

Media Release

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A previous media release on this subject appeared on February 22, 2021

Jerusalem
March 25, 2021
111/2021

Labour Force Survey Data, February 2021

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.

Also in February 2021, 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 Chapter A, will be present detailed data of February 2021 (original series), some of which have already been presented in the media release of **March 22, 2021**.

In Chapter B, will be present seasonally adjusted data of February 2021.

In Chapter C, will be present additional details of definitions and explanations (**Definitions and Explanations**).

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Chapter A - Original data of February 2021

Original Data

In February 2021 (compared with January 2021, among persons aged 15 and over): ([For monthly data 2/2021](#))

- Unemployment rate from the labour force - 5.0% (4.4% in the previous month).
- The percentage in labour force of employed persons temporarily absent from work all week due to reasons related to the Coronavirus pandemic + unemployed persons - 14.0% (15.4% in the previous month).
- The percentage in labour force of persons not in the labour force who stopped working due to dismissal or closure of the workplace from March 2020 + employed persons temporarily absent from work all week due to reasons related to the Coronavirus pandemic + unemployed persons - 16.7% (18.0% in the previous month).
- The percentage in labour force of persons not in the labour force who stopped working due to dismissal or closure of the workplace from March 2020 + persons not in the labour force who stopped working due to other reasons or not working in past and interest to work now, but did not look for job in last month due to Coronavirus pandemic + employed persons temporarily absent from work all week due to reasons related to the Coronavirus pandemic + unemployed persons - 17.2% (18.4% in the previous month).

Number and percentage in labour force	January 2021	February 2021
Unemployed persons	176,600 4.4%	200,100 5.0%
Employed persons temporarily absent from work all week due to reasons related to the Coronavirus pandemic + unemployed persons	619,400 15.4%	567,600 14.0%
Persons not in the labour force who stopped working due to dismissal or closure of the workplace from March 2020 + employed persons temporarily absent from work all week due to reasons related to the Coronavirus pandemic + unemployed persons	748,600 18.0%	698,500 16.7%
Persons not in the labour force who stopped working due to dismissal or closure of the workplace from March 2020 + persons not in the labour force who stopped working due to other reasons or not working in past and interest to work now, but did not look for job in last month due to Coronavirus pandemic + employed persons temporarily absent from work all week due to reasons related to the Coronavirus pandemic + unemployed persons	769,200 18.4%	720,700 17.2%

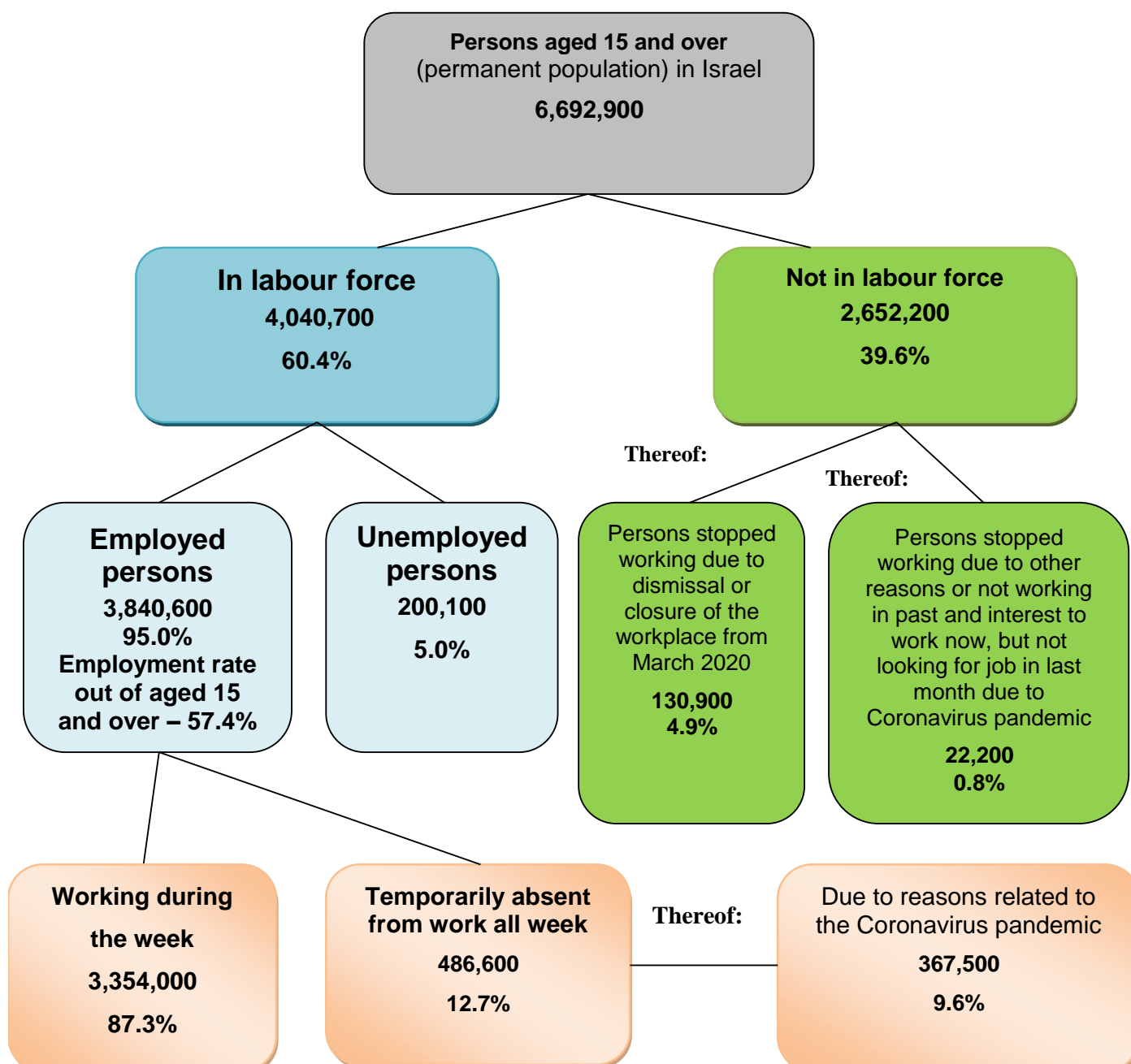
- The greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work all week or part of week out of all employed persons was in following industries: **Arts, entertainment and recreation** – 51.9% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 44.8%), **Accommodation and food service activities** – 50.6% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 45.4%), **Other service activities** – 40.4% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 30.6%).
- The greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week out of all employed persons was in following occupations: **Service and sales workers** – 30.1% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 23.0%), **Clerical support workers** – 21.2% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 14.0%), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents, and associate professionals** – 21.1% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 14.9%).
- The greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week out of all employed persons was among persons in following age groups: **aged 15-17** - 31.6% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 23.3%), **aged 25-29** - 22.0% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 12.9%), **aged 30-34** - 21.3% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 12.1%), **aged 65 and over** - 21.2% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 16.5%).
- The greatest unemployment rates in labour force were in the following age groups: **aged 15-17** – 15.3%, **aged 18-24** – 7.5%, **aged 25-29** – 7.5%, **aged 30-34** – 5.3%.
- The greatest share of employed persons **working from home** out of all employed persons was in following industries: **Information and communication** (66.7%), **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (48.7%), **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (45.4%), **Financial and insurance activities** (43.3%), **Education** (42.3%).
- The greatest share of employed persons **working from home** out of all employed persons was in following occupations: **Professionals** (49.4%), **Managers** (26.6%), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents, and associate professionals** (25.9%).
- The share of employees in the high-tech sector of all employees rose to 11.1% in February 2021 (10.6% in the previous month).

