



A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Summer 1399¹ (21 June- 21 September 2020)

Statistical Centre of Iran

Introduction

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 1399 in Gregorian calendar is (20 March 2020-20 March 2021).

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)

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. Moreover, the unemployment rate is an indicator for appraising the national economic conditions. The information on the nation's market would be 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 in order 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 regularly been taken in the middle month of every season.

The "Labour Force Survey" is conducted in order to obtain information on the composition and current condition of labour force and its changes. This objective is accomplished by "estimation of seasonal and annual labour force indicators at national and provincial levels", "estimation of the annual number of population in labour force at national and provincial levels", "estimation of seasonal and annual changes in 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-step classified clustering method. In this survey, in addition to the estimation of current levels, the estimate of changes is made; therefore, 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 up to 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 the 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 step (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 step. 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 1398, but due to minor changes in population and housing units in rural areas, no listing was made in rural areas (unless in exceptional cases).

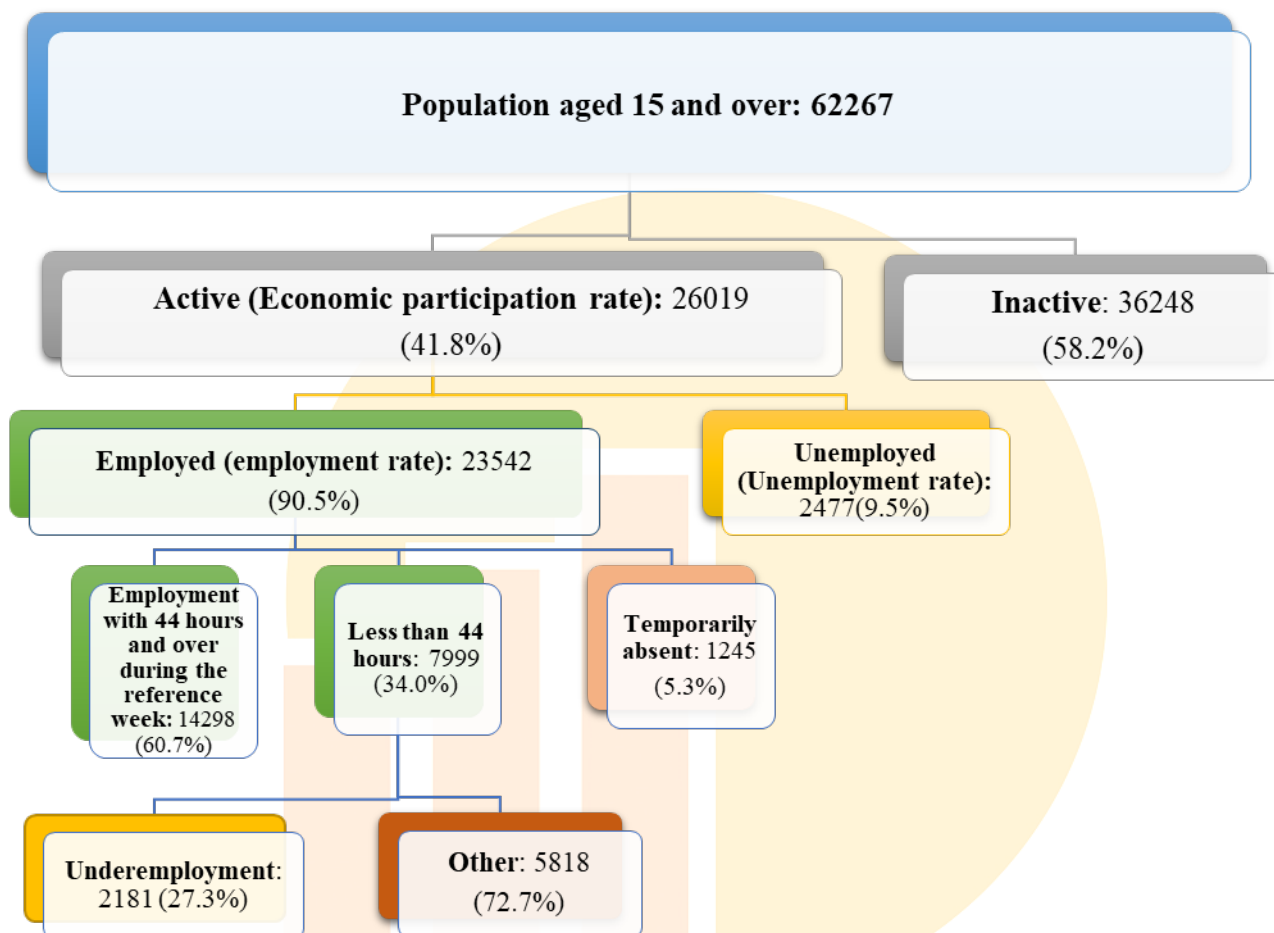
It should be cited that since the spring of the year 1397, the confidence interval for the unemployment rate has been 95 percent in the release of the Survey results. In view of the statistical methodology, the confidence interval means that if several samples are selected from the target population 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.

