

Unemployment, levels of instruction, diplomas obtained, and sectors of activity in Algeria: interaction analyzes

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Abstract

Unemployment by all in the world is a phenomenon, a macroeconomic problem, a sociological concern, but, it has never been a fatality! Possible to reduce it, even if it is not possible to delete it.. This allowed us to confirm that “the notions of employment, inactivity and unemployment are not disjoint but overlap,” according to different economic trends. In this regard, the purpose of this paper is to highlight the recent statements of the National Statistics Office on unemployment, and to try to unravel the relationship between this macroeconomic phenomenon and the age and sex of the unemployed. On the one hand, and the levels of education and diplomas obtained on the other. In this regard, we were able to confirm through our analyzes, the non-existence of difference between the graduates according to the different levels of instructions, and those without diploma. And obviously, the analysis showed an employment classification by sector of activity; the market and non-market services sector accounts for the largest volume of the total workforce, construction remains second, followed by industry and finally agriculture.

Keywords: Unemployment, inactivity, employment, labor force, employed population, levels of instruction, sectors of activity.

Résumé

Le chômage par tout dans le monde, un phénomène, un problème macroéconomique, un souci sociologique, mais, il n'a jamais été une fatalité ! Possible de le réduire, même si ce n'est pas possible de le supprimer. Cette conception a connu de nombreuses variantes et de multiples considérations, c'est ce qui a donné lieu à de nombreuses controverses théoriques, statistiques, économiques, et tout particulièrement sociologiques. C'est ce qui nous a permis de confirmer que, « les notions d'emploi, d'inactivité et de chômage ne sont pas disjointes mais elles se chevauchent »⁽¹⁾ en fonction des différents courants économiques. A ce propos, ce papier a pour objet de mettre l'accent sur les nouvelles déclarations de l'office national des statistiques sur le chômage, et d'essayer de dévoiler le rapport entre ce phénomène macroéconomique avec l'âge et le sexe d'une part, et les niveaux d'instruction et diplômes obtenus d'autre part. A cet égard, nous avons pu confirmer à travers nos analyses, l'inexistence de différence entre les personnes diplômés selon les différents niveaux d'instructions, et ceux sans diplôme. Et toute évidence, l'analyse a accusé une classification d'emploi par secteurs d'activité ; le secteur des

1- Benabderrahmane. I, Gechi. H, (2011), « Le chômage en Algérie : Aspect théorique et réalité économique », Colloque international, « Les stratégies gouvernementales pour la lutte contre le chômage, et la réalisation de la croissance continue » Novembre, Université de M'Sila, Algérie, P 11.

services marchands et non marchands enregistre le volume le plus important de la main d'œuvre totale, le BTP demeure en deuxième rang, puis l'industrie et enfin l'agriculture.

Mots clés :Chômage, inactivité, emploi, population active, population occupée, niveaux d'instructions, secteurs d'activité.

1. Introduction

Unemployment has always been considered as the state of inactivity of an individual wishing to find a job. On the other hand, this conception has undergone many variations and many considerations, and this has given rise to numerous theoretical, statistical, economic and especially sociological controversies. This allowed us to confirm that “the notions of employment, inactivity and unemployment are not disjoint but overlap”⁽¹⁾, according to the different economic currents.

Employment policies refer to all macroeconomic policy considerations and measures aimed at affecting employment. Their most common goal is the reduction of unemployment and the search for full employment. This regulation can be explained economically by a reduced regulation on the labor market, or by state interventions deemed necessary to absorb the rate of unemployment that exists, encourage economic activity, as well as to regulate, limit or even prohibit dismissals (approach defended by the far left).

In Algeria as in other countries, many empirical studies have attempted to define the problem of unemployment (Musette and Hammouda, (1998), Bachir, (2003), Bounoua and Adair, (2003), Boukilia Hassan and Talahite, (2007), K.Kpodar, (2007), Bouriche, L, (2013)). Each one has treated the question from its angle, according to the problematics proper to it. For example, Musette and Hammouda (1998) analyzed the impact of the structural adjustment period on the job market and attributed the increase in unemployment during the period (1994-1998) to the deregulation measures taken by the government. government to liberalize the labor market. Bachir (2003) estimating the relation of Philips and the Okun law for the case of Algeria shows that the rate of inflation as well as the growth rate are the explanatory variables of unemployment in Algeria.

