

# A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

The Year 1395<sup>1</sup> (March 20, 2016- March 20, 2017)

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<sup>1</sup> It is the Iranian year, which begins on March 21<sup>st</sup> of the Christian year and ends on March 20<sup>th</sup> of the next year. To convert the Iranian year into Christian year, please add 621 to the former. Moreover, please note that three months of the Iranian year fall in the next year of the Christian year, therefore, 622 should be added for those three months. (1<sup>st</sup> January -20<sup>th</sup> March)

- 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 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 and the year at the national, urban, rural and provincial levels. The survey was first conducted in 2005 and since then has been regularly 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 and used 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 was 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 winters 2012, 2013 and 2014.

## 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<sup>1</sup> 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 (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).

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<sup>1</sup> According to the ILO standards

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.

### Population with time-related Underemployment

The people with time-related underemployment 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.

## 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.

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

### Unemployment rate of the population aged 15-24 (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 (or15-29) multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate aged 15-24 (or15-29)} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 15-24 (or 15-29)}}{\text{Economically active population aged 15-24 (or 15-29)}} \times 100$$

### 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 year and over) multiplied by 100

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

## Underemployment share

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

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

## Findings

Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the Labor Force Survey in the year 1395. Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the year 1394. In addition, tables 4 and 6 provide the major labor force indicators for all seasons of the year 1395 and tables 3 and 5 present major labor force indicators for the years 1394-1395 by province.

**Table 1. Major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; the year 1395**

Labor force indicators		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic participation of population aged 10 and over	Rate	39.4	64.1	14.9	38.9	41.0
	Number	25791450	20898816	4892634	18803862	6987588
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	12.4	10.5	20.7	13.7	8.9
	Number	3203398	2191568	1011830	2584392	619006
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	Rate	29.2	25.4	44.2	32.3	22.5
	Number	869531	604834	264697	653004	216527
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	Rate	25.9	21.4	42.3	28.1	19.9
	Number	1827525	1182212	645312	1449491	378033
Employment ratio	Rate	34.5	57.4	11.8	33.6	37.3
	Number	22588052	18707247	3880804	16219470	6368581
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	18.0	17.1	22.0	5.3	50.3
	Number	4060506	3207826	852679	859594	3200911
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	31.9	33.3	25.2	34.4	25.4
	Number	7200387	6223718	976668	5583371	1617016
Employment in services sector	Share	50.1	49.6	52.8	60.3	24.3
	Number	11323214	9272352	2050861	9772752	1550461
Share of the population with time-related underemployment		10.3	11.5	4.9	8.7	14.6
The contribution of the employed aged 15 and over with usual working 49 hours and over		38.4	43.5	13.9	40.5	33.2

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

A review of the economic participation rate (activity rate) reveals that 39.4% of the population of working age (10 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.

A review of the unemployment rate shows that 12.4% of the active population was unemployed. The results show that unemployment rate stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas, respectively.

A review of underemployment share shows that 10.3% of the population was underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men compared to women and rural areas in contrast to urban areas.

A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 50.1% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 31.9% and agriculture sector with 18.0%.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 29.2%. This indicator is higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas.

The unemployment rate among economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 25.9% of the active population was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas.

A review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 and over with the usual working hours 49 and over shows that 38.4% 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 (the year 1395 compared with the year 1394) (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country		Male		Female		Urban Areas		Rural Areas	
	The year 1394	Change	The year 1394	Change	The year 1394	Change	The year 1394	Change	The year 1394	Change
Economic participation rate (activity rate)	38.2	1.2	63.2	0.9	13.3	1.6	37.5	1.4	40.0	1.0
Unemployment rate	11.0	1.4	9.3	1.2	19.4	1.3	12.2	1.5	8.1	0.8
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	26.1	3.1	22.3	3.1	42.8	1.4	29.3	3.0	20.0	2.5
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	23.3	2.6	19.1	2.3	40.2	2.1	25.5	2.6	17.6	2.3

This table shows the changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas in the year 1394 and the changes of these indicators in the year 1395 compared with the year 1394. The changes in the indicators at national level are as follows:

- Economic participation rate (activity rate) in the year 1395 experienced a 1.2% increase compared to the year 1394.
- The unemployment rate in the year 1395 increased by 1.4% compared to the year 1394.
- The unemployment rate of youths aged 15-24 experienced a 3.1% rise compared to the year 1394.
- The unemployment rate of youths aged 15-29 experienced a 2.6% increase compared to the year 1394.

