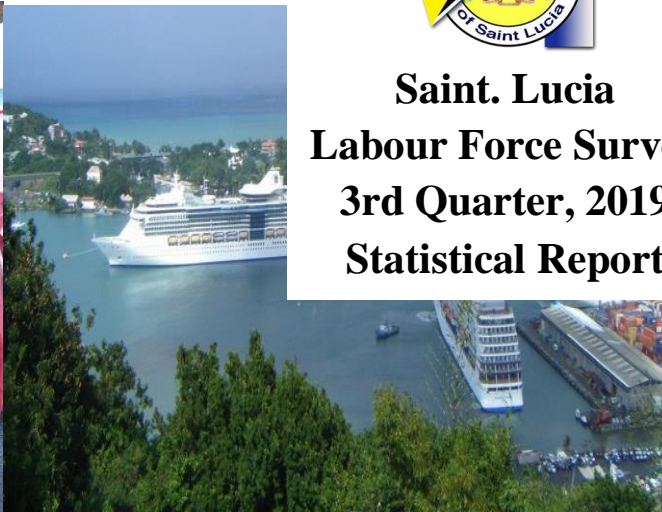




**Saint. Lucia  
Labour Force Survey  
3rd Quarter, 2019  
Statistical Report**



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# CONTENTS

Labour Force.....	3
Unemployment.....	3
Youth Unemployment.....	4
Employment.....	6
Labour Market Statistical Snapshot.....	9
Labour Force Participation Rate.....	10

Information contained in this report is the result of a Household Labour Force Survey conducted during the third quarter of 2019 from July to Sept 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 Statistics Department. Results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures.

*This quarterly release analyses the labour market situation according to the statistical data and highlights the key findings*

