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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **April 2018** |

**Average net wage in March 840 КМ**

**The highest average net wage was that in the section *Financial and insurance activities* 1,363 КМ, while the lowest one was that in the section *Construction* 551 КМ**

Average monthly net wage of employed persons in Republika Srpska paid in March 2018 was840 КМ, while average monthly gross wage was 1,346 КМ.

Compared to March 2017, average net wage paid in March 2018 was nominally 1.4% higher.

In March 2018, the highest average net wage, by section of economic activities, was paid in the section *Financial and insurance activities* and it amounted to 1,363 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average net wage in March 2018 was the one paid in the section *Construction* 551 KM.

In March 2018, compared to February 2018, the highest nominal increase in net wages was recorded in the section *Information and communication* 12.3%, followed by the sections *Other service activities* 2.4% and *Administrative and support service activities* 2.3%.

The highest decrease in nominal wages was recorded in the section *Professional, scientific and technical activities* 2.9%, followed by the sections *Agriculture, forestry and fishing* 2.6% and *Accommodation and food service activities* 2.5%.

км



Graph 1. Average net wages of employed persons by month

**Monthly inflation 0.4% in March 2018**

**Annual inflation (March 2018/March 2017) 1.0%**

Prices of products and services for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in March 2018, compared to the previous month, were on the average 0.4% higher, while they were 1.0% higher at the annual level.

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

The highest increase in prices in March was recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear* (2.4%), due to higher seasonal prices of ready-made clothing by 2.7% and footwear by 2.0%. Higher prices were also recorded in the division *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (1.3%), due to higher prices of cigarettes produced by certain manufacturers, by 1.8% on the average. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (0.7%), due to higher prices in the groups fruit and vegetables by 3.0%, oils and fats by 1.1% and meat by 0.6%. In addition, higher prices in March were recorded in the division *Health care* (0.4%), due to higher purchase prices of certain medicaments in the group pharmaceutical products by 0.7%, as well as in the division *Transport* (0.2%), due to higher prices in the group transport services by 3.7%.

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

The highest decrease in prices in March was recorded in the division *Furnishing and other equipment* (0.5%), due to lower prices in the group products for regular maintenance of the house by 1.1%. A decrease in prices was also recorded in the division *Recreation and culture* and in the division *Other goods and services*, both by 0.2%.

Annual inflation

Monthly inflation

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Working-day adjusted industrial production (January-March 2018/January-March 2017) increased by 3.4%.**

**Number of employees in industry (January-March 2018/January-March 2017) increased by 3.1%**

**Working-day adjusted industrial production** in the period January-March 2018, compared to the period January-March 2017, increased by 3.4%. During the same period, in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* an increase by 22.1% was recorded, while in the section *Manufacturing* a decrease by 2.0% was recorded and in the section *Mining and quarrying* a decrease by 13.9%. By main industrial group, based on economic purpose of products, working day-adjusted production of durable consumer goods in the period January - March 2018, compared to the same period of 2017, was 17.7% higher and production of energy was 16.5% higher, while production of non-durable consumer goods was 1.9% lower, production of intermediate goods was 3.0% lower and production of capital goods was 28.9% lower. \

**Number of employees in industry** in March 2018, compared to the average monthly number of employed persons in 2017, was 1.4% higher. Compared to the same month of the previous year it was 2.9% higher and compared to February 2018 it was 0.6% higher. Number of employees in industry in the period January – March 2018, compared to the same period of the previous year, was 3.1% higher. During the same period, 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 2.2%, while in the section *Mining and quarrying* a decrease by 0.3% was recorded.

Trend indices

Seasonally adjusted indices

Graph 3. Industrial production indices, December 2013 – December 2017 (∅2010=100)

**Coverage of import with export (in the period January -March 2018) 74.8%**

In March 2018, the value of export was 299 million KM and the value of import was 498 million KM.

In the total external trade of Republika Srpska in March of the current year, the percentage of coverage of import with export was 60.0%. The percentage of coverage of import with export in the first three months of the current year was 74.8%.

In the period January – March 2018, the value of export was 886 million KM, which represented an increase by 13.7% compared to the same period of the previous year. During the same period, the value of import was one billion and 186 million KM, which represented an increase by 16.9% 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 2018, the highest value of export was that of export to Italy, with 128 million KM or 14.5%, followed by Croatia, with 113 million KM or 12.7% of the total realised export. During the same period, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 190 million KM or 13.8%, followed by Russia, with 163 million KM or 13.8% of the total realised import.

By group of products, in the period January – March 2018, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 76 million KM, which was 8.6% 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 146 million KM, which was 12.3% of the total import.

thous. КМ

export

import

2017

2018

Graph 4. Export and import by month

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

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