

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Winter, the year 1400¹ (22 December 2021- 20 March 2022)

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 1400 in Gregorian calendar is (21 March 2021-20 March 2022).

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 -20 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 indicator of the national development. Unemployment rate is an indicator 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 indicators 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 indicators 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 1399, 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.

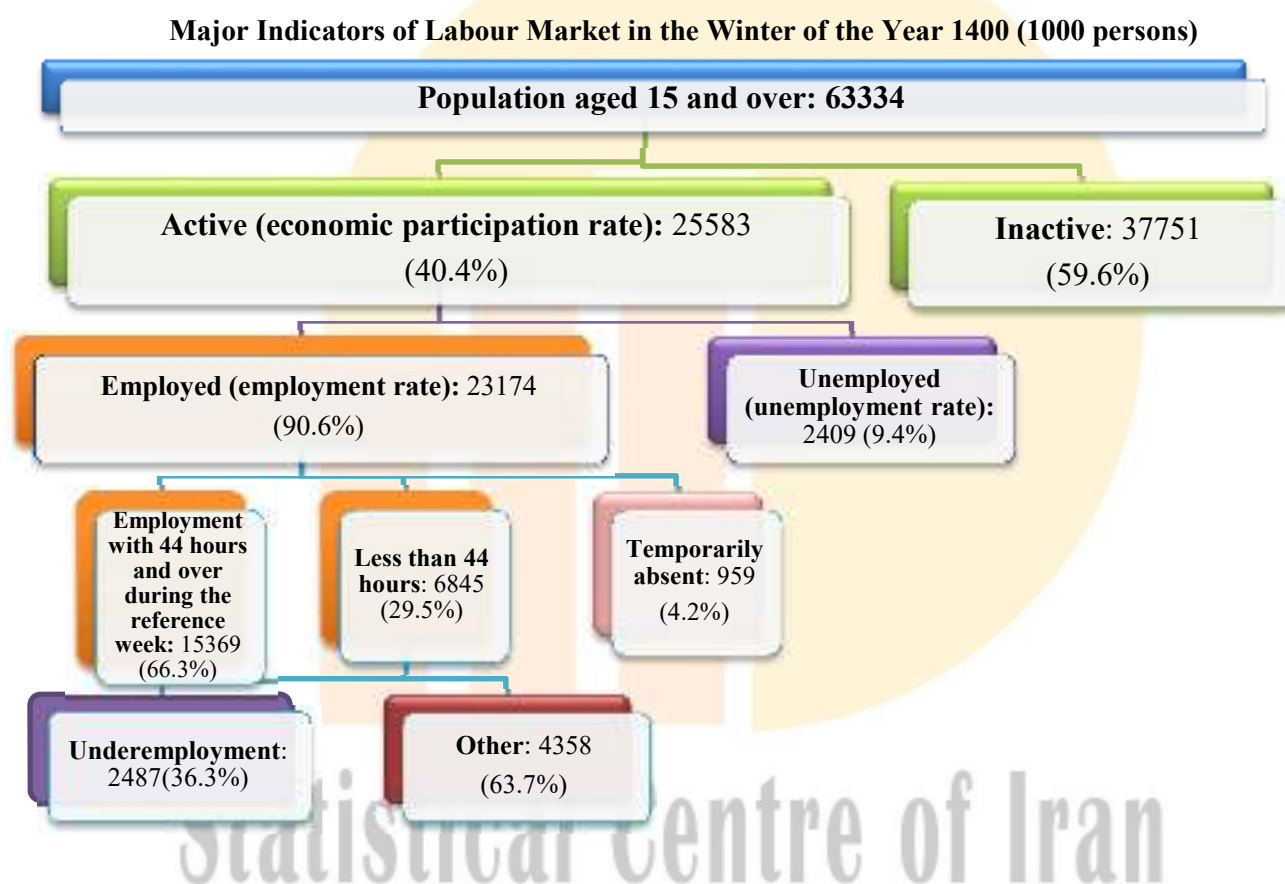
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It should be mentioned that according to the studies conducted, due to social changes in the entry age into the labour market in recent years in different countries, the minimum age at 15 has been considered for reviewing key indicators of the labour market. Due to similar changes in our country, the major indicators 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 for the winter of the year 1400, major indicators of the labour market and its changes in this season compared to the winter of the year 1399, are presented in Table 1. Besides, table 2 shows the major indicators of the labour market by province.

