



## Statistical Snapshot of the Labour Force Survey 2nd Quarter 2024



Saint Lucia Central Statistical Office Website: <https://stats.gov.lc/>

## **Cautionary Note: Q2 2024 Labour Force Report**

*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 second quarter of 2024 (Q2 2024).*

*The Q2 2024 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 Q2 2024 arises from data availability and data collection constraints.*

*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 2024 Population and Housing Census are completed and analyzed.*

*The 2024 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 2024 Population and Housing Census once finalized.*

## Statistical Snapshot

Table 1: Main Indicator, Labour Force Survey

Labour Force Indicators 2nd qtr. 2024					
		Persons who want to work		Non-Job Seeking Rate %	1.3%
Population 15 years and over	155,745	(I) The Unemployed	12,209		
Labour Force	108,551	of which - Male	5,516	Population under 15 years (%)	15.4%
of which - Male	57,043	of which- Female	6,693		
of which- Female	51,508	(ii) Non-Seekers	1,429		
				Labour Force as a Percentage of Total	
Employed Labour Force	96,342	Unemployment Rate %	11.2%	Population	59.0%
of which -Male	51,527	of which - Male	9.7%		
of which -Female	44,815	of which- Female	13.0%		
				Labour Force as a Percentage of	
Employment Rate %	88.8%	Youth Unemployment Rate %	18.0%	Population 15 years and over OR	
				Labour Force Participation Rate	69.7%
		Relaxed Unemployment Rate %	12.6%		

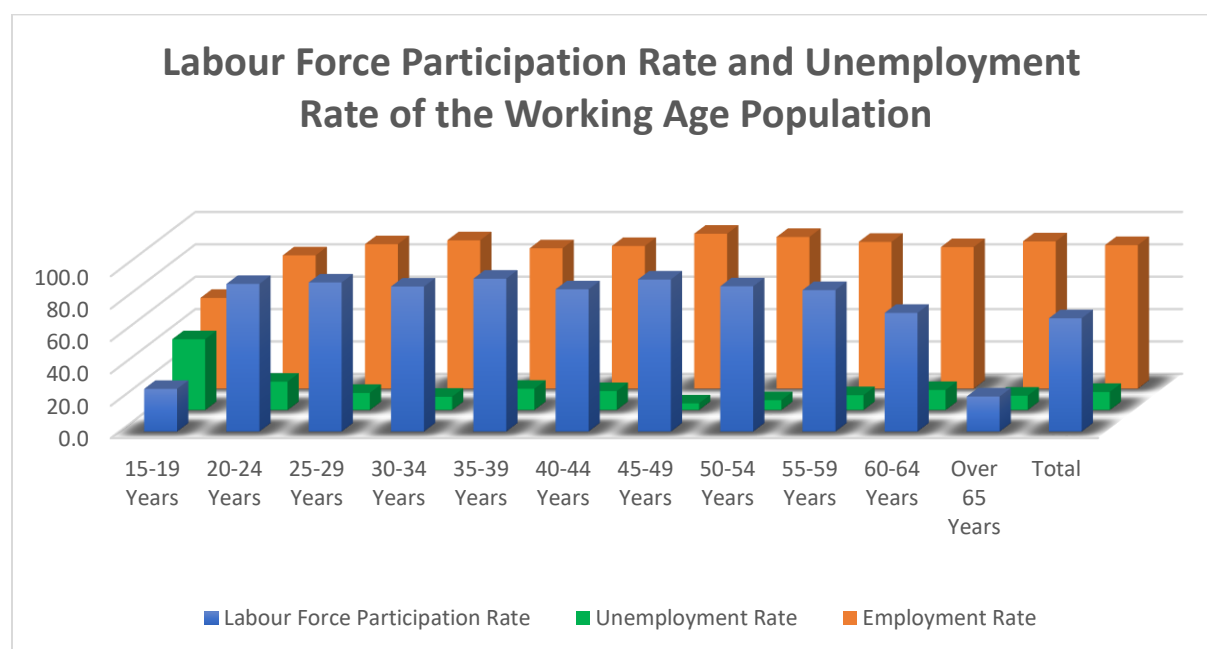
### Population and Labour Force

The labour market in Saint Lucia for the second quarter of 2024 shows positive employment trends with high participation and employment rates. However, the challenges of youth unemployment, gender disparities, and regional inequalities persist. The population aged 15 years and over is 155,745, forming the base for the labour force analysis. The total labour force

is 108,551, of which 57,043 are males and 51,508 are females. This means that 69.7% of the population aged 15 years and above is participating in the labour market.

