



Report of the

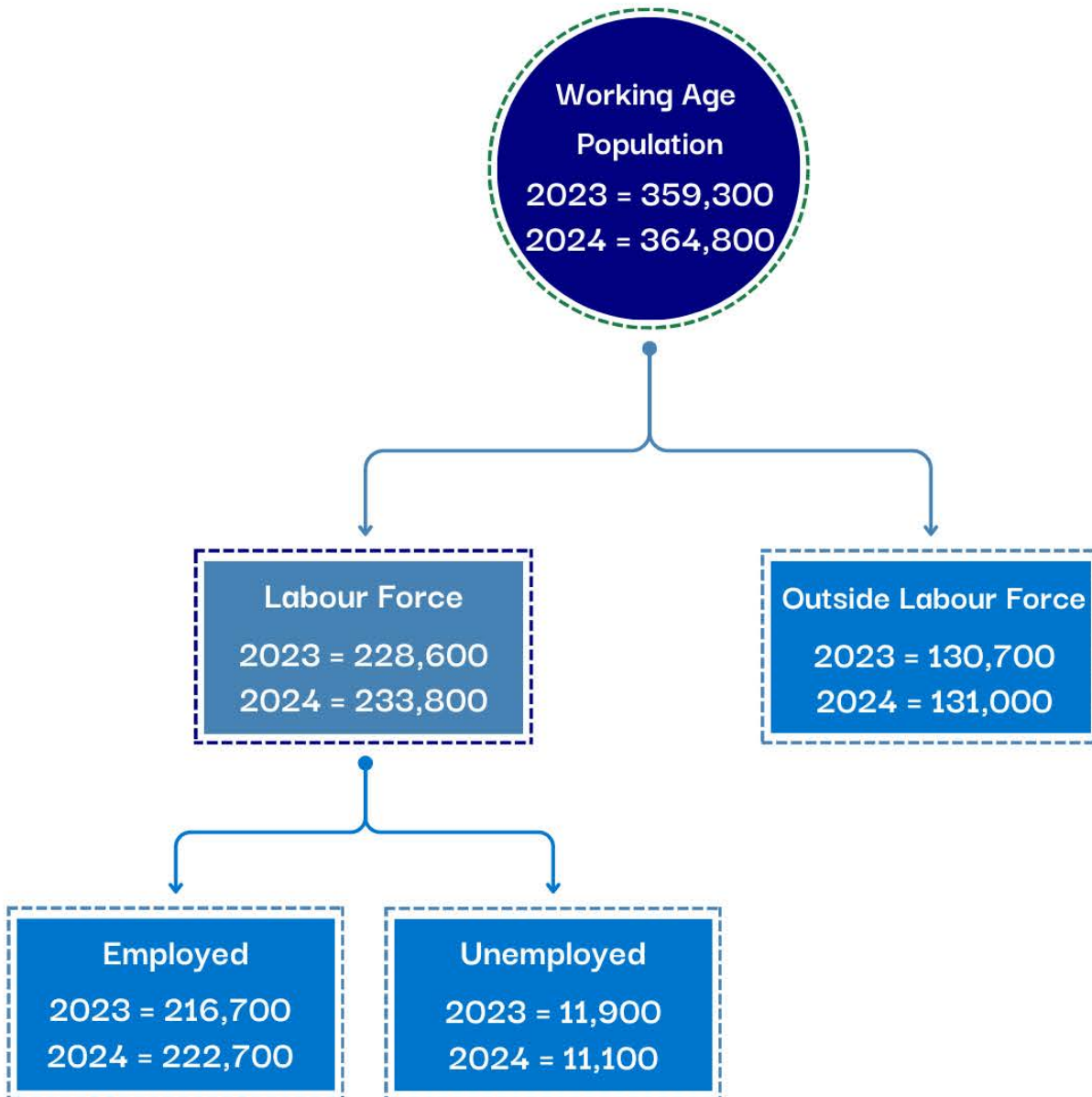
LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2024

