A Selection of Labour Force Survey Results

Autumn, the Year 1403[1] ((22 September-20 December 2024)

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[1]. It is the Iranian year which usually begins on the day of 21 March of Gregorian calendar. To find the corresponding year of Gregorian calendar, add 621 or 622 (depending on the time of the year) to a solar Hijri year. For example, the corresponding year of the year 1403 in Gregorian calendar is (20 March 2024-20 March 2025).

Iranian seasons and their equivalent in Gregorian calendar

Spring (21 March-21 June)

Summer (22 June - 22 September)

Autumn (23 September -21 December)

Winter (22 December - 19 March)

Introduction

The pair of concepts of employment and unemployment are so fundamental to national economies that any increase in the employment rate, which signifies a decrease in unemployment, is considered an indicator of national development. The unemployment rate is used to evaluate the national economic conditions. The information on the nation's market is gathered through the "Household Employment and Unemployment Characteristics Survey (HEUCS)" as of the year 1376. However, in order to enhance the quality of the HEUCS and align it with international concepts, particularly those of the ILO, the survey plan was revised to implement the current plan called the "Labour Force Survey." The "Labour Force Survey" was first conducted in the year 1384 and has since been regularly conducted in the middle month of every season.

The "Labour Force Survey" is conducted to obtain information on the composition and current condition of the labour force, as well as its changes. This objective is achieved through the estimation of seasonal and annual labour force indicators at both national and provincial levels, the estimation of the annual number of the labour force at both national and provincial levels, the estimation of seasonal and annual changes in labour force indicators at both national and provincial levels, and the estimation of annual changes in labour force indicators at provincial levels.

The population covered in this survey includes people who, according to the definition, are members of private or collective settled households in rural or urban areas. Therefore, members of private unsettled households and institutional households are not included in this survey. The method used for conducting this survey is a two-stage classified clustering method. In addition to estimating current levels, changes are also estimated. Therefore, rotation sampling is used. Rotation sampling can provide the best estimate of current levels and changes by fixing some sample units between two quarters of the survey and changing the remaining units. With respect to the aim of the survey, the selected rotation pattern for this survey is a "2-2-2" pattern. This means that during the Master Sample period, each sample household is enumerated four times. Accordingly, that sample household is in the sample for two successive quarters and then excluded from the sample. The master sample refers to the sample that can be used to select sub-samples to satisfy the needs of several surveys or rounds of a survey. The sampling frame of the first stage (from the spring of the year 1397) is the fourth master sample of the household surveys. The master sample includes the sampling units (clusters) of the first stage. Each cluster contains one block/village, part of a large block/village, or in some cases a combination of some small blocks/villages which were created from the 2016 National Population and Housing Census. With respect to the changes in population and housing units in urban areas and in order to prepare an appropriate and updated frame in urban areas, some households were listed within the master sample clusters in the winter of the year 1402, but due to minor changes in population and housing units in rural areas, no listing was made in rural areas.

To conduct the Labour Force Survey for each quarter in the year 1403, 60,648 households are enumerated in both urban and rural areas. After releasing the preliminary results of this survey, the SCI disseminates the detailed results at annual and quarterly intervals. Users, researchers, and planners can access the results of this survey for Autumn and download them in Excel format from www.amar.ir in the Month of February.

This survey's target population includes private and collective settled households in urban and rural areas.

