

## PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan & PRIDE Economic Data Analysis Series

**Overall unemployment rate in Sindh is 3.9%, with highest unemployment found amongst the youth of ages 15-29 years, at 6.3%. The urban youth with a university degree (in engineering, medicine, computer, agriculture other subjects and Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D.) make up over 23.6% of all unemployed urban youth in Sindh province.**

### **Gallup Pakistan & PRIDE Research**

*Within Sindh, Karachi division has the highest youth unemployment rate of 11.18%,*

*A higher share of educated youth is unemployed compared to less educated youth in Sindh*

Islamabad, May 21, 2023

(Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi) Research conducted by Gallup Pakistan and PRIDE, using data from the Labour Force Survey 2020-21, shows that *the overall unemployment rate<sup>1</sup> of youth in Sindh is 3.9%.*

Gallup Pakistan & PRIDE have joined hands to analyze and disseminate policy relevant economic and social data for a wider policy debate in Pakistan.

**Bilal Gilani, Executive Director at Gallup Pakistan** explains: *'The study points to a huge pool of unemployed and underemployed educated men and women in both urban and rural Sindh. We are failing this young generation by either not providing employment opportunities or avenues for doing their own business. In this environment should we continue to urge youth to go to universities or join skill based technical education programs? These are some of the issues that need urgent attention other wise we are heading towards major social upheaval led by youth of the country'*

Dr. Shahid Naeem, Director, Policy Research, PRIDE informed that a significant proportion (around 41%) of unemployed youth have attained matric and intermediate level education in Sindh, with varying ratios for different divisions of the province. In case of Hyderabad division, this rate is around 33% , 47% in respect of Karachi division, 42% in case of Larkana division, 34% for Mirpur Khas division, 46% in case of Sukkur division and 27% in respect of Shaheed Benazirabad division. Government of Sindh needs to take drastic steps to introduce marketable technical skills within the main stream of education, so that the boys and girls are able to get some employment or job after completing their education.

The current series of Reports would be presenting an analysis of Labour Force Survey 2020-21, a large national survey covering close to 100,000 households, conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). This is the third press release in the series. The first one was with respect to NEET Rates in Pakistan and can be accessed at ----- . The second press release was on Unemployment in Punjab and can be accessed at -----

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<sup>1</sup> LFS defines unemployed as the one who, despite being available for work and willing to work, was not able to get some work for pay, profit or family gain even for one hour during the reference period (i.e. one week prior to the date of interview).

## Key Findings:

**1) Sindh's divisions vary significantly in terms of their share in population with Karachi having the largest share of population, 16.7 million and Mirpur Khas being the smallest with a population of 4.5 million.**

The demographic analysis shows that Karachi division has the largest share in population (16.7 million) in Sindh province, whereas Mirpur Khas division has the lowest population (4.5 million). Hyderabad division has the largest share of rural population (7.1 million) while Karachi division has the largest share of urban population (15.5 million) in the province.

*The demographic analysis show that Sindh alone is house to 13.2 million young people of ages 15-29 years. Sindh government needs to plan and take steps to benefit from a large youth bulge.*

**2) Overall unemployment in Sindh is 3.9%, with higher unemployment rates for females and those living in urban areas of the province.**

The overall unemployment rate in the Sindh province is 3.9%, with unemployment rate of females being substantially higher than males (6.6% vs. 3.3%). This rate is substantially higher in respect of the urban residents compared to their rural counterparts (5.9% vs. 2.1%).

**3) Youth Unemployment is highest in Karachi Division.**

The analysis of the labour force survey data on youth unemployment rate in Sindh, by division, shows that the overall youth unemployment rate varies from the highest rate of 11.2% for Karachi division to the lowest rate of 3.4% for Larkana division.

**4) In Sindh, highest share of unemployed youth belongs to the education level of 'Matric but below Intermediate'**

The distribution of unemployed youth, by level of education, indicates that youth having education level of 'matric but below Intermediate' makes up the highest proportion of unemployed youth (22.2%) while this rate was the lowest (0.1%) in respect of the youth having M.Phil. /Ph.D. degree followed by those belonging to 'less than one year of education' (0.4%).

**5) Unemployment of highly educated young females in Sindh**

21.9% of the unemployed young females in Sindh have a university degree (engineering, medicine, computer, agriculture degree in other subjects and Masters, M. Phil. and Ph.D.), while this ratio is 20.3% for males in the same group of education and 23.6% in case of the youth belonging to the urban Sindh.

