



National Bureau of Statistics

STATISTICAL

BULLETIN

Catalogue Number: Unemployment 2014/Q2

Released: 30 September 2014

Quarterly Unemployment Statistics 2014-Q2

In the second quarter of 2014, the national unemployment rate was **3.1%** and the labour force participation rate was recorded at **72.8%**. The same rate of unemployment was recorded for male and female.

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Results and highlights
3. Tables and charts
4. Concepts, sources and methods
5. Next release
6. Contact us

TABLES

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Table 1 | Sex distribution of key populations and selected key indicators |
| Table 2 | Unemployment rates by age group and sex |
| Table 3 | Percentage distribution of unemployed population by educational attainment and sex |
| Table 4 | Percentage distribution of unemployed population by duration of unemployment and sex |
| Table 5 | Percentage distribution of unemployed population by methods used to search for work and sex |
| Table 6 | Youth to national unemployment rate |

CHARTS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Chart 1 | Unemployment rates by age group and sex |
|---------|---|

National Bureau of Statistics

CARAVELLE HOUSE - MANGLIER STREET, P.O. BOX 206 - VICTORIA - MAHE - SEYCHELLES, Tel: +248 611650 - Fax: +248 225634/225339
E-mail: ceo@nbs.gov.sc, stats@nbs.gov.sc - Website: www.nbs.gov.sc

"Your stepping-stone for informed decisions"

1. INTRODUCTION

This bulletin presents a series of Quarterly Unemployment Statistics derived from a series of ongoing monthly Labour Force Surveys which started in January 2014. The objective is to provide a permanent platform to obtain regular quarterly unemployment figures for measuring labour market dynamics in Seychelles.

The unemployment figures are based on the population aged 15 years and above. The quarterly figures are obtained from a sample of 1200 households spread out into 400 households canvassed per month over the islands of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue.

2. RESULTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Persons in the working age population who during the reference week were not employed, were available to work and were looking for work are defined as unemployed.

Table 1 shows that in quarter two of 2014, 52% of the unemployed population was female. This shows a decrease of 9.3% in the proportion accounted for by unemployed women compared to the previous quarter. Conversely, the male representation has increased by 12.3% over the same period. Similar patterns

can be observed among the youth unemployed population.

The total unemployment rate is recorded at 3.1% in quarter two of 2014, a decrease (-26.2%) from the previous quarter. The same unemployment rate of 3.1% has been reported for both male and female economically active population.

Table 2 presents unemployment rates by age group and sex for the second quarter of 2014. The age band 'below 25 years' remains the sub group with the highest unemployment rate at 9.6%. This represents a 3.2% increase from the previous quarter. However, compared to the previous quarter, there is less disparity between sexes in this age band. In the same age group, males have a slightly higher unemployment rate (9.7%) in comparison with females (9.5%). There has also been a steep decline in the unemployment rate amongst the 55 plus age group. The rate dropped from 3.9% in quarter one to 0.7% in quarter two.

Over half (53%) of the unemployed persons were aged below 25 years with similar proportions among the male and female population in this category. As expected, unemployment rates decline with age.

The distribution of unemployed population by educational attainment and sex in Table 3 shows that persons having at most secondary level educational attainment make up the highest proportion of the unemployed. The figure for both sexes is around 56%. The female unemployed have a higher proportion (58.4%) than their male counterparts (52.6%). Persons with post secondary education have the lowest representation among the unemployed, with the situation between the sexes reversed (41.6% for females and 47.4% for males). Table 4 presents the distribution of unemployed population by duration of unemployment whereas the distribution of the same population by sex and by methods used to search for work is shown in Table 5.

In quarter two of 2014, the duration of unemployment most frequently occurring was 6 months and above. Jobseekers in this category represented 55.4% of all unemployed persons compared to 37.6% in the previous quarter.

The most common method of obtaining work was applying to prospective employers. 45% of job seekers chose this method, with comparative figures of 43% for females and 47%, for males.

A quarter on quarter comparison shows that the method of job search that gained most popularity was “placing adverts and browsing the internet”. 10% of jobseekers reported using this method compared to 3.8% in the previous quarter.

