

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Summer, the year 1401¹ (22 June – 22 September 2022)

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 1401 in Gregorian calendar is (21 March 2022- 20 March 2023).

Iranian seasons and their equivalent in Gregorian calendar

Spring (21 March-21June)

Summer (22 June -22 September)

Autumn (23 September -21 December)

Winter (22 December -20 March)

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Introduction

The pair concepts of employment and unemployment are so basic to national economies that any rise in the employment rate, which means a drop in unemployment, is reckoned as an indicator of the national development. Unemployment rate is an indicator for appraising the national economic conditions. The information on the nation's market is collected through the Household Employment and Unemployment Characteristics Survey (HEUCS) as of the year 1376. However, in order to improve the HEUCS quality and its conformance with the international concepts, particularly, with those of the ILO, the survey plan was revised so that the current plan namely "Labour Force Survey" could be implemented. The "Labour Force Survey" was first conducted in the year 1384, and since then has been regularly taken in the middle month of every season.

The "Labour Force Survey" is conducted to get information on the composition and the current condition of the labour force and its changes. This aim is accomplished by "estimation of seasonal and annual labour force indicators at national and provincial levels", "estimation of the annual number of the labour force at national and provincial levels", "estimation of seasonal and annual changes in the labour force at national and provincial levels", and "estimation of annual changes in labour force indicators at provincial levels".

The population covered in this survey includes the people who, according to the definition, are members of private or collective settled households in rural or urban areas, so the 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 this survey, in addition to the estimation of current levels, the estimate of changes is made; therefore, the rotation sampling is used. The rotation sampling can provide the estimate of current levels and changes in the best manner 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 which 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 is excluded from the sample temporarily for two successive quarters and again is included in the sample for the two next successive quarters. This household is then excluded from the sample until the end of the years related to the master sample period. It should be noted that for optimal conduct of rotation sampling, the master sample is needed. The master sample refers to the sample that can be used for the selection of sub-samples to satisfy the needs of several surveys or several 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 includes 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 1400, but due to minor changes in population and housing units in rural areas, no listing was made in rural areas (unless in exceptional cases).

It should be noted that since the spring of the year 1397, the confidence interval for the unemployment rate 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.

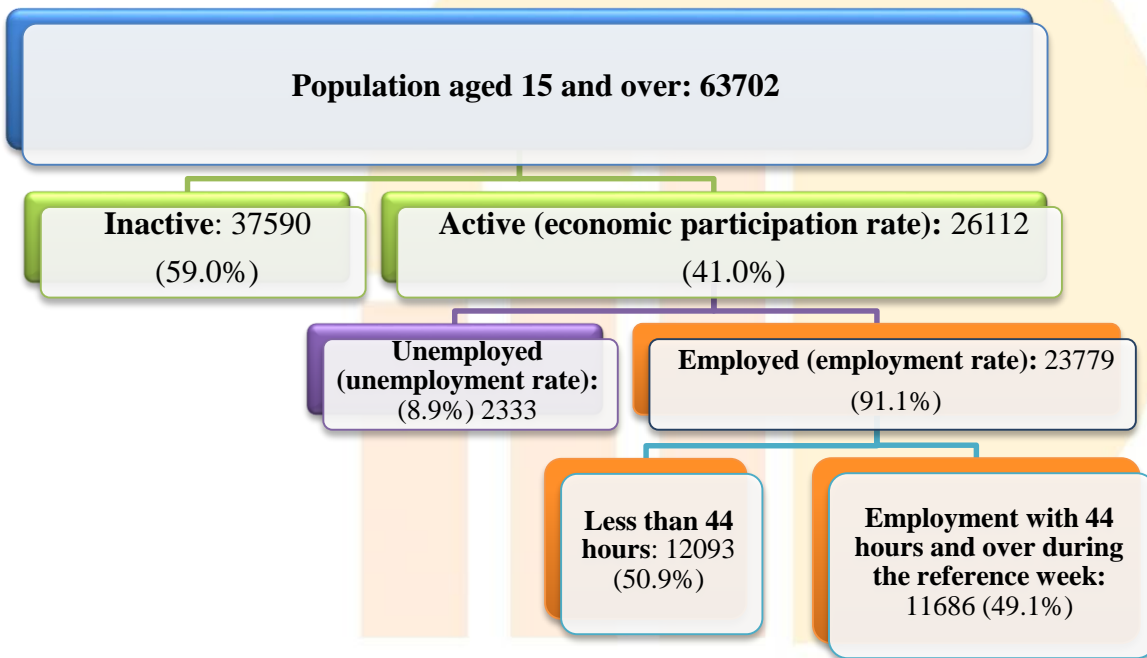
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It should be mentioned that according to the studies conducted, due to social changes in the entry age into the labour market in recent years in different countries, the minimum age at 15 has been considered for reviewing key indicators of the labour market. Due to similar changes in our country, the major indicators of the nation's labour market have been calculated and presented based on the population aged 15 and over since the spring of the year 1398.

