

A Selection of Labor Force Survey Results

Autumn 2008 (September 22 – 20 December)

Introduction

The pair concepts of employment and unemployment are so basic to national economies that any rise in employment rate - which means a drop in unemployment - is reckoned as an indicator to the national development. Moreover, the unemployment rate is an indicator for appraising the economic conditions of the country.

To quarterly and annually estimate the labor force indicators in Iran, the labor force survey is conducted on a seasonal basis across the nation by using sample rotation. As the survey is over, the outcomes are compared with those of the previous rounds in order to observe the possible changes in indicators over seasons at the national, urban, rural and provincial levels. The survey was first conducted in the spring of 2005 and since then has regularly been taken in the middle month of every season. Another survey titled Household Employment and Unemployment Characteristics Survey(HEUCS) would be implemented before L.F.S. The HEUCS was first taken in 1994 and repeated in the years 1997 to 2000 once a year in November. From 2001 to 2003, it used to be taken on a seasonal basis, while in 2004 it was only executed in May and November. To improve the HEUCS quality and its conformance with the international concepts, particularly those of the ILO, the survey plan was revised into the current Labor Force Survey.

The rotational nature of the survey requires drawing on a basic sample— a sample out of which sub-samples might be taken to be used in different rounds of a certain survey or in different surveys. The basic sample for the Labor Force Survey was taken from the 2002 National Establishments Census frame. Following preparation of the basic sample, officials managed to prepare the list of households lied in the fall 2004 basic sample clusters in order to be able to select the sample households based on the rotation pattern chosen for different rounds of the survey.

Definitions and concepts

Economically active population

All people aged 10 or over (a specified minimum age) who according to the definition of work have been taking part in production of goods or services (employed) or have been able to take part in production of goods or services(unemployed) during the calendar week preceding the survey week (reference week) are considered as economically active population.

❖ Employed

All people aged 10 or over who according to the definition of work have worked for at least one hour during the reference week or have temporarily left their job for one reason or another, are reckoned as employed. The employed are divided into two major groups of wage/salary earners and the self-employed. Being temporarily absent from the job within the reference week, while having a formal attachment to the job by the wage/salary earners and continuation of the business by the self-employed, is considered employment. The following people are also considered employed due to their critical role in the national economic activity.

- ❖ Persons who, without receiving any remuneration, work for a member of their household that is a relative (unpaid family workers).

- ❖ Trainees who perform an activity in relation to the activity of the workshop during the training period. In other words, they directly contribute to the production of goods or services and their activity is considered “work”.
- ❖ Students who have worked during the reference week, according to the definition of work
- ❖ All people who are serving as permanent and temporary cadre in the armed forces (armed forces, cadre personnel, soldiers, commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers of the military forces and the police).

Unemployed

The unemployed are all people aged 10 or over who:

1. have no job during the reference week (not engaged in a wage/salary job or self-employment,)
2. are available to work during the reference week or the following week (available for a wage/salary job or self-employment,)
3. have been seeking job during the reference week and the preceding three weeks (have taken specific steps to seek paid employment or self-employment).

All people who because of expecting to start a job in near future or return to their former job have not been seeking a job - had no job but have been available to work - are also considered unemployed.

Underemployed

The underemployed are all employed people who have been present in or temporarily absent from the workplace and have worked less than 44 hours during the reference week due to economic reasons such as work recession, not finding a job with more hours, or non-work season, but have been willing and ready to do more work.

Indicators

Economic participation rate (activity rate)

The ratio of the active population (employed & unemployed) 10 years of age or over (15 years of age or over) to the working age population 10 years of age or over (15 years of age or over) multiplied by 100.

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

Unemployment rate

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

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Unemployed population}}{\text{Active population}} \times 100$$

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

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

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

Underemployment rate

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

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

Labor force indicators for autumn

Table 1 contains the major labor force indicators resulted from the survey in the autumn 2008 (Sep. 22 –Dec. 20). Table 2 reflects the changes in the labor force indicators compared to the previous season (summer 2008) and the corresponding season in the previous year (autumn 2007 –(Sep. 22 –Dec. 20). And table 3 provides similar comparisons at provincial level.

