

STATISTICAL RELEASE

RS10

Number 135- Year LXX, 29/05/2020

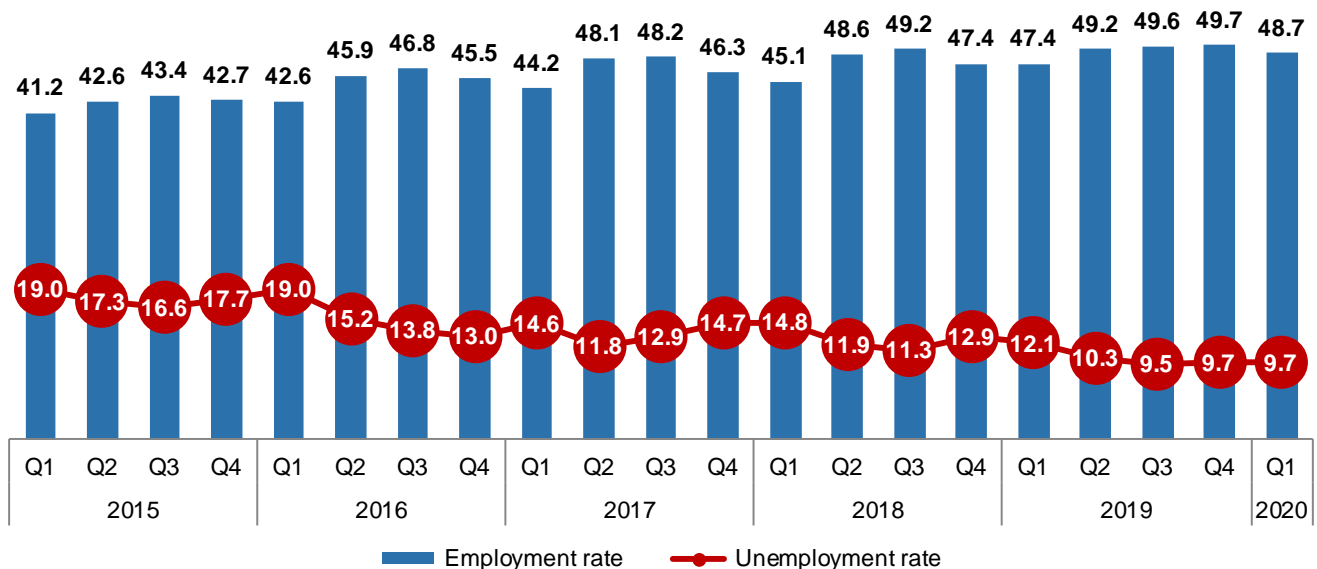
Labour Force Survey

SERB135RS10 290520

Labour Force Survey, I quarter 2020

In the first quarter of 2020, number of the employed amounted to 2 877 400, and number of the unemployed to 310 300. Employment rate for the mentioned period amounted to 48.7%, while unemployment rate, in the same period, had the value of 9.7%.

Graph 1 Trend of employment/unemployment rates (in %), population 15+, 2015-2020



Comparison with the same quarter of the previous year

Inter-annual increase of the number of the employed amounted to 66 900, while number of the unemployed decreased to 76 800. Employment rate amounted to 48.7%, which is the increase of 1.4 percentage points (p. p.) relative to the same period 2019, while unemployment rate decreased by 2.4 p. p., reaching the level of 9.7%.

In scope of total employment, informal employment decreased by 14 800, while formal employment increased by 81 700. Informal employment rate decreased by 0.9 p. p. and amounted to 16.2%.

Comparing the results of the Labour Force Survey for the first quarter of 2019 with the results for the first quarter of 2020, unequal increase in regional employment is apparent in the mentioned period. In Beogradski region number of the employed increased by 41 300, while in Region Sumadije i Zapadne Srbije it increased by 31 600. Furthermore, in Region Vojvodine, the number of the employed remained on the same level, while it decreased by 6 100 in Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije.

Increase in employment was the most dominant in the population with secondary education (91 600).

A half of the newly-employed related to the young up to the age of 35 (33 200).

Long-term unemployment rate decreased by 1.6 p. p. relative to the first quarter of 2019 and in the first quarter of 2020, this rate amounted to 5.5%.

Compared with the first quarter 2019, within the group of young aged 15-24, in the first quarter 2020, total population decreased by 10 900, while number of the employed increased by 16 300, simultaneously. Due to the mentioned changes, unemployment rate was by 5.1 p. p. lower relative to the same period of 2019, and reached the value of 25.5%.

The so called NEET rate, which represents share of the young aged 15-24 who neither work nor attend school in total population of young amounted to 14.6% and decreased by 0.2 p. p. , relative to the same period of 2019.

Percentage of the young aged 18-24 who, at best, completed primary school and did not continue further education (in the last four weeks they were not engaged in education or training), decreased compared with the first quarter of 2019, and amounted to 6.4%.

Comparison with the previous quarter

In the first quarter of 2020, compared with the fourth quarter of 2019, employment decreased by 60 800, whereof by 51 400 in informal sector.