Labour Force Characteristics in February 2021 (compared with January 2021)

- Original Data

Persons aged 15 and over

Labour Force Characteristics February 2021



The number of persons who **worked full time** (35 hours and over) **in the determinant week** increased by 2.1% compared with the previous month (an addition of 53,000 employed persons), and the number of persons who **worked part time** (less than 35 hours) **in the determinant week** increased by 3.5% compared with the previous month (an addition of approximately 24,000 employed persons). The number of persons **temporarily absent from work all week** decreased by 16.2%, compared with the previous month (a decrease of approximately 94,000 employed persons). Of these, the number of employed persons absent from work due to reasons related to the Coronavirus pandemic was approximately 368,000, accounting for 75.5% of all persons temporarily absent from work all week (approximately 443,000 employed persons, accounting for 76.3% in the previous month). The number of persons **absent from work part of a week** increased by 4.5% compared with the previous month (an addition of approximately 10,000 employed persons). Of these, due to reasons related to the Coronavirus pandemic were approximately 93,000 employed persons, accounting for 41.7% of all persons absent from work part of a week (approximately 111,000 employed persons, accounting for 52.1% 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 18.5% (20.6% in the previous month, 10.1% in February 2020). Of these, **the share of absent from work due to the Coronavirus pandemic reasons** declined to 12.0% (14.4% in the previous month). (Detailed data can be found in Tables 1.4-1.6 and 1.30-1.32 in the "[Labour Force Survey Monthly Data](#)" on the website).

The unemployment rate rose in February 2021 compared to the previous month (5.0% compared with 4.4%). However, the number of persons not in the labour force who stopped working due to dismissal or closure of the workplace from March 2020 rose to approximately 131,000 in February 2021 (approximately 129,000 in the previous month), and the number of persons not in the labour force who stopped working due to other reasons or not working in past and interest to work now, but did not look for job in last month due to Coronavirus pandemic reasons, rose to approximately 22,000 in February 2021 (approximately 21,000 in the previous month). Additional data can be found in tables 9, 10 and 11 attached to this media release.

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 February 2021, the number of **employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week** declined to approximately 709,000 (approximately 794,000 in the previous month). The number of **employees temporarily absent from work all or part of week** in February 2021 declined to approximately 574,000 (approximately 638,000 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 February 2020, January and February 2021. Additional data can be found in tables 3, 5 and 7 attached to this media release. The data on employed persons and employees working from home can be found in table 13 attached to this media release.

In February 2021, the share of **employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week in Public Sector by industry definition** out of all employed persons declined to 13.8% (14.4% in the previous month). Of these, **the share of absent from work due to the Coronavirus pandemic reasons in Public Sector by industry definition** out of all employed persons declined to 6.1% (7.1% in the previous month). The share of **employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week not in Public Sector by industry definition** out of all employed persons declined to 20.4% (23.1% in the previous month). Of these, **the share of absent from work due to the Coronavirus pandemic reasons not in Public Sector by industry definition** out of all employed persons declined to 14.3% (17.2% in the previous month).

The greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week out of all employed persons was in following industries: **Arts, entertainment and recreation** – 51.9% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 44.8%), **Accommodation and food service activities** – 50.6% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 45.4%), **Other service activities** – 40.4% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 30.6%).

The greatest share of employed persons **working from home** out of all employed persons was in following industries: **Information and communication** (66.7%), **Professional, scientific and technical activities** (48.7%), **Arts, entertainment and recreation** (45.4%), **Financial and insurance activities** (43.3%), **Education** (42.3%).

The greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week out of all employed persons was in following occupations: **Service and sales workers** – 30.1% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 23.0%), **Clerical support workers** – 21.2% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 14.0%), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents, and associate professionals** – 21.1% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 14.9%).

The greatest share of employed persons **working from home** out of all employed persons was in following occupations: **Professionals** (49.4%), **Managers** (26.6%), **Practical engineers, technicians, agents, and associate professionals** (25.9%).

