



## Statistical Report of the Labour Force Survey 2023 Annual



Saint Lucia Central Statistical Office

Website: <https://stats.gov.lc/>

## **Cautionary Note: 2023 Annual Labour Force Snapshot**

*In accordance with our commitment to providing accurate and comprehensive statistical information, the Central Statistical Office (CSO) wishes to inform all stakeholders, including the general public and data users, about the scope of the forthcoming Labour Force Report for the year 2023 (January to December).*

*The 2023 Annual Labour Force Report will contain a limited set of labour market indicators, primarily the main indicators outlined in the statistical snapshot. This cautionary note aims to clarify the content of this report and manage expectations regarding the depth and breadth of labour market data coverage for this specific quarter.*

*The limitation in the coverage of labour market indicators for the 2023 Annual arises from data availability and data collection constraints. Due to various factors, including the ongoing challenges related to data collection during the Population & Housing Census, certain detailed labour market information for this specific quarter may not be available or may be subject to data quality concerns.*

*The CSO recognizes the importance of providing a comprehensive analysis of labor market indicators to stakeholders. To achieve this, we are committed to conducting an in-depth examination of labor market data using the robust dataset expected from the 2022 Population and Housing Census. This supplementary report will go beyond the standard labor force results provided in 2023, offering a more detailed and precise understanding of labor market dynamics.*

*By leveraging the data from the census, we aim to explore additional indicators and disaggregated data, enabling us to not only enhance the quality of our labor market results but also provide policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders with a more thorough understanding of the labor market landscape.*

*The 2022 Census data is anticipated to provide a comprehensive overview of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, allowing us to delve deeper into issues such as employment patterns, sectoral trends, and demographic disparities. This deeper analysis will enable us to identify areas for improvement and develop targeted interventions to address labor market challenges.*

*Overall, this supplementary report will serve as a valuable resource for stakeholders, offering a more comprehensive and precise analysis of the labor market, ultimately contributing to evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation.*

*The CSO acknowledges the importance of such data in informed decision-making, and we are dedicated to ensuring the highest quality of statistical information for our stakeholders.*

*We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work diligently to provide accurate and comprehensive labour market statistics. The CSO remains committed to transparency and quality in our data reporting practices. For more detailed labour market insights, we look forward to sharing the findings from the 2022 Population and Housing Census once it is finalized.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

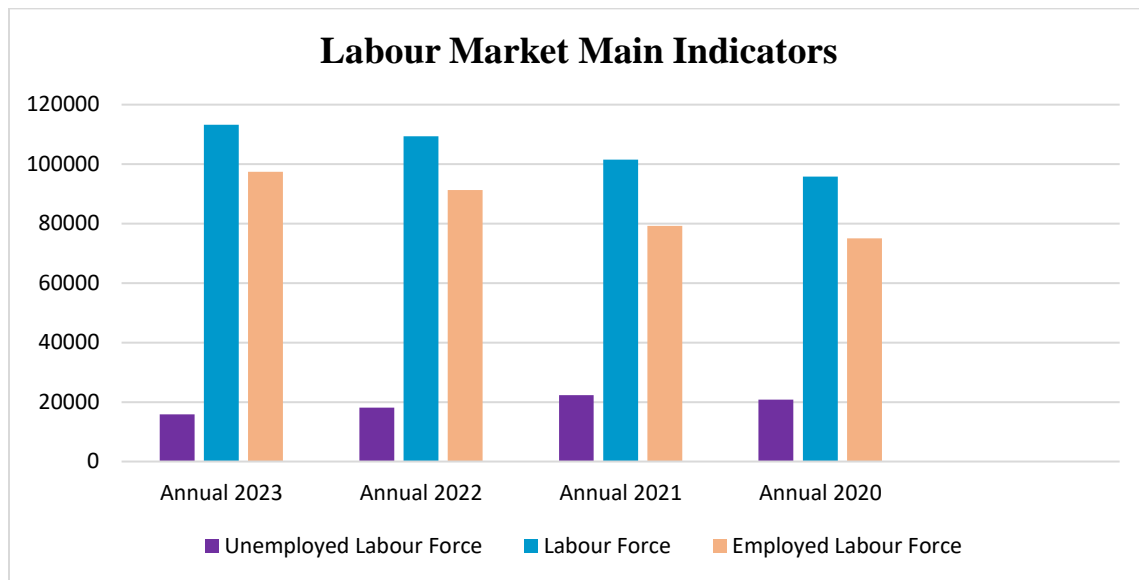
<b>Statistical Snapshot: Labour Force Survey Annual 2023 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Employment.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Occupation Group.....	7
Industry Group .....	8
<b>Unemployment .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Youth Unemployment.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Labour Force Participation .....</b>	<b>13</b>

## STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT: LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ANNUAL 2023

*Table 1: Main Indicators Labour Force Survey*

<b>Labour Force Indicators</b>	<b>Annual 2023</b>
Estimated Household Population	183744
Population 15 years and over	158163
<b>Labour Force</b>	113246
of which - Male	61237
of which- Female	52010
<b>Employed Labour Force</b>	97394
of which -Male	54387
of which -Female	43007
<b>Employment Rate</b>	86.0%
<b>Persons who want work</b>	
(i) The Unemployed	15852
of which - Male	6850
of which- Female	9003
(ii) Non-Seekers	1937
Unemployment Rate %	14.0%
of which - Male	11.2%
of which- Female	17.3%
Youth Unemployment Rate %	25.0%
Relaxed Unemployment Rate %	15.7%
Non-Job Seeking Rate %	1.7%
Population under 15 years (%)	13.9%
Labour Force as a Percentage of Total Population	61.6%
Labour Force as a Percentage of Population 15 years and over OR Labour Force Participation Rate	71.6%

Source: Central Statistical Office



*Figure 1: Labour market Indicators*

## EMPLOYMENT

The employed labour force saw a significant upturn from 75,016 in 2020 to 97,394 in 2023. A closer look reveals a higher percentage increase in employed males than females, although both showed positive momentum. The number of employed individuals in 2023 increased to 97,394 from 91,270 in 2022, indicating a positive trend in employment. The employment rate also increased from 83.5% in 2022 to 86.0% in 2023, showing an improvement in the proportion of the population that is employed. Although both genders experienced employment increases, males had a relatively greater increase, suggesting a possible gender gap in new job opportunities. In 2023, the number of employed males increased to 54,387 from 50,126 in 2022, while the number of employed females increased to 43,007 from 41,144 in 2022. The employment rate for males increased from 85.3% in 2022 to 88.8% in 2023, and for females, it increased from 81.5% in 2022 to 82.6% in 2023, indicating an overall improvement in employment rates for both genders.

