

# Improvement in India's Unemployment Rate: Govt. Data

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The country's job situation registered an improvement during 2018-19 with improvement rate declining to 5.8% down from 6.1% in the previous financial year, as per the government data released recently. The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) during 2018-19 rose to 37.5% as compared to 36.9% a year ago, said the Periodic Labour Force Survey released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

## **Key Highlights**

- While the unemployment rate refers to percentage of persons unemployed among the person in the labour force, the LFPR is defined as the labour force (working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
- The data further showed that the worker population ratio (WPR), which refers to percentage of employed persons in the population, also increased to 35.3% from 36.9% during 2017-18.
- The improvement in job situation, as per the PLFS was witnessed in both urban and rural areas. While the unemployment rate in rural areas came down to 5% from 5.3%, the same came down to 6% from 6.2% in urban areas from the previous financial year.
- According to the quarterly data, the unemployment rate

during the June 2019 quarter declined to 8.9 per cent, down from 9.3 per cent in the March 2019 quarter, based on the current weekly status (CWS) approach. The improvement in job situation was witnessed among all age groups.

### **About PLFS**

The National Statistics Office launched the PLFS in April 2017 to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators like WPR, LFPR and unemployment rate in the short-time interval of three months.

Under the CWS approach, a person is considered an unemployed in a week if he/she did not work even for an hour during the week but sought or was available for work at least for an hour during the week. The other parameters including LFPR and WPR, also showed improvement in all categories and age groups in the quarterly data which was released along with the second annual report based on PLFS.

**SOURCE:** *The Financial Express*