Persons absent from work and unemployed persons 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 February 2020, January and February 2021. Additional data on persons absent from work can be found in tables 4, 6, and 8 attached to this media release. Table 12 presents unemployment rate by age and sex.

In February 2021, the greatest **unemployment rates** in labour force were in the following age groups: **aged 15-17** – 15.3%, **aged 18-24** – 7.5%, **aged 25-29** – 7.5%, **aged 30-34** – 5.3%.

The greatest share of employed persons temporarily absent from work all or part of week out of all employed persons was among persons in following age groups: **aged 15-17** - 31.6% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 23.3%), **aged 25-29** - 22.0% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 12.9%), **aged 30-34** - 21.3% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 12.1%), **aged 65 and over** - 21.2% (of these due to coronavirus reasons - 16.5%).

Employees working part time involuntarily - original data. As of 2018, the definition of employees working part time involuntarily¹ was changed following the transition to a new and expanded questionnaire. The number of **employees working part time involuntarily** declined to 41,300 in February 2021 (49,300 in the previous month), and their share out of all employed persons declined to 1.1% (1.3% in the previous month). (Detailed figures can be found in Table 2.9 in the "[Labour Force Survey Monthly Data](#)" on the website).

Employees in the high-tech sector - original data. The number of employees in the **high-tech sector** rose to approximately 374,000 in February 2021 (approximately 363,000 in the previous month). The share of employees in the high-tech sector of all employees rose to 11.1% in February 2021 (10.6% in the previous month). (Detailed figures can be found in Table 2.18 in the "[Labour Force Survey Monthly Data](#)" on the website).

¹ Until 2017: those usually working less than 35 hours per week (including employees owners of LTD companies), because they sought but did not find full-time or additional work.
As of 2018: those usually working less than 35 hours per week (not including employees owners of LTD companies), who are interested in working more than 35 hours and actively sought to work more hours in the last four weeks.

Chapter B - Seasonally adjusted data of February 2021

Seasonally Adjusted Data

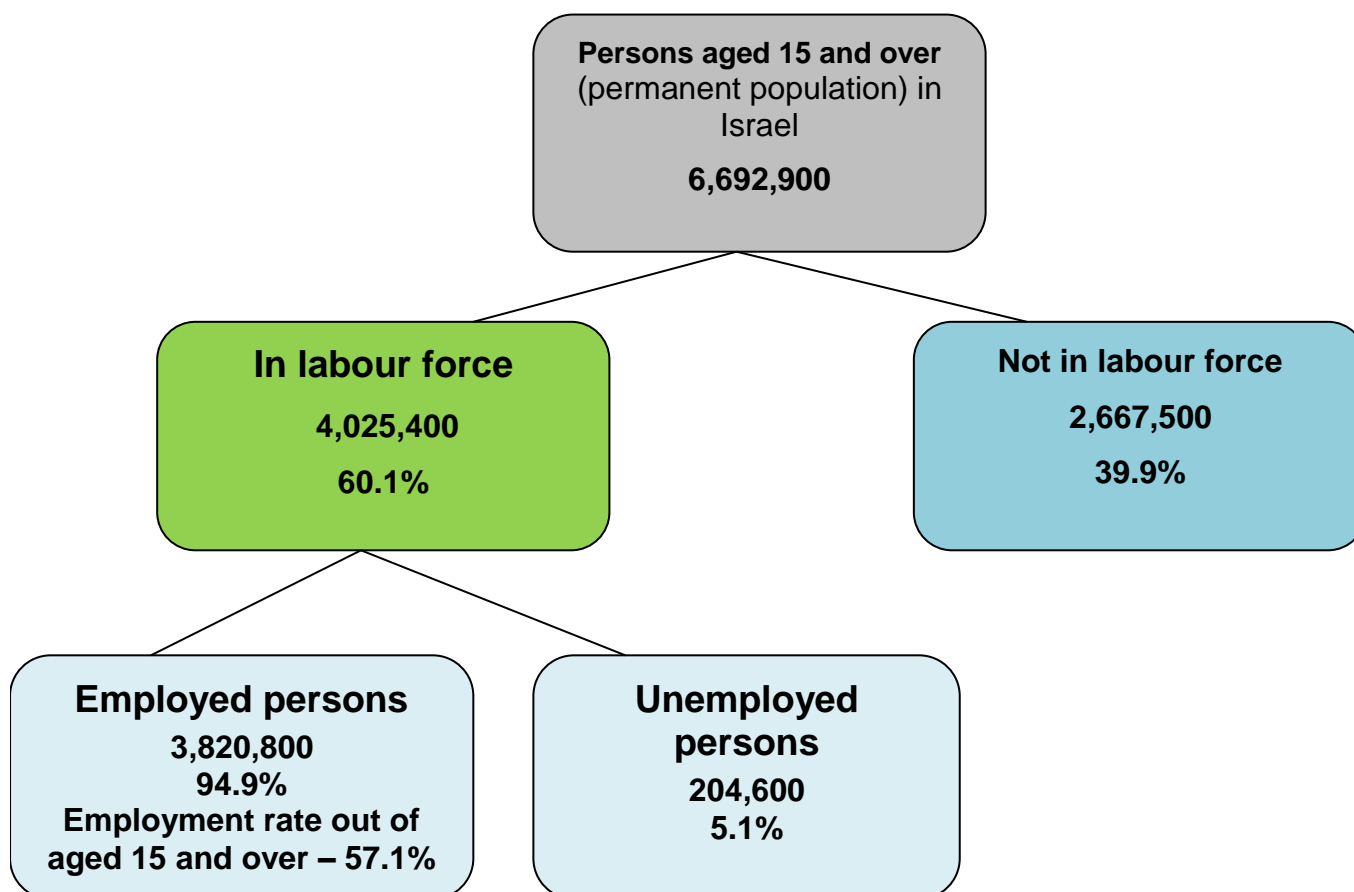
In February 2021 (compared with January 2021): ([For monthly data 2/2021](#))

- Unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over from the labour force - 5.1% (4.6% in the previous month).
- Participation rate in the labour force among persons aged 15 and over - 60.1% (60.3% in the previous month).
- Employment rate (the percentage of employed persons out of the total population) among persons aged 15 and over - 57.1% (57.5% in the previous month).
- Unemployment rate among persons aged 25-64 from the labour force - 4.6% (4.1% in the previous month).
- Participation rate in the labour force among persons aged 25-64 - 77.7% (77.9% in the previous month).
- Employment rate among persons aged 25-64 - 74.1% (74.6% in the previous month).
- The share of employed persons usually working full time out of total employed persons - 79.6% (79.4% in the previous month).

