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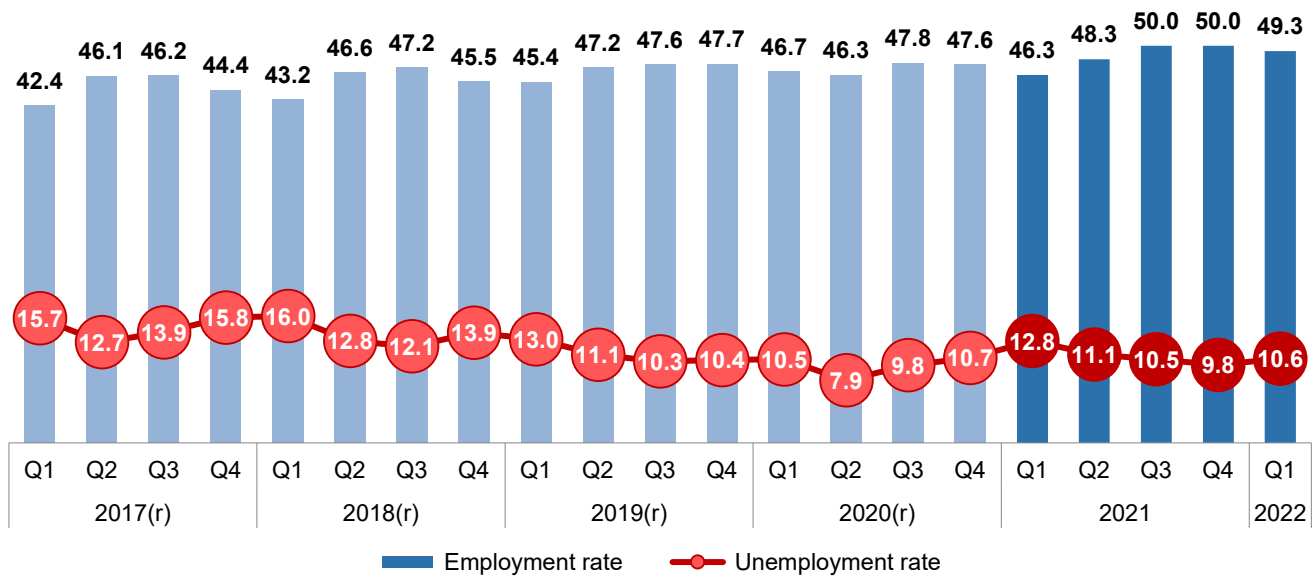
Labour Force Survey

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Labour Force Survey, I quarter 2022

In the first quarter 2022, number of the employed amounted to 2 869 700, and number of the unemployed to 341 400. Employment rate for the mentioned period amounted to 49.3%, while unemployment rate had the value of 10.6%.

Graph 1. Trend of employment/unemployment rates (in %), population 15+, 2017-2022



(r)-Revised data.

Comparison with the same quarter of the previous year

Compared to the first quarter of 2021, the employment rate increased by 3.0 percentage points (pp), and the unemployment rate decreased by 2.2 percentage points.

The year-on-year increase in the number of employed is 147 500, while the year-on-year decrease in the number of unemployed is 58 000. In the last year, noted was a significant decrease in the population out of labour force (-143 400), and their transfer to the contingent of active population, i.e. employed. The total population aged 15 and over in the first quarter of 2022, compared to the first quarter of 2021, decreased by 53 900.

In the first quarter of 2022, compared to the first quarter of 2021, unemployment decreased by 58 000 (14.5%) predominantly in the age category of the population aged 15-44, where the number of unemployed decreased by 40 500, and in the population with secondary and higher education, where the number of unemployed decreased by 58 500 in one year.

The long-term unemployment rate is also declining year-on-year. In the first quarter of 2022, the long-term unemployment rate was 4.5%, which is a decrease of 2.3% compared to the first quarter of 2021.

