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**Labor Market Outlook:**

**May 2022**

**10 May 2022**

**FEMALE EMPOYMENT PRECIPITATES, UNEMPLOYMENT RISES**

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**Executive Summary**

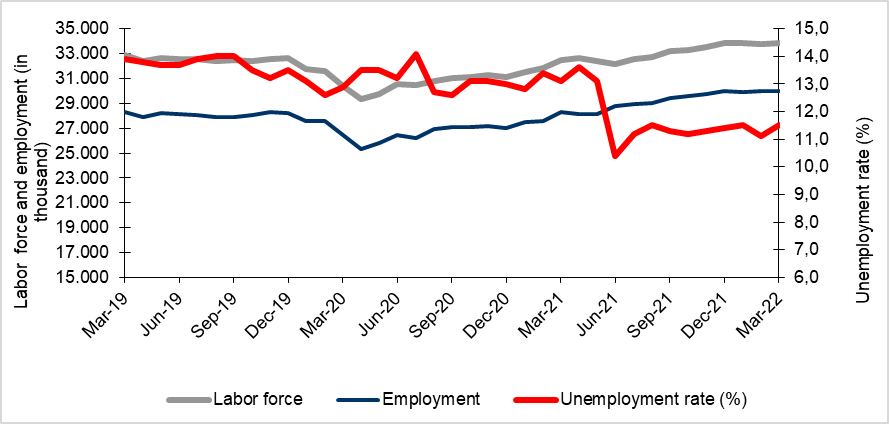
Since the number of employed persons decreased by 59 thousand and the number of unemployed persons increased by 153 thousand, the labor force rose by 96 thousand. As a result, the unemployment rate increased 0.4 pp to 11.5% from February to March.

Seasonally adjusted female unemployment rate edged up by 0.5 pp MoM to 13.9% as the female employment declined by 271 thousand while the number of unemployed females rose by 25. On the other hand, seasonally adjusted male unemployment rate rose by 0.4 pp to 10.3% following the increases in male employment and the number of unemployed males by 212 thousand and 129 thousand, respectively. Following these developments, the gender gap in the unemployment rates of females and males edged up to 3.6%.

# Employment falls, the number of unemployed persons rises

According to the monthly seasonally adjusted data, the number of employed persons declined by 59 thousand MoM to 29 million 956 thousand and the number of unemployed persons increased by 153 thousand to 3 million 894 thousand. Therefore, the total labor force increased by 96 thousand to 33 million 851 thousand (Figure 1, Table 1). As a result, the unemployment rate rose by 0.4 pp to 11.5% in March. To note, the unemployment rate in February is revised from 10.7% to 11.1%.

Figure 1 : Seasonally adjusted labor force, employment, and unemployment



Source: Turkstat, Betam

# Developments in the alternative unemployment rates

Box 1 reports the methods how Turkstat calculates the alternative unemployment rates. These measures consider both the time-related underemployment (those who are employed less than 40 hours a week but would like to increase their working hours, nevertheless, fail to do so) and the potential labor force (the individuals who are neither employed nor looking for a job but wish to work).

According to the seasonally adjusted data, "the combined rate of unemployment and the potential labor force" edged up by 0.4 pp to 18.8% while “general unemployment rate” increased 0.4 pp to 11.5%. Potential labor force rose by 15 thousand in March, following the increases of 55 thousand and 92 thousand in January and February, respectively. On the other hand, "the combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment" increased by 0.6 pp to 15.7% from February to March. “The composite measure of labor underutilization”, which combines the two previous alternative unemployment metrics, rose from 22.1% to 22.7% (Figure 2, Table 4).

Figure 2 : Headline Unemployment Rate and Supplementary Indicators for Labor Force

Source: Turkstat, Betam

# On the developments of sectorial employment

As known, Turkstat began to release monthly labor statistics instead of 3-month-average as of January 2021. Nevertheless, it was evident that there were huge swings in the monthly sectorial employment levels, which cannot be attributed to the economic conjuncture.With the release of 2021 Q4 labor statistics on February 15th, Turkstat announced that the monthly sectorial employment statistics will no longer be published. Indeed, the labor statistics that was released on March 10th did not include sectorial employment data. From now on, Betam will analyze the sectorial employment developments in its quarterly notes.

# Female and male unemployment rates rise

Figure 3 shows seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for males and for females. Female employment ceased to rise following the cumulative increase of 623 thousand in the last six months and it fell by 271 thousand. On the other hand, the number of unemployed females increased MoM by 25 thousand. In light of these developments, the female unemployment rate rose by 0.5 pp to 13.9%. The number of unemployed males rose by 129 thousand while male employment increased by 212 thousand in March. Hence, the unemployment rate of males edged up from 9.9% to 10.3% (Table 3).

