

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Spring 2013 (March 21- June 21, 2013)

Introduction

The pair concepts of employment and unemployment are so basic to national economies that any rise in employment rate - which means a drop in unemployment - is reckoned as an indicator to the national development. Moreover, the unemployment rate is an indicator for appraising the economic conditions of the country. To quarterly and annually estimate the labor force indicators in Iran, the labor force survey is conducted on a seasonal basis across the nation by using sample rotation. As the survey is over, the outcomes are compared with those of the previous rounds in order to observe the possible changes in indicators over seasons at the national, urban, rural and provincial levels. The survey was first conducted in 2005 and since then has regularly been taken in the middle month of every season. Another survey titled Household Employment and Unemployment Characteristics Survey (HEUCS) would be implemented before L.F.S. The HEUCS was first taken in 1994 and repeated in the years 1997 to 2000 once a year from October 23 to November 22. From 2001 to 2003, it used to be taken on a seasonal basis, middle month of every season, while in 2004 it was only executed from April 21 to May 21 and October 23 to November 22. To improve the HEUCS quality and its conformance with the international concepts, particularly those of the ILO, the survey plan was revised into the current Labor Force Survey.

The rotational nature of the survey requires drawing on a basic sample— a sample out of which sub-samples might be taken to be used in different rounds of a certain survey or in different surveys. The basic sample of the Labor Force Survey for the years 2005-2008 was taken from the 2002 National Establishments Census frame. Following preparation of the basic sample, the list of households lied in the winter 2004 basic sample clusters was prepared to select the sample households based on the rotation pattern chosen for different rounds of the survey. The new basic sample was designed based on the listing information of the 2006 Population and Housing Census as of ۲۱ March 2009. The current basic sample was taken from the 2011 National Population and Housing Census. Due to minor changes in population and housing units in the rural areas, no listing was made in the rural areas (unless in exceptional cases); accordingly listing forms of the 2011 National Housing and Population Census was used for rural areas. However, in order to prepare an appropriate and up- to- date frame in urban areas, some households were listed within the basic sample clusters from the end of February to the beginning of March 2013. It is noteworthy that for completion of basic sample in next years in the same form sample, some of the households are listed in each of basic sample clusters.

Definitions and concepts

Economically active population

All people aged 10 or over (a specified minimum age) who according to the definition of work have been taking part in production of goods or services (employed) or have been able to take part in production of goods or services(unemployed) during the calendar week preceding the survey week (reference week) are considered as economically active population.

❖ Employed

All people aged 10 or over who according to the definition of work have worked for at least one hour ¹during the reference week or have temporarily left their job for one reason or another, are reckoned as employed. The employed are divided into two major groups of wage/salary earners and the self-employed. Being temporarily absent from the job within the reference week, while having a formal attachment to the job by the wage/salary earners and continuation of the business by the self-employed, is considered employment. The following people are also considered employed due to their critical role in the national economic activity.

- ❖ 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 workshop during the training period. In other words, they directly contribute to the production of goods or services and their activity is considered “work”.
- ❖ Students who have worked during the reference week, according to the definition of work
- ❖ All people who are serving as 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).

Unemployed

The unemployed are all people aged 10 or over who:

1. have no job during the reference week (not engaged in a wage/salary job or self-employment,)
2. are available to work during the reference week or the following week (available for a wage/salary job or self-employment,)
3. have been seeking job during the reference week and the preceding three weeks (have taken specific steps to seek paid employment or self-employment).

All people who because of expecting to start a job in near future or return to their former job have not been seeking a job - had no job but have been available to work - are also considered unemployed.

¹ According to ILO standards

Underemployed

The underemployed 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.

Indicators

Economic participation rate (activity rate)

The ratio of the active population (employed & unemployed) 10 years of age or over (15 years of age or over) to the working age population 10 years of age or over (15 years of age or over) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Economic participation rate} = \frac{\text{Economically active population aged 10 or over (aged 15 or over)}}{\text{Population aged 10 or over (aged 15 or over)}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate

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

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population}}{\text{Active population}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate of the population aged 15-24 (or 15-29 years old)

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 15 -24 (or 15-29 years of age) to the economically active population at age 15-24 (15-29) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate aged 15-24 (15-29)} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 15-24 (15-29)}}{\text{Economically active population aged 15-24 (15-29)}} \times 100$$

