Labour Force survey

Quarter 3, 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), the 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 to develop policies towards this goal and assess its progress. The government of Rwanda also needs updated information for monitoring progress on programmes and policies as stipulated in the second National Strategy for Transformation (NST2), 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 began 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 every quarter. The present report is for the third quarter (Q3) of 2024 and its data collection was conducted in August 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 policymakers, 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

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 a comparison of the third quarter 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 August 2024 (Q3), the working age population (16 years and above) was around 8.3 million of whom around 4.5 million were employed, 815 thousand were unemployed, and 3 million were out of labour force. The sum of the employed and unemployed population makes the population in the labour force 5.3 million persons. The proportion of working age population who were in the labour force has steadily increased since 2022. In August 2024, it was estimated to be 64.1 % which is 4.3 percentage points higher than the estimated value in August 2023 (59.8%). The rate of the population outside labour force decreased to 35.9% in August 2024(Q3) from 40.2% in August 2023(Q3).

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 17.8 percentage points in August 2024(Q3) and it is almost the same as compared to the situation in the same quarter last year.

Trends in labour force participation rate by sex
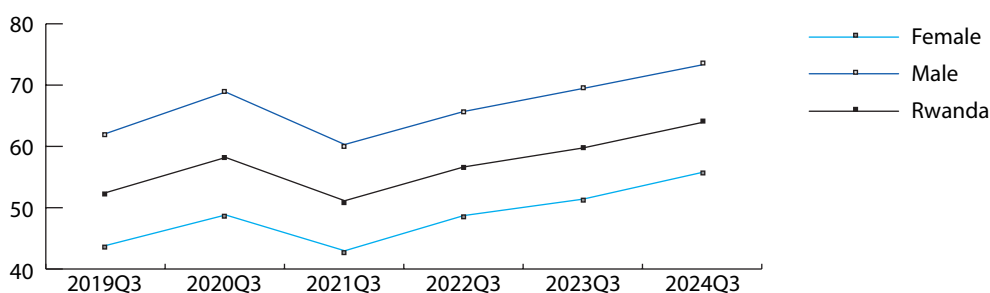
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Employment

The employment-to-population ratio (EPR) increased to 54.3 % in August 2024(Q3) from 49% in August 2023(Q3). EPR increased for both males and females, by 5.1 percentage points and 5.3 percentage points respectively. In August 2024(Q3), the employment-to-population ratio was higher among males (64.3%) than females (45.4%). It was also higher for adults (55.6%) than youth aged 16-30 years old (52.6%). The employment to population ratio gender gap was 18.9 percentage points in August 2024 (Q3) and it remained almost stable as compared to August 2023 (Q3).

Trends in employment to population ratio by sex
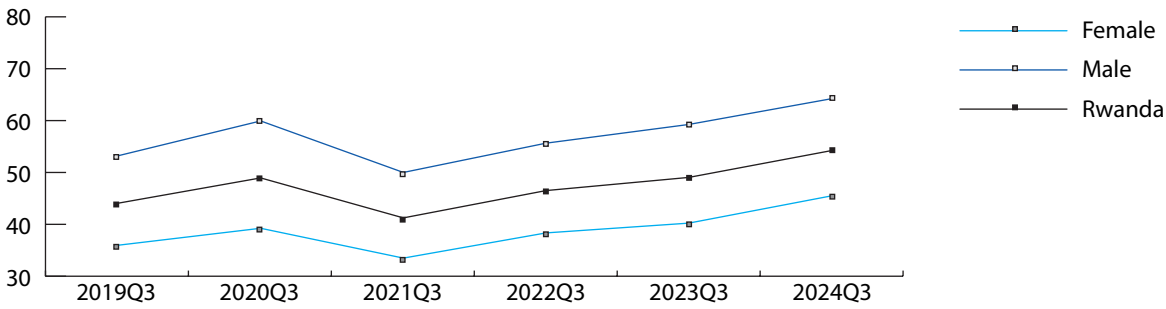
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The distribution of employed population by aggregated broad branches of economic activity revealed that the services sector is employing majority of the employed population in LFS August 2024(Q3). The level of employment in the agricultural sector decreased to 32.6% in August 2024 (Q3) when compared to the same quarter last year (37.4%). In contrast, the percentage of employed population in the service sector increased to 45.4% in August 2024 (Q3), compared to 41 % observed in August 2023 (Q3) and finally, employment in the industry sector remained almost stable in August 2024 (Q3) compared to August 2023 (Q3).

Distribution of employed population by broad sector of economic activity

	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Service	43.1%	41.4%	34.8%	33.9%	41%	45.4%
Industry	21.4%	26.1%	20.6%	20.6%	21.6%	22%
Agriculture	35.4%	32.5%	44.6%	45.6%	37.4%	32.6%
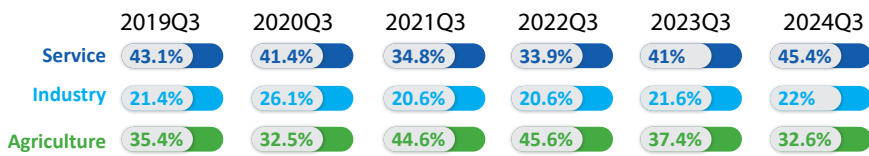
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Unemployment

In August 2024 (Q3), the unemployment rate stood at 15.3 % indicating that roughly for every 7 persons in the labour force, there was one person unemployed. The unemployment rate decreased by 2.7 percentage points as compared to the same quarter last year; and it decreased by 0.7 percentage points as compared to the pre-COVID-19 estimate in the same quarter (16%). The unemployment rate was higher among females (18.5%) than among males (12.5%). It was also higher among youth (18.8%) than among adults (12.6%). It was higher in rural areas than urban areas at 16 % and 13.8% respectively.

The unemployment rate gender gap was 6 percentage points in August 2024(Q3), and it declined by 1.1 percentage points as compared to the same quarter last year.

Trends in unemployment rate by sex
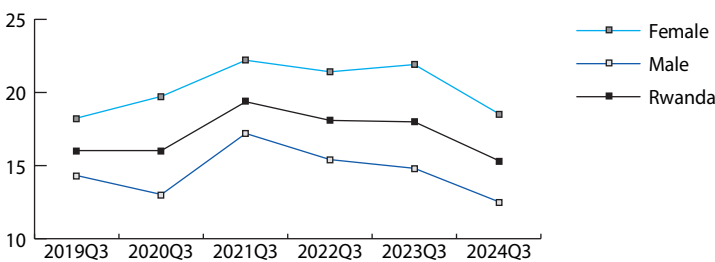
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 58.0 % in August 2024(Q3). It was higher among females (65.6 %) than among males (50.3 %) and higher among youth (59.8 %) than adults (56.5 %).
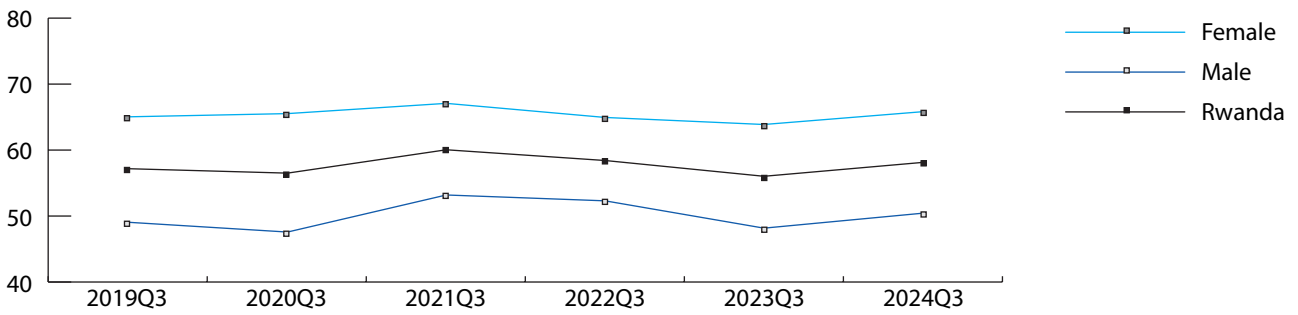
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Rwanda Labour Force Indicators, August 2024 (Q3)

Working age population 16 years old and over (WAP): 8,333,134 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
5,338,680 Persons
64.1%

EMPLOYED
All who worked for pay or profit
4,523,413 persons

EMPLOYMENT TO POPULATION RATIO (EPR)
54.2%

AGRICULTURE
Excluding subsistence foodstuff production — **32.6%**

$$EPR = \frac{Employed}{Working\ Age\ Population} \times 100$$

INDUSTRY — **22.0%**

SERVICE — **45.4%**

UNEMPLOYED
All not employed but seeking and available to work for pay or profit
815,267 persons

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (UR)
15.3%

$$UR = \frac{Unemployed}{Labour\ Force} \times 100$$

Share of unemployed but engaged in subsistence agriculture. — **46.3%**

Share of Non-agricultural unemployed — **53.7%**

OUT OF LABOUR FORCE

Out of Labour Force rate 35.9%

Population outside the labour force
(Not employed nor unemployed)
2,994,454 persons

45.9%
Subsistence agriculture

15.8%
Exclusively Students

38.3%
Other outside LF (Elderly, people with disabilities, discouraged job seekers)

Labour underutilization 4,026,769 persons

Composite measure of labour underutilization rate 58.0%

Unemployed
815,267

Potential labour force
(Portion of out of labour force)
1,600,257
They are available to work, but not searching for employment

Time-related underemployed
(Portion of employed)
1,611,246

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 National level. From February 2019, the sample was spread into four rounds to provide estimates of labour market indicators at 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 third quarter of LFS 2024 whose the data collection was conducted in August 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 97.5%, which is 1 percentage points lower than the same quarter one year back (98.5%). The resulting estimates of the main labour force indicators at the national level have the standard errors of about 0.4 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 August 2024 (Q3) labour force survey with those of August 2023(Q3). However, in some sections, the tables or figures are presented with the additional time series of results of the same quarters from February 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 August 2024 (Q3), the unemployment rate declined to 15.3% as compared to 18% observed in August 2023(Q3).

The analysis of employment trends shows that in August 2024(Q3), the employment-to-population ratio increased by 5.3 percentage points as compared to August 2023(Q3) while the labour force participation rate increased by 4.3 percentage points in the same period.

It is important to note that the level of labour force participation and employment in August 2024 (Q3), exceeded pre-COVID-19 levels while the registered rate of unemployment in August 2024 (Q3) is slightly lower than the one observed prior to COVID-19. This could be interpreted as a reflection of economic recovery and a reallocation of previously inactive labor force participants into employment.

