compared with the same quarter 2016, increased was the employment rate in all regions. The greatest increase of employment rate was recorded in Beogradski Region (2.0 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, Q3 2017



Unemployed population

In the third quarter 2017, **unemployment of persons** aged 15 and over was 428 200, which is by 44 100 persons more than in the previous quarter and by 21 900 persons less than in the third quarter 2016.

Unemployment noted increase both regarding females and males, relative to the previous quarter. Recorded increase of unemployed was almost the same both regarding males and females.

Relative to the same quarter of 2016, unemployment decrease was recorded regarding both genders, being slightly greater in females population (by 13 100 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.

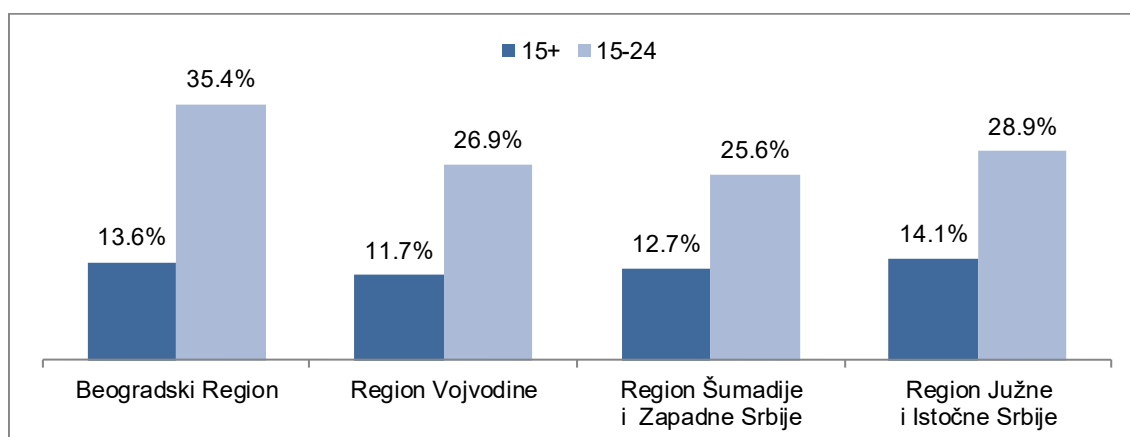
Unemployment rate presents the percentage share of unemployed population in labour force (employed and unemployed), aged 15 and over.

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 12.9% on the level of whole territory of Serbia, where the highest value was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (14.1%), and the lowest in Region Vojvodine (11.7%) (Graph 6).

Graph 6 Unemployment rates of persons aged 15+ and 15-24, by regions, Q3 2017



Compared with the previous quarter, unemployment increased in all regions, the greatest increase was in Region Vojvodine (by 14 700 persons) and the smallest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (by 5 800).

Compared to the same quarter 2016, unemployment was decreased in all regions, except in Beogradski Region where the increase by 7 300 persons was noted.

Long-term unemployment rate is 7.7%, being by 0.3 p.p. more relative to the previous quarter and by 1.3 p.p. less relative to the same quarter 2016.

Unemployment rate of young population (15–24) amounted to 28.8%. The greatest is in Beogradski Region (35.4%), and the lowest in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (25.6%).

NEET rate was 17.1%, denoting increase of 1.8 p.p. relative to the previous quarter, i.e. decrease of 1.1 p.p. relative to the same quarter 2016.

Inactive population

Number of inactive population in the third quarter 2017 amounted to 2 671 100, being by 52 100 less relative to the previous quarter and by 78 000 less compared to the third quarter 2016.

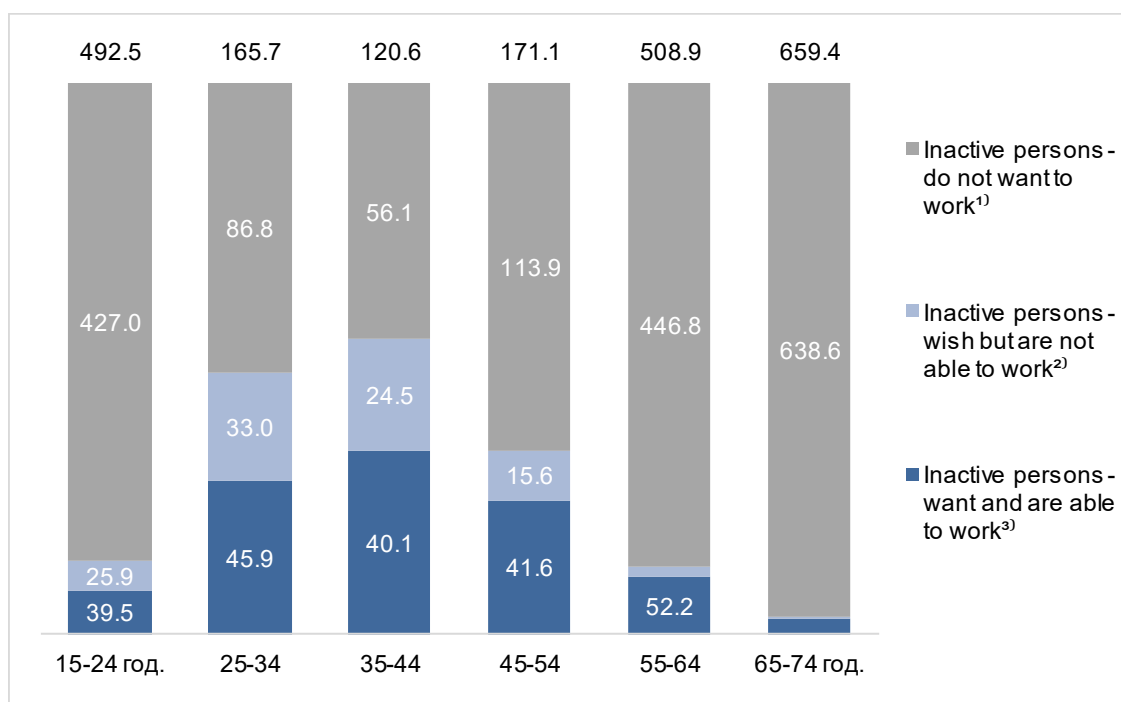
Inactivity rate is 44.7%, i.e. by 0.8 p.p. less than in the previous quarter, being significantly greater in female population (52.2%) than in male population (36.5%).

