

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Spring, the year 1400¹ (21 March- 21 June 2021)

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 1400 in Gregorian calendar is (21 March 2021-20 March 2022).

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 -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 regularly been 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 1399, 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.

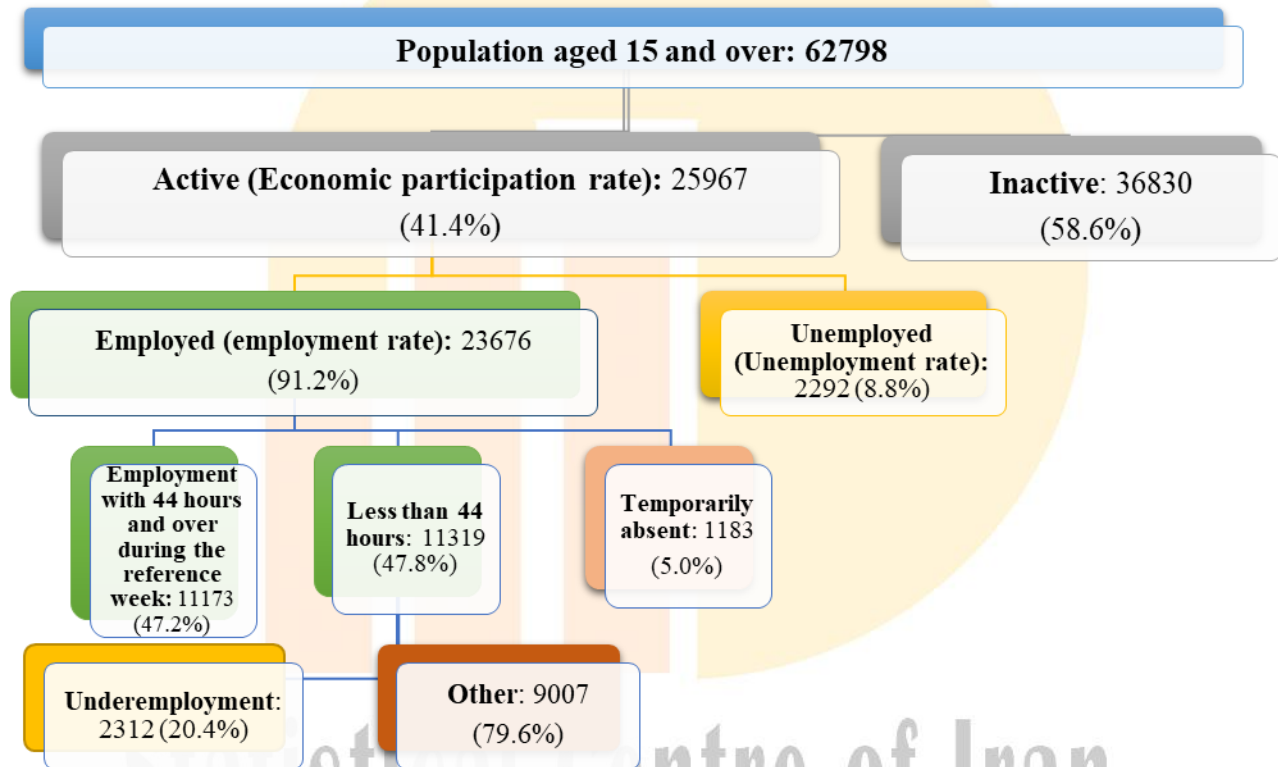
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It should be mentioned that according to the studies conducted, due to social changes in the entry age into the labour market in recent years in different countries, the minimum age at 15 has been considered for reviewing key indicators of the labour market. Due to similar changes in our country, the major indicators of the country'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 spring of the year 1400, major indicators of the labour market and its changes in this season compared to the spring of the year 1399, are presented in Table 1. Besides, Table 2 shows the major characteristics of the labour market by province.

