



# TRENDS





# Q1

## TRENDS

Trends, Quarter I 2025

Published and printed by: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Milana Rakica 5

Responsible person: Branko Josipovic, Acting Director

Editor: Katarina Stancic

Prepared by:

Goran Katic (Prices)

Marina Pavlovic and Sanja Bradaric (Gross domestic product)

Marija Vucurovic and Dunja Katic (Industrial production)

Jasmina Jotev (Economic sentiment indicator, Regional economic asymmetries, Labour market, Salaries and wages)

Dejana Djordjevic (Construction)

Melinda Tokai (Domestic trade, Business services)

Milos Pavlovic (Tourism, Agriculture)

Petar Pecic (Transport and telecommunication)

Translated by: Vesna Aralica and Katarina Kalicanin

Design and editing: Division for Development, Preparation and Visualization of Statistical



# INTRODUCTION

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, main producer and disseminator of statistics, publishes a large number of releases, indicators, bulletins, etc. A multitude of publications often gives rise to confusion with users who, on the other hand, use data to assess their performances and adapt them to other economic subjects and trends.

As many users, apart from specialists, are statistically and economically illiterate, they may be confused by the diversity of data, unable to understand and prioritise them correctly, which often results in reluctance towards information.

As the statistical system is very complex and generalised, designed to meet the specific sub-sector needs for information, statistical data are often incomprehensible in modern society. Informing the users with „dry“ statistical data is often not sufficient as they provide only a partial picture about macroeconomy. Namely, it has been proved that traditional concepts of data (tables, statistical releases, etc.) do not facilitate quick understanding of the socio-economic reality and fail to transmit the key message, particularly when there is a large amount of data.

Having in mind all the above and following world trends in presenting statistical data, as well as the interest shown by professionals, the redesigned Trends traditionally provide quarterly and annual data, but also use new concepts of presenting the most important economic signals via modern and advanced graphical solutions for presenting and dissemination.

The issue for the first quarter of 2025 presents a review of major economic trends in this period: Gross domestic product, Industrial production, Construction, Domestic trade, Prices, Labour market, Salaries and wages, Tourism, Economic Sentiment Indicator, Regional economic asymmetries and Agriculture, Business services, and Transport and telecommunications.

As always, this issue presents also the forecasts of trends in certain areas for the next period, obtained under ARIMA forecasting models (in the following sections: Industry, Domestic trade and External trade).

Since 1999, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has no available data for AP Kosovo and Metohia, therefore they are not included in the data for the Republic of Serbia (total).





# TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Gross domestic product	7
2. Industrial production	9
3. Construction	13
4. Domestic trade	18
5. Prices	21
6. Labour market	23
7. Salaries and wages	28
8. Tourism	32
9. Economic sentiment indicator	35
10. Regional economic asymmetries	41
11. Agriculture	46
12. Business services	51
13. Transport and telecommunications	61



# 1.

## GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

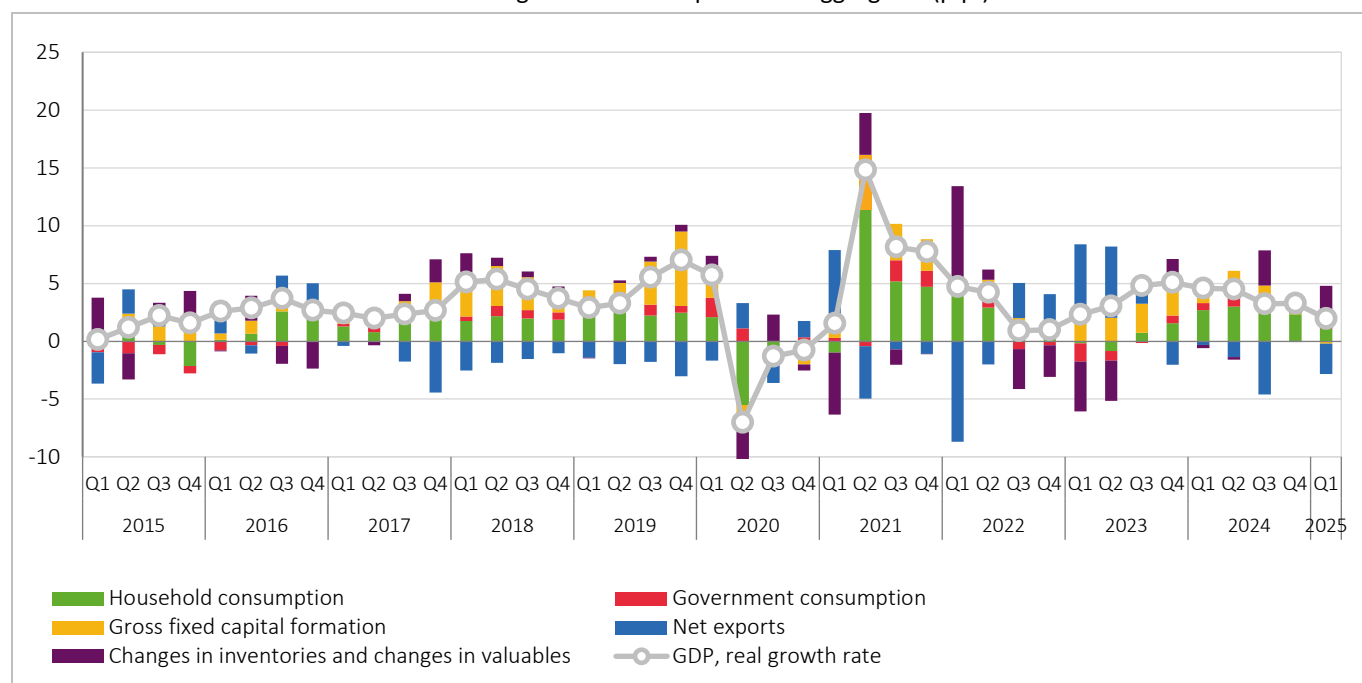
In the first quarter of 2025, GDP real increase of 2.0% was recorded relative to the same period last year. The section of services, except trade had the most positive effect on GDP trend in this quarter, 1.3 p.p.

Observed by expenditure aggregates, in the first quarter of 2025, relative to the same period last year, household consumption recorded real growth of 1.8 and positively contributed to GDP trend with 1.1 p.p. Gross capital formation fell by 1.0% relative to the same period of the previous year (GDP contribution of -0.2 p.p.). Export and import increased by 7.5% and 11.5% and resulted in a contribution to GDP trend with 4.1 p.p. and 6.7 p.p., respectively (Table 1.1).

**Table 1.1.** GDP – expenditure aggregates, real inter-annual growth rates, Q1 2023 – Q1 2025 (%) (comparison with the same period of the previous year)

	2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<b>GDP</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Household consumption	-0.2	-1.3	1.0	2.5	4.4	4.7	3.9	3.8	1.8
Government consumption	-8.4	-4.4	-0.9	3.6	3.6	4.6	2.6	-0.3	0.5
Gross fixed capital formation	7.9	9.3	10.4	10.8	7.9	10.1	8.4	1.1	-1.0
Exports	8.7	3.0	-0.7	0.6	2.7	6.7	7.4	8.1	7.5
Imports	-2.2	-6.1	-1.8	3.7	3.1	8.4	14.7	7.1	11.5

**Chart 1.1.** Contributions to inter – annual GDP growth rate – expenditure aggregates (p.p.)

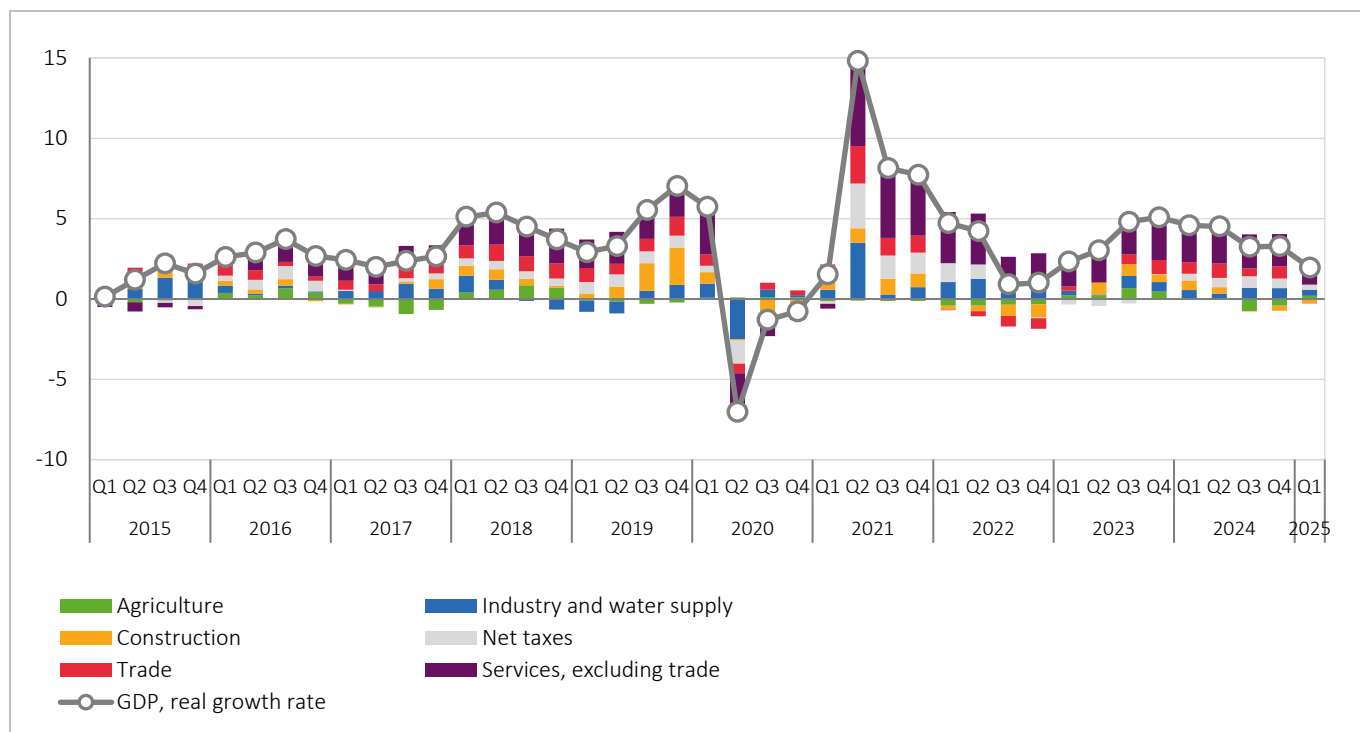


Observed from the **production side**, the greatest positive contribution to GDP trend in Q1 2025 resulted mostly from the activity in service section (excluding trade), 1.3 p.p.

**Table 1.2.** GDP– production side, real inter-annual growth rates, Q1 2023 – Q1 2025 (%) (comparison to the same period of the previous year)

	2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<b>GDP</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Agriculture	8.1	6.5	8.2	6.9	-7.7	-8.1	-8.8	-7.6	6.5
Industry and water supply	1.0	0.2	4.1	3.1	2.9	1.7	3.6	3.5	2.1
Construction	0.8	17.0	15.3	8.0	14.0	8.2	-0.3	-5.8	-5.6
Trade	2.5	0.0	6.0	8.6	7.1	9.1	4.9	6.9	-0.1
Services, excl. trade	4.2	5.5	5.2	6.0	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.3	2.6
Net taxes	-2.4	-2.4	-1.8	-0.1	2.9	3.6	5.0	4.2	2.3

**Chart 1.2.** Contributions to inter – annual GDP growth rate – production side (p.p.)

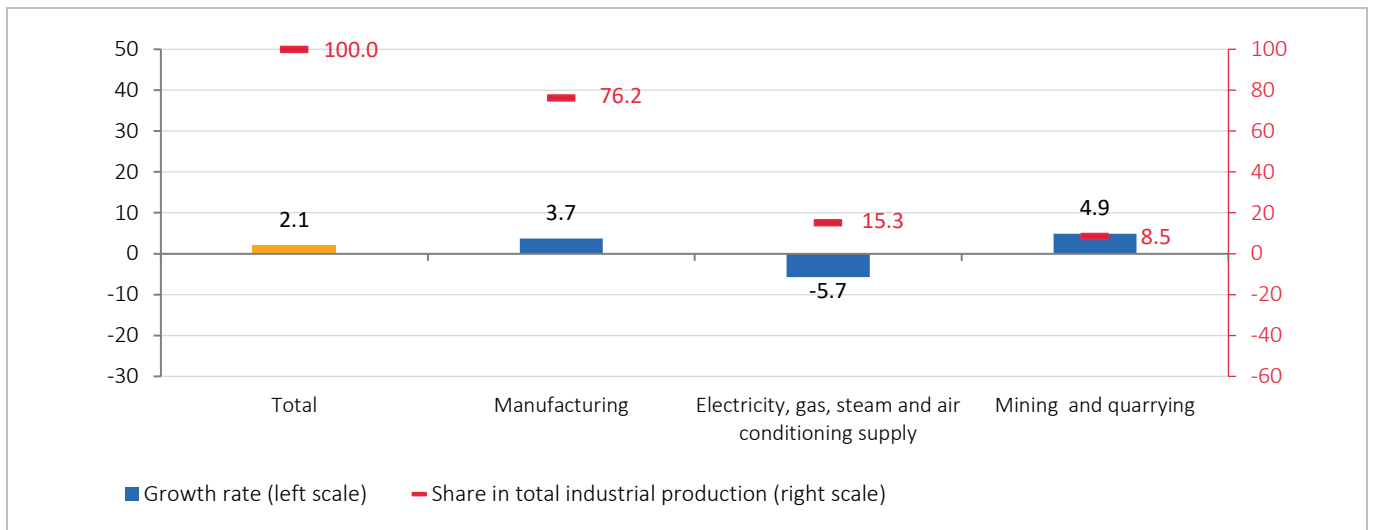


## 2. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

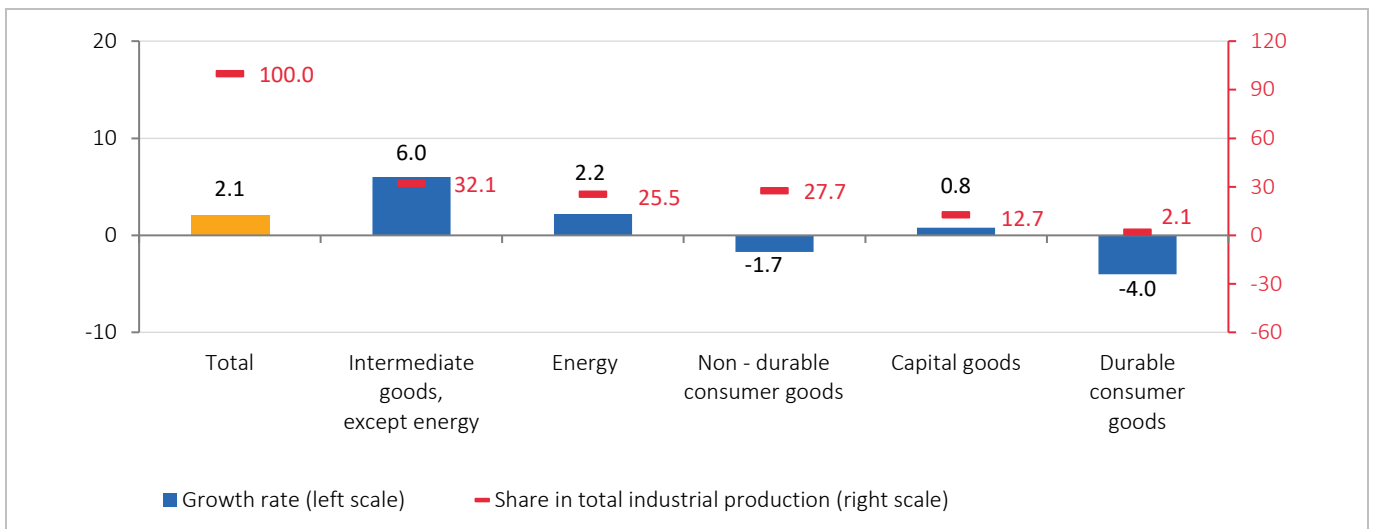
### 2.1. TOTAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Total industrial production in the Republic of Serbia, in the period January - March 2025 increased by 2.1% relative to the same period of 2024. Growth was noted in all sections of *Manufacturing* (3.7%) and *Mining and quarrying* (4.9%), while *Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply* recorded fall of -5.7%.

**Chart 2.1.** Cumulative trend of total industrial production and its sections, growth rates (%) (January–March 2025 to January–March 2024)



**Chart 2.2.** Industrial production growth rates by MIGs (%) (January–March 2025 to January–March 2024)



In the period January-March 2025 / January-March 2024, the section of **Manufacturing** contributed most to industry growth with 2.5 p.p., followed by **Mining and quarrying** (0.4 p.p.), while the section **Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply** in this period contributed negatively to the quarterly growth of industrial production (-0.8 p.p.).

**Table 2.1.** Industrial production, indices (comparison with the same period of the previous year)

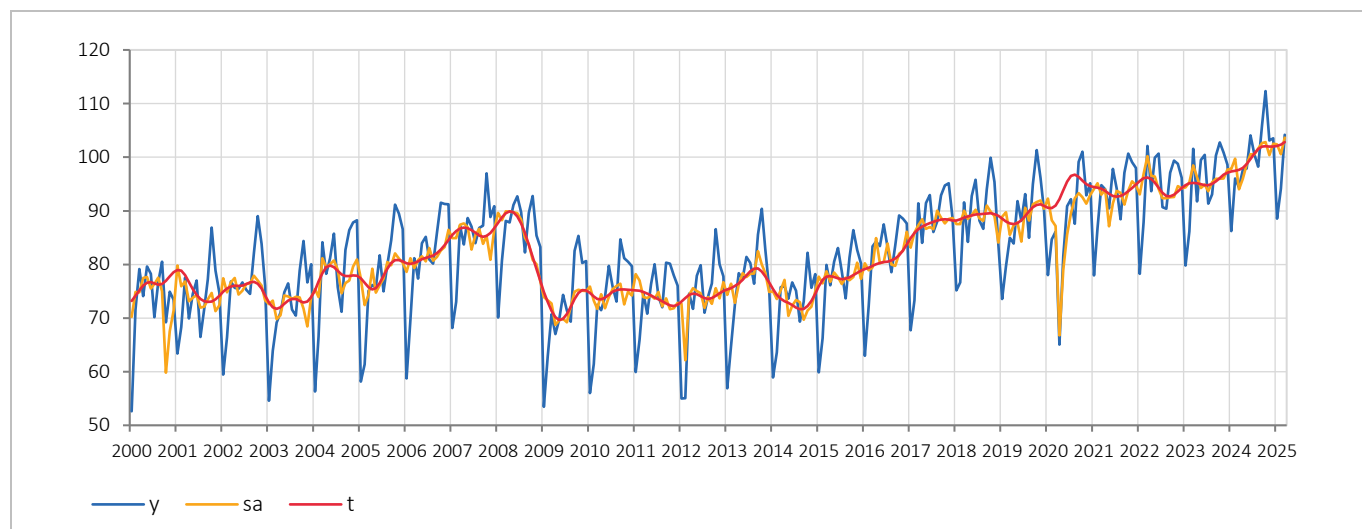
	2023				2024				2025	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1-Q2 <sup>1</sup>
Industrial production – total	102.5	100.9	103.7	102.8	102.9	101.3	103.4	103.9	102.1	<b>102.5</b>
Manufacturing	98.5	99.0	102.1	102.8	103.1	102.4	106.4	105.6	103.7	<b>104.0</b>
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	118.6	114.8	111.1	106.6	100.3	89.4	86.9	96.6	94.3	...
Mining and quarrying	104.5	94.3	105.8	95.3	106.4	116.5	104.4	105.0	104.9	...

<sup>1</sup> Prognoses (obtained on the basis of time series analysis models).

## 2.2. MANUFACTURING (C) (share of 76.2% in total industrial production index)

Trend-cycle component of Manufacturing in the first quarter of 2025 records increase (chart 2.3).

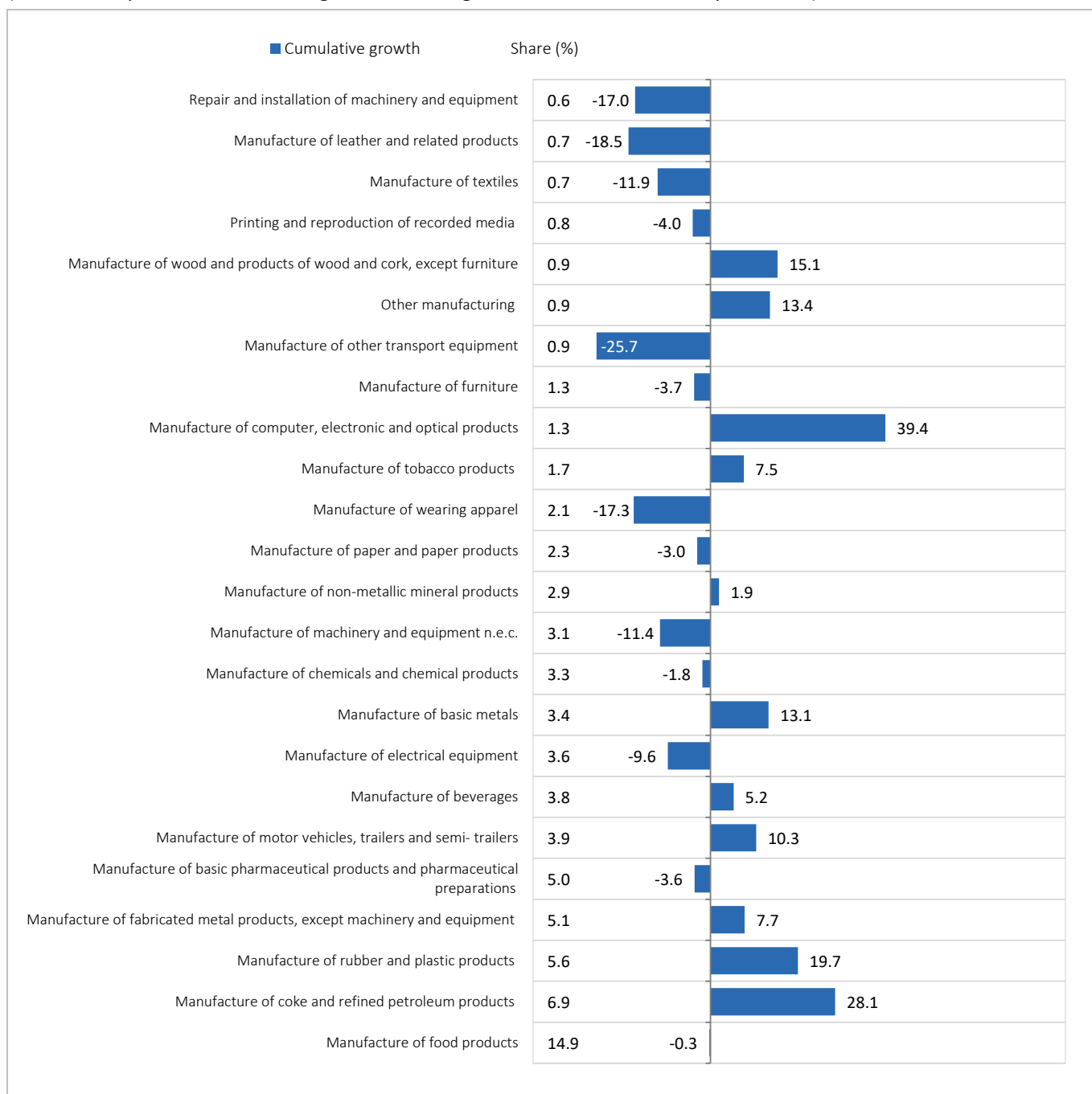
**Chart 2.3.** Components of Manufacturing time series, indices (y – original series, sa – series with excluded seasonal component, t – trend-cycle component, average 2024 = 100)



Observed by divisions, Manufacturing in the period January-March 2025 increased in 11 out of 24 divisions (mutually participating with 36.9% in total industry), if compared with the same period of 2024. The most significant divisions – measured by the share in total industrial production - in which positive results were noted in period January-March 2025 were: Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (growth of 28.1%), Manufacture of rubber and plastic products (growth of 19.7%) and Manufacture of metal products, except machinery (growth of 7.7%).

Decrease was recorded in 13 divisions (mutually participating with 39.4% in total industry): Manufacture of food products (fall of -0.3%), Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations (fall of -3.6%) and Manufacture of electrical equipment (fall of -9.6%).

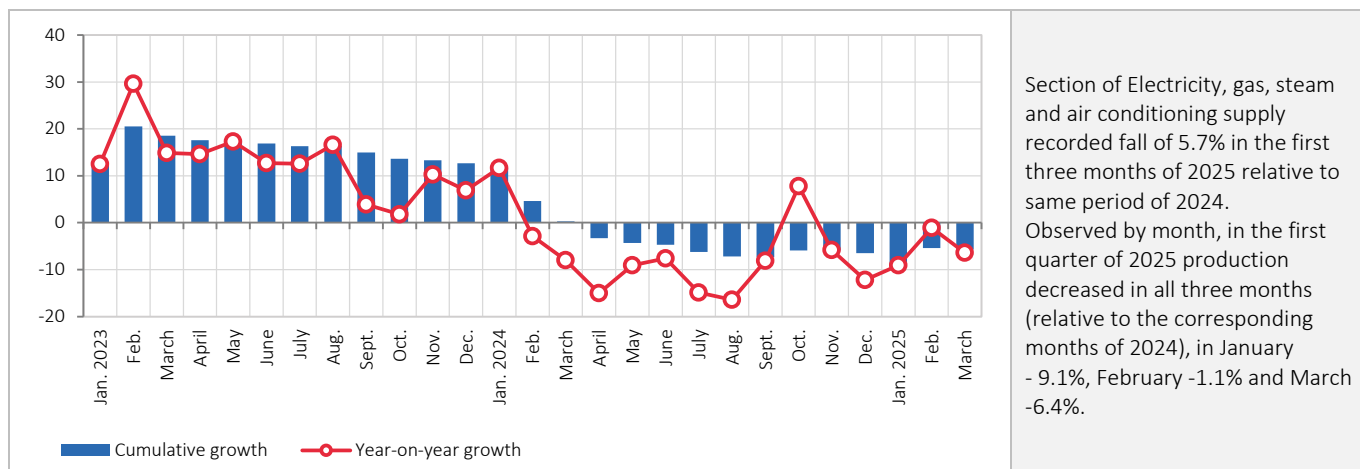
**Chart 2.4. Manufacturing by divisions, cumulative growth rates (%), (January-March 2025 to January-March 2024)**  
 (divisions are presented in ascending order according to shares in total industrial production)



## 2.3. ELECTRICITY, GAS, STEAM AND AIR CONDITIONING SUPPLY (D)

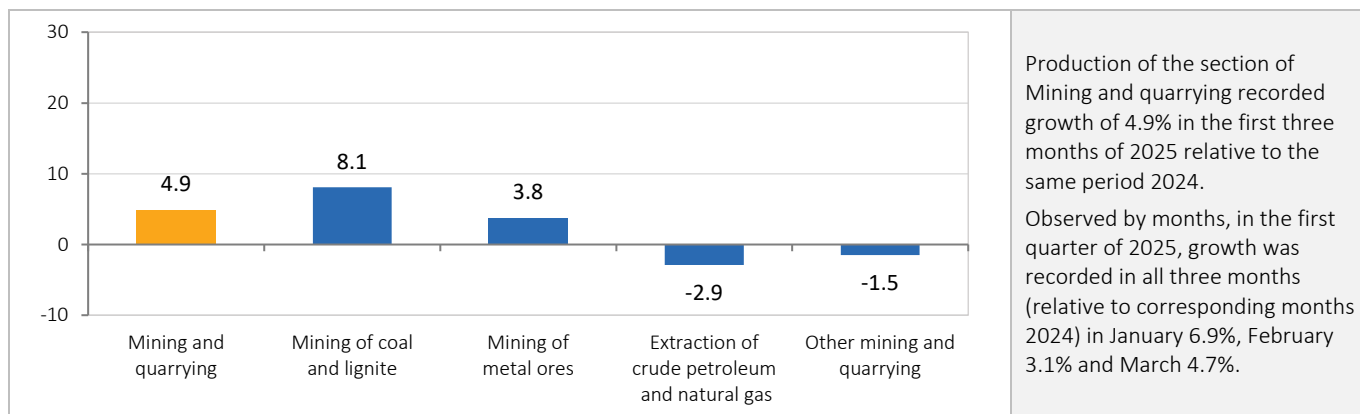
(share of 15.3% in total industrial production index)

**Chart 2.5.** Cumulative and year-on-year growth rates in energy section (%) (cumulative – period relative to the same period of the previous year; year-on-year – month relative to the same month of the previous year)



## 2.4. MINING AND QUARRYING (B) (share of 8.5% in total industrial production index)

**Chart 2.6.** Cumulative growth rates in the section Mining and quarrying (%) (January–March 2025 relative to January–March 2024)



### HOW TO INTERPRETE THE SERIES?

Seasonal effects can provoke distortions in time series trend, and in such way camouflaging its “real” nature and significant characteristics necessary for precise and detail analysis of the phenomena. When selecting the indicators that will be used for analysis (original, seasonally adjusted or trend), the nature of the observed series and point of the performed analysis should be taken into account. Three separate components (obtained by series’ disaggregation), together with the original series, describe various aspects of a single phenomenon and are used for versatile analytic purposes – depending on the researcher’s interest. Seasonally adjusted values are used for comparison of the consecutive periods and for estimation of potential value of a series when calendar effects and season effects would not exist, as is the case with industrial production.

## 3. CONSTRUCTION

### 3.1. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

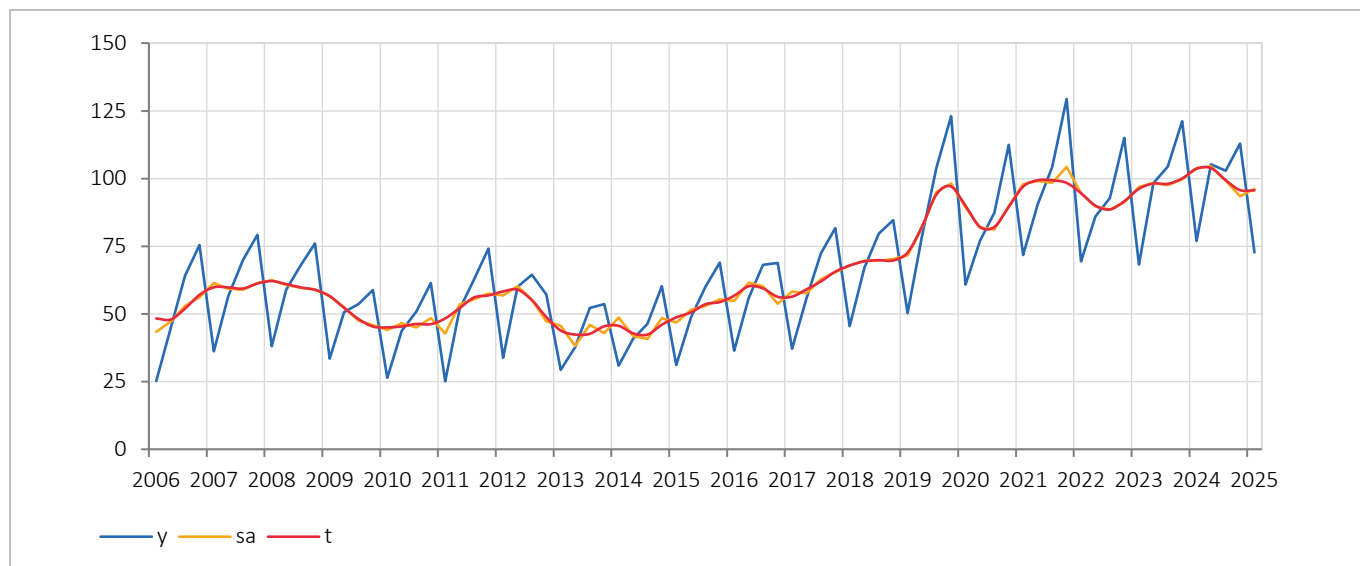
Construction activity on the territory of the Republic of Serbia in the first quarter of 2025, compared to the same period of 2024 decreased by 1.4% at current prices, and by 5.6% at constant prices.

