



Statistical Snapshot of the Labour Force Survey 3rd Quarter 2024



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

Cautionary Note: Q3 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 third quarter of 2024 (Q3 2024), July to September 2024.

Information contained in this report is the result of a Household Labour Force Survey, conducted during the third quarter of 2024, from July to September 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 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.

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KEY LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS AND FORMULAS

The following are the international standard definitions of the main concepts underlying the unemployment rate, as stated in the Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization adopted by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2013.

1. **Labour force:** *The current supply of labour for the production of goods and services in exchange for pay or profit, computed as the sum of persons in employment and in unemployment.*

$$\text{Labour Force} = \text{Employed Labour Force} + \text{Unemployed}$$

2. **Labour Force Participation Rate:** *is the percentage of a country's working-age population that is either employed or actively looking for work:*

$$\text{Labour Force Participation Rate} = \text{Labour Force} \times 100 / \text{Population 15 years and over}$$

3. **Employment:** *A person in employment as defined by the International Labour Office (ILO) is a person aged 15 or over who has done at least one hour's paid work in a given week, or who is absent from work for certain reasons (annual leave, sickness, maternity, etc.) and for a certain period of time. All forms of employment are covered (employees, self-employed, family helpers), whether the employment is declared or not.*

The unemployment rate is computed as follows:

Employment rate: *The percentage of the working-age population that is employed:*

$$\text{Employment rate} = \text{Number of employed individuals} / \text{Total labour force (times 100)}$$

4. **Unemployment:** *According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), unemployment is defined as a person who meets the following criteria:*

- *Is at least 15 years old*
- *Is not employed during a given week*
- *Is available to work within two weeks*
- *Has actively sought work in the last four weeks or has found a job that starts within three months*

Therefore, persons in unemployment are defined as *all those of working age who were not in employment, carried out activities to seek employment during a specified recent period and were currently available to take up employment given a job opportunity.*

Based on this, the unemployment rate is computed as follows:

- **Unemployment Rate** = $\text{Unemployed} \times 100 / \text{Labour Force}$
- **Male Unemployment Rate** = $(\text{No. of Unemployed Males} / \text{Total No. of Males in the Labour Force}) \times 100$
- **Female Unemployment Rate** = $(\text{No. of Unemployed Females} / \text{Total No. of Females in the Labour Force}) \times 100$
- **Youth Unemployment:** *For the purpose of this indicator, the term "youth" covers persons aged 15 years to 29 years.*

$$\text{Youth Unemployment Rate} = \text{Unemployed Youths as a percentage of the Youth Labour Force}$$

STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

Table 1: Main Indicator, Labour Force Survey

Labour Force Indicators 3rd qtr. 2024					
		Persons who want to work		Non-Job Seeking Rate %	2.3%
Population 15 years and over	183030	(I) The Unemployed	13050		
Labour Force	110237	of which - Male	6819	Population under 15 years (%)	12.5%
of which - Male	57858	of which- Female	6231		
of which- Female	52378	(ii) Non-Seekers	2510		
				Labour Force as a Percentage of Total	60.2%
Employed Labour Force	97187	Unemployment Rate %	11.8%	Population 15 years and over OR Labour Force Participation Rate	68.8%
of which -Male	51039	of which - Male	11.8%		
of which -Female	46148	of which- Female	11.9%		
Employment Rate %	88.2%	Youth Unemployment Rate %	18.4%		
		Relaxed Unemployment Rate %	14.1%		

The third quarter 2024 Labour Force Survey for Saint Lucia provides a statistical snapshot of the labour market dynamics. It examines employment, unemployment, income distribution, education levels, occupational categories, and trends. The report aims to assist its users in understanding the current labour market landscape. It also highlights significant strides in female workforce.

LABOUR FORCE

The labour force for females shows significant age-based variations. Employment is highest among the 50–54 age group, reflecting the prime working years, while the 15–19 age group has the lowest employment levels, suggesting their focus on education. Notably, the 20–24 age group experiences a significant unemployment rate, indicating challenges for young women entering the workforce. Most older women (65+ years) are not in the labour force, aligning with retirement trends. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is 68.8% overall, peaking at 96.4% in the 30–34 age group and lowest among those aged 15–19 (35.8%). These trends are visually presented in figure 1 & 2.