Figure 3 : Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by gender (%)

Source: Turkstat, Betam

The female employment rate dropped MoM to 29%, which is the level in October 2021 (Figure 4). The female employment rate is 1.4 pp above its pre-pandemic level (27.6% in January 2020). The female employment rate fell sharply in March 2022 after reaching its peak in December 2017 as it recovers from 2018 recession and the crisis of pandemic. On the other hand, the male employment rate increased by 0.6 pp to 64.4%.

Figure 4 : Seasonally adjusted employment rate by gender (%)

Source: Turkstat, Betam

Table 1 : Seasonally adjusted labor force indicators (in thousands)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Labor force | Employment | Unemployment | Unemployment rate | Monthly changes | | |
| March-19 | 32858 | 28302 | 4556 | 13,9% | Labor force | Employment | Unemployment |
| April-19 | 32404 | 27920 | 4485 | 13,8% | -454 | -382 | -71 |
| May-19 | 32672 | 28191 | 4481 | 13,7% | 268 | 271 | -4 |
| June-19 | 32572 | 28108 | 4464 | 13,7% | -100 | -83 | -17 |
| July-19 | 32538 | 28022 | 4516 | 13,9% | -34 | -86 | 52 |
| August-19 | 32439 | 27901 | 4538 | 14,0% | -99 | -121 | 22 |
| September-19 | 32490 | 27927 | 4564 | 14,0% | 51 | 26 | 26 |
| October-19 | 32435 | 28065 | 4370 | 13,5% | -55 | 138 | -194 |
| November-19 | 32589 | 28275 | 4314 | 13,2% | 154 | 210 | -56 |
| December-19 | 32611 | 28217 | 4393 | 13,5% | 22 | -58 | 79 |
| January-20 | 31762 | 27588 | 4174 | 13,1% | -849 | -629 | -219 |
| February-20 | 31583 | 27598 | 3985 | 12,6% | -179 | 10 | -189 |
| March-20 | 30419 | 26490 | 3929 | 12,9% | -1164 | -1108 | -56 |
| April-20 | 29310 | 25339 | 3971 | 13,5% | -1109 | -1151 | 42 |
| May-20 | 29780 | 25769 | 4011 | 13,5% | 470 | 430 | 40 |
| June-20 | 30521 | 26479 | 4043 | 13,2% | 741 | 710 | 32 |
| July-20 | 30489 | 26198 | 4291 | 14,1% | -32 | -281 | 248 |
| August-20 | 30833 | 26920 | 3913 | 12,7% | 344 | 722 | -378 |
| September-20 | 31019 | 27099 | 3920 | 12,6% | 186 | 179 | 7 |
| October-20 | 31154 | 27069 | 4085 | 13,1% | 135 | -30 | 165 |
| November-20 | 31315 | 27215 | 4101 | 13,1% | 161 | 146 | 16 |
| December-20 | 31089 | 27050 | 4039 | 13,0% | -226 | -165 | -62 |
| January-21 | 31525 | 27487 | 4038 | 12,8% | 436 | 437 | -1 |
| February-21 | 31868 | 27586 | 4282 | 13,4% | 343 | 99 | 244 |
| March-21 | 32519 | 28271 | 4248 | 13,1% | 651 | 685 | -34 |
| April-21 | 32623 | 28175 | 4448 | 13,6% | 104 | -96 | 200 |
| May-21 | 32368 | 28116 | 4252 | 13,1% | -255 | -59 | -196 |
| June-21 | 32140 | 28788 | 3352 | 10,4% | -228 | 672 | -900 |
| July-21 | 32561 | 28924 | 3637 | 11,2% | 421 | 136 | 285 |
| August-21 | 32754 | 28987 | 3767 | 11,5% | 193 | 63 | 130 |
| September-21 | 33173 | 29412 | 3762 | 11,3% | 419 | 425 | -5 |
| October-21 | 33281 | 29562 | 3719 | 11,2% | 108 | 150 | -43 |
| November-21 | 33528 | 29736 | 3792 | 11,3% | 247 | 174 | 73 |
| December-21 | 33838 | 29979 | 3859 | 11,4% | 310 | 243 | 67 |
| January-22 | 33821 | 29921 | 3900 | 11,5% | -17 | -58 | 41 |
| February-22 | 33755 | 30015 | 3741 | 11,1% | -66 | 94 | -159 |
| March-22 | 33851 | 29956 | 3894 | 11,5% | 96 | -59 | 153 |

