

Youth Participation Indicators – Serbia



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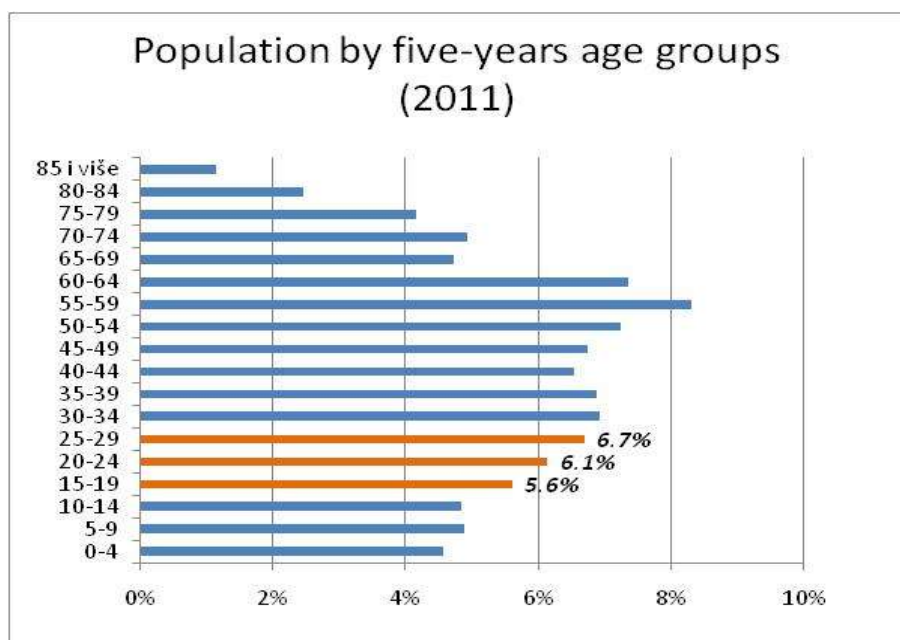
Youth Participation Indicators – Serbia

- Draft -

In this report, facts and figures about youth participation in political, social and economic life in Serbia are presented.

Population

According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: SORS), on the basis of the population census conducted in 2011, the number of the youth population between the age of 15 and 29 was 1.322.021, out of which female population stood at 48,8% (644.911), while male population accounted for 51,2% (677.100). Participation of youth in the total population was about 18,5%.

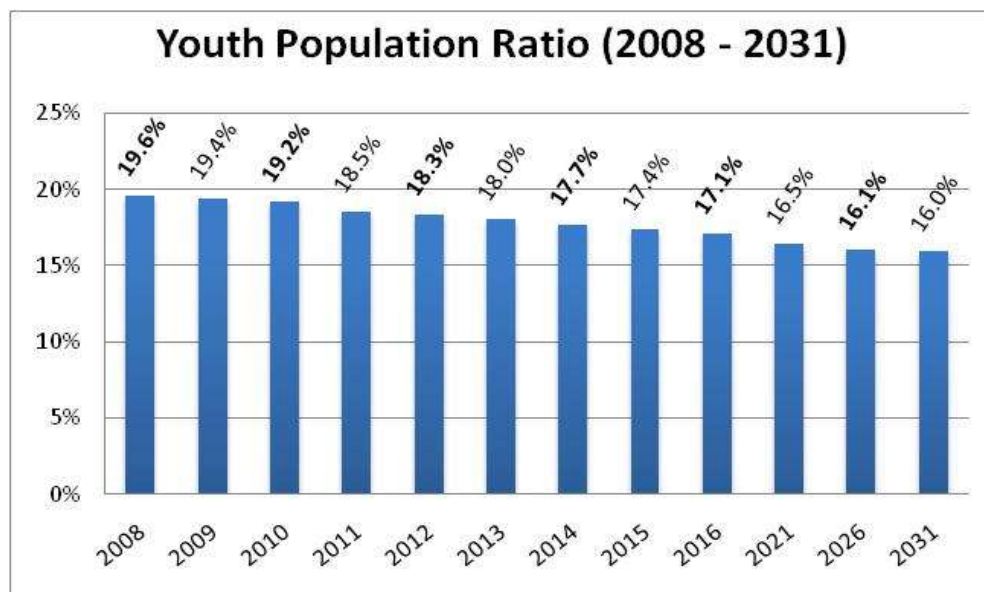


Graph 1: Age structure of the population according to the 2011 Census¹

The number of youth, as well as the number of the total population is reducing, while the share of the population between the age of 15 and 29 in the total population is also shrinking. SORS

¹ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – 2011 Census

estimates for the future period point to a further trend of reduction of both the total and youth population, but also in the share of youth population in the total population.



Graph 2: Trend of youth share in the total population between 2008 and 2031²

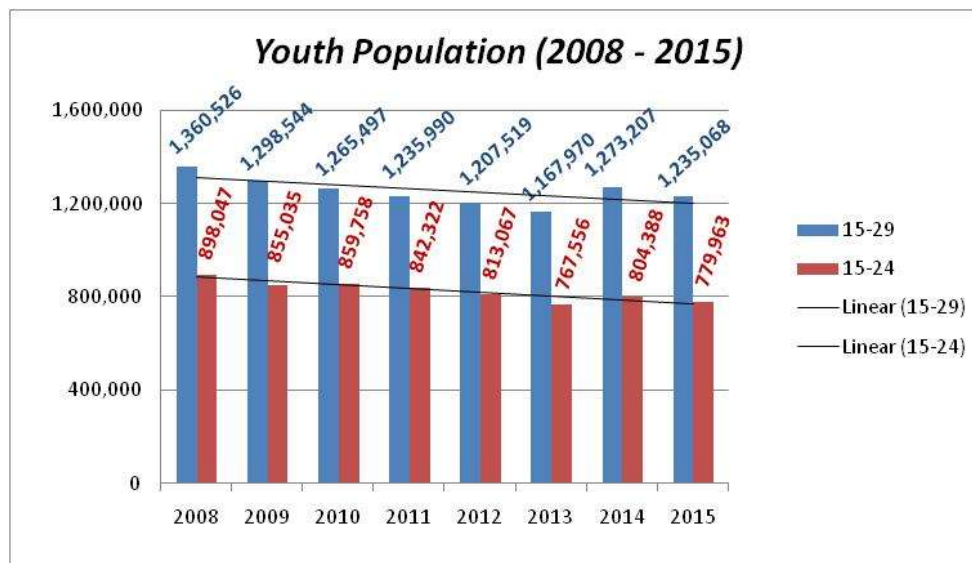
According to the data collected by the Statistical office of the Republic of Serbia, at the end of 2015 there were about **1.328.800 young people between the age of 15 and 30** in the Republic of Serbia, out of which about 680.200 were male, and about 648.500 were female.³ The number of youth in the Republic of Serbia was on a constant decline until 2014, when a slight increasing trend was registered, while in 2015 this number again starts to decrease (the number of youth of the same age on 2015 decreased by about 3% compared to 2014).

² Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – Evaluation of the population of the Republic of Serbia

³ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – The number of youth between the age of 15 and 30, December 2015

Year	Youth number (15-29)	Youth number (15-24)
2008	1,360,526	898,047
2009	1,298,544	855,035
2010	1,265,497	859,758
2011	1,235,990	842,322
2012	1,207,519	813,067
2013	1,167,970	767,556
2014	1,273,207	804,388
2015	1,235,068	779,963

Table 1: Trend of youth population numbers in Serbia in the period 2008 – 2015⁴



Graph 3: Trend of youth population between the age of 15 and 24 and 15 and 29 in the period 2008 - 2015⁵

Reduction in the number of youth and their share in the total population is a result of:

- ✓ low birth rate (in 2015 the natural increase rate was– 5,36 parts-per-thousand) in the Republic of Serbia,⁶
- ✓ mild increase in the life expectancy (which in 2015 for newborn men stood at 74,14 years, and for newborn women at 77,67 years);⁷

⁴ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – Poll on the labor force 2008 – 2015

⁵ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – Poll on labor force 2008 – 2015

⁶ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – publication "Demographic Statistics 2015", Belgrade 2016

⁷ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – database: <http://www.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/public/ReportView.aspx>

- ✓ increase of the average age of the population to 42,72 years in 2015, which places Serbia amount the European nations with the oldest population;⁸
- ✓ brain drain, which involves the emigration of young, well-educated and highly skilled individuals from the country. According to a report of the World Economic Forum⁹ which presented "The Global Competitiveness Index" for the year 2016, Serbia was ranked **137th** out of 138 countries for its capacity to retain the talents, but also well-educated and highly skilled individuals, which puts the country in the second place in the world according to the brain drain. Also, Serbia is ranked **137th**, out of 138 countries according to its capacity to attract talents, well-educated and highly skilled individuals.
- ✓ there are no accurate records on the "brain drain" phenomenon, because until today no official statistics were gathered on how many young, well-educated and highly skilled individuals were leaving to work or acquire further education abroad. Instead, occasional statistics are based on sporadic researches, assessments, records from countries to which young people from Serbia depart to, etc. Unofficial estimates say that approximately 32.000 people leave Serbia annually, but according to the OECD¹⁰ records during 2005 and 2006 as much as 80.183 individuals left Serbia, or 40.091 on average per year, out of which 39.026 were women (48,7%), and 41.157 (51,3%) men. The total of 80.183 residents, who, on various accounts, emigrated to the 10 most popular countries for emigrants from Serbia (among which Germany ranks first, followed by Switzerland, France, Italy, Belgium, Canada, Australia, Norway, Czech Republic and Great Britain) also includes **14,9%** of youth between the age of 15 and 24, or 11.957 of them. Also, it is important to stress that during these two years, this population which emigrated to the 10 most popular countries, also included 7.484 (9,3%) individuals with a university degree. When the brain drain is concerned, very important information about the youth labor market is also a fact that even before 2005/2006 there were 127.307 individuals younger than 30 years of age in OECD countries, out of which 54% were men and 46% women.¹¹

Reduction in the number of young population can negatively affect the youth labor market indicators, but also the overall country's economy.

Ageing of the population, unfavorable age structure and the shortage of young population, which is presently at the level of only 17,4% compared to the overall population ([Graph 2: Trend of youth share in the total population between 2008 and 2031](#)), with a continuing trend of reduction of this share, according to projections to 16,1% already in ten years, will lead to even

⁸ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, publication "Demographic Statistics 2015", Belgrade 2016

⁹ World Economic Forum, Insight Report, "The Global Competitiveness Report 2016 – 2017", 2016

¹⁰ Records relate only to people who went from Serbia to OECD countries during 2005/2006

¹¹ OECD, "Connecting with Emigrants – A Global Profile of Diasporas", OECD, 5. Oct 2012,

http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/social-issues-migration-health/connecting-with-emigrants/serbia_9789264177949-94-en

greater labor market problems. Labor market efficiency can be reduced and endangered because of deficiency of young people, especially of well-educated youth which represent the future of any society and its economy.

Another important problem is that, because of the increase in average life expectancy and ageing of the population, the number of working-age population is decreasing. Shrinking of share of the working-age population in the total population may have as a consequence increase in the number of population older than 65 years, whose working life is over, but also of the population older than 50 years, which shall soon end its working life. Further reduction in the number of young people, as a part of the working-age population, may also cause additional negative indicators, like:

- the rate of dependency of the younger population, which represents a share of the population younger than 15 years in the working-age population (15 – 64 years), stood in 2015 at 21,5%¹². This rate shall continue to grow mildly, which means that the working-age population shall continue to shrink, with a simultaneous share increase of the population up to the age of 14. This shall also result in reduction of young in the total working-age population, while because of ageing of the population, negative natural increase rate and migration the total population will also shrink;

- the rate of dependency of the population older than 65, which represents a share of the population older than 65 years in the working-age population (15–64 years of age), stood in 2015 at 28%¹³. Because of increased ageing of the population in the year 2030 this rate shall reach 37,9%, which shall lead to increase of the population older than 65 years compared to the working-age population and to reduction in the number of working-age population, and thus to reduction in the number of young people as a part of the working-age population;

- the rate of dependency of the younger population and the rate of dependency of the population older than 65 with their increase point to the reduction in the number of working-age population compared to younger and older population. Furthermore, population projections also point to reduction in the number of all categories of the population, especially of young and working-age population;

- the population ageing index¹⁴, which in 2015 stood at 136,62%¹⁵, will grow in the coming years because of reduction in the number of young people and the growth of number of older

¹² Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – publication "Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Serbia 2016", 2016

¹³ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – publication "Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Serbia 2016", 2016

¹⁴ Population ageing index, according to the gender, represents a significant indicator, the value of which points to the demographic process of ageing of the population – ageing index, the value of which **does not exceed 20 index points** means that the population is exceptionally young, while **over 40 index points means that the population is old**. This index was determined on the basis of ratio between the number of residents of 60 years and over – according to the gender and a corresponding number of residents between 0 and 19 years of age (number of residents of 60 years and over/population between 0 and 19 years of age).

¹⁵ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

population, which will lead to even greater average age of the population and more difficult sustainability of the labor market and economic system;

- the ageing index for male population is lower and stands at 116,6%, while the ageing index for female population is significantly higher and amounts to 157,86%. This discrepancy in ageing of the male and female population shall lead to the increase of female population older than 60 years of age or reduction of the female population between 0 – 19 years of age which causes further ageing of the population, reduction of the birth rate and reduction in the number of young people in the total population.

Political Participation

1. Youth participation in elections

Data unavailable

2. Youth participation in government (ministers)

There is not a single young male/female minister at present in the Government of the Republic of Serbia. Since 2001 until today, only two Governments of the Republic of Serbia had ministers which fall into the group of youth, in 2012 – 1 minister (Nikola Selaković, 29 years of age) and 2014 – 1 minister (Lazar Krstić, 30 years of age).

Also, in the work of the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina there are no young population members participating in the Government, while youth doesn't occupy a single position in the structure of state secretaries and assistant ministers.

In regards to the position of assistant minister and secretary of the ministry, the Law on Civil Servants (Article 45, paragraph 2.), prescribes conditions for the job position (necessary acquired university education including basic academic studies with at least 240 ECTS, master academic studies, specialist academic studies, specialist vocational studies, and basic studies in the duration of at least 4 years or specialist studies at the faculty and at least 9 years of professional working experience). Pursuant to the above-stated, a person acquires the said education must subsequently also acquire at least 9 years of professional experience in order to meet a required condition for the position of assistant minister or secretary of the ministry. This, practically, means that young people don't have the opportunity to participate in adoption of decisions through the work in positions of the assistant minister and secretary of the ministry.

