

# **BAHAMAS NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Preliminary Results Labour Force Survey**

#### **First Quarter 2024**

In February 2016, the Government of the Bahamas signed a loan with the Inter-American Development Bank for \$33million to fund the Public Financial Management/Performance Monitoring Reform project (PFM/PMR) which focused on institutional strengthening.

Component II “National Statistics” of this Project was tasked with the responsibility of enhancing the production of quality statistics in key data producing agencies in order to improve the institutional capacity to plan, budget, monitor and evaluate priority projects and programs.

It was the Government’s objective to “Strengthen the country’s statistical capacity to produce high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data to support effective policy and decision-making and to ensure the continuous review of the country’s progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”. Thus the demand for more timely data.

In an effort to meet this demand, the Bahamas National Statistical Institute (BNSI) has embarked upon an initiative to produce a number of quarterly statistical series of which the conduct of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) to produce quarterly estimates is the latest in these series.

As a result, the Labour Force Survey has transitioned from a bi-annual survey to a quarterly one. This new method will provide quarterly and annual estimates on employment, unemployment, underemployment, and the informal sector by multiple demographic characteristics.

The data presented here today represents a **NEW SERIES** with a **NEW SURVEY DESIGN** beginning with July 2023. Hence, it should be noted that this new series should not be compared to surveys prior to 2023. Further, quarterly estimates tend to be cyclical, based on timing and seasonality as the year progresses. Today we are pleased to release estimates for the **FIRST QUARTER 2024**.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

In first quarter 2024 (January to March), there were **213,585** employed persons, a decrease of less than **one** percent when compared to fourth quarter (October to December 2023). The occupational group of

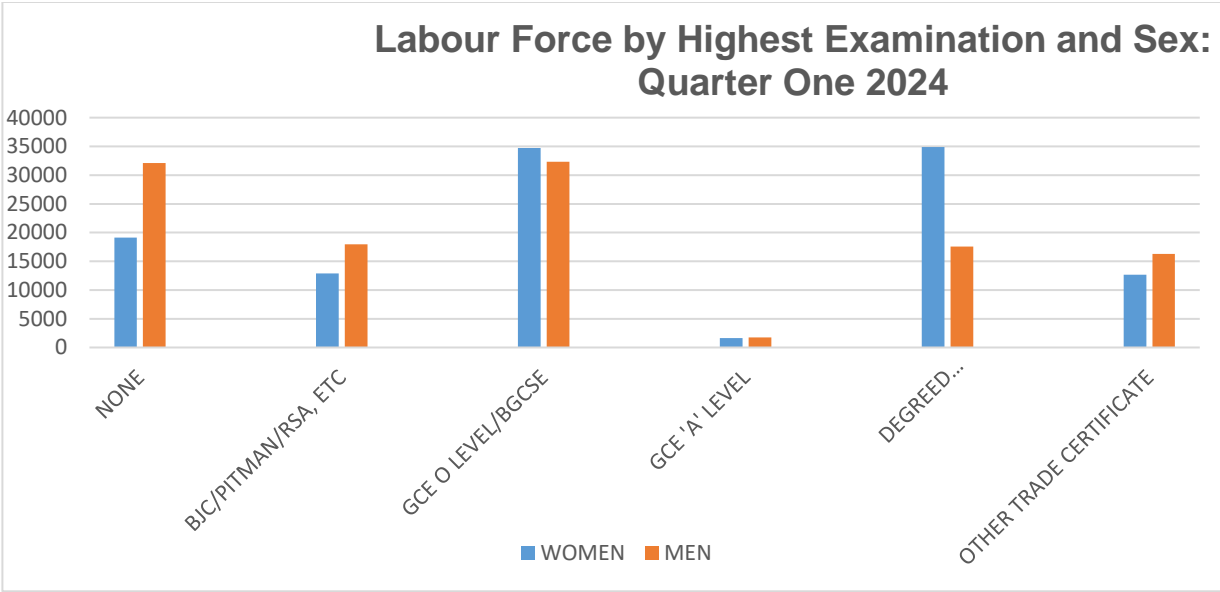
**Professional, Science & Engineering Professionals** had the highest number of persons working in the area for which they were trained.

