



Applied Economics Letters >

Volume 19, 2012 - [Issue 11](#)

1,281 24

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Original Articles

Unemployment and labour force participation in Japan

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Pages 1039-1043 | Published online: 04 Oct 2011

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2011.613742>

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Abstract

This article studies a long-run relationship between the labour-force participation rate and the unemployment rate in Japan. By using cointegration analysis, we demonstrate that there exists a long-run relationship between the two variables for male workers but not for female workers. Furthermore, using labour-force data by age group, we find the added-worker effect for young males and the discouraged-worker effect for middle-aged and old male groups.

Keywords:

labour-force participation

unemployment

discouraged-worker effect

added-worker effect

cointegration

JEL Classification:

Notes

¹ The unemployment invariance hypothesis suggests that the long-run unemployment rate is independent of the labour force. While Layard et al. ([1991](#)) provided evidence in support of this hypothesis, Karanassou and Snower ([2004](#)) provided a critique of it.

² The data for the sample period are released from the website of the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, <http://www.stat.go.jp/>.

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