



A Selection of Labour Force Survey Results

Spring, the Year 1403¹ (20 March - 20 June 2024)

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 1403 in Gregorian calendar is (20 March 2024-20 March 2025).

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 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 indicators 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 1402, but due to minor changes in population and housing units in rural areas, no listing was made in rural areas.

To conduct the Labour Force Survey for each quarter in the year 1403, 60,648 households are enumerated in both urban and rural areas. After proclaiming the preliminary results of this survey, the SCI disseminates the detailed results at annual and quarterly intervals. Users, researchers, and planners can access the results of this survey and download them in Excel file format from www.amar.ir in the summer of 1403. The target population of this survey includes both private and collective settled households in urban and rural areas. Data for this survey was collected through face-to-face interviews. In other words, the enumerator interviews the most informed member of the household to complete the household questionnaire and also interviews each household member aged 10 and over to complete the individual questionnaire.

It is worth noting that the concepts and definitions used in the Labour Force Survey were designed and implemented based on the resolution of the 13th International Conference of Labour Statistics (ICLS13).

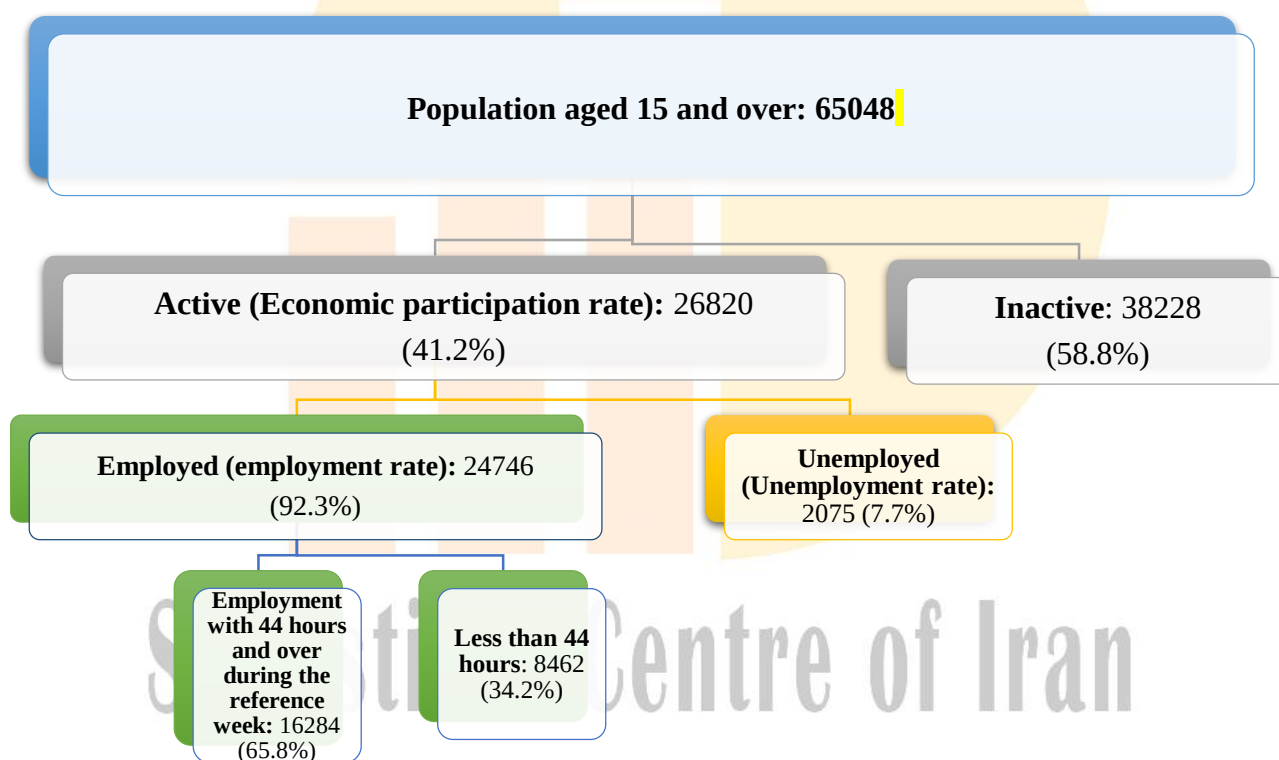
It should be noted that since the spring of the year 1397, the confidence interval for the unemployment rate indicator has been 95 percent in the release of the Survey results. In view of the statistical methodology, the confidence interval means that if several samples are selected from the target population 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 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 conducted for spring, the year 1403, the major indicators of the labour market and its changes in this season compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402), are presented in Table 1. In Table 2, the major indicators of the labor market are presented by province.

