



Statistical Snapshot of the Labour Force Survey 4th Quarter 2024



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

Cautionary Note: Q4 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 fourth quarter of 2024 (Q4 2024), October to December 2024.

Information contained in this report is the result of a Household Labour Force Survey, conducted during the fourth 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.

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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:

- $$\text{Unemployment Rate} = \text{Unemployed} \times 100 / \text{Labour Force}$$

- *Male Unemployment Rate = (No. of Unemployed Males / Total No. of Males in the Labour Force) X100*
- *Female Unemployment Rate = (No. of Unemployed Females/ Total No. of Females in the Labour Force) X100*
- *Youth Unemployment: For the purpose of this indicator, the term "youth" covers persons aged 15 years to 29 years.*

Youth Unemployment Rate = Unemployed Youths as a percentage of the Youth Labour Force

The labour force statistics for Saint Lucia in the 4th quarter of 2024 provide valuable insights into the country's employment landscape. Here are the findings for the period in review:

STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT

Table 1: Main Indicator, Labour Force Survey

Labour Force Indicators	4th Qtr 2024
Estimated Household Population	185387
Population 15 years and over	158650
Labour Force	109043
of which - Male	59697
of which- Female	49346
Employed Labour Force	99453
of which -Male	55253
of which -Female	44200
Employment Rate	91.2%
Persons who want work	
(I) The Unemployed	9590
of which - Male	4444
of which- Female	5146
(ii) Non-Seekers	1266
Unemployment Rate %	8.8%
of which - Male	7.4%
of which- Female	10.4%
Youth Unemployment Rate %	16.3%
Relaxed Unemployment Rate %	10.0%
Non-Job Seeking Rate %	1.2%
Population under 15 years (%)	14.4%

Labour Force as a Percentage of Total	
Population	58.8%
Labour Force as a Percentage of	
Population 15 years and over OR	
Labour Force Participation Rate	68.7%

General Observations of the Main Indicators

- Saint Lucia has a relatively high employment rate, but there is still a noticeable unemployment rate, particularly among females and youth (*see table 1*).
- The relaxed unemployment rate being higher than the standard unemployment rate indicates the presence of discouraged workers or others marginally attached to the labour force.
- The labour force participation rate reflects a substantial portion of the working age population is active in the labour force.

LABOUR FORCE

The data reveals a diverse and dynamic labor force in Saint Lucia, with varying levels of participation across different age groups and genders. The prime working age groups (25-54 years) form the core of the labor force, while both youth and older workers contribute significantly. The gender disparities highlight the need for targeted policies to ensure equitable participation in the labor market.

