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## **PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN UKRAINE BEFORE AND DURING THE PANDEMIC**

**Introduction.** The study of the unemployment problem in Ukraine is quite relevant today as it creates a number of problems both socially and economically, such as the reduction of purchasing power of the population, the loss of taxpayers for the budget and personnel for enterprises.

**Review of recent publications.** The problems of unemployment in Ukraine before and during the pandemic have been studied by domestic and foreign scientists, such as Michał Kozak, Gabriela Miranda, Geoff Upton, Ksenia Lytvynenko, William Thompson, Daryna Antoniuk. They drew attention to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the state of unemployment in Ukraine as well as other causes of unemployment.

**Objectives of the paper.** The purpose of the article is the description of the concept of unemployment, the reasons for it and the search for solutions of the unemployment problem in Ukraine.

**Results of the research.** Unemployment is a socio-economic phenomenon, when part of the economically active population cannot find employment for its labor force and becomes “superfluous”. Today, according to the UN, about 800 million people, that is, every third able-bodied person in the world has no job at all or has seasonal or occasional earnings. The specificity of Ukrainian unemployment is determined by the fact that in contrast to countries with developed economies, with their overproduction of goods and limited market, in Ukraine there are no insurmountable obstacles for creating new jobs for the unemployed, because the

capacity of the Ukrainian market for the production of goods and services is far from exhaustion [1]. During the quarantine period, the level of real unemployment in Ukraine has changed. So, according to the estimates of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, during the first two months of the quarantine the number of unemployed grew by 500-700 thousand, and during the next two months – in October – another 500-600 thousand people were added. Today there are at least 2,5-2,8 million unemployed people in Ukraine. According to the estimates the rate of unemployment today is 13.7-15.4%. It is the highest indicator of the last 15 years. The number of vacancies registered with the state employment service has been 54,000 since the beginning of the quarantine. This is a third less than the year before [2]. The scientists believe that through the traditionally low level of organization, management of the economy and a significant part of the economic ‘shadow’ we have a situation in which crises cause a collapse of GDP and hyperinflation, but do not lead to such a catastrophic increase in the army of the unemployed.

The lockdown has led to a sharp decline in global economic growth. The most affected by COVID-19 is the labor market. According to the estimates of the International Labor Organization, in 2021 the number of hours worked will be reduced by a total of 10.5 per cent, which is equivalent to 305 million full-time jobs. The 1.6 billion people working in the grey economy, which accounts for almost half of the global workforce, will also be significantly affected. In the opinion of experts from the Center for Economic Policy Research the past pandemics and crises increased social inequality. The current crisis associated with the coronavirus pandemic is unlikely to be an exception and could possibly lead to an even greater deepening of inequality than the previous ones, because it has a much broader scope. By June 2021, 485.3 thousand Ukrainians will have had the status of the unemployed. This is 33% more than on the same date in 2020. [3]

*Table 1*

International Labor Organization employment statistics

*Source: created by the author based on: [1, 2, 3]*

2020	Total population	Economically active population	Employed population	Unemployed population	Unemployment rate	Registered unemployed
I	41830,6	17329,9	15781,3	1548,6	8,9%	349,4
II	41762,1	16992,1	15362,0	1630,1	9,6%	517,7
III	41703,3	16949,8	15306,8	1643,0	9,7%	433,4

**Conclusion.** Today the problem of unemployment requires the development and implementation of social guarantees from both the state and regional authorities. The problem of unemployment is an issue requiring immediate solution and deep scientific analysis and development of practical recommendations on this basis, which can be used for the development and implementation of effective socio-economic policy aimed at ensuring productive employment of economically active

population of the country and the reduction of unemployment to the minimum socially acceptable level.

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### PUBLIC SERVICE: CONCEPT, INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Introduction.** Today, the Ukrainian population as a whole is dissatisfied with the work of the state apparatus and public servants in general, and shows strong dissatisfaction and frustration. In order to understand the root of the problem, it is necessary to dive in and consider the related issue of defining the concept and content of public service.

**Results of the research.** The multifaceted nature of the public service phenomenon has led to the emergence of various approaches, according to which its essence and components are determined. Their generalization and analysis are necessary given the urgent need to improve the organization of public service in modern Ukraine, which requires first to clarify the range of public service entities as objects of relevant public policy. In addition, the democratization of governing the state should be accompanied by a reassessment of the functions of the public service as an integrated institution of society, consisting of different groups of actors and operating on a complementary basis. Although the term “public service” was coined