Hired workers' share in unincorporated enterprises falls to 23.22 per cent, steepest yearly drop of 2026 so far

In this summary: Hired workers' share fell 2.69 points in a year; In rural units, the hired share fell to 13.27 per cent; Pay per hired worker fell in rural units after prices.

MoSPI's Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises for July to September 2026, which MoSPI released on 23 November 2026, read for who does the work in these enterprises.

Hired workers, who work for pay in units that they do not own, made up 23.22 per cent of all workers in India's unincorporated enterprises in July to September 2026. A year earlier the share was 25.91 per cent. It fell by 2.69 percentage points in a year, as MoSPI's bulletin of 23 November 2026 shows.

Hired workers' share of all workers dropped by 2.69 points, which is the largest fall that the three quarters of 2026 show, and only these have a figure a year earlier. MoSPI's quarterly bulletin began in January to March 2025, so the series starts there.

23.22 per cent

Hired workers' share of all workers, down 2.69 points in a year, the largest yearly fall of the three quarters of 2026

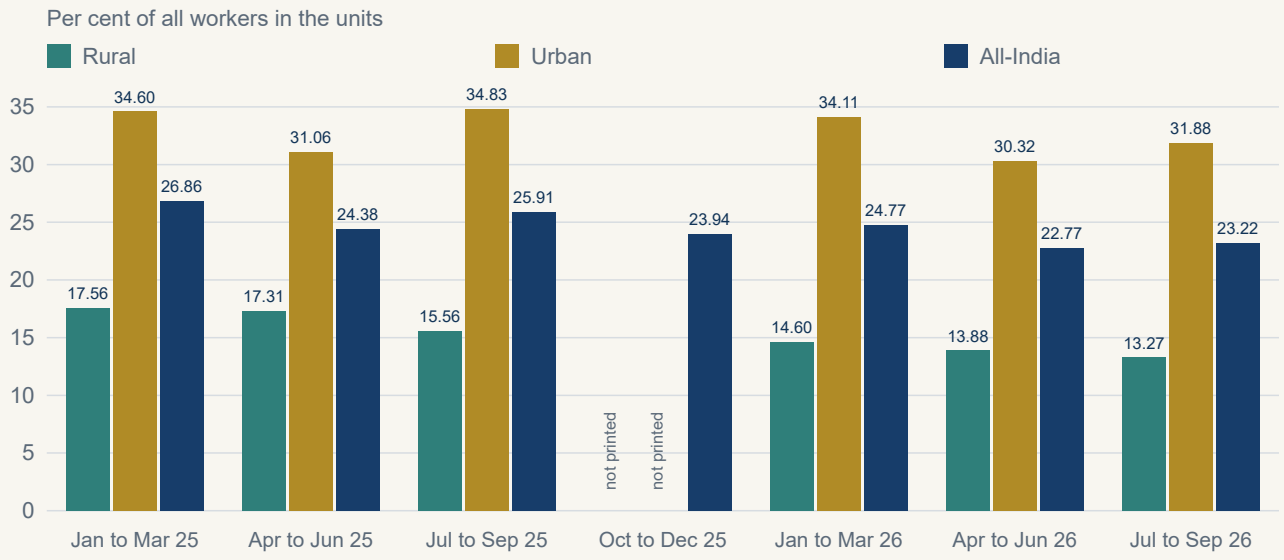
Shri Ajay Maken's office worked out every change in this brief from MoSPI's own bulletins and factsheets, and the brief is dated 24 November 2026.

Sources: MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE), July 2026 to September 2026 (issued 23 November 2026); MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE), July 2025 to September 2025 (issued 25 November 2025).

Hired workers' share fell 2.69 points in a year

Hired workers, who work for pay in units that they do not own, made up 23.22 per cent of all workers in unincorporated enterprises in July to September 2026. A year earlier they made up 25.91 per cent, as MoSPI's bulletins show.

The fall of 2.69 percentage points is the largest of the three quarters of 2026. The fall was 2.09 points in January to March, and it was 1.61 points in April to June. Those are the only quarters that MoSPI's series can yet set against a year earlier. In each quarter of 2026 the hired share was below its level a year earlier, and that was true in rural, urban and all-India units, in all 9 cases.



