Labour Force Survey

1. Contact	
1.1. Contact organisation	National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat)
1.2. Contact organisation unit	Social Statistics Department Labour Statistics Division
1.3. Contact name	Vasil Tsakadze Irma Gvilava
1.4. Contact person function	Head of Social Statistics Department Head of Labour Statistics Division
1.5. Contact mail address	30, Tsotne Dadiani Str., 0180, Tbilisi, Georgia
1.6. Contact email address	vtsakadze@geostat.ge igvilava@geostat.ge
1.7. Contact phone number	+995 32 236 72 10 (600) +995 32 236 72 10 (608)
1.8. Contact fax number	-

2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	June 28, 2024
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3. Statistical presentation
3.1. Data description

Quarterly and annual data of Labour Force Survey

Labour Force Survey is a household sample survey. The main goal of the survey is to produce data on labour force status (employed, unemployed and population outside of the labour force) of the population aged 15 years and older.

3.2. Classification system

- Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev.1) (2004);
- Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev.2) (2016), from 2017;
- International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88) (2006);
- International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) (2020);
- International classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93).

3.3. Sector coverage

Includes all population aged 15 and over living in private households.

Excluded:
- Persons whose absent duration in the household exceed 12 months;
- Military persons lived at a military base;
- Persons stayed in prisons, psychiatric clinics, retirement homes, boarding school and other types of specialized institutions.

3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

Household is a unit of people which are subjected to common rules of dwelling unit and linked with general budget (by its part), kinship and/or non-relative relationships, or both (a household may consist of a one person).

Institutional Household comprises persons who permanently reside in orphanages and boarding schools for children deprived of parental care, homes for the elderly and the disabled persons, chronically ill hospitals, religious institutions (monasteries), places of detention or penitentiary institution, barracks and other similar institution.

Reference Period – 7 days preceding the date of interview.

Labour force (Economically active population) – is defined as the sum of employed and unemployed persons.

Employed – A person aged 15 years and older, who during the reference period (7 days preceding the interview) worked for at least one hour for pay or profit or was temporarily absent from the job due to holiday, illness, maternity leave, technical, economic or other similar reasons.

Employees – A person aged 15 years and older, who during the reference period performed a certain work for at least one hour for wage or salary, in cash or in kind, or a person who has a job but was temporarily absent due to a holiday, illness, technical, economic or other similar reasons.

Self-employed – A person aged 15 years and older, who during the reference period worked for at least one hour for profit or was temporally absent from the job.

Time-related underemployed – A person aged 15 years and older, who meet the following tree criteria: 1. reported that worked part-time; 2. Looked for additional or other paid work or tried to start own business during the last four weeks; and 3. was available to work more hours within the next two weeks.

Informal employment in non-agricultural sector refers to all workers not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements through their work (didn't pay income tax from remuneration; or/and employed didn't benefit from paid annual leave or /and employed didn't benefit from paid sick leave in case of illness; or/and employer didn`t contribution to the pension fund ) or employed defined her status in employment as a contributing family worker or enterprises where they worked weren`t registered.

Unemployed – A person aged15 years and older, who during the reference period (7 days preceding the interview), was not employed and within the previous four weeks actively searched for work and in case of success was ready to start work within the next two weeks.

Outside the labour force – A person aged 15 years and older, who during the reference period (7 days preceding the interview) was not employed and within the previous four weeks did not actively search for work and/or was not ready to start working within the next two weeks.

Long-term unemployed – a person who has been unemployed for 12 months or more.

Potential labour force – Is defined as a person aged 15 years and older, who during the reference period (7 days preceding the interview), was neither in employment nor in unemployment and: a) within the previous four weeks carried out activities to "seek employment" but was not ready to start working within the next two weeks; or b) within the previous four weeks did not carry out activities to "seek employment" but was ready to start work within the next two weeks.

The unemployment rate expresses the number of unemployed as a percent of the labour force.

Long-term unemployment rate expresses the number of long-term unemployed as a percent of the labour force. **The labour the force participation** rate expresses the labour force as a percent of the relevant aged population.

The employment rate expresses the number of persons who are employed as a percent of the relevant aged population.

Combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment: [(Persons in time-related underemployment + persons in unemployment) / labour force] x 100.

Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force: [(Persons in unemployment + potential labour force) / extended labour force ((labour force + potential labour force)] x 100.

Composite measure of labour underutilization: [(Persons in time-related underemployment + persons in unemployment + potential labour force) / extended labour force (labour force + potential labour force)] x 100.

Hours actually worked includes time that during the reference period (7 days preceding the interview) persons in employment spend directly on, and in relation to, productive activities; down time; and resting time.

Hours usually worked is related to the typical value of hours actually worked in a job per week, over a long observation period.

