



# A Selection of Labour Force Survey Results

Spring, the Year 1404<sup>1</sup> (21 March - 21 June 2025)

Statistical Centre of Iran

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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 1403 in Gregorian calendar is (20 March 2024-20 March 2025).

Iranian seasons and their equivalent in Gregorian calendar

Spring (21 March-21 June)

Summer (22 June - 22 September)

Autumn (23 September -21 December)

Winter (21 December - 20 March)

## Introduction

The pair of concepts of employment and unemployment are so fundamental to national economies that any increase in the employment rate, which signifies a decrease in unemployment, is considered an indicator of national development. The unemployment rate is used to evaluate the national economic conditions. The information on the nation's market is gathered through the "Household Employment and Unemployment Characteristics Survey (HEUCS)" as of the year 1376. However, in order to enhance the quality of the HEUCS and align it with international concepts, particularly those of the ILO, the survey plan was revised to implement the current plan called the "Labour Force Survey". The "Labour Force Survey" was first conducted in the year 1384 and has since been regularly conducted in the middle month of every season.

The "Labour Force Survey" is conducted to obtain information on the composition and current condition of the labour force, as well as its changes. This objective is achieved through the estimation of "seasonal and annual labour force indicators at both national and provincial levels", "the estimation of the annual number of the labour force at both national and provincial levels", "the estimation of seasonal and annual changes in labour force indicators at both national and provincial levels", and "the estimation of annual changes in labour force indicators at provincial levels".

The population covered in this survey includes people who, according to the definition, are members of private or collective settled households in rural or urban areas. Therefore, 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 addition to estimating current levels, changes are also estimated. Therefore, rotation sampling is used. Rotation sampling can provide the best estimate of current levels and changes 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. This 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 excluded from the sample. Note that the optimal implementation of rotational sampling requires using a master sample. The master sample refers to the sample that can be used to select sub-samples to satisfy the needs of several surveys or rounds of a survey. In continuous surveys, utilizing a master sample enhances cost-effectiveness and allows for improved control of field operations and sampling overlap across various survey rounds. The sampling frame for the first stage, starting in spring, the year 1397, is the fourth master sample from household surveys based on the results of the 2016 National Population and Housing Census. The master sample includes the sampling units (clusters) of the first stage. Each cluster contains 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 1403, but due to minor changes in population and housing units in rural areas, no listing was made in rural areas.

To conduct the Labour Force Survey for each quarter in the year 1404, 60,648 households were enumerated in both urban and rural areas. After releasing the preliminary results of this survey, the SCI disseminates the detailed results at annual and quarterly intervals. Users, researchers, and planners can access the results of this survey for the spring of the year 1404, and download them in Excel format from [www.amar.org.ir](http://www.amar.org.ir) in the Month of Mordad of the year 1404.

This survey's target population includes private and collective settled households in urban and rural areas.

Data for this survey were collected through face-to-face interviews. The enumerator interviewed the most informed member of each household to complete the household questionnaire. Additionally, the enumerator interviewed every household member aged 10 and over to complete the individual questionnaire.

## **A Selection of Labour Force Survey Results- Spring, the Year 1404 (21 March-21 June 2025)**

It is important to note that the definitions and concepts used in the Labour Force Survey were developed and implemented following the resolution of the 13th International Conference of Labour Statistics (ICLS13).

It should be noted that since the spring of the year 1397, the confidence interval for the unemployment rate indicator has been set at 95 percent in the release of the survey results. This statistical methodology means that if multiple samples are taken from the target population using the same sampling method, a confidence interval can be calculated for the actual unemployment rate based on each sample. It is expected that 95% of these confidence intervals will contain the true unemployment rate.

