

Summary of Average Results for 2008

1. Population by labour force status

(1) Labour force

The labour force based on the 2008 yearly average was 66.50 million, a decrease of 190,000 from the previous year, and the first time in four years.

The male labour force was 38.88 million, a decrease of 180,000, the first time in two years, and the female labour force was 27.62 million, a decrease of 10,000, the first time in five years.

The labour force aged 15-64 years old (productive age) was 60.84 million, a decrease of 360,000, the 11th consecutive annual decrease. In breakdown by sex, that of males was 35.32 million, a decrease of 280,000, the 11th consecutive annual decrease, while that of females was 25.53 million, a decrease of 60,000, the second consecutive annual decrease.

(2) Labour force participation rate

The labour force participation rate was 60.2%, a 0.2 point decrease from the previous year, and the first time in four years. In breakdown by sex, that of males was 72.8%, a 0.3 point decrease, and the 11th consecutive annual decrease, while that of females was 48.4%, a 0.1 point decrease, the first time in five years.

The labour force participation rate aged 15-64 years old was 73.8%, a 0.2 point increase, the fourth consecutive annual increase. In breakdown by sex, that of males was 85.2%, the same rate for second consecutive years, while that of females was 62.3%, a 0.4 point increase, the sixth consecutive annual increase.

(3) Not in labour force

Those not in the labour force were 43.95 million, an increase of 280,000 from the previous year, the 17th consecutive annual increase. In breakdown by sex, the number of males was 14.53 million, an increase of 210,000, the 17th consecutive annual increase, while that of females was 29.42 million, an increase of 70,000, the third consecutive annual increase.

Those not in the labour force aged 15-64 years old were 21.54 million, a decrease of 310,000, the sixth consecutive annual decrease. In breakdown by sex, the number of males was 6.12 million, a decrease of 30,000, the fourth consecutive annual decrease, while that of females was 15.42 million, a decrease of 280,000, the sixth consecutive annual decrease.

2. Employed persons

(1) Employed persons

The number of employed persons was 63.85 million, a decrease of 270,000 from the previous year, the first time in five years. In breakdown by sex, that of males was 37.29 million, a decrease of 240,000, the first time in four years, while that of females was 26.56 million, a decrease of 30,000, the first time in six years.

The number of employed persons aged 15-64 years old was 58.32 million, a decrease of 410,000, the first time in five years. In breakdown by sex, that of males was 33.83 million, a decrease of 320,000, the first time in three years, while that of females was 24.49 million, a decrease of 90,000, the first time in six years.

(2) Employment rate

The employment rate was 57.8%, a 0.3 point decrease from the previous year, and the first time in five years. In breakdown by sex, that of males was 69.8%, a 0.5 point decrease, the first time in four years, while that of females was 46.5%, a 0.1 point decrease, the first time in five years.

The employment rate aged 15-64 years old was 70.8%, a 0.1 point increase, the sixth consecutive annual increase. In breakdown by sex, that of males was 81.6%, a 0.1 point decrease,

the first time in the five years, while that of females was 59.8%, a 0.3 point increase, the sixth consecutive annual increase.

(3) Employees/ Self-employed and family workers

The number of employees was 55.24 million, an increase of 10,000 from the previous year, the sixth consecutive annual increase, and a record-high figure.

In breakdown by sex, that of males was 32.12 million, a decrease of 140,000, the first time in four years, while that of females was 23.12 million, an increase of 150,000, the sixth consecutive annual increase.

The proportion of employees to employed persons was 86.5%, a 0.4 point increase, the 30th consecutive annual increase.

The number of self-employed and family workers was 8.31 million, a decrease of 270,000 from the previous year, the 11th consecutive annual decrease.

(4) Employees aged 15-64 years old

The number of employees aged 15-64 years old decreased by 200,000, the first time in six years.

(5) Regular/ Temporary/ Daily employees

The number of employees in non-agricultural industries was 54.78 million, the same figure as the previous year.

Among these, the number of regular employees was 47.31 million, an increase of 130,000, the fifth consecutive annual increase. On the other hand, that of temporary and daily employees was 7.47 million, a decrease of 130,000, the first time in 33 years since 1975.

