

## I. Main Labor Economic Indicators

### 1. Economy

The Japanese economy shows weakness in some components further, although it remains in picking up in a severe situation due to the Novel Coronavirus. 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 increase in downside risks due to the spread of the infectious diseases in Japan and abroad. Also attention should be given to the effects of fluctuations in the financial and capital markets. (*Monthly Economic Report*,<sup>1</sup> May 2021).

### 2. Employment and unemployment

The number of employees in April increased by 220 thousand over the previous year. The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, was 2.8%.<sup>2</sup> Active job openings-to-applicants ratio in April, seasonally adjusted, was 1.09.<sup>3</sup>(Figure 1)

### 3. Wages and working hours

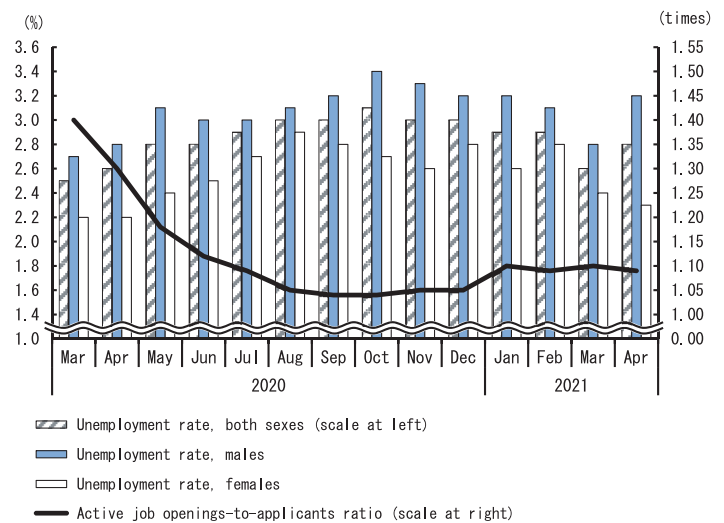
In April, total cash earnings increased by 1.4% year-on-year and real wages (total cash earnings) increased by 1.9%. Total hours worked increased by 4.1% year-on-year, while scheduled hours worked increased by 3.5%.<sup>4</sup> (Figure 2 and 6)

### 4. Consumer price index

In April, the consumer price index for all items declined by 0.4% year-on-year, the consumer price index for all items less fresh food declined by 0.1%, and the consumer price index for all items less fresh food and energy decreased by 0.2%.<sup>5</sup>

### 5. Workers' household economy

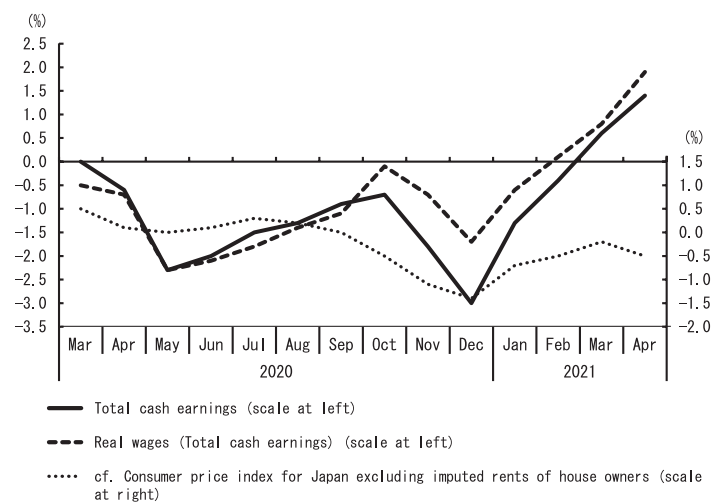
In April, consumption expenditures by workers' households increased by 11.5% year-on-year nominally and increased by 12.1% in real terms.<sup>6</sup>



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](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/general_workers.html)

4. For establishments with 5 or more employees. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/monthly-labour.html>

