A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Winter 1393[1] (22 December 2014– 20 March 2015)

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[1]. It is the Iranian year, which begins on March 21 of the Christian year and ends on March 20 of the next year. To convert the Iranian year into Christian year, add 621 to the former. All the years mentioned in this report are Iranian years excluding the years cited in the Introduction.

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 and annual 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, 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 master 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 master sample of the Labor Force Survey for the years 2005-2008 was taken from the 2002 National Establishments Census frame. Following preparation of the master sample, the listing of households on master sample clusters was prepared in winter 2005 to select the sample households based on the rotation pattern chosen for different rounds of the survey. The new master sample was designed based on the listing information of the 2006 Population and Housing Census as of 21 March 2009. The current master sample was taken from the 2011 National Population and Housing Census. Due to minor changes in population and housing units in the rural areas, no listing was made in the rural areas (unless in exceptional cases); accordingly listing forms of the 2011 National Housing and Population Census is used for rural areas. However, in order to prepare an appropriate and up- to- date frame in urban areas, some households were listed within the master sample clusters in the winters of 2012 and 2013. It is noteworthy that for completion of master sample in next years in the same form sample, some of the households are listed in each of master sample clusters.

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 "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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[1] According to 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.

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

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 (or 15-29 years old)

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 15 -24 (or15-29 years of age) to the economically active population at age 15-24 (or 15-29) multiplied by 100.

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

Underemployment rate

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

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

Findings

Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the winter of the year 1393 (22 December 2014 – 20 March 2015). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (autumn, the year 1393-[23 September- 21 December 2014]) and the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1392 [22 December 2013 – 20 March 2014]); table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.
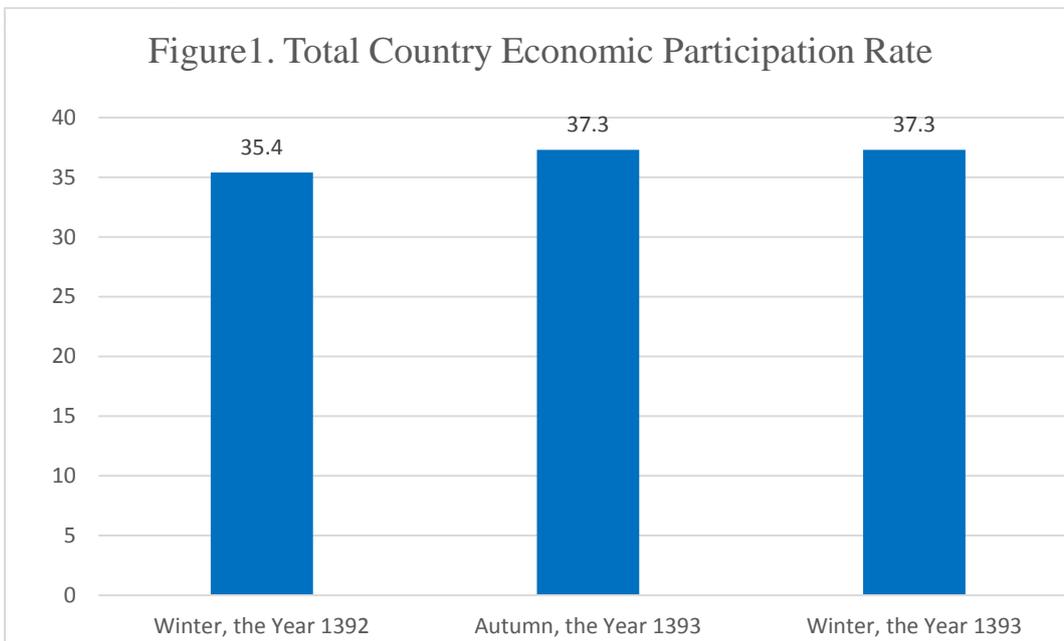
Table 1. Major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; Winter, the year 1393

Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	37.3	62.3	12.3	36.9	38.3
	Number	23947414	19973447	3973966	17393476	6553937
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	11.5	9.6	21.0	12.1	9.7
	Number	2748740	1914695	834045	2110880	637860
Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over	Rate	11.5	9.6	21.1	12.1	9.7
	Number	2745302	1911468	833834	2109181	636121
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	27.4	23.2	45.3	29.8	22.5
	Number	817029	561718	255311	595294	221735
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	23.2	19.0	41.1	24.5	19.6
	Number	1668993	1107210	561782	1280312	388681
Employment share in agriculture sector	Share	16.1	15.8	18.1	4.5	46.2
	Number	3421803	2854157	567646	686752	2735050
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Share	34.1	35.3	26.8	36.2	28.5
	Number	7218424	6375735	842689	5532296	1686128
Employment share in services sector	Share	49.8	48.9	55.1	59.3	25.3
	Number	10553327	8824102	1729225	9058747	1494580
Underemployment share		10.8	11.9	4.3	9.1	15.1
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over with regular working hours of 49 and over		36.4	40.3	13.9	38.4	31.4

