INSTAT
Institute of Statistics

Quarterly Labour Force Survey

First quarter 2023

Tirana, 16 June, 2023: In the first quarter of 2023, the employment rate for the population aged 15 to 64 is 67.1 %. During this quarter, the total number of employees increased by 4.4% compared to the first quarter of 2022, and increased by 0.4% compared to the fourth quarter of 2022.

In the first quarter of 2023, the official unemployment rate in Albania, for the population aged 15 years and over, is 10.9 %. In annual terms, the number of the unemployed decreased by 0.5 %, and compared to the previous quarter increased by 0.7 %.

In the first quarter of 2023, the labour force participation rate for the population aged from 15 to 64 is 75.7 %. The labour force participation rate is 3.7 percentage points higher compared to the first quarter of 2022 and 0.9 percentage points higher compared to the previous quarter.

Fig. 1 Labour Force Participation Rate, population aged 15 to 64, Q.1/19-Q.1/23
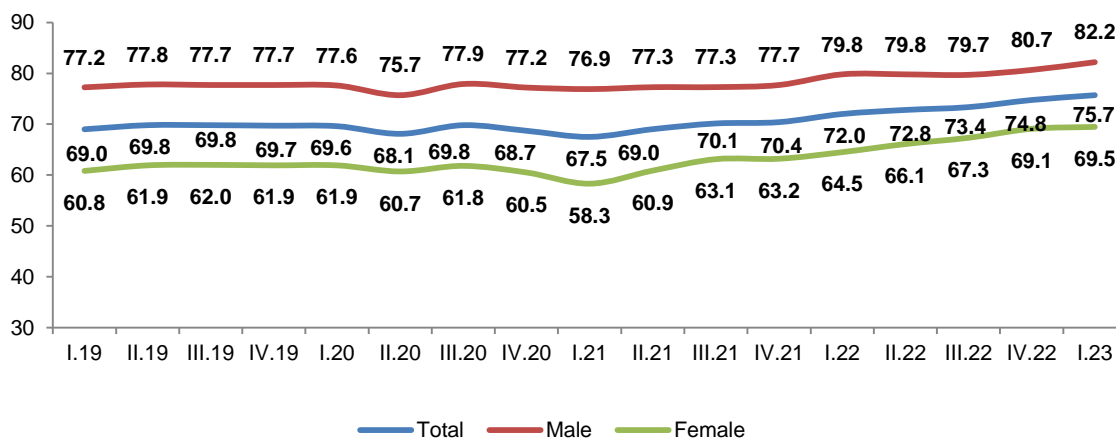
The women labour force participation rate is 69.5 %, whereas for men this indicator is 82.2 %. The men labour force participation rate is 12.7 percentage points higher than women. The labour force participation rate for women increased by 5.0 percentage points and for men increased by 2.4 percentage points compared to the same quarter of 2022.