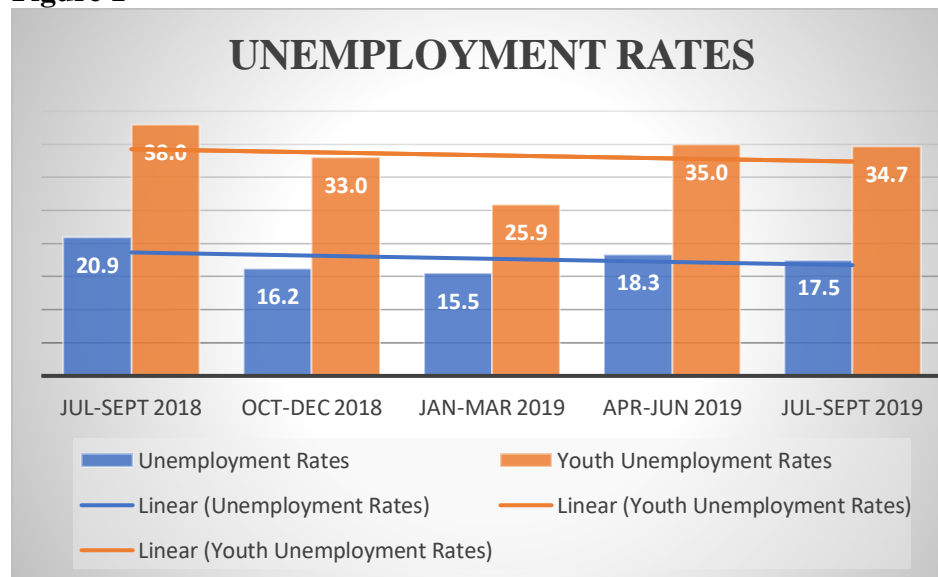


## **LABOUR FORCE**

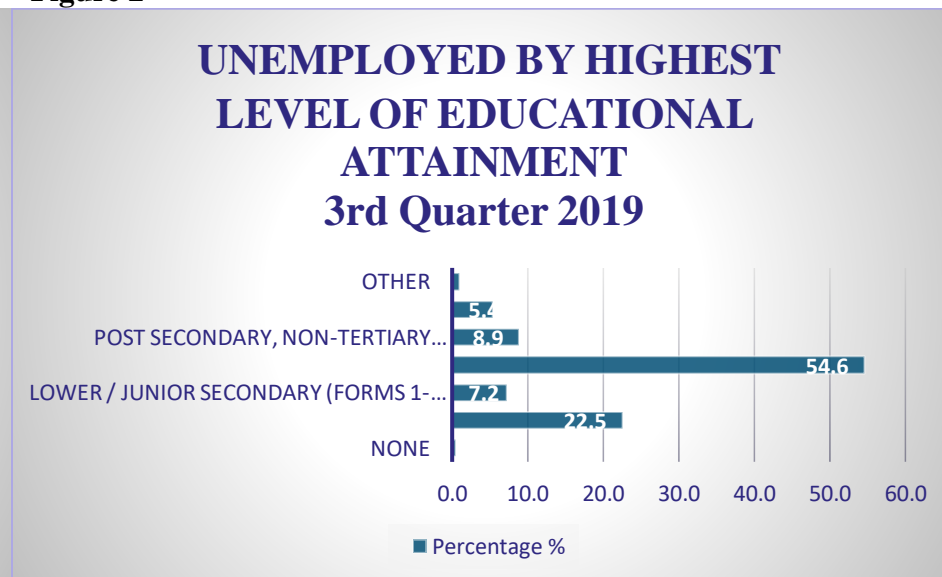
The results of the 2019 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter labour force survey revealed that 70 % (99,536) of the total working age population (142,068) are in the labour force<sup>1</sup>. Out of which, 82,076 are employed, 17,460 are unemployed and the remaining 42,533 are not in the labour force.

## **UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**



The Unemployment rate in the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) quarter of 2019 stood at 17.5% indicating that for approximately every 6 persons in the labour market, one is unemployed. The results represent a decline of 0.8% when compared to the 18.3% recorded for the second quarter of 2019 and a decline of 3.4% for the same time period (third quarter) of 2018. Importantly, this reported trend stayed within the range of +/-2.5% observed in the last three quarters. The unemployment rate was higher among females (9.6%) than among males (7.9%). St. Lucia recorded its highest (20.9%) and lowest (15.5%) unemployment rates during the periods Jul-Sept 2018 and Jan-Mar 2019 respectively. The surveys of 2018 and 2019 showed a decreasing linear pattern among the quarters. In terms of educational attainment, as depicted in Table 1 below, unemployment was at its highest in persons whose highest

<sup>1</sup> As defined in international standards (19th ICLS, 2013), the labour force captures those persons of working age who are actively engaged in the labour market.

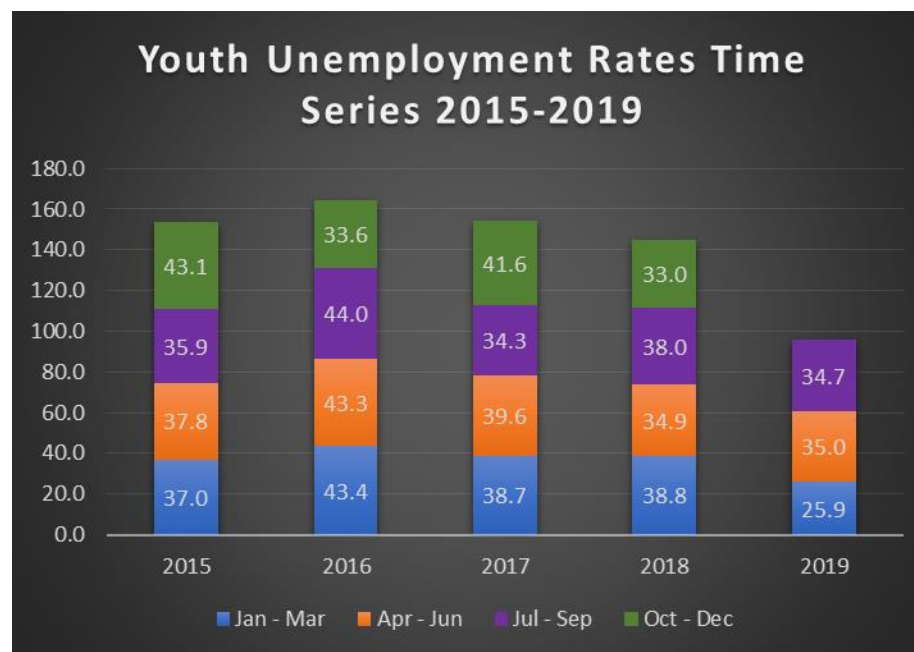
educational attainment was secondary education (54.6%) followed by primary education (22.5%). The lowest representation was with persons having no form of educational attainment.

