

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

- In the October–December 2025 quarter, the informally employed population increased 3.5%, equivalent to a rise of 86,840 persons.
- In the same period, the informal employment rate was estimated at 26.8%, a twelve-month increase of 0.4 percentage points (pp).
- By economic sector, the increase was mainly due to the rises in administrative and support services (25.3%) and health activities (18.2%).
- By occupational category, the rise in the informally employed population was influenced by the increases in wage earners of the private sector (9.4%) and own-account workers (1.5%).

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



Informal employment rate

In the October–December 2025 quarter, the informal employment rate increased 0.4 pp year on year to stand at 26.8%. The increase was due to the faster growth in the informally employed population (3.5%) than in the overall employed population (1.8%).

According to sex, the year-on-year increase in the informally employed can be attributed to the rises in women (4.5%) and men (2.7%). In the same period, the informal employment rate for women rose 0.3 pp to stand at 28.7%, while the rate for men rose 0.6 pp to stand at 25.4%.

Analysis by age bracket

The growth in the number of informally employed persons was mainly due to the increases in the brackets 35–44 years (9.8%) and 65 years and over (12.0%).

According to sex, the increase in men was influenced by the rise in the bracket 65 years and over (10.6%), and the increase in women was influenced by the rise in the bracket 35–44 years (14.4%).

The highest informal employment rates of the quarter were in the brackets 65 years and over (58.1%) and 15–24 years (37.0%). These results reveal that informal employment is most prevalent in the highest and lowest age brackets, affecting the old and the young.

MOVING QUARTERS 2024–2025

Informal employment rate (%)	Oct-Dec	Nov-Jan	Dec-Feb	Jan-Mar	Feb-Apr	Mar-May	Apr-Jun	May-Jul	Jun-Aug	Jul-Sep	Aug-Oct	Sep-Nov	Oct-Dec
Nationwide	26.4	26.3	26.1	25.8	25.8	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.2	26.2	26.6	26.8
Women	28.4	28.1	27.3	27.1	27.3	27.6	27.6	27.5	27.8	28.1	28.2	28.4	28.7
Men	24.8	24.9	25.2	24.8	24.7	24.7	24.8	24.9	24.7	24.8	24.7	25.2	25.4

(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.45](#).

MOVING QUARTER (October–December 2025)		
Main indicators		
	Rate	12-month var. (pp)
Informal employment rate	26.8%	0.4
Informal employment rate, excluding the agricultural sector	25.8%	0.4
Employment rate in the informal sector	15.0%	-0.1
Employed persons		
	Level (totals)	12-month var. (%)
Informally employed persons	2,540,783	3.5
Informally employed persons, excluding the agricultural sector	2,302,862	3.7
Employed persons in the informal sector	1,418,476	1.0

Main indicators

Economic activity²

The twelve-month expansion in the informally employed population (3.5%) was mainly due to the rises in administrative and support services (25.3%), health activities (18.2%), and accommodation and food service (11.4%).

In the same period, the increase in informally employed men (2.7%) can mainly be attributed to the rises in administrative and support services (39.5%) and accommodation and food service (42.7%). In contrast, the increase in informally employed women (4.5%) was due to the rises in health activities (23.9%) and administrative and support services (16.1%).

The highest informal employment rates were in households as employers (61.3%) and other service activities (47.8%).

Analysis by occupational group³

The main influences on the twelve-month increase in informally employed persons (3.5%) were the rises in service and sales workers (5.5%) and technicians and associate professionals (26.3%).

The increases in informally employed men (2.7%) and women (4.5%) were influenced by the category service and sales workers, which rose 6.8% and 4.9%, respectively.

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

October–December 2025 quarter

Occupational category (CIUO 08.CL)	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	12-month variation		
			Total	(%)	Impact (pp) [†]
Nationwide total	26.8	2,540,783	86,840	3.5	-
Managers	5.3	24,642 (*)	13,197	115.3	0.5
Professionals	11.9	196,268	8,914	4.8	0.4
Technicians and associate professionals	12.1	145,573	30,323	26.3	1.2
Clerical support workers	8.8	41,017	-1,634	-3.8	-0.1
Service and sales workers	34.6	700,606	36,600	5.5	1.5
Agricultural and fishery workers	55.4	130,055	15,819	13.8	0.6
Craft and related trades workers	41.9	467,694	-16,922	-3.5	-0.7
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	26.4	198,927	10,989	5.8	0.4
Elementary occupations	41.1	630,408	-12,494	-1.9	-0.5
Unidentified	1.2 (**)	306 (**)	-855	-73.6	0.0
Unclassified	72.1 (**)	5,287 (**)	2,904	121.8	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).

