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ASSOCIATION OF TRADE



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FOREWORD

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia publishes sectoral publications (CCIS bulletins) on the business of agriculture, industry and services, which, for the seventh year in a row, show indicators and information for 18 economic activities, according to the organizational structure of the CCIS associations. These quarterly and annual analyses of economic trends and indicators of the development of the domestic economy inform the members of the chamber system, representatives of the business community and the professional public about leading branches, sectoral and macroeconomic topics, as well as business indicators.

The bulletins present the activities and services of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, as well as economic initiatives launched with the aim of improving the business environment, creating stable and sustainable business conditions and strengthening of the potential for the domestic economy to perform on domestic and foreign markets.

All information, news and analyses published in the bulletins are the result of the activities of the single chamber system and the domestic economy. The analyses use official data from domestic and foreign institutions, chamber research results and information available through the data exchange system on business platforms. In addition to quarterly CCIS Bulletins, annual editions are also published in Serbian and English.

All previously published Bulletins are available on the website of the [Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia](#).

Jelena Vasić,
Editor



The Trade Association of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia is the basic form of organization that works for the companies whose predominant activity is trade. The Association is a professional association of traders (wholesale and retail) which, by taking care of the strategic directions of the development of trade through the transfer of information and knowledge and the introduction of standards, helps its members in making sound business and investment decisions. The Association protects and represents the interests of its members through cooperation with state authorities and other factors, all with the aim of a more successful development of trade and creation of fair market relations. Trade is a bridge between producers and consumers. Trade, and especially retail, is a driver of growth, competitiveness and employment. The retail sector is considered to be a pillar of the European economy. Trade plays a fundamental role in stimulating growth and creating new employment.

The mission of the CCIS Trade Association is to advocate for trade as a sector that connects producers with end consumers, collect and distribute information, and develop tools and methodologies that enable members to understand the market and encourage fair market competition. The association of traders within CCIS represents the interests of all members, and the Association's activities are focused on developing competition, strengthening the market and encouraging a fair market game.

Tijana Maljković,
Secretary





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CCIS ASSOCIATION OF TRADE

INFORMATION FOR ECONOMY

CCIS Business Info Service

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (CCIS) has activated Info Service with the aim of informing the business community about all key issues related to business in country and abroad, official recommendations and measures. Professional services of the CCIS are in constant contact with representatives of the Government of Serbia, competent line ministries institutions, as well as international business associations and organizations, and therefore all regular activities are coordinated to ensure support to the economy in overcoming problems in business.



CCIS Business Info Service
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CBAM – New EU Mechanism for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a mechanism for cross-border adjustment (price) of carbon as an instrument of European environmental protection policy of the Union, in order to reduce the risk of the EU's climate goals being threatened by moving production to countries with a less ambitious decarbonization policy (the so-called "leakage of carbon").



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Service Center RBH

Responsible Business Hub (RBH) is a service center launched by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia together with the German Organization for International Cooperation (GIZ), with the aim of providing support for suppliers based in Serbia in adapting to and complying with new laws on corporate sustainability – Due Diligence.



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INNO-VERSE Digital Platform

Inno-Verse is a new digital service of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia based on artificial intelligence, established with the aim of easier and faster connection of the economy with the latest IT solutions. This digital platform is intended to connect companies and scientific research institutions, in the creation of new projects, exchange of ideas and innovation.



**CCIS Centre for Digital
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The Open Balkan: A Path Leading to Four Freedoms

The Open Balkan is an economic zone established by three countries in the Balkan region: Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia. By establishing this economic zone, Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia aim to increase trade and cooperation and improve mutual bilateral relations. The Open Balkan is a support to the current regional initiatives, their implementation, and a response to the requirements of the economy, companies and real life. The Initiative launched under the name Mini Schengen has been renamed to the Open Balkan Initiative, and all the economies in the region can join it.



For more information, please, visit the website of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia.

Chamber Investment Forum Activities

The latest reports and information regarding the Western Balkan Chamber Investment Forum (WBCIF) are available on the following websites:

[General Information](#)

[The Western Balkan Suppliers Database](#)



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Meetings of the Board of the Group of Wholesale and Retail Food Traders

During the first quarter of 2023, the Board of the Group of Wholesale and Retail Food Traders held two meetings. At the first meeting, on 7 February 2023, the Regulation on limiting the price of basic foodstuffs was discussed. Traders presented the problems that burden their business - they are conditioned by almost double-digit growth of input and production prices and have great difficulty in forming retail prices at a level that would not represent a blow to the consumer's budget. It was agreed that the internal working group of the Group Board will continue to work on the topic of the deposit return system in order to create a common plan for all merchants.

At the second meeting, which was held on 27 March 2023, merchants agreed on their positions on the deposit return system and declared that they want to be actively involved in the development of the situation related to this topic. In accordance with the market trends, the traders' request is the gradual abolition of price restrictions on basic foodstuffs.

Meeting of the Section of Intermediaries in Trade and Lease of Real Estate

The constitutive meeting of the Section of Intermediaries in Trade and Lease of Real Estate was held in the CCIS - RCCI Kragujevac, on 23 February 2023. At the suggestion of those who were present, the owner of the agency *Palma Nekretnine* from Kragujevac was elected as the president of the Section, and the owner of the agency *Heroldo broj 1* from Jagodina was elected as the deputy president of the Section.

Constitutive Meetings of the Section of Intermediaries in Trade and Lease of Real Estate

The constitutive meeting of the Section of Intermediaries in Trade and Lease of Real Estate was held on 6 April 2023, in the Pančevo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The election of the president and deputy president of the Section was carried out, after which information was presented about the planned activities in the work of the Real Estate Broker Group in Serbia. A representative of the company *Pan City Nekretnine* from Pančevo was elected as the president of the Section, and a representative of the agency *Goca 013* from Pančevo and a representative of the agency *Studio 88* from Zrenjanin were elected as deputies.

The next constitutive meeting of the Section of Intermediaries in Trade and Lease of Real Estate was held on 15 June 2023, in the Valjevo Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where a representative of the agency *Libero d.o.o.* from Šabac was elected as president, whereas a representative of *Bonafides nekretnine nova* agency from Valjevo was elected as the deputy of the Section.

Meeting of the Board of the Group of Importers and Distributors of Alcoholic Beverages

At the electronic meeting of the Board of the Group of Importers and Distributors of Alcoholic Beverages, which was held on 8 May 2023, after the adoption of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Group of Importers and Distributors of Alcoholic Beverages, held on 29 March 2023, a Decision on amending the Decision on opening a sub-account as of 5 November 2018 was made.



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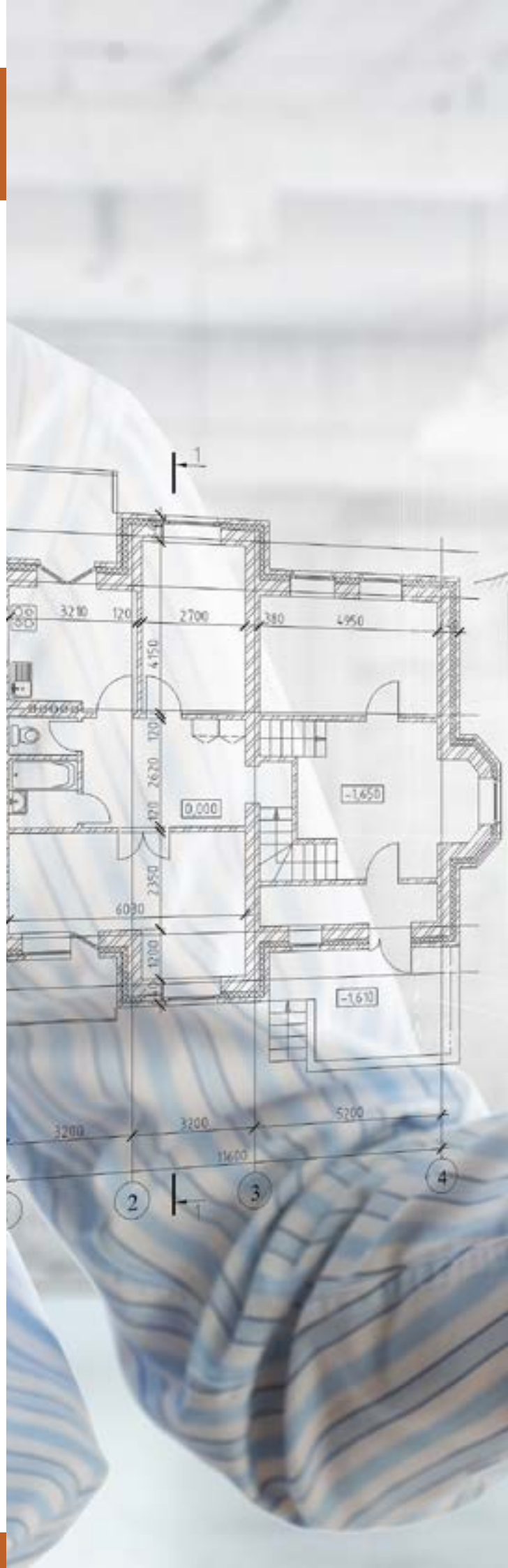


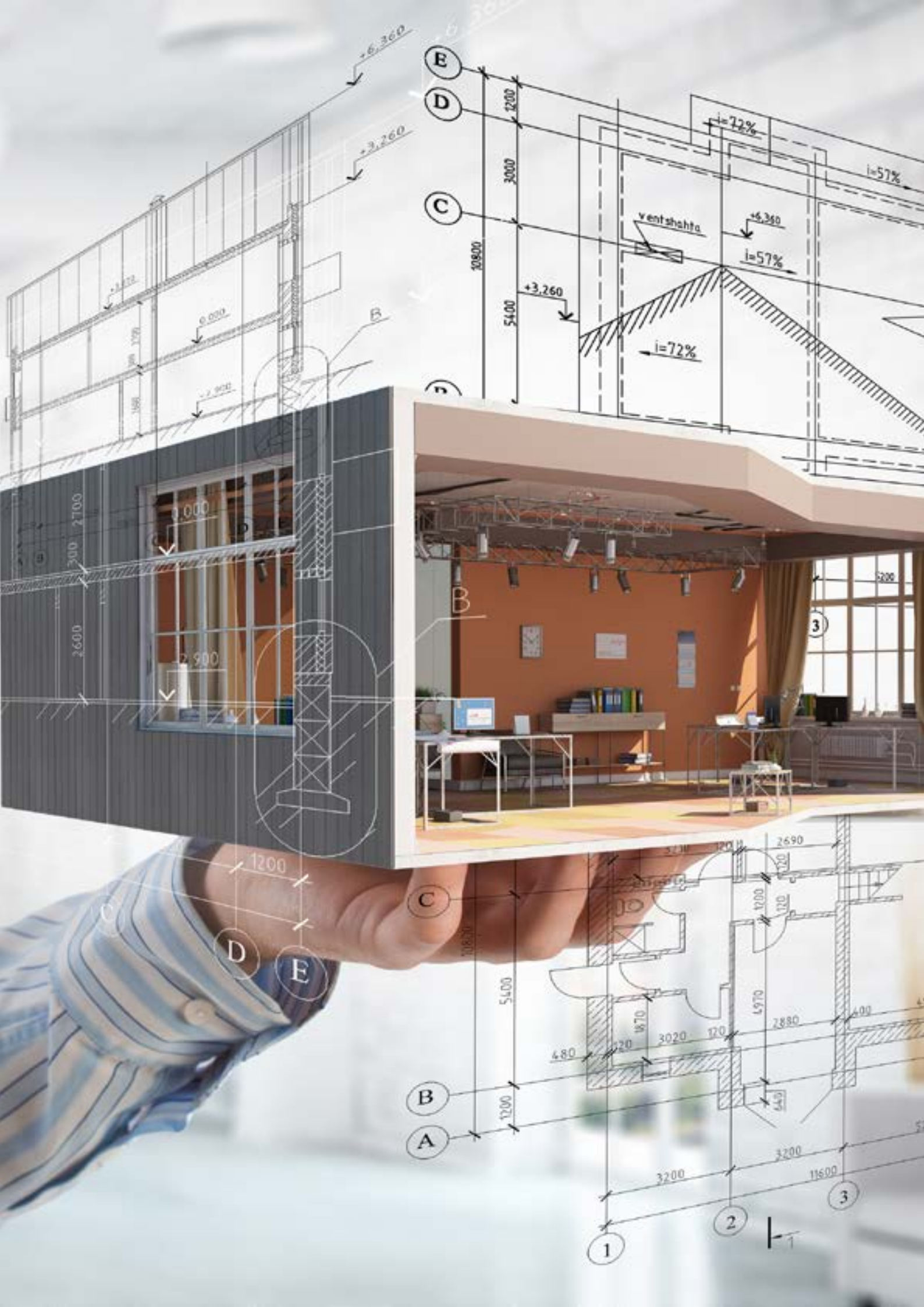
Real Estate Agencies Got the First Public Power from the Republic of Serbia

On 27 October 2023, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Registration Procedure with the Cadastre of Real Estate and Utilities ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 92/23, as of 27 October 2023), by which Article 52 of Law on the Registration Procedure with the Cadastre of Real Estate and Utilities is supplemented by the provisions that give intermediaries in trade and lease of real estate the right to issue extracts from the real estate folio in the land register, i.e. extracts from the real estate cadastre database, as this document will be called in the future. The Group of Real Estate Brokers of the Association of Trade of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which counts 253 agencies in which over 1,100 agents are engaged, after two years of intensive activities, managed to change the regulations in a way that makes it easier for brokers, citizens and the economy to do business. With this, it can be expected that it will be easier for citizens to obtain an extract from the real estate folio in the land register, which will make the process of buying and selling and leasing real estate easier and cheaper, and intermediaries will be able to do their job.



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REGIONAL INFORMATION

RSD 600 Million for Women Entrepreneurship

RCCI of the South Bačka Administrative District
Novi Sad

The Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Decree on establishing the Program for the entrepreneurship development through financial support for female entrepreneurship in 2023. The funds determined by the Program are intended for financial support to newly founded and existing female entrepreneurs, as well as micro and small companies, which are registered with the Business Registers Agency, and whose founder and legal representative is a woman.

Introduction to *Lean Six Sigma*

Belgrade Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The successful operation of a company is reflected in the constant improvement of its quality of products and services and can be achieved by combining two management concepts: Lean Management and Six Sigma. Due to the great interest in learning about these methods, the Day - o - Introduction to Lean Six Sigma workshop was held in the CCIS - Belgrade Chamber of Commerce and Industry, on 5 October 2023, where, through interactive work and concrete examples, the participants were shown on how the sigma level is defined, using a special set of tools and methods for identifying, proving and removing the causes of insufficient quality.

Workshop Family-Owned Companies – whether to Transfer the Management to the Next Generation or Sell It

Belgrade Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The workshop on the topic of Family Companies - whether to Transfer It to the next Generation or Sell It was held on 24 October 2023. The aim of the workshop was to present the advantages and disadvantages of the sale or continuation of the companies and to show the process of conducting the transaction. The best practices in transferring ownership and management to the next generation were presented, as well as the alternative of selling the company to a strategic or financial investor.

37 New Projects in Vojvodina

RCCI of the South Bačka Administrative District
Novi Sad

In order to initiate significant investments in Vojvodina, in 2023, the implementation of projects in the areas of traffic infrastructure, water supply, water protection, local and regional economic development, health care and sports development continued. The Provincial Government provided enough funds for the implementation of new 37 projects and financing of ten multi-year projects.