Data for this survey were collected through face-to-face interviews. In other words, the enumerator interviews the most informed member of the household to complete the household questionnaire and also interviews each household member aged 10 and over to complete the individual questionnaire.
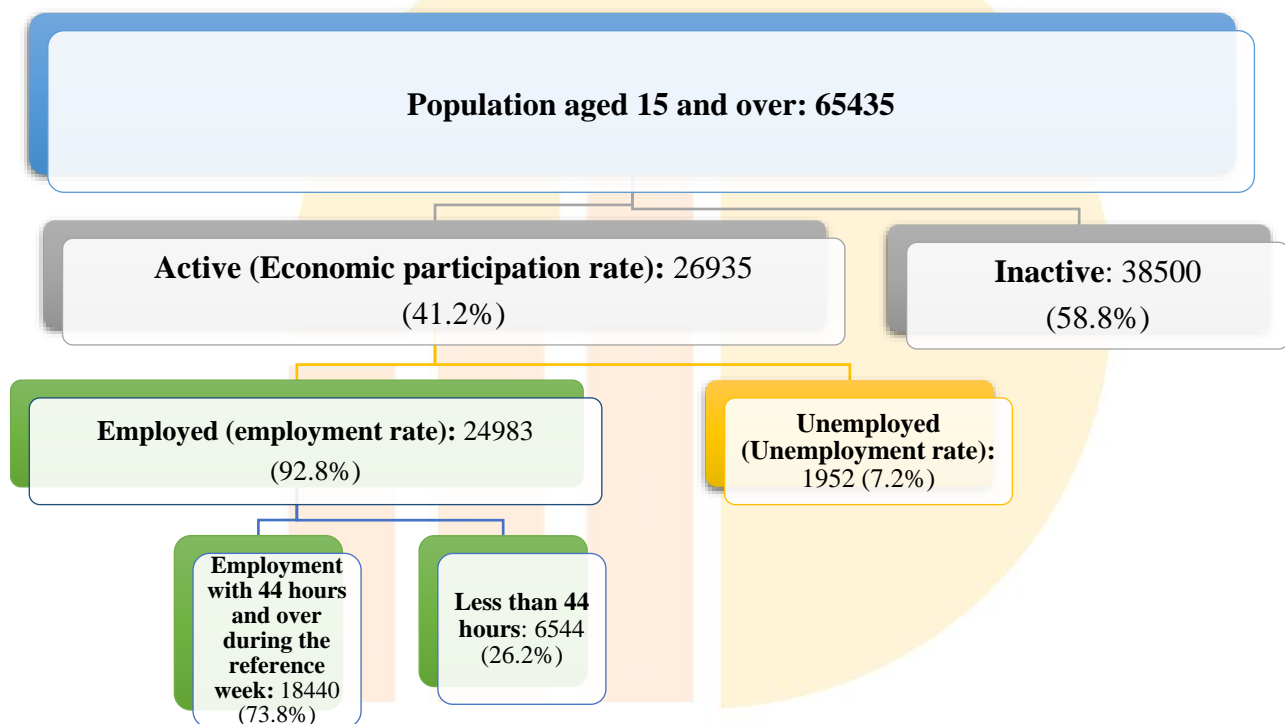
It is worth noting that the concepts and definitions used in the Labour Force Survey were designed and implemented based on the resolution of the 13th International Conference of Labour Statistics (ICLS13).

It should be noted that since the spring of the year 1397, the confidence interval for the unemployment rate indicator has been 95 percent in the release of the Survey results. In view of the statistical methodology, the confidence interval means that if several samples are selected from the target population by using the same sampling method and based on each of the samples, a confidence interval is calculated for the real unemployment rate. It is expected that 95% of these confidence intervals include the real unemployment rate.

Findings

Based on the results of this survey conducted for autumn, the year 1403, the major indicators of the labour market and its changes in this season compared to the last corresponding season (autumn, the year 1402), are presented in Table 1. In Table 2, the major indicators of the labour market are presented by province.

Figure 1. Major Indicators of Labour Market in Autumn, The Year 1403 (the figures are at thousand persons)

A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 15 and over (activity rate) reveals that 41.2% of the working-age population (15 years and older) is economically active; that is, they are either employed or unemployed. Additionally, the results indicate that the economic participation rate is lower for women compared to men and for urban areas in contrast to rural areas. The review of the trend in changes in the national economic participation rate shows that this indicator has decreased by 0.3 percent compared to the last corresponding season (autumn of the year 1402). Furthermore, the review of the employment rate of the population aged 15 and over indicates that 38.2 percent of the working-age population (15 years and over) was employed. This indicator stands higher for men and rural areas compared to women and urban areas.

TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; AUTUMN, THE YEAR 1403 COMPARED TO THE AUTUMN, THE YEAR 1402

(number person-rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Total country			Male			Female		
		Autumn, the year 1403	Autumn, the year 1402	Changes	Autumn, the year 1403	Autumn, the year 1402	Changes	Autumn, the year 1403	Autumn, the year 1402	Changes
Population aged 15 and over[1]	Number	65435022	64646960	788062	32662093	32279602	382491	32772929	32367358	405571
Economic participation of population aged 15 and over	Rate	41.2	41.5	-0.3	68.0	68.6	-0.6	14.5	14.4	0.1
	Number	26935072	26819585	115487	22194775	22147034	47741	4740296	4672551	67745
Economically inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	38499950	37827375	672575	10467318	10132568	334750	28032632	27694807	337825
Employment of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	38.2	38.3	-0.1	64.0	64.3	-0.3	12.5	12.4	0.1
	Number	24983452	24775913	207539	20892491	20766986	125505	4090961	4008927	82034
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	7.2	7.6	-0.4	5.9	6.2	-0.3	13.7	14.2	-0.5
	Number	1951620	2043672	-92052	1302284	1380048	-77764	649335	663624	-14289
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	20.2	20.6	-0.4	18.2	18.5	-0.3	27.8	28.9	-1.1
	Number	533790	523037	10753	383635	374155	9480	150155	148882	1273
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	14.3	14.4	-0.1	11.6	11.8	-0.2	24.1	24.1	0.0
	Number	1373969	1434030	-60061	868641	930990	-62349	505328	503039	2289
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	11.1	11.4	-0.3	7.4	7.7	-0.3	19.0	19.4	-0.4
	Number	840612	875679	-35067	381080	408684	-27604	459532	466995	-7463
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	13.7	13.6	0.1	14.2	14.1	0.1	11.4	11.4	0.0
	Number	3433585	3378204	55381	2968689	2922836	45853	464896	455368	9528
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	33.5	34.2	-0.7	35.2	35.8	-0.6	25.2	25.7	-0.5
	Number	8375447	8467436	-91989	7344784	7436739	-91955	1030662	1030697	-35.0
Employment in services sector	Share	52.7	52.1	0.6	50.6	50.1	0.5	63.4	62.9	0.5
	Number	13165424	12920027	245397	10570568	10400108	170460	2594856	2519919	74937
Underemployment	Share	7.4	8.1	-0.7	8.0	8.7	-0.7	4.2	5.2	-1.0
	Number	1841026	2007998	-166972	1671119	1799861	-128742	169907	208137	-38230
The share of the unemployed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population	Share	43.1	42.8	0.3	29.3	29.6	-0.3	70.8	70.4	0.4
The share of the employed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total employed population	Share	26.9	27.5	-0.6	22.8	23.5	-0.7	47.8	48.5	-0.7

TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; AUTUMN, THE YEAR 1403 COMPARED TO THE AUTUMN, THE YEAR 1402
(continued)   (number person, rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Autumn, the year 1403	Autumn, the year 1402	Changes	Autumn, the year 1403	Autumn, the year 1402	Changes
Population aged 15 and over[1]	Number	51027969	50204490	823479	14407053	14442470	-35417
Economic participation of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.8	41.1	-0.3	42.6	42.8	-0.2
	Number	20802819	20641627	161192	6132253	6177958	-45705
Economically inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	30225150	29562863	662287	8274800	8264512	10288
Employment of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	37.6	37.7	-0.1	40.3	40.3	0.0
	Number	19172949	18949689	223260	5810503	5826224	-15721
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	7.8	8.2	-0.4	5.2	5.7	-0.5
	Number	1629870	1691938	-62068	321750	351734	-29984
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	21.3	21.8	-0.5	17.0	17.4	-0.4
	Number	421156	404701	16455	112634	118337	-5703
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	15.1	15.1	0.0	11.3	11.9	-0.6
	Number	1151439	1178675	-27236	222529	255354	-32825
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	10.8	11.0	-0.2	14.4	15.6	-1.2
	Number	751124	778826	-27702	89487	96853	-7366
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	5.6	5.4	0.2	40.5	40.3	0.2
	Number	1082908	1032248	50660	2350677	2345956	4721
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	34.4	35.0	-0.6	30.7	31.6	-0.9
	Number	6590277	6627348	-37071	1785169	1840089	-54920
Employment in services sector	Share	59.9	59.5	0.4	28.8	28.2	0.6
	Number	11491769	11279847	211922	1673655	1640180	33475
Underemployment	Share	6.0	6.9	-0.9	11.7	12.1	-0.4
	Number	1158890	1303685	-144795	682136	704313	-22177
The share of the unemployed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population	Share	46.1	46.0	0.1	27.8	27.5	0.3
The share of the employed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total employed population	Share	32.2	33.2	-1.0	9.2	9.0	0.2

- The difference between the total number of employees and the total number of employees in the three sectors is due to the unreported major sectors of economic activity.
- The difference is due to rounding.
1. The target population of the labour force survey is individuals of working age from private settled and collective households in urban and rural areas.

