

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Autumn, the year 1401¹ (23 September- 21 December 2022)

1. It is the Iranian Year which usually begins on the day of 21 March of Gregorian calendar. To find the corresponding year of 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 1401 in Gregorian calendar is (21 March 2022- 20 March 2023).

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)

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Introduction

The pair concepts of employment and unemployment are so basic to national economies that any rise in the employment rate, which means a drop in unemployment, is reckoned as an indicator of national development. The unemployment rate is an indicator for appraising the national economic conditions. The information on the nation's market is 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 international concepts, particularly, with those of the ILO, the survey plan was revised so 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 been regularly taken in the middle month of every season.

The "Labour Force Survey" is conducted to get information on the composition and the current condition of the labour force and its changes. This aim is accomplished by "estimation of seasonal and annual labour force indicators at national and provincial levels", "estimation of the annual number of the labour force at national and provincial levels", "estimation of seasonal and annual changes in the labour force at national and provincial levels", and "estimation of annual changes in 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-stage classified clustering method. In this survey, in addition to the 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 the selection of sub-samples to satisfy the needs of several surveys or several rounds of a survey. The sampling frame of the first stage (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 stage. 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 1400, 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 noted 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.

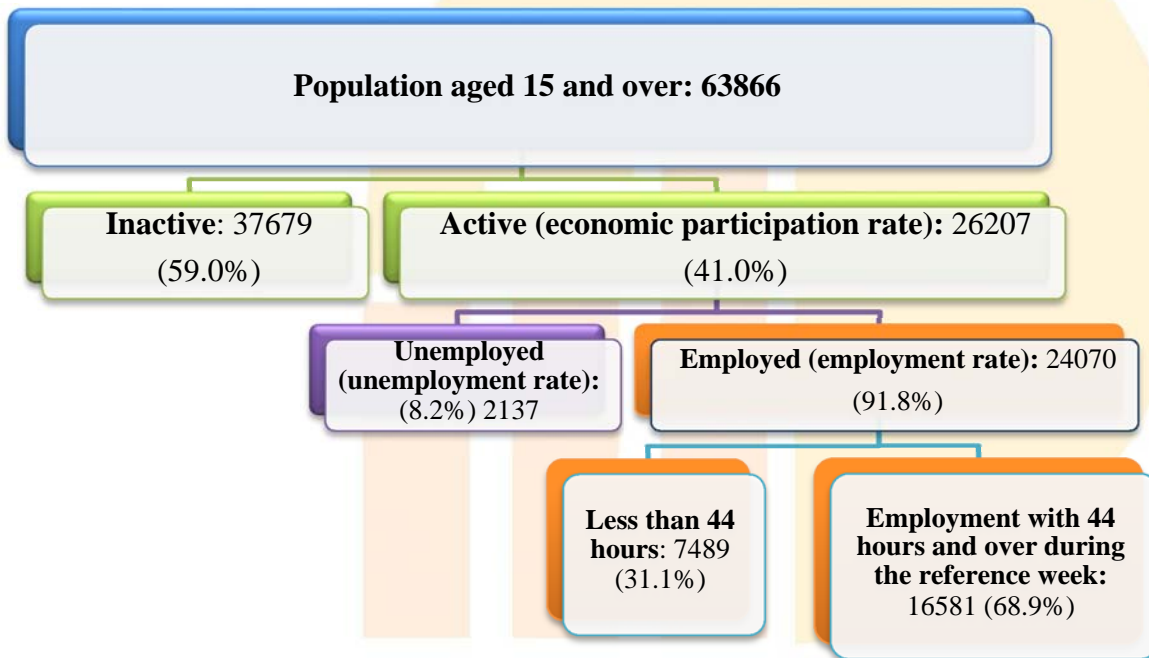
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It should be mentioned that according to the studies conducted, due to social changes in the entry age into the labour market in recent years in different countries, the minimum age at 15 has been considered for reviewing key indicators of the labour market. Due to similar changes in our country, the major indicators of the country's labour market have been calculated and presented based on the population aged 15 and over since the spring of the year 1398.

Findings

Based on the results of this survey in the autumn of the year 1401, the major indicators of the labour market and its changes in this season, compared to the autumn of the year 1400, are presented in Table 1. Table 2 also shows the major indicators of the labour market by province. Figure 1 provides the major indicators of labour market in the autumn of the year 1401.

