

## THE SEVERE DECREASE IN MALE EMPLOYMENT

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### Executive Summary

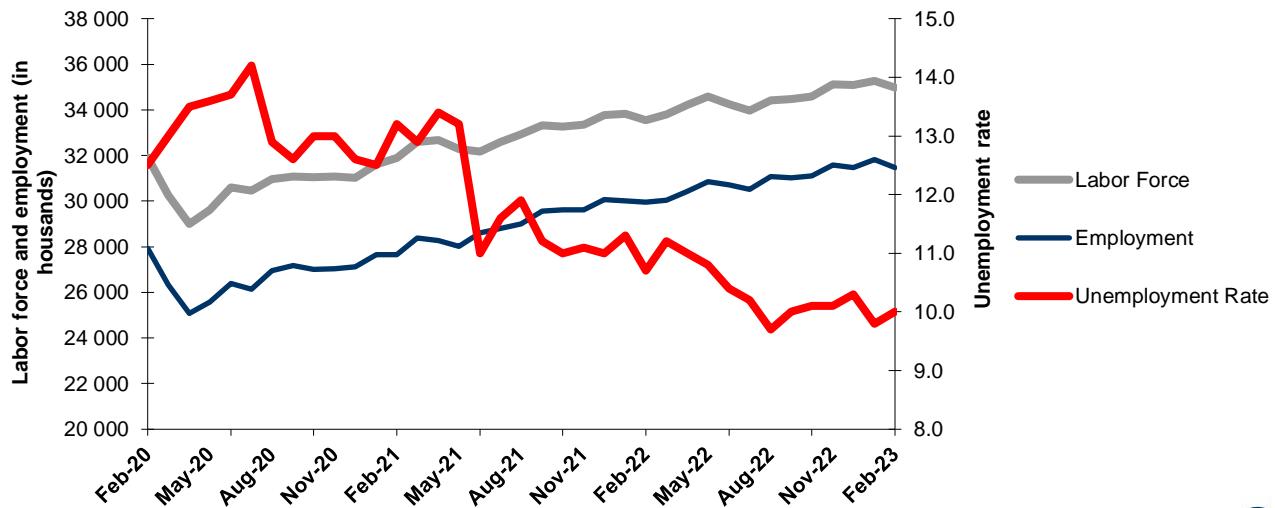
Since the number of employed persons decreased by 361 thousand and the number of unemployed persons increased by 295 thousand, the labor force decreased by 295 thousand from January to February. As a result, the unemployment rate increased by 0.2 pp to 10.0%. It should be noted that the losses in the employment level in 7 provinces that were affected by the tragic earthquake severely is not included in those calculations.

The seasonally adjusted female unemployment rate decreased by 0.9 pp to 12.6% from January to February, as female employment rose by 215 thousand and female unemployment decreased by 94 thousand. As for males, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went up by 0.8 pp to 8.7% following the sharp drop in male employment by 575 thousand and the increase in the number of unemployed males by 160 thousand. Consequently, the female labor force increased by 120 thousand while male labor force decreased by 415 thousand. Following these developments, the gender gap in the unemployment rates of females and males receded by 1.8 pp to 3.9%.

### The combination of the decrease in employment and the increase in unemployment

According to the monthly seasonally adjusted data, the number of employed persons fell by 361 thousand MoM to 31 million 460 thousand, and the number of unemployed persons increased by 65 thousand to 3 million 514 thousand. Therefore, the total labor force decreased by 295 thousand to 34 million 975 thousand (Figure 1, Table 1). From January to February, the unemployment rate rose by 0.2 pp to 10.0%. The decrease of 361 thousand in the employment level has been recorded as the highest level since April 2020.

