

I. Main Labor Economic Indicators

1. Economy

The Japanese economy is still in an extremely severe situation due to the Novel Coronavirus, but it almost stopped deteriorating. Concerning short-term prospects, the economy is expected to move toward picking up from an extremely severe situation, supported by the effects of the policies while the socio-economic activities will be resumed gradually with taking measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. However, attention should be given to the trend of domestic and overseas infections, and the effects of fluctuations in the financial and capital markets (*Monthly Economic Report*,¹ June, 2020).

2. Employment and unemployment

The number of employees in May decreased by 730 thousand over the previous year. The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, was 2.9%.² Active job openings-to-applicants ratio in May, seasonally adjusted, was 1.20.³ (Figure 1)

3. Wages and working hours

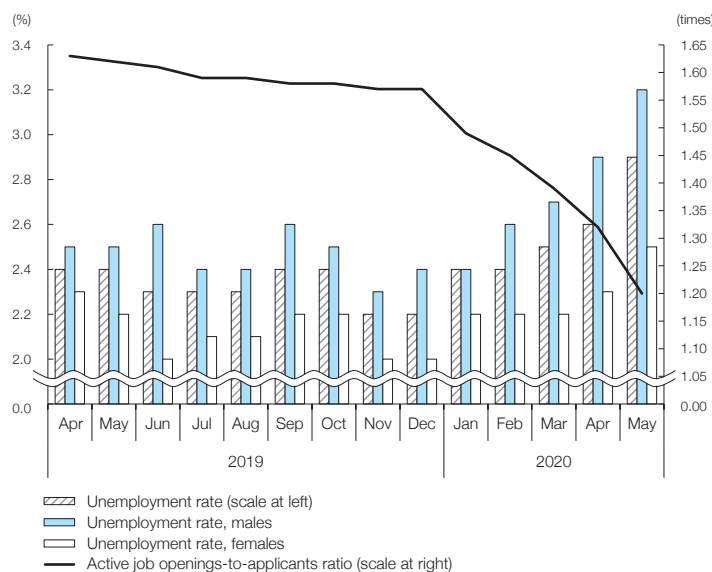
In April, total cash earnings (for establishments with 5 or more employees) decreased by 0.7% and real wages (total cash earnings) decreased by 0.8% year-on-year. Total hours worked decreased by 3.9% year-on-year, while scheduled hours worked decreased by 2.6%.⁴ (Figure 2)

4. Consumer price index

In May, 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 0.4%.⁵

5. Workers' household economy

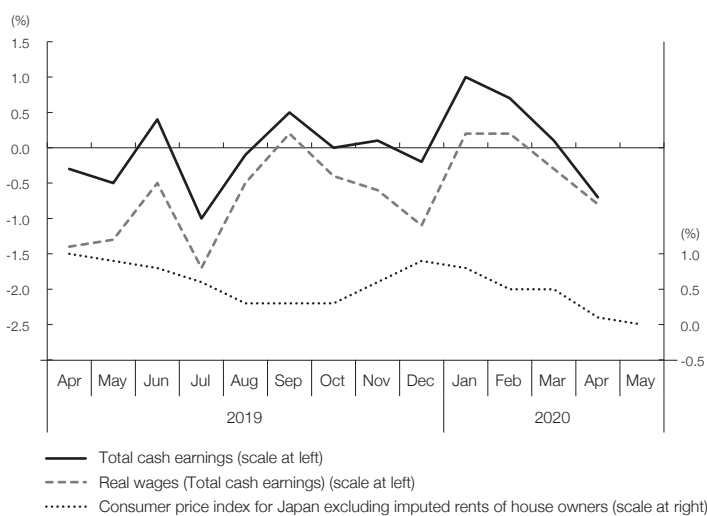
In May, consumption expenditure by workers' households decreased by 15.5% year-on-year nominally and decreased by 15.5% in real terms.⁶



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Labour Force Survey; Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), *Employment Referrals for General Workers*.

Note: Active job openings-to-applicants ratio indicates the number of job openings per job applicant at public employment security. It shows the tightness of labor supply and demand.

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



Source: MHLW, *Monthly Labour Survey*; MIC, *Consumer Price Index*.

