

Media Release

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[A previous media release on this subject appeared on May 25, 2020](#)

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24/06/2020: Tables 3 & 4 were added.

Labour Force Survey Data, May 2020

Labour Force Survey during the days of the coronavirus crisis

The Central Bureau of Statistics continues to conduct regular surveys, as is routine, for information on Israel's population and economy. Labor Force Survey data enable monitoring of the effects of the coronavirus crisis on the employment situation and the labor market in Israel. During this time, too, we are committed and following international practices to publish existing indicators, as well as to develop and report on innovative indicators and analyzes that are appropriate to the situation.

In May 2020, to ensure the safety of respondents and interviewers, all survey interviews were conducted by the telephone and not on sampled houses as they are normally conducted.

We would like to sincerely thank the thousands of households who responded to this survey during this challenging time and to our dedicated interviewers who ensured the highest quality data collection.

In May 2020, the impact of the coronavirus crisis on the labor market in Israel continued. For more information, see the methodological explanations at the end of this media release.

Original Data

In May 2020 (compared with April 2020): ([For monthly data 5/2020](#))

- Number of employed persons temporarily absent from work **all week** among persons aged 15 and over – 797,600 (1.530 million in the previous month).

- Of these, temporarily absent from work **all week due to coronavirus reasons** – 684,200 (1.276 million in the previous month).
- Number of employed persons absent from work **part of week** among persons aged 15 and over – 666,100 (1.011 million in the previous month).
- Of these, temporarily absent from work **part of week due to coronavirus reasons** - 265,600 (252,100 in the previous month).
- The share of employed persons absent from work **all or part of week** out of total employed persons - 37.6% (64.6% in the previous month, 24.5% in May 2019).
- Of these, the share of employed persons absent from work **due to coronavirus reasons** out of total employed persons - 24.4% (39.0% in the previous month).
- The greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work out of all employed persons was in following industries: **Accommodation and food service activities** (70.6%), **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (58.7%), **Other service activities** (50.9%), **Transportation, storage, postal and courier activities** (48.0%), **Education** (46.4%), **Real estate activities** (43.9%), **Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles** (41.9%), **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (41.7%), **Administrative and support service activities** (40.6%).
- Of these, the greatest share of temporarily absent from work **due to coronavirus reasons** was in following industries: **Accommodation and food service activities** (64.4%), **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (50.5%), **Other service activities** (42.4%), **Transportation, storage, postal and courier activities** (34.9%), **Education** (32.2%), **Administrative and support service activities** (31.2%).
- The greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work out of all employed persons was in following occupations: **Clerical support workers** (45.8%), **Service and sales workers** (45.1%), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents, and associate professionals** (43.7%).
- Of these, the greatest share of temporarily absent from work **due to coronavirus reasons** was in following occupations: **Service and sales workers** (37.1%), **Clerical support workers** (28.8%), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents, and associate professionals** (28.1%).

- The greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work out of all employed persons was among persons in following age groups: **aged 65 and over** - 46.7% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 37.0%), **aged 60-64** - 41.4% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 26.4%), **aged 30-34** - 39.4% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 23.6%), **aged 25-29** - 39.2% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 26.9%).

Seasonally Adjusted Data

In May 2020 (compared with April 2020): ([For monthly data 5/2020](#))

- Unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over from the labour force - 4.2% (3.5% in the previous month).
- Participation rate in the labour force among persons aged 15 and over - 61.6% (61.9% in the previous month).
- Employment rate (the percentage of employed persons out of the total population) among persons aged 15 and over - 59.0% (59.7% in the previous month).
- Unemployment rate among persons aged 25-64 from the labour force - 3.3% (3.0% in the previous month).
- Participation rate in the labour force among persons aged 25-64 - 78.5% (78.6% in the previous month).
- Employment rate among persons aged 25-64 - 75.9% (76.3% in the previous month).
- The share of employed persons usually working full time out of total employed persons - 78.9% (same as in the previous month).