3. Young people nominated/elected to municipalities (mayors, municipal council members)

Only four presidents of the local self-government units in Serbia (municipalities) have up to 30 years of age, compared to all analyzed local self-government units (municipalities and cities) in the Republic of Serbia, without Kosovo and Metohija, the count of which is 163, which makes for 2,5%. These young people include presidents of municipalities Plandište (28 years), Rekovac (30 years), Palilula (29 years) and Bački Petrovac (27 years). All four presidents of the local self-government units are men.

a. Mayors (municipalities, cities and province)

Age group	Female #	Male #
18-29	0	4
Total	163	163
%	0	2,5%

Table 2: The number of young mayors and presidents of municipalities

b. Members of the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Age group	Female #	Male #
18-29	0	0
Total	14	14
%	0	0

Table 3: The number of young ministers in the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

c. Municipal Council Members

Out of the total number of council members in assemblies of the local self-government units, the count of which is 6.530 after local elections held in 2016, the number of people younger than 30 years of age is 563, or 8,62%.

Age group	Female#	Male#	Total
18-29	Na	Na	563
Total	Na	Na	6.530
%	Na	Na	8,62%

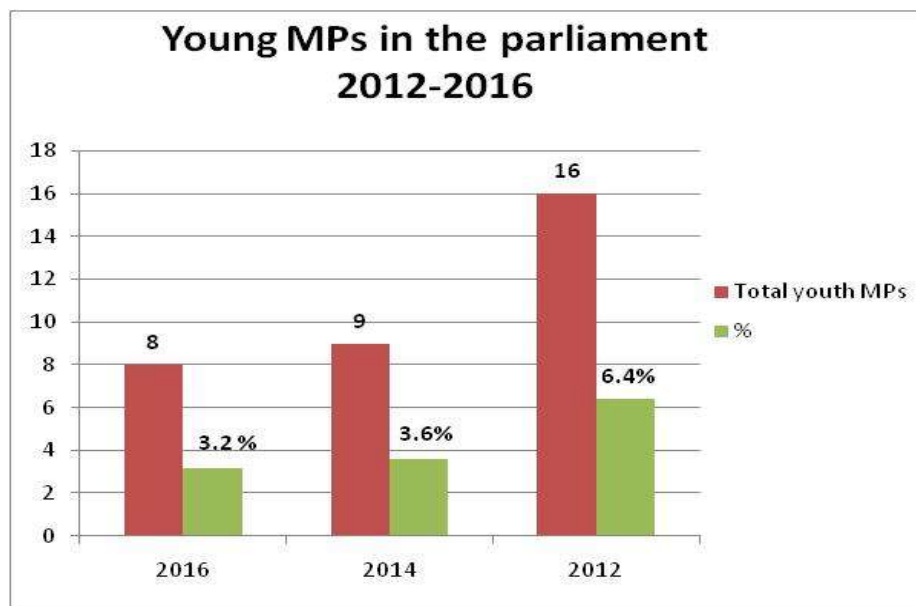
Table 4: The number of young council members of assemblies of municipalities and cities

4. Young people nominated/elected to the national parliament

a. Nominated and elected to the national parliament

In the present convocation of the Serbian Parliament, out of the total of 250 deputies, only 8 of them fall into the category of youth (3,2%), out of which two are men, and six are women. These parliamentary deputies have between 27 and 30 years of age.

In the convocation of the Serbian Parliament in 2014, there are 9 young parliamentary deputies (3,6%), while in the convocation in 2012 there were 16 (6,4%).



Graph 4: The number of young deputies in 2012 – 2016 parliamentary convocations

Age group	Nominated			Elected		
	Female #	Male #	Total #	Female #	Male #	Total #
18-29	na	Na	658	6	2	8
Total	Na	Na	8	250	250	250
%	Na	Na	1,2%	2,4%	0,8%	3,2%

Table 5: The number of nominated and elected young people to the Serbian Parliament in 2016

b. Nominated and elected to the province's parliament

Age group	Nominated			Elected		
	Female #	Male #	Total #	Female #	Male #	Total #
18-29	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	7
Total	Na	Na	Na	120	120	120
Total	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	5,8%

Table 6: The number of nominated and elected young people to the Parliament of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in 2016

In the work of the Parliament of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina which counts 120 deputies a total of 7 young people participate, or 5,8% of the total number. A gender structure of young deputies remains unknown, as well as how many young people were nominated for deputies during elections in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina for seats in the Parliament of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

5. Young people participating in general assemblies for parliamentary parties

Concerning young people participating in the work of parliaments and main boards of political parties which exceeded the census during the last parliamentary elections, records are not publicly available. Only 2 political parties have replied to the e-mail containing the question on the number of young people participating in the work of parliaments and main boards of parliamentary political parties, out of which only one replied to this question. The party concerned is the Democratic Alliance of Croats in Vojvodina, the assembly of which counts 30 young people up to the age of 30, while 3 young people participate in the work of the party's Council (Main Board), who are also members of the party's Presidency.

The total number of nominated young people on electoral lists for elections in 2016 was 658, or 20,1% out of the total of 3.270 proposed candidates (**lists in given in bold** have exceeded census and are represented in the parliament's convocation). The highest percentage of youth was nominated on the list of "Young with an attitude – Dialogue" (94%), while the highest share of youth among the nominated candidates for parliamentary deputies, taking into consideration lists which have exceeded census, were on the lists on national minorities: Muamer Zukorlić –

Bosniak Democratic Union (37,4%), Sulejman Ugljanin – Party of Democratic Action (34,5%) (more than 1/3 of nominated candidates) and the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (23,2%).

LISTS	TOTAL	YOUTH	%
1. Serbia Wins - Aleksandar Vučić	250	28	11,2
2. For just Serbia – Democratic Party (NOVA, DSHV, ZZS)	246	55	22,4
3. Ivica Dačić – SPS – JS	250	24	9,6
4. Serbian Radical Party	250	43	17,2
5. DSS – DVERI	240	23	9,6
6. Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians	250	58	23,2
7. Alliance for better Serbia – LDP, LSV and SDS	250	38	15,2
8. Muamer Zukorlić – BDZ	99	37	37,4
9. Sulejman Ugljanin – SDA	29	10	34,5
10. For free Serbia – Group of citizens Zavetnici	66	24	36,4
11. For revival of Serbia - Group of citizens	186	43	23,1
12. Russian Party	55	12	21,8
13. Republican Party	131	31	23,7
14. Serbian-Russian Movement	200	44	22,0
15. Serbia for all of us – Borko Stefanović	190	35	18,4
16. Young with an attitude – Dialogue	50	47	94,0
17. Saša Radulović – DJB	250	38	15,2
18. Party of Democratic Action – PDD	8	1	12,5
19. Green Party	106	19	17,9
20. In spite – People's Alliance	164	48	29,3
TOTAL	3270	658	20,1

Table 7: Lists proposed during 2016 elections

6. Structure of Youth Council (national, province, local – municipals and cities)

According to the Law on Youth, a possibility is stipulated for establishing of youth associations, associations for young people and alliances of these associations. There are 1100 such associations in Serbia art present (646 youth associations, 10 alliances of youth associations, 437 associations for youth and 7 alliances for associations for youth).

	Organizational form	Total	%
1.	Youth association	646	58,7 %
2.	Alliance of youth associations	10	0,9 %
3.	Associations for youth	437	39,7 %
4.	Alliance of associations for youth	7	0,6 %
Total		1.100	100 %

Table 8: Youth organizations according to the organizational form

The Law on Youth, also, stipulates the possibility of forming councils for youth on provincial, city and municipal levels. At present, 91 local self-government units have established youth councils (slightly over 55%), out of which 53 are active (about 32%). When youth offices are concerned, there are 128 such offices established, which means that over 78% of the local self-government units have established youth offices.

