

5.14 Regional variation in the registered unemployment rate

In 2013 the number of unemployed increased again across all regions. Unemployment did not decline in any region in 2013. The number of unemployed increased the least in the Pomurska region (by 0.6%) and the most in the Notranjsko-kraška region (by 17.3%), which otherwise still has a below-average registered unemployment rate. The largest increases in unemployment compared with the previous year and the year before the crisis were in the regions of Zahodna Slovenija. Osrednjeslovenska, the most heavily populated region and where unemployment has been rising since 2008, accounted for more than 23% of total unemployment in 2013.

The registered unemployment rate¹ also rose in all regions in 2013, most notably in the regions of Zahodna Slovenija. All regions with above-average registered unemployment rates are in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija, where only the Notranjsko-kraška region has a below-average rate, although unemployment is rapidly growing in that region too. The highest registered unemployment rate in 2013 was recorded in the Pomurska region (17.8%), but in recent years it has not been rising as fast as in other regions. After declining in 2011 and 2012, the registered unemployment rate in Pomurska rose the least among all regions in 2013, by 0.5 percentage points. The largest increases were recorded in the Zasavska region and the Notransko-kraška region (by 1.9 percentage points). All regions of Zahodna Slovenija had below-average registered unemployment rates in 2013; once again, Gorenjska had the lowest rate (9.8%), but in the other three regions registered unemployment is growing at an above-average pace.

Regional disparities in registered unemployment rates declined further in 2013. The absolute dispersion of registered unemployment rates,²

¹ The registered unemployment rate is the ratio of unemployed people to the active population multiplied by 100 and is therefore not dependent only on the movement of the number of unemployed.

$$AD_{Rt} = \sum_r \left(\frac{A_{rt}}{A_{Rt}} \right) |SB_{rt} - SB_{Rt}|$$

where $t = \text{year}$,

$A_r = \text{the active population of the region}$,

$A_R = \text{the active population of Slovenia}$,

$SB_r = \text{the registered unemployment rate of the region}$,

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which is used to measure regional disparities in unemployment, was 1.8 in 2013 (down 0.2 on 2012). Except in 2009 and 2010, regional disparities have been gradually narrowing since 2003; since the beginning of the crisis this has been mostly the result of slightly faster growth in registered unemployment in regions with below-average rates. The ratio between the two regions with the highest and lowest rates has also been falling: Pomurska has a registered unemployment rate 1.8 times higher than Gorenjska. The ratio has declined slightly compared with 2012 (1.9:1 in 2012); it has been falling steadily since 2008, when it stood at 2.9:1.

The categories where unemployment increased the most in both absolute and relative terms were unemployed persons with tertiary education, first-time jobseekers, young people and people seeking new jobs due to the termination of their fixed-term contracts. The share of the unemployed with at least two years of higher education increased across all regions, as did the share of those who lost work due to the termination of their fixed-term contracts. The largest share of the tertiary educated unemployed was in the Osrednjeslovenska region (18.9%), while the largest increase in their number was recorded in the Notranjsko-kraška region (up 30.5%). The group of jobseekers who used to have fixed-term employment has also been growing steadily, averaging as much as 40% across regions, the largest share being in the Podravska region (47%). Their number increased the most in the Goriška and Koroška regions. A fifth of all unemployed first-time jobseekers are in Jugovzhodna Slovenija; above-average shares of this category are recorded in the Zasavska, Pomurska and Osrednjeslovenska regions. All the aforementioned categories of the unemployed mainly include young people,³ who account for the largest share (12.1%) among the unemployed in the Zasavska region, while their number increased the most in the Osrednjeslovenska region (by 32.1%).

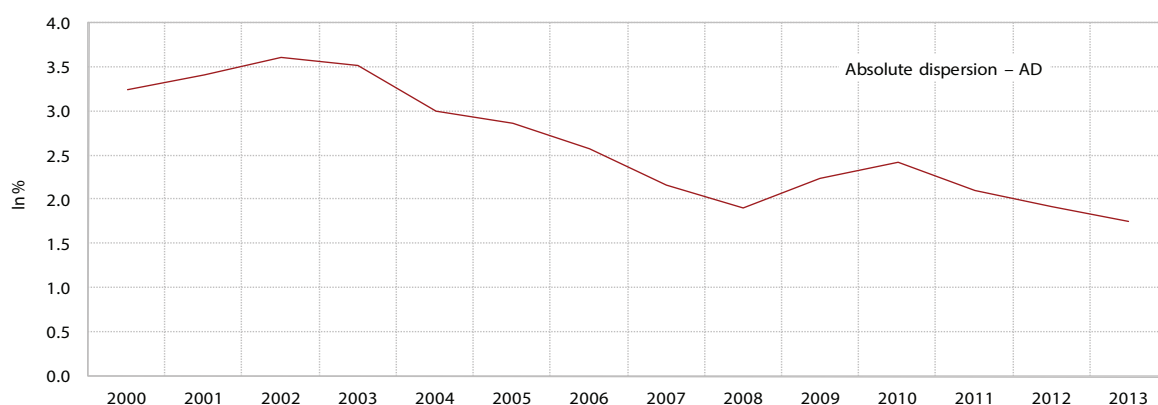
³ Aged 15–24.

Table: Registered unemployment rate by region, in %

Cohesion region/Statistical region	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Slovenia	11.8	10.2	9.4	7.7	6.7	9.1	10.7	11.8	12.0	13.1
Zahodna Slovenija	8.6	7.4	6.9	9.5	4.8	6.9	8.3	9.6	9.9	11.2
Obalno-kraška	8.8	7.5	7.2	6.3	5.2	6.9	7.9	9.6	10.2	11.7
Goriška	5.9	6.5	6.2	4.9	4.3	7.1	8.6	10.0	10.3	11.7
Gorenjska	9.7	7.3	6.4	4.9	4.4	6.9	8.1	8.8	8.9	9.8
Osrednjeslovenska	8.8	7.6	7.2	5.9	5.0	6.8	8.5	9.9	10.1	11.5
Vzhodna Slovenija	14.4	12.5	11.6	5.6	8.3	11.1	12.8	13.6	13.6	14.7
Notranjsko-kraška	10.4	7.9	7.0	5.4	4.9	7.1	8.5	10.0	10.4	12.3
Jugovzhodna Slovenija	10.4	8.8	8.6	7.0	6.3	8.9	10.0	11.6	12.8	14.1
Spodnjeposavska	13.4	11.5	10.5	8.9	7.7	10.2	12.2	13.4	13.9	14.8
Zasavska	14.9	13.8	12.0	9.7	8.2	11.0	11.9	13.3	14.7	16.6
Savinjska	13.1	12.7	11.6	9.4	8.0	10.3	11.8	12.7	12.7	13.9
Koroška	9.9	10.6	10.1	8.1	7.3	10.9	13.1	13.3	12.2	13.9
Podravska	18.1	13.5	12.7	10.4	9.1	11.9	13.5	14.5	14.1	14.7
Pomurska	16.7	17.1	15.7	13.4	12.2	15.9	19.0	18.0	17.3	17.8

Source: SURS, 2014.

Figure: Dispersion of registered unemployment rate at NUTS 3 level, Slovenia



Source: SURS, 2014; calculations by IMAD.