Source: Turkstat, Betam

Table 2 : Unemployment, alternative unemployment rates (%) levels (in thousand)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unemployment Rate (%) | Persons in Unemployment (in thousands) | Combined Rate of Time-Related Underemployment and Unemployment (%) | Time-Related Underemployed (in thousands) | Combined Rate of Unemployment and Potential Labor Force (%) | Potential Labor Force (in thousands) | Composite Measure of Labor Underutilization (%) | Total |
| Mar-19 | 13,9 | 4556 | 15,2 | 438 | 18,4 | 1826 | 19,7 | 6820 |
| Apr-19 | 13,8 | 4485 | 15,0 | 376 | 18,0 | 1644 | 19,1 | 6504 |
| May-19 | 13,7 | 4481 | 14,5 | 256 | 17,8 | 1624 | 18,6 | 6361 |
| Jun-19 | 13,7 | 4464 | 14,6 | 292 | 18,2 | 1790 | 19,1 | 6545 |
| Jul-19 | 13,9 | 4516 | 14,9 | 332 | 18,3 | 1761 | 19,3 | 6609 |
| Aug-19 | 14,0 | 4538 | 14,8 | 263 | 18,4 | 1753 | 19,2 | 6554 |
| Sep-19 | 14,0 | 4564 | 15,1 | 342 | 17,9 | 1525 | 18,9 | 6431 |
| Oct-19 | 13,5 | 4370 | 14,4 | 301 | 17,9 | 1749 | 18,7 | 6420 |
| Nov-19 | 13,2 | 4314 | 14,3 | 346 | 17,4 | 1642 | 18,4 | 6302 |
| Dec-19 | 13,5 | 4393 | 14,6 | 368 | 17,7 | 1676 | 18,8 | 6437 |
| Jan-20 | 13,1 | 4174 | 15,7 | 813 | 19,1 | 2339 | 21,6 | 7326 |
| Feb-20 | 12,6 | 3985 | 14,9 | 721 | 18,6 | 2321 | 20,8 | 7027 |
| Mar-20 | 12,9 | 3929 | 15,9 | 908 | 20,3 | 2818 | 23,1 | 7655 |
| Apr-20 | 13,5 | 3971 | 18,3 | 1393 | 23,5 | 3813 | 27,7 | 9177 |
| May-20 | 13,5 | 4011 | 19,2 | 1707 | 24,2 | 4216 | 29,3 | 9934 |
| Jun-20 | 13,2 | 4043 | 17,0 | 1146 | 22,4 | 3600 | 25,7 | 8789 |
| Jul-20 | 14,1 | 4291 | 18,1 | 1228 | 22,4 | 3271 | 26,0 | 8790 |
| Aug-20 | 12,7 | 3913 | 16,7 | 1236 | 21,3 | 3373 | 24,9 | 8522 |
| Sep-20 | 12,6 | 3920 | 15,9 | 1012 | 21,2 | 3371 | 24,2 | 8303 |
| Oct-20 | 13,1 | 4085 | 17,4 | 1336 | 21,9 | 3505 | 25,7 | 8926 |
| Nov-20 | 13,1 | 4101 | 17,1 | 1254 | 23,0 | 4028 | 26,6 | 9383 |
| Dec-20 | 13,0 | 4039 | 18,1 | 1588 | 24,1 | 4550 | 28,6 | 10177 |
| Jan-21 | 12,8 | 4038 | 20,3 | 2362 | 23,0 | 4172 | 29,6 | 10572 |
| Feb-21 | 13,4 | 4282 | 19,9 | 2060 | 22,5 | 3727 | 28,3 | 10069 |
| Mar-21 | 13,1 | 4248 | 18,1 | 1638 | 21,1 | 3312 | 25,7 | 9198 |
| Apr-21 | 13,6 | 4448 | 19,7 | 1979 | 21,7 | 3360 | 27,2 | 9787 |
| May-21 | 13,1 | 4252 | 19,2 | 1963 | 21,6 | 3494 | 27,0 | 9709 |
| Jun-21 | 10,4 | 3352 | 14,4 | 1276 | 18,6 | 3226 | 22,2 | 7854 |
| Jul-21 | 11,2 | 3637 | 15,5 | 1410 | 18,9 | 3104 | 22,9 | 8151 |
| Aug-21 | 11,5 | 3767 | 14,6 | 1015 | 18,6 | 2857 | 21,4 | 7639 |
| Sep-21 | 11,3 | 3762 | 15,0 | 1214 | 18,4 | 2870 | 21,8 | 7846 |
| Oct-21 | 11,2 | 3719 | 15,7 | 1506 | 18,7 | 3081 | 22,8 | 8306 |
| Nov-21 | 11,3 | 3792 | 15,5 | 1405 | 18,3 | 2869 | 22,2 | 8065 |
| Dec-21 | 11,4 | 3859 | 15,6 | 1420 | 19,0 | 3173 | 22,8 | 8452 |
| Jan-22 | 11,5 | 3900 | 15,8 | 1444 | 19,0 | 3119 | 23,0 | 8462 |
| Feb-22 | 11,1 | 3741 | 15,1 | 1356 | 18,4 | 3027 | 22,1 | 8124 |
| Mar-22 | 11,5 | 3894 | 15,7 | 1421 | 18,8 | 3042 | 22,7 | 8356 |