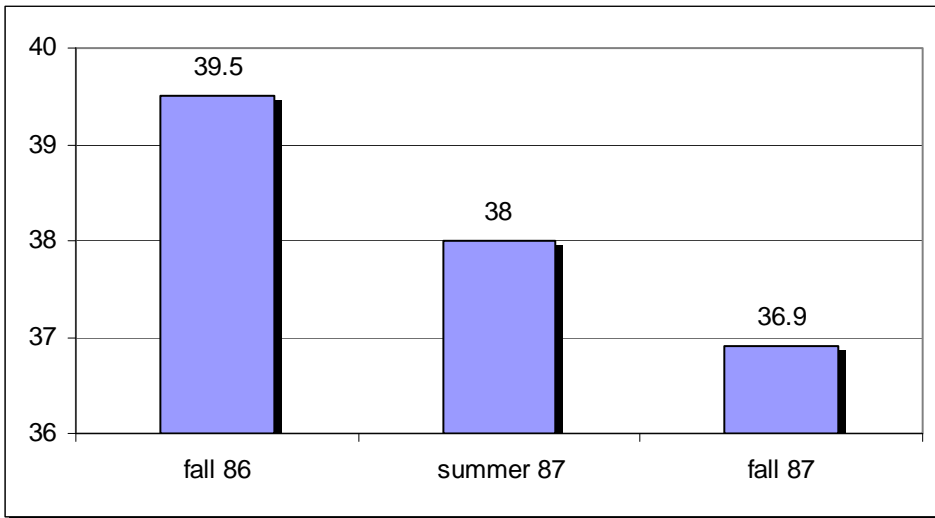
Table 1. Labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas; autumn 2008

Labor force indicator		Total country	Male	Female	Urban areas	Rural areas
Economic activity of population aged 10 or over	Rate	36/9	60/9	12/3	35/6	39/9
	Number	22272031	18574099	3697931	15266654	7005377
Unemployment of population aged 10 or over	Rate	9/5	8/3	15/4	10/8	6/7
	Number	2120464	1549985	570478	1649760	470704
Unemployment of population aged 15-24	Rate	21/5	19/2	31/6	25/6	14/1
	Number	966742	702142	264600	737902	228840
Unemployment of population aged 15-29	Rate	19/0	16/4	30/1	21/7	13/2
	Number	1552343	1080631	471711	1210970	341372
Employment in agriculture sector	Rate	19/9	18/1	29/8	5/2	50/5
	Number	4009933	3078962	930970	709643	3300290
Employment in manufacturing sector	Rate	33/4	34/5	27/0	35/8	28/4
	Number	6723958	5879459	844499	4871224	1852734
Employment in services sector	Rate	46/7	47/4	43/2	59/0	21/1
	Number	9417675	8065692	1351983	8036026	1381648
Underemployment share		8/6	9/5	4/1	6/5	13/1
The employed aged 15 or over with regular working hours of more than 49		42/6	47/8	14/3	46/0	35/7

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

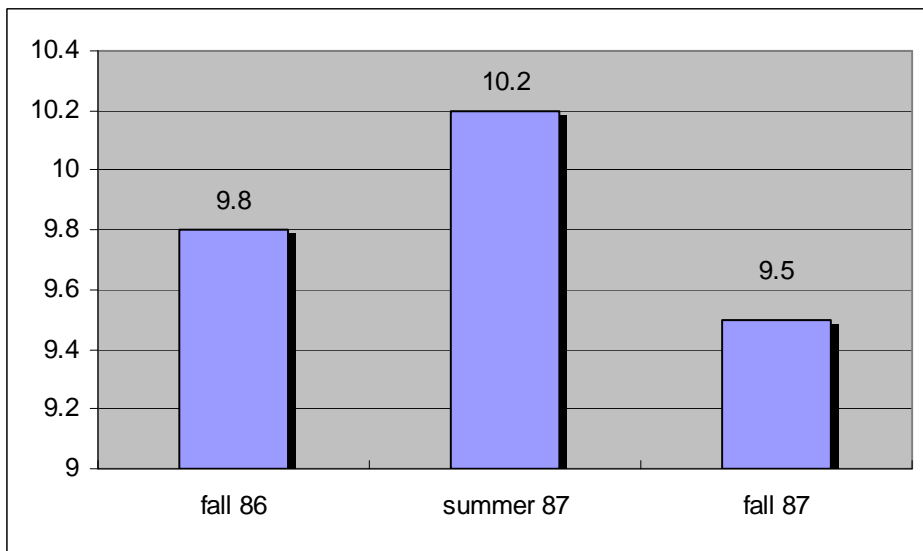
A review of the economic participation rate reveals that about 36.9.0% of the working age population (10 years or over) are economically active; i.e., they lie either in the employed or the unemployed group. In addition, the results indicate that the economic participation rate stands lower for women comparing men and urban areas comparing rural areas. The review shows a 2.7 % cut in the total country economic participation rate as compared with the autumn 2007(June 21 – Sep. 21), and a 1.1% decrease comparing the summer 2008.

