



## 2015 Labour Force Survey

According to the 2015 Labour Force Survey the working age population (15 to 64 years) population in Antigua and Barbuda stood at 57,418 persons (Figure 1).

Labour force participants accounted for 77.1% of the working age population, while persons outside the labour force (inactive population) represented 22.9%. The unemployment rate according to a standard definition was at 14.1%, and the employment-to-population ratio was 66.3%.

### Working Age Population

Men are more likely than women to participate in the labour force. Of the working age male population, 78.6% participated in the labour force compared to 75.9% of women. Men are also more likely to participate in the labour force at any given age group, even though for some age groups these differences are negligible (Figure 2).

Youth (15 to 24 years) and persons above 59 years old are substantially less likely to participate in the labour force. For example, only 18.8% of persons aged 15 to 19 years were in the labour force, and only 42.0% of those aged 60 to 64 years were in the labour force (Figure 2).

The highest *labour force participation rate* is observed in Barbuda, 88.9%; the lowest is in St. George, 72.3% (Figure 3).

In general, across all parishes, the male labour force participation is higher than that of women, except for St. George and St. Mary.

In St. George, the *labour force participation rate* for females is 72.6% compared to 71.7% for males. In St. Mary, the female *labour force participation rate* is 82.2% and for males, 78.8%.

Persons who do not participate in the labour force are either studying, 44.7%; have family reasons, 9.4%; or for other reasons, 45.8%; majority of which is to retirement.

Figure 1 - Labour Market at September 2015



Figure 2: Labour Force Participation by Age Group and Sex

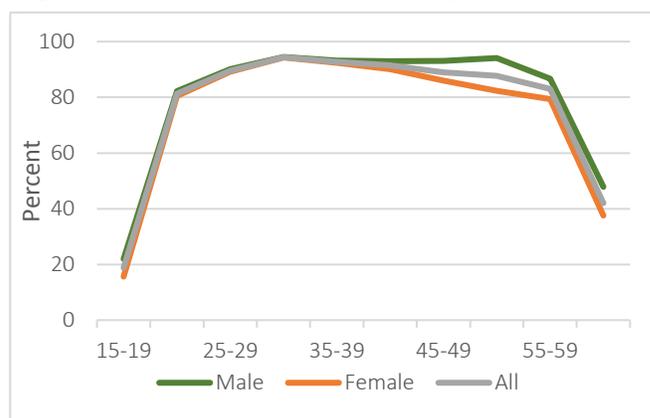
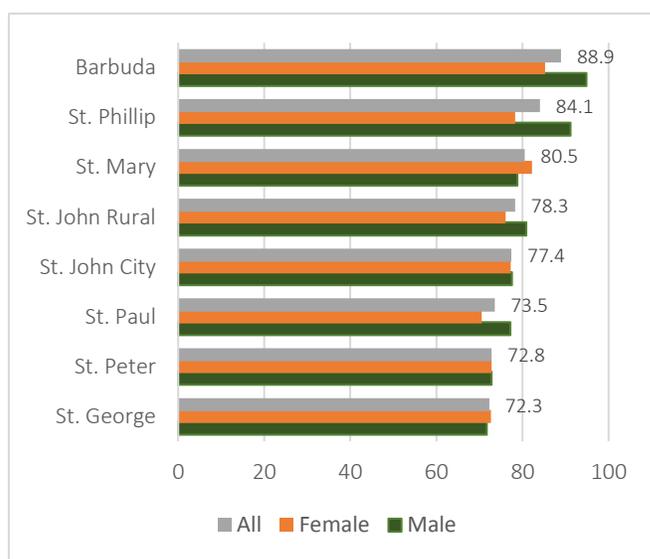


Figure 3: Labour Force Participation by Parish and Sex





## Employment

In absolute numbers, more women than men participated in the labour force: 23,794 compared to 20,501 (Table 1). Also, more women (20,217) were employed than men (17,844). However, the *employment-to-population ratio* (EPR) was slightly higher for men (68.4 %) than for women (64.5 %).

Similar to the labour force participation rate, the *employment-to-population ratio* is the lowest for the younger and older groups, peaking for 35 to 44 years old (Figure 4). Furthermore, this ratio is higher for men than for women across all age groups.

The majority of the employed population (23.3%) work as service and sale workers (Figure 5).

Women are much more likely than men to work in this occupation, 30.8% compared to 14.9% respectively. Clerical support workers; technical and associate professionals; elementary occupations; professionals, and crafts occupations employ around 11 to 12% of workers each.

