

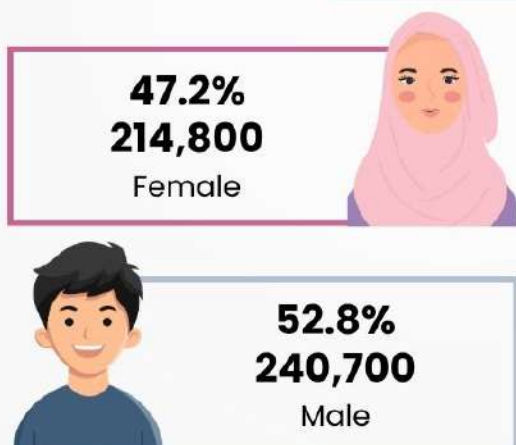


جباتن فرانچن ايكونومي دان ستاتيسٽيك
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STATISTICS
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

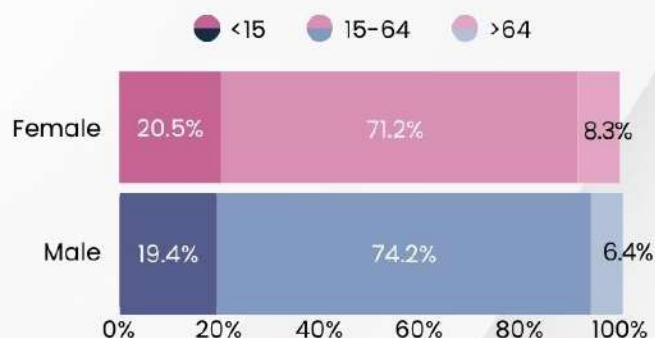
GENDER STATISTICS

2024

Population

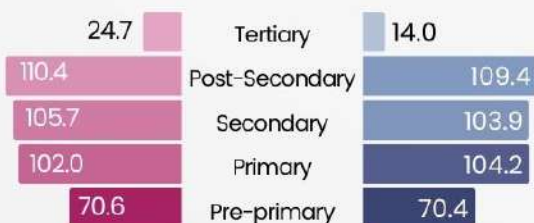


Distribution of Population by Age Group (%)

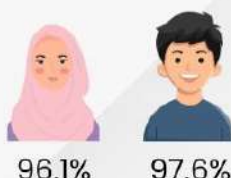


Education

Gross Enrolment Rate (%)



Literacy Rate (%) (10 years and over)

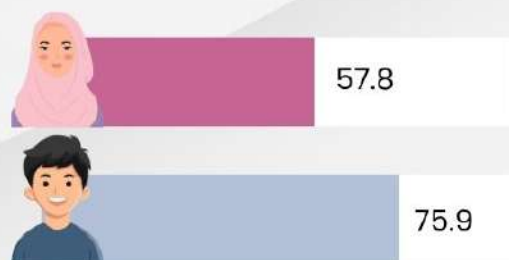


Distribution of Educators (%)



Economic Activity aged 18 years and over

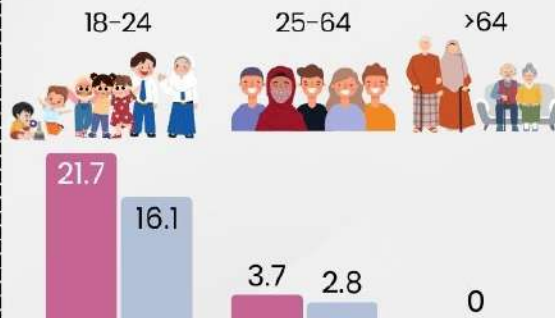
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)



Employment (%)



Unemployment Rate (%)



Health

Life Expectancy at Birth (year)

Female: 81.0
Male: 77.3



Maternal Mortality Ratio

18.7
deaths per 100,000 live births



Infant and Under-5 Mortality Ratio (deaths per 1,000 live births)

Infant mortality rate **Female: 10.0**
Male: 12.7

Under-5 mortality rate **Female: 11.9**
Male: 16.0

GENDER STATISTICS

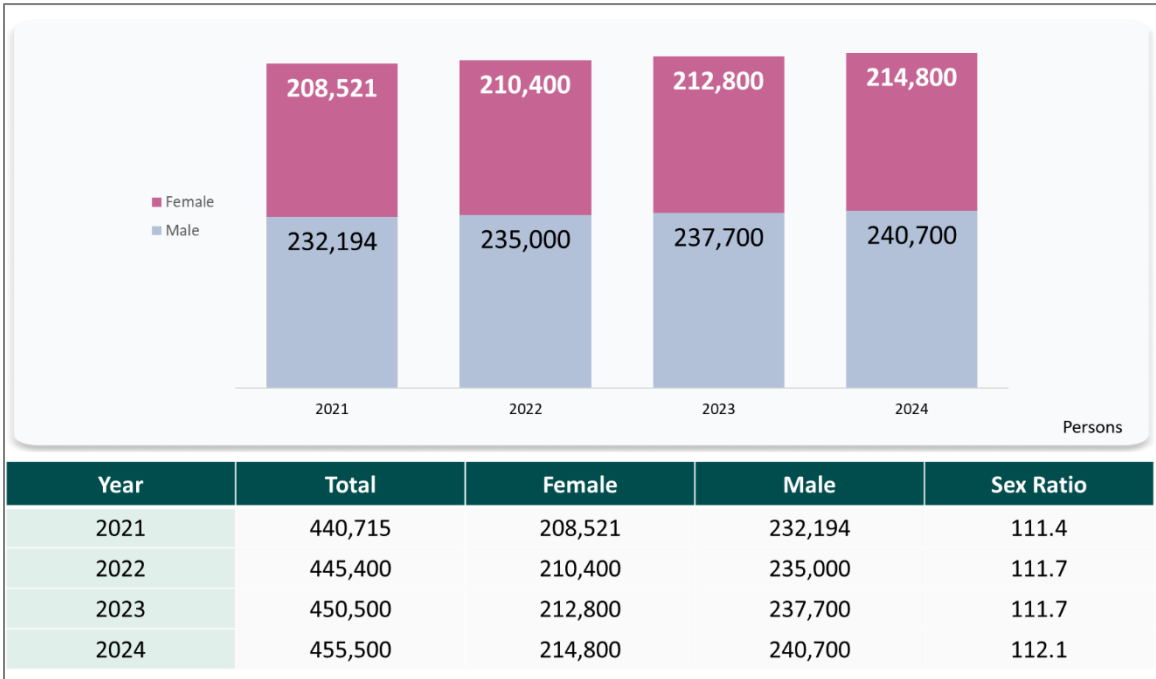
1. Population

1.1 Population by Sex

In 2024, the population of Brunei Darussalam was estimated at 455,500 persons. Of this total, females accounted for 47.2 per cent (214,800 persons), while males comprised 52.8 per cent (240,700 persons) (**Table 1.1**).