Youth not in education, employment or training (**NEET**) – The share of young people who are not in employment, education or training, as a percentage of the total number of young people in the corresponding age group.

3.5. Statistical unit
Members of household aged 15 and over.

3.6. Statistical population
General population of the sampling frame includes all private households of country based of the General Population Census except institutional households.

3.7. Reference area
Whole area of Georgia excluding occupied territories of country.

3.8. Time coverage
Annually since 1998; Quarterly since 2018.

3.9. Base period
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4. Unit of measure
Thousand persons, Percent.

5. Reference period

Quarter, Year.

6. Institutional mandate
6.1. Legal acts and other agreements
The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics; https://www.geostat.ge/media/56202/The-Law-of-Georgia-on-Official-Statistics.pdf Statistical Work Programme (annual); https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/307/statistical-work-programme Charter of the National Statistics Office of Georgia. https://www.geostat.ge/media/20845/10%2Csaqstatis-konsolidirebuli-debuleba.pdf
6.2. Data sharing
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7. Confidentiality
7.1. Confidentiality – policy

1. The Law of Georgia on Official Statistics:
    • According to the article 5 of the law Statistical confidentiality and exclusive use for statistical purposes – individual data collected or received by the producer of official statistics, relating to natural or legal persons, must be strictly confidential and used only for statistical purposes.
    • According to the article 34 (Observing Confidentiality of Statistical Data) of the law 1. Data collected, processed, and stored to produce official statistics are confidential if they enable the direct or indirect identification of a statistical unit. In addition, aggregated data are subject to statistical confidentiality: a) Aggregates composed of 1 to 3 units, when the unit is a natural or legal person if one of these units could be identified indirectly, thereby disclosing individual data about this unit. Aggregates composed of more than 3 units may be declared confidential by the Executive Director if required to ensure statistical confidentiality; b) Information declares as a state secret on the basis of the „Law of Georgia on State Secrets". 2. Confidential data shall be used exclusively for the purposes of producing statistics in accordance with this law. 3. Statistical data about the administrative body cannot be considered confidential information, except for the information determined by the Law of Georgia „On State Secrets". 4. Individual data obtained from publicly available sources, which are defined as public information in accordance with the legislation of Georgia, shall not be considered confidential information. 5. Confidential (individual) data may be published if there is written consent from the statistical unit regarding the publication of such data. 6. It is not allowed to disseminate and distribute confidential data or use it for non-statistical purposes.
    • According to the article 38 (Confidentiality commitments) of the law the confidential statistical data collected and processed for statistical purposes shall not be used or disseminated either for personal, academic, research or any other activities, by the employees of the producers of Official Statistics.
    https://www.geostat.ge/media/56202/The-Law-of-Georgia-on-Official-Statistics.pdf
2. Data Confidentiality Policy at Geostat
    https://www.geostat.ge/media/20860/Data-Confidentiality-Policy-at-Geostat_En.pdf
3. Procedure for providing access to confidential data for research purposes
    https://www.geostat.ge/media/61533/Rule-on-Access-to-Confidential-Data-for-Scientific-and-Research-Purposes....pdf
4. The Law of Georgia on Personal Data Protection
    https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/1561437?publication=9

7.2. Confidentiality – data treatment
• Confidentiality guidelines. • Written undertakings by an employee of Geostat on ensuring confidentiality of gained/collected data as a result of official duties.

8. Release policy
8.1. Release calendar
Data dissemination dates are defined by the calendar developed on the basis of the Statistical Work Programme, which is published on the website of Geostat and is publicly available.
8.2. Release calendar access

https://www.geostat.ge/en/calendar

8.3. User access

All users have the equal access to the statistical data simultaneously.

9. Frequency of dissemination

Annually, Quarterly.

10. Accessibility and clarity

10.1. News release

New release is disseminated along with results of the Survey:

https://www.geostat.ge/en/relationsOfCategory/37/post

10.2. Publications

Statistical Yearbook:

https://www.geostat.ge/en/single-categories/95/statistical-yearbook

10.3. On-line database

On-line database is represented on the Geostat website in the data dissemination program PC-Axis format.

https://pc-axis.geostat.ge/PXWeb/pxweb/en/Database/

10.4. Micro-data access

According to the "Rule on Access to Confidential Data for Scientific and Research Purposes" of the Law of Georgia on Official Statistics, users are allowed to access individual data to promote scientific progress. All direct and indirect identifiers, such as personal number, address, and name, are deleted from individual data files. Extreme values and similar indirect identifiers are corrected using appropriate statistical methods. All files are appropriately anonymised to minimise the risk of disclosure:

https://www.geostat.ge/media/61533/Rule-on-Access-to-Confidential-Data-for-Scientific-and-Research-Purposes....pdf

The anonymised microdata in SPPS format are available on the website of Geostat.