Observed by type of constructions, the value of construction works performed on buildings increased by 4.8%, and on civil engineering (transport infrastructure, pipelines, complex industrial constructions, etc.), decreased by 10.2%, at constant prices.

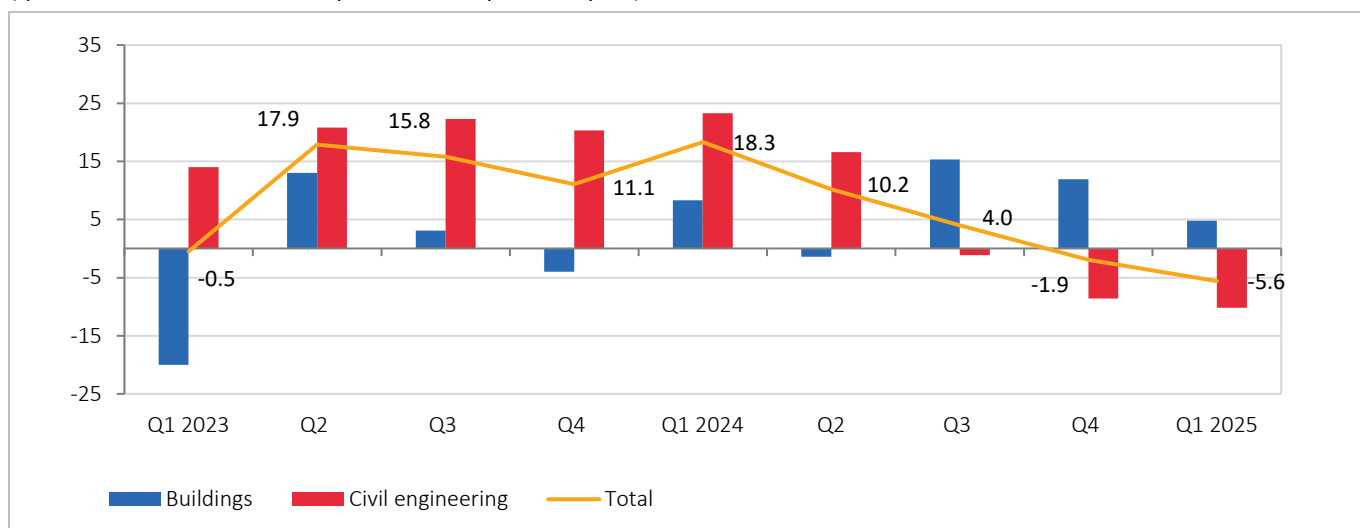
**Table 3.1.** Value of performed construction works, quarterly indices, quarterly indices (comparison with the same period of the previous year)

	2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Current prices	109.2	121.1	119.3	113.9	122.0	114.9	104.9	99.6	98.6
Constant prices	99.5	117.9	115.8	111.1	118.3	110.2	104.0	98.1	94.4

**Chart 3.1.** Components of time series of performed construction works on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, at constant prices (u – original series, sa – series with excluded seasonal component, t – trend cycle component average 2021 = 100)



**Chart 3.2** Value of performed construction works at constant prices, growth rates, (%) (quarter relative to the same quarter of the previous year)



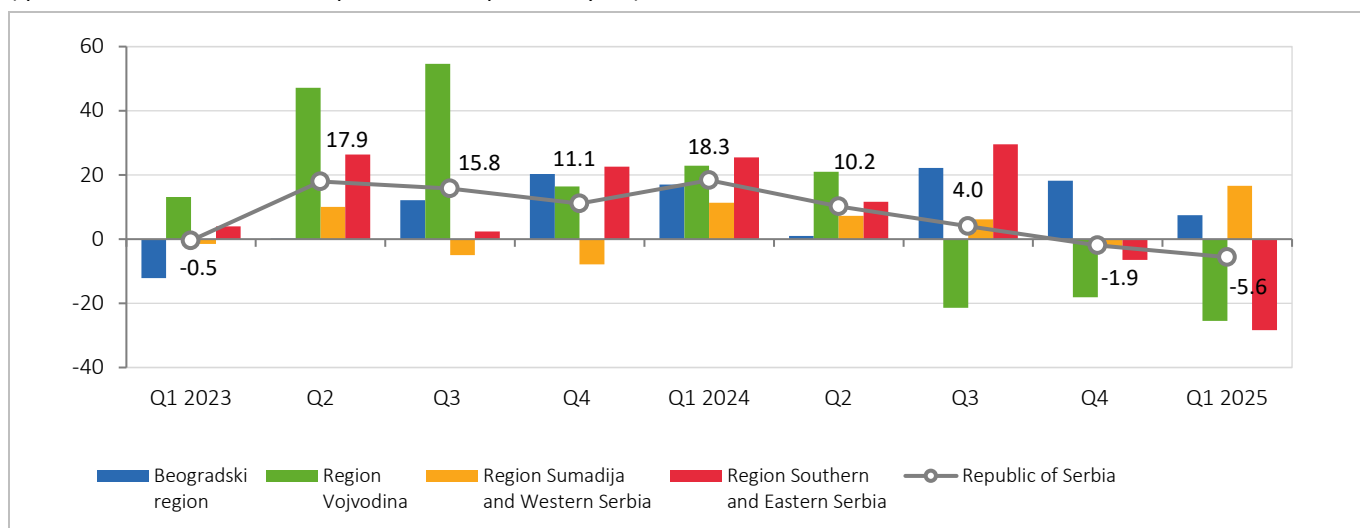
Observed by regions (chart 3.3), in the first quarter of 2025, **the highest growth of construction activity** (16.6% at constant prices), compared to the same period of the previous year, was recorded in the **Region of Sumadija and Western Serbia**. Observed by type of buildings, the value of works decreased for non-residential buildings. Very intensive works continued on the construction of the Morava Corridor and highway Preljina-Pozega, as well as on the construction of the municipal infrastructure (Mionica, Knic, Kucevo, Kragujevac).

The total value of construction works in **Belgrade region increased by 7.4%**, at constant prices. The increase can be noticed for all types of buildings, and the largest contribution to the growth was that of the construction of facilities for the International Specialised Exposition “EXPO Belgrade 2027”. In addition, a big rise of the value of works on residential buildings was noticed in this quarter.

The value of construction works decreased by **25.5%** in the **Region of Vojvodina**, at constant prices. In this region the value of construction works went up for residential and non-residential buildings, while transport infrastructure saw a considerable fall of the value due to the completion of works on the projects of the Hungarian-Serbian railway.

In the **Region Southern and Eastern Serbia** the value of works **decreased by 28.4%**. The fall of the value of performed works is most marked on transport infrastructure buildings, where works on the project of the high-speed road Pozarevac-Golubac and on the modernization of the railway Nis-Dimitrovgrad were of lower intensity. Fall was also noted on complex industrial buildings (construction of the complex of copper mines in Bor), and construction activity intensified on residential buildings.

**Chart 3.3.** Value of performed construction works by regions, at constant prices, growth rates (%) (quarter relative to the same quarter of the previous year)



**Chart 3.4.** Value of performed construction works and hours of worked on construction sites, comparative overview, indices (quarter compared to the same quarter of the previous year)

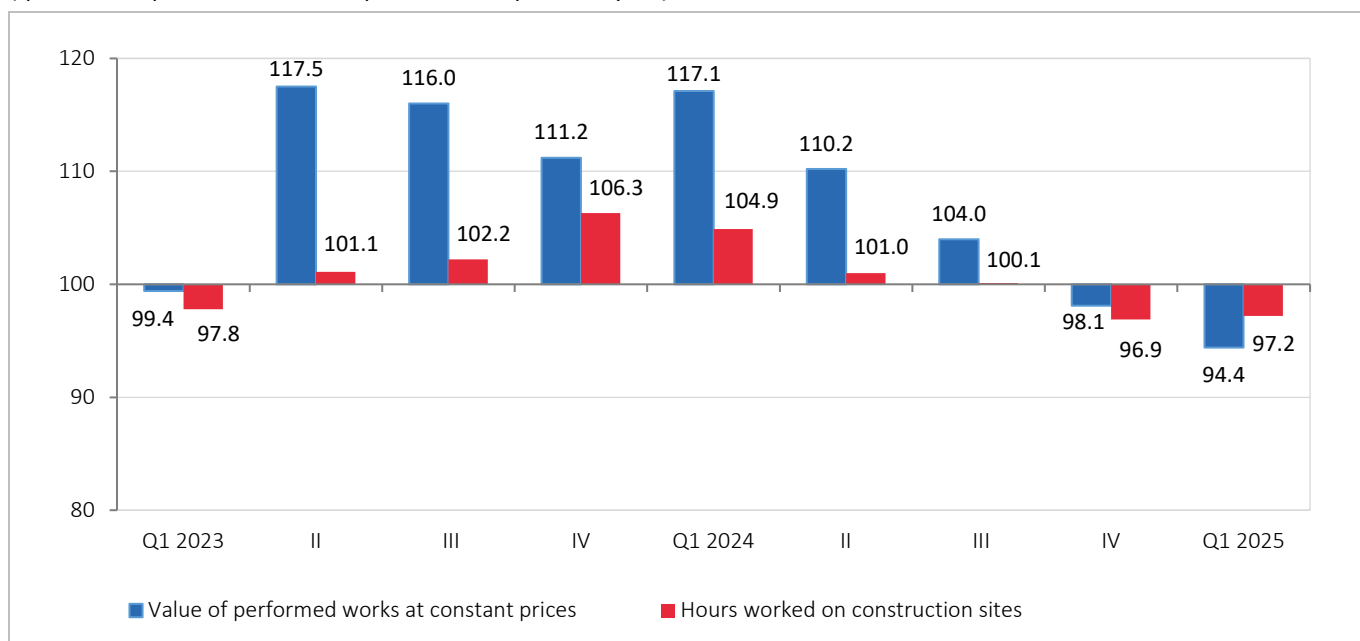


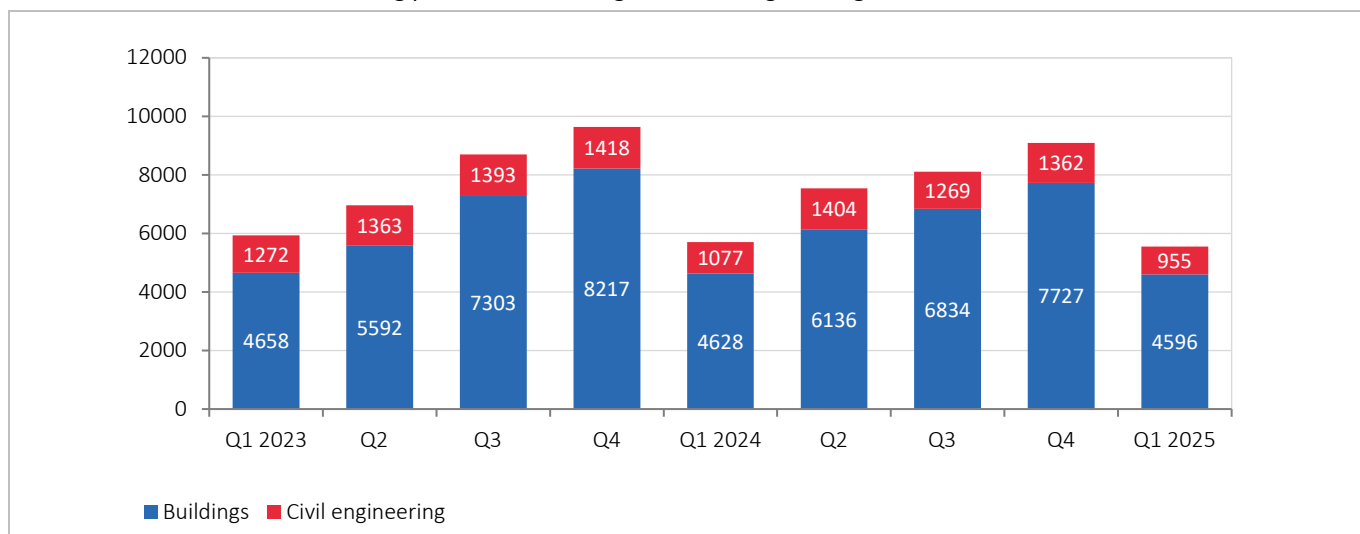
Chart 3.4 shows a comparative overview of the movement of hours worked and the value of the works performed on construction sites. Effective hours worked have been increasing since the second quarter of 2023, which complies with the increased value of works performed. The largest increase in works was seen in the fourth quarter of 2023 (6.3%). Since the fourth quarter of 2024, the construction activity has been declining, which is demonstrated by the two indicators - the value of construction works performed and hours of work.

## 3.2. BUILDING PERMITS

In addition to the value of works performed and hours worked on construction sites, the statistics of construction keep a monthly record of the issued **building permits and decisions**, which approve the implementation of construction works in the Republic of Serbia and which show the future trend of construction activity.

In the first quarter 2025, 5 551 building permits were issued. The greatest part of permits (4 596) related to construction works on buildings, while the rest (955) related to transport infrastructure works, pipelines, complex industrial structures, etc. Total number of issued permits in the first quarter 2024 decreased by 2.7% related to the same period of the previous year.

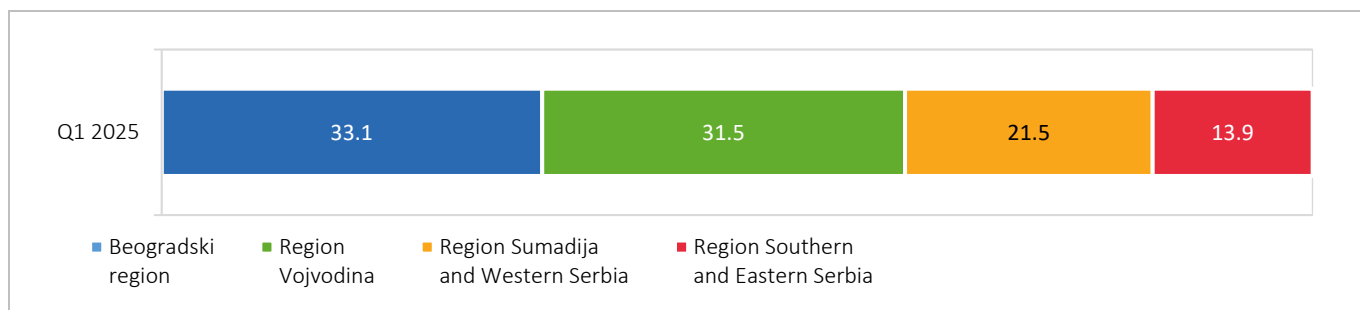
**Chart 3.5.** Number of issued building permits for buildings and civil engineering



The anticipated value of works, according to the issued permits, in the first quarter of 2025, amounts to RSD 161 139 million, which represents a decrease of 23.2% compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

The greatest share in anticipated value in the first quarter is seen in Belgrade region (33.1%), followed by Vojvodina region (31.5%), Region Sumadija and Western Serbia (21.5%) and Region Southern and Eastern Serbia (13.9%).

**Chart 3.6.** Anticipated value of works according to issued permits, by regions; share in %<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Note: Instead of previously published data on the share of the number of permits by regions, we will from now and on present the share of the anticipated value of works by issued permits. Namely, the value of works is a better indicator of future construction activity volume, while the number of permits does not provide key information on the value of anticipated investments, which is most important for estimating the value of future construction works.

## GLOSSARY

Value of performed construction works – the most significant indicator of construction activity trend in Serbia. It presents the value of performed works on construction that the reporting unit performed with workers directly engaged for execution of works.

Value of performed works includes: value of work, value of built in material and finished products for incorporating, consumed energy commodities and other expenditures related to performing works on construction. Value of performed works excludes: value of subcontractors' works, expenditures of land purchase, design, supervision and VAT.

According to *Classification of Types of Constructions*, applied since 2004, which is completely harmonized with the same Classification of Eurostat, all constructions can be classified into: buildings and civil engineering.

Value on buildings includes value of performed works, both on residential and non-residential buildings.

Civil engineering, besides transport infrastructure (roads, railways, bridges, etc.) involves also works carried out on pipelines, complex industrial structures and other civil engineering n.e.c. (e.g. sport constructions).

## 4. DOMESTIC TRADE

### 4.1. RETAIL TRADE TURNOVER (Division 47 of the Classification of Activities)

Retail trade turnover, excluding trade of motor vehicles and motorcycles, **in the first quarter of 2025**, relative to the same quarter of 2024, increased by 4.7% at current prices and by 1.0% at constant prices. In the first quarter of 2025 retail trade turnover was lower by 6.4% at current prices, and by 8.3% at constant than the average of last year.

**Table 4.1.** Retail trade turnover, indices (comparison with the same period of the previous year)

	2023				2024				2025	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q1-Q2 <sup>1</sup>
Current prices	112.2	106.2	107.8	109.5	112.2	113.1	107.8	104.8	104.7	<b>104.5</b>
Constant prices <sup>2</sup>	96.6	94.2	98.4	102.9	106.9	108.6	104.9	102.1	101.0	<b>101.5</b>

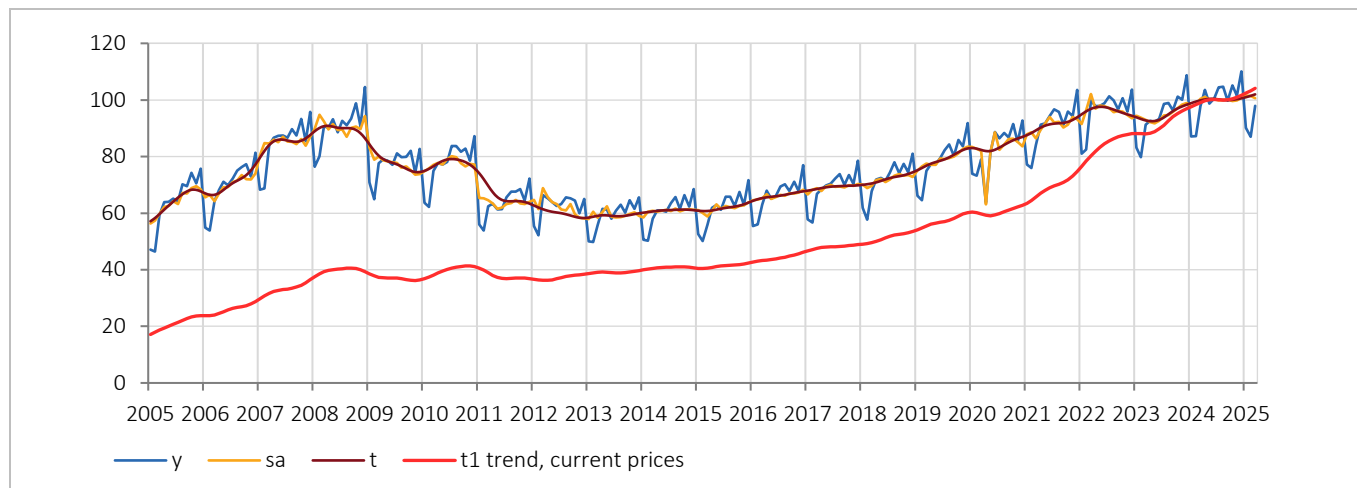
<sup>1</sup> Forecast (obtained on the basis of time series model analysis).

<sup>2</sup> Indices are recalculated through monthly indices at constant prices.

Retail trade is characterised by stable and upward moving long-term trend, which has been present for the last ten years. Turnover growth rates at current prices are higher than at constant prices, which is a consequence of accelerated inflation.

**Chart 4.1.** Components of time series of retail trade turnover at constant prices, indices

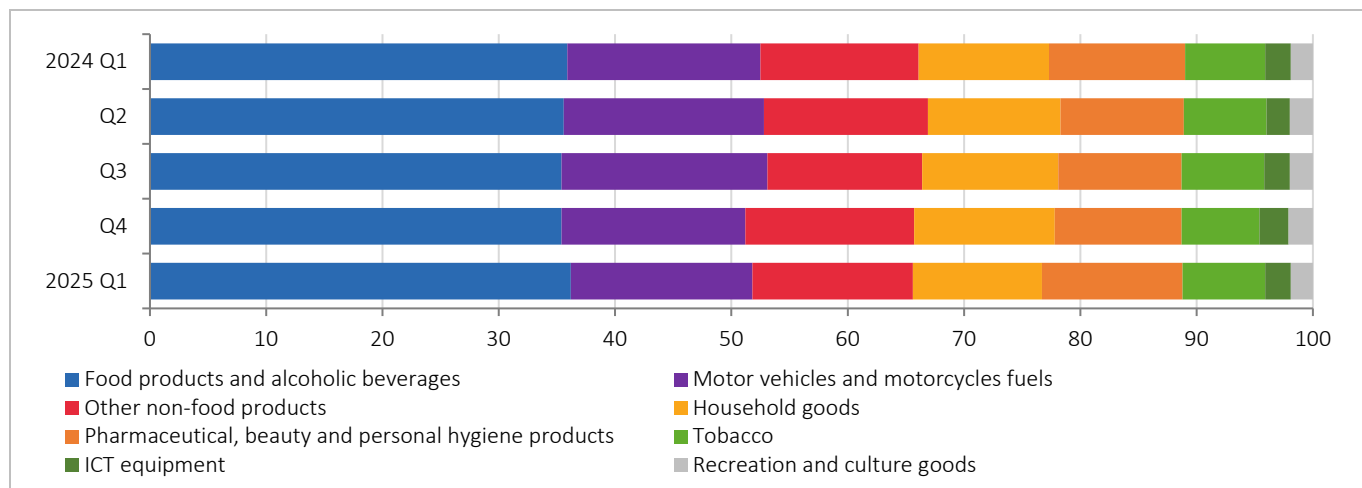
(y – original series, sa – series with excluded seasonal component, t – trend cycle component, average 2024 = 100)



Observed according to the basic aggregates of CA (2010), **in the first quarter of 2025**, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the highest turnover growth was achieved in trade of Non-food products, except motor fuels (6.3% at current and 3.1% at constant prices). Growth was also noted in trade of Food, beverages and tobacco, amounting to 5.3% at current, i.e. 0.2% at constant prices. On the other hand, trade of Motor fuels fell by 0.1% at current, i.e. 1.4% at constant prices.

Observed by commodity groups in the retail trade turnover, **in the first quarter of 2025**, the most notable were Food products and alcoholic beverages (36.2%), followed by Motor vehicles and motorcycles fuels (15.6%) and Other non-food products (13.8%).

**Chart 4.2. Structure of retail trade turnover by commodity groups (%)**



## 4.2. WHOLESALE TRADE TURNOVER (division 46 of the Classification of Activities)

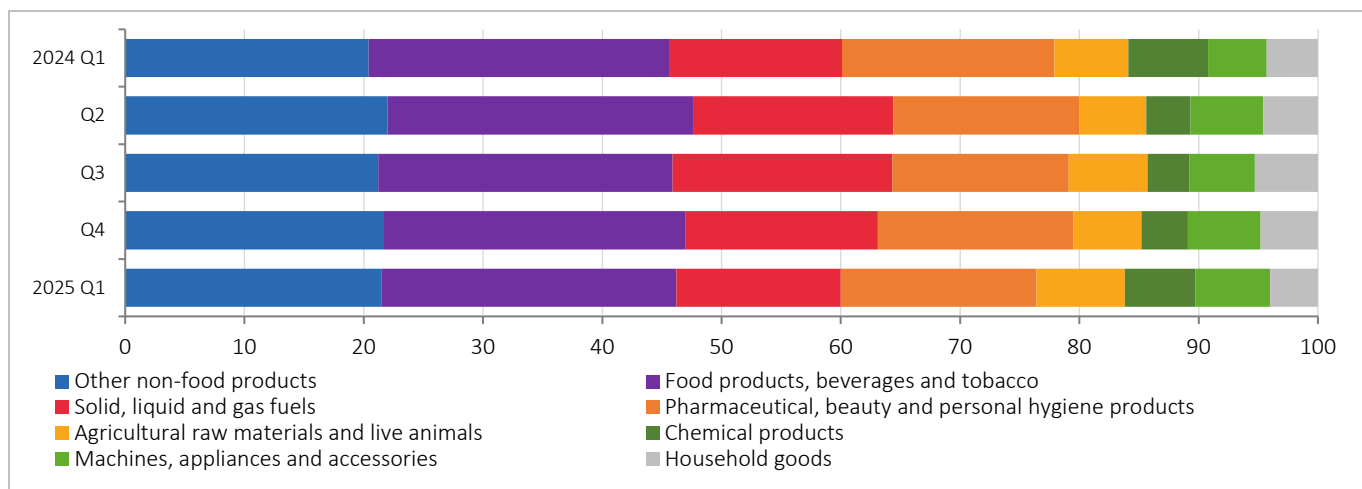
Wholesale trade turnover in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the same quarter of the previous year, noted decrease of 5.4% at current prices and 7.9% at constant prices. In the first quarter of 2025, wholesale trade turnover decreased by 9.5% at current prices and by 11.8% at constant prices, relative to the last year's average.

**Table 4.2. Wholesale trade turnover, indices (comparison with the same period of the previous year)**

	2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Current prices	104.3	93.2	98.9	99.6	106.7	108.1	100.3	101.0	94.6

Observed by commodity groups, in wholesale trade turnover, in the first quarter of 2025, the most notable were Food products, beverages and tobacco (24.7%), Other non - food products (21.5%), and Pharmaceutical, beauty and personal hygiene products, (16.4%).

**Chart 4.3. Structure of wholesale trade turnover by commodity groups (%)**



### 4.3. TURNOVER IN WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE AND REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES

(Division 45 of the Classification of Activities)

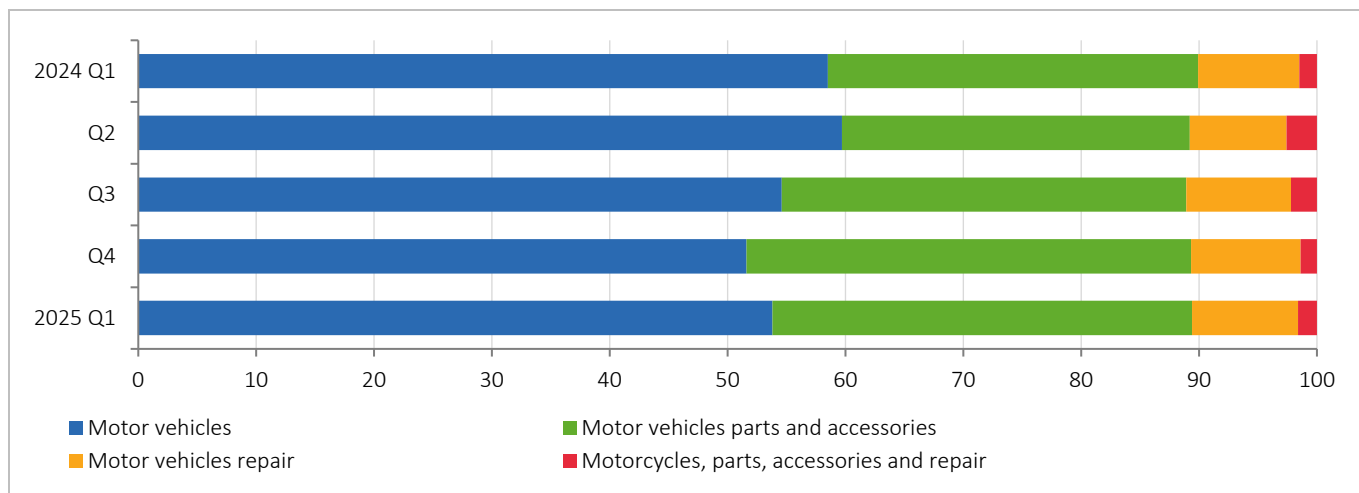
Turnover of goods in wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles **in the first quarter of 2025** was at the same level as in the same quarter of 2024, and at constant price it recorded fall of 2.8%. In the first quarter of 2025, the turnover in this division decreased by 11.5% at current prices and by 13.% at constant prices, relative to the last year's average.

**Table 4.3.** Turnover in wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles, indices (comparison with the same period of the previous year)

	2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Current prices	112.5	111.7	111.7	112.1	117.9	109.5	107.0	107.4	100.0

Observed by commodity groups, **in the first quarter of 2025**, similarly to the previous quarters, in the structure of wholesale and retail trade turnover and repair of motor vehicles, the most dominant were Motor vehicles (53.8%), and Motor vehicles parts and accessories (35.6%).

**Chart 4.4.** Structure of wholesale and retail trade turnover and repair of motor vehicles by commodity groups (%)



#### NOTE

Retail trade turnover indices (CA division 47) at constant prices are obtained by deflating the indices at current prices with the corresponding indices of consumer prices of goods, which exclude: water (from public utility systems), electricity, motor vehicles, motorcycles and parts.

The wholesale trade turnover indices (CA division 46) at constant prices are obtained by deflating the indices at current prices with the price indices obtained on the basis of the producer price index of industrial products in total (for the domestic market and for export) and the producer price index of agricultural and fishery products.

The turnover indices of wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles (CA division 45) at constant prices are obtained by deflating the indices at current prices with the consumer price indices (vehicles, parts thereof, maintenance and repair of passenger vehicles).

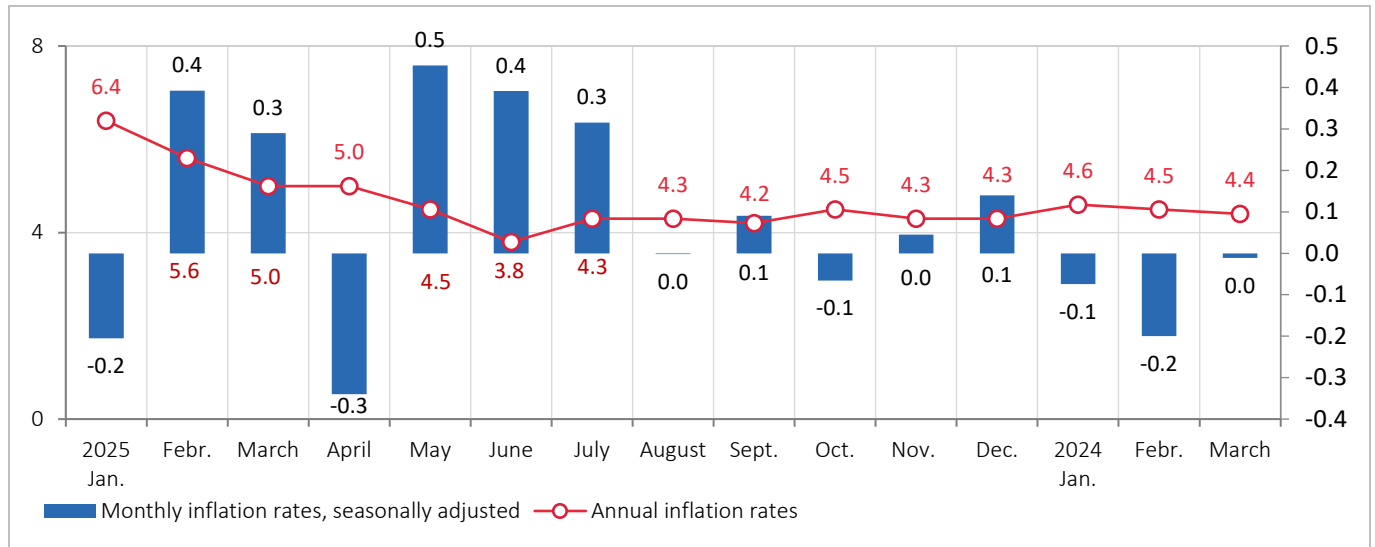
## 5. PRICES

In Q1 2025, consumer prices saw an average annual growth of 4.5%. The largest influence on the growth of consumer prices was that of the prices of the following groups of products: **tobacco, water supply and miscellaneous services related to the dwelling, fruits, sugar, jam, honey and chocolate, coffee, tea and cocoa**, accounting for 31.6% of the total annual consumer price rate in Q1 2025. The only deflation effects on total consumer prices in Q1 2025 arose from meat, solid fuels and telephone equipment.

