



SUPPLY SIDE OF THE LABOUR MARKET OF CURAÇAO

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2014-2015

Supply Side of the Labour Market of Curaçao:

Labour Force Survey 2014 – 2015

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Preface

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

An innovation in the LFS has been the introduction of a new method to collect the data. Since 2014, the CBS of Curaçao moved from a paper-based data collection method to a digital data collection method. This development proved to have various benefits, like faster data collection, data with a higher quality, and faster process of the data. However, with every new technique, there is the need for careful evaluation and validation before its introduction. This was satisfactory done in the years 2014 and 2015. Therefore, the results of the LFS conducted in 2014 and 2015 will be presented now.

The report is divided into three parts. The first part gives an introduction on the topic of labour market. The second part describes the (new) methodology of the LFS and in the third part of the report the results are presented.

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.

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- 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);
- 'Kenniscentrum Beroepsonderwijs Bedrijfsleven Curaçao' (KBB);
- 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

Between October 2014 and October 2015, the population of Curaçao aged 15 years and older increased by approximately 2,000 persons. The results of the Labour Force Survey in 2014 and 2015 shows that this increase in the population relates to the labour force. The labour force encompasses the employed and unemployed (non-institutionalized) population aged 15 years and older.

In 2014, the labour force of Curaçao consisted of **67,850** persons and increased by 2,171 persons, reaching a total of **70,021** persons in 2015. This is an increase of **3.2%**. The size of the employed population increased from **59,295** persons in 2014 to **61,823** persons in 2015, while the size of the unemployed population decreased from **8,555** persons in 2014 to **8,198** persons in 2015. Accordingly, the unemployment rate decreased slightly from **12.6%** in 2014 to **11.7%** in 2015. The increase in the labour force and the decrease in the unemployment rate were visible in both sexes.

In 2014, **54.8%** of the working-age population (15+ years) in Curaçao was available to supply labour (labour force participation rate), while in 2015 this figure was **55.7%**.

In terms of age, the increase in the labour force was (with the exception of the age group 35–44 years) 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 employed population in this age group. Nevertheless, the youth (15–24 years) continues to have the highest unemployment rate in 2014 and 2015 (youth unemployment rate), being **33.2%** and **29.7%** respectively. On the other hand, it should be mentioned that this age group showed also the largest percentage decrease in the unemployment rate between 2014 and 2015.

Of the employed population, in 2014 and in 2015, the majority worked as employees in permanent service, **62.5%** and **62.1%** respectively. The most reported occupation among men was ‘Craft and related trades workers’ (**19.7%** in 2014 and **18.7%** in 2015) and among women, ‘Service and sales workers’ (**23.9%** in 2014 and **23.9%** in 2015). The majority of employed persons worked in the sectors: ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’; ‘Human health and social work activities’; and ‘Accommodation and food service activities’.

Of the unemployed population, the majority of the persons who were actively looking for a job in 2014 and in 2015 have been unemployed between 1 and 12 months, **43.8%** and **50.2%** respectively. But a high proportion has also been unemployed for a year or longer, **38.5%** in 2014 and **44.5%** in 2015.

The economically not active population consisted mainly of pensioners (47.0% in 2014 and 47.5% in 2015) and students (25.2% in 2014 and 23.8% in 2015) who wanted to finish school before moving into the labour market.

Resúmen

Entre òktober 2014 pa òktober 2015, e poblashon di Kòrsou a krese ku alrededor di 2.000 persona. For di e resultadonan di e Enkuesta di Forsa Laboral 2014 i 2015 a sali na kla ku e kresementu aki ta relashoná ku e poblashon aktivo. E poblashon aktivo ta enserá personanan (no institutionalisá) di 15 aña of mas ku tin trabou (ta empleá) óf personanan (no institutionalisá) di 15 aña of mas ku no tin trabou, pero ku ta buskando trabou aktivamente (ta desempleá).

Den 2014, e poblashon aktivo na Kòrsou tabata konsistí di **67.850** persona i a krese ku 2.171 persona, yegando asina un kantidat di **70.021** persona den 2015. Esaki ta un kresementu di **3,2%**. E poblashon ku tin trabou a krese di **59.295** persona den 2014 pa **61.823** persona den 2015, miéntras e poblashon desempleá a baha di **8.555** persona den 2014 pa **8.198** persona den 2015. Konsekuentemente, e porsentahe di desempleo a baha levemente di **12,6%** den 2014 pa **11,7%** den 2015. Tantu e kresementu di e poblashon aktivo, komo e bahada di e porsentahe di desempleo tabata notabel serka ámbos sekso.

Den 2014, **54,8%** di e poblashon aktivo (15+ aña) na Kòrsou tabata disponibel pa ehersé labor (partisipashon riba merkado laboral), miéntras e sifra aki tabata **55,7%** den 2015.

Pa loke ta trata edat, e kresementu di e poblashon aktivo tabata notabel den tur grupo di edat ku eksepsion di e grupo di 35–44 aña. 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 ku tin trabou den e grupo di edat akí. No opstante esaki, hóbennan (15–24 aña) ta keda ku e porsentahe di desempleo di mas haltu den nos komunitat (desempleo hubenil) den 2014 i 2015, kual ta **33,2%** i **29,7%** respektivamente. Sin embargo tin ku meshoná ku e bahada di e porsentahe di desempleo entre 2014 pa 2015 tabata mas grandi bou di e hóbennan.

Di e poblashon ku tabata tin un empleo den 2014 i 2015, e gran mayoria tabata empleá komo empleado ku un kòntrakt fiho, **62,5%** i **62,1%** respektivamente. E profeshon raportá mas tantu dor di hende hòmber tabata ‘Hende di fishi’ (**19,7%** den 2014 i **18,7%** den 2015) i dor di hende muher ‘Personal di servisio i bendedó’ (**23,9%** den 2014 i **23,9%** den 2015). Gran parti di e personanan ku ta laborá tabata traha den e sektornan: ‘Komèrsio por mayor i komèrsio por detal’; reparashon di outo i motersaikel’; ‘Salubridat humano i servisionan sosial’; i ‘Suministrashon di akomodashon i kuminda (horeca)’.

Di e poblashon ku tabata desempleá den 2014 i 2015, un gran parti di e personanan ku tabata buskando trabou tabata entre 1 pa 12 luna sin trabou, **43,8%** i **50,2%** respectivamente. Sin embargo, un porsentahe haltu tambe tabata desempleá pa 1 aña of mas, **38,5%** den 2014 i **44,5%** den 2015.

E poblashon ku tabata ekonómikamente no aktivo tabata konsistí prinsipalmente di penshonadonan (47,0% den 2014 i 47,5% den 2015) i studiantenan (25,2% den 2014 i 23,8% den 2015) ku ta deseá na terminá nan estudio promé ku drenta e merkado laboral.

Samenvatting

De bevolking van Curaçao van 15 jaar en ouder is tussen oktober 2014 en oktober 2015 met ongeveer 2.000 personen gestegen. Uit de resultaten van het Arbeidskrachtenonderzoek (AKO) 2014 en 2015 blijkt dat deze toename betrekking heeft op de beroepsbevolking. De beroepsbevolking omvat de (niet-geïstitutionaliseerde) werkenden en werklozen van 15 jaar en ouder.

