

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Winter 2010 (December 22, 2009 – March 21, 2010)

Statistical Centre of Iran

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 the spring of 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, households listing related to basic sample clusters was done in autumn 2004 in order to select sample households according to intended rotation pattern for different rounds of the survey. The new basic sample was designed and drawn on according to the listing 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 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.

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 Winter 2010 (December 22, 2009 –March 21,2010). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (Autumn 2009) and the corresponding season in the previous year (Winter 2009). Moreover, table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.

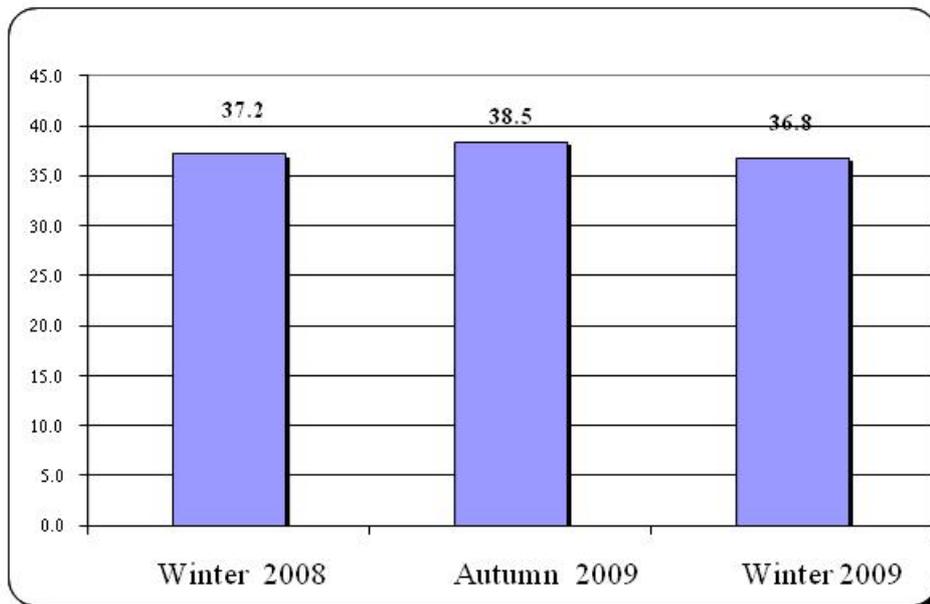
Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; Winter 2010
((December 22, 2009 –March 21, 2010).

Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity of population aged 10 or over	Rate	36/8	60/9	12/3	36/0	38/8
	Number	22717893	18958237	3759654	16010304	6707587
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 or over	Rate	14/1	13/2	19/0	15/3	11/4
	Number	3209830	2493815	716014	2446506	763323
Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over	rate	14/2	13/2	19/2	15/3	11/5
	number	3202394	2486924	715469	2440655	761739
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	30/4	28/7	37/4	34/9	22/0
	Number	1313230	1005145	308084	976764	336466
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	26/6	24/3	36/2	29	21/2
	Number	2181286	1598575	582710	1654405	526880
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	18/5	16/9	27/4	4/9	49/8
	Number	3616916	2784086	832830	658620	2958296
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	32/9	34/6	23/9	35/1	27/9
	Number	6417793	5691355	726437	4762231	1655561
Employment share in services sector	share	48/6	48/5	48/8	60/0	22/4
	Number	9472981	7988609	1484372	8142575	1330405
Underemployment share		13/0	14/3	5/5	10/1	19/6
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over with regular working hours of more than 49		36/2	40/5	12/4	40/0	27/4

