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. 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 taking measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. However, full attention should be given to the further downside risks to the domestic and foreign economy which are affected by the contraction in the socio-economic activities due to the spread of the infectious disease. Also attention should be given to the effects of fluctuations in the financial and capital markets. (Monthly Economic Report, December 2020).

2. Employment and unemployment

The number of employees in November decreased by 290 thousand over the previous year. The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, was 2.9%. Active job openings-to-applicants ratio in November, seasonally adjusted, was 1.06. (Figure 1)

3. Wages and working hours

In November, total cash earnings decreased by 1.8% year-on-year and real wages (total cash earnings) decreased by 0.7%. Total hours worked decreased by 2.7% year-on-year, while scheduled hours worked decreased by 2.1%. (Figure 2)

4. Consumer price index

In November, the consumer price index for all items declined by 0.9% year-on-year, the consumer price index for all items less fresh food declined by 0.9%, and the consumer price index for all items less fresh food and energy declined by 0.3%. (Figure 3)

5. Workers’ household economy

In November, consumption expenditures by workers’ households increased by 0.5% year-on-year nominally and increased by 1.6% in real terms.

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

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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

![Labour Force Survey Diagram]


(2) 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></td>
<td>(10,000 persons)</td>
<td></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 June</td>
<td>6,846</td>
<td>6,872</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 July</td>
<td>6,854</td>
<td>6,635</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 August</td>
<td>6,858</td>
<td>6,687</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 September</td>
<td>6,899</td>
<td>6,656</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 October</td>
<td>6,910</td>
<td>6,707</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 November</td>
<td>6,902</td>
<td>6,707</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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) (January 2017 to November 2020)

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) (January 2017 to November 2020)

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

Figure 5. Number of unemployed persons (unadjusted values, by sex) (January 2017 to November 2020)

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


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) (January 2017 to November 2020)

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