On the other hand, Boukilia Hassan and Talahite, (2007) conducted an analytical and descriptive study of the labor market in Algeria, considering that the country's weak economic performance as well as low labor productivity are behind the crisis in the economy. employment in Algeria. This is the same conclusion that emerges from an IMF study of the labor market in Algeria (K.Kpodar, 2007)⁽²⁾.

Based on the statistics of the National Office of Statistics (ONS), as well as the APS, the unemployment rate in Algeria recorded 12.3%, or 12.277 million people with active population⁽³⁾, of which 20.6% is a feminine force, a total of 2.524 million.

1- Benabderrahmane. I, Gechi. H, (2011), “Unemployment in Algeria: Theoretical Aspect and Economic Reality”, International Symposium, “Government Strategies for the Fight against Unemployment, and Achievement of Continuous Growth” November, University of M'Sila, Algeria, P 11.

2- (Bouriche. L, (2013), P 16.

3- The active population is all persons of working age and available on the labor market, whether they are employed or unemployed.

However, this active population was 10.5% in September 2016, or 12,117, with an increase of 1.3%, a positive balance of 160,000 people. This increase is explained by the increase in the volume of the population looking for a job during this period. In fact, six (6) out of ten unemployed (10) on average are long-term unemployed, that is, 62.2% have been looking for a job for a year or more (ONS, [2017]).

On the other hand, it should be noted that 787,000 unemployed people have no degree, which is more than half of the total unemployed population (52.2%). Thus, vocational training graduates make up 24.1% of the unemployed, while graduates of higher education account for 23.7% of the unemployed. To this end, the article aims to focus on the new statements of the National Office of Statistics on unemployment, and reveal the relationship between this macroeconomic phenomenon with age and gender on the one hand, and the levels of education and diplomas obtained on the other hand.

1. Unemployment: a summary of previous theoretical research

1.1. Definition of unemployment:

1.1.1. Traditional and theoretical explanations of unemployment

Unemployment can be defined as the state of inactivity of a person wishing to work. This definition of unemployment knows many factors and its concept always gives rise to theoretical and statistical controversies.

The question of unemployment was first addressed by neoclassical theory, which was based on the idea of voluntary unemployment. This thesis has identified the mismatch between labor supply and demand, as a fundamental factor of unemployment due to a lack of downward adjustment of the real wage. Thus, Keynesian thought has, however, posed other causes of unemployment limiting the standard theory of the labor market, such as insufficient effective demand. Indeed, “Marx who attaches unemployment to the capitalist mode of production, arguing that it is a phenomenon that would disappear with the end of capitalism”⁽¹⁾.

a- The Neoclassical Theory: “Classic” Unemployment”⁽²⁾

In the neoclassical model of a competitive economy, unemployment is indeed “voluntary” or frictional. We consider unemployment as; voluntary when an individual refuses a job that he considers insufficiently paid while the surplus production he brings to the company can not afford to grant him higher compensation. In the neoclassical perspective, the unemployed person then arbitrates between the benefits of work (wages) and the disadvantages (the renunciation of leisure) and voluntarily decides to remain unemployed.

b- The underemployment balance of Keynes

For Keynesian analysis, an economy may be sustainably underemployed if aggregate demand is lower than aggregate supply⁽³⁾. Companies are hiring accordingly to their expectations of outlets. It is therefore the actual demand that determines the level of production. This same level of production sets the level of employment. It is therefore

1- (Bouriche, L, (2013), P 20.

2- Rueff. Jacques, (1934), « Unemployment insurance causes permanent unemployment. “, Journal of Political Economy.

