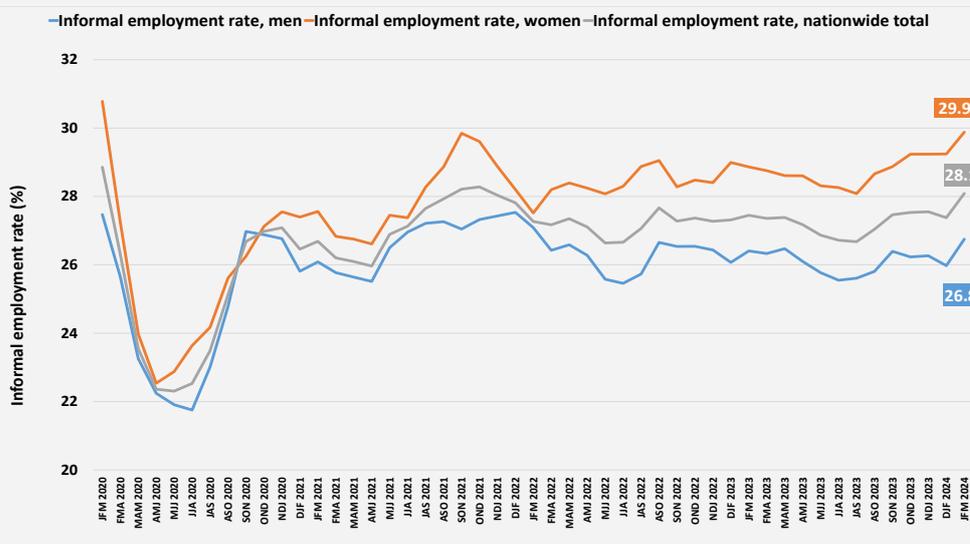


**Note:** This document is a translation of the original Labour Informality bulletin in Spanish, which is the official version.

- In the January–March 2024 quarter, the informally employed population increased 5.8%, equivalent to a rise of 142,583 persons.
- In the same period, the informal employment rate was estimated at 28.1%, a twelve-month increase of 0.7 percentage points (pp).
- By economic sector, the increase can mainly be attributed to the rises in commerce (13.3%) and households as employers (22.5%).
- The rise in the informally employed population was influenced by the increases in wage earners of the private sector (8.0%) and own-account workers (2.9%).

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



MOVING QUARTER (January–March 2024)		
Main indicators		
	Rate	12-month var. (pp)
Informal employment rate	28.1%	0.7
Informal employment rate, excluding the agricultural sector	27.0%	0.6
Employment rate in the informal sector	16.9%	0.1
Employed persons		
	Level (totals)	12-month var. (%)
Informally employed persons	2,614,641	5.8
Informally employed persons, excluding the agricultural sector	2,350,892	5.9
Employed persons in the informal sector	1,571,416	4.0

## Informal employment rate

In the January–March 2024 quarter, the informal employment rate rose 0.7 pp year on year to stand at 28.1%. The rise can be attributed to the higher level of growth in the informally employed (5.8%) than in the total employed population (3.4%).

According to sex, the growth in the informally employed can be attributed to the increases in women (7.8%) and men (4.1%). In the same period, the informal employment rate for women rose 1.0 pp to stand at 29.9%, and the rate for men rose 0.4 pp to stand at 26.8%.

## Analysis by age bracket

The main influences on the growth in the number of informally employed persons were the increases in the brackets 65 years and over (17.1%) and 45–54 years (6.0%).

According to sex, the main influence on the increases in informally employed men and women was the bracket 65 years and over, which rose 15.2% and 20.7%, respectively.

The highest informal employment rates of the quarter were in the brackets 65 years and over (55.8%) and 15–24 years (37.6%). These results reveal that informal employment is most prevalent in the highest and lowest age brackets, affecting the old and the young.

## MOVING QUARTERS 2023–2024

Informal employment rate (%)	Jan-Mar	Feb-Apr	Mar-May	Apr-Jun	May-Jul	Jun-Aug	Jul-Sep	Aug-Oct	Sep-Nov	Oct-Dec	Nov-Jan	Dec-Feb	Jan-Mar
Nationwide	27.4	27.4	27.4	27.2	26.9	26.7	26.7	27.0	27.5	27.5	27.6	27.4	28.1
Women	28.9	28.8	28.6	28.6	28.3	28.3	28.1	28.7	28.9	29.2	29.2	29.2	29.9
Men	26.4	26.3	26.5	26.1	25.8	25.5	25.6	25.8	26.4	26.2	26.3	26.0	26.8

(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.24](#).

