

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES REMAIN STABLE

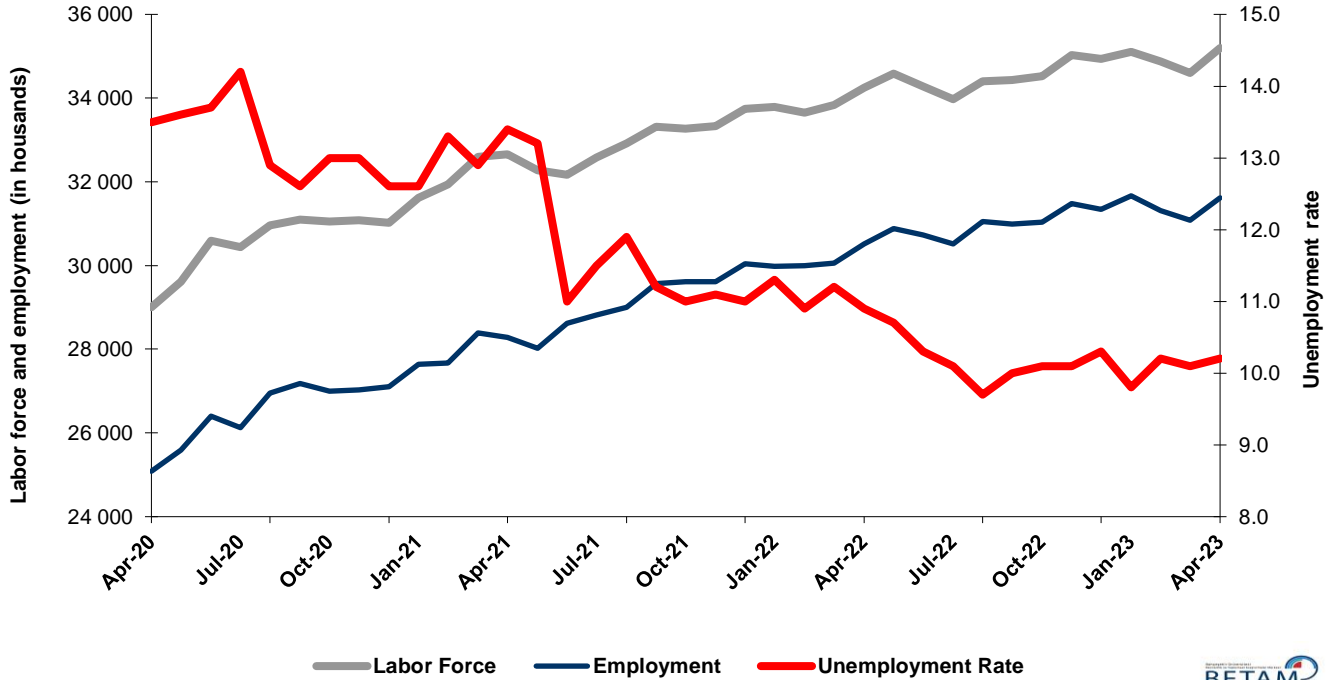
Seyfettin Gürsel*, Hamza Mutluay**, Uğurcan Acar***

Executive Summary

The increase of 521,000 in employment, along with an increase of 74,000 in the number of unemployed, resulted in a total labor force increase of 594,000. The overall unemployment rate has increased by 0.1 percentage points from March to April, reaching 10.2 percent. According to the TurkStat, unlike the previous two months, surveys were conducted in all regions affected by the earthquake, and revisions were made to statistical tables based on retrospective calculations.

The seasonally adjusted female unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points from March to April, reaching 14.3 percent, as a result of a 361,000 increase in employment and an 86,000 increase in the number of unemployed. On the other hand, the male unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 8.1 percent in March, following a 159,000 increase in employment and a 12,000 decrease in the number of unemployed males. The female labor force level increased by 448,000, while the male labor force level increased by 148,000. Consequently, the gender gap in unemployment rates increased from 5.9 percentage points to 6.2 percentage points in April.

