सत्यमेव जयते

# अनिगमित क्षेत्र के उद्यमों का तिमाही बुलेटिन

# QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF UNINCORPORATED SECTOR ENTERPRISES

DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

## (क्यू.बी.यू.एस.ई.)
## (QBUSE)

**जुलाई 2026 – सितम्बर 2026**

**July 2026 – September 2026**

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय
NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE

# INTRODUCTION

Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE), conducted by National Statistics Office (NSO) serves as the principal source of data on the unincorporated non-agricultural sector of the Indian economy. The enterprises in this sector, ranging from small-scale manufacturers and service providers to trading establishments, constitute a significant portion of the economy. These enterprises are pivotal in generating employment, fostering entrepreneurship and contributing to the nation's gross domestic product (GDP). ASUSE is conducted with the primary objective of systematically collecting information on operational, financial, and structural characteristics of these unincorporated units. The survey results serve as essential inputs for policymakers in both the government and private sector, guiding informed decision-making and strategic planning.

The first comprehensive survey of ASUSE was conducted in 2021–22 (April 2021 to March 2022). Up to ASUSE 2023–24 (October 2023 to September 2024), estimates for the sector were compiled and disseminated on an annual basis through factsheets and detailed reports. Beginning with ASUSE 2025 (January to December 2025), the NSO has introduced quarterly bulletins, providing more frequent insights alongside the annual estimates, consistent with earlier practice. This enhancement has been enabled by a revised sampling design and a substantial increase in sample size, facilitating the generation of both quarterly and annual estimates.

The latest survey, **ASUSE 2026 (January – December 2026)**, has been launched with a design and objectives broadly aligned with those of ASUSE 2025. However, its survey methodology has been substantially refined through the adoption of updated, internationally comparable classifications and inclusion of more policy-oriented questions, including those pertaining to ICT usage.

Release of **Quarterly Bulletin on Unincorporated Sector Enterprises** (QBUSE) is an initiative by NSO to enhance the availability of high-frequency data keeping in view the critical role of the unincorporated sector in the Indian economy. This initiative marks a significant step forward in the NSO's commitment to modernizing its statistical infrastructure and enhancing data-driven decision-making by offering more timely and actionable insights into this dynamic segment of Indian economy.

This bulletin is the quarterly edition of the ASUSE and presents key findings based on data collected during the quarter, **July –September 2026**. A brief overview of the coverage of the survey, core concepts, data collection methodology, and a note for data users are provided in the **Endnote**.

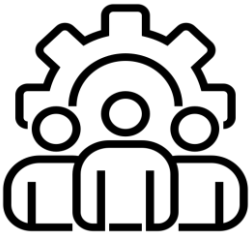
## KEY INDICATORS FROM QUARTERLY ESTIMATES

Quarterly estimates of key aggregate indicators, such as, number of establishments, number of workers along with their growth over same quarter of last year, percentage of hired-worker establishments, percentage distribution of different categories of workers, etc. are provided in Table 1.

### Table1: Estimates of key aggregate indicators with confidence limits[#]

| NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS (′00) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Rural | Urban | All-India |
| | **July 2026 – September 2026 (quarterly)** | | |
| | 4,99,151 ± 19,175 | 4,48,008 ± 14,664 | 9,47,159 ± 24,134 |
| | **July 2025 – September 2025 (quarterly)** | | |
| | 4,30,135± 26,388 | 3,67,063± 19,857 | 7,97,198± 32,969 |
| | **Y-o-Y[@] growth (%)** | | |
| | 16.05 | 22.05 | 18.81 |
| | **January, 2025 – December, 2025 (annual)** | | |
| | 4,24,139 ± 14,215 | 3,68,327 ± 8,663 | 7,92,465 ± 16,620 |

| Parameter | July 2025 – September 2025 | | | July 2026 – September 2026 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rural | Urban | Total | Rural | Urban | Total |
| percentage of proprietary and partnership ** establishments | 92.37 | 97.78 | 94.86 | 98.77 | 98.84 | 98.80 |
| percentage of hired worker establishments | 7.10 | 20.79 | 13.41 | 6.32 | 18.67 | 12.16 |
| percentage of market establishments | 99.42 | 99.51 | 99.46 | 99.40 | 99.57 | 99.48 |