The sex ratio in 2024 was 112.1 males for every 100 females, indicating that there were more males than females in Brunei Darussalam. A value greater than 100 reflects a higher number of males compared to females.

Table 1.1: Population by sex, 2021-2024



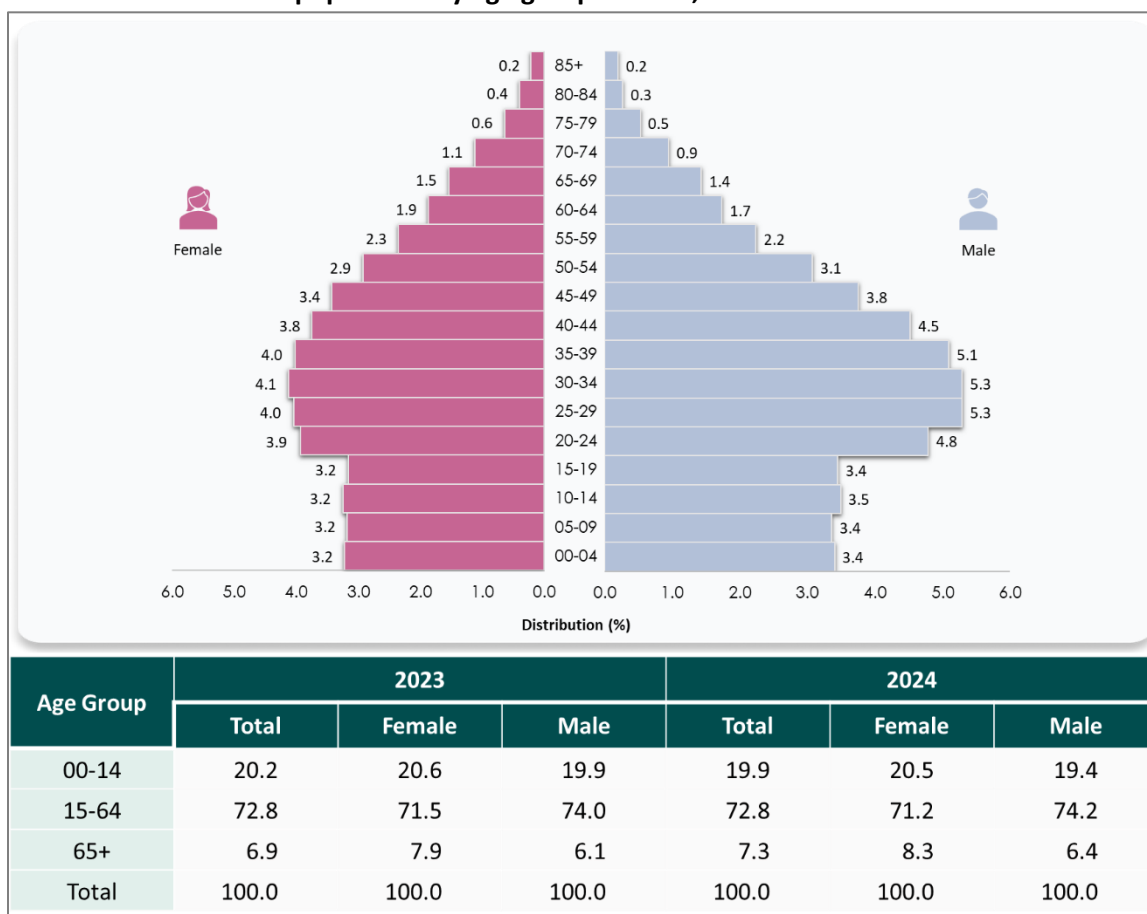
Note:
(1) Year 2021 is the Population and Housing Census Year (BPP) 2021; and
(2) Year 2022 to 2024 are population estimates.
Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

1.2 Population by Age Group

The population pyramid of Brunei Darussalam in 2024 was slightly distorted, showing a broadening in the middle age groups due to the presence of working age migrant workers, both female and male, particularly in the 20-34 age groups. Males remained slightly dominant in the working-age group aged 15-64 years, comprising 74.2 per cent compared to 71.2 per cent for females.

In contrast, the share of females was higher than males in the elderly population, at 8.3 per cent compared to 6.4 per cent. Females also recorded a slightly higher among children aged 0-14 years, with 20.5 per cent compared to 19.4 per cent for males (**Table 1.2**).

Table 1.2: Distribution of population by age group and sex, 2024



Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

1.3 Marriages and Divorces

In 2024, a total of 2,733 marriages were recorded, reflecting an 8.5 per cent increase from 2023 (**Table 1.3**). These include all types of marriages such as Islam, Civil, Customary and others. For divorces, 2024 registered a total of 672 cases, showing an 8.6 per cent decrease from 2023.