[Definitions and Explanations](#)

The Labour Force Survey is the main source of information regarding the labour force in Israel, and is conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics on an ongoing basis. Starting from the beginning of 2020, an average of 17,800 persons aged 15 and over a month has been interviewed on an ongoing basis. The survey population includes the permanent population of Israel, as well as tourists and temporary residents living in Israel continuously for more than one year. The survey follows the development of the labour force in Israel, its size and characteristics, the extent of unemployment, etc.

Impact of the coronavirus crisis on labour force characteristics in May 2020 (compared with April 2020) - Original data

Persons aged 15 and over

In May 2020, **the impact of the coronavirus crisis** on employed persons' work characteristics during the **determinant week continued**: the number of **persons temporarily absent from work all week** decrease compared to April 2020, the number of persons who **worked full time** increased compared to the previous month, and the number of **persons absent from work part of week** decreased compared to the previous month. Because the crisis has affected seasonally adjusted and trend data series (see methodological explanations at the end of this media release), this section analyzes **original data only**.

The number of persons who **worked full time** (35 hours and over) **in the determinant week** increased by 55.0% compared with the previous month (an addition of approximately 791,000 employed persons), whereas the number of persons who **worked part time** (less than 35 hours) **in the determinant week** decreased by 10.4% compared with the previous month (a decrease of approximately 100,000 employed persons). The number of persons **temporarily absent from work in the determinant week** decreased by 47.9%, compared with the previous month (a decrease of 733,000 employed persons). Of these, the number of employed persons absent from work due to a reduction in work volume or temporary cessation of work due to the coronavirus crisis was approximately 684,000, accounting for 85.8% of all persons temporarily absent from work during all of the determinant week (1.276 million, 83.4% in the previous month). The number of persons **absent from work part of week** decreased by 34.1% compared with the previous month (a decrease of approximately 345,000 employed persons). Of these, due to reduction in work volume or temporary cessation of work due to the coronavirus crisis was approximately 266,000 employed persons, accounting for 39.9% of all persons absent from work part of week (approximately 252,000, 10.5% in the previous month). **The share of employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of the week** out of the total employed persons declined to 37.6% (64.6% in the previous month, 24.5% in May 2019). Of these, **the share of absent from work due to the coronavirus crisis reasons** declined to 24.4% (39.0% in the previous month). (Detailed data can be found in Tables 1.4-1.6 and 1.14-1.16 in the "[Labour Force Survey Monthly Data](#)" on the website).

The unemployment rate rose in May 2020 compared to the previous month (4.0% compared with 3.2%). However, people who would like to work and not work have not yet been able to

look for work because of a gradual opening of businesses. The number of non-participants in the labour force who were interested in working and did not look for work during last month because of the coronavirus crisis was approximately 81,000 in May 2020 (approximately 37,000 men and approximately 44,000 women).

Another datum that also demonstrates the impact of the coronavirus crisis is related to the reason for stopping work in March, April and May 2020. In these months, approximately 241,000 people stopped working (approximately 117,000 men and approximately 124,000 women). Of these, approximately 148,000 stopped working because of layoffs, reductions, or closure of workplaces (approximately 76,000 men and approximately 73,000 women).

Employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week by industry and occupation, [Original data \(By the new classification of All Economic Activities \(Updated edition\), Technical Publication no. 80\)](#) ([By the new Classification of Occupations, Technical Publication no. 81](#))

In May 2020, the number of **employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week** decreased by 1.078 million compared with the previous month. The number of **employees temporarily absent from work all or part of week** in May 2020 was 1.223 million (2.165 million in the previous month). Table 1 attached to this media release presents the share of employed persons and employees temporarily absent from work all or part of week out of all employed persons or all employees by industry and occupation in May 2019, February, April and May 2020.

In May 2020, the greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work out of all employed persons was in following industries: **Accommodation and food service activities** (70.6%), **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (58.7%), **Other service activities** (50.9%), **Transportation, storage, postal and courier activities** (48.0%), **Education** (46.4%), **Real estate activities** (43.9%), **Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles** (41.9%), **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (41.7%), **Administrative and support service activities** (40.6%).

Of these, the greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work **due to the coronavirus crisis reasons** was in following industries: **Accommodation and food service activities** (64.4%), **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (50.5%), **Other service activities** (42.4%), **Transportation, storage, postal and courier activities** (34.9%), **Education** (32.2%), **Administrative and support service activities** (31.2%).