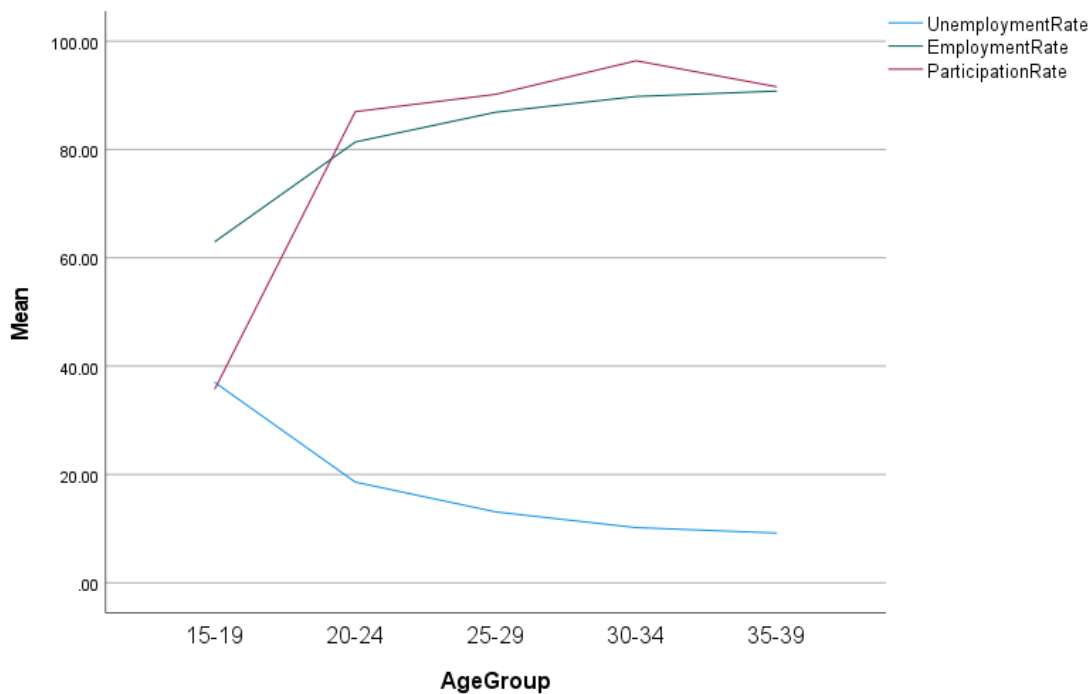


Figure 1: Age-Based Employment Trends

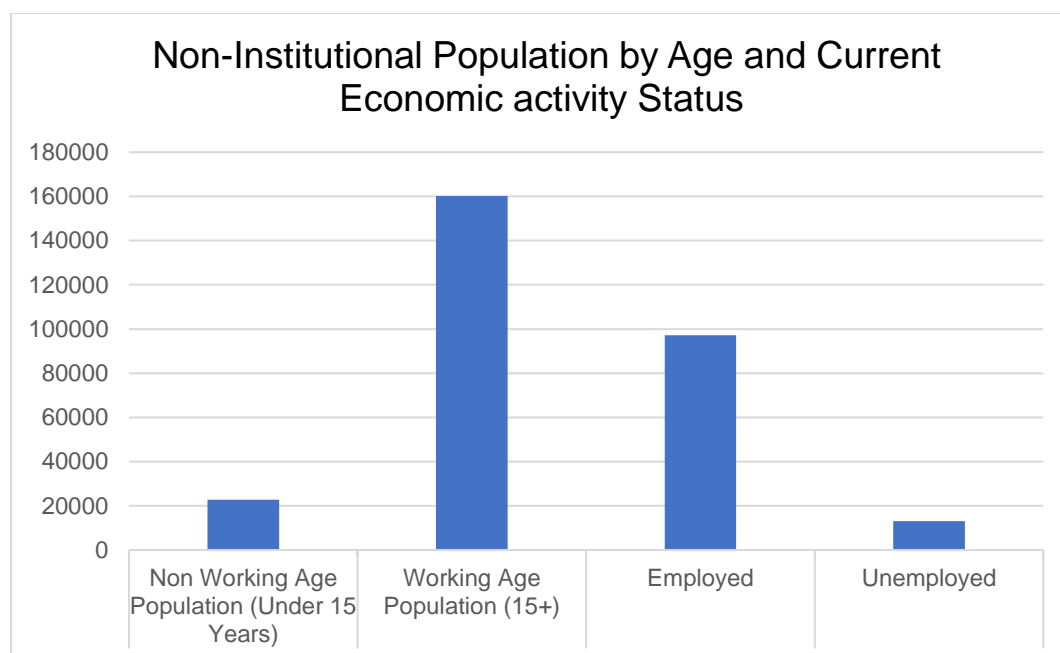


Figure 2: Non-Institutional Population by age and current economic activity status

EMPLOYMENT

The overall employment rate is 88.2%, with the highest in the 50–54 age group (93.1%) and the lowest in the 15–19 age group (63%). Figure 3 presents employment rates across age groups.

The top three contributors to employment in the 3rd Quarter of 2024 were Wholesale and Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Service Activities, and Construction. Wholesale and Retail Trade accounted for 27.5% of total employment, with a significant female dominance of 66.7% (figure 4). Accommodation and Food Service Activities followed closely with 16.7% of total employment, where 53.7% of workers were female. Construction, despite being male-dominated, contributed 15.3% to total employment, with 95.9% of workers being male.

