29 January 2021

Unemployment rate increased to 3.2% in December

Rates of Employment, Unemployment, and Economic Activity
December 2020

The **employment rate** of the aged 15–64 years (the share of the employed persons in the age group 15–64 years, as percentage), seasonally adjusted, reached 73.9% in December 2020 and decreased by 1.4 percentage point (p.p.) compared to that in December 2019. The male employment rate was 80.8%; the female employment rate was 66.7%, both seasonally adjusted. The employment rate of persons aged 15–29 years, seasonally adjusted, was 43.3%, in the age group 30–49 years it attained 86.5%, and in the age group 50–64 years it got to 77.3%.

The **general unemployment rate** of the aged 15–64 years (the share of the unemployed in the labour force, that is in the total number of the employed and the unemployed (that means economically active persons), as percentage), seasonally adjusted, reached 3.2% in December 2020 and increased by 1.2 p.p., year-on-year. The male unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, attained 2.8%; the female unemployment rate reached 3.7%.

*“The current trend is that the number of the unemployed is increasing; it increased by 58%, year-on-year. About half of persons who lost their job state that the coronavirus situation had an influence on termination of their employment. The total employment rate was 73.9%; a decrease occurred in persons aged up to 49 years. The male employment rate is still high, it amounts to 80.8%,”* Dalibor Holý, Director of Labour Market and Equal Opportunities Statistics Department of the Czech Statistical Office, points out.

The **economic activity** **rate** of the aged 15–64 years (the share of the number of the economically active in the total number of persons of this age group, as percentage), seasonally adjusted, reached 76.3% and declined by 0.5 p.p. compared to that in December 2019. Following the seasonal adjustment, the male economic activity rate (83.2%) exceeded the female economic activity rate by 13.9 p.p.

Eurostat, in its press release, publishes the monthly unemployment rate, identical in terms of the methodology applied, but for the age group 15–74 years. In the Czech Republic, the general unemployment rate for the aged 15–74 years in December 2020 was 3.1%, while the data are based on the Labour Force Sample Survey results for the corresponding month.

Tables 1 and 2 enclosed contain methodologically consistent time series of basic indicators of the labour market, and seasonally adjusted absolute numbers of the employed persons and of the unemployed ones, respectively, starting in 1993. Table 3 has been added, with average numbers of hours actually worked, broken down by employees and the self-employed. This special table is not seasonally adjusted – the data can be compared only year-on-year (having in mind different numbers of working days).

*Notes:*

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*Data source: CZSO, Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS), which is conducted in selected private households; collective accommodation establishments are not included in the survey. The LFSS results have been grossed up to the total population of the Czech Republic using data of the population statistics as at 1 January 2020 and the prediction of the population development in the following twelve months.*

*Time series are updated in the course of seasonal adjustment as the whole series except for Table 3.*

*End of data collection /*

*End of preliminary data processing: 18 January 2021 / 25 January 2021*

*Next News Release shall be published on: 4 March 2021*

Annexes:

Table 1 Rates of employment, unemployment, and of economic activity (seasonally adjusted)

Table 2 Absolute numbers of the employed and unemployed persons (both seasonally adjusted)

Table 3 Weekly hours actually worked in the main job