

# A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Winter 1399<sup>1</sup> (21 December 2020- 20 March 2021)

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<sup>1</sup>.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 1399 in Gregorian calendar is (20 March 2020-20 March 2021).

## **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 the national development. 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 the 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 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 the annual number of labour force at national and provincial levels", "estimation of seasonal and annual changes in 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-step 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 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 1398, 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.

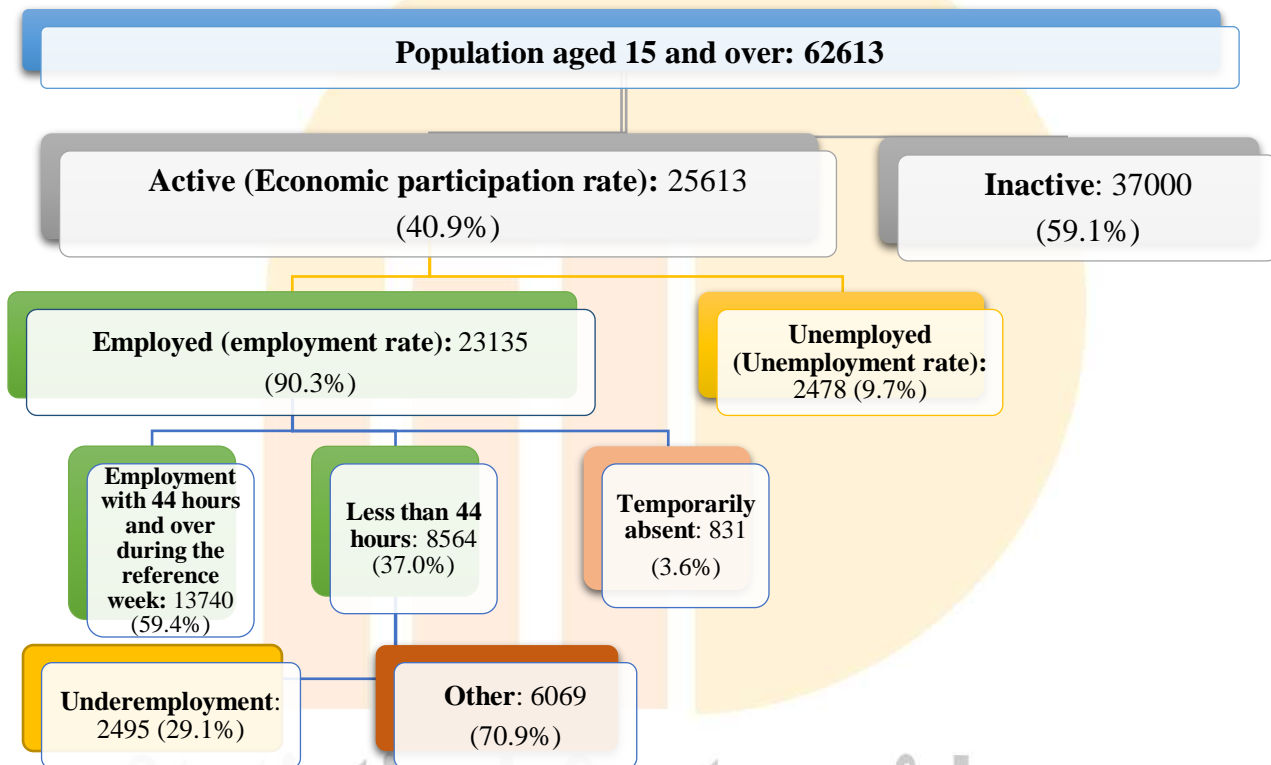
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It should be mentioned that according to the studies conducted, due to social changes in the entry age into the labour market in recent years in different countries, the minimum age at 15 has been considered for reviewing key indicators of the labour 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 for the winter of the year 1399, major indicators of the labour market and its changes in this season compared to the winter of the year 1398, are presented in Table 1. Besides, the table 2 shows the major characteristics of the labour market by province.

**Figure 1 provides the major indicators of labour market in the winter of the year 1399 (1000 persons)**



A review of the economic participation rate for the population aged 15 and over (activity rate) reveals that 40.9% 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 lower for women compared to men, and urban areas in contrast to rural areas. The review of the trend of changes in national economic participation rate shows that this indicator decreased by 1.5 percent as compared with the corresponding season of the previous year (winter of the year 1398). The study of the employment rate of the population aged 15 and over shows that 36.9 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; WINTER OF THE YEAR 1399 COMPARED TO THE WINTER OF THE YEAR 1398**

