



Statistical Report of the Labour Force Survey 2024 Annual



Saint Lucia Central Statistical Office

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

Cautionary Note: 2024 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 period January to December 2024 (2024 Annual).

Information contained in this report is the result of a Household Labour Force Survey, conducted during the year 2024, from January 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 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.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we diligently compile accurate and comprehensive labour market statistics. To assure the reliability and international alignment of our data, we collaborate closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO). The CSO remains committed to transparency and quality in our data reporting practices.

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STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT: LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ANNUAL 2024

Table 1: Main Indicators Labour Force Survey

Labour Force Indicator	Total	Male	Female
Population 15 Years and Over	157,541	-	-
Labour Force	109,160	58,490	50,670
Employed Labour Force	97,354	52,709	44,645
Employment Rate	89%	90%	88%
Unemployed (Want Work)	11,806	5,702	6,104
Unemployment Rate	11%	10%	12%
Youth Unemployment Rate	18%	-	-
Relaxed Unemployment Rate	12%	-	-
Non-Job Seeking Rate	1%	-	-
Population Under 15 Years	14%	-	-
Labour Force as a Percentage of Total Population	59%	-	-
Labour Force Participation Rate	69%	76%	63%

The estimated labour force for the period 2024 is 157,541 people aged 15 years and over, from which 109,160 individuals form the labour force (*see table 1 above*). Of this labour force, 58,490 are male and 50,670 are female. A total of 97,354 people is employed, with males accounting for 52,709 of this number and females 44,645.

The employment rate is reported at 89.2%, which reflects the percentage of employed individuals out of the total labour force. Among those wanting work, 11,806 individuals are unemployed, comprising 5,702 males and 6,104 females, yielding an overall unemployment rate of 10.8%. The male unemployment rate stands at 9.8%, while the female rate is slightly higher at 12.0%. Additionally, the youth unemployment rate is notably high at 17.8%, with the relaxed unemployment rate reaching 12.2%.

There is a non-job seeking rate of 1.4%, and 14.4% of the population is under the age of 15. The labour force as a percentage of the total population is 59.3%, while the labour force participation rate (which is the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over that is in the labour force) stands at 69.3%.

LABOUR FORCE

The largest proportion of the labour force is found in the age group of 25-29 years, with a total of 12,029 individuals. This group consists of 6,370 males (52.9%) and 5,659 females (47.1%). The smallest labour force is in the over 65 years category, with 7,305 individuals, which consists of 4,923 males (67.4%) and 2,382 females (32.6%). In general, males dominate in all age groups. However, the gender gap decreases as age increases, with shifts occurring in the older age groups (50-54 and 55-59 years).

The distribution of the labour force by district of residence and sex reveals that Castries Rural has the highest number of individuals in the labour force, with 46,311 individuals. This includes 24,818 males (53.6%) and 21,493 females (46.4%). Gros-Islet has the second-largest number, with 16,816 individuals, consisting of 8,154 males (48.5%) and 8,662 females (51.5%). The smallest labour force is found in the districts of Anse-La-Raye/Canaries and Choiseul, with 4,965 (4,965 individuals total) and 3,937 individuals (3,937 total), respectively.

In terms of gender distribution:

- ✚ **Castries Rural** has a large gap in favour of males, with 24,818 males (53.6%) vs. 21,493 females (46.4%).
- ✚ **Gros-Islet** shows a balanced gender distribution, with a slight female dominance (51.5% females vs. 48.5% males).
- ✚ **Anse-La-Raye/Canaries** has 2,563 males (51.6%) and 2,402 females (48.4%).
- ✚ **Choiseul** has 1,914 males (48.6%) and 2,023 females (51.4%).

EMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY GROUP

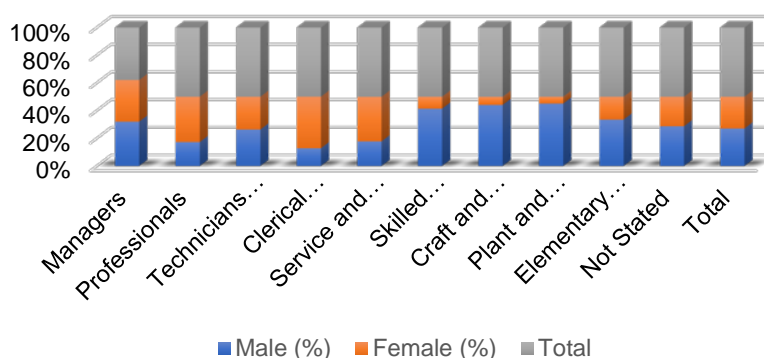
During the period under review, the employed labour force was distributed across various industry sectors. The *Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles* sector indicated the highest employed individuals, with 16,235 individuals (16.7% of the total), followed by *Accommodation and food service activities*, which employed 14,447 individuals (14.8%). The gender distribution shows that *Wholesale and retail trade and Accommodation and food services*

employ more females (58.6% and 50.8%, respectively). In contrast, sectors such as *Agriculture, forestry, and fishing* (82.4% male) and *Construction* show a clear male dominance.

EMPLOYED OCCUPATION GROUP

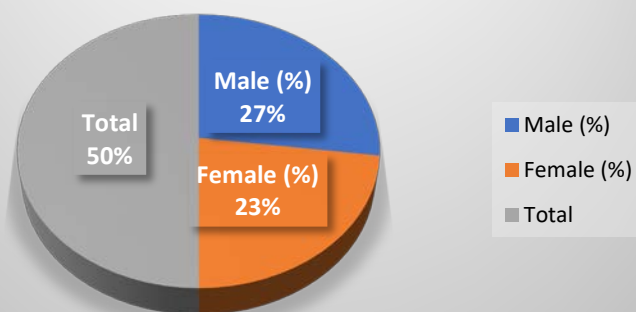
In the occupation group, *Service and sales workers* made up the largest group with 28,812 individuals (29.6% of the total), followed by *Elementary* occupations (12.3%). Females dominate

**EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE BY
OCCUPATION GROUP AND SEX-
Annual 2024**



occupations like *Clerical support workers* (74.6%) and *Service and sales workers* (64.4%). Males were more concentrated in occupations like *Craft and related trades workers* (88.1% male) and *Skilled agricultural, forestry, and fishery workers* (82.8% male).

EMPLOYED LF BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND SEX-ANNUAL 2024



Regarding employment status, Private Employees represent the largest group, with 55.6% of the total employed labour force. Self-employed without employees follows, with 20.4%. Central Government Employees are predominantly female (62.6%). Self-employed with employees and Private Employees showed male dominance.

In 2024, the employed labour force totals 97,354 individuals, categorized by age group and sex. The largest group is reflected in the 25-29 years age range, comprising 10.8% of the total, followed by the 30-34 years group with 9.9%. The smallest group is in the over 65 years category, with 7.1%. Males dominate the employed labour force, making up 54.2%, while females account for 45.8%. The gender gap is most noticeable in younger age groups, with a more balanced distribution in older groups (*see table 2*).

Within the districts, Castries Rural has the largest employed labour force, with 41,000 individuals (42.1% of the total), followed by Gros-Islet with 15,753 individuals (16.2%). Choiseul reported the smallest employed labour force, with 3,376 individuals (3.5%). Across districts, males generally outnumber females, except in Gros-Islet, where females are slightly more employed. The percentage of females in the employed labour force varies, ranging from 40.7% in Vieux-Fort to 45.4% in Castries Rural. The gender distribution reflects a trend of male dominance, though the gap narrows in certain districts and older age groups.