Figure 2. 1. Trend Labour force participation rate, employment to population ratio and unemployment rate
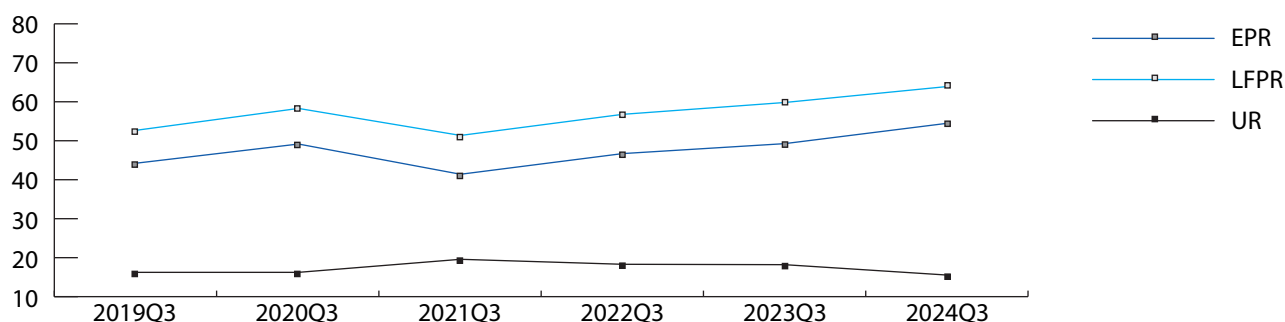
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

2.2 Trend of labour Underutilization

The LFS August 2024 (Q3) 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 August 2024(Q3) with the same quarter one year back shows that LU3 declined by 2.2 percentage points, while Time-related underemployment (TRUR), LU2 and LU4 increased by 5.7 percentage points, 3 percentage points and 2.2 percentage points respectively. . This suggests that while the labor market has recovered in terms of employment, there are still challenges in addressing labor underutilization, especially in terms of time-related underemployment and potential labor force.

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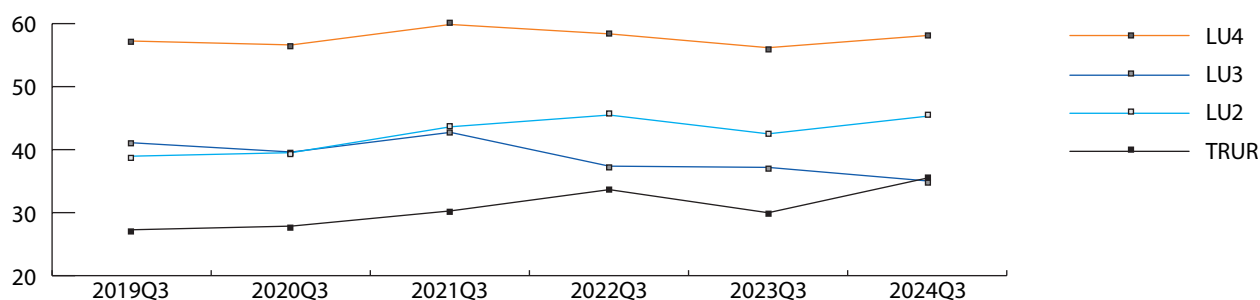
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 August 2024 (Q3) decreased by 4.3 percentage points, as compared to the estimated value in the same quarter one year earlier (August 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 August 2024(Q3) increased by 1.1 percentage points compared to the estimate of the same quarter one year back (August 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 August 2024 (Q3), the proportion of discouraged jobseekers among the working age population slightly decreased by 0.5 percentage points as compared to the same quarter one year back (August 2023).

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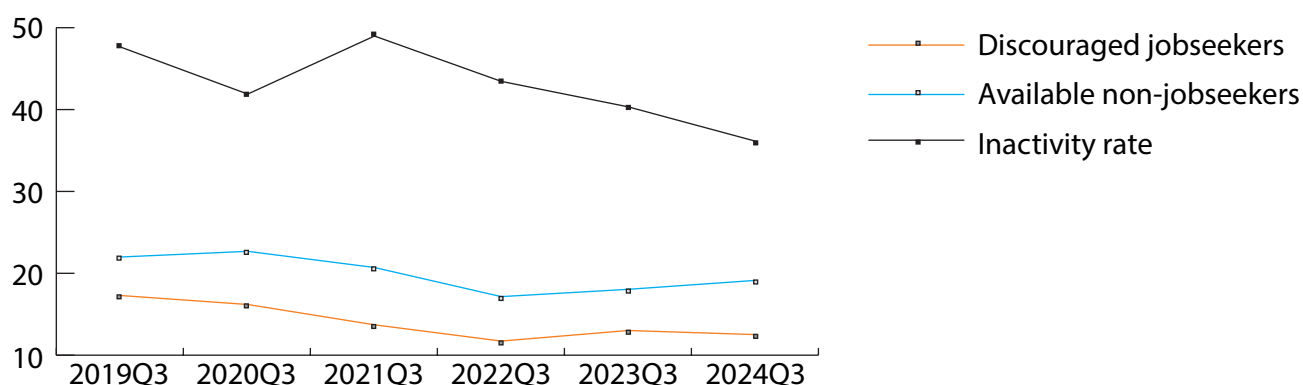
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 4.3 percentage points in August 2024(Q3) as compared to August 2023(Q3). The observed increase during this period was lower among male than among female population (4.0 percentage points and 4.4 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 17.8 percentage points in August 2024(Q3) and it slightly decreased as compared to the situation of the same quarter one year back.

Figure 3. 1 Labour force participation rate by sex

Year	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
LFPR(%) women	43.7%	48.7%	42.8%	48.6%	51.3%	55.7%
Men	61.9%	68.9%	60.0%	65.6%	69.5%	73.5%
Total	52.3%	58.2%	50.9%	56.6%	59.8%	64.1%
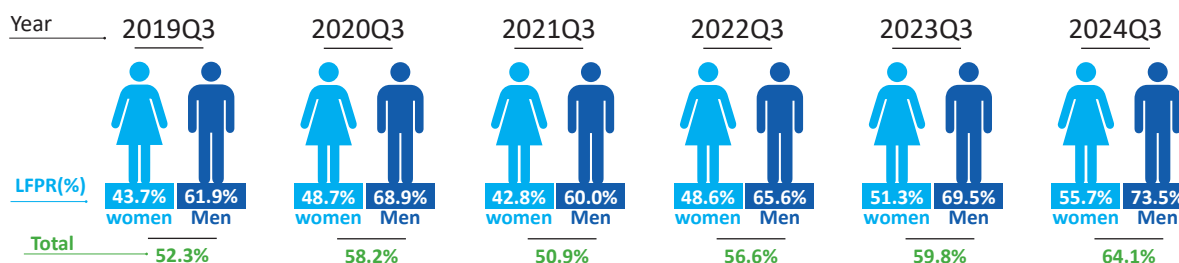
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 in all levels of education. A comparison of August 2024 (Q3) with August 2023 (Q3) shows an increase of labour force participation rate among all levels of education. The highest increase was observed among those with lower secondary level of education and those with no level of education (8.2 and 4.4 percentage points, respectively).

Figure 3. 2 Labour force participation rate by level of education

	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Rwanda	52.3%	58.2%	50.9%	56.6%	59.8%	64.1%
None	50.8%	53.9%	49.9%	55%	58.3%	62.7%
Primary	50.3%	58.4%	50.1%	57.4%	59.7%	63.2%
Lower Secondary	38.1%	51.3%	38.9%	39.5%	48.2%	56.4%
Upper Secondary	64.5%	71.1%	56.6%	64.1%	68.3%	71.2%
University	87.1%	87.6%	82.5%	91.4%	86.9%	87.5%
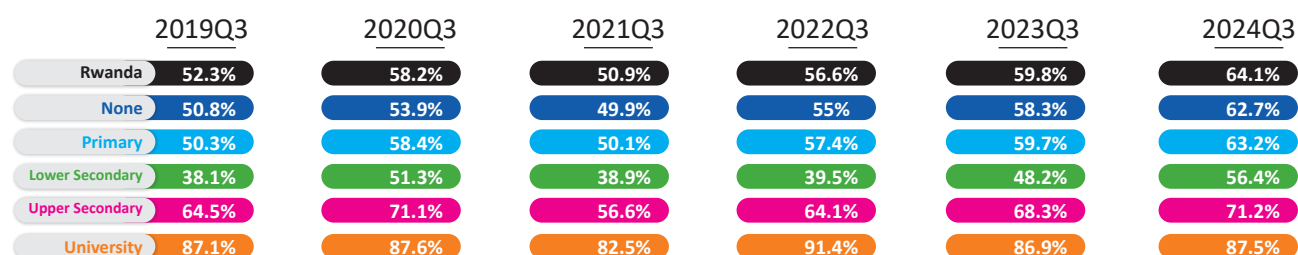
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

3.3   Labour force participation by age group

In August 2024(Q3), the labour force participation rate among youth aged 16 to 30 years was 64.8%. It significantly increased by 6.1 percentage points as compared to the same quarter one year back (August 2023). In the same way, it increased by 1.0 percentage points among people aged 31 to 54 years and 5.4 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

	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Rwanda	52.3%	58.2%	50.9%	56.6%	59.8%	64.1%
16-30 Yrs	50.3%	58.4%	46.9%	52.9%	58.7%	64.8%
31-54 Yrs	64.4%	67.8%	64.7%	72.8%	73.0%	74.0%
55+ Yrs	28.5%	31.4%	27.7%	29.4%	29.9%	35.3%
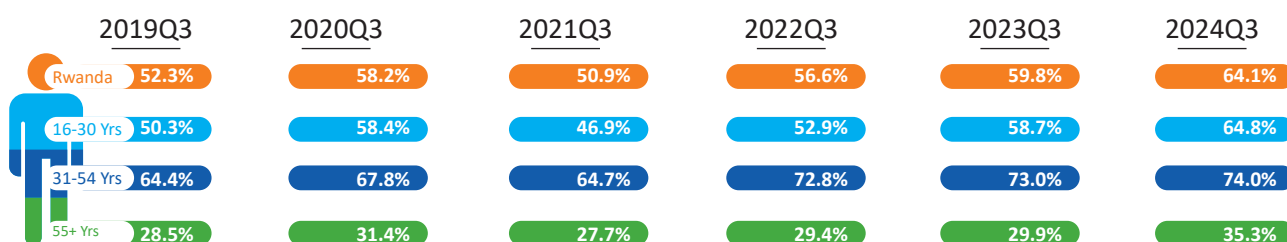
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

3.4   Labour force participation and area of residence

Labour force participation rate by area of residence (urban and rural) was revealed to be high 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 12.4 percentage points in August 2023(Q3) to 14 percentage points in August 2024(Q3).

The comparison of August 2024(Q3) and August 2023(Q3) reveals that the labour force participation rate increased by 5.2 percentage points and by 3.6 percentage points in urban and rural areas respectively.

Figure 3. 4 Labour force participation rate by area of residence
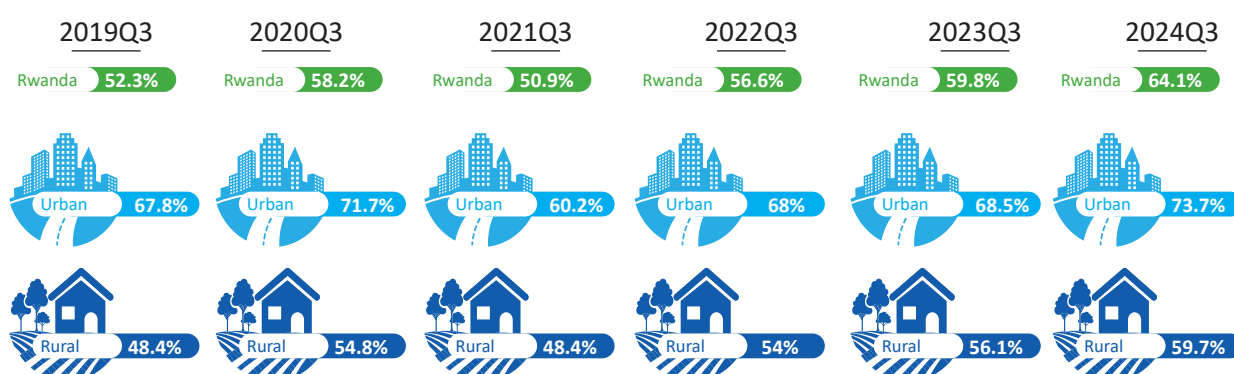
	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Rwanda	52.3%	58.2%	50.9%	56.6%	59.8%	64.1%
Urban	67.8%	71.7%	60.2%	68%	68.5%	73.7%
Rural	48.4%	54.8%	48.4%	54%	56.1%	59.7%

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

Characteristics of employed population

According to the 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 August 2024, the Employment-to-population ratio was 54.3% which is 5.3 percentage points higher than the observed rate in August 2023. The employment to population ratio increased by 6 percentage points in urban areas and by 4.8 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 August 2024(Q3) (13.5 percentage points) and it slightly increased from 12.3 percentage points observed in August 2023(Q3).