Table 1.3: Marriages and Divorce, 2023 and 2024

Indicator	2023	2024
Marriages	2,518	2,733
Divorces	735	672

Persons

Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

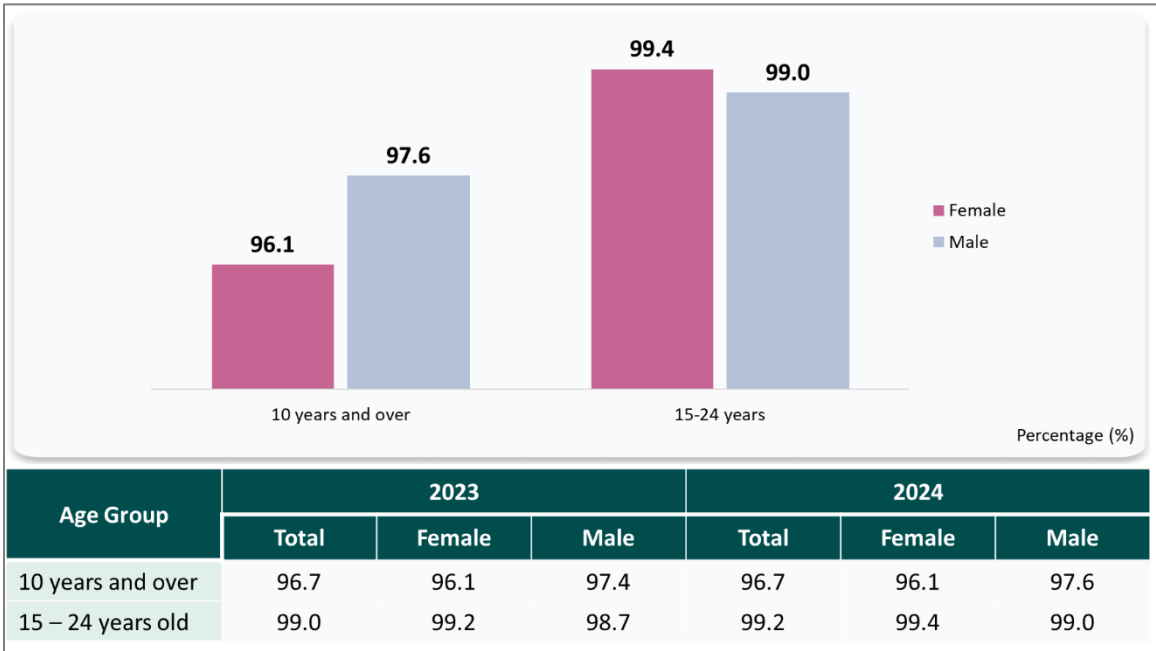
2. Education

2.1 Literacy rate

Literacy is defined as the ability of a person to read and write, with understanding, a short and simple sentence related to his or her everyday life.

In 2024, the literacy rate for females aged 10 years and over in Brunei Darussalam was 96.1 per cent, slightly lower than that of males at 97.6 per cent (**Table 2.1**). However, among the younger population aged 15–24 years, females recorded a marginally higher literacy rate (99.4 per cent) compared to males (99.0 per cent).

Table 2.1: Literacy rate by sex and age groups, 2024



Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

2.2 Gross Enrolment Rate

Gross enrolment rate (GER) is defined as the total number of students enrolled at a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population for that level.

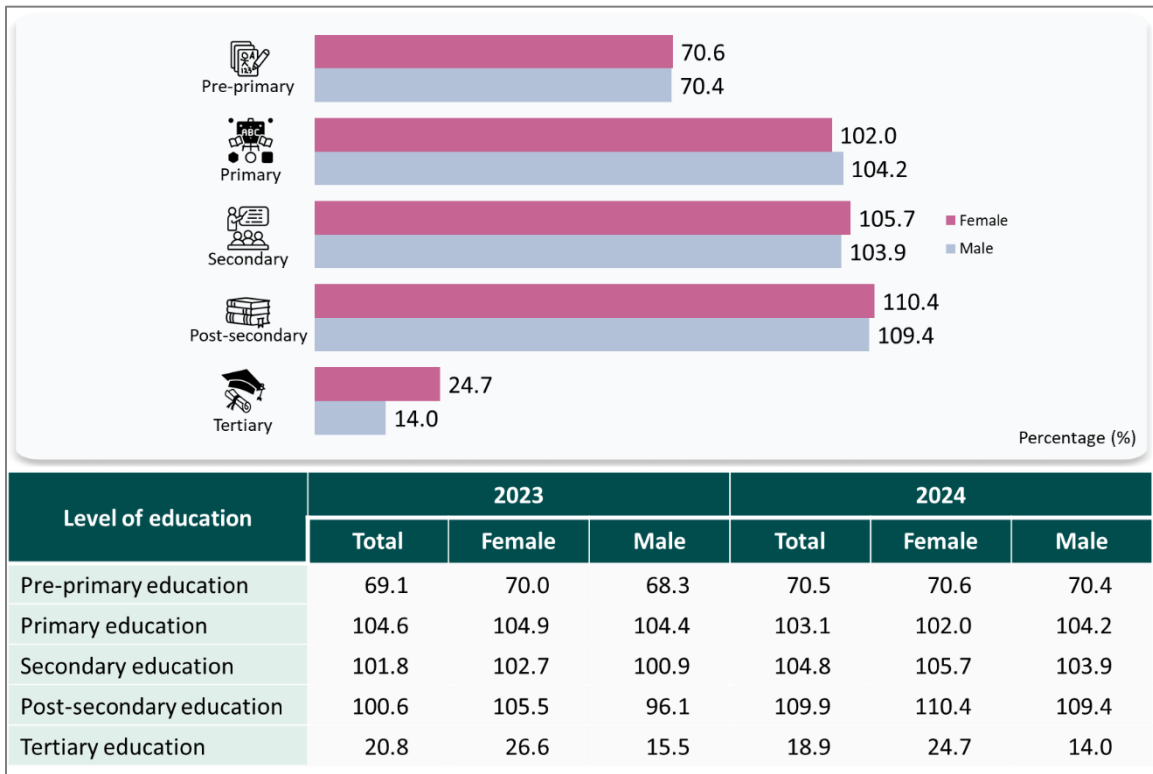
A high GER, around 100% or more, indicates that many students are enrolled, including those outside the typical age, showing sufficient school capacity and broad access to education. In contrast, a low GER, below 100%, indicates fewer students are enrolled than expected for that age group, highlighting that many children who should be in school are not, likely due to limited schools, teachers, or other barriers

At the pre-primary level, enrolment was almost equal between females (70.6 per cent) and males (70.4 per cent) in 2024, indicating balanced access to early childhood education (**Table 2.2**). At the primary level, male enrolment (104.2 per cent) slightly exceeded that of females (102.0 per cent)

Female participation remained higher at the secondary and post-secondary levels. At the secondary level, females recorded a higher gross enrolment rate (105.7 per cent) compared to males (103.9 per cent). Similarly, at the post-secondary level, female enrolment (110.4 per cent) marginally surpassed male enrolment (109.4 per cent).