## **YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**

Table: 1

<b>Educational Attainment</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
None	0.5
Pre-primary (Infant) or Primary	22.5
Lower / Junior Secondary (Forms 1-3) / Senior Primary	7.2
Upper Secondary (Forms 4 & 5)	54.6
Post-Secondary, non-tertiary (diploma or associate degree)	8.9
Tertiary (University)	5.4
Other	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure: 3



Youth Unemployment also experienced a slight decline of 0.4% for the period under review (third quarter 2019) compared to the previous quarter (second quarter 2019). An analysis of the changes recorded in the youth unemployment rates between the period in question i.e. Jul – Sept 2019 and the corresponding period Jul – Sept 2018 revealed a 3.3% decrease. The Youth unemployment reflected its highest rate at (38.8%) and lowest (25.9%) during the period Jul-Sept 2018 and Jan-Mar 2019 respectively as illustrated in figure 3.

Table: 2

3rd Quarter 2018 -YOUTH ESTIMATES BY SEX			
GROUP	Sex Of Person		Total
	Male	Female	Count
	Count	Count	
EST Population	20480	16932	37412
Labour Force	14902	12766	27668
Employment	9308	7849	17157
Unemployment	5594	4917	10511
Unemployment Rate	37.5	38.5	38.0

3rd Quarter 2019 -YOUTH ESTIMATES BY SEX			
GROUP	Sex Of Person		Total
	Male	Female	Count
	Count	Count	
EST Population	19377	15414	34790
Labour Force	13429	10037	23467
Employment	8883	6451	15334
Unemployment	4547	3586	8133
Unemployment Rate	33.9	35.7	34.7

YOUTH STATISTICS - CHANGES: 3rd Qtr. 2018 -3rd Qtr. 2019			
GROUP	Sex Of Person		Total
	Male	Female	Count %
	Count %	Count %	
EST Population	-5.4	-9.0	-7.0
Labour Force	-9.9	-21.4	-15.2
Employment	-4.6	-17.8	-10.6
Unemployment	-18.7	-27.1	-10.6
Unemployment Rate	-9.7	-7.3	-8.7

