

## I. Main Labor Economic Indicators

### 1. Economy

The Japanese economy shows movements of picking up recently as the severe situation due to the Novel Coronavirus is gradually easing. 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 all possible measures against infectious diseases and continuing economic and social activities. However, full attention should be given to the further increase in downside risks due to the effects of the Novel Coronavirus and supply-side constraints and raw material prices. Also attention should be given to the effects of fluctuations in the financial and capital markets. (*Monthly Economic Report*,<sup>1</sup> January 2022).

### 2. Employment and unemployment

The number of employees in December was at the same level as the same month of the previous year. The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, was 2.7%.<sup>2</sup> Active job openings-to-applicants ratio in December, seasonally adjusted, was 1.16.<sup>3</sup> (Figure 1)

### 3. Wages and working hours

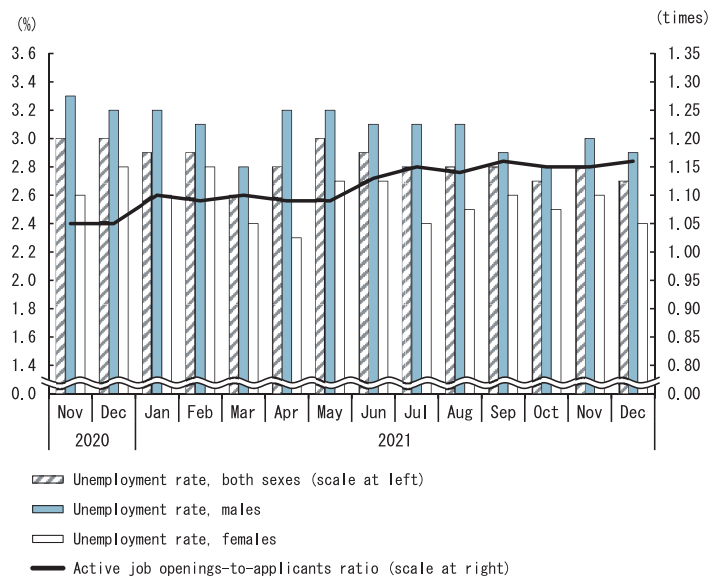
In December, total cash earnings decreased by 0.4% year-on-year and real wages (total cash earnings) decreased by 2.3%. Total hours worked increased by 1.1% year-on-year, while scheduled hours worked increased by 0.7%.<sup>4</sup> (Figures 2 and 6)

### 4. Consumer price index

In December, the consumer price index for all items increased by 0.8% year-on-year, the consumer price index for all items less fresh food increased by 0.5%, and the consumer price index for all items less fresh food and energy declined by 0.7%.<sup>5</sup>

### 5. Workers' household economy

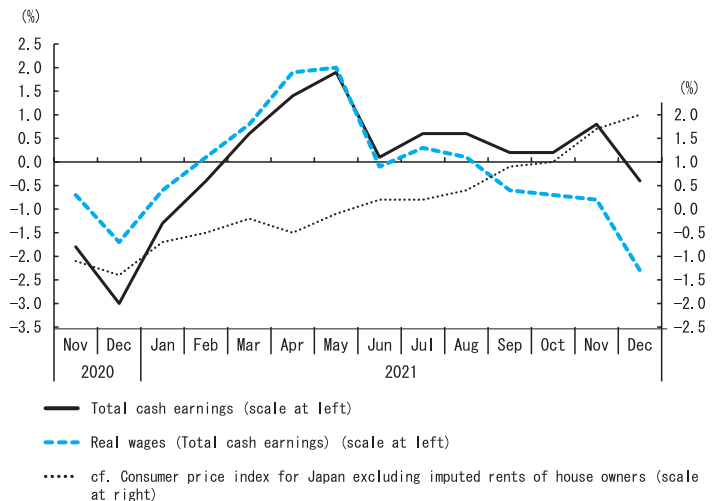
In December, consumption expenditures by workers' households increased by 3.1% year-on-year nominally and increased by 2.2% in real terms.<sup>6</sup>



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

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>

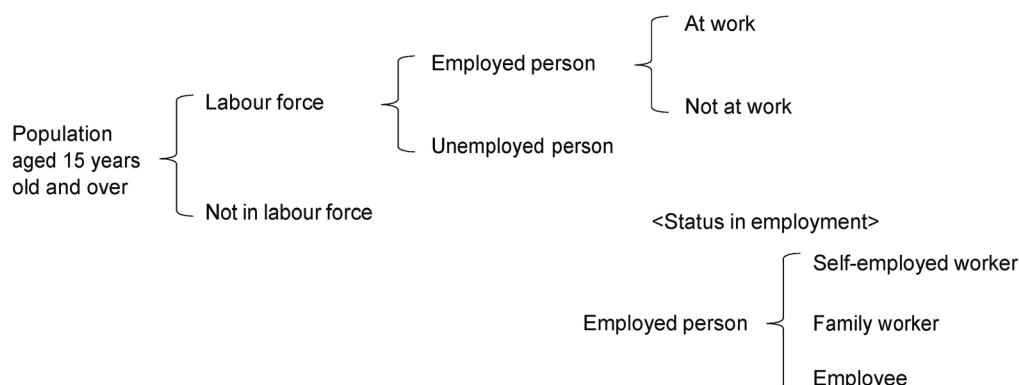
6. MIC, *Family Income and Expenditure Survey*. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/kakei/index.html>