Findings

Based on the results of this survey for the summer of the year 1401, major indicators of the labour market and its changes in this season compared to the summer of the year 1400, are presented in Table 1. Besides, table 2 shows the major indicators of the labour market by province. Figure 1 provides the major indicators of labour market in the summer of the year 1401.

Figure1. Major Indicators of Labour Market in the summer of the Year 1401 (1000 persons)



A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 15 and over (activity rate) reveals that 41.0% of the population at working-age (15 years and 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 higher for men compared to women, and rural areas in contrast to urban areas. The review of the trend of changes in national economic participation rate shows that this indicator decreased by 0.1 percent compared to the corresponding season of the previous year (summer of the year 1400). The study of the employment rate of the population aged 15 and over shows that 37.3 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.

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TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; SUMMER OF THE YEAR 1401 COMPARED TO THE SUMMER OF THE YEAR 1400

(Number person; rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Total country			Male			Female		
		Summer, the year 1401	Summer, the year 1400	Changes	Summer, the year 1401	Summer, the year 1400	Changes	Summer, the year 1401	Summer, the year 1400	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	63702400	62976422	725978	31823633	31468758	354875	31878767	31507664	371103
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	41.0	41.1	-0.1	68.4	68.8	-0.4	13.7	13.5	0.2
	Number	26112170	25901066	211104	21757834	21657738	100096	4354337	4243328	111009
Inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	37590229	37075355	514874	10065799	9811020	254779	27524430	27264336	260094
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	37.3	37.2	0.1	63.4	63.3	0.1	11.3	11.1	0.2
	Number	23778714	23404980	373734	20172713	19912891	259822	3606001	3492089	113912
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	8.9	9.6	-0.7	7.3	8.1	-0.8	17.2	17.7	-0.5
	Number	2333457	2496086	-162629	1585121	1744847	-159726	748336	751239	-2903
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	23.0	25.7	-2.7	19.9	23.2	-3.3	39.0	37.4	1.6
	Number	593452	630582	-37130	430641	467793	-37152	162810	162790	20
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	16.2	17.6	-1.4	13.1	14.6	-1.5	29.3	31.0	-1.7
	Number	1643272	1809912	-166640	1069154	1215376	-146222	574117	594535	-20418
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	13.2	14.4	-1.2	8.8	9.7	-0.9	23.2	25.0	-1.8
	Number	955398	1012227	-56829	441503	474130	-32627	513895	538097	-24202
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	15.8	17.4	-1.6	15.8	17.1	-1.3	16.0	19.1	-3.1
	Number	3763449	4063966	-300517	3186568	3398306	-211738	576881	665660	-88779
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	33.8	33.8	0	35.2	35.5	-0.3	25.9	23.9	2.0
	Number	8029313	7907400	121913	7096515	7071674	24841	932798	835726	97072
Employment in services sector	Share	50.4	48.8	1.6	49.0	47.4	1.6	58.0	56.9	1.1
	Number	11976081	11429376	546705	9882824	9441859	440965	2093257	1987517	105740
Underemployment	Share	9.2	9.5	-0.3	10.0	10.4	-0.4	4.6	4.2	0.4
	Number	2183239	2215699	-62460	2018444	2069494	-51050	164796	146205	18591
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	40.9	40.6	0.3	27.9	27.2	0.7	68.7	71.6	-2.9
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	26.5	25.6	0.9	22.8	22.1	0.7	47.1	46.1	1.0

-The difference between the total number of employees and the summation of employees in the three sectors is due to the unstated figures in the major sectors of economic activity.

