Labour Force survey

Quarter 2, 2024

The Labour Force Survey report is produced by the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). Additional information about the Labour Force Survey 2024–Q1 report may be obtained from NISR:

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Foreword

The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) introduced the labour force survey (LFS) program to provide the Ministry of Public Service and Labour (MIFOTRA), Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), International Labour Organization (ILO), and other key stakeholders, with needed labour statistics.

Labour statistics play an essential role in the efforts of the country to achieve decent work for all. These statistics are needed for the development of policies towards this goal and for assessing its progress. The government of Rwanda also needs updated information for monitoring progress on programmes and policies as stipulated in the first National Strategy for Transformation (NST1), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as vision 2050. To monitor progress towards these targets, relevant, reliable, coherent, timely and accessible labour statistics must be produced.

The ultimate goal of the Labour Force Survey is to provide data on the structure and trends of labour force, employment, and unemployment as well as other related labour market statistics for the implementation and evaluation of economic and social policies related to employment creation, income generation, skills development, and related decent work policies.

The Labour Force survey programme begun with a pilot survey conducted in February 2016. The first round of the survey was conducted in August 2016 and continued on a bi-annual basis until August 2018. Since 2019, the survey was re-designed to provide estimates of the labour market aggregates on a quarterly basis. The present report is for the second quarter (Q2) of 2024 and its data collection was conducted in May 2024.

NISR values the feedback from all data users on this publication. In this regard, we are committed to continuously enhancing the variety of our analyses and the presentation of results to better support the effective use of our findings.

NISR congratulates all those who contributed to this exercise. In particular, NISR expresses its gratitude to the survey coordinators, supervisors, analysts, team leaders, interviewers, drivers, and respondents for making this survey possible.

NISR also invites policy makers, program managers, researchers, and all users to use the valuable data showcased in the LFS rounds to contribute to enhancing Rwandans' Economic development.

MURENZI Ivan

Director General of NISR

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Executive summary

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) is a household-based sample survey conducted by the NISR. It collects data on the labour market activities of individuals aged 14 years and older who live in private households in Rwanda. However, only persons aged 16 years and above are covered for reporting. In this report, the survey results are mainly compared for May of each year starting from 2019. However, some tables in a separate excel file published together with this report contains more observed data points of the labour force surveys since 2019.

Labour force

In May 2024 (Q2), the working age population (16 years and above) was around 8.3 million of whom around 4.3 million were employed, 869 thousand were unemployed, and 3.1 million were out of the labour force. The sum of the employed and unemployed population makes the population in the labour force 5.2 million persons. The proportion of working age population who were in the labour force has steadily increased since May 2019. In May 2024, it was estimated to be 62.5% which is 3 percentage points higher than the estimated value in May 2023 (59.5%). The rate of the population outside labour force decreased to 37.5% in May 2024(Q2) from 40.5% in May 2023(Q2).

Generally, the labour force participation rate has been higher among the male than the female population over time. The gender gap in labour force participation rate was around 14.7 percentage points in May 2024(Q2) and it is stable compared to the situation in the same quarter last year.

Trends in labour force participation rate by sex

Year	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
LFPR % women	45.3%	47.0%	46.1%	46.8%	52.9%	55.6%
LFPR % Men	63.2%	64.3%	61.3%	62.7%	67.1%	70.3%
Total	53.8%	55.2%	53.3%	54.3%	59.5%	62.5%
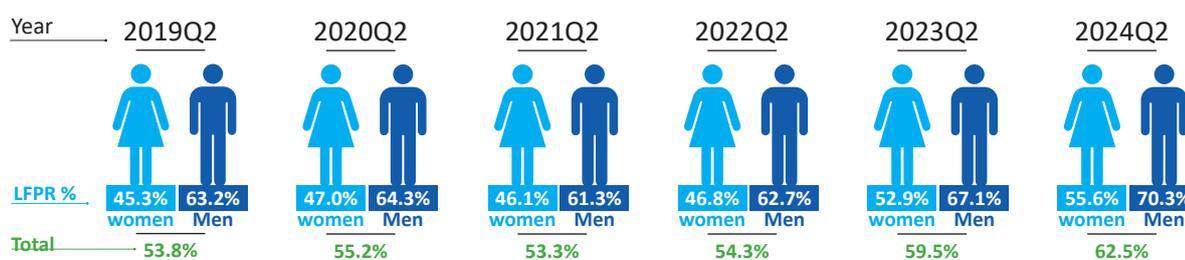
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Employment

The employment-to-population ratio (EPR) increased to 52.0 % in May 2024(Q2) from 49.5% in May 2023(Q2). EPR increased for both males and females, by 2.7 percentage points and 2.3 percentage points respectively. In May 2024(Q2), the employment-to-population ratio was higher among males (60.4%) than females (44.6%). It was also higher for adults (55.8%) than youth aged 16-30 years old (47.2%). The employment to population ratio gender gap was 15.8 percentage points in May 2024 (Q2) and it stood almost stable as compared to May 2023 (Q2).

Trends in employment to population ratio by sex
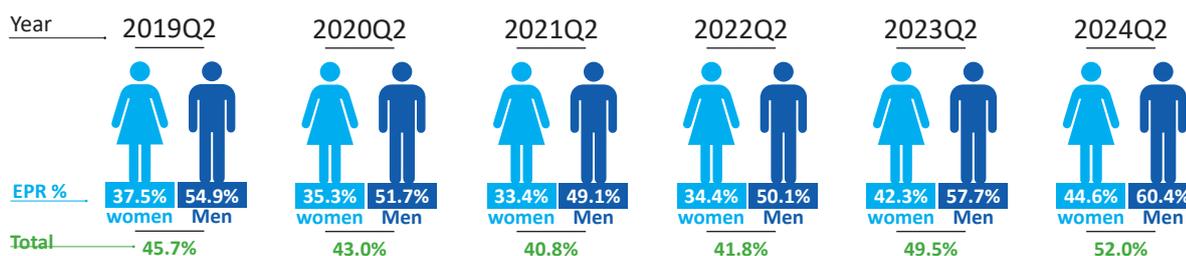
Year	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
EPR % women	37.5%	35.3%	33.4%	34.4%	42.3%	44.6%
EPR % Men	54.9%	51.7%	49.1%	50.1%	57.7%	60.4%
Total	45.7%	43.0%	40.8%	41.8%	49.5%	52.0%

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The distribution of employed population by aggregated broad branches of economic activity revealed that the market-oriented agricultural sector is employing majority of the employed population. The level of employment in the agricultural sector decreased to 39.3% in May 2024 (Q2) when compared to the same quarter last year (44%) but it is still slightly higher than the pre-COVID-19 estimates. In addition, the percentage of employed population in the service sector increased to 44% in May 2024 (Q2), compared to 39.7% observed in May 2023 (Q2). Finally, employment in the industry sector remained almost stable in May 2024 compared to May 2023.

Distribution of employed population by board sector of economic activity
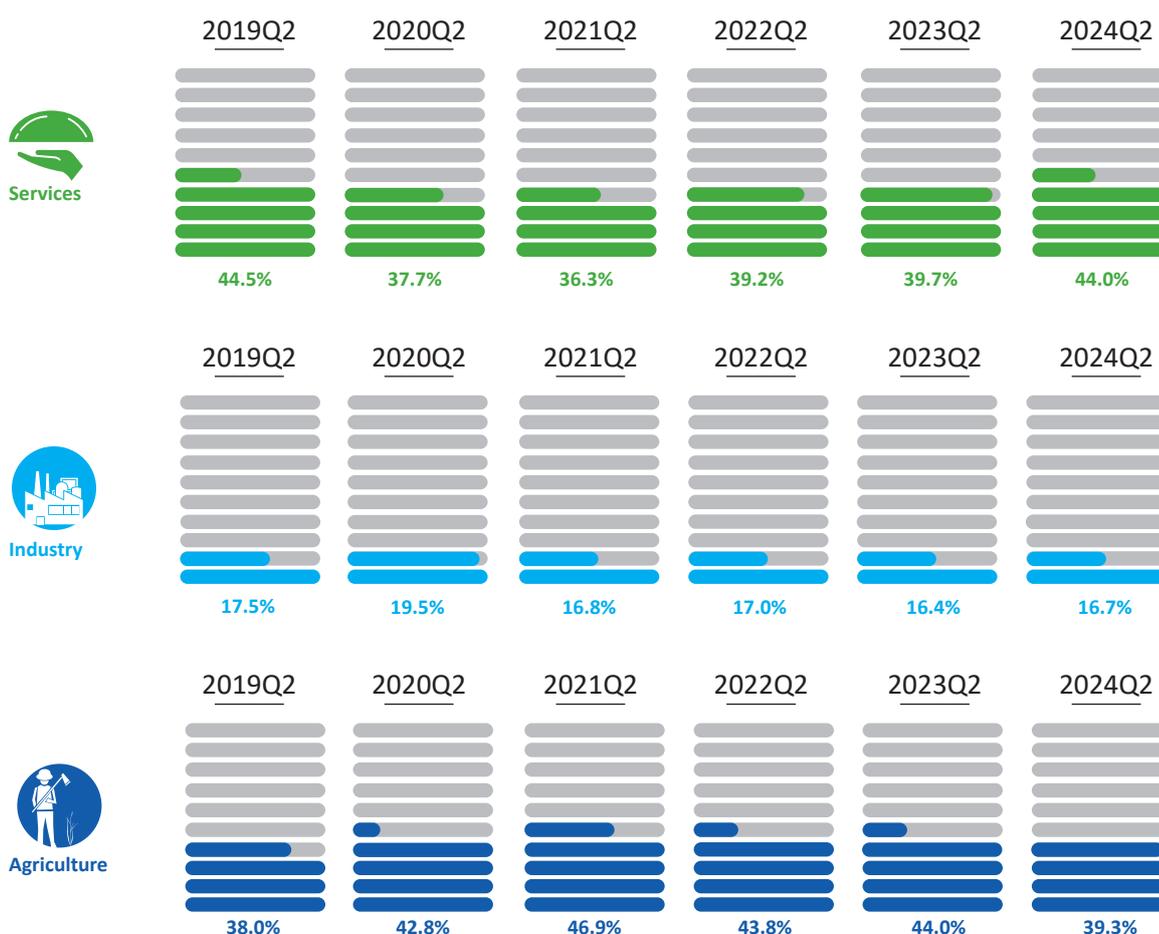
Services: 2019Q2 44.5%, 2020Q2 37.7%, 2021Q2 36.3%, 2022Q2 39.2%, 2023Q2 39.7%, 2024Q2 44.0%

Industry: 2019Q2 17.5%, 2020Q2 19.5%, 2021Q2 16.8%, 2022Q2 17.0%, 2023Q2 16.4%, 2024Q2 16.7%

Agriculture: 2019Q2 38.0%, 2020Q2 42.8%, 2021Q2 46.9%, 2022Q2 43.8%, 2023Q2 44.0%, 2024Q2 39.3%

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Unemployment

In May 2024 (Q2), the unemployment rate stood at 16.8 % indicating that roughly for every 6 persons in the labour force, there was one person unemployed. The unemployment rate was stable as compared to the same quarter last year and it has increased by 1.8 percentage points compared to the pre-COVID-19 estimates in the same quarter (15%). The unemployment rate was higher among females (19.8%) than among males (14.1%). It was also higher among youth (20.5%) than among adults (14.1%). It was higher in rural areas than urban areas at 17.3 % and 15.7% respectively.

The unemployment rate gender gap was 5.7 percentage points in May 2024(Q2) and it slightly declined by 0.5 percentage points in the same quarter last year.

