

Since 2010, FYR Macedonia has reported low levels of growth in the employment rate, signifying a sluggish labor market that offers few opportunities for those seeking work. In 2017 Q2, the employment rate was calculated at 50 percent and the unemployment rate was 23 percent. The gender gap in employment is substantial, but considerably wider for women with low education. Just about 26 percent of these women were active in the labor market, compared to 62 percent of men with less than senior secondary education. High inactivity rates were observed primarily among women and older workers (55+ years): 1 in 4 of older workers retired before reaching 65 years old, resulting in the underutilization of productive human capital. Youth unemployment affects about a half (47 percent) of the active population aged 15-24, almost double that of older workers and the highest in the region after Kosovo. The share of long-term unemployment (greater than 12 months) is among the highest, about 80 percent. As workers age, the length of time spent unemployed increases: for the 45-to-64 year-old group, the average unemployment spell is about 11 years. Average real wages in FYR Macedonia have remained fairly constant in the past decade. They are close to average wages in Serbia and Kosovo, above average wages in Albania, and below average wages in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. Nonetheless, the minimum wage has increased by 23 percent between 2012 and 2016, larger than reported by other neighbor countries and possibly discouraging the creation of lower skilled jobs in the formal sector.

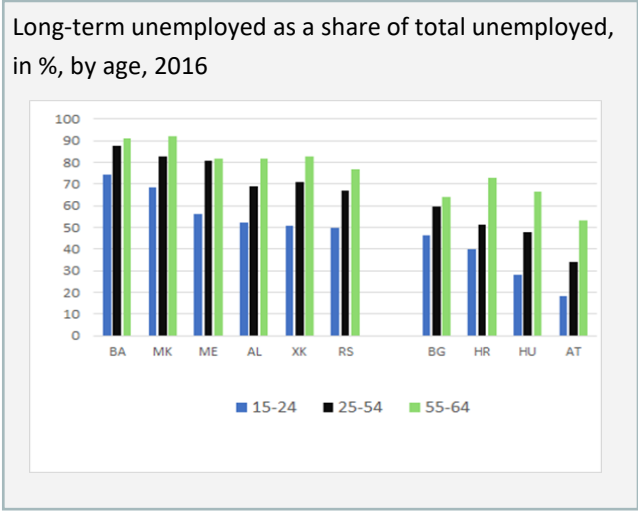
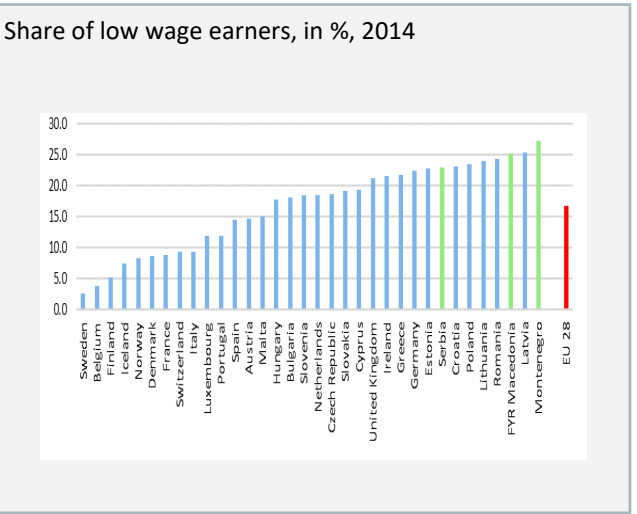
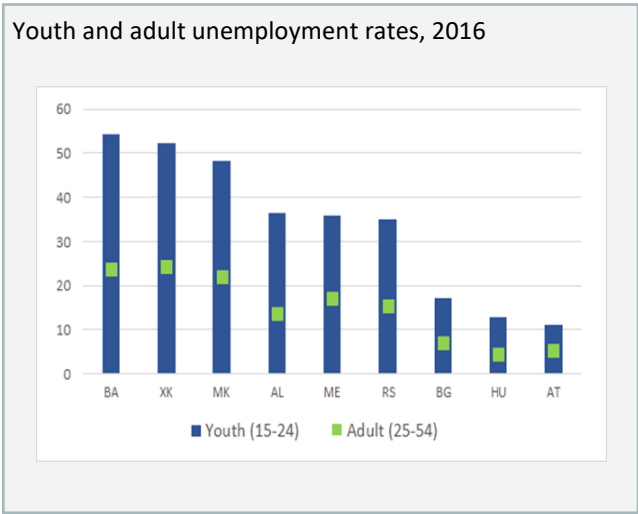
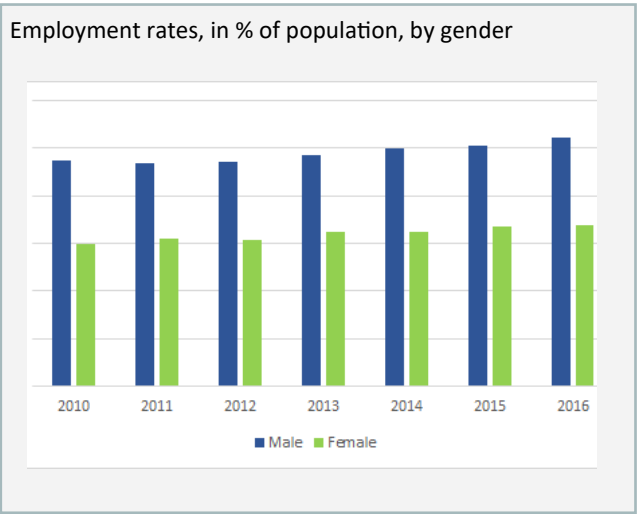
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH		Total	%	Period
Number of new jobs		19,200	2.7	Q2 2016 - Q2 2017
Among women		13,100	4.7	Q2 2016 - Q2 2017
Among youth		5,500	13.2	Q2 2016 - Q2 2017
Among low skilled		-8,300	-6.0	Q2 2016 - Q2 2017

