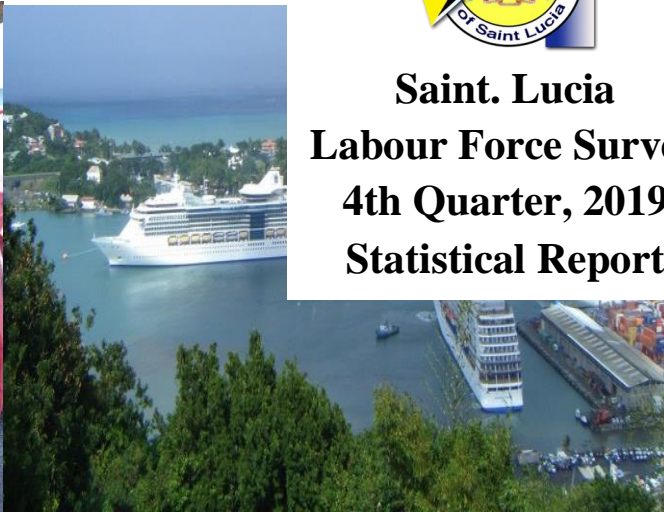


**Saint. Lucia
Labour Force Survey
4th Quarter, 2019
Statistical Report**



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Information contained in this report is the result of a Household Labour Force Survey conducted during the fourth quarter of 2019 from October to December 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 and 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.

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 4th quarter labour force survey revealed that 72 % (103,901) of the total working age population (144,051) are in the labour force.¹ Out of which, 87,173 are employed, 16,728 are unemployed and the remaining 40,150 are not in the labour force.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Figure 1

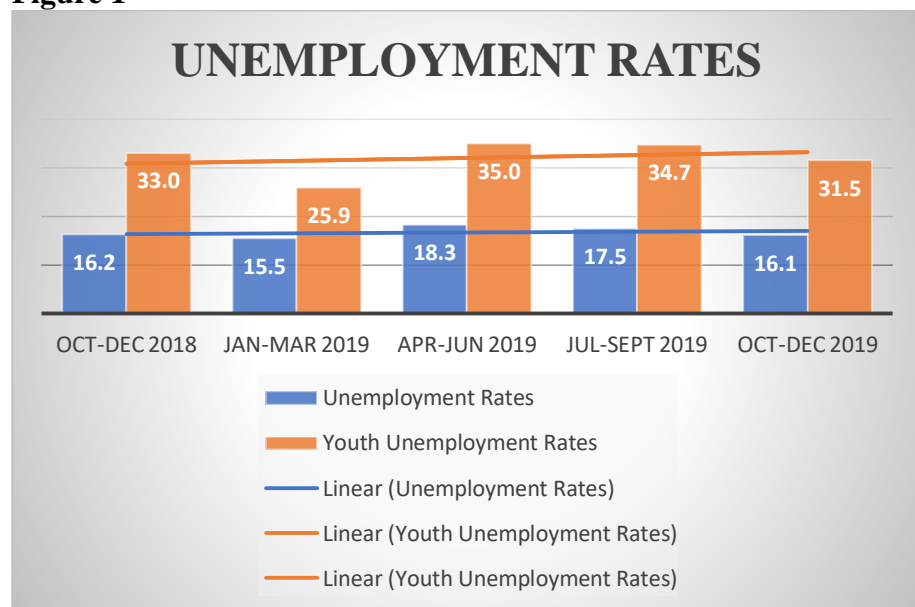
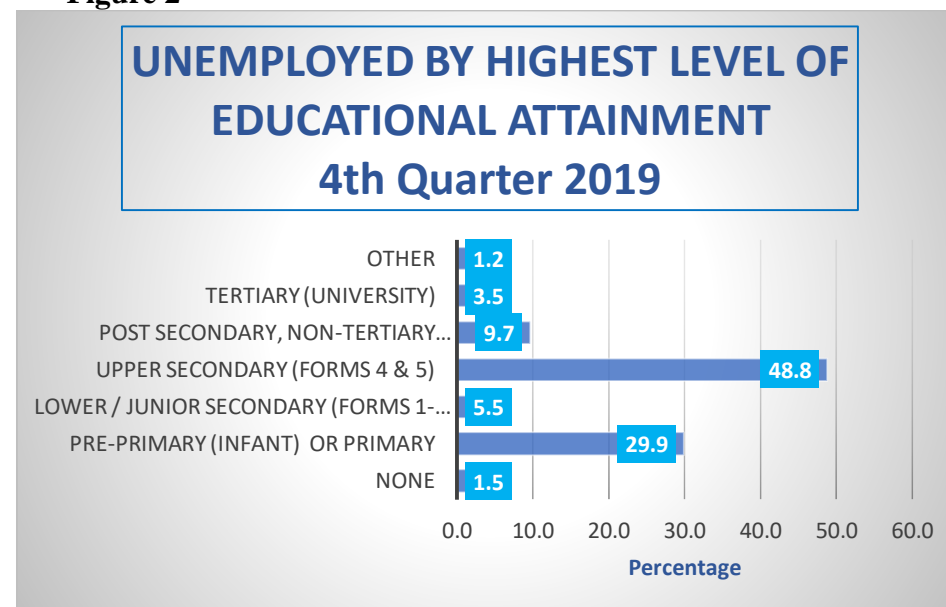