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



Source: Turkstat, Betam

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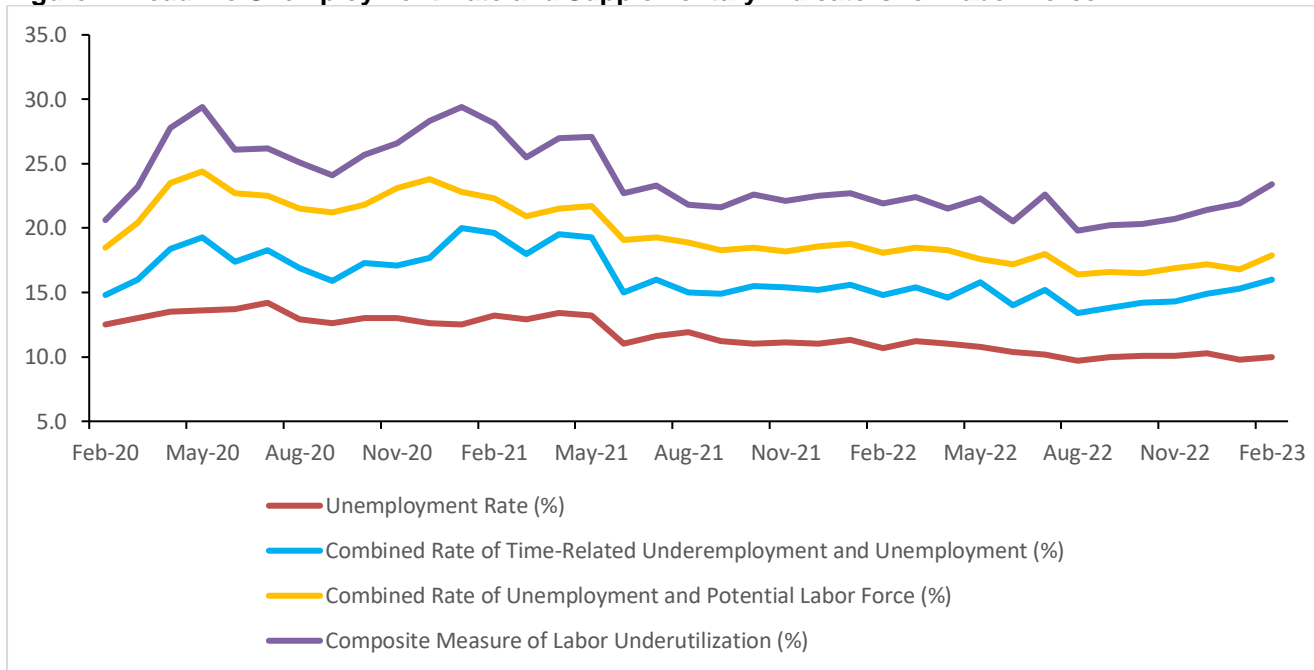
The fact that the labor market had been indirectly affected by the tragic earthquake can be seen even though the survey couldn't be implemented in 7 provinces that were severely affected<sup>1</sup>.

## 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 increased by 0.2 pp to 10.0% from January to February. At the same time, following the striking increase of 369 thousand in the potential labor force, the combined rate of unemployment and the potential labor force increased by 1.1 pp to 17.9%. This much of an increase in the labor force hints that a significant portion of previously employed people transitioned into the potential labor force this month. In addition, the combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment increased by 0.7 pp and reached 16.0% in February. "The composite measure of labor underutilization" which combines the two previous alternative unemployment metrics, rose by 1.5 pp from 20.3% to 23.4% (Figure 2, Table 4).