KEY LABOR MARKET INDICATORS				
	Total	Male	Female	Period
Labor force participation (15-64 years)	65.4	78.6	51.7	Q2 2017
Employment rate (15-64 years)	50.5	60.4	40.3	Q2 2017
Unemployment rate (15+ years)	22.6	22.9	22.1	Q2 2017
Long term unemployment (15+ years)	18.1	18.7	17.2	Q2 2017
Youth unemployment (15-24 years)	47.1	48.7	44.1	Q2 2017
NEETs (15-24 years)	24.3	23.6	25.1	2016

WAGES		Total	Period
Average monthly gross wages, EUR		543	Q2 2017
Average monthly gross wages, EUR (PPP)		1,239	2016
Change % EUR (PPP)		-1.2	2015-2016



AL: Albania BA: Bosnia & Herzegovina ME: Montenegro MK: FYR Macedonia RS: Serbia XK: Kosovo WB: Western Balkans  
 AT: Austria BG: Bulgaria HR: Croatia HU: Hungary

### Data and SEE Jobs Gateway

This country flyer is based on data presented in the Western Balkans Labor Market Trends 2018 report, a collaboration between the World Bank and the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw). The data has been collected directly from national statistical offices of the six Western Balkan countries, with the objective of harmonizing data as much as possible across countries. The database covers a unique and detailed set of labor market indicators based on Labor Force Survey (LFS) data for the Western Balkan countries. The dataset is harmonized across indicators, age groups and educational attainment. Overall, the database covers four parts: (i) Key economic indicators, (ii) Labor market indicators, (iii) Labor market data on a sub-national level and (iv) Data on earnings and unit labor costs. All data and more is available at the South-East Europe Jobs Gateway Database at <http://seejobsgateway.net>.

The SEE Jobs Gateway is a Community of Practice for labor market policies in the Western Balkans, bringing together policy makers, academics and experts from international organizations. Most members are from or have an interest in the Western Balkans, comprising of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FRY Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia.