Trends in unemployment rate by sex

Year	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Unemployment rate (%) women / Men	17.3% / 13.1%	25.0% / 19.6%	27.6% / 19.9%	26.6% / 20.0%	20.1% / 13.9%	19.8% / 14.1%
Total	15.0%	22.1%	23.5%	23.0%	16.8%	16.8%
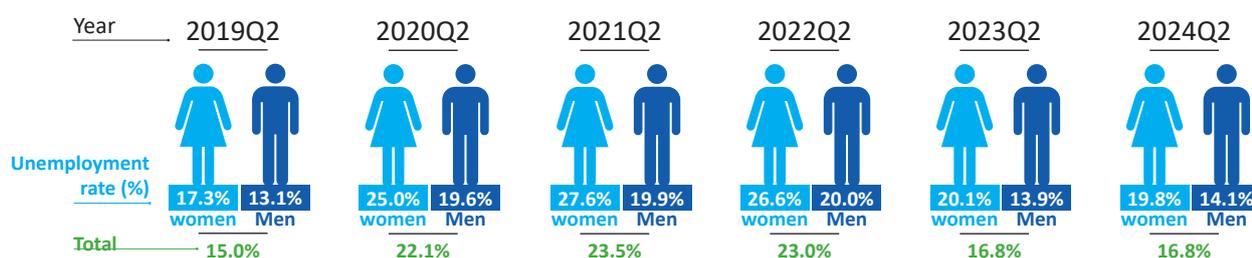
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Labour underutilisation

The unemployment rate is not the only component of the unmet needs for employment. Other components include time-related underemployment and potential labour force.

The labour underutilization rate was 53.9 percent in May 2024(Q2). It was higher among females (61.1 %) than among males (46.5 %) and higher among youth (59.5 %) than adults (53.8 %).

Year	2019Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
LUUR% women / Men	63.3% / 46.7%	67.1% / 52.5%	67.0% / 53.1%	58.8% / 47.4%	61.1% / 46.5%
Total	55.0%	59.8%	60.0%	53.2%	53.9%
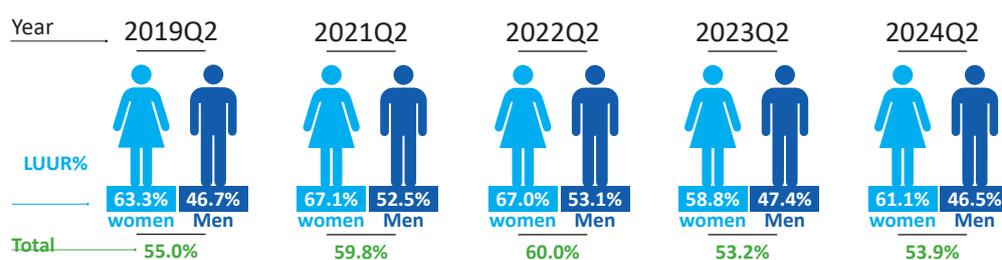
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Rwanda Labour Force Indicators, May 2024(Q2)

Working age population 16 years old and over (8,273,574 persons)
(This includes those who are in labour force and those out of labour force)

THE LABOUR FORCE
The sum of employed and unemployed

Labour Force Participation
5,173,246 Persons
62.5%

EMPLOYED
All who worked for pay or profit
4,304,440 persons

UNEMPLOYED
All not employed but seeking and available to work for pay or profit
868,806 persons

EMPLOYMENT TO POPULATION RATIO
52.0%

AGRICULTURE
Excluding subsistence foodstuff production
39.3%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
16.8%

Share of unemployed but engaged in subsistence agriculture.
53.5%

Time related underemployed:
1,362,999

INDUSTRY
16.7%

Share of other unemployed
46.5%

Other Employed:
2,941,441

SERVICE
44%

OUT OF LABOUR FORCE

Out of Labour Force rate   37.5%

Population outside the labour force
(Not employed nor unemployed)
3,100,328 persons

44.6%
Subsistence agriculture

25.2%
Exclusively Students

30.2%
Other outside LF (Elderly, people with disabilities, discouraged job seekers)

Labour underutilization   3,443,335 persons

Composite measure of labour underutilization rate
53.9%

Unemployed
868,806

Potential labour force
(Portion of out of labour force)
1,211,530

Time-related underemployed
(Portion of employed)
1,362,999

Introduction

The Rwanda Labour Force Survey (LFS) started in 2016 with an annual sample spread into two rounds to provide bi-annual estimates of main labour market indicators at the national level. From February 2019, the sample was spread into four rounds to provide estimates of labour market indicators at the national level on a quarterly basis. The main objective of the survey is to provide data on the structure and trends of labour force, employment, and unemployment as well as other related labour market statistics for the implementation and evaluation of economic and social policies related to employment creation, income generation, skills development, and related decent work policies.

In February 2024, NISR decided to increase the sample size of the current LFS and update the sampling design to obtain more precise quarterly estimates at the national level and yearly estimates at districts and other sub national areas. The current findings are for the second quarter of LFS 2024 whose the data collection was conducted in May 2024.

The current LFS is designed according to a two-stage stratified design with a 2-2-2 rotational scheme. At the first stage of sampling, a stratified sample of 552 census enumeration areas, called primary sampling units (PSUs) are drawn from the 2022 census sampling frame. It is done with probabilities proportional to size measured in terms of number of households according to the latest census of population. The sample includes 36 strata composed of the 24 administrative entire districts and 6 districts subdivided into urban and rural each. At the second stage of sampling, 12 households were selected from each of the sampled PSUs with equal probabilities. All household members in the sample are then selected for a survey interview. At the end of the data collection, the response rate was evaluated to 98.2%, which is 1.4 percentage points higher than the same quarter one year back (96.8%). The resulting estimates of the main labour force indicators at the national level have the standard errors of about 0.5 percent.

The focus of the present report is the analysis of trends of employment and labour underutilization. This includes unemployment at the national level by selected demographic and socioeconomic characteristics such as sex, age group, and educational attainment. This report compares the results of May 2024 (Q2) labour force survey with those of May 2023(Q2). However, in some sections, the tables or figures are presented with the additional time series of results of the same quarters from May 2019 to 2024.

The excel file including the full quarterly time series of the main indicators is also published along with this report at the NISR website.

The survey results analysed in this report are presented into seven chapters including this introduction. The other chapters cover the following;

- Labor market overview
- Characteristics of the population in the labour force
- Characteristics of employed population
- Unemployment and labour underutilization
- Population outside the labour force and work in agriculture

Labor Market Overview

2.1 Labour force participation rate, employment to population ratio and unemployment rate

Figure 2.1 illustrates the trends of some key labour market indicators. In May 2024 (Q2), the unemployment rate remained stable (16.8%) as compared to May 2023(Q2).

The analysis of employment trends shows that in May 2024(Q2), the employment-to-population ratio increased by 2.5 percentage points as compared to May 2023(Q2) while the labour force participation rate increased by 3 percentage points in the same period.

It is important to note that the level of labour force participation and employment in May 2024 (Q2), exceeded pre-COVID-19 levels. On the other hand, the registered rate of unemployment in May 2024 (Q2) is slightly higher than the one observed prior to COVID-19. The current higher unemployment rate compared to the pre-COVID-19 estimates can be regarded as the results of the shift of the population outside labour force to the unemployment.

Figure 2. 1. Trends in Labour force Participation Rate (LFPR), Employment to Population Ratio (EPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR)
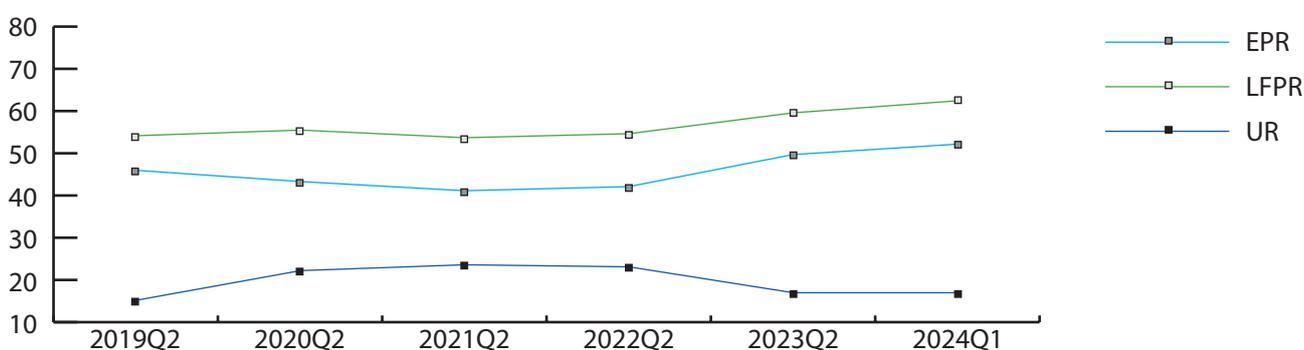
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

2.2 Trends in Labour Underutilization

The LFS May 2024 (Q2) results were compared to the same quarter one year back. It explored the combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment (LU2), as well as the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3). It also looked at the composite measure of labour underutilization (LU4) that combines unemployment, time-related underemployment and potential labour force.

The comparison of May 2024(Q2) with the same quarter one year back shows that Time-related underemployment (TRUR) and LU2 increased by 2.6 percentage points and 2.1 percentage points respectively. LU3 declined by 1.4 percentage points while LU4 stood almost stable in the same period.

Figure 2. 2 Trends of labour underutilization
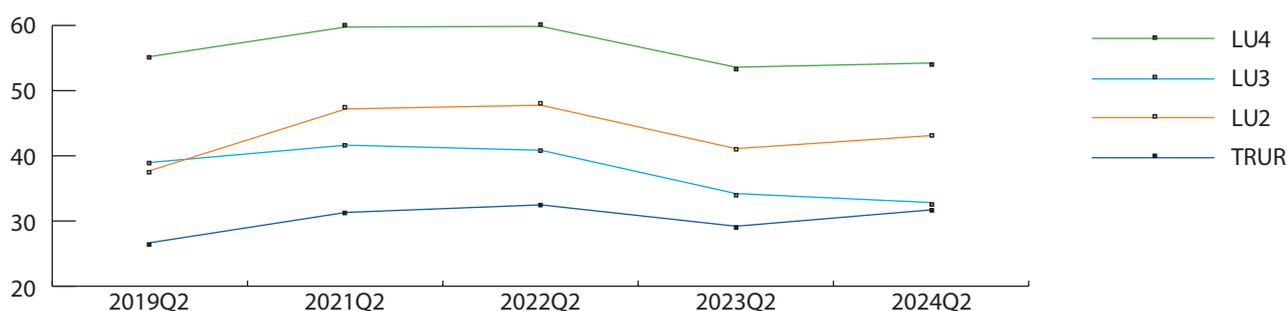
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

2.3   Rate of Population Outside the Labour Force

Figure 2.3 presents the trends in rates of population outside the labour force according to different categories. The results show that the recoded rate in May 2024 (Q2) decreased by 3 percentage points, as compared to the estimated value in the same quarter one year earlier (May 2023).

 Among the components of the population outside the labour force, available non-job seekers constitute a substantial category. In Rwanda, most of the population in this category are mainly subsistence farmers. The proportion of the working age population falling in this category in May 2024(Q2) slightly decreased by 0.8 percentage points compared to the estimate of the same quarter one year back (May 2023).

An important sub-category of the available non-job seekers is the discouraged jobseekers. There are people outside the labour force who did not "seek employment" for labour market-related reasons such as past failure, to find a suitable job, lack of experience, qualifications or jobs matching the person's skills, lack of jobs in the area, considered too young or too old by prospective employers. In May 2024 (Q2), the proportion of discouraged jobseekers among the working age population decreased by 0.8 percentage points as compared to the same quarter one year back (May 2023).

Figure 2. 3 Trends of rate of population outside labour force (POL) and potential labour force
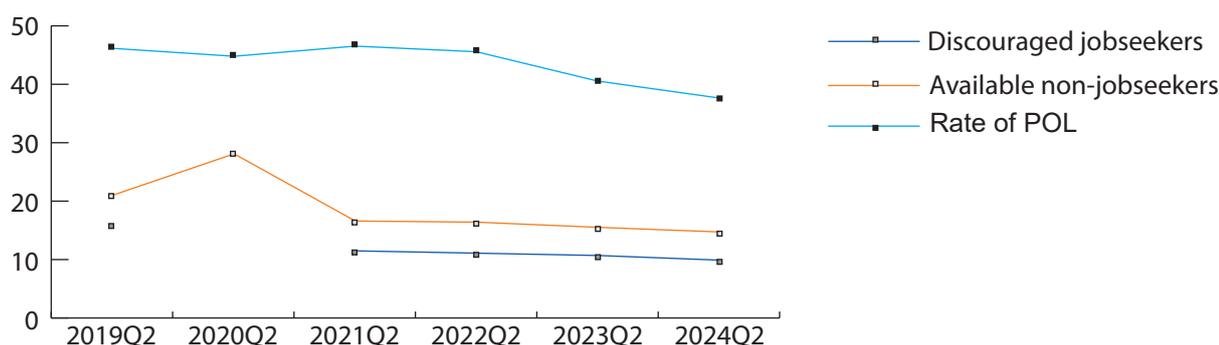
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Characteristics of the population in the labour force

3.1 Labour force participation among males and females

The labour force participation rate, which is the ratio of the labour force to the working age population expressed in percentage terms, increased by 3.0 percentage points in May 2024(Q2) as compared to May 2023(Q2). The observed increase during this period was lower among the female than the male population (2.7 percentage points and 3.2 percentage points respectively).