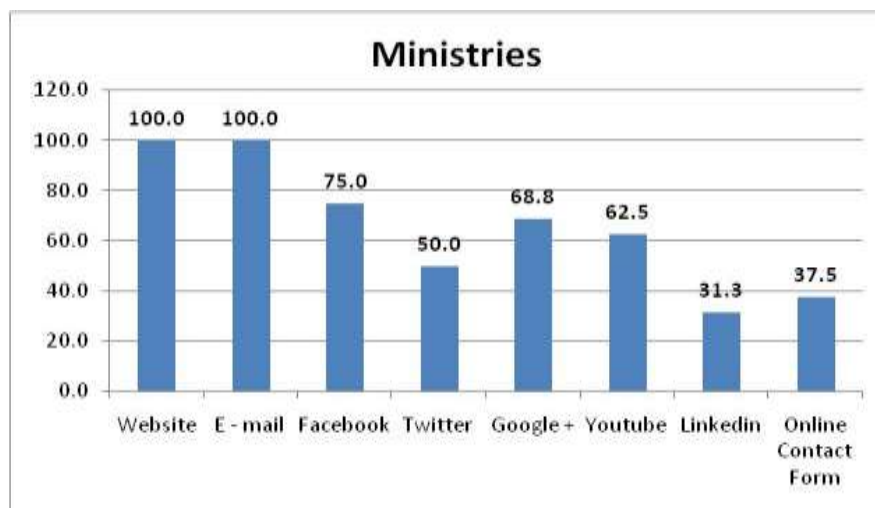
Formally established and active youth councils and youth offices		
Formally established youth councils	91	55,8%
Active youth councils	53	32,5%
Youth offices	128	78,5%

Table 9: Formally established and active youth councils/offices

7. Online channels (website, email, Facebook, Twitter, YT, LinkedIn, online contact forms) for government/parliament/municipalities and cities

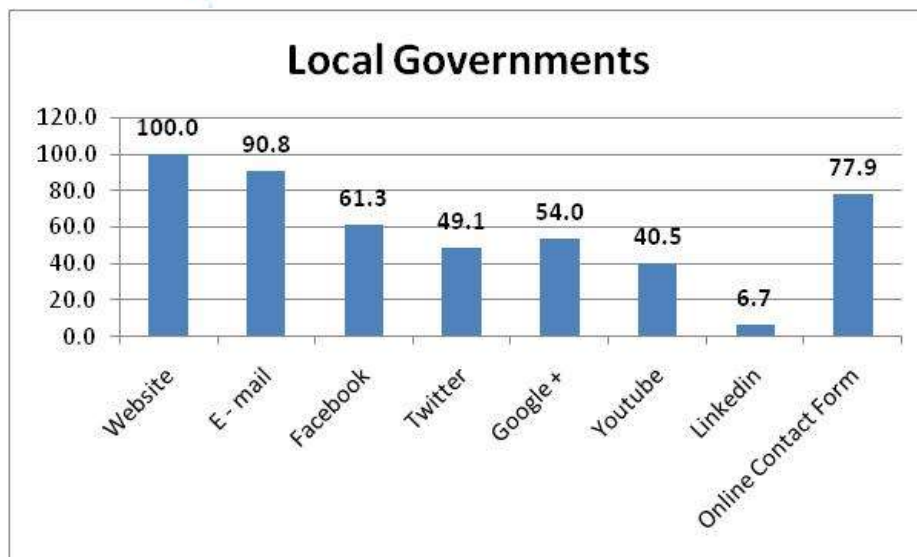
The Government of the Republic of Serbia, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina have their internet presentations and contact e-mails which can be used by citizens, and thus young people as well, to acquire more information on the work of these bodies or other necessary information. Also, these bodies offer an online contact forms and social networks for communication with citizens and youth.

All the ministries have their internet presentations and contact e-mails which can be used by citizens, and thus young people as well, to acquire more information on the work of these bodies or other necessary information. Furthermore, 6 ministries also offer an online contact form which is accessible on their internet presentations, which can be used by citizens to send their questions or require necessary information. Among the social networks, the most popular is Facebook (75% of ministries have their FB page), followed by G+ (68,8%), Twitter (50%) and Youtube (62,5%), while LinkedIn is the least popular (31,3%).



Graph 5: Communication options with ministries

On the local level, all local self-government units (without Kosovo and Metohija) have their own internet presentations, while contact e-mails are offered by slightly more than 90%, with a contact form for citizens in about 77,9% of the local self-government units. The most popular social network is Facebook (61,3% local self-government units have their FB page), followed by G+ (66%), Twitter (49,1%), Youtube (40,5%), while LinkedIn is the least popular (slightly less than 7% of municipalities have their page on this social network).



Graph 6: Communication options with the local self-government units

Official Body	Website %	Email %	Facebook %	Twitter %	Google + %	YT %	LinkedIn %	Online contact forms %
Parliament, National Government, Parliament of the Autonomous Province, Government of the Autonomous Province, Ministries	100 %	100 %	75 %	60 %	60 %	65 %	35 %	45 %
Municipalities (including City Municipalities)	100 %	90.8%	61.3%	49.1%	54%	40.5%	6.7%	7.9%

Table 10: Communication options with ministries, local self-government units, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

8. Ratio of youth CSO out of the total number of CSOs

Total number of CSOs: **Data unavailable.**

Total number of youth CSOs and CSOs for youth: **Data unavailable.**

Ratio of youth CSOs out of the total number of CSOs: **Data unavailable.**

Ratio of CSOs for youth out of the total number of CSOs: **Data unavailable.**

Youth participation rate to overall CSOs: **Data unavailable.**

Social Participation

1. Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET Rate)¹⁶

The share of young people not in employment, education or training (represented by NEET rate) in 2015 stood, for youth between the age of 15 and 30, at 25,2%¹⁷ in Serbia compared to the total number of young people. This practically means that one in four young people of the age between 15 and 30 was in jeopardy of social exclusion, poverty and a long-term loss of skills and knowledge necessary for the labor market.

For young people between the age of 15 and 24, this rate in the same year in the Republic of Serbia stood at 19,7%, and at 12% in the European Union.

This rate shows that young people not in employment, education and training are in the risk of poverty and social exclusion, but also that with the passage of time they are losing the necessary skills and knowledge, and thus the possibility to improve their economic situation. NEET rate is, therefore, an indicator which points to problems faced by young people on the labor market and is very important for creators of public policies as it offers information on young people which can be socially excluded, and which thus become a group which can be hardly employed and could remain outside of the labor market. Youth covered by this rate represents an important potential gain in the form of unused production capacity and at the same time a significant expense concerning social expenditures.¹⁸ The share of young people which are not in employment, education or training has increased during the economic crisis in Serbia, but also in the European Union countries.

*Groups of young people with a greater probability to be classified within the NEET population include:*¹⁹

- young people with lower levels of education – three times greater chance to become a part of the NEET population compared to others;
- young immigrant people - 70% greater chance to become a part of the NEET population;

¹⁷ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

¹⁸ The difference between the NEET rate and the rate of unemployment of young people is the rate of unemployment represents a measurement of young people without employment, but who are actively seeking employment and are able to work. On the other hand, NEET rate excludes young people in education, employment or training and can include certain economically inactive young people.

¹⁹ EUROSTAT

- young people with some form of disability – have 40% greater chance to become a part of the NEET population;
- young people from divorced marriages of their parents – have 30% greater chance to become a part of the NEET population than young people who have not gone through such life experience;
- young people whose parents were unemployed over a significant period of time;
- young people from low-income households, which provide significantly lower opportunities for acquiring education, aside from the danger of poverty and danger of social exclusion
- young people who live in distant regions.