3- Benabderrahmane, I, Gechi, H, (2011), P 6.

the only effective demand that determines the volume of production and the volume of employment.

c- Unemployment according to Karl Marx

“At Marx, wages tend towards a level of subsistence ensuring the reproduction of the labor force. This level is not defined once and for all. It is socially determined by the living conditions of each era. And the capitalist logic of profit maximization leads to minimizing the wage for this reproduction. The reduction of wages to their level of subsistence does not prevent unemployment because it is, on the contrary, the means used by capitalists to lower wages: the more unemployed, the less demanding workers will be “ (Patrick et Alain-Pierre, [1997])⁽¹⁾.

Marx considers that there is a typology of unemployed that exists only in the capitalist mode (Saib Musette, [1998]).

According to the author of Capital, the only way to permanently eliminate unemployment would be to abolish capitalism and the system of wage labor, by moving to a socialist or communist society. For contemporary Marxists⁽²⁾, the existence of persistent unemployment is proof of capitalism’s inability to ensure full employment.

1.1.1. Definitions and standards of unemployment

“Unemployment is the situation of a person who, wishing to work and having the capacity to do so (age in particular), finds himself unemployed despite his research. Lack of employment may result from entering the labor force, from wanting to return to work after a period of inactivity, from dismissal, from voluntary resignation, or from a desire to change jobs “⁽³⁾ ;

According to the International Labor Organization, “Unemployment is the situation of the labor force available to work who is looking for a job but fails to find one »⁽⁴⁾;

“From an economic point of view, unemployment is interpreted as the result of an imbalance between supply and demand in the labor market”⁽⁵⁾.

a. The ILO standard

In accordance with the international definition adopted in 1982 by the International Labor Office (ILO):

Any person (aged 15 or over) who meets the following criteria is unemployed: « être sans travail », that is, not having any activity, even minimal, during the reference week;

- “to be available to work”, that is to say, to be able to accept any employment opportunity that comes within fifteen days, without a third obligation being an obstacle to the return to the activity;

1- (Bouriche. L, (2013), P 31.

2- Thomas. David & Roman-Karol Halftermeyer, (2008), “The economic theories of unemployment; Karl Marx (the Marxists), document made on the blog tpe-contract-and-unemployment.

3- « toupictionnaire » dictionary of pilitics; www.toupie.org/Dictionnaire/chomage.html

4- See: “Unemployment (% of total workforce); <http://perspective.Usherbrooke.ca>

5- « toupictionnaire », Op.cit.

- “actively looking for a job, or finding one that starts later”.

$$\text{unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{unemployed in the sense of the ILO}}{\text{active population}}$$

b- Regional or national standards

- To be unemployed according to the European Statistical System Eurostat, you must have been out of work during the reference week (less than one hour per week of activity) and have made specific steps to find a job, without necessarily having to be declared unemployed with the administration.

- In the United States, the Bureau of Labor Statistics counts unemployed people as unemployed, having looked for one actively during the past 4 weeks, and available for work.

1.1.2. The “halo” around unemployment⁽¹⁾

INSEE economists have determined, since the beginning of the 1980s, a kind of “halo” around the core of unemployment constituted by the unemployed in the sense of the ILO. This model would consist of the following categories:

- Those looking for a job without being available (family reasons, internships for example);
- Those who are available without making any real steps;
- “Inactive people no longer looking for or not yet” (example of pre-retirees, that is, older workers who, without having the legal retirement age, must leave their company).

1.2. Types of unemployment

The various economic researches have distinguished several forms and types of unemployment. Indeed, each type aims to highlight a model, as well as specific characteristics. We can possibly differentiate between:

- Frictional unemployment:

This category is caused when people change jobs while receiving unemployment benefits. The nature of the job offers and the qualification are not always in agreement, which creates gaps between jobseekers and companies.

- Structural unemployment:

This type comes from the decline in production in industries and the incapacity of former employees when relocating companies to another area.

- Seasonal unemployment:

Due to different tourist periods, many trades can be reached; glaciers, as an example.

