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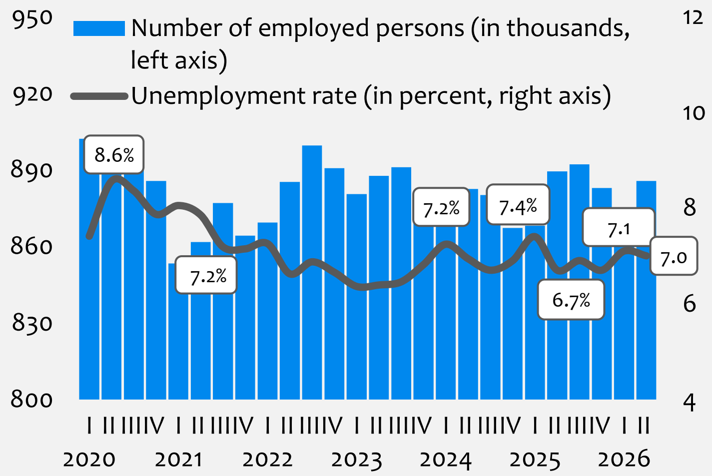
On the results of the Labour Force Survey in the 2nd quarter of 2026

In the 2nd quarter of 2026, the employment and economic activity rates continued to increase

The number of employed persons decreased slightly year-on-year, while the employment and economic activity rates continued to increase. At the same time, the unemployment rate remained around 7.0%, partly due to an increase in the number of economically active persons, as participation in the labour market increased, while the rise in employment only slightly reduced the unemployment rate. Labour supply constraints and demographic trends continue to sustain risks of labour shortages in certain sectors.

Employment and unemployment
in the 15 - 74 age group



Source: CSB data

According to the Labour Force Survey data of the Central Statistical Bureau, in the 2nd quarter of 2026, the number of employed persons decreased by 0.4%, or 3.8 thousand, compared with the 2nd quarter of 2025, while compared with the 1st quarter of the year, it **increased by 14.3 thousand, or 1.6%.** The employment rate increased to 65.1% in the 2nd quarter, which was 1.3 percentage points higher than in the previous quarter. Compared with the 2nd quarter of 2025, the employment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points.

By occupation, in the 2nd quarter of 2026, compared with the 1st quarter, the largest increase in the number of employed persons was recorded among professionals, by 13.4 thousand, as well as among technicians and associate professionals, by 8.2 thousand. In year-on-year terms, the largest decrease in the number of employed persons was recorded among craft and related trades workers, by 16.9 thousand, as well as among skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers, by 10.5 thousand.

The unemployment rate in the 2nd quarter of 2026 was 7.0%, which was 0.1 percentage points lower than in the 1st quarter of 2026 (7.1%), but 0.3 percentage points higher than in the 2nd quarter of 2025 (6.7%). Overall, the number of unemployed persons reached 66.2 thousand persons aged 15 to 74, which was 0.2 thousand fewer than in the previous quarter.

It should be noted that the labour market continues to face several challenges: limited labour supply, demographic pressures and skills mismatches, which, under conditions of low unemployment, may intensify the risks of labour shortages in certain sectors. At the beginning of 2026, the population aged 15–74 was approximately 10 thousand lower than a year earlier, continuing to constrain the potentially available labour reserves.

At the same time, the economic activity rate continued to increase in the 2nd quarter of 2026. In the 2nd quarter of 2026, it increased to 70.0%, which was 0.4 percentage points higher than in the 2nd quarter of 2025 (69.6%) and 1.3 percentage points higher than in the 1st quarter of 2026 (68.7%). It should be noted that higher labour market participation partly offsets the negative impact of demographic factors on labour supply. In the 2nd quarter of 2026, the number of economically active persons aged 15–74 reached 951.7 thousand, which was 14.2 thousand more than in the 1st quarter of the year, but 1.3 thousand fewer than in the 2nd quarter of 2025 (953 thousand).

Despite the still high level of economic uncertainty, the situation in the labour market remained stable in the first half of 2026. At the same time, the high employment rate and increasing economic activity indicate limited labour reserves. Labour market developments are increasingly influenced by supply-side factors, particularly the decline in the working-age population, while the increase in economic activity partly offsets this negative impact**. The labour market situation is expected to remain broadly stable in the second half of the year, although labour market developments will continue to be cautious. Overall, the number of employed persons could increase by 0.1% in 2026, while the unemployment rate could decline to 6.7%.**