

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Summer 1397¹ (22 June- 22 September 2018)

¹.It is the Iranian year which usually begins on the day of 21 March of the Gregorian calendar. To find the corresponding year of the 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 1397 in the Gregorian calendar is (21 March 2018-20 March 2019).

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)

Introduction

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. The information on the nation's market would be collected through the Household Employment and Unemployment Characteristics Survey (HEUCS) as of the year 1397. 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 "Labor Force Survey" could be implemented. The "Labor Force Survey" was first conducted in the year 1384 and since then has regularly been taken in the middle month of every season.

The "Labor 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 annual number of population in labour force at national and provincial levels", "estimation of seasonal and annual changes of labour force at national and provincial levels", and "estimation of annual changes of 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 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 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 1396, but due to minor changes in population and housing units in rural areas, no listing was made in rural areas (unless in exceptional cases).

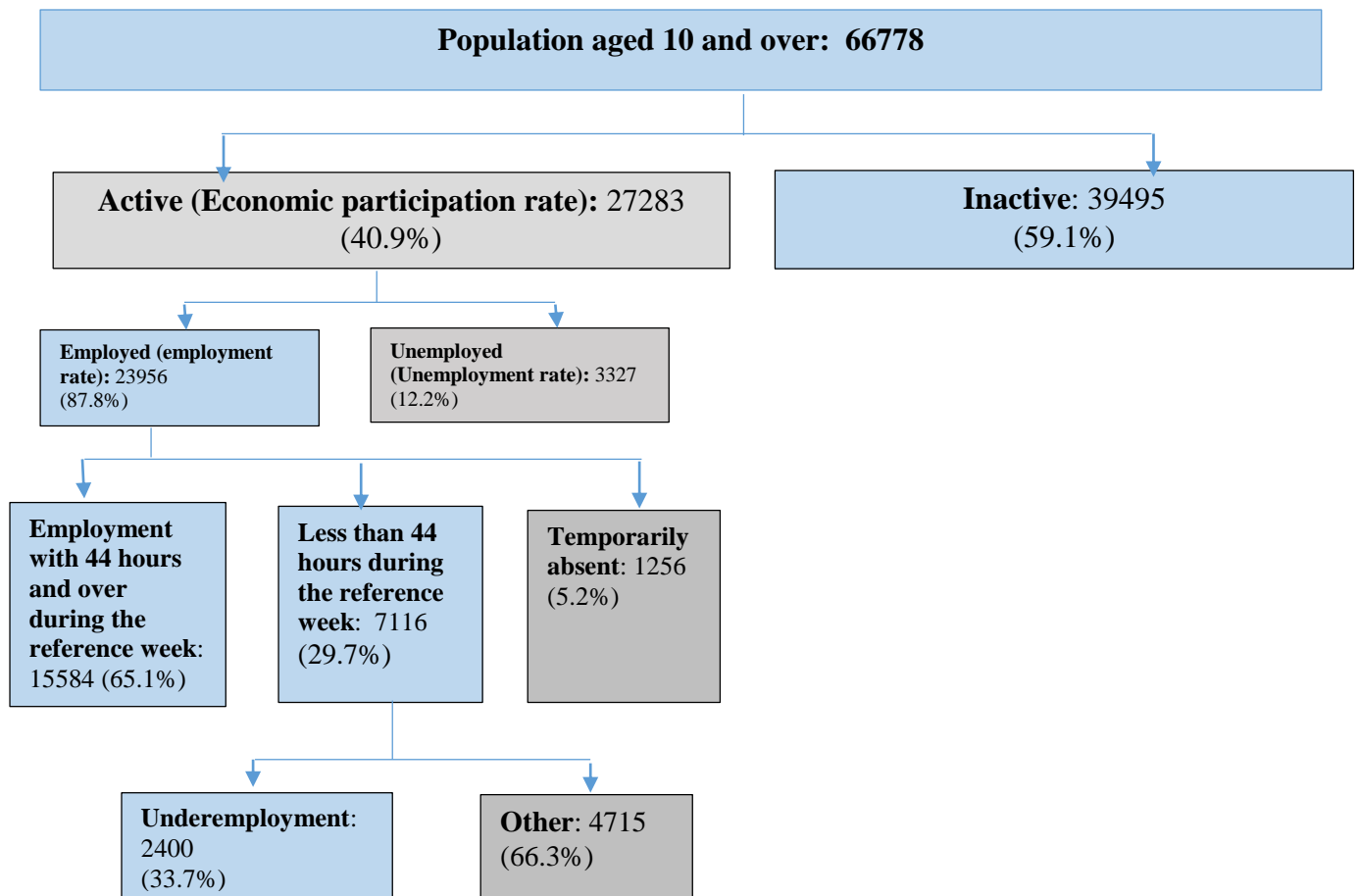
It should be cited that since the spring of the year 1397, the confidence interval for the unemployment rate has been 95 percent in the release of the Survey results. In view of the statistical methodology, the confidence interval means that if several samples are selected from the target population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

