सत्यमेव जयते

मासिक बुलेटिन
Monthly Bulletin

आवधिक श्रम बल सर्वेक्षण (पीएलएफएस)
Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

अक्टूबर 2026
OCTOBER 2026

DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

भारत सरकार
Government of India
सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय
National Statistics Office

16 नवंबर, 2026
16th November, 2026

A. INTRODUCTION

Considering the need for generation of high-frequency labour force indicators with enhanced coverage, the sampling methodology of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) has been revamped from January, 2025. The revamped PLFS design is envisaged to address the following objectives:

Changes in PLFS from 2025

- to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (*viz.* Labour Force Participation Rate, Worker Population Ratio and Unemployment Rate) on a monthly basis for rural and urban areas in the Current Weekly Status (CWS[1]) at all-India level
- to extend the coverage of the Quarterly results of PLFS to rural areas and thereby producing quarterly estimates covering both rural and urban parts of India in the Current Weekly Status (CWS)
- to estimate important employment and unemployment indicators in both usual status[2] (ps+ss) and CWS for rural and urban areas annually.

B. MONTHLY BULLETIN OF PLFS



The Monthly estimates of Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR) at the all-India level following Current Weekly Status (CWS) disaggregated by gender (male/ female), sector (rural/ urban), and broad age-group are released in the form of Monthly Bulletins of PLFS.

The Monthly Bulletins for the months April, 2025 to September, 2026 have already been released.

The present Monthly Bulletin for October, 2026 is the nineteenth in the series of Monthly Bulletins.

[1]The activity status of a person is determined on the basis of the activities pursued by the person during the specified reference period. The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the Current Weekly Status (CWS) of the person.

[2]The activity status determined on the basis of the reference period of last 365 days preceding the date of survey is known as the usual activity status of a person. Activity status in the Usual Status (ps+ss) is obtained by considering the Usual Principal Status (ps) and the Subsidiary Status (ss) together.

C. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

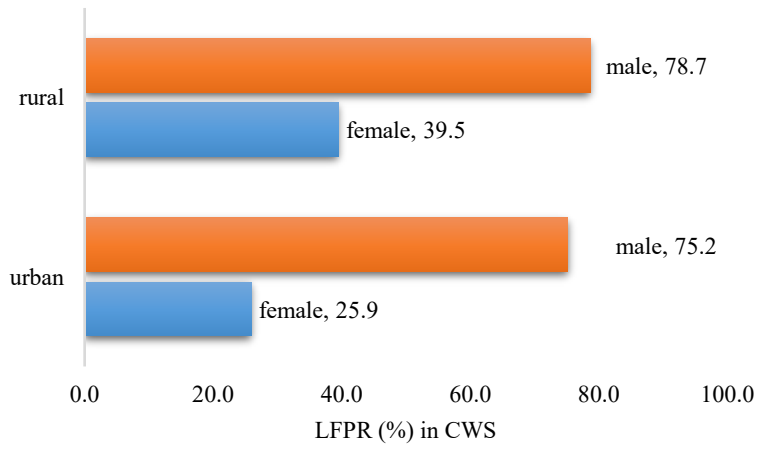
LFPR IN CWS

Labour force refers to the part of the population which supplies or offers to supply labour for pursuing economic activities for the production of goods and services and therefore, includes both 'employed' and 'unemployed' persons.

Labour force, according to Current Weekly Status (CWS), is the number of persons either employed or unemployed on an average in a week of 7 days preceding the date of survey.

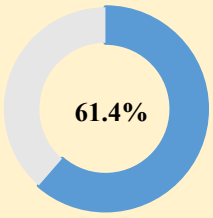
- LFPR (%) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above in the country stood at 55.7% in October, 2026.
- LFPR (%) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above in rural and urban areas stood at 58.4% and 50.5%, respectively, in October, 2026.

LFPR (%) in CWS during October, 2026 for male and female of age 15 years and above

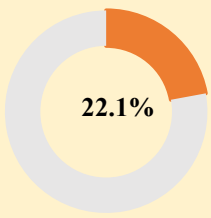


- LFPR (%) among rural male of age 15 years and above was 78.7% during October, 2026.
- For rural female of the same age group, LFPR (%) during October, 2026 was found to be 39.5%.
- In urban areas, LFPR (%) among female of age 15 years and above during October, 2026 was 25.9% compared to 75.2% observed for male of the same age group.