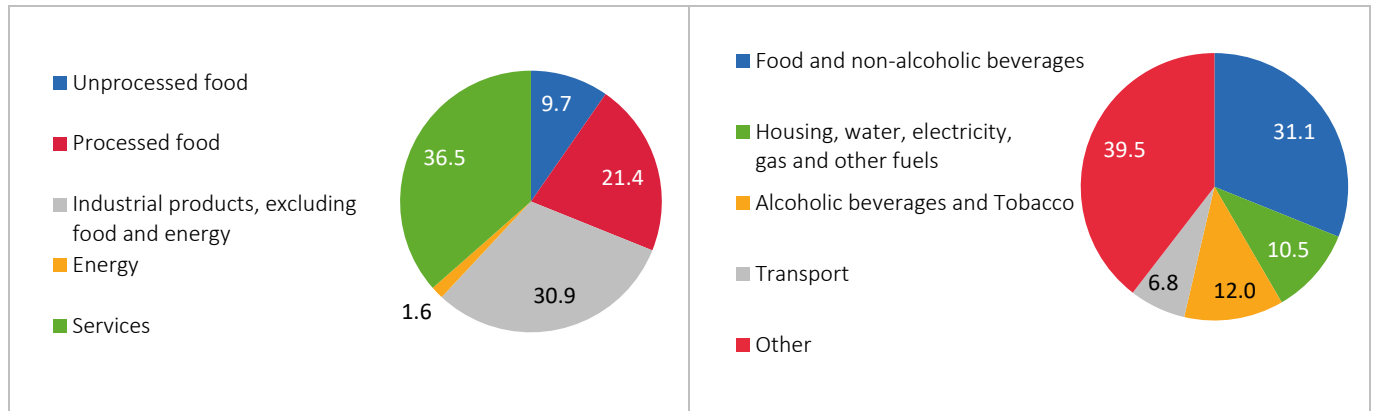
**Table 5.1.** Consumer prices, year-on-year inflation rate (%) (quarter to the same quarter of the previous year)

	2024				2025			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Consumer prices	5.7	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.5	-	-	-

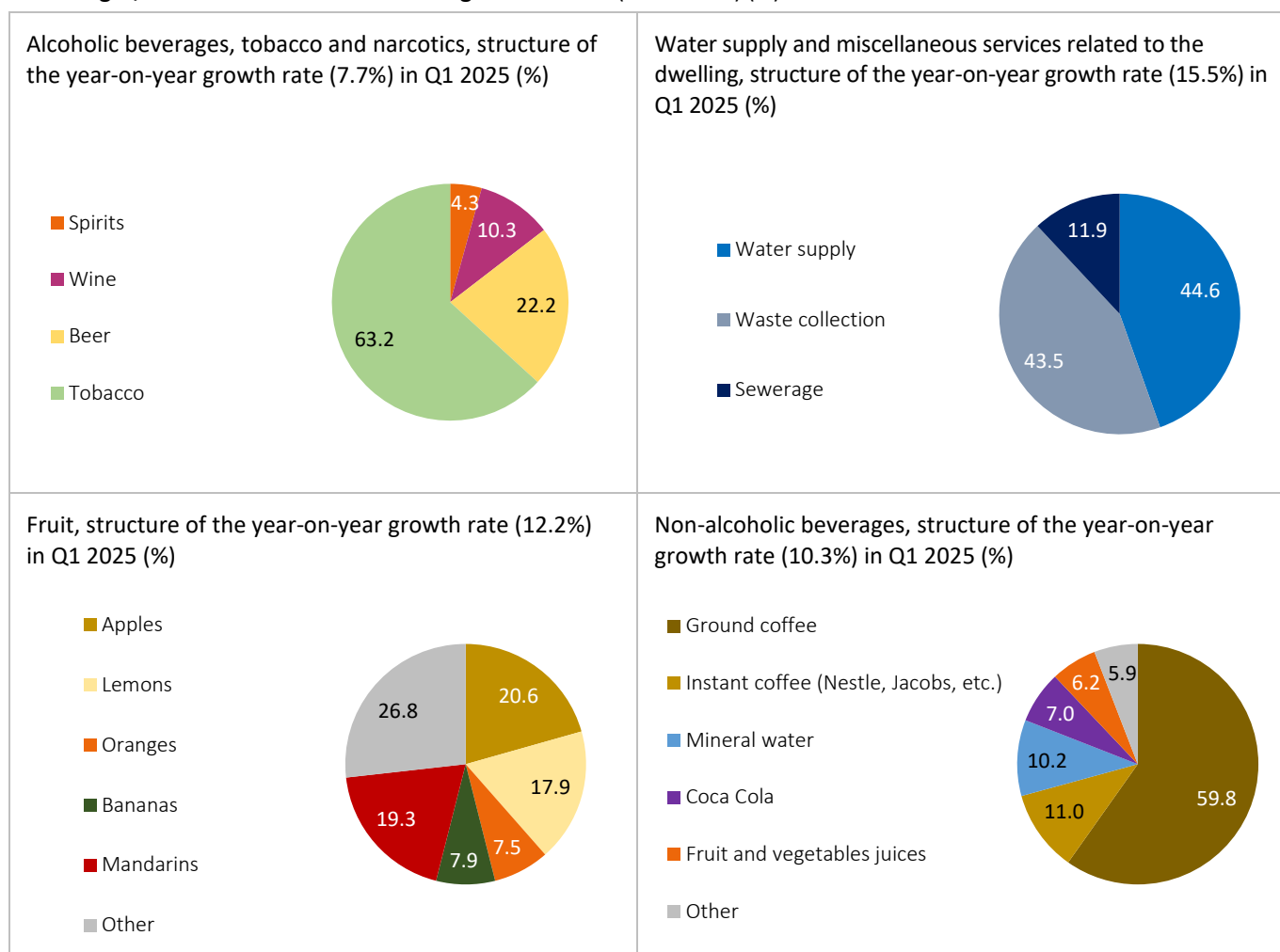
**Chart 5.1.** Inflation rate measured by consumer price indices (%), (**monthly** – month to the previous month, with seasonal influence excluded; **annual** – annual to the same month of the previous year)



**Chart 5.2.** Structure of the average annual consumer price growth rate (4.5%) by purpose and main groups of products in Q1 2025 (total = 100) (%)



**Chart 5.3.** Structure of the average annual consumer price growth rate of alcoholic beverages and tobacco, water supply and charges, fruit and non-alcoholic beverages in Q1 2025 (total = 100) (%)



The excise calendar from Q1 2025, but also the annual price adjustments of the producers of alcoholic beverages and tobacco with the 2024 inflation contributed to the year-on-year growth of the prices of alcoholic beverages and tobacco of 7.7%, primarily caused by the average annual growth of tobacco price (7.7%) and beer (8.5%). Since January 2025, the inflation adjustment and rise of salaries and wages has had a considerable impact on higher prices of public utilities services, primarily for water supply and sewerage, which resulted in a year-on-year growth of these prices of 15.5%. As for fruit prices, in Q1 2025 the prices that rose the most (12.2%) related to citrus fruits (lemons, oranges and grapefruits), arising from the global growth of the prices of these fruits due to drought and bacterial infection in the world largest plantations (Florida, Brazil). The same reasons led to the growth of the costs of growing coffee and cocoa, which resulted in a marked growth of the prices of chocolate (that started back in 2020) in Q1 2025, of a record 38.6%, and of ground coffee, 20.0%.

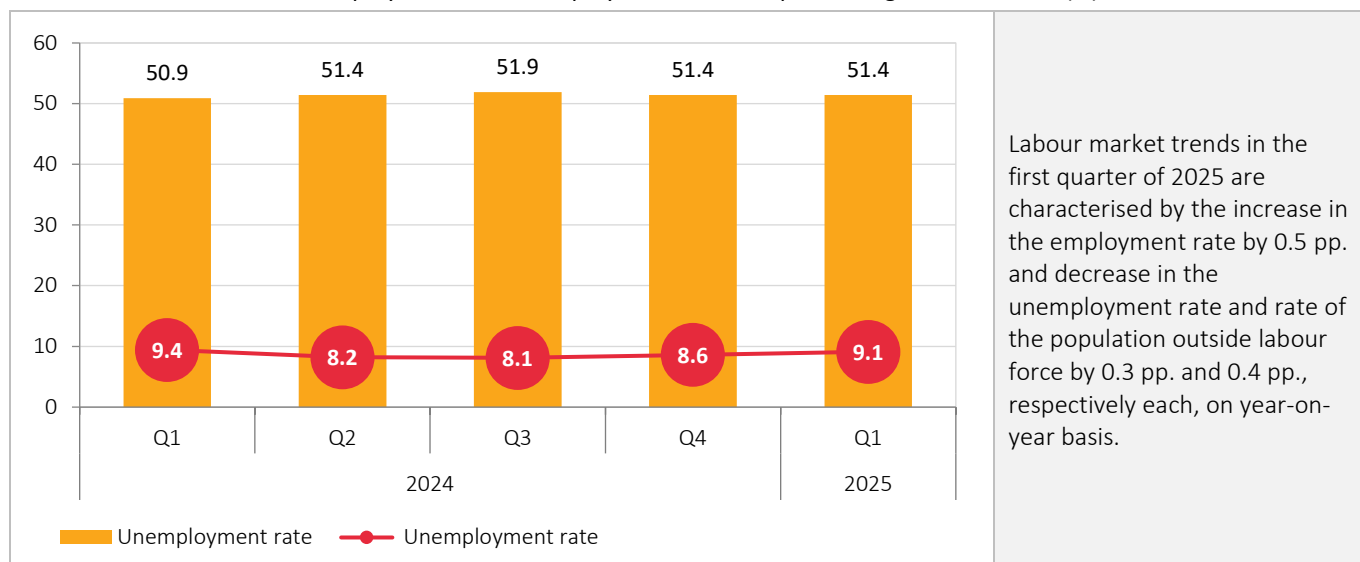
## 6. LABOUR MARKET<sup>2</sup>

In the Republic of Serbia in the first quarter of 2025 there were 2.887 million employed persons, 289.4 thousand unemployed persons and 2.438 million persons outside labour force aged over 15.

The unemployment rate was 9.1%, by 0.5 p.p. higher than in the fourth quarter of 2024, while the number of the unemployed was up by 16.3 thousand persons, the number of persons outside labour force going down by 24.1 thousand.

When looking at regions, the unemployed rate in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the previous quarter, saw a growth in almost all regions: in the Region of Belgrade, from 6.2% to 7%, Region of Vojvodina from 8% to 8.6% and Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia, from 11.5% to 13.3%, with the exception of Region of Sumadija and Western Serbia, where the unemployment rate saw a fall from from 9.4% to 8.6%.

**Chart 6.1.** Movement of the employment and unemployment rates for persons aged 15 and over (%)<sup>3</sup>



**Table 6.1.** Activity, employment and unemployment rates

	2023 (r)				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Activity rate (%)	55.0	55.6	55.5	55.3	56.2	56.0	56.4	56.3	56.6
Employment rate (%)	49.5	50.3	50.5	50.3	50.9	51.4	51.9	51.4	51.4
Unemployment rate (%)	10.0	9.6	9.0	9.1	9.4	8.2	8.1	8.6	9.1

(r) – Data for 2021, 2022 and 2023 have been revised in compliance with the latest estimates based on current demographic estimates based on the 2022 Census. More information on the revision is available in the statistical release on: <https://stat.gov.rs/vesti/statisticalrelease/?p=15166&a=24&s=2400>

<sup>2</sup> Based on the Labour Force Survey.

<sup>3</sup> Since 2021, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has been conducting the Labour Force Survey according to the new, revised Eurostat methodology. The methodology was changed in line with the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council that entered into force on 1 January 2021. More details on the methodology changes and their effects on major statistical indicators are available in the special publication that can be found on: <https://www.stat.gov.rs/vesti/20210628-anketa-o-radnoj-snazi-nova-metodologija/>

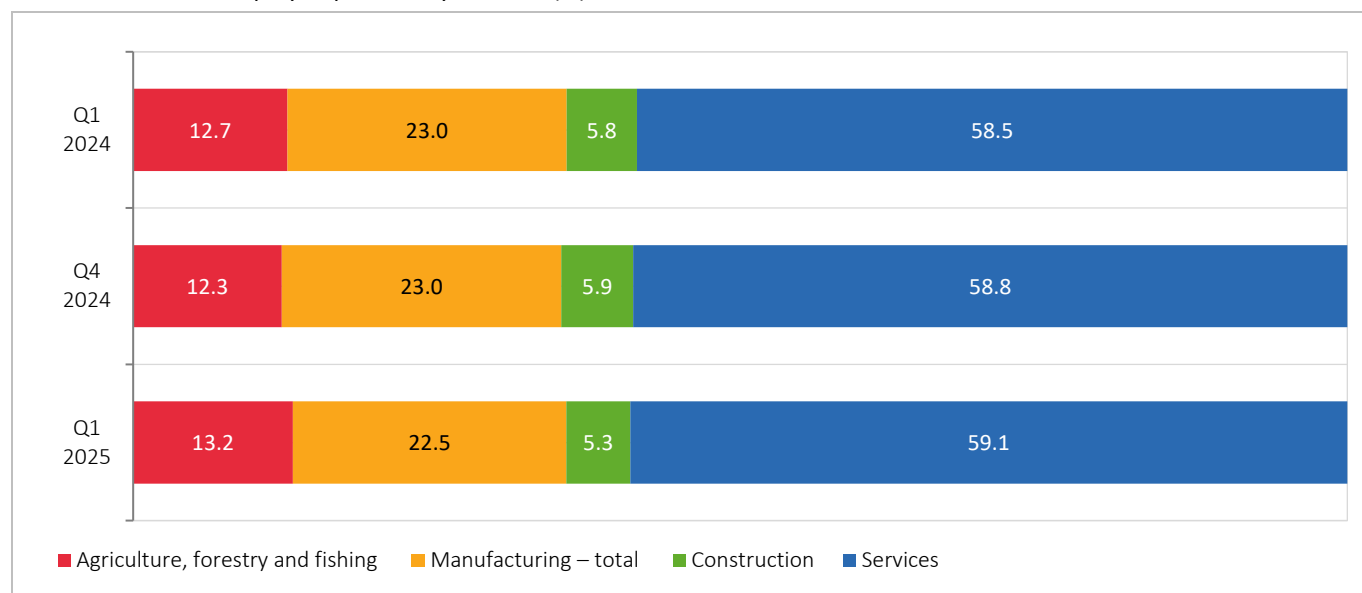
**Table 6.2. Labour market – persons aged 15 and over**

	Current quarter	Previous quarter		The same quarter of the previous year	
	Q1 2025 (in thous.)	Q4 2024 (in thous.)	Change, %	Q1 2024 (in thous.)	Change, %
Unemployment	289.4	273.1	6.0	299.1	-3.2
Employment	2 887.1	2 894.9	-0.3	2 871.7	0.5
	%	%	Change, pp.	%	Change, pp.
Unemployment rate	9.1	8.6	0.5	9.4	-0.3
Employment rate	51.4	51.4	0.0	50.9	0.5

Observed by sections, the largest share of the number of employed persons in the first quarter of 2025 was recorded in Services (59.1%), then in Manufacturing (22.5%) and Agriculture (13.2%), and the lowest in Construction (5.3%). When compared with the previous quarter, the share of employed persons went up in the sections Services (from 58.8% to 59.1%) and Agriculture, forestry and fishing (from 12.3% to 13.2%). On the other hand, the share of the number of employed persons fell in the sections Manufacturing (from 23% to 22.5%) and Construction (from 5.9% to 5.3%).

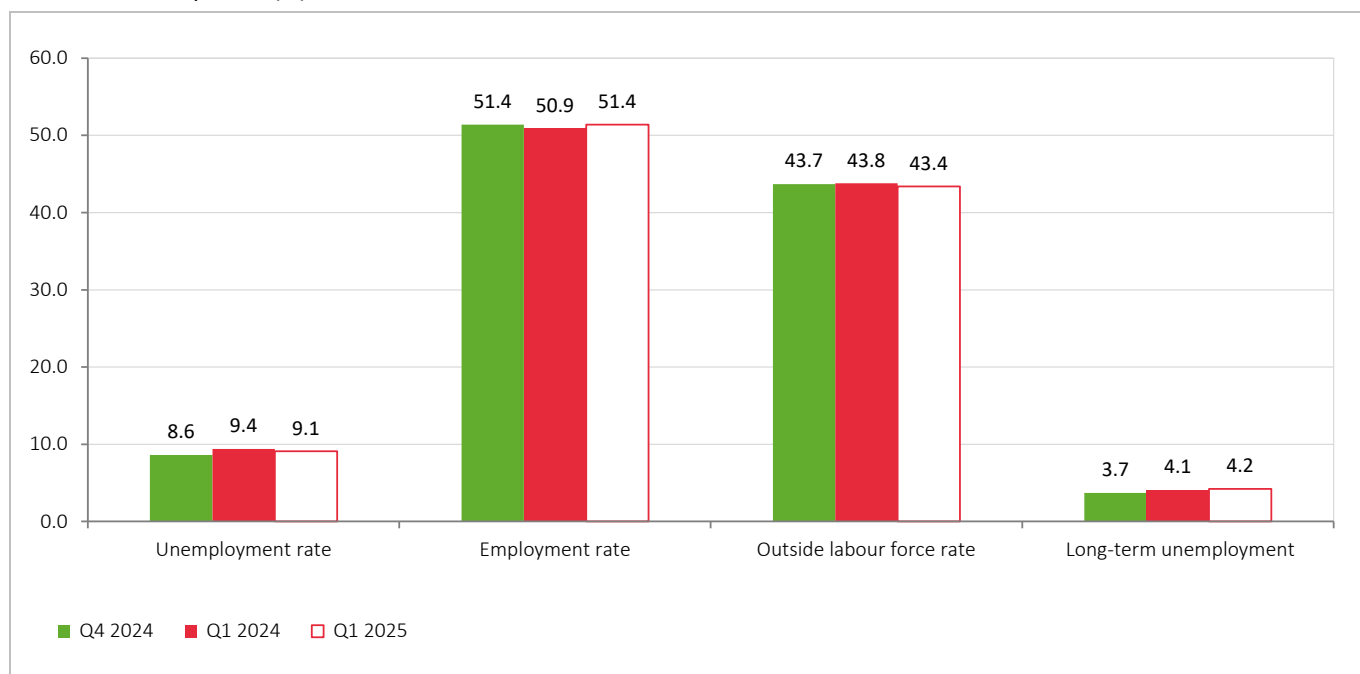
Similar trends have also been seen in the year-on-year periodicity (Quarter I 2024 – to Quarter I 2025), when growth of the share of employed persons was recorded in Services (from 58.5% to 59.1%) and Agriculture, forestry and fishing (from 12.7% to 13.2%). However, fall was noted in the sections Manufacturing (from 23% to 22.5%) and Construction (from 5.9% to 5.3%).

**Chart 6.2. Share of employed persons by sections (%)**



Labour market trends indicate a considerable inequality in the section structure of employed persons, therefore in the need to adjust educational and economic policies to labour market requirements.

**Chart 6.3.** Labour market – major indicators for the previous quarter, the same quarter of the previous year and the current quarter (%)



## 6.1. COMPARISON WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER

When compared with the previous, fourth quarter of 2024, the number of employed persons fell by 7.8 thousand, as well the number of persons outside labour force, by 24.1 thousand, but at the same time the number of unemployed persons grew by 16.3 thousand. The unemployment rate went up by 0.5 pp., while the outside labour force rate went down by 0.3 pp. and the employment rate remained unchanged.

The number of employed youth (aged 15-24) grew by 4.4 thousand but the number of unemployed youth and of outside labour force youth fell by 3.4 thousand and 1.4 thousand, respectively. This trend led to the growth of the employment rate by 0.7 pp, fall of the unemployment rate, by 1.7 pp, compared with the fourth quarter of 2024.

The long-term unemployment rate was 4.2%, by 0.5 pp. less than in the previous quarter.

Observed by sex, the unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the previous quarter, saw a growth of 0.7 pp. among men and 0.2 pp. among women.

The unemployment rate among men decreased only in Region of Vojvodina, from 8.8% to 7.9%. However, it grew in Belgrade Region (from 6.4% to 7.7%), Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia (from 9.2% to 11.6%) and in Region of Sumadija and Western Serbia (from 8.6% to 9%).

The unemployment rate among women recorded similar trends, i.e. growth in most of the regions: in Belgrade Region, from 5.9% to 6.3%, Region of Vojvodina, from 7% to 9.5% and in Region Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia, from 14.4% to 15.5%, while fall was recorded in Region Sumadija and Western Serbia from 10.5% to 8%.

Observed by professional status, and compared with the previous quarter, the number of employed persons increased only in the categories of contributing family members (by 8.7%). In contrast, fall was recorded in the categories of employed persons (by 0.7%) and self-employed persons (by 0.8%).

**Table 6.3.** Employment by professional status, comparison Q4 2024 – Q1 2025

	Q4 2024 (in thous.)	Q1 2025 (in thous.)	Change, %
<b>Employed persons – total</b>	<b>2 894.9</b>	<b>2 887.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Self-employed	489.6	485.5	-0.8
Employed	2 253.7	2 236.8	-0.7
Contributing family members	151.6	164.8	8.7

## 6.2. COMPARISON WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 3.2% (from 299.1 thousand to 289.4 thousand). At the same time, the number of employed persons grew by 0.5% (from 2 871.7 in the first quarter of 2024 to 2 887.1 in the first quarter of 2025).

The youth unemployment rate (aged from 15 to 24) in the first quarter of 2025 amounted to 24.1%, slightly lower than in the first quarter of 2024 (24.5%).

The long-term unemployment rate was 4.2% in the first quarter of 2025, by 0.1 pp. higher than in the same quarter of 2024.

Observed by sex, the unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the same quarter of the previous year, saw a fall of 0.4 pp among women, and of 0.3 pp. among men.

The unemployment rate among men saw a growth only in Belgrade Region, from 7.2% to 7.7%. However, fall was recorded in Region of Vojvodina, from 8.5% to 7.9%, Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia from 12.4% to 11.6%, and in Region of Sumadija and Western Serbia, from 9.5% to 9%.

The unemployment rate went down among women in Region of Vojvodina, from 10.9% to 9.5% and Region of Sumadija and Western Serbia, from 8.7% to 8%, while growth was noted in Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia, from 14.9% to 15.5%) and Belgrade Region, from 5.8% to 6.3%.

Observed by professional status, relative to the same quarter of 2024, the number of employed persons increased in the category of employed persons (by 0.8%) and the self-employed (by 0.1%), while the category of contributing family members saw a fall of 1.6%.

**Table 6.4.** Employment by professional status, comparison Q1 2024 – Q1 2025

	Q1 2024 (in thous.)	Q1 2025 (in thous.)	Change, %
<b>Employed persons – total</b>	<b>2 871.8</b>	<b>2 887.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Self-employed	485.4	485.5	0.1
Employed	2 218.9	2 236.8	0.8
Contributing family members	167.5	164.8	-1.6

 GLOSSARY

**Active population** (labour force) comprises all employed and unemployed persons aged 15 and 24.

**Employed persons** are persons aged 15-89 and over who performed a paid job for at least one hour in the reference week (in cash or in kind), as well as persons who had an employment but who were absent from work in that week. According to the Classification of Employment Status, they are divided into *self-employed, employed and contributing family member*.

**Self-employed** are persons working solely in their own enterprise, institution, privately- owned store or on an agricultural holding, as well as persons performing solely a professional activity or any other job for own account. Self-employed are persons who solely define the conditions of their work (as well as of their employees) and bear the risk for their work.

**Employed workers** are persons who work for an employer in any ownership sector, whether having a formal employment contract or working on an oral contract. Family members who help in performing family business and are paid for their work are considered employed workers.

**Contributing family members** are persons who help another family member in running family business or agricultural holding and are not paid for that work. Those persons are considered employed even if they are not paid for their work because they have benefits, such as accommodation, food, etc.

**Unemployed persons** are persons aged 15-74 who did not perform any paid job in the reference week, sought actively a job for four weeks preceding the reference week, and who were ready to start working within two weeks after the reference week

**Outside labour force population** comprises all persons aged 15 and more who are classified in the employed or unemployed population. Inactive persons include students, retired persons, houseworkers, as well as all persons who did not perform in the reference week any paid job, did not actively seek employment or were not able to start working within two weeks after the end of the reference week.

**Activity rate** is the share of active population in the total population aged 15 and over.

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

**Unemployment rate** is the share of unemployed persons in the total number of active population aged 15 and over.

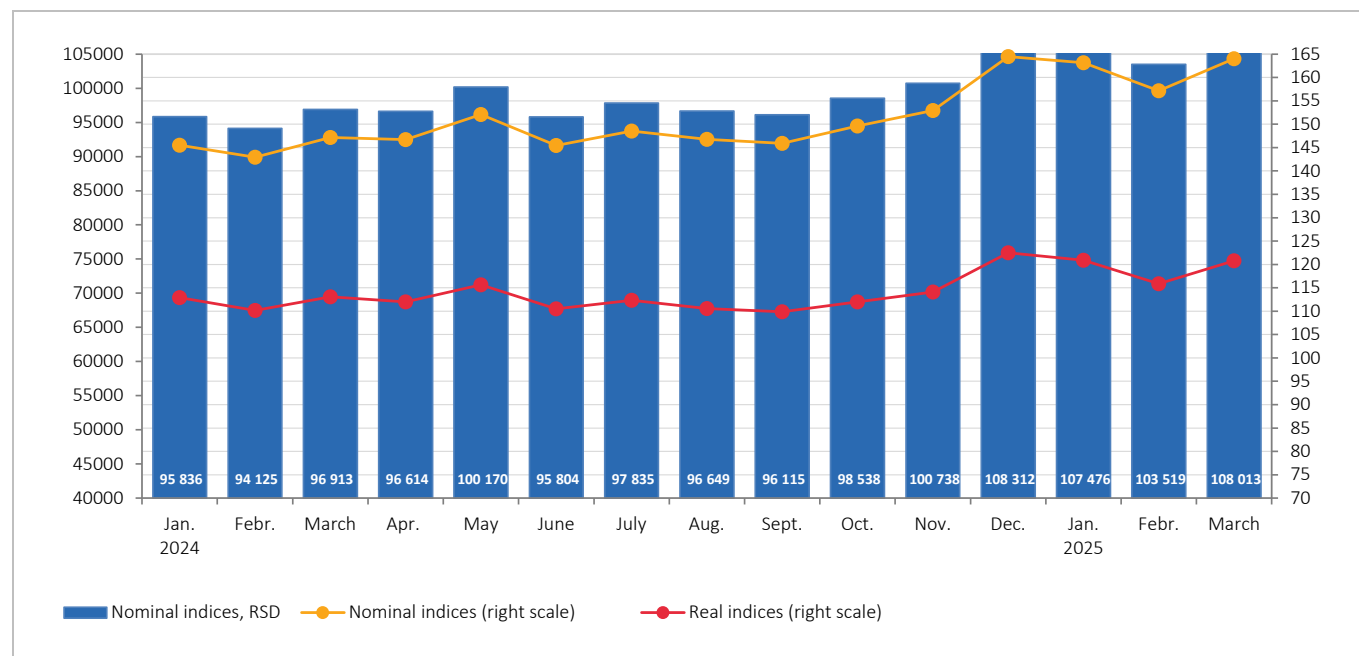
## 7. SALARIES AND WAGES

Average net salaries and wages in the Republic of Serbia for the first quarter of 2025 amounted to 106 337 dinars. Compared with the same period of the previous year, they increased nominally by 11.2% and by 6.4% in real terms. Compared with the previous, i.e. fourth quarter of 2024, they increased nominally by 3.7% and by 2.5% in real terms.

**Table 7.1.** Net salaries and wages - real and nominal indices (comparison with the same period of the previous year)

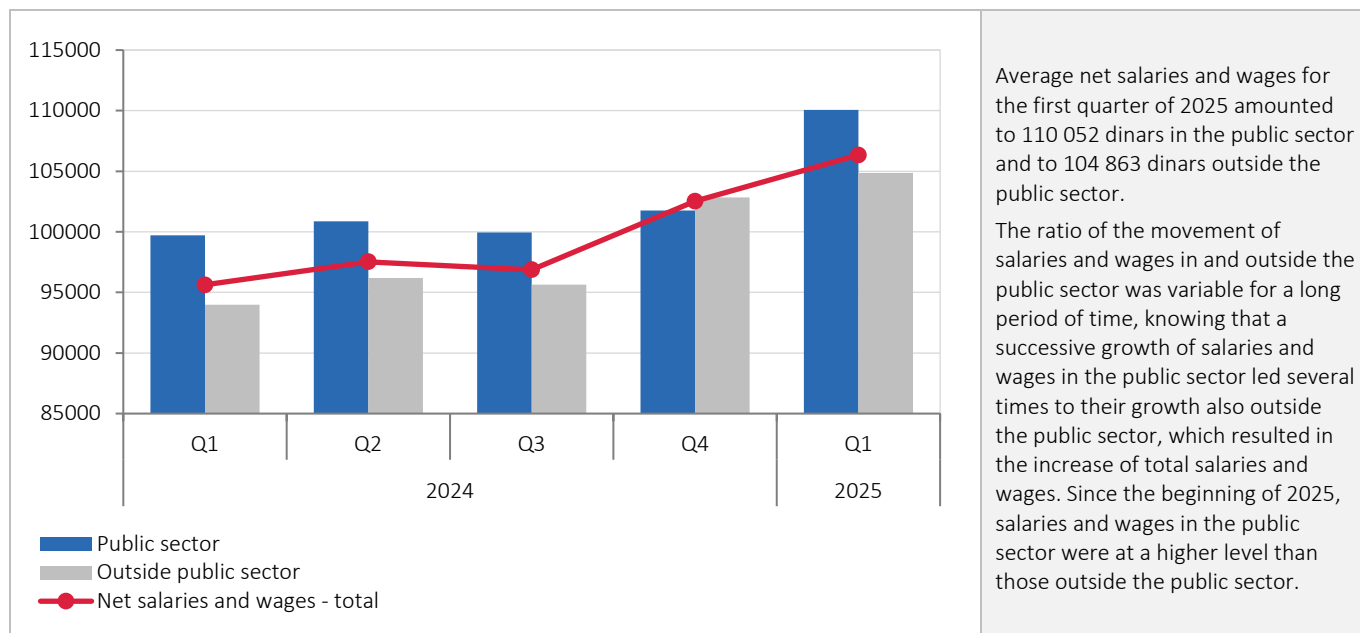
	2022				2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Real indices	104.3	102.7	101.3	98.6	99.5	100.8	102.5	105.8	108.7	109.6	109.3	108.5	106.4
Nominal indices	113.4	113.6	114.8	113.4	115.5	115.4	114.1	114.2	114.9	114.5	114.0	113.2	111.2

**Chart 7.1.** Net salaries and wages, movement of nominal and real indices (average 2021 = 100)



Since the beginning of the year, nominal salaries and wages have followed the real economy and budget, adapting themselves at the same time to trade indicators, i.e. offer and demand for labour force. Average net salaries and wages have been recording upwards trend since the beginning of the year, amounting to 108 013 dinars in March 2025, reaching a year-on-year growth of 11.5%, nominally, i.e. of 6.8% in real terms. The decision on increasing the minimal pay from 271 dinars (net) per worked hour in 2024 to 308 dinars in 2025 influenced the growth of salaries and wages. Average net salaries and wages, expressed in euros, as an indicator of living standard and international economic competitiveness of Serbia, recorded growth also in March 2025, reaching the value of 922 euros or year-on-year growth of 11.5%.

