



**Statistical Institute of Jamaica**  
**Press Brief**  
**The Labour Force in April 2010<sup>1</sup>**

The main findings of the April 2010 Labour Force Survey which was conducted by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) are presented. The reference week for this survey was March 21 – 27, 2010.

- The Jamaican **labour force** declined by 25,900 (2.0%), moving from 1,267,900 persons in April 2009 to **1,242,000** in April 2010. Compared to the previous quarter, January 2010, the decline was 19,600 (1.6%).
- **Employment** fell by 35,000 (3.1%) during the twelve month period April 2009 (1,122,900) to April 2010 (**1,087,900**). When April 2010 is compared to January 2010, however, there was an increase in employment of 3,700 (0.3%).
- The **employment rate** for April 2010 was **87.6** per cent, a decline of 1.0 percentage point compared to 88.6 in April 2009. When April 2010 is compared to January 2010 (86.5%) the employment rate increased by 1.1 percentage points.
- The **employment rate for males** of **90.7** per cent in April 2010 showed little change, being 90.8 in April 2009. Among **females**, the **employment rate** declined by 2.0 percentage points, from 85.8 per cent in April 2009 to **83.8** per cent in April 2010.
- **Employment** in the occupation group ‘**Service Workers, and Shop and Market Sales Workers**’ **increased** by 6,100 (2.9%) between April 2009 and April 2010 while employment among ‘**Craft and Related Trades Workers**’ **increased** by 3,000 (2.0%) during the same period.
- **Employment** in the industry group ‘**Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities**’ **increased** by 3,100 (6.3%) during the period April 2009 (49,100) and April 2010 (52,200).
- The number of **unemployed** in April 2010 was **154,100**, an increase of 9,000 (6.2%) over the 145,100 in April 2009. Between January and April 2010, however, unemployment fell by 15,800 (9.3%).
- The **unemployment rate** of **12.4** per cent in April 2010 was an increase of 1.0 percentage point over 11.4 per cent in April 2009, but a decline of 1.1 percentage points when compared to 13.5 per cent in January 2010.
- **Unemployment Rate among youths aged 14 – 24 years** increased by 6.6 percentage points over the twelve month period April 2009 (25.9%) to April 2010 (**32.5%**).
- **Persons outside the labour force** increased by 30,700 (4.2%) between April 2009 (730,100) and April 2010 (**760,800**). **Females** accounted for **62 per cent** of the persons outside the labour force in April 2010.

<sup>1</sup>Note: Data for April 2010 are preliminary

## APPENDIX

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 reference period.

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.

\* The Industrial Classification system presently used was introduced in the April 2009 Bulletin. This classification system is Jamaica Industrial Classification 2005 (JIC 2005). The JIC 2005, which replaces the Jamaica Industrial Classification 1987 (JIC 1987) has rationalized, reorganized, disaggregated and regrouped existing industries into a more convenient and relevant classification protocol.

A preliminary attempt has been made to translate previous industrial classification in the relevant tables and further refinement may occur. Information and queries on the JIC 2005 and updating of earlier reports may be obtained by contacting the head of Household Surveys Unit at our Head Office, Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.