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

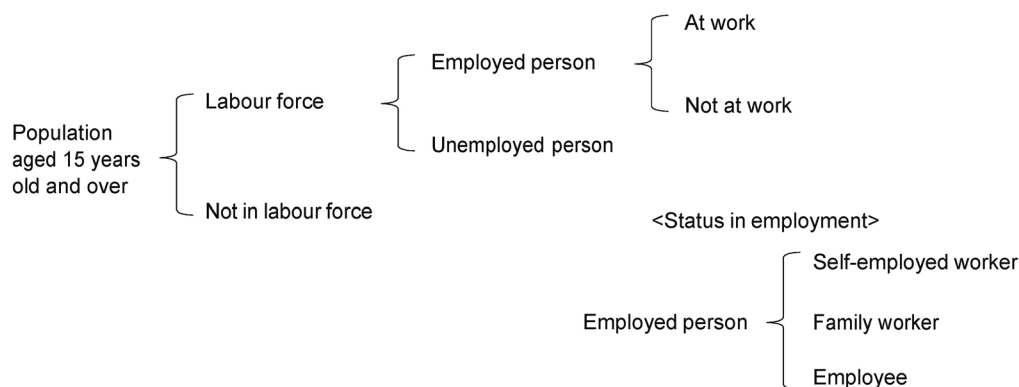
6. MIC, *Family Income and Expenditure Survey*. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/kakei/index.html>

## 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 