Statistical Summary Table 2

Indicator	Total	Male	Female	Percentage Male	Percentage Female
Total Employed Labour Force	97,354	52,709	44,645	54.20%	45.80%
Employed by Age Group (15-19 years)	1,666	599	1,066	35.90%	64.10%
Employed by Age Group (20-24 years)	9,363	4,777	4,586	51.00%	49.00%
Employed by Age Group (25-29 years)	10,534	5,689	4,845	53.90%	46.10%
Employed by Age Group (30-34 years)	9,602	5,201	4,401	54.20%	45.80%
Employed by Industry (Wholesale and Retail Trade)	16,235	6,728	9,506	41.40%	58.60%
Employed by Occupation (Service and Sales)	28,812	10,261	18,551	35.60%	64.40%
Employed by Employment Status (Private Employee)	54,148	28,337	25,811	52.40%	47.60%

UNEMPLOYMENT

In 2024, the total number of unemployed individuals in the labour force is 11,806. Unemployment rates by district vary, with Laborie having the highest unemployment rate at 21.4%, followed by Vieux-Fort at 19.3%. In contrast, Gros-Islet and Castries City report significantly lower rates of 6.3% and 10%, respectively. The overall unemployment rate for the country is 10.8%, reflecting the proportion of unemployed individuals within the total active labour force.

The largest proportion of unemployed persons is in the 20-24 years age group, with 1,824 individuals (15.4% of the total), followed by the 15-19 years group, comprising 1,335 people (11.3%). As age increases, unemployment decreases, with the smallest group found in the over 65 years category, consisting of 3.1%. Overall, there is a slight gender imbalance in the unemployed population, with females making up 51% and males 49%. Males dominate in the younger age groups (15-19 and 20-24 years), while females are more predominant in the 30-34 years and older age groups.

