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Summary

In March 2007, the employed population in St. Maarten increased by more than 2,600 persons, compared to October 2005. This is an increase of almost 15 percent. The number of unemployed persons dropped by 13 percent. Due to this, among other things, the unemployment rate dropped further, from 13.4 to **10.6** percent of the employed population.

As a consequence of the increase in the number employed persons, the labor force increased by almost 2,300 persons, a rise of 11 percent.

The youth unemployment rate has dropped from 30.4 percent in October 2005 to 26 percent in March 2007.

Introduction

In March 2007, the Central Bureau of Statistics conducted a Labor Force Survey (LFS) in St. Maarten. The LFS is a sample survey among households with a view to measuring the recent developments on the labor market. The most important concepts in this survey are the unemployment rate, the development in the employed population, the development in the job-seeking population and the degree of participation.

The survey is normally conducted every two years. In 2005, it was conducted in September/October and in 2007 in March/April. The fact, that the point in time of the year in which the survey was executed could have influenced the results, must be taken into account.

Between October 2005 and April 2007, the population increased by more than 3,000 persons (8.6 percent), of which 76 percent are 15 years and older.

Below are the results of the LFS, regarding the situation of *March/April 2007*. The results are always compared to the results of *September/October 2005*. They are *net results* of influx and efflux of the labor force and, therefore, cannot relate much about what happened *among* the various population groups during the year.

Methodology

Level of confidence and inaccuracy

The Labor Force Survey is a sample survey, in which approximately 10 percent of all households in St. Maarten are interviewed.

The unemployment rate in the sample survey of 2007 has an inaccuracy margin of 1.49 percentage points with a level of confidence of 90 percent. This means that the unemployment rate is estimated at 10.6 percent, with a margin of error of more or less 1.49 percentage points. In order to maintain this level of confidence, an effort is made during the implementation phase to keep non-response as low as possible. The results of the survey are an estimate and this should always be considered when interpreting the figures.

Sample frame

The Population data filing system forms the sample framework for the survey. As there is over coverage in the filing system, such as addresses that no longer exist, untraceable addresses and places of residence that in the meantime have become businesses, non-response occurs. By 'oversampling' for non-response, an effort is made to minimize the effects of non-response on the results.

Sample drawing

The sample of the LFS is a systematic sample with a random beginning. The random survey framework is the population filing system. The size of the sample was calculated to accommodate 1,250 addresses. In order to compensate for non-response, 'oversampling' with the expected non-response percentage is applied when drawing the sample.

Fieldwork

The fieldwork period of the LFS took two months. The interviews were conducted by 20 interviewers.

The starting point is that all the members of the household are interviewed face-to-face with a questionnaire about their situation on the labor market.

At the end of fieldwork period, the results are compiled into statistics.

Definitions

Employed persons:

All persons who are 15 years or older, with a job or a business of their own or all persons who, during the week preceding the survey, worked 4 hours or more for a remuneration.

Unemployed persons:

All persons who are 15 years or older and who, during the survey were unemployed, were actively looking for work in the month prior to the survey and who can start working within 2 weeks, should there be a job available.

Economically not active

All persons who are 15 years or older who are not working and not looking for work either.

Unemployment rate

The number of persons in the labor force who comply with the definition of an unemployed. The percentage is calculated by dividing this number by the labor force and multiplying it by 100.

Youth unemployment

The unemployment rate of the persons in the age category from 15 through 24.

Labor Force

The employed- and the unemployed persons added together. Also referred to as the economically active population.

Degree of participation:

The ratio between the labor force and the total population and is a gauge for the participation in the course of trade.