Department of Statistics
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics
Ministry of Finance and Economy
Brunei Darussalam

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2024

Labour Force Framework, Brunei Darussalam, 2024 Aged 15 years and over

Persons



Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)
2023 = 63.6%
2024 = 64.1%



Employment to Population Ratio
2023 = 60.3%
2024 = 61.0%

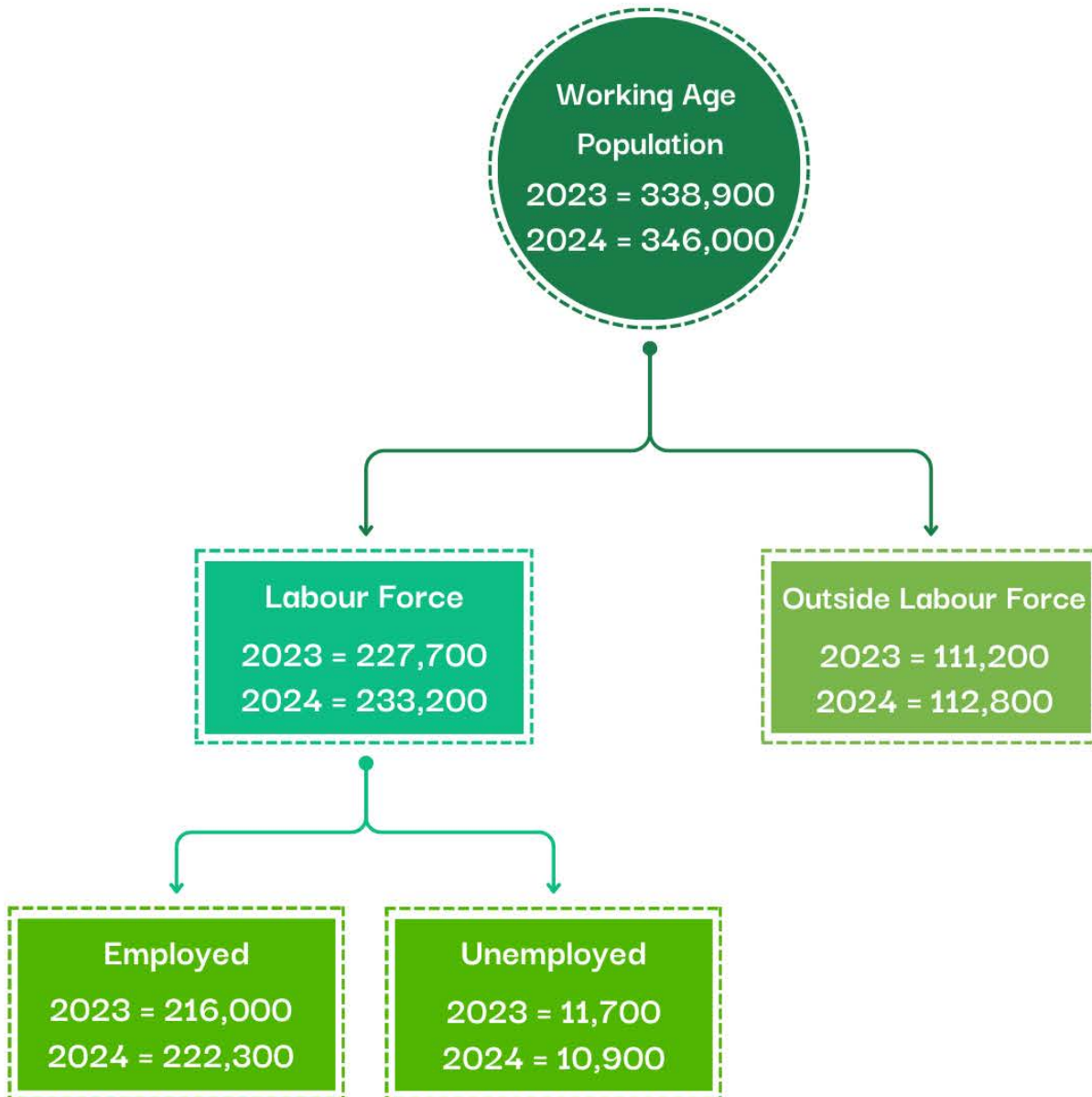


Unemployment Rate (UER)
2023 = 5.2%
2024 = 4.8%

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2024

Labour Force Framework, Brunei Darussalam, 2024 Aged 18 years and over

Persons



Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)
2023 = 67.2%
2024 = 67.4%



Employment to Population Ratio
2023 = 63.7%
2024 = 64.2%



Unemployment Rate (UER)
2023 = 5.1%
2024 = 4.7%

Introduction

The Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (JPES) conducted the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2024 from 14 October to 10 November 2024. The main objective of LFS 2024 was to collect latest information on the size, structure, distribution and characteristics of the labour force, employment, unemployment and other economic characteristics of the population, which will be used to assist in the planning, research, policy-making and management concerning the labour force in the country.

The survey covered about 3,200 selected households throughout the country using systematic sampling method. The data obtained from the selected households were extrapolated according to the sampling weights and then calibrated to represent the total population living in regular households in Brunei Darussalam.

The collection and compilation of labour statistics for Brunei Darussalam through the Labour Force Survey are in line with the international standards, adopted by the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (20th ICLS) in 2018.

This **Report of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2024** contains the findings of the main indicators of LFS 2024 on economic activity of the population of Brunei Darussalam in 2024, which provide information on the status of economic activity of the population, labour force participation rate and unemployment. It provides information on the labour force profile for population aged 18 years and over, taking into account the accepted definition of working age in Brunei Darussalam. Information on the labour force profile for population aged 15 years and over is also provided as a reference and recommendation from International Labour Organization (ILO).

