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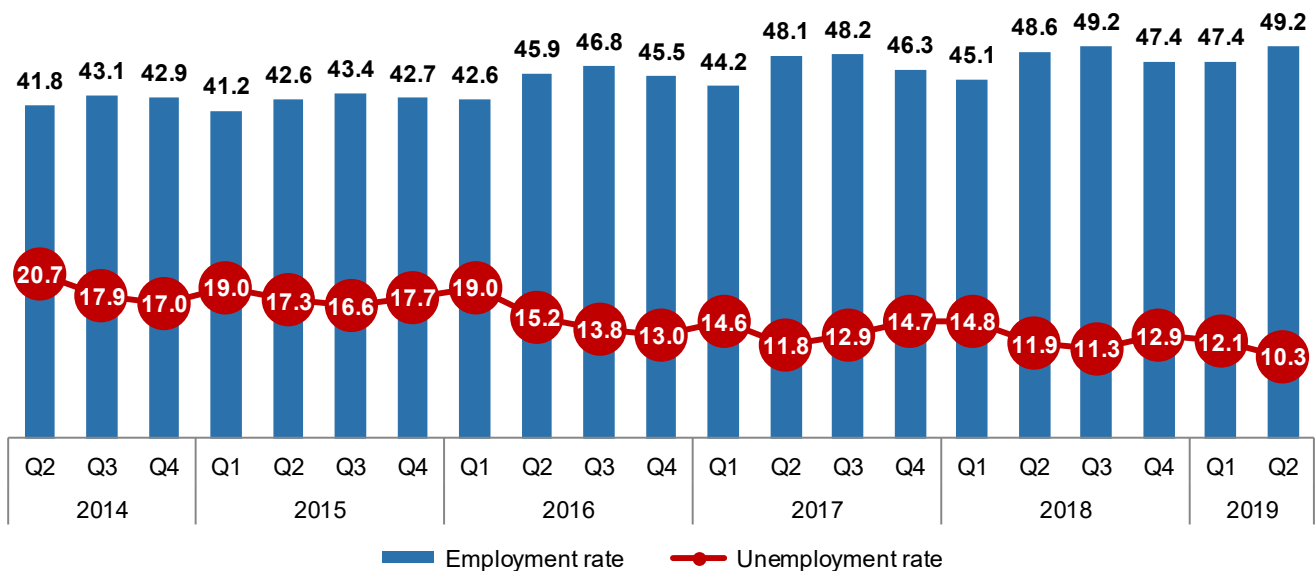
Labour Force Survey

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Labour Force Survey, II quarter 2019

In the second quarter of 2019, number of the employed amounted to 2 916 500, and number of the unemployed to 334 000. Employment rate for the mentioned period amounted to 49.2%, while unemployment rate, in the same period, had the value of 10.3%.

Graph 1 Trend of employment/unemployment rates (in %), population 15+, 2014-2019



Activity rate of population aged 15 and over in the second quarter 2019 amounted to 54.8%, where the activity rate of males was 62.9%, and of females 47.3%. The activity rate was the greatest in Beogradski region (56.9%), followed by Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (56.3%). In Region Južne i Istočne Srbije activity rate was 53.2% and in Region Vojvodine, activity rate was the lowest (52.8%).

Employment rate of population aged 15 and over amounted to 49.2%, i.e. 56.8% regarding males and 42.1% regarding females. The greatest employment rate was noted in Beogradski region (52.5%), followed by Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije and Region Vojvodine (50.0% and 47.6%, respectively). Employment rate was the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, 46.4%.

Informal employment rate in the mentioned quarter, on the level of all activities was 19.3%, whereof informal sector related to employment in agricultural activities¹ recorded the rate of 64.5%, and in activities excluding agriculture, the rate had the value of 8.1%.

Unemployment rate of population aged 15 and over amounted to 10.3%, i.e. 9.7% regarding males and 11.0% regarding females. Observed by regions, the lowest rate was recorded in Beogradski region (7.7%), followed by Region Vojvodine (9.8%), and Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (11.1%). In Region Južne i Istočne Srbije recorded was the greatest unemployment rate of 12.7%.

¹ The activity of Agriculture covers the whole section of Agriculture, forestry and fishery, as well as a part of the section Activities of households as employers referring to agriculture.

Comparison with the previous quarter

In relation with the first quarter 2019, the number of the employed increased by 106 000.

Consequently, the number of the unemployed decreased (by 53 200) and the number of inactive (by 60 100). The number of inactive persons amounted to 2 677 100.

Employment rate was increased by 1.8 percentage points (p. p.), while unemployment and inactivity rates were decreased by 1.8 p. p. and 1.0 p. p., respectively, relative to the first quarter 2019.