In May 2020, the greatest share of employees temporarily absent from work out of all employees was in following industries: **Accommodation and food service activities** (72.2%), **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (61.5%), **Other service activities** (49.7%), **Transportation, storage, postal and courier activities** (45.1%), **Education** (44.8%), **Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles** (41.9%), **Real estate activities** (41.7%).

Of these, the greatest share of employees temporarily absent from work **due to the coronavirus crisis reasons** was in following industries: **Accommodation and food service activities** (66.8%), **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (51.9%), **Other service activities** (39.5%), **Transportation, storage, postal and courier activities** (31.9%), **Education** (30.2%).

In May 2020, the greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work out of all employed persons was in following occupations: **Clerical support workers** (45.8%), **Service and sales workers** (45.1%), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents, and associate professionals** (43.7%).

Of these, the greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work **due to the coronavirus crisis reasons** was in following occupations: **Service and sales workers** (37.1%), **Clerical support workers** (28.8%), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents, and associate professionals** (28.1%).

In May 2020, the greatest share of employees temporarily absent from work out of all employees was in following occupations: **Clerical support workers** (44.8%), **Service and sales workers** (43.9%), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents, and associate professionals** (42.7%).

Of these, the greatest share of employees temporarily absent from work **due to the coronavirus crisis reasons** was in following occupations: **Service and sales workers** (36.1%), **Clerical support workers** (27.5%), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents, and associate professionals** (26.0%).

Persons absent from work by Age groups and Sex - Original data

Table 2 attached to this media release presents the share of employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week out of all employed persons by Age groups and Sex in May 2019, February, April and May 2020.

In May 2020, the greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work out of all employed persons was among persons in following age groups: **aged 65 and over** - 46.7% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 37.0%), **aged 60-64** - 41.4% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 26.4%), **aged 30-34** - 39.4% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 23.6%), **aged 25-29** - 39.2% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 26.9%).

Among **men**, the greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work out of all employed persons was among persons in following age groups: **aged 65 and over** - 44.3% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 33.7%), **aged 60-64** - 38.5% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 23.3%), **aged 45-54** - 36.7% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 22.0%), **aged 25-29** - 36.7% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 26.6%).

