



2018 Labour Force Survey

According to the 2018 Labour Force Survey the working age population (15 years and older) in Antigua and Barbuda stood at 71,993 persons (Figure 1).

Labour force participants accounted for 72.1% of the working age population, while persons outside the labour force (inactive population) represented 27.9%. The unemployment rate according to the standard definition was at 8.7%, and the employment-to-population ratio was 65.9%.

Labour Force Participation

Men are more likely than women to participate in the labour force. Of the working age male population, 76.1% participated in the labour force compared to 68.9% of women. Similarly, men are also more likely to participate in the labour force at any given age group, especially for persons 60 years and older (Figure 2).

Youth (15 to 24 years) and seniors (65 years and older) are substantially less likely to participate in the labour force. For example, only 48.9% of youth were in the labour force and only 19.4% of seniors were in the labour force (Figure 2).

The highest *labour force participation rate* was observed in St. John Rural, 73.9%; the lowest is in St. Paul, 67.0% (Figure 3).

In general, in all parishes the male labour force participation is higher than that of women, except for St. George and St. Philip. In St. George, the *labour force participation rate* for women is 71.3% compared to 70.1% for men. In St. Philip, the female *labour force participation rate* is 74.5% and for men 71.7%.

Persons who do not participate in the labour force are either retired, 42.7%; studying, 33.5%; have family reasons, 7.8%; or for other reasons, 16.1%.

Figure 1 - Labour Market at October 2018



Figure 2: Labour Force Participation by Age Group and Sex

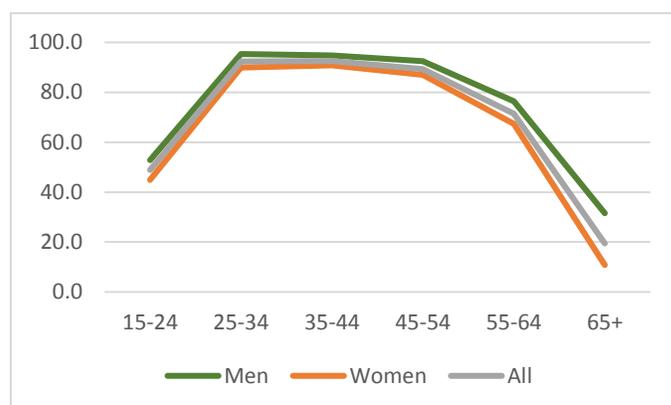
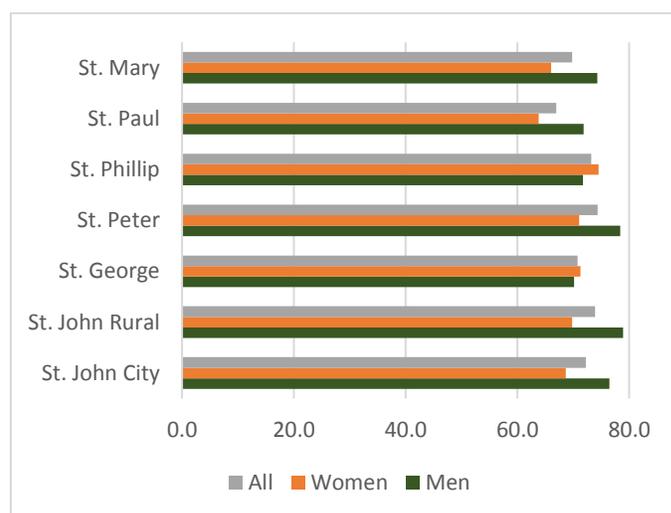


Figure 3: Labour Force Participation by Parish and Sex





Employment

In absolute numbers, more women than men are in the labour force: 27,406 compared to 24,525 (Table 1). Also, more women (24,701) were employed than men (22,728). However, the *employment-to-population ratio* (EPR) was higher for men (70.5 %) than for women (62.1 %).

Similar to the labour force participation rate, the *employment-to-population ratio* is the lowest among the youth and seniors and highest for persons in the 45 to 54 age group (Figure 4). Furthermore, this ratio is higher for men than for women across all age groups.

About one out of four (22.9%) of the employed population work as service and sale workers (Figure 5).