Similarly, the **Community, Social & Personal Services Industrial group** employed the highest percentage of persons who had specific training for their current job. The unemployment rate was **8.7** per cent [**CV=8.1%**], a decline of **1.2** percentage points from the previous quarter.

### **The Labour Force**

The number of persons in the **Labour Force (table i)** during the first quarter 2024 was **233,935**, a decline of (**1.6%**) when compared to fourth quarter 2023. The participation rate was **73.8** percent [**CV=1.45%**] a decline of **3.1** percentage points. The participation rate for males (**78.2%**) and females (**69.8%**) decreased by **3** and **3.1** percentage points respectively.

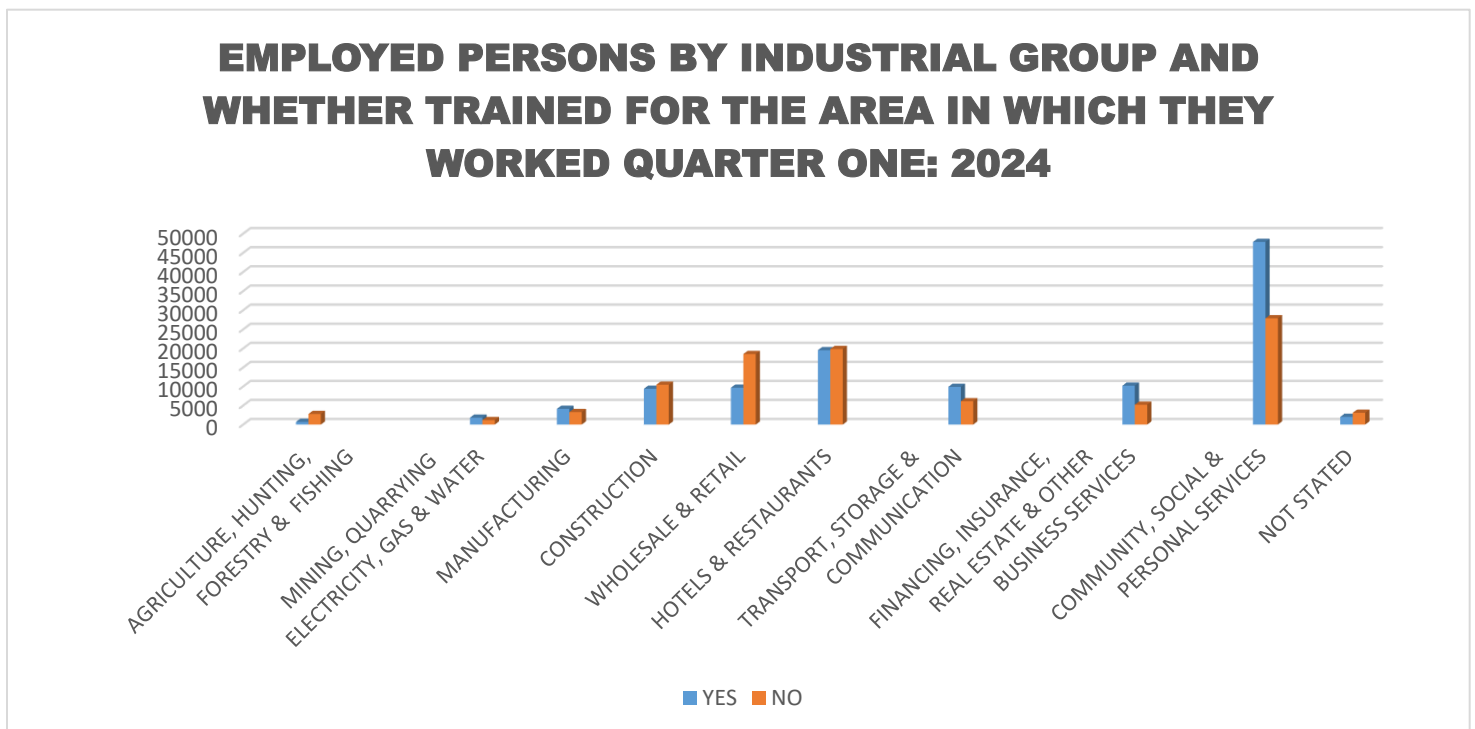
The data pertaining to Educational Attainment (**table iii**) show that **60%** of the labour force completed secondary school, **22%** completed university and **10%** completed tertiary institution. As it relates to qualifications (**table iv**), **29%** of the labour force highest examination passed was GCE'O' level/BGCSE, **22%** completed a degree while **22%** had no qualifications.



