

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Summer 2009 (June 22 –September 23)

Statistical Centre of Iran

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 sample rotation. 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 the spring of 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 in November. From 2001 to 2003, it used to be taken on a seasonal basis, while in 2004 it was only executed in May and November. 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 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 Population and Housing Census 2006 as of the year 2009.

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 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.

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.

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

Underemployment rate

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

Underemployed population.

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

Labor force indicators

Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the Summer 2009 (June 22 –September 23). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (Spring 2009) and the corresponding season in the previous year (Summer 2008) –(June 22 –September 23). And table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.

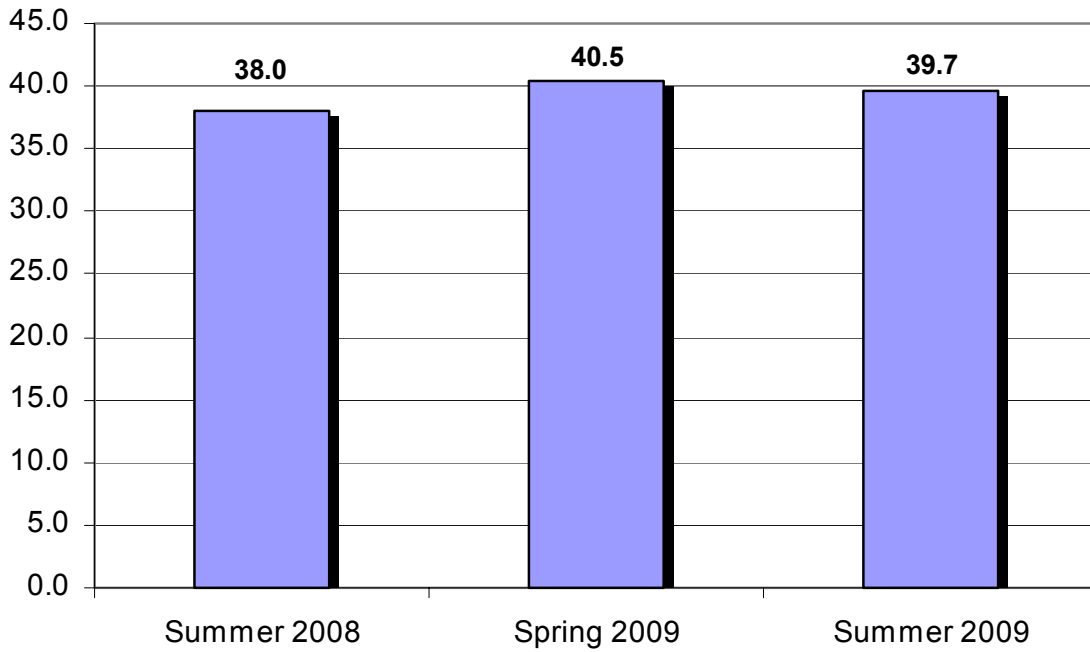
Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; Summer 2009

Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity rate of population aged 10 or over	Rate	39.7	64.0	15.0	38.3	43.3
	Number	24322876	19760090	4562785	16788088	7534786
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 or over	Rate	11.3	10.4	15.3	13.1	7.2
	Number	2745219	2048257	696961	2200497	544721
Unemployment rate of the population aged 15 and over	rate	11.4	10.4	15.5	13.2	7.3
	number	2731655	2035843	695812	2193051	538604
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-24	Rate	22.7	20.9	29.9	27.7	13.7
	Number	1160494	854752	305742	908905	251589
Unemployment rate of population aged 15-29	Rate	20.4	18.3	28.8	23.8	13.1
	Number	1834516	1320530	513986	1461178	373338
Employment share in agriculture sector	Rate	21.9	20.0	30.8	5.4	56.5
	Number	4736231	3545785	1190446	787061	3949170
Employment share in manufacturing sector	Rate	31.9	33.0	26.5	35.5	24.3
	Number	6873655	5848114	1025540	5174106	1699549
Employment share in services sector	Rate	46.2	47.0	42.7	59.1	19.2
	Number	9967770	8317933	1649837	8626424	1341346
Underemployment share		7.8	8.5	4.5	6.8	10.0
The share of employed population aged 15 or over with regular working hours of more than 49		45.2	51.2	17.5	46.4	42.8