Subotica Gets a Scientific and Technology Park

RCCI of the North Bačka Administrative District
Subotica

In October 2023, the company D.O.O. for the management of the Subotica Free Zone launched a project aimed at establishing a Science and Technology Park. The Free Zone signed the cooperation agreements with 70 business entities from various fields: from school institutions to business representatives. The primary intention of establishing the Science and Technology Park is the integration and expanded cooperation of science and business, but also the determination of sports and entertainment content for the users of the Free Zone.

An Airport Planned To Be Build in Kikinda

RCCI of the North Banat Administrative District
Kikinda

The City of Kikinda announced the construction of an airport right next to the state road IB-13, in the direction of the Bašaid settlement, southwest of Kikinda. It is planned to equip a modern air terminal, on a total area of about 54.24 hectares. Technical documentation at the conceptual and main project level was prepared for the airport complex.

Development of the Municipality of Opovo

RCCI of the South Banat Administrative District
Pančevo

The most significant project of the Provincial Government in the Municipality of Opovo is the construction of the local Opovo-Debeljača road. It was invested in agriculture, then in the construction and rehabilitation of sewerage system, the construction of new fishponds and land consolidation procedures. Investments were made in culture, the reconstruction of the water supply network, as well as in the development of tourist potential.

Second Stage of Infrastructural Works in the Sever Industrial Zone in Vršac

RCCI of the South Banat Administrative District
Pančevo

The second stage of infrastructural equipping of the Sever Industrial Zone began with works on the construction of access roads, which is partly financed by the Provincial Government and partly from the city budget. The first industrial zone called Technology Park is completely inhabited by industrial plants, so it was necessary to build a new one that will cover an area of 220 hectares.





Serbia's Business Environment Improvement

RCCI of the Kolubara and Mačva Administrative District Valjevo

Given that the Government of the Republic of Serbia, together with the World Bank, continues to improve and simplify the business environment in order to identify obstacles to business, on 31 January 2023, an interactive workshop was held with representatives of companies from the Kolubara and Mačva Administrative Districts. In addition to the identification of problems, proposals for solutions were presented, which were sent to the Government of the Republic of Serbia for further consideration and implementation.

200th Anniversary of Guilds in Kragujevac

RCCI of the Pomoravlje and Šumadija Administrative District Kragujevac

On 6 December 2023, the Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Šumadija and Pomoravlje Administrative Districts celebrated the Chamber's Day and the 200th Anniversary of Guilds in Kragujevac with the award ceremony for the business year 2023. Prince Miloš issued the Order on establishing guilds in Kragujevac in 1823, the first of its kind in Serbia, which represents the beginning of organizing and regulating the work of business associations and the economic environment in Serbia.

An Airport on Zlatibor Soon

RCCI of the Zlatibor Administrative District Užice

The idea of building an airport for sports airplanes in Zlatibor was born thirty years ago. In October 2023, the local self-government of Čajetina submitted a request for determining the public interest in the selected location. The construction of this airport is important for improving the tourist offer, and represents a necessity in the intensive development of tourism on this mountain.

Initiative for Constructing a Bridge between Serbia and Romania Signed

RCCI of the Braničevo and Podunavlje Administrative District Požarevac

In Golubac, an initiative was signed for the construction of a bridge between Serbia and Romania at the entrance to the Đerdap gorge, which will undoubtedly contribute to the faster development of the Danube region. The initiative with the Municipality of Golubac was signed by six border municipalities from Romania, which they will send to the competent ministries and governments of the two countries. The bridge should span 370 meters of the Danube and would be the only one from Smederevo to Kladovo.

Master Franchise in Serbia

RCCI of the Nišava, Pirot and Toplica Administrative District Niš

The largest real estate company in the world, Keller Williams, awarded a master franchise in Serbia to the Cvetković-Roškov agency, which thus became part of a global network in 50 countries with 190,000 real estate agents. Further expansion into the market in Serbia is planned, which implies the opening of market centres in all major cities. The presentation of this franchise was held in Niš, on 17 January 2023.

Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Serbia

RCCI of the Nišava, Pirot and Toplica Administrative District Niš

On 18 April 2023, the wording of a Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Serbia was presented in the CCIS-RCCI Niš. Following the completion of the public hearing, it was agreed that the Ministry of the Interior, based on the proposals and suggestions, will prepare a report on the conducted public hearing and publish it on the website of the Ministry of the Interior and on the e-Konsultacije portal.

IPA Bulgaria–Serbia Programme, 2021–2027

RCCI of the Nišava, Pirot and Toplica
Administrative District Niš

In the organization of representatives of the Local Office of the Joint Secretariat for the Implementation of the Interreg VI-A IPA Bulgaria-Serbia Program, members of the Strategic Board in full session participated in the meeting, which was held in Pirot, on 17 and 18 October 2023. During these two days, training on the process of identifying project ideas, integrated territorial development (ITD), as well as the assessment of cross-border effects and justification in the assessment process were carried out. After the administrative review of the project ideas, members of the Strategic Board evaluated the contribution of individual ideas to the territorial strategy and, accordingly, decided on those projects that have the greatest contribution.

Training on Enforcement of the Rulebook on the Safety of Children's Playgrounds

RCCI of the Nišava, Pirot and Toplica
Administrative District Niš

In cooperation with the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Serbia, on 13 June 2023, a training was held on the enforcement of the Rulebook on the Safety of Children's Playgrounds. The main topic of the training was the obligations of business entities taken over in the part of the Rulebook that deals with conformity assessment, drafting and content of the Declaration of Conformity. One of the reasons for launching the campaign is the planned market inspection activities of the Ministry of Domestic and Foreign Trade in the field of safety equipment and surfaces for children's playgrounds.

Promotion of the Digital Europe Project

RCCI of the Nišava, Pirot and Toplica
Administrative District Niš

A presentation of the Digital Europe Program was held in the Science and Technology Park Niš, on 11 August 2023, the aim of which is to improve the digital transformation in the European Union, and it is also open to candidate countries. Through this program, which lasts until 2027, Serbia focuses on the areas of supercomputing, artificial intelligence, data and computing in the cloud (Cloud Computing), as well as on the areas of advanced digital skills and advanced use of technologies..



ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

in Trade

Relative Importance of the Activity – Gross Value Added

According to the data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the gross value added (GVA) of the wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities, in 2022, amounted to EUR 11.4 billion, which accounts for 22.5% of the total realized GVA of the Republic of Serbia, with the year-on-year real growth rate of 4.9%.

In the structure of the gross value added of the section of wholesale and retail trade, the share of wholesale trade (except of motor vehicles and motorcycles) amounts to 52.2% (EUR 3.8 billion).

The realized GVA in retail trade (except of motor vehicles and motorcycles) amounts to EUR 2.9 billion (39.2% GVA of the section of wholesale and retail trade), and in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, it amounts to EUR 626.9 million (8.6% GVA of the mentioned sector). In the section of real estate activities, the GVA was recorded in amount of EUR 4.2 billion, which accounts for 8.2% of the total created GVA in the Republic of Serbia in 2022.

The highest year-on-year growth in the gross value added was registered in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, by 12.1%, whereas the lowest growth was recorded in the real estate activities (1.9%).

Gross value added (GVA) in the wholesale, retail trade and real estate activities, 2022

Code of section and activity divisions	GVA, by sections and activity divisions of CA (2010)	Share in GVA, in %		Real growth rates (2021 = 100, %)
		in total	by section	
	Republic of Serbia	100.0	-	2.5
Section G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	14.3	100.0	3.4
Division 45	Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1.2	8.6	12.1
Division 46	Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	7.5	52.2	1.9
Division 47	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	5.6	39.2	3.5
Section L	Real estate activities	8.2	100.0	7.5
Division 68	Real estate activities	8.2	100.0	7.5

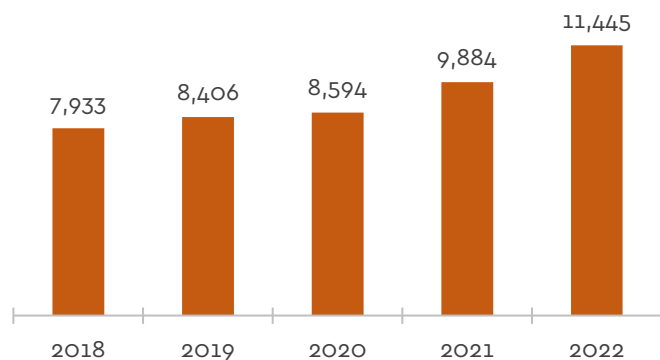
Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).

Note:

in total = the share of activity sections and divisions of CA(2010) in the recorded GVA of the Republic of Serbia

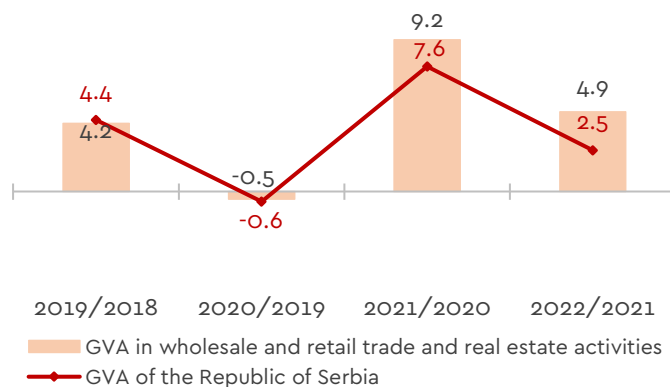
by section = the share of activity division of CA (2010) in the GVA of the activity section of CA (2010) it belongs to

GVA, current prices, in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities (in EUR million)



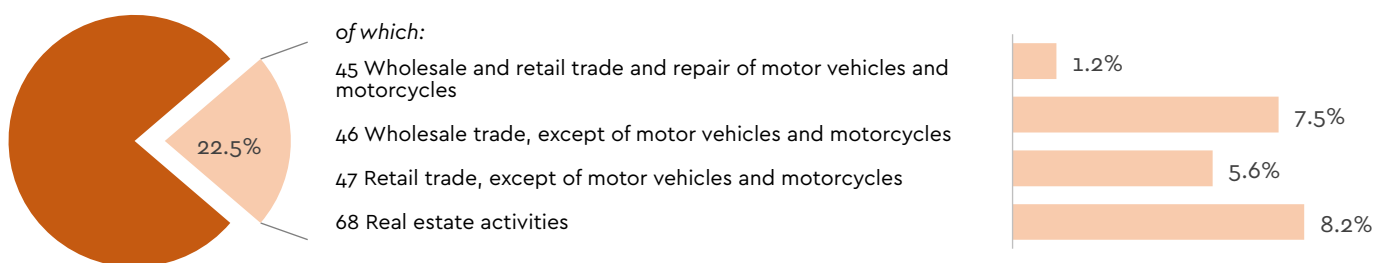
Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).

GVA, real growth, in constant prices of the previous year, in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities (in %)



Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).

Share of GVA in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities in GVA of the Republic of Serbia, 2022 (in %)



Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).

Note: For the calculation of GVA in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities, the following areas of activity are included according to CA(2010): 45-Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 46-Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 47-Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 68-Real estate activities.



Companies and Entrepreneurs

According to the calculations of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, and based on the Business Registers Agency, in 2023, the total of 42,367 companies operated in the wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities, which accounts for 30.9% of the total registered companies in the Republic of Serbia. Out of that number, 27,539 companies are registered for the wholesale trade (except of motor vehicles and

motorcycles), i.e. 65.0%, then 8,270 companies for the retail trade (except of motor vehicles and motorcycles), i.e. 19.5% and 3,710 companies for the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (8.8%). The lowest number of companies is registered in the real estate activities (6.7%).

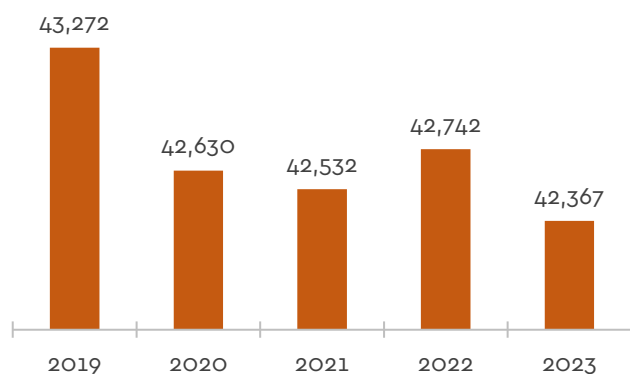
In addition to companies, in 2023, about 58,209 enterprises were engaged in the wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities.

Active companies and entrepreneurs engaged in wholesale, retail trade and real estate activities, 2023

Code of section and activity divisions	Active companies and active entrepreneurs	Active companies		Active entrepreneurs	
		number	year-on-year change, in %	number	year-on-year change, in %
	Republic of Serbia	137,308	0.8	330,150	7.4
Section G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	39,519	-1.4	56,679	1.3
Section 45	Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	3,710	-2.3	11,849	4.1
Section 46	Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	27,539	-1.3	3,877	6.1
Section 47	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	8,270	-1.5	40,953	0.1
Section L	Real estate activities	2,848	7.1	1,530	10.5
Section 68	Real estate activities	2,848	7.1	1,530	10.5
TOTAL		42,367	-0.9	58,209	1.6

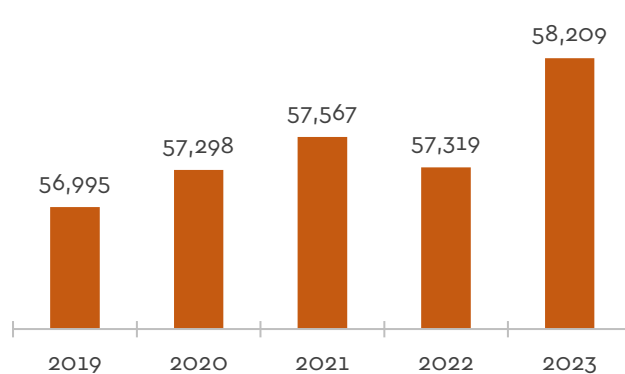
Source: Serbian Business Registers Agency (SBRA), precalculation by CCIS.

Number of companies in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities



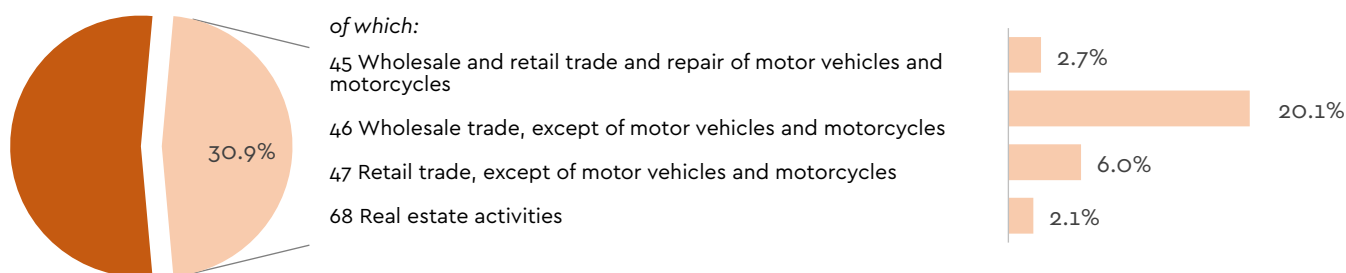
Source: Serbian Business Registers Agency (SBRA), precalculation by CCIS.

Number of entrepreneurs in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities



Source: Serbian Business Registers Agency (SBRA), precalculation by CCIS.

