

# STATISTICAL RELEASE

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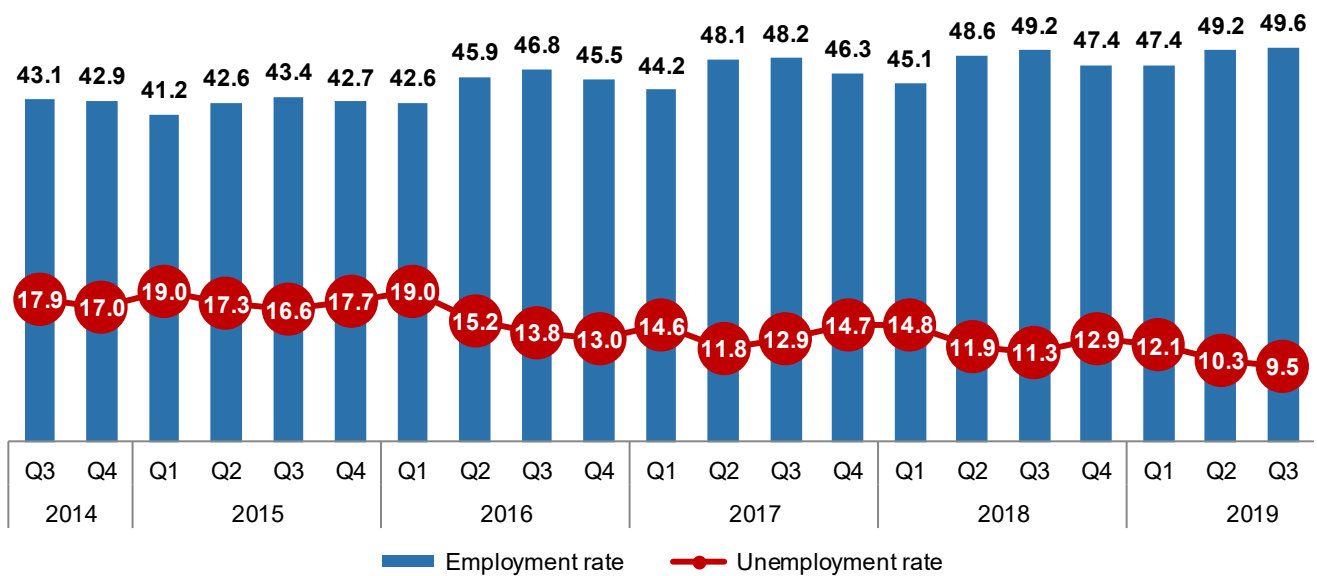
## Labour Force Survey

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### Labour Force Survey, III quarter 2019

In the third quarter of 2019, number of the employed amounted to 2 938 700, and number of the unemployed to 308 400. Employment rate for the mentioned period amounted to 49.6%, while unemployment rate, in the same period, had the value of 9.5%.

Graph 1 Trend of employment/unemployment rates (in %), population 15+, 2014-2019



#### Comparison with the same quarter of the previous year

Compared with the third quarter 2018, employment rate was increased by 0.4 percentage points (p. p.), and unemployment rate decreased by 1.8 p. p.

Inter-annual increase of the number of the employed amounted to 9 500, while inter-annual decrease of the number of the unemployed amounted to 63 400. Decreased unemployment was partially transferred to increased employment (by 9 500), but it was mostly due to increased inactivity (by 23 000) and decreased number of population aged 15 and over (by 31 000) in the last year.

In scope of total employment, informal employment decreased (by 46 700) and increased was formal employment (by 56 200), primarily in the sections of Manufacturing and Construction, as is in accordance with the data on registered employment from the evidence of Central registry for Compulsory Social Insurance.

Informal employment rate, which amounted to 18.8% in the third quarter 2019 and long-term unemployment rate, which was 5.2% in the same period, noted decrease relative to the same period 2018 by 1.7 and 1.6 p. p. respectively.

The greatest employment increase (by 14 900), with the decreased unemployment (by 22 600) was noted in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije. In Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije, noted were simultaneous decreased employment (by 10 000) and unemployment (by 21 600), while in Beogradski region, decreased unemployment (by 22 100) was accompanied by relatively small increase in employment (by 3 200). In Region Vojvodine, there was no significant change in the number of the employed and unemployed.