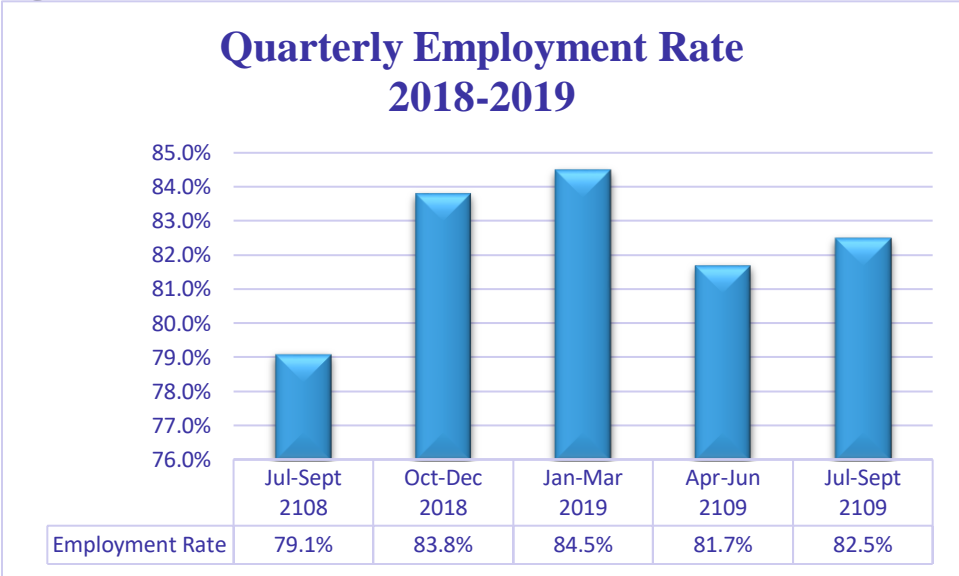
**Source: St. Lucia LFS**

An analysis which compares the Labour Force Survey results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2018 and 2019 respectively is shown in Table 2. It revealed that the youth<sup>2</sup> population decline from 37,412 to 34,790, representing a decrease of 7.0%. The youth labour force decreased by 15.2%, while youth employment also declined by 10.6%. Notably, the results revealed a decline in female youth population, labour force and employment of 9%, 21.4% and 17.8% respectively. Similarly, decreases were recorded in the population and labour force of male youth for the same period.

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this survey, the term “youth” covers persons aged 15 to 29 years

# EMPLOYMENT

Figure: 4



Source: St. Lucia LFS

The quarterly employment data for 2018 and 2019 is shown in Figure 4. A comparison of the rates for the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) quarter of 2018 and the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) quarter of 2019 showed an increase of 3.4%. Additionally, the data revealed a slight increase in the employed Labour Force of 0.8% for the period April-June (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter) 2019 compared to July-September (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter) 2019. As with employment, the number of persons in the labour force is influenced (among other things) by changes in the size of the working age population (see Table 3).

