



Saint Lucia Central Statistical Office



**Saint Lucia
Labour Force Survey
1st Quarter, 2022
Statistical Report**

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Cautionary Note for 1st Quarter 2022 Labour Force Survey

Information contained in this report is the result of the Household Labour Force Survey, conducted during the first quarter of 2022, from January to March, 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 must be noted that the Central Statistical Office (CSO) always strives to ensure that our procedures and processes for the implementation of the Labour Force Survey are in keeping with proven methodologies. Therefore, the results represent the collated responses of a sample of households interviewed during the period in question and not the opinion of the Central Statistical Office. Results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures.

The results for this period do not correspond to the data collection period from 2020 to 2021 which normally runs for a quarter and may have lost comparability with the current record (2022) in the statistical series. The previous situation with COVID-19 has negatively impacted the collection of data for the quarter within the period 2020 to 2021. Thus, the results predominantly reflect developments in the labour market from January to March 2022.

Despite the current setbacks, the CSO has made every attempt to provide you with accurate and reliable data based solely on what was obtained at that time and therefore has reverted to its pre-Covid-19 methodology of data collection for the Labour Force Survey. Any use of the results needs to take into consideration the aforementioned limitations.

<https://stats.gov.lc>

LABOUR FORCE

The results of the 2022 1st quarter labour force survey revealed a 72.4% response rate. The data captured in this quarter should be used as a standalone for this current reporting period. The survey methodology for the first quarter (1st Qtr.), reverted to the pre-Covid-19 method of data collection utilizing the 2010 Census master sample frame and conducting face-to-face interviews as opposed to the data collection process during the Covid-19 (2020 to 2021) which entail the telephone mode of data collection. As a result, this reporting period should be used as a standalone and **not utilized** as comparative data with 2020 to 2021 labour force data. Table 1 below provides a summary statistic on the labour force for the quarter under review with a total of 104,262 persons in the labour force of which 56,705 are males and 47,557 are females.

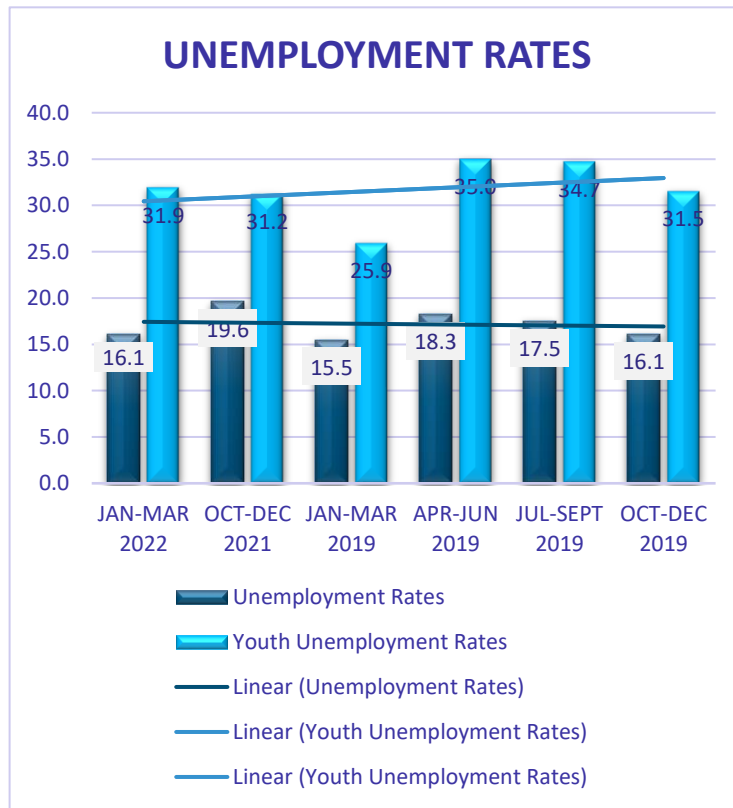
Table 1: Labour Force Data Summary

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Length:12	Min.: 872.6	Min.: 1132	Min.: 2005
Class: character	1st Qu.: 3304.7	1st Qu.: 2902	1st Qu.: 6980
Mode: character	Median: 4471.3	Median: 3777	Median: 8382
	Mean: 7419.2	Mean: 6480	Mean :13899
	3rd Qu.: 5351.5	3rd Qu.: 4588	3rd Qu.: 9525
	Max. :44515.0	Max. :38878	Max. :83393

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Unemployment rate¹ in the first (1st) quarter of 2022 stood at 16.1% indicating that for approximately every 6 persons in the labour market, one is unemployed. The results when compared to the 2019 fourth (4th) quarter produce a similar percentage of 16.1%. Unlike the previous quarter (Oct-Dec 2021) which observed a 19.6% unemployment rate. Importantly, this reported trend stayed within the range of +/-2.5% observed in 2019.