Figure 4. 1: Employment to population ratio (EPR) by area of residence.

2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Rwanda **43.9%**	Rwanda **48.9%**	Rwanda **41%**	Rwanda **46.4%**	Rwanda **49%**	Rwanda **54.3%**
Urban **57.4%**	Urban **59.5%**	Urban **49.3%**	Urban **56.2%**	Urban **57.6%**	Urban **63.6%**
Rural **40.5%**	Rural **46.2%**	Rural **38.9%**	Rural **44.1%**	Rural **45.3%**	Rural **50.1%**
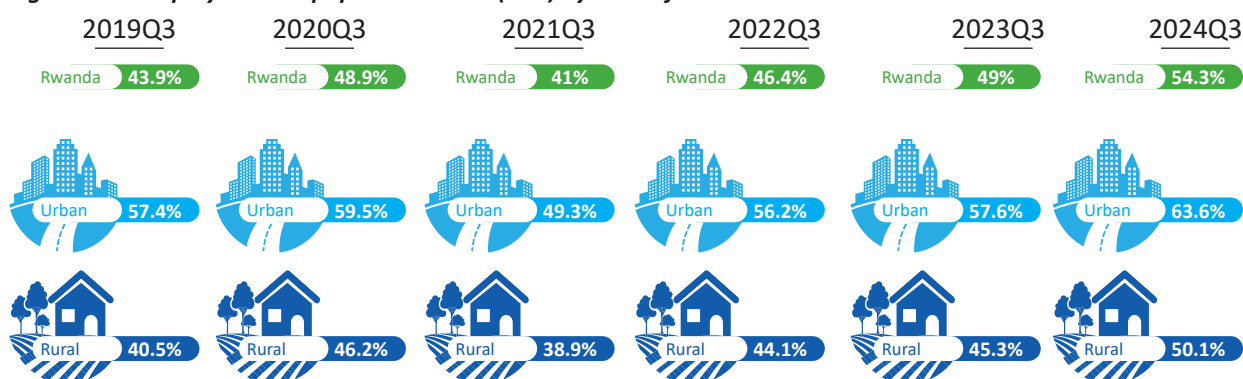
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 August 2024 (Q3) the employment-to-population ratio increased by 5.1 percentage points among males and 5.3 percentage points among females as compared to August 2023(Q3). The gender gap in employment to population ratio in August 2024(Q3), remained significant (18.9 percentage points) and it remained unchanged compared to the same quarter one year earlier(19.1 percentage points).

Figure 4. 2: Employment to population ratio by sex

Year	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
EPR(%) women / Men	35.8% / 53%	39.1% / 59.9%	33.3% / 49.7%	38.2% / 55.5%	40.1% / 59.2%	45.4% / 64.3%
Total	43.9%	48.9%	41%	46.4%	49%	54.3%
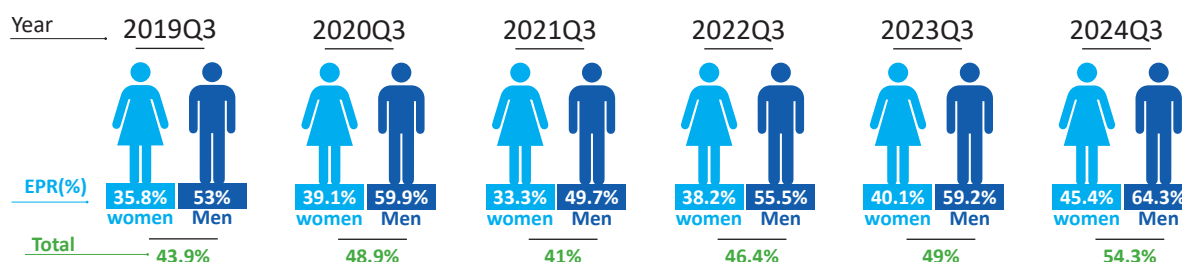
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 August 2024 (Q3) the employment-to-population ratio increased by 4.0 percentage points among adults in age group 31-54 and 6.2 percentage points among youth as compared to August 2023(Q3). 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.

	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Rwanda	43.9%	48.9%	41%	46.4%	49%	54.3%
16-30 Yrs	39.9%	46.4%	34.9%	40.9%	46.4%	52.6%
31-54 Yrs	56.3%	59.3%	54.8%	62%	60.8%	64.8%
55+ Yrs	25.2%	28.4%	24%	24.8%	26.6%	30.9%
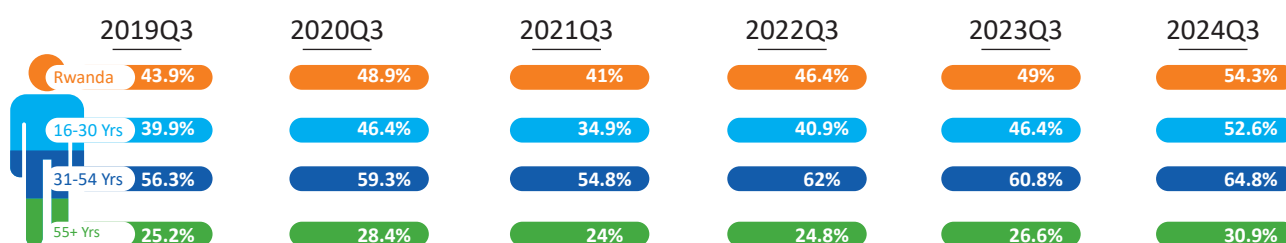
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

In the third quarter, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) includes questions on basic digital skills, and mobile phone ownership, targeting individuals aged 10 years and above. The results out of these, aims to provide valuable insights for policymakers on the state of basic digital literacy and access to mobile technology among the population.

The data showed that nationally, 85% of households have at least one mobile phone. Male-headed households show a higher ownership rate (88.5%) compared to female-headed households (75.9%). When it comes to smartphone ownership, 36% of Rwandan households own smartphones.

Regarding mobile phone ownership among the Rwandan population (individual mobile phone ownership), nationally, 53.2% of individuals aged 10 years and above own any mobile phone, a figure that rises to 64.2% among those of working age (16 years and older). For smartphone ownership, 20.6% of the population aged 10 and above owns a smartphone, a figure that increases to 24.8% for those of working age (16years and older).

The figure 4.4 below shows that, overall, employment to population is higher among mobile phone owners (61.6%) as compared to non-phone owners (41.1%). Among phone owners, EPR is higher in males (70.8%) than in females (51.8%).

Figure 4. 4: Employment to population ratio (%) by mobile phone ownership and sex.
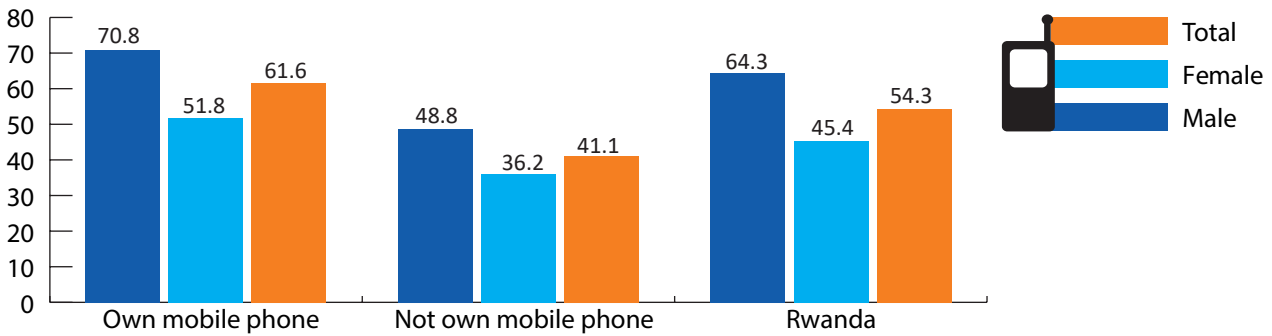
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

4.2   Status in employment

The results in Table 4.1 below reveal that, in August 2024(Q3) the number of employed populations increased by around 13.9% as compared to August 2023(Q3). 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 August 2024 (Q3), the number of employees and paid apprentices increased by 9.3% as compared to August 2023(Q3). The number of own account worker (without regular employees) increased by 16.6% while the number of contributing family workers increased by 92.4%.

Table 4. 1:Distribution of employed population(,000) by status in employment.

Status in employment	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	% change 2023Q3-2024Q3
Total	3,153	3,668	3,179	3,711	3,972	4,523	13.9%
Employee	2,121	2,288	2,248	2,630	2,664	2,911	9.3%
Employer	45	37	40	39	56	80	42.9%
Own account worker	867	1,126	766	879	1,145	1,335	16.6%
Member of cooperative	10	6	6	6	5	3	-51.5%
Contributing family worker	110	210	120	157	101	195	92.4%

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

Figure 4.5 shows the distribution of employed population according to the status of employment. It reveals that the share of employees and paid apprentices in August 2024(Q3) was 64.4% while it was 29.5 % for own account workers. Compared with August 2023(Q3), the share of employees decreased by 2.7 percentage points while the share of own account workers slightly increased by 0.7 percentage points. .

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Figure 4.5: Distribution of employed population by status in employment.

- Employee
- Employer
- Own account worker
- Member of cooperative
- Contributing family worker
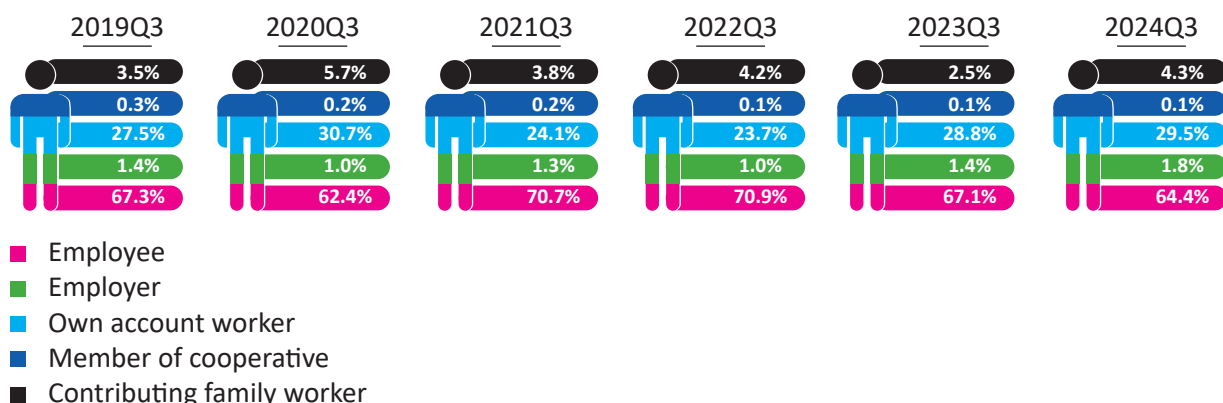
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 trades workers, across all rounds of the labour force survey. The results also indicate that in August 2024, the total employment increased by 13.9%, and all occupational groups increased compared to August 2023 (Q3). Among the occupations with at least 5% of total employment, the highest increase was observed in Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers (51.7%), ,, Service and sales workers (25.2%) and Craft and related trades workers (24.7%).

