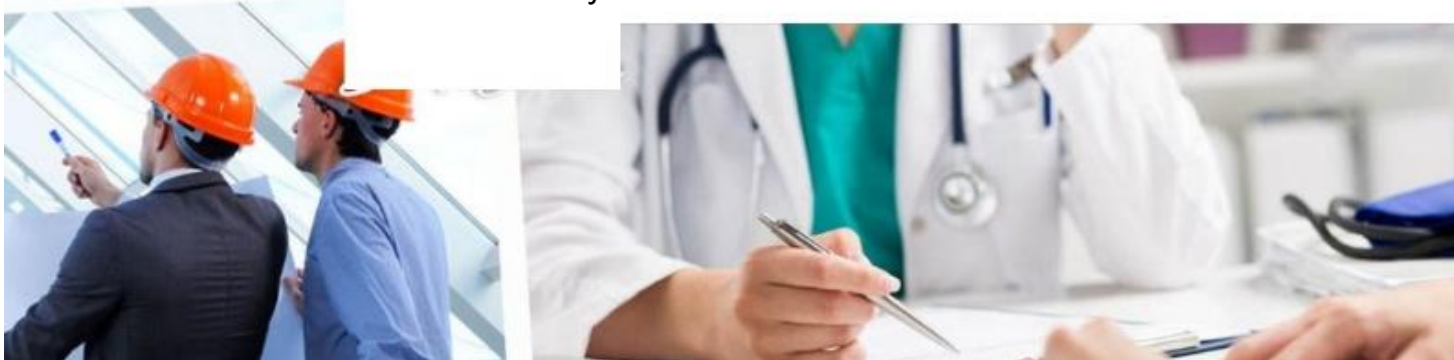


2019

Labour Force Survey



Results Report



Department of Statistics
Government of Sint Maarten
4/4/2019

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General Information

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a sample survey among households with the broad aim to measure the recent developments of the labour market.

The major topics covered in the 2018 Labour Force Survey are:

- Demographics: gender, age
- Education: highest level of education completed, diplomas, trainings
- Economic Status: employed, unemployed, economically inactive
- Income

Data-collection for this year's LFS started in September 2018 and lasted until November. A sample of 1,209 households were visited, and 784 households responded. The completion target was 991, and therefore the responses were within 80% of the completion target.

The sample for the Labour Force Survey was drawn from the population of private households. The sample was stratified based on the 8 official districts (zones) of St. Maarten and the population density as resulted from the 2011 Census. According to the 2011 Census, the population was distributed as follows:

Zone (District)	Population density
Simpson Bay	2.1%
Lower Princess Quarter	25.7%
Cul-de-Sac	24.4%
Cole Bay	21.3%
Little Bay	9.0%
Upper Princess Quarter	11.4%
Lowlands	1.4%
Philipsburg	4.8%

With our sample of 784 households, we achieved an error margin of 3.39% with 95% confidence level. At the end of the fieldwork, 1,886 people were interviewed.

As the LFS was a sample survey, the results have been grossed up to the total population estimate of 2018 attributing a weight to each participant according to the age and gender distribution.

Readers should note that there are therefore some small disparities in the totals presented in the tables of this report. This is the result of the grossing up effect of the weights on the sample data.

Key Definitions

Employed persons:

All persons 15 years and older with a job or their own business or who, during the week prior to the survey, worked 4 hours or more for a remuneration.

Unemployed persons:

All persons 15 years and older who during the survey were unemployed, were actively looking for work the month prior to the survey, and who could start working within 2 weeks, should they find a job.

Labour Force (also called the economically active population):

The number of employed and unemployed added together.

Economically Inactive:

All persons 15 years and older who are neither employed nor unemployed.

Unemployment rate:

The number of unemployed divided by the labour force multiplied by 100.

Youth unemployment rate:

The unemployment rate of persons in the age group 15 to 24.

Participation rate:

The labour force divided by the total population multiplied by 100. It indicates what proportion of the total population is economically active.

Education levels:

Level	Description
No formal education completed	This category includes persons who never attended any level of schooling, or who completed a few years of schooling but did not complete the required years to achieve the qualification.
Primary	This category includes persons who completed elementary school, and/or attended some years of high school, but did not complete the required years to achieve the qualification.
Secondary	This category includes persons who completed any level of high school and/or attended some years of post-secondary education, but did not complete the required years to achieve the qualification. For the purpose of this publication, no distinction is made between vocational secondary education and academic secondary education. Data disaggregated by a lower level of distinction is available on request.
Post-Secondary, Non-Tertiary	This category includes persons who completed a qualification of study after high school that is not considered tertiary level. Most common examples include A-Level and International Baccalaureate programs.
Tertiary	This category includes persons who completed any tertiary level education. For the purpose of this publication, no distinction is made between the levels of qualifications (e.g. Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate, etc.). Data disaggregated by a lower level of distinction is available on request.

Labour Developments over time

It is often interesting to note the change in various labour indicators over time. In particular, we can see the changes over the last 7 years from 2011 to 2018.

	2011	2013	2017	2018	% change 2017 - 2018
Population	33,609	36,175	40,535	40,614	0.19%
Labour Force	19,337	21,071	22,342	23,146	3.60%
Economically Inactive	6,867	7,482	9,846	9,429	-4.23%
Employed	17,108	19,137	20,954	20,850	-0.50%
Unemployed	2,229	1,934	1,388	2,296	65.48%
Unemployment Rate	11.5%	9.2%	6.2%	9.9%	3.71%
Participation Rate	57.5%	58.2%	55.1%	57.0%	1.87%

Table 1: Labour force development 2011-2018

Firstly, we see that the population change from 2017 to 2018 is less than 1%. This is largely due to the fact that net migration for 2017 was negative, meaning that more persons emigrated out of St. Maarten than immigrated into St. Maarten.

We also see an increase in the labour force (Economically Active population), which is those persons who are either currently employed, or are willing and able to work, and therefore actively seeking employment. This increase is in keeping with the trend over the last 7 years.

This increase in the economically active population is of course mirrored by a decrease in the economically inactive population, but also a decrease in the employed population. This suggests that the increase in the labour force is due largely to the sizeable increase in the unemployed population. The large percentage increase in the number of Unemployed persons from 2017 to 2018, also accounts for the increase in the unemployment rate by almost 4%.

Looking at this change alone, however, is not a good indicator of the difference between the two years, unless the Participation Rate is also considered. The participation rate tells us what percentage of the population is willing and able to work. In this case, we see an almost 2% increase in the participation rate. Considering the increased unemployment rate in light of the increased participation rate, we can conclude that in 2018 compared to 2017, more persons are willing and able to work, but unable to find jobs.

In doing these direct comparisons across the years, however, it is very important to take into consideration the difference in timing of the various surveys.

- 2011 figures are based on the Population Census conducted in April 2011 (High Season)
- 2013 Labour Force Survey was conducted in June 2013 (Low Season)
- 2017 Labour Force Survey was conducted in February 2017 (High Season, prior to hurricane Irma)
- 2018 Labour Force Survey was conducted September 2018 (Low Season, about 1 year post hurricane Irma)

Some of the increase in the Unemployment Rate between 2017 and 2018, for example, must therefore be attributed to the difference in season. We expect a higher unemployment rate in the low season. We also must take into consideration the compounding effect of the passing of hurricane Irma.

Bearing this in mind, it is still interesting to look at some of the changes over time. We see in Table 2 and Figure 1 below, for example, the number of persons in each Economic Status group by age and gender, in 2017 and 2018.

The three Economic Status groups will form the basis for the discussion of the results of the survey. All persons 15 years and older, are classified as either; Economically Inactive, Employed, or Unemployed.

	Economically Inactive		Employed		Unemployed		Labour Force	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Male								
15yrs – 24yrs	1,596	1,246	791	1,090	188	246	979	1,336
25yrs – 44yrs	775	381	4,460	5,036	247	278	4,707	5,314
45+ yrs	1,682	1,635	5,099	4,956	152	323	5,251	5,279
Total Male	4,053	3,262	10,350	11,082	588	847	10,938	11,929
Female								
15yrs – 24yrs	1,220	1,316	772	854	301	177	1,073	1,031
25yrs – 44yrs	1,312	1,390	5,253	4,824	383	674	5,636	5,497
45+ yrs	3,260	3,509	4,580	4,174	115	618	4,695	4,792
Total Female	5,792	6,215	10,605	9,852	800	1,469	11,405	11,320