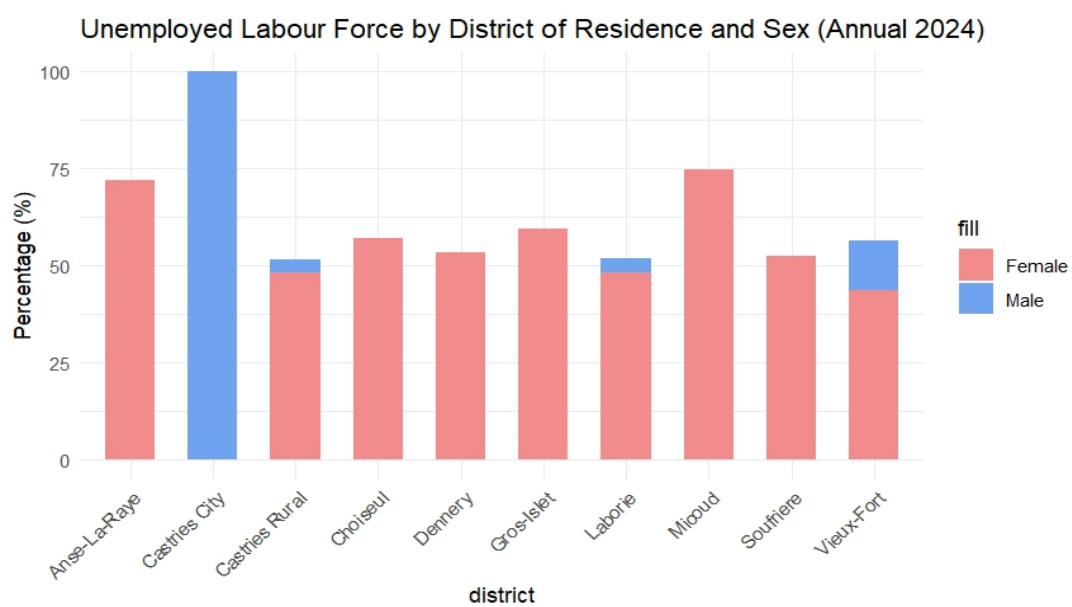
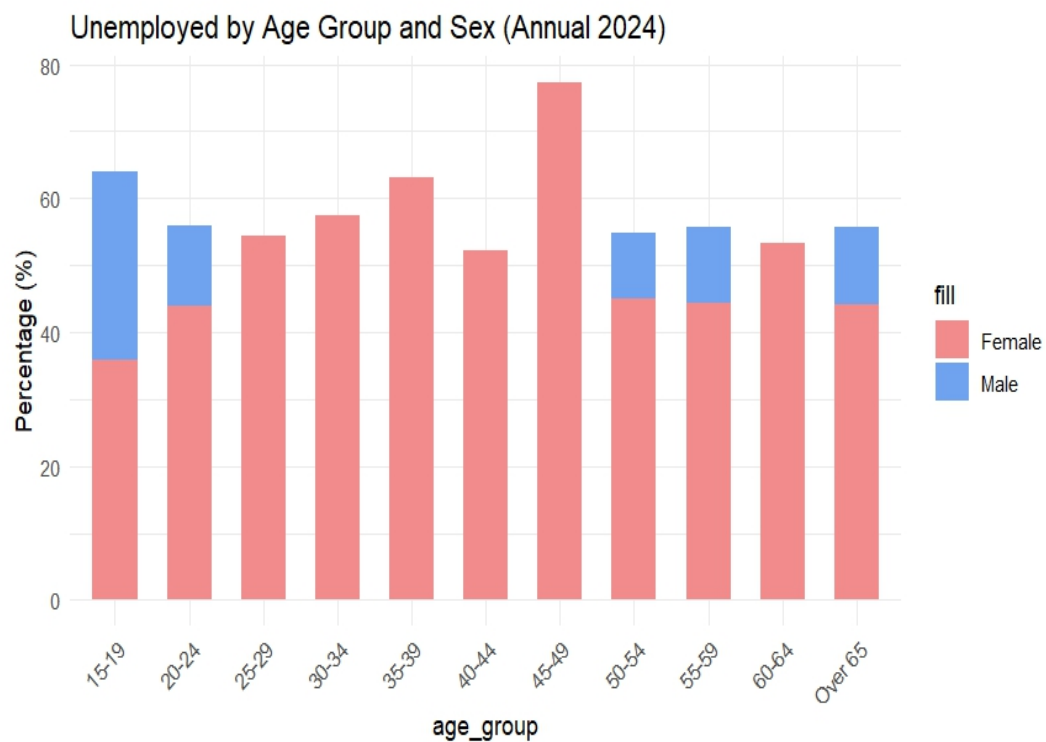
Unemployment rates also vary by district. Castries Rural has the highest number of unemployed individuals, accounting for 45% of the total unemployed population, with 5,311 individuals. Anse-La-Raye shows the lowest unemployment, with only 1.2% of the total. The gender distribution across districts is generally balanced, although Vieux-Fort and Laborie show a higher proportion of female unemployment, while Castries City reflects a significant male presence in its unemployed population.

