STATISTICAL BULLETIN: QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT[1]

No. 336 / 29 October 2026

Note: This document is a translation of the official Spanish version of the quarterly employment bulletin.

- **In the July–September 2026 quarter, the national unemployment rate was estimated at 9.8%, a twelve-month increase of 1.3 percentage points (pp).**
- **The number of employed persons decreased an estimated 1.1% year on year.**
- **The decrease in the employed population was mainly driven by the falls in the sectors of manufacturing (-8.1%), information and communications (-20.8%), and financial and insurance activities (-14.1%).**
- **The twelve-month increase in the population outside the labour force (1.8%) was influenced by the rise in the routinely inactive (1.4%).**
- **Compared to the previous moving quarter, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.2 pp to stand at 9.6%.**

Unemployment rate according to sex and nationwide total

moving quarters



MOVING QUARTER (July–September 2026)	
Labour force participation rate	61.6%
Employment rate	55.5%
Unemployment rate	9.8%
Level (number of persons)	
Labour force	10,282,718
Employed persons	9,274,742
Informally employed persons	2,451,443
Unemployed persons	1,007,976
Economically inactive persons	6,416,440
Twelve-month variations	
Labour force	0.3%
Employed persons	-1.1%
Informally employed persons	-0.3%
Unemployed persons	15.3%
Economically inactive persons	1.8%
Analytical rates	
Unemployment rate with available future starters (LU1)*	10.1%
Combined rate of unemployment and involuntary part-time work (LU2)	16.5%
Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3)	17.9%
Labour force pressure rate	17.7%
Labour informality	
Informal employment rate	26.4%
Employment rate in the informal sector	14.8%

Unemployment

The national unemployment rate was estimated at 9.8%, a twelve-month increase of 1.3 pp that can be attributed to the rise in the labour force (0.3%) and the fall in employed persons (-1.1%). In the same period, the increase in unemployed persons (15.3%) was influenced by the rises in the unemployed with prior work experience (14.4%) and first-time job seekers (24.7%).

According to sex, the unemployment rate was 10.5% for women and 9.3% for men.

Employment

The year-on-year decrease in the estimated number of employed persons (-1.1%) was driven by the falls in men (-1.9%) and women (-0.1%). The number of absent employed persons (5.3% of the total employed population) decreased 4.1%, equivalent to a fall of 21,107 persons.

According to economic sector, the decrease in employed persons was influenced by the falls in manufacturing (-8.1%), information and communications (-20.8%), and financial and insurance activities (-14.1%). According to occupational category, the decrease can be attributed to the falls in formal wage earners (-2.5%) and employers (-2.8%).

The informal employment rate rose 0.2 pp year on year to stand at 26.4%. Meanwhile, the decrease in the number of informally employed persons (-0.3%) was influenced by the falls in men (-0.8%) and in own-account workers (-1.9%).

Labour participation

The participation rate fell 0.3 pp year on year to stand at 61.6%, and the employment rate fell 1.1 pp to stand at 55.5%. Meanwhile, the increases in the routinely inactive (1.4%) and inactive persons who are potentially active (4.4%) influenced the rise in the population outside the labour force (1.8%).

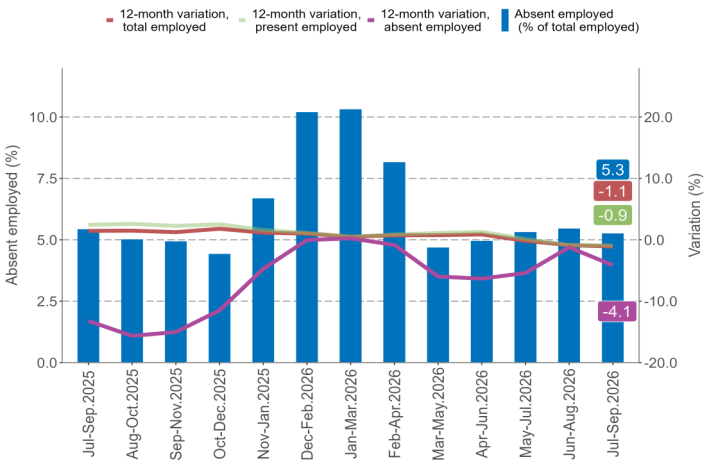
MOVING QUARTERS (2025–2026)