## Main indicators

### Economic activity<sup>2</sup>

The twelve-month increase in the informally employed (5.8%) can mainly be attributed to the rises in commerce (13.3%) and households as employers (22.5%).

In the same period, the growth in informally employed men (4.1%) can mainly be attributed to the rises in the sectors of commerce (15.2%) and transportation and storage (8.2%). In contrast, the growth in informally employed women (7.8%) was a result of rises in commerce (11.6%) and households as employers (19.0%).

The highest informal employment rates were in households as employers (61.0%) and other service activities (52.6%).

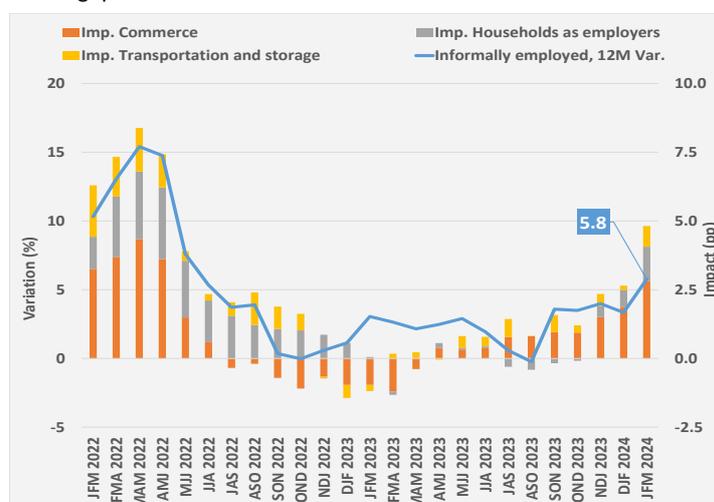
### Analysis by occupational group<sup>3</sup>

The twelve-month rise in informally employed persons (5.8%) can mainly be attributed to the increases in service and sales workers (10.9%) and elementary occupations (4.3%).

According to sex, the increase in men (4.1%) was influenced by the rise in elementary occupations (6.0%) while the increase in women (7.8%) was influenced by the rise in service and sales workers (14.1%).

The highest rates of informal employment were in agricultural and

### Twelve-month variations and impacts of informally employed persons according to branch of economic activity<sup>†</sup>, nationwide totals moving quarters



<sup>†</sup> These branches had the highest positive impacts in the latest moving quarter.

fishery workers (53.2%) and in craft and related trades workers (46.0%).

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

January–March 2024 quarter

Occupational category (CIUO 08.CL)	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	12-month variation		
			Total	(%)	Impact (pp) <sup>†</sup>
<b>Nationwide total</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>2,614,641</b>	<b>142,583</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-</b>
Managers	5.0	20,731*	177	0.9	0.0
Professionals	11.6	174,189	38	0.0	0.0
Technicians and associate professionals	11.6	136,603	5,289	4.0	0.2
Clerical support workers	9.2	42,732	1,574	3.8	0.1
Service and sales workers	36.7	728,423	71,354	10.9	2.9
Agricultural and fishery workers	53.2	113,489	8,299	7.9	0.3
Craft and related trades workers	46.0	507,818	12,533	2.5	0.5
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	27.9	208,880	21,379	11.4	0.9
Elementary occupations	40.7	678,458	28,035	4.3	1.1
Unidentified	4.0**	1,060**	385	57.1	0.0
Unclassified	65.7**	2,258**	-6,481	-74.2	-0.3

(†) 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%. In the case of ratio estimates, it 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 year-on-year expansion in informally employed persons (5.8%) was due to the increases in wage earners of the private sector (8.0%), own-account workers (2.9%), domestic workers (19.1%), employers (46.2%), and unpaid family workers (5.3%). In contrast, the number of wage earners of the public sector decreased 4.0%.

According to sex, the increase in women (7.8%) was influenced by the rise in wage earners of the private sector (16.1%) while the increase in

men (4.1%) was influenced by the rise in own-account workers (3.7%).