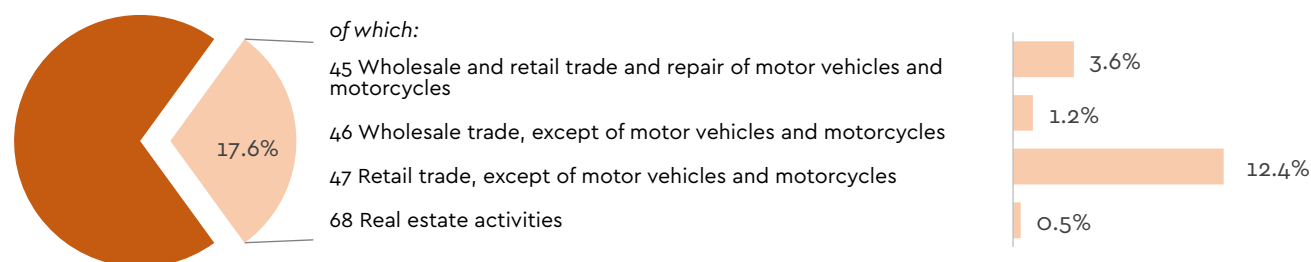
Share of the number of companies in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities in the total number in the Republic of Serbia, 2023 (in %)



Source: Serbian Business Registers Agency (SBRA), precalculation by CCIS.

Note: For the calculation of the number of companies in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities, the following areas of activity are included according to CA(2010): 45-Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 46-Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 47-Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 68-Real estate activities.

Share of the number of entrepreneurs in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities in the total number in the Republic of Serbia, 2023 (in %)



Source: Serbian Business Registers Agency (SBRA), precalculation by CCIS.

Note: For the calculation of the number of entrepreneurs in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities, the following areas of activity are included according to CA(2010): 45-Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 46-Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 47-Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 68-Real estate activities.

Retail and Wholesale Trade in Goods

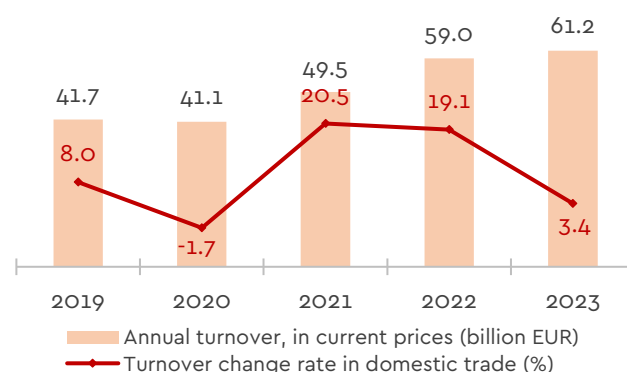
In the five-year period (2019-2023), trade turnover increased in all areas of domestic trade, except for 2020, when, due to the global crisis, a decline in turnover was recorded in certain areas.

The highest annual growth rate of trade in goods over a five-year period was recorded in **retail trade (except trade in motor vehicles)**, where turnover grew at an average annual rate of 12.5%, while the highest year-on-year growth of turnover was recorded in 2022 (22.0%).

In 2023, the **wholesale trade in goods (except trade in motor vehicles)** decreased by 1.1%, if compared to 2022, which represents the second year-on-year decrease in turnover in this area of domestic trade (after 2020, when the decline was 4.9%). The average five-year annual growth rate of turnover in this area is 8.0%.

In the area of **wholesale and retail trade in motor vehicles**, a five-year growth rate of trade in goods of 11.4% was recorded, and in 2023, the turnover increased by about 12.0%, if compared to the previous year.

Wholesale and Retail Trade Turnover

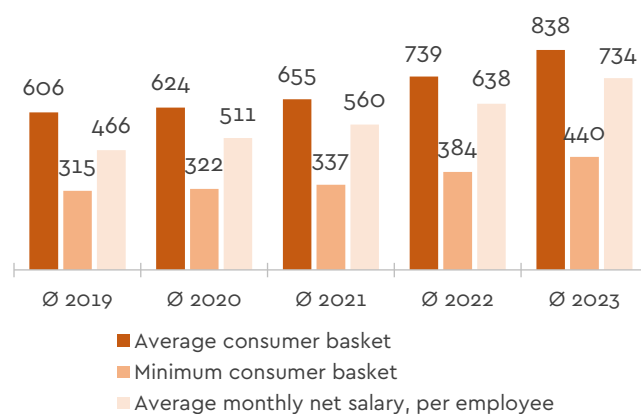


Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).

Purchasing Power in the Republic of Serbia

In 2023, the average consumer basket in the Republic of Serbia amounted to EUR 838 and increased by about 37.5% compared to the beginning of the observed period, i.e. 2019. On the other hand, the minimum consumer basket, which makes up 52.5% of the average consumer basket, amounted to EUR 440 in 2023 and increased by 39.1% compared to the beginning of the observed period. Average monthly net earnings in 2023 made up 87.5% of the average consumer basket, and it is higher than the minimum consumer basket by 66.7%.

Average monthly net salary and average new consumer basket ratio (in EUR)



Source: MIET, based on the data of the SORS.

Note:

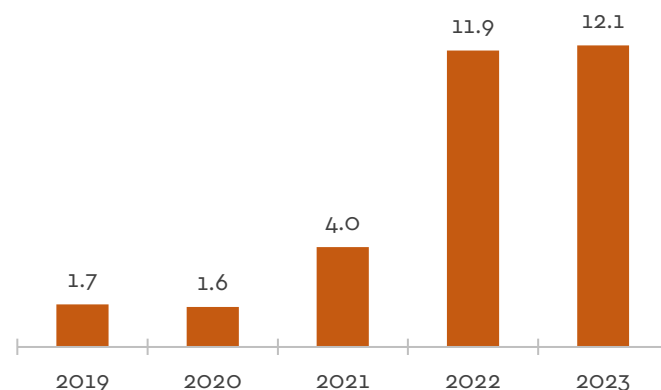
Minimum basket – refers to household consumption, which ensures the maintenance of life and working capacity of household members, taking into account the optimal biochemical composition of food (carbohydrates, proteins, fats and calories). The total value of the minimum consumer basket is the sum of expenditures on food and other products and services that make up the personal consumption of the household.

Average basket – refers to the consumption of personal consumption goods and services by the average household.

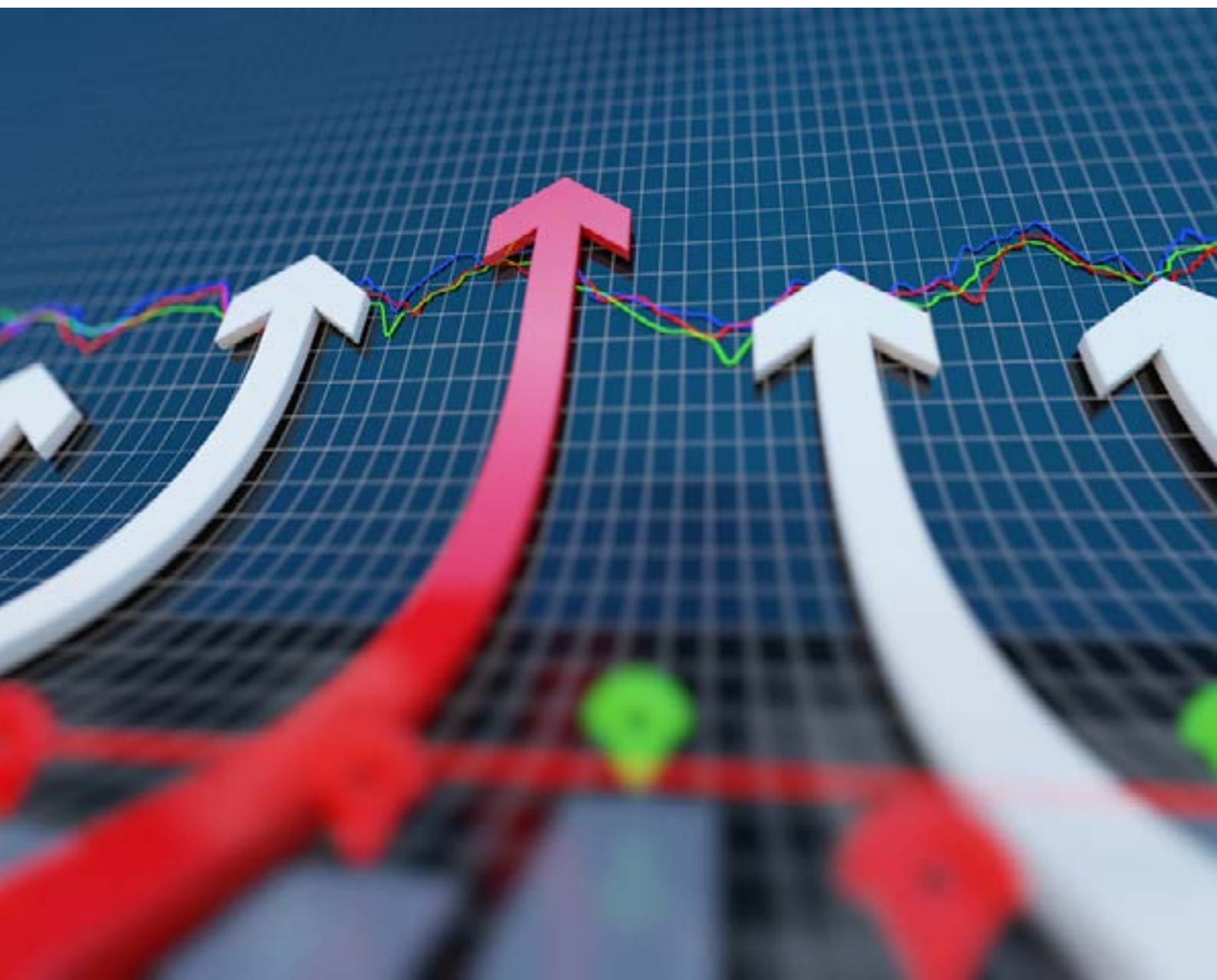
Realized Consumer Price Growth

In the five-year period (2019–2023), the fastest acceleration of consumer prices was just recorded in 2023, when prices increased by 12.1% on average, in relation to the volume of prices in 2022. The lowest inflation measured by consumer price indices was in 2020, when it amounted to 1.6%. This economic indicator has been recording a declining trend since 2021, that in 2021 inflation would record a progressive acceleration, and in 2023 the inflation rate stood at 11.9%, which is above the target range of the National Bank of Serbia for the given year ($3.0\% \pm 1.5$ percentage points).

Consumer prices
(in %, compared to the same period of the previous year)



Source: SORS.





Average Retail Prices and Indices of Basic Food Products in Republic of Serbia

Average retail prices of basic food products in the Republic of Serbia, in RSD

Product name	Unit of measure	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cow's milk, pasteurized	litre	88.1	89.0	91.7	115.4	150.3
Cow's milk, sterilized	litre	95.7	94.6	94.9	115.1	149.5
Yogurt	litre	101.1	103.3	104.3	128.4	165.0
Wheat flour type-500	kilogramme	54.5	56.3	58.8	72.1	76.0
White bread	kilogramme	85.3	86.2	89.3	102.8	117.2
Chicken drumstick	kilogramme	272.0	273.3	306.7	381.3	406.7
Beef with bones	kilogramme	640.5	613.5	634.8	899.7	960.4
Pork meat with bones	kilogramme	450.4	471.5	477.9	602.1	710.9
Edible oil, sunflower	litre	114.0	134.9	174.5	202.0	194.5
Sugar, crystal	kilogramme	68.1	72.4	75.5	95.9	115.3

Source: MIET, based on the data of the SORS.

Annual indices of basic food products in the Republic of Serbia

Product name	Unit of measure	Ø 2019 / Ø 2018	Ø 2020 / Ø 2019	Ø 2021 / Ø 2020	Ø 2022 / Ø 2021	Ø 2023 / Ø 2022
Cow's milk, pasteurized	litre	98.7	101.0	103.0	125.9	130.2
Cow's milk, sterilized	litre	95.5	98.8	100.4	121.3	129.9
Yogurt	litre	97.6	102.2	100.9	123.1	128.5
Wheat flour type-500	kilogramme	109.2	103.2	104.5	122.7	105.3
White bread	kilogramme	104.1	101.1	103.6	115.1	114.0
Chicken drumstick	kilogramme	93.9	100.5	112.2	124.3	106.7
Beef with bones	kilogramme	106.5	95.8	103.5	141.7	106.7
Pork meat with bones	kilogramme	107.7	104.7	101.4	126.0	118.1
Edible oil, sunflower	litre	92.6	118.3	129.4	115.7	96.3
Sugar, crystal	kilogramme	102.0	106.4	104.3	127.0	120.3

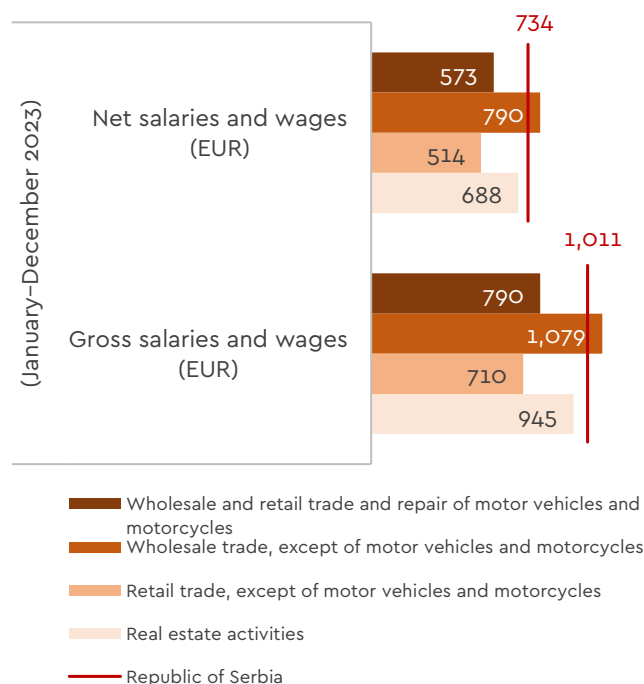
Source: MIET, based on the data of the SORS.

Salaries and Wages

In the period January–December 2023, the average salaries and wages paid out in the Republic of Serbia amounted to EUR 1,011, whereas the average salaries and wages without taxes and contributions (net) stood at EUR 734. The growth in gross and net salaries and wages, in the period January–December 2023, as compared with the same period in 2022, amounted to 14.8% nominally, i.e. 2.4% in real terms.

In 2023, the highest average salaries and wages were paid out in the wholesale trade (except of motor vehicles and motorcycles), and amounted to EUR 1,079, and they were higher by 6.7% in relation to the average salaries and wages in the Republic of Serbia. The average salaries and wages paid out in the real estate activities, in 2023, amounted to EUR 945, and they were lower by 6.5%, as compared with the Republic average. The salaries and wages in the remaining two activities, the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles and retail trade (except of motor vehicles and motorcycles) are below the average in the Republic of Serbia, by 21.9% and 29.8%, respectively.

Salaries and wages, January–December 2023 (in EUR)



Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).

Average gross salaries and wages in the wholesale, retail trade and real estate activities, 2023

Code of section and activity divisions	Average gross and net salaries and wages	Average gross salaries and wages			Average net salaries and wages		
		EUR	year-on-year change, in %		EUR	year-on-year change, in %	
			nominal	real		nominal	real
	Republic of Serbia	1,011	14.8	2.4	734	14.8	2.4
Section G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	846	15.8	3.3	616	15.7	3.2
Division 45	Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	790	14.0	1.7	573	13.9	1.6
Division 46	Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1,079	15.6	3.1	790	15.5	3.0
Division 47	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	710	16.8	4.2	514	16.7	4.1
Section L	Real estate activities	945	14.7	2.3	688	14.8	2.4
Division 68	Real estate activities	945	14.7	2.3	688	14.8	2.4

Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).



