

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Spring 1393¹ (21 March - 21 June 2014)

¹. It is the Iranian year which begins on March 21st of the Christian year and ends on March 20th of the next year. To convert the Iranian year into Christian year, add 621 to the former. All the years mentioned in this report are Iranian years excluding the years cited in the Introduction.

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 and annual 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, the list of households lied in the winter 2005 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 21 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 is 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 master sample clusters in 2012 and 2013. It is noteworthy that for completion of master sample in next years in the same form sample, some of the households are listed in each of master 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 hour¹ during 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.

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

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.

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

Underemployment rate

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

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

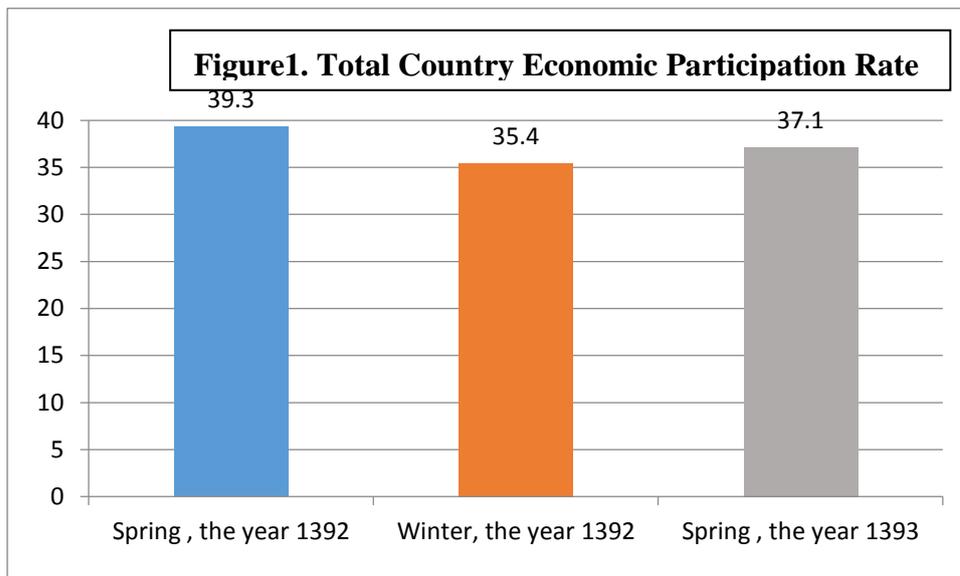
Findings

Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the spring of the year 1393 (21 March- 21 June 2014). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (winter, the year 1392) and the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1392) ; table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.

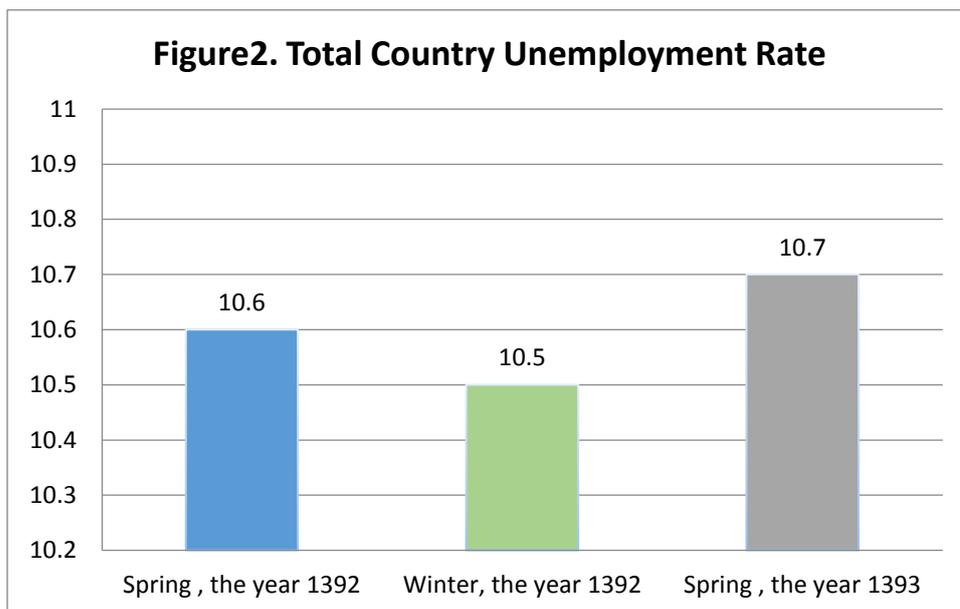
Table 1. Major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; Spring, the year 1393						
Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	37.1	62.0	12.2	36.1	39.8
	Number	23637309	19727043	3910266	16814297	6823012
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	10.7	9.0	19.4	12.0	7.5
	Number	2530064	1772146	757917	2015648	514415
Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over	Rate	10.7	9.0	19.4	12.0	7.5
	Number	2525664	1768656	757007	2012494	513171
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	24.8	21.0	43.4	28.5	17.9
	Number	765065	541220	223844	570938	194127
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	22.2	17.9	41.6	24.8	15.9
	Number	1578046	1040328	537718	1245450	332596
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	19.6	18.5	25.9	5.5	52.7
	Number	4139710	3322936	816774	814760	3324950
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	33.0	34.9	22.6	36.1	26.0
	Number	6975068	6263980	711088	5337263	1637805
Employment share in services sector	Share	47.3	46.6	51.5	58.4	21.3
	Number	9990917	8366431	1624485	8645126	1345790
Underemployment share		9.5	10.5	4.2	8.2	12.7
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over with regular working hours of 49 and over		39.8	44.1	15/0	40.8	37.4

