

# STATISTICAL RELEASE

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## Labour Force Survey

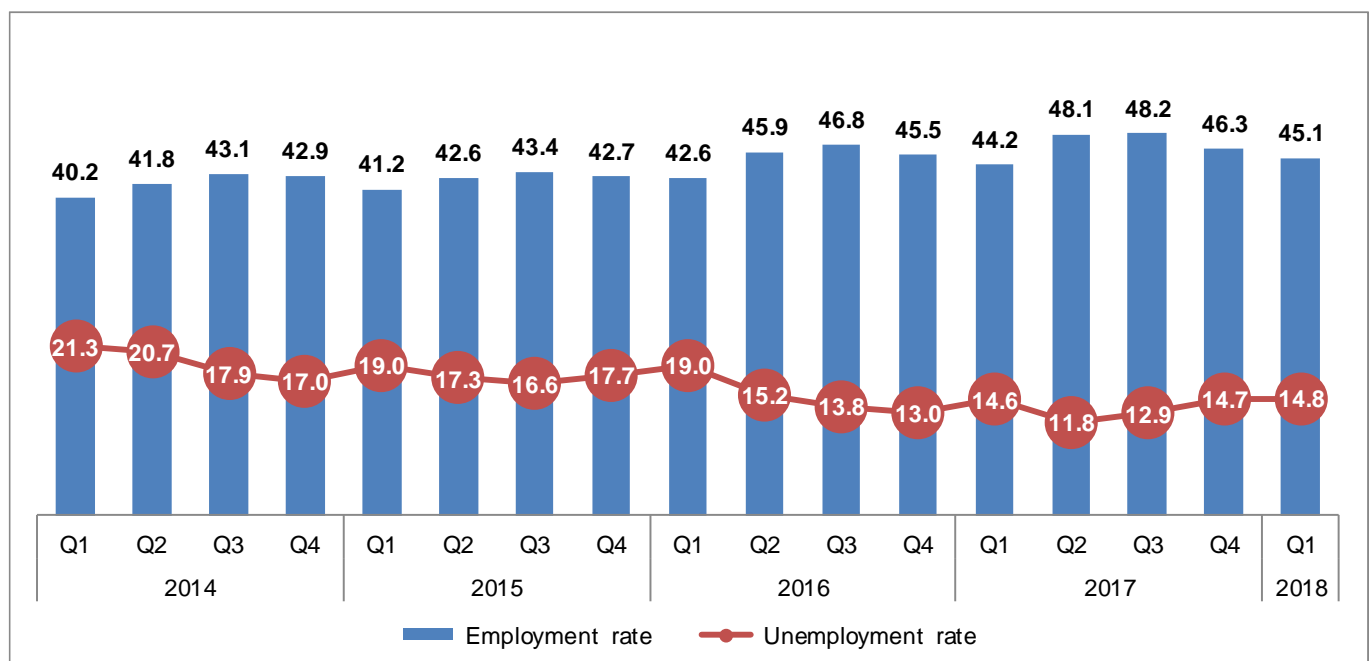
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### Labour Force Survey, I quarter 2018

– Preliminary results –

In the first quarter of 2018, number of the employed amounted to 2 688 300, and number of the unemployed to 468 700. Employment rate of population aged 15 and over amounted to 45.1%, and unemployment rate to 14.8%.

**Graph 1** Trend of employment/unemployment rates (in %), population 15+, 2014-2018



**Activity rate** of population aged 15 and over amounted to 52.9%, where the activity rate of males was 61.4%, and of females 45.0%. The greatest activity rate was noted in Beogradski region (55.2%) and in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (54.1%). In Region Vojvodine it was 51.3%, and it was the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (50.8%).

**Employment rate** of population aged 15 and over amounted to 45.1%, i.e. 52.7% regarding males and 37.9% regarding females. The greatest employment rate was noted in Beogradski region (47.8%) and in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (45.7%). In Region Vojvodine it was 44.7%, and it was the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (41.5%).

**Informal employment rate** on the level of all activities was 18.6%, whereof almost two thirds of informal sector (62.7%) related to employment in agricultural activities.

