



STATISTICAL NEWS

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2015-16 EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT SURVEY

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS - RELEASE

The estimates of Employment, Unemployment and other Work Related particulars provided in this release are based on information reported by a representative sample of 5,000 Households covered in the 2015-16 Employment and Unemployment Survey. The details represent the situation in the estimated 186,236 conventional households in Fiji where 856,325 persons live. Persons living in Non-Private Dwellings such as Boarding Schools, Hospitals, Prisons, Work Site Accommodation and Single Officers Barracks were not covered in the survey.

KEY FINDINGS

- An estimated 593,620 persons were aged 15 and above, of which 346,214 were in the Labour Force (LF). The Labour Force comprised the following;
 - 1) Persons engaged in money work - 263,463.
 - 2) Engaged in subsistence activities only - 58,026.
 - 3) Unemployed or Actively looking and available for work - 19,149.
 - 4) The Labour Force Participation Rate was 58.3% i.e. (LF)/(Population 15 and over) multiplied by 100.
- The Unemployment Rate decreased to 5.5% in 2015-16 from 7.1% in 2010-11, a decrease of 1.6 percentage points.
- The Youth (aged 15-24) Unemployment Rate was 18.1%.
- Using FNPF Contribution as a proxy measure for formal sector employment, the following is the formal and informal sector breakdown of the 263,463 workers engaged in money earning activities;
 - a) Formal Sector - 167,300 persons (63.5%)
 - b) Informal Sector - 96,163 persons (36.5%)
- Household members aged 6 and above spent an average of 18 hours per week on household work. The Female average of 26 hours is significantly higher than the 10 hours average reported for Males.
- The hours spent on household work among Wage and Salary Earners were as follows;
 - a) Wage Earners - 24 hours for Females and 10 hours for Males
 - b) Salary Earners – 24 hours for Females and 11 hours for Males
- A total of 3,182 persons aged 6-17 were reported to have left school, a decrease of 9.1% from the 2010-11 figure of 3,500. The reason for leaving school and their percentage are as follows;
 - a) Not Interested – 48.5% from 36.2% in 2010-11.
 - b) Cannot Afford – 4.8% from 31.9% in 2010-11.

Definitions of Labour Force Categories

- 1) The International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) definitions are as follows;
 - a) **Labour Force or the Economically Active** - those who are available to furnish the supply of goods and services to the household, so it includes those who are working or are available to carry out such work.
 - b) **Unemployed** – Those actively looking and are available for work.
- 2) Money Work – Those engaged in activities that earn them money income.
- 3) No Money Work – This category includes those engaged in Family related work for no pay, Subsistence or Community Work

1.0 Labour Force

Some Labour Force related information gathered from the Survey are presented below;

- A total of 593,620 persons aged 15 and over of which 346,214 were in the Labour Force giving us a Labour Force Participation Rate of 58.3%.
- From the Labour Force Population of 346,214, a total of 263,463 persons were engaged in money work which is 3.7% lower than the 2010-11 estimate of 273,601.
- There was a significant 43% increase recorded for salary earners while the number of wage earners increased slightly (0.9%).
- The number of employers increased by 37.5% to 5,645.
- There was a huge 45.5% decline in the in the number of self-employed workers from 82,269 to 44,863 and this was mainly in the Agriculture sector.
- A total of 58,026 persons reported being engaged in subsistence work only, which was a decrease of 22.3% from the five years earlier estimate of 74,716.
- The number of unemployed persons decreased from 27,123 in 2010-11 to 19,149 in 2015-16 which represents unemployment rates of 7.1% and 5.5% respectively.
- The Labour Force decreased from 380,583 in 2010-11 to 346,214 in 2015-16 on account of significant declines in the number of;
 - a) self-employed agriculture and fisheries workers and
 - b) workers engaged solely in subsistence production
- The number of fulltime students aged 15 and above decreased by 14.8% from 70,789 in 2010-11 to 64,948 in 2015-16.

Further details are presented in Table 1 that follows.