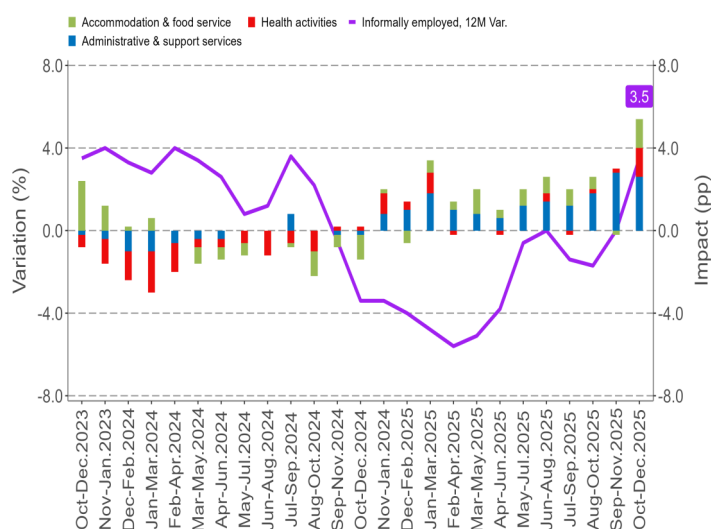
(**) Unreliable estimate (i.e., the number of sample cases is below 60, the degrees of freedom below 9, or the coefficient of variation greater than 30%).

Analysis by occupational category

The expansion in informally employed persons (3.5%) was due to the increases in wage earners of the private sector (9.4%), own-account workers (1.5%), unpaid family workers (7.9%), and employers (9.2%). In contrast, decreases were observed in the categories wage earners of the public sector (-9.6%) and domestic workers (-6.8%).

The increases in informally employed women (4.5%) and men (2.7%) were influenced by the category wage earners of the private sector,

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



[†] These three sectors had the greatest positive influence in the latest moving quarter. (Economic sectors with negative influence in the period have been excluded.)

The highest rates of informal employment were in agricultural and fishery workers (55.4%) and craft and related trades workers (41.9%).

which rose 14.0% and 6.4%, respectively.

Together, own-account workers and wage earners of the private sector accounted for 86.4% of the total number of informally employed persons, and the informal employment rates of these categories were 64.0% and 16.7%, respectively.

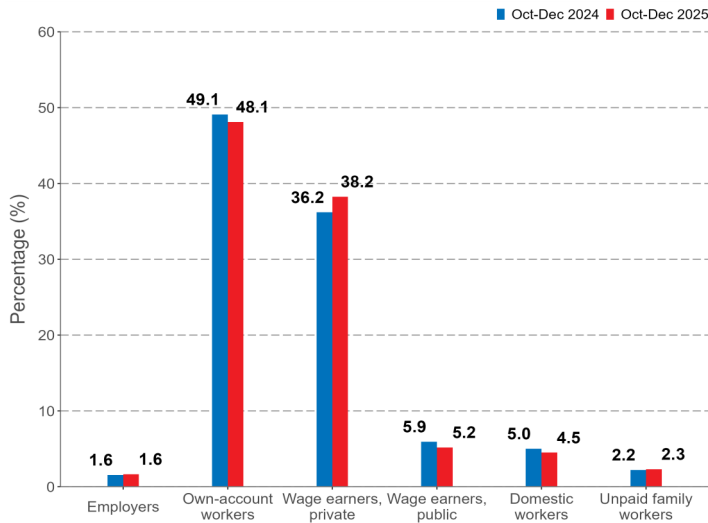
By occupational category, the highest rates of informal employment were in own-account workers (64.0%) and domestic workers (57.5%).

(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 (1.5%) was influenced by the expansion in women (2.6%) and men (0.6%). By economic sector, the increase was led by the rises in accommodation and food service (26.2%) and administrative and support services (13.2%).

Informal wage earners

The twelve-month increase in informal wage earners (6.8%) can be exclusively attributed to the rise in wage earners of the private sector (9.4%) because the number of wage earners of the public sector decreased 9.6% during the same period. By economic sector, the increase in informal wage earners of the private sector can be attributed to the rises in administrative and support services (49.4%) and manufacturing (19.4%).

Analysis according to type of production unit

The informal employment rate outside the informal sector increased 0.5 pp year on year to stand at 11.9%. 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 0.7 pp to stand at 10.3%, and the latter decreased 0.1 pp to stand at 1.6%.