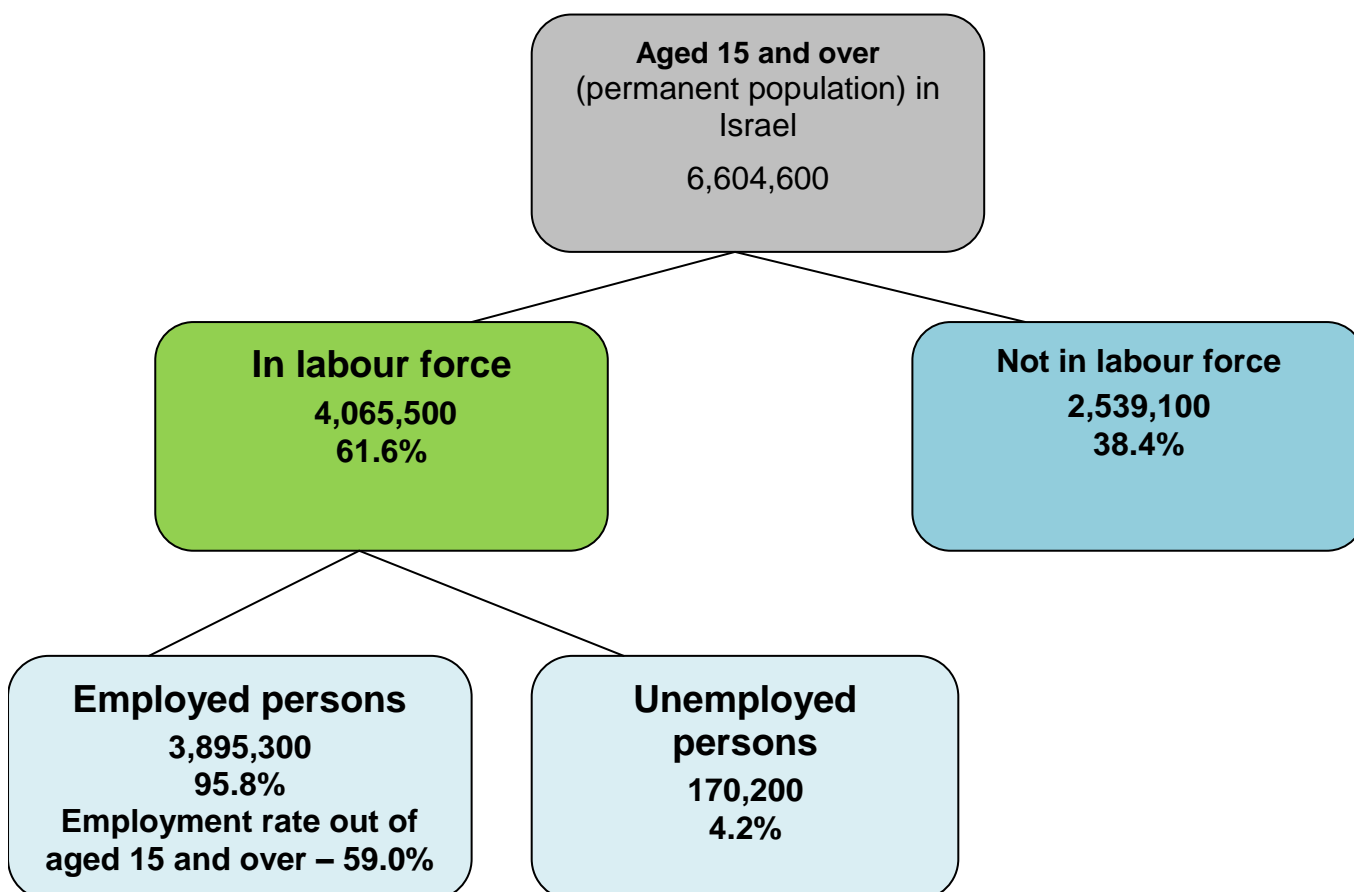
Among **women**, the greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work out of all employed persons was among persons in following age groups: **aged 65 and over** - 50.3% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 41.9%), **aged 30-34** - 46.4% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 27.5%), **aged 60-64** - 44.5% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 29.7%), **aged 35-44** - 43.5% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 27.0%).