February 2021 (compared with January 2021) - Seasonally Adjusted Data

Persons aged 15 and over

Labour Force Characteristics February 2021

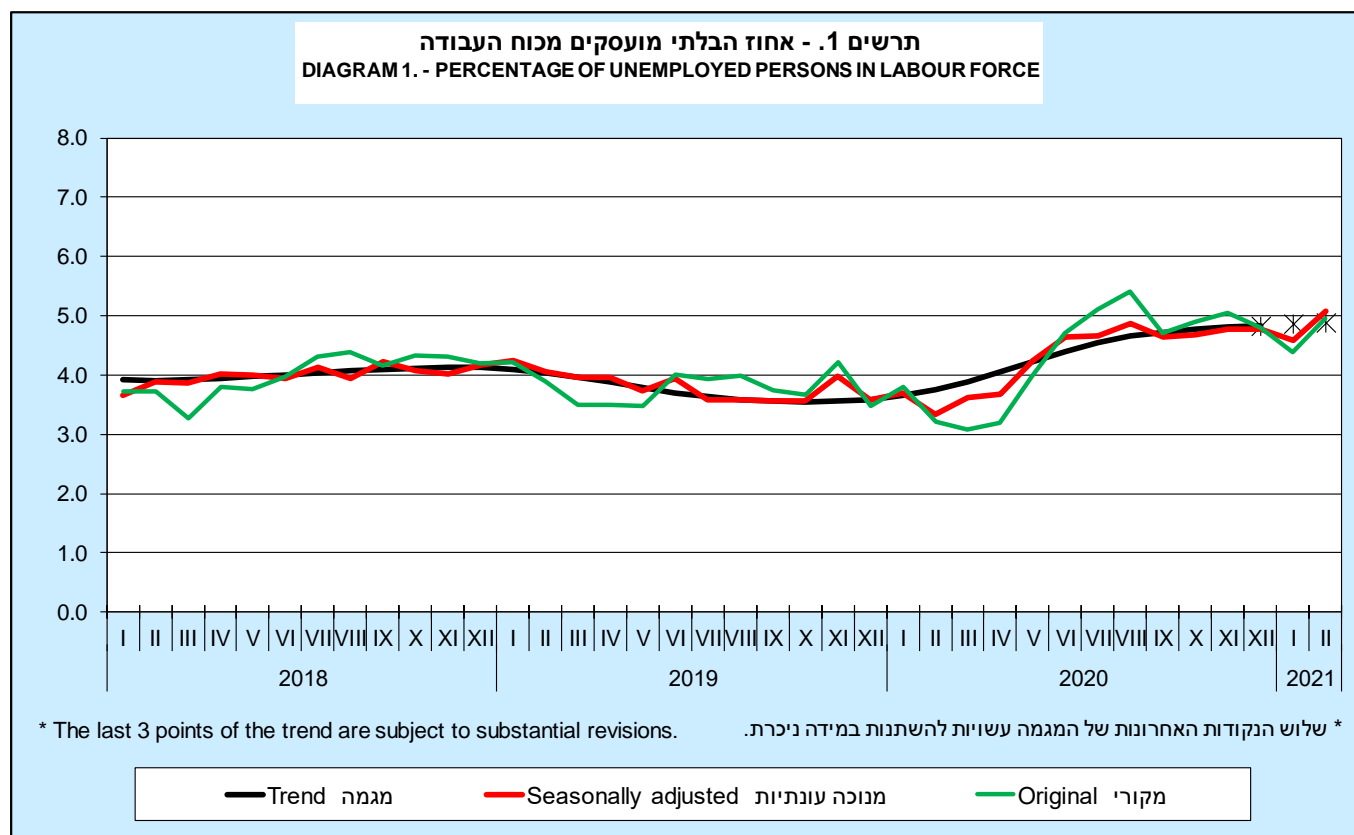


In February 2021, **the number of persons in the labour force** aged 15 and over was 4.025 million. Among them, 3.821 million were **employed** and approximately 205,000 were **unemployed**. Among the employed persons, 1.983 million were **men** (1.989 million in the previous month) and 1.838 million were **women** (1.854 million in the previous month).