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



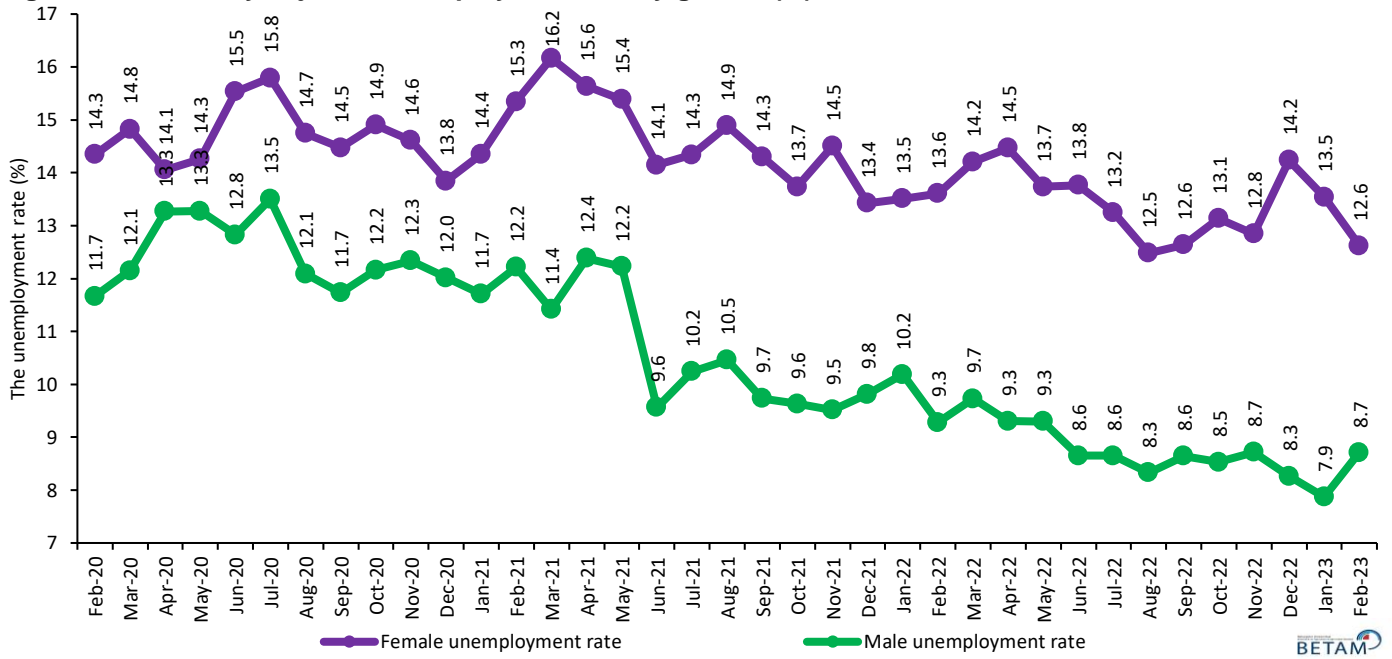
Source: Turkstat, Betam

## Sharp rise in male unemployment

Figure 3 shows the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for males and females. In the month of February, the level of female employment increased by 215 thousand while the level of unemployed females dropped by 95 thousand, implying a 120-thousand-increase in the labor force. Consequently, the female unemployment rate dropped by 0.9 pp from 13.5% to 12.6%. At the same time, the number of employed males dropped severely by 575 thousand and the number of unemployed males increased by 160 thousand. As a result, the male unemployment rate rose sharply from 7.9% to 8.7% (Table 3).

<sup>1</sup> An additional minor note which features information and calculations regarding the effects of the earthquake 2023 Turkiye-Syria earthquake has been prepared with the caption "Box 2: The effects of the earthquake".

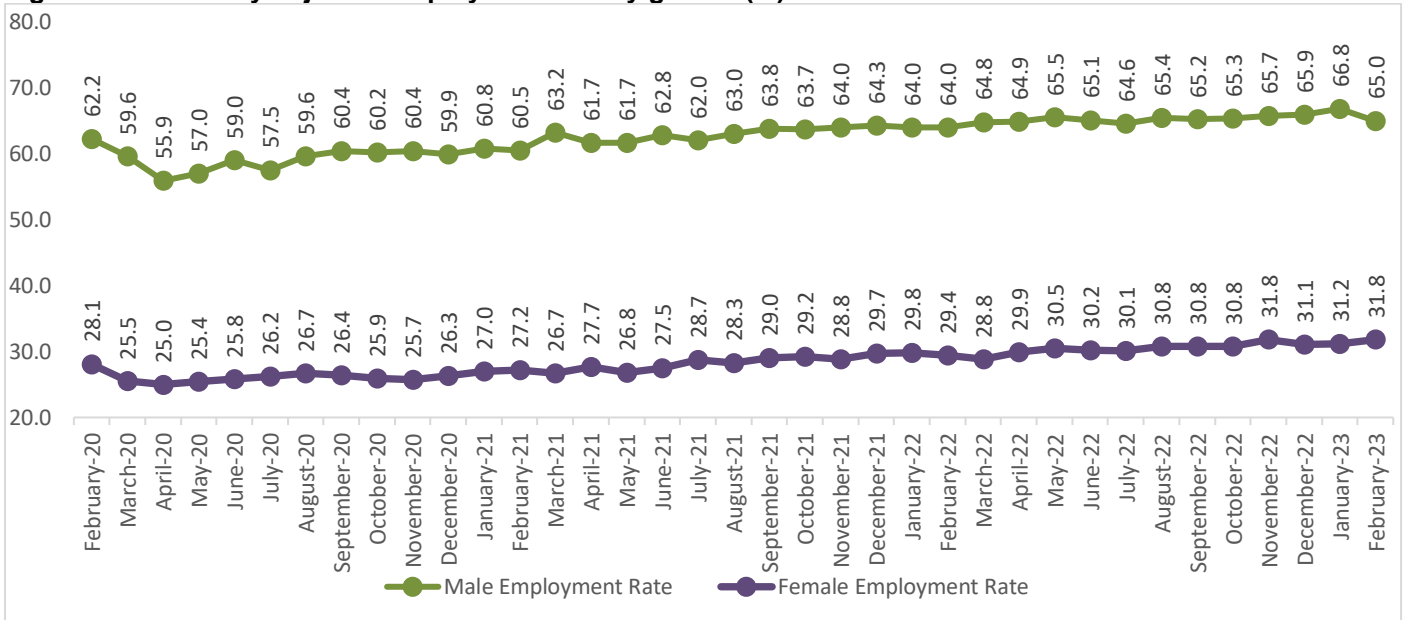
**Figure 3: Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by gender (%)**