Generally, the labour force participation rate is higher among the male population than the female population over time. The gender gap in labour force participation rate was around 14.7 percentage points in May 2024(Q2) and it slightly increased as compared to the situation of the same quarter one year back.

Figure 3. 1 Labour Force Participation Rate by Sex

Year	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
LFPR(%) women	45.3%	47.0%	46.1%	46.8%	52.9%	55.6%
LFPR(%) Men	63.2%	64.3%	61.3%	62.7%	67.1%	70.3%
Total	53.8%	55.2%	53.3%	54.3%	59.5%	62.5%
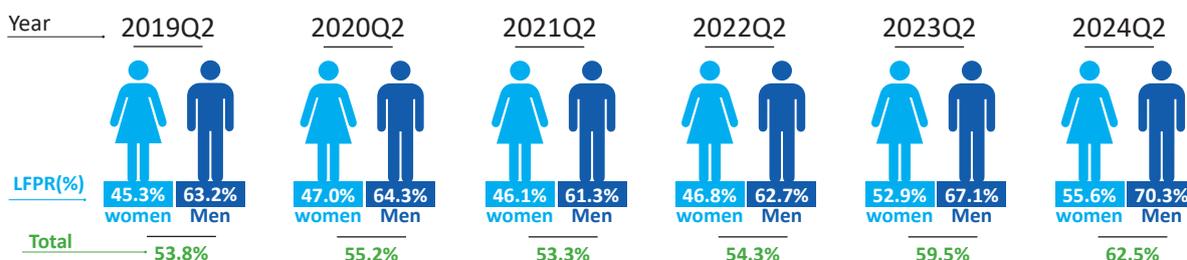
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

3.2 Labour Force Participation and Education

The analysis of the labour force participation rate by educational attainment shows that it was higher among those with relatively higher levels of education compared to those with lower levels of education over time. Generally, since the downward pandemic effect in 2021, the labour force participation rate has an upward trend that are higher than prior to the pandemic in all levels of education. A comparison of May 2024 (Q2) with May 2023 (Q2) shows an increase of labour force participation rate among all levels of education. The highest increase was observed among those with no attained level of education and holders of primary level of education (2.9 and 2.8 percentage points, respectively).

Figure 3. 2 Labour Force Participation Rate by Level of Education

	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Rwanda	53.8%	55.2%	53.3%	54.3%	59.5%	62.5%
None	52.1%	54.3%	52.4%	53.1%	59.3%	62.2%
Primary	53.4%	54.6%	49.5%	52.1%	58.1%	60.9%
Lower Secondary	36.9%	45.8%	38.0%	37.7%	43.9%	46.1%
Upper Secondary	61.9%	58.3%	70.6%	70.2%	71.8%	73.3%
University	90.2%	80.0%	87.8%	89.3%	87.9%	90.2%
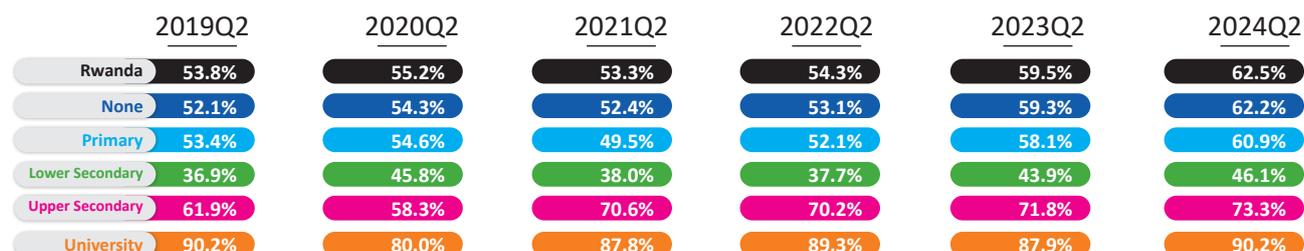
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

3.3   Labour force participation by age group

In May 2024(Q2), the labour force participation rate among youth aged 16 to 30 years was 59.4%. It significantly increased by 4.7 percentage points as compared to the same quarter one year back (May 2023). The labour force participation rate increased among other age groups at 1.1 percentage points among people aged 31 to 54 years and 2.4 percentage points among those aged 55 years and above.

Generally, the labour force participation rate is higher in the 31-54 years age group compared to the remaining age groups.

Figure 3. 3 Labour Force Participation Rate by Age Group

	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Rwanda	53.8%	55.2%	53.3%	54.3%	59.5%	62.5%
16-30 Yrs	51.1%	53.3%	50.7%	48.7%	54.7%	59.4%
31-54 Yrs	66.2%	64.7%	67.5%	70.9%	75.0%	76.1%
55+ Yrs	29.7%	33.3%	26.6%	28.3%	33.8%	36.2%
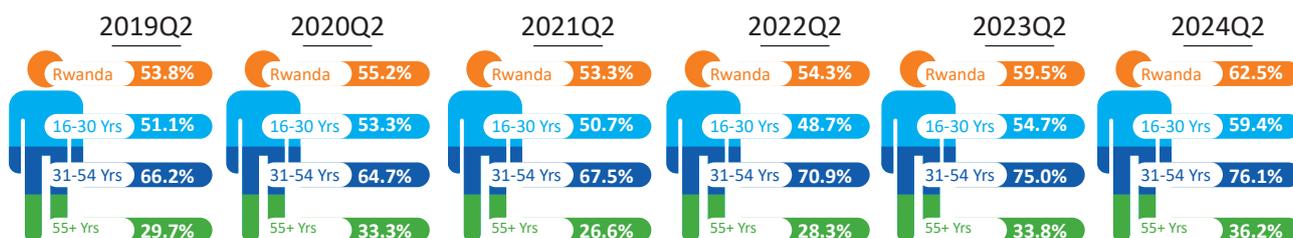
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

3.4   Labour force participation and area of residence

Labour force participation rate by area of residence (urban and rural) was revealed to be higher in urban areas compared to rural areas. This may be attributed to the diversity of job opportunities in urban areas as compared to rural areas. It could also be attributed to the fact that most people in rural are involved in subsistence agriculture. The gap between the labour force participation rate in urban and rural areas increased from 11.8 percentage points in May 2023(Q2) to 12.8 percentage points in May 2024(Q2).

The comparison of May 2024(Q2) and May 2023(Q2) reveals that the Labour Force Participation Rate increased by 3.8 percentage points and by 2.8 percentage points in urban and rural areas respectively.

Figure 3. 4 Labour Force Participation Rate by Area of Residence
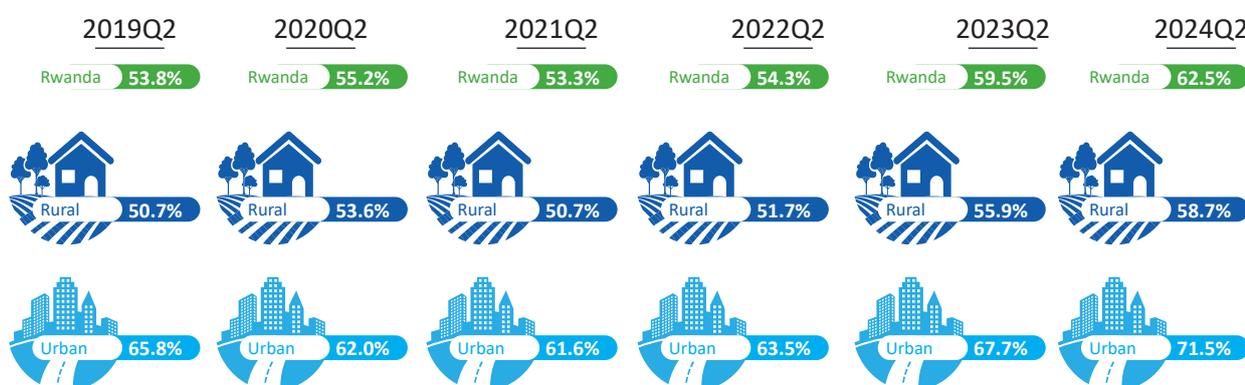
	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Rwanda	53.8%	55.2%	53.3%	54.3%	59.5%	62.5%
Rural	50.7%	53.6%	50.7%	51.7%	55.9%	58.7%
Urban	65.8%	62.0%	61.6%	63.5%	67.7%	71.5%

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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Characteristics of employed population

According to resolution concerning statistics of work, employment, and labour underutilization as defined by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), held in 2013, persons of working age are classified as employed if, during a short reference period of 7 days or one week,

(i)   They did some work (even for just one hour) for profit or pay, in cash or in kind

(ii)   They were attached to a job or had an enterprise from which they were 'temporarily' absent during this period.

4.1   Employment to Population Ratio (EPR)

Aggregate employment generally increases with growing population. Therefore, the EPR is a measure of the extent to which the economy is providing income-generating jobs for persons who are of working age (16 years and above). It gives an indication of the demand for labour in the economy, in terms of the quantity of workers. An increase in the employment-to population ratio is often regarded as an indicator of economic acceleration and an increase in total employment as an indicator of economic stability. In May 2024, the Employment-to-Population Ratio was 52.0% which is 2.5 percentage points higher than the observed rate in May 2023. The employment to population ratio increased by 3.5 percentage points in urban areas and by 2.2 percentage point in rural areas in the same period.

It is observed that the employment-to-population ratio is generally higher in urban areas as compared to rural areas in all rounds of the labour force survey. The gap between the employment-to-population ratio in urban and rural areas remained significant in May 2024(Q2) (11.7 percentage points) and it slightly increased from 10.4 percentage points observed in May 2023(Q2).

Figure 4. 1: Employment to Population Ratio (EPR) by area of residence.

2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Rwanda 45.7%	Rwanda 43.0%	Rwanda 40.8%	Rwanda 41.8%	Rwanda 49.5%	Rwanda 52.0%
Urban 55.7%	Urban 49.0%	Urban 48.6%	Urban 49.6%	Urban 56.7%	Urban 60.2%
Rural 43.1%	Rural 41.6%	Rural 38.4%	Rural 39.6%	Rural 46.3%	Rural 48.5%
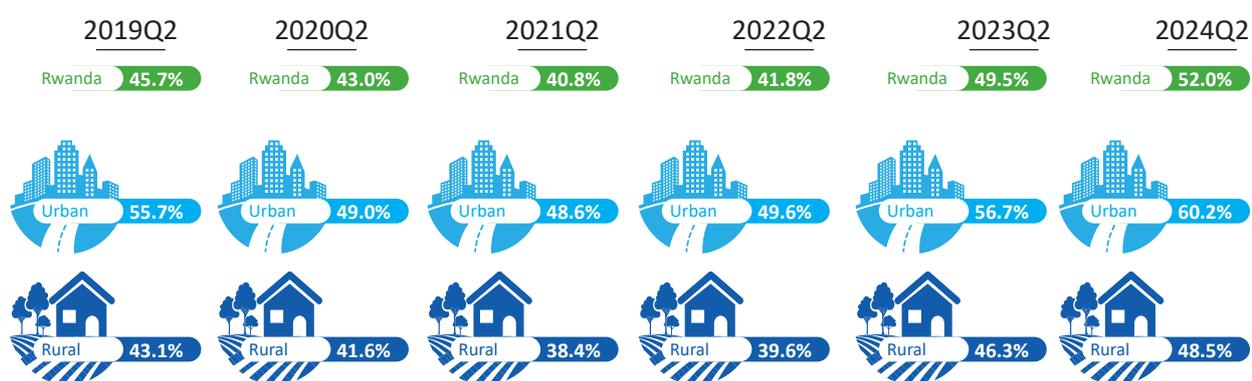
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 4.2 shows the trend in the Employment-to-Population Ratio for the male and female population. There is a high gap between the Employment-to-population ratio of males and females over time. In May 2024 (Q2) the Employment-to-Population Ratio increased by 2.7 percentage points among males and 2.3 percentage

points among females as compared to May 2023(Q2). The gender gap in Employment to Population Ratio in May 2024(Q2), remained significant and stable (15.8 percentage points) compared to the same quarter one year earlier.