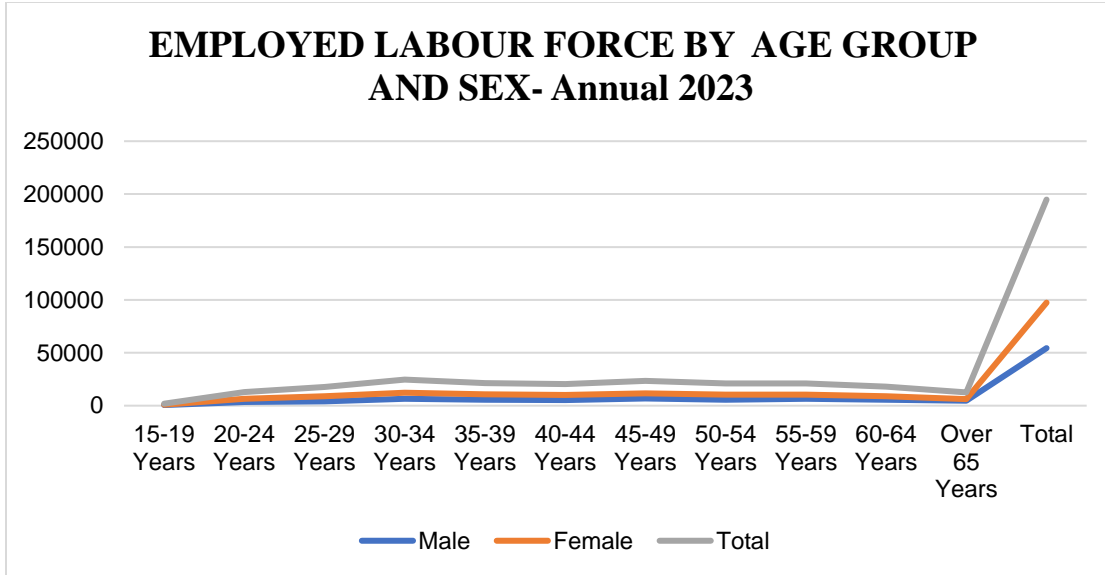


Figure 2: Employed labour Force By age and sex

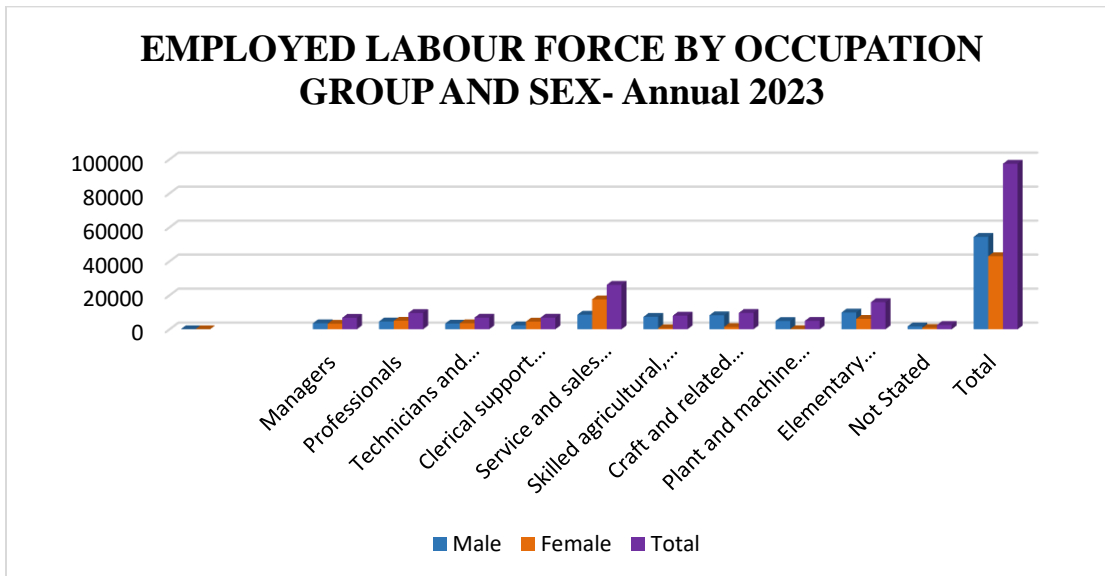
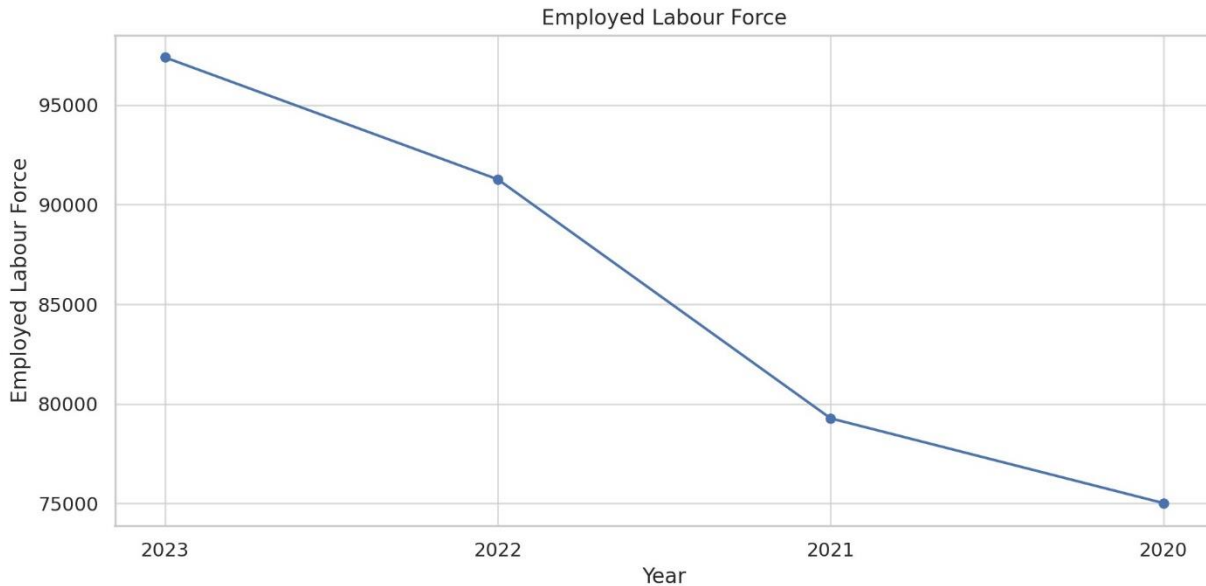


