



**Statistical Institute of Jamaica**  
**Press Brief**  
**Labour Force Survey January 2019<sup>1</sup>**

*Highlights.*

The unemployment rate in January 2019 was 8.0 per cent. This represented a reduction of 1.6 percentage points relative to 9.6 per cent in January 2018. The employed labour force increased by 2.4 per cent with the increase in female employment (3.5%) more than twice that of males (1.4%). More females were employed in the occupation groups **‘Professionals, Senior Officials and Technicians’** and **‘Clerks’**. There was also an increase in the number of females employed in the industry groups **‘Hotels & Restaurants Services’** and **‘Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities’**.

*Larger increase in female employment.*

The **Employed Labour Force** for January 2019 was 1,232,700, which was 28,600 (2.4%) more than in January 2018. The increase in employment for females was more than twice that of males. The number of employed males increased by 9,500 to 673,500 and employed females by 19,100 to 559,200.

*More females employed in the groups “Clerks” and “Professionals, Senior Officials and Technicians”*

The largest increase in employment was in the **occupation** group **‘Clerks’** (12,800 persons or 15.8%), which moved to 94,000 in January 2019. Of the increase in employment in this group, females accounted for 8,300 persons. Of the seven occupation groups, there were increases in the number of persons employed in six groups. The three largest were **‘Clerks’** (12,800), **‘Professionals, Senior Officials and Technicians’** (6,900) and **‘Elementary Occupations’**(6,100).

*More persons employed in “Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities” and “Hotels & Restaurants Services”.*

The largest increase in the number of employed persons by industry group was in **‘Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities’** (9,600 persons or 11.7%) which moved to 91,600 in January 2019. This was followed by **‘Hotels & Restaurants Services’** with an increase of 8,000 persons from 98,900 in January 2018. However, the number of persons employed in **‘Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing’** decreased by 11,600 persons (5.8%) to 188,700 in January 2019. The increase in male employment was largest among the groups **‘Public Administration &**

---

<sup>1</sup>This report presents the key findings of the January 2019 Labour Force Survey which was conducted during the period January – March 2019 with the reference week being December 16-22, 2018. Data for 2018 have been compiled using new End of Year 2017 population estimates; first applied in January 2019.

**Defence; Compulsory Social Security**' (3,800), **'Wholesale & Retail, Repair of Motor Vehicle & Equipment'** (3,500) and **'Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities'** (3,100). **'Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities'** (6,500) and **'Hotels & Restaurants Services'** (6,400) accounted for the largest increase in female employment.

#### *Reduction in the number of males and females unemployed.*

The number of unemployed persons in January 2019 was 107,500, a decrease of 20,200 (15.8%) when compared to January 2018. Male unemployment decreased by 9,300, (17.6%) to 46,500 in January 2019. Over the same period, there was a decline of 10,900 (14.6%) in the number of unemployed females to 64,000.

#### *Unemployment rate decreased.*

The **Unemployment Rate** for January 2019 was 8.0 per cent, representing a decrease of 1.6 percentage points when compared to the rate of 9.6 per cent for January 2018. The male unemployment rate declined from 7.4 per cent to 6.1 per cent and for females, the decrease was 1.9 percentage points; from 12.2 per cent to 10.3 per cent.

#### *Decrease in male and female youth unemployment rate.*

The unemployment rate for youth (14-24 years) was 21.8 per cent in January 2019 compared to 23.7 per cent in January 2018. Over the same period, the unemployment rate for male youth decreased by 2.4 percentage points to 17.9 per cent in January 2019. The unemployment rate for female youth also declined by 1.4 percentage points to 26.5 per cent in January 2019.

#### *Labour force increased mainly for females.*

In January 2019, the **Labour Force** was 1,340,200 persons, an increase of 8,400 when compared to 1,331,800 in January 2018. The male labour force was relatively unchanged at 717,000 in January 2019. The female labour force increased by 8,200 persons to 615,000 in January 2018.

#### *Females outside the labour force decreased.*

The 746,900 persons classified as being **Outside the Labour Force** in January 2019 was 9,000 (1.2%) fewer than in January 2018. This decrease was mainly for females; a decline of 8,600.

See website ([www.statinja.gov.jm](http://www.statinja.gov.jm)) for more information on the January 2019 Labour Force Survey.