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Labour Force Survey

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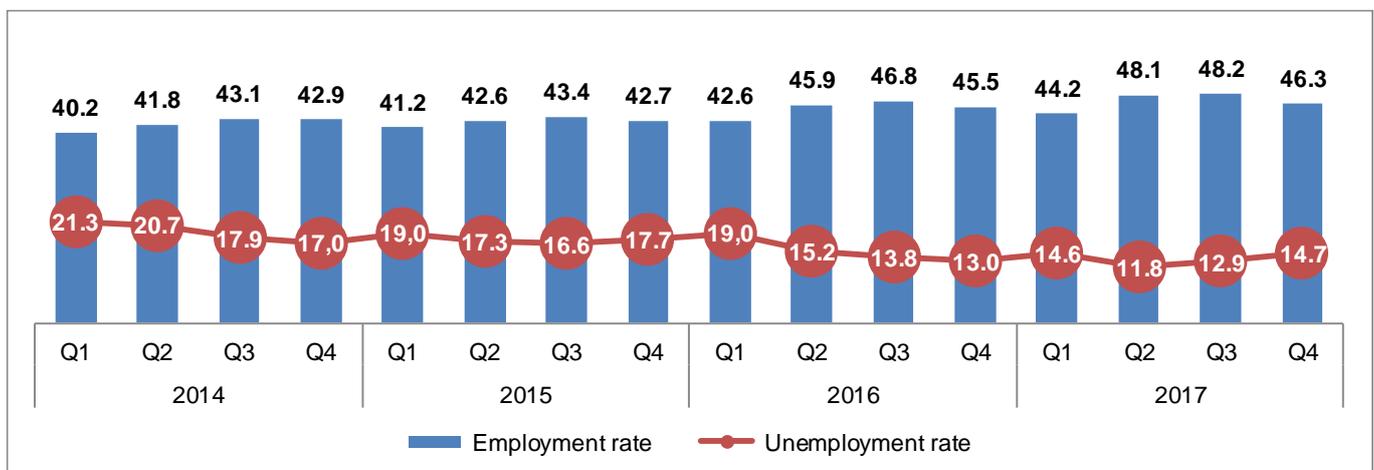
Labour Force Survey, IV quarter 2017

– 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 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



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 47 400 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%.

Labour Force

Number of active population aged 15 and over amounted to 3 239 200 persons in the fourth quarter 2017, out of which 2 763 600 related to employed and 475 600 to unemployed ones. **Activity rate** was 54.2%, being by 1.1 p.p. lower relative to the previous quarter, and by 1.9 p.p. higher relative to the same quarter 2016.

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

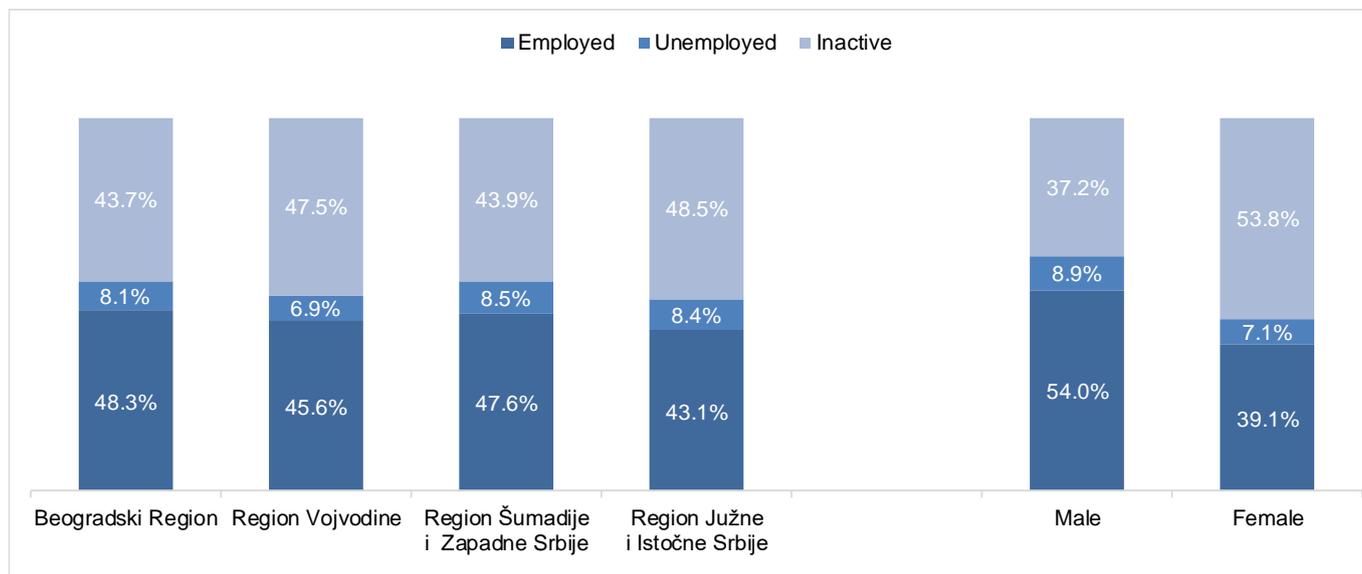
Activity rate (share of labour force) presents the percentage share of active population in total population aged 15 and over.