The more detailed information on the labour force such as employment status, types of economic activity, employment, employment sector and income from employment will be released in the detailed Report of Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2024.

Key Findings

Working Age Population and Labour Force

In 2024, the working age population (aged 18 years and over) was 346,000 persons, comprising 183,900 males (53.2 per cent) and 162,100 females (46.8 per cent).

Out of this working age population, 67.4 per cent (233,200 persons) were in the labour force and the remaining 32.6 per cent (112,800 persons) were outside labour force.

The labour force participation rate increased from 67.2 per cent in 2023 to 67.4 per cent in 2024. This increase was driven by a rise in employment, particularly among local workers.

The labour force participation rate for males (75.9 per cent) being higher than females (57.8 per cent) by 18.1 per cent.

Employed

In 2024, the total number of employed persons increased by 2.9 per cent (6,300 persons) which was 216,000 persons in 2023 compared to 222,300 persons in 2024.

The employed person in 2024 comprising 133,700 males (60.1 per cent) and 88,600 females (39.9 per cent).

The majority of employed persons were local workers, totaling of 158,400 persons (71.3 per cent), while non-local workers accounted for 63,900 (28.7 per cent).

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Unemployed

Out of the total population aged 18 years and over, around 10,900 persons were not working and actively looking for a job (unemployed), consisting of 5,800 males (53.2 per cent) and 5,100 females (46.8 per cent).

The unemployment rate decreased from 5.1 per cent in 2023 to 4.7 per cent in 2024. While the unemployment rate for persons aged 18 to 24 years old was 18.3 per cent, the rate for females (22.6 per cent) was higher compared to male (16.1 per cent).

Outside Labour Force

The total number of persons in the outside labour force was 112,800 persons, including 44,500 males (39.5 per cent) and 68,400 females (60.6 per cent).

Technical Notes

Concepts and Definitions

The main concepts and definitions used in the survey are as follows:

Household:

A household is defined as a group of persons who live together and make common provision for food and other essentials for living. The people in the group may be related or unrelated or a combination of both. A household may consist of only one person or several persons.

Reference Period:

This refers to the week preceding the date of the survey interview.

