

cess reactivated by the efforts of the White House — one of the key preconditions of which was the demand for the creation of the Palestinian state — gradually lost its importance compared to other strategic opportunities promised to Al-Riyadh (such as the implementation of the Saudi nuclear program and new opportunities for cooperation in the military-technical sphere).

If successful, the process would definitely have a negative impact on the implementation of the ultimate goals of the Palestinian movement. Therefore, in the context of the above-mentioned, the relentless war between Israel and Hamas, which has been going on for five months, has solved the Palestinian side's problem at least in

In particular, one of the obvious layers of this confrontation is Israel's efforts at weakening Iran's regional influence and disintegrating the "axis of resistance". This fits into the logic of Israel's primary program, aimed at improving its security, in general, and finally neutralizing possible threats from pro-Iranian groups located in Syria and Lebanon, in particular. Alongside the Israel-Hamas confrontation, the military tension on the Israel-Lebanon border and the frequent Israeli military operations in Syria are aimed at this.

Despite the apparent difficulties, however, the realities of today's world let us assess the implementation of the above-mentioned programs of Israel as very realistic in theoretical terms. Of course, the Israelis cannot succeed without the all-around support provided to them by their allies, especially the United States, at the military, diplomatic-political, financial, and psychological levels. It is precisely thanks to the diplomatic and strategic support of Washington that Israel is able, in the face of various external pressures, to continue solving its problems in Gaza at the expense of deepening the humanitarian disaster there. One of the strategic agendas followed by the US is to neutralize the effective united anti-Israeli action in the region by involving formal players, such as various Arab-Muslim governments. However, it should be stated that the existing deep competitive environment in the region between a number of players (including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Qatar, Iran, etc.) does not already allow the formation of a united anti-Israel front. As an example, the weakening of Iran's regional influence and escalating tensions between Egypt and Israel or Egypt and the US are in the interests of many of the above-mentioned players.

This is the reason why a number of players with significant potential to influence Israel, in particular, and the war, in general, do not initiate more substantive actions than some diplomatic steps and strong anti-Israel rhetoric. For example, the lion's share of Israel's oil supplies is provided by Turkey. Thus, it would have been much more influential if the Turkish ruling elite, instead of issuing anti-Israeli statements that regularly accuse Tel Aviv of committing genocide, cut the oil supply from Turkey to Israel even for a week. Such a measure could have made a significant impact on Tel Aviv's ability to continue the war. Iran, in particular, has repeatedly brought up this tactic in conversations, but it has not yet been implemented due to the aforementioned competitive realities.

Even if we put the war in Gaza aside, there would still be obvious tendencies to increase tensions in the region. Although such regional tensions are often evaluated within the framework of the US-Iran confrontation, they seem to be mostly engrained in the nature of the Middle East. In particular, there are many non-state players involved in regional processes, who are associated with some Middle Eastern and extra-regional players yet not fully influenced by them. Among them are the Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine, Ansarullah (the Houthis) in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Kataib Hezbollah in Iraq, and several resistance groups in Syria, along with a number of terrorist groups such as the Daesh (Islamic State) and Al-Qaeda, which have always taken advantage of any tension arising in the region to advance their goals and interests. Vivid examples of the role played by non-state players are the destabilization of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden by the Yemeni Ansarullah in support of Hamas, the regular targeting of Israeli territory by Hezbollah, the attacks against American military bases by Iraqi and Syrian groups, and the terrorist activities of the Daesh in Iran.

To summarize, it can be confirmed that deep geopolitical changes are manifesting in the Middle East as well. They have had a substantive impact on the geopolitical and security image of this region. Various military tensions in the region, with unique characteristics, warn of the possibility of a larger confrontation, despite global efforts to avoid it.

## General developments of labor market in Armenia

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**PERSPECTIVE  
EXCLUSIVE**

The basis of this claim is the latest available data, mainly for 2022 since the summary indicators of the labor market for 2023 have not been published yet.

In light of the double-digit economic growth of 12.6% registered in 2022 in Armenia, positive developments were also observed in the labor market: the unemployment rate decreased, while employment and wages rose.

Thus, the average monthly number of officially registered unemployed people decreased by 12.4% in 2022, compared to the same period last year, totaling 53,420 people. In 2022, the unemployment rate decreased by 2% to reach 13.5%, compared to 2021, and the number of unemployed decreased by 11.3%, counting up to 176,600 people. On the other hand, during the observed period, the number of hired workers increased by 5.4%, to which contributed both the formation of new organizations (the number of organizations increased by 11.2% for the given period, employing 61,386 people), as well as an increase in the number of tourists and labor migrants, especially in the IT sector, arriving in the Republic of Armenia (RA).

