

PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (PLFS)

Information collected in the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted from July 2017 has been the primary source of statistics on labour force, activity participation of the population and structure of employment and unemployment in the country. Statistical indicators on the labour market are required for planning, policy and decision making at various levels, both within and outside government. These are also used by various researchers. Considering the need for generation of labour force indicators more frequently and at a further disaggregated level, the National Statistics Office (NSO) has decided to launch the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS-2025) with a modified methodology from January 2025.

The objectives of PLFS are to generate estimates of the key labour market indicators viz. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) in the Current Weekly Status (CWS) at all-India level, separately for rural and urban sectors at monthly intervals and for all State/UTs as well as all India with rural and urban bifurcation at quarterly intervals. In line with the objectives of the survey, PLFS will provide estimates of the LFPR, WPR and UR in CWS and distribution of Workers in CWS by broad status in employment / broad industry of work through the Monthly and Quarterly Bulletins.

The survey covers the whole of the Indian Union except the villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which remain extremely difficult to access throughout the year. Currently fieldwork of PLFS 2025, is ongoing.