

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

PRESS RELEASE

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 09

The Department of Statistics releases the results of its Labour Force and Household Income Survey which is conducted annually during the month of May.

The results of the survey show that since 2008, the total labour force as well as the employed labour force in the country experienced a decline in numbers. This was the case in New Providence and Grand Bahama for both males and females. Employment in the country declined overall by 9.8% since 2008.

The results of the survey further show that the unemployment rate continues to climb. For New Providence, the rate of 8.7% in 2008 increased to 12.1% in February then to 14% in May. A similar trend was experienced in Grand Bahama 9%, 14.6 and 17.4%. These rates are the highest experienced since the early 1990s.

For the country, there were 9,540 more unemployed persons in 2009 than there were in 2008. This resulted in the unemployment rate increasing from 8.7% in 2008 to 14.2% in 2009.

Of the unemployed persons in New Providence more than a quarter had left their jobs within the last twelve months. Of these persons, 51% were either laid off, dismissed, or the business in which they were employed ceased operations.

In Grand Bahama approximately twenty two percent of the unemployed persons left their jobs within the said period, and of these persons, slightly more than a third (36%) were laid off, dismissed, or the business where they had worked ceased operations.

The survey estimated the number of private households in The Bahamas to be 109,260, an increase of 1.2 percent over the one year period.

New Providence households experienced a decline of 13.6% in their household income which now stands at \$40,528. The decline for households in Grand Bahamas was slightly lower (8.7%) decreasing from \$41,172 in 2008 to \$37,562 in 2009.

Further details pertaining to the 2009 survey will be available at the end of September when the final report is completed and released.

THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS: 2009

SEX AND ISLAND		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	UNEMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
ALL BAHAMAS	TOTAL	184,020	157,805	26,215	73.4%	14.2%
	WOMEN	90,120	77,470	12,650	69.1%	14.0%
	MEN	93,900	80,335	13,565	78.4%	14.4%
NEW PROVIDENCE	TOTAL	131,245	112,880	18,365	74.0%	14.0%
	WOMEN	65,410	56,710	8,700	69.6%	13.3%
	MEN	65,835	56,170	9,665	79.3%	14.7%
GRAND BAHAMA	TOTAL	28,235	23,310	4,925	74.2%	17.4%
	WOMEN	13,580	11,005	2,575	70.4%	19.0%
	MEN	14,655	12,305	2,350	77.9%	16.0%