

PRESS RELEASE

Preliminary Results Labour Force Survey November 2018

Employment rose by 2,305 in November when compared to May 2018 and reached about 211,000 persons. On a year-over-year basis, employment grew by 6,830 or 3.4%. Meanwhile, the national unemployment rate rose to 10.7%, up from 10.0% in May, as the number of people looking for work increased.

Highlights

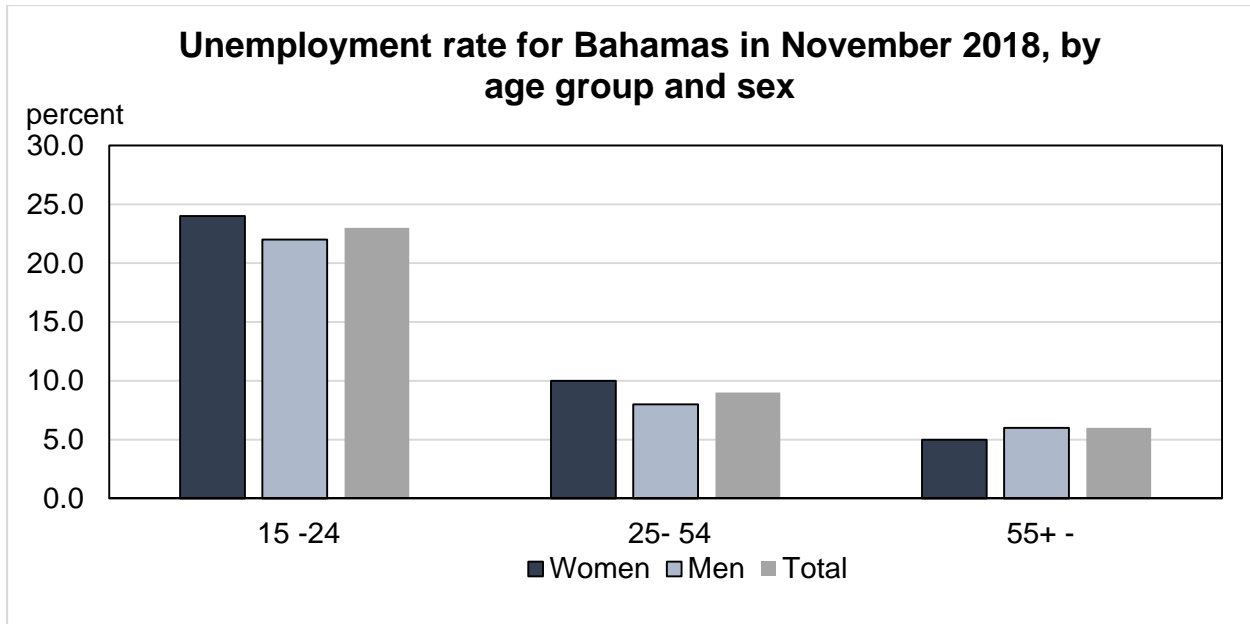
Two of the three most populated islands that were surveyed experienced decreases in their unemployment rates, and one experienced an increase. At the time of the survey, the rate in Grand Bahama was 11.9%; and in Abaco 7.7%. On the other hand, New Providence's unemployment rate increased from 10.1% May to 11.0%.

Among the employed labour force, there were more men (110,280) than women (100,280). However, in all the islands surveyed except Grand Bahama, men were fewer in numbers among the unemployed labour force.

Employment gains were driven by private sector employees which increased by 3.8% to 135,135 persons when compared to May. Additionally, the number of self-employed persons stood at 32,475, an increase of 11.9% since May.

Women were more likely than men to be unemployed

Overall, the unemployment rate for women reached 11.3% in November, compared to 10.0% for men. Young women, those aged 15-24 and core-aged women, those aged 25 to 54, were more likely to be unemployed than their male counterparts. By contrast, men aged 55 years and over were slightly more likely to be unemployed when compared with women in their same age cohort.



Young women were more likely to be unemployed than young men

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%. Similar patterns persist in the Bahamas, as youth unemployment for women was highest recorded for all age groups. The unemployment rate for young women reached 24.1%, compared with 22.4% for young men, 23.1% for both sexes.

Number of discouraged workers declined

In the six months to November, the number of discouraged workers in the country declined by 6.7%. Notably, the number of discouraged workers fell by 9.1% in New Providence and 9.8% in Grand Bahama. However, the number of discouraged workers in Abaco increased by 7.9 %, partly offsetting the overall decline. Discouraged workers, according to the standard definition of the International Labour Organization (ILO), “are persons without work and available for work, yet were not actively seeking work because they are not hopeful about their prospects of finding work.”