Development of the population¹¹

Age group	Stand October 2005	Net influx /out flux	Deaths	Immi- gration	Emi- gration	Stand April 2007	Net migration	Natural growth	Total Change
0-4	2618	646	15	343	108	2707	235	631	866
5-14	6464	20	2	410	234	6658	176	18	194
15-24	4253	216	3	677	414	4729	263	213	476
25-34	6328	-584	8	1156	330	6562	826	-592	234
35-44	7710	91	18	858	307	8334	551	73	624
45-54	5453	385	29	562	180	6191	382	356	738
55+	3339	624	122	383	97	4127	286	502	788
Total	36165	621	197	4389	1670	39308	2719	424	3143

In order to obtain an insight into the developments in the labor force, it is also important to know how the population developed in the past period. In this case, it concerns the population between October 2005 and April 2007.

Developments in the population depend on the developments in the number of deaths, the number of births and migration. They determine the degree of influx and efflux of persons in the population and, with that, also the degree of influx and efflux in the labor force. The number of births has been incorporated in table 1 in the net influx of those between 0 and 4 years. On account this, the natural growth in this category is high.

The population increased between October 2005 and April 2007. There was an increase in all the age categories. Except for the highest age category, the growth occurred due to, especially, (net) immigration.

Immigration is the highest in the middlemost age categories 25-34 and 35-44, the ages during which the labor participation is the highest.

¹ This concerns the population, including persons living in institutions such as the prison, relief centers, homes for the elderly, etc.

Results Labor Force Survey

The developments that are described in this publication are related to the years 2007 and 2005. In the annex, the results of previous years can be found.

The figures to which the descriptions in this publication relate are reproduced in tables 2 through 7. Table 2 gives the total results per October 2005 and March 2007. Tables 3 and 4 reproduce the developments per sex and per age category.

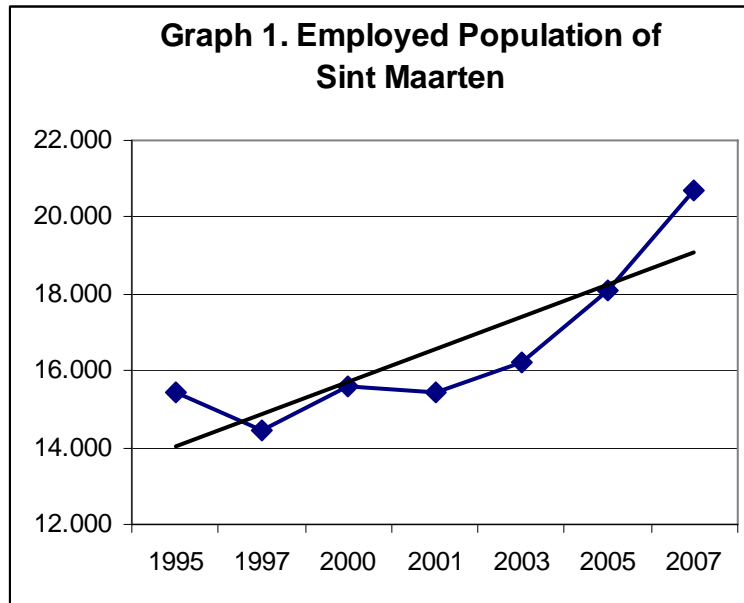
Total Population	Oktober 2005	March 2007	Mutation	Percentage mutation
1 Employed Population	18073	20720	2647	14,6
2 Unemployed Population	2798	2446	-352	-12,6
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	20871	23166	2295	11,0
4 Economically not active population	5997	6601	604	10,1
5 Population 15 years +	26868	29767	2899	10,8
6 Total Population	35910	39011	3101	8,6
(3:6) 7 Participationrate (%)	58,1	59,4	1,3	
(2:3) 8 Unemployment rate(%)	13,4	10,6	-2,8	
(1:6) 9 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	50,3	53,1	2,8	