Figure 1. Major indicators of labour market in spring, the year 1403 (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 working-age population (15 years and older) is economically active; that is, they are either employed or unemployed. Additionally, the results indicate that the economic participation rate is lower for women compared to men and for urban areas in contrast to rural areas. The review of the trend in changes in the national economic participation rate shows that this indicator has not changed compared to the last corresponding season (spring of the year 1402).

The review of the employment rate of the population aged 15 and over shows that 38.0 percent of the working-age population (15 years and over) were employed. This indicator stands higher for men and rural areas compared to women and urban areas.

TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; SPRING, THE YEAR 1403 COMPARED TO THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1402**(Number: person-rate, share and ratio: percent)**

Labour force indicators		Total country			Male			Female		
		Spring, the year 1403	Spring, the year 1402	Changes	Spring, the year 1403	Spring, the year 1402	Changes	Spring, the year 1403	Spring, the year 1402	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	65048055	64266530	781525	32475007	32095776	379231	32573048	32170753	402295
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	41.2	41.2	0.0	68.3	68.3	0.0	14.3	14.1	0.2
	Number	26820166	26469735	350431	22165652	21930232	235420	4654514	4539502	115012
Economically inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	38227889	37796795	431094	10309355	10165544	143811	27918534	27631251	287283
Employment of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	38.0	37.8	0.2	64.0	63.7	0.3	12.1	12.0	0.1
	Number	24745528	24305714	439814	20788636	20439283	349353	3956892	3866431	90461
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	7.7	8.2	-0.5	6.2	6.8	-0.6	15.0	14.8	0.2
	Number	2074638	2164021	-89383	1377016	1490949	-113933	697622	673071	24551
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	20.0	21.6	-1.6	17.2	19.2	-2.0	32.5	32.2	0.3
	Number	508865	541822	-32957	355156	395234	-40078	153709	146588	7121
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	15.0	15.5	-0.5	12.2	12.8	-0.6	25.4	26.2	-0.8
	Number	1441965	1531989	-90024	925112	1008730	-83618	516853	523260	-6407
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	11.6	12.1	-0.5	7.8	8.1	-0.3	20.0	21.0	-1.0
	Number	892333	882532	9801	415177	412983	2194	477156	469549	7607
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	14.5	15.5	-1.0	14.8	15.6	-0.8	13.1	15.5	-2.4
	Number	3595370	3776752	-181382	3076327	3178331	-102004	519043	598421	-79378
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	33.0	33.1	-0.1	34.5	34.6	-0.1	25.5	25.4	0.1
	Number	8173126	8044847	128279	7163594	7064369	99225	1009533	980478	29055
Employment in services sector	Share	52.4	51.3	1.1	50.7	49.8	0.9	61.3	59.2	2.1
	Number	12961250	12471116	490134	10537309	10183874	353435	2423941	2287242	136699
Underemployment	Share	7.9	8.3	-0.4	8.5	9.0	-0.5	4.6	4.4	0.2
	Number	1952448	2009982	-57534	1769057	1840267	-71210	183391	169715	13676
The share of the unemployed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population	Share	43.0	40.8	2.2	30.2	27.7	2.5	68.4	69.8	-1.4
The share of the employed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total employed population	Share	27.6	26.5	1.1	23.7	22.9	0.8	48.1	45.7	2.4

TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; SPRING, THE YEAR 1403 COMPARED TO THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1402 (continued)**(Number: person-rate, share and ratio: percent)**