Within the total employment, there was an increase both in formal and informal employment. Total formal employment increased by 61 800, but formal employment in agriculture slightly declined (-2 000), while formal non-agricultural employment increased by 63 800. Total informal employment in the first quarter of 2022, compared to the first quarter of 2021, increased by 85 700, with increase of informal employment in agriculture, by 62 900, and outside agriculture by 22 800. According to professional status, all employed can be divided in three main groups: self-employed (with or without employees), employees (who work for the employer) and unpaid family workers. If professional status of the employed is observed, in the structure of informal employment in agriculture, the dominant part relates to the so-called. unpaid family workers. Out of the total of 220 600 informally employed,

180 000 (81.6%) in agriculture are unpaid family workers. In the structure of informal employment outside agriculture, according to professional status, the largest share relates to employees, and in the first quarter of 2022, their number was 76 400 (47.1%), while the number of self-employed and unpaid family workers was 71 800 (44.3%) and 14 000 (8.6%), respectively.

The rate of total informal employment in the first quarter of 2022 was 13.3% and compared to the first quarter of 2021, it increased by 2.4 percentage points. The rate of informal employment outside agriculture was 6.7%, while the same rate in agriculture was 50.6%, and compared to the same period last year, they increased by 0.7 p. p. and 8.6 p. p. respectively.

Observed by territory, employment increased was recorded in all regions, with a decrease in the population out of labour force and unemployment. The highest year-on-year employment increase (+66 200) was recorded in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije, primarily due to the reduction of the population out of labour force (-61 500), and also unemployment (-22 700).

Total population of young people, aged 15 to 24, decreased by 10 800 compared to the first quarter of 2021 and in the first quarter of 2022, it amounted to 688 300. In this period, in the population of young, decreased was the part of population out of labour force (-16 300) and the unemployed (-6 100), with an increase in the number of employed (+11 600).

The youth activity rate in the first quarter of 2022 was 33.2% which is by 1.3 percentage points more than in the same period last year. The employment rate was 23.6% and compared to the first quarter of 2021 it increased by 2.0 percentage points. The year-on-year youth unemployment rate decreased by 3.4% and in the first quarter of 2022 it was 28.8%. In the same period, the youth unemployment rate for the male population decreased by 4.5 p.p, while in the female population, the decrease in unemployment rate is smaller (- 1.8 p.p.). In the first quarter of 2022, the unemployment rate for men aged 15 to 24 was 25.1%, while in the population of women of the same age, it was 34.7%.

The so-called NEET rate, i.e. the share of young people aged 15 to 24 who neither work nor are in the process of education or training in the total youth population, was 15.0%, which, compared to the first quarter of 2021, represents a decrease of 2, 7 p. p. In the population aged 15 to 29, the NEET rate was 16.5% and recorded a year-on-year decrease of 4.3 p.p.

Comparison with the previous quarter

In the first quarter of 2022, employment decreased by 47 700, and unemployment increased by 24 700 compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, which led to a decrease in the employment rate by 0.7 p.p. and an increase in the unemployment rate by 0.8 p.p. The contingent of the population out of labour force slightly increased (by +5 900 or 0.2%) compared to the previous quarter, which caused a slight increase in the rate of the population out of labour force of 0.2 p.p. in the specified period.

Within the total decrease in employment (by 47 700), formal employment decreased by 31 900 and informal employment by 15 700. Observed by sectors of activity, total employment decreased most in the sector of Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (- 21 500) and Manufacturing (- 14 300). The largest increase in employment in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the fourth quarter of 2021 was recorded in the sector of Education (+ 12 000).

Employment decreased most in Region Vojvodina, by 37 100, due to an increase in inactivity, i.e. the population out of labour force (+ 28 400). In Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije, employment remained almost unchanged compared to the previous quarter.

Total unemployment, compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, most increased in the category of population with secondary education (+26 900) and in the age group from 55 to 64 (+9 900).

