

PRESS RELEASE

JANUARY 2025 (Q1) LABOUR FORCE SURVEY LFS FINDINGS

NASSAU, September 17, 2025. The Bahamas National Statistical Institute (BNSI) is pleased to present the key indicators from the January 2025 Labour Force Survey (LFS), the third release of the second revision of the survey.

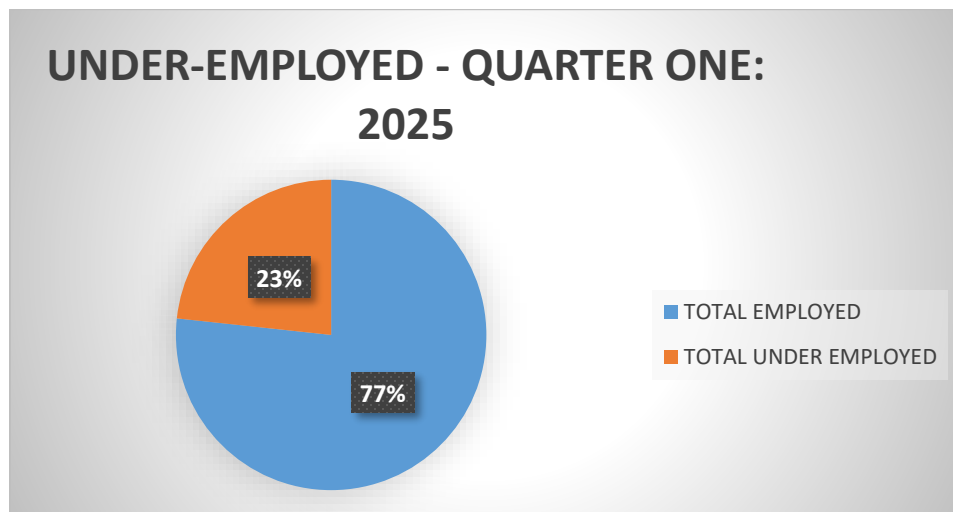
Highlights from the January 2025 Labour Force Survey:

Labour Force Participation:

The total labour force in January was 240,650 individuals: 121,565 males (50.5%) and 119, 085 females (49.5%.) The overall labour force participation rate was 76.0 per cent. Males had a higher participation rate of 80.4 per cent compared to 72.0 per cent for females. (table i

Employment:

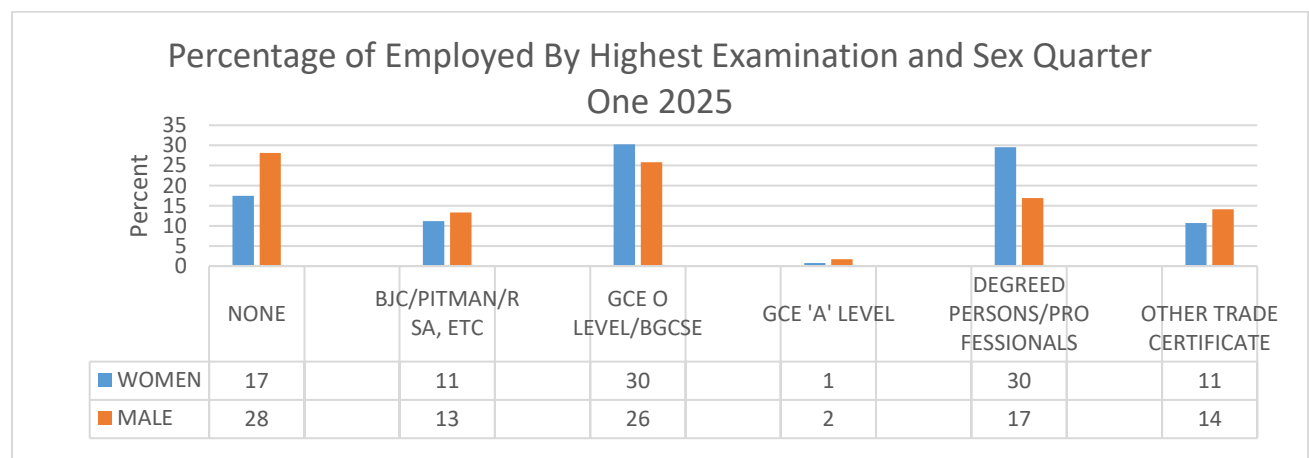
The total number of employed persons was 214,725, with males comprising more than half (108,935 or 50.7%) of the employed labour force. Of those employed, 65,225 individuals were **underemployed** that is, working part-time while wanting additional hours.



