

Employment and unemployment indicators

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Please Read Me

- Check the message **Welcome greeting** published in the News Bulletin Board.
- Dear student please edit your profile uploading a photo where your face is clearly visible.
- The purpose of the virtual meetings is to answer questions and not to make a summary of the study material.
- This presentation is based on (Lora and Prada 2016, Chapter 2)

Purpose

Introduce the labor market indicators and statistical sources on employment in Colombia to understand their dynamics.

Labor classification of the population in Colombia

- To understand the indicators of the labor market from an economic perspective, it is necessary to classify the population from a labor point of view. Initially, the total population of a territory could be included but in practice the **Total Population (TP)** that is included **doesn't** cover (Husmanns, Mehran, and Varmā 1990, chap. 2):
 - Members of the armed forces because this information is considered secret or because it is not easy to obtain information when its members are in barracks and military areas.
 - Residents in institutions such as people who are not part of the military forces but reside in military facilities, residents of penal or correctional centers and hospital residents.
- In that sense, the **Total Population (TP)** covers the non-institutional civilian population residing in households.

Labor classification of the population in Colombia

- There are four (4) levels (we will not see a fifth (5) level in this presentation) to classify the **Total Population (TP)** of a territory from a labor point of view.
- This classification follows recommendations of the **International Labor Organization (ILO)** and is the methodology used by the **Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE)** in Colombia (DANE 2016).
 - **Level 1:** based on age to define who is able to work.
 - *Rural areas:* over 10 years old
 - *Urban areas:* over 12 years old
- This population is none as **Working Age Population (WAP)**

Labor classification of the population in Colombia

- **Level 2:** based on those who do not want or cannot do some economic activity and those who do or seek to do some economic activity.
 - **Economically Inactive Population (EIP):** Individuals who belong to **WAP** but who in a reference week did not participate in the production of goods and services because they don't need, can't or are not interest in having a paid activity.
 - *Examples EIP:* Students who do not work, homemakers, pensioners who do not work, rentiers who do not work, permanent disabled individuals to work, people who believe it is not worth working or do not want to work
 - **Economically Active Population (EAP):** Individuals who belong to **WAP** and work or are seeking employment.

Labor classification of the population in Colombia

- **Level 3:** based on the condition of individuals within the **EAP**
 - **Employed (E):** Individuals who belong to the **EAP** and who within a reference period they work at least one (1) hour in a reference week, they didn't work in the reference week but they had a job or they are unpaid workers and worked for at least one (1) hour in a reference week in a business
 - Take into account the home is not considered a business in the case of homemakers
 - **Unemployed (U):** Individuals who are available and willing to work, but did not work in the reference period.

Labor classification of the population in Colombia

- **Level 4:** based on the condition of individuals within the groups **E** and **U**.
 - For the case of **Unemployed (U)**:
 - *Visible Unemployment (VU)*: Individuals that belong to **Unemployed (U)**, without employment in the reference week and looked for a job in the last month.
 - *Invisible Unemployment (IU)*: Individuals that belong to **Unemployed (U)**, without employment in the reference week and did not look for a job in the last month but they did in the last 12 months and have a reason for discouragement.

Labor classification of the population in Colombia

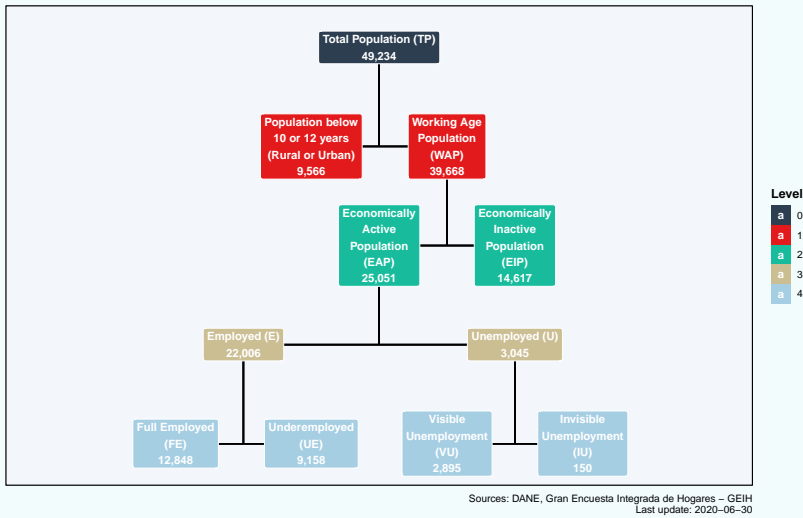
- **Level 4:** based on the condition of individuals within the groups **E** and **U**.
 - For the case of **Employed (E)**:
 - **Full Employed (FE):** Individuals that belong to **Employed (E)** and claim not to be able or not to have the desire to work more than they already work.
 - **Underemployed (UE):** two (2) categories called subjective and objective are considered.
 - *Subjective Underemployment:* Individuals who expressed the intention of improving his income, the number of working hours or his intention of having a more appropriate work in accordance with his skills.
 - *Objective Underemployment:* Individuals who have an intention but also have done any kind of search to materialize their expectation and they are ready to make the change.

