STATISTICAL BULLETIN: LABOUR INFORMALITY[1]

No. 36 / 3 November 2026

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

- **In the July–September 2026 quarter, the informally employed population decreased 0.3%, equivalent to a fall of 6,909 persons.**
- **In the same period, the informal employment rate was estimated at 26.4%, a twelve-month increase of 0.2 percentage points (pp).**
- **By economic sector, the decrease in informally employed persons can mainly be attributed to falls in commerce (-6.0%) and other service activities (-10.8%).**
- **By occupational category, the decrease was influenced by the falls in own-account workers (-1.9%) and wage earners of the private sector (-0.6%).**

MOVING QUARTER (July–September 2026)

Main indicators

	Rate	12-month var. (pp)
Informal employment rate	26.4%	0.2
Informal employment rate, excluding the agricultural sector	25.8%	0.3
Employment rate in the informal sector	14.8%	-0.2

Employed persons

	Level (totals)	12-month var. (%)
Informally employed persons	2,451,443	-0.3
Informally employed persons, excluding the agricultural sector	2,269,972	0.4
Employed persons in the informal sector	1,371,368	-2.2

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



Informal employment rate

In the July–September 2026 quarter, the informal employment rate increased 0.2 pp year on year to stand at 26.4%. The increase can be attributed to the lower magnitude of the fall in informally employed (-0.3%) than in the total employed population (-1.1%).

By sex, the decrease in the informal employed population can exclusively be attributed to the fall in men (-0.8%) because the number of women rose 0.3%. In the same period, the informal employment rate for women rose 0.1 pp to 28.2% and the rate for men rose 0.3 pp to 25.1%.

Analysis by age bracket

The decrease in the number of informally employed persons was mainly due to the falls in the brackets 15–24 years (-13.1%) and 25–34 years (-1.7%).

The decrease in employed men was driven by the fall in the bracket 15–24 years (-13.9%), while the increase in employed women was due to the rise in the bracket 55–64 years (7.2%).

The highest informal employment rates of the quarter were in the brackets 65 years and over (56.0%) and 15–24 years (34.7%). 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 (%)	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	26.2	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

(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).

Economic activity[2]

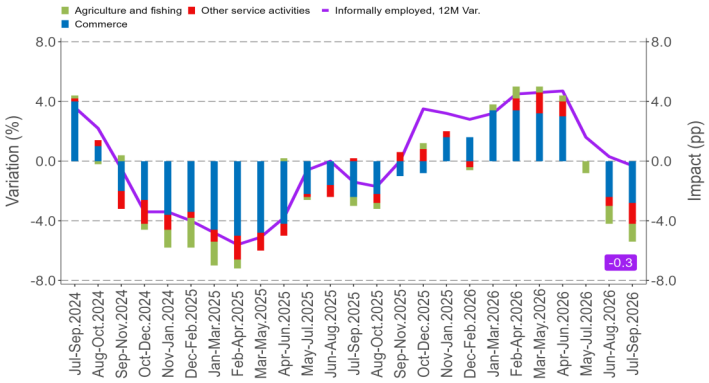
The year-on-year decrease in the informally employed population (-0.3%) was mainly driven by the falls in commerce (-6.0%), other service activities (-10.8%), agriculture and fishing (-1.2%).

In the same period, the decrease in informally employed men (-0.8%) was mainly due to the falls in the sectors of agriculture and fishing (-9.1%) and commerce (-4.3%). In contrast, the increase in informally employed women (0.3%) can be attributed to the rises in health activities (23.9%) and accommodation and food service (12.4%).

The highest informal employment rates were in households as employers (62.1%), other service activities (47.1%), and agriculture and fishing (37.9%).

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 negative influence in the latest moving quarter. (Economic sectors with positive influence in the period have been excluded.)

Analysis by occupational group[3]

The principal influences on the year-on-year decrease in the informally employed (-0.3%) were the falls in service and sales workers (-3.0%) and agriculture and fishery workers (-15.6%).

The decrease in informally employed men (-0.8%) was influenced by the fall in agricultural and fishery workers (-14.7%), while the increase in informally employed women (0.3%) was due to the rise in elementary occupations (6.7%).

The highest rates of informal employment were in agricultural and fishery workers (52.0%), craft and related trades workers (42.2%), and elementary occupations (39.7%).

