

SUPPLY SIDE OF THE LABOUR MARKET CURAÇAO

RESULTS OF THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2016

Supply Side of the Labour Market of Curaçao:

Labour Force Survey 2016

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ISBN: 978-9904-5-053-8

Preface

Since 1987, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) has been conducting Labour Force Survey (LFS) in Curaçao annually to provide reliable statistical information on the supply side of the labour market. Today, a variety of data on the employed, unemployed, and the economically not active population is being collected during the LFS.

Developments on the labour force are not stationary. The size of the labour force may increase, decrease or remain unchanged. This depends on several factors. Some examples of factors that can affect the labour force are demographic factors, the number of available jobs and developments of the economy. It is unknown whether the labour force in Curaçao fluctuates within a year. Therefore, for the first time, two LFS were carried out in 2016 to get insight in developments within one year. A survey was conducted in the first half of the year (March–April; LFS 2016-1), while the other survey was conducted in the second half of the year (September–October; LFS 2016-2).

Preliminary figures of LFS 2016-1 showed that the unemployment rate in March-April 2016 remained practically unchanged in comparison to September-October 2015. In this report, results of the LFS 2016-2 (September-October 2016 survey) will be presented and compared to the results of September-October LFS 2014 and 2015.

The report is divided into three parts. The first part gives an introduction on the topic of labour market. The second part describes the methodology, and the third part of the report covers the results of the LFS 2016-2.

The CBS of Curaçao hopes that this report meets the needs of users for up-to-date and comprehensive information on the supply side of the labour market and that the results will be used by stakeholders in the public as well as the private sector.

A sincere word of thanks goes to the population of Curaçao for their yearly cooperation and participation in the LFS. Furthermore, to the author of this publication Irálice Jansen, MSc (senior statistician, department of Social and Demographic Statistics at CBS) and the scientific staff of the CBS for their valuable input.

The Director

Drs. Sean de Boer

Explanatory notes

Blank = category not applicable

Total percentages in tables or figures may not necessarily add up to 100% because of rounding.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank the head of the Fieldwork department (Lizmari Fecunda-Manuela), the coordinator of the LFS (Mary Conquet-Provence) and the 40 interviewers for their contribution in data collection; Gregory Lai and Lysandra de Meza for data management; Menno ter Bals and Leander Kuijvenhoven for the study population; Ruthmila Eisdien and Filomena Valks for data coding; and the remaining colleagues, in particular Ellen Maduro and Harely Martina, for their contribution and interest in the study. A special word of thanks to the following stakeholders for their collaboration:

- Ministry of Social Development, Labour and Welfare (SOAW);
- Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (OWCS);
- Ministry of Economic Development (MEO);
- Registry Office ('Kranshi')
- Central Bank of Curaçao and St. Maarten (CBCS);
- Curaçao Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KvK);
- Curaçao Trade Industry and Association (VBC);
- Trade unions: 'Sentral di Sindikatonan di Kòrsou' (SSK) and 'Sentral General di Trahadornan di Kòrsou' (CGTC).

Abbreviations

AKO	Arbeidskrachtenonderzoek
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CSPRO	Census and Survey Processing System
HAVO	'Hoger Algemeen Voortgezet Onderwijs'
HBO	'Hoger Beroepsonderwijs'
ILO	International Labour Organization
IQR	Inter-quartile range
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupation
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
KILM	Key Indicators of Labour Market
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MAVO	'Middelbaar Algemeen Voortgezet Onderwijs'
MBO	'Middelbaar Beroepsonderwijs'
SBO	'Secundaire Beroepsonderwijs'
SOAW	Social Development, Labour, and Welfare
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
VSBO	'Vorbereidend Secundaire Beroepsonderwijs'
VWO	'Vorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs'
WO	'Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs'

Summary

The labour force, also referred to as the economically active population, encompasses the non-institutionalized employed and unemployed population aged 15 years and older. In comparison to September-October 2015, the labour force of Curaçao increased by **7.2%** in September-October 2016 reaching a level of **75,070** persons. In terms of absolute numbers, the increase in the labour force was mainly due to an increase in the employed population. However, relatively, the increase can be attributed to a large increase in the share of the unemployed population.

The number of the employed population in September-October 2016 increased by almost 3,330 persons compared to September-October 2015 (5.3%). The total employed population consists of about **65,100** persons. Of this population, around 2,000 were unemployed one year before (in September-October 2015) and about 1,050 were attending school.

The increment in the employed population was visible in both sexes. However, figures of the labour force survey suggest that the mutation of the increment increased along with increase in age. For example, the increase in the employed population in the age group 55–64 years was higher (8.7%) than the increase in the employed population in the age group 35–44 years (1.6%).

In September-October 2016, the size of the unemployed population was **9,953** persons, which is 1,755 persons (21.4%) more than in September–October 2015. Accordingly, the unemployment rate increased to a level of **13.3%** in September-October 2016. This is 1.6 percentage points higher than in September-October 2015. The unemployment rate in 2016 increased for both sexes, where women continued to have higher unemployment rates than men.

Of the working-age population (15+ years) in Curaçao, **59.0%** was available to supply labour (labour force participation rate), while for the age group 15-64 years specifically, this was **70.4%**.

In terms of age, the increase in the labour force was visible in all age groups. The largest percentage increase in the labour force took place in the age group 15-24 years and this increase was mainly due to an increase in the unemployed population in this age group. Consequently, the youth (15–24 years) continued to have the highest unemployment rate in 2016 (youth unemployment rate), being **36.8%**. This is an increase of 7.1 percentage points in comparison to September-October 2015, when the youth unemployment rate was 29.7%. Nevertheless, when analysing the youth unemployment rate it is useful to take certain matters into account. For instance, 31.6% of the unemployed youth were attending a daytime education. In other words, about

three of every ten young persons seeking work was receiving a daytime education, which could have hampered their being completely available to accept a job and actually start working.

Of the employed population, the majority continued to work as employees in permanent service, **58.9%**. Although the percentage is lower in comparison to September-October 2015. The greatest increase in employment continued to be for flexible economic positions, such as casual workers/freelancers. In terms of occupation, there were no significant differences in 2016 in comparison to 2015. The most reported occupation among men continued to be 'Craft and related trades workers' (**19.8%**) and among women, 'Service and sales workers' (**21.7%**). The majority of employed persons in 2016 continued to work in the sectors: 'Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles'; 'Accommodation and food service activities', and 'Human health and social work activities'.

Of the unemployed population, the majority of the persons who were actively looking for a job have been unemployed between 1 and 12 months (**45.2%**). But a high proportion has also been unemployed for a year or longer (**46.3%**). A similar situation existed in 2015.

The economically not active population consisted mainly of pensioners (**51.5%**) and students (**23.7%**) who wanted to finish school before moving into the labour market.

Resúmen

E poblashon aktivo, otro yama e poblashon ekonomikamente aktivo, ta enserá personanan no institutionalisá di 15 aña òf mas ku tin trabou (ta empleá) òf personanan no institutionalisá di 15 aña òf mas ku no tin trabou, pero ku ta buskando trabou aktivamente (ta desempleá). Den komparashon ku e periodo sèptèmber-òktober 2015, e poblashon aktivo na Kòrsou a krese ku **7,2%** yegando asina na un kantidat di **75.070** persona den sèptèmber-òktober 2016. Den termino di sifra absoluto, e kresementu di e poblashon aktivo aki ta debí na un oumento di personanan ku tin un trabou. Sin embargo den termino relativo, e kresementu aki ta resultado di un oumento grandi den e porsentahe di personanan desempleá.

E poblashon ku ta empleá na Kòrsou den periodo di sèptèmber-òktober 2016 a krese ku kasi 3.330 persona kompará ku e periodo sèptèmber-òktober 2015 (5.3%). E kantidat total di personanan ku ta traha ta alredero di **65.100** persona. Di e poblashon aki, mas o ménos 2.000 tabata sin trabou un aña pasa (den sèptèmber-òktober 2015) i algu mas ku 1.050 tabata sigui un estudio.

E kresementu di e poblashon ku ta empleá tabata notabel serka ámbos sekso. Sin embargo, sifranan di e enkuesta di forsa laboral ta indiká ku e grandura di e kresementu aki a oumentá segun e edat ta subi. Por ehèmpel, e oumento den e poblashon ku tin un trabou den e grupo di edat 55-64 aña tabata mas grandi (8.7%) ku e oumento den e poblashon ku tin un trabou den e grupo di 35-44 aña (1.6%).

Den sèptèmber-òktober 2016, e grandura di e poblashon desempleá tabata konsistí di **9.953** persona, kual ta 1.755 persona (21,4%) mas ku na sèptèmber-òktober 2015. Konsekuentemente, e porsentahe di desempleo a subi na un nivel di **13.3%** den sèptèmber-òktober 2016. Esaki ta un subida di 1.6 punto porshento mas haltu ku na sèptèmber-òktober 2015. E kresementu di e porsentahe di desempleo tambe tabata notabel serka tur dos sekso, kaminda ku hende muher ta keda ku porsentahe di desempleo mas haltu en komparashon ku hende hòmer.

Di e poblashon aktivo (15+ aña) na Kòrsou, **59.0%** tabata disponibel pa ehersé labor (partisipashon riba merkado laboral), miéntras e sifra aki tabata **70.4%** pa e grupo di 15-64 aña spesífikamente.

Pa loke ta trata edat, e kresementu di e poblashon aktivo tabata notabel den tur grupo di edat. E kresementu porsentual di mas grandi a tuma luga den e grupo di 15-24 aña, i esaki tabata prinsipalmente atribuí na un kresementu di personanan desempleá den e grupo di edat akí. Konsekuentemente, hóbennan (15-24 aña) ta keda ku e porsentahe di desempleo di mas haltu den nos komunidad (desempleo hubenil), kual ta **36.8%**. Esaki ta un subida di 7.1 punto porshento kompará ku na sèptèmber-òktober 2015, kaminda ku desempleo hubenil tabata 29.7%. Sin embargo tin ku meshoná ku ta nesesario pa tene kuenta ku sierto puntonan ora ta

analísá e porsentahe di desempleo bou di hóbenan,. Por ehèmpel, 31,6% di e hóbenan desempleá na momento di e enkuesta tabata sigui un enseñansa den dia. Ku otro palabra, kasi tres di kada dies hóben ku tabata buska trabou den 2016, tataba bishita un skol den dia, kual por a impedí nan di tabata kompletamente disponibel pa aseptá un djóp i kuminsá traha definitivamente.

Di e poblashon ku tabata tin trabou, gran mayoria tabata empleá komo empleado ku un kòntrakt fiho, 58.9%. Esaki ta komparabel ku na 2015, ounke e porsentahe ta un poko mas abou. E kresementu di mas grandi ta kontinuá pa empleonan ku un posishon ekonómiko flèksibel, manera kuedó di djóp òf ‘freelance’. Den termino di profeshon, no tabata tin nigin diferensia signifkante den komparshon ku 2015. E profeshon raportá mas tantu dor di hende hòmer a keda ‘Hende di fishi’ (19.8%) i dor di hende muher ‘Personal di servisio i bendedó’ (21.7%). Similar ku na 2015, gran parti di e personanan ku ta laborá den 2016 tabata traha den e sektornan: ‘Komèrsio por mayor i komèrsio por detal’; reparashon di outo i motersaikel’; ‘Suministrashon di akomodashon i kuminda (horeca)’; i ‘Salubridat humano i servisionan sosial’.

Di e poblashon ku tabata desempleá, un gran parti di e personanan ku tabata buskando trabou tabata entre 1 pa 12 luna sin trabou (45.2%). Sin embargo, un porsentahe haltu tambe tabata desempleá pa 1 aña of mas (46.3%). Esaki tabata e kaso na 2015 tambe.

E poblashon ku tabata ekonómikamente no aktivo tabata konsistí prinsipalmente di penshonadonan (51.5%) i studiantenan (23.7%) ku ta deseá na terminá nan estudio promé ku drenta e merkado laboral.

Samenvatting

De beroepsbevolking, ook wel aangeduid als de economisch actieve bevolking, omvat de niet-geïstitutionaliseerde werkenden en werklozen van 15 jaar en ouder. In vergelijking met september-oktober 2015, is de beroepsbevolking van Curaçao gestegen met 7,2% in september-oktober 2016 en bereikte een niveau van **75.070** personen. In termen van absolute cijfers, was de toename van de beroepsbevolking vooral te danken aan een toename van de werkende bevolking. Echter, relatief gezien, kan de stijging toegeschreven worden aan een grote toename van het aandeel van de werkloze bevolking.