Figure 1 shows economic participation rate for the years 1384-1395.

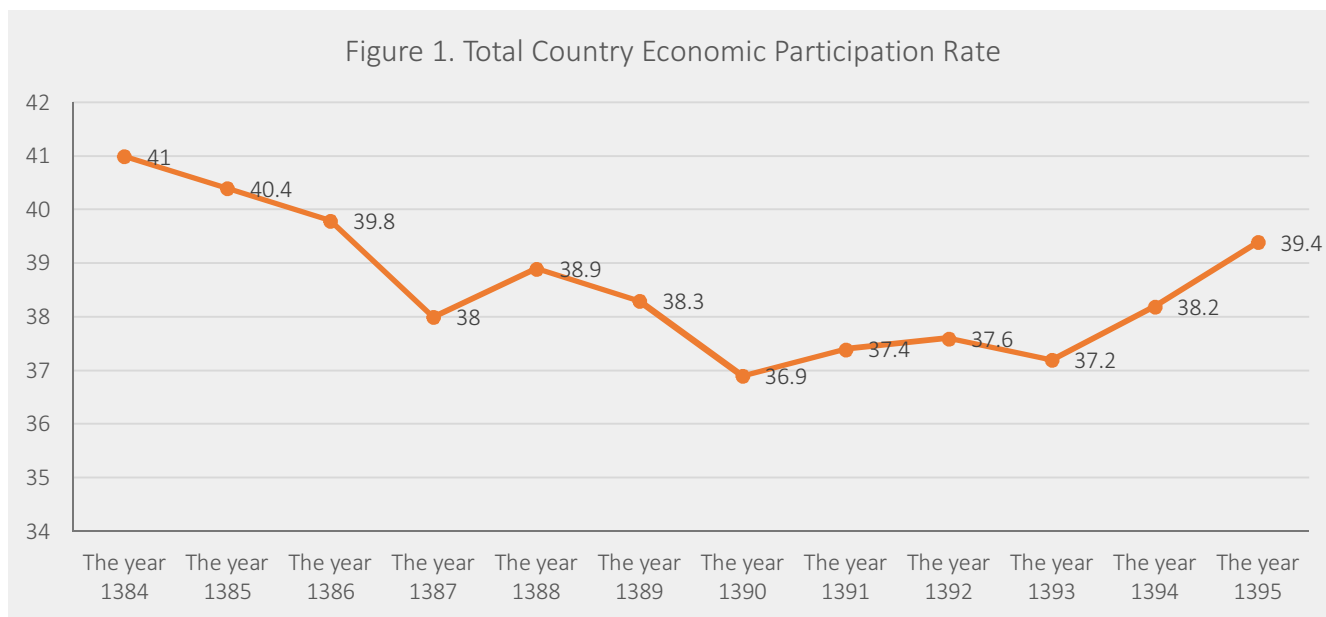


Figure 2 shows unemployment rate for the years 1384-1395.

