



**PRESS NOTE**

**ON**

**PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (PLFS)**

**Quarterly Bulletin [January – March 2024]**

**NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY OFFICE**

**MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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15th May, 2024

**PRESS NOTE**

**Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) –  
Quarterly Bulletin [January – March 2024]**

**Key Findings**

- Unemployment Rate (UR) in urban areas decreased from 6.8% to 6.7% during January – March 2023 to January – March 2024 for persons of age 15 years and above.
- Female UR decreased from 9.2% in January – March 2023 to 8.5% in January – March 2024.
- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in urban areas has shown an increasing trend from 48.5% to 50.2% during January – March 2023 to January – March 2024 respectively for persons of age 15 years and above.
- Female Labour Force Participation Rate in urban areas rises from 22.7% to 25.6% during January – March 2023 to January – March 2024, reflecting Overall Increasing Trend in LFPR.
- Increasing Trend in Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for persons of age 15 years and above from 45.2% in January – March 2023 to 46.9% in January – March 2024.
- Female Worker Population Ratio in urban areas rises from 20.6% to 23.4% during January – March 2023 to January – March 2024, reflecting Overall Increasing Trend in WPR.

**A. Introduction**

Considering the importance of availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) launched Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.

The objective of PLFS is primarily twofold:

- to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).
- to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

Twenty-one Quarterly Bulletins of PLFS corresponding to the quarter ending December 2018 to quarter ending December 2023 have already been released. In these quarterly bulletins estimates of labour force indicators, viz., Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), distribution of workers by broad status in employment and industry of work in the Current Weekly Status (CWS) for urban areas have been presented.

The present Quarterly Bulletin is the twenty-second in the series for the quarter January – March, 2024.

### PLFS fieldwork during the quarter January – March 2024

The fieldwork for collection of information in respect of all the samples allotted for the period January – March, 2024, was completed timely for the first visit as well as revisit samples, except for 10 first visit FSU<sup>1</sup>s; three each in the State of Manipur and Madhya Pradesh; and one each from Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and 38 revisit FSUs (28 from State of Manipur, two each from states of Maharashtra, Telangana & Tamil Nadu and one each from States of Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh & Andhra Pradesh), which were treated as casualty.

These aspects may be kept in mind while using the estimates of PLFS for the concerned quarter.

### B. Sample Design of PLFS

A rotational panel sampling design has been used in urban areas. In this rotational panel scheme, each selected household in urban areas is visited four times, in the beginning with 'First Visit Schedule' and thrice periodically later with a 'Revisit Schedule'. The scheme of rotation ensures that 75% of the first-stage sampling units (FSUs) are matched between two consecutive visits.

### C. Sample Size

At the all-India level, in the urban areas, a total number of 5,706 FSUs (**urban sampling unit curved out from Urban Frame Survey**) have been surveyed during the quarter January – March 2024. The number of urban households surveyed was 44,598 and number of persons surveyed was 1,69,459 in urban areas.

**1. Conceptual Framework of Key Employment and Unemployment Indicators for the Quarterly Bulletin:** The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) gives estimates of key employment and unemployment Indicators like the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), etc. These indicators, and 'Current Weekly Status' are defined as follows:

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<sup>1</sup>Urban Frame Survey Blocks (UFS) are the smallest area units taken as first-stage units (FSU) in urban areas for PLFS.

- (a) **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
  - (b) **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
  - (c) **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
  - (d) **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.
2. The Quarterly Bulletin for the quarter January – March 2024 is available at the website of the Ministry (<https://mospi.gov.in>). The key results are given in the statements annexed.

### D. Key Findings of PLFS, Quarterly Bulletin (January – March 2024)

#### 1. Increasing trend in Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for persons of age 15 years and above

LFPR in urban areas increased from 48.5% in January – March 2023 to 50.2% in January – March 2024 for persons of age 15 years in above. While for male LFPR increased from 73.5% to 74.4% during this period, for female, LFPR increased from 22.7% to 25.6% during this period.

