Labor Market Outlook:
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Betam
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BAHÇEŞEHİR
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EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE SHARPLY INCREASED, UNEMPLOYMENT STAGNATED

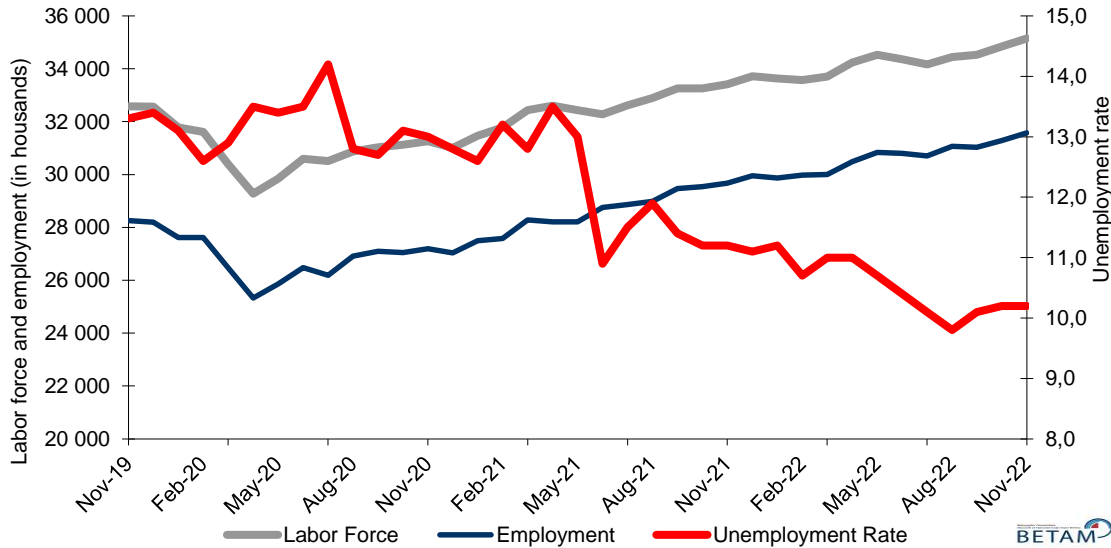**Seyfettin Gürsel[*], Hamza Mutluay[**] , Mehmet Cem Şahin[***]**

Executive Summary

Since the number of unemployed persons increased by 23 thousand and the number of employed persons increased by 285 thousand, the labor force grew by 308 thousand. As a result, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 10.2% in November.

The seasonally adjusted female unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 pp to 12.9%, as female employment rose by 190 and unemployment dropped by 7 thousand. As for males, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went up by 0.1 pp to 8.8%, following the increase in male employment (95 thousand) and unemployment (30 thousand. As in September and October, female labor force growth was higher than male labor force growth in November. Following these developments, the gender gap in the unemployment rates of females and males fell by 0.3 pp to 4.1% in November.

The rise in the employment and labor force

According to the monthly seasonally adjusted data, the number of employed persons was up by 285 thousand MoM to 31 million 574 thousand, and the number of unemployed persons grew by 23 thousand to 3 million 576 thousand. As a result, the total labor force increased by 308 thousand to 35 million 150 thousand (Figure 1, Table 1). The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 10.2%

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

Source: Turkstat, Betam

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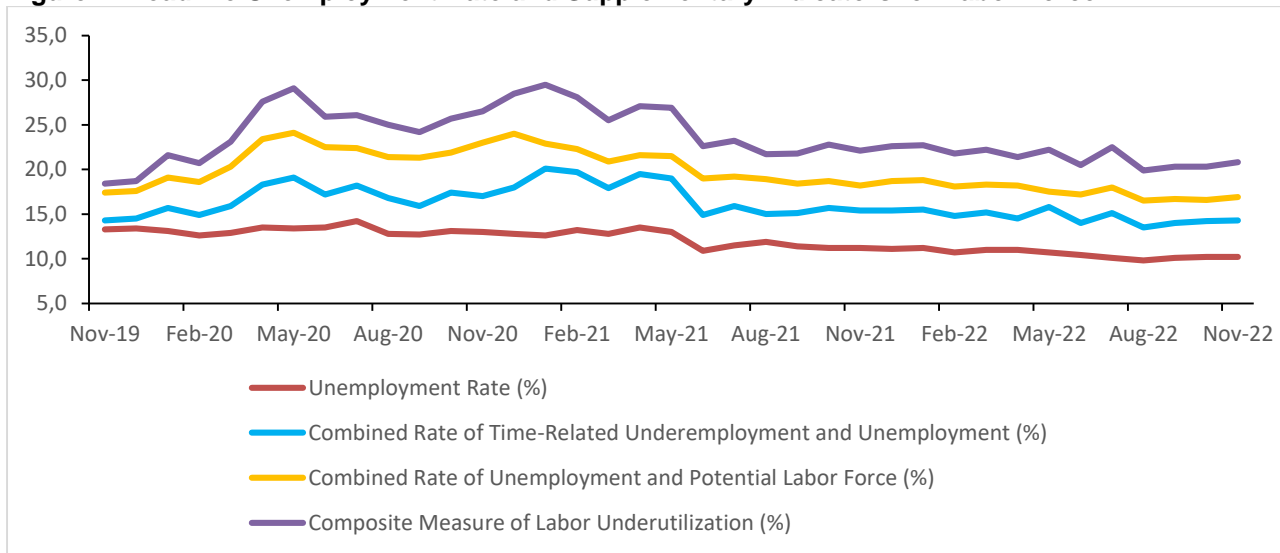[**] Hamza Mutluay, Betam, Research Assistant, hamza.mutluay@eas.bau.edu.tr
[***] Mehmet Cem Şahin, Betam, Research Assistant, mehmetcem.sahin@eas.bau.edu.tr