Table 4. 2: Distribution of employed population (,000) by occupations

Major Occupation group	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	%change 23Q3-24Q3
Total	3,153	3,668	3,179	3,711	3,972	4,523	13.9%
Managers	48	38	32	38	38	43	14.5%
Professionals	190	174	179	216	259	285	10.2%
Technicians and associate professionals	53	56	41	47	29	73	151.6%
Clerical support workers	29	37	25	38	30	42	40.8%
Service and sales workers	612	752	478	469	721	902	25.2%
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	200	291	204	248	184	280	51.7%
Craft and related trades workers	276	423	277	372	366	456	24.7%
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	93	99	84	78	110	157	42.6%
Elementary occupations	1,652	1,797	1,859	2,206	2,236	2,286	2.2%

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 (32.6%) in August 2024(Q3). Other sectors that employed a substantial number of populations were wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (15.1%), construction (13.1%), transportation and storage (7.2%), manufacturing (6.9%), education (4.1%), Accommodation and food services activities (3.8%), Activities of households as employers (3.8%) and Other services(3.7%).

Table 4. 3: Percentage distribution of employed population by branch of economic activity.

ISIC High level	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Agriculture forestry and fishing	35.2	32.5	44.6	45.6	37.4	32.6
Mining and quarrying	2.4	1.8	1	1.4	1.3	1.8
Manufacturing	7.1	8.1	5.6	6.5	6.2	6.9
Electricity gas stream and air conditioning supply	0.2	0.2	0.3	0	0.1	0.1
water supply, gas and remediation services	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Construction	11.5	15.7	13.6	12.5	14	13.1
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	14.7	16.6	12.2	9.8	13.7	15.1
Transportational and storage	4.8	4.1	4.7	5.4	6.7	7.2
Accommodation and food services activities	3.1	3.3	1.1	2	3	3.8
Information and communication	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Financial and insurance activities	1.1	1	0.9	0.7	1	0.9
Real estate activities	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.8
Administrative and support activities	1.4	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.2
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.7
Education	3.7	2.5	3.3	3.3	4.1	4.1
Human health and social work activities	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	1	1.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.3	0.2	0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Other services	2.4	2.3	3	2.6	2.9	3.7
Activities of households as employers	6.5	4.7	3.7	4	4.3	3.8
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.7	0.1	0	0.1	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 August 2024 (Q3), the number of 18 branches of economic activity increased as compared to August 2023(Q3). The increase among the industries with at least 5 percentage of the total employment was observed in accommodation and food services activities (42.2%), Manufacturing(26.4%), wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles(25.8%), Transportation and storage(22.8%) and construction(7.1%)

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

Branch of Economic Activity	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	% change
							23Q3-24Q3
Total	3,153	3,668	3,179	3,711	3,972	4,523	13.9
Agriculture forestry and fishing	1,110	1,192	1,419	1,691	1,485	1,476	-0.6
Mining and quarrying	74	68	31	52	53	81	51.3
Manufacturing	225	298	177	240	247	312	26.4
Electricity gas stream and air conditioning supply	7	8	8	2	2	3	49.0
water supply, gas and remediation services	7	8	7	4	1	6	348.8
Construction	362	576	431	465	554	594	7.1
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	464	609	387	364	545	685	25.8
Transportation and storage	150	150	148	201	266	327	22.8

Accommodation and food services activities	96	123	35	73	120	171	42.2
Information and communication	9	13	12	11	12	13	10.4
Financial and insurance activities	35	38	29	25	38	39	1.1
Real estate activities	3	11	4	5	3	8	154.5
Professional, scientific and technical activities	25	25	16	30	17	35	111.0
Administrative and support activities	44	77	51	57	66	97	46.9
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	65	65	56	67	61	78	27.8
Education	118	92	105	121	164	187	14.0
Human health and social work activities	44	46	44	47	38	65	72.9
Arts, entertainment and recreation	10	9	2	8	8	6	-26.4
Other services	75	86	96	95	117	167	42.9
Activities of households as employers	206	171	119	149	170	171	0.3
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	22	4	2	5	4	3	-34.3

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

The figure 4.6 below shows that most employees (68.7%) have short term or casual contract. This phenomenon is higher in rural areas (80.9%) than urban areas of Rwanda (46.3%). 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 4.6: 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:
12.7%	71.9%	27.2%	53.9%	72.7%	25.0%	67.7%	43.6%	15.4%	26.3%
2.6%	4.9%	8.3%	14.1%	18.7%	5.6%	6.6%	10.2%	3.7%	6.0%
84.7%	71.9%	64.0%	31.9%	8.6%	69.4%	67.7%	46.3%	80.9%	68.7%

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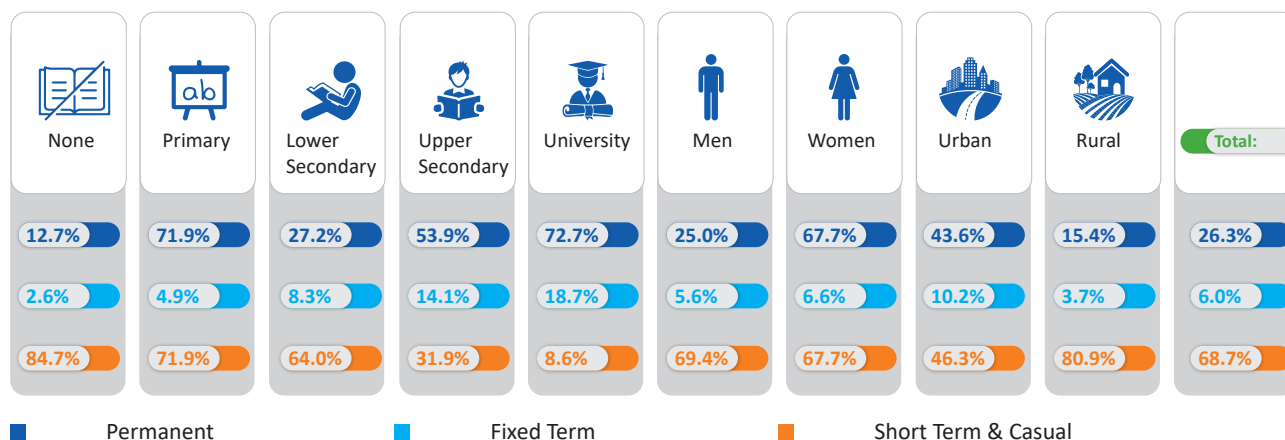
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

4.5   Means of transport by areas of residence

Figure 4.7 below shows transport means used by employed people while commuting to and from work. It is observed that 82.7% of employed persons walk from home to work and back again while only 8.9% use public transport according to LFS 2024, Q3 results. The figure also shows that 25.2% 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 (14.4%) and lower in rural areas (2.6%) outside of Kigali.

Figure 4. 7: Means of transport for employed people by area of residence

Kigali City
- 64.3% Walk
- 25.2% Public
- 10.5% Private
- 0.0 % Others

Other Urban
- 73.0% Walk
- 14.4% Public
- 12.6% Private
- 0.0% Others

Rural
- 90.9% Walk
- 2.6% Public
- 6.2% Private
- 0.0% Others

Total:
- 82.7% Walk
- 8.9% Public
- 8.2% Private
- 0.0% Others

Legend: ■ Walk ■ Public ■ Private ■ Others
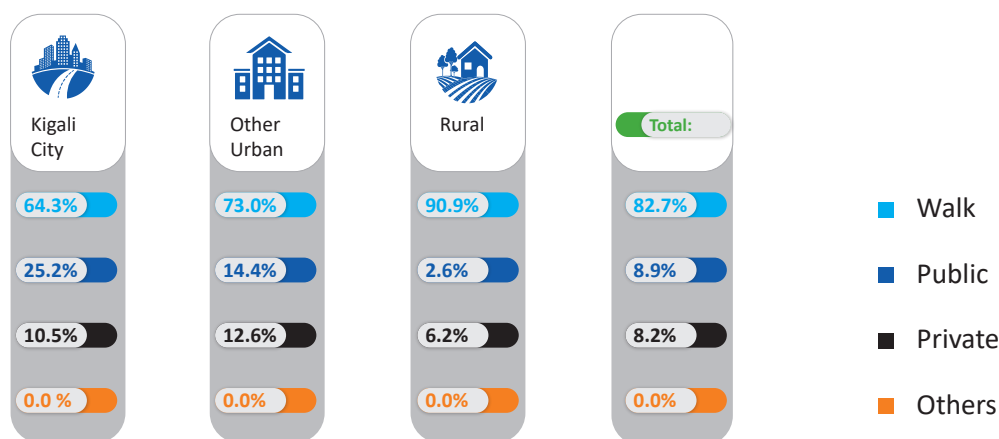
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

4.7   Actual hours worked.

Figure 4.8 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 2 hours compared to August 2023(Q3). There was also a decrease in working hours among females and males, 2.4 hours and 1.5 hours respectively from August 2023 to August 2024. It is also observed that employed males are working around six hours more than the employed females weekly.

Figure 4. 8: Average actual hours worked.

Year	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Hrs women	28.8	30.0	26.4	28.2	28.4	26.0
Hrs Men	34.6	35.1	31.1	32.2	33.2	31.7
Total	32.1	33.0	29.1	30.5	31.2	29.2
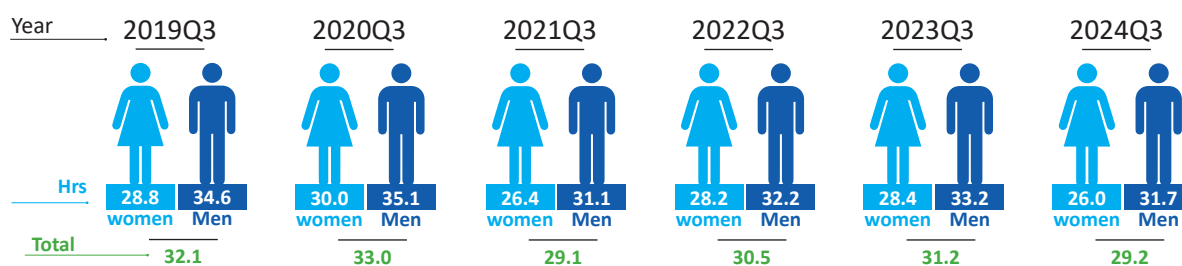
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey Series

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 August 2024(Q3), the unemployment rate in Rwanda was 15.3% and decreased compared to 18% in August 2023(Q3). Figure 5.1 below shows that the unemployment rate was higher among female (18.5%) compared to male (12.5%) in August 2024(Q3). The unemployment rate decreased by 2.3 percentage points among males and 3.4 percentage points among female in comparison with observed estimates in August 2023 (Q3).

Figure 5. 1: Unemployment rate by sex.

