

## I. Main Labor Economic Indicators

### 1. Economy

The Japanese economy shows movements of picking up as the severe situation due to the Novel Coronavirus is 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 all possible measures are being taken against infectious diseases, and economic and social activities move toward normalization. However, full attention should be given to the further increase in downside risks due to rising raw material prices and fluctuations in the financial and capital markets and supply-side constraints while the uncertainties surrounding the state of affairs of Ukraine. Also attention should be given to the effects of the Novel Coronavirus. (*Monthly Economic Report*,<sup>1</sup> April 2022).

### 2. Employment and unemployment

The number of employees in March increased by 140 thousand over the previous year. The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, was 2.6%.<sup>2</sup> Active job openings-to-applicants ratio in March, seasonally adjusted, was 1.22.<sup>3</sup> (Figure 1)

### 3. Wages and working hours

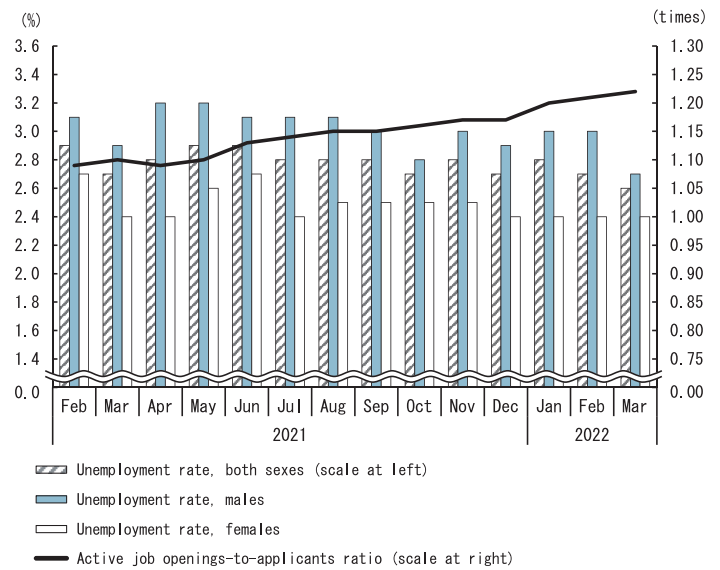
In March, total cash earnings increased by 2.0% year-on-year and real wages (total cash earnings) increased by 0.6%. Total hours worked decreased by 1.1% year-on-year, while scheduled hours worked decreased by 1.5%.<sup>4</sup> (Figure 2 and 6)

### 4. Consumer price index

In March, the consumer price index for all items increased by 1.2% year-on-year, the consumer price index for all items less fresh food increased by 0.8%, and the consumer price index for all items less fresh food and energy declined by 0.7%.<sup>5</sup>

### 5. Workers' household economy

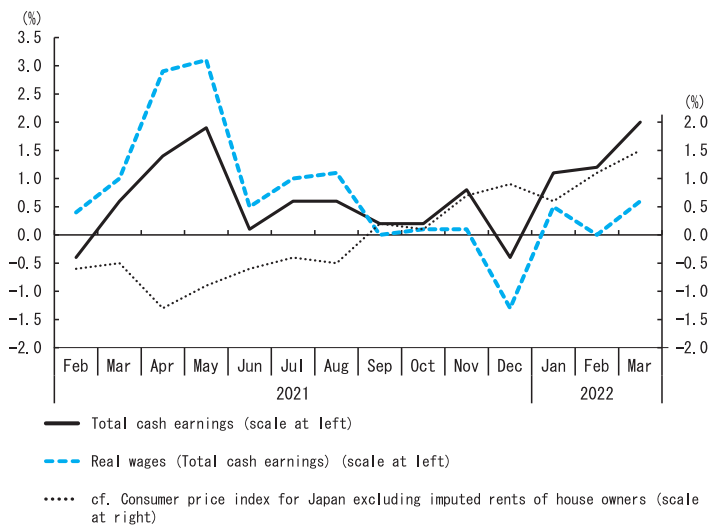
In March, consumption expenditures by workers' households decreased by 0.1% year-on-year nominally and decreased by 1.6% in real terms.<sup>6</sup>