Figure1. Total Country Economic Participation Rate



The unemployment rate mentions that a percentage of 9.5 of the economically active population have been unemployed. Based on the results, the unemployment rate is higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. Review of the changes happened in the indicator at national level shows a 0.2% decrease comparing the corresponding season and a 0.7 % cut comparing the previous season.

Figure 2. Total Country Unemployment Rate



The underemployment indicator tells that 8.6% of the total employed population has been underemployed. The indicator stands higher for men and rural areas than for women and urban areas.

A review of employment in major economic sectors indicates that the services sector holds the biggest share of employment with 46.7% of the total, followed by manufacturing sector with 33.4% and agriculture sector with 19.9%.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-24 stood at 21.5 % while standing higher for women and urban areas than for men and rural areas. Comparing the last corresponding season and summer 2008, the indicator has experienced a 0.2 % and a 1.6 % cut respectively.

The unemployment rate of the economically active population aged 15-29 indicates that 19.0 % of the active population was unemployed. This indicator stands higher for women and urban areas than men and rural areas. Review of the changes shows that the indicator has experienced a 1.00 % and a 1.5 % cut in the last autumn (2007) and autumn (2008) respectively.

Review of contribution of the employed population aged 15 or over with the working hours over 49 shows that about 42.6% of them work more than 49 hours a week. As a decent work indicator, it reveals that a great share of the employed population of the country works more than the standard hours.

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (autumn 2008 compared with summer 2008 and autumn 2007) (percent)

Labor force indicators	Total country				Male				Female			
	Summer 2008		Autumn 2007		Summer 2008		Autumn 2007		Summer 2008		Autumn 2007	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate	-1/1	38/0	-2/7	39/5	-1/4	62/3	-2/6	63/5	-0/8	13/2	-2/8	15/1
Unemployment rate	-0/7	10/2	-0/2	9/8	-0/3	8/6	0/0	8/4	-2/3	17/7	-0/2	15/6
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-1/6	23/1	-0/2	21/6	-0/7	19/9	0/0	19/2	-4/3	35/9	0/9	30/7
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	-1/5	20/5	-0/1	19/1	-0/8	17/2	0/2	16/2	-3/7	33/8	0/4	29/8

Table 2. Changes of major labor force indicators by sex, urban and rural areas (autumn 2008 compared with summer 2008 and autumn 2007) continued (percent)

Labor force indicators	Urban areas				Rural areas			
	Summer 2008		Autumn 2007		Summer 2008		Autumn 2007	
	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate
Economic participation rate	-0/7	36/4	-2/2	37/9	-2/0	41/8	-3/6	43/5
Unemployment rate	-1/2	12/0	-0/6	11/4	0/4	6/4	0/3	6/5
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-24	-2/7	28/4	-0/5	26/1	0/2	13/9	0/0	14/1
Unemployment rate among youths aged 15-29	-2/4	24/1	-0/5	22/2	0/1	13/1	0/3	12/9

Figure3 . Changes in unemployment rate over successive seasons during the years 2005 - 2008 (percent)