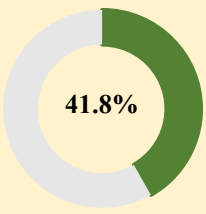
LFPR (%) in CWS among persons of age 15-29 years during October, 2026



LFPR (%) among male of age 15-29 years



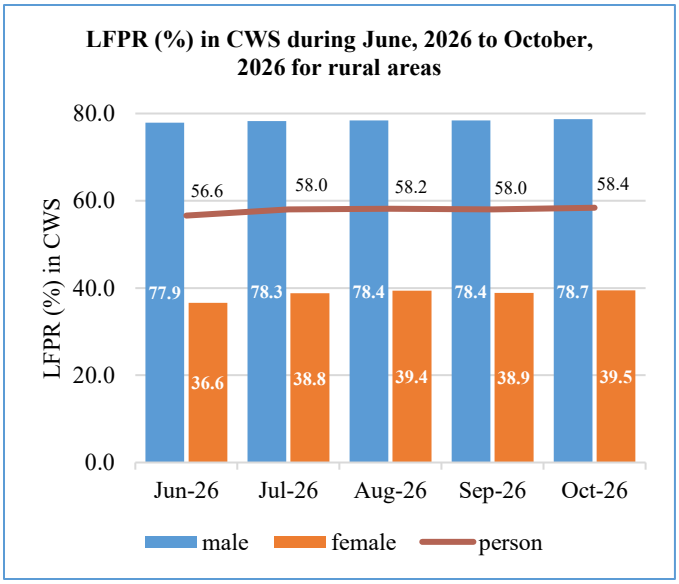
LFPR (%) among female of age 15-29 years



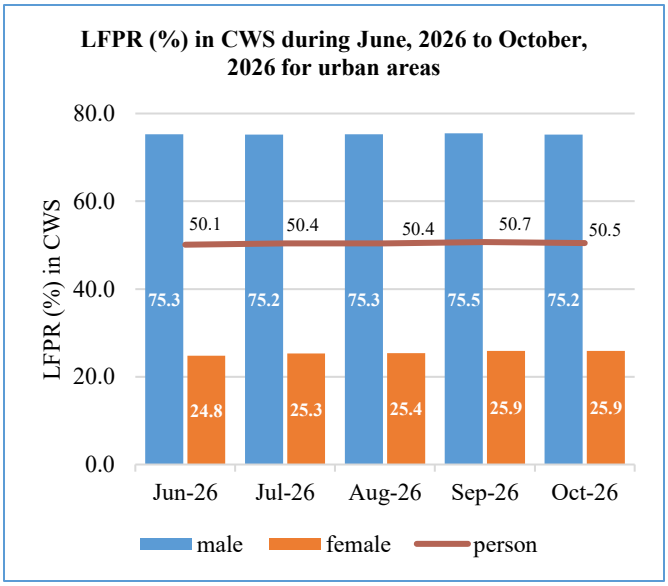
LFPR (%) among persons of age 15-29 years

LFPR (%) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above during June, 2026 to October, 2026, separately for rural areas, urban areas and rural and urban areas combined, are presented below.

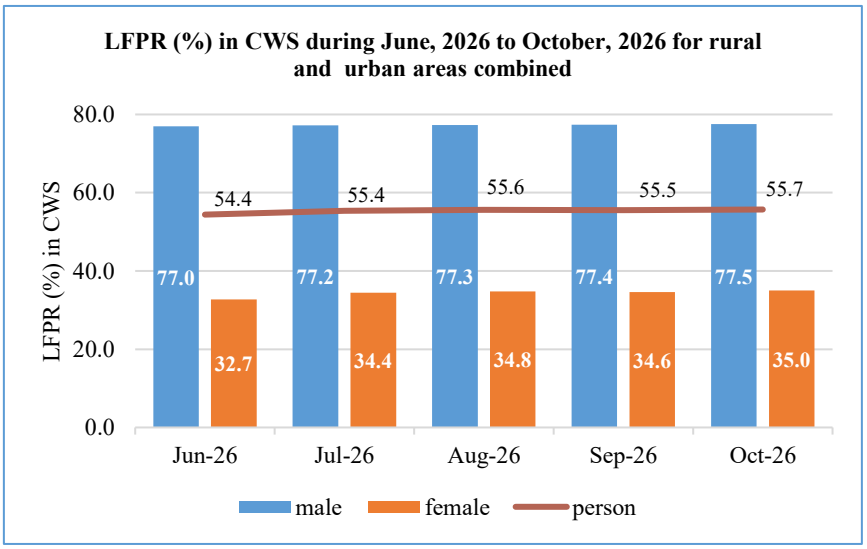
for rural areas



for urban areas



for rural and urban areas combined



In Statement 1, estimates of LFPR (%) in CWS for June, 2026 to October, 2026 are presented for different gender, sector and broad age-group categories.