De beroepsbevolking van Curaçao bestond uit **67.850** personen in 2014 en steeg met 2.171 personen, tot een niveau van **70.021** personen in 2015. Dit is een stijging van **3,2%**. De totale werkende bevolking steeg van **59.295** personen in 2014 naar **61.823** personen in 2015, terwijl de totale werkloze bevolking nam af van **8.555** personen in 2014 naar **8.198** personen in 2015. Dientengevolge is het werkloosheidspercentage licht gedaald van **12,6%** in 2014 naar **11,7%** in 2015. Zowel de toename in de beroepsbevolking als de afname in het werkloosheidspercentage was zichtbaar in beide geslachten.

In 2014 was **54,8%** van de beroepsgeschikte bevolking (15+ jaar) in Curaçao beschikbaar om arbeid te leveren (arbeidsparticipatie), terwijl dit cijfer **55,7%** was in 2015.

De stijging van de beroepsbevolking was in termen van leeftijd, met uitzondering van de leeftijdsgroep 35–44 jaar, zichtbaar in alle leeftijdsgroepen. De grootste procentuele stijging vond plaats in de leeftijdsgroep 15–24 jaar en deze stijging was voornamelijk te wijten aan een toename van de werkende bevolking in deze leeftijdsgroep. Desondanks blijven de jongeren (15–24 jaar) het hoogste werkloosheidspercentage (jeugdwerkloosheid) hebben in 2014 en 2015, **33,2%** en **29,7%** respectievelijk. Echter dient te worden opgemerkt dat deze leeftijdsgroep ook de grootste procentuele daling in het werkloosheidspercentage tussen 2014 en 2015 kende.

Van de werkende bevolking, in 2014 en 2015, werkte de meesten als werknemer in vaste dienst, **62,5%** en **62,1%** respectievelijk. Het meest gerapporteerde beroep onder mannen was 'Ambachtlieden' (**19,7%** in 2014 en **18,7%** in 2015) en onder vrouwen 'Dienstverlenend personeel en verkopers' (**23,9%** in 2014 en **23,9%** in 2015). De meerderheid van de werknemers werkten in de sectoren: 'Groothandel en detailhandel; reparatie van auto's en motorfietsen'; 'Menselijke gezondheidszorg en maatschappelijke dienstverlening'; en 'Verschaffen van accommodatie en maaltijden (horeca)'.

Van de werkloze bevolking is de meerderheid van de personen die, in 2014 en 2015, actief op zoek waren naar een baan werkloos geweest tussen 1 en 12 maanden, **43,8%** en **50,2%** respectievelijk. Echter, een hoog percentage is ook werkloos voor één jaar of langer, **38,5%** in 2014 en **44,5%** in 2015.

De economisch niet-actieve bevolking bestond voornamelijk uit gepensioneerden (**47,0%** in 2014 en **47,5%** in 2015) en studenten (**25,2%** in 2014 en **23,8%** in 2015) 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). *“Labour markets provide the structure through which workers and employers interact about jobs, working conditions, and pay”* (Eurostat, 2015). Other actors influencing labour market outcomes are the institutions and processes of collective bargaining, including the roles played by employers’ organizations and trade unions (Eurofound, 2015).

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) to monitor the most important developments on the supply side of the labour market in Curaçao on a regular basis² (Lake, 2013). The most recent survey that measured the demand side of the labour market in Curaçao is the 2014 Business Census (Ministry of Economic Development, 2015). This report presents the results of the 2014 and 2015 LFS.

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.

In 1999, the International Labour Organization (ILO) introduced a series of indicators, namely the Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM), to measure the most important statistics of the labour market as well as to make international comparisons possible (International Labour Organization, 2015). These

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.

indicators are regularly revised and, if necessary, updated in the light of the latest labour-market developments. Moreover, they are encouraged to be the most important labour market indicators on which national policies should be targeted. Some of these international indicators were already being collected in the LFS in Curaçao since 1987, whereas others have been included and some have been adapted to meet the local labour market situation. For instance, the definition of work that the ILO uses, namely '*at least one hour of work per week*' as an indicator has been adapted to '*four hours per week*', as short-term seasonal work is much less frequent in Curaçao.

Alongside the KILM, consultations with local stakeholders take place repeatedly in order to get more insight into current developments on the local labour market. The following stakeholders are consulted: the Ministry of Social Development, Labour, and Welfare (SOAW); the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (OWCS); the Ministry of Economic Development (MEO); the Central Bank of Curaçao and St. Maarten (CBCS); the Curaçao Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KvK); the Curaçao Trade Industry and Association (VBC); the 'Kenniscentrum Beroepsonderwijs Bedrijfsleven' (KBB); and the trade unions: 'Sentral di Sindikatonan di Kòrsou' (SSK) and 'Sentral General di Trahadornan di Kòrsou' (CGTC).

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 (Husmanns, 2007). Other important indicators are the labour force participation rate, the employment-to-population ratio, and the level of education and profession 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 (N=48,569 in 2015). The samples of 2014 and 2015 were 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 2014 LFS. In 2015, N = 2,600 households were selected to participate, 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 in 2014, a random walk procedure was used to cope with unforeseen non-response. A total of N = 2,363 households participated in the 2014 LFS. In the 2015 LFS, during the fieldwork, a total of 100 additional households were included to cope with non-response. These households were selected using the same sampling design as described above. Out of the $2,600 + 100 = 2,700$ selected households, N = 2,127 households participated in the 2015 LFS, representing a response rate of 78.8%. Of the households that did not participate (non-response): 32.1% involved uninhabited addressed or households that could not be located, 25.5% refused to participate, at 24.1% of the addresses there was nobody at home on three or more separate occasions, and 18.3% 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 questionnaires used in 2014 and 2015 were very similar and were available in the four languages: Papiamentu; Dutch; English; and Spanish. Since the LFS is an anonymous survey, no personal identifiers were asked on the questionnaires, 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 Reservation wage ¹ 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 one year before survey ²

¹ Only available in the questionnaire of 2014

² Only available in the questionnaire of 2015

2.3 Data collection and data management

The Fieldwork department carried out the fieldwork for the study. Generally, data collection for the LFS takes place in the months of September and October. However, due to logistic constraints and medical conditions (outbreak of the Chikungunya virus), data collection in 2014 took place from October 10 to December 1. In 2015, data collection took place in the period of September 4 – October 30.

Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) was used to collect the data in both years. 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). In both years, a total of 38 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. In 2015, 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 programs ClassApps version 4.124.000 (in 2014) and Census and Survey Processing System (CSPro) version 6.1 (in 2015) were used for data entry by means of tablets (ClassApps, 2015) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015). In both years, DELL Venue 8 Pro tablets 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.

In 2014, each interviewer visited a median of 73 households (inter-quartile range (IQR) 59–78). In 2015, this figure was 69 households (IQR 62–83). 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, an independent control procedure was performed in both years. Approximately 10% of the participating households were telephoned and asked whether the collected information was in accordance with the information provided. In both years, no discrepancies were found in this verification procedure.

In 2014, the individual datasets of the interviewers were merged into two datasets after the fieldwork period of the study and the data coding process had started. In 2015, during the data collection process, the individual datasets of the interviewers were already merged into two datasets and data coding was started. Answers regarding education, industry (sector), and occupation were coded by two trained coders using international classification systems, while taking into account the 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 of each year were merged into two final datasets.

