



**Statistical Institute of Jamaica**  
**Press Brief**  
**Labour Force Survey July 2020<sup>1</sup>**

*Highlights.*

In July 2020, the Employed Labour Force was 1,118,300, which was 135,800 fewer persons when compared to July 2019. Males accounted for a little over one-half of the decline. The largest decline for males was in the occupation groups ‘Elementary Occupations’ and ‘Crafts and Related Trades Workers’ while for females it was ‘Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers’ and ‘Elementary Occupations’. In July 2020, the unemployment rate was 12.6 per cent, 4.8 percentage points higher than July 2019. There was an increase in the number of persons unemployed (54,600) and persons outside the labour force (80,600).

*The size of the July 2020 labour force decreased over the corresponding period in 2019.*

In July 2020, the number of persons in the **Labour Force** was 1,279,600, a decline of 81,200 (6.0%) when compared with the 1,360,800 recorded in July 2019. The male labour force decreased by 35,300 (4.8%) to 700,600 in July 2020, and the female labour force decreased by 45,900 (7.3%) to 579,000.

*There was a larger decrease in the number of employed males.*

In July 2020, 1,118,300 employed persons worked for at least one hour in the reference week. This was 135,800 (10.8%) fewer employed persons than the 1,254,100, recorded in July 2019. Males accounted for 53.8 per cent of the decrease in the employed labour force. The number of employed males decreased by 73,100 (10.5%) to 620,100 in July 2020. In July 2020, there were 498,200 employed females, which was 62,700 (11.2%) less than the 560,900 recorded in July 2019. The number of employed youth aged 14 to 24 years declined by 35,900 to 134,600 in July 2020.

*The occupation groups “Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers” had the largest decrease in the number of persons employed followed by “Elementary Occupations”.*

There was a decline of 45,100 persons (15.6%) in the **occupation** group ‘**Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers**’ to 244,000 in July 2020. The group ‘**Elementary Occupations**’ also decreased by 39,000 persons from 169,200 in July 2019 to 130,200 in July 2020. Employment numbers decreased in all occupation groups for males. The largest decline was in ‘Elementary Occupations’ by 20,500 (23.0%) followed by ‘Crafts and Related Trades Workers’ by 16,800 (11.5%). For females, the largest decline was in ‘Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers’ 33,100 (18.1%) followed by ‘Elementary Occupations’ 18,500 (23.1%). There was

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<sup>1</sup>This report presents the key findings of the July 2020 Labour Force Survey which was conducted during the period July– September 2020 with the reference week being June 21 -27, 2020. Data for 2019 and 2020 have been compiled using End of Year 2017 population estimates; first applied in January 2019.

increased employment for females (6,600 or 4.1%) in the occupation group ‘**Professionals, Senior Officials and Technicians**’

*The number of unemployed increased.*

In July 2020, the number of unemployed persons was 161,300, an increase of 54,600 (51.2%) when compared to July 2019. The number of unemployed males was 80,500, an increase of 37,800. The number of unemployed females (80,800) increased by 16,800 in July 2020 compared to 64,000 in July 2019. There was 15,700 more unemployed youth in July 2020 compared to July 2019.

*The unemployment rate increased for both men and women.*

The **Unemployment Rate** for July 2020 was 12.6 per cent, which was 4.8 percentage points higher than the rate of 7.8 per cent for July 2019. The unemployment rate increased for both males and females. In July 2020, the unemployment rate for males increased to 11.5 per cent and females to 14.0 per cent.

*The unemployment rate for youths in the age group 14 – 24 years increased*

The unemployment rate for youth aged 14-24 was 30.4 per cent in July 2020 when compared to the rate of 20.2 per cent in July 2019. In July 2020, the unemployment rate for male youth was 28.5 per cent compared to 16.8 per cent in July 2019. For females, the rate was 33.1 per cent in July 2020, which was 8.6 percentage points higher than the rate in July 2019.

*The number of persons in the working-age population who were outside the labour force increased for both males and females.*

The number of persons **Outside the Labour Force** was 806,600 in July 2020, an increase of 80,600 (11.1%) when compared to July 2019. In July 2020, there were 323,300 males and 483,300 females **Outside the Labour Force**. The number of males **Outside the Labour Force** increased by 35,000 (12.1%), and for females by 45,600 (10.4%) compared to July 2019

*The participation rate for both males and females declined*

The participation rate was 61.3 per cent in July 2020 when compared to the rate of 65.2 per cent in July 2019. In July 2020, the participation rate for males was 68.4 per cent compared to 71.9 per cent in July 2019. For females, the rate was 54.5 per cent in July 2020, which was 4.3 percentage points lower than the rate in July 2019.

**Note:**

*The industry tables for the July 2019 and July 2020 Labour Force Surveys were done using the Jamaica Industrial Classification 2016. Other quarters for 2019 and the January 2020 will be revised using this classification.*

See website ([www.statinja.gov.jm](http://www.statinja.gov.jm)) for more information on the July 2020 Labour Force Survey.