



**Saint. Lucia  
Labour Force Survey  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2019  
Statistical Report**



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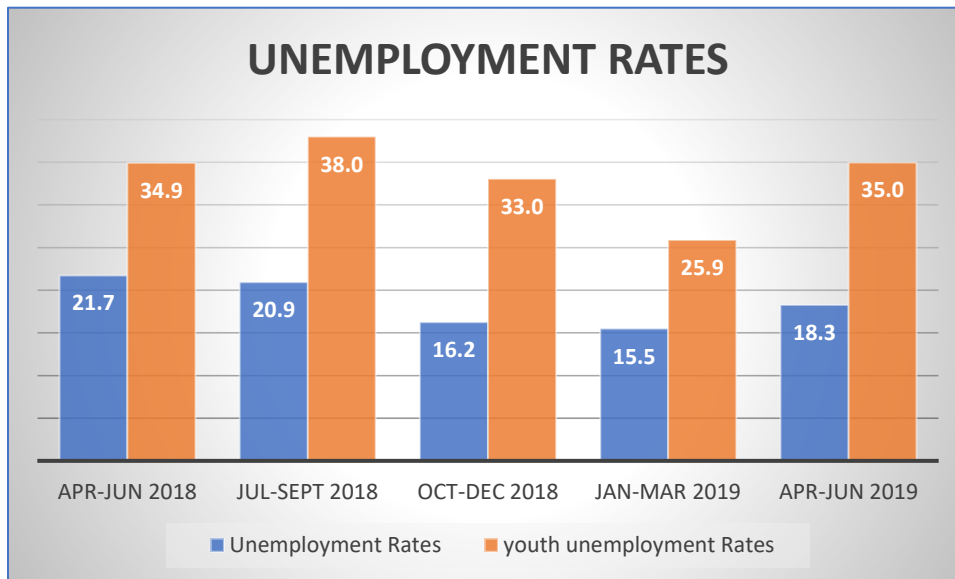
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**Information contained in this report is the result of a Household Labour Force Survey conducted during April - June 2019 and aimed at providing information about the level of participation of household members in the labor force and about the size of the labor force, aged 15 years or above, engaged in economic activities. It is the collated responses of a sample of households interviewed during this period and not the opinion of members of the Statistics Department. Results from sample surveys are always estimates, not precise figures**

*This quarterly release analyses the labour market situation according to the statistical data and highlights the key findings*

## **UNEMPLOYMENT**

**Figure: 1**



Source: St. Lucia LFS

The data showed that the Unemployment rate in the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Quarter of 2019 was 18.3%. This represented an increase of 2.8% when compared to the 15.5% recorded for the first quarter of 2019. **Importantly, this reported trend stays within the range observed in the last three quarters of (+/- 2.5%).** Similarly, Youth Unemployment also experienced an increase for the period under review (i.e. second quarter 2019 compared with first quarter 2019), of 9.1%. An analysis of the changes recorded in the unemployment rates between the period in question i.e. Apr - Jun 2019 and the corresponding period Apr - Jun 2018 revealed a 3.4% decrease.

**Table: 1**

		2018-2019 Quarters			
		Last	Previous	Heighest	Lowest
St. Lucia Unemployment					
Unemployment Rates		18.3	15.5	21.8	15.5
youth unemployment Rates		35.0	25.9	38.8	25.9

Source: St. Lucia LFS

**Table: 2**

1st Quarter 2019 -YOUTH ESTIMATES BY AGE AND SEX			
GROUP	Sex Of Person		Total
	Male	Female	Count
	Count	Count	
EST Population	16976	19735	36711
Labour Force	11440	14460	25900
Employment	8811	10382	19193
Unemployment	2629	4079	6708
Unemployment Rate	23.0	28.2	25.9

2nd Quarter 2019 -YOUTH ESTIMATES BY AGE AND SEX			
GROUP	Sex Of Person		Total
	Male	Female	Count
	Count	Count	
EST Population	18381	15952	34333
Labour Force	13267	10902	24169
Employment	7942	7775	15717
Unemployment	5326	3127	8453
Unemployment Rate	40.14	28.7	35