2.4 Data analysis

The final datasets were sent to the project leader for data cleaning, data analysis, and to prepare this report. 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'). Nevertheless, as the LFS is a sample survey, 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). To maintain consistency with historical results of the LFS, the variable age group was also categorized as follow: 15–24 years, 25–34 years, 35–44 years, 45–54 years, and 55+ years. The table regarding the age group 55+ years is presented in Appendix 2. 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 of 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 below.

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. 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.

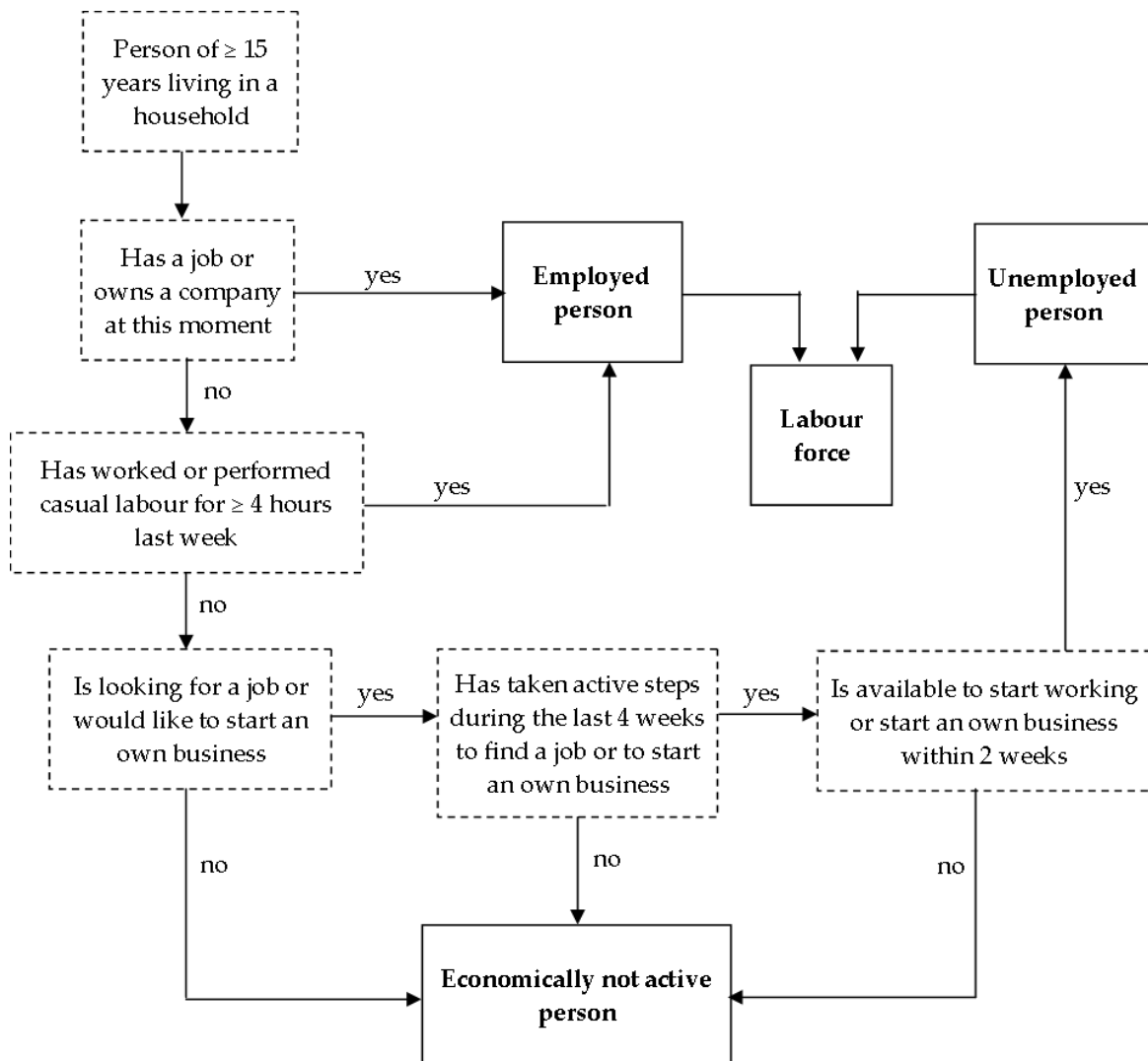


Figure 1. Classification of persons (as employed, unemployed, or economically not active) in the LFS

3. Results

3.1 Labour force

The labour force encompasses the employed and the unemployed (non-institutionalized) population aged 15 years and older. In 2014, the labour force of Curaçao consisted of **67,850** persons and in 2015 of **70,021** persons (Table 2). Hence, the labour force increased by 2,171 persons in 2015 in comparison to 2014, which is an increase of 3.2%. Worth mentioning is also the increase of 1,969 persons in the population of Curaçao aged 15 years and older in 2015, in comparison to 2014.

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

	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Mutations	Percentage mutations
1. Employed population	59,295	61,823	2,528	4.3
2. Unemployed population	8,555	8,198	-357	-4.2
3. Labour force	67,850	70,021	2,171	3.2
4. Economically not active population	55,871	55,670	-201	-0.4
5a. Population 0-14 years	29,513	29,612	99	0.3
5b. Population 15+ years	123,721	125,690	1,969	1.6
6. Total population	153,234	155,302	2,068	1.3
7. Participation rate (%)	44.3	45.1	0.8*	
8. Labour force participation rate (%)	54.8	55.7	0.9*	
9. Unemployment rate (%)	12.6	11.7	-0.9*	
10. Employment/total population (%)	38.7	39.8	1.1*	
11. Employment/population 15+ (%)	47.9	49.2	1.3*	

* 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). The labour force participation rate provides an indication of the size of the (potential) supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services, relative to the population available for work.

In 2014, **54.8%** of the working-age population in Curaçao was available to supply labour. This figure showed a slight increase of 0.9 percentage points in 2015, reaching **55.7%**. Thus, in 2015 a higher percentage was economically active than in 2014. The increase in the labour force participation rate was mainly due to a growth of the employed population. In 2015, the unemployed population decreased slightly in comparison to 2014.

In terms of employment, **47.9%** of the working-age population was employed in 2014 and this share increased to **49.2%** in 2015. These figures represent the 'employment-to-population ratio' indicator and reflect the proportion of a country's working-age population that is employed.

