

Media Release

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[A previous media release on this subject appeared on February 19, 2024](#)

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Labour Force Survey Data, February¹ 2024 (Main Data)

Labour Force Survey during the days of the "Iron Swords" war

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 war 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.²

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

In Chapter A, will be presented seasonally adjusted data for February 2024.

In Chapter B, will be presented data for February 2024 - original series.

In Chapter C, will be presented additional details for definitions and explanations ([Definitions and Explanations](#)).

[Explanations \(Metadata\)](#)

¹ Detailed data for February 2024 will be published on March 28, 2024.

² Notes on the survey interviews in the first two months of the war (October-November 2023) - in Chapter C below.

Chapter A - Seasonally adjusted data for February 2024

In February 2024 (compared with January 2024, among persons aged 15 and over):

- Participation rate in the labour force – 62.5% (same as in the previous month).
- Employment rate (the percentage of employed persons out of the total population) – 60.5% (60.4% in the previous month).
- Unemployment rate from the labour force – 3.3% (3.2% in the previous month).

Chapter B - Original data for February 2024

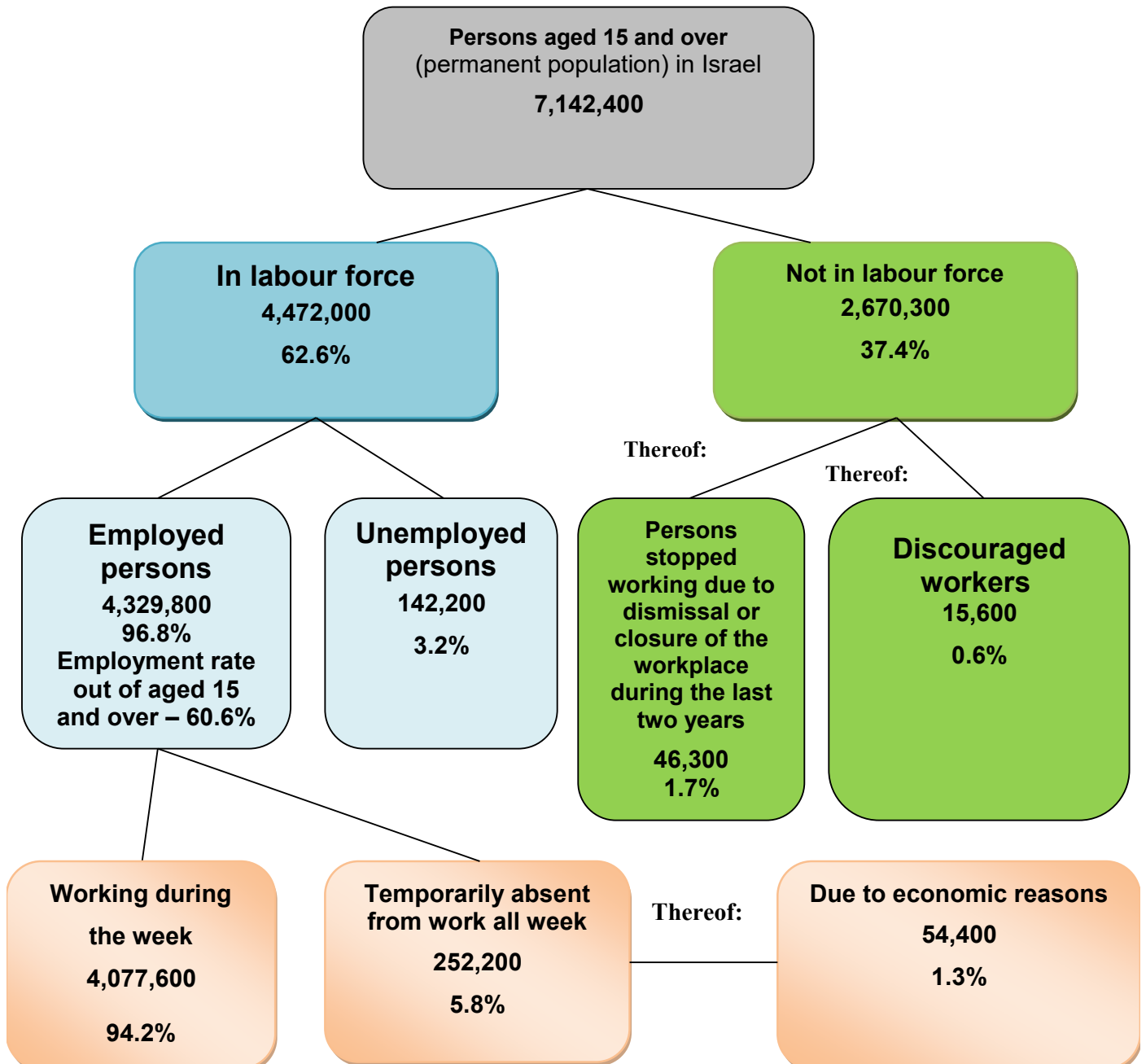
In February 2024 (compared with January 2024, among persons aged 15 and over)