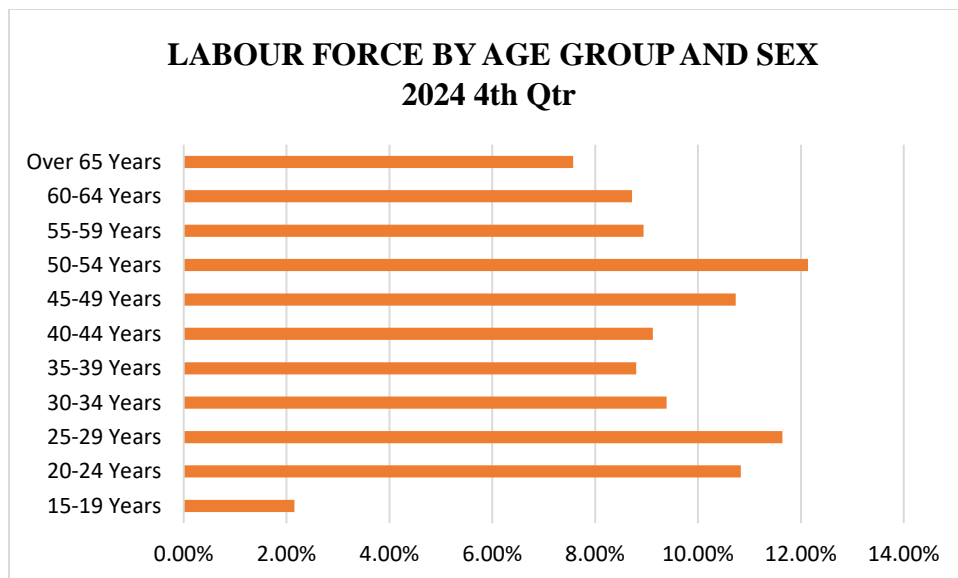


Figure 1: Labour Force by Age Group

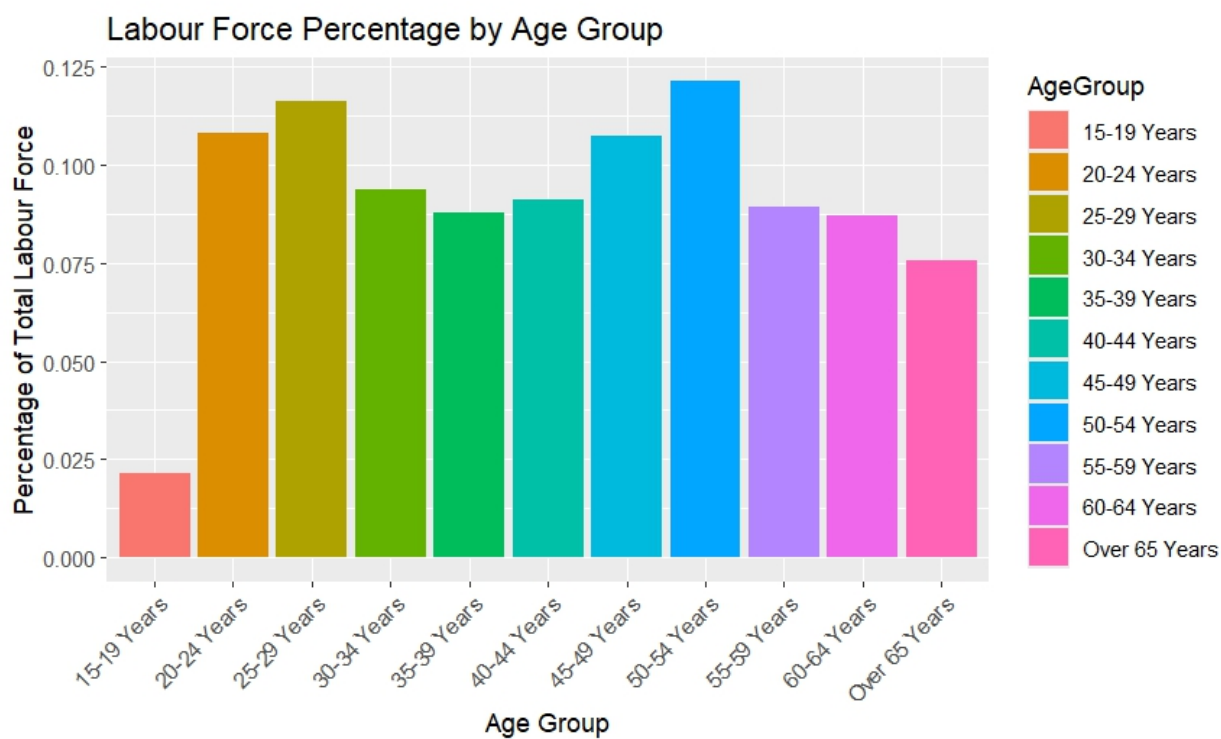


Figure 2: Labour Force Percentage by Age Group

The Saint Lucia labour force in the 4th quarter of 2024, when analyzed by age group, reveals distinct patterns of participation. The youngest segment, those aged 15-19, comprise only 2.15%

EMPLOYMENT



compared to older age groups, with males accounting for approximately 58% and females 42% of the employed individuals in this age range. The employment rate for the 20-24 and 25-29 age

groups also showed a notable gender distribution, with males and females making up almost equal shares in both groups. In contrast, the employment rate was higher among individuals in the 40-44 years age group, with a stronger representation of males at approximately 50%. The highest rates of employment were observed in the 50-54 years and 45-49 years age groups, with both males and females making up a larger portion of the total labour force. The age groups 55 years and above showed a significant reduction in employment, with males and females in the 60-64 years age range still holding a relatively strong proportion of employment.