<b>Statement 1: LFPR (in per cent) in CWS in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above</b>			
			all-India
survey period	Male	Female	Person
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
January – March 2023	73.5	22.7	48.5
April – June 2023	73.5	23.2	48.8
July – September 2023	73.8	24.0	49.3
October – December 2023	74.1	25.0	49.9
January – March 2024	74.4	25.6	50.2

#### 2. Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for persons of age 15 years and above

WPR in urban areas increased from 45.2% in January – March 2023 to 46.9% in January – March 2024 for persons of age 15 years in above. For male, it increased from 69.1% to 69.8% during this period and for female, it increased from 20.6% to 23.4% during this period.

<b>Statement 2: WPR (in per cent) in CWS in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above</b>			
			all-India
survey period	Male	Female	Person
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
January – March 2023	69.1	20.6	45.2
April – June 2023	69.2	21.1	45.5
July – September 2023	69.4	21.9	46.0
October – December 2023	69.8	22.9	46.6
January – March 2024	69.8	23.4	46.9

### 3. Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons of age 15 years and above

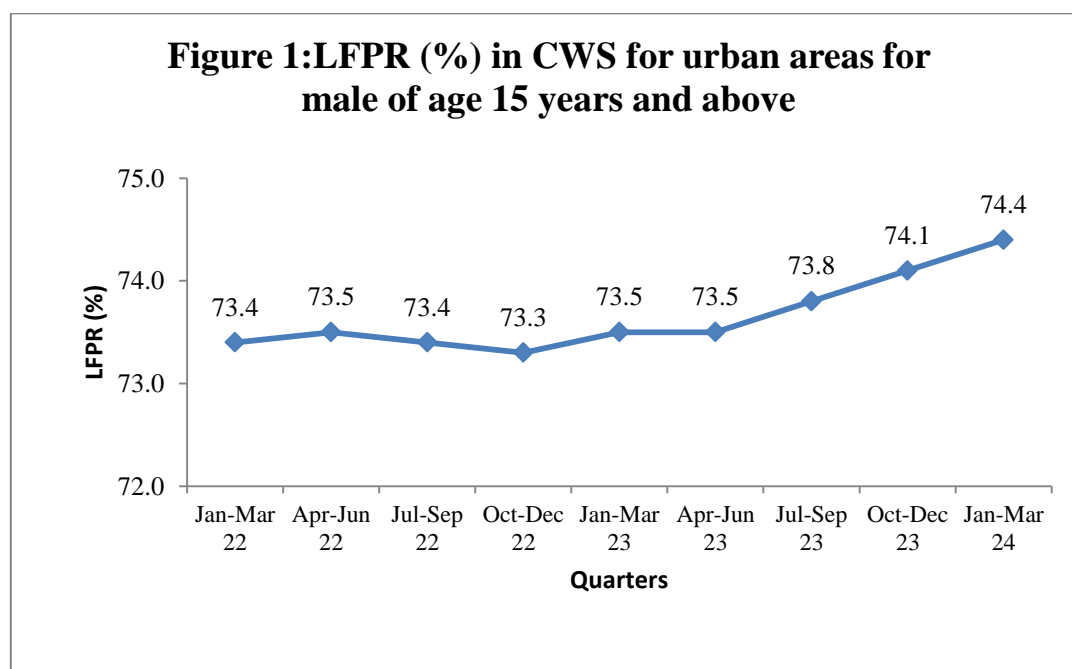
Unemployment Rate in urban areas decreased from 6.8% in January – March 2023 to 6.7% in January – March 2024 for persons of age 15 years in above. For male, UR increased from 6.0% in January – March 2023 to 6.1% in January – March 2024, while for female UR decreased from 9.2% in January – March 2023 to 8.5% in January – March 2024.

