

- In the January–March 2026 quarter, the informally employed population increased 3.2%, which is equivalent to a rise of 78,632 persons.
- In the same period, the informal employment rate was estimated at 26.5%, a twelve-month increase of 0.7 percentage points (pp).
- According to economic sector, the increase was mainly due to the rises in commerce (7.9%) and manufacturing (5.8%).
- The increase in the informally employed population was influenced by the rises in wage earners of the private sector (10.7%) and wage earners of the public sector (12.5%).



MOVING QUARTER (January–March 2026)		
Main indicators		
	Rate	12-month var. (pp)
Informal employment rate	26.5%	0.7
Informal employment rate, excluding the agricultural sector	25.5%	0.7
Employment rate in the informal sector	14.9%	-0.3
Employed persons		
	Level (totals)	12-month var. (%)
Informally employed persons	2,498,665	3.2
Informally employed persons, excluding the agricultural sector	2,255,447	3.4
Employed persons in the informal sector	1,404,276	-1.6

Informal employment rate

In the January–March 2026 quarter, the informal employment rate rose 0.7 pp year on year to stand at 26.5% as a result of the faster growth in the informally employed (3.2%) than in the total employed population (0.5%).

According to sex, the increase in the informally employed persons can be attributed to the expansion in women (4.1%) and men (2.5%). In the same period, the informal employment rate for women rose 0.8 pp to stand at 27.9% and the rate for men rose 0.6 pp to stand at 25.4%.

Analysis by age bracket

The main influences on the growth in the number of informally employed persons were the increases in the brackets 45–54 years (7.7%) and 65 years and over (7.8%).

According to sex, the increase in men was influenced by the rise in the bracket 65 years and over (6.0%) and the increase in women was influenced by the rise in the bracket 45–54 years (12.3%).

The highest informal employment rates of the quarter were observed in the brackets 65 years and over (56.3%) and 15–24 years (38.5%). These results reveal that informal employment is most prevalent in the highest and lowest age brackets, affecting the old and the young.

MOVING QUARTERS 2025–2026

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	25.8	25.8	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.2	26.2	26.6	26.8	26.8	26.5	26.5
Women	27.1	27.3	27.6	27.6	27.5	27.8	28.1	28.2	28.4	28.7	28.2	28.0	27.9
Men	24.8	24.7	24.7	24.8	24.9	24.7	24.8	24.7	25.2	25.4	25.7	25.4	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.48](#).

Main indicators

Economic activity²

The twelve-month increase in the informally employed (3.2%) can mainly be attributed to the rises in commerce (7.9%), manufacturing (5.8%), and transport and storage (4.9%).

In the same period, the growth in informally employed men (2.5%) can mainly be attributed to the rises in the sectors of commerce (12.4%) and accommodation and food service (28.1%). In contrast, the growth in informally employed women (4.1%) was a result of rises in manufacturing (17.6%) and transport and storage (74.9%).

The highest informal employment rates were in the sectors households as employers (60.5%) and other service activities (51.2%).

Analysis by occupational group³

The main influences on the twelve-month increase in informally employed persons (3.2%) were the rises in elementary occupations (5.9%) and service and sales workers (3.1%).

According to sex, the increase in informally employed men (2.5%) was influenced by the rise in elementary occupations (9.2%) while the increase in women (4.1%) was influenced by the rise in service and sales workers (10.8%).

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

January–March 2026 quarter

Occupational category (CIUO 08.CL)	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	12-month variation		
			Total	(%)	Impact (pp) [†]
Nationwide total	26.5	2,498,665	78,632	3.2	-
Managers	4.9	20,060 (*)	1,872	10.3	0.1
Professionals	11.3	181,942	12,607	7.4	0.5
Technicians and associate professionals	10.6	126,588	5,624	4.6	0.2
Clerical support workers	8.1	36,743	-987	-2.6	0.0
Service and sales workers	34.5	695,712	21,075	3.1	0.9
Agricultural and fishery workers	55.5	125,923	1,707	1.4	0.1
Craft and related trades workers	41.6	472,453	-2,253	-0.5	-0.1
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	26.4	197,556	2,971	1.5	0.1
Elementary occupations	39.9	638,776	35,865	5.9	1.5
Unidentified	0.0 (**)	0 (**)	-1,345	-100.0	-0.1
Unclassified	52.2 (**)	2,913 (**)	1,496	105.7	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).