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



Source: Turkstat, Betam

* Prof. Dr. Seyfettin Gürsel, Betam, Director, seyfettin.gursel@bau.edu.tr

** Hamza Mutluay, Betam, Research Assistant, hamza.mutluay@bau.edu.tr

*** Uğurcan Acar, Betam, Research Assistant, ugurcan.acar@bau.edu.tr

High increase in employment, and a limited increase of 0.1 percentage points in the unemployment rate.

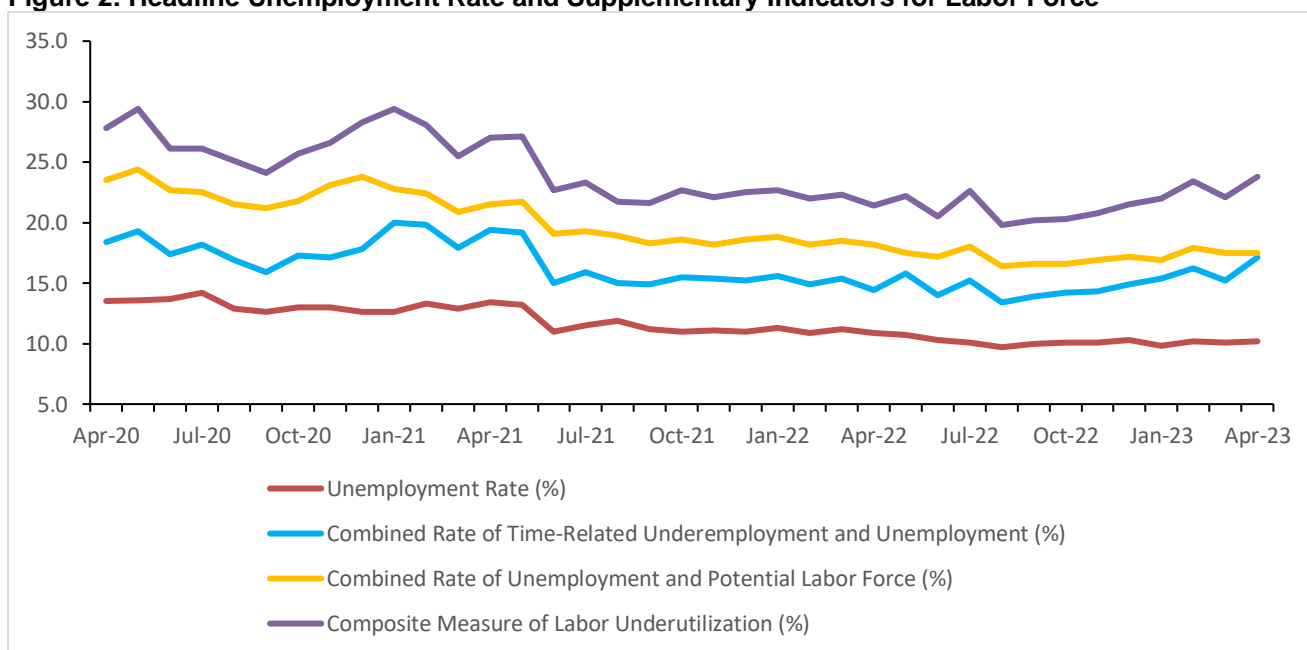
According to seasonally adjusted data, the number of employed individuals increased by 521,000, reaching 31.61 million from March to April. This has largely compensated for the employment losses of 352,000 and 224,000 experienced in the previous two months. In April, the number of unemployed individuals increased by 74,000, reaching 3.585 million. The labor force increased by 594,000 and stands at 35.195 million (Figure 1, Table 1). As a result, the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points from March to April, reaching 10.2 percent.

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 seasonally adjusted data, the "overall unemployment rate" in April was 10.2 percent, while the unemployment rate considering the potential labor force remained unchanged at 17.5 percent, with a limited increase of 36,000 in the potential labor force. The unemployment rate accounting for time-related underemployment increased by 1.9 percentage points to 17.1 percent. The composite measure of labor underutilization rate, which is a combination of the last two alternative rates, increased by 1.7 percentage points to reach 23.8 percent (Figure 2, Table 2).