Source: Turkstat, Betam

Table 3 : Seasonally adjusted female and male labor market indicators (thousands)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Total labor force, Female | Total Employment, Female | Total Unemployed, Female | Total labor force, Male | Total Employment, Male | Total Unemployed, Male | Women LFPR | Women Employment Rate | Men LFPR | Men Employment Rate |
| Mar-19 | 10.783 | 8.979 | 1.804 | 22.075 | 19.323 | 2.752 | 34,8 | 29,0 | 73,0 | 63,9 |
| Apr-19 | 10.782 | 8.993 | 1.789 | 21.622 | 18.927 | 2.695 | 34,8 | 29,0 | 71,4 | 62,5 |
| May-19 | 10.751 | 8.960 | 1.791 | 21.920 | 19.231 | 2.690 | 34,6 | 28,9 | 72,3 | 63,4 |
| Jun-19 | 10.647 | 8.918 | 1.729 | 21.925 | 19.190 | 2.735 | 34,3 | 28,7 | 72,2 | 63,2 |
| Jul-19 | 10.677 | 8.945 | 1.732 | 21.861 | 19.077 | 2.784 | 34,3 | 28,7 | 71,9 | 62,8 |
| Aug-19 | 10.609 | 8.875 | 1.734 | 21.830 | 19.026 | 2.804 | 34,0 | 28,5 | 71,7 | 62,5 |
| Sep-19 | 10.688 | 8.919 | 1.769 | 21.802 | 19.008 | 2.794 | 34,3 | 28,6 | 71,5 | 62,4 |
| Oct-19 | 10.669 | 8.975 | 1.694 | 21.766 | 19.091 | 2.676 | 34,1 | 28,7 | 71,3 | 62,6 |
| Nov-19 | 10.734 | 8.983 | 1.751 | 21.855 | 19.291 | 2.564 | 34,3 | 28,7 | 71,5 | 63,1 |
| Dec-19 | 10.651 | 8.916 | 1.735 | 21.960 | 19.301 | 2.658 | 34,0 | 28,5 | 71,8 | 63,1 |
| Jan-20 | 10.319 | 8.667 | 1.652 | 21.444 | 18.922 | 2.522 | 32,9 | 27,6 | 70,0 | 61,8 |
| Feb-20 | 10.145 | 8.671 | 1.474 | 21.438 | 18.928 | 2.511 | 32,3 | 27,6 | 69,8 | 61,7 |
| Mar-20 | 9.470 | 8.078 | 1.392 | 20.949 | 18.412 | 2.537 | 30,1 | 25,7 | 68,1 | 59,9 |
| Apr-20 | 9.215 | 7.897 | 1.319 | 20.094 | 17.442 | 2.652 | 29,2 | 25,1 | 65,2 | 56,6 |
| May-20 | 9.281 | 7.930 | 1.351 | 20.499 | 17.839 | 2.660 | 29,4 | 25,1 | 66,4 | 57,8 |
| Jun-20 | 9.668 | 8.163 | 1.505 | 20.854 | 18.316 | 2.538 | 30,6 | 25,8 | 67,4 | 59,2 |
| Jul-20 | 9.757 | 8.243 | 1.514 | 20.732 | 17.955 | 2.777 | 30,8 | 26,0 | 66,9 | 58,0 |
| Aug-20 | 9.787 | 8.355 | 1.433 | 21.046 | 18.565 | 2.481 | 30,9 | 26,4 | 67,8 | 59,8 |
| Sep-20 | 9.731 | 8.327 | 1.404 | 21.288 | 18.773 | 2.516 | 30,7 | 26,2 | 68,5 | 60,4 |
| Oct-20 | 9.782 | 8.323 | 1.458 | 21.372 | 18.746 | 2.627 | 30,8 | 26,2 | 68,6 | 60,2 |
| Nov-20 | 9.772 | 8.375 | 1.397 | 21.543 | 18.839 | 2.704 | 30,7 | 26,3 | 69,0 | 60,4 |
| Dec-20 | 9.853 | 8.467 | 1.386 | 21.237 | 18.583 | 2.654 | 30,9 | 26,6 | 67,9 | 59,4 |
| Jan-21 | 9.996 | 8.547 | 1.448 | 21.529 | 18.940 | 2.589 | 31,3 | 26,8 | 68,7 | 60,5 |
| Feb-21 | 10.224 | 8.656 | 1.568 | 21.644 | 18.930 | 2.714 | 32,0 | 27,1 | 69,0 | 60,4 |
| Mar-21 | 10.246 | 8.620 | 1.625 | 22.273 | 19.651 | 2.622 | 32,0 | 26,9 | 70,9 | 62,6 |
| Apr-21 | 10.463 | 8.789 | 1.673 | 22.161 | 19.386 | 2.775 | 32,6 | 27,4 | 70,5 | 61,7 |