Developments in the alternative unemployment rates

Box 1 reports the methods Turkstat used to calculate the alternative unemployment rates. These measures consider both the time-related underemployment (those who are employed for less than 40 hours a week but would like to increase their working hours but 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 general unemployment rate remained unchanged at 10.2% in November. The level of the potential labor force surprisingly went up through the increases in November. As a result, the combined rate of unemployment and the potential labor force increased by 0.3 pp to 16.9%. The combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment increased by 0.1 pp and reached 14.3%. After increasing from 19.9% to 20.3% in September, "The composite measure of labor underutilization" which combines the two previous alternative unemployment metrics remained unchanged in October and increased by 0.5% to 20.8% in November (Figure 2, Table 4).

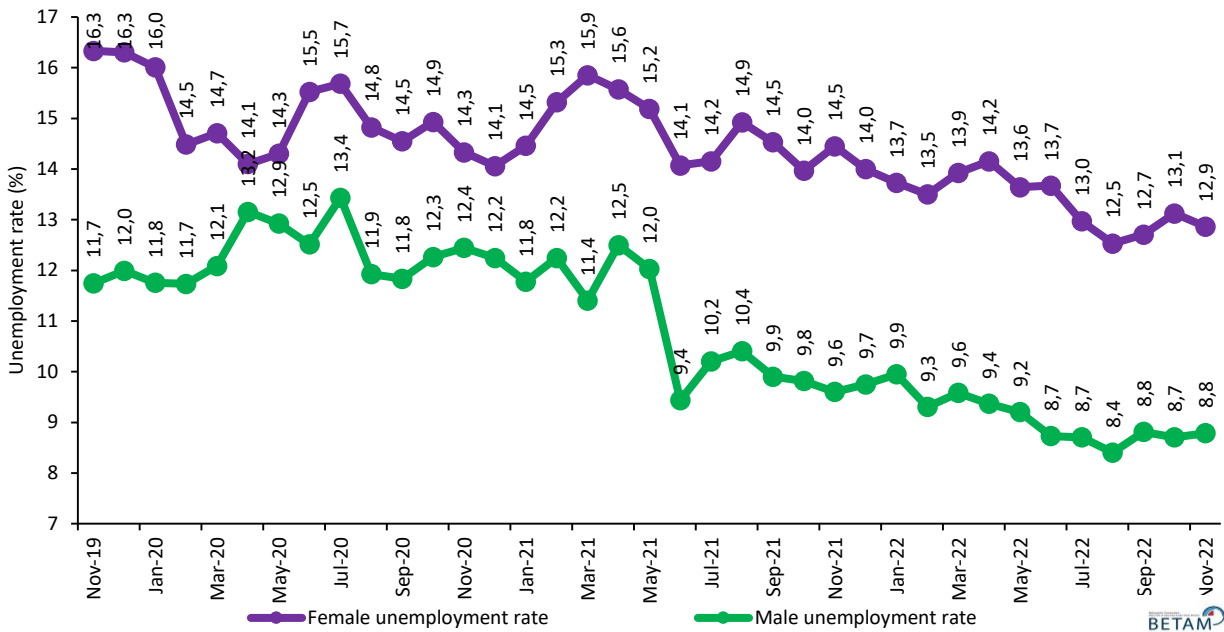**Figure 2: Headline Unemployment Rate and Supplementary Indicators for Labor Force**

Source: Turkstat, Betam

Decrease in female unemployment, increase in male unemployment

Figure 3 shows the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for males and females. The level of female employment increased by 190 thousand whereas unemployment dropped by 7 thousand. As the increase in employment was higher than the increase in the labor force, the female unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 pp. to 12.9% in November. Male employment grew by 95 thousand in November, following an increase of 147 thousand in October. At the same time, male unemployment went up by 30 thousand on a monthly basis in November. As a result, the male unemployment rate rose from 8.7% to 8.8 in November (Figure 3).

