

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Spring 2012 (20 March- 20 June 2012)

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, 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, 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 listing information of the Population and Housing Census 2006 as of the year 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

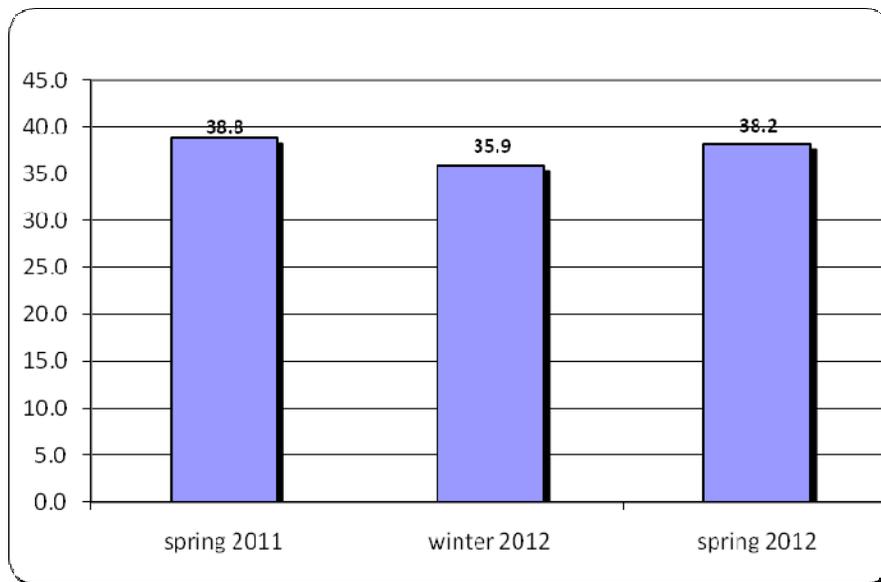
Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the spring 2012 (20 March - 20 June 2012). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (winter 2012) and the corresponding season in the previous year (spring 2011) ; table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.

Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; Spring 2012						
Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	38/2	62/0	14/3	37/1	41/2
	Number	24430185	19850329	4579855	17301112	7129072
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	12/9	11/2	20/0	14/9	8/0
	Number	3146092	2230061	916030	2579315	566776
Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over	Rate	12/9	11/2	20/1	14/9	7/9
	Number	3134010	2220003	914007	2571688	562322
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	28/6	25/8	39/5	34/3	17/9
	Number	1179100	840227	338872	924907	254192
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	25/8	22/6	37/5	29/6	16/5
	Number	2134563	1463890	670671	1741732	392829
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	20/3	18/5	28/6	5/9	52/4
	Number	4310219	3261541	1048678	869391	3440828
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	32/4	34/4	23/3	34/9	26/9
	Number	6905575	6053395	852180	5140408	1765167
Employment share in services sector	Share	47/3	47/1	48/1	59/2	20/7
	Number	10067779	8304811	1762967	8711478	1356300
Underemployment share		8/5	9/5	3/6	7/2	11/4
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over with regular working hours of more than 49		41/8	46/7	17/9	42/2	40/8