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

Labour force indicators		Total country			Male			Female		
		Winter, the year 1399	Winter, the year 1398	Changes	Winter, the year 1399	Winter, the year 1398	Changes	Winter, the year 1399	Winter, the year 1398	Changes
Population aged 15 and over <sup>1</sup>	Number	626128 52	6191591 3	696938	3129361 4	3096044 3	333171	3131923 8	3095547 1	363767
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.9	42.4	-1.5	68.5	69.4	-0.9	13.3	15.3	-2.0
	Number	256127 63	2622374 7	610984 -	2144622 5	2149042 8	-44204	4166538	4733319	-566781
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	36.9	37.8	-0.9	62.8	63.0	-0.2	11.1	12.7	-1.6
	Number	231349 13	2343516 1	300248 -	1965430 9	1951474 4	139566	3480604	3920417	-439813
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	9.7	10.6	-0.9	8.4	9.2	-0.8	16.5	17.2	-0.7
	Number	247785 0	2788587	310737 -	1791915	1975685	183770 -	685934	812902	-126968
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	23.6	25.7	-2.1	20.0	23.0	-3.0	41.3	36.1	5.2
	Number	550169	653807	103638 -	388406	467593	-79187	161764	186213	-24449
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	16.8	17.8	-1.0	14.0	14.9	-0.9	29.0	29.0	0.0
	Number	173901 6	1996706	257690 -	1181698	1330586	148888 -	557317	666120	-108803
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	14.1	15.6	-1.5	10.0	11.2	-1.2	23.5	24.7	-1.2
	Number	960626	1088287	127661 -	473719	526379	-52660	486908	561908	-75000
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	15.8	15.6	0.2	15.7	15.6	0.1	16.2	15.8	0.4
	Number	365382 7	3655341	-1514	3090999	3035664	55335	562828	619677	-56849
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	33.8	31.7	2.1	35.0	32.8	2.2	26.6	26.4	0.2
	Number	781323 9	7429268	383971	6886027	6395896	490131	927211	1033372	-106161
Employment in services sector	Share	50.4	52.7	-2.3	49.2	51.7	-2.5	57.2	57.8	-0.6
	Number	116665 62	1234790 0	681338 -	9675997	1008077 5	404778 -	1990565	2267125	-276560
Underemployment	Share	10.8	10.4	0.4	11.9	11.5	0.4	4.6	4.9	-0.3
	Number	249513 4	2428346	66788	2335614	2235971	99643	159520	192374	-32854
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	38.8	39.0	-0.2	26.4	26.6	-0.2	71.0	69.1	1.9
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	25.3	25.1	0.2	21.7	21.4	0.3	45.4	43.7	1.7

-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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**TABLE 1. MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND THEIR CHANGES BY SEX, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS; WINTER, THE YEAR 1399 COMPARED TO THE SPRING, THE YEAR 1398 (continued)**  
(Number: person; rate, share and ratio: percent)

Labour force indicators		Urban areas			Rural areas		
		Winter, the year 1399	Winter, the year 1398	Changes	Winter, the year 1399	Winter, the year 1398	Changes
Population aged 15 and over <sup>1</sup>	Number	48018766	47255269	763497	14594086	14660644	-66558
Economic participation rate of population aged 15 and over	Rate	40.1	41.6	-1.5	43.5	44.6	-1.1
	Number	19258818	19680693	-421874	6353945	6543055	-189110
Employment rate of population aged 15 and over	Ratio	36.0	36.9	-0.9	40.1	40.8	-0.7
	Number	17289549	17446436	-156887	5845364	5988725	-143361
Unemployment of population aged 15 and over	Rate	10.2	11.4	-1.2	8.0	8.5	-0.5
	Number	1969269	2234257	-264988	508580	554330	-45750
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	25.2	27.9	-2.7	20.0	20.5	-0.5
	Number	409580	496189	-86609	140589	157618	-17029
Unemployment of population aged 18-35	Rate	17.7	19.0	-1.3	14.0	14.0	0.0
	Number	1385506	1619420	-233914	353509	377286	-23777
Unemployment of the population aged 15 and over graduated from higher education institutes	Rate	13.5	15.0	-1.5	20.5	21.6	-1.1
	Number	838299	955474	-117175	122327	132812	-10485
Employment in agriculture sector	Share	5.8	5.2	0.6	45.3	45.9	-0.6
	Number	1008410	904420	103990	2465416	2750921	-285505
Employment in manufacturing sector	Share	34.9	33.1	1.8	30.3	27.5	2.8
	Number	6041472	5781536	259936	1771766	1647733	124033
Employment in services sector	Share	59.2	61.7	-2.5	24.4	26.5	-2.1
	Number	10238380	10758432	-520052	1428182	1589468	-161286
Underemployment	Share	9.4	8.9	0.5	14.9	14.7	0.2
	Number	1625860	1549363	76497	869275	878982	-9707
The share of the unemployed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total unemployed population	Share	42.6	42.8	-0.2	24.1	24.0	0.1
The share of the employed higher education graduates aged 15 and over out of the total employed population	Share	31.1	31.0	0.1	8.1	8.1	0.0

-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.