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

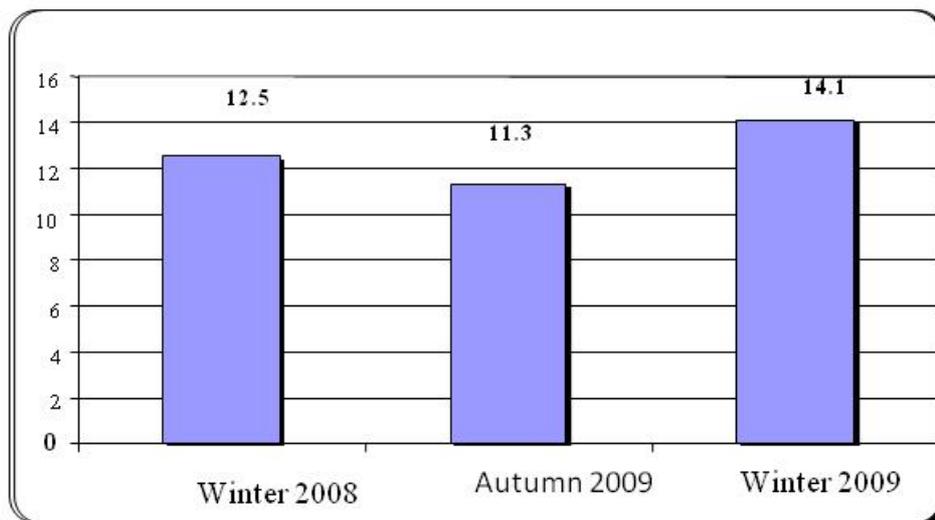
A review of the economic participation rate (activity rate) reveals that about 36.8% of the working age population (10 years and over) were economically active; i.e., they have lied either in the employed or the unemployed group. In addition, the results indicate that the economic participation rate stands lower for women comparing men and urban areas comparing rural areas. The review shows a 0.4% decrease in the total country economic participation rate as compared with the winter 2009, and a 1.7% decrease comparing the autumn 2009.

Figure1. Total Country Economic Participation Rate



The unemployment rate among population aged 10 and over mentions that a percentage of 14.1% of the economically active population were unemployed. According to the results of this survey, the unemployment rate for women is higher than men and in urban areas is more than the rural areas. Review of the changes happened in the indicator at national level shows a 1.6% grow comparing the corresponding season (winter 2009) in the previous year and 2.8% increase comparing the previous season (autumn 2009).

Figure 2. Total Country Unemployment Rate



The unemployment rate among population aged 15 and over mentions that a percentage of 14.2% 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 13% 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 48.6% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 32.9% and agriculture sector with 18.5 %.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 30.4 % while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. Comparing the last corresponding season and autumn 2009 shows that the indicator experienced a 3% and 6.3% increases respectively.

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 26.6% 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 3.1% and 5.4% grow comparing to the corresponding and previous seasons respectively.

Review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 or over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 36.2% 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 (winter 2010 compared with autumn 2009 and winter 2009) (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Autumn 2009		Winter 2009		Autumn 2009		Winter 2009		Autumn 2009		Winter 2009	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	-1/7	38/5	-0/4	37/2	-1/6	62/5	-0/2	61/1	-1/7	14/0	-0/5	12/8
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	2/8	11/3	1/6	12/5	3/2	10/0	1/9	11/3	1/8	17/2	0/6	18/4
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	6/3	24/1	3/0	27/4	7/0	21/7	4/0	24/7	4/3	33/1	-0/7	38/1
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	5/4	21/2	3/1	23/5	5/7	18/6	3/5	20/8	5/4	30/8	2/2	34/0

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

(percent)

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Autumn 2009		Winter 2009		Autumn 2009		Winter 2009	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	-1/3	37/3	-0/2	36/2	-2/6	41/4	-0/8	39/6
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	2/5	12/8	1/6	13/7	3/6	7/8	1/6	9/8
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	6/2	28/7	3/9	31/0	6/0	16/0	1/2	20/8
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	5/0	24/0	3/3	25/7	6/5	14/7	2/8	18/4

Figure3 . Changes in unemployment rate over successive seasons during the years 2005 - 2009

