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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STATISTICS  
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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

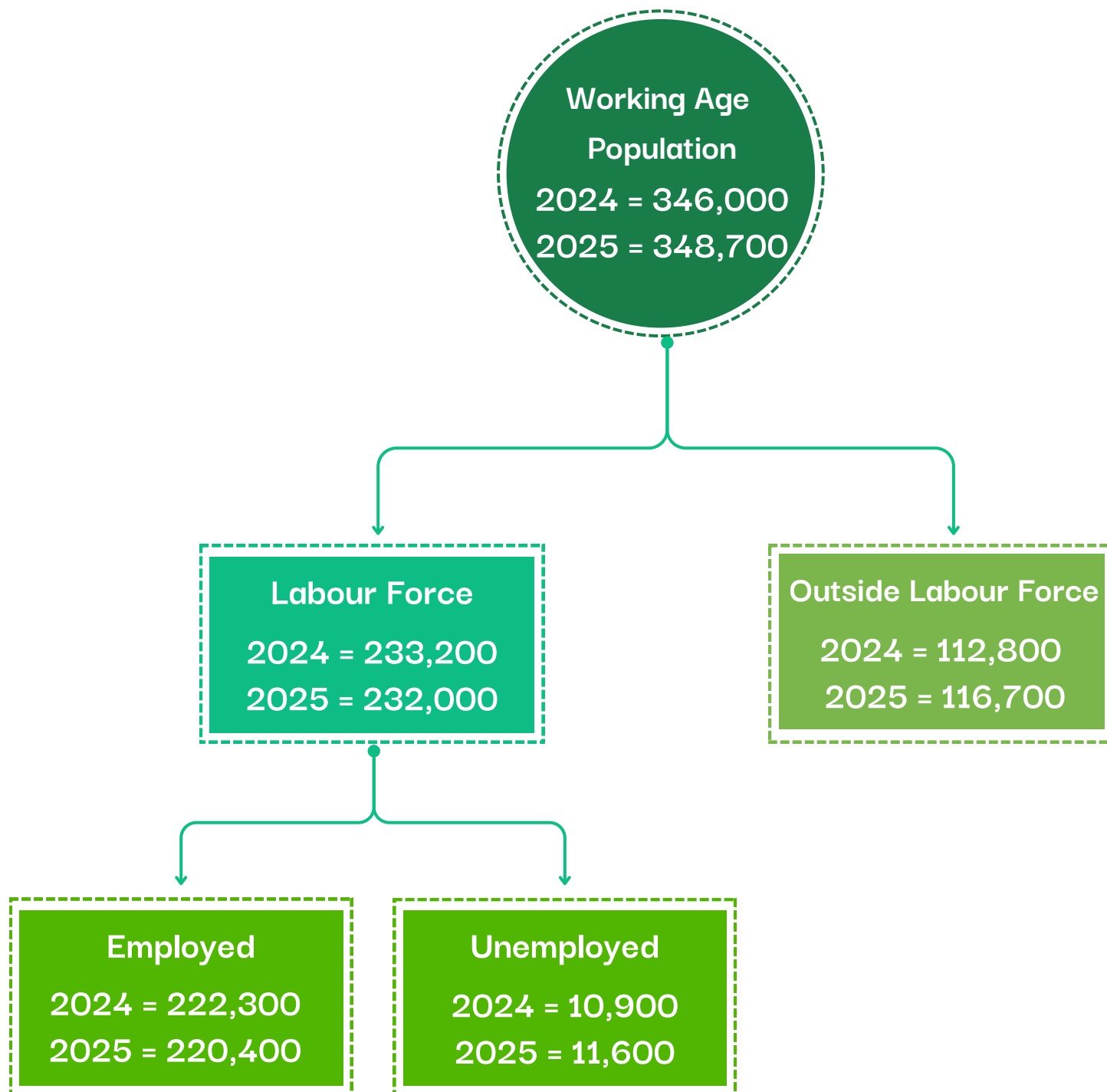
## Preliminary Report of the

# LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2025


# LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2025


## Labour Force Framework, Brunei Darussalam, 2025 Aged 18 years and over

Persons



 **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**  
2024 = 67.4%  
2025 = 66.5%

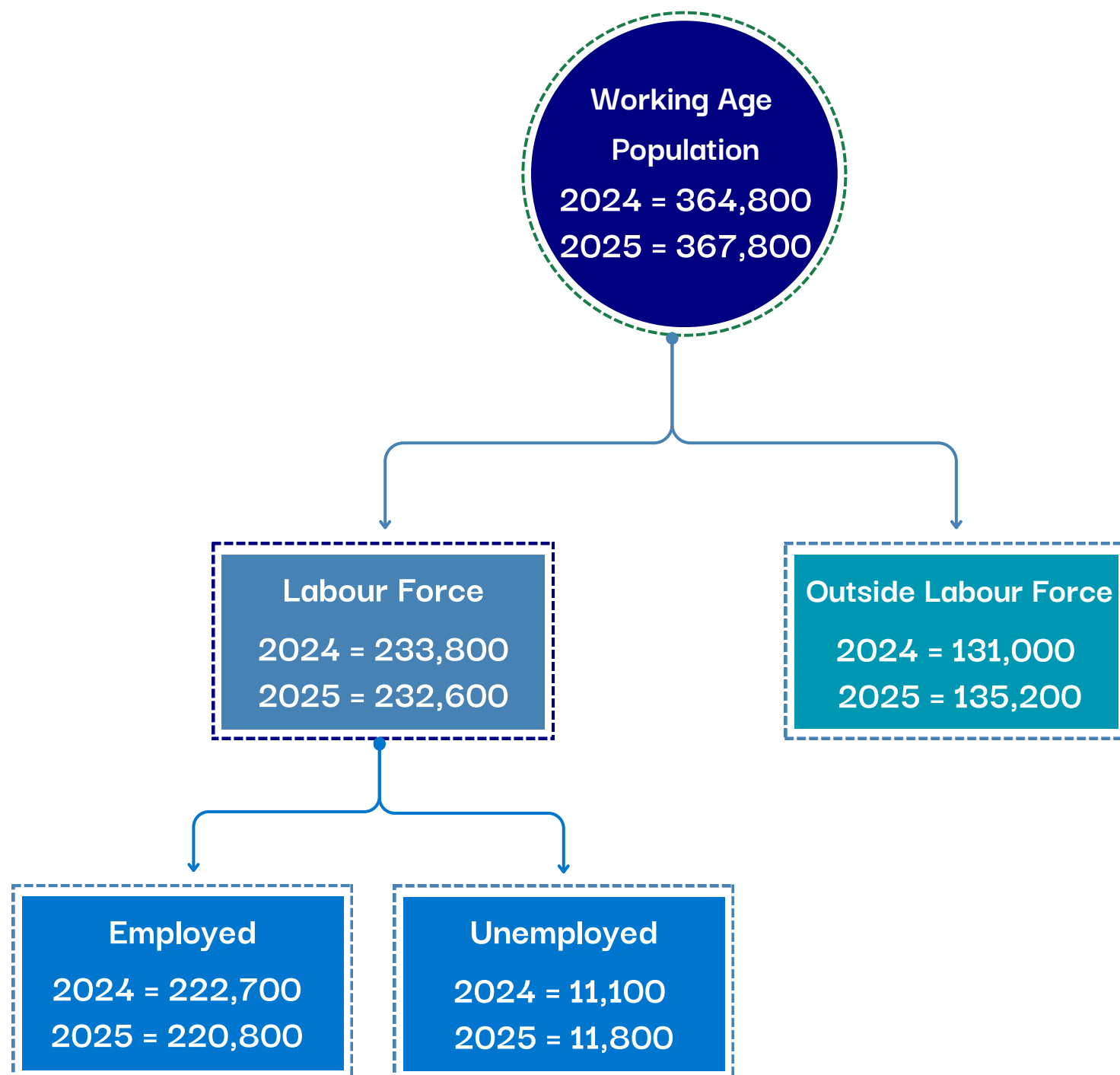
 **Employment to Population Ratio**  
2024 = 64.2%  
2025 = 63.2%


 **Unemployment Rate (UER)**  
2024 = 4.7%  
2025 = 5.0%


# LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2025


## Labour Force Framework, Brunei Darussalam, 2025 Aged 15 years and over

Persons



 **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**  
2024 = 64.1%  
2025 = 63.2%

 **Employment to Population Ratio**  
2024 = 61.0%  
2025 = 60.0%

 **Unemployment Rate (UER)**  
2024 = 4.8%  
2025 = 5.1%

## **Introduction**

The Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (JPES) conducted the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2025 from 3 to 30 November 2025. The main objective of the LFS 2025 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 households using stratified, clustered, and two-stage sampling design. The data from the selected households were extrapolated according to the sampling weights and calibrated to represent the total population living in regular households in Brunei Darussalam.

This **Preliminary Report of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2025** presents the findings of the main indicators of LFS 2025 on economic activity of the population of Brunei Darussalam in 2025, 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 collection and compilation of labour statistics for Brunei Darussalam through the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2025 are in line with the international standards, adopted by the 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians (21st ICLS) in 2023.

More detailed information on the labour force such as employment status, types of economic activity, occupation, employment sector and income from employment will be released in the detailed Report of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2025.

