

# Labour Market

Selected labour market indicators		thousands			% growth		
		Φ 2002	Dec 2002	Aug 2003	Aug 03/ July 03	Jan-Aug 03/ Jan-Aug 02	Φ 2002/ Φ 2001
A	<b>Registered labour force (A=B+C)</b>	886.1	881.5	872.1	0.0	-1.2	0.6
B	<b>Persons in employment</b>	783.5	781.9	774.0	-0.1	-0.8	0.6
	in enterprises and organisations	631.1	631.6	631.1	-0.1	0.3	0.7
	by those self-employed	66.8	66.0	66.6	-0.4	-1.3	-2.3
	self-employed and farmers	85.6	84.4	76.2	-0.1	-8.0	1.7
C	<b>Registered unemployed</b>	102.6	99.6	98.2	1.3	-4.8	1.2
	women	52.5	51.4	53.1	1.7	-1.6	1.1
	aged over 40	50.7	46.3	43.1	0.8	-14.6	0.2
	unemployed over 1 year	55.8	52.0	47.1	1.4	-13.5	-6.7
D	<b>Rate of registered unemployment (C/A), %</b>	11.6	11.3	11.3	-	-	-
	male	10.0	10.0	9.5	-	-	-
	female	13.1	12.8	13.4	-	-	-
E	<b>Job vacancies</b>	11.6	10.1	10.8	-9.2	1.3	-2.9
	for a fixed term, %	74.4	70.9	75.2	-	-	-
F	<b>No. of people hired</b>	0.8	7.5	7.2	-20.1	0.2	0.6
	Lower education	2.3	2.1	2.4	-20.5	4.2	-4.6
	Secondary education	0.1	4.2	4.0	-19.3	-3.5	2.0
	Higher education	0.3	1.1	0.8	-22.5	7.0	6.2

Sources of data: the SORS, the ESS, calculations by the IMAD.

The number of persons in employment fell by 0.1% in August over July, which was the usual seasonal trend typical of summer holidays. The number of unemployed increased more than usual because of the very modest outflow into employment (see SEM 8-9/2003:12). Even though the number of unemployed tends to rise in September due to the increased inflow from schools, this did not happen this year despite the strong seasonal inflow of first-time job-seekers leaving school (4,165) because the outflow into employment was exceptionally high this September (5,884) and even higher than the inflow into unemployment caused by dismissals(5,460). Deletions from unemployment registers were also high (3,735) so the number of unemployed remained roughly the same (98,165). The number of vacancies and people hired climbed to 14,799 and 11,143, respectively, in September after falling in the summer months.

The long-term unemployment rate (the share of people who are unemployed for over 12 months relative to total unemployed) has been declining relatively fast for over two years and dropped to below 50% in the second quarter of this year (see graph). This was partly due to high deletions from unemployment registers for various job-unrelated reasons and the transfer of people who are not registered at employment service offices on the basis of the Employment and Unemployment Insurance Act into other registers (following the amendments to this law). Long-term unemployment was also reduced by some active employment policy measures, especially subsidies encouraging jobs for long-term unemployed people. Over the last two years, the long-term unemployment rate of people aged over 40 has dropped the most. Among these, the long-term unemployment rate of people who completed secondary and tertiary education fell from 75% in early 2001 to 56% in the third quarter of this year, while that of unskilled people dropped from 80% to 66%. These two categories recorded the highest long-term unemployment rates. A persistently large share of long-term unemployed can also be found among first-time job-seekers. About 50% of unskilled first-time job-seekers were long-term unemployed, more than in the group of unskilled unemployed aged under 40 who already had a job (shown as other unskilled unemployed in the graph). Here, the share of long-term unemployed has been around 40% for several years now. As regards other first-time job-seekers (those who completed secondary or tertiary education), the share of long-term unemployed was about 33%. Up until the third quarter of this year, this share was lower than among the rest of the unemployed who completed secondary or tertiary education, who are aged under 40 and already had a job (shown as other unemployed in the graph).

Graph: Long-term unemployment rates for different categories of the unemployed, 2001-2003 quarterly