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

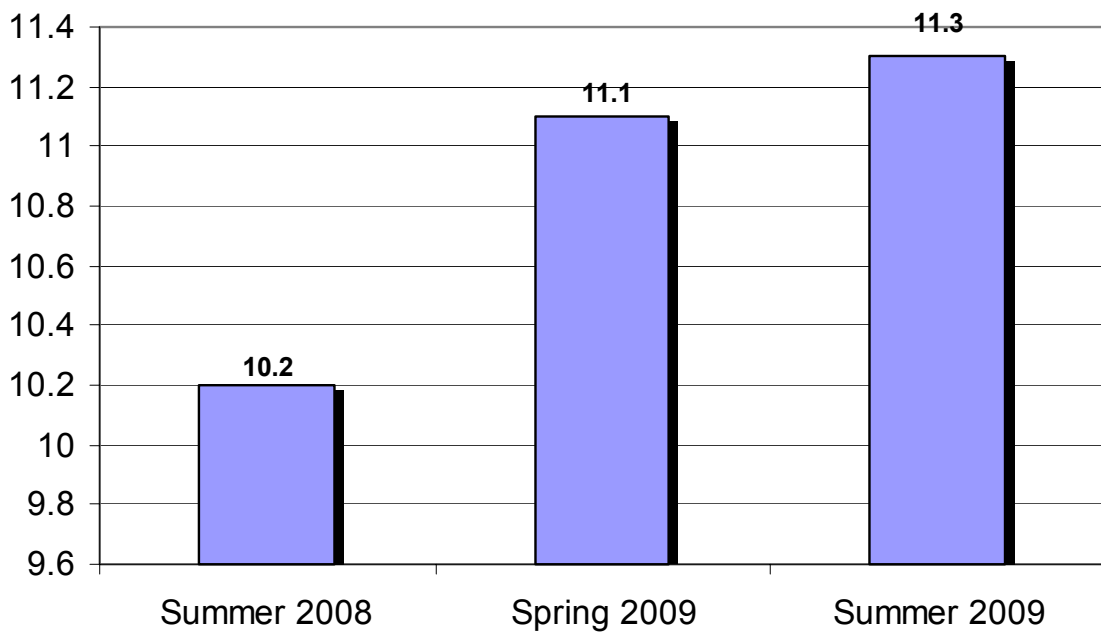
A review of the economic participation rate reveals that about 39.7% of the working age population (10 years or over) are economically active; i.e., they lie either in the employed or the unemployed group. In addition, the results indicate that the economic participation rate stands lower for women comparing men and urban areas comparing rural areas. The review shows a 1.7% increase in the total country economic participation rate as compared with the summer 2008 (June 22 –September 23), and a 0.8% decrease comparing the Spring 2009

Figure1. Total Country Economic Participation Rate



The unemployment rate among population aged 10 and over mentions that a percentage of 11.3% of the economically active population has been unemployed. Based on the results, the unemployment rate is higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. Review of the changes happened in the indicator at national level shows a 1.1% grow comparing the corresponding season and a 0.2 % increase comparing the previous season.

Figure 2. Total Country Unemployment Rate



The unemployment rate among population aged 15 and over mentions that a percentage of 11.4% of the economically active population has been unemployed. Based on the results, the unemployment rate is higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas.

The underemployment indicator tells that 7.8 % of the total employed population has been 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 46.2% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 31.9% and agriculture sector with 21.9 %.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 22.7 % while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. Comparing the last corresponding season and spring 2009, the indicator has experienced a 0.4 % decrease and a 0.3% grow respectively.

The unemployment rate among the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 20.4% 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 0.1% decrease comparing to the corresponding season and no change comparing to the previous season.

Review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 or over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 45.2% 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 (Summer 2009 compared with Spring 2009 and Summer 2008) (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Spring 2009		Summer 2008		Spring 2009		Summer 2008		Spring 2009		Summer 2008	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	-0.8	40.5	1.7	38.0	0.1	63.9	1.7	62.3	-1.7	16.7	1.8	13.2
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	0.2	11.1	1.1	10.2	0.6	9.8	1.8	8.6	-0.9	16.2	-2.4	17.7
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	0.3	22.4	-0.4	23.1	0.9	20.0	1.0	19.9	-0.7	30.6	-6.0	35.9
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	0.0	20.4	-0.1	20.5	0.5	17.8	1.1	17.2	-0.2	29.0	-5.0	33.8

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (Summer 2009 compared with Spring 2009 and Summer 2008) continued

(percent)

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Spring 2009		Summer 2008		Spring 2009		Summer 2008	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	-0.7	39.0	1.9	36.4	-0.9	44.2	1.5	41.8
Unemployment rate of population aged 10 and over	0.2	12.9	1.1	12.0	0.0	7.2	0.8	6.4
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	0.6	27.1	-0.7	28.4	-0.7	14.4	-0.2	13.9
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	0.1	23.7	-0.3	24.1	-0.3	13.4	0.0	13.1