Table 2. Employment status 2017-2018 by age and gender

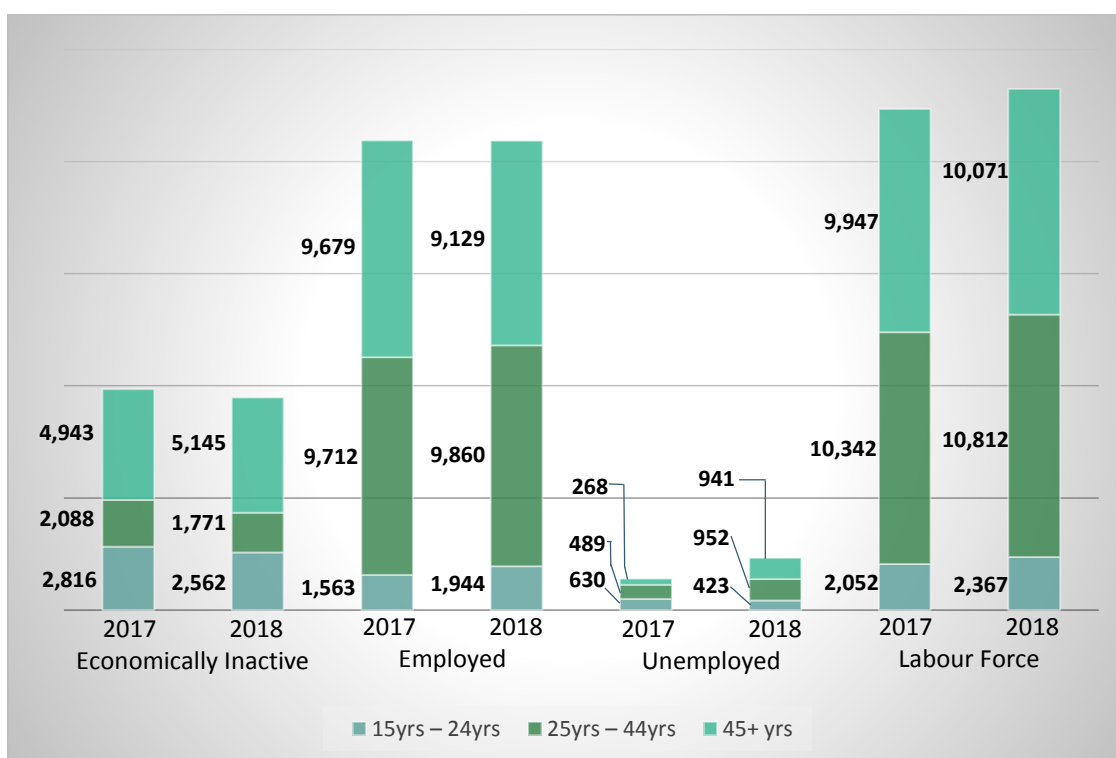


Figure 1. Employment status 2017 – 2018 by Age

We see in some cases in Table 2 and Figure 1, large changes in the absolute values. For example, the total number of unemployed males went from 588 in 2017, to 847 in 2018 (as seen in Table 2) and the number of unemployed males and females aged 45+ years more than tripled from 268 in 2017 to 941 in 2018 (as seen in Figure 1).

These changes, however, although interesting to observe, do not tell us as much as the difference in the percentages. In Table 3 below, we can see the same values as a percentage of the total in each category. In this way, a direct comparison can be made between the years.

	Economically Inactive			Employed			Unemployed		
	2017	2018	% Diff	2017	2018	% Diff	2017	2018	% Diff
Total									
15yrs – 24yrs	58%	52%	-6%	32%	39%	7%	10%	9%	-1%
25yrs – 44yrs	17%	14%	-3%	78%	78%	-	5%	8%	2%
45+ yrs	33%	34%	1%	65%	60%	-5%	2%	6%	4%
Male									
15yrs – 24yrs	62%	48%	-14%	31%	42%	11%	7%	10%	2%
25yrs – 44yrs	14%	7%	-7%	81%	88%	7%	5%	5%	-
45+ yrs	24%	24%	-1%	74%	72%	-2%	2%	5%	2%
Female									
15yrs – 24yrs	53%	56%	3%	34%	36%	3%	13%	8%	-6%
25yrs – 44yrs	19%	20%	1%	76%	70%	-6%	6%	10%	4%
45+ yrs	41%	42%	1%	58%	50%	-7%	1%	7%	6%
Table 3. Economic Status percentage of population by age and gender									

Table 3 shows that in the Economically Inactive column, there was a drop in the percentage of males in every age group from 2017 to 2018, but an increase in the females in every age group. Overall, the drop in males was higher than the increase in females, and as such there was an increase only in the case of persons 45 years and older.

For Employed persons, there was an overall increase in the percentage of those employed aged 15 to 24 years, no change for those 25 years to 44 years old, and a decrease for those 45 years and older.

The percentage of the unemployed population aged 15 to 24 years decreased from 2017 to 2018 and the percentage of those 25 years and older increased from 2017 to 2018.

Economic Status Profiles

The population aged 15 years and older, as previously mentioned, is split into the Economically Inactive and the Labour Force, and the Labour Force is further split into the Employed and the Unemployed.

Each group consists of individuals from different genders, age groups, and education levels. The gender and age differences have been discussed previously in Table 2 and Figure 1, below is a table and a chart showing each group by the highest level of education completed.

	No formal education	Primary	Secondary	Post-Secondary, Non-Tertiary	Tertiary	Total
Economically Inactive	753	4,264	3,253	589	570	9,429
Employed	722	5,253	8,805	1,848	4,133	20,760
Unemployed	69	798	985	169	275	2,296
Total	1,544	10,315	13,042	2,606	4,978	32,485

Table 4. Economic Status by Highest Level of Education Completed

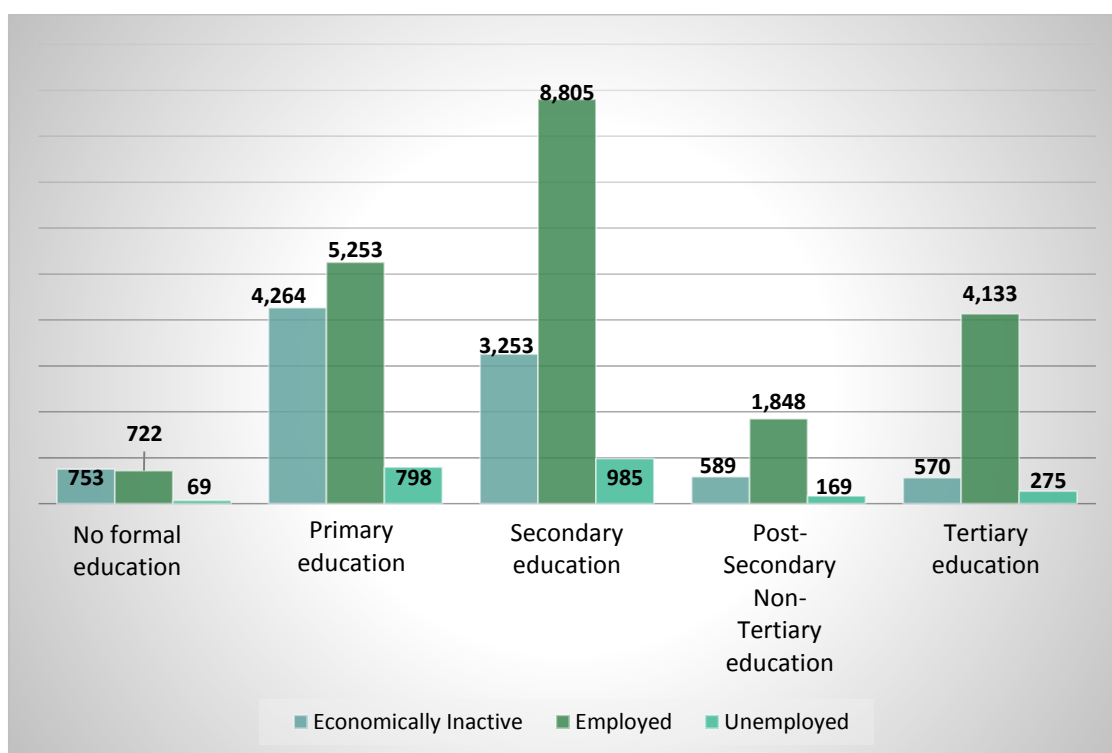


Figure 2. Economic Status by Highest level of Education Completed

With the above, it is noteworthy that at every level of study, the employed accounts for the largest percent of the population. For example, 6% of persons who completed tertiary level study (275 out of 4,978) are Unemployed, in contrast, 83% of those who completed tertiary level study (4,133 out of 4,978) are Employed. Among those who completed up to secondary level education, 25% are Economically Inactive, 68% are Employed, and 8% are Unemployed.

A more in depth look at each Economic Status group by the highest level of education completed will appear in the profile studies to follow.

Economically Inactive

As seen in Tables 5a and 5b below, the Economically Inactive population, excluding those under 15 years old, is 9,429 persons, which is about 23% of the total population.

	Male	Female	Total
15 - 24 yrs	1,237	1,306	2,543
25 - 44 yrs	376	1,374	1,750
45 - 60 yrs	349	1,405	1,754
61+ yrs	1,279	2,103	3,382
Total	3,241	6,188	9,429

Table 5a. Economically Inactive population by Age and Gender (numbers)

	Male	Female
15 - 24 yrs	13.1%	13.8%
25 - 44 yrs	4.0%	14.6%
45 - 60 yrs	3.7%	14.9%
61+ yrs	13.6%	22.3%
Total	34.4%	65.6%

Table 5b. Economically Inactive population by Age and Gender (percent)

The total male to female split of the Economically Inactive population is 34.4% to 65.6%. The largest gender-age group of the Economically Inactive population is, females aged 61 years and older, accounting for 22% of the group.

As explained in the definitions, the Economically Inactive are persons 15 years and older, who are neither employed nor unemployed. Essentially, this means that these persons are not working, but they are not looking for work. Considering this definition, the fact that persons older than 60 years account for a third of this group makes sense, as many of them would be retired and therefore not looking for work. The second highest age group, those 15 – 24 years also makes sense, as these persons are likely to be pursuing their studies rather than looking for work.

Apart from being retired, or furthering studies, there are a number of possible reasons that persons would not be looking for work. Table 6 below shows the reasons given by respondents for not looking for work.

As previously mentioned, the top reason given by respondents for not looking for work is Age or Retirement, closely followed by being busy with study. This accounts for over half of the respondents not looking for work, and is in keeping with expectations.

8.1% of respondents listed being a Housewife or Househusband as the reason they were not looking for work, the third most common response. Considering that housewives are more common than househusbands, this may explain the higher percentage of females in the Economically Inactive status group.