Figure 2



The Unemployment rate² in the fourth (4th) quarter of 2019 stood at 16.1% indicating that for approximately every 6 persons in the labour market, one is unemployed. The results represent a decline of 1.44% when compared to the 17.5% recorded for the third quarter of 2019 and a decline of 0.14% for the same time period (fourth quarter) of 2018. Importantly, this reported trend stayed within the range of +/-2.5% observed in the last three quarters.

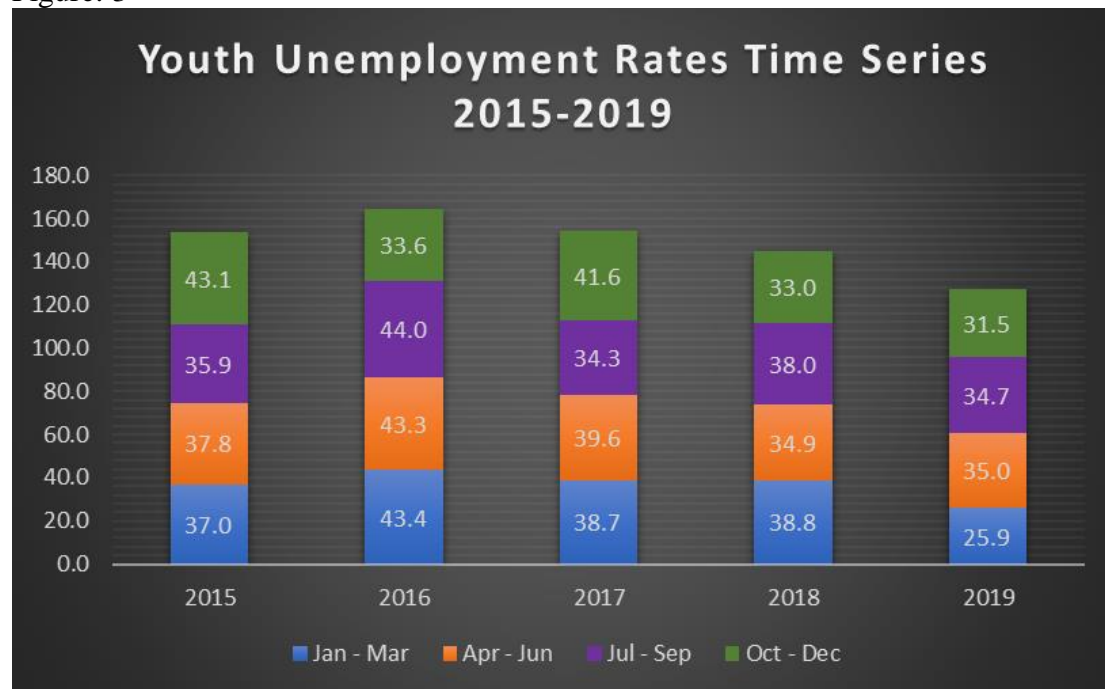
¹ As defined in international standards (19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2013), the labour force captures those persons of working age who are actively engaged in the labour market. The working age population is commonly defined as persons 15 years and over.

