

## PRESS RELEASE

### 2016 LABOR FORCE SURVEY- MAY

The Department of Statistics releases the results of its Labour Force and Household Income Survey which was conducted in May of this year. The survey provides information on the labour force as it existed during the reference period of **April 25 – May 1, 2016**.

The results of the survey indicate that since November 2015 the labour force grew by 1.7%. However, between May 2015 and May 2016 there was a significant increase of 3.3% in the labour force. The labour force now totals 215,880 persons.

Since November 2015, there was an increase (7,540) in the number of employed persons and a decrease (3,855) in the number of unemployed persons resulting in an improvement in the unemployment rate which declined from 14.8% to 12.7%. While New Providence's unemployment rate decreased, the rates in Grand Bahama and Abaco edged up by 0.5 and 0.4 percentage points, respectively. At the time of the survey the rate in New Providence was 13.2%; in Grand Bahama, 14.7% and Abaco 10.1%.

Among the employed labour force, there were more men than women. However, in all the islands except Abaco, men were fewer in numbers among the unemployed labour force.

Unemployment among youths (15-24 years) continued to be considerably higher than any other age group which is common to most countries. However, there was a noticeable decline in the rate from 30% recorded in November 2015 to 25.8%

Discouraged workers in the country declined by 10% over the six month period. New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco experienced declines in the number of discouraged workers - 14%, 16% and 7%, respectively. These persons, according to the standard definition of the International Labour Organization (ILO), adhered to by The Bahamas and most countries including those of the

Caribbean, United States and Canada, did not look for work because they believed no jobs were available for them.

Additionally, the data show that:

- ✓ Since November 2015, there was a 7% increase of own account workers (self-employed persons).
- ✓ Twenty-four percent (24%) of the Labour Force was made up of persons between the ages of 25 - 34 years.
- ✓ Twenty-one percent (21%) of unemployed persons were between the ages of 20-24.
- ✓ Sixty-two percent (62%) of the Employed Labour Force was engaged by the private sector.
- ✓ Approximately twelve percent (12%) of the Employed Labour Force was Non-Bahamian.
- ✓ Influenced by Carnival related activities, since last November employment in the “Manufacturing” sector increased by 26%. This sector accounts for 4% of total employment.
- ✓ The “Community, Social and Personal Service” industry, which includes the civil service, police service and domestic service continued to be the country’s largest employer in 2016 and accounted for 36% of the workforce.

This release, with accompanying tables, will be immediately available on the Department’s website, [www.bahamas.gov.bs/statistics](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/statistics). Further details will be available by August, 2016.

TABLE ii

## THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS: 2016

MAY

SEX AND ISLAND		TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	UNEMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
ALL BAHAMAS	TOTAL	215,880	188,360	27,520	76.9%	12.7%
	WOMEN	104,815	89,660	15,155	72.0%	14.5%
	MEN	111,065	98,700	12,365	81.2%	11.1%
NEW PROVIDENCE	TOTAL	153,590	133,365	20,225	75.9%	13.2%
	WOMEN	75,590	64,100	11,490	71.1%	15.2%
	MEN	78,000	69,265	8,735	80.3%	11.2%
GRAND BAHAMA	TOTAL	28,710	24,500	4,210	68.4%	14.7%
	WOMEN	14,180	11,785	2,395	66.6%	16.9%
	MEN	14,530	12,715	1,815	73.7%	12.5%
ABACO	TOTAL	11,465	10,305	1,160	77.6%	10.1%
	WOMEN	5,145	4,675	470	70.8%	9.1%
	MEN	6,320	5,630	690	84.2%	10.9%

**THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS: 2012 - 2016**

ITEMS	May-12			Nov-12			May-13			Nov-13			May-14			Nov-14			May-15			Nov-15			May-16				
	ISLAND	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	
<b>Total Labour Force</b>																													
All Bahamas	188,310	92,900	95,410	189,770	93,235	96,535	195,660	96,535	99,125	196,880	97,545	99,335	198,710	98,800	99,910	206,050	102,585	103,465	208,895	103,290	105,605	212,195	103,940	108,255	215,880	104,815	111,065		
New Providence	141,245	70,985	70,260	142,755	71,550	71,205	145,335	72,830	72,505	146,095	73,505	72,590	141,655	72,080	69,575	147,750	75,110	72,640	148,545	74,480	74,065	150,315	73,830	76,485	153,590	75,590	78,000		
Grand Bahama	24,985	12,365	12,620	24,895	12,280	12,615	25,115	12,380	12,735	25,275	12,455	12,820	27,250	13,080	14,170	27,690	13,170	14,520	28,000	14,060	13,940	29,230	15,170	14,060	28,710	14,180	14,530		
Abaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,995	3,860	5,135	9,905	4,525	5,380	10,360	4,405	5,955	10,660	4,595	6,065	11,465	5,145	6,320		
<b>Employed Labour Force</b>																													
All Bahamas	160,650	80,450	80,200	163,110	80,175	82,935	163,995	80,835	83,160	166,595	82,170	84,425	171,275	84,400	86,875	174,245	85,240	89,005	183,915	89,915	94,000	180,820	86,300	94,520	188,360	89,660	98,700		
New Providence	121,410	61,590	59,820	124,125	61,820	62,305	122,155	61,030	61,125	123,235	61,625	61,610	120,400	60,820	59,580	124,060	61,515	62,545	130,750	64,760	65,990	126,430	60,430	66,000	133,365	64,100	69,265		
Grand Bahama	20,635	10,335	10,300	20,420	9,850	10,570	20,215	9,745	10,470	21,035	10,150	10,885	23,235	10,730	12,505	22,545	10,645	11,900	24,400	12,050	12,350	25,090	12,660	12,430	24,500	11,785	12,715		
Abaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,795	3,265	4,530	7,895	3,495	4,400	9,095	3,880	5,215	9,630	3,985	5,645	10,305	4,675	5,630		
<b>Unemployed Labour Force</b>																													
All Bahamas	27,655	12,450	15,205	26,660	13,060	13,600	31,665	15,700	15,965	30,285	15,375	14,910	27,435	14,400	13,035	31,805	17,345	14,460	24,980	13,375	11,605	31,375	17,640	13,735	27,520	15,155	12,365		
New Providence	19,830	9,390	10,440	18,630	9,730	8,900	23,180	11,800	11,380	22,860	11,880	10,980	21,255	11,260	9,995	23,690	13,595	10,095	17,795	9,720	8,075	23,885	13,400	10,485	20,225	11,490	8,735		
Grand Bahama	4,345	2,030	2,315	4,475	2,430	2,045	4,900	2,635	2,265	4,240	2,305	1,935	4,015	2,350	1,665	5,145	2,525	2,620	3,600	2,010	1,590	4,140	2,510	1,630	4,210	2,395	1,815		
Abaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	595	605	2,010	1,030	980	1,265	525	740	1,030	610	420	1,160	470	690		
<b>Labour Force Participation Rate</b>																													
All Bahamas	72.4%	69.4%	75.7%	72.5%	69.5%	75.9%	72.7%	69.8%	76.1%	73.7%	70.3%	77.6%	72.9%	69.1%	77.4%	74.4%	71.0%	78.1%	73.0%	71.5%	78.5%	75.6%	71.9%	80.5%	76.9%	72.0%	81.2%		
New Providence	73.6%	71.0%	76.7%	73.7%	71.6%	77.8%	73.9%	71.8%	77.9%	74.1%	72.5%	78.5%	77.3%	70.9%	78.0%	77.5%	73.9%	81.5%	74.5%	71.3%	76.4%	74.7%	70.7%	79.5%	75.9%	71.1%	80.3%		
Grand Bahama	72.3%	67.8%	75.4%	70.7%	67.4%	75.4%	70.8%	67.5%	75.6%	71.0%	67.9%	76.1%	76.9%	76.9%	75.8%	71.3%	65.1%	78.0%	70.1%	66.5%	72.6%	72.5%	71.7%	73.3%	68.4%	66.6%	73.7%		
Abaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.5%	71.5%	75.4%	75.7%	72.4%	79.0%	75.5%	63.8%	77.5%	77.3%	70.3%	84.0%	77.6%	70.8%	84.2%		
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>																													
All Bahamas	14.7%	13.4%	16.0%	14.0%	14.0%	14.1%	16.2%	16.3%	16.1%	15.4%	15.8%	15.0%	13.8%	14.6%	13.0%	15.7%	17.3%	14.1%	12.0%	12.9%	11.0%	14.8%	17.0%	12.7%	12.7%	14.5%	11.1%		
New Providence	14.0%	13.2%	14.9%	13.1%	13.6%	12.5%	15.9%	16.2%	15.7%	15.6%	16.2%	15.1%	15.0%	15.6%	14.4%	16.0%	18.1%	13.9%	12.0%	13.1%	10.9%	15.9%	18.1%	13.7%	13.2%	15.2%	11.2%		
Grand Bahama	17.4%	16.4%	18.3%	18.0%	19.8%	16.2%	19.5%	21.3%	17.8%	16.8%	18.5%	15.1%	14.7%	18.0%	11.8%	18.6%	19.2%	18.1%	12.9%	14.3%	11.4%	14.2%	16.5%	11.6%	14.7%	16.9%	12.5%		
Abaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.3%	15.4%	11.8%	20.3%	22.8%	18.2%	12.2%	11.9%	12.4%	9.7%	13.3%	6.9%	10.1%	9.1%	10.9%		

# DISCOURAGED WORKERS BY ISLAND SEX AND WORK EXPERIENCE: 2016

MAY

ISLAND AND SEX	TOTAL DISCOURAGED WORKERS	WORKED BEFORE	NEVER WORKED
<b>ALL BAHAMAS</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>780</b>
MEN	1,050	720	330
WOMEN	1,420	970	450
<b>NEW PROVIDENCE</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>345</b>
MEN	590	480	110
WOMEN	990	755	235
<b>GRAND BAHAMA</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>50</b>
MEN	95	90	5
WOMEN	150	105	45
<b>ABACO</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100</b>
MEN	90	65	25
WOMEN	175	100	75