A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Winter 2011 (December 22- March 20)

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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. 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 rotation sampling. 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, 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 with 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 index information of the 2006 Population and Housing Census as of March 21, 2009.

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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 [1] 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 ˮworkˮ.

❖ 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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[1] According to ILO standards

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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.

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

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Underemployment rate

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

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

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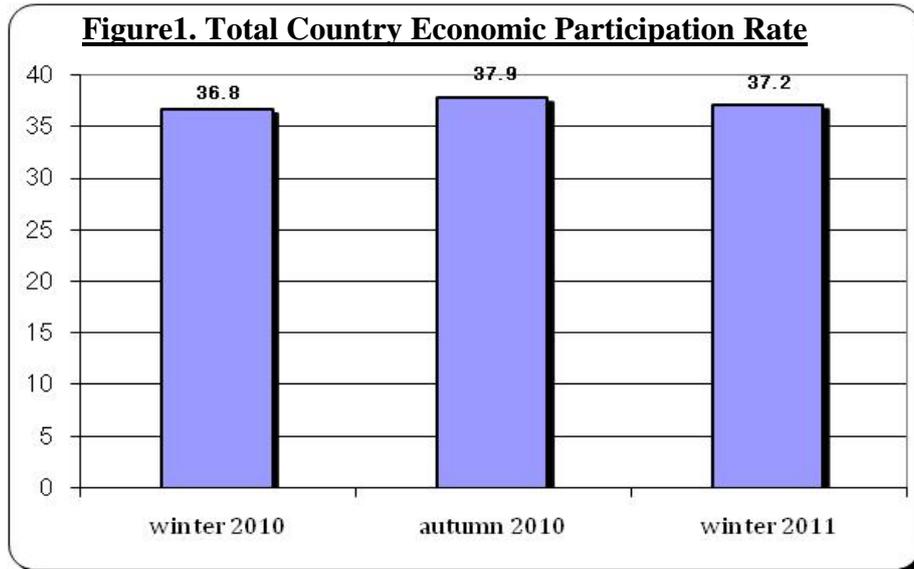
Seasonal labor force indicators

Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the winter 2011 (December 22- March 20). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (autumn 2010) and the corresponding season in the previous year (winter 2010). And table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.

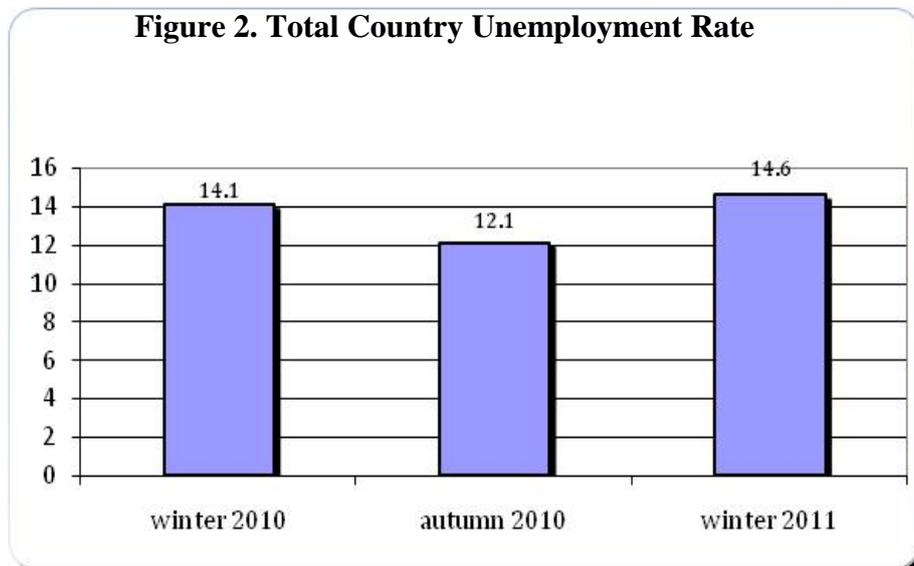**Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas**; Winter 2011

Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	37/2	61/2	12/9	36/7	38/6
	Number	23367266	19364491	4002775	16775521	6591744
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	14/6	13/3	21/1	16/0	11/2
	Number	3420836	2575149	845687	2684120	736716
Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over	rate	14/6	13/3	21/2	16/0	11/2
	number	3409249	2565076	844173	2678596	730653
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	31/2	27/8	45/1	35/5	22/4
	Number	1332736	954069	378667	1021777	310959
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	27/5	23/8	42/1	30/4	19/9
	Number	2266514	1570230	696283	1803000	463513
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	16/2	15/1	22/1	3/9	45/7
	Number	3228352	2529550	698801	551690	2676662
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	33/1	34/3	26/7	34/9	28/7
	Number	6599539	5755853	843686	4916761	1682778
Employment share in services sector	share	50/7	50/7	51/1	61/2	25/5
	Number	10118251	8503651	1614600	8622664	1495587
Underemployment share		10/5	11/7	4/2	8/0	16/5
The contribution of the employed aged 15 or over with regular working hours of more than 49		36/1	40/3	13/8	39/4	28/1

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

A review of the economic participation rate reveals that 37.2% of the working age population (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 shows a 0.4% grow and a 0.7% decrease in the total country economic participation rate as compared with the winter 2010 and autumn 2010 respectively.

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Figure1. Total Country Economic Participation Rate

The unemployment rate among population aged 10 or over mentions that a percentage of 14.6% 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. Review of the changes happened in the indicator at national level shows 0.5% and 2.5% grows compared with the last corresponding season (winter 2010) and the previous season (autumn 2010) respectively.

Figure 2. Total Country Unemployment Rate

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The unemployment rate among population aged 15 or over mentions that a percentage of 14.6% of the economically active population was unemployed. Based on the results, the unemployment rate was higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas.

The underemployment indicator tells that 10.5% of the total employed population was underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas.

A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 50.7% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 33.1 % and agriculture sector with 16.2 %.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 31.2 % while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. Comparing the last corresponding season (winter 2010) and the previous season (autumn 2010) shows that the indicator experienced a 0.8 % and 4.5 % increase respectively.

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 27.5 % of the active population was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. Review of the changes shows that the indicator has experienced a 0.9 % and 3.7 % increase compared to the last corresponding season (winter 2010) and the previous season (autumn 2010) respectively.

Review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 or over with the working hours over 49 shows that 36.1 % 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.

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Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (Winter 2011 compared with autumn and winter 2010)   (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Autumn 2010		Winter 2010		Autumn 2010		Winter 2010		Autumn 2010		Winter 2010	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	-0/7	37/9	0/4	36/8	-0/3	61/5	0/3	60/9	-1/0	13/9	0/6	12/3
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	2/5	12/1	0/5	14/1	2/8	10/5	0/1	13/2	1/8	19/3	2/1	19/0
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	4/5	26/7	0/8	30/4	4/6	23/2	-0/9	28/7	4/2	40/9	7/7	37/4
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	3/7	23/8	0/9	26/6	3/8	20/0	-0/5	24/3	3/9	38/2	5/9	36/2

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (Winter 2011 compared with autumn and winter 2010)   continued

(percent)

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Autumn 2010		Winter 2010		Autumn 2010		Winter 2010	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	-0/3	37/0	0/7	36/0	-1/4	40/0	-0/2	38/8
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	2/2	13/8	0/7	15/3	3/2	8/0	-0/2	11/4
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	3/4	32/1	0/6	34/9	5/8	16/6	0/4	22/0
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	3/0	27/4	1/4	29/0	4/5	15/4	-1/3	21/2