Unemployment 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 total	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.0	8.3	8.3	8.9	9.1	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.6	9.8
Women	9.1	8.8	8.8	8.5	8.7	9.0	10.0	10.5	10.5	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.5
Men	8.1	8.2	8.1	7.7	8.0	7.8	8.1	8.0	8.6	8.7	8.9	9.1	9.3

(1) As of the publication of results of the February–April 2022 moving quarter, INE has been publishing a statistical note together with the results of the National Employment Survey (ENE). In order to provide performance and quality indicators, the note includes the main estimates and their respective disaggregations as well as AAPOR codes, in accordance with institutional statistical quality criteria. For more information, see the ENE Statistical Note, no. 54 (in Spanish).

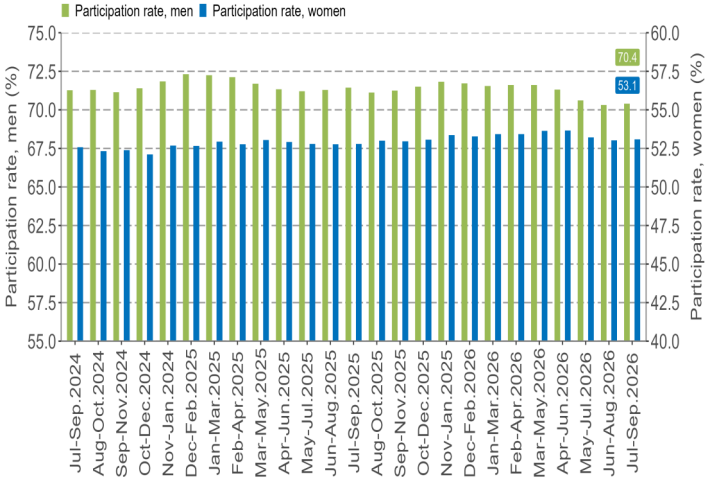
(*) INE defines available future starters as a subset of future starters. Future starters are persons who have not looked for work in the previous four weeks, because they will soon start a job, and they may or may not be available for work in the two weeks following the reference week. Future starters are included among the inactive population. Available future starters are defined as those who are available to work in the two weeks following the reference week, and they are added to the unemployed population for the calculation of the unemployment rate with available future starters (LU1) for statistical harmonization with the OECD.

Twelve-month variation of employed persons by type of employment and proportion of absent employed in the total number of employed, nationwide total



Participation rate according to sex, nationwide total

moving quarters



Employed persons absent from work

The twelve-month decrease in employed persons (-1.1%) was led by the fall in those classified as present at their job (-0.9%). In the same period, the number of absent employed persons, which represented 5.3% of the total number of employed persons, decreased 4.1% (equivalent to a fall of 21,107 persons).

Employed persons by age bracket

By age bracket, the decrease in the employed population (-1.1%) was mainly driven by the falls in the brackets 25–34 years (-5.2%) and 15–24 years (-6.2%). The decreases in employed women (-0.1%) and men (-1.9%) were mainly driven by the bracket 25–34 years, which fell 4.5% and 5.8%, respectively.

Unemployment rate according to sex

The unemployment rate for men increased 1.2 pp year on year to 9.3% as the result of the lower magnitude of the fall in the labour force (-0.6%) than in employed men (-1.9%). In the same period, the rise in unemployed men (14.0%) was influenced by the increases in the unemployed with prior work experience (12.7%) and first-time job seekers (31.3%). For men, the participation rate fell 1.0 pp to stand at 70.4% and the employment rate fell 1.8 pp to 63.9%. The increase in the number of men outside the labour force (4.5%) was influenced by the routinely inactive and by inactive men who are potentially active.