Statement 1: Labour Force Participation Rate (in per cent) in CWS

sector	survey month	male	female	person
	age group: 15-29 years			
rural	June, 2026	60.5	20.0	39.9
	July, 2026	61.1	21.8	41.2
	August, 2026	61.1	21.5	40.9
	September, 2026	61.4	21.2	41.0
	October, 2026	62.0	22.3	41.9
	age group: 15 years and above			
	June, 2026	77.9	36.6	56.6
	July, 2026	78.3	38.8	58.0
	August, 2026	78.4	39.4	58.2
	September, 2026	78.4	38.9	58.0
	October, 2026	78.7	39.5	58.4
	age group: all age			
	June, 2026	57.1	27.7	42.2
	July, 2026	57.5	29.4	43.2
	August, 2026	57.4	29.9	43.4
	September, 2026	57.3	29.5	43.2
	October, 2026	57.3	30.1	43.5
urban	age group: 15-29 years			
	June, 2026	60.1	20.4	41.2
	July, 2026	59.7	20.9	41.2
	August, 2026	60.0	21.6	41.6
	September, 2026	60.4	22.1	41.7
	October, 2026	60.4	21.8	41.7
	age group: 15 years and above			
	June, 2026	75.3	24.8	50.1
	July, 2026	75.2	25.3	50.4
	August, 2026	75.3	25.4	50.4
	September, 2026	75.5	25.9	50.7
	October, 2026	75.2	25.9	50.5
	age group: all age			
	June, 2026	59.6	19.8	39.8
	July, 2026	59.7	20.3	40.2
	August, 2026	59.6	20.4	40.2
	September, 2026	59.7	20.7	40.2
	October, 2026	59.2	20.7	40.1
rural + urban	age group: 15-29 years			
	June, 2026	60.3	20.1	40.3
	July, 2026	60.6	21.5	41.2
	August, 2026	60.8	21.5	41.2
	September, 2026	61.1	21.5	41.2
	October, 2026	61.4	22.1	41.8
	age group: 15 years and above			
	June, 2026	77.0	32.7	54.4
	July, 2026	77.2	34.4	55.4
	August, 2026	77.3	34.8	55.6
	September, 2026	77.4	34.6	55.5
	October, 2026	77.5	35.0	55.7
	age group: all age			
	June, 2026	57.9	25.2	41.4
	July, 2026	58.2	26.5	42.2
	August, 2026	58.1	26.9	42.4
	September, 2026	58.1	26.7	42.2
	October, 2026	57.9	27.1	42.4

D. Worker Population Ratio (WPR)

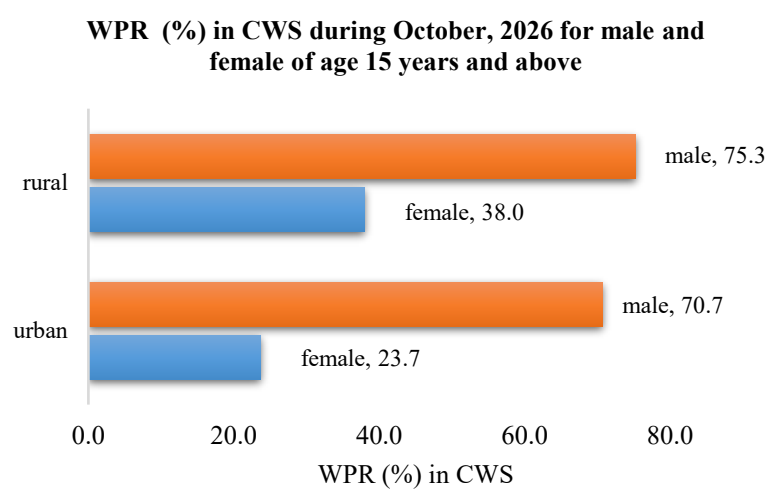
WPR IN CWS

The workforce measured in CWS gives the average picture of the workforce in a short period of one week during the survey period.

The estimate of workforce in the CWS provides the number of persons who worked for at least 1 hour on any day during the 7 days preceding the date of survey.

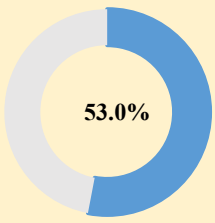


- WPR (%) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above at the all-India level was 53.0% in October, 2026.
- WPR (%) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above was 56.0% in rural areas and 47.1% in urban areas in October, 2026.

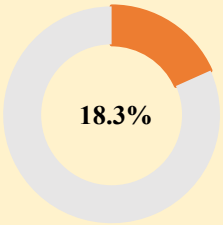


- WPR (%) among rural male of age 15 years and above was 75.3% during October, 2026.
- For rural female of the same age group WPR (%) during October, 2026 was found to be 38.0%.
- In urban areas WPR (%) among female of age 15 years and above during October, 2026 was 23.7% compared to 70.7% observed for male of the same age group.

