
LABOR FORCE SURVEY 2013 METHODOLOGY

Annual Labor survey conducted by the Department of Statistics, Sint Maarten

BACKGROUND

Before 10/10/10 the Labor Force Survey was conducted by the CBS department in Curacao. This survey was done every two years except for Census years. The last Labor Force Survey was done in 2009.

The primary objective of the Labour Force Survey is to provide up-to-date information on the labour force size, unemployment and the supply of labor.

After review of the 2009 Labor Force questionnaire and consulting with the stakeholders, the questionnaire has been adapted to include child labor questions, a more detailed probe into the informal labor sector, questions on the length and renewal practices of contract workers and more background on multiple job holders.

The Labor Force Survey covers all residents of Dutch Sint Maarten except for those living in institutions. As with all surveys, there will be an overlap between the Dutch and French side as there are people who although residing on the Dutch side, are employed on the French side. The opposite is also true. So as you are over-extending on one side, you under-extend from the other side.

As we are also covering child labor, the survey is limited to respondents 6 years and older.

The current Labor Force Survey will be linked with the Poverty Assessment Well-being survey. As a result, income and expenses questions are also included. This information will provide a basis for the poverty line calculations.

TOPICS COVERED

The topics covered in the 2013 Labor Force Survey are:

- Demographics: gender, age, country of birth, nationality, marital status, years on island, migration intentions, relationship to head of household
- Education: current students, school attending, diplomas, trainings
- Employment: employed status, main job, additional jobs, business ownership, economic status, contract details, membership to labor union, work benefits
- Unemployed: length of unemployment, reason for unemployment
- Children: education, work outside the home, work inside the home
- Income and expenses: income, common expenses

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Definition of employment: Employment refers to all persons aged 15 years and over who worked for pay any time during the reference week or who worked without pay for at least one hour in a family-operated business. Persons who were temporarily absent from their regular jobs because of vacation, illness, inclement weather, or similar reasons are also included.

Employment refers to people who during the reference period:

- worked for one hour or more for wage or salary, in cash or in kind
- worked for one hour or more for profit or family gain, in cash or in kind
- were temporarily not at work and had a formal attachment to a wage employment job
- were temporarily not at work and had an enterprise
- worked for at least one hour without pay on a family business or farm

Reference period for employment: A specifically determined fixed week

Definition of unemployment: Unemployment refers to persons aged 15 years and over who did not work or have a job from which they were temporarily absent during the reference week, but were actively looking for work in the four weeks prior to the survey week, and were able and willing to work. Persons who did not look for work because they were on layoff or waiting to start a new job within the following 30 days are also classified as unemployed.

Unemployment refers to people who during the reference period: Are without work, available to work and actively seeking work

Reference period for seeking work: The four weeks preceding the interview date (moving)

Reference period for availability for work: Two weeks prior

Labor Force (also called the economically active population): The number of employed and unemployed added together.

Economically inactive persons: people who were neither employed or unemployed and who have not actively sought work in the last four weeks and/or are not available to start work in the next two weeks. They include people who are retired.

Informal sector units: The informal sector is defined as that part of the economy that is not taxed nor monitored by any type of government units.

Informal employment: Informal employment refers to workers who usually have no contracts, little or no job security, no fixed hours, and often no fixed location from which they operate and no employment benefits such as paid sick or maternity leave.

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.

Employment to population rate: The number of employed persons, divided by the population 15 years and older.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The sample will be drawn from the population of housing unit as mapped in the first quarter of the year 2013. Earlier surveys used the data from The Civil Registry but because of duplicities and lack of unregistered families, STAT has opted to do a mapping exercise in the first quarter of the year 2013. This will become an annual exercise where the map will be updated with new, abandoned or non-existent dwellings. The fieldwork for the mapping exercise has been completed and STAT is working with VROMI to update the maps.

As the composition of the neighbourhoods on St. Maarten is very income-based, the sampling will be done using the stratified sampling method. Here a strata is defined as a neighbourhood. The sample must reflect the composition of St. Maarten as far as density of the population. Once the number of housing units from each neighbourhood is determined, a simple random sample will select the number of housing units.

The overall sample size has been determined by the normal sample size formula with 95% confidence, population of 14.000 households and an error of 3%. This puts the sample size at 991. The non-response rate of 20% means that we need to select 1189 households.

According to the Census 2011, the division of the St. Maarten population is as stated in the third column of the table below. According to the population in each district, STAT should have at least 141 households in the sample that reside in the Simpson bay area in order to make any statistically significant statements regarding this area. With the budget constraint this will not be possible.

		sample needed from each		sample size based on 1200	difference
1	Simpson Bay	2%	141	24.98351	-116.016
2	Lower Princess Quarter	26%	337	307.4894	-29.5106
3	Cul-de-sac	24%	334	291.8888	-42.1112
4	Colebay	21%	328	255.2614	-72.7386
5	Little Bay	9%	274	108.1865	-165.813
6	Upper Princess Quarter	11%	291	136.1093	-154.891
7	Low Lands	1%	107	16.73104	-90.269
8	Philipsburg	5%	220	57.99341	-162.007
Grand Total			2032	1200	

FIELDWORK

The data collection will be done on tablets during face-to-face interviews. The interviewers approach the household residing at the pre-selected address. Each member of the household older than 5 years old has to be interviewed. As the Labour Force Survey is done in conjunction with the Well-Being survey, the interviewer will make an appointment with the household to return

within a week or two for the Well-Being survey. The Well-Being survey is a lengthy survey so this method is preferred to doing both surveys at the same time. The Well-Being survey needs to be answered by just one member of the household.

CORRECTION FACTOR

After the fieldwork, 2776 personal entries were received. This allows for a 1.8% sampling error based on a population size of 33,609.

Any survey has sampling error and interviewer error. During the 2013 Labor Force Survey the interviewers were tasked with coding education, industry and occupation themselves. This could introduce some biases that over time will remedy themselves.

As a correction factor, age was used. This is in line with earlier LFS surveys. The sample was compared to the population estimates of 2013. Based on that comparison, each respondents was given a weight based on age.

The gender distribution of the LFS 2013 is comparable with the population distribution.

Gender	Labour Force Survey respondents	Percentage
Male	1,292	46.54%
Female	1,484	53.46%

Gender	Census 2011 Population	Percentage
Male	15,868	47.21%
Female	17,741	52.79%

Age	Population Total	