The largest occupation group (**table ii**) was 'Service Workers & Shop Market Sales Workers' with 57, 685 employed individuals, accounting for slightly more than one-fourth (26.9%) of the total employed population. This group had the largest number of employed females, 33,880. The second largest occupational group was 'Professional, Science & Engineering Professionals' with 46,835 workers, followed by 'Craft and Related Workers, Plant & Machine Operators & Assemblers' with 35,120 employed persons. This occupational group had the largest employment of males, 31,615.

The largest employer among industry groups (**table iii**) was 'Community, Social & Personal Services' employing 78,375 individuals, representing 37 per cent of the total workforce. There were 48,720 females employed in this industry group accounting for 46.0 percent. The second largest industry group was 'Hotels and Restaurants', which employed 41,260 persons. The industrial group 'Community, Social & Personal Services' had the largest employment of males, 29,655.

When the data was examined by qualifications, some very interesting facts were discovered. The proportion of women with degree, outnumbered men by nearly two to one. Conversely, a larger proportion of men (28%) than females (17%) had no qualification.

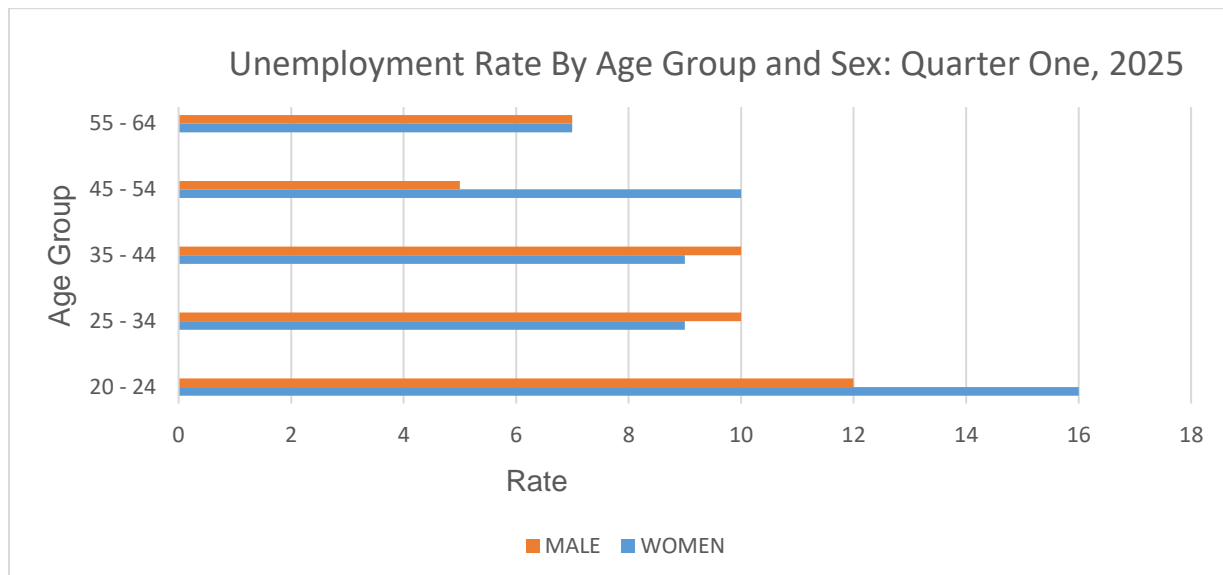


Unemployment:

The total number of unemployed individuals in January 2025 was 25,925, with females making up 51.3 per cent. Among the unemployed, 6,960 were youth aged 15 to 24 years, almost evenly distributed by sex.

The unemployment rate for January 2025, was 10.8 per cent. The female unemployment rate was higher at 11.2 per cent, while the unemployment rate for males 10.4 per cent. The youth unemployment rate was 20.9 per cent, with the unemployment rate for young adult females at 21.7 per cent and for young adult males it was 20.3 per cent.

