

SEE Jobs Gateway Database - Metadata

The database provide data on key economic indicators as well as labor market indicators, according to the labor force survey (LFS) methodology and data on earnings and unit labor costs for the six Western Balkan countries (**Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo**) and for four EU peer countries (**Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia and Hungary**).

Disclaimer

All data presented in the database have been collected directly from national statistical offices of the six Western Balkan countries and Eurostat, with the objective of harmonizing data as much as possible across countries. The data have been collected in the framework of the SEE Jobs Gateway and, as such, are not official World Bank estimates.

SEE Jobs Gateway Database

All time series presented in the Statistical Annex are available in the SEE Jobs Gateway Database at <https://data.wiiw.ac.at/seejobsgateway.html>.

This database covers a unique and detailed set of labor market indicators based on LFS data for the Western Balkan countries. The dataset is harmonized across indicators, age groups and educational attainment. Overall, the database covers four parts: (i) Key economic indicators, (ii) Labor market indicators, (iii) Labor market data on a sub-national level and (iv) Data on earnings and unit labor costs.

The database contains both raw and derived statistics. The underlying basic employment data (in thousand persons) are provided by the statistical offices on an annual and quarterly basis (raw data, 3 decimal places). All corresponding rates and shares on an annual and quarterly basis have been calculated based on these raw data. Flags in the database are used to alert and symbolize if the data are less accurate or inaccurate and should allow for a careful interpretation of the data.

Major breaks in series:

The LFS in the Western Balkans have steadily improved and are being harmonized with EU and ILO definitions, implying that breaks in the time series are unavoidable. Most of the breaks in the series occur for any of the following reasons: change in survey design, change in survey questionnaire, change in survey frequency, revisions of the data series based on updated population census results for 2011, and reclassification of educational attainment. Specifically, the following changes affect the comparability over time and across countries for the data series:

- *Introduction of a continuous quarterly survey producing quarterly results:* Albania from 2012 (before, the survey was carried out once a year – 2010: Sept-Oct, 2011: July-Sept), Serbia from 2015 (in 2010-2013 the survey was carried out twice a year in April and October, in 2014 a quarterly survey with a fixed reference week was introduced).

Amendment: In Bosnia and Herzegovina the survey is still carried out once a year in April. In Kosovo the survey is already based on a continuous quarterly survey; so far the data are only available on an annual basis between 2012 and 2015 and starting from 2016 on a quarterly basis.

- *Updated population census results 2011:* Albania and Montenegro from 2011 (data for 2010 are not fully comparable), Serbia from 2013 (low impact on growth rates in comparison to the previous year). Amendment: In Bosnia and Herzegovina the 2013 census is not yet applied; in North Macedonia the 2002 census is applied.
- *Educational attainment:* Indicators showing the educational attainment are based on the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 1997 or ISCED 2011). In the following tables as well as in the SEE Jobs Gateway Database the definition of low-educated (level 0-2), medium-educated (level 3-4) and high-educated (level 5-8) refers to ISCED 2011. Any deviations are described in the metadata.

Regarding average monthly gross wages, breaks may occur when the survey behind has changed or the data are taken from a new or different survey. This is the case in Albania (data from General Directorate of Taxation from 2014, Structural Business Statistics data before), in Croatia (from 2016 data are based on tax records; prior to that data are based on a monthly survey covering 70 percent of persons in employment) and in Serbia (from 2018 tax administration data, before wage survey data supplemented by tax administration data). The SEE Jobs Gateway database provides comparable growth rates. The comparability between annual and quarterly data may also be impaired by the survey coverage (this is the case for Albania).

In the SEE Jobs Gateway Database, all methodological breaks in time series and definitions are defined in the metadata.

Western Balkans-6 aggregate:

This country grouping is the sum of the six countries only when data for all these countries are available. Time series therefore start from 2012 (because data for Kosovo are not available prior to this).

Conventional signs:

- Data not available
- () less accurate estimate
- (()) inaccurate estimate

Sources and definitions

Macro-economic indicators:

Sources: SEE Jobs Gateway Database, based on data provided by national statistical offices and Eurostat. The unit labor costs are calculations done by wiiw.

Definitions:

GDP real: Gross domestic product at 2010 reference prices, real growth in %.

Labor productivity: GDP at 2010 reference prices per person employed (LFS), growth in %.

Inflation: Consumer prices index (harmonized CPI for EU peer countries), growth in %.

Labor market indicators

Sources: Data for the Western Balkans are provided by the statistical offices of the respective country, data for the EU peer countries are taken from Eurostat (partly supplemented by data from national statistical offices).

Definitions:

Indicators like **population, employment, unemployment** etc. are presented in 1,000 persons and refer to averages.

Working-age population: For the Western Balkans population 15+ (ILO), for the EU peer countries population aged 15-74.

Labor force: employed and unemployed persons.

Employment rate: employed persons in % of working-age population of the respective gender, age and education group.

Share of self-employed: self-employed in % of total employment of the respective gender, age and education group.

Share of part-time employment: part-time employed in % of total employment of the respective gender, age and education group.

Share of temporary employment: temporary employees in % of total employees of the respective gender, age and education group.

Activity rate: labor force in % of working-age population of the respective gender, age and education group.

Unemployment rate: unemployed persons in % of labor force of the respective gender, age and education group.

NEET rate: Young people neither in employment nor education and training (NEET) in % of young population of the respective gender and age group.

Long-term unemployment: persons unemployed for 12 months or more.

Long-term unemployment rate: long-term unemployed in % of labor force.

Share of long-term unemployment: long-term unemployed in % of total unemployed.

Data on earnings and unit labor costs

Sources: Data on average monthly gross wages and monthly gross minimum wages are provided by the statistical offices of the respective country. Unit labor costs are own calculations from existing time series.

Definitions:

Average monthly gross wages: wages per employee per month on a gross basis (before deduction of income tax and social security contributions). Gross wages comprise the basic wage and all kinds of additional payments (bonuses, over-time hours, night work, payments for statutory contractual or voluntarily granted leave etc.).

Data are taken from administrative sources except for Austria where they refer to the National Accounts concept (gross wages per employee, domestic concept, divided by 12 months).

Wages are presented in national currency, in euro (converted with the average exchange rate) and in Purchasing Power Parities – PPPs (using PPPs in EUR for total GDP).

Monthly gross minimum wages: data refer to national minimum wages as of January 1 of the respective year. The metadata indicate since when these minimum wages are in effect.

The basic national minimum wage is fixed at an hourly, weekly or monthly rate in net or gross terms; this minimum wage is enforced by law (the government), often after consultation with the social partners, or directly by national intersectoral agreement. Minimum wages are gross amounts, that is, before deduction of income tax and social security contributions.

In the database monthly gross minimum wages are reported.

Minimum wages are provided in national currency, they are then converted into euro by applying the exchange rate of the end of the previous month. To remove the effect of differences in price levels between the countries, the minimum wages are converted with Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) for household final consumption expenditure in each country.

Unit labor costs (ULC): average annual gross wages per employee relative to labor productivity (real GDP per employed person, LFS).

Unit labor costs (ULC) exchange rate adjusted: average annual gross wages per employee in EUR relative to labor productivity (real GDP per employed person, LFS).