It should be mentioned that according to the reviews, due to social changes in the entry age into the labour market in recent years in different countries, at least 15 years of age has been considered the labour market key indicators that due to the similar changes in our country. Since the spring of the year 1398, the major indicators of the country's labour market are calculated and presented based on the population aged 15 and over.

Findings

Based on the results of this survey conducted for the summer of the year 1399, the major indicators of the labour market and its changes in this season compared to the summer of the year 1398, are presented in Table 1. Besides, Table 2 shows the major characteristics of the labour market by province.

Figure 1. Major indicators of labour market in the summer of the year 1399(the figures are at thousand persons.)



A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 15 and over (activity rate) reveals that 41.8% 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 lower for women compared to men and urban areas in contrast to rural areas. The review of the trend of changes in the national economic participation rate shows that this indicator decreased by 3.1 percent as compared with the corresponding season of the previous year (summer of the year 1398). The review of the employment rate of the population aged 15 and over shows that 37.8 percent of the working-age population (15 years and over) were 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; SUMMER OF THE YEAR 1399 COMPARED TO THE SUMMER OF THE YEAR 1398
(Number person-rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Total country			Male			Female		
		Summer, the year 1399	Summer, the year 1398	Changes	Summer, the year 1399	Summer, the year 1398	Changes	Summer, the year 1399	Summer, the year 1398	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	62267303	61582050	685253	31128721	30802319	326402	31138582	30779731	358851
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	41.8	44.9	-3.1	69.5	72.2	-2.7	14.1	17.6	-3.5
	Number	26018914	27645182	-1626268	21623863	22239514	-615651	4395050	5405668	-1010618
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	37.8	40.2	-2.4	63.8	66.0	-2.2	11.8	14.4	-2.6
	Number	23541564	24750884	-1209320	19871947	20331534	-459587	3669617	4419350	-749733
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	9.5	10.5	-1.0	8.1	8.6	-0.5	16.5	18.2	-1.7
	Number	2477350	2894298	-416948	1751916	1907980	-156064	725433	986318	-260885
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	23.1	26.1	-3.0	20.6	21.8	-1.2	35.0	42.9	-7.9
	Number	574705	758548	-183843	424627	502537	-77910	150077	256010	-105933
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	16.9	17.9	-1.0	14.0	14.1	-0.1	29.4	31.6	-2.2
	Number	1813514	2183787	-370273	1230545	1355424	-124879	582969	828363	-245394
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	14.9	17.2	-2.3	10.9	12.2	-1.3	23.9	27.1	-3.2
	Number	1007992	1267748	-259756	508992	600732	-91740	499000	667015	-168015
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	18.5	19	-0.5	18.0	18.2	-0.2	21.0	22.5	-1.5
	Number	4348327	4694874	-346547	3578710	3699202	-120492	769617	995672	-226055
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	33.4	32.0	1.4	35.1	33.3	1.8	24.3	25.7	-1.4
	Number	7867118	7910336	-43218	6975590	6773527	202063	891528	1136809	-245281
Employment in services sector	Share	48.1	49.1	-1.0	46.9	48.5	-1.6	54.7	51.7	3.0
	Number	11325464	12143043	-817579	9316992	9856446	-539454	2008471	2286596	-278125
Underemployment	Share	9.3	8.8	0.5	10.1	9.6	0.5	4.8	4.8	0.0
	Number	2180968	2170155	10813	2004615	1958101	46514	176354	212053	-35699
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	40.7	43.8	-3.1	29.1	31.5	-2.4	68.8	67.6	1.2
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	24.4	24.7	-0.3	20.9	21.2	-0.3	43.2	40.5	2.7

-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 the people at working age from private settled and collective households in urban and rural areas.

TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; SUMMER, THE YEAR 1399 COMPARED TO THE SUMMER, THE YEAR 1398 (continued) (Number person, rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Summer, the year 1399	Summer, the year 1398	Changes	Summer, the year 1399	Summer, the year 1398	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	47639018	46885125	753893	14628284	14696925	-68641
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.8	43.8	-3	44.9	48.4	-3.5
	Number	19445932	20534592	-1088660	6572982	7110590	-537608
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	36.5	38.6	-2.1	42.1	45.2	-3.1
	Number	17381160	18106305	-725145	6160404	6644578	-484174
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	10.6	11.8	-1.2	6.3	6.6	-0.3
	Number	2064772	2428286	-363514	412578	466012	-53434
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	26.2	30.0	-3.8	15.9	17.5	-1.6
	Number	453611	602891	-149280	121093	155657	-34564
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	18.6	19.8	-1.2	11.5	11.8	-0.3
	Number	1515877	1836199	-320322	297638	347587	-49949
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	14.6	16.9	-2.3	17.9	19.8	-1.9
	Number	898470	1136931	-238461	109522	130815	-21293
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	7.1	7.0	0.1	50.4	51.5	-1.1
	Number	1240820	1272350	-31530	3107507	3422524	-315017
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	35.4	34.3	1.1	27.9	25.6	2.3
	Number	6148822	6211676	-62854	1718297	1698660	19637
Employment in services sector	Share	57.5	58.7	-1.2	21.7	22.9	-1.2
	Number	9990864	10619648	-628784	1334600	1523394	-188794
Underemployment	Share	8.2	7.9	0.3	12.3	11.2	1.1
	Number	1423524	1426478	-2954	757445	743677	13768
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	43.5	46.8	-3.3	26.5	28.1	-1.6
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	30.1	30.8	-0.7	8.1	8.0	0.1

-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 the people at 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 48.1% of the total, followed by the manufacturing sector with 33.4% and the agriculture sector with 18.5%. In the summer of the year 1399, the contribution of the employed people to the agriculture and the services sectors decreased by 0.5 and 1.0 percent, respectively but the contribution of the employed people to the manufacturing sector increased by 1.4 percent in comparison with the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1398).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over shows that 9.5 percent of the economically active population was unemployed. Moreover, based on the confidence interval of 95%, the total national unemployment rate was between 9.1 and 9.9 percent with a 9.5 percent point estimation. This means that with the confidence interval of 95 percent, this interval shows 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 1.0 percent decrease compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1398).

The unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 indicates that 23.1 percent of the economically active population in 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 3.0% from the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1398).

The unemployment rate among the youths aged 18-35 indicates that 16.9% of the active population aged 18-35 were 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 youths aged 18-35 shows that this indicator fell by 1.0% compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1398).

A review of the unemployment rate among the higher education graduates aged 15 and over shows that 14.9 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 shows that this indicator dropped by 2.3 % in the summer of the year 1399 compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1398).

The underemployment share tells that 9.3% of the total employed population Iran 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 1399 experienced a 0.5 percent increase compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1398).

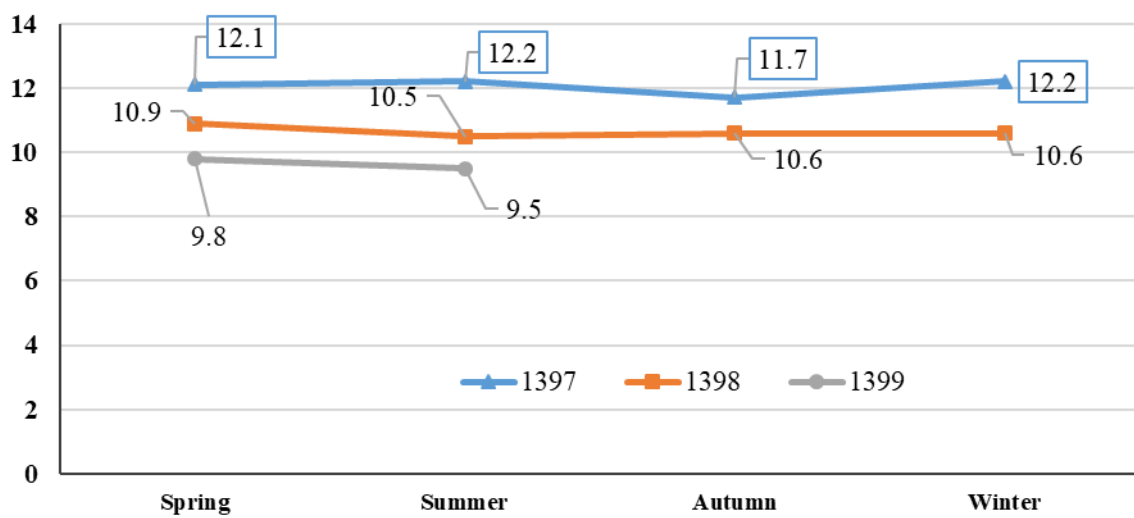
The study of the employed share aged 15 and over with the usual working hours of 49 hours and over shows that 36.0% of the employed, typically work 49 hours and over per week. This indicator, which is one of the indicators of decent work, shows that a large share of the employed work more than the standard hour. This indicator experienced a 4.7% decrease compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (40.7% in the summer of the year 1398).

