

Unemployment Rate in Iran by Gender(2001-2014)

Ramin Jabbarialghanab
Department of Sociology, University of Washington

BACKGROUND

In the patriarchal societies, the unemployment rate also can reflect the gender inequality. The unemployment gender gap, defined as the difference between female and male unemployment rates, is a factor which can be a product of gender inequality and also could reproduce the inequality in society. Iran is a country where women are extremely restricted and oppressed. Examining the unemployment rate could reveal the discrimination against women in the job market. In addition, this project could show how women are vulnerable in the job market when economic sanctions are imposed against Iran. While there are many studies on unemployment gender gap in the western countries, there is almost no research on the unemployment gender gap in Iran. To fill the gaps on the Iranian women’s positionality, examining the unemployment rate by gender could be helpful.

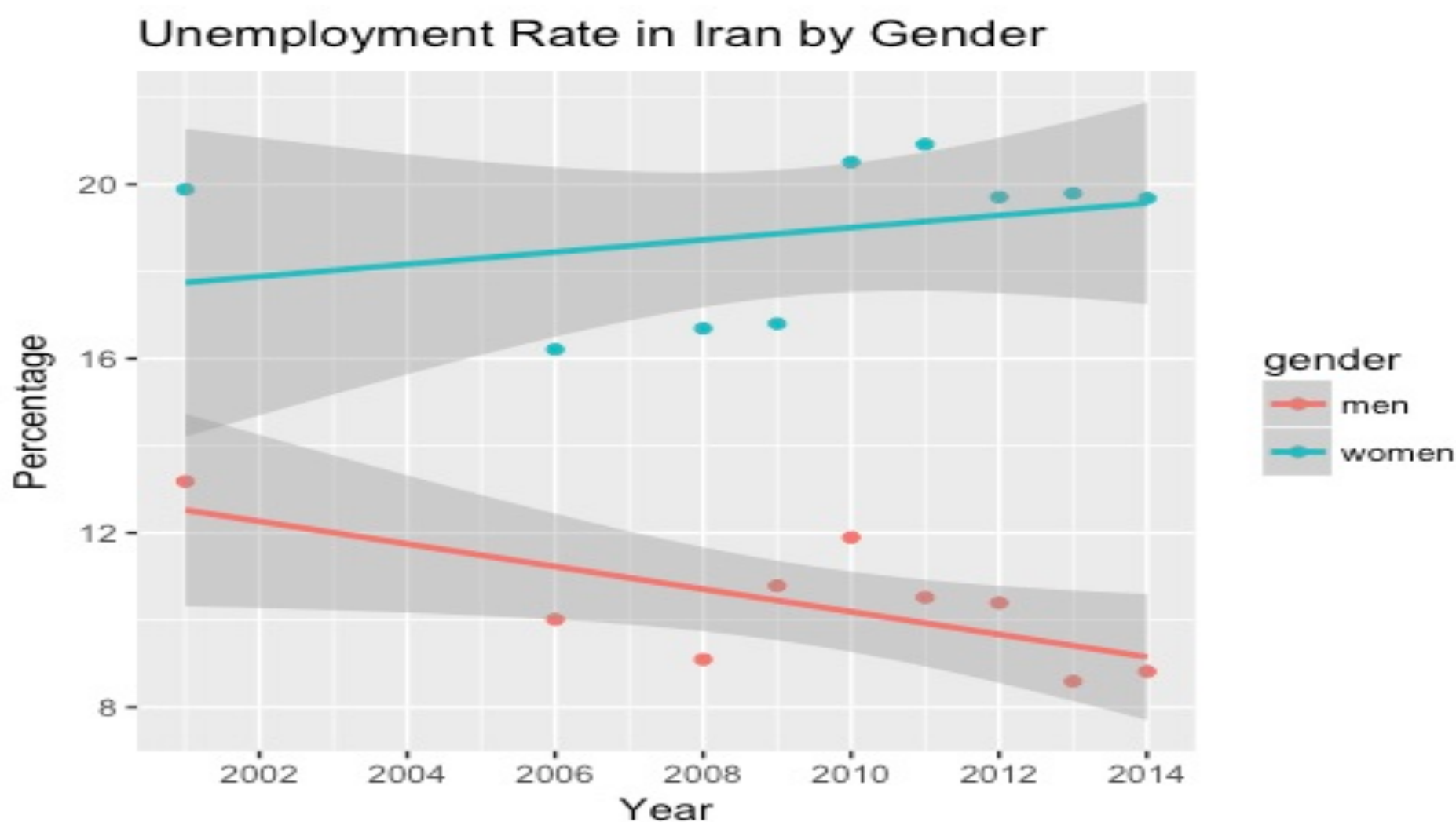
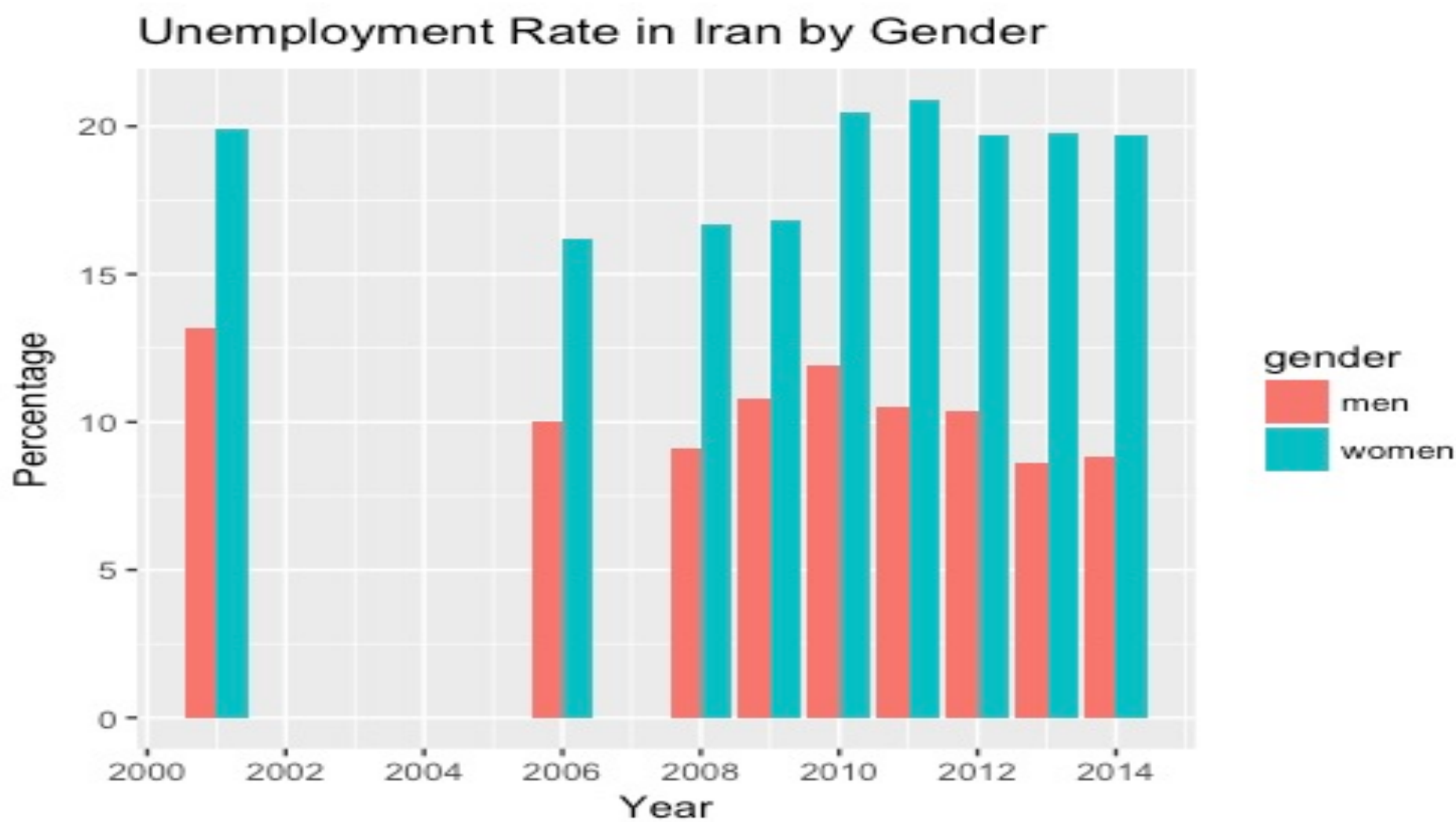
DATA