- Participation rate in the labour force – 62.6% (same as in the previous month).
- Employment rate (the percentage of employed persons out of the total population) – 60.6% (60.4% in the previous month).
- Unemployment rate from the labour force – 3.2% (3.4% in the previous month).
- Employment rate excluding persons temporarily absent from work all week due to economic reasons – 59.9% (59.5% in the previous month).
- Percentage of persons temporarily absent from work all week according to selected reasons: economic reasons – 21.7% (21.5% in the previous month), reserves – 25.8% (37.4% in the previous month), other – 1.1% (1.7% in the previous month).
- Percentage of men temporarily absent from work all week according to selected reasons: economic reasons – 25.3% (20.9% in the previous month), reserves – 44.1% (58.2% in the previous month), other – 1.6% (1.2% in the previous month).
- Percentage of women temporarily absent from work all week according to selected reasons: economic reasons – 17.9% (22.3% in the previous month), reserves – 6.2% (9.0% in the previous month), other – 0.7% (2.2% in the previous month).
- Note that the Labour Force Survey definitions as well as the reference period of the data differ from other sources of information such as the Employment Service and the National Insurance Institute. For additional information, [see page 5](#).

Number and percentage in labour force	January 2024	February 2024
Unemployed persons	151,300 3.4%	142,200 3.2%
Employed persons temporarily absent from work all week due to economic reasons + unemployed persons	214,900 4.8%	196,600 4.4%
Persons not in the labour force who stopped working due to dismissal or closure of the workplace during the last two years + employed persons temporarily absent from work all week due to economic reasons + unemployed persons	268,500 5.9%	242,900 5.4%
Discouraged workers + not participating in the labor force who stopped working due to dismissal during the last two years + employed persons temporarily absent from work for economic reasons +unemployed persons	284,000 6.3%	254,800 5.6%

Labour Force Characteristics in February 2024 - Original Data³

Persons aged 15 and over



³ Among Discouraged workers, there are 3,6 thousand people who stopped working due to dismissal or closure of the workplace during the last two years.

Chapter C - Definitions and Methodological 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. In February 2024, approximately 17,900 persons aged 15 and over have been interviewed.

The response rate in February 2024 declined to 70.9% (71.4% in the previous month).

The survey interviews in the first two months of the war (October-November 2023):

In October 2023: no interviews were conducted at all on the days 8.10.23 - 15.10.23. As of 16.10.23, a gradual return began while being sensitive to the situation of the households during this period. Almost all survey interviews, 99.5% (compared to 92.3% in September) were conducted by the telephone and not on sampled houses as they are normally conducted. Also, due to the difficult events, samples living in the southern localities up to 7 km from the Gaza Strip (including Ofakim) were not interviewed.

In November 2023: samples living in the southern localities up to 7 km from the Gaza Strip (excluding Sderot) were not interviewed. 94.7% of the survey interviews were conducted by the telephone.

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 at Topics: "[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 economic reasons:**
Employed persons aged 15 and over who were temporarily absent from work all week due to reduced workload or work stoppage (including those temporarily absent due to unpaid leave or reduced business activity due to the war). Absent due to the war at the beginning of October (weeks 1-2) were usually included in "other" as the reason for absence.
3. **Non-participants in the labour force who stopped working due to dismissal or closure of the workplace during the last two years:** 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 during the last two years.
4. **Discouraged workers:** All persons aged 15 and over who were not included in the weekly labour force but were interested in working, and could have started working during the determinant week had they been offered suitable work ("available to work") and sought work during the 12 months preceding the survey but not over the last four weeks preceding the survey for the following reasons: they believed there are no appropriate jobs for them in their field or in their area of residence in terms of wages, work hours, or interesting work; lack of appropriate experience or training; language difficulties or inappropriate age (too young or too old).

The percentage of the labour force of the three groups together (1-3) or 4 groups together (1-4)⁴ is calculated from the labour force⁴ with the addition of the third or fourth group respectively to the labour force.

5. **Employed persons excluding temporarily absent from work all week due to economic reasons:** Employed persons aged 15 and over excluding those who were temporarily absent from work all week due to economic reasons (see definition in paragraph 2 above).
6. **Employment rate excluding temporarily absent from work all week due to economic reasons:** Calculated as percent of employed persons excluding temporarily absent from work all week due to economic reasons of total persons aged 15 and over.

⁴ People who are both in discouraged workers group and among those who stopped working due to dismissal during the last two years - are counted only once.

A detailed methodology of the survey can be found on the internet site at Topics: ["Labour market"](#)

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 Service⁵ and claimants for unemployment benefits from the National Insurance Institute⁶ 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](#)

⁵ [On the Employment Service website \(Hebrew only\)](#).

⁶ [On the National Insurance Institute website](#).