

**Statistical Institute of Jamaica
News Release
The Labour Force April 2008**

August 28, 2008

In April 2008, there were 1,287,300 persons in the labour force of which 715,700 were males and 571,600 were females. The employed labour force numbered 1,134,600 persons comprising 652,200 males and 482,400 females. The employment rates in April 2008 were 88.1 per cent for both sexes, 91.1 per cent for males and 84.4 per cent for females. The corresponding unemployment rates were 11.9, 8.9 and 15.6 per cent respectively.

- The employed labour force was 1,134,600 in April 2008, a decline of 19,500 (1.7%) when compared with 1,154,100 in April 2007. The employment rate was 88.1 per cent in April 2008 down from 90.6 in April 2007. During the same period employment was highest in October 2007 with 1,169,700 followed by 1,167,400 in January 2008. Employment among males and females decreased by 2.1 per cent (13,700) and by 1.2 per cent (5,800) respectively.
- The industry group with the largest number of employed persons in April 2008 were 'Community, Social and Personal Services' (301,400) followed by 'Wholesale and Retail Trades and Hotels and Restaurants Services' (268,300). Both groups represented 50.2 per cent of the employed labour force.
- Employment among youths 14-24 years declined by 16,200 (9.6%) between April 2007 and April 2008. The 25-34 and 35-44 years age groups also registered declines in employment for the same period while the age groups 45-54, 55-64 and 65 years and over showed increased employment.
- 'Unemployment' increased by 32,400 or 26.9 per cent when comparing the results of April 2007 and April 2008. The unemployment rate of 11.9 per cent in April 2008 increased from 9.4 per cent in April 2007.
- The unemployment rate for youths 14-19 years was 41.0 per cent in April 2008 while for youths aged 20-24 years it was 24.6 per cent.
- There was a 1.6 per cent increase in the number of persons 'Outside the Labour Force' in April 2008 (705,800) compared with the figure for April 2007 of 694,600. The age group 14-19 years accounted for 37.8 per cent of this group while those 65 years and over accounted for 21.9 per cent.

The Labour Force January 2008 Bulletin outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Office, 7 Cecelio Avenue Kingston 10. Data is also available on the STATIN website at www.statinja.com