The greatest employment increase was noted in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (by 45 900) and in Beogradski region (by 31 500), while in Region Vojvodine, there was no significant change in the number of the employed. Employment was predominantly increased in population engaged in agricultural activities¹ with lower or secondary education, primarily males.

Apart from the increase of informal employment by 82 200, due to increased volume of agricultural works, characterized for the second quarter of each year, noted was significant increase in formal employment in non-agricultural activities, by 44 800 persons, primarily in the sections of Trade, Construction and Manufacturing, which is in accordance with the records of Central Registry for Compulsory Social Insurance. The number of formally employed in the second quarter 2019 amounted to 2 352 300, and number of informally employed to 564 200 (whereof two thirds of total number of informally employed were engaged in agriculture).

Regarding the young population (aged 15-24), as well as referring to total population, the number of employed increased (by 20 800), reaching the level of 157 500, while the number of unemployed and inactive persons decreased (by 9 800 and 13 800, respectively), to the level of 50 700, i.e. 509 100, respectively. Even though the mentioned changes in the status of young population are insignificant observed on the level of total population, they have, due to relatively small contingent of the young labour force, strongly influenced the employment and unemployment rates of young population. Namely, employment rate of young increased by 3.0 p. p., while unemployment rate was decreased by even 6.3 p. p. relative to the first quarter 2019. Additionally, unemployment of young population, with the unemployment rate of 24.4% is still high, when compared with the unemployment rate of total population.

The share of the young (15-24) who neither work nor attend school in total population of young (so called NEET rate) decreased by 0.6 p. p. related to the first quarter 2019, amounting to 14.1%. Regarding population aged 15-29, NEET rate was 17.6%.

Comparison with the same quarter of the previous year

Compared with the second quarter 2018, unemployment was decreased by 57 600, partly due to employment (by 19 700) and mostly due to decreased contingent of the labour force (by 37 900). Unemployment was mostly decreased in population aged 25-34. Unemployment rate, on the level of 10.3% decreased by 1.6 p. p. relative to the same period last year.

Unlike Region Juzna i Istocna Srbija, where decreased unemployment (by 21 200) was primarily the consequence of decreased labour force contingent, in Beogradski region, the smaller number of unemployed (by 19 600) relative to the same period 2018 is firstly the result of employment (number of employed increased by 14 500). In the same period, number of unemployed has not significantly changed in Vojvodina, where decreased employment was recorded (by 11 900).

Number of formally employed increased by 62 700, whereof, formal employment in agriculture decreased by 17 900 and in non-agriculture, it increased by 80 500, mostly in Trade, Construction and Manufacturing. For comparison purposes, according to the records of Central Registry for Compulsory Social Insurance, registered employment in non-agriculture activities, in the same period, increased by 43 800, also mostly in Manufacturing.

Number of informally employed decreased by 43 000, resulting in decrease of informal employment rate by 1.6 p. p.

¹ The activity of Agriculture covers the whole section of Agriculture, forestry and fishery, as well as a part of the section Activities of households as employers referring to agriculture.

Similar to the total population, the population of young (15-24), due to a decrease in the number of population of that age (by 11 200), noted was the decrease of unemployment (by 8 700) related to the same period last year. Number of employed young population has not significantly changed in the mentioned period.

Table 1. Main indicators of labour market trend, Q2 2019

	Q2 2019	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2018	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Population 15+	5927.6	-7.3	-0.1	-31.6	-0.5
Active population	3250.5	52.8	1.7	-37.9	-1.2
Employed	2916.5	106.0	3.8	19.7	0.7
Formally employed	2352.3	23.7	1.0	62.7	2.7
Informally employed	564.2	82.2	17.1	-43.0	-7.1
Unemployed	334.0	-53.2	-13.7	-57.6	-14.7
Inactive population	2677.1	-60.1	-2.2	6.2	0.2
	%	(p. p.)			
Activity rate	54.8		1.0		-0.3
Employment rate	49.2		1.8		0.6
Informal employment rate	19.3		2.2		-1.6
Unemployment rate	10.3		-1.8		-1.6
Inactivity rate	45.2		-1.0		0.3

In the second quarter 2019, the Survey was conducted on the sample of 15 882 households, out of which 12 161 households, i.e. 28 498 persons aged 15 and over were interviewed.

More detailed data can be obtained in the tables that are part of the Statistical Release on Labour Force Survey for the second quarter 2019 (RS10), on the address: <http://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2019/Xls/G20191232.xlsx>.

Methodological notes

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.

Active population (labour force) includes all employed and unemployed persons aged 15 and over.

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

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.

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.

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.

For more detailed description of the Survey and definitions of labour force, see the methodology of Labour Force Survey on www.stat.gov.rs.

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).

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