At the tertiary level, females also remained higher than males. Female enrolment stood at 24.7 per cent, almost double that of males at 14.0 per cent.

Table 2.2: Gross enrolment rate by level of education and sex, 2024



Source:

Enrolment - Ministry of Education






Population - Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

2.3 Gender Parity Index

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) in primary, secondary and tertiary education refers to the ratio of the number of female students enrolled at each level to the number of male students. The GPI measures the level of equality between females and males, with parity achieved when the index is equal to one (1).

In 2024, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) in Brunei Darussalam indicated balanced enrolment across most levels of education (**Table 2.3**). At the primary level, the GPI was 0.98, indicating a slightly higher enrolment of males compared to females. At the secondary, post-secondary and tertiary levels, the GPI exceeded 1.00, with females slightly outnumbering males, reflecting an almost equal enrolment distribution between females and males.

Table 2.3: Gender Parity Index by level of education, 2024

Level of education		2023	2024
Pre-primary education		1.02	1.00
Primary education		1.00	0.98
Secondary education		1.02	1.02
Post-secondary education		1.10	1.01
Tertiary education		1.72	1.77

Source:

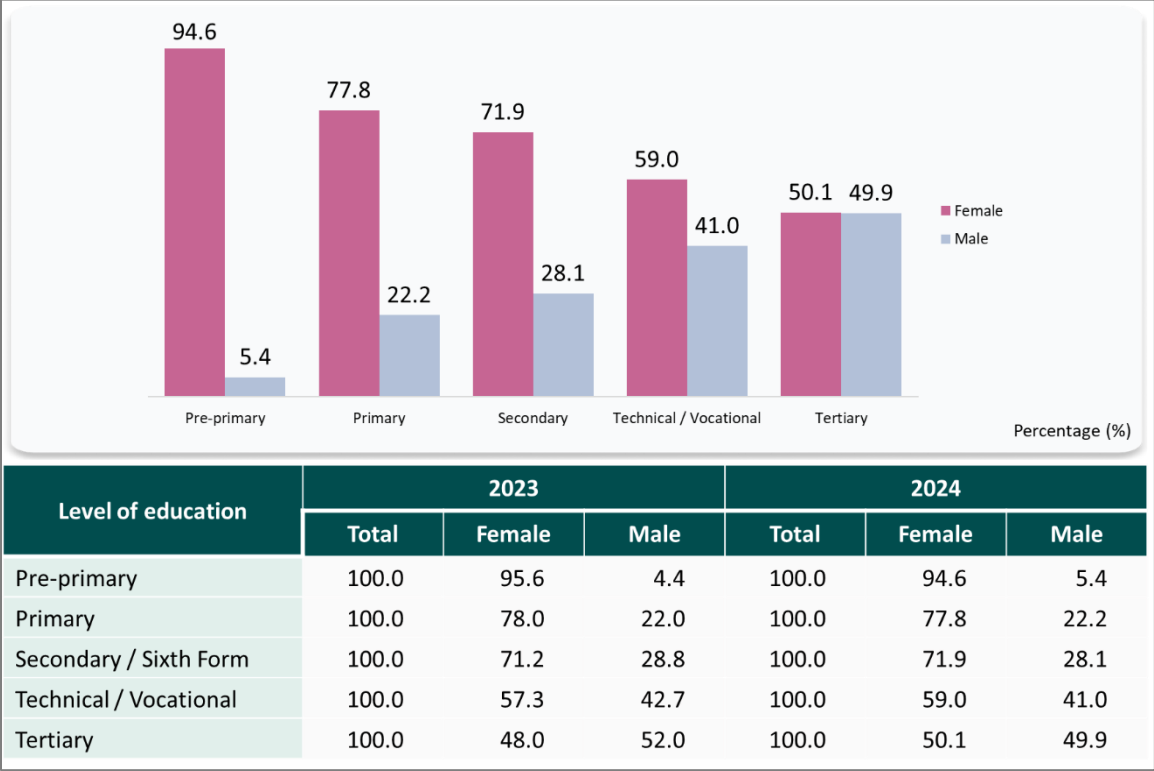
Enrolment - Ministry of Education

Population - Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

2.4 Distribution of educators by level of education

In 2024, females dominated the teaching workforce at most education levels, particularly in pre-primary (94.6 per cent) and primary (77.8 per cent) education (**Table 2.4**). Their share gradually decreased at higher levels; 71.9 per cent at secondary, 59.0 per cent at technical and vocational, and 50.1 per cent at tertiary. Overall, females were more represented at lower levels, while male participation increased with higher education levels.

