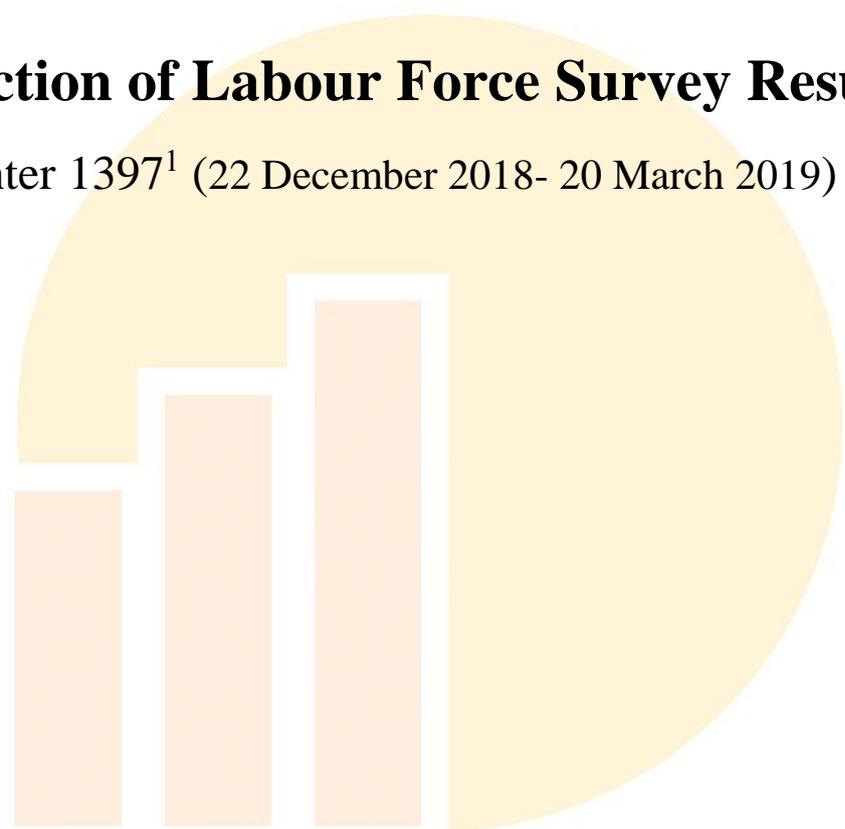




# A Selection of Labour Force Survey Results

Winter 1397<sup>1</sup> (22 December 2018- 20 March 2019)



Statistical Centre of Iran

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<sup>1</sup>.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-21 June)

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 national economic conditions. The information about labour market would be collected through the Household Employment and Unemployment Characteristics Survey (HEUCS) as of the year 1376. 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 "Labour Force Survey" could be implemented. The "Labour Force Survey" was first conducted in the year 1384 and since then has regularly been taken in the middle month of every season.

