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| Prvi.jpg | | 22 September 2020, No **278/20** |
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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **September 2020** |

**Average after-tax wage in August 962 КМ**

**The highest average after-tax wage in the section *Financial and insurance activities* 1,467 КМ; the lowest one in the section *Construction*,668 КМ**

Average monthly after-tax wage in Republika Srpska paid in August 2020 amounted to 962 KM, while average monthly gross wage was 1,494 KM.

Average after-tax wage paid in August 2020, compared to the same month of the previous year, was nominally 5.7% higher and really 7.0% higher, while compared to July 2020 it was nominally 0.8% higher and really 1.0% higher.

In August 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 1,467 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average after-tax wage in August 2020 was the one paid in the section *Construction,* 668 KM.

In August 2020, compared to August 2019, a nominal increase in after-tax wages was recorded in all the sections of economic activity. The highest increase was recorded in the section *Administrative and support service activities* 13.0%, followed by *Arts, entertainment and recreation* 10.6% and *Education* 8.1%.

KM



Graph 1. Average after-tax wages by month

**Monthly inflation -0.2% in August 2020**

**Annual inflation (August 2020/August 2019) -1.2%**

Prices of products and services used for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in August 2020, compared to the same month of the previous year, were on average 1.2% lower, while compared to July 2020 they were on average 0.2% lower.

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

The highest annual increase in prices in August 2020 was recorded in the division *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*, namely by 3.8%, due to higher prices recorded in the group beer by 5.0% and in the group tobacco by 3.9%. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages*, by 1.3%, due to higher (seasonal) prices in the groups fruit by 17.4% and oils and fats by 6.8%. Higher prices were recorded in the division *Recreation and culture*, by 1.3%, due to higher prices in the groups major durables for indoor and outdoor recreation by 6.7% and recreation and sport services by 4.3%, as well as in the division *Health*, by 0.9%, due to higher prices in the group other medical products by 2.0%. In the division *Housing* an increase in prices by 0.6% occurred due to higher prices in the group solid fuels by 2.8%. An increase in prices by 0.5% was recorded in the divisions *Communication* and *Other goods and services*, while an increase by 0.2% was recorded in the division R*estaurants and hotels*.

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

The highest decrease in prices at the annual level in August 2020 was recorded in the division *Transport*, by 10.7%, due to lower prices in the group fuels and lubricants by 18.3%. A decrease in prices was also recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear*, by 9.8%, due to seasonal discounts on ready-made clothing and footwear during the year, as well as in the division *Furnishings and household equipment*, by 1.6%, due to lower prices in the groups carpets and other floor coverings by 5.6% and household textiles by 3.2%.

Annual inflation

Monthly inflation

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Seasonally adjusted industrial production (August 2020/July 2020) increased by 2.2%**

**Working-day adjusted industrial production (August 2020/August 2019) decreased by 10.4%**

**Seasonally adjusted industrial production** in August 2020, compared to July 2020, increased by 2.2%. During the same period, in the section *Mining and quarrying* an increase by 7.4% was recorded and in the section *Manufacturing* an increase by 6.3%, while in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* a decrease by 0.8% was recorded.

**Working-day adjusted industrial production** in Republika Srpska in August 2020, compared to August 2019, decreased by 10.4%. During the same period, in the *Manufacturing* a decrease by 7.2% was recorded, in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* a decrease by 7.7% and in the section *Mining and quarrying* a decrease by 19.1%.

Seasonally adjusted indices

Trend indices

Graph 3. Indices of industrial production, August 2016 – August 2020. (∅2015=100)

**Number of employees in industry (Jan-Aug 2020/Jan-Aug 2019) decreased by 0.9%**

**Number of employees in industry** in August 2020, compared to the average monthly number of employees in 2019, was 2.7% lower. Compared to July 2020 it was 0.3% lower and compared to the same month of the previous year it was 2.5% lower. Number of employees in industry in the period January-August 2020, compared to the same period of the previous year, was 0.9% lower. During the same period, in the section *Manufacturing* an increase by 0.6% was recorded, while in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* a decrease by 4.3% was recorded and in the section *Mining and quarrying* a decrease by 9.4%.

**Coverage of import with export 74.0% in the period January-August 2020**

In the period January - August 2020, the value of export was two billion and 127 million KM, which represented a decrease by 11.6% compared to the same period of the previous year. During the same period, the value of import was two billion and 874 million KM, which represented a decrease by 9.0% compared to the same period of the previous year. The percentage of coverage of import with export in the period January-August 2020 was 74.0%.

In terms of the geographical distribution of external trade of Republika Srpska, in the period January - August 2020, the highest value of export was that of export to Croatia, with 322 million KM or 15.1%, followed by Italy, with 290 million KM or 13.6% of the total realised export. During the same period, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 543 million KM or 18.9%, followed by Italy, with 408 million KM or 14.2% of the total realised import

By group of products, in the period January - August 2020, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 179 million KM, which was 8.4% of the total export, while the highest share in import was that of petroleum and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, with the total value of 134 million KM, which was 4.7% of the total import.

thous. КМ

Export

Import

2020

2019

Graph 4. Export and import by month

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| The Release prepared by the Division for Publications, Public Relations and Statistical Data Confidentiality |
| Prof. Dr. Jasmin Komić, Acting Director, Editor in Chief  Vladan Sibinović, Head of the Division  Republika Srpska, Banja Luka, Veljka Mlađenovića 12d  Published by the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics  The Release is published online, at: www.rzs.rs.ba  Telephone. +387 51 332 700; E-mail: [stat@rzs.rs.ba](file:///\\kordun\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Low\Content.IE5\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Low\Content.IE5\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Low\Content.IE5\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.IE5\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\HVIF4827\stat@rzs.rs.ba)  **Data may be used provided the source is acknowledged** |