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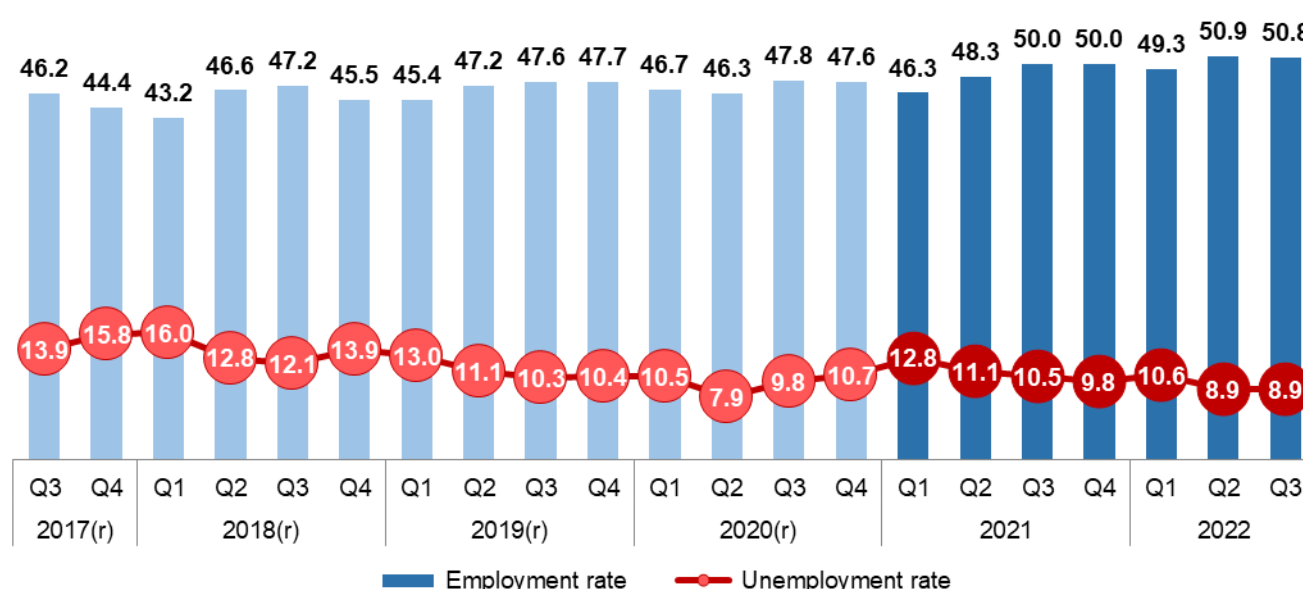
Labour Force Survey

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Labour Force Survey, III quarter 2022

In the third quarter 2022, the number of the employed amounted to 2 942 000, and number of the unemployed to 288 900. Employment rate for the mentioned period amounted to 50.8%, while unemployment rate had the value of 8.9%.

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



(r)-Revised data.

Comparison with the same quarter of the previous year

In the third quarter of 2022, compared to the third quarter of 2021, total population aged 15 and over decreased by - 63 900, where population outside the labour force decreased by -28 800 and the contingent of active population decreased by -35 100. The year-on-year decrease in the number of the unemployed is -52 600, while the year-on-year increase in the number of the employed is +17 500.

Within total employment, there was an increase in formal employment by 36 700 and decrease in informal employment by -19 100. Formal non-agriculture employment increased by +42 700, while formal agriculture employment decreased by -6 100. Within total informal employment, recorded was decrease in informal employment in non-agriculture (-13 200), as well as in informal employment in agriculture (-6 000).

The rate of total informal employment in the third quarter of 2022 was 14.0% and compared to the third quarter of 2021, it decreased by -0.7 percentage points. The rate of informal employment outside agriculture was 7.0%, and compared to the same period 2021, it decreased by -0.6 p.p., while the same rate in agriculture was 53.8%, and compared to the same period last year, it slightly increased (+0.1 p.p.).

The dominant year-on-year employment growth was recorded in the age group 45-54, where the number of employed increased by +31 900. Employment increased in the population with secondary and higher education (+43 200), while the number of employed with primary and lower from primary education decreased by -25 700. In male population, the number of employed decreased by -21 300, while in female population, employment increased by +38 800. Despite these opposite trends, the female employment rate is still significantly lower than male employment rate. The employment rate of women in the third quarter of 2022 was 43.9%, while the employment rate of men was 58.3%.