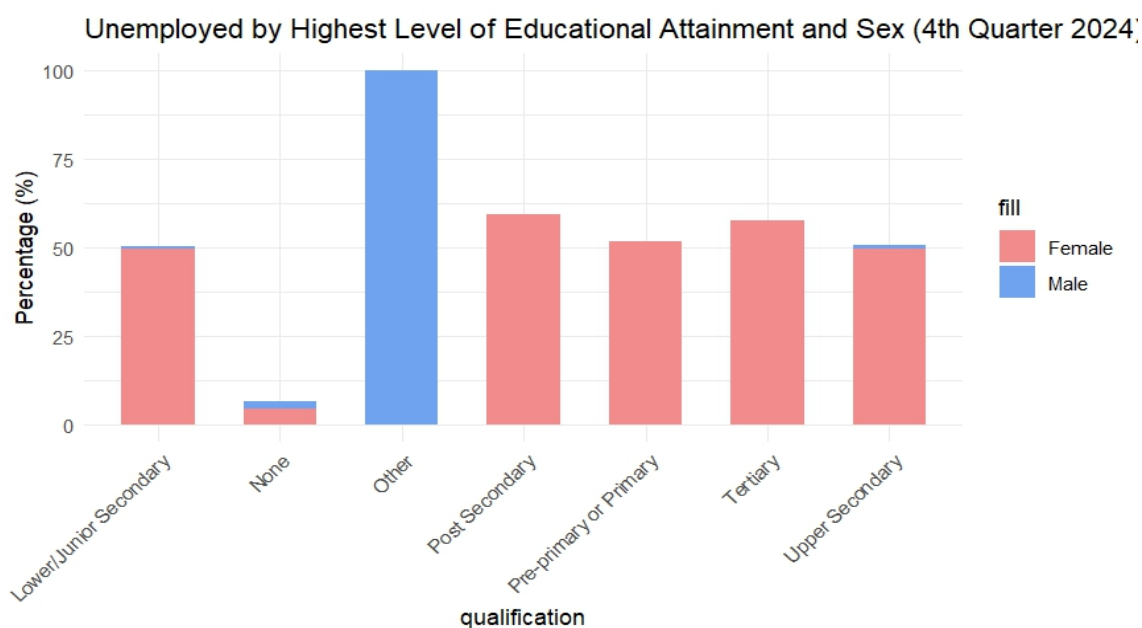
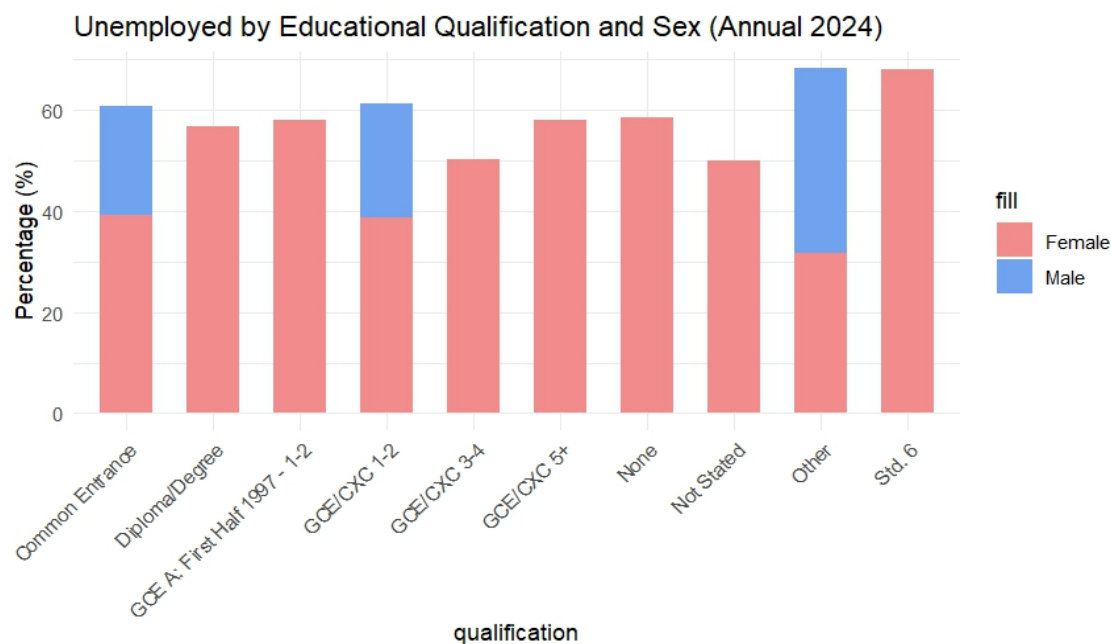
Education plays a vital role in unemployment, with the highest number of unemployed individuals having Pre-primary or Primary education (29% of the total), followed by those with Upper Secondary education (41.1%). Furthermore, 7.9% of unemployed individuals have a Tertiary education, reflecting that university graduates are also affected by unemployment.