The unemployment rate for women increased 1.4 pp year on year to 10.5% as a result of the rise in the labour force (1.4%) and the fall in employed women (-0.1%). In the same period, the increase in unemployed women (16.7%) was influenced by the rises in the unemployed with prior work experience (16.4%) and first-time job seekers (19.6%). For women, the participation rate increased 0.3 pp to stand at 53.1% and the employment rate decreased 0.5 pp to 47.5%. The increase in women outside the labour force (0.2%) can be exclusively attributed to inactive women who are potentially active.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate

Compared to the previous moving quarter, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased 0.2 pp to stand at 9.6%. The increase can be attributed to the rise in the labour force (0.2%), which in turn was due to the variations in the unemployed (2.3%) and the employed (-0.1%). For men, the unemployment rate rose 0.2 pp to 8.9%. For women, the rate rose 0.3 pp to 10.5%.

Economic activity

The twelve-month decrease in the employed population (-1.1%) can be attributed to falls in manufacturing (-8.1%), information and communications (-20.8%), financial and insurance activities (-14.1%), and other service activities (-5.1%). The main increases were observed in construction (2.8%), education (2.4%), and real estate activities (19.1%).

The decrease in employed men (-1.9%) was mainly driven by the fall in manufacturing (-10.2%). The decrease in employed women (-0.1%) was led by the fall in information and communications (-33.1%).

Occupational category[2]

By occupational category, the decrease in employed persons (-1.1%) was led by falls in formal wage earners (-2.5%), employers (-2.8%), and informal wage earners (-0.1%). The main increases were in the categories of own-account workers (2.0%), unpaid family workers (13.8%), and domestic workers (3.2%).

The main contributor to the variations in employed women (-0.1%) and men (-1.9%) was the category formal wage earners, which decreased 1.0% and 3.5%, respectively.

Labour informality

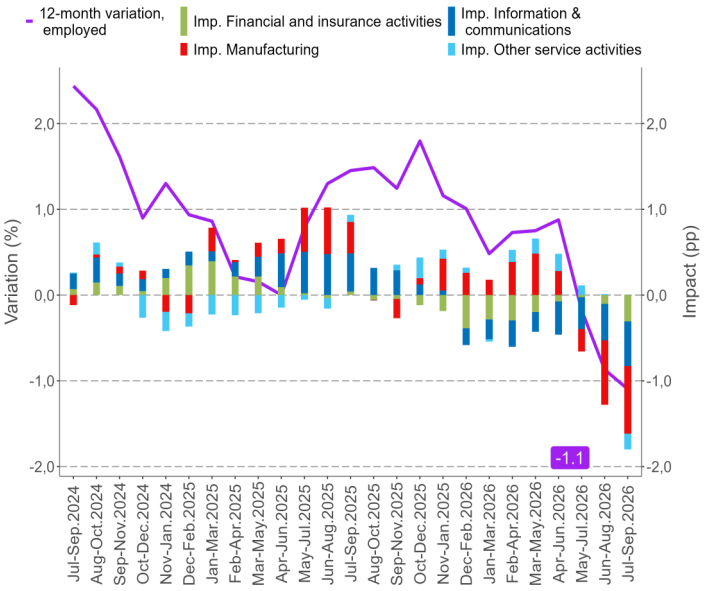
The year-on-year decrease in the estimated total number of informally employed persons (-0.3%) can exclusively be attributed to the fall in men (-0.8%) because the number of informally employed women rose 0.3% in the same period. By economic sector, the decrease was mainly due to falls in commerce (-6.0%) and other service activities (-10.8%).

By occupational category, the decrease in informally employed persons was influenced by the falls in own-account workers (-1.9%) and wage earners of the private sector (-0.6%).

The informal employment rate increased 0.2 pp year on year to stand at 26.4%. For women, the informal employment rate rose 0.1 pp to 28.2%. For men, the rate rose 0.3 pp to 25.1%.

Twelve-month variation of employed persons and impacts according to branch of economic activity*, nationwide total