Nationally, women aged 20 to 44 and 45 to 54 were more likely to be unemployed than their male counterpart (chart). By contrast, men aged 25-44 were slightly more likely to be unemployed when compared with women within their same age cohort.



Outside the Labour Force:

In January 2025, there were 106,480 individuals outside the labour force (**table iv**) with females (63,465) than males (43,015) within this group. Of those outside the labour force, 3,720 or 3.5 per cent were classified as part of the *potential labour* force which includes individuals available to work but not looking for a job.

DISCOURAGED WORKERS BY ISLAND			
SEX AND WORK EXPERIENCE			
QUARTER ONE 2024			
REASONS	TOTAL DISCOURAGED WORKERS	MEN	WOMEN
WAITING FOR RESULTS OF A PREVIOUS SEARCH	*	*	*
AWAITING RECALL FROM A PREVIOUS JOB	*	*	*
WAITING FOR THE SEASON TO START	*	*	*
WAITING TO START NEW JOB OR BUSINESS	*	*	*
TIRED OF LOOKING FOR JOBS, NO JOB IN AREA	1730	480	1250
NO JOBS MATCHING SKILLS, LACKS EXPERIENCES	1120	580	540
CONSIDERED TOO YOUNG/OLD BY EMPLOYERS	870	425	445
IN STUDIES, TRAINING	*	*	*
HOUSEHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES	*	*	*
IN ARGICULTURE/FISHING FOR HOUSEHOLD USE	*	*	*
OWN DISABILITY, INJURY, ILLNESS	*	*	*
RETIRED, PENSIONER	*	*	*
OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME	*	*	*
OLD AGE	*	*	*
OTHER (SPECIFY)	*	*	*
TOTAL	3,720	1,485	2,235

There were 25,520 young people (aged 15 to 24 years) outside the labour force, accounting for 23.9 per cent of this group. Among these young adults, 11,870 were males and 13,650 were females.

THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS

FIRST QUARTER-2025

Table I

SEX AND ISLAND		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	UNEMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
ALL BAHAMAS	TOTAL	240,650	214,725	25,925	76.0%	10.8%
	WOMEN	119,085	105,790	13,295	72.0	11.2%
	MEN	121,565	108,935	12,630	80.4	10.4%
NEW PROVIDENCE	TOTAL	180,810	160,840	19,970	76.7%	11.0%
	WOMEN	91,155	81,005	10,150	73.1	11.1%
	MEN	89,655	79,835	9,820	80.8	11.0%
GRAND BAHAMA	TOTAL	27,310	23,810	3,500	71.9%	12.8%
	WOMEN	13,500	11,600	1,900	66.8	14.1%
	MEN	13,810	12,210	1,600	77.9	11.6%
ABACO	TOTAL	10,520	9,065	1,455	78.2%	13.8%
	WOMEN	4,365	3,670	695	71.6	15.9%
	MEN	6,155	5,395	760	83.7	12.3%

**EMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX AND OCCUPATIONAL GROUP
QUARTER ONE 2025**

TABLE ii

All Bahamas

Occupational Group	TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Legislators & Senior Officials	16,840	8	9,785	9	7,055	6
Professional, Science & Engineering Professionals	46,835	22	29,180	28	17,655	16
Clerks	18,340	9	15,000	14	3,340	3
Service Workers & Shop Market Sales Workers	57,685	27	33,880	32	23,805	22
Skilled Agriculture & Fishery Workers	6,295	3	735	1	5,560	5
Craft and Related Workers, Plant & Machine Operators & Assemblers	35,120	16	3,505	3	31,615	29
Elementary Occupations	28,460	13	11,825	11	16,635	15
Not Stated	5,150	2	1,880	2	3,270	3
TOTAL	214,725	100	105,790	100	108,935	100

EMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX AND INDUSTRIAL GROUP QUARTER ONE 2025