YOUTH STATISTICS - CHANGES: 1st Qtr. 2019-2nd Qtr. 2019			
GROUP	Sex Of Person		Total
	Male	Female	Count %
	Count %	Count %	
EST Population	8.3	-19.2	-6.5
Labour Force	16.0	-24.6	-6.7
Employment	-9.9	-25.1	-18.1
Unemployment	102.6	-23.3	-18.1
Unemployment Rate	74.7	1.7	35.1

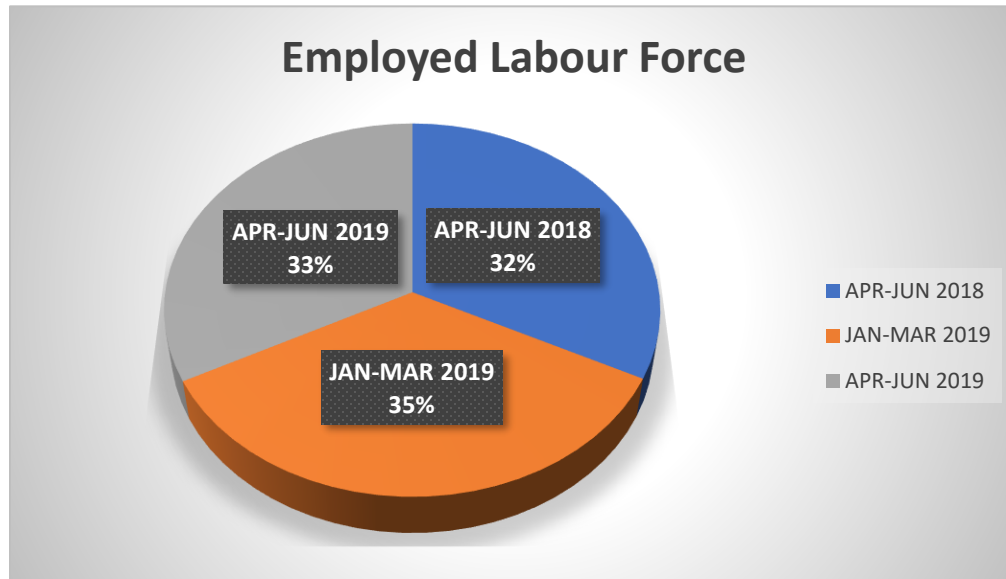
Source: St. Lucia LFS

Analysis of the Labour Survey results (Table 2), revealed that the youth<sup>1</sup> population decline from 36,711 for the first (1<sup>st</sup>) quarter of 2019 to 34,333 for the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) quarter of 2019, representing a decrease of 6.5%. Respectively, the youth labour force decrease by 6.7%, while youth employment also decline by 18.1%. Notably, the results revealed a decline in female youth population, labour force and employment of 19.2%, 24.6% and 25.1% respectively. Conversely, increases were recorded in the population and labour force of male youth for the same period.

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this survey, the term “youth” covers persons aged 15 to 29 years