Figure 4. 2: Employment to Population Ratio by Sex

Year	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
EPR(%) women/Men	37.5% / 54.9%	35.3% / 51.7%	33.4% / 49.1%	34.4% / 50.1%	42.3% / 57.7%	44.6% / 60.4%
Total	45.7%	43.0%	40.8%	41.8%	49.5%	52.0%
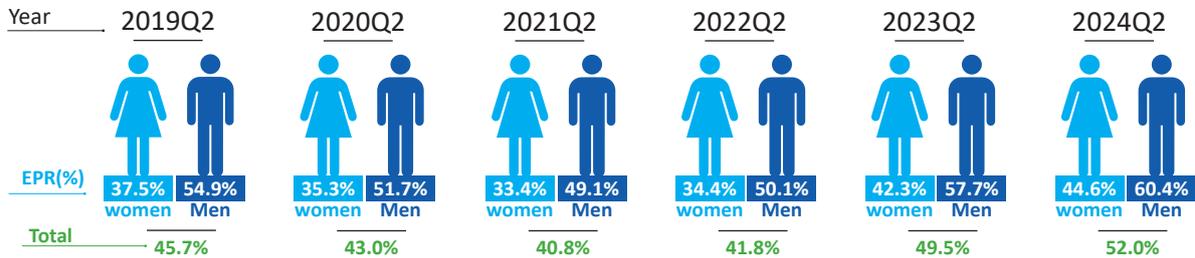
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 4.3 below shows the trend in the employment-to-population ratio by different age groups. There is a high gap between the employment-to-population ratio of youth and adults aged 31-54 years old over time. In May 2024 (Q2) the employment-to-population ratio increased by 0.3 percentage points among adults in age group 31-54 and 4.3 percentage points among youth as compared to May 2023(Q2). The employment to population ratio among the population aged 55 years and above is relatively lower compared to the other age groups presented in the figure below as some of the population in this age group are retiring.

Figure 4. 3: Employment to Population Ratio by Age Group.

	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Rwanda	45.7%	43.0%	40.8%	41.8%	49.5%	52.0%
16-30 Yrs	41.8%	38.9%	36.5%	34.9%	42.9%	47.2%
31-54 Yrs	57.4%	53.2%	53.5%	56.6%	64.5%	64.8%
55+ Yrs	27.3%	27.4%	22.2%	24.1%	29.8%	32.6%
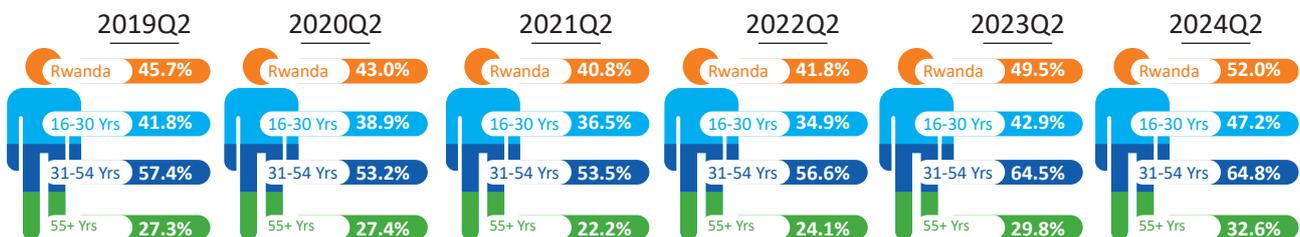
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

4.2   Status in Employment

The results in table 4.1 below reveal that in May 2024(Q2) the number of employed populations increased by around 8.0% as compared to May 2023(Q2). It is observed that the category of employees and paid apprentices recorded the highest share of employment across all rounds of the labour force survey followed by own-account workers and contributing family workers. In May 2024 (Q2), the number of employees and paid apprentices increased by 4.7% as compared to May 2023(Q2). The number of own account worker (without regular employees) increased by 13.6% while the number of contributing family workers increased by 18.9%.

Table 4. 1:Distribution of Employed Population (,000) by status in employment.

Status in employment	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2	% change
							2023Q2-2024Q2
Total	3,259	3,199	3,134	3,317	3,985	4,304	8.0%
Employee	2,201	1,909	2,377	2,383	2,747	2,876	4.7%
Employer	36	64	27	44	31	61	95.6%
Own account worker	908	1,050	681	813	1,086	1,234	13.6%
Member of cooperative	7	6	1	1	10	2	-81.9%
Contributing family worker	108	169	47	77	110	131	18.9%

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 4.4 shows the distribution of employed population according to the status of employment. It reveals that the share of employees and paid apprentices in May 2024(Q2) was 66.8% while it was 28.7% for own account workers. Compared with May 2023(Q2), the share of employees decreased by 2.1 percentage points, and it increased by 1.4 percentage points among own account workers.

Figure 4. 4: Distribution of Employed Population by Status in Employment.
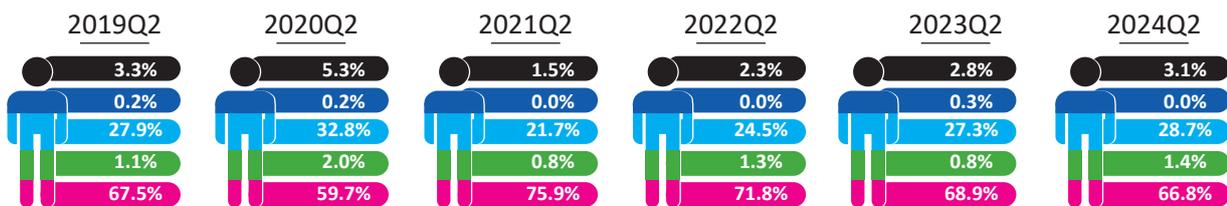
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

4.3 Main occupation

According to the results shown in Table 4.2, the highest share of employment was recorded in the group of elementary occupations, followed by service and sales workers, and craft-related trade workers, across all rounds of the labour force survey. The results also indicate that in May 2024, the total employment increased by 8.0%, and all occupational groups increased compared to May 2023 (Q2) except elementary occupations which decreased by 4.0%. Among the occupations with at least 2% of total employment, the highest increase was observed in plant and machine operators and assemblers (37.5%), followed by professionals (32.3%), skilled agricultural, forestry, and fishery workers (32.1%), service and sales workers (17.4%) and craft and related trades workers (14.4%).

Table 4. 2: Distribution of Employed Population (,000) by Occupation

Major Occupation Group	2019Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2	% change 23Q2-24Q2
Total	3,259	3,134	3,317	3,985	4,304	8.0%
Managers	41	38	28	31	52	65.5%
Professionals	207	231	242	216	285	32.3%
Technicians and associate professionals	46	41	42	32	57	79.9%
Clerical support workers	41	36	29	31	45	46.2%
Service and sales workers	635	418	476	716	841	17.4%
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	235	116	153	235	310	32.1%
Craft and related trades workers	275	241	252	304	348	14.4%
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	93	81	101	108	148	37.5%
Elementary occupations	1,685	1,931	1,993	2,311	2,217	-4.1%

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS) Series

4.4   Main Economic Activity

According to the results in table 4.2 below, the bulk of employed population were engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fishing (39.3%) in May 2024(Q2). Other sectors that employed a substantial number of populations were wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (13.9%), construction (8.8%), transportation and storage (6.8%), manufacturing (5.6%), education (4.9%), and activities of households as employers (4.1%).

Table 4. 3: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Branch of Economic Activity.

ISIC High level	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Agriculture forestry and fishing	37.8	42.8	46.9	43.8	44	39.3
Mining and quarrying	1.9	1.3	0.8	1.5	1.1	2.2
Manufacturing	5.9	5.1	4.7	5.4	5.5	5.6
Electricity gas stream and air conditioning supply	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0
Water supply, gas and remediation services	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0	0.1
Construction	9.1	12.6	10.8	9.7	9.5	8.8
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	14.4	13.6	9.6	11.7	13.4	13.9
Transportational and storage	5.3	3.8	5.2	6.4	6.4	6.8
Accommodation and food services activities	3.2	1.6	1.8	2	2.9	3.9
Information and communication	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1

ISIC High level	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Financial and insurance activities	1	0.9	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.8
Real estate activities	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7
Administrative and support activities	2	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.8	2.1
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2.2	2.2	2.4	1.8	1.5	1.7
Education	3.5	3.2	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.9
Human health and social work activities	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.5	0.8	1.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Other services	1.7	3.1	2.3	3.1	2.8	3.2
Activities of households as employers	7.3	4.8	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.1
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.7	0.3	0.2	0	0.1	0.1

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The results in table 4.4 reveal that in May 2024 (Q2), the number of 15 branches of economic activity increased as compared to May 2023(Q2). The highest increase among the industries with at least 2 percentage of the total employment was observed in mining and quarrying (115.6%), accommodation and food service activities (45.6%) and education (30%).

Table 4. 4: Distribution of employed population by economic activities (,000)

Branch of Economic Activity	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2	% change 23Q2-24Q2
Total	3,259	3,199	3,134	3,317	3,985	4,304	8.0
Agriculture forestry and fishing	1,231	1,370	1,468	1,452	1,751	1,692	-3.4
Mining and quarrying	62	41	26	49	44	94	115.6
Manufacturing	193	165	149	178	220	239	9.1
Electricity gas stream and air conditioning supply	10	7	6	5	7	2	-75.4
Water supply, gas and remediation services	9	7	7	9	2	4	82.8
Construction	296	403	340	322	379	381	0.3
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	468	436	301	389	535	597	11.5
Transportation and storage	174	121	164	213	255	291	14.3
Accommodation and food services activities	105	50	58	68	116	169	45.6
Information and communication	12	7	14	8	9	5	-43.7
Financial and insurance activities	31	29	41	28	36	36	-0.4
Real estate activities	6	2	3	3	6	4	-27.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	31	12	20	22	20	29	44.4
Administrative and support activities	66	54	56	68	72	90	23.7

Branch of Economic Activity	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2	% change 23Q2-24Q2
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	71	71	76	61	60	74	23.5
Education	115	102	138	142	162	210	30.0
Human health and social work activities	46	58	49	49	32	62	89.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	15	4	10	9	8	10	18.9
Other services	55	98	71	102	111	137	22.8
Activities of households as employers	239	152	131	139	155	177	13.9
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	24	9	6	1	3	3	-7.5

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The figure 4.5 below shows that most employees (67.4%) have short term or casual contract. This phenomenon is higher in rural areas (80.0%) than urban areas of Rwanda (42.1%). The results shows that there is no significant difference between males and females in terms of the length of contracts. It was also observed that the proportion of employees who have short term or casual contract decreases as the level of education gets higher.

Figure 4.5: Length of Employment Contract (Only for the current quarter) by sex, area of residence and level of education attained.