Compared with the previous quarter, population activity decreased in all regions. The greatest decrease was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (by 25 500) and in Region Vojvodine (by 24 300). Number of active women was decreased by 49 700 and of active men by 21 200.

Relative to the same quarter 2016, activity was increased in all regions. The greatest activity increase was recorded in Beogradski Region (by 41 000). Number of active men was increased by 52 300, and number of active women by 45 600.

In the structure of population by employment status, regions have similar distribution. Rates of activity and employment are somewhat greater in Beogradski Region (56.3% and 48.3%, respectively) and in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (56.1% and 47.6%, respectively), while the rates in Region Vojvodine (52.5% and 45.6%) and Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (51.5% and 43.1%, respectively) were lower. Share of the unemployed in total population aged 15 and over is somewhat lower in Region Vojvodine (6.9%) compared with the other regions (Graph 2).

Graph 2 Structure of population 15+, by activity, regions and sex, Q4 2017



Gender inequality on labour market is still present. Namely, while activity rate of males aged 15 and over amounted to 62.8%, regarding females, it amounted to only 46.2%. Employment rate of males is by even 14.9 p.p. higher than of females (Graph 2).

Employed population

Number of employed persons in the fourth quarter 2017 relative to the previous quarter decreased by 118 300. Relative to the same quarter of the previous year, number of employed was increased by 32 200. **Employment rate** was 46.3%, being by 1.9 p.p. less than in the previous quarter and by 0.8 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.

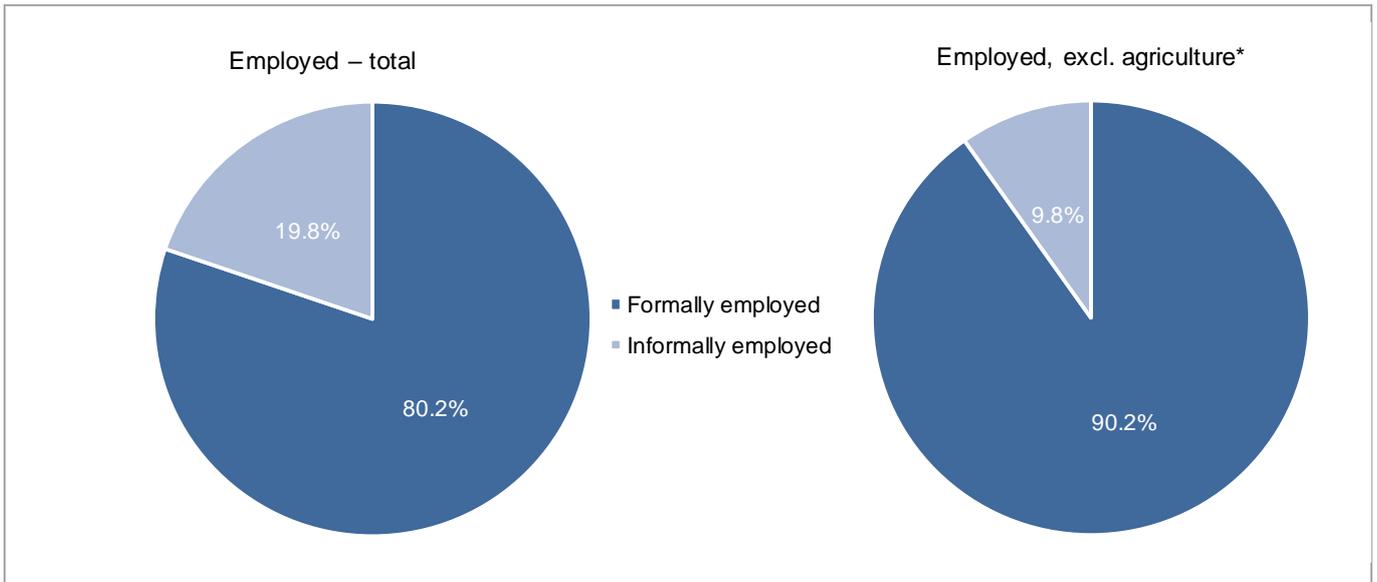
Informal employment rate is the percentage share of informally employed in total employment.