For Release 16/06/2023

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During the first quarter 2023, the youth labour force participation rate (population aged from 15 to 29) is 58.0 %. This indicator increased by 2.8 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2022, and by 1.2 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. In the first quarter 2023, for the population aged from 30 to 64, the labour force participation rate is 83.9 %.
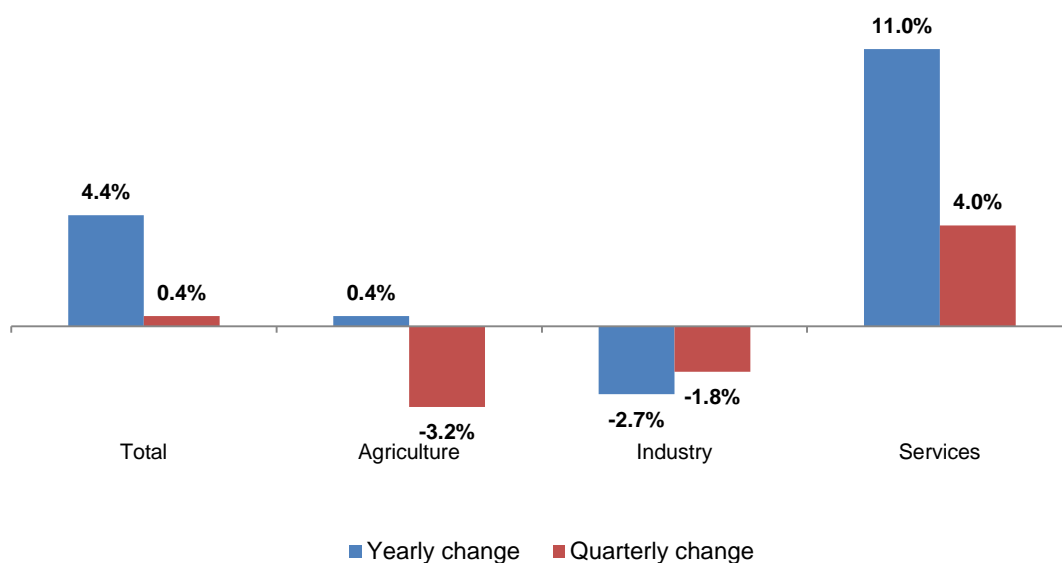
Employment

During the first quarter of 2023, the employment rate for the population 15-64 is 67.1 %.

The annual rate of employment change for the population aged 15 and over, from the first quarter of 2022 to the first quarter of 2023 increased by 4.4 %. In annual terms the number of the employed decreased by 2.7 % in industry, increased by 0.4 % in agriculture, and by 11.0 % in services.
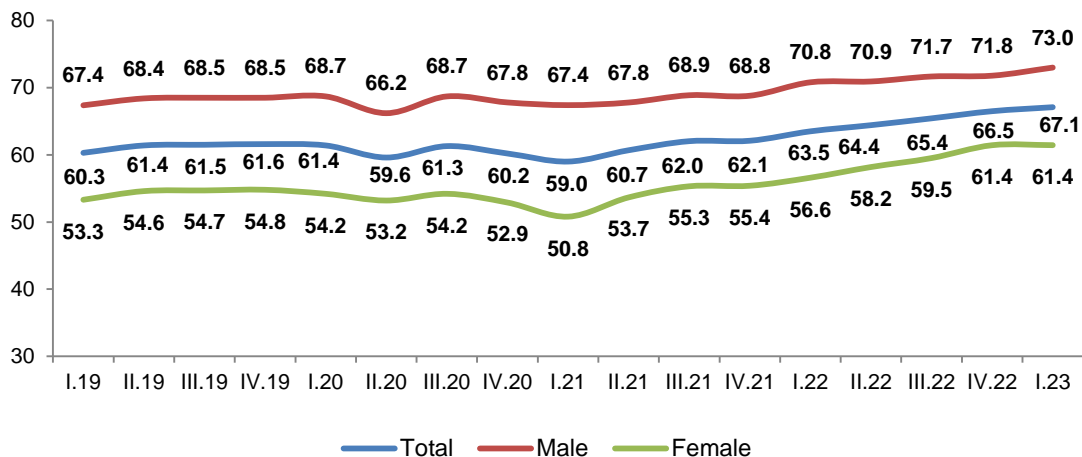
In the first quarter 2023, the employment for the population aged 15 years and over, increased by 0.4 % compared to the previous quarter. Employment decreased by 3.2 % in the agriculture sector and by 1.8 % in the industry sector, while it increased by 4.0 % in the services sector.

Fig. 2 Employment growth rate in yearly and quarterly basis, population aged 15 and over (%)

The employment rate for men 15-64 years old is 73.0 %, whereas for women is 61.4 %. Compared to the same quarter of 2022, the employment rate increased by 2.2 percentage points for men and increased by 4.8 percentage points for women. The youth employment rate is 44.9 %. This indicator has increased by 1.2 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2022, and by 0.3 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. For the population aged 30-64, in the first quarter 2023, the employment rate is 77.3 %.