Findings

Table 1 provides the major indicators of labour market and its changes in the summer of the year 1397 compared to the summer of the year 1396. Table 2 also provides major labour force indicators by province.

Figure No.1 shows the major indicators of labour market in the summer of the year 1397.

Major Indicators of Labour Market- Summer 1397
(Thousand people)



A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 10 and over (activity rate) reveals that 40.9 % of the population at working age (10 years or 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 changes in economic participation rate of the total country shows that this indicator increased by 0.2% as compared with the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396). The review of employment rate of population aged 10 and over shows that 35.9 percent of working age population (10 years and over) were employed. This indicator stands higher for men and rural areas compared to women and urban areas.

Table 1. Major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; summer, the year 1397 compared to the summer, the year 1396

Labor Force Indicators*		Total country			Male			Female		
		Summer, the year 1397	Summer, the year 1396**	Changes	Summer, the year 1397	Summer, the year 1396**	Changes	Summer, the year 1397	Summer, the year 1396**	Changes
Population aged 10 and over	Number	66777627	66017163	760464	33486626	33119573	367053	33291001	32897589	393412
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	40.9	40.7	0.2	65.3	65.1	0.2	16.3	16.2	0.1
	Number	27282511	26887087	395424	21865435	21547737	317698	5417076	5339350	77726
Employment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	35.9	36.0	-0.1	58.6	58.9	-0.3	13.0	13.1	-0.1
	Number	23955656	23797533	158123	19613711	19503014	110697	4341944	4294519	47425
Unemployment of population aged 10 and over	Rate	12.2	11.5	0.7	10.3	9.5	0.8	19.8	19.6	0.2
	Number	3326855	3089554	237301	2251723	2044722	207001	1075131	1044831	30300
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	12.2	11.5	0.7	10.3	9.5	0.8	20.0	19.7	0.3
	Number	3321905	3086649	235256	2246774	2042024	204750	1075131	1044625	30506
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	27.2	26.9	0.3	23.6	21.9	1.7	40.3	45.7	-5.4
	Number	826364	842100	-15736	561617	540887	20730	264747	301213	-36466
Unemployment of population aged 15-29	Rate	24.9	24.1	0.8	20.8	19.4	1.4	39.3	40.2	-0.9
	Number	1773514	1714972	58542	1154667	1075651	79016	618846	639320	-20474
Unemployment of higher education graduates aged 10 and over	Rate	18.7	19.5	-0.8	13.5	13.6	-0.1	28.8	30.4	-1.6
	Number	1313396	1217123	96273	622793	547059	75734	690601	670062	20539
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	18.9	18.9	0.0	18.3	17.8	0.5	22.0	24.1	-2.1
	Number	4535702	4504871	30831	3580377	3468215	112162	955325	1036655	-81330
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	31.6	31.7	-0.1	33.0	33.2	-0.2	25.2	24.6	0.6
	Number	7562021	7537551	24470	6468786	6479434	-10648	1093235	1058116	35119
Employment in services sector	Share	49.5	49.4	0.1	48.8	49.0	-0.2	52.8	51.2	1.6
	Number	11856579	11751871	104708	9563427	9552804	10623	2293151	2199066	94085
Underemployment	Share	10.0	9.2	0.8	11.1	10.2	0.9	5.3	4.7	0.6
	Number	2400497	2195858	204639	2170325	1991966	178359	230171	203891	26280
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 10 and over out of the total unemployed population		39.5	39.4	0.1	27.7	26.8	0.9	64.2	64.1	0.1
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 10 and over out of the total employed population		23.8	21.1	2/7	20.3	17.8	2.5	39.3	35.6	3.7

Table 1. Major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; summer, the year 1397 compared to the summer, the year1396 (continued)

