



Labour Force Survey 2019 Annual Statistical Report



Saint Lucia Central Statistical Office



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Information contained in this report is derived from the results of quarterly Household Labour Force Surveys conducted from January to December 2019 and is aimed at providing information about the level of participation of household members in the labour force and the size of the labour force, aged 15 years or above, engaged in economic activities. It is the collated responses of a sample of households interviewed during this period and not the opinion of the Central Statistical Office. Results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures.



INTRODUCTION

The 2019 Labour Force Surveys (LFSs) collected information on the socio-economic characteristics of the sampled population (covering the ten districts of Saint Lucia) and its activity status at the household level for the period 2019. The Saint Lucia Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly survey implemented by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) that produces both quarterly and annual tabulations, in addition to reports. This annual release analyzes the labour market changing circumstances according to the statistical data collected and highlights the key findings on six (6) key labour market indicators, namely; the labour force, unemployment, youth unemployment, employment, time related under-employment and labour force participation rate.

The main focus of this basic report is to provide statistical information on the 2019 LFS, however, in some instances the indicators are also presented over a five-year time series on both national and district levels. This time series data provides a basis for monitoring trends in the economy and the labour market situation in Saint Lucia.

The Labour Force Survey covers the following:

1. The currently active population, also referred to as the labour force, consists of the employed and the unemployed categories. This gives the number of people comprising the labour force for a specified period.
2. The inactive population covers those members of the population who are not available for work including full-time students, retired persons, homemakers and the incapacitated (disable) i.e. persons outside of the labour force.



MAIN LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

Table 1 below provides a statistical snapshot of the main labour market indicators during the period 2015 to 2019.¹

Table 1: Labour Market Main Indicators, 2015-2019

indicators, Annual 2015-2019	Annual 2015	Annual 2016	Annual 2017	Annual 2018	Annual 2019	% Change 2018-2019
Working-age population ('000s)	140,680	143,636	143,334	142,800	142,257	1
Labour force ('000s)	101,608	104,625	102,364	102,006	100,976	1
Labour force participation rate	72.2	72.8	71.4	71.4	71.0	0.5
Employment ('000s)	77,131	82,379	81,718	81,417	83,977	-3
Employment-to-population ratio	54.8	54.8	54.8	57.0	59.0	-2.0
Unemployment ('000s)	24,477	22,246	20,646	20,589.3	16,998.5	3.6
Unemployment rate (%)	24.1	21.3	20.2	20.2	16.8	3.4
Time-related underemployed	2,810	2,706	1,453	1,519.9	1,056.7	0.5
Time-related underemployment as a share of labour force (%)	2.8	2.6	1.4	1.5	1.0	0.4
Youth unemployment ('000s)	12,126	11,020	10,966	9,826.9	7,876.0	2.0
Youth unemployment rate (%)	41.0	38.4	38.5	36.3	31.6	4.7

Note: Changes shown between years Annual 2019 and Annual 2018

Source: Central Statistical Office

LABOUR FORCE

In 2019, St. Lucia recorded 142,257 persons in the working age population. As shown in Figure 1, 100,976 persons were in the labour force of which 52.2% were females and 47.8% males. This resulted in a labour force participation rate (LFPR) of 71% (Figure 2) which reflects the section of the population who were currently employed or seeking employment. There was a decrease of 0.5 percentage points of LFPR from 2018 to 2019. Saint Lucia experienced its highest LFPR in 2016 and the lowest in 2019.

In 2019, out of the working age population, i.e. aged fifteen years and above, 28.8% were economically inactive. An analysis of the data by sex shows that out of the total inactive 32.8% were female and 24.7% were males respectively.

¹See the Central Statistical Office website (www.stats.govt.lc) for more Labour Market Indicators

