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## **YOUTH IN THE REGIONAL LABOR MARKETS: MAIN TRENDS, NEW CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS**

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**Abstract.** The article analyzes the features and emerging trends in the youth employment segment, specifies tactical and strategic risks for young people in the conditions of the formation of new models of the functioning of labor markets. The purpose of the study is to characterize the heterogeneity of youth labor markets. The empirical base was compiled by the official data of Rosstat. As a result of the study, a group of regional labor markets was formed according to the unemployment indicator, one of the key markers of the shortage of decent work for young workers. The results of the grouping indicate a significant differentiation of regional youth labor markets during the analyzed period. At the same time, at the level of individual federal districts, there are significant levels of heterogeneity in the state of youth unemployment, as well as trends in its reduction that differ in severity. The results of the study can be used to develop a portfolio of programs to promote youth employment in the regions.

**Keywords:** youth; labor market; region; employment; unemployment; digitalization.

**JEL codes:** J21; J23; R23.

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