

Profile of the Labour Force

The Labour Force of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago registered 628 400 persons at the end of the 4th Quarter 2006 (Table 1 refers). This represented an increase of 8 900 or 1.4% when compared to the 3rd Quarter 2006. From a gender perspective, this increase in the Labour Force was reflected among the males which rose by 4 100 or 1.1% and the females which increased by 4 800 or 1.9% when compared with the previous quarter (Table 1 refers). The overall Labour Force Participation Rate for Trinidad and Tobago increased by 0.9% to 64.3% in the 4th quarter 2006. The Labour Force Participation Rate for males was 74.9% while that for females was 53.6%. When compared with the corresponding quarter of 2005, the overall Labour Force Participation Rate showed a decrease of 0.2%.

Employed

The survey data showed an increase of 14 200 persons or 2.4% in the number of persons with jobs, moving up from 582 600 in the previous quarter to 596 800 employed persons in the quarter under review. From a gender perspective, the number of employed males rose by 7 600 or 2.2% while the females increased by 6 600 or 2.8%. When compared to the corresponding quarter a year earlier, the data showed a significant increase of 6 900 persons in the total number of employed persons in Trinidad and Tobago.

Unemployed

In terms of the unemployment situation the data reflected a decrease of 5 200 persons or 14.1% in the number of unemployed persons in Trinidad and Tobago between the 3rd and 4th Quarters 2006. The total unemployed decreased from 36 800 during the 3rd Quarter 2006 to 31 600 in the 4th quarter 2006. This decrease in unemployment was reflected in both males and females. The number of unemployed males declined by 3 500 or 22.0% and the unemployed females fell by 1 700 or 8.1%. A comparison of the data for the corresponding quarter in 2005 revealed a decline of 11 100 or 26.0% in the total number of unemployed persons in Trinidad and Tobago.

Unemployment Rate

As a result of those changes in the components of the Labour Force, the overall unemployment rate for Trinidad and Tobago decreased from 5.9% in the 3rd Quarter 2006, to 5.0% in the 4th Quarter 2006. From a gender perspective, the unemployment rate among males decreased, moving from 4.4% in the previous quarter to 3.4% in the quarter under review, and the females decreased from 8.1% to 7.3% during the same period. When compared to the similar quarter a year earlier the data showed a decline in unemployment rate from 6.7% to 5.0%, with the male unemployment rate decreasing from 4.9% to 3.4% and similarly the female unemployment rate decreased from 9.4% to 7.3%.

Labour Force by Industry

An analysis of the data by Industry, when compared with the previous quarter revealed increases in the number of persons with jobs in 'Other Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing' 3 100 or 14.4%, 'Construction' 1 600 or 1.6%, 'Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels' 12 800 or 12.5%, and 'Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services' 2 200 or 4.4% (Table 2 refers). However, the impact of these increases were offset by the decreases in 'Sugar' 1 200 or 50.0%, 'Other Manufacturing (excluding oil and sugar)' 4 300 or 7.5% and 'Transport, storage and communication' 2 300 or 5.3%.

Labour Force by Occupation

Of all occupational groups in the period under review, 'Legislators, senior officials and managers' reflected the highest increase in persons with jobs, moving upward by 7 800 or 17.2% followed by 'Craft and related workers' 6 500 or 7.2% , 'Clerks' 4 100 or 5.4% and 'Agricultural, forestry and fishery workers' 3 700 or 26.4% (Table 3 refers). However, the occupational group 'Plant and machine operators and assemblers' experienced the highest employment losses, falling by 8 700 or 15.3%, while decreases were also recorded in 'Elementary occupations' 2 600 or 2.0% and 'Technicians and associate professionals' 1 200 or 1.9%.

Labour Force by Type of Worker

In reviewing the 4th Quarter 2006 data (Persons with jobs) by Type of Worker, increases were observed in 'Own account worker' category of 11 600 persons or 15.1%, 'Non-government' 9 700 or 3.2% and 'Employers' 2 800 persons or 10.4% (Table 4 refers). Of the other type of workers, the 'Government public service/statutory board' category recorded a significant decrease of 9 200 persons or 6.4% and 'Government state enterprises' 1 500 or 6.3% when compared with the 3rd Quarter 2006.

Estimation of Standard Errors

The estimates derived from the CSSP are based on a sample of the total population, hence they are all liable to some "Sampling Errors".

The Standard Error indicates the extent to which an estimate derived from the sample might be expected to differ from a similar statistic obtained from a complete census.

Estimations of approximate Standard Errors of Total Labour Force, Persons with Jobs and Total Unemployed for the 4th Quarter 2006, indicate standard errors of 6 200 or 1.0% of the estimated Total Labour Force (Both Sexes) and 6 300 or 1.0% of the estimated number of Persons with Jobs (Both Sexes) and 2 300 or 7.2% of the estimated Total Unemployed (Both Sexes) respectively.

NOTE:

- (i) Users and researchers are advised that the Central Statistical Office should be consulted for further assistance in interpreting the results since sampling errors and other statistical considerations should be taken into account.
- (ii) The figures in this bulletin are rounded to the nearest hundred. Totals shown may not always agree exactly with their components due to the effect of rounding.
- (iii) Sample estimates are expanded based on provisional population estimates by gender derived using the vital statistics method.