

PRESS RELEASE
Preliminary Results Labour Force Survey
May 2019

Employment rose by 4,330 in May when compared to November 2018 and reached about 215,000 persons. On a year-over-year basis, employment grew by 6,635 or 3.2%. Meanwhile, the national unemployment rate dropped to 9.5%, down from 10.7% in November.

Highlights

Two of the three most populated islands that were surveyed experienced decreases in their unemployment rates, and one experienced an increase. At the time of the survey, the rate in New Providence was 9.4%; and in Grand Bahama 10.9%. On the other hand, Abaco's unemployment rate increased from 7.7% May to 9.3%.

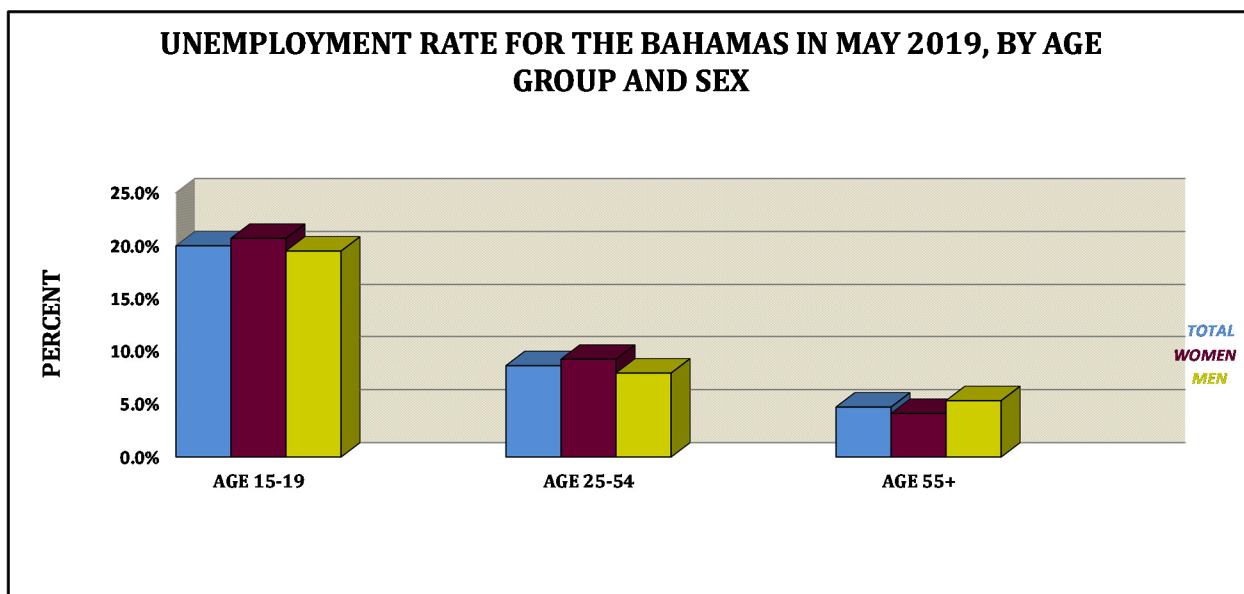
Employment gains were driven by private sector employees which increased by 1.8% to 137,605 persons when compared to November. Additionally, the number of self-employed persons remained unchanged 32,475 since November 2018.

The "Hotel and restaurant" sector experienced the greatest increase since May 2018 (24%) while the "Community, Social and Personal Service" industry, which includes the civil service, police service and domestic service continued to be the country's largest employer in May 2019 and accounted for 35% of the workforce.

The vulnerable employment remain basically unchanged since May 2018 with no difference in its rate of 6.9% of total employment. Males (11,355) still dominate this category. These workers as defined by ILO are less likely to have formal work arrangements, and more likely to lack decent working conditions and are often characterized by inadequate earnings and benefits.