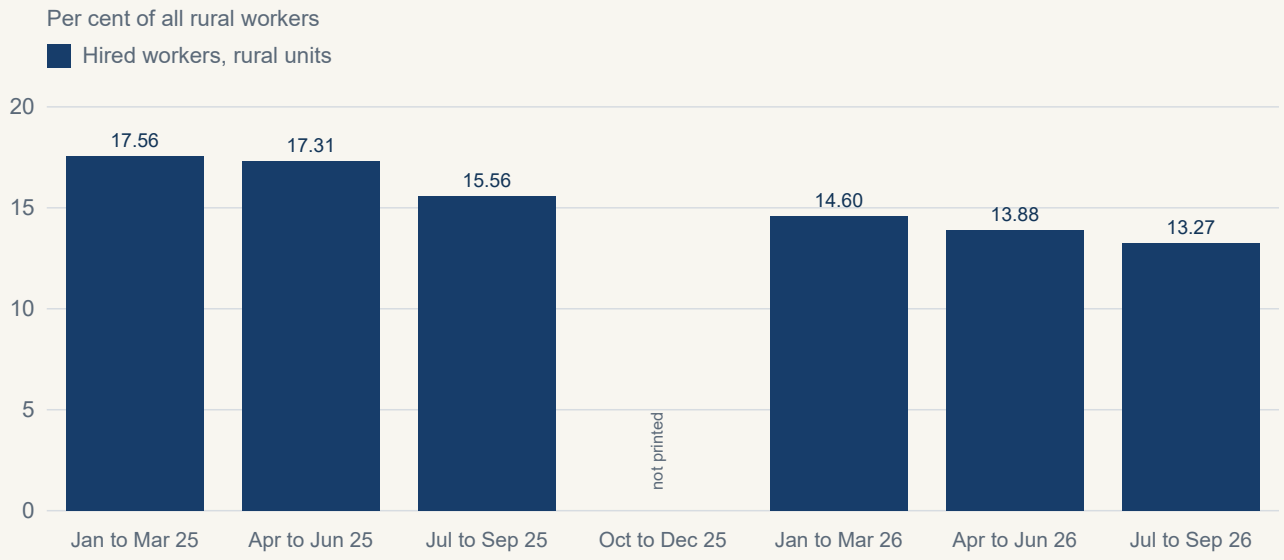
The all-India hired share stood at 23.22 per cent in July to September 2026, which is below every quarter of 2025.

Sources: MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE), July 2026 to September 2026 (issued 23 November 2026); MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE), April 2026 to June 2026 (issued 21 August 2026); MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE), January 2026 to March 2026 (issued 21 May 2026); MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE), July 2025 to September 2025 (issued 25 November 2025); MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises, January to March 2025 and April to June 2025 (issued 3 September 2025).

In rural units, the hired share fell to 13.27 per cent

In July to September 2026, hired workers made up 13.27 per cent of all workers in rural units. A year earlier they made up 15.56 per cent. The rural share was lower than a year earlier in every quarter of 2026, and the largest of those yearly falls was 3.43 points, in April to June 2026.

In the order that MoSPI printed them, the rural share fell at every step after January to March 2025, when it stood at 17.56 per cent. MoSPI printed no rural figure for October to December 2025.



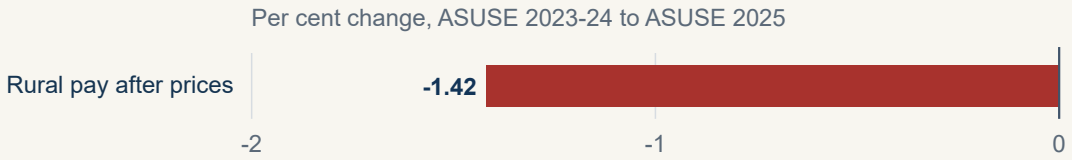
Read in the order that MoSPI printed them, the rural shares fell at every step, and they reached 13.27 per cent in July to September 2026.

Sources: MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE), July 2026 to September 2026 (issued 23 November 2026); MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE), April 2026 to June 2026 (issued 21 August 2026); MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE), January 2026 to March 2026 (issued 21 May 2026); MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (QBUSE), July 2025 to September 2025 (issued 25 November 2025); MoSPI, Quarterly Bulletin of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises, January to March 2025 and April to June 2025 (issued 3 September 2025).

Pay per hired worker fell in rural units after prices

MoSPI's emolument per hired worker is the yearly pay that a unit gives each hired worker. In rural units it was Rs 1,22,095 in ASUSE 2023-24 and Rs 1,24,516 in ASUSE 2025. Rural consumer prices rose 3.46 per cent over the same months, so the pay lost value.

In rural units the pay fell 1.42 per cent after prices. MoSPI prints pay in current prices only, so the figure after prices is the estimate of Shri Ajay Maken's office.



After prices, pay per hired worker fell 1.42 per cent in rural units, because rural prices rose 3.46 per cent.

Sources: MoSPI, Press Note on ASUSE 2025 results, 24 March 2026 (issued 24 March 2026); MoSPI, Factsheet of ASUSE 2025 (January 2025 to December 2025), with the quarter October to December 2025 (issued 24 March 2026); MoSPI, Factsheet of ASUSE 2023-24 (October 2023 to September 2024) (issued 23 January 2025); MoSPI, Consumer Price Index (base 2012), eSankhyiki interface reply saved on 11 October 2026.