A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 52.7% of the total, followed by the manufacturing sector with 33.5% and the agriculture sector with 13.7%.
In the autumn of the year 1403, the contribution of the employed people to the agriculture and service sectors increased by 1.0 and 0.6 percent, respectively and the contribution of the employed people to the manufacturing sector decreased by 0.7 percent in comparison with the last corresponding season (autumn, the year 1402).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over indicates that 7.2 percent of the economically active population were unemployed. Furthermore, based on a 95% confidence interval, the total national unemployment rate ranged between 6.9 and 7.6 percent, with a point estimation of 7.2 percent. This means that, with a confidence interval of 95 percent, this range reflects the true national unemployment rate.

The results show that the unemployment rate was higher for women and in urban areas compared to men and rural areas. An analysis of the trend in this indicator at the national level reveals that it experienced a 0.4 percent decrease compared to the same season last year (autumn of 1402).

The unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24 indicates that 20.2 percent of the economically active population in this age group was unemployed. This rate is higher for women and in urban areas compared to men and rural areas. An analysis of the trend in the national unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24 reveals that this indicator experienced a 0.4 percent decline compared to the same season last yea

The unemployment rate among youths aged 18-35 indicates that 14.3 percent of the active population aged 18-35 is unemployed. This indicator is higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the trend of changes among youths aged 18-35 shows that this indicator fell by 0.1% compared to the last corresponding season (autumn, the year 1402).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over who have graduated from higher education shows that 11.1 percent of the active population among higher education graduates are unemployed. This indicator is higher for women and rural areas compared to men and urban areas. A review of the trend of the changes reveals that this indicator decreased by 0.3% in the autumn of the year 1403 compared to the last corresponding season (autumn, the year 1402).
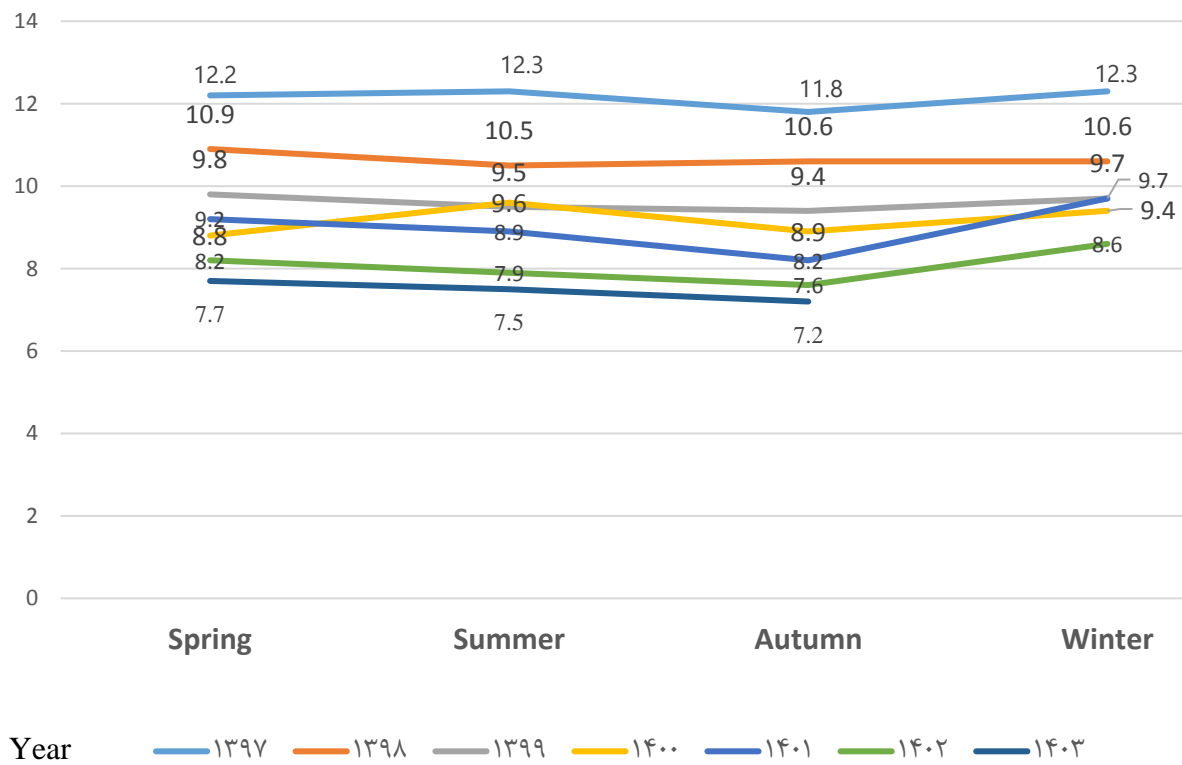
The underemployment share tells that 7.4% of the employed population aged 15 and over was underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas. The underemployment shares in the autumn of the year 1403 experienced a 0.7 percent decrease compared to the last corresponding season (autumn, the year 1402).