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Fig. 3 Employment Rate, population aged 15 to 64, Q.1/19-Q.1/23

Unemployment

In the first quarter of 2023, the official unemployment rate in Albania is 10.9 %. The official unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2022, and increased by 0.1 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter of 2022.

The official unemployment rate is 10.6 % for males and 11.1 % for females. Compared to the same quarter of 2022, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points for men, and decreased by 0.6 percentage points for women,.

Fig. 4 Official Unemployment Rate, population aged 15 and over, Q.1/19-Q.1/23

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: http://www.instat.gov.al/
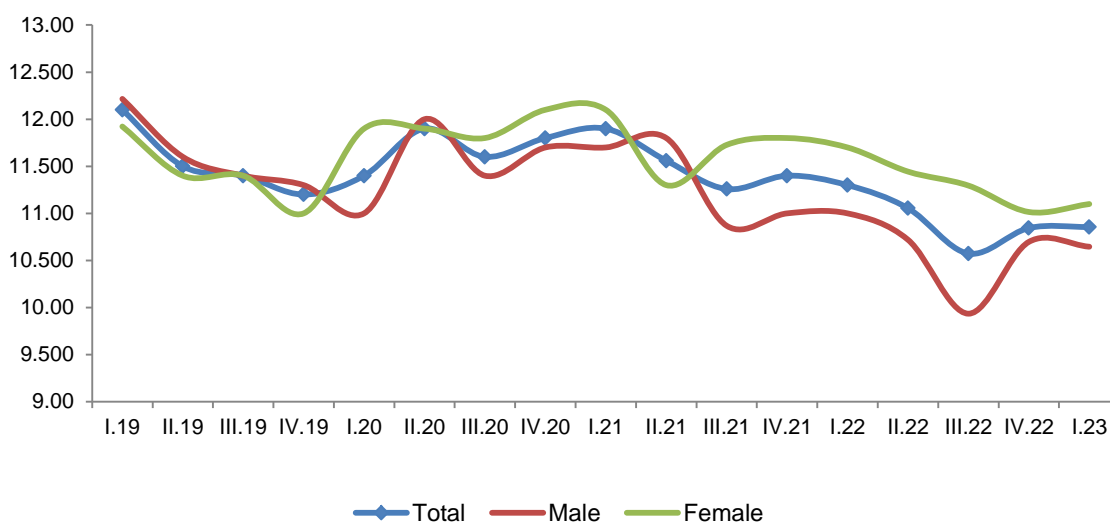
The official unemployment rate for young people aged 15-29 is 22.5 %. The youth unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2023 increased by 1.8 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2022. This indicator increased by 1.0 percentage points compared to the fourth quarter of 2022.

The unemployment rate for the 30-64 age group is 7.8 %. In annual terms, this indicator decreased by 1.0 percentage point, while compared to the previous quarter it increased by 0.2 percentage points.

The economically inactive population

During the first quarter of 2023, 18.0 % of the inactive population (15 to 64 years) were fulfilling household duties, 9.5 % were in retirement or early retirement, while 12.1 % were permanently disabled.

In the first quarter of 2023, 5.0 % of the inactive population (15 to 64 years) declared that the reason for not looking for work is because they believe that there is no work available, so they are classified as discouraged workers.