- The difference is due to rounding.

1. The target population of the labour force survey is the people at working age from private settled and collective households in urban and rural areas.

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TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; SUMMER OF THE YEAR 1401 COMPARED TO THE SUMMER OF THE YEAR 1400 (continued)
(Number person; rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Summer, the year 1401	Summer, the year 1400	Changes	Summer, the year 1401	Summer, the year 1400	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	49211028	48413558	797470	14491372	14562864	-71492
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.4	40.4	0.0	43.1	43.5	-0.4
	Number	19872297	19561480	310817	6239874	6339586	-99712
Inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	29338731	28852078	486653	8251498	8223277	28221
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	36.5	36.1	0.4	40.1	40.8	-0.6
	Number	17961574	17477324	484250	5817140	5927656	-110516
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	9.6	10.7	-1.1	6.8	6.5	0.3
	Number	1910723	2084156	-173433	422734	411930	10804
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	24.9	29.2	-4.3	18.3	17.2	1.1
	Number	461237	507867	-46630	132215	122715	9500
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	17.2	19.2	-2.0	13.0	12.4	0.6
	Number	1340259	1510242	-169983	303012	299670	3342
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	12.6	14.1	-1.5	19.0	17.5	1.5
	Number	835457	900325	-64868	119941	111902	8039
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	6.4	7.1	-0.7	44.8	47.6	-2.8
	Number	1158009	1242920	-84911	2605440	2821046	-215606
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	35.2	35.4	-0.2	29.3	29.1	0.2
	Number	6323843	6180304	143539	1705471	1727095	-21624
Employment in services sector	Share	58.3	57.5	0.8	25.9	23.3	2.6
	Number	10469852	10049861	419991	1506229	1379515	126714
Underemployment	Share	8.0	6.8	-0.6	12.8	12.1	0.7
	Number	1437994	1501130	-63136	745246	714569	30677
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	43.7	43.2	0.5	28.4	27.2	1.2
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	32.2	31.3	0.9	8.8	8.9	-0.1

-The difference between the total number of employees and the summation of employees in the three sectors is due to the unannounced (not stated) figures in the major sectors of economic activity.

- The difference is due to rounding.

1. The target population of the labour force survey is the people at working age from private settled and collective households in urban and rural areas.

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A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 50.4% of the total, followed by the manufacturing sector with 33.8% and the agriculture sector with 15.8%. In the summer of the year 1401, the contribution of the employed people to the agriculture sector decreased by 1.6 percent and the contribution of the employed people to the services sector increased by 1.6 percent in comparison with the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1400). The contribution of the employed people to the manufacturing sector experienced no changes in this period.

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over shows that 8.9 percent of the economically active population was unemployed. In addition, based on the confidence interval of 95%, the total national unemployment rate was between 8.5 and 9.3 percent with a 8.9 percent point estimation. This means that this interval with the confidence of 95 percent covers the national real unemployment rate. Based on the results, the unemployment rate was higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the trend of changes that happened in the indicator at the national level shows that this indicator experienced a 0.7 percent fall compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1400).

Studying the unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 indicates that 23.0 percent of the economically active population at this age group was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the trend of the changes in the national unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 shows that the indicator decreased by 2.7% from the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1400).

The unemployment rate among the 18-35 age group indicates that 16.2% of the active population aged 18-35 was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the trend of the changes among the 18-35 age group shows that this indicator experienced a 1.4% fall compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1400).