	None	Primary	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary	University	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total:
Permanent	13.2%	23.7%	37.2%	59.3%	76.1%	27.3%	26.7%	46.4%	17.2%	27.0%
Fixed Term	2.1%	3.6%	8.7%	16.3%	18.2%	5.7%	5.5%	11.2%	2.8%	5.6%
Short Term & Casual	84.7%	72.8%	54.1%	24.3%	8.7%	67.0%	67.8%	42.4%	80.0%	67.4%

■ Permanent
■ Fixed Term
■ Short Term & Casual
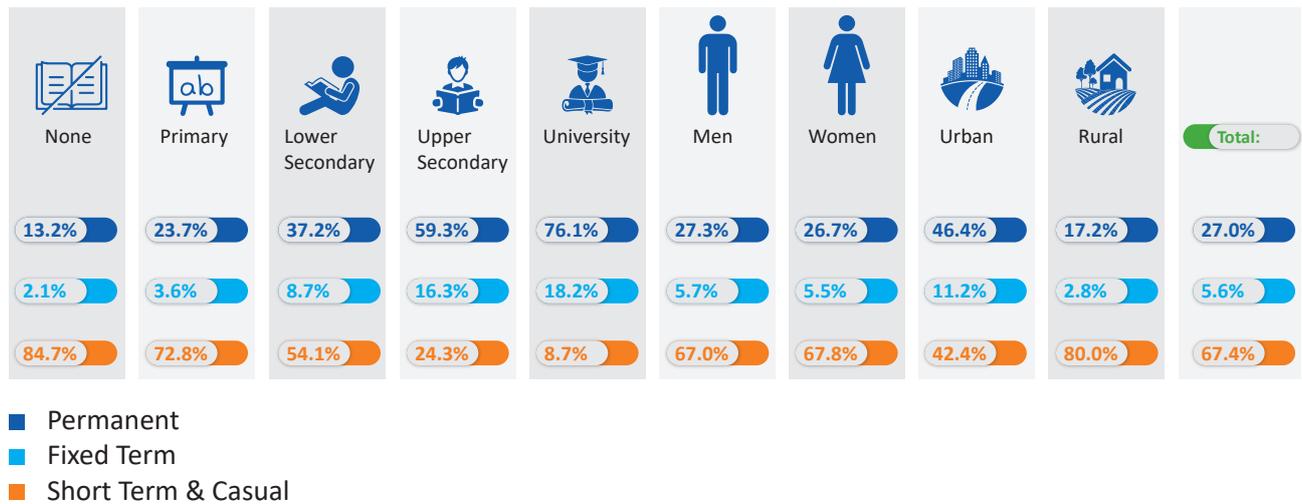
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

4.5   Means of Transport by Areas of Residence.

Figure 4.6 below shows transport means used by employed people while commuting to and from work. It is observed that 83.9% of employed persons walk from home to work and back again while only 8.8% use public transport according to LFS, Q2 results. The figure also shows that 25.9% of employed people who live in the City of Kigali use public transport while going to work and coming back home. This percentage remains higher in urban areas (14.5%) and lower in rural areas (2.6%) outside of Kigali.

Figure 4. 6: Means of Transport for employed people by area of residence.

Kigali City	**Other Urban**	**Rural**	**Total:**	
61.4%	75.3%	92.3%	83.9%	■ Walk
25.9%	14.5%	2.6%	8.8%	■ Public
12.7%	10.2%	5.1%	7.3%	■ Private
0.0 %	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	■ Others
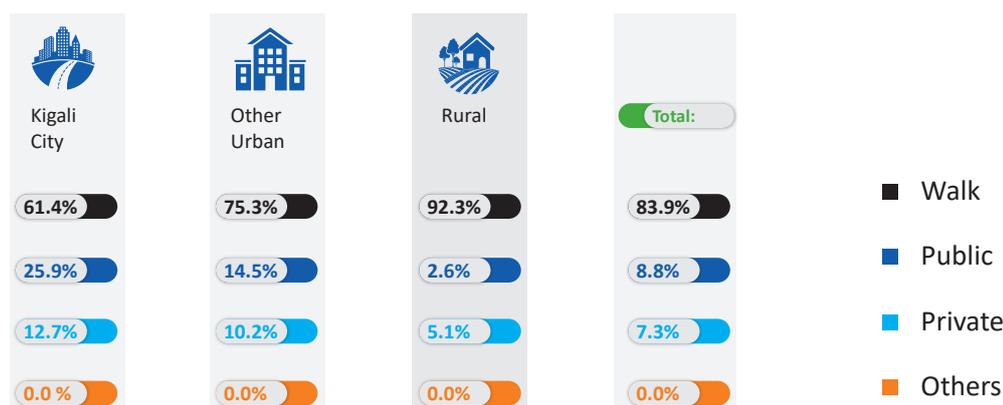
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey Series

4.6 Actual Hours Worked

Figure 4.7 below shows the average number of hours worked in the reference week. It is observed that the actual worked hours during the reference period in the current quarter decreased by 24 minutes compared to May 2023(Q2). There was also a decrease of one hour in working hours among females, while the working hours remained the same among males from May 2023 to May 2024. It is also observed that employed males are working around six hours more than the employed females weekly.

Figure 4. 7: Average Actual Hours Worked
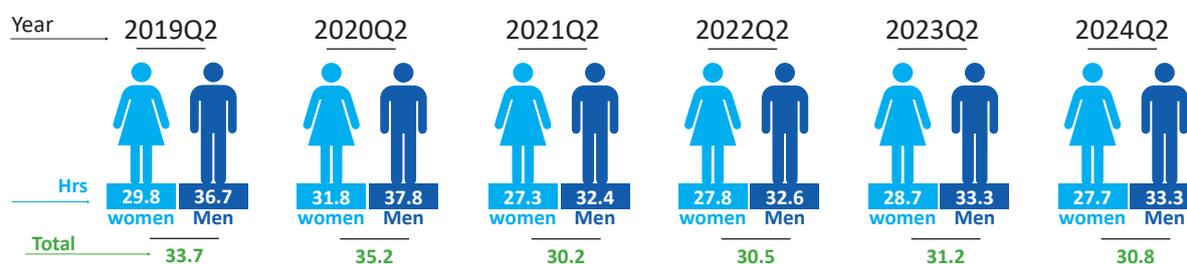
Year	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Hrs women	29.8	31.8	27.3	27.8	28.7	27.7
Men	36.7	37.8	32.4	32.6	33.3	33.3
Total	33.7	35.2	30.2	30.5	31.2	30.8

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Unemployment and labour underutilization

Unemployment is a particular form of labour underutilization. It reflects the pressure on the labour market. It is measured in terms of the number of persons without employment, actively seeking and available for employment. Labour underutilization refers to mismatches between labour supply and demand, which translate into an unmet need for employment among the population. It includes unemployment, time-related underemployment, and the potential labour force. Potential labour force refers to the population not in employment who express an interest in this form of work, but for whom existing conditions limit their active job search or their availability for employment.

5.1   Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is defined as the ratio of the number of unemployed persons to the labour force. It is the most used indicator of the labour market. It is sometimes used in a general sense as an indicator of the health of the economy, not just the labour market. According to the LFS results of May 2024(Q2), the unemployment rate in Rwanda was 16.8% and has remained stable compared to May 2023(Q2). Figure 5.1 below shows that the unemployment rate was higher among females (19.8%) compared to males (14.1%) in May 2024(Q2). The unemployment rate remained almost stable among both males and females in comparison with observed estimates in February 2023.

Figure 5. 1: Unemployment Rate by Sex

Year	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Unemployment rate (%) women / Men	17.3% / 13.1%	25.0% / 19.6%	27.6% / 19.6%	26.6% / 20.0%	20.1% / 13.9%	19.8% / 14.1%
Total	15.0%	22.1%	23.5%	23.0%	16.5%	16.8%
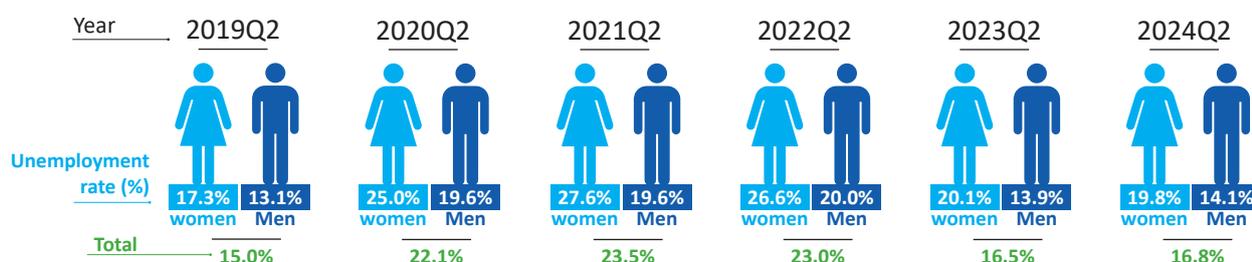
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 5.2 shows that in May 2024, the unemployment rate was higher among the population living in rural areas as compared to those living in urban areas of Rwanda (17.3% and 15.8% respectively). The comparison between the current quarter with the same quarter in 2023 shows that the unemployment rate remained almost stable among populations living in rural areas and slightly decreased by 0.5 percentage points among populations living in the urban areas of Rwanda.

Figure 5. 2: Unemployment Rate by Area of Residence

2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Rwanda 15.0%	Rwanda 22.1%	Rwanda 23.5%	Rwanda 23.0%	Rwanda 16.8%	Rwanda 16.8%
Rural 14.9%	Rural 22.3%	Rural 24.3%	Rural 23.4%	Rural 17.1%	Rural 17.3%
Urban 15.3%	Urban 21.0%	Urban 21.2%	Urban 21.9%	Urban 16.3%	Urban 15.8%
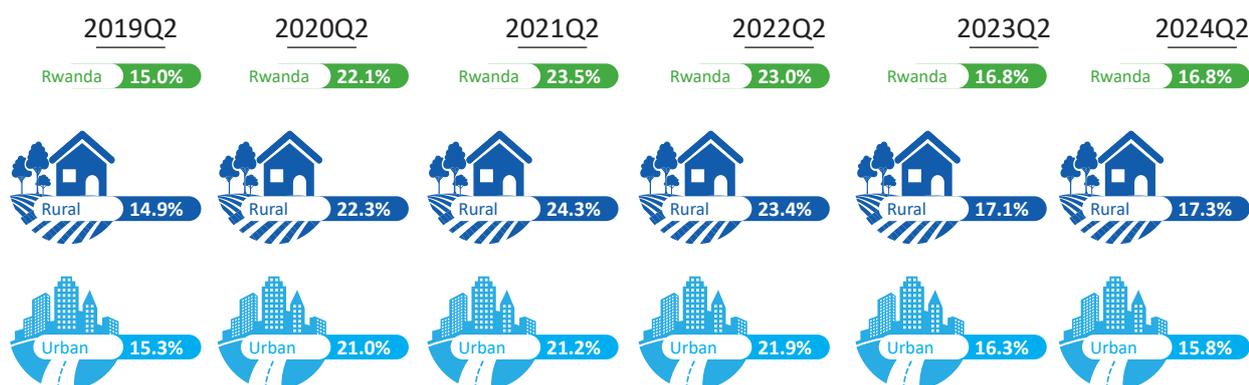
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 5.3 shows the trend in unemployment rate by different age groups. In Rwanda, the youth population is defined as persons with 16 to 30 years of age. The results show that the unemployment rate among the youth has been relatively higher than the unemployment rate among adults over time. A comparison of the current survey results with the ones obtained one-year back shows that the unemployment rate decreased by 1.0 percentage point among youth population and by 2.0 percentage points among adults aged 55 years and over while it slightly increased by 0.8 percentage points among those aged 31-54 years.

Figure 5.3: Unemployment Rate among Youth and Adults

2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
15%	22.1%	23.5%	23.0%	16.8%	16.8%
18.2%	27.2%	28%	28.4%	21.5%	20.5%
13.3%	17.7%	20.6%	20.1%	14.1%	14.9%
8.1%	17.5%	16.3%	14.6%	11.9%	9.9%

■ Total   ■ 16-30   ■ 31-54   ■ 55+
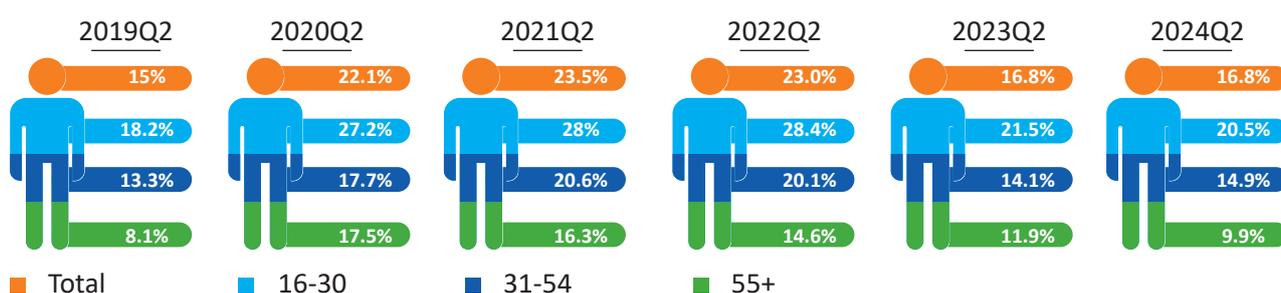
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

5.2   Labour Underutilization

Labour underutilization (LU) includes unemployment, time-related underemployment, and potential labour force. Time-related underemployment refers to the situation when the working time of persons in employment is insufficient in relation to alternative employment situations in which they are willing and available to engage. Potential labour force is defined as all persons of working age outside the labour force who, during the reference period, were neither in employment nor in unemployment but who were considered as either;

(a)   Unavailable jobseekers (seeking employment but not currently available)

(b)   Available potential jobseekers (currently available for employment but did not carry out activities to seek employment)

The results presented in figure 5.4 illustrate that the composite measure of labour underutilization rate was 53.9% in May 2024(Q2) representing a slight increase of 0.7 percentage points compared to 53.2% recorded in May 2023(Q2). The labour underutilization rate was higher among females (61.1%) than among males (46.5%). It increased by 2.3 percentage points among females but decreased by 0.9 percentage points among males from May 2023(Q2) to May 2024(Q2).

