

Main Labor Economic Indicators

1. Economy

The Japanese economy is recovering at a moderate pace, while the uncertainty arising from the U.S. trade policies and so on exists. Concerning short-term prospects, the improvement in the employment and income situation and the effects of the policies are expected to support a moderate recovery, while downturn risks of the Japanese economy due to the impact of the U.S. trade policies are increasing. In addition, the effects of continued price increases on private consumption through a downturn in consumer sentiment are also downside risks to the Japanese economy. Also, further attention should be given to the effects of fluctuations in the financial and capital markets. (April 2025)¹

2. Employment and unemployment

The number of employees in March increased by 580 thousand over the previous year. The unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, was 2.5%.² Active job openings-to-applicants ratio in March, seasonally adjusted, was 1.26.³ (Figure 1)

3. Wages and working hours

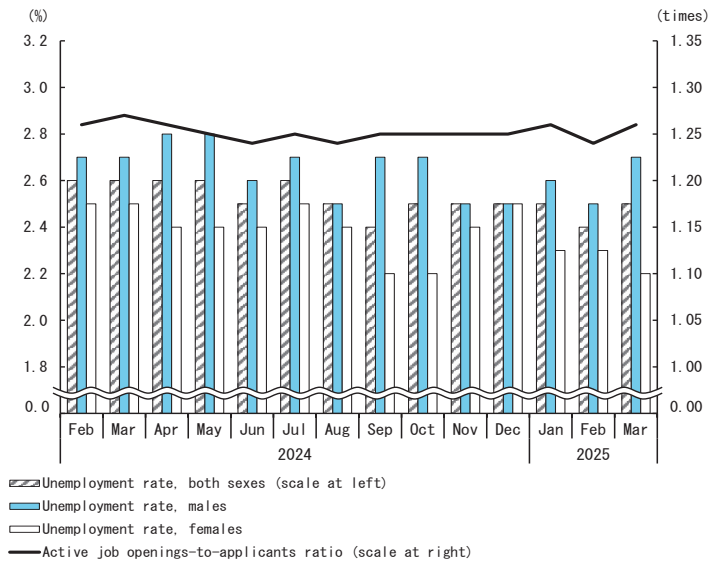
In March, total cash earnings increased by 2.3% year-on-year, while real wages (total cash earnings deflated by CPI for all items less imputed rent) decreased 1.8%, and real wages (total cash earnings deflated by CPI for all items) decreased 1.2%. Total hours worked decreased by 2.7% year-on-year, while scheduled hours worked decreased by 2.6%.⁴ (Figure 2)

4. Consumer price index (CPI)

In March, CPI for all items increased by 3.6% year-on-year, the consumer price index for all items less fresh food increased by 3.2%, and CPI for all items less fresh food and energy increased by 2.9%.⁵

5. Workers' household economy

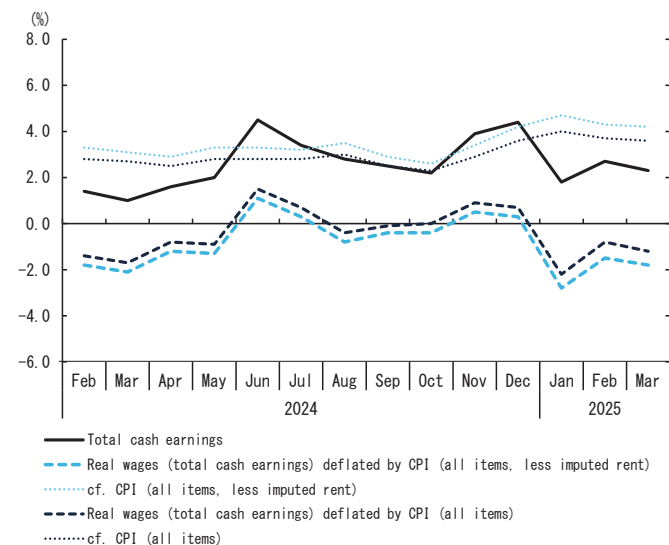
In March, consumption expenditures by workers' households increased by 8.2% year-on-year nominally and increased by 3.8% in real terms.⁶



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*. <https://www.jil.go.jp/english/estatis/eshuyo/index.html>

Notes: 1. Cabinet Office, *Monthly Economic Report*, which analyzes trends in the Japanese and world economies and indicates the assessment by the 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>