Reason	Economically Inactive	
I am retired	3,180	33.7%
I am completing school or studies	2,236	23.7%
I am a Housewife/Househusband	766	8.1%
Health reasons	604	6.4%
I have a diagnosed disability (physical or mental)	394	4.2%
Injury	291	3.1%
No work permit	268	2.8%
Too difficult to find work	251	2.7%
There's no financial need for me to work	197	2.1%
I am a stay-at-home parent	180	1.9%
Found a job but waiting to start	117	1.2%
Family/ parent/ spouse does not allow me to work	107	1.1%
Need to stay home to take care of a dependent family member	98	1.0%
I have seasonal work	93	1.0%
Moving off-island	63	0.7%
Pregnancy	33	0.3%
No transportation	28	0.3%
Too old to get hired	17	0.2%
Other	378	4.0%
Unknown	129	1.4%
Total	9,429	

Table 6. Reason Not Looking for Work

Another interesting analysis for this status group, is to see the Economically Inactive population by highest level of education completed. This is seen in Tables 7a and 7b below.

Highest Level of Education Completed	Economically Inactive	
No formal education completed	753	8.0%
Primary Education	4,264	45.2%
Secondary Education	3,253	34.5%
Post-Secondary, Non-Tertiary Education	589	6.3%
Tertiary Education	570	6.0%
Total	9,429	

Table 7a. Economically Inactive population by Highest Level of Education completed

Almost half of this group has completed up to Primary level education, just over a third of the group has finished up to Secondary level - High school, and about 12% of the group went on to continue their education after High school.

Considering the high percentage of those still in study in Table 6, we can justifiably assume that some of those who have completed up to Elementary, are currently in Secondary level education, and some of those who completed up to Secondary level are currently continuing their studies at a higher level.

To test this assumption, Table 7b below shows the same group split into those currently studying and those not currently studying.

Highest Level of Education Completed	Currently Studying	Not Currently Studying	Total
No formal education completed	21	733	753
Primary Education	1,421	2,842	4,264
Secondary Education	395	2,858	3,253
Post-Secondary, Non-Tertiary Education		589	589
Tertiary Education		570	570
Total	1,837	7,592	9,429

Table 7b. Economically Inactive population by Current study and Highest Level of Education

We see from this table that 3% of those with no formal education completed are currently studying, a third of those who have completed up to Primary level education are currently studying, and 12% of those who have completed up to a Secondary level education are currently studying. None of the economically inactive who continued their studies after secondary school are currently studying.

Effects of hurricane Irma

The respondents in the Economically Inactive category were also asked to indicate whether or not the passing of hurricane Irma caused a change in their Economic Status, 10% said yes. The chart below shows the breakdown of how those respondents were affected.

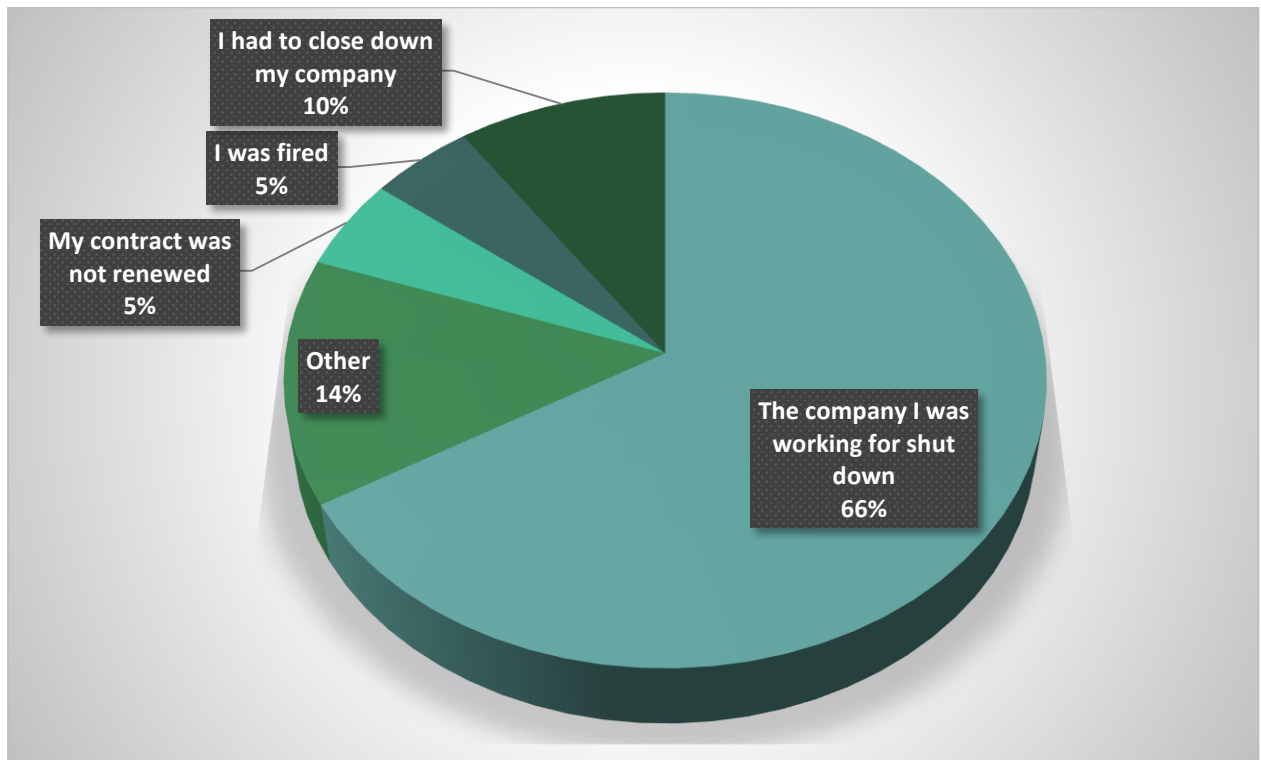


Figure 3. Effects of the passing of hurricane Irma on the Economically Inactive population

66% of these respondents stated that the company where they were working was shut down, and 10% stated they had to shut down their company, together, this accounts for over three-quarters of those being affected by the passing of hurricane Irma, who lost their place of work.

Employed

The employed population consists of 20,760 persons, which is about 51% of the total population.

	Male	Female	Total
15-24 yrs	1,079	845	1,924
25-44 yrs	4,979	4,767	9,746
45-60 yrs	4,087	3,446	7,533
61-64 yrs	431	398	830
65+ yrs	414	312	727
Total	10,990	9,769	20,760

Table 8a. Employed Population by Age and Gender (numbers)

	Male	Female
15-24 yrs	5%	4%
25-44 yrs	24%	23%
45-60 yrs	20%	17%
61-64 yrs	2%	2%
65+ yrs	2%	2%
Total	53%	47%

Table 8b. Employed Population by Age and Gender (percent)

The male – female split of the Employed population is 53% to 47%, almost half-half. This is mirrored throughout the different gender-age groups. The largest gender-age group is the 25-44 year old males, accounting for almost a quarter of the employed population.

Simply put, the employed population are persons aged 15 years and older, who have a job. In this case, it is interesting to note that about 8% of this group is over 60 years old. In fact, 4% is 65 years old and older, and the majority of those in this age group are males.

In Table 9 we see a breakdown of the Employed population by the industry in which they are employed. It is important to note that the Industry does not necessarily equate to the specific job of the individual. In this table, the place of work is categorized into the different Industries. This means, for example, of the 2,452 persons who work in the Construction industry, it is possible that some of them are in fact accountants or secretaries, or managers within a construction company.

Tables 10a and 10b, on the other hand, shows the employed population by occupation groups and sub-groups. These are the particular jobs that the individuals are doing, regardless of the company.

Therefore, in Table 10b, all Accountants (falling in the subgroup Numerical and material recording clerks), would be counted together, whether they work for an accounting firm or a jewellery store.

Industry	Employed	
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	3,661	17.6%
Accommodation and food service activities	2,557	12.3%
Construction	2,452	11.8%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1,728	8.3%
Transportation and storage	1,398	6.7%
Administrative and support service activities	1,311	6.3%
Education	1,080	5.2%
Human health and social work activities	919	4.4%
Other service activities	722	3.5%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	685	3.3%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	675	3.3%
Financial and insurance activities	529	2.5%
Manufacturing	471	2.3%
Information and communication	362	1.7%
Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods - and services - producing activities of households for own use	290	1.4%
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	194	0.9%
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	128	0.6%
Real estate activities	120	0.6%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	14	0.1%
Unknown	1,464	7.1%
Total	20,760	

Table 9. Employment by Industry

Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles is the top Industry; and accounts for over 17% of Employment. If we add the top 3 industries which cover, wholesale and retail, accommodation and food services (which is hotels and restaurants, etc.), and construction, this accounts for 41.7% of employment.

In Table 10a, below, the Occupations are split into major groups, and in Table 10b, the groups are further split into sub-groups where necessary.

Occupation Groups	Employed	
Service workers & shop and market sales workers	3,671	17.7%
Technicians & associate professionals	3,347	16.1%
Elementary occupations	3,271	15.8%
Legislators, senior officials & managers	2,620	12.6%
Professionals	2,377	11.5%
Craft & related trades workers	2,253	10.9%
Clerks	1,218	5.9%
Plant & machine operators and assemblers	886	4.3%
Armed forces	25	0.1%
Other professions (Unknown)	1,092	5.3%
Total	20,760	

Table 10a. Employed Population by Occupation Groups

We see Service workers & shop and market sales workers as the top Occupation group, accounting for over 17% of the population. This is in keeping with the top Industry in Table 9.