Table 2.4: Distribution of educators by level of education and sex, 2024



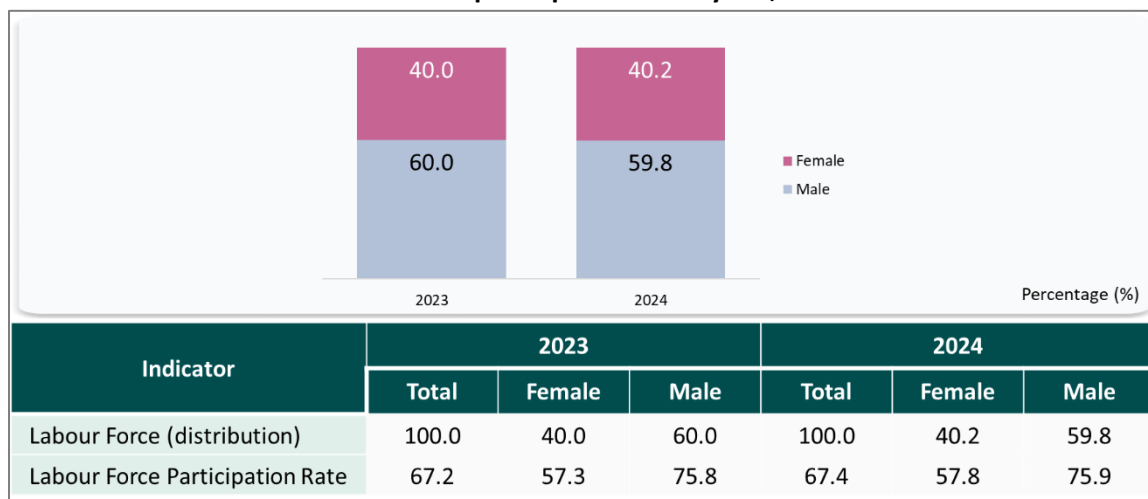
Source:
Ministry of Education

3. Economic Activity

3.1 Labour Force (aged 18 years and over)

The labour force participation rate for both females and males increased slightly in 2024 compared to 2023 (**Table 3.1**). For females, the rate increased from 57.3 per cent in 2023 to 57.8 per cent in 2024. Meanwhile, for males, it increased from 75.8 per cent to 75.9 per cent over the same period.

Table 3.1: Labour force distribution and participation rate by sex, 2023 and 2024



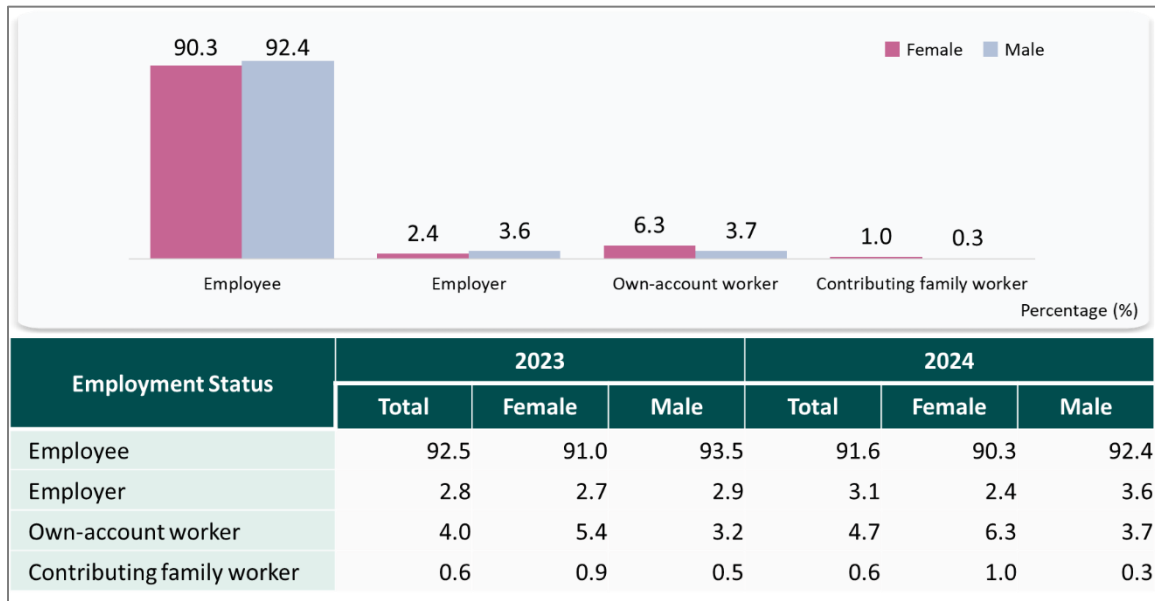
Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

3.2 Employment (aged 18 years and over)

In 2024, total employment comprised 39.9 per cent females and 60.1 per cent males, with male employment remaining higher by around 20 per cent.

The majority of both genders were engaged as employees, with 90.3 per cent of female workers and 92.4 per cent of male workers. Males were more likely to be employers (3.6 per cent) compared to female (2.4 per cent), while females were slightly more represented as own-account workers and contributing family workers (**Table 3.2**).

Table 3.2: Percentage of employed population by status of employment and sex, 2024

