

# **A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results**

## **The Year 2011 (March 21, 2011- March 19, 2012)**

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 sample rotation. 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 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 listing information of the Population and Housing Census 2006 as of the year 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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> According to the 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.

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

### 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

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

**Labor Force Indicators in the Year 2011**<sup>1</sup>

Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the year 1390. Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous year 1389. In addition, tables 3-4 and 5-6 provide similar comparisons at seasonal level in the year 1390 and the years 1389-1390 in provincial level respectively.

<b>Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; year 2011</b>						
Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity of population aged 10 and over	Rate	36/9	60/7	12/6	35/8	39/8
	Number	23387633	19418717	3968915	16642728	6744904
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	12/3	10/5	20/9	13/7	8/9
	Number	2877608	2046612	830996	2274695	602913
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	26/5	22/9	42/7	30/0	19/8
	Number	1071852	758125	313727	796744	275107
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	24/0	20/1	40/3	26/5	17/7
	Number	1910072	1292016	618055	1499925	410147
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	18/6	17/2	26/3	5/0	50/4
	Number	3809933	2984799	825134	713730	3096203
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	33/4	35/2	23/3	35/7	28/0
	Number	6846846	6115433	731413	5124822	1722024
Employment share in services sector	Share	48/0	47/6	50/4	59/4	21/6
	Number	9853167	8271795	1581372	8529403	1323763
Underemployment share of the population aged 10 and over		9/0	9/9	4/4	7/6	12/5
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over with regular working hours of more than 49		40/2	44/6	15/4	41/8	36/3

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

A review of the economic participation rate (activity rate) reveals that about 36.9% of the working age population (10 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 lower for women compared to men and urban areas compared to rural areas.

A review of the unemployment rate shows that 12.3% of the active population was unemployed. The results show that unemployment rate stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas respectively.

A review of underemployment rate shows that 9% of the population was underemployed. The results indicate that the underemployment rate stands higher for men compared to women and rural areas in contrast to urban areas.

<sup>1</sup> . Iranian year begins on 21<sup>st</sup> March of the Christian year and ends on March 20<sup>th</sup> of the next year. To convert the Iranian year into Christian year, please add 621 to the former.

A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 48 % of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 33.4% and agriculture sector with 18.6 %.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 26.5 % while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas.

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 24% of the active population was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas.

Review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 and over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 40.2% 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.

Labor force indicators	Total country		Male		Female		Urban Areas		Rural Areas	
	Year 2010	Change	Year 2010	Change	Year 2010	Change	Year 2010	Change	Year 2010	Change
Economic participation rate	38/3	-1/4	62/1	-1/4	14/1	-1/5	37/3	-1/5	40/8	-1/0
Unemployment rate	13/5	-1/2	11/9	-1/4	20/5	0/4	15/3	-1/6	9/1	-0/1
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	28/7	-2/2	25/5	-2/6	41/3	1/4	34/0	-4/0	18/4	1/4
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	25/5	-1/5	21/8	-1/7	39/7	0/6	29/0	-2/5	17/1	0/6

This table shows the changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas in the year 1390 compared with the previous year. The changes in the indicators at national level are as follows:

- \_ Economic participation rate (activity rate) in the year 2011 experienced a 1.4 % decrease compared to the year 2010.
- \_ The unemployment rate in the year 2011 decreased by 1.2% compared to the year 2010.

- \_ The unemployment rate of youth aged 15-24 experienced a 2.2 % fall compared to the year 2010.
- \_ The unemployment rate of youth aged 15-29 experienced a 1.5% decrease compared to the year 2010.

Figure 1 shows economic participation rate for the years 2006-2011.