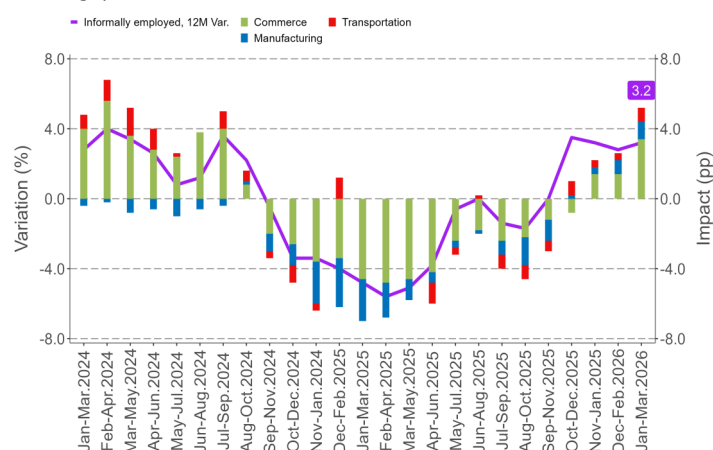
(**) Unreliable estimate (i.e., the number of sample cases is below 60, the degrees of freedom below 9, or the coefficient of variation greater than 30%).

Analysis by occupational category

The 3.2% increase in informally employed persons can mainly be attributed to three rises in wage earners of the private sector (10.7%), wage earners of the public sector (12.5%), and employers (21.0%). In contrast, decreases were observed in own-account workers (-2.3%), unpaid family workers (-6.4%), and domestic workers (-2.7%).

The increases in informally employed women (4.1%) and men (2.5%) can mainly be attributed to the category wage earners of the private

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.)

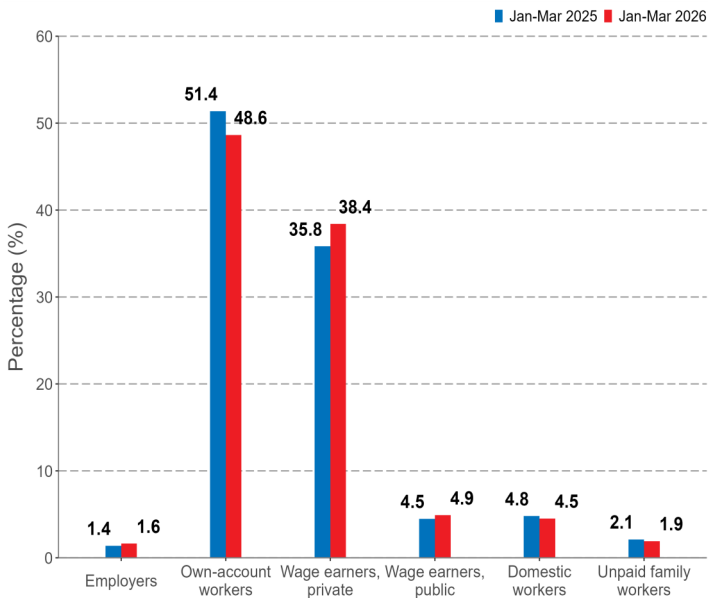
Meanwhile, the highest informal employment rates were in the groups agricultural and fishery workers (55.5%) and craft and related trades workers (41.6%).

