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| PRESS RELEASE |
| **March 2021** |

**Average after-tax wage in February 984 КМ**

**The highest average after-tax wage in the section *Financial and insurance activities* 1,448 КМ; the lowest one in the section *Construction*,702 КМ**

Average monthly after-tax wage in Republika Srpska paid in February 2021 amounted to 984 KM, while average monthly gross wage amounted to 1,528 KM.

Average after-tax wage paid in February 2021, compared to the same month of the previous year, was nominally 2.8% higher and really 4.5% higher, while compared to January 2021 it was nominally 2.3% higher and really 1.9% higher.

In February 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 1,448 KM. On the other hand, the lowest average after-tax wage in February 2021 was the one paid in the section *Construction*, 702 KM.

In February 2021, compared to February 2020, the highest nominal increase in after-tax wages was recorded in the section *Professional, scientific and technical activities* 13.5%, followed by *Arts, entertainment and recreation* 11.7% and *Mining and quarrying* 10.4%.

During the same period, a nominal decrease in after-tax wages was recorded in the sections *Accommodation and food service activities* 7.0% and *Agriculture, forestry and fishing* 1.0%.

KM



Graph 1. Average after-tax wages by month

**Monthly inflation 0.4% in February 2021**

**Annual inflation (February 2021/February 2020) -1.6%**

Prices of products and services used for personal consumption in Republika Srpska, measured with the consumer price index, in February 2021, compared to the same month of the previous year, were on average 1.6% lower, while compared to January 2021 they were on average 0.4% higher.

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

The highest increase in prices in February 2021 was recorded in the division *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco,* namely by 1.8%, due to higher prices recorded in the group wine by 3.6%. An increase in prices was also recorded in the division *Health*, by 0.5%, due to higher prices in the group outpatient services by 2.5% and in the group other medical products by 2.1%. Higher prices were recorded in the division *Housing,* by 0.4%, due to an increase in prices in the group solid fuels by 2.6%, as well as in the division *Restaurants and hotels*, by 0.1%, 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 February 2021 was recorded in the division *Clothing and footwear,* by 12.3%, 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 7.9%, due to lower prices in the group fuels and lubricants by 14.1%, as well as in the division *Other goods and services*, by 0.5%, due to lower prices in the groups other personal items by 4.4% and personal care products by 2.1%. A decrease in prices by 0.4% recorded in the division *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* occurred due to lower seasonal prices in the group vegetables, namely by 8.1%. Lower prices were also recorded in the division *Furnishings and household equipment*, by 0.3%, due to a decrease in prices recorded in the group household textiles by 3.1%, while a decrease by 0.1% was recorded in the division Communication, due to lower prices in the group telephone and telefax equipment, by 2.0%.

Annual inflation

Monthly inflation

Graph 2. Monthly and annual inflation

**Number of employees in industry (Jan-Feb 2021/ Jan-Feb 2020) decreased by 3.1%**

**Number of employees in industry** in February 2021, compared to January 2021, was 0.4% lower, compared to the average monthly number of employees in 2020 it was 2.0% lower, and compared to the same month of the previous year it was 3.3% lower.

Number of employees in industry in the period January-February 2021, compared to the same period of the previous year, was 3.1% lower. During the same period, in the section *Mining and quarrying* a decrease by 0.7% was recorded, in the section *Manufacturing* a decrease by 1.9% and in the section *Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply* a decrease by 11.3%.

**Export (Jan-Feb 2021/Jan-Feb 2020) increased by 6.6%, import decreased by 5.5%**

**Coverage of import with export 86.9%**

In the period January-February 2021, the value of export was 580 million KM, which represented an increase by 6.6% compared to the period January-February 2020, while the value of import was 668 million KM, which represented a decrease by 5.5% compared to the period January-February 2020. The coverage of import with export was 86.9%.

In terms of the geographical distribution of external trade of Republika Srpska, in the period January – February 2021, the highest value of export was that of export to Croatia, with 95 million KM or 16.3%, followed by Italy, with 81 million KM or 14.0% of the total realised export. During the same period, the highest value of import was that of import form Serbia, with 111 million KM or 16.6%, followed by Italy, with 98 million KM or 14.6% of the total realised import.

By group of products, in the period January – February 2021, the highest share in export was that of electricity, with the total value of 56 million KM, which was 9.7% of the total export, while the highest share in import was that of medicaments, with the total value of 31 million KM, which was 4.6% of the total import.

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Export

Import

2021

2020

Graph 3. Export and import by month

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