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

A review of the economic participation rate reveals that 37.1% of the population of the working age (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 2.2 % fall as compared with the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1392) and the rise of 1.7% in comparison with the previous season (winter, the year 1392).



The unemployment rate among population aged 10 and over mentions that a percentage of 10.7% 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 0.1% decrease and 0.2% increase compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1392) and the previous season (winter, the year 1392), respectively.



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The underemployment indicator tells that 9.5% of the total employed population were 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 33.0% and agriculture sector with 19.6%.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 24.8% while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. Review of the changes shows that the indicator has experienced a 1.9% rise and 0.6% fall compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1392) and previous seasons (winter, the year 1392) respectively

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 22.2% 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 1.9% and 0.1% rise compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1392) and previous seasons (winter, the year 1392) respectively.

Review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 or over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 39.8% 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.

Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Winter, the year 1392		Spring, the year 1392		Winter, the year 1392		Spring, the year 1392		Winter, the year 1392		Spring, the year 1392	
	Change	Rate										
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	1.7	35.4	-2.2	39.3	1.4	60.6	-2.4	64.4	1.9	10.3	-2.1	14.3
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	0.2	10.5	-0.1	10.6	-0.1	9.1	0.2	8.8	0.5	18.9	0.7	18.7
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-0.6	25.4	1.9	22.9	-0.8	21.8	1.4	19.6	0.0	43.4	6.8	36.6
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	0.1	22.1	1.9	20.3	-0.9	18.8	1.4	16.5	3.1	38.5	6.6	35

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas - Spring 1393 compared with spring and winter 1392 (percent) continued

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Winter, the year 1392		Spring, the year 1392		Winter, the year 1392		Spring, the year 1392	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	1.2	34.9	-2.2	38.3	3.1	36.7	-2.0	41.8
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	0.7	11.3	-0.2	12.2	-1.2	8.7	0.9	6.6
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	0.1	28.4	1.4	27.1	-1.4	19.3	3.0	14.9
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	0.8	24.0	1.5	23.3	-1.5	17.4	3.1	12.8

Figure 3. Changes In Unemployment Rate over Successive Seasons during the years 1389-1393