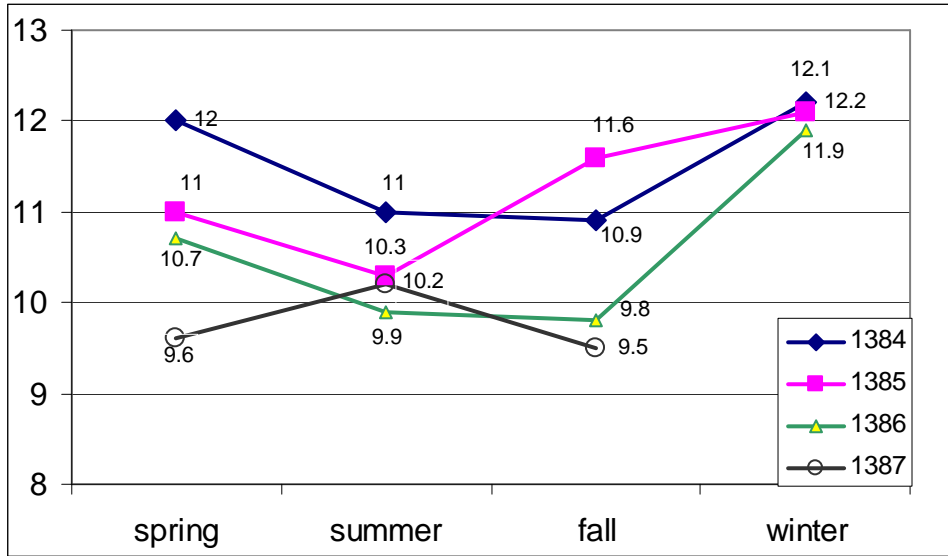


Table3. Labor force indicators by province; autumn and summer 2008, and autumn 2007, (percent)

Province	Autumn 2008		Summer 2008		Autumn 2007	
	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate	Economic participation rate	Unemployment rate
Total country	36/9	9/5	38/0	10/2	39/5	9/8
East Azarbayejan	41/9	6/2	42/0	6/3	44/7	6/7
West Azarbayejan	40/4	8/5	48/4	7/5	42/9	9/8
Ardebil	42/1	10/3	42/1	8/5	45/9	11/8
Esfahan	39/9	8/6	40/6	10/0	42/2	8/0
Ilam	34/5	8/5	36/9	17/2	39/5	13/1
Bushehr	36/5	7/3	35/3	10/1	35/7	10/1
Tehran	36/7	10/2	37/6	12/3	38/7	10/5
Chaharmahal & Bakhtiyari	37/8	13/9	38/8	11/4	37/9	11/2
South Khorasan	39/9	12/1	37/3	8/7	43/4	11/8
Khorasan-e-Razavi	42/1	7/3	43/1	7/7	44/6	6/7
North Khorasan	36/4	6/8	36/9	5/9	40/7	5/9
Khuzestan	36/2	11/5	36/3	13/3	37/4	11/2
Zanjan	38/9	8/8	45/7	8/0	44/7	8/4
Semnan	32/4	7/3	32/8	8/1	36/2	7/5
Sistan & Baluchestan	25/7	8/1	27/1	11/4	35/9	11/1
Fars	31/9	9/7	31/9	11/9	35/5	7/7
Qazvin	34/3	9/5	36/4	7/5	36/3	9/3
Qom	37/5	9/9	34/4	11/7	36/9	8/0
Kordestan	39/3	12/0	40/6	10/3	37/8	7/1
Kerman	35/6	7/2	36/2	11/1	39/3	10/8
Kermanshah	33/1	11/2	34/5	10/7	34/0	14/5
Kohgiluyeh & Boyerahmad	29/9	15/2	31/4	13/0	33/6	18/0
Golestan	40/2	7/8	41/2	8/2	41/8	8/3
Gilan	35/1	13/4	39/7	14/0	39/3	13/8
Lorestan	34/0	16/9	37/9	15/3	35/5	18/9
Mazandaran	34/2	6/3	36/5	6/3	40/7	7/7
Markazi	32/5	9/5	33/9	8/9	34/9	9/4
Hormozgan	32/4	10/3	26/0	6/2	35/3	9/5
Hamedan	39/0	13/2	40/0	10/0	39/6	13/0
Yazd	38/8	7/2	34/7	5/8	42/1	10/0