Table 1. Labour Force Breakdown 2010-11 and 2015-16

	2010-2011	2015-2016	Abs Change	% Change
Population Aged 15 and over	586,438	593,620	7,182	1.2
Labour Force	380,583	346,214	-34,369	-9.0
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	64.9	58.3		
Money Work	273,601	263,463	-10,138	-3.7
Wages	129,412	130,580	1,168	0.9
Salary	48,201	68,935	20,734	43.0
Employer	4,106	5,645	1,539	37.5
Self-employed	82,269	44,863	-37,406	-45.5
- Agriculture	57,313	26,187	-31,126	-54.3
- Other	24,956	18,676	-6,280	-25.2
Family/ pay	3,106	1,668	-1,438	-46.3
Job but not at work (Temporary Absence)	6,507	11,772	5,265	80.9
No Money Work	79,859	63,603	-16,256	-20.4
Family/no pay	2,580	2,518	-62	-2.4
Community Worker	2,563	3,059	496	19.3
Subsistence	74,716	58,026	-16,690	-22.3
Unemployed	27,123	19,149	7,974	-29.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.1	5.5	1.6 points	
Total Labour Force	380,583	346,214	-34,369	-9.0%
Total Persons Outside the Labour Force	205,820	247,371	41,551	20.2
Fulltime Students	70,789	64,948	-5,841	-8.3

Note: Any discrepancy in totals and sum of components are due to rounding.

2.0 Labour Force by Age

The five-year age group 30-34 had the highest number of persons in the Labour Force (50,450) followed closely by the age groups 25-29 (46,964) and 35-39 (45,731). The number of persons engaged in Money Work closely tracks the Labour Force five-year age group ranking.

Of the 263,463 persons engaged in Money Work, 130,580 were wage earners, 68,935 were salary earners, 5,645 were Employers and 44,863 were Self-employed.

A total of 58,026 persons were engaged in subsistence work only, 3,059 were engaged in Community Activities and 2,518 were Family Workers receiving work allowances.

In the Youth age group 15-24;

- A total of 56,320 were in the Labour Force, of which 13,118 were in the five year age group 15-19.
- A total of 36,985 were engaged in Money Work, of which 6,548 were in the five year age group 15-19.
- A total of 10,214 were Unemployed, of which 3,291 were in the age group 15-19 giving us a Youth Unemployment Rate of 18.1%.
- A total of 23,933 were in wage employment, of which 4,719 were in the age group 15-19.
- A total of 8,173 were salaried personnel, of which 678 were in the age group 15-19.
- A total of 2,681 were Self-employed, of which 654 were in the age group 15-19.
- A total of 8,489 were engaged in Subsistence work only, of which 3,198 were in the age group 15-19.

Further details are presented in Table 2 that follows;

Table 2. Labour Force Categories by Age

Categories	Age Group								Total
	15-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55+	
Money Work	36,984	38,564	41,769	36,647	30,561	29,298	21,915	27,725	263,463
Wages	23,933	19,526	21,021	17,761	14,588	15,244	9,241	9,265	130,580
Salary	8,173	13,674	12,482	11,021	8,929	6,537	4,986	3,133	68,935
Employer	158	232	674	635	901	911	750	1,384	5,645
Self-employed	2,681	3,490	5,537	5,568	4,965	5,220	5,815	11,588	44,863
Family/pay	441	144	257	222	177	37	36	354	1,668
Job but not at work	1,598	1,498	1,798	1,440	1,001	1,349	1,087	2,001	11,772
<i>Formal Sector</i>	<i>26,691</i>	<i>30,384</i>	<i>29,808</i>	<i>25,288</i>	<i>19,507</i>	<i>17,760</i>	<i>10,944</i>	<i>6,917</i>	<i>167,300</i>
<i>Informal Sector</i>	<i>10,293</i>	<i>8,180</i>	<i>11,961</i>	<i>11,359</i>	<i>11,054</i>	<i>11,538</i>	<i>10,971</i>	<i>20,807</i>	<i>96,163</i>
% Formal	72.2	78.8	71.4	69.0	63.8	60.6	49.9	25.0	63.5
No Money Work (All Informal)	9,121	5,330	6,646	7,352	6,032	6,747	6,467	15,907	63,602
Family/no pay	305	434	277	130	216	213	310	632	2,518
Community Worker	327	321	328	144	331	700	139	769	3,059
Subsistence	8,489	4,575	6,041	7,078	5,485	5,834	6,018	14,506	58,026
Unemployed	10,214	3,070	2,035	1,732	1,033	543	405	117	19,149
Unemployment Rate (%)	18.1	6.5	4.0	3.8	2.7	1.5	1.4	0.3	5.5
Labour Force	56,320	46,964	50,450	45,731	37,626	36,588	28,786	43,748	346,213

Note: Any discrepancy in totals and sum of components are due to rounding.