Figure 3: Employed Labour Force by Occupation Group



*Figure 4: Employed Labour Force\_ 2020 to 2023 series*

## OCCUPATION GROUP

The three occupation groups with the highest total employment numbers are:

1. Service and sales workers (26,181 total, with a significant female majority of 17,605),
2. Elementary occupations (15,973 total, with males at 9,856 and females at 6,117),
3. Professionals (9,588 total, with females outnumbering males at 4,990 to 4,598).

The category of '*Service and sales workers*', which is predominantly held by females, has the largest workforce in terms of growth. This suggests that the service economy may be driven by consumer demand. The '*Elementary occupations*' category ranks second, with a majority of males. The '*Professionals*' category is well-balanced with a slight female majority. The occupation group with the least representation is '*Plant and machine operators, and assemblers*,

with only 87 females compared to 4,879 males, indicating an area where female participation is notably low.

## **INDUSTRY GROUP**

Based on the data provided for the employed labor force by industry group and sex in 2023, the top five industries in terms of total employment are as follows:

1. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles: 17,278 employed (6,859 males, 10,419 females)
2. Accommodation and food service activities: 13,508 employed (6,987 males, 6,520 females)
3. Public administration and defence; compulsory social security: 9,580 employed (4,390 males, 5,190 females)
4. Construction: 9,102 employed (8,116 males, 986 females)
5. Agriculture, forestry and fishing: 8,932 employed (8,217 males, 715 females)

In comparing the top seven industries from 2022 to 2023, notable trends emerge. In 2023, the total employed labor force consisted of 54,387 males and 43,007 females, totaling 97,394 individuals. This represents an increase from the 91,270 total employed in 2022. Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles experienced significant growth, with employment increasing from 12,530 in 2022 to 17,278 in 2023, likely driven by increased consumer spending. Accommodation and Food Service Activities, while showing a slight decrease from 14,318 to 13,508, remained a major employer. Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security saw steady growth, with employment increasing from 9,174 to 9,580. Construction experienced growth, with employment rising from 8,234 to 9,102, reflecting increased construction activities. Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing showed a slight decrease from 9,008 to 8,932, while Administrative and Support Service Activities saw a



significant increase from 6,228 to 8,250, indicating rising demand for these services. Lastly, Human Health and Social Work Activities witnessed substantial growth, with employment increasing from 2,934 to 4,162, highlighting the continued demand for healthcare and social services. Overall, the data indicates variations in employment across different industries and genders, with some industries experiencing growth while others declined.