## 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.<sup>7</sup>

#### (2) Labor force

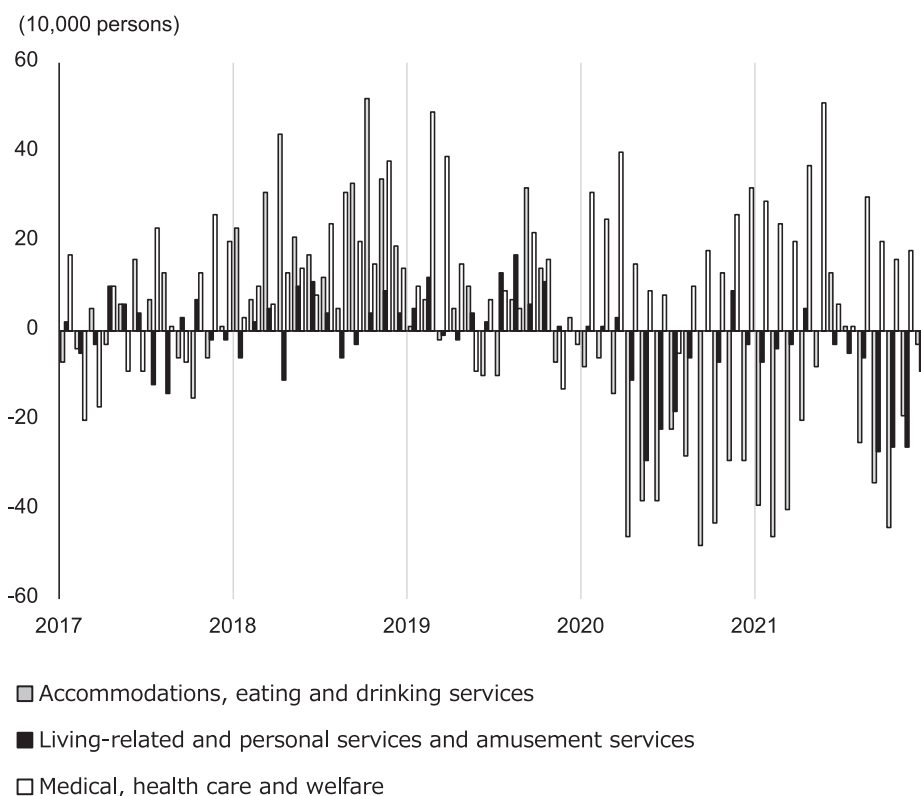
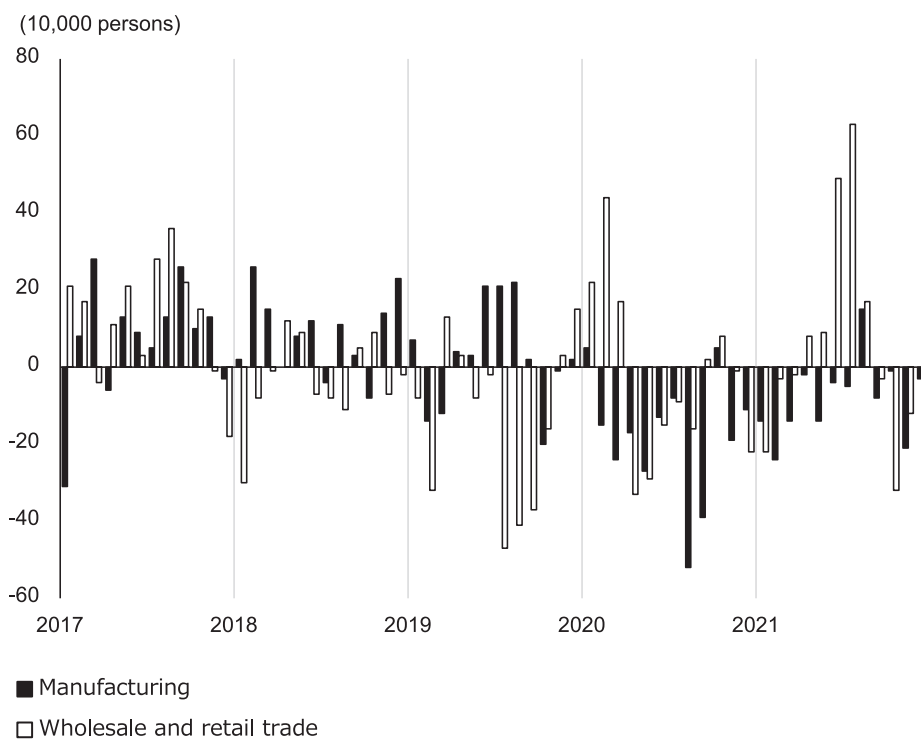
Table 1. Labor force