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>

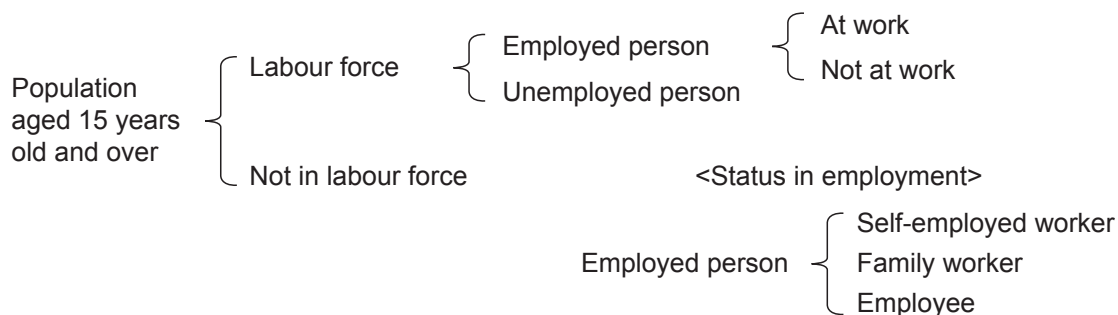
6. MIC, *Family Income and Expenditure Survey*. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/kakei/index.html>