**Chart 7.2.** Net salaries and wages in and outside the public sector (in RSD)



Average net salaries and wages for the first quarter of 2025 amounted to 110 052 dinars in the public sector and to 104 863 dinars outside the public sector.

The ratio of the movement of salaries and wages in and outside the public sector was variable for a long period of time, knowing that a successive growth of salaries and wages in the public sector led several times to their growth also outside the public sector, which resulted in the increase of total salaries and wages. Since the beginning of 2025, salaries and wages in the public sector were at a higher level than those outside the public sector.

**Net salaries and wages in the public sector  
(January–March 2025)**

Public sector – total	RSD 110 052
Public state-owned enterprises	RSD 120 362
Public local enterprises	RSD 100 102
Administration – all levels	RSD 118 646
Government level	RSD 124 065
Autonomous Province level	RSD 116 100
Local authorities level	RSD 91 826
Human health and social work	RSD 107 727
Education and culture	RSD 101 230

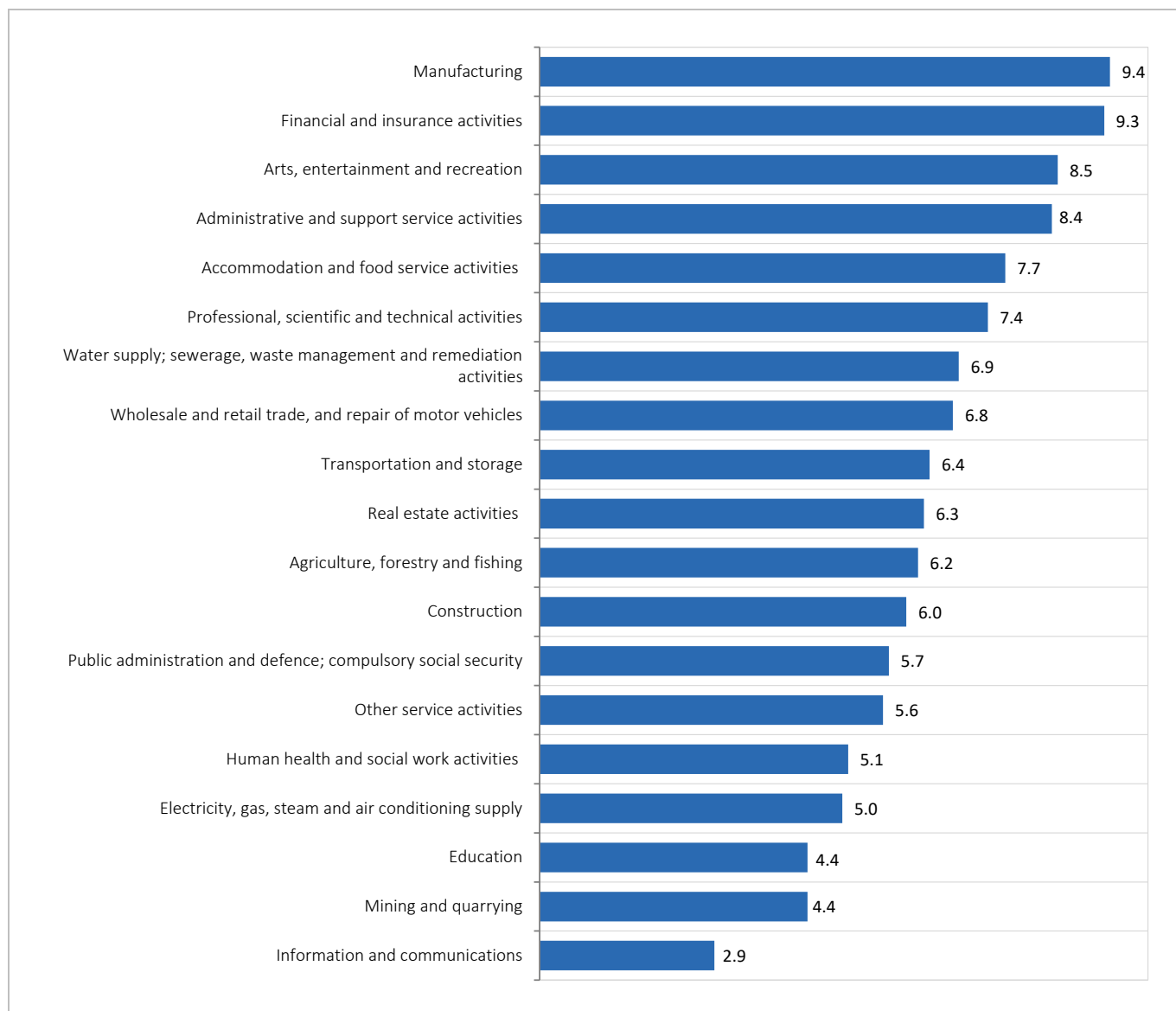
When comparing net salaries and wages by CA (2010), one notices that the largest real growth in Q1 2025, compared with the same period of 2024, was realised in the sections Manufacturing (9.4%), Financial and Insurance activities (9.3%) and Arts, entertainment and recreation (8.5%).

The highest net salaries and wages in Q1 2025 was recorded in the following divisions: Computer programming and consultancy activities (297 068 dinars), Manufacture of coke, refined petroleum products (230 429 dinars), Air transport (225 623 dinars), Scientific research and development activities (210 679) and Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas (201 369 dinars).

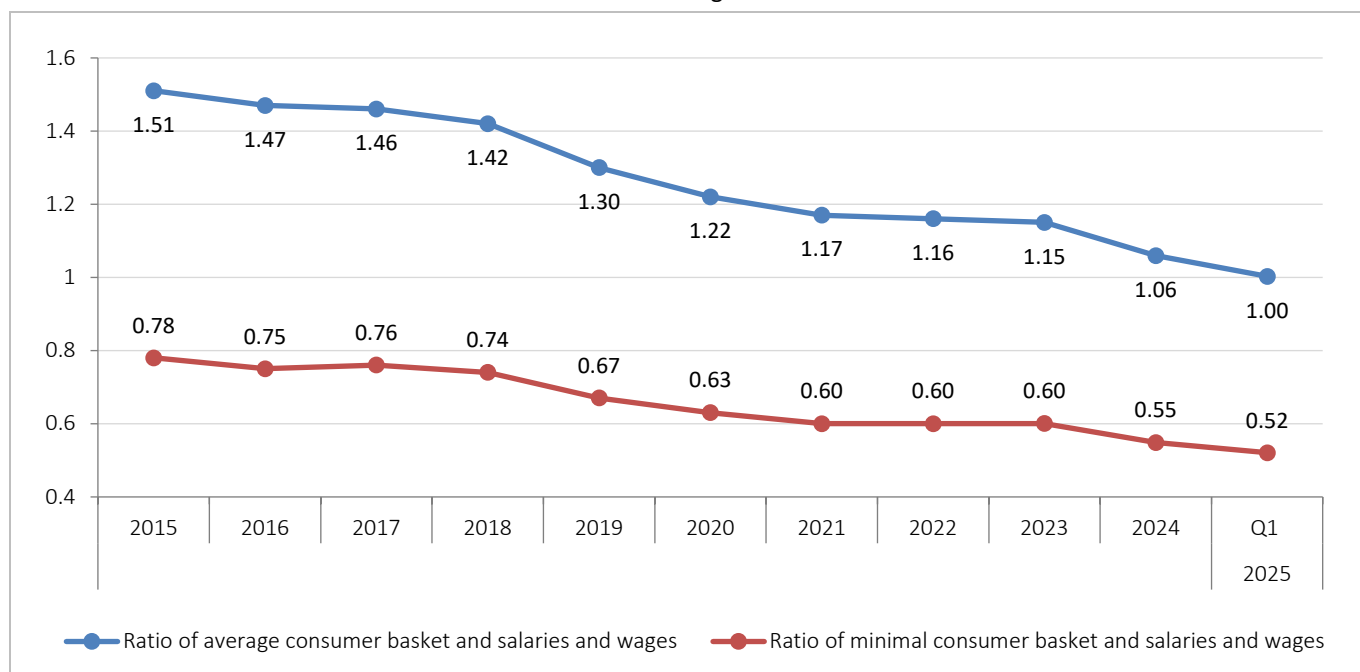
In all other divisions salaries and wages ranged from 60 978 dinars (Food and beverages service activities) to 191 547 dinars (Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding).

Observed by regions, the highest average net salaries and wages in Q1 2025 were paid in Belgrade Region, 133 832 dinars. In Region of Vojvodina average salaries and wages totalled 100 566 dinars, in Region of Southern and Eastern Serbia, 91 735 dinars, and in Region of Sumadija and Western Serbia, 89 135 dinars.

**Chart 7.3. Real growth of net salaries and wages by CA (2010) sections (January–March 2025 to the same period of the previous year)**



**Chart 7.4.** Ratio of the consumer basket<sup>4</sup> and net salaries and wages<sup>5</sup>



Increased population living standard over 2015–2023 is primarily the result of a dynamic growth of salaries and wages. In 2015, the ratio of the average consumer basket and average net salaries and wages was 1.51, while in 2023 it was 1.16, indicating that, while in 2015, 1.51 of the average salaries and wages was needed for the average consumer basket, in 2023 this ratio was improved so that 1.16 of the average salaries and wages was necessary for the average consumer basket.

The ratio of net salaries and wages and average consumer basket in the fourth quarter of 2024 indicates that the purchasing power grew, when compared with the previous quarter. To cover the average consumer basket in the fourth quarter of 2024 1.03 average average salaries and wages (in the third quarter of 2024, 1.08) was needed, and to cover the minimum consumer basket only 0.53 of average salaries and wages (in the third quarter of 2024 – 0.56).

When compared with the same quarter of the previous year, the ratio of the average consumer basket and net salaries and wages of 1.03 shows that purchasing power grew (in the fourth quarter of 2023 – 1.12), the minimum consumer basket amounting to 0.53 average salaries and wages, while in the same quarter of the previous year this ratio was slightly disadvantageous (0.58).

Observed by towns, in the fourth quarter of 2024, purchasing power (ratio of the average consumer basket and average salaries and wages) above the average of the Republic (1.03) was recorded in Belgrade (0.85), Novi Sad (0.98), Nis (1.00) and Kragujevac (1.02). In other statistically monitored towns, average salaries and wages covered the minimum, but not average household consumer basket.

<sup>4</sup> *Minimum consumer basket* – refers household consumption, which provides for basic living and working capacity of household members, bearing in mind the optimal biochemical composition of food (carbohydrates, proteins, fats and calories). The total value of the minimum consumer basket is the sum of expenses for food and other products and services making up individual household consumption.

*Average consumer basket* – refers to the consumption of products and services of the individual consumption of an average household. Since January 2011 New Average and New Minimum Consumer Basket have been published, which are calculated starting with January 2008 according to the new methodology of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

<sup>5</sup> The report on the purchasing power of the population of the Republic of Serbia for March 2025, published by the Ministry of Domestic and External Trade, is not available. Therefore, the analysis of the purchasing power of the population of the Republic of Serbia is missing for the first quarter of 2025.

## 8. TOURISM

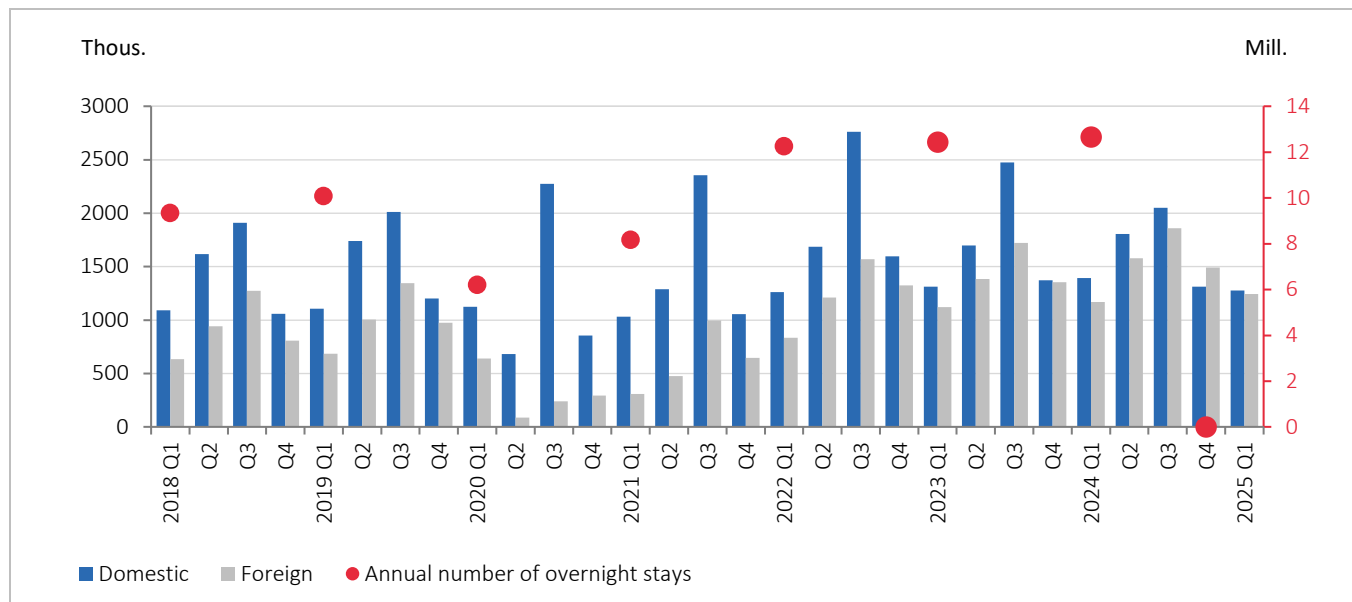
Tourism, having a multidimensional and complex nature, is an activity intertwined with many other economic activities, as, besides providing accommodation and restaurant services, indispensable activities related to tourism are the following ones: transport, cultural and recreational activities, payment operations, etc. It not only promotes and forms the national identity of a country but it also plays a big role in its economy – in some regions it is even the only factor for creating employment for the local population, and generally, the only factor of sustainable development – all the reasons to deserve special analytical attention.

### 8.1. TOURIST OVERNIGHT STAYS

Tourism in the Republic of Serbia started its expansion in 2015, primarily by means of incentive measures of domestic tourism, but also by increased interest of foreign tourists in this period. Expressed in number of overnight stays, tourist turnover was going up until 2019, when a record number of 10.1 million overnight stays was achieved. The year 2020 brought contraction of tourism activity and a fall of the number of overnight stays of 6.2 million, where domestic tourists spent almost 5 million, and foreign ones about 1.3 million nights. The year 2021 brought recovery and the number of overnight stays grew by 8.2 million. The upwards trend, expressed in tourist overnight stays in the Republic of Serbia, continued in the previous year 2024, when 12.7 million of overnight stays were recorded, 1.8% more than in 2023.

In the first quarter of 2025, the number of spent tourist nights amounted to 2.5 million, by 1.6% less than in the first quarter of 2023. Domestic tourists accounted for 50.6% and foreign ones for 49.4% of the total number of overnight stays.

Chart 8.1. Tourist overnight stays – domestic, foreign and total; quarterly and annual data



**Table 8.1.** Tourist overnight stays, indices (comparison with the same period of the previous year)

	2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Total	116.0	106.6	96.9	93.3	105.3	109.7	93.2	102.9	98.4
Domestic tourists	103.9	100.8	89.6	86.0	106.2	106.3	82.9	95.7	91.6
Foreign tourists	134.4	114.5	109.6	102.2	104.2	113.9	108.0	110.2	106.6

## 8.2. MAJOR TOURIST RESORTS

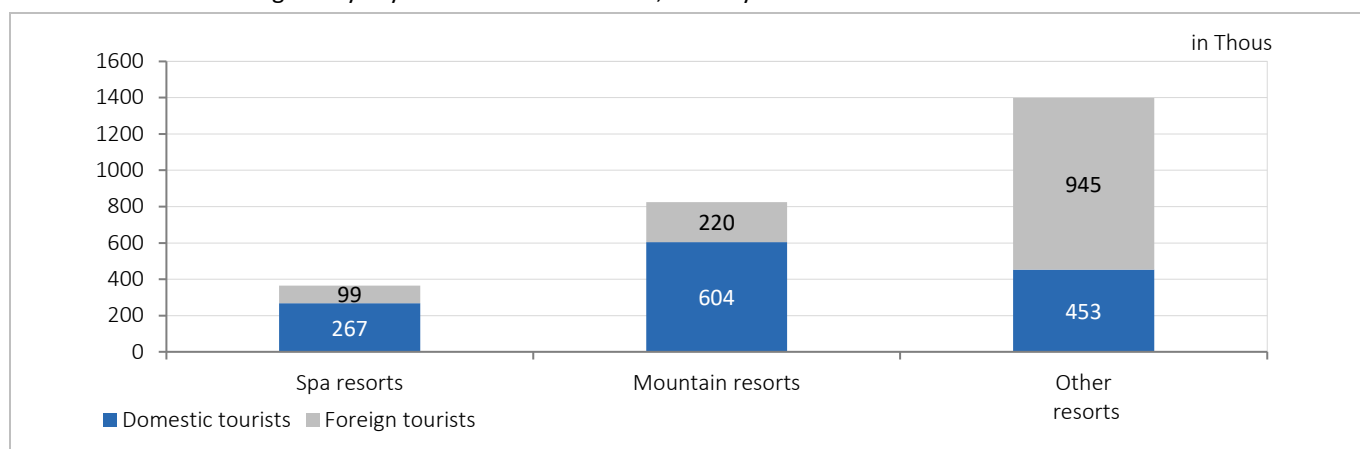
Expressed in number of tourist overnight stays<sup>6</sup>, the most frequently visited tourist resorts in the first quarter of 2025 were **Other tourist resorts**, with 1.4 million overnight stays (or about 54% of total overnight stays), by 2% more than in the same period of the previous 2024 year. This category comprises Belgrade (726 thousand overnight stays) and larger towns of the Republic of Serbia (Novi Sad, Nis, Subotica). Most of the visitors to Belgrade were foreign tourists (82.7%), and a similar situation was recorded in Novi Sad (73.7% foreign tourists), while domestic tourists were slightly predominant in Nis (53.5% domestic tourists) and Subotica (53.6% domestic tourists).

**Mountain resorts**, second category in a row of resorts according to the number of tourist overnight stays in the first three months of 2025 recorded 824.3 million overnight stays, accounting for 31.8% of total number of overnight stays, by 4.6% more than over January-March 2024. Zlatibor attracted most of the tourists (317 thousand), mainly coming from the Republic of Serbia (about 230 thousand). Kopaonik recorded 283 thousand tourist overnight stays, of whom most were also from the Republic of Serbia (178 thousand). These two mountains accommodated about 72.8% of the total number of tourists that spent nights in mountain centres.

**In Spa resorts** there were over January-March 2025 about 365.6 thousand million nights spent, by 9.1% less than in the same period of the previous year. Tourists were mainly from the Republic of Serbia (73%), and the most visited were Vrnjacka Banja with 104 thousand visitors, followed by Sokobanja (47.8 thousand), Banja Vrdnik (44.4 thousand), Banja Koviljaca (30.7 thousand), and other spas.

The largest growth, expressed in number of overnight stays in the first quarter of 2025 relative to same period of 2024, was recorded in Gamzigradska banja (growth 118%), Novopazarska banja (growth of 71.9%) and Vranjska banja (39.4%).

**Chart 8.2.** Tourist overnight stays by selected tourist resorts, January-March 2025



<sup>6</sup> The sum of data by type of resorts (spas, mountains, other resorts) does not give the correct number of tourist overnight stays in the Republic of Serbia knowing that the areas of some tourist resorts belong at the same time to different resorts (e.g. they are at the same time spa and mountain resorts).

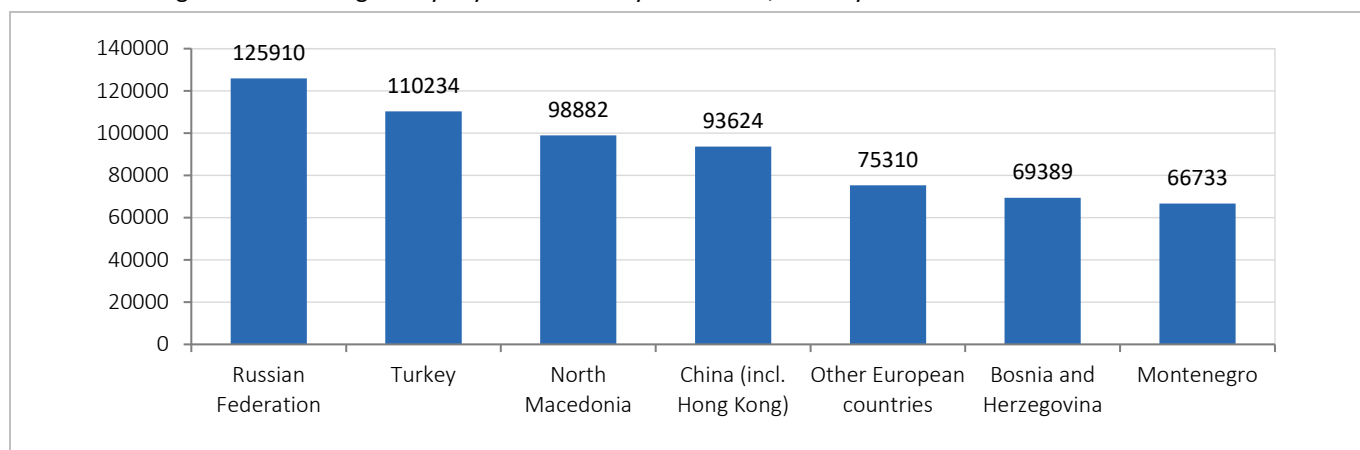
### 8.3. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF FOREIGN TOURISTS

Over January-March 2025, foreign tourists from about 50 different countries visited the Republic of Serbia. Tourists from Europe were the most numerous to have spent nights (78.8%).

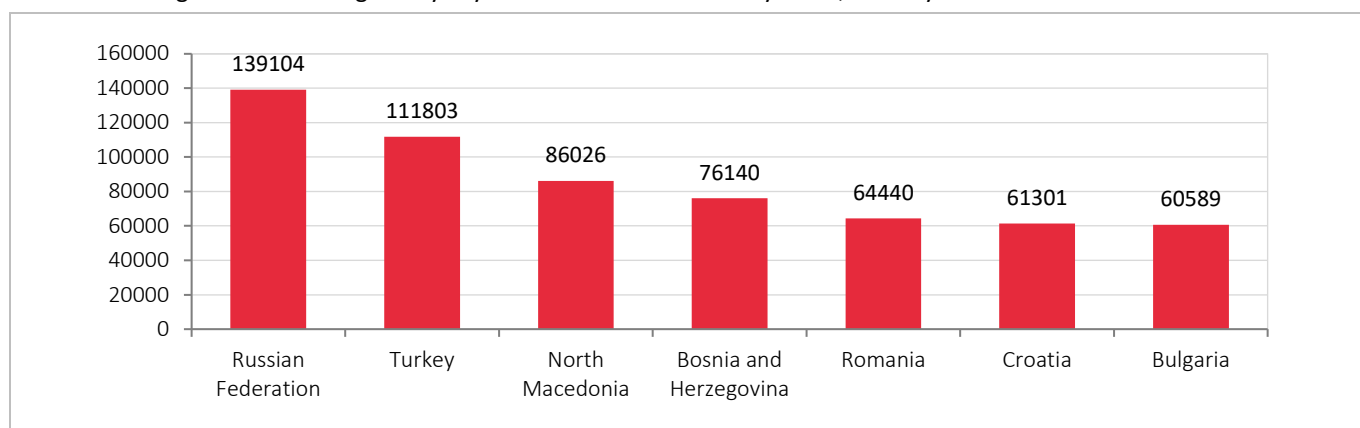
Three countries which tourists spent the largest number of nights were the Russian Federation (125.9 thousand), Turkey (110.2 thousand), and North Macedonia (98.9 thousand). Visitors from China were at the fourth place (93.6 thousand, then from other non-European countries (75.3 thousand), from Bosnia and Herzegovina (69.4%) and Montenegro (66.7 thousand). Overnight stays of tourists from these seven countries account for 51.4% of the total number of nights spent over January-March 2025.

For the purpose of comparison, chart 8.4 presents the number of tourist overnight stays over January-March 2024.

**Chart 8.3.** Foreign tourist overnight stays by countries they came from, January-March 2025



**Chart 8.4.** Foreign tourist overnight stays by countries from which they came, January-March 2024



**Note:** in all the publication of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. Since 2022 data on tourism turnover have been published on the basis of the processing of data retrieved from the administrative source, Central Information System in Catering and Tourism (Tourist). Until December 2021 included, data were collected, processed and published on the basis of a statistical survey on tourist arrivals and overnight stays in accommodation facilities (TU-11).

All indices of tourism turnover (tourist arrivals and overnight stays) in 2022 are calculated based on the data of the Central Information System in Catering and Tourism (eTourist) for 2022 and 2021. With the change of data source, and therefore of the coverage, the survey-based results (TU'-11, for the previous year) and those from the administrative source (eTourist) are not comparable.

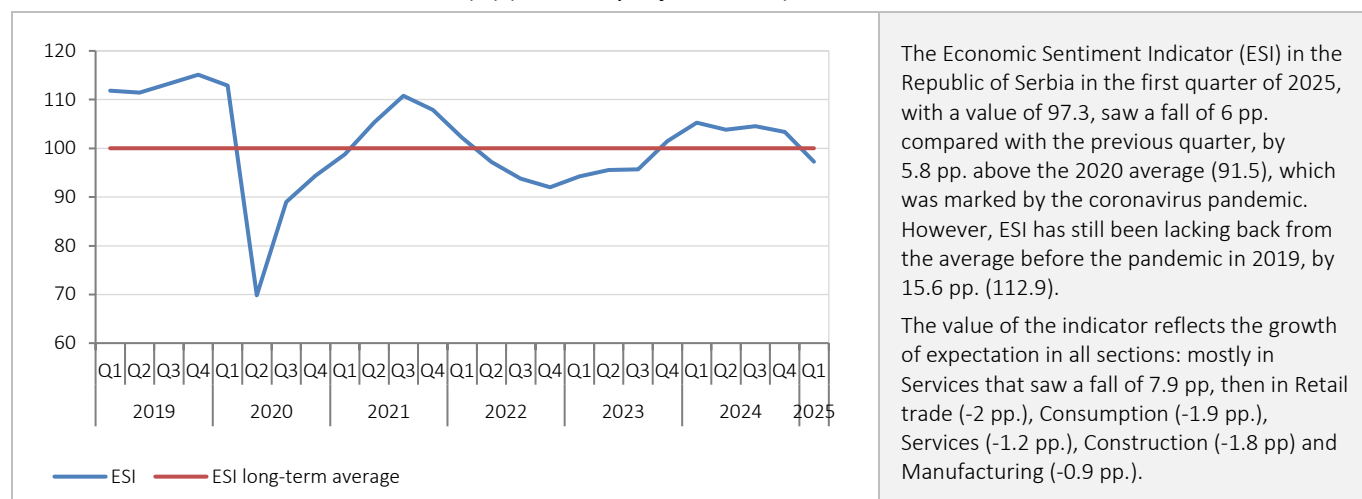
## 9. ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDICATOR

### 9.1. ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDICATOR - ESI

Economic Sentiment Indicator - ESI is a composite indicator which purpose is to present producers' and consumers' perceptions about economic movements and economic stability. As expectations of business subjects can be an important signal of changes in economic trends, this indicator is used to assess economic situation, make flash estimates, for scientific and analytical use, as well as for international comparisons and creating economic policies.

ESI has been developed by the General Directorate for Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission (DG ECFIN). It is obtained through five different surveys of producers and consumers, which attitudes provide a reliable indication of economic movements, based on which confidence indicators are created. Confidence indicators of the analysed sections are weighted in order to reflect as good as possible their influence on economic activity – manufacturing 40%, service activities 30%, household consumption 20%, construction 5% and retail trade 5%. Value of ESI index exceeding 100 indicates improvement or economic activity, while that below 100 suggests decline<sup>7</sup>.

**Chart 9.1. Economic Sentiment Indicator<sup>8</sup> (%) (seasonally adjusted data)**



The Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) in the Republic of Serbia in the first quarter of 2025, with a value of 97.3, saw a fall of 6 pp. compared with the previous quarter, by 5.8 pp. above the 2020 average (91.5), which was marked by the coronavirus pandemic. However, ESI has still been lacking back from the average before the pandemic in 2019, by 15.6 pp. (112.9).

The value of the indicator reflects the growth of expectation in all sections: mostly in Services that saw a fall of 7.9 pp, then in Retail trade (-2 pp.), Consumption (-1.9 pp.), Services (-1.2 pp.), Construction (-1.8 pp) and Manufacturing (-0.9 pp.).

Source: European Commission, processing: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. Quarterly data represent quarterly average.

