

NEWS RELEASE
Labour Force 2005

The Labour Force Report 2005 recently released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that, in October 2005, there were 1,193,000 persons in the Jamaican Labour force. This represented a decline of 2,500 persons or 0.2 percent over a twelve-month period, as in October 2004 the labour force stood at 1,195,500.

In contrast, the working age population (14 years and over) increased by 7,400 or 0.4 percent over the same period, moving from 1,860,600 in October 2004 to 1,868,00 in October 2005. The Labour force participation rate, i.e. labour force as a percentage of the population 14 years and over, was 63.9 percent in October 2005.

The number of employed persons in October 2005 was 1,062,700 an increase of 4,000 persons or 0.4 percent over the twelve month period when compared with 1,058,700 in October 2004. In October 2005, there were 611,100 employed males and 451,600 employed females.

In October 2005 the unemployment rate stood at 10.9 percent for both sexes, 7.4 percent for males and 15.3 percent for females.

The unemployed labour force comprises not only those persons who were "looking for work" but also persons "wanting work and available for work," even if they did not actively seek work during the survey reference week.

On the other hand, all persons 14 years and older who were not classified as employed or unemployed, are considered to be outside the labour force. Included in this category are full-time students; persons incapable of working; and persons not wanting to work or not available for work during the reference week.

In October 2005, persons outside the labour force who "did not want to work in the past 6 months" were 338,200 persons (See Table 5.2 in "The Labour Force 2005"). These persons had the following characteristics:

Of these 338,200 persons, 117,300 (34.7%) were 65 years old and over, leaving a balance of 220,900.

Persons who did not want to work in the past six months were further asked the following:

Q5.6 Will you be seeking or making yourself available for work in the next 12 months?

The responses of the 220,900 persons 14 - 64 years old were as follows:

Yes	20,000
No	133,600
Don't Know	67,300
Total	220,900

The Labour Force Report 2005 further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Office at 7 Cecelio Avenue Kingston 10.