² The National Insurance Cooperation (NIC) 4th Quarter employment figures are consistent with the data captured from the labour force survey for the period Oct-Dec 2019. However, the NIC only reports on the formal sector whereas the labour force survey reports on both the informal and formal sector of the economy.

The unemployment rate was higher among females at 18.3% indicating reductions of 2.2% in the 4th quarter 2019 as compared to the previous quarter. In 2019 St. Lucia recorded its highest (18.3%) and lowest (15.5%) unemployment rates for the periods Apr-Jun and Jan-Mar respectively. The surveys of April 2019 to December 2019 showed a decreasing linear pattern among the quarters. In terms of educational attainment, as depicted in figure 2, unemployment was at its highest in persons whose highest educational attainment was upper secondary education (48.8%) followed by primary education (29.9%). The lowest representation was with persons having other forms of educational attainment 1.2%.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Figure: 3



Youth Unemployment also experienced a decline of 1.5% for the period under review (fourth quarter 2019) compared to the previous quarter (third quarter 2019). An analysis of the changes recorded in the youth unemployment rates between the period in question i.e. Oct – Dec 2019 and the corresponding period Oct – Dec 2018 revealed 11.6% decrease. In 2019, the youth unemployment reflected its highest rate at 35.0% in the 2nd Qtr. 2019 and lowest 25.9% in the 1st Qtr. 2019 as illustrated in figure 3.

Table: 1

3rd Quarter 2019 -YOUTH ESTIMATES BY AGE AND SEX				4th Quarter 2019 -YOUTH ESTIMATES BY AGE AND SEX				YOUTH STATISTICS - CHANGES: 3rd Qtr 2019-4th Qtr 2019			
GROUP	Sex Of Person		Total	GROUP	Sex Of Person		Total	GROUP	Sex Of Person		Total
	Male	Female	Count		Male	Female	Count		Male	Female	Both
	Count	Count			Count	Count			Count	Count	Count
EST Population	19377	15414	34790	EST Population	19724	18637	38361	EST Population	347	3223	3571
Labour Force	13429	10037	23467	Labour Force	13821	12275	26096	Labour Force	392	2238	2629
Employment	8883	6454	15334	Employment	9307	8578	17885	Employment	424	2124	2551
Unemployment	4547	3586	8133	Unemployment	4514	3697	8211	Unemployment	-33	111	78
Unemployment Rate	33.9%	35.7%	34.7%	Unemployment Rate	32.7%	30.1%	31.5%	Unemployment Rate	-1.2%	-5.6%	-3.2%