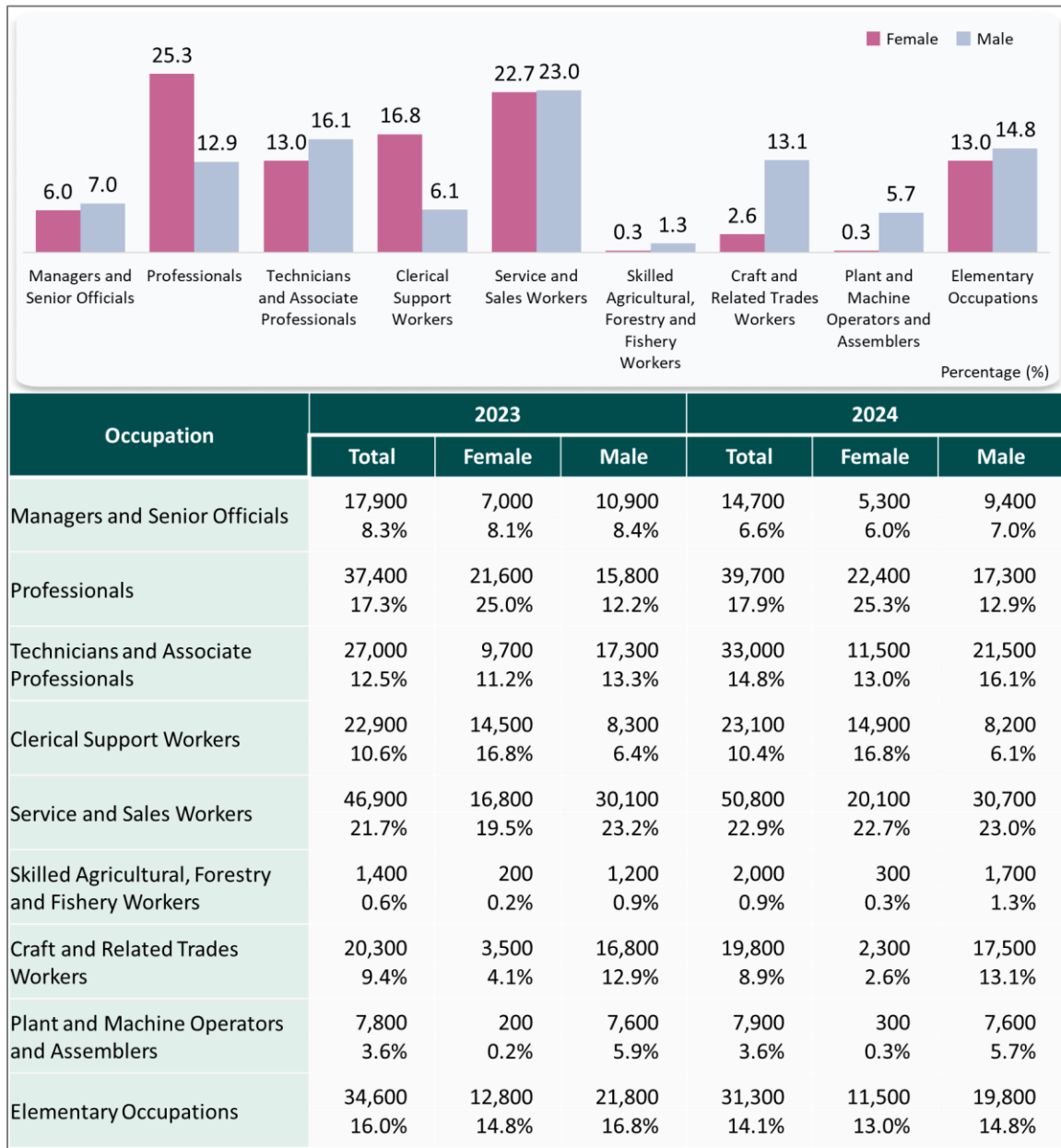


Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

3.3 Employment by Occupation (aged 18 years and over)

In 2024, the distribution of employment by sex showed distinct patterns in occupational choices (**Table 3.3**). Among females, the top three occupations were Professionals (25.3 per cent), Service and Sales Workers (22.7 per cent), and Clerical Support Workers (16.8 per cent). In comparison, males were predominantly employed as Service and Sales Workers (23.0 per cent), Technicians and Associate Professionals (16.1 per cent), and Elementary Occupations (14.8 per cent).

Table 3.3: Number and distribution of employed population by occupation and sex, 2024



Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

3.4 Employment by Type of Economic Activity (aged 18 years and over)

In 2024, the distribution of employment by economic activity showed clear gender differences (**Table 3.4**). Among females, the three largest sectors were Education (16.1 per cent), Public Administration (16.0 per cent), and Wholesale and Retail Trade (13.1 per cent). In contrast, males were primarily employed in Public Administration (20.5 per cent), Construction (16.8 per cent), and Wholesale and Retail Trade (12.6 per cent).

Table 3.4: Number and distribution of employed population by type of economic activity and sex, 2024