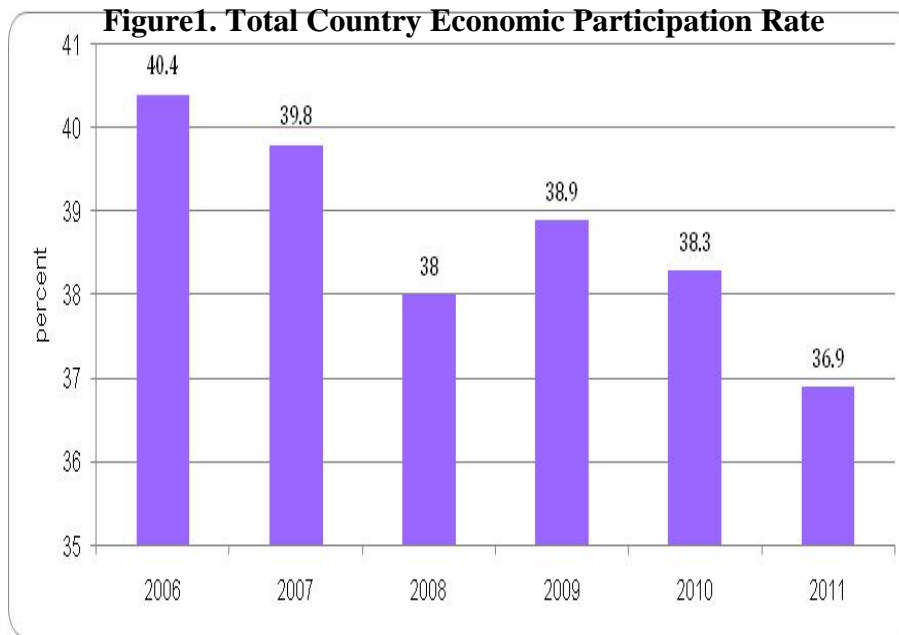


Figure 2 shows unemployment rate for the years 2006-2011.

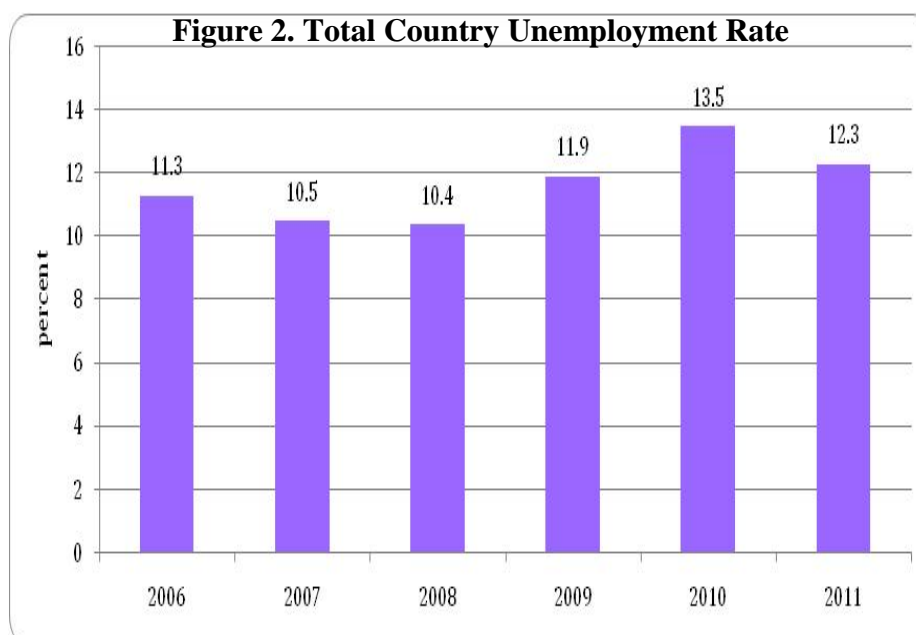


Figure 3 shows unemployment rate over successive seasons of the years 2006-2011.