**Table 9.1. Confidence indicators by sections and Economic Sentiment Indicator – growth to the long-term average (%)**

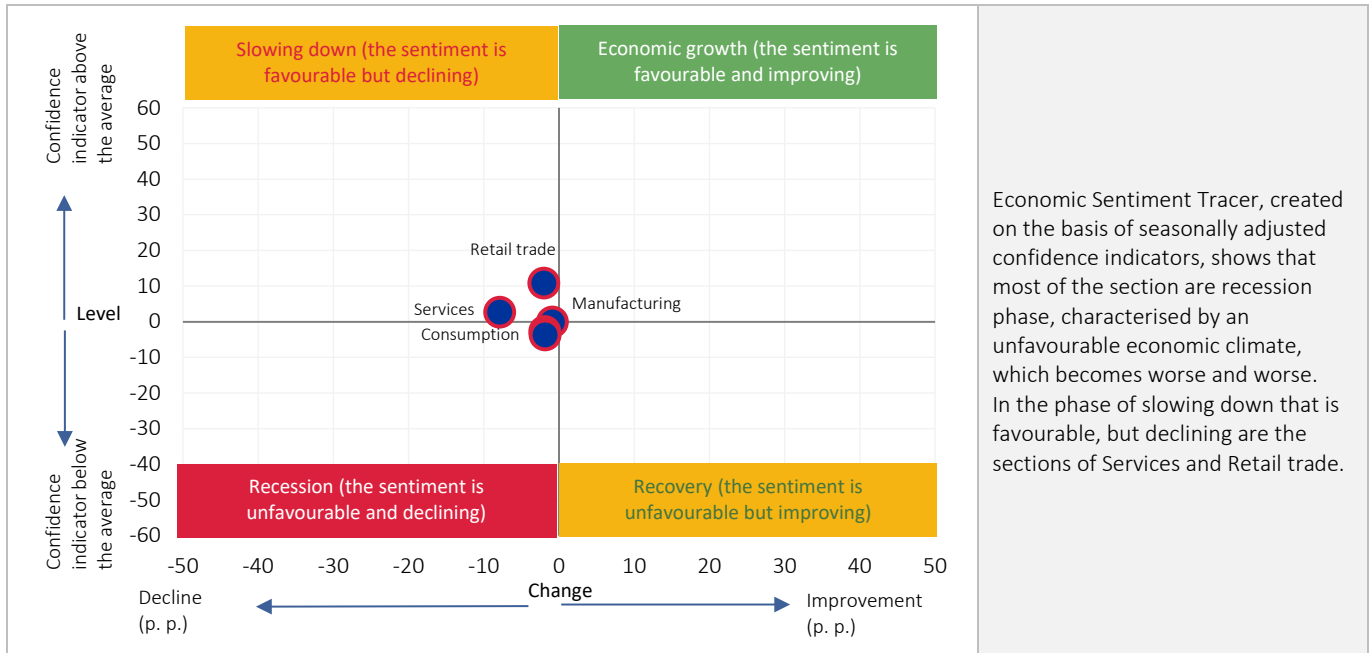
Confidence indicators	Minimum		Average	Maximum		2023				2024				2025
	Quarter	Value		Quarter	Value	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Manufacturing	Q2 2020	-8.9	3.1	Q3 2018	7.8	-1.8	-0.9	-2.1	1.1	2.3	-0.3	1.0	0.8	-0.1
Services	Q2 2020	-39.9	6.8	Q2 2016	15.5	4.7	4.3	5.5	7.8	10.6	11.8	11.6	10.6	2.7
Consumption	Q4 2014	-20.2	-4.4	Q1 2020	10.3	-8.7	-6.8	-5.2	-1.9	0.5	2.3	1.9	-0.8	-2.7
Retail trade	Q2 2020	-12.4	8.7	Q4 2019	16.2	7.6	8.9	11.5	11.6	12.2	13.3	12.2	12.9	10.9
Construction	Q3 2013	-40.8	-9.1	Q3 2019	7.1	-3.0	-3.5	-4.0	-2.5	-0.7	-1.9	-1.6	-1.9	-3.7
<i>Economic Sentiment Indicator</i>	Q2 2020	69.8	102.0	Q4 2019	115.1	94.2	95.5	95.7	101.5	105.3	103.8	104.5	103.3	97.3

<sup>7</sup> ESI is calculated as an index with a mean value of 100 and standardised deviation of 10. More on the methodology on:

[https://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/db\\_indicators/surveys/documents/methodological\\_guidelines/bcs\\_user\\_guide.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/documents/methodological_guidelines/bcs_user_guide.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Data for the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) have been revised in line with the improved methodology of data seasonal adjustment, which has been in use since April 2022.

**Chart 9.2. Economic sentiment tracer**

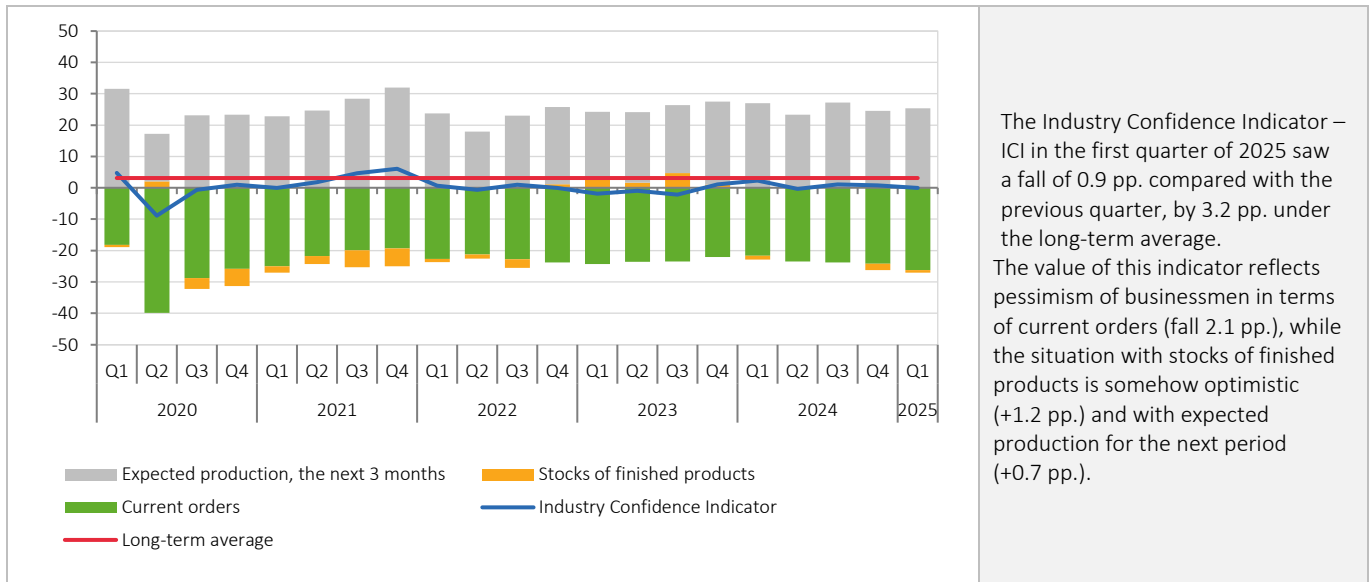


Economic Sentiment Tracer, created on the basis of seasonally adjusted confidence indicators, shows that most of the section are recession phase, characterised by an unfavourable economic climate, which becomes worse and worse. In the phase of slowing down that is favourable, but declining are the sections of Services and Retail trade.

## 9.2. INDUSTRY CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

The Industry Confidence Indicator includes the answers of economic subjects about contracted orders, expected production and stocks of finished products.

**Chart 9.3. Industry Confidence Indicator (%) (seasonally adjusted data)**

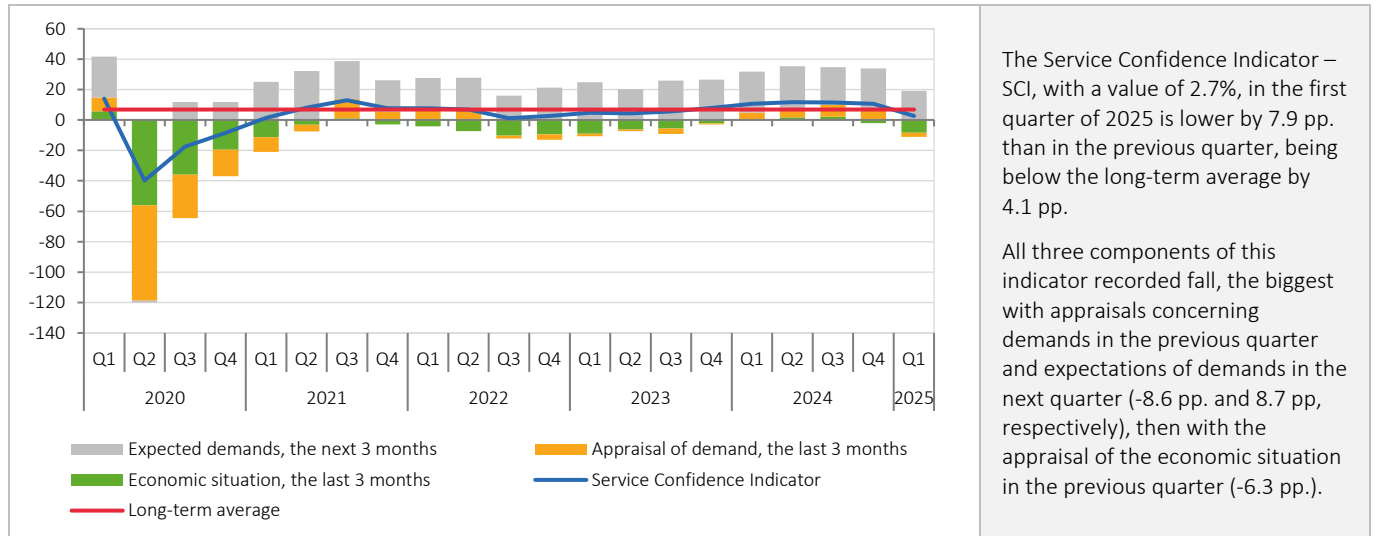


The Industry Confidence Indicator – ICI in the first quarter of 2025 saw a fall of 0.9 pp. compared with the previous quarter, by 3.2 pp. under the long-term average. The value of this indicator reflects pessimism of businessmen in terms of current orders (fall 2.1 pp.), while the situation with stocks of finished products is somehow optimistic (+1.2 pp.) and with expected production for the next period (+0.7 pp.).

### 9.3. SERVICE CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

The survey in services is made of questions about the economic situation, current and expected demand for services.

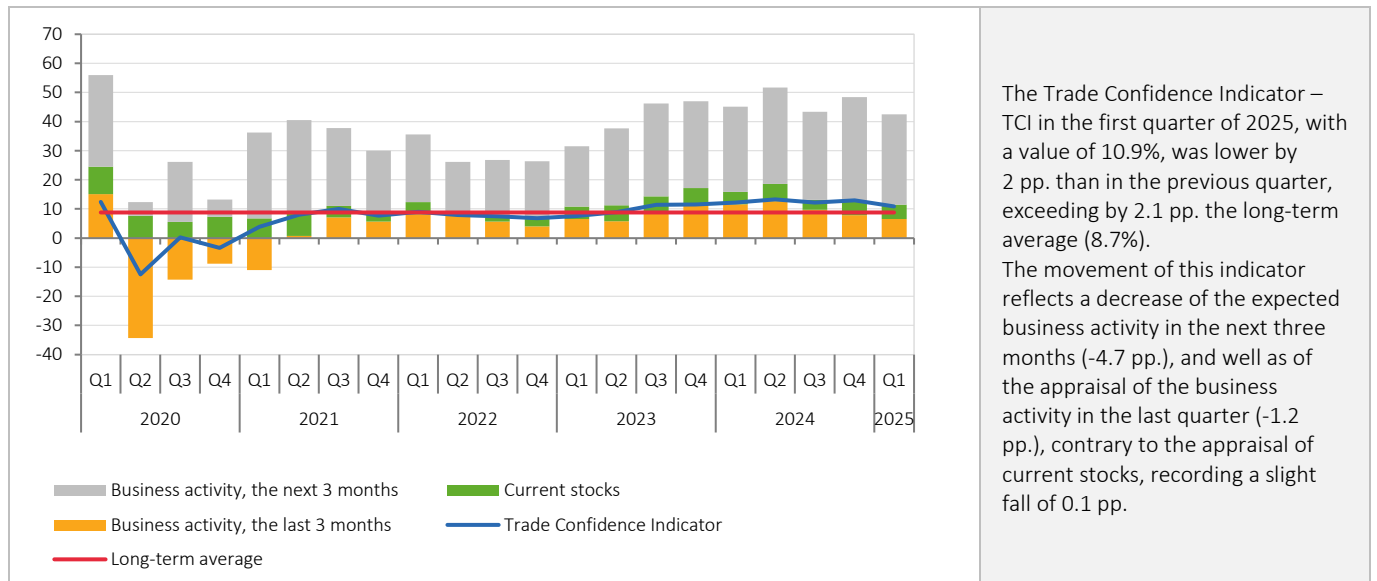
**Chart 9.4. Service Confidence Indicator (%) (seasonally adjusted data)**



### 9.4. TRADE CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

The survey in services is made of questions about the economic situation, current and expected demand for services.

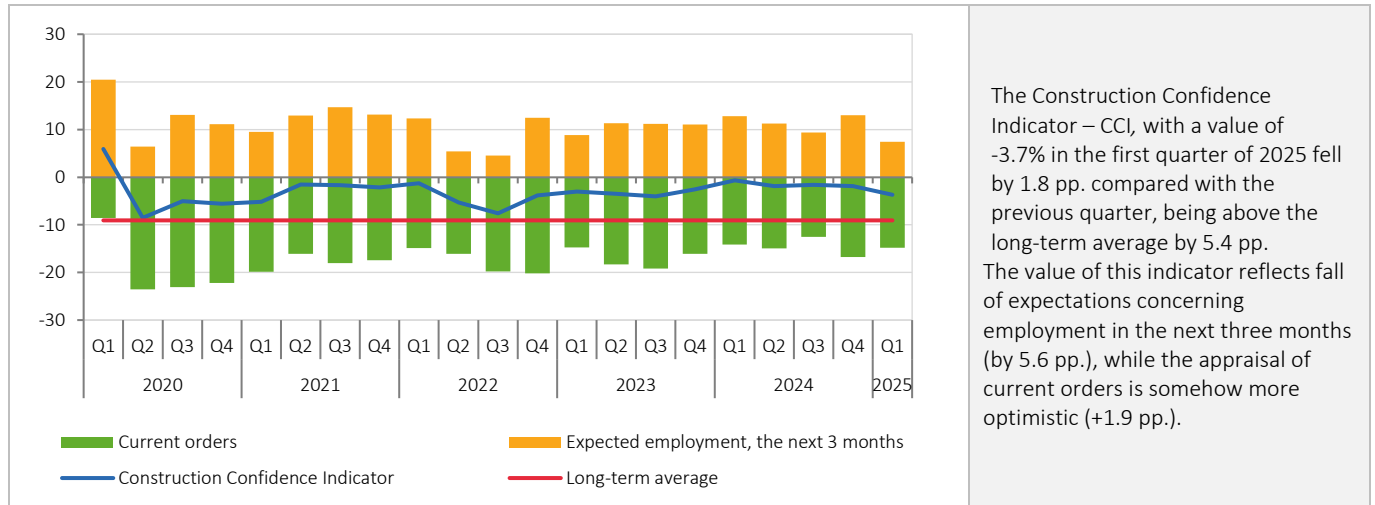
**Chart 9.5. Trade Confidence Indicator (%) (seasonally adjusted data)**



## 9.5. CONSTRUCTION CONFIDENCE INDICATOR

The survey in construction is made of questions about contracted orders and expected employment.

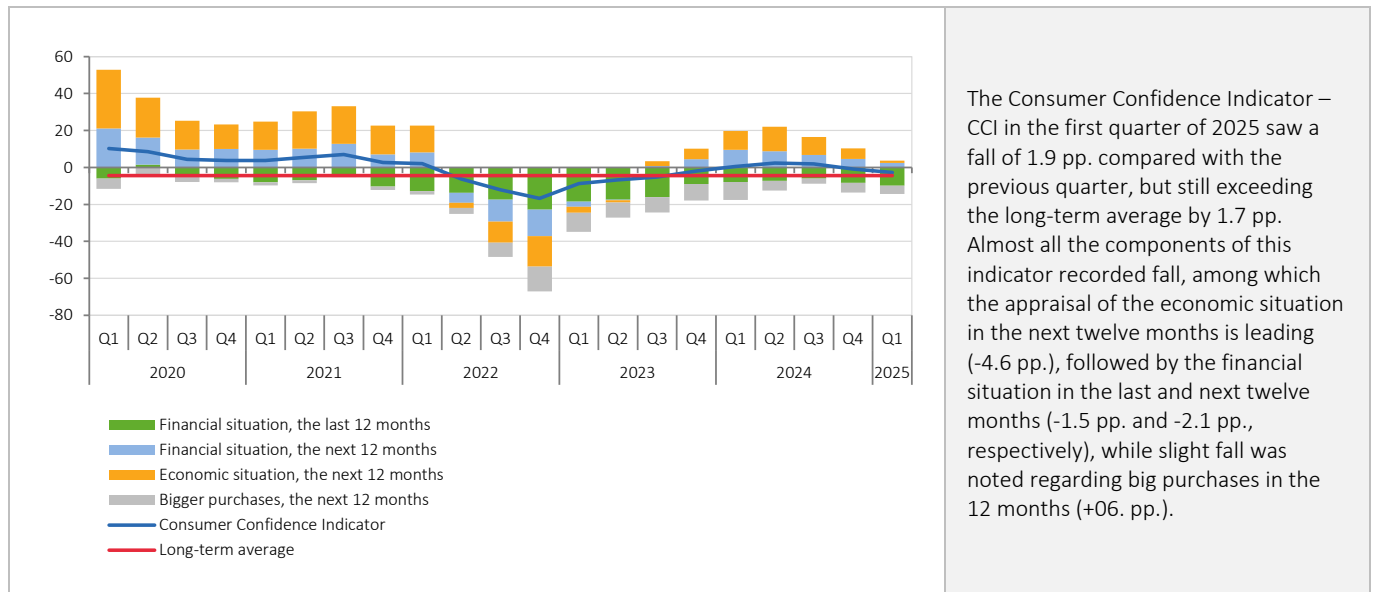
**Chart 9.6. Construction Confidence Indicator (%) (seasonally adjusted data)**



## 9.6. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDICATOR<sup>9</sup>

The survey of household consumption is made of questions about household financial situation, general economic situation and expectations relative to bigger purchases.

**Chart 9.7. Consumer Confidence Indicator (%) (seasonally adjusted data)**

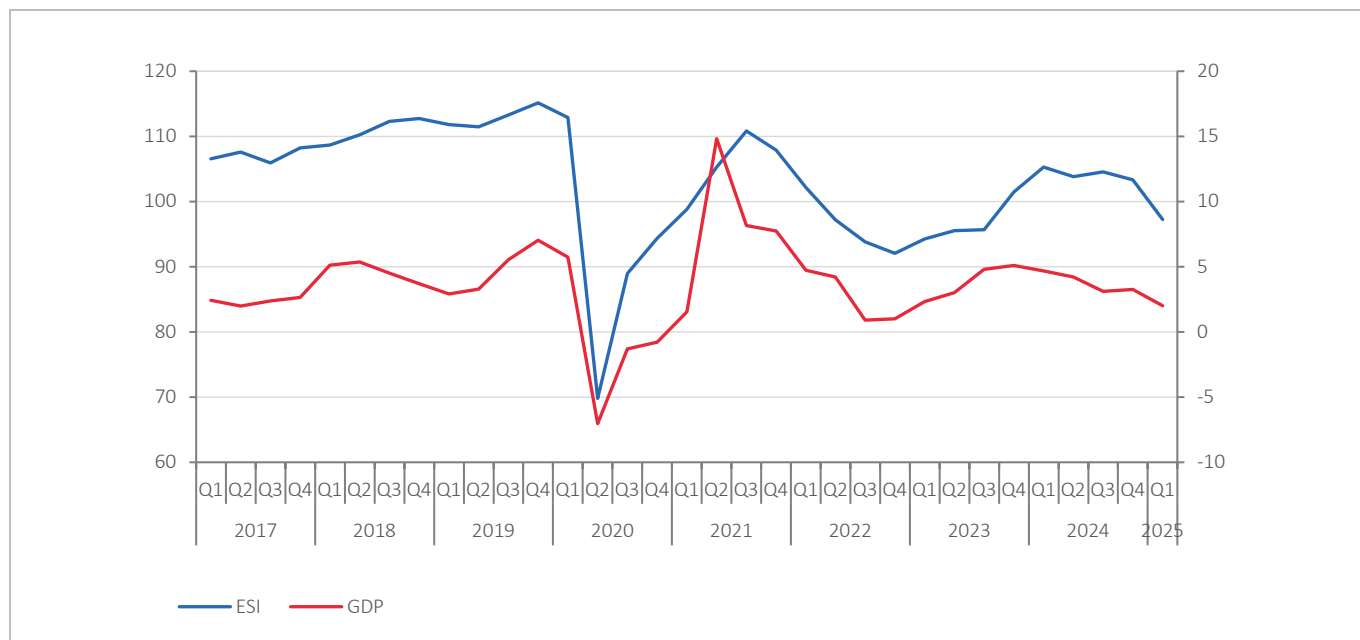


<sup>9</sup> The methodology of calculating the consumer confidence indicator has been changed by the European Commission since 2018, therefore the data have been revised.

## 9.7. CORRELATION OF ESI AND GDP OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Researchers and decision-makers in economic matters often include ESI as an explanatory variable with relevant pieces of information to model the economic growth, particularly if one takes into account that the data on the economic climate are available before most of the economic indicators. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the reference (explanatory) series that is most frequently used, because it reflects the movements in the economy as a whole. When considering that ESI represents a coincident indicator (showing changes at the same time when the changes are shown by the reference series), it can be concluded that it follows relatively well the GDP trend, which is confirmed also by the correlation coefficient of 0.66.

Chart 9.8. Correlation of ESI and GDP of the Republic of Serbia<sup>10</sup>

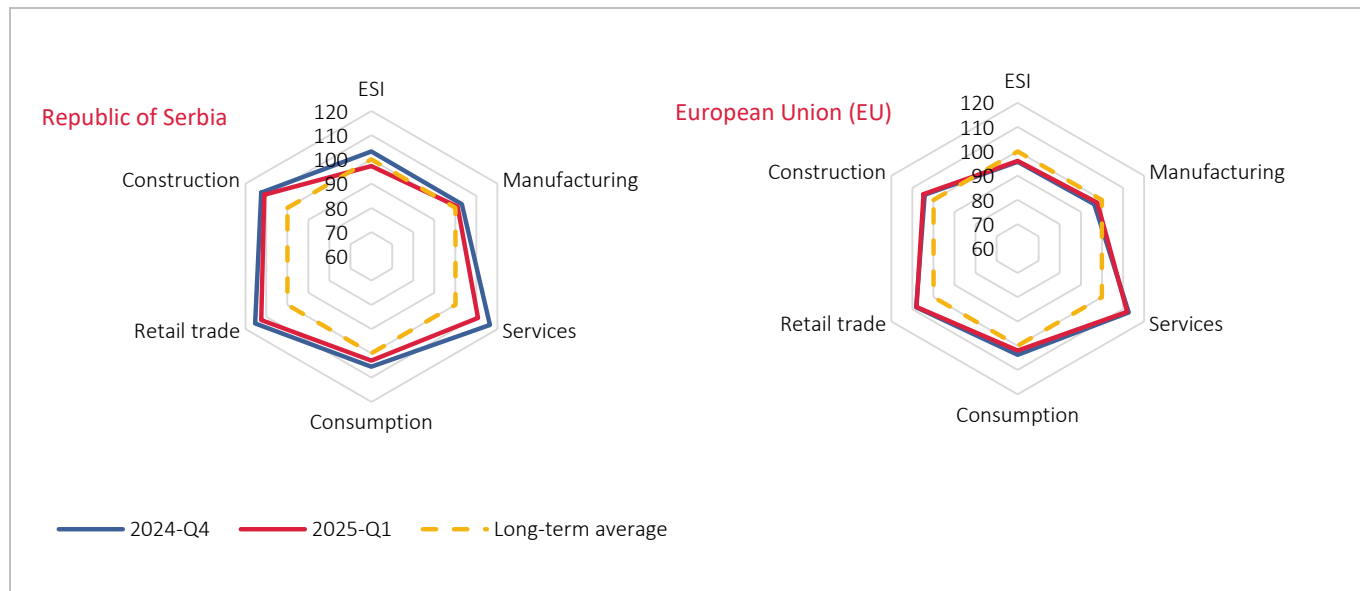


<sup>10</sup> Quarterly GDP has been revised in line with the revised annual data.

## 9.8. ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDICATOR IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Economic expectations in most of EU member states improved in the first quarter of 2025 (relative to the previous quarter), which made ESI go up by 0.4 p.p. (from the value of 96.1). The largest growth in expectations in the EU was recorded in Manufacturing (+1.4 pp.).

Chart 9.9. Economic Sentiment Indicators



### HOW TO INTERPRETE THE TRACER?

The tracer scale of the chart ranges from 60 to 120 (average = 100). The most recent quarterly outcomes (Q1 2025) are compared with the previous quarterly outcomes (Q4 2024) and long-term average (= 100) of the corresponding series of confidence indicators. Developments far from the center reflect confidence indicator improvement, and close to the centre its decline.

## 10. REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASYMMETRIES

The starting point in realizing various aspects of regional asymmetries is the status of cities and municipalities of Serbia according to Regulation on establishing *List of Regional Development and Local Government Units for 2014* (Official Gazette of RS, no 104/2014). In compliance with the Regulation, excluding Beogradski region that comprises no municipality with the status of undeveloped area, in other three regions, number and size of undeveloped municipalities varies – Region Vojvodine has only one municipality in the group of extremely underdeveloped (out of 46 municipalities), Region Southern and Eastern Serbia has even 30 (out of total of 53), and in Region Šumadija and Western Serbia, such status is recorded in 13 out of 53 municipalities. On the other hand, there is no municipality in Region Vojvodina with the status of devastated municipality (devastated means that development level is below 50% of the Republic average – see Glossary), while in Region Šumadija and Western Serbia, the mentioned status is recorded in three municipalities, and in Region Southern and Eastern Serbia, even 16 municipalities.

Unequal economic development in Serbia in the last several decades has contributed to deeper, already existing territorial inequalities. Regional polarization is apparent at several levels – undeveloped area, developed centre and insufficiently developed periphery. Regional disproportions – expressed in economic, social, demographic and infrastructure indicators – reflect characteristics of economic and social system of the country

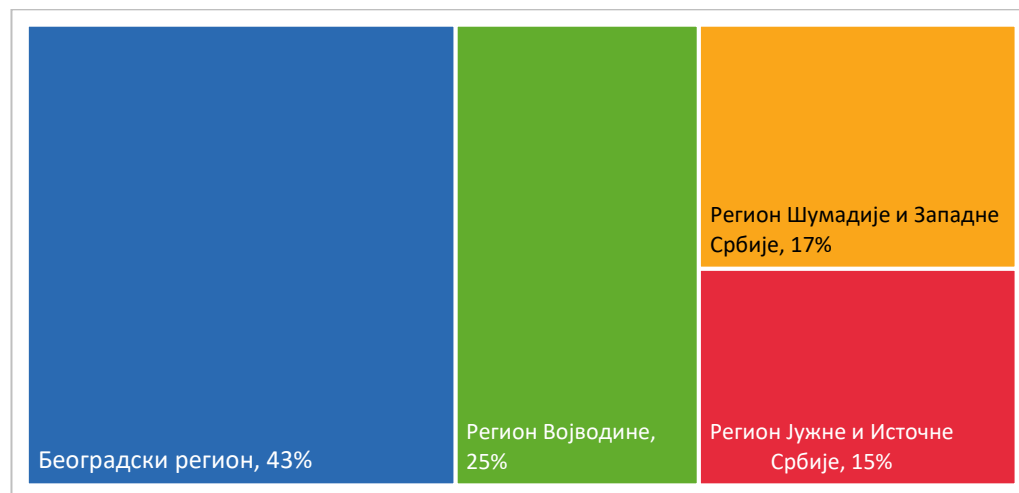
### ■ Gross domestic product

Regional gross domestic product presents primary statistical indicator for estimating economic performances of the region and effectiveness of regional policies and programs directed to decreasing the gap among the regions.

Out of total GDP in 2023, observed by level of NSTU 2 regions, the greatest realized GDP was in Beogradski region (43.3%), followed by Region Vojvodina (24.6%), Region Šumadija and Western Serbia (17%) and Region Southern and Eastern Serbia (15.1%).

Knowing that Beogradski region covers 3.7% of the area inhabited by 24% of the population of Serbia, it is clear that it is also the region with the highest GDP per capita (1 331 000 RSD / per capita, i.e. 70.6 % above the republic average, followed by Region Vojvodina that is by 0.1% below the average, then Region Šumadija and Western Serbia by 37.9% and Region Southern and Eastern Serbia by 28.4% below the average of the Republic.

**Chart 10.1.** Share of the region in the national GDP, 2023



## ■ Average salaries and wages

Level of regions' development, measured by average net salaries and wages in Q1 2025 varies in ratio 1.5:1, i.e. the highest salaries and wages are recorded in Beogradski region, and the lowest ones in Region Šumadija and Western Serbia. Average net salaries and wages in Beogradski region amounted to RSD 133 832, or 126% of RS average (RSD 106 337), in Region Vojvodina, they were insignificantly below RS average (RSD 100 566, or 94.6% of RS average), while in Region Southern and Eastern Serbia and Region Šumadija and Western Serbia, they were about 86% and 85% of the Republic average (RSD 91 735 and RSD 90 266, respectively). In all regions, average salaries and wages recorded growth relative to the same period of the previous year, and the greatest relative increase was noted in Region Southern and Eastern Serbia, by 11.7%.

In 77 municipalities, average net salaries and wages were below 80% of the Republic average, i.e. in particular Belgrade municipalities, average salaries and wages were more than double relative to municipality of Presevo (with the lowest average salaries and wages of RSD 72 021). Moreover, at the bottom of the list are the municipalities of Bojnik (RSD 72 374), Vlasotince (RSD 74 667) and Gadzin Han (RSD 75 299).

## ■ Labour market

The correlation of unemployment rate and development level of the region is very high, and in accordance with the mentioned, Region Southern and Eastern Serbia, with unemployment rate of 13.3% in Q1 2025, by 46% exceeds the average of Serbia (9.1%). On the other hand, in Beogradski Region, unemployment rate was the lowest, 7%, i.e. 23.1% below the national average. Additionally, referring to employment rate, it is the highest in Beogradski region (51.4% or 8.2% above the average of Serbia), while in Region Southern and Eastern Serbia, noted was the lowest employment rate of 46.4%, or 9.7% below the Republic average (51.4%).

In Q1 2025, Beogradski Region noted the highest share in total employment (27.5%), with the simultaneous lowest share in unemployment (20.6%). On the contrary, Region Southern and Eastern Serbia, with 19.1% has the lowest share in total employment, with the highest share in unemployment (29.3%) (according to the Labour Force Survey).

## ■ Export activity

In contrast to other indicators, in Q1 2025, Beogradski region was not on the first place regarding total export of Serbia (share of 22.1%). Region Vojvodina is on the first place with the share of 32.8% in export, followed by Region Southern and Eastern Serbia (22.6%) and Region Šumadija and Western Serbia (20.5%). Export per capita reflects regional asymmetries – Region Vojvodina records the export of EUR 1 534 per capita, by 25% exceeding the Republic average and by almost double the export value per capita in Region Šumadija and Western Serbia (EUR 918), which is by 25% below the average of the Republic. Region Vojvodina, as the leading exporter in Q1 2025, recorded the greatest share in export<sup>11</sup> and the greatest share in export of agricultural and food products (22.3%), primarily cereals (32.2%), the most important export product being corn (14.3% of export of agricultural and food products).

## ■ Demographic structure

According to the last available data for 2023, population density in Beogradski region is by 6.9 times greater than average population density in Serbia, while in Region Southern and Eastern Serbia, population density was the lowest – 29% below the Republic average. Although all regions participate equally in total population of Serbia, interregional differences are particularly apparent. For example, in eight towns in Region Vojvodina, lives even over a half of total population of Vojvodina (54.8%). However, the most obvious population inequality is in other two regions: Region Šumadija and Western Serbia comprises 10 towns in which 55% of total population of the Region lives, while in 13 undeveloped municipalities, only 13% of population lives. This ratio is even more noticeable in Region Southern and Eastern Serbia, as 56% of population lives in 9 cities, while even in 30 underdeveloped municipalities live 31% of population. Additionally, due to economic migrations, number of population in Beogradski region is constantly increasing (by 1.4% between 2011 and 2023), while the number of population in other three regions is constantly decreasing. Simultaneously, it means that differences in population density will be even greater as population in Region Southern and Eastern Serbia is becoming more and more fragmented, while population density in Beogradski region becomes increasingly denser.

<sup>11</sup> According to the Standard International Trade Classification (ISTC).