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

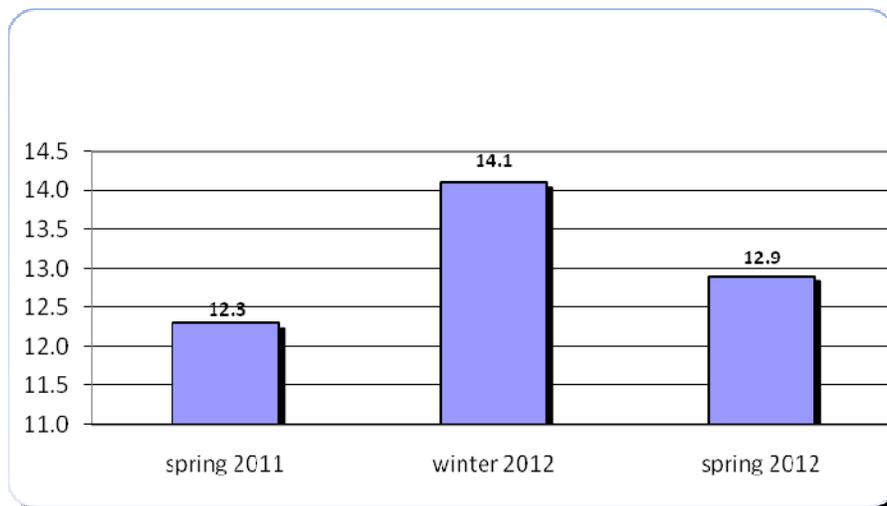
A review of the economic participation rate reveals that about 38.2% of the working age population (10 years or over) are economically active; i.e., they lie either in the employed or the unemployed group. In addition, the results indicate that the economic participation rate stands lower for women compared to men and urban areas in contrast to rural areas. The review shows a 0.6% fall and a 2.3% rise as compared with the last corresponding season (spring 2011) , and the previous season (winter 2012) respectively.

Figure1. Total Country Economic Participation Rate



The unemployment rate among population aged 10 and over mentions that a percentage of 12.9% 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 0.6% increase compared to the last corresponding season (spring 2011) and a 1.2% decrease in comparison with the previous season (winter 2012) respectively.

Figure 2. Total Country Unemployment Rate



The unemployment rate among population aged 15 and over mentions that a percentage of 12.9% 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 8.5% 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 47.3% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 32.4% and agriculture sector with 20.3%.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 28.6% while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. Comparing the last corresponding season (spring 2011) and the previous season (winter 2012) shows that the indicator experienced a 2.9% increase and a 1.1% decrease respectively.

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 25.8% 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 a 2.7% rise and 0.8% fall comparing to the last corresponding season (spring 2011) and previous seasons (winter 2012) respectively.

The review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 or over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 41.8% 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 2012 compared with winter 2012 and spring 2011 (percent)												
Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Winter 2012		Spring 2011		Winter 2012		Spring 2011		Winter 2012		Spring 2011	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	2/3	35/9	-0/6	38/8	2/5	59/5	-0/4	62/4	2/4	11/9	-0/5	14/8
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	-1/2	14/1	0/6	12/3	-1/3	12/5	0/9	10/3	-2/3	22/3	-0/8	20/8
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-1/1	29/7	2/9	25/7	-0/9	26/7	4/1	21/7	-4/2	43/7	-0/7	40/2
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	-0/8	26/6	2/7	23/1	-0/6	23/2	3/9	18/7	-4/2	41/7	-1/1	38/6

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (Spring 2012 compared with winter 2012 and spring 2011) continued (percent)

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Winter 2012		Spring 2011		Winter 2012		Spring 2011	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	1/7	35/4	-0/5	37/6	3/8	37/4	-0/8	42/0
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	-0/2	15/1	0/7	14/2	-3/4	11/4	0/3	7/7
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	2/8	31/5	4/0	30/3	-8/0	25/9	1/3	16/6
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	1/4	28/2	3/2	26/4	-6/1	22/6	1/6	14/9

Figure 3 . Changes in unemployment rate over successive seasons during the years 2005 - 2012