De werkende bevolking steeg in september-oktober 2016 met bijna 3.330 personen ten opzichte van september-oktober 2015 (5,3%). De toename in de werkende bevolking was zichtbaar bij beide geslachten. De totale werkende bevolking in september-oktober 2016 bestaat uit ongeveer **65.100** personen, waarvan ongeveer 2.000 personen werkloos waren één jaar geleden (in september-oktober 2015) en circa 1.050 een opleiding volgden.

Cijfers van het AKO geven een indicatie dat de stijging van de werkende bevolking hoger wordt bij een toename van de leeftijd. Bijvoorbeeld, de toename van de werkende bevolking in de leeftijdsgroep van 55-64 jaar was hoger (8,7%) dan de toename van de werkende bevolking in de leeftijdsgroep van 35-44 jaar (1,6%).

De omvang van de werkloze bevolking was **9.953** personen in september-oktober 2016, dat is 1.755 personen (21,4%) meer dan in september-oktober 2015. Bijgevolg is het werkloosheidspercentage gestegen tot een niveau van **13,3%** in september-oktober 2016. Dit is 1,6 procentpunt hoger dan in september-oktober 2015. De toename van het werkloosheidscijfer was zichtbaar bij beide geslachten, waarbij vrouwen steeds hogere werkloosheidscijfers hebben dan mannen.

Van de beroepsbevolking (15+ jaar) in Curaçao was **59,0%** beschikbaar om arbeid te leveren (arbeidsparticipatie), terwijl dit voor de leeftijdsgroep 15-64 jaar in het bijzonder **70,4%** was.

In termen van leeftijd, de toename van de beroepsbevolking was zichtbaar in alle leeftijdsgroepen. De grootste procentuele stijging van de beroepsbevolking vond plaats in de leeftijdsgroep 15-24 jaar en deze stijging was vooral te wijten aan een toename van de werkloze bevolking in deze leeftijdsgroep. Dientengevolge, de jongeren (15-24 jaar) hebben nog steeds het hoogste werkloosheidspercentage in 2016 (jeugdwerkloosheid), zijnde **36,8%**. Dit is een stijging van 7,1 procentpunt ten opzichte van september-oktober 2015, toen de jeugdwerkloosheid 29,7% bedroeg. Echter, bij het analyseren van de werkloosheid onder jongeren is het nuttig om rekening te houden met bepaalde zaken. Bijvoorbeeld, 31,6% van de

werkloze jongeren volgde een opleiding. Met andere woorden, ongeveer drie op de tien jongeren die op zoek waren naar werk en beschikbaar waren om te beginnen met werken in september-oktober 2016 was een dagopleiding aan het volgen, welke ze kon belemmeren om niet volledig beschikbaar te zijn om een baan te accepteren en daadwerkelijk te beginnen met werken.

Van de werkende bevolking, werkte de meerderheid als werknemer in vaste dienst, **58,9%**. Dit is hetzelfde als in 2015, hoewel het percentage in september-oktober 2016 lager is in vergelijking met september-oktober 2015. De grootste stijging van de werkgelegenheid is, net als in 2015, voor de flexibele economische posities, zoals tijdelijke arbeidskrachten/'freelancers'. In termen van beroep waren geen significante verschillen in 2016 in vergelijking met 2015. Het meest gerapporteerde beroep onder mannen was 'Ambachtslieden' (**19,8%**) en onder vrouwen 'Dienstverlenend personeel en verkopers' (**21,7%**). De meerderheid van de werknemers in 2016, net als in 2015, werkte in de volgende sectoren: 'Groothandel en detailhandel; reparatie van auto's en motorfietsen'; 'Verschaffen van accommodatie en maaltijden (horeca)'; en 'Menselijke gezondheidszorg en maatschappelijke dienstverlening'.

Van de werkloze bevolking is de meerderheid van de personen die actief op zoek waren naar een baan werkloos geweest tussen 1 en 12 maanden (**45,2%**). Echter, een hoog percentage is ook werkloos voor één jaar of langer, **46,3%**. Een soortgelijke situatie was zichtbaar in 2015.

De economisch niet-actieve bevolking bestond voornamelijk uit gepensioneerden (**51,5%**) en studenten (**23,7%**) die hun studie wilden afmaken alvorens de arbeidsmarkt te betreden.

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1. Introduction

A **labour market** is the structure that allocates labour to its most productive use and functions through the interaction of those who supply labour services (workers) and those who demand labour services (employers). Statistics on the labour market are critical to understand the labour market whether one applies the microeconomic (economics at an individual, group or company level) or macroeconomic (national economy) approach. **Labour statistics**, also known as **labour market information**, involves the systematic collection and analysis of data that describes the demand and supply of labour. Without labour market information, it is impossible for a country to understand the dynamics of its labour market.

Since 1987, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of Curaçao, formerly the CBS of the Netherlands Antilles¹, has been conducting Labour Force Surveys (LFS, in Dutch: Arbeidskrachtenonderzoek, AKO) annually in the months September–October to monitor the most important developments on the supply side of the labour market in Curaçao on a regular basis² (Lake, 2013). In 2016, for the first time, a LFS was also carried out in the months March–April (LFS 2016-1) to investigate developments in the first half of the year. Results of this LFS 2016-1 will be published when compilation of more LFS data for the period March–April is available in order to make comparisons. This report presents the results of the LFS held in the months September–October 2016 (LFS 2016-2).

Statistics on the supply side of the Curaçao's labour market are compiled in accordance with the Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) recommended by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and are therefore internationally comparable. Consequently, the Curaçao's data on the supply side of the labour market are available in the ILO databases (ILO, 2017).

Information provided by the LFS makes it possible to produce statistics on the **economically active population**, also known as the **labour force**. The economically active population includes both the employed and unemployed population. From an economic point of view, one of the main objectives of collecting data on the economically active population is to provide basic information on the size and structure of a country's labour force. Data collected at different points in time provide a basis for monitoring current trends and changes in the (un)employment situation. In addition to the economically active population, the LFS also provides statistics on the **economically not active population**, for example pensioners.

¹ Curaçao was, together with Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten, part of the Netherlands Antilles until the country's dissolution on October 10, 2010, when Curaçao became a constituent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Until 2010, the CBS of the Netherlands Antilles conducted labour statistics for the five islands.

² In the years 2010 and 2012 there has been no LFS due to preparation for the Census 2011 and budget constraints, respectively.

One of the most important labour-market indicators is the **unemployment rate**. The unemployment rate reflects the percentage of the labour force that does not have a job, but is actively looking for one and is available to start working. The unemployment rate is widely used, in particular as an overall indicator of the current performance of a country's economy (Hussmanns, 2007). Other important indicators are the labour force participation rate, the employment-to-population ratio, and the level of education and occupation of the employed population. The labour force participation rate is the percentage of the population that actively engages in the labour market, by either working or looking for work, while the employment-to-population ratio is the proportion of the country's working-age population that is employed. All the aforementioned indicators, together with others described in this report, give a general overview of the supply side of the labour market in Curaçao.

2. Methodology

2.1 Study design and study population

The LFS is a sample survey held among households in Curaçao. For determination of an appropriate sample size, research on the sample estimates and variances were made. This was done by taking into account the last available LFS unemployment rate, an 1.5% one-sided margin of error, and a non-response rate of 20.0%. The sampling frame for the LFS was taken from the population registry database of the Registry Office ('Kranshi') and encompasses all inhabited unique addresses. The sample was selected using a simple random sampling design without replacement. By using this procedure, each household in the registry had a known and equal probability of selection to participate in the survey.

A total of $N = 2,650$ households were selected to participate in the LFS 2016-2, which is approximately 5% of all households in Curaçao. National media (including newspaper, radio, and television) were used to inform the community of the upcoming survey. Furthermore, to ensure that the selected households would be fully informed, a letter was sent to them containing background information of the survey and request for cooperation and participation.

During the fieldwork of the study, a total of 100 additional households were included to cope with non-response. These 100 households were selected using the same sampling design as described above. Out of the $2,650 + 100 = 2,750$ selected households, $N = 2,016$ households participated in the LFS 2016-2 representing a response rate of 73.3%. Of the households that did not participate (non-response): 33.7% involved uninhabited addresses or households that could not be located, 26.8% refused to participate, at 24.7% of the addresses there was nobody at home on three or more separate occasions, and 14.8% did not participate for other reasons.

The study population of the LFS included non-institutionalized men and women residing for three months or more in Curaçao or planning to stay for three months or longer on the island. By defining the study population in this manner, tourists and persons with short stays (e.g. attending short-term training activities), who do not contribute to the labour market, were not included. The LFS makes statements about the population aged 15 years and older (also known as the working population).

2.2 Questionnaire

A standardized questionnaire, mostly with multiple answer options, is used to collect the data during the LFS. The questionnaire used in 2016 was similar to the questionnaire used in 2015 and was available in the

four languages: Papiamentu; Dutch; English; and Spanish. Since the LFS is an anonymous survey, no personal identifiers were asked on the questionnaire, this in order to maintain the anonymity of the respondents. The subjects included in the questionnaires are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Subjects in the Labour Force Survey questionnaire

<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Demographics	Gender Age Country of birth Nationality
2. Education	Highest education obtained Willingness to complete an education
3. Labour market	History of work in the past 12 months Current job or own company/business
4. Persons with work	Economic position in current work Economic activity of company/business Occupation in current work Average working hours per week
5. Persons looking for work	Amount of time looking for work Reason for looking for work Methods of looking for work Reasons why it is difficult to find work Desired type of work Desired working hours per week Willingness to accept other type of work
6. Economically not-active persons	Reason for not working or looking for a job
7. Income	Amount of highest income last month Source of highest income Amount of second highest income last month Source of second highest income
8. History	Economic position on labour market six months before survey Economic position on labour market one year before survey

2.3 Data collection and data management

The Fieldwork department carried out the fieldwork for the study. Data collection for the LFS 2016-2 took place in the period of September 2–October 11. As in previous years, Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) was used to collect the data. CAPI refers to survey data collection by a survey administrator (interviewer) using a computer (tablet) to administer the questionnaire to the respondents and

to capture the answers (Baker, Bradburn, & Johnson, 1995). A total of 40 experienced interviewers were trained in the methodology of the study and the use of tablets, to assure consistency in the data collection.

Within the selected households, basic demographic information was collected on all household members, while labour force information was additionally collected for household members aged 15 years and older. The interviewers were requested to introduce themselves and to explain the goal of the survey to the respondents prior to data collection. The interviewers were instructed to personally interview every person aged 15 years or older in each sampled household. However, if a household member was unavailable for interview, the interviewers would accept information given by a proxy. Proxy respondents are normally either people living with a partner and who respond on their behalf of their partner, or parents who respond on behalf of their offspring who live with them, but who at the time are at school/university or working, for example. If the proxy respondent did not know the answer to a question, the interviewer could make an appointment to collect the missing information on another occasion. Furthermore, if a member within a participating household refused to participate, the interviewer would try to collect information on the age, sex, and the economic position of the person who refused.

The computer program Census and Survey Processing System (CSPRO) version 6.3 was used for data entry by means of tablets (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015). The tablets DELL Venue 8 Pro and DELL Venue 10 were used and the digital questionnaire was created based on the paper version of the questionnaire and the corresponding codebook. The use of tablets incorporated many features that served to maximize the quality of the data collected. For instance, there were many edits built into the CSPRO program to compare the entered data against unusual values, as well as to check for inconsistencies. Whenever an entry failed, due to unusual values for example, the interviewer had the possibility to correct the information. If for any reason this was not possible, the interviewer had the option to save the partially filled questionnaire, in order to continue at another time. In addition, in both years, the IT helpdesk could be contacted during the fieldwork to solve any problem regarding the use of tablets.

Each interviewer visited a median of 67 households (inter-quartile range (IQR) 61–79). The interviewers visited the department of Fieldwork weekly to discuss their progress with the fieldwork coordinator and to deliver the collected data. The delivered data were checked and when necessary corrected by the IT specialist. To further verify the data delivered, independent control procedures were performed. Approximately 20% of the participating households were telephoned and asked whether the collected information was in accordance with the information provided. Furthermore, 15 participating households were visited to verify the acquired information. No discrepancies were found in both verification processes.

After the fieldwork period of the study, the individual datasets of the forty interviewers were merged into two datasets in order to start the process of data coding. Answers regarding education, industry (sector), and occupation were coded by two trained coders using international classification systems, while taking into account local situation. The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-1997), the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC-rev. 4), and the International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISCO-2008) were used (Appendix 1). After data coding, the two datasets were merged into a final dataset.

