Population in labour force in May 2020 was almost the same as the one in February 2020, due to an increase in unemployed population and a decrease in employed population.

In May 2020, population in labour force was 4,104,303 corresponding to 55.2 percent of labour force participation rate (LFPR). This number was almost the same as the one estimated in February 2020 (4,105,648 persons) before the corona virus outbreak, corresponding to the LFPR of 55.6 percent.

This stability, however is the result of the increase of unemployment by 368,484 persons corresponding to 68.6 percent increase rate and the decrease by almost the same number in employment by 369,830 persons corresponding to 11.5 percent of decrease rate.

The unemployment rate substantially increased while the rate of persons outside labour force remained almost stable in May 2020 as compared to February 2020.

In May 2020, the unemployment rate was estimated at 22.1 percent as the result of the rise of population in unemployment to 905,198 from 536,714 corresponding to 13.1 percent unemployment rate in February 2020.

The proportion of working age population outside labour force stayed almost stable in May 2020(45.9 percent) as compared to February in 2020(44.4 percent).

The rise in unemployment and the stability in the population outside labour force indicates that after the full lockdown of April, people who were not employed were very active at labour market, either working or looking for employment.

Reference documents (PDF & Excel)

- RLFS_May2020_Final_Report.pdf (pdf, 6.68 MB)
  LAST UPDATED: 18 Jul 2025
- RLFS Tables- May2020(Q2).xlsx (xlsx, 132.75 KB)
  LAST UPDATED: 18 Jul 2025

Data source

Labour Force Survey 2020

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