Relative to the third quarter 2016, inactivity rate decreased by 1.1 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), Q3 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).

RESULTS

Table 1 Main contingents of labour force by sex, population aged 15 and over, Q3 2017

	Q3 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Total	5981.2	-7.1	-0.1	-32.0	-0.5
Active	3310.1	45.1	1.4	46.0	1.4
Employed	2881.9	0.9	0.0	67.9	2.4
Unemployed	428.2	44.1	11.5	-21.9	-4.9
Inactive	2671.1	-52.1	-1.9	-78.0	-2.8
Male	2884.7	-3.3	-0.1	-15.3	-0.5
Active	1831.2	25.9	1.4	16.6	0.9
Employed	1610.6	3.5	0.2	25.4	1.6
Unemployed	220.6	22.4	11.3	-8.8	-3.9
Inactive	1053.6	-29.2	-2.7	-31.9	-2.9
Female	3096.4	-3.7	-0.1	-16.7	-0.5
Active	1478.9	19.2	1.3	29.4	2.0
Employed	1271.3	-2.5	-0.2	42.5	3.5
Unemployed	207.6	21.7	11.7	-13.1	-5.9
Inactive	1617.5	-22.9	-1.4	-46.1	-2.8

Table 1a Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 and over, Q3 2017

	Q3 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2016
	(%)	p.p.	
Total			
Activity rate	55.3	0.8	1.1
Employment rate	48.2	0.1	1.4
Unemployment rate	12.9	1.2	-0.9
Inactivity rate	44.7	-0.8	-1.1
Male			
Activity rate	63.5	1.0	0.9
Employment rate	55.8	0.2	1.2
Unemployment rate	12.0	1.1	-0.6
Inactivity rate	36.5	-1.0	-0.9
Female			
Activity rate	47.8	0.7	1.2
Employment rate	41.1	0.0	1.6
Unemployment rate	14.0	1.3	-1.2
Inactivity rate	52.2	-0.7	-1.2

Table 2 Main contingents of labour force by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q3 2017

	Q3 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Total	738.3	-3.5	-0.5	-16.2	-2.2
Active	245.8	29.0	13.4	9.8	4.1
Employed	174.9	20.8	13.5	6.1	3.6
Unemployed	70.9	8.3	13.2	3.7	5.4
Inactive	492.5	-32.5	-6.2	-26.0	-5.0
Male	380.0	-1.7	-0.5	-8.2	-2.1
Active	150.5	16.6	12.4	1.4	0.9
Employed	114.5	14.4	14.3	2.9	2.6
Unemployed	36.0	2.2	6.5	-1.6	-4.1
Inactive	229.6	-18.3	-7.4	-9.6	-4.0
Female	358.3	-1.8	-0.5	-8.0	-2.2
Active	95.3	12.5	15.1	8.4	9.6
Employed	60.4	6.4	11.9	3.2	5.5
Unemployed	34.9	6.1	21.1	5.2	17.5
Inactive	263.0	-14.3	-5.1	-16.4	-5.9

Table 2a Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q3 2017

	Q3 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2016
	(%)	p.p.	
Total			
Activity rate	33.3	4.1	2.0
Employment rate	23.7	2.9	1.3
Unemployment rate	28.8	0.0	0.4
Inactivity rate	66.7	-4.1	-2.0
Male			
Activity rate	39.6	4.5	1.2
Employment rate	30.1	3.9	1.4
Unemployment rate	23.9	-1.3	-1.3
Inactivity rate	60.4	-4.5	-1.2
Female			
Activity rate	26.6	3.6	2.9
Employment rate	16.9	1.9	1.2
Unemployment rate	36.6	1.8	2.5
Inactivity rate	73.4	-3.6	-2.9
NEETs (15-24)	17.1	1.8	-1.1
Early school leavers (18-24) ¹⁾	6.1	0.2	-1.1

