

COUNTRY FACT SHEET 2021



Perú

 **AREA**
1,285,216 km²


 **POPULATION**
(BY 30 JUNE, 2020)
32,131,400 inhabitants¹

 **ESTIMATED POPULATION**
(BY JUNE, 2021)
33,035,000 inhabitants

 **COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION**
49.2 % men / 50.8% women²

 **ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION**
(SECOND QUARTER 2021)
17,825,000

 **GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) 2020**
207,240 million dollars at current prices³

 **GDP SECOND QUARTER 2021**
In the second quarter of 2021, the GDP showed an increase of 41.9%, attributable to the rocketing domestic demand, which grew 44,8%.

¹ The data in this section were taken from up-to-date statistics compiled by INEI (Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática del Perú).

² "In the national censuses carried out by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics, the Peruvian State does not record any type of ethnic identification other than the language learned in childhood. The sources that refer to Peruvian ethnography generally speak about the existence of an Amerindian majority: around 40% of the population is indigenous, according to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; 30% of Peruvians belong to the indigenous segment in the strict sense of the word, taking into consideration the subjects' mother tongue".

³ Source: CPAL - Naciones Unidas

Overview of the socio-economic situation¹

¹ This section includes information obtained from INEI and from their technical report *Comportamiento de los indicadores de mercado laboral a nivel nacional*. Accessed in October 2021.

² Formal employment: with an employment relationship subject to labor, tax and social security legislation; working in the so-called formal sector of the economy.

³ Source: *INEI*

EMPLOYMENT

From May 2020 to June 2021, the national total of the employed population was 16,848,600 people. There were 8,688,000 people in adequate employment conditions, which amounts to 48.7%, while 45.8% were underemployed (8,160,600 people).

In the second quarter of 2021, the country's employed population increased by 52.6% compared to the same quarter of 2020, which is equivalent to 5,804,400 people. When compared with that quarter of 2019, it decreased by 0.9%, (143,800 people).

In the second quarter of 2021, the number of employed women increased by 64.4%, which is equivalent to 2,885,300 people; the number of employed men grew by 44.5% (2,919,100 people).

From July 2020 to June 2021, out of the 12,426,400 people employed in urban areas, 27.5% (3,415,000 workers) had formal employment². Compared to the same period last year, urban employment decreased by 14.7% (589,400 people). Compared to the period ranging from July 2018 to June 2019, it was reduced by 23.6% (1,054,800 people).

UNEMPLOYMENT

In the second quarter of 2021, the unemployed population was 976,300 people, which corresponds to an unemployment rate of 5.5% —89.4% are unemployed, and 10.6 % are applicants.

ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE POPULATION

There are 7,394,500 people (29.3%) within the economically inactive population, which includes all people of working age who do not participate in the production of goods and services because they do not need to, are not able to or not interested in working for an income at the time of the survey.

INFORMALITY

In the rolling year July 2020-June 2021, the country's informal employment rate stood at 78.1%, 4.5 percentage points higher than the previous rolling year. In the urban area the informality rate was 72.5% and in the rural area it was 95.9%.

In the period subject to analysis, the employed urban population with informal employment, that is, those employed without social benefits or who work in unregistered production units, reached 9,011,400 people, which represents 72.5% of the sum total of employed people in urban areas. Compared with the previous rolling year, the informally employed population increased by 11.9% (960,700 people). Compared to the previous rolling year July 2018-June 2019, it grew by 3.4% (297,000 people).

In the rolling year under analysis, men with informal employment increased by 17.0% (733,700 people) and women by 6.1% (227,000 people).

POVERTY

In 2020, monetary poverty affected 30.1% of the Peruvian population, with an increase of 9.9 percentage points when compared to 2019. In the last five years, the population living in poverty increased by 8.3 percentage points, and in the last decade it decreased by 0.7 percentage points. Poverty affected 45.7% of the population in rural areas and 26.0% in urban areas, and grew by 4.9 percentage points and by 11.4 percentage points, respectively, when compared to 2019³.

Highlights of the 2021 situation

¹ Source: [Central Autónoma de Trabajadores del Perú](#).

A key aspect of the present moment in Peru is the presidential victory of Pedro Castillo. In this regard, there are expectations due to the historic defeat of the Peruvian right, but there are also uncertainties, since although the new government has a progressive agenda, it will find it difficult to achieve stability to govern. This situation could encourage the opposition to try to overthrow the president by de facto means, as in other countries in the region, through the orchestration of coups by the fascist right. As this is the first time that a sector other than the right has won a presidential election, permanent attacks to weaken the new government are expected.