## ■ Transport infrastructure

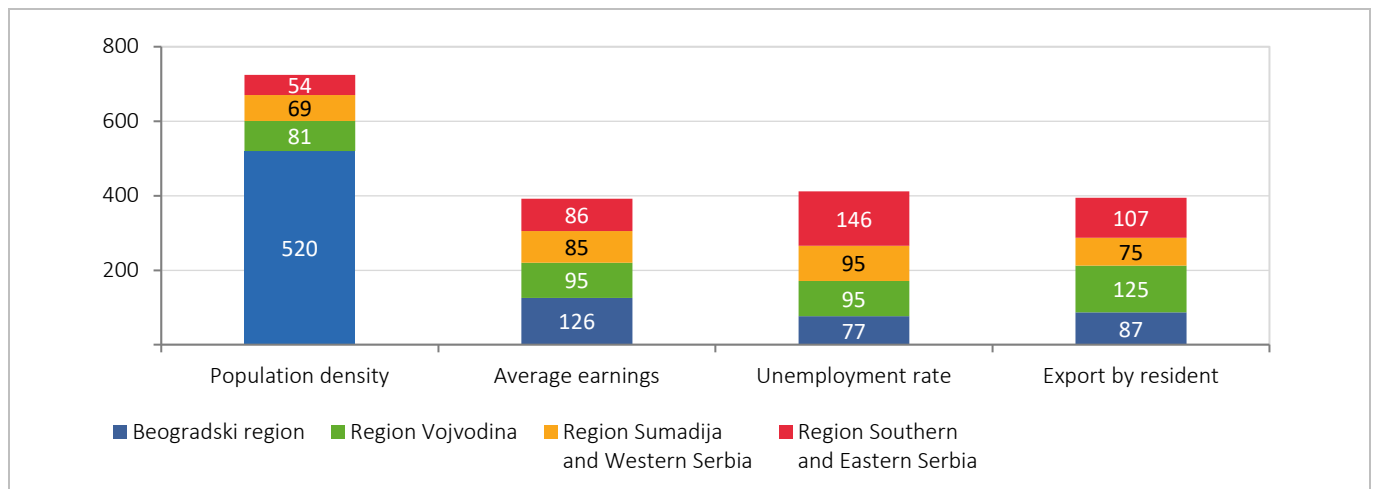
In the Republic of Serbia, there are huge regional and interregional differences regarding infrastructure equipment (transport, telecommunication and water management, i.e., accompanying supra structures). In roads' quality, telecommunication and modern living conditions, differences are, first of all, manifested in underdeveloped south area and more developed north area of Serbia. The unsatisfactory condition of the road network is particularly evident in the municipal (local) roads, necessary for the daily functioning, development and activation of municipalities and settlements. This is clearly indicated by the fact that in 39 municipalities (2023) the share of municipal roads with modern pavement is below average, while four municipalities record a share below 20%, and these are precisely the undeveloped and devastated areas that face the greatest development problems. Also, the car renewal rate (the number of cars registered for the first time in relation to the total number of registered cars), as an indicator of socioeconomic inequalities at the regional level, in 2024 varies from 5.4 in Region Southern and Eastern Serbia to 8.4 in Belgrade Region, where every fourth passenger vehicle is registered. The number of first-time registered cars, compared to the number of inhabitants in the first quarter of 2025, reflects a similar relationship, with Belgrade Region exceeding the average of the Republic of Serbia by 37.3%, compared to Region Southern and Eastern Serbia, which is 27% below the national average.

Regional asymmetry is seen through the relation between the extreme (the highest and the lowest) values of the key indicators. For example, the highest density of population is recorded in Belgrade and exceeds 10 times the population density in Region Southern and Eastern Serbia, where it is the lowest (Table 10.1).

**Table 10.1.** Extreme values and indicators of regional asymmetry, January – March 2025

Indicators	Population density, km2, 2023	GDP/per capita, 2023	Average net salaries and wages	Unemployment rate	Export per capita	Demographic emptying, 2011–2023 (%)
	9.8 : 1	2.7 : 1	1.5 : 1	2 : 1	1.7 : 1	(-10.9) : (+1.4)
Extreme Values (the highest: the lowest)	Beogradski region: Region Southern and Eastern Serbia	Beogradski region: Region Šumadija and Western Serbia	Beogradski region: Region Šumadija and Western Serbia	Region Southern and Eastern Serbia: Beogradski region	Region Vojvodina: Region Šumadija and Western Serbia	Region Šumadija and Western Serbia: Beogradski region

**Chart 10.2.** Disproportions at the regional level in Serbia (RS level = 100%), January – March 2025



**Table 10.2.** Indicators of regional development of Serbia (NSTJ 2) (RS level = 100%)

	2022				2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<b>Beogradski region</b>													
Average salaries and wages in dinars	125.8	125.8	126.3	128.0	126.6	127.0	127.1	128.2	126.3	126.1	125.6	127.2	125.9
Employment rate	107.6	108.2	110.6	110.2	110.7	109.9	111.0	111.1	110.0	109.1	107.1	108.6	108.2
Unemployment rate	75.2	83.1	82.2	83.0	75.2	80.2	71.1	73.6	69.1	76.8	72.8	72.1	76.9
Exports per capita in euros	88.9	89.2	92.0	98.2	93.8	99.0	93.0	94.3	91.0	89.6	87.1	90.5	87.1
Number of first- time registered passengers' cars per 1000 inhabitants	123.4	132.6	129.5	131.9	133.1	145.8	140.0	141.4	140.6	152.8	134.5	140.6	137.3
<b>Region Vojvodina</b>													
Average salaries and wages in dinars	95.1	94.9	94.9	95.4	95.1	94.2	94.4	94.8	94.6	94.2	94.6	94.4	94.6
Employment rate	98.8	99.4	100.6	99.2	99.8	102.2	97.8	101.2	100.6	100.0	98.8	100.0	98.1
Unemployment rate	89.9	85.4	76.7	83.0	87.1	82.3	112.2	101.1	102.1	92.7	102.5	93.0	94.5
Exports per capita in euros	128.2	131.4	127.8	125.5	124.9	126.1	128.2	132.3	131.2	127.2	132.1	132.6	125.3
Number of first- time registered passengers' cars per 1000 inhabitants	97.2	92.3	90.4	93.4	95.1	88.5	88.3	91.6	92.0	86.7	92.4	92.7	92.6
<b>Region Šumadija and Western Serbia</b>													
Average salaries and wages in dinars	83.9	83.9	83.9	83.0	83.2	83.4	83.6	83.0	83.7	83.9	84.4	84.0	84.9
Employment rate	101.2	98.8	97.2	101.0	99.4	98.8	99.6	96.6	97.2	98.8	100.0	97.9	101.8
Unemployment rate	112.8	122.5	116.7	110.6	101.0	106.3	97.8	108.8	96.8	95.1	93.8	109.3	94.5
Exports per capita in euros	76.7	77.2	76.8	76.8	74.6	76.3	75.6	77.2	75.3	74.8	75.0	73.6	75.0
Number of first- time registered passengers' cars per 1000 inhabitants	96.7	94.2	100.0	97.7	95.2	91.0	92.5	91.9	90.6	87.4	93.6	89.6	93.3
<b>Region Southern and Eastern Serbia</b>													
Average salaries and wages in dinars	86.6	86.9	86.1	83.9	85.9	86.1	85.5	83.9	85.9	86.5	86.1	84.3	86.3
Employment rate	89.5	93.2	90.2	89.6	88.5	87.3	90.7	89.9	90.4	90.7	92.5	92.6	90.3
Unemployment rate	126.6	109.0	132.2	130.9	147.5	143.8	126.7	123.1	143.6	146.3	140.7	133.7	146.2
Exports per capita in euros	101.4	95.4	90.8	89.7	94.1	88.0	96.7	88.8	97.9	107.6	104.1	100.6	107.4
Number of first- time registered passengers' cars per 1000 inhabitants	79.0	77.1	76.0	72.7	72.4	70.9	76.0	71.1	73.1	69.2	76.2	73.6	72.9

## GLOSSARY

Classification of regions and local government units (municipalities) – according to the Regulation. The Regulation establishes the unique list of *regions'* development (that are by development levels classified as developed and insufficiently developed regions) and *municipalities*, classified in four groups and devastated areas. In the first group are municipalities with the development level above the Republic average; in the second group are municipalities with the development level of 80% - 100% of the Republic average, the third group comprises insufficiently developed municipalities with the level of development of 60% - 80% of the average, while in the fourth group are extremely insufficiently developed municipalities, with the development level below 60% of the Republic average.

Devastated areas are municipalities from the fourth group with the development level below 50% of the Republic average (according to the data of the authority competent for statistics and finances tasks). Classification of the regions is performed on the basis of GDP value per capita in the observed region compared to Republic average, for the referent period. Developed regions are the regions that realize gross domestic product value above the Republic average, (Beogradski Region and Region Vojvodina). Insufficiently developed regions are the ones in which GDP value is below the Republic average, (Region Šumadija and Western Serbia and Region Southern and Eastern Serbia). Additionally, status of insufficiently developed region refers to Region Kosovo I Metohija. Demographic emptying is the term that depicts natural and mechanical population outflow in the specific geographic and administrative area.

## 11. AGRICULTURE

Agricultural production is made of two main branches: plant production and livestock production. Due to its specific nature, relevant data related to agricultural production are available mainly on annual basis. This issue of Trend presents the movement of occurrences in agriculture in the first quarter of 2025 and the whole 2024. The following occurrences have been analysed:

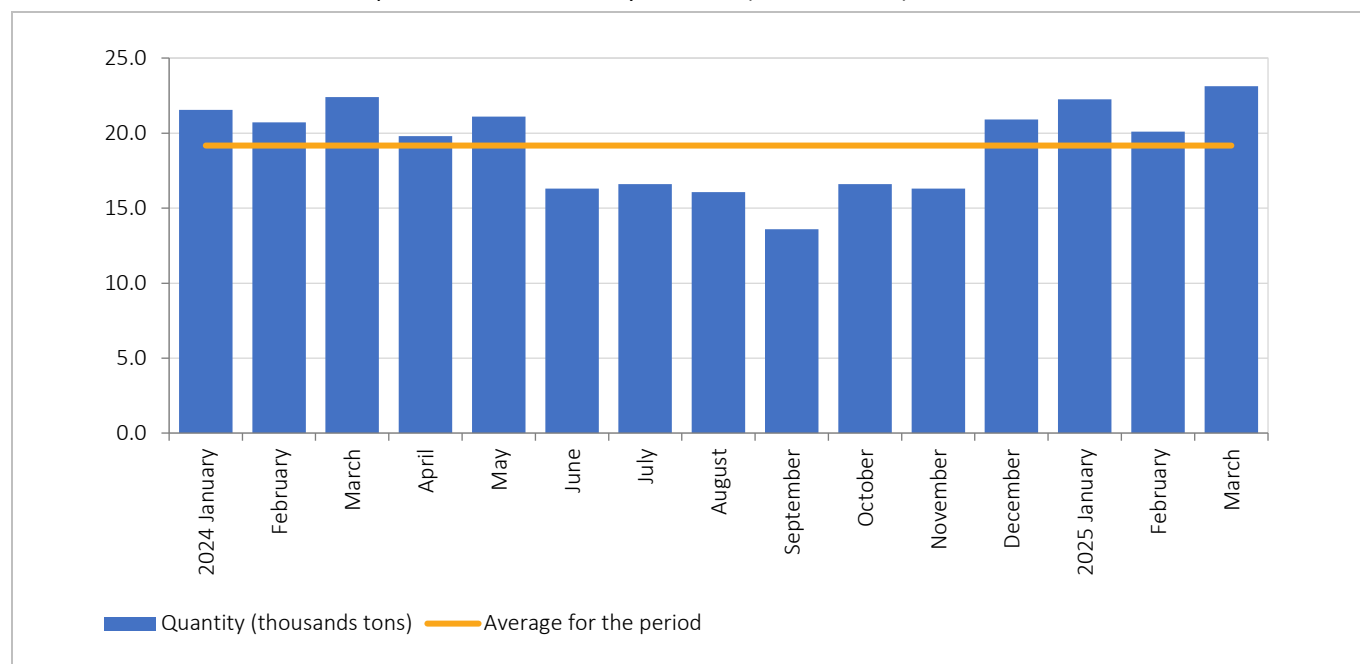
- Occurrences in livestock production (production of consumption cow's milk in dairy factories and livestock slaughtering in slaughtering houses)
- Prices of agricultural products and intermediate goods, and
- External trade in agricultural products.

### 11.1. PRODUCTION AND PRICES OF MILK, CEREALS AND LIVESTOCK

Estimates show that farms dealing with the production of cow's milk distribute to milk collection stations (dairy factories) about 59% of the total production<sup>12</sup>. Of the quantity of milk that stays on the holding (about 41%) about 10% are consumed for feeding household members and livestock on the holding and about 22% are processed into dairy products (mainly cheese and „kajmak“), and the remaining part (about 9%) is sold to direct consumers. According to the same source, losses on the holding are insignificant (up to 0.1%).

Cow milk accounts for 97% of the total production of milk on holdings, and the remaining milk is of sheep and goats. In the first quarter of 2025, the production of consumption cow's milk in dairy factories is higher by 1.3% than that in the same period of the previous year. Observed by quarters, in January and March there was a year-on-year growth of the production of cow's milk, by 3.2% and 3.3%, respectively, while a year-on-year fall of -3.0% was recorded in February.

Chart 11.1. Production of consumption cow's milk in dairy factories (in thous. tons)



<sup>12</sup> Survey on Agricultural Production – Livestock Production, 2022

**Purchase prices** of cow's milk decreased by 1.3% over January-March of the current year relative to the same period of the previous year<sup>14</sup>. Prices in January, February and March fell by 0.7%, 1.3% and 1.8%, respectively, when compared with the same months of the previous year.

**Consumer prices** of cow's milk increased slightly by 0.3% over January-March of the current year relative to the same period of the previous year. In the first quarter of 2025, compared with the average price of milk in 2024, prices rose by 0.4.

Based on the comparative review and previous analysis, it can be concluded that the purchase and consumer prices of cow's milk kept a stable stagnating during the whole 2024.

As being the topic of analysis in this issue of *Trends*, besides livestock products, selected crops from plant production, as well as some categories of livestock, it is necessary to present their purchase prices.

Over January-March of the current year, producers' prices of agricultural and fishing products grew on average by 4.0% compared to the same period of the previous year. In this period, purchase prices of wheat grew by 24.0% and of maize by 24.9%, compare with the same period of the previous year.

Observed by **categories of livestock**, over January-March of the current year, a slight growth of purchase prices of cattle of 0.4% was recorded, while for pigs the prices fell by 23.8% in the first quarter of the current year relative to the same quarter of the previous year.

**Table 11.1.** Comparative review of purchase and consumer prices of cow's milk

Month	Milk price, din./l	
	Purchase price	Consumer price <sup>13</sup>
January 2024	55.5	145.3
February	55.6	145.2
March	55.5	144.9
April	55.5	145.6
May	55.3	145.6
June	54.9	144.7
July	54.8	144.8
August	54.8	145.2
September	54.8	144.8
October	55.1	144.8
November	55.2	144.2
December	55.3	144.2
January 2025	55.1	145.3
February	54.9	145.7
March	54.5	144.6

**Table 11.2.** Indices of producers' prices of agricultural and fishing products

	<u>III 2025</u> III 2024	<u>I-III 2025</u> I-III 2024	<u>I-III 2025</u> Ø 2024
Agriculture and fishing	106.6	104.0	103.4
Cereals	121.8	120.6	112.2
Wheat	127.5	124.0	115.0
Maize	130.4	124.9	113.4
Livestock	87.3	86.7	92.2
Cattle	103.5	100.4	101.1
Pigs	75.1	76.2	84.2

<sup>13</sup> Consumer prices refer to cow's milk with 2.8% fat content.

<sup>14</sup> Those are producers' prices of agricultural and fishing products – prices at which purchase is done from family holdings and prices at which legal persons in the field of agriculture sell their products.

## 11.2. INTERMEDIATE GOODS

A stable and successful production in agriculture depends on many factors. As far as plant production is concerned, besides adequate land tillage for high and stable yields, the used inputs are extremely important. The latter refer to seeds and seeding materials, fertilizers and protection preparations. As for the other agricultural branch, i.e. livestock production, good animal health and increase requires adequate animal feed and housing facilities. To meet all these conditions, one need not only human labour but also capital goods, i.e. agricultural machinery. Therefore, farmers have to have corresponding machinery or to engage others (fertilization, sprinkling, harvest, etc.). All these factors make the intermediate consumption (accounting for almost 60% of the total value of agricultural production) and their price indices are shown in table 13.3.

The total intermediate consumption, i.e. the prices of intermediate goods, capital goods and services in agriculture in the first quarter of 2025 increased on average by 3.0% compared with the same quarter of the previous year. Observed by groups of products, the largest price increase in the first quarter of 2025, relative to the same quarter of the previous year, was recorded in: Seeds (growth of 10.6%).

The prices of intermediate goods, capital goods and services in agriculture in the first quarter of 2025 relative to the fourth quarter of 2024 increased on average by 3.3%. Looking at the groups of products, the highest growth of prices in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the previous quarter, was recorded in the groups: Plant protection preparations (growth of 27.6%) and Seeds (growth of 23%).

**Table 11.3.** Indices of the prices of intermediate goods, capital goods and services in agriculture

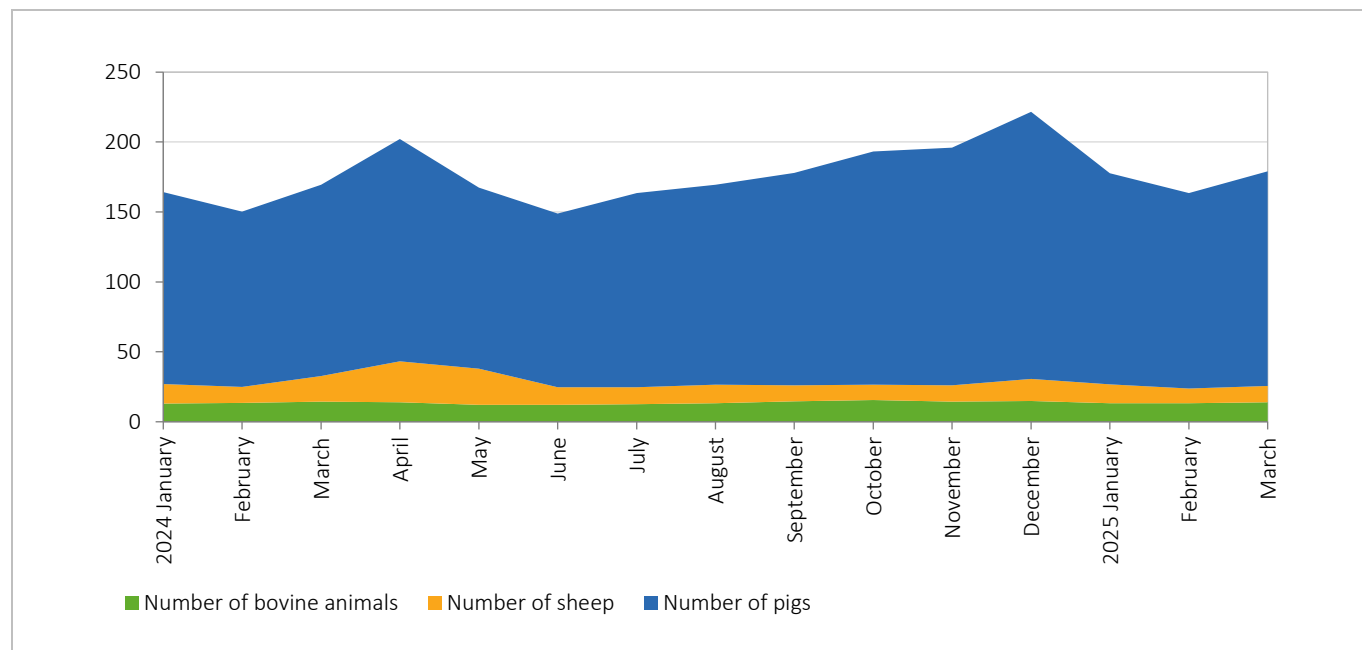
	<u>Quarter I 2025</u> Quarter I 2024	<u>Quarter I</u> Quarter IV 2024	<u>I 2025</u> Ø 2024
<b>Total</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>103.3</b>	<b>103.0</b>
<b>Products and services for current use in agriculture</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>103.3</b>	<b>103.0</b>
Seed	110.6	123.0	112.1
Energy commodities	100.7	101.6	100.2
Mineral fertilizers	98.3	100.6	100.7
Plant protection preparations	101.7	127.6	122.3
Animal feed	102.2	99.6	100.8
Equipment maintenance	106.4	101.6	103.2
Facilities maintenance	104.5	100.3	101.6
Other products and services	106.2	100.0	102.9
<b>Products and services for investments in agriculture</b>	<b>102.6</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>101.4</b>
Machinery in agriculture	102.6	100.1	101.4

### 11.3. LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

In the Republic of Serbia, livestock slaughter is performed in registered slaughtering houses and outside them, i.e. on agricultural holdings. As far as bovine animals are concerned, slaughter in slaughtering houses accounted for about 57% of total slaughter of this livestock species, while with pigs and sheep slaughter is mostly done outside slaughtering houses, about 60% and 83%, respectively. Data on livestock slaughter in slaughtering houses on the territory of the Republic of Serbia include slaughter in all registered slaughtering houses on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, totalling to 377 as at 31 March 2025. In this issue of Trends, the analysis is focused on livestock slaughter in slaughtering houses.

In the first quarter of 2025, the total number of slaughtered cattle amounted to 40.4 thousand. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, a fall of the number of cattle slaughtered in slaughtering houses was recorded, amounting to 1.0%. The category of bovine animals of 1-2 years in the first quarter of the current year saw also the highest share in the total slaughter of this livestock species – of 79.3%.

**Chart 11.2.** Number of slaughtered pigs, sheep and bovine animals in slaughtering houses (in thous.)



Observed quarterly, in the first quarter the number of pigs in slaughtering houses (441 thous.) was higher than in the same period of the previous year by 15.4%. The category of slaughtered pigs that saw the largest growth in the total slaughter of this livestock species during the first quarter of 2025 refers to fattening pigs of 50 kg (growth of 18.7% in relation to the same quarter of the previous year). Of totally slaughtered pigs in slaughtering houses the largest share in total slaughter of this livestock species in the first three months of the current month was that of pigs over 50 kg, 86.7%

Of the total number of slaughtered **sheep** on the territory of the Republic of Serbia only approximately 17% are slaughtered in slaughtering houses. In the first quarter of 2025 the number of sheep slaughtered in slaughtering houses amounted to 35.6 thousand, by 18.8 less than in the same quarter of the previous year. Of totally slaughtered sheep in slaughtering houses the largest share (96.4%) in the total slaughter of this species was that of the category of lambs up to six months

## 11.4. EXTERNAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

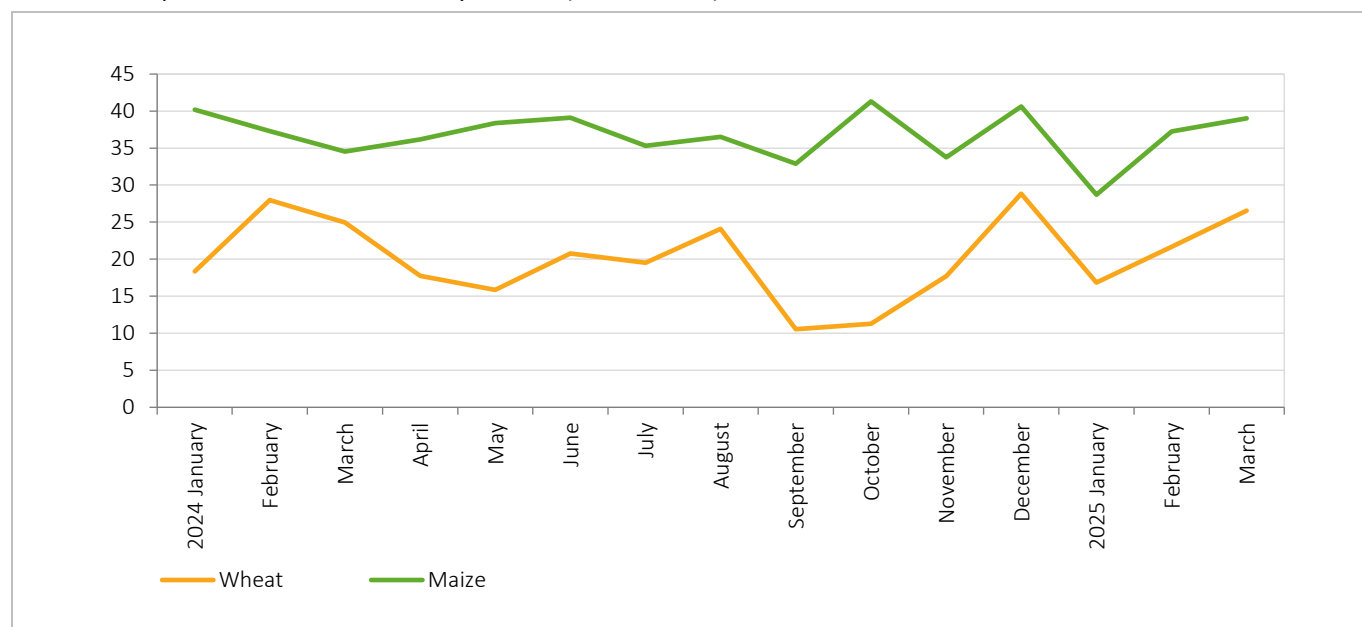
In the first quarter of 2025, the section Agriculture, forestry and fishing<sup>15</sup> realised a negative external trade balance of EUR -92.2 thousand. Exports of this section amounted to EUR 309.5 million, by 2.2% less than in the same period of 2024, and the share in total exports in the observed period fell from 4.4% to 4.2%, amount reached in the first quarter of 2025. Imports of this section in the first three months of the current year amounted to EUR 401.7 million, by 28.2% more than in the same period of the previous year, and the share in total imports grew from 3.4% to 3.9%.

Exports fall in the first three months of the current year was mostly a result of a cumulative fall of 5.6% in exports of cereals (except for rice), leguminous and oil seed, the most representative groups in this section (share of 67%). As in exports, the most representative group of products on the import side was Growing of cereals (except rice), leguminous and oil seed (share of 22.2% in imports of the section of agriculture), which realized a cumulative growth of 22.9% in the first quarter of 2025.

**Exports of wheat** in the first quarter of 2025 amounted to EUR 65.1 million, a fall of 7.9% relative to the same period of the previous year. In the first three months of the current year, when looking at the value, wheat was the crop mostly exported to Italy (46.1% of total exports of wheat), then to Romania (33.7%), Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Albania, accounting for 11.9% and 4.0% and 1.6%, respectively, of total exports of this crops.

**Exports of maize** over January-March 2025 amounted to EUR 107 million, a fall of 4.5% relative to the same period of the previous year. When looking at the value, most of maize was exported to Romania (44.9% of total exports of this crop). To Bosnia and Herzegovina 14.8% were exported, then to Germany and Italy, accounting respectively for 6.5% and 6.1% of total exports of this crop.

**Chart 11.3.** Exports of wheat and maize by months (in mill. euros)



<sup>15</sup> According to CA (2010).

## 12. BUSINESS SERVICES

Business services are the key factor to drive a knowledge-based economy as they stand out for their labour-intensive nature, which suggests their potential importance as providers of new businesses and jobs in the future. Business services are a subset of economic activities having in business operations an auxiliary character and where there is no delivery of goods and products in the material sense. It is not possible to store or transport the final “products” of these activities. The activities covered by business services are characterised by the provision of technical or intellectual services.

Enterprises, from the coverage of business services, create service systems which they deliver to their customers. Business services comprise a large spectrum of activities such as: transport, information, communication and other business services (e.g. engineering, legal assistance, employment services, management), excluding financial services.

The content presented below covers the services which end user are mostly enterprises and/or public administrations, but also individuals (physical persons) and/or households. Business services include:

- Transport services, such as: road and railway transportation and storage and postal/courier services;
- Technical services, such as: engineering, architecture and technical studies;
- Computer services, such as: software design and database management;
- Other professional services, such as: legal, accounting, consultancy and managerial services.

Many of these services could be performed by the enterprise itself, but their outsourcing from service suppliers allows the enterprise to focus on its principal activity and to take advantage of the specialisation offered by service providers. Thus, an efficient and successful sector of business services can contribute to economy competitiveness.

The index of service turnover is one of the most essential indicators of the development of service activities. It is used to analyse the trends of business cycles in the service part of the economy, as well as an input for statistics of national accounts.

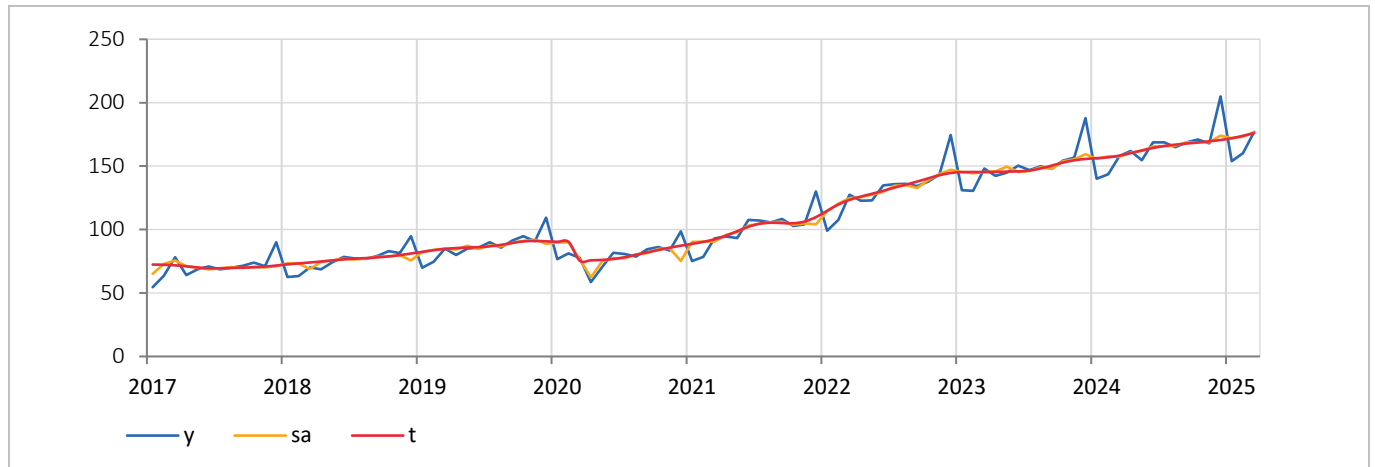
Business services cover service activities of the non-financial economy, specifically activities according to the official national Classification of Activities (2010), from the sections: H – Transportation and storage (divisions 49–53); I – Accommodation and food services (divisions 55 and 56); J – Information and communications (divisions 58–63); L – Real estate activities (division 68); M – Professional, scientific and technical activities (divisions 69–74, excluding 72 and 75) and N – Administrative and support service activities (divisions 77–82).

**Chart 12.1.** Structure of the turnover by sections of business services



**Chart 12.2.** Components of the time series of the turnover in business services

(y – original series, sa – series with seasonal component excluded, t – trend-cycle component; average 2021 = 100)



During the crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic, which started at the end of the first quarter of 2020, the development trend in the series of business services' turnover changed significantly. In the second quarter of 2020 business services' turnover was lower by about 16% than in the same quarter of 2019. Starting from the third quarter of 2020 a period of recovery began, and after almost a year, in the second quarter of 2021 the level of turnover returned to its level before the crisis. The post-pandemic long-term trend is stable and slightly going upward.

In the period January-March 2025, the total realised turnover in business services was higher by 11.3% than in the same period of 2024. The largest growth of turnover was recorded in the section L – Real estate activities (33.0%), and the smallest in the section M – Professional, scientific and technical activities (1.4%).

## 12.1. COMPARISON WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR

The turnover of business services in the first quarter of 2025 saw a growth of 11.3%, compared with the same quarter of the previous year. Observed by sections, the largest growth share in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the same quarter of 2024, was recorded in the sections L – Real estate activities and N – Administrative and support service activities, 33.0% and 25.4%, respectively.