Figure1: National Unemployment Rate & Youth Unemployment Rates 2019-2022



For the period covered in this report (1st quarter 2022) 16.1 % unemployment rate was observed as outlined in figure 2. Comparatively youth unemployment stood at 31.9 %. When compared with 2019 there are no significant changes. The data produced a standard deviation of **s: 2.47487** and a margin of error ($\pm 19.22\%$) at a 95% confidence interval. However, the decline in the unemployment rate for the 4th quarter of 2021 may be reflected in a growth in the economic sector, noticeably in “Agriculture, forestry and fishing”, “Manufacturing” and “Accommodation and food service activities” (see figure 7 below).

During the period Jan-Mar 2022, in St. Lucia, the highest unemployment (19.6%) was recorded in the age cohorts 25 to 29 years (Youth category) while realizing the lowest record of (3.9%) unemployment in

the age group over 65 years. Notably, the results revealed Unemployment figures among the female category were at their highest in the age group 25 to 29 years with 2,243, that is (24.9%) while the male category recorded its highest of 1531 which represented (19.6%) of the age group 15 to 19 years.

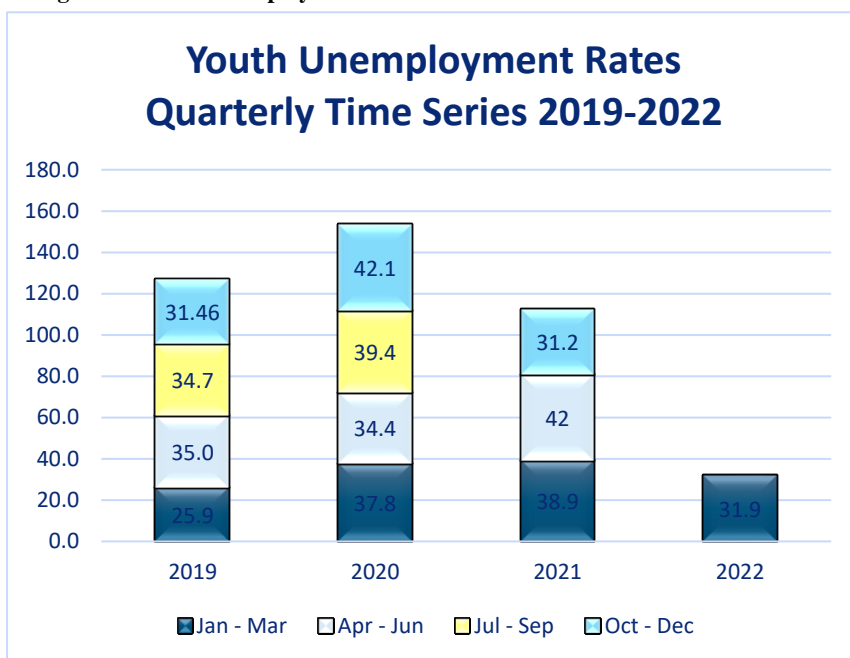
Table 2: Unemployed by Age & Sex

AGE OF PERSONS	Male	Female	Total	Percentage (%)
15-19 Years	1198	781	1979	15.3%
20-24 Years	1025	692	1717	13.1%
25-29 Years	1531	2243	3774	19.6%
30-34 Years	433	623	1056	5.5%
35-39 Years	622	1407	2029	8.0%
40-44 Years	407	495	902	5.2%
45-49 Years	597	781	1377	7.6%
50-54 Years	299	990	1289	3.8%
55-59 Years	672	577	1250	8.6%
60-64 Years	728	339	1068	9.3%
Over 65 Years	305	88	393	3.9%
Total	7818	9017	16835	100.0%

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Youth Unemployment which stood at 31.9% for the period Jan – Mar 2022, also experienced a 23.2% increase as compared to the pre-Covid-19 data collection period Oct-Dec 2019 which realized a 25.9% unemployment rate. An analysis of the changes recorded in the youth unemployment rates between the period in question i.e., Jan – Mar 2022, and the corresponding period Oct-Dec 2021 revealed no significant changes. There was a slight decrease of 0.7%, a standard deviation of $s: 0.49$, and a margin of error ($\pm 2.17\%$) at a 95% confidence interval.