Peru is experiencing a moment that resembles what happened in other countries when movements contrary to the historic right were victorious. Neo-fascist practices are identified in the political dispute process, and right-wing alliances with institutional sectors such as the armed forces, specifically the Peruvian navy, are identified.

Social organizations have formed an alliance in defense of the president and the government process.

After the critical moments that resulted from the state of exception and of the subsequent declarations of emergency that led to the loss of jobs, the working population is waiting for reactivation measures, which may now have further complications due to the announcement of a new pandemic wave and to the appearance in the country of the Delta variant. Apart from the difficulties arising from restrictions, as union members have connectivity problems, it is also difficult to hold virtual meetings.

In spite of the complexities of this new moment and of the work conditions that have been adopted, during the last semester a plan has been drawn up to vindicate union proposals within the framework of the new government, and to strengthen the internal dynamics of the CUT (Central Unitaria de Trabajadores).

In September, the Central Autónoma de Trabajadores del Perú (Autonomous Federation of Workers of Peru, CATP), together with different organizations of the trade union movement, participated in the First Meeting of the People's Government with Trade Union Organizations, where the new government stated that it will "work to eliminate laws that violate labor rights and will also promote a common agenda, between the Executive and the union organizations, so that thousands of workers are treated with equality"¹.

"We are going to give you all you need to have united, firm and forceful national unions, so no one is left behind and everyone is heard," said the Head of State during his participation in the Meeting of the People's Government with Trade Union organizations.

In front of 300 union leaders and workers, he stated that repressive measures had been applied against the leaders to silence their voices. In this regard, he asked the Minister of Labor and Employment Promotion, Iber Maraví, "that once and for all those repressive laws against the masses that demand labor rights be eliminated."

Actions and complaints from (national and international) trade unions and from other social sectors

Regarding the process of the new government, the organizations point out that those who have started to work in the Ministry of Labor have experience in the education sector but little experience in the world of labor, and that they focus on the field of state public procurement, leaving aside the demands of private sectors and other public labor regimes.

Unions denounce the increase in outsourcing in the mining sector, which makes it difficult to access retirement rights. As a consequence of the pandemic, a massive layoff process started, which generated arbitrary dismissals and even complete labor suspensions, although the companies continued working normally.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Concerns have been raised about collective bargaining, which is suspended due to decrees and laws issued within the framework of the pandemic; in the public sector agreements are paralyzed.

Although the judicial sector has been deciding in favor of workers' rights, the decisions issued are not being effectively enforced.

Before the pandemic, there was 70% of informal labor in Peru, but now it is close to 80% due to the fact that thousands of workers were laid off as a result of the measures taken by the previous government to deal with the pandemic. In the union sphere, as thousands of workers were dismissed, they have left the union and seek alternatives to solve their daily life.

UNION PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES

Trade unions have decided to encourage the participation of women and young workers, and this has led to the conclusion that permanent training is fundamental to involve more people in the union process. In this sense, progress is being made by unions in the education of young workers, trying to reach new sectors and emphasizing the knowledge of rules and good practices that will make it possible to overcome mistakes that may have been made in the past or that may have resulted from the use of old union work methodologies.

The CATP (Central Autónoma de Trabajadores de Perú) has engaged construction workers and invited them to join the union, seeking to broaden its base and to train them so as to organize workers on the basis of collectively constructed knowledge. They also consider that trade unionism must contribute to the construction of governance in this new moment in Peruvian history. Thus, they are working for the ratification in Congress of ILO C-190, and fighting for the eradication of violence and harassment in the workplace. Work is also being done to propose bills that consider the situation of those who are working on platforms.

The trade unions affiliated to TUCA in Peru are working on training and organization in the field of contemporary communications and on trade union cyber-activism

with a view to overcoming the difficulties that the new work model has brought.

The CUT is one of the organizations currently working on the construction of the National Front for Democracy and Governance of Peru, which is promoted by multiple social sectors and left-wing parties in the Andean country. They propose the construction of an institutional, technical-social popular cabinet, to work in conjunction with the government to contribute to the process of change. They consider that trade unionism must have the strength and leadership necessary to face the dispute that looms ahead in the political and social spheres.

The CUT Secretariat for Women has worked for the ratification of conventions on gender equality and for the eradication of violence. A group was specifically created to promote the ratification of C-190. As it is considered that the Foreign Relations Commission is made up of people supporting Fujimori, their ratification has not yet been achieved. Work is being done towards the ratification of Conventions 100, 111 and 156, and organizations are requested to submit reports on ratified conventions related to gender equality.





OBSERVATORIO LABORAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS



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