Source: Turkstat, Betam

The female employment rate, as a result, reached its highest level again which were previously seen in the period of November 2022. The male employment rate, however, ended its four-month-consecutive increases and retreated back to 65.0 percent. (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
February-20	31924	27924	4000	12,5%			
March-20	30275	26345	3930	13,0%	-1649	-1579	-70
April-20	28997	25078	3919	13,5%	-1278	-1267	-11
May-20	29609	25587	4022	13,6%	612	509	103
June-20	30589	26403	4185	13,7%	980	816	163
July-20	30465	26127	4338	14,2%	-124	-276	153
August-20	30966	26958	4008	12,9%	501	831	-330
September-20	31089	27174	3915	12,6%	123	216	-93
October-20	31044	27003	4041	13,0%	-45	-171	126
November-20	31078	27027	4051	13,0%	34	24	10
December-20	31027	27121	3906	12,6%	-51	94	-145
January-21	31617	27649	3968	12,6%	590	528	62
February-21	31878	27663	4215	13,2%	261	14	247
March-21	32582	28379	4203	12,9%	704	716	-12
April-21	32666	28278	4388	13,4%	84	-101	185
May-21	32274	28007	4267	13,2%	-392	-271	-121
June-21	32168	28620	3548	11,0%	-106	613	-719
July-21	32592	28813	3780	11,6%	424	193	232
August-21	32916	28999	3917	11,9%	324	186	137
September-21	33313	29570	3743	11,2%	397	571	-174
October-21	33266	29613	3653	11,0%	-47	43	-90
November-21	33336	29621	3716	11,1%	70	8	63
December-21	33777	30060	3717	11,0%	441	439	1
January-22	33815	29999	3816	11,3%	38	-61	99
February-22	33545	29954	3591	10,7%	-270	-45	-225
March-22	33807	30029	3778	11,2%	262	75	187
April-22	34206	30435	3771	11,0%	399	406	-7
May-22	34574	30848	3726	10,8%	368	413	-45
June-22	34258	30709	3549	10,4%	-316	-139	-177
July-22	33978	30518	3460	10,2%	-280	-191	-89
August-22	34417	31071	3346	9,7%	439	553	-114
September-22	34463	31022	3441	10,0%	46	-49	95
October-22	34584	31098	3486	10,1%	121	76	45
November-22	35130	31575	3555	10,1%	546	477	69
December-22	35082	31470	3613	10,3%	-48	-105	58
January-23	35270	31821	3449	9,8%	188	351	-164
February-23	34975	31460	3514	10,0%	-295	-361	65