Figure: 5

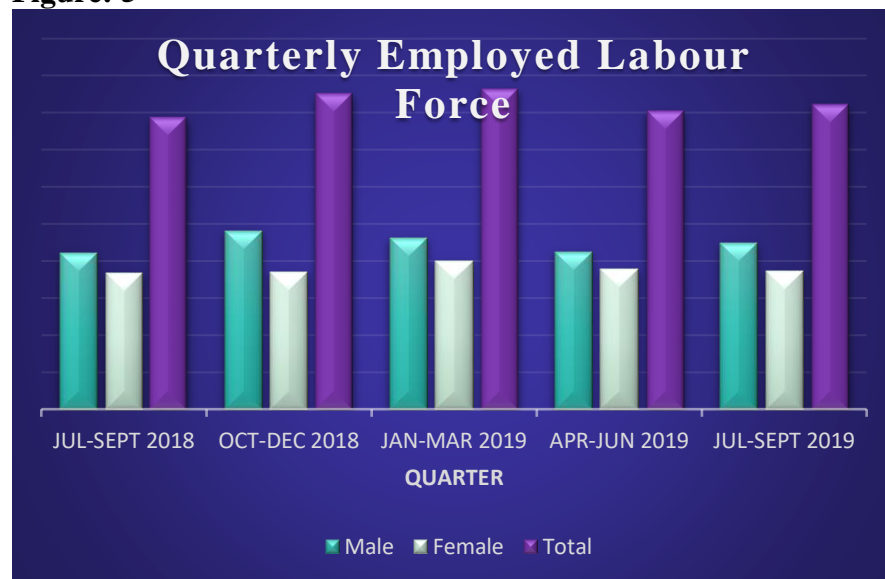


Figure: 6

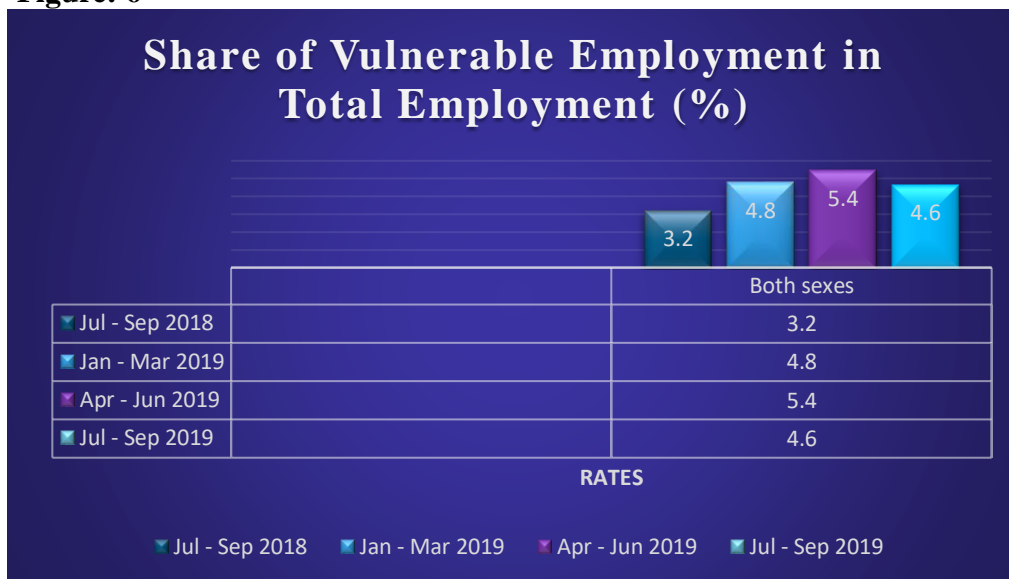


Figure 5 compares the quarterly employed labour force by sex for 2018 and 2019. The employed Labour force recorded an increase of 5.9% for the reporting period over the previous quarter, with male employment (54.8%) contributing 9.6% more than female employment (45.2%). Simultaneously, male employment increased by 1.8% for the period under review while female decreased by the same amount i.e. (1.8%).

The survey revealed that for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019, the vulnerable employment corresponding to the total employment was 4.6% as shown in Figure 6. The highest vulnerable employment rate was recorded during the period April-June 2019 and this was at 5.4%.

