

**News Release
Labour Force
October 2008**

February 23, 2009

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica presents the October 2008 Labour Force Survey recently released data on the Labour Force Survey. This report presents findings from the Jamaica Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the October 2008 quarter.

- The Jamaican labour force in October 2008 comprised of 1,302,400 persons of these 711,100 were males and 591,300 were females. This represents an increase of 2,900 males and 9,900 females and an overall increase of 12,800 or (1 per cent) when compared with October 2007.
- The October 2008 survey results showed that the number of employed persons (1,167,800) declined by 2,400 or 0.2 per cent when compared with the October 2007 survey (1,170,200). The number of employed females increased by 9,700 (1.9 per cent) from 499,800 in October 2007 to 509,500 for the same period in 2008. The number of employed males on the other hand decreased by 12,100 (1.8 per cent) moving from 670,400 to 658,300.
- The industry group 'Community, Social and Personal Services' employed the largest number of persons 326,500 (28 per cent). This was closely followed by the group 'Wholesale & Retail Trade and Hotels and Restaurant Services' with 265,200 (23 per cent). The group 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' employed the largest number of males (172,900) while the group 'Community, Social and Personal Services' employed the largest number of females.
- A number of industry groups experienced declines during the period October 2007 to October 2008. The group with the largest decline was the 'Construction and Installation' group which declined by 12.5 per cent over the period. This was followed by 'Manufacturing' which declined by 3.4 per cent.
- The unemployed labour force increased by 15,200 or 12.7 per cent between the two surveys moving from 119,400 to 134,600. For males there was an increase of 15,000 or 39.7 per cent and for females there was a marginal increase of 0.2 per cent.
- The overall unemployment rate increased by one percentage point moving from 9.3 per cent in October 2007 to 10.3 per cent in October 2008. The rate for males increase by 2.1 per cent moving from 5.3 to 7.4 per cent while that of the females decreased by 0.2 per cent moving from 14.0 to 13.8 per cent.
- The unemployment rate among youths 14-24 years showed a 6.9 per cent increase moving from 33.0 to 40 per cent. Unemployment rate for the 25-34 years age group also increased moving from 10.5 to 10.8 per cent.
- There was a marginal decrease of 1,400 or 0.2 per cent for persons in the category 'outside the labour force' in the October 2008 survey. The persons in this category moved from 684,800 to 683,400 persons. Just under 63 per cent of the persons outside the labour force were females while 37 per cent were males.

The Labour Force Bulletin Preliminary data for October 2008 may be obtained at our distribution centre located @ 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10. Data is also available on the STATIN website at www.statinja.com.