Managers comprise approximately 8% of employed persons. Agricultural workers, plant and machine operators account for 5.1% and 4.8% respectively.

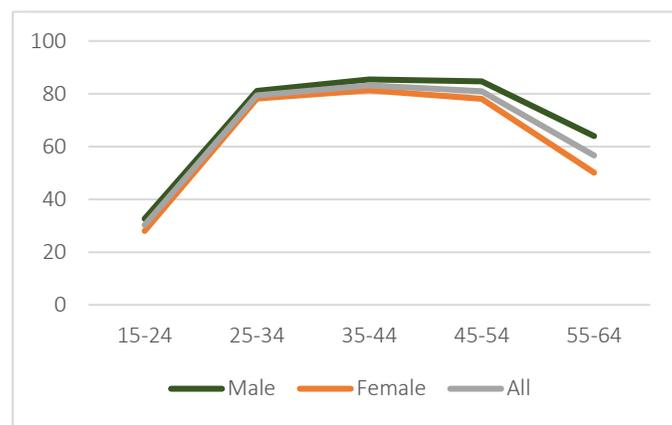
Salaried workers comprise 86.8% of the employed population; self-employed, 8.5%; employers, 3.8%; and not-salaried, 0.9%. Most, 63.0%, of the salaried workers work for the private sector, and 33.7% work for the public sector.

Women are more likely than men to work for the public sector, 37.5% of salaried women vs 28.8% of salaried men.

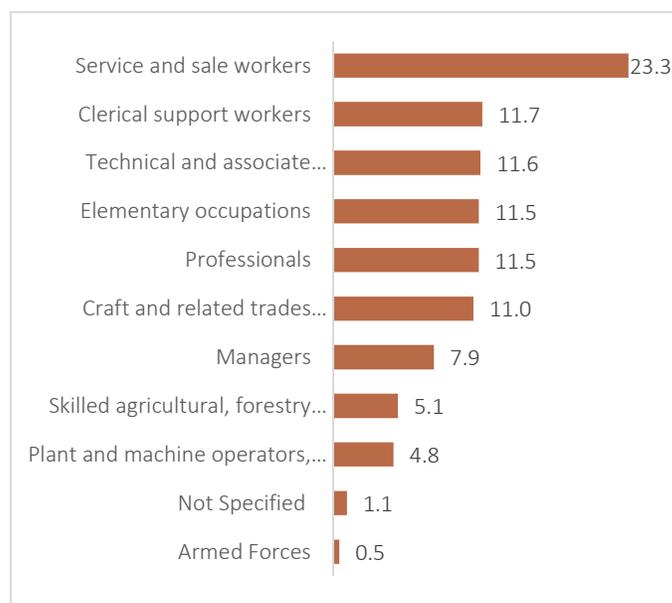
**Table 1:** Employment by Sex

	Male	Female	Total
Labour Force	20,501	23,794	44,295
Employed	17,844	20,217	38,061
EPR	68.4	64.5	66.3

**Figure 4:** Employment-to-Population Ratio by Age Groups and Sex



**Figure 5:** Employment by Occupation and Sex





## Unemployment

The overall *unemployment rate* for the population of persons 15 to 64 years was 14.1%.

The unemployment rate for women is 15.0% and for men, 13.0%. Women were more likely to be unemployed than men across all age groups except for those in the 45 to 54 year age group where the unemployment rate for women was 7.4% compared to 9.3% for men (Figure 6).

Youth unemployment rate at 34.6% is more than double the overall unemployment rate. This rate is a trend commonly observed in the Caribbean and around the world.

There is a lot of variation in unemployment rates by parish. While only 7.4% of the labour force population is unemployed in Barbuda, in St Paul the unemployment rate is 20.6%, almost three times higher (Figure 7). St. Phillip had the second lowest unemployment rate, 8.8%.

Also, there are a lot of differences in the unemployment rate by sex across different parishes.