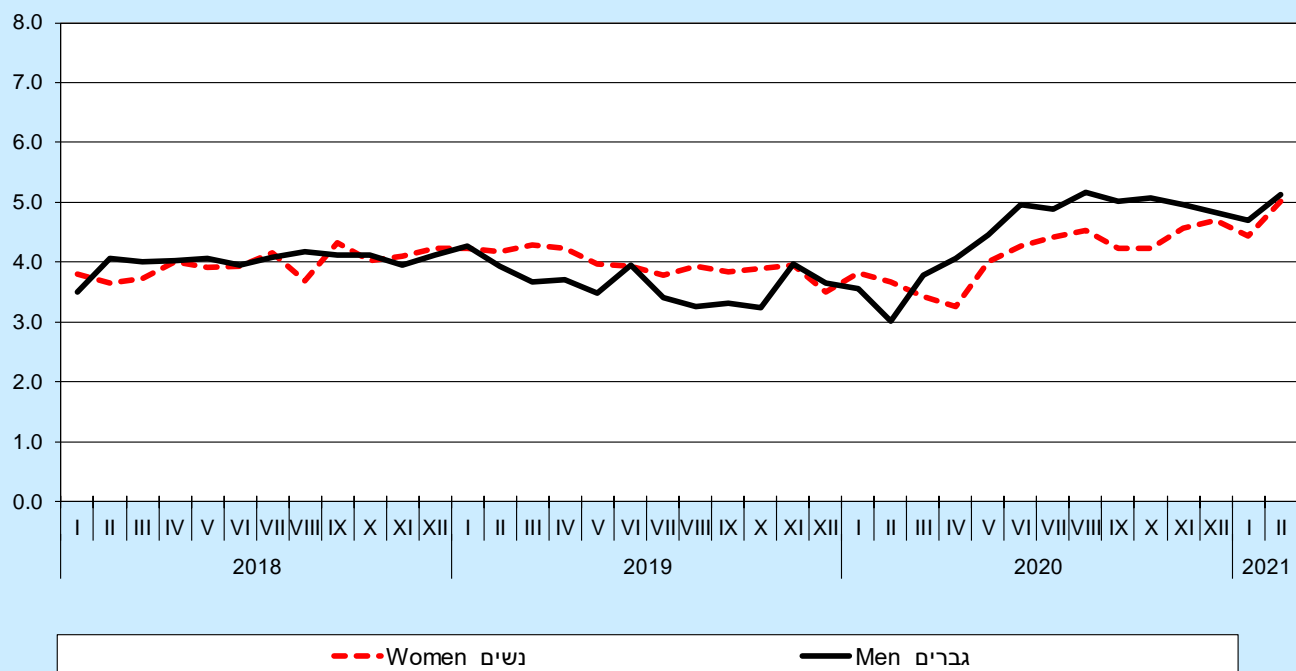
The participation rate among persons aged 15 and over **in the labour force** declined to 60.1% (60.3% in the previous month). Among **men** (see diagram 3), that rate rose to 63.8% (63.7% in the previous month), whereas among **women** it declined to 56.7% (56.9% in the previous month).

The unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over **from the labour force** rose to 5.1% in this month (4.6% in the previous month, see diagram 1). The unemployment rate of **men** (see diagram 2) rose to 5.1% (4.7% in the previous month), and that of **women** rose to 5.0% (4.4% in the previous month).

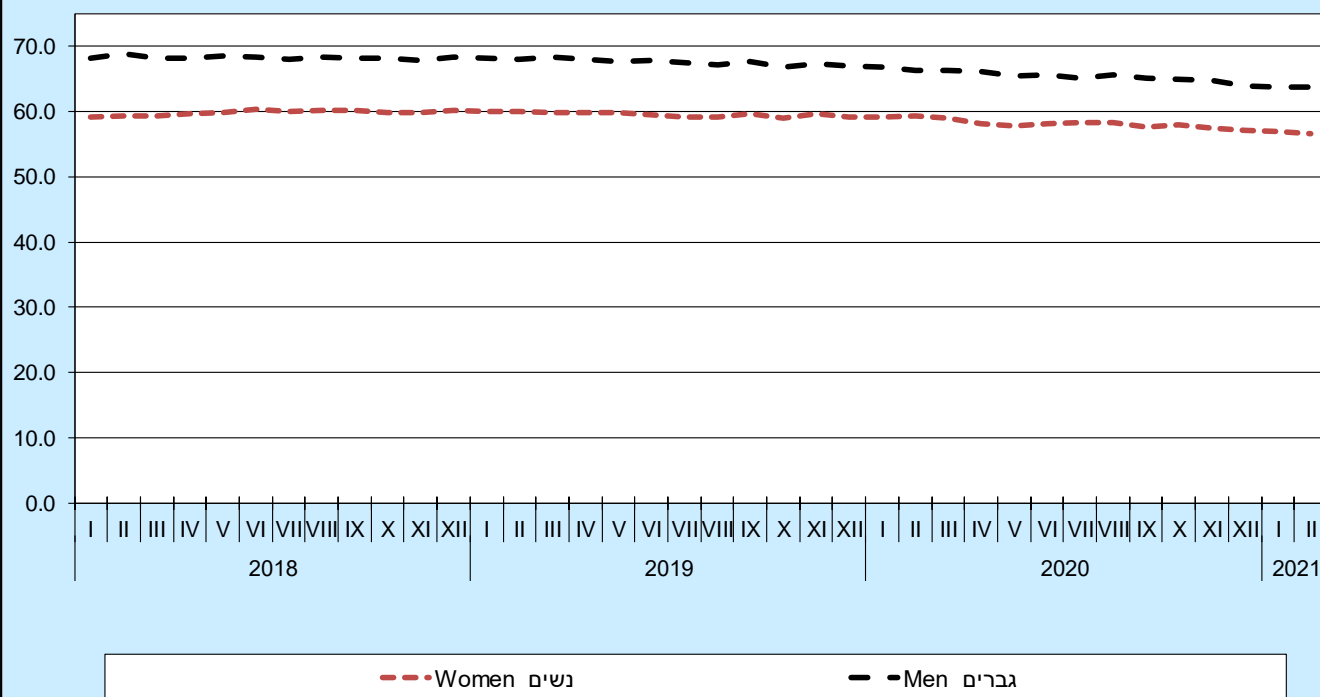
The employment rate (calculated as the percentage of employed persons out of the entire population) among persons aged 15 and over declined to 57.1% in February 2021 (57.5% in the previous month). The employment rate among **men** (see diagram 4) declined to 60.5% (60.7% in the previous month), and that of **women** declined to 53.8% (54.4% in the previous month).