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*



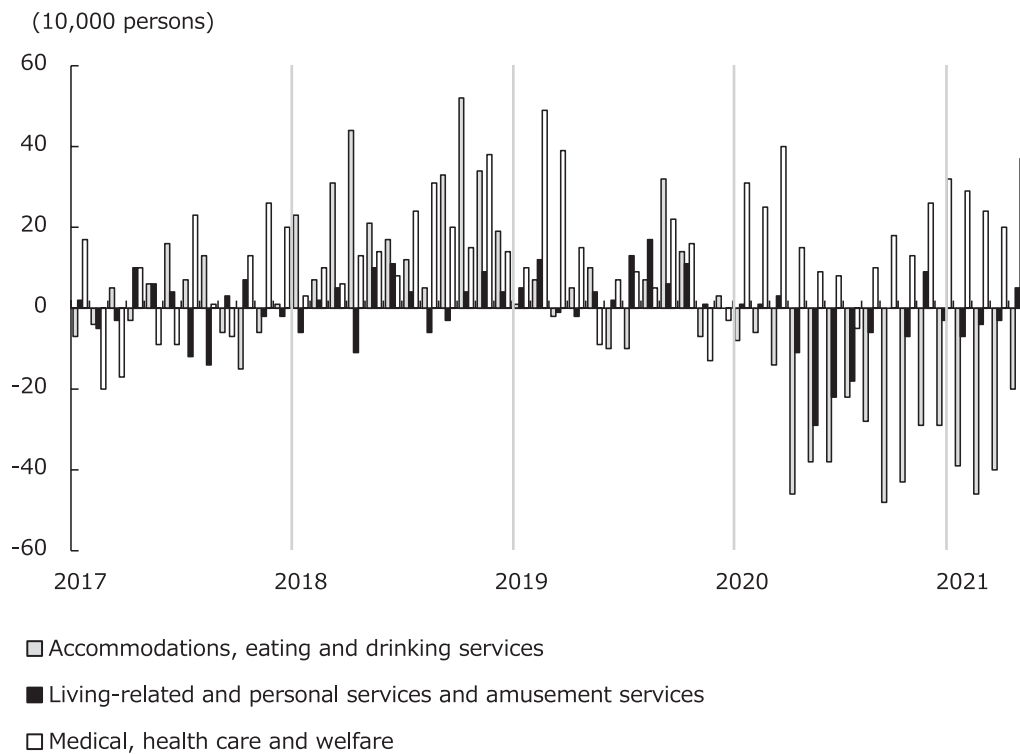
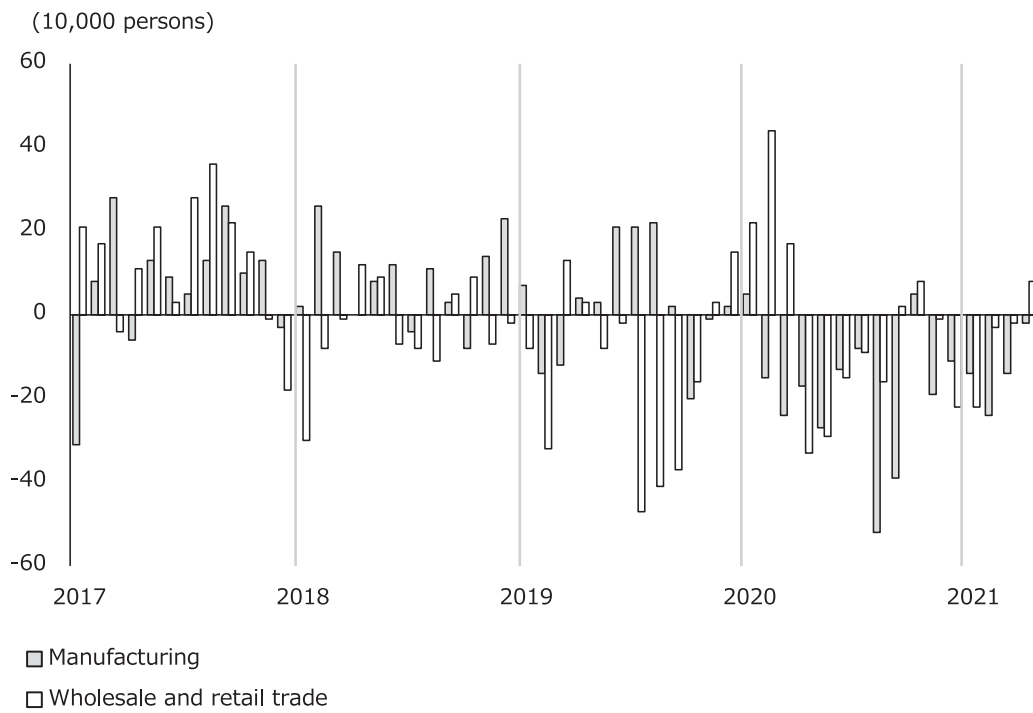
Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), *Labour Force Survey*, Concepts and Definitions. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/roudou/pdf/definite.pdf>