| NUMBER OF WORKERS (′00) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Rural | Urban | All-India |
| | **July 2026 – September 2026 (quarterly)** | | |
| | 6,99,313 ± 26,454 | 8,03,477 ± 29,292 | 15,02,790 ± 39,469 |
| | **July 2025 – September 2025 (quarterly)** | | |
| | 5,95,065± 37,672 | 6,90,891± 45,364 | 12,85,956± 58,979 |
| | **Y-o-Y[@] growth (%)** | | |
| | 17.52 | 16.30 | 16.86 |
| | **January, 2025 – December, 2025 (annual)** | | |
| | 6,00,104 ± 21,642 | 6,80,415 ± 21,738 | 12,80,518 ± 30,620 |

***#:*** *The confidence limits are at a 95% level of significance*

*@: Year-on-Year growth rate over same quarter last year*

**Please refer to "Note to User" section of the Endnote for details of change in treatment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in type of ownership in ASUSE 2026.

| Parameter | July 2025 – September 2025 | | | July 2026 – September 2026 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rural | Urban | Total | Rural | Urban | Total |
| **% share of different types of workers** | | | | | | |
| Working owner | 68.25 | 52.85 | 59.98 | 69.56 | 55.40 | 61.99 |
| Hired worker | 15.56 | 34.83 | 25.91 | 13.27 | 31.88 | 23.22 |
| Others (including unpaid family members) | 16.19 | 12.32 | 14.11 | 17.17 | 12.72 | 14.79 |

Estimated number of establishments, workers and percentage share of categories of workers for the quarters July-September 2025 and July-September 2026 are represented in Figures 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

## Insights at all-India level

- The estimated number of establishments in July-September 2026 stood at 9.47 crore, compared to 7.97 crore in July –September 2025, indicating a significant year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth of 18.81 %.

- The sector employed an estimated 15.03 crore workers during July–September 2026, up from 12.86 crore in the same quarter last year. This reflects a positive expansion of employment in the sector compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year, reinforcing its role as a major source of livelihood for both skilled and unskilled across diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

- The proportion of establishments employing hired workers in the unincorporated non-agricultural sector was recorded at 12.16% in July-September 2026 with percentage of workers hired on fairly regular basis was estimated to be 23.22%. Percentage of hired-worker establishments has decreased across sectors in comparison to July to September 2025 quarter.

- Working owners continued to account for the largest share in composition of workers, with their proportion rising from 59.98% in the July–September 2025 quarter to 61.99% in the July–September 2026 quarter.

- Number of hired workers in the unincorporated sector incrased from 3.33 crore to 3.49 crore during the same period with a y-o-y growth rate of about 5%.

- While expansion in number of establishments remained broad-based across sectors, the urban sector outpaced the rural sector in terms of growth. During July–September 2026 quarter, the urban sector recorded 22.05% growth in the number of establishments and 16.30% growth in the workforce compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year (July–September 2025), making it a key contributor to the overall growth of the unincorporated sector.

## Box 1: Confidence Interval for the Quarterly Estimates

The confidence interval is defined as an interval that covers the true value of a population parameter with a certain probability. For key indicators, the sampling error of an estimate is often expressed as a confidence interval, since this is the most rigorous and clear way of demonstrating sampling variability. While interpreting quarterly estimates, it's important to note that the quarterly sample size is considerably smaller than the annual sample. Although the sampling design has been modified and the sample size significantly increased starting from ASUSE 2025 compared to previous annual ASUSE surveys to support reliable quarterly estimates, the estimates of major indicators are expressed along with confidence intervals and relative standard errors (RSE). This offers a greater clarity on the precision of the estimates.

A 95% confidence interval, as suggested by various statistical literature and also, followed globally by various NSOs has been given along with point estimates in Table 1.