2.4 Data analysis

Data cleaning and data analysis were performed on the final dataset. In general, the LFS makes statements about the entire non-institutionalized population of Curaçao aged 15 years and older. Therefore, the LFS results were weighted to present absolute figures for this population. Post-stratification weighting procedures were applied by the methodologist using CBS population estimates based on the 2011 Census and the population registry database of the Registry Office ('Kranshi'). Consequently, the absolute numbers for the total population must be seen as estimates that can be subject to sampling errors.

All analyses were performed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 and R version 3.2.1. The data analyses included descriptive- and bivariate analyses. Descriptive results included means, medians and proportions. Inter-quartile ranges (IQR) were calculated for medians to indicate the precision of these estimates. Descriptive results focused on the distribution of individual variables. Variables of interest were disaggregated by sex (men and women) and age group (15–24 years, 25–34 years, 35–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, and 65+ years). Bivariate analyses included Pearson's chi-square on the unweighted data. A p-value of <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

2.5 Definitions

The definitions used in the LFS are based on the KILM and by taking into account the local labour market situation. Accordingly, individuals 15 years and older were classified in one of the three categories of the labour market (labour status): employed, unemployed, or economically not active. The definitions are given in this paragraph.

Employed

All persons of 15 years and older who during the research period:

- a. had a job or have their own business; or
- b. who during the week preceding the research period performed any work for pay in cash or in kind, for 4 hours or more.

Unemployed

All persons of 15 years and older who during the research period:

- a. did not have a job or a business of their own; and
- b. had actively been seeking work in the preceding month of the research period; and
- c. who were available to start working or start a business within two weeks.

Economically not active

All persons of 15 years and older who during the research period:

- a. did not have a job or own a business; and
- b. who were not actively seeking work.

Labour force

The total number of persons who are employed added to the total number of persons who are unemployed.

Unemployment rate

The number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

Youth unemployment rate

The unemployment rate in the age category of 15–24 years.

Participation rate

The number of persons in the labour force as a percentage of the total population.

Labour Force participation rate

The number of persons in the labour force as a percentage of the working age population.

Figure 1 gives a schematic overview of the three labour statuses (employed, unemployed and economically not active) and the route to be classified into one of them.

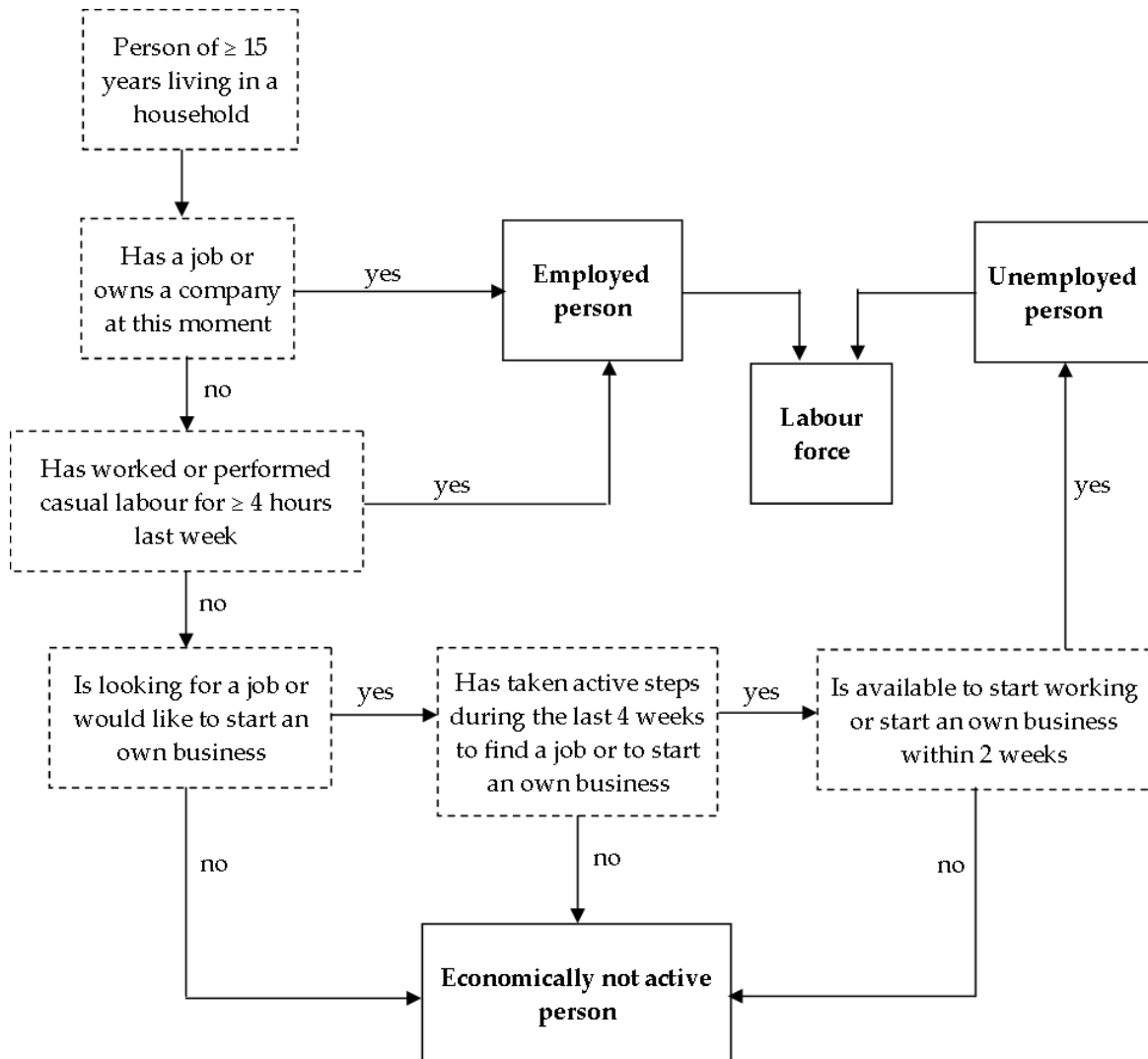


Figure 1. Classification of persons (as employed, unemployed, or economically not active) in the LFS

3. Results

3.1 Labour force

The labour force is the total number of the employed and the unemployed (non-institutionalized) population aged 15 years and older. In September–October 2016, the labour force of Curaçao consisted of **75,070** persons (Table 2). This is an increase of 7.2 percent in comparison to the survey held in September–October 2015 where the labour force consisted of 70,021 persons. This shows that over the period, the total labour force grew by 5,049 persons. Worth mentioning is also the increase of 1,647 persons in the Curaçao's population aged 15 years and older in 2016 in comparison to 2015.

In terms of absolute numbers, the increase in the labour force in 2016 in comparison to 2015 was mainly due to an increase in the employed population. However, in terms of relative figures, the increase can be attributed to the large increase in the share of the unemployed population (21.4%).

Table 2. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016

	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Absolute mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Absolute mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016
Employed population	59,295	61,823	65,117	2,528	4.3	3,294	5.3
Unemployed population	8,555	8,198	9,953	-357	-4.2	1,755	21.4
Labour force	67,850	70,021	75,070	2,171	3.2	5,049	7.2
Economically not active population	55,871	55,670	52,267	-201	-0.4	-3,403	-6.1
Population 0-14 years	29,513	29,612	29,382	99	0.3	-230	-0.8
Population 15+ years	123,721	125,690	127,337	1,969	1.6	1,647	1.3
Total population	153,234	155,302	156,719	2,068	1.3	1,417	0.9
Participation rate (%)	44.3	45.1	47.9	0.8*		2.8*	
Labour force participation rate (%)	54.8	55.7	59.0	0.9*		3.3*	
Participation rate, 15-64 years (%)	65.5	66.6	70.4				
Unemployment rate (%)	12.6	11.7	13.3	-0.9*		1.6*	
Employment/total population (%)	38.7	39.8	41.6	1.1*		1.8*	
Employment/population 15+ (%)	47.9	49.2	51.1	1.3*		1.9*	

* Percentage points

Another key indicator of the labour market is the labour force participation rate. The labour force participation rate relates the labour force to the working-age population. The working-age population is the population above the legal working-age of a country (International Labour Organization, 2015). The legal working-age in Curaçao is 15 years (Boek 7A Burgerlijk Wetboek) (Centraal Wettenregister, 2013).

In 2016, **59.0%** of the working-age population in Curaçao was available to supply labour. This figure showed an increase of 3.3 percentage points in comparison to 2015. Thus, in September–October 2016 a higher percentage of the Curaçao’s population was economically active in comparison to September–October 2015. As previously mentioned, relatively, the increase in the labour force in 2016 was mainly due to growth in the unemployed population. In fact, the unemployment rate in Curaçao in 2016 was **13.3%**, which is an increase of 1.6 percentage points in comparison to 2015 where the unemployment rate was 11.7%. The unemployment rate is the percentage of the labour force that does not have a job, but is available to start working and is actively looking for work. This indicator reflects the lack of employment in a country.

In terms of employment, **51.1%** of the working-age population was employed in 2016. This figure represents the ‘employment-to-population ratio’ indicator and reflects the proportion of a country’s working-age population that is employed. A higher percentage of the Curaçao’s population of 15 years and older was working in September–October 2016 in comparison to September–October 2015. The employment-to-population ratio, together with the unemployment rate, provides essential information about the situation on the supply side of a country’s labour market.

Tables 2A and 2B give an overview of the following indicators, disaggregated by sex: labour force, labour force participation rate, unemployment rate, and employment-to-population ratio.

Table 2A. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex: men

	Men				Men		Men	
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Absolute mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Absolute mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016	
Employed population	28,623	29,846	31,684	1,223	4.3	1,838	6.2	
Unemployed population	3,658	3,507	4,222	-151	-4.1	715	20.4	
Labour force	32,281	33,353	35,906	1,072	3.3	2,553	7.7	
Economically not active population	22,112	22,004	20,307	-108	-0.5	-1,697	-7.7	
Population 0-14 years	15,116	15,108	14,989	-8	-0.05	-119	-0.8	
Population 15+ years	54,393	55,357	56,213	964	1.8	856	1.5	
Total population	69,509	70,465	71,202	956	1.4	737	1.0	
Participation rate (%)	46.4	47.3	50.4	0.9*		3.1*		
Labour force participation rate (%)	59.3	60.3	63.9	1.0*		3.6*		
Participation rate, 15-64 years (%)	69.4	70.4	74.8					
Unemployment rate (%)	11.3	10.5	11.8	-0.8*		1.3*		
Employment/total population (%)	41.2	42.4	44.5	1.2*		2.1*		
Employment/population 15+ (%)	52.6	53.9	56.4	1.3*		2.5*		

* Percentage points

Table 2B. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex: women

	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Women		Absolute mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016
				Absolute mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015		
Employed population	30,672	31,976	33,433	1,304	4.3	1,457	4.6
Unemployed population	4,897	4,691	5,731	-206	-4.2	1,040	22.2
Labour force	35,569	36,667	39,164	1,098	3.1	2,497	6.8
Economically not active population	33,759	33,666	31,960	-93	-0.3	-1,706	-5.1
Population 0-14 years	14,397	14,504	14,393	107	0.7	-111	-0.8
Population 15+ years	69,328	70,333	71,124	1,005	1.4	791	1.1
Total population	83,725	84,837	85,517	1,112	1.3	680	0.8
Participation rate (%)	42.5	43.2	45.8	0.7*		2.6*	
Labour force participation rate (%)	51.3	52.1	55.1	0.8*		3.0*	
Participation rate, 15-64 years (%)	62.2	63.7	66.9				
Unemployment rate (%)	13.8	12.8	14.6	-1.0*		1.8*	
Employment/total population (%)	36.6	37.7	39.1	1.1*		1.4*	
Employment/population 15+ (%)	44.2	45.5	47.0	1.3*		1.5*	

* Percentage points

The increment in the labour force in 2016 in comparison to 2015 was visible in both sexes and the mutation of the increment was a little bit higher for men than for women, being 7.7% and 6.8% respectively (Table 2A and 2B). The increase in the unemployment rate in 2016 in comparison to 2015 was also noticeable in both sexes. The unemployment rate in men increased from 10.5% in 2015 to **11.8%** in 2016, while for women, the unemployment rate increased from 12.8% in 2015 to **14.6%** in 2016. Thus, women continued having higher unemployment rates than men in 2016.