Own-account workers and wage earners of the private sector made up 85.2% of the total number of informally employed persons. The informal employment rates of these two categories were 70.2% and 16.2%, respectively.

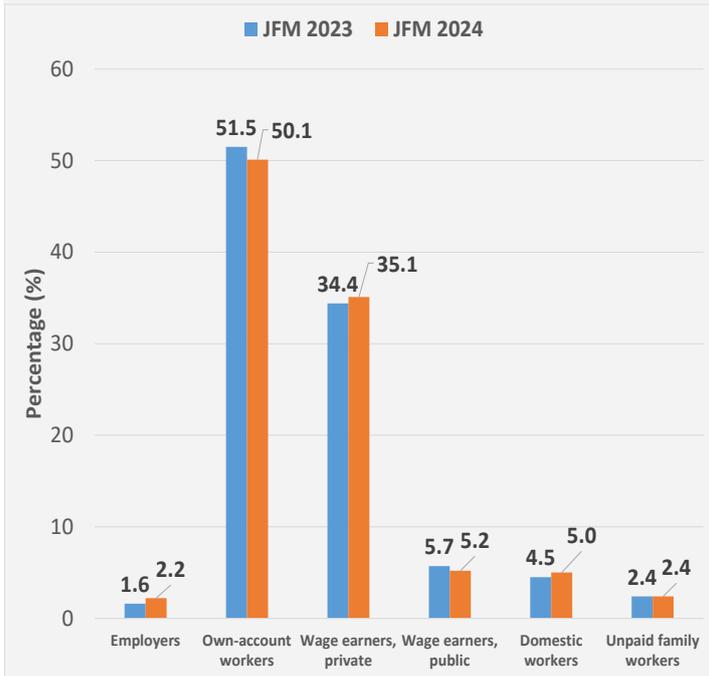
By occupational category, the highest rates of informal employment were in own-account workers (70.2%) and domestic workers (58.9%).

(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 (2.9%) was influenced by the expansion in men (3.7%) and women (2.0%). According to sector, the increase was led by the rises in commerce (14.7%) and transport (9.9%).

### Informal wage earners

The twelve-month increase in informal wage earners (6.3%) can be exclusively attributed to the rise in wage earners of the private sector (8.0%) since the number of wage earners of the public sector decreased 4.0% during the same period. By economic activity, the increase in informal wage earners of the private sector can be attributed to the rises in agriculture and fishing (14.5%) and commerce (7.0%).

### 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 11.3%. 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 of households as employers. The former increased 0.3 pp to stand at 9.5%, and the latter increased 0.3 pp to stand at 1.8%.

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

### Informally employed persons by occupational category, nationwide total<sup>4</sup>

January–March 2024

Occupational category	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	Twelve-month variation		
			Total	%	Impact (pp) <sup>†</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>2,614,641</b>	<b>142,583</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-</b>
Employers	20.1	58,007	18,324	46.2	0.7
Own-account workers	70.2	1,310,540	37,359	2.9	1.5
Wage earners, private	16.2	917,534	68,256	8.0	2.8
Wage earners, public	11.2	134,915	-5,598	-4.0	-0.2
Domestic workers	58.9	131,727	21,135	19.1	0.9
Unpaid family workers	100.0	61,918	3,107	5.3	0.1

(†) 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



For women, the informal employment rate outside the informal sector rose 1.1 pp year on year to stand at 14.0%. For men, this rate rose 0.1 pp to stand at 9.3%.

In the same period, the employment rate in the informal sector increased 0.1 pp year on year to stand at 16.9%.

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

Percentage over the total of employed persons

January–March 2024 quarter

	Employed persons											Subtotal		
	Independent workers				Unpaid family workers	Dependent workers								
	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	6.0		2.5		0.3		50.7	7.7	11.5	1.4			70.6	9.5
Informal sector		14.1		0.6	0.3		0.1	1.7					0.1	16.8
Households sector							0.2	0.4			1.0	1.4	1.2	1.8
<b>Total†</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>28.1</b>	

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

(†) The total of each category may differ because the numbers are rounded.

## Hours usually worked

### Hours usually worked

Within the expansion in the number of hours usually worked by informally employed persons, the most notable increase was in the bracket 1–30 hours, or part time (7.9%), which can be attributed to the rises in involuntary part-time workers (20.9%) and voluntary part-time workers (5.3%). Increases were also observed in the brackets 46 hours and over (11.7%) and 31–44 hours (6.9%).

