

Note: This document is a translation of the official Spanish version of the Labour Informality bulletin.

- In the July–September 2024 quarter, the informally employed population increased 3.6%, equivalent to a rise of 87,408 persons.
- In the same period, the informal employment rate was estimated at 27.0%, a twelve-month increase of 0.3 percentage points (pp).
- By economic sector, the increase can mainly be attributed to the rises in commerce (8.7%) and education (27.7%).
- The increase in the informally employed population was influenced by the rises in own-account workers (3.8%) and wage earners of the private sector (5.0%).

Informal employment rate (%), according to sex, nationwide total



Informal employment rate

In the July–September 2024 quarter, the informal employment rate increased 0.3 pp year on year to stand at 27.0%. The increase can be attributed to the faster growth in the informally employed (3.6%) than in the total employed population (2.4%).

According to sex, the growth in the informally employed can be attributed to the rises in women (4.4%) and men (3.0%). In the same period, the informal employment rate for women increased 0.5 pp to stand at 28.6% and the rate for men increased 0.2 pp to stand at 25.8%.

MOVING QUARTERS 2023–2024

Informal employment rate (%)	Jul-Sep	Aug-Oct	Sep-Nov	Oct-Dec	Nov-Jan	Dec-Feb	Jan-Mar	Feb-Apr	Mar-May	Apr-Jun	May-Jul	Jun-Aug	Jul-Sep
Nationwide	26.7	27.0	27.5	27.5	27.6	27.4	28.1	28.2	28.2	28.2	27.6	27.6	27.0
Women	28.1	28.7	28.9	29.2	29.2	29.2	29.9	30.0	30.0	29.9	29.4	29.2	28.6
Men	25.6	25.8	26.4	26.2	26.3	26.0	26.8	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.3	26.3	25.8

(1) Since the dissemination of the results of the National Employment Survey (ENE) for the February–April 2022 moving quarter, the ENE team has been publishing the main estimates and their respective disaggregations, in accordance with institutional statistical quality criteria, as well as AAPOR codes, which provide performance and quality indicators for monitoring the data-collection process. For more information, see the [Statistical Note, ENE, no.30](#).

MOVING QUARTER (July–September 2024)		
Main indicators		
	Rate	12-month var. (pp)
Informal employment rate	27.0%	0.3
Informal employment rate, excluding the agricultural sector	26.2%	0.4
Employment rate in the informal sector	16.2%	0.1
Employed persons		
	Level (totals)	12-month var. (%)
Informally employed persons	2,494,520	3.6
Informally employed persons, excluding the agricultural sector	2,290,290	3.8
Employed persons in the informal sector	1,498,603	3.2

Analysis by age bracket

The main influences on the growth in the number of informally employed persons were the increases in the brackets 35–44 years (8.6%) and 55–64 years (8.8%).

According to sex, the increase in men was influenced by the rise in the bracket 35–44 years (8.4%) and the increase in women was influenced by the rise in the bracket 55–64 years (12.7%).

The highest informal employment rates of the quarter were in the brackets 65 years and over (55.8%) and 15–24 years (36.1%). These results show that informal employment is most prevalent in the highest and lowest age brackets, affecting the old and the young.

Main indicators

Economic activity²

The twelve-month increase in the informally employed (3.6%) can mainly be attributed to the rises in commerce (8.7%) and education (27.7%).

In the same period, the main influences on the growth in informally employed men (3.0%) were the rises in the sectors of commerce (12.1%) and transportation and storage (5.3%). In contrast, the growth in informally employed women (4.4%) was a result of rises in education (58.8%) and commerce (5.7%).

The highest informal employment rates were in households as employers (55.5%), other service activities (50.0%), and agriculture and fishing (40.6%).

Analysis by occupational group³

The principal influences on the twelve-month rise in informally employed persons (3.6%) were the increases in service and sales workers (9.0%) and machine operators and assemblers (8.7%).

