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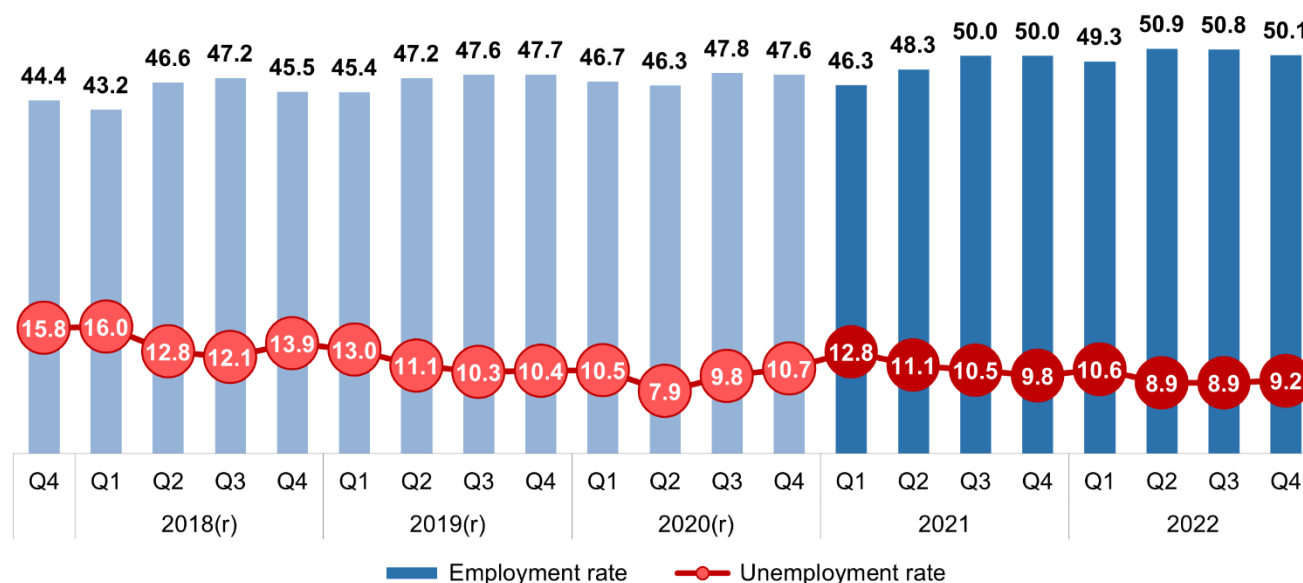
Labour Force Survey

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Labour Force Survey, IV quarter 2022

In the fourth quarter of 2022, the number of the employed was 2 888 700, and the number of unemployed was 291 100. The employment rate for the mentioned period was 50.1%, and the unemployment rate was 9.2%.

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



(r)-Revised data.

Comparison with the same quarter of the previous year

According to the data from the Labour Force Survey, in the fourth quarter of 2022, compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, the unemployment rate was lower by 0.6 percentage points (p.p.), and the employment rate slightly increased, by 0.1 p.p.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, total population aged 15 and over decreased by 68 500, where population outside the labour force decreased by 14 200 and the contingent of active population decreased by 54 300. The year-on-year decrease in the number of the employed is 28 700, and in the number of the unemployed is 25 600.

Within total employment, there was the decrease in informal employment, while formal employment remained almost unchanged. Total informal employment decreased by 29 100 during the year, whereof the number of informally employed in agriculture decreased by 16 600, and in non-agriculture by 12 500. On a year-on-year basis, the number of formally employed in agriculture decreased by 8 500, while the number of formally employed in non-agriculture increased by 8 900.

The rate of total informal employment in the fourth quarter of 2022 was 12.8% and compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, it decreased by 0.9 percentage points. The rate of informal employment outside agriculture was 6.5%, while the same rate in agriculture was 50.1%, and compared to the same period 2021, both rates decreased (by 0.5 p.p., i.e. 0.9 p.p. respectively).