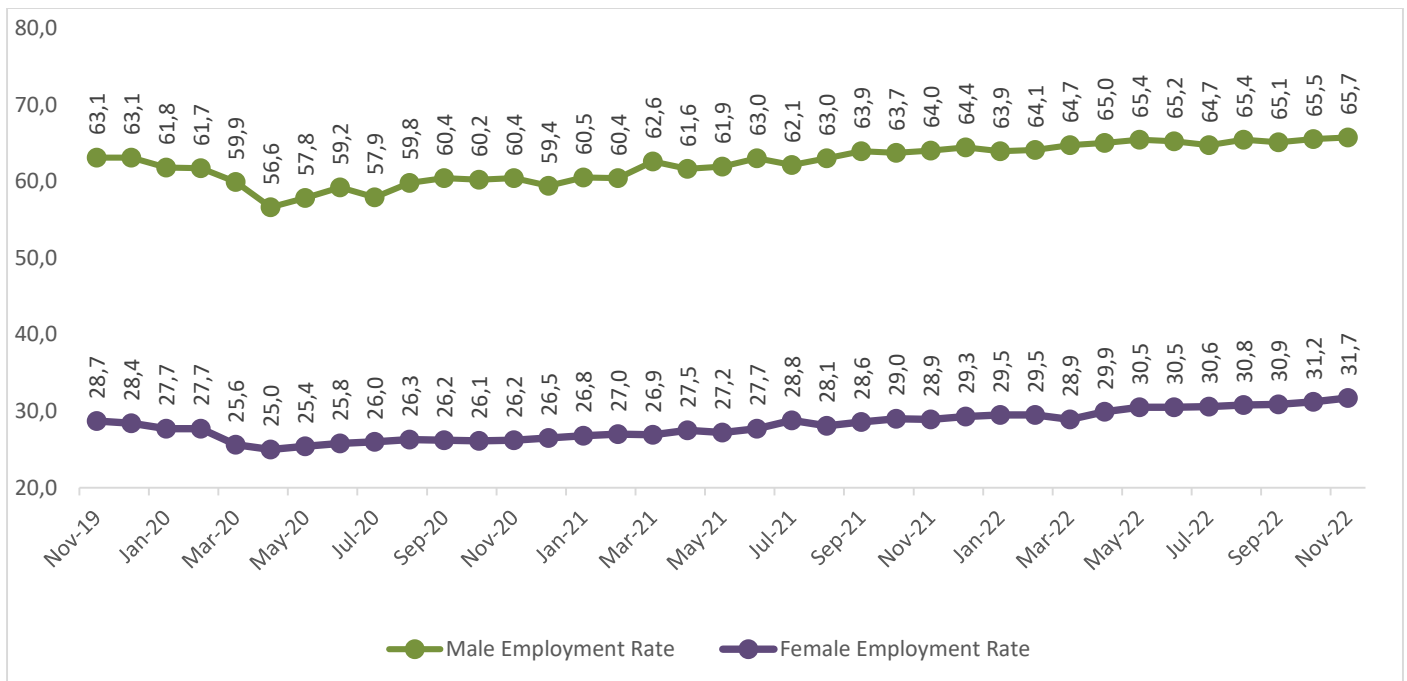**Figure 3: Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by gender (%)**