(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 decrease in informal own-account workers (-2.3%) was influenced by the falls in men (-2.3%) and women (-2.2%). According to economic sector, the decrease can be attributed to the falls in other service activities (-7.9%) and construction (-3.8%).

Informal wage earners

The twelve-month increase in informal wage earners (10.9%) can be attributed to the rises in wage earners of the private sector (10.7%) and wage earners of the public sector (12.5%). By economic sector, the increase in wage earners of the private sector was due to the rises in commerce (23.5%) and accommodation and food service (13.8%).

Analysis according to type of production unit

The informal employment rate outside the informal sector increased 1.0 pp year on year to stand at 11.6%. 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 1.0 pp to stand at 10.0%, and the latter showed no year-on-year variation, remaining 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

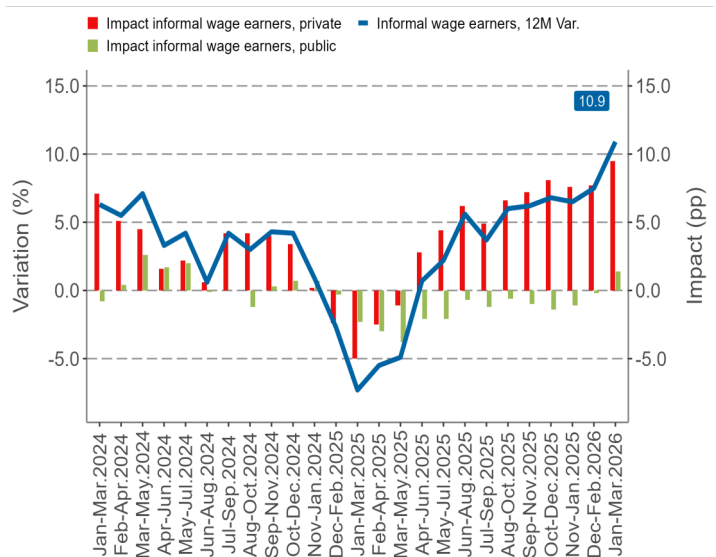
January–March 2026

Occupational category	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (1000s)	Twelve-month variation		Impact (pp) [†]
			1000s	%	
Total	26.5	2,498,665	78,632	3.2	-
Employers	14.3	40,691	7,063	21.0	0.3
Own-account workers	63.6	1,215,204	-28,022	-2.3	-1.2
Wage earners, private	16.5	959,590	92,367	10.7	3.8
Wage earners, public	10.3	122,245	13,625	12.5	0.6
Domestic workers	57.4	113,094	-3,116	-2.7	-0.1
Unpaid family workers	100.0	47,842	-3,286	-6.4	-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

moving quarters



For women, the informal employment rate outside the informal sector rose 1.2 pp year on year to stand at 13.9%. For men, the rate rose 0.8 pp to stand at 9.9%.

In the same period, the employment rate in the informal sector decreased 0.3 pp year on year to stand at 14.9%.

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

Percentage over the total of employed persons

January–March 2026 quarter

	Employed persons												Subtotal	
	Independent workers				Unpaid family workers	Dependent workers				Domestic workers				
	Own-account		Employer			Wage earners, private		Wage earners, public						
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal		
Formal sector	7.4		2.6		0.3	51.2	8.4	11.3	1.3			72.4	10.0	
Informal sector		12.9		0.4	0.2	0.0	1.3					0.0	14.9	
Households sector						0.2	0.4			0.9	1.2	1.1	1.6	
Total(†)	7.4	12.9	2.6	0.4	0.5	51.4	10.2	11.3	1.3	0.9	1.2	73.5	26.5	

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 (13.6%) and 1–30 hours, or part time (3.7%). The increase in the latter can be attributed to the rise in those who work part time involuntarily (14.3%).

Of the total number of informally employed, 48.1% worked part time (between 1 and 30 hours per week). Of this group, 33.6% worked part time involuntarily and 64.4% worked part time voluntarily.