Taking youths as those aged between 15-24 years, the youth unemployment situation in Seychelles for quarter two is considered severe compared to it being serious in the previous quarter. From Table 6, the rate of youth unemployment is 3.1 times higher than the national unemployment rate with both male and female rates among the youth at 3.1 times higher than their corresponding national rates. In quarter two of 2014, females recorded the highest decrease in unemployment rate (-28%) compared to the previous quarter.

3. TABLES AND CHARTS

Table 1: Sex Distribution of Key Populations and Selected Key Indicators, Q1-Q2/2014

	2014/Q1			2014/Q2		
	Male %	Female %	Both Sexes %	Male %	Female %	Both Sexes %
Working age population						
National	47.4	52.6	100.0	47.0	53.0	100.0
Youth (UN)	48.9	51.1	100.0	48.8	51.2	100.0
Employed population						
National	50.2	49.8	100.0	49.0	51.0	100.0
Youth (UN)	50.6	49.4	100.0	48.2	51.8	100.0
Unemployed population (standard)						
National	43.1	56.9	100.0	48.4	51.6	100.0
Youth (UN)	38.9	61.1	100.0	48.8	51.2	100.0
Unemployed population (relaxed)						
National	41.7	58.3	100.0	44.1	55.9	100.0
Youth (UN)	42.0	58.0	100.0	47.5	52.5	100.0
Labour force (standard)						
National	49.9	50.1	100.0	49.0	51.0	100.0
Youth (UN)	49.3	50.7	100.0	48.3	51.7	100.0
Rates (%):						
Unemployment rate (Standard Definition)	3.6	4.8	4.2	3.1	3.1	3.1
Unemployment rate (Relaxed Definition)	9.0	12.3	10.7	5.9	7.1	6.5
Labour Force Participation Rate	78.0	70.6	74.1	75.7	70.1	72.8
Employment-to-Population Ratio	75.2	67.2	71.0	73.4	67.9	70.5
Youth unemployment rate (Standard Definition)	8.6	13.2	11.0	9.7	9.5	9.6
Youth unemployment rate (Relaxed Definition)	20.7	28.6	23.9	13.1	13.4	13.3

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Notes: Youth UN refers to population aged 15-24 years

Table 2: Unemployment Rates by Age Group and Sex, Q1-Q2/2014

Age group (years)	Q1			Q2		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
	%	%	%	%	%	%
15 < 25	7.3	11.3	9.3	9.7	9.5	9.6
25 < 55	1.9	3.4	2.6	1.9	2.1	2.0
55+	6.0	1.6	3.9	0.9	0.5	0.7
Total	3.5	4.7	4.1	3.1	3.1	3.1

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Unemployed Population by Educational Attainment and Sex, Q1-Q2/2014

Educational Attainment	2014/Q1			2014/Q2		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
	%	%	%	%	%	%
No schooling	5.9	4.2	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Secondary & below	60.8	49.3	54.1	52.6	58.4	55.7
Post-secondary	33.3	46.5	41.0	47.4	41.6	44.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Note: "Educational attainment " is defined here as "the highest level of formal education completed regardless of certification."

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Unemployed Population by Duration of Unemployment and Sex, Q1-Q2/2014

Duration of unemployment	2014/Q1			2014/Q2		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
	%	%	%	%	%	%
1 month to less than 3 months	46.9	40.0	43.1	19.8	24.8	22.4
3 months to less than 6 months	20.4	18.3	19.3	24.7	20.0	22.3
6 months & above	32.7	41.7	37.6	55.5	55.3	55.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Table 5: Percentage Distribution of Unemployed Population by Methods Used to Search for Work and Sex Q1-Q2/2014

Methods used to search for work	2014/Q1			2014/Q2		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Applied to prospective employers	37.0	44.9	41.7	47.4	43.3	45.2
Checked at factories and other work places	25.9	16.7	20.5	25.6	15.8	20.1
Placed or answered advertisements or browsed the internet	5.6	2.6	3.8	1.5	17.0	10.1
Sought assistance or advice to obtain a job	27.8	10.3	17.4	9.0	8.6	8.8
Registered at private employment agency	3.7	14.1	9.8	11.6	11.6	11.6
Took steps to start own business (<i>Comprising: Sought assistance or advice to start own business; Looked for inputs to set up own business; Applied for permit to set up own business</i>)	0.0	11.5	6.8	5.0	3.7	4.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

