



A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Spring, the Year 1402¹ (21 March - 21 June)

Statistical Centre of Iran

¹. It is the Iranian year which usually begins on the day of 21 March of Gregorian calendar. To find the corresponding year of Gregorian calendar, add 621 or 622 (depending on the time of the year) to a [solar Hijri](#) year. For example, the corresponding year of the year 1402 in Gregorian calendar is (21 March 2023-19 March 2024).

Iranian seasons and their equivalent in Gregorian calendar

Spring (21 March-21 June)

Summer (22 June - 22 September)

Autumn (23 September -21 December)

Winter (22 December - 19 March)

Introduction

The pair concepts of employment and unemployment are so basic to national economies that any rise in the employment rate, which means a drop in unemployment, is reckoned as an index of the national development. Unemployment rate is an index for appraising the national economic conditions. The information on the nation's market is collected through the Household Employment and Unemployment Characteristics Survey (HEUCS) as of the year 1376. However, in order to improve the HEUCS quality and its conformance with the international concepts, particularly, with those of the ILO, the survey plan was revised so that the current plan namely "Labour Force Survey" could be implemented. The "Labour Force Survey" was first conducted in the year 1384, and since then has regularly been taken in the middle month of every season.

The "Labour Force Survey" is conducted to get information on the composition and the current condition of the labour force and its changes. This aim is accomplished by "estimation of seasonal and annual labour force indexes at national and provincial levels", "estimation of the annual number of the labour force at national and provincial levels", "estimation of seasonal and annual changes in the labour force at national and provincial levels", and "estimation of annual changes in labour force indexes at provincial levels".

The population covered in this survey includes the people who, according to the definition, are members of private or collective settled households in rural or urban areas, so the members of private unsettled households and institutional households are not included in this survey. The method used for conducting this survey is a two-stage classified clustering method. In this survey, in addition to the estimation of current levels, the estimate of changes is made; therefore, the rotation sampling is used. The rotation sampling can provide the estimate of current levels and changes in the best manner by fixing some sample units between two quarters of the survey and changing the remaining units. With respect to the aim of the survey, the selected rotation pattern for this survey is a "2-2-2" pattern which means that during the Master Sample period, each sample household is enumerated four times; accordingly, that sample household is in the sample for two successive quarters and then is excluded from the sample temporarily for two successive quarters and again is included in the sample for the two next successive quarters. This household is then excluded from the sample until the end of the years related to the master sample period. It should be noted that for optimal conduct of rotation sampling, the master sample is needed. The master sample refers to the sample that can be used for the selection of sub-samples to satisfy the needs of several surveys or several rounds of a survey. The sampling frame of the first stage (from the spring of the year 1397) is the fourth master sample of the household surveys. The master sample includes the sampling units (clusters) of the first stage. Each cluster includes one block/village, part of a large block/village, or in some cases a combination of some small blocks/villages which were created from the 2016 National Population and Housing Census. With respect to the changes in population and housing units in urban areas and in order to prepare an appropriate and updated frame in urban areas, some households were listed within the master sample clusters in the winter of the year 1401, but due to minor changes in population and housing units in rural areas, no listing was made in rural areas (unless in exceptional cases).