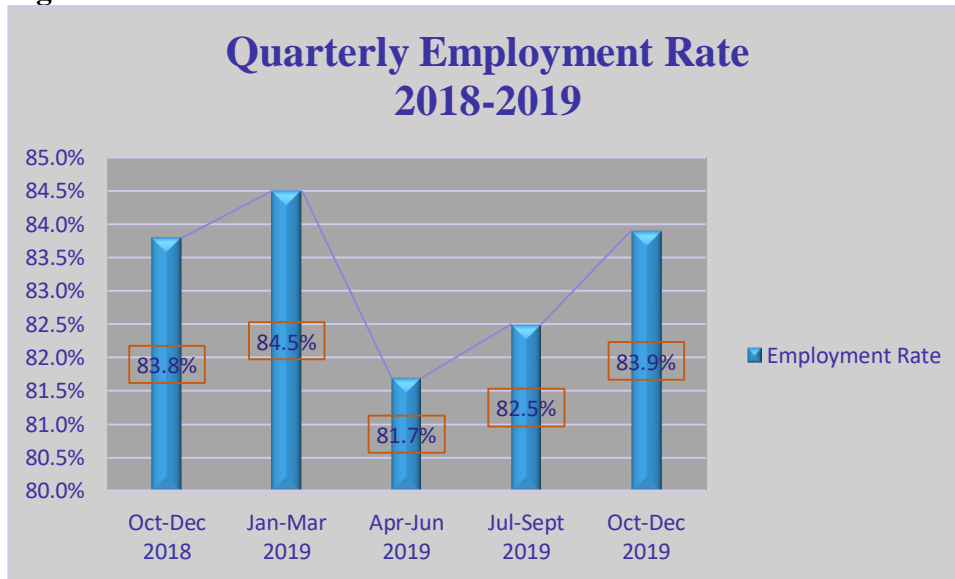
Source: St. Lucia LFS

An analysis which compares the Labour Force Survey results of the 3rd and the 4th quarters of 2019 is shown in Table 1. It revealed that the youth³ population increased from 34,790 to 38,361, representing an increase of 10.3%. The youth labour force increased by 11.2%, while youth employment rate also increase by 16.6%. Notably, the results revealed an increase in male and female youth population, labour force and employment as outlined in table one above.

³ For the purpose of this survey, the term “youth” covers persons aged 15 to 29 years