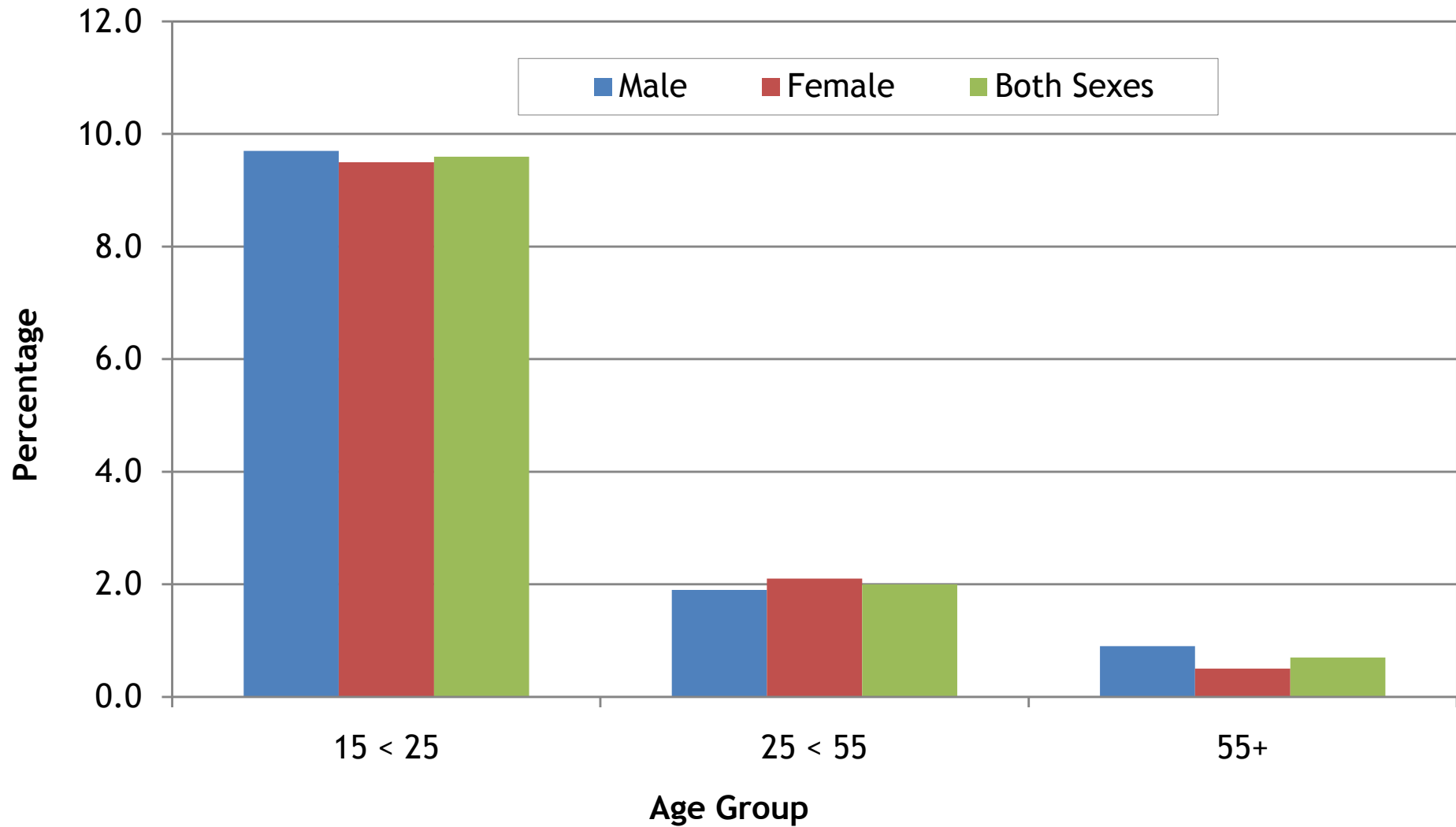
Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Table 6: Youth Unemployment to National Unemployment Rate, Q1-Q2/2014