3.0 Persons Working by Occupation

The numbers presented here include both money and no money work. The majority of workers are in the category Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers, accounting for slightly over a quarter of those engaged in some form of productive work. This occupation group includes those engaged solely on subsistence activities. The rural share of workers in this Occupation group is 83.7% and their number almost evens out the country's rural urban worker distribution.

The top five Occupation Groups and their percentage share are as follows;

- a) Skilled Agricultural, Fishery Workers – 27.3%.
- b) Services and Sales Workers – 14.0%.
- c) Craft and Trade Related Workers – 12.0%.
- d) Elementary Occupations – 11.8%.
- e) Professionals – 8.6%.

Further details are presented in Table 3 that follows;

Table 3. Persons Working by Major Occupation Group

Occupations	Urban	%	Rural	%	Total	% to Total
Managers	13,324	74.6	4,534	25.4	17,858	5.5
Professionals	20,137	71.8	7,924	28.2	28,061	8.6
Technicians and Associate Professionals	14,850	74.9	4,986	25.1	19,836	6.1
Clerical Support Work	17,229	77.7	4,952	22.3	22,181	6.8
Services and Sales Workers	29,904	65.4	15,805	34.6	45,709	14.0
Skilled Agricultural, Fishery Workers	14,775	16.5	74,807	83.5	89,582	27.4
Craft and Trade Related Workers	22,498	57.1	16,870	42.9	39,368	12.0
Plant and Machine Operators	16,448	63.8	9,324	36.2	25,772	7.9
Elementary Occupations	16,884	43.6	21,814	56.4	38,698	11.8
Total	166,049	50.8%	161,016	49.2%	327,065	100.0

Note: Any discrepancy in totals and sum of components are due to rounding.

4.0 Persons Working By Industry

The overall Urban and Rural share of workers is about even with rural numbers dominant in the following industry groups;

- a) Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (83.2%).
- b) Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (76.2%).
- c) Activities of Households (71.1%)

The Arts, Entertainment and Recreation industry group is dominated by those engaged in Handicraft Making while Subsistence Producers make up the majority of those engaged in activities included under the Industry Group “Activities of Households.”

Further details are presented in Table 4 that follows;

Table 4. Persons Working by Major Industry Group

Industries	Urban	%	Rural	%	Total	% to Total
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	10,543	16.8	52,293	83.2	62,836	19.2
Mining and Quarrying	1,348	64.5	741	35.5	2,089	0.6
Manufacturing	12,653	70.8	5,226	29.2	17,879	5.5
Electricity, Gas, Steam...	913	75.9	290	24.1	1,203	0.4
Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management...	993	64.1	556	35.9	1,549	0.5
Construction	14,912	61.4	9,381	38.6	24,293	7.4
Wholesale and Retail	37,331	65.8	19,382	34.2	56,713	17.3
Transportation and Storage	14,191	66.7	7,085	33.3	21,276	6.5
Accommodation and Food	7,940	54.2	6,696	45.8	14,636	4.5
Information and Communication	957	78.8	258	21.2	1,215	0.4
Financial and Insurance	3,674	90.8	372	9.2	4,046	1.2
Professional, Scientific	7,724	82.2	1,675	17.8	9,399	2.9
Administrative and Support Services	6,645	62.4	4,008	37.6	10,653	3.3
Public Administration	11,501	78.3	3,194	21.7	14,695	4.5
Education	9,552	60.1	6,352	39.9	15,904	4.9
Human Health and Social Work	4,993	75.7	1,605	24.3	6,598	2.0
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	948	23.8	3,037	76.2	3,985	1.2
Other Service Activities	3,836	57.1	2,887	42.9	6,723	2.1
Activities of Households	14,588	28.9	35,916	71.1	50,504	15.4
Activities of Extra-territorial Organizations	807	92.9	62	7.1	869	0.2
Total	166,049	50.8	161,016	49.2	327,065	100

Note: Any discrepancy in totals and sum of components are due to rounding.

