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Labour Force Survey

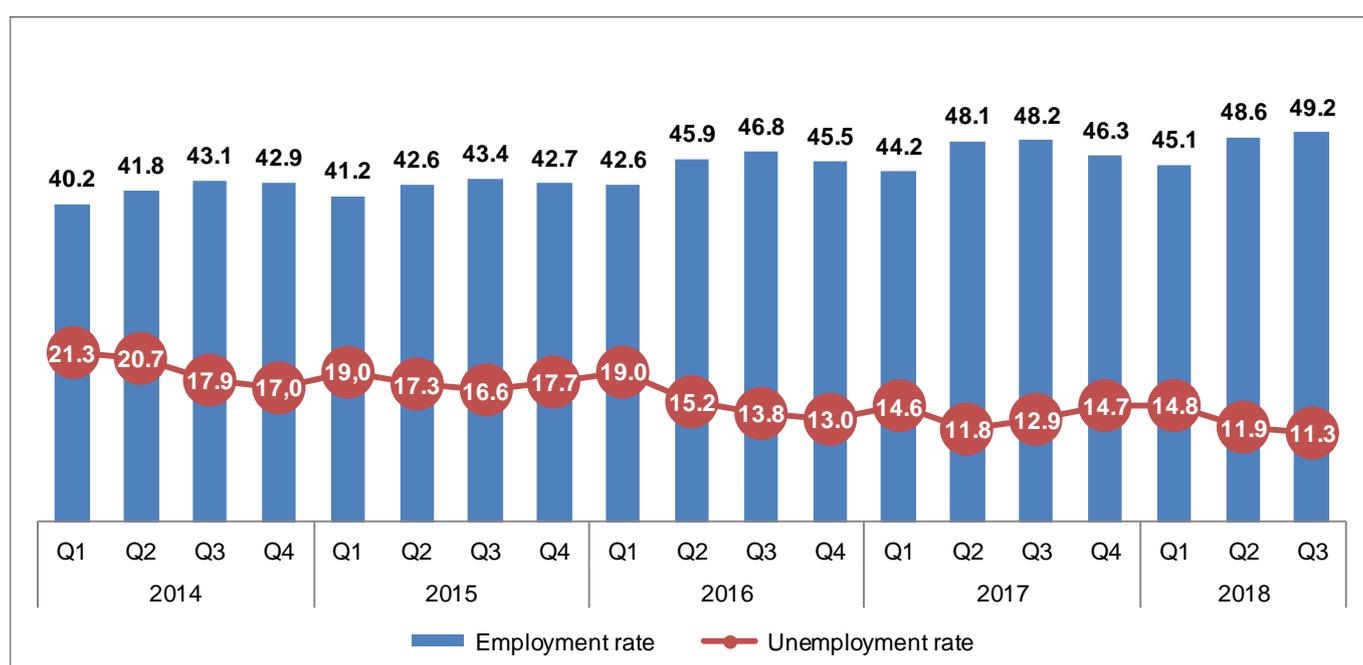
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Labour Force Survey, III quarter 2018

– Preliminary results –

In the third quarter of 2018, number of the employed amounted to 2 929 300, and number of the unemployed to 371 800. Employment rate has reached the new record for the period for which the comparable data series are available (2014-2018), amounting to 49.2%, while unemployment rate, in the same period, had the lowest value, amounting to 11.3%.

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



Activity rate of population aged 15 and over in the third quarter amounted to 55.5%, where the activity rate of males was 64.0%, and of females 47.5%. The greatest activity rate was noted in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (58.2%), followed by Beogradski region (56.6%). In Region Južne i Istočne Srbije and in Region Vojvodine, it was at almost the same level, 53.5% and 53.2%, respectively.

Employment rate of population aged 15 and over amounted to 49.2%, i.e. 57.3% regarding males and 41.7% regarding females. The greatest employment rate was noted in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije and in Beogradski region (51.0%, and 50.8%), respectively. In Region Vojvodine, it was 49.0% and in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, it was the lowest, 45.4%.

Informal employment rate in the mentioned quarter, on the level of all activities was 20.4%, whereof informal sector related to employment in agricultural activities¹ recorded the rate of 61.3%, and in activities excluding agriculture, the rate had the value of 9.5%.

Unemployment rate of population aged 15 and over amounted to 11.3%, i.e. 10.5% regarding males and 12.2% regarding females. Observed by regions, the lowest rate was recorded in Region Vojvodine (7.9%), followed by Beogradski region (10.2%) and Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (12.5%). In Region Južne i Istočne Srbije the situation is still the worst regarding the labour market trend, recording the greatest unemployment rate of 15.2%.

