



Saint Lucia 3 Qtr.2025 Labour Force Survey Snapshot



Cautionary Note: Q3 2025 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 2025 (Q3 2025), July to September 2025.

Information contained in this report is the result of a Household Labour Force Survey 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 and international standards. 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.

CONTENTS

Key Labour Market Indicators and Formulas	3
Summary	4
Main Labour Force Indicators	5
labour force participation rate	8
Employment	10
Employed Persons by Industry	11
Unemployed	14
Unemployed Trend	14
Youth	15
Other Indicators	18

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 = Unemployed X 100 / 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.*

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

SUMMARY

The statistical results from the third quarter Labour Force Survey outline recent developments in the labour market by examining short-term movements, quarter-to-quarter comparisons, and year-to-year changes. The analysis focuses in particular on the development in the third quarters of 2025, highlighting the most recent labour market conditions. These comparisons indicate whether labour market activity is moving upward, downward, or remaining relatively unchanged, while also helping to identify seasonal patterns and underlying trends over time. Taken together, they provide a clearer understanding of both immediate changes and broader labour market dynamics.

The **standard errors** for employment (0.0012) and unemployment (0.0006) are relatively small, indicating a high level of precision in the estimated proportions for these indicators. Equally, the **standard deviations and variances** for employment and unemployment are low, suggesting limited dispersion around the estimated values and reinforcing the reliability of these estimates.

In contrast, the labour force indicator shows a larger **standard error (0.0055)**, along with higher **standard deviation (2.39)** and **variance (5.69)**. This reflects greater variability in the estimate of the total labour force, given that it aggregates both employed and unemployed persons and is more sensitive to sampling fluctuations. The measures indicate that the employment and unemployment estimates are statistically robust, while the labour force estimate, though still reliable, shows higher variability. The Labour Force Survey for the third quarter of 2025 was based on a sample of 1,198 households, attaining a response rate of 59.7 per cent.

MAIN LABOUR FORCE INDICATORS

Table 1: Labour Force Indicators

Labour Force Indicators	3rd Qtr. 2025	2nd Qtr. 2025	1st Qtr. 2025	3rd Qtr. 2024
Estimated Household Population	185261	185,292	185272	183030
Population 15 years and over	159770	155748	158482	160204
Labour Force	117481	113041	112994	110237
of which - Male	61746	54760	55443	57858
of which- Female	55735	58281	57551	52378
Employed Labour Force	103214	97851	97033	97187
of which -Male	56798	49586	50456	51039
of which -Female	46416	48266	46578	46148
Employment Rate	87.9%	86.6%	85.9%	88.2%
of which -Male	92.0%	90.6%	91.0%	88.2%
of which -Female	83.3%	82.8%	80.9%	88.1%
Persons who want work				
(I) The Unemployed	14267	15190	15961	13050
of which - Male	4948	5174	4987	6819
of which- Female	9319	10015	10974	6231
(ii) Non-Seekers	1613	1359	1321	2510
Unemployment Rate %	12.1%	13.4%	14.1%	11.8%
of which - Male	8.0%	9.4%	9.0%	11.8%
of which- Female	16.7%	17.2%	19.1%	11.9%
Youth Unemployment Rate %	17.9%	24.1%	21.4%	18.4%

Relaxed Unemployment Rate %	13.5%	14.6%	15.3%	14.1%
Non-Job Seeking Rate %	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%	2.3%
Population under 15 years (%)	13.8%	15.9%	14.5%	12.5%
Labour Force as a Percentage of Total Population	63.4%	61.0%	61.0%	60.2%
Labour Force as a Percentage of Population 15 years and over OR Labour Force Participation Rate	73.5%	72.6%	71.3%	68.8%

The labour force indicators show a slight growth in labour market participation and employment in the third quarter of 2025 compared with earlier quarters, alongside some improvement in unemployment conditions (see table 1). The estimated household population remained relatively stable over the period, while the population aged 15 years and over fluctuated slightly, reflecting demographic movements. The labour force expanded to 117,481 persons in the third quarter of 2025, up from 113,041 in the second quarter and 112,994 in the first quarter of 2025, indicating increased engagement in the labour market. This growth was evident for both males and females, although male participation remained somewhat higher overall. Similarly, the labour force participation rate rose to 73.5 per cent in the third quarter of 2025, continuing an upward trend from previous quarters, despite a slight net decline of 0.3 percentage points over the full year (3rd Qtr. 2024 to 3rd Qtr. 2025). Employment levels improved, with the employed labour force increasing to 103,214 persons in the third quarter of 2025. The employment rate also rose to 87.9 per cent, compared with the first and second quarters of 2025. Male employment rates remained higher than female rates, although female employment showed gradual improvement over the period.

Unemployment declined in the third quarter of 2025. The unemployment rate fell to 12.1 per cent, down from 13.4 per cent in the second quarter and 14.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2025, though it remained slightly above the level recorded in the third quarter of 2024. Female unemployment continued to exceed male unemployment, highlighting gender disparities in labour market outcomes.

The youth labour market results indicate an improvement in the third quarter of 2025. The youth unemployment rate declined to 17.9 per cent, down from 24.1 per cent in the second quarter of 2025 and 21.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2025. This represents an improvement in youth employment conditions. However, when compared with the third quarter of 2024 (18.4 per cent), the youth unemployment rate in the third quarter of 2025 showed a slight decrease, indicating a marginal change in this indicator. The relaxed unemployment rate also declined to 13.5 per cent in the third quarter of 2025, and the non-job seeking rate fell to 1.4 per cent, suggesting reduced labour market discouragement.