Figure 1 provides the major indicators of labour market in the spring of the year 1400 (1000 persons)



A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 15 and over (activity rate) reveals that 41.4% 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 national economic participation rate shows that this indicator increased by 0.4 percent compared with the corresponding season of the previous year (spring of the year 1399). The study of the employment rate of the population aged 15 and over shows that 37.7 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; SPRING OF THE YEAR 1400 COMPARED TO THE SPRING OF THE YEAR 1399

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

Labour force indicators		Total country			Male			Female		
		Spring, the year 1400	Spring, the year 1399	Changes	Spring, the year 1400	Spring, the year 1399	Changes	Spring, the year 1400	Spring, the year 1399	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	62797640	62182707	614932	31382894	31047082	335812	31414746	31135626	279120
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	41.4	41.0	0.4	69.1	67.9	1.2	13.7	14.1	-0.4
	Number	25967498	25467983	499515	21675709	21076246	599463	4291789	4391737	-99948
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	37.7	36.9	0.8	63.9	61.8	2.1	11.5	12.2	-0.7
	Number	23675894	22962647	713247	20053451	19172983	880468	3622443	3789663	-167220
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	8.8	9.8	-1.0	7.5	9.0	-1.5	15.6	13.7	1.9
	Number	2291604	2505336	-213732	1622257	1903262	-281005	669346	602074	67272
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	22.1	24.5	-2.4	18.9	23.0	-4.1	37.9	31.5	6.4
	Number	528045	560021	-31976	373649	438330	-64681	154396	121691	32705
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	15.6	16.7	-1.1	12.9	15.0	-2.1	27.8	24.3	3.5
	Number	1608632	1740685	-132053	1083316	1270755	-187439	525316	469930	55386
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	13.4	13.5	-0.1	9.4	10.3	-0.9	22.4	20.2	2.2
	Number	924394	902410	21984	449412	469292	-19880	474982	433118	41864
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	17.9	18.6	-0.7	17.5	18.3	-0.8	20.6	19.8	0.8
	Number	4249754	4264627	-14873	3503153	3514857	-11704	746601	749770	-3169
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	33.2	31.8	1.4	34.9	33.4	1.5	24.2	23.2	1.0
	Number	7872023	7290976	581047	6996450	6411043	585407	875573	879933	-4360
Employment in services sector	Share	48.8	49.7	-0.9	47.6	48.2	-0.6	55.2	57.0	-1.8
	Number	11552397	11404942	147455	9552129	9245194	306935	2000268	2159748	-159480
Underemployment	Share	9.8	7.9	1.9	10.8	8.9	1.9	4.3	3.2	1.1
	Number	2311784	1818432	493352	2155827	1697813	458014	155957	120619	35338
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	40.3	36.0	4.3	27.7	24.7	3.0	71.0	71.9	-0.9
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	25.3	25.2	0.1	21.7	21.3	0.4	45.3	45.1	0.2

-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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TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; SPRING OF THE YEAR 1400 COMPARED TO THE SPRING OF THE YEAR 1399
(continued)

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

Labour force indicators		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Spring, the year 1400	Spring, the year 1399	Changes	Spring, the year 1400	Spring, the year 1399	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	48218669	47537882	680788	14578971	14644826	-65855
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.4	40.0	0.4	44.5	44.0	0.5
	Number	19482104	19024185	457920	6485394	6443798	41596
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	36.5	35.7	0.8	41.6	40.8	0.8
	Number	17606720	16991483	615237	6069174	5971164	98010
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	9.6	10.7	-1.1	6.4	7.3	-0.9
	Number	1875384	2032702	-157318	416220	472634	-56414
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	24.6	26.8	-2.2	16.1	19.2	-3.1
	Number	415326	424131	-8805	112719	135890	-23171
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	16.8	18.0	-1.2	11.7	12.7	-1.0
	Number	1317144	1413131	-95987	291488	327554	-36066
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	12.9	12.9	0.0	18.5	19.4	-0.9
	Number	810971	789449	21522	113423	112961	462
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	7.1	6.8	0.3	49.4	52.0	-2.6
	Number	1253014	1156940	96074	2996740	3107688	-110948
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	35.0	33.8	1.2	28.1	26.0	2.1
	Number	6169164	5741363	427801	1702859	1549613	153246
Employment in services sector	Share	57.8	59.4	-1.6	22.6	22.0	0.6
	Number	10183586	10091533	92053	1368812	1313409	55403
Underemployment	Share	8.8	6.6	2.2	12.6	11.5	1.1
	Number	1548846	1128816	420030	762938	689617	73321
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	43.2	38.8	4.4	27.3	23.9	3.4
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	31.2	31.3	-0.1	8.2	7.8	0.4

-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 48.8% of the total, followed by the manufacturing sector with 33.2% and the agriculture sector with 17.9%. In the spring of the year 1400, the contribution of the employed people to the agriculture and the service sectors decreased by 0.7 and 0.9 percent, respectively, but the contribution of the employed people in the manufacturing sector increased by 1.4 percent, in comparison with the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1399).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over shows that 8.8 percent of the economically active population was unemployed. Moreover, based on the confidence interval of 95%, the total national unemployment rate was between 8.5 and 9.2 percent with an 8.8 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 1.0 percent decrease compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1399).