The "Labour 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

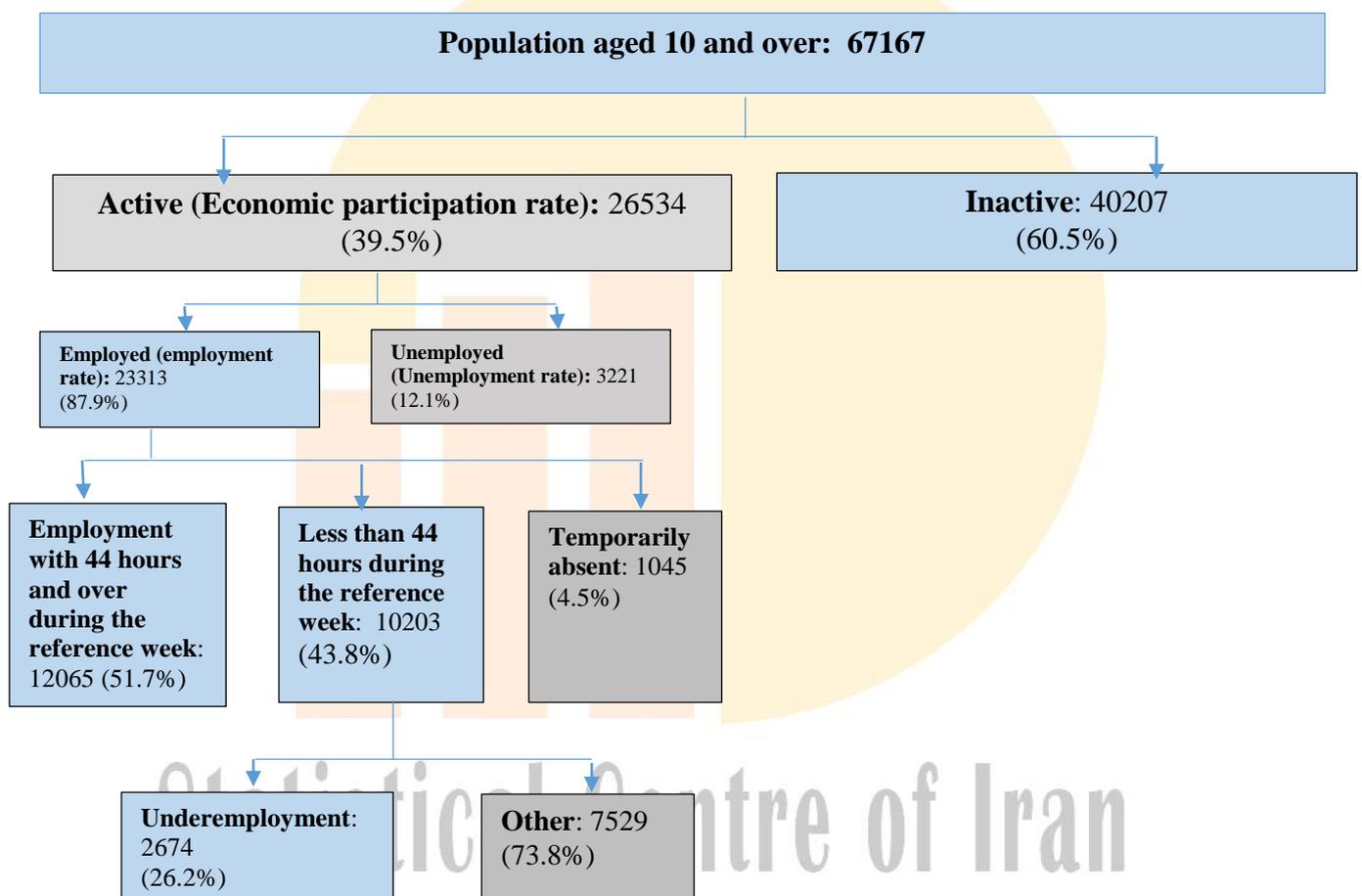
the target population by using the same sampling method, and based on each of the samples, a confidence interval is calculated for the real unemployment rate. It is expected that 95% of these confidence intervals include the real unemployment rate

## Findings

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

Figure 1 shows the major indicators of labour market in the winter of the year 1397.

**Figure1. Major Indicators of Labour Market- Winter, the Year 1397  
(Thousand people)**



A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 10 and over (activity rate) reveals that 39.5 % of the population at 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. The review of the changes trend in national economic participation rate shows that this indicator increased by 0.1% as compared with the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1396). The review of employment rate of population aged 10 and over shows that 34.7 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 labour market indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; winter, the year 1397 compared to the winter, the year 1396** (Number= person, rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour Force Indicators*		Total country			Male			Female		
		Winter, the year 1397	Winter, the year 1396**	Changes	Winter, the year 1397	Winter, the year 1396**	Changes	Winter, the year 1397	Winter, the year 1396**	Changes
Population aged 10 and over	Number	67166914	66370997	795917	33672685	33296258	376427	33494229	33074738	419491
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	39.5	39.4	0.1	64.0	64.0	0.0	14.9	14.7	0.2
	Number	26533854	۲۶۱۶۳۶۷۱	37018۳	21554446	21310423	244023	4979408	4853247	126161
Employment rate of population aged 10 and over	Ratio	34.7	34.7	0.0	57.2	57.3	-0.1	12.1	11.9	0.2
	Number	23313044	23010678	302366	19249448	19087495	161953	4063596	3923183	140413
Unemployment of population aged 10 and over	Rate	12.1	12.1	0.0	10.7	10.4	0.3	18.4	19.2	-0.8
	Number	3220810	3152992	67818	2304997	2222928	82069	915812	930064	-14252
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	12.2	12.1	0.1	10.7	10.4	0.3	18.5	19.2	-0.7
	Number	3216190	3150210	65980	2300717	2220146	80571	915473	930064	-14591
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	28.1	29.3	-1.2	25.2	26.3	-1.1	39.6	41.5	-1.9
	Number	735435	837241	-101806	528093	599249	-71156	207342	237992	-30650
Unemployment of population aged 15-29	Rate	25.5	25.3	0.2	22.1	21.5	0.6	38.1	39.2	-1.1
	Number	1661809	1668651	-6842	1134565	1117178	17387	527244	551473	-24229
Unemployment of higher education graduates aged 10 and over	Rate	17.4	17.7	-0.3	12.5	12.6	-0.1	27.1	27.7	-0.6
	Number	1206756	1112122	94634	575710	525129	50581	631044	586992	44052
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	16.0	15.2	0.8	15.9	14.8	1.1	16.2	17.2	-1.0
	Number	3720827	3491710	229117	3063748	2818163	245585	657079	673547	-16468
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	32.4	32.9	-0.5	33.7	34.1	-0.4	26.5	27.3	-0.8
	Number	7553262	7580083	-26821	6477508	6509403	-31895	1075754	1070680	5074
Employment in services sector	Share	51.6	51.9	-0.3	50.4	51.1	-0.7	57.3	55.5	1.8
	Number	12034258	11934825	99433	9704755	9756157	-51402	2329503	2178668	150835
Underemployment	Share	11.5	11.5	0.0	12.6	12.9	-0.3	6.0	5.1	0.9
	Number	2674332	2657572	16760	2431802	2457070	-25268	242529	200502	42027
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 10 and over out of the total unemployed population		37.5	35.3	2.2	25.0	23.6	1.4	68.9	63.1	5.8
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 10 and over out of the total employed population		24.5	22.4	2.1	20.9	19.0	1.9	41.8	39.1	2.7