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
Feb-20	12,5	4000	14,8	725	18,5	2339	20,6	7063
Mar-20	13,0	3930	16,0	914	20,4	2822	23,2	7666
Apr-20	13,5	3919	18,4	1416	23,5	3785	27,8	9120
May-20	13,6	4022	19,3	1693	24,4	4236	29,4	9951
Jun-20	13,7	4185	17,4	1137	22,7	3569	26,1	8891
Jul-20	14,2	4338	18,3	1237	22,5	3247	26,2	8822
Aug-20	12,9	4008	16,9	1225	21,5	3375	25,1	8609
Sep-20	12,6	3915	15,9	1028	21,2	3396	24,1	8339
Oct-20	13,0	4041	17,3	1330	21,8	3487	25,7	8857
Nov-20	13,0	4051	17,1	1263	23,1	4068	26,6	9382
Dec-20	12,6	3906	17,7	1586	23,8	4565	28,3	10057
Jan-21	12,5	3968	20,0	2355	22,8	4198	29,4	10521
Feb-21	13,2	4215	19,6	2033	22,3	3724	28,1	9972
Mar-21	12,9	4203	18,0	1662	20,9	3295	25,5	9160
Apr-21	13,4	4388	19,5	1982	21,5	3357	27,0	9727
May-21	13,2	4267	19,3	1962	21,7	3495	27,1	9724
Jun-21	11,0	3548	15,0	1277	19,1	3209	22,7	8034
Jul-21	11,6	3780	16,0	1435	19,3	3111	23,3	8325
Aug-21	11,9	3917	15,0	1020	18,9	2841	21,8	7778
Sep-21	11,2	3743	14,9	1221	18,3	2880	21,6	7844
Oct-21	11,0	3653	15,5	1503	18,5	3069	22,6	8225
Nov-21	11,1	3716	15,4	1418	18,2	2874	22,1	8008
Dec-21	11,0	3717	15,2	1417	18,6	3152	22,5	8286
Jan-22	11,3	3816	15,6	1459	18,8	3130	22,7	8405
Feb-22	10,7	3591	14,8	1374	18,1	3029	21,9	7994
Mar-22	11,2	3778	15,4	1428	18,5	3038	22,4	8245
Apr-22	11,0	3771	14,6	1223	18,3	3046	21,5	8040
May-22	10,8	3726	15,8	1737	17,6	2863	22,3	8326
Jun-22	10,4	3549	14,0	1247	17,2	2830	20,5	7626
Jul-22	10,2	3460	15,2	1705	18,0	3239	22,6	8404
Aug-22	9,7	3346	13,4	1266	16,4	2749	19,8	7361
Sep-22	10,0	3441	13,8	1315	16,6	2734	20,2	7490
Oct-22	10,1	3486	14,2	1425	16,5	2659	20,3	7570
Nov-22	10,1	3555	14,3	1469	16,9	2866	20,7	7890
Dec-22	10,3	3613	14,9	1614	17,2	2924	21,4	8151
Jan-23	9,8	3449	15,3	1947	16,8	2976	21,9	8373
Feb-23	10,0	3514	16,0	2082	17,9	3345	23,4	8941

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
Feb-20	10318	8839	1480	21606	19086	2520	32,8	28,1	70,4	62,2
Mar-20	9416	8020	1396	20859	18325	2534	29,9	25,5	67,8	59,6
Apr-20	9149	7863	1286	19849	17216	2633	29,0	25,0	64,4	55,9
May-20	9335	8004	1331	20274	17583	2691	29,6	25,4	65,7	57,0
Jun-20	9650	8151	1499	20938	18252	2686	30,5	25,8	67,7	59,0
Jul-20	9859	8302	1557	20606	17825	2782	31,2	26,2	66,5	57,5
Aug-20	9915	8452	1462	21051	18506	2545	31,3	26,7	67,8	59,6
Sep-20	9806	8388	1419	21283	18786	2497	30,9	26,4	68,4	60,4
Oct-20	9675	8233	1442	21369	18770	2599	30,4	25,9	68,6	60,2
Nov-20	9562	8165	1397	21516	18862	2654	30,0	25,7	68,9	60,4
Dec-20	9722	8376	1346	21305	18745	2560	30,5	26,3	68,1	59,9
Jan-21	10048	8606	1442	21568	19043	2525	31,5	27,0	68,9	60,8
Feb-21	10269	8693	1576	21608	18969	2639	32,1	27,2	68,9	60,5
Mar-21	10188	8541	1647	22394	19839	2556	31,8	26,7	71,3	63,2
Apr-21	10514	8869	1644	22153	19409	2744	32,8	27,7	70,5	61,7
May-21	10150	8588	1562	22124	19419	2705	31,6	26,8	70,3	61,7
Jun-21	10280	8825	1454	21888	19795	2093	32,0	27,5	69,5	62,8
Jul-21	10794	9246	1548	21798	19567	2232	33,5	28,7	69,1	62,0
Aug-21	10705	9110	1594	22211	19888	2323	33,2	28,3	70,3	63,0
Sep-21	10940	9374	1565	22373	20196	2178	33,9	29,0	70,7	63,8
Oct-21	10953	9449	1504	22313	20164	2149	33,9	29,2	70,5	63,7
Nov-21	10916	9333	1583	22420	20287	2133	33,7	28,8	70,7	64,0
Dec-21	11138	9642	1495	22639	20418	2221	34,3	29,7	71,3	64,3
Jan-22	11177	9668	1510	22637	20331	2306	34,4	29,8	71,2	64,0
Feb-22	11076	9569	1507	22469	20385	2085	34,1	29,4	70,6	64,0
Mar-22	10918	9366	1551	22889	20662	2227	33,6	28,8	71,8	64,8
Apr-22	11372	9726	1645	22835	20709	2125	34,9	29,9	71,6	64,9
May-22	11521	9939	1582	23053	20910	2144	35,3	30,5	72,2	65,5
Jun-22	11455	9877	1577	22804	20832	1972	35,1	30,2	71,3	65,1
Jul-22	11337	9835	1502	22641	20683	1958	34,7	30,1	70,7	64,6
Aug-22	11532	10093	1439	22885	20979	1906	35,2	30,8	71,4	65,4
Sep-22	11551	10091	1460	22912	20931	1981	35,3	30,8	71,4	65,2
Oct-22	11632	10104	1528	22951	20993	1958	35,5	30,8	71,4	65,3
Nov-22	11973	10435	1538	23157	21139	2018	36,5	31,8	72,0	65,7
Dec-22	11941	10240	1700	23142	21229	1912	36,3	31,1	71,8	65,9
Jan-23	11877	10268	1608	23393	21552	1841	36,1	31,2	72,5	66,8
Feb-23	11997	10483	1514	22978	20977	2001	36,4	31,8	71,2	65,0