Specifically, the 95% CI of an estimate with its RSE expressed in % may be presented as:

$$\text{estimate}^*[1 \pm 1.96^*\text{RSE}/100]$$

**Fig 1: Estimated Number of Establishments ('00)**

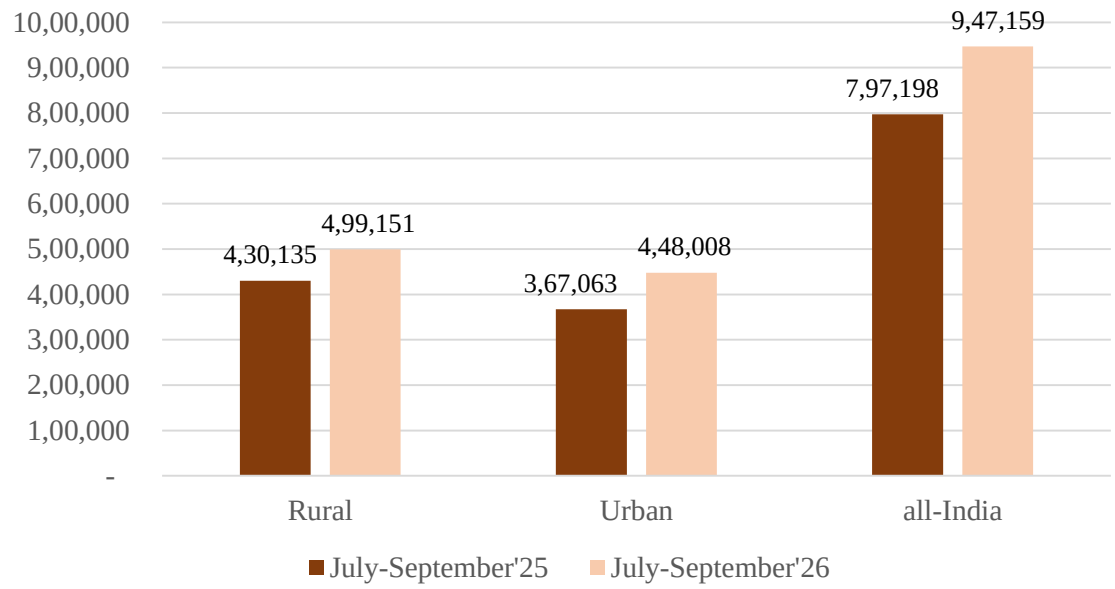



**Fig 2: Estimated Number of Workers ('00)**

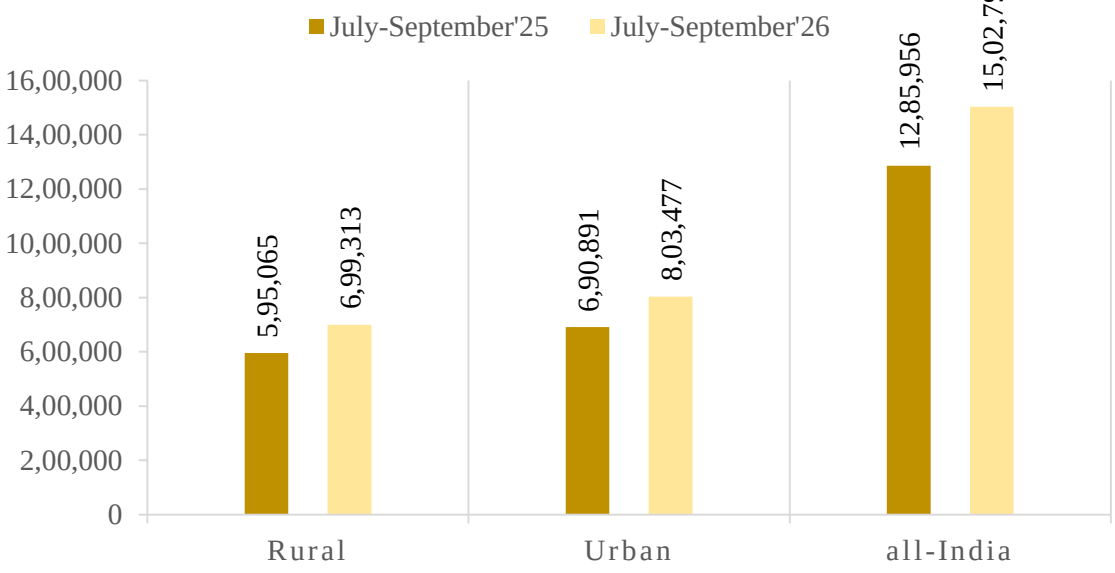
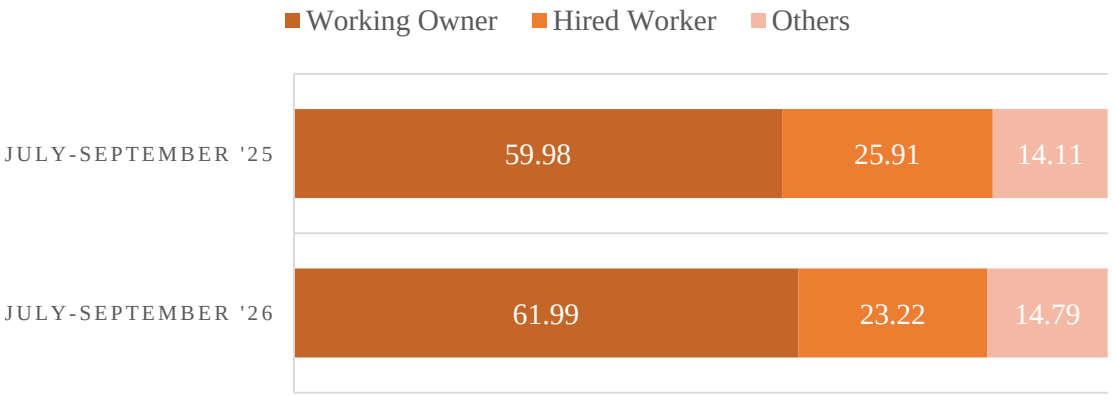



**Fig 3: Percentage Share of Categories of Worker**



## TREND AT BROAD ACTIVITY CATEGORY LEVEL

The estimates of key aggregate indicators at Broad Activity Category Level (BAC), i.e., manufacturing, trade and other services, for the quarter July-September 2026 are presented in Table2. In this table, 'M', 'T' and 'S' respectively stand for manufacturing, trade and other services. It is important to mention that ASUSE also covers unincorporated establishments involved in electric power generation, transmission and distribution, which are very few in number and hence, are not tabulated separately. The percentage share of the BACs to the number of establishments and number of workers are shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5 respectively. Additionally, Figure 6 shows BAC-wise percentage of Hired Worker establishments.