Occupation Groups and Sub Groups	Employed	
Service workers & shop and market sales workers	3,671	17.7%
Personal service workers	1,377	
Sales workers	1,107	
Protective services workers	927	
Personal care workers	260	
Technicians & associate professionals	3,347	16.1%
Business and administration associate professionals	1,967	
Science and engineering associate professionals	731	
Legal, social, cultural and related associate professionals	335	
Health associate professionals	163	
Information and communications technicians	151	
Elementary occupations	3,271	15.8%
Cleaners and helpers	1,148	
Labourers in mining, construction, manufacturing and transport	1,065	
Refuse workers and other elementary workers	683	
Agricultural, forestry and fishery labourers	177	
Food preparation assistants	143	
Street and related sales and service workers	54	
Legislators, senior officials & managers	2,620	12.6%
Chief executives, senior officials and legislators	1,336	
Administrative and commercial managers	674	
Production and specialised services managers	454	
Hospitality, retail and other services managers	155	
Professionals	2,377	11.5%
Teaching professionals	866	
Business and administration professionals	469	
Health professionals	461	
Science and engineering professionals	366	
Legal, social and cultural professionals	184	
Information and communications technology professionals	33	
Craft & related trades workers	2,253	10.9%
Building and related trades workers, excluding electricians	1,058	
Metal, machinery and related trades workers	482	
Electrical and electronic trades workers	307	
Food processing, wood working, garment and other craft and related trades workers	244	
Handicraft and printing workers	162	
Clerks	1,218	5.9%
Customer services clerks	664	
General and keyboard clerks	403	
Numerical and material recording clerks	123	
Other clerical support workers	28	
Plant & machine operators and assemblers	886	4.3%
Drivers and mobile plant operators	729	
Stationary plant and machine operators	156	
Armed forces	25	0.1%
Armed forces occupations, other ranks	25	
Other profession (Unknown)	1,092	5.3%
Other professions (Unknown)	1,092	
Total	20,760	

Table 10b. Employment by Occupation Group and Sub Group

It is also interesting to take a closer look at the employed population by highest level of education completed.

Highest Level of Education Completed	Employed	
No formal education completed	722	3.5%
Primary Education	5,253	25.3%
Secondary Education	8,805	42.4%
Post-secondary, Non-tertiary Education	1,848	8.9%
Tertiary Education	4,133	19.9%
Total	20,760	

Table 11. Employed by Highest Level of Education completed

A quarter of the employed population have completed up to primary education, and over 40% up to secondary level education. Adding to this the portion that did not complete any formal education, we can see that 71% of the employed population did not continue their studies beyond high school.

This fact that the bulk of the employed have a secondary level education or below is not so surprising when viewed alongside the top Industries and Occupations in the previous Tables 9, 10a, and 10b.

Service workers & shop and market sales workers, Elementary occupations, Plant & machine operators and assemblers, and Craft & related trade workers are occupation groups that account for 48.7% of the employed population, almost half. These occupations consist of mainly unskilled jobs that would not require post-secondary level education.

The employed population can also be further split into different Economic positions. For example, how many are employees in permanent service, how many are on a contract, how many own their own business?

	15-24 yrs	25-60 yrs	61+ yrs	Total
Permanent Employee	646	10,383	744	11,773
Temporary Employee	993	2,893	90	3,976
Work for myself	41	1,703	169	1,913
Own the company	0	793	169	963
Casual worker / Freelancer	66	665	80	810
Paid Trainee / intern	89	50	0	140
Work for an employment agency	24	28	0	19
Paid family worker	0	19	0	52
Unknown	66	744	303	1,113
Total	1,555	17,278	1,925	20,760

Table 12. Employed by Economic Position and Age

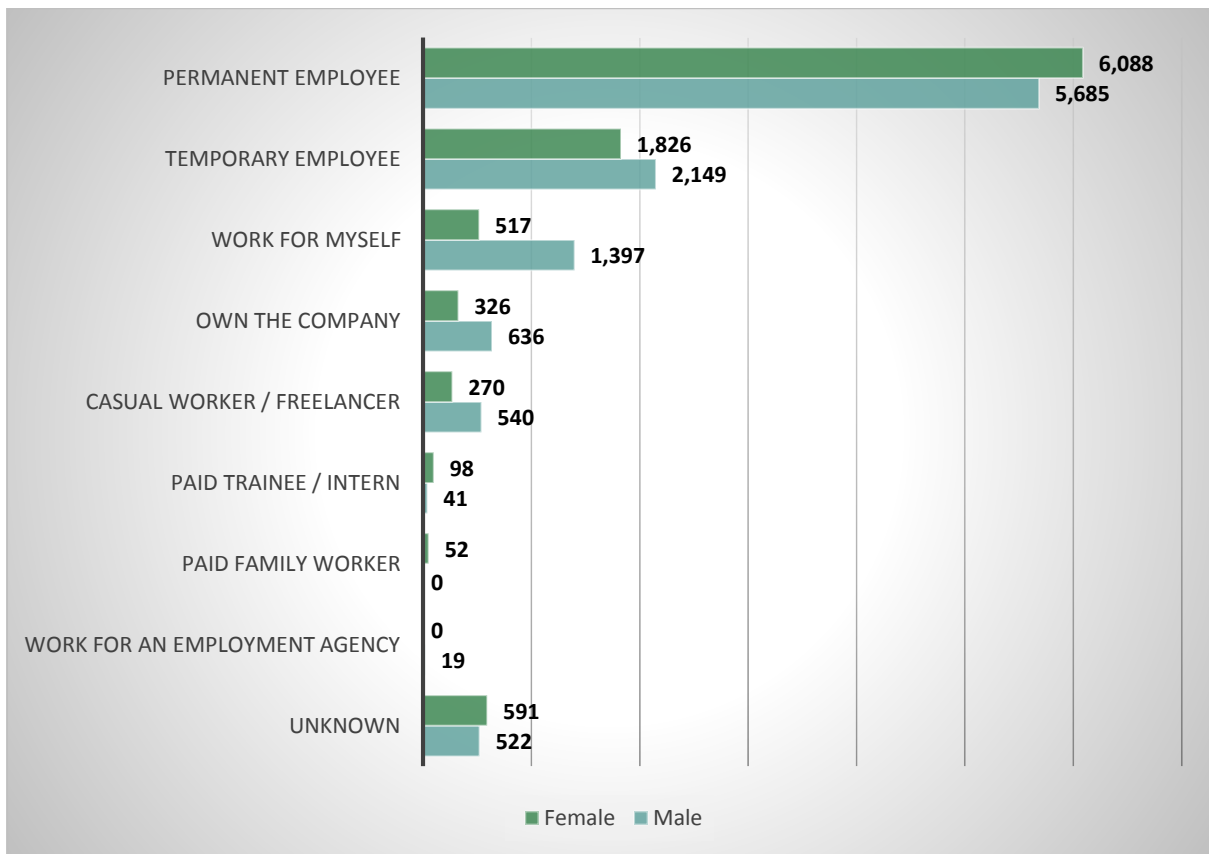


Figure 4. Employed by Economic Position and Gender

From both the table and the figure above, right away we can see that the vast majority of the Employed are in permanent service; 11,773 persons out of the total 20,760, that is 57%. The male to female split is almost half-half.

The second largest economic position group is Temporary Employees, these are persons working on a contract. This group accounts for 19% of the Employed population.

Table 13 below shows the Employed population by number of hours worked per week, age and gender. Officially, 40 hours a week for a 5 day week, and 48 hours a week for a 6 day week, is considered full-time. Anything less than that is considered part-time work hours. However, this is subject to the agreed work hours of the job.

If, for example, an employee agrees to work 6 hours a day for a 5 day week, that may be considered full time for the employer.

The table therefore shows hours worked per week but does not make the full-time / part-time distinction.

Hours worked per week	Male	Female	Total
15-24 yrs			
Less than 20 hrs	86	45	131
20 - 39 hrs	165	158	323
40 - 50 hrs	828	618	1,447
More than 50 hrs		24	24
25-44 yrs			
Less than 20 hrs	139	164	304
20 - 39 hrs	531	782	1,313
40 - 50 hrs	3,922	3,496	7,418
More than 50 hrs	276	203	479
Not Reported	111	122	233
45-60 yrs			
Less than 20 hrs	206	238	444
20 - 39 hrs	428	559	987
40 - 50 hrs	2,969	2,332	5,301
More than 50 hrs	331	148	479
Not Reported	153	168	322
61+ yrs			
Less than 20 hrs	50	93	143
20 - 39 hrs	142	167	309
40 - 50 hrs	517	221	739
More than 50 hrs	29	50	79
Not Reported	108	179	287
Total	10,990	9,769	20,760

Table 13. Employed by Hours worked per week, age and gender

In each age group, most persons work 40 – 50 hours a week - 72%. The second largest work hours group in all the age groups is 20 - 39 hours per week – 14%

Job Satisfaction and Benefits

It is also worth noting how satisfied persons are with the jobs they are employed in. What benefits are they receiving on their jobs? How many people have more than one job? How many people are looking for another job? The answers to these questions give us a picture of the employed population and the current labour market on the island.

For starters, as seen in the figure below, 78% of the Employed said that they were satisfied with how many hours they were working, 9% wish they could work less hours, and 9% wish they could work more hours.