#### (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	151	190
2018	6,830	6,664	169	166
2019	6,886	6,724	176	162
2020	6,868	6,676	256	191
July	6,852	6,655	220	197
August	6,882	6,676	216	206
September	6,899	6,689	197	210
October	6,910	6,694	170	215
November	6,902	6,707	176	195
December	6,860	6,666	202	194
2021				
January	6,834	6,637	244	197
February	6,840	6,646	228	194
March	6,837	6,649	220	188
April	6,866	6,657	199	209

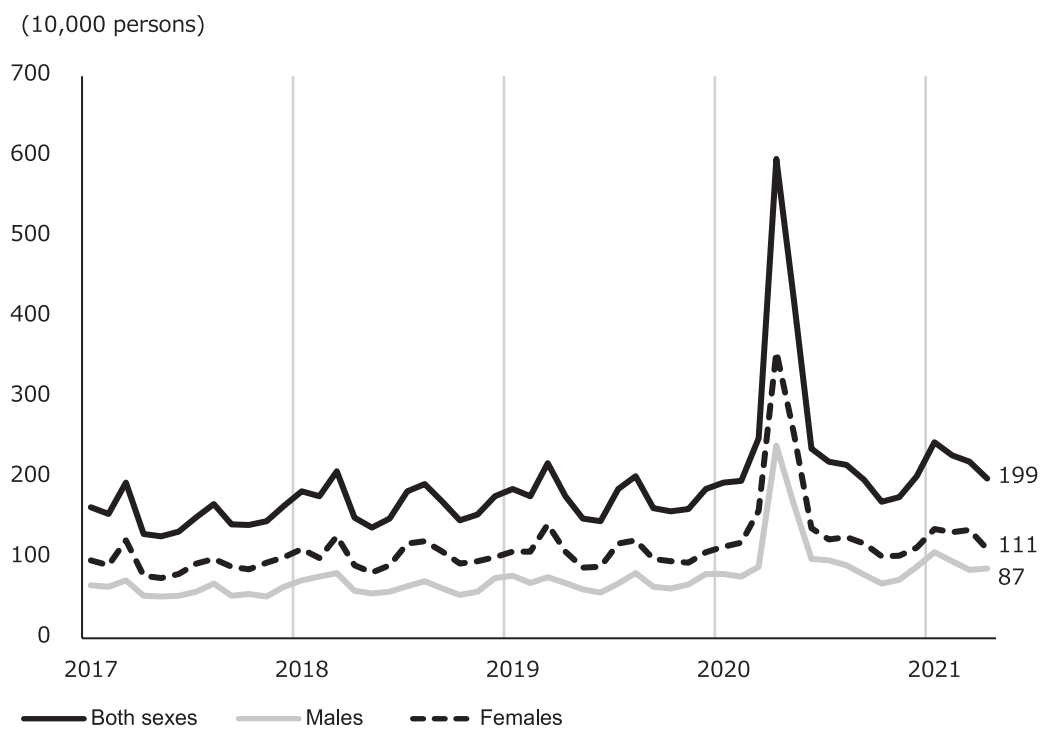
Source: Compiled by JILPT based on Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), *Labour Force Survey* (Basic Tabulation) (unadjusted values).



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

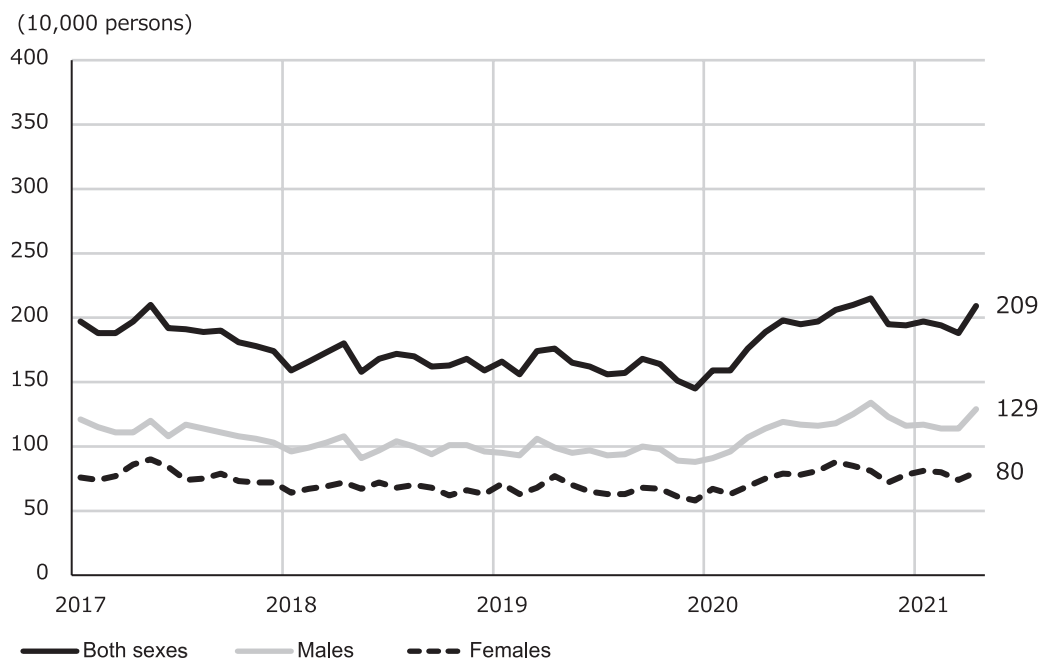
Figure 3. Number of employed persons by main industry (unadjusted values, year-on-year change) (January 2017 to April 2021)

