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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **April 2020** |

**Average after-tax wage in March 956 КМ**

**The highest average after-tax wage in the section *Financial and insurance activities* 1,456 КМ; the lowest one in the section *Construction* 664 КМ**

Average monthly after-tax wage in Republika Srpska paid in March 2020 amounted to 956 КМ, while average monthly gross wage was 1,485 КМ.

Average after-tax wage paid in March 2020, compared to the same month of the previous year, was nominally 7.9% higher and really 8.0% higher, while compared to February 2020 it was both nominally and really 0.1% lower.

In March 2020, the highest average after-tax wage, by section of economic activities, was paid in the section *Financial and insurance activities* and it amounted to 1,456 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average after-tax wage in March 2020 was the one paid in the section *Construction* 664 KM.

In March 2020, compared to March 2019, the highest nominal increase in after-tax wages was recorded in the section *Information* *and* *communication* 37.4%, followed by *Accommodation and food service activities* 19.5% and *Administrative and support service* *activities* 15.7%.

During the same period, a decrease in nominal wages was recorded only in the section *Professional, scientific and technical activities* 0.5%.

 KM



Graph 1. Average after-tax wages by month

**Monthly inflation 0.0% in March 2020**

**Annual inflation (March 2020/March 2019) -0.1%**

Prices of products and services used for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in March 2020, compared to the same month of the previous year, were on average 0.1% lower, while they remained unchanged compared to February 2020.

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 annual increase in prices in March 2020 was recorded in the division *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*, namely by 5.7%, due to higher prices recorded since the beginning of the year in the group tobacco by 7.0%. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division *Recreation and culture*, by 3.1%, due to higher prices in the groups travel arrangements by 8.5%. Higher prices were also recorded in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages*, by 0.9%, due to an increase in prices in the groups fruit by 9.8%, bread and cereals by 3.8% and meat by 3.2%. Higher prices in the division *Communication*, in which an increase by 0.8% occurred, were recorded in the group telecommunication services by 1.0%, while an increase in prices by 0.7% in the division *Health* occurred due to higher prices in the group other medical products by 2.1%. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division *Housing*, by 0.6%, due to higher prices in the group waste collection services by 6.6%, and in the division Restaurants and hotels, by 0.3%, due to higher prices in the group catering services by 0.7%.

In the division *Education* prices on average remained unchanged.

The highest decrease in prices at the annual level in March 2020 was recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear*, by 10.2%, 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 2.3%, due to lower prices in the group air transport of passengers by 16.2% and in the group fuels and lubricants by 4.1%. Lower prices in the division *Furnishings and household equipment,* in which a decrease in prices by 1.4% occurred, were recorded in the groups large tools and equipment, by 5.7%, while a decrease in prices by 0.5% in the division *Other goods and services* occurred due to lower prices in the group other personal items by 5.1%.

Note: Consumer price indices were processed based on the data on prices collected during the fieldwork before 16 March 2020, while for prices that could not have been collected due to the comprehensive measures adopted to prevent the spread of corona virus, imputations and estimates from the previous period were applied, in accordance with the methodology of consumer prices.

Annual inflation

Monthly inflation

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Coverage of import with export 75.6% in the period January - March 2020**

In March 2020, the value of export was 284 million KM, while the value of import was 389 million KM.

In the total external trade of Republika Srpska in March 2020, the percentage of coverage of import with export was 73.0%.

In the period January - March 2020, the value of export was 829 million KM, which represented a decrease by 5.5% compared to the same period of the previous year. During the same period, the value of import was one billion and 96 million KM, which represented a decrease by 2.0% 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 - March 2020, the highest value of export was that of export to Croatia, with 118 million KM or 14.2%, followed by Italy, with 107 million KM or 12.9% of the total realised export. During the same period, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 183 million KM or 16.7%, followed by Italy, with 152 million KM or 13.9% of the total realised import.

By group of products, in the period January - March 2020, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 79 million KM, which was 9.5% of the total export, while the highest share in import was that of medicaments, with the total value of 60 million KM, which was 5.5% of the total import.

thous. КМ

Import

Export

Graph 3. Export and import by month

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| **SYMBOLS** |
| **∅** - average¹ - estimate |

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