Contrary to popular perception, over two-thirds of Punjab’s labor force works off the farm, among the highest levels of non-farm employment in the country. Since 2005, job growth in the state has been modest, with most new jobs being created in the non-farm sector. Most of these new jobs have, however, been for men. Female labor force participation in the state is not only low, but has been declining sharply since 2005. On the positive side, Punjab’s share of wage employment, especially of salaried jobs, has increased.

Over two-thirds of the people in Punjab work in the non-farm sector

Punjab’s non-farm employment share is higher than in most other states

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.
Job growth in Punjab has been weak since 2005

Number of jobs added, 2005-2012 (mn)

Annual job growth, 2005-2012 (%)

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, All India is All India.

Most new jobs after 2005 in Punjab were created in the non-farm sectors of the economy

Number of jobs, (mn)

Annual job growth, 2005-2012 (%)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 2005 2012
Salaried jobs increased in Punjab after 2005

The share of workers with salaried jobs is higher in Punjab than in many other states

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.
Not enough jobs for the size of the working age population in Punjab, especially for females

Low urban and declining rural female labor force participation in Punjab