

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Spring 1394¹ (21 March - 21 June 2015)

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 master 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 master sample of the Labor Force Survey for the years 2005-2008 was taken from the 2002 National Establishments Census frame. Following preparation of the master sample, the listing of households on master sample clusters was prepared in winter 2005 to select the sample households based on the rotation pattern chosen for different rounds of the survey. The new master sample was designed based on the listing information of the 2006 Population and Housing Census as of 21 March 2009. The current master sample was taken from the 2011 National Population and Housing Census. Due to changes in population areas 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 are 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, 2013 and 2014. 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 hour 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 (or 15-29 years of age) to the economically active population at age 15-24 (or15-29) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate aged 15-24 (or15-29)} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 15-24 (or 15-29)}}{\text{Economically active population aged 15-24 (or 15-29)}} \times 100$$

Underemployment rate

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

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

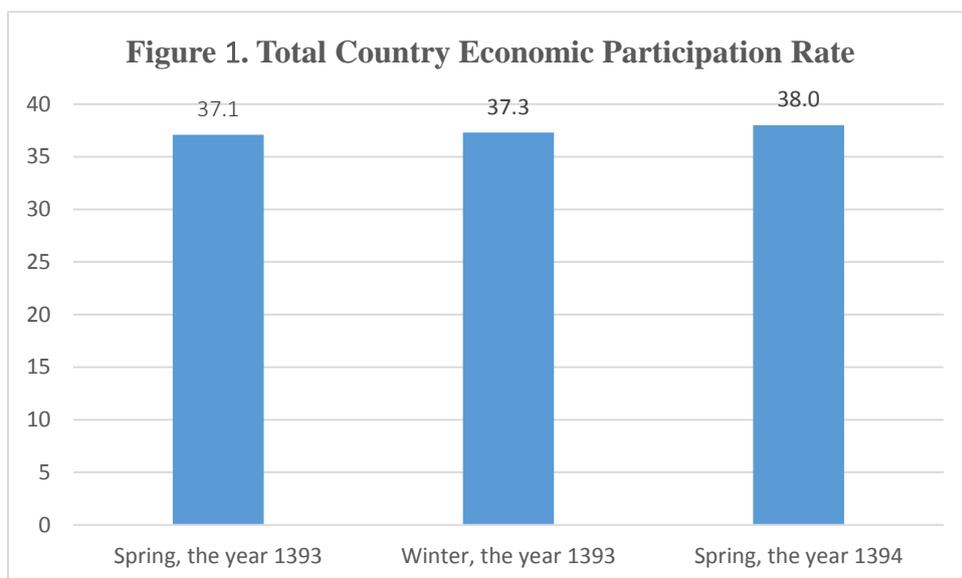
Findings

Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the spring of the year 1394 (21 March- 21 June 2015). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (winter, the year 1393) and the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1393) ; table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.

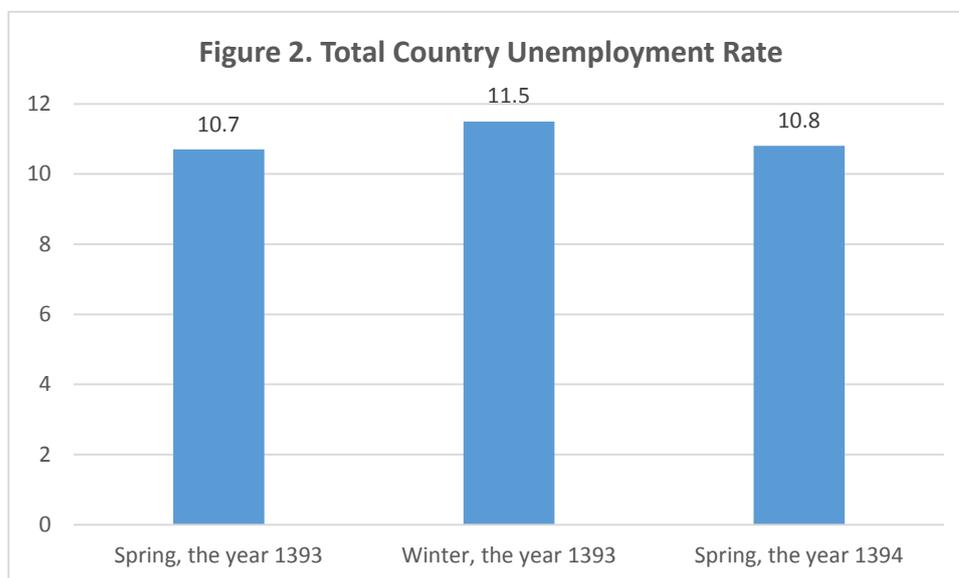
Table 1. Major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; Spring, the year 1394						
Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	38.0	62.9	13.3	37.2	40.3
	Number	24509069	20219539	4289528	17620414	6888654
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	10.8	9.0	19.2	12.0	7.6
	Number	2647233	1822038	825194	2123103	524129
Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over	Rate	10.8	9.0	19.3	12.1	7.6
	Number	2643076	1818566	825409	2122505	520570
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	25.0	20.9	43.1	28.9	17.3
	Number	738323	506244	232078	564492	173831
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	22.4	18.1	40.5	25.1	15.7
	Number	1609465	1048507	560957	1289966	319498
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	19.2	17.9	25.7	5.8	51.6
	Number	4189558	3299278	890279	903074	3286483
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	33.0	34.6	24.3	35.8	26
	Number	7205841	6365569	840271	5551315	1654526
Employment share in services sector	Share	47.9	47.5	50	58.3	22.4
	Number	10465707	8732288	1733419	9042191	1423515
Underemployment share		9.2	10.0	4.7	8.1	11.8
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over with regular working hours of 49 and over		39.0	43.6	14.6	39.6	37.5