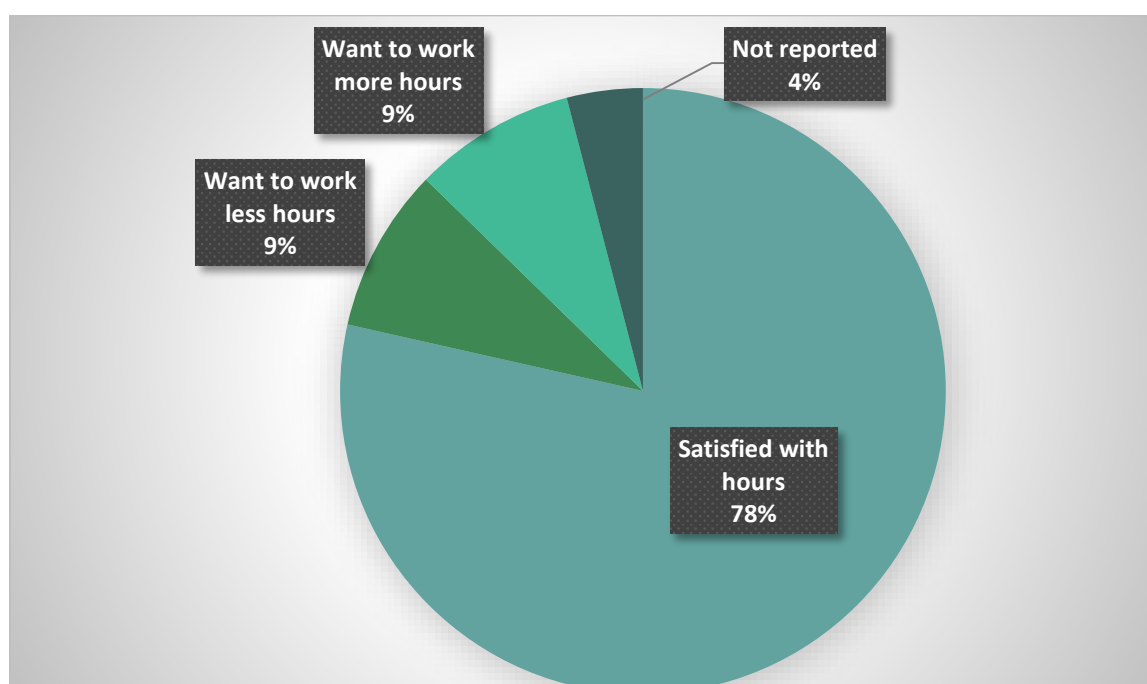


Figure 5. Employed by satisfaction of working hours

Considering that most of the employed are working between 20 and 50 hours per week, these figures are not surprising. The vast majority of the employed are satisfied with their working hours.

Secondly, 7.4% of the Employed are currently looking for a change from their main job. Table 14 below gives the main reasons why.

Reasons	Employed	Percentage
Want to earn more	598	38.8%
Want better working conditions	292	19.0%
Want to work more hours	265	17.2%
Want stable income	221	14.3%
Want a permanent job	132	8.6%
Want to work less hours	83	5.4%
Want a more challenging job	85	5.5%
Want to leave St. Maarten	25	1.6%
Total	1,541	

Table 14. Reasons Employed persons are looking for a change from main job

The most popular quoted reason was that persons wanted to earn more, followed by wanting better working conditions.

716 of the 20,760 employed persons (3.5%) have a second job. Respondents were also asked to indicate whether they were looking for an additional job, and 3.4% said yes. For those who are looking for an additional job, wanting extra income was the top ranked reason, followed by having an unstable main job.

Finally, respondents were asked to indicate what benefits were available at their place of work. The following table summarizes the responses. Multiple responses were allowed.

Benefits Available	Employed	
Health Insurance	12,277	59.1%
Paid Vacation days	11,858	57.1%
Sick leave compensation	9,733	46.9%
Vacation Pay/ Bonuses	7,548	36.4%
Clothing/ uniform provided	7,012	33.8%
Weekly rest days	5,877	28.3%
Pension plan	4,918	23.7%
Training and promotion possibilities	4,477	21.6%
Paid overtime (in cash or time back)	4,459	21.5%
Unpaid lunch hour	4,198	20.2%
Paid lunch hour	2,405	11.6%
Company phone	2,286	11.0%
Other	1,783	8.6%
Food/ meal provided	1,144	5.5%
Company car	1,097	5.3%
Cost of living salary adjustment	991	4.8%
School expenses covered/ Assistance with schooling	943	4.5%
House/ rent provided by employer	627	3.0%
Gas Vouchers	93	0.4%
Phone Credit	73	0.4%
None	3,090	14.9%

Table 15. Benefits available at place of employment

Over half of the employed have health insurance and paid vacation days, and over a third have sick leave compensation, vacation pay and/or bonuses, and uniforms provided by the employer.

Effects of hurricane Irma

The employed population was asked to indicate whether their employment situation was affected by the passing of hurricane Irma, 31% said it was. Figure 6 below shows how these persons reported having been affected.

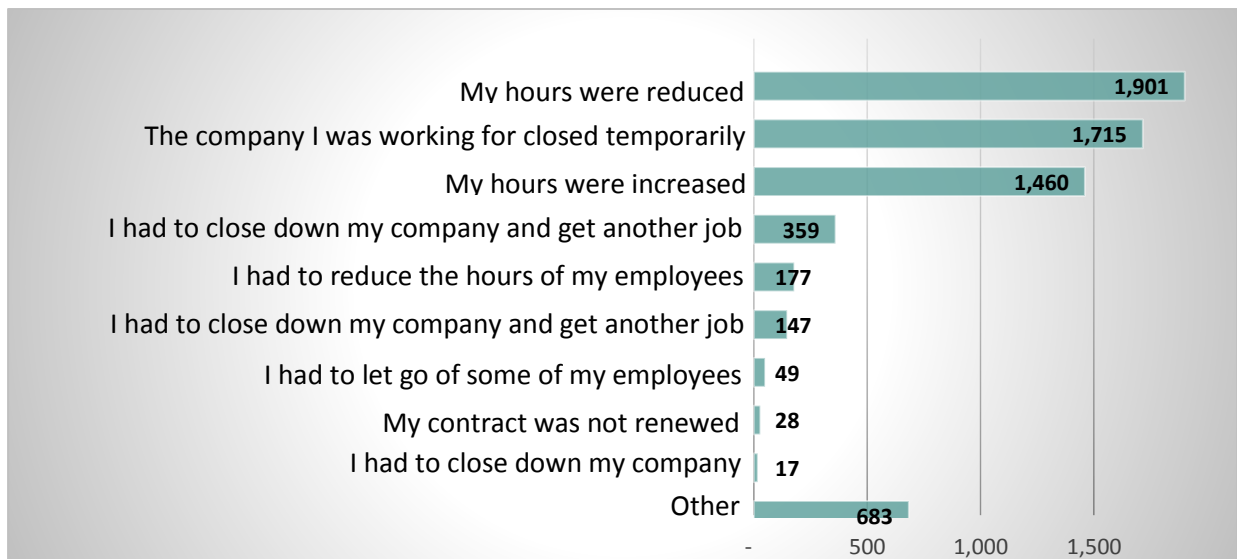


Figure 6. Effects of the passing of hurricane Irma on the Employed population

Unemployed

The final Economic Status profile to be outlined is that of the Unemployed. The unemployed population consists of 2,296 persons, which is 6% of the entire population.

	Male	Female	Total
15-24 yrs	244	175	419
25-44 yrs	274	665	940
45-60 yrs	291	582	873
61-65 yrs	31	33	64
Total	840	1,456	2,296

Table 16a. Unemployed by Age and Gender (numbers)

	Male	Female
15-24 yrs	10.6%	7.6%
25-44 yrs	12.0%	29.0%
45-60 yrs	12.7%	25.4%
61-65 yrs	1.4%	1.4%
Total	36.6%	63.4%

Table 16b. Unemployed by Age and Gender (percent)

The male-female split of the unemployed population is 37% to 63%. The highest gender-age group is 25-44 year old Females, accounting for 29% of the unemployed population.

As mentioned in the definitions, the Unemployed are those persons 15 years and older who do not have a job, are looking for work, and could begin working within 2 weeks should a job become available.

It is first interesting to observe the different perceptions that the unemployed population have. Why are they unemployed, why haven't they found a job yet, where have they been looking for work, and in what industries would they like to work.

Effects of hurricane Irma

42.3% of the Unemployed (972 persons) said that their unemployment was related to the passing of hurricane Irma. The split by age group can be seen in the figure below.

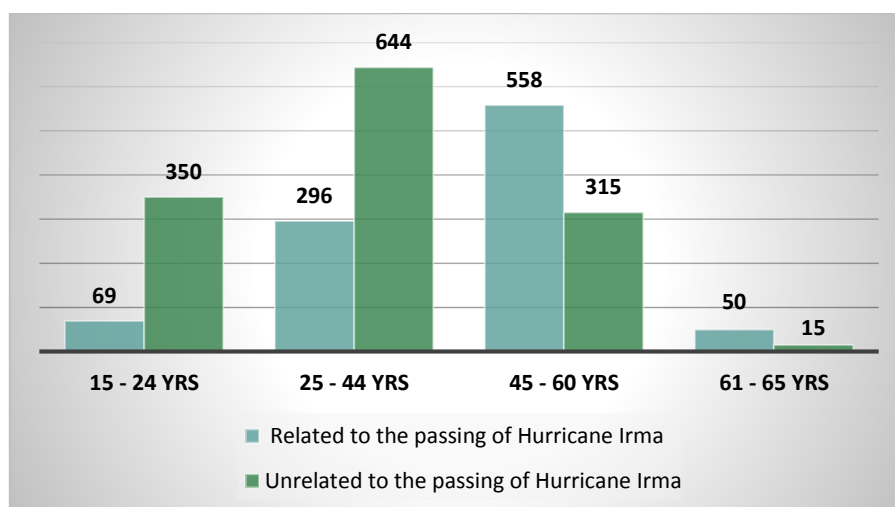


Figure 7. Effects of the passing of hurricane Irma on the Unemployed population

	Unemployed Unrelated to hurricane Irma		Unemployed Related to hurricane Irma		Unemployed Total	
I can't find a job I like	341	14.8%	127	5.5%	468	20.4%
I just graduated	176	7.7%		0.0%	372	7.7%
The company I was working for closed down	175	7.6%	521	22.7%	696	30.3%
My contract ended	155	6.8%	127	5.5%	283	12.3%
No work permit	91	4.0%		0.0%	91	4.0%
I was dismissed/fired	48	2.1%	126	5.5%	174	7.6%
I closed down my business	19	0.8%	17	0.7%	36	1.6%
Other	318	13.8%	54	2.4%	372	16.2%
Total	1,324	57.7%	972	42.3%	2,296	

Table 17. Reasons given for being Unemployed

In Table 17 above we see that of those whose unemployment is related to the hurricane, almost a quarter said the company they were working for shut down.