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



Source: MIC, Labour Force Survey (Basic Tabulation).<sup>8</sup>

Figure 4. Number of employed persons not at work (unadjusted values, by sex) (January 2017 to April 2021)



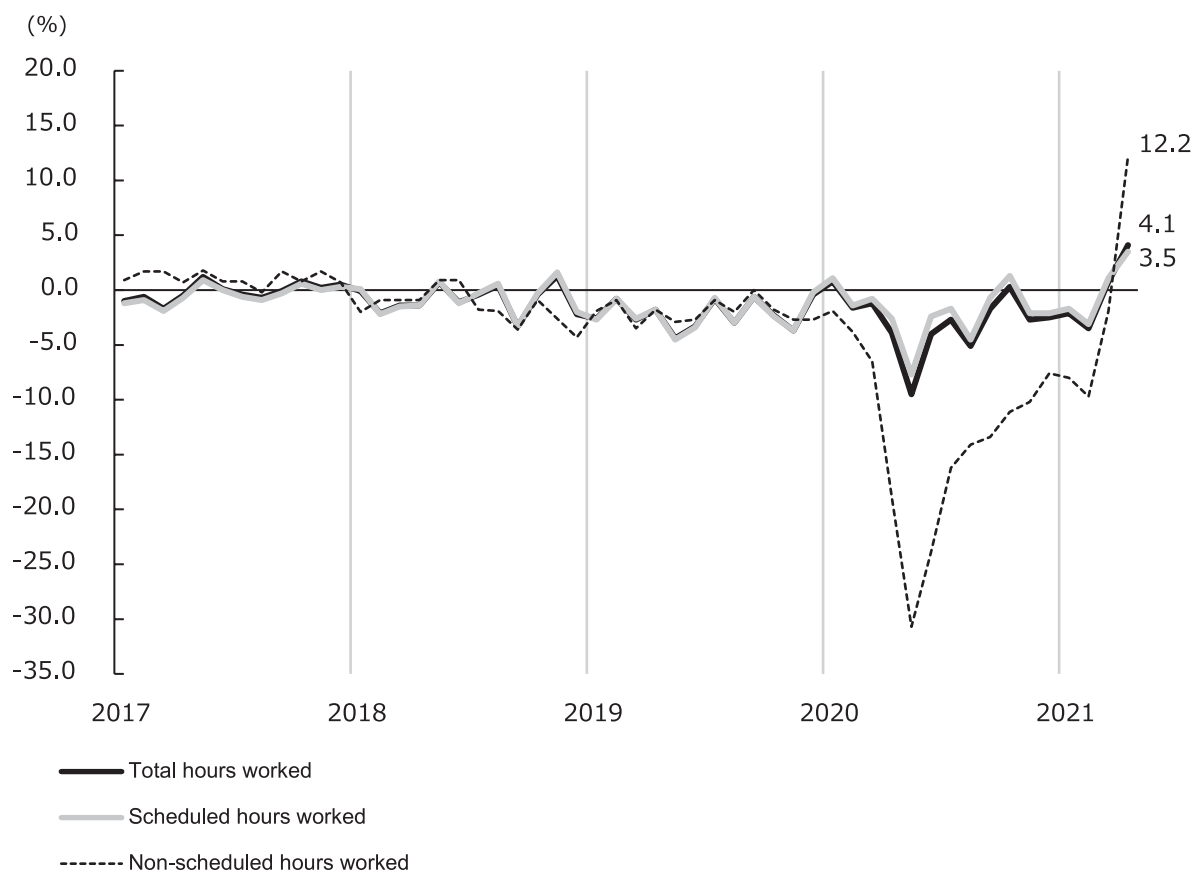
Source: MIC, Labour Force Survey (Basic Tabulation).<sup>9</sup>

Figure 5. Number of unemployed persons (unadjusted values, by sex) (January 2017 to April 2021)

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

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."<sup>10</sup>

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 April 2021)

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

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).