The increases in informally employed men (3.0%) and women (4.4%) were influenced by the category service and sales workers, which rose 15.6% and 6.0%, respectively.

Informally employed Persons by occupational group (CIUO 08.CL), nationwide total

July–September 2024 quarter

Occupational category (CIUO 08.CL)	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	12-month variation		
			Total	(%)	Impact (pp) †
Nationwide total	27.0	2,494,520	87,408	3.6	-
Managers	3.3	13,737 (*)	-1,451	-9.6	-0.1
Professionals	12.3	190,935	-9,944	-5.0	-0.4
Technicians and associate professionals	10.9	131,919	15,363	13.2	0.6
Clerical support workers	10.2	47,123	5,814	14.1	0.2
Service and sales workers	35.7	719,895	59,486	9.0	2.5
Agricultural and fishery workers	53.7	119,437	14,584	13.9	0.6
Craft and related trades workers	45.1	496,634	-4,516	-0.9	-0.2
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	28.0	206,659	16,465	8.7	0.7
Elementary occupations	38.0	566,974	-7,297	-1.3	-0.3
Unidentified	0.8 (**)	207 (**)	-1,219	-85.5	-0.1
Unclassified	38.6 (**)	1,000 (**)	124	14.2	0.0

(†) The sum of the impacts is equal to the percentage variation and may differ if more decimals are used in the calculation.

(*) Estimate of low reliability (i.e., the coefficient of variation is greater than 15% and less than or equal to 30%, or, for ratio estimates, the estimate does not meet the acceptance threshold associated with its standard error).

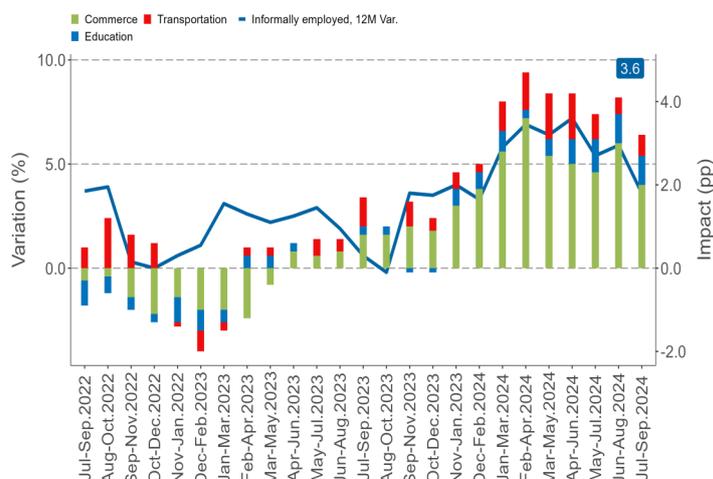
(**) Unreliable estimate (i.e., the number of sample cases is below 60, the degrees of freedom below 9, or the coefficient of variation greater than 30%).

Analysis by occupational category

The twelve-month increase in informal employment (3.6%) was driven by the rises in own-account workers (3.8%), wage earners of the private sector (5.0%), and employers (17.2%). In contrast, decreases were observed in unpaid family workers (-8.2%), wage earners of the public sector (-0.5%), and domestic workers (-0.5%).

According to sex, the increase in women (4.4%) was influenced by the rise in wage earners of the private sector (7.9%), while the increase in

Twelve-month variations and impacts of informally employed persons according to branch of economic activity[†], nationwide totals moving quarters



† These branches had the highest positive impacts in the latest moving quarter.

The highest rates of informal employment were in agricultural and fishery workers (53.7%), craft and related trades workers (45.1%), and elementary occupations (38.0%).

men (3.0%) was influenced by the rise in own-account workers (3.4%).

Together, own-account workers and wage earners of the private sector accounted for 86.0% of the total number of informally employed persons, and their informal employment rates were 69.2% and 15.1%, respectively.