Year	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Unemployment rate (%) women / Men	18.2% / 14.3%	19.7% / 13.0%	22.2% / 17.2%	21.4% / 15.4%	21.9% / 14.8%	18.5% / 12.5%
Total	16.0%	16.0%	19.4%	18.1%	18.0%	15.3%
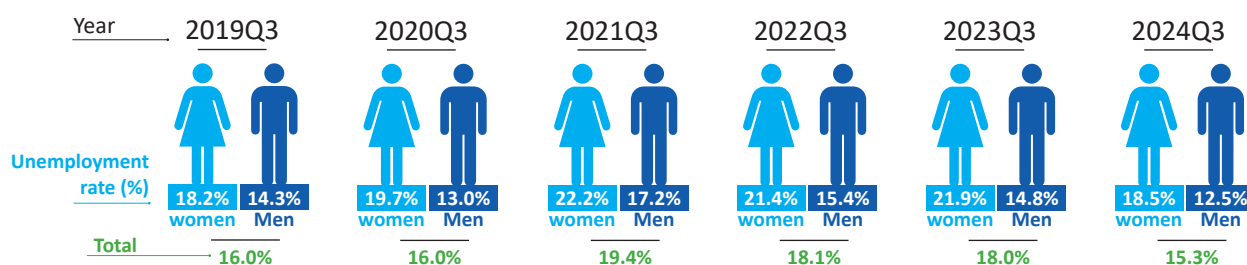
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 5.2 shows that in August 2024, the unemployment rate was higher among the population living in rural areas as compared to those living in urban areas of Rwanda (16.1% and 13.8% respectively). The comparison between the current quarter with the same quarter in 2023 shows that the unemployment rate decreased by 3.1 percentage points among population living in rural areas and by 2.1 percentage points among population living in the urban areas of Rwanda.

Figure 5. 2: Unemployment rate by area of residence.
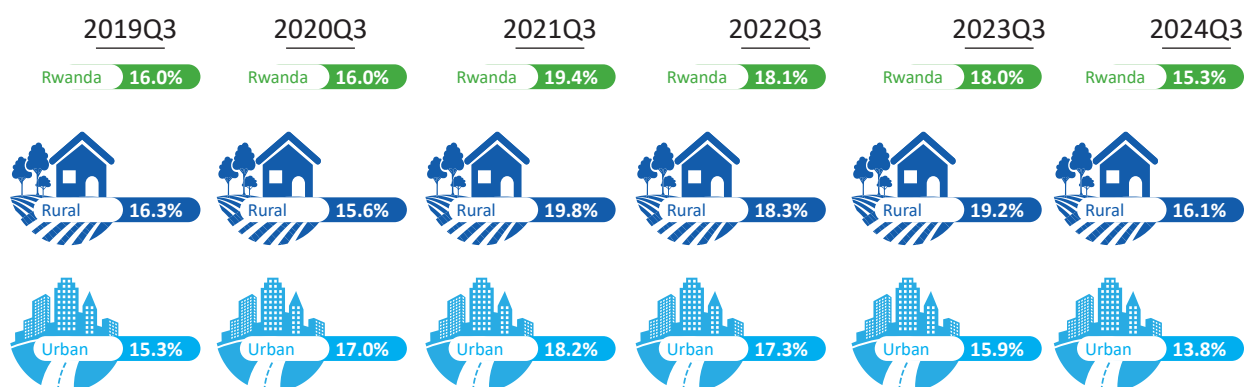
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 5.3 shows the trend of 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 the adults over time. A comparison of the current survey results with the ones obtained one-year back shows that the unemployment rate decreased by 2.2 percentage points among youth population, and 4.4 percentage points among those aged 31-54 years while it slightly increased by 1.7 percentage points among adults aged 55 years and above.

Figure 5.3: Unemployment rate among youth and Adult

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

5.2   Labour Underutilization

Labour underutilization 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) or (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 58.0% in August 2024(Q3) representing an increase of 2.2 percentage points compared to 55.8% recorded in August 2023(Q3). The labour underutilization rate was higher among females (65.6%) than among males (50.3%). It increased by 2.3 percentage points among males and by 2 percentage points among females from August 2023(Q3) to August 2024(Q3).

Figure 5. 4: Labour under-utilization rate by sex
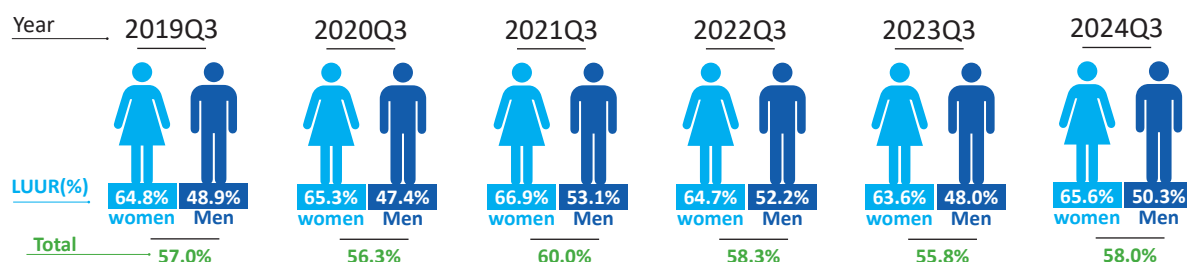
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey

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 August2024(Q3) and August 2023(Q3) reveals that the labour underutilization increased by 3.2 percentage points among the population living rural areas of Rwanda while it remained almost stable among population living in urban areas.

Figure 5. 5: Labour under-utilization rate by area of residence.
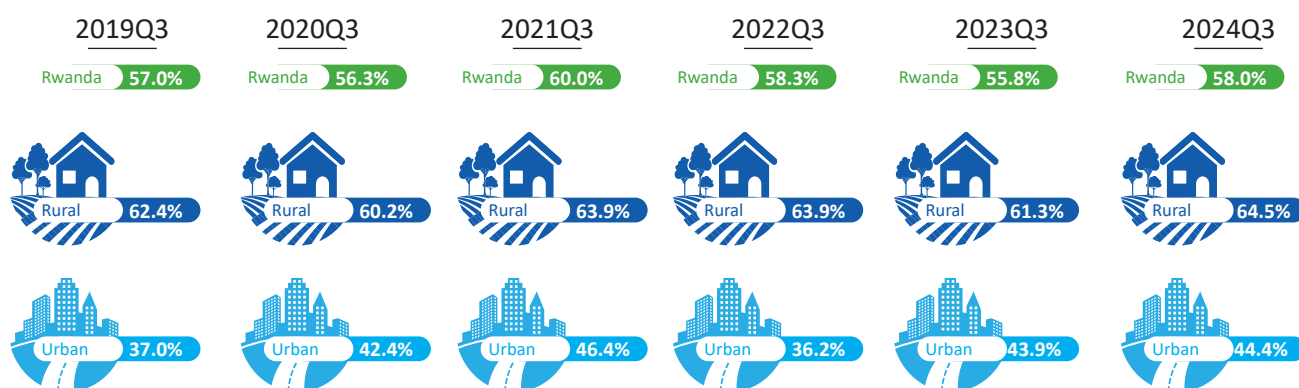
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 5.6 presents the results of the labour underutilization rate by age group. It was observed that the labour underutilization rate increased by 1.1 percentage points from 58.8% in August 2023(Q3) to 59.9% in August 2024(Q3) among youth. It also increased by 2 percentage points for age group 31-54 years, and by 7.4 percentage points among those aged 55 years and above in the same period.

Figure 5. 6: Trend in labour underutilization rate by Youth and Adult.
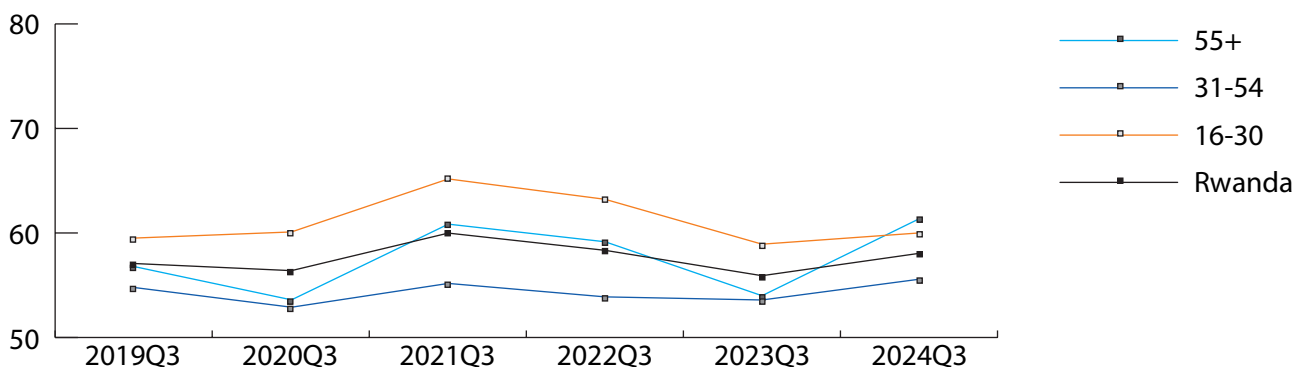
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 August 2024 (Q3), the full count of the young population aged 16-30 years, who neither were in employment nor in education or training was estimated to 1,081,651 persons. The share of youth (16-30 years) neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET) was 29.1% in August 2024(Q3) with higher rate among females (36.2%) than among males (21.7%). The comparison of the current NEET rate with the results of the same quarter one year earlier shows that the NEET rate decreased by 4.1 percentage points at national level. In the same way, the decrease of 3 percentage points and 4.9 percentage points were observed among male and female population respectively.

Figure 5.7: NEET rate trend by sex
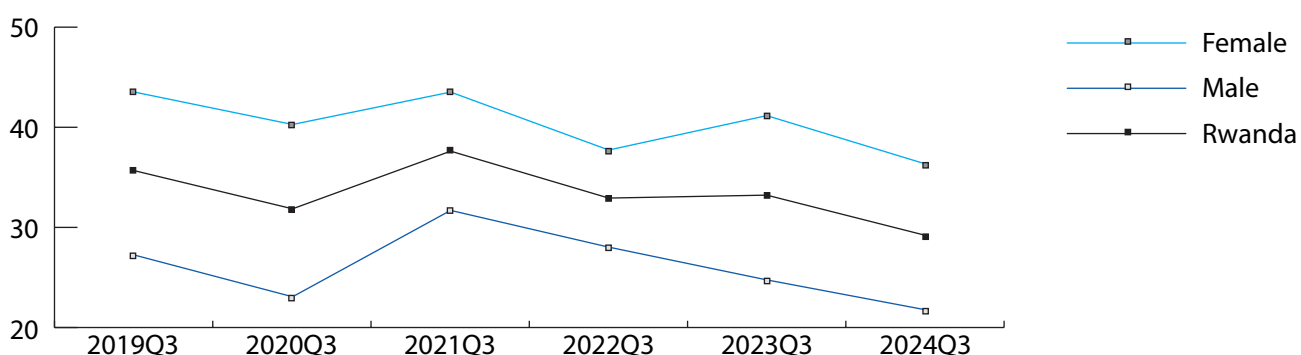
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Regarding the area of residence, the NEET rate was higher in rural areas (33%) than in urban areas (21.5%). Among the youth population living in urban areas, a decrease NEET rate of 4.0 percentage points was recorded and the same decrease was observed among youth population living in rural areas from August 2023 to August 2024
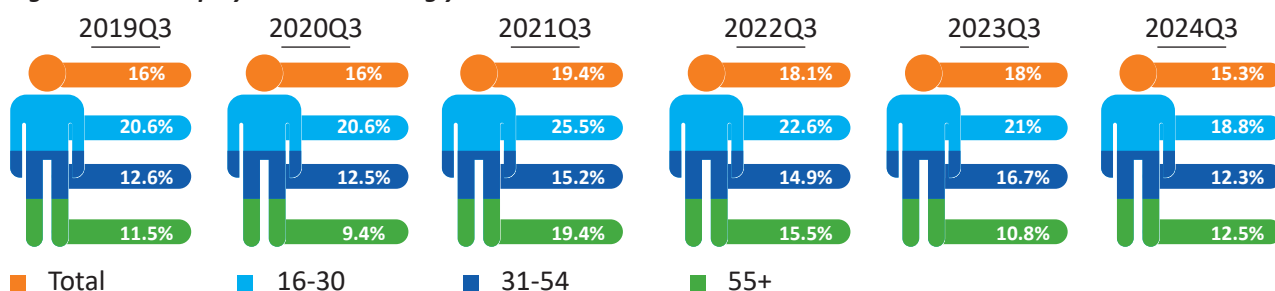
Figure 5.8: NEET rate trend by area of residence
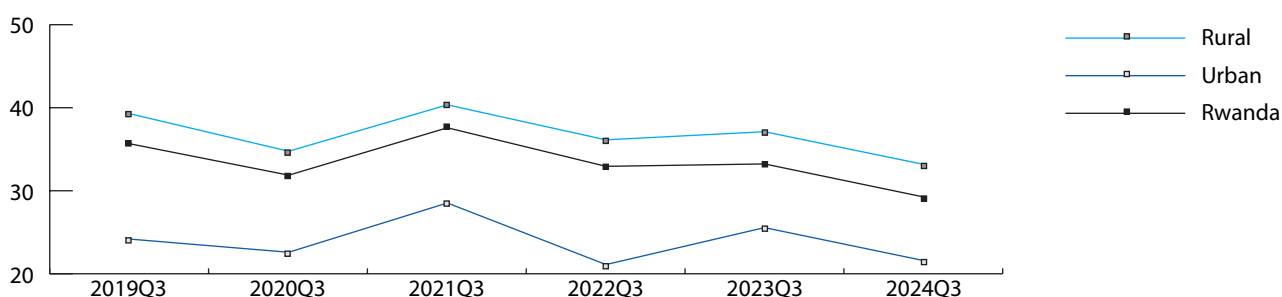
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey

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 notable characteristic of countries with large subsistence foodstuff production is the substantial proportion of the working-age population that remains outside the labour force, which can result in a relatively smaller labour force.".

The population outside the labour force stood at 35.9 percentage of the working age population. The comparison of the current population outside labour force with the estimated value in the same quarter of the previous year reveals that it decreased by 4.3 percentage points.

This decrease of the population outside labour force coupled with the increase in employment to population ratio and the decrease 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 August 2023   to August 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 largely 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 45.9%   in August 2024(Q3) . Those who were exclusively classified as students represented 15.8%   while the remaining part represented 38.3%. 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 reduced by 3.1 percentage points, the share of subsistence agriculture increased by 8.4 percentage points, while the share of other outside labour force decreased by 5.2 percentage points.

Figure 6. 1: Main components of Persons outside the labour force

|	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Others+	32.4%	33.6%	40.2%	38%	43.5%	38.3%
Exclusively students	19.9%	16%	20.5%	22.4%	19%	15.8%
Subsistance agricultural farmers	47.7%	50.4%	39.3%	39.6%	37.5%	45.9%

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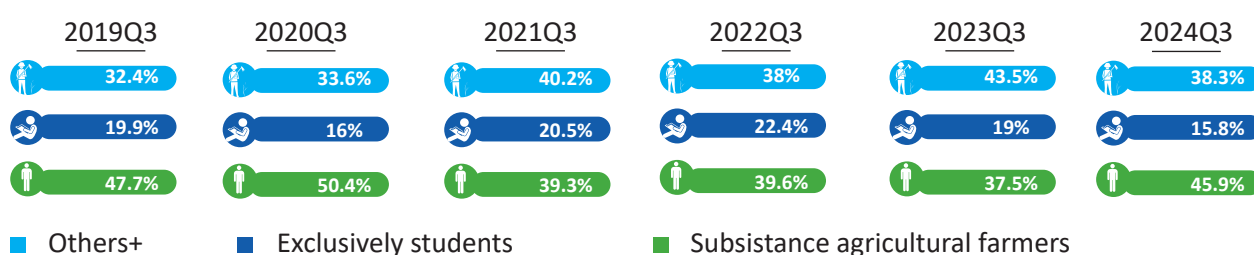
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 proportion of working age population at national level and in both urban and rural separately.

A comparison between August 2023 (Q3) and August 2024 (Q3) shows a reduction in the proportion of the population outside the labor force. Nationally, this rate decreased by 4.3 percentage points, with a drop of 5.2 percentage points in urban areas and 3.6 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 August 2024 (Q3), the urban-rural gap was around 14 percentage points compared to 12.4 percentage points in August 2023 (Q3) , indicating an increase of 1.6 percentage point.

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

	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Rwanda	47.7%	41.8%	49.1%	43.4%	40.2%	35.9%
Rural	51.6%	45.2%	51.6%	46.0%	43.9%	40.3%
Urban	32.2%	28.3%	39.8%	32.0%	31.5%	26.3%
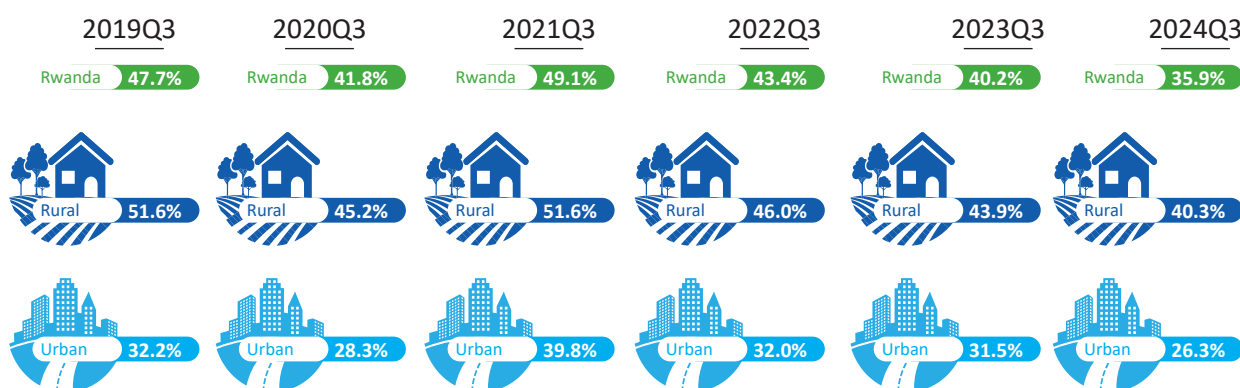
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 August 2024, the rate among youth (16-30 years old) was higher than the rate among those aged 31-54 years old (35.2 % and 26% respectively). For these age groups the proportion of population outside the labour force decreased by 6.1 and 1 percentage points respectively from August 2023 to August 2024.

Figure 6.3: Population outside the Labour force by age group

	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Total	47.7%	41.8%	49.1%	43.4%	40.2%	35.9%
16-30 years	49.7%	41.6%	53.1%	47.1%	41.3%	35.2%
31-54 years	35.6%	32.2%	35.3%	27.2%	27%	26%
55+ years	71.5%	68.6%	72.3%	70.6%	70.1%	64.7%

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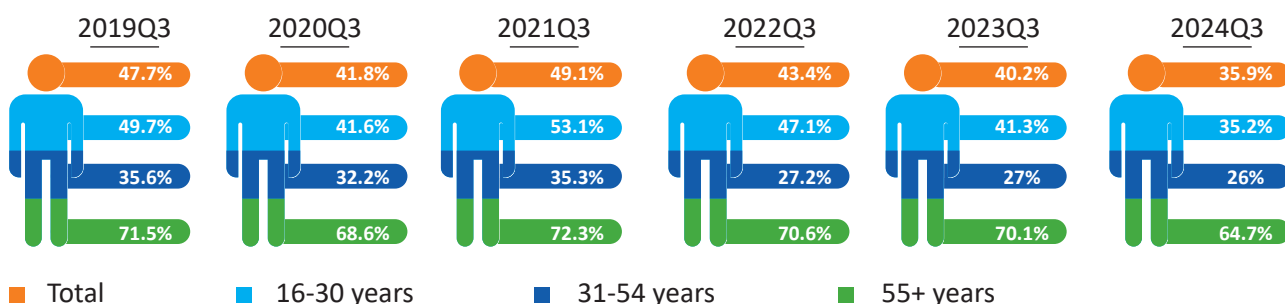
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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 August 2023 (Q3) to August 2024(Q3), the rate of population outside the labour force decreased in all levels of education.

Figure 6. 4: Population outside the Labour force by Education level attained.

	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Rwanda	47.7%	41.8%	49.1%	43.4%	40.2%	35.9%
None	49.2%	46.1%	50.1%	45.0%	41.7%	37.3%
Primary	49.7%	41.6%	49.9%	42.6%	40.3%	36.8%
Lower Secondary	61.9%	48.7%	61.1%	60.5%	51.8%	43.6%
Upper Secondary	35.5%	28.9%	43.4%	35.9%	31.7%	28.8%
University	12.9%	12.4%	17.5%	8.6%	13.1%	12.5%
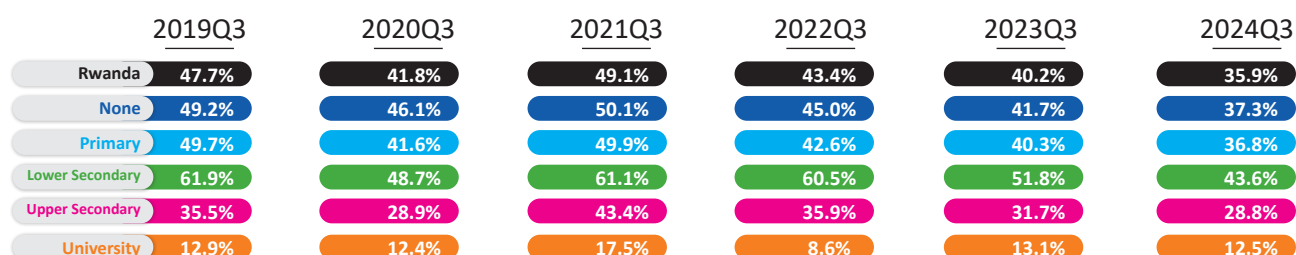
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

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:

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

•   Those who only engaged in subsistence agriculture.

•   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 August 2024 (Q3), 48.5 % of the working age population were involved in agriculture activities, marking an increase of 5.9 percentage points compared to August 2023(Q3) (42.6%). The share of persons who exclusively participated in subsistence agriculture slightly decreased by 1.6 percentage points while the shares of those involved in market-oriented agriculture decreased by 6.5 percentage points compared to August 2023(Q3).

Table 7. 1: Works status in agriculture

Categories of agriculture	2019 Q3	2020 Q3	2021 Q3	2022 Q3	2023 Q3	2024 Q3
Market oriented agriculture as main job (a)	31.1	32.2	39.7	43.3	43.0	36.5
Subsistence agriculture exclusively (b)	54	51.3	51	45.6	44.9	43.3
Participated in Subsistence agriculture but have non-agriculture main job (c)	14.9	16.5	9.3	11.1	12.1	20.2
Total (100%)	100	100	100	100	100	100
Count ('000s)	3,575	3,698	3,578	3,901	3,450	4,044
Proportion of working age population	49.8	49.3	46.2	48.8	42.6	48.5

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 August 2024(Q3), the share of agricultural workers engaged in subsistence agriculture was 54.3 % and it increased by 3.2 percentage points compared to August 2023(Q3). The proportion of male farmers engaged in market-oriented agriculture was 52.4 % in August 2024 (Q3). It was greater than the corresponding proportion of females involved in the same activity (41.3%). Conversely, the proportion of female farmers engaged in subsistence agriculture was higher than the corresponding proportion of males (58.7 % and 47.6 % respectively).