To characterize the labor market, it is important to refer to study salaries and their trends in a given country, which is a key characteristic that illuminates the social security of that country. According to 2022 figures, the average monthly nominal salary in RA was 235,576 Armenian dram (AMD) (equaling \$541). This showed a 15.5% increase compared to the previous year, mainly due to a 19% increase in the wages paid by Armenia's private sector and a 4.3% increase in the wages paid by its public sector. The growth of wages is mainly owing to the growth of salaries in the fields of

- Information technologies,
- Wholesale and retail trade,
- And financial and insurance activities.

Against the inflation of 8.6%, the real salary increased by 6.3% in Armenia. It is noteworthy that in 2022, compared to the previous year, the levels of average monthly nominal wages increased in all provinces of Armenia, except Lori Province. However, the growth rate was particularly significant in Tavush Province by 41.1% and in Yerevan by 23.1%.

The creation of mechanisms aimed at the development of the labor market, the implementation of effective policies, and reforms are important prerequisites for achieving economic success in Armenia. They also promote the development, stability, expansion, and effective use of its labor potential.



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However, attention should be paid to the fact that the salary level in Tavush Province was inferior to four other provinces in absolute terms during the mentioned period. On the other hand, the highest salary level was in Syunik Province, which exceeded the rate registered in the capital by more than 58%, amounting to 427,040 AMD.

It is extremely important for the well-being of society to constantly focus on the study of labor market issues, raising them, as well as taking and implementing measures aimed at their regulation. In this context, it is particularly important to note that one of the urgent and outstanding problems of Armenia's labor market continues to be the uneven development of the labor market by territorial units (by RA provinces and Yerevan), particularly, the concentration of jobs and labor in the capital.

In 2022, about 36% of the labor force was concentrated in Yerevan, instead of the 29.6% registered in the previous year. It should also be noted that in 2022, more than 61% of the labor force was allocated to Yerevan and other cities. Furthermore, about 35% of the total employed people belong to Yerevan. Attention should be paid to the fact that despite such a concentration of labor resources, Yerevan is also the leader in terms of the share of unemployed people, which was about 44% in 2022. It is noteworthy that provinces with a large share of labor resources are also distinguished by a large share of unemployment.

On the other hand, from the point of view of studying the distribution of labor resources, it is extremely important to take into account the population density indicator. Here,

it should be noted that the level of urbanization in Armenia continues to be quite high, as a result of which the population density has increased to 1 per square mile. Thus, the capital is the most densely populated area as of 2022: about 64% of the total population was concentrated in Yerevan, while the indicator stood at 9% in the most populated province.

An integral part of the labor market study is the observation of labor migration, as well as the ethnic composition of the labor market in the country, since they have a direct impact on the composition and structure of labor resources, as well as the professional quality of the workforce. Therefore, it should be noted that people from Armenia mainly go to Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and other CIS countries as well as some European countries for work. And people come to work in Armenia mainly from India, Iran, and Ukraine. Recently, there has been a sharp increase in the inflow of citizens from India, Iran, and Russia to Armenia.

To sum up, we can state that the features and problems of the Armenian labor market are mainly as follows: Firstly, the geographical location of the territorial units and socio-economic features reveal disparities in development and, secondly, both the labor market and economic development are mainly concentrated in Yerevan. Along with all the above-mentioned, the study and analysis of the main indicators characterizing the labor market show that currently, there are positive trends in the Armenian labor market. These positive trends are also reflected in a decrease in the unemployment rate and an increase in employment in the country.

the medium term, temporarily disrupting the Riyadh-Tel Aviv settlement.

As for Israel, the current situation uses the realities of the global order no less successfully, based on the logic of the "war is an opportunity" formula. In particular, the explicit goal is to maximally change the current status quo of the Palestinian issue as a cancerous unresolved legacy left over from the previous world order. That is, to establish full control over the Gaza Strip, at least in the short term, and later, if possible, to do away with the plan for the formation of a Palestinian state.

The Israeli Army is carrying out a "punitive operation" in Gaza known as "Iron Swords", the declared goal of which is to remove the hold of Hamas over Gaza and to form a more controllable government in the region. Meanwhile, it can be concluded from the current three-phase operation of the Israeli army that Tel Aviv's plans in Gaza are more profound, aimed at the desolation of the territory as much as possible. Despite the constant calls and demands of the international community, as well as Israel's key allies, the most right-wing, pro-religious cabinet formed throughout the history of Israel continues its military operations with obvious elements of crimes against humanity (as a result of Israeli Armed Forces' actions that claimed 28,000 victims, left 67,000 wounded, and displaced 70% of the region's population). However, the professed goals of the Israeli side have not yielded significant results, especially because of the principled stand of Egypt and Jordan, which are also supported by Iran, Turkey, other Arab and Muslim countries, the United Nations, and the European Union.

The war in Gaza has a deep geopolitical layer. This is also the reason that it carries predictable risks of continuous expansion and turning into a regional-scale war, despite the noticeable efforts of its main actors to contain it.

### Labour market in Armenia, 2022



684 783

Number of employees, person



176 600

Unemployed persons



541

Mean monthly nominal wages, USD



61 386

Number of establishments