

Labour Force Survey

Fall 2005



Economic & Statistics Office

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INTRODUCTION

The fall 2004 survey, conducted during the first two weeks of December 2004, was based on a smaller than usual sample size and was restricted to Grand Cayman. The fall survey occurred in the aftermath of hurricane Ivan and the intent was to take a snapshot of Grand Cayman post Ivan, compare this to the pre-Ivan situation and release the results in a timely manner. The spring 2004 Labour Force Survey, conducted in April 2004, included both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac in the data collection and utilized a sample size of 2,000 households. The fall 2005 Labour Force Survey, conducted in October 2005, used a sample size of 1,500 households and captured data from Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. Based on the differing structure of the fall 2004 survey, the decision was taken to compare the fall 2005 survey to the spring 2004 survey.

LABOUR FORCE NEWS

SUMMARY

Results collected from the fall 2005 Labour Force Survey indicate that during the reference period, 2nd – 8th October 2005, 36,767 persons were in the labour force. Of this total, 35,464 were actually employed, while 1,303 were without work, resulting in an unemployment rate of 3.5 percent.

These results are an improvement over those recorded for the reference period of April 2004, which showed that a total of 30,257 persons were in the labour force. Of that total, 28,946 were employed, while 1,311 were jobless, leading to an unemployment rate of 4.3 percent.

The results also indicate an estimated additional 6,518 persons were employed between April 2004 and October 2005. This significant increase can be attributed to the reconstruction process Post-Ivan and the continuing construction activity that precedes Ivan.

The unemployment rate in the Cayman Islands has been decreasing since 2001 when it stood at 7.5 percent.

THE LABOUR FORCE

The labour force refers to those persons residing in the country who are of suitable working age—namely, aged 15 years and older—and were employed or actively seeking work during the reference period. It excludes persons attending school full time who were not engaged in part time employment. It also excludes those attending school full time who did not actively seek work

during the survey time frame. A further breakdown of the total labour force of 35,464 persons revealed the following:

- During the reference period 2nd- 8th October, the labour force participation rate was 84.0 percent. The participation rate represents the total labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and older. The October 2005 rate was close to the participation rate in April 2004, when it was estimated at 84.5 percent.
- Participation rates varied from a low of 21.3 percent for those aged 15-19 years old to a high of 96.0 percent for those aged 30-34 years old. Participation rates for all age groups were similar to the corresponding rates recorded in the April 2004 Labour Force Survey. Participation rates for females are less than those for males.
- Male workers also comprised more than half—or 52.2 percent—of the entire labour force, female workers represented 47.8 percent. This is a deviation from the April 2004 survey where females accounted for 50.6 percent of the labour force and males totalled 49.4 percent. The increased activity in the construction sector could explain the change in the ratios of gender in the labour force.
- During the reference period, the labour force age breakdown was as follows: 8.0 percent aged 15-24 years old; 28.4 percent aged 25-34 years old; 30.9 percent aged 35-44 years; 29.6 percent aged 45-64 years; and 3.0 percent aged 65 and over. Compared to April 2004, in the 2005 reference period, there was an increase in adults aged 45-64 years old in the labour force.

THE EMPLOYED

An employed person is one who works for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during the reference week for which the survey was conducted.

- In a breakdown by age, 7.5 percent of the 35,464 persons employed in the labour force were persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. The remainder of the employed persons are broken down as follows: 28.5 percent aged 25-34 years; 31.3 percent aged 35-44 years; 29.8 percent aged 45-64 years; and 2.9 percent aged 65 years and over. Compared to April 2004, the 2005 fall reference period showed increased employment for adults aged 45-64 years old.
- The total number of Caymanians employed within the labour force equalled 18,025—or 50.8 percent of the total—while Non-Caymanians accounted for 17,439 or 49.2 percent. The proportion of Caymanian to Non-Caymanian workers in April 2004 stood at 51.0 percent to 49.0

percent, respectively. The total number of Caymanians employed has increased steadily since 2001 when it stood at 11,844 persons.

- Of the Caymanian labour force, the proportion of female workers employed within the labour force was 51.6 percent while the percentage of male workers was 48.4. Compared to April 2004, the fall 2005 reference period showed a significant increase in the number of employed Caymanians, especially female Caymanians. For Non-Caymanians, the percentage breakdown of the employed labour force was 56.8 percent male and 43.2 percent female. In the country as a whole, it is estimated that employment across genders is approximately 53/47 in favour of males. This higher percentage of males especially Non-Caymanian males can again be credited to the significant construction activity.
- Those persons aged 45-64 years old represented the largest share of the Caymanian workforce at 33.7 percent. This result was followed by 28.5 percent of Caymanian workers aged between 35 and 44 years; 22.8 percent aged 25-34 years; 9.7 percent aged 15-24 years; and 5.3 percent aged 65 years and older.
- When looking at employed workers by age group, Caymanian workers made up the majority of the employed in all age categories except 25-34 years and 35-44 years old categories.