Figure1. Major Indicators of Labour Market in the autumn of the Year 1401 (1000 persons)



A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 15 and over (activity rate) reveals that 41.0% of the population at working age (15 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 higher for men compared to women, and rural areas in contrast to urban areas. The review of the trend of changes in the national economic participation rate shows that this indicator increased by 0.1 percent compared to the corresponding season of the previous year (autumn of the year 1400). The study of the employment rate of the population aged 15 and over shows that 37.7 percent of the working age population (15 years and over) was employed. This indicator stands higher for men and rural areas compared to women and urban areas.

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TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; AUTUMN OF THE YEAR 1401 COMPARED TO THE AUTUMN OF THE YEAR 1400

(Number person; rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Total country			Male			Female		
		Autumn, the year 1401	Autumn, the year 1400	Changes	Autumn, the year 1401	Autumn, the year 1400	Changes	Autumn, the year 1401	Autumn, the year 1400	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	63886099	63155203	730896	31911951	31554621	357330	31974148	31600582	373566
The economic participation rate of the population aged 15 and over	Rate	41	40.9	0.1	68.5	68.7	-0.2	13.6	13.1	0.5
	Number	26207240	25838155	369085	21857645	21689126	168519	4349595	4149029	200566
Inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	37678859	37317048	361811	10054306	9865495	188811	27624553	27451553	173000
Employment rate of The population aged 15 and over	Ratio	37.7	37.3	0.4	63.7	63.5	0.2	11.7	11.1	0.6
	Number	24070412	23535175	535237	20337166	20039314	297852	3733246	3495861	237385
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over	Rate	8.2	8.9	-0.7	7	7.6	-0.6	14.2	15.7	-1.5
	Number	2136828	2302979	-166151	1520479	1649811	-129332	616350	653168	-36818
Unemployment of the population aged 15-24	Rate	19.2	23.6	-4.4	16.9	20.7	-3.8	29.8	37.9	-8.1
	Number	473317	545706	-72389	346588	397843	-51255	126729	147863	-21134
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	14.8	16.1	-1.3	12.2	13.4	-1.2	25.8	28	-2.2
	Number	1458055	1612714	-154659	963679	1092112	-128433	494376	520603	-26227
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over who graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	12.5	13.8	-1.3	8.6	10.1	-1.5	21.4	22.6	-1.2
	Number	905828	974518	-68690	436247	498667	-62420	469581	475851	-6270
Employment in the agriculture sector	Share	14.3	15.4	-1.1	14.7	15.4	-0.7	12.3	15.4	-3.1
	Number	3446240	3629807	-183567	2987624	3089799	-102175	458617	540008	-81391
Employment in the manufacturing sector	Share	34.6	34.7	-0.1	35.4	36	-0.6	30.2	26.9	3.3
	Number	8329150	8163113	166037	7203296	7221673	-18377	1125853	941441	184412
Employment in the services sector	Share	51.1	49.9	1.2	49.9	48.5	1.4	57.5	57.6	-0.1
	Number	12290478	11737979	552499	10142747	9723807	418940	2147731	2014173	133558
Underemployment	Share	9.5	10.6	-1.1	10.3	11.7	-1.4	4.7	4.6	0.1
	Number	2274837	2505426	-230589	2098125	2343435	-245310	176712	161991	14721
The share of unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	42.4	42.3	0.1	28.7	30.2	-1.5	76.2	72.9	3.3
The share of employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	26.4	25.8	0.6	22.8	22.2	0.6	46.3	46.5	-0.2

-The difference between the total number of employees and the summation of employees in the three sectors is due to the unstated figures in the major sectors of economic activity.

- The difference is due to rounding.

1. The target population of the labour force survey is the people at working age from private settled and collective households in urban and rural areas.