**Table 1. Major labour market indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; winter, the year 1397 compared to the winter, the year 1396 (continued) (Number= person, rate, share and ratio: percent)**

Labour force indicator*		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Winter, the year 1397	Winter, the year 1396**	Changes	Winter, the year 1397	Winter, the year 1396**	Changes
Population aged 10 and over	Number	50788675	49944028	844647	16378238	16426968	-48730
Economic participation rate of population aged 10 and over	Rate	39 .1	39 .2	-0 .1	40 .6	40 .0	0 .6
	Number	19879789	19593693	286096	6654065	6656997	8408^
Employment rate of population aged 10 and over	Ratio	33 .9	34 .2	-0 .3	37 .1	36 .1	1
	Number	17241177	17075962	165215	6071867	5934716	137151
Unemployment of population aged 10 and over	Rate	13 .3	12 .8	0 .5	8 .7	9 .7	-1
	Number	2638612	2517731	120881	582198	635260	-53062
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	13 .3	12 .9	0 .4	8 .8	9 .7	-0 .9
	Number	2635099	2516149	118950	581091	634061	-52970
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	30 .8	31 .3	-0 .5	21 .8	24 .5	-2 .7
	Number	565205	635121	-69916	170229	202120	-31891
Unemployment of population aged 15-29	Rate	27 .9	26 .5	1 .4	18 .7	21 .6	-2 .9
	Number	1345746	1314112	31634	316062	354538	-38476
Unemployment of higher education graduates aged 10 and over	Rate	17 .1	17 .1	0 .0	21 .4	24 .3	-2 .9
	Number	1079974	983729	96245	126781	128392	-1611
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	5 .3	4 .4	0 .9	46 .2	46 .2	0 .0
	Number	913716	748944	164772	2807111	2742766	64345
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	34.0	35 .1	-1 .1	27 .7	26 .7	1
	Number	5869437	5993378	-123941	1683824	1586704	97120
Employment in services sector	Share	60 .6	60 .5	0 .1	26	27 .0	-1 .0
	Number	10453899	10329929	123970	1580358	1604896	-24538
Underemployment	Share	9 .7	10 .0	-0 .3	16 .6	16 .0	0 .6
	Number	1668438	1705893	-37455	1005893	951679	54214
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 10 and over out of the total unemployed population		40 .9	39 .1	1 .8	21 .8	20 .2	1 .6
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 10 and over out of the total employed population		30 .5	27 .9	2 .6	7 .7	6 .8	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 51.6% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 32.4% and agriculture sector with 16.0%. The share of the employed people in the agriculture sector in winter of the year 1397 had a 0.8 percent increase in comparison with the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1396) but the contribution of the employed people to the manufacturing and service decreased by 0.5 and 0.3 percent, respectively

Review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 10 and over shows that 12.1 percent of the economically active population were unemployed. Moreover, based on the confidence interval of 95%, the total national unemployment rate was between 11.7 and 12.6 percent with a 12.1 percent point estimation. This means that with the confidence interval of 95 percent, this interval shows the national real unemployment rate. Based on the results, the unemployment rate was higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the changes trend happened in the indicator at national level shows that this indicator experienced no change compared to the last corresponding season (winter, 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. This indicator in the winter of the year 1397 experienced a 0.1% rise in contrast to the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1396).

The unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 indicates that 28.1% percent of the economically active population at this age group were unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes trend in unemployment rate at age group shows that the indicator decreased by 1.2% from the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1396).

The unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-29 indicates that 25.5% of the economically active population were unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the changes trend shows that this indicator rose by 0.2% compared to the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1396).

Review of the unemployment rate among the higher education graduates aged 10 and over shows that 17.4 percent of the economically 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 trend shows that this indicator dropped by 0.5% compared to the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1396).

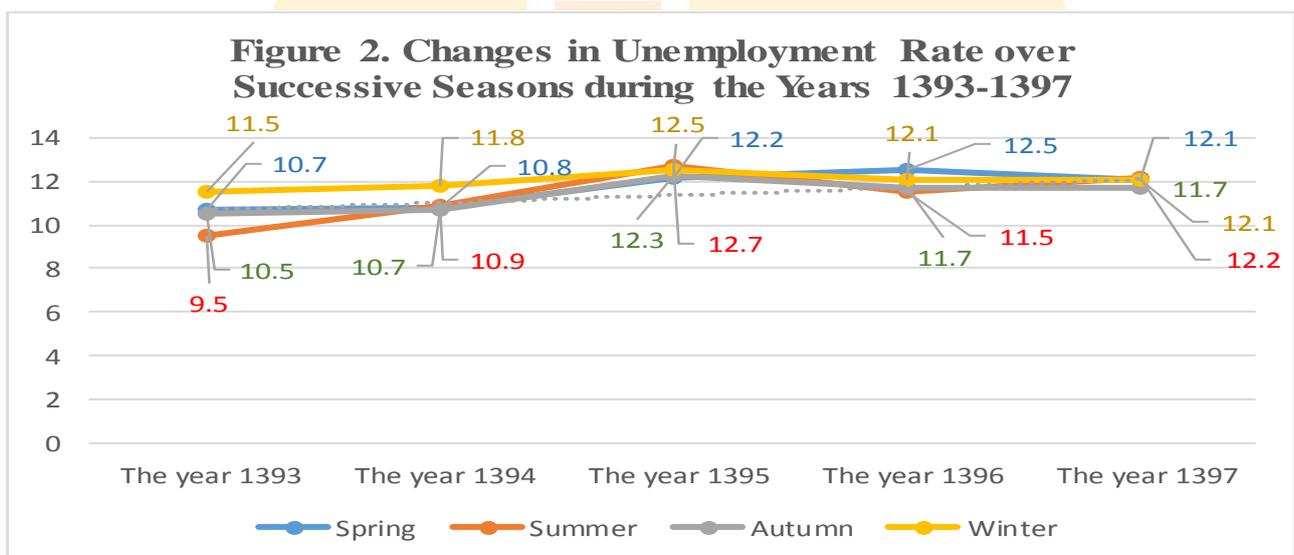
The underemployment share shows that 11.5% of the total employed population were underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas. This indicator in the winter experienced no change compared to the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1396).

In the winter of the year 1397, the share of the unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 37.5 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 experienced a 2.2 percent rise compared to the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1396).

The results indicate that in the winter of the year 1397, the share of the employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 24.5 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 2.1 percent over the last corresponding season (winter, 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 35.5% of them work usually more than 49 hours a week. As a decent work indicator, it reveals that a great share of the national employed population works more than the standard hours. This indicator experienced a 1.2 percent drop compared to the last corresponding season (winter, the year 1396).

The figure.2 shows the changes of unemployment rate in the successive seasons during the years 1393 to 1397.



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Table 2 shows some major labour force indicators in winter, the year 1397 in comparison with winter, the year 1396\* by province.