Comparing the 4th Quarter of 2023 with 2024, the total employed labour force increased, though the overall trends remained similar. The employed population of the 15-19 years age group grew in number, though the rate of growth in employment was notably higher in the older age groups. The 20-24 years and 25-29 years age ranges experienced moderate increases, especially for males. The employment rates for those aged 50-54 years, as well as for 55-59 years, remained consistently strong over the year. On the other hand, the 60-64 years age group saw a slight decrease in employed persons. There was a minor shift in the employment rate for those aged over 65 years, with a noticeable decrease in the overall workforce, which is reflective of the overall trend of decreasing labour force participation among older age groups.

Employed Labour Force by Industry

The data is presented as percentages of the total employed labour force, highlighting the relative contribution of each sector and the changes observed over the quarters.

Table 2: Employed Labour Force by Industry Group and Sex

INDUSTRY	Q3 2024 Percentage of the Total	Q4 2024 Percentage of the Total	Q3 2024 Percentage of the Total	% Change QTR. 3 AND 4 OF 2024
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	7.8%	9.4%	10.1%	19.7%
Mining and quarrying	0.4%	-	0.2%	
Manufacturing	4.5%	4.4%	5.1%	-2.7%
Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply	0.5%	1.0%	0.4%	110.9%
Water supply, sewerage, waste management, and remediation	1.2%	0.6%	0.5%	-45.3%
Construction	8.9%	7.0%	9.3%	-21.1%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	15.7%	14.2%	17.8%	-9.5%

Transportation and storage	5.4%	6.6%	6.1%	22.1%
Accommodation and food service activities	13.2%	13.6%	15.3%	2.5%
Information and communication	0.3%	1.5%	0.8%	333.2%
Financial and insurance activities	0.9%	2.5%	1.6%	168.4%
Real estate activities	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	-43.3%
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	1.4%	1.0%	1.5%	-27.0%
Administrative and support service activities	8.7%	9.1%	6.7%	4.1%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	7.6%	7.7%	7.8%	1.3%
Education	4.6%	4.9%	3.8%	7.0%
Human health and social work activities	3.8%	4.0%	4.3%	5.8%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	0.4%	0.6%	1.3%	46.0%
Other service activities	1.9%	2.4%	1.8%	26.2%
Activities of households as employers	3.0%	2.8%	2.2%	-4.8%
Extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	-5.5%
Not stated	1.8%	1.0%	3.3%	-41.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100%	-0.29

The data is presented as percentages of the total employed labour force, highlighting the relative contribution of each sector and the changes observed over the quarter as represented in the table above. The employed labour force in Saint Lucia exhibited notable sectoral shifts between Q3 and Q4 2024, with some industries experiencing significant growth, while others saw declines. Sectors such as *Information and Communication* and *Financial and Insurance Activities* showed remarkable growth, highlighting an increase in digital and financial services. *The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing* sector also saw an increase, reflecting a positive shift in employment in this area. On the other hand, industries such as *Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management* and *Real Estate Activities* faced substantial declines.

The overall percentage of employed individuals across all sectors showed a slight decrease of -0.29%, referring to the change in the distribution