Labor force indicator*		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Summer, the year 1397	Summer, the year 1396	Changes	Summer, the year 1397	Summer, the year 1396	Changes
Population aged 10 and over	Number	50369596	49538285	831311	16408031	16478877	-70846
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	40 .1	39.9	0 .2	43 .2	43 .1	0 .1
	Number	20189504	19778318	411184	7093007	7108769	-15762
Employment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	34 .5	34 .7	-0.2	40 .0	40 .0	0 .0
	Number	17398373	17203182	195191	6557282	6594351	-37069
Unemployment of population aged 10 and over	Rate	13 .8	13.0	0 .8	7.6	7.2	0 .4
	Number	2791130	2575136	215994	535724	514417	21307
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	13 .9	13 .1	0 .8	7.6	7.3	0 .3
	Number	2788564	2572786	215778	533341	513863	19478
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	31 .5	30.8	0 .7	17 .9	18.2	-0.3
	Number	656069	663354	-7285	170295	178746	-8451
Unemployment of population aged 15-29	Rate	28 .2	26.9	1.3	16 .2	16.3	-0.1
	Number	1457371	1408931	48440	316143	306040	10103
Unemployment of higher education graduates aged 10 and over	Rate	18 .4	18 .9	-0.5	23 .0	26 .5	-3.5
	Number	1178674	1075229	103445	134721	143293	-8572
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	6.7	6.1	0 .6	51 .4	52 .3	-0.9
	Number	1167499	1054260	113239	3368202	3450610	-82408
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	34 .0	34 .2	-0.2	25 .2	25 .0	0 .2
	Number	5911959	5889690	22269	1650062	1647860	2202
Employment in services sector	Share	59 .3	59 .6	-0.3	23 .5	22 .7	0 .8
	Number	10317563	10256304	61259	1539016	1495566	43450
Underemployment	Share	8.9	8.4	0/5	13/0	11.3	1.7
	Number	1549473	1448048	101425	851023	747809	103214
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 10 and over out of the total unemployed population		42 .2	41 .8	0 .4	25 .1	27 .9	-2.8
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 10 and over out of the total employed population		30 .1	26 .8	3.3	6.9	6.0	0/9

** Difference is due to rounding.

** . Figures are updated according to the population projections based on the results of the 2016 Population and Housing Census

A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 49.5% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 31.6% and agriculture sector with 18.9%. The contribution of the employed people in the agriculture sector in summer of the year 1397 had no change in comparison with the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396) but the contribution of the employed people in the manufacturing sector experienced a 0.1 percent fall and the contribution of the employed people in the service sector had a 0.1 percent rise.

Review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 10 and over shows that 12.2 percent of the economically active population were unemployed. Moreover, based on the confidence interval of 95%, the total unemployment rate of the country was between 11.7 and 12.7 with a 12.2 percent centre point. This means that with the confidence interval of 95 percent, this interval shows the real unemployment rate of the country. Based on the results, the unemployment rate was higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the changes happened in the indicator at national level shows that this indicator increased by 0.7% compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396).

The unemployment rate among population aged 15 and over mentions that 12.2 percent of the economically active population were unemployed. Based on the results, the unemployment rate was higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the changes happened in the indicator at national level shows that this indicator experienced a 0.7% rise compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396).

The unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 stood at 27.2% while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes in unemployment rate shows that the indicator has increased by 0.3% compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396).

The unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-29 indicates that 24.9% of the active population were unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator rose by 0.8% compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396).

Review of the unemployment rate among higher education graduates aged 10 and over shows that 18.7 percent of the active population among higher education graduates were unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and rural areas than men and urban areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator has fallen by 8% compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396).

The underemployment share tells that 10% of the total employed population were underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator experienced a 0.8 percent rise compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396).

A review of contribution of the employed population aged 10 or over with usual working hours of 49 and over shows that 41% of them work usually 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. This indicator experienced a 0.2 percent rise compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396).

In the summer 1397, the share of the unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 39.5 percent of. 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 0.1 percent increase compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396).

In the summer 1397, the share of the employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 23.8 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 increased by 2.7 percent compared to the last corresponding season (summer, the year 1396).

The figure No.2 shows the changes of unemployment rate in the successive seasons during the years 1393 to 1397.