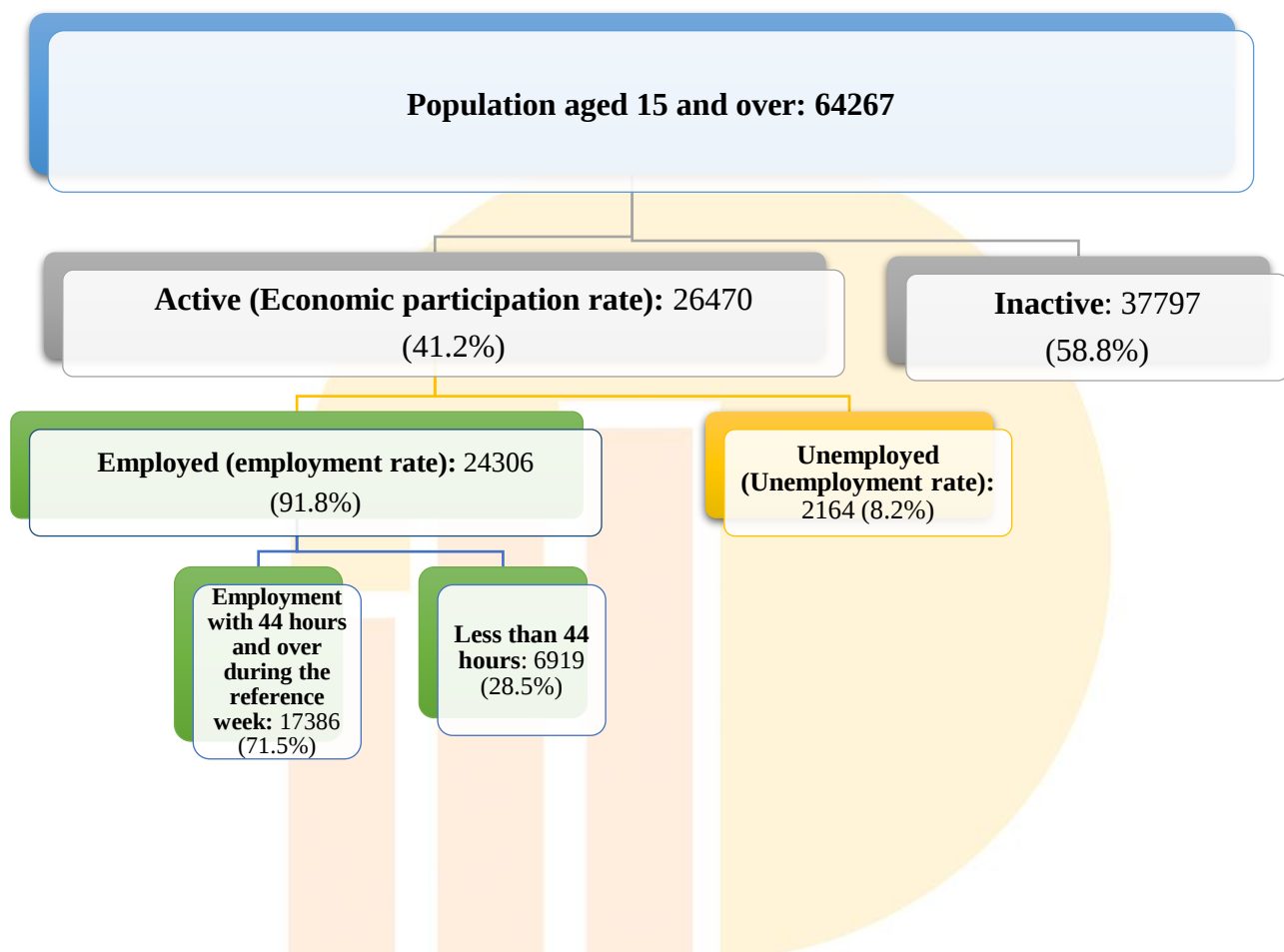
It should be noted that since the spring of the year 1397, the confidence interval for the unemployment rate has been 95 percent in the release of the Survey results. In view of the statistical methodology, the confidence interval means that if several samples are selected from the target population by using the same sampling method, and based on each of the samples, a confidence interval is calculated for the real unemployment rate. It is expected that 95% of these confidence intervals include the real unemployment rate.

It should be mentioned that according to the studies conducted, due to social changes in the entry age into the labour market in recent years in different countries, the minimum age at 15 has been considered for reviewing key indexes of the labour market. Due to similar changes in our country, the major indexes of the country's labour market have been calculated and presented based on the population aged 15 and over since the spring of the year 1398.

Findings

Based on the results of this survey conducted for spring, the year 1402, the major indexes of the labour market and its changes in this season compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401), are presented in Table 1. Besides, Table 2 shows the major characteristics of the labour market by province.

Figure 1. Major indexes of labour market in spring, the year 1402 (the figures are at thousand persons)



A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 15 and over (activity rate) reveals that 41.2% of the population at working-age (15 years and over) are economically active; i.e., they lie either in the employed or the unemployed group. In addition, the results indicate that the economic participation rate stands lower for women compared to men and urban areas in contrast to rural areas. The review of the trend of changes in the national economic participation rate shows that this index experienced 0.3 percent rise compared with the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401). The review of the employment to population ratio of the population aged 15 and over shows that 37.8 percent of the working-age population (15 years and over) were employed. This index stands higher for men and rural areas compared to women and urban areas.

TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDEXES AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; SPRING, THE YEAR 1402 COMPARED TO THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1401 (Number person-rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indexes		Total country			Male			Female		
		Spring, the year 1402	Spring, the year 1401	Changes	Spring, the year 1402	Spring, the year 1401	Changes	Spring, the year 1402	Spring, the year 1401	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	64266530	63518700	747830	32095776	31735315	360461	32170753	31783385	387368
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	41.2	40.9	0.3	68.3	68	0.3	14.1	13.8	0.3
	Number	26469734	25977192	492542	21930232	21587773	342459	4539503	4389419	150084
Economically inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	37796795	37541508	255287	10165545	10147542	18003	27631250	27393966	237284
Employment of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	37.8	37.1	0.7	63.7	62.7	1	12	11.6	0.4
	Number	24305714	23577638	728076	20439283	19896304	542979	3866431	3681334	185097
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	8.2	9.2	-1.0	6.8	7.8	-1.0	14.8	16.1	-1.3
	Number	2164021	2399554	-235533	1490949	1691469	-200520	673071	708085	-35014
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	21.6	24	-2.4	19.2	20.7	-1.5	32.2	40.7	-8.5
	Number	541822	580551	-38729	395234	416620	-21386	146588	163930	-17342
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	15.5	16.6	-1.1	12.8	13.8	-1.0	26.2	28.3	-2.1
	Number	1531989	1683517	-151528	1008730	1128977	-120247	523260	554541	-31281
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	12.1	13.2	-1.1	8.1	9.1	-1.0	21	22.3	-1.3
	Number	882532	951720	-69188	412983	457631	-44648	469549	494089	-24540
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	15.5	16	-0.5	15.6	16	-0.4	15.5	16.5	-1.0
	Number	3776752	3782500	-5748	3178331	3175684	2647	598421	606817	-8396
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	33.1	32.7	0.4	34.6	34.4	0.2	25.4	23.3	2.1
	Number	8044847	7711680	333167	7064369	6854026	210343	980478	857655	122823
Employment in services sector	Share	51.3	51.2	0.1	49.8	49.6	0.2	59.2	60.2	-1.0
	Number	12471116	12078190	392926	10183874	9863818	320056	2287242	2214372	72870
Underemployment	Share	8.3	9.7	-1.4	9	10.5	-1.5	4.4	5	-0.6
	Number	2009982	2282321	-272339	1840267	2098249	-257982	169715	184071	-14356
The share of the unemployed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population	Share	40.8	39.7	1.1	27.7	27.1	0.6	69.8	69.8	0
The share of the employed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total employed population	Share	26.5	26.6	-0.1	22.9	22.9	0	45.7	46.8	-1.1

TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDEXES AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; SPRING, THE YEAR 1402 COMPARED TO THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1401 (continued)**(Number person, rate, share and ratio: percent)**

Labour force indexes		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Spring, the year 1402	Spring, the year 1401	Changes	Spring, the year 1402	Spring, the year 1401	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	49804860	49016828	788032	14461670	14501872	-40202
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.5	40.1	0.4	43.6	43.5	0.1
	Number	20162906	19674758	488148	6306828	6302434	4394
Economically inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	29641954	29342070	299884	8154841	8199438	-44597
Employment of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	36.8	36.1	0.7	41.2	40.7	0.5
	Number	18352815	17680384	672431	5952899	5897254	55645
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	9	10.1	-1.1	5.6	6.4	-0.8
	Number	1810091	1994374	-184283	353929	405180	-51251
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	23.2	26.6	-3.4	17.5	18.1	-0.6
	Number	418918	449149	-30231	122904	131401	-8497
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	16.5	17.9	-1.4	11.8	12.4	-0.6
	Number	1274712	1391275	-116563	257277	292243	-34966
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	11.6	12.9	-1.3	17.4	16.5	0.9
	Number	773879	847590	-73711	108653	104130	4523
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	5.9	6.1	-0.2	45.3	45.8	-0.5
	Number	1082985	1081835	1150	2693767	2700665	-6898
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	34.8	34.2	0.6	27.9	28.2	-0.3
	Number	6386913	6048298	338615	1657934	1663382	-5448
Employment in services sector	Share	59.2	59.6	-0.4	26.9	26	0.9
	Number	10870086	10545357	324729	1601031	1532833	68198
Underemployment	Share	7.1	8.6	-1.5	11.9	12.8	-0.9
	Number	1299182	1525729	-226547	710800	756591	-45791
The share of the unemployed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population	Share	42.8	42.5	0.3	30.7	25.7	5
The share of the employed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total employed population	share	32.3	32.5	-0.2	8.7	8.9	-0.2

-The difference between the total number of employees and the total number of employees in the three sectors is due to the unreported major sectors of economic activity.