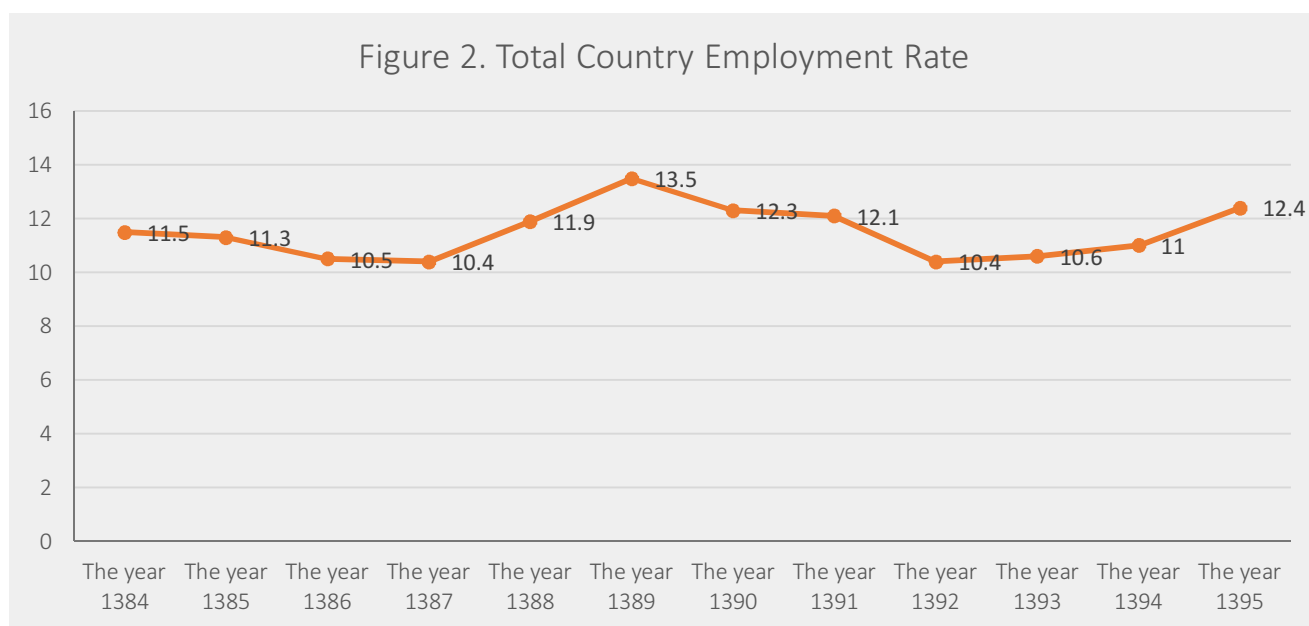


Figure 3 shows unemployment rate over successive seasons of the years 1390-1395.

