

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Spring 2010 (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 in November. From 2001 to 2003, it used to be taken on a seasonal basis, while in 2004 it was only executed in May and November. 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 index information of the Population and Housing Census 2006 from the beginning of 2009.

Definitions and concepts

Economically active population

All people aged 10 and 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 and 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 and 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.

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 and over (or 15 years of age and over) to the working age population 10 years of age and over (or 15 years of age and over) multiplied by 100.

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

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 ratio

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 2010 (March 21 –June 21). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (winter 2010 – December 22- March 20) and the corresponding season in the previous year (spring 2009 – March 21- June 21). In addition, table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.

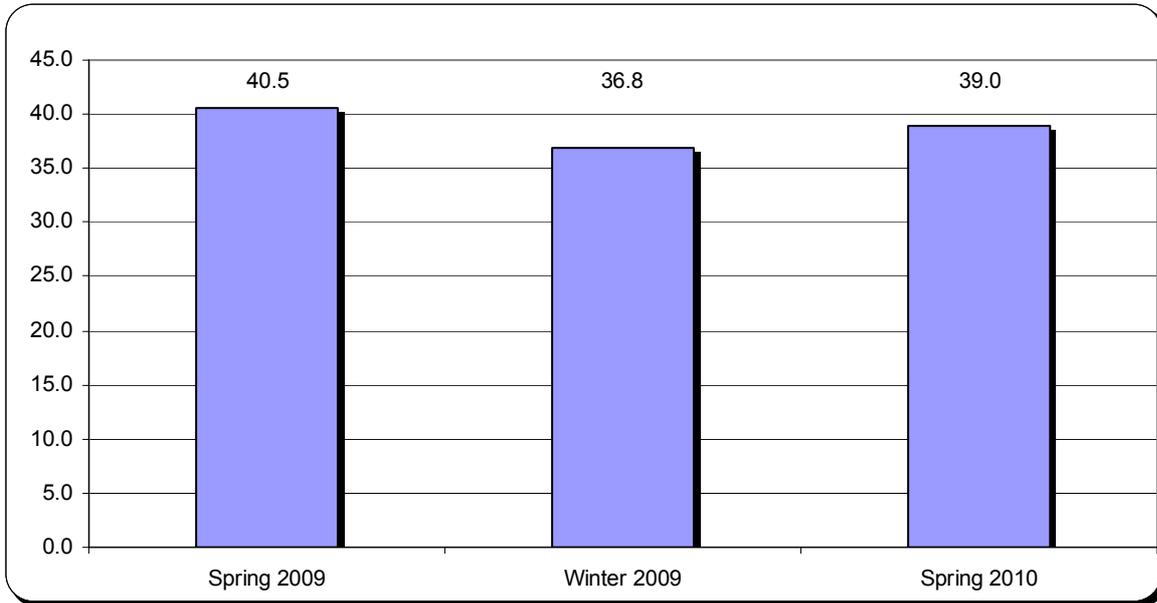
Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; Spring 2010 (March 21 –June 21)

Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity of population aged 10 and over	Rate	39/0	61/7	16/0	37/9	42/1
	Number	24204201	19277709	4926491	169401951	7263249
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	14/6	11/9	25/0	17/0	8/9
	Number	3525640	2293944	1231696	2877878	647762
Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over	rate	14/6	11/9	25/2	17/0	9/0
	number	3518078	2289006	1229072	2875737	642341
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	29/6	24/3	46/5	35/8	18/2
	Number	1380322	864489	515833	1079518	300803
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	26/1	20/6	44/3	30/0	17/1
	Number	2329567	1404868	924699	1875947	453620
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	21/1	19/1	30/5	4/8	55/8
	Number	4369568	3243600	1125967	680517	3689050
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	31/2	32/9	23/1	34/0	25/1
	Number	6446217	5591885	854332	4787702	1658515
Employment share in services sector	share	47/7	48/0	46/4	61/1	19/2
	Number	9862774	8148278	1714495	8594852	1267921
Underemployment share		9/5	10/4	5/6	8/2	12/3
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over to regular working hours of more than 49		41/5	46/8	17/2	42/9	38/6