The results reveal that the engagement of male farmers in market-oriented agriculture decreased by 3.9 percentage points while it decreased by 3.2 percentage points among female farmers between August 2023 and August 2024.

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

		LFS rounds					
		2019 Q3	**2020 Q3**	**2021 Q3**	**2022 Q3**	**2023 Q3**	**2024 Q3**
Both	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
	Market oriented agriculture	36.5	38.6	43.7	48.8	48.9	45.7
	Subsistence agriculture	63.5	61.4	56.3	51.2	51.1	54.3
Male	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
	Market oriented agriculture	43.7	45.1	50.3	55.4	56.3	52.4
	Subsistence agriculture	56.3	54.9	49.7	44.6	43.7	47.6
Female	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**		**100**	**100**
	Market oriented agriculture	32.1	34.5	38.9	44	44.5	41.3
	Subsistence agriculture	67.9	65.5	61.1	56	55.5	58.7

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 youth and adult separately. The share of adults engaged in subsistence agriculture was higher than the share of youth population in the same activity (55.7 % and 51.9% respectively) in August 2024(Q3). The share of subsistence agriculture among agricultural youth increased by 5.6 percentage points and by 2.5percentage points among adults from August 2023 to August 2024.

Table 7. 3: Trend of proportion of agricultural workers by age group

		LFS rounds					
		2019 Q3	**2020 Q3**	**2021 Q3**	**2022 Q3**	**2023 Q3**	**2024 Q3**
Both	Total	100		100	100	100	100
	Market oriented agriculture	36.5	38.6	43.7	48.8	49	45.7
	Subsistence agriculture	63.5	61.4	56.3	51.2	51	54.3
Youth (16-30)	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Market oriented agriculture	37.5	38.3	44.8	51.6	53.7	48.1
	Subsistence agriculture	62.5	61.7	55.2	48.4	46.3	51.9
Adults (31+)	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Market oriented agriculture	36	38.8	43.1	47.4	46.8	44.3
	Subsistence agriculture	64	61.2	56.9	52.6	53.2	55.7

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: Trend of proportion of agricultural workers by level of education attainment

		LFS Rounds					
		2019 Q3	**2020 Q3**	**2021 Q3**	**2022 Q3**	**2023 Q3**	**2024 Q3**
Both	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
	None	62.7	55.5	56.3	57.5	58.5	57.2
	Primary	30.8	34.9	33.7	34.1	32.9	32.3
	Lower secondary	3.6	5.2	5.7	5.1	5.8	6.7
	Upper secondary	2.6	3.9	3.8	3	2.6	3.4
	University	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4
Market oriented agriculture	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
	None	69	59.7	62.1	61.5	63.7	63.4
	Primary	26.2	33.5	30.7	32.2	31.1	28
	Lower secondary	3.2	3.6	4.3	4.4	3.6	5.4
	Upper secondary	1.3	2.8	2.6	1.6	1.4	2.6
	University	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.6
Subsistence agriculture	**Total**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**		**100**
	None	59	52.9	51.8	53.7	53.4	52
	Primary	33.4	35.8	36	35.9	34.7	36
	Lower secondary	3.9	6.2	6.8	5.7	8	7.7
	Upper secondary	3.4	4.6	4.8	4.4	3.7	4.2
	University	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1

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

7.3   Share of agriculture in the total work force

The total workforce is defined as the sum of all individuals engaged in paid or profit-oriented employment and those working in subsistence agriculture. Therefore, the share of agriculture workers in the total workforce refers to the proportion of individuals employed in agriculture relative to the entire workforce.

As shown in Figure 7.1 below, the proportion of agricultural workers in the workforce for August 2024 (Q3) was 51.4%. This share was significantly higher among females, with 62.0% of women working in agriculture, compared to 40.8% of men.

When compared to the same quarter in the previous year, there has been a notable decrease in the proportion of agricultural workers: a 3.6 percentage point drop at the national level, with a 0.9 percentage point reduction among males and a larger decline of 6.1 percentage points among females.

Figure 7. 1: Share of workers in agriculture by sex

Year	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
women	71.5%	67.7%	74.5%	73.3%	68.1%	62.0
Men	47.4%	43.2%	55.2%	53.1%	41.7%	40.8
Total	60.0%	55.5%	64.8%	63.2%	55.4%	51.4%
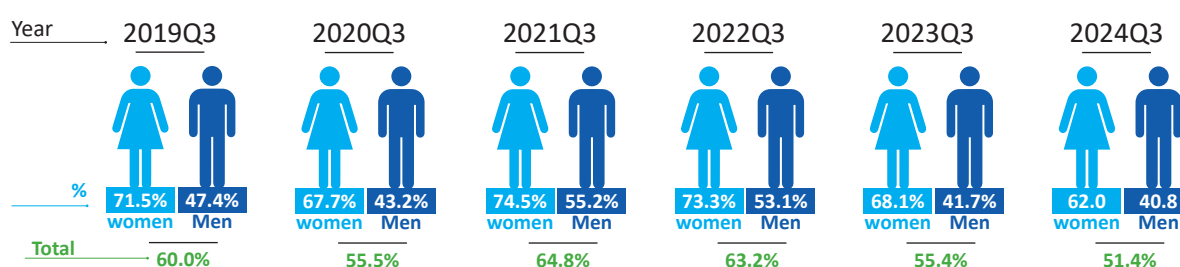
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The share of agriculture workers in 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 result reveals a declining trend of the share of agricultural workers in all levels of education apart from upper secondary and university 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
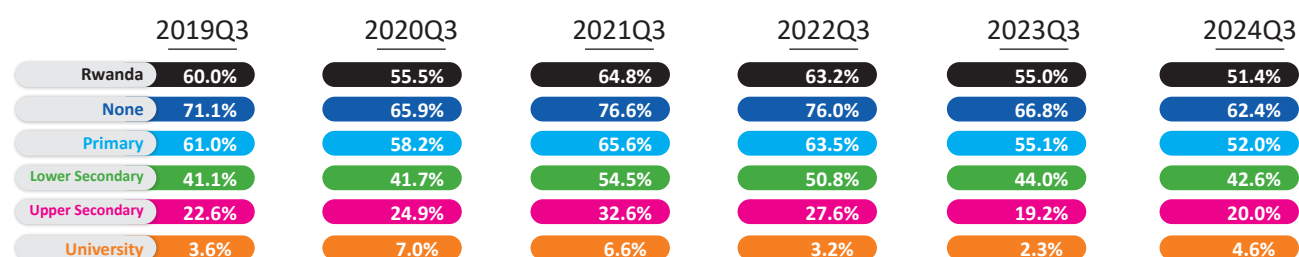
	2019Q3	2020Q3	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3
Rwanda	60.0%	55.5%	64.8%	63.2%	55.0%	51.4%
None	71.1%	65.9%	76.6%	76.0%	66.8%	62.4%
Primary	61.0%	58.2%	65.6%	63.5%	55.1%	52.0%
Lower Secondary	41.1%	41.7%	54.5%	50.8%	44.0%	42.6%
Upper Secondary	22.6%	24.9%	32.6%	27.6%	19.2%	20.0%
University	3.6%	7.0%	6.6%	3.2%	2.3%	4.6%

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

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

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	15.271	0.445	14.397	16.145	2.915	1.516
Sex						
Male	12.470	0.537	11.415	13.525	4.308	1.412
Female	18.547	0.665	17.241	19.854	3.585	1.335
Age groups						
Youth(16-30 yrs)	18.827	0.687	17.478	20.176	3.648	1.378
Adult(31+ yrs)	12.351	0.509	11.351	13.352	4.124	1.303
16-24 years	20.323	0.888	18.579	22.068	4.369	1.372
25-34 years	14.991	0.764	13.490	16.492	5.098	1.224
35-54 years	12.162	0.596	10.991	13.334	4.904	1.195
55 and over	12.451	1.243	10.009	14.893	9.983	1.167
Education						
None	14.502	0.614	13.296	15.707	4.231	1.348
Primary	15.053	0.798	13.486	16.620	5.299	1.498
Lower secondary	18.258	1.496	15.319	21.197	8.194	1.263
Upper secondary	18.007	1.236	15.580	20.435	6.862	1.124
University	12.559	1.526	9.561	15.557	12.153	1.109
Area of residence						
Urban	13.825	0.731	12.389	15.260	5.284	1.575
Rural	16.067	0.575	14.936	17.197	3.581	1.568

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
LFPR	64.066	0.566	62.954	65.177	0.883	2.142
Sex						
Male	73.516	0.688	72.164	74.868	0.936	1.760
Female	55.691	0.692	54.331	57.050	1.243	1.585
Age groups						
Youth(16-30 yrs)	64.829	0.712	63.429	66.228	1.099	1.527
Adult(31+ yrs)	63.453	0.707	62.063	64.842	1.115	1.842
16-24 years	59.082	0.859	57.395	60.769	1.454	1.449
25-34 years	78.491	0.758	77.002	79.980	0.966	1.154
35-54 years	72.458	0.777	70.932	73.984	1.072	1.492
55 and over	35.339	1.155	33.069	37.609	3.270	1.356
Education						
None	62.715	0.749	61.243	64.187	1.195	1.693
Primary	63.249	0.844	61.590	64.907	1.335	1.454
Lower secondary	56.360	1.420	53.569	59.150	2.520	1.220
Upper secondary	71.247	1.322	68.650	73.843	1.855	1.296
University	87.503	1.665	84.231	90.775	1.903	1.510
Area of residence						
Urban	73.748	0.909	71.963	75.534	1.233	2.027
Rural	59.749	0.667	58.438	61.060	1.117	1.972

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
EPR	54.282	0.582	53.139	55.425	1.072	2.101
Sex						
Male	64.349	0.734	62.906	65.792	1.141	1.701
Female	45.362	0.706	43.975	46.748	1.556	1.641
Age groups						
Youth(16-30 yrs)	52.623	0.752	51.145	54.102	1.430	1.558
Adult(31+ yrs)	55.615	0.709	54.223	57.008	1.274	1.737
16-24 years	47.074	0.881	45.343	48.806	1.872	1.481
25-34 years	66.724	0.882	64.991	68.458	1.322	1.189
35-54 years	63.646	0.835	62.006	65.286	1.312	1.487
55 and over	30.939	1.062	28.853	33.025	3.432	1.225
Education						
None	53.620	0.772	52.103	55.138	1.441	1.692
Primary	53.728	0.898	51.963	55.493	1.672	1.540
Lower secondary	46.069	1.455	43.211	48.928	3.159	1.268
Upper secondary	58.417	1.358	55.749	61.086	2.325	1.155
University	76.514	2.202	72.188	80.839	2.877	1.606
Area of residence						
Urban	63.553	1.021	61.548	65.558	1.606	2.135
Rural	50.149	0.686	48.802	51.497	1.367	2.004