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TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; AUTUMN OF THE YEAR 1401 COMPARED TO THE AUTUMN OF THE YEAR 1400 (continued)
(Number person; rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Autumn, the year 1401	Autumn, the year 1400	Changes	Autumn, the year 1401	Autumn, the year 1400	Changes
Population aged 15 and over ¹	Number	49405230	48608446	796784	14480869	14546757	-65888
The economic participation rate of the population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.5	40.3	0.2	42.9	42.9	0
	Number	19988366	19600217	388149	6218874	6237937	-19063
Inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	29416864	29008229	408635	8261995	8308820	-46825
Employment rate of The population aged 15 and over	Ratio	36.9	36.5	0.4	40.5	40	0.5
	Number	18211638	17722360	489278	5858774	5812815	45959
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over	Rate	8.9	9.6	-0.7	5.8	6.8	-1.0
	Number	1776728	1877857	-101129	360100	425122	-65022
Unemployment of the population aged 15-24	Rate	20.3	26	-5.7	16	17.6	-1.6
	Number	365882	430284	-64402	107436	115421	-7985
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	15.8	17.2	-1.4	11.5	12.5	-1.0
	Number	1202838	1322094	-119256	255217	290621	-35404
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over who graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	12.1	13.4	-1.3	16.1	17.7	-1.6
	Number	809746	866320	-56574	96082	108198	-12116
Employment in the agriculture sector	Share	5.9	6	-0.1	40.5	44.1	-3.6
	Number	1071740	1066776	4964	2374501	2563031	-188530
Employment in the manufacturing sector	Share	35.3	35.8	-0.5	32.5	31.2	1.3
	Number	6426194	6350069	76125	1902956	1813044	89912
Employment in the services sector	Share	58.8	58.1	0.7	27	24.7	2.3
	Number	10709160	10301461	407699	1581318	1436519	144799
Underemployment	Share	8.3	9.5	-1.2	13.2	14.2	-1.0
	Number	1503371	1679963	-176592	771466	825463	-53997
The share of unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	45.6	46.1	-0.5	26.7	25.5	1.2
The share of employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	32.2	31.5	0.7	8.6	8.7	-1.0

-The difference between the total number of employees and the summation of employees in the three sectors is due to the unannounced (not stated) figures in the major sectors of economic activity.

- The difference is due to rounding.

1. The target population of the labour force survey is the people at working age from private settled and collective households in urban and rural areas.

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A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 51.1% of the total, followed by the manufacturing sector with 34.6% and the agriculture sector with 14.3%. In the autumn of the year 1401, the contribution of people employed in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors declined by 1.1 and 0.1 percent, respectively. The contribution of people employed in the services sector increased by 1.2 percent compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (autumn, the year 1400).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over shows that 8.2 percent of the economically active population was unemployed. Moreover, based on the confidence interval of 95%, the total national unemployment rate was between 7.8 and 8.6 percent with an 8.2 percent point estimation. This means that this interval with a confidence of 95 percent covers the national real unemployment rate. Based on the results, the unemployment rate was higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the trend of changes that happened in the indicator at the national level shows that this indicator experienced a 0.7 percent fall compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (autumn, the year 1400).

Studying the unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 indicates that 19.2 percent of the economically active population in this age group was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the trend of the changes in the national unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 shows that the indicator decreased by 4.4% from the corresponding season in the previous year (autumn, the year 1400).

The unemployment rate among the 18-35 age group indicates that 14.8% of the active population aged 18-35 was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the trend of the changes among the 18-35 age group shows that this indicator experienced a 1.3% fall compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (autumn, the year 1400).

Reviewing the unemployment rate among higher education graduates aged 15 and over shows that 12.5 percent of the active population among higher education graduates was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and rural areas than for men and urban areas. A review of the trend of the changes suggests that this indicator dropped by 1.3% in the autumn of the year 1401 compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (autumn, the year 1400).

The underemployment share tells that 9.5% of the total employed population was underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas. The underemployment share in the autumn of the year 1401 experienced a 1.1 percent decrease compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (autumn, the year 1400).

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Studying the contribution of the employed population aged 15 and over with the usual working hours of 49 hours and over shows that 36.7% of the employed people typically work 49 hours and over per week. This indicator, which is one of the decent work indicators, illustrates that a large share of the employed population works more than the standard hour. This indicator experienced a 0.7% decrease compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (autumn, the year 1400).

In the autumn of the year 1401, the share of unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 42.4 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 0.1 percent rise compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (autumn, the year 1400).