The study of the employed share aged 15 and over with the usual working hours of 49 hours and over shows that 38.4% of the employed, typically work 49 hours and over per week. This indicator, which is one of the indicators of decent work, shows that a large share of the employed work more than the standard hour. This indicator experienced a 0.7% increase compared to the last corresponding season (autumn, the year 1402).

In the autumn of the year 1403, the share of unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 43.1 percent. The indicator is higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator experienced a 0.3 percent increase compared to the last corresponding season (autumn, the year 1402).

In the autumn of the year 1403, the share of employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 26.9 percent. The indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator decreased by 0.6 percent over the last corresponding season (autumn, the year 1402).

FIGURE 2. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN SUCCESSIVE SEASONS FROM THE YEAR 1397 TO THE YEAR 1403

| Year | ۱۳۹۷ | ۱۳۹۸ | ۱۳۹۹ | ۱۴۰۰ | ۱۴۰۱ | ۱۴۰۲ | ۱۴۰۳ |

A Selection of Labour Force Survey Results- Autumn, the Year 1403 (22 September-20 December 2024)

Table 2 shows some major labour market indicators for the population aged 15 and over in the autumn, the year 1403 compared to the last corresponding season (autumn, the year 1402).

TABLE 2- SOME MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN THE AUTUMN, THE YEAR 1403 COMPARED TO LAST CORRESPONDING SEASON (AUTUMN, THE YEAR 1402). (percent)

Province	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Autumn, the year 1403	Autumn, the year 1402	Autumn, the year 1403	Autumn, the year 1402	Autumn, the year 1403		Autumn, the year 1402
					Point-to-point estimation	The confidence interval (95%)	
Total country	41.2	41.5	38.2	38.3	7.2	(6.9-7.6)	7.6
East Azarbayejan	41.2	42.5	38.5	39.6	6.5	(5.1-7.9)	6.7
West Azarbayejan	41.3	41.5	38.4	38.3	7.0	(5.6-8.4)	7.7
Ardebil	45.2	47.2	40.6	42.2	10.1	(7.7-12.5)	10.7
Esfahan	40.2	43.0	37.3	39.3	7.1	(5.4-8.7)	8.6
Alborz	39.5	39.7	36.4	36.5	7.9	(5.9-9.9)	8.1
Ilam	31.4	31.9	29.7	30.1	5.5	(4.0-7.0)	5.7
Bushehr	39.8	40.5	36.8	36.7	7.5	(5.5-9.4)	9.3
Tehran	40.5	41.2	38.7	39.0	4.5	(3.4-5.6)	5.4
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	43.8	42.5	40.5	37.6	7.4	(5.5-9.4)	11.5
South Khorasan	40.9	42.0	39.0	39.7	4.7	(3.5-5.8)	5.5
Khorasan-e-Razavi	46.4	44.4	43.3	42.1	6.6	(5.1-8.1)	5.3
North Khorasan	45.3	46.0	41.3	42.8	8.8	(6.8-10.9)	7.0
Khuzestan	40.2	39.8	35.4	35.5	11.9	(9.9-13.8)	10.7
Zanjan	51.6	49.8	48.1	46.2	6.8	(5.5-8.2)	7.3
Semnan	38.3	37.1	36.1	35.0	5.8	(4.0-7.6)	5.8
Sistan & Baluchestan	36.2	35.9	31.7	31.1	12.5	(10.4-14.5)	13.5
Fars	37.5	37.5	35.3	34.7	5.7	(4.4-6.9)	7.5
Qazvin	43.3	42.8	40.8	40.1	5.8	(4.5-7.0)	6.2
Qom	39.9	37.6	36.8	34.6	7.8	(6.3-9.3)	7.9
Kordestan	43.3	43.5	39.3	39.3	9.3	(7.5-11.2)	9.7
Kerman	39.8	39.5	36.2	35.9	9.0	(6.7-11.2)	9.0
Kermanshah	43.4	42.6	38.3	37.8	11.8	(9.5-14.1)	11.2
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	33.7	31.1	30.4	28.5	9.8	(7.6-12.1)	8.5
Golestan	39.4	40.4	35.5	36.7	9.9	(7.5-12.3)	9.2
Gilan	43.4	44.5	40.1	41.7	7.7	(5.4-10.0)	6.2
Lorestan	41.7	41.5	36.9	36.7	11.5	(9.5-13.5)	11.6
Mazandaran	43.9	44.6	41.9	42.3	4.7	(3.5-6.0)	5.1
Markazi	36.3	36.8	34.1	34.5	5.9	(4.2-7.7)	6.3
Hormozgan	40.8	42.9	37.9	37.9	7.1	(5.5-8.7)	11.8
Hamedan	42.8	43.6	39.2	40.6	8.2	(6.6-9.9)	7.0
Yazd	41.7	44.6	39.5	41.5	5.5	(4.1-6.9)	7.0