## EMPLOYMENT

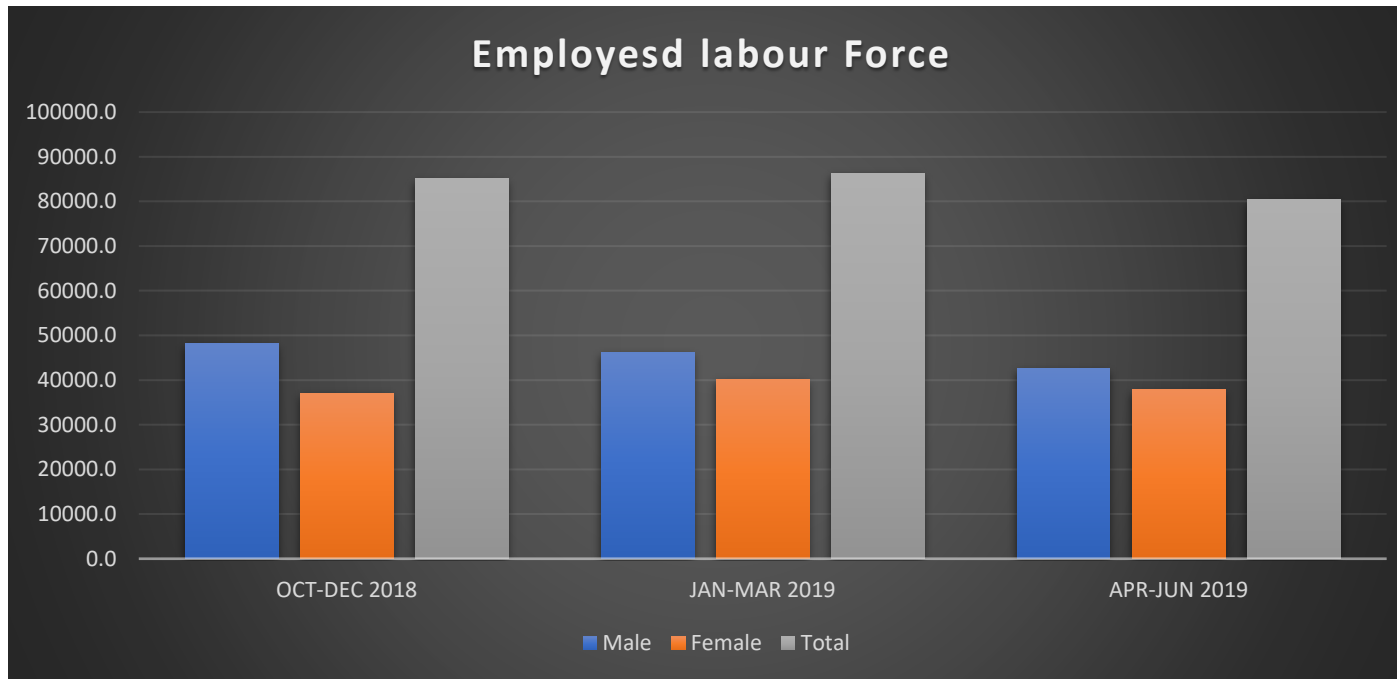
Figure: 2



Source: St. Lucia LFS

Examination of the employment data for the same period last year (i.e. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2018 compared to the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) quarter 2019) showed that there was a slight increase of 1%. However, the data revealed a decrease in the employed Labour Force of 2% for the period January-March (1<sup>st</sup> quarter) 2019 compared to April -June (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter) 2019. As with employment, the number of persons in the labour force is influenced (among other things) by changes in the size of the working age population (see Table 3), which has been decreasing over the last three (3) quarters.