Table 2- some major labour force indicators

Province	participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
					Winter 1397		Winter 1396
	Winter 1397	Winter 1396	Winter 1397	Winter 1396	Point to point estimation	Confidence interval 95%	
Total country	39 .5	39 .4	34 .7	34 .7	12 .1	(11 .7-12 .6)	12 .1
East Azarbayejan	39 .5	40 .1	34 .7	35 .2	12 .4	(10 .4-14 .4)	12 .1
West Azarbayejan	41 .5	39 .9	35 .1	31 .8	15 .5	(12 .8-18 .2)	20 .3
Ardebil	43 .3	41 .9	37 .6	38 .3	13 .3	(11 .1-15 .5)	8 .5
Esfahan	42 .1	41 .3	36 .9	35 .8	12 .3	(10 .6-14 .1)	13 .5
Alborz	37 .8	36 .9	32 .7	32 .8	13 .6	(11 .3-15 .8)	11 .0
Ilam	34 .4	34 .0	30 .9	30 .2	10 .3	(8 .0-12 .6)	11 .2
Bushehr	37 .7	38 .9	34 .2	34 .4	9 .1	(6 .9-11 .4)	11 .4
Tehran	40 .1	40 .0	35 .7	36 .4	10 .9	(9 .2-12 .6)	9 .1
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	39 .4	38 .3	33 .2	29 .2	15 .6	(12 .4-18 .9)	23 .6
South Khorasan	37 .5	37 .5	34 .3	33 .6	8 .4	(6 .8-9 .9)	10 .2
Khorasan-e-Razavi	39 .9	42 .1	34 .8	37 .0	12 .7	(10 .9-14 .4)	12 .2
North Khorasan	42 .4	43 .9	37 .0	39 .7	12 .6	(10 .8-14 .5)	9 .5
Khuzestan	39 .4	39 .4	32 .8	33 .9	16 .9	(15 .0-18 .8)	13 .8
Zanjan	40 .7	38 .2	36 .1	33 .9	11 .3	(9 .1-13 .5)	11 .3
Semnan	37 .1	38 .9	34 .1	35 .9	8 .0	(6 .4-9 .6)	7 .8
Sistan & Baluchestan	31 .3	30 .2	26 .9	26 .2	14 .3	(11 .7-16 .8)	13 .3
Fars	39 .2	39 .6	35 .9	35 .5	8 .3	(7 .0-9 .6)	10 .3
Qazvin	39 .7	39 .7	35 .4	35 .4	10 .9	(8 .7-13 .1)	10 .8
Qom	34 .9	36 .1	31 .5	32 .0	9 .6	(7 .9-11 .3)	11 .3
Kordestan	42 .6	41 .8	34 .3	34 .5	19 .6	(17 .4-21 .7)	17 .4
Kerman	39 .9	37 .9	35 .2	34 .2	11 .6	(9 .4-13 .8)	9 .8
Kermanshah	42 .3	40 .4	33 .4	31 .4	20 .9	(18 .0-23 .8)	22 .1
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	34 .3	37 .0	30 .0	30 .9	12 .5	(10 .4-14 .5)	16 .6
Golestan	36 .5	37 .2	32 .6	33 .0	10 .7	(8 .7-12 .6)	11 .2
Gilan	43 .0	40 .3	37 .9	35 .6	11 .7	(9 .4-13 .9)	11 .7
Lorestan	35 .7	34 .8	31 .2	30 .1	12 .5	(10 .1-14 .9)	13 .6
Mazandaran	40 .5	39 .9	38 .0	35 .6	6 .3	(5 .1-7 .5)	10 .6
Markazi	34 .8	34 .9	31 .9	32 .4	8 .2	(6 .7-9 .7)	7 .2
Hormozgan	38 .5	41 .6	34 .4	38 .1	10 .8	(8 .8-12 .8)	8 .3
Hamedan	39 .6	40 .6	35 .0	35 .0	11 .6	(9 .6-13 .5)	13 .8
Yazd	40 .7	42 .3	35 .4	37 .2	13 .1	(10 .4-15 .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 new international definitions and concepts based on the ICLS 1983<sup>1</sup> for measuring the employment and unemployment in the Labour Force Survey.

**Work:** This key term is used to determine the status of economic activity of people. The term "work" refers to the group of economic activities (mentally or physically) which are done for earning income (cash or in kind) and its objective is 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. have been seeking job during the reference week and the preceding three weeks (have taken specific steps to seek paid employment or self-employment).
3. are available to work during the reference week or the following week (available for a wage /salary employment or self-employment). All people who, because of expecting to start a job in future or return to their former job, have not been seeking a job, but have had no job and have been available to work - are also considered unemployed.

**Labour force (active population):** is the sum of persons in employment plus persons in unemployment.

### 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.

### Indicators

#### *Economic participation rate (Economic activity rate)*

The ratio of the active population (employed & unemployed) 10 years of age and over (15 years of age and

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<sup>1</sup> ILO, Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1983).

A Selection of Labour Force Survey Results- Winter, the Year 1397 (22 December 2018- 20 March 2019) over) to the working age population 10 years of age and over (15 years of age and over) multiplied by 100.

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

**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.

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

### Employment rate

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

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

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

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

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

### Unemployment rate of higher education graduates

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

Unemployed higher education graduates

$$\text{Unemployment rate of higher education graduates} = \frac{\text{Unemployed higher education graduates aged 10 and over}}{\text{Active higher education graduates}} \times 100$$

**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

Unemployed higher education graduates aged 10 and over

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

Unemployed population aged 10 and over

**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

Employed higher education graduates aged 10 and over

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

Total employed population aged 10 and over

**Underemployment share**

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

Underemployed population

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

Employed population

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