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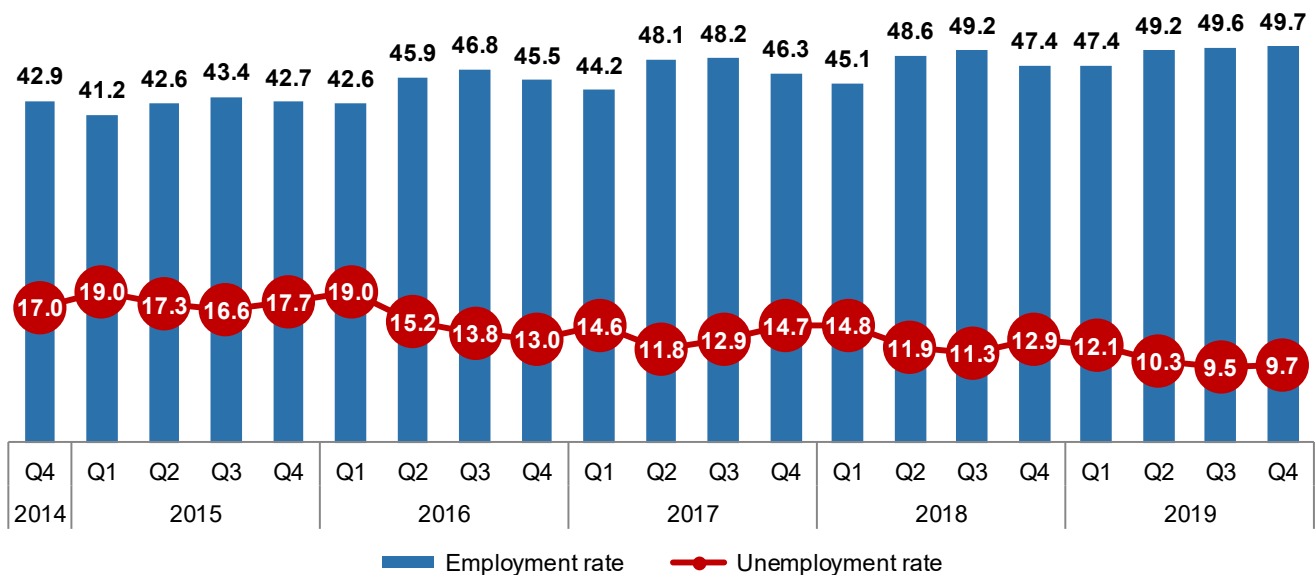
Labour Force Survey

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Labour Force Survey, IV quarter 2019

In the fourth quarter of 2019, number of the employed amounted to 2 938 200, and number of the unemployed to 314 100. Employment rate for the mentioned period amounted to 49.7%, while unemployment rate, in the same period, had the value of 9.7%.

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



Comparison with the same quarter of the previous year

Inter-annual increase of the number of the employed amounted to 120 900, while the number of the unemployed decreased by 102 500 persons.

Employment rate increased by 2.3 percentage points (p. p.) on inter-annual level, and unemployment rate decreased by 3.2 p. p.

Employment increase in the fourth quarter 2019 relative to the same period last year was almost equal in all regions of Serbia, being more dominant in the age group of over 45, as well as regarding persons with secondary education.

Formal employment was increased by 111 500, out of which by 97 400 in non-agricultural activities. Informal employment increased by 9 400 persons, primarily in agriculture¹ (by 8 700 persons).

The greatest employment increase was recorded in the section of Manufacturing, meaning that in the fourth quarter 2019 there were by 34 500 more persons employed if compared with the last year, and in the section of Construction, where increase of employment was recorded by about 14 800.

In the fourth quarter 2019, long term unemployment rate amounted to 5.8% and was lower by 1.5 p. p. relative to the same period last year.

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.

In the mentioned period, increased employment in the population of the young, aged 15-24 was somewhat smaller relative to the total population. Employment rate of the young increased by 1.7 p. p. relative to the fourth quarter 2018, amounting to 22.4% in the fourth quarter 2019. Unemployment rate of the young was lower by 2.8 p.p., amounting to 29.1%.