Employment in the previous year (from the fourth quarter 2016 to the fourth quarter 2017), in **formal sector** increased by 56 500, and in **informal sector** recorded was the decrease of 24 300 persons.

Rate of informal employment in the fourth quarter 2017 amounted to 19.8% on the level of all activity sections (Graph 3).

In non-agriculture, informal employment rate is significantly lower, amounting to 9.8%.

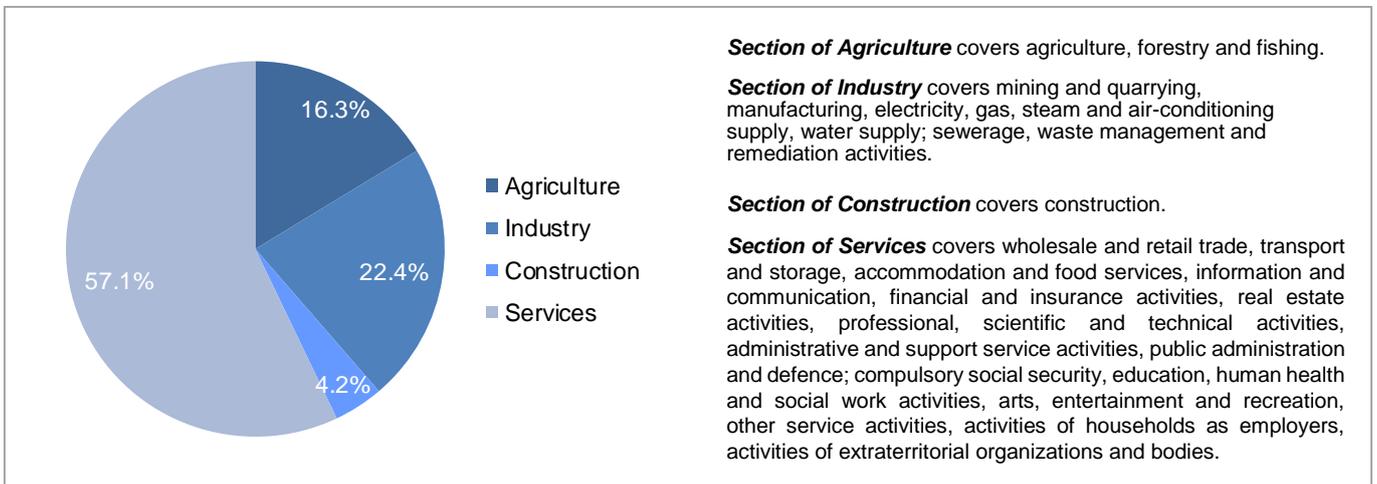
Graph 3 Share of formal/informal employment in total employment of population aged 15+, Q4 2017



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 (57.1%), followed by industry, with the share of 22.4% in total employment (Graph 4).