Figure 3. Changes in unemployment rate over successive seasons during the years 2005 - 2009

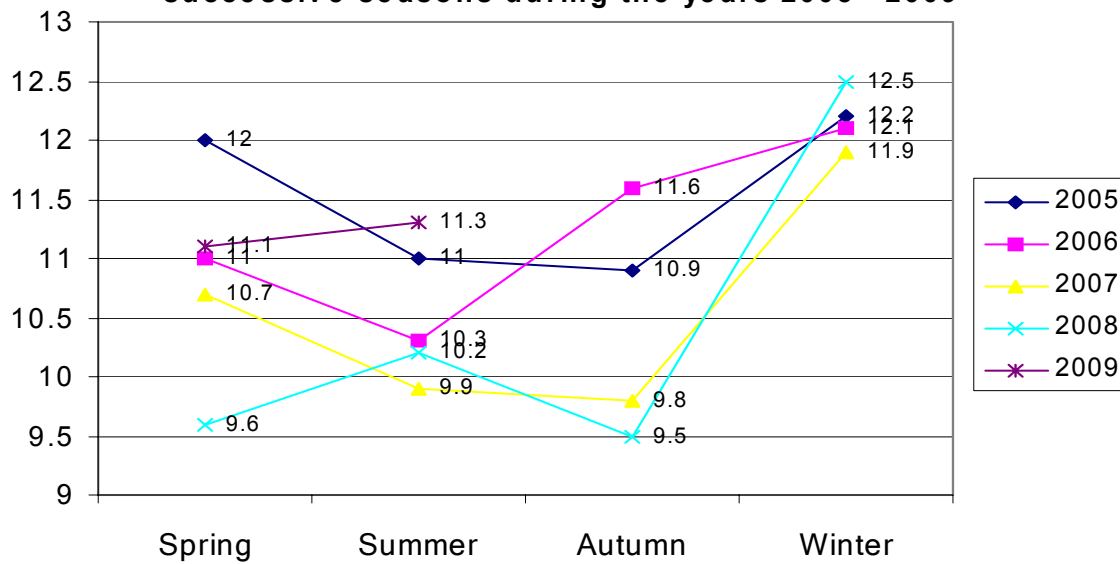


Table3. Labor force indicators by province; summer and spring 2009 and summer 2008 (percent)

	Summer 2009		Spring 2009		Summer 2008	
Province	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	39.7	11.3	40.5	11.1	38.0	10.2
East Azarbayejan	49.3	8.3	48.5	6.5	42.0	6.3
West Azarbayejan	49.6	7.4	45.5	9.2	48.4	7.5
Ardebil	45.2	8.6	47.7	10.7	42.1	8.5
Esfahan	42.6	12.2	41.4	8.6	40.6	10.0
Ilam	40.9	11.9	42.1	12.2	36.9	17.2
Bushehr	37.7	12.1	38.6	9.2	35.3	10.1
Tehran	38.2	12.4	39.7	13.4	37.6	12.3
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	40.8	13.6	40.5	16.8	38.8	11.4
South Khorasan	41.6	8.1	45.8	6.1	37.3	8.7
Khorasan-e-Razavi	43.1	9.7	42.0	11.6	43.1	7.7
North Khorasan	36.8	6.4	43.2	4.2	36.9	5.9
Khuzestan	38.3	11.0	38.1	12.2	36.3	13.3
Zanjan	47.4	6.1	46.8	7.8	45.7	8.0
Semnan	37.4	10.2	36.0	7.0	32.8	8.1
Sistan & Baluchestan	28.8	13.1	29.7	13.8	27.1	11.4
Fars	36.4	14.2	39.4	15.3	31.9	11.9
Qazvin	35	11.1	35.5	11.1	36.4	7.5
Qom	34.3	10.1	34.8	10.8	34.4	11.7
Kordestan	39.1	9.5	40.2	7.5	40.6	10.3
Kerman	31.7	10.7	33.6	9.1	36.2	11.1
Kermanshah	37.5	11.5	38.8	10.2	34.5	10.7
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	29.5	15.4	30.7	12.6	31.4	13.0
Golestan	41.3	7.1	43.9	7.6	41.2	8.2
Gilan	40.2	17.0	48.1	12.6	39.7	14.0

Lorestan	40.0	20.2	39.7	19.5	37.9	15.3
Mazandaran	37.4	7.6	39.3	9.9	36.5	6.3
Markazi	41.1	14.3	39.4	9.3	33.9	8.9
Hormozgan	31.9	3.6	33.0	5.8	26.0	6.2
Hamedan	42.7	16.7	42.0	10.4	40.0	10.0
Yazd	41.2	10.0	39.4	8.9	34.7	5.8