Labour force indicators		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Spring, the year 1403	Spring, the year 1402	Changes	Spring, the year 1403	Spring, the year 1402	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	50625639	49804860	820779	14422416	14461670	-39254
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.8	40.5	0.3	42.7	43.6	-0.9
	Number	20664871	20162906	501965	6155296	6306828	-151532
Economically inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	29960768	29641954	318814	8267120	8154842	112278
Employment of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	37.4	36.8	0.6	40.4	41.2	-0.8
	Number	18918176	18352815	565361	5827352	5952899	-125547
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	8.5	9.0	-0.5	5.3	5.6	-0.3
	Number	1746695	1810091	-63396	327944	353929	-25985
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	21.4	23.2	-1.8	16.2	17.5	-1.3
	Number	399725	418918	-19193	109140	122904	-13764
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	15.9	16.5	-0.6	11.4	11.8	-0.4
	Number	1209812	1274712	-64900	232153	257277	-25124
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	11.2	11.6	-0.4	15.1	17.4	-2.3
	Number	796511	773879	22632	95822	108653	-12831
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	5.8	5.9	-0.1	43.0	45.3	-2.3
	Number	1087983	1082985	4998	2507387	2693767	-186380
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	34.0	34.8	-0.8	29.7	27.9	1.8
	Number	6441310	6386913	54397	1731816	1657934	73882
Employment in services sector	Share	60.1	59.2	0.9	27.2	26.9	0.3
	Number	11374716	10870086	504630	1586534	1601031	-14497
Underemployment	Share	6.8	7.1	-0.3	11.5	11.9	-0.4
	Number	1279861	1299182	-19321	672587	710800	-38213
The share of the unemployed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population	Share	45.6	42.8	2.8	29.2	30.7	-1.5
The share of the employed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total employed population	Share	33.2	32.3	0.9	9.2	8.7	0.5

- 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. The target population of the labour force survey is individuals of 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 52.4% of the total, followed by the manufacturing sector with 33.0% and the agriculture sector with 14.5%. In the spring of the year 1403, the contribution of the employed people to the agriculture and manufacturing sectors decreased by 1.0 and 0.1 percent, respectively and the contribution of the employed people to the service sector increased by 1.1 percent in comparison with the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over shows that 7.7 percent of the economically active population were unemployed. Moreover, based on the confidence interval of 95%, the total national unemployment rate was between 7.4 and 8.1 percent with a 7.7 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 for 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 0.5 percent decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402).

The unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24 indicates that 20.0 percent of the economically active population in 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 changes in the national unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24 shows that the indicator witnessed a 1.6 percent fall compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402).

The unemployment rate among youths aged 18-35 indicates that 15.0 percent of the active population aged 18-35 is unemployed. This indicator is higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the trend of changes among youths aged 18-35 shows that this indicator fell by 0.5% compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over who have graduated from higher education shows that 11.6 percent of the active population among higher education graduates are unemployed. This indicator is higher for women and rural areas compared to men and urban areas. A review of the trend of the changes reveals that this indicator decreased by 0.5% in the spring of the year 1403 compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402).

The underemployment share tells that 7.9% of the employed population aged 15 and over was underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas. The underemployment share in the spring of year 1403 experienced a 0.4 percent decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402).

The study of the employed share aged 15 and over with the usual working hours of 49 hours and over shows that 38.5% of the employed, typically work 49 hours and over per week. This indicator, which is one of the indicators of decent work, shows that a large share of the employed work more than the standard hour. This indicator experienced a 1.3% decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402).

In the spring of the year 1403, the share of unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 43.0 percent. The indicator is higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator experienced a 2.2 percent increase compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402).

In the spring of the year 1403, the share of employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 27.6 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 increased by 1.1 percent over the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402).

Figure 2. Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over in successive seasons from the year 1397 to 1403.