**Table 2: Key estimates at BAC level (all India)**

| Parameter | July 2025 – September 2025 | | | July 2026 – September 2026 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | M | T | S | M | T | S |
| No of establishments (in '00) | 2,17,324 | 2,38,535 | 3,41,322 | 2,40,243 | 2,66,439 | 4,40,456 |
| percentage of proprietary and partnership establishments** | 99.99 | 99.78 | 88.15 | 99.99 | 99.85 | 97.52 |
| percentage of hired worker establishments | 11.38 | 16.26 | 12.70 | 10.18 | 14.17 | 12.03 |
| percentage of market establishments | 100.00 | 100.00 | 98.75 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 98.88 |
| No of workers (in '00) | 3,58,621 | 4,18,839 | 5,08,421 | 3,71,243 | 4,53,873 | 6,77,612 |
| **% share of different types of workers** | | | | | | |
| Working owner | 61.01 | 57.33 | 61.43 | 65.04 | 58.98 | 62.34 |
| Hired worker | 27.28 | 20.63 | 29.29 | 22.89 | 17.94 | 26.93 |
| Others (including unpaid family members) | 11.71 | 22.04 | 9.28 | 12.07 | 23.09 | 10.73 |

** Please refer to "Note to User" section of the Endnote for details of change in treatment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in type of ownership in ASUSE 2026.