Male	October 2005	March 2007	Mutation	Percentage mutation
1 Employed Population	9.714	11.310	1.596	16,4
2 Unemployed Population	1.194	935	-259	-21,7
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	10.908	12.245	1.337	12,3
4 Economically not active population	2.007	2.064	57	2,8
5 Population 15 years	12.915	14.309	1.394	10,8
6 Total Population	17.303	18.834	1.531	8,8
(3:6) 7 Participationrate (%)	63	65	2	
(2:3) 8 Unemployment rate (%)	11	8	-3	
(1:6) 9 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	56	60	4	
Female				
1 Employed Population	8.359	9.411	1.052	12,6
2 Unemployed Population	1.604	1.510	-94	-5,9
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	9.963	10.921	958	9,6
4 Economically not active population	3.990	4.536	546	13,7
5 Population 15 years	13.953	15.457	1.504	10,8
6 Total Population	18.607	20.177	1.570	8,4
(3:6) 7 Participation rate (%)	53,5	54,1	0,6	
(2:3) 8 Unemployment rate (%)	16,1	13,8	-2,3	
(1:6) 9 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	44,9	46,6	1,7	

1.This concerns the population, excluding persons living in institutions such as the prison, relief centers, homes for the elderly, etc.

Tabel 4. Development of the population and of the labor force by age group				
	October	March		Percentage
Age 15-24	2005	2007	Change	change
1 Employed Population	1.401	1.610	209	14,9
2 Unemployed Population	613	567	-46	-7,5
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	2.014	2.177	163	8,1
4 Economically not active population	2.210	2.510	300	13,6
5 Population 15-24	4.224	4.687	463	11
(3:5) 6 Participation rate (%)	47,7	46,4	-1,2	
(2:3) 7 Unemployment rate (%)	30,4	26	-4,4	
(1:5) 8 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	33,2	34,4	1,2	
Age 25-44				
1 Employed Population	10.934	12.081	1.147	10,5
2 Unemployed Population	1.613	1.246	-367	-22,8
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	12.547	13.327	780	6,2
4 Economically not active population	1.403	1.478	75	5,3
5 Population 15-24	13.950	14.805	855	6,1
(3:5) 6 Participation rate (%)	89,9	90	0,1	
(2:3) 7 Unemployment rate (%)	12,9	9,3	-3,5	
(1:5) 8 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	78,4	81,6	3,2	
Age 45plus				
1 Employed Population	5.737	6.942	1.205	21
2 Unemployed Population	572	633	61	10,7
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	6.309	7.575	1.266	20,1
4 Economically not active population	2.384	2.612	228	9,6
5 Population 15-24	8.693	10.187	1.494	17,2
(3:5) 6 Participation rate (%)	72,6	74,4	1,8	
(2:3) 7 Unemployment rate (%)	9,1	8,4	-0,7	
(1:5) 8 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	66	68,1	2,2	

I. Employed persons



The employed population of St. Maarten increased between 2005 and 2007 by more than 2,600 persons. The number of employed persons at the moment of measuring is 20,720 persons, almost 15 percent more than in October 2005.

From graph 1, it can be deduced that the employed population shows a generally ascending trend since 1997. The dip in the number of employed persons in 1997 can be ascribed to the (after) effects of hurricane Luis.

I.1. Employed persons according to sex

The number of employed men increased by more than 16 percent compared to October 2005. In 2007, there are 11,310 men employed.

Just as in the case of the men, the number of employed women also increased, and that, by almost 13 percent. The number of employed women remains amply under the number of employed men. The number of the employed population with the women is 9,411 in 2007.

I.2. Employed persons according to age

The increase in the employed population between 2005 and 2007 can be seen in all the age categories. The largest increase, both in absolute and in relative terms, took place in the age category 45 years and older.

With the youth (15-24 years), the employed population increased by more than 200 persons, an increase of almost 15 percent. The number of working youth is now 1,610 persons.

The employed population in the age category 25-44 years increased by more than 1,100 persons, an increase of almost 11 percent. There are now 12,081 persons employed.

In the older ages (45 years and older), the number of employed persons increased by more than 1,200 persons, an increase of 21 percent. The number of employed person is 6,942 persons.