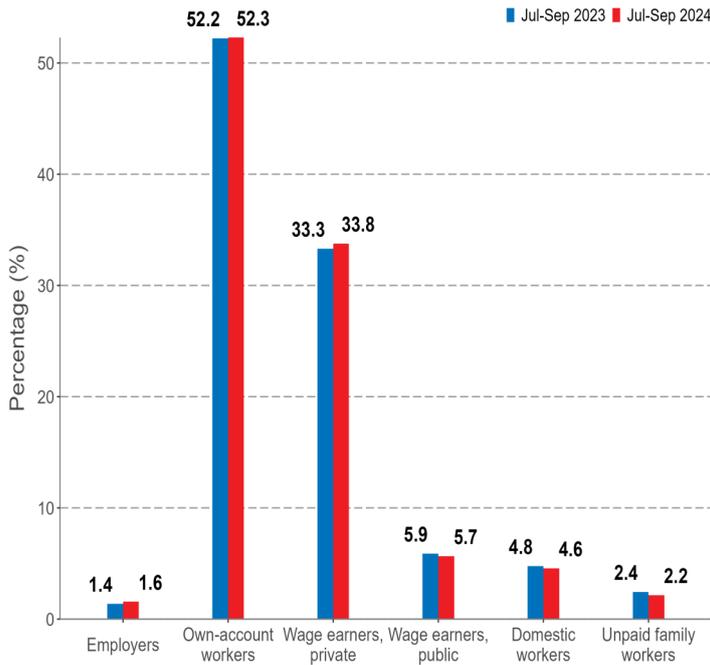
By category, the highest rates of informal employment were in own-account workers (69.2%) and domestic workers (54.3%).

(2) The branch of economic activity refers to the sector of the economic unit that pays the wages of the employed person or to the economic unit owned by the employed person. The branch of economic activity may therefore differ from the activity of the employed person's place of work for those who are subcontracted.

(3) National adaptation of the International Standard Classification of Occupations of 2008 (CIUO 08.CL).

Distribution of informally employed persons, according to occupational category, nationwide total

moving quarters



Informal own-account workers

The year-on-year increase in informal own-account workers (3.8%) was influenced by the expansion in men (3.4%) and women (4.3%). According to sector, the increase was led by the rises in commerce (9.2%) and health activities (27.7%).

Informal wage earners

The twelve-month increase in informal wage earners (4.2%) can be exclusively attributed to the rise in wage earners of the private sector (5.0%) because the number of wage earners of the public sector decreased 0.5% during the period. By economic sector, the increase in informal wage earners of the private sector can be attributed to the rises in commerce (7.9%) and education (32.6%).

Analysis according to type of production unit

The informal employment rate outside the informal sector increased 0.1 pp year on year to stand at 10.8%. This indicator consists of the percentage of informally employed persons in formal economic units (the formal sector) and the percentage of informally employed persons in the sector households as employers. The former increased 0.3 pp to stand at 9.3%, and the latter decreased 0.1 pp to stand at 1.6%.