Graph 4 Structure of employed by section of activity, 15+, Q4 2017

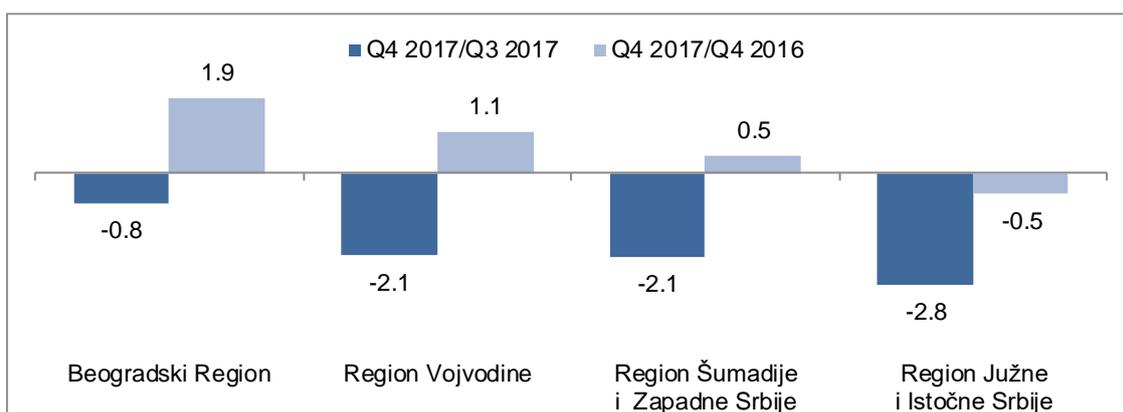


Relative to the previous quarter, employment rate was decreased in all regions and the most significant decrease was noted in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (2.8 p.p.).

Compared with the same quarter 2016, increased was the employment rate in all regions except in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, where the fall of 0.5 p.p. was recorded. The greatest increase of employment rate was recorded in Beogradski Region (1.9 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, Q4 2017



Unemployed population

In the fourth quarter 2017, **unemployment of persons** aged 15 and over was 475 600, which is by 47 400 persons more than in the previous quarter and by 65 700 persons more than in the fourth quarter 2016.

Unemployment noted increase both regarding females and males, relative to the previous quarter. Recorded increase of unemployed was greater regarding males (34 600) than females (12 800).

Relative to the same quarter of 2016, unemployment increase was recorded regarding both genders, being slightly greater in females population (by 38 700 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.

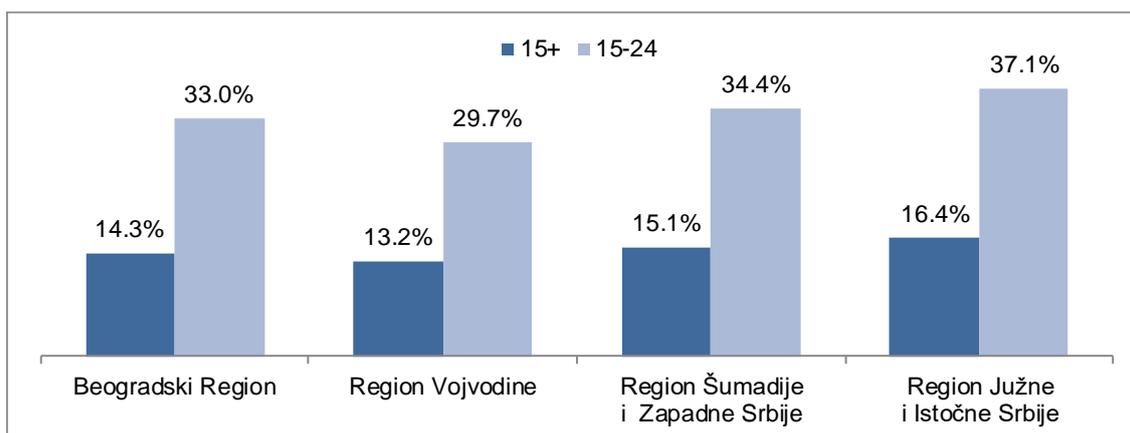
Unemployment rate presents the percentage share of unemployed population in labour force (employed and unemployed), aged 15 and over.

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 14.7% on the level of whole territory of Serbia, where the highest value was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (16.4%), and the lowest in Region Vojvodine (13.2%) (Graph 6).

Graph 6 Unemployment rates of persons aged 15+ and 15-24, by regions, Q4 2017



Compared with the previous quarter, as well as with the same quarter of the previous year, unemployment increased in all regions, the greatest increase was in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (by 20 400 persons relative to the previous quarter and by 20 000 relative to the same quarter of the previous year). The increase was the smallest in Beogradski Region (by 5 400 relative to the previous quarter and by 12 800 relative to the same quarter of the previous year).