I.3 Ratio employed persons on the total population

The ratio of employed persons on the total population in March 2007 is 53 and, therefore, increased, compared to October 2005, by 3 percentage points. The ratio reflects the economic resources of the population.

I.4 Employed persons according to economic position and economic activity

From table 5, it appears that the increase in the number of employed persons in March 2007 took place mainly in the category 'permanent service'. The number of persons who were permanently employed, compared to October 2005, increased by over 1,900 (almost three quarters of the total increase). In the other categories, the number of employed persons also increased, be it much less than in the category 'permanent service'. The only category with a decrease is the category 'self-employed persons'.

	Sint Maarten	Other NA+Aruba	Netherlands	Elsewhere	Total	
October 2005						
Employer	28	29	25	140	222	
Self employed	228	284	36	1.496	2.044	
Permanent service	1.901	2.243	170	7.912	12.226	
Temporary service	139	127	21	1.101	1.388	
Casual work	64	14	0	502	580	
Contract	237	148	42	916	1.343	
Other/unknown	18	44	16	194	270	
Total	2.615	2.889	310	12.261	18.073	
March 2007						change 2005-2007
Employer	32	34	0	263	329	107
Self employed	290	258	27	1.228	1.803	-241
Permanent service	2.160	2.348	98	9.567	14.173	1.947
Temporary service	95	126	66	1.445	1.732	344
Casual work	67	37	0	727	831	251
Contract	318	85	0	1.076	1.479	136
Other/unknown	89	13	18	251	373	103
Total	3.051	2.901	209	14.557	20.720	2.647
change 2005-2007	436	12	-101	2.296	2.647	

With regard to the variable 'place of birth', it appears from table 5 that the increase in the number of employed persons concerned mainly 'born elsewhere', so persons who were not born within the Kingdom. Compared to October 2005, the number of employed persons who were born 'elsewhere' has increased by almost 19 percent. In terms of percentage, the number of employed persons who were born in St. Maarten increased by almost 17 percent.

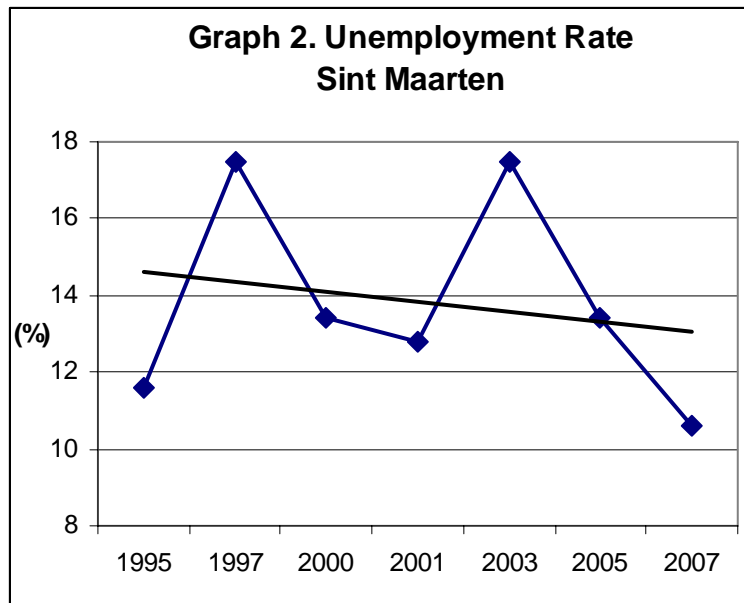
From table 6, it can be deduced that the increase in employment took place in all the large business sectors.

Measured in terms of numbers, employment increased the most in the Trade and Commerce sector. Considered in terms of percentage, employment increased the most in the Construction sector (19%) and the Financial and business services (18%). The sector Transport and Communication also increased more than average (16%).