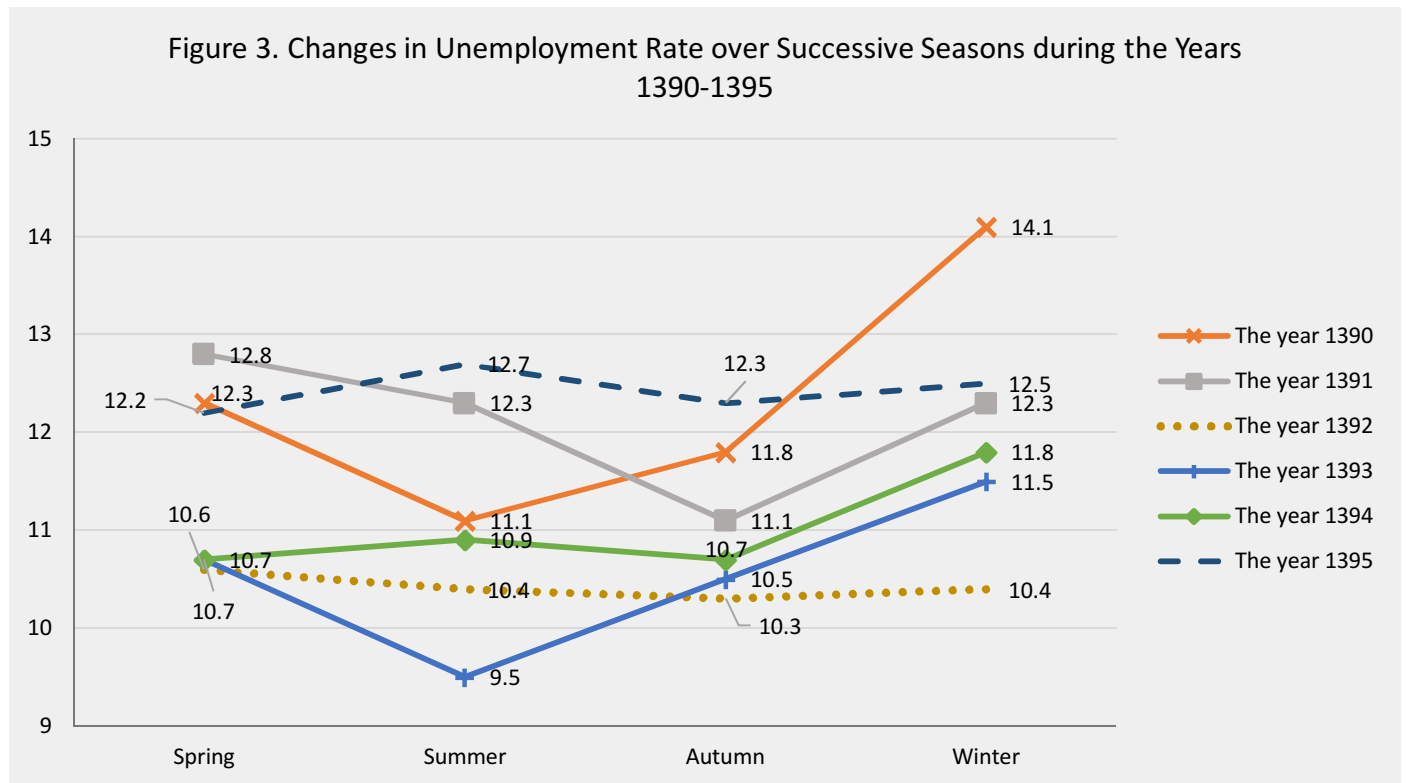




Table.3. Major labor force indicators by province- the years 1394-1395

Province	Economic participation rate		Unemployment rate	
	The year 1394	The year 1395	The year 1394	The year 1395
Total country	38.2	39.4	11.0	12.4
East Azarbayejan	39.3	41.0	7.3	10.8
West Azarbayejan	39.9	40.5	10.9	11.0
Ardebil	43.7	43.8	12.8	15.3
Esfahan	40.4	40.4	13.8	14.6
Alborz	37.5	37.8	12.4	14.3
Ilam	36.5	36.1	11.6	11.6
Bushehr	36.3	37.0	9.7	11.3
Tehran	37.1	40.2	8.1	11.6
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	36.1	39.4	16.4	20.2
South Khorasan	36.5	38.0	8.6	10.7
Khorasan-e-Razavi	40.1	42.1	13.3	13.2
North Khorasan	41.8	42.4	11.1	11.2
Khuzestan	37.5	38.5	10.9	12.7
Zanjan	39.9	40.8	9.6	9.7
Semnan	38.3	38.9	8.4	8.6
Sistan & Baluchestan	29.9	31.1	11.5	12.9
Fars	37.5	39.4	12.1	11.4
Qazvin	40.2	39.3	11.7	11.6
Qom	35.3	35.8	11.3	11.2
Kordestan	40.2	41.9	13.3	15.2
Kerman	35.2	37.6	7.9	11.5
Kermanshah	39.5	38.9	17.6	22.0
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	34.5	38.6	17.7	13.3
Golestan	37.6	38.2	11.8	12.6
Gilan	41.1	40.8	11.0	11.3
Lorestan	36.2	35.0	13.3	13.0
Mazandaran	41.0	41.0	12.1	11.6
Markazi	36.5	35.6	7.9	7.3
Hormozgan	37.2	38.8	11.9	10.3
Hamedan	36.8	38.6	8.5	9.5
Yazd	41.1	40.8	11.2	12.8

**Table4. Major labor force indicators by seasons and province; the year 1395**

Province	Spring		Summer		Autumn		Winter	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	39.5	12.2	40.4	12.7	38.9	12.3	38.9	12.5
East Azarbayejan	39.7	6.3	43.5	10.4	40.0	13.1	40.9	13.3
West Azarbayejan	40.6	9.2	42.8	7.5	39.4	11.3	39.1	16.5
Ardebil	44.3	14.8	43.6	12.6	43.4	15.6	43.8	18.3
Esfahan	42.0	15.7	40.7	17.4	38.3	12.7	40.7	12.5
Alborz	38.5	13.8	38.4	15.4	37.2	12.6	37.0	15.4
Ilam	37.1	10.2	35.8	11.2	35.4	11.7	36.0	13.2
Bushehr	36.0	8.6	36.4	11.2	37.3	12.1	38.4	13.0
Tehran	40.5	13.5	41.2	13.3	39.1	9.8	40.0	9.8
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	36.8	17.8	40.2	19.8	42.6	20.6	37.8	22.6
South Khorasan	35.6	7.3	41.3	13.4	39.0	11.7	36.0	9.8
Khorasan-e-Razavi	43.1	14.8	42.4	12.5	42.0	11.5	41.2	14.0
North Khorasan	42.9	8.6	43.8	9.7	43.4	13.8	39.7	12.5
Khuzestan	37.1	9.4	39.1	14.9	38.5	13.9	39.5	12.2
Zanjan	40.3	8.4	45.1	8.2	40.4	11.9	37.4	10.4
Semnan	39.3	9.3	38.8	8.1	37.8	10.3	39.6	6.7
Sistan & Baluchestan	30.7	10.8	32.9	13.8	30.4	12.9	30.3	13.9
Fars	38.6	12.3	40.3	13.6	39.6	10.9	39.0	9.0
Qazvin	39.3	11.9	38.9	11.6	39.6	11.9	39.4	11.0
Qom	35.0	14.1	35.3	11.4	36.3	10.0	36.8	9.6
Kordestan	41.9	12.0	41.7	12.0	41.7	16.0	42.1	20.5
Kerman	36.6	12.9	38.4	11.9	38.4	11.5	37.0	9.5
Kermanshah	40.5	19.2	40.6	20.3	37.3	24.5	37.1	24.5
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	36.8	16.4	40.6	13.0	41.0	12.6	36.0	11.4
Golestan	39.2	13.8	39.1	12.8	37.4	12.2	37.1	11.5
Gilan	42.7	9.3	41.1	9.9	40.9	12.4	38.2	14.1
Lorestan	33.7	14.3	36.4	12.0	35.2	12.9	34.7	12.8
Mazandaran	42.6	9.8	41.6	10.8	39.7	13.2	40.2	12.8
Markazi	34.5	7.5	37.1	6.7	36.5	9.2	34.4	5.8
Hormozgan	39.3	11.1	38.8	10.1	38.1	10.1	38.9	9.9
Hamedan	38.9	8.8	40.6	8.0	37.5	10.7	37.3	10.7
Yazd	39.5	13.6	41.7	11.8	41.5	12.2	40.6	13.5