¹ The whole section of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, as well as a part of the section Activities of households as employers referring to agriculture.

Comparison with the same quarter of the previous year

In the third quarter 2018, the number of employed increased by 47 400 and number of unemployed decreased by 56 400 relative to the third quarter of the previous year. Employment rate was increased by one percentage point (p.p.), relative to the third quarter 2017, amounting now to 49.2%, while unemployment rate was decreased by 1.7 p.p. and amounted to 11.3%.

In scope of total employment, decreased was informal employment (by 29 500) and increased was formal employment (by 76 900), dominantly in the activity sections of Manufacturing, Accommodation and food service activities and Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles. Such trend is in accordance with registered employment trend, according to the records of Central Registry for Compulsory Social Insurance.

The greatest employment increase, with unemployment decrease was noted in Beogradski region and Region Vojvodine, while the situation was completely different in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, where in the same period, employment decreased and unemployment increased.

Employment was increased in population with secondary and tertiary education level, dominantly in the age group 25-34.

There were no significant changes in number of employed regarding young population aged 15-24, while number of unemployed was decreased by 12 800, i.e. 18% relative to the same period last year.

Activity rate of young in the third quarter amounted to 31.6%, while employment and unemployment rates were on the level of 23.6% and 25.3%, respectively.

The share of the young who neither work nor attend school (in formal or informal education) in total population of young aged 15-24 (so called NEET rate) was decreased by 0.8 p.p. relative to the third quarter 2017, amounting now to 16.3%. Regarding population aged 15-29, NEET rate was 19.0%.

Comparison with the previous quarter

Employment growth trend, with decreased unemployment were also recorded in comparison with the second quarter 2018. Namely, in the third quarter 2018, number of employed increased by 32 500, and number of unemployed and inactive decreased by 19 700 and 20 700, respectively, relative to the previous quarter. Employment rate was increased by 0.6 p.p. while unemployment and inactivity rates were decreased by 0.6 and 0.3 p.p. respectively.

In scope of total employment, informal employment was decreased (by 8 3000) and formal employment increased (by 40 800). Informal employment rate was decreased by 0.5 p.p. Number of formally employed was increased in the sections of Wholesale and retail trade and motor vehicles repair, Transport and storage, and Administrative and support service activities, as is in accordance with trends of registered employment, according to the records of Central Registry of Compulsory Social Insurance.

Situation on labour market in the previous period has not changed in the same manner in all regions of Serbia. While relative to the previous quarter, in Region Vojvodine, unemployment was decreased in favour of employment, in other regions, there were no significant changes in the number of unemployed. In region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije, decreased was the contingent of inactive population in favour of employed population. Unlike other regions, in Beogradski region, noted was the decreased employment in the mentioned period.

Employment was increased in population with lower and middle education levels, and in the contingent aged 15-34, the most frequently in category of temporarily or seasonally employed. Generally, these are the persons performing activity independently or being contributing household workers. Number of employed with tertiary education and employed for indefinite time period was decreased relative to the previous quarter.

In contingent of young population aged 15-24 noted were positive trends on labour market. Number of inactive young population was decreased by 16 000 in favour of employed population, which was increased by 14 500, i.e. 9.3%. Number of unemployed did not significantly change relative to the previous quarter.

Table 1. Main indicators of labour market trend, Q3 2018

	Q3 2018	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2017	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Population 15+	5 951.2	-8.0	-0.1	-29.9	-0.5
Active population	3 301.1	12.8	0.4	-9.0	-0.3
Employed	2 929.3	32.5	1.1	47.4	1.6
Formally employed	2 330.4	40.8	1.8	76.9	3.4
Informally employed	598.9	-8.3	-1.4	-29.5	-4.7
Unemployed	371.8	-19.7	-5.0	-56.4	-13.2
Inactive population	2 650.2	-20.7	-0.8	-20.9	-0.8
	%	(p.p.)			
Activity rate	55.5		0.3		0.1
Employment rate	49.2		0.6		1.0
Informal employment rate	20.4		-0.5		-1.4
Unemployment rate	11.3		-0.6		-1.7
Inactivity rate	44.5		-0.3		-0.1

In the third quarter 2018, the Survey was conducted on the sample of 15 859 households, out of which 12 250 households, i.e. 28 706 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 2018 (RS10), on the address: <http://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2018/XIsE/G20181328.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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