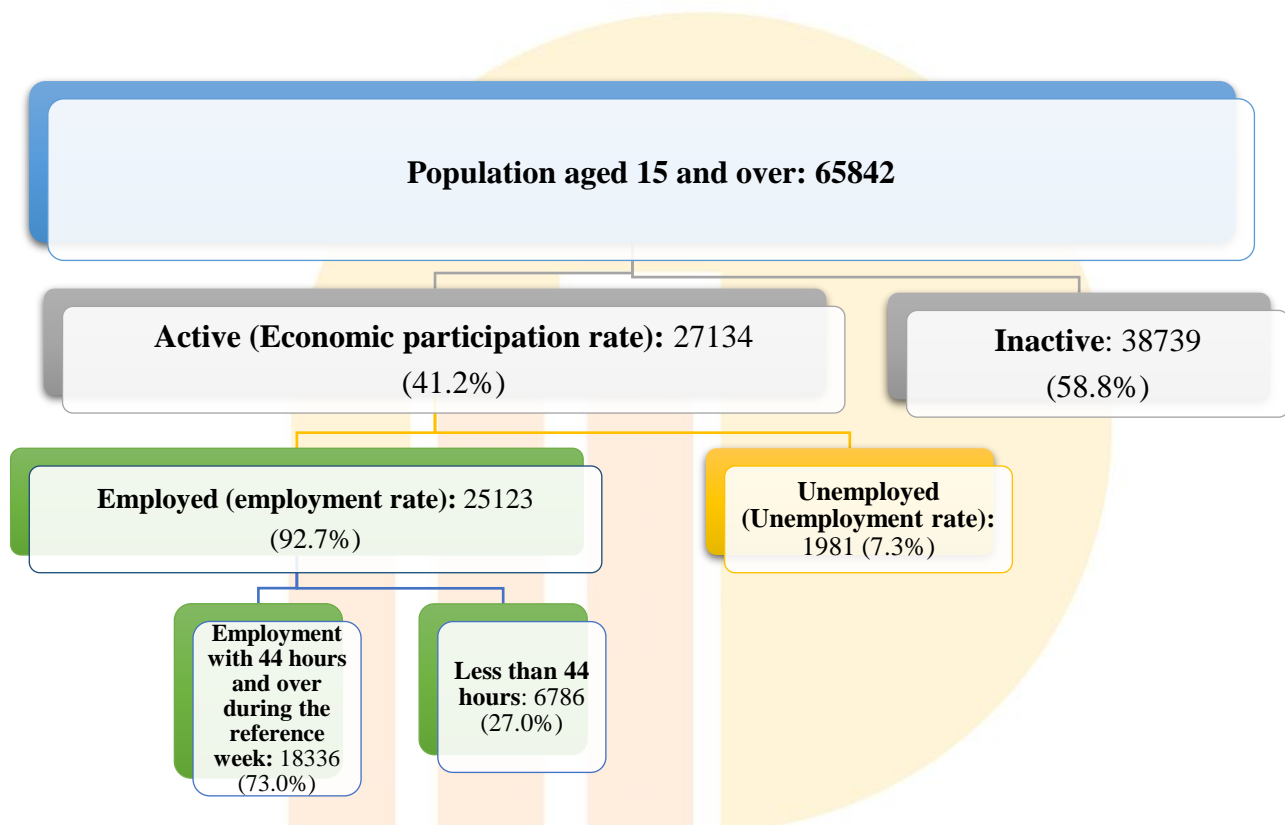


It is important to note that, based on recent studies and social transformations in working-age entry patterns across various countries, a minimum age of 15 has been established for evaluating key labour market indicators. In light of similar developments in our country, major labour market indicators have been calculated and reported based on the population aged 15 and older since the spring of the year 1398.

## Findings

This report summarizes the results of a spring survey conducted in the year 1404, focusing on key indicators of the labour market and its changes compared to the same season of the last year (spring, the year 1403). The findings are presented in Table 1. Additionally, Table 2 provides a breakdown of the major labour market indicators by province. Table 1 presents an overview of the key indicators of the labour market in spring of the year 1404.

**Figure 1. Major Indicators of Labour Market in Spring, the Year 1404 (the figures are at thousand persons)**



A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 15 and over (activity rate) reveals that 41.2% of the working-age population (15 years and over) is economically active; that is, they are either employed or unemployed. Additionally, the results indicate that the economic participation rate is lower for women compared to men and for urban areas in contrast to rural areas. The analysis of the trend in changes to the national economic participation rate shows that this indicator has remained unchanged compared to the same season of the previous year (spring of the year 1403). Furthermore, the review of the employment rate for the population aged 15 and over indicates that 38.2 percent of the working-age population (15 years and over) is employed. This indicator is higher for men and rural areas compared to women and urban areas.

**TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; SPRING, THE YEAR 1404 COMPARED TO THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1403**  
(number person-rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Total country			Male			Female		
		Spring, the year 1404	Spring, the year 1403	Changes	Spring, the year 1404	Spring, the year 1403	Changes	Spring, the year 1404	Spring, the year 1403	Changes
Population aged 15 and over <sup>1</sup>	Number	65842616	65048055	794561	32860676	32475007	385669	32981939	32573048	408891
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	41.2	41.2	0.0	68.4	68.3	0.1	14.0	14.3	-0.3
	Number	27103973	26820166	283807	22475999	22165652	310347	4627974	4654514	-26540
Economically inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	38738643	38227889	510754	10384678	10309355	75323	28353965	27918534	435431
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	38.2	38.0	0.2	64.3	64.0	0.3	12.1	12.1	0.0
	Number	25122563	24745528	377035	21128934	20788636	340298	3993629	3956892	36737
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	7.3	7.7	-0.4	6.0	6.2	-0.2	13.7	15.0	-1.3
	Number	1981410	2074638	-93228	1347065	1377016	-29951	634345	697622	-63277
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	19.7	20.0	-0.3	17.4	17.2	0.2	30.9	32.5	-1.6
	Number	518489	508865	9624	378777	355156	23621	139712	153709	-13997
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	14.5	15.0	-0.5	12.1	12.2	-0.1	23.9	25.4	-1.5
	Number	1342811	1441965	-99154	888109	925112	-37003	454702	516853	-62151
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	10.4	11.6	-1.2	7.1	7.8	-0.7	17.6	20.0	-2.4
	Number	793344	892333	-98989	368683	415177	-46494	424661	477156	-52495
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	14.6	14.5	0.1	14.9	14.8	0.1	12.9	13.1	-0.2
	Number	3656700	3595370	61330	3142244	3076327	65917	514457	519043	-4586
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	33.0	33.0	0.0	34.7	34.5	0.2	23.7	25.5	-1.8
	Number	8283735	8173126	110609	7337285	7163594	173691	946451	1009533	-63082
Employment in services sector	Share	52.4	52.4	0.0	50.4	50.7	-0.3	63.3	61.3	2.0
	Number	13172708	12961250	211458	10643237	10537309	105928	2529472	2423941	105531
Underemployment	Share	6.6	7.9	-1.3	7.1	8.5	-1.4	3.9	4.6	-0.7
	Number	1660435	1952448	-292013	1504888	1769057	-264169	155547	183391	-27844
The share of the unemployed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population	Share	40.0	43.0	-3.0	27.4	30.2	-2.8	66.9	68.4	-1.5
The share of the employed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total employed population	Share	27.1	27.6	-0.5	22.9	23.7	-0.8	49.7	48.1	1.6

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

- The difference is due to rounding.

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

**TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; SPRING, THE YEAR 1404 COMPARED TO THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1403**  
(continued)  
(number person, rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Spring, the year 1404	Spring, the year 1403	Changes	Spring, the year 1404	Spring, the year 1403	Changes
Population aged 15 and over <sup>1</sup>	Number	51451831	50625639	826192	14390785	14422416	-31631
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.8	40.8	0.0	42.4	42.7	-0.3
	Number	21008424	20664871	343553	6095549	6155296	-59747
Economically inactive population aged 15 and over	Number	30443407	29960768	482639	8295236	8267120	28116
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	37.6	37.4	0.2	40.1	40.4	-0.3
	Number	19353175	18918176	434999	5769389	5827352	-57963
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	7.9	8.5	-0.6	5.4	5.3	0.1
	Number	1655250	1746695	-91445	326160	327944	-1784
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	20.1	21.4	-1.3	18.7	16.2	2.5
	Number	393721	399725	-6004	124768	109140	15628
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	15.2	15.9	-0.7	12.2	11.4	0.8
	Number	1106335	1209812	-103477	236476	232153	4323
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	10.1	11.2	-1.1	14.6	15.1	-0.5
	Number	702870	796511	-93641	90474	95822	-5348
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	5.9	5.8	0.1	43.5	43.0	0.5
	Number	1149185	1087983	61202	2507515	2507387	128
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	34.3	34.0	0.3	28.4	29.7	-1.3
	Number	6646642	6441310	205332	1637093	1731816	-94723
Employment in services sector	Share	59.7	60.1	-0.4	28.2	27.2	1.0
	Number	11548395	11374716	173679	1624313	1586534	37779
Underemployment	Share	5.8	6.8	-1.0	9.4	11.5	-2.1
	Number	1119350	1279861	-160511	541085	672587	-131502
The share of the unemployed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population	Share	42.5	45.6	-3.1	27.7	29.2	-1.5
The share of the employed (aged 15 and over) higher education graduates out of the total employed population	Share	32.5	33.2	-0.7	9.2	9.2	0.0

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

- The difference is due to rounding.

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



A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 52.4% of the total, followed by the manufacturing sector with 33.0% and the agriculture sector with 14.6%. In the spring of the year 1404, the contribution of the employed people to the service and manufacturing sectors has remained unchanged in comparison with the last corresponding season (spring, the year 1403), and the contribution of the employed people to the agriculture sector increased by 0.1%.

