



BAHAMAS NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

PRESS RELEASE

Preliminary Results Labour Force Survey

Third Quarter 2023

In February 2016, the Government of the Bahamas signed a loan with the Inter-American Development Bank for \$33million to fund the Public Financial Management/Performance Monitoring Reform project (PFM/PMR) which focused on institutional strengthening.

Component II “National Statistics” of this Project was tasked with the responsibility of enhancing the production of quality statistics in key data producing agencies in order to improve the institutional capacity to plan, budget, monitor and evaluate priority projects and programs.

It was the Government’s objective to “Strengthen the country’s statistical capacity to produce high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data to support effective policy and decision-making and to ensure the continuous review of the country’s progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”. Thus the demand for more timely data.

In an effort to meet this demand, the Bahamas National Statistical Institute (BNSI) has embarked upon an initiative to produce a number of quarterly statistical series of which the conduct of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) to produce quarterly estimates is the latest in these series.

As a result, the Labour Force Survey has transitioned from a bi-annual survey to a quarterly one. This new method will provide quarterly and annual estimates on employment, unemployment, underemployment, and the informal sector by multiple demographic characteristics.

The data presented here today represents a **NEW SERIES** with a **NEW SURVEY DESIGN** beginning with July 2023. Hence, it should be noted that this new series is **NOT COMPARABLE** to previous surveys. Further, quarterly estimates tend to be cyclical, based on timing and seasonality as the year progresses. Today we are pleased to release estimates for the last two quarters of 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

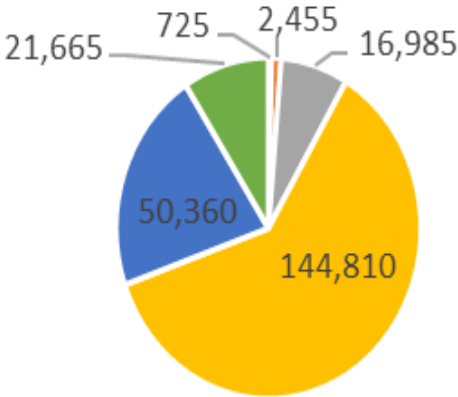
In third quarter 2023 (July to September), there were 212,285 employed persons of which **'Service Workers & Shop Market Sales Workers'** and **'Professionals, Science and Engineering Professionals were among -** the largest occupational groups. Further, **'Community, Social & Personal Services'** and **'Hotel and Restaurants'** were among the largest industrial groups. The unemployment rate for the third quarter 2023 was 10.4 per cent with **[CV=7.5%]**.

THE LABOUR FORCE

In third quarter 2023, there were 237,000 persons in the **Labour Force**, 118,355 males and 118,645 females. Youth accounted for 19 percent (45,695) of the labour force.

Further, when examined by age group, the results of the survey indicated that approximately one quarter (25 percent) of the labour force is made up of persons between the ages of 25-34 years (**table ii**). The data pertaining to Educational Attainment (**table iii**) show that sixty-one percent of the labour force completed secondary school, one percent had schooling only to primary level or none at all, while 21 percent had completed university. Of the 237,000 persons in the labour force, 22 percent obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, while 24 percent had no qualifications. (**table iv**).

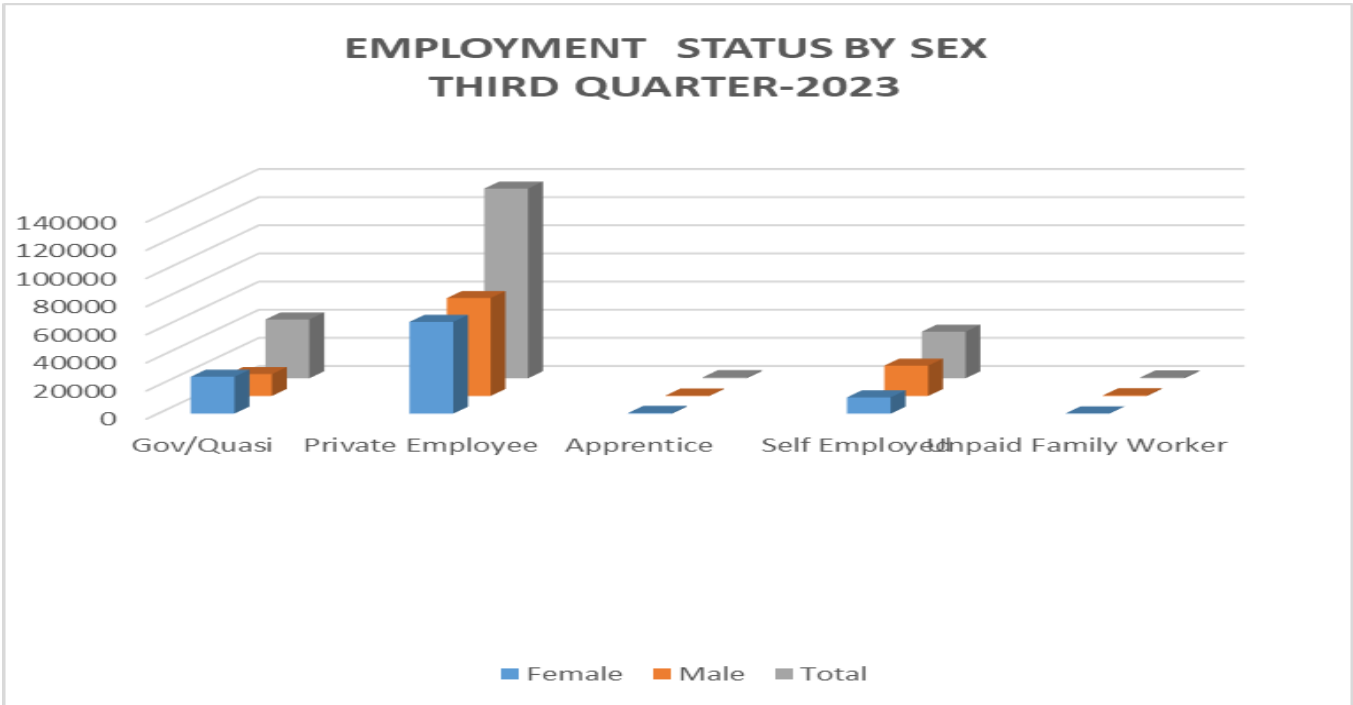
LABOUR FORCE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT THIRD QUARTER-2023