**Table 12.1.** Turnover of business services, indices (the same quarter of the previous year = 100)

	2022				2023 <sup>1</sup>				2024 <sup>2</sup>				2025 <sup>2</sup>
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<b>Services – total</b>	<b>135.4</b>	<b>128.8</b>	<b>126.5</b>	<b>135.3</b>	<b>122.6</b>	<b>115.0</b>	<b>109.4</b>	<b>109.5</b>	<b>107.8</b>	<b>111.0</b>	<b>113.1</b>	<b>109.0</b>	<b>111.3</b>
H – Transportation and storage	126.5	127.6	123.4	148.5	133.4	116.2	110.2	101.7	95.8	104.3	105.4	106.6	113.8
I – Accommodation and food service activities	185.9	169.1	155.2	175.8	134.8	124.2	118.8	119.2	121.8	121.7	117.6	114.5	104.8
J – Information and communications	132.6	122.1	128.9	125.5	122.2	124.7	113.7	120.7	115.4	109.5	111.9	108.9	107.5
L – Real estate activities	126.2	146.3	133.8	137.7	133.4	120.1	121.2	121.2	109.6	101.5	105.1	104.7	133.0
M – Professional, scientific and technical activities	147.5	124.1	117.2	125.8	103.8	101.9	100.0	106.0	114.0	119.9	127.6	107.1	101.4
N – Administrative support service activities	133.2	131.3	127.8	120.9	109.9	104.8	102.2	102.4	111.2	117.2	117.9	118.3	125.4

<sup>1</sup> Final data.

<sup>2</sup> Provisional data.

## 12.2. COMPARISON WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER

The turnover of business services in the first quarter of 2025 saw a fall of 9.7%, compared with the previous quarter. This fall was mostly conditioned by the fall of turnover in the sections with the highest share: H – Transportation and storage (fall of 0.3% with a share of 33.6%) and J – Information and communications (fall of 15.9% with a share of 26.7%).

**Table 12.2.** Turnover of business services, indices (previous quarter = 100)

	2022				2023 <sup>1</sup>				2024 <sup>2</sup>				2025 <sup>2</sup>
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
<b>Services – total</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>113.9</b>	<b>106.8</b>	<b>112.2</b>	<b>89.9</b>	<b>106.8</b>	<b>101.6</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>88.5</b>	<b>110.0</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>108.3</b>	<b>90.3</b>
H – Transportation and storage	110.1	110.1	109.5	111.9	98.9	95.9	103.8	103.2	93.3	104.3	104.9	104.4	99.7
I – Accommodation and food service activities	125.8	119.7	111.1	105.0	96.5	110.3	106.4	105.3	98.6	110.2	102.8	102.5	90.2
J – Information and communications	91.4	110.2	109.2	114.1	89.0	112.4	99.6	121.1	85.1	106.7	101.8	117.8	84.1
L – Real estate activities	103.0	120.6	99.0	112.1	99.7	108.6	99.9	112.1	90.2	100.5	103.4	111.6	114.6
M – Professional, scientific and technical activities	89.8	118.7	97.9	120.6	74.1	116.5	96.1	127.8	79.7	122.5	102.3	107.2	75.5
N – Administrative support service activities	91.6	120.0	108.4	101.4	83.3	114.4	105.7	101.7	90.4	120.5	106.4	102.0	95.9

<sup>1</sup> Final data.

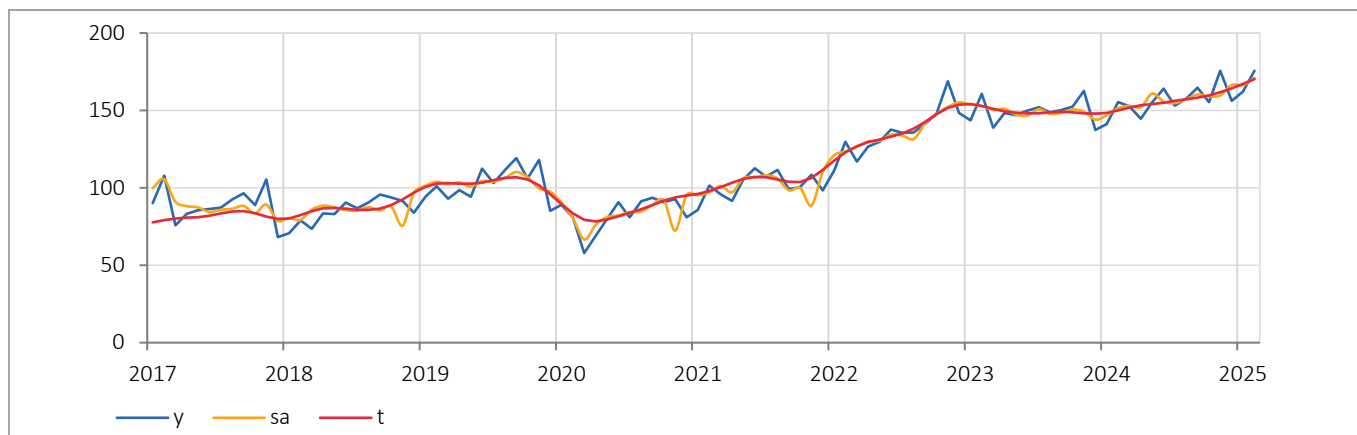
<sup>2</sup> Provisional data.

All the sections of business services saw a fall in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the previous quarter, except in the section L – Real estate activities. The largest fall of turnover was noted in the sections M – Professional, scientific and technical activities and J – Information and communications, 24.5% and 15.9%, respectively.

## 12.3. TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE (section H)

(share of 33.6% in the total turnover of business services in the first quarter of 2025)

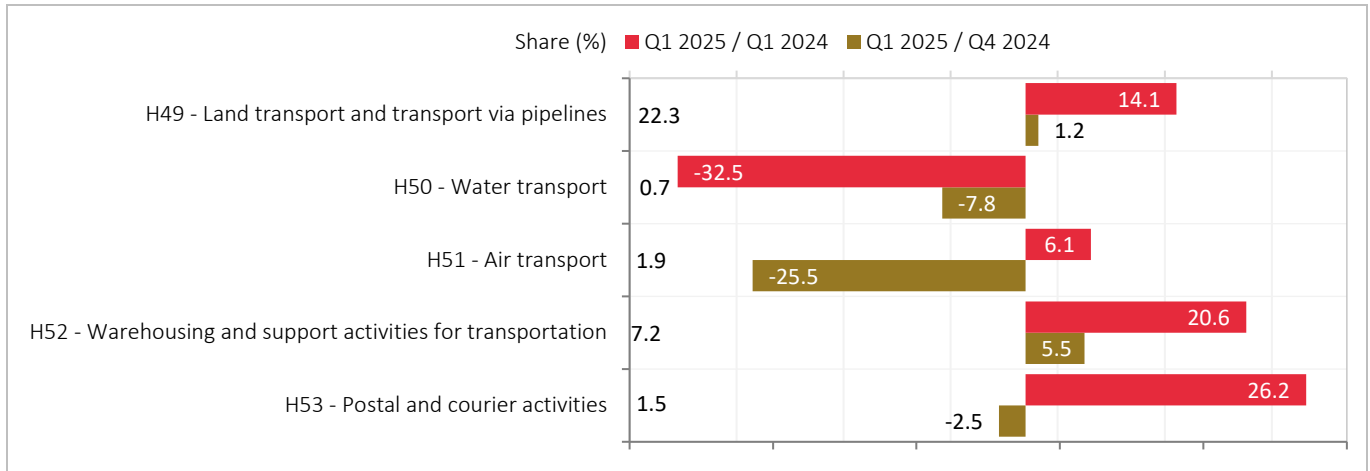
**Chart 12.3.** Components of the time series of the turnover in section H – Transportation and storage (y – original series, sa – series with seasonal component excluded, t – trend-cycle component; average 2021 = 100)



Services activities of Transportation and storage were strongly affected by the pandemic – a fall of 30% was recorded in the period from February to April 2020. In the second half of 2020 and during most of 2021, these activities developed rather positively, and the intensive upward trend continued till the first half of 2023, after which there was a period of slow growth that shifted into slower increase.

**In the period January-March 2025**, compared with the same period 2024, the turnover in the section Transportation and storage went up by 13.8%.

**Chart 12.4.** Turnover in the section H – Transportation and storage, by divisions, growth rate (%)



The *share* is the percentage portion of the turnover of a division of activity in the total turnover of business services in the first quarter of 2025.

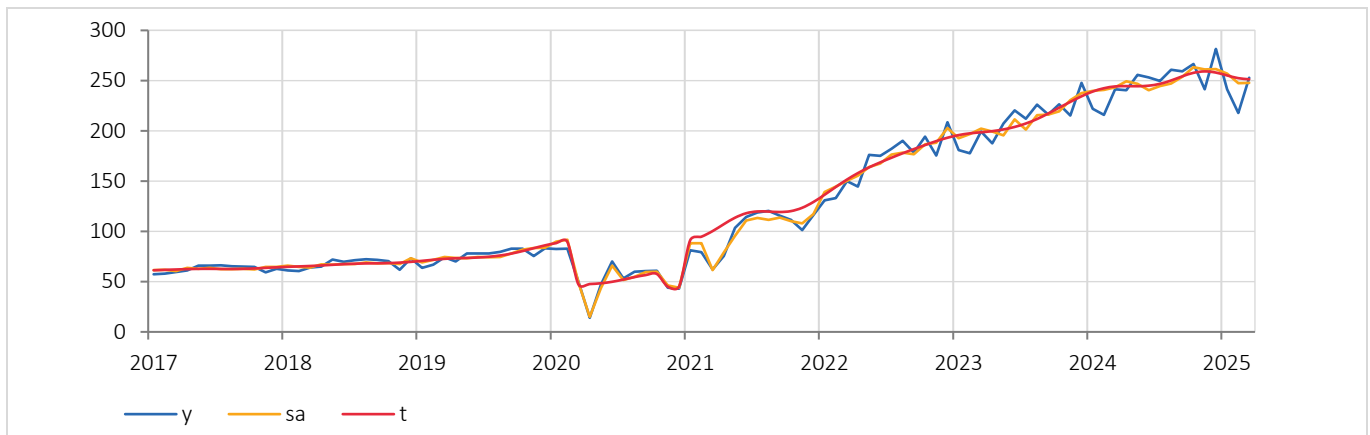
The turnover in the section of Transportation and storage in the first quarter of 2025 saw a growth of 13.8%, compared with the same quarter of the previous year. The largest growth was realised in the divisions H53 – Postal and courier activities, and H52 - Warehousing and support activities for transportation, 26.2% and 20.6%, respectively. Decrease of turnover in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the same quarter of 2024, was recorded in the division H50 – Water transport (-32.5%).

Compared with the previous quarter, turnover fell by 0.3% in the section Transportation and storage. A large fall of 25.5%, compared with the previous quarter, was recorded in the division H51 – Air transport. Growth in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the previous quarter, was noted in the divisions H52 - Warehousing and support activities for transportation (growth of 5.5%), and H49 – Land transport and transport via pipelines (growth 1.2%).

## 12.4. ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE ACTIVITIES (section I)

(share of 8.1% in the total turnover of business services in the first quarter of 2025)

**Chart 12.5.** Components of the time series of the turnover in section Accommodation and food service activities (y – original series, sa – series with seasonal component excluded, t – trend-cycle component; average 2021 = 100)



Accommodation and food service activities were particularly affected by COVID-19 pandemic – from February to April 2020 the turnover realised in this section of business services fell by more than 80%. Except from the initial economic shock that occurred with the pandemic, faster and significant recovery of this section were hindered also by epidemiological measures for suppressing the COVID-19 virus, which were introduced during 2020 and 2021. The realised turnover in the section of Accommodation and food service activities returned to the level before the pandemic by the end of 2021 and since then has been intensively going upward.

In the period January-March 2025, compared to the same period of 2024, the turnover in the section Accommodation and food service activities grew by 4.8%.

In the first quarter of 2025, compared with the same quarter of the previous year, the turnover realised in the division I56 – Food and beverage service activities went up by 5.3%, and by 3.0% in the division I55 – Accommodation.

On the other hand, in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the previous quarter, the turnover fell by 9.8% in both divisions of this section: I55 – Accommodation and I56 – Food and beverages service.

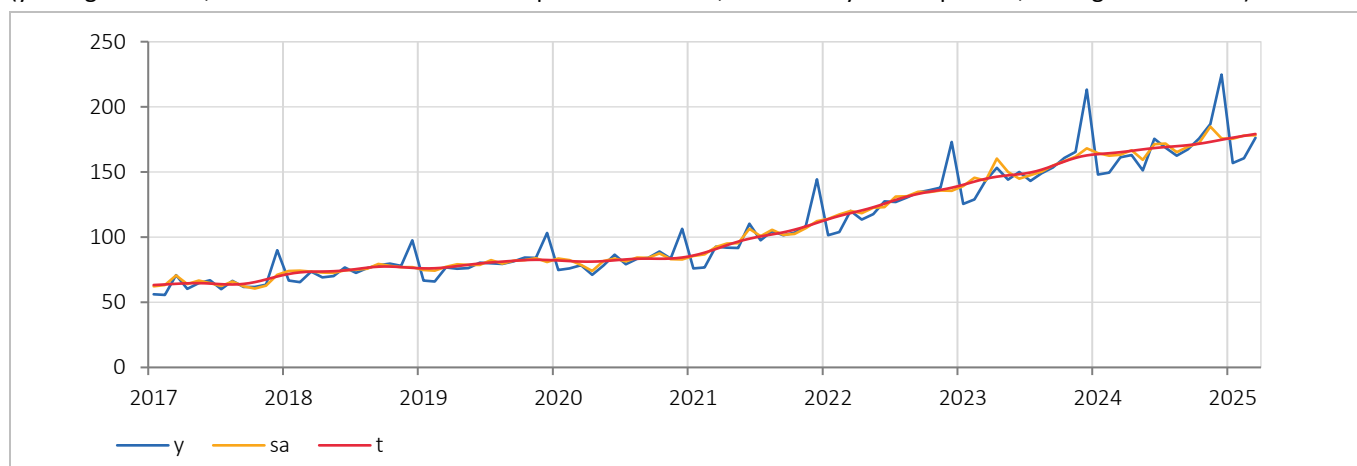
**Table 12.3.** Accommodation and food service activities, indices

	Q1 2025 Q1 2024	Q1 2025 Q4 2024
Accommodation	103.0	90.2
Food and beverage service activities	105.3	90.2

## 12.5. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS(section J)

(share of 26.7% in the total turnover of business services in the first quarter of 2025)

**Chart 12.6.** Component of the time series of the turnover in section Information and communications (y – original series, sa – series with seasonal component excluded, t – trend-cycle component; average 2021 = 100)



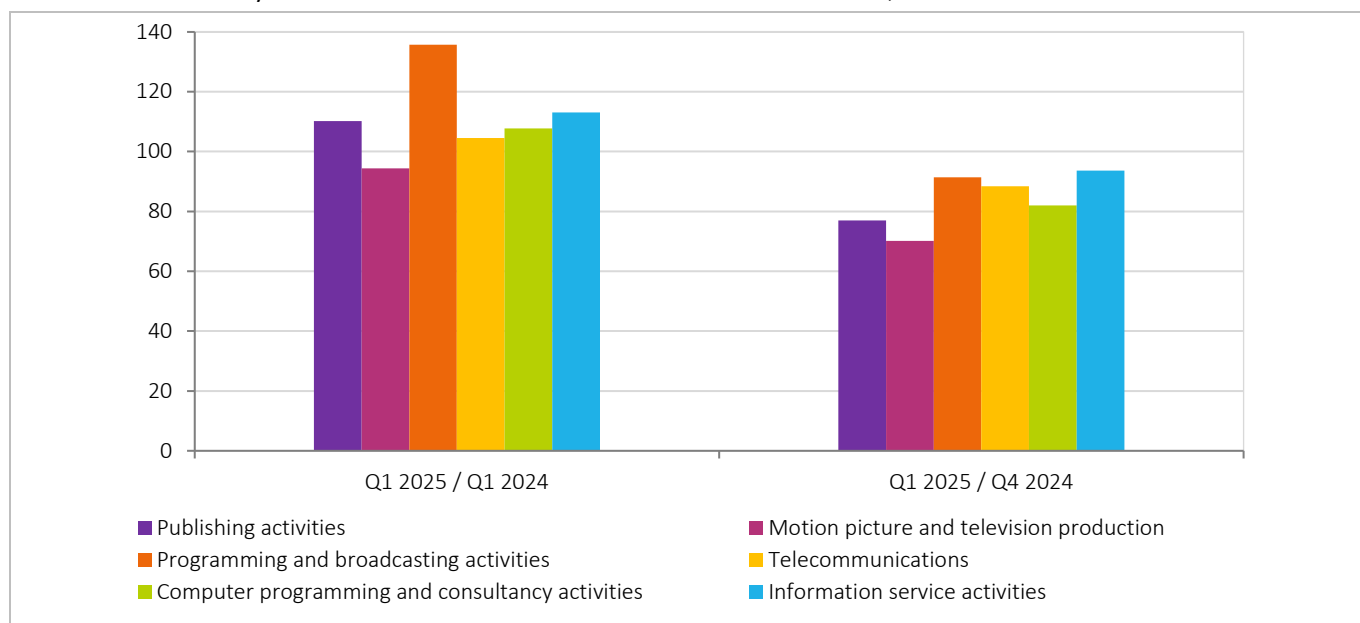
The section Information and communications includes the production and distribution of information and cultural content, activities providing telecommunication and related services, as well as information technologies and data processing activities, and other information service activities. This is one of the rare areas of the economy that was not stricken by crisis of the corona virus pandemic. The section J - Information and communications is characterised by a stable and upward long-term trend, present since 2021.

In the period January-March 2025, compared with the same period of 2024, the turnover of the section Information and communication increased by 7.5%.

In the first quarter of 2025, there was a growth of business operations in the section Information and communications of 7.5%, compared with the same quarter of 2024. The largest growth was recorded in the divisions J60 – Programming and broadcasting activities saw the largest growth (35.7) and J63 – Information service activities (13.0%). The smallest one was noted in J61 – Telecommunications (4.5%). The division J59 – Motion picture and television production saw a fall of -5.6%.

Compared with the previous quarter, the section Information and communications recorded a fall of 15.9%. The largest fall of turnover was realised in divisions J59 – Motion picture and television production -29.8% and J58 – Publishing activities (-23.0%). The smallest fall of business operations was recorded in the division J63 – Information service activities (-6.4%).

**Chart 12.7.** Turnover by divisions of the section Information and communications, indices



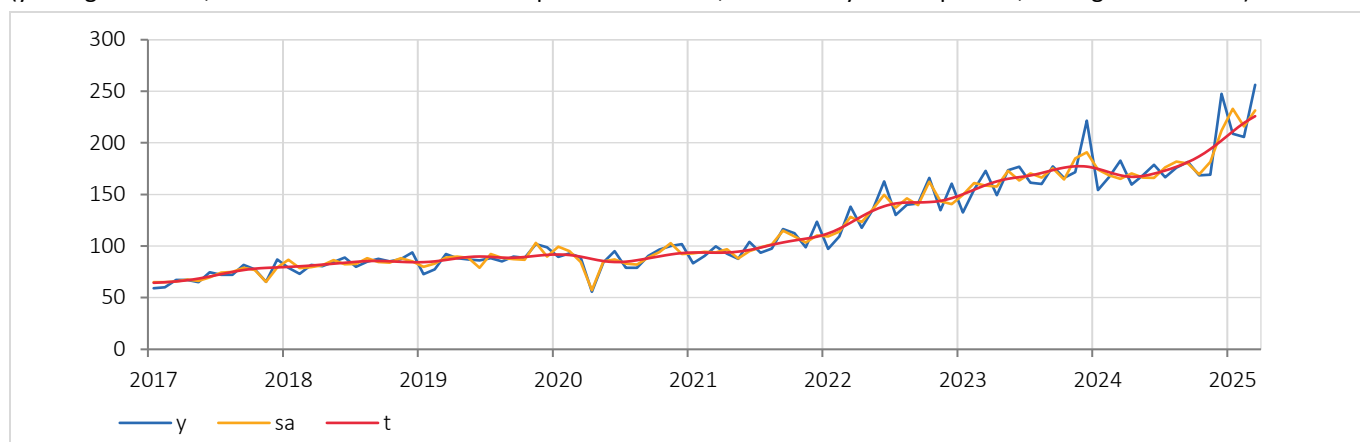
## 12.6. REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES (section L)

(share of 5.0% in the total turnover of business services in the first quarter of 2025)

The crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the development of business operations in the section Real estate activities. The index of Real estate activities saw a decrease of 40% from February to April 2020. Except of the initial economic shock, the turnover generated in this section has returned very quickly to the level that preceded the pandemic and has been recording an intensive upward trend ever since.

**Chart 12.8.** Component of the time series of the turnover in section Real estate activities

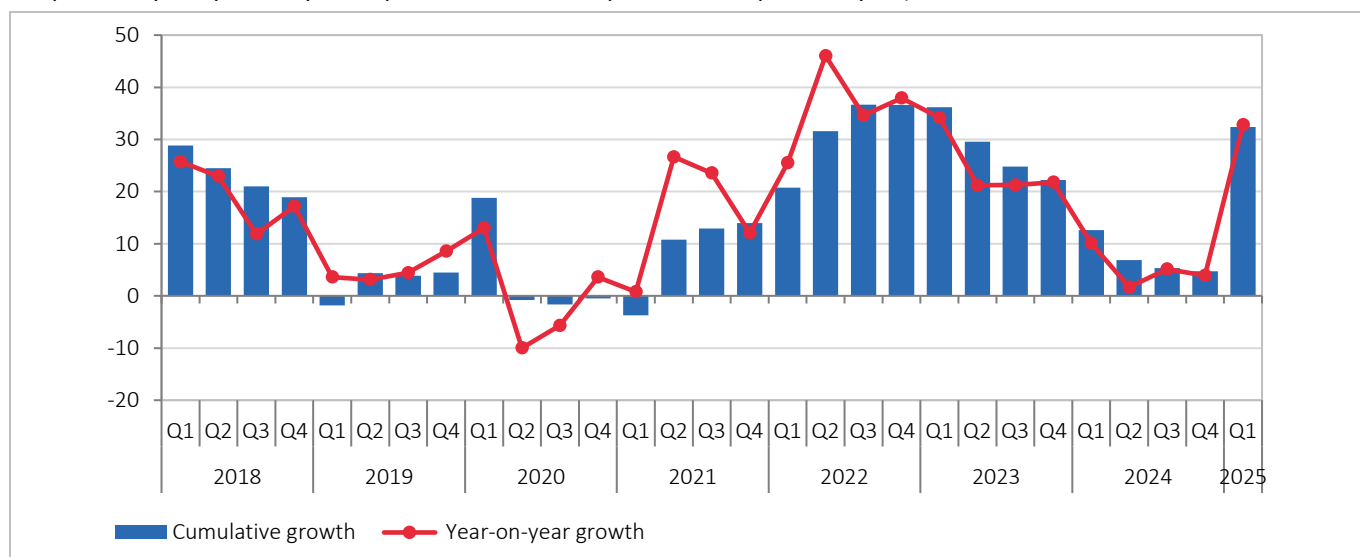
(y – original series, sa – series with seasonal component excluded, t – trend-cycle component, average 2021 = 100)



**In the period January-March 2025**, compared with the same period of 2024, the turnover in the section Real estate activities increased by 33.0%.

The realised turnover in the section Real estate activities in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the same quarter of 2024, increased by 33%, while when compared with the previous quarter it saw a growth of 14.6%.

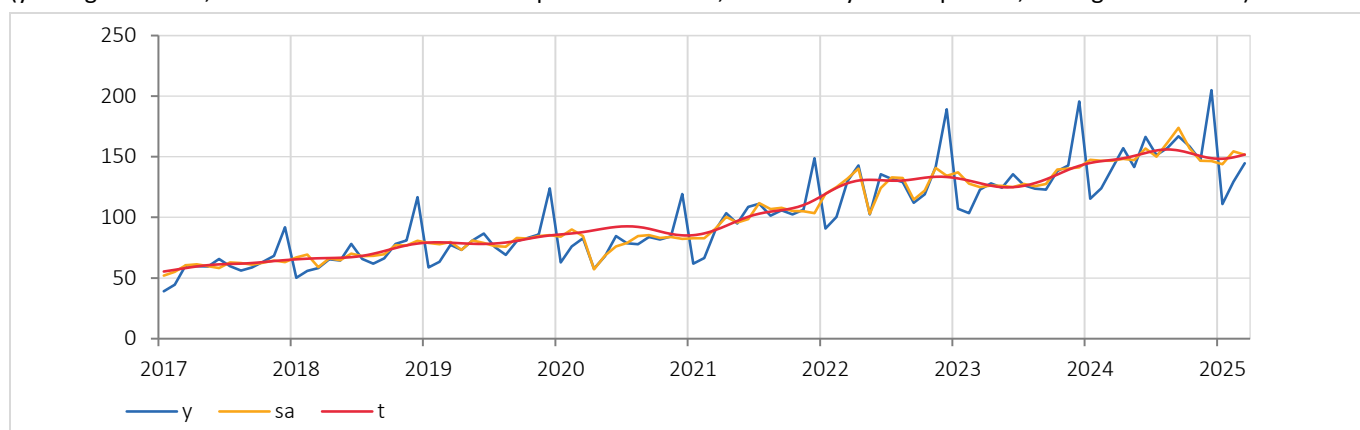
**Chart 12.9.** Cumulative and year-on-year growth rates in Real estate activities (%) (cumulative – period to the same period of the previous year; year-on-year – quarter to the same quarter of the previous year)



## 12.7. PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES (sector M) (share of 14.9% in the total turnover of business services in the first quarter of 2025)

Business services do not include all the activities of the section M – Professional, scientific and technical activities. According to the European definition<sup>16</sup>, the divisions that fall into business services are M69 – Legal and accounting activities, M71 – Architectural and engineering activities, M73 – Advertising and market research, M74 – Other professional, scientific and technical activities, and group M70.2 – Management consultancy activities; the other activities of the section M *are not included* in business services.

**Chart 12.10.** Components of the time series of the turnover in section Professional, scientific and technical activities (y – original series, sa – series with seasonal component excluded, t – trend-cycle component, average 2021 = 100)



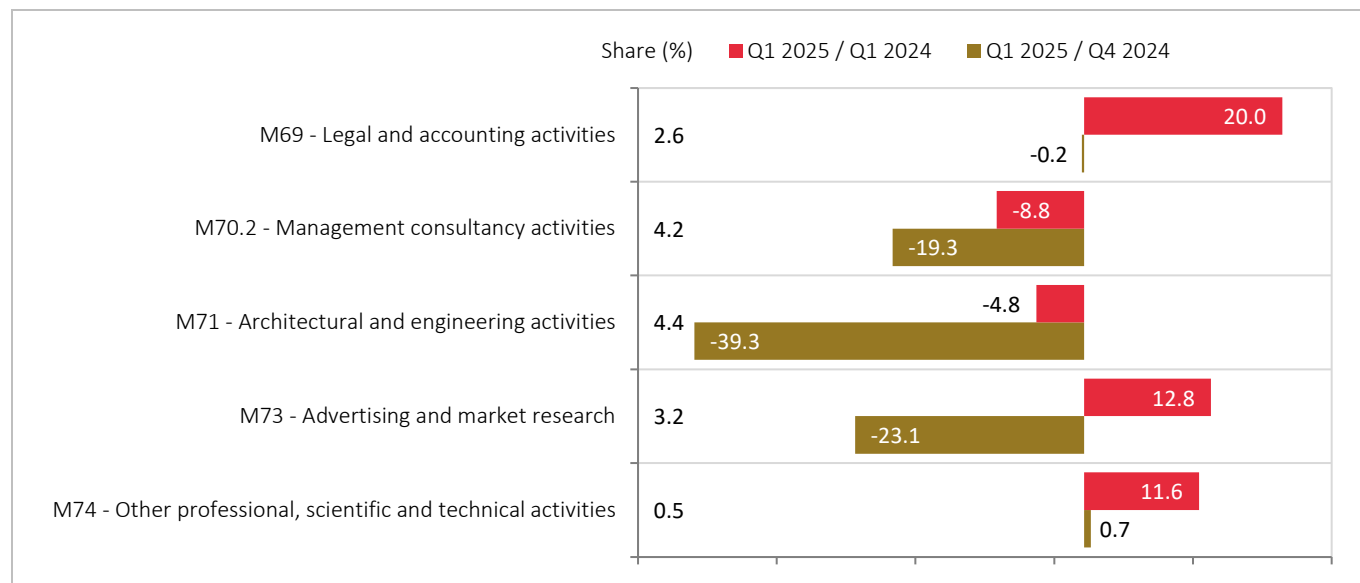
The section Professional, scientific and technical activities includes specialised professional, scientific and technical activities, which require a high degree of training, specialised knowledge and skills made available to users. The crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the development of business operations in this section – a decline of 24% in the generated

<sup>16</sup> The selection of a section, division and group of activities that fall into business services is regulated by the European Business Statistics (EBS) Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1197 laying down technical specifications and arrangements pursuant to the mentioned EBS Regulation (General Implementing Act).

turnover was recorded from February to April 2020. Business operations in these activities returned very quickly, after the initial economic shock, to the level that preceded the pandemic and has been recording an intensive upward trend ever since.

In the period January-March 2025, compared with the same period of 2024, the turnover in the section Professional, scientific and technical activities increased by 1.4%.

**Chart 12.11.** Turnover in the section Professional, scientific and technical activities, growth rates (%)



The *share* is the percentage portion of the turnover of a division of activity in the total turnover of business services in the first quarter of 2025.

The section Professional, scientific and technical activities recorded a 1.4% growth of turnover in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the turnover of the same quarter of the previous year, and when compared with the previous quarter a fall of 24.5% was recorded.

Observed by main aggregates of CA (2010), in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the same quarter of 2024, growth was recorded in the divisions M69 – Legal and accounting activities (20.0%), M73 – Advertising and market research (12.8%), and M74 – Other professional, scientific and technical activities (11.6%). A fall of 8.8% was noted in the group M70.2 – Management consultancy activities, and of 4.8% in the division M71 – Architectural and engineering activities.

On the other hand, when compared to the previous quarter, turnover in the first quarter of 2025 grew only in the division M74 – Other professional, scientific and technical activities (0.7%). For all other aggregates of CA (2010) of this section the turnover realised in the first quarter of 2025 saw a fall when compared with the previous quarter. The largest fall of the realised turnover was noted in M71 – Architectural and engineering activities (-39.3%), and the smallest in M69 – Legal and accounting activities (-0.2%).

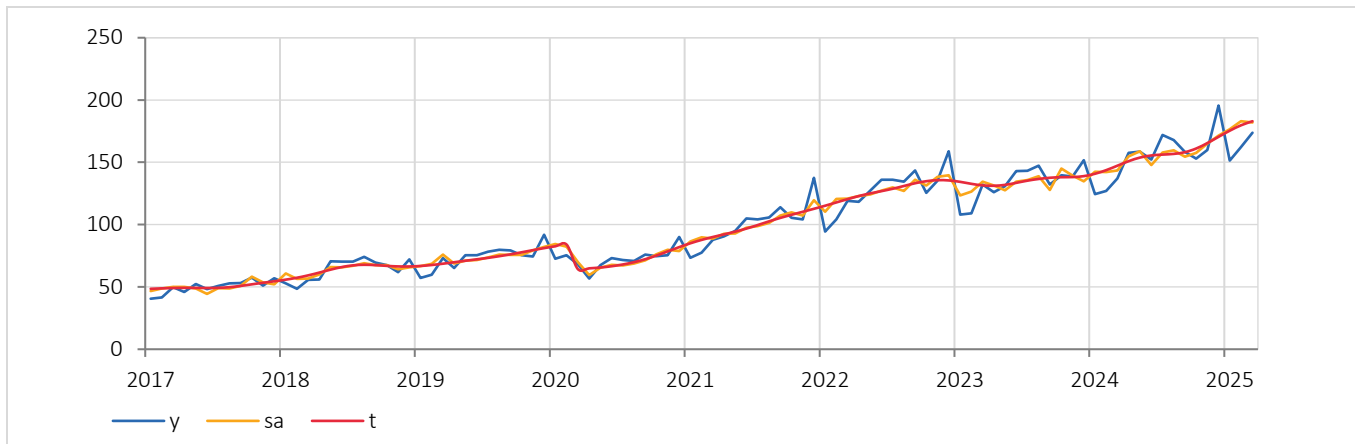
## 12.8. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES (section N)

(share of 11.7% in the total turnover of business services in the first quarter of 2025)

The activities of the section N – Administrative and support service activities were also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic impact of the pandemic and the state of emergency introduced in mid-March 2020 was extremely negative – the turnover in April 2020 was by 25% smaller than in the month preceding the pandemic (February 2020). As the enterprises performing these activities adapted quickly to new circumstances and epidemiologic measures, the initial shock was followed by a fast stabilisation and recovery of this part of the economy. The turnover generated in the section Administrative and support service activities in the third quarter of 2020 returned to the level before the beginning of the pandemic, and the positive trend continued ever since.

