

<b>Labour Market</b>	Slovenian Economic Mirror	IMAD
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Selected labour market indicators	thousands			% growth		
	Φ 2003	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 04/ Dec 03	Jan 2004/ Jan 2003	Φ 2003/ Φ 2002
A <b>Registered labour force (A=B+C)</b>	874.9	881.5	872.9	0.2	-0.5	-1.3
B <b>Persons in formal employment</b>	777.2	781.9	773.8	-0.1	-0.3	-0.8
in enterprises and organisations	633.0	631.6	631.1	-0.3	0.1	0.3
by those self-employed	66.2	66.0	64.2	-2.1	-0.8	-0.9
self-employed and farmers	78.1	84.4	78.6	3.5	-3.1	-8.8
C <b>Registered unemployed</b>	97.7	99.6	99.0	3.2	-2.6	-4.8
women	51.6	51.4	51.4	2.1	-1.4	-1.8
aged over 40	43.1	46.3	42.3	2.6	-9.2	-14.9
unemployed over 1 year	47.5	52.0	45.0	2.0	-12.7	-14.9
D <b>Rate of registered unemployment (C/A), %</b>	11.2	11.3	11.3	-	-	-
male	9.7	10.0	10.0	-	-	-
female	13.0	12.8	13.0	-	-	-
E <b>Job vacancies</b>	12.1	10.1	11.9	17.5	0.4	4.4
for a fixed term, %	73.8	70.9	70.1	-	-	-
F <b>No. of people hired</b>	0.8	7.5	10.1	34.2	1.3	5.3
Lower education	2.9	2.1	2.5	29.1	-3.4	8.5
Secondary education	5.3	4.2	5.7	31.1	3.5	2.1
Higher education	1.5	1.1	1.8	54.0	1.2	11.3

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

In **January**, the number of people in employment fell by 0.1%; the biggest fall was seen in the number of people working for the self-employed (down 2.1%) and people working in enterprises and organisations (down 0.3%). Both were largely the result of seasonal factors given that employment contracts every January. The number of farmers rose by 10.6% according to the labour force survey for the last quarter of 2003. As a result, the number of people employed in agriculture rose by 7.8% or 2,623. It should be noted that this increase mainly occurred for statistical and methodological reasons and already took place in the previous quarter. Another issue is whether the methodology used in the labour force survey to establish the number of farmers is appropriate because the over 10% fluctuation from quarter to quarter seems unrealistic. As far as **other activities** are concerned, the number of people in employment rose in the public administration (up 0.3%), financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities, and health and social work (each recording a rise of 0.1%), but fell in all other activities, of which the most in mining (down 4.1%). The number of registered unemployed dropped by 889 people to 98,146 in February. The inflow into unemployment levelled off (4,817 people), 4,452 people were hired, while 2,665 people were deleted from unemployment registers for other reasons. The number of vacancies was slightly lower (11,243), while the number of people hired (8,407) was much lower than in January.

In 2003, the average number of registered unemployed was 97,674, 4.8% less than in 2002, while the registered unemployment rate was 11.2%, 0.4 of a percentage point lower than in 2002. The female registered unemployment rate remained high and was significantly above the male registered unemployment rate (see table). As in the past few years, the number of registered unemployed mainly dropped due to high levels of deletion from unemployment registers for reasons unrelated to hiring (see graph). Deletions for other reasons primarily involved one's own volition or a failure to report at the employment service office. The trends of rising inflows into unemployment caused by dismissal and faltering recruitment of the unemployed continued for the fifth year running. About 4.3% more people were made jobless than a year ago, mainly due to termination of fixed-term employment contracts (46.8%), while lay-offs for business reasons increased notably (up from 9.3% in 2002 to 14.3% in 2003). At the same time, 3.2% fewer unemployed people were hired than in 2002. The inflow of first-time job-seekers also rose significantly. This number rose by as much as 18.7% from 2002. Around 13.8% of first-time job-seekers had completed higher education (15.0% in 2002).

Graph: Annual flows forming registered unemployment, 1992-2003 (thousand persons)