moving quarters



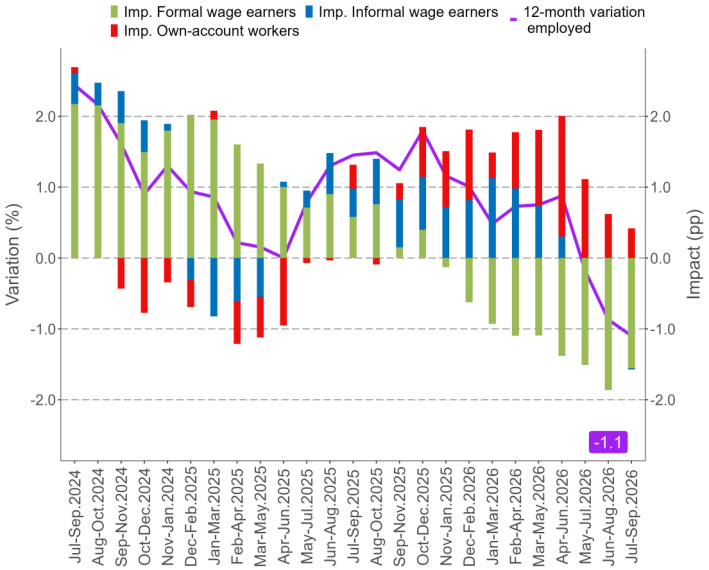
* These four economic sectors include the highest positive impacts in the latest moving quarter. Sectors with negative impacts have been excluded.

MOVING QUARTERS (2025–2026)

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 total	26.2	26.2	26.6	26.8	26.8	26.5	26.5	26.8	27.0	27.0	26.5	26.3	26.4
Women	28.1	28.2	28.4	28.7	28.2	28.0	27.9	28.6	28.8	28.9	28.3	28.3	28.2
Men	24.8	24.7	25.2	25.4	25.7	25.4	25.4	25.4	25.6	25.5	25.1	24.8	25.1

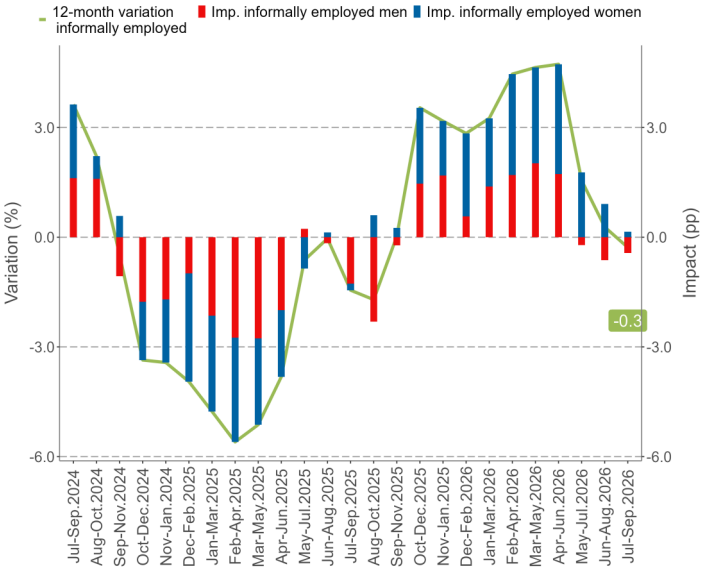
Twelve-month variations and impacts of employed persons according to occupational category, nationwide total

moving quarters



Twelve-month variations and impacts of informally employed persons according to sex, nationwide total

moving quarters



(2) This analysis uses the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93). See Appendix 2 for the new analysis with the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18).

Hours actually worked

The volume of work, as measured by the total number of hours per week actually worked by employed persons, decreased 2.2% year on year. Likewise, the average number of hours worked decreased 1.1% to stand at 36.0 hours. Men worked an average of 38.1 hours, and women worked an average of 33.2 hours.

Hours usually worked

The twelve-month decrease in employed persons (-1.1%) was influenced by the falls in those who work 45 hours per week (-47.8%) and by those who work 46 hours and over (-3.8%). In the same period, increases were observed in those who work 31–44 hours per week (5.3%) and part time, or 1–30 hours (2.8%).

Employed persons according to hours usually worked, nationwide total (number of persons and percentages)

July–September 2026

Brackets of hours	Employed		Twelve-month variation		
	Level	%	Total	%	impact (pp)*
Total	9,274,742	100	-102,875	-1.1	-
1–30**	1,988,211	21.4	55,016	2.8	0.6
VPT***	1,289,892	64.9	20,008	1.6	1.0
IPT***	663,374	33.4	37,468	6.0	1.9
NS/NR	34,946	1.8	-2,460	-6.6	-0.1
31–44	5,624,837	60.6	285,443	5.3	3.0
45	431,859	4.7	-395,419	-47.8	-4.2
46 and over	1,205,802	13.0	-47,945	-3.8	-0.5
No data	24,033	0.3	30	0.1	0.0

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

(**) This bracket represents part-time employed persons as defined in the Labour Code in article 40 bis.