NEET rate in 2015	NEET rate (% of young people not in employment and not in education and training in the total number of young people of the corresponding age group)
Serbia – youth 15-30	25,2%
Serbia – youth 15-24	19,7%
European Union 15 - 29 ²⁰	14,8%
European Union 15 – 24 ²¹	12,0%
Italy	21,4%
Spain	15,6%
Bulgaria	19,3%
Greece	17,2%
Romania	18,1%
Croatia	18,5%
France	12,0%
Sweden	6,7%
Germany	6,2%
Denmark	6,2%
Norway	5,0%
Netherlands	4,7%

Table 11: NEET rate for Serbia, EU and individual European countries

In 2015 Serbia had a significantly higher NEET rate against the NEET rate registered by other EU countries. NEET rate for young people between the age of 15 and 29 in Serbia was by 10,4% higher compared to the corresponding rate in the EU, while for young people between the age of 15 and 24 this difference is lower and stands at 7,7%. Within the EU, Italy has the

²⁰ EUROSTAT

²¹ EUROSTAT

NEET rate similar to Serbia (21,4%), while Bulgaria (19,3%), Croatia (18,5%) and Romania (18,1%) have significantly lower NEET rate compared to Serbia, even though the NEET rate in these countries is also above the EU average.

a. Early school leaving

Indicator of the early school leaving (the rate of early school leaving) and the absolute number of people of the age of 18 – 24 shows the number of persons with completed primary school at the most and which are not in education and training.

Early school leaving indicator for the young people between the age of 18 and 24 dropped in 2015 compared to the year 2014.

- In the year 2014 early school leaving was registered in the case of **47.375 persons** of the age of 18 to 24, while 50,7% (24.001) were men, and 49,3% (23.374) were women.²²

- In the year 2015 early school leaving was registered in the case of **42.906 persons** of the age of 18 to 24, while 52,9% (22.967) were men, and 47,1% (22.209) were women.²³

2. Young people at risk of poverty (UN criteria)

According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia the rate of the risk of poverty and social exclusion, for young people of the age of 15 to 29 was stood in 2015 at 30,3% in the case of men, and 27,5% in the case of women.

3. Young people at risk of discrimination (gender, race, ethnic, sexual orientation)

Data Unavailable

4. Young people in prisons

The number of young people of the age of up to 30, which were on 31.12.2015 in prison, according to the Administration for the Execution of Penitentiary Sentences, was 2.950, out of which 95,8% were men.

²² Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – "Poll on labor force 2014"

²³ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – "Poll on labor force 2015"

All young people which are serving a prison sentence, also including 60 sentenced juveniles, represent 0,24% of the total number of young people in Serbia in 2015.

A total of 3.846 young people were sentenced to prison terms in 2015, according to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, out of which 98,8% were men.

Number of people in prison²⁴ (on 31.12.2015)	Men	Women	Total	Share in the total number of young people	
	2.827	123	2.950	0,24%	
	95,8%	4,2%	100,0		
Number of convicted persons²⁵ (2015)	3.686	160	3.846	0,31%	Total
Juvenile	9	0	9	0,58%	Men
Adult	3.837	160	3.837	0,03%	Women
	95,8%	4,2%	100,0		

Table 12: Number of young people serving prison sentence and the number of convicted young people

Young people convicted during 2015, a total of 3.846 of them, also including 9 juveniles, make up for 0,31 of the total number of young people in Serbia in 2015. Concerning convicted men, they represent 0,58% of the total young male population in Serbia, while girls make up for 0,03% of the total young female population.

²⁴ Administration for the Execution of Penitentiary Sanctions

²⁵ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

5. Young people in need of continuous care

The number of young people who were beneficiaries of the social care in 2014 was, according to the records of the Republic Institute for Social Protection, 259.928, out of whom 124.799 were girls up to the age of 25, while the rest were men.

	Male	Female	Total
Children up to the age of 17	102.211	91.654	193.865
Youth of 18-25 years of age	32.915	33.145	66.060
Total social care beneficiaries up to the age of 25	135.126	124.799	259.925
	52%	48%	
Total number of social care beneficiaries	328.810	353.362	682.172
Share of young people (up to the age of 25)	41,1%	35,3%	38,1%

Table 13: Number of social care beneficiaries in 2014²⁶

Out of the total number of social care beneficiaries in the year 2014, 38,1% were children up to the age of 17 and young people between the age of 18 and 25. Men up to the age of 25 covered 41,1% of the total male beneficiaries, while women up to the age of 25 covered 35,3% of the total number of female beneficiaries.

6. Young people that are illiterate

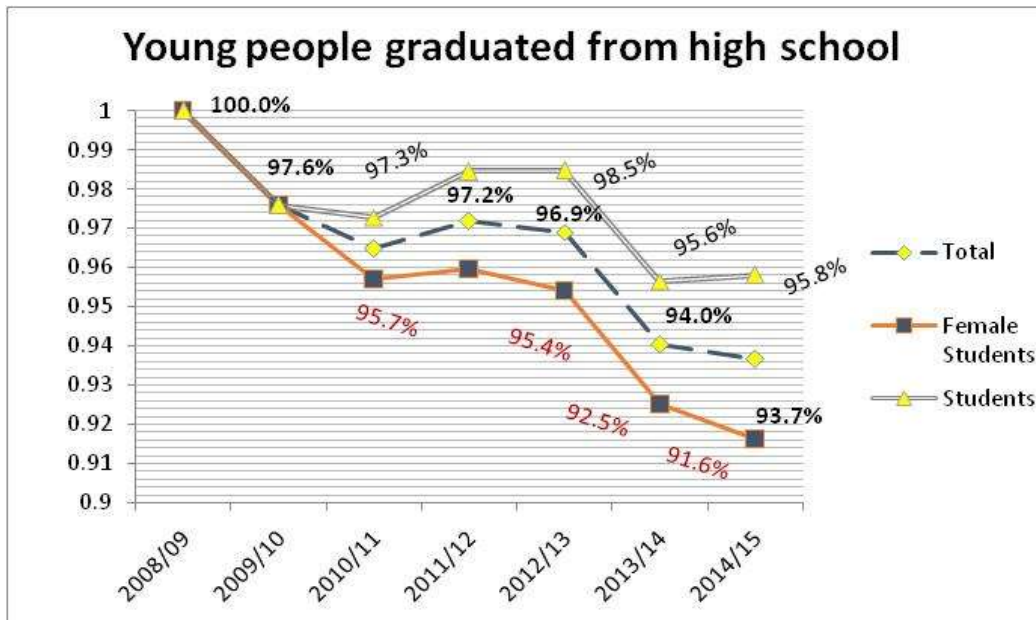
Data Unavailable

7. Young people graduated from high schools

The number of young people who completed a secondary school during the school year 2014/2015, according to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, was 65.757, out of which 32.886 were girls and 32.871 were men.²⁷

²⁶ Republic Institute for Social Protection

²⁷ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – publication "Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Serbia 2016", 2016



Graph 7: Changes in the number of pupils who have completed the secondary school in the period 2008 - 2015²⁸

During the observed period the total number of pupils completing the secondary school reduced by 4.451 in 2015, which represents a decrease of 6,3% compared to the observed year 2008. Concerning girls, this decrease is much greater, so in 2015 a total of 3.009 girls graduated from high school, or by 8,4% fewer girls compared to the year 2008. Also, the number of young men with completed secondary school is also decreasing, but to a lesser extent compared to girls. During 2015, compared to the observed year 2008, the secondary school was completed by 1.442 fewer young men, or by 4,2% compared to the year 2008.