Women were more likely than men to be unemployed

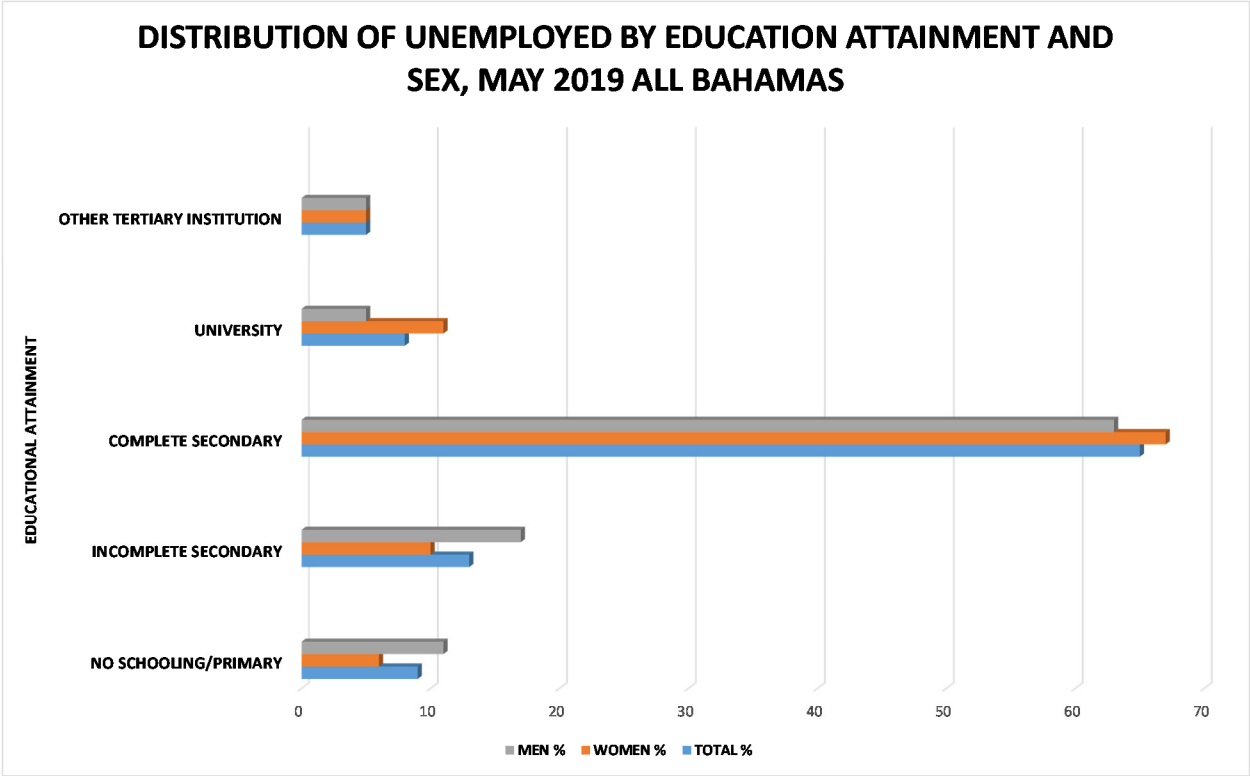
Overall, the unemployment rate for women dropped to 9.9% in May, compared to 9.2% for men. Young women, those aged 15-24 and core-aged women, those aged 25 to 54, were more likely to be unemployed than their male counterparts. By contrast, men aged 55 years and over were slightly more likely to be unemployed when compared with women in their same age cohort.



Young women were more likely to be unemployed than young men

According to The Caribbean Development Bank's (CDB) report, youth unemployment in the Caribbean is among the highest in the world, with the unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 reaching 42.7%. Similar patterns persist in the Bahamas, as youth unemployment for women was highest recorded for all age groups. The unemployment rate for young women reached 20.7%, compared with 19.5% for young men, 20.0% for both sexes.

Unemployment is higher for women than men despite higher education attainment



Nationwide, for the unemployed persons that had completed secondary school, there is a slight difference in the proportion of males (62.5%) and females (67.2%). However, a larger percentage of unemployed males (16.8%) than females (9.8%) had not completed secondary school. Conversely, a larger proportion of unemployed females (11.2%) than males (5.2%) had completed university.

Number of discouraged workers declined

In the six months from November 2018, the number of discouraged workers in the country declined by 2.0%. Notably, the number of discouraged workers fell by 1.0% in New Providence and 5.4% Grand Bahama. However, the number of discouraged workers in Abaco increased by 7.3%. Discouraged workers, according to the standard

definition of the International Labour Organization (ILO), “are persons without work and available for work, yet were not actively seeking work because they are not hopeful about their prospects of finding work.”

The Department of Statistics is the Government Agency in The Bahamas mandated by law to collect, process, analyze and disseminate statistics. Its mandate is to deliver timely official statistics. Please contact the Department of Statistics @ 242-604-4000 for questions and enquiries. This release, with accompanying tables, will be immediately available on the Department’s website www.bahamas.gov.bs/statistics.

TABLE 1**THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS: 2019
MAY**

		TOTAL	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	LABOUR	UNEMPLOYMENT
ISLAND	SEX	LABOUR	LABOUR	LABOUR	FORCE	RATE
		FORCE	FORCE	FORCE	PARTICIPATION RATE	
ALL BAHAMAS	TOTAL	237,525	214,890	22,635	82.9%	9.5%
	WOMEN	113,960	102,730	11,230	76.8%	9.9%
	MEN	123,565	112,160	11,405	85.9%	9.2%
NEW PROVIDENCE	TOTAL	164,740	149,300	15,440	77.9%	9.4%
	WOMEN	79,500	71,390	8,110	74.7%	10.2%
	MEN	85,240	77,910	7,330	80.9%	8.6%
GRAND BAHAMA	TOTAL	32,825	29,235	3,590	70.7%	10.9%
	WOMEN	16,805	15,395	1,410	66.9%	8.4%
	MEN	16,020	13,840	2,180	70.1%	13.6%
ABACO	TOTAL	14,620	13,265	1,355	79.9%	9.3%
	WOMEN	6,230	5,615	615	72.8%	9.9%
	MEN	8,390	7,650	740	78.2%	8.8%