On the other hand, the labour force participation rate is lower among women than among men. This means that relatively fewer women take part in the labour force. The 'employment-to-population ratio' indicator points to this gender difference as well. The proportion of women in the working-age that are employed in Curaçao is lower than the proportion of men in the working-age that are employed on the island. In absolute figures, however, the labour force for women is larger.

Because the labour force survey has been conducted in Curaçao since 1987, it is of particular interest to look at the development of the labour force participation rate over the years. Figure 2 gives an overview of the labour force participation rate for Curaçao over the 1992–2016 period.

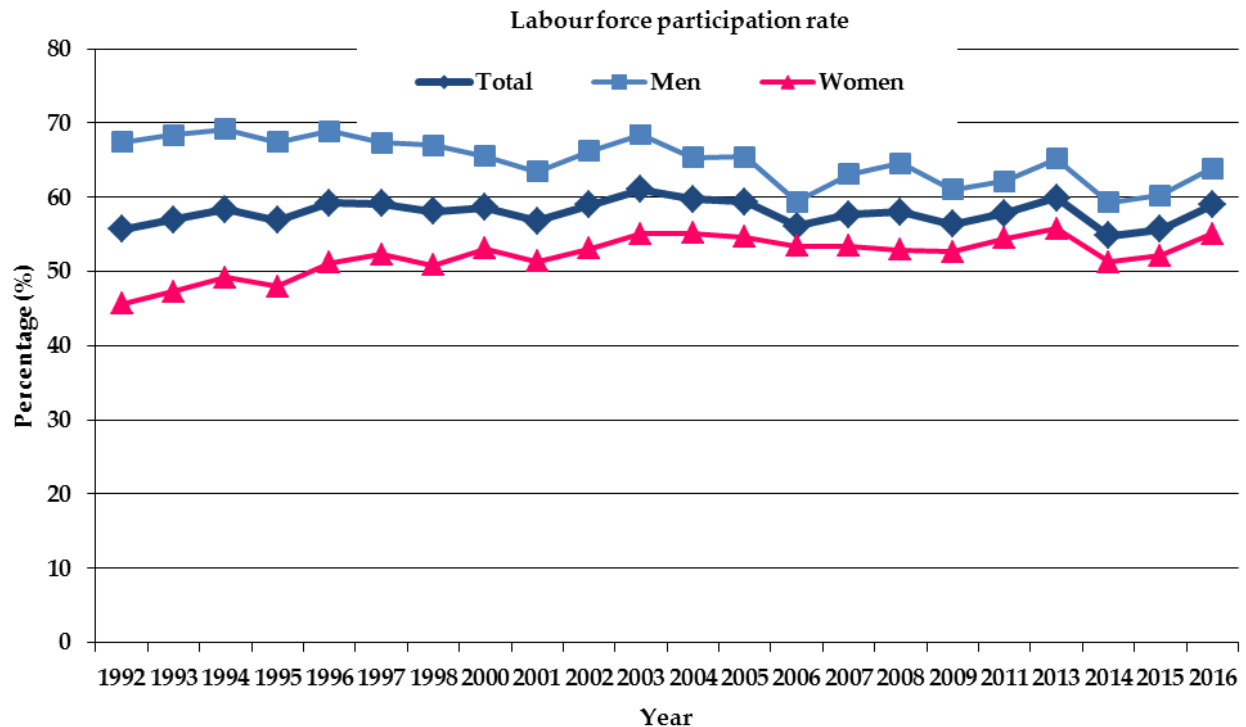


Figure 2. Development of the labour force participation rate in Curaçao, 1992 – 2016

Overall, the patterns of the labour force participation rate for men and women separately are quite similar to the pattern of the total labour force participation rate. Between 1992 and 2001, the labour force participation rate of men declined, while that of women increased. In the 2001–2003 period, the labour force participation rate of both men and women increased. However, as of 2003, the trend stabilized towards a slight decreasing trend among men and women, while showing variations from year to year (Figure 3). The highest labour force participation rate in the last 10 years was in 2013, being 59.9%.

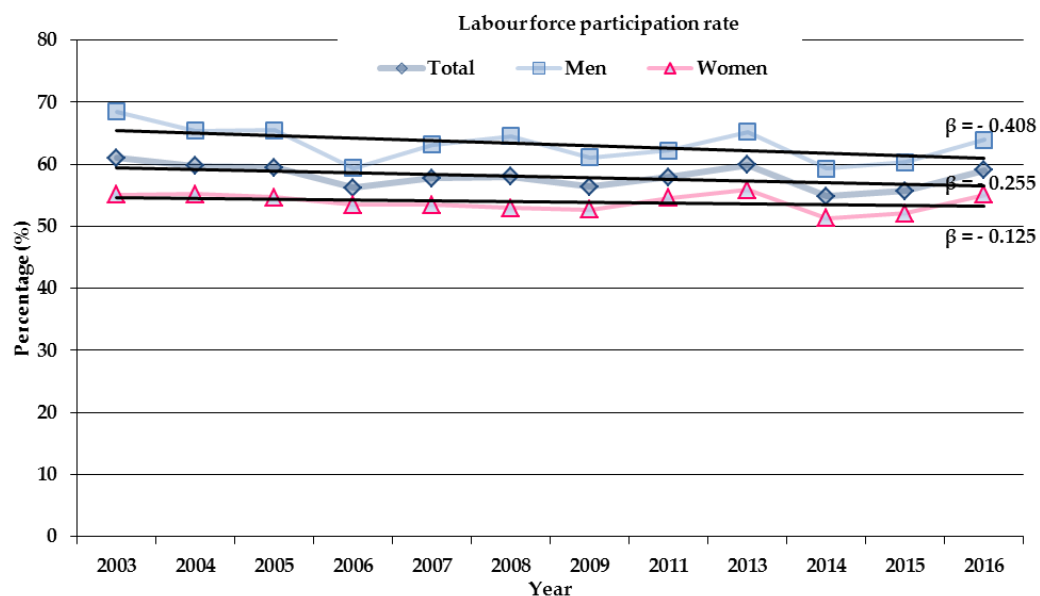


Figure 3. Development of the labour force participation rate in Curaçao including trendline, 2003 – 2016

All the aforementioned labour market indicators are disaggregated by sex. But, besides disaggregation by sex, disaggregation by age group is also important. For example, it is useful to identify groups of workers that are most vulnerable to unemployment. Tables 2C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, and 2H present an overview of the indicators labour force, labour force participation rate, unemployment rate, and employment-to-population ratio for the following age groups: 15–24 years, 25–34 years, 35–44 years, 45–54 years, 55–64 years, and 65+ years.

Table 2C. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by age group: 15–24 years

	15–24 years						
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016
Employed population	3,181	3,880	4,450	699	22.0	570	14.7
Unemployed population	1,578	1,641	2,593	63	4.0	952	58.0
Labour force	4,759	5,521	7,043	762	16.0	1,522	27.6
Economically not active population	14,290	13,698	12,171	-592	-4.1	-1,527	-11.1
Population 15–24 years	19,049	19,219	19,215	170	0.9	-4	-0.02
Participation rate (%)	25.0	28.7	36.7	3.7*		8.0*	
Youth unemployment rate (%)¹	33.2	29.7	36.8	-3.5*		7.1*	
Employment/population 15–24 years (%)	16.7	20.2	23.2	3.5*		3.0*	
Youth unemployment/total unemployment¹	2.6	2.5	2.8	0.1*		0.3*	

* Percentage points

¹ See paragraph 3.3.4 for more information on youth unemployment.

Table 2D. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by age group: 25–34 years

	25–34 years						
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016
Employed population	12,166	13,082	13,298	916	7.5	216	1.7
Unemployed population	2,215	2,095	2,298	-120	-5.4	203	9.7
Labour force	14,381	15,177	15,596	796	5.5	419	2.8
Economically not active population	2,468	2,369	2,439	-99	-4.0	70	3.0
Population 25–34 years	16,849	17,546	18,035	697	4.1	489	2.8
Participation rate (%)	85.4	86.5	86.5	1.1*		0*	
Unemployment rate (%)	15.4	13.8	14.7	-1.6*		0.9*	
Employment/population 25–34 years (%)	72.2	74.6	73.7	2.4*		-0.9*	

* Percentage points

Table 2E. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by age group: 35–44 years

	35–44 years						
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016
Employed population	14,966	14,636	14,872	-330	-2.2	236	1.6
Unemployed population	2,260	1,619	1,837	-641	-28.4	218	13.5
Labour force	17,226	16,255	16,709	-971	-5.6	454	2.8
Economically not active population	2,513	3,336	2,601	823	32.7	-735	-22.0
Population 35–44 years	19,739	19,592	19,310	-147	-0.7	-282	-1.4
Participation rate (%)	87.3	83.0	86.5	-4.3*		3.5*	
Unemployment rate (%)	13.1	10.0	11.0	-3.1*		1.0*	
Employment/population 35–34 years (%)	75.8	74.7	77.0	-1.1*		2.3*	

* Percentage points

Table 2F. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by age group: 45–54 years

	45–54 years						
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016
Employed population	17,618	17,938	18,690	320	1.8	752	4.2
Unemployed population	1,718	1,931	2,179	213	12.4	248	12.8
Labour force	19,336	19,869	20,869	533	2.8	1,000	5.0
Economically not active population	5,088	4,447	3,413	-641	-12.6	-1,034	-23.3
Population 45–54 years	24,424	24,316	24,282	-108	-0.4	-34	-0.1
Participation rate (%)	79.2	81.7	85.9	2.5*		4.2*	
Unemployment rate (%)	8.9	9.7	10.4	0.8*		0.7*	
Employment/population 25–34 years (%)	72.1	73.8	77.0	1.7*		3.2*	

* Percentage points

Table 2G. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by age group: 55–64 years

	55–64 years							
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016	
Employed population	9,630	10,507	11,422	877	9.1	915	8.7	
Unemployed population	744	760	866	16	2.2	106	13.9	
Labour force	10,374	11,267	12,288	893	8.6	1,021	9.1	
Economically not active population	10,522	10,220	9,801	-302	-2.9	-419	-4.1	
Population 55–64 years	20,896	21,487	22,089	591	2.8	603	2.8	
Participation rate (%)	49.6	52.4	55.6	2.8*		3.2*		
Unemployment rate (%)	7.2	6.7	7.0	-0.5*		0.3*		
Employment/population 55–64 years (%)	46.1	48.9	51.7	2.8*		2.8*		

* Percentage points

Table 2 H. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by age group: 65+ years

	65+ years							
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016	
Employed population	1,734	1,780	2,386	46	2.7	606	34.0	
Unemployed population**	39	152	179	113	>100	27	17.8	
Labour force	1,773	1,932	2,565	159	9.0	633	32.8	
Economically not active population	20,991	21,598	21,842	607	2.9	244	1.1	
Population 65+ years	22,764	23,530	24,406	766	3.4	877	3.7	
Participation rate (%)	7.8	8.2	10.5	0.4*		2.3*		
Unemployment rate (%)	2.2	7.9	7.0	5.7*		-0.9*		
Employment/population 65+ years (%)	8.3	7.6	9.8	-0.7*		2.2*		

* Percentage points

** Caution should be taken when interpreting these results, as the numbers are low.

The increase in the labour force and the participation rate in 2016 in comparison to 2015 were, with the exception of the age group 25–34 years, visible in all age groups. In the age group 25–34 years, the participation rate remained the same in 2016 as in 2015, while the labour force increased by 2.8 percent. In general, the largest percentage increase in the labour force took place in the age group 15–24 years (youth). The labour force in this age group consisted of 5,521 persons in 2015 and increased to 7,043 persons in 2016, which is a growth of 27.6% (Table 2C). This growth was mainly due to an increase in the unemployed youth population. As a result, the youth showed also the largest increase in the unemployment rate between 2015 and 2016. In 2016, the youth continued having the highest unemployment rate, being 36.7%. The unemployment rate increased in all the other age groups as well, with the exception of the age group 65+ years. However, caution should be taken when interpreting this age category, as the numbers are low.

The highest participation rate in 2016 was in the age groups 25–34 years and 35–44 years, being 86.5% in both age groups (Table 2D, Table 2E, and Figure 4). However, the largest increase in the participation rate in 2016 in comparison to 2015 took place again in the age group 15–24 years (Figure 4). The participation rate in this group increased from 28.7% in 2015 to 36.7% in 2016. Figure 4 gives an overview of the development of the participation rate for different age groups for the 2014–2016 period. Moreover, in the (upcoming) article ‘Economic Growth and Labour Market in Curaçao, 2013–2015’ indicators of the labour force will be explored to illustrate interrelations between Curaçao’s labour force and economy (Jansen, Varlack, 2017).