Figure 2: Youth Unemployment Rates 2019-2022



The illustration in figure 3, compares the Labour Force Survey quarterly results from 2022 to 2019.

An analysis which outlines Youth Labour Force and Unemployed Youths quarter 1 results is shown in tables 3 and 4 respectively. It revealed the figures for the youth² Labour force as 23,432, with males ranking highest at 11,942 and females at 11,490 a difference of 450. Meanwhile, Unemployed Youth registered 7,471, males registering 3,754 and females 3,716.

Table 3: Youth Labour Force

Category	Age Group	Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Total Youth		11490	11942	23432
Youth Labour Force	15-19 Years	2178	1100	3278
	20-24 Years	3937	4715	8652
	25-29 Years	5376	6127	11502

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

Table 4: Unemployed Youth

Category	Age Group	Sex		Total
		Male	Female	
Total Youth		3754	3716	7471
Unemployed Youth	15-19 Years	1198	781	1979
	20-24 Years	1025	692	1717
	25-29 Years	1531	2243	3774

EMPLOYMENT

The quarterly employment data expressed in figure 3 provides a comparison of employment rates for the first (1st) - fourth (4th) quarter of 2019 and the first (1st) quarter of 2022 which shows employment remained stable. The current period revealed the employment rate at 83.9% (see figure 4) for the period Jan-Mar (1st d quarter) 2022. 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 5). The data revealed significant increases from the 2021 fourth quarter to 2022 first quarter in the employment status of *Self-Employed with Employees* and *Self-Employed without Employees* of 25.5% and 18% respectively as depicted in figure 4. However, due to the difference in the methodology applied to both quarters the data exhibited is used as a standalone. Additionally figure 4 comprises the percentages assigned to each status of employment acquire for the period (1st Qtr. 2022).