## **UNEMPLOYMENT**

The number of unemployed individuals decreased to 15,852 in 2023 from 18,092 in 2022, indicating a decrease in unemployment. The unemployment rate also decreased from 16.5% in 2022 to 14.0% in 2023, showing an improvement in the proportion of the labor force that is unemployed. The number of unemployed males decreased to 6,850 in 2023 from 8,696 in 2022, and for females, it decreased to 9,003 in 2023 from 9,395 in 2022. The unemployment rate for males decreased from 14.8% in 2022 to 11.2% in 2023, and for females, it decreased from 18.6% in 2022 to 17.3% in 2023, indicating a decrease in unemployment rates for both genders. By 2023, the rates decreased to 11.2% for males and 17.3% for females. Despite the improvement, the disparity between genders remains, with female unemployment rates being 6.1 percentage points higher than those for males in 2023. The non-seekers rate, which is the percentage of non-seekers in the total population, was 1.7% in 2023, down from 2.4% in 2022.

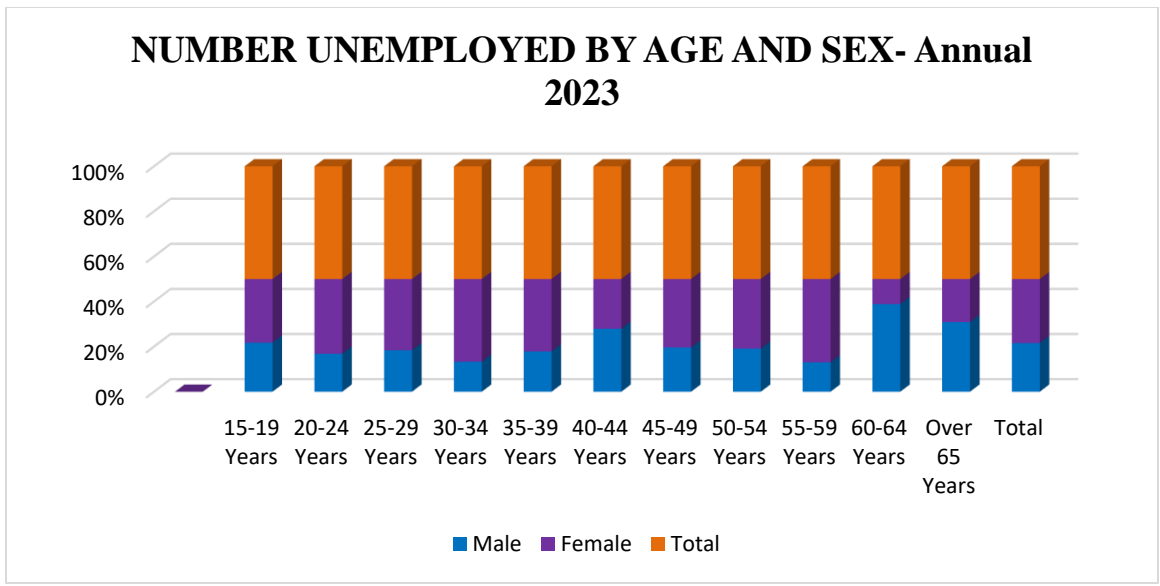


Figure 5: Unemployment Rate By age and sex\_2023

The data provided shows in figure 6 & 7 highlights the number of unemployed individuals by their highest level of educational attainment and sex for the year 2023. It indicates that females have higher levels of unemployment across almost all educational attainment levels compared to males. The highest number of unemployed individuals are those with Upper Secondary education (Forms 4 & 5) for both males and females. There is a significant number of unemployed females with Tertiary (University) education compared to males. This suggests potential disparities in employment opportunities based on educational attainment and gender.