Locals and Non-locals:

- a) Local persons are the persons in relation to the immigration laws of the country. The categories are:
 - i) Brunei citizens, i.e. holder of Brunei Darussalam yellow identity card;
 - ii) Permanent resident, i.e. holder of Brunei Darussalam purple identity card.

- b) Non-local persons are the persons in relation to the immigration laws of the country which are Temporary resident, i.e. holder of Brunei Darussalam green identity card; and Others

Working Age Population:

Persons in the working age population consist of working age population aged 15 years and over; and 18 years and over. Working age population 15 years and over is according to the recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO). While working age population 18 years and over is the accepted definition of working age in Brunei Darussalam.

Labour Force:

Persons in the labour force are those who were either employed or looking for job (unemployed) during the reference period.

Work:

The starting point of the international standards on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization is the concept of work defined as:

- “Any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use” in line with the General production boundary defined in the System of National Accounts 2008.
- Work is defined “irrespective of its formal or informal character or the legality of the activity.”
- It excludes “activities not involving production of goods or services (begging, stealing), self-care (personal grooming, hygiene) and activities that cannot be performed by another person on one’s own behalf (sleeping, learning, own recreation).”

The international standards recognize different forms of work:

- Own-use production work (production of goods and services for own final use); - employment (work performed for others in exchange for pay or profit);
- unpaid trainee work (work performed for others without pay to acquire workplace experience or skills);
- volunteer work (non-compulsory work performed for others without pay); and - other forms of work (not defined at this time by the international standards, e.g., community work by prisoners, ordered by court or similar authority).

Employment:

Employment is a particular form of work. Persons in employment are defined as all those with working age population, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit. It excludes persons engaged wholly in activities to produce goods or services for own final use such as producing agricultural, fishing and gathering products for own-consumption or cleaning, decorating, gardening and maintaining one’s own dwelling or premises, durables and other goods.

Persons in employment comprise:

- employed persons “at work,” i.e., who worked in a job for at least one hour; and
- employed persons “not at work” due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangements (such as shift work, flexi-time and compensatory leave for overtime).

Unemployment:

Persons in unemployment are defined as all those with working age population during the reference period who:

- a) were not in employment;
- b) carried out activities to seek employment during a specified recent period; and
- c) were currently available to take up employment given a job opportunity.

The definition of unemployment provides an exception in the case of future starters. They are considered as unemployed even if they did not carry out activities to seek employment during the specified recent period, criterion (b) as long as they satisfy the availability condition.

Outside Labour Force:

Persons in the outside labour force are those who were not working, did not have job and were not actively seeking for work during the reference period.

Persons who are categorised as outside labour force include homemakers, students, pensioners and others such as disabled persons.

Labour Force Participation Rate:

Labour force participation rate is the ratio of labour force population to the total working age population.

$$LFPR = \frac{LF}{WAP} \times 100$$

where

- LFPR* is the labour force participation rate
- LF* is the total labour force population
- WAP* is the total working age population

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Employment to Population Ratio:

Employment to population ratio is the ratio of the employed population to the working age population.

$$ER = \frac{E}{WAP} \times 100$$

where

ER is the employment to population ratio

E is the total employed population

WAP is the total working age population

Unemployment Rate:

Unemployment rate is the proportion of the unemployed population of the total labour force population.

$$UR = \frac{U}{LF} \times 100$$

where

UR is the unemployment rate

U is the unemployment population

LF is the total labour force population

Rounding of estimates:

Individual figures are independently rounded to the nearest whole number; hence the group totals may not always equal to the sum of the individual figures.