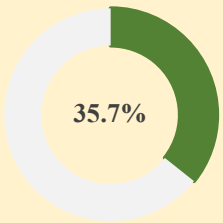
WPR (%) in CWS among persons of age 15-29 years during October, 2026



WPR (%) among male of age 15-29 years



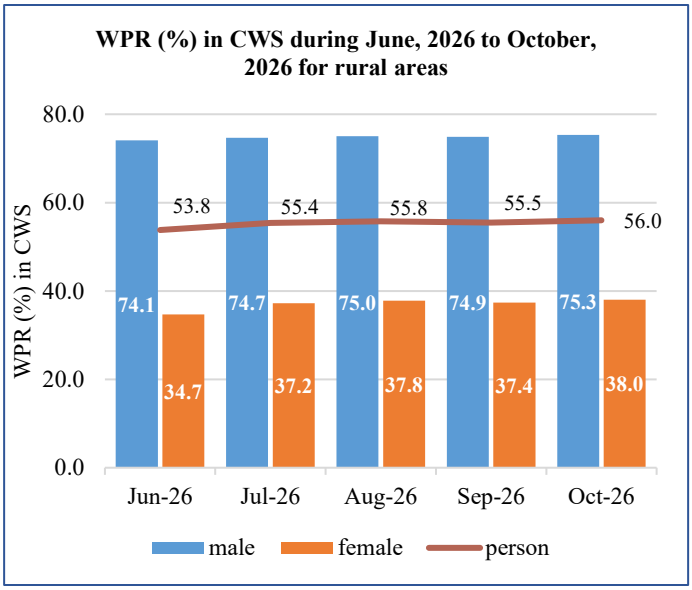
WPR (%) among female of age 15-29 years



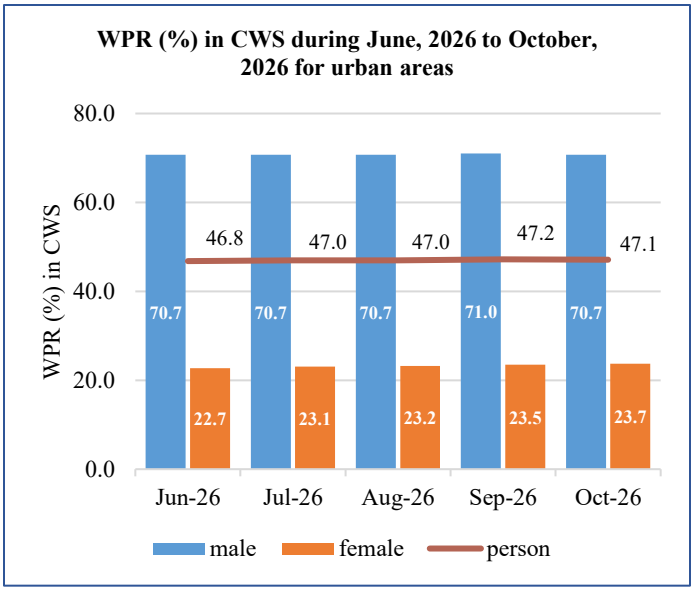
WPR (%) among persons of age 15-29 years

WPR (%) in CWS during June, 2026 to October, 2026 for persons of age 15 years and above separately for rural areas, urban areas and rural and urban areas combined, are presented below.

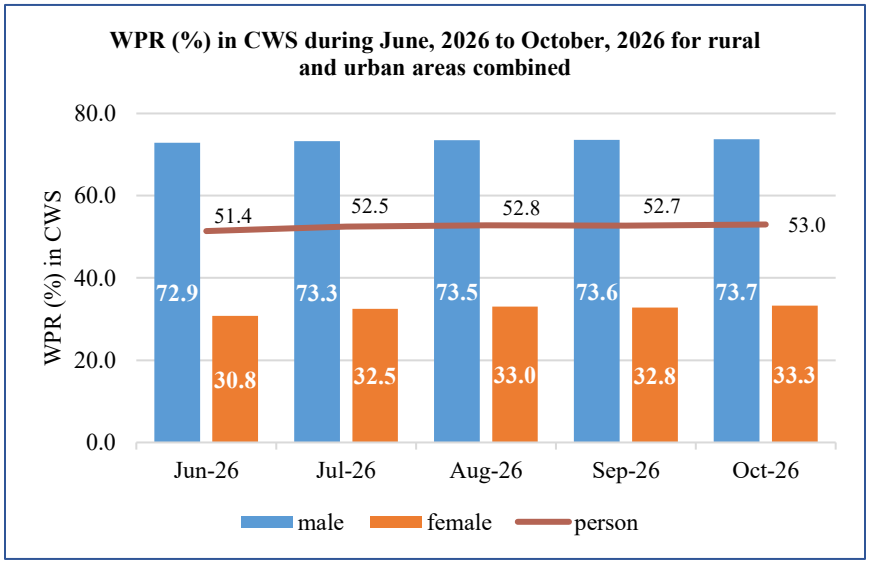
for rural areas



for urban areas



for rural and urban areas combined



In Statement 2, estimates of WPR (%) in CWS for June, 2026 to October, 2026 are presented for different gender, sector and broad age-group categories.