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

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

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. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/roudou/results/month/index.html>

3. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/general_workers.html

4. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/monthly-labour.html>

5. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/cpi/index.html>

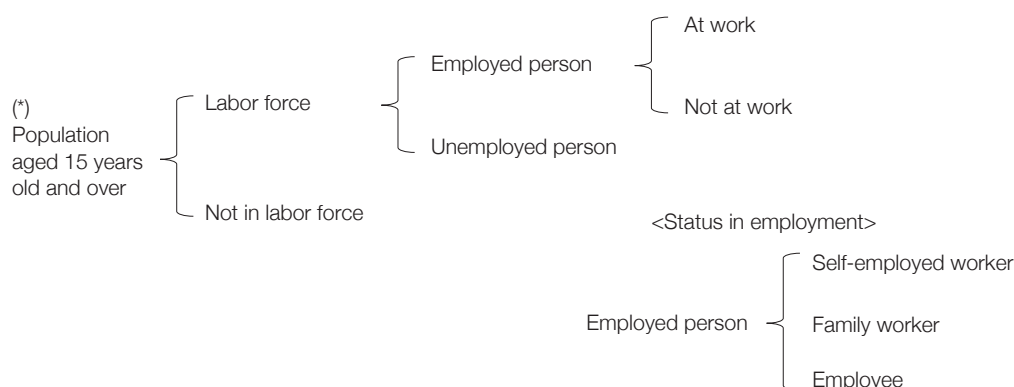
6. MIC, *Family Income and Expenditure Survey*. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/kakei/index.html>

II. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment and unemployment

There are growing concerns that COVID-19's spread will have a significant impact on employment by retarding economic activity in Japan. The following outlines the most recent trends shown in statistical indicators relating to employment. See JILPT website *Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)* for the latest information (<https://www.jil.go.jp/english/special/covid-19/index.html>).

1. Employment and unemployment

(1) Definitions of Labor Force Survey



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), *Labour Force Survey, Concepts and Definitions*, <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/roudou/pdf/definite.pdf>.

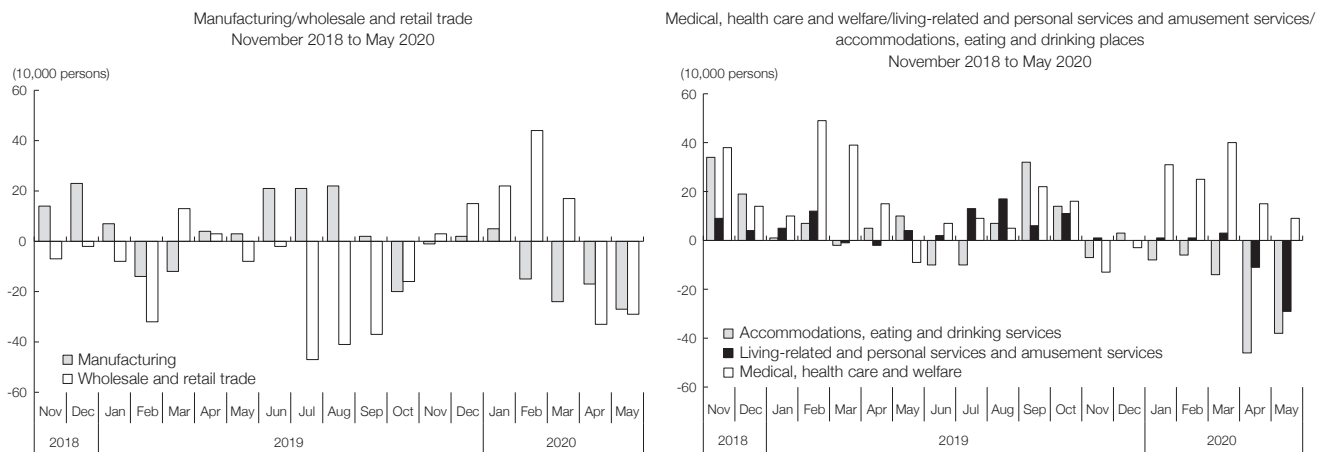
(2) Labor force

Table 1. Labor force

(10,000 persons)

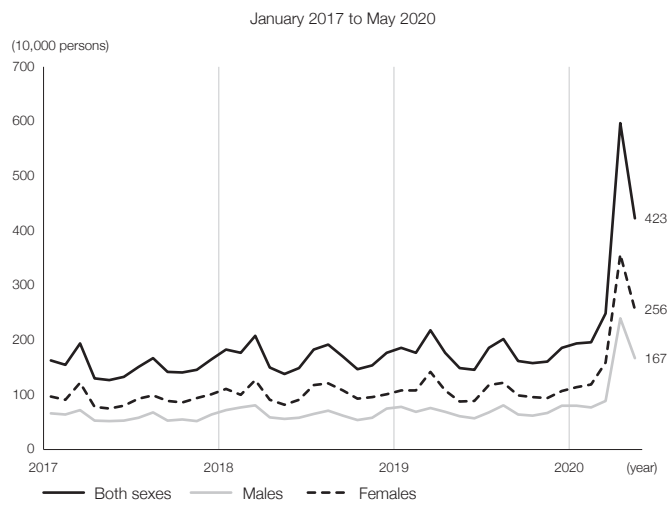
		Labor force		
		Total	Employed person	Unemployed person
			Not at work	
2017		6,720	6,530	190
2018		6,830	6,664	166
2019		6,886	6,724	162
2020	January	6,846	6,687	159
	February	6,850	6,691	159
	March	6,876	6,700	176
	April	6,817	6,628	189
	May	6,854	6,656	198

Source: Compiled by JILPT based on Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), *Labour Force Survey (Basic Tabulation)*(unadjusted values).