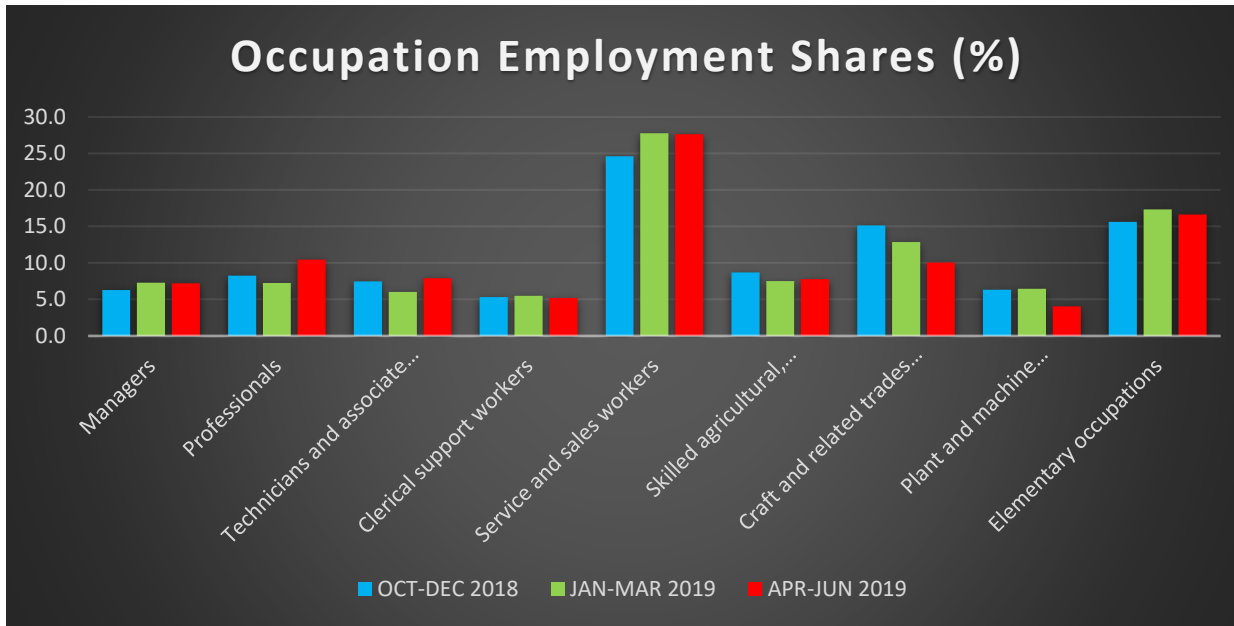
**Figure: 3**



Source: St. Lucia LFS

The employed Labour force recorded an increase of 5.9% for the reporting period, with male employment contributing 52.92%, i.e. 5.84% more than female employment. Simultaneously, male employment decreased by 4.1% for the period under review.