Statement 2: Worker Population Ratio (in per cent) in CWS

sector	survey month	male	female	person
	age group: 15-29 years			
rural	June, 2026	52.1	16.2	33.9
	July, 2026	53.0	18.3	35.4
	August, 2026	53.4	18.3	35.5
	September, 2026	53.6	18.1	35.6
	October, 2026	54.1	19.2	36.4
	age group: 15 years and above			
	June, 2026	74.1	34.7	53.8
	July, 2026	74.7	37.2	55.4
	August, 2026	75.0	37.8	55.8
	September, 2026	74.9	37.4	55.5
	October, 2026	75.3	38.0	56.0
	age group: all age			
	June, 2026	54.3	26.3	40.1
	July, 2026	54.9	28.1	41.3
	August, 2026	55.0	28.7	41.6
	September, 2026	54.8	28.4	41.3
	October, 2026	54.8	28.9	41.7
urban	age group: 15-29 years			
	June, 2026	50.4	15.2	33.7
	July, 2026	50.2	15.2	33.5
	August, 2026	50.3	15.9	33.8
	September, 2026	50.5	16.2	33.8
	October, 2026	50.8	16.3	34.1
	age group: 15 years and above			
	June, 2026	70.7	22.7	46.8
	July, 2026	70.7	23.1	47.0
	August, 2026	70.7	23.2	47.0
	September, 2026	71.0	23.5	47.2
	October, 2026	70.7	23.7	47.1
	age group: all age			
	June, 2026	56.0	18.1	37.2
	July, 2026	56.1	18.5	37.5
	August, 2026	56.0	18.6	37.4
	September, 2026	56.1	18.7	37.5
	October, 2026	55.6	18.9	37.4
rural + urban	age group: 15-29 years			
	June, 2026	51.5	15.9	33.8
	July, 2026	52.0	17.3	34.8
	August, 2026	52.3	17.5	35.0
	September, 2026	52.5	17.5	35.0
	October, 2026	53.0	18.3	35.7
	age group: 15 years and above			
	June, 2026	72.9	30.8	51.4
	July, 2026	73.3	32.5	52.5
	August, 2026	73.5	33.0	52.8
	September, 2026	73.6	32.8	52.7
	October, 2026	73.7	33.3	53.0
	age group: all age			
	June, 2026	54.9	23.7	39.1
	July, 2026	55.3	25.1	40.1
	August, 2026	55.3	25.5	40.3
	September, 2026	55.2	25.3	40.1
	October, 2026	55.1	25.8	40.3

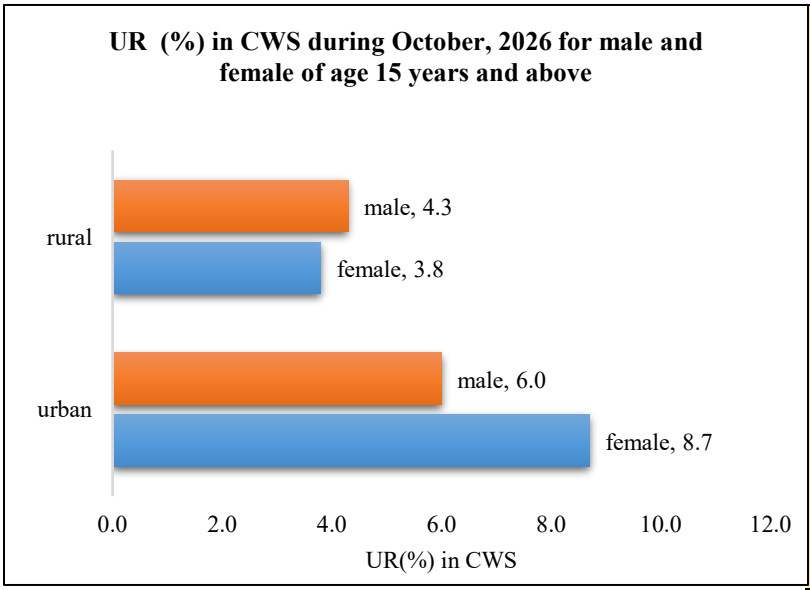
E. Unemployment Rate (UR)

UR IN CWS

The estimates of unemployed in CWS give an average picture of unemployment in a short period of 7 days during the survey period.