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

A review of the economic participation rate reveals that 38.0% 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 0.9 % rise as compared with the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1393) and the rise of 0.7% in comparison with the previous season (winter, the year 1393).



The unemployment rate among population aged 10 and over mentions that a percentage of 10.8% 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. A review of the changes happened in the indicator at national level shows a 0.1% increase and a 0.7% decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1393) and the previous season (winter, the year 1393), respectively.



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The underemployment indicator tells that 9.2% 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 47.9% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 33% and agriculture sector with 19.2%.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 25% while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that the indicator has experienced a 0.2% rise and a 2.4% fall compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1393) and previous seasons (winter, the year 1393) respectively

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 22.4% of the active population was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that the indicator has experienced a 0.2% rise and a 0.8% fall compared to the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1393) and previous seasons (winter, the year 1393), respectively.

A review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 or over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 39% 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.

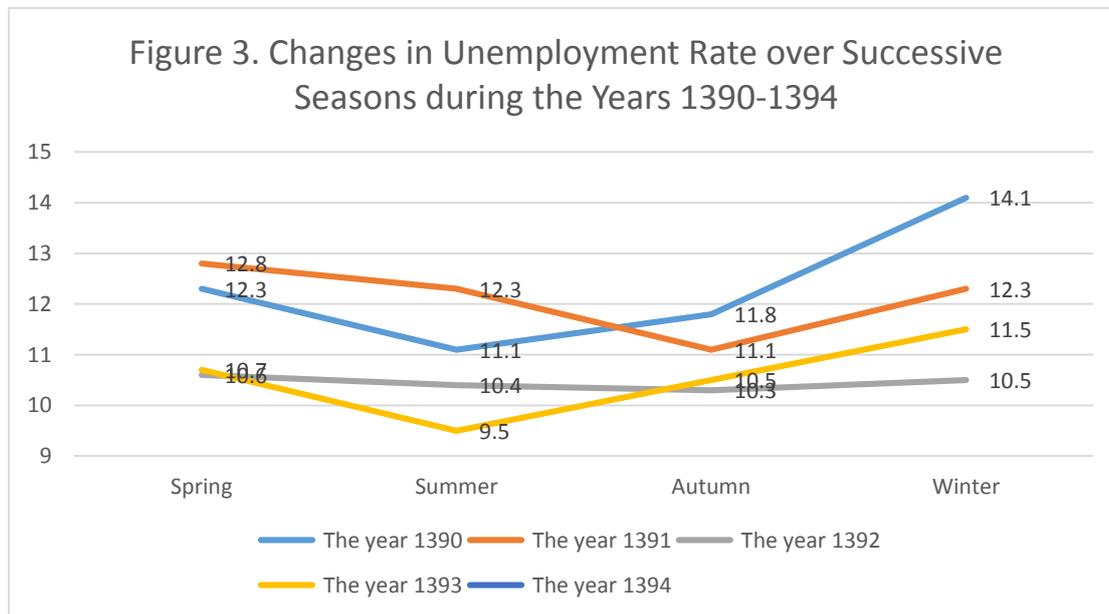
Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas – Spring, the year 1394 compared with the spring and winter, the year 1393 (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Winter, the year 1393		Spring, the year 1393		Winter, the year 1393		Spring, the year 1393		Winter, the year 1393		Spring, the year 1393	
	Change	Rate										
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	0.7	37.3	0.9	37.1	0.6	62.3	0.9	62.0	1.0	12.3	1.1	12.2
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	-0.7	11.5	0.1	10.7	-0.6	9.6	0.0	9.0	-1.8	21.0	-0.2	19.4
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-2.4	27.4	0.2	24.8	-2.3	23.2	-0.1	21.0	-2.2	45.3	-0.3	43.4
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	-0.8	23.2	0.2	22.2	-0.9	19.0	0.2	17.9	-0.6	41.1	-1.1	41.6

