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, 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%. Active job openings-to-applicants ratio in December, seasonally adjusted, was 1.16. (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%. (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%. (5)

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. (6)

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]

*Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Labour Force Survey, Concepts and Definitions.*

(2) Labor force

Table 1. Labor force

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Month</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Employed person</th>
<th>Unemployed person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(10,000 persons)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>6,886</td>
<td>6,724</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>6,868</td>
<td>6,676</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>6,860</td>
<td>6,667</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 December</td>
<td>6,860</td>
<td>6,666</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 January</td>
<td>6,834</td>
<td>6,637</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>6,840</td>
<td>6,646</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>6,837</td>
<td>6,649</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>6,866</td>
<td>6,657</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>6,879</td>
<td>6,667</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>6,898</td>
<td>6,692</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>6,902</td>
<td>6,711</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>6,886</td>
<td>6,693</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>6,872</td>
<td>6,679</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>6,842</td>
<td>6,659</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>6,832</td>
<td>6,650</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>6,831</td>
<td>6,659</td>
<td>189</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 December 2021)

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (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/c01.html#c01-7 (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).

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).10

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

Source: MIC, Labour Force Survey (Basic Tabulation).11
2. Working hours

![Graph showing working hours data]

*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 December 2021)

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