## II. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on employment and unemployment

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*<sup>7</sup>



#### (2) Labor force

Table 1. Labor force

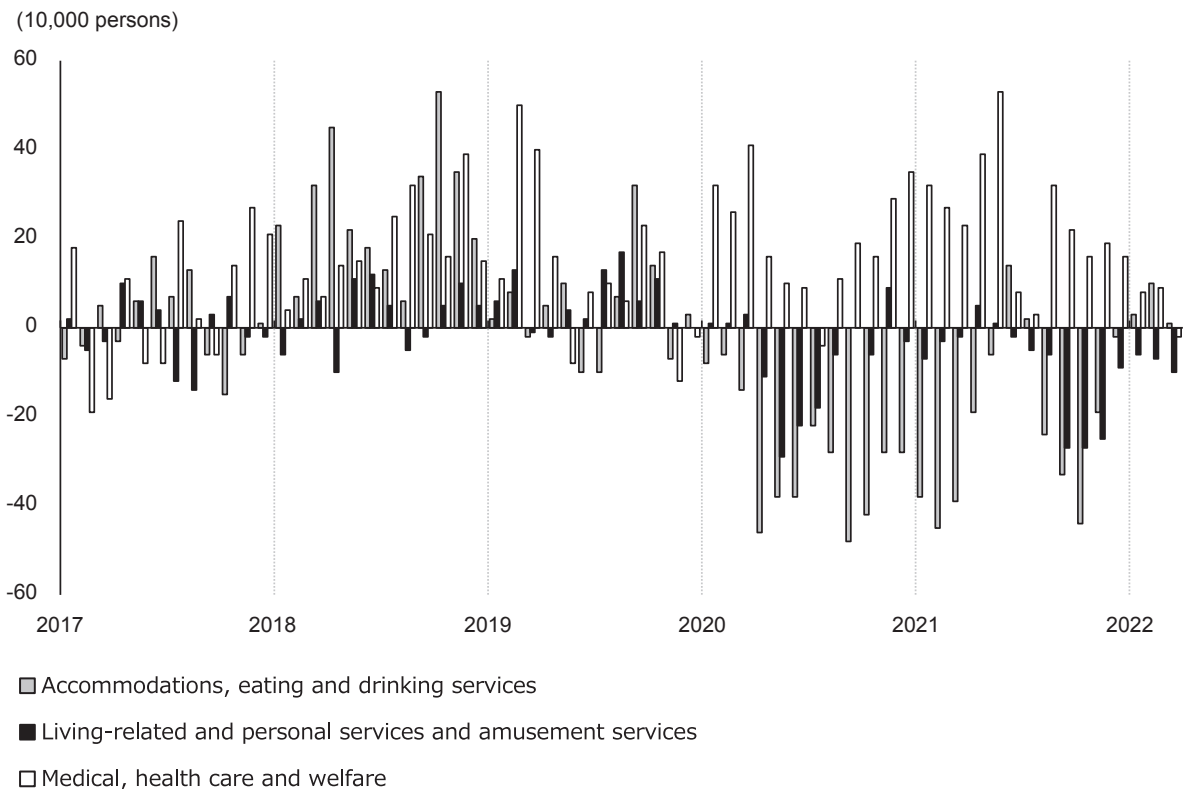
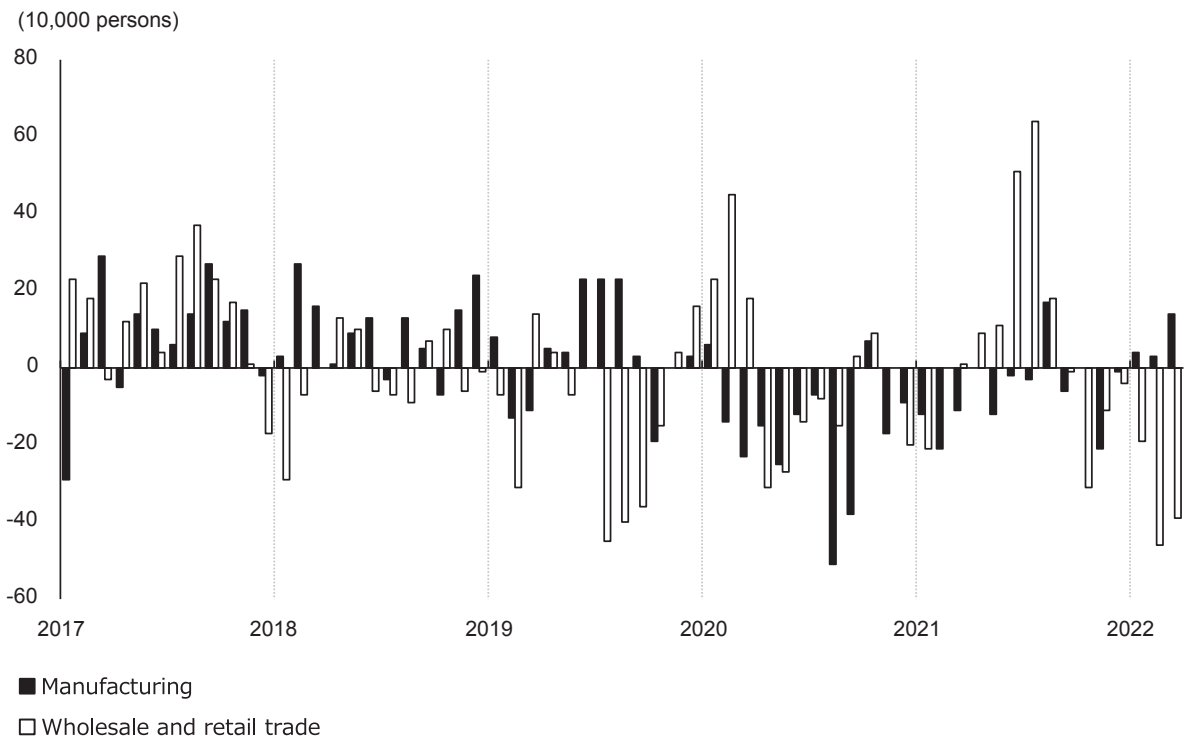
(10,000 persons)				
	Labor force			
	Total	Employed person		Unemployed person
		Not at work		
2019	6,912	6,750	177	162
2020	6,902	6,710	258	192
2021	6,907	6,713	208	195
March	6,885	6,695	221	189
April	6,914	6,703	200	211
May	6,926	6,713	214	213
June	6,945	6,738	184	207
July	6,950	6,757	214	193
August	6,934	6,739	250	194
September	6,920	6,726	210	194
October	6,889	6,705	166	184
November	6,879	6,696	167	183
December	6,879	6,706	190	173
2022	6,830	6,646	249	185
January	6,830	6,646	249	185
February	6,838	6,658	242	180
March	6,864	6,684	243	180

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

Note: Figures in the past have been changed according to revisions of the switch in the bench mark population in the *Labour Force Survey*. The same applies to Figure 1 and Figures 3 to 5.