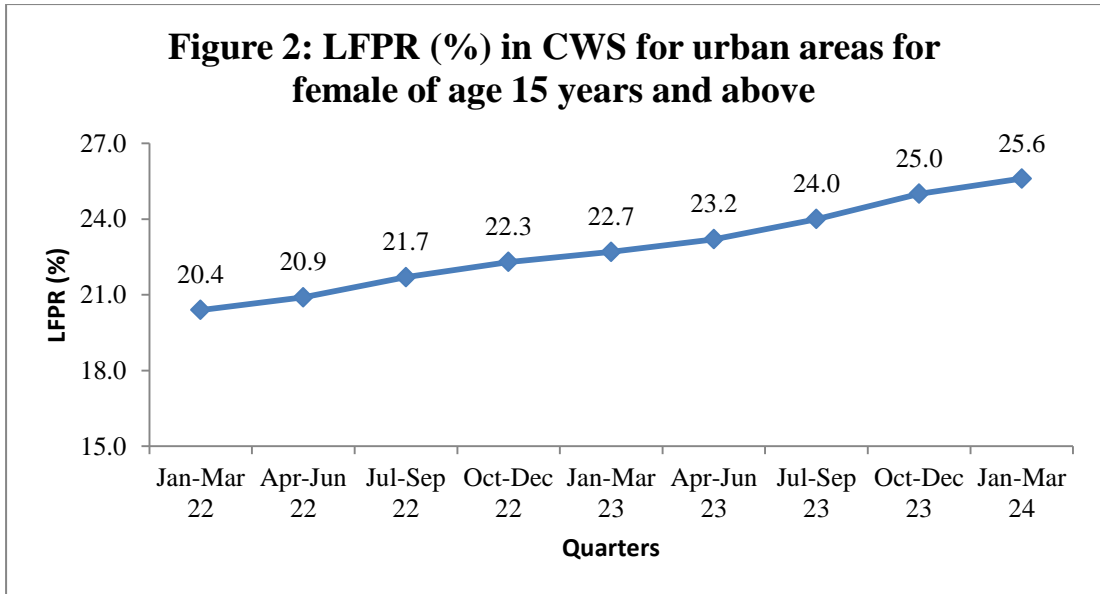
<b>Statement 3: UR (in per cent) in CWS in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above</b>			
			<b>all-India</b>
<b>survey period</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Person</b>
<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>
<b>January – March 2023</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>April – June 2023</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>July – September 2023</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>October – December 2023</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>January – March 2024</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>6.7</b>

## E. Highlights of the Quarterly estimates of key Labour Market indicators

### 1. Trend in Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for persons of age 15 years and above since 2022

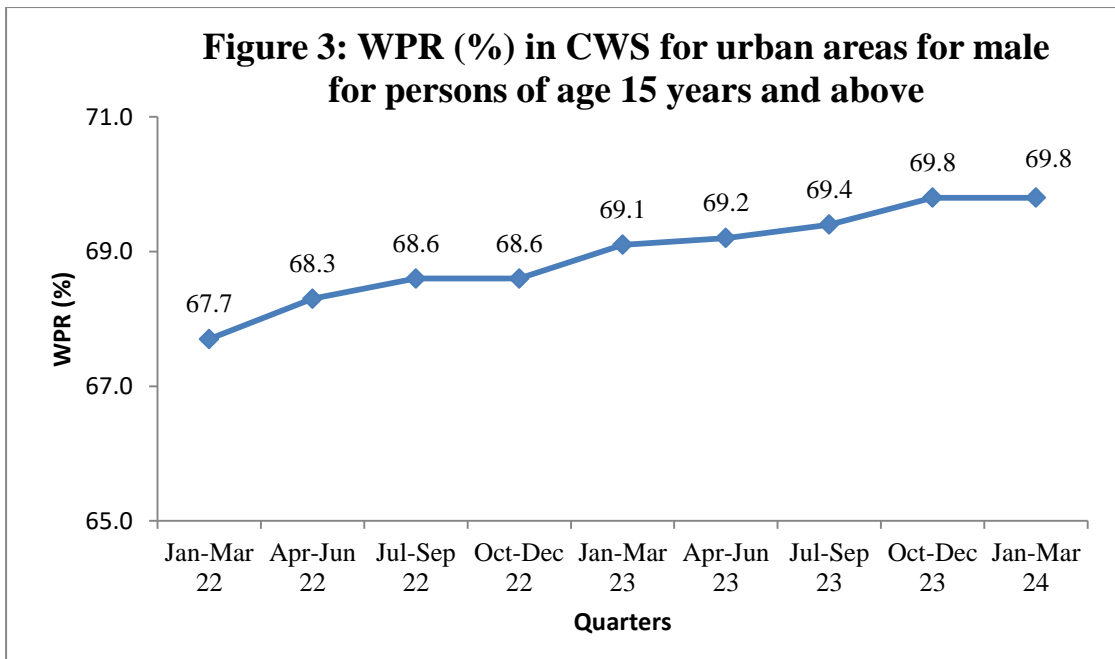
The trend in LFPR in urban areas since the quarter January – March, 2022 for male and female are presented in figure 1 and 2.