TABLE iii

ALL BAHAMAS

INDUSTRIAL GROUP	TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
AGRICULTURE, HUNTING, FORESTRY & FISHING	3,745	2	520	0	3,225	3
MINING, QUARRYING ELECTRICITY, GAS & WATER	3,970	2	1,010	1	2,960	3
MANUFACTURING	6,790	3	2,250	2	4,540	4
CONSTRUCTION	17,690	8	675	1	17,015	16
WHOLESALE & RETAIL	27,885	13	13,670	13	14,215	13
HOTELS & RESTAURANTS	41,260	19	21,375	20	19,885	18
TRANSPORT, STORAGE & COMMUNICATION	16,750	8	5,925	6	10,825	10
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE & OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES	14,835	7	10,095	10	4,740	4
COMMUNITY, SOCIAL & PERSONAL SERVICES	78,375	37	48,720	46	29,655	27
NOT STATED	3,425	2	1,550	1	1,875	2
TOTAL	214,725	100	105,790	100	108,935	100

NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE BY AGE GROUP AND SEX: QUARTER ONE: 2025

Table iv						
	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE					
	TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN	
AGE GROUP	N	%	N	%	N	%
15 - 19	20,530	19	10,780	17	9,750	23
20 - 24	4,990	5	2,870	5	2,120	5
25 - 34	6,100	6	3,365	5	2,735	6
35 - 44	5,660	5	3,510	6	2,150	5
45 - 54	7,640	7	5,625	9	2,015	5
55 - 64	15,445	15	9,500	15	5,945	14
65 AND OVER	45,295	43	27,355	43	17,940	42
NOT STATED	820	1	460	1	360	1
TOTAL	106,480	100	63,465	100	43,015	100

LABOUR FORCE BY AGE GROUP AND SEX
QUARTER ONE 2025

Table v

ALL BAHAMAS

AGE GROUP	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE						SEX AND LABOUR FORCE											
							EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE						UNEMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE					
	TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN		TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN		TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
15 - 19	11,745	5	5,220	4	6,525	5	7,825	4	3,450	3	4,375	4	3,920	15	1,770	13	2,150	17
20 - 24	21,455	9	10,950	9	10,505	9	18,415	9	9,210	9	9,205	8	3,040	12	1,740	13	1,300	10
25 - 34	53,475	22	26,875	23	26,600	22	48,425	23	24,355	23	24,070	22	5,050	19	2,520	19	2,530	20
35 - 44	55,660	23	28,780	24	26,880	22	50,555	24	26,320	25	24,235	22	5,105	20	2,460	19	2,645	21
45 - 54	47,900	20	23,905	20	23,995	20	44,240	21	21,510	20	22,730	21	3,660	14	2,395	18	1,265	10
55 - 64	37,330	16	17,735	15	19,595	16	34,410	16	16,560	16	17,850	16	2,920	11	1,175	9	1,745	14
65 AND OVER	11,775	5	5,040	4	6,735	6	9,660	4	3,805	4	5,855	5	2,115	8	1,235	9	880	7
NOT STATED	1,310	1	580	0	730	1	1,195	1	580	1	615	1	115	0	-	0	115	1
TOTAL	240,650	100	119,085	100	121,565	100	214,725	100	105,790	100	108,935	100	25,925	100	13,295	100	12,630	100

LABOUR FORCE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND SEX **QUARTER ONE 2025**

TABLE vi

ALL BAHAMAS

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	TOTAL						EMPLOYED						UNEMPLOYED					
	TOTAL	%	WOMEN	%	MEN	%	TOTAL	%	WOMEN	%	MEN	%	TOTAL	%	WOMEN	%	MEN	%
NO SCHOOLING/PRIMARY	10,685	4	4,845	4	5,840	5	8,100	4	3,500	3	4,600	4	2,585	10	1,345	10	1,240	10
INCOMPLETE SECONDARY	17,485	7	5,290	4	12,195	10	14,405	7	3,755	4	10,650	10	3,080	12	1,535	12	1,545	12
COMPLETE SECONDARY	136,970	57	64,955	55	72,015	59	121,970	57	57,660	55	64,310	59	15,000	58	7,295	55	7,705	61
UNIVERSITY	54,865	23	35,705	30	19,160	16	51,515	24	33,535	32	17,980	17	3,350	13	2,170	16	1,180	9
OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTION	20,645	9	8,290	7	12,355	10	18,735	9	7,340	7	11,395	10	1,910	7	950	7	960	8
TOTAL	240,650	100	119,085	100	121,565	100	214,725	100	105,790	100	108,935	100	25,925	100	13,295	100	12,630	100