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

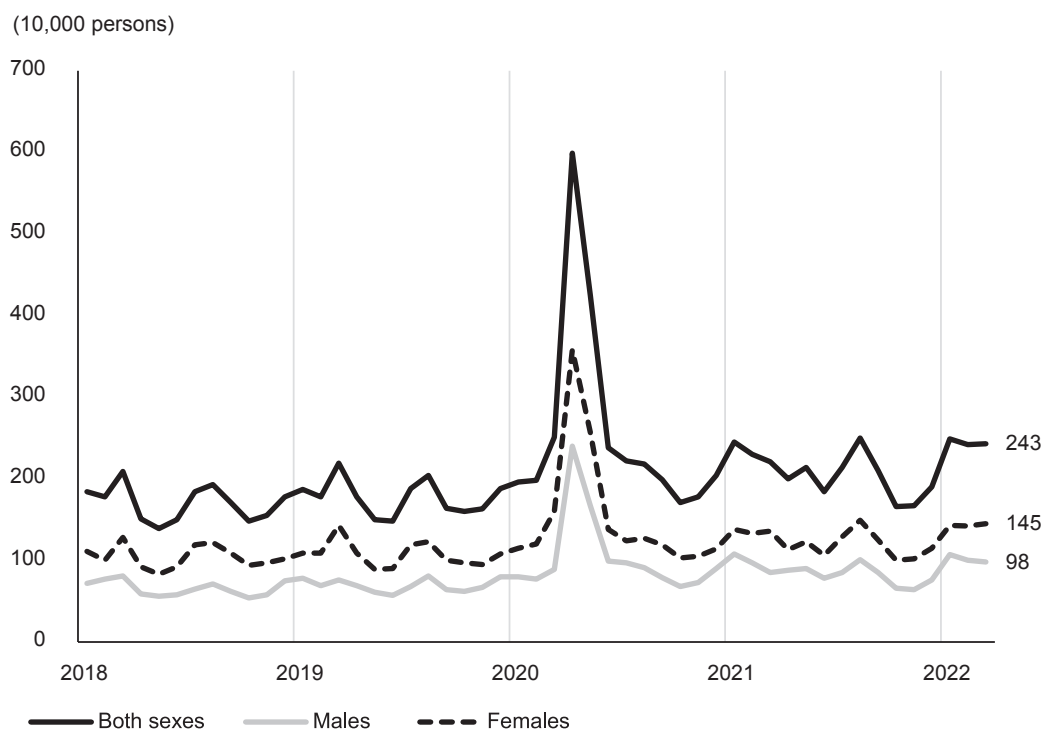
8. For up-to-date information, see <https://www.jil.go.jp/english/estatis/eshuyo/index.html> (in English), for “employed person not at work” <https://www.jil.go.jp/kokunai/statistics/covid-19/c23.html#c23-1> (in Japanese).



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

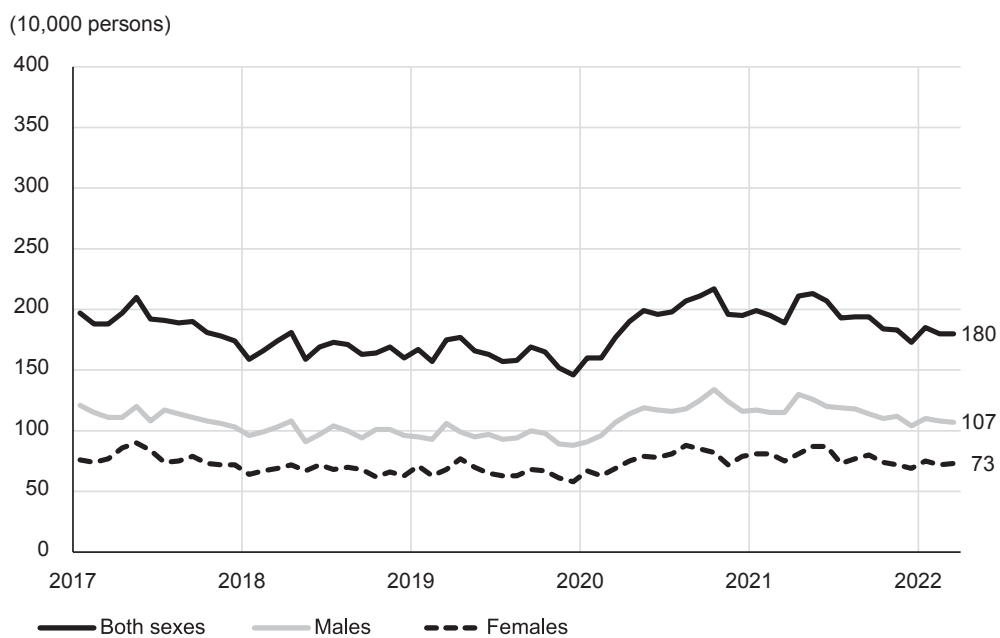
Figure 3. Number of employed persons by main industry (unadjusted values, year-on-year change) (January 2017 to March 2022)