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), *Labour Force Survey* (Basic Tabulation).⁷

Figure 3. Number of employed persons by main industry (unadjusted values, year-on-year change)

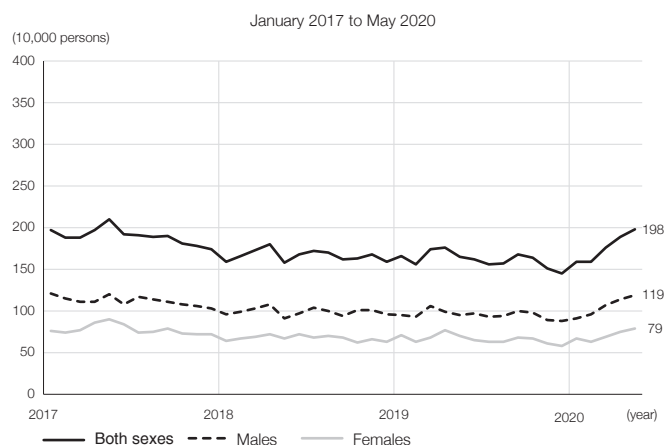


Source: MIC, *Labour Force Survey* (Basic Tabulation).⁸

Figure 4. Number of employed persons not at work (unadjusted values, by sex)

7. For up-to-date information and further details, see <https://www.jil.go.jp/kokunai/statistics/covid-19/c01.html#c01-1> (in Japanese).

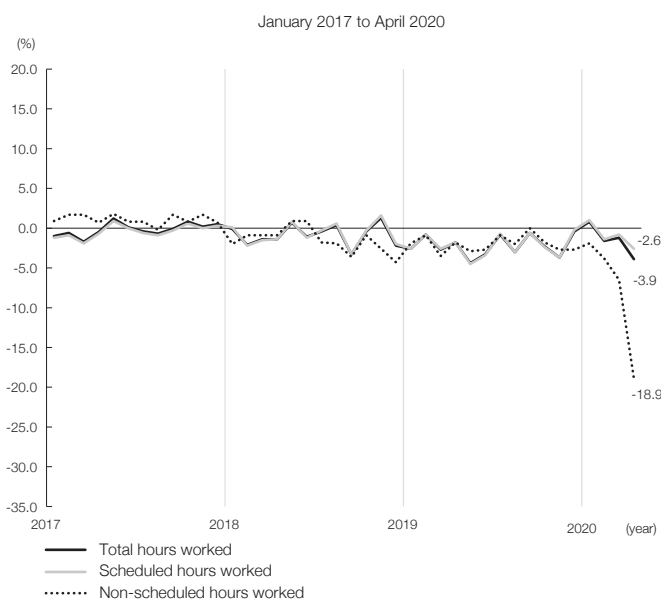
8. For up-to-date information and further details, see <https://www.jil.go.jp/kokunai/statistics/covid-19/c23.html> (in Japanese).



Source: MIC, Labour Force Survey (Basic Tabulation).⁹

Figure 5. Number of unemployed persons (unadjusted values, by sex)

2. Working hours



Source: Compiled by JILPT based on MHLW, "Monthly Labour Survey."¹⁰

Notes: 1. Beginning in June 2019, values are based on a complete survey of "business establishments with 500 or more employees."

2. "Business establishments with 500 or more employees" for the Tokyo metropolitan area are re-aggregated beginning in 2012.

Figure 6. Total hours worked, scheduled hours worked, and non-scheduled hours worked (year-on-year change, total of full-time employees and part-time workers)

For the up-to-date information, see JILPT *Main Labor Economic Indicators* at <https://www.jil.go.jp/english/estatis/eshuyo/index.html>

9. For up-to-date information and further details, see <https://www.jil.go.jp/kokunai/statistics/covid-19/c03.html#c03-1> (in Japanese).

10. MHLW, *Monthly Labour Survey*. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/monthly-labour.html>. For up-to-date information and further details, see <https://www.jil.go.jp/kokunai/statistics/covid-19/c11.html#c11-1> (in Japanese).