THE UNEMPLOYED

An individual is defined as being unemployed if he/she is without work but was available to work and had actively sought work during the reference period.

- The unemployment rates for Caymanians and Non-Caymanians were 5.5 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. These figures have improved slightly since April 2004 when the unemployment rate for Caymanians was 5.7 percent. Comparatively, unemployment rates are lower for Non-Caymanians as this group of workers is normally required to be employed while residing on the Island. Of the Non-Caymanians who are unemployed, the majority are women.
- The unemployed labour force stood at 1,303 during the reference period. Of this total, 22.1 percent included individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 years old. For other categories, 25.8 percent was recorded for those aged 25-34 years; 22.0 percent aged 35-44 years; 24.2 percent aged 45-64 years; and 5.9 percent aged 65 years and above. Compared to April 2004, the 2005 fall reference period showed increased unemployment as well for adults aged 45-64 years old. The increased employment and unemployment in this age group illustrates that there is an increase in persons available for work. However, not all persons find work.

- Whereas the unemployment rate for males was 3.0 percent, for females this rate was 4.2 percent.
- Of the total 1,303 unemployed persons, the rate of unemployment was highest among younger persons, with a 9.7 percent unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 years old. The unemployment rate would include youth who attend school or college but are also seeking employment. The unemployment rate for youth has decreased from the April 2004 level of 11.4 percent.

THE UNDEREMPLOYED

Under-employment refers to persons available to work longer hours but who worked for less than 35 hours during the survey period and were actively seeking to work additional hours.

- An estimated 230 persons out of a labour force of 36,767, or less than one percent of the labour force, were underemployed at the time that the survey was conducted. Of this total, Caymanians represented 70.0 percent whereas Non-Caymanians represented 30.0 percent. The number of underemployed has increased slightly from 199 persons in April 2004.
- Within the 161 underemployed Caymanian workforce, 46.6 percent were males and 53.4 percent were females.
- Of the 69 underemployed Non-Caymanians, 49.3 percent were males and 50.7 percent were females.

MULTIPLE JOB HOLDERS

Multiple job holders are those who are employed and have more than one job or business during the reference week.

- When looking at the 397 multiple job holders, who comprise approximately one percent of the labour force, 83.4 percent were Caymanians while 16.6 percent were Non-Caymanians. The number of multiple job holders has decreased significantly from 787 persons in April 2004.
- Of the 331 Caymanians with multiple jobs, more were males than females (61.3 percent versus 38.7 percent).
- Of the 66 Non-Caymanians with multiple jobs, more were females than males (72.7 percent compared to 27.3 percent).

POPULATION NEWS

SUMMARY

In spring 2004, the estimated population of Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac was 44,240. The fall 2005 estimated population of Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac stood at 52,465.

The fall 2005 estimated population of Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac increased by 18.6 percent over the April 2004 estimate.

GENDER

- The spring 2004 survey estimated that 48.0 percent of the population was male and 52 percent of the population female. The fall 2005 survey estimated that the proportion of males had risen to 50.2 percent and that females dropped to 49.8 percent.
- Of the total population, males increased by 24.0 percent from 21,251 in April 2004 to 26,357 in October 2005, an increase of 5,106. In contrast, females increased by 13.6 percent from 22,989 in April 2004 to 26,108 in October 2005, an increase of 3,119.

RESIDENT STATUS

- The distribution of population between those that were Caymanian versus those that were non-Caymanian is not significantly different when comparing the April 2004 survey and the October 2005 survey. In April 2004, the estimated proportion of those who were Caymanian stood at 60.7 percent, and the October 2005 estimate was at 60.6 percent. The estimated proportion of those who were Non-Caymanian in April 2004 stood at 39.3 percent, and the October 2005 estimate was 39.4 percent.
- Of the total population, Caymanians increased by 18.4 percent from 26,857 in April 2004 to 31,787 in October 2005, an increase of 4,930. In comparison, Non-Caymanians increased by 19.0 percent from 17,383 in April 2004 to 20,679 in October 2005, an increase of 3,296.

AGE GROUP

- The age distribution of the estimated population of Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac is as follows: under 15 years old amounted to 16.6 percent; 10.5 percent aged 15-24 years; 21.0 percent aged 25-34 years; 23.1 percent aged 35-44 years; 23.1 percent aged 45-64 years; and 5.8 percent aged 65 years and above. In general, compared to most developed countries, the proportion of seniors in the population is low at approximately six percent and the population is comparatively young, with 21.6 percent under the age of 20 years.

- A look at the population change between the spring 2004 and fall 2005 shows that there were varying changes in the estimated number of persons in all age groups. The smallest increase in age groups was seen in the under 15 age group, which increased by 3.3 percent. The largest increase in age groups was seen in the 45-64 age group, which increased by 33.6 percent. The remaining age groups increased as follows: 15-24 years increased by 28.7 percent; 25-34 years increased by 12.9 percent; 35-44 years increased by 19.2 percent; and 65 years and above increased by 18.0 percent.