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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **March 2018** |

**Average net wage in February 841 КМ**

**The highest average net wage was that in the section *Financial and insurance activities* 1,354 КМ, while the lowest one was that in the section *Administrative and support services* 556 КМ**

Average monthly net wage of employed persons in Republika Srpska paid in February 2018 was841 КМ, while average monthly gross wage was 1,349 КМ.

Compared to January 2018, average net wage paid in February 2018 was nominally 1.9% higher, while compared to February 2017 it was nominally 0.7% lower.

In February 2018, the highest average net wage, by section of economic activities, was paid in the section *Financial and insurance activities* and it amounted to 1,354 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average net wage in February 2018 was the one paid in the section *Administrative and support service activities* 556 KM.

In February 2018, compared to January 2018, the highest nominal increase in net wages was recorded in the section *Information and communication* 44.6%, followed by *Financial and insurance activities* 4.0% and *Mining and quarrying* 3.1%.

A decrease in nominal wages was recorded in the sections *Other service activities* 2.9%, *Education* 1.3% and *Manufacturing* 1.2%.

км



Graph 1. Average net wages of employed persons by month

**Monthly inflation 1.2% in February 2018**

**Annual inflation (February 2018/February 2017) 0.8%**

Prices of products and services for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in February 2018, compared to the previous month, were on the average 1.2% 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 five divisions, a decrease was recorded in four 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 *Transport* (6.0%), due to an increase in fuel prices based on new regulations on excise duties on petroleum products by the Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (1.1%), due to higher prices in the group fruit by 6.5%, in the group vegetables by 5.4% and in the groups fresh fish, bread and cereals, and non-alcoholic beverages by 0.4%. In the division *Housing*, an increase in prices was recorded in the group electricity, gas and other energy commodities by 1.0%, due to higher prices of liquid fuels by 16.7% and gas by 9.1%. Higher prices in February were also recorded in the division *Health care* (0.2%), due to higher prices in the group pharmaceutical products by 0.3%, and in the division *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (0.1%), due to higher prices in the group alcoholic beverages by 0.3%.

In the divisions *Education*, *Restaurants and hotels*, and *Other goods and services* prices remained on the average at the same level.

The highest decrease in prices in February was recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear* (1.4%), due to sales of ready-made clothing and seasonal discounts on footwear, followed by the division *Furnishing and other equipment* (0.2%), due to lower prices in the groups household textiles and household maintenance products by 0.7%. Lower prices were also recorded in the division *Recreation and culture* by 0.2% and in the division *Communication* by 0.1%.

Annual inflation

Monthly inflation

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Coverage of import with export (in the period January - February 2018) 85.4%**

In February 2018, the value of export was 297 million KM and the value of import was 399 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 74.3%. The percentage of coverage of import with export for the first two months of the current year was 85.4%.

In the period January-February 2018, the value of export was 588 million КМ, which represented an increase by 22.9% compared to the same period of the previous year. During the same period, the value of import was 688 million КМ, which represented an increase by 11.0% 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 2018, the highest value of export was that of export to Italy, with 83 million КМ or 14.1%, followed by Croatia, with  
79 million КМ or 13.5% of the total realised export. During the same period, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 112 million КМ or16.3%, followed by Italy, with 80 million КМ or 11.6% of the total realised import.

By group of products, in the period January – February 2018, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 56 million КМ, which was 9.5% 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 45 million КМ, which was 6.5% 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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