### Insights at Sectoral Level

- Table 2 indicates a significant increase in the estimated number of establishments and workers in manufacturing (M), trade (T) and services (S) in July–September 2026 over July–September 2025.
- 'Other Services' sector has continued to account for the largest share of both establishments and workers and remained the main engine of growth, followed by Trade and Manufacturing.
- The top five industrial sectors registering highest y-o-y growth in number of establishments have been retail trade, repair and maintenance services, land transport activities, personal service activities and manufacturing of wearing apparel.
- In terms of the composition of the workforce, working owners continued to constitute the largest category of workers across all three sectors in July-September 2026. Their share increased from 61.01% to 65.04% in manufacturing and from 57.33% to 58.98% in trade, while in services it increased marginally from 61.43% to 62.34%.
- Services and manufacturing sectors account for the highest shares of hired workers and working owners, respectively, highlighting their importance in employment and entrepreneurship.

**Fig 4: Percentage Share of Establishments among Broad Activity Categories (July- September '26)**

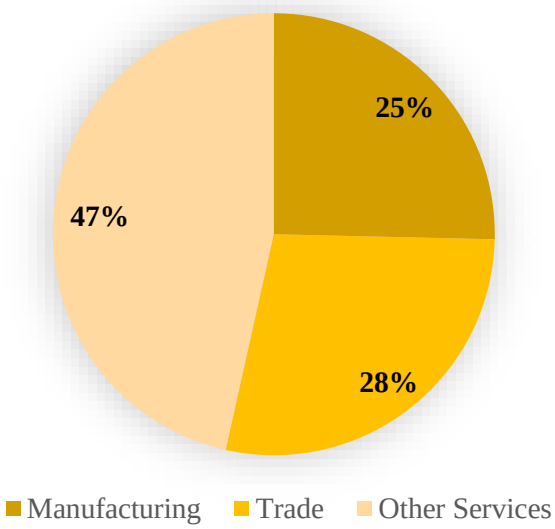



**Fig 5: Percentage Share of Workers among Broad Activity Categories (July- September '26)**

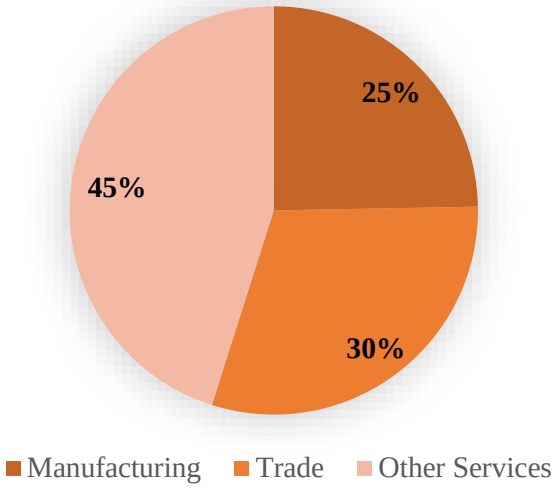



**Fig 6: Percentage of Hired Worker Establishments (July- September '26)**

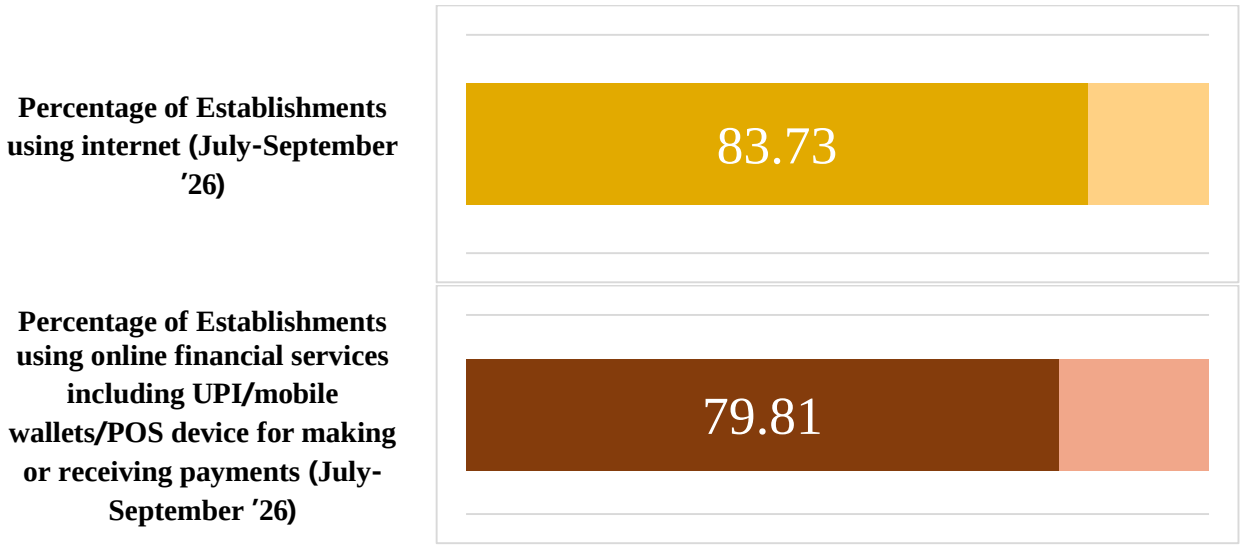


## OPERATIONAL INDICATORS

Operational Indicators, like, percentage of establishments using internet or using digital mode of financial transaction, percentage of establishments registered under some Act/Authority are important metrics for measuring the digitalization and registration coverage of the unincorporated sector.



**Female workers** accounted for **31.22%** of total employment in the quarter July – September 2026




Digitization in the unincorporated non-agricultural sector has been driven by the increasing adoption of **Internet** usage and **Digital Financial Transactions** among establishments.

Percentage of establishments **registered** under at least one act/authority has been observed to be **43.28%** in July – September 2026.



## SAMPLE SIZE

Table 3: The number of FSUs and number of establishments surveyed during July- September 2026:

| Quarter | Number of FSU surveyed* | | | Number of establishments surveyed* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rural | Urban | Total | Rural | Urban | Total |