The proportion of regular employees to employees in non-agricultural industries was 86.4%, a 0.3 point increase, and the second consecutive annual increase.

(6) Employed persons by industry

The number of employed persons in the “Medical, health care and welfare” sector was 5.98 million, an increase of 190,000 from the previous year, that in “Information and communications” was 2.09 million, an increase of 120,000, that in “Services, not elsewhere classified” was 9.44 million, an increase of 110,000, and that in “Finance and insurance” was 1.64 million, an increase of 90,000.

Meanwhile, that in “Manufacturing” was 11.44 million, a decrease of 210,000, that in “Construction” was 5.37 million, a decrease of 150,000, and that in “Compound services” was 570,000, a decrease of 150,000.

The proportion of employed persons in primary industry was 4.2%, the same rate as the previous year, that in second industry was 26.4%, a 0.4 point decrease, while that in tertiary industry was 68.2%, a 0.5 point increase.

(7) Employed persons by occupation

The number of employed persons in the “Clerical and related worker” sector was 12.92 million, an increase of 300,000 from the previous year, the sixth consecutive annual increase, and that in “Professional and technical workers” was 9.50 million, an increase of 120,000, the second consecutive annual increase.

On the other hand, that in “Production process workers and labourers” was 17.80 million, a decrease of 400,000, the first time in four years, and that in “Sales workers” was 8.70 million, a decrease of 180,000, the first time in two years.

(8) Employees by number of persons engaged in enterprises

A breakdown of employees in non-agricultural industries according to the number of persons engaged in enterprises (excluding government employees) shows that the number of employees in enterprises with 1-29 staff was 16.44 million, a decrease of 280,000 from the previous year, the second consecutive annual decrease. That in enterprises with 30-499 staff was 18.78 million, a decrease of 130,000, the first time in five years. On the other hand, that in enterprises with 500 staff was 14.17 million, an increase of 810,000, the sixth consecutive annual increase.

(9) Employees by weekly hours of work

The proportion of employees who worked 60 hours or more a week relative to the total of employees was 10.0%, a 0.3 point decrease from the previous year, and the fourth consecutive annual decrease.

3. Unemployed persons

(1) Unemployed persons

The number of unemployed persons was 2.65 million, an increase of 80,000 from the previous year, the first time in six years. In breakdown by sex, that of males was 1.59 million, an increase of 50,000, and that of females 1.06 million, an increase of 30,000. Both those of males and females increased for the first time in six years.

(2) Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate was 4.0%, a 0.1 point increase from the previous year, the first time in six years. In breakdown by sex, that of males was 4.1%, a 0.2 point increase, and that of females was 3.8%, a 0.1 point increase. Both those of males and females increased for the first time in six years.

The unemployment rate for males has exceeded that of females for 11 consecutive years since 1998.

(3) Unemployment rate aged 15-24 years old

The unemployment rate by age group shows that the rates peaked in the 15-24 age group for both males and females, at 7.9% and 6.9% respectively. That in the 15-24 age group for males declined 0.4 points from the previous year, the fifth consecutive annual decrease, and that in the 15-24 age group for females declined 0.2 points, the sixth consecutive annual decrease.

The unemployment rates in age groups other than 15-24 rose for both males and females.

(4) Unemployed persons by reason for seeking a job

The number of unemployed persons who “Quit their job involuntarily” was 880,000. Among these, the number of persons who quit their previous job due to “Mandatory retirement or termination of employment contract” was 260,000, an increase of 20,000 from the previous year, and those who quit their previous job due to “Circumstances of employer or business” was 620,000, an increase of 30,000.

Those who “Quit their job voluntarily” (leaving their previous job for personal or family’s convenience) was 1.00 million, an increase of 20,000.

Those who “Graduated from school” (persons who started seeking a job after they graduated from school) was 110,000, a decrease of 10,000.

The number of “Others” was 630,000, of which the persons who started seeking a new job because it was “Necessary to earn revenue” was 370,000, an increase of 20,000, the first time in five years.