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Labour Force Survey, IV quarter 2017

In the fourth quarter of 2017, number of the employed amounted to 2 763 600, and number of the unemployed to 475 600. Employment rate of population aged 15 and over amounted to 46.3%, unemployment rate to 14.7%, resulting in activity rate of 54.2%, while inactivity rate was 45.8%.

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

![](data:application/x-msmetafile;base64...)

**Activity rate** of population aged 15 and over amounted to 54.2%, i.e. 62.8% (males) and 46.2% (females). The greatest activity rate is in Beogradski Region (56.3%) and in Region Šumadije I Zapadne Srbije (56.1%). It amounted to 52.5% in Region Vojvodine, and was the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (51.5%).

**Employment rate** of population aged 15 and over amounted to 46.3%, i.e. 54.0% (males) and 39.1% (females). The greatest employment rate is noted in Beogradski Region (48.3%) and in Region Šumadije I Zapadne Srbije (47.6%). It amounted to 45.6% in Region Vojvodine, and was the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (43.1%).

**Informal employment rate** on the level of all activities amounted to 19.8%, out of which two thirds of informal section referred to employment in agricultural activities.

**Unemployment rate** of population aged 15 and over amounted to 14.7% (14.1% - males and 15.4% - females). Observed by regions, the highest value was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (16.4%). In Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije it amounted to 15.1%, in Beogradski Region to 14.3% and was the lowest in Region Vojvodine, 13.2%.

*Comparison with the previous quarter*

Relative to the third quarter 2017, employment decreased by 118 300, out of which 86% related to the activity of Agriculture, forestry and fishery and to Households producing goods and services, due to seasonal character of the jobs. Decreased employment reflected to decreased employment rate, by 1.9 p.p. relative to the previous quarter. Due to decreased employment, unemployment and inactivity were increased by 47 000 and 63 900 respectively, whereof majority of males changed the activity status from employed into unemployed, while females became inactive after termination of employment. Unemployment rate and inactivity rate were increased by 1.7 and 1.1 p.p. respectively.

Similar trend of decreased employment and increased unemployment and inactivity, recorded in overall population, affected the young population aged 15-24 as well. Among them the employment rate was decreased by 2.3 p.p, while unemployment rate and inactivity rate were increased by 4.5 and 1.2 p. p respectively.

Compared with other regions, Beogradski region “suffered” the lowest loss of jobs, and it is not surprising, knowing that seasonal jobs that terminated during the winter months were the least present in this region. Therefore, Beogradski region showed the best results on labour market, unlike Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, where employment rate was the lowest and unemployment and inactivity rates were the greatest, compared with other regions.

*Comparison with the same period of the previous year*

Relative to the fourth quarter of the previous year, number of employed population increased by 32 200, while number of unemployed population increased by 65 700. Employment rate and unemployment rate were increased by 0.8 and 1.6 p.p. respectively.

Within total employment, which was increased by 32 200, informal employment was decreased by 24 300 and formal employment was increased by 56 500. Increase of formal employment was almost identical to increase of registered employment by 56 400, according to the records of Central register of compulsory social insurance in the same period.

Employment growth mostly affected persons aged 25-44 from Beogradski region and region Vojvodine, in the following sections of activity: Manufacturing, Transport and storage, Information and communication.

Decreased employment and increased unemployment were recorded only in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije.

Informal employment rate was decreased, amounting to 19.8%, and number of informally employed persons was 546 400. If 172 800 of formally employed persons, who did not exercise neither the right to health nor to pension insurance, and who therefore, according to more strict definition of formal/ informal employment do not belong to the category of formally employed, were added, number of informally employed would be 719 200 and informal employment rate would amount to 26%.

Results on labour market are not influenced only by trends of employment and unemployment, but also by demographic trends, which are particularly unfavourable regarding the population aged 15-24. Namely, number of young people, relative to the same period of the previous year, has decreased by 15 100, presenting a half of total decrease of overall population. Additionally, there were no significant changes in the number of employed, while number of unemployed persons increased by 8 600, and unemployment rate increased by 2.1 p.p. Such trends resulted in employment rate of 21.4% and unemployment rate of 33.3%. NEET rate, presenting the share of young who neither work nor attend school, in total population of young aged 15-24, increased by 1.1 p.p relative to the same period last year and amounted to 17.6%.

**Table 1.** Main indicators of labour market trend, IV quarter 2017

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|   | IV quarter 2017  | Changes relative to previous quarter  | Changes relative to same quarter of 2016 |
| (in thousand) | (in thousand) | % | (in thousand) | % |
|  |   |  |   |  |   |
| **Total** | **5974.2** | **-7.0** | **-0.1** | **-30.1** | **-0.5** |
| Active | 3239.2 | -70.9 | -2.1 | 97.9 | 3.1 |
| Employed | 2763.6 | -118.3 | -4.1 | 32.2 | 1.2 |
|  Formally employed | 2217.2 | -36.3 | -1.6 | 56.5 | 2.6 |
|  Informally employed | 546.4 | -81.9 | -13.0 | -24.3 | -4.2 |
| Unemployed | 475.6 | 47.4 | 11.1 | 65.7 | 16.0 |
| Inactive | 2735.0 | 63.9 | 2.4 | -128.0 | -4.5 |
|   | **%** | (p.p.) |
| Activity rate | 54.2 |  | -1.1 |  | 1.9 |
| Employment rate | 46.3 |  | -1.9 |  | 0.8 |
|  Informal employment rate | 19.8 |  | -2.0 |  | -1.1 |
| Unemployment rate  | 14.7 |  | 1.7 |  | 1.6 |
| Inactivity rate | 45.8 |   | 1.1 |   | -1.9 |

More detailed data are obtainable in statistical release Labour Force Survey in the republic of Serbia, IV quarter 2016 (RS10), on the address: [http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/Public/PageView.as](http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/Public/PageView.aspx?pKey=26)[px?pKey=26](http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/Public/PageView.aspx?pKey=26).

*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.

The Survey was conducted on the sample of 15 592 households, whereof 12 434 households were interviewed, i.e. 29 454 persons aged 15 and over.

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

**Activity rate** presents the percentage share of active population in total population aged 15 and over.

**Employment rate** is the share of employed in the total population aged 15 and over.

**Unemployment rate** presents the percentage share of unemployed population in active population.

**Informal employment rate** is the share of persons employed in (1) unregistered companies, (2) registered companies but without a formal contract, (3) as well as unpaid family workers, in total employment.

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 Metohia and therefore these data are not included in the coverage for the Republic of Serbia (total).