

## Unemployment in the 4th quarter and in 2025

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### Slovakia's unemployment rate reached 5.6% in the 4th quarter and 5.4% over the course of 2025

The number of people without work and unemployment rate accelerated in the 4th quarter of 2025 to the highest levels of past year. Nearly 155 thousand people were unemployed, the most in eight quarters. Annual values of both indicators for 2025 were comparable to 2024 and were the second lowest in 5 years. Regionally, unemployment rose last year in 5 out of 8 regions, and in 3 of them exceeding 10%.

**The number of unemployed<sup>1)</sup>** in Slovakia in the 4th quarter of 2025 reached 154.8 thousand people, increasing year-on-year by 9.5 thousand persons or 6.5%. The number of people without work was the highest since the beginning of 2021 (since the introduction of the new methodology<sup>1)</sup>). The latest data according to the LFSS methodology<sup>2)</sup> also showed that the number of people without work was the highest since the fourth quarter of 2023, i.e. over the last eight quarters.

After seasonal adjustment, the number of unemployed rose by 2.2% to 153.8 thousand persons compared with the third quarter of 2025.

The reference **unemployment rate<sup>3)</sup>** rose to 5.6%, while in the last quarter of 2024 it was 5.2%. The unemployment rate expresses the share of unemployed persons in the economically active population. The current unemployment rate was the highest in the past nine quarters (since the third quarter of 2023), reaching the same level as in the fourth quarter of 2023 and in the following quarter.

Long-term unemployed (out of work for one year or more) remain the larger group within the unemployment structure (65%). At the quarterly level, for the first time since the beginning of 2021, the number of long-term unemployed increased more significantly year-on-year (by 7 thousand persons).

In the regional breakdown, the number of unemployed increased year-on-year in 5 out of 8 SR regions. The most significant absolute increase in the number of unemployed (over 6 thousand persons) was recorded in Banskobystrický kraj, and the most dynamic relative increase, by almost 54%, was recorded in Nitriansky kraj. On the contrary, there was the most favorable change in Prešovský kraj, where the number of unemployed decreased by 7.6 thousand persons, or 18%.

The highest number of unemployed people was in Košický kraj (almost 35 thousand persons) and in Prešovský kraj (over 34 thousand persons). The number of unemployed in Prešovský kraj historically dropped below the level of 35 thousand persons for the first time. As a result, the two regions in eastern Slovakia exchanged their positions at the top of the ranking of regions with the highest number of unemployed after a long period. Banskobystrický kraj also had more than 30 thousand people without work.

Similarly, in terms of the development of the unemployment rate, 5 out of 8 regions remained below the national average. The highest unemployment rate, above 9 percent, was in Banskobystrický kraj and Košický kraj. The most positive change was

recorded in Prešovský kraj, where the unemployment rate decreased from 10.5 percent at the end of 2024 to 8.8 percent at the end of 2025. Thus, over the past five years, Prešovský kraj reached a single-digit unemployment rate for the first time.

## Unemployment development in 2025

The average number of people without work for the entire year 2025 amounted nearly to 150 thousand persons. Year on year, their number increased by 1.2%, with 1.8 thousand more unemployed persons. The unemployment rate in the SR for the whole of 2025 reached 5.4% after a year-on-year increase of 0.1 percentage points (p.p.). Despite the increase, both indicators, the number of unemployed as well as the unemployment rate, recorded their second lowest value in the past five years<sup>1)</sup>.

In the structure of the unemployed, the long term unemployed (without work for 12 months or more) continued to prevail, representing 63%. However, their number decreased slightly (by 1.1%) and at the slowest pace in three years.

At the same time, in 2025 nearly one third of all unemployed persons were people who had never worked before (including school graduates). Their number (46.6 thousand persons) in 2025 was the lowest since 2021.

From a sectoral perspective, the highest number of unemployed people reported that they last worked in industry (23 thousand persons), followed by trade (more than 14 thousand persons), and in construction (nearly 10 thousand persons). A higher number of unemployed persons had also last worked in public administration and social security – as many as 7.5 thousand persons. Among the unemployed, there were 50% more of them than in 2024. The increase of 2.5 thousand persons represented the largest year-on-year negative jump among the 18 monitored sectors.

In a regional perspective, the number of unemployed people rose in 5 out of 8 SR regions in 2025, in three of them even by double digits (more than 10%), namely in Nitriansky kraj, Banskobystrický kraj, and surprisingly also in Bratislavský kraj. In absolute terms, the highest increase in the number of unemployed people (2.4 thousand persons) was recorded in Banskobystrický kraj. A positive development and an almost identical yet the most significant absolute year-on-year decrease in the number of unemployed people was observed in Prešovský kraj. However, it still remained the region with the highest number of unemployed people in 2025 as well, nearly 40 thousand. In the ranking of regional unemployment, Košický kraj followed with 33 thousand unemployed, and Banskobystrický kraj with 26 thousand persons without employment. These three regions also recorded the highest unemployment rates, ranging between 10.1% to 8.3%.

A favorable year-on-year development of the unemployment rate was recorded in three regions – Prešovský kraj and Trnavský kraj (both down by 0.5 percentage points) and Trenčiansky kraj (down by 0.1 percentage points). Bratislavský kraj has long maintained the lowest unemployment rate; last year it was 2.5%. Žilinský, Trenčiansky, Trnavský and Nitriansky kraj also remained below the national average of 5.4%.

- 1) Unemployed persons according to the European methodology for the Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS) are persons aged 15-74 years who meet 3 criteria at the same time: they were without paid work in the reference week, they are able to start work within 2 weeks and are actively seeking work (full definition in EC Regulation No. 2019/2240). The data relating to the sample were added to the entire population.
- 2) The LFS methodology is in compliance with international definitions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization ILO and Eurostat. The LFS methodology has been adjusted since 2021 in accordance with the new EU legislation on Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS). As part of this, the definitions of some variables, standards for editing, weighting, transmission and data release were updated. The most significant changes include, among others: introduction of an upper limit for an employed person up to 89 years, exclusion of persons performing activation work from the employed persons, transfer of persons on parental leave from non-employed to employed persons, adjustment of the sampling frame before weighting on collective facilities (adding data per sample).
- 3) The unemployment rate expresses the share in % of the number of unemployed people from the economically active population aged 15 to 74.

**Data source-DATAcube. Database:**

#### Quarterly data:

- Unemployment by the Labour Force Sample Survey (since 2021) [\[pr0101qs\]](#) updated on 3 December 2025

#### Detailed data for Q3 2025 will be published according to the Public Data Repository Update Schedule on 9 December 2025:

- Unemployed by economic activity (NACE Rev. 2) of the last occupation and sex - quarterly data (since 2021) [\[pr2025qs\]](#)
- Unemployed by duration of unemployment and sex - quarterly data (since 2021) [\[pr2023qs\]](#)
- Unemployed by age and sex - quarterly data (since 2021) [\[pr2031qs\]](#)
- Unemployed by education and sex - quarterly data (since 2021) [\[pr2033qs\]](#)
- Unemployed by age (since 2021) [\[pr3117qr\]](#)
- Balance of economic activity of population (since 2021) [\[pr3102qr\]](#)

#### Annual data:

- In the DATAcube database chapter 1 - Demography and social statistics / 1. 2 - Employment / 1. 2. 1 - Economic activity of the population / 1. 2. 1. 1 - Sample survey of the labor force / 1. 2. 1. 1. 2 - Annual data

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