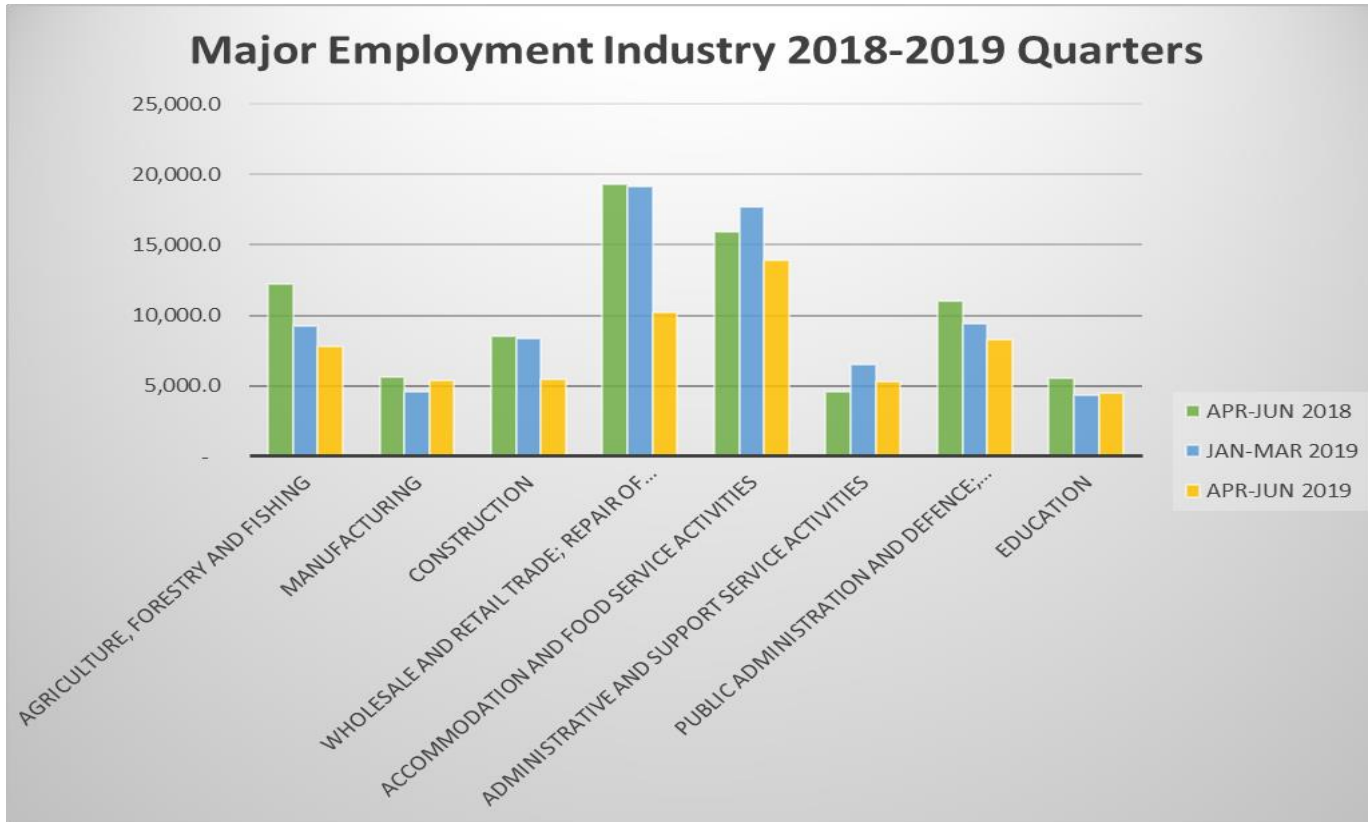
Figure: 4



Source: St. Lucia LFS

Figure 4 illustrates the percentage shares of the Occupation Employment of the Labour Force for the last three (3) quarters, i.e. October – December 2018, January – March 2019 and April – June 2019. It should be noted that *Service and sales workers* have the highest percentages with a steady growth from October-December 2018 to January-March 2019 and remain stable in April-June 2019. *Elementary Occupations* being the second highest, with steady percentages and a slight fluctuation. *Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers* have the lowest percentages with a relatively low number in April-June 2019. Overall, the percentages for the remaining occupations are all in the same range with the exception of *skilled agricultural workers, craft & related workers* constant while *Plant and machine operators* experiencing significant declines in the third quarter of 2019.

Figure: 5



Source: St. Lucia LFS

For the assessment period, data showed a decrease in employment in all sectors, when compared with data for the period January to March 2019 and the second quarter April to June of 2019, however 'Manufacturing' and 'Education' showed an increase in this period. Significant decreases were also identified for the Wholesale and Retail sector from 19,273 to 10,218 in January to March 2019 and April to June 2019 respectively. Wholesale & Retail Trade together with the Accommodation & Food Service Activity accounted for the greatest share of employment, respectively.



## Labour Market Statistical Snapshot

**Table: 3**

<b>Main Labour Force Indicators 4th Qtr 2018 to 2nd Qtr 2019</b>			
<b>Labour Force Indicators</b>	<b>Oct-Dec 2018</b>	<b>Jan-Mar 2019</b>	<b>Apr-Jun2019</b>
Estimated Household Population	171,410	170,395	169,896
Population 15 years and over	143,068	142,687	140,222
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>101,573</b>	<b>102,081</b>	<b>98,385</b>
of which - Male	55,694	52,658	52,059
of which- Female	45,880	49,423	46,327
<b>Employed Labour Force</b>	<b>85,074</b>	<b>86,269</b>	<b>80,393</b>
of which -Male	48,101	46,125	42,543
of which -Female	36,973	40,144	37,849
<b>Persons who want work</b>			
(I) The Unemployed	16,499	15,813	17,993
of which - Male	7,592	6,533	9,516
of which- Female	8,907	9,280	8,477
(ii) Non-Seekers	2,450	4,018	2,994
Unemployment Rate %	16.2%	15.5%	18.3%
of which - Male	13.6%	12.4%	18.3%
of which- Female	19.4%	18.8%	18.3%
Youth Unemployment Rate %	33.0%	25.9%	35.0%
Relaxed Unemployment Rate %	18.7%	19.4%	21.3%
Non-Job Seeking Rate %	2.4%	3.9%	3.0%
Population under 15 years (%)	16.5%	16.3%	17.5%
Labour Force as a Percentage of Total Population	59.3%	59.9%	57.9%
Labour Force as a Percentage of			
Population 15 years and over OR Labour Force Participation Rate	71.0%	71.5%	70.2%