Figure 3: Employment Rate 2019-2022

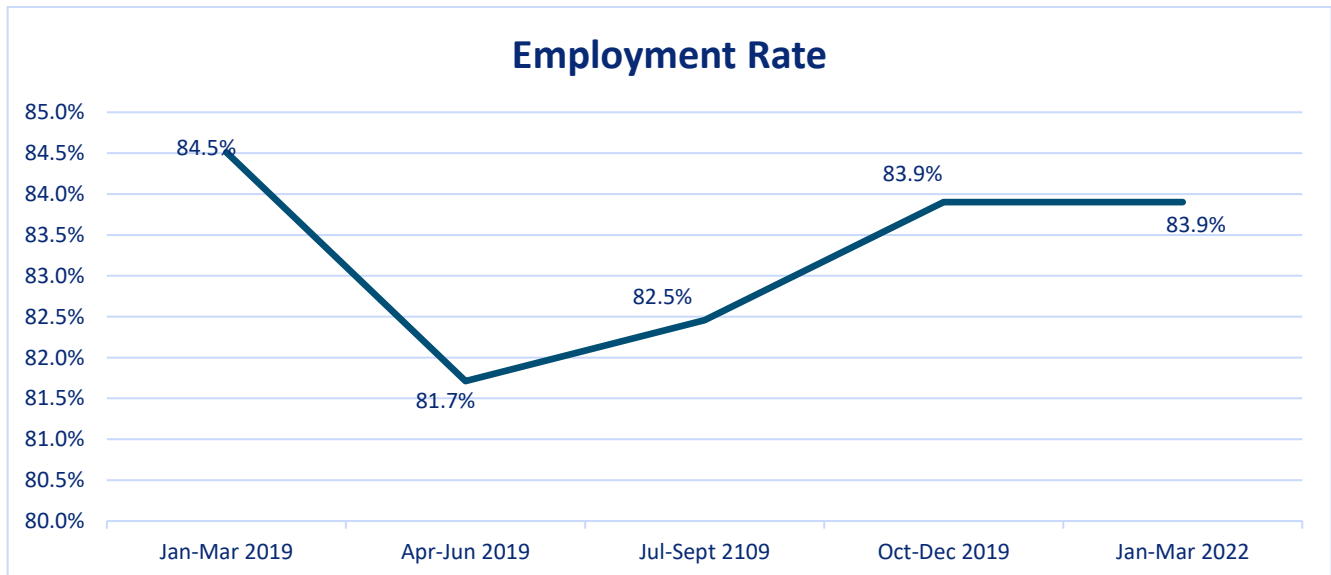


Figure 4: Employment Status

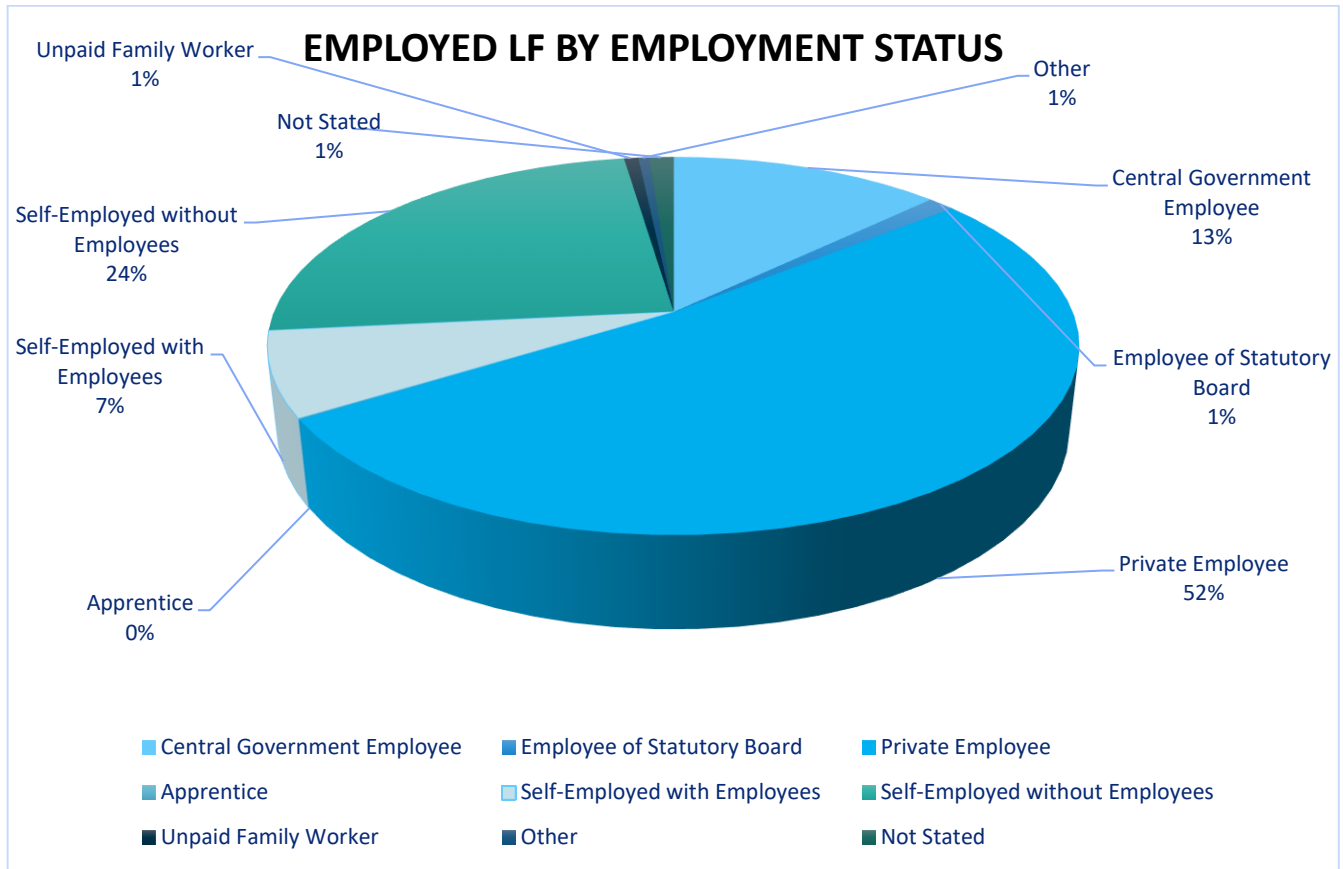