Source: Turkstat, Betam

## Box 1: Definitions of alternative unemployment rates<sup>2</sup>

**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.

**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 =**

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

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

$$[(\text{persons in unemployment} + \text{potential labor force}) / (\text{labor force} + \text{potential labor force})] * 100$$

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

$$[(\text{persons in time-related underemployment} + \text{persons in unemployment} + \text{potential labor force}) / (\text{labor force} + \text{potential labor force})] * 100$$

<sup>2</sup> 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>

## Box 2: The effects of the Türkiye-Syria earthquake

In addition to the tragedies that it caused, the horrific earthquake that had been felt through Türkiye and Syria on 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 disabled Turkstat to implement surveys in 7 provinces (Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya and Osmaniye) of Türkiye. Turkstat excluded these provinces from the sample and used reweighting methods to analyze the overall labor market<sup>3</sup>. We used 2022 yearly labor market statistics to give a brief information about the level of labor force in those provinces and estimate the size of shock in terms of the labor market.

The table below features the labor force levels by the NUTS-II regions, which aggregates Gaziantep, Adıyaman and Kilis in a region (TRC1), and also aggregates Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and Osmaniye in another region (TR63). As for Malatya, we assumed that its share of employment and unemployment levels in the TRB1 region, comprising of Malatya, Elazığ, Bingöl and Tunceli, is very similar to its population share in the TRB1 region.

**Table: The level of employment and unemployment in 7 provinces (2022, thousand)**

	Gaziantep, Adıyaman, Kilis	Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye	Malatya <sup>4</sup> (TRB1*0,46)	Türkiye
<b>Employed</b>	879	1036	275	30752
<b>Unemployed</b>	105	177	24	3582
<b>Employment share of Türkiye (%)</b>	2,9	3,4	0,9	100,0
<b>Unemployed share of Türkiye (%)</b>	2,9	4,9	0,7	100,0

Source: Turkstat

Undoubtedly, the employment levels in those provinces at the time of the earthquake would be higher than the sum of the first row and first-three columns (2 million 190 thousand). Assuming that the share of employed people remains almost unchanged from 2022 to the time of the earthquake, it can be said that the level of employment before the earthquake was 7 percent of the employment level in Türkiye.

The disastrous effects of the earthquake were not distributed uniformly in those 7 provinces, namely that the effects were much more severe in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş. Assuming that the half of the employment in 7 provinces were lost due to the earthquake, the decrease in the number of employed people is calculated as 1.1 million, equaling the 3.6 percent of total employment in Türkiye.

We calculate that the number of unemployed people comprises 8.5 percent of the number of unemployed people in Türkiye. Due to the forced migration resulting from the earthquake, it is difficult to estimate how much of the remaining residents in the provinces are seeking for work. It is not probable that the forced migrants started looking for work in the regions that they fled. Therefore, it would be quite difficult to estimate the actual unemployment rate were Turkstat able to implement surveys in 7 provinces. It would be reasonable to think that the forced migrants have transitioned from labor force to the potential labor force due to them being displaced.

<sup>3</sup> For greater detail, see the Turkstat page ([Source](#))

<sup>4</sup> The population share of Malatya in TRB1 region is 46.0%.