Employment

According to the data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in 2023, the total of 2.3 million employees were registered in the Republic of Serbia at legal entities and with entrepreneurs. In the wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities, the number of employees at legal entities and entrepreneurs in 2023 reached 370,332, which is higher by 0.5%, as compared with 2022.

The majority of employees are in the retail trade (except of motor vehicles and motorcycles), 210,983 (y-o-y drop of 0.8%) and in the wholesale trade

(except of motor vehicles and motorcycles), 118,833 (y-o-y growth of 2.0%), while the lowest number of employees is in the real estate activities, 8,898 (y-o-y growth of 8.4%). The number of employees in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles is 31,618, with the realized year-on-year growth rate of 2.2%.

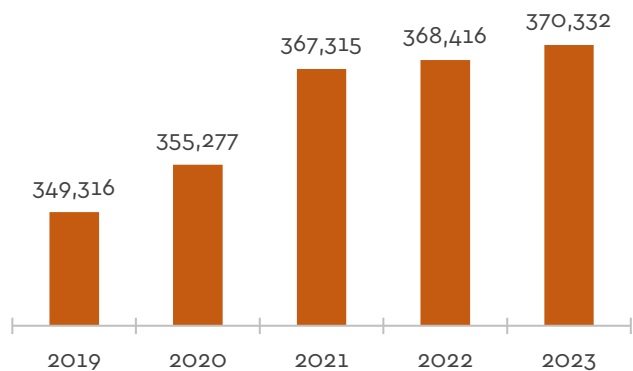
In the total number of employees in the Republic of Serbia, the share of employees in the wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities is 16.1%. The five-year (2019–2023) average growth in the number of employees in the wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities amounts to 1.5%.

Registered employment in wholesale, retail trade and real estate activities, 2023

Code of section and activity divisions	Registered employment	Number of employees		Share in employment, in %	
		number of employees	year-on-year change, in %	in total	by section CA(2010)
	Republic of Serbia	2,306,955	2.4	100.0	-
Section G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	361,434	0.3	15.7	100.0
Division 45	Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	31,618	2.2	1.4	8.7
Division 46	Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	118,833	2.0	5.2	32.9
Division 47	Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	210,983	-0.8	9.1	58.4
Section L	Real estate activities	8,898	8.4	0.4	100.0
Division 68	Real estate activities	8,898	8.4	0.4	100.0
TOTAL		370,322	0.5	16.1	

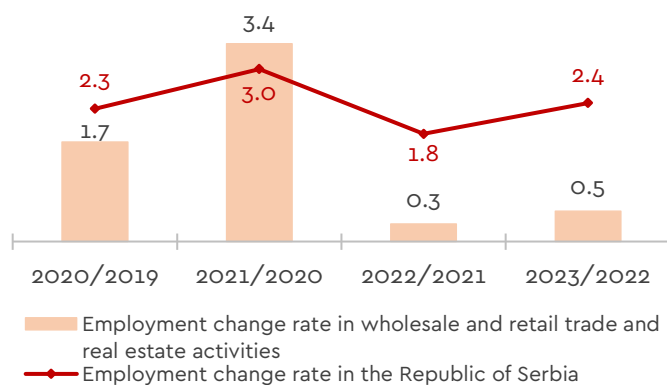
Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).

Number of employees in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities



Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).

Year-on-year rate of change in employment in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities (in %)



Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).



Total Realized Investments

The total realized investments in fixed assets in the wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities, in 2022, amounted to EUR 781.5 million, out of which 45.1% were realized in the retail trade (EUR 352.1 million), 33.2% in the wholesale trade (EUR 259.4 million), 10.5% in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (EUR 82.3 million) and 11.2% in the real estate activities (EUR 87.6 million).

In the structure of these investments, the investments in domestic and imported equipment had the largest share (47.8%). Slightly lower investments were made in buildings and civil engineering (45.3%), whereas the remaining 6.9% account for investments in intellectual property – research and development, software, databases and other.

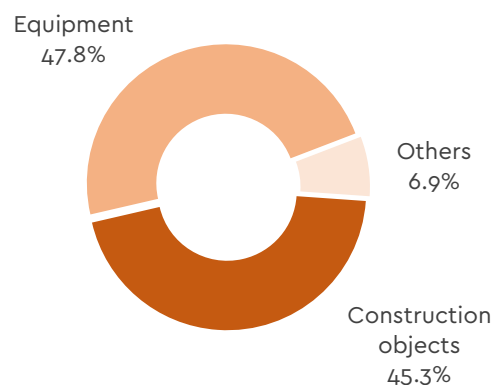
Foreign Direct Investments

According to the preliminary data of the National bank of Serbia, in 2023, the total net inflow of FDIs in the Republic of Serbia, on ground of investments of non-residents, amounted to EUR 4.5 billion.

In the wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities, the net inflow of EUR 605.8 million was achieved, which accounts for 13.4% of the total FDIs in the Republic of Serbia. In the real and estate activities, the highest net inflow of FDIs was recorded on ground of investments of non-residents in amount of EUR 210.0 million, then in the wholesale trade, EUR 381.8 million. The lowest net inflow of FDIs was noted in the wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, in the amount of EUR 14.3 million.

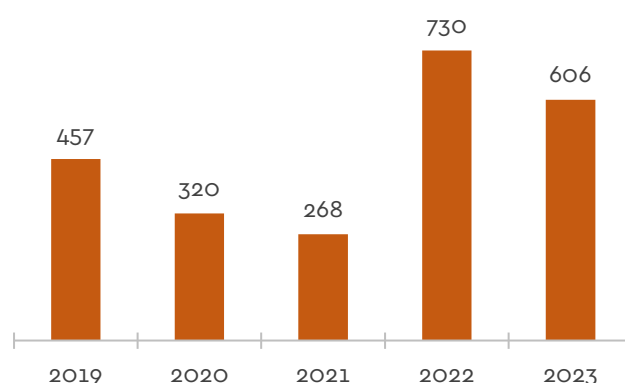
In the five-year period (2019–2023), the total net inflow of FDIs in the wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities amounted to about slightly below than EUR 2.4 billion, and the highest inflow was recorded in 2022 (EUR 729.9 million).

Structure of realized investments in fixed assets in wholesale and retail trade and real estate activities, 2022



Source: SORS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).

Net FDI inflow, based on non-residents' investments, (in EUR million)



Source: NBS, precalculation by Centre for SAAPP (CCIS).

Note: In accordance with the "Manual for the preparation of the balance of payments and international investment position no. 6, IMF", the mentioned economic branch includes: **Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Real estate activities**. Industries are classified according to the statistical classification of economic activities of the European Community (NACE Rev. 2, 2008).

Annual Assessment of Business Activity

Investments

According to the results of the [CCIS Survey on Business Activity of the Domestic Economy](#), the surveyed companies in trade industry state that in the structure of investments the following items have the largest share: construction buildings (38.3% of realized investments in 2023, i.e. 37.9% of total planned investments in 2024), imported equipment (23.2% of realized investments, i.e. 21.1% of total planned investments), and are least interested in investing in intellectual property (only 5.0% of the realized investments in 2023, i.e. 4.8% of planned investments in 2024).

Financing

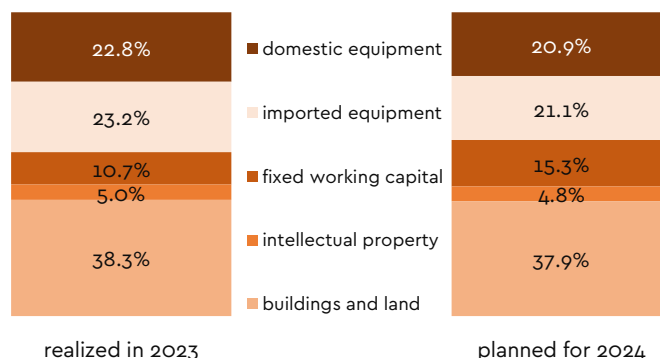
In 2023, the largest number of the surveyed companies in trade industry mainly used their own assets in business operations (83.8%) and loans (15.5%). Budget incentives and other sources of financing have a negligible share in the structure of sources of financing.

Incentives

In 2023, the incentives of state institutions and local self-governments were used by 3.5% of the surveyed companies in trade industry, whereas 93.3% of the respondents stated that they did not apply for these funds.

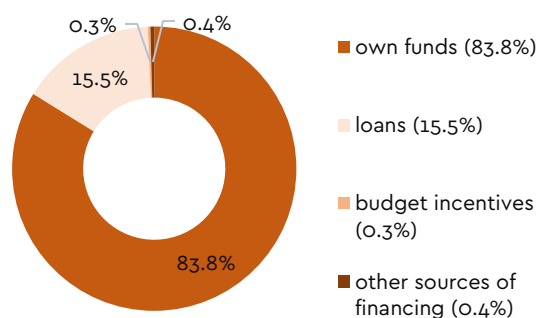
The number of the surveyed companies in trade is indicated by the letter "n" (sample size).

Structure of the realized and planned investments (% of respondents)



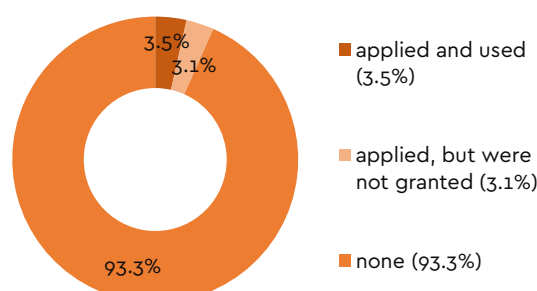
Source: CCIS Survey on Business Activity of the Domestic Economy (n realized = 94, n planned = 132).

Structure of the sources of financing in 2023 (% of respondents)



Source: CCIS Survey on Business Activity of the Domestic Economy (n=255).

Did you apply for any subsidies granted by state institutions or local self-governments in 2023? (% of respondents)



Source: CCIS Survey on Business Activity of the Domestic Economy (n=255).

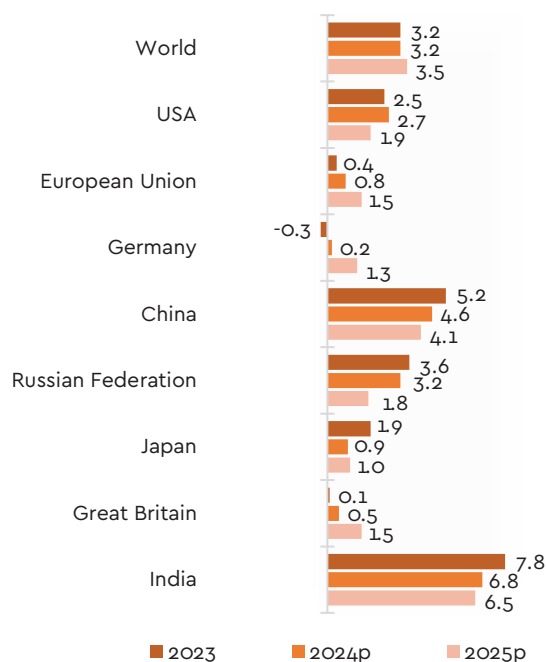
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Macroeconomic Overview

According to the latest World Bank Report on Global Economic Prospects, as the middle of the current decade approaches, which was marked as a decade of transformation for the world economy at the beginning of the new economic cycle, given that it was estimated to represent a breakthrough in economic development, the global economy will achieve a negative record by the end of 2024: the slowest GDP growth in the last 30 years. Nevertheless, after the end of another business year, the global economy is definitely in a better place than it was a year ago: the risk of a global recession has receded, primarily due to the strength of the U.S. economy, whereas global inflation is generally stabilized due to an aggressive monetary policy. However, growing geopolitical tensions could create new short-term hazards for the world economy, whereas the medium-term outlook for many advanced economies is not very optimistic, primarily due to the slowdown in growth in most advanced economies, slow global trade and disincentive financial conditions. Global trade growth in 2024 is expected to be only half the average of the decade before the Covid-19 pandemic. The World Bank expects global growth to slow down for the third consecutive year – from 2.6% in 2023 to 2.4% in 2024, nearly 75 basis points below the 2010s average. Advanced economies expect economic activity to grow by 1.2%, whereas developing economies will record growth of 3.9% in the current year, which is about 1 p. p. below the decade average. Meanwhile, borrowing costs for developing economies, especially the ones with poor credit ratings, are likely to remain very high, with global interest rates remaining at their highest levels in four decades in inflation-adjusted terms.

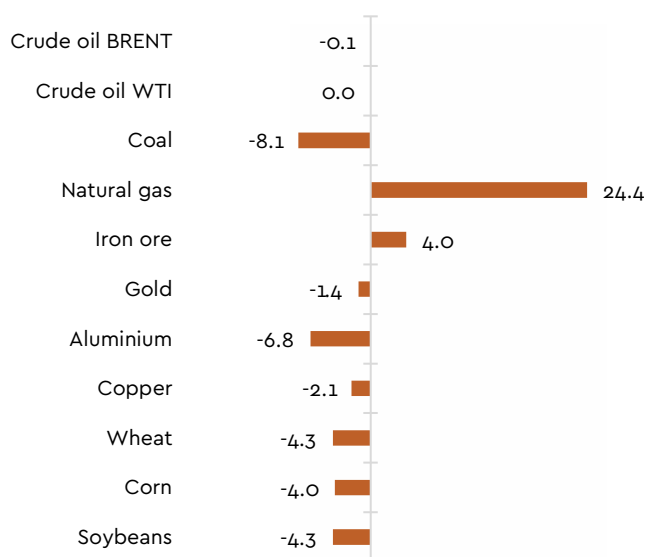
According to the previous data, the global slowdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukrainian crisis had fewer negative consequences for Serbia as compared with the most European countries, primarily due to the economic structure, macroeconomic stability, as well as the previously created fiscal space from which state financial aid to businesspeople originated. The economy of Serbia achieved a growth of 2.5% in 2023 measured by the **real growth rate of gross domestic product**, which can be characterized as a relatively good economic result, bearing in mind all the economic and geopolitical challenges in that year. International financial institutions such

GDP growth/decline projection for the world's largest economy for 2023, 2024 and 2025 (in %)



Source: IMF.
(p – projection)

Change in the price of energy, metals and the most important agricultural products in December 2023 compared to the beginning of the year, in %



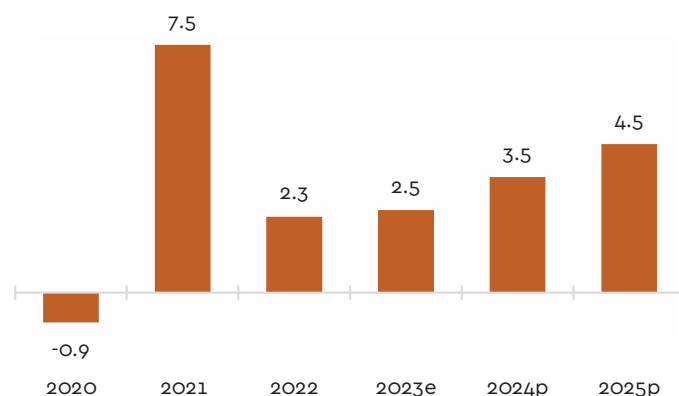
Source: Bloomberg L.P.

as the World Bank and IMF, estimate the growth of the Serbian economy at 3.5% in 2024. According to the latest projection of the National Bank of Serbia, an acceleration of the real GDP growth of Serbia is expected in the range of 3.0% to 4.0%, with the central value of the projection of 3.5%. In 2024, the growth will be driven by growth in domestic demand: higher private consumption will be driven by further growth in employment and salaries and investment growth will be driven by implementation of projects in the field of transport, energy and communal infrastructure. The NBS projects that, due to the expected growth of investments and private consumption, imports will grow faster than exports, which will result in negative net export. The growth projection for 2025 and 2026 was corrected upwards by the leading monetary institution of Serbia, in the range of 4% to 5%, due to the expected realization of the investments planned for implementing the specialized exhibition EXPO 2027.

