



# Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)

## Why in News

The **Labour Bureau**, [Ministry of Labour and Employment](#) released the results of the **Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)** for the **First Quarter (FQ) of 2021 (April to June)**.

## Key Points

### ▪ QES Survey:

#### ◦ About:

- The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) is **part of the All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES)**.
- It **covers establishments employing 10 or more workers in the organised segment in 9 sectors**.
- The **9 sectors** are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurants, [IT/BPO](#), Financial Service Activities.
- **Objective:** To enable the government to frame a “sound national policy on employment.”

- **India ratified the [International Labour Organization’s \(ILO\) Employment Policy Convention, 1964](#)**, in the year 1998, which requires the ratifying countries to implement “an active policy designed to promote full, productive and freely chosen employment.” **India does not have a [National Employment Policy \(NEP\)](#) yet.**

#### ◦ QES vs PLFS:

- While the **QES provides a demand side picture**, the **[National Sample Survey or Periodic Labour Force Survey \(PLFS\)](#) gives the supply side picture** of the labour market.

- **PLFS** is conducted by the **National Statistical Organization (NSO), MoSPI** (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation).

- **Issue with QES Data:** As the QES covers only establishments with at least 10 workers, it provides **data essentially on the formal economy**.

- Considering that **informal workers (with no written contracts, and benefits) account for roughly 90% of the [labour force](#)** in India, the QES thus provides only a partial glimpse of the labour market.

### ▪ Highlights of QES 2021 Data:

- Shows a **29% increase in employment** in nine sectors during the peak **[Covid-19](#)** months of April-June 2021 over a base of 2013-14 (**Sixth Economic Census - EC**).
- There has been a **decline in the share of [female workers](#)**. From 31% in the 6<sup>th</sup> EC (2013) **to 29%** in QES (2021) data.
- Out of the 9 sectors, 7 sectors saw growth in employment while **only 2 sectors (Trade, and Accommodation & Restaurants) saw a decline in employment figures**.

- The **IT/BPO sector saw the most growth** of 152% during 2013-2021 period.
- Between **1998-2021**, there has been **an absolute increase in employment figures**. Since 1998 (4<sup>th</sup> EC), the **highest growth rate in employment (38%) was in the period 2005-2013**.
- The simple growth rate of employment between 1998-2021 has been fluctuating, and not linear.
- **All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES):**
  - The AQEES has been **taken up by the Labour Bureau** to provide frequent (quarterly) updates about the employment and related variables of establishments, in both organised and unorganised segments of nine selected sectors.
    - These sectors altogether account for a majority of the total employment in the non-farm establishments.
  - There are **two components** under AQEES:
    - Quarterly Employment Survey (**QES**) and
    - Area Frame Establishment Survey (**AFES**).
  - **QES** would provide the employment estimates **for the establishments employing 10 or more workers**.
  - **AFES** covers the **unorganised segment (with less than 10 workers)** through a sample survey.

## Economic Census

- Economic Census is the complete count of **all Establishments** located **within the geographical boundary of India**.
- It also provides valuable insight into **geographical spread/clusters of economic activities, ownership pattern**, persons engaged, etc. of **all economic establishments** in the country.
- It is conducted **every five years** and is very crucial for framing of policies and planning for the government and other organisations.
- Six Economic Censuses, (EC) have been conducted till date. **The first EC was undertaken in 1977 by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO)**. The Second in 1980 followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1990. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition took place in 1998 while the fifth was held in 2005. **The Sixth EC was conducted in 2013**.
- The **7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census (7<sup>th</sup> EC)** is being conducted by **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** since **2019**.
  - It is being carried out by the **MoSPI** in collaboration with **Common Service Centre (CSC)**, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under **Ministry of Electronics and IT**.
  - **For the first time**, an IT-based digital platform is being used for data capture, validation, report generation and dissemination.
  - The 7<sup>th</sup> EC will cover **all establishments** including household enterprises, engaged in **production or distribution of goods/services (other than for the sole purpose of own consumption)** in **non-farm agricultural and non-agricultural sectors**.

**Source: TH**