Table 1a: Labour Market Indicator aged 18 years and over by Sex, 2023 and 2024

Labour Market Indicator	2023			2024		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Number						
Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)	338,900	180,200	158,800	346,000	183,900	162,100
Labour Force	227,700	136,700	91,000	233,200	139,500	93,700
Outside Labour Force	111,200	43,500	67,700	112,800	44,500	68,400
Employed	216,000	129,700	86,300	222,300	133,700	88,600
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	19,700	12,900	6,700	19,700	12,500	7,200
25 – 64	192,800	114,700	78,100	198,400	118,600	79,800
65 and over	3,600	2,200	1,500	4,200	2,600	1,600
Unemployed	11,700	7,000	4,700	10,900	5,800	5,100
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	4,000	2,200	1,700	4,400	2,400	2,100
25 – 64	7,700	4,700	3,000	6,500	3,400	3,000
65 and over	0	0	0	0	-	0
Percentage (%)						
Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)	100.0	53.2	46.9	100.0	53.2	46.8
Labour Force	100.0	60.0	40.0	100.0	59.8	40.2
Labour Force Participation Rate	67.2	75.8	57.3	67.4	75.9	57.8
Outside Labour Force	100.0	39.1	60.9	100.0	39.5	60.6
Employed	100.0	60.0	40.0	100.0	60.1	39.9
Employment to Population Ratio	63.7	72.0	54.4	64.2	72.7	54.7
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	9.1	9.9	7.8	8.9	9.3	8.1
25 – 64	89.2	88.4	90.5	89.2	88.7	90.1
65 and over	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8
Unemployed	100.0	59.8	40.2	100.0	53.2	46.8
Unemployed Rate	5.1	5.1	5.2	4.7	4.2	5.4
Youth Unemployment Rate	16.8	14.7	20.6	18.3	16.1	22.6
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	34.2	31.9	36.2	40.4	41.4	41.2
25 – 64	65.8	68.1	63.8	59.6	58.6	58.8
65 and over	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0

Notes: Data may not add up to the total due to the rounding.

Notations:

- Nil
- 0 Below Unit

Table 1b: Labour Market Indicator aged 18 years and over by Local and Non-local, 2023 and 2024

Labour Market Indicator	2023			2024		
	Total	Local	Non-local	Total	Local	Non-local
Number						
Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)	338,900	266,100	72,900	346,000	272,500	73,500
Labour Force	227,700	164,100	63,600	233,200	169,100	64,100
Outside Labour Force	111,200	102,000	9,300	112,800	103,400	9,500
Employed	216,000	152,600	63,400	222,300	158,400	63,900
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	19,700	15,100	4,600	19,700	14,700	5,000
25 – 64	192,800	134,200	58,500	198,400	140,200	58,200
65 and over	3,600	3,300	300	4,200	3,500	700
Unemployed	11,700	11,500	200	10,900	10,800	200
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	4,000	3,900	100	4,400	4,300	100
25 – 64	7,700	7,600	100	6,500	6,400	100
65 and over	0	0	-	0	0	-
Percentage (%)						
Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)	100.0	78.5	21.5	100.0	78.8	21.2
Labour Force	100.0	72.1	27.9	100.0	72.5	27.5
Labour Force Participation Rate	67.2	61.7	87.3	67.4	62.1	87.2
Outside Labour Force	100.0	91.7	8.4	100.0	91.7	8.4
Employed	100.0	70.6	29.4	100.0	71.3	28.7
Employment to Population Ratio	63.7	57.3	87.0	64.2	58.1	86.9
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	9.1	9.9	7.3	8.9	9.3	7.8
25 – 64	89.2	87.9	92.3	89.2	88.5	91.1
65 and over	1.7	2.2	0.5	1.9	2.2	1.1
Unemployed	100.0	98.3	1.7	100.0	99.1	1.8
Unemployed Rate	5.1	7.0	0.3	4.7	6.4	0.3
Youth Unemployment Rate	16.8	20.4	2.2	18.3	22.6	2.0
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	34.2	33.9	50.0	40.4	39.8	50.0
25 – 64	65.8	66.1	50.0	59.6	59.3	50.0
65 and over	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-

Notes: Data may not add up to the total due to the rounding.