In the summer of the year 1399, the share of the unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 40.7 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 3.1 percent decline compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1398).

In the summer of the year 1399, the share of the employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 24.4 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 0.3 percent over the corresponding season in the previous year (summer, the year 1398).

FIGURE 2. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN SUCCESSIVE SEASONS FROM THE YEAR 1397 TO THE YEAR 1399



Statistical Centre of Iran

Table 2 shows some major labour market indicators for the population aged 15 and over in the summer, the year 1399, in comparison with the summer, the year 1398 by province.

TABLE 2- SOME MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN THE SUMMER, THE YEAR 1399, IN COMPARISON WITH THE SUMMER, THE YEAR 1398 BY PROVINCE (percent)

Province	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Summer, the year 1399	Summer, the year 1398	Summer, the year 1399	Summer, the year 1398	Summer, the year 1399		Summer, the year 1398
					Point estimation	95 percent confidence interval	
Total country	41.8	44.9	37.8	40.2	9.5	(9.1-9.9)	10.5
East Azarbayejan	43.9	46.7	40.7	42.4	7.4	(5.8-9.0)	9.1
West Azarbayejan	46.7	48.6	41.6	44.4	10.9	(9.1-12.6)	8.7
Ardebil	46.6	48.1	43.4	43.8	6.9	(5.0-8.7)	9.0
Esfahan	42.3	45.7	37.4	41.0	11.6	(9.7-13.4)	10.4
Alborz	41.8	45.8	36.6	39.8	12.4	(10.6-14.2)	13.0
Ilam	36.1	39.1	33.9	35.7	6.2	(4.5-7.9)	8.7
Bushehr	37.6	41.6	33.6	37.3	10.6	(8.5-12.6)	10.4
Tehran	39.5	43.3	37.0	38.6	6.4	(5.1-7.7)	10.8
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	42.6	46.5	35.6	40.0	16.3	(13.5-19.0)	13.9
South Khorasan	40.6	44.5	38.2	41.1	5.8	(4.1-7.5)	7.6
Khorasan-e-Razavi	42.4	47.4	40.0	43.2	5.7	(4.5-6.9)	9.0
North Khorasan	47.9	48.8	42.6	44.5	11.1	(8.9-13.3)	8.8
Khuzestan	41.2	44.1	34.9	37.7	15.3	(13.4-17.2)	14.6
Zanjan	46.6	50.2	43.1	47.6	7.5	(5.8-9.2)	5.2
Semnan	38.4	41.2	35.8	37.9	6.8	(5.1-8.5)	8.0
Sistan & Baluchestan	35.3	36.5	30.6	31.0	13.2	(10.7-15.8)	15.2
Fars	39.1	43.0	35.8	39.7	8.5	(6.8-10.1)	7.6
Qazvin	43.3	47.2	39.6	43.4	8.5	(7.0-10.1)	8.2
Qom	38.2	40.3	33.8	36.2	11.5	(9.7-13.3)	10.4
Kordestan	44.1	48.1	39.1	42.2	11.4	(9.4-13.5)	12.2
Kerman	40.8	42.8	36.2	38.2	11.3	(9.2-13.4)	10.8
Kermanshah	44.3	48.5	37.6	41.7	15.2	(12.3-18.1)	14.2
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	34.1	40.2	30.7	36.3	9.9	(7.5-12.3)	9.9
Golestan	39.9	42.1	36.7	37.4	8.0	(6.0-10.0)	11.1
Gilan	44.2	48.6	39.5	43.9	10.6	(8.7-12.5)	9.6
Lorestan	43.8	41.7	37.4	35.6	14.7	(12.6-16.7)	14.7
Mazandaran	44.7	47.1	41.2	42.9	7.7	(6.0-9.5)	8.9
Markazi	35.8	37.5	32.9	34.4	8.1	(6.4-9.8)	8.3
Hormozgan	50.6	48.0	43.9	41.2	13.3	(11.5-15.2)	14.2
Hamedan	43.7	47.5	40.7	45.0	6.8	(4.6-8.9)	5.3
Yazd	44.8	46.9	40.6	39.8	9.4	(7.3-11.5)	15.1

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.

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.

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

Indicators

Economic participation rate (Economic activity rate)

The ratio of the active population (employed & unemployed) 15 years of age and over 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.

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

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.

Unemployed population aged 18-35

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

Economically active population aged 18-35

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

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

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