Informally employed persons by occupational category, nationwide total⁴

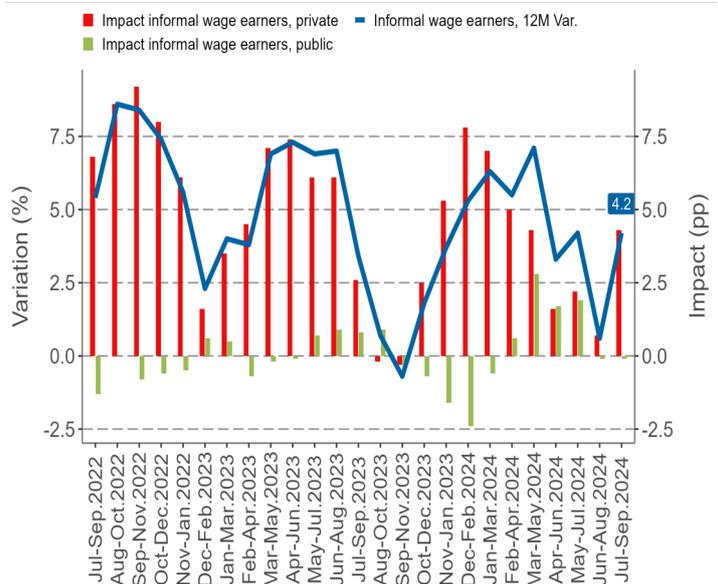
July–September 2024

Occupational category	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (1000s)	Twelve-month variation		
			1000s	%	Impact (pp) [†]
Total	27.0	2,494,520	87,408	3.6	-
Employers	14.2	38,991	5,715	17.2	0.2
Own-account workers	69.2	1,304,311	47,472	3.8	2.0
Wage earners, private	15.1	842,102	40,213	5.0	1.7
Wage earners, public	11.3	141,032	-682	-0.5	0.0
Domestic service workers	54.3	114,171	-522	-0.5	0.0
Unpaid family workers	100.0	53,913	-4,789	-8.2	-0.2

(†) The sum of the impacts is equal to the percentage variation and may differ if

Twelve-month variation and impact of informal wage earners, nationwide total

moving quarters



For women, the informal employment rate outside the informal sector rose 0.1 pp year on year to stand at 13.0%. For men, this indicator rose 0.2 pp to stand at 9.2%.

In the same period, the employment rate in the informal sector increased 0.1 pp year on year to stand at 16.2%.

(4) The appendix shows an extended version of this table, disaggregated according to sex.

Informality according to units of production, a national adaptation of the Hussmanns Matrix, nationwide total

Percentage over the total of employed persons

July–September 2024 quarter

	Employed persons												
	Independent workers				Unpaid family workers	Dependent workers						Subtotal	
	Own-account		Employer			Wage earners, private		Wage earners, public		Domestic workers			
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	
Formal sector	6.3		2.5		0.4	50.9	7.4	11.9	1.5			71.7	9.3
Informal sector		14.1		0.4	0.2	0.1	1.4					0.1	16.2
Households sector						0.2	0.3			1.0	1.2	1.3	1.6
Total(†)	6.3	14.1	2.5	0.4	0.6	51.2	9.1	11.9	1.5	1.0	1.2	73.0	27.0

Note: The empty cells refer to occupations for which, by definition, there is no type of production unit.

(†) Because the numbers are rounded, the total of each category may differ.

Hours usually worked

Hours usually worked

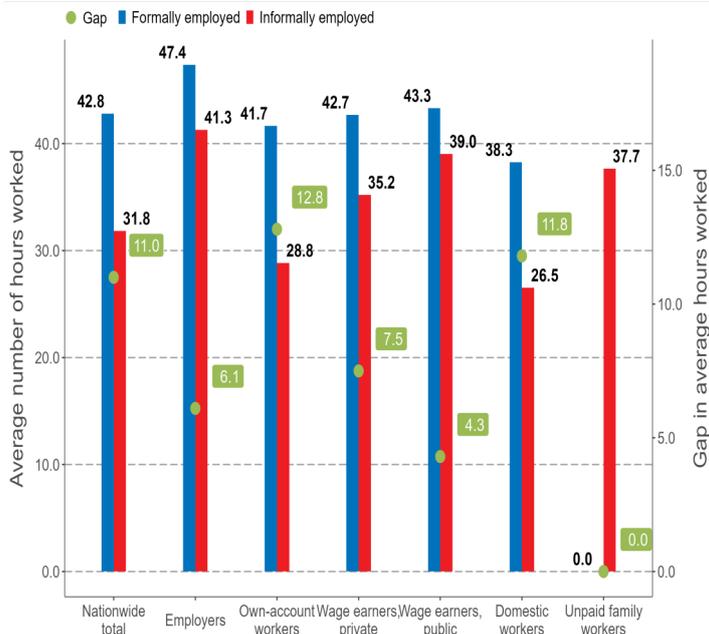
Within the expansion in the number of hours usually worked by informally employed persons, the most notable increases were in the brackets 31–44 hours (37.1%) and 1–30 hours, or part time (7.7%). The increase in the latter can be attributed to the rises in those who work part time voluntarily (7.0%) and involuntarily (9.7%). Following was the increase in the bracket 46 hours and over (1.9%).

