Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2025

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Why in News?

India's unemployment rate declined to 6.5% in 2025 from 7.0% a year earlier according to the PLFS report 2025 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

- **Aim-** To measure quarterly labour market indicators (LFPR, WPR, Unemployment Rate) for urban areas and annually for the whole country, highlighting trends like rising female participation.
- **Scope -** Focuses on persons ***aged 15 and above,*** tracking both usual status (365 days) and CWS (7 days).
- **Launched by** - The National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2017.
- **Released by -** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **Key Indicators**
  - **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** - Percentage of the population working or seeking work.
  - **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** - Percentage of the population employed.
  - **Unemployment Rate (UR)** - Percentage of the labour force that is unemployed.
  - **Usual Activity Status –** It identifies long-term employment patterns based on a 365-day reference period
  - **Current Weekly Status** - Last 7 days preceding the survey date.
- **National Key Findings -** The report shows a resilient labor market with stable participation and improving employment quality.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR)** - The overall rate stood at 3.1%.
- **Educated Persons** - Unemployment among those with secondary education or above declined to 6.5% from 7.0% in 2024.
- **Urban Females** - The UR for women in urban areas improved to 6.4%.
- **Youth (15–29)** - Joblessness in this demographic dropped to 9.9% from

10.3%.

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** - Remained stable at 59.3%.
  - **Male LFPR -** 79.1%
  - **Female LFPR -** 40.0%
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** - Maintained a steady level of 57.4%.
- **Structural Shifts in Employment -** It highlight a clear transition toward more formal and non-agricultural sectors.
- **Regular Wage Jobs** - Salaried employment increased to 23.6% (up from 22.4%), while self-employment declined to 56.2%.
- **Sectoral Recomposition**
  - **Agriculture** - Its share of employment fell from 44.8% to 43.0%.
  - **Manufacturing** - Participation improved to 12.1%.
  - **Services** - Other services saw an increase in worker share to 13.1%.
  - **Wage Growth** - Female nominal wages grew notably across sectors, with the highest growth of 8.8% observed among the self-employed.
- **Methodological Changes in 2025 -** From January 2025, MoSPI revamped the PLFS design to provide more frequent insights.
- **Monthly Bulletins** - Now provide high-frequency indicators (LFPR, WPR, UR) at the national level.
- **Quarterly Updates** - Coverage was extended to include rural areas, which were previously only covered annually.
- **Enhanced Sample** - The sample size was increased approximately 2.65 times, now covering around 2.72 lakh households.

Reference

Economic Times | PLFS

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