The major challenges faced by the population in Serbia, in 2024, are disruptions in demand and supply of the staple food making up the main consumer basket of every consumer. It is mitigating that the prices of these products are kept under control, and to a certain extent stabilized. However, it should be taken into account that these are short-term instruments, which can have adverse effects in the long run. On the other hand, this year's target growth rate is affected by high inflation, tight monetary conditions, which slow down the lending activity of corporate and citizens, geopolitical risks (the Ukrainian crisis, the latest situation in the Middle East), rising tensions in Kosovo and Metohija, disruptions in global supply chains, etc.

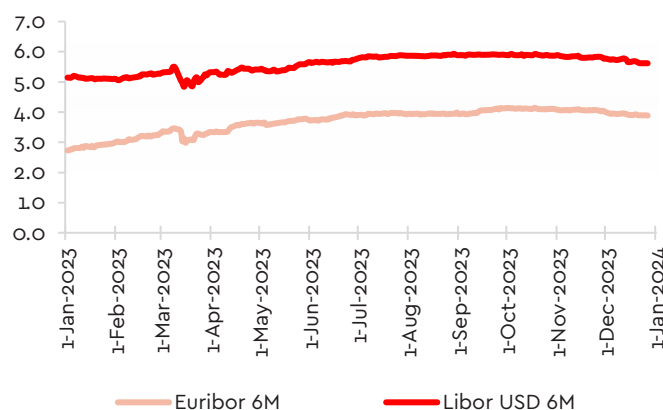
The reference interest rate has been increased six times in 2023 and currently amounts to 6.5% (since July 2023). The trend of maintaining high interest rates is in effect in a large number of economies all over the world, regardless of their level of development, and it represents an effective instrument for curbing high inflation in a situation of increased economic (and geopolitical) risks. Interest rates, inter alia, increased by 25 and 50 basis points so that investment activity would not be jeopardized.

Real GDP growth of the Republic of Serbia (in %)



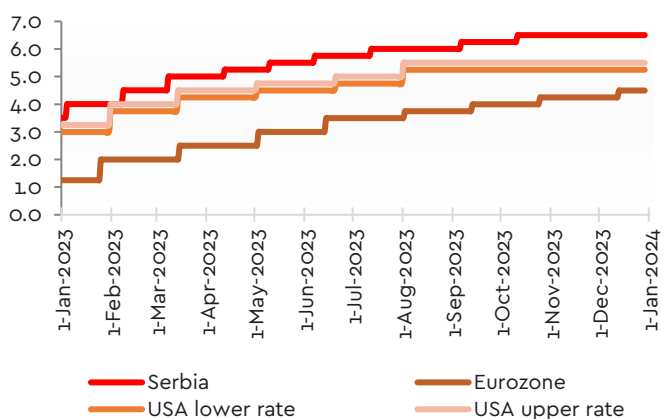
Source: SORS, NBS.
(e – SORS estimate, p – NBS projection)

Interest rates trend in Serbia in 2023



Source: Bloomberg L.P.

Trends in key interest rates in Serbia, Eurozone and USA in 2023



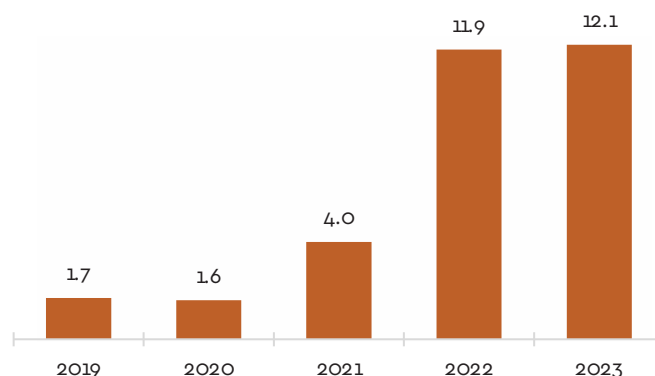
Source: Bloomberg L.P.

In the period January–December 2023, the **inflation** amounted to 12.1%, which is considerably above the NBS target limit (3.0% ± 1.5 percentage points). In December 2023, as compared to the same month in 2022, the inflation amounted to 7.6% which shows that it is gradually approaching the target range, but that the process will be very long and slow. The high inflation in this period of the year was mainly driven by the increase in the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as the increase in the prices of energy sources. According to the NBS projection, inflation reached its maximum in the first quarter of 2023 and it has been declining since April returning to a single-digit level in October and slowing to 8.0% YoY in November. Inflation will decline throughout the projection period – its return to the target range is expected in mid-2024, and it is expected to approach the central value of the target at the end of the year. According to the results of the *Ipsos* survey as of August 2023, the inflation expectations of the financial sector one year ahead are on the decline (*Ipsos* November 5.7%, *Bloomberg* December 4.5%), whereas expectations for the next two and three years are lower and are within the NBS target limit.

According to the data of the Ministry of Finance, a **consolidated budget deficit** of about EUR 1.5 billion was recorded in the period January–December 2023. At the end of December 2023, the **share of public debt in the GDP of Serbia** was 52.3%, which is a decrease of about 2.8 percentage points as compared to the level in December 2022. The medium-term fiscal framework envisages a gradual reduction of the general government deficit to 1.5% of GDP by 2024 and maintaining the share of public debt in GDP below the Maastricht limit (60%). On the other hand, the Fiscal Strategy envisages a budget deficit of 2.8% of GDP in 2023.

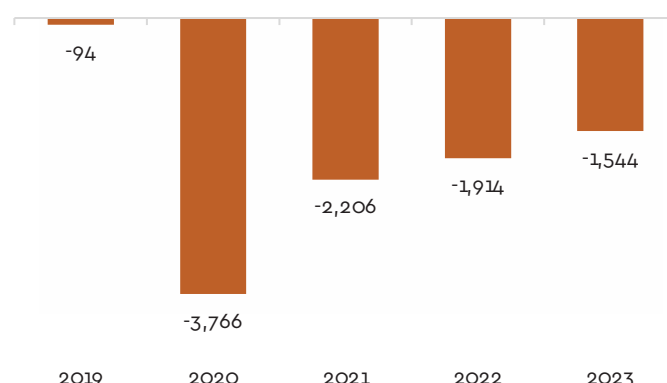
In 2023, all three credit rating agencies (*Fitch Ratings*, *Standard and Poor's*, *Moody's*) confirmed Serbia's credit rating to be by one level below the investment (BB+, BB+, Ba2) with the stable prospects for further improvement in the coming period. S&P states the international business environment is still uncertain, however, Serbia manages to balance external challenges by positive trends and adequate economic policies. The Agency states that the stable Serbia's prospects for further increase of its credit rating take into account the

Consumer prices
(in %, as compared with
the same period previous year)



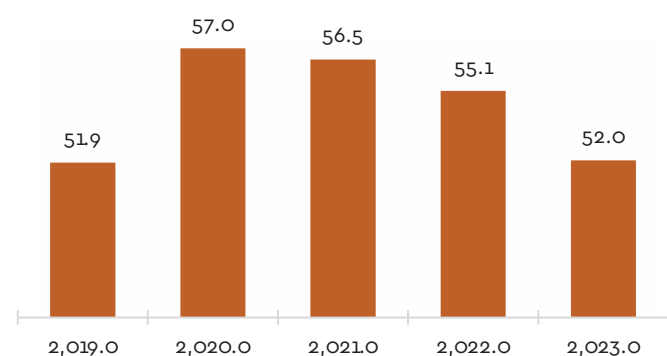
Source: SORS.

Consolidated fiscal balance
of the Republic of Serbia (in EUR million)



Source: Ministry of Finance, precalculation by CCIS.

Public debt of Serbia
(central country level, in GDP %)



Source: Ministry of Finance.

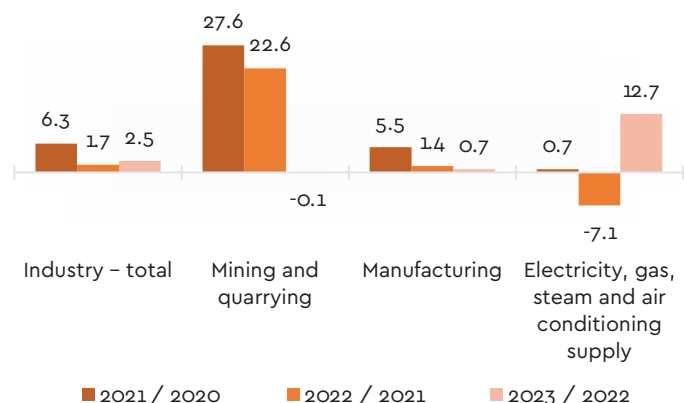
fact that the national economy continues to record a growth, although the economic activity slows down in the Eurozone countries, which are our most important trade partners, such as Germany and Italy.

In the period January–December 2023, the **industrial production** increased by 2.5%, as compared with the same period in 2022. The highest growth in production was recorded in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply sector (12.7%), whereas the manufacturing industry recorded the lowest rise (0.7%). A 0.1% decrease in the production was recorded in the mining sector in the same period.

The total **foreign commodity trade** of Serbia, in the period January–December 2023, amounted to EUR 65.5 billion, which is a decline of 1.7% as compared with the same interval of 2022. Goods were exported in the value of EUR 28.6 billion, which is an increase of 3.6%, while the imports of goods amounted to EUR 36.9 billion, with the recorded year-on-year drop of 5.4%. The commodity trade deficit amounted to about EUR 8.3 billion, whereas the coverage of imports by exports increased year-on-year by 7 percentage points and amounted to 77.5%. The deficit decreased by 27.2% at the year-on-year level, primarily as a result of a drop in the price of energy sources in the global market, as well as lower supply of raw materials and materials for production such as fertilizers, metal ores, and other products.

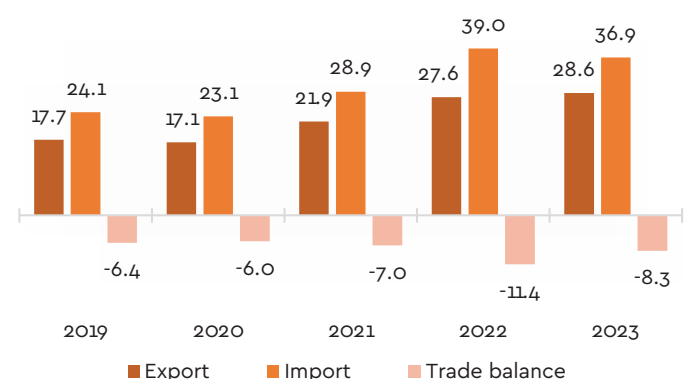
In the period January–December 2023, Serbia reached the **surplus in trade in services** of EUR 3.0 billion, with the year-on-year increase of 30.4%. Taking into account the progressive development of this sector in recent years, it is reasonable to expect the year 2023 to be a new record year when it comes to surplus in trade in services, primarily owing to telecommunication services, computer and information services (ICT sector). ICT sector in Serbia, except for recording excellent export results, increasingly contributes to the total growth in turnover, total number of employees and gross domestic product, i.e. increasing gross domestic product. In addition to them, business services (management counselling, research and development, and other technical services) make the largest contribution to reducing the deficit in trade and payment balance of the country.

Increase/decline in industrial production, in total and according to sectors (in %)



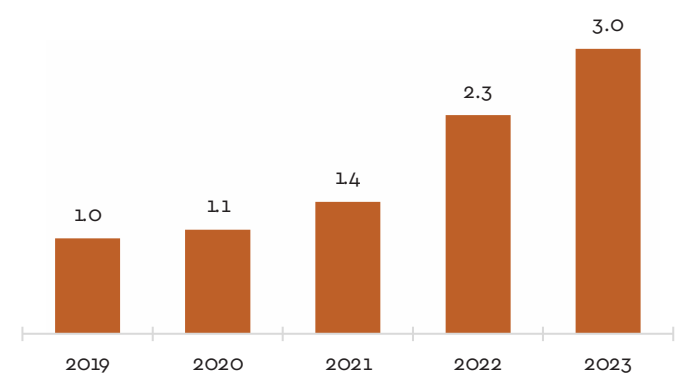
Source: SORS.

Foreign trade (in EUR billion)



Source: SORS.

Surplus in trade in services (in EUR billion)



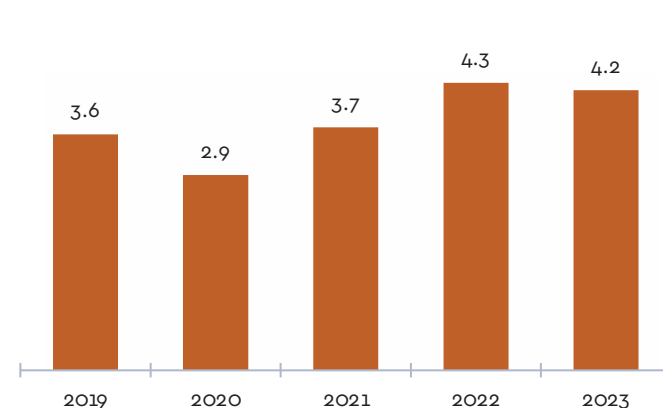
Source: NBS.

In the period January–December 2023, Serbia attracted totally EUR 4.2 billion of **net foreign direct investments**, which is the year-on-year decline of 2.5%. FDI is geographically diversified, as well, with a growing participation of countries from the European Union and the Asia-Pacific region.

According to the data of the NBS, in the period January–December 2023, **the current account balance of payment deficit** amounted to EUR 1.8 billion, which is a significant change having in mind that in 2022 a deficit in the amount of EUR 4.3 billion was recorded. However, the last year's deficit to a large extent has been determined by high price of energy sources in the global market, and has been suffering strong pressures of the current geopolitical risks since the beginning of last year. In 2023, the current account balance of payment deficit is expected to account for about 3.0% of GDP of the Republic of Serbia, which is a significant downward correction of the previous projection (3.3% of GDP) due to lower import prices of energy products and strong export growth. The IMF also agrees with this current account deficit projection in its latest report in October. In 2024, it is expected that the current deficit will be determined by the growth of investments and that it will make up about 2.2% of GDP. The current account balance of payment deficit in Serbia has been fully covered by a net FDI inflows since 2015, which is expected in the following years as well. In 2023, the inflow of remittances from abroad was recorded in the amount of EUR 3.9 billion, mainly from the German speaking countries (Germany, Austria, and Switzerland).

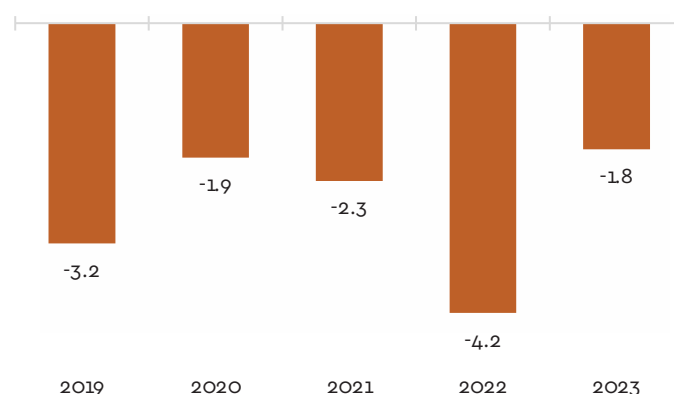
The average gross salary calculated for the period January–December 2023 amounted to RSD 118,599 (EUR 1,011), while **the average net salary** amounted to RSD 86,007 (EUR 733). As compared with the same period of the previous year, the salaries were higher in real terms by 2.4%. At the same time, medial net salary for December 2023 amounted to RSD 69,842 (EUR 596), which means that 50% of employees earned the salary lower than the above amount. With the stabilization of a growth in consumer prices in 2024, higher growth in gross and net salaries in real terms should be expected.