Long-term unemployment rate is 8.8%, being by 1.1 p.p. more relative to the previous quarter and by 0.5 p.p. more relative to the same quarter 2016.

Unemployment rate of young population (15–24) amounted to 33.3%. The greatest is in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (37.1%), and the lowest in Region Vojvodine (29.7%).

NEET rate was 17.6%, denoting increase of 0.5 p.p. relative to the previous quarter, i.e. increase of 1.1 p.p. relative to the fourth quarter 2016.

Inactive population

Number of inactive population in the fourth quarter 2017 amounted to 2 735 000, being by 63 900 more relative to the previous quarter and by 128 000 less compared to the fourth quarter 2016.

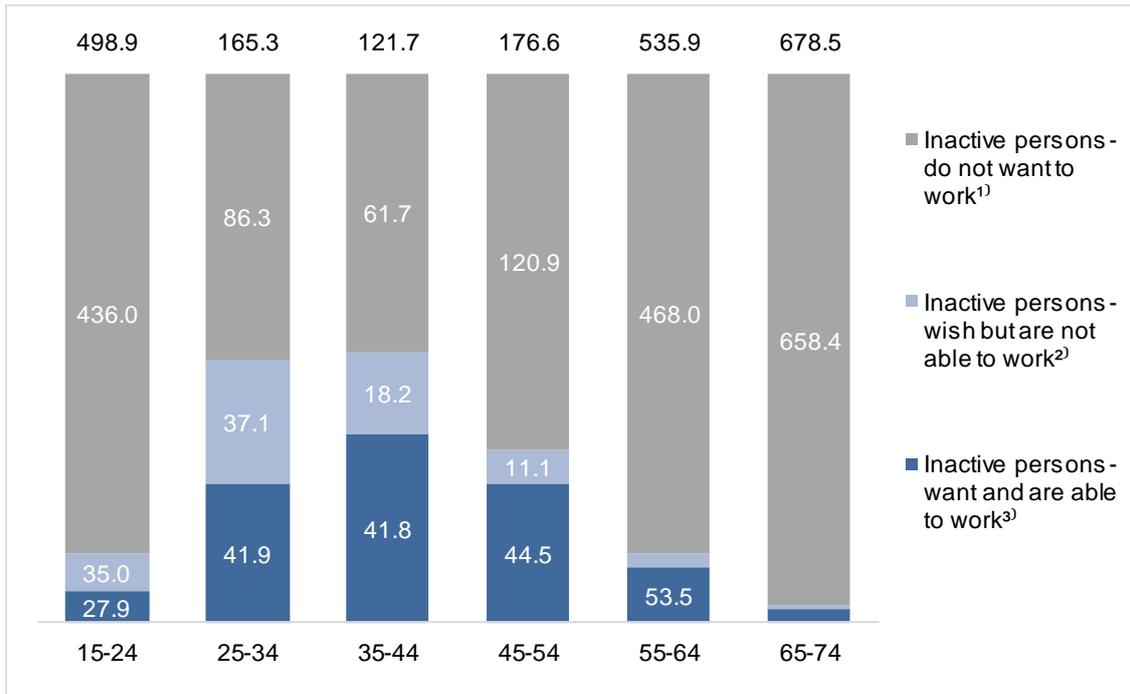
Inactivity rate is 45.8%, i.e. by 1.1 p.p. more than in the previous quarter, being significantly greater in female population (53.8%) than in male population (37.2%).

Relative to the fourth quarter 2016, inactivity rate decreased by 1.9 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), Q4 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, Q4 2017

	Q4 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
Unemployed	475.6	47.4	11.1	65.7	16.0
Inactive	2735.0	63.9	2.4	-128.0	-4.5
Male	2881.4	-3.3	-0.1	-14.3	-0.5
Active	1809.9	-21.2	-1.2	52.3	3.0
Employed	1554.7	-55.9	-3.5	25.3	1.7
Unemployed	255.2	34.6	15.7	27.0	11.8
Inactive	1071.5	17.9	1.7	-66.6	-5.9
Female	3092.7	-3.7	-0.1	-15.8	-0.5
Active	1429.2	-49.7	-3.4	45.6	3.3
Employed	1208.9	-62.4	-4.9	6.9	0.6
Unemployed	220.4	12.8	6.1	38.7	21.3
Inactive	1663.5	46.0	2.8	-61.4	-3.6