Notations:

- Nil

0 Below Unit

Table 2a: Labour Market Indicator aged 15 years and over by Sex, 2023 and 2024

Labour Market Indicator	2023			2024		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Number						
Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)	359,300	190,400	168,900	364,800	194,000	170,800
Labour Force	228,600	137,100	91,500	233,800	139,700	94,100
Outside Labour Force	130,700	53,300	77,400	131,000	54,300	76,700
Employed	216,700	130,100	86,600	222,700	133,900	88,900
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	20,300	13,300	7,100	20,100	12,600	7,500
25 – 64	192,800	114,700	78,100	198,400	118,600	79,800
65 and over	3,600	2,200	1,500	4,200	2,600	1,600
Unemployed	11,900	7,000	4,900	11,100	5,900	5,200
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	4,200	2,300	1,900	4,600	2,500	2,200
25 – 64	7,700	4,700	3,000	6,500	3,400	3,000
65 and over	0	-	0	0	-	0
Percentage (%)						
Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)	100.0	53.0	47.0	100.0	53.2	46.8
Labour Force	100.0	60.0	40.0	100.0	59.8	40.2
Labour Force Participation Rate	63.6	72.0	54.2	64.1	72.0	55.1
Outside Labour Force	100.0	40.8	59.2	100.0	41.5	58.5
Employed	100.0	60.0	40.0	100.0	60.1	39.9
Employment to Population Ratio	60.3	68.3	51.3	61.0	69.0	52.0
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	9.4	10.2	8.2	9.0	9.4	8.4
25 – 64	89.0	88.2	90.2	89.1	88.6	89.8
65 and over	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.8
Unemployed	100.0	58.8	41.2	100.0	53.2	46.8
Unemployed Rate	5.2	5.1	5.3	4.8	4.2	5.5
Youth Unemployment Rate	17.0	14.7	21.2	18.5	16.6	22.7
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	35.3	32.9	38.8	41.4	42.4	42.3
25 – 64	64.7	67.1	61.2	58.6	57.6	57.7
65 and over	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0

Notes: Data may not add up to the total due to the rounding.

Notations:

- Nil

0 Below Unit

Table 2b: Labour Market Indicator aged 15 years and over by Local and Non-local, 2023 and 2024

Labour Market Indicator	2023			2024		
	Total	Local	Non-local	Total	Local	Non-local
Number						
Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)	359,300	284,800	74,500	364,800	289,500	75,300
Labour Force	228,600	164,900	63,700	233,800	169,800	64,100
Outside Labour Force	130,700	119,900	10,800	131,000	119,700	11,200
Employed	216,700	153,300	63,500	222,700	158,800	63,900
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	20,300	15,700	4,600	20,100	15,100	5,000
25 – 64	192,800	134,200	58,500	198,400	140,200	58,200
65 and over	3,600	3,300	300	4,200	3,500	700
Unemployed	11,900	11,700	200	11,100	11,000	200
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	4,200	4,100	100	4,600	4,500	100
25 – 64	7,700	7,600	100	6,500	6,400	100
65 and over	0	0	-	0	0	-
Percentage (%)						
Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)	100.0	79.3	20.7	100.0	79.4	20.6
Labour Force	100.0	72.1	27.9	100.0	72.6	27.4
Labour Force Participation Rate	63.6	57.9	85.4	64.1	58.7	85.1
Outside Labour Force	100.0	91.7	8.3	100.0	91.4	8.5
Employed	100.0	70.7	29.3	100.0	71.3	28.7
Employment to Population Ratio	60.3	53.8	85.2	61.0	54.9	84.9
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	9.4	10.2	7.3	9.0	9.5	7.8
25 – 64	89.0	87.6	92.3	89.1	88.3	91.1
65 and over	1.7	2.2	0.5	1.9	2.2	1.1
Unemployed	100.0	98.3	1.7	100.0	99.1	1.8
Unemployed Rate	5.2	7.1	0.3	4.8	6.5	0.3
Youth Unemployment Rate	17.0	20.6	2.2	18.5	23.0	2.0
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	35.3	35.0	50.0	41.4	40.9	50.0
25 – 64	64.7	65.0	50.0	58.6	58.2	50.0
65 and over	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-

Notes: Data may not add up to the total due to the rounding.

Notations:

- Nil

0 Below Unit