

## 7.2. Basic subsistence and employment

According to BBS data, as reported by the Business Standard, Bangladesh's unemployment rate stood at 4.6 % in December 2024. This constituted an increase compared to the same time of the previous year when 3.2 % of the workforce were unemployed.[650](#) Meanwhile, the per capita income reached USD 2 820 which was 'an all-time high', according to the same source. This increase was 'mainly due to changes in the dollar exchange rate'.[651](#) According to ILO, the informal labour market encompasses a majority of the total working population; based on a 2022 survey 85 % of the working population were informally employed.[652](#)

In 2023, the unemployment rate of young women aged 15–24 in South Asia was four times higher than for young men (42.4 % respectively 11.5 %), according to ILO data.[653](#) This constitutes the biggest gender gap in youth unemployment globally.[654](#) Unemployment among youth with higher education as well as among women in urban areas remained a 'structural issue' in Bangladesh in 2025, according to the World Bank.[655](#)

Remittance earnings have been climbing steadily since August 2024.[656](#) In February 2025, Bangladesh received USD 2.53 billion in remittances.[657](#) That amount was surpassed in March 2025 and reached USD 3.29 billion, marking it as the highest monthly figure recorded.[658](#) As reported by the Daily Star, increase in remittances was the result of, inter alia, a decreasing gap between official and informal exchange rates, crackdown on money laundering, and 'a renewed sense of patriotism among Bangladeshis living abroad' after the political transition. Moreover, many previously using informal channels such as hundi to send money, had started using the banking system.[659](#) Hundi is an informal way of transferring money from one country to another outside the conventional banking system and is outlawed in Bangladesh.[660](#) It has reportedly been used as a means for money laundering, and fail to contribute to foreign reserves.[661](#) A Bank of Bangladesh official told local media that the use of hundi likely declined due to the political transition in August 2024.[662](#)

### [650](#)

Business Standard (The), Unemployment rate hits historic high, rises to 4.63% as 27.4 lakh now jobless, 18 May 2025, [url](#)

### [651](#)

Prothom Alo, Bangladesh's per capita income hits a record high \$2,820 in 2024–25, 27 May 2025, [url](#)

[652](#)

ILO, Formalization key to shared prosperity with workers in Bangladesh's informal sector, 27 June 2024, [url](#); Daily Star (The), For shared prosperity, formalisation of work is vital, 27 June 2025, [url](#)

[653](#)

ILO, Global employment Trends for Youth 2024, 2024, [url](#), pp. 12, 90–91

[654](#)

HRW, World Report 2025: Bangladesh: Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

[655](#)

World Bank, Bangladesh Poverty and Equity Brief : April 2025 (English), 30 April 2025, [url](#)

[656](#)

Daily Star (The), Remittances ride formal channels to hit record \$3.29b in March, 7 April 2025, [url](#)

[657](#)

Dhaka Tribune, Bangladesh receives historically high remittance in February, 2 March 2025, [url](#); Daily Star (The), Record February: remittances climb 25% to \$2.52b, 3 March 2025, [url](#)

[658](#)

Daily Star (The), Remittances ride formal channels to hit record \$3.29b in March, 7 April 2025, [url](#); Business Standard (The), Remittance hits second-highest monthly record of \$2.97b in May ahead of Eid, 1 June 2025, [url](#)

[659](#)

Daily Star (The), Remittance up by \$6.4b in FY25, 2 July 2025, [url](#)

[660](#)

Daily Star (The), Do we really know how hundi works?, 2 March 2023, [url](#)

[661](#)

Anima, M. T. et al., Sushmita Das Dalia, Impact of informal remittance channels in Bangladesh: Understanding the role of hundi in financial crime beyond economic aspects, Journal of Economic Criminology, 18 September 2023, [url](#), p. 2

[662](#)

Daily Star (The), Remittance up by \$6.4b in FY25, 2 July 2025, [url](#)