



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TURKISH STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) compiles detailed and up to-date information on labour force status of the population, employment and unemployment regularly via Household Labour Force Survey (LFS) as the main data source that provides information on the supply side of the labour force.

Following international standards in producing statistics in accordance with its working principles¹, TurkStat, since 1988, has been using the definitions of employment and unemployment determined in the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) held by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1982². In addition, LFS has been implemented in line with the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) standards since 2004.

Due to the need for up-to-date indicators and new definitions to better measure the changes in the structure of the labour market in the course of time, ILO has conducted some studies to update the definitions. In this context, with the 19th ICLS held in 2013, new "definitions" and "standards" regarding the measurement of employment and unemployment were determined³. All countries are expected to reflect these changes on their researches.

TurkStat has actively participated in the Task Force meetings, consisting of the National Statistical Offices of the European Union (EU) member and candidate

¹ [European Statistics Code of Practice](#)

² [ILO 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians \(1982\)](#)

³ [ILO 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians \(2013\)](#)

countries, established by Eurostat in order to reflect the new standards to the labour force survey. As a result of these studies, Integrated European Social Statistics Regulation⁴ No. 2019/1700 was established to ensure the harmonization of LFS implementation in EU countries. With the regulation that entered into force as of January 2021, all EU countries have to start producing statistics in line with the 19th ICLS definitions and standards in 2021.

In accordance with the standards laid down in the Integrated European Social Statistics Regulation in the LFS, TurkStat, simultaneously with the EU countries, will start using the definitions determined by the 19th ICLS Resolutions with the press release, whose reference month is January 2021.

In this framework, a revision will be made in "Labour Force Statistics" basically for the following reasons.

I - Updated definitions will be adopted in consequence of a series of developments arisen in recent years such as.

-Some changes in types of work and in labour market,

-Evolving policy needs,

-Insufficiency of the unemployment rate by itself in measuring the labour underutilization.

II - Independent monthly estimates will be published instead of producing monthly labour statistics based on the quarterly moving average results. In this way, more timely and independent monthly indicators will be produced. Summary basic labour force indicators will be published in the monthly press release, and the current shared detailed statistics will be published in the quarterly and annual press releases. LFS results will be shared with the public by calculating comparable series according to the new definitions.

It was previously announced to the public in the National Data Release Calendar⁵ that the first press release regarding the monthly estimates, the reference period of which is January 2021, would be published on March 10, 2021. Due to persistence of the pandemic conditions and the need for additional time to calculate

⁴ [The Integrated European Social Statistics Regulation \(October 14, 2019\)](#)

⁵ [The National Data Release Calendar](#)

comparable series according to the new definitions, the results for January 2021 via statistical tables and the results for February 2021 via press release will be shared with the public on April 12, 2021. The methodology document regarding the revision will be included with the press release. Results for the period of December 2020 covering the months of "November-December-January" will be published on March 10, 2021 and annual results for 2020 will be published on March 22, 2021.

In addition to the public announcements on the changes in statistical processes and methods in line with the principles of "accessibility and clarity" of the TurkStat Quality Assurance Framework, TurkStat also plans to hold informative meetings on the details of the changes. As a first step in this context, "Labour Market Advisory Board" has been established and meetings were held with the participation of board members. In the second stage, TurkStat is planning to organize a webinar with wide participation with focus groups including academicians, analysts, press members, public institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Respectfully announced to the public.