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Figure 5. 4: Labour Underutilization Rate by Sex
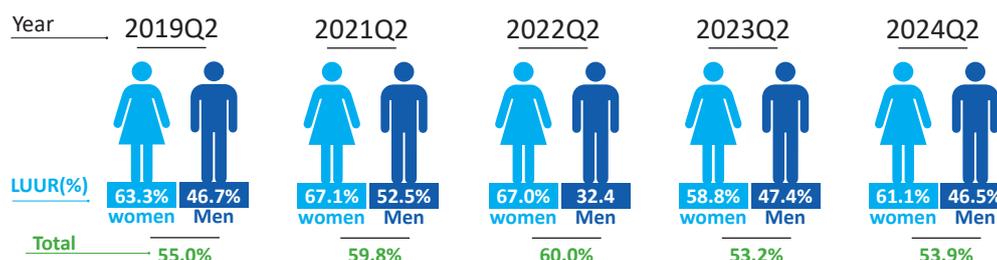
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey

The results presented in figure 5.5 below illustrate that the Labour Underutilization Rate was higher among the population living in rural areas than those living in urban areas of Rwanda. The comparison of May 2024(Q2) and May 2023(Q2) reveals that the Labour Underutilization decreased by 2.6 percentage points among the population living urban areas of Rwanda while it increased by 2.2 percentage points among population living in rural areas.

Figure 5. 5: Labour Underutilization Rate by Area of Residence
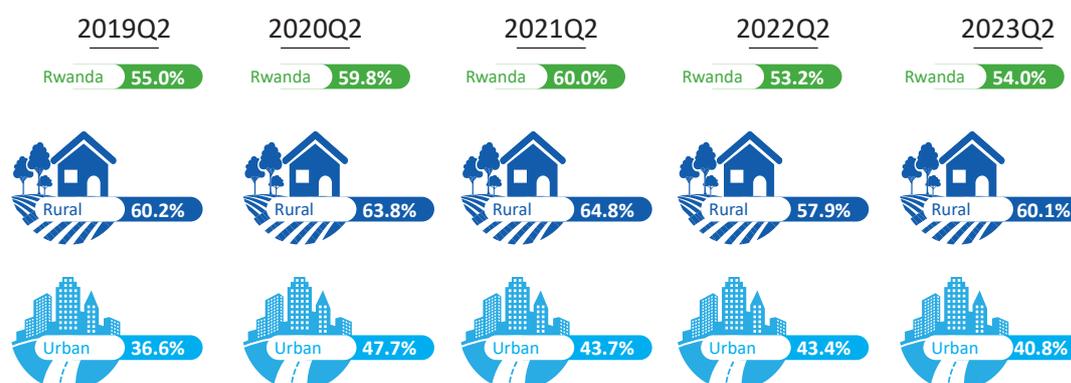
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 5.6 presents the results of the Labour Underutilization Rate by age group. It was observed that the Labour Underutilization Rate decreased by 1.8 percentage points among youth from 56.9% in May 2023(Q2) to 55.1% in May 2024(Q2) while it increased by 2.6 percentage points for age group 31-54 years in the same period and 2 percentage points among those aged 55 years and above.

Figure 5. 6: Trend in Labour Underutilization Rate by Youth and Adults

- Total   16-30   31-54   55+
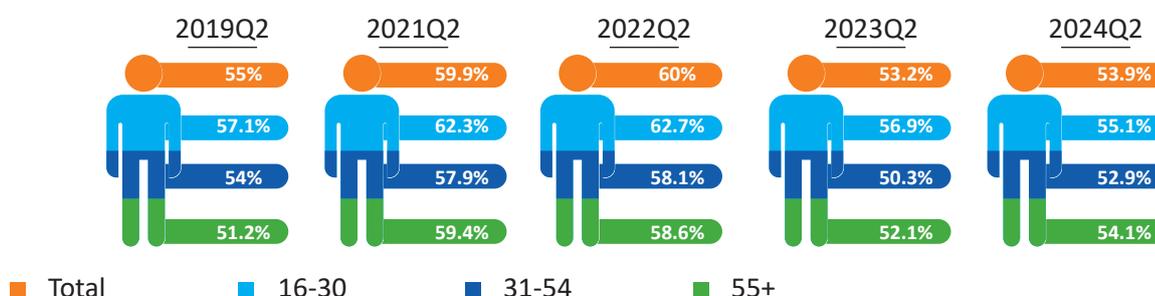
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

5.3   Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

Participation in employment, education or training is important for youth in their transition to the labour market and helps in the achievement of self-sufficiency. In May 2024 (Q2), the full count of young population aged 16-30years, who were neither in employment nor in education or training was estimated to 1,058,245. The share of youth (16-30 years) neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET) was 29.0% in May 2024(Q2) with higher rate among females (36.1%) than among males (21.5%). The comparison of the current NEET rate with the results of the same quarter one year earlier shows that the NEET rate decreased by 4.7 percentage points at the national level. In the same way, the decrease of 5.8 percentage points and 3.5 percentage points were observed among the male and female population respectively.

Figure 5.7: NEET Rate Trend by Sex

Year	2019Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
LUUR(%) women / Men	39.0% / 26.0%	42.8% / 31.7%	41.4% / 30.7%	39.6% / 27.3%	36.1% / 21.5%
Total	32.8%	37.3%	36.2%	33.7%	29.0%
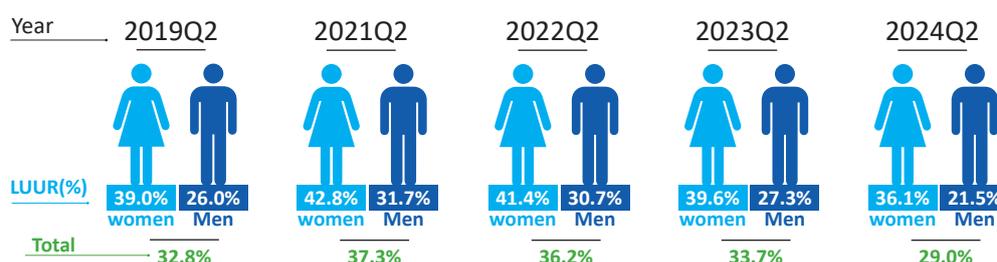
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Regarding the area of residence, the NEET rate was higher in rural (31.6%) than in urban areas (23.7%). Among the youth population living in urban areas, a decrease in NEET rate of 3.7 percentage points was recorded while a decrease of 5.3 percentage points was observed among youth population living in rural areas from May 2023 to May 2024.

Figure 5.8: NEET Rate Trend by Area of Residence

	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2
Rwanda	32.8%	37.3%	36.2%	33.7%	28.9%
Rural	35.8%	39.4%	39.3%	36.9%	31.6%
Urban	23.5%	30.8%	29.6%	27.4%	23.7%
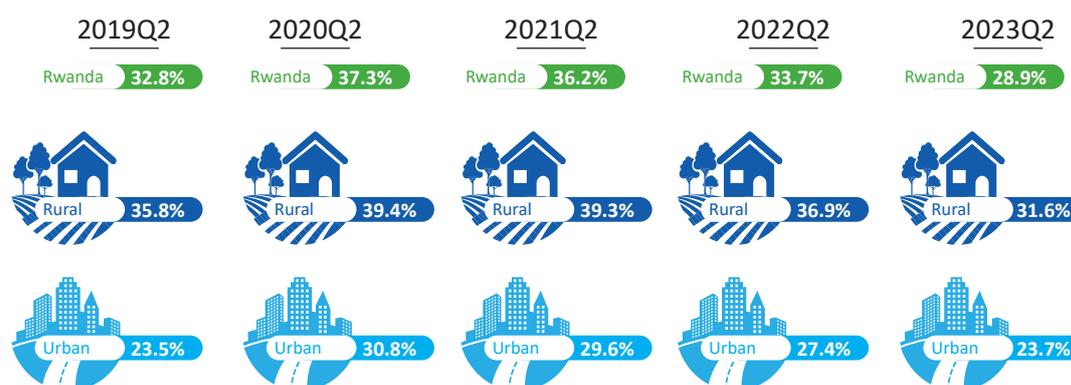
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Population outside the labour Force

The population outside the labour force constitutes a large part of the working age population. It includes population engaged exclusively in activities for producing goods or services such as subsistence production of goods, own use production of services, volunteer production of goods or services and unpaid trainee or apprentice work who have not carried out any activity for pay or profit during the reference period. It also includes students who are enrolled in schools, persons who currently do not seek for employment opportunities (not job seekers) such as discouraged job seekers. A particular characteristic of countries with large subsistence foodstuff production is the fact that the size of the working age population outside the labour force may be larger than the size of the labour force itself.

The population outside the labour force stood at 37.5 percent of the working age population. The comparison of the current population outside labour force with the estimated value in the same quarter one year back reveals that it decreased by 3 percentage points.

This decrease of the population outside labour force coupled with the increase in employment to population ratio and in unemployment rate imply a significant positive net flow of people into labour force from outside the labour force, over the course of the year (From May 2023 to May 2024).

6.1 Main components of population outside the labour Force

The population outside labour force can be divided into three important components, namely; students, persons involved in subsistence agriculture and other outside labour force including a large population who are available to work but do not do anything to search for a job, retired persons, people unable to work because of illness or disability.

Figure 6.1 presents the main components of the population outside the labour force. The population outside the labour force engaged in subsistence agriculture represented 44.6% in May 2024(Q2). Those who were exclusively classified as students represented 25.2%   while the remaining part represented 30.2%. The comparison with the same quarter one year earlier reveals some changes in the distribution of the population outside labour force. The share of students increased by 1.1 percentage points, the share of subsistence agriculture increased by 5 percentage points, while the share of other outside labour force decreased by 6.2 percentage points.

Figure 6. 1: Main Components of Persons Outside the Labour Force

2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2
48.2%	38.7%	33.0%	39.6%	44.6%
22.1%	23.5%	27.1%	24.1%	25.2%
29.7%	37.8%	39.9%	36.4%	30.2%

■ Subsistance agricultural farmers   ■ Exclusively students   ■ Others+
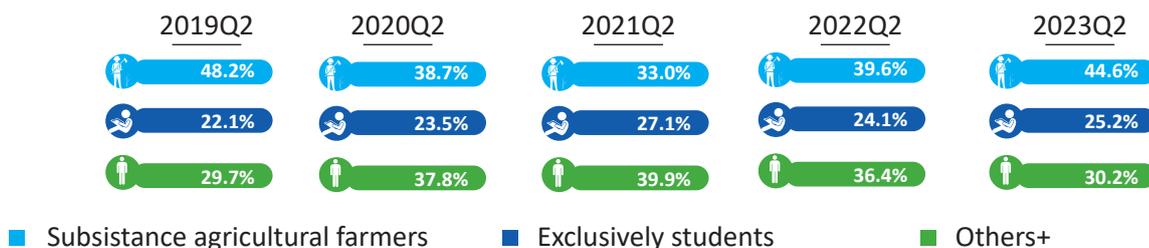
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

6.2   Population Outside the Labour Force by Area of Residence

The results in figure 6.2 below are about the percentage of population outside labour force as a proportion of the working age population at the national level and in both urban and rural areas separately.

The comparison of May 2023(Q2) and May 2024 (Q2) reveals that there was a decrease in the rate of population outside the labour force. At the national level, it decreased by 3 percentage points, by 3.8 percentage points in urban areas and 2.8 percentage points in rural areas.

From figure 6.2, the proportion of the population outside the labour force is higher in rural areas than urban areas. In May 2024 (Q2), the urban-rural gap was around 12.8 percentage points compared to 11.8 percentage points in May 2023 (Q2), indicating an increase of 1 percentage point.