Table: 2

QTR 3	QTR 2	Change
54.77687	52.91958	1.85728717
45.22313	47.08042	-1.85728717

Figure: 7

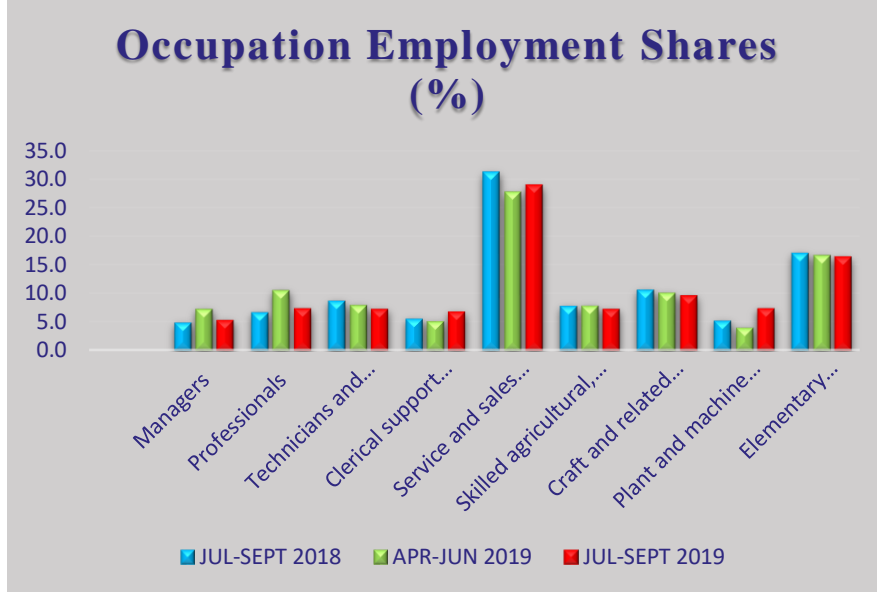


Figure: 8

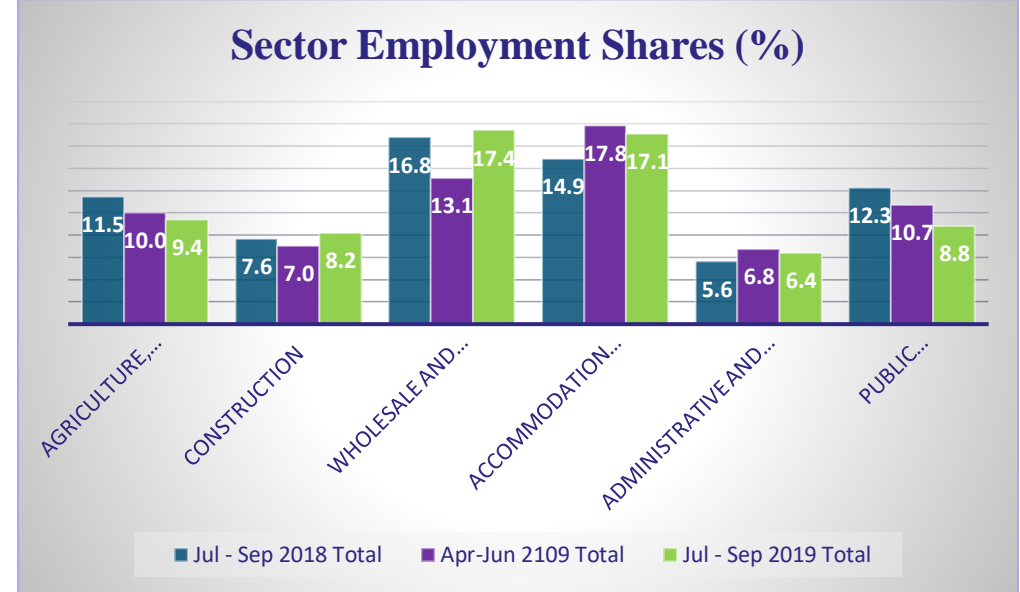


Figure 7 illustrates the percentage share of the occupation employment of the labour force for the last three (3) quarters, i.e. July-September 2019, April-June 2019, and July-September 2018. It should be noted that *Service and sales workers* had the highest percentages with a steady growth from April-June 2019 to July-September 2019 but decline during the comparable period July-September 2018 & 2019. *Elementary Occupations* recorded the second highest share, with steady percentages and a slight fluctuation. *Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers* had the lowest percentages with a relatively low number in April-June 2019 despite an increase observed in the current period July-September 2019. Overall, the percentages for the remaining occupations were all within constant range with the exception of *Managers* and *Professionals*, which experienced a significant decrease in the third quarter of 2019.

Figure 8 highlights employment by sector over the last three quarters. The data showed a decrease in employment in a number of sectors during the assessment period when compared with data for the period April to June 2019 and July to September of 2019. However, '*Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles*', '*Other service activities*' and '*Transportation and storage*' showed increases in this period. Significant decreases were identified for '*Manufacturing*', and '*Public administration and defence; compulsory social security*'. *Wholesale & Retail Trade together with the Accommodation & Food Service Activity* accounted for the greatest share of employment.