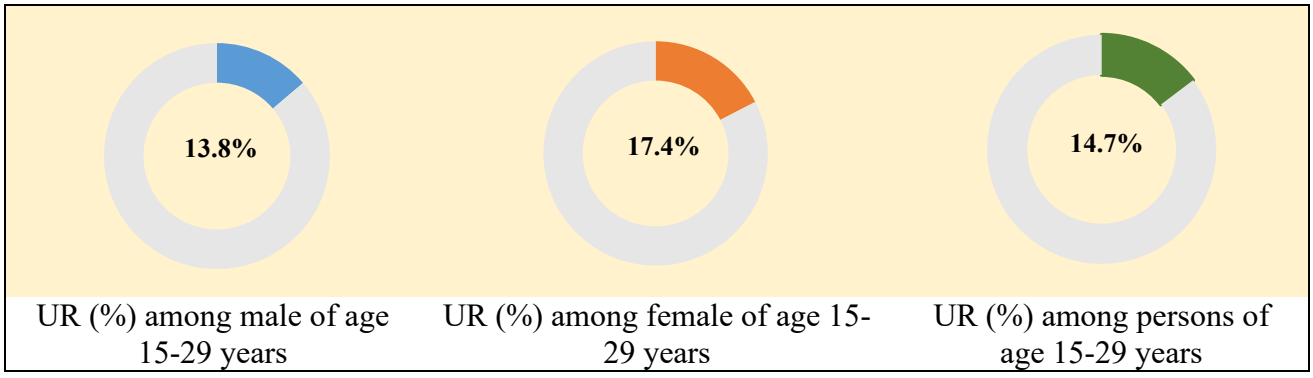
A person was considered as unemployed in a week if he/she did not work even for 1 hour on any day during the reference week but sought or was available for work at least for 1 hour on any day during the reference week

- UR (%) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above in the country stood at 4.9% in October, 2026.
- UR (%) in CWS for persons of age 15 years and above in rural areas stood at 4.2% and was 6.7% in urban areas in October, 2026.



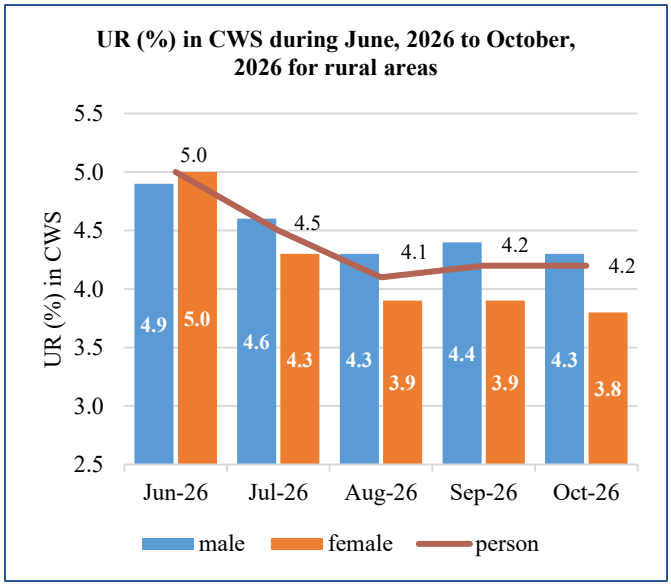
- UR (%) among rural male of age 15 years and above was 4.3% during October, 2026.
- For rural female of the same age group UR (%) during October, 2026 was found to be 3.8%.
- In urban areas UR (%) among female of age 15 years and above during October, 2026 was 8.7% compared to 6.0% observed for male of the same age group.

UR (%) in CWS among persons of age 15-29 years during October, 2026

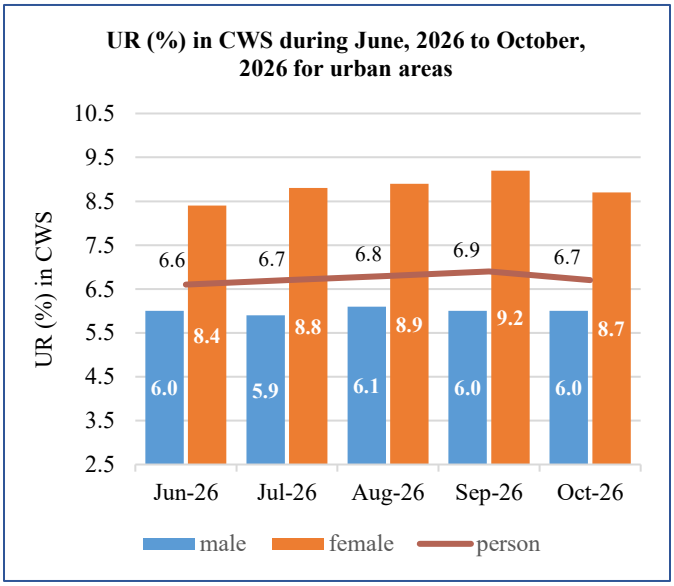


UR (%) in CWS during June, 2026 to October, 2026 for persons of age 15 years and above, separately for rural and urban areas as well as for rural and urban areas combined are presented below.

