

LITHUANIAN LABOUR EXCHANGE



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ORGANIZATION OF THE LABOUR MARKET MONITORING

SITUATION IN THE LITHUANIAN LABOUR MARKET: SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Among 356142 jobseekers who were registered at local labour exchange offices in 2010, 303148 were unemployed. It was 17.9 % less than during the same period in 2009. On average, there were registered 25262 unemployed per month (in 2009, there were 30782 unemployed). The largest influx of unemployed was fixed in the first two quarters of the year, later, since August, labour supply has decreased.

On 1 January 2011, there were 311.3 thousand registered unemployed people and they formed 14.4 % of the country's total working age population. To compare to the beginning of the year, employment increased by 15.8 %. Female accounted for 44.7 % of total unemployed, while male – 55.3 %. Every sixth registered person was younger than 25 years of age, and every fourth (26.9 %) was over 50.

On 1 January 2011, there were 129.9 thousand registered long-term unemployed people. They formed 41.8 % of total unemployed (on 1 January 2010, it was 14.4 %). Among registered unemployed, about 83 % were additionally supported in the labour market (258 thousand).

On 1 January 2011, registered unemployed people formed 14.4 % of the country's total working age population and that was 2 % more than on 1 January 2010.

The highest unemployment rate was fixed in July (15.3 %). In the second half of the year, a positive trend emerged in the labour market: in August, for the first time in nearly two-year interval, it was recorded decrease in registered unemployment, which lasted until December. Unemployed male made up 15.8 % of total working age male population, women – 13.0 % of total working age female population. The unemployment gender gap decreased: at the beginning of 2010, it was 3.9 %, while at the end of the year, it was 2.8 %.

In a year, the youth unemployment increased from 8.1 % to 9,5 %.

On 1 January 2011, the largest number of working-age population registered as unemployed was in Ignalina (21.3 %), Mažeikiai (19.8 %) and Zarasai (19.4 %) local labour exchange offices. The smallest number of unemployed was in Neringa (5.7 %), Birštonas (10.7 %), and Šiauliai (11.3 %). Registered unemployment increased in all municipalities, except Šiauliai city.

LABOUR DEMAND

During the year 2010, labour exchange registered 148.2 thousand vacancies in the database, of which 60 % were for permanent employment. To compare to 2009, labour demand increased by about 61 %. Job vacancies by sector of economic activity distributed as follows: services – 51.3 %, industry – 23.9 %, construction – 18.1 %, agriculture – 6.7 %. To compare to 2009, job vacancies in construction made up by 6.7 % bigger proportion of total registered job offers, in industry sector it increased by 2.6 %. The comparative share of vacancies in services and

agriculture decreased accordingly by 9.5 % and 0.2 %. Demand for fixed-term job increased the most (more than 2 times).

27.2 % of total vacancies were registered for skilled workers (in 2009 it was 23.7 %). To compare to 2009, demand for unskilled workers slightly increased by 25.4 % (in 2009 it was 24.5 %).

LABOUR MARKET SERVICES

PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND COUNSELLING

The Lithuanian Labour Exchange clients, taking into account their individual needs and ability to absorb the information, also, the labour market needs, are informed and counselled individually or in groups.

In 2010, individual information and counselling services were provided for 4093693 jobseekers, including: 530,701 – for young people under 25, 1078303 – for persons older than 50 years. 23 108 persons – received counselling in groups, including: 7123 – young people under 25, 4683 – persons older than 50 years, 8364 – long-term unemployed. After counselling, 3531 person made decision on acquisition of profession, 3993 were employed, 454 created a job for themselves by purchasing a business license.

EMPLOYMENT MEDIATION

In 2010, the labour exchange specialists helped a record number of 191.2 thousand jobseekers in finding jobs. It is almost 57 % more than during the year 2009 (121.8 thousand). Approximately 15.9 thousand persons were employed each month. The average monthly number of persons employed in 2009 was 10.2 thousand.

About 70 % of employed persons got a permanent job. Almost every fifth employed was young (under 25 years of age). 16 % of jobseekers older than 50 years were employed. Employment of women was lower than that of men (41.5 % of employed). Every fifth employed was a long-term unemployed (21.1 % of total employed).

The duration of filling vacancies lasted for about 0.45 month, and, comparing with the last year, it decreased.