Underemployment rate

The ratio of the underemployed population to the active population multiplied by 100

$$\text{Underemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Underemployed population.}}{\text{Employed population.}} \times 100$$

Findings

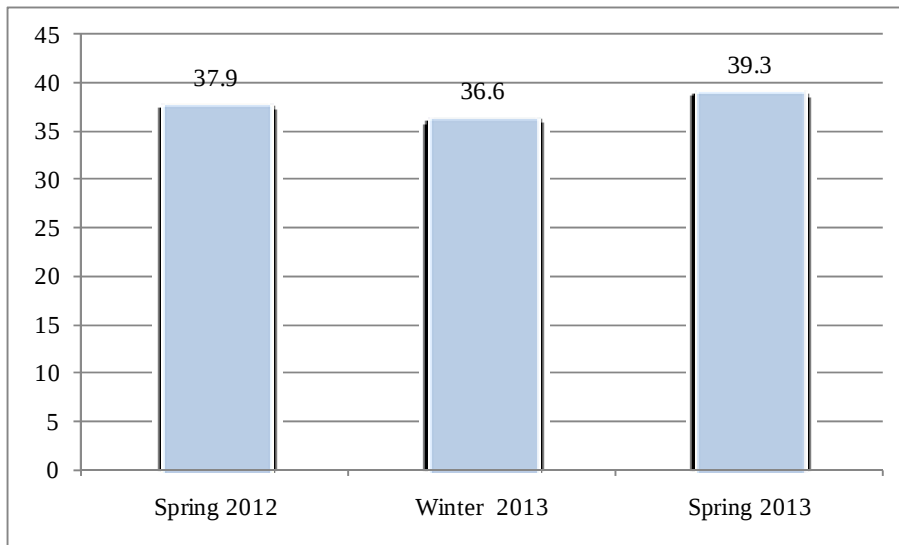
Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the spring 2013 (March 21 – June 21, 2013). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (winter 2013) and the corresponding season in the previous year (spring 2012) ; table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.

Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; Spring 2013						
Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	39. 3	64. 4	14. 3	38. 3	41. 8
	Number	24789152	20283019	4506133	17601767	7187384
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	10. 6	8. 8	18. 7	12. 2	6. 6
	Number	2617428	1776544	840884	2146315	471112
Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over	Rate	10. 6	8. 8	18. 7	12. 2	6. 6
	number	2610517	1770980	839537	2141971	468546
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	22. 9	19. 6	36. 6	27. 1	14. 9
	Number	871781	597250	274531	680228	191552
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	20. 3	16. 5	35. 0	23. 3	12. 8
	Number	1655586	1067065	588521	1350898	304688
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	19. 7	18. 5	25. 7	5. 1	53. 2
	Number	4368157	3427748	940409	795321	3572836
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	33. 7	35. 3	25. 9	36. 8	26. 7
	Number	7477144	6527697	949446	5685863	1791280
Employment share in services sector	Share	46. 5	46. 2	48. 4	58. 0	20. 1
	Number	10319926	8546450	1773475	8968860	1351066
Underemployment share		8. 2	8. 7	5. 4	7. 4	10. 0
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over with regular working hours of more than 49		42. 7	47. 8	16. 9	42. 7	42. 5

Note: Difference in the total is due to rounding figures.

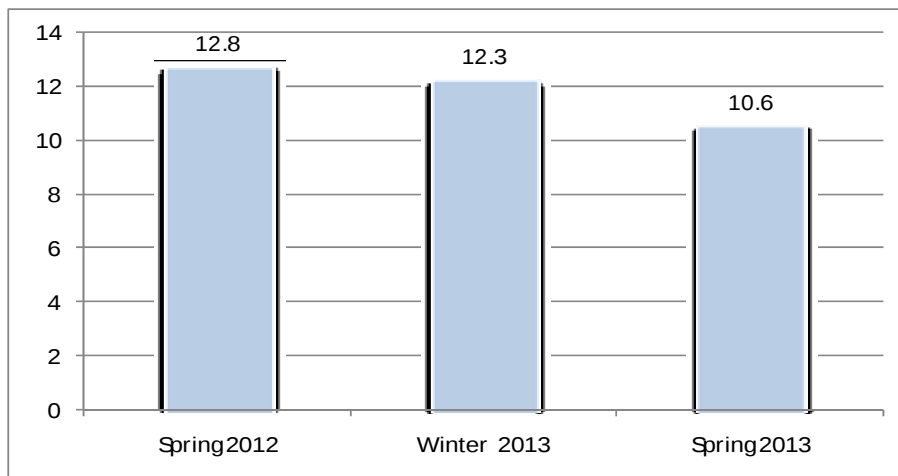
A review of the economic participation rate reveals that about 39.3% of the working age population (10 years or over) are economically active; i.e., they lie either in the employed or the unemployed group. In addition, the results indicate that the economic participation rate stands lower for women compared to men and urban areas in contrast to rural areas. The review shows 1.4% and 2.7% rises as compared with the last corresponding season (spring 2012) , and the previous season (winter 2013) respectively.