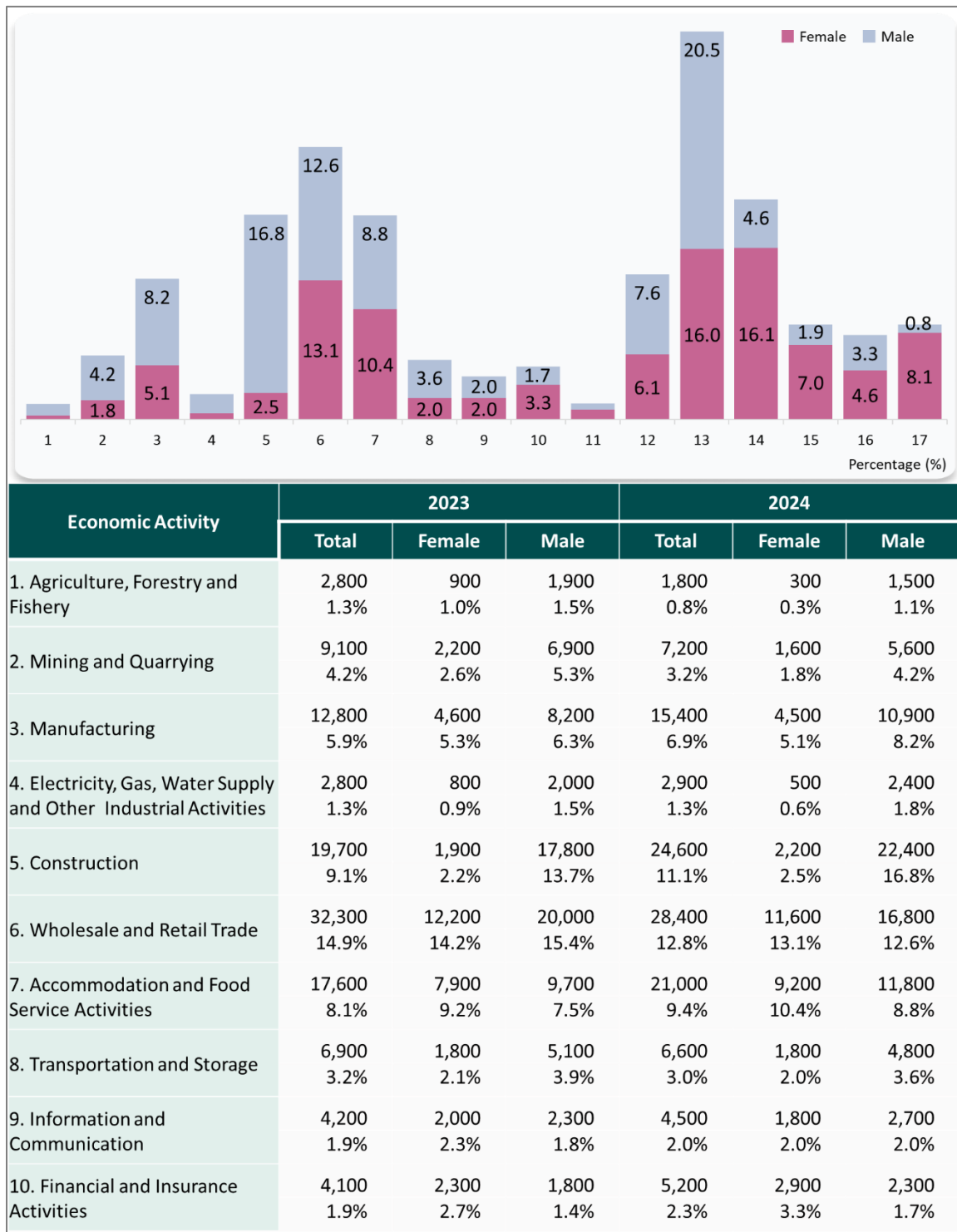


Table 3.4: Number and distribution of employed population by type of economic activity and sex, 2024 (continuation)

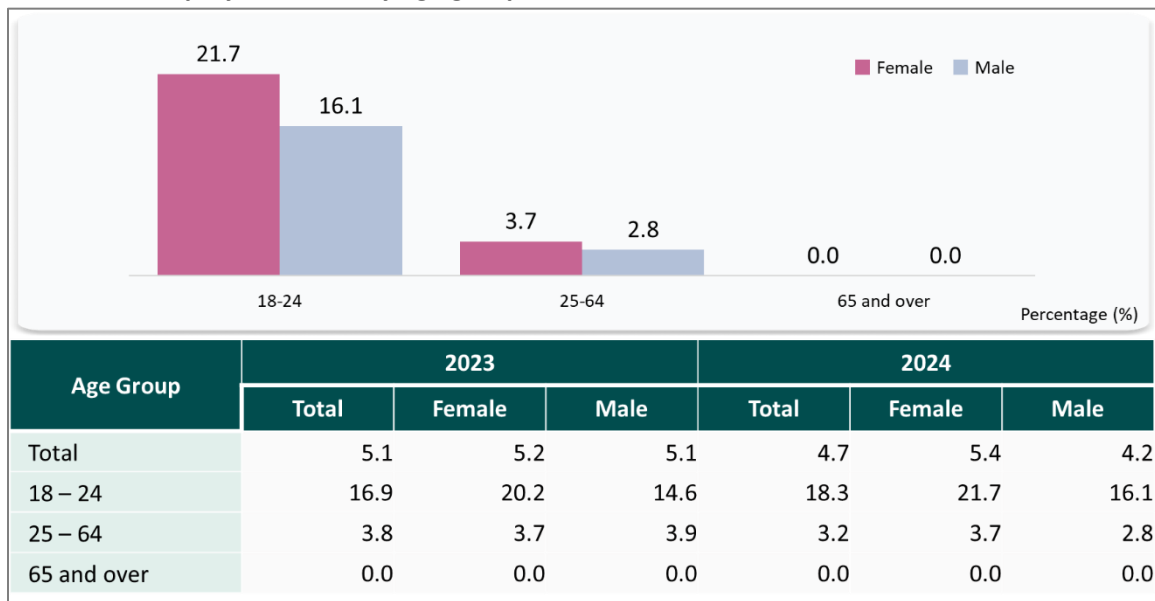
Economic Activity	2023			2024		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
11. Real Estate Activities	1,400 0.6%	400 0.5%	900 0.7%	1,600 0.7%	800 0.9%	800 0.6%
12. Professional, Technical, Administrative and Support Services	15,400 7.1%	4,200 4.9%	11,200 8.6%	15,500 7.0%	5,400 6.1%	10,100 7.6%
13. Public Administration	43,300 20.0%	14,900 17.3%	28,400 21.9%	41,600 18.7%	14,200 16.0%	27,400 20.5%
14. Education	20,000 9.2%	14,500 16.8%	5,400 4.2%	20,400 9.2%	14,300 16.1%	6,100 4.6%
15. Human Health and Social Work Activities	7,800 3.6%	5,400 6.3%	2,300 1.8%	8,800 4.0%	6,200 7.0%	2,600 1.9%
16. Other Service Activities	7,100 3.3%	2,400 2.8%	4,700 3.6%	8,500 3.8%	4,100 4.6%	4,400 3.3%
17. Activities of Households as Employers of Domestic Personnel	9,000 4.2%	7,800 9.0%	1,200 0.9%	8,300 3.7%	7,200 8.1%	1,100 0.8%

Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

3.5 Unemployment Rate (aged 18 years and over)

In 2024, the overall unemployment rate was higher among females, at 5.4 per cent, compared to 4.2 per cent for males (**Table 3.5**). By age group, youth aged 18–24 had the highest unemployment rate, with 21.7 per cent of females and 16.1 per cent males. In contrast, the population aged 25–64 recorded significantly lower unemployment rates, at 3.7 per cent for females and 2.8 per cent for males.