### Unemployed Youth in Sindh Province

Youth unemployment refers to the number of young people of ages 15-29 years in total population who are economically active and are in search of work but currently without work. The young people who are full-time students or those who are not looking for work /job are considered economically inactive individuals. Such individuals do not constitute a part of unemployed youth. This indicator serves as a measure of potential youth labor market entrants that remain under-utilized.

#### Total population of Sindh province by division:

The demographic analysis shows that the Karachi division has the highest population (16.7 million) in Sindh province, while Mirpur Khas division has the lowest population (4.5 million). Hyderabad division has the largest rural population (7.1 million) compared to Karachi division which has the highest urban population (15.5 million). Details are in Table 1.

**Table 1: Total Population in Sindh, by division (in million)**

	Hyderabad	Karachi	Larkana	Mirpur Khas	Sukkur	Shaheed Benazirabad	Overall Sindh
Overall	11.2	16.7	6.7	4.5	7.0	5.6	51.7
Male	5.9	8.9	3.5	2.3	3.6	2.9	27.1
Female	5.3	7.8	3.2	2.2	3.4	2.7	24.6
Rural	7.1	1.2	4.6	3.7	4.8	4.1	25.5
Urban	4.1	15.5	2.1	0.8	2.2	1.5	26.2

The distribution of young population of ages 15-29 years in Sindh province, by division, is shown in Table 2. In line with trends observed for overall population, Karachi division has the highest population of youth (4 million). If we see at the distribution of the young population by urban and rural region, we can see that Hyderabad division is home to the highest young population

living in its rural areas (1.7 million) while Karachi division has the highest urban population of youth (3.7 million).

**Table 2: Total Population of Youth (15-29) in Sindh, by division (in million)**

Population	Hyderabad	Karachi	Larkana	Mirpur Khas	Sukkur	Shaheed Benazirabad	Overall Sindh
Overall	2.9	4.0	1.8	1.2	1.8	1.5	13.2
Male	1.5	2.1	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.8	6.8
Female	1.4	1.9	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.7	6.4
Rural	1.7	0.3	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.0	6.4
Urban	1.2	3.7	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.5	6.8

The unemployment rate in Sindh province, translated into the number of unemployed by different age groups, is presented in Table 3. The analysis of the Labour Force Survey 2020-21 data shows that the overall 614,591 people were unemployed in Sindh province, which translates into an unemployment rate of 3.86%. This rate is significantly higher in respect of females compare to males (6.59% vs. 3.31%) although the number of unemployed young males is higher (439,626 males compared to 174,964 females). In case of urban and rural regions, unemployment rate among the of urban residents was substantially higher than this rate for the rural areas (5.90% vs. 2.05%). The analysis by age groups shows unemployment rate to be the highest for youth (of ages 15-29 years), at 6.34%.

**Table 3: Unemployment rate and number of unemployed, by age groups, in Sindh**

	Overall Sindh (%)	Unemployed (No)
<b>Age Group (10-14)</b>		
Overall	4.89	11,704
Male	4.98	96,278
Female	4.51	2,076
Rural	4.68	7,406
Urban	5.29	4,298
<b>Age Group (15-29)</b>		

	Overall Sindh (%)	Unemployed (No)
Overall	6.34	399,537
Male	5.79	299,502
Female	8.87	100,035
Rural	2.91	105,885
Urban	11.00	293,651
<b>Age Group (30-44)</b>		
Overall	2.39	139,234
Male	1.65	79,846
Female	6.03	59,388
Rural	1.64	47,342
Urban	3.11	91,891
<b>Age Group (45-59)</b>		
Overall	1.94	57,376
Male	1.77	43,913
Female	2.86	13,464
Rural	0.78	11,761
Urban	3.03	45,615
<b>Age Group (60 &amp; above)</b>		
Overall	1.12	6,739
Male	1.20	6,739
Female	0.00	0
Rural	0.08	259
Urban	2.45	6,480
<b>Sindh 10 years and above</b>		
Overall	3.86	614,591
Male	3.31	439,627
Female	6.59	174,964
Rural	2.05	172,655
Urban	5.90	441,936

Youth unemployment rate, by division, for Sindh province is shown in Table 4. The analysis shows that the overall unemployment rate varies from as low as 3.44% for Larkana division to as high as 11.18% for Karachi division.