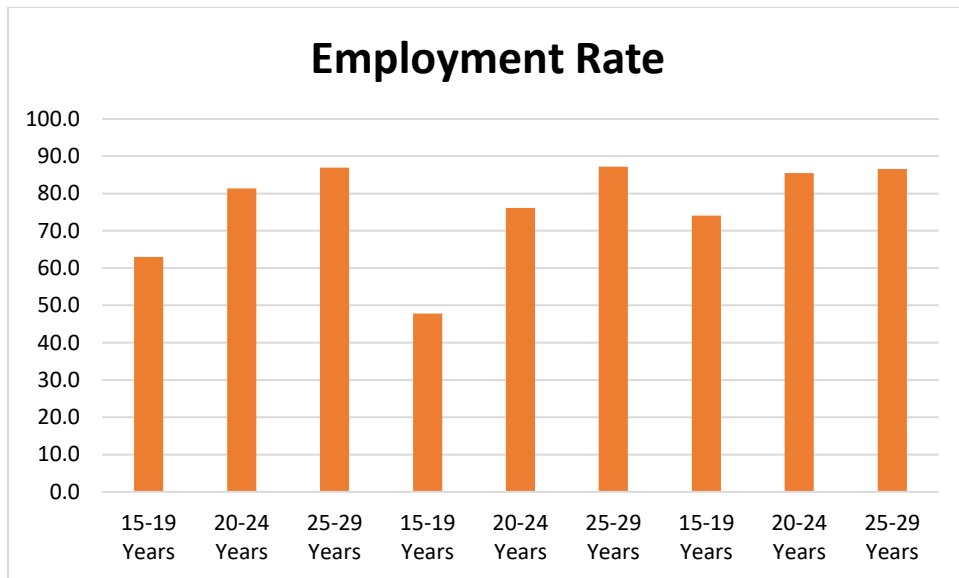


Figure 3: Employment Rate

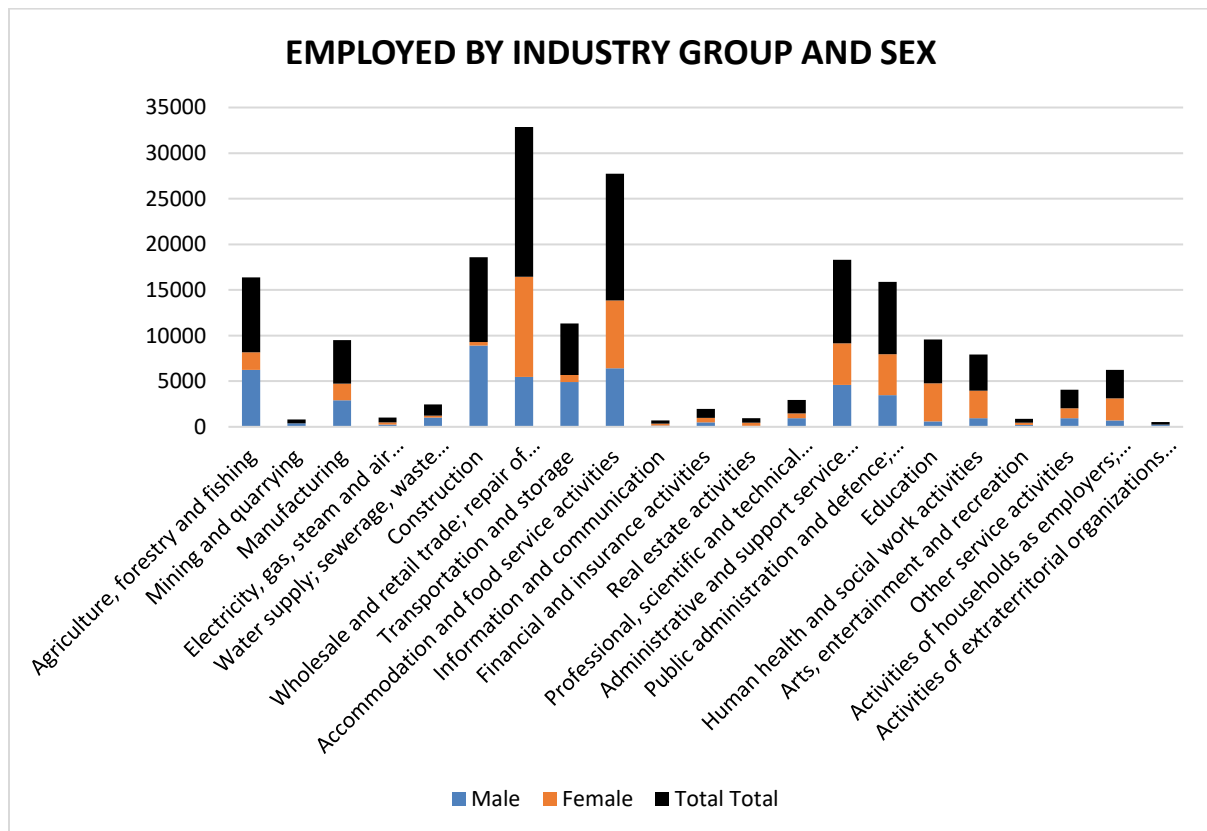


Figure 4: Employed by Industry Group and sex

The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing industry had 23.5% male workers and 76.5% female workers. In contrast, sectors like Mining and Quarrying (100% male) and Construction (4.1% female, 95.9% male) were predominantly male. Public Administration and Defence saw a relatively balanced distribution, with 56.5% females and 43.5% males. Other sectors such as Information and Communication and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation displayed a more balanced gender representation. Overall, industries like Accommodation and Food Services, Education, and Human Health and Social Work Activities had higher female participation, while sectors such as Construction, Mining, and Agriculture were predominantly male.

In the 3rd Quarter of 2024, the three major occupation groups by total employment were Service and Sales Workers, Craft and Related Trades Workers, and Technicians and Associate Professionals. Service and Sales Workers dominated the workforce, comprising 31.5% of the total, with 67.3% of these roles filled by females. Craft and Related Trades Workers followed closely, making up 12.5% of total employment, with 86.5% male workers. Technicians and Associate Professionals accounted for 8.7% of the total workforce, with 62.9% male and 37.1% female workers. These three groups together represent a significant portion of the employment landscape, with Service and Sales Workers standing out due to the large female workforce as displayed in figure 5.