- The difference is due to rounding.

1. The target population of the labour force survey is the people at working age from private settled and collective households in urban and rural areas.

A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 51.3% of the total, followed by the manufacturing sector with 33.1% and the agriculture sector with 15.5%. In the spring of the year 1402, the contribution of the employed people to the agriculture sector decreased by 0.5 percent and the contribution of the employed people to the manufacturing and services sectors increased by 0.4 and 0.1 percent, respectively in comparison with the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over shows that 8.2 percent of the economically active population were unemployed. Moreover, based on the confidence interval of 95%, the total national unemployment rate was between 7.8 and 8.6 percent with an 8.2 percent point estimation. This means that with the confidence interval of 95 percent, this interval shows the national real unemployment rate. Based on the results, the unemployment rate was higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas respectively. A review of the trend of changes that happened in the index at the national level shows that this index experienced a 1.0 percent decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401).

The unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 indicates that 21.6 percent of the economically active population in this age group was unemployed. This index stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas respectively. A review of the trend of the changes in the national unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 shows that the index experienced 2.4 percent decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401).

The unemployment rate among the youths aged 18-35 indicates that 15.5% of the active population aged 18-35 was unemployed. This index stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas respectively. A review of the trend of the changes among the youths aged 18-35 shows that this index fell by 1.1% compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education shows that 12.1 percent of the active population among higher education graduates was unemployed. This index stands higher for women and rural areas than men and urban areas respectively. A review of the trend of the changes shows that this index dropped by 1.1 % in the spring of the year 1402 compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401).

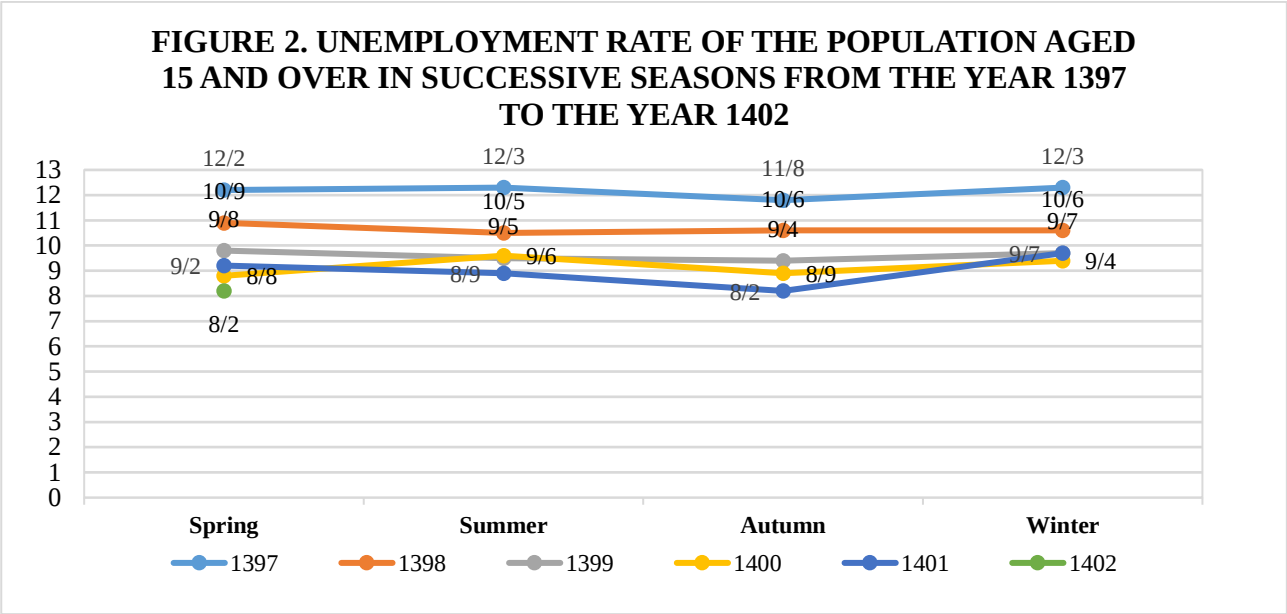
The underemployment share tells that 8.3% of the employed population aged 15 and over was underemployed. The index stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas respectively. The underemployment share in the spring of the year 1402 experienced a 1.4 percent decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401).