The unemployment rate in Curaçao was **12.6%** in 2014 and decreased slightly in 2015, to **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. The unemployment rate, together with the employment-to-population ratio, 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 and 2015, by sex: men

		Men			
		Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Mutations	Percentage mutations
1.	Employed population	28,623	29,846	1,223	4.3
2.	Unemployed population	3,658	3,507	-151	-4.1
3.	Labour force	32,281	33,353	1,072	3.3
4.	Economically not active population	22,112	22,004	-108	-0.5
5a.	Population 0-14 years	15,116	15,108	-8	-0.05
5b.	Population 15 + years	54,393	55,357	964	1.8
6.	Total population	69,509	70,465	956	1.4
7.	Participation rate (%)	46.4	47.3	0.9*	
8.	Labour force participation rate (%)	59.3	60.3	1.0*	
9.	Unemployment rate (%)	11.3	10.5	-0.8*	
10.	Employment/total population (%)	41.2	42.4	1.2*	
11.	Employment/total population 15+ (%)	52.6	53.9	1.3*	

* Percentage points

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

	Women			
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Mutations	Percentage mutations
1. Employed population	30,672	31,976	1,304	4.3
2. Unemployed population	4,897	4,691	-206	-4.2
3. Labour force	35,569	36,667	1,098	3.1
4. Economically not active population	33,759	33,666	-93	-0.3
5a. Population 0-14 years	14,397	14,504	107	0.7
5b. Population 15 + years	69,328	70,333	1,005	1.4
6. Total population	83,725	84,837	1,112	1.3
7. Participation rate (%)	42.5	43.2	0.7*	
8. Labour force participation rate (%)	51.3	52.1	0.8*	
9. Unemployment rate (%)	13.8	12.8	-1.0*	
10. Employment/total population (%)	36.6	37.7	1.1*	
11. Employment/total population 15+ (%)	44.2	45.5	1.3*	

* Percentage points

As previously mentioned, in 2015 the labour force increased in comparison to 2014. This increment was visible in both sexes and the mutation of the increment was fairly equal for men and women, being 3.3% and 3.1% respectively (Table 2A and 2B). The slight decrease in the unemployment rate in 2015 in comparison to 2014 was also noticeable in both sexes. The unemployment rate in men decreased from **11.3%** in 2014 to **10.5%** in 2015, while for women, these figures were **13.8%** and **12.8%** respectively. Thus, women continued having higher unemployment rates than men's in both years.

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. This was the case in both years. In absolute figures, however, the labour force in 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 1992–2015 period.

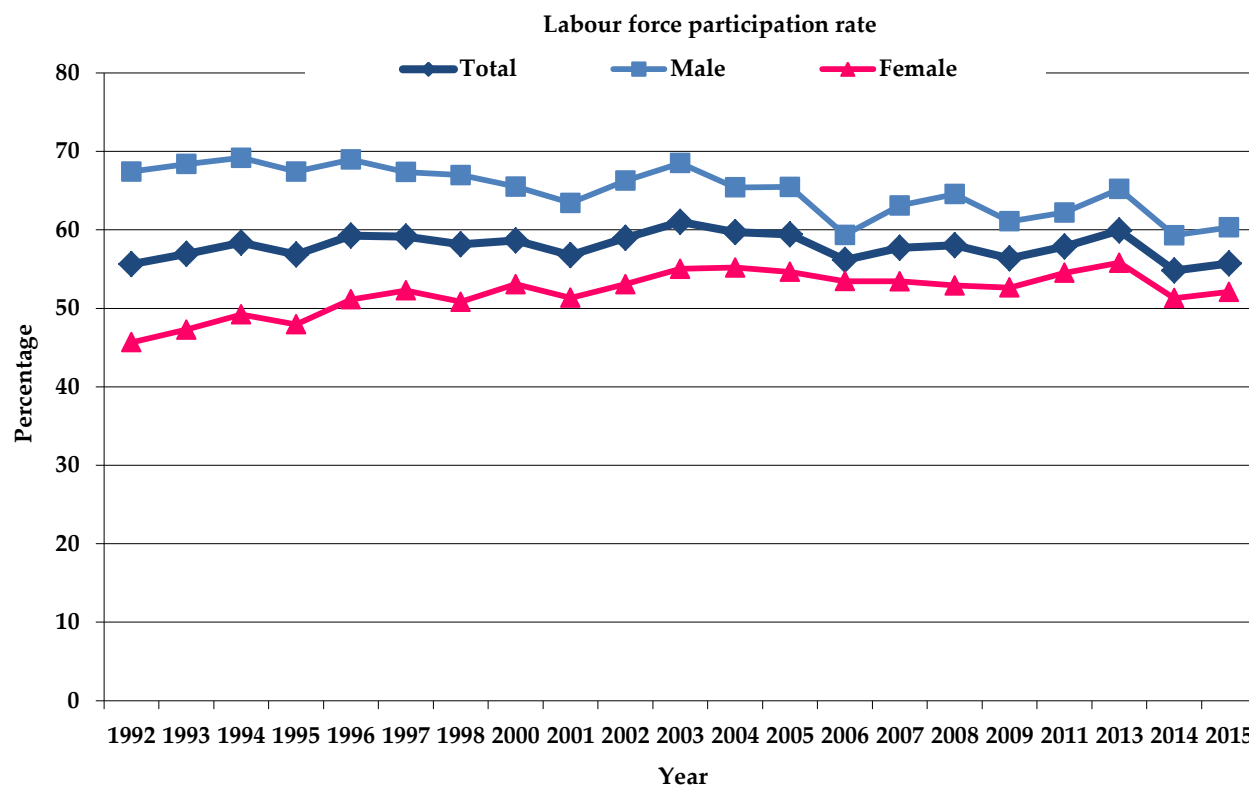


Figure 2. Development of the labour force participation rate in Curaçao, 1992 – 2015

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 among men as well as women, while showing variations from year to year. The highest labour force participation rate in the last 10 years was in 2013, being 59.9%.

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.

This categorization in age group differs from the age group categorization used until 2013 in the Curaçao LFS. This change is mainly because of the latest developments with regard to the age of retirement in Curaçao. Since March 1, 2013, the retirement age in Curaçao was raised from 60 to 65 years in the General Central Bureau of Statistics Curaçao, January 2016

Retirement Insurance Ordinance ('Landsverordening van de 28ste februari 2013 tot wijziging van de Landsverordening Algemene Ouderdomsverzekering en de Landsverordening Algemene Weduwen- en wezenverzekering, PB 2013, no. 24'). Furthermore, the retirement age of government employees was also raised from 60 years to 65 years ('Landsverordening van de 28ste december 2015 tot wijziging van de Pensioenlandsverordening overheidsdienaren, tot wijziging van de Landsverordening leeftijdsgrens ambtenaren alsmede tot intrekking van de Duurtetoelageregeling gepensioneerden 1943, PB 2015, no. 78'). Therefore, creating the 55–64 years and 65+ years categories provides a more extensive overview of the current labour market situation in Curaçao. Nevertheless, to maintain consistency with historical data of the LFS in Curaçao, the 55+ years category is presented in Appendix 2.

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

	15–24 years			
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Mutations	Percentage mutations
1. Employed population	3,181	3,880	699	22.0
2. Unemployed population	1,578	1,641	63	4.0
3. Labour force	4,759	5,521	762	16.0
4. Economically not active population	14,290	13,698	-592	-4.1
5. Population 15–24 years	19,049	19,219	170	0.9
6. Participation rate (%)	25.0	28.7	3.7*	
7. Youth unemployment rate (%)¹	33.2	29.7	-3.5*	
8. Employment/population 15–24 years (%)	16.7	20.2	3.5*	
9. Youth unemployment/total unemployment¹	2.6	2.5	0.1*	

* Percentage points

¹ See paragraph 3.3.4 for more information on youth unemployment.