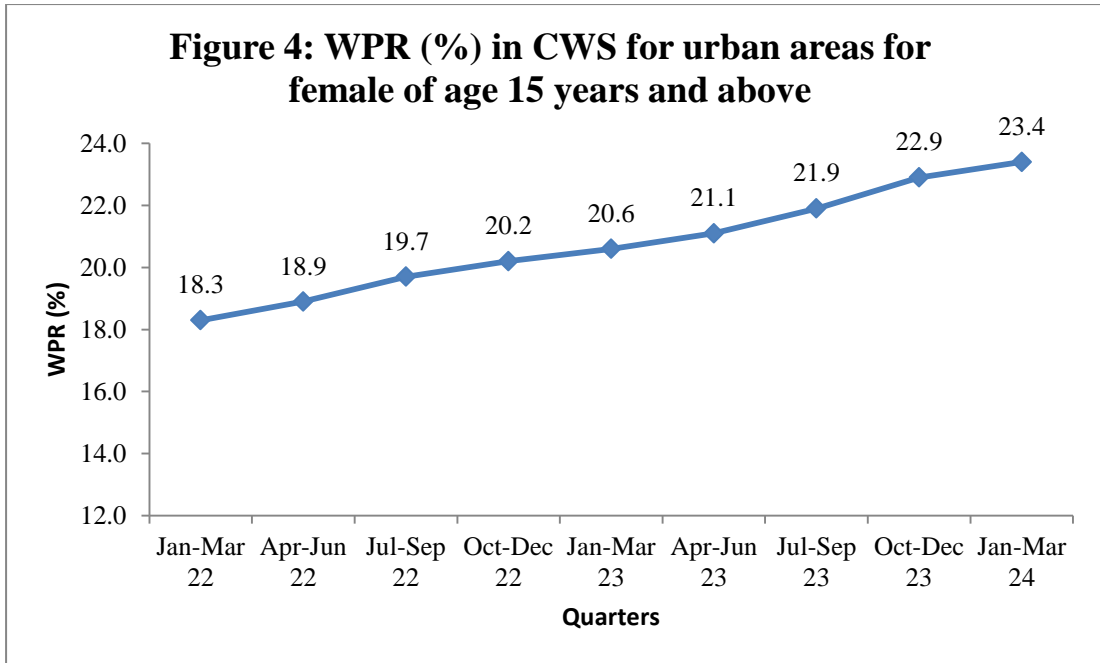




**2. Trend in Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for persons of age 15 years and above since 2022**

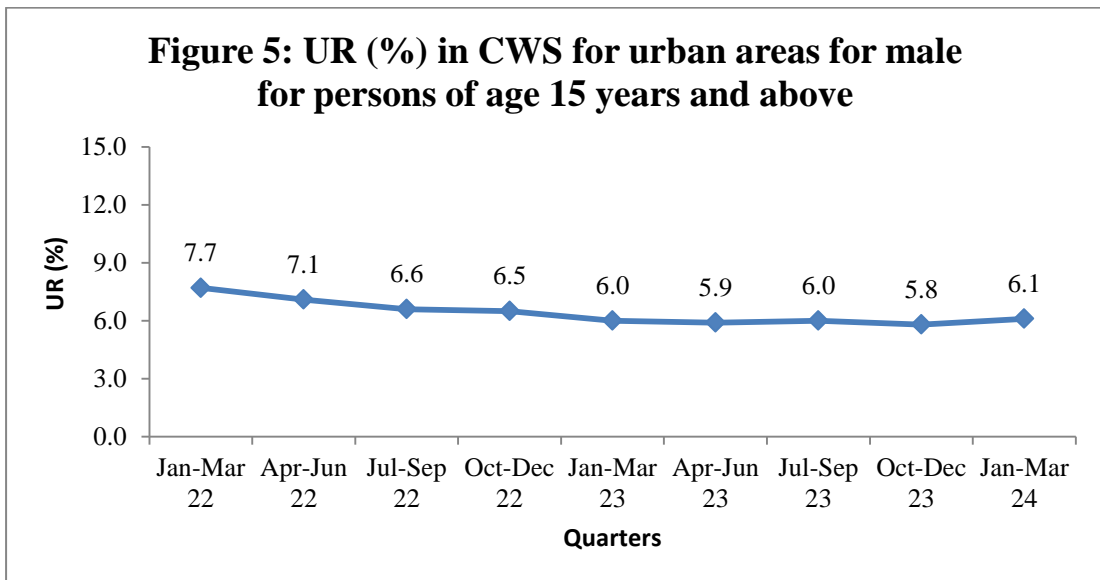
The trend in WPR in urban areas since the quarter January – March, 2022 for male and female are presented in figure 3 and 4.





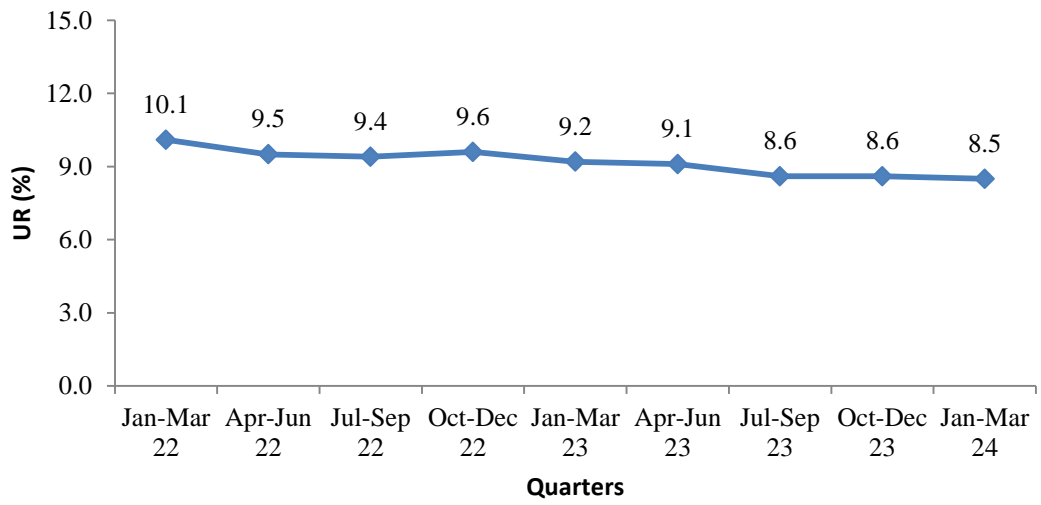
**3. Trend in Unemployment Rate (UR) for persons of age 15 years and above since 2022**

The trend in UR in urban areas since the quarter January – March, 2022 for male and female are presented in figure 5 and 6.





**Figure 6: UR (%) in CWS for urban areas for female for persons of age 15 years and above**



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