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over indicates that 7.3% of the economically active population is unemployed. Furthermore, based on a 95% confidence interval, the total national unemployment rate ranges between 6.9% and 7.7%, with a point estimate of 7.3%. This means that, with a 95% confidence interval, this range reflects the true national unemployment rate. The results show that the unemployment rate is higher for women and in urban areas compared to men and rural areas. An analysis of the trend in this indicator at the national level reveals a 0.4% decrease compared to the same season last year (spring of the year 1403).

The unemployment rate for youths aged 15-24 shows that 19.7 percent of the economically active population in this age group is unemployed. This rate is higher among women and in urban areas compared to men and rural areas. Additionally, an analysis of the trend in the national unemployment rate for youths aged 15-24 reveals a decline of 0.3 percent compared to the same period last year.

The unemployment rate among youths aged 18 to 35 indicates that 14.5 percent of the active population in this age group is unemployed. This rate is higher for women and in urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the trends among youths aged 18 to 35 shows that this rate has fallen by 0.5 percent compared to the last corresponding season (spring of the year 1403).

A review of the unemployment rate among individuals aged 15 and over who have graduated from higher education indicates that 10.4 percent of the active population in this group is unemployed. This rate is higher for women and in rural areas compared to men and urban areas. Furthermore, an analysis of trends shows that this unemployment rate decreased by 1.2% in the spring of the year 1404 compared to the last corresponding season (spring of the year 1403).

The underemployment share indicates that 6.6% of the employed population aged 15 and over was underemployed. This rate is higher for men and in rural areas than for women and urban areas. In the spring of the year 1404, the underemployment share experienced a 1.3% decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring of the year 1403).

The study of the employed share aged 15 and over, with usual working hours of 49 hours and over, shows that 40.1% of the employed typically work 49 hours or more per week. This indicator, which is one of the measures of decent work, demonstrates that a significant portion of the employed workforce works beyond the standard hours. This indicator experienced a 1.6% increase compared to the last corresponding season (spring of the year 1403).

In the spring of the year 1404, the share of unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 40.0 percent. This indicator is higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator experienced a 3.0 percent decrease compared to the last corresponding season (spring of the year 1403).

In the spring of the year 1404, the share of employed higher education graduates out of the total employed population was 27.1 percent. This indicator is also higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes shows that this indicator decreased by 0.5 percent over the last corresponding season (spring of the year 1403).

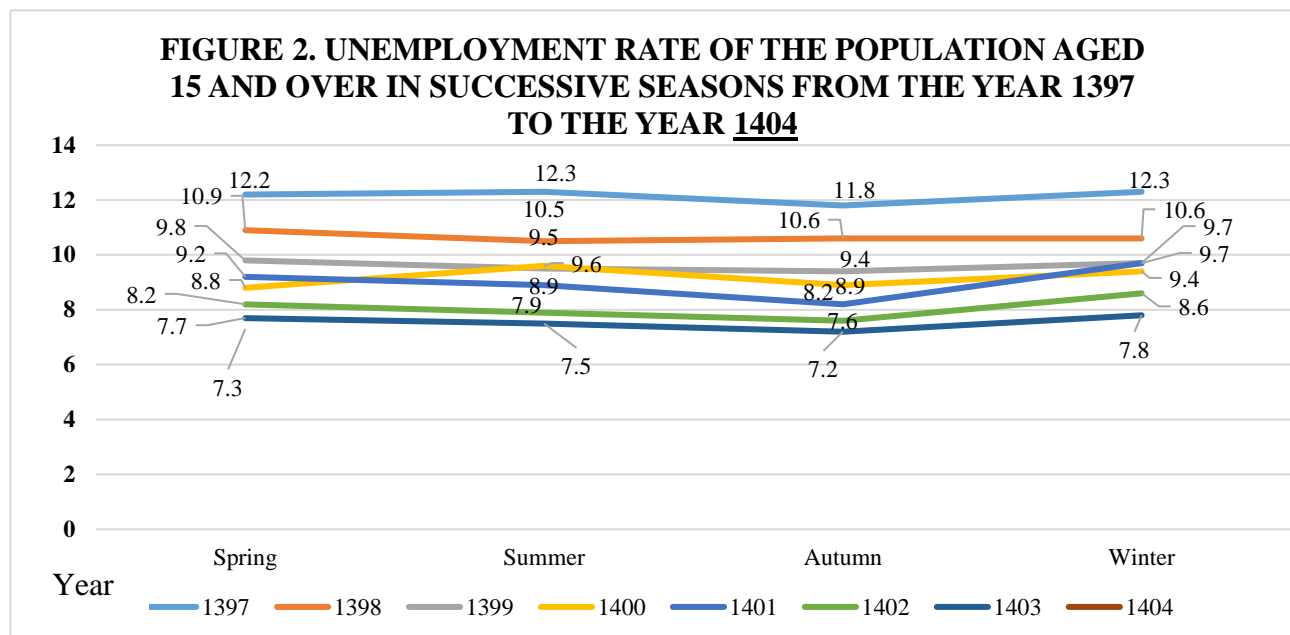


Table 2 shows some major labour market indicators for the population aged 15 and over in the spring, the year 1404 compared to the last corresponding season (spring of the year 1403).

