



Statistical Snapshot of the Labour Force Survey 3rd Quarter 2023



Saint Lucia Central Statistical Office

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

Cautionary Note: Q3 2023 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 first quarter of 2023 (Q3 2023).

The Q3 2023 Labour Force Report will contain a limited set of labour market indicators, primarily the main indicators outlined in the statistical snapshot. The objective of this cautionary note is to provide clarity on the content of this report and to 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 Q3 2023 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 is committed to providing a more comprehensive coverage of labour market indicators in its reports. It is important to note that a more extensive and in-depth analysis of labour market data, including additional indicators and disaggregated data, will be made available once the results of the 2022 Population and Housing Census are completed and analyzed.

The 2022 Census is expected to provide a robust and comprehensive dataset, enabling a thorough examination of labour market dynamics and trends. 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.

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Table 1: Main Indicators Labour Force Survey

LABOUR FORCE INDICATORS	Q3 July-Sept 2022	Q2 Apr-Jun 2023	Q3 July-Sept 2023
Population	181793	182988	184084
Population 15 years and over	157188	154951	158528
Labour force	111028	105801	112024
of which - male	57648	57340	60668
of which - female	53380	48461	51356
Employed labour force	90,790	91725	97699
of which - Male	48,414	50109	54557
of which - Female	42,376	41616	43142
Employment Rate	82%	87%	87%
Persons who want to work: (i) The Unemployed	20,238	14077	14325
of which - male	9,234	7231	6111
of which - female	11,004	6845	8214
(ii) Non-seekers	1,880	1399	1700
Unemployment rate (%)	18%	13%	13%
of which - male	16%	13%	10%
of which - female	21%	14%	16%
Youth unemployment rate %	27%	25%	23%
Relaxed unemployment rate (%)	20%	15%	14%
Non-job seeking rate (%)	2%	13%	2%
Population under 15 years (%)	14%	15%	14%
Labour Force as a Percentage of Total Population (%)	61%	58%	61%
Labour force as a percentage of population 15 years and over OR labour force participation rate	71%	68%	71%

Source: Central Statistical Office

Employment

The employed labour force witnessed a significant increase of 6.5% from 91,725 in the 2nd quarter to 97,699 in the 3rd quarter of 2023. While both male and female employment increased, the rate of increase was higher among males compared to females. The overall employment rate for the period under review (Qtr.3) remains at 87%. The observed increase in the employed labour force was not accompanied by significant changes in the balance between male and female employment. While both male and female employment increased (by 8.9%, and 3.7% respectively) for the period April-June 2023, the rate of increase was higher among males compared to females.

The analysis of the Quarter 3 year-to-year comparison revealed a 7.6% increase in the employed labour force from July-September 2022 to July-September 2023, starting at 90,790 and reaching 97,699. Both male and female employment numbers have been rising, reflecting a positive trend. Moreover, the employment rates increased at 6.1% with 82% (July-September 2022) and 87% (July-September 2023), indicating continued workforce engagement and economic activity during these quarters.

Unemployment

The data portrays that from April to June 2023 to July to September 2023, the total number of unemployed individuals decreased slightly from 14,077 to 14,325, demonstrating stability in job-seeking dynamics. Both male and female unemployment rates exhibited a nuanced pattern, with a marginal decline in the overall unemployment rate from 13% to 13%. Youth unemployment rates also decreased from 25% to 23%. The relaxed unemployment rate remained relatively steady at 14%, indicating a sustained balance in the labour market.

A closer examination of the unemployment landscape from July-September 2022 to July-September 2023 reveals that the total number of unemployed individuals decreased from 20,238 to 14,325, marking a significant decline in joblessness. This reduction is mirrored in male and female unemployment figures, illustrating a balanced improvement across gender lines. The unemployment rate also dropped, declining from 18% to 13%. Youth unemployment rates, indicative of the challenges faced by the younger demographic, consistently decreased from 27% to 23% over the observed quarters.

July-September 2023

- **Unemployed: 14,325**
 - **Male: 6,111**
 - **Female: 8,214**
- **Unemployment Rate: 13%**
- **Youth Unemployment Rate: 23%**

Labour Force Participation:

The total labour force witnessed a moderate increase from 105,801 to 112,024, reflecting a positive trend in workforce engagement. During the last few quarters, the total labour force has moderately increased from 105,801 to 112,024, indicating a positive trend in workforce engagement. The participation of both males and females has been balanced, as reflected in the gender-specific breakdown in Table 1. The labour force participation rate declined slightly from 68% to 71% in April-June 2023; it rebounded to 71% in July-September 2023.

Despite fluctuations, the total labour force showed a slight but consistent increase from 111,028 in July-September 2022 to 112,024 in 2023. This trend is mirrored in male and female participation, which exhibited growth. Although the labour force participation rate decreased

from 71% in July-September 2022 to 68% in April-June 2023, the subsequent quarter, July-September 2023, witnessed a partial rebound to 71%.