

Contributors

Guillermo Arbe, Head Economist, Peru
+51.1.211.6052 (Peru)
guillermo.arbe@scotiabank.com.pe

Sergio Olarte, Head Economist, Colombia
+57.1.745.6300 Ext. 9166 (Colombia)
sergio.olarte@scotiabankcolpatria.com

Jorge Selaive, Head Economist, Chile
+56.2.2619.5435 (Chile)
jorge.selaive@scotiabank.cl

Eduardo Suárez, VP, Latin America Economics
+52.55.9179.5174 (Mexico)
esuarezm@scotiabank.com.mx

Latam Daily: Peru's Employment Surprise

- Peru: A pleasant surprise as the jobs market shows seasonal strength in Lima

PERU: A PLEASANT SURPRISE AS THE JOBS MARKET SHOWS SEASONAL STRENGTH IN LIMA

It's not always easy to gauge the strength of Peru's economy. Just on May 16, we were mildly discouraged by m/m GDP growth figures of -1.3% in March. And, yesterday, employment figures for Lima are the best since pre-COVID-19 days. Unemployment in Lima plummeted to 8.3% in the three-month period ending in April, from 9.4% in the three-months to March (chart 1). The number of jobs in Lima, at 5.1 mn, has surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels for the first time (chart 2). Jobs growth was not only 22.9% higher y/y (mobility restrictions were still in place at this time in 2021), but also 3.7% higher than the same February-to-April period in 2019.

Let's not get too excited, however. April has a seasonal component to it, as it is the beginning of the academic year at school and universities. In the past, this has frequently led to employment spikes.

The second caveat is that employment growth is taking place mostly in lower-income jobs. Pre-COVID-19 job levels were breached only in the segment of small businesses, those having ten or less employees. Job levels at larger businesses, which tend to pay better, have yet to return to pre-COVID-19 levels. Not surprisingly, then, low-income jobs, frequently in the informal economy, were up 31%, whereas full-time, permanent jobs paying higher wages ("adequate") were still 11.7% below the same period in pre-COVID-19 2019 (chart 3). As a result, average monthly wages are still 6.0% below the same period in 2019, in nominal terms. In real terms, the lag in wages is closer to 16%.

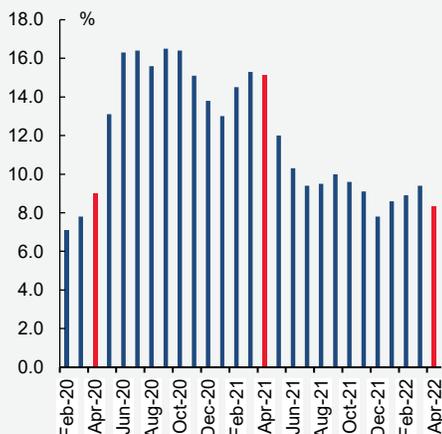
Having said that, however, the April employment data for Lima was encouraging, although it would be wise to wait and see if it is repeated in the May data.

Note that the National Statistics Institute employment data is for three-month periods, which doesn't match exactly with the monthly GDP data.

—Guillermo Arbe

Chart 1

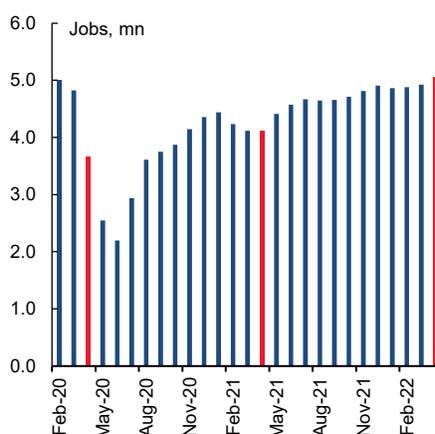
Peru: Lima Unemployment Rate



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, INEI.