²⁸ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

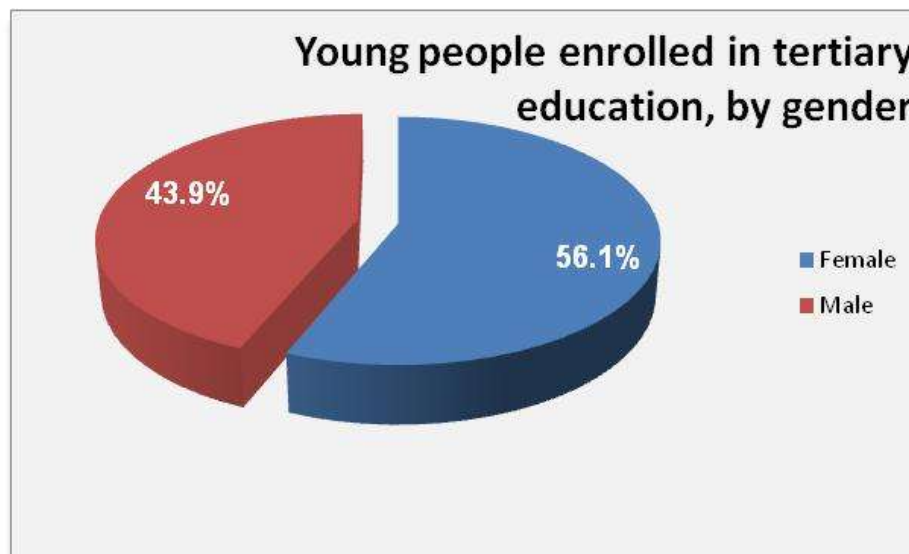
8. Drop out from high schools

Data Unavailable

9. Young people enrolled in tertiary education

The number of young people who enrolled at the university during the school year 2014/2015 stood at 218.738, which represents about 17% of the total number of young people.²⁹

Out of the total number of enrolled students, 43,9% were men, while 56,1% were women.



Graph 8: Students enrolled during 2015, by gender

10. Young people graduated from tertiary education

According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia³⁰ the number of students who graduated during 2014 was 50.501 in total, out of which 29.575 (58,6%) were women, and 20.926 (41,4%) were men.

²⁹ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – publication "Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Serbia 2016", 2016

³⁰ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – publication "Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Serbia 2016", 2016

Economic Participation

The basic indicators of labor market movements of young people between the age of 15 and 29 (employment rate³¹, unemployment rate³², activity rate³³ and inactivity rate³⁴) in Serbia, which to a good extent characterize involvement of young people in economic flows, show an improvement over the past couple of years. Namely, taking into consideration the period between the beginning of economic crisis until the end of 2015, in 2011 the **unemployment rate of young people between the age of 15 and 29** stood at the maximum of 42,5%, while in 2015 a decrease was registered, when the unemployment rate stood at 34,9%. However, the unemployment rate of young people is still higher compared to the year 2008, when the global economic crisis started and when it was at the level of 28,6%.

Employment rate of young people also points to the improvement of movement of young people on the labor market, considering the fact that compared to the year 2011, when it stood at 24,9%, it grew each consecutive year (in 2015, the employment rate of young people stood at 29,8%). Activity rate of young people is growing since 2013 and in 2015 stood at 45,8%. This means that increasingly greater number of young people either looks for a job or is employed. Consequently and to the same extent to which the activity rate increased, the inactivity rate decreased. Finally, according to the records of the National Employment Agency, during the year 2016, which was declared as the "Year of Entrepreneurship", about 90.000 cases of employment of young people were registered which were registered immediately before employment as unemployed by the National Employment Agency, which represents a strong signal that a large number of young people turned to the self-employment.

³¹ Employment rate represents a percentage of employed people in the total population of 15 years of age and more.

³² Unemployment rate represents a percentage of unemployed people in the total number of active residents of 15 years of age and more.

³³ Activity rate represents a percentage of active population in the total population of 15 years of age and more.

³⁴ Inactivity rate represents a percentage of inactive population in the total population of 15 years of age and more. Activity and inactivity rate make up for 100%.

Year	Employment rate (15-29)	Unemployment rate (15-29)	Activity rate (15-29)	Inactivity rate (15-29)
2008	33,4	28,6	46,7	53,3
2009	24,9	32,4	43,8	56,2
2010	26,0	38,5	42,0	58,0
2011	24,9	42,5	43,2	56,8
2012	26,1	42,3	45,1	54,9
2013	26,2	41,6	44,8	55,2
2014	28,3	37,8	45,5	54,5
2015	29,8	34,9	45,8	54,2

Table 14: Indicators of the youth labor market (15-29)³⁵

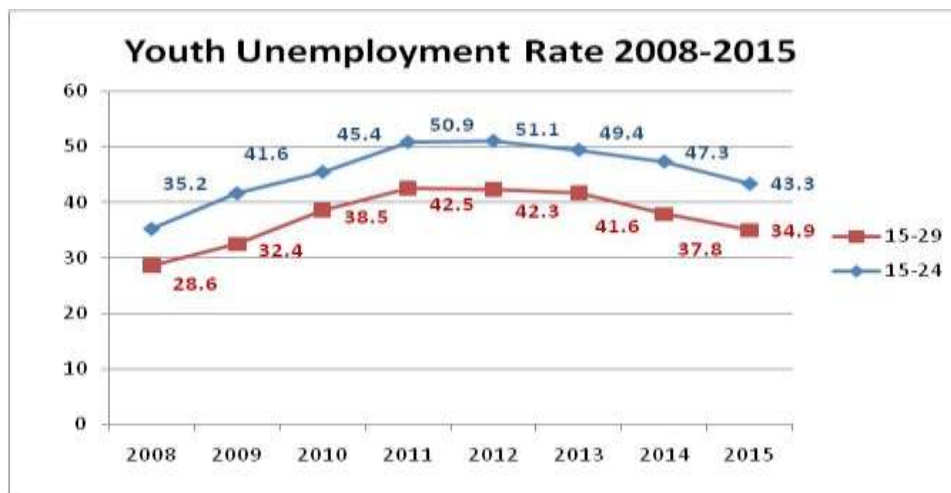
1. Youth unemployment rate

Youth (15-24 year olds) unemployment rate: **43,3%** (2015).

Youth (15-29 year olds) unemployment rate: **34,9%** (2015).

Women (15-24) unemployment rate: **48,7%** (2015).

Men (15-24) unemployment rate: **40,1%** (2015).