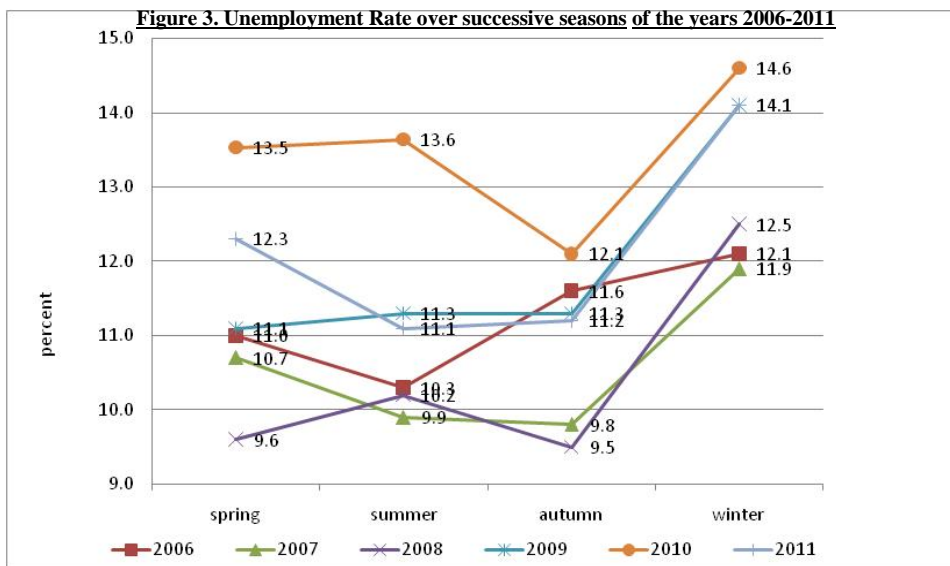




Table 3 shows the economic participation rate and unemployment rate over successive seasons in the year 2011 by province.

Table3. Labor force indicators by province; the year 2011

Province	Total		Spring		Summer		Autumn		Winter	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	36.9	12.3	38.8	12.3	37.0	11.1	35.7	11.8	35.9	14.1
East Azarbayegan	39.8	8.8	41.5	8.8	39.6	7.5	39.5	9.4	38.6	9.5
West Azarbayegan	41.9	13.0	41.8	10.1	45.3	8.5	41.1	12.3	39.5	21.5
Ardebil	42.5	12.7	45.3	14.7	44.3	8.5	40.6	9.9	39.8	18.1
Esfahan	39.6	13.2	41.9	14.8	40.5	13.9	36.3	11.2	39.9	12.6
Alburz	38.0	19.3	40.0	20.7	38.0	17.7	37.9	20.7	36.1	18.1
Ilam	36.9	15.7	39.0	16.7	35.7	14.4	36.5	14.6	36.5	17.1
Bushehr	34.1	11.0	35.0	11.7	33.8	13.7	31.7	7.0	35.8	11.1
Tehran	36.0	11.3	37.4	12.5	35.3	10.8	35.0	9.0	36.2	12.8
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	36.7	13.3	36.8	12.3	37.4	10.8	37.1	12.4	35.7	17.8
South Khorasan	38.1	8.4	39.5	9.4	38.1	5.7	37.9	7.1	37.0	11.5
Khorasan-e-Razavi	36.5	9.1	41.6	8.9	35.6	6.8	33.9	8.1	35.1	12.6
North Khorasan	37.8	12.1	42.0	9.9	38.3	8.0	36.1	13.3	35.0	17.9
Khuzestan	33.7	10.5	33.5	9.7	31.9	9.3	35.3	12.5	33.8	10.3
Zanjan	41.6	8.4	44.6	8.1	43.7	7.5	40.0	8.4	38.3	9.6
Semnan	33.9	10.3	36.0	12.8	35.7	10.8	33.0	8.5	30.9	8.7
Sistan & Baluchestan	26.1	9.9	28.4	9.6	26.6	11.6	22.9	6.1	26.3	12.0
Fars	37.3	18.5	41.5	20.6	37.7	19.1	35.2	16.4	34.6	17.6
Qazvin	39.8	12.4	40.9	12.6	41.4	11.5	40.3	10.3	36.5	15.4
Qom	34.5	9.8	35.7	10.1	34.0	8.7	34.6	11.5	33.7	8.9
Kordestan	39.9	14.0	41.2	12.4	40.7	12.8	39.4	15.5	38.5	15.5
Kerman	34.3	12.1	32.9	13.8	33.5	6.5	34.8	16.8	35.9	11.4
Kermanshah	33.2	15.7	36.6	13.8	34.4	11.7	30.5	20.1	31.7	17.9
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	30.2	14.1	31.2	19.2	30.0	14.0	29.7	11.6	29.8	11.0
Golestan	38.6	8.7	40.0	8.3	40.8	7.5	38.5	8.4	35.3	10.6
Gilan	38.8	16.6	43.3	11.7	38.3	16.8	36.9	17.7	36.7	21.0
Lorestan	37.0	19.2	37.3	17.3	39.7	15.4	35.1	18.8	36.2	25.5
Mazandaran	39.1	10.2	40.0	7.9	39.5	10.3	38.7	10.6	38.3	12.3
Markazi	36.9	11.0	39.8	9.8	36.8	8.4	34.9	12.5	36.2	13.4
Hormozgan	32.8	11.0	33.2	12.0	31.7	13.1	33.3	8.9	32.9	10.4
Hamedan	37.9	12.4	38.8	10.6	39.0	9.4	38.3	11.3	35.5	18.3
Yazd	35.6	6.0	36.9	7.4	35.9	6.9	34.6	4.3	34.8	5.4