Definitions and concepts

The Statistical Centre of Iran employs new international definitions and concepts based on the ICLS 1983[1] for measuring employment and unemployment in the Labour Force Survey.

Work: This key term is used to determine the status of the economic activity of the people. The term "work" refers to the group of economic activities (mentally or physically) which are done for earning income (cash or in-kind) and its objective is to produce goods or services. Generally, the people who work are divided into two groups: self-employed, who work for themselves, and wage and salary earners, who earn money for the work they do.

Statistical period (Reference week): Refers to the second or third calendar week (Saturday to Friday) of the middle month of each season.

Employed: All people aged 15 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. 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 institute for apprenticeships during the training period, namely, they directly contribute to the production of goods or services, their activity is considered "work"; students who have worked during the reference week, according to the definition of work; and all people who are serving as a 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) are considered employed.

Unemployed: The unemployed are all people aged 15 or over who have the following three criteria together:

1. have no job during the reference week (not engaged in a wage/salary job or self-employment),

2. have been seeking job during the reference week and the preceding three weeks (have taken specific steps to seek paid employment or self-employment),

3. are available to work during the reference week or the following week (available for a wage/salary employment or self-employment). All people who, because of expecting to start a job in future or return to their former job, have not been seeking a job, but have had no job and have been available to work - are also considered unemployed.

Labour force (active population): is the sum of persons in employment plus persons in unemployment.

Underemployment: The underemployed people 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 in the reference week.

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[1] ILO, Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1983).

Indicators

Economic participation rate (Economic activity rate)

The ratio of the active population (employed & unemployed) to the working age population multiplied by 100.

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

Employment ratio: The ratio of the employed population to the total population at working age, multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Employment ratio} = \frac{\text{Employed population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate

The ratio of the unemployed population to the active population (employed & unemployed) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Active population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

Employment rate

The ratio of the employed population to the active population (employed & unemployed) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Employment rate} = \frac{\text{Employed population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Active population aged 15 and over}} \times 100 = 100\text{-unemployment rate}$$

Unemployment rate of the population aged 15-24

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 15-24 to the economically active population aged 15-24 multiplied by 100.

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

Unemployment rate of the population aged 18-35

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 18-35 to the economically active population aged 18-35 multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate aged 18-35} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 18-35}}{\text{Economically active population aged 18-35}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate of higher education graduates

The ratio of unemployed higher education graduates to active higher education graduates multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate of higher education graduates} = \frac{\text{Unemployed higher education graduates}}{\text{Economically active higher education graduates}} \times 100$$

Share of unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over

The ratio of unemployed higher education graduates to the total unemployed population aged 15 and over multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Share of unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over} = \frac{\text{Unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over}}{\text{Unemployed population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

Share of employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over

The ratio of employed higher education graduates to the total employed population aged 15 and over multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Share of employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over} = \frac{\text{Employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over}}{\text{Total employed population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

Underemployment share of population aged 15 and over

The ratio of the underemployed population aged 15 and over to the employed population aged 15 and over multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Underemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Underemployed population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Employed population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$