Figure 1: Annual Labour Force 2015-2019

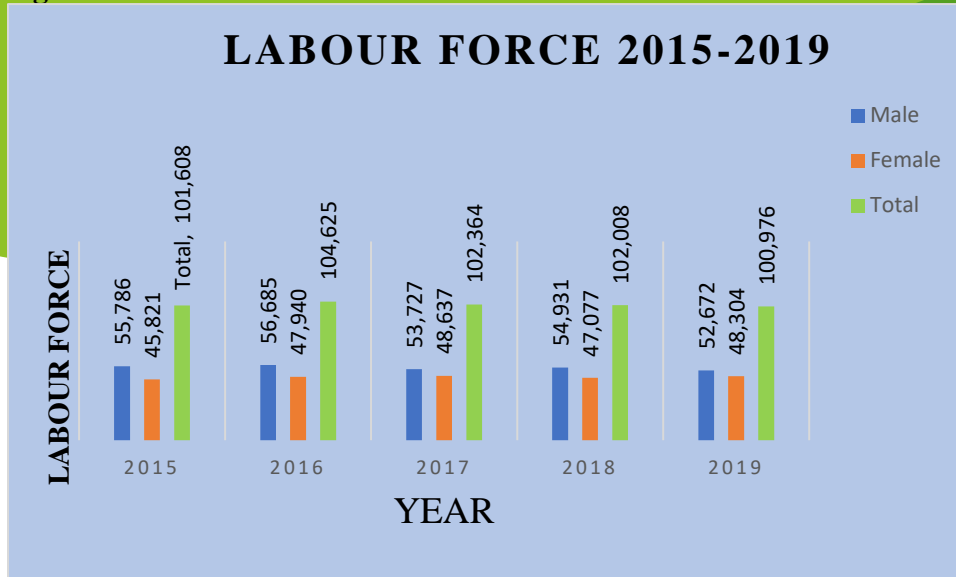


Figure 2: Labour Force Participation Rate 2015-2019





EMPLOYMENT

Figure 3: Annual Employment 2015-2019



The overall employment to population ratio (the proportion of the country's working-age population that is employed in the country) increased to 59.0% in 2019, from 57.0% in 2018 as recorded in Figure 3. The age cohort "45-49" reported the highest proportion (12.4%) of employed persons. During the periods 2016 to 2018, employment figures were relatively constant whereas from 2015 to 2016 there was a significant growth as outlined in Figure 3. Of the 83,977 persons employed in 2019, 5% were reported as vulnerable employment.

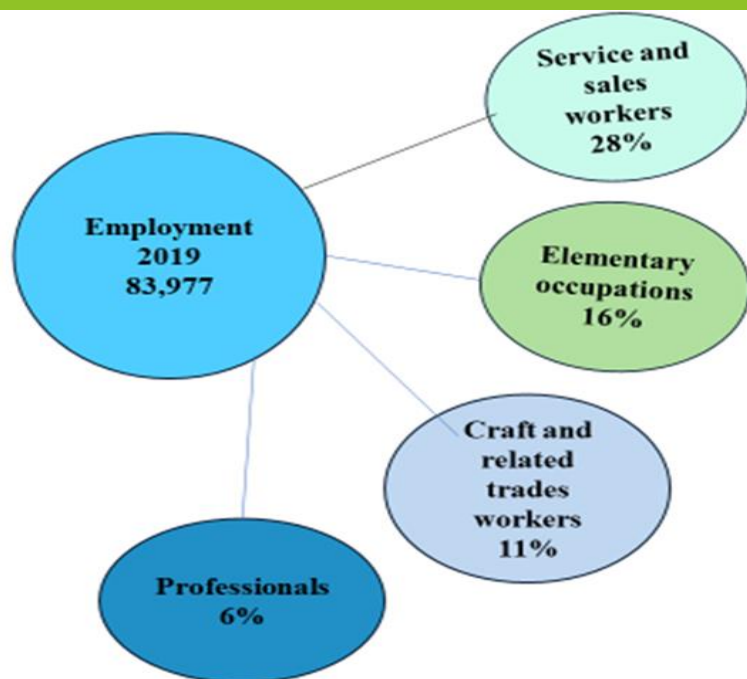
The data revealed the top five concentration of employment were in "Service and Sales workers", "Elementary Occupations", "Craft and related trade workers and Professionals" as outlined in figure 4. The highest proportion of people (77.7%) worked between "40 – 48" hours per week as illustrated in table 2.

Overall, 37.8% of the total labour force reported upper secondary school (Forms 4 & 5) level of education as the highest educational level attained, followed by Pre-primary/Primary level of education, which accounted for 36.3%. Persons with Tertiary (University) level education accounted for 9.4% of the labour force.

Table 2: Employment by hours of work per week and age group

Employment by hours of work ('000s)	HOURS						Total
	<25	25-34	35-39	40-48	49-59	>=60	
15-24	0.2	0.1	0.1	7.6	0.2	0.2	8.7
25-34	0.3	0.2	0.4	14.0	0.8	0.4	16.3
35-44	0.7	0.3	0.8	15.2	0.6	0.7	18.5
45-54	0.7	0.9	1.2	15.6	1.3	0.9	20.7
55-64	0.8	0.8	1.4	9.2	0.7	0.7	13.8
65+	1.0	0.6	1.1	2.7	0.3	0.1	6.0
15+	3.6	2.9	5.0	64.3	3.8	3.1	84.0

Figure 4: Annual Employment by Occupation 2015-2019



Time-Related Under-Employment: The 2019 LFS results revealed that 1.3% of the employed persons in the working age population were under-employed. In 2019, 62% of employed persons contributed to the National Insurance Corporation (social security), however, there was a slight decline of 0.6 percentage points from the previous year of 2018.