5.0 Household Work

Household members spent 18 hours per week on average on household work. The Female average of 26 hours is 16.5% higher than the 10 hours average of Males. The following age groups show quite significant Gender differences in the hours spent on household work;

- 1) 37 hours for Females and 11 hours for Males in the age group 22-29.
- 2) 39 hours for Females and 14 hours for Males in the age group 30-34.
- 3) 32 hours for Females and 12 hours for Males in the age group 35 and over.

Further details are presented in Table 5 that follows;

Table 5. Average Household Work by Age (hours per week)

Age Group	Female	Male	Grand Total	(F-M)
6-13	5	4	4	1.0
14-18	13	8	10	5.0
19-21	24	9	16	15.0
22-29	37	11	24	26.0
30-34	39	14	26	25.0
> 34	32	12	22	20.0
Grand Total	26	10	18	16.0

Note: Any discrepancy in totals and sum of components are due to rounding.

6.0 Hours of Household Work for Wage and Salary Earners

The hours spent on household work among Wage and Salary Earners is as follows;

- 1) Wage Earners - 24 hours for Females and 10 hours for Males
- 2) Salary Earners – 24 hours for Females and 11 hours for Males

Further details are presented in Table 6 that follows;

Table 6. Average Hours of Household Work for Wage and Salary Earners

Employment Status	Female	Male	Total	(F-M)
Wages	24	10	14	14
Salary	24	11	16	13
Total	24	10	15	14.0

Note: Any discrepancy in totals and sum of components are due to rounding.

7.0 School Aged Persons Not at School

An estimated 3,182 persons aged 6-17 were reported to have left school, a decrease of 9.1% from the 2010-11 figure of 3,500. The majority (93%) were in the age group 15-17 when they left school. The reason for leaving school and their percentage are as follows;

- a) Not Interested – 48.5% from 36.2% in 2010-11
- b) Cannot Afford – 4.8% from 31.9% in 2010-11.

The main reasons reported for leaving school for the two survey periods are presented in Table 7 that follows;

Table 7. Reason for Leaving School

Reason for Leaving School	2010-11	2015-16
1. Not Interested	35.9	48.5
2. Cannot Afford	31.6	4.8
3. Disabled/Illness	8.2	4.7
4. Family did not allow	5.0	1.2
5. Help at home with other household chores	2.5	5.5
6. To work as unpaid family worker in a family business/farm	1.5	1.0
7. Other Reasons	15.3	15.9
8. Education not considered valuable	-	3.3
9. To work for pay	-	9.1
10. To learn a job	-	4.9
11. No school/school too far	-	1.0

Note: Any discrepancy in totals and sum of components are due to rounding.

8.0 Small Scale Business Activities

The 2015-16 EUS also captured information on household income generating own-account economic activities. An estimated 61,165 households were engaged in such activities and these included activities in Agriculture, Fishing, Construction, Forestry, Handicraft Making, Manufacturing and Retail Trade.

The major problems reported by households engaged in own-account activities are listed below:

1. Yaqona Farming - Unfavourable weather conditions, unstable markets, high cost of transportation and freight, cyclone damage on crops, and fluctuation of prices.
2. Dalo Farming - Unstable market, unfavourable weather condition, no farm road or bad road conditions, high cost of transportation, high cost of inputs, cyclone damage on crops.
3. Fisherman - Unfavourable weather conditions and high cost of fuel.
4. Copra Producer - Unstable markets and cyclone damage on crops.
5. Taxi Owner - High fuel price, bad road conditions and vehicle maintenance.
6. Root Crop Farming - High cost of transport and unfavourable weather.

7. Vegetable Farming - High cost of manure and chemicals, unstable markets, unfavourable weather, inconsistent water supply and bad road conditions.
8. Cassava Farming - Unfavourable weather.
9. Yaqona Seller - Late payments of credit and competitive market.
10. Coconut Seller - High transportation costs.
11. Mixed Crop Farming - Bad road conditions and unfavourable weather.
12. Canteen Operation - Competition and Inconsistent demand.

A detailed report of the Survey will be released in October, 2017. Further enquiries can be made via;

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