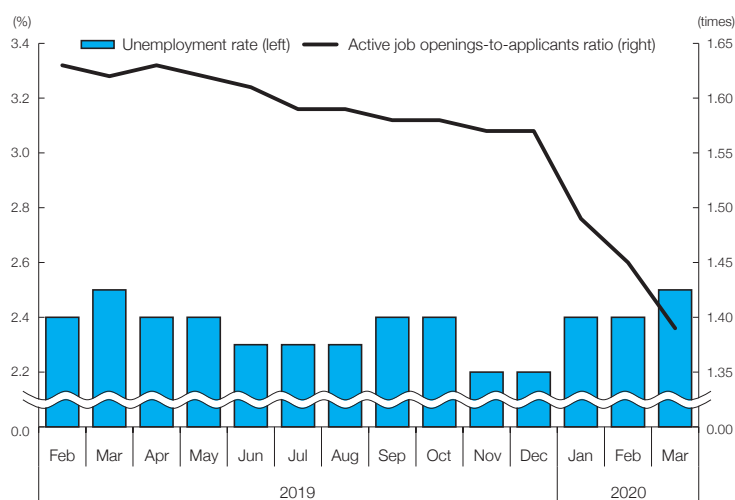


## Economy

The Japanese economy is getting worse rapidly in an extremely severe situation, due to the Novel Coronavirus. Concerning short-term prospects, an extremely severe situation is expected to remain due to the influence of the infectious disease. Moreover, full attention should be given to the further downside risks to the domestic and foreign economy which are affected by the influence of the infectious disease. Also, attention should be given to the effects of fluctuations in the financial and capital markets (Monthly Economic Report,<sup>1</sup> April, 2020).

## Employment and unemployment

The number of employees in March increased by 610 thousand over the previous year. The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, was 2.5%.<sup>2</sup> Active job openings-to-applicants ratio<sup>3</sup> in March, seasonally adjusted, was 1.39.<sup>4</sup> (Figure 1)

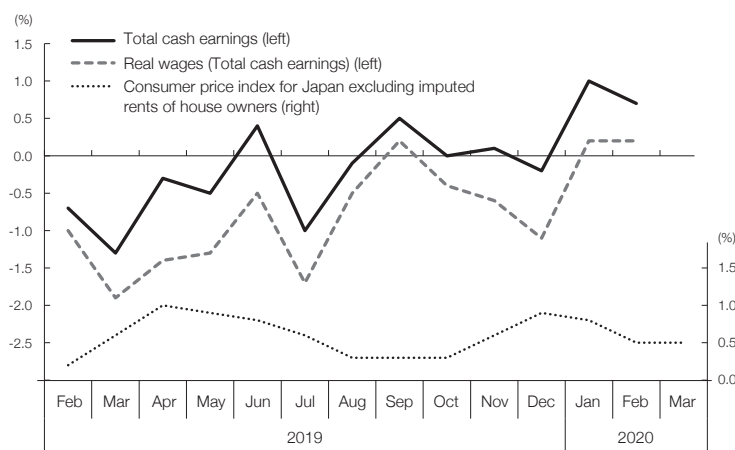


Source: Labour Force Survey<sup>2</sup>; Employment Referrals for General Workers.<sup>4</sup>

Figure 1. Unemployment rate and active job openings-to-applicants ratio (seasonally adjusted)

## Wages and working hours

In February, total cash earnings (for establishments with 5 or more employees) increased by 0.7% and real wages (total cash earnings) increased by 0.2% year-on-year. Total hours worked decreased by 1.6% year-on-year, while scheduled hours worked decreased by 1.4%.<sup>5</sup> (Figure 2)



Source: Monthly Labour Survey<sup>5</sup>; Consumer Price Index.<sup>6</sup>

Figure 2. Total cash earnings / real wages annual percent change

## Consumer price index

In March, the consumer price index for all items increased by 0.4% year-on-year, the consumer price index for all items less fresh food rose by 0.4%, and the consumer price index for all items less fresh food and energy increased by 0.6%.<sup>6</sup>

## Workers' household economy

In March, consumption expenditure by workers' households decreased by 7.6% year-on-year nominally and decreased by 8.1% in real terms.<sup>7</sup>

For details, see JILPT Main Labor Economic Indicators at <https://www.jil.go.jp/english/estatis/eshuyo/index.html>

Notes: 1. Cabinet Office, *Monthly Economic Report* analyzes trends in the Japanese and world economies and indicates the assessment by the Japanese government. Published once a month. <https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai3/getsurei-e/index-e.html>

2. Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), *Labour Force Survey*.

<http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/roudou/results/month/index.htm>

3. Active job openings-to-applicants ratio indicates the number of job openings per job applicant at public employment security offices, published monthly by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). It shows the tightness of labor supply and demand.

4. MHLW, *Employment Referrals for General Workers*. [http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/general\\_workers.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/general_workers.html)

5. MHLW, *Monthly Labour Survey*. <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/monthly-labour.html>

6. MIC, *Consumer Price Index*. <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/cpi/index.htm>

7. MIC, *Family Income and Expenditure Survey*. <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/kakei/index.htm>