Figure 1 provides the major indicators of labour market in the winter of the year 1400



A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 15 and over (activity rate) reveals that 40.4% 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 higher for men compared to women, and rural areas in contrast to urban areas. The review of the trend of changes in national economic participation rate shows that this indicator decreased by 0.5 percent compared to the corresponding season of the previous year (winter of the year 1399). The study of the employment rate of the population aged 15 and over shows that 36.6 percent of the working-age population (15 years and over) was employed. This indicator stands higher for men and rural areas compared to women and urban areas.

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TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; WINTER OF THE YEAR 1400 COMPARED TO THE WINTER OF THE YEAR 1399

(Number person; rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Total country			Male			Female		
		Winter, the year 1400	Winter, the year 1399	Changes	Winter, the year 1400	Winter, the year 1399	Changes	Winter, the year 1400	Winter, the year 1399	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	63333985	62612851	721134	31640485	31293614	346871	31693500	31319238	374262
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.4	40.9	-0.5	68.0	68.5	-0.5	12.8	13.3	-0.5
	Number	25582901	25612763	-29862	21527894	21446225	81669	4055007	4166538	-111531
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	36.6	36.9	-0.3	62.3	62.8	-0.5	10.9	11.1	-0.2
	Number	23173759	23134913	38846	19722361	19654309	68052	3451398	3480604	-29206
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	9.4	9.7	-0.3	8.4	8.4	0.0	14.9	16.5	-1.6
	Number	2409142	2477850	-68708	1805533	1791915	13618	603609	685934	-82325
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	23.1	23.6	-0.5	20.6	20.0	0.6	34.8	41.3	-6.5
	Number	526839	550169	-23330	390129	388406	1723	136710	161764	-25054
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	16.6	16.8	-0.2	14.3	14.0	0.3	26.5	29.0	-2.5
	Number	1645791	1739016	-93225	1162667	1181698	-19031	483125	557317	-74192
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	13.0	14.1	-1.1	9.7	10.0	-0.3	20.8	23.5	-2.7
	Number	917946	960626	-42680	484424	473719	10705	433523	486908	-53385
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	14.5	15.8	-1.3	14.7	15.7	-1.0	13.6	16.2	-2.6
	Number	3365452	3653827	-288375	2895717	3090999	-195282	469735	562828	-93093
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	33.6	33.8	-0.2	34.9	35.0	-0.1	26.1	26.6	-0.5
	Number	7775219	7813239	-38020	6873634	6886027	-12393	901585	927211	-25626
Employment in services sector	Share	51.9	50.4	1.5	50.5	49.2	1.3	60.3	57.2	3.1
	Number	12030580	11666562	364018	9950502	9675997	274505	2080078	1990565	89513
Underemployment	Share	10.7	10.8	-0.1	11.9	11.9	0.0	4.2	4.6	-0.4
	Number	2487142	2495134	-7992	2341219	2335614	5605	145923	159520	-13597
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	38.1	38.8	-0.7	26.8	26.4	0.4	71.8	71.0	0.8
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	26.6	25.3	1.3	22.9	21.7	1.2	47.7	45.4	2.3

-The difference between the total number of employees and the summation of employees in the three sectors is due to the unannounced (not stated) figures in the 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.

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TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; WINTER OF THE YEAR 1400 COMPARED TO THE WINTER OF THE YEAR 1399 (continued)
(Number person; rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Winter, the year 1400	Winter, the year 1399	Changes	Winter, the year 1400	Winter, the year 1399	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	48803335	48018766	784569	14530650	14594086	-63436
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.0	40.1	-0.1	41.8	43.5	-1.7
	Number	19504655	19258818	245837	6078245	6353945	-275699
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	36.0	36.0	0.0	38.5	40.1	-1.6
	Number	17582617	17289549	293068	5591142	5845364	-254222
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	9.9	10.2	-0.3	8.0	8.0	0.0
	Number	1922039	1969269	47230-	487103	508580	-21477
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	24.5	25.2	-0.7	19.6	20.0	-0.4
	Number	399150	409580	-10430	127688	140589	-12901
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	17.2	17.7	-0.5	14.2	14.0	0.2
	Number	1324103	1385506	-61403	321688	353509	-31821
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	12.5	13.5	-1.0	18.5	20.5	-2.0
	Number	805751	838299	-32548	112196	122327	-10131
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	5.3	5.8	-0.5	43.6	45.3	-1.7
	Number	925570	1008410	-82840	2439882	2645416	-205534
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	34.8	34.9	-0.1	29.8	30.3	-0.5
	Number	6111279	6041472	69807	1663940	1771766	-107826
Employment in services sector	Share	60.0	59.2	0.8	26.6	24.4	2.2
	Number	10543260	10238380	304880	1487320	1428182	59138
Underemployment	Share	9.2	9.4	-0.2	15.5	14.9	0.6
	Number	1618176	1625860	-7684	868966	869275	-309
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	41.9	42.6	-0.7	23.0	24.1	-1.1
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	32.2	31.1	1.1	8.9	8.1	0.8