Net FDI
(in EUR billion)



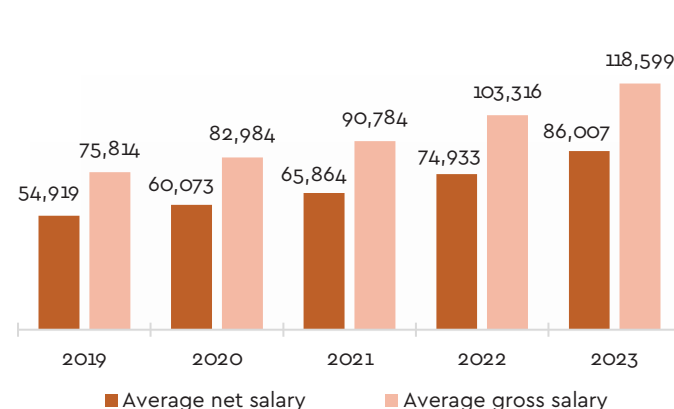
Source: NBS.

Balance of payments of the Republic of Serbia
(in EUR billion)



Source: NBS.

Average net and gross salary
(in EUR)



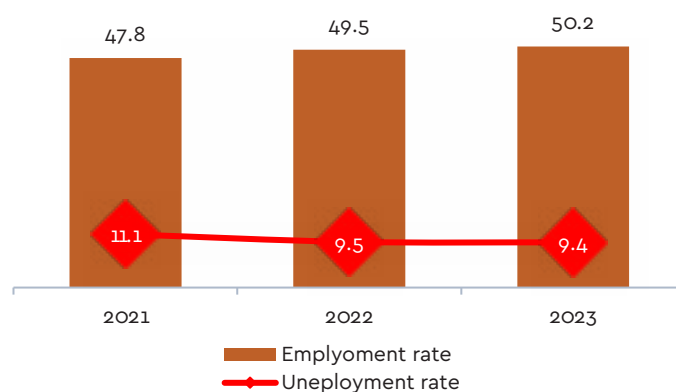
Source: SORS, precaculation by CCIS.

According to the **Labour Force Survey**, in 2023, the number of employees amounted to nearly 2.9 million, whereas 295.8 thousand unemployed persons were registered (a slightly drop of 0.2%, as compared with 2022). The **employment rate** of the population aged 15 and over amounted to 50.2%, whereas the **unemployment rate** was 9.4%. The labour market can be characterized as stable.

According to the data of the NBS, the domestic **lending activity** continued to slow down in accordance with the price growth in lending. The loan structure, in 2023, remained favourable in terms of its contribution to the economic growth led by loans for corporate investments and housing loans with citizens. In December 2023, the total domestic loans recorded a year-on-year growth of 1.1%. Lending activity slowed during 2023, which was influenced by higher interest rates due to the tightening of the monetary policy of the NBS and the ECB, the maturity of loans approved under the Guarantee Scheme, as well as the tightened credit standards of banks. Investment loans increased by 4.4% and in December accounted for 41.9% of total corporate loans, while the share of loans for liquidity and working capital amounted to 46.8% and was reduced due to high maturities of loans from the Guarantee Scheme. The loans granted to MSMEs account for 59.1% of the total corporate loans in December 2023. The stability of the banking sector in Serbia was maintained and additionally reinforced owing to the measures of the NBS, and the share of non-performing loans in total loans amounted to 3.0%.

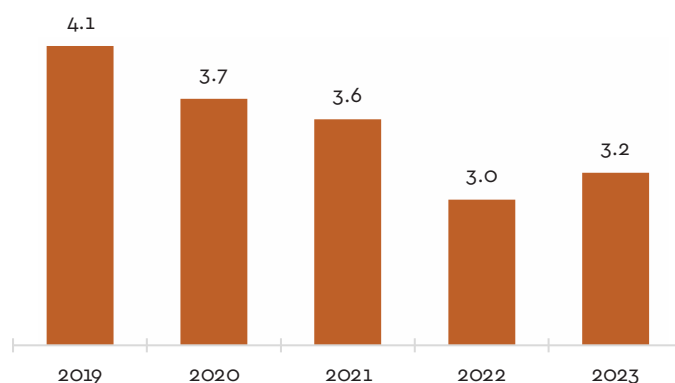
The **average foreign exchange rate**, in the period January–December 2023, amounted to 117.2513 dinars to one euro, as well as 108.4143 dinars to one American dollar. Despite numerous economic and geopolitical challenges in 2023, dinar has shown substantial level of stability against the leading currency of the Eurozone, whereas it has shown certain level of oscillations against American dollar, which has been caused primarily by the current monetary policy in the global level. The National Bank of Serbia states that the stable foreign exchange rate should be expected in the coming period without large oscillations in the value against the leading currencies.

Trends in employment/unemployment rate with the population of age 15 and over, according to the Survey on Labour Force (in %)



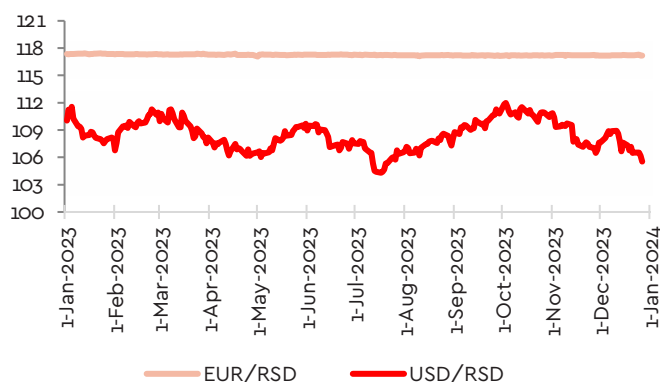
Source: SORS.

Non performing loans (NPL) share in total loans (in %)



Source: NBS.

Trends in foreign exchange rates in the last year



Source: Bloomberg L.P.

REPRESENTING INTERESTS OF THE ECONOMY

Fees and Taxes in the Area of Environmental Protection

In the market economy conditions, environmental protection is achieved by positive preventive actions of polluters, especially in the part of reduction, i.e. prevention of pollution, as well as by responsible behavior of the social community (local and regional). A normative system of revenue capture from the use of natural resources has been built in Serbia in the last few years, by applying the "user pays" principle, as well as measures to discourage negative impacts on the environment, by applying the "polluter pays" principle.

In order to achieve the goals of the environmental protection policy in the Republic of Serbia, the laws and bylaws stipulate, as one of the sources of funding, the funds charged under fees and taxes. As such, they are the revenue of the national budget, the provincial and local budgetary fund for environmental protection and are the dominant source of financing. On the other hand, fees and taxes in the field of environmental protection for business entities, as the payers of the fee, often represent a significant financial burden. However, when taking into account the great importance of prevention and protection of human health, along with the preservation of natural resources and the environment, these funds represent an extremely important investment potential to meet the needs, issues and goals of the environmental protection.

The Law on Fees for the Use of Public Goods, from December 2018, for the field of the environmental protection, defines eight fees as follows:

1. Fee for using fishing areas;
2. Fee for using protected areas;
3. Fee for collecting, using and trading in varieties of wild flora and fauna and mushrooms;
4. Fee for polluting the environment;
5. Fee for protection and improvement of the environment;
6. Fee for products that, after their usage, become special waste flows;
7. Fee for packaging or packaged products;
8. Fee for polluting waters.

Taking into consideration the importance of financing of the environmental protection, as well as the duties of the economy arising from that, an excerpt from the Law on Fees for the Use of Public Goods was developed ("Official Gazette of the RS", Nos. 95/2018, 49/2019, 86/2019 – adjusted amounts in dinars, 156/2020 – adjusted amounts in dinars and 15/2021 – additionally adjusted amounts in dinars), containing an overview of fees and taxes in this area.



Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

By signing the Sofia Declaration on "Green Agenda" for the Western Balkan countries (WB), at the WB Summit within the framework of the Berlin Process Initiative, on 10 November 2020, the countries from the region **have recognized the European green deal as a new strategy of EU growth aimed at having a modern, climatic neutral and competitive economy utilizing resources in an efficient manner.** In this way, the signatory parties to the Declaration have agreed that the elements of the European green deal should be transferred to all mutually connected priority sectors.

Almost a year after the signing of the Sofia Declaration, **the heads of the states and governments of the countries of the Western Balkans, have reached out an agreement with the EU on the implementation of the Action Plan on Green Agenda**, which opens a path to the realization of the Economic and Investment Plan for the region worth nearly EUR 30 billion.

The countries of the region have accepted the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, thus expressing their **commitment to implementing the actions in the areas classified in five pillars**, as follows:

1. **climate, energy, mobility;**
2. **circular economy;**
3. **pollution reduction;**
4. **sustainable agriculture and food industry;**
5. **biodiversity.**

Legislative Framework of Climate Change in the Republic of Serbia

Serbia belongs to one of the regions that are most vulnerable to climate changes in the world. Estimates show that our country is warming more and faster than the global average. While the eight-hour increase in the global mean temperature is 1.1°C, Serbia is already at 1.8°C, and in summer it is as much as 2.6°C. At the same time, since 2000, the Republic of Serbia has faced several significant extreme climatic and weather episodes, which caused significant material and financial losses, as well as the loss of human lives. The total minimum amount of material damage caused by extreme climatic and weather conditions, in the period from 2000 to 2020, amounts to 6.8 billion euros. More than 70% of the damage was caused by droughts and high temperatures caused by climate change and extreme weather events. Another major cause of heavy losses was flooding.

By adopting the Law on Climate Change ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 26/2021), the Republic of Serbia has defined one of the main components of the institutional and legal framework needed for the fight against climate change, which is the establishment of a system for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and adaptation to altered climatic conditions.

The subject law also provides for the adoption of the Low Carbon Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, adoption of which, in June 2023, has given the basis for the revision of the first Nationally Determined Contribution, in relation to which the national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the level of the entire economy was tripled, and amounts to 33.3% by 2030 (compared to 1990).



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SUPPORT TO THE ECONOMY

Incentives for Investments

Incentives can be awarded for investment projects in the production sector and for projects of shared service centres. Services of shared service centres and support to business operations are services provided by IC technologies mostly to the users outside the Republic of Serbia. Funds can be awarded in the sector of software development if they are in the function of product improvement or production process, or in the function of providing services of shared service centres. In addition, funds can be awarded for the investment projects in the sector of food industry and hotel accommodation in spas.

Funds cannot be used for financing investment projects in the sector of transportation, software development, accommodation and hospitality services, trade, lottery, production of synthetic

fibres, coal and steel, mining, tobacco and tobacco products, arms and ammunition, ship production of sea ships of more than 100bt, airport, utility sector, energy sector, broadband networks, fishery and aquaculture.

Type and amount of the funds that can be awarded for investments

The user of the funds is obliged to participate with at least 25% of justified costs from personal assets or other sources, which do not contain state aid. The maximum funds that can be awarded for investment projects for:

- LARGE business entities up to 50% of justified costs,
- MEDIUM business entities up to 60% of justified costs,
- SMALL business entities up to 70% of justified costs.

The amount of the funds that can be awarded for investments for large companies

justified costs of
investments
up to 50 mn EUR

the part of justified costs of
investments
between 50 and 100 mn EUR

the part of justified costs of
investments
above 100 mn EUR

up to 50%

up to 25%

up to 17%

Justified costs are investments in a material and nonmaterial asset or justified costs of labour expenses for two year period following the realization of an investment.



Terms of awarding the funds for investment projects in the sector of production and service centres are as follows:

Units of territorial level (NSJ2)	Minimal number of jobs created	Minimal amount of the funds invested (EUR)	Approved incentives	The Council can additionally approve	
			Incentives for justified costs of labour expenses for two year period	Incentives for eligible costs of investment in fixed assets	Additional incentives for labour-intensive investment projects
The region of Belgrade	50	500,000	20%, but no more than 2,000 € for every job created	+10%	more than 100 jobs created + 10% of the amount of justified costs of labour expenses for two year period
The region of Vojvodina	40	400,000	25%, but no more than 3,000 € for every job created	+15%	more than 200 jobs created + 15% of the amount of justified costs of labour expenses for two year period
The region of Sumadija, west, east, south Serbia and Kosovo i Metohija	30	300,000	30%, but no more than 5,000 € for every job created	+30%	more than 500 jobs created + 20% of the amount of justified costs of labour expenses for two year period
Service centers	15	150,000	-	-	

Right to apply for the incentives, regarding the following EXPO BELGRADE 2027 international exhibition, have the investors who want to build hotels of the category of 3 or more stars, with minimum of 50 accommodation units with that begin the construction work until the end of 2024. Minimum value of the investment has to be 5 million euros, or 2 million euros for the reconstruction of the hotel. It is necessary that investment takes place in Belgrade region and remains in the form of the hotel at least for a 5-year period. Investment incentive can be awarded up to the amount of 20% of justified expenses for the investment.





For the investments of no special purpose, additional 10% are awarded for the costs of investment in fixed assets, regardless of the level of development of municipality in which it is invested.

For investments in Food Industry, funds can be awarded only for investments of minimum 2 million euro and 30 new jobs created. The amount of incentives depends on the level of development of the municipality according to the next scale:

Level of the local government development	Approved incentives	Incentives for eligible costs of investment in fixed assets
	Incentives for justified costs of labour expenses for two year period	
I	20% but no more than 3,000 EUR for every job created	For investing up to 20 mn EUR additional 20%
II	25% but no more than 4,000 EUR for every job created	
III	30% but no more than 5,000 EUR for every job created	For investing from 20 – 40 mn EUR additional 10%
IV	35% but no more than 6,000 EUR for every job created	For investing over 40 mn EUR additional 5%
Devastated region	40% but no more than 7,000 EUR for every job created	

For investments in Hotel Industry, funds can be awarded only for investments of minimum 2 million euro and 30 new jobs created. The amount of incentives depends on the level of development of the municipality according to the next scale:

Level of the local government development	Approved incentives	Incentives for eligible costs of investment in fixed assets
	Incentives for justified costs of labour expenses for two year period	
I	20% but no more than 3,000 EUR for every job created	For investing up to 30 mn EUR additional 20%
II	25% but no more than 4,000 EUR for every job created	
III	30% but no more than 5,000 EUR for every job created	
IV	35% but no more than 6,000 EUR for every job created	For investing over 30 mn EUR additional 10%
Devastated region	40% but no more than 7,000 EUR for every job created	

Besides state subsidies there are other types of benefits that investors can acquire like custom benefits for new equipment, various tax incentives, benefits from free trade agreements that Serbia has signed with other countries etc.

Incentives can be awarded to a company from food industry, for the realization of the investments in automatization of the existing capacities if the minimum amount of the funds invested is 1.000.000 euros. The deadline for completing the investment is three years with the possibility of extending it to five years. The investor can get 20% of the justified costs, but only after the public invitation for applications is announced on the web site of the Development Agency of Serbia or Ministry of Economy.