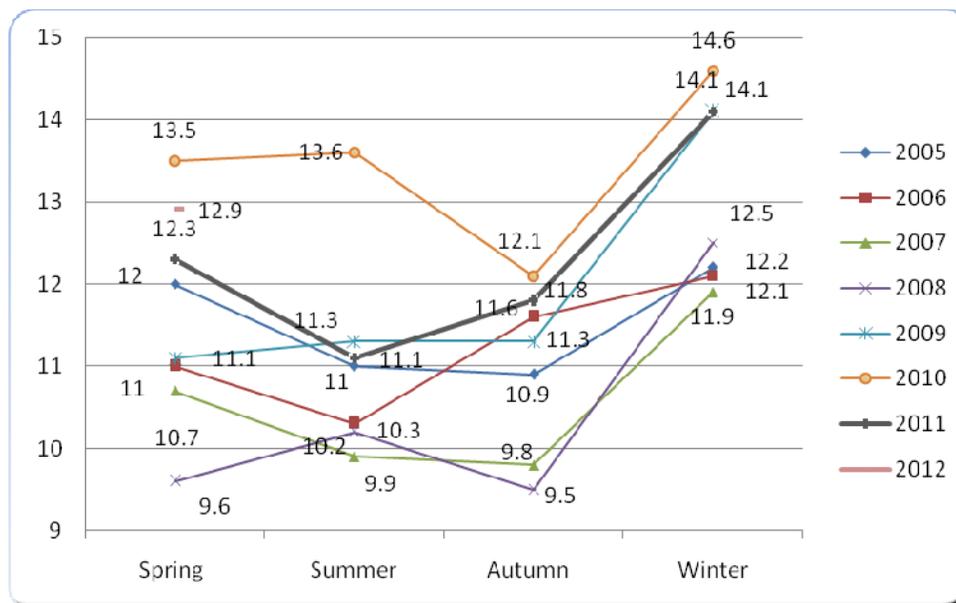


Table 3. shows the main labor force indicators in spring and winter 2012 and spring 2011 by province.

Table3. Main selected labor force indicators by province; spring and winter 2012 and spring 2011 by province (Percent)

Province	Spring 2012		Winter 2012		Spring 2011	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	38.2	12.9	35.9	14.1	38.8	12.3
East Azarbayejan	42.2	12.6	38.6	9.5	41.5	8.8
West Azarbayejan	42.9	9.7	39.5	21.5	41.8	10.1
Ardebil	45.7	11.8	39.8	18.1	45.3	14.7
Esfahan	41.8	14.2	39.9	12.6	41.9	14.8
Albourz	36.8	16.9	36.1	18.1	40.0	20.7
Ilam	35.7	21.0	36.5	17.1	39.0	16.7
Bushehr	33.8	11.2	35.8	11.1	35.0	11.7
Tehran	38.5	14.6	36.2	12.8	37.4	12.5
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	37.4	10.6	35.7	17.8	36.8	12.3
South Khorasan	41.7	6.5	37.0	11.5	39.5	9.4
Khorasan-e-Razavi	37.9	10.4	35.1	12.6	41.6	8.9
North Khorasan	36.9	9.1	35.0	17.9	42.0	9.9
Khuzestan	33.9	10.0	33.8	10.3	33.5	9.7
Zanjan	42.6	10.3	38.3	9.6	44.6	8.1
Semnan	32.1	10.0	30.9	8.7	36.0	12.8
Sistan & Baluchestan	27.5	12.1	26.3	12.0	28.4	9.6
Fars	37.0	18.3	34.6	17.6	41.5	20.6
Qazvin	38.7	11.6	36.5	15.4	40.9	12.6
Qom	35.7	14.3	33.7	8.9	35.7	10.1
Kordestan	41.0	11.9	38.5	15.5	41.2	12.4
Kerman	35.2	7.5	35.9	11.4	32.9	13.8
Kermanshah	38.0	13.0	31.7	17.9	36.6	13.8
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	28.6	9.8	29.8	11.0	31.2	19.2
Golestan	36.8	7.8	35.3	10.6	40.0	8.3
Gilan	42.6	14.5	36.7	21.0	43.3	11.7
Lorestan	35.3	19.3	36.2	25.5	37.3	17.3
Mazandaran	41.1	12.6	38.3	12.3	40.0	7.9
Markazi	38.5	13.0	36.2	13.4	39.8	9.8
Hormozgan	32.6	11.2	32.9	10.4	33.2	12.0
Hamedan	39.5	12.0	35.5	18.3	38.8	10.6
Yazd	34.9	9.5	34.8	5.4	36.9	7.4

