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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **March 2019** |

**Average after-tax wage in February 896 КМ**

**The highest average after-tax wage in the section *Financial and insurance activities* 1,378 КМ; the lowest one in the section *Construction* 617 КМ**

Average monthly after-tax wage in Republika Srpska paid in February 2019 amounted to 896 KM, while average monthly gross wage was 1,391 KM.

Average after-tax wage paid in February 2019, compared to the same month of the previous year, was nominally 6.5% higher, while compared to January 2019 it was nominally 1.0% higher.

In February 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 1,378 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average after-tax wage in February 2019 was the one paid in the section *Construction* 617 KM.

In February 2019, compared to February 2019, the highest nominal increase in after-tax wages was recorded in the section *Administrative and support service activities* 22.0%, followed by the sections *Other service activities* 19.4% and *Real estate activities* 17.9%.

During the same period, a decrease in nominal wages was recorded only in the section *Agriculture, forestry and fishing* by 0.5%.

км



Graph 1. Average after-tax wages by month

**Monthly inflation 0.5% in February 2019**

**Annual inflation (February 2019/February 2018) 0.8%**

Prices of products and services used for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in February 2019, compared to the previous month, were on the average 0.5% higher, while they were on the average 0.8% higher compared to February 2018.

Of the 12 main divisions of products and services, an increase in prices was recorded in eight divisions, while a decrease was recorded in four divisions.

The highest increase in prices in February 2019, compared to February 2018, was recorded in the division *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (4.1%), in which the highest percentage refers to the group tobacco 6.4% and it occurred due to higher excise taxes on tobacco and tobacco products. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division *Health* (2.9%), due to higher prices of certain medicaments in the group pharmaceutical products by 4.7%. Higher prices were also recorded in the division *Housing* (2.8%), due to higher prices in the group electricity, gas and other energy commodities by 3.2%, and in the division *Transport* (2.5%), due to higher prices in the group purchase of motor vehicles-motorcycles by 17.6% and in the group fuels and lubricants by 5.2%. Higher prices at the annual level were also recorded in the division *Recreation and culture* (2.2%), due to higher prices in the group newspapers and magazines by 7.0% and in the group books by 4.2%, as well as in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (1.1%), due to higher prices in the groups vegetables by 20.9%, bread and cereals 2.6%, milk and dairy products 1.8%, meat 0.8% and fish 0.3%.

The highest decrease in prices was recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear* (0.3%), as a result of sales and seasonal discounts in both groups: clothing 11.2% and footwear 14.2%. A decrease in prices was also recorded in the division *Other goods and services* (1.7%), in which lower prices were recorded in the group other personal items 5.6% and in the group transport vehicles insurance 5.1%. Lower prices at the annual level were also recorded in the division *Education* (0.1%) and in the division *Communication* (0.1%).

Annual inflation

Monthly inflation

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Seasonally adjusted industrial production (Feb 2019/Jan 2019) increased by 2.1%**

**Working-day adjusted industrial production (Feb 2019/Feb 2018) decreased by 11.7%**

**Number of employees in industry (Jan-Feb 2019/Jan-Feb 2018) increased by 0.4%**

**Seasonally adjusted industrial production** in February 2019, compared to January 2019, increased by 2.1%. During the same period, in the section *Mining and quarrying* an increase by 20.0% was recorded and in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* an increase by 2.7%, while in the section *Manufacturing* a decrease by 0.9% was recorded.

**Working-day adjusted industrial production** in February 2019, compared to the same month of 2018, decreased by 11.7%. During the same period, in the section *Manufacturing* a decrease by 13.1% was recorded and in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* a decrease by 15.2%, while in the section *Mining and quarrying* an increase by 3.1% was recorded.

**Number of employees in industry** in February 2019, compared to the same month of the previous year, was 0.4% higher. Compared to January 2019 it was 0.3% higher, while compared to the average monthly number employed persons in 2018 it was 0.7% lower. Number of employees in industry in the period January – February 2019, compared to the same period of the previous year, was 0.4% higher. During the same period, in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* an increase by 9.7% was recorded, while in the section *Manufacturing* a decrease by 0.4% was recorded and in the section *Mining and quarrying* a decrease by 4.8%.

Trend indices

Seasonally adjusted indices

Graph 3. Indices of industrial production, February 2015 – February 2019 (∅2015=100)

**Coverage of import with export 83.7% in the period January – February 2019**

In February 2019, the value of export was 294 million KM and the value of import was 376 million KM.

In the total external trade of Republika Srpska in February 2019, the percentage of coverage of import with export was 78.2%. The percentage of coverage of import with export in the first two months of the current year was 83.7%.

In the period January-February 2019, the value of export was 564 million KM, which represented a decrease by 3.6% compared to the same period of the previous year. During the same period, the value of import was 673 million KM, which represented a decrease by 2.4% compared to the same period of the previous year.

In terms of the geographical distribution of external trade of Republika Srpska, in the period January – February 2019, the highest value of export was that of export to Italy, with 92 million KM or 16.3%, followed by Croatia, with 67 million KM or 11.8% of the total realised export. During the same period, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 121 million KM or 18.0%, followed by Italy, with 86 million KM or 12.8% of the total realised import.

By group of products, in the period January – February 2019, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 52 million KM, which was 9.1% of the total export, while the highest share in import was that of medicaments, with the total value of 29 million KM, which was 4.2% of the total import.

Thous. KM

export

import

2018

2019

Graph 4. Export and import by month

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

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