		(10,000 persons)			
		Labor force			
		Total	Employed person		Unemployed person
			Not at work		
2019		6,886	6,724	176	162
2020		6,868	6,676	256	191
2021		6,860	6,667	206	193
2020	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
	May	6,879	6,667	212	211
	June	6,898	6,692	182	206
	July	6,902	6,711	212	191
	August	6,886	6,693	248	193
	September	6,872	6,679	208	192
	October	6,842	6,659	164	183
	November	6,832	6,650	165	182
	December	6,831	6,659	189	171

Source: Compiled by JILPT based on Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), *Labour Force Survey* (Basic Tabulation) (unadjusted values).<sup>8</sup>

7. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/roudou/pdf/definite.pdf>

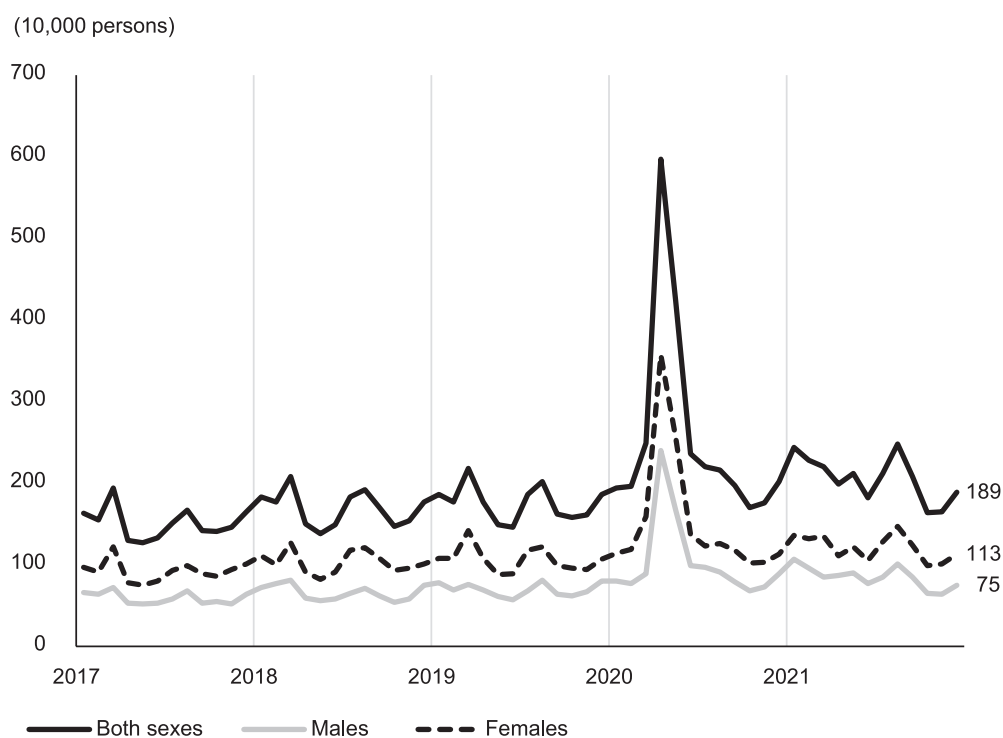
8. For up-to-date information, see <https://www.jil.go.jp/english/estatis/eshuyo/index.html> (in English), for “employed person not at work” <https://www.jil.go.jp/kokunai/statistics/covid-19/c23.html#c23-1> (in Japanese).