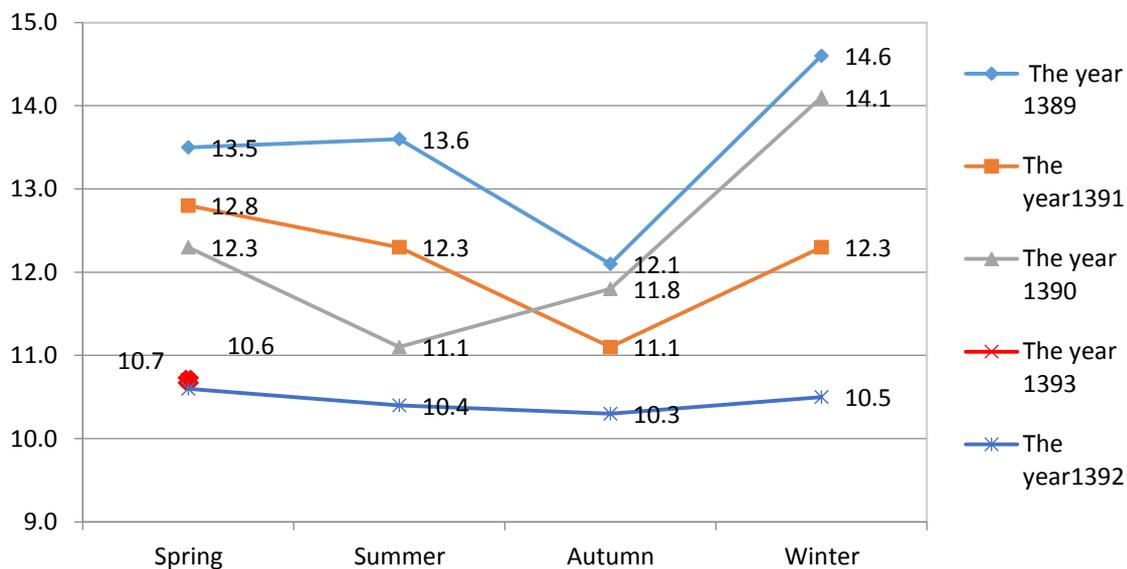


Table 3. shows the main labor force indicators in spring, the year 1393, winter and spring, the year 1392 by province.

Table 3. Main selected labor force indicators by province; spring, *the year 1393*, winter and spring, *the year 1392* (percent)

Province	Spring, the year 1393		Winter, the year 1392		Spring, the year 1392	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	37.1	10.7	35.4	10.5	39.3	10.6
East Azarbayejan	42.5	10.0	39.1	8.5	44.1	12.7
West Azarbayejan	40.1	8.5	37.9	12.4	42.6	8.2
Ardebil	44.4	9.1	41.3	13.0	42.4	12.5
Esfahan	40.0	12.8	37.5	12.6	40.0	9.0
Alborz	36.7	12.2	35.7	8.7	38.5	12.8
Ilam	35.6	11.0	35.2	11.1	35.7	19.2
Bushehr	36.6	10.1	36.8	9.7	37.4	6.9
Tehran	33.9	7.2	33.7	7.3	38.6	10.7
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	37.3	16.9	33.4	14.9	38.7	11.3
South Khorasan	36.4	8.4	35.2	6.7	41.9	10.7
Khorasan-e-Razavi	39.7	10.0	36.0	9.7	42.3	7.9
North Khorasan	38.3	13.0	35.9	15.3	44.3	11.7
Khuzestan	34.2	9.0	34.4	6.9	36.6	20.8
Zanjan	37.8	12.1	34.0	13.1	42.1	7.4
Semnan	41.5	17.4	37.3	6.0	40.4	9.8
Sistan & Baluchestan	29.3	12.2	27.0	8.7	29.5	8.6
Fars	36.9	14.1	35.8	14.0	39.6	14.0
Qazvin	40.1	10.1	38.9	11.2	41.5	10.2
Qom	33.7	10.7	33.1	7.3	36.3	8.1
Kordestan	40.0	10.4	38.0	15.8	39.7	9.5
Kerman	34.5	7.4	35.2	5.2	35.8	6.6
Kermanshah	37.9	14.7	35.4	20.7	36.9	11.4
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	30.5	14.7	28.7	17.9	33.3	17.6
Golestan	36.1	13.7	34.9	8.1	41.0	5.1
Gilan	40.9	13.6	36.9	19.0	43.2	8.4
Lorestan	32.1	20.3	33.3	19.8	36.4	15.2
Mazandaran	40.2	10.4	37.4	8.7	40.9	9.4
Markazi	35.2	7.2	36.0	7.5	38.0	7.2
Hormozgan	34.7	13.8	31.7	8.0	34.1	8.1
Hamedan	38.1	8.7	33.9	12.0	37.6	5.8
Yazd	36.4	7.3	34.2	5.6	37.9	7.2