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

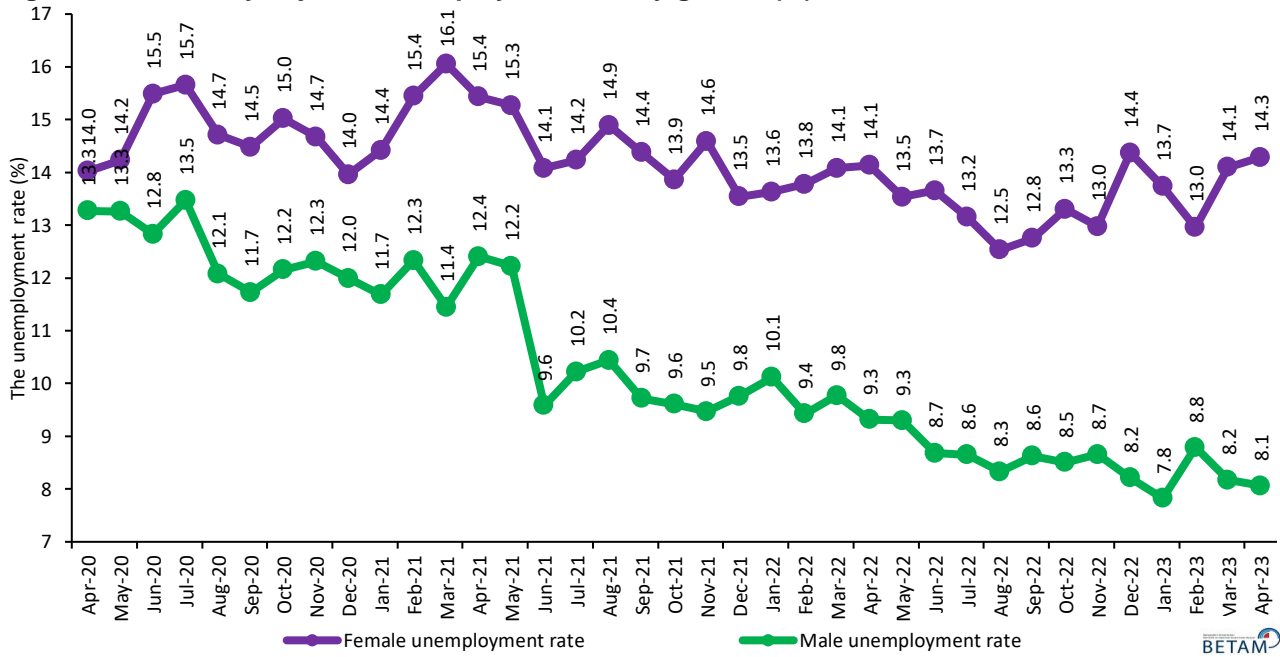


Source: Turkstat, Betam

Increase in both female and male employment

Figure 3 shows the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for males and females. From March to April, the level of female employment increased by 361,000, while the number of unemployed females increased by 86,000, resulting in a net increase of 448,000 in the labor force. The female unemployment rate also increased by 0.2 percentage points, reaching 14.3 percent from March to April. In March, female employment had decreased by 415,000, and the female unemployment rate had increased from 13.0 percent to 14.1 percent. In April, male employment increased by 159,000, while the number of unemployed males decreased by 12,000, and the male unemployment rate stood at 8.1 percent. In February, male employment had decreased by 490,000, and the unemployment rate had increased by 1.0 percentage point, reaching 8.8 percent.