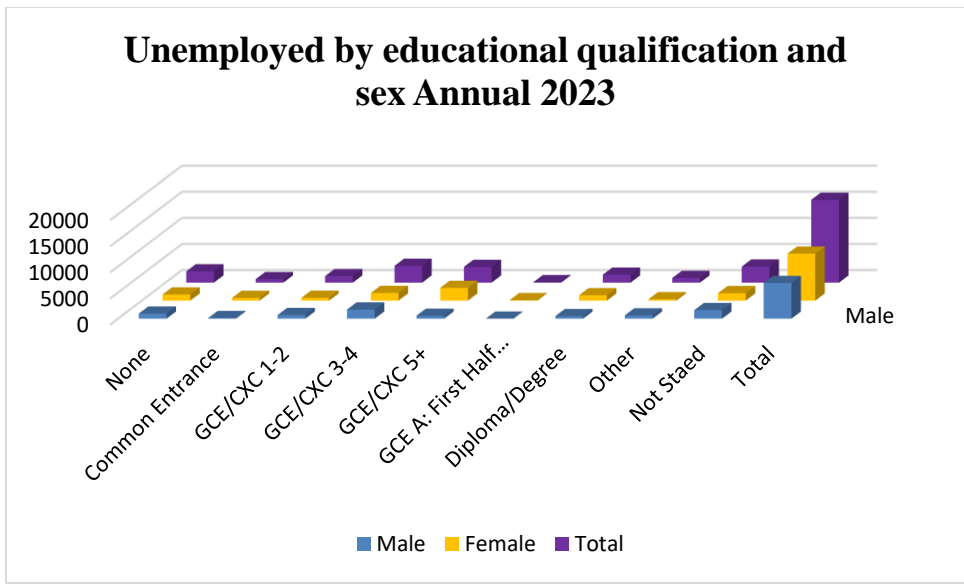


Figure 6: Unemployment Rate by educational qualification\_2023

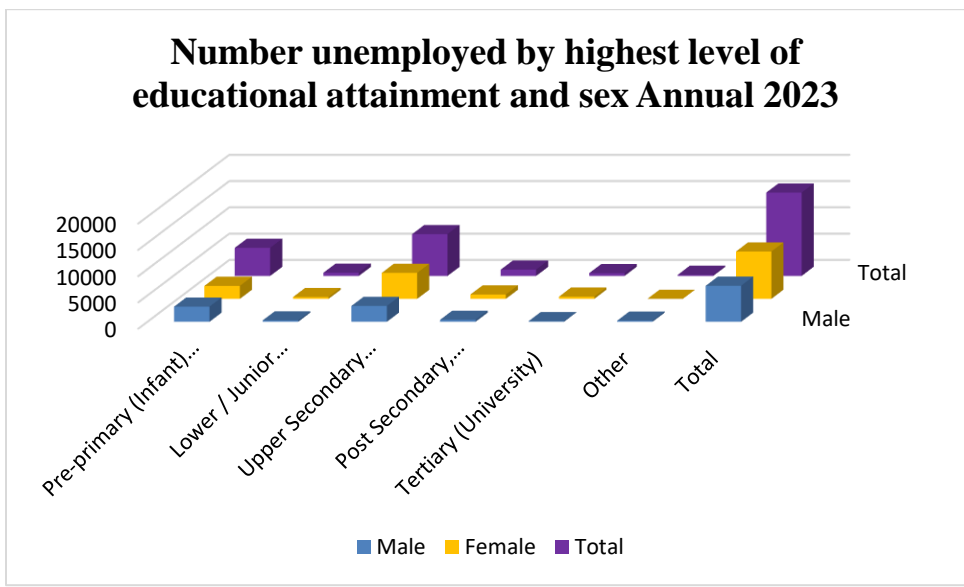
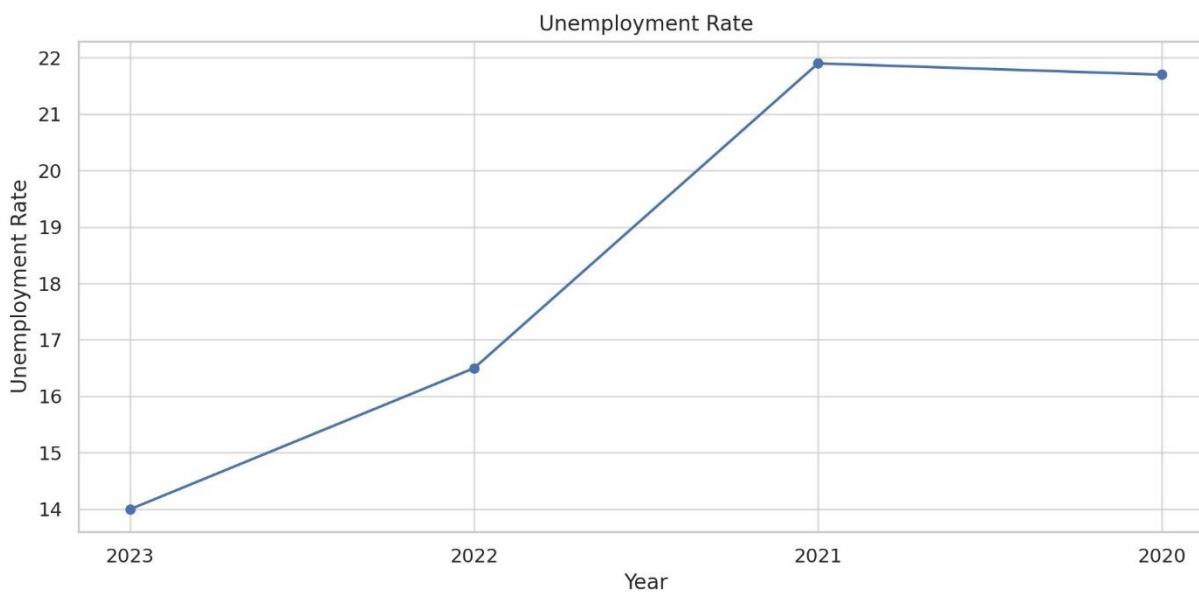