Table 18 below reports the reasons given for not having found a job by age group and gender.

The top reasons given by unemployed youth age 15 – 24 for not having found a job are that it's slow season and that there are no jobs available. The male to female split in this age group for the slow season reasoning is exactly 50 – 50, but over 3 times more females than males in this age group said there were no jobs available in their preferred industry.

For persons age 25 – 44, the top two reasons given were the same as in the previous age group. In this case, 100% of the respondents in this age group who said it was slow season, were female. It is also noteworthy that for this age group, more than 3 times the number of unemployed females than males listed not having a work permit as a reason for being unemployed.

In the age group 45 – 60 years, the same top 2 reasons appear, but in this case no jobs available is more popular than slow season. In this case, over 7 times more females than males said there were no jobs available in their desired industry, and almost two times more males answered that it was slow season.

There are a relatively small number of unemployed persons in the final age group (61+), which is expected. All the females in this age group list age as the reason for not having found a job, whereas the males listed no jobs available in the desired industry, and a variety of other reasons.

	Males	Females	Total
15-24 yrs			
It's slow season	45	45	89
There's no jobs available in the industry I want to work in	21	65	86
I don't have enough education	45	24	69
I don't have enough experience	21	21	41
I don't have a work permit	24		24
I want part-time work	24		24
I want permanent work	21		21
Other	45	21	65
25-44 yrs			
It's slow season		167	167
There's no jobs available in the industry I want to work in	101	61	162
I don't have a work permit	33	111	144
I don't have enough education		61	61
I want permanent work	33	25	58
I don't have enough experience		50	50
I want part-time work		28	28
The available jobs are not offering enough money	25		25
Other	83	161	245
45-60 yrs			
There's no jobs available in the industry I want to work in	34	266	300
It's slow season	138	73	211
My age		60	60
I can't speak English well enough		40	40
I don't have a work permit		23	23
The available jobs are not offering enough money	23		23
I don't have enough education		23	23
Because of my health		17	17
I want permanent work		17	17
Other	96	63	159
61 - 65 yrs			
My age		33	33
There's no jobs available in the industry I want to work in	15		15
Other	17		17
Total	840	1,456	2,296

Table 18. Reasons given for not having found a job by age and gender

	Permanent	Temporary	Doesn't Matter	Total
Full-Time	1,580	121	49	1,749
Part-Time	43	41	0	84
Doesn't Matter	56	0	407	463
<i>Total</i>	1,678	162	456	2,296

Table 19. Unemployed by desired Economic Position

Table 19 above shows that 73% of unemployed persons are looking for a Permanent job, and 76% of unemployed persons are looking for a full-time job. 69% are looking for a Permanent, Full-Time job, and 20% of the unemployed don't care whether the job is permanent or temporary, full-time or part-time.

Tables 20 and 21 below present results of how long persons have been looking for work, and how they have been looking for work.

Time spent looking for work	Unemployed	
1 - 3 months	655	28.5%
4 - 6 months	308	13.4%
7 - 11 months	325	14.1%
1 - 3 years	934	40.7%
Longer than 3 years	75	3.3%
<i>Total</i>	2,296	

Table 20. Unemployed by duration of time spent looking for work

The largest percentage of persons, over 40%, have been looking for a job for 1 – 3 years. The second largest percentage is those who have been looking for work for 1 – 3 months.

Respondents were asked to indicate how they have been looking for work in the past month, multiple responses were allowed. In Table 21 below, we see that the majority of unemployed persons have been looking for work by contacting the business themselves, closely followed by responding to newspaper ads.

Ways looked for work	Unemployed	
I contacted the business myself	1,118	48.7%
I responded to newspaper ads	971	42.3%
Through friends/ family/ word of mouth	466	20.3%
I responded to online ads	407	17.7%
Through the Labour Department	349	15.2%
Through an Employment Agency	298	13.0%
I placed an advertisement myself	128	5.6%
Other means	233	10.2%

Table 21. Unemployed by ways looked for work

Considering how many unemployed persons mentioned that there were no jobs available in their desired industry, it is interesting to see what types of jobs are being looked for. This can be seen in Table 22 below.

The top 5 desirable industries are as would be expected. The largest percentage, 34.4% of the unemployed, don't have a preferable industry, 19% want to work in the Hotel and Restaurant industry, 11% in wholesale and retail, 8% in Construction, and 8% in Office and Administrative support.

Desired Industry	Unemployed	
Any industry	790	34.4%
Accommodation and food service activities	436	19.0%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	258	11.2%
Construction	187	8.1%
Administrative and support service activities	186	8.1%
Professional, scientific and technical activities	99	4.3%
Human health and social work activities	72	3.1%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	71	3.1%
Transportation and storage	66	2.9%
Financial and insurance activities	53	2.3%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	21	0.9%
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	21	0.9%
Activities of households as employers	19	0.8%
Other service activities	17	0.7%
Total	2,296	

Table 22. Unemployed by desired industry of work

We can also examine the number of unemployed persons by the highest level of education completed.

Highest level of Education completed	Unemployed	
No formal education completed	69	3.0%
Primary	798	34.8%
Secondary	985	42.9%
Post-Secondary, Non-Tertiary	169	7.4%
Tertiary	275	12.0%
Total	2,296	

Table 23. Unemployed by Highest Level of Education completed

Over a third of the unemployed are persons who have completed up to an Elementary level education, over 40% have completed up to Secondary level education, 19.4% of the unemployed are persons who continued their studies after secondary school, and 3% of the unemployed completed no formal education.

Unemployment Rates

The analysis above has focused on the features of the unemployed population on a whole. The unemployment rate, however, is an important labour statistic that should be featured. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed divided by the labour force and multiplied by 100 to make it a percentage.

	Male	Female	Total
15-24 yrs	18.4%	17.2%	17.9%
25-44 yrs	5.2%	12.2%	8.8%
45-60 yrs	6.6%	14.5%	10.4%
61-65 yrs	6.0%	6.4%	6.2%
Total	7.1%	13.0%	9.9%

Table 24. Unemployment rate by age and gender

The unemployment rates among the 25-44 year olds and the 45 – 66 year olds are close to the total unemployment rate, and the unemployment rate of the 61 – 65 year olds is lower than the total unemployment rate.

The youth unemployment rate (15 – 24 years), continues to be the highest of all age groups 17.9% which is almost 2 times the overall unemployment rate.

The figure below compares the unemployment rates between 2017 and 2018.

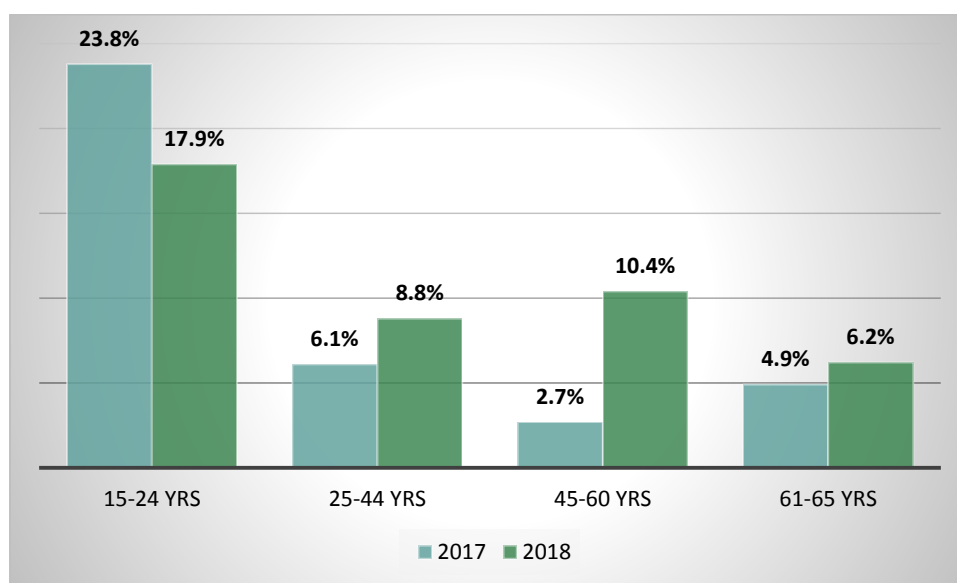


Figure 8. 2017 and 2018 Unemployment rates by age

While in both 2017 and 2018 the youth unemployment rate is the highest, we see a drop of almost 6% between 2017 and 2018. All the other age groups see an increase in the unemployment rate in 2018.

The 45 – 60 years old age group, in particular, sees a 7.7% increase in the unemployment rate from 2017 to 2018. Also noteworthy is the increase in older persons (61 – 65 years) seeking employment, evidenced in the increase in the unemployment rate in this age group from 4.9% to 6.2%.

We can also view the unemployment rate by highest level of education completed.

Highest level of Education completed	Unemployment Rate
No formal education completed	8.7%
Primary	13.2%
Secondary	10.1%
Post-Secondary, Non-Tertiary	8.4%
Tertiary	6.2%
Total	9.9%

Table 25. Unemployment rate by Highest Level of Education completed

This gives us a slightly different picture than the previous Table 23 of percentage of unemployed. In this case, the unemployment rate decreases with an increase in education level, except for in the case of those who completed no formal education.

The unemployment rates of these 2 lowest levels of education (Primary and Secondary) are larger than the total unemployment rate. The unemployment rate of those having furthered their studies after secondary school, is lower than the overall unemployment rate.

Income

Level of Income is the final labour statistic coming out of the labour force survey that merits special attention.

We can discuss Income on a Household level and on an Individual level.

