

Main Labor Economic Indicators

1. Economy

The Japanese economy is recovering at a moderate pace, although it remains pausing in part. Concerning short-term prospects, the economy is expected to continue recovering at a moderate pace with the improving employment and income situation, supported by the effects of the policies. However, slowing down of overseas economies is downside risk of the Japanese economy, including the effects of continued high interest rate levels in the U.S. and Europe, and the lingering stagnation of the real estate market in China. Also, full attention should be given to the effects of price increases, policy trends in the U.S., the situation in the Middle East and fluctuations in the financial and capital markets. (*Monthly Economic Report*,¹ January 2025).

2. Employment and unemployment

The number of employees in December increased by 670 thousand over the previous year. The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, was 2.4%.² Active job openings-to-applicants ratio in December, seasonally adjusted, was 1.25.³ (Figure 1)

3. Wages and working hours

In December, total cash earnings increased by 4.4% year-on-year and real wages (total cash earnings) increased by 0.3%. Total hours worked decreased by 1.1% year-on-year, while scheduled hours worked decreased by 0.9%.⁴ (Figure 2)

4. Consumer price index

In December, the consumer price index for all items increased by 3.6% year-on-year, the consumer price index for all items less fresh food increased by 3.0%, and the consumer price index for all items less fresh food and energy increased by 2.4%.⁵

5. Workers' household economy

In December, consumption expenditures by workers' households increased by 8.7% year-on-year nominally and increased by 4.3% in real terms.⁶

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

Notes: 1. Cabinet Office, *Monthly Economic Report* analyzes trends in the Japanese and world economies and indicates the assessment by the Japanese government. <https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai3/getsurei-e/index-e.html>

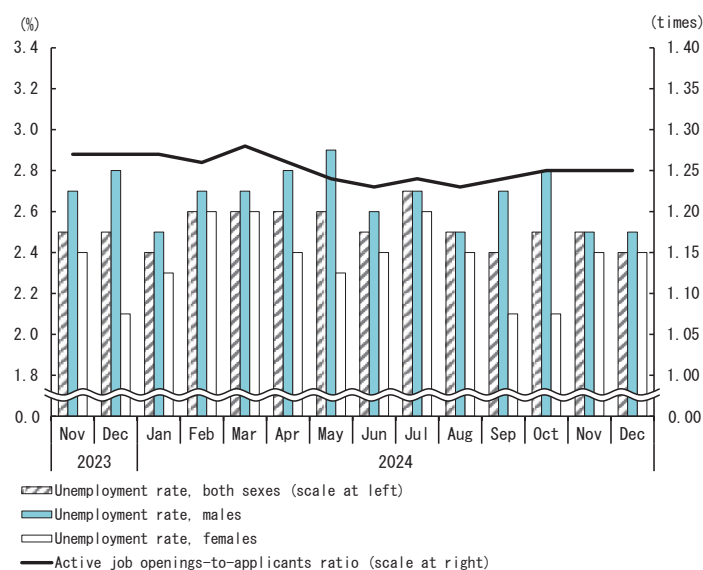
2. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/roudou/results/month/index.html>

3. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-l/general_workers.html

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>

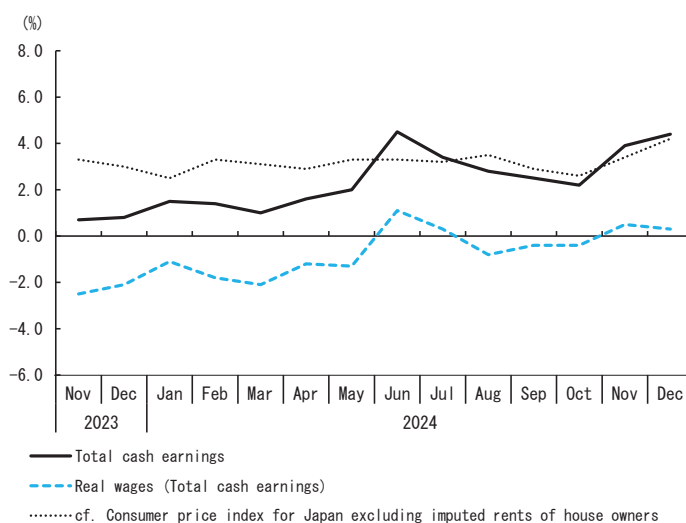
6. MIC, *Family Income and Expenditure Survey*. <https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/kakei/index.html>



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