Tabel 6. Employed population by economic activity, Sint Maarten

	2005	2007	Change
Manufacturing and Utilities	857	975	118
Construction	1,852	2,203	351
Trade	3,627	4,171	544
Hotels and restaurants	2,621	2,892	271
Transport and Communication	1,587	1,846	259
Financial and Business Services	2,262	2,658	396
Public Services and Education	1,971	2,264	293
Health and Other Social Services	2,198	2,477	279
Other	1,097	1,234	137
Total	18,073	20,720	2,647

II. Unemployed persons and unemployment rate



The number of unemployed persons decreased in March 2007 by more than 350 persons. In terms of percentage, this is a decrease of almost 13 percent (table 2). The number is 2,446 persons.

Especially as a consequence of the increase in the number of employed persons, the unemployment rate dropped by approximately 3 percentage points and is now 10.6 percent of the employed population.

II.1 Sex

The number of unemployed men dropped by more than 250 persons, from almost 1,200 in October 2005 to 935 in March 2007, a decrease of almost 22 percent. The unemployment rate in March 2007, is 7.6 percent of the male labor force, more than 3 percentage points lower than in 2005.

Contrary to the men, the number of unemployed women decreased less, and that, by less than 100 persons, a decrease of 6 percent. The unemployment rate of the women dropped by more than 2 percentage points, compared to 2005, and is 13.8 percent in 2007.

For both sexes, the unemployment rate dropped, especially because the number of employed persons increased.

II.2 Age

The unemployed population decreased in all the age categories, but especially in the age category 25-44 years (a decrease of almost 23 percent). In the ages 45 years and older, this increased. The number of persons looking for work increased here by almost 11 percent.

As the increase in the number of employed persons manifested itself in all the age categories, the unemployment rate dropped in all the age categories, in which the decrease in the age category 15-24 years was the largest (a little more than 4 percentage points), after which the age category 25-44 years follows with a decrease of 3.5 percent.

As the number of unemployed persons increased in the ages from 45 years, the unemployment rate for this age category dropped less than in the other age categories (almost 1 percentage point).

II.2.1 Youth unemployment

The youth unemployment rate is 26 percent in March 2007, 4 percentage points less than in October 2005. This is especially due to a relatively large number of youngsters who found work in March 2005. In spite of the drop in the unemployment rate, it can still be considered high according to international standards. The ratio youth unemployment / total unemployment is 2.5. A ratio higher than 2 is considered high internationally. According to the most recent measuring, there are more than 560 youngsters looking for work.

III. Labor Force

The Labor Force increased in March 2007 by almost 2,300 persons, an increase of 11 percent. This increase can be entirely ascribed to the increase in the employed population. The labor force now consists of 23,166 persons.

III.1. Sex

The male labor force increased by well over 1,300 persons (more than 12 percent). This can be wholly ascribed to the increase in the number of working men. The male employed population now consists of 12,245 persons.

The female labor force also increased, by almost 10 percent. In all, an increase of almost 1,000 persons. Here, too, the increase in the number of working women is the cause. At present, the female labor force consists of 10,921 persons.

III. 2. Age

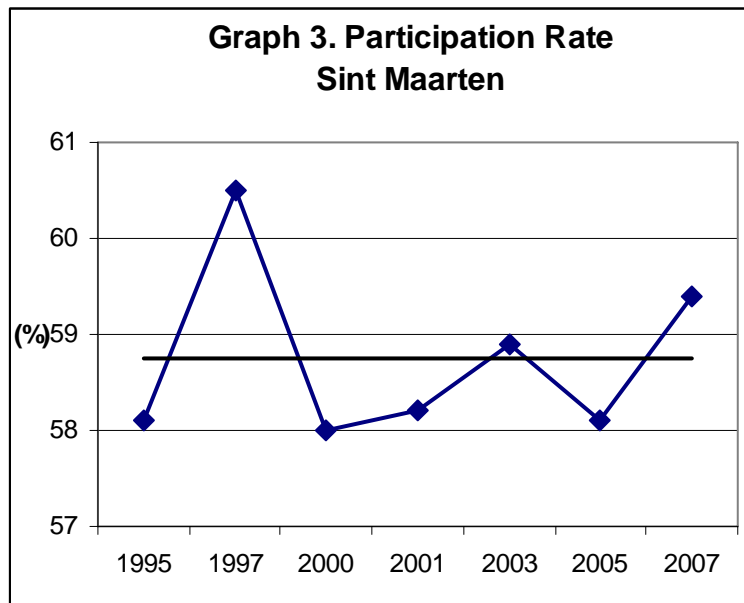
The age category 25-44 years was also the most active category in March 2007. The age category with the lowest participation is the category 15-24 years.