In terms of educational qualifications, the most common among the unemployed are GCE/CXC 1-2 and GCE/CXC 3-4 certificates, accounting for 42.8% of the total. Additionally, Diploma/Degree holders represent 13.5% of the unemployed.

Statistical Summary Table 3

Indicator	Total	Male	Female	Percentage Male	Percentage Female
Total Unemployed Labour Force	11,806	5,782	6,024	49.00%	51.00%
Unemployed by Age Group (15-19 years)	1,335	856	480	64.10%	35.90%
Unemployed by Age Group (20-24 years)	1,824	1,021	803	55.90%	44.10%
Unemployed by Age Group (25-29 years)	1,495	681	814	45.60%	54.40%
Unemployed by Age Group (30-34 years)	725	308	417	42.50%	57.50%
Unemployed by Age Group (Over 65 years)	369	206	163	55.80%	44.20%
Unemployed by Educational Attainment (Primary)	3,420	1,650	1,770	48.20%	51.80%
Unemployed by Educational Qualification (GCE/CXC 1-2)	2,797	949	602	33.90%	21.50%
Unemployed by Educational Qualification (GCE/CXC 3-4)	2,247	1,115	1,132	49.70%	50.30%
Unemployed by Educational Qualification (GCE A)	355	149	207	41.90%	58.10%
Unemployed by Educational Qualification (Degree)	1,596	691	905	43.30%	56.70%





YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

The total youth labour force in Saint Lucia, comprising males and females aged 15-29 years, is 26,217 individuals, with males (51.9%) and 12,593 females (48.1%). This highlights the strong

participation of young individuals in the labour market; however, certain age groups show differing levels of engagement between the sexes. The largest segment of the youth labour force is seen in the 20-24 years age group, accounting for 42.7%, with 5,798 males (51.8%) and 5,389 females (48.2%). This group represents a significant proportion of youth employment activity, **demonstrating individuals transition from education into the workforce**. The 15-19 years age group follows, with (11.4%) of which 1,455 males (48.5%) and 1,546 females (51.5%). The 25-29 years age group is the third largest, with youth (45.9%), that is, 6,370 males (52.9%) and 5,659 females (47.1%).

The unemployed youth in St Lucia is recorded as 54.9% males and 45.1% females. The 15-19 years age group is most affected, making up 28.7% of the unemployed youth, with a high unemployment rate of 44.4%. The 20-24 years group follows, comprising 39.2% of the unemployed, with an unemployment rate of 16.3%. The 25-29 years group has the least unemployment at 32.1%, with a rate of 12.4%.

The youth Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for the 15-19 years age group is 11.4% of the total youth population. For the 20-24 years age group, the LFPR increases significantly to 42.6%, reflecting the active engagement of this group in the labour market. The 25-29 years group has the highest LFPR at 45.9%. The Unemployment Rate (UR) for the 15-19 years group is high at 44.4%, followed by the 20-24 years group with 16.3%, while the 25-29 years group reflects the lowest unemployment rate at 12.4%.

In terms of gender disparity in youth labour force participation, males are more represented in the 15-19 years 48.5% and 20-24 years 51.8% age groups, while females make up a larger proportion of the 25-29 years group 47.1%. However, the overall participation of both males and females is fairly balanced, with only slight differences in the total youth labour force. Regarding unemployment, females have a lower unemployment rate in the 15-19 years group, females unemployed 35.8% compared to males 64.2%. However, in the 25-29 years group, females are slightly more affected by unemployment, with females 54.5% compared to males 45.5%.