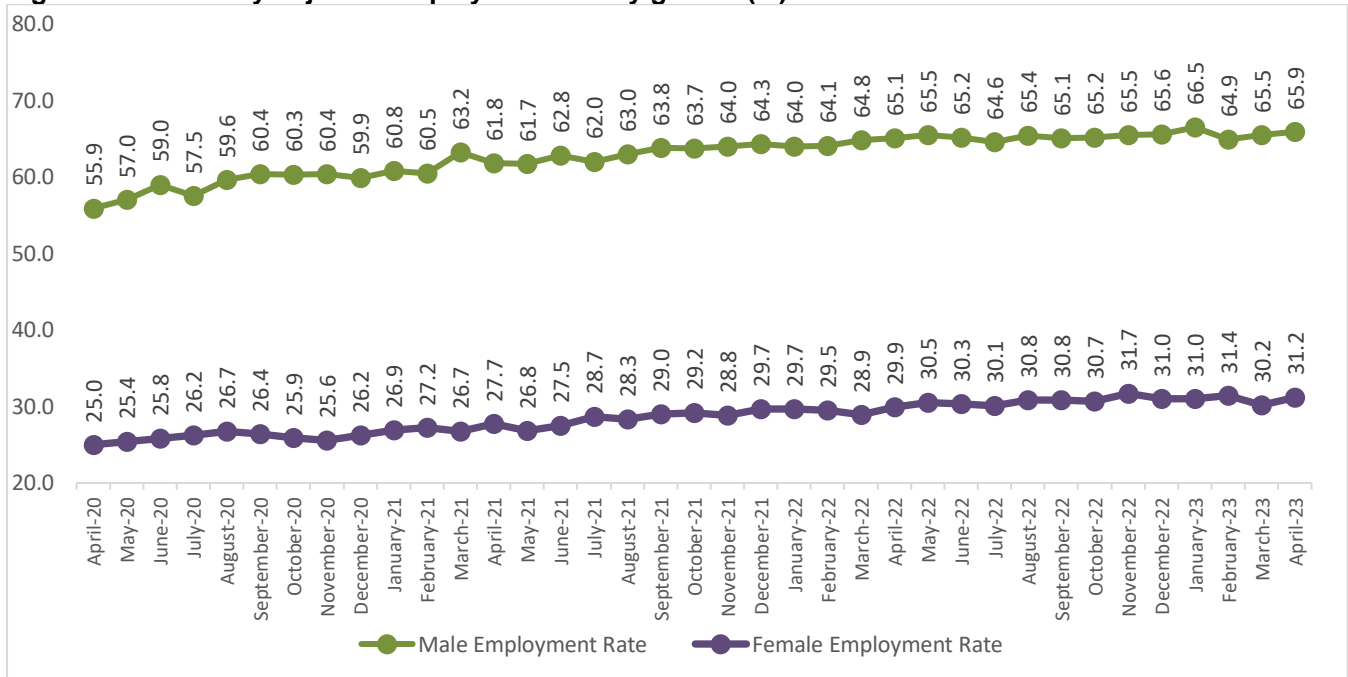
Figure 3: Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by gender (%)



Source: Turkstat, Betam

The female employment rate increased by 1.0 percentage point to 31.2 percent as a result of the 361,000 increase in employment, while the male employment rate stood at 65.9 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
April-20	29003	25085	3918	13.5			
May-20	29608	25591	4017	13.6	605	506	99
June-20	30585	26406	4180	13.7	977	815	163
July-20	30442	26126	4316	14.2	-143	-280	136
August-20	30957	26958	4000	12.9	515	832	-316
September-20	31091	27174	3917	12.6	134	216	-83
October-20	31051	27001	4051	13.0	-40	-173	134
November-20	31075	27022	4053	13.0	24	21	2
December-20	31022	27110	3911	12.6	-53	88	-142
January-21	31615	27647	3968	12.6	593	537	57
February-21	31933	27674	4258	13.3	318	27	290
March-21	32595	28394	4201	12.9	662	720	-57
April-21	32657	28290	4368	13.4	62	-104	167
May-21	32270	28016	4253	13.2	-387	-274	-115
June-21	32170	28624	3546	11.0	-100	608	-707
July-21	32578	28816	3762	11.5	408	192	216
August-21	32911	28998	3912	11.9	333	182	150
September-21	33313	29566	3747	11.2	402	568	-165
October-21	33270	29607	3663	11.0	-43	41	-84
November-21	33323	29609	3715	11.1	53	2	52
December-21	33749	30034	3715	11.0	426	425	0
January-22	33789	29977	3811	11.3	40	-57	96
February-22	33651	29996	3656	10.9	-138	19	-155
March-22	33832	30055	3777	11.2	181	59	121
April-22	34248	30511	3738	10.9	416	456	-39
May-22	34584	30881	3703	10.7	336	370	-35
June-22	34271	30728	3544	10.3	-313	-153	-159
July-22	33970	30522	3448	10.1	-301	-206	-96
August-22	34404	31055	3349	9.7	434	533	-99
September-22	34431	30984	3448	10.0	27	-71	99
October-22	34525	31031	3494	10.1	94	47	46
November-22	35032	31484	3548	10.1	507	453	54
December-22	34942	31341	3601	10.3	-90	-143	53
January-23	35111	31665	3446	9.8	169	324	-155
February-23	34872	31313	3560	10.2	-239	-352	114
March-23	34601	31089	3511	10.1	-271	-224	-49
April-23	35195	31610	3585	10.2	594	521	74