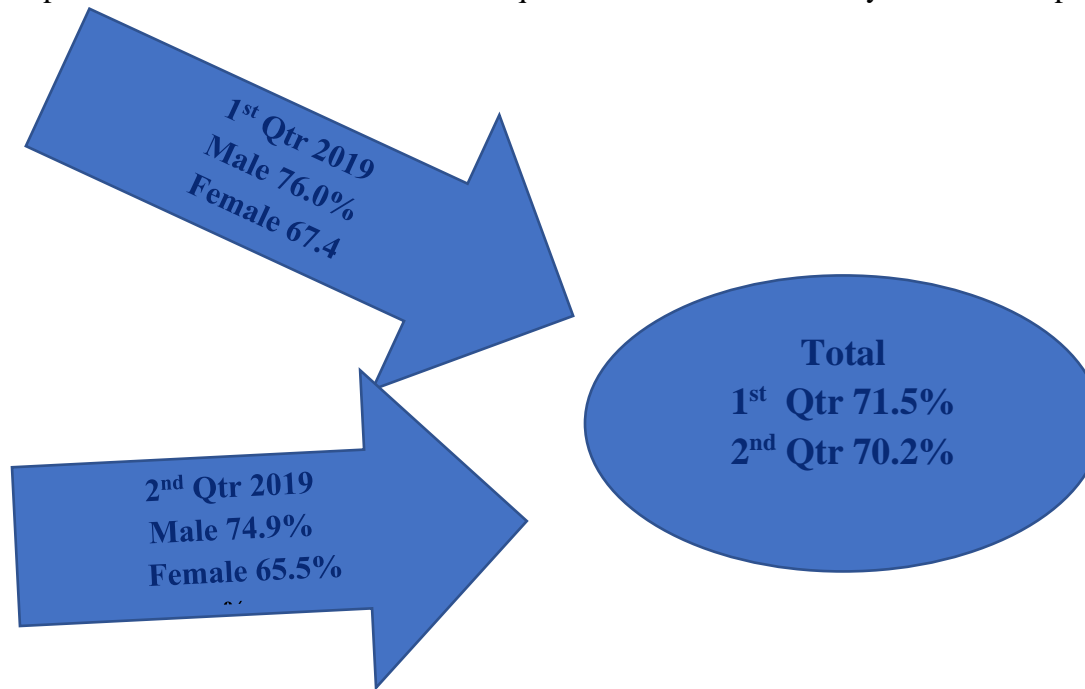
Source: Central Statistical Office of Saint Lucia, Labour Force Survey

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For the period covered in this report the Labour Force data showed a decrease in the working age population when compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019. There was a significant drop in the female labour force, from 49,423 in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter to 46,327 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, showing a decrease of 3,096 or 6.26%. Similarly, the male labour force recorded a decrease from 52,658 in the 1<sup>st</sup> to 52,059 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reporting a reduction of 599 or 1.14%. Along with a reduced working age population of 140,222, the unemployment rates grew, while simultaneously the number of people entered the labour force decline.

### **Labour Force Participation Rate**

The Labour Force Participation Rate<sup>2</sup> of 70.2% in the second quarter of 2019 decreased by 1.3% as compared to 71.5% in the first quarter of 2019.



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<sup>2</sup> The labour force participation rate is a measure of the proportion of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work; it provides an indication of the size of the supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services, relative to the population at working age.