Among young people aged 15 to 24, there was an increase in the volume of the labour force by 2 400 (of which employment growth was 1 500 and unemployment 900), and a decrease in the volume of the population out of labour force (by 4 600). Due to such a trend, the youth employment rate increased by 0.3 p.p, and the unemployment rate by 0.1 p.p.

The so-called NEET rate, i.e. the share of young people aged 15 to 24 who neither work nor are in the process of education or training, in the total youth population, relative to the fourth quarter of 2021 decreased by 0.5 p.p. Regarding the population aged 15-29, NEET rate noted quarter-to-quarter decrease of 0.9 p.p.

The percentage of young people aged 18 to 24, who at best finished primary school and did not continue further education (they have not been in school or training in the last four weeks), increased by 0.4 percentage points compared to the previous period and in the first quarter of 2022, it was 5.8%.

Major indicators, firstquarter 2022

Activity rate of people aged 15 and over in the first quarter 2022 amounted to 55.2%, the activity rates among men and women being 63.8% and 47.2%, respectively. The largest activity rate was recorded in Beogradski region (57.6%), followed by Region Sumadije i Zapadne Srbije, (57.0%). In Region Vojvodine, activity rate was 54.5%, and in Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije registered was the lowest activity rate of 50.8%.

Employment rate of people aged 15 and over amounted to 49.3%, among men 57.1% and women 42.0%. The largest employment rate was noted in Beogradski region (52.6%), followed by and Region Sumadije i Zapadne Srbije and Region Vojvodine (50.4% and 49.2%, respectively). Employment rate in Region Juzne i Istocne Srbije had the lowest value (44.1%).

Informal employment rate in the mentioned quarter in all activities amounted to 13.3%. The informal employment rate in agricultural activities amounted to 50.6%, while in activities outside agriculture this rate amounted to 6.7%.

Unemployment rate of people aged 15 and over amounted to 10.6%, specifically 10.5% for men and 10.8% for women. Observed on regional level, this rate was the lowest in Beogradski region (8.6%), followed by Region Vojvodine (9.7%), and Region Sumadije i Zapadne Srbije (11.6%). The worst situation on the labour market is still recorded in Region Juzne I Istocne Srbije, which is shown with the highest unemployment rate of 13.2%.

Table 1 Main indicators of labour market trend, Q1 2022

	Q1 2022	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of the previous year	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Population 15+	5821.2	-17.1	-0.3	-53.9	-0.9
Active	3211.1	-22.9	-0.7	89.5	2.9
Employed	2869.7	-47.7	-1.6	147.5	5.4
Formally employed	2486.9	-31.9	-1.3	61.8	2.5
Informally employed	382.8	-15.7	-4.0	85.7	28.8
Unemployed	341.4	24.7	7.8	-58.0	-14.5
Out of labour force	2610.1	5.9	0.2	-143.4	-5.2
	%	(p.p.)			
Activity rate	55.2		-0.2		2.0
Employment rate	49.3		-0.7		3.0
Informal employment rate	13.3		-0.3		2.4
Unemployment rate	10.6		0.8		-2.2
Out of labour force rate	44.8		0.2		-2.0

In the first quarter 2022, the Survey was conducted on the sample of 15 140 households, out of which 10 969 households were interviewed, and data on working activity were collected for 24 153 persons aged 15 and over

More detailed data can be obtained in the tables that are part of the Statistical Release on Labour Force Survey for the first quarter 2022 (RS10), on the address: <http://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2022/Xls/G20221136.xlsx>.

Due to the change in the methodology of the Labour Force Survey from 2021, the data from this statistical release are not comparable with the data published in the release of the same name before 2021.

In order to ensure the comparability of basic indicators for the period before 2021, the most important indicators were revised, and the revised data are available in the database on the SORS website.

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 one 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 labour 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 labour 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 labour 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).

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