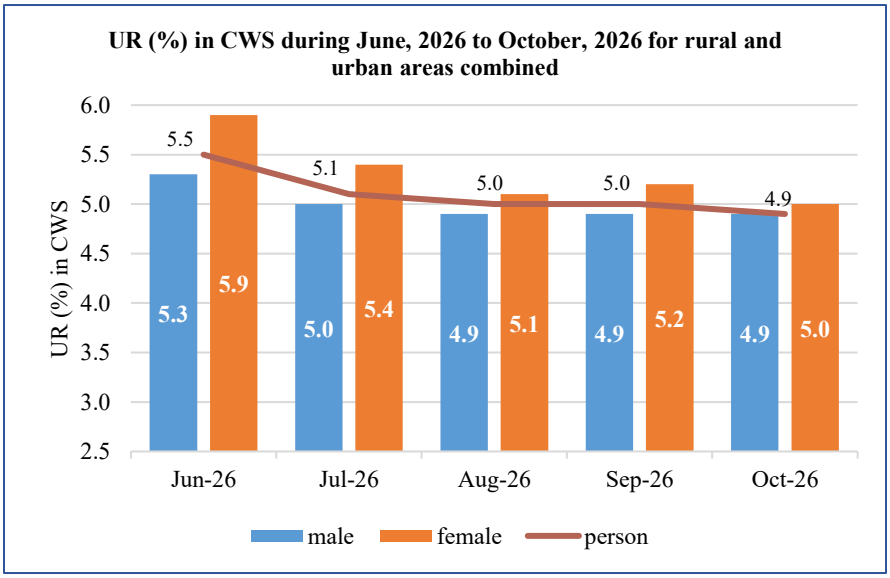
for rural areas



for urban areas



for rural and urban areas combined



In Statement 3, estimates of UR (%) in CWS for June, 2026 to October, 2026 are presented for different gender, sector and broad age-group categories.

Statement 3: Unemployment Rate (in per cent) in CWS

sector	survey month	male	female	person
	age group: 15-29 years			
rural	June, 2026	13.9	18.6	15.1
	July, 2026	13.4	16.0	14.1
	August, 2026	12.7	14.9	13.3
	September, 2026	12.7	14.5	13.2
	October, 2026	12.7	13.9	13.0
	age group: 15 years and above			
	June, 2026	4.9	5.0	5.0
	July, 2026	4.6	4.3	4.5
	August, 2026	4.3	3.9	4.1
	September, 2026	4.4	3.9	4.2
	October, 2026	4.3	3.8	4.2
	age group: all age			
	June, 2026	4.9	5.0	5.0
	July, 2026	4.6	4.3	4.5
	August, 2026	4.3	3.9	4.2
	September, 2026	4.4	3.9	4.2
	October, 2026	4.3	3.8	4.2
urban	age group: 15-29 years			
	June, 2026	16.0	25.3	18.2
	July, 2026	15.9	27.2	18.6
	August, 2026	16.2	26.4	18.7
	September, 2026	16.4	26.6	19.0
	October, 2026	15.9	25.1	18.3
	age group: 15 years and above			
	June, 2026	6.0	8.4	6.6
	July, 2026	5.9	8.8	6.7
	August, 2026	6.1	8.9	6.8
	September, 2026	6.0	9.2	6.9
	October, 2026	6.0	8.7	6.7
	age group: all age			
	June, 2026	6.0	8.4	6.6
	July, 2026	5.9	8.8	6.7
	August, 2026	6.1	8.9	6.8
	September, 2026	6.0	9.2	6.9
	October, 2026	6.0	8.7	6.7
rural + urban	age group: 15-29 years			
	June, 2026	14.6	20.7	16.2
	July, 2026	14.2	19.5	15.6
	August, 2026	13.9	18.5	15.1
	September, 2026	14.0	18.5	15.2
	October, 2026	13.8	17.4	14.7
	age group: 15 years and above			
	June, 2026	5.3	5.9	5.5
	July, 2026	5.0	5.4	5.1
	August, 2026	4.9	5.1	5.0
	September, 2026	4.9	5.2	5.0
	October, 2026	4.9	5.0	4.9
	age group: all age			
	June, 2026	5.3	5.9	5.5
	July, 2026	5.0	5.4	5.1
	August, 2026	4.9	5.1	5.0
	September, 2026	4.9	5.2	5.0
	October, 2026	4.9	5.0	4.9

F. Sample Size

In the revamped PLFS design adopted from January 2025, a rotational panel sampling design is used and in this rotational panel scheme each selected household is visited four times in four consecutive months – in the beginning with first visit schedule in the first month and other three with the revisit schedule in the following three months for both rural and urban areas.

In the statement 4 given below, the sample size in terms of FSUs (census 2011 villages /Urban Frame Survey blocks/ subunits), households and persons are given, separately for rural areas, urban areas and rural and urban areas combined. It may be noted that, besides the first visit sample (25 per cent of total sample size) of October, 2026, three revisit samples of the months July, 2026 to September, 2026 (75 per cent of total sample size) were also surveyed during October, 2026.