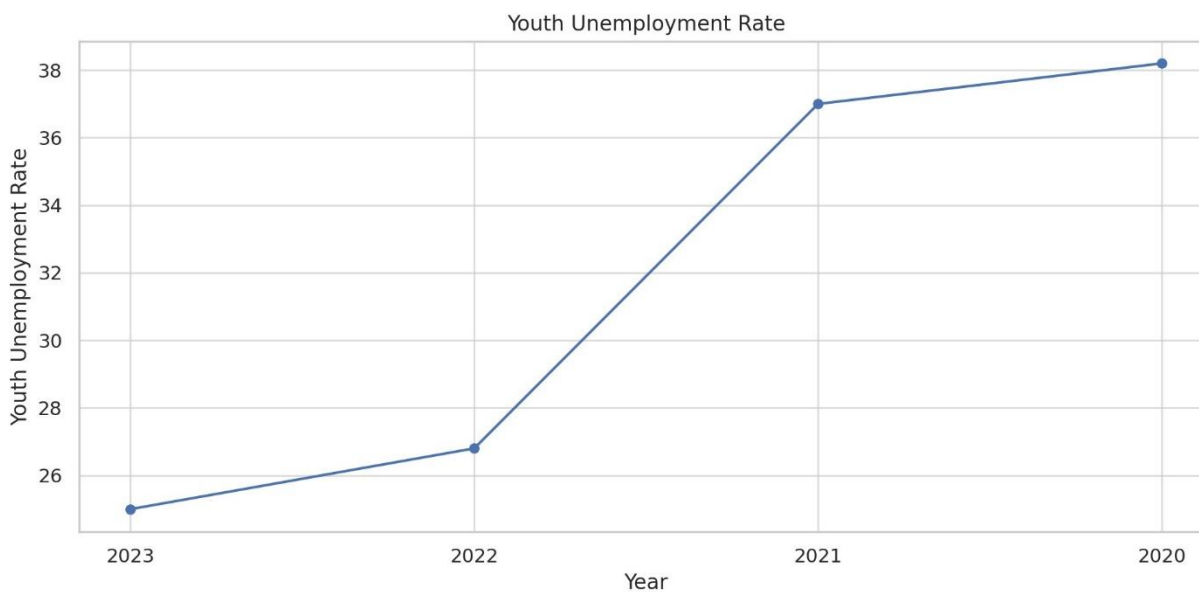
Figure 7: Number unemployed by highest level of educational attainment and sex\_2023



*Figure 8: Unemployment Rate\_2020 to 2023 series*

## **YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**

The youth unemployment rate decreased from 26.8% in 2022 to 25.0% in 2023, indicating a slight improvement in youth unemployment. The youth unemployment rate for males decreased from 25.5% in 2022 to 24.2% in 2023, and for females, it decreased from 28.5% in 2022 to 26.1% in 2023, indicating a slight improvement in youth unemployment rates for both genders.