### ***Labour Force Participation and Gender Disparities***

The labour force participation rate as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over is 69.7%, indicating active engagement of the working-age population in the economy. However, gender disparities persist in employment and unemployment figures, with males having a higher employment rate and a lower unemployment rate compared to females.



**Figure1: Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) of the Working Age Population by Age in Saint Lucia**

### ***Employment and Unemployment Rates***

The employed labour force during the same period is 96,342, which represents an employment rate of 88.8%. Employment among males is slightly higher, with 51,527 employed men, compared to 44,815 women. Conversely, the total number of unemployed persons is 12,209,

yielding an overall unemployment rate of 11.2%. Unemployment is higher among females (13.0%) than males (9.7%).

**Employment Status**

In terms of employment status for the second quarter of 2024 (period under review), most workers are private employees, with 57,061 persons working in this category. A significant number of individuals are also employed by the Central Government (14,280) and Statutory Boards (2,021). Self-employment remains a vital part of the economy, with 1,179 individuals working without employees, and 783 individuals being self-employed with employees.

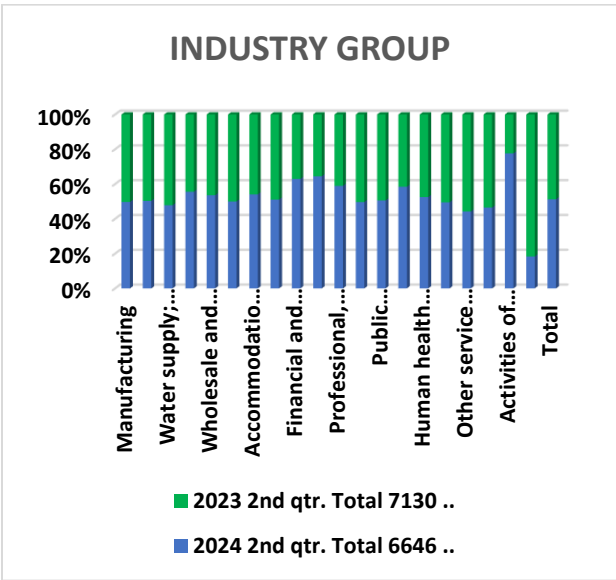


Figure 2: Industry Group (2 Qtr. 2024 & 2 Qtr. 2023)

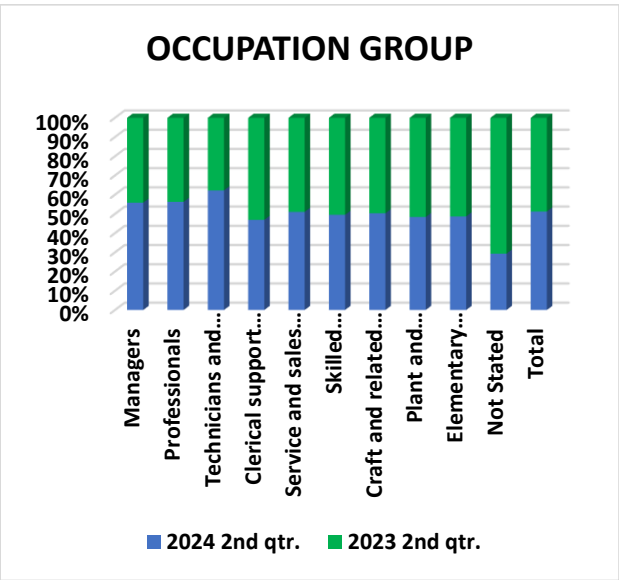


Figure 3: Occupation Group (2 Qtr. 2024 & 2 Qtr. 2023)

**Employment by Occupation and Industry**

Figure 2 and 3, illustrates the distribution of employment across various industry and occupation groups respectively, in Saint Lucia for the second quarters of 2023 and 2024, as well as the first quarter of 2024. The data is presented as a percentage of the total workforce in each industry.

