

STATISTICAL RELEASE

RS10

Number 182 - Year LXXI, 30/06/2021

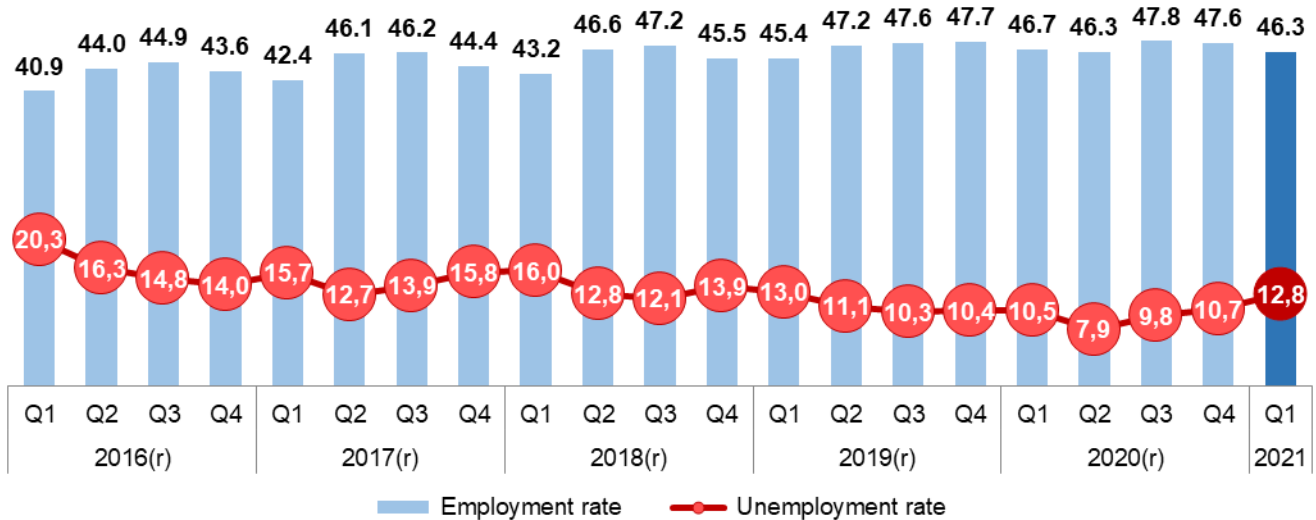
Labour Force Survey

SERB182 RS10 300621

Labour Force Survey, I quarter 2021

In the first quarter 2021, number of the employed amounted to 2 722 200, and number of the unemployed to 399 400. Employment rate for the mentioned period amounted to 46.3%, while unemployment rate, in the same period, had the value of 12.8%.

Graph 1. Trend of employment/unemployment rates (in %), population 15+, 2016-2021



(r) revised data

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia publishes for the first time in this statistical release data according to the new LFS methodology being applied since January 2021.

The most important change in the methodology refers to the definition of the employed, i.e. to the exclusion from the contingent of the employed persons producing agricultural goods and services intended for personal consumption, i.e. not for market sale.

More information on methodological changes and their effects on major statistical indicators are available in the special publication <https://www.stat.gov.rs/en-us/oblasti/trziste-rada/anketa-o-radnoj-snazi/>

Due to changes in the methodology, the data contained in this statistical release are not comparable with those published in statistical releases of the same name before 2021.

In order to ensure data comparability for the period prior to 2021, major indicators have been revised and will be available in the database on the SORS Website.

In this statistical release the data for the first quarter of 2021 are compared with the revised ones for the first quarter of 2020 and with those from the parallel survey for the fourth quarter of 2020.

Comparison with the previous quarter

According to the LFS data for the first quarter 2021, relative to the fourth quarter of 2020, the number of the employed saw decrease among persons aged 15 and over (-79 500) and an increase in the number of the unemployed (+64 200) and out of the labor force population (+7 700).

On quarter-to-quarter level, the employment rate decreased by 1.3 pp and the rate out of the labor force population increased by 0.2 pp, amounting in the first quarter 2021 to 46.3% and 46.9%, respectively. At the same time, the unemployment rate went up by 2.1 pp, amounting to 12.8% in the first quarter 2021.

Total employment decreased by 79 500, primarily due to the decrease in the number of the employed in the informal sector, by \approx - 68 000. The largest fall of employment was recorded in the section Agriculture, forestry and fishery (\approx -32 700), which was to be expected considering the decrease in the volume of agricultural activities in winter months.

The largest employment decrease was noted among persons with secondary educational level (-52 800) and in the age group 55 and over (-48 700).

In Region Sumadije i Zapadne Srbije the number of the employed decreased by 50 900, while that of the employed in Beogradski region recorded a slight increase (+5 200).

The largest increase of unemployment in the first quarter 2021, compared with the fourth quarter 2020, was registered in Region Sumadija i Zapadna Srbija (+27 500) as well as among persons with secondary educational level (+55 400).

