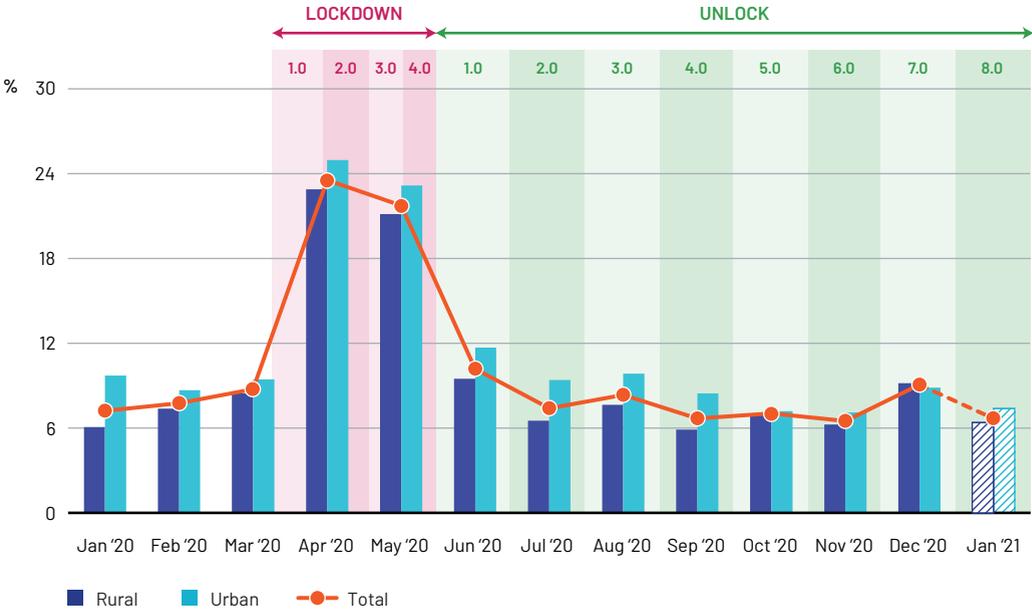


Chart 17: and unemployment rate turned grim ahead of annual budget

Source: CMIE, Acuity Knowledge Partners

Note: Data for January is MTD



- » The CMIE unemployment rate saw a sharp spike in April-May (23.5%) as lockdowns halted the activity
- » December data gave up the improvement seen since the gradual reopening of the economy, signalling that the market is not yet ready to absorb this substantial pool
- » Urban unemployment came in below rural and national average, revising the recent trend; this signals at a faster stabilisation in the urban sector than the rural sector. Government is expected to take various job-creating measures in the upcoming budget, especially in the rural sector
- » January estimates look better than December; national average may touch September print (highest in lockdown), but may fail to sustain