Table.4 Main Labor Force Indicators by Province- the years 2010-2011				
Province	Economic participation rate		Unemployment rate	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
Total Country	38.3	36.9	13.5	12.3
East Azarbayejan	43.5	39.8	11.7	8.8
West Azarbayejan	42.8	41.9	12.4	13.0
Ardebil	44.3	42.5	14.2	12.7
Esfahan	41.3	39.6	15.3	13.2
Alburz	-	38.0	-	19.3
Ilam	38.8	36.9	15.8	15.7
Bushehr	34.7	34.1	13.3	11.0
Tehran	37.5	36.0	14.2	11.3
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	39.2	36.7	13.6	13.3
South Khorasan	37.9	38.1	9.1	8.4
Khorasan-e-Razavi	40.8	36.5	10.6	9.1
North Khorasan	33.6	37.8	7.6	12.1
Khuzestan	36.5	33.7	14.9	10.5
Zanjan	44.0	41.6	9.6	8.4
Semnan	35.2	33.9	12.0	10.3
Sistan & Baluchestan	29.9	26.1	12.1	9.9
Fars	36.9	37.3	20.5	18.5
Qazvin	38.2	39.8	11.2	12.4
Qom	35.5	34.5	10.4	9.8
Kordestan	40.6	39.9	15.1	14.0
Kerman	34.1	34.3	11.0	12.1
Kermanshah	35.1	33.2	14.5	15.7
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	30.2	30.2	13.2	14.1
Golestan	39.5	38.6	8.5	8.7
Gilan	41.5	38.8	16.7	16.6
Lorestan	36.3	37.0	17.3	19.2
Mazandaran	38.5	39.1	11.7	10.2
Markazi	37.0	36.9	9.7	11.0
Hormozgan	31.6	32.8	11.2	11.0
Hamedan	38.7	37.9	13.9	12.4
Yazd	37.0	35.6	9.4	6.0

Table.5 . Share of Main Activity Sectors by Province- the years 2010-2011

Provinces	Agriculture		Manufacturing		Services	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Total Country	19.2	18.6	32.2	33.4	48.6	48.0
East Azarbayejan	22.3	19.0	38.2	42.6	39.5	38.4
West Azarbayejan	35.2	35.8	24.7	24.0	40.0	40.3
Ardebil	38.0	40.0	24.8	23.6	37.2	36.3
Esfahan	11.5	10.7	41.1	39.9	47.5	49.4
Alburz	-	3.0	-	41.1	-	55.9
Ilam	28.0	25.3	28.6	30.2	43.4	44.4
Bushehr	14.2	17.0	24.7	25.2	61.1	57.8
Tehran	1.6	1.4	37.0	35.9	61.5	62.7
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	20.5	16.6	42.5	42.1	37.1	41.3
South Khorasan	29.6	30.2	36.7	34.2	33.7	35.7
Khorasan-e-Razavi	25.4	24.7	27.2	29.9	47.4	45.3
North Khorasan	37.3	37.2	26.3	26.6	36.5	36.3
Khuzestan	15.4	16.7	31.7	34.8	52.9	48.5
Zanjan	36.7	33.2	31.5	33.2	31.8	33.5
Semnan	12.1	12.7	38.6	36.0	49.2	51.3
Sistan & Baluchestan	20.1	24.0	38.1	35.1	41.8	40.9
Fars	23.0	24.2	28.0	31.0	48.9	44.8
Qazvin	22.2	22.0	36.8	37.4	41.0	40.6
Qom	5.5	5.3	38.9	39.3	55.6	55.4
Kordestan	30.8	29.1	23.5	27.4	45.7	43.5
Kerman	31.9	29.1	29.2	31.3	38.9	39.6
Kermanshah	27.6	27.5	22.5	25.4	50.0	47.1
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	21.6	19.7	29.8	32.4	48.6	47.9
Golestan	31.9	29.3	28.0	29.2	40.1	41.5
Gilan	25.0	25.1	24.7	25.4	50.3	49.4
Lorestan	33.4	29.6	27.6	28.2	39.0	42.1
Mazandaran	21.1	19.2	29.9	31.9	49.0	49.0
Markazi	23.3	20.4	35.0	39.1	41.7	40.5
Hormozgan	15.4	14.9	26.6	29.3	58.0	55.8
Hamedan	26.5	24.8	28.6	31.4	44.9	43.8
Yazd	11.2	10.9	44.1	43.2	44.7	45.8