(***) Voluntary part-time workers (VPT) and involuntary part-time workers (IPT). Percentage of participation (%) and impact (pp) compared to the total of part-time employed persons.

(NS/NR) Beginning with the subsample of January 2020, the main questionnaire of the ENE includes the option Not sure/No response.

Unemployment rate with available future starters (LU1)[3]

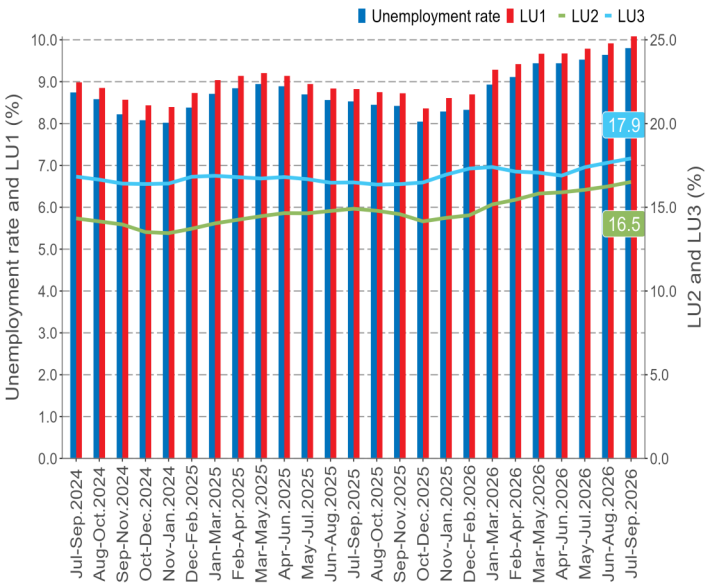
The unemployment rate with available future starters increased 1.3 pp year on year to stand at 10.1%. The variation in the LU1 can be attributed to the rise in unemployed persons (15.3%) and to the fall in available future starters (-4.8%).

Combined rate of unemployment and involuntary part-time employed (LU2)[4]

The combined rate of unemployment and involuntary part-time work increased 1.6 pp to stand at 16.5%. The increase can be attributed to the rises in unemployed persons (15.3%) and involuntary part-time employed persons (6.0%) as well as to the decrease in available future starters (-4.8%).

Rates of unemployment and labour underutilization, nationwide total

moving quarters



Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3)[5]

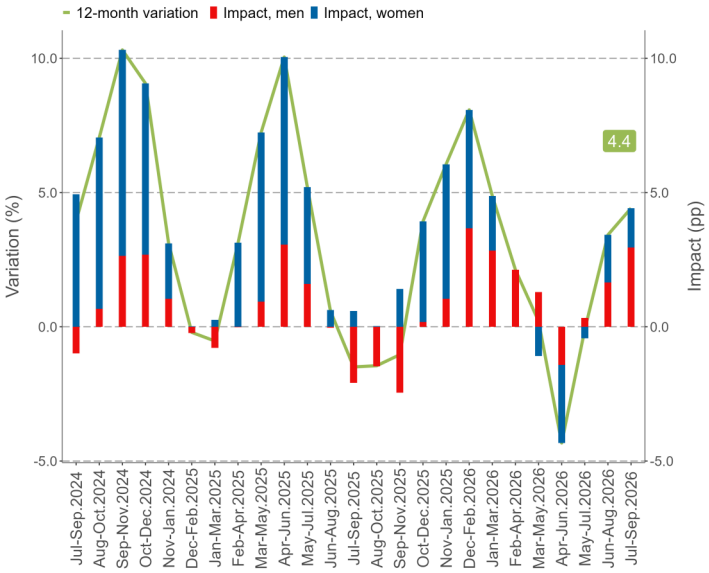
The potential labour force, also known as inactive persons who are potentially active, increased 4.4% year on year as the result of the growth in men (7.1%) and women (2.5%).