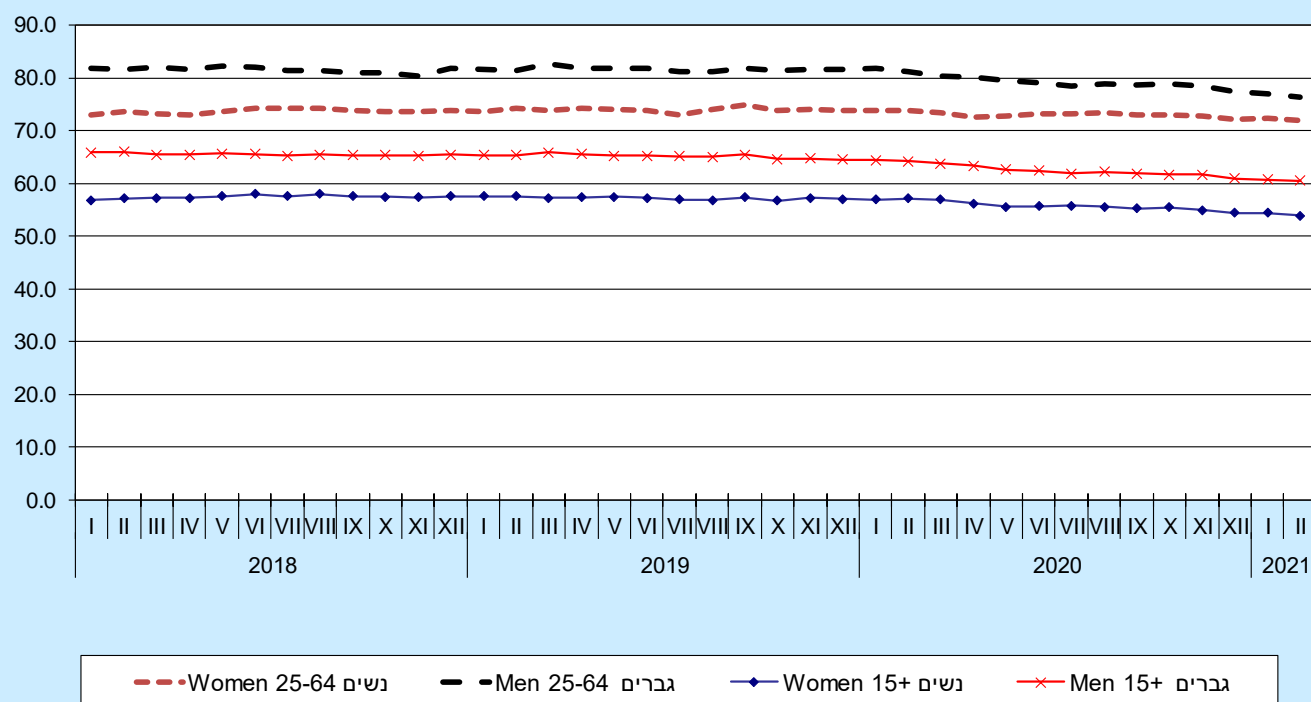
תרשים 2. - אחוז הבלתי מועסקים מכוח העבודה, לפי מין (נתונים מנוכי עונתיות)
 DIAGRAM 2. - PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN LABOUR FORCE, BY SEX (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA)



תרשים 3. - אחוז המשתתפים בכוח העבודה, לפי מין (נתונים מנוכי עונתיות)
 DIAGRAM 3. PERCENTAGE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LABOUR FORCE, BY SEX (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA)



תרשים 4. - שיעורי תעסוקה בקרב בני 15 ומעלה ובקרב בני 25-64, לפי מין (נתונים מנוכי עונתיות)
 DIAGRAM 4.- EMPLOYMENT RATES OF PERSONS AGED 15 AND OVER AND AGED 25-64, BY SEX (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA)



The number of employed persons in February 2021 was 3.821 million (3.844 million in the previous month). The number of employed persons who **usually worked full time** (35 hours and over per week) decreased by 0.5% compared with the previous month (a decrease of 16,000 employed persons), and the number of employed persons who **usually worked part time** (less than 35 hours per week) decreased by 1.5% compared with the previous month (a decrease of approximately 12,000 employed persons). The **share** of those **usually worked full time** of all employed persons rose to 79.6% (79.4% in the previous month). Among **men** that share rose to 88.2% (87.5% in previous month), whereas among **women** it declined to 70.3% (70.7% in the previous month). (Detailed figures can be found in Tables 1.24-1.26 in the "[Labour Force Survey Monthly Data](#)" on the website).

The number of persons who **worked full time** (35 hours and over) **in the determinant week** increased by 0.4%, compared with the previous month (an addition of approximately 9,000 employed persons), whereas the number of persons who **worked part time** (less than 35 hours) **in the determinant week** decreased by 1.7%, compared with the previous month (a decrease of approximately 14,000 employed persons). The number of persons **temporarily absent from work all week** decreased by 24.5%, compared with the previous month (a decrease of approximately 246,000 employed persons). The number of persons **temporarily**

absent from work part of a week increased by 2.5%, compared with the previous month (an addition of approximately 10,000 employed persons). (Detailed figures can be found in Tables 1.4-1.6, 1.30-1.32 in the "[Labour Force Survey Monthly Data](#)" on the website).

The average weekly number of work hours per employed person rose to 33.2 in February 2021 (32.5 hours in the previous month). **The average weekly number of work hours per employee** rose to 33.9 (33.2 hours in the previous month).

Labour Force Characteristics by District of Residence

(Detailed figures can be found in Tables 1.11-1.16 in the "[Labour Force Survey Monthly Data](#)" on the website).

The unemployment rate among persons aged 15 and over rose in all of the districts in February 2021 compared with the previous month and reached 8.1% in the **Jerusalem District** (compared with 7.1%), 4.6% in the **Northern District** (compared with 3.5%), 5.3% in the **Haifa District** (compared with 4.8%), 4.5% in the **Central District** (compared with 4.4%), 4.9% in the **Tel Aviv District** (compared with 4.0%), 5.7% in the **Southern District** (compared with 5.3%).