Decrease in employment was primarily related to males, persons aged 55-64, as well as those with completed secondary education, while in the category of persons with tertiary education, employment was increased.

Employment was decreased in Region Juzne I Istocne Srbije (- 31 000), Region Vojvodine (-27 900), as well as Region Sumadije i Zapadne Srbije (-13 800), whereas in Beogradski Region, the number of employed increased (+11 900).

Beside decrease in the employment, unemployment decreased (-3 700) and inactivity increased (+57 200).

Compared with the previous quarter, employment rate decreased by 1.0 p. p., while unemployment rate remained the same, and amounted to 9.7% in the first quarter of 2020.

Within the share of the young (15-24), employment and unemployment was decreased on behalf of inactivity. Regarding this category, inactivity rate increased by 2.6 p. p., while rates of employment and unemployment decreased by 0.8 and 3.6 p. p., respectively.

The corona virus pandemic affected our country at the end of the first quarter of 2020, which is why its impact on labour market trends in that period is negligible. Changes in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, which could be partially related to the pandemic, but also to the seasonal influence, are the increase in the inactivity rate by 1 p. p., as well as changes in the employment structure.

According to the professional status, in the scope of formal employment, excluding agriculture, there was a decrease in the number of self-employed, owners of companies and entrepreneurs, by 17 700, and an increase in the number of employees by 17 900, compared to the fourth quarter of 2019.

In the same period, within informal employment, excluding agriculture, the number of employees decreased by 11 800, while the number of self-employed, who perform other forms of self-employment (painters, potters and other craftsmen, taxi drivers, private tutors, etc.) decreased by 30 900.

Main indicators, I quarter of 2020

Activity rate in the population aged 15 and over, over the first quarter of 2020 amounted to 54%, where the activity rate of males was 61.3%, and of females 47.2%. Compared to the other regions, the activity rate was the greatest in Beogradski region (57.2%), followed by Region Šumadije I Zapadne Srbije (55.8%). In Region Vojvodine and Region Južne i Istočne Srbije activity rates were the lowest, 52.0% and 50.4%, respectively.

Employment rate in the population aged 15 and over amounted to 48.7%, i.e. 55.5% regarding males and 42.4% regarding females. The greatest employment rate was noted in Beogradski region (53.1%), followed by Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije and Region Vojvodine (49.4% and 47.6%, respectively). Employment rate was the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, 44.2%.

Informal employment rate in the mentioned quarter, which includes all activities, was 16.2%, whereof informal sector related to employment in agricultural activities¹ recorded the rate of 57.0%. In activities excluding agriculture, this rate had the value of 6.6%.

Unemployment rate in the population aged 15 and over amounted to 9.7%, i.e. 9.3% regarding males and 10.2% regarding females. Observed by regions, the lowest rate was recorded in Beogradski region (7.1%), followed by Region Vojvodine (8.4%) and Region Šumadije I Zapadne Srbije (11.5%). In Region Južne I Istočne Srbije was recorded the most difficult situation regarding labour market, resulting with the greatest percentage of the unemployed, as shown by the unemployment rate of 12.3%.

Table 1 Main indicators of labour market trend, Q1 2020

	Q1 2020	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2019	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Population 15+	5905.6	-7.4	-0.1	-29.4	-0.5
Active population	3187.7	-64.6	-2.0	-9.9	-0.3
Employed	2877.4	-60.8	-2.1	66.9	2.4
Formally employed	2410.2	-9.4	-0.4	81.7	3.5
Informally employed	467.2	-51.4	-9.9	-14.8	-3.1
Unemployed	310.3	-3.7	-1.2	-76.8	-19.8
Inactive population	2717.8	57.2	2.1	-19.4	-0.7
	%	(p. p.)			
Activity rate	54.0		-1.0		0.1
Employment rate	48.7		-1.0		1.4
Informal employment rate	16.2		-1.4		-0.9
Unemployment rate	9.7		0.1		-2.4
Inactivity rate	46.0		1.0		-0.1

In the first quarter of 2020, the Survey was conducted on the sample of 15 581 households, out of which 10 773 households, i.e. 24 741 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 first quarter 2020 (RS10), on the address: <http://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2018/XIs/G20191043.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.

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.

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.

According to the Classification of employment status, employed are divided into self-employed, employees (who work for the employer) and contributing family workers. In the category of self-employed, there are several subcategories:

-Owner/co-owner of an enterprise (Ltd, JSC).

-Entrepreneur or partner in a partnership (shop, catering, handicrafts establishment, lawyer's office, practice, and other liberal professions).

-Person earn agreed compensation as dominant revenue source – on the basis of ad hoc contracts, copyright contracts, mediation and representation --contracts, etc., part-time workers.

-Independent artist, sportsman or person performing an activity in the field of culture, art, religion, etc., activities based on authorization from the -competent association or regulatory institution.

-Other not specified forms of independent performance of an economic activity- independent craftsman (painter, upholsterer...), taxi driver, person giving private classes, etc.

-Individual farmer.

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).