| July 2026 – September 2026 | 2,411 | 3,591 | 6,002 | 77,038 | 1,02,987 | 1,80,025 |

*****_Selected FSUs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Ladakh and rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland are not considered for this quarterly bulletin, as sub-round restrictions were not imposed in these areas while conducting field-work, due to arduous field conditions_

## RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

The reliability of the estimates presented in this bulletin is estimated through RSE (Relative Standard Error). The RSE (in percent) estimated for number of establishments and workers are presented below for reference.

Table 4: Table of RSE (%):

| Quarter | RSE of Estimated Number of Establishments | | | RSE of Estimated Number of Workers | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rural | Urban | Total | Rural | Urban | Total |
| July 2026 – September 2026 | 1.96 | 1.67 | 1.30 | 1.93 | 1.86 | 1.34 |
| **For Broad activity Categories (Rural + Urban)** | | | | | | |
| | Manufacturing | Trade | Other Services | Manufacturing | Trade | Other Services |
| July 2026 – September 2026 | 2.69 | 2.93 | 1.58 | 2.70 | 2.86 | 1.73 |

# ENDNOTE

## COVERAGE OF ASUSE:

**Geographically**, ASUSE covers the rural and urban areas of whole of India (except some of the villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are difficult to access).

**Sector-wise**, this survey captures unincorporated non-agricultural establishments belonging to three sectors viz., Manufacturing, Trade and Other Services.

**Ownership-wise**, unincorporated non-agricultural establishments pertaining to proprietorship, partnership (excluding Limited Liability Partnerships), co-operatives, societies/trusts etc. have been covered in ASUSE.

## Key Concepts and Definitions

**Enterprise:** An institutional unit in its capacity as a producer of goods and services is known as an enterprise. An enterprise is an economic transactor with autonomy in respect of financial and investment decision-making, as well as authority and responsibility for allocating resources for the production of goods and services. It may be engaged in one or more economic activities at one or more locations. It may be noted that unincorporated enterprises owned by households, all of whose output is intended for final consumption or gross fixed capital formation by those households is outside the coverage of the definition of enterprises used in this survey.

