



Press Release

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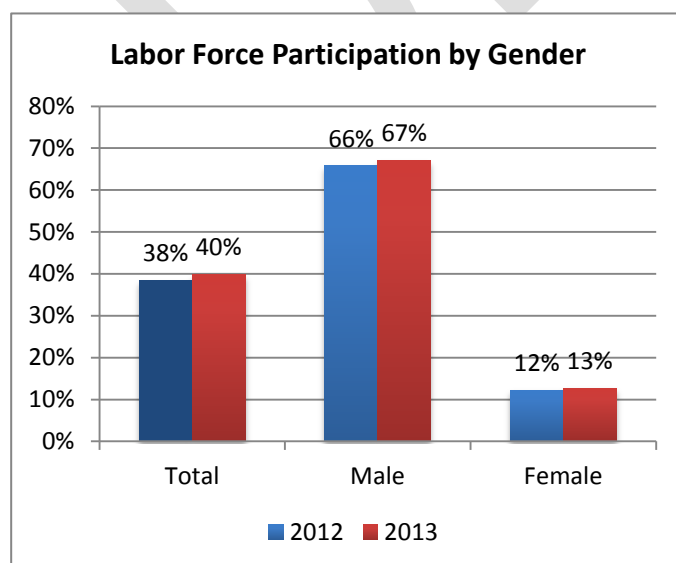
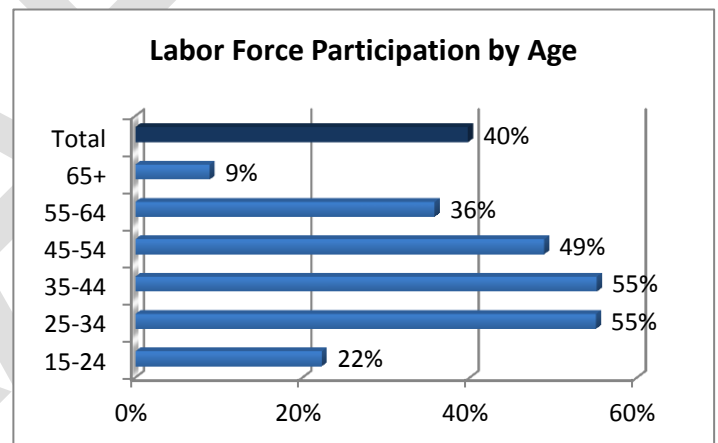
Unemployment Rate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq at 6.5% in 2013, Labor Force Survey Finds

The Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO) announced today that the overall unemployment rate across the Kurdistan Region-Iraq (KRI) was 6.5% and the sum of this rate is (84254) person in 2013. The unemployment rate is the percentage of individuals in the labor force who are not working but are looking for work. The unemployment rate fell 1.4 percentage points from 2012 which was 7.9% and the sum was (94953) person . The surveys were conducted in the second half of each year.

These findings are based on a series of periodic employment surveys in the KRI conducted by KRSO in 2013. The surveys, which follow in line with international best practices for labor surveys, are conducted on a semi-annual basis, providing up-to-date data for policymakers and the public on the KRI labor market. Other main findings from the surveys are given below.

For every 100 people there are 40 people participating in the labor force in 2013.

