

Labour Force News

SUMMARY

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Results collected from October's Labour Force Survey indicate that during the reference period, 5th – 11th October 2003, 29,905 persons were in the labour force. Of this total, 28,827 were actually employed, while 1,079 were without work, resulting in an unemployment rate of 3.6 percent.

These results are an improvement over those recorded for the reference period of October 2002, which showed that a total of 28,905 persons were in the labour force. Of that total, 27,354 were employed, while 1,551 were jobless, leading to an unemployment rate of 5.4 percent.

The unemployment rate in the Cayman Islands has been steadily decreasing since 2001 when it stood at 7.5 percent.

Results from October's Labour Force Survey also showed an improvement in the unemployment rate over the April 2003 Labour Force figure—which stood at 4.6 percent.

THE LABOUR FORCE

The labour force refers to those persons residing in the country who are of suitable working age—namely, aged 15 years and older—and were employed or actively seeking work during the reference period. It excludes persons attending school full time who were not engaged in part time employment. It also excludes those attending school full time who did not actively seek work during the survey time frame. A further breakdown of the total labour force of 29,905 persons revealed the following:

- During the reference period, the labour force participation rate was 85.1 percent. The participation rate represents the total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and older. The October 2003 rate was higher than the 77.6 percent participation rate in 2001, the last previous year in which it was calculated.
- Participation rates varied from a low of 65.2 percent for those aged 15-24 years old to a high of 95.7 percent for those aged 25-34 years old. Participation rates for all age groups were higher than the corresponding rates recorded in the 2001 Labour Force Survey.

- Whereas female workers comprised slightly more than half—or 51.7 percent—of the entire labour force, male workers represented 48.3 percent.
- During the reference period, the labour force age breakdown was as follows: 8.7 percent aged 15-24 years old; 33.3 percent aged 25-34 years old; 29.9 percent aged 35-44 years; and 28.1 percent aged 45 years and over.

THE EMPLOYED

An employed person is one who works for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during the reference week for which the survey was conducted.

- In a breakdown by age, 7.9 percent of the 28,827 persons employed in the labour force were persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Individuals aged 25-34 years accounted for 33.5 percent, while those persons aged 35-44, and 45 years and over accounted for 30.1 percent and 28.5 percent respectively.
- The total number of Caymanians employed within the labour force equalled 13,973—or 48.5 percent of the total—while Non-Caymanians accounted for 14,854. The proportion of Non-Caymanian workers has been dropping since 2001. The total number of Caymanians employed has increased steadily since 2001 when it stood at 11,844 persons.
- Of the Caymanian labour force, the proportion of female workers employed within the labour force was 53.9 percent while the percentage of male workers was 46.1. For Non-Caymanians, the percentage breakdown of the employed labour force was 49.8 percent male and 50.2 percent female. In the country as a whole, more females than males are employed.
- Those persons aged 45 years and over represented the largest share of the Caymanian workforce at 36.6 percent. This result was followed by 10.8 percent of Caymanian workers aged between 15 and 24 years; 26.2 percent aged 25-34 years; and 26.4 percent aged 35-44 years.
- When looking at employed workers by age group, Caymanian workers made up the majority of the employed in age categories of 15-24 years and the 45 years and older category.

THE UNEMPLOYED

An individual is defined as being unemployed if he/she is without work but was available to work and had actively sought work during the reference period.

- The unemployment rates for Caymanians and Non-Caymanians were 5.8 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. These figures have improved since 2002 when the unemployment rate for Caymanians was 7.5 percent. Comparatively, unemployment rates are lower for Non-Caymanians as this group of workers is normally required to be employed while residing on the Island.
- The unemployed labour force stood at 1,079 during the reference period. Of this total, 31.0 percent included individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 years old. For other categories, 27.4 percent was recorded for those aged 25-34 years while 24.2 percent and 17.3 percent, respectively, was represented by those persons aged 35-44 years, and 45 years and above.
- Whereas the unemployment rate for males was 4.2 percent, for females this rate was 3.0 percent.
- Of the total 1,079 unemployed persons, the rate of unemployment was highest among younger persons, with a 12.9 percent unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 years old.

THE UNDEREMPLOYED

Under-employment refers to persons available to work longer hours but who worked for less than 35 hours during the survey period and were actively seeking to work additional hours.

- A total of 375 persons, out of a labour force of 29,905, were underemployed at the time that the survey was conducted. Of this total, Caymanians represented 60.8 percent whereas Non-Caymanians represented 39.2 percent. The number of underemployed is down from 579 persons in 2002.
- Within the 228 underemployed Caymanian workforce, 29.8 percent were males and 70.2 percent were females.
- However, of the 147 underemployed Non-Caymanians, 38.8 percent were males and 61.2 percent were females.