## Key Findings

### Working Age Population and Labour Force

In 2025, the working age population (aged 18 years and over) was 348,700 persons, comprising 187,900 males (53.9 per cent) and 160,800 females (46.1 per cent).

Out of this working age population, 66.5 per cent (232,000 persons) were in the labour force and the remaining 33.5 per cent (116,700 persons) were outside labour force.

The labour force participation rate decreased from 67.4 per cent in 2024 to 66.5 per cent in 2025. This decrease was due to a decrease in the number of employed persons, particularly in the Government sector.

The labour force participation rate for males (74.6 per cent) being higher than females (57.1 per cent) by 17.5 per cent.

### Employed

In 2025, the total number of employed persons decreased by 0.9 per cent (1,900 persons) to 220,400 persons compared to 222,300 persons in 2024.

The employed person in 2025 comprising 134,600 males (61.1 per cent) and 85,800 females (38.9 per cent).

The majority of employed persons were local workers, totaling of 156,300 persons (70.9 per cent), while non-local workers accounted for 64,100 (29.1 per cent).

## **Unemployed**

Out of the total population aged 18 years and over, around 11,600 persons were not working and actively looking for a job (unemployed), consisting of 6,000 females (51.7 per cent) and 5,600 males (48.3 per cent).

The unemployment rate in 2025 was 5.0 per cent compared to 4.7 per cent in 2024. While the youth unemployment rate for persons aged 18 to 24 years old was 18.0 per cent, the rate for females (24.2 per cent) was higher compared to males (14.5 per cent).

## **Outside Labour Force**

The total number of persons in the outside labour force was 116,700 persons, including 47,700 males (40.9 per cent) and 69,000 females (59.1 per cent).

# Technical Notes

## 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, who 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

### 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.

# Appendix Tables

Table 1a: Labour Market Indicator aged 18 years and over by Sex, 2024 and 2025

Labour Market Indicator	2024			2025		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Number</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)</b>	<b>346,000</b>	<b>183,900</b>	<b>162,100</b>	<b>348,700</b>	<b>187,900</b>	<b>160,800</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>233,200</b>	<b>139,500</b>	<b>93,700</b>	<b>232,000</b>	<b>140,200</b>	<b>91,800</b>
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>112,800</b>	<b>44,500</b>	<b>68,300</b>	<b>116,700</b>	<b>47,700</b>	<b>69,000</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>222,300</b>	<b>133,700</b>	<b>88,600</b>	<b>220,400</b>	<b>134,600</b>	<b>85,800</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	19,700	12,500	7,200	20,500	13,600	6,900
25 – 64	198,400	118,600	79,800	196,000	118,500	77,500
65 and over	4,200	2,600	1,600	3,900	2,500	1,400
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>11,600</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	4,400	2,400	2,000	4,500	2,300	2,200
25 – 64	6,500	3,400	3,100	7,100	3,300	3,800
65 and over	0	-	0	-	-	-
<b>Percentage (%)</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>46.1</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>39.6</b>
Labour Force Participation Rate	67.4	75.9	57.8	66.5	74.6	57.1
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>59.1</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>38.9</b>
Employment to Population Ratio	64.2	72.7	54.7	63.2	71.6	53.4
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	8.9	9.3	8.1	9.3	10.1	8.0
25 – 64	89.2	88.7	90.1	88.9	88.0	90.3
65 and over	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.6
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>51.7</b>
Unemployed Rate	4.7	4.2	5.4	5.0	4.0	6.5
Youth Unemployment Rate	18.3	16.1	22.6	18.0	14.5	24.2
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	40.4	41.4	39.2	38.8	41.1	36.7
25 – 64	59.6	58.6	60.8	61.2	58.9	63.3
65 and over	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, 2024 and 2025

Labour Market Indicator	2024			2025		
	Total	Local	Non-local	Total	Local	Non-local
<b>Number</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)</b>	<b>346,000</b>	<b>272,500</b>	<b>73,500</b>	<b>348,700</b>	<b>276,500</b>	<b>72,200</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>233,200</b>	<b>169,100</b>	<b>64,100</b>	<b>232,000</b>	<b>167,800</b>	<b>64,200</b>
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>112,800</b>	<b>103,400</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>116,700</b>	<b>108,700</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>222,300</b>	<b>158,400</b>	<b>63,900</b>	<b>220,400</b>	<b>156,300</b>	<b>64,100</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	19,700	14,700	5,000	20,500	16,300	4,200
25 – 64	198,400	140,200	58,200	196,000	136,800	59,200
65 and over	4,200	3,500	700	3,900	3,300	600
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>11,600</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>100</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	4,400	4,300	100	4,500	4,500	-
25 – 64	6,500	6,400	100	7,100	7,000	100
65 and over	0	0	-	-	-	-
<b>Percentage (%)</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>20.7</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>27.7</b>
Labour Force Participation Rate	67.4	62.1	87.2	66.5	60.7	88.9
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>93.1</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>29.1</b>
Employment to Population Ratio	64.2	58.1	86.9	63.2	56.5	88.8
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	8.9	9.3	7.8	9.3	10.4	6.6
25 – 64	89.2	88.5	91.1	88.9	87.5	92.4
65 and over	1.9	2.2	1.1	1.8	2.1	0.9
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>98.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Unemployed Rate	4.7	6.3	0.3	5.0	6.9	0.2
Youth Unemployment Rate	18.3	22.6	2.0	18.0	21.6	-
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	40.4	40.2	50.0	38.8	39.1	-
25 – 64	59.6	59.8	50.0	61.2	60.9	100.0
65 and over	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, 2024 and 2025**