Fig. 5 Structure of the economically inactive population by sex and inactivity status
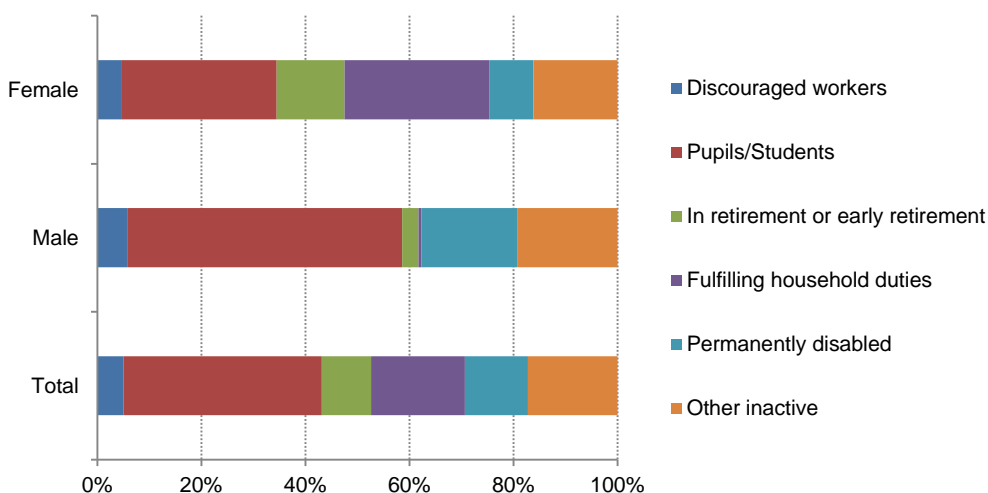
Inactive youth population (aged 15 to 29) are 69.3 % pupils/students or pursuing training, while 3.6 % are classified as discouraged workers. Discouraged workers consist of 16.1 % of the inactive population aged 30 to 64.

Tab. 1 Unemployment Rate, Q.1/19-Q.1/23

Age	Sex	Q.4.2018	Q.1.2019	Q.2.2019	Q.3.2019	Q.4.2019	Q.1.2020	Q.2.2020	Q.3.2020	Q.4.2020	Q.1.2021	Q.2.2021	Q.3.2021	Q.4.2021	Q.1.2022	Q.2.2022	Q.3.2022	Q.4.2022	Q.1.2023
15 years and over	Total	12,3	12,1	11,5	11,4	11,2	11,4	11,9	11,6	11,8	11,9	11,6	11,3	11,4	11,3	11,1	10,6	10,8	10,9
	Male	12,5	12,2	11,6	11,4	11,3	11,0	12,0	11,4	11,7	11,7	11,8	10,9	11,0	11,0	10,7	9,9	10,7	10,6
	Female	11,9	11,9	11,4	11,4	11,0	11,9	11,9	11,8	12,1	12,1	11,3	11,7	11,8	11,7	11,4	11,3	11,0	11,1
15-64 years	Total	12,7	12,6	12,0	11,8	11,6	11,9	12,5	12,1	12,3	12,6	12,1	11,6	11,9	11,7	11,5	10,8	11,0	11,4
	Male	13,0	12,8	12,1	11,9	11,8	11,5	12,6	11,9	12,2	12,4	12,3	10,9	11,4	11,3	11,1	10,1	11,0	11,2
	Female	12,3	12,3	11,8	11,8	11,4	12,4	12,4	12,3	12,5	12,9	11,8	12,4	12,4	12,2	12,0	11,6	11,1	11,6
15-29 years	Total	22,3	22,2	20,9	21,4	21,4	20,0	21,4	20,7	21,7	23,3	19,9	19,9	20,6	20,7	20,2	20,5	21,5	22,5
	Male	22,4	22,4	21,0	20,6	21,2	19,9	21,9	20,3	21,3	22,5	20,1	19,3	20,3	20,6	20,0	19,9	22,4	23,0
	Female	22,2	21,9	20,8	22,4	21,5	20,2	20,8	21,4	22,2	24,4	19,6	20,7	20,9	20,9	20,4	21,2	20,5	21,9
30-64 years	Total	9,2	9,1	8,8	8,5	8,3	9,1	9,5	9,0	9,2	9,1	9,5	8,7	8,9	8,8	8,7	7,7	7,6	7,8
	Male	9,4	9,1	8,8	8,8	8,5	8,4	9,3	8,8	8,9	8,9	9,6	8,0	8,3	8,2	8,1	6,9	7,3	7,4
	Female	8,9	9,1	8,8	8,1	7,9	9,8	9,8	9,4	9,5	9,2	9,4	9,6	9,5	9,4	9,3	8,5	8,0	8,3