The increase in the labor force in the age category 15-24 was more than 8 percent, which boils down to an increase of 'only' 163 persons. The number is now 2,177 persons.

In the age category 25-44, the labor force increased by 6 percent (an increase of 780 persons). In spite of the fact that this age category is the most labor-active age category on the labor market, the increase in terms of percentage of the labor force in 2007 was the smallest of all the age categories. This is because in this age category the number of unemployed dropped the most, on account of which the total increase in the labor force is decelerated. The labor force consists of 13,327 persons in 2007.

The largest increase in terms of percentage in the labor force took place in the age category 45 years and older. The increase was no less than 20 percent, compared to October 2005, an increase of almost 1,300 persons. In addition to the fact that in this age category the increase in the number of employed persons was the biggest, the number of persons looking for work also increased at the same time, on account of which the labor force also increased. The number is now 7,500 persons.

IV. Participation Rate



The degree of participation increased in March 2007, compared to October 2005, by 1.3 percentage points and is now 59.4 percent of the population. The labor force increased proportionately more than the population, on account of which the degree of participation increased.

IV. Sex

With the men, the degree of participation in March 2007 increased by 2 percentage points, compared to October 2005, and is now 65.0 percent. The labor force increased proportionately more than the population

The degree of participation of the women was 54.1 percent and remained almost equal to October 2005 (53.5 percent). The labor force increased, just as with the men, proportionately more than the population itself.

IV.2. Age

With the youth, the degree of participation dropped somewhat to 46.4 percent, a drop of more than 1 percentage point. This is because the labor force in this ages category increased proportionately less than the population. Compared to a relatively small population, a small change in the numbers is also visible in the proportions. As the number of non-active youth increased, it can be concluded that more youngsters attend school, on account of which the labor force also increases less rapidly.

In the age category 25-44 years, the degree of participation remained practically unchanged, compared to October 2005. This is because both the labor force and the population increased in almost equal proportions (6.2 versus 6.1 percent).

The degree of participation in the age category 45 plus, increased by 1.8 percentage points, from 72.6 in October 2005 to 74.4 in March 2007. Contrary to the other age categories, the labor force increased proportionately more than the population.

Annex: Tables

Development of the population and of the labor force ³							
Total	Census				October.		
	march-95	march-97	june-00	2001	march-03	2005	march-07
1 Employed Population	15442	14424	15615	15413	16200	18073	20720
2 Unemployed Population	2034	3059	2411	2271	3433	2798	2446
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	17476	17483	18026	17684	19633	20871	23166
4 Economically not active population	4725	4224	5192	4812	5422	5997	6601
5 Population 15 years +	22201	21707	23218	22496	25055	26868	29767
6 Total Population	30098	28908	31096	30369	33317	35910	39011
(3:6) 7 Participation rate (%)	58.1	60.5	58.0	58.2	58.9	58.1	59.4
(2:3) 8 Unemployment rate(%)	11.6	17.5	13.4	12.8	17.5	13.4	10.6
(1:6) 9 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	51.3	49.9	50.2	50.8	48.6	50.3	53.1

Development of the population and of the labor force by sex							
Male	Census				October.		
	march-95	march-97	june-00	2001	march-03	2005	march-07
1 Employed Population	8465	8157	8691	8280	8780	9714	11310
2 Unemployed Population	902	1240	999	973	1545	1194	935
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	9367	9397	9690	9253	10325	10908	12245
4 Economically not active population	1533	1316	1655	1623	1850	2007	2064
5 Population 15 years +	10900	10713	11345	10876	12175	12915	14309
6 Total Population	14831	14311	15282	14766	16203	17303	18834
(3:6) 7 Participation rate (%)	63.2	65.7	63.4	62.7	63.7	63.0	65.0
(2:3) 8 Unemployment rate(%)	9.6	13.2	10.3	10.5	15.0	10.9	7.6
(1:6) 9 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	57.1	57.0	56.9	56.1	54.2	56.1	60.1

Development of the population and of the labor force by sex.							
Female	Census				October.		
	march-95	march-97	june-00	2001	march-03	2005	march-07
1 Employed Population	6977	6267	6924	7133	7419	8359	9411
2 Unemployed Population	1132	1819	1412	1298	1888	1604	1510
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	8109	8086	8336	8431	9307	9963	10921
4 Economically not active population	3192	2908	3537	3189	3572	3990	4536
5 Population 15 years +	11301	10994	11873	11620	12879	13953	15457
6 Total Population	15267	14597	15814	15603	17114	18607	20177
(3:6) 7 Participation rate (%)	53.1	55.4	52.7	54.0	54.4	53.5	54.1
(2:3) 8 Unemployment rate(%)	14.0	22.5	16.9	15.4	20.3	16.1	13.8
(1:6) 9 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	45.7	42.9	43.8	45.7	43.4	44.9	46.6

³ This concerns the population excluding institutions

First Results Labour Force Survey Sint Maarten 2007

Development of the population and of the labor force by age groups.							
Age 15-24	Census				October.		
	march-95	march-97	june-00	2001	march-03	2005	march-07
1 Employed Population	1562	1648	1485	1459	1362	1401	1610
2 Unemployed Population	592	647	613	495	639	613	567
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	2154	2295	2098	1954	2001	2014	2177
4 Economically not active population	1754	1548	1923	1638	1857	2210	2510
5 Population 15-24	3908	3843	4041	3592	3858	4224	4687
(3:5) 6 Participation rate (%)	55.1	59.7	51.9	54.4	51.9	47.7	46.4
(2:3) 7 Unemployment rate (%)	27.5	28.2	29.2	25.3	31.9	30.4	26.0
(1:5) 8 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	40.0	42.9	36.7	40.6	35.3	33.2	34.4
Age 25-44							
1 Employed Population	10873	9624	6688	9641	9712	10934	12081
2 Unemployed Population	1206	1702	1308	1253	1977	1613	1246
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	12079	11326	7996	10894	11689	12547	13327
4 Economically not active population	1239	1108	1495	1326	1471	1403	1478
5 Population 15-24	13318	12434	9491	12220	13160	13950	14805
(3:5) 6 Participation rate (%)	90.7	91.1	84.2	89.1	88.8	89.9	90.0
(2:3) 7 Unemployment rate (%)	10.0	15.0	16.4	11.5	16.9	12.9	9.3
(1:5) 8 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	81.6	77.4	70.5	78.9	73.8	78.4	81.6
Age 45 plus							
1 Employed Population	3007	3135	4142	4313	5126	5737	6942
2 Unemployed Population	236	702	490	523	816	572	633
(1+2) 3 Labor Force	3243	3837	4632	4836	5942	6309	7575
4 Economically not active population	1732	1568	1774	1809	2094	2384	2612
5 Population 15-24	4975	5405	6406	6645	8036	8693	10187
(3:5) 6 Participation rate (%)	65.2	71.0	72.3	72.8	73.9	72.6	74.4
(2:3) 7 Unemployment rate (%)	7.3	18.3	10.6	10.8	13.7	9.1	8.4
(1:5) 8 Employed/Total Pop. (%)	60.4	58.0	64.7	64.9	63.8	66.0	68.1