1- BIALES. M, et al., “Essence on the Economy”, 4th edition, BERTI Editions, Algiers, 2007, P348.

- Insufficient demand:

Caused by a general lack of work, this type of unemployment can be widespread in many sectors. Keynes saw unemployment as primarily a lack of demand in the economy that could be influenced by the government.

- Technological unemployment:

Unemployment due to technological change is gradually replacing man's efforts, for example in manufacturing, administration, automatic checkout.

- Short-term and long-term unemployment:

Short-term unemployment is a temporary phenomenon; wages will fall and the labor market will return to equilibrium. In the long run, unemployment will be voluntary, according to the Liberals.

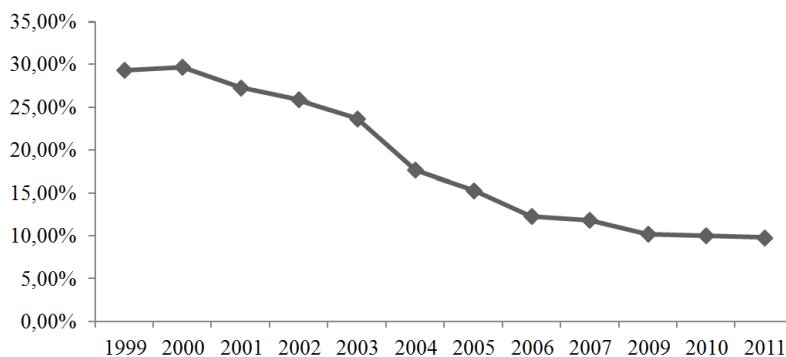
- Occasional unemployment:

The long-term unemployment rate may remain high due to market imperfections due to low wage flexibility.

2. Evolution of unemployment in Algeria

To present the evolution of unemployment in Algeria, we divided the analysis of the population into two contradictory parts, the first phase starts from 1990 to 1999 and the second from 2000 to 2011. During the first period, the unemployment rate is rising again, rising to more than 20% in 1990, reaching 24.3% in 1994. It continued with this trend, reaching 28.6% in 1997 and 29.2% in 1999 (ONS, 2011). Among other things, the unemployment rate declined steadily during the period (1999-2011), from 29.3% in 1999 to 11.8% in 2007 and 9.8% in 2011. The graph below reflects the decline of the second phase:

Figure n ° 02: Evolution of the unemployment rate [1999-2011]



Source: Figure based on data from the Press Review, "with 10% of GDP for social transfers: Algeria is well on its way to achieving the MDGs", United Nations Information Center - Algiers, 14 February 2011, P03.

Comparing the unemployment rate in the 1990s and 2000, the Algerian economy recorded a remarkable decline in the unemployment rate, from 20% in 1990, 10% in 2011, to 9.30% in 2013. This confirms the state's efforts to create jobs for its unemployed, such as the creation of the various support organizations for the Algerian SME / SMI, as well as the other youth support agencies (ASEJ), etc.

Statistics from the US have prompted us to emphasize the link between this phenomenon and relative age. In fact, unemployment particularly affects young people, of whom, they noted that in 2005, 75% of the unemployed are under 30; while unemployment at the national level stood at 15.3%, it is 34.3% of those under 20 and 30% of young people aged 20 to 24 who are considered unemployed. Of course, the situation has improved significantly compared to 2001 when the level of unemployment for these two age groups was successively 51.3% and 45.9% (O.N.S, 2011).

We can summarize the main factors influencing the reduction of unemployment by: Setting up of programs; growth support program (2005-2009), the Hauts Plateaux and South Special Programs, and the 2001-2004 Economic Recovery Support Program (ERSP), which led to the completion of many of the projects that were halted and the launch of major construction sites, which has seen an increase in employment. So, the activity creation mechanisms aimed at promoting youth employment, which allowed the financing of 2,695,528 job positions over the period 1999-2007.

1- Unemployment, levels of education and diplomas

As already mentioned above, the labor force is all people of working age and available on the labor market, whether they are employed or unemployed. The National Office of Statistics (ONS), confirmed that, the unemployment rate in Algeria recorded 12.3%, or 12.277 million people in the workforce, of which 20.6% is a female force, a number of 2,524 million.

