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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **February 2017** |

**Average net wage in January 815 КМ**

**The highest average net wage was that in the section *Financial and insurance activities* 1,238 КМ, while the lowest one was that in the section *Administrative and support services* 527 КМ**

Average monthly net wage of employed persons in Republika Srpska paid in January 2017 was 815 KM, while average monthly gross wage was 1,304 KM.

Compared to January 2016, average net wage paid in January 2017 was really 0.6% lower and compared to December 2016 it was really 3.3% lower.

The decrease in net wages in January 2017, compared to December 2016, occurred mainly due to a large number of entities which had no payments in January, while their average wages are high and they employ a significant number of workers.

In January 2017, the highest average net wage, by section of activities, was paid in the section *Financial and insurance activities* and it amounted to 1,238 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average net wage in January 2017 was the one paid in the section *Administrative and support service activities* 527 KM*.*

In January 2017, compared to December 2016, a nominal increase in net wages was recorded in the sections *Other service activities* 17.6%, *Professional, scientific and technical activities* 13.8% and *Construction* 2.0%,

A decrease in nominal wages was recorded in the sections *Information and communication* 36.2%, *Education* 6.7% and *Real estate activities* 4.2%.

 км



Graph 1. Average net wages of employed persons by month

**Monthly inflation 0.9% in January 2017**

**Annual inflation (January 2017/ January 2016) 0.4%**

Prices of products and services for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in January 2017, compared to the previous month, were on the average 0.9% higher, while they were 0.4% higher at the annual level.

Of the main 12 divisions of products and services, an increase in prices was recorded in nine divisions, a decrease was recorded in two divisions, while prices in one division remained on the average at the same level.

The highest increase in prices in January was recorded in the division *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (3.6%), due to an averageincrease by 5.0% recorded in prices of cigarettes, as a result of the increase in excise duties on tobacco and tobacco products introduced on 1 January 2017. An increase in prices by 2.0% was recorded in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages*, due to higher prices in several groups, namely vegetables 13.2%, coffee 5.2%, fruit 2.6%, oils and fats 2.0%, fish 1.9% and other food products 1.7%. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division Transport, by 1.2%, due to higher purchase prices in the group fuels and lubricants by 2.3%.

In the division *Recreation and culture*, an increase by 1.0% was recorded as a result of a cable operator increasing its prices. In the division *Other goods and services*, higher prices were recorded in the group personal care products (1.8%), as the discount period finished. An increase by 0.3% was recorded in the division *Health care*, due to higher purchase prices in the group pharmaceutical products, while in the division *Education* an increase by 1.3% was recorded in the group preschool and primary education. Higher prices in January were also recorded in the division *Restaurants and hotels* (0.2%) and in the division *Housing* (0.1%).

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

The highest decrease in prices in January was recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear* (4.4%), due to numerous discounts, followed by the division *Furnishing and other equipment* (0.5%), as a result of sales and discounts in the group equipment.

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Coverage of import with export (in January 2017) 92.4%**

In the total external trade of Republika Srpska in January of the current year, the percentage of coverage of import with export was 92.4%.

In January 2017, the value of export was 227 million KM, which represented an increase by 23.3% compared to the same month of the previous year. During the same month, the value of import was 245 million KM, which represented an increase by 7.9% compared to the same month of the previous year.

In terms of the geographical distribution of external trade of Republika Srpska, in January 2017, the highest value of export was that of export to Croatia, with 36 million KM (*36.334 million KM*) or 16.0% (*16.04%*), followed by Italy, with 36 million KM (*36.139 million KM*) or 16.0% (*15.95%)* of the total realised export. During the same month, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 37 million KM or 15.2%, followed by Italy, with 33 million KM or 13.5% of the total realised import

By group of products, in January 2017, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 19 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 (crude), with the total value of 13 million KM, which was 5.4% of the total import

thous. КМ

2017

2016

Graph 3. Export and import by month

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

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