Reviewing the unemployment rate among the higher education graduates aged 15 and over shows that 13.2 percent of the active population among higher education graduates was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and rural areas than men and urban areas. A review of the trend of the changes suggests that this indicator dropped by 1.2% in the summer of the year 1401 compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1400).

The underemployment share tells that 9.2% of the total employed population was underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas. The underemployment share in the summer of the year 1401 experienced a 0.3 percent decrease compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1400).

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Studying the contribution of the employed population aged 15 and over with the usual working hours of 49 hours and over shows that 39.6% of the employed people typically work 49 hours and over per week. This indicator, which is one of the decent work indicators, illustrates that a large share of the employed population works more than the standard hour. This indicator experienced a 1.0% rise compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1400).

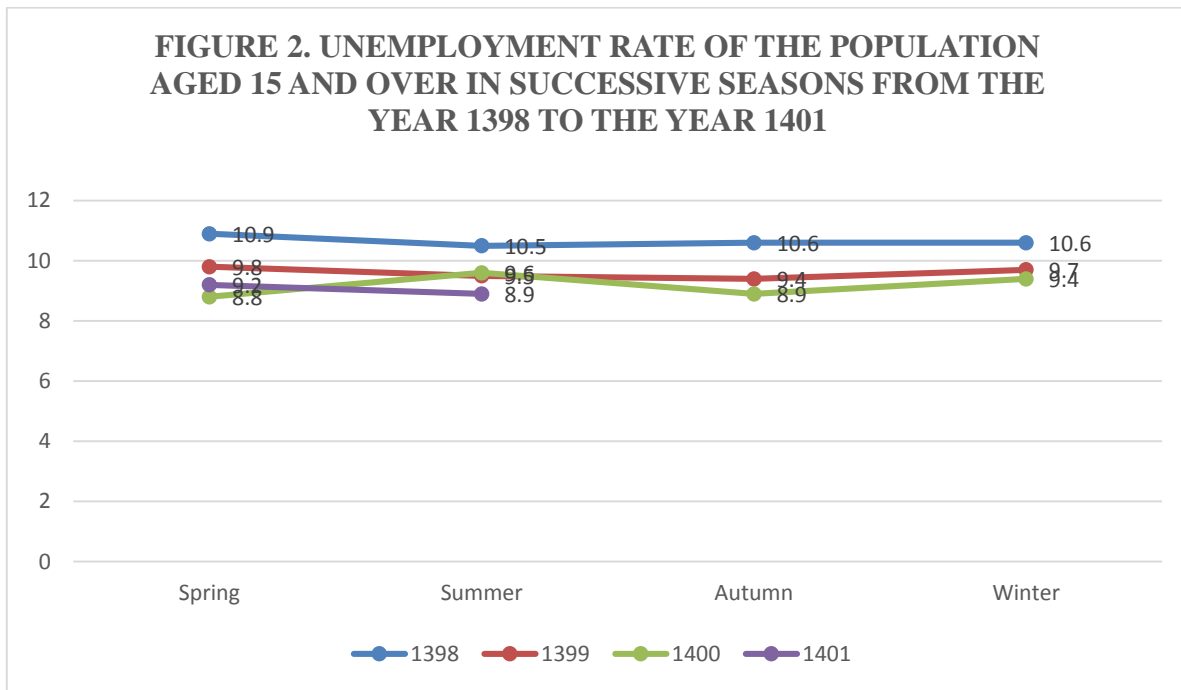
In the summer of the year 1401, the share of unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 40.9 percent. The indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator experienced a 0.3 percent rise compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1400).

In the summer of the year 1401, the share of the employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 26.5 percent. The share stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes suggests that this indicator increased by 0.9 percent over the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1400).



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Table 2 shows some major labour market indicators for the population aged 15 and over in the summer, the year 1401, in comparison with the summer, the year 1400 by province.