This category mostly consists of persons who were not seeking a job but who were available to work. Thus, they would become potential entrants to the labour force if their expectations of finding a job improved.

The combined rate of unemployment and the potential labour force increased 1.4 pp year on year to stand at 17.9%. The indicator stood at 15.7% for men and 20.6% for women, and the gender gap was 4.9 pp.

Twelve-month variation of the potential labour force and impact according to sex, nationwide total

moving quarters



(3) LU1 indicator = (unemployed persons + available future starters) / (labour force + available future starters)

(4) LU2 indicator = (unemployed persons + available future starters + involuntary part-time workers) / (labour force + available future starters)

(5) LU3 Indicator = (unemployed persons + available future starters + potential labour force) / (labour force + available future starters + potential labour force)

Appendix 1: Contrast with administrative records[6]

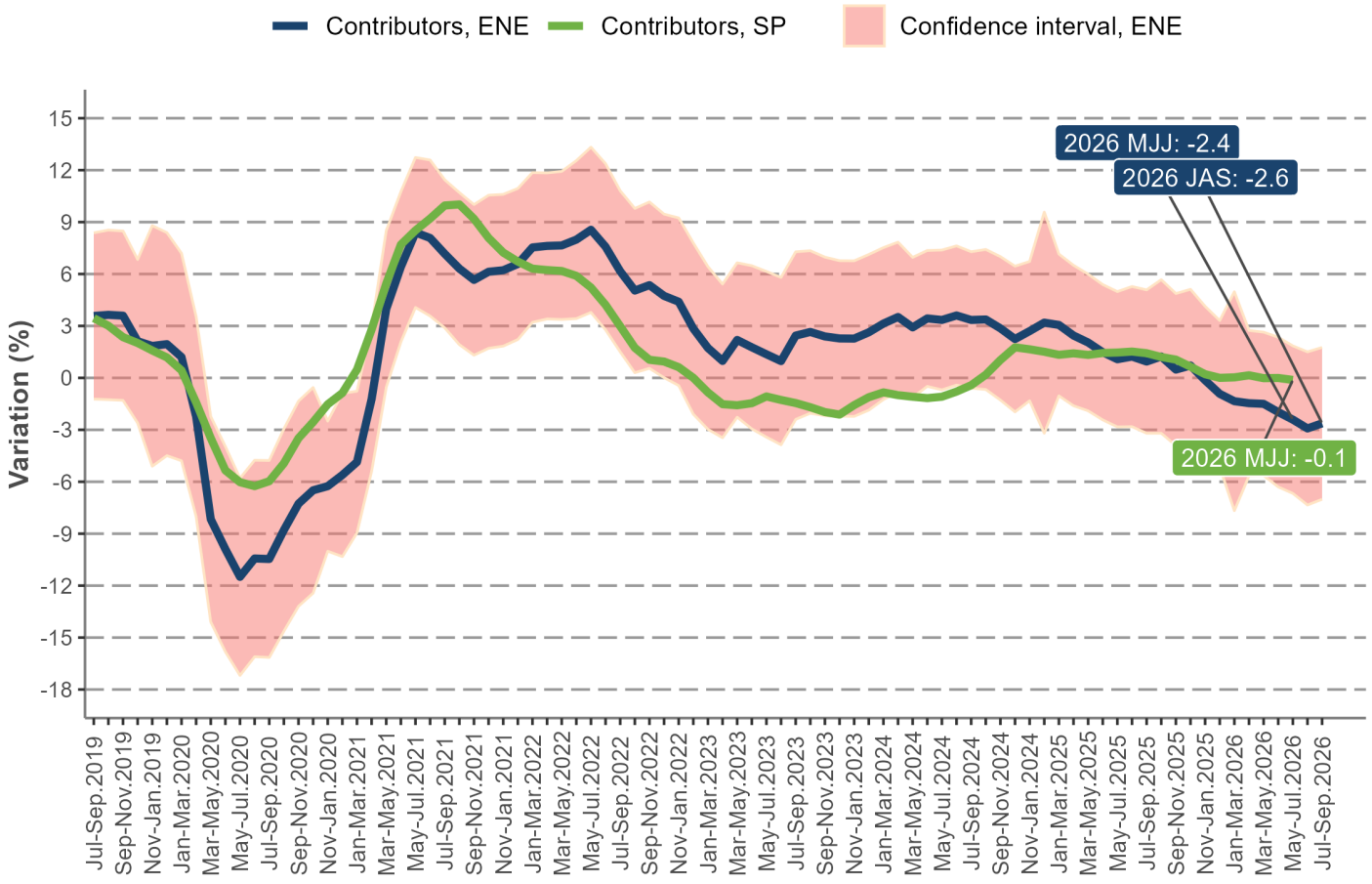
According to the latest available update of records from the Superintendency of Pensions (SP)[7] on dependent contributors to private pension fund administrators (AFP)[8], which have a two-month delay compared to the results of the National Employment Survey (ENE), the number of dependent contributors in the May–July 2026 moving quarter was 5,746,702. In contrast, there were an estimated 5,864,736 contributors in the same period according to ENE data. The SP figure is within the confidence interval of the ENE estimate.