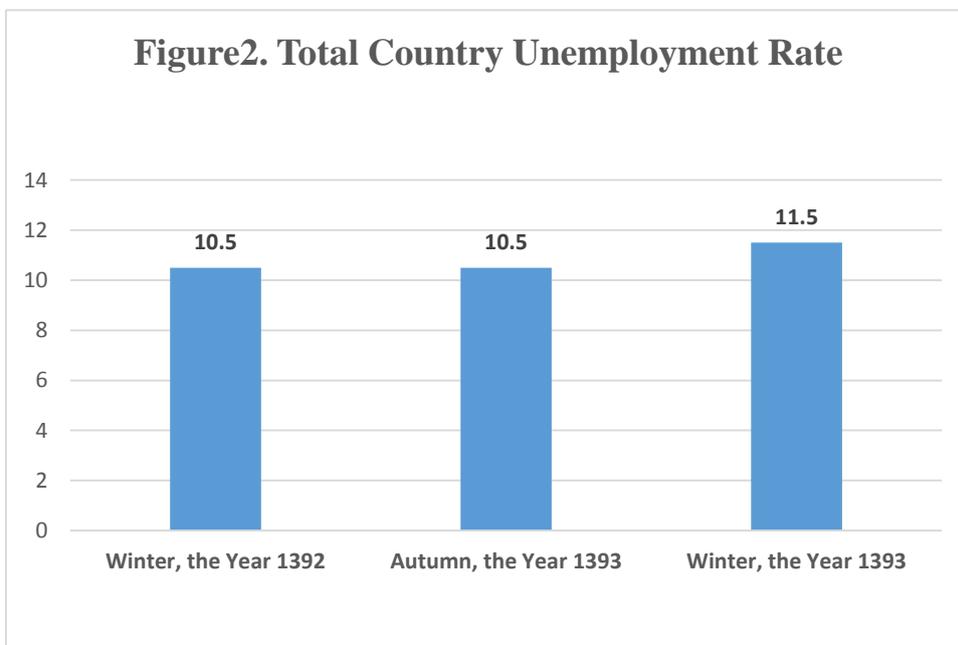Note: Difference in the total is due to rounding figures.

A review of the economic participation rate reveals that 37.3% of the population of the 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 shows this rate experienced no change as compared with the previous season (autumn, the year 1393-[23 September- 21 December 2014]) but had a rise of 1.9% in comparison with the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1392[22 December 2013 – 20 March 2014]).

Figure1. Total Country Economic Participation Rate

The unemployment rate among population aged 10 and over mentions that a percentage of 11.5% 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 a 1% increase compared to the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1392) and the previous season (autumn, the year 1393), respectively.

Figure2. Total Country Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate among population aged 15 and over mentions that a percentage of 11.5% 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 10.8% 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 employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 49.8% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 34.1% and agriculture sector with 16.1%.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 27.4%. This indicator has been higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that the indicator has experienced a 2% and 1.7% rise compared to the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1392) and previous seasons (autumn, the year 1393) respectively

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 23.2% of the active population was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that the indicator has experienced 1.1% and 1.4% rise compared to the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1392) and previous seasons (autumn, the year 1393) respectively.

A review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 or over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 36.4% 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.

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas – Winter, the year 1393 compared with the autumn, the year 1393 and winter, the year 1392 (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Autumn, the year 1393		Winter, the year 1392		Autumn, the year 1393		Winter, the year 1392		Autumn, the year 1393		Winter, the year 1392	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	0.0	37.3	1.9	35.4	-0.6	62.9	1.7	60.6	0.5	11.8	2.0	10.3
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	1.0	10.5	1.0	10.5	0.9	8.7	0.5	9.1	0.7	20.3	2.1	18.9
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	1.7	25.7	2.0	25.4	1.3	21.9	1.4	21.8	2.5	42.8	1.9	43.4
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	1.4	21.8	1.1	22.1	1.1	17.9	0.2	18.8	2.1	39.0	2.6	38.5

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas- Winter, the year 1393 compared with the autumn, the year 1393 and winter, the year 1392 **(continued)**

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Autumn, the year 1393		Winter, the year 1392		Autumn, the year 1393		Winter, the year 1392	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	0.0	36.9	2.0	34.9	-0.3	38.6	1.6	36.7
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	0.4	11.7	0.8	11.3	2.3	7.4	1.0	8.7
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	0.4	29.4	1.4	28.4	4.3	18.2	3.2	19.3
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	0.3	24.2	0.5	24.0	4.1	15.5	2.2	17.4