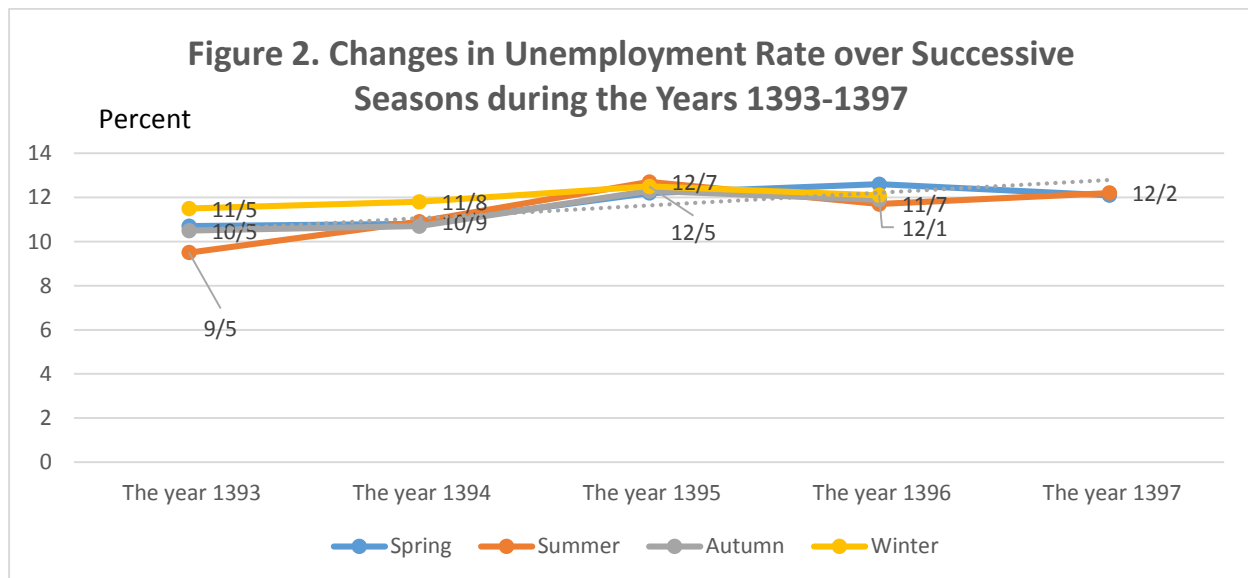


Table 2 shows some major labour force indicators in summer, the year 1397 in comparison to summer, the year 1396* by province.