Table 3: Underemployment as a share of total employment, 2019

AGE	Underemployment As A Share Of Total Employment (%)2019		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
15-24	2.0	0.0	1.1
25-34	0.8	1.1	0.9
35-44	0.6	0.4	0.5
45-54	1.5	2.6	2.0
55-64	2.2	1.5	1.9
65+	0.9	0.0	0.6
15+	1.3	1.2	1.3

Table 3 illustrates females within the age group 45 to 54 years recorded the highest share of underemployment at 2.6%, while females of age groups 15-24 recorded the lowest share of underemployment at 0.0%.

Figure 5: Wages by Occupation & Sex 2019

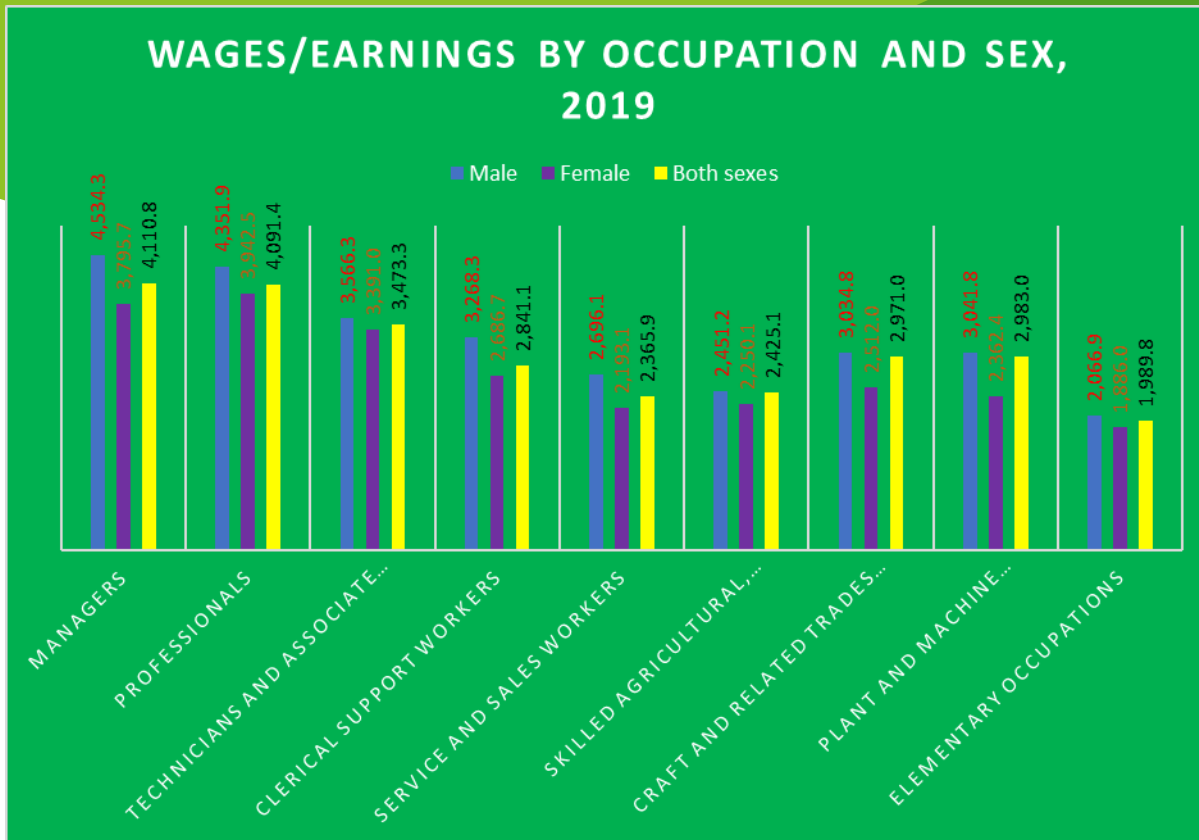
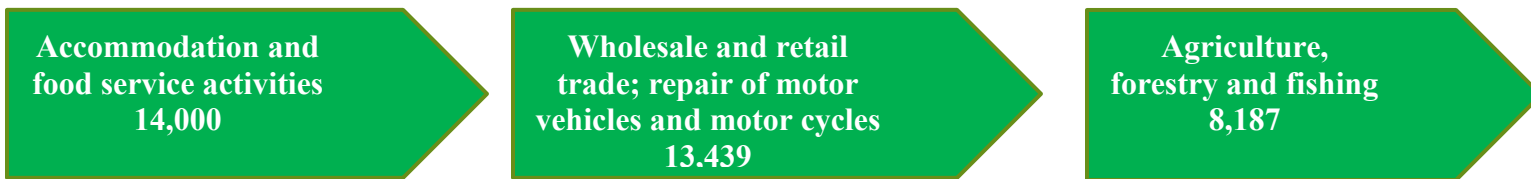