Table 4: Youth unemployment rate and number of unemployed by division in Sindh

	Hyderabad	Karachi	Larkana	Mirpur Khas	Sukkur	Shaheed Benazirabad
Overall	<b>95,552</b> (6.55)	<b>161,966</b> (11.18)	<b>34,872</b> (3.44)	<b>21,544</b> (3.48)	<b>55,770</b> (5.91)	<b>29,831</b> (3.64)
Male	<b>63,855</b> (5.3)	<b>126,920</b> (9.37)	<b>28,199</b> (3.79)	<b>11,325</b> (2.38)	<b>45,071</b> (6.02)	<b>24,130</b> (3.72)
Female	<b>31,696</b> (12.49)	<b>35,046</b> (37.02)	<b>6,673</b> (2.47)	<b>10,218</b> (7.19)	<b>10,699</b> (5.47)	<b>5,700</b> (3.34)

	Hyderabad	Karachi	Larkana	Mirpur Khas	Sukkur	Shaheed Benazirabad
Rural	<b>34,077</b> (3.61)	<b>6,304</b> (5.15)	<b>15,380</b> (2.05)	<b>17,791</b> (3.43)	<b>21,979</b> (3.26)	<b>10,352</b> (1.66)
Urban	<b>61,474</b> (11.93)	<b>155,662</b> (11.74)	<b>19,492</b> (7.39)	<b>3,752</b> (3.79)	<b>33,790</b> (12.56)	<b>19,479</b> (9.91)

Note: Figures in parenthesis are youth unemployment rate (in %)

A comparison of the youth unemployment rate in respect of rural areas of Sindh, by division, shows that this rate is highest in case of Karachi division (5.15%) and lowest in case of Shaheed Benazirabad division (1.66%). In case of urban areas of Sindh province, youth unemployment for urban areas of Sukkur was the highest (12.56%) while it was lowest for Mirpur Khas Division (3.79%).

The analysis of youth unemployment rate, by level of education, shown in Table 5, indicates that youth unemployment rate was highest for those having education level of 'Matric but below Intermediate' (22.24%) while this rate was lowest for those having 'M. Phil./ Ph.D.' (0.10%). The same trend was true for young males (21.43%) and females (24.69%) having education level of 'Matric but below Intermediate'.

A comparison of youth unemployment rate by level of education in respect of rural and urban areas of Sindh shows that this rate is highest in respect of the education level of 'Never attended school' in the rural areas (30.33%). In urban areas of Sindh, youth unemployment rate was highest among those having education level of 'matric but below intermediate' at 24.26%. The youth unemployment rate was the lowest in respect of those having education level of "M. Phil./Ph.D." (0.13%).

Table 5: Unemployed youth (15-29 years) by level of education in Sindh (%)

Education level	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
Never attended school	16.62	14.00	30.33	10.79	15.97
Less than one year of education	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.36
Pre primary education	3.00	2.13	4.85	2.03	2.78
Primary but below middle	6.33	8.99	8.87	6.32	6.99
Middle but below matric	12.03	13.16	12.67	12.19	12.31
Matric but below intermediate	21.43	24.69	16.65	24.26	22.24
Inter but below degree	19.84	15.09	14.12	20.28	18.65
Engineering/ Medicine/ Computer/ Agriculture	3.73	3.68	2.94	3.99	3.71
Degree in other subjects	11.54	13.86	7.89	13.64	12.12
M.A/M. Sc.	4.89	4.40	1.68	5.88	4.77

M.Phil./Ph.D.	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.10
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Youth unemployment rate by level of education, at division level, in respect of various divisions of Sindh province are shown in Tables 6A-6F.

Table 6A: Unemployed youth (15-29 years) by level of education, in Hyderabad division

Education level	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
Never attended school	30.5	15.4	41.9	16.4	25.5
Pre primary education	5.6	3.8	11.1	1.6	5.0
Primary but below middle	9.2	19.3	10.0	14.0	12.5
Middle but below matric	3.3	7.7	11.8	0.8	4.8
Matric but below intermediate	9.9	26.8	12.4	17.2	15.5
Inter but below degree	19.8	12.3	6.0	23.5	17.3
Engineering/ Medicine/ Computer/ Agriculture	2.2	2.6	3.0	2.0	2.4
Degree in other subjects	16.6	11.5	3.7	21.2	15.0
M.A/M. Sc.	2.9	0.5	0.0	3.2	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6B: Unemployed youth (15-29 years) by level of education, in Karachi division

