

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Spring 2011 (March 21 –June 21)

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 rotation sampling. 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, 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 with 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, officials managed to prepare the list of households lied in the fall 2004 basic sample clusters in order to be able 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 index information of the 2006 Population and Housing Census as of March 21, 2009.

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 (15-29 years old)

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 15 -24 (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

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

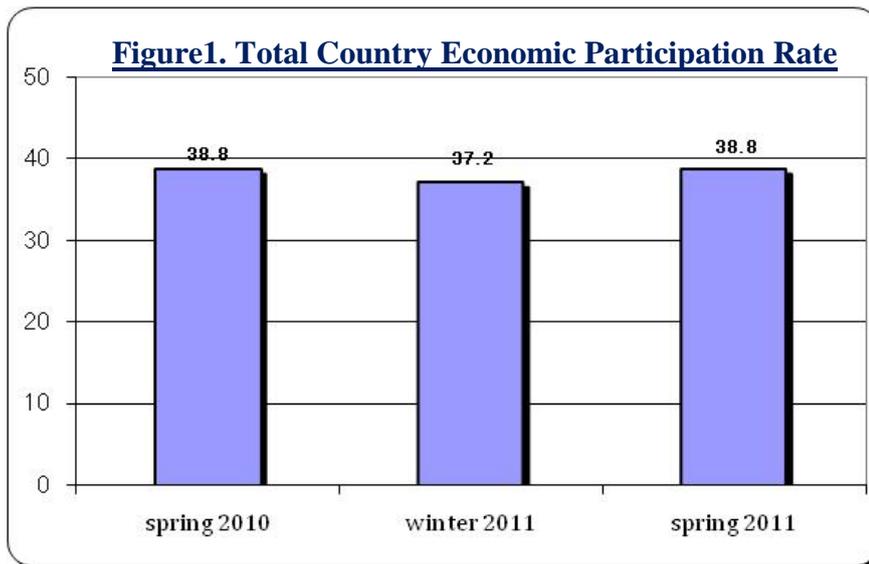
Seasonal labor force indicators

Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the spring 2011 (March 21 -June 21). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (winter 2011) and the corresponding season in the previous year (spring 2010) ; table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.

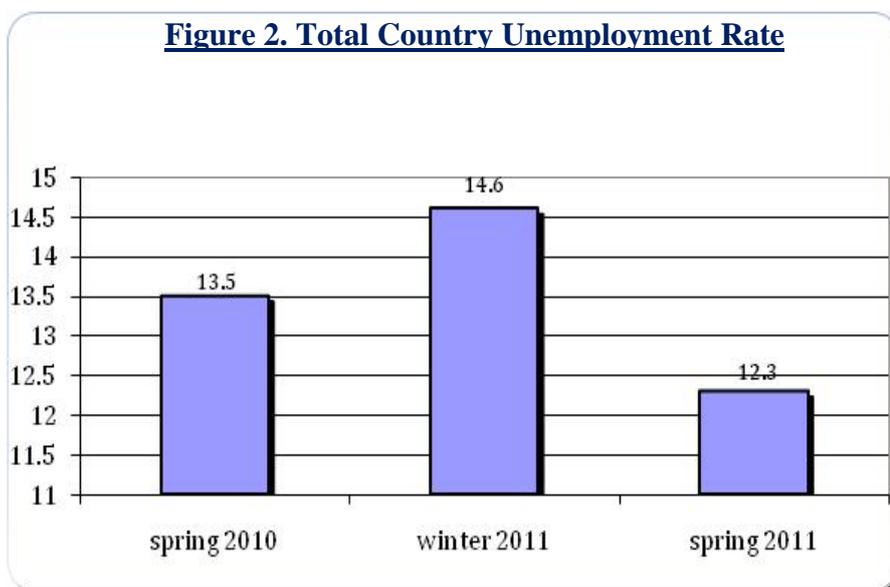
Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; Spring 2011 (March 21 – June 21)						
Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	38.8	62.4	14.8	37.6	42.0
	Number	24455172	19827945	4627225	17297023	7158149
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	12.3	10.3	20.8	14.2	7.7
	Number	3005683	2041332	964350	2457453	548230
Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over	Rate	12.3	10.3	20.9	14.2	7.7
	Number	2998897	2034677	964220	2453243	545654
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	25.7	21.7	40.2	30.3	16.6
	Number	1151340	766605	384735	900030	251309
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	23.1	18.7	38.6	26.4	14.9
	Number	1999288	1265785	733502	1627866	371421
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	20.4	18.6	29.4	5.5	53.9
	Number	4383630	3307527	1076102	820590	3563039
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	31.8	33.2	25.2	34.5	25.8
	Number	6823463	5901997	921465	5114999	1708464
Employment share in services sector	Share	47.8	48.2	45.5	60.0	20.2
	Number	10242395	8577088	1665307	8903979	1338415
Underemployment share		9.3	10.1	5.2	8.0	12.1
The contribution of the employed aged 15 or over with regular working hours of more than 49		42.1	47.5	16.0	42.9	40.5