Among young persons aged from 15 to 24, in the first quarter 2021, compared with the fourth quarter 2020, out of the labor force population saw a decrease (-6 500) and employed population an increase (+5 000). Due to such a trend, unemployment rate fell by 1.1 pp in the first quarter 2021, amounting to 32.2%. The employment rate grew by 0.8 pp, amounting to 21.6% and the rate out of the labor force population in the first quarter 2021 amounted to 68.1%, being an decrease of 0.7 pp, when compared with the previous quarter.

The so-called NEET rate (*“Not in Education, Employment, or Training”*), showing the share of the youth aged 15-24 who neither work nor attend school in total population of youth amounted to 17.7% in the first quarter 2021.

Comparison with the the same quarter of the previous year

According to the LFS data for the first quarter 2021, relative to the first quarter 2020, the employment rate decreased by 0.4 pp, while the unemployment rate increased by 2.3 pp.

Year-to-year decrease in the number of the employed amounted to 37 800, while the year-to-year increase in the number of the unemployed amounted to 75 400. At the same time, the number of people aged 15 and over fell by 30 500, and the contingent out of the labor force population saw a decrease of 67 900.

Major indicators, first quarter 2021

Activity rate of people age 15 and over in the first quarter 2021 amounted to 53.1%, the activity rates among men and women being 61.2% and 45.6%, respectively. The largest activity rate was recorded in Beogradski region (56.1%), followed by Region Sumadije i Zapadne Srbije and Region Vojvodine, both having almost the same activity rates (53.7% and 53%, respectively). Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije registered the lowest activity rate of 49.1%.

Employment rate of people aged 15 and over in the first quarter amounted to 46.3%, among men 53.8% and women 39.4%. The largest employment rate was noted in Beogradski region (50.7%), followed by Region Vojvodine and Region Sumadije i Zapadne Srbije with employment rates of 47.2% and 45.8%, respectively, while Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije had the lowest value (40.9%).

Informal employment rate in the mentioned quarter in all activities amounted to 10.9%. The informal employment rate in agricultural activities (including the section of activities Agriculture, hunting and forestry) amounted to 42.1%, while in activities outside agriculture this rate amounted to 5.9%.

Unemployment rate of people aged 15 and over amounted to 12.8%, 12.1% for men and 13.7% for women. Observed on regional level, this rate was the lowest in Beogradski region (9.6%), followed by Region Vojvodine (10.9%) and Region Sumadije i Zapadne Srbije (14.7%). The situation on labour market was still the worst in Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije, the proof of it being the largest unemployment rate of 16.8%.

Table 1 Main indicators of labour market trend, Q1 2021

	Q1 2021	Changes relative to previous quarter ¹	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%
Total	5875.1	-7.6	-0.1
Active	3121.7	-15.3	-0.5
Employed	2722.2	-79.5	-2.8
Unemployed	399.4	64.2	19.2
Inactive population	2753.5	7.7	0.3
	%	(p.p.)	
Rates			
Activity rate	53.1		-0.2
Employment rate	46.3		-1.3
Unemployment rate	12.8		2.1
Inactive population	46.9		0.2

In the first quarter 2021, the Survey was conducted on the sample of 15 703 households, out of which 11 290 households were interviewed, and data on working activity were collected for 24 685 persons aged 15-89.

More detailed data can be obtained in the tables that are part of the Statistical Release on Labour Force Survey for the first quarter 2021 (RS10), on the address: <http://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/XIs/G20211182.xlsx>.

¹ Data for the first quarter 2021 are compared with those from the parallel survey for the fourth quarter 2020 and with the revised ones for the first quarter 2020. Considering that data revision is performed only for major indicators and the set of collected data from the pilot survey is limited, there is no possibility to make an in-depth and more precise structural analysis of the changes.

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 sector.

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.

Persons (aged 15-89) who performed at least for on hour paid work (for cash or in kind) in the reference week, as well as persons who had an employment, but were temporarily absent from work in that week, are counted as **employed persons**.

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

Informal employment is considered to be work in unregistered companies, work in registered companies without an employment contract, as well as the work of contributing family members.

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).

Long-term unemployment rate presents the percentage share of the unemployed for one year and more, in labour force (employed and unemployed).

NEET rate – refers to share of persons aged 15 to 24 (or 15 - 29) neither employed, nor in education, training, in total population of that age.

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

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

Out of the labor force population includes all persons in the observed population (aged 15 and over) who are not classified in employed and unemployed population. Out of the labor force 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.

Out of the labor force rate presents the percentage share of inactive population in total referent 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).

Contact: ars@stat.gov.rs, Phone: +381 11 2412 922, ext. 418
Published and printed by: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 11 050 Belgrade, Milana Rakica 5
Phone: +381 11 2412922 (telephone exchange) • Fax: +381 11 2411260 • www.stat.gov.rs
Responsible: Dr Miladin Kovačević, Director
Circulation: 20 • Periodicity: quarterly