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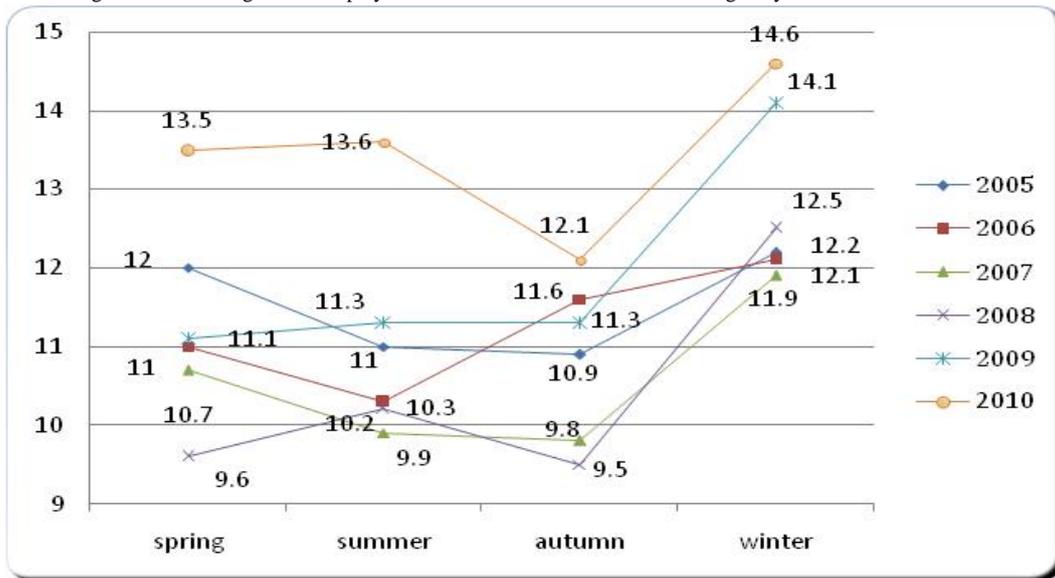Figure 3 show changes in unemployment rate over successive seasons during the years 2005 - 2010

Table 3 shows the main selected labor force indicators in winter 2011 compared to autumn and winter 2010 at province level. Moreover, the map 1 depicts the unemployment rate for population aged 10 and more in winter 2011.

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Table3. Main selected labor force indicators by province; winter 2011, autumn and winter 2010 (percent)

Province	Winter 2011		Autumn 2010		Winter 2010	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	37.2	14.6	37.9	12.1	36.8	14.1
East Azarbayejan	42.0	15.0	40.5	10.1	42.5	15.7
West Azarbayejan	39.2	17.9	42.8	11.5	41.3	17.1
Ardebil	44.6	15.2	44.7	11.6	42.9	17.7
Esfahan	40.9	14.5	40.6	12.0	40.9	12.8
Ilam	37.2	14.6	39.1	15.7	36.4	14.5
Bushehr	33.8	10.1	34.2	12.8	35.5	12.5
Tehran*	37.2	14.3	38.3	13.4	35.2	11.1
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	37.8	17.3	38.5	9.4	36.1	21.7
South Khorasan	35.6	8.1	38.6	9.8	37.6	8.3
Khorasan-e-Razavi	37.9	14.3	42.9	7.3	37.9	14.3
North Khorasan	34.0	11.0	34.4	6.2	30.4	9.1
Khuzestan	36.2	13.9	35.8	14.8	36.3	14.9
Zanjan	42.9	9.1	43.1	9.5	41.6	11.9
Semnan	33.1	12.5	34.9	13.5	34	9.7
Sistan & Baluchestan	29.0	11.6	29.7	11.3	30.5	12.4
Fars	36.1	23.9	33.7	18.1	36.7	22
Qazvin	38.0	12.2	38.1	8.3	36.4	16.8
Qom	35.1	10.3	35.6	9.1	34.1	12.8
Kordestan	38.8	23.7	40.8	13.0	38.2	15.6
Kerman	34.4	8.5	33.3	6.9	38.8	16.5
Kermanshah	33.0	17.0	35.9	14.4	33	19.7
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	30.4	12.2	30.4	13.1	29.5	15.9
Golestan	37.0	8.2	37.3	4.8	36.2	9.5
Gilan	39.7	18.1	40.5	18.9	37.5	15.1
Lorestan	35.9	18.1	34.9	17.8	35.2	19.8
Mazandaran	38.4	12.1	36.9	11.0	34.8	5.8
Markazi	36.4	9.5	37.2	10.2	35.9	11.1
Hormozgan	32.4	10.0	31.4	12.2	31.8	9.8
Hamedan	34.9	17.6	38.6	12.9	36	22
Yazd	36.0	6.6	37.1	9.4	37.6	8.1

*.Statistics for Albourz province are included with Tehran

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