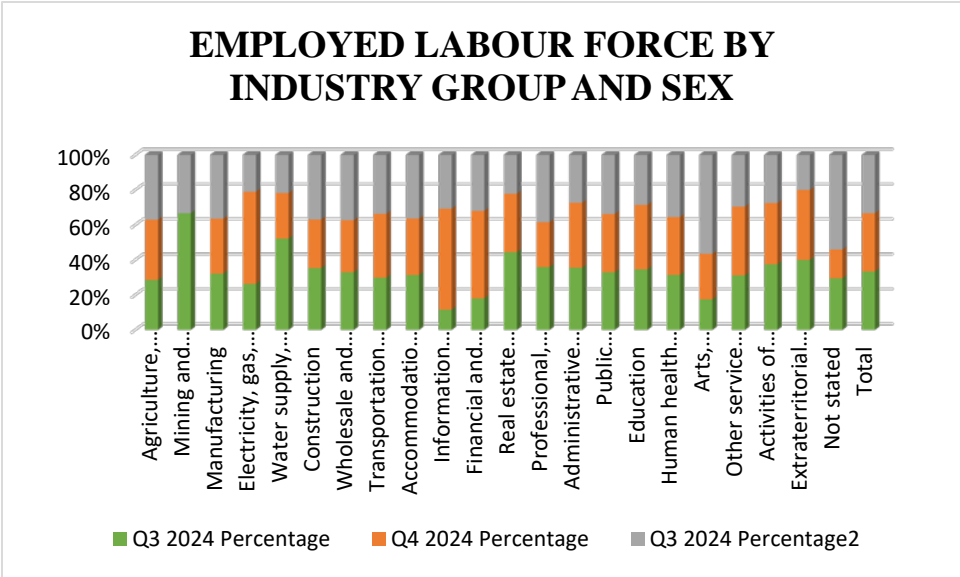


Figure 4: Employed Labour Force by Industry Percentage by Age Group and Sex

of employment across various sectors, not necessarily the total number of employed individuals in the economy, with some sectors like **Wholesale and Retail Trade and Construction** experiencing reductions of -9.50% and -21.06% respectively. Despite these declines, sectors such as **Accommodation and Food Services** (+2.53%) and **Human Health and Social Work Activities** (+5.83%) exhibited steady growth, indicating resilience in these areas.

Employed Labour Force by Occupation Group

Comparing the 4th Quarter of 2024 to the same period in 2023, notable shifts are observed. The proportion of professionals in the workforce decreased by 10.9%, while technicians and associate professionals increased by 40%. Elementary occupations experienced a significant decline of 25%, indicating potential changes in the demand for labour in this sector.

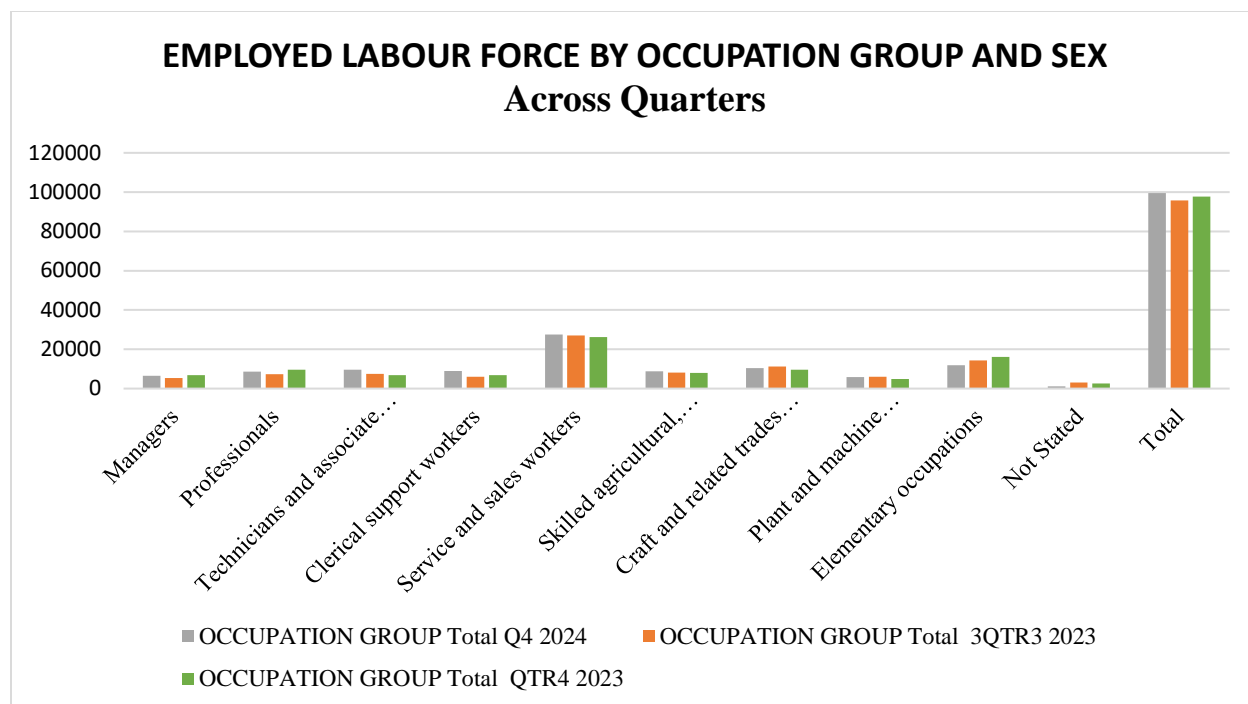
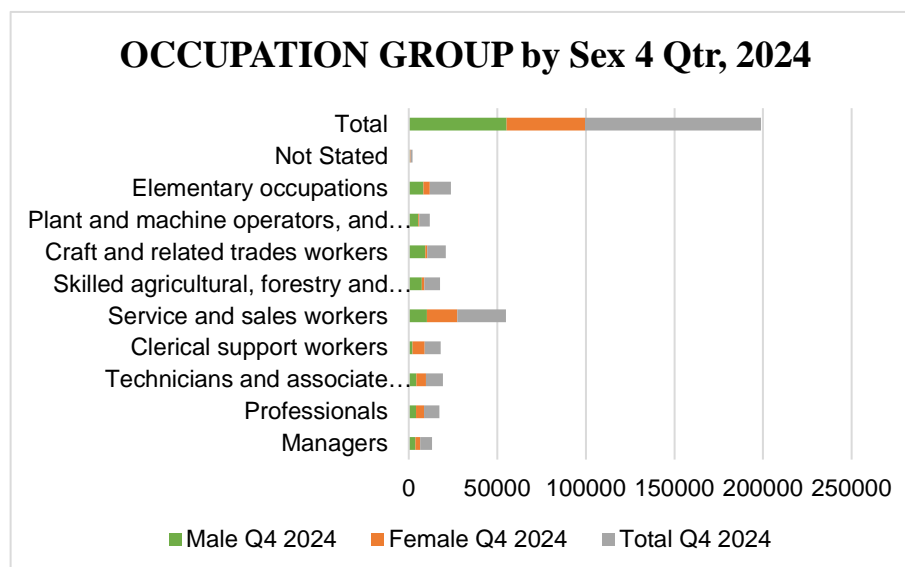