Referring to the population of the young, aged 15-24, decreased was the volume of labour force – in employment (by 9 800) and in unemployment (by 1 400) on the inter-annual level, whereof the number of inactive remained unchanged. Simultaneously, noted was the increased employment (by 23 400) referring to population aged 55 and over.

The activity rate of the young in the third quarter 2019 was 30.6% (being by 1.1 p.p. less than in the same quarter of the previous year), while rates of employment and unemployment were on the level of 22.6% and 26.0%, respectively.

The so called NEET rate, share of the young aged 15-24 who neither work nor attend school in total population of young amounted to 16.5%. Regarding population aged 15-29, NEET rate was 19.7%.

### Comparison with the previous quarter

In the third quarter 2019, employment was increased by 22 200 and unemployment was decreased by 25 600 compared to the second quarter 2019, thus resulting in increased employment rate by 0.4 p. p. and decreased unemployment rate by 0.8 p. p.

In scope of total employment increase (by 22 200), formal employment increased by 34 300, and informal employment decreased by 12 100. Employment increase was the greatest in the age group 45 - 54.

The greatest employment increase was noted in Region Vojvodine, by 26 500, where the unemployment was decreased by 12 700. In Beogradski region, the status of active population (employed or unemployed) was moved to status of inactive, whereof employment was decreased by 20 500, and unemployment by 2 900, thus resulting in increased volume of inactive population by 23 700.

Observed by sections of activities, the most significant was increase of employment in the section of Agriculture, forestry and fishing, as was expected, knowing that in the referent period, agricultural works are in the peak season.

Within the share of the young (15-24), increased was the labour force volume – increased employment by 4 200 and unemployment by 5 900, and decreased was the inactive population volume (by 12 800). Due to such trends, employment rate of the young increased by 0.7 p. p. and unemployment rate by 1.6 p. p.

Percentage of the young persons aged 18- 24, who completed the primary school in the best case and did not continue education (in the last four weeks they were not engaged in education or training) increased relative to the previous period and amounted to 6.2%.

### Main indicators, III quarter 2019

**Activity rate** of population aged 15 and over in the third quarter 2019 amounted to 54.8%, where the activity rate of males was 63.3%, and of females 47.0%. The activity rate was the greatest in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (56.7%), followed by Beogradski region (55.2%). In Region Vojvodine and Region of Južne i Istočne Srbije activity rates were the lowest, 53.7% and 53.4%, respectively.

**Employment rate** of population aged 15 and over amounted to 49.6%, i.e. 57.9% regarding males and 41.9% regarding females. The greatest employment rate was noted in Beogradski region (51.0%), followed by Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije and Region Vojvodine (50.7% and 49.4%, respectively). Employment rate was the lowest in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, 47.0%.

**Informal employment rate** in the mentioned quarter, on the level of all activities was 18.8%, whereof informal sector related to employment in agricultural activities<sup>1</sup> recorded the rate of 58.3%, and in activities excluding agriculture, the rate had the value of 8.5%.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Unemployment rate** of population aged 15 and over amounted to 9.5%, i.e. 8.5% regarding males and 10.8% regarding females. Observed by regions, the lowest rate was recorded in Beogradski region (7.6%) followed by Region Vojvodine (8.2%) and Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (10.6%). In Region Južne i Istočne Srbije recorded was the worst situation regarding labour market, resulting in the greatest unemployment rate of 12.0%.

**Table 1** Main indicators of labour market trend, Q3 2019

	Q3 2019	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of 2018	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
<b>Population 15+</b>	5920.3	-7.3	-0.1	-31.0	-0.5
Active population	3247.1	-3.4	-0.1	-54.0	-1.6
Employed	2938.7	22.2	0.8	9.5	0.3
Formally employed	2386.6	34.3	1.5	56.2	2.4
Informally employed	552.1	-12.1	-2.1	-46.7	-7.8
Unemployed	308.4	-25.6	-7.7	-63.4	-17.1
Inactive population	2673.2	-4.0	-0.1	23.0	0.9
	<b>%</b>	<b>(p. p.)</b>			
Activity rate	54.8		0.0		-0.6
Employment rate	49.6		0.4		0.4
Informal employment rate	18.8		-0.6		-1.7
Unemployment rate	9.5		-0.8		-1.8
Inactivity rate	45.2		0.0		0.6

In the third quarter 2019, the Survey was conducted on the sample of 15 849 households, out of which 11 501 households, i.e. 26 538 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 2019 (RS10), on the address: <http://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2019/Xlse/G20191317.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](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).