Of the informally employed persons who worked under 45 hours, 66.1% worked part time (between 1 and 30 hours per week). Of this group, 31.7% worked part time involuntarily and 65.9% worked part time voluntarily.

Concerning hours usually worked, formally employed persons worked an average of 11.0 hours more than informally employed persons. By occupational category, the greatest differences in average number of hours usually worked between formally and informally employed persons were in own-account workers (12.8 hours) and domestic workers (11.8 hours).

Average number of hours normally worked per week, according to occupational category, nationwide total

July–September 2024 quarter



Total number of informally employed persons according to hours usually worked, nationwide total

July–September 2024 quarter

Bracket of hours worked per week	Informal employment rate	Informally employed		
		Total	% over total informally employed	12-month variation (%)
Total	27.0	2,494,520	100.0	3.6
1–30†	67.1	1,242,241	49.8	7.7
VPT††	64.6	818,901	65.9	7.0
IPT†††	72.6	394,200	31.7	9.7
Unclassified	70.3	29,140	2.3	0.0
31–44	14.0	635,869	25.5	37.1
45	11.9	182,576	7.3	-50.4
46 and over	32.4	420,588	16.9	1.9
No data	56.4	13,245 (*)	0.5	57.2 (*)

(†) This bracket represents those who work part time as defined in the Labour Code in article 40 bis.

(††) Voluntary part-time Employed persons. Percentage of participation (%) over the total number of part-time employed persons.

(†††) Involuntary part-time employed persons. Percentage of participation (%) over the total number of formal and informal part-time employed persons.

Appendix 1: Informally employed persons according to occupational category

Informally employed persons by occupational category, nationwide total

July–September 2024

Occupational category	Both sexes				Men				Women			
	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	12-month variation		Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	12-month variation		Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	12-month variation	
			Total	%			Impact (pp)†	Total			%	Impact (pp)†
Total	27.0	2,494,520	87,408	3.6	25.8	1,352,477	38,916	3.0	28.6	1,142,043	48,492	4.4
Employers	14.2	38,991	5,715	17.2	14.7	30,706	2,434	8.6	12.6	8,286 (*)	3,282	65.6
Own-account workers	69.2	1,304,311	47,472	3.8	67.7	729,236	23,953	3.4	71.2	575,075	23,519	4.3
Wage earners, private sector	15.1	842,102	40,213	5.0	14.8	507,865	15,638	3.2	15.5	334,237	24,575	7.9
Wage earners, public sector	11.3	141,032	-682	-0.5	11.9	61,212	2,131	3.6	10.9	79,820	-2,814	-3.4
Domestic workers	54.3	114,171	-522	-0.5	38.9 (**)	2,140 (**)	-429	-16.7	54.7	112,030	-92	-0.1
Unpaid family workers	100.0	53,913	-4,789	-8.2	100.0	21,319	-4,811	-18.4	100.0	32,594	22	0.1

(†) The sum of the impacts is equal to the percentage variation and may differ if more decimals are used in the calculation.

(*) Estimate of low reliability (i.e., the coefficient of variation is greater than 15% and less than or equal to 30%, or, for ratio estimates, the estimate does not meet the acceptance threshold associated with its standard error).

(**) Unreliable estimate (i.e., the number of sample cases are below 60, the degrees of freedom below 9, or coefficient of variation greater than 30%).

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