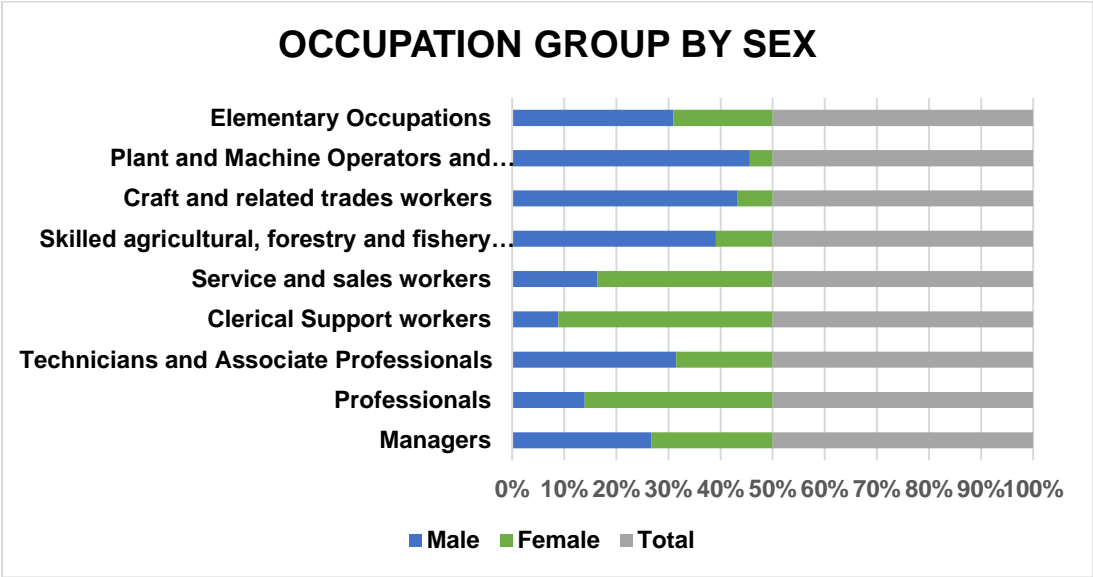
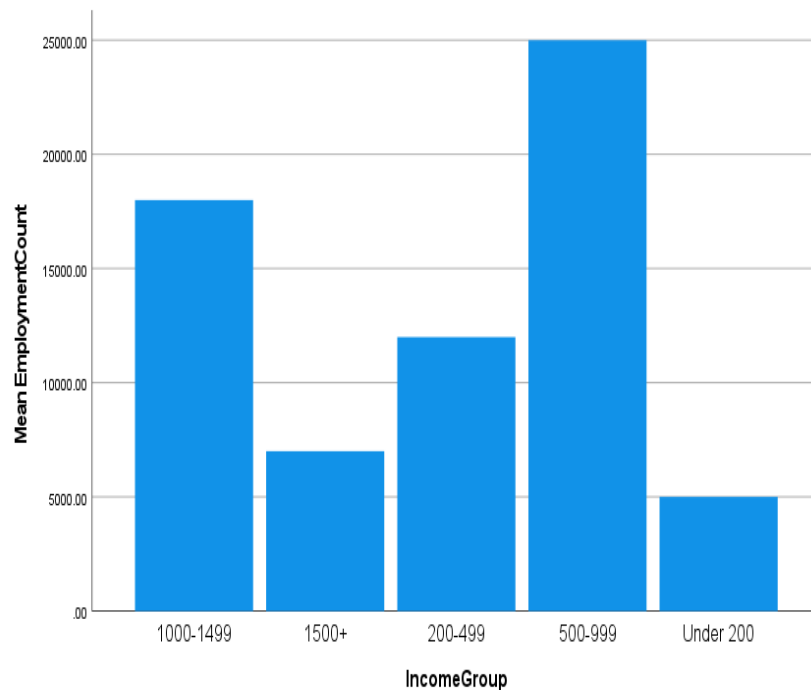


Figure 5: Occupation by sex



Employment is concentrated in the income group “500–999,” which has the highest representation. On the other hand, the "Under 200" group has the smallest contribution to employment, which could indicate limited opportunities for lower-wage earners.

Figure 6 highlights the income distribution.

Figure 6: Income Distribution Among Employed

Primary and secondary education levels dominate employment distributions for both males and females, whereas tertiary education contributes the least. This distribution suggests a significant reliance on medium-skilled labour. Figure 7 illustrates the employment by education level.