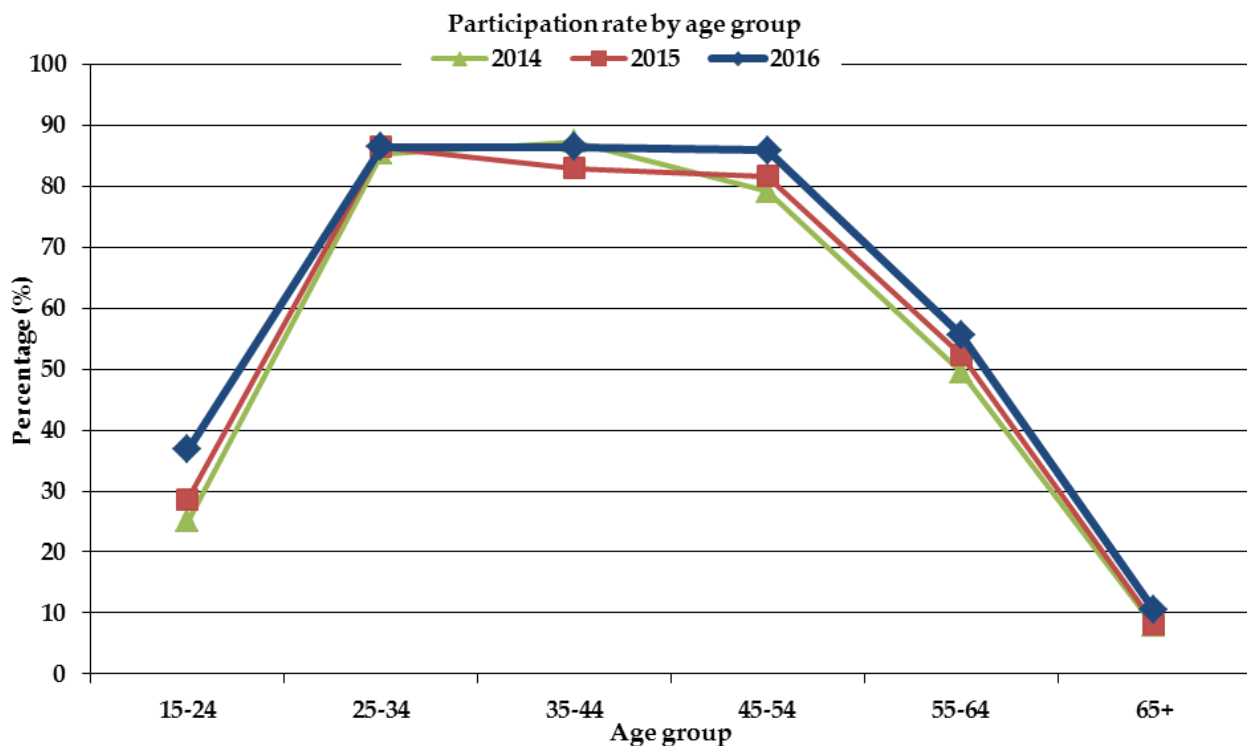


Figure 4. Participation rate in Curaçao by age group, 2014 – 2016

3.2 Employed population

The employed population comprises all persons 15 years and older in employment; that is, all persons who during the research period had a job or have their own business, or who during the week preceding the research period performed any work for pay in cash or in kind for 4 hours or more. This includes also persons who worked as trainees, employees working through employment agencies ('uitzendkrachten') as well as unpaid family workers.

In September–October 2016, the size of the employed population was **65,117** persons of which 31,684 were men and 33,433 were women. This showed that, in comparison to September-October 2015, the employed population grew by 3,294 persons or 5.3 percent over the period of one year. The increment in the employed population was visible in both sexes. However, figures of the LFS suggest that the mutation of the increment increased along with increase in age groups. For example, the increase in the employed population in the age group 55–64 years was higher (8.7%) than the increase in the employed population in the age group 35–44 years (1.6%).

Of the employed population in September-October 2016, around 2,000 were unemployed one year before the survey (September-October 2015) and about 1,050 were in education. Table 3 gives an overview of the economic position of the employed population one year (in September-October 2015) before the LFS 2016-2.

Table 3. Economic position of employed population one year (September – October 2015) before the survey*

	Absolute N = 65,117	Percentage
<u>Not in employment in Sept. - Oct. 2015</u>		
Unemployed (looking for work)	2,028	3.1
In education	1,066	1.6
Pensioner	714	1.1
Not in employment, not in education, not looking for work	895	1.4
Total not in employment	4,703	7.2
<u>In employment in Sept. - Oct. 2015</u>		
Employer	1,456	2.2
Self-employed	4,885	7.5
Employee in permanent service	37,510	57.6
Employee in temporary service	7,577	11.6
Casual worker/freelancer	7,180	11.0
Trainee, employee working for an employment agency or working as unpaid family member	849	1.3
Total in employment	59,457	91.3
Unknown/not reported	957	1.5

* The economic positions used in this table are not derived from international classification, but are measure based on a respondent's interpretation

Figure 5 gives an overview of the development of the employed population in Curaçao over the 1992–2016 period. The total employed population increased between 1992 and 1997, decreased between 1997 and 2001, and increased again in the 2001–2013 period. However, there was a slight decrease in the total employed population figure in 2014, whereas an increase was seen again in 2015 and this continued in 2016.

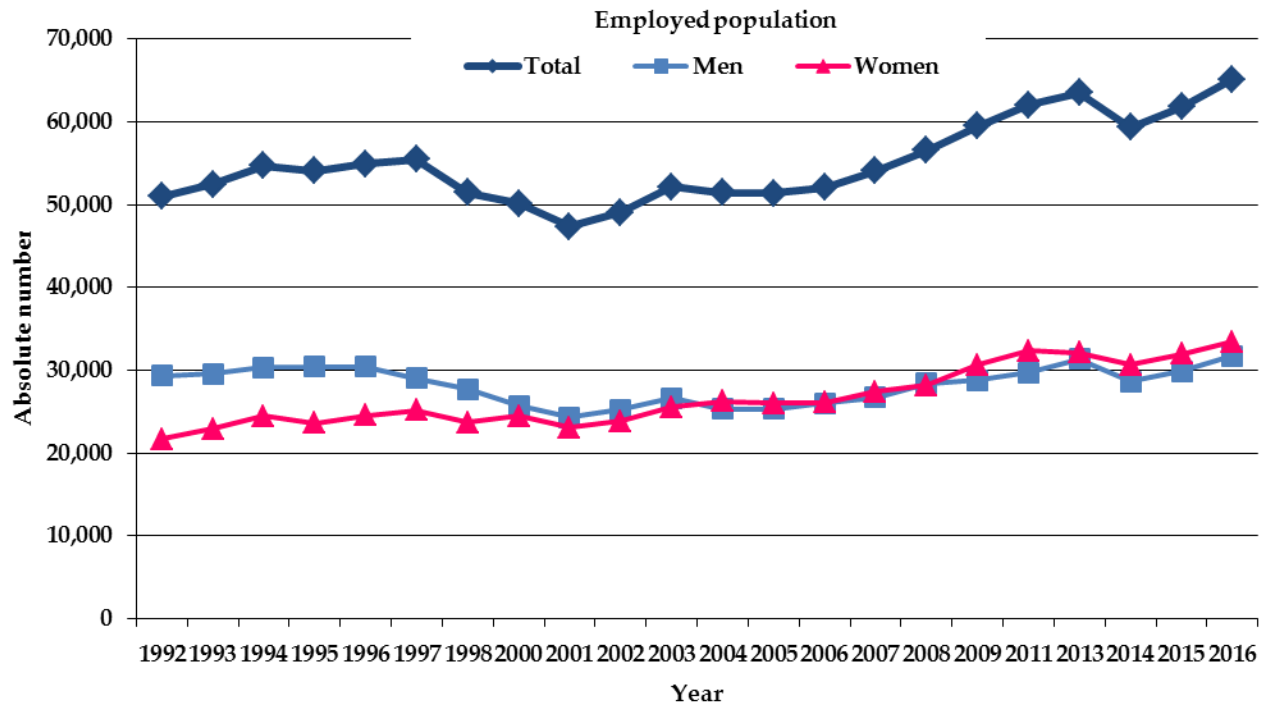


Figure 5. Development of the employed population of Curaçao, 1992 – 2016

When looking at the employed population of both sexes, different development patterns were seen. With the exception of the 1996–1997 period, the employed men population showed a pattern fairly similar to that of the total employed population. For the employed women population, however, the pattern is different. From 1992 to 2011, the number of employed women increased almost every year. From 2011 to 2014, the number of employed women showed a slight decrease, while from 2015 onwards an increase was once again seen. Worth to mention is the fact that the increase in the employed population in the 2001–2011 period has been stronger among women than among men. In fact, from 2004 onwards, there are more working women than men. Figure 6 illustrates the development in the Curaçao's total population for the 1992–2016 period. Herein is visible that the Curaçao's population consists of more women than men. However, notable is that this gender difference is getting stronger from 2003 onwards, possibly resulting in the fact that there is more employed women than men as of 2004.

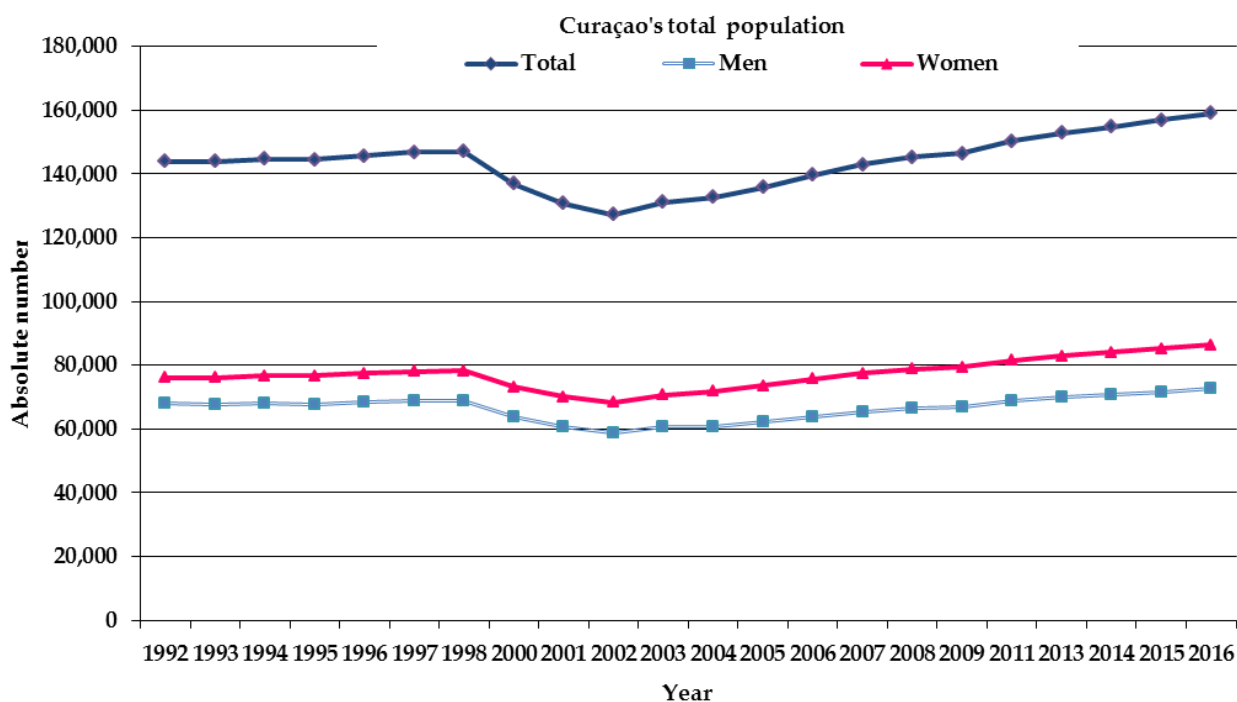


Figure 6. Development of the total population of Curaçao, 1992 – 2016

The rest of this paragraph describe different characteristics of the employed population: their level of education, economic position, occupation, the sector in which employees and employers are working, and the amount of hours worked are presented. Furthermore, an overview of the employed persons who say they have a second job or are looking for one is given.