However, this active population was 10.5% in September 2016, or 12,117, with an increase of 1.3%, a positive balance of 160,000 people. This increase is explained by the increase in the volume of the population looking for a job during this period. In fact, six (6) out of ten unemployed (10) on average are long-term unemployed, that is, 62.2% have been looking for a job for a year or more (ONS, [2017]).

On the other hand, it should be noted that 787,000 unemployed people without a diploma, ie more than 50% of the total unemployed population (52.2%). Thus, vocational training graduates represent 24.1% of the unemployed, while graduates of higher education account for 23.7% of the unemployed. The purpose of the article is to focus on the new statements of the National Statistics Office on unemployment, and to reveal its relationship with age and sex on the one hand, and educational levels and diplomas obtained on the other hand.

Table n ° 01: Distribution of the Active Population and rate of economic activity by age group and sex in September 2017.

	Active population (In thousands)			Economic activity rate (En %)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15 – 19 years	368	39	406	22,0	2,5	12,5
20 – 24 years	1 187	276	1 463	63,2	15,8	40,3
25 – 29 years	1 584	587	2 171	86,2	34,4	61,3
30 – 34 years	1 595	463	2 058	92,5	28,4	61,4
35 – 39 years	1 304	371	1 674	91,6	24,3	56,8
40 – 44 years	1 107	285	1 392	90,5	20,6	53,4
45 – 49 years	1 023	217	1 240	89,9	17,7	52,4
50 – 54 years	829	142	971	74,2	13,0	44,0
55 – 59 years	494	65	559	55,9	8,1	33,2
60 ans & +	329	36	365	17,2	1,8	9,5
TOTAL	9 819	2 479	12 298	66,3	17,0	41,8

Source : O.N.S, n°796, September,2017.

Table n ° 02: Unemployed population by level of education, degree obtained and sex (In thousands), in September 2017

	Male		Female		Total	
	Effective	%	Effective	%	Effective	%
Education's level						
Uneducated	16	1,7	6	1,1	21	1,5
Primary	124	13,4	23	4,5	147	10,2
Medium	460	49,7	87	16,9	547	38,0
Secondary	202	21,9	114	22,2	316	22,0
Superior	124	13,3	284	55,3	407	28,3
Degree obtained						
No diploma	565	61,0	126	24,6	692	48,0
Graduate of vocational training	260	28,0	118	22,9	377	26,2
Graduate of higher education	102	11,0	269	52,5	371	25,8
Total	926	100	513	100	1 440	100

Source : O.N.S, n°796, September,2017.

2- Unemployment, employed population and sector of activity: What distribution?

In another perspective, and if we take the industry as another parameter identifying the distribution of the labor force, ONS, 2017 has indicated that, the decline in the volume of employment between September 2016 and April 2017 affected the construction sector with a negative balance of 91,000 people, as well as trade, services and public administration (a negative balance of 84,000). On the other hand, a positive balance was recorded for the agriculture sector (63,000) and the industry (36,000) compared to September 2016.

And as shown in the table below, we can confirm that, the sector of market and non-market services records the largest volume by absorbing 59.1% of the total workforce, construction remains the second largest that is, (17.0%), industry (13.8%) and finally agriculture (10.1%). This confirms “the productive and agricultural flight”, especially of young people.