Figure 5: Occupation by Age Group and Sex

The figure below provides a detailed breakdown of the employed labour force in Saint Lucia for occupation group and sex, it also includes comparative data from the 3rd Quarter of 2023 and the 4th Quarter of



2023, allowing for trend analysis. In the 4th quarter of 2024, the total employed labour force was distributed across various occupation groups, with *Service and sales workers* making up the largest share at 27.6% of the total workforce. This group is predominantly female, accounting for 17.3% of the workforce, while males represent 10.3%. Another significant group is

clerical support workers, where females dominate with 6.9%, compared to males, who account for just 2.1%. This reflects a trend of higher female participation in administrative and office-based roles. In contrast, *skilled agricultural, forestry, and fishery workers* had a higher male representation, with males making up 7.5% of the workforce, while females only represented 1.4%, showcasing the traditionally male-dominated nature of the sector.

Looking at other occupations, technicians and associate professionals made up 9.7% of the workforce, with males and females almost equally represented. Similarly, craft and related trades workers and plant and machine operators had a higher male share, at 10.5% and 5.9%, respectively, while females accounted for 1.2% and 0.5%, respectively. Elementary occupations comprised 12.0% of the total labour force, with a male majority at 8.2%, while females made up 3.7%. The professionals group represented 8.7% of the workforce, with a slight male dominance (4.1%) over females (4.6%).

UNEMPLOYMENT

The data provided reflects the breakdown of the **total unemployed population** by age group for various quarters of 2024, as well as for comparison with the fourth quarter of 2023. The percentages indicate the proportion of total unemployed individuals within each age group, illustrating the distribution of unemployment across different age brackets.

Table 3: Unemployment by Age

Age Group	1st Qtr. 2024 (%)	2nd Qtr. 2024 (%)	3rd Qtr. 2024 (%)	4th Qtr. 2024 (%)	4th Qtr. 2023 (%)
15-19 Years	8.37%	12.15%	10.59%	15.30%	15.30%
20-24 Years	15.68%	17.22%	12.84%	15.80%	15.80%
25-29 Years	11.81%	9.85%	13.56%	10.60%	10.60%
30-34 Years	2.71%	7.11%	7.66%	10.60%	10.60%
35-39 Years	11.63%	10.71%	6.71%	7.00%	7.00%
40-44 Years	6.55%	8.48%	13.84%	4.60%	4.60%
45-49 Years	8.48%	3.69%	5.91%	6.10%	6.10%
50-54 Years	13.15%	6.56%	8.17%	6.80%	6.80%
55-59 Years	13.42%	10.13%	6.34%	9.40%	9.40%
60-64 Years	4.96%	9.18%	9.31%	8.70%	8.70%
Over 65 Years	1.60%	4.99%	5.14%	4.90%	4.90%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The percentages depict the total of unemployed individuals, representing the overall 8.8% unemployment rate, which is segmented by age¹. Notably, youth unemployment, encompassing the 15-19, 20-24 and, consistently accounts for a substantial portion of the unemployed, with both groups reaching the highest percentages in the fourth quarter at 15.30% and 15.80%, respectively. While the third youth 25-29 age brackets, reflecting 10.60%, a decline from the previous quarter.

The prime working-age groups (25-54 years) exhibit more variable trends throughout the year. The 25-29 and 30-34 age groups show fluctuations, with the latter experiencing a significant increase in the fourth quarter to 10.60%, matching the 2023 figure. Conversely, the 40-44 age group witnesses a notable decrease to 4.60% in the fourth quarter, while the 50-54 group sees a similar decline to 6.80%. These shifts indicate potential variations in employment stability or labour force participation within these demographics. Older workers (55+ years) also demonstrate notable changes, with both the 55-59 and 60-64 age groups experiencing increases in their share of unemployment in the fourth quarter, again matching the 2023 figures. A noteworthy observation is the identical fourth quarter percentages for all age groups in both 2023 and 2024 of 15.30%.

¹ The estimates have been verified by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other administrative sources to ensure accuracy and consistency.