The overall workforce experienced significant fluctuations across the three quarters, with a decrease of approximately 17.6% from Q2 2023 to Q1 2024, followed by a recovery of about 14.5% in Q2 2024. This indicates some instability in the labour market but also a notable recovery in employment levels during 2024. However, employment saw a decline of approximately 6.8% from Q2 2023 to Q2 2024, reflecting a contraction in the labour market over the year.

The manufacturing sector, however, has shown a consistent decline, with employment falling from around 90% in Q2 2023 to 70% in Q1 2024, and further to 60% in Q2 2024, indicating a possible shift in economic focus away from manufacturing. In contrast, service-oriented industries have seen growth, particularly in the "**Other service**" sector, which showed the largest increase, along with notable gains in "**Human health and social work activities**" and "**Public administration and defense**." Despite these fluctuations, certain core sectors, such as "**Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply**," "**Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities**," and "**Construction**," have remained relatively stable, with minimal changes in their employment levels, reflecting consistency in essential services and infrastructure-related industries.

In terms of occupations, the labour market trends show a significant increase in demand for **managerial and professional** roles, with employment in these positions rising steadily from 30% in Q1 2024 to 35% in Q2 2023, and further to 40% in Q2 2024. This upward trend highlights the growing need for skilled workers in higher-level occupations. Meanwhile, **clerical support** roles have maintained a stable demand, accounting for around 25% of the workforce across all three quarters, indicating a sustained requirement for **administrative staff**. However, there has been a noticeable decline in employment for **skilled agricultural, craft, and related occupations**, dropping from 20% in Q2 2023 to 15% in Q2 2024, despite a brief recovery to 10% in Q1 2024. This may be a shift towards other sectors. The demand for **plant and machine operators** has also decreased, falling from 20% in Q2 2023 to 15% in Q1 2024, and further to 10% in Q2 2024. On the other hand, **elementary occupations** have experienced a steady rise, growing from 10% in Q1 2024 to 15% in Q2 2023, and reaching 20% in Q2 2024.

Unemployment

District Unemployment Rates

The data on unemployment rates by district for the 2nd Qtr. 2024, reveals regional disparities. Laborie has the highest unemployment rate at 30%, followed by Vieux-Fort at 23%, and Dennery at 18%. In contrast, Castries, the capital, has a relatively low unemployment rate of 11%, indicating better job opportunities in urban areas compared to rural districts like Anse-La-Raye (4%) and Soufriere (1%).