- NO SCHOOLING
- INCOMPLETE SECONDARY
- UNIVERSITY
- PRIMARY
- COMPLETE SECONDARY
- OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTION

The Employed Labour Force

Of the 212,285 persons employed in the third quarter 2023, 107,980 were males and 104,305 were females. (**table I**) When examined by employment status, (**table v**) almost two-thirds (64%) were engaged in the private sector, while 19% were government/quasi employees. Additionally, the percentage of self-employed persons (with and without employees) was highest in Abaco (25%). Interestingly, men dominated the self-employed category on all islands.



The '**Community, Social & Personal Services**' industrial group (**table vi**) which includes the public service, police service and domestic service continues to account for the largest share (37%) of the workforce, while the '**Hotel and Restaurants**' industrial group accounted for (20%).

When examined by occupational group (**table vii**), almost one third (30%) of the employed are in the '**Service Workers & Shop Market Sales Workers**' of which 24,985 were males and 38,805 were females. Additionally, **Professionals, Science and Engineering Professionals**' accounted for 19 percent of employed persons.

The Unemployed Labour Force

In the third quarter, there were 24,715 unemployed persons in the country resulting in a national unemployment rate of 10.4%.

(**table i**) In New Providence, the rate was 9.7%, Grand Bahama 11.5%, Abaco 9.2. Overall, when examined by sex, the unemployment rate was higher (11.9%) for women compared to 9.0% for men. The youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate was 22.8 percent, with males representing 17.4 percent and females 27.9 percent

Nationwide, for the unemployed persons that had completed secondary school (**table iii**), there was a slight difference in the proportion of males (78%) versus females (74%). Additionally, for those who had **not** completed secondary school, the percentage of unemployed males was also higher (11%) than that of females (10%). Conversely, for those who had completed university, the proportion of unemployed females (12%) was higher than those for males (8%).

Discouraged Workers

The number of discouraged workers (**table viii**) in the country is recorded as **10,880**. New Providence **7,610**, Grand Bahama **985** and Abaco **475**. This category of persons are persons **without** work and are **available** for work, yet they were not **actively** seeking work because they are not hopeful about their prospects of finding work.

THE LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES AND SAMPLING ERRORS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

THIRD QUARTER-2023

| Island and Sex | Unemployment Rate | Standard Error | 95% Confidence Interval | 95% Confidence Interval | Coefficient of Variation (%) |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| All Bahamas | 10.4 | 0.81 | 9.20 | 12.4 | 7.50 |
| Women | 11.9 | 0.89 | 10.47 | 14.0 | 7.30 |
| Men | 9.0 | 1.11 | 7.19 | 11.6 | 11.9 |
| New Providence | 9.7 | 0.66 | 8.45 | 11.0 | 6.70 |
| Women | 11.0 | 1.02 | 9.03 | 13.1 | 9.20 |
| Men | 8.4 | 0.91 | 7.03 | 9.6 | 10.8 |
| Grand Bahama | 11.5 | 0.95 | 11.40 | 15.3 | 7.03 |
| Women | 14.7 | 1.63 | 13.27 | 19.7 | 9.8 |
| Men | 8.3 | 1.31 | 7.92 | 13.08 | 12.4 |
| Abaco | 9.2 | 2.00 | 8.53 | 16.4 | 16.1 |
| Women | 12.5 | 3.20 | 10.29 | 22.9 | 19.2 |
| Men | 6.9 | 2.08 | 5.55 | 13.7 | 21.5 |

**THE LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES AND SAMPLING ERRORS FOR
PARTICIPATION RATES -QUARTER THREE**

| Island and Sex | Estimate | Standard Error | 95% Confidence Interval | 95% Confidence Interval | Coefficient of Variation (%) |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| All Bahamas | 77.1 | 1.08 | 74.94 | 79.2 | 1.39 |
| Women | 73.4 | 1.26 | 70.96 | 75.9 | 1.72 |
| Men | 81.0 | 1.11 | 78.86 | 83.2 | 1.37 |
| New Providence | 77.8 | 0.80 | 76.23 | 79.4 | 1.03 |
| Women | 74.9 | 1.06 | 72.84 | 77.0 | 1.41 |
| Men | 81.0 | 1.08 | 78.93 | 83.2 | 1.33 |
| Grand Bahama | 74.2 | 1.21 | 71.82 | 76.6 | 1.64 |
| Women | 70.2 | 1.71 | 66.81 | 73.5 | 2.43 |
| Men | 78.7 | 1.54 | 75.64 | 81.71 | 1.96 |
| Abaco | 78.3 | 1.70 | 74.93 | 81.6 | 2.17 |
| Women | 70.1 | 2.38 | 65.40 | 74.8 | 3.39 |
| Men | 85.1 | 1.71 | 81.74 | 88.5 | 2.01 |