Province	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Spring 1397	Spring 1396	Spring 1397	Spring 1396	Spring 1397		Spring 1396
					Point to point estimation	Confidence interval 95%	
Total country	40 .9	40 .7	35 .9	36 .0	12.2	(11 .7-12 .7)	11 .5
East Azarbayejan	40 .8	43 .8	36 .6	39 .7	10.4	(9 .0-11 .8)	9 .3
West Azarbayejan	43 .5	45 .6	37 .1	40 .4	14 .8	(12 .7-17 .0)	11 .4
Ardebil	44 .9	45 .6	41 .5	41 .1	7.5	(5 .6-9 .4)	9 .8
Esfahan	44 .9	41 .5	38 .1	35 .8	15 .0	(13 .0-17 .1)	13 .6
Alborz	39 .0	37 .5	33 .6	32 .4	13 .8	(12 .1-15 .5)	13 .6
Ilam	36 .3	35 .4	32 .0	31 .3	11.8	(9 .6-14 .1)	11 .6
Bushehr	38 .2	37 .1	34 .0	33 .1	11.0	(8 .9-13 .2)	10 .9
Tehran	39 .9	40 .5	34 .6	35 .4	13 .3	(11 .5-15 .2)	12 .7
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	42 .2	40 .4	36 .4	33 .1	13 .9	(11 .4-16 .4)	18 .0
South Khorasan	40 .2	41 .2	36 .6	36 .4	8.9	(7 .1-10 .6)	11 .7
Khorasan-e-Razavi	42 .1	44 .8	37 .5	40 .4	10.9	(9 .3-12 .5)	9 .9
North Khorasan	46 .8	47 .2	42 .2	42 .6	9.8	(7 .8-11 .8)	9 .8
Khuzestan	39 .7	38 .8	33 .5	33 .1	15 .6	(13 .9-17 .3)	14 .6
Zanjan	43 .8	45 .1	40 .7	40 .8	7.1	(5 .7-8 .5)	9 .4
Semnan	38 .1	39 .5	35 .4	36 .8	7.1	(5 .5-8 .7)	6 .8
Sistan & Baluchestan	34 .1	30 .7	28 .9	27 .4	15 .3	(12 .2-18 .3)	10 .6
Fars	40 .5	40 .6	37 .0	36 .6	8.7	(7 .3-10 .1)	9 .8
Qazvin	43 .9	38 .4	39 .1	34 .2	11.0	(9 .1-12 .9)	11 .1
Qom	36 .1	35 .3	31 .7	31 .8	12.1	(10 .0-14 .2)	9 .9
Kordestan	43 .2	42 .6	38 .3	37 .7	11.3	(9 .1-13 .6)	11 .5
Kerman	40 .4	40 .0	35 .4	35 .4	12.4	(10 .2-14 .6)	11 .4
Kermanshah	43 .2	42 .0	36 .1	34 .5	16 .4	(14 .1-18 .7)	17 .9
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	38 .0	37 .6	32 .1	33 .6	15 .5	(12 .1-18 .9)	10 .6
Golestan	37 .9	36 .8	34 .5	32 .6	8.9	(7 .3-10 .6)	11 .6
Gilan	43 .1	43 .5	37 .6	39 .5	12.6	(10 .2-15 .1)	9 .2
Lorestan	37 .6	35 .6	32 .8	31 .5	12.9	(10 .7-15 .0)	11 .8
Mazandaran	41 .6	41 .3	37 .4	37 .5	10.0	(8 .2-11 .8)	9 .3
Markazi	35 .1	36 .6	31 .7	33 .8	9.6	(7 .4-11 .8)	7 .6
Hormozgan	38 .7	39 .2	33 .9	34 .9	12.5	(10 .0-14 .9)	11 .0
Hamedan	44 .7	41 .7	41 .8	37 .8	6.5	(5 .1-7 .9)	9 .4
Yazd	43 .4	42 .3	37 .3	37 .2	14 .1	(11 .6-16 .7)	12 .0

* Figures are updated according to the population projections based on the results of the 2016 Population and Housing Census.

Definitions and concepts

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

Work: This term is used to determine the status of economic activity for people. The term "work" refers to the group of economic activities (mentally or physically) which are done for earning salary (in cash or in kind) and their ultimate goals are 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 10 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 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 10 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. 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.

Labour force: the total of employed and unemployed people is labour force.

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 Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1983).

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.

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

Employment ratio: The ratio of the employed population aged 10 and over (or 15 and over) to the total population at working age, 10 years old and over (or 15 years and over) multiplied by 100

$$\text{Employment ratio} = \frac{\text{Employed population aged 10 or over (or aged 15 and over)}}{\text{Population aged 10 and over (or aged 15 and over)}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate

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

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 10 or over (or aged 15 and over)}}{\text{Active population aged 10 and over (or aged 15 and over)}} \times 100$$

Employment rate

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

$$\text{Employment rate} = \frac{\text{Employed population aged 10 or over (or aged 15 and over)}}{\text{Active population aged 10 and over (or aged 15 and over)}} \times 100 \text{ or } 100 - \text{unemployment rate}$$

Unemployment rate of the population aged 15-24 (or 15-29 years old)

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 15 -24 (or 15-29 years of age) to the economically active population at age 15-24 (or 15-29) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate aged 15-24 (or 15-29)} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 15-24 (or 15-29)}}{\text{Economically active population aged 15-24 (or 15-29)}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate of higher education graduates

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

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

Share of unemployed higher education graduates aged 10 and over

The ratio of unemployed higher education graduates aged 10 and over to the total unemployed population aged 10 and over multiplied by 100

$$\text{Share of unemployed higher education graduates aged 10 and over} = \frac{\text{Unemployed higher education graduates aged 10 and over}}{\text{Total unemployed population aged 10 and over}} \times 100$$

Share of employed higher education graduates aged 10 and over

The ratio of employed higher education graduates aged 10 and over to the total employed population aged 10 and over multiplied by 100

$$\text{Share of employed higher education graduates aged 10 and over} = \frac{\text{Employed higher education graduates aged 10 and over}}{\text{Total employed population aged 10 and over}} \times 100$$

Underemployment share

The ratio of the underemployed population to the employed population multiplied by 100

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