A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 50.4% of the total, followed by the manufacturing sector with 33.8% and the agriculture sector with 15.8%. In the winter of the year 1399, the contribution of

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the employed people to the agriculture and the manufacturing sectors increased by 0.2 and 2.1 percent, respectively, but the contribution of the employed people in the services sectors decreased by 2.3 percent, in comparison with the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1398).

A review of the unemployment rate among the population aged 15 and over shows that 9.7 percent of the economically active population was unemployed. Moreover, based on the confidence interval of 95%, the total national unemployment rate was between 9.3 and 10.1 percent with a 9.7 percent point estimation. This means that, this interval with the 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 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 0.9 percent decrease compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1398).

Studying the unemployment rate among the youths aged 15-24 indicates that 23.6 percent of the economically active population at 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 2.1% from the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1398).

The unemployment rate among the 18--34 age group indicates that 16.8% of the active population aged 18-35 was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. A review of the trend of the changes among the 18-35 age group shows that this indicator fell by 1.0% compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1398).

Reviewing the unemployment rate among the higher education graduates aged 15 and over shows that 14.1 percent of the active population among higher education graduates was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and rural areas than men and urban areas. A review of the trend of the changes suggests that this indicator dropped by 1.5% in the winter of the year 1399 compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1398).

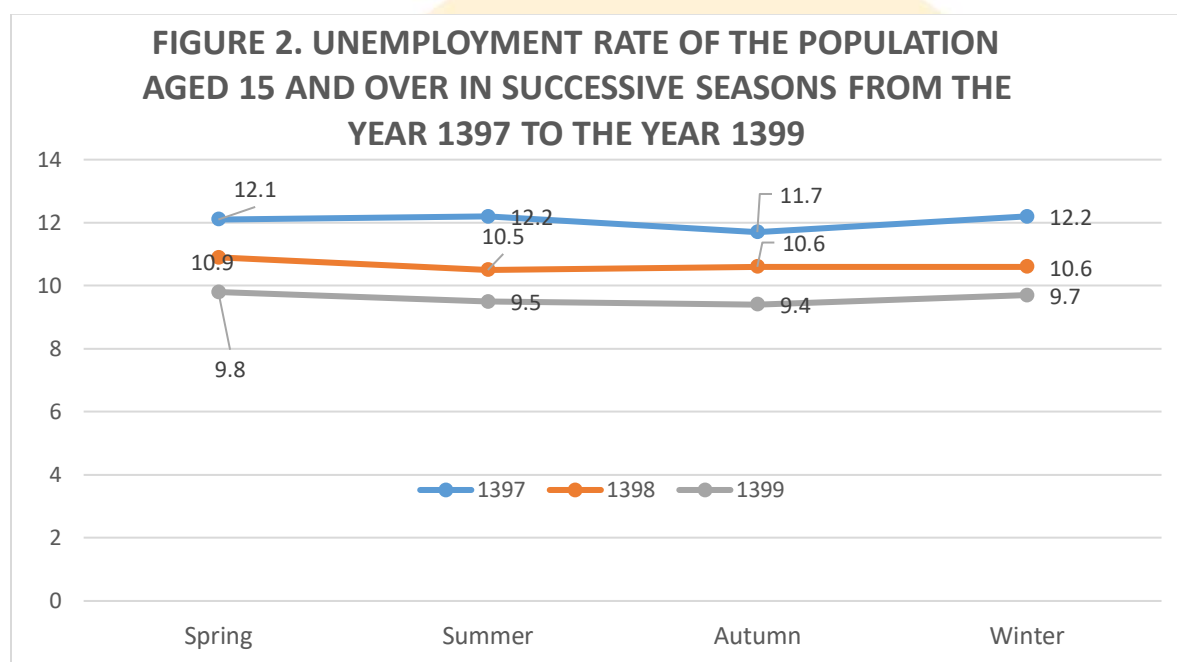
The underemployment share tells that 10.8% of the total employed population was underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas. The underemployment share in the winter of the year 1399 experienced a 0.4 percent decrease compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1398).

Studying the contribution of the employed population aged 15 and over with the usual working hours of 49 hours and over shows that 33.9% 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 work more than the standard hour. This indicator experienced a decrease of 1.4% compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (35.3 percent in the winter of the year 1399).

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In the winter of the year 1399, the share of the unemployed higher education graduates out of the total unemployed population was 38.8 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 0.2 percent decline compared to the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1398).

In the winter of the year 1399, the share of the employed higher education graduates out of the total employed people was 25.3 percent. The indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. A review of the changes suggests that this indicator increased by 0.2 percent over the corresponding season in the previous year (winter, the year 1398).



