

5.14 Regional variation in the registered unemployment rate

In 2012 unemployment decreased significantly in the two regions that were the most affected at the start of the crisis. The most heavily populated Osrednjeslovenska region, where unemployment remained at the previous year's level, accounts for over a fifth of total unemployment. Unemployment increased the most in the Jugovzhodna Slovenija and Zasavska regions (by about 9%), mostly due to the end of fixed-term employment. Unemployment decreased the most in the Koroška and Pomurska regions (by about 10% and 9%, respectively), which were the most affected at the onset of the economic crisis. Among people deregistered from the unemployment records, more than 60% of job seekers found jobs in these two regions. Compared to the pre-crisis 2008, unemployment more than doubled in the Goriška, Notranjsko-kraška, Gorenjska and Osrednjeslovenska regions, i.e. the regions with below-average registered unemployment rates; the lowest increase was recorded in the Pomurska region, which also had the highest registered unemployment rate in 2012.

The registered unemployment rate decreased in 2012 only in three regions with above-average rates, the most in Koroška. The regions with above-average registered unemployment rates have been the same for a number of years, and are in the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija. In 2012 Jugovzhodna Slovenija joined them for the first time, so that Notranjsko-kraška is the only region from the cohesion region of Vzhodna Slovenija below the national average for this indicator. The Pomurska region still has the highest registered unemployment rate (17.3%), which exceeds the national average by 5.4 percentage points (2012). In regions that have for several years had the highest registered unemployment rates (Pomurska, Podravska, Koroška) the gap with the national average continued to narrow in 2012, due to both the decline in unemployment rates in these regions and the rise in unemployment in the regions that are (were) below the national average (Jugovzhodna Slovenija, Obalno-kraška and Notranjsko-kraška). The Gorenjska region again had the lowest unemployment rate (8.9%), while the Zasavska region recorded the largest increase (by 1.3 percentage points). Zasavska thus became the region with the second highest registered unemployment rate in Slovenia.

Regional disparities in registered unemployment rates declined further in 2012. The measure of absolute dispersion¹, by which regional disparities are measured, was 1.9 in 2012 (down 0.2 on 2011). Except in 2009 and 2010, regional disparities have been gradually falling since 2003; in recent years the decline in regional disparities has been mostly the result of growing registered unemployment rates in regions with below-average rates. Pomurska has a registered unemployment rate 1.9 times higher than Gorenjska, which means that the ratio between the two regions with the highest and lowest rates slightly declined in 2011. The ratio has been slowly but steadily falling since 2008, when it stood at 2.9 : 1.

The unemployment categories that recorded the largest increases in terms of number and share were long-term unemployed, unemployed with at least higher education and unemployed whose fixed-term employment terminated. The number of long-term unemployed persons continues to grow, mainly in regions with above-average registered unemployment rates, i.e. more than half of the regions in Slovenia. Pomurska stands out with a share of almost 60%. The number and share of people who have been unemployed for more than two years are rising even more (42% in the Pomurska region). In all regions the educational structure of unemployed persons has been growing since 2008. Osrednjeslovenska has highest share of unemployed persons with at least higher education (17.4%). In 2012 this group of unemployed persons grew the most, by almost a fifth, in Jugovzhodna Slovenija. The share of job seekers who used to have fixed-term employment has also been growing persistently. They represent more than 40% in the Podravska, Koroška and Gorenjska regions. In 2012 their share increased the most in the Jugovzhodna Slovenija and Zasavska regions.

$$AD_{Rt} = \sum_r \left(\frac{A_{rt}}{A_{Rt}} \right) |SB_{rt} - SB_{Rt}|$$

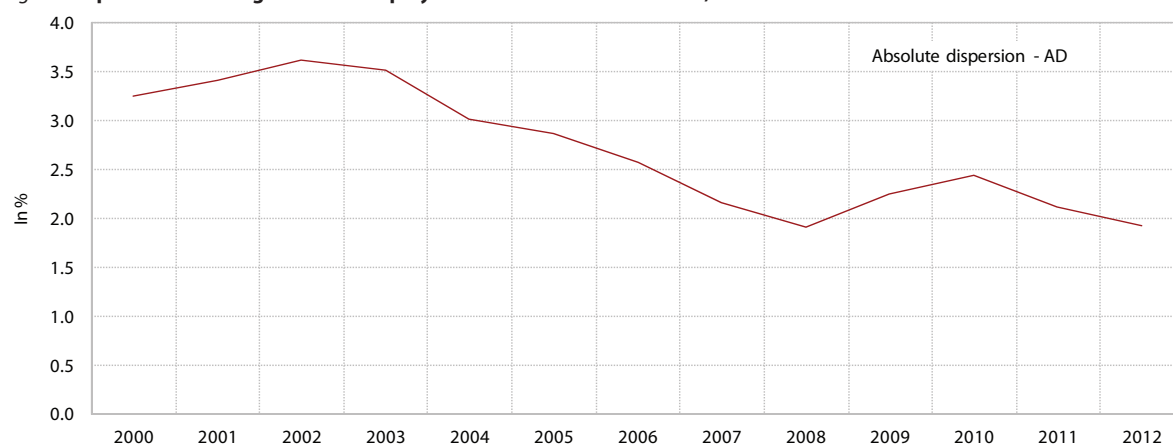
where t = year,
 A_r = active population of the region,
 A_R = active population of Slovenia,
 SB_r = registered unemployment rate of the region,
 SB_R = registered unemployment rate of Slovenia.

Table: Registered unemployment rate by region, in %, 2000–2012

Cohesion region / Statistical region	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Slovenia	11.8	10.2	9.4	7.7	6.7	9.1	10.7	11.8	12.0
Zahodna Slovenija	8.6	7.4	6.9	9.5	4.8	6.9	8.3	9.6	9.9
Obalno-kraška	8.8	7.5	7.2	6.3	5.2	6.9	7.9	9.6	10.2
Goriška	5.9	6.5	6.2	4.9	4.3	7.1	8.6	10.0	10.3
Gorenjska	9.7	7.3	6.4	4.9	4.4	6.9	8.1	8.8	8.9
Osrednjeslovenska	8.8	7.6	7.2	5.9	5.0	6.8	8.5	9.9	10.1
Vzhodna Slovenija	14.4	12.5	11.6	5.6	8.3	11.1	12.8	13.6	13.6
Notranjsko-kraška	10.4	7.9	7.0	5.4	4.9	7.1	8.5	10.0	10.4
Jugovzhodna Slovenija	10.4	8.8	8.6	7.0	6.3	8.9	10.0	11.6	12.8
Spodnjeposavska	13.4	11.5	10.5	8.9	7.7	10.2	12.2	13.4	13.9
Zasavska	14.9	13.8	12.0	9.7	8.2	11.0	11.9	13.3	14.7
Savinjska	13.1	12.7	11.6	9.4	8.0	10.3	11.8	12.7	12.7
Koroška	9.9	10.6	10.1	8.1	7.3	10.9	13.1	13.3	12.2
Podravska	18.1	13.5	12.7	10.4	9.1	11.9	13.5	14.5	14.1
Pomurska	16.7	17.1	15.7	13.4	12.2	15.9	19.0	18.0	17.3

Vir: SURS, 2013.

Figure: Dispersion of the registered unemployment rate at the NUTS 3 level, Slovenia



Source: SURS, 2013, calculations by IMAD.