Household Income

Household Income	2017	2018	% Change
No Income	3%	5%	2%
ANG 1 – ANG 1,000	11%	14%	3%
ANG 1,001 – ANG 2,000	17%	22%	5%
ANG 2,001 – ANG 3,000	16%	14%	-2%
ANG 3,001 – ANG 4,000	12%	13%	1%
ANG 4,001 – ANG 5,000	9%	7%	-2%
ANG 5,001 – ANG 6,000	8%	6%	-2%
ANG 6,001 – ANG 7,000	4%	5%	1%
ANG 7,001 – ANG 8,000	4%	3%	-1%
ANG 8,001 – ANG 9,000	3%	2%	-1%
ANG 9,001 – ANG 10,000	2%	1%	-1%
ANG 10,001+	10%	9%	-1%

Table 26. Household monthly income 2017 and 2018

In general, we see very little change from 2017 to 2018, the largest change was a 5% increase in the ANG 1,001 – ANG 2,000 bracket.

Even with the small changes, however, we see mostly decreases in the larger income brackets, and increases in the smaller income brackets.

Using the 2018 Household Income data, we can plot a bell curve to display income distribution on St. Maarten. 74% of households have a combined income of up to ANG 5,000 gross per month.

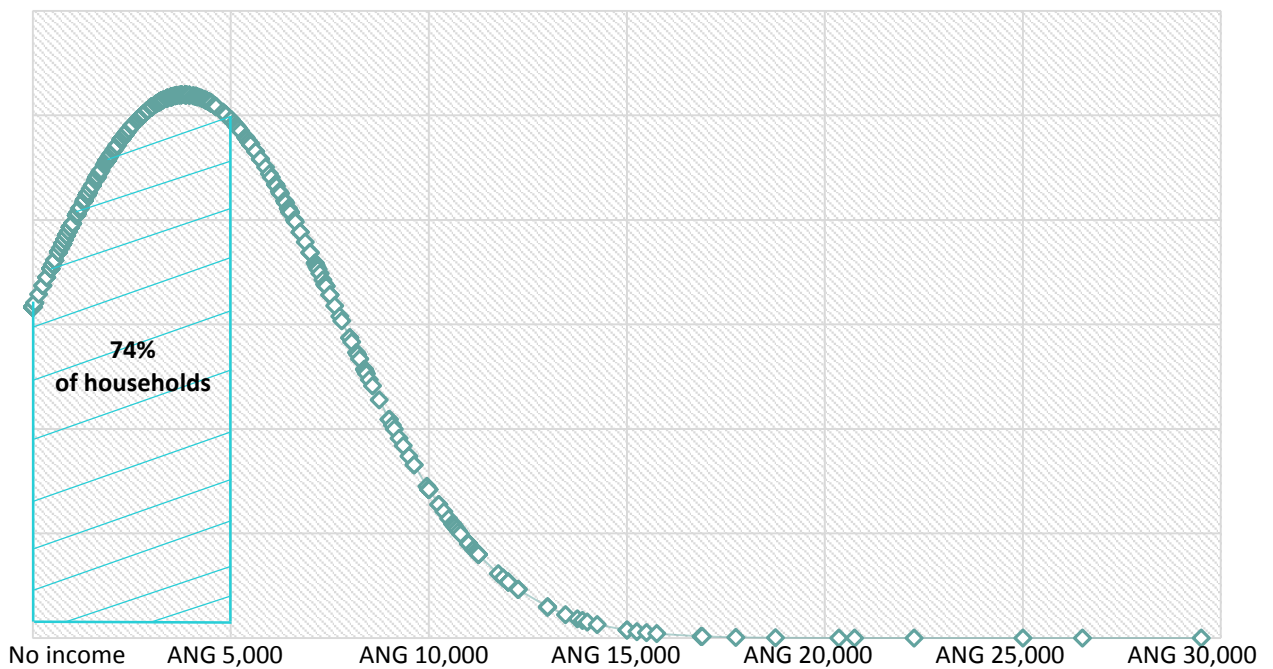


Figure 9. Distribution of gross monthly household income

Individual Income

On an individual level there are more indicators available; what are the main sources of income? How many sources of income do persons report having? What differences exist between genders and age groups? These questions will be answered in the tables and figures below.

As seen in Figure 10 below, disregarding, for a moment, the group with no income, the peak is between ANG 2,000 and ANG 2,500 gross per month.

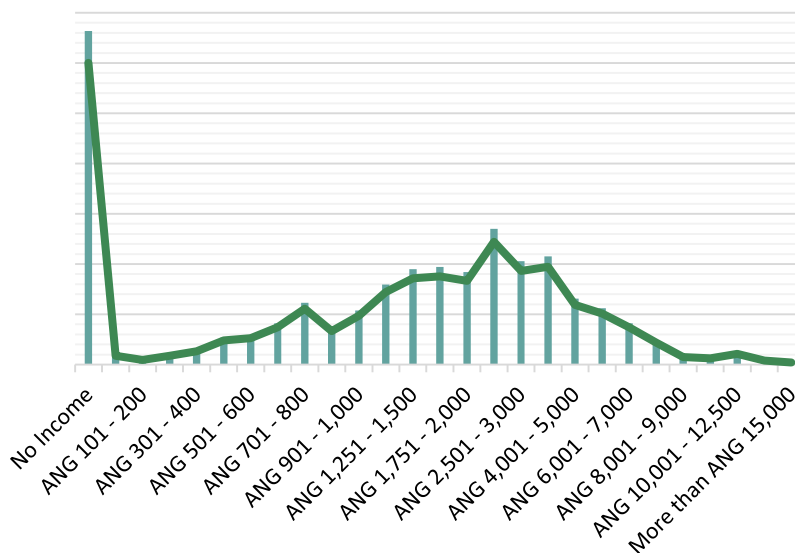


Figure 10. Individual Monthly Income Levels

Examining the data more closely in the table below, 21% have no income. This is a much higher percentage than at the household level, suggesting that many times, individuals with no income live in households with at least one individual who does have an income. After the no income group, the highest percentages are clustered from the ANG 701 to ANG 7,000. This accounts for two thirds.

No Income	6,636	21.4%	ANG 1,751 - 2,000	1,840	5.9%
ANG 1 - 100	195	0.6%	ANG 2,001 - 2,500	2,700	8.7%
ANG 101 - 200	99	0.3%	ANG 2,501 - 3,000	2,056	6.6%
ANG 201 - 300	192	0.6%	ANG 3,001 - 4,000	2,152	7.0%
ANG 301 - 400	288	0.9%	ANG 4,001 - 5,000	1,309	4.2%
ANG 401 - 500	532	1.7%	ANG 5,001 - 6,000	1,120	3.6%
ANG 501 - 600	582	1.9%	ANG 6,001 - 7,000	819	2.6%
ANG 601 - 700	823	2.7%	ANG 7,001 - 8,000	479	1.5%
ANG 701 - 800	1,227	4.0%	ANG 8,001 - 9,000	164	0.5%
ANG 801 - 900	736	2.4%	ANG 9,001 - 10,000	136	0.4%
ANG 901 - 1,000	1,075	3.5%	ANG 10,001 - 12,500	235	0.8%
ANG 1,001 - 1,250	1,591	5.1%	ANG 12,501 - 15,000	86	0.3%
ANG 1,251 - 1,500	1,895	6.1%	More than ANG 15,000	45	0.1%
ANG 1,501 - 1,750	1,940	6.3%			
				Total	30,950

Table 27. Individual monthly Income Levels

Considering the above table, it is interesting to note the Economic status split of Individual income levels, to try to account for the large percentage of no income individuals. This can be seen in table 28 below.

	Economically Inactive	Employed	Unemployed	Total
ANG 1 - 100	71	125		195
ANG 101 - 200	29	70		99
ANG 201 - 300	119	73		192
ANG 301 - 400	125	140	23	288
ANG 401 - 500	206	230	96	532
ANG 501 - 600	426	156		582
ANG 601 - 700	335	469	19	823
ANG 701 - 800	624	603		1,227
ANG 801 - 900	311	358	67	736
ANG 901 - 1,000	427	631	17	1,075
ANG 1,001 - 1,250	492	1,076	23	1,591
ANG 1,251 - 1,500	135	1,740	19	1,895
ANG 1,501 - 1,750	204	1,669	67	1,940
ANG 1,751 - 2,000	59	1,780		1,840
ANG 2,001 - 2,500	179	2,465	56	2,700
ANG 2,501 - 3,000	87	1,943	25	2,056
ANG 3,001 - 4,000	86	2,043	23	2,152
ANG 4,001 - 5,000	127	1,182		1,309
ANG 5,001 - 6,000	84	1,013	23	1,120
ANG 6,001 - 7,000	82	737		819
ANG 7,001 - 8,000		479		479
ANG 8,001 - 9,000	43	121		164
ANG 9,001 - 10,000	14	123		136
ANG 10,001 - 12,500		235		235
ANG 12,501 - 15,000	17	70		86
More than ANG 15,000		45		45
No Income	4,888		1,748	6,636
Total	9,167	19,576	2,207	30,950

Table 28. Individual monthly Income by Economic Status

This table shows that 4,888 of the 6,636 persons who receive no income (74%) are Economically Inactive and 26% are Unemployed.

Examining the data per economic status, we see that 53% of the Economically Inactive have no income, and 29% fall between ANG 501 and ANG 1,250.

Of the Employed group, over three-quarters have monthly incomes between ANG 1,001 and ANG 6000. The most common monthly income group of the Employed (13%) is ANG 2,001 – ANG 2,500.

79% of the unemployed have no income, and the remainder is spread in different clusters. 5% with incomes between ANG 301 and ANG 500, 9% between ANG 801 and ANG 1,750, and 5% between ANG 2,001 and ANG 4,000.

95% of individuals with income over ANG 10,000 per month are Employed, 5% are Economically Inactive, and none are Unemployed.

Another interesting consideration is what percentage of persons have more than one source of income, and what are the different sources of the income. We see this analysis in the tables below.

One source of income	22,003	90.5%
Two sources of income	2,126	8.7%
Three sources of income	185	0.8%
Total	24,314	

Table 29. Number of sources of Individual Income

The vast majority of individuals have one source of income. Table 30 below shows the different sources of individuals' source of primary income by gender.