Source: Turkstat, Betam

As a result of 190 thousand increase in employment, female employment rate was up 0.5 pp. to 31.7% in November. As for male, the employment rate rose by 0.2 pp. to 65.7%, following an increase of 0.4 pp. in October (Figure 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		
					Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment
Nov-19	32581	28263	4317	13.3			
Dec-19	32564	28200	4364	13.4	-17	-63	47
Jan-20	31786	27610	4176	13.1	-778	-590	-188
Feb-20	31606	27617	3989	12.6	-180	7	-187
Mar-20	30385	26466	3919	12.9	-1221	-1151	-70
Apr-20	29270	25333	3937	13.5	-1115	-1133	18
May-20	29844	25858	3987	13.4	574	525	50
Jun-20	30599	26479	4120	13.5	755	621	133
Jul-20	30506	26187	4318	14.2	-93	-292	198
Aug-20	30877	26910	3967	12.8	371	723	-351
Sep-20	31031	27094	3937	12.7	154	184	-30
Oct-20	31126	27049	4077	13.1	95	-45	140
Nov-20	31266	27190	4076	13.0	140	141	-1
Dec-20	31008	27034	3974	12.8	-258	-156	-102
Jan-21	31466	27492	3974	12.6	458	458	0
Feb-21	31786	27580	4207	13.2	320	88	233
Mar-21	32430	28277	4153	12.8	644	697	-54
Apr-21	32602	28206	4396	13.5	172	-71	243
May-21	32432	28207	4226	13.0	-170	1	-170
Jun-21	32281	28754	3526	10.9	-151	547	-700
Jul-21	32618	28862	3756	11.5	337	108	230
Aug-21	32892	28988	3904	11.9	274	126	148
Sep-21	33263	29469	3794	11.4	371	481	-110
Oct-21	33256	29540	3716	11.2	-7	71	-78
Nov-21	33419	29679	3740	11.2	163	139	24
Dec-21	33713	29956	3757	11.1	294	277	17
Jan-22	33633	29868	3765	11.2	-80	-88	8
Feb-22	33570	29982	3588	10.7	-63	114	-177
Mar-22	33708	30004	3704	11.0	138	22	116
Apr-22	34234	30483	3751	11.0	526	479	47
May-22	34531	30842	3689	10.7	297	359	-62
Jun-22	34363	30794	3569	10.4	-168	-48	-120
Jul-22	34161	30698	3463	10.1	-202	-96	-106
Aug-22	34439	31070	3370	9.8	278	372	-93
Sep-22	34530	31036	3493	10.1	91	-34	123
Oct-22	34842	31289	3553	10.2	312	253	60
Nov-22	35150	31574	3576	10.2	308	285	23

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 (%)	Composite Measure of Labor Underutilization (in thousand)
Nov-19	13.3	4317	14.3	342	17.4	1637	18.4	6296
Dec-19	13.4	4364	14.5	358	17.6	1659	18.7	6381
Jan-20	13.1	4176	15.7	814	19.1	2343	21.6	7333
Feb-20	12.6	3989	14.9	720	18.6	2322	20.7	7031
Mar-20	12.9	3919	15.9	912	20.3	2822	23.1	7653
Apr-20	13.5	3937	18.3	1419	23.4	3802	27.6	9158
May-20	13.4	3987	19.1	1713	24.1	4223	29.1	9923
Jun-20	13.5	4120	17.2	1143	22.5	3567	25.9	8830
Jul-20	14.2	4318	18.2	1234	22.4	3241	26.1	8794
Aug-20	12.8	3967	16.8	1220	21.4	3360	25.0	8547
Sep-20	12.7	3937	15.9	997	21.3	3396	24.2	8330
Oct-20	13.1	4077	17.4	1339	21.9	3508	25.7	8924
Nov-20	13.0	4076	17.0	1239	23.0	4046	26.5	9361
Dec-20	12.8	3974	18.0	1607	24.0	4563	28.5	10144
Jan-21	12.6	3974	20.1	2351	22.9	4192	29.5	10516
Feb-21	13.2	4207	19.7	2055	22.3	3708	28.1	9970
Mar-21	12.8	4153	17.9	1652	20.9	3318	25.5	9123
Apr-21	13.5	4396	19.5	1961	21.6	3375	27.1	9732
May-21	13.0	4226	19.0	1936	21.5	3499	26.9	9661
Jun-21	10.9	3526	14.9	1284	19.0	3219	22.6	8029
Jul-21	11.5	3756	15.9	1430	19.2	3102	23.2	8289
Aug-21	11.9	3904	15.0	1030	18.9	2852	21.7	7785
Sep-21	11.4	3794	15.1	1229	18.4	2851	21.8	7874
Oct-21	11.2	3716	15.7	1505	18.7	3079	22.8	8300
Nov-21	11.2	3740	15.4	1407	18.2	2863	22.1	8010
Dec-21	11.1	3757	15.4	1435	18.7	3133	22.6	8325
Jan-22	11.2	3765	15.5	1448	18.8	3150	22.7	8363
Feb-22	10.7	3588	14.8	1380	18.1	3038	21.8	8006
Mar-22	11.0	3704	15.2	1420	18.3	3017	22.2	8140
Apr-22	11.0	3751	14.5	1213	18.2	3031	21.4	7995
May-22	10.7	3689	15.8	1767	17.5	2853	22.2	8309
Jun-22	10.4	3569	14.0	1242	17.2	2828	20.5	7639
Jul-22	10.1	3463	15.1	1695	18.0	3276	22.5	8434
Aug-22	9.8	3370	13.5	1279	16.5	2769	19.9	7419
Sep-22	10.1	3493	14.0	1341	16.7	2729	20.3	7564
Oct-22	10.2	3553	14.2	1395	16.6	2675	20.3	7622
Nov-22	10.2	3576	14.3	1450	16.9	2845	20.8	7872