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

July–September 2026 quarter

Occupational category (CIUO 08.CL)	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	12-month variation		
			Total	(%)	Impact (pp)†
Nationwide total	**26.4**	**2,451,443**	**-6,909**	**-0.3**	-
Managers	5.1	20,642 (*)	-17	-0.1	0.0
Professionals	12.1	200,926	11,047	5.8	0.4
Technicians and associate professionals	11.5	136,656	379	0.3	0.0
Clerical support workers	9.0	39,137	3,714	10.5	0.2
Service and sales workers	33.7	668,253	-20,974	-3.0	-0.9
Agricultural and fishery workers	52.0	101,923	-18,882	-15.6	-0.8
Craft and related trades workers	42.2	478,119	-8,192	-1.7	-0.3
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	28.3	218,988	15,183	7.4	0.6
Elementary occupations	39.7	584,489	10,405	1.8	0.4
Unidentified	2.6 (*)	553 (**)	246	80.1	0.0
Unclassified	33.2 (**)	1,756 (**)	183	11.6	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 (ICSE-93)

According to occupational category, the year-on-year decrease in informally employed persons (-0.3%) was due to the falls in own-account workers (-1.9%), wage earners of the private sector (-0.6%), and employers (-4.1%). In contrast, increases were observed in the number of domestic workers (11.3%), and unpaid family workers (13.8%), wage earners of the public sector (2.8%).

By sex, the increase in informally employed women (0.3%) was influenced by the rise in domestic workers (11.3%), while the decrease in informally employed men (-0.8%) was due to the fall in wage earners of the public sector (-11.2%).

Together, own-account workers and wage earners of the private sector accounted for 85.6% of the total number of the informally employed, and their informal employment rates were 62.1% and 15.9%, respectively.

(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



Informally employed persons by occupational category, nationwide total[4]

July–September 2026

Occupational category	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	Twelve-month variation		
			Total	%	Impact (pp)†
Total	**26.4**	**2,451,443**	**-6,909**	**-0.3**	-
Employers	11.6	32,980	-1,421	-4.1	-0.1
Own-account workers	62.1	1,213,995	-24,092	-1.9	-1.0
Wage earners, private	15.9	884,721	-4,952	-0.6	-0.2
Wage earners, public	11.3	133,780	3,597	2.8	0.1
Domestic workers	60.3	129,805	13,156	11.3	0.5
Unpaid family workers	100.0	56,162	6,803	13.8	0.3

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

Informal own-account workers

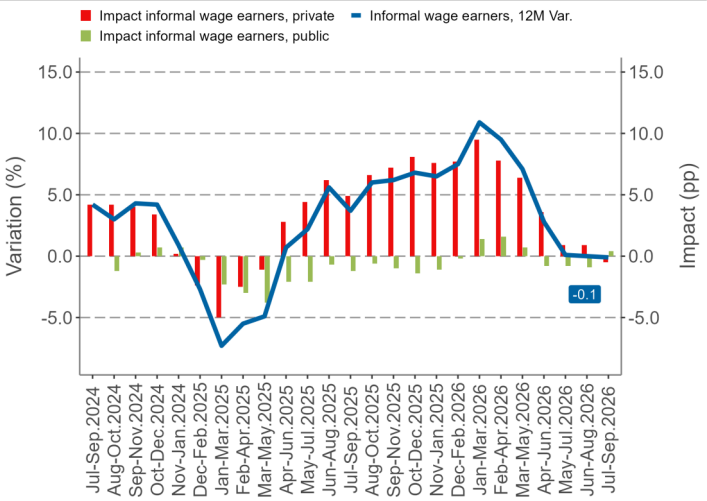
The year-on-year decrease in informal own-account workers (-1.9%) was influenced by the falls in women (-3.3%) and men (-0.8%). According to economic activity, the decrease can be attributed to the falls in commerce (-9.5%) and other service activities (-10.7%).

Informal wage earners

The twelve-month decrease in informal wage earners (-0.1%) can be exclusively attributed to the fall in wage earners of the private sector (-0.6%) because the number of wage earners of the public sector increased 2.8% during the same period. By economic activity, the decrease in informal wage earners of the private sector can be attributed to the falls in construction (-17.0%) and agriculture and fishing (-9.8%).

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

moving quarters



Analysis according to type of production unit

The informal employment rate outside the informal sector increased 0.4 pp year on year to 11.7%. 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 0.2 pp to stand at 9.9%, and the latter increased 0.1 pp to stand at 1.7%.

For women, the informal employment rate outside the informal sector increased 0.6 pp year on year to stand at 14.1%. For men, this rate rose 0.1 pp to 9.8%.

In the same period, the employment rate in the informal sector decreased 0.2 pp year on year to stand at 14.8%.

