

PAKISTAN

LABOUR SITUATION

By
Jamil A Bajwa
Ambassador, IR&HR Forum
Vice President, EFP AOTS Alumni
Director HR, K Electric Limited

Pakistan's Labour Market Snapshot

Population = **207 million**

Labour Force = **63.4 million** (aged 15 years and above)

Largest Employment Sectors =

Services sector (38%)

Agriculture sector (37%)

Industrial sector (25 percent)

Workers in Formal sector = 28% with labour law protections

Workers in In-formal sector = 72%

Wage Employees

= 25.7 million

Monthly wage earners

= only 14.6 million

Remaining 11 million are either **daily wagers** (5 million), **weekly earners** (4 million) or **piece-rated workers** (1.8 million).

COVID - 19

• Pandemic impact:

GLOBAL:

• Infected = 55 million people in 185 countries,

• Deaths = 1.3 Million deaths

• Recovered = 34 million people

PAKISTAN:

- February 26 first confirmed case
- Confirmed cases number has crossed 350,000 and 7000 deaths on this account have been reported.
- It transformed into a labour market crisis:
 - due to resulting demand and supply shocks.
 - Lockdowns: initiated on March 23

Who is affected by the pandemic?

The Centre for Labour Research has estimated job disruptions for around 21 million workers in the country on account of the Covid induced lockdowns.

Adversely hit sectors:

Construction

Manufacturing

Accommodation and food services

Wholesale and retail trade

Transport and storage

Real estate and business activities.

- All at-risk sectors employ 28.45 million workers.
- The share of total employment in these high-risk sectors is 47 percent of total employment in the country.

Labour Intensive
Low Paid
Low Skill

Most Vulnerable Worker Types:

- Women workers,
- Elderly and
- Those with pre-existing health conditions,
- Young workers,
- Persons with disabilities,
- Informal economy workers
- Self-employed workers like street vendors, taxi drivers and gig workers engaged with different digital labour platforms.
- Domestic workers (8.5 million), home-based workers (4.8 million) as well as those working on roads, including street vendors (4 million).

TOUGH CHOICE

Infection vs Starvation

Government Measures

- Issued legislation making Covid related guidelines mandatory and debarring employers to lay off workers due to Pandamic.
- Un-employment benefits program. Emergency Cash Programme of Rs 12,000 per family for 12 million families.
- Special contributory social insurance schemes
- Legal cover to the teleworking and flexible worktime
- Provision of finance at very low markup to corporate sector to facilitate payment of salaries to their workers during Covid.

CHILD LABOUR SURVEY IN PAKISTAN PROGRESS





COMPLETED ACTIVITIES



ONGOING ACTIVITIES



NOT APPLICABLE

Other Labour issues

- Child Labour (Survey is going on but as per general estimates around 10 million children engaged)
 - Mandatory education till 10th grade
 - Legislation against Child Labour
 - Awareness campaigns
- Unfair & abusive labour practices
- Bonded Labour
- Social Protection

Your Questions are most welcome © THANKS