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

Informally employed persons by occupational category, nationwide total⁴

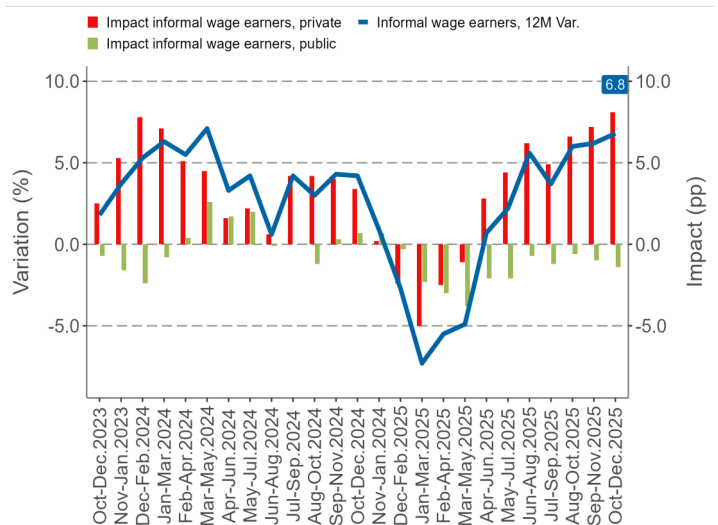
October–December 2025

Occupational category	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (1000s)	Twelve-month variation		Impact (pp) [†]
			1000s	%	
Total	26.8	2,540,783	86,840	3.5	-
Employers	14.8	41,742	3,501	9.2	0.1
Own-account workers	64.0	1,222,456	17,619	1.5	0.7
Wage earners, private	16.7	971,796	83,732	9.4	3.4
Wage earners, public	10.8	131,650	-13,957	-9.6	-0.6
Domestic workers	57.5	114,527	-8,359	-6.8	-0.3
Unpaid family workers	100.0	58,611	4,303	7.9	0.2

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

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

moving quarters



For women, the informal employment rate outside the informal sector rose 0.2 pp year on year to stand at 14.0%. For men, this rate rose 0.7 pp to stand at 10.2%.

In the same period, the employment rate in the informal sector decreased 0.1 pp year on year to stand at 15.0%.

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

Percentage over the total of employed persons

October–December 2025 quarter

	Employed persons												Subtotal	
	Independent workers				Unpaid family workers	Wage earners, private		Wage earners, public		Domestic workers				
	Own-account		Employer			Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal										
Formal sector	7.3		2.5		0.4	50.8	8.5	11.5	1.4			72.1	10.3	
Informal sector		12.9		0.4	0.3	0.0	1.3					0.0	14.9	
Households sector						0.1	0.4			0.9	1.2	1.0	1.6	
Total(†)	7.3	12.9	2.5	0.4	0.6	51.0	10.3	11.5	1.4	0.9	1.2	73.2	26.8	

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 (12.6%) and 1–30 hours, or part time (3.9%). The increase in the latter can mainly be attributed to the rise in those who work part time involuntarily (14.9%).

Of the informally employed persons who worked under 45 hours, 61.9% worked part time (between 1 and 30 hours per week). Of this group, 33.0% worked part time involuntarily and 64.5% worked part time voluntarily.

In regard to 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 the average hours usually worked between formally and informally employed persons were in domestic workers (13.0 hours) and own-account workers (12.6 hours).

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

October–December 2025 quarter

Bracket of hours worked per week	Informal employment rate	Informally employed		
		Total	% over total informally employed	12-month variation (%)
Total	26.8	2,540,783	100.0	3.5
1–30 [†]	65.1	1,241,646	48.9	3.9
VPT ^{††}	63.2	800,574	64.5	-2.5
IPT ^{†††}	68.4	409,846	33.0	14.9
Unclassified	74.2 (*)	31,227	2.5	78.5
31–44	14.2	763,873	30.1	12.6
45	15.3	129,480	5.1	-13.0
46 and over	29.6	387,636	15.3	-6.3
No data	51.9	18,148	0.7	2.8

(†) 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.

(*) 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).

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

October–December 2025 quarter



Appendix 1: Informally employed persons according to occupational category

Informally employed persons by occupational category, nationwide total
October–December 2025

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	%	Impact (pp)†
Total	26.8	2,540,783	86,840	3.5	-	25.4	1,362,795	35,857	2.7	-	28.7	1,177,988	50,983	4.5	-
Employers	14.8	41,742	3,501	9.2	0.1	16.4	35,072	4,989	16.6	0.4	9.7	6,670 (**)	-1,488	-18.2	-0.1
Own-account workers	64.0	1,222,456	17,619	1.5	0.7	62.4	674,278	3,715	0.6	0.3	66.0	548,178	13,905	2.6	1.2
Wage earners, private sector	16.7	971,796	83,732	9.4	3.4	16.0	565,955	33,859	6.4	2.6	17.9	405,841	49,872	14.0	4.4
Wage earners, public sector	10.8	131,650	-13,957	-9.6	-0.6	11.3	56,820	-12,234	-17.7	-0.9	10.5	74,830	-1,723	-2.3	-0.2
Domestic workers	57.5	114,527	-8,359	-6.8	-0.3	55.2 (**)	4,836 (**)	3,189	193.6	0.2	57.6	109,690	-11,548	-9.5	-1.0
Unpaid family workers	100.0	58,611	4,303	7.9	0.2	100.0	25,833	2,339	10.0	0.2	100.0	32,778	1,964	6.4	0.2

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

(**) 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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