## The Employed Labour Force

In the first quarter of 2024, more than half (**54%**) of employed persons in the country worked in the area for which they were trained (**table viii**), of which those between the ages of 25-34 had the highest percentage (**24%**), (**table vii**).

The **Community, Social & Personal Services Industrial group** employed the highest percentage (**42**) of persons who had specific training for their current job while **1%** of persons with no training worked in the Mining, Quarrying, Electricity, Gas and Water sector (**table viii**).



The occupational group with the highest percentage (**28**) of persons working in the area for which they were trained were “Professionals, Science & Engineering Professionals” (**table ix**). The Agricultural and Fishery sector had the lowest percentage (**3**) of the persons who had no training while the “Service Workers & Shop Market Sales Workers” had the highest percentage (**30**) of persons who received “**no training**” in the area in which they worked.

As it relates to employment status (**table v**), the categories of ‘private employee’; ‘government employee’ and ‘self-employed without employees’ represented **61%**, **17%** and **12%** respectively.

### **The Unemployed Labour Force**

In quarter one 2024, the number of unemployed persons (**table i**) was **20,350**, a decrease of **3,235** compared to the fourth quarter 2023. The number of unemployed males was **9,605** down from **10,755**. The number of unemployed females was **10,745** down from **12,830**. The number of unemployed youths (persons aged 15-24) decreased by **1,455** to **7,515** in the first quarter 2024.

The unemployment rate for the first quarter 2024 was **8.7** percent, **which** was **1.2** percentage points lower than the **9.9** percent in the fourth quarter 2023. The unemployment rate for males declined by **.9** percentage points, and females declined by **1.6** percentage points. For the youths, the unemployment rate was **18** percent, representing a decrease of **2.5** percentage points compared to **20.5%** in the last quarter of 2023.

## **Discouraged Workers**

The number of discouraged workers in the country is recorded as **10,800**; New Providence **7,500** Grand Bahama **1,170**. This category of persons are persons without work and are available for work, yet they were not actively seeking work because they are not hopeful about their prospects of finding work. (**table vi**)

## THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS 2024: QUARTER ONE

TABLE i

SEX AND ISLAND		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	UNEMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
<b>ALL BAHAMAS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233,935</b>	<b>213,585</b>	<b>20,350</b>	<b>73.8%</b>	<b>8.7%</b>
	<b>WOME N</b>	115,965	105,220	10,745	69.8%	9.3%
	<b>MEN</b>	117,970	108,365	9,605	78.2%	8.1%
<b>NEW PROVIDENCE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174,640</b>	<b>159,635</b>	<b>15,005</b>	<b>74.3%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>
	<b>WOME N</b>	88,000	80,005	7,995	70.5%	9.1%
	<b>MEN</b>	86,640	79,630	7,010	78.5%	8.1%
<b>GRAND BAHAMA</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,205</b>	<b>24,535</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>71.9%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
	<b>WOME N</b>	13,320	11,785	1,535	66.8%	11.5%
	<b>MEN</b>	13,885	12,750	1,135	77.5%	8.2%