Seeking to meet the skilled manpower needs of individual sectors of the economy, and in line with the necessity in production of enterprises, the Lithuanian Labour Exchange in 2010 issued 1808 work permits for foreigners in Lithuania, including 1297 work permits to work in the Republic of Lithuania under an employment contract, 136 work permits for employees of foreign companies who were sent for temporary employment. In the period, 375 work permits have been extended for foreigners to work in Lithuania. Compared to the last year, the number of issued work permits has decreased by 1.2 times.

In 2010, most work permits were issued for work in services (82 %) and industrial sectors (15 %). Most often foreigners have been granted/ renewed work permits to work as international carriage of goods vehicle drivers

– 63 %; metal ship hull assemblers – 8 %, welders – 5 %, restaurant cooks – 5 %, banking system consultants – 3 % of all issued work permits in the Republic of Lithuania.

Seeking to increase the employment of the unemployed and to better meet the employers' demand for qualified labour force, local labour exchanges were looking for new employers who would be able to actively participate in the implementation of employment promotion measures. On 1 January 2011, the local labour exchange offices provided their services for almost 52 thousand employers. This accounts for more than half (65%) of the total operating enterprises in the country.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT MEASURES

PROGRAMMES FOR MITIGATING SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF GROUP LAYOFFS

In 2010, 59 preventive action programmes were prepared. To reduce psychological tension, the labour exchange specialists organised meetings with employers and employees in their enterprises seeking to help them in job transfer. They provided consultancy, counselling, individual activity planning and mediating services.

PRIORITY ATTENTION FOR PROMOTING YOUTH ACTIVITY

On 1 January 2011, 44.7 thousand young people under 25 years of age were jobless, i.e. they accounted for 14.4 % of all registered unemployed with the labour exchange. Youth aged 25 or less formed 9.5 % of the country's 16-25 years old population.

In 2010, 73930 young people under 25 years of age applied to the local labour exchange offices looking for a job and this is 7.2 % less than in 2009 (79635). Young people under 25 years of age made up 24.4 % of total registered unemployed and this is 2.8 % less than in 2009 (21.6 %).

Almost every second young person was looking for a job for the first time (45.7 %) or was unskilled (52.7 %). It was the major obstacle for young people wishing to compete in the labour market.

Of the total share of unemployed, 77 % of young unemployed people within 4 months of unemployment were offered a "New Start" programme.

In 2010, the labour exchange specialists helped 34 thousand young people under 25 years of age in finding jobs. It is almost one third more than during the year 2009 (22.2 thousand).

In 2010, 11.4 thousand young people under 25 years of age were sent to the active labour market measures (2009 – 11.2 thousand), including: 2861 – were sent to vocational training and 3453 – support for the acquisition of professional skills measure.

A First Job Programme is offered for graduates who completed education and started working according to acquired professional competences or for graduates or persons with basic education who are seeking a job for the

first time. Participants of this programme are provided with information, counselling, and intermediation services. After implementation of the programme, in 2010, almost 9 000 persons were employed, and another 4 100 young people under 25 years of age without work experience were sent to active labour market policy measures. Of these, 1 000 participated in vocational training programme, 1 433 were engaged in working skills acquisition support programme, and 875 performed public jobs.

In 2010, there were 21.5 thousand registered graduate persons, and that was 15 % more than in 2009 (18733).

In 2010, 415 motivational seminars were organized for socially vulnerable, unskilled and unmotivated young people, which helped them to increase their opportunities to establish themselves and compete equally in the labour market. Two-day seminars introduced young people to the world of occupations, helped them to solve arising problems, to develop the necessary skills to integrate them into the labour market, or to start their own business. In 2010, 2 723 young people attended the seminars. Of these, 243 were not registered at the labour exchange but belonged to the social risk group. With the involvement and in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, social partners, an effective support was provided for more vulnerable young people. Of the participants, 62 % later found employment, participated in ALM measures or other employment support programmes (in 2009 – 54 %).

To increase the youth employability skills, 11 Youth Job Centres constantly organize vocational motivation seminars at schools, inform about services PES provide. In 2010, 227708 young jobseekers received counselling in Youth Job Centres in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Panevėžys, Alytus, Akmenė, Marijampolė, Tauragė, Telšiai, and Utena. 57692 unemployed obtained information available in open information zones. Information about job search, vacancies, professions, studies programmes, etc. was given to 81834 persons. 47 thousand persons participated in various events in Youth Job Centres.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LABOUR MARKET ACTIVE POLICY PROGRAMMES

During 2010, 75.4 thousand jobseekers were involved into labour market active policy programmes. The total cost of these projects accounted for 1 796 171 thousand LTL (520 207 Euro).