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas - Spring 1394 compared with spring and winter 1393 (percent)

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Winter, the year 1393		Spring, the year 1393		Winter, the year 1393		Spring, the year 1393	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	0.3	36.9	1.1	36.1	2.0	38.3	0.5	39.8
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	-0.1	12.1	0.0	12.0	-2.1	9.7	0.1	7.5
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-0.9	29.8	0.4	28.5	-5.2	22.5	-0.6	17.9
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	0.6	24.5	0.3	24.8	-3.9	19.6	-0.2	15.9

Figure 3. Changes in Unemployment Rate over Successive Seasons during the Years 1390-1394



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Table 3 shows the main labor force indicators in spring, the year 1394, winter and spring, the year 1393 by province.

Table 3. Main selected labor force indicators by province; spring, the year 1394, winter and spring, the year 1393 (percent)

Province	Spring, the year 1394		Winter, the year 1393		Spring, the year 1393	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	38.0	10.8	37.3	11.5	37.1	10.7
East Azarbayejan	40.2	7.7	39.6	6.3	42.5	10.0
West Azarbayejan	40.7	10.7	36.9	13.9	40.1	8.5
Ardebil	43.6	10.5	42.8	12.7	44.4	9.1
Esfahan	41.1	13.6	39.7	11.3	40.0	12.8
Alborz	37.5	15.8	36.5	12.4	36.7	12.2
Ilam	37.3	12.2	36.0	10.6	35.6	11.0
Bushehr	37.3	9.6	37.8	8.9	36.6	10.1
Tehran	36.2	7.4	37.6	9.0	33.9	7.2
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	36.0	13.8	35.9	14.8	37.3	16.9
South Khorasan	35.8	9.1	33.3	7.0	36.4	8.4
Khorasan-e-Razavi	40.1	14.6	37.7	15.2	39.7	10.0
North Khorasan	41.9	9.5	38.2	14.2	38.3	13.0
Khuzestan	37.7	12.0	38.5	12.4	34.2	9.0
Zanjan	38.5	8.5	35.4	11.0	37.8	12.1
Semnan	39.7	10.7	40.2	10.2	41.5	17.4
Sistan & Baluchestan	29.7	12.5	29.2	9.3	29.3	12.2
Fars	37.7	12.6	37.4	13.7	36.9	14.1
Qazvin	40.3	11.9	41.1	13.5	40.1	10.1
Qom	32.6	9.9	34.1	7.8	33.7	10.7
Kordestan	40.7	9.8	40.8	16.0	40.0	10.4
Kerman	32.1	5.9	33.9	5.6	34.5	7.4
Kermanshah	39.6	13.7	38.3	19.3	37.9	14.7
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	33.2	16.0	31.4	14.7	30.5	14.7
Golestan	38.8	12.7	34.0	13.0	36.1	13.7
Gilan	42.0	10.0	37.1	13.6	40.9	13.6
Lorestan	35.6	10.7	32.0	11.5	32.1	20.3
Mazandaran	42.1	10.0	39.8	14.2	40.2	10.4
Markazi	36.6	10.3	35.0	9.1	35.2	7.2
Hormozgan	36.1	15.6	38.0	9.2	34.7	13.8
Hamedan	37.7	6.7	36.4	9.2	38.1	8.7
Yazd	38.2	7.9	35.4	7.6	36.4	7.3