The data comes Iran’s Statistical Center of Iran. The center collected the data on Unemployment rate by gender since 2001. The center released the data until 2014. All the data from 2001-2014 on unemployment rate collected by survey method, except the data for 2006 which is collected through census in Iran. The variables of the data are gender which is defined binary (women and men), province, and year. So, for all the provinces of Iran, there are data based on gender. There is no available data for 2002-2005 and 2007 years in the dataset.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Is there any difference between unemployment rate of women and and unemployment of rate of men in Iran?
- How the difference between the unemployment rate is changed chronologically?
- How did the economic sanctions against Iran’s nuclear program affect the unemployment rate in 2009-2010 affect the unemployment rate for women and men?

VISUALIZATION



METHODS

To analyze the data, bivariate regression is used. Gender is the explanatory and percentage of unemployment is the response variable in the analysis. Since adding other available variables did not improve the analysis and there is the theoretical reason, I preferred to have the bivariate regression analysis for gender and unemployment rate in the data.

Table 1:

Dependent variable:	
	value
genderwomen	8.544*** (0.783)
Constant	10.367*** (0.553)
Observations	18
R ²	0.882
Adjusted R ²	0.874
Residual Std. Error	1.660 (df = 16)
F Statistic	119.226*** (df = 1; 16)

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

FINDINGS

- Based on the available data, the unemployment rate for women is more than the rate for men. So, the gender unemployment gap exists in the country.
- Overall there is a declining unemployment rate for men, while the unemployment rate for women is increasing. The gender unemployment gap does not tend to close in the years.
- Until 2008, the gap between the unemployment rate for both genders were almost constant.
- Since 2009, there is an increase in the gap between the women and men unemployment rate. These are the years that additional economic sanctions against Iran were imposed.