Table 2: Percentage change

Indicator	Q3 2024 → Q1 2025	Q1 → Q2 2025	Q2 → Q3 2025	Q3 2024 → Q3 2025
LFPR	+2.6 pp	+1.3 pp	+1.1 pp	-0.3 pp
Unemployment Rate	+2.3 pp	-0.7 pp	-1.3 pp	-0.5 pp
Employment Rate	-2.3 pp	+0.7 pp	+1.3 pp	+0.3 pp

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

Table 3: Labour Force Participation Rate (%) by Age Group and Quarter

Age Group	Q3 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025
15–19 Years	35.8	26.4	25.1	35.5
20–24 Years	87	82.9	92	93.7
25–29 Years	90.2	98.4	97.5	97.6
30–34 Years	96.4	91.6	94.6	93.9
35–39 Years	91.6	93.7	92.4	93.2
40–44 Years	94.4	96.8	97.8	96.4
45–49 Years	91	96.9	94.6	97.6
50–54 Years	89.9	94.2	94.6	94.4
55–59 Years	79	82.2	80.2	85.6
60–64 Years	65.1	75.4	71.2	77.4
Over 65 Years	22.6	21.3	27.9	30.2
Total	68.8	71.4	72.7	73.8

Labour market conditions in Saint Lucia continued to improve in the third quarter of 2025, with the overall labour force participation rate rising to 73.8 percent, up from 72.7 percent in the previous quarter, as depicted in table 1. This reflects a sustained increase in labour market engagement across most age cohorts. The unemployment rate declined to 12.1 percent, representing a 1.3 percentage-point reduction from the second quarter of 2025. This improvement was most pronounced among youth aged 15–19 years, where unemployment fell sharply from 43.2 percent to 36.3 percent, and among those aged 20–24 years, declining from 30.8 percent to 14.8 percent.

Correspondingly, the employment rate increased to 87.9 percent, indicating broader absorption of labour into employment. Prime working-age groups (25–54 years) maintained high participation rates exceeding 94 percent, alongside relatively low unemployment, underscoring continued labour market stability within this segment. Older workers (60–64 years and over 65 years) also recorded gradual increases in participation, suggesting extended engagement in economic activity beyond traditional retirement ages.

Figure 1: Labour Force Participation Rate

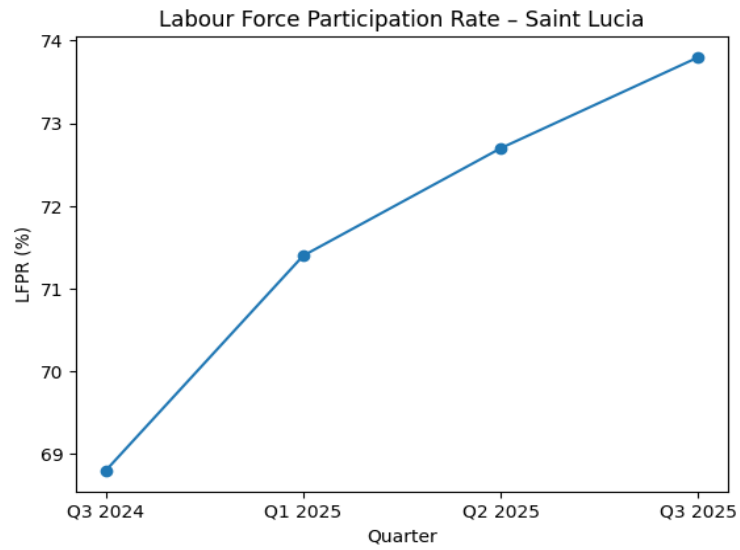


Figure 2: Unemployment Rate

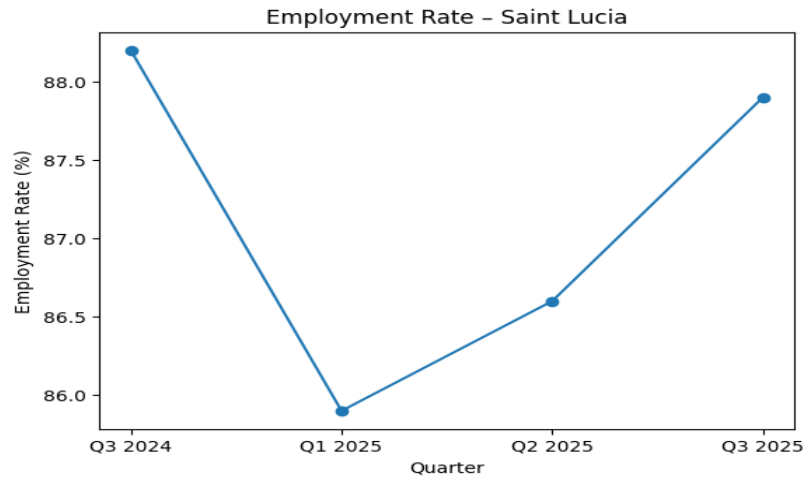
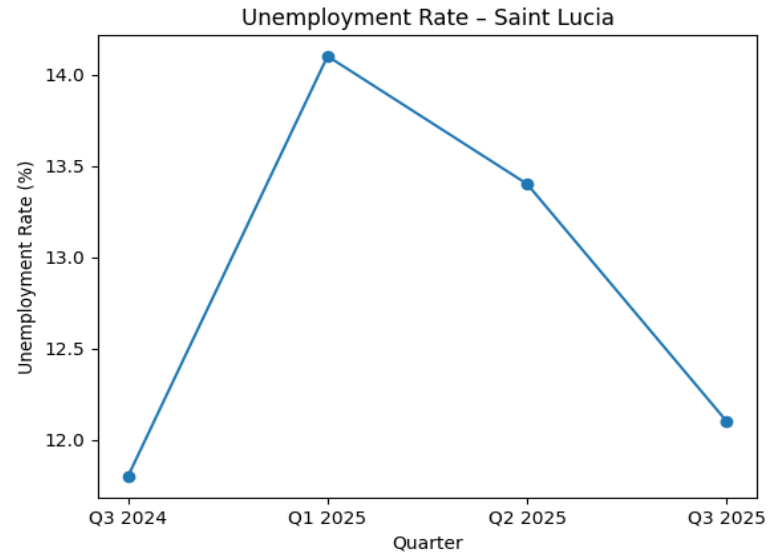