Figure: 5 Employed labour Force by Industry Group and sex

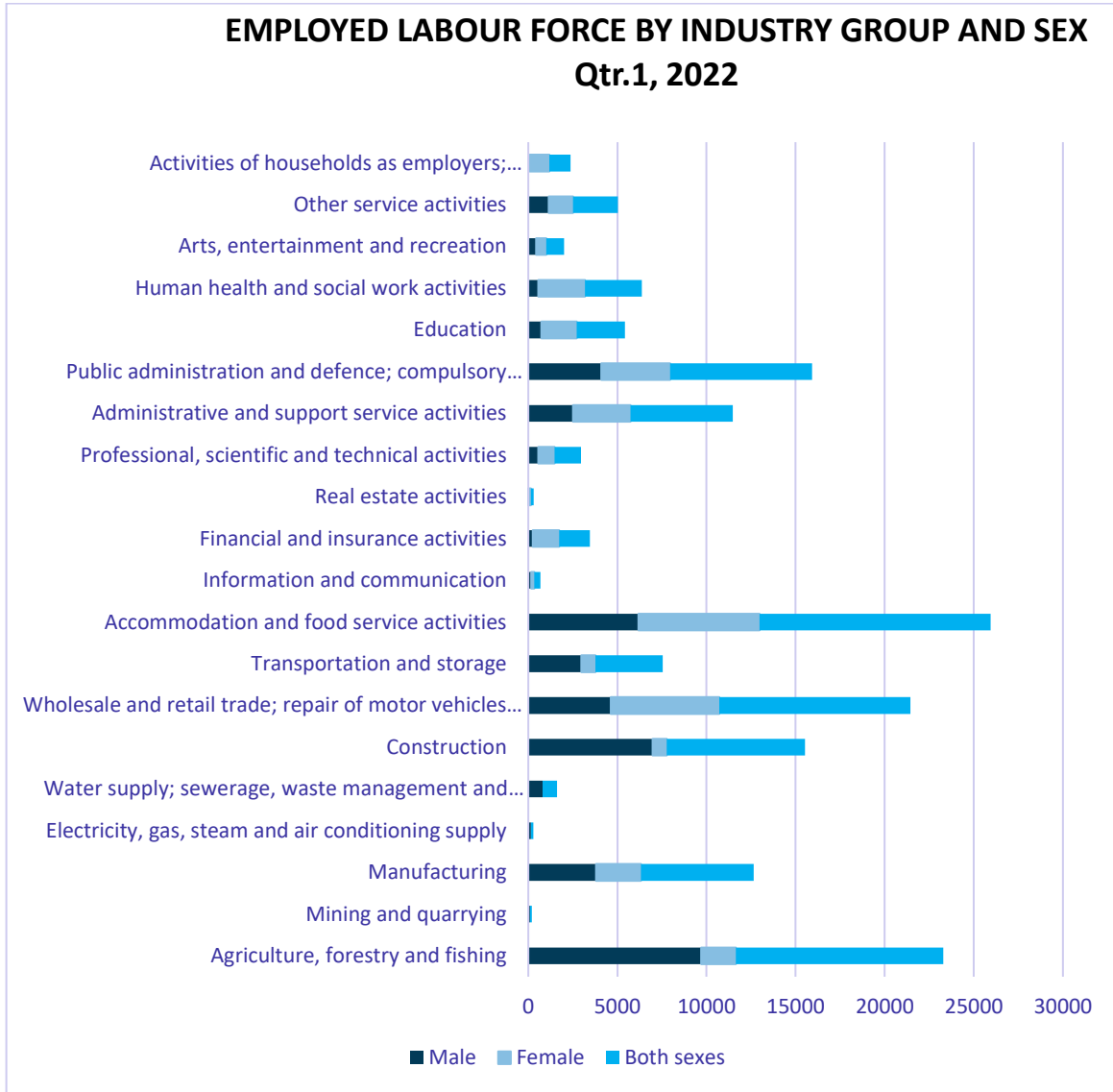


Figure 6: Employed labour Force by Occupation and Sex

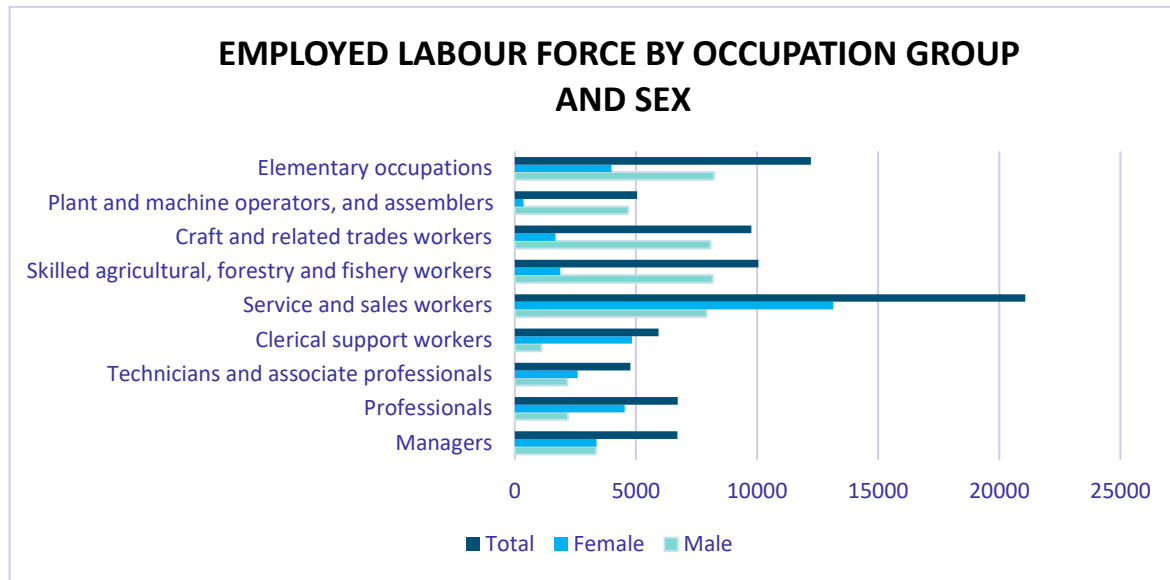


Figure 7: Employed labour Force by Educational Qualification and sex

NUMBER EMPLOYED BY EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION AND SEX