According to Regulation on criteria for awarding incentives in automatization of the existing capacities

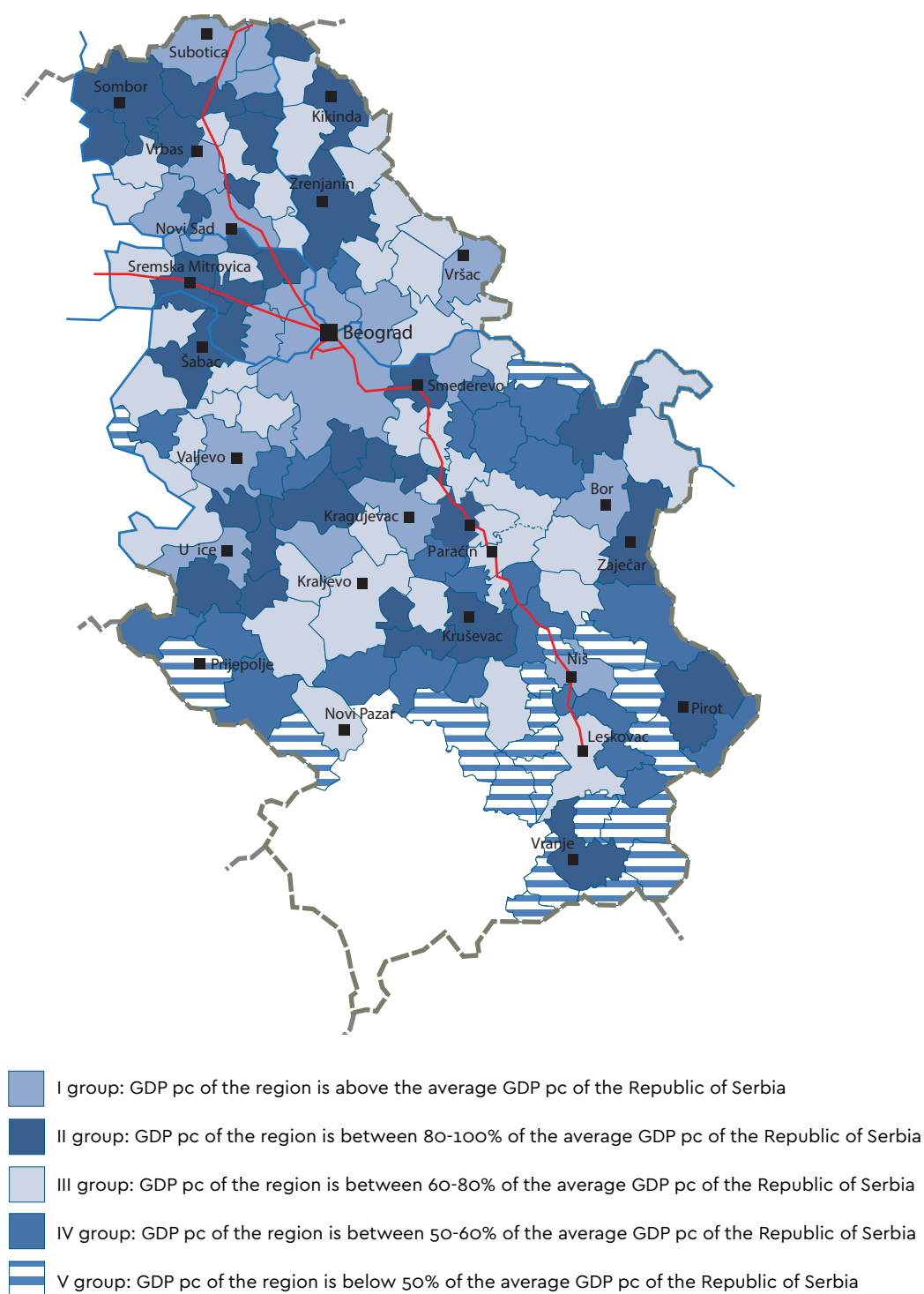
and innovations funds can be awarded for investment projects in the field of Industry that create great added value and which include automatization of production process or create innovation. When investing in automatization of the process, user can get 25% of justified expenses for investing in material and non material assets. Condition to be fulfilled is that amount of the investment is over 5 million euros.

More information about this you can find in our publication [Benefits for investors](#).





Level of Development of Local Governments



Source: Regulation on the Determination of the Unique List of Development of Regions and Municipalities in 2014 ("Official Gazette of Republic Serbia", 104/2014).





Center for Digital Transformation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

As a response to the challenges of the global trend of digitalization, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, with the support of GIZ, established the Centre for Digital Transformation (CDT), as an instrument to support the MSME sector in the process of digital transformation. CDT enables to respond in an efficient and transparent way to all challenges of economy digitalization, through education, consulting, as well as creating strategic partnerships with technology promoters, on the one hand, and companies that would apply these solutions in their business, on the other. The project of establishing and developing the Centre for Digital Transformation is supported by both the GIZ – German Organization for International Cooperation and the Austrian Chamber of Economy – WKO.

For five years of operation, CDT has directly aroused interest of nearly 3,000 companies in the CDT programme, and a significant number have implemented technological solutions developed through consulting with CDT certified consultants (68 consultants trained and certified according to ISO 17024 standard).

The specialized **online Digital Academy** is an interactive platform designed primarily for the education of owners and managers in micro, small and medium enterprises in Serbia, who want to improve their knowledge and skills in the domain of digital transformation. All those interested can apply through the website www.digitalnaakademija.rs.



**CCIS Centre for
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Support to Innovation

The Innovation Service of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia is engaged in the process of development, promotion and improvement of the institutional framework for the innovative ecosystem in Serbia. It also provides information on available funding sources, seminars, workshops on innovation and intellectual property rights. It actively cooperates with the competent state institutions: Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Cabinet of the Minister without Portfolio in charge of Innovation and Technological Development, Fund for Innovation Activity, Intellectual Property Office and others.

The [Council for Cooperation between Science and Economy](#) was established within the Innovation Service, as an expert consultative body of the Management Board of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia. Members of the Council are representatives of the business sector, universities, research organizations, ministries, institutions that fund innovations and infrastructure support companies, which are recognized for their engagement and commitment to creating an innovative ecosystem that stimulates the emergence and development of high-tech and fast-growing companies at the national, regional and local level in Serbia. A platform of the Council for Cooperation between Science and Economy (www.nip.rs) has been created, which promotes cooperation and achieved results of all players in the field of innovation, where all relevant information can be found.

Since 2020, the Innovation Service has established the Open Innovation Club within with the aim of encouraging cooperation between large and medium-sized companies with domestic start-ups and small enterprises, and supporting the development of the domestic market and the development of new solutions. As a partner in the organization of the Competition "Best Technological Innovation", the Service is active in introducing the members to new approaches and technologies in business and raising awareness of the importance of the economy based on knowledge and innovation.



CCIS Innovation Department
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ATA Carnet – Your Passport for Goods – Saves Time and Money

Do you want to conquer new buyers and markets in Serbia, participate at international trade fairs and exhibitions, sports tournaments, exhibit your samples, do a business with your professional equipment, exhibit artwork, or participate in international music festivals?

You need to cross a border quickly and simply, without paying customs duties or giving special guarantees – ATA CARNET ensures you do this!

What is an ATA Carnet? ATA Carnet is the simple international customs document used for temporary importation of goods into a foreign country with the validity period of up to one year.

The advantages of ATA Carnet: one document for all customs transactions (temporary exportation, importation, transit), obtained at your National Guaranteeing Association (NGA) valid for a period of one year, a wide spectrum of goods, no deposits and guarantees, time and money saving, simpler procedure at the customs.

The type of goods that mostly require ATA Carnet: goods for exhibitions and fairs, broadcasting equipment, scenography, hand tools, measuring instruments, samples of clothes and footwear, sport equipment for sport events, music instruments, animals for exhibition, race or training, cultural events, artworks, medical, scientific, educational equipment and many others.



Passport for goods

Under ATA Carnet it is forbidden to export or import consumable and perishable goods, goods intended for processing, finishing or repairing.

Year	Number of issued ATA Carnets (in Serbia to the World)	Value of goods temporary exported	
		in RSD	in USD
2023	4,726	6,688,743,551	61,914,466
2022	4,342	6,142,313,684	57,229,475
2021	3,120	3,986,887,886	38,488,341
2020	2,131	2,336,820,461	24,155,205
2019	4,894	5,986,126,330	56,692,332
2018	4,558	6,094,548,352	58,371,700

By the number of ATA carnets issued, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia currently ranks **ninth in the world** out of a total of 78 members of the ATA system. Since 2004, when the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia joined the ATA system, more than 5,000 legal entities and 3,500 individuals have used the ATA carnet.

As of October 5, 2023, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia has been issuing both **paper and digital ATA carnets (e-ATA)**. Users receive and store these documents in digital form on their electronic devices. The complete digitalization of the entire process and the official use of e-ATA will follow the digitalization of most customs offices in the ATA system member countries.

How to obtain an ATA Carnet?

Please find a [National Guaranteeing Association \(NGA\)](#) in your country, and contact your ATA manager.



Contact information for Serbia:
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, TIR and ATA Department
Krunska 26, 11000 Belgrade
+381 11 33 04 533
ata@pks.rs



Ensure Yourself a Successful Business Worldwide

Do you want to have a fruitful cooperation with the countries abroad? Do you need a legal security? Are you fatigue from excessive documentation?

You need a quick, efficient and simple solution for a fruitful cooperation abroad – it is ensured with the publications of the International Chamber of Commerce Serbia (ICC Serbia)!

What is ICC? ICC is **the oldest and biggest business association** established in 1919. ICC counts 6.5 million members from 130 countries all around the world. ICC operates for the benefit of the open global economy on creation and production of international rules and standards, as well as on adoption of recommendations for solving issues. The ICC rules are recognized worldwide, and represent a successful business standard that substantially reduces business costs and uncertainty. Best experts and practitioners from the entire world gathered by ICC are involved in the elaboration of these rules. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia is the founder of the National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce from Paris. Our country membership in ICC dates back to 1927.

Best-selling ICC Publications

The International Chamber of Commerce Serbia has been facilitating for years now business operations to Serbian businessmen trading abroad. With its exclusive right to publish, the National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce Serbia has the great pleasure of presenting to you the best-selling bilingual publications (English/Serbian) of the International Chamber of Commerce from Paris:

- **Incoterms 2020** – the official ICC rules for the interpretation of trade terms reflect the business practice recognized all around the world; they have existed since 1936, and have been revised every ten years in compliance with new international trade tendencies; they are a part of the recognized cannon that defines buyers and sellers' obligations.
- **ICC Uniform Rules for Demand Guarantees including model forms – URDG 758** – clear, precise, and comprehensive URDG rules for independent guarantees that represent the international practice of usage of demand guarantees, level legitimate interests of a beneficiary, applicant, and guarantor.
- **ICC Uniform Rules for Bank-to-Bank Reimbursements under Documentary Credits – URR 725** – the rules for reimbursements are to aid banks regarding reimbursement issues or reimbursement undertaking.
- **ICC Uniform Rules for Collections with comments – URC 522** – contains a text of uniform rules for collections and comments of every member; comments are guidelines to practical issues faced by all participants in collection operations, and their role in the international trade;
- **International Standard Banking Practice for the Examination of Documents under Documentary Credits – ISBP 681** – the interpretation of the provisions of the ICC uniform customs and practice for documentary credits; it involves an overview of bills of exchange, insurance documents, certificates of origin, and other documents relating to credits.
- **ICC Uniform Rules for Bank Payment Obligations** – enable banks to reduce risks in international trade for the benefit of buyers and sellers; they are intended for bankers, salesmen, lawyers, and all practitioners.
- **ICC Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits – UCP 600** – contain significant provisions in the field of transport, insurance, and compliance that make up the base for documentary credit transactions. UCP involves Article "Definitions" for the purpose of explaining the key terms, then changed practice for rejection warning, and other amendments. In addition, it includes eUCP Version 1.1. – 1. 2. of Articles that are supplement to UCP governing the document presentation in an electronic form. The UCP rules are vital components in international trade, and as such they are necessary for bankers, companies engaged in foreign trade, transport, freight forwarding, as well as for lawyers, academicians, and all others operating with documentary credits.

- **ICC Model International Sale Contract** – a flexible and clear contract model that provides buyers and sellers with instructions, and contains the general and specific terms and conditions.
- **ICC Short Form Model Contract** – a short form of contract that covers the essence of contract on representation and distribution. These contract models contain general and specific conditions with comments on specific issues and a test of applicable business needs.
- **ICC Model International Franchising Contract** – a contract model that provides franchising participants with a universal international recognized contract form that protects rights and defines obligations of franchising participants. To that end, the contract includes most used clauses in franchising contracts, proposes possible solutions where individual ones are not possible, enables contract parties to involve special requests in certain points, provides an Annex that parties can amend and supplement without altering the underlying text of the contract, provides a system for resolving issues, and contains the detailed comment for explaining changeable commissions.



**National Committee of the
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Fastest Way to International Partner – EEN Network

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia is a member of the [Enterprise Europe Network](#) and coordinator of the EEN Serbia Consortium. EEN services are primarily intended for small and medium-sized enterprises as a tool in the internationalization of their business. The goal of the Enterprise Europe Network is to help enterprises find more easily and quickly their international partners by searching for free the [Business Cooperation Database](#) and participating at international [business meetings and missions](#).

EU Integration Centre

The EU Integration Centre of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia coordinates activities regarding the EU integration, with the aim of representing the interests of the economy of Serbia on its path to the EU membership. The activities implemented by the EU Integration Centre are carried out through three pillars by:

1. Representing the interests of the economy in Serbia's EU accession process,
2. Supporting companies when applying for EU programmes and funds, and assisting them to access the sources of funding, and
3. Providing services of the Enterprise Europe Network.



CCIS Centre for the EU Integration
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Calendar of Fairs Realized in 2023

6 – 10 February

PRODEXPO

International Fair of Food Products
in Moscow, Russian Federation

8 – 10 February

FRUIT LOGISTICA

International Fair of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable
in Berlin, Germany

14 – 17 February

BIOFACH

International Fair of Organic Food Products
in Nuremberg, Germany

20 – 24 February

GULFOOD

International Fair of Foodstuff
in Dubai, UAE

14 – 16 March

EMBEDDED WORLD

International Fair of Integrated Electronics
in Nuremberg, Germany

19 – 21 March

PROWEIN

International Fair of Wine and Spirits
in Dusseldorf, Germany

2 – 5 April

VINITALY

International Wine and Spirits
In Verona, Italy

17 – 21 April

HANNOVER MESSE

International Fair of Industrial Technology
in Hanover, Germany

2 – 6 May

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FAIR

International Fair in Mostar,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

23 – 24 May

PLMA

International Fair of Private Label
in Amsterdam, the Netherlands

20 – 22 June

THE SAUDI FOOD SHOW

International Fair of Food Industry
in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

23 – 27 August

GAMESCOM

International Gaming Industry Fair
in Cologne, Germany

3 – 5 October

FRUIT ATTRACTION

International Fair of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable
in Madrid, Spain

7 – 11 October

ANUGA

International Fair of Food Industry
in Cologne, Germany

16 – 20 October

GITEX

International Fair of Technology
in Dubai, UAE

20 – 22 October

OMEK

International Fair of Agriculture and Food Industry
in Budapest, Hungary

24 – 27 October

A+A

International trade fair for personal protection, company safety and occupational health in Düsseldorf, Germany

5 – 10 November

CHINA INTERNATIONAL IMPORT EXPO-CIIE

China International Import Fair, in Shanghai, China

8 – 10 November

PROWINE SHANGHAI

International Wine and Spirits Fair in Shanghai, China

12 – 14 November

U.S. PRIVATE LABEL TRADE SHOW

International Brand Fair in Chicago, USA

12 – 18 November

AGRITECHNICA

International Fair for Agricultural Mechanization and Technology in Hannover, Germany

6 – 9 December

TIRANA INTERNATIONAL FAIR

International Business Fair in Tirana, Albania



**CCIS Centre for Organization of
Fairs, Exhibitions and Events**
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Western Balkan Suppliers Database – Market Access Platform

The Western Balkan 6 Chamber Investment Forum (WB6 CIF) is the joint initiative of six Western Balkan Chambers of Commerce and Industry that, in 2017, established a platform for cooperation aimed at providing a common voice of the business community, and promoting the region as the single investment destination. The mission of WB6 CIF is to open new opportunities for stronger networking of business communities within the region by removing the remaining barriers to the development of the regional economic cooperation.