MULTIPLE JOB HOLDERS

Multiple job holders are those who are employed and have more than one job or business during the reference week.

- When looking at the 1,289 multiple job holders, 70.8 percent were Caymanians while 29.2 percent were Non-Caymanians.
- Of the 913 Caymanians with multiple jobs, more were males than females (57.8 percent versus 42.2 percent).
- Of the 376 non-Caymanians with multiple jobs, more were females than males (69.4 percent compared to 30.6 percent).

Population

The estimated population of Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac Islands is 44,144. This is an increase from the 2002 population estimate of 43,004.

Methodology

This Labour Force Survey was conducted using a similar methodology to past Labour Force Surveys. Documentation of the methodology is available at the Economics and Statistics Office of the Government of the Cayman Islands. It should be noted that the methodology is under review and will be revised to ensure the Cayman Islands Labour Force Survey meets internationally accepted standards.

NOTE: The Economics and Statistics Office will be conducting a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 2004. This survey will be used as the basis to update the Consumer Price Index, provide input into future National Accounts, and provide input into a population model for the country. As the Office's efforts will be directed toward this activity, the Labour Force Survey will not be conducted in 2004.

TABLE 1: POPULATION, LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYED, UNEMPLOYED, NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, BY SEX

	Population	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labour Force
Male	20,917	14,451	13,840	611	2,024
%	47.4%	48.3%	48.0%	56.6%	38.6%
Female	23,228	15,454	14,987	468	3,215
%	52.6%	51.7%	52.0%	43.4%	61.4%
Total	44,144	29,905	28,827	1,079	5,239

TABLE 2: POPULATION, LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYED, UNEMPLOYED, NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, BY AGE

	Population	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labour Force
< 15 years	9,000				
%	20.4%				
15-24	3,994	2,603	2,268	335	1,391
%	9.0%	8.7%	7.9%	31.0%	26.6%
25-34	10,414	9,963	9,667	296	451
%	23.6%	33.3%	33.5%	27.4%	8.6%
35-44	9,433	8,933	8,672	261	500
%	21.4%	29.9%	30.1%	24.2%	9.5%
45 +	11,304	8,407	8,220	187	2,897
%	25.6%	28.1%	28.5%	17.3%	55.3%
Total	44,144	29,905	28,827	1,079	5,239

TABLE 3: UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AND PARTICIPATION RATES, BY AGE & SEX

	Unemployment Rate	Participation Rate
Male	4.2%	87.7%
Female	3.0%	82.8%
Total	3.6%	85.1%
15-24	12.9%	65.2%
25-34	3.0%	95.7%
35-44	2.9%	94.7%
45 +	2.2%	74.4%

TABLE 4: EMPLOYMENT BY STATUS AND SEX

	Total	Caymanian	%	Non-Caymanian	%
Male	13,841	6,446	46.6%	7,395	53.4%
%	48.0%	46.1%		49.8%	
Female	14,986	7,526	50.2%	7,460	49.8%
%	52.0%	53.9%		50.2%	
Total	28,827	13,973	48.5%	14,854	51.5%

TABLE 5: EMPLOYMENT BY STATUS AND AGE

	Total	Caymanian	%	Non-Caymanian	%
15-24 %	2,268 7.9%	1,503 10.8%	66.3%	765 5.2%	33.7%
25-34 %	9,667 33.5%	3,665 26.2%	37.9%	6,002 40.4%	62.1%
35-44 %	8,672 30.1%	3,684 26.4%	42.5%	4,988 33.6%	57.5%
45 + %	8,220 28.5%	5,121 36.6%	62.3%	3,099 20.9%	37.7%

TABLE 6: UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY STATUS

	Total	Caymanian	Non-Caymanian
Total	1,079	857	222
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	5.8%	1.5%

TABLE 7: UNDEREMPLOYED BY STATUS AND SEX

	Total	Caymanian	%	Non-Caymanian	%
Total	375	228	60.8%	147	39.2%
Males	125	68	54.4%	57	45.6%
%	33.3%	29.8%		38.8%	
Females	250	160	64.0%	90	36.0%
%	66.7%	70.2%		61.2%	

TABLE 8: MULTIPLE JOBS HOLDERS BY STATUS AND SEX

	Total	Caymanian	%	Non-Caymanian	%
Total	1,289	913	70.8%	376	29.2%
Males	643	528	82.1%	115	17.9%
%	49.9%	57.8%		30.6%	
Females	646	385	59.6%	261	40.4%
%	50.1%	42.2%		69.4%	