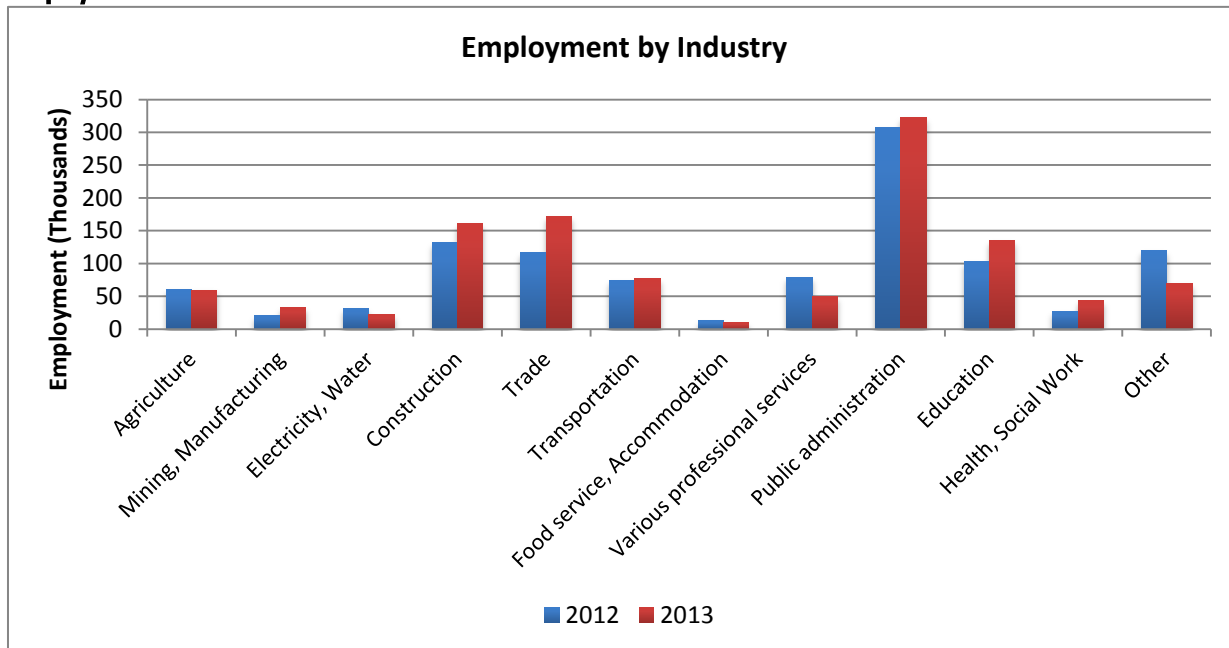
The labor force participation rate is the percentage of employed and unemployed workers (those that are either working or looking for work) as a fraction of the population 15 and older. In 2013, the overall labor force participation rate was 39.8% which the total was (1,294,633) person . The highest participation rate, 55%, was found among those aged 25-44. The lowest participation rate, 9%, was found among those aged 65 and up.



Both Male and Female Labor Force Participation Rates Rose Between 2012 and 2013

In 2013, labor force participation was significantly higher for men (1,086,358) than for women (208,275). However, the participation rates for both men and women rose between 2012 and 2013. The participation rate for men rose from 65.8% to 67.1%, while the participation rate for women rose from 12.2% to 12.7%, resulting in an overall increase in labor force participation from 38.4% in 2012 to 39.8% in 2013.

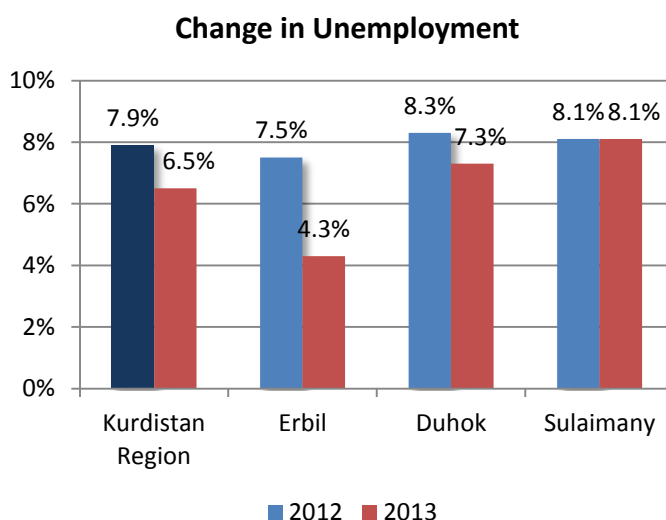
Employment Grew in Construction, Wholesale and Retail Trade, and Education Between 2012 and 2013



Several sectors experienced strong employment growth between 2012 and 2013. The sector experiencing the largest increase, both in the total number and percentage of workers between 2012 and 2013 was wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, where the number of workers grew by 47%, from approximately 117,000 in 2012 to 172,000 in 2013. The number of workers in the construction sector grew by 22%, from 132,000 to 161,000, while the number of workers in education grew by 31%, from 103,000 to 135,000. The increase in construction was concentrated in Erbil, which added 21,800 jobs in this sector (a growth rate of 58%).

Unemployment Rate Fell From 7.9% in 2012 to 6.5% in 2013

Between 2012 and 2013, the unemployment rate in the KRI fell from 7.9% to 6.5%. There were a few differences in the changes across governorates. Particularly large increases in workers in the construction and trade sectors in Erbil contributed to a substantial decrease in the unemployment rate in that governorate. Duhok and Sulaimaniyah experienced smaller increases in the numbers of workers in construction, trade, and education, resulting in a smaller decrease in Duhok and little change in Sulaimaniyah.



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