Figure 3: employment Rate

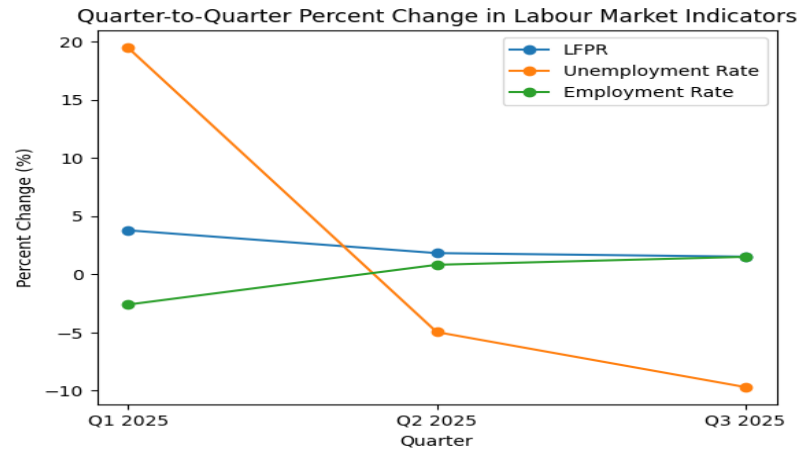


Figure 4: Percentage Change in The Labour Market

EMPLOYMENT

Private employment accounts for half of total employment (50.2%), making it the dominant employment category. Males (55.0%) constitute a higher share of total employment than females (45.0%). Self-employment without employees (20.9%) is a significant component, particularly among males (figure 6). Female employment is more concentrated in central government and statutory boards.

Figure 5: Employed Labour Force by Occupation Group & Sex

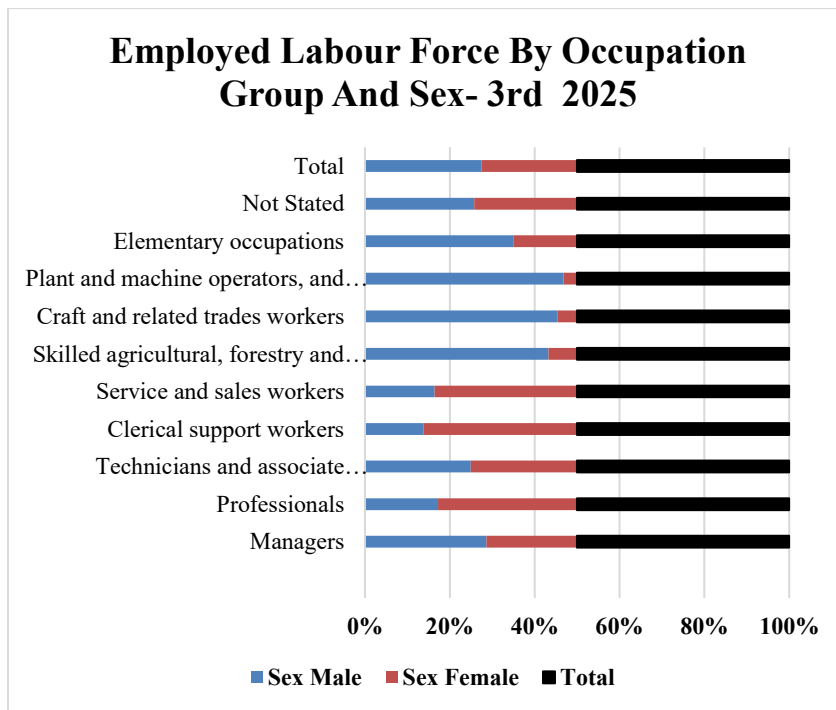
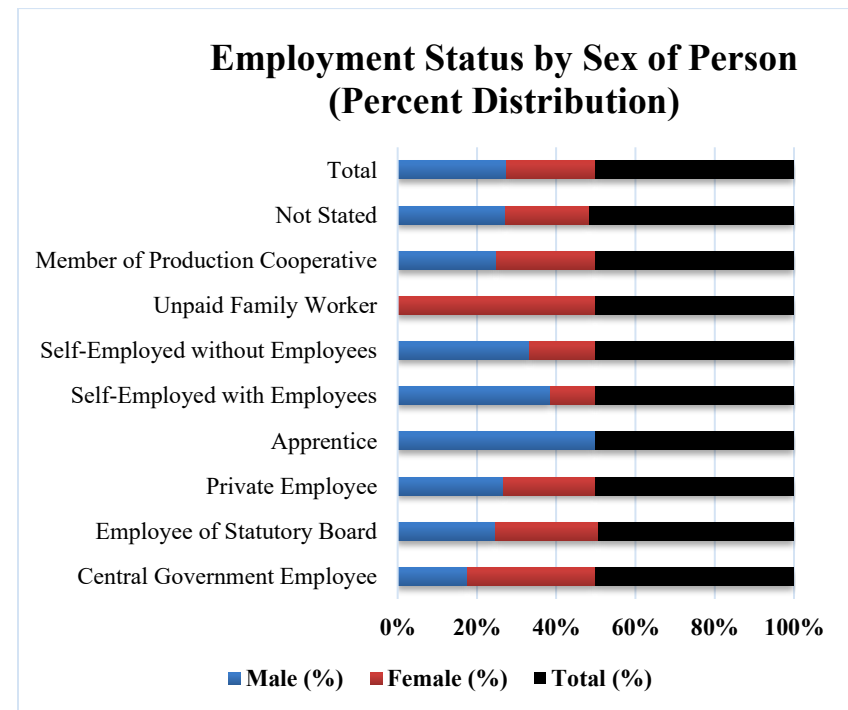


Figure 6: Employment status by Sex



EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY

Figure 7 shows the total employed persons across industry categories. Overall, the distribution indicates that employment is unevenly spread across industry groups. The mean industry code is 11.24, with a standard deviation of 5.49, indicating a moderate dispersion of employment across industry groups. The percentage distribution of employed persons across industries indicates that employment in Saint Lucia remains heavily concentrated in services, when compared to smaller shares in goods producing activities. Across the four quarters reviewed, Accommodation and food service activities, Wholesale and retail trade, and Construction consistently accounted for the largest proportions of employment. The distribution of employed persons by industry shows a stable but evolving employment structure between Qtr. 3 2024 and Qtr. 3 2025, with shifts across several key industries (see table 2). Employment remains concentrated in a small number of industries, particularly:

- ✚ Accommodation and food service activities 16.5%
- ✚ Wholesale and retail trade 15.7%
- ✚ Construction 9.0 %
- ✚ Administrative and support service activities 8.1%
- ✚ Public administration and defence 7.8%

Together, these industries account for over half of total employment in each quarter. Accommodation and food service activities remained the largest employer, increasing its share from 14.3% in Qtr. 3 2024 to a rate of 17.6% in Qtr. 2 2025, before decreasing slightly to 16.5% in Qtr. 3 2025 (table 4).

- Wholesale and retail trade showed a gradual decline in employment share, falling from 16.9% in Qtr. 3 2024 to 15.7% in Qtr. 3 2025, despite remaining as a major source of employment.
- Construction expanded sharply in Qtr. 2 2025 (10.4%), before moderating to 9.0% in Qtr. 3 2025.

- Administrative and support service activities declined from 9.4% in Qtr. 3 2024 to 7.7% in Qtr. 2 2025, with a partial improvement to 8.1% by the Qtr. 3 2025.
- Public administration and defence remained relatively stable, fluctuating between 7.8% and 8.5.

A few other major industries showed some improvements for instance:

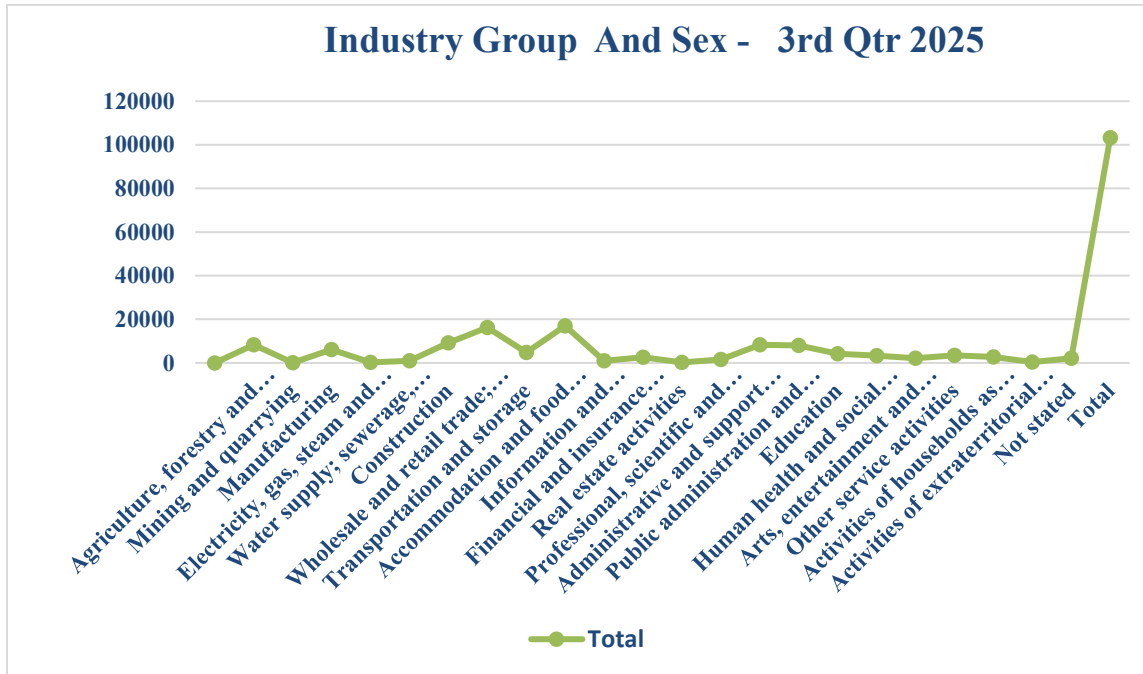
- Manufacturing experienced an increase in employment share over year, from 4.9% in Qtr. 3 2024 to 5.9% in Qtr. 3 2025. On the other hand, the employed persons in this sector experience a reduction from Qtr. 2 2025 (7.2%) to Qtr. 3 2025 (5.9%).
- Education and human health and social work activities both showed declining shares, over the period Qtr. 3 2024 to Qtr. 3 2025.
- Financial and insurance activities increased steadily, rising from 1.0% in Qtr. 3 2024 to 2.5% in Qtr. 3 2025.

Table 4: Industry Group

Industry Group	Qtr. 1 2025	Qtr. 2 2025	Qtr. 3 2025	Qtr. 3 2024
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	8.3%	7.6%	8.0%	8.4%
Mining and quarrying	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%
Manufacturing	6.3%	7.2%	5.9%	4.9%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.8%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.8%	1.5%	1.0%	1.3%
Construction	7.8%	10.4%	9.0%	9.6%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	14.5%	14.8%	15.7%	16.9%
Transportation and storage	5.1%	5.1%	4.6%	5.8%
Accommodation and food service activities	16.6%	17.6%	16.5%	14.3%
Information and communication	1.0%	1.3%	1.0%	0.4%
Financial and insurance activities	1.8%	2.1%	2.5%	1.0%
Real estate activities	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	1.3%	0.8%	1.5%	1.5%
Administrative and support service activities	9.4%	7.7%	8.1%	9.4%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	7.9%	8.5%	7.8%	8.2%
Education	5.5%	3.4%	4.1%	4.9%

Human health and social work activities	4.3%	3.3%	3.3%	4.1%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.5%	0.7%	2.1%	0.5%
Other service activities	2.5%	4.4%	3.4%	2.1%
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households	2.6%	2.9%	2.7%	3.2%
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Not stated	1.4%	0.0%	2.0%	1.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 7: Employed by Industry Group and Sex



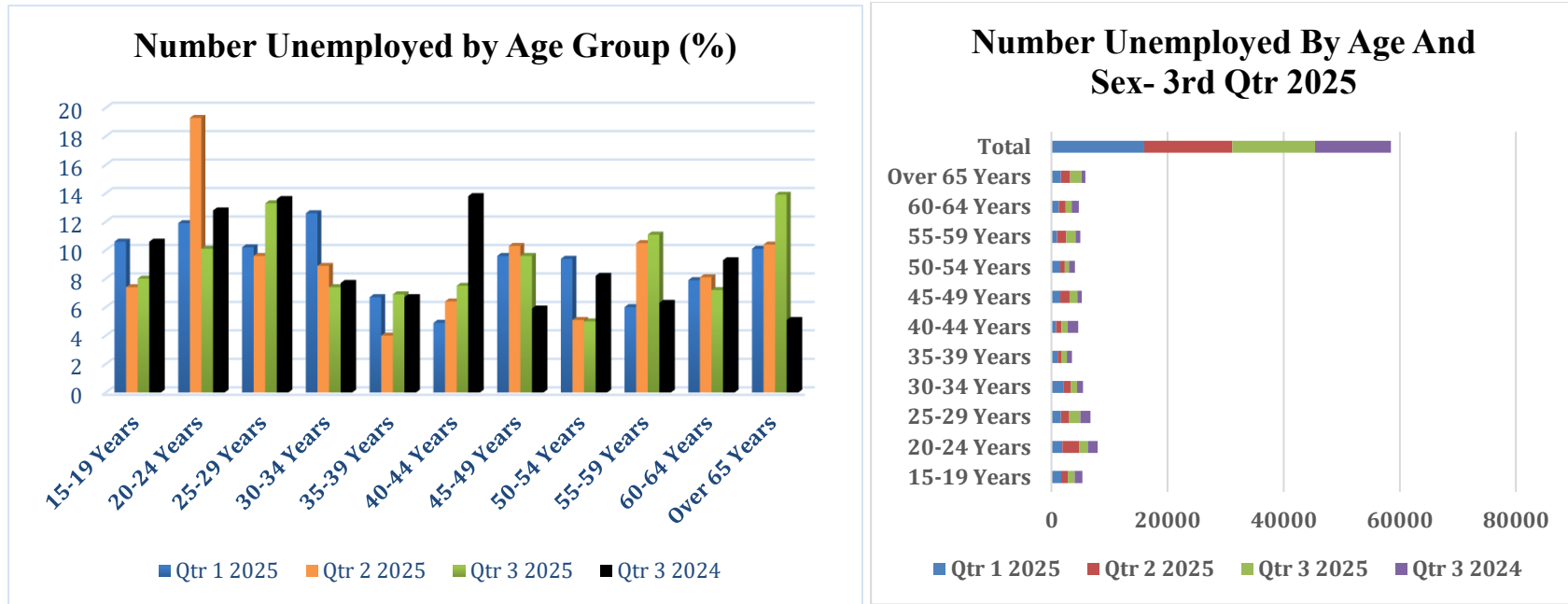
UNEMPLOYED

The percentage distribution of unemployment by age in figure 8, indicates shifts across quarters, alongside an overall decline in total unemployment between Qtr. 3 2024 and Qtr. 3 2025. In Qtr. 3 2025, unemployment was most concentrated among persons aged Over 65 years (13.9%) and 25–29 years (13.3%), together accounting for over one quarter of all unemployed persons. The 55–59 years age group also represented a relatively high share at 11.1%, indicating increased unemployment among older working-age individuals. Youth unemployment remained moderated over time. The 20–24 years group peaked sharply in Qtr. 2 2025 (19.3%), before declining to 10.1% in Qtr. 3 2025, while the 15–19 years group consistently accounted for between 7.4% and 10.6% of total unemployment. Comparatively, Qtr. 3 2024 showed a higher concentration of unemployment among 25–29 years (13.6%) and 40–44 years (13.8%), indicating a broader spread across prime working ages than observed in Qtr. 3 2025.

UNEMPLOYED TREND

Between Q3 2024 and Q3 2025, the total number of unemployed individuals rose from 13,050 to 14,267, representing a 9.3% increase in total number of persons unemployed year-over-year. However, the peak of unemployment occurred in Q1 2025 (15,961), showing a gradual increase toward the third quarter of 2025. In terms of Youth Unemployment, the 20-24 age group experienced a huge spike in Q2 2025, accounting for 19.3% of all unemployed persons. In Q3 2025, youth unemployment (15-24) stabilized at approximately 18.1% of the total, down from high of nearly 27% in the previous quarter. The Working Age (25-29) group represents over 10-13% of the total unemployed population. The Age group (40-44) saw a significant improvement in Q3 2024, representing 13.8% of the unemployed, however, by Q3 2025, that share dropped nearly in half to 7.5%. The Over 65 plus age group in Q3 2024, were the smallest group at 5.1%. Nonetheless, in Q3 2025, this particular age category jumped to 13.9%, which was the largest age group recorded for unemployment (figure 8).

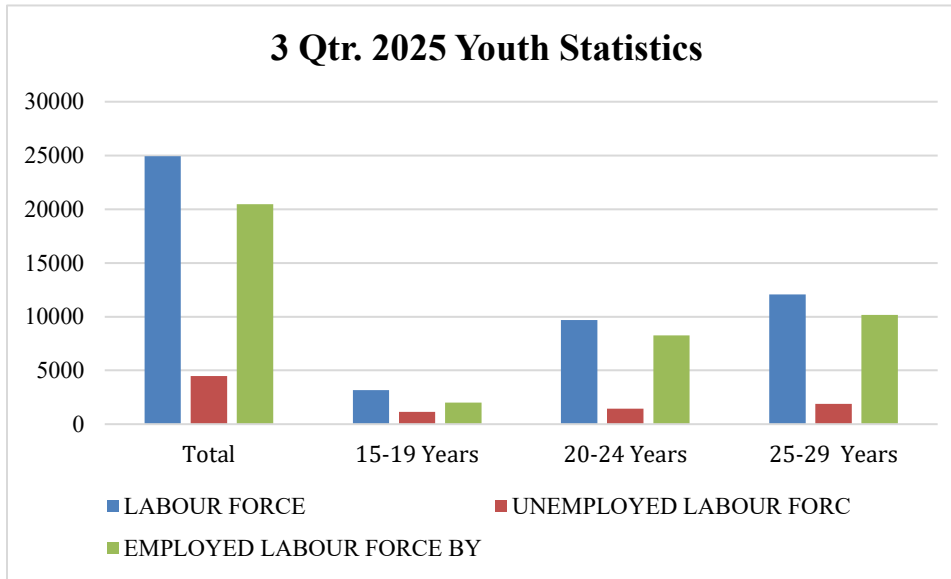
Figure 8: Unemployed by Age Group



YOUTH

The statistical information outline in figure 9, shows the distribution of the labour force, employment, and unemployment among the selected youth age groups. Overall, the total labour force across the age groups presented amounted to 24,927 persons, of whom 20,454 were employed and 4,473 were unemployed during the period under review (3 Qtr. 2025), indicating that the majority of participants in the labour market were in employment.

Figure 9: Youth Statistics



Young persons aged 25–29 years accounted for the largest share of the labour force, with 12,066 individuals, representing nearly half of the total youth labour force shown. This age group also recorded the highest level of employment (10,176 persons), but it simultaneously registered the largest number of unemployed (1,890 persons). The 20–24 years age group recorded a labour force of 9,700 persons, of whom 8,264 were employed and 1,435 were unemployed. While employment levels were somewhat high in this cohort, unemployment remained significant. The 15–19 years age group represented the

smallest labour force (3,161 persons), with 2,014 employed and 1,148 unemployed.

Overall, the data highlight that unemployment is more pronounced among younger age

groups, particularly those aged 15–19 and 20–24 years, while employment increases with age.