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, the employment rate in male population decreased by 0.8 p. p. and in the fourth quarter of 2022 it amounted to 57.2%, with an increase in the unemployment rate by 0.5 p. p. which in the same period amounted to 9.5%. In contrast, in female population, the employment rate increased by 0.9 p. p. which in the fourth quarter of 2022 amounted to 43.5% with a simultaneous decrease in the unemployment rate by 2.1 p. p. which in the same period amounted to 8.8%.

Observed by territories, the year-on-year increase in employment was recorded only in the Beogradski Region (12 600). The biggest decrease in employment was recorded in Region Vojvodine (28 100).

In the fourth quarter of 2022, compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, the number of unemployed decreased by 25 600 (8.1%), predominantly in the age group of 15-44, where the number of unemployed decreased by 40 700. In the age cohort 45 and over, the number of unemployed increased by 15 000.

The long-term unemployment rate also recorded a year-on-year decline. In the fourth quarter of 2022, the long-term unemployment rate was 3.9%, which, compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, represents a decrease of 0.6 p. p.

In the population of young people, aged 15 to 24, the number of unemployed decreased by 12 500, but the total population of young people (15-24) also decreased by almost 9 000 on a year-on-year level. Total youth employment increased by 2 200 (1.3%), with the number of employed women increasing by 11 200 (20%), while the number of employed men decreased by 9 000 (8.6%).

The rate of activity of young people in the fourth quarter of 2022 amounted to 31.6%, what is by 1.1 p.p. less than in the same period of the previous year. Employment rate was 23.9% and it is slightly up by 0.6 p.p. relative to the fourth quarter of 2021. Youth unemployment rate on year-on-year level decreased by 4.4 p.p. and in the fourth quarter 2022, it amounted to 24.3%. In the same period, unemployment rate of young people in male population increased by 0.8 p.p., while in female population unemployment rate decreased by 13.1 p.p. In the fourth quarter of 2022, the unemployment rate among men aged from 15 to 24 was 27.7%, while it was 18.8% among women of the same age. This ratio of the unemployment rate between the male and female youth population, where the unemployment rate of women is lower than the unemployment rate of men, is an exception that rarely occurs. Since 2010, i.e. since comparable series of data exist, only a few times has a discretely more favourable situation in the female population, compared to the male population been recorded, so that the difference (of 8.9 p.p.) between the unemployment rate of young men and women is this big in favour of women, recorded now for the first time in the fourth quarter of 2022.

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 fourth quarter 2022, was 11.9%, which, compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, represents a decrease of 3.7 p. p. In the population aged 15 to 29, the NEET rate was 15.2% and recorded a year-on-year decrease of 2.2 p.p.

The percentage of young people between 18 and 24, who, in the best case, completed elementary school and did not continue further education (did not attend school or training in the last four weeks) decreased by -1.5 p. p. compared to the same quarter 2021, and in the fourth quarter of 2022, it was 3.9%.

Comparison with the previous quarter

In the fourth quarter of 2022, compared to the third quarter of 2022, employment decreased by 53 400, with a simultaneous slight increase in unemployment (by 2 200) and a significant increase in the population outside the labour force (by 34 100), which led to a decrease in the employment rate by 0.8 p. p., a slight increase in the unemployment rate by 0.2 p. p., as well as an increase in the rate of the population outside the labour force by 0.7 p. p.

Observed by sex, in the male population employment decreased by 36 300 with a simultaneous increase in unemployment (by 17 000) and the population outside the labour force (by 10 600), while in the female population both employment (by 17 100) and unemployment (by 14 800) decreased at the expense of the increase of the population outside the labour force (23 500) on a quarterly level.

Within the overall decrease in employment (53 400), informal employment decreased by 43 100, and formal employment by 10 300. Observed by activity sectors, the largest decrease in informal employment was recorded in Agriculture, hunting and forestry sector (by 27 900) and Construction. (11 900).

Observed by occupation groups, the most obvious decrease in employment was recorded in the group of Elementary occupations (by 29 600), while the largest increase was recorded in the group of Professionals and artists (6 000).