To support the intraregional and international trade and exports of companies in the Western Balkans, WB6 CIF has developed the unique digital tool called [Market Access](#) that is composed of more modules with different operations and roles. It is designed for businessmen from all industries that are interested in being involved in both regional and global supply chains in the territory of Serbia, the Western Balkan region and worldwide. The Platform has been created with the funds of the EU support projects to the Western Balkan Chamber Investment Forum, whereas the [registration](#) and its usage are **free of charge** for all users.

The Supply Chain Module – regional supply chains is aimed at linking the WB6 companies interested in being involved in global and regional supply chains with multinational corporations (MNC) that are looking for new suppliers from the Western Balkan region. It is an online module through which the companies interested in can promote their products and services. The company profiles are visible on the [Platform](#) upon their registration (companies log in with their credentials and have to fill in all required fields). Following the creation of the company profile, users can browse the profiles of other companies and contact their potential partners.



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Education

Successful companies build their competitiveness on know-how of their employees. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia has established the Education Centre with the aim of providing businesspeople with state of the art and continuous business education in order to improve existing and acquire new knowledge and skills. The CCIS Education Centre organizes: **specialized trainings and workshops** for employees on all positions in various business areas, **trainings based on entrusted tasks** intended for candidates for acquiring licenses or permanent professional trainings and *In-house* trainings.



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CCIS Business Academy

According to best practices in Europe and the world, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia has established a Business Academy in order to respond to the increasing needs of employees for shorter education cycles, professional training, as well as obtaining qualifications and knowledge and skills that enable them to start up their own business. The CCIS Business Academy offers areas that, taken individually, fill part of the mosaic of human knowledge, and if taken as a whole, they round off knowledge on a specific field.

Through its education programmes, CCIS Business Academy provides employees with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills needed to perform job well, thus reducing the gap between the knowledge acquired through formal education and requirements of professional performance of activities for specific workplace.

There are topics in the field of tax system, business skills, foreign trade, business information system security, as well as many other business areas in the sectors of industry, services and agriculture.



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Dual Education

The lack of qualified experts in crafts and technical occupations that are educated in accordance with the needs of the economy is a great challenge faced by employers. At the initiative of the economy, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia has been introducing the dual education elements into the education system of Serbia since 2013, with the aim to solving in the long term the problems with the labour force shortage faced by different industries. The initiative has resulted in the Law on Dual Education, which was adopted in November 2017 and fully implemented as of 1 September 2019.

Upon completion of the secondary vocational school, students do not have practical and applicable knowledge and skills required for the real working environment. The consequence of it is that employers have to take over the costs of training of young people on additional knowledge and skills in order to involve them into work.

The dual education is a model of secondary vocational education based on which students learn in two places: at school and in company. This model in Serbia is implemented at the secondary education level. Depending on educational profile, the students can learn in real working environment already from the first year of schooling. The students spend one, two or three days in a company weekly, which is defined by the curriculum and syllabus. The basic idea of dual education is based on the fact that theoretical knowledge is acquired at school, and the practical part of teaching takes place in companies in a real working environment.



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Project Management Centre

The Project Management Centre was established in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia with the aim to ensure the use of the EU funds in the best possible way, as well as other forms of development aid available to the Republic of Serbia, and distributed through various financial instruments. Through the regional initiatives, in the partnership cooperation with international organizations and institutions, and the CCIS Representative Offices abroad, we implement project activities intended for strengthening the capacities of the Serbian economy in both domestic and international markets.

One of the main tasks of the Project Management Centre of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia is to provide its members with the information on opened public calls, competition procedures, as well as the possibilities for funding projects from the international development aid. Together with you, we plan and prepare projects and project documentation for participation in EU programmes, donation and other development programmes. We are your support in managing projects, and in preparing reports during the project implementation procedures. We act as your mediator in finding project partners in the country and abroad for participating in funding programmes.



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Centre for Support to Investments and Public Private Partnership

Taking into account the fact that investment activity is one of the most valuable sources of the state economic growth and progress, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia has particularly focused on providing support to domestic and foreign investors in the country, and on that occasion, established its Centre for Support to Investments and Public Private Partnership.

Among numerous activities for making decisions on investments and their implementation, the Centre for Support to Investments and Public Private Partnership takes an active role in promoting the business and investment environment of Serbia to business delegations, individual investors at investment conferences and business events organized in both the country and abroad. In addition, this Centre is also engaged in raising awareness of the importance of equal regional development.

The Centre for Support to Investments and Public Private Partnership prepares information on investment opportunities in Serbia, investment incentives, as well as the data on Serbia as an investment destination. Owing to the adopted initiative for amending the Law on Investments and supporting regulations from 2019, the Centre ensured the exemption from customs and other duties on import of equipment for domestic and foreign investors.

Cooperation with the Diaspora – connecting the economy of Serbia with the business and academic Diaspora, the analyses and implementation of priority programmes and projects in this field.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia within the Project

Link Up! Srbija II promotes an investment online platform titled Business Atlas of Serbia and the Diaspora aimed at networking the business Diaspora with its native country in an easier and quicker way. The Platform can be utilized by anyone interested in – companies, entrepreneurs, individuals, as well as local self-governments that can offer their investment locations or, through networking, find potential partners for export of their products and services.



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CSR

Corporate Social Responsibility

As one of the leaders in the idea of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) development in Serbia, we have been contributing for years to the promotion of basic CSR principles, which we believe should be an integral part of the business in any sustainable company. We organize events and education in this area, participate in the promotion of business standards related to CSR, and promote transparency in reporting.

We conduct a competition and award the most successful companies with the [National Award for Corporate Social Responsibility – George Weifert](#) and organize meetings of the [Council for Corporate Social Responsibility](#), an advisory body, which was formed in July 2016 and which includes organizations that are recognized for their engagement and commitment to the principles of corporate social responsibility.



**CCIS Centre for Environment,
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METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Association of Trade, according to the CA (2010), includes fields of activity: Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, Real estate activities.

Presentation of data by activity is performed according to the Regulation on Classification of Activities („Official Gazette of the RS", No. 54/10).

From 2018, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia calculates average wages on the basis of data from the records the Tax Administration. The study of wages is based on the data from the Tax Return for withholding tax (form PPP-PD). Average wages are calculated based on the amount of calculated wages for the reporting month, and the number of employees, which is shown in the full-time equivalent – FTE. All categories of employees are included, for whom their employers, i.e. economic entities, submitted to the Tax Administration a completed electronic tax return form PPP-PD, with the calculated wages. Since 1999, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has not disposed of some specific data for the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, and therefore, they are not included in the scope of data for the Republic of Serbia (total).

The term employees implies persons who have a formal and legal employment contract, i.e. the established labour relationship with the employer, for a fixed or indefinite period; persons working outside the labour relationship, based on an engagement contract or a contract on temporary and occasional jobs; persons engaged in self-employment, or founders of companies or sole trade businesses; and persons engaged in agricultural activities, who are in the records of the Central Registry of Compulsory Social Insurance. The study on the registered employment is based on the combination of data of the Central Registry of Compulsory Social Insurance (CROSO) and the Statistical Business Register (SBR). The data on payers of the compulsory social insurance contribution and the insured, based on the work, are obtained from CROSO. The data on business entities and their main characteristics are obtained from SBR. Distribution of employees by activity, in

the context of a business entity, is done according to the structures that are formed on the basis of data on local units.

Some of the values shown in the Bulletin, are rounded up to millions or billions, with one decimal place and, therefore, the total values (summaries) do not always coincide with the sum of individual data, due to the fact that non-rounded up figures were used (which gives more accurate data).

Abbreviations used: GDP – Gross Domestic Product, GVA – Gross Value Added, FDI – Foreign Direct Investment, CA (2010) – Classification of Activities (2010), Ø – Average for Period, LFS – Labour Force Survey, NPL – Non-performing Loan, MSMEs – Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, p.p. – Percentage Point, RSD – Serbian Dinar, EUR – Euro, USD – American Dollar.

The sources of data: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), National Bank of Serbia (NBS), Business Registers Agency (BRA), Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (CCIS), Customs Administration (CA), Ministry of Finance (MF), Central Registry of Compulsory Social Insurance (CROSO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Bloomberg L.P.

Foreign exchange rates: All conversions in the Bulletin were made according to the average medium rates of the National Bank of Serbia:

Time:	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
EUR/RSD	123.1179	121.3367	118.2716	117.8524	117.5778	117.5733	117.4588	117.2513
USD/RSD	111.2903	107.4987	100.2784	105.2762	103.0272	99.4925	111.8607	108.4143

Source: NBS.



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CCIS ASSOCIATION

of Trade

Mission of the Association

By promoting trade as the sector that links producers and end consumers, to collect and distribute information, develop tools and methodology enabling understanding of the market and fair market competition.

The association of traders within the CCIS does not mean creation of a group for lobbying for interests of any trading company or group of trading companies, and the activity will not be directed to a market division, cartelization, monopolistic behaviour, disloyal competition, or any form of market suspension.

Trade, and especially retail trade is an engine of growth, competitiveness and employment, and it plays a key role in achieving the goals of the EU Strategy 2020. The retail sector is regarded as a pillar of the European economy.

Vision of the Association

The CCIS Association of Trade is a professional association of trading companies (wholesale and retail) which helps its members in making proper business and investment decisions, taking into account the strategic development directions of the trade activity, through transfer of information and knowledge, and introduction of standards. The Association protects and promotes interests of its members through the cooperation with state bodies and other stakeholders, all with the aim to develop the best possible conditions for trade, and creation of fair relations in the market.

The basic role of trade is to stimulate growth and new employment.

The Association performs the tasks and responsibilities form the scope of the Association's activities stipulated in the Statute of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, of common interest of trading companies.

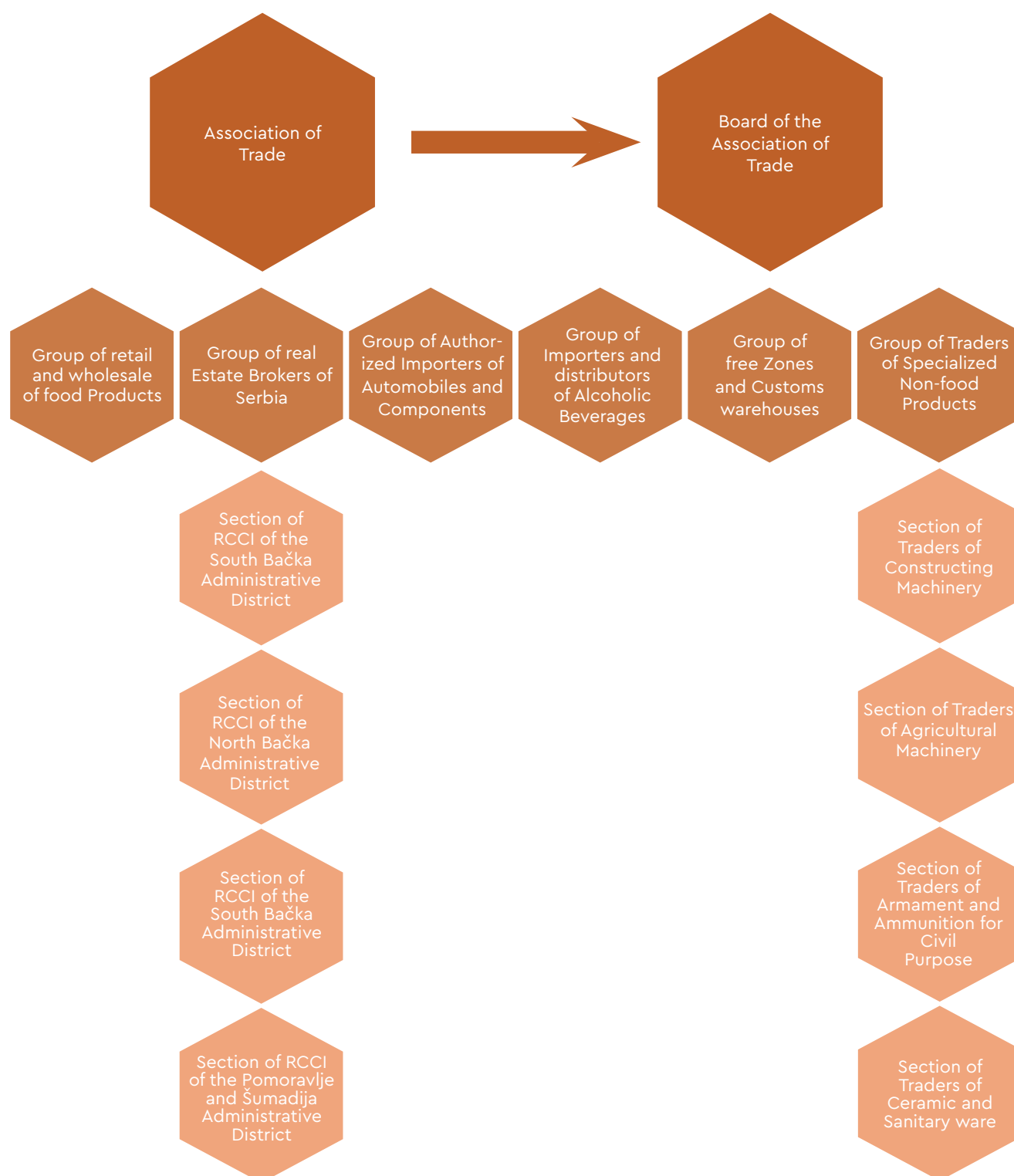
The Association of Trade

- analyses the level of development, organization and operating results in trade;
- follows implementation of the established strategy of economic development of the trade, and encouraging competitive advantages, fair-play business, market openness and full business professionalism;
- follows the legal regulations in the area of trade, makes proposals, gives opinions and recommendations relating to amendments and supplements of current laws, and passing of new ones;
- fosters good business practices/ business ethics/follows and sets trading practices;
- cooperates with state bodies and institutions, scientific institutions, employers' association, trade unions and similar institutions with the aim to create favourable and enabling business environment;
- proposes the main institutional conditions that ensure development of the entrepreneurial initiative in trading companies;
- proposes business policy measures that impact business operations of trading companies /taxes, prices, quality control, consumer protection, etc;
- gets involved in innovative activities in the area of e-trade;
- encourages trading companies to find new markets, new buyers and new method of work
- collects, processes and analyses information that identify problems in the area of trading activity;
- responds to members' enquiries;
- organizes seminars and other professional gatherings of trading companies.

What can we do for you?

- Provide contact data of potential business partners;
- Provide information on markets for individual products;
- Provide information on implementation of specific legal solutions and accompanying by-laws (Law on Trade, Law on Consumer Protection, Law on Competition Protection, Law on free Zones, Law on fiscal Cash registers, Law on e-trade, Law on Trade and Lease of real Estate);
- Provide information on trends in prices, costs of living, turnover, margins;
- Provide information on the level of supply of specific products, or current problems in trade of specific products;
- Give information on the activities of the Groups of the Association of Trade and conditions for becoming their members.





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