Figure1. Total Country Economic Participation Rate



The unemployment rate among population aged 10 and over mentions that 10.6% of the economically active population were unemployed. Based on the results, the unemployment rate was higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. Review of the changes happened in the indicator at national level shows 2.2% and 1.7% decreases compared to the last corresponding season (spring 2012) and the previous season (winter 2013) respectively.

Figure 2. Total Country Unemployment Rate



The unemployment rate among population aged 15 and over mentions that a percentage of 10.6% of the economically active population was unemployed. Based on the results, the unemployment rate was higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas.

The underemployment indicator tells that 8.2% of the total employed population was underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas.

A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 46.5% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 33.7% and agriculture sector with 19.7%.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 22.9% while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. Review of the changes shows that the indicator has experienced 5.6% and 3.1 % decreases compared to the last corresponding season (spring 2012) and previous season (winter 2013) respectively

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 20.3% of the active population was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. Review of the changes shows that the indicator has experienced 5.5% and 3.8% falls compared to the last corresponding season (spring 2012) and previous season (winter 2013) respectively.

Review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 or over working 49 hours or more shows that 42.7% of them work more than 49 hours in a week. As a decent work indicator, it reveals that a great share of the employed population of the country works more than the standard hours.

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas - Spring 2013 compared with winter 2013 and spring 2012 (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Winter 2013		Spring 2012		Winter 2013		Spring 2012		Winter 2013		Spring 2012	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	2.7	36.6	1.4	37.9	4.1	60.3	2.7	61.7	1.4	12.9	0.1	14/2
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	-1/7	12.3	-2.2	12.8	-2.0	10.8	-2.4	11.2	-0.7	19.4	-1.1	19.8
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-3.1	26.0	-5.6	28.5	-2.7	22.3	-6.1	25.7	-5.8	42.4	-2.7	39.3
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	-3.8	24.1	-5.5	25.8	-3.8	20.3	-6.1	22.6	-3.8	38.8	-2.3	37/3

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (Spring 2013 compared with winter 2013 and spring 2012 continued

(percent)

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Winter 2013		Spring 2012		Winter 2013		Spring 2012	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	2.6	35.7	1.5	36.8	2.9	38.9	0.9	40.9
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	-1.1	13.3	-2.7	14.9	-3.2	9.8	-1.3	7.9
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-0.6	27.7	-7.2	34.3	-7.9	22.8	-3.0	17.9
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	-2.3	25.6	-6.3	29.6	-7.8	20.6	-3.7	16.5

Figure 3. Changes in unemployment rate over successive seasons during the years 2009 - 2013