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	45.452	0.729	44.019	46.884	1.604	2.123
Sex						
Male	40.779	0.829	39.149	42.408	2.034	1.521
Female	50.918	0.938	49.076	52.760	1.842	1.606
Age groups						
Youth(16-30 yrs)	47.914	0.981	45.985	49.842	2.048	1.723
Adult(31+ yrs)	43.430	0.870	41.721	45.139	2.004	1.676
16-24 years	48.947	1.151	46.685	51.209	2.352	1.494
25-34 years	44.890	1.184	42.565	47.216	2.637	1.514
35-54 years	44.455	1.046	42.400	46.509	2.352	1.590
55 and over	39.661	1.832	36.063	43.260	4.618	1.154
Education						
None	50.581	0.926	48.763	52.400	1.830	1.522
Primary	45.864	1.082	43.738	47.989	2.359	1.420
Lower secondary	43.029	1.784	39.523	46.534	4.147	1.094
Upper secondary	37.524	1.522	34.534	40.513	4.056	1.074
University	19.898	1.929	16.109	23.688	9.695	1.221
Area of residence						
Urban	34.600	1.229	32.184	37.015	3.553	2.347
Rural	51.423	0.854	49.745	53.101	1.661	1.866

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	34.811	0.587	33.657	35.965	1.687	1.949
Sex						
Male	26.473	0.697	25.103	27.842	2.633	1.581
Female	42.945	0.776	41.420	44.470	1.808	1.597
Age groups						
Youth(16-30 yrs)	37.467	0.792	35.911	39.023	2.114	1.546
Adult(31+ yrs)	32.636	0.693	31.275	33.997	2.123	1.539
16-24 years	40.565	0.969	38.661	42.469	2.389	1.466
25-34 years	29.865	0.892	28.112	31.617	2.986	1.225
35-54 years	31.021	0.820	29.411	32.632	2.643	1.431
55 and over	43.861	1.497	40.921	46.801	3.412	1.164
Education						
None	33.921	0.777	32.395	35.448	2.291	1.542
Primary	37.091	0.948	35.229	38.953	2.555	1.559
Lower secondary	38.538	1.581	35.432	41.644	4.102	1.177
Upper secondary	35.003	1.369	32.313	37.693	3.912	1.126
University	19.725	1.878	16.035	23.415	9.522	1.264
Area of residence						
Urban	26.794	0.930	24.967	28.622	3.471	1.817
Rural	38.609	0.725	37.186	40.033	1.877	1.927

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
Labour underutilization rate (%)	58.032	0.694	56.668	59.395	1.196	2.534
Sex						
Male	50.253	0.861	48.562	51.944	1.713	1.876
Female	65.619	0.778	64.091	67.148	1.186	1.742
Age groups						
Youth(16-30 yrs)	59.874	0.889	58.127	61.621	1.485	1.901
Adult(31+ yrs)	56.522	0.813	54.925	58.119	1.438	1.894
16-24 years	61.917	1.019	59.915	63.919	1.646	1.656
25-34 years	54.533	1.088	52.395	56.670	1.996	1.541
35-54 years	56.381	0.978	54.459	58.302	1.735	1.771
55 and over	61.309	1.542	58.279	64.339	2.516	1.283
Education						
None	61.806	0.826	60.183	63.429	1.337	1.654
Primary	59.908	0.975	57.993	61.823	1.627	1.602
Lower secondary	57.163	1.565	54.089	60.238	2.738	1.116
Upper secondary	50.474	1.367	47.789	53.159	2.708	1.021
University	26.463	2.086	22.365	30.561	7.883	1.268
Area of residence						
Urban	44.443	1.252	41.983	46.902	2.817	2.617
Rural	64.469	0.752	62.992	65.947	1.167	2.149

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
NEET 16-30	29.131	0.673	27.809	30.454	2.311	1.494
Sex						
Male	21.722	0.875	20.004	23.440	4.026	1.498
Female	36.220	0.976	34.303	38.138	2.694	1.434
Education						
None	34.607	1.193	32.263	36.952	3.448	1.372
Primary	30.247	1.087	28.110	32.383	3.595	1.360
Lower secondary	16.306	1.152	14.042	18.569	7.067	1.094
Upper secondary	29.992	1.795	26.466	33.518	5.985	1.397
University	23.047	3.317	16.530	29.565	14.394	1.023
Area of residence						
Urban	21.455	0.929	19.630	23.281	4.332	1.169
Rural	32.999	0.868	31.293	34.705	2.631	1.544

A.8: Youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) rate according to sex, 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	35.934	0.566	34.823	37.046	1.575	2.142
Sex						
Male	26.484	0.688	25.132	27.836	2.598	1.760
Female	44.309	0.692	42.950	45.669	1.562	1.585
Age groups						
Youth(16-30 yrs)	35.171	0.712	33.772	36.571	2.025	1.527
Adult(31+ yrs)	36.547	0.707	35.158	37.937	1.935	1.842
16-24 years	40.918	0.859	39.231	42.605	2.099	1.449
25-34 years	21.509	0.758	20.020	22.998	3.523	1.154
35-54 years	27.542	0.777	26.016	29.068	2.820	1.492
55 and over	64.661	1.155	62.391	66.931	1.787	1.356
Education						
None	37.285	0.749	35.813	38.757	2.010	1.693
Primary	36.751	0.844	35.093	38.410	2.297	1.454
Lower secondary	43.640	1.420	40.850	46.431	3.255	1.220
Upper secondary	28.753	1.322	26.157	31.350	4.596	1.296
University	12.497	1.665	9.225	15.769	13.326	1.510
Area of residence						
Urban	26.252	0.909	24.466	28.037	3.463	2.027
Rural	40.251	0.667	38.940	41.562	1.658	1.972

Tables on mobile phone ownership and digital skills

Table B.1: Proportion of Households owning mobile phone by sex, area of residence and province

	Any mobile phone	Smart phone
Rwanda	84.9	36.2
Sex		
Male	88.5	39.7
Female	75.9	27.1
Province		
Kigali city	96.8	68.3
Southern Province	76.5	26.4
Western Province	85.4	29.7
Northern Province	85.8	31.9
Eastern Province	84.2	32.5
Area of residence		
Urban	95.4	64.3
Rural	80.2	23.5

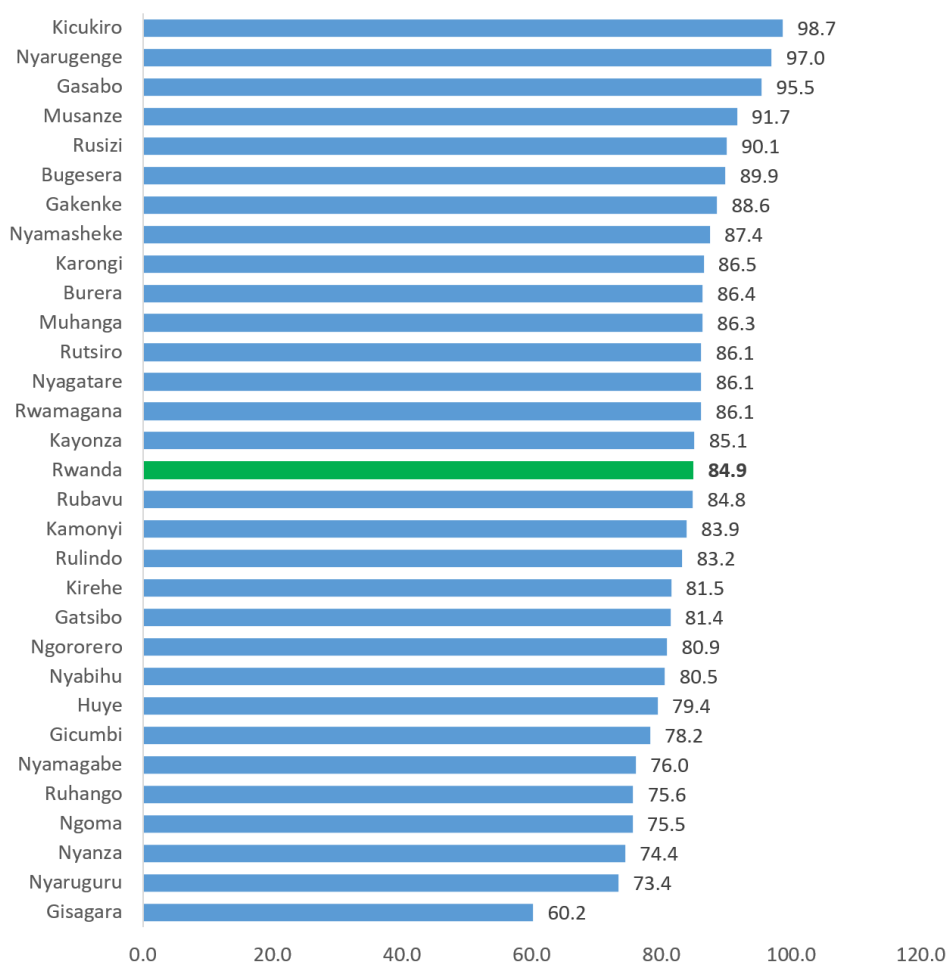*Figure B.1: Proportion of Households owning mobile phone by District*

Table B.2: Proportion of Population owning mobile phone by type according to age groups, sex, province and labour force status

	Any mobile phone				Smart phone			
	10 yrs and above	16 yrs and above	16-30 (youth)	31 yrs and above	10 yrs and above	16 yrs and above	16-30 (youth)	31 yrs and above
Rwanda	53.2	64.2	61.5	66.4	20.6	24.8	28.5	21.9
Sex								
Male	58.0	70.5	66.5	74.0	24.6	29.7	31.7	28.0
Female	48.8	58.6	56.7	60.0	17.1	20.5	25.4	16.8
Province								
Kigali city	76.7	87.3	84.8	89.7	48.9	55.5	57.0	53.9
Southern Province	45.1	54.9	53.4	56.0	14.1	17.2	21.1	14.4
Western Province	49.2	61.1	56.9	64.3	14.8	18.3	21.8	15.6
Northern Province	53.0	63.8	63.2	64.3	17.1	20.4	23.6	17.9
Eastern Province	50.3	61.3	55.2	66.3	17.2	20.9	23.4	18.9
urban-rural								
Urban	71.1	82.6	78.7	86.3	42.9	49.8	50.7	49.0
Rural	45.6	56.0	52.9	58.4	11.2	13.7	17.3	10.9

Table B.3:Table B.3: Proportion of the Population having selected basic digital skills by sex, province and area of residence.

Basic digital skills	Rwanda	Sex		Area of residence	
		Male	Female	Urban	Rural
Use only the USSD code to access E-services or information	68.9	75.1	63.5	83.2	62.5
Use the application-based system to access E-services or information	27.8	32.9	23.2	47.5	18.8
Use mobile financial services (MOMO/AIRTEL MONEY/MOCASH/PUSH AND PULL?)	63.7	71.2	57.1	83.3	54.8
Use any social media	31.8	37.8	26.6	55.6	21.1
Access information through a web browser	28.8	34.3	23.9	51.3	18.6
Access IREMBO services	22.3	27.5	17.7	36.8	15.8
Use any E-comerce plaforms	9.8	11.4	8.3	21.2	4.6
Access E-learning platforms	13.1	15.3	11.1	26.2	7.2

Table B.4: Proportion of Population knowing to apply at least one of selected basic digital skills, by sex,province and area of residence

	10 years and above	16 years and above	16-30 years	31 years and above
Rwanda	68.5	75.2	86.8	65.9
Sex				
Male	73.2	81.6	87.7	76.4
Female	64.3	69.5	85.8	57.1
Province				
Kigali city	89.2	93.7	96.4	90.9
Southern Province	60.4	67.0	83.1	55.5
Western Province	65.2	72.5	83.3	64.1
Northern Province	67.0	72.7	86.9	61.4
Eastern Province	67.4	74.7	85.6	66.0
Area of residence				
Urban	84.6	90.1	93.9	86.5
Rural	61.7	68.5	83.1	57.5

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