| May-21 | 10.189 | 8.605 | 1.584 | 22.180 | 19.512 | 2.668 | 31,7 | 26,8 | 70,5 | 62,0 |
| Jun-21 | 10.361 | 8.896 | 1.465 | 21.778 | 19.892 | 1.886 | 32,2 | 27,7 | 69,1 | 63,1 |
| Jul-21 | 10.810 | 9.308 | 1.502 | 21.751 | 19.616 | 2.135 | 33,6 | 28,9 | 68,9 | 62,2 |
| Aug-21 | 10.626 | 9.074 | 1.552 | 22.128 | 19.913 | 2.215 | 33,0 | 28,1 | 70,0 | 63,0 |
| Sep-21 | 10.773 | 9.228 | 1.545 | 22.400 | 20.184 | 2.216 | 33,4 | 28,6 | 70,8 | 63,8 |
| Oct-21 | 10.890 | 9.370 | 1.520 | 22.391 | 20.192 | 2.199 | 33,7 | 29,0 | 70,7 | 63,8 |
| Nov-21 | 11.014 | 9.433 | 1.581 | 22.515 | 20.303 | 2.211 | 34,0 | 29,1 | 71,0 | 64,0 |
| Dec-21 | 11.141 | 9.585 | 1.555 | 22.698 | 20.394 | 2.304 | 34,4 | 29,6 | 71,5 | 64,2 |
| Jan-22 | 11.191 | 9.662 | 1.529 | 22.630 | 20.259 | 2.371 | 34,5 | 29,8 | 71,2 | 63,7 |
| Feb-22 | 11.199 | 9.697 | 1.502 | 22.556 | 20.318 | 2.238 | 34,5 | 29,8 | 70,9 | 63,8 |
| Mar-22 | 10.953 | 9.426 | 1.527 | 22.897 | 20.530 | 2.367 | 33,7 | 29,0 | 71,9 | 64,4 |

Source: Turkstat, Betam

**Box 1 : Definitions of alternative unemployment rates[[4]](#footnote-4)**

**The time-related underemployment**: Persons employed in the reference week who actually worked less than 40 hours as total (in main job and additional job/s), were willing to work additional hours and were available to do so, but could not find a job for the extra hours.

**The potential labor force:** Persons not in employment who would like to work, but for whom the existing conditions limit active job search and/or availability.

**The unemployed:** The unemployed comprises all persons 15 years of age and over who were not employed during the reference period had used at least one active channel for seeking a job during the last four weeks and were available to start work within two weeks.

**1) Unemployment rate** = [persons in unemployment/labor force]x100

**2) Combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment =**

[(persons in time-related underemployment + persons in unemployment) / labor force] \* 100

**3) Combined rate of unemployment and potential labor force =**

[(persons in unemployment + potential labor force)/ (labor force+ potential labor force)] x 100

**4) Composite measure of labor underutilization =**

[(persons in time-related underemployment + persons in unemployment + potential labor force) / (labor force+ potential labor force)] x 100

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4. Detailed information is available in the ***Metadata*** section of the link : <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Kategori/GetKategori?p=istihdam-issizlik-ve-ucret-108&dil=1> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)