In terms of hours usually worked, formally employed persons worked an average of 10.4 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 (13.2 hours) and own-account workers (11.9 hours).

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

January–March 2026 quarter

Bracket of hours worked per week	Informal employment rate	Informally employed		
		Total	% over total informally employed	12-month variation (%)
Total	26.5	2,498,665	100.0	3.2
1–30†	63.9	1,201,895	48.1	3.7
VPT++	62.7	774,008	64.4	-1.1
IPT+++	66.0	403,861	33.6	14.3
Unclassified	69.8 (*)	24,027	2.0	7.0
31–44	14.1	771,531	30.9	13.6
45	15.3	110,972	4.4	-19.8
46 and over	30.6	403,390	16.1	-6.9
No data	42.1	10,877 (*)	0.4	-0.7

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

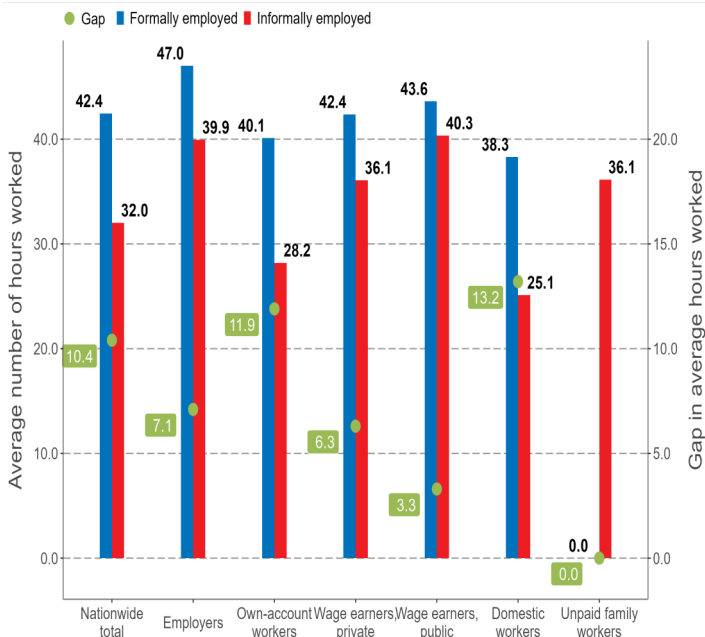
(++) Voluntary part-time Employed persons. Percentage of participation (%) over the total number of part-time employed persons.

(+++ 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%, 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

January–March 2026 quarter



Appendix 1: Informally employed persons according to occupational category

Informally employed persons by occupational category, nationwide total
January–March 2026

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	26.5	2,498,665	78,632	3.2	-	25.4	1,360,534	33,586	2.5	-	27.9	1,138,131	45,046	4.1	-
Employers	14.3	40,691	7,063	21.0	0.3	15.4	33,047	4,360	15.2	0.3	10.9 (*)	7,643 (**)	2,703	54.7	0.2
Own-account workers	63.6	1,215,204	-28,022	-2.3	-1.2	63.1	689,182	-16,174	-2.3	-1.2	64.2	526,021	-11,847	-2.2	-1.1
Wage earners, private sector	16.5	959,590	92,367	10.7	3.8	15.9	561,419	40,850	7.8	3.1	17.5	398,171	51,516	14.9	4.7
Wage earners, public sector	10.3	122,245	13,625	12.5	0.6	10.5	50,399	2,458	5.1	0.2	10.2	71,846	11,167	18.4	1.0
Domestic workers	57.4	113,094	-3,116	-2.7	-0.1	48.3 (**)	3,557 (**)	513	16.8	0.0	57.7	109,537	-3,629	-3.2	-0.3
Unpaid family workers	100.0	47,842	-3,286	-6.4	-0.1	100.0	22,930	1,579	7.4	0.1	100.0	24,912	-4,865	-16.3	-0.4

(†) The sum of the impacts is equal to the percentage variation, and it 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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