



PRESS RELEASE

October 2025 Labour Force Survey (LFS) Findings

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kingston, January 15, 2026: The Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), today, released the key findings from the October 2025 Labour Force Survey (LFS), which had a reference week of October 5–11, 2025. The data provide an important snapshot of Jamaica's labour market prior to the passage of Hurricane Melissa on October 28, 2025.

Hurricane Melissa caused significant disruption to STATIN's field operations, particularly in the western parishes of St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, St. James, Hanover, and Trelawny. In these areas, STATIN deployed an abridged version of the standard LFS questionnaire to ensure the continuation of data collection while capturing the core labour market indicators. Therefore, some of the usual indicators could not be estimated for the quarter.

Data collection for the LFS is typically completed within six weeks of the reference week. However, due to the extensive impact of Hurricane Melissa, both data collection and processing activities were extended by an additional two weeks.

The following are highlights of the findings from the October 2025 Labour Force Survey

Employment levels in October 2025 remained largely unchanged compared with the same period of 2024. A total of 1,413,200 persons were employed, reflecting a decline of 3,800 individuals. The number of unemployed persons is estimated at 48,800, down from 51,300 the previous year. Meanwhile, 693,800 individuals were outside the labour force, an increase of 6,300 persons. These shifts resulted in an unemployment rate of 3.3 per cent compared with 3.5 per cent in October 2024.

Lower Labour Force Participation

In October 2025, the labour force totalled 1,462,000 individuals, reflecting a decline of 6,300 individuals compared with October 2024. The male labour force fell by 11,900 to 777,200, while the female labour force increased by 5,600 to 684,800. The overall labour force participation rate was 67.8 per cent relative to 68.1 per cent in October 2024.

Decrease in Employment, Led by Youth

In October 2025, the employed labour force declined by -0.3 per cent relative to October 2024. Employment among males declined by -1.5 per cent to 757,000, while the number of employed females grew by 1.2 per cent to 656,200. There were 163,600 employed youth, declining by 6.0 per cent when compared to October 2024.

Shifts in Employment Across Occupation Groups

There were 126,700 persons employed in the occupation group 'Clerical Support Workers' in October 2025, reflecting the largest decrease in employment of 11.2 per cent compared to October 2024. Among 'Craft and Related Trades Workers', employment stood at 160,000 persons, representing a decrease of 11,700, of which 8,900 were males.

Despite the overall decline, notable gains were recorded among 'Managers', where employment increased by 19.3 per cent to 101,400 persons. More persons were also employed as 'Technicians and Associate Professionals', resulting in a total of 94,300 in October 2025.

Largest Decrease by Industry was in 'Real Estate and Other Business Services'

A total of 155,000 individuals were employed in the 'Real Estate and Other Business Services' industry, reflecting a decrease of 10,400 persons. The second-largest decline of 6,400 individuals occurred in the industry group 'Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Other Services', bringing total employment in the group to 117,000 persons.

Fewer Unemployed Youth

The decline in the number of unemployed persons was largely attributed to a fall in the number of unemployed youth by 2,200 persons to 19,400. The unemployment rate for males

remained unchanged at 2.6 per cent, while the rate for females fell marginally to 4.2 per cent.

More Persons Outside the Labour Force, driven by increase among Males and Youth

The number of persons outside the labour force was 693,800, an increase of 6,300 persons compared with October 2024. This was largely associated with increases in the number of males outside the labour force, which rose by 11,800 to 281,500 persons, and youth, which increased by 12,600 to 306,900 persons. In contrast, there were 5,500 fewer females outside the labour force, bringing the total for females to 412,300.

STATIN remains committed to providing timely, transparent, and quality labour market statistics to support evidence-based decision-making, especially during periods of national disruption and recovery. For more information about the **October 2025 Labour Force Survey**, please visit STATIN's website at www.statinja.gov.jm or contact the Institute's library at 876 630-1600 or via email at info@statinja.gov.jm.

About Us: The Statistical Institute of Jamaica is the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the leading provider of official statistics on the country's economic, social, demographic, and environmental conditions. The Institute periodically releases monthly, quarterly, and annual products such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), inflation rate, international merchandise trade, social and population statistics. STATIN is dedicated to delivering accurate, comprehensive, and timely data that supports informed decision-making and aligns with the Institute's mission.

-END-

Contact: Georgia Garvey-Green
Corporate Communications Manager
Communications and Marketing Unit
Corporate Services Division
Telephone: 876 630-1600
Email: media@statinja.gov.jm