

# **EMPLOYMENT RATE IN WOOD-PROCESSING AND FURNITURE INDUSTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN UNION ENLARGEMENT -- COMPARISON BETWEEN BULGARIA, ROMANIA AND MACEDONIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Labour is one of the most important production factors, since the qualification and loyalty of labour force are the basic success elements in any industrial sector. Employment rate is considered to be the key social indicator when studying the developments within certain labour markets. This is particularly relevant to the wood-processing and furniture industries. As a structural indicator, employment reveals the structure of labour markets and economic systems, measured through the balance between labour supply and demand. The existence of sufficient and competent workforce is a necessary prerequisite for achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and stability of the industries all over the world, and with great significance for the European Union member states (in compliance with the adopted Europe 2020 Strategy). Furthermore, specific problems have appeared in the new European Union member states, which eventually would be encountered by the countries in the waiting line. Indices such as number and size of enterprises, capital consumption and price of output are variables that change over time. Economic improvement differs before and after the enlargement of the Union. The main factors which determine the employment rate in the wood-processing and furniture industries have been outlined and analyzed in this paper. They reveal the employment rates in the studied countries before and after the enlargement of the EU, and can be used for macroeconomic, productivity and competitiveness studies.*

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