	National Unemployment Rate		Youth Unemployment Rate	
	2014/Q1	2014/Q2	2014/Q1	2014/Q2
	%	%	%	%
Both sexes	4.2	3.1	11.0	9.6
Male	3.6	3.1	8.6	9.7
Female	4.8	3.1	13.2	9.5

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Chart 1: Unemployment Rate by Age Group and Sex, 2014/Q2



4. CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

Data collection

Data collection was carried out over a period of one week every third week of each month for the second quarter of 2014. Data on unemployment was collected relative to a current period (the previous calendar week). This was done by face to face interviews using paper questionnaires. Interviewers and supervisors were allocated districts and selected enumeration areas (EAs) to collect information from a list of sampled households. For the second quarter of 2014, eleven new districts and fourteen repeated districts were selected from different regions on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue and a 95% response rate was achieved.

Sampling method

The sample design used for the survey is the stratified two stage sampling. EAs served as primary sampling units (PSUs). At the first stage, the EAs were selected with probability proportional to size (i.e. the number of EAs in the respective district). At the second stage, a fixed number of 10 households were selected from each selected EA.

The sampling scheme which was adopted for the collection of unemployment

statistics was the Rotational Sampling Scheme. 400 households were selected on a monthly basis making up 1200 households in one quarter. Half of the households which were selected in quarter one were re-interviewed in quarter two, to provide a 50% overlap between quarters.

Questionnaire

One questionnaire was used for the collection of unemployment statistics. The questionnaire comprised two sections, LFS 1 and LFS 2. The former collected basic information on the socio-demographic characteristics of all members of the household. This section was used as a basis to determine those members who were eligible to move to LFS 2, which focused on labour force.

The second section of the questionnaire collected information on economic activities of household members who were 15 years and above. This included information on their current activity status, details of the current main job of those employed, their status in employment and the number of hours spent in employment. The last section collected detailed information on those who were unemployed.

DEFINITIONS

Employed population:

Persons of working age are classified as employed if, that person:

- (a) during a short reference period, was engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit, for at least an hour, or
- (b) was temporarily absent from work for work related reasons such as leave, illness, shortage of materials provided the person continued to have a job attachment or an enterprise that continued to exist

Unemployed population:

This refers to persons in the working age population, who during the reference week:

- (a) Were not employed,
- (b) Were available to take up such work if one was found
- (c) Were actively looking for work during the previous 4 weeks.

Labour force:

The labour force is defined as all persons aged 15 years and above who, during the previous calendar week, were either employed or unemployed.

A person who is neither employed nor unemployed is **outside the labour force**.

Labour force participation rate:

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) provides information about the relative size of the supply of labour currently available for the production of goods and services in an economy. It is a key indicator of the potential for economic growth.

Employment to population ratio:

Employment to population ratio is the proportion of a country's population that is employed. Ages 15 and older are generally considered the working-age population. It is the ratio of the number of employed persons to those in the working age population expressed as a percentage.

Youth (UN definition)

The youth are defined as persons between the ages of 15-24 years.

Youth unemployment

This is defined as the total unemployed youth divided by the youth labour force (employed and unemployed youth).

Youth to national unemployment

It has often been observed that youth unemployment rate is relatively higher than the national unemployment rate. For the purposes of analysis in this publication, a value of up to two times higher is considered normal; a value beyond two times, but below three times higher will be considered a serious youth unemployment situation, whilst beyond three times higher will be deemed severe.

5. NEXT RELEASE

The next issue of the Unemployment Statistics Bulletin will be released on Tuesday 31st December 2014.

6. CONTACT US

For more information regarding this publication, please contact Kirsten Arnephy or Maria Payet on Tel :+(248)4 611 675/+ (248) 4 611 660 | Fax :+(248)4 225 634 or email: stats@nbs.gov.sc