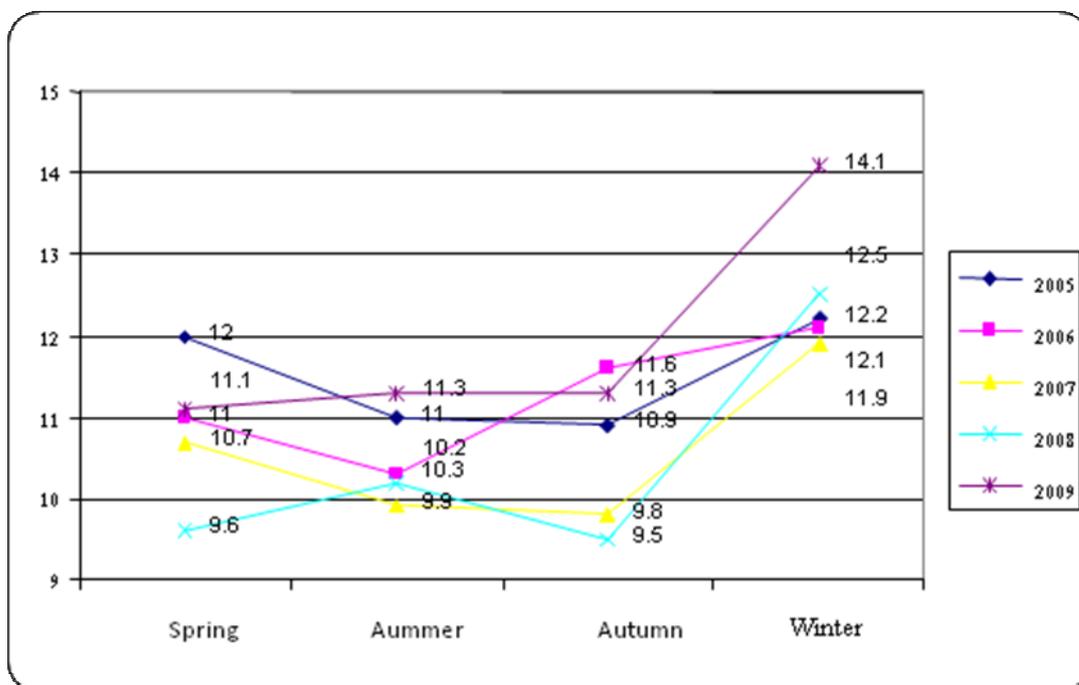


Table 3 shows selected major labour force indicators in winter 2010 in comparison to autumn 2009 and winter 2009 by province. Moreover, map1 shows unemployment rate of population aged 10 in winter 2010 in graphic format.

Table3. Main selected labor force indicators by province; winter 2010 and autumn and winter 2009 (percent)

Province	Winter 2010		Autumn 2009		Winter 2009	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	36/8	14/1	38/5	11/3	37/2	12/5
East Azarbayejan	42/5	15/7	41/7	10/4	41/6	7/9
West Azarbayejan	41/3	17/1	43/6	9/6	40/3	17/4
Ardebil	42/9	17/7	48/8	11/1	42/3	11/4
Esfahan	40/9	12/8	42/3	14/1	40/2	10/0
Ilam	36/4	14/5	40/0	12/0	35/9	21/6
Bushehr	35/5	12/5	34/5	13/4	38/8	12/1
Tehran	35/2	11/1	36/6	10/6	35/9	11/4
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	36/1	21/7	38/9	14/0	38/0	18/6
South Khorasan	37/6	8/3	41/2	5/8	38/3	8/9
Khorasan-e-Razavi	37/9	14/3	43/0	9/8	37/4	11/2
North Khorasan	30/4	9/1	37/1	6/5	39/6	9/6
Khuzestan	36/3	14/9	37/8	14/0	38/2	12/7
Zanjan	41/6	11/9	43/7	8/0	41/8	14/2
Semnan	34/0	9/7	35/9	9/3	32/7	9/1
Sistan & Baluchestan	30/5	12/4	32/8	13/9	27/9	13/6
Fars	36/7	22/0	37/9	7/1	36/0	16/6
Qazvin	36/4	16/8	36/1	9/6	35/2	9/5
Qom	34/1	12/8	34/6	9/4	35/4	10/6
Kordestan	38/2	15/6	39/2	10/5	40/1	19/0
Kerman	38/8	16/5	34/0	10/2	35/6	8/2
Kermanshah	33/0	19/7	34/3	14/4	33/1	15/6
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	29/5	15/9	30/3	15/5	30/8	17/4
Golestan	36/2	9/5	38/9	4/4	39/3	9/0
Gilan	37/5	15/1	38/6	17/2	38/4	14/3
Lorestan	35/2	19/8	35/4	16/5	33/9	18/2
Mazandaran	34/8	5/8	35/2	8/9	35/7	8/3
Markazi	35/9	11/1	37/7	10/1	35/9	18/4
Hormozgan	31/8	9/8	30/6	8/5	34/4	7/3
Hamedan	36/0	22/0	44/0	23/0	39/8	21/9
Yazd	37/6	8/1	40/0	9/0	41/0	8/1