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
Apr-20	13.5	3918	18.4	1419	23.5	3788	27.8	9124
May-20	13.6	4017	19.3	1697	24.4	4243	29.4	9957
Jun-20	13.7	4180	17.4	1142	22.7	3574	26.1	8896
Jul-20	14.2	4316	18.2	1224	22.5	3269	26.1	8809
Aug-20	12.9	4000	16.9	1232	21.5	3383	25.1	8615
Sep-20	12.6	3917	15.9	1026	21.2	3394	24.1	8337
Oct-20	13.0	4051	17.3	1321	21.8	3476	25.7	8848
Nov-20	13.0	4053	17.1	1261	23.1	4064	26.6	9378
Dec-20	12.6	3911	17.8	1611	23.8	4557	28.3	10079
Jan-21	12.6	3968	20.0	2355	22.8	4197	29.4	10520
Feb-21	13.3	4258	19.8	2065	22.4	3731	28.1	10053
Mar-21	12.9	4201	17.9	1634	20.9	3301	25.5	9136
Apr-21	13.4	4368	19.4	1967	21.5	3380	27.0	9715
May-21	13.2	4253	19.2	1943	21.7	3512	27.1	9707
Jun-21	11.0	3546	15.0	1280	19.1	3212	22.7	8037
Jul-21	11.5	3762	15.9	1418	19.3	3130	23.3	8309
Aug-21	11.9	3912	15.0	1025	18.9	2846	21.7	7783
Sep-21	11.2	3747	14.9	1217	18.3	2875	21.6	7839
Oct-21	11.0	3663	15.5	1494	18.6	3102	22.7	8259
Nov-21	11.1	3715	15.4	1417	18.2	2873	22.1	8004
Dec-21	11.0	3715	15.2	1415	18.6	3148	22.5	8278
Jan-22	11.3	3811	15.6	1460	18.8	3130	22.7	8401
Feb-22	10.9	3656	14.9	1358	18.2	3018	22.0	8032
Mar-22	11.2	3777	15.4	1433	18.5	3045	22.3	8255
Apr-22	10.9	3738	14.4	1194	18.2	3050	21.4	7982
May-22	10.7	3703	15.8	1761	17.5	2848	22.2	8312
Jun-22	10.3	3544	14.0	1254	17.2	2839	20.5	7637
Jul-22	10.1	3448	15.2	1715	18.0	3252	22.6	8415
Aug-22	9.7	3349	13.4	1261	16.4	2743	19.8	7353
Sep-22	10.0	3448	13.9	1338	16.6	2719	20.2	7505
Oct-22	10.1	3494	14.2	1409	16.6	2682	20.3	7585
Nov-22	10.1	3548	14.3	1462	16.9	2855	20.8	7864
Dec-22	10.3	3601	14.9	1605	17.2	2909	21.5	8116
Jan-23	9.8	3446	15.4	1961	16.9	2994	22.0	8401
Feb-23	10.2	3560	16.2	2089	17.9	3267	23.4	8916
Mar-23	10.1	3511	15.2	1748	17.5	3084	22.1	8343
Apr-23	10.2	3585	17.1	2433	17.5	3120	23.8	9138