Studying the unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 indicates that 22.1 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 2.4% from the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1399).

The unemployment rate among the 18-35 age group indicates that 15.6% 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 fell by 1.1% compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1399).

Reviewing the unemployment rate among the higher education graduates aged 15 and over shows that 13.4 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 0.1% in the spring of the year 1400 compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1399).

The underemployment share tells that 9.8% 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 spring of the year 1400 experienced a 1.9 percent increase compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1399).

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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 36.4% 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 rise of 2.9% compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1399).

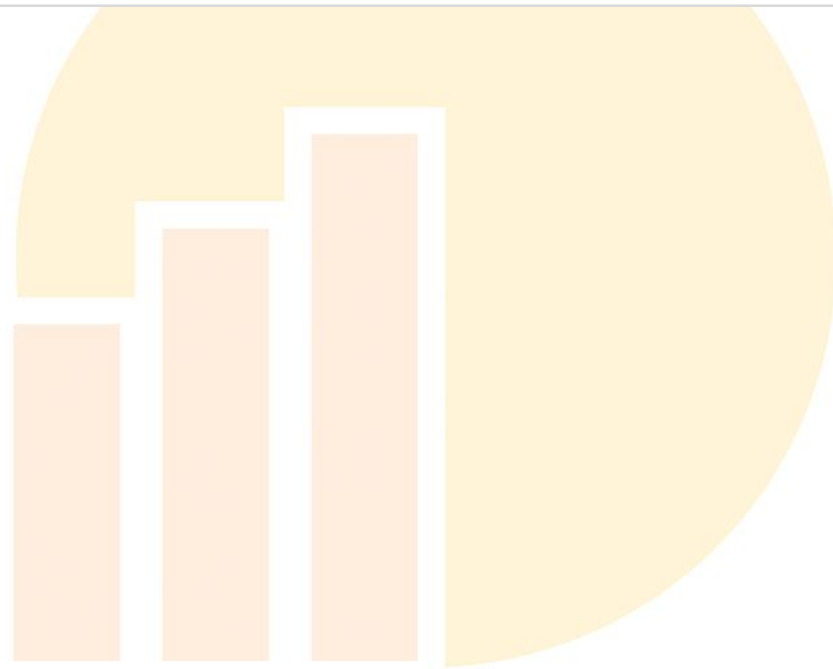
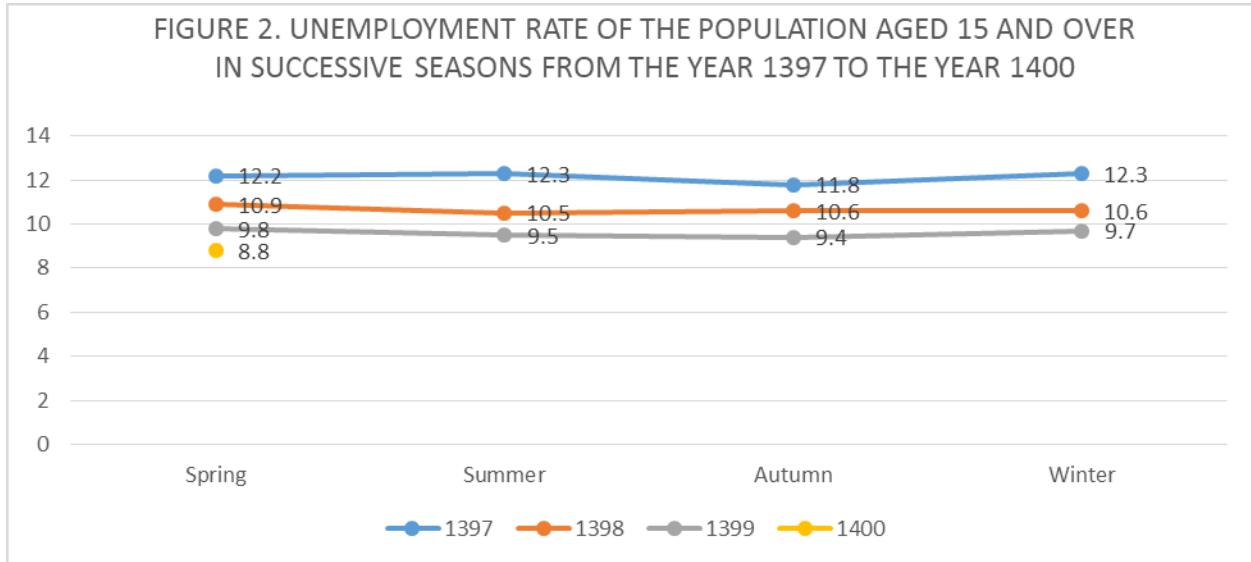
In the spring of the year 1400, the share of unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 40.3 percent. The indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator experienced a 4.3 percent rise compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1399).