Figure 6. 2: Population outside Labour force by Area of Residence

2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Rwanda 46.2%	Rwanda 44.9%	Rwanda 46.7%	Rwanda 45.7%	Rwanda 40.5%	Rwanda 37.5%
Rural 49.3%	Rural 46.4%	Rural 49.3%	Rural 48.3%	Rural 44.1%	Rural 41.3%
Urban 34.2%	Urban 38.0%	Urban 38.4%	Urban 36.5%	Urban 32.3%	Urban 28.5%
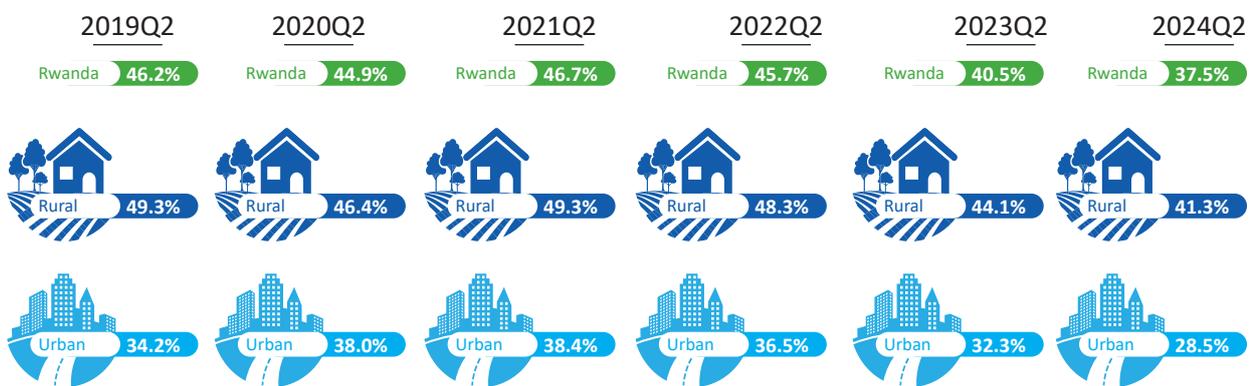
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

6.3   Population outside the labour force by age group

Figure 6.3 shows the rate of population outside the labour force by age group. As it is expected the rate is higher among the population with advanced age (55+ years old) as some of them are in retirement. In May 2024, the rate among youth (16-30 years old) was higher than the rate among those aged 31-54 years old (40.5 % and 23.9% respectively). For these age groups the proportion of population outside the labour force decreased at 4.7 and 1.1 percentage points respectively from May 2023 to May 2024.

Figure 6. 2: Population outside the Labour force by age group
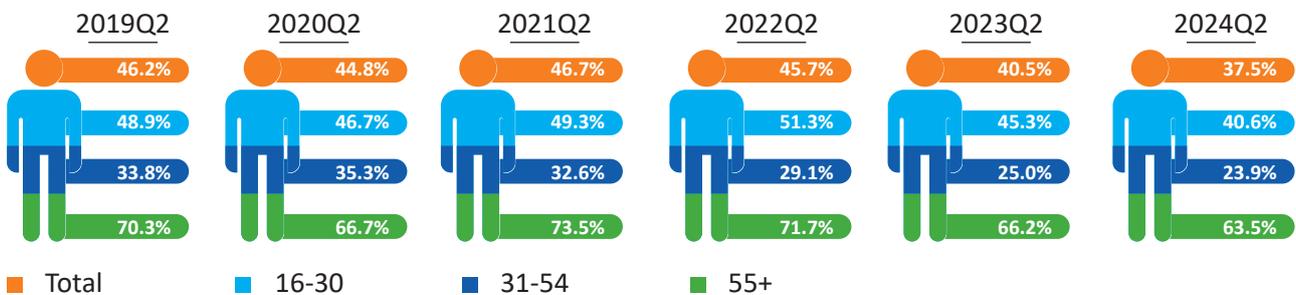
2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
46.2%	44.8%	46.7%	45.7%	40.5%	37.5%
48.9%	46.7%	49.3%	51.3%	45.3%	40.6%
33.8%	35.3%	32.6%	29.1%	25.0%	23.9%
70.3%	66.7%	73.5%	71.7%	66.2%	63.5%

■ Total   ■ 16-30   ■ 31-54   ■ 55+

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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6.4   Population outside the labour force by level of educational attainment

According to the findings in the figure below, people with higher educational attainment had a lower fraction of the working-age population outside the labour force than people with lower levels of education. From May 2023 (Q2) to May 2024(Q2), the rate of population outside the labour force decreased in all levels of education.

Figure 6. 3: Population Outside the Labour Force by Education Level Attained.

	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Rwanda	46.2%	44.8%	46.7%	45.7%	40.5%	37.5%
None	47.9%	45.7%	47.6%	46.9%	40.7%	37.8%
Primary	46.6%	45.4%	50.5%	47.9%	41.9%	39.1%
Lower Secondary	63.1%	54.2%	62.0%	62.3%	56.1%	53.9%
Upper Secondary	38.1%	41.7%	29.4%	29.8%	28.2%	26.7%
University	9.8%	20.0%	12.2%	10.7%	12.1%	9.8%
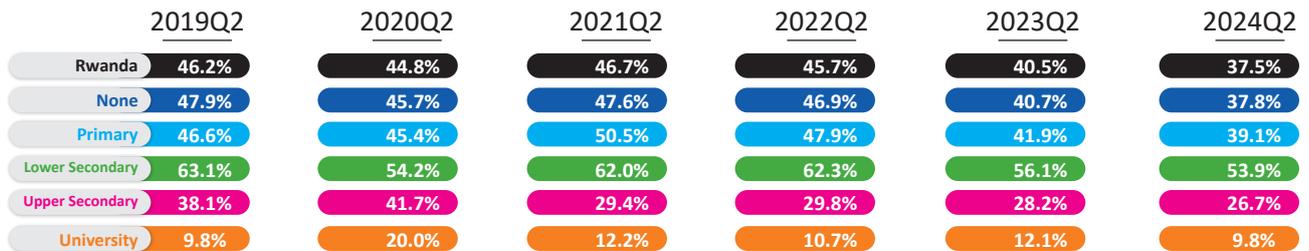
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Work in agriculture

Due to the importance of the agriculture sector for the Rwandan economy, special attention has been given to it in this report. The introduction of the 2013 standards on work, employment and labour underutilization statistics split workers in agriculture occupation into two categories: market oriented and non-market-oriented workers. Workers in the former category are considered as employed while those in latter are not. In this report, all parts are brought together to analyse the agriculture sector generally.

7.1   Agricultural Status of Workers

Three categories of agricultural workers can be distinguished:

a)   Those who worked exclusively in market-oriented agriculture for pay or as a self-employed individual

b)   Those who only engaged in subsistence agriculture

c)   Those whose primary occupation was outside of agriculture but who performed activities related to the production of food for their own consumption.

The full count of workers in the agriculture sector (market oriented and in subsistence agriculture) are presented in table 7.1. The findings show that in May 2024 (Q2), 51.7% of the working age population were involved in agriculture activities, marking an increase of 3.8 percentage points compared to May 2023(Q2) (47.9%). The share of persons who exclusively participated in subsistence agriculture slightly increased by 0.5 percentage points while the shares of those involved in market-oriented agriculture decreased by 5.7 percentage points compared to May 2023(Q2).

Table 7. 1: Work status in agriculture

Categories of Agriculture	2019 Q2	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2022 Q2	2023 Q2	2024 Q2
Market oriented agriculture as main job (a)	33.8	27.4	40.1	41.7	45.2	39.5
Subsistence agriculture exclusively (b)	51.9	53.5	50.8	47.3	42.7	43.2
Participated in Subsistence agriculture but have non-agriculture main job (c)	13.7	19.1	8.8	8.8	11.7	17.3
Total (100%)	100	100	100	100	100	100
Count ('000s)	3,622	5,006	3,652	3482	3,858	4,280
Proportion of working age population	50.8	67.3	47.5	43.9	47.9	51.7

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Note: The proportion computed here is subject to the agriculture workers not to the employed population.

7.2   Characteristics of agricultural workers

The focus of the sections below is on workers with market-oriented agriculture as their main job and those involved exclusively in subsistence agriculture. The results reveal that the bulk of agricultural workers were involved in subsistence agriculture with the higher proportion among female farmers than among agricultural male farmers.

In May 2024(Q2), the share of agricultural workers engaged in subsistence agriculture was 52.2% and it increased by 3.6 percentage points compared to May 2023(Q2). The proportion of male farmers engaged in market-oriented agriculture was 55.9% in May 2024(Q2). It was greater than the corresponding proportion of females involved in the same activity (42.3%). Conversely, the proportion of female farmers engaged in subsistence agriculture was higher than the corresponding proportion of males (57.7% and 55.9% respectively).

The results reveal that the engagement of male farmers in market-oriented agriculture decreased by 1.8 percentage points while it decreased by 5.1 percentage points among female farmers between May 2023 and May 2024.

Table 7. 2: Trend of proportion of agricultural workers by sex.

		LFS rounds				
		2019Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Both	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
	Market oriented agriculture	39.4	44.1	46.8	51.4	47.8
	Subsistence agriculture	60.6	55.9	53.2	48.6	52.2
Male	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
	Market oriented agriculture	47.0	51.4	55.0	57.7	55.9
	Subsistence agriculture	53.0	48.6	45.0	42.3	44.1
Female	**Total**	**100**	**100**		**100**	**100**
	Market oriented agriculture	34.6	39.0	41.3	47.4	42.4
	Subsistence agriculture	65.4	61.0	58.7	52.6	57.6

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 7.3 below presents the trend of the share of market oriented and subsistence agricultural workers among youths and adults separately. The share of adults engaged in subsistence agriculture was higher than the share of youth population in the same activity (53.3% and 49.7% respectively) in May 2024(Q2). The share of subsistence agriculture among agricultural youth increased by 5 percentage points and by 3 percentage points among adults from May 2023 to May 2024.

Table 7. 3: Trends in Proportion of Agricultural Workers by Age Group

		LFS rounds				
		2019Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Both	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
	Market oriented agriculture	39.4	44.1	46.8	51.4	47.8
	Subsistence agriculture	60.6	55.9	53.2	48.6	52.2
Youth (16-30)	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
	Market oriented agriculture	42.3	50.9	51.5	55.3	50.3
	Subsistence agriculture	57.7	49.1	48.5	44.7	49.7
Adults (31+)	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
	Market oriented agriculture	38	40.8	44.8	49.7	46.7
	Subsistence agriculture	62	53.2	55.2	50.3	53.3

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The distribution of agricultural workers by education attainment, presented in table 7.4 shows that the higher the level of educational attainment, the lower the likelihood of participation in agricultural activities for both market-oriented and subsistence agriculture.

Table 7. 4: Trends in proportion of agricultural workers by level of education attainment

		LFS Rounds				
		2019Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Both	Total	100	100	100	100	100
	None	64.5	60.5	57	61	60
	Primary	29.7	31.7	34.6	32.5	32.4
	Lower secondary	3.1	4.5	4.3	3.9	4.1
	Upper secondary	2.4	2.9	3.4	2.2	3
	University	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5
Market oriented agriculture	Total	100	100	100	100	100
	None	68.2	64.7	61.2	65	64.4
	Primary	28.3	29	32.8	30	30
	Lower secondary	1.8	3.4	3.7	3.2	3.4
	Upper secondary	1.5	2.5	1.9	1.4	1.9
	University	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Subsistence agriculture	Total	100	100	100		100
	None	62.1	57.2	53.4	56.8	56.2
	Primary	30.7	33.9	36.1	35.1	34.6
	Lower secondary	4	5.3	4.8	4.6	4.8
	Upper secondary	3	3.2	4.8	3.1	4
	University	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.4

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS).

7.3   Share of Agriculture in the Total Work Force

Total work force can be defined as the sum of total employment (paid/profit or cash oriented) and the total number of workers engaged in subsistence agriculture. Thus, the share of agriculture workers in the total work force is the proportion of agriculture workers in the total workforce.

According to the findings shown in figure 7.1 below, the proportion of agricultural workers in the workforce in May 2024(Q2) was 57.5% and the proportion among females was significantly higher than the corresponding proportion among males (66.6% and 47.8% respectively). The comparison of the current estimates with the ones for the same quarter one year earlier reveals that there has been a drop of 2.9 percentage points at the national level, 0.6 percentage point among males and 5.1 percentage point among females.