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), *Labour Force Survey* (Basic Tabulation).<sup>9</sup>

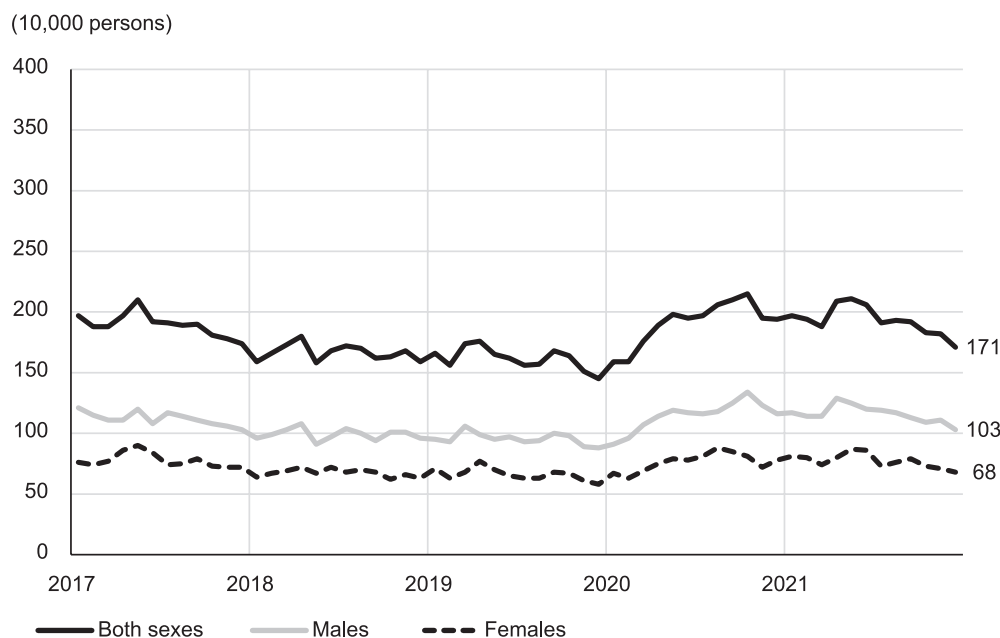
Figure 3. Number of employed persons by main industry (unadjusted values, year-on-year change) (January 2017 to December 2021)

9. 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>10</sup>

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



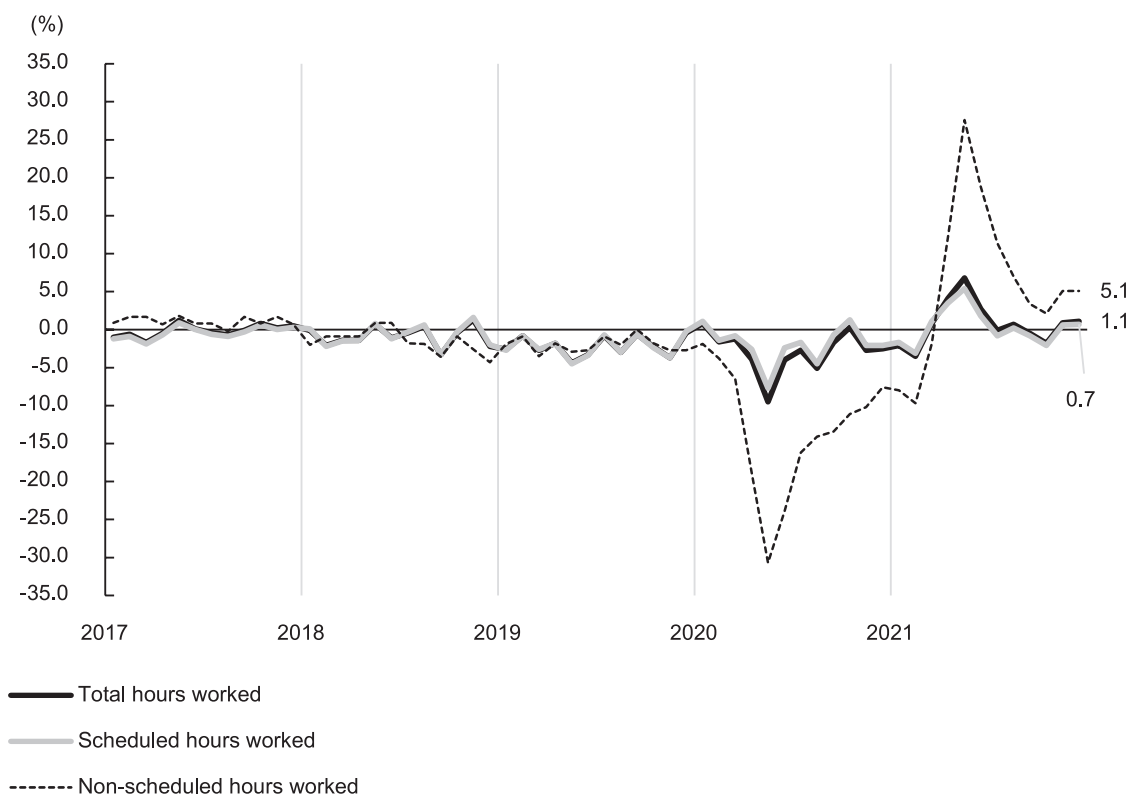
Source: MIC, Labour Force Survey (Basic Tabulation).<sup>11</sup>

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

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

11. 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>12</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 December 2021)

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

12. 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).