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

		25–34 years			
		Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Mutations	Percentage mutations
1.	Employed population	12,166	13,082	916	7.5
2.	Unemployed population	2,215	2,095	-120	-5.4
3.	Labour force	14,381	15,177	796	5.5
4.	Economically not active population	2,468	2,369	-99	-4.0
5.	Population 25–34 years	16,849	17,546	697	4.1
6.	Participation rate (%)	85.4	86.5	1.1*	
7.	Unemployment rate (%)	15.4	13.8	-1.6*	
8.	Employment/population 25–34 years (%)	72.2	74.6	2.4*	

* Percentage points

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

		35–44 years			
		Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Mutations	Percentage mutations
1.	Employed population	14,966	14,636	-330	-2.2
2.	Unemployed population	2,260	1,619	-641	-28.4
3.	Labour force	17,226	16,255	-971	-5.6
4.	Economically not active population	2,513	3,336	823	32.7
5.	Population 35–44 years	19,739	19,592	-147	-0.7
6.	Participation rate (%)	87.3	83.0	-4.3*	
7.	Unemployment rate (%)	13.1	10.0	-3.1*	
8.	Employment/population 35–44 years (%)	75.8	74.7	-1.1*	

* Percentage points

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

		45–54 years			
		Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Mutations	Percentage mutations
1.	Employed population	17,618	17,938	320	1.8
2.	Unemployed population	1,718	1,931	213	12.4
3.	Labour force	19,336	19,869	533	2.8
4.	Economically not active population	5,088	4,447	-641	-12.6
5.	Population 45–54 years	24,424	24,316	-108	-0.4
6.	Participation rate (%)	79.2	81.7	2.5*	
7.	Unemployment rate (%)	8.9	9.7	0.8*	
8.	Employment/population 45–54 years (%)	72.1	73.8	1.7*	

* Percentage points

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

		55–64 years			
		Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Mutations	Percentage mutations
1.	Employed population	9,630	10,507	877	9.1
2.	Unemployed population	744	760	16	2.2
3.	Labour force	10,374	11,267	893	8.6
4.	Economically not active population	10,522	10,220	-302	-2.9
5.	Population 55–64 years	20,896	21,487	591	2.8
6.	Participation rate (%)	49.6	52.4	2.8*	
7.	Unemployment rate (%)	7.2	6.7	-0.5*	
8.	Employment/population 55–64 years (%)	46.1	48.9	2.8*	

* Percentage points

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

	65+ years			
	Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Mutations	Percentage mutations
1. Employed population	1,734	1,780	46	2.7
2. Unemployed population**	39	152	113	>100
3. Labour force	1,773	1,932	159	9.0
4. Economically not active population	20,991	21,598	607	2.9
5. Population 65+ years	22,764	23,530	766	3.4
6. Participation rate (%)	7.8	8.2	0.4*	
7. Unemployment rate (%)**	2.2	7.9	5.7*	
8. Employment/population 65+ years (%)	8.3	7.6	-0.7*	

* Percentage points

** Caution should be taken when interpreting these results, as the numbers are low. This is due to the fact that this is the first time this age category is presented, as a result of changing policies on the age of retirement in Curaçao.

The increase in the labour force and the participation rate in 2015 in comparison to 2014 were, with the exception of the age group 35–44 years, visible in all age groups. The largest percentage increase in the labour force took place in the age group 15–24 years. The labour force in this age group consisted of **4,759** persons in 2014, and increased to **5,521** persons in 2015, a growth of 16.0% (Table 2C). This increase was mainly due to an increase in the employed population.

However, even though the largest percentage increase in the labour force was in the age group 15–24 years; the youth (15–24 years) continued having the highest unemployment rate in 2014 and 2015 (youth unemployment rate), being **33.2%** and **29.7%** respectively. On the other hand, it should be mentioned that this age group also showed the largest decrease in the unemployment rate between 2014 and 2015. The unemployment rate decreased in the following age groups as well: 25–34 years, 35–44 years, and 55–64 years.

The highest participation rate in 2014 (**87.3%**) was in the age group 35–44 years (Table 2E). In 2015, the highest participation rate (**86.5%**) was in the age group 25–34 years (Table 2D). However, the largest increase in the participation rate in 2015 in comparison to 2014 took place in the age group 15–24 years. The participation rate in this group increased from **25.0%** in 2014, to **28.7%** in 2015.

3.2 Employed population

In 2014, the size of the employed population was 59,295 persons and increased to 61,823 persons in 2015, an increase of 4.3%. Figure 3 gives an overview of the development of the employed population in Curaçao over the 1992–2015 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.

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 in 2015 an increase was once again seen.

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 3. Development of the employed population of Curaçao, 1992 – 2015

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 3 shows the percentages of the highest level of education of the employed population of Curaçao in 2014 and 2015. The majority of the employed population in 2014 had the 1st stage of the second level as their highest level of education (32.6%) and in 2015 they had the 2nd stage of the second level as their highest level of education (32.1%). The 1st stage of the second level of education included 'VSBO', 'HAVO' years 1+2, and 'VWO' years 1+2 or any equivalent education, while the 2nd 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.

In general, there were no main differences in the highest attended level of education among men and women in none of the two years. The most common highest level of education among men, in both years, was the 1st stage of the second level, while for women the highest attended level of education was the 2nd stage of the second level. Nevertheless, the differences were minimal.

Table 3. Highest level of education of employed population, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex

	Men (%)		Women (%)		Total (%)	
	2014 N=28,623	2015 N=29,846	2014 N=30,672	2015 N=31,976	2014 N=59,295	2015 N=61,823
Current daytime education¹	1.8	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.2	3.0
No education	--	1.5	--	1.4	--	1.4
Elementary¹	5.7	5.8	5.9	4.9	5.8	5.3
Second level, first stage¹	35.3	32.8	30.1	29.8	32.6	31.3
Second level, second stage¹	29.6	32.5	34.1	31.8	31.9	32.1
Third level¹	24.7	22.3	25.0	27.4	24.8	25.0
Unknown/not reported	--	2.0	--	1.7	--	1.9

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 2014, **32.5%** 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 **63.4%** was not. Four percent (4.1%) did not state an answer to this matter. In 2015, these figures were **27.3%**, **66.7%**, and **3.4%** respectively. At the moment of the survey, 4.9% of the employed population in 2014 and 3.5% of the employed population in 2015 was attending an evening education or course.

3.2.2 Economic position

Table 4 gives an overview of the economic position of the employed population in 2014 and 2015. In Tables 4A and 4Bb, the economic position is disaggregated by sex. The majority of the employed population in 2014 and 2015 worked as an employee in permanent service, **62.5%** and **62.1%** respectively.

Overall, there has been an increase in the number of self-employed persons, employees in permanent service, employees in temporary service, casual workers/freelancers, and workers having other economic positions, such as trainees or employees working for an employment agency ('uitzendkracht'). The largest absolute increase was in the group of employees in temporary service, an increase of **1,724** persons which represents a percentage increase of **23.0%**.

In 2015, the group of employees in permanent service increased by **1,330** persons, the group of self-employed increased by **583** persons, and the group of casual workers/freelancers increased with **419** persons.

On the other hand, there has been a decrease in the amount of employers. The number of employers decreased from **1,875** in 2014 to **1,104** in 2015, which is a decrease of **41.1%**.

Table 4. Economic position of employed population, September – October 2014 and 2015

	Absolute		Percentage		Absolute mutations	Percentage mutations
	2014 N=59,295	2015 N=61,823	2014	2015		
Employer	1,875	1,104	3.2	1.8	-771	-41.1
Self-employed	4,681	5,264	7.9	8.5	583	12.5
Employee in permanent service	37,063	38,393	62.5	62.1	1,330	3.6
Employee in temporary service	7,496	9,220	12.6	14.9	1,724	23.0
Casual worker/freelancer	6,092	6,511	10.3	10.5	419	6.9
Other¹	766	958	1.3	1.5	192	25.1
Unknown/not reported	1,322	373	2.2	0.6	-949	-71.8

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

When looking at the economic position of men and women separately, the same direction of change is seen for almost all the economic positions. Remarkable though is the strong growth in the group of self-employed women in comparison to men. The percentage increase in the group of self-employed women was 25.9%; while for men this figure was lower, being 6.1%.