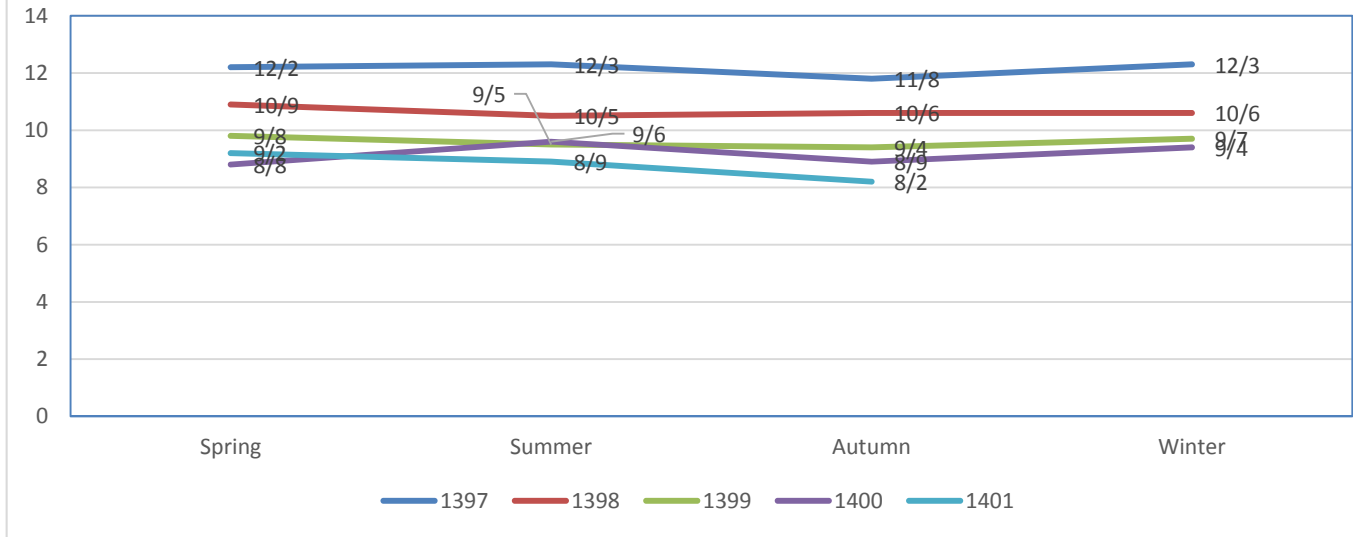
In the autumn of the year 1401, the share of employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 26.4 percent. The share stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes suggests that this indicator increased by 0.6 percent over the corresponding season in the previous year (autumn, the year 1400).



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FIGURE 2. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER
IN SUCCESSIVE SEASONS FROM THE YEAR 1397 TO THE YEAR 1401



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Table 2 shows some major labour market indicators for the population aged 15 and over in the autumn, the year 1401 compared to the autumn, the year 1400 by province.

TABLE 2- MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN THE AUTUMN, THE YEAR 1401 COMPARED TO THE AUTUMN, THE YEAR 1400 BY PROVINCE (percent)