In the spring of the year 1400, the share of the employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 25.3 percent. The indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes suggests that this indicator increased by 0.1 percent over the corresponding season in the previous year (spring, the year 1399).



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Table 2 shows some major labour market indicators for the population aged 15 and over in the spring, the year 1400, in comparison with the spring, the year 1399 by province.

TABLE 2- MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1400, IN COMPARISON WITH THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1399 BY PROVINCE (percent)

Province	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Spring, the year 1400	Spring, the year 1399	Spring, the year 1400	Spring, the year 1399	Spring, the year 1400		Spring, the year 1399
					Point estimation	95 percent confidence interval	
Total country	41.4	41.0	37.7	36.9	8.8	(8.5-9.2)	9.8
East Azarbayejan	43.2	42.7	40.0	38.8	7.4	(5.9-8.8)	9.0
West Azarbayejan	45.0	42.3	40.5	37.1	10.2	(8.5-11.8)	12.1
Ardebil	47.5	43.6	43.3	41.0	8.9	(7.0-10.7)	6.0
Esfahan	42.1	41.2	38.4	36.3	8.9	(7.3-10.5)	11.9
Alborz	39.7	39.4	35.5	34.6	10.6	(9.0-12.2)	12.3
Ilam	34.5	34.1	31.5	31.9	8.5	(6.5-10.6)	6.5
Bushehr	36.8	37.6	33.9	33.9	7.8	(6.2-9.4)	9.8
Tehran	40.7	40.3	38.1	36.8	6.3	(5.2-7.5)	8.8
Chaharmahal & Bakhtivari	43.1	44.7	37.3	36.2	13.4	(11.3-15.6)	19.1
South Khorasan	43.2	41.0	40.0	39.4	7.3	(6.2-8.4)	4.0
Khorasan-e-Razavi	40.5	42.7	37.8	39.7	6.8	(5.2-8.4)	7.0
North Khorasan	44.2	44.3	40.5	39.0	8.5	(6.8-10.2)	12.0
Khuzestan	39.7	40.2	34.5	35.2	13.1	(11.4-14.9)	12.4
Zanjan	46.4	44.8	43.2	41.9	6.7	(5.2-8.2)	6.6
Semnan	37.1	38.0	34.0	34.9	8.5	(6.2-10.7)	8.1
Sistan & Baluchestan	34.7	33.4	31.2	29.1	10.2	(8.2-12.1)	13.1
Fars	37.6	37.9	34.6	35.4	8.0	(6.3-9.6)	6.6
Qazvin	44.4	42.9	41.2	39.0	7.1	(5.7-8.5)	9.1
Qom	37.7	37.2	33.9	33.3	10.1	(8.3-11.9)	10.4
Kordestan	42.4	44.4	38.2	38.6	9.9	(8.1-11.6)	12.9
Kerman	40.2	39.1	35.6	35.1	11.4	(9.5-13.2)	10.1
Kermanshah	44.6	43.1	38.1	37.2	14.7	(12.1-17.3)	13.8
Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad	33.3	35.7	30.6	31.2	8.2	(6.1-10.3)	12.6
Golestan	37.5	40.4	34.7	36.4	7.4	(5.5-9.3)	10.0
Gilan	46.8	45.2	43.2	41.1	7.5	(6.2-8.9)	9.0
Lorestan	43.1	39.4	38.3	31.1	11.0	(9.1-13.0)	21.0
Mazandaran	45.0	44.1	41.7	41.4	7.4	(5.9-8.9)	6.2
Markazi	35.6	35.8	32.8	33.4	7.9	(6.0-9.7)	6.5
Hormozgan	45.2	46.1	37.7	40.4	16.6	(14.4-18.8)	12.5
Hamedan	42.4	43.8	40.0	40.4	5.6	(4.1-7.1)	7.8
Yazd	49.6	41.0	42.7	37.9	14	(10.9-17.0)	7.6

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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 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).

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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.

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

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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.

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



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