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

A review of the economic participation rate reveals that about 38.8% 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 no change in the total country economic participation rate as compared with the spring 2010, and a 1.6 % increase compared with the winter 2011.



The unemployment rate among population aged 10 and over mentions that a percentage of 12.3% 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 a 1.2% and 2.3% decrease compared with the last corresponding season (spring 2010) and the previous season (winter 2011).



The unemployment rate among population aged 15 and over mentions that a percentage of 12.3% 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 9.3% 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 47.8% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 31.8% and agriculture sector with 20.4 %.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 25.7 % while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. Comparing with the last corresponding season and previous season shows that the indicator experienced a 2.2 % and 5.5% decrease respectively.

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 23.1% of the active population in this age group 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 a 2 % and 4.4% decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring 2010) and the previous season (winter 2011) respectively.

Review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 or over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 42.1% of them work more than 49 hours 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 2011 compared with the winter 2011 and spring 2010 (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Winter 2011		Spring 2010		Winter 2011		Spring 2010		Winter 2011		Spring 2010	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	1.6	37.2	0.0	38.8	1.2	61.2	0.0	62.4	1.9	12.9	0.0	14.8
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	-2.3	14.6	-1.2	13.5	-3.0	13.3	-1.7	12.0	-0.3	21.1	0.7	20.1
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-5.5	31.2	-2.2	27.9	-6.1	27.8	-4.0	25.7	-4.9	45.1	3.7	36.5
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	-4.4	27.5	-2.0	25.1	-5.1	23.8	-3.1	21.8	-3.5	42.1	1.0	37.6

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (Spring 2011 compared with the winter 2011 and spring 2010) continued

(percent)

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Winter 2011		Spring 2010		Winter 2011		Spring 2010	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	0.9	36.7	0.1	37.5	3.4	38.6	-0.1	42.1
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	-1.8	16.0	-1.3	15.5	-3.5	11.2	-1.3	9.0
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-5.2	35.5	-3.0	33.3	-5.8	22.4	-1.6	18.2
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	-4.0	30.4	-2.3	28.7	-5.0	19.9	-2.2	17.1

Figure 3 shows changes in unemployment rate over successive seasons during the years 2005 (21 March 2005-20 March 2006) تا 2011(21 March 2011-20 March 2012)

Figure3 . Changes in unemployment rate over successive seasons during the years 2005 (21 March 2005-20 March 2006) – 2011(21 March 2011-20 March 2012)