Table.5. Employment share in major economic activity sectors by province- the years 1394-95

Provinces	Agriculture		Manufacturing		Services	
	The year 1394	The year 1395	The year 1394	The year 1395	The year 1394	The year 1395
Total country	18.0	18.0	32.5	31.9	49.4	50.1
East Azarbayejan	22.2	20.1	38.4	39.7	39.4	40.1
West Azarbayejan	34.1	32.8	23.5	22.3	42.5	44.9
Ardebil	33.8	35.1	25.6	23.6	40.6	41.3
Esfahan	11.5	11.0	41.4	43.6	47.1	45.4
Alborz	3.1	2.6	44.6	42.8	52.3	54.6
Ilam	24.7	24.5	26.7	27.2	48.6	48.3
Bushehr	13.3	14.2	27.5	24.4	59.3	61.3
Tehran	1.2	1.3	35.5	33.5	63.3	65.3
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	15.4	18.1	41.3	39.9	43.3	42.0
South Khorasan	33.2	32.9	28.6	28.4	38.3	38.7
Khorasan-e-Razavi	23.4	23.6	30.6	30.8	46.0	45.6
North Khorasan	41.6	40.0	22.8	24.0	35.7	36.0
Khuzestan	17.5	19.9	31.2	28.7	51.4	51.4
Zanjan	31.8	33.6	31.8	30.9	36.5	35.4
Semnan	13.7	14.9	37.8	34.0	48.4	50.9
Sistan & Baluchestan	18.9	18.2	28.9	29.2	52.2	52.6
Fars	20.6	19.8	29.0	30.0	50.4	50.3
Qazvin	20.8	19.6	34.9	35.5	44.3	45.0
Qom	3.1	3.6	41.5	42.2	55.4	54.0
Kordestan	26.6	24.4	25.9	25.1	47.5	50.5
Kerman	34.2	34.1	26.8	26.3	39.0	39.6
Kermanshah	29.2	27.6	22.4	22.3	48.4	50.2
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	18.0	20.9	31.8	29.4	50.3	49.7
Golestan	27.6	28.8	28.7	25.4	43.8	45.8
Gilan	27.3	26.0	23.6	24.6	48.9	49.2
Lorestan	25.9	23.9	31.0	30.6	43.1	45.5
Mazandaran	20.2	20.1	29.8	28.3	50.0	51.7
Markazi	17.2	16.5	42.6	41.3	40.1	42.3
Hormozgan	18.7	18.9	31.4	31.8	49.9	49.3
Hamedan	24.7	27.0	31.4	28.1	43.9	44.9
Yazd	9.7	8.3	46.5	45.4	43.8	46.3

Table.6. Employment share in major economic activity sectors by season and province- the year 1395