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
Apr-20	9149	7866	1283	19854	17219	2635	29	25	64.4	55.9
May-20	9333	8005	1328	20275	17586	2689	29.6	25.4	65.7	57.0
Jun-20	9646	8152	1494	20939	18254	2686	30.5	25.8	67.7	59.0
Jul-20	9842	8301	1541	20600	17824	2775	31.1	26.2	66.5	57.5
Aug-20	9910	8452	1458	21047	18506	2542	31.3	26.7	67.8	59.6
Sep-20	9806	8386	1420	21285	18788	2496	30.9	26.4	68.4	60.4
Oct-20	9682	8229	1454	21369	18772	2597	30.5	25.9	68.6	60.3
Nov-20	9563	8160	1403	21512	18862	2649	30.0	25.6	68.9	60.4
Dec-20	9723	8366	1357	21299	18745	2554	30.5	26.2	68.1	59.9
Jan-21	10050	8600	1449	21565	19047	2519	31.5	26.9	68.9	60.8
Feb-21	10294	8704	1590	21638	18970	2668	32.2	27.2	69.0	60.5
Mar-21	10189	8553	1636	22406	19841	2565	31.8	26.7	71.4	63.2
Apr-21	10499	8879	1620	22158	19411	2748	32.8	27.7	70.5	61.8
May-21	10144	8595	1549	22126	19421	2704	31.6	26.8	70.3	61.7
Jun-21	10277	8830	1447	21893	19795	2098	32.0	27.5	69.5	62.8
Jul-21	10782	9248	1534	21796	19568	2228	33.5	28.7	69.1	62.0
Aug-21	10703	9109	1594	22207	19889	2318	33.2	28.3	70.3	63.0
Sep-21	10943	9370	1573	22370	20196	2174	33.9	29.0	70.7	63.8
Oct-21	10960	9440	1519	22311	20167	2144	33.9	29.2	70.4	63.7
Nov-21	10913	9320	1592	22411	20288	2122	33.7	28.8	70.7	64.0
Dec-21	11123	9617	1506	22626	20418	2208	34.3	29.7	71.3	64.3
Jan-22	11167	9645	1522	22622	20332	2289	34.4	29.7	71.2	64.0
Feb-22	11121	9589	1532	22530	20406	2124	34.2	29.5	70.8	64.1
Mar-22	10937	9397	1540	22895	20658	2237	33.6	28.9	71.8	64.8
Apr-22	11357	9751	1605	22892	20759	2133	34.9	29.9	71.7	65.1
May-22	11514	9957	1558	23070	20925	2145	35.3	30.5	72.2	65.5
Jun-22	11449	9887	1563	22822	20841	1981	35.1	30.3	71.4	65.2
Jul-22	11330	9840	1490	22640	20682	1958	34.7	30.1	70.7	64.6
Aug-22	11533	10089	1445	22870	20967	1904	35.2	30.8	71.3	65.4
Sep-22	11551	10077	1473	22881	20906	1974	35.3	30.8	71.3	65.1
Oct-22	11629	10082	1547	22896	20949	1947	35.5	30.7	71.2	65.2
Nov-22	11955	10404	1551	23077	21081	1997	36.4	31.7	71.7	65.5
Dec-22	11900	10191	1710	23042	21150	1892	36.2	31.0	71.5	65.6
Jan-23	11845	10218	1627	23267	21447	1820	36.0	31.0	72.1	66.5
Feb-23	11896	10355	1541	22976	20957	2019	36.1	31.4	71.2	64.9
Mar-23	11570	9940	1631	23030	21150	1881	35.1	30.2	71.3	65.5
Apr-23	12018	10301	1717	23178	21309	1869	36.4	31.2	71.7	65.9

Source: Turkstat, Betam

Box 1: Definitions of alternative unemployment rates¹

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 =

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

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>