Province	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Autumn, the year 1401	Autumn, the year 1400	Autumn, the year 1401	Autumn, the year 1400	Autumn, the year 1401		Autumn, the year 1400
					Point estimation	95 percent confidence interval	
Total country	41.0	40.9	37.7	37.3	8.2	(7.8-8.6)	8.9
East Azarbayejan	40.8	40.8	36.9	38.3	9.5	(7.8-11.3)	6.1
West Azarbayejan	42.5	43.4	38.9	38.2	8.4	(6.3-10.4)	12.1
Ardebil	46.3	46.9	42.4	41.3	8.4	(6.4-11.1)	12
Esfahan	41.9	40.5	37.7	35.9	10	(8.2-11.8)	11.4
Alborz	39.5	39.6	35.9	36.3	8.9	(7.3-10.5)	8.3
Ilam	31.7	34	29.7	31.6	6.4	(4.3-8.5)	7.2
Bushehr	40.4	39.4	37.2	35.9	8	(6.1-9.9)	8.7
Tehran	40.1	41.5	37.5	38.2	6.5	(5.4-8.2)	7.9
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	41.7	41	37.5	36.6	10.1	(7.1-13.0)	10.9
South Khorasan	42.5	41	39.5	38.1	7	(5.4-8.6)	7
Khorasan-e-Razavi	45	42.7	42.8	40.4	4.9	(3.7-6.0)	5.3
North Khorasan	42.1	45	38.4	41.3	8.8	(7.0-10.6)	8.3
Khuzestan	40.2	39.2	36.3	34.8	9.6	(8.0-11.1)	11.4
Zanjan	50	43.1	46.3	40.6	7.4	(5.7-9.0)	5.8
Semnan	38	38.1	35.2	35.6	7.3	(5.3-9.3)	6.6
Sistan & Baluchestan	34.4	34.9	30.2	31.9	12.2	(9.7-14.5)	8.7
Fars	36.8	37.8	34.5	34.8	6.4	(5.0-7.9)	7.9
Qazvin	44.5	44.1	41.9	40.8	5.8	(4.3-7.2)	7.5
Qom	36.5	36.6	34	33.1	6.9	(5.6-8.2)	9.5
Kordestan	43.3	42.3	37.3	37.7	13.8	(11.6-16.0)	10.9
Kerman	39.8	39.6	36.5	35.2	8.2	(6.5-9.9)	11.3
Kermanshah	41.6	42.2	36.2	36.6	12.9	(10.4-15.3)	13.2
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	32.7	34.7	30.2	31.4	7.6	(5.5-9.8)	9.6
Golestan	38.1	38.5	34.5	35.7	9.5	(7.3-12.0)	7.4
Gilan	45.3	45	42.2	41.1	6.7	(5.1-8.3)	8.7
Lorestan	40.3	40.4	34.9	35.3	13.3	(11.3-15.4)	12.8
Mazandaran	44.8	42.8	42.2	40.1	5.8	(4.6-7.0)	6.5
Markazi	36.4	37.1	33.5	34.2	8.1	(6.3-9.8)	7.7
Hormozgan	38.9	42.5	34.4	36	11.6	(9.5-13.6)	15.3
Hamedan	45.1	41	40.7	37.8	9.6	(7.8-11.4)	7.8
Yazd	45.1	45.8	40.8	41	9.5	(7.6-11.4)	10.5

Definitions and concepts

The Statistical Centre of Iran employs new international definitions and concepts based on the ICLS 1983¹ for measuring employment and unemployment in the Labour Force Survey as far as possible.

Work: This key term is used to determine the status of the economic activity of the people. The term "work" refers to the group of economic activities (mental or physical) 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 15 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 a 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 15 or over who have the following three criteria together: They

1. have no job during the reference week (not engaged in a wage/salary job or self-employment),
2. have been seeking jobs during the reference week and the preceding three weeks (have taken specific stages 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): This is the sum of employed and unemployed persons.

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.

¹ ILO, Thirteenth International Conference of Labor Statisticians (Geneva, 1983).

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Indicators

Economic participation rate (Economic activity rate):

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

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

Employment ratio: The ratio of the employed population to the total population at working age multiplied by 100.

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

Unemployment rate:

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

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

Employment rate:

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

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

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Unemployment rate of the population aged 15-24:

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 15-24 to the economically active population aged 15-24 multiplied by 100.

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

Unemployment rate of the population aged 18-35

The ratio of the unemployed population aged 18-35 to the economically active population aged 18-35 multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Unemployment rate aged 18-35} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population aged 18-35}}{\text{Economically active population aged 18-35}} \times 100$$

Unemployment rate of higher education graduates:

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

$$\text{Unemployment rate of higher education graduates} = \frac{\text{Unemployed higher education graduates}}{\text{Economically active higher education graduates}} \times 100$$

Share of unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over:

The ratio of unemployed higher education graduates to the total unemployed population aged 15 and over multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Share of unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over} = \frac{\text{Unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over}}{\text{Unemployed population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

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Share of employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over:

The ratio of employed higher education graduates to the total employed population aged 15 and over multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Share of employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over} = \frac{\text{Employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over}}{\text{Total employed population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

Underemployment share aged 15 and over:

The ratio of the underemployed population aged 15 and over to the employed population aged 15 and over multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Underemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Underemployed population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Employed population aged 15 and over}} \times 100$$

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