Source of Main Income	Male	Female	Total
Salary / Labour / Business	11,015	9,745	20,760
Old age pension SZV (AOV)	1,068	1,786	2,854
Welfare	138	316	454
Private old age pension	157	165	322
Property rental	116	130	245
Widow's pension		59	59
Scholarship		48	48
Study financing		45	45
Retaining pay / Severance pay	42		42
Alimony		25	25
Child support		24	24
Other	121	98	218
Total	12,657	12,440	25,096

Table 30. Source of Primary Income by Gender

As is expected, the most common source of income is salaries, accounting for 83%. The next most common source is old age pensions from SZV, accounting for 11%. If all pensions are added (SZV, Private pension, Widow's pension) we get a percentage of 13%.

Finally, much like the link between education and employment, many studies have been conducted about the link between education and income. The table below shows income levels by highest level of education completed.

In Table 31 we see that persons who did not complete any level of education have the bulk of incomes (74%) ranging from ANG 301 to ANG 5,000. 20% of these individuals have no income.

For persons who completed up to Primary level education, we have 31% with no income, and the remaining cluster of income levels accounting for 68%, widely spread from ANG 1 – ANG 9,000.

20% of individuals who completed up to Secondary level education have no income, and 51% have income between ANG 1,001 and ANG 4,000.

13% of individuals who continued their education after high school, but not at the tertiary level have no income. Over a third of these individuals have incomes between ANG 2,001 and ANG 4,000.

10% of individuals who completed up to tertiary level education have no income. 58% of these individuals have income between ANG 2,501 and ANG 7,000.

Income Levels	None	Primary	Secondary	Post-Secondary, Non-Tertiary	Tertiary	Total
ANG 1 - 100		109	87			195
ANG 101 - 200	34	40	25			99
ANG 201 - 300		103	89			192
ANG 301 - 400	36	138	91		23	288
ANG 401 - 500	23	224	240	21	25	532
ANG 501 - 600	115	176	269		23	582
ANG 601 - 700	30	309	332	104	47	823
ANG 701 - 800	129	568	383	102	45	1,227
ANG 801 - 900	85	244	310	40	57	736
ANG 901 - 1,000	79	496	475	24		1,075
ANG 1,001 - 1,250	130	578	696	122	65	1,591
ANG 1,251 - 1,500	61	660	928	180	66	1,895
ANG 1,501 - 1,750	76	724	806	170	164	1,940
ANG 1,751 - 2,000	144	452	1,045	88	110	1,840
ANG 2,001 - 2,500	94	811	1,292	267	237	2,700
ANG 2,501 - 3,000	38	533	829	210	446	2,056
ANG 3,001 - 4,000	68	207	753	383	741	2,152
ANG 4,001 - 5,000	28	154	494	76	557	1,309
ANG 5,001 - 6,000		116	349	122	533	1,120
ANG 6,001 - 7,000	33	65	194	124	403	819
ANG 7,001 - 8,000	25	49	133	73	198	479
ANG 8,001 - 9,000		17	15		133	164
ANG 9,001 - 10,000			40	17	79	136
ANG 10,001 - 12,500		23	64	51	97	235
ANG 12,501 - 15,000			17		70	86
More than ANG 15,000					45	45
No Income	299	3,058	2,500	329	451	6,636
Total	1,527	9,850	12,456	2,503	4,615	30,950

Table 31. Monthly Income by Highest level of Education completed

We do, therefore see a positive correlation between education and income levels. There are higher percentages of persons with higher levels of education completed whose income falls within the higher income brackets, and lower percentages with no income and lower income levels.

Effects of hurricane Irma

Respondents who have a source of income were asked to indicate whether their income was reduced as a result of the passing of hurricane Irma, increased as a result, or not affected. They were then asked to indicate whether or not they lost sources of income due to the passing of the hurricane.

The responses to those questions are displayed in the figures below.

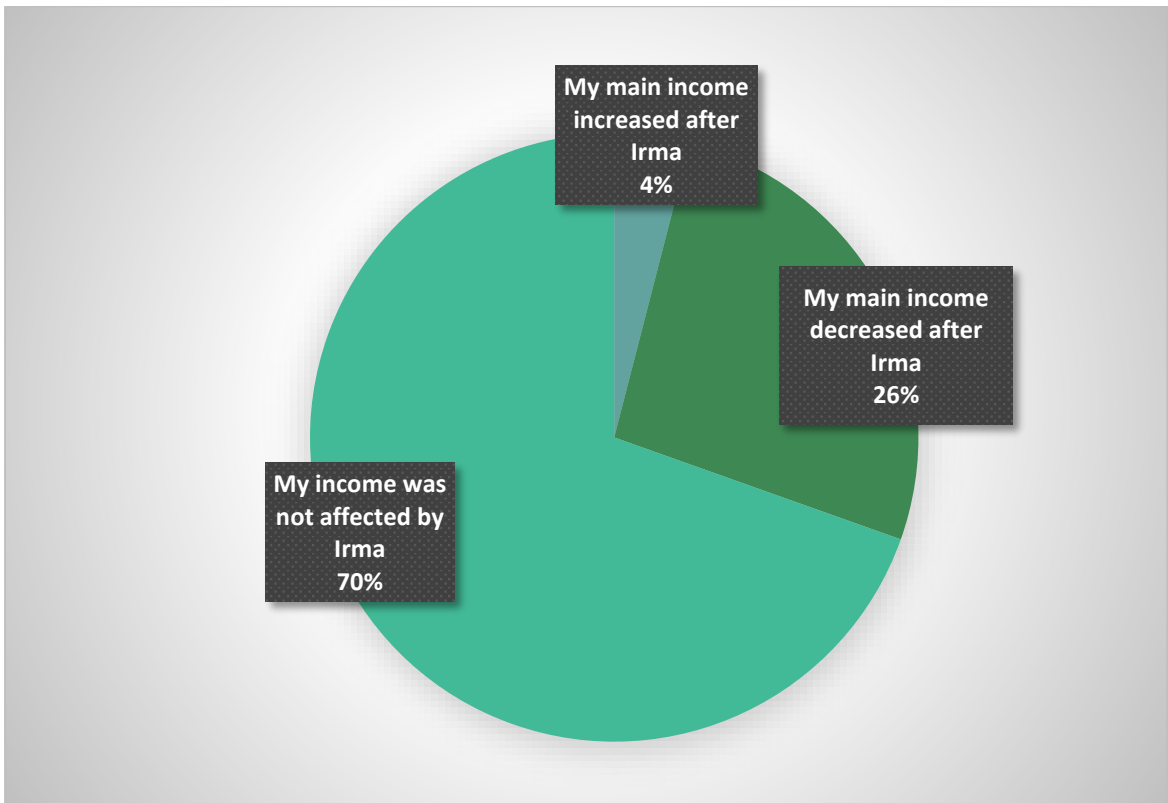


Figure 11. Effects of the passing of hurricane Irma on Income

15% of respondents who have one or more sources of income stated that they lost a source of income due to the passing of hurricane Irma. A description of what was lost is seen in the figure below.

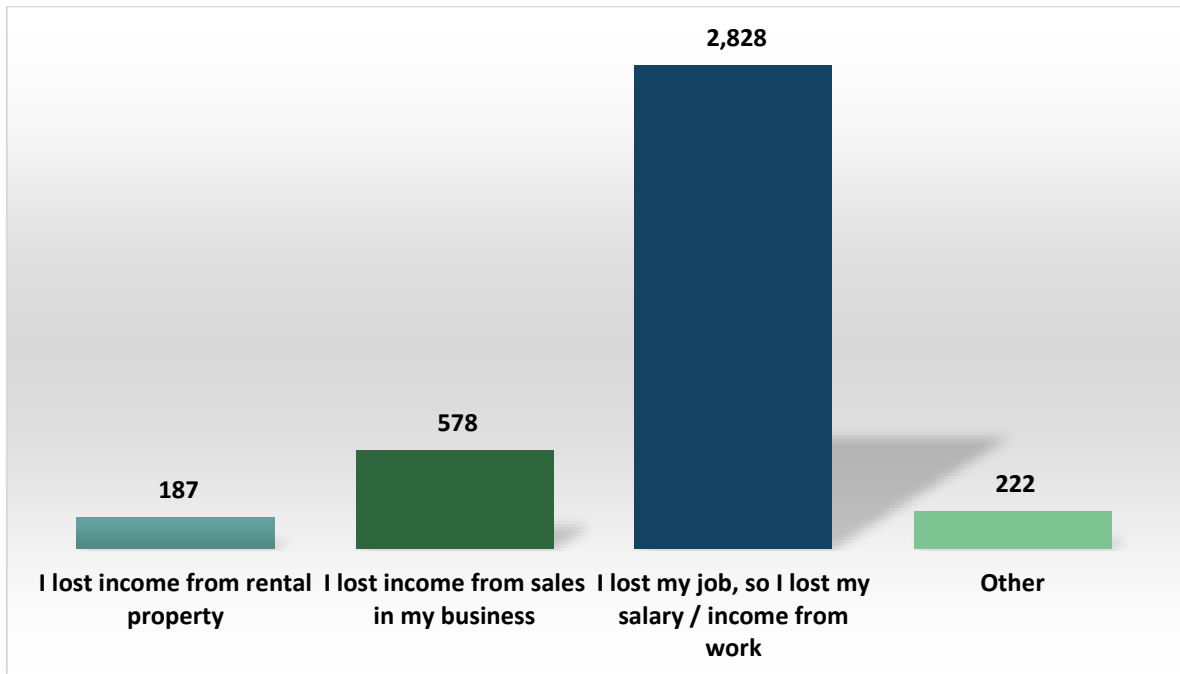


Figure 12. Income lost due to the passing of hurricane Irma