14.6% The Unemployment Rate during the first Quarter of 2016

The Department of Statistics issued its quarterly report on the Unemployment Rate during the first quarter of 2016. The following are the main results of this survey:

Unemployment:

- The results show that the Unemployment Rate has reached 14.6% during the first quarter of 2016; the Unemployment Rate for males has reached 12.7% while it was 23.7% for females for the same quarter.

- The Unemployment Rate has increased in this round by 1.6 percent points compared with the first quarter of 2015.

- Taking gender into consideration, it becomes clear that the Unemployment Rate has increased for males by 1.7 percentage points and for females decreased by 1.6 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2015.
The Unemployed:

- The Survey results show that the Unemployment Rate is high among the university degree holders (Bachelor degree and higher divided into labor force for the same educational level) by 20.2% compared with the other educational levels.

- The results also show that 50.9% of the Unemployed are secondary certificate holders and higher, and that 49.1% have less than secondary school qualifications.

- Male Unemployed percentage of bachelor holders and higher was 22.2% against 76.7% for females which is varied according to educational level and sex.

- The highest rate of Unemployment was recorded in the age group 15-19 and 20-24 years by 42.6% and 33.0% respectively.
The highest Rate of Unemployment was recorded in Irbid at 18.5% and the lowest rate was recorded in Amman Governorate at 11.0%.

**The Employed:**

- The Employed rate among the age group (15 and above) is 30.5%.
- The results show that about 59.2% of the employed males and 67.4% of the employed females are concentrated in the age group 20-39 years.
- About half of the employed have less than secondary qualifications, 10.3% of the secondary level and 35.0% are higher than secondary level.
- 6.3% of the employed males are engaged in elementary occupations, while the percentage of workers in crafts and related trades and the professions constitute about 16.2% and 16.4% for each respectively.
- 62.4% of the employed females are professionals and 10.8% are technicians and associate professionals.
- 26.9% of the total employed work in the sector of public administration, defense and social security, followed by workers in the wholesale and retail trade sector at about 15.6%.
- 29.7% of the employed males were employed in the sector of public administration and defense, and 17.5% in the wholesale and retail trade sector. It is noticed that 41.2% of the female workers are in the education sector and 14.9% in the health sector and social work.
- The results also show that about 87.5% of the employed are paid employees (85.8% for males against 96.7% for females).

**The Labor Force: (Employed & Unemployed):**

- The results show a clear variation in the labor force distribution with regard to educational level and sex. It was found that about 61.4% of the total male labor force has less than secondary educational qualifications compared to
13.4% for females. The results indicate also that 63.2% of the total labor force among females has bachelor level or higher, compared with 19.7% for males.

- The Crude Economic Activity Rate (i.e. labor force attributed to the total population) reached 24.1%.

- The Refined Economic Participation Rate (the labor force attributed to the population 15 years and over) is 35.7% for the whole Kingdom (85.5% for males against 12.5% for females) for the first quarter of 2016 compared with 36.0% for the whole Kingdom (59.4% for males and 12.5% for females) for the third quarter of 2016.

It should be noted that the Survey included a total sample size of about 13 thousand households distributed all over the governorates of the Kingdom, and is representative of the Urban, Rural, and Regions. It is worthy to mention here that the Employment and Unemployment surveys are carried out at the middle of every quarter and provide data reflecting the situation of the complete quarter (Jan, Feb and March). The individual is asked whether he/she has searched for a job during the last four weeks before the interview according to the international recommendations applied in Jordan.