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

13.6 thousand jobseekers were involved in vocational training, re-training or skills improvement programmes.

84 % of participants in the programme of vocational training were unskilled persons (every fourth person – young people under 25's, and every fifth – over 45's). 46 % of the participants were female and 54 male. Rural areas persons made up 31 %. Every third person was long-term unemployed.

Mostly people acquired the professions of sellers, welders, cooks, accountants, finishers, bakers, waiters, bartenders, nurses' assistants, hairdressers, and motor vehicle repair personnel.

After completing vocational training, 32 % persons with acquired additional qualifications and competences were placed within 6 months.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

Support for integration in the labour market was provided for 60.2 thousand jobseekers.

Among the participants, 44 % was female (22625), almost every fourth (24 %) was older than 50 years, every sixth person (16 %) – young people under 25 years of age, 77 % – additionally supported in the labour market and 38 % were long-term unemployed.

The biggest part of supported employment measures' participants did public works – 62 % and were involved in subsidised employment – 24 %.

SUBSIDISED EMPLOYMENT

Subsidised employment provided an opportunity for 17 thousand additionally supported persons (69 % more than in 2009) to return into the labour market. 884 disabled persons with the recognised 40 % working capacity level participated in subsidised employment. Among the participants, 46 % were female, almost every third (29 %) was over 50 years, every third (33 %) was long-term unemployed, every fourth person (19 %) – young people under 25 years of age, and 7 % were disabled.

Most persons (every second) were placed in services and industry, every twelfth – in construction, and every tenth in agriculture sectors.

SUPPORT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

By participating in the acquisition of professional skills measure, 7.7 thousand persons either established their professional skills, or acquired/updated their skills directly in the workplace.

Among them, 3208 females (49 %), 3453 – young people under 25 years of age (53 %), long-term unemployed – 2621 (40 %), older than 50 years – 407 (6 %), disabled persons – 119 (2 %).

The largest number of persons whom was established the need for acquisition of professional skills, had qualifications of sellers, managers, accountants, business administrators (52 %). Every second person after completing the programme was employed in service sector, one in five – in industry.

More than 4.700 employers seized the financing opportunity of the measures, mainly small businesses (2306), which made up 49 % of all participated in the measure. During the reporting period, support for the acquisition of professional skills was provided for 4604 persons.

PUBLIC WORKS

Temporary employment promotion was provided for 34.1 thousand jobseekers (83 % more than in 2009), of them 31.9 thousand was employed.

Public works' participants planted about 481 hectares of forests, tided up or put in order over 16102 hectares of parks, beaches, river and lake shores, cemeteries, over 815 objects of historical and cultural heritage or social objects.

Female accounted for 13.230 (41.5 %) of employed after public works programme, rural inhabitants – 14.075 (44 %), older than 50 years of working-age persons – 8101 (25.4 %).

33.4 thousand jobseekers finished participating in public works programme.

JOB ROTATION

By applying this measure, 777 persons were employed, of them 87 % female, 21 % youth up to 25 years, 8 % working age persons over 50 years, 18 % long-term unemployed.

Every second person was employed in services, every fifth – in industry sectors.

This opportunity was taken by 516 employers, 195 (38 %) employers were from small business enterprises. 465 persons finished their participation in this measure.

SUPPORT FOR JOB CREATION

In 2010, it was created 270 job vacancies and it was compensated financially the expenses for acquisition of 6247 business certificates.

PROMOTION OF SUBSIDISED EMPLOYMENT

In 2010, employers created 86 jobs for the disabled individuals with the recognised 55 % working capacity level. Among the newly created subsidised jobs, 24 were for drivers, 15 for technological lines machines, boilers, and laundry machine operator, 6 for cooks, 5 for workers, 3 for boiler fireman, 3 for sellers, 2 for managers, 2 for 2 for machinists, 2 for cleaners, 1 for car cleaner, warehouseman, engineer, furniture manufacturer, lighting equipment installer, administrator, tool sharpener, painter, the analyst, tractor driver, weather, service supervisor, baker, accountant, miller, container launderer, a mechanic, masseur, nurse, breeder, and baker.

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES PROJECTS

In 23 municipality areas, officially recognised as high-unemployment areas by the Lithuanian Government, 36 Local Employment Initiatives (LEI) projects were implemented.