Table 1a Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 and over, Q4 2017

	Q4 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2016
	(%)	p.p.	
Total			
Activity rate	54.2	-1.1	1.9
Employment rate	46.3	-1.9	0.8
Unemployment rate	14.7	1.7	1.6
Inactivity rate	45.8	1.1	-1.9
Male			
Activity rate	62.8	-0.7	2.1
Employment rate	54.0	-1.9	1.1
Unemployment rate	14.1	2.1	1.1
Inactivity rate	37.2	0.7	-2.1
Female			
Activity rate	46.2	-1.5	1.7
Employment rate	39.1	-2.0	0.4
Unemployment rate	15.4	1.4	2.3
Inactivity rate	53.8	1.5	-1.7

Table 2 Main contingents of labour force by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q4 2017

	Q4 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Total	734.8	-3.5	-0.5	-15.1	-2.0
Active	235.9	-9.8	-4.0	11.3	5.0
Employed	157.4	-17.5	-10.0	2.8	1.8
Unemployed	78.5	7.7	10.8	8.6	12.2
Inactive	498.9	6.3	1.3	-26.5	-5.0
Male	378.3	-1.7	-0.5	-7.6	-2.0
Active	149.3	-1.1	-0.7	9.8	7.0
Employed	100.5	-14.0	-12.2	5.3	5.6
Unemployed	48.8	12.9	35.9	4.5	10.1
Inactive	228.9	-0.6	-0.3	-17.4	-7.1
Female	356.5	-1.8	-0.5	-7.5	-2.1
Active	86.6	-8.7	-9.1	1.5	1.8
Employed	56.9	-3.5	-5.8	-2.6	-4.3
Unemployed	29.7	-5.2	-14.9	4.1	16.0
Inactive	269.9	7.0	2.6	-9.1	-3.3

Table 2a Rates of activity, employment, unemployment and inactivity by sex, population aged 15 to 24, Q4 2017

	Q4 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter	Changes relative to same quarter of 2016
	(%)	p.p.	
Total			
Activity rate	32.1	-1.2	2.2
Employment rate	21.4	-2.3	0.8
Unemployment rate	33.3	4.5	2.1
Inactivity rate	67.9	1.2	-2.2
Male			
Activity rate	39.5	-0.1	3.3
Employment rate	26.6	-3.6	1.9
Unemployment rate	32.7	8.8	0.9
Inactivity rate	60.5	0.1	-3.3
Female			
Activity rate	24.3	-2.3	0.9
Employment rate	16.0	-0.9	-0.4
Unemployment rate	34.3	-2.3	4.2
Inactivity rate	75.7	2.3	-0.9
NEETs (15-24)	17.6	0.5	1.1
Early school leavers (18-24) ¹⁾	6.7	0.6	0.6

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, Q4 2017

	Q4 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Active – total	3239.2	-70.9	-2.1	97.9	3.1
Sex					
Male	1809.9	-21.2	-1.2	52.3	3.0
Female	1429.2	-49.7	-3.4	45.6	3.3
Region					
Beogradski Region	809.1	-5.2	-0.6	41.0	5.3
Region Vojvodine	839.9	-24.3	-2.8	27.4	3.4
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	931.8	-15.9	-1.7	22.2	2.4
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	658.4	-25.5	-3.7	7.4	1.1
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 4 Employed persons aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q4 2017

	Q4 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Employed - total	2763.6	-118.3	-4.1	32.2	1.2
Sex					
Male	1554.7	-55.9	-3.5	25.3	1.7
Female	1208.9	-62.4	-4.9	6.9	0.6
Region					
Beogradski Region	693.0	-10.7	-1.5	28.2	4.2
Region Vojvodine	728.9	-34.3	-4.5	13.3	1.9
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	791.1	-36.2	-4.4	2.2	0.3
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	550.6	-37.1	-6.3	-11.5	-2.0
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 5 Formally/Informally employed persons aged 15 and over, Q4 2017