Graph 9: Movement of the youth unemployment rate 2008-2015³⁶

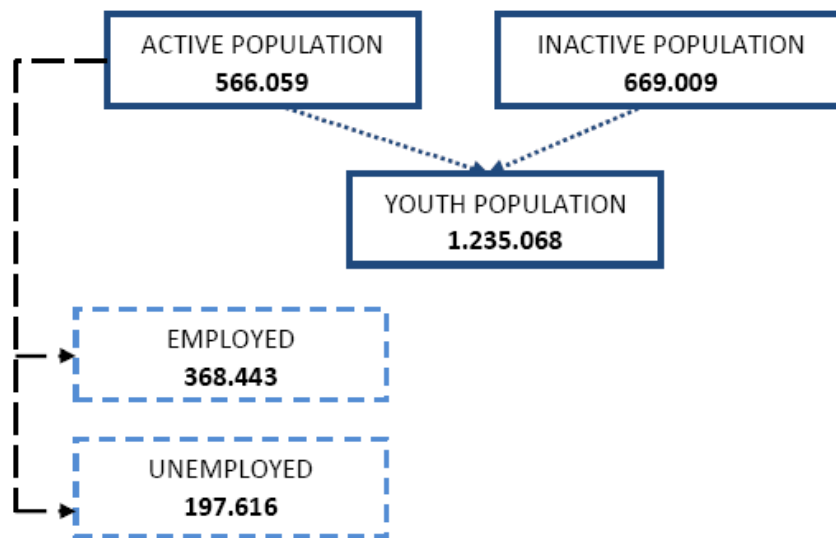
³⁵ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – Poll on labor force 2008 – 2015

³⁶ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – Poll on labor force 2008 – 2015

The youth unemployment rate is significantly higher than the registered general unemployment rate, but it ranges, as per rule, in correlation with the overall unemployment rate. During the observed period during all years, except in 2012, the growth of the overall unemployment rate also followed the youth unemployment rate.

Year	General unemployment rate %	Unemployment rate (15-29) %	Unemployment rate (15-24) %
2008	13,6	28,6	35,2
2009	16,1	32,4	41,6
2010	19,2	38,5	45,4
2011	23	42,5	50,9
2012	23,9	42,3	51,1
2013	22,1	41,6	49,4
2014	19,4	37,8	47,3
2015	16,4	34,9	43,3

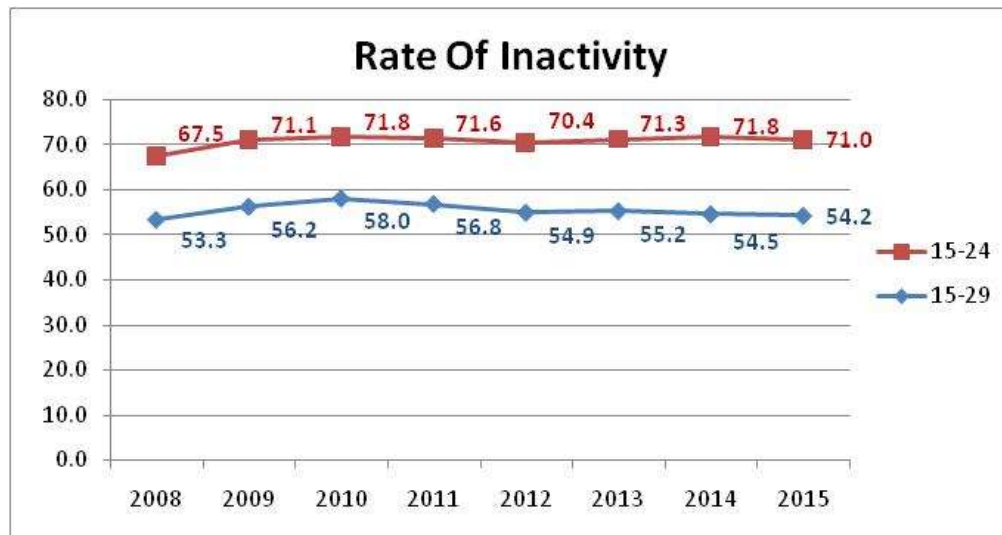
Table 15: Movement of the overall unemployment rate and the youth unemployment rate 2008-2015



Picture 1: Youth in the Republic of Serbia 2015³⁷

³⁷ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – "Poll on labor force 2015"

The youth inactivity rate is constantly high, which may be a negative fact considering that aside from young people in education or in training, inactive population also includes the young people not looking for a job, who are discouraged from looking for a job, as well as young people who didn't work over a recent period or are not able to start working for some reason in the forthcoming period.



Graph 10: Movement of youth economic activity in the period 2008 - 2015³⁸

The youth inactivity rate is very high among young people between the age of 15 and 24 and in 2015 stood at 71%, while for the age between 15 and 29 it stood at 54,2%.

2. Youth long term unemployment rate (> 1 year)

Long-term youth unemployment rate of the age 15-30 in the Republic of Serbia, which shows the percentage of young people looking for employment for more than a year stood in 2015 at 18,6%. The long-term unemployment rate of young women in the Republic of Serbia (20,1%) is higher than the long-term unemployment rate of young men (17,4%).

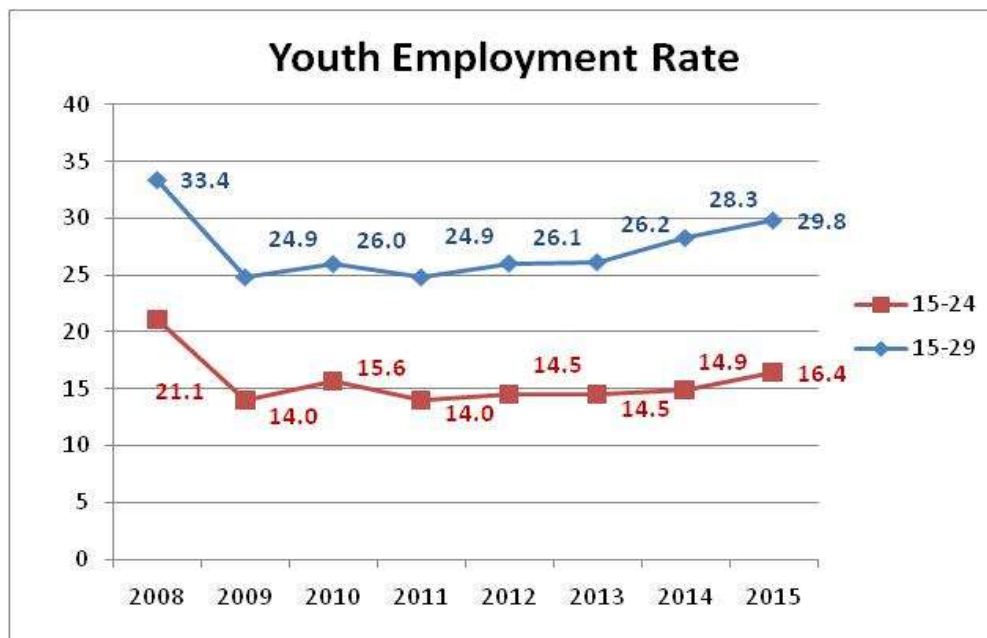
The long-term unemployment leads to numerous negative consequences which are reflecting the future engagement on the labor market, considering that consequences include the loss of knowledge and skills, loss of will for looking for employment opportunities, dispiritedness and

³⁸ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – Poll on labor force 2008 – 2015

similar, so these young people may shift to the category of inactive population because of the long period of unemployment.

3. Youth employment rate

Youth employment is low, but its mild increase has been registered compared to the fall of almost 9% after beginning of the global economic crisis.