There were significant differences between the most common occupations of female and male workers. Among women, service and sale occupations were by far the most common representing 31.2% of all female workers. The next two most common occupations were professionals (15.8% of the employed female population) and technical and associate professionals (14.9% of the employed female population).

Among men, craft and related trades occupations were the most common, employing 4,876 workers, representing 21.5% of all male workers. While not as numerous as their female counterparts, a significant proportion of men (13.8%) worked in service and sales occupations. Technical and associate professionals accounted for 13.5% of the employed male population.

Approximately nine out of ten (86.5%) of the employed population were salaried workers; less than ten percent (8.9%) were self-employed; employers, 4.5%; not-salaried, 0.1%. Approximately seven out of ten (71.0%) of salaried workers work in the private sector and 25.4% work in the public sector.

Women are more likely than men to work for the public sector, three out of ten (31.5%) of salaried women were employed in the public sector versus 18.1% of salaried men.

Table 1: Employment by Sex

	Male	Female	Total
Labour Force	24,525	27,406	51,931
Employed	22,728	24,701	47,429
EPR	70.5	62.1	65.9

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

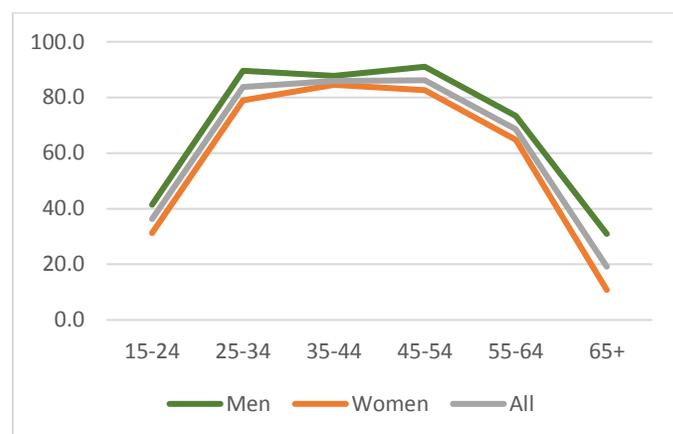
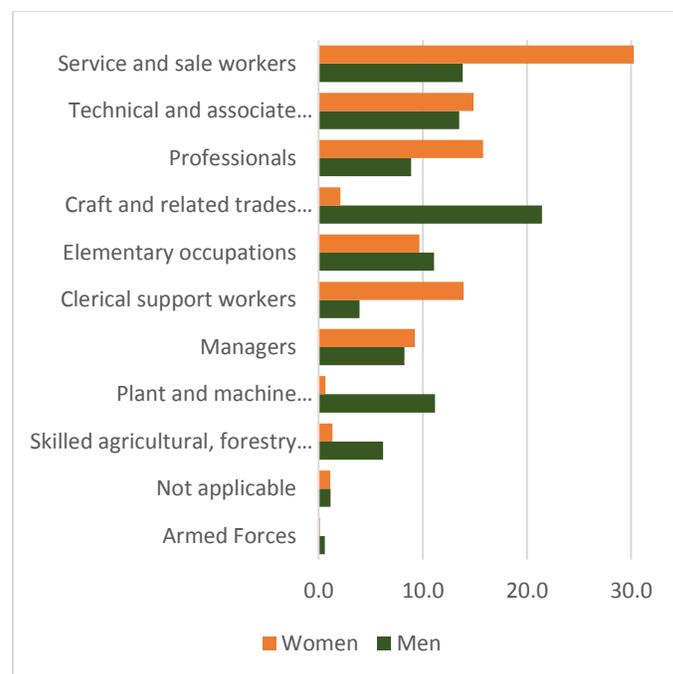


Figure 5: Employment by Occupation and Sex





Unemployment

The overall *unemployment rate* for the population of persons 15 years and older was 8.7%.

The unemployment rate for women is 9.9% and for men 7.3%. Women were more likely to be unemployed than men across all age groups except for seniors and those in the 35 to 44 year age group where the unemployment rate for women was 6.9% compared to 7.4% for men (Figure 6).

Youth unemployment rate was 25.7% which is more than triple the overall unemployment rate. The high youth unemployment rate is a trend commonly observed in the Caribbean and other regions.