Statistical Summary Table 4

Age Group	Youth Labour Force - Total	Youth Unemployed - Total	Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) - Total	Unemployment Rate (UR) - Total
15-19 Years	3,001	1,335	11.40%	44.40%
20-24 Years	11,187	1,824	42.60%	16.30%
25-29 Years	12,029	1,495	45.90%	12.40%
Total Youth	26,217	4,654		

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

The overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for the working-age population (ages 15 and above) is 69.4%, with an unemployment rate (UR) of 10.8%. The highest LFPR is seen in the 25-29 years age group at 92.2%, while the lowest is in the Over 65 years group at 21.9%. In contrast, the unemployment rate is highest in the 15-19 years group at 45.6%. For males, the LFPR is 76.1%, with a lower unemployment rate of 9.9%. Males in the 25-29 years group have the highest participation at 92.2%, while the 15-19 years group shows the highest unemployment at 59.6%. Females have a lower LFPR of 63.1% and a higher unemployment rate of 11.9%. The highest female participation is also in the 25-29 years group at 92.0%, with the lowest in the Over 65 years age group at 12.4%. Interestingly, females in the 15-19 years group have a lower unemployment rate (33.8%) compared to males in the same group, while females in the 60-64 years group experience the highest unemployment at 14.0%. Key trends include the overall higher LFPR for males and higher unemployment among females in older age groups. The 15-19 years group consistently demonstrates the highest unemployment rates. The Over 65 years group shows low unemployment, reflecting the number of individuals who have exited the workforce.

Statistical Summary Table 5

Age Group	Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) - Total	Unemployment Rate (UR) - Total	Employment Rate (ER) - Total	Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) - Male	Unemployment Rate (UR) - Male	Employment Rate (ER) - Male	Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) - Female	Unemployment Rate (UR) - Female	Employment Rate (ER) - Female
15-19 Years	28.90%	45.60%	54.40%	30.60%	59.60%	40.40%	27.50%	33.80%	66.20%
20-24 Years	88.50%	16.40%	83.60%	89.70%	18.20%	81.80%	87.10%	14.90%	85.10%
25-29 Years	92.20%	12.40%	87.60%	92.20%	10.50%	89.50%	92.00%	14.70%	85.30%
30-34 Years	94.10%	7.10%	92.90%	94.10%	5.60%	94.40%	94.30%	8.20%	91.80%
35-39 Years	90.60%	11.70%	88.30%	91.80%	8.80%	91.20%	89.40%	14.10%	85.90%
40-44 Years	90.40%	12.20%	87.80%	89.40%	12.00%	88.00%	91.50%	12.80%	87.20%
45-49 Years	91.60%	6.80%	93.20%	93.00%	2.70%	97.30%	90.00%	11.00%	89.00%
50-54 Years	90.30%	7.30%	92.70%	94.20%	7.90%	92.10%	86.20%	6.80%	93.20%
55-59 Years	81.40%	8.60%	91.40%	92.00%	9.30%	90.70%	72.60%	7.70%	92.30%
60-64 Years	67.60%	9.70%	90.30%	80.60%	7.40%	92.60%	53.20%	14.00%	86.00%
Over 65 Years	21.90%	5.10%	94.90%	33.60%	3.90%	96.10%	12.40%	8.10%	91.90%
Total	69.40%	10.80%	89.20%	76.10%	9.90%	90.10%	63.10%	11.90%	88.10%

The 2024 labour force data for Saint Lucia highlights key trends and disparities within the workforce. Youth unemployment remains a critical challenge, particularly in the 15-19 years age group, where the unemployment rate is the highest. Older age groups exhibit lower unemployment rates, suggesting a higher level of retirement or exit from the workforce. Males show higher Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR) than females, although females experience slightly higher unemployment, particularly in older age groups. The data also reveals gender differences, with males predominating in industries like Agriculture and Construction, while females are more represented in Service and Clerical roles. In terms of employment status, private sector employment is the most common, with a significant portion of the workforce also engaged in self-employment without employees.

Finally, unemployment is notably high in districts like Laborie and Vieux-Fort, and individuals with lower educational qualifications are more likely to be unemployed, although higher-educated individuals also face challenges in the job market.