Education level	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
Never attended school	10.2	4.7	23.29	8.42	9
Less than one year of school	1.1	0.0	0	0.92	0.88
Pre primary education	2.8	2.6	4.54	2.66	2.73
Primary but below middle	5.1	0.5	0	4.28	4.11
Middle but below matric	19.2	17.9	53.1	17.56	18.95
Matric but below intermediate	29.5	32.8	10.73	30.99	30.21
Inter but below degree	16.9	16.9	5.16	17.36	16.88
Engineering/ Medicine/ Computer/ Agriculture	2.8	3.7	0	3.12	3.0
Degree in other subjects	5.5	15.5	0	7.98	7.67
M.A/M. Sc.	6.6	5.4	3.18	6.47	6.34
M.Phil./ Ph. D.	0.3	0.0	0	0.25	0.24
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Table 6C: Unemployed youth (15-29 years) by level of education, in Larkana division

Education level	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
Never attended school	13.54	9.45	18.38	8.32	12.76
Primary but below middle	4.28	3.8	6.71	2.2	4.19
Middle but below matric	5.57	0	8.81	1.1	4.5
Matric but below intermediate	12.22	9.72	13.07	10.7	11.74
Inter but below degree	28.91	35.45	29.35	30.81	30.16
Engineering/ Medicine/ Computer/ Agriculture	10.69	12.72	7.47	13.92	11.08
Degree in other subjects	17.6	17.47	11.48	22.39	17.58
M.A./M.Sc.	7.19	11.4	4.74	10.56	7.99
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Table 6D: Unemployed youth (15-29 years) by level of education, in Mirpur Khas division

Education level	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
Never attended school	12.67	36.03	23.67	24.08	23.75
Pre primary education	4.34	0	0	13.08	2.28
Primary but below middle	10.48	10.43	12.67	0	10.46
Middle but below matric	5.09	15.93	10.3	9.87	10.23
Matric but below intermediate	28.6	15.16	21.34	26.39	22.22
Inter but below degree	15.69	7.04	11.21	13.36	11.58
Engineering/ Medicine/ Computer/ Agriculture	3.5	6.77	5.19	4.4	5.05
Degree in other subjects	19.64	7.04	15.62	4.4	13.66
M.A./M. Sc.	0	1.62	0	4.4	0.77
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Table 6E: Unemployed youth (15-29 years) by level of education, in Sukkur division

Education level	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
Never attended school	18.1	12.3	28.16	9.72	16.99
Pre primary education	3.12	0	4.8	1.03	2.52
Primary but below middle	5.09	9.57	8.2	4.49	5.95
Middle but below matric	9.65	16.21	6.85	13.55	10.91
Matric but below intermediate	22.8	18.49	23.56	20.94	21.97

Inter but below degree	25.28	20.65	19.45	27.61	24.39
Engineering/ Medicine/ Computer/ Agriculture	0.57	0	0	0.76	0.46
Degree in other subjects	10.67	9.33	6.43	13.01	10.41
M.A. /M. Sc.	4.71	13.44	2.55	8.88	6.39
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Table 6F: Unemployed youth (15-29 years) by level of education, in Shaheed Benazirabad division

Education level	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
Never attended school	16.47	32.2	30.41	13.66	19.47
Primary but below middle	7.98	6.09	8.77	7	7.62
Middle but below matric	12.48	19.25	12.97	14.2	13.77
Matric but below intermediate	14.28	9.28	16.68	11.55	13.33
Inter but below degree	16.67	0	17.36	11.43	13.49
Engineering/ Medicine/ Computer/ Agriculture	10.42	0	0	12.91	8.43
Degree in other subjects	20.51	33.18	11.03	29.25	22.93
M.A. /M. Sc.	1.19	0	2.77	0	0.96
Total	100	100	100	100	100

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Gallup Pakistan & PRIDE is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand and further disseminate the findings from reports looking at Pakistani economy. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director from Gallup Pakistan for this collaboration or Dr Lubna Shahnaz ([lubnashahnaz@pridepakistan.pk](mailto:lubnashahnaz@pridepakistan.pk)) from PRIDE.

**Wish to know more about the LFS 2020-21?**

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has been carrying out Labour Force Survey (LFS) since 1963. The survey aims at collecting a set of comprehensive statistics on the various dimensions of country's civilian labour force to pave the way for skill development, planning, employment generation, assessing the contribution of the informal sector and, the volume, characteristics and contours of employment in Pakistan.

You can find more information on the Labour Force Survey 2020-21, and complete tables, on

<https://www.pbs.gov.pk/publication/labour-force-survey-2020-21-annual-report>



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