**Unemployment rate** of population aged 15 and over amounted to 14.8%, i.e. 14.1% regarding males and 15.8% regarding females. Observed by regions, the highest rate was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije (18.3%), in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije it was 15.6%, and in Beogradski region 13.3%. Unemployment rate was the lowest in Region Vojvodine (12.9%).

## Comparison with the same period of the previous year

Relative to the first quarter of the previous year, number of employed population increased by 36 100, and number of unemployed by 15 900. That caused **increase of the contingent of labour force by 52 000**, and activity rate by 1.1 percentage point (p.p.). Employment rate and unemployment rate were increased by 0.8 p.p. and 0.3 p.p., respectively.

Within total employment, which was increased by 36 100, employment in agriculture was decreased by 43 000, while **in non-agricultural activities, the employment increased by 79 000, primarily in formal sector (by 71 400)**. Increase of formal employment was almost identical to increase of registered employment (according to the records of Central Registry of Compulsory Social Insurance) which amounted to 74 500 (excluding agriculture).

Relative to the first quarter 2017, employed were mostly persons aged 25-44 from Beogradski region and Region Vojvodine, in the sections of Manufacturing, Construction, Professional, scientific and technical activities, Administrative and support service activities, Information and communication.

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 14 000, presenting a half of total decrease of overall population. Additionally, there was an insignificant decrease in the number of employed (5 900), in favour of employment (4 200). Such trends resulted in decreased unemployment rate by 2.6 p. p and increased employment rate by 0.9 p.p, meaning that employment rate of young population amounted to 18.5% and unemployment rate to 34.6%.

## Comparison with the previous quarter

Relative to the fourth quarter 2017, employment decreased by 75 300, out of which 71% related to the activity of Agriculture, forestry and fishery<sup>1</sup> (due to seasonal decrease of works in agriculture in winter months). Decreased employment reflected to decreased employment rate, which was by 1.2 p.p. decreased relative to the previous quarter.

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. The greatest decrease of employment was registered in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije.

Employment was terminated referring to persons with primary and secondary education completed, while in category of persons with tertiary education, employment was increased (by 32 100).

**In the first quarter 2018, two positive trends related to non-agricultural activities were noted - formal employment increased (by 6 900), primarily to manufacturing, and informal employment decreased (by 28 500)**. In the same period, registered employment excluding agriculture was, according to the evidence of Central Registry of Compulsory Social Insurance, increased by 7 800, also primarily to manufacturing.

Besides decrease of total employment, unemployment was also decreased (by 6 800), so that the contingent of labour force (influenced by season) in the first quarter was smaller by 82 200, and activity rate by 1.3 p.p.

Similar trend of decreased employment and unemployment, with increase of inactivity (noted on the level of total population) encompassed the young population, aged 15-24. Number of employed and unemployed young was decreased by 22 000 and 7 100, respectively, thus influencing the increased contingent of inactive population by 25 600 in this age group. Unemployment rate of young is still on high level, amounting to 34.6%.

The share of young who neither work nor attend school (in formal and non-formal education) in total population of young aged 15-24 (so called NEET rate) was insignificantly changed relative to the previous quarter (by 0.3 p. p.) and now amounted to 17.3%. NEET rate of population aged 15-29 amounted to 21.9%.

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<sup>1</sup> 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, Q1 2018

	Q1 2018	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2017	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
<b>Population 15+</b>	<b>5 967.1</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-28.1</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Active population	3 157.0	-82.2	-2.5	52.0	1.7
Employed	2 688.3	-75.4	-2.7	36.1	1.4
Formally employed	2 188.2	-29.0	-1.3	40.1	1.9
Informally employed	500.1	-46.4	-8.5	-4.1	-0.8
Unemployed	468.7	-6.8	-1.4	15.9	3.5
Inactive population	2 810.2	75.2	2.7	-80.1	-2.8
		%		(p.p.)	
Activity rate	52.9		-1.3		1.1
Employment rate	45.1		-1.2		0.8
Informal employment rate	18.6		-1.2		-0.4
Unemployment rate	14.8		0.2		0.3
Inactivity rate	47.1		1.3		-1.1

In the first quarter 2018, the Survey was conducted on the sample of 15 429 households, out of which 12 354 households, i.e. 29 329 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 2018 (RS10), on the address: <http://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2018/XIsE/G20181138.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.

**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](http://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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