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, Q3 2017

	Q3 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Active – total	3310.1	45.1	1.4	46.0	1.4
Sex					
Male	1831.2	25.9	1.4	16.6	0.9
Female	1478.9	19.2	1.3	29.4	2.0
Region					
Beogradski Region	814.3	5.1	0.6	36.8	4.7
Region Vojvodine	864.2	16.8	2.0	10.1	1.2
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	947.7	20.4	2.2	-5.7	-0.6
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	683.9	2.8	0.4	4.7	0.7
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 4 Employed persons aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q3 2017

	Q3 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Employed - total	2881.9	0.9	0.0	67.9	2.4
Sex					
Male	1610.6	3.5	0.2	25.4	1.6
Female	1271.3	-2.5	-0.2	42.5	3.5
Region					
Beogradski Region	703.6	-7.6	-1.1	29.5	4.4
Region Vojvodine	763.2	2.1	0.3	24.5	3.3
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	827.4	9.3	1.1	9.1	1.1
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	587.7	-3.0	-0.5	4.8	0.8
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 5 Formally/Informally employed persons aged 15 and over, Q3 2017

	Q3 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Employed persons	2881.9	0.9	0.0	67.9	2.4
Formally employed	2253.5	10.5	0.5	117.0	5.5
- Formally employed, excl. agriculture ¹⁾	1978.1	-2.6	-0.1	76.9	4.0
- Formally employed in agriculture	275.4	13.1	5.0	40.1	17.0
Informally employed	628.4	-9.6	-1.5	-49.0	-7.2
- Informally employed, excl. agriculture	238.1	13.2	5.9	5.3	2.3
- Informally employed in agriculture	390.3	-22.8	-5.5	-54.4	-12.2
	%	(p.p.)			
Rate of informal employment (total)	21.8		-0.3		-2.3
Rate of informal employment, excl. agriculture	10.7		0.5		-0.2

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, Q3 2017

	Q3 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Unemployed - total	428.2	44.1	11.5	-21.9	-4.9
Sex					
Male	220.6	22.4	11.3	-8.8	-3.9
Female	207.6	21.7	11.7	-13.1	-5.9
Region					
Beogradski Region	110.7	12.6	12.9	7.3	7.1
Region Vojvodine	101.0	14.7	17.0	-14.4	-12.4
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	120.3	11.1	10.1	-14.8	-11.0
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	96.2	5.8	6.4	-0.1	-0.1
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...
	%	(p.p.)			
Long-term unemployment rate	7.7		0.3		-1.3

Table 7 Inactive population aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q3 2017

	Q3 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Inactive - total	2671.1	-52.1	-1.9	-78.0	-2.8
Sex					
Male	1053.6	-29.2	-2.7	-31.9	-2.9
Female	1617.5	-22.9	-1.4	-46.1	-2.8
Region					
Beogradski Region	621.3	-4.7	-0.7	-35.7	-5.4
Region Vojvodine	737.4	-18.8	-2.5	-19.2	-2.5
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	715.7	-23.1	-3.1	-6.5	-0.9
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	596.8	-5.5	-0.9	-16.5	-2.7
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 8 Main contingents of labour force by region and age groups, Q3 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+	5981.2	1435.6	1601.6	1663.3	1280.6	...
Active	3310.1	814.3	864.2	947.7	683.9	...
Employed	2881.9	703.6	763.2	827.4	587.7	...
Unemployed	428.2	110.7	101.0	120.3	96.2	...
Inactive	2671.1	621.3	737.4	715.7	596.8	...
	%					
Activity rate	55.3	56.7	54.0	57.0	53.4	...
Employment rate	48.2	49.0	47.7	49.7	45.9	...
Unemployment rate	12.9	13.6	11.7	12.7	14.1	...
Inactivity rate	44.7	43.3	46.0	43.0	46.6	...
	(in thousand)					
Young population (15–24)	738.3	162.4	200.1	213	162.8	...
Active	245.8	54.0	73.0	67.3	51.4	...
Employed	174.9	34.9	53.3	50.1	36.6	...
Unemployed	70.9	19.1	19.7	17.2	14.8	...
Inactive	492.5	108.4	127.1	145.6	111.4	...
	%					
Activity rate	33.3	33.3	36.5	31.6	31.6	...
Employment rate	23.7	21.5	26.7	23.5	22.5	...
Unemployment rate	28.8	35.4	26.9	25.6	28.9	...
Inactivity rate	66.7	66.7	63.5	68.4	68.4	...
	(in thousand)					
Working – age population (15–64)	4612.6	1121.2	1252.2	1277.3	961.8	...
Active	3153.6	795.1	844.0	876.0	638.5	...
Employed	2728.5	686.6	743.5	756.0	542.3	...
Unemployed	425.2	108.5	100.4	120.0	96.2	...
Inactive	1458.9	326.1	408.2	401.4	323.3	...
	%					
Activity rate	68.4	70.9	67.4	68.6	66.4	...
Employment rate	59.2	61.2	59.4	59.2	56.4	...
Unemployment rate	13.5	13.6	11.9	13.7	15.1	...
Inactivity rate	31.6	29.1	32.6	31.4	33.6	...

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).