Table 4A. Economic position of employed population, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex: men

	Absolute		Percentage		Absolute mutations	Percentage mutations
	2014 N=28,623	2015 N=29,846	2014	2015		
Employer	1,269	907	4.4	3.0	-362	-28.5
Self-employed	3,169	3,362	11.1	11.3	193	6.1
Employee in permanent service	16,492	17,233	57.6	57.7	741	4.5
Employee in temporary service	3,480	4,366	12.2	14.6	886	25.5
Casual worker/freelancer	3,316	3,432	11.6	11.5	116	3.5
Other^{1,**}	175	396	0.6	1.3	221	126.3
Unknown/not reported	722	151	2.5	0.5	-571	-79.1

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 4B. Economic position of employed population, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex: women

	Absolute		Percentage		Absolute mutations	Percentage mutations
	2014 N=30,672	2015 N=31,976	2014	2015		
Employer	606	197	2.0	0.6	-409	-67.5
Self-employed	1,512	1,903	4.9	6.0	391	25.9
Employee in permanent service	20,570	21,160	67.1	66.2	590	2.9
Employee in temporary service	4,015	4,854	13.1	15.2	839	20.9
Casual worker/freelancer	2,775	3,079	9.0	9.6	304	11.0
Other¹	591	562	1.9	1.8	-29	-4.9
Unknown/not reported	603	221	2.0	0.7	-382	-63.3

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

3.2.3 Sector and occupation

In both years, the majority of the employed population worked in the sector of ‘wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’. In 2014, **16.8%** of the employed population reported this economic activity and **17.4%** in 2015 (Table 5). Thus, there has been a slight increase in this sector in 2015 in comparison to 2014. Beside the ‘wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ sector, the majority of the employed population worked in the sector’s ‘human health and social work activities’ and in ‘accommodation and food service activities’

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

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

In terms of occupation, in 2014 and in 2015, the majority of the employed population worked as ‘service and sales workers’, **19.1%** and **18.8%** respectively (Table 6). However, when looking at the most common occupation for men and women separately, some differences emerge. While in both years, the majority of employed women did indeed work as ‘service and sales workers’ (**23.9%** in 2014 and **23.9%** in 2015), the majority of employed men worked as ‘craft and related trades workers’ (**19.7%** in 2014 and **18.7%** in 2015).

Table 6. Occupation of employed population, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex

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

When considering table 6, there are also other figures worth mentioning. For instance, the increase in the occupation of ‘technicians and associate professionals’ among employed women (**14.6%** in 2014 and **16.2%** in 2015), the increase in ‘elementary occupations’ among employed men (**9.8%** in 2014 and **12.5%** in 2015) and on the other hand, the decrease in the percentage of ‘managers’ among employed men (**14.3%** in 2014 and **11.9%** in 2015).

3.2.4 Hours worked

In both 2014 and 2015, the median working hours per week of the employed population was 40 hours (IQR 40–40). The majority of the employed population, both men and women, worked this amount of hours in both years (**64.3%** in 2014 and **65.3%** in 2015; Table 7). Approximately 18% of men and 10% of women worked more than 40 hours a week in 2014. In 2015, these figures were 16% and 10% respectively.

Table 7. Total hours worked*by employed population, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex

	Men (%)		Women (%)		Total (%)	
	2014 N=28,623	2015 N=29,846	2014 N=30,672	2015 N=31,976	2014 N=59,295	2015 N=61,823
4 – 20 hours	8.9	8.4	13.1	12.8	11.1	10.8
21 – 39 hours	6.7	7.0	12.4	10.8	9.6	9.0
40 hours	65.6	66.1	63.6	64.5	64.3	65.3
41 – 60 hours	15.7	14.3	9.8	9.1	15.0	11.7
> 60 hours	2.2	1.8	0.6	0.4	1.4	1.1
Unknown/not reported	1.0	2.3	0.9	2.4	0.9	2.4

*Per week

When looking at the mean working hours a week, men work significantly more hours per week as compared to women. This was the case in both years, 2014 (men: **39.4** hours, women: **36.6** hours, $p < 0.01$) and 2015 (men: **39.2** hours, women: **36.5** hours, $p < 0.01$).

3.2.5 Looking for more work and second work

Of the employed population, **11.8%** was looking for more working hours and **11.0%** was looking for a second job in 2014. In 2015, a somewhat lower percentage of the employed population was looking for more working hours (**9.4%**) or a second job (**10.4%**).

In both years, the need for more income was the main reason for looking for a second job. In 2014, **57.1%** of the employed persons who were looking for a second job reported this and in 2015, this figure was **61.1%**. When looking at the above-mentioned figures in this paragraph for both sexes, there were no significant differences between men and women.

In 2015, **3.4%** of the employed population reported already having more than one job. Of the persons who said having more than one job, the majority (**82.5%**) reported one additional job.

3.3 Unemployed population

In 2014, the size of the unemployed population was 8,555 persons in 2014, and in 2015, 8,198 persons. Accordingly, the unemployment rate was 12.6% and 11.7% in 2014 and 2015, respectively. However, since the LFS is a sample survey, the unemployment rates are estimates that may be subject to sampling errors. The unemployment rates in 2014 and 2015 have a margin of error of 1.2% and 1.3% respectively on both sides, for a confidence interval of 95%. Nevertheless, to maintain the precision of the unemployment rate, different procedures were applied in both years during the implementation phase of the LFS to keep the non-response as low as possible.

Figure 4 gives an overview of the development of the unemployment rate in Curaçao over the 1992–2015 period. 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.