May 2020 (compared with April 2020) - Seasonally Adjusted Data

Persons aged 15 and over

Labour Force Characteristics

May 2020

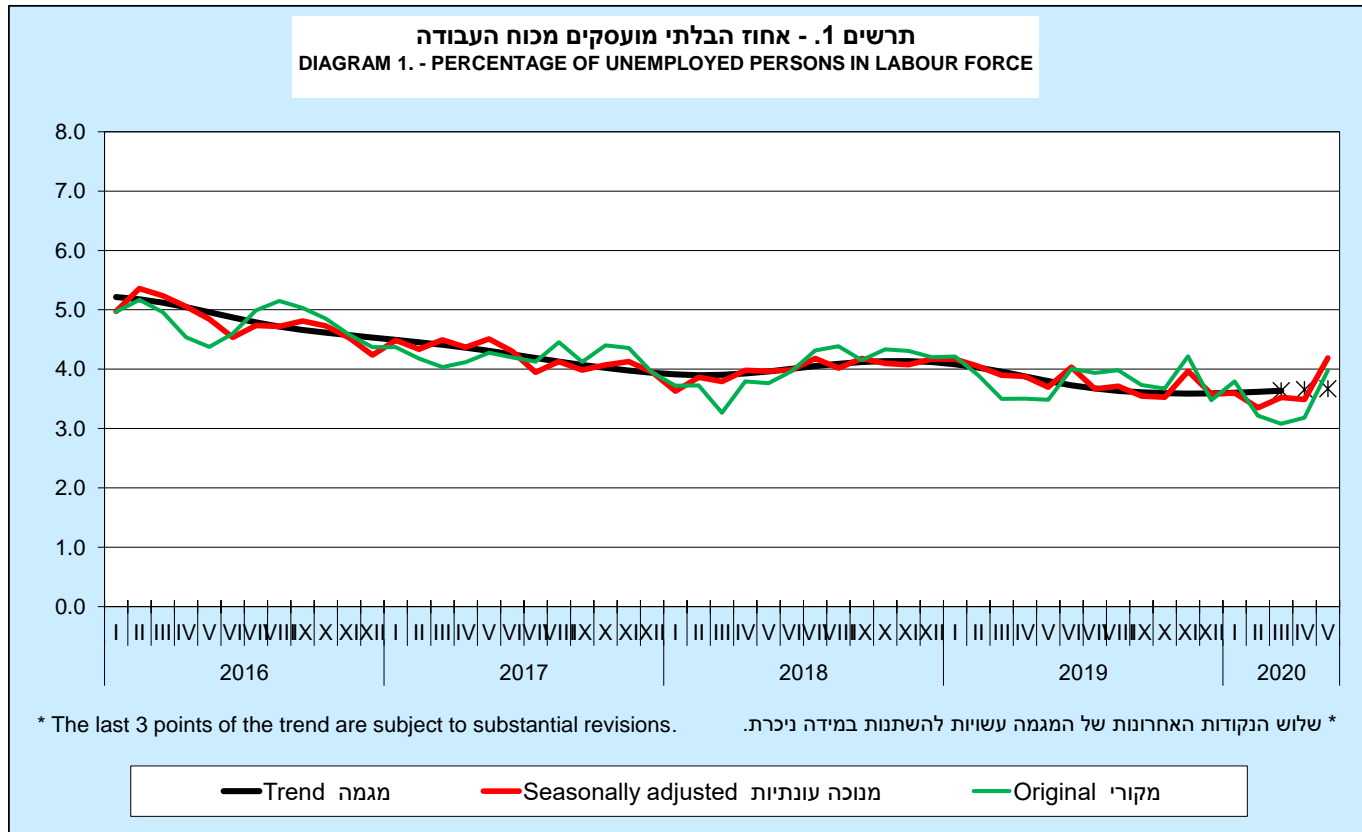


In May 2020, **the number of persons in the labour force** aged 15 and over was 4.066 million. Among them, 3.895 million were **employed** and approximately 170,000 were **unemployed**. Among the employed persons, 2.025 million were **men** (2.048 million in the previous month) and 1.870 million were **women** (1.892 million in the previous month).

The participation rate among persons aged 15 and over **in the labour force** declined to 61.6% (61.9% in the previous month). Among **men**, that rate declined to 65.4% (65.9% in the previous month), and among **women** it declined to 57.9% (58.0% in the previous month).

The unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over **from the labour force** rose to 4.2% in this month (3.5% in the previous month, see diagram 1). The unemployment rate of **men** rose to 4.4% (3.8% in the previous month), and that of **women** rose to 3.9% (3.1% in the previous month).

The employment rate (calculated as the percentage of employed persons out of the entire population) among persons aged 15 and over declined to 59.0% in May 2020 (59.7% in the previous month). The employment rate among **men** declined to 62.5% (63.4% in the previous month), and that of **women** declined to 55.6% (56.2% in the previous month).



The number of **employed persons** in May 2020 reached 3.895 million, a decrease of 1.1% compared with the previous month. The number of employed persons who **usually work full time** (35 hours and over per week) decreased by 0.5% compared with the previous month (a decrease of approximately 15,000 employed persons), and the number of employed persons who **usually work part time** (less than 35 hours per week) decreased by 0.7% compared with the previous month (a decrease of approximately 6,000 employed persons). The percentage of those who **usually work full time** of all employed persons reached 78.9% (same as in the previous month). Among **men** it reached 87.1% (same as in the previous month), whereas among **women** it rose to 70.1% (70.0% in the previous month).

The number of employed persons who **worked full time** (35 hours and over) **in the determinant week** increased by 41.4% compared with the previous month (an addition of approximately 628,000 employed persons), whereas the number of employed persons who **worked part time** (less than 35 hours) **in the determinant week** decreased by 11.6% compared with the previous month (a decrease of approximately 110,000 employed persons).