Figure 7. 1: Share of Workers in Agriculture by Sex
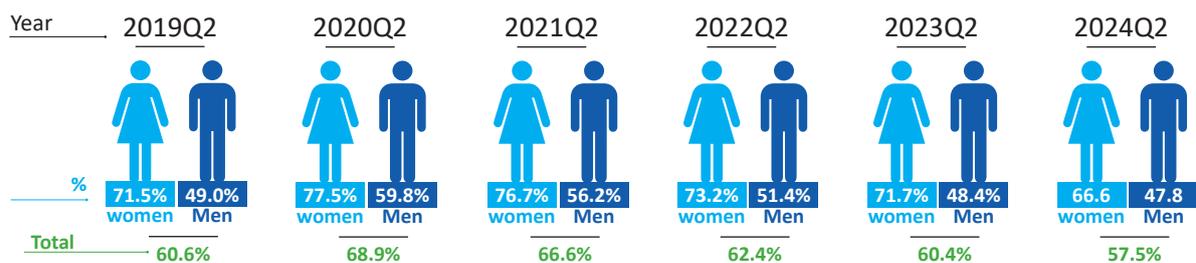
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The share of agricultural workers in the total workforce is inversely correlated with the level of education attainment. Persons with lower level of educational attainment are more likely to join agricultural work compared to those with higher levels of education.

The results reveal a declining or constant trend of the share of agricultural workers in all levels of education apart from upper secondary levels compared to the same quarter one year earlier (Figure 7.2).

Figure 7. 2: Share of Workers in Agriculture by Level of Education Attained

	2019Q2	2020Q2	2021Q2	2022Q2	2023Q2	2024Q2
Rwanda	60.6%	68.9%	66.6%	62.4%	60.4%	57.5%
None	73.5%	76.2%	79.7%	74.7%	72.9%	70.6%
Primary	59.8%	71.9%	68.6%	63.6%	60.5%	58.1%
Lower Secondary	37.6%	68.5%	53.7%	47.4%	39.7%	39.7%
Upper Secondary	21.3%	47.6%	23.9%	28.0%	18.8%	20.2%
University	3.7%	14.8%	6.0%	8.5%	6.0%	6.1%

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Standard Errors, 95% Confidence Intervals, Coefficient of Variation (CV) and Design Effect of Selected Main Labour Force Indicators

Annex A.1: Unemployment rate according to sex, age, education and areas of residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
Unemployment rate	16.794	0.468	15.875	17.713	2.786	1.536
Sex						
Male	14.070	0.547	12.996	15.144	3.887	1.281
Female	19.843	0.689	18.490	21.197	3.472	1.381
Age groups						
Youth (16-30 years)	20.498	0.749	19.028	21.969	3.652	1.413
Adult (31+ years)	14.124	0.550	13.044	15.203	3.892	1.419
16-24 years	22.129	0.931	20.299	23.959	4.209	1.224
25-34 years	16.967	0.793	15.410	18.525	4.673	1.225
35-54 years	14.828	0.673	13.506	16.149	4.537	1.341
55 and over	9.904	1.123	7.696	12.111	11.344	1.251
Education						
None	16.320	0.633	15.076	17.564	3.879	1.310
Primary	16.600	0.791	15.046	18.154	4.765	1.369
Lower secondary	18.441	1.637	15.224	21.658	8.880	1.157
Upper secondary	20.530	1.584	17.417	23.643	7.718	1.672
University	12.598	1.479	9.693	15.503	11.738	1.148
Area of residence						
Urban	15.789	0.727	14.361	17.216	4.602	1.331
Rural	17.317	0.621	16.097	18.536	3.585	1.736

Annex A.2: Labour Force Participation Rate According to Sex, Age, Education and Areas of Residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
LF Participation Rate	62.527	0.572	61.403	63.651	0.915	2.181
Sex						
Male	70.323	0.687	68.972	71.673	0.978	1.660
Female	55.626	0.692	54.267	56.985	1.244	1.606
Age groups						
Youth (16-30 years)	59.381	0.780	57.849	60.912	1.313	1.735
Adult (31+ years)	65.011	0.697	63.642	66.381	1.072	1.864
16-24 years	50.652	0.902	48.880	52.424	1.781	1.557
25-34 years	80.561	0.774	79.041	82.080	0.960	1.297
35-54 years	74.413	0.767	72.905	75.921	1.031	1.549
55 and over	36.219	1.164	33.931	38.506	3.214	1.426
Education						
None	62.210	0.747	60.742	63.677	1.201	1.694
Primary	60.867	0.836	59.224	62.511	1.374	1.456
Lower secondary	46.066	1.615	42.892	49.239	3.507	1.473
Upper secondary	73.332	1.203	70.969	75.694	1.640	1.091
University	90.159	1.705	86.810	93.508	1.891	2.091
Area of residence						
Urban	71.520	0.836	69.877	73.163	1.169	1.603

Annex A.3: Employment to Population Ratio According to Sex, Age, Education and Area of Residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
Employment to						
population ratio	52.026	0.580	50.887	53.166	1.115	2.104
Sex						
Male	60.428	0.715	59.023	61.833	1.183	1.568
Female	44.588	0.710	43.193	45.982	1.592	1.688
Age groups						
Youth (16-30 years)	47.208	0.789	45.659	48.758	1.671	1.720
Adult (31+ years)	55.829	0.718	54.420	57.239	1.285	1.822
16-24 years	39.443	0.839	37.795	41.091	2.127	1.409
25-34 years	66.892	0.911	65.101	68.683	1.363	1.273
35-54 years	63.379	0.870	61.670	65.088	1.373	1.633
55 and over	32.632	1.121	30.428	34.835	3.437	1.391
Education						
None	52.057	0.742	50.599	53.514	1.425	1.575
Primary	50.763	0.871	49.051	52.475	1.717	1.506
Lower secondary	37.571	1.512	34.600	40.542	4.025	1.367
Upper secondary	58.277	1.505	55.321	61.233	2.582	1.374
University	78.801	2.137	74.602	82.999	2.712	1.745
Area of residence						
Urban	60.228	0.884	58.492	61.964	1.467	1.522
Rural	48.527	0.697	47.158	49.897	1.436	2.128

Annex A.4: LU2-Combined rate of Unemployment and Time-Related Underemployment (%) according to Sex, Age, Education and Areas of Residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
LU2 (%)	43.141	0.726	41.714	44.568	1.684	2.109
Sex						
Male	38.470	0.799	36.900	40.040	2.077	1.397
Female	48.370	0.939	46.525	50.215	1.942	1.634
Age groups						
Youth (16-30 years)	45.602	1.004	43.629	47.575	2.202	1.670
Adult (31+ years)	41.367	0.836	39.724	43.010	2.022	1.643
16-24 years	47.204	1.201	44.844	49.563	2.544	1.408
25-34 years	43.512	1.222	41.111	45.914	2.809	1.669
35-54 years	42.434	0.981	40.507	44.362	2.312	1.475
55 and over	33.805	1.822	30.226	37.385	5.390	1.312
Education						
None	49.066	0.891	47.315	50.817	1.817	1.418
Primary	43.321	1.088	41.184	45.458	2.511	1.460
Lower secondary	43.171	2.132	38.982	47.360	4.939	1.202
Upper secondary	31.677	1.772	28.197	35.157	5.592	1.576
University	17.990	1.934	14.191	21.789	10.749	1.465
Area of residence						
Urban	31.906	1.114	29.719	34.094	3.490	1.914
Rural	48.982	0.920	47.175	50.789	1.878	2.184

Annex A.5: LU3-Combined Rate of Unemployment and Potential Labour Force (%) according to Sex, Age, Education and Areas of Residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
LU3(%)	32.583	0.591	31.422	33.743	1.813	1.917
Sex						
Male	25.294	0.685	23.949	26.639	2.707	1.473
Female	39.648	0.774	38.127	41.169	1.953	1.535
Age groups						
Youth (16-30 years)	34.436	0.836	32.794	36.077	2.426	1.536
Adult (31+ years)	31.286	0.715	29.882	32.691	2.285	1.687
16-24 years	36.978	1.001	35.011	38.944	2.707	1.288
25-34 years	28.847	0.914	27.050	30.643	3.170	1.302
35-54 years	30.962	0.864	29.265	32.659	2.790	1.607
55 and over	37.485	1.620	34.302	40.667	4.322	1.423
Education						
None	33.006	0.762	31.509	34.503	2.309	1.459
Primary	34.460	0.948	32.598	36.323	2.751	1.530
Lower secondary	32.714	1.876	29.028	36.401	5.736	1.254
Upper secondary	32.823	1.678	29.527	36.119	5.112	1.636
University	15.926	1.688	12.610	19.243	10.600	1.275
Area of residence						
Urban	26.864	0.858	25.179	28.549	3.192	1.441
Rural	35.263	0.757	33.776	36.750	2.147	2.062

Annex A.6: LU4-Labour Underutilization Rate (%) according to Sex, Age, Education and Areas of Residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
LU4 (%)	53.930	0.707	52.541	55.319	1.311	2.428
Sex						
Male	46.507	0.817	44.903	48.112	1.756	1.593
Female	61.126	0.848	59.461	62.792	1.387	1.853
Age groups						
Youth (16-30 years)	55.139	0.934	53.304	56.973	1.693	1.750
Adult (31+ years)	53.085	0.816	51.482	54.688	1.537	1.898
16-24 years	57.271	1.098	55.114	59.428	1.917	1.476
25-34 years	51.594	1.109	49.415	53.773	2.150	1.574
35-54 years	53.339	0.973	51.427	55.251	1.824	1.751
55 and over	54.069	1.666	50.797	57.342	3.081	1.419
Education						
None	59.222	0.822	57.608	60.836	1.387	1.553
Primary	55.459	0.993	53.508	57.410	1.791	1.535
Lower secondary	53.117	1.961	49.264	56.970	3.692	1.211
Upper secondary	42.245	1.738	38.831	45.660	4.114	1.587
University	21.113	2.025	17.134	25.092	9.593	1.476
Area of residence						
Urban	40.862	1.129	38.644	43.080	2.763	2.032
Rural	60.055	0.830	58.425	61.685	1.381	2.357

Annex A.7: Rate of Population out of Labour Force Rate according to Sex, Age, Education and Areas of Residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
Rate of Out of labour force	37.473	0.572	36.349	38.597	1.527	2.181
Sex						
Male	29.677	0.687	28.327	31.028	2.316	1.660
Female	44.374	0.692	43.015	45.733	1.559	1.606
Age groups						
Youth (16-30 years)	40.619	0.780	39.088	42.151	1.919	1.735
Adult (31+ years)	34.989	0.697	33.619	36.358	1.992	1.864
16-24 years	49.348	0.902	47.576	51.120	1.828	1.557
25-34 years	19.439	0.774	17.920	20.959	3.979	1.297
35-54 years	25.587	0.767	24.079	27.095	2.999	1.549
55 and over	63.781	1.164	61.494	66.069	1.825	1.426
Education						
None	37.790	0.747	36.323	39.258	1.976	1.694
Primary	39.133	0.836	37.489	40.776	2.138	1.456
Lower secondary	53.934	1.615	50.761	57.108	2.995	1.473
Upper secondary	26.668	1.203	24.306	29.031	4.510	1.091
University	9.841	1.705	6.492	13.190	17.323	2.091
Area of residence						
Urban	28.480	0.836	26.837	30.123	2.936	1.603
Rural	41.309	0.668	39.998	42.620	1.616	2.012

Annex A.8: Youth not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET) Rate according to Sex, Age, Education and Areas of Residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
Youth (age 16-30) NEET	28.995	0.655	27.707	30.282	2.260	1.426
Sex						
Male	21.510	0.791	19.956	23.065	3.679	1.231
Female	36.066	0.959	34.182	37.951	2.660	1.402
Education						
None	36.336	1.203	33.972	38.700	3.312	1.352
Primary	27.834	1.002	25.865	29.802	3.600	1.266
Lower secondary	15.656	1.197	13.304	18.008	7.648	1.153
Upper secondary	31.141	1.847	27.512	34.769	5.932	1.434
University	25.140	3.124	19.003	31.277	12.425	0.919
Area of residence						
Urban	23.743	1.069	21.642	25.844	4.504	1.425
Rural	31.584	0.817	29.978	33.190	2.588	1.416

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