In the third quarter of 2022, compared to the third quarter of 2021, unemployment decreased by -52 600 (-15.4%), predominantly in the population with secondary and tertiary education, where the number of the unemployed went down by -42 800 in an one-year period. Among the male population the number of the unemployed decreased by -17 600 (-10.6%), while the number of unemployed women decreased by -35 000 (-20.0%).

The rate of long-term unemployment also recorded fall on year-on-year level. In the third quarter of 2022, the rate of long-term unemployment amounted to 4.1%, which presented a decrease of -1.1% relative to the third quarter of 2021.

Observed by territory, Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije stands out as the region where the largest decrease in the active population (labour force) occurred, caused by the largest decrease of the unemployed (-20 600) but also of the employed (-16 900). Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije is the only region in which the number of employed decreased on year-on-year level, but the population outside the labour force increased by + 16,700.

In the population of young people, aged 15-24, in contrast to total population, there was a decrease of the employed, by -15 300 (-8.1%) and an increase of the unemployed by +2 400 (4.2%), as well as of the population outside the labour force by +3 500 (+0.8%).

The rate of activity of young people in the third quarter of 2022 amounted to 34.1%, what is by -1.4 pp less than in the same period of the previous year. Employment rate was 25.4% and it is slightly down by -1.9 pp. relative to the third quarter of 2021. Youth unemployment rate on year-on-year level increased by +2.3 pp. and in the third quarter 2022, it amounted to 25.4%. In the same period, unemployment rate of young people in male population increased by +3.1 pp., while in female population unemployment rate slightly increased by +0.5 pp. In the third quarter of 2022, the unemployment rate among men aged from 15 to 24 was 23.8%, while it was 27.9% among women of the same age.

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, in the third quarter 2022, was 13.5%, which, compared to the third quarter of 2021, represents a decrease of -4.6 p. p. In the population aged 15 to 29, the NEET rate was 15.7% and recorded a year-on-year decrease of -4.3 p.p.

Early school leaving indicator, that presents the percentage of young people aged between 18 and 24, who at the best completed primary education and did not pursue further education (in the last four weeks there were neither in education process nor training), decreased by -0.9 pp. relative to the previous twelve months, and in the third quarter of 2022 it amounted to 5.1%.

Comparison with the previous quarter

In the third quarter of 2022, compared with the second quarter 2022, total population aged 15 and over decreased by -17 200, with a decrease of population outside the labour force (-7 400), and contingent of labour force (active population) decreased by -9 800. Within the labour force, there was a slight quarter-on-quarter decrease of employment (-11 400) and increase in unemployment (+1 700). This meant that in the third quarter of 2022, the basic parameters used to measure the trend/ movement on the labour market remain at the same level as in the second quarter of 2022. In the third quarter of 2022, the employment rate was 50.8%, the unemployment rate was 8.9%, and the rate of the population outside the labour force was 44.2%.

Although the rate of employment, unemployment, and population outside the labour force, as relative measures of the state of the labour market, in the third quarter remained almost unchanged compared to the second quarter of 2022, there were certain changes in the framework of total employment and other complementary sets. In the male population, the employment rate decreased by -0.6 p. p. with a simultaneous increase in the unemployment rate by the same amount and an increase in the rate of the population outside the labour force by +0.2 p. p., so in the third quarter of 2022, the mentioned rates were 58.3%, 8.4% and 36.3%, respectively. On the other hand, there was an increase in the employment rate in the female population, by +0.4 p. p. and decrease in the unemployment rate by -0.6 p. p. and rate of the population outside the labour force by -0.2 p.p., and in the third quarter of 2022 they amounted to 43.9%, 9.6% and 51.4%, respectively.

Measured in absolute numbers, total employment in the third quarter of 2022 decreased by -11 400. Within total employment, there was a decrease in both formal employment by -1 800 (-0.1%) and informal employment by -9 700 (-2.3%). Formal employment outside agriculture decreased by -13 400 (-0.6%), while formal employment in agriculture recorded an increase of +11 700 (+6.1%). At the same time, informal employment in agriculture recorded growth of +4 500 (+1.9%), while informal employment outside agriculture decreased by -14 200 (-7.5%).

