I. Main Labor Economic Indicators

1. Economy
The Japanese economy is still in a severe situation due to the Novel Coronavirus, but it is showing movements of picking up recently. Concerning short-term prospects, the economy is expected to show movements of picking up, supported by the effects of the policies and improvement in overseas economies while the socio-economic activities will be resumed with taking measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. However, attention should be given to situation in domestic and overseas infections and the effects of fluctuations in the financial and capital markets. (Monthly Economic Report, September 2020).

2. Employment and unemployment
The number of employees in August decreased by 790 thousand over the previous year. The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, was 3.0%. Active job openings-to-applicants ratio in August, seasonally adjusted, was 1.04. (Figure 1)

3. Wages and working hours
In July, total cash earnings decreased by 1.5% year-on-year and real wages (total cash earnings) decreased by 1.8%. Total hours worked decreased by 2.7% year-on-year, while scheduled hours worked decreased by 1.7%. (Figure 2)

4. Consumer price index
In August, the consumer price index for all items increased by 0.2% year-on-year, the consumer price index for all items less fresh food declined by 0.4%, and the consumer price index for all items less fresh food and energy declined by 0.1%. (Figure 3)

5. Workers’ household economy
In August, consumption expenditures by workers’ households decreased by 6.5% year-on-year nominally and decreased by 6.7% in real terms. (Figure 4)

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

4. For establishments with 5 or more employees. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/monthly-labour.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 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 Labour Force Survey

![Diagram of Labour Force Survey]

Population aged 15 years old and over

Labour force

Not in labour force

Employed person

At work

Not at work

<Status in employment>

Self-employed worker

Family worker

Employee

Table 1. Labor force

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Employed person</th>
<th>Unemployed person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not at work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6,720</td>
<td>6,530</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>6,830</td>
<td>6,664</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>6,886</td>
<td>6,724</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 January</td>
<td>6,846</td>
<td>6,687</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>6,850</td>
<td>6,691</td>
<td>196</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>6,876</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>249</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>6,817</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>6,854</td>
<td>6,656</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>6,865</td>
<td>6,670</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>6,852</td>
<td>6,655</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>6,882</td>
<td>6,676</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


(2) Labor force

Table 1. Labor force (10,000 persons)

Source: Compiled by JILPT based on Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Labour Force Survey (Basic Tabulation)(unadjusted values).
Figure 3. Number of employed persons by main industry (unadjusted values, year-on-year change)

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

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

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

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


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).
2. Working hours

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

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