LABOUR FORCE BY HIGHEST EXAMINATION AND SEX **QUARTER ONE 2025**

TABLE vii

ALL BAHAMAS

EXAMINATION PASSED	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE						SEX AND LABOUR FORCE											
							EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE						UNEMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE					
	TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN		TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN		TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
NONE	56,995	24	20,325	17	36,670	30	48,535	23	15,950	17	31,945	28	7,670	31	4,375	28	4,725	35
BJC/PITMAN/RSA, ETC	29,965	12	14,965	13	15,000	12	26,025	12	12,700	11	12,885	13	4,835	20	2,265	17	2,115	24
GCE O LEVEL/BGCSE	68,395	28	35,785	30	32,610	27	59,495	28	32,370	30	29,600	26	7,720	31	3,415	35	3,010	26
GCE 'A' LEVEL	3,030	1	1,335	1	1,695	1	2,700	1	1,035	1	1,475	2	420	2	300	2	220	1
DEGREED PERSONS/PROFESSIONALS	56,085	23	36,000	30	20,085	17	49,120	23	34,225	30	18,880	17	2,285	9	1,775	11	1,205	7 *
OTHER TRADE CERTIFICATE	26,180	11	10,675	9	15,505	13	26,410	12	9,510	11	14,150	14	1,785	7	1,165	7	1,355	7 *
TOTAL	240,650	100	119,085	100	121,565	100	214,725	100	105,790	100	108,935	100	24,715	100	13,295	100	12,630	100

THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS

THIRD QUARTER-2024

Table viii

SEX AND ISLAND		TOTAL	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	LABOUR	UNEMPLOYMENT
		LABOUR	LABOUR	LABOUR	FORCE	
		FORCE	FORCE	FORCE	PARTICIPATION RATE	RATE
ALL BAHAMAS	TOTAL	237,335	220,295	17,040	73.9	7.2%
	WOMEN	118,410	109,840	8,570	71.0	7.2%
	MEN	118,925	110,455	8,470	77.8	7.1%
NEW PROVIDENCE	TOTAL	176,350	163,540	12,810	75.8	7.3%
	WOMEN	88,375	81,835	6,540	70.1	7.4%
	MEN	87,975	81,705	6,270	79.0	7.1%
GRAND BAHAMA	TOTAL	28,130	25,665	2,465	76.8	8.8%
	WOMEN	14,400	13,190	1,210	72.1	8.4%
	MEN	13,730	12,475	1,255	76.5	9.1%
ABACO	TOTAL	10,240	9,785	455	74.1	4.4%
	WOMEN	4,360	4,130	230	71.0	5.3%
	MEN	5,880	5,655	225	78.6	3.8%

THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS

QUARTER FOUR-2024

Table ix

		TOTAL	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	LABOUR	
SEX AND ISLAND		LABOUR	LABOUR	LABOUR	FORCE	UNEMPLOYMENT
		FORCE	FORCE	FORCE	PARTICIPATION	RATE
					RATE	
ALL BAHAMAS	TOTAL	239,785	218,240	21,545	74.8	9.0%
	WOMEN	119,725	108,905	10,820	71.2	9.0%
	MEN	120,060	109,335	10,725	78.8	8.9%
NEW PROVIDENCE	TOTAL	180,310	163,915	16,395	75.9	9.1%
	WOMEN	90,505	82,005	8,500	71.4	9.4%
	MEN	89,805	81,910	7,895	79.9	8.8%
GRAND BAHAMA	TOTAL	27,385	24,660	2,725	72.2	10.0%
	WOMEN	13,760	12,410	1,350	69.0	9.8%
	MEN	13,625	12,250	1,375	76.0	10.1%
ABACO	TOTAL	9,765	8,865	900	71.3	9.2%
	WOMEN	4,355	4,005	350	71.0	8.0%
	MEN	5,410	4,860	550	72.2	10.2%