Table 3.5: Unemployment rate by age group and sex, 2024



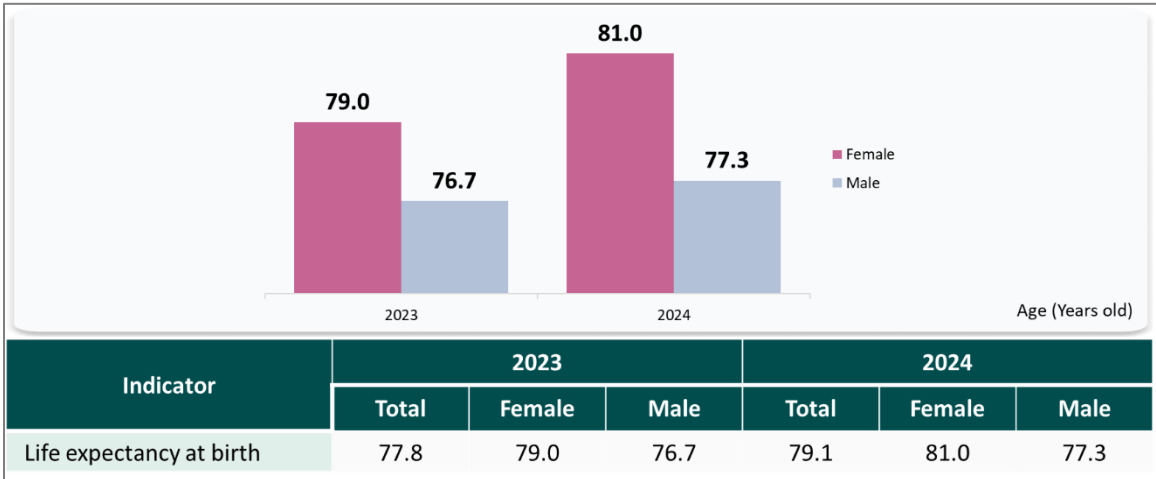
Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

4. Health

4.1 Life Expectancy at Birth

In 2024, females had a higher life expectancy at birth compared to males, at 81.0 years and 77.3 years respectively (**Table 4.1**). This represented an increase of 2.0 years for females and 0.6 years for males compared to 2023.

Table 4.1: Life expectancy at birth by sex, 2024



Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

4.2 Maternal Mortality by Age Group

In 2024, the maternal mortality ratio was recorded at 18.7 deaths per 100,000 live births (**Table 4.2**). This indicator reflects the health and well-being of women during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as the accessibility and quality of maternal healthcare services.

Table 4.2: Maternal mortality, 2024

Indicator	2023	2024
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births)	15.9	18.7

Source:
Ministry of Health

4.3 Infant and Under-5 Mortality

In 2024, male infants experienced a higher mortality rate of 12.7 per 1,000 live births compared to 10.0 per 1,000 for female infants (**Table 4.3**). This pattern continued in the under-five age group, where male children had a mortality rate of 16.0 per 1,000, exceeding the rate for female children, which stood at 11.9 per 1,000.

Table 4.3: Infant and under-5 mortality rate

Indicator	2023			2024		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Infant mortality rate	7.3	7.0	7.6	11.4	10.0	12.7
Under-5 mortality rate	9.1	8.6	9.5	14.0	11.9	16.0

(deaths per 1,000 live births)

Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

Technical Notes

Gender Statistics 2024 of Brunei Darussalam is the first compilation of gender-related data produced by the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (DEPS), Ministry of Finance and Economy. The publication aims to present a statistical overview of gender equality and the socio-economic status of women and men in Brunei Darussalam.

It covers key domains such as population, education, economic activity and health. The statistics are intended to support evidence-based policymaking, gender mainstreaming, and progress monitoring towards national development goals and international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The indicators presented are compiled from multiple sources, including Population and Housing Census 2021, Labour Force Survey, Vital Statistics, as well as administrative data from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

Concepts and Definitions

The following are some concepts and definitions used in this report:

1. Sex Ratio:

The sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females.

2. Literacy:

According to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (United Nations Statistics Division, 2017), literacy has historically been defined as the ability both to read and to write, distinguishing between “literate” and “illiterate” people. A literate person is one who can both read and write, with understanding, a short, simple statement on his or her everyday life. An illiterate person is one who cannot, with understanding, both read and write such a statement.

3. Gross Enrolment Rate:

Gross enrolment rate (GER) is defined as the total number of students enrolled at a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population for that level.

$$\frac{\text{Total enrolment in the education level}}{\text{Population of the official age group for that level}} \times 100$$

A high GER, around 100% or more, indicates that many students are enrolled, including those outside the typical age, showing sufficient school capacity and broad access to education. In contrast, a low GER, below 100%, indicates fewer students are enrolled than expected for that age group, highlighting that many children who should be in school are not, likely due to limited schools, teachers, or other barriers.

School level are categorized as follows:

- Pre-primary education: Pre-School (for Government Schools) and Kindergarten 1, 2 and 3 (for Private Schools)
- Primary education: Year 1 to Year 6
- Secondary education: Year 7 to Year 11
- Post-secondary education: Sixth forms, Diploma Aliyah Qiraat, Technical and Vocational Education and Training and Politeknik Brunei
- Tertiary education: University College, Institute (except Institute Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah) and Universities.

4. Labour Force Participation Rate (%):

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

$$\frac{\text{Labour force}}{\text{Working age population}} \times 100$$

5. 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).

6. Employment status:

Employment status refers to the position of the employed person at his/her place of work with regard to employment characteristics.

a) Employers:

A person who runs a business on his own or in partnership and engages at least one paid employee on a continuous basis in operating the business.

b) Employees:

A person who works in government department, private business enterprises or organizations, including family business, and receives regular pay.

c) Own-account workers:

A person who runs a business on his own or in partnership but does not engage any paid employee.

d) Contributing family workers:

A person who works in his/her family business without receiving any regular pay.

7. 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.

8. Unemployment Rate:

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

$$\frac{\text{Unemployment population}}{\text{Labour force}} \times 100$$

9. Infant Mortality Rate:

The ratio of the number of deaths of infants below one (1) year of age in a given year to the total number of live births in that year, expressed per 1,000 live births.

$$\frac{\text{Number of deaths of infants below 1 year in a year}}{\text{Total live birth in the same year}} \times 1,000$$

10. Under-five Mortality:

The ratio of the number of deaths of children below five (5) years of age in a given year to the total number of live births in that year, expressed per 1,000 live births.

$$\frac{\text{Number of deaths of children below 5 in a year}}{\text{Total live births in the same year}} \times 1,000$$