Unemployment varied somewhat by parish. While only 4.9% of the labour force is unemployed in St. Peter, in St. John City the unemployment rate is 11.1%, about two times higher (Figure 7). St. Phillip recorded the second lowest unemployment rate, 5.6%. The unemployment rate for the other parishes were between 7.0% and 8.8%.

In all parishes, the unemployment rate for women was higher than the male unemployment rate, except in St. Philip where the unemployment rate for women was 5.0% compared to 6.4% for men.

The unemployment rate varied by educational attainment, generally the higher the level of education attained the less likely the person will be unemployed (Figure 8).

The unemployment rate of those persons with Primary or less education was 10.3% compared to 9.6% for persons with Lower/Junior Secondary education. This trend continued for the other categories except for persons with Upper Secondary education having a higher unemployment rate compared to those with Lower Secondary education.

Persons with a University education had the lowest unemployment rate, 3.3%. Persons with complete Post-secondary below university degree had the second lowest rate, 6.1%.

Figure 6: Unemployment Rate by 10-year Age Group and Sex

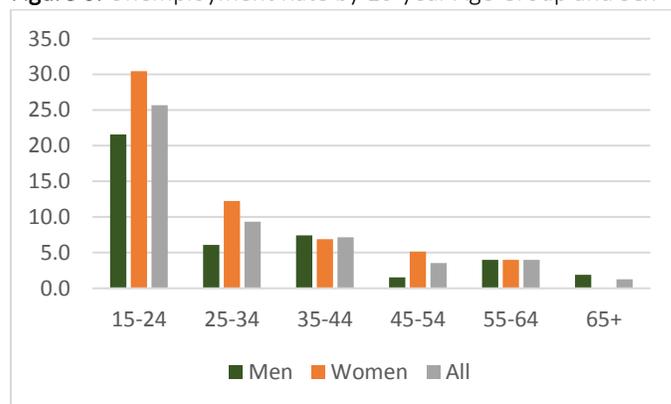


Figure 7: Unemployment Rate by Parish and Sex

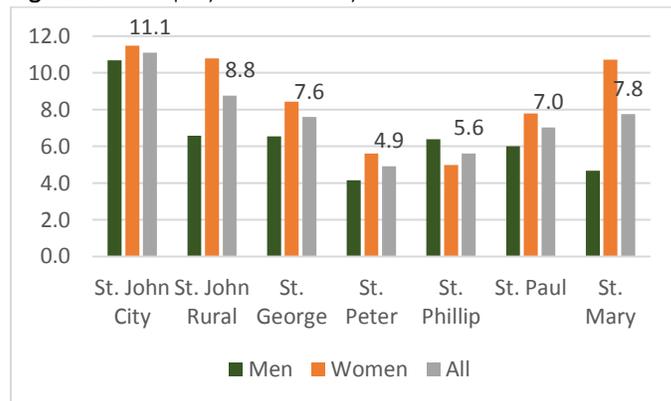
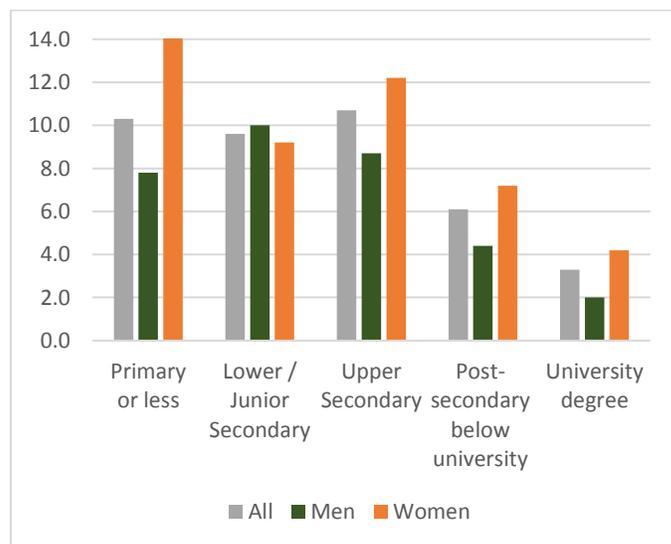


Figure 8: Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment





Definitions

Employed:

All persons of working age (15 years and older), 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 used in this publication is 15 years and older.

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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