Figure 3. Unemployment Rate over Successive Seasons of the Year 1389-1393

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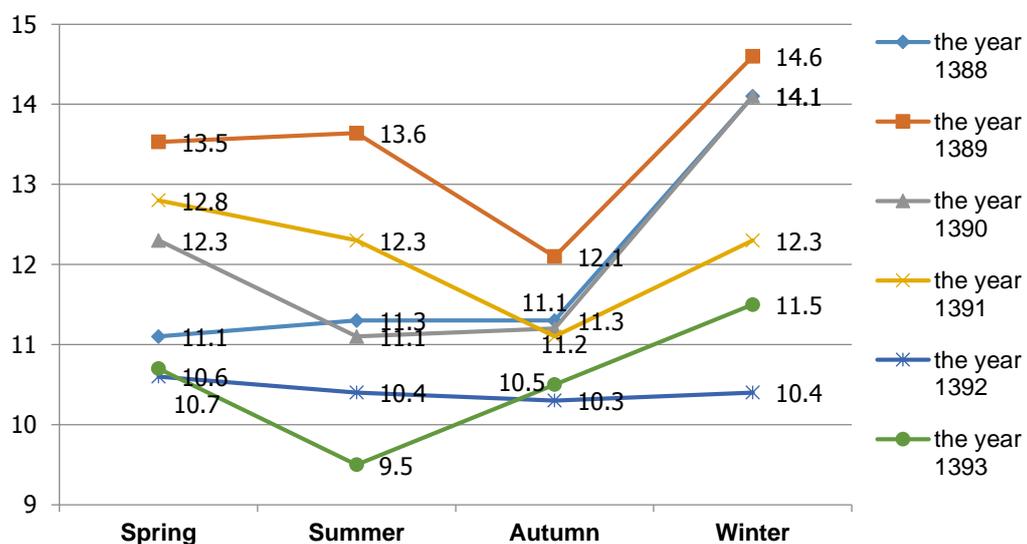
Table 3 shows the main labor force indicators in winter and autumn, the year 1393 and winter, the year 1392 by province.

Table 3. **Main selected labor force indicators by province**; *winter, the year 1393 compared with the autumn, the year 1393 and winter, the year 1392*   (percent)

Province	Winter, the year 1393		Autumn, the year 1393		Winter, the year 1392	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	37.3	11.5	37.3	10.5	35.4	10.5
East Azarbayejan	39.6	6.3	41.1	8.1	39.1	8.5
West Azarbayejan	36.9	13.9	39.9	9.8	37.9	12.4
Ardebil	42.8	12.7	40.3	12.1	41.3	13.0
Esfahan	39.7	11.3	40.1	11.8	37.5	12.6
Alborz	36.5	12.4	34.2	9.6	35.7	8.7
Ilam	36.0	10.6	36.5	8.7	35.2	11.1
Bushehr	37.8	8.9	36.3	7.8	36.8	9.7
Tehran	37.6	9.0	39.2	11.4	33.7	7.3
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	35.9	14.8	37.8	14.1	33.4	14.9
South Khorasan	33.3	7.0	36.5	7.4	35.2	6.7
Khorasan-e-Razavi	37.7	15.2	36.4	8.9	36.0	9.7
North Khorasan	38.2	14.2	43.1	13.5	35.9	15.3
Khuzestan	38.5	12.4	34.6	9.6	34.4	6.9
Zanjan	35.4	11.0	37.3	8.7	34.0	13.1
Semnan	40.2	10.2	39.4	7.8	37.3	6.0
Sistan & Baluchestan	29.2	9.3	29	11.1	27.0	8.7
Fars	37.4	13.7	35.9	10.1	35.8	14.0
Qazvin	41.1	13.5	41.6	14.0	38.9	11.2
Qom	34.1	7.8	33.0	8.1	33.1	7.3
Kordestan	40.8	16.0	40.7	11.1	38.0	15.8
Kerman	33.9	5.6	33.8	8.4	35.2	5.2
Kermanshah	38.3	19.3	36.9	15.3	35.4	20.7
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	31.4	14.7	29.2	13.7	28.7	17.9
Golestan	34.0	13.0	36.6	12.3	34.9	8.1
Gilan	37.1	13.6	37.8	12.3	36.9	19
Lorestan	32.0	11.5	35.4	14.9	33.3	19.8
Mazandaran	39.8	14.2	38.1	13.8	37.4	8.7
Markazi	35.0	9.1	36.7	5.5	36	7.5
Hormozgan	38.0	9.2	32.2	7.4	31.7	8.0
Hamedan	36.4	9.2	39.4	6.4	33.9	12.0
Yazd	35.4	7.6	36.9	6.7	34.2	5.6