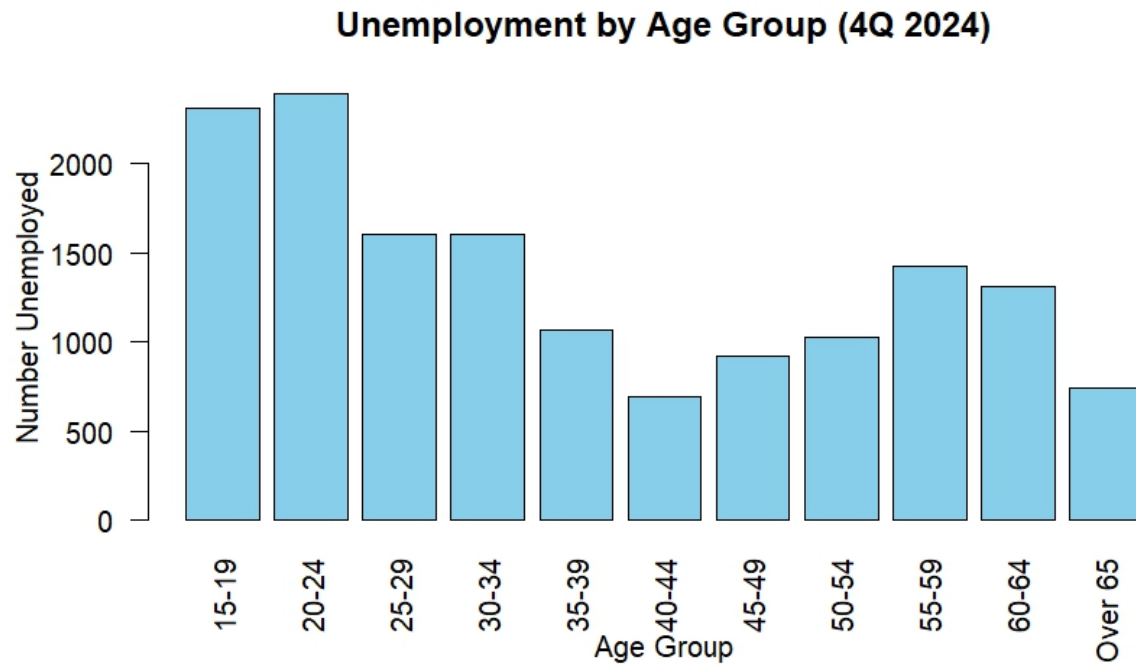


Figure 7: unemployment by age group

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

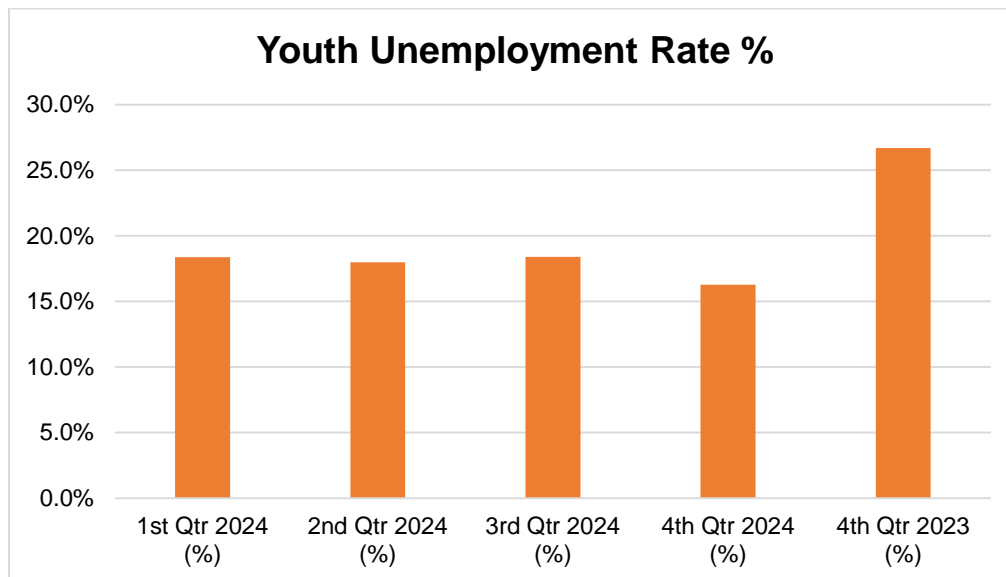


Figure 8: Youth Unemployment Rates

The youth unemployment rate, as reflected in the data for 2024 (see table 8), shows some fluctuations across the first four quarters of the year. In the first quarter of 2024, the youth unemployment rate stood at 18.4%, indicating a relatively high level of unemployment among the youth population. This figure slightly decreased in the second quarter of 2024, dropping to 18.0%. However, in the third quarter of 2024, the rate increased again, reaching 18.4%, maintaining the same level as the first quarter.

A decrease is observed in the fourth quarter of 2024, where the youth unemployment rate dropped to 16.3%, marking a notable improvement from the earlier quarters of the year. This was a positive trend compared to the fourth quarter of 2023, where the youth unemployment rate had been 26.7%, reflecting a considerable reduction in youth unemployment over the course of the year.

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

Table 4. Labour Force Participation Rates

Age Group	Labour Force	Working Age Population	LFPR (%)
15-19 Years	2346	8998	26.07
20-24 Years	11813	13453	87.81
25-29 Years	12676	13172	96.23
30-34 Years	10242	10687	95.83
35-39 Years	9590	11225	85.43
40-44 Years	9944	10957	90.75
45-49 Years	11698	13316	87.84
50-54 Years	13238	14831	89.26
55-59 Years	9733	12069	80.65
60-64 Years	9504	14327	66.34
Over 65 Years	8259	35615	23.19
Total (15+)	109043	158650	68.8

The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) across age groups in the 4th quarter of 2024 shows varying levels of participation. The highest rates are seen in the 25-29 years, 30-34 years, and 40-44 years groups, all exceeding 90%, indicating a strong presence in the labour market for these

age groups. Conversely, younger individuals in the 15-19 years group have a much lower LFPR of 26.06%, reflecting limited engagement due to factors such as education. Older individuals, particularly those over 65 years, also show a lower LFPR of 23.14%, likely due to retirement or reduced participation. The overall LFPR of 68.8% suggests that just under 60% of the working-age population is engaged in the labour force, highlighting a significant portion of the population either not working or not seeking work. This directly impacts both employment and unemployment rates, as higher participation typically leads to higher levels of competition for jobs, potentially raising the unemployment rate in some age groups, while lower participation rates, particularly among younger and older populations.