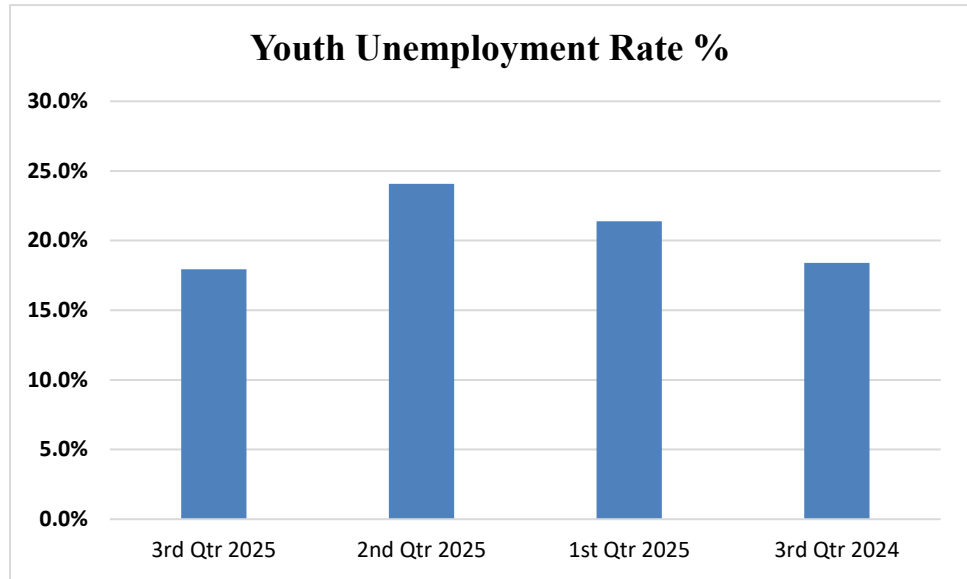


Figure 10: Youth Unemployment Rate

OTHER INDICATORS

Figure 11: Unemployed Labour Force by Age Group & Sex

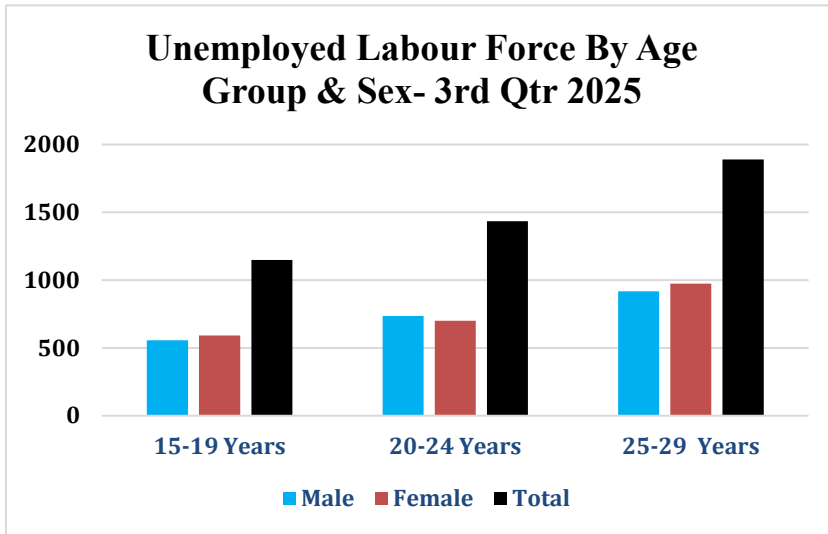


Figure 12: Employed Labour Force by Age Group & Sex

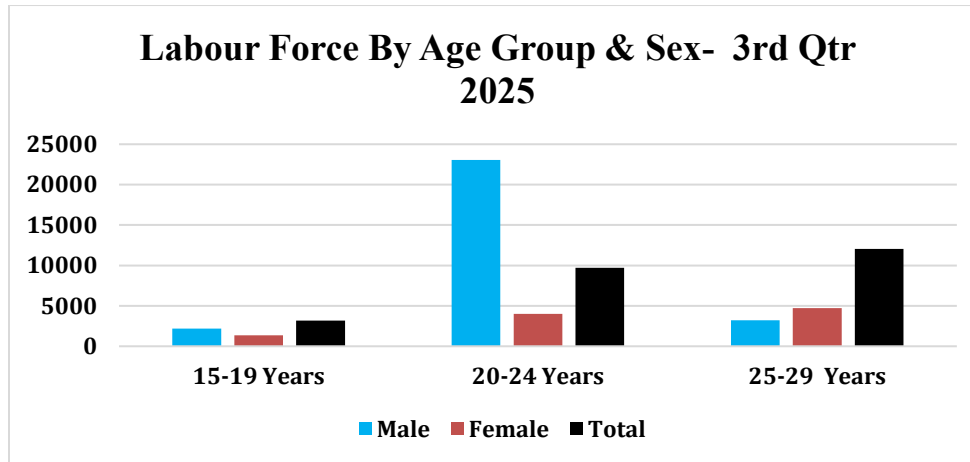
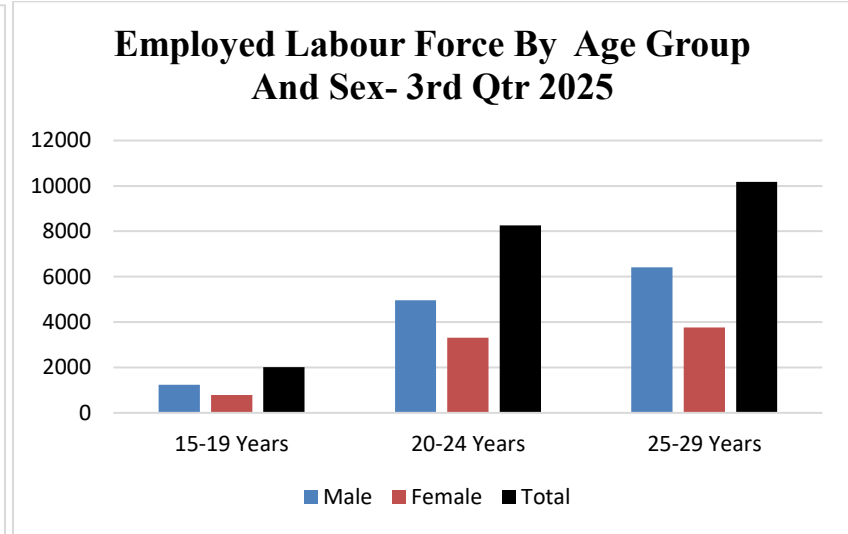


Figure 13: Labour Force By Age Group & Sex

Figure 14: Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) of the Working Age Population by Age