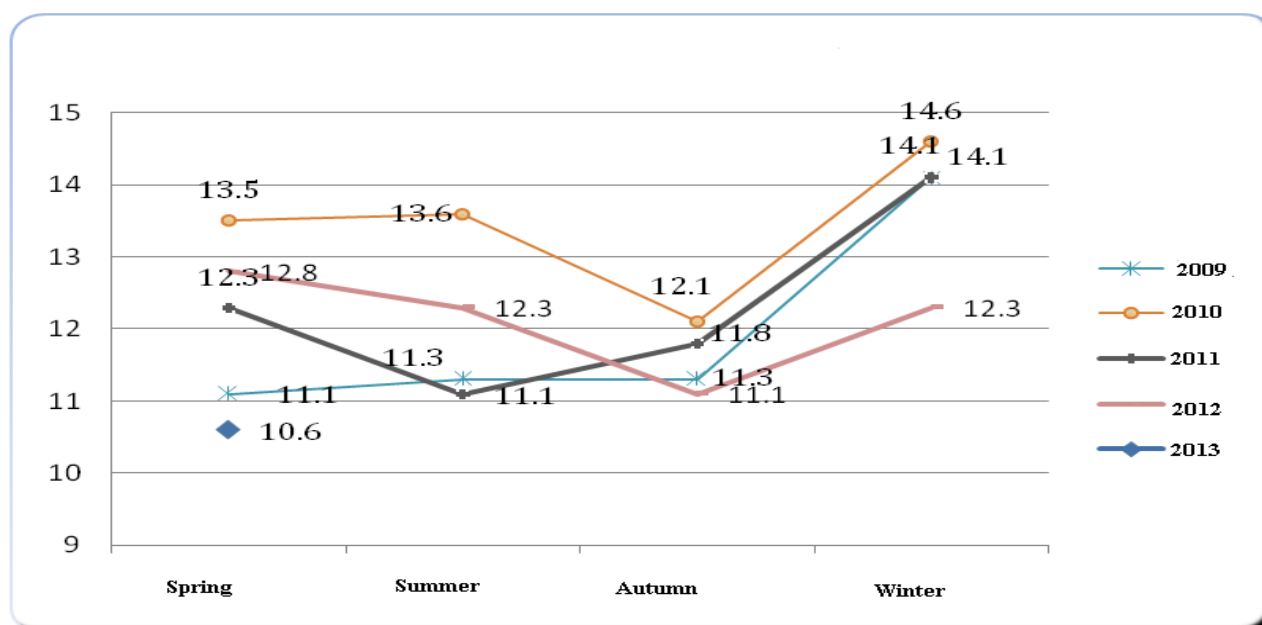


Table 3. shows the selected labor force indicators in spring and winter 2013 and spring 2012 by province.

Table3. Main selected labor force indicators by province; Spring and winter 2013 and spring 2012 (percent)						
	Spring 2013		Winter 2013		Spring 2012	
Province	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	39.3	10.6	36.6	12.3	37.9	12.8
East Azarbayejan	44.1	12.7	40.4	12.1	41.9	12.5
West Azarbayejan	42.6	8.2	40.7	15.5	42.7	9.6
Ardebil	42.4	12.5	40.4	16.1	45.6	11.6
Esfahan	40.0	9.0	38.2	13.3	41.5	14.2
Alborz	38.5	12.8	36.9	13.7	36.5	16.9
Ilam	35.7	19.2	33.4	19.1	35.5	20.9
Bushehr	37.4	6.9	37.6	11.8	33.6	11.2
Tehran	38.6	10.7	36.1	10.1	38.2	14.6
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	38.7	11.3	35.4	11.1	37.1	10.6
South Khorasan	41.9	10.7	35.8	7.6	41.5	6.4
Khorasan-e-Razavi	42.3	7.9	38.4	8.2	37.7	10.4
North Khorasan	44.3	11.7	34.7	12.8	36.6	8.9
Khuzestan	36.6	20.8	34.5	13.7	33.7	10.0
Zanjan	42.1	7.4	40.9	11.4	42.5	10.2
Semnan	40.4	9.8	30.7	11.5	31.8	9.9
Sistan & Baluchestan	29.5	8.6	28.2	12.6	27.4	12.0
Fars	39.6	14.0	36.3	13.9	36.7	18.2
Qazvin	41.5	10.2	37.9	12.5	38.5	11.5
Qom	36.3	8.1	32.8	8.6	35.5	14.3
Kordestan	39.7	9.5	37.3	18.8	40.8	11.8
Kerman	35.8	6.6	34.3	8.1	35.0	7.4
Kermanshah	36.9	11.4	39.1	18.8	37.8	12.9
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	33.3	17.6	29.4	12.3	28.5	9.8
Golestan	41.0	5.1	35.4	9.9	36.6	7.9
Gilan	43.2	8.4	37.6	18.1	42.3	14.3
Lorestan	36.4	15.2	33.5	20.3	35.1	19.2
Mazandaran	40.9	9.4	36.6	10.3	40.8	12.5
Markazi	38.0	7.2	37.3	9.4	38.3	12.9
Hormozgan	34.1	8.1	32.0	9.7	32.4	11.2
Hamedan	37.6	5.8	36.2	10.2	39.3	11.8
Yazd	37.9	7.2	36.9	11.0	34.6	9.4

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