TABLE 2- MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN THE SUMMER, THE YEAR 1401 IN COMPARISON WITH THE SUMMER, THE YEAR 1400 BY PROVINCE (percent)

Province	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Summer, the year 1401	Summer, the year 1400	Summer, the year 1401	Summer, the year 1400	Summer, the year 1401		Summer, the year 1400
					Point estimation	95 percent confidence interval	
Total country	41.0	41.1	37.3	37.2	8.9	(8.5-9.3)	9.6
East Azarbayejan	40.6	42.7	37.5	39.3	7.7	(6.2-9.1)	7.9
West Azarbayejan	46	46.3	42.8	41.9	7	(5.5-8.4)	9.5
Ardebil	47.5	45.8	42	42.9	11.7	(9.3-14.1)	6.4
Esfahan	42.2	41.3	37.7	36.1	10.6	(8.9-12.4)	12.6
Alborz	39.5	39.7	36.4	36	8	(6.7-9.3)	9.1
Ilam	32.5	34.6	30.3	32.1	6.6	(4.5-8.7)	7.3
Bushehr	39	38.4	35.9	34.4	7.9	(5.7-10.0)	10.5
Tehran	40.3	41.5	37.4	37.9	7.2	(6.0-8.4)	8.9
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	42.1	41.8	38.8	36.6	8	(6.5-9.5)	12.4
South Khorasan	38.9	42.2	35.9	39	7.8	(6.2-9.5)	7.6
Khorasan-e-Razavi	42.4	40.3	39.3	37.3	7.2	(5.7-8.6)	7.5
North Khorasan	43.6	45.6	39.6	40.4	9.2	(7.0-11.5)	11.4
Khuzestan	39.7	40.2	33.5	34.4	15.6	(13.7-17.5)	14.3
Zanjan	49.4	46.7	46.6	43.7	5.5	(4.1-7.0)	6.5
Semnan	38.4	36.8	35.9	34.4	6.3	(4.5-8.1)	6.5
Sistan & Baluchestan	33.4	33.4	29.6	29.7	11.4	(9.3-13.5)	11.2
Fars	36.0	36.7	33.4	34.3	7.2	(5.5-8.9)	6.4
Qazvin	43.9	43.3	40.6	40.7	7.6	(6.0-9.2)	6.2
Qom	36.5	36.0	33.5	32.9	8.4	(6.9-9.9)	8.5
Kordestan	43.0	42.6	38.6	38.6	10.2	(8.4-11.9)	9.6
Kerman	40.0	40.3	36.8	35.8	8.1	(5.9-10.4)	11.1
Kermanshah	43.2	44.4	37.3	38.2	13.6	(10.2-17.0)	14
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	34.0	34.8	31	31.3	8.7	(6.5-10.8)	10.2
Golestan	37.3	37.5	34.5	34.3	7.6	(5.9-9.3)	8.5
Gilan	46.1	44.4	42.6	39.2	7.8	(6.3-9.2)	11.6
Lorestan	41.3	42.0	36.5	37.1	11.7	(10.0-13.3)	11.8
Mazandaran	44.7	42.9	41.2	40.2	7.7	(6.3-9.1)	6.3
Markazi	36.4	37.1	34.1	34.3	6.4	(5.0-7.8)	7.7
Hormozgan	40.9	44.	31.7	36	22.6	(18.8-26.5)	18.2
Hamedan	45.7	42.3	41.5	39.5	9.3	(7.4-11.2)	6.5
Yazd	43.8	48.5	40.5	41.9	7.7	(6.1-9.2)	13.6

Definitions and concepts

The Statistical Centre of Iran employs new international definitions and concepts based on the ICLS 1983¹ for measuring employment and unemployment in the Labour Force Survey as far as possible.

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: They

1. have no job during the reference week (not engaged in a wage/salary job or self-employment),
2. have been seeking jobs during the reference week and the preceding three weeks (have taken specific stages 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 employed and unemployed persons.

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.

¹ ILO, Thirteenth International Conference of Labor Statisticians (Geneva, 1983).

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Indicators

Economic participation rate (Economic activity rate):

The ratio of the active population (employed & unemployed) to the working age population 15 years of age and over 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 aged 15 and over to the total population at working age, 15 years old and over 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.

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

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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.

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

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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:

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

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