In 2019, the working age population (16 years and above) was 7,231,536 of which 3,862,799 persons (53.4 percent) were in the labour force, while 3,368,737 were outside the labour force.

For those in the labour force, 3,273,921 were employed, while 588,878 were unemployed.

Among those outside the labour force, 1,693,174 persons were engaged wholly or mostly in subsistence foodstuff production, not classified as employment according to the 2013 international standards on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.

The annual unemployment rate stood at 15.2 percent, indicating that roughly for seven persons in the labour force there was one person unemployed.

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The unemployment rate was higher among women (17.0 percent) than among men (13.8 percent) and higher among young people 16-30 year than among adults 31 years and above (12.0 percent).

It was relatively the same in the urban and rural areas (15.3 and 15.2 percent respectively).

Reference document (PDF & Excel)

- RLFS Annual Final report_2019.pdf (pdf, 7.42 MB)
  LAST UPDATED: 18 Jul 2025
- RLFS Tables_ Annual_2019(1).xlsx (xlsx, 209.02 KB)
  LAST UPDATED: 18 Jul 2025

Data source

Labour Force Survey 2019

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