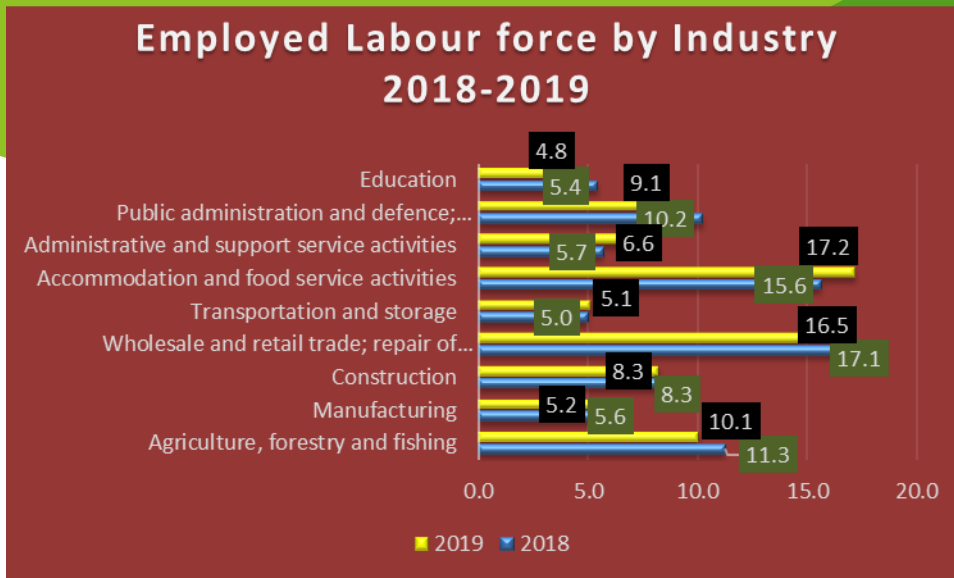
Figure 5 provides information on the earnings of persons by occupation and sex. Observably, during the period under review (2019), figure 5 shows that wages for all occupational categories are higher for males than females. The highest wage/earnings were recorded by managers and professionals.

Figure 6: Employment by Industry (top three categories)



Approximately 16.7% of the workforce was classified as persons employed in “Accommodation & Food Service Activities” followed by “Wholesale and Retail Trade”, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles” and “Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing”. Figure 7 below outlines the top nine industries that accounts for the labour market.

Figure7: Annual Employment by Industry 2018 - 2019



UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate is usually classified as the most commonly used statistical indicator of the labour market. Unemployment is defined as when an individual 15+ who is not in paid employment during the reference week but is available and seeking employment. It is defined as:

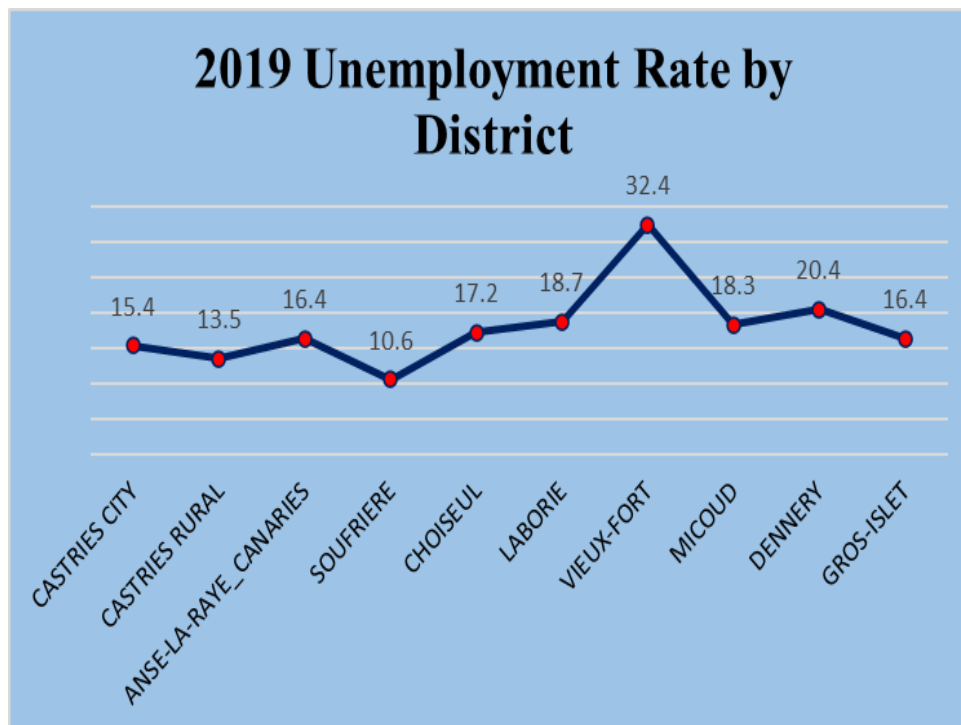
$$\text{Unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Number Unemployed}}{\text{Labour Force}} * 100$$

The Labour Force Surveys of 2019 revealed an overall 16.8% unemployment rate, i.e. 16,998 unemployed persons in 2019. The largest share of the unemployment rate was recorded in the age range/cohort “15 – 24” years at 32.3%. Female unemployment rate was at 18.9% whereas male unemployment was at 14.9%. Approximately 76% of the unemployed were aged below 44 years. Figure 8 below depicts the annual unemployment rate for the past five years and portrays a descending trend in unemployment rate of 24.1% to 16.8% from 2015 to 2019 respectively. The data also outline unemployment for the period 2017 to 2018 remaining stable. The district of Vieux-Fort recorded 32.4% unemployment rate, this was the highest followed by Dennery and Laborie with 20.4% and 18.7% respectively.

Figure 8: Annual Unemployment Rate 2015 - 2019



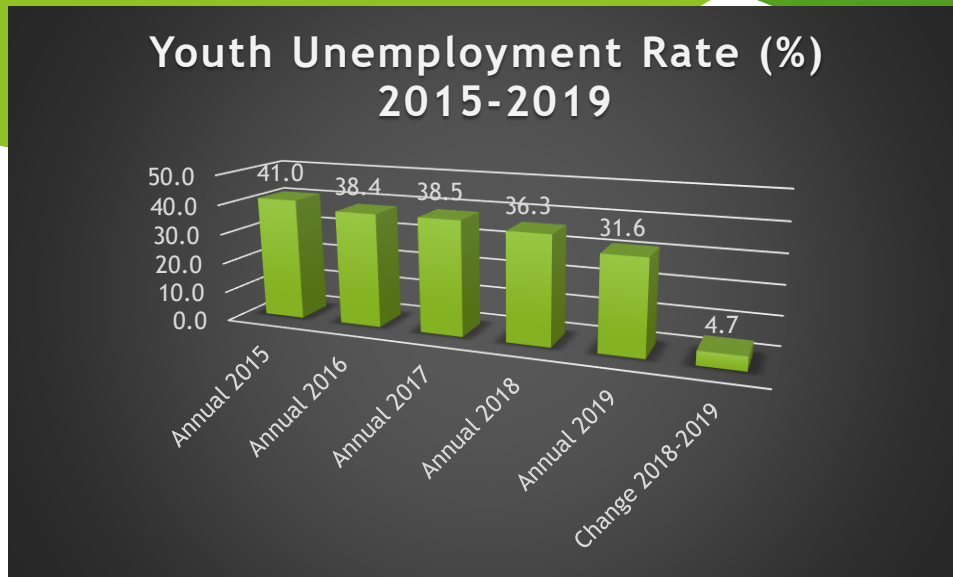
Figure 9: Unemployment Rate by District 2019





YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Figure 10: Annual Unemployment Rate 2015 - 2019



Over the past five years, the youth unemployment rate has shown a similar downward trend as the national unemployment rate. For the time series under review, the youth unemployment recorded the highest rate in 2015 and the lowest in 2019 of 41 % and 31.6 % respectively. The

survey indicated a change of 4.7% in youth unemployment from the period 2018 to 2019. Figure 11 below illustrates that the highest proportion (78%) of unemployed youth attained upper secondary school education followed post-secondary education at 10%.

Figure 11: Youth Unemployment by Educational Attainment 2019