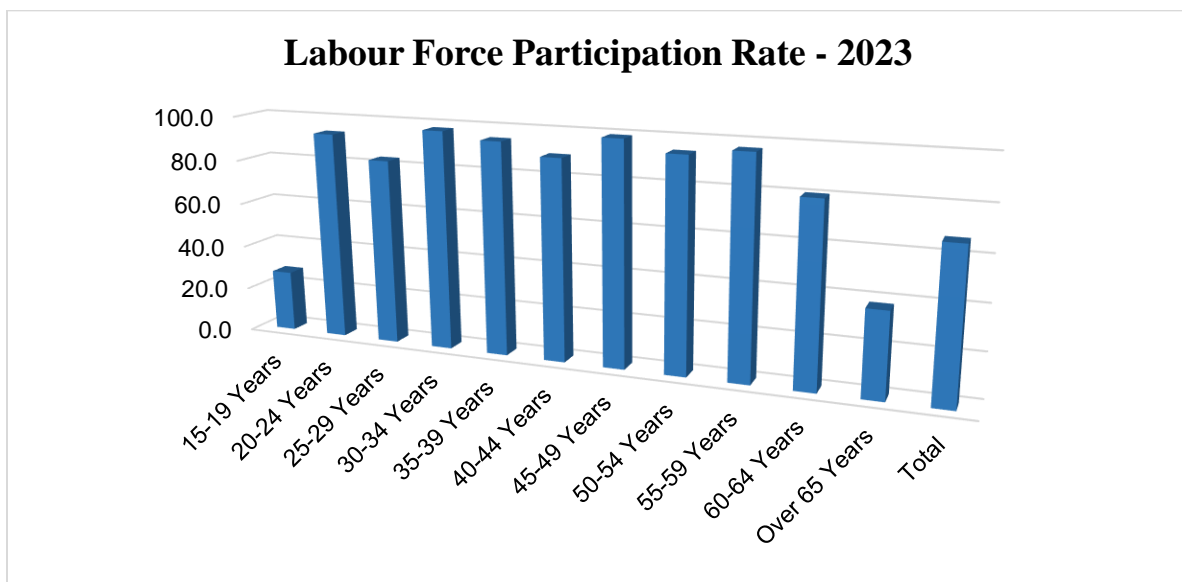
*Figure 9: Youth Unemployment Rate\_ 2020 to 2023 series*

## LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

The labour force as a percentage of the total population showed an increase from 56.6% in 2020 to 61.6% in 2023. Similarly, when considering only the population aged 15 years and over, the labour force participation rate went from 68.8% to 71.6%, indicating a higher proportion of the adult population is engaging in the job market. The total labor force increased to 113,246 in 2023 from 109,362 in 2022, showing an increase in the number of individuals willing and able to work. The labor force participation rate also increased from 71.3% in 2022 to 71.6% in 2023, indicating an increase in the proportion of the population that is part of the labor force.

The labour force participation data, which includes both employed individuals and those actively seeking employment, reflects a growing workforce for both genders. The total labor force for males increased to 61,237 in 2023 from 58,823 in 2022, and for females, it increased to 52,010 in 2023

from 50,539 in 2022. This suggests that, while both genders are participating more in the labour force, the rate of increase for males is higher than for females. The labor force participation rate for males increased from 78.7% in 2022 to 81.3% in 2023, and for females, it increased from 69.2% in 2022 to 70.1% in 2023, indicating an increase in the proportion of both male and female populations participating in the labor force.



*Figure 10: Labour Force Participation Rates 2023*