The decrease in employment is most obvious in Region Vojvodine, where in the fourth quarter of 2022, compared to the third quarter of 2022, the number of employed decreased by 24 900, with the largest increase in unemployment (4 700) and the population outside the labour force (16 300). Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije recorded the smallest decrease in employment (by 1 900).

Among young people aged 15-24, noted was a decrease in the number of employed (by 10 600) and unemployed (by 6 800) and their handing over into the contingent of the population outside the labour force, which in the fourth quarter compared to the third quarter of 2022 increased by 15 200. Due to such a trend, the youth employment rate decreased by 1.5 p. p, unemployment rate by 1.1 p. p., and amounted to 23.9% and 24.3%, respectively, in the fourth quarter of 2022. The rate of the young population outside the labour force increased by 2.4 p. p. compared to the previous quarter and amounted to 68.4% in the fourth quarter.

The so-called NEET rate, i.e. the share of young people aged 15-24 who neither work nor are in the process of education or training in the total youth population, in the fourth quarter compared to the third quarter of 2022, decreased by 1.7 p. p. and amounted to 11.9%. For the population aged 15-29, the NEET rate recorded a quarter-to-quarter drop of 0.4 p. p. and in the fourth quarter of 2022 it had the value of 15.2%.

Major indicators, fourth quarter of 2022

Activity rate of people aged 15 and over in the fourth quarter of 2022 amounted to 55.1%, where the activity rate of men and women was 63.2% and 47.6%, respectively. The largest activity rate in this period was recorded in Beogradski region (58.8%), followed by Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije where this rate recorded value of 55.6%. In Region Vojvodine, activity rate was 54.6%, while in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije, the lowest activity rate was noted, 50.8%.

Employment rate of people aged 15 and over amounted to 50.1%, among men 57.2% and women 43.5%. The largest employment rate was noted in Beogradski region (54.3%), followed by Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije, 50.2% and Region Vojvodine, 50.1%. Employment rate in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije had the lowest value (44.9%).

Informal employment rate in the mentioned quarter in all activities amounted to 12.8%. The informal employment rate in agricultural activities amounted to 50.1%, while in activities outside agriculture this rate amounted to 6.5%.

Unemployment rate of people aged 15 and over amounted to 9.2%, i.e. 9.5% for men and 8.8% for women. Observed on regional level, this rate was the lowest in Beogradski region (7.7%), followed by Region Vojvodine (8.1%), and Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije (9.8%). The worst situation on the labour market was recorded in Region Južne i Istočne Srbija, as can be seen in the greatest unemployment rate of 11.6%.

Table 1 Main indicators of labour market trend, Q4 2022

	Q4 2022	Changes relative to previous quarter		Changes relative to same quarter of the previous year	
	(in thousand)	(in thousand)	%	(in thousand)	%
Population 15+	5769.8	-17.1	-0.3	-68.5	-1.2
Active	3179.8	-51.2	-1.6	-54.3	-1.7
Employed	2888.7	-53.4	-1.8	-28.7	-1.0
Formally employed	2519.2	-10.3	-0.4	0.4	0.0
Informally employed	369.5	-43.1	-10.4	-29.1	-7.3
Unemployed	291.1	2.2	0.8	-25.6	-8.1
Outside the labour force	2590.0	34.1	1.3	-14.2	-0.5
	%		(p.p.)		
Activity rate	55.1		-0.7		-0.3
Employment rate	50.1		-0.8		0.1
Informal employment rate	12.8		-1.2		-0.9
Unemployment rate	9.2		0.2		-0.6
Outside the labour force rate	44.9		0.7		0.3

In the fourth quarter of 2022, the Survey was conducted on the sample of 14 767 households, out of which 10 649 households were interviewed, i.e. 23 414 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 fourth quarter 2022 (RS10), on the address: <http://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2023/Xls/G20231047.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 outside the labour force population – their education, age, income source, reasons for not involving in the labour market, as well as 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 unpaid family workers.

Informal employment rate is the percentage share of informally employed in total employment.

Unemployed persons are the persons (aged 15-74) who, in the reference week, did no work for remuneration, who undertook active steps to find a job during four-week period ending with the reference 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.

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 referent 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).