Source: Turkstat, Betam

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

	Female labor force	Female employment	Female unemployment	Male labor force	Male employment	Male unemployment	Female LFPR	Female Employment Rate	Male LFPR	Male Employment Rate
Nov-19	10721	8970	1751	21860	19293	2567	34.3	28.7	71.5	63.1
Dec-19	10635	8901	1734	21929	19299	2630	33.9	28.4	71.7	63.1
Jan-20	10339	8685	1655	21446	18925	2521	33.0	27.7	70.0	61.8
Feb-20	10163	8690	1472	21443	18927	2516	32.3	27.7	69.8	61.7
Mar-20	9444	8055	1389	20942	18411	2531	30.0	25.6	68.1	59.9
Apr-20	9186	7892	1295	20083	17441	2642	29.2	25.0	65.2	56.6
May-20	9356	8018	1338	20488	17840	2648	29.7	25.4	66.4	57.8
Jun-20	9663	8163	1500	20935	18316	2620	30.6	25.8	67.7	59.2
Jul-20	9767	8235	1532	20739	17952	2786	30.9	26.0	66.9	57.9
Aug-20	9797	8345	1452	21080	18565	2514	30.9	26.3	67.9	59.8
Sep-20	9740	8323	1417	21291	18771	2520	30.7	26.2	68.5	60.4
Oct-20	9760	8303	1457	21366	18746	2620	30.7	26.1	68.6	60.2
Nov-20	9749	8351	1397	21518	18839	2678	30.6	26.2	68.9	60.4
Dec-20	9830	8448	1382	21178	18586	2593	30.8	26.5	67.7	59.4
Jan-21	10000	8553	1446	21467	18939	2528	31.3	26.8	68.5	60.5
Feb-21	10210	8646	1564	21576	18934	2642	31.9	27.0	68.8	60.4
Mar-21	10238	8615	1623	22192	19661	2531	32.0	26.9	70.7	62.6
Apr-21	10455	8827	1628	22147	19379	2768	32.6	27.5	70.5	61.6
May-21	10277	8716	1561	22155	19490	2665	32.0	27.2	70.4	61.9
Jun-21	10349	8893	1456	21931	19862	2070	32.2	27.7	69.6	63.0
Jul-21	10804	9275	1529	21813	19587	2226	33.6	28.8	69.1	62.1
Aug-21	10662	9071	1591	22230	19917	2313	33.1	28.1	70.4	63.0
Sep-21	10820	9248	1572	22443	20221	2222	33.5	28.6	71.0	63.9
Oct-21	10888	9367	1521	22368	20173	2196	33.7	29.0	70.6	63.7
Nov-21	10955	9373	1583	22463	20307	2157	33.8	28.9	70.8	64.0
Dec-21	11065	9517	1549	22648	20440	2208	34.1	29.3	71.3	64.4
Jan-22	11086	9564	1522	22547	20304	2243	34.1	29.5	70.9	63.9
Feb-22	11076	9581	1495	22494	20401	2093	34.1	29.5	70.7	64.1
Mar-22	10915	9394	1520	22793	20609	2184	33.5	28.9	71.5	64.7
Apr-22	11361	9753	1608	22873	20730	2143	34.9	29.9	71.7	65.0
May-22	11509	9939	1570	23022	20903	2119	35.3	30.5	72.1	65.4
Jun-22	11519	9944	1575	22844	20850	1994	35.3	30.5	71.4	65.2
Jul-22	11481	9992	1489	22680	20707	1974	35.1	30.6	70.8	64.7
Aug-22	11532	10087	1445	22907	20982	1925	35.2	30.8	71.4	65.4
Sep-22	11594	10121	1473	22936	20915	2021	35.4	30.9	71.4	65.1
Oct-22	11772	10227	1545	23071	21062	2008	35.9	31.2	71.8	65.5
Nov-22	11955	10417	1538	23195	21157	2038	36.4	31.7	72.1	65.7

Source: Turkstat, Betam

Box 1: Definitions of alternative unemployment rates[1]

The time-related underemployment: Persons employed in the reference week who worked less than 40 hours in 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.

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[1] 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

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