Share of the young population aged 15-24 who neither work nor attend school in total population, the so called NEET rate, amounted to 15.9%, being by 1.8 p. p. less than in the same quarter 2018.

NEET rate of the young aged 15-29 was on the level of 19.3%, i.e. by 1.5 p. p. less than in the same quarter last year.

Percentage of the young aged 18-24 who, in the best case, completed primary school and did not continue further education (in the last four weeks did not attend school or training) was decreased relative to the same period 2018, and amounted to 6.9%.

Comparison with the previous quarter

In scope of the total employment that remained on the same level in the fourth as in the third quarter, recorded was increased formal employment (by 33 100), primarily in non-agricultural activities and decreased informal employment (by 33 600), primarily in agriculture.

Increased employment was noted only in Beogradski region (by 18 300), due to move of inactive to the category of the employed, knowing that number of the unemployed remained almost unchanged.

Number of employed females increased by 13 100, while number of employed males decreased by 13 600.

The greatest increase was recorded in the section of Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles, where, in the fourth quarter 2019, employment increased by 34 300 relative to the third quarter 2019. On the other hand, the greatest decrease of employment was recorded in the section of Agriculture, forestry and fishing, where the number of the employed decreased by 38 200 relative to the third quarter, being in accordance with the end of the seasonal works in agriculture.

Number of unemployed in the fourth quarter 2019 relative to the previous period increased by 5 700. Number of unemployed females decreased by 5 900, while the number of unemployed males increased by 11 600. In this period, only in Region Vojvodine, number of unemployed decreased (by 2 300).

Decrease of inactive population by 12 500 in the fourth quarter relative to the third quarter 2019 is partially a consequence of increased activity (by 5 200), and partially due to decrease of total population aged 15 and over (by 7 300).

Main indicators, IV quarter 2019

Activity rate of population aged 15 and over in the fourth quarter 2019 amounted to 55.0%, where the activity rate of males was 63.3%, and of females 47.3%. The activity rate was the greatest in Beogradski region (56.6%), and in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (56.2%). In Region Vojvodine and Region Južne i Istočne Srbije activity rates were the lowest, 53.6% and 53.4%, respectively.

Employment rate of population aged 15 and over amounted to 49.7%, i.e. 57.5% regarding males and 42.4% regarding females. The greatest employment rate was noted in Beogradski region (52.3%), followed by Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije and Region Vojvodine (50.2% and 49.3%, respectively). Employment rate was the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, 46.6%.

Informal employment rate in the mentioned quarter, on the level of all activities was 17.6%, whereof informal sector related to employment in agricultural activities¹ recorded the rate of 56.7%, and in activities excluding agriculture, the rate had the value of 8.3%.

Unemployment rate of population aged 15 and over amounted to 9.7%, i.e. 9.1% regarding males and 10.3% regarding females. Observed by regions, the lowest rate was recorded in Beogradski region (7.6%) followed by Region Vojvodine (7.9%) and Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (10.8%). In Region Južne i Istočne Srbije recorded was the worst situation regarding labour market, resulting in the greatest unemployment rate of 12.8%.

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.

Table 1 Main indicators of labour market trend, Q4 2019

	Q4 2019	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2018	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Population 15+	5912.9	-7.3	-0.1	-29.9	-0.5
Active population	3252.3	5.2	0.2	18.4	0.6
Employed	2938.2	-0.5	0.0	120.9	4.3
Formally employed	2419.7	33.1	1.4	111.5	4.8
Informally employed	518.6	-33.6	-6.1	9.4	1.8
Unemployed	314.1	5.7	1.8	-102.5	-24.6
Inactive population	2660.6	-12.5	-0.5	-48.2	-1.8
	%	(p. p.)			
Activity rate	55.0		0.2		0.6
Employment rate	49.7		0.1		2.3
Informal employment rate	17.6		-1.1		-0.4
Unemployment rate	9.7		0.2		-3.2
Inactivity rate	45.0		-0.2		-0.6

In the fourth quarter 2019, the Survey was conducted on the sample of 15 651 households, out of which 11 558 households, i.e. 26 635 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 third quarter 2019 (RS10), on the address: <http://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/Xls/G20201051.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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