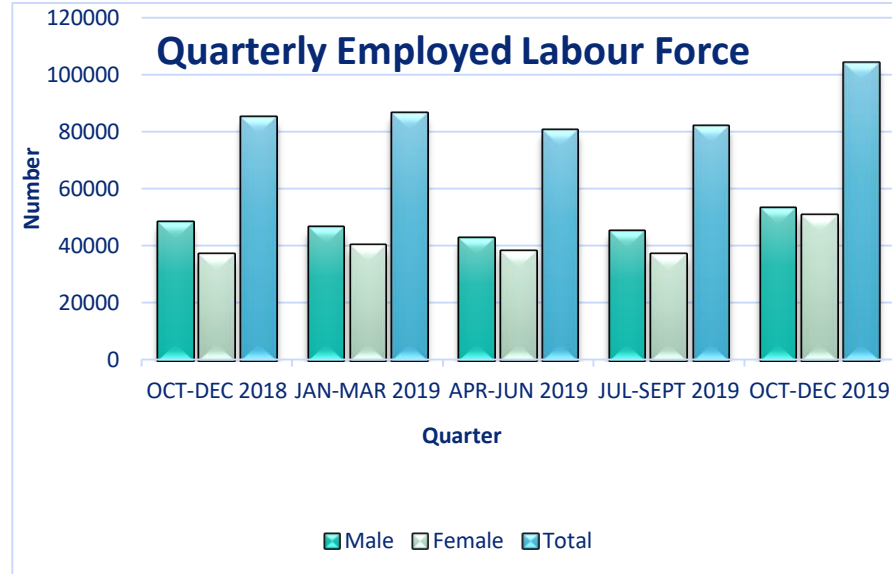
EMPLOYMENT

Figure: 4

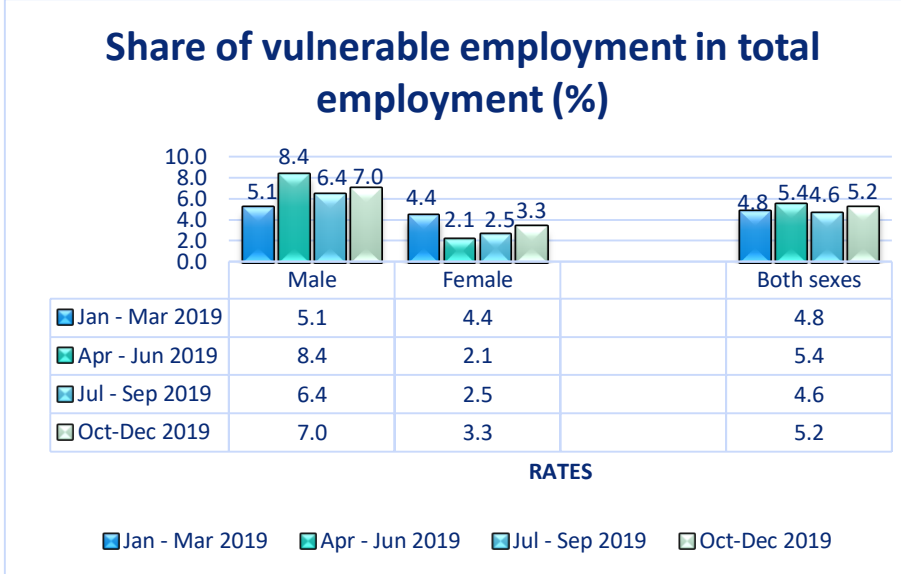


Source: St. Lucia LFS

The quarterly employment data for 2018 and 2019 is shown in Figure 4. A comparison of the rates for the fourth (4th) quarter of 2018 and the fourth (4th) quarter of 2019 showed the employment remained stable. Additionally, the data revealed an increase in the employed labour force of 1.4% for the period July-Sept (3rd quarter) 2019 compared to Oct-Dec (4th 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

Source: St. Lucia LFS

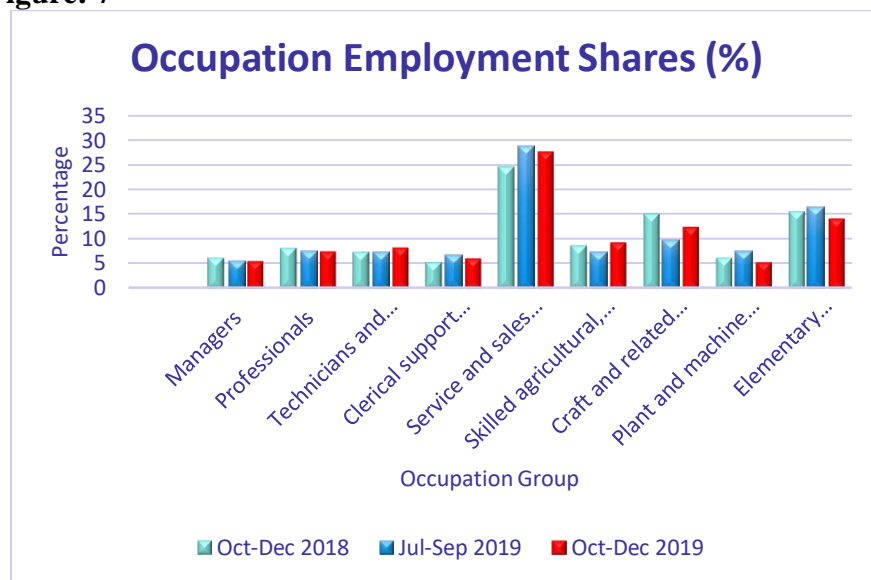
Figure: 6

Source: St. Lucia LFS

Figure 5 compares the quarterly employed labour force by sex for 2018 and 2019. The employed labour force (87,173) recorded an increase of 1.5% for the reporting period Oct-Dec 2019 over the previous quarter (82,076), with male employment (52.4%) contributing 4.8% more than female employment (47.6%). Simultaneously, male employment increase by 1.6% for the period under review while female increased by 11.8%.

The survey revealed that for the 4th quarter of 2019, the vulnerable employment corresponding to the total employment was 5.2% as shown in Figure 6. The highest vulnerable employment rate for 2019 was recorded during the period April-June 2019 and this was at 5.4%.