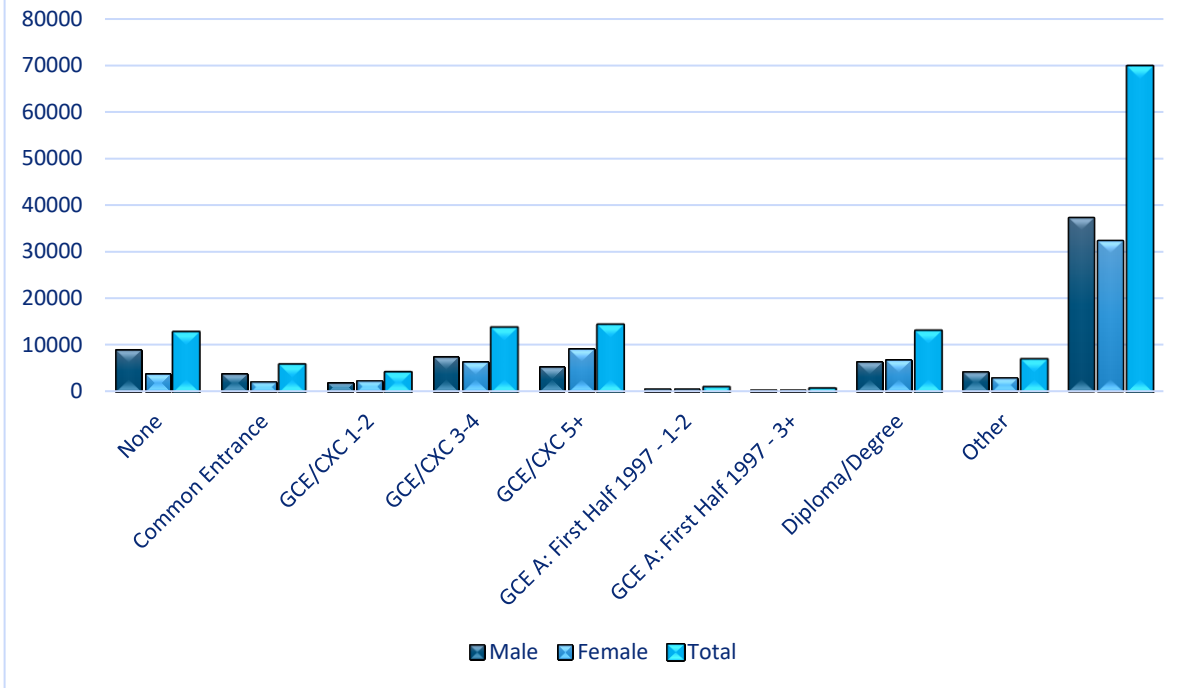


Figure 8: Employed labour Force by Educational Level and Sex

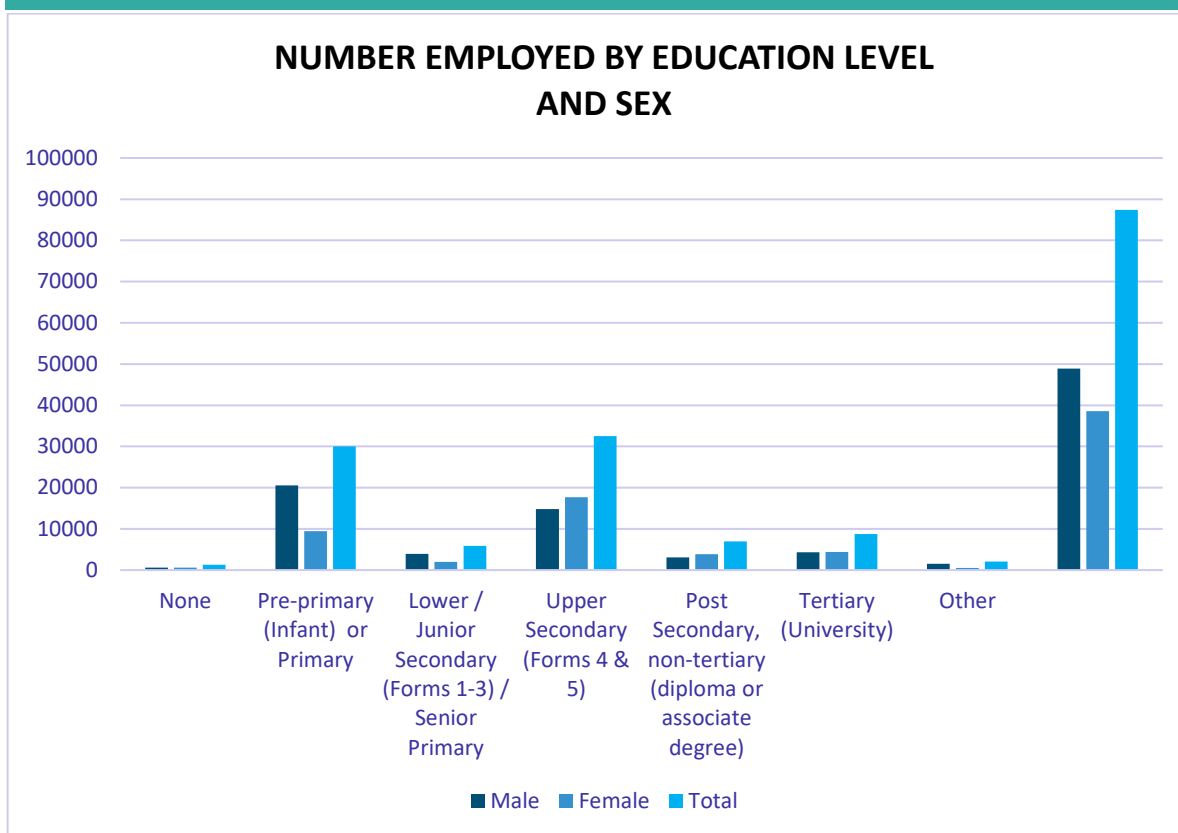


Figure 6 illustrates the percentage share of the occupation employment of the labour force for the first quarter, i.e., January-March 2022. It should be noted that “*service and sales workers*” exhibited the highest percentages (24.1%) with more females than males falling into this category. This is followed by “*Elementary Occupations*” which recorded the second highest share, with 14% and in contrast males dominated this sector this employment category than females. “*Craft and related trade workers*” followed with 11.2%. Simultaneously, Technicians and associate professionals recorded the lowest percentages (5.5%) for the period Jan-Mar 2022.

Concerning the employment sector, the data showed the employment in several sectors during the assessment period where “*Accommodation and food service activities*”, “*Agriculture, forestry and fishing*” and “*Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles*”, accounted for the greatest share of employment, capturing first second and third place respectively (see figure 7). “*Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies*” reported the smallest share of the sector.

Concurrently, 38.4% of the employed population attained upper secondary (form 4 & 5) level of education, 32.6% attained Pre-primary (Infant) or Primary and 11.9% attained Tertiary (University) respectively. The highest level of education attained by gender revealed, male 37% and female 38% both Upper Secondary (Forms 4 & 5). 21% of the employed population did not receive any educational qualification while 20.4% gained GCE/CXC 5+ qualification while females top this category with 25% GCE/CXC 5+ qualification as depicted in figure 7. It must be noted that 18.4 % of the employed population gain a Diploma/Degree qualification of which 9.5% represented females and 8.9% represented males.