3.2.1 Highest level of education and willingness to complete an education

Table 4 shows the percentages of the highest level of education of the employed population of Curaçao in 2016. The majority of the employed population in 2016 had the second stage of the second level as their highest level of education (33.7%). This is in accordance to the years 2015. The second stage of the second level of education included 'HAVO' years 3+4+5, 'VWO' years 3+4+5+6, 'SBO', 'MBO' or any equivalent education. See Appendix 1 for an overview of the way the educational system is classified.

Table 4. Highest level of education of employed population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=28,623	2015 N=29,846	2016 N=31,684	2014 N=30,672	2015 N=31,976	2016 N=33,433	2014 N=59,295	2015 N=61,823	2016 N=65,117
Current daytime education¹	1.8	3.0	3.9	2.6	3.0	3.2	2.2	3.0	3.6
No education	--	1.5	1.0	--	1.4	1.0	--	1.4	1.0
Elementary¹	5.7	5.8	5.1	5.9	4.9	7.0	5.8	5.3	6.1
Second level, first stage¹	35.3	32.8	33.0	30.1	29.8	26.9	32.6	31.3	29.9
Second level, first stage¹	35.3	32.8	33.0	30.1	29.8	26.9	32.6	31.3	29.9

Table 4 continue. Highest level of education of employed population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=28,623	2015 N=29,846	2016 N=31,684	2014 N=30,672	2015 N=31,976	2016 N=33,433	2014 N=59,295	2015 N=61,823	2016 N=65,117
Third level¹	24.7	22.3	22.3	25.0	27.4	27.3	24.8	25.0	24.7
Unknown/not reported	--	2.0	1.4	--	1.7	0.8	--	1.9	1.1

¹ Current daytime education = currently attending a daytime education

Elementary education = e.g. 'funderend onderwijs, basisschool'

Second level, first stage = VSBO, HAVO years 1+2, VWO years 1+2 or equivalent

Second level, second stage = HAVO years 3+4+5, VWO years 3+4+5+6, SBO, MBO or equivalent

Third level = HBO, WO, and postdoctoral or equivalent

-- A distinction between the 'No education' and 'Unknown/not reported' categories was not possible in 2014. These percentages are therefore not presented.

In general, there were no main differences in the highest attended level of education among employed men and women. The most common highest level of education among men and women in 2016 was the second stage of the second level. However, for employed women, it looks like that the percentage of those with a first stage of the second level of education is decreasing from 2014 onwards.

In 2016, **34.3%** of the employed population who was not attending a daytime education at the moment of the survey was willing to complete an (additional) education, while **62.3%** was not willing to complete another education. One percent (1.2%) was attending an evening education at the moment of the survey and 2.2% did not state an answer to this matter.

3.2.2 Economic position

Table 5 gives an overview of the economic position of the employed population in 2016. In addition, figures of 2014 and 2015 are given to make data comparability. In Tables 5A and 5B, the economic position is disaggregated by sex. The same direction of change is seen for almost all the economic positions for men and women separately.

The majority of the employed population in 2016 (**58.9%**) continued to work as an employee in permanent service. The number of employees in permanent service remained fairly constant in 2016 in comparison to 2015. On the overall, there has been an increase in the number of employers, self-employed persons, employees in temporary service, casual workers/freelancers, and workers having other flexible economic positions, such as trainees or employees working for an employment agency ('uitzendkracht'). In 2016, the greatest increase in employment in comparison to 2015 continued to be for the flexible economic positions. The largest absolute increase was in the group of casual workers/freelancers, an increase of 2,173 persons, which represents a percentage increase of **33.4%**.

Table 5. Economic position of employed population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016

	Absolute			Percentage			Absolute mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Absolute mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016
	2014 N=59,295	2015 N=61,823	2016 N=65,117	2014	2015	2016				
Employer	1,875	1,104	1,404	3.2	1.8	2.2	-771	-41.1	300	27.2
Self-employed	4,681	5,264	5,372	7.9	8.5	8.3	583	12.5	108	2.1
Employee in permanent service	37,063	38,393	38,361	62.5	62.1	58.9	1,330	3.6	-32	-0.1
Employee in temporary service	7,496	9,220	9,645	12.6	14.9	14.8	1,724	23.0	425	4.6
Casual worker/freelancer	6,092	6,511	8,684	10.3	10.5	13.3	419	6.9	2,173	33.4
Other ¹	766	958	1,617	1.3	1.5	2.5	192	25.1	659	68.8
Unknown/not reported	1,322	373	34	2.2	0.6	0.1	-949	-71.8	-339	-90.9

¹Other included e.g. trainee, employee working for an employment agency ('uitzendkracht')

Table 5A. Economic position of employed population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex: men

	Absolute			Percentage			Absolute mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Absolute mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016
	2014 N=28,623	2015 N=29,846	2016 N=31,684	2014	2015	2016				
Employer	1,269	907	1,122	4.4	3.0	3.5	-362	-28.5	215	23.7
Self-employed	3,169	3,362	3,605	11.1	11.3	11.4	193	6.1	243	7.2
Employee in permanent service	16,492	17,233	17,126	57.6	57.7	54.1	741	4.5	-107	-0.6
Employee in temporary service	3,480	4,366	4,251	12.2	14.6	13.4	886	25.5	-115	-2.6
Casual worker/freelancer	3,316	3,432	4,714	11.6	11.5	14.9	116	3.5	1,282	37.4
Other ^{1**}	175	396	832	0.6	1.3	2.6	221	126.3	436	110.1
Unknown/not reported	722	151	34	2.5	0.5	0.1	-571	-79.1	-117	-77.5

¹Other included e.g. trainee, employee working for an employment agency ('uitzendkracht')

**Caution should be taken when interpreting this category, as the numbers are low.

Table 5B. Economic position of employed population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex: women

	Absolute			Percentage			Absolute mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Absolute mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016
	2014 N=30,672	2015 N=31,976	2016 N=33,433	2014	2015	2016				
Employer	606	197	282	2.0	0.6	0.8	-409	-67.5	85	43.1
Self-employed	1,512	1,903	1,767	4.9	6.0	5.3	391	25.9	-136	-7.1
Employee in permanent service	20,570	21,160	21,235	67.1	66.2	63.5	590	2.9	75	0.4
Employee in temporary service	4,015	4,854	5,394	13.1	15.2	16.1	839	20.9	540	11.1
Casual worker/freelancer	2,775	3,079	3,970	9.0	9.6	11.9	304	11.0	891	28.9
Other ¹	591	562	786	1.9	1.8	2.4	-29	-4.9	224	39.9
Unknown/not reported	603	221	0	2.0	0.7	0	-382	-63.3	-221	-100.0

¹Other included e.g. trainee, employee working for an employment agency ('uitzendkracht')

It is well known that the size and role of flexible economic positions increases during economic downturns and periods of economic adjustment and transition. Labor market theory suggests an increase in flexible economic positions as a result of economic turmoil, since these types of employment can act as a buffer when

people are laid off and need to find new job opportunities (OECD, 2016). Statistics on the economy of Curaçao showed a negative economic growth in 2013 and 2014 (-0.8% and -1.1%, respectively; CBS, 2016), while a slight growth has been estimated in 2015 (0.3%; CBS, 2016). For 2016, preliminary data of the Central Bank of Curaçao and St. Maarten suggest that economic growth in Curaçao remained flat (0.0%; CBCS, 2017).

3.2.3 Industry and occupation

In 2016, the majority of the employed population continued to work in the industry of 'wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles'. In 2016, **16.8%** of the employed population reported this economic activity (Table 6). There has been a slight decrease in this sector in 2016 in comparison to 2015. Beside 'wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles', the largest share of the employed population continued to work in the industries 'accommodation and food service activities' and 'human health and social work activities'.

Table 6. Economic activity of employed population, September – October 2014, 2015, and 2016

	Percentage		
	2014	2015	2016
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, and quarrying	0.6	0.2	0.3
Manufacturing	7.2	6.1	5.7
Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply	0.7	1.2	0.7
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1.2	1.1	1.2
Construction	6.6	6.5	7.9
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	16.8	17.4	16.8
Transportation and storage	5.3	5.3	4.9
Accommodation and food service activities	8.9	8.4	9.1
Information and communication	3.2	2.8	2.9
Financial and insurance activities	7.1	7.5	7.2
Real estate activities	0.7	0.6	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.7	3.4	4.1
Administrative and support service activities	5.6	6.5	6.7
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	8.4	6.6	7.1
Education	4.9	4.3	4.7
Human health and social work activities	9.7	9.7	8.8
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.5	2.5	3.4
Other service activities	2.3	2.7	2.0
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use	2.9	3.3	3.7
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.4	0.3	0.3
Unknown/not reported	1.3	3.7	1.3

In terms of occupation, there were no significant differences in 2016 in comparison to 2015 (Table 7). In 2016, the majority of the employed population continued to work as ‘service and sales workers’ (18.2%). Furthermore, the percentage of ‘technicians and associate professionals’ continued to increase in 2016, reaching 17.6% of the employed population.

When looking at the most common occupation for men and women separately, the same differences emerge as in 2015. While the majority of the employed women work as ‘service and sales workers’ (21.7%), the majority of employed men worked as ‘craft and related trades workers’ (19.8%).

Table 7. Occupation of employed population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=28,623	2015 N=29,846	2016 N=31,684	2014 N=30,672	2015 N=31,976	2016 N=33,433	2014 N=59,295	2015 N=61,823	2016 N=65,117
Armed forces	0.7	0.1	0.2	0.2	0	0	0.4	0.1	0.1
Managers	14.3	11.9	11.5	8.8	7.1	7.2	11.5	9.4	9.3
Professionals	9.0	7.4	6.9	12.2	12.4	12.6	10.7	10.0	9.8
Technicians and associate professionals	16.1	15.8	16.7	14.6	16.2	18.6	15.3	16.0	17.6
Clerical support workers	4.7	6.4	5.9	19.5	19.9	19.3	12.4	13.4	12.8
Service and sales workers	14.1	13.2	14.5	23.9	23.9	21.7	19.1	18.8	18.2
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	0.3	0.6	0.3	0	0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2
Craft and related trades workers	19.7	18.7	19.8	2.1	0.7	2.2	10.6	9.4	10.8
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	9.3	9.4	8.7	1.4	1.6	1.2	5.2	5.4	4.9
Elementary occupations	9.8	12.5	13.0	16.1	14.5	16.1	13.0	13.5	14.6
Unknown/not reported	2.1	3.9	2.4	1.4	3.7	0.9	1.7	3.7	1.6

3.2.4 Hours worked

In 2016, the median working hours per week of the employed population was 40 hours (IQR 36–40). The employed population, both men and women, worked this amount of hours in 2016 (59.7%; Table 8), although this percentage is lower in comparison to 2014 and 2015. In 2014 and 2015, respectively 64.3% and 65.3% of the employed population worked 40 hours a week. The lower amount of working hours per week in 2016 reflects itself in the 25th interquartile range of the median working hours. The 25th interquartile range of the median working hours was higher in 2014 and 2015 (being 40 hours) in comparison to 2016 (being 36 hours). In addition, note the higher percentage of the employed population who worked 21–39 hours per week in 2016 (13.5%) in comparison to 2014 (9.6%) and 2015 (9.0%).

Table 8. Total hours worked of employed population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=28,623	2015 N=29,846	2016 N=31,684	2014 N=30,672	2015 N=31,976	2016 N=33,433	2014 N=59,295	2015 N=61,823	2016 N=65,117
4 – 20 hours	8.9	8.4	8.8	13.1	12.8	14.7	11.1	10.8	11.9
21 – 39 hours	6.7	7.0	10.5	12.4	10.8	16.3	9.6	9.0	13.5
40 hours	65.6	66.1	61.6	63.6	64.5	57.9	64.3	65.3	59.7
41 – 60 hours	15.7	14.3	15.0	9.8	9.1	9.4	15.0	11.7	12.2
> 60 hours	2.2	1.8	1.8	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.4	1.1	1.2
Unknown/not reported	1.0	2.3	2.3	0.9	2.4	1.0	0.9	2.4	1.6

*Per week

The percentage of employed persons working more than 40 hours during the LFS 2016-2 showed a slight increase in comparison to the survey held in 2015. The proportion of employed persons who worked more than 40 hours moved from 12.8% in September-October 2015 to **13.4%** in September-October 2016. However, the share of employed persons who worked between 4 and 39 hours increased in 2016 (**25.4%**) in comparison to 2015 (19.8%).

In terms of gender, approximately 17% of men and 10% of women worked more than 40 hours a week in 2016. A similar situation existed in 2015, where 16% of men and 10% of women worked more than 40 hours. When looking at the mean working hours a week, men continued to work significantly more hours per week than women in 2016 (men: **38.7** hours, women: **35.7** hours, $p < 0.01$).