In the period January-March 2025, compared with the same period 2024, the turnover in the section Administrative and support service activities increased by 25.4%.

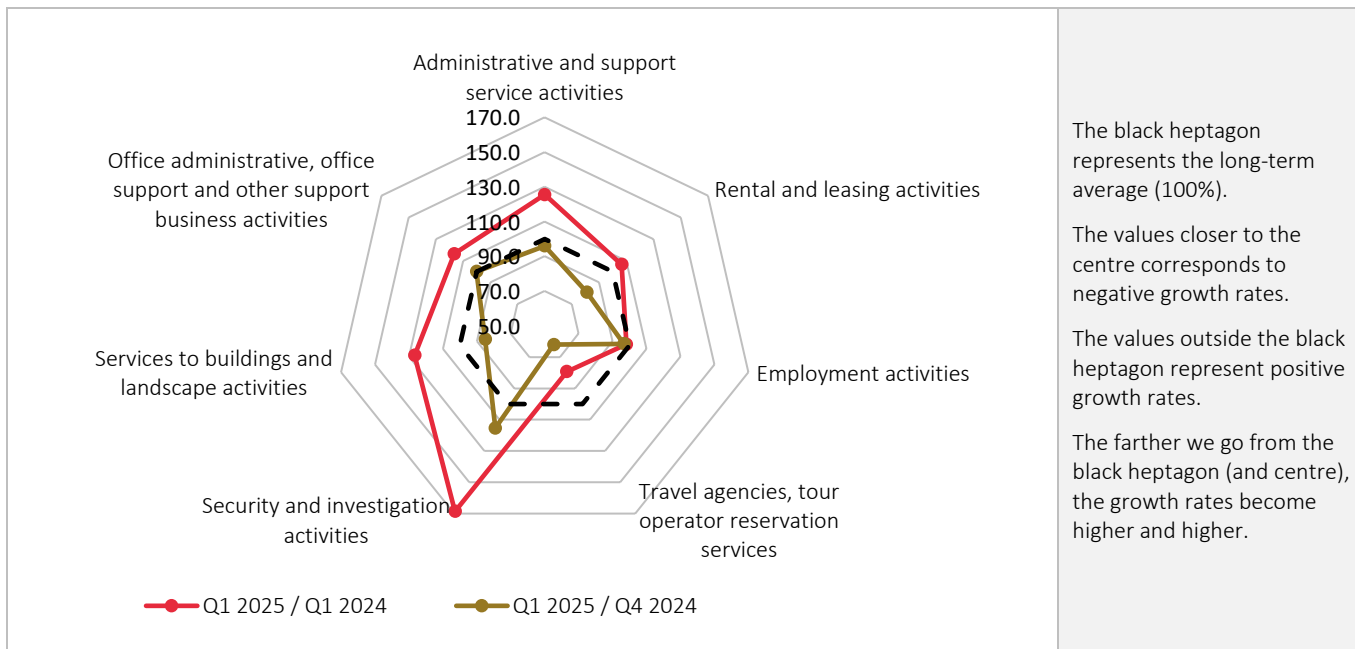
**Chart 12.12.** Components of the time series of the turnover in section Administrative and support activities (y – original series, sa – series with seasonal component excluded, t – trend-cycle component; average 2021 = 100)



In the first quarter of 2025, when compared with the same quarter of the previous year, the turnover in the section Administrative and support service activities recorded a growth of 25.4%. The divisions recording major positive results in the first quarter of 2025, compared with the same quarter of 2024, are: N80 – Security and investigation activities (68.6%, the share in this section N was 34.2%) and N81 – Services to buildings and landscape activities (26.6%, the share in the section N was 15.7%). Fall was recorded in the divisions N78 – Employment activities, and N79 – Travel agency, tour operator reservation services, 1.9% and 20.7%, respectively.

The turnover in the section Administrative and support service activities in the first quarter of 2025 decreased by 4.1% compared with the turnover from the previous quarter. In the first quarter of 2025, compared with the previous quarter and looking at the divisions, the largest fall was recorded in the division N79 – Travel agency, tour operator reservation service (37.9%), and the smallest in N78 – Employment activities (3.3%). Turnover grew in the divisions N80 – Security and investigation activities and N82 – Office administrative, office support and other support business activities, by 15.4% and 0.1%, respectively.

**Chart 12.13.** Indices of the turnover in section Administrative and support service activities



The black heptagon represents the long-term average (100%).

The values closer to the centre corresponds to negative growth rates.

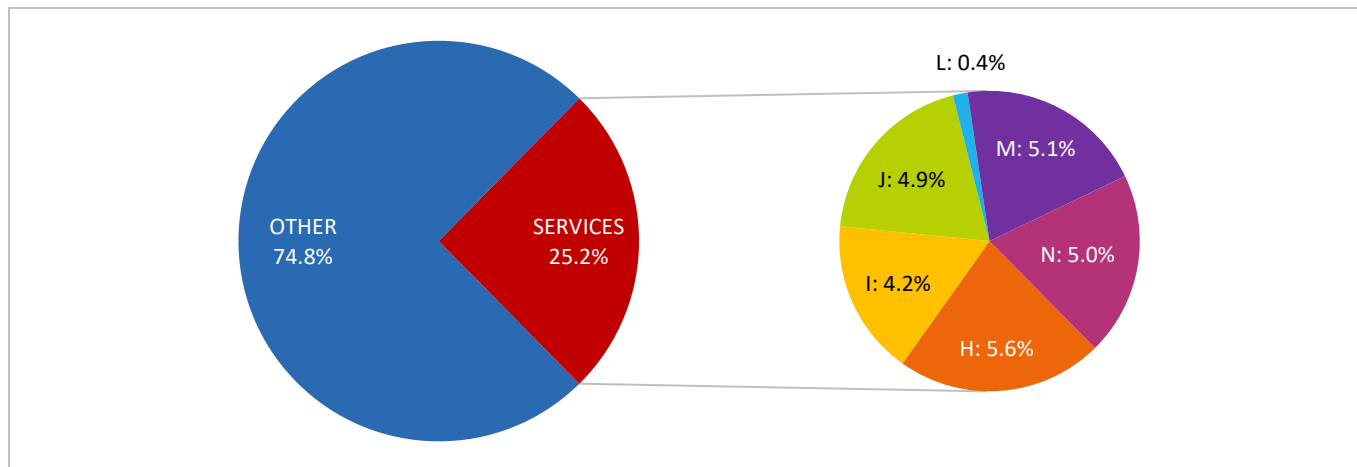
The values outside the black heptagon represent positive growth rates.

The farther we go from the black heptagon (and centre), the growth rates become higher and higher.

## 12.9. NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS<sup>17</sup> IN BUSINESS SERVICES

In the first quarter of 2025, more than 585 thousand persons were employed in business service activities in the Republic of Serbia. In other words, every fourth registered employed person (in legal entities, persons individually running business, entrepreneurs and their employees) performed operations covered by business services.

**Chart 12.14.** Registered employment – share of business services in the total number of employed persons in the Republic of Serbia



Employed persons in business services' activities are almost equally distributed by sections from the coverage of business services, except for section L – Real estate activities which have only 1.6% employed (about nine thousand) of the total number of registered employed persons in business services. Among other sections, the section H – Transportation and storage employs almost 130 thousand persons, section M – Professional, scientific and technical activities employs more than 115 thousand workers, and in the section I – Accommodation and food service activities there are more than 95 thousand persons working.

### NOTE

The *turnover* in business services is defined as the total amount which an enterprise invoices for sold goods or for rendered services, and corresponds to market sale of goods or services delivered to third parties.

*Employed persons* include persons who have a formal contract of employment with an employer for a fixed or indefinite period of time; persons who have temporary and occasional employment, having a formal contract of performing temporary and occasional work, service contract, author contract or any other contract of employment (whatever the duration); persons performing solely an activities or being founders of enterprises or entrepreneur shops; as well as persons performing agricultural activities and being registered in the Central Register of Compulsory Social Insurance.

<sup>17</sup> According to the official statistics registered employment in legal entities, persons performing independently an activity, entrepreneurs and their employees.

## 13. TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Statistics of transport services** include statistics of the main transport branches: road transport, rail transport, city transport, inland waterway transport, air transport and pipeline transport. The most important trend indicators in transport statistics are: number of transported passengers and number of passenger kilometres (pkm) for transportation of passengers and the amount of transported goods and the number of ton kilometres (tkm) for transportation of goods.

**Statistics of postal activities and telecommunication services** include statistics of the number of shipments and payments, that is, the number of minutes in the fixed and mobile network, and the number of messages sent.

In order to enable the comparison of transport services between transport branches, index of physical volume of transport services was established, and based on it, the development of the entire transport branch or the entire activity of transport and telecommunications can be observed. **Indices of physical volume of transport services** are calculated on the basis of weighted **passenger (pkm) and ton (tkm) kilometres** of each transport branch separately. Work in each branch of traffic expressed in passenger and ton kilometres is weighted differently, depending on the applied technological and economic criteria.

**Quarterly index of physical traffic volume** recorded a growth of 2.2% in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the same quarter of the previous year, and a fall of 11.2% compared to the previous quarter.

In the period January-March 2025, index of physical traffic volume is lower by 15.9% compared to 2024 average.

**Table 13.1.** Physical volume indices

	<u>Q1 2025</u> Q1 2024	<u>Q1 2025</u> Q4 2024	<u>Q1 2025</u> Ø 2024
<b>TRANSPORT – TOTAL<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>88.8</b>	<b>84.1</b>
Railway transport <sup>1</sup>	85.2	91.2	90.7
Road transport <sup>1</sup>	93.5	91.9	91.9
Public transport <sup>1</sup>	95.2	92.2	95.2
Pipeline transport <sup>1</sup>	117.1	108.5	121.2
Inland waterway transport <sup>1</sup>	113.8	120.3	135.2
Air transport <sup>1</sup>	111.8	85.3	76.5
Passenger transport <sup>1</sup>	106.2	85.3	79.1
Freight transport <sup>1</sup>	95.0	97.5	97.6
<b>Post activities<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>92.7</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>94.0</b>
<b>Telecommunications<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>100.6</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>99.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Indices are calculated on the basis of weighted passenger and ton kilometres.

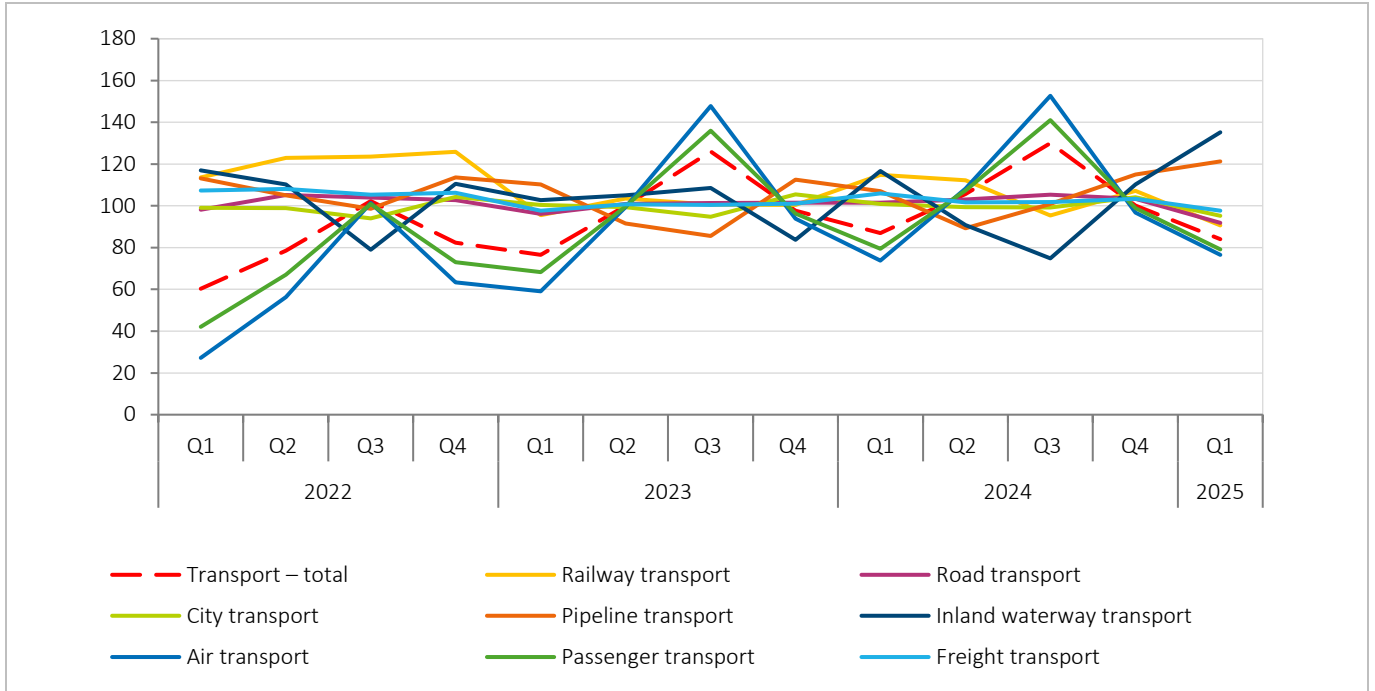
<sup>2</sup> Indices are calculated on the basis of weighted postal and telecommunication services.

In the period January-March 2025, relative to 2024 average, index of physical volume of postal activities and telecommunication services is lower by 6.0%, and 0.9%, respectively. In the same observed period, indices of physical volume of passenger and freight transport recorded fall of 20.9% and 2.4%, respectively.

In the first quarter of 2025, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, the indices of physical volume of passenger transport noted increase of 6.2%, while freight transport indices recorded fall of 5.0%. In the same observed period, the index of physical volume of postal activities recorded fall of 7.3%, and index of telecommunications services recorded growth of 0.6%.

When the first quarter of 2025 is compared with the previous quarter, it can be seen that indices of physical volume in passenger and freight transport recorded a decrease of 14.7% and 2.5%, respectively. In the same observed period, indices of physical volume of post activities and telecommunication services recorded fall of 4.3% and 5.3%, respectively.

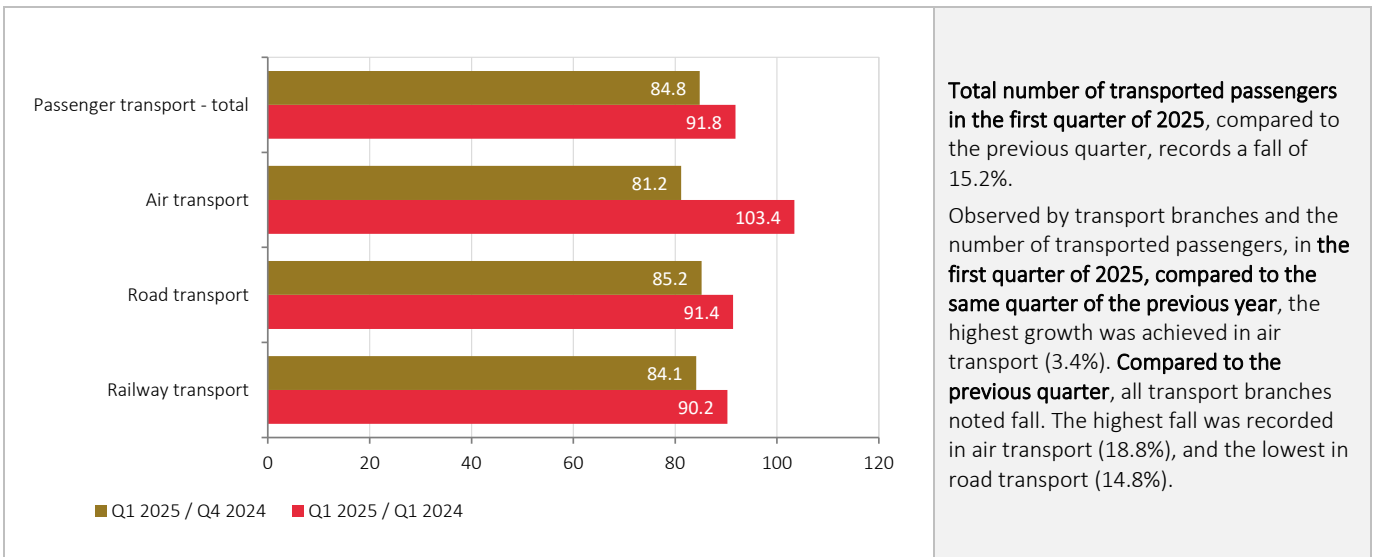
**Chart13.1.** Quarterly index of physical traffic volume, 2024=100



### 13.1. PASSENGER TRANSPORT

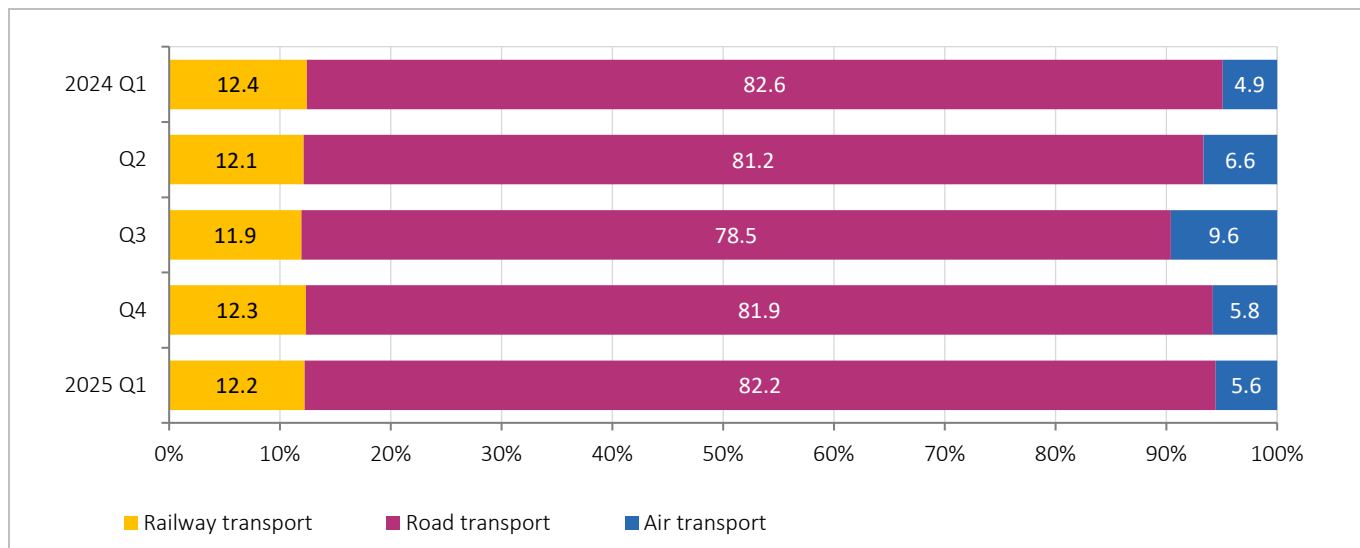
In the period January-March 2025, the total number of transported passengers is by 8.2% lower compared to the same period in 2024. In the same observed period, road and railway transport recorded decrease, while air transport recorded increase. The greatest fall was recorded in railway transport (9.8%).

**Chart 13.2.** Transported passengers by branches of traffic, indices



Observed by transport branches, in the first quarter of 2025, the largest number of passengers (82.2%) was transported by road, and only 5.6% by air transport.

**Chart 13.3.** Structure of the number of transported passengers by transport branches (%)



In the period January-March 2025, compared to the same period in 2024, a fall in the number of passenger kilometres was realized, by 1.4%.

In the first quarter of 2025, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, air transport recorded an increase in the number of passenger kilometres (12.3%). The fall was recorded in road (10.7%), and in railway transport (18.2%).

**Table 13.2.** Passenger kilometres, indices

	Q1 2025 Q1 2024	Q1 2025 Q4 2024
<b>Passenger kilometres - total</b>	<b>98.6</b>	<b>81.4</b>
Railway transport	81.8	78.9
Road transport	89.3	77.7
Air transport	112.3	85.5

Compared to the previous quarter, all branches of transport recorded a decrease in the number of passenger kilometres. The lowest fall was recorded in air (14.5%), and the highest in road (22.3%) transport.

In the period January-March 2025, compared to the same period 2024, total number of passenger motor vehicles that entered the Republic of Serbia increased by 3.8%. In the same observed period, the exit of passenger motor vehicles from the Republic of Serbia increased by 6.7%.

**Total number of passengers that entered the Republic of Serbia** in the first quarter of 2025 decreased by 5.7%, compared to the same quarter of the previous year. In the same observed period, the **exit of passengers** from the Republic of Serbia decreased by 4.1%.

In the first quarter of 2025, compared to the previous period, total number of passenger motor vehicles and passengers that entered the Republic of Serbia decreased by 18.6% and 24.0%, respectively. In the same observed period, the exit of passenger motor vehicles and passengers from the Republic of Serbia decreased by 11.8% and 15.3%, respectively.

**The countries with the most frequent registration of passenger motor vehicles** entering and leaving the Republic of Serbia belong to the following countries: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania and North Macedonia.

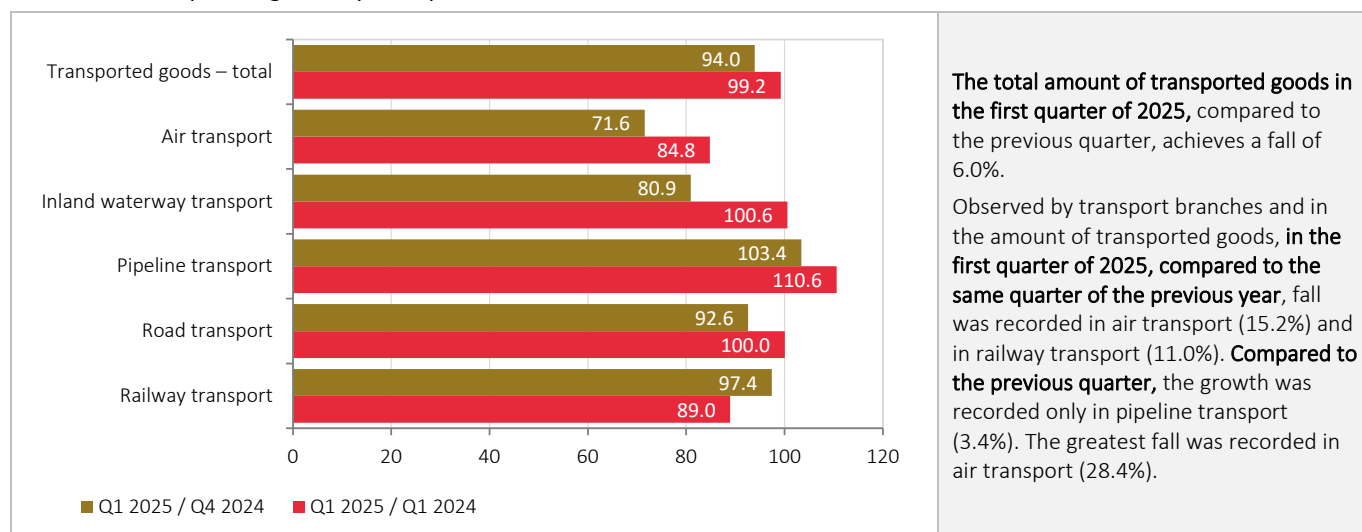
**Table 13.3.** The most frequent foreign registrations of passenger motor vehicles on entering the Republic of Serbia and exiting the Republic of Serbia in the first quarter 2025

Entry		Exit	
Foreign registration	number of passenger motor vehicles, thousand	Foreign registration	number of passenger motor vehicles, thousand
Germany	52.8	Germany	52.0
Austria	35.6	Hungary	46.1
Hungary	31.6	Austria	44.6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	31.6	Bosnia and Herzegovina	31.4
North Macedonia	30.4	Romania	27.8

## 13.2. FREIGHT TRENSPORT

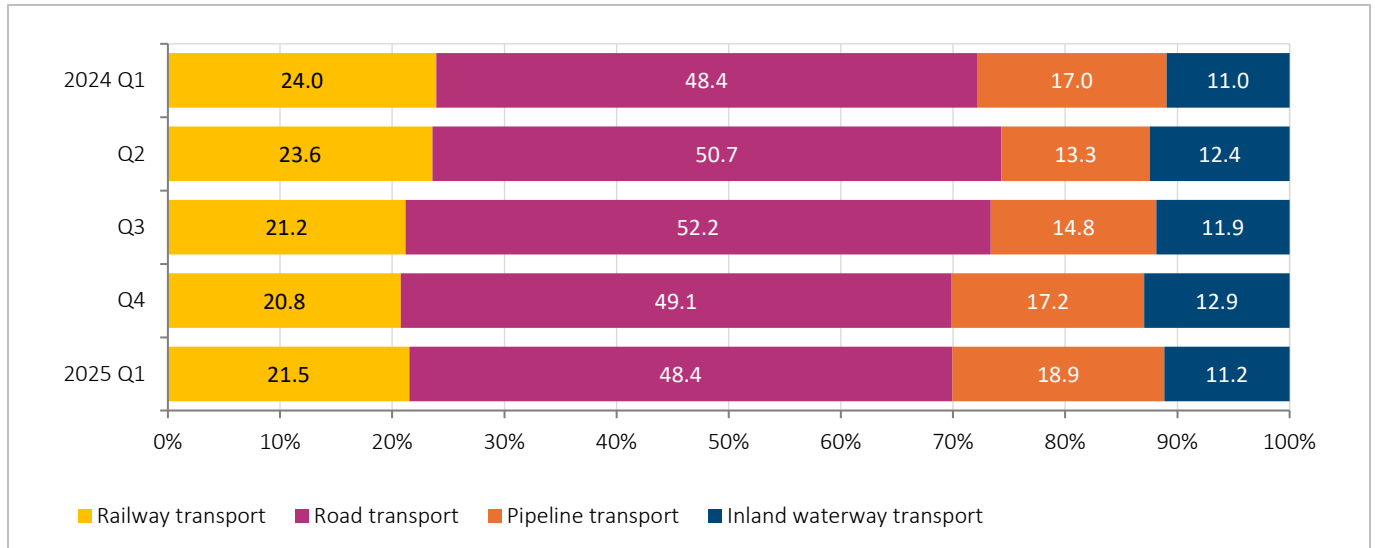
In the period January-March 2025, total quantity of transported goods is by 0.8% lower compared to the same period in 2024. In the same observed period, the greatest increase in the amount of transported goods was recorded in pipeline transport (10.6%).

**Chart 13.4** Transported goods by transport branches, indices



Total amount of transported goods in the first quarter of 2025, observed by the transport branches is distributed as follows: 48.4% of goods were transported by road, 21.5% by rail, 18.9% by pipeline transport, and 11.2% by inland waterway transport.

**Chart 13.5. Structure of the amount of transported goods by transport branches (%)**



Air transport data is omitted from the chart due to small values.

In the period January-March 2025, compared to the same period in 2024, there was a fall in the number of ton kilometres, by 3.1%.

In the first quarter of 2025, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, pipeline transport recorded the largest increase in the number of ton kilometres (16.6%), while the largest fall was recorded in air transport (16.6%).

On the other hand, in the first quarter of 2025, compared to the previous quarter, an increase of 0.2% was recorded in the number of ton kilometres. The smallest decrease was recorded in road transport (2.6%), and the smallest increase in pipeline transport (8.5%).

**Table 13.4. Ton kilometres, indices**

	<u>Q1 2025</u> Q1 2024	<u>Q1 2025</u> Q4 2024
<b>Ton kilometres – total</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>100.2</b>
Railway transport	85.8	94.1
Road transport	94.9	97.4
Pipeline transport	116.6	108.5
Inland waterway transport	113.8	120.3
Air transport	83.4	71.5

**Total amount of cargo handling** the first quarter of 2025 was reduced by 7.3% compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

**Table 13.5. Cargo handling (comparison with the same period of the previous year)**

	2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Handled tons	95.8	74.5	112.2	92.6	84.4	89.4	84.5	78.3	92.7

### 13.3. POST ACTIVITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

In the period January-March 2025, express shipments recorded a growth of 12.2% in relation to the same period in 2024.

In the first quarter of 2025, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, payment services, letter and package shipments recorded a decline of 4.7%, 7.8% and 21.4%, respectively.

Package shipment service has experienced exponential growth during the coronavirus pandemic (2020-2021), and since 2020 to mid-2024 it dominated postal activities. In the last three quarters, the package shipment service has seen a significant decline, while the express shipment service has taken over the lead in postal activities.

**Table 13.6.** Post activities, indices (comparison with the same period of the previous year)

	2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Letter shipments	74.4	91.4	92.6	106.9	87.9	103.8	96.0	80.6	92.2
Package shipments	190.2	156.4	195.5	119.5	120.7	155.4	81.7	72.0	78.6
Express shipments	98.9	96.0	102.0	105.3	104.2	106.4	117.6	119.5	112.2
Payment service	95.3	95.5	95.6	94.0	95.3	93.8	94.3	97.6	95.3

In the period January-March 2025, a 24.3% decrease was recorded in the number of short messages sent on the mobile network compared to the same period in 2024.

In the field of telecommunications, there is a downward trend in the number of minutes realized in the fixed telephone network. In the first quarter of 2025, compared to the same quarter of the previous year, a decrease of 17.6% was recorded. For the same observed period, an increase of 0.6% was recorded in the number of minutes of outgoing calls in the mobile network.

**Table 13.7.** Telecommunications, indices (comparison with the same period of the previous year)

	2023				2024				2025
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Fixed telephone network, minutes	78.1	87.3	88.1	92.0	80.0	75.2	75.6	72.6	82.4
Mobile telephone network – outgoing calls, minutes	97.1	100.4	101.0	100.0	101.7	99.2	98.3	101.9	100.6
Mobile telephone network – SMS	90.0	88.8	88.4	84.5	82.2	82.4	81.7	84.4	85.7

Dissemination and public relations group

Tel.: ++ 381 11 24-01-284

e-mail: [stat@stat.gov.rs](mailto:stat@stat.gov.rs)

Library

Tel.: ++ 381 11 24-12-922, extension 251

e-mail: [biblioteka@stat.gov.rs](mailto:biblioteka@stat.gov.rs)

Pages: 66

Issued quarterly

# TRENDS

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

CONSTRUCTION

DOMESTIC TRADE

PRICES

LABOUR MARKET

SALARIES AND WAGES

TOURISM

ECONOMIC SENTIMENT INDICATOR

REGIONAL ECONOMIC ASYMMETRIES

AGRICULTURE

BUSINESS SERVICES

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

# Q1



TRENDS 2025 - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter