

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Unemployment rate in the Bahamas declines 1.7%**

Since November 2016, the unemployment rate declined from 11.6% to 9.9% due to an increase (7,770) of employed persons and a decrease (3,485) of unemployed persons. The three most populated islands that were surveyed experienced decreases in their unemployment rates. At the time of the survey (**April 24 - 30, 2017**) the rate in New Providence was 10.4%; in Grand Bahama, 12.4%, and Abaco 7.8%.

Among the employed labour force, there were more men than women. However, in all the islands surveyed except Abaco, men were fewer in numbers among the unemployed labour force.

In May 2017, vulnerable employment was 8.2% of total employment. During the period 2012 to 2017, the share of workers in vulnerable employment was fairly stable and ranged between 7.0% and 9.2% of the employed labour force. The percentage of men in this category was higher, although the percentage points differences between men and women were fairly small. These workers as defined by ILO are less likely to have formal work arrangements, and more likely to lack decent working conditions and are often characterized by inadequate earnings and benefits.

The private sector absorbed most of the new jobs since November 2016. However, when examined by industry, the “Community, Social and Personal Service” industry which includes the civil service, police service and the domestic services posted a 29.1% increase in employment; hotels and restaurants posted 26.2% increase and construction posted 20.0% increase.

Unemployment among youths (15-24 years) in the country continued to be considerably higher than any other age group which is common to most countries. However, there was a slight decline in the rate from 25.1% recorded in November 2016 to 24.1%

Discouraged workers in the country declined by 8.8% over the six month period. New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco experienced declines in the number of discouraged workers – 11.3%, 8.1% and 14.6%, respectively. These persons, according to the standard definition of the International Labour Organization (ILO), “did not look for work because they believed no jobs were available for them”.

The Department of Statistics is the Government Agency in The Bahamas mandated by law to collect, process, analyze and disseminate statistics. Its mandate is to deliver timely official statistics. Please contact the Department of Statistics @ 242-604-4000 for questions and enquiries. This release, with accompanying tables, will be immediately available on the Department’s website, [www.bahamas.gov.bs/statistics](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/statistics). Further details will be available by September 2017.

THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS: 2012 - 2017

ITEMS	May-12			Nov-12			May-13			Nov-13			May-14			Nov-14			May-15			Nov-15			May-16			May-17		
	ISLAND	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE		
<b>Total Labour Force</b>																														
All Bahamas	188,310	92,900	95,410	189,770	93,235	96,535	195,660	96,535	99,125	196,880	97,545	99,335	198,710	98,800	99,910	206,050	102,585	103,465	208,895	103,290	105,605	212,195	103,940	108,255	215,880	104,815	111,065	222,035	106,890	115,145
New Providence	141,245	70,985	70,260	142,755	71,550	71,205	145,335	72,830	72,505	146,095	73,505	72,590	141,655	72,080	69,575	147,750	75,110	72,640	148,545	74,480	74,065	150,315	73,830	76,485	153,590	75,590	78,000	157,120	76,655	80,465
Grand Bahama	24,985	12,365	12,620	24,895	12,280	12,615	25,115	12,380	12,735	25,275	12,455	12,820	27,250	13,080	14,170	27,690	13,170	14,520	28,000	14,060	13,940	29,230	15,170	14,060	28,710	14,180	14,530	29,865	14,530	15,335
Abaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,995	3,860	5,135	9,905	4,525	5,380	10,360	4,405	5,955	10,660	4,595	6,065	11,465	5,145	6,320	12,110	5,385	6,725
<b>Employed Labour Force</b>																														
All Bahamas	160,650	80,450	80,200	163,110	80,175	82,935	163,995	80,835	83,160	166,595	82,170	84,425	171,275	84,400	86,875	174,245	85,240	89,005	183,915	89,915	94,000	180,820	86,300	94,520	188,360	89,660	98,700	200,155	95,210	104,945
New Providence	121,410	61,590	59,820	124,125	61,820	62,305	122,155	61,030	61,125	123,235	61,625	61,610	120,400	60,820	59,580	124,060	61,515	62,545	130,750	64,760	65,990	126,430	60,430	66,000	133,365	64,100	69,265	140,740	67,730	73,010
Grand Bahama	20,635	10,335	10,300	20,420	9,850	10,570	20,215	9,745	10,470	21,035	10,150	10,885	23,235	10,730	12,505	22,545	10,645	11,900	24,400	12,050	12,350	25,090	12,660	12,430	24,500	11,785	12,715	26,160	12,335	13,825
Abaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,795	3,265	4,530	7,895	3,495	4,400	9,095	3,880	5,215	9,630	3,985	5,645	10,305	4,675	5,630	11,165	5,025	6,140
<b>Unemployed Labour Force</b>																														
All Bahamas	27,655	12,450	15,205	26,660	13,060	13,600	31,665	15,700	15,965	30,285	15,375	14,910	27,435	14,400	13,035	31,805	17,345	14,460	24,980	13,375	11,605	31,375	17,640	13,735	27,520	15,155	12,365	21,880	11,680	10,200
New Providence	19,830	9,390	10,440	18,630	9,730	8,900	23,180	11,800	11,380	22,860	11,880	10,980	21,255	11,260	9,995	23,690	13,595	10,095	17,795	9,720	8,075	23,885	13,400	10,485	20,225	11,490	8,735	16,380	8,925	7,455
Grand Bahama	4,345	2,030	2,315	4,475	2,430	2,045	4,900	2,635	2,265	4,240	2,305	1,935	4,015	2,350	1,665	5,145	2,525	2,620	3,600	2,010	1,590	4,140	2,510	1,630	4,210	2,395	1,815	3,705	2,195	1,510
Abaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	595	605	2,010	1,030	980	1,265	525	740	1,030	610	420	1,160	470	690	945	360	585
<b>Labour Force Participation Rate</b>																														
All Bahamas	72.4%	69.4%	75.7%	72.5%	69.5%	75.9%	72.7%	69.8%	76.1%	73.7%	70.3%	77.6%	72.9%	69.1%	77.4%	74.4%	71.0%	78.1%	73.0%	71.5%	78.5%	75.6%	71.9%	80.5%	76.9%	72.0%	81.2%	80.0%	74.9%	83.1%
New Providence	73.6%	71.0%	76.7%	73.7%	71.6%	77.8%	73.9%	71.8%	77.9%	74.1%	72.5%	78.5%	77.3%	70.9%	78.0%	77.5%	73.9%	81.5%	74.5%	71.3%	76.4%	74.7%	70.7%	79.5%	75.9%	71.1%	80.3%	75.9%	72.6%	79.0%
Grand Bahama	72.3%	67.8%	75.4%	70.7%	67.4%	75.4%	70.8%	67.5%	75.6%	71.0%	67.9%	76.1%	76.9%	76.9%	75.8%	71.3%	65.1%	78.0%	70.1%	66.5%	72.6%	72.5%	71.7%	73.3%	68.4%	66.6%	73.7%	68.9%	64.1%	75.1%
Abaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.5%	71.5%	75.4%	75.7%	72.4%	79.0%	75.5%	63.8%	77.5%	77.3%	70.3%	84.0%	77.6%	70.8%	84.2%	78.2%	71.4%	85.2%
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>																														
All Bahamas	14.7%	13.4%	16.0%	14.0%	14.0%	14.1%	16.2%	16.3%	16.1%	15.4%	15.8%	15.0%	13.8%	14.6%	13.0%	15.7%	17.3%	14.1%	12.0%	12.9%	11.0%	14.8%	17.0%	12.7%	12.7%	14.5%	11.1%	9.9%	10.9%	8.9%
New Providence	14.0%	13.2%	14.9%	13.1%	13.6%	12.5%	15.9%	16.2%	15.7%	15.6%	16.2%	15.1%	15.0%	15.6%	14.4%	16.0%	18.1%	13.9%	12.0%	13.1%	10.9%	15.9%	18.1%	13.7%	13.2%	15.2%	11.2%	10.4%	11.6%	9.3%
Grand Bahama	17.4%	16.4%	18.3%	18.0%	19.8%	16.2%	19.5%	21.3%	17.8%	16.8%	18.5%	15.1%	14.7%	18.0%	11.8%	18.6%	19.2%	18.1%	12.9%	14.3%	11.4%	14.2%	16.5%	11.6%	14.7%	16.9%	12.5%	12.4%	15.1%	9.8%
Abaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13.3%	15.4%	11.8%	20.3%	22.8%	18.2%	12.2%	11.9%	12.4%	9.7%	13.3%	6.9%	10.1%	9.1%	10.9%	7.8%	6.7%	8.7%