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**TABLE 2- MAJOR LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS FOR THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER IN THE WINTER, THE YEAR 1399, IN COMPARISON WITH THE WINTER, THE YEAR 1398 BY PROVINCE** (percent)

Province	Economic participation rate		Employment ratio		Unemployment rate		
	Winter, the year 1399	Winter, the year 1398	Winter, the year 1399	Winter, the year 1398	Winter, the year 1399		Winter, the year 1398
					Point estimation	95 percent confidence interval	
Total country	40,9	42,4	36,9	37,8	9,7	(9.3-10.1)	10,6
East Azarbayejan	41,7	42,3	38,8	38,3	7,0	(5.5-8.5)	9,5
West Azarbayejan	42,2	41,6	36,0	35,6	14,7	(12.2-17.1)	14,5
Ardebil	47,0	46,2	42,9	40,9	8,7	(7.0-10.5)	11,5
Esfahan	41,4	42,8	37,3	38,4	9,8	(8.0-11.5)	10,3
Alborz	40,2	42,2	36,1	37,5	10,1	(8.6-11.6)	11,1
Ilam	34,5	37,0	31,4	34,4	9,1	(6.8-11.4)	7,0
Bushehr	38,4	40,7	34,9	36,5	9,3	(7.4-11.2)	10,3
Tehran	40,1	41,7	37,3	38,0	7,0	(5.8-8.2)	8,8
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiari	43,5	44,8	37,7	38,2	13,4	(11.2-15.6)	14,5
South Khorasan	42,7	43,5	39,2	40,9	8,3	(7.1-9.6)	6,0
Khorasan-e-Razavi	42,0	43,9	39,1	40,0	7,0	(5.5-8.5)	8,9
North Khorasan	45,6	46,3	40,0	41,1	12,2	(10.5-13.9)	11,2
Khuzestan	39,9	43,0	34,7	37,6	12,9	(11.1-14.8)	12,4
Zanjan	44,6	47,6	40,7	43,1	8,8	(6.9-10.6)	9,3
Semnan	37,0	38,5	33,8	35,3	8,5	(6.5-10.4)	8,3
Sistan & Baluchestan	33,5	36,2	30,1	32,1	10,2	(8.2-12.2)	11,3
Fars	37,7	39,9	34,9	36,9	7,4	(5.8-9.1)	7,7
Qazvin	44,5	44,4	40,2	39,7	9,6	(7.8-11.4)	10,6
Qom	39,1	38,3	35,1	34,5	10,2	(8.2-12.3)	9,7
Kordestan	42,7	44,7	34,7	35,8	18,8	(16.3-21.3)	20,0
Kerman	38,7	40,8	34,5	36,4	10,8	(9.0-12.7)	10,6
Kermanshah	43,5	45,7	35,7	37,5	18,0	(14.8-21.3)	17,9
Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad	34,1	38,1	30,8	34,3	9,7	(7.6-11.9)	10,1
Golestan	37,1	40,8	33,8	35,9	9,0	(7.2-10.8)	12,0
Gilan	44,2	43,0	40,6	37,9	8,1	(6.5-9.7)	11,9
Lorestan	40,2	40,2	35,2	33,4	12,5	(10.7-14.2)	16,8
Mazandaran	43,4	45,4	39,7	41,1	8,6	(6.9-10.3)	9,3
Markazi	35,6	35,6	33,2	33,2	6,8	(5.2-8.4)	6,9
Hormozgan	48,6	49,9	41,7	44,0	14,1	(12.3-15.9)	11,9
Hamedan	41,5	43,7	37,7	39,7	9,0	(7.2-10.8)	9,3
Yazd	49,5	45,6	42,8	40,3	13,5	(11.6-15.4)	11,6

Table 2 shows some major labour market indicators for the population aged 15 and over in the winter, the year 1399, in comparison with the winter, the year 1398 by province.



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### Definitions and concepts

The Statistical Centre of Iran employs new international definitions and concepts based on the ICLS 1983<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 Labor Statisticians (Geneva, 1983).

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### Indicators

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

The ratio of the active population (employed & unemployed) 15 years of age and over to the working age population 15 years of age and over multiplied by 100.

Economically active population aged 15 and over

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

Population aged 15 and over

**Employment ratio:** The ratio of the employed population aged 15 and over to the total population at working age, 15 years old and over multiplied by 100.

Employed population aged 15 and over

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

Population aged 15 and over

#### **Unemployment rate**

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

Unemployed population aged 15 and over

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

Active population aged 15 and over

#### **Employment rate**

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

Employed population aged 15 and over

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

Active population aged 15 and over

#### **Unemployment rate of the population aged 15-24**

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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

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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