Integrated Household Survey, 2009-2016:

https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/128/databases-of-2009-2016-integrated-household-survey-and-2017-households-income-and-expenditure-survey

Labour Force Survey, since 2017:

https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/130/labour-force-survey-databases

10.5. Other

According to the Law of Georgia on Official Statistics statistical data is public and upon an electronic form or written request, Geostat ensures delivery of the statistical data for all users.

10.6. Documentation on methodology

Methodological documentation of Labour Force Survey is available on website of Geostat:

https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/552/methodologia-social-statistics

10.7. Quality documentation

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11. Quality management

11.1. Quality assurance

To ensure the quality of the statistical processes and products Geostat follows Chapter 10 – Quality of official statistics – of the Law of Georgia on Official Statistics, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice, the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (ESS QAF).

11.2. Quality assessment

Methodology and Quality Management Division of Geostat, along with the sectoral departments, is responsible for the quality of the produced statistical products and processes. The Division carries out quality audit, self-assessment of statistical processes and assesses the risks for the quality of statistical processes and products. Geostat has developed policy documents, guidelines and standard routine descriptions. These documents ensure the standardization of statistical processes and products and the establishment of a unified quality assurance system.

Quality policy is available on the following link:

https://www.geostat.ge/media/44380/QP_Geostat_EN.pdf

12. Relevance

12.1. User needs
Users of the statistical information are state authorities, international agencies, researchers, representatives of business sector, media, representatives of trade unions, students, individuals and other users. Users use this data for estimation and analyse existing situation in the labour market of Georgia.
12.2. User satisfaction
In 2023 user satisfaction survey was conducted, the target of the survey was to analyze the assessment of quality of statistical data by users and explore ways to improve user services. The survey report is available on the website of Geostat (in Georgian): https://www.geostat.ge/ka/page/customer-service
12.3. Completeness
Data derived from the Labour Force Survey is in line with recommendations of International Labour Organization (ILO).

13. Accuracy and reliability
13.1. Overall accuracy
Labour Force Survey is based on a sampling method. Generally, this process is attended by existence of statistical deviation (error). In accordance with this during the calculation of survey results standard deviation is taken into consideration.
13.2. Sampling error

Sample size of the survey comprises about 6 400 households quarterly. In 2023, Response rate of households which is calculated as interviewed households divided on sampled households, amounted to 83.1 percent.

The table below represents standard errors, confidence intervals and coefficients of variation for main indicators:

	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		The Coefficient of Variation
		Lower Bound	Upper Bound	
Unemployment rate, %	0.5	15.4	17.4	3.1
Labour force participation rate, %	0.4	52.4	54.1	0.8
Employment rate, %	0.5	43.6	45.4	1.0

13.3. Non-sampling error
Non-sampling error can occur because of non-responses – refusal of respondents on obtaining information; Inaccurate or incomplete information, as well as proxy answers (interviewing another household member instead of respondent). In order to minimize non-sampling errors, interviewer should make 3 visits to the household to directly interview the respondent.

14. Timeliness and punctuality
14.1. Timeliness
Until 2017 LFS data are disseminated annually, since 2018 – quarterly basis. • Quarterly – 50 days after the end of the reference quarter; • Annual – In May of the following year of the reference year.
14.2. Punctuality
The data is published according to the date specified in the statistical work program. There has not been any violation of publication dates.

15. Coherence and comparability
15.1. Comparability – geographical
Indicators of the Labour Force Survey are calculated according to the standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The methodology used in the scope of the survey is comparable on the regional and international levels.
15.2. Comparability – over time
Data is comparable over time.

15.3. Coherence – cross domain

Comparability with demographic data of population

Data obtained from LFS does not excectly match to the demographic data of the Geostat website (number of population by sex, age and regions) based on the census data for the following main reason:

- LFS is sample survey that has a sampling error;
- Demographic data of the population covers institutional as well as non-institutional part of population, conversely LFS which doesn`t includes persons reside in specialized institutions;
- Citizens of Georgia, who represent state organizations and are in a long-term business trip abroad (e.g. employees of embassies, consulates, representative offices, representatives of mass media working in international organizations, who are permanently accredited in foreign countries and their family members) during the population census are enumerated at their actual place of residence (i.e. in the countries, where they are at the moment of census); This category of population is included in the number of usually resident population of the country but not in LFS as it covers only the territory of Georgia, etc.