Statement 4: The First Stage Units (FSUs), households and persons surveyed during June, 2026 to October, 2026

Sector	Surveyed FSUs	Surveyed Households	Surveyed Persons
	June, 2026		
rural	4,115	48,996	2,12,390
urban	3,368	39,979	1,60,462
rural + urban	7,483	88,975	3,72,852
	July, 2026		
rural	4,120	49,054	2,11,411
urban	3,367	40,015	1,59,610
rural + urban	7,487	89,069	3,71,021
	August, 2026		
rural	4,125	49,096	2,11,353
urban	3,371	40,061	1,58,807
rural + urban	7,496	89,157	3,70,160
	September, 2026		
rural	4,126	49,132	2,11,333
urban	3,376	40,191	1,59,180
rural + urban	7,502	89,323	3,70,513
	October, 2026		
rural	4,121	49,069	2,11,474
urban	3,377	40,174	1,59,001
rural + urban	7,498	89,243	3,70,475

G.Reliability of the estimates



Reliability of the estimates of key labour market indicators is measured here by the Relative Standard Error (RSE) of the estimates.

In Statement 5, the RSE (%) of the estimates of Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) in CWS for June, 2026 to October, 2026 is presented for persons of age 15 years and above.

Statement 5: RSE (%) of LFPR, WPR and UR estimates in CWS for persons aged 15 years and above for June, 2026 to October, 2026

Indicator	sector	male	female	person
	June, 2026			
LFPR	rural	0.35	0.94	0.43
	urban	0.40	1.47	0.48
	rural + urban	0.27	0.78	0.33
WPR	rural	0.38	0.99	0.45
	urban	0.47	1.60	0.55
	rural + urban	0.30	0.83	0.35
UR	rural	2.97	4.58	2.58
	urban	3.61	4.72	3.05
	rural + urban	2.29	3.38	1.97
	July, 2026			
LFPR	rural	0.34	0.94	0.45
	urban	0.42	1.42	0.48
	rural + urban	0.27	0.78	0.34
WPR	rural	0.37	0.98	0.47
	urban	0.47	1.54	0.53
	rural + urban	0.29	0.82	0.36
UR	rural	3.36	5.14	2.94
	urban	3.52	5.66	3.08
	rural + urban	2.45	3.83	2.15
	August, 2026			
LFPR	rural	0.35	0.91	0.44
	urban	0.42	1.48	0.50
	rural + urban	0.27	0.77	0.34
WPR	rural	0.38	0.95	0.46
	urban	0.47	1.60	0.55
	rural + urban	0.30	0.81	0.36
UR	rural	3.16	5.01	2.83
	urban	3.55	4.76	2.98
	rural + urban	2.36	3.53	2.06

Statement 5: RSE (%) of LFPR, WPR and UR estimates in CWS for persons aged 15 years and above for June, 2026 to October, 2026

Indicator	sector	male	female	person
	September, 2026			
LFPR	rural	0.35	0.92	0.45
	urban	0.42	1.46	0.51
	rural + urban	0.27	0.78	0.35
WPR	rural	0.39	0.95	0.47
	urban	0.47	1.58	0.57
	rural + urban	0.30	0.81	0.37
UR	rural	3.33	4.27	2.67
	urban	3.61	5.90	3.25
	rural + urban	2.45	3.56	2.06
	October, 2026			
LFPR	rural	0.32	0.86	0.40
	urban	0.42	1.28	0.49
	rural + urban	0.25	0.73	0.31
WPR	rural	0.35	0.89	0.42
	urban	0.46	1.32	0.53
	rural + urban	0.28	0.76	0.34
UR	rural	3.10	4.28	2.63
	urban	3.70	6.08	3.37
	rural + urban	2.38	3.63	2.09

H. Comparability of monthly estimates with previously released estimates of PLFS



The sample design of the Periodic Labour Survey (PLFS) has been revamped from January 2025. As part of revamping of the sample design monthly rotational panel scheme has been implemented for both rural and urban areas wherein each selected household is visited four times in four consecutive months – one with first visit schedule and other three with the revisit schedule in the following three months. The aspects related to the multistage stratified design followed in PLFS like the choice of First stage Units (FSU) to be surveyed, the primary geographical unit (i.e. basic stratum) from which FSUs are selected, stratification rules applied to FSUs and sampling selection method for selecting FSUs have been changed. The number of households to be surveyed within a selected FSU has been increased from 8 to 12 households.

In addition, some changes have also been incorporated in the structure of the Schedule of inquiry. The details of the revamped PLFS sample design and changes made in the Schedule of inquiry have been provided in the PLFS release titled *PLFS: Changes in 2025*[3]. Users of PLFS results need to consider the changes implemented in PLFS from January 2025 while comparing PLFS results with estimates released through PLFS publications up to December, 2024. The results of the PLFS post January 2025 thus need to be understood and used in the context with which the sample selection methodology of PLFS has been designed.

[3] https://www.mospi.gov.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/PLFS_Changes-in-2025_rev.pdf

Dissemination of NSS Results :

The Monthly Bulletin is available in the website of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (www.mospi.gov.in)