For the May–July 2026 quarter, the twelve-month variation in the number of contributors was -0.1% according to SP data. In contrast, ENE data for the same period showed a variation of -2.4%, which was not statistically significant. In subsequent quarters (for which SP data is not yet available), ENE data showed variations of -2.9% for June–August 2026 and -2.6% for July–September 2026, but these decreases were not statistically significant.

By sex, the decrease in contributors in May–July 2026 can exclusively be attributed to the fall in men (-0.4%) because the number of women increased 0.2% in the same period. In contrast, ENE data showed a decrease driven by the falls in men (-2.6%) and women (-2.1%). However, these variations were not statistically significant.

Development of twelve-month variation of contributors, estimate (ENE) and statistical series of the pension system

moving quarters



(6) This section addresses methodological issues described in the technical note published on 31 December 2018 (available in Spanish by following the link to the Technical Note of 31 December 2018.

(7) In this section, the data on dependent contributors whose employers make normal payments to the individual capitalization accounts of AFPs is taken from the SP website.

(8) The contributors are active affiliates with a formal employment relationship with an employer.

Appendix 2: A New Dimension of Analysis: International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18)[9]

The International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18) established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) at the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in 2018 has replaced the 1993 International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93) as a standard reference for the measurement and classification of employment status. In contrast with the ICSE-93 (organized by type of work contract or agreement and centered on the distinction between wage labour and independent work), the ICSE-18 adopts a multidimensional approach based on the type of authority that the person exercises over the economic unit and the type of economic risk to which he or she is exposed, which enables a better representation of the diversity of labour relations in contemporary labour markets.

Among its main innovations, ICSE-18 introduces the category of dependent contractors, which refers to individuals who enter into commercial contracts (rather than employment contracts) to provide goods, services, or labour to another economic unit but who maintain a relationship of economic or organizational dependence on that unit. Under ICSE-93, these individuals were commonly classified as own-account workers or dependent workers. The ICSE-18 thus distinguishes at its second hierarchical level seven categories of status in employment: employers, own-account workers, dependent contractors, wage earners of the private sector, wage earners of the public sector, domestic workers, and unpaid family workers.

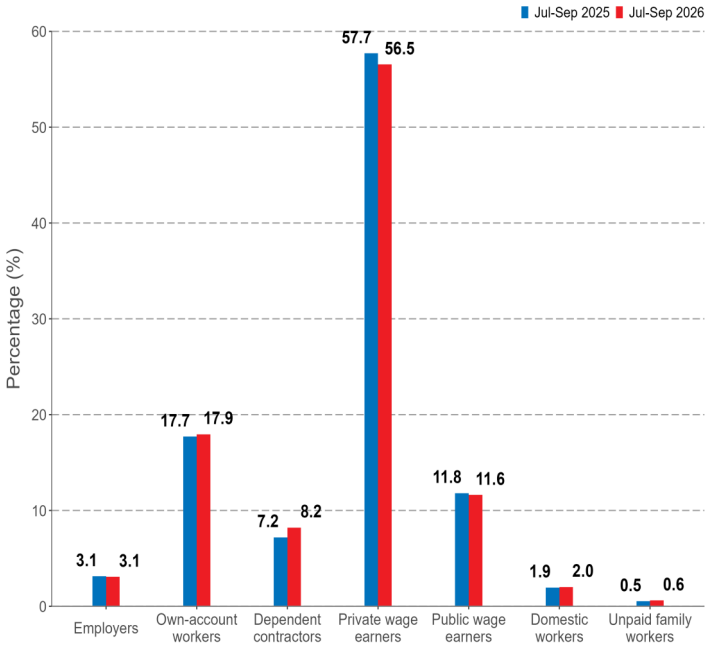
In the current moving quarter, the total number of employed persons according to status in employment (ICSE-18) was mainly concentrated in wage earners of the private sector with 5,244,033 employed persons, which is equivalent to 56.5% of the total. Following were own-account workers (1,664,091 employed persons, or 17.9%) and wage earners of the public sector (1,077,480 employed persons, or 11.6%). Next were dependent contractors (761,094, or 8.2%) and employers (284,883, or 3.1%).