**EMPLOYMENT: PERMANENT AND VULNERABLE: 2012 - 2017**

ITEMS	May-12			May-13			May-14			May-15			May-16			May-17			
	ISLAND	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
<b>Total Employed Labour Force</b>																			
All Bahamas	160,650	80,450	80,200	163,995	80,835	83,160	171,275	84,400	86,875	183,915	89,915	94,000	188,360	89,660	98,700	200,155	95,210	104,945	
New Providence	121,410	61,590	59,820	122,155	61,030	61,125	120,400	60,820	59,580	130,750	64,760	65,990	133,365	64,100	69,265	140,740	67,730	73,010	
Grand Bahama	20,635	10,335	10,300	20,215	9,745	10,470	23,235	10,730	12,505	24,400	12,050	12,350	24,500	11,785	12,715	26,160	12,335	13,825	
<b>Permanent Employment</b>																			
All Bahamas	145,880	73,500	72,380	150,220	74,700	75,520	159,210	78,995	80,215	168,925	84,285	84,640	172,270	83,085	89,185	183,785	88,615	95,170	
New Providence	112,945	57,595	55,350	112,215	56,540	55,675	113,885	57,620	56,265	119,135	60,415	58,720	121,560	58,825	62,735	131,830	63,725	68,105	
Grand Bahama	17,960	9,075	8,885	18,305	8,945	9,360	21,325	10,095	11,230	23,175	11,590	11,585	23,035	11,660	11,375	22,105	11,045	11,060	
<b>Vulnerable Employment (1)</b>																			
All Bahamas	14,770	6,950	7,820	13,775	6,135	7,640	12,065	5,405	6,660	14,990	5,630	9,360	16,090	6,575	9,515	16,370	6,595	9,775	
New Providence	8,465	3,995	4,470	9,940	4,490	5,450	6,515	3,200	3,315	11,615	4,345	7,270	11,805	5,275	6,530	8,910	4,005	4,905	
Grand Bahama	2,675	1,260	1,415	1,910	800	1,110	1,910	635	1,275	1,225	460	765	1,465	125	1,340	4,055	1,290	2,765	

**(1) Employment with contract or agreement with limited duration**

## DISCOURAGED WORKERS BY ISLAND SEX AND WORK EXPERIENCE: MAY 2017

ISLAND AND SEX	TOTAL DISCOURAGED WORKERS	WORKED BEFORE	NEVER WORKED
<b>ALL BAHAMAS</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>620</b>
<b>MEN</b>	820	605	215
<b>WOMEN</b>	1,105	700	405
<b>NEW PROVIDENCE</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>360</b>
<b>MEN</b>	395	300	95
<b>WOMEN</b>	805	540	265
<b>GRAND BAHAMA</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>MEN</b>	70	55	15
<b>WOMEN</b>	115	70	45
<b>ABACO</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>MEN</b>	60	40	20
<b>WOMEN</b>	145	70	75