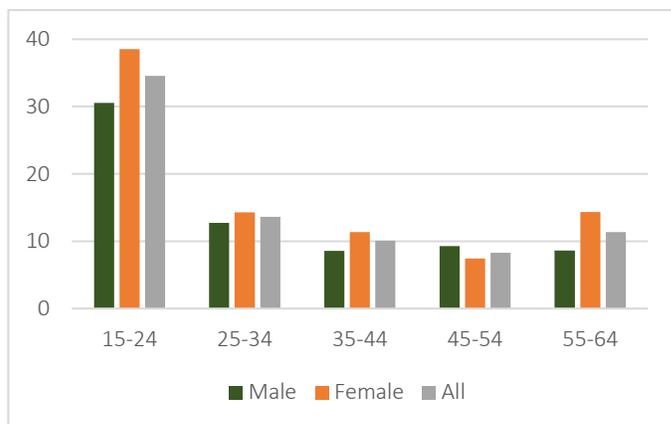
For example, while in Barbuda men more than women are more likely to be unemployed, 9.1% compared to 6.3%; in St. George the picture is quite different with women more likely than men to be unemployed, 24.8% compared to 10.8%.

The unemployment rate also varies by educational attainment with generally more educated individuals having lower unemployment rates (Figure 8).

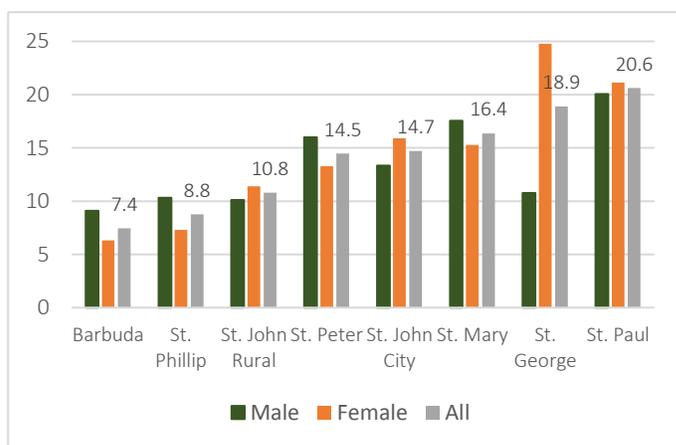
For example, the unemployment rate of those with no education is 25.0% compared to 17.0% for persons with some secondary school education.

Persons with a tertiary education had the lowest unemployment rate, 8.6%. Persons with complete secondary school education had the second lowest rate, 15.6%.

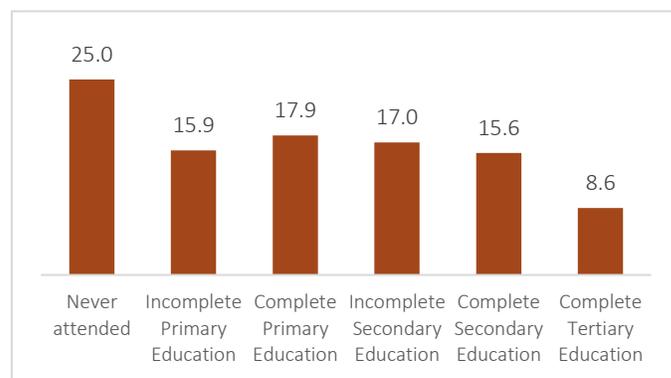
**Figure 6:** Unemployment Rate by 5-year Age Group and Sex



**Figure 7:** Unemployment Rate by Parish and Sex



**Figure 8:** Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment





## Definitions

### Employed:

All persons of working age (15 to 64 years old), who during a specified period, such as one week or one day were in the following categories:

1. Paid employment (whether at work or with a job, but not at work);
2. Self-employment (whether at work or with an enterprise but not at work).

### Employment to Population Ratio:

The number of persons who are employed during a given reference period as a percent of the total working age population in the same reference period.

### Labour Force:

Labour force comprises all persons of working age who furnish the supply of labour for the production of goods and services during a specified time-reference period. It refers to the sum of all persons of working age who are employed and those unemployed.

### Labour Force Participation Rate:

The labour force during a given reference period given as a percent of the working age population in the same period.

### Persons outside the labour force (Inactive population):

All persons of working age who, during the specified reference period, were not in the labour force (that is, were not employed or unemployed). The working age population is commonly defined as persons aged 15 years and older, but this varies from country to country. In addition to using a minimum age threshold, certain countries also apply a maximum age limit. The working age population for Antigua and Barbuda is defined as 15 to 64 years old.

### Unemployed:

All persons of working age who were:

1. Without work during the reference period, i.e. not in paid employment or self-employment;
2. Currently available for work, i.e. available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period; and
3. Seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in a specified recent period to seek paid employment or self-employment.

For purposes of international comparability, the period of job search is often defined as the preceding four weeks, but this varies from country to country.

#### For more information:

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