3.2.5 Looking for more work and second work

Of the employed population, **15.3%** was looking for more working hours and **15.2%** was looking for a second job in 2016. These percentages of employed persons looking for more work or second work in 2016 is higher in comparison to 2015, where 9.4% of the employed population was looking for more working hours and 10.4% was looking for a second job.

Of the persons who were looking for more working hours in 2016, 52.1% was working less than 40 hours per week, 37.5% was working 40 hours per week, 8.5% was working more than 40 hours per week, and 1.9% did not report how many hours they were working. For the persons who were looking for a second job, fairly similar percentages were found. Of the persons who were looking for a second job in 2016, 41.8% was working less than 40 hours a week, 46.8% was working 40 hours a week, 10.8% was working more than 40 hours a week, and 0.6% did not report how many hours they were working.

The majority of the employed population who was not looking for more working hours was already working 40 hours per week in their current job (78.7%). This was also the case for the employed population who was not looking for a second job, 76.6% was working 40 hours a week in their current employment.

Of the employed population who was looking for a second job, the need for more income continued to be the main reason for looking for a second job. In 2016, 54.9% of the employed persons who were looking for a second job reported this. When looking at the above-mentioned figures in this paragraph for both sexes, there were no significant differences between men and women.

In 2016, 4.5% of the employed population reported having more than one job. Of the persons who said having more than one job, the majority (79.3%) reported one additional job.

3.3 Unemployed population

The unemployed population includes all persons of 15 years and older who during the research period did not have a job or a business of their own and had actively been seeking work are available to start working or start a business.

In September–October 2016, there were **9,953** persons unemployed, which are 1,755 persons (21.4%) more than in September–October 2015. The unemployment rate was **13.3%** in September–October 2016. This was an increase of 1.6 percentage points compared with the unemployment rate in September–October 2015, being 11.7%. However, since the LFS is a sample survey, the unemployment rate is an estimate that may be subject to sampling errors. The unemployment rate in 2016 has a margin of error of 1.3% on both sides, for a confidence interval of 95%. Nevertheless, to maintain the precision of the unemployment rate, different procedures were applied during the implementation phase of the survey to keep the non-response as low as possible.

Figure 7 gives an overview of the development of the unemployment rate in Curaçao over the 1992–2016 period.



Figure 7. Development of the unemployment rate in Curaçao, 1992 – 2016

With the exception of a few years, the unemployment rate increased in the period 1992–2005. Between 2005 and 2009, this percentage declined every year, but increased again in the 2009–2013 period. In 2014 and 2015, the unemployment rate decreased slightly and an increase was visible again in 2016.

3.3.1 Highest level of education and willingness to complete an education

Table 9 shows the percentage of the highest level of education of the unemployed population of Curaçao in September–October 2016. The highest level of education of the unemployed population is lower than that of the employed population.

The majority of the unemployed (men and women) population in 2016 had the first stage of the second level as their highest level of education, **38.7%**. This is similar as in 2014 and 2015, although the share was lower in 2016 in comparison to 2014 and 2015. See Appendix 1 for an overview of the way the educational system is classified.

Table 9. Highest level of education of unemployed population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=3,658	2015 N=3,507	2016 N=4,222	2014 N=4,897	2015 N=4,691	2016 N=5,731	2014 N=8,555	2015 N=8,198	2016 N=9,953
Current daytime education¹	3.5	8.0	11.5	3.0	3.9	9.4	3.2	5.7	10.3
No education	--	3.3	0	--	1.9	3.6	--	2.5	2.1
Elementary¹	10.4	6.9	13.2	6.9	6.7	6.8	8.4	6.8	9.5
Second level, first stage¹	43.6	52.3	41.0	43.0	39.7	37.0	43.3	45.1	38.7
Second level, second stage¹	27.4	20.9	23.9	34.4	37.7	35.0	31.4	30.5	30.3
Third level¹	10.2	7.8	10.4	11.0	10.1	7.7	10.6	9.1	8.8
Unknown/not reported	--	0.8	0	--	0	0.6	--	0.3	0.3

¹ Current daytime education = currently attending a daytime education

Elementary education = e.g. 'funderend onderwijs, basisschool'

Second level, first stage = VSBO, HAVO years 1+2, VWO years 1+2 or equivalent

Second level, second stage = HAVO years 3+4+5, VWO years 3+4+5+6, SBO, MBO or equivalent

Third level = HBO, WO, and postdoctoral or equivalent

-- A distinction between the 'No education' and 'Unknown/not reported' categories was not possible in 2014. These percentages are therefore not presented.

In 2016, **44.74%** of the unemployed population who was not attending a daytime education at the time of the survey was willing to complete an (additional) education, while **52.0%** was not willing to complete an (additional) education. One percent (1.4%) was attending an evening education at the moment of the survey and 1.9% did not state an answer to this matter.

3.3.2 Duration of unemployment

The unemployed population consists of persons who are actively looking for work and persons who want to start their own business. The duration of unemployment of the persons who were actively looking for a job was measured. The majority of the persons who were actively seeking work in 2016 had been unemployed between 1 and 12 months, **45.2%** (Table 10). Note that there was also a high proportion who had been unemployed for a year or longer. A similar situation existed in 2014 and 2015 as well. In addition, the trend of a higher percentage of women (in comparison to men) being unemployed for a year or longer continued in 2016.

Table 10. Duration of unemployment, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=3,533	2015 N=3,199	2016 N=3,737	2014 N=4,662	2015 N=4,167	2016 N=5,312	2014 N=8,195	2015 N=7,366	2016 N=9,049
Less than 1 month	7.6	6.0	7.7	6.7	3.4	8.6	7.1	4.5	8.2
1 – 3 months¹		19.0	12.7		18.0	13.6		18.5	13.2
3 – 6 months¹		13.8	15.9		7.6	13.3		10.3	14.4
6 – 12 months¹		20.2	22.4		22.3	14.1		21.4	17.6
Between 1 – 12 months²	43.7	53.0	51.0	43.9	47.9	41.0	43.8	50.2	45.2
12 months or longer	36.7	39.0	41.3	39.9	48.7	49.9	38.5	44.5	46.3
Unknown/not reported	12.0	1.9	0	9.5	0	0.5	10.6	0.8	0.3

¹ Available from 2015 onwards

² From 2015 onwards, this figure is the sum of the categories 1-3 months, 3-6 months, and 6-12 months.

Of the persons who were actively looking for a job in 2016, the greatest proportion reported ‘accommodation and food service activities’ (18.9%) as the industry where they wanted to work, followed by ‘wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ (14.3%), and ‘construction’ (12.1%).

3.3.3 Methods of looking for work

Visiting companies personally remained the method that the majority of the unemployed persons who were actively looking for work in 2016 used in order to ask for a job, **45.4%** (Table 11). Approximately, one out of every four unemployed persons (**24.2%**) wrote an application letter to a company.

Table 11. Methods of looking for work by unemployed population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=3,533	2015 N=3,199	2016 N=3,737	2014 N=4,662	2015 N=4,167	2016 N=5,312	2014 N=8,195	2015 N=7,366	2016 N=9,049
Visited companies personally	42.6	45.0	51.0	39.7	36.3	41.5	40.9	40.0	45.4
Wrote application letter	20.5	23.7	16.2	29.3	27.0	29.9	25.6	25.6	24.2

Table 11 continue. Methods of looking for work by unemployed population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=3,533	2015 N=3,199	2016 N=3,737	2014 N=4,662	2015 N=4,167	2016 N=5,312	2014 N=8,195	2015 N=7,366	2016 N=9,049
Responded to advertisements non-online ¹		2.0	3.8		4.4	5.2		3.4	4.6
Responded to advertisements online ¹		6.8	5.2		8.7	7.7		7.9	6.7
Responded to advertisements ²	2.8	8.8	9.0	6.4	13.1	12.9	4.8	11.3	11.3
Through private agencies ^{1,3}		4.9	3.6		7.4	2.4		6.3	2.9
Through the SOAW Ministry ^{1,4}		1.7	1.8		5.8	3.8		4.0	2.9
Through private agencies or the SOAW Ministry ^{3,4,5}	5.2	6.6	5.4	2.2	13.2	6.2	3.5	10.3	5.8
Through friends or family	13.5	13.6	13.2	8.3	10.5	7.9	10.5	11.9	10.1
Other	14.4	2.2	5.2	13.5	0	1.6	13.9	1.0	3.1
Unknown/not reported	0.9	0	0	0.6	0	0	0.7	0	0

SOAW = Social Development, Labour, and Welfare

¹ Only available in 2015 and 2016

² In 2015 and 2016, this figure is the sum of the categories 'responded to advertisements non-online' and 'responded to advertisements online'.

³ Mediation or employment agencies ('uitzendbureaus').

⁴ Vacancy database, 'Ban Bario Bek', 'Kas di Bario'.

⁵ In 2015 and 2016, this figure is the sum of the 'through private agencies' and 'through the SOAW Ministry' categories.

3.3.4 Youth unemployment

"Youth unemployment is widely viewed as an important policy issue for many countries, regardless of their stage of development" (International Labour Organization, 2015). The term 'youth' covers persons between the ages of 15 to 24 years. Globally, unemployment rates in this group are typically higher than those in adults. According to the ILO, the average youth unemployment rate in Latin America and the Caribbean increased by nearly three percentage points in 2016, reaching 18.3%, which is the highest unemployment rate in decade (ILO, 2017).

There are various reasons why the youth unemployment rates are often high. For instance, on the supply side, young persons might engage in short periods of unemployment as they gain experience and look around for an appropriate job. Furthermore, because of the opening and closing of educational institutions over the course of the year, young students are far more likely to enter and exit the labour force as they move between employment, school enrolment, and unemployment. In addition, mismatch between education/skills on the one hand and employment on the other hand hampers the likelihoods for the youth to enter the labour market.

The youth unemployment rate in Curaçao in September–October 2016 was **36.8%**, which is an increase of 7.1 percentage point in comparison to the youth unemployment rate measured in September–October 2015 (29.7%). In September–October 2016, almost **2,600** young people were unemployed. Further analysis revealed that the majority of these youngsters who were unemployed in 2016 were following a day-time education one year previous to the survey. Forty percent (44.4%) were attending a day-time education in September–October 2015, 30.1% were searching for work, 15.7% was working, and 9.8% was not in education, employment or training.

When analysing unemployment for the youth population, it is useful to take certain matters into account. It is useful to know the ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the total unemployment rate. Furthermore, it is meaningful to identify the current status of the youth on attending a daytime education.

Ratio youth unemployment rate to total unemployment rate and adult unemployment rate

The ratio of youth unemployment rate to total unemployment rate was **2.8** in 2016. In 2014 and 2015, this figure was respectively 2.6 and 2.5. The ratio of youth unemployment rate to total unemployment rate gives an indication on the consistency between the youth unemployment in relation to the total unemployment. However, the ILO suggests to calculate the ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the adult unemployment rate (25 years and older). The ratio of youth unemployment rate to adult unemployment rate is an international measure used to express the severity of a country's youth unemployment. The adult unemployment rate measured in September–October 2016 was 10.8%. Consequently, the ratio of the youth unemployment rate to adult unemployment rate in Curaçao was **3.4** in 2016. The average ratio youth unemployment rate to adult unemployment rate for Latin America and the Caribbean was 3.1 in 2016 (ILO, 2017).

Status on attending a daytime education

In 2016, **31.6%** of the unemployed persons aged 15–24 in Curaçao were attending daytime education. In other words, about three of every ten young persons seeking work was receiving a daytime school education at the time of the LFS 2016-2, which could have hampered their being completely available to accept a job and actually start working. Nevertheless, the absolute figures on this matter are low and therefore caution has to be taken when interpreting these results.

It is important to note that in the year 2016, 11.2% of the unemployed young persons in Curaçao were younger than 18 years and thus probably subject to the law on compulsory education ('Leerplichtwet').

Nevertheless, it should be mentioned that said law ceases to apply at the moment a person receives a second-level education (e.g. 'voortgezet onderwijs' or 'secundair beroepsonderwijs') diploma or equivalent, which could also be the case before the age of 18 ('Landsverordening van de 19^{de} juli 1991 houdende bepalingen tot regeling van de leerplicht, PB 1991, no. 85, artikel 3').

3.4 Economically not active population

The economically not active population, also referred to as the population not in the labour force, includes those persons of 15 years and older who during the research period of the LFS 2016-2 did not have a job or own a business and were not actively seeking work.

