



BAHAMAS NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

PRESS RELEASE

Preliminary Results Labour Force Survey

May 2023

During the month of May, 2023, the Bahamas National Statistical Institute conducted its first labour force survey since November 2019. Included in this exercise were the following islands: New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Bimini, North Eleuthera, Long Island, and San Salvador. We are pleased to present the results of the May 2023 survey.

The Labour Force

In May 2023, the total labour force in the country stood at 219,465.

Women representing 54% are the main contributor to the makeup of the labour force compared to men (46%). Further, when examined by age group, the results of the survey indicated that almost one quarter (23%) of the labour force is made up of persons between the ages of 25-34 years

The data pertaining to Educational Attainment show that fifty five percent of the labour force completed secondary school, 4% had schooling only to the primary level or none at all, while 26% had completed university.

Of the 219,465 persons in the labour force, 26% obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, while 21% had no qualifications.

The Employed Labour Force

The Employed Labour Force recorded 200,175 persons. When examined by employment status, almost two thirds (61%) were engaged in the private sector, while 21% were government employees. Additionally, the percentage of self-employed (with and without employees) was highest in Abaco (28%), while New Providence and Grand Bahama both registered (16%). Of interest is the fact that men dominated the self-employed category on all islands.

The "Hotel and restaurant" industrial group accounted for (17%) of employed persons. While the "Community, Social and Personal Service" industry, which includes the public service, police service and domestic service continues to account for the largest share, (39%) of the workforce.

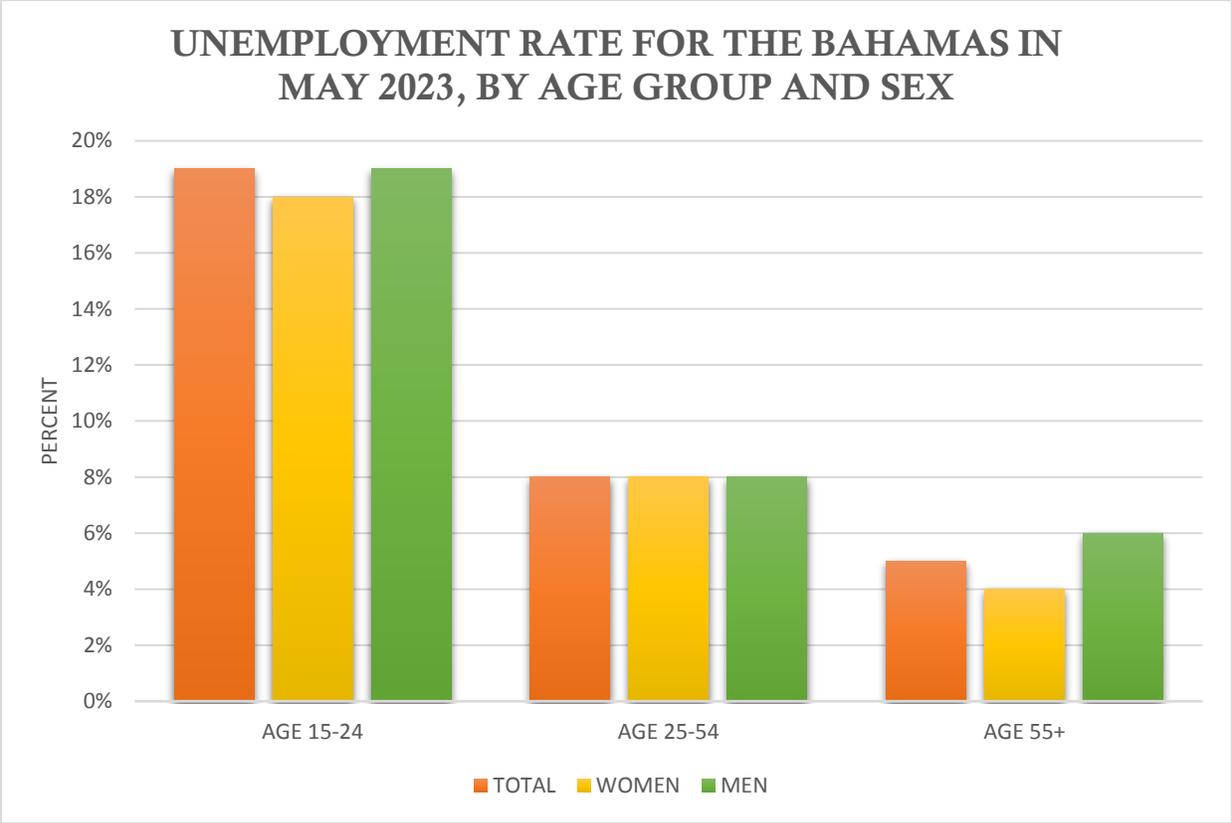
When examined by occupational group, almost one quarter (24%) of employed persons in the country are service workers.

The Unemployed Labour Force

At the time of the survey, there were 19,290 unemployed persons in the country resulting in a national unemployment rate of 8.8%. In New Providence the rate was 8.9%, Grand Bahama 10.8% and Abaco 7.1%.

Overall, when examined by sex, the unemployment rate for men was higher (9.1%), compared to 8.5% for women. Young men, those aged 15-24 as

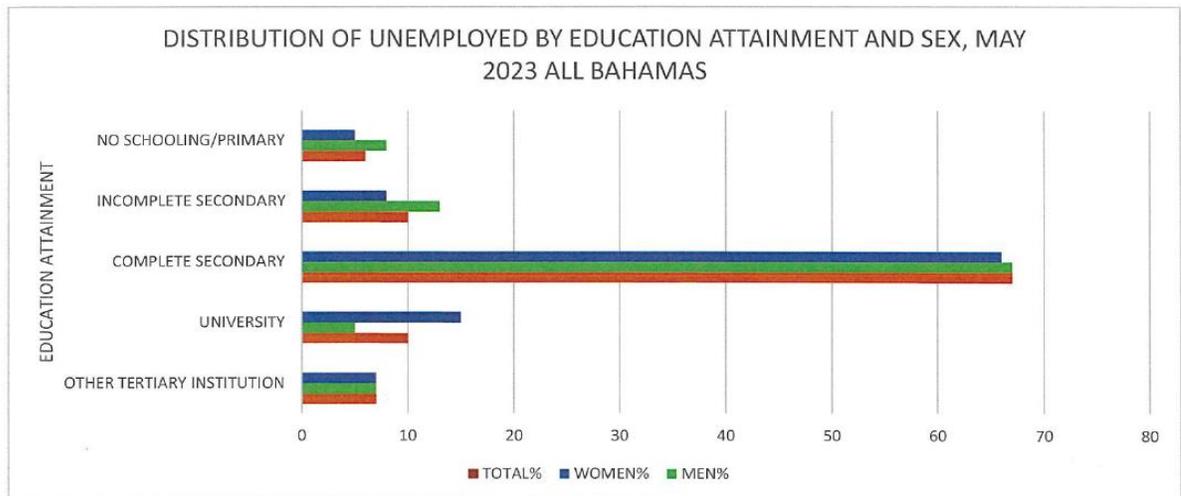
well at those aged 55 years and over were more likely to be unemployed when compared with women in their same age cohort.



According to The Caribbean Development Bank’s (CDB) report, youth unemployment in the Caribbean is among the highest in the world, with the unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 reaching 42.7% at last report. Although not as high, similar patterns persist in the Bahamas. The unemployment rate for young men aged 15 to 24 reached 19.2% compared with 18.2% for young women.

Nationwide, for the unemployed persons that had completed secondary school, there is a slight difference in the proportion of males (67%) and females (66%). However, for those who had not completed secondary school, the percentage of unemployed males (13%) was larger than that of

females (8%). Conversely, for those who had completed university, the proportion of unemployed females (15%) was higher than for males (5%).



Discouraged workers

The number of discouraged workers in the country is recorded as 2,035. New Providence 1,235, Grand Bahama 200 and Abaco 185. Discouraged workers, according to the standard definition of the International Labour Organization (ILO), “are persons without work and are available for work, yet were not actively seeking work because they are not hopeful about their prospects of finding work.”

The Bahamas National Statistical Institute (BNSI) is the agency in The Bahamas mandated by law to collect, process, analyze and disseminate timely official statistics. Please contact the BNS @ 242-604-4000 for questions and enquiries. This release, will be immediately available on the Institute's website www.bahamas.gov.bs/statistics. Additionally, more detailed analysis will be available on the website by July 15th, 2023.