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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **April 2021** |

**Average after-tax wage in April 978 КМ**

**The highest average after-tax wage in the section *Financial and insurance activities*, 1,505 КМ; the lowest one in the section *Construction*,699 КМ**

Average monthly after-tax wage in Republika Srpska paid in March 2021 amounted to 978 KM, while average monthly gross wage amounted to 1,518 КМ.

Average after-tax wage paid in March 2021, compared to the same month of the previous year, was nominally 2.3% higher and really 3.1% higher, while compared to February 2021 it was nominally 0.6% lower and really 1.3% lower.

In March 2021, the highest average after-tax wage, by section of economic activities, was paid in the section *Financial and insurance activities* and it amounted to 1,505 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average after-tax wage in March 2021 was the one paid in the section *Construction*, 699 KM.

In March 2021, compared to March 2020, the highest nominal increase in after-tax wages was recorded in the section *Arts, entertainment and recreation* 16.3%, followed by *Professional, scientific and technical activities* 6.5% and *Construction* 5.3%.

During the same period, a nominal decrease in after-tax wages was recorded in the sections *Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles* 1.1%, *Transportation and storage* 0.5% and *Accommodation and food service activities* 0.1%.

 KM



Graph 1. Average after-tax wages by month

**Monthly inflation 0.7% in March 2021**

**Annual inflation (March 2021/March 2020) -0.8%**

Prices of products and services used for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in March 2021, compared to the same month of the previous year, were on average 0.7% lower, while compared to February 2021 they were on average 0.7% higher.

Of the 12 main divisions of products and services, an increase in prices at the annual level was recorded in six divisions, a decrease was recorded in four divisions, while prices in two divisions remained unchanged.

The highest annual increase in prices in March 2021 was recorded in the division *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*, namely by 1.4%, due to higher prices recorded in the group tobacco by 2.1%. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages,* by 0.6%, due to higher prices in the group oils and fats by 14.9%. Higher prices were recorded in the division *Housing,* by 0.5%, due to an increase in prices recorded in the group solid fuels by 2.6%. An increase in prices by 0.5% recorded in the group *Other goods and services* occurred due to higher prices in the groups watches and jewellery by 0.4% and in the group hairdressing salon services by 2.5%, while an increase by 0.5% in the division *Health* occurred due to higher prices in the group outpatient services by 2.5%. In the division *Restaurants and hotels,* an increase in prices by 0.1% occurred due to an increase in prices in the group restaurant and café services by 0.3%.

In the division *Recreation and culture* and *Education* prices remained on average at the same level.

The highest decrease in prices at the annual level in March 2021 was recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear,* by 13.3%, due to seasonal discounts on ready-made clothing and footwear during the year. A decrease in prices was also recorded in the division *Transport,* by 4.4%, due to lower prices in the group fuels and lubricants by 8.2%, as well as in the division *Furnishings and household equipment,* by 0.9%, due to lower prices in the group carpets and other floor coverings by 4.4%. A decrease in prices by 0.1% recorded in the division *Communication* occurred due to lower prices in the group telephone and telefax equipment by 2.2%.

Annual inflation

Monthly inflation

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Number of employees in industry (Jan-Mar 2021/ Jan-Mar 2020) decreased by 3.2%**

**Number of employees in industry** in March 2021, compared to February 2021, was 0.2% higher, compared to the average monthly number of employees in 2020 it was 1.8% lower, and compared to the same month of the previous year it was 3.4% lower.

Number of employees in industry in the period January-February 2021, compared to the same period of the previous year, was 3.2% lower. During the same period, in the section *Mining and quarrying* a decrease by 0,8% was recorded, in the section *Manufacturing* a decrease by 2.1% and in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* a decrease by 11.1%.

**Export (Jan-Mar 2021/Jan-Mar 2020) increased by 15.2%, import increased by 3.9%**

**Record value for monthly exports**

In the period January-March 2021, the value of export was 954 million KM, which represented an increase by 15.2% compared to the period January-March 2020, while the value of import was one billion and 139 million KM, which represented an increase by 3.9% compared to the period January-March 2020. The percentage of coverage of import with export was 83.8%.

It should be noted that the value of export of Republika Srpska in March 2021, in the amount of 374 million KM, was the highest value ever recorded if observing export by month.

In terms of the geographical distribution of external trade of Republika Srpska, in the period January – March 2021, the highest value of export was that of export to Croatia, with 148 million KM or 15.5%, followed by Italy, with 138 million KM or 14.4% of the total realised export. During the same period, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 195 million KM or 17.1%, followed by Italy, with 169 million KM or 14.9% of the total realised import.

By group of products, in the period January – March 2021, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 86 million KM, which was 9.0% of the total export, while the highest share in import was that of medicaments, with the total value of 48 million KM, which was 4.2% of the total import.

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Export

Import

2021

2020

Graph 3. Export and import by month

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