Tab. 2 Employment Rate, Q.1/19-Q.1/23

Age	Sex	Q.4.2018	Q.1.2019	Q.2.2019	Q.3.2019	Q.4.2019	Q.1.2020	Q.2.2020	Q.3.2020	Q.4.2020	Q.1.2021	Q.2.2021	Q.3.2021	Q.4.2021	Q.1.2022	Q.2.2022	Q.3.2022	Q.4.2022	Q.1.2023
15 years and over	Total	52,3	52,5	53,6	53,8	53,8	53,1	51,7	53,2	52,0	51,9	52,4	53,7	53,5	54,2	55,1	63,2	56,3	57,0
	Male	59,0	59,2	60,3	60,4	60,4	60,0	57,9	59,9	58,8	59,5	59,1	59,9	59,7	60,4	60,7	68,7	61,8	62,7
	Female	45,7	45,9	47,1	47,3	47,4	46,5	45,8	46,7	45,4	44,4	45,9	47,7	47,5	48,2	49,8	58,0	51,1	51,6
15-64 years	Total	60,0	60,3	61,4	61,5	61,6	61,4	59,6	61,3	60,2	59,0	60,7	62,0	62,1	63,5	64,4	73,4	66,5	67,1
	Male	66,9	67,4	68,4	68,5	68,5	68,7	66,2	68,7	67,8	67,4	67,8	68,9	68,8	70,8	70,9	79,7	71,8	73,0
	Female	53,1	53,3	54,6	54,7	54,8	54,2	53,2	54,2	52,9	50,8	53,7	55,3	55,4	56,6	58,2	67,3	61,4	61,4
15-29 years	Total	40,8	41,0	41,9	41,3	40,6	42,7	39,7	42,3	40,0	38,9	41,6	42,8	42,8	43,7	44,1	39,2	44,6	44,9
	Male	46,0	46,7	47,3	46,9	45,5	48,3	44,7	48,6	46,2	45,2	47,0	47,4	46,5	48,2	48,8	43,7	47,5	48,2
	Female	35,1	35,1	36,3	35,7	35,8	37,2	34,5	35,9	33,6	32,5	35,9	38,2	39,0	39,2	39,5	48,2	41,8	41,7
30-64 years	Total	70,5	70,6	71,8	72,3	72,7	70,9	69,9	71,1	70,7	69,0	70,2	71,6	71,7	73,0	74,1	82,2	77,0	77,3
	Male	78,8	78,8	80,0	79,9	80,9	79,5	77,5	79,3	79,4	78,7	78,4	79,9	80,5	82,0	81,9	89,6	83,6	84,5
	Female	62,4	62,6	63,9	64,8	64,8	62,8	62,5	63,3	62,5	59,7	62,3	63,6	63,3	64,6	66,9	75,2	70,7	70,4