Province	Spring			Summer		
	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services
Total country	19.1	31.4	49.4	19.4	31.5	49.1
East Azarbayejan	20.6	40.8	38.6	23.7	39.6	36.7
West Azarbayejan	34.1	22.8	43.1	38.7	20.0	41.2
Ardebil	36.8	23.7	39.6	36.4	23.2	40.4
Esfahan	11.1	42.3	46.7	12.1	42.4	45.6
Alburz	2.6	41.8	55.6	3.4	44.7	51.9
Ilam	26.2	26.9	46.8	24.4	27.5	48.1
Bushehr	14.8	23.3	62.0	13.4	23.8	62.8
Tehran	1.1	33.1	65.8	1.8	32.3	65.8
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	19.3	38.6	42.1	18.8	39.6	41.6
South Khorasan	30.2	28.8	41.0	32.6	29.6	37.8
Khorasan-e-Razavi	25.2	29.9	44.9	23.9	31.2	45.0
North Khorasan	43.9	22.8	33.4	39.8	25.6	34.6
Khuzestan	19.2	29.8	51.1	20.1	29.8	50.1
Zanjan	35.9	30.1	34.0	35.3	32.1	32.6
Semnan	15.6	33.6	50.7	15.8	35.7	48.4
Sistan & Baluchestan	18.8	29.3	51.8	16.6	28.3	55.1
Fars	22.0	28.2	49.9	20.7	28.8	50.4
Qazvin	21.6	36.4	42.0	20.9	37.0	42.1
Qom	3.9	45.8	50.1	4.0	42.2	53.7
Kordestan	26.3	25.2	48.5	25.7	27.2	47.1
Kerman	35.0	27.4	37.6	34.0	27.2	38.9
Kermanshah	28.2	24.3	47.5	30.3	23.9	45.8
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	21.7	29.5	48.8	19.7	28.8	51.5
Golestan	32.3	23.9	43.8	29.6	25.9	44.5
Gilan	32.4	21.8	45.3	29.8	23.7	46.4
Lorestan	23.9	30.8	45.3	26.9	28.1	45.0
Mazandaran	23.7	26.3	50.0	21.4	27.4	51.3
Markazi	19.0	37.2	43.8	17.5	41.3	41.2
Hormozgan	16.6	35.2	48.2	18.8	31.3	49.9
Hamedan	28.5	28.5	43.0	29.3	28.5	42.2
Yazd	9.4	43.8	46.8	9.3	43.9	46.8

Table.6. Employment share in major economic activity sectors by season and province- the year 1395- continued

Province	Autumn			Winter		
	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Services
Total country	17.3	32.1	50.6	16.1	32.5	51.4
East Azarbayejan	18.4	38.9	42.8	17.5	39.6	42.9
West Azarbayejan	29.3	25.0	45.7	27.8	21.6	50.6
Ardebil	34.3	22.8	42.9	32.5	24.9	42.6
Esfahan	11.4	44.3	44.3	9.4	45.4	45.2
Alborz	2.3	42.7	55.0	2.2	42.1	55.7
Ilam	25.0	25.7	49.3	22.2	28.7	49.2
Bushehr	14.5	25.2	60.2	14.3	25.4	60.3
Tehran	1.3	34.0	64.7	0.9	34.4	64.7
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	19.0	40.4	40.7	14.8	41.2	44.0
South Khorasan	37.1	27.3	35.5	31.4	27.9	40.7
Khorasan-e-Razavi	24.2	30.1	45.7	21.0	32.1	46.9
North Khorasan	39.2	24.3	36.4	37.1	23.1	39.8
Khuzestan	20.3	25.9	53.8	20.1	29.3	50.6
Zanjan	30.6	31.8	37.6	32.4	29.4	38.1
Semnan	14.0	34.5	51.4	14.4	32.4	52.9
Sistan & Baluchestan	18.5	28.5	53.0	19.1	30.6	50.3
Fars	19.4	31.5	49.2	17.2	31.3	51.5
Qazvin	17.9	34.3	47.8	18.1	34.1	47.7
Qom	3.5	40.2	56.0	3.0	41.0	55.8
Kordestan	22.1	25.6	52.3	23.2	22.1	54.7
Kerman	34.3	25.3	40.4	33.3	25.5	41.2
Kermanshah	26.6	19.7	53.7	24.7	20.6	54.7
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	21.6	30.7	47.7	20.6	28.5	50.8
Golestan	26.9	26.1	47.1	26.2	25.8	48.0
Gilan	21.0	27.1	51.8	19.3	26.4	54.1
Lorestan	22.6	31.1	46.2	22.0	32.5	45.5
Mazandaran	17.5	30.7	51.7	17.1	29.1	53.8
Markazi	14.3	43.7	41.9	15.3	42.6	42.1
Hormozgan	20.9	29.1	50.0	19.5	31.5	49.0
Hamedan	25.1	27.9	47.0	24.7	27.2	48.1
Yazd	6.9	47.3	45.7	7.5	46.6	45.7

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