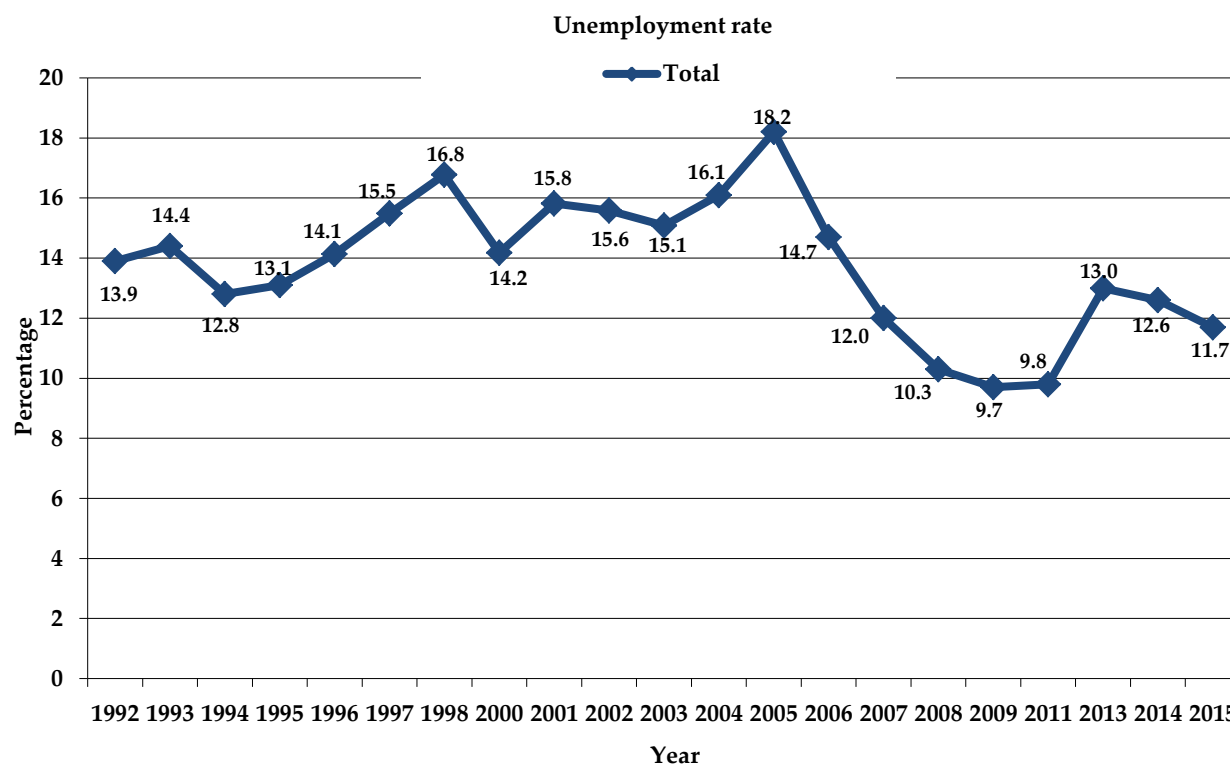


Figure 4. Development of the unemployment rate in Curaçao, 1992 – 2015

3.3.1 Highest level of education and willingness to complete an education

Table 8 shows the percentage of the highest level of education of the unemployed population of Curaçao in 2014 and 2015. The highest level of education of the unemployed population is lower than that of the employed population; employed persons have higher levels of education as compared to unemployed persons.

The majority of the unemployed (men and women) population in 2014 and 2015 had the 1st stage of the second level as their highest level of education, **43.3%** and **45.1%** respectively. See Appendix 1 for an overview of the way the educational system is classified.

Table 8. Highest level of education of unemployed population, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex

	Men (%)		Women (%)		Total (%)	
	2014 N=3,658	2015 N=3,507	2014 N=4,897	2015 N=4,691	2014 N=8,555	2015 N=8,198
Current daytime education¹	3.5	8.0	3.0	3.9	3.2	5.7
No education	--	3.3	--	1.9	--	2.5
Elementary¹	10.4	6.9	6.9	6.7	8.4	6.8
Second level, first stage¹	43.6	52.3	43.0	39.7	43.3	45.1
Second level, second stage¹	27.4	20.9	34.4	37.7	31.4	30.5
Third level¹	10.2	7.8	11.0	10.1	10.6	9.1
Unknown/not reported	--	0.8	--	0	--	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 2014, **44.4%** 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 **52.3%** was not. Three percent (3.3%) did not state an answer to this matter. In 2015, these figures were **38.9%**, **60.6%**, and 0.5% respectively. In 2014, 2.7% of the unemployed population and in 2015 4.4% of the unemployed population were attending an evening education or course at the time of the survey.

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 are actively looking for a job was measured.

The majority of the persons who were actively looking for a job in Curaçao in 2014 and 2015 had been unemployed between 1 and 12 months, **43.8%** and **50.2%** respectively (Table 9). Note that there was also a high proportion who had been unemployed for a year or longer. In addition, the percentage of women unemployed for a year or longer tends to be higher than the percentage of men who have been unemployed for a year or longer. This was the case in both years.

Table 9. Duration of unemployment, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex

	Men (%)		Women (%)		Total (%)	
	2014 N=3,533	2015 N=3,199	2014 N=4,662	2015 N=4,167	2014 N=8,195	2015 N=7,366
Less than 1 month	7.6	6.0	6.7	3.4	7.1	4.5
1 – 3 months¹		19.0		18.0		18.5
3 – 6 months¹		13.8		7.6		10.3
6 – 12 months¹		20.2		22.3		21.4
Between 1 – 12 months²	43.7	53.0	43.9	47.9	43.8	50.2
12 months or longer	36.7	39.0	39.9	48.7	38.5	44.5
Unknown/not reported	12.0	1.9	9.5	0	10.6	0.8

¹ Only available in 2015

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

3.3.3 Methods of looking for work

Most of the unemployed persons who were actively looking for work in 2014 and 2015 visited the companies personally in order to ask for a job, **40.9%** and **40.0%** respectively (Table 10). One out of every four persons (**25.6%** in 2014 and **25.6%** in 2015) wrote an application letter to a company.

Table 10. Methods of looking for work by unemployed population, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex

	Men (%)		Women (%)		Total (%)	
	2014 N=3,533	2015 N=3,199	2014 N=4,662	2015 N=4,167	2014 N=8,195	2015 N=7,366
Visited companies personally	42.6	45.0	39.7	36.3	40.9	40.0
Wrote application letter	20.5	23.7	29.3	27.0	25.6	25.6
Responded to advertisements non-online¹		2.0		4.4		3.4
Responded to advertisements online¹		6.8		8.7		7.9
Responded to advertisements²	2.8	8.8	6.4	13.1	4.8	11.3

SOAW = Social Development, Labour, and Welfare

¹ Only available in 2015

² In 2015, 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 Barrio Bek', 'Kas di Barrio'.

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

Table 10 continue. Methods of looking for work by unemployed population, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex

	Men (%)		Women (%)		Total (%)	
	2014 N=3,533	2015 N=3,199	2014 N=4,662	2015 N=4,167	2014 N=8,195	2015 N=7,366
Through private agencies ^{1,3}		4.9		7.4		6.3
Through the SOAW Ministry ^{1,4}		1.7		5.8		4.0
Through private agencies or the SOAW Ministry ^{3,4,5}	5.2	6.6	2.2	13.2	3.5	10.3
Through friends or family	13.5	13.6	8.3	10.5	10.5	11.9
Others	14.4	2.2	13.5	0	13.9	1.0
Unknown/not reported	0.9	0	0.6	0	0.7	0

SOAW = Social Development, Labour, and Welfare

¹ Only available in 2015

² In 2015, 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, 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, and there are various reasons why 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.

The youth unemployment rate in Curaçao was **33.2%** in 2014 and **29.7%** in 2015. However, when analysing the youth unemployment rate, it is useful to take certain matter into account. First of all, it is useful to know the ratio of the youth unemployment rate to the total unemployment rate. Secondly, it is meaningful to identify the current status of the youth on attending a daytime education. Finally, identification of the proportion of the youth who is neither in employment, nor in education or training (NEET) is also important.

Ratio youth unemployment rate to total unemployment rate

The ratio of youth unemployment rate to total unemployment rate is an international measure used to express the severity of a country's youth unemployment. In Curaçao, this ratio was **2.6** in 2014 and **2.5** in 2015. The ILO considers a ratio greater than 2 as high. Globally, the ratio of youth unemployment rate to total unemployment rate was 2.8 in 2013 (International Labour Organization, 2015).

