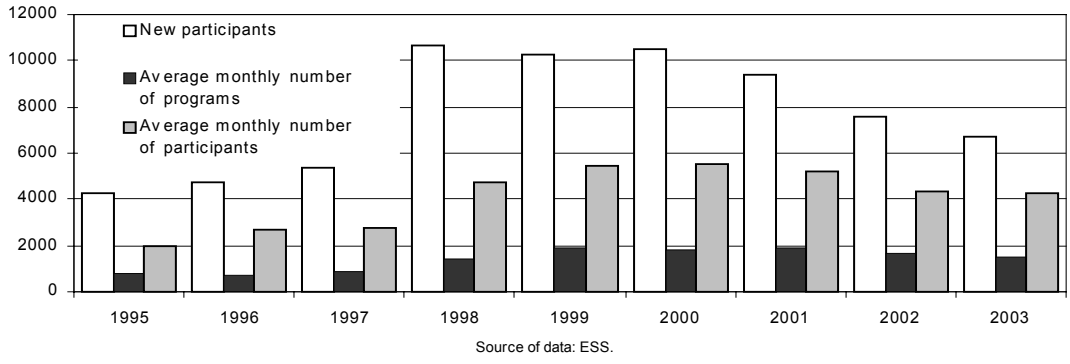
	Selected labour market indicators	thousands			% growth		
		Φ 2003	Feb 2003	Feb 2004	Feb 04/ Jan 03	Jan-Feb 04/ Jan-Feb 03	Φ 2003/ Φ 2002
A	**Registered labour force (A=B+C)**	874.9	877.4	873.8	0.1	-0.5	-1.3
B	**Persons in formal employment**	777.2	776.8	775.6	0.2	-0.2	-0.8
	in enterprises and organisations	633.0	631.0	632.8	0.3	0.2	0.3
	by those self-employed	66.2	64.8	64.2	0.0	-0.9	-0.9
	self-employed and farmers	78.1	81.0	78.6	0.0	-3.0	-8.8
C	**Registered unemployed**	97.7	100.6	98.1	-0.9	-2.5	-4.8
	women	51.6	51.7	50.9	-0.9	-1.5	-1.8
	aged over 40	43.1	45.7	42.2	-0.4	-8.5	-14.9
	unemployed over 1 year	47.5	50.5	44.9	-0.2	-11.9	-14.9
D	**Rate of registered unemployment (C/A), %**	11.2	11.5	11.2	-	-	-
	male	9.7	10.2	9.9	-	-	-
	female	13.0	12.9	12.8	-	-	-
E	**Job vacancies**	12.1	10.7	11.2	-5.9	2.5	4.4
	for a fixed term, %	73.8	72.3	71.8	-	-	-
F	**No. of people hired**	9.7	8.0	8.4	-16.6	2.7	5.3
	Lower education	2.9	2.4	2.4	-5.2	-1.1	8.5
	Secondary education	5.3	4.4	4.7	-18.0	4.9	2.1
	Higher education	1.5	1.3	1.3	-28.2	1.7	11.3

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

February's employment and unemployment figures show the usual seasonal dynamics for this time of the year when employment begins to rise and unemployment begins to fall. However, employment only rose in enterprises and organisations (up 0.3%), while employment in the small business sector stagnated. The **number of registered unemployed** dropped by 1,455 people to 96,691 in **March**. There were 5,663 people who lost a job and 5,541 unemployed people who were hired. The number of deletions from unemployment registers for other reasons was slightly higher than in February (3,396). The **number of vacancies** and **people recruited** rose in March to 13,786 and 10,394, respectively.

An important active employment policy measure is **community employment programmes** (the public works scheme) both in terms of the number of participants and the level of funding. They include local or national employment programmes intended to create new jobs on one hand, and maintain or develop the occupational skills of target unemployed groups on the other. They are carried out by employers or organisations which submit programmes in response to public tenders. The objective of these programmes should not be to make a profit or cause unfair competition. The selection of programmes, which is made by the Employment Service of Slovenia, is based on annual active employment policy and financial plans. The government finances the cost of organising community employment, the cost of the accompanying unemployment programmes, the cost of transport and meals, and part of the base wage. The providers of programmes cover material costs, the rest of the base wage, and performance-related pay. Community employment programmes help rehabilitate the long-term unemployed, who are the main target groups, as well as increase their employment prospects. Over the last five years, about 22% of the people involved in community employment found a job within a year after joining the scheme, while another 10% no longer reported at the employment service office, so we assume most of them managed to get a job. The number of participants was the highest in 1998-2000, but has declined recently (see graph) mainly due to the abolition of financial support for a number of seasonal agricultural programmes. **Local employment programmes** were set up in 2003 as an upgrade of community employment programmes for areas with above-average long-term unemployment. Unlike the providers of community employment, which offer fixed-term employment to the unemployed for less than one year, the providers of local employment programmes are obliged to hire the person taking part in the programme for at least two years or permanently. The government co-finances the formulation of programmes (a given amount for a new job) and a job test, along with the training and hiring of unemployable people (a fixed amount per person).

Graph: **Number of participants in community employment programmes, 1995-2003**



Source of data: ESS.