-The difference between the total number of employees and the summation of employees in the three sectors is due to the unannounced (not stated) figures in the 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.

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A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 51.9% of the total, followed by the manufacturing sector with 33.6% and the agriculture sector with 14.5%. In the winter of the year 1400, the contribution of the employed people to the agriculture and manufacturing sectors decreased by 1.3 and 0.2 percent, respectively but the contribution of the employed people in the service sector increased by 1.5 percent in comparison with the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1399).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over shows that 9.4 percent of the economically active population was unemployed. Moreover, based on the confidence interval of 95%, the total national unemployment rate was between 9.0 and 9.8 percent with a 9.4 percent point estimation. This means that this interval with the confidence of 95 percent covers the national real unemployment rate. Based on the results, the unemployment rate was higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the trend of changes that happened in the indicator at the national level shows that this indicator experienced a 0.3 percent decrease compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1399).

Studying the unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 indicates that 23.1 percent of the economically active population at this age group was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the trend of the changes in the national unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 shows that the indicator decreased by 0.5% from the corresponding season in the previous year (winter the year 1399).

The unemployment rate among the 18-35 age group indicates that 16.6% of the active population aged 18-35 was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the trend of the changes among the 18-35 age group shows that this indicator fell by 0.2% compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1399).

Reviewing the unemployment rate among the higher education graduates aged 15 and over shows that 13.0 percent of the active population among higher education graduates was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and rural areas than men and urban areas. A review of the trend of the changes suggests that this indicator dropped by 1.1% in the winter of the year 1400 compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1399).

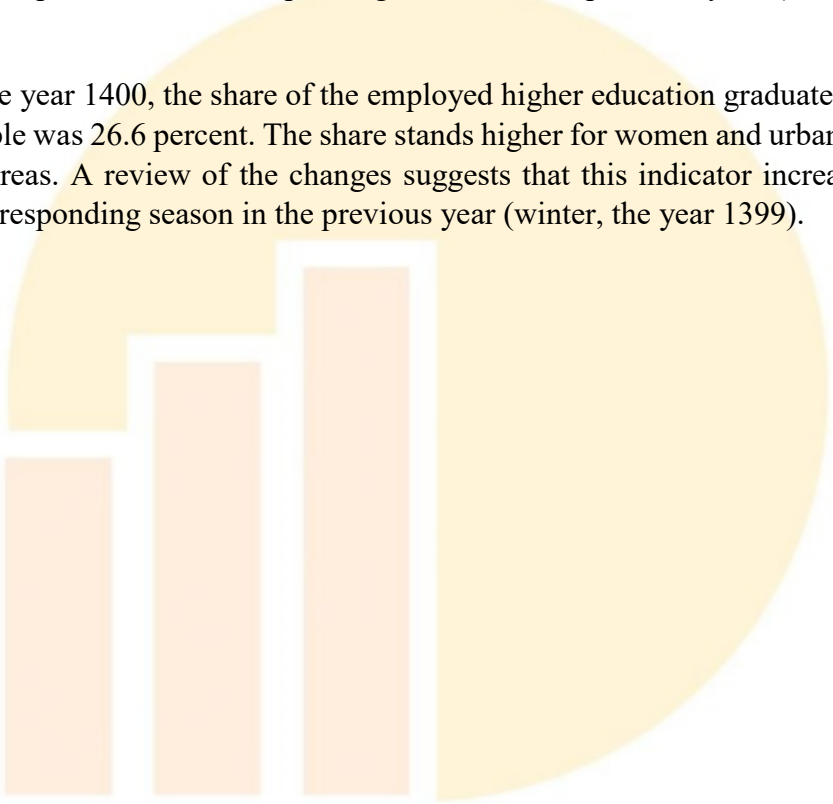
The underemployment share tells that 10.7% of the total employed population was underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas. The underemployment share in the winter of the year 1400 experienced a 0.1 percent decrease compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1399).