Comparability with Establishment Survey (Survey in Enterprises and organizations)

Data obtained from LFS differs from the data obtained from Establishment Survey (enterprises and organizations surveys) for the following main reasons:

- **Reference period:** according to the LFS reference period refers to one week (7 days preceding the interview date) and reference period for Establishment Survey is quarter/year;
- **Methodological difference:** Establishment surveys collect the number of persons employed in each observation unit. They are in effect measuring the number of jobs rather than employed persons. Conversely, the Labour Force Survey is a survey of individuals. It counts people and therefore provides a measure of the number of people employed. However, it also collects information on second jobs and is therefore able to provide a jobs measure; In addition, according to the LFS employment is defined as work for at least one hour during the reference period; as for Establishment Survey, average number of employed is calculated based on number of jobs and hours worked in the reference period;
- **Coverage:** Establishment Survey covers formal sector employment, while LFS covers formal sector employment as well as whole informal employment; moreover, LFS covers all kind of economic activities, while Establishment survey doesn`t include the following sections economic activities of NACE Rev2:
    - **Section T** – Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services producing activities of households for own use;
    - **Section U** – Activities of extra-territorial organisations and bodies.

15.4. Coherence – internal

The data is coherent.

16. Cost and burden

Average duration of interview for Main Questionnaire – 15 minutes.
In 2024, budget of survey on Labour Force Survey amounted to 797.4 thousand GEL

17. Data revision
17.1. Data revision – policy

Statistical data revision policy is available on the website of Geostat:
https://www.geostat.ge/media/59824/Data-Revision-Policy-and-Error_Correction-at-Geostat_Eng.pdf

17.2. Data revision – practice

Planned revision of data was carried out in 2018, when survey data for 2002-2016 years were recalculated according to the 2014 general population census. An Unplanned revision (to clarify data) was not carried out in 2023.

18. Statistical processing
18.1. Source data

The main source of labour force statistics (including 2016) is Integrated Household Survey which covered Labour Force Survey as a one of its modules. Since 2017 source of the data is Labour Force Survey (LFS).
Until 2017 the sampling frame was databases of the 1989 and 2002 General Population Censuses and starting 2017 – database of the 2014 General Population Census.
The sample of household is selected in two stages. The urban and rural areas within each region were identified as the main sampling strata. Primary sampling unit (PSU) is a census unit, and secondary sampling unit (SSU) is the address of

a household. Within each stratum a specified number of census enumeration areas (PSU) are selected systematically with probability proportional to size. Household listing is carried out in each new selected enumeration areas. After a household listing is carried out within the selected enumeration areas, specified number of households are selected using random sampling.

Until 2017 each sampled household living in the selected address was interviewed four times (once a quarter) during one year. After one year the household was replaced by another household (address). Each month 1/12 of the sample was renewed and during a year the whole sample was renewed.

From 2017 new rotation scheme 2-(2)-2 was adapted. This rotation scheme is based on having a panel of sample households interviewed for two consecutive quarters, out of the sample for two quarters, and then interviewed again for a final two quarters. Sample household is interviewed a maximum of 4 times over a period of 18 months. Quarterly 1/4 of the sample is renewed.

18.2. Frequency of data collection

Data is collected monthly basis.

18.3. Data collection

Since 2021 data have been collected using (CAPI) Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews.

Thee questionnaires are used in the survey: 1) Demographic questionnaire to collect basic demographic information on all household members; 2) Main questionnaire administer in each sampled household to all members aged 15 and over; 3) Refusal sheet – the non-response form to record reasons of refusal.

Fieldwork starts on the 8th of each month and lasts until the end of the month.

Electronic versions of questionnaires are available on Geostat website:

https://www.geostat.ge/en/modules/categories/562/labour-force-survey

18.4. Data validation

Data validation consist of several stages:

- The electronic questionnaires of the survey integrate basic logical controls, based on which the software can instantly identify errors made during the interview.
- Initially, field supervisors perform the first logical control of the questionnaires completed by the interviewers. In case of discrepancies or suspicious data, the field supervisor returns the questionnaire to the interviewer with relevant comments/instructions for verification. Finally, the non-compliance questionnaire is sent electronically (via appropriate software) to the head office of Geostat by the fieldwork supervisor.
- In the next step, the questionnaires are checked by the staff of Geostat head office. In this case as well, if the inconsistent and suspicious data turn out in the questionnaire, the head office employee returns the questionnaire with relevant comments/instructions to the field supervisor for verification.
- The head office receives and codifies non-compliant questionnaires (according to the International Classification of Economic Activities (NACE) and the International Employment Classifier (ISCO)), and reflects them in the survey database.
- Finally, in-depth control of the survey database (based on established rules and criteria, which also includes checking the links between surveys of different periods) and data clearance. To verify the data, if necessary, the field staff and/or the respondent are contacted.
- At the last stage, databases are processed and analyzed by the staff of the Labour Statistics Division of the Social Statistics Department.

18.5. Data compilation

After the cleaning of the database, the aggregated database is formed and the data is weighted. The data are weighted at the stratum level (Region and urban-rural are considered). Results are calculated using MS Access, while data are disseminated in MS Excel and PC-Axis formats.

18.6. Adjustment

Not applied.

19. Comment

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