EMPLOYMENT: PERMANENT AND VULNERABLE: 2012 - 2019

Table 2

ITEMS	May-12			May-13			May-14			May-15			May-16			May-17			May-18			May-19			
	ISLAND	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
Total Employed Labour Force																									
All Bahamas	160,650	80,450	80,200	163,995	80,835	83,160	171,275	84,400	86,875	183,915	89,915	94,000	188,360	89,660	98,700	200,155	95,210	104,945	208,255	100,440	107,815	214,890	102,730	112,160	
New Providence	121,410	61,590	59,820	122,155	61,030	61,125	120,400	60,820	59,580	130,750	64,760	65,990	133,365	64,100	69,265	140,740	67,730	73,010	145,205	71,165	74,040	149,300	71,390	77,910	
Grand Bahama	20,635	10,335	10,300	20,215	9,745	10,470	23,235	10,730	12,505	24,400	12,050	12,350	24,500	11,785	12,715	26,160	12,335	13,825	27,965	14,015	13,950	29,235	15,395	13,840	
Permanent Employment																									
All Bahamas	145,880	73,500	72,380	150,220	74,700	75,520	159,210	78,995	80,215	168,925	84,285	84,640	172,270	83,085	89,185	183,785	88,615	95,170	193,515	93,965	99,550	200,145	99,340	100,805	
New Providence	112,945	57,595	55,350	112,215	56,540	55,675	113,885	57,620	56,265	119,135	60,415	58,720	121,560	58,825	62,735	131,830	63,725	68,105	135,185	66,745	68,440	139,275	69,055	70,220	
Grand Bahama	17,960	9,075	8,885	18,305	8,945	9,360	21,325	10,095	11,230	23,175	11,590	11,585	23,035	11,660	11,375	22,105	11,045	11,060	26,465	13,565	12,900	27,735	15,395	12,340	
Vulnerable Employment (1)																									
All Bahamas	14,770	6,950	7,820	13,775	6,135	7,640	12,065	5,405	6,660	14,990	5,630	9,360	16,090	6,575	9,515	16,370	6,595	9,775	14,740	6,475	8,265	14,745	3,390	11,355	
New Providence	8,465	3,995	4,470	9,940	4,490	5,450	6,515	3,200	3,315	11,615	4,345	7,270	11,805	5,275	6,530	8,910	4,005	4,905	10,020	4,420	5,600	10,025	2,335	7,690	
Grand Bahama	2,675	1,260	1,415	1,910	800	1,110	1,910	635	1,275	1,225	460	765	1,465	125	1,340	4,055	1,290	2,765	1,500	450	1,050	1,500	-	1,500	

(1) Employment with contract or agreement with limited duration

EMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX AND INDUSTRIAL GROUP: MAY 2019

TABLE 6.1

ALL BAHAMAS

INDUSTRIAL GROUP	TOTAL		WOMEN		MEN	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
AGRICULTURE, HUNTING, FORESTRY & FISHING	1,815	1	155	0	1,660	1
MINING, QUARRYING ELECTRICITY, GAS & WATER	3,855	2	810	1	3,045	3
MANUFACTURING	6,345	3	2,415	2	3,930	4
CONSTRUCTION	19,500	9	540	1	18,960	17
WHOLESALE & RETAIL	30,800	14	14,285	14	16,515	15
HOTELS & RESTAURANTS	42,000	20	23,770	23	18,230	16
TRANSPORT, STORAGE & COMMUNICATION	17,480	8	5,860	6	11,620	10
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE & OTHER BUSINESS SERVICES	15,230	7	9,720	9	5,510	5
COMMUNITY, SOCIAL & PERSONAL SERVICES	76,130	35	44,265	43	31,865	28
NOT STATED	1,735	1	910	1	825	1
TOTAL	214,890	100	102,730	100	112,160	100

neg = negligible

NOTE: neg in the percentage break down column indicates that there is a numeric value, but it is insignificant therefore, the value is not imputed.

DISCOURAGED WORKERS BY ISLAND SEX AND WORK EXPERIENCE: MAY 2019

ISLAND AND SEX	TOTAL DISCOURAGED WORKERS	WORKED BEFORE	NEVER WORKED
ALL BAHAMAS			
TOTAL	1,990	1,380	610
MEN	875	650	225
WOMEN	1,115	730	385
NEW PROVIDENCE			
TOTAL	1,195	820	375
MEN	410	290	120
WOMEN	785	530	255
GRAND BAHAMA			
TOTAL	175	100	75
MEN	75	30	45
WOMEN	100	70	30
ABACO			
TOTAL	220	110	110
MEN	55	45	10
WOMEN	165	65	100