Tab. 3 Labour Force Participation Rate, Q.1/19-Q.1/23

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Age	Sex	Q.4.2018	Q.1.2019	Q.2.2019	Q.3.2019	Q.4.2019	Q.1.2020	Q.2.2020	Q.3.2020	Q.4.2020	Q.1.2021	Q.2.2021	Q.3.2021	Q.4.2021	Q.1.2022	Q.2.2022	Q.3.2022	Q.4.2022	Q.1.2023
15 years and over	Total	59,6	59,7	60,6	60,7	60,6	60,0	58,8	60,2	59,0	58,8	59,3	60,5	60,4	61,1	62,0	63,2	63,2	64,0
	Male	67,5	67,5	68,2	68,2	68,1	67,4	65,8	67,6	66,6	67,4	67,0	67,2	67,1	67,9	67,9	68,7	69,2	70,1
	Female	51,9	52,1	53,1	53,4	53,3	52,8	51,9	52,9	51,6	50,5	51,7	54,0	53,9	54,6	56,3	58,0	57,4	58,0
15-64 years	Total	68,7	69,0	69,8	69,8	69,7	69,6	68,1	69,8	68,7	67,5	69,0	70,1	70,4	72,0	72,8	73,4	74,8	75,7
	Male	76,9	77,2	77,8	77,7	77,7	77,6	75,7	77,9	77,2	76,9	77,3	77,3	77,7	79,8	79,8	79,7	80,7	82,2
	Female	60,6	60,8	61,9	62,0	61,9	61,9	60,7	61,8	60,5	58,3	60,9	63,1	63,2	64,5	66,1	67,3	69,1	69,5
15-29 years	Total	52,5	52,7	53,0	52,5	51,7	53,4	50,5	53,3	51,0	50,7	51,9	53,5	53,9	55,2	55,3	54,9	56,8	58,0
	Male	59,3	60,2	59,9	59,1	57,8	60,2	57,3	61,0	58,7	58,4	58,9	58,7	58,4	60,7	61,0	59,3	61,1	62,6
	Female	45,1	45,0	45,8	46,0	45,6	46,6	43,6	45,6	43,2	43,0	44,7	48,2	49,2	49,6	49,6	50,7	52,6	53,4
30-64 years	Total	77,6	77,6	78,7	79,0	79,2	78,0	77,2	78,2	77,8	75,9	77,6	78,5	78,6	80,0	81,2	82,2	83,4	83,9
	Male	87,0	86,7	87,8	87,6	88,4	86,8	85,5	87,0	87,1	86,4	86,8	86,8	87,8	89,3	89,1	89,6	90,2	91,3
	Female	68,5	68,9	70,0	70,5	70,4	69,6	69,3	69,9	69,0	65,7	68,8	70,4	69,9	71,4	73,8	75,2	76,9	76,8

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Methodology

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey is a household based survey. Its main objective is to provide information on the labour market situation in Albania, which serves policymakers to design labour market policies and to assess their effectiveness, and to meet user needs for updated information on the labour market dynamics.

The sample frame used for the QLFS is based on data of Enumeration Areas according to the Housing and Population Census of 2011. The sample size for the third quarter of 2022 is 7.932 households. The sample is based in a two-stage sampling procedure. In the second stage are selected the geographical areas with a proportional probability to the size of the enumeration area. In the second stage within each of the geographical areas (once selected in the second stage) are selected a fix number of households by equal probability systematic sampling method.

The QLFS uses a rotational sampling design, whereby a household once initially selected for interview, is retained in the sample for five consecutive quarters. The same household is scheduled to be interviewed exactly after 13 weeks apart, so that the fifth interview takes place one year after the second. In the first quarter of 2023, the household response rate was 75.2 %.

Data collection in the fieldwork is spread during all months of the year. In the selected households, were surveyed by face-to-face interview, all household members aged 15 years and above. The QLFS questionnaire was drafted with the technical assistance from EUROSTAT and in complete compliance with its recommendations and regulations. The methodological part fulfils all EUROSTAT standards linked with the representation of the sample, coefficient of the variation of the main indicators, the questionnaire design, and data weighting procedures.

As for the weighting procedure of LFS data, it is used the estimated annual population, based on 2011 housing and population census data and vital statistics (births and deaths) provided from the General Directory of Civil Status

Working age population is the population between 15-64 years old.

Employed are considered all the persons who have worked even for one hour with a respective salary or profit during the reference week. The **reference week** is the calendar week from Monday to Sunday before the date of the interview.