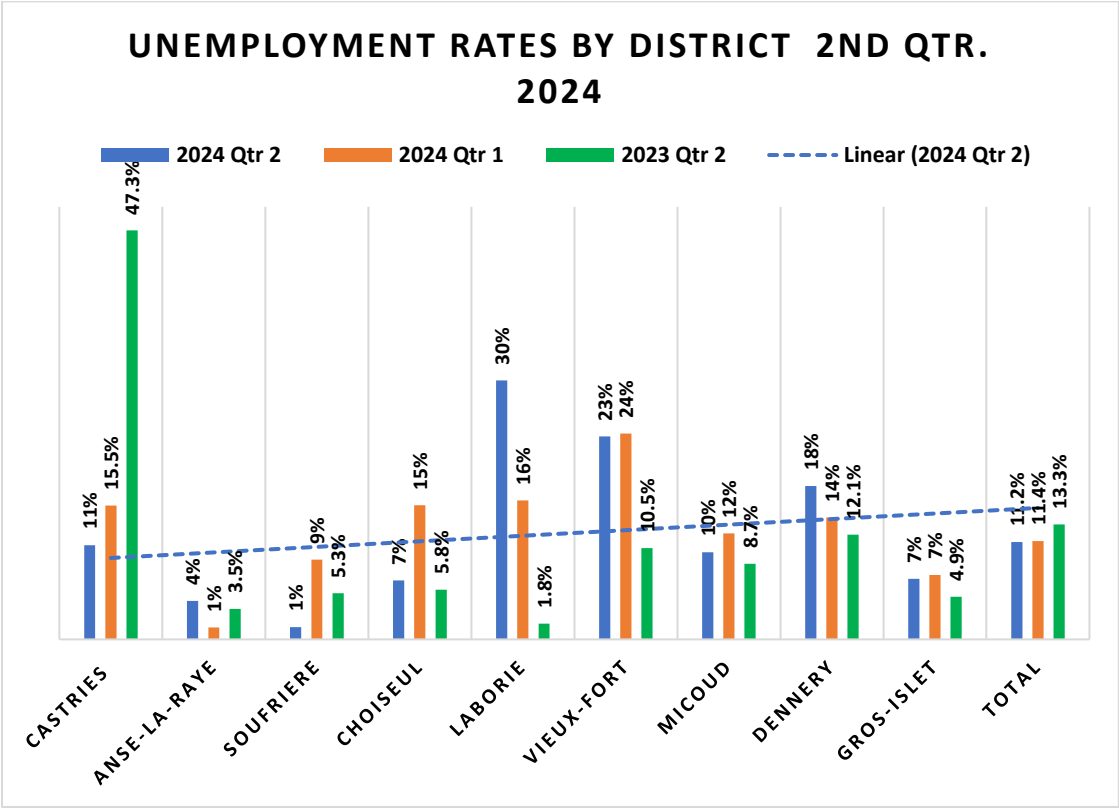


Figure 4: Unemployment Rates by District

Unemployment by Educational Attainment

Figure 5 illustrates the distribution of unemployed individuals in Saint Lucia according to their highest level of educational attainment for the second quarter of 2024. The data is presented as a percentage of the total unemployed population, broken down by gender.



Individuals with lower educational attainment showed significantly higher unemployment rates compared to those with advanced educational qualifications. Specifically, individuals without formal education experience an unemployment rate of approximately 40%, whereas those with tertiary education have a substantially lower rate of around 10%. This highlights a strong correlation between educational attainment and employment opportunities. Similarly, post-secondary non-tertiary education, such as diplomas or associate degrees, offers a significant employment advantage, with an unemployment rate of approximately 15%, which remains below the overall average. Gender disparities further complicate the unemployment landscape, as women generally face higher unemployment rates than men, particularly at lower levels of educational attainment. For instance, among individuals with lower or junior secondary education, women experience an unemployment rate of approximately 25%, compared to 15% for men.