## Labour Market Statistical Snapshot

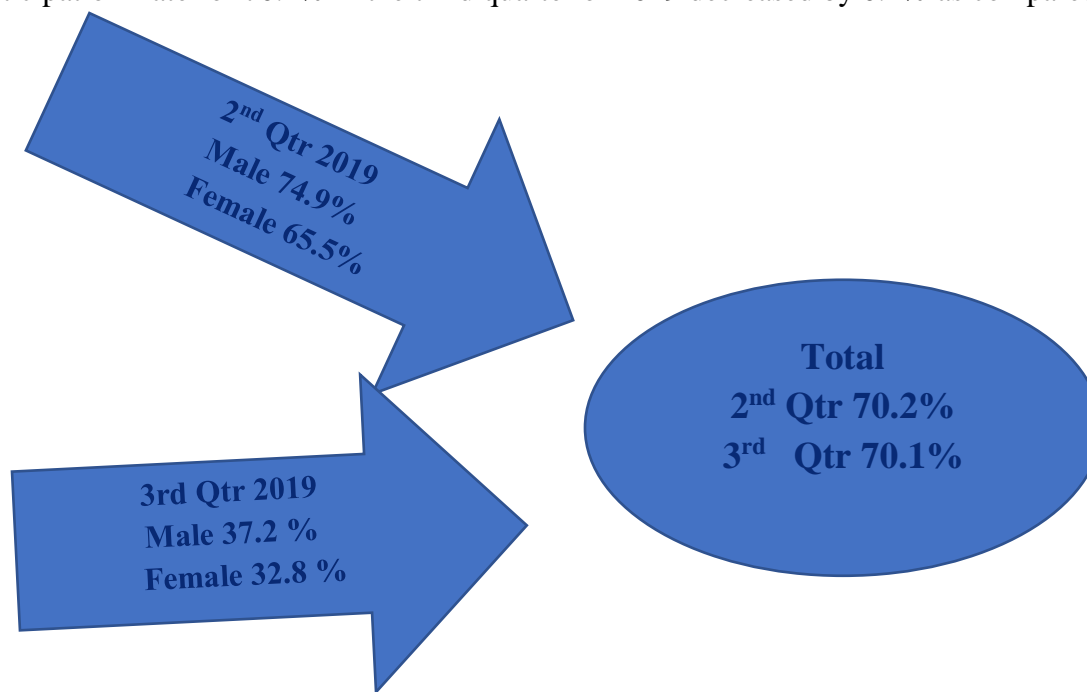
**Table: 3**

<b>Main Labour Force Indicators 1st Qtr 2019 to 3rd Qtr 2019</b>			
<b>Labour Force Indicators</b>	<b>Jan-Mar 2019</b>	<b>Apr-Jun2019</b>	<b>Jul-Sept 2019</b>
Estimated Household Population	170,395	169,896	170,122
Population 15 years and over	142,687	140,222	142,068
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>102,081</b>	<b>98,385</b>	<b>99,536</b>
of which - Male	52,658	52,059	52,875
of which- Female	49,423	46,327	46,661
<b>Employed Labour Force</b>	<b>86,269</b>	<b>80,393</b>	<b>82,076</b>
of which -Male	46,125	42,543	44,958
of which -Female	40,144	37,849	37,117
<b>Persons who want work</b>			
(I) The Unemployed	15,813	17,993	17,460
of which - Male	6,533	9,516	7,917
of which- Female	9,280	8,477	9,543
(ii) Non-Seekers	4,018	2,994	3,327
Unemployment Rate %	15.5%	18.3%	17.5%
of which - Male	12.4%	18.3%	15.0%
of which- Female	18.8%	18.3%	20.5%
Youth Unemployment Rate %	25.9%	35.0%	34.7%
Relaxed Unemployment Rate %	19.4%	21.3%	20.9%
Non-Job Seeking Rate %	3.9%	3.0%	3.3%
Population under 15 years (%)	16.3%	17.5%	16.5%
Labour Force as a Percentage of Total Population	59.9%	57.9%	58.5%
Labour Force as a Percentage of			
Population 15 years and over OR Labour Force Participation Rate	71.5%	70.2%	70.1%
Source: Central Statistical Office of Saint Lucia, Labour Force Survey			

For the period covered in this report the Labour Force data showed a decrease in the working age population when compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019. There was a slight increase (344) in the female labour force, from 46,327 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to 46,661 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Similarly, the male labour force recorded an increase from 52,059 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 52,875 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting an increase of 816. Along with a reduced working age population of 140,068, the unemployment rates decline, while the number of people entered the labour force marginally increased.

### **Labour Force Participation Rate**

The Labour Force Participation Rate<sup>3</sup> of 70.1% in the third quarter of 2019 decreased by 0.1% as compared to 70.2% in the second quarter of 2019.



<sup>3</sup> The labour force participation rate is a measure of the proportion of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work; it provides an indication of the size of the supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services, relative to the population at working age.

