

Human Resources

In the last 40 years the population of the city of Leskovac was in a continuous rise, only to slow down considerably between the last two censii. Following the last census of 2002 the city has a population of 162,000 inhabitants (including inhabitants abroad). In the last century it was a significant immigration area for almost all surrounding municipalities, so that in that period as many inhabitants moved in as the City of Leskovac has today (56,000).

It is estimated that at this moment 28,000 inhabitants are directly or indirectly tied to agriculture, which makes 17% of the entire population, i.e. 39% of the active population, which can be considered a high participation of agricultural population.

The level of education of the population, as well as the break-down of professional skills is less favorable than in the Republic, and lags far behind the needs of development of the city.

A disproportionately large number of highly skilled workers are employed in non-economic activity, which decreases the skill potential of the economy, and therefore its developmental possibilities too.

Number of Employed

Number of Employees

2000

2004

2005

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Difference

2004-1998

Economy, Total

Industry

22.890

14.918

17.052

9.946

15.193

7.935

-20.804

-14.255

The total number of employed in the economy in mid 2006 amounted to 16,000 workers. Together with the employed in private shops of 9,800 a total number of employed comes to 27,800 workers. The process of reducing the number of employed in mid 2006 was stopped for the first time since 1989. The biggest number of employed is in the processing industry, with about 8,500 workers,

Number of employed in companies

Description

Employed in 2005

I Companies by size

1.1. Small

1.2. Medium

1.3. Large

II Companies by Type of Ownership

2.1. Public

2.2. Private

2.3. Cooperative

2.4. Mixed

2.5. State

15.193

5.304

5.383

4.506

6.775

4.915

144

2.301

1.058

A particular human potential, with a potential developmental component, is 24,500 unemployed registered at the Employment Office at the end of 2003. That is 15% of the entire population, i.e. a high of 32% of the active population. In this contingent as many as 5.5% are have higher or high professional skills. Add to this 3,700 workers on temporary work abroad, with their modern market culture and potential developmental capital (a minimum of 5.5 million EUR annually find their way into Serbia) makes a continuously active stabilizing and developmental component, as a product of a special source of workforce.

The total number of shops in the city at the end of 2005 was 4,309, and a whole 17% greater than the previous year, when there were just over 3,600 of them. The number increased within all trades, but mostly in trade, by more than 500 in absolute numbers, i.e. almost one third of the overall increase. This group of small shops now employs 9,000 workers, and has a constant dynamic of increase (11.5% on last year). Of the overall number of employed, the city of Leskovac (34,256) participates with 26%.

The number of unemployed in mid 2006 was registered at the level of 21,700 persons, which is second largest absolute unemployment in Serbia among 160 municipalities and cities. The largest number of unemployed is in the category of middle skill education (6,800), and in the category unqualified (5,600). 565 unemployed persons were registered with high skill education.

With over 900 private companies and about 4,300 private shops, the city of Leskovac falls within the very entrepreneurial top of the Republic of Serbia. Directly or indirectly, as secondary work, about 30,000 inhabitants of the city are tied to agricultural production. Along with Industry, it is the most significant activity in town. To date, about 30 companies have been privatized, and as many public companies are in the process. This is why presently over 50% of annual revenue of the city is produced in the private sector.