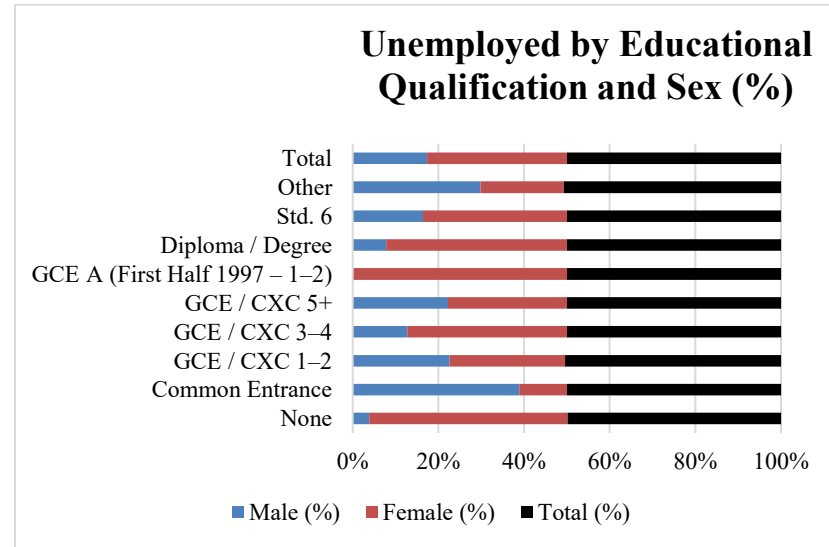
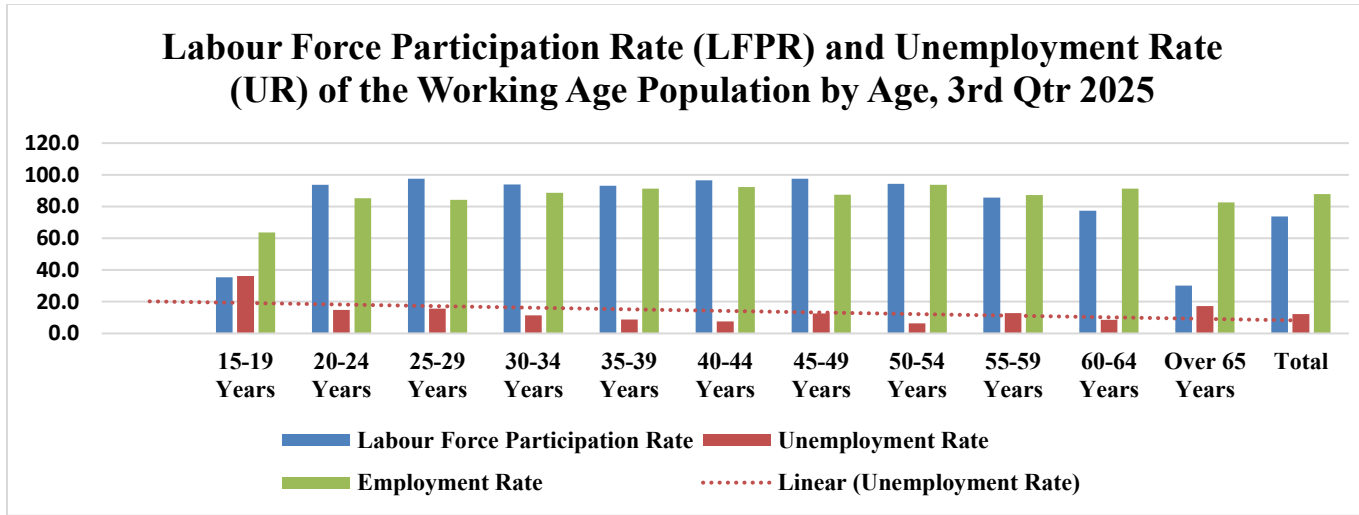


Figure 15: Unemployed by Educational Qualification and Sex

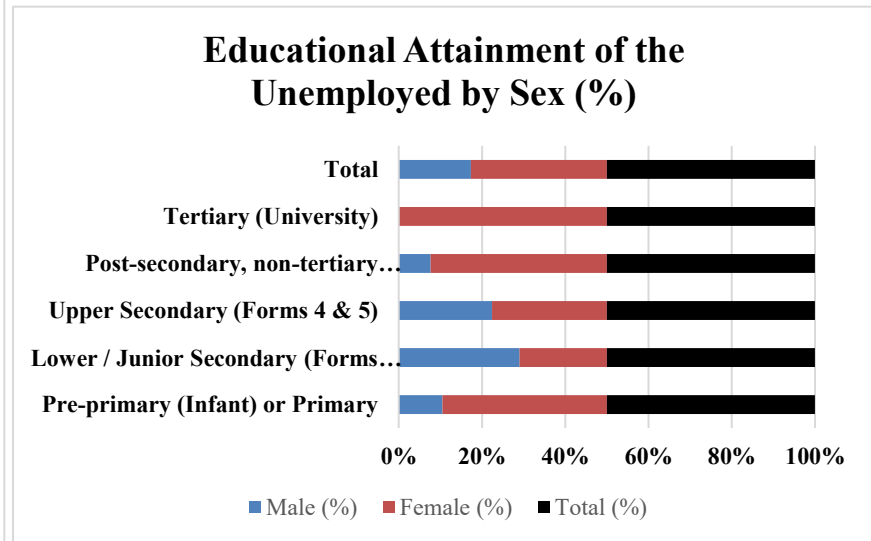


Figure 16: Educational Attainment of the Unemployed by Sex