Chart 2

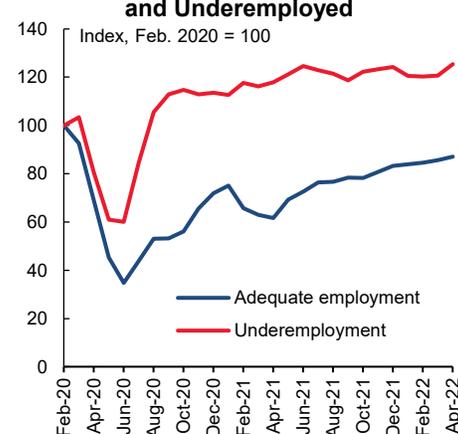
Peru: Employment in Lima



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, INEI.

Chart 3

Peru: Lima Adequately Employed and Underemployed



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, INEI.

This report has been prepared by Scotiabank Economics as a resource for the clients of Scotiabank. Opinions, estimates and projections contained herein are our own as of the date hereof and are subject to change without notice. The information and opinions contained herein have been compiled or arrived at from sources believed reliable but no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to their accuracy or completeness. Neither Scotiabank nor any of its officers, directors, partners, employees or affiliates accepts any liability whatsoever for any direct or consequential loss arising from any use of this report or its contents.

These reports are provided to you for informational purposes only. This report is not, and is not constructed as, an offer to sell or solicitation of any offer to buy any financial instrument, nor shall this report be construed as an opinion as to whether you should enter into any swap or trading strategy involving a swap or any other transaction. The information contained in this report is not intended to be, and does not constitute, a recommendation of a swap or trading strategy involving a swap within the meaning of U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission Regulation 23.434 and Appendix A thereto. This material is not intended to be individually tailored to your needs or characteristics and should not be viewed as a “call to action” or suggestion that you enter into a swap or trading strategy involving a swap or any other transaction. Scotiabank may engage in transactions in a manner inconsistent with the views discussed this report and may have positions, or be in the process of acquiring or disposing of positions, referred to in this report.

Scotiabank, its affiliates and any of their respective officers, directors and employees may from time to time take positions in currencies, act as managers, co-managers or underwriters of a public offering or act as principals or agents, deal in, own or act as market makers or advisors, brokers or commercial and/or investment bankers in relation to securities or related derivatives. As a result of these actions, Scotiabank may receive remuneration. All Scotiabank products and services are subject to the terms of applicable agreements and local regulations. Officers, directors and employees of Scotiabank and its affiliates may serve as directors of corporations.

Any securities discussed in this report may not be suitable for all investors. Scotiabank recommends that investors independently evaluate any issuer and security discussed in this report, and consult with any advisors they deem necessary prior to making any investment.

This report and all information, opinions and conclusions contained in it are protected by copyright. This information may not be reproduced without the prior express written consent of Scotiabank.

™ Trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. Used under license, where applicable.

Scotiabank, together with “Global Banking and Markets”, is a marketing name for the global corporate and investment banking and capital markets businesses of The Bank of Nova Scotia and certain of its affiliates in the countries where they operate, including: Scotiabank Europe plc; Scotiabank (Ireland) Designated Activity Company; Scotiabank Inverlat S.A., Institución de Banca Múltiple, Grupo Financiero Scotiabank Inverlat, Scotia Inverlat Casa de Bolsa, S.A. de C.V., Grupo Financiero Scotiabank Inverlat, Scotia Inverlat Derivados S.A. de C.V. – all members of the Scotiabank group and authorized users of the Scotiabank mark. The Bank of Nova Scotia is incorporated in Canada with limited liability and is authorised and regulated by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Canada. The Bank of Nova Scotia is authorized by the UK Prudential Regulation Authority and is subject to regulation by the UK Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the UK Prudential Regulation Authority. Details about the extent of The Bank of Nova Scotia's regulation by the UK Prudential Regulation Authority are available from us on request. Scotiabank Europe plc is authorized by the UK Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the UK Financial Conduct Authority and the UK Prudential Regulation Authority.

Scotiabank Inverlat, S.A., Scotia Inverlat Casa de Bolsa, S.A. de C.V., Grupo Financiero Scotiabank Inverlat, and Scotia Inverlat Derivados, S.A. de C.V., are each authorized and regulated by the Mexican financial authorities.

Not all products and services are offered in all jurisdictions. Services described are available in jurisdictions where permitted by law.