The participation rate among persons aged 15 and over **in the labour force** declined in most of the districts in February 2021 compared with the previous month. The participation rate reached 50.0% in the **Jerusalem District** (compared with 51.0%), 51.8% in the **Northern District** (compared with 51.9%), 58.8% in the **Haifa District** (compared with 58.6%), 66.9% in the **Central District** (compared with 67.0%), 67.2% in the **Tel Aviv District** (compared with 66.4%), and 57.5% in the **Southern District** (compared with 58.1%).

The employment rate among persons aged 15 and over declined in most of the districts in February 2021 compared with the previous month. The employment rate reached 46.0% in the **Jerusalem District** (compared with 47.4%), 49.5% in the **Northern District** (compared with 50.1%), 55.7% in the **Haifa District** (compared with 55.8%), 63.9% in the **Central District** (compared with 64.0%), 63.9% in the **Tel Aviv District** (compared with 63.8%), and 54.2% in the **Southern District** (compared with 55.0%).

Employed Persons by Industry ([By the new classification of All Economic Activities \(Updated edition\), Technical Publication no. 80](#))

(Detailed figures can be found in Tables 2.1.2 and 2.5.2 in the "[Labour Force Survey Monthly Data](#)" on the website).

In February 2021 the number of **employed persons** decreased by approximately 23,000 compared with the previous month. The number of **employees** in February 2021 was 3.365 million (3.381 million in the previous month). Table 1 below presents the number of employed persons and employees by industry in January and February 2021.

Among **employed persons**, the greatest **increases** were in **Education** (approximately 9,000 employed persons), in **Professional, scientific and technical activities**, in **Information and communication** and in **Construction** (approximately 3,000 employed persons in each industry).

The greatest **decreases** were in **Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles** (approximately 9,000 employed persons), in **Manufacturing; Mining and quarrying** (approximately 4,000 employed persons), in **Accommodation and food service activities**, in **Real estate activities** and in **Households as employers** (approximately 3,000 employed persons in each industry).

TABLE 1.- EMPLOYED PERSONS AND EMPLOYEES, BY INDUSTRY, JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2021, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA, THOUSANDS

Section	Description	Employed persons January 2021	Employed persons February 2021	Employees January 2021	Employees February 2021
-	Total (1)	3,843.7	3,820.8	3,380.8	3,364.6
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	32.3	33.4	20.9	21.7
B+C	Manufacturing; Mining and quarrying	385.4	381.8	363.0	359.7
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	19.6	19.6	19.6	19.4
E	Water supply, sewerage and waste management	17.1	14.8	17.1	14.8
F	Construction	194.6	197.3	148.7	147.9
G	Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles	399.9	391.1	344.8	336.8
H	Transportation and storage, postal and courier activities	157.9	158.5	136.9	136.4
I	Accommodation and food service activities	107.5	104.1	92.0	88.7
J	Information and communication	230.9	234.0	213.7	217.0
K	Financial and insurance activities	124.2	121.9	115.2	111.5
L	Real estate activities	32.3	29.5	17.1	17.0
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	316.8	313.7	222.2	222.8
N	Administrative and support service activities	146.3	144.5	134.1	130.6
O	Local, public and defence administration and social security	423.0	425.2	419.7	422.3
P	Education	464.6	473.9	437.0	445.7
Q	Human health and social work activities	462.0	460.0	410.7	411.6
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	68.2	65.9	40.3	37.2
S	Other service activities	92.8	91.7	57.0	55.8
T	Households as employers	72.2	69.5	70.7	67.5

(1) Incl. employed persons or employees in the industry "Extra-Territorial Organizations and Bodies" (Category U), and persons whose industry is not known.

Employed Persons by Occupation ([By the new classification of Occupations, Technical Publication no. 81](#)) (Detailed figures can be found in Tables 2.10.2 and 2.14.2 in the "[Labour Force Survey Monthly Data](#)" on the website).

Table 2 below presents the number of **employed persons** and **employees** by occupation in January and February 2021.

Among **employed persons**, the greatest **increases** were among **Skilled workers in manufacturing and construction, and other skilled workers** (approximately 13,000 employed persons), and among **Professionals** (approximately 6,000 employed persons).

Among **employed persons**, the greatest **decreases** were among **Clerical support workers** (approximately 13,000 employed persons), **Elementary occupations** (approximately 9,000 employed persons), among **Practical engineers, technicians, agents and associate professionals** and among **Service and sales workers** (approximately 8,000 employed persons in each occupation).

TABLE 2.- EMPLOYED PERSONS AND EMPLOYEES, BY OCCUPATIONS, JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2021, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA, THOUSANDS

Major group	Description	Employed persons January 2021	Employed persons February 2021	Employees January 2021	Employees February 2021
-	Total (1)	3,843.7	3,820.8	3,380.8	3,364.6
1	Managers	321.0	319.7	278.9	281.8
2	Professionals	1,129.7	1,136.0	971.2	983.6
3	Practical engineers, technicians, agents and associate professionals	549.9	542.3	470.9	461.1
4	Clerical support workers	264.8	252.0	257.0	246.1
5	Service and sales workers	659.7	652.0	579.4	565.9
6	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	26.2	25.9	14.2	13.7
7-8	Skilled workers in manufacturing and construction, and other skilled workers	466.9	479.8	384.7	390.9
9	Elementary occupations	169.5	160.9	164.3	158.1

(1) Incl. employed persons or employees whose occupation is not known.

Persons aged 25-64

(Detailed figures can be found in Tables 1.20-1.22 in the "[Labour Force Survey Monthly Data](#)" on the website)

Among persons aged 25-64 **the participation rate in the labour force** declined to 77.7% in February 2021 (77.9% in the previous month). Among **men** the rate declined to 80.6% (80.7% in the previous month), and among women the rate declined to 74.9% (75.0% in the previous month).