From a territorial point of view, the movements on the labour market between the second and third quarter of 2022 were marked by polarization between the north and the south. Beogradski region and Region of Vojvodina, on one hand, recorded an increase in employment, +10 800 and 14 200, respectively, with a simultaneous decrease in the population outside the labour force, by -14 200 and -16 300, respectively, without significant changes in the number of unemployed. On the other hand, in Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije and in Region Južne I Istočne Srbije, there was an increase in the population outside the labour force (+13 500 and +9 600, respectively), caused by a decrease in employment (-11 300 and -25 200, respectively)), and in Region Južne I Istočne Srbije it was followed by an increase in unemployment by +10 400.

Among young people aged 15 to 24, there was an increase in the contingent of the unemployed +18 500 (+45.4%) and decrease of the contingent of outside the labour force by -17 600 (-3.8%), in the third quarter 2022 relative to the second quarter 2022. Given that the number of employed young people in the same period slightly decreased by – 3 000 (- 1.7%), this transition of persons from the contingent of the population outside the labor force to the contingent of the unemployed can be considered as an expected seasonal movement, because those who in the second quarter completed their education, left the contingent outside the labour force and in the third quarter of 2022, they entered the contingent of the labour force (active population). 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 second quarter of 2022 increased by 2.0 p.p. Regarding the population aged 15-29, the NEET rate noted quarter-to-quarter increase of 2.5 p.p.

Major indicators, third quarter of 2022

Activity rate of people aged 15 and over in the third quarter of 2022 amounted to 55.8%, where the activity rate of men and women was 63.7% and 48.6%, respectively. The largest activity rate was recorded in Beogradski region (59.8%), followed by Region Vojvodine and Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije where this rate recorded values of 55.7% and 55.5%, respectively. In Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, the lowest activity rate was noted, 51.7%.

Employment rate of people aged 15 and over amounted to 50.8%, among men 58.3% and women 43.9%. The largest employment rate was noted in Beogradski region (55.3%), followed by Region Vojvodine, 51.6% and Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije, 50.1%. Employment rate in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije had the lowest value (45.6%).

Informal employment rate in the mentioned quarter in all activities amounted to 14.0%. The informal employment rate in agricultural activities amounted to 53.8%, while in activities outside agriculture this rate amounted to 7.0%.

Unemployment rate of people aged 15 and over amounted to 8.9%, specifically 8.4% for men and 9.6% for women. Observed on regional level, this rate was the lowest in Region Vojvodine (7.4%), followed by Beogradski region (7.5%) and Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (9.7%). The worst situation on the labour market was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, as can be seen in the greatest unemployment rate of 11.9%.

Table 1 Main indicators of labour market trend, Q3 2022

	Q3 2022	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of the previous year	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Population 15+	5786.8	-17.2	-0.3	-63.9	-1.1
Active	3230.9	-9.8	-0.3	-35.1	-1.1
Employed	2942.0	-11.4	-0.4	17.5	0.6
Formally employed	2529.5	-1.8	-0.1	36.7	1.5
Informally employed	412.6	-9.7	-2.3	-19.1	-4.4
Unemployed	288.9	1.7	0.6	-52.6	-15.4
Outside the labour force	2555.9	-7.4	-0.3	-28.8	-1.1
	%	(p.p.)			
Activity rate	55.8		0.0		0.0
Employment rate	50.8		-0.1		0.8
Informal employment rate	14.0		-0.3		-0.7
Unemployment rate	8.9		0.0		-1.6
Outside the labour force rate	44.2		0.0		0.0

In the third quarter of 2022, the Survey was conducted on the sample of 14 780 households, out of which 10 572 households were interviewed, i.e. 22 925 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 third quarter 2022 (RS10), on the address :<http://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2022/Xls/G20221323.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.

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 outside the labour force 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 observed population (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 unpaid 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 are 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 total observed population (population aged 15 and over).

Outside 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.

Outside the labour force rate presents the percentage share of outside the labour force population in total observed population aged 15 and over.

More detailed description of the Survey methodology can be found at the link https://data.stat.gov.rs/Metadata/24_Zarade/Html/240003_ESMS_GO_2021_3.html

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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