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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **March 2017** |

**Average net wage in February 848 КМ**

**The highest average net wage was that in the section *Financial and insurance activities* 1,286 КМ, while the lowest one was that in the section *Administrative and support services* 540 КМ**

Average monthly net wage of employed persons in Republika Srpska paid in February 2017 was848 КМ, while average monthly gross wage was 1,358 КМ.

Compared to February 2016, average net wage paid in February 2017 was really 0.3% higher and compared to January 2017 it was really 3.9% higher.

The increase in average net wage paid in February 2017, compared to January 2017, occurred mainly due to a large number of entities which had no payments in January, but did have them in February, while average wages of these entities are high and they employ a significant number of workers.

In February 2017, the highest average wage, by section of economic activities, was paid in the section *Financial and insurance activities* and it amounted to 1,286 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average net wage in February 2017 was the one paid in the section *Administrative and support service activities* 540 KM.

In February 2017, compared to January 2017, a nominal increase in net wages was recorded in the sections *Information and communication* 55.0%, *Education* 18.0% and *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* 4.8%.

A decrease in nominal wages was recorded in the sections *Real estate activities* 4.1%, *Construction* 2.6% and *Transportation and storage* 2.4%.

 км



Graph 1. Average net wages of employed persons by month

**Monthly inflation 0.1% in February 2017**

**Annual inflation (February 2017/February 2016) 0.8%**

Prices of products and services for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in February 2017, compared to the previous month, were on the average 0.1% higher, while they were 0.8% higher at the annual level.

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

The highest increase in prices in February was recorded in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (0.8%), due to higher (seasonal) prices in the group fruit by 7.3% and in the group vegetables by 5.3%, as well as a result of higher purchase prices in the groups other food products 0.8%, oils and fats 0.7% and non-alcoholic beverages 0.7%. An increase in the division *Transport* was recorded in the group transport services, by 1.7%, due to higher prices of public transport. In the division *Health* *care*, an increase in prices by 0.2% occurred due to higher purchase prices in the group pharmaceutical products.

In the divisions *Housing*, *Communication* and *Education* prices remained on the average at the same level.

The highest decrease in prices in February was recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear* (1.5%), due to further seasonal discounts, followed by the division *Other goods and services* (0.7%), namely in the group personal care products by 1.9%. In the division *Furnishing and other equipment* (0.5%), lower prices were recorded in the group household maintenance products by 1.3%. Lower prices in February were also recorded in the divisions *Recreation and culture* (0.4%), *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (0.2%) and *Restaurants and hotels* (0.1%).

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Working-day adjusted industrial production (February 2017/February 2016) increased by 3.9%**

**Number of employees in industry (February 2017/February 2016) increased by 3.4%**

**Working-day adjusted industrial production** in February 2017, compared to February 2016, increased by 3.9%. In the section *Mining and quarrying* an increase by 7.6% was recorded and in the sections *Manufacturing* and *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* an increase by 4.7% was recorded. By main industrial group, based on economic purpose of products, working day-adjusted production of capital goods in February 2017, compared to February 2016, was 12.5% higher, production of energy was 11.9% higher and production of intermediate goods was 1.2% higher, while production of consumer non-durables was 6.1% lower and production of consumer durables was 11.3% lower.

**Number of employees in industry** in February 2017, compared to the average montly number of employed persons in 2016, was 1.8% higher. Compared to the same month of the previous year it was 3.4% higher and compared to January 2017 it was 0.4% higher. Number of employees in industry in the period January – February 2017, compared to the same period of the previous year, was 3.5% higher. During the same period, in the section *Mining and quarrying* and in the section *Manufacturing* an increase by 3.7% was recorded and in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* an increase by 2.3%.

Graph 3. Indices of industrial production, February 2013 – February 2017 (∅2010=100)

**Coverage of import with export (in the period January - February 2017) 77.3%**

In February 2017, the value of export was 250 million KM and the value of import was 372 million KM.

In the total external trade of Republika Srpska in February of the current year, the percentage of coverage of import with export was 67.3%. The percentage of coverage of import with export for the period January – February 2017 was 77.3%.

In the period January – February 2017, the value of export was 477 million KM, which represented an increase by 20.6% compared to the same period of the previous year. During the same period, the value of import was 617 million KM, which represented an increase by 10.6% 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 2017, the highest value of export was that of export to Italy, with 79 million KM or 16.6%, followed by Croatia, with 71 million KM or 14.9% of the total realised export. During the same period, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 98 million KM or 15.8%, followed by Italy, with 75 million KM or 12.2% of the total realised import.

By group of products, in the period January – February 2017, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 38 million KM, which was 7.9% 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 67 million KM, which was 10.8% of the total import.

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2016

2017

Graph 4. Export and import by month

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

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