Labour Market Statistical Snapshot

Table 5: main IndicatorsTable

Labour Force Indicators	1st Qtr 2022
Estimated Household Population	178882
Population 15 years and over	148102
Labour Force	104262
of which - Male	56705
of which- Female	47557
Employed Labour Force	87428
of which -Male	48887
of which -Female	38540
Employment Rate	83.9%
Persons who want work	
(i) The Unemployed	16835
of which - Male	7818
of which- Female	9017
(ii) Non-Seekers	3585
Unemployment Rate %	16.1%
of which - Male	13.8%
of which- Female	19.0%
Youth Unemployment Rate %	31.9%
Relaxed Unemployment Rate %	19.6%
Non-Job Seeking Rate %	3.4%
Population under 15 years (%)	17.2%
Labour Force as a Percentage of Total Population	58.3%
Labour Force as a Percentage of Population 15 years and over OR Labour Force Participation Rate	70.4%

Table 5 above, provides

a statistical snapshot of the main labour market indicators reviewed during the labour Force Survey data collection period from January to March 2022. 3,585 persons in the labour market were recorded as non-seekers i.e persons who are not in the labour force (students, retired persons, etc).

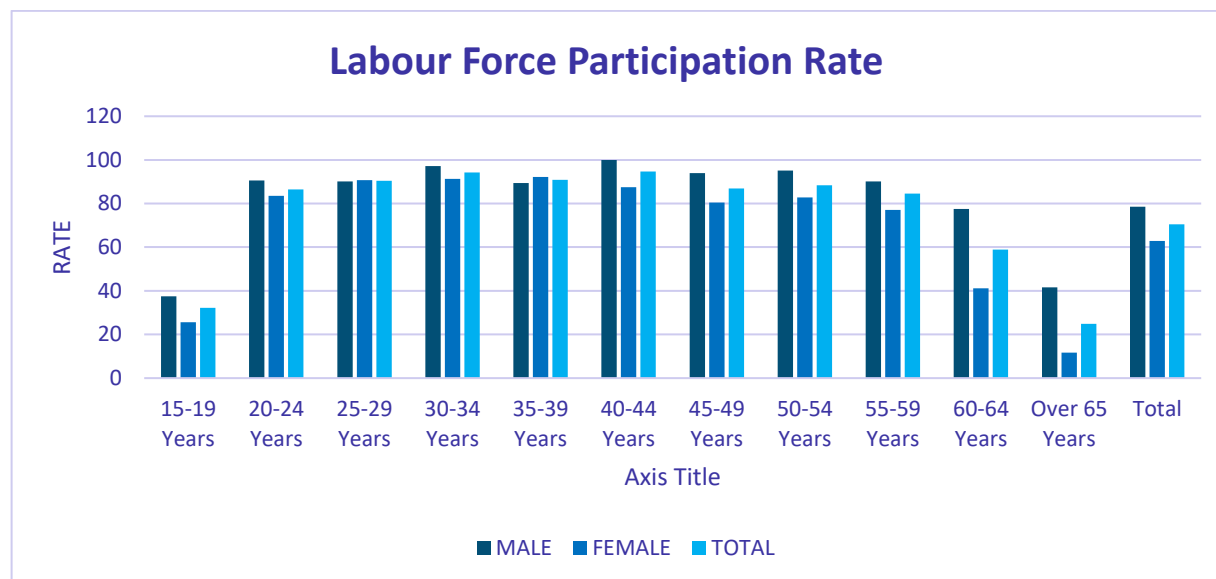
Relax unemployment Rate stood at 19.6%, which indicates the percentage of the population which are not actively seeking work. However, an estimated 82.8% of the population is considered to be in the

working age population (148,102) of which the labour force³ is estimated to be at 104,262. The male labour force recorded 56,705 while females recorded 47,557.

Labour Force Participation Rate

The Labour Force Participation Rate⁴ in the first quarter of 2022 was 70.4% of which 58.3% and this represents a 2% increase when compared to 70.1% in the third quarter of 2019. As expressed in figure 9, the age group 40-44 Years is associated with the highest participation rate of 94.7%. Similarly, males in the same age group achieved the highest participation rate while females in, the 35-39 Years age group reveals the highest participation rate 92.1%. On the other hand, the lowest participation rate was observed in the age group Over 65 Years (pensionable group) with 24.9%. (See figure 9 for more details).

Figure 9: labour Force Participation Rate



³ 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) 1st Quarter employment figures are consistent with the data captured from the labour force survey for the period Jan-Mar 2022. 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.

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.