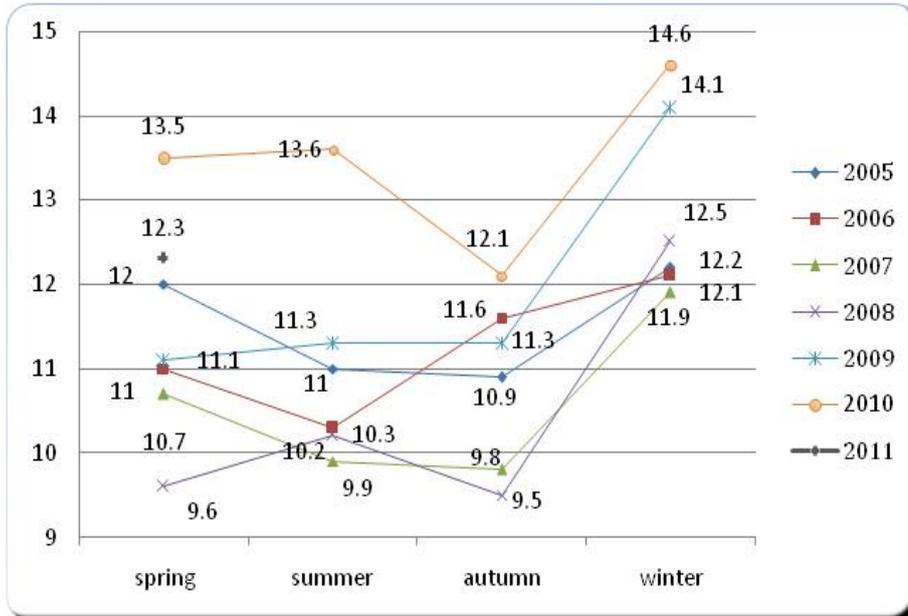


Table 3 shows the main labor force indicators in the spring 2011 compared to the winter 2011 and the spring 2010 by province.

Table3. Main selected labor force indicators by province; spring 2011 and winter 2011 and spring 2010 (percent)

Province	Spring 2011		Winter 2011		Spring 2010	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	38.8	12.3	37.2	14.6	38.8	13.5
East Azarbayejan	41.5	8.8	42.0	15.0	44.9	10.8
West Azarbayejan	41.8	10.1	39.2	17.9	43.8	12.0
Ardebil	45.3	14.7	44.6	15.2	43.8	15.7
Esfahan	41.9	14.8	40.9	14.5	40.6	14.9
Alborz	40.0	20.7	-	-	-	-
Ilam	39.0	16.7	37.2	14.6	37.7	14.2
Bushehr	35.0	11.7	33.8	10.1	35.8	14.7
Tehran	37.4	12.5	37.2	14.3	36.2	14.6
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	36.8	12.3	37.8	17.3	40.4	15.0
South Khorasan	39.5	9.4	35.6	8.1	39.9	11.1
Khorasan-e-Razavi	41.6	8.9	37.9	14.3	41.4	12.1
North Khorasan	42.0	9.9	34.0	11.0	34.4	5.5
Khuzestan	33.5	9.7	36.2	13.9	37.1	14.4
Zanjan	44.6	8.1	42.9	9.1	44.7	11.6
Semnan	36.0	12.8	33.1	12.5	37.0	11.5
Sistan & Baluchestan	28.4	9.6	29.0	11.6	30.9	11.6
Fars	41.5	20.6	36.1	23.9	39.3	18.0
Qazvin	40.9	12.6	38.0	12.2	39.6	14.2
Qom	35.7	10.1	35.1	10.3	35.6	12.5
Kordestan	41.2	12.4	38.8	23.7	41.2	11.7
Kerman	32.9	13.8	34.4	8.5	34.4	15.0
Kermanshah	36.6	13.8	33.0	17.0	36.2	14.0
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	31.2	19.2	30.4	12.2	30.1	12.1
Golestan	40.0	8.3	37.0	8.2	41.9	11.3
Gilan	43.3	11.7	39.7	18.1	43.1	14.4
Lorestan	37.3	17.3	35.9	18.1	38.5	16.8
Mazandaran	40.0	7.9	38.4	12.1	39.7	10.6
Markazi	39.8	9.8	36.4	9.5	36.9	10.6
Hormozgan	33.2	12.0	32.4	10.0	32.1	11.1
Hamedan	38.8	10.6	34.9	17.6	40.6	14.6
Yazd	36.9	7.4	36.0	6.6	39.0	12.1