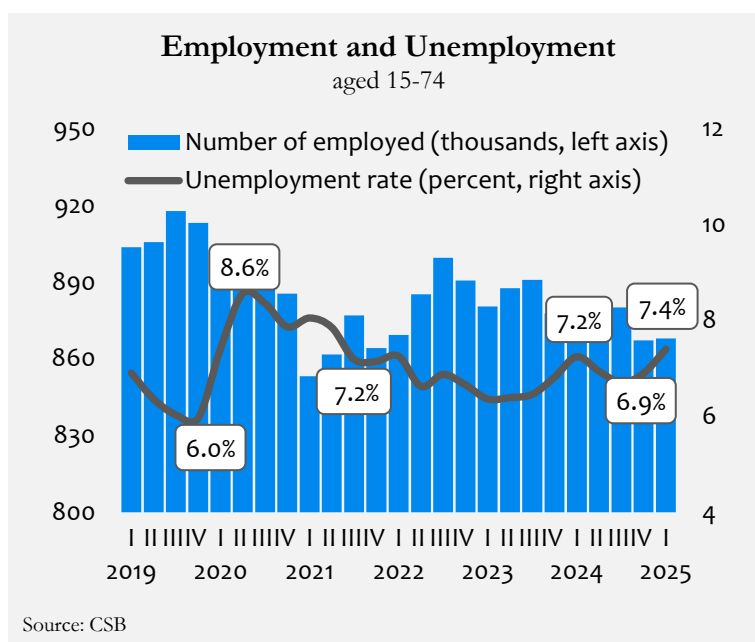


On the Results of the Labour Force Survey in Q1 of 2025

Moderate fluctuations in the labour market in Q1 2025

The employment situation continues to be influenced by the slow economic recovery and limited labour supply, which is exacerbated by pronounced regional imbalances – labour shortages and vacancy concentrations are mainly observed in large cities.

According to data from the Central Statistical Bureau's labour force survey, in the first quarter of 2025, the labour market saw an annual decrease in the number of employed persons. The number of employed persons fell by 1.4%, or 11.9 thousand, compared to the first quarter of 2024.



In the first quarter of 2025, the number of employed persons was 868.0 thousand, which is 0.8 thousand more than in the fourth quarter of 2024, representing an increase of 0.1%. The employment rate during this period was 63.2%, 0.2 percentage points lower than in the previous quarter. Compared to the first quarter of 2024, the employment rate declined by 0.8 percentage points.

As in the fourth quarter of 2024, the first quarter of 2025 continued to reflect slowing economic growth and weak labour demand. The unemployment rate rose to 7.4% in the first quarter of 2025, 0.5 percentage points higher than in the fourth quarter of 2024 (6.9%) and 0.2 percentage points higher than at the beginning of 2024 (7.2%). Overall, the number of unemployed reached 69.5 thousand people aged 15–74, an increase of 5.7 thousand compared to the previous quarter. While the rise in unemployment indicates challenges, it also reflects a slight increase in job-seeking activity. However, in the long term, labour availability remains a key issue, further complicated by skill mismatches with employers' needs.

Although a modest increase in labour market activity was observed in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the fourth quarter of 2024, the negative annual trend remains pronounced. Following two quarters of decline, the population's labour market participation rate slightly increased this quarter. The economic activity rate fell to 68.3% in the first quarter of 2025, 0.6 percentage points lower than in the first quarter of 2024 (68.9%) but 0.3 percentage points higher than in the fourth quarter of 2024 (68%). The number of economically active individuals aged 15–74 in the first quarter of 2025 was 937.5 thousand, 11.1 thousand fewer than in the fourth quarter of 2024 (948.6 thousand).

It should be noted that at the start of 2025, the labour market continues to face structural challenges – limited labour supply, demographic pressure, and skill mismatches. Despite a slight year-on-year rise in

unemployment and a decline in employment, the number of economically active individuals continues to decrease, which may pose long-term risks to labour force sustainability.

Economic activity is expected to gradually recover in the second half of 2025. However, the observed trends indicate very moderate growth, and employment gains are likely to be limited and dependent on developments within specific sectors.