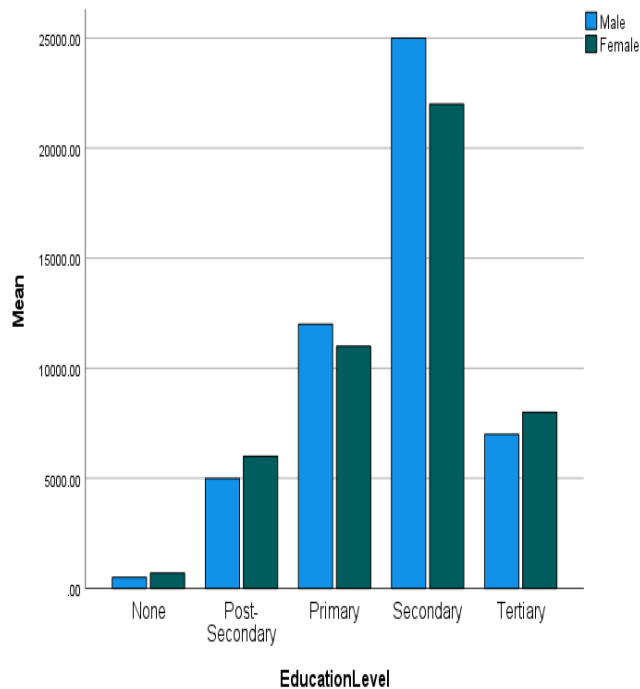


Figure 7: Employment by Education Level and Gender

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment rates decrease significantly with age, from 37% (ages 15-19) to 9.2% (ages 35-39) and to 6.9% for ages 50–54. Participation rates are highest in the 30-34 age group (96.4%). The highest unemployment is among the youth (15-19 years: 37%, 20-24 years: 18.6%). The lowest unemployment rate is observed in the 50-54 age group (6.9%) (Figure 9).

Youth unemployment is a significant challenge, with a youth unemployment rate (15–24 years) of 24.02%, nearly double the overall unemployment rate of 11.8%. Figure 8 highlights unemployment rates across age groups, and youth unemployment is detailed in Figure 8.