Table.6 . share of main activity sectors in successive seasons by province- the years 2010-2011

Province	Spring			Summer			Autumn			Winter		
Total country	20.4	31.8	47.8	20	33	47	17.5	34.2	48.3	16.1	34.7	49.2
East Azarbayejan	18.4	42.2	39.4	23.9	38.6	37.5	17.5	45.2	37.3	15.9	44.9	39.2
West Azarbayejan	36.4	24.8	38.8	38.1	23.8	38.1	34.5	24.5	41	33.4	22.7	43.9
Ardebil	37.5	23.5	39	41.3	23.1	35.6	41.2	25.1	33.7	40	22.9	37.1
Esfahan	11	38.9	50.1	12.8	38.2	49	10.1	39.7	50.3	8.9	42.8	48.3
Alburz	4.1	40.5	55.3	3.5	42.9	53.6	1.7	42.4	55.9	2.6	38.7	58.7
Ilam	28.1	29.5	42.4	26.7	28.5	44.8	24.6	30	45.4	21.8	33	45.1
Bushehr	15	26.3	58.7	17	24.6	58.4	16.1	25.5	58.4	19.7	24.3	55.9
Tehran	1.8	33.9	64.4	1.4	34.8	63.9	1.5	36	62.5	1	39.1	59.9
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	16.6	46.2	37.2	17.6	41.8	40.6	17.4	39.6	43	14.6	40.6	44.7
South Khorasan	29.5	34.8	35.7	30.1	35.1	34.8	32.5	33	34.5	28.3	33.7	38
Khorasan-e-Razavi	27.3	26.7	46	26.8	32	41.3	26.2	31.1	42.7	17.8	30.4	51.7
North Khorasan	42.7	23.1	34.3	38.8	28.3	33	33.1	29.4	37.5	32.5	25.9	41.6
Khuzestan	17.9	32.5	49.5	16.5	35.3	48.2	16.5	34.8	48.8	16	36.7	47.3
Zanjan	37.3	32.4	30.3	36.3	31.8	31.9	31.3	32.6	36.2	27.2	36.4	36.4
Semnan	14.3	34.1	51.6	11.4	38.5	50.1	13.2	35.4	51.4	11.6	36	52.4
Sistan & Baluchestan	26.1	35	38.9	24.9	35.9	39.2	22.8	35.7	41.5	22	33.8	44.2
Fars	27.1	25.4	47.5	21.7	33.6	44.7	21.8	36.2	42	26	29.4	44.6
Qazvin	24.6	38.4	37	21.4	38.4	40.2	24.8	36.4	38.8	16.5	36.2	47.3
Qom	4.7	38.4	56.9	5.3	38.7	56	5.7	38.5	55.8	5.3	41.6	53
Kordestan	31.3	27.8	40.9	29.5	27.7	42.8	27.8	26.8	45.4	27.7	27.2	45.1
Kerman	31.1	29.8	39.1	29.5	33.2	37.3	27.3	30	42.8	28.7	32.1	39.2
Kermanshah	34.3	22.4	43.3	29	25	46	21.6	27	51.4	23.4	27.7	48.9
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	21.1	30.8	48.1	19.5	34.2	46.3	19	33.5	47.5	19.3	30.9	49.8
Golestan	29.2	27.7	43.2	31.1	28	40.9	29.8	30.3	39.9	26.8	31	42.2
Gilan	35.5	21.4	43.1	29.1	23.6	47.2	15.3	30.3	54.4	17.1	27.7	55.1
Lorestan	31.1	28.9	40	32.7	27.2	40.1	28.3	27.7	44	25.9	29.2	44.9
Mazandaran	23.4	30.6	46	21.3	29.5	49.2	16	33.1	50.9	15.3	34.7	50
Markazi	23.4	38.7	37.9	23.4	37	39.6	17.2	39.1	43.7	17.2	41.8	41
Hormozgan	13.1	31.4	55.5	14.4	29.2	56.3	16.7	29.4	53.9	15	27.3	57.7
Hamedan	26.8	30.7	42.4	25.3	31.6	43.1	24.4	32.4	43.3	22.4	30.7	46.9
Yazd	12.1	44.6	43.3	11.7	43	45.2	10.4	42.9	46.7	9.5	42.3	48.2