Labor classification of the population in Colombia

Labor classification of the population in Colombia

Period: February 2020

Units : Thousands of individuals



Main indicators of the labor market in Colombia

- **Gross participation rate (GPR)**

- Measures the relative size of the workforce and captures the percentage of the population that is able to carry out economic activities.

$$GPR = \frac{EAP}{TP} * 100$$

- **Labor participation rate (LPR)** (*“Tasa Global de Participación” in spanish*)

- Measures the pressure of the working-age population over the labor market.

$$LPR = \frac{EAP}{WAP} * 100$$

Main indicators of the labor market in Colombia

- **Unemployment rate (UR)**

- Measures the proportion of the labor force that is not being demanded.
- In the denominator the **EAP** is used since this population includes individuals who work or seek to work.

$$UR = \frac{U}{EAP} * 100$$

- **Employment rate (ER)**

- Measures the proportion of the population that is able to work and that participates in the labor market.
- In the denominator the **WAP** is used to be consistent with the **Labor participation rate (LPR)** (*"Tasa Global de Participación"* in spanish)

$$ER = \frac{E}{WAP} * 100$$

Annual Unemployment rate (UR) and Employment rate (ER) in Colombia

Annual Unemployment rate (UR) and Employment rate (ER) in Colombia

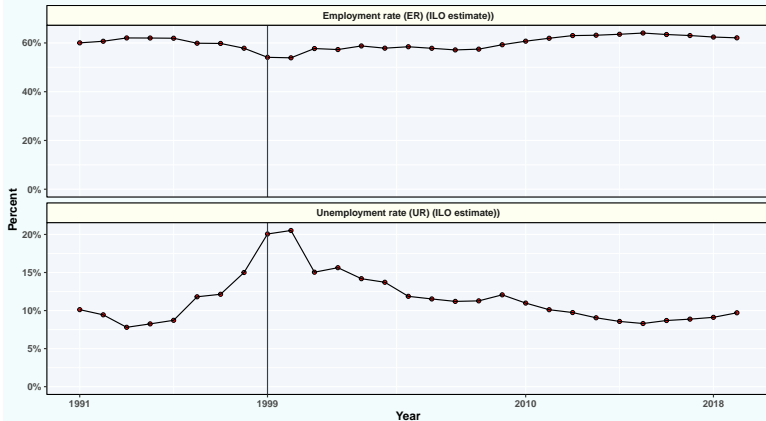
UR code WDI: SL.UEM.TOTL.ZS

UR units: percent

ER code WDI: SL.EMP.TOTL.SP.ZS

ER units: percent

Observation: ILO estimations where ages 15 and older are considered the WAP



Source: World Development Indicators (WDI) – World Bank
Last update date: 2020-0

Statistical sources on the labor market in Colombia

- It is quite expensive to collect information from the entire **Total Population (TP)**.
- Due to the above, a sample of the **Total Population (TP)** is taken and, with *statistical tools* plus using *probability theory*, the main indicators of the colombian labor market are estimated.
- The information to make these estimates is obtained from 2 sources:
 - **Gran Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (GEIH)**¹
 - Módulo H Fuerza de Trabajo
 - Módulo I Ocupados
 - Módulo J Desocupados
 - Módulo K Inactivos
 - **Census**

¹The questionnaires are available at (DANE 2016) > Materiales relacionados > Cuestionarios

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References

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- Husmanns, Ralf, Farhad Mehran, and Vijaya Varmā. 1990. *Surveys of Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment, and Underemployment: An ILO Manual on Concepts and Methods*. Geneva: International Labour Office. https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/publications/WCMS_215885/lang--en/index.htm.
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