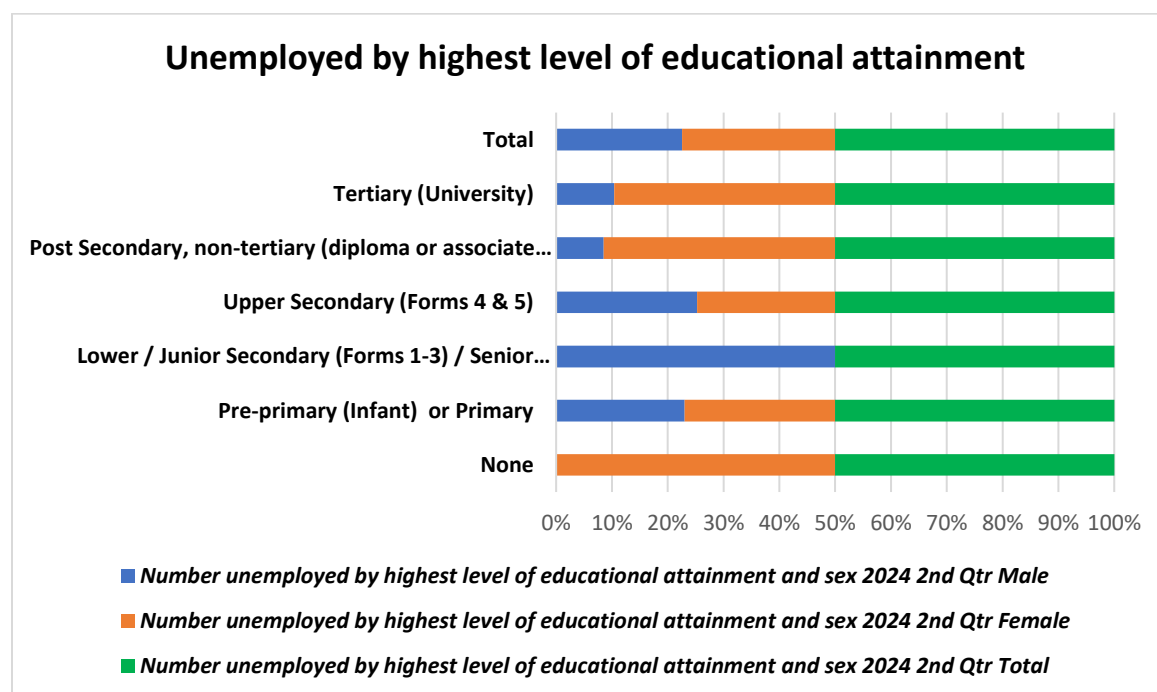
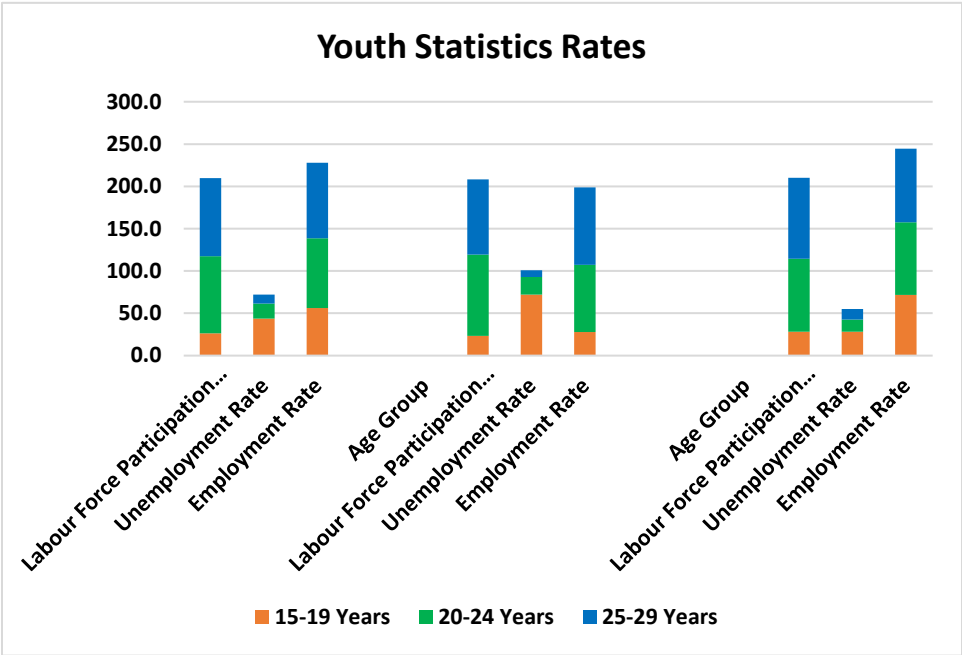


Figure 5: Number unemployed by highest level of educational attainment and sex 2024 2nd Qtr.



Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment remains a critical issue, with the youth unemployment rate standing at 18.0%. This suggests that nearly one-fifth of young people seeking employment are unable to find work in the labour market. Figure 6 illustrates the employment statistics for young people aged 15-29 in Saint Lucia. The graph depicts three key indicators: labour force participation rate, unemployment rate, and employment rate.



Overall, the Labour Force data for the period under review reveals a trend of decreasing labour force participation rates with increasing age. Conversely, the unemployment rate generally increases with age, peaking in the 20-24 age group before declining slightly. The employment rate follows a similar pattern, with lower rates among younger age groups and a gradual increase as individuals progress through their late 20s.