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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **February 2018** |

**Average net wage in January 825 КМ**

**The highest average net wage was that in the section *Financial and insurance activities* 1,302 КМ, while the lowest one was that in the section *Accommodation and food service activities* 557 КМ**

Average monthly net wage of employed persons in Republika Srpska paid in January 2018 was 825 KM, while average monthly gross wage was 1,321 KM.

Compared to January 2017, average net wage paid in January 2018 was nominally 1.3% higher, while it was nominally 1.2% lower compared to December 2017.

The decrease in net wages in January 2018, compared to December 2017, 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 2018, the highest average net wage, by section of activities, was paid in the section *Financial and insurance activities* and it amounted to 1,302 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average net wage in January 2018 was the one paid in the section *Accommodation and food service activities* 557 KM.

In January 2018, compared to December 2017, a nominal increase in net wages was recorded in the sections *Professional, scientific and technical activities* 4.3%, *Education* 2.7% and *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* 2.7%.

The highest decrease in nominal wages was recorded in the sections *Information and communication* 28.5%, followed by *Other service activities* 8.1% and *Accommodation and food service activities* 5.1%.

км



Graph 1. Average net wages of employed persons by month

**Monthly inflation 0.2% in January 2018**

**Annual inflation (January 2018/January 2017) -0.3%**

Prices of products and services for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in January 2018, compared to the previous month, were on the average 0.2% higher, while they were 0.3% lower at the annual level.

Of the main 12 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 January was recorded in the division *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (3.8%), due to an increase in prices of cigarettes, by 5.3% on the average, as a direct consequence of new excise taxes on tobacco and tobacco products for 2018. Higher prices in January were also recorded in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (0.8%), due to higher seasonal prices in the groups fruit 5.4%, vegetables 4.2%, oils and fats 1.2% and fresh fish 0.4%, and in the division *Transport* by 0.3%, as a result of corrections of purchase prices of fuels and lubricants by 0.4%. In the divisions *Furnishing and other equipment* and *Housing*, an increase in prices by 0.2% was recorded.

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

The highest decrease in prices in January was recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear* (6.9%), due to numerous seasonal discounts in January, followed by the division *Recreation and culture* (0.3%), where the decrease was recorded as a result of lower prices in the group package deals by 3.3% and discounts in the group other recreation products and equipment by 0.6%. Lower prices were also recorded in the division *Other goods and services* (0.1%).

Annual inflation

Monthly inflation

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Coverage of import with export 100.7% in January 2018**

In January 2018, the value of export was 291 million KM, which represented an increase by 27.9% compared to the same month of the previous year. During the same month, the value of import was 289 million KM, which represented an increase by 17.3% compared to the same month of the previous year.

In the total external trade of Republika Srpska in January of the current year, the percentage of coverage of import with export was 100.7%.

In terms of the geographical distribution of external trade of Republika Srpska, in January 2018, the highest value of export was that of export to Croatia, with 44 million KM or 15.0%, followed by Italy, with 39 million KM or 13.6% of the total realised export. During the same month, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 49 million KM or 16.9%, followed by Italy, with 35 million KM or 12.1% of the total realised import.

By group of products, in January 2018, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 34 million KM, which was 11.7% of the total export, while the highest share in import was that of medicaments, with the total value of 13 million KM, which was 4.4% of the total import.

thous. КМ

export

import

2017

2018

Graph 3. Export and import by month

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

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