**Establishment:** An establishment is an enterprise or part of an enterprise that is situated in a single location and in which either only a single productive activity is carried out or in which the principal productive activity accounts for the most of the value added. The enterprise and the establishment are the same for single-establishment firms. The unit of enquiry of the ASUSE is an Establishment and not the Enterprise.

**Non-agricultural establishment:** All establishments covered under Sections ′B′ to ′V′ of NIC-2025 are "non-agricultural establishments". However, for the purpose of this survey Sections ′C′ to ′T′ of NIC-2025 have been considered.

**Unincorporated non-agricultural establishments:** Non-agricultural establishments which are not incorporated (i.e., neither registered under Companies Act, 1956 nor under Companies Act, 2013).

**Manufacturing Establishment:** A manufacturing establishment is a unit engaged in the physical or chemical transformation of materials, substances or components into new products. It also covers units working for other concerns on materials supplied by them. This also includes those units which are primarily engaged in providing manufacturing services such as maintenance and repair of industrial, commercial and similar machinery and equipment.

**Trading Establishment:** A trading establishment is a unit engaged in trade. Trade is defined to be an act of purchase of goods and their disposal by way of sale without any intermediate physical transformation of the goods. The activities of intermediaries who do not actually purchase or sell goods but only arrange their purchase and sale and earn remuneration by way of brokerage and commission are also treated as trade.

**Other Service Establishment:** A servicing establishment or service sector establishment is engaged in activities carried out for the benefit of a consuming unit. Such consuming units could be individuals or other institutional units. Activities of service establishments typically results in changes in the condition of consuming units when such activities are realized by the consuming unit on demand. Some examples of changes that a producer of service brings about in the condition of consumers of service are:

a) Changes in the condition of consumer′s goods: the producer works directly on goods owned by the consumer by transporting, cleaning, repairing or otherwise transforming them;

b) Changes in the physical condition of persons: the producer transports the persons, provides them with accommodation, provides them with medical or surgical treatments, improves their appearance etc.;

c) Changes in the mental condition of persons: the producer provides education, information, advice, entertainment or similar services;

d) Changes in the general economic state of the institutional unit itself: the producer provides insurance, financial intermediation, protection, guarantees, etc.

**Proprietary establishment:** When an individual is the sole owner of an establishment, it is called a proprietary establishment.

**Partnership establishment:** Partnership is defined as the ′relation between persons who have agreed to share the profits of a business carried out by all or any one of them acting for all′. There may be two or more owners, belonging to the same or different households, on a partnership basis, with or without formal agreement (where there is a tacit understanding about the distribution of profits among the so-called partners).

**Market establishment:** Market establishment is one which provides most of its produced goods and/or services at an economically significant price.

**Worker:** Worker is defined as persons working within the premises of the establishment who are in the payroll of the establishment as well as the working owners and unpaid family members who help in the entrepreneurial activity. The helpers, apprentices, interns engaged by the establishment are also treated as worker. The worker may serve the establishment in any capacity - primary or supervisory.

**Hired Worker Establishment (HWE):** An establishment which has employed at least one hired worker on a fairly regular basis[1] is termed as hired worker establishment.

[1]"fairly regular basis" means the major part of the period when operation(s) of an establishment are carried out during a reference period.

## DATA COLLECTION MECHANISM IN ASUSE

ASUSE is conducted on the basis of area frame and establishments have been listed in the selected FSUs of both rural and urban sector and from the listed establishments in the FSUs, requisite number of establishments were surveyed as per the sampling design. Mostly, data were collected from the selected establishments through oral enquiry pertaining to the 'monthly' reference period barring a few big establishments, which had provided annual data from their audited Books of Accounts. The data for the survey were collected in Tablet using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI).

## SAMPLING SCHEME



The survey has been conducted following a multi-stage stratified sampling scheme, where first stage units (FSUs) are census villages in rural area (except for rural Keralam, where Panchayat wards have been taken as FSUs) and UFS (Urban Frame Survey) blocks in urban areas. The ultimate stage units (USUs) are establishments for both the sectors. In the case of large FSUs, one intermediate stage of sampling has been done in the form of hamlet groups in rural and sub-blocks in urban.