Persons aged 25-64

The participation rate in the labour force among persons aged 25-64 declined to 78.5% in May 2020 (78.6% in the previous month). Among **men** that rate declined to 82.4% (83.2% in the previous month), whereas among **women** that rate rose to 74.7% (74.2% in the previous month).

The unemployment rate from the labour force among persons aged 25-64 rose to 3.3% in this month (3.0% in the previous month). Among **men** the unemployment rate rose to 3.7% (3.6% in the previous month), and among **women** that rate rose to 2.9% (2.3% in the previous month).

The employment rate among persons aged 25-64 declined to 75.9% (76.3% in the previous month). Among **men** the employment rate declined to 79.3% (80.2% in the previous month), whereas among **women** that rate rose to 72.6% (72.5% in the previous month).

Methodological explanations due to the coronavirus crisis

The coronavirus crisis has affected work processes in the Labour Force Survey. The following is a breakdown of the problems and descriptions of how to handle them methodologically. A detailed methodology of the survey can be found in the Methods section of the [Annual Labour Force Survey publication](#).

Data collection:

From mid-March 2020, in-person interviews could not be conducted. Therefore, all interviews as of mid-March were conducted by telephone (99.7% in May 2020, 99.5% in April 2020, 96.7% in March 2020 and 86.6% in February 2020). The response rate in May 2020 increased compared to April 2020 and was even higher than in February 2020 (72.6% compared with 62.0% and 71.3% respectively).

Data processing:

According to the survey definitions (which correspond to international definitions of the International Labour Organization), the majority of employees who were put on vacation without pay during March, April and May 2020 are considered to be employed persons temporarily absent from work. Therefore, the impact of the coronavirus crisis on labour force characteristics is mainly reflected in the following three data series: Employed persons temporarily absent from work all week, Employed persons absent from work part of week, and Employed persons who worked full time during the determinant week. The second of the aforementioned data series is a new series that will be added regularly to the Labour Force Surveys Monthly and the Labour Force Surveys Quarterly beginning March 2020 publication.

Corrections were made in the calculation of weighting coefficients in the survey. Each month, correction factors are calculated for each geographic group separately for those dwellings removed from the sampling frame of new construction. This is done to compensate for the lag in updating these dwellings in the sample of new dwellings. Occasionally, correction factors are required for other groups in the sample when specific problems arise in the enumeration, such as problems interviewing in a specific area. Since the transition to a monthly Labour Force Survey and up to March 2020, this procedure has not been necessary because no problems of this type have arisen. In March 2020, as a result of the coronavirus crisis, the response rate declined in the second half of the month, along with changes in labour force characteristics during that half of the month, and therefore a special correction was calculated. The correction coefficient is designed to balance the distribution of respondents among the data collection weeks. At this stage, the preliminary weighting coefficient for all persons in a household in the current sample is obtained by multiplying the appropriate correction coefficients by the preliminary weighting coefficient from the previous stage. The correction coefficients were calculated also in April 2020.

Data publishing:

Due to the unusual changes that occurred in some of the data series this month as a result of the coronavirus crisis, seasonally adjusted and trend data were not calculated for some of the series. Therefore, as an exception, in this media release, only original data are shown for the following series: extent of work and absence from work during the determinant week, as well as a new series on persons absent from work part of week. Due to a sharp drop in the data for the March 2020 series "Worked full-time - total, men and women", the trend estimate is not calculated. In the coming months, depending on the data obtained, publication of the trend will be considered. Due to a sharp increase in the March 2020 data, seasonally adjusted data and trend data estimates are not calculated for this month for the series "Temporarily absent from work during all of the determinant week - total, men and women" and the series "Absent from work part of week - total, men and women". In the coming months, depending on the data obtained, publication of a seasonally adjusted series and trend will be considered.

* Additional data on this subject are published in the "[Labour Force Survey Quarterly Data](https://www.cbs.gov.il/en/Pages/default.aspx)" on the Central Bureau of Statistics website: <https://www.cbs.gov.il/en/Pages/default.aspx>