Labour Market Indicator	2024			2025		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Number</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)</b>	<b>364,800</b>	<b>194,000</b>	<b>170,800</b>	<b>367,800</b>	<b>198,000</b>	<b>169,800</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>233,800</b>	<b>139,700</b>	<b>94,100</b>	<b>232,600</b>	<b>140,600</b>	<b>92,000</b>
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>131,000</b>	<b>54,300</b>	<b>76,700</b>	<b>135,200</b>	<b>57,400</b>	<b>77,800</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>222,700</b>	<b>133,800</b>	<b>88,900</b>	<b>220,800</b>	<b>134,800</b>	<b>86,000</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	20,100	12,600	7,500	20,900	13,800	7,100
25 – 64	198,400	118,600	79,800	196,000	118,500	77,500
65 and over	4,200	2,600	1,600	3,900	2,500	1,400
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>11,100</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	4,600	2,500	2,200	4,700	2,500	2,200
25 – 64	6,500	3,400	3,100	7,100	3,300	3,800
65 and over	0	-	0	-	-	-
<b>Percentage (%)</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>46.2</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>39.6</b>
Labour Force Participation Rate	64.1	72.0	55.1	63.2	71.0	54.2
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>57.5</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>38.9</b>
Employment to Population Ratio	61.0	69.0	52.0	60.0	68.1	50.6
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	9.0	9.4	8.4	9.5	10.2	8.3
25 – 64	89.1	88.6	89.8	88.8	87.9	90.1
65 and over	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.6
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>50.8</b>
Unemployed Rate	4.8	4.2	5.5	5.1	4.1	6.5
Youth Unemployment Rate	18.5	16.6	22.7	18.4	15.3	23.7
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	41.4	42.4	42.3	39.8	43.1	36.7
25 – 64	58.6	57.6	59.6	60.2	56.9	63.3
65 and over	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, 2024 and 2025**

Labour Market Indicator	2024			2025		
	Total	Local	Non-local	Total	Local	Non-local
<b>Number</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)</b>	<b>364,800</b>	<b>289,500</b>	<b>75,300</b>	<b>367,800</b>	<b>295,000</b>	<b>72,800</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>233,800</b>	<b>169,800</b>	<b>64,100</b>	<b>232,600</b>	<b>168,400</b>	<b>64,200</b>
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>131,000</b>	<b>119,700</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>135,200</b>	<b>126,600</b>	<b>8,600</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>222,700</b>	<b>158,800</b>	<b>63,900</b>	<b>220,800</b>	<b>156,700</b>	<b>64,100</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	20,100	15,100	5,000	20,900	16,700	4,200
25 – 64	198,400	140,200	58,200	196,000	136,800	59,200
65 and over	4,200	3,500	700	3,900	3,300	600
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>11,100</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>100</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	4,600	4,500	100	4,700	4,700	-
25 – 64	6,500	6,400	100	7,100	7,000	100
65 and over	0	0	-	-	-	-
<b>Percentage (%)</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>79.4</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>19.8</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>27.6</b>
Labour Force Participation Rate	64.1	58.7	85.1	63.2	57.1	88.2
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>91.4</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>29.0</b>
Employment to Population Ratio	61.0	54.9	84.9	60.0	53.1	88.0
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	9.0	9.5	7.8	9.5	10.7	6.6
25 – 64	89.1	88.3	91.1	88.8	87.3	92.4
65 and over	1.9	2.2	1.1	1.8	2.1	0.9
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>98.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Unemployed Rate	4.8	6.4	0.3	5.1	6.9	0.2
Youth Unemployment Rate	18.5	23.0	2.0	18.4	22.0	-
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	41.4	41.3	50.0	39.8	40.2	-
25 – 64	58.6	58.7	50.0	60.2	59.8	100.0
65 and over	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-

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

Notations:

- Nil

0 Below Unit