**LABOUR FORCE BY AGE GROUP AND SEX 2024:  
QUARTER ONE**

**TABLE II**

AGE GROUP	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE						SEX AND LABOUR FORCE											
							EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE						UNEMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE					
	TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN		TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN		TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN	
N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
15 - 19	11,690	5	5,120.0	4	6570	6	9,030	4	4,130	4	4,900	5	2,660	13	990	9	1,670	17
20 - 24	29,995	13	15,175.0	13	14820	13	25,140	12	12,330	12	12,810	12	4,855	24	2,845	26	2,010	21
25 - 34	55,535	24	28,850.0	25	26685	23	50,725	24	26,180	25	24,545	23	4,810	24	2,670	25	2,140	22
35 - 44	53,755	23	26,900.0	23	26855	23	49,950	23	24,760	24	25,190	23	3,805	19	2,140	20	1,665	17
45 - 54	43,700	19	20,385.0	18	23315	20	41,805	20	19,435	18	22,370	21	1,895	9	950	9	945	10
55 - 64	32,660	14	16,825.0	15	15835	13	30,680	14	15,810	15	14,870	14	1,980	10	1,015	9	965	10
65 AND OVER	5,890	3	2,455.0	2	3435	3	5,620	3	2,335	2	3,285	3	270	1	120	1	150	2
NOT STATED	710	0	255.0	0	455	0	635	0	240	0	395	0	75	0	15	0	60	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233,935</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>115,965.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>117970</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>213,585</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105,220</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108,365</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20,350</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,745</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9,605</b>	<b>100</b>

**LABOUR FORCE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND SEX 2024:  
QUARTER ONE**

TABLE III

ALL BAHAMAS

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	TOTAL												EMPLOYED						UNEMPLOYED					
	TOTAL	%		WOMEN		%		MEN		%		TOTAL	%		WOMEN		%		MEN		%			
NO SCHOOLING	545	0	215	0	330	0	470	0	170	0	300	0	75	0	45	0	30	0						
PRIMARY	2,510	1	930	1	1,580	1	2,170	1	705	1	1,465	1	340	2	225	2	115	1						
INCOMPLETE SECONDARY	17,670	8	5,405	5	12,265	10	14,825	7	4,690	4	10,135	9	2,845	14	715	7	2,130	22						
COMPLETE SECONDARY	140,420	60	66,110	57	74,310	63	126,975	59	58,510	56	68,465	63	13,445	66	7,600	71	5,845	61						
UNIVERSITY	50,530	22	33,610	29	16,920	14	48,250	23	32,145	31	16,105	15	2,280	11	1,465	14	815	8						
OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTION	22,260	10	9,695	8	12,565	11	20,895	10	9,000	9	11,895	11	1,365	7	695	6	670	7						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233,935</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>115,965</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>117,970</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>213,585</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105,220</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108,365</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20,350</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,745</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9,605</b>	<b>100</b>						

**LABOUR FORCE BY HIGHEST EXAMINATION AND SEX :  
QUARTER ONE:2024**

TABLE IV

ALL BAHAMAS

EXAMINATION PASSED	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE						SEX AND LABOUR FORCE											
							EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE						UNEMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE					
	TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN		TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN		TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
NONE	51,270	22	19,145	17	32,125	27	44,475	21	16,115	15	28,360	26	6,795	33	3,030	28	3,765	39
BJC/PITMAN/RSA, ETC	30,835	13	12,895	11	17,940	15	27,445	13	11,310	11	16,135	15	3,390	17	1,585	15	1,805	19
GCE O LEVEL/BGCSE	67,040	29	34,735	30	32,305	27	61,115	29	31,150	30	29,965	28	5,925	29	3,585	33	2,340	24
GCE 'A' LEVEL	3,400	1	1,645	1	1,755	1	3,265	2	1,625	2	1,640	2	135	1	20	0	115	1
DEGREED PERSONS/PROFESSIONALS	52,440	22	34,860	30	17,580	15	50,055	23	33,295	32	16,760	15	2,385	12	1,565	15	820	9
OTHER TRADE CERTIFICATE	28,950	12	12,685	11	16,265	14	27,230	13	11,725	11	15,505	14	1,720	8	960	9	760	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233,935</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>115,965</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>117,970</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>213,585</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105,220</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108,365</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20,350</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,745</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9,605</b>	<b>100</b>

**EMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS****QUARTER ONE 2024****Table v****All Bahamas**

<b>EMPLOYMENT STATUS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>WOMEN</b>		<b>MEN</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Government Employee</b>	36,500	17	22,080	21	14,420	13
<b>Quasi Government (Btc,Bec,Etc)</b>	7,890	4	5,045	5	2,845	3
<b>Private Employee</b>	130,835	61	65,525	62	65,310	60
<b>Apprentice</b>	1,030	0	270	0	760	1
<b>Self Employed With Employee</b>	10,060	5	2,350	2	7,710	7
<b>Self Employed Without Employee</b>	25,045	12	8,790	8	16,255	15
<b>Unpaid Family Worker</b>	635	0	360	0	275	0
<b>Other/Not Stated</b>	1,590	1	800	1	790	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,585</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105,220</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108,365</b>	<b>100</b>

# DISCOURAGED WORKERS BY ISLAND

## SEX AND WORK EXPERIENCE 2024:

### QUARTER ONE

TABLE VI

ISLAND AND SEX	TOTAL DISCOURAGED WORKERS	WORKED BEFORE	NEVER WORKED
<b>ALL BAHAMAS</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>7,270</b>	<b>3,530</b>
MEN	4,075	2,345	1,730
WOMEN	6,725	4,925	1,800
<b>NEW PROVIDENCE</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>4,840</b>	<b>2,660</b>
MEN	2,900	1,535	1,365
WOMEN	4,600	3,305	1,295
<b>GRAND BAHAMA</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>245</b>
MEN	270	175	95
WOMEN	905	755	150

## EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE-GROUP AND WHETHER TRAINED FOR THE AREA IN WHICH THEY WORKED-QUARTER ONE - 2024

TABLE VII

ALL BAHAMAS

AGE GROUP	TOTAL		YES		NO	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
15 - 19	9,030	4	2,595	2	6,435	7
20 - 24	25,145	12	13,220	11	11,925	12
25 - 34	50,730	24	29,205	25	21,525	22
35 - 44	49,950	23	28,075	24	21,875	22
45 - 54	41,795	20	22,710	20	19,085	19
55 - 64	30,680	14	16,760	15	13,920	14
65 AND OVER	5,620	3	2,420	2	3,200	3
NOT STATED	635	0	190	0	445	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,585</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>115175</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98410</b>	<b>100</b>

**EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRIAL GROUP AND WHETHER TRAINED FOR  
THE AREA IN WHICH THEY WORKED-QUARTER ONE - 2024**

**TABLE VIII**

**ALL BAHAMAS**

INDUSTRIAL GROUP	TOTAL		YES		NO	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
AGRICULTURE, HUNTING, FORESTRY & FISHING	3,490	2	710	1	2,780	3
MINING, QUARRYING ELECTRICITY, GAS & WATER	2,970	1	1,800	0	1,170	1
MANUFACTURING	7,395	3	4,120	4	3,275	3
CONSTRUCTION	19,855	9	9,390	8	10,465	11
WHOLESALE & RETAIL	28,200	13	9,680	8	18,520	19
HOTELS & RESTAURANTS	39,410	18	19,550	17	19,860	20
TRANSPORT, STORAGE & COMMUNICATION	16,030	8	9,910	9	6,120	6
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE & OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES	15,405	7	10,200	9	5,205	5
COMMUNITY, SOCIAL & PERSONAL SERVICES	75,715	35	47,830	42	27,885	28
NOT STATED	5,115	2	2,015	2	3,100	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,585</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>115,205</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98,380</b>	<b>100</b>

## EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP AND WHETHER TRAINED FOR THE AREA IN WHICH THEY WORKED

TABLE IX

ALL BAHAMAS

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	TOTAL		YES		NO	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Legislators & Senior Officials	11,695	5	6,615	6	5,080	5
Professional, Science & Engineering Professionals	42,115	20	32,730	28	9,385	10
Clerks	19,630	9	10,525	9	9,105	9
Service Workers & Shop Market Sales Workers	60,650	28	30,985	27	29,665	30
Skilled Agriculture & Fishery Workers	4,710	2	1,335	1	3,375	3
Craft and Related Workers Plant & Machine Operators & Assemblers	36,540	17	20,050	17	16,490	17
Elementary Occupations	28,895	14	7,795	7	21,100	21
Not Stated	9,350	4	5,135	4	4,215	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,585</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>115,170</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98,415</b>	<b>100</b>