By status in employment (ICSE-18), the year-on-year decrease in the employed population (-1.1%) was led by the falls in the number of wage earners of the private sector (-3.1%), wage earners of the public sector (-2.7%), and employers (-2.8%). The main increases were in the categories of dependent contractors (12.9%), unpaid family workers (13.8%), domestic workers (2.3%), and own-account workers (0.2%).

The leading category contributing to the variations in employed women (-0.1%) and men (-1.9%) was wage earners of the private sector, which decreased 1.1% and 4.3%, respectively.

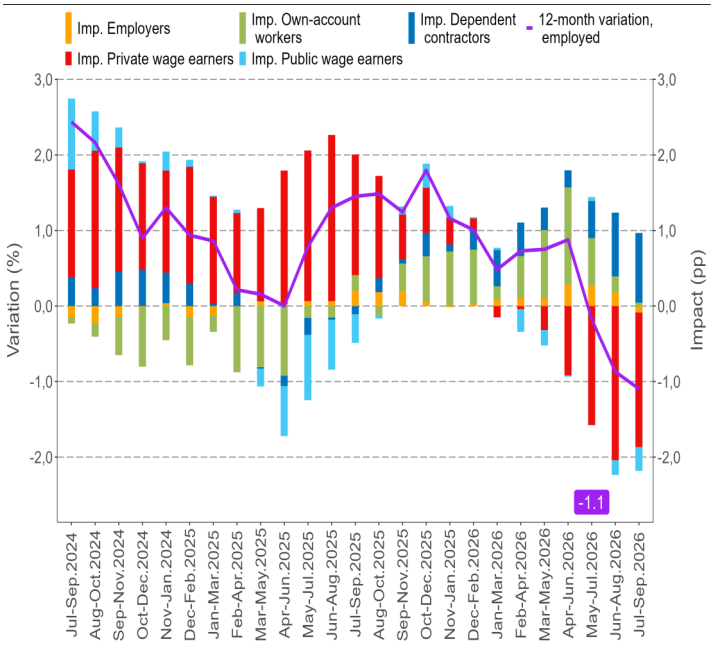
The year-on-year increase in dependent contractors (12.9%) was due to the rise in the number of wage earners with a commercial contract[10] (13.1%), wage earners with economic risk[11] (11.2%), and own-account workers with organizational dependence[12] (10.5%).

Distribution of the employed population by employment status (ICSE-18), nationwide total



Twelve-month variation and impact in the employed population according to employment status (ICSE-18), nationwide total

moving quarters



(9) This section addresses the methodological issues described in the technical note published on 31 July 2026 available in Spanish at the following link: https://www.ine.gob.cl/docs/default-source/ocupacion-y-desocupacion/publicaciones-yanuarios/separatas/nuevas-dimensiones/nuevas-dimensiones-7.pdf

(10) Wage earners with a commercial contract refers to wage earners who issue an invoice for professional services of their primary occupation.

(11) This situation occurs when an employed person does not receive wages, salary, or daily pay and instead receives another form of variable compensation; the employer does not pay the employee's social security or health insurance contributions; and the employee does not have a written contract.

(12) Organizational dependence refers to certain organizational aspects of work, such as the schedule, the location, the type of product, and the price of products that are determined by a third party, not by the worker.