In September–October 2016, the size of the economically not active population was **52,268** persons. This is a decrease of 3,402 persons (6.1%) in comparison to the survey held in September–October 2015. Of those who were not in the labour force, 20,308 were men and 31,960 were women. The decrease of those not in the labour force was visible in both sexes. However, the decrement was greater in men than in women, being 7.7% and 5.1% respectively.

In terms of age, the decrease in the size of the economically not active population in 2016 in comparison to 2015 was with the exception of the age groups 25–34 years and 65+ years, visible in all age groups. The largest percentage decrease was in the age group 45–54 years, being **23.3%**. Whereas the largest decrease in absolute numbers was among the youngsters (15–24 years), being 1,527 persons (11.1%).

3.4.1 Highest level of education

Table 12 shows the percentage of the highest level of education of the economically not active population of Curaçao in September–October 2016. The majority of the economically not active population (both men and women) continued to have the same highest level of education as the majority of the unemployed population, that being the first stage of the second level, **30.5%** respectively. See Appendix 1 for an overview of the way the educational system is classified.

Table 12. Highest level of education of economically not active population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=22,112	2015 N=22,004	2016 N=20,307	2014 N=33,759	2015 N=33,667	2016 N=31,960	2014 N=55,871	2015 N=55,670	2016 N=52,267
Current daytime education¹	28.0	27.7	27.3	22.6	21.5	20.4	24.8	24.0	23.1
No education	--	2.5	3.4	--	3.9	4.6	--	3.3	4.1
Elementary¹	16.7	18.0	15.6	21.1	22.5	22.0	19.3	20.7	19.5
Second level, first stage¹	29.2	30.7	29.2	34.0	32.1	31.2	32.1	31.5	30.5
Second level, second stage¹	11.6	11.6	14.4	11.0	11.0	13.4	11.3	11.2	13.8

Table 12 continue. Highest level of education of economically not active population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=22,112	2015 N=22,004	2016 N=20,307	2014 N=33,759	2015 N=33,667	2016 N=31,960	2014 N=55,871	2015 N=55,670	2016 N=52,267
Third level¹	7.8	8.4	9.6	5.5	6.9	7.5	6.4	7.5	8.3
Unknown/not reported	--	1.2	0.4	--	2.1	0.9	--	1.7	0.7

¹ Current daytime education = currently attending a daytime education

Elementary education = e.g. 'funderend onderwijs, basisschool'

Second level, first stage = VSBO, HAVO years 1+2, VWO years 1+2 or equivalent

Second level, second stage = HAVO years 3+4+5, VWO years 3+4+5+6, SBO, MBO or equivalent

Third level = HBO, WO, and postdoctoral or equivalent

-- A distinction between the 'No education' and 'Unknown/not reported' categories was not possible in 2014. These percentages are therefore not presented.

3.4.2 Reasons for economically not active

The majority of the economically not active persons 2016 reported 'being a pensioner' as the most important reason for not seeking work, **51.5%** (Table 13). This was similar as in the surveys conducted in 2014 and 2015. 'Wanting to finish school or study' was also an important reason for not seeking work in 2016, **23.7%**. For women, being homemakers was also an important reason. Over the period 2014–2016, the percentage of the economically not active persons who believes 'there is no work available' as a reason for being out of the labour force showed a decreasing trend.

Table 13. Reasons for not looking for work by economically not active population, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by sex

	Men (%)			Women (%)			Total (%)		
	2014 N=22,112	2015 N=22,004	2016 N=20,307	2014 N=33,759	2015 N=33,667	2016 N=31,960	2014 N=55,871	2015 N=55,670	2016 N=52,267
Homemakers	0	0	0.3	13.6	14.2	11.1	8.2	8.6	6.9
Belief there is no work available	6.1	5.2	0.9	4.5	3.3	1.8	5.1	4.0	1.5
Pensioner/age	49.3	49.2	53.1	45.5	46.4	50.4	47.0	47.5	51.5
Wanting to finish school/study	29.2	28.3	28.7	22.7	21.0	20.5	25.2	23.8	23.7
Family circumstances	1.7	2.0	2.1	1.7	2.9	3.3	1.7	2.6	2.8
Physical/mental illness	10.7	9.1	9.0	9.7	8.9	8.6	10.1	9.1	8.7
Other reason	2.6	5.7	3.4	1.5	3.0	3.4	2.0	4.0	3.4
Unknown/not reported	0.4	0.5	2.3	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.4	1.5

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Classifications in the LFS

Education

Education is classified according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED-1997). In this report a compact version of the ISCED was used, with the following categories:

1. No education
2. Elementary education
 - 'Peuterschool/Speelschool/Creche'
 - 'Kleuterschool'
 - 'Funderend onderwijs groep 3 t/m 8'
 - 'Basischool klas 1 t/m 6'
 - 'Speciaal onderwijs (e.g. ZMLK, MLK, LOM, ZMOK)'
3. Second level education, first stage
 - 'Voortgezet lager onderwijs'
 - 'Voortgezet speciaal onderwijs'
 - 'Voortbereidend secundaire beroepsonderwijs'
 - 'Hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs klas 1 en 2'
 - 'Voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs klas 1 en 2'
4. Second level education, first stage
 - 'Hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs klas 3 t/m 5'
 - 'Voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs klas 3 t/m 6'
 - 'Secundaire beroepsonderwijs'
5. Third level education
 - 'Hoger beroepsonderwijs'
 - 'Wetenschappelijk onderwijs'
 - Postdoctoral courses

Industry (sector)

Industry is classified according to the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC-rev. 4). The following main categories were used in this report:

1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing
2. Mining and quarrying
3. Manufacturing
4. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
5. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities

6. Construction
7. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
8. Transportation and storage
9. Accommodation and food service activities
10. Information and communication
11. Financial and insurance activities
12. Real estate activities
13. Professional, scientific and technical activities
14. Administrative and support service activities
15. Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
16. Education
17. Human health and social work activities
18. Arts, entertainment and recreation
19. Other service activities
20. Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services- producing activities of households for own use
21. Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies

Occupation

Occupation is classified according to the International Standard Classification of Occupation (ISCO-08). The following main categories were used in this report:

1. Armed forces
2. Managers
3. Professionals
4. Technicians and associate professionals
5. Clerical support workers
6. Service and sales workers
7. Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers
8. Craft and related trades workers
9. Plant and machine operators and assemblers
10. Elementary occupations

Appendix 2: Table age group 55+ years

Table 14. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014, 2015 and 2016, by age group: 55+ years

	55+ years						
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Sept. – Oct. 2016	Mutations 2014–2015	Percentage mutations 2014–2015	Mutations 2015–2016	Percentage mutations 2015–2016
Employed population	11,364	12,287	13,807	923	8.1	1,520	12.4
Unemployed population	783	912	1,045	129	16.5	133	14.6
Labour force	12,147	13,199	14,852	1,052	8.7	1,653	12.5
Economically not active population	31,513	31,818	31,643	305	1.0	-175	-0.6
Population 55+ years	43,660	45,017	46,495	697	4.1	1,478	3.3
Participation rate (%)	27.8	29.3	31.9	1.5*		2.6*	
Unemployment rate (%)	6.5	6.9	7.0	0.4*		0.1*	
Employment/population 55+ years (%)	26.0	27.3	29.7	1.3*		2.4*	

* Percentage points

Appendix 3: Population of Curaçao 2015 – 2016

Table 15. Population of Curaçao, 2015 and 2016¹

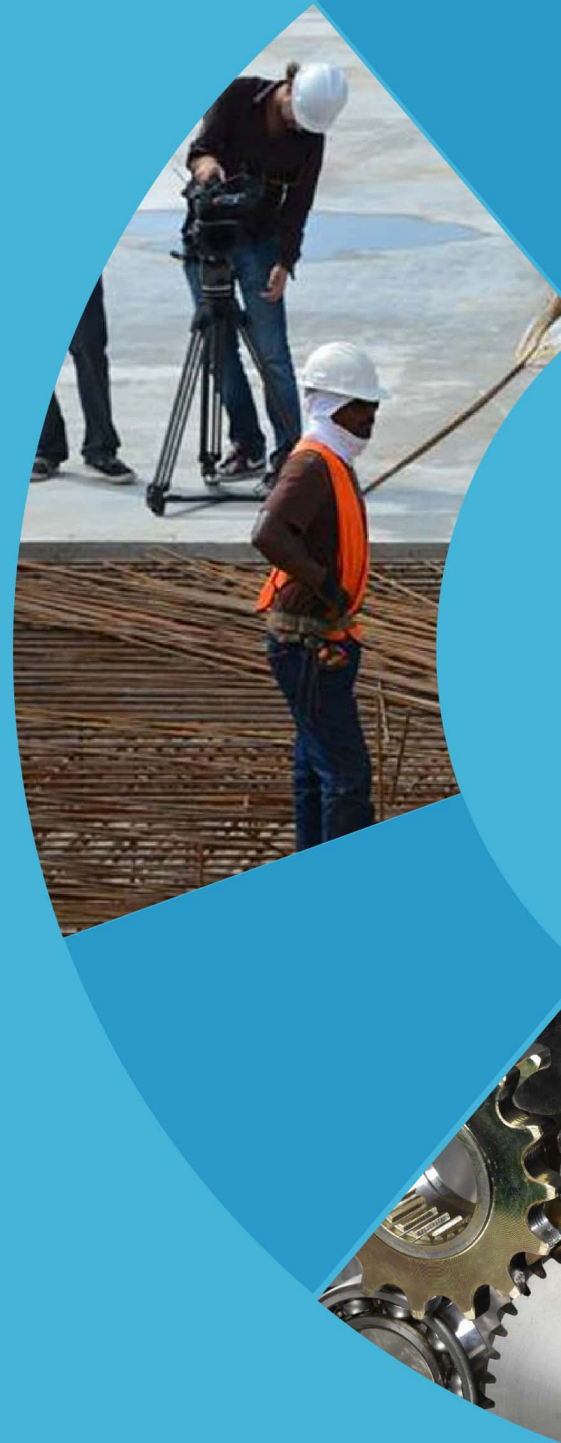
Total population								
	1 October 2015	Net inflow / outflow	Death	Immigration	Emigration	1 October 2016	Net migration	Total change
0–4 years	9,921	1602	21	433	329	9,787	104	-134
5–14 years	19,863	-162	1	591	526	19,765	65	-98
15–24 years	19,569	412	16	956	1,354	19,567	-398	-2
25–34 years	17,882	-49	17	1,373	807	18,382	566	500
35–44 years	19,856	-593	33	832	491	19,571	341	-285
45–54 years	24,738	-183	88	624	387	24,704	237	-34
55–64 years	21,804	666	176	357	235	22,416	122	612
65+ years	24,669	1,916	1,026	213	188	25,584	25	915
Total	158,302		1,378	5,379	4,317	159,776	1,062	1,474
Men population								
	1 October 2015	Net inflow / outflow	Death	Immigration	Emigration	1 October 2016	Net migration	Total change
0–4 years	5,060	859	11	217	184	4,994	33	-66
5–14 years	10,144	-100	1	329	282	10,090	47	-54
15–24 years	9,848	300	10	463	657	9,944	-194	96
25–34 years	8,009	38	12	631	354	8,312	277	303
35–44 years	8,625	-309	24	439	260	8,471	179	-154
45–54 years	10,900	-22	61	314	185	10,946	129	46
55–64 years	9,479	290	111	170	103	9,725	67	246
65+ years	10,251	826	489	94	77	10,605	17	354
Total	72,316	935	719	2,657	2,102	73,087	555	771

¹ Including institutionalized persons

Table 15 continue. Population of Curaçao, 2015 and 2016¹

	Women population						1 October 2015	Net migration	Total change
	1 October 2014	Net inflow / outflow	Death	Immigration	Emigration				
0-4 years	4,861	743	10	216	145	4,793	71	-68	
5-14 years	9,719	-62	0	262	244	9,675	18	-44	
15-24 years	9,721	112	6	493	697	9,623	-204	-98	
25-34 years	9,873	-87	5	742	453	10,070	289	197	
35-44 years	11,231	-284	9	393	231	11,100	162	-131	
45-54 years	13,838	-161	27	310	202	13,758	108	-80	
55-64 years	12,325	376	65	187	132	12,691	55	366	
65+ years	14,418	1,090	537	119	111	14,979	8	561	
Total	85,986	855	659	2,722	2,215	86,689	507	703	

¹ Including institutionalized persons



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