

<b>Labour Market</b>	Slovenian Economic Mirror	IMAD
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Selected labour market indicators		thousands			% growth		
		Φ 2003	March 2003	March 2004	Mar 04/ Feb 04	Jan-Mar 04/ Jan-Mar 03	Φ 2003/ Φ 2002
A	<b>Registered labour force (A=B+C)</b>	874.9	877.3	874.4	0.1	-0.4	-1.3
B	<b>Persons in formal employment</b>	777.2	778.5	777.7	0.3	-0.2	-0.8
	in enterprises and organisations	633.0	632.2	634.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
	by those self-employed	66.2	65.3	64.8	0.9	-0.8	-0.9
	self-employed and farmers	78.1	81.0	78.6	0.1	-3.0	-8.8
C	<b>Registered unemployed</b>	97.7	98.8	96.7	-1.5	-2.4	-4.8
	women	51.6	51.3	50.4	-1.0	-1.6	-1.8
	aged over 40	43.1	44.7	41.5	-1.5	-8.1	-14.9
	unemployed over 1 year	47.5	49.7	44.2	-1.6	-11.6	-14.9
D	<b>Rate of registered unemployment (C/A), %</b>	11.2	11.3	11.3	-	-	-
	male	9.7	9.9	9.9	-	-	-
	female	13.0	12.9	12.9	-	-	-
E	<b>Job vacancies</b>	12.1	12.1	13.8	22.6	6.5	4.4
	for a fixed term, %	73.8	73.6	74.2	-	-	-
F	<b>No. of people hired</b>	0.8	9.9	10.4	23.6	3.7	5.3
	Lower education	2.9	3.2	3.2	34.2	0.1	8.5
	Secondary education	5.3	5.4	5.7	22.1	5.5	2.1
	Higher education	1.5	1.3	1.4	9.7	3.9	11.3

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

**March's employment figures** show the usual seasonal dynamics for this time of the year, whereby employment growth accelerates slightly, mainly in the small business sector. However, the **average number of people in employment** was still 0.2% lower than in the same period last year. Employment increased in business services, financial intermediation, the public administration, education, health and social work, it stagnated in construction, wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants, and other community, social and personal services, whereas it fell in all other activities, the most in agriculture and fishing in relative terms or in manufacturing in absolute terms. In **April**, the **number of registered unemployed** fell markedly (by 2,805) to total 93,886 people. 4,979 people were made jobless while 5,455 unemployed people were hired. The number of deletions from unemployment registers for other reasons was slightly higher than in March (3,813). The **number of vacancies** fell to 11,917, while the number of **people hired** increased to 11,122. The **unemployment rate according to the labour force survey** was 6.8% in the first quarter. The number of unemployed rose by 1.5% and the number people in employment increased by as much as 4.2% compared to the same period last year. Given that the number of people in formal employment was lower than a year ago, a rise was again seen in informal employment.

One of the most effective active employment policy measures is the **fostering of self-employment**. This measure aims to resolve and prevent the problem of unemployment and create new jobs mainly in the small business sector. The programme is intended for unemployed and redundant people who want to realise their business ideas and have the necessary conditions and opportunities. The programme is divided into two sections. The section of **assistance to self-employment** is carried out by the Small Business Promotion Centre in 37 local and regional business centres. It is financed by the Employment Service of Slovenia on the basis of voucher contracts. It consists of an introductory consultancy interview, introductory training and various consultancy services that allow the participant to obtain basic information about the opportunities, procedures and factors that need to be taken into account when setting up a self-employment project. The section of **co-financing the cost of fostering entrepreneurship** is carried out by the Employment Service and consists of a contract concluded with the self-employed person offering a one-off payment of non-refundable financial assistance. The co-financing criteria and amount are defined by the active employment policy each year. The programme of fostering self-employment helped 1,183 people become self-employed in **2003**, and 27,405 since 1991. The most people became self-employed in 1992-1996, mainly by making use of the capitalisation of unemployment benefits or six guaranteed wage payments. The prevailing organisational form is the sole proprietor, while the activities most frequently chosen are wholesale and retail trade, business services, construction, agriculture, and hotels and restaurants.

Graph: Participants in the programme of fostering self-employment, 1991-2003, in thousands