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

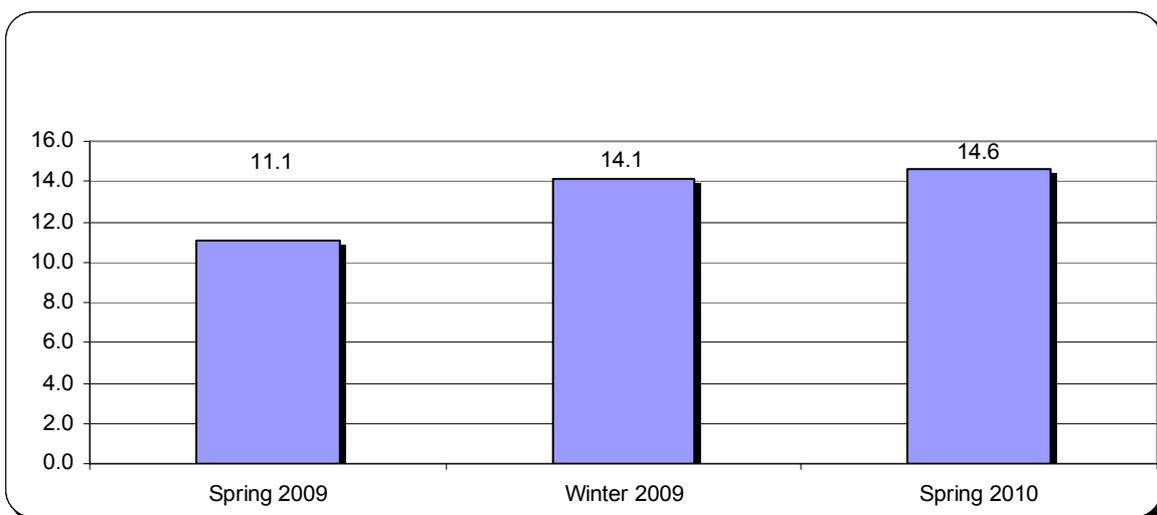
A review of the economic participation rate (activity rate) reveals that about 39% of the working age population (10 years or over) are economically active; i.e., they lie either in the employed or the unemployed group. In addition, the results indicate that the economic participation rate stands lower for women comparing men and urban areas comparing rural areas. The review shows a 1.5% decrease in the total country economic participation rate as compared with the same previous season (Spring 2009) and an increase of 2.2% compared with the previous season (winter 2010).

Figure1. Total Country Economic Participation Rate



The unemployment rate among population aged 10 and over mentions that a percentage of 14.6% 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 a 3.5% increase comparing the corresponding season and 0.5 percent increase comparing the previous season.

Figure 2. Total Country Unemployment Rate



The unemployment rate among population aged 15 and over mentions that a percentage of 14.6 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 ratio tells that 9.5 % 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 47.7 of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 31.2 and agriculture sector with 21.1.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 29.6 while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. Review of the changes happened in this indicator at national level shows a 7.2 increase comparing to the corresponding season and 0.8 percent decrease comparing to the previous season.

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 26.1% 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 a 5.7 increase comparing to the corresponding season and 0.5 percent decrease comparing to the previous season.

Review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 and over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 41.5% 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.

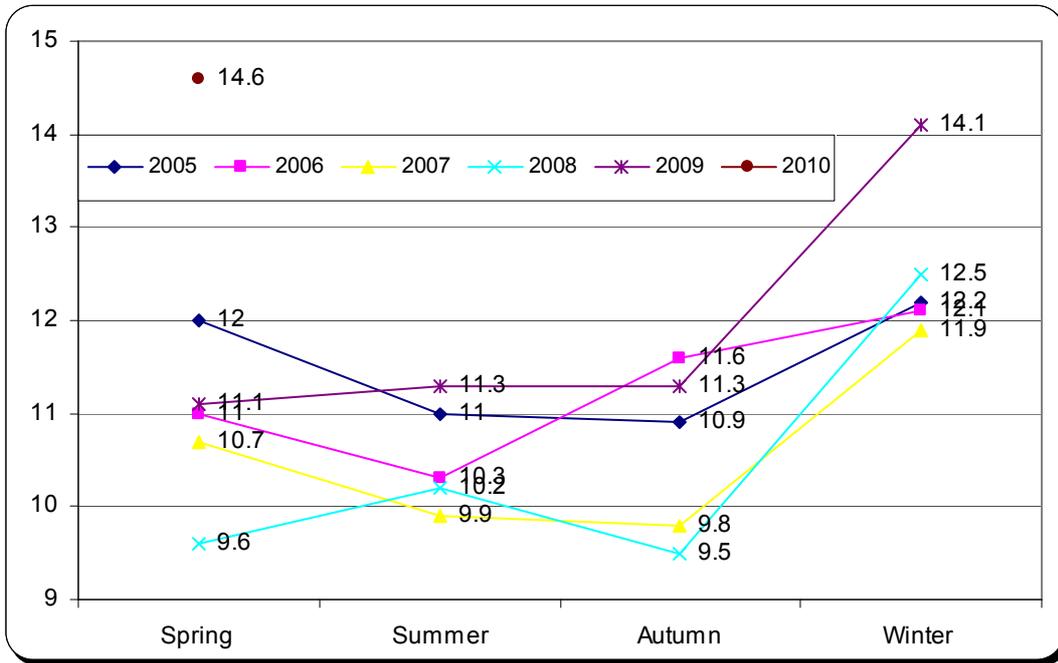
Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (Spring 2010 compared with Winter 2010 and Spring 2009) (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Winter 2010		Spring 2009		Winter 2010		Spring 2009		Winter 2010		Spring 2009	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	2/2	36/8	-1/5	40/5	0/8	60/9	-2/2	63/9	3/7	12/3	-0/7	16/7
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	0/5	14/1	3/5	11/1	-1/3	13/2	2/1	9/8	6/0	19/0	8/8	16/2
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-0/8	30/4	7/2	22/4	-4/4	28/7	4/3	20/0	9/1	37/4	15/9	30/6
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	-0/5	29/6	5/7	20/4	-3/7	24/3	2/8	17/8	8/1	36/2	15/3	29/0