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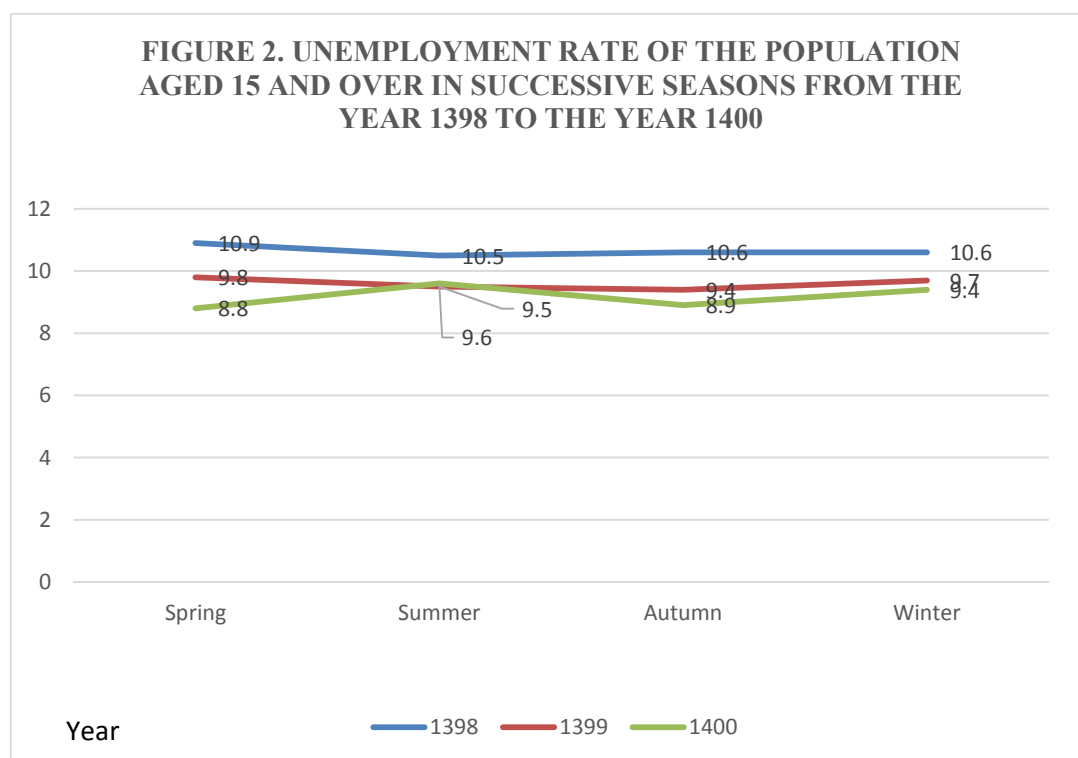
Studying the contribution of the employed population aged 15 and over with the usual working hours of 49 hours and over shows that 36.7% of the employed people typically work 49 hours and over per week. This indicator, which is one of the decent work indicators, illustrates that a large share of the employed population works more than the standard hour. This indicator experienced a rise of 1.0% compared to the corresponding season (35.7%) in the previous year (winter, the year 1399).

In the winter of the year 1400, the share of unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 38.1 percent. The indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator experienced a 0.7 percent fall compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1399).

In the winter of the year 1400, the share of the employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 26.6 percent. The share stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes suggests that this indicator increased by 1.3 percent over the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1399).

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Table 2 shows some major labour market indicators for the population aged 15 and over in the winter, the year 1400, in comparison with the winter, the year 1399 by province.