127 new job vacancies were created in the highest unemployment territories, 16 % of projects were implemented by females. More than half of the projects were implemented in the rural areas with creation of 69 new jobs. Most projects were implemented in services (20) and construction (18) sectors.

SUPPORT FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT

By supporting self-employment of the disabled, possibilities were created to work at home. By the measure for supporting self-employment, 43 new jobs were created. State support for creating self-employment at home was used by disabled persons with the recognised 40 % working capacity level.

The disabled persons have created jobs for themselves as cooks, drivers, cabinetmakers, sellers, packers, housekeepers, workers, transport fleet engineer, administrator of projects, and lighting equipment installer. A large part of the disabled, who received state support for self-employment, had the possibility to work successfully at home.

SUPPORT FOR TERRITORIAL MOBILITY OF THE UNEMPLOYED

Support for the territorial mobility of the unemployed allowed to provide help for people who were employed in jobs remote from their places of residence. Such persons got compensation for their job related travel and accommodation expenses for a set period of time.

In 2010, 192 persons received compensation for travel and accommodation costs of the unemployed by the territorial mobility.

PROFESSIONAL REHABILITATION

In 2010, 489 persons were registered in local labour exchange offices with a need of professional rehabilitation. Most of them were in Vilnius – 182, Kaunas – 105, Šiauliai – 61 and Klaipėda – 46 persons.

By participating in professional rehabilitation programmes, 554 disabled persons acquired or recovered working skills, of them – 45 % females.

Most of rehabilitation services were provided by VŠĮ „Valakupių reabilitacijos centras“ – 127, VŠĮ „Vilniaus Žirmūnų darbo rinkos mokymo centras“ – 96, VŠĮ „Vilties žiedas“ – 73, VŠĮ „Šiaulių darbo rinkos mokymo centras“ – 70, VŠĮ „Palangos reabilitacijos ligoninė“ – 69, VŠĮ „Vilniaus psichosocialinės reabilitacijos centras“ – 56, VŠĮ „Profesijų spektras“ – 30, Tauragės neįgaliųjų reabilitacijos centras – 15, Lietuvos reabilitacinis profesinio rengimo centras – 9, UAB „Kauno Petrašiūnų darbo rinkos mokymo centras“ – 5 ir VŠĮ Trakų neįgaliųjų užimtumo centras – 4 persons.

Most often the disabled chose the possibility to acquire the qualifications of accountant, small business administrator, enterprise activity organizer, woodwork and art leather goods manufacturer, warehouse-keeper, florist, jeweller, manicurist and chiropodist. Professional rehabilitation programme participants participated in training of 100 different professions.

287 persons finished professional rehabilitation programme. Almost every second participant of the programme got employed.

ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

In the year, a social enterprise status was granted for 37 enterprises. Enterprises were administrated by 9 local labour exchange offices. Most of them were in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda.

At the end of 2010, 130 social enterprises operated, 90 of which had the disabled social enterprise status. In this companies 3573 persons were employed, 2454 (68.6 %) of them belonged to the additionally supported target groups.

Aided by the state support, social enterprises employed 128 assistants, who assisted 709 disabled in performing their job functions.

ASSESSMENT OF LABOUR EXCHANGE SERVICES

An important precondition for the improvement of services is the objective assessment of the services provided. Territorial labour exchange offices carry out surveys of the employers and unemployed persons for the assessment of provided services to them. In 2010, over 20 thousand clients participated in such surveys (more than 15 thousand unemployed persons and almost 4 thousand employers). It revealed the constantly increasing confidence of the clients in the system of the Lithuanian Labour Exchange, as the important institution answering their specific needs. All surveys and analysis results are published on the Lithuanian Labour Exchange website, presented in the events “Labour Market Days”, and dissemination through other contacts with the Labour Exchange clients.

Most of the unemployed (78 %) evaluated labour exchange services well, 19 % – partially good. Less than 1 % of clients were unsatisfied with our services. Employers were also satisfied with the labour exchange services offered and the quality. Less than 1 % of employers were unsatisfied with our services. . Respondents rated as the best services information about the labour exchange (98 %), employment mediation (94 %). Services of consultants appreciated 94 % of respondents, information and advice by telephone appreciated 98 % survey participants. Respondents also appreciated the work centres / information – counselling centre services and Lithuanian Labour Exchange website (users rated it by more than 90 %).