

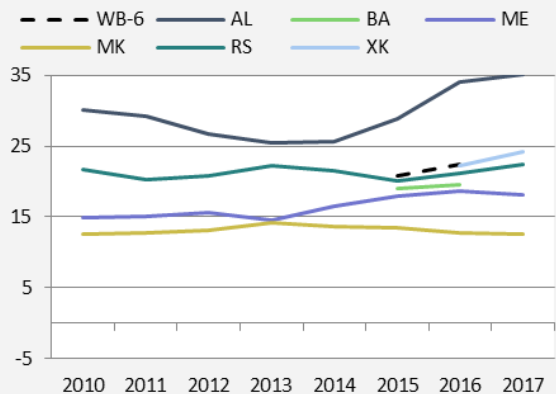
REGIONAL

April 2018

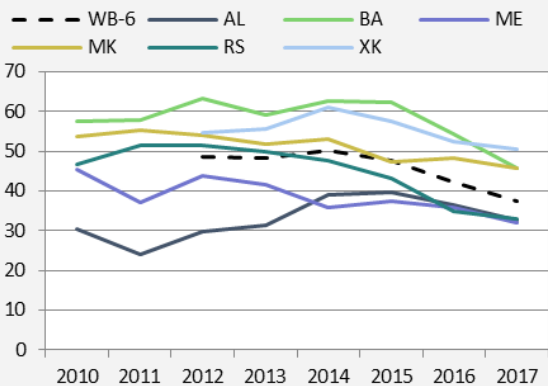
For the six Western Balkan countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia – between the second quarter of 2016 and the second quarter of 2017, 231,000 new jobs were created, and employment rose 3.9 percent, with increases ranging from 1.9 percent in Serbia to 9.2 percent in Kosovo. The largest share of this increase, about 60 percent, was due to rising self-employment. Unemployment also fell by an estimated 169,000 people, from 18.6 to 16.2 percent, reaching historical lows in some countries. Despite the overall rise in employment and drop in unemployment, low activity rates (particularly among women and young people), a large share of long-term unemployment (close to 80 percent in some countries) and high informality (i.e., those self-employed in unregistered businesses, wage workers without written contracts and unpaid family workers) remain key challenges for the region. Youth unemployment fell faster than the overall unemployment rate, but remained high compared to EU countries.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH		Total	%	Period
Number of new jobs		238,800	3.9	Q2 2016 - Q2 2017
Among women		114,700	4.7	Q2 2016 - Q2 2017
Among youth		28,500	9.8	Q2 2016 - Q2 2017
Among low skilled		24,700	1.8	Q2 2016 - Q2 2017
KEY LABOR MARKET INDICATORS				
	Total	Male	Female	Period
Labor force participation (15-64 years)	62.3	72.7	51.9	Q2 2017
Employment rate (15-64 years)	51.9	60.5	43.2	Q2 2017
Unemployment rate (15+ years)	16.2	16.2	16.2	Q2 2017
Long term unemployment (15+ years)	11.7	11.7	11.6	Q2 2017
Youth unemployment (15-24 years)	37.6	36.6	39.3	Q2 2017
NEETs (15-24 years)	23.5	23.0	14.1	2016
WAGES		Total		Period
Average monthly gross wages, EUR		511		2016
Average monthly gross wages, EUR (PPP)		1,123		2016
Change % EUR (PPP)		-1.2		2015-2016

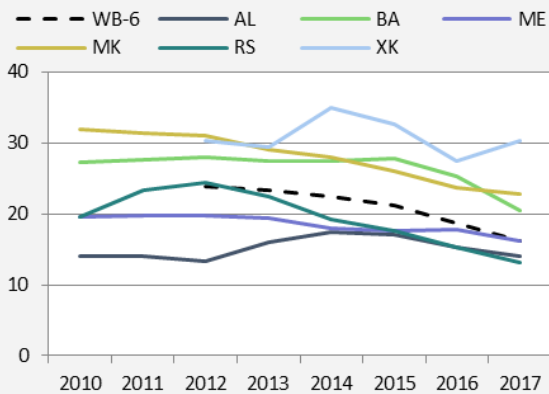
Self-employment, share of total employment (15-64), in %



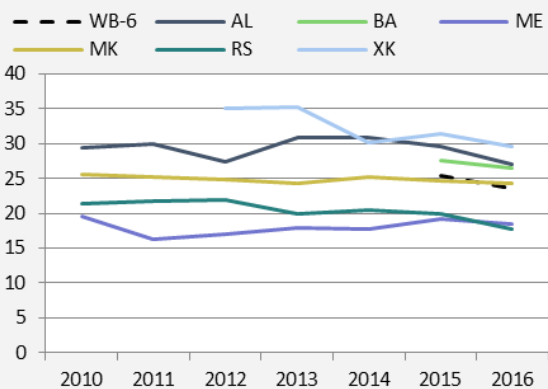
Youth unemployment rates (15-24), in %



Unemployment rates, in %



NEET rates (15-24) in % of respective population



AL: Albania BA: Bosnia & Herzegovina ME: Montenegro MK: FYR Macedonia RS: Serbia XK: Kosovo WB: Western Balkans

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.