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (Spring 2010 compared with Winter 2010 and Spring 2009) continued (percent)

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Winter 2010		Spring 2009		Winter 2010		Spring 2009	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	1/9	36/0	-1/1	39/0	3/3	38/8	-2/1	44/2
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	1/7	15/3	4/1	12/9	-2/5	11/4	1/7	7/2
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	0/9	34/9	8/7	27/1	-3/8	22/0	3/8	14/4
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	1/0	29/0	6/3	23/7	-4/1	21/2	3/7	13/4

Figure 3. shows changes in unemployment rate over successive seasons during the years 2005 - 2010



In Table 3, some of the main labor force indicators in spring 2010 are shown in comparison to winter 2010 and spring 2009 by province. In addition, unemployment rate for the population aged 10 and over in spring 2010, is shown graphically on the map 1.

Table3. Main labor force indicators by province; Spring2010 *and* winter 2010 and spring 2009

Province	Spring 2010		Winter 2010		Spring 2009	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	39/0	14/6	36/8	14/1	40/5	11/1
East Azarbayejan	45/7	10/4	42/5	15/7	48/5	6/5
West Azarbayejan	44/7	11/5	41/3	17/1	45/5	9/2
Ardebil	44/5	15/0	42/9	17/7	47/7	10/7
Esfahan	41/0	14/6	40/9	12/8	41/4	8/6
Ilam	38/2	13/9	36/4	14/5	42/1	12/2
Bushehr	35/8	14/6	35/5	12/5	38/6	9/2
Tehran	36/5	14/6	35/2	11/1	39/7	13/4
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	40/5	14/9	36/1	21/7	40/5	16/8
South Khorasan	40/0	10/6	37/6	8/3	45/8	6/1
Khorasan-e-Razavi	42/0	11/8	37/9	14/3	42/0	11/6
North Khorasan	34/6	5/4	30/4	9/1	43/2	4/2
Khuzestan	37/3	14/2	36/3	14/9	38/1	12/2
Zanjan	45/7	10/9	41/6	11/9	46/8	7/8
Semnan	37/4	11/3	34/0	9/7	36/0	7/0
Sistan & Baluchestan	30/8	11/5	30/5	12/4	29/7	13/8
Fars	38/4	21/3	36/7	22/0	39/4	15/3
Qazvin	40/1	13/8	36/4	16/8	35/5	11/1
Qom	35/9	12/4	34/1	12/8	34/8	10/8
Kordestan	41/7	11/2	38/2	15/6	40/2	7/5
Kerman	34/6	14/6	38/8	16/5	33/6	9/1
Kermanshah	37/0	13/4	33/0	19/7	38/8	10/2
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	30/1	12/0	29/5	15/9	30/7	12/6
Golestan	42/3	11/4	36/2	9/5	43/9	7/6
Gilan	43/4	13/8	37/5	15/1	48/1	12/6
Lorestan	39/1	16/1	35/2	19/8	39/7	19/5
Mazandaran	40/1	10/5	34/8	5/8	39/3	9/9
Markazi	37/2	10/3	35/9	11/1	39/4	9/3
Hormozgan	31/4	10/8	31/8	9/8	33/0	5/8
Hamedan	40/9	14/3	36/0	22/0	42/0	10/4
Yazd	39/4	11/9	37/6	8/1	39/4	8/9