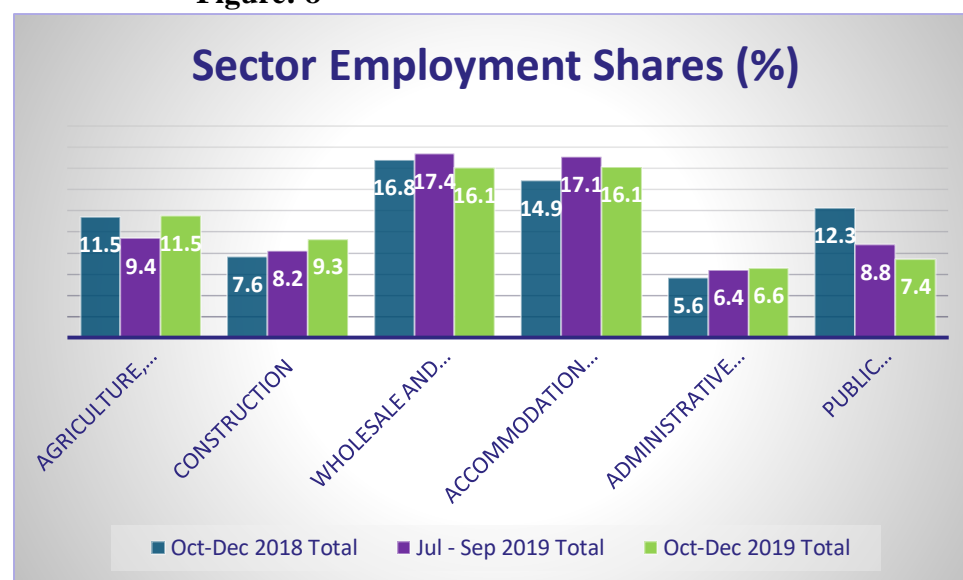
Figure: 7



Source: St. Lucia LFS

Figure 7 illustrates the percentage share of the occupation employment of the labour force for three (3) quarters, i.e. October-December 2018, July-September 2019, and October-December 2019. It should be noted that service and sales workers had the highest percentages (27.8%) despite a 1.1% drop from July-September 2019 to October – December 2019. Elementary occupations recorded the second highest share, with 14.2% percentages and a slight fluctuation of 2.2%. Craft and related trade workers followed with an increase of 2.9% from the previous period July-September 2019. Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers had the lowest percentages (5.4%) despite the higher percentage (7.4%) observe in the 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 from of 7.4% in the third quarter to 5.4% in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Figure: 8



Source: St. Lucia LFS

Figure 8 highlights employment by sector over the three (3) quarters. The data showed an increase in employment in a number of sectors during the assessment period when compared with data for the period July to September of 2019 (82,076) and October-December 2018 (87,173). 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles', and 'Accommodation and food service activities' accounted for the greatest share of employment, both capturing 16.1% of the sector shares in employment despite the reductions experienced in the quarter under review (October-December 2019). Agriculture, forestry and fishing recorded the second highest shares, with the largest growth of 2.1% 'Administrative and support service activities' and 'Construction' also 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 rank in

the top seven despite the reduction experience in both sectors for the fourth quarter. '*Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply*' reported the smallest share of the sector with 0.12%.