Status on attending a daytime education

In 2014, **12.3%** of the unemployed persons aged 15–24 in Curaçao were attending daytime education. This figure was higher in 2015, being **22.2%**. In other words, one out of every eight young persons seeking work and available to start working in 2014 was receiving a daytime school education at the time, which could have hampered their being completely available to accept a job and actually start working. In 2015, this was the case for about one in every four young persons. 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 years 2014 and 2015, respectively only 6.2% and 5.6% 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').

Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

The share of the youth population which are neither in employment nor in education or training is a relatively new indicator (the NEET rate). Persons in the NEET group are neither improving their future employability by investing in skills nor gaining experience through employment. This group is therefore particularly at risk of labour market exclusion (International Labour Organization, 2015).

In 2014 and 2015, the NEET rate for persons aged 15–24 in Curaçao was **16.4** and **15.9**, respectively. However, here too, caution must be used when interpreting these results, as the number of the youth population is low. In the 2011 Census, which included the total youth population of Curaçao, the calculated NEET rate was 15.6 (Vierbergen, 2015).

3.4 Economically not active population

The size of the economically not active population was 55,871 persons in 2014 and decreased to 55,670 persons in 2015, a decrease of 0.4%. This decrease was visible in both sexes and the decrease was fairly equal among men and women, being 0.5% and 0.3% respectively.

The decrease in size of the economically not active population in 2015 in comparison to 2014 was, with the exception of the age groups 35–44 years and 65+ years, visible in all age groups. The largest decrease was in the age group 45–45 years, being 12.6%. In the age group 35–44 years, the economically not active population increased from 2,513 persons in 2014 to 3,336 persons in 2015, which is an increment of 32.7%.

3.4.1 Highest level of education

Table 11 shows the percentage of the highest level of education of the economically not active population of Curaçao in 2014 and 2015. The majority of the economically not active population (both men and women) in 2014 and 2015 had the same highest level of education as the majority of the unemployed population, that being the 1st stage of the second level, 32.1% and 31.5% respectively. See Appendix 1 for an overview of the way the educational system is classified.

Table 11. Highest level of education of economically not active population, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex

	Men (%)		Women (%)		Total (%)	
	2014 N=22,112	2015 N=22,004	2014 N=33,759	2015 N=33,667	2014 N=55,871	2015 N=55,670
Current daytime education¹	28.0	27.7	22.6	21.5	24.8	24.0
No education	--	2.5	--	3.9	--	3.3
Elementary¹	16.7	18.0	21.1	22.5	19.3	20.7
Second level, first stage¹	29.2	30.7	34.0	32.1	32.1	31.5
Second level, second stage¹	11.6	11.6	11.0	11.0	11.3	11.2
Third level¹	7.8	8.4	5.5	6.9	6.4	7.5
Unknown/not reported	--	1.2	--	2.1	--	1.7

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 in 2014 and 2015 reported ‘being a pensioner’ as the most important reason for not seeking work, 47.0% and 47.5% respectively (Table 12). ‘Wanting to finish school or study’ was also an important reason for not seeking work in 2014 and 2015, 25.2% and 23.8% respectively. For women, being homemakers was also an important reason.

Table 12. Reasons for not looking for work by economically not active population, September – October 2014 and 2015, by sex

	Men (%)		Women (%)		Total (%)	
	2014 N=22,112	2015 N=22,004	2014 N=33,759	2015 N=33,667	2014 N=55,871	2015 N=55,670
Homemakers	0	0	13.6	14.2	8.2	8.6
Belief there is no work available	6.1	5.2	4.5	3.3	5.1	4.0
Pensioner / age	49.3	49.2	45.5	46.4	47.0	47.5
Wanting to finish school / study	29.2	28.3	22.7	21.0	25.2	23.8
Family circumstances	1.7	2.0	1.7	2.9	1.7	2.6
Physical / mental illness	10.7	9.1	9.7	8.9	10.1	9.1
Other reason	2.6	5.7	1.5	3.0	2.0	4.0
Unknown/not reported	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.7	0.4

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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'
 - 'Vorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs klas 1 en 2'
4. Second level education, first stage
 - 'Hoger algemeen voortgezet onderwijs klas 3 t/m 5'
 - 'Vorbereidend 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 13. Labour force of Curaçao, September – October 2014 and 2015, by age group: 55+ years

		55+ years			
		Sept. – Oct. 2014	Sept. – Oct. 2015	Mutations	Percentage mutations
1.	Employed population	11,364	12,287	923	8.1
2.	Unemployed population	783	912	129	16.5
3.	Labour force	12,147	13,199	1,052	8.7
4.	Economically not active population	31,513	31,818	305	1.0
5.	Population 55+ years	43,660	45,017	1,357	3.1
6.	Participation rate (%)	27.8	29.3	1.5*	
7.	Unemployment rate (%)	6.5	6.9	0.4*	
8.	Employment/population 55+ (%)	26.0	27.3	1.3*	

* Percentage points

Appendix 3: Population of Curaçao 2014 – 2015

Table 14. Population of Curaçao, 2014 and 2015¹

Total population								
	1 October 2014	Net inflow / outflow	Death	Immigration	Emigration	1 October 2015	Net migration	Total change
0–4 years	9,842	1,811	25	504	349	9,921	155	79
5–14 years	19,843	-248	1	774	505	19,863	269	20
15–24 years	19,393	425	15	1,136	1,370	19,569	-234	176
25–34 years	17,168	-21	13	1,586	838	17,882	748	714
35–44 years	20,006	-541	30	979	558	19,856	421	-150
45–54 years	24,848	-297	78	673	408	24,738	265	-110
55–64 years	21,205	625	172	368	222	21,804	146	599
65+ years	23,871	1,900	1,118	185	169	24,669	16	798
Total	156,176		1,452	6,205	4,419	158,302	1,786	2,126
Men population								
	1 October 2014	Net inflow / outflow	Death	Immigration	Emigration	1 October 2015	Net migration	Total change
0–4 years	5,034	858	6	261	165	5,060	96	26
5–14 years	10,179	-138	1	370	266	10,144	104	-35
15–24 years	9,665	324	12	535	664	9,848	-129	183
25–34 years	7,589	69	6	763	406	8,009	357	420
35–44 years	8,748	-297	20	485	291	8,625	194	-123
45–54 years	10,889	-87	50	349	201	10,900	148	11
55–64 years	9,270	233	107	195	112	9,479	83	209
65+ years	9,950	847	554	81	73	10,251	8	301
Total	71,324		756	3,039	2,178	72,316	861	992

¹ Including institutionalized persons

Table 14 continue. Population of Curaçao, 2014 and 2015¹

	Women population					1 October 2015	Net migration	Total change
	1 October 2014	Net inflow / outflow	Death	Immigration	Emigration			
0–4 years	4,808	953	19	243	184	4,861	59	53
5–14 years	9,664	-110	0	404	239	9,719	165	55
15–24 years	9,728	101	3	601	706	9,721	-105	-7
25–34 years	9,579	-90	7	823	432	9,873	391	294
35–44 years	11,258	-244	10	494	267	11,231	227	-27
45–54 years	13,959	-210	28	324	207	13,838	117	-121
55–64 years	11,935	392	65	173	110	12,325	63	390
65+ years	13,921	1,053	564	104	96	14,418	8	497
Total	84,852		696	3,166	2241	85,986	925	1,134

¹ Including institutionalized persons



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