Of the informally employed persons who worked under 45 hours per week, 69.9% worked part time (between 1 and 30 hours). Of this group, 30.7% worked part time involuntarily and 66.9% worked part time voluntarily.

In regard to hours usually worked, formally employed persons worked an average of 10.1 hours more than informally employed persons. By occupational category, the greatest differences in average hours worked between formally and informally employed persons were in own-account workers (12.5 hours) and domestic workers (12.4 hours).

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

January–March 2024 quarter

Bracket of hours worked per week	Informal employment rate	Informally employed		
		Total	% over total informally employed	12-month variation (%)
Total	28.1	2,614,641	100.0	5.8
1–30†	68.0	1,188,976	45.5	7.9
VPT++	65.1	794,989	66.9	5.3
IPT+++	74.8	364,516	30.7	20.9
Unclassified	72.2	29,472	2.5	-35.6
31–44	21.9	512,449	19.6	6.9
45	10.6	388,578	14.9	-5.8
46 and over	33.6	513,416	19.6	11.7
No data	66.4*	11,222*	0.4	-37.7

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

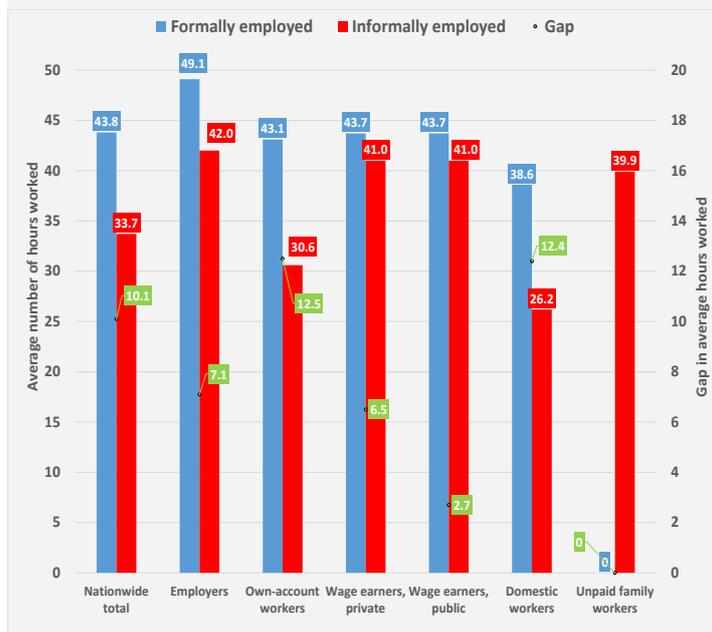
(++) Voluntary part-time Employed persons. Percentage of participation (%) over the total number of part-time employed persons.

(+++) 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%. In the case of ratio estimates, it 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

January–March 2024 quarter



## Appendix 1: Informally employed persons according to occupational category

Informally employed persons by occupational category, nationwide total  
January–March 2024

Occupational category	Both sexes			Men			Women						
	Informal employment rate (%)	12-month variation		Informal employment rate (%)	12-month variation		Informally employed (total)	12-month variation					
		Total	%		Impact (pp)†	Total		%	Impact (pp)†	Total	%	Impact (pp)†	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>2,614,641</b>	<b>142,583</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,430</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>1,188,905</b>	<b>86,153</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>-</b>
Employers	20.1	58,007	18,324	46.2	0.7	9,828	28.7	0.7	19.0	13,883	8,496	157.7	0.8
Own-account workers	70.2	1,310,540	37,359	2.9	1.5	745,402	3.7	1.9	72.7	565,138	11,031	2.0	1.0
Wage earners, private sector	16.2	917,534	68,256	8.0	2.8	551,424	3.3	1.3	16.9	366,110	50,763	16.1	4.6
Wage earners, public sector	11.2	134,915	-5,598	-4.0	-0.2	56,738	4.3	0.2	11.0	78,177	-7,938	-9.2	-0.7
Domestic workers	58.9	131,727	21,135	19.1	0.9	3,542**	72.6	0.1	59.0	128,185	19,645	18.1	1.8
Unpaid family workers	100.0	61,918	3,107	5.3	0.1	24,506	-4.1	-0.1	100.0	37,412	4,156	12.5	0.4

(†) 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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