Labour Market Statistical Snapshot

Table: 3

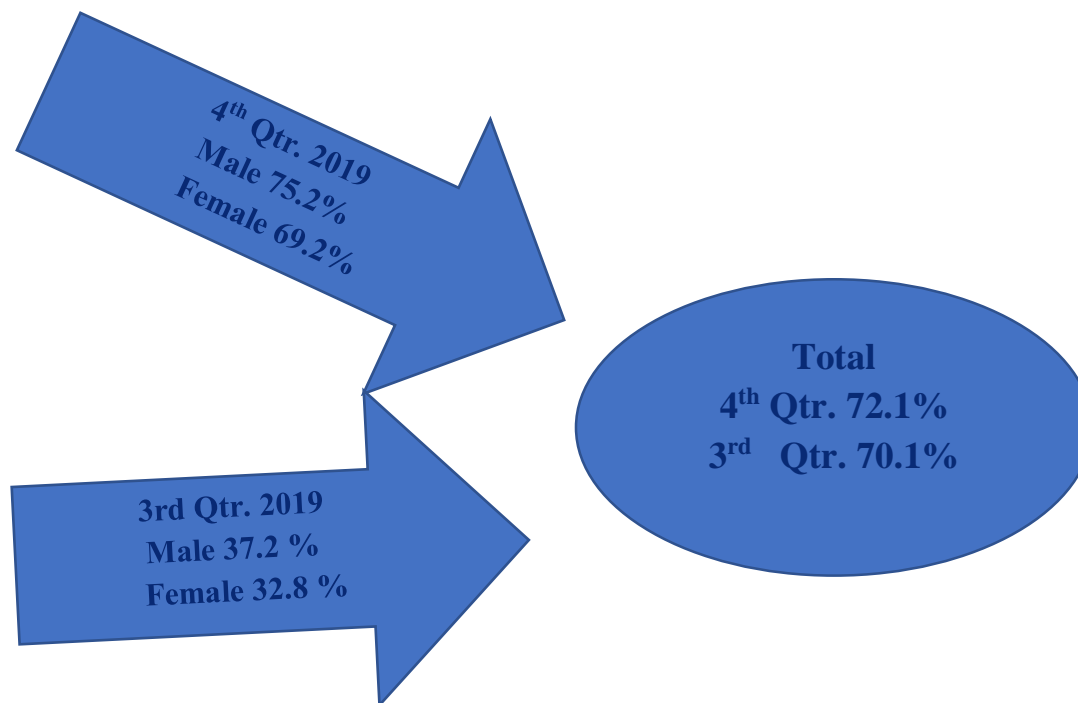
Main Labour Force Indicators, Quarterly, 2019			
LABOUR FORCE INDICATORS	Apr-Jun 2019 2nd Qtr.	Jul-Sept 2019 3rd Qtr.	Oct-Dec 2019 4th Qtr.
Population	169,896	170,122	170,503
Population 15 years and over	140,222	142,068	144,051
Labour force	98,385	99,536	103,901
of which - male	52,059	52,875	53,097
of which - female	46,327	46,661	50,804
Employed labour force	80,393	82,076	87,173
of which - Male	42,543	44,958	45,669
of which - Female	37,849	37,117	41,503
Persons who want to work: (i) The Unemployed	17,993	17,460	16,728
of which - male	7,916	9,543	7,428
of which - female	9,516	7,917	9,300
(ii) Non-seekers	8,477	9,543	2,871
Unemployment rate (%)	18.3%	17.5%	16.1%
of which - male	18.3%	17.5%	14.0%
of which - female	18.3%	15.0%	18.3%
Youth unemployment rate %	35.0%	20.5%	31.5%
Relaxed unemployment rate (%)	21.3%	34.7%	18.9%
Non-job seeking rate (%)	3.0%	20.9%	2.8%
Population under 15 years (%)	17.5%	3.3%	15.5%
Labour Force as a Percentage of Total Population (%)	57.9%	16.5%	60.9%
Labour force as a percentage of population 15 years and over OR labour force participation rate (%)	70.2%	58.5%	72.1%

Source: St. Lucia LFS

For the period covered in this report the labour force data showed an increase in the working age population (1,983) when compared to the 3rd quarter of 2019. There was an increase (4,143) in the female labour force, from 46,661 in the 3rd quarter to 50,804 in the 4th quarter. Similarly, the male labour force recorded an increase from 44,958 in the 3rd quarter to 45,669 in the 4th reporting an increase of 711. Along with an increased working age population of 144,051, the unemployment rates decline, while the number of people who entered the labour force significantly increased.

Labour Force Participation Rate

The Labour Force Participation Rate⁴ in the fourth quarter of 2019 was 72.1% and this represents a 2% increase when compared to 70.1% in the third quarter of 2019.



Source: St. Lucia LFS

⁴ 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.