

Economy

The Japanese economy is worsening 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 for the time being, although the level of socio-economic activities will be resumed gradually with taking measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Also, attention should be given to the effects of fluctuations in the financial and capital markets. (Monthly Economic Report,¹ May, 2020).

Employment and unemployment

The number of employees in April decreased by 360 thousand over the previous year. The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, was 2.6%.² Active job openings-to-applicants ratio³ in April, seasonally adjusted, was 1.32.⁴ (Figure 1)

Wages and working hours

In March, total cash earnings (for establishments with 5 or more employees) increased by 0.1% and real wages (total cash earnings) decreased by 0.3% year-on-year. Total hours worked decreased by 1.2% year-on-year, while scheduled hours worked decreased by 0.8%.⁵ (Figure 2)

Consumer price index

In April, the consumer price index for all items increased by 0.1% year-on-year, the consumer price index for all items less fresh food declined by 0.2%, and the consumer price index for all items less fresh food and energy increased by 0.2%.⁶

Workers' household economy

In April, consumption expenditure by workers' households decreased by 9.9% year-on-year nominally and decreased by 10.0% in real terms.⁷

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.html>

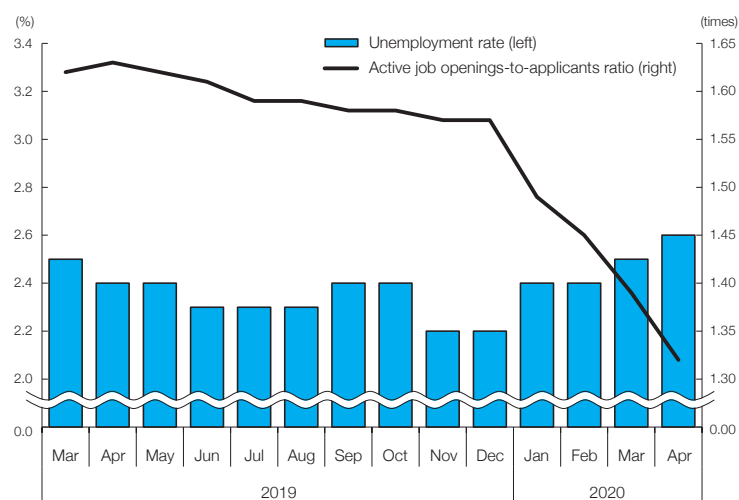
3. Active job openings-to-applicants ratio indicates the number of job openings per job applicant at public employment security offices, published monthly by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). It shows the tightness of labor supply and demand.

4. MHLW, *Employment Referrals for General Workers*. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/general_workers.html

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

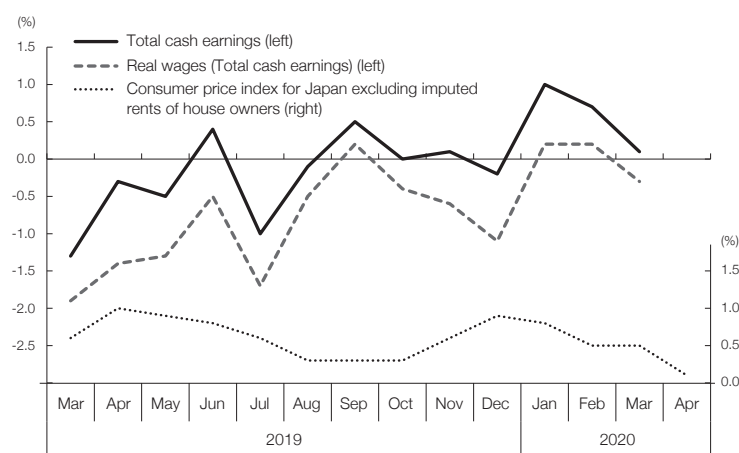
6. MIC, *Consumer Price Index*. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/cpi/index.html>

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



Source: Labour Force Survey²; Employment Referrals for General Workers.⁴

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



Source: Monthly Labour Survey⁵; Consumer Price Index.⁶

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