The Department of Statistics is the Government Agency in The Bahamas mandated by law to collect, process, analyze and disseminate statistics. Its mandate is to deliver timely official statistics. Please contact the Department of Statistics @ 242-604-4000 for questions and enquiries. This release, with accompanying tables, will be immediately available on the Department's website www.bahamas.gov.bs/statistics.

THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS: NOVEMBER 2018

ISLAND	SEX	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	UNEMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
ALL BAHAMAS	TOTAL	235,695	210,560	25,135	83.1%	10.7%
	WOMEN	113,100	100,280	12,820	77.3%	11.3%
	MEN	122,595	110,280	12,315	85.9%	10.0%
NEW PROVIDENCE	TOTAL	163,625	145,690	17,935	77.5%	11.0%
	WOMEN	79,110	69,840	9,270	74.5%	11.7%
	MEN	84,515	75,850	8,665	80.7%	10.3%
GRAND BAHAMA	TOTAL	32,710	28,810	3,900	70.4%	11.9%
	WOMEN	16,360	14,560	1,800	66.5%	11.0%
	MEN	16,350	14,250	2,100	75.9%	12.8%
ABACO	TOTAL	14,255	13,155	1,100	79.2%	7.7%
	WOMEN	6,235	5,635	600	73.1%	9.6%
	MEN	8,020	7,520	500	75.3%	6.2%

THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS: 2014 - 2018

ITEMS	May-14			Nov-14			May-15			Nov-15			May-16		
	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
Total Labour Force															
All Bahamas	198,710	98,800	99,910	206,050	102,585	103,465	208,895	103,290	105,605	212,195	103,940	108,255	215,880	104,815	111,065
New Providence	141,655	72,080	69,575	147,750	75,110	72,640	148,545	74,480	74,065	150,315	73,830	76,485	153,590	75,590	78,000
Grand Bahama	27,250	13,080	14,170	27,690	13,170	14,520	28,000	14,060	13,940	29,230	15,170	14,060	28,710	14,180	14,530
Abaco	8,995	3,860	5,135	9,905	4,525	5,380	10,360	4,405	5,955	10,660	4,595	6,065	11,465	5,145	6,320
Employed Labour Force															
All Bahamas	171,275	84,400	86,875	174,245	85,240	89,005	183,915	89,915	94,000	180,820	86,300	94,520	188,360	89,660	98,700
New Providence	120,400	60,820	59,580	124,060	61,515	62,545	130,750	64,760	65,990	126,430	60,430	66,000	133,365	64,100	69,265
Grand Bahama	23,235	10,730	12,505	22,545	10,645	11,900	24,400	12,050	12,350	25,090	12,660	12,430	24,500	11,785	12,715
Abaco	7,795	3,265	4,530	7,895	3,495	4,400	9,095	3,880	5,215	9,630	3,985	5,645	10,305	4,675	5,630
Unemployed Labour Force															
All Bahamas	27,435	14,400	13,035	31,805	17,345	14,460	24,980	13,375	11,605	31,375	17,640	13,735	27,520	15,155	12,365
New Providence	21,255	11,260	9,995	23,690	13,595	10,095	17,795	9,720	8,075	23,885	13,400	10,485	20,225	11,490	8,735
Grand Bahama	4,015	2,350	1,665	5,145	2,525	2,620	3,600	2,010	1,590	4,140	2,510	1,630	4,210	2,395	1,815
Abaco	1,200	595	605	2,010	1,030	980	1,265	525	740	1,030	610	420	1,160	470	690
Labour Force Participation Rate															
All Bahamas	72.9%	69.1%	77.4%	74.4%	71.0%	78.1%	73.0%	71.5%	78.5%	75.6%	71.9%	80.5%	76.9%	72.0%	81.2%
New Providence	77.3%	70.9%	78.0%	77.5%	73.9%	81.5%	74.5%	71.3%	76.4%	74.7%	70.7%	79.5%	75.9%	71.1%	80.3%
Grand Bahama	76.9%	76.9%	75.8%	71.3%	65.1%	78.0%	70.1%	66.5%	72.6%	72.5%	71.7%	73.3%	68.4%	66.6%	73.7%
Abaco	71.5%	71.5%	75.4%	75.7%	72.4%	79.0%	75.5%	63.8%	77.5%	77.3%	70.3%	84.0%	77.6%	70.8%	84.2%
Unemployment Rate															
All Bahamas	13.8%	14.6%	13.0%	15.7%	17.3%	14.1%	12.0%	12.9%	11.0%	14.8%	17.0%	12.7%	12.7%	14.5%	11.1%
New Providence	15.0%	15.6%	14.4%	16.0%	18.1%	13.9%	12.0%	13.1%	10.9%	15.9%	18.1%	13.7%	13.2%	15.2%	11.2%
Grand Bahama	14.7%	18.0%	11.8%	18.6%	19.2%	18.1%	12.9%	14.3%	11.4%	14.2%	16.5%	11.6%	14.7%	16.9%	12.5%
Abaco	13.3%	15.4%	11.8%	20.3%	22.8%	18.2%	12.2%	11.9%	12.4%	9.7%	13.3%	6.9%	10.1%	9.1%	10.9%

THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS: 2014 - 2018

ITEMS	Nov-16			May-17			Nov-17			May-18			Nov-18			
	ISLAND	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
Total Labour Force																
All Bahamas	217,750	106,420	111,330	222,035	106,890	115,145	226,680	109,135	117,545	231,445	111,540	119,905	235,695	113,100	122,595	
New Providence	155,315	76,435	78,880	157,120	76,655	80,465	159,110	77,695	81,415	161,330	78,865	82,465	163,625	79,110	84,515	
Grand Bahama	29,190	14,190	15,000	29,865	14,530	15,335	30,975	15,150	15,825	31,920	15,685	16,235	32,710	16,360	16,350	
Abaco	11,700	5,145	6,555	12,110	5,385	6,725	13,255	5,570	7,685	13,645	5,800	7,845	14,255	6,235	8,020	
Employed Labour Force																
All Bahamas	192,385	91,495	100,890	200,155	95,210	104,945	203,730	97,005	106,725	208,255	100,440	107,815	210,560	100,280	110,280	
New Providence	135,350	64,350	71,000	140,740	67,730	73,010	142,285	68,525	73,760	145,205	71,165	74,040	145,690	69,840	75,850	
Grand Bahama	25,300	12,180	13,120	26,160	12,335	13,825	27,240	13,235	14,005	27,965	14,015	13,950	28,810	14,560	14,250	
Abaco	10,640	4,460	6,180	11,165	5,025	6,140	12,115	5,125	6,990	12,180	5,015	7,165	13,155	5,635	7,520	
Unemployed Labour Force																
All Bahamas	25,365	14,925	10,440	21,880	11,680	10,200	22,950	12,130	10,820	23,190	11,100	12,090	25,135	12,820	12,315	
New Providence	19,965	12,085	7,880	16,380	8,925	7,455	16,825	9,170	7,655	16,125	7,700	8,425	17,935	9,270	8,665	
Grand Bahama	3,890	2,010	1,880	3,705	2,195	1,510	3,735	1,915	1,820	3,955	1,670	2,285	3,900	1,800	2,100	
Abaco	1,060	685	375	945	360	585	1,140	445	695	1,465	785	680	1,100	600	500	
Labour Force Participation Rate																
All Bahamas	77.2%	74.2%	82.1%	80.0%	74.0%	83.1%	81.0%	75.3%	84.2%	82.5%	76.1%	85.0%	83.1%	77.3%	85.9%	
New Providence	76.9%	72.3%	81.2%	75.9%	72.6%	79.0%	76.4%	73.2%	79.7%	76.3%	73.9%	80.2%	77.5%	74.5%	80.7%	
Grand Bahama	68.2%	67.5%	74.9%	68.9%	64.1%	75.1%	69.3%	64.7%	75.5%	69.5%	65.1%	75.6%	70.4%	66.5%	75.9%	
Abaco	77.8%	70.9%	84.7%	78.2%	71.4%	85.2%	78.5%	71.8%	85.9%	78.9%	72.1%	86.2%	79.2%	73.1%	75.3%	
Unemployment Rate																
All Bahamas	11.6%	14.0%	9.4%	9.9%	10.9%	8.0%	10.1%	11.1%	9.2%	10.0%	10.0%	10.1%	10.7%	11.3%	10.0%	
New Providence	12.9%	15.8%	10.0%	10.4%	11.6%	9.3%	10.6%	11.8%	9.4%	10.0%	9.8%	10.2%	11.0%	11.7%	10.3%	
Grand Bahama	13.3%	14.2%	12.5%	12.4%	15.1%	9.8%	12.1%	12.6%	11.5%	12.4%	10.6%	14.1%	11.9%	11.0%	12.8%	
Abaco	9.1%	13.3%	5.7%	7.8%	6.7%	8.7%	8.6%	8.0%	9.0%	10.7%	13.5%	8.7%	7.7%	9.6%	6.2%	

DISCOURAGED WORKERS BY ISLAND SEX AND WORK EXPERIENCE: NOVEMBER 2018

ISLAND AND SEX	TOTAL DISCOURAGED WORKERS	WORKED BEFORE	NEVER WORKED
ALL BAHAMAS			
TOTAL	2,030	1,230	800
MEN	905	550	355
WOMEN	1,125	680	445
NEW PROVIDENCE			
TOTAL	1,205	730	475
MEN	400	225	175
WOMEN	805	505	300
GRAND BAHAMA			
TOTAL	185	95	90
MEN	95	40	55
WOMEN	90	55	35
ABACO			
TOTAL	205	135	70
MEN	50	50	0
WOMEN	155	85	70