The study of the employed share aged 15 and over with the usual working hours of 49 hours and over shows that 39.8% of the employed, typically work 49 hours and over per week. This index, which is one of the indexes of decent work, shows that a large share of the employed work more than the standard hour. This index experienced a 0.5% decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401).

In the spring of the year 1402, the share of the unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 40.8 percent. The index stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas respectively. A review of the changes shows that this index experienced a 1.1 percent rise compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401).

In the spring of the year 1402, the share of the employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 26.5 percent. The index stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas respectively. A review of the changes shows that this index decreased by 0.1 percent over the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401).

Figure 2. Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over in successive seasons from the year 1397 to 1402.



Statistical Centre of Iran

Table 2 shows some major labour market indexes for the population aged 15 and over in the spring, the year 1402 compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1401).

TABLE 2- SOME MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDEXES FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1402 COMPARED TO LAST CORRESPONDING SEASON (SPRING, THE YEAR 1401) (percent)

Province	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Spring, the year 1402	Spring, the year 1401	Spring, the year 1402	Spring, the year 1401	Spring, the year 1402		Spring, the year 1401
					Point-to-point estimation	The confidence interval (95%)	
Total country	41.2	40.9	37.8	37.1	8.2	(7.8-8.6)	9.2
East Azarbayejan	43.8	40.2	40.4	37.1	7.7	(6.2-9.2)	7.8
West Azarbayejan	46.1	44.5	43.1	41.2	6.7	(5.2-8.2)	7.4
Ardebil	48.3	44	44.7	40.4	7.4	(5.6-9.2)	8.2
Esfahan	41	40.5	37.2	35.5	9.2	(7.8-10.7)	12.3
Alborz	38.3	38.7	35.2	35	8	(6.4-9.7)	9.5
Ilam	32.8	33.3	30.6	30.6	6.8	(5.1-8.5)	8.1
Bushehr	38.7	37.9	36.1	35.1	6.9	(5.3-8.5)	7.4
Tehran	40	40.9	36.9	37.7	7.6	(6.1-9.2)	7.8
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	39.5	40.5	34.8	36.2	11.9	(8.5-15.3)	10.6
South Khorasan	40.1	39.4	37.8	36.3	5.8	(4.6-7.0)	7.8
Khorasan-e-Razavi	42.3	41.9	39.5	38.6	6.6	(5.1-8.2)	7.9
North Khorasan	45.2	44.3	42	40.2	7	(5.5-8.5)	9.3
Khuzestan	40.5	40	36	34.4	11.2	(9.6-12.7)	14.1
Zanjan	50.9	47.8	48.4	45.2	4.9	(3.6-6.2)	5.4
Semnan	37.7	37.6	35.2	35.3	6.7	(4.8-8.6)	6.1
Sistan & Baluchestan	35	36	30.6	31.4	12.5	(10.4-14.7)	12.8
Fars	36.6	36.9	34.1	34	6.9	(5.4-8.4)	8
Qazvin	43.6	44.2	40.2	40.6	7.8	(6.3-9.4)	8.3
Qom	37.4	37.1	34.3	33.7	8.5	(6.6-10.3)	9.4
Kordestan	43	42.3	38.5	38	10.4	(8.5-12.3)	10.2
Kerman	39.2	39.2	35.7	35.8	8.8	(6.8-10.8)	8.7
Kermanshah	41.4	42.2	37.2	35.7	10.2	(7.7-12.8)	15.4
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	34.5	35.7	32.1	32.2	6.9	(5.1-8.8)	9.8
Golestan	39.5	37.2	35.9	34.2	9.2	(7.4-10.9)	8.2
Gilan	47.2	46.2	44.4	42.9	6.1	(4.3-7.9)	7
Lorestan	41.9	42.2	36.7	36.8	12.4	(10.7-14.1)	12.8
Mazandaran	46.1	44.9	43	41	6.9	(5.4-8.3)	8.7
Markazi	36.2	37.1	34.1	34.6	5.8	(4.2-7.5)	6.6
Hormozgan	41.4	42.8	36.4	36.2	12.1	(10.3-14.0)	15.3
Hamedan	44	42.5	39.9	39.8	9.3	(7.7-11.0)	6.5
Yazd	44.5	46.8	41.3	41.9	7.2	(5.8-8.6)	10.6