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 2018 to March 2022)



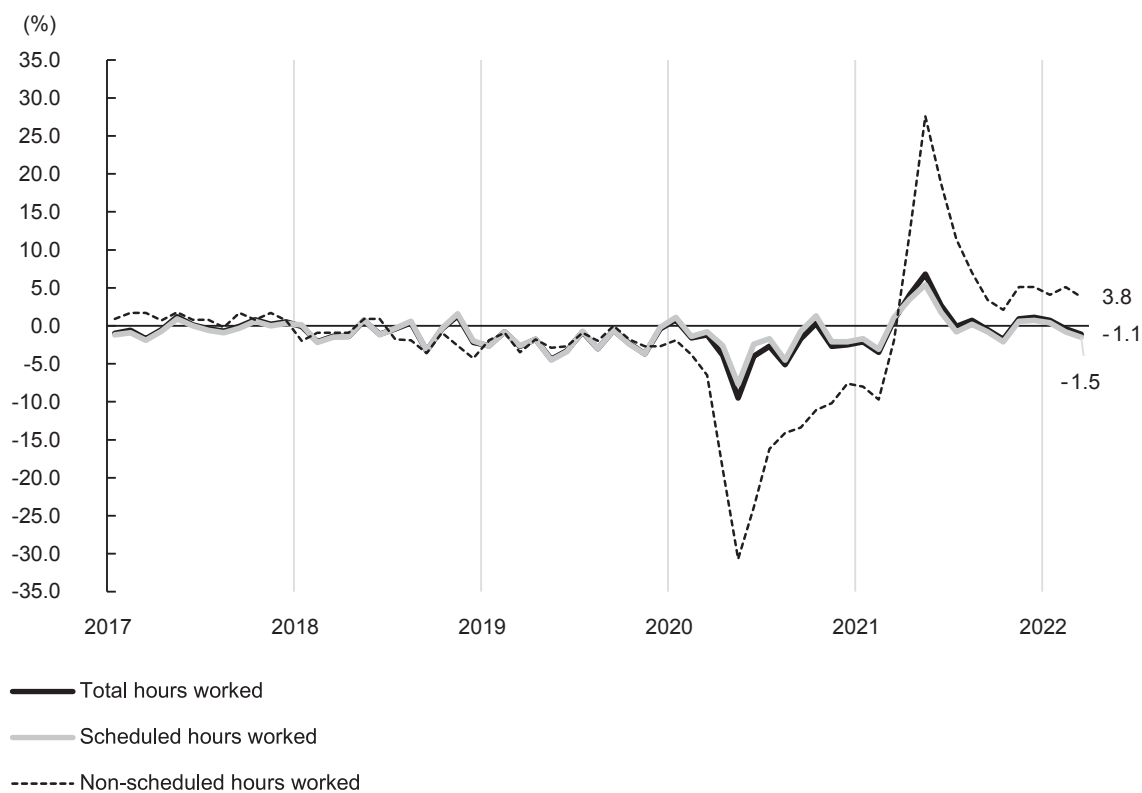
Source: MIC, Labour Force Survey (Basic Tabulation).<sup>11</sup>

Figure 5. Number of unemployed persons (unadjusted values, by sex) (January 2017 to March 2022)

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 March 2022)

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-1/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).