As employed are considered also the persons who were receiving a salary or wage while they were in training during their work and the persons temporarily absent at work during the reference week for the following reasons: (1) maternity leave, illness, injury or temporary disability and expect to return to work; education / training directly related to the actual work; (2) salaried employees absent from work for some reasons other than the above when (a) the duration of absence is three months or less, and the person is not a seasonal worker or (b) the person takes 50 % or more of the salary; (3) the self-employed who intend to return to the

business / farm / or professional practice; (4) workers not being paid who expect to return to work in three months or less. People who work on their small farm, who do not sell their products, but produce only for self-consumption, are also considered as employed.

Unemployed comprise persons who during the reference week were:

a) Without work, i.e. neither had a job nor were at work (for one hour or more) in paid employment or self-employment;

b) Currently available for work, (within two weeks following the reference week);

c) Actively seeking work, (had taken specific steps in the four week period ending with the reference week to seek paid employment or self-employment) or found a job to start later, (within a period of at most three months).

The following are considered as specific steps

- Having been in contact with a public employment office to find work;
- Having been in contact with a private employment agency to find work
- Applying to employers directly
- Asking friends, relatives, unions etc. to find work;
- Placing or answering job advertisements;
- Studying job advertisements;
- Taking a recruitment test or examination or being interviewed;
- Looking for land, premises or equipment;
- Applying for permits, licences or financial resources.

Labour Force includes employed and unemployed persons.

Non-economically active population comprises all the persons who are not classified as employed or unemployed (pupils/students, housekeepers, retired, disabled, discouraged unemployed).

The employment rate is the proportion of employed 15-64 years compared to the working age population.

The unemployment rate is the ratio of the unemployed to the labour force.

Labour force participation rate is the proportion of the labour force compared to the working age population.

For more information, visit INSTAT webpage: http://www.instat.gov.al/

Explanatory note on the labour market indicators

The headline labour force participation and employment rates are based on the population aged 15 to 64. Whereas, the headline unemployment rate is based on the economically active population (labour force) aged 15 and over. The employment and labour force participation rates for those aged 15 and over are affected by the inclusion of the retired population in the denominators and are therefore less meaningful than the rates for those aged from 15 to 64. However, for the unemployment rate for those aged 15 and over, the denominator for the unemployment rate is the economically active population which includes people in work or actively seeking and able to work. Therefore, this indicator is not affected by the retired population.

The quality of labour market statistics

The main labour market indicators are estimates based on the quarterly labour force survey. The survey is based on a probability sample of 7916 households. The selection of households is made such as to insure as much as possible the accuracy of estimates for the main labour market indicators. Thus, from the survey are obtained estimates and not precise figures for the number of employed and unemployed. For each estimate obtained by the survey is calculated the generalised sampling variability in order to explore how the estimate would change if we were drawing different random samples with the same size and for the same period, instead of just one sample. This allows defining the range within which should lay the estimate (which in the statistical terminology is known as confidence interval).

In general, the lower the relative standard deviation of an estimate, the higher the accuracy level of that estimate. Table 4 below shows the relative standard deviation and the confidence interval for the main labour market indicators for the population aged 15+.

Tab. 4 Generalised sampling standard deviations for the main labour market indicators

	Number of employed persons Age group: 15+	Employment rate as a percentage of the population Age group: 15+	Number of unemployed persons Age group: 15+	Unemployment rate as a percentage of labour force Age group: 15+
ESTIMATE	1321913,37	57,02	160925,84	10,85
CV	1,36	1,36	6,68	6,62
SE	17912	0,77	10747	0,7
CI *	(1286806-1357021)	(55.51-58.53)	(139862-181990)	(9.44-12.26)

(*) for a 95 % confidence level

The unemployment rate, for a 95 % confidence level, lies within the range of 9.44 % to 12.26 %, with a standard error of 0.7 %. The standard error for the proportion of population aged 15+ in employment is 0.77 % and for a 95 % confidence level, the estimate of employment rate is between the values 55.51 % to 58.53 %.

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