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**TABLE 2- SOME MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1404 COMPARED TO THE LAST CORRESPONDING SEASON (SPRING, THE YEAR 1403)** (percent)

Province	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Spring, the year 1404	Spring, the year 1403	Spring, the year 1404	Spring, the year 1403	Winter, the year 1403		Spring, the year 1403
					Point-to-point estimation	The confidence interval (95%)	
Total country	41.2	41.2	38.2	38.0	7.3	(6.9-7.7)	7.7
East Azarbayejan	41.6	43.3	39.4	39.6	5.2	(3.9-6.6)	8.6
West Azarbayejan	42.9	44.3	40.4	41.8	5.8	(4.2-7.4)	5.7
Ardebil	47.5	48.0	42.9	43.3	9.7	(7.5-12.0)	9.6
Esfahan	40.2	40.2	36.5	36.8	9.3	(7.7-10.9)	8.3
Alborz	39.7	39.9	35.8	36.2	9.9	(8.0-11.8)	9.3
Ilam	33.1	32.5	29.8	29.8	9.9	(7.6-12.2)	8.2
Bushehr	39.5	41.1	36.4	37.6	7.7	(5.8-9.7)	8.7
Tehran	42.8	41.2	40.1	38.8	6.4	(5.2-7.6)	5.9
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	43.2	42.6	39.1	39.2	9.5	(7.2-11.9)	8.0
South Khorasan	38.4	40.2	36.8	37.8	4.1	(2.9-5.3)	6.0
Khorasan-e-Razavi	41.3	41.7	39.3	39.0	4.9	(3.8-6.1)	6.5
North Khorasan	44.7	46.0	42.1	42.3	5.9	(4.5-7.2)	8.1
Khuzestan	40.3	41.0	35.3	36.5	12.4	(10.6-14.2)	11.0
Zanjan	49.6	51.5	46.6	48.1	6.1	(4.5-7.6)	6.7
Semnan	37.4	39.0	34.8	36.8	6.9	(5.2-8.6)	5.6
Sistan & Baluchestan	35.5	35.0	31.8	30.7	10.5	(8.1-12.9)	12.3
Fars	38.0	37.3	34.7	35.0	8.5	(7.1-9.8)	6.2
Qazvin	42.4	44.2	40.5	40.8	4.4	(3.1-5.7)	7.5
Qom	38.3	38.3	35.6	35.5	6.9	(5.3-8.4)	7.3
Kordestan	41.8	43.1	39.1	39.4	6.6	(4.9-8.3)	8.6
Kerman	40.6	40.7	37.4	36.3	7.7	(6.1-9.3)	10.9
Kermanshah	42.1	41.2	38.1	36.2	9.5	(7.1-12.0)	12.0
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	29.7	31.7	27.8	28.2	6.4	(4.4-8.4)	9.0
Golestan	40.8	40.2	37.0	37.1	9.2	(7.0-11.3)	7.8
Gilan	44.9	44.5	42.6	41.4	5.1	(3.8-6.4)	6.9
Lorestan	41.5	40.7	38.1	36.1	8.2	(6.8-9.6)	11.3
Mazandaran	44.0	44.2	41.1	41.5	6.6	(5.1-8.0)	6.2
Markazi	35.6	37.4	33.8	35.6	4.9	(3.5-6.3)	4.8
Hormozgan	39.3	39.7	36.5	36.2	7.1	(4.8-9.4)	8.7
Hamedan	40.9	42.4	38.2	39.2	6.6	(5.0-8.3)	7.5
Yazd	43.5	43.7	41.2	41.0	5.1	(3.9-6.4)	6.1

## Definitions and concepts

The Statistical Centre of Iran employs new international definitions and concepts based on the ICLS 1982<sup>1</sup> for measuring employment and unemployment in the Labour Force Survey.

**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 (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 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:

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.

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<sup>1</sup> ILO, Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1982).

## 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.

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

### 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.

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

### 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 of population 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.

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