TABLE 2- MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN THE WINTER, THE YEAR 1400, IN COMPARISON WITH THE WINTER, THE YEAR 1399 BY PROVINCE
(percent)

Province (Ostan)	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Winter, the year 1400	Winter, the year 1399	Winter, the year 1400	Winter, the year 1399	Winter, the year 1400		Winter, the year 1399
					Point estimation	95 percent confidence interval	
Total country	40.4	40.9	36.6	36.9	9.4	(9.0-9.8)	9.7
East Azarbayejan	39.9	41.7	36.3	38.8	9.1	(7.3-10.8)	7.0
West Azarbayejan	40.3	42.2	32.9	36.0	18.3	(15.1-21.6)	14.7
Ardebil	44.7	47.0	38.5	42.9	14.0	(11.0-17.0)	8.7
Esfahan	40.0	41.4	36.2	37.3	9.5	(7.7-11.2)	9.8
Alborz	39.4	40.2	35.2	36.1	10.7	(8.8-12.6)	10.1
Ilam	33.4	34.5	31.1	31.4	6.9	(5.2-8.2)	9.1
Bushehr	39.0	38.4	35.5	34.9	8.9	(7.2-10.7)	9.3
Tehran	40.8	40.1	38.4	37.3	6.0	(4.8-7.1)	7.0
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	40.6	43.5	35.6	37.7	12.4	(10.1-14.8)	13.4
South Khorasan	41.6	42.7	38.7	39.2	7.1	(6.0-8.3)	8.3
Khorasan-e-Razavi	40.1	42.0	37.4	39.1	6.8	(5.4-8.3)	7.0
North Khorasan	43.8	45.6	39.1	40.0	10.8	(8.7-12.7)	12.2
Khuzestan	40.6	39.9	35.9	34.7	11.6	(10.0-13.2)	12.9
Zanjan	45.8	44.6	42.6	40.7	7.1	(5.7-8.5)	8.8
Semnan	36.5	37.0	34.0	33.8	7.0	(5.4-8.7)	8.5
Sistan & Baluchestan	35.0	33.5	32.4	30.1	7.6	(5.3-9.9)	10.2
Fars	37.1	37.7	34.1	34.9	8.2	(6.5-9.9)	7.4
Qazvin	45.6	44.5	42.0	40.2	7.8	(6.1-9.6)	9.6
Qom	37.5	39.1	34.2	35.1	8.9	(6.9-10.9)	10.2
Kordestan	41.7	42.7	34.7	34.7	16.7	(13.9-19.4)	18.8
Kerman	41.1	38.7	36.5	34.5	11.2	(9.2-13.1)	10.8
Kermanshah	40.8	43.5	33.5	35.7	17.9	(13.4-22.3)	18.0
Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad	35.3	34.1	32.4	30.8	8.4	(6.5-10.4)	9.7
Golestan	38.5	37.1	35.8	33.8	7.0	(5.3-8.7)	9.0
Gilan	44.5	44.2	40.4	40.6	9.2	(7.6-10.8)	8.1
Lorestan	39.6	40.2	33.9	35.2	14.5	(12.5-16.5)	12.5
Mazandaran	42.0	43.4	38.7	39.7	7.9	(6.2-9.6)	8.6
Markazi	36.6	35.6	33.6	33.2	8.0	(6.2-9.8)	6.8
Hormozgan	42.6	48.6	36.9	41.7	13.2	(11.3-15.2)	14.1
Hamedan	41.3	41.5	37.8	37.7	8.5	(6.4-10.7)	9.0
Yazd	47.1	49.5	42.9	42.8	9.0	(7.1-10.9)	13.5

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 as far as possible.

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): Refers to the second or third calendar week (Saturday to Friday) of the middle month of each season.

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: They

1. have no job during the reference week (not engaged in a wage/salary job or self-employment),
2. have been seeking jobs during the reference week and the preceding three weeks (have taken specific stages 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 employed and unemployed persons.

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).

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Indicators

Economic participation rate (Economic activity rate):

The ratio of the active population (employed & unemployed) 15 years of age and over to the working age population 15 years of age and over multiplied by 100.

Economically active population aged 15 and over

Economic participation rate = _____ × 100

Population aged 15 and over

Employment ratio: The ratio of the employed population aged 15 and over to the total population at working age, 15 years old and over multiplied by 100.

Employed population aged 15 and over

Employment ratio = _____ × 100

Population aged 15 and over

Unemployment rate:

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

Unemployed population aged 15 and over

Unemployment rate = _____ × 100

Active population aged 15 and over

Employment rate:

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

Employed population aged 15 and over

Employment rate = _____ × 100 = 100-unemployment rate

Active population aged 15 and over

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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.

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

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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.

Employed higher education graduates aged
15 and over

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

Total employed population aged
15 and over

Underemployment share:

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

Underemployed population aged 15 and over

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

Employed population aged 15 and over

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