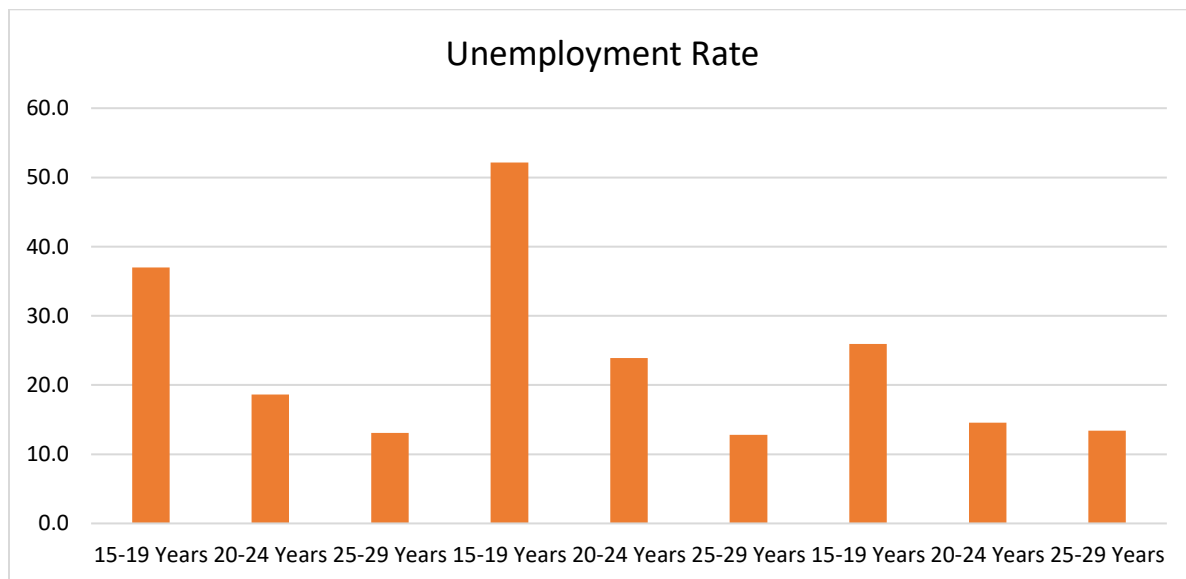


Figure 8: Unemployment Rate

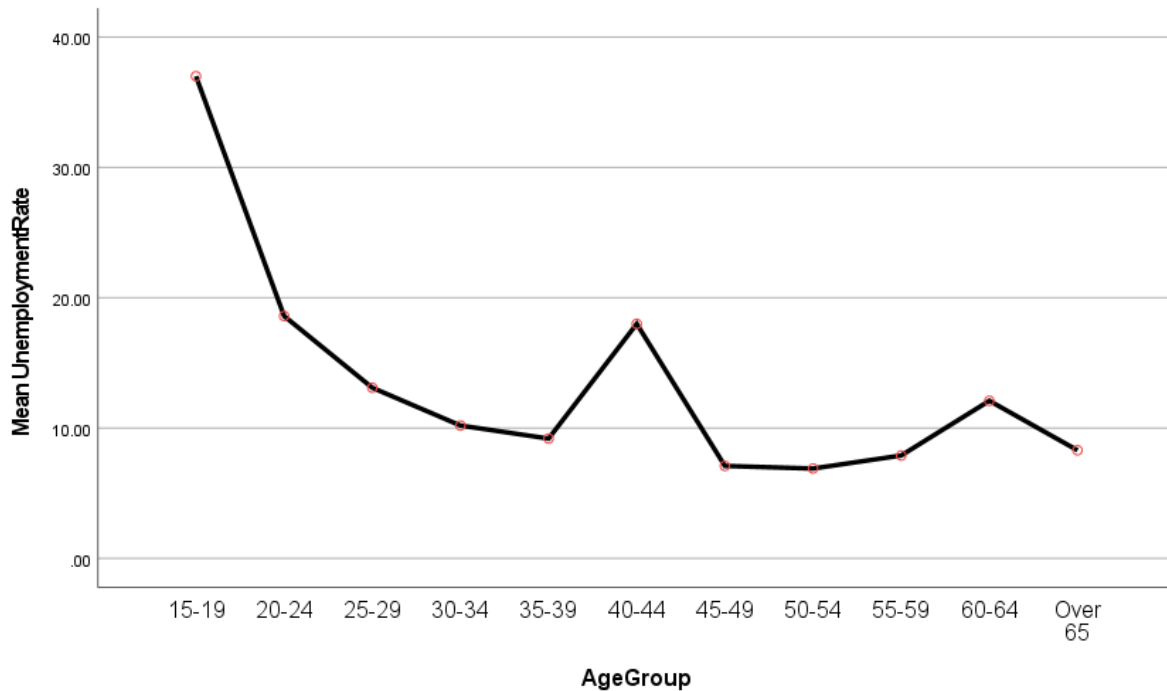


Figure 9: Mean unemployment rate by age group

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Youth unemployment remains a critical issue, with the youth unemployment rate standing at 18.4%. This suggests that nearly one in five young people seeking employment are unable to find work in the labor market.

The youth population in Saint Lucia, aged 15–29, exhibits distinct trends in labor force participation. The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) shows a consistent increase as age rises. Among the youngest group, ages 15–19, participation is relatively low at 35.8%. This rate increases significantly to 87.0% for individuals aged 20–24 and reaches its peak at 90.2% for those in the 25–29 age group, indicating a strong progression.

Similarly, the unemployment rate displays a downward trend with increasing age. For the 15–19 age group, unemployment is relatively high at 37.0%. It drops significantly to 18.6% for ages 20–24 and further declines to 13.1% among those aged 25–29.

The employment rate is increasing, following trends in labour force participation and unemployment. Among the youngest group, ages 15–19, the employment rate stands at 63.0%. This figure rises sharply to 81.4% for ages 20–24 and reaches 86.9% for individuals aged 25–29, showing a higher chance of finding work as people move into their late twenties.