Definitions and concepts

The Statistical Centre of Iran employs new international definitions and concepts based on the ICLS 1983¹ for measuring employment and unemployment in the Labour Force Survey.

Work: This key term is used to determine the status of the economic activity of the people. The term “work” refers to the group of economic activities (mentally or physically) which are done for earning income (cash or in-kind) and its objective is to produce goods or services. Generally, the people who work are divided into two groups: self-employed, who work for themselves, and wage and salary earners, who earn money for the work they do.

Statistical period (Reference week): This refers to the second or third calendar week (Saturday to Friday) of the middle month of each season to identify the activity status.

Employed: All people aged 15 or over who, according to the definition of work, have worked for at least one hour during the reference week or have temporarily left their job for one reason or another, are reckoned as employed. Persons who, without receiving any remuneration, work for a member of their household that is a relative (unpaid family workers); trainees who perform an activity in relation to the activity of the institute for apprenticeships during the training period, namely, they directly contribute to the production of goods or services, their activity is considered “work”; students who have worked during the reference week, according to the definition of work; and all people who are serving as a permanent and temporary cadre in the armed forces (armed forces, cadre personnel, soldiers, commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers of the military forces and the police) are considered employed.

Unemployed: The unemployed are all people aged 15 or over who have the following three criteria together:

1. have no job during the reference week (not engaged in a wage/salary job or self-employment),
2. have been seeking job during the reference week and the preceding three weeks (have taken specific steps to seek paid employment or self-employment),
3. are available to work during the reference week or the following week (available for a wage/salary employment or self-employment). All people who, because of expecting to start a job in future or return to their former job, have not been seeking a job, but have had no job and have been available to work - are also considered unemployed.

Labour force (active population): is the sum of persons in employment plus persons in unemployment.

Underemployment: The underemployed people are all employed people who have been present in or temporarily absent from the workplace and have worked less than 44 hours during the reference week due to economic reasons such as work recession, not finding a job with more hours, or non-work season, but have been willing and ready to do more work in the reference week.

¹ ILO, Thirteenth International Conference of Labor Statisticians (Geneva, 1983).

Indexes

Economic participation rate (Economic activity rate)

The ratio of the active population (employed & unemployed) to the population at working age multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Economic participation rate} = \frac{\text{Economically active population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

Employment to population ratio: The ratio of the employed population to the total population at working age multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Employment to population ratio} = \frac{\text{Employed population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate

The ratio of the unemployed population to the active population (employed & unemployed) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Active population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

Employment rate

The ratio of the employed population to the active population (employed & unemployed) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Employment rate} = \frac{\text{Employed population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Active population aged 15 and over}} \times 100 = 100 - \text{unemployment rate}$$

Unemployment rate of the population aged 15-24

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 15-24 to the economically active population aged 15-24 multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate aged 15-24} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 15-24}}{\text{Economically active population aged 15-24}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate of the population aged 18-35

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 18-35 to the economically active population aged 18-35 multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate aged 18-35} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 18-35}}{\text{Economically active population aged 18-35}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate of higher education graduates

The ratio of unemployed higher education graduates to active higher education graduates multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate of higher education graduates} = \frac{\text{Unemployed higher education graduates}}{\text{Economically active higher education graduates}} \times 100$$

Share of unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over

The ratio of unemployed higher education graduates to the total unemployed population aged 15 and over multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Share of unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over} = \frac{\text{Unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over}}{\text{Unemployed population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

Share of employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over

The ratio of employed higher education graduates to the total employed population aged 15 and over multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Share of employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over} = \frac{\text{Employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over}}{\text{Total employed population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

Underemployment share of population aged 15 and over

The ratio of the underemployed population aged 15 and over to the employed population aged 15 and over multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Underemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Underemployed population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Employed population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$