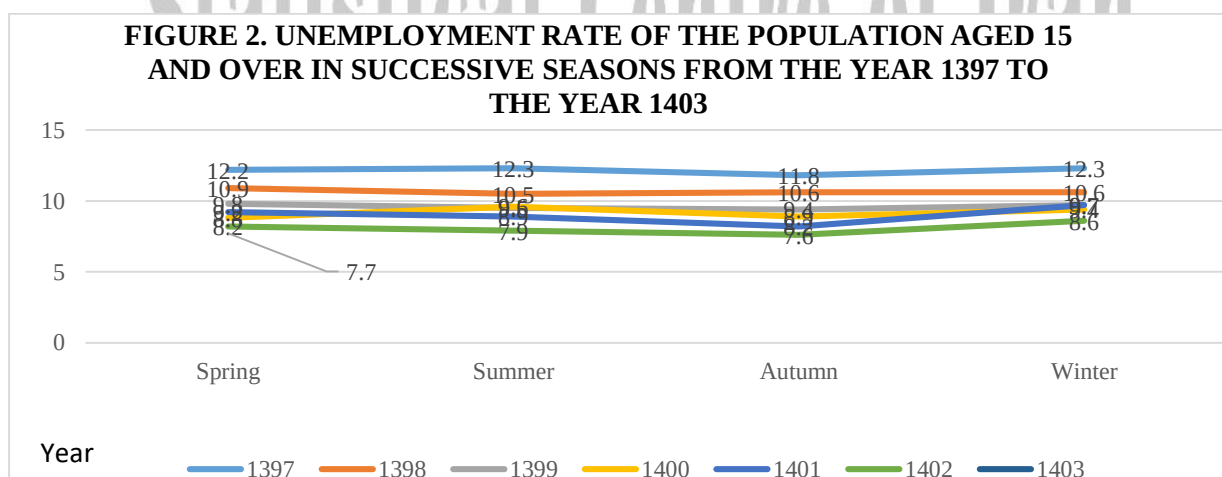


Table 2 shows some major labour market indicators for the population aged 15 and over in the spring, the year 1403 compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1402).

TABLE 2- SOME MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1403 COMPARED TO LAST CORRESPONDING SEASON (SPRING, THE YEAR 1402). (PERCENT)

Province	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Spring, the year 1403	Spring, the year 1402	Spring, the year 1403	Spring, the year 1402	Spring, the year 1403		Spring, the year 1402
					Point-to-point estimation	The confidence interval (95%)	
Total country	41.2	41.2	38.0	37.8	7.7	(7.4-8.1)	8.2
East Azarbayejan	43.3	43.8	39.6	40.4	8.6	(6.9-10.2)	7.7
West Azarbayejan	44.3	46.1	41.8	43.1	5.7	(4.1-7.2)	6.7
Ardebil	48.0	48.3	43.3	44.7	9.6	(7.6-11.7)	7.4
Esfahan	40.2	41.0	36.8	37.2	8.3	(6.8-9.8)	9.2
Alborz	39.9	38.3	36.2	35.2	9.3	(7.3-11.3)	8.0
Ilam	32.5	32.8	29.8	30.6	8.2	(6.0-10.3)	6.8
Bushehr	41.1	38.7	37.6	36.1	8.7	(6.7-10.7)	6.9
Tehran	41.2	40.0	38.8	36.9	5.9	(4.7-7.1)	7.6
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	42.6	39.5	39.2	34.8	8.0	(5.8-10.2)	11.9
South Khorasan	40.2	40.1	37.8	37.8	6.0	(4.4-7.6)	5.8
Khorasan-e-Razavi	41.7	42.3	39.0	39.5	6.5	(5.1-7.8)	6.6
North Khorasan	46	45.2	42.3	42.0	8.1	(6.3-9.9)	7.0
Khuzestan	41	40.5	36.5	36.0	11.0	(9.4-12.7)	11.2
Zanjan	51.5	50.9	48.1	48.4	6.7	(5.3-8.2)	4.9
Semnan	39	37.7	36.8	35.2	5.6	(4.2-7.1)	6.7
Sistan & Baluchestan	35	35.0	30.7	30.6	12.3	(9.8-14.8)	12.5
Fars	37.3	36.6	35.0	34.1	6.2	(4.8-7.6)	6.9
Qazvin	44.2	43.6	40.8	40.2	7.5	(5.6-9.4)	7.8
Qom	38.3	37.4	35.5	34.3	7.3	(5.8-8.8)	8.5
Kordestan	43.1	43.0	39.4	38.5	8.6	(6.6-10.6)	10.4
Kerman	40.7	39.2	36.3	35.7	10.9	(8.6-13.1)	8.8
Kermanshah	41.2	41.4	36.2	37.2	12.0	(8.9-15.2)	10.2
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	31.7	34.5	28.8	32.1	9.0	(6.3-11.6)	6.9
Golestan	40.2	39.5	37.1	35.9	7.8	(6.0-9.6)	9.2
Gilan	44.5	47.2	41.4	44.4	6.9	(4.8-9.1)	6.1
Lorestan	40.7	41.9	36.1	36.7	11.3	(9.6-12.9)	12.4
Mazandaran	44.2	46.1	41.5	43.0	6.2	(4.9-7.6)	6.9
Markazi	37.4	36.2	35.6	34.1	4.8	(3.2-6.4)	5.8
Hormozgan	39.7	41.4	36.2	36.4	8.7	(6.9-10.5)	12.1
Hamedan	42.4	44.0	39.2	39.9	7.5	(6.0-9.0)	9.3
Yazd	43.7	44.5	41.0	41.3	6.1	(4.9-7.3)	7.2

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): 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:

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).

Indicators

Economic participation rate (Economic activity rate)

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

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

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.

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