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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **December 2019** |

**Record employment in Republika Srpska**

In Republika Srpska in September 2019, there were 275,418 employed persons in business entities and in entrepreneurial activity, which represents the record employment in the history of Republika Srpska. This is also the fifth consecutive semester in which a record employment was registered in Republika Srpska, beginning with September 2017.

In September 2019, compared to the same month of the previous year, there were 6,539 employed persons more, which represented an increase by 2.4%. Compared to March 2019, there were 6,105 employed persons more, which represented an increase by 2.3%.

Of the total number of employed persons, 232,550 persons are employed in business entities, while 42,868 employed persons are entrepreneurs and their employees. In September 2019, compared to September 2018, an increase in the number of employed persons was recorded in 16 of 19 sections

**Average after-tax wage in November 917 КМ**

**The highest average after-tax wage was that in the section *Financial and insurance activities* 1,414 КМ, while the lowest one was that in the section *Construction* 639 КМ**

Average monthly after-tax wage in Republika Srpska paid in November 2019 was917 КМ, while average monthly gross wage was 1,424 КМ.

Average after-tax wage paid in November 2019, compared to the same month of the previous year, was both nominally and really 4.3% higher, while compared to October 2019 it was nominally 0.8% higher and really 1.0% higher.

In November 2019, the highest average after-tax wage, by section of economic activities, was paid in the section *Financial and insurance activities*, and it amounted to 1,414 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average after-tax wage in November 2019 was the one paid in the section *Construction*, 639 KM.

In November 2019, compared to November 2018, the highest nominal increase in after-tax wages was recorded in the section *Administrative and support service activities* 13.3%, followed by the sections *Real estate activities* 11.3% and *Accommodation and food service activities* 10.4%.

A decrease in nominal after-tax wages was recorded only in the section *Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities*, by 0.5%.

км



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Graph 1. Average after-tax wages, by month

**Monthly inflation -0.2% in November 2019**

**Annual inflation (November 2019/November 2018) 0.0%**

Prices of products and services for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in November 2019, compared to the previous month, were on the average 0.2% lower, while at the annual level prices remained unchanged.

Of the 12 main divisions of products and services, an increase in prices was recorded in seven divisions; a decrease was recorded in four divisions, while prices in one division remained unchanged.

The highest increase in prices in November 2019 was recorded in the division *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*, namely by 5.7%, due to higher prices in the group tobacco by 7.6%. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division *Recreation and culture*, by 2.6%, due to higher prices in the group recreation and sports services by 5.8%. Higher prices were also recorded in the division *Housing* by 1.3%, due to an increase recorded in the group refuse collection services by 9.7%, and in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* by 1.0%, due to an increase in prices in the group fruit by 9.4%. An increase in prices by 0.9% at the annual level was recorded in the division *Health*. In the division *Restaurants and hotels* an increase by 0.7% was recorded and in the division *Communication* an increase by 0.5%.

In the division *Education* prices remained on the average at the same level.

The highest decrease in prices in November 2019 was recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear*, by 11.6%, due to seasonal discounts on ready-made clothing and footwear during the year. A decrease in prices was also recorded in the division *Transport*, by 1.9%, due to lower prices in the group motor vehicles by 4.9%. Lower prices at the annual level were also recorded in the divisions *Furnishings and household equipment* by 0.5% and *Other goods and services* by 0.4%.

Monthly inflation

Annual inflation

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Seasonally adjusted industrial production (Nov 2019/Oct 2019) increased by 3.2%**

**Working-day adjusted industrial production** **(Nov 2019/Nov 2018) decreased by 8.1%**

**Number of employees in industry (Nov 2019/Nov 2018) increased by 0.1%**

**Seasonally adjusted industrial production** in November 2019, compared to October 2019, increased by 3.2%. During the same period, in the *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* an increase by 19.1% was recorded, in the section *Mining and quarrying* an increase by 6.1% and in the section *Manufacturing* an increase by 0.1%.

**Working-day adjusted industrial production** in Republika Srpska in November 2019, compared to November 2018, decreased by 8.1%. During the same period, an increase by 7.0% was recorded in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply*, while in the section *Mining and quarrying* a decrease by 9.8% was recorded and in the section *Manufacturing* a decrease by 13.2%.

**Number of employees in industry** in November 2019, compared to the average monthly number of employees in 2018, was 0.4% higher. Compared to the same month of the previous year it was 0.1% higher, while compared to October 2019 the number of employees in industry remained unchanged.

Trend indices

Seasonally adjusted indices

Graph 3. Industrial production indices, November 2015 – November 2019 (∅2015=100)

**Coverage of import with export 76.0% in the period January-November 2019**

In November 2019, the value of export was 298 million KM and the value of import was 390 million KM. In the total external trade of Republika Srpska in November 2019, the percentage of coverage of import with export was 76.3%.

In the period January-November 2019, the value of export was three billion and 324 million KM, which represented a decrease by 3.8% compared to the same period of the previous year. During the same period, the value of import was four billion and 375 million KM, which represented a decrease by 9.5% compared to the same period of the previous year. The percentage of coverage of import with export in the period January-November of the current year was 76.0%, while in the same period of 2018 it was 71.5%.

In terms of the geographical distribution of external trade of Republika Srpska, in the period January – November 2019, the highest value of export was that of export to Italy, with 530 million KM or 16.0%, followed by Serbia, with 449 million KM or 13.5% of the total realised export. During the same period, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 812 million KM or 18.6%, followed by Italy, with 652 million KM or 14.9% of the total realised import.

By group of products, in the period January – November 2019, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 247 million KM, which was 7.4% of the total export, while the highest share in import was that of medicaments, with the total value of 169 million KM, which was 3.9% of the total import.

thous. КМ

export

import

2019

2018

Graph 4. Export and import by month

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| **SYMBOLS** |
| **∅** - average  ¹ - estimate |

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