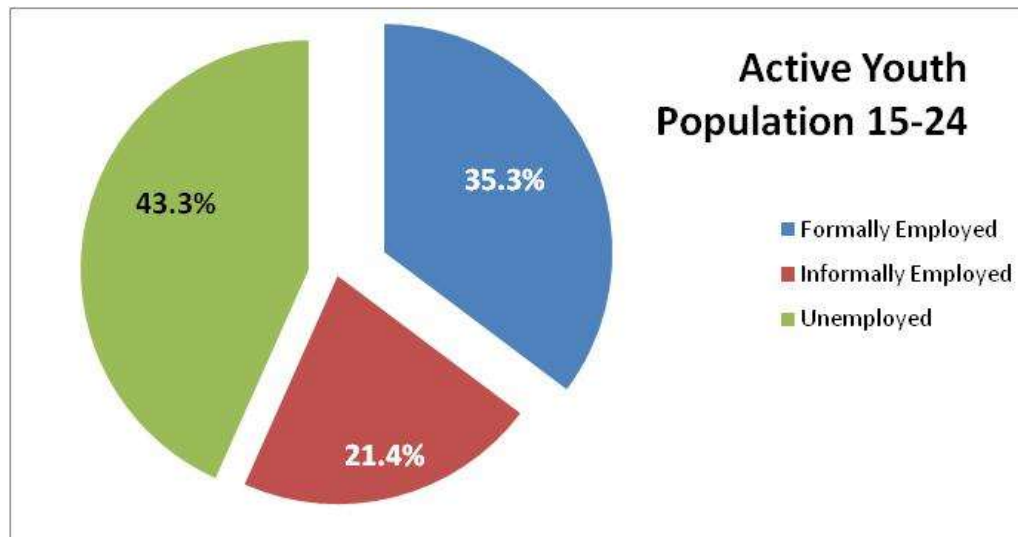
Graph 11: Movement of the youth employment rate in the period 2008 – 2015³⁹

On the basis of employment rate in 2015, it is concluded that 29,8% of young people between the age of 15 and 29 are working, and that in the age group of 15 to 24 the share of young working people is 16,4%.

³⁹ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – Poll on the labor force 2008 – 2015

4. Informal employment

The rate of informal employment of young people between the age of 15 and 24 stood in the year 2015 at 37,8%.⁴⁰



Graph 12: The structure of economically active population between the age of 15 and 24

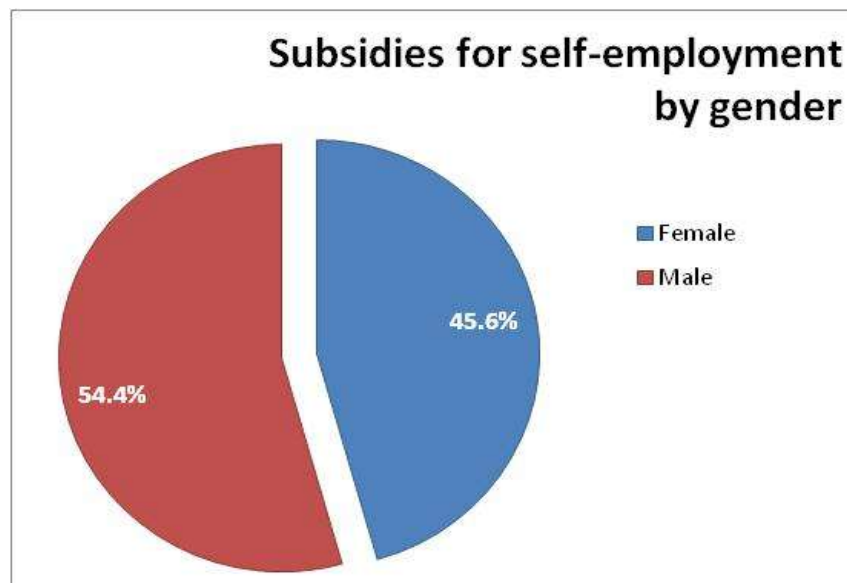
On the labor market, and observing only economically active population, more than one fifth of young people were employed in the informal sector.

The youth informal employment, as a percentage of young people who work without employment agreement or without any other type of agreement or work in unregistered business entities, is exceptionally high and in 2015 stood at 37,8% for young people of the age between 15 and 24, while at the same time the total informal employment on the Republic of Serbia, of all ages of employees, stood at 19,5%. The total number of informally employed young people between the age of 15 and 24 in the year 2015 stood at 48.431, which represents 9,7% of the total number of informally employed.

⁴⁰ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – "Poll on the labor force 2015"

5. Young people that started their own business with the financial support of state

Records on the self-employment of young people show that young people took the initiative and turned to the self-employment, with or without financial support of the state. During 2015, **financial support for self-employment** from the National Employment Agency (which also includes the self-employment program for people with disability and the self-employment program according to local employment action plans which are realized through the cooperation between the National Employment Agency and local self-governments-municipalities), was granted to a total of 811 interested people, which represented **43,7%** compared to the total number of those who filed a request for financial support for self-employment during that year. Out of the total number of financially supported persons, there were more women (441 compared to 370 men, which represents 23,7% of the total number of registered, and 54,4% of the total number of those who received financial support). Programs for employment, self-employment and employment increase of young people in the Republic of Serbia are also conducted by civil society organizations in Serbia.⁴¹



Graph 13: Utilization of financial support for self-employment in the year 2015

⁴¹ National Employment Agency

6. Self-employed youth

According to the records of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the number of persons between the age of 15 and 29 who, during 2015, were self-employed stood at 39.664, which represents **3,2%** compared to the total number of young people during that year, and **10,8%** compared to the total number of employed young people during the same year.

Out of the total number of self-employed during 2015, 25,6% were young women.

	Self-employed 15-29		Share in the total number of employed young people
<i>Total</i>	39,644	100%	10.8%
<i>Female</i>	10,162	25.6%	6.9%
<i>Male</i>	29,482	74.4%	13.3%

Table 16: Self-employed youth during 2015

According to the Serbian Business Registers Agency, during November 2016, 7.726 business entities were registered with 100% of the founding capital of persons younger than 30 years of age, which represents about 5,8% compared to the total number of business entities, and 53.555 of entrepreneurs, which represents about 23,4% compared to the total number of entrepreneurs. This means that out of the total number of all business entities and entrepreneurs in the Republic of Serbia, about **17%** of owners are young people.

For the purpose of increasing employability and employment of young people, the state has created over the past several year **numerous programs for employment of young people**. During the year 2016 alone, which was declared the "Year of Entrepreneurship", as much as 111 million dinars were set aside for youth employment programs.⁴² However, there are still no records on effects of all youth programs which were covered by the said initiatives.

⁴² Among other things, the allocation included: a) 77 million dinars as a financial support for programs and projects for support to young people in employment, from the budget of the Ministry of Youth and Sport for enforcement of the youth entrepreneurship programs, programs which support employability of young people and programs for employment of young people facing additional obstacles on the labor market; b) 30 million dinars for the project for support to beginners for business startups, published by Development Agency of Serbia, and within which 30% of the budget is allocated for young people between the age of 18 and 30 which amounted to 100 million dinars; v) for the needs of the prize fund in the amount of 4 million dinars for financing of the Competition for selection of best project ideas, published by Development Agency of Serbia, for the purpose of providing incentives to young people to act for development and improvement of communities in which they were born; g) also,

Assessment of this type could enable even better targeting of young people for the purpose of their self-employment and the overall increase of youth employability, as well as for the planning of public policies and youth programs, as public policies and programs could achieve better results if the information on effects would be taken into consideration during the next cycle of planning of public policies and programs.

7. Young people refusing the job

Data unavailable

8. Young people employed in private sector

Data unavailable

9. Young people employed in public sector

Data unavailable

according to the data of the National Employment Agency, the sum of 632 billion dinars was set aside for the program of financial support for self-employment, while the stipulated individual financial support stood at 180.000 dinars for unemployed persons from the register of the National Employment Agency, and 200.000 dinars for persons with disability. Within the "Year of Entrepreneurship", assets were also allocated within other programs for financial support to development of entrepreneurship and business activities, but within those programs no explicit assets were set aside intended exclusively for young people.