	Q4 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Employed persons	2763.6	-118.3	-4.1	32.2	1.2
Formally employed	2217.2	-36.3	-1.6	56.5	2.6
- Formally employed, excl. agriculture ¹⁾	1984.2	6.1	0.3	52.6	2.7
- Formally employed in agriculture*	233.0	-42.4	-15.4	3.8	1.7
Informally employed	546.4	-81.9	-13.0	-24.3	-4.2
- Informally employed, excl. agriculture	215.0	-23.1	-9.7	19.2	9.8
- Informally employed in agriculture	331.4	-58.9	-15.1	-43.5	-11.6
	%			(p.p.)	
Rate of informal employment (total)	19.8		-2.0		-1.1
Rate of informal employment, excl. agriculture	9.8		-1.0		0.6

* Corrected data (was 232.8; -42.6; -15.5; 3.7; 1.6).

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, Q4 2017

	Q4 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Unemployed - total	475.6	47.4	11.1	65.7	16.0
Sex					
Male	255.2	34.6	15.7	27.0	11.8
Female	220.4	12.8	6.1	38.7	21.3
Region					
Beogradski Region	116.1	5.4	4.9	12.8	12.4
Region Vojvodine	111.0	10.0	9.9	14.1	14.5
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	140.7	20.4	16.9	20.0	16.6
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	107.8	11.6	12.0	18.9	21.2
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...
	%	(p.p.)			
Long-term unemployment rate	8.8		1.1		0.5

Table 7 Inactive population aged 15 and over, by sex and region, Q4 2017

	Q4 2017	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2016	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Inactive - total	2735.0	63.9	2.4	-128.0	-4.5
Sex					
Male	1071.5	17.9	1.7	-66.6	-5.9
Female	1663.5	46.0	2.8	-61.4	-3.6
Region					
Beogradski Region	626.9	5.6	0.9	-39.7	-6.0
Region Vojvodine	759.7	22.3	3.0	-35.9	-4.5
Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije	728.8	13.2	1.8	-33.8	-4.4
Region Južne i Istočne Srbije	619.6	22.8	3.8	-18.6	-2.9
Region Kosovo i Metohija	...	...	...	...	...

Table 8 Main contingents of labour force by region and age groups, Q4 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+	5974.2	1436	1599.6	1660.6	1278.0	...
Active	3239.2	809.1	839.9	931.8	658.4	...
Employed	2763.6	693.0	728.9	791.1	550.6	...
Unemployed	475.6	116.1	111.0	140.7	107.8	...
Inactive	2735	626.9	759.7	728.8	619.6	...
	%					
Activity rate	54.2	56.3	52.5	56.1	51.5	...
Employment rate	46.3	48.3	45.6	47.6	43.1	...
Unemployment rate	14.7	14.3	13.2	15.1	16.4	...
Inactivity rate	45.8	43.7	47.5	43.9	48.5	...
	(in thousand)					
Young population (15–24)	734.8	161.7	199.1	211.9	162	...
Active	235.9	46.5	70.6	67.2	51.6	...
Employed	157.4	31.2	49.7	44.1	32.5	...
Unemployed	78.5	15.3	21.0	23.1	19.1	...
Inactive	498.9	115.3	128.5	144.7	110.4	...
	%					
Activity rate	32.1	28.7	35.5	31.7	31.9	...
Employment rate	21.4	19.3	24.9	20.8	20.0	...
Unemployment rate	33.3	33.0	29.7	34.4	37.1	...
Inactivity rate	67.9	71.3	64.5	68.3	68.1	...
	(in thousand)					
Working – age population (15–64)	4600.8	1120.0	1249.0	1273.3	958.5	...
Active	3102.5	791.6	822.1	864.3	624.5	...
Employed	2628.9	676.9	711.2	724.0	516.9	...
Unemployed	473.5	114.7	110.9	140.3	107.7	...
Inactive	1498.3	328.4	426.9	409.0	334.0	...
	%					
Activity rate	67.4	70.7	65.8	67.9	65.2	...
Employment rate	57.1	60.4	56.9	56.9	53.9	...
Unemployment rate	15.3	14.5	13.5	16.2	17.2	...
Inactivity rate	32.6	29.3	34.2	32.1	34.8	...

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).