Table n ° 03: Distribution of the employed population by activity sector, sex and place of residence (in thousands) in September 2017

	Male		Female		Total	
	Effective	%	Effective	%	Effective	%
Urban						
Agriculture	257	4,6	12	0,8	269	3,8
Industry	772	13,7	316	21,2	1 088	15,3
BPW	1 063	18,8	24	1,6	1 087	15,2
Trade-services	3 550	62,9	1 135	76,4	4 685	65,7
Total Urban	5 643	100	1 486	100	7 129	100
Rural						
Agriculture	767	23,6	66	13,8	833	22,3
Industry	279	8,6	126	26,2	405	10,9
BPW	750	23,1	9	1,9	759	20,4
Trade-services	1 454	44,7	278	58,0	1 731	46,4
Total Rural	3 250	100	479	100	3 729	100
Together						
Agriculture	1 024	11,5	78	4,0	1 102	10,1
Industry	1 052	11,8	441	22,5	1 493	13,8
BPW	1 814	20,4	33	1,7	1 847	17,0
Trade-services	5 004	56,3	1 413	71,9	6 417	59,1
Total	8 893	100	1 965	100	10 858	100

Source : O.N.S, n°796, September,2017.

5. Conclusions, proposals for solutions and perspectives

The employed population (persons in employment), it was estimated at 10,769 million people in April 2017 against 10,845 million people in September 2016, registering a negative balance of 76,000 people compared to September 2016. The unemployed population has thus reached 1.508 million people, an unemployment rate of 12.3% nationally, up 1.8 points from September 2016.

According to the NSO, disparities are observed in terms of gender, age, level of education and degree obtained. In this regard, the Office indicates that the unemployment rate of 16-24 year olds is 29.7%. It should be noted that the evolution of the unemployment rate according to the diploma shows that the increase recorded affected people without qualifications as well as graduates of vocational training. "We can confirm through these calculations that there is no difference between graduates and those without a degree."

The university graduates' unemployment rate edged down slightly from 17.7% in September 2016 to 17.6% in April 2017, down 0.1 percentage point (O.N.S., 2017). Among other things, the unemployment rate for vocational training graduates increased from 13% to 14.8% between the two comparison periods. For people without qualifications, however, this rate was 7.7% in September 2016, or 10.1% in April 2017.

Regarding the distribution of the active population in Algeria by sector of activity, the ONS, 2017 confirmed that, the fall in the volume of employment between September 2016 and April 2017 affected the construction industry with a negative balance of 91,000 people, as well as commerce, services and public administration (a negative balance of 84,000). On the other hand, a positive balance was recorded for the agriculture sector (63,000) and the industry (36,000) compared to September 2016.

In this context, we can confirm that the sector of market and non-market services records the largest volume by absorbing 59.1% of the total workforce, the construction industry remains in second place, ie (17.0%), industry (13.8%) and finally agriculture (10.1%). This confirms "the productive and agricultural flight", especially of young people.

In 2013, Bourich. Ahcene had explained on the determinants of unemployment in Algeria, based on an econometric analysis (1980-2009), and confirmed empirically the existence of a co-integration relation in the sense of Engel and Granger, between the unemployment rate and certain economic and financial variables related to the economic reforms undertaken in Algeria since the end of the 1980s. These variables include, among others, "gross national expenditure", "inflation rate", "exchange rate" and "Terms of trade". The study thus confirmed that the unemployment rate in Algeria is not correlated with labor productivity and imports because the latter do not have a significant influence on the behavior of the unemployment rate according to the statistical and econometric study. All these conclusions expressed the crucial role of the hydrocarbon sector in the growth of labor productivity, in the coverage of imports and in the constitution of the entire productive system⁽¹⁾.

Unemployment by all in the world, is a phenomenon, a macroeconomic problem, a sociological concern, but, it has never been a fatality! Possible to reduce it, even if it is not possible to delete it. In the case of Algeria, it is a matter of determining and first identifying the various factors studied by economists and the parameters observed by the public authorities in order to understand its genesis, and to control its structuring, in order to reduce it.

1- Bourich. Ahcène, (2013) : « "Conclusions drawn from his thesis abstract" ».

Public authorities play the primary role in defining adequate economic and social policies, through the development of tangible, intangible, productive investment, and even investment in training, as well as the continued encouragement of the private sector through the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises, and the financing of projects carried out by young people.

On the one hand, companies must assume their professional transition role, and on the other hand, universities must publish the professional integration statistics for each training and specialty. Among other things, the Ministry of National Education will have to further promote learning, and the adaptation of the education system to changes in society.

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