(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 2026 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	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Formal sector	8.0		2.7		0.4	50.5	8.1	11.3	1.4			72.5	9.9
Informal sector		13.1		0.4	0.2	0.0(**)	1.1					0.0(**)	14.7
Households sector						0.1	0.3			0.9	1.4	1.1	1.7
Total(†)	**8.0**	**13.1**	**2.7**	**0.4**	**0.6**	**50.6**	**9.5**	**11.3**	**1.4**	**0.9**	**1.4**	**73.6**	**26.4**

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

Hours usually worked

Hours usually worked

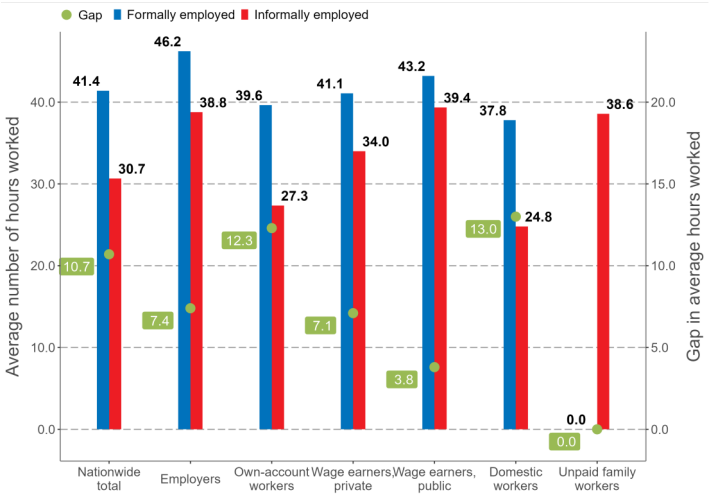
Within the overall variation in the number of hours usually worked by informally employed persons (-0.3%), the most notable decrease was in the bracket 45 hours (-31.3%). In contrast, increases were observed in the bracket 31 to 44 hours (4.2%) and in those who usually work 46 hours or more per week (0.5%).

Of the informally employed persons who worked under 45 hours, 63.1% worked part time (between 1 and 30 hours per week). Of this group, 35.2% worked part time involuntarily and 63.3% worked part time voluntarily.

Concerning hours usually worked, formally employed persons worked an average of 10.7 hours more than informally employed persons. By occupational category, the greatest difference in average hours usually worked between formally and informally employed persons were among domestic workers (13.0 hours) and own-account workers (12.3 hours).

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

July–September 2026 quarter



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

July–September 2026 quarter

Bracket of hours worked per week	Informal employment rate	Informally employed		
		Total	% over total informally employed	12-month variation (%)
Total	26.4	2,451,443	100.0	-0.3
1–30†	63.0	1,251,694	51.1	0.0
VPT††	61.4	792,629	63.3	0.1
IPT†††	66.3	439,982	35.2	0.7
Unclassified	54.6	19,084(*)	1.5	-17.3
31–44	13.0	733,529	29.9	4.2
45	19.4	83,743	3.4	-31.3
46 and over	30.9	372,016	15.2	0.5
No data	43.5	10,461(**)	0.4	-1.7

(†) 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).

(**) Unreliable estimate (i.e., fewer than sixty cases, less than nine degrees of freedom, or coefficient of variation greater than 30%).

Appendix 1: Informally employed persons according to occupational category

Informally employed persons by occupational category, nationwide total

July–September 2026

Occupational category	Both sexes					Men					Women				
	Informal employment rate (%)	Informally employed (total)	12-month variation			Informal employ-ment 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	**26.4**	**2,451,443**	**-6,909**	**-0.3**	**-**	**25.1**	**1,310,168**	**-10,570**	**-0.8**	**-**	**28.2**	**1,141,275**	**3,661**	**0.3**	**-**
Employers	11.6	32,980	-1,421	-4.1	-0.1	13.0	27,435	-179	-0.6	0.0	7.6	5,545(**)	-1,242	-18.3	-0.1
Own-account workers	62.1	1,213,995	-24,092	-1.9	-1.0	60.8	678,526	-5,728	-0.8	-0.4	63.9	535,470	-18,363	-3.3	-1.6
Wage earners, private sector	15.9	884,721	-4,952	-0.6	-0.2	15.5	523,663	-1,901	-0.4	-0.1	16.4	361,058	-3,051	-0.8	-0.3
Wage earners, public sector	11.3	133,780	3,597	2.8	0.1	10.4	50,808	-6,433	-11.2	-0.5	12.0	82,972	10,030	13.8	0.9
Domestic workers	60.3	129,805	13,156	11.3	0.5	56.9(**)	3,808(**)	392	11.5	0.0	60.4	125,997	12,764	11.3	1.1
Unpaid family workers	100.0	56,162	6,803	13.8	0.3	100.0	25,928	3,280	14.5	0.2	100.0	30,233	3,524	13.2	0.3

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