

Statistical regions	Registered unemployment rate, %		Typical groups of registered unemployed, % of total unemployed, Jan-Jun 2003						
	2002	Jan-Jun 003	Long-term unemployed	Education levels I, II	Education levels VI, VII	Aged up to 25	Redundancies	Aged over 40	Women
Central Slovenia	7.9	7.7	44.5	41.0	10.1	18.4	18.8	48.4	50.6
Obalno-kraška	8.6	8.2	43.6	39.4	8.4	21.7	9.9	43.6	50.0
Gorenjska	8.5	8.2	39.2	45.5	6.5	19.5	26.1	52.7	53.7
Goriška	6.3	6.2	45.9	39.9	9.6	20.2	21.1	44.2	50.9
Savinjska	14.0	13.5	53.1	44.4	4.2	25.6	9.9	41.3	53.4
South-eastern Slo.	9.9	8.5	55.4	57.5	4.5	21.0	49.7	46.6	54.1
Pomurska	17.6	17.8	53.9	53.3	2.9	26.8	5.5	39.7	46.7
Notranjsko-kraška	9.1	8.6	43.5	44.6	7.2	24.3	18.7	43.7	54.8
Podravska	17.6	16.5	55.2	43.1	4.0	21.5	6.2	45.6	53.5
Koroška	11.6	12.6	43.6	44.6	4.1	22.6	11.4	45.8	51.1
Spodnjeoposavska	14.4	14.9	51.9	47.5	3.9	19.4	14.6	47.3	54.4
Zasavska	15.3	16.0	49.1	50.8	3.1	27.1	14.1	41.3	59.5
SLOVENIA	11.6	11.2	50.0	45.2	5.6	22.1	14.3	45.1	52.3

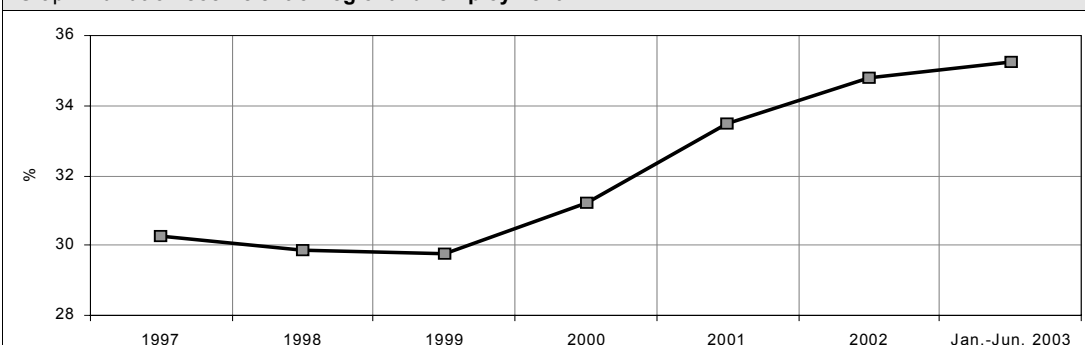
Sources of data: the SORS, the ESS, calculations by the IMAD.

The **registered unemployment rate** fell in Slovenia in the **first six months** compared to the average of 2002, however, movements differed from region to region. Unemployment increased in as many as four regions: Pomurska, Koroška, Spodnjeoposavska and Zasavska, mostly in Koroška. Pomurska overtook Podravska and is therefore again the region with the highest registered unemployment rate in Slovenia. It exceeded the national average by close to 60%. **Above-average** unemployment rates were recorded in half of all statistical regions: Koroška, which was at the national average in 2002, joined regions which have had above-average unemployment rates for several years (Pomurska, Podravska, Zasavska, Spodnjeoposavska and Savinjska). The **lowest** rate was again seen in Goriška, achieving about 55% of the national average. The unemployment rate in Pomurska was almost three times as high as in Goriška (2.9). **Compared to 1997**, when registered unemployment was first measured at the regional level, the unemployment rate only stayed unchanged in Pomurska, while falling in all other regions, relatively the most in south-eastern Slovenia. The registered unemployment rate fell thanks to a lower number of the unemployed, which declined in all regions, except in Koroška where the number again reached the 1997 level after having fallen for several years. The number of unemployed fell because more jobs were offered in the regions; however, this fall was also largely due to deletions from unemployment registers for various reasons (also see SEM 7/2003:11).

Regional disparities are measured by the **variation coefficient** defined as a ratio of the standard deviation to the arithmetic mean, while this formula also takes the size of a region into account. The variation coefficient was 30.2% in **1997** and edged down up until 2000. It began to climb slightly afterwards and reached as much as 35.3% in the **first six months of this year** (see graph). The registered unemployment rate is falling on average; however, regional disparities are still persisting and even increasing.

A major problem is **structural unemployment**, which is revealed specifically in each region, including regions with below-average registered unemployment rates. Long-term unemployment (also see p. 8), for example, is the biggest problem in south-eastern Slovenia, whose registered unemployment rate is otherwise below the national average. Long-term unemployment is also high in Podravska and Pomurska, and tends to be related to the low education levels of the unemployed, as is the case in south-eastern Slovenia and Pomurska. On the other hand, people who completed higher education may also have difficulties finding a job. The share of the unemployed who completed higher education has increased rapidly in all regions, and these shares are largest in Central Slovenia, Goriška, Obalno-kraška and Notranjska. People with low employment prospects are also those aged over 40, whose share is largest in Gorenjska. The share of women among the unemployed has again increased chiefly due to recent bankruptcies seen in the textiles industry, which mainly employs women.

Graph: **Variation coefficient of regional unemployment**



Source of data: SORS, ESS, calculations by the IMAD.