Among persons aged 25-64 **the unemployment rate from the labour force** rose to 4.6% (4.1% in the previous month). Among **men** the unemployment rate rose to 5.2% (4.6% in the previous month), and among **women** the unemployment rate rose to 4.0% (3.6% in the previous month).

The employment rate among persons aged 25-64 declined to 74.1% (74.6% in the previous month). Among **men** the employment rate declined to 76.4% (77.1% in the previous month), and among **women** the employment rate declined to 71.9% (72.3% in the previous month).

Chapter C - Definitions and Methodological Explanations due to the Coronavirus Crisis

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 2021, an average of 19,700 persons aged 15 and over a month has been interviewed on an ongoing basis. In February 2021, approximately 19,900 persons aged 15 and over have been interviewed. 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.

Detailed definitions of labour force characteristics can be found on the internet site, topic "[Labour Market](#)".

The definitions of groups relevant to this Media Release are as follows:

1. **Unemployed persons:** Persons aged 15 and over who did not work at all during the determinant week (even for one hour) and do not have work from which they were absent the entire determinant week, who actively sought work during the four weeks preceding the interview and were available to work during the determinant week.
2. **Employed persons temporarily absent from work due to reasons related to the Coronavirus pandemic:** Employed persons aged 15 and over who were temporarily absent from work all week due to reduced workload, work stoppage and those who indicated in the response "Other" that they were absent due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This includes employees who are on unpaid leave, if their return to the same employer is guaranteed, and excludes persons in isolation who are considered absent from work due to illness.

3. **Non-participants in the labour force who stopped working due to dismissal or closure of the workplace from March 2020:** Persons aged 15 and over who did not work in the determinant week, and do not have work from which they were absent the entire determinant week and did not actively seek work during the four weeks preceding the interview and were dismissed from their work from March 2020.
4. **Persons not in the labour force who stopped working due to other reasons or not working in past and are interested to work now, but did not look for job in last month due to Coronavirus pandemic:** Persons aged 15 and over who did not work in the determinant week, and do not have work from which they were absent the entire determinant week and did not actively seek work during the four weeks preceding the interview (were neither employed nor unemployed). They stopped working due to other reasons (except for getting fired from work) or didn't work in the past. They are interested to work now, but did not look for job in last month due to Coronavirus pandemic.

The percentage of the labour force of the three groups together (1-3) or 4 groups together (1-4) is calculated from the labour force with the addition of the third or fourth group respectively to the labour force.

5. **Public sector by industry definition** includes following industries: Manufacture of other transport equipment (30); Electricity supply (35); Water supply (36); Sewerage (37); Postal activities (5310); Local administration (83); Public administration and defence; and social security (84); Pre-primary education institutions (kindergartens) (850); Primary education institutions (851); Secondary education institutions (lower and upper secondary education) (852); Tertiary-Type B (non-academic) education institutions (853); Academic colleges and extensions of foreign institutions of higher education (854); Universities (855); Hospital activities (861); Public clinics (8620); Health offices, family and community health centres, and disease prevention centres (8623); Libraries, archives and museums activities (91); Community centres (culture, youth and sports centres) (944); Extraterritorial organizations and bodies (99).
6. **High technology sector:** The definition of high technology sector is based on the ["Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities 2011, Technical Publication 80, The Central Bureau of Statistics"](#), as well as on the definitions of OECD and Eurostat (See additional information in publication: ["Development of High-Tech Sector in Israel, 1995-2014"](#)). **Manufacturing in the High-Tech Sector:** Manufacture of pharmaceutical products and homeopathic pharmaceutical preparations (21),

Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products (26), Manufacture of air and spacecraft and related machinery (303). **Knowledge-Intensive Services in the High-Tech Sector:** Telecommunications (61), Computer programming, consultancy and related activities (62), Data processing, hosting and related activities; web portals (631), Research and development centers (720), Research and development in engineering and natural sciences (721).

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 on the internet site, topic "[Labour Market](#)".

Data collection:

From mid-March 2020, in-person interviews could not be conducted. Therefore, all interviews as of mid-March were conducted by telephone: 99.6% in February 2021, 99.6% in January 2021, 99.7% in December 2020, 99.7% in November 2020, 99.4% in October 2020, 99.2% in September 2020, 99.7% in August 2020, 99.6% in July 2020, 99.3% in June 2020, 99.7% in May 2020, 99.5% in April 2020, 96.7% in March 2020, 86.6% in February 2020, and 86.7% in January 2020. The response rate in February 2021 increased compared to January 2021 (74.9% compared with 74.0%).

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 from March 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.

Corrections were made in the calculation of weighting coefficients in the survey in March and April. 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 from March 2020 as a result of the coronavirus crisis, seasonally adjusted and trend data were not calculated for some of the series. Due to a sharp drop in the data for the March 2020 series "Worked full-time - total, men and women", "Temporarily absent from work during all of the determinant week - 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.

Finally, there are other bodies that publish data related to labour market statistics (not in the framework of the Labour Force Survey). Detailed definitions for jobseekers in the Employment Service² and claimants for unemployment benefits from the National Insurance Institute³ can be seen in the Introduction to Chapter 9 ["The Labour Market" in the Statistical Abstract of Israel](#). The differences between the data of the various bodies and the data of the CBS are mainly due to significant differences in definitions. The definitions in these bodies are operative for the fulfillment of their functions, while the CBS data are based on definitions of official statistics, in accordance with the function of the CBS. In light of this and to remove all doubt, talks are currently being held between all the bodies regarding the various data, so there will be full coordination and transparency in the data.

* Additional data on this subject are published in the ["Labour Force Survey Monthly Data"](#) on the [Central Bureau of Statistics website](#).

² [On the Employment Service website \(Hebrew only\)](#).

³ [On the National Insurance Institute website](#).