Since ASUSE 2025, the sampling design of the survey has been suitably modified to enable quarterly selection of sample units. Also, by making districts within a state as basic stratum, this sampling strategy has provision for generation of district-level annual estimates by the states participating in the survey. This enhancement facilitates the generation of quarterly estimates, in addition to the annual results.

In ASUSE 2026, instead of purposive selection of one hamlet group/sub-block having highest number of hired worker establishments, two hamlet groups/sub-blocks having highest and next highest number of hired worker establishments are selected purposively to form segment 1. In addition, one hamlet group/sub-block is selected randomly in ASUSE 2026 to form segment 2 whereas two were selected in previous ASUSE. Thus, total number of hamlet groups/sub-blocks selected in ASUSE 2026 is same as in earlier ASUSE.

In ASUSE 2026, RSE (%) of any indicator is calculated at FSU × SSS level using Simple Random sampling with replacement (SRSWR) whereas in ASUSE 2025 it was calculated at FSU level using SRSWR.

## NOTE FOR USERS



The estimates presented in this quarterly bulletin pertain specifically to the unincorporated non-agricultural sector for the reference quarter under consideration. Although sampling design has been modified to enable generation of quarterly estimates using an area frame, the quarterly sample size is significantly less than the annual sample size. Also, the area frame used for rural sector is based on Census 2011. Accordingly, users may interpret quarterly movements with caution, considering limitations of area frame, potential sampling variability and short-term fluctuations in activity levels. It is important to note that ASUSE covers only a part of the non-agricultural economy, namely, the unincorporated segment of the establishments in manufacturing, trade and services (excluding construction) and, hence, the trends observed in the quarterly results of the unincorporated sector as presented in QBUSE, may not directly align with the corresponding quarterly GDP estimates which covers the entire economy. Where relevant, the estimates presented in the Quarterly Bulletin are accompanied with confidence intervals to enable informed interpretation of the estimates.

As part of the continuous effort to keep the survey relevant and responsive to stakeholder requirements, a few changes have been introduced in ASUSE 2026. The ICT block of the ASUSE questionnaire has been comprehensively redesigned with more policy-oriented questions to better capture the extent and nature of ICT usage in the sector. Further, NIC-2025 (based on International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Revision 5, endorsed by United Nations Statistical Commission) has been adopted for ASUSE 2026 in place of NIC-2008, which was used in earlier rounds of ASUSE for classifying establishments as per their economic activity. Due to this, some activities like maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and maintenance and repair of motor cycles, mopeds, scooters and three wheelers that were considered under trade in NIC 2008 are now being considered under service sector (NIC 2025) and accordingly, all such establishments engaged in these activities are now counted in “other services” in ASUSE 2026. Also, for the first time, an internationally recognized product classification developed by United Nations Statistics Division has been used in ASUSE 2026 to classify the goods and services. Another important feature of this revision pertains to the classification of ownership. From ASUSE 2026 onwards, establishments engaged in monetary intermediation activities by Self Help Groups (SHGs) are being classified under partnership ownership (comprising members from different households) as SHG is not considered as a separate form of ownership. In earlier rounds up to ASUSE 2025, such activities were recorded under a distinct SHG ownership category. However, such activities of SHGs are continued to be covered in ASUSE 2026 through appropriate NIC code. There is no change in the overall coverage of ASUSE.

Accordingly, users may interpret quarterly movements with caution, considering potential sampling variability and short-term fluctuations in activity levels and changes in classification of economic activity, product (goods and services) and ownership type and questionnaire.

The quarterly results have already been released from the quarter January–March 2025 onwards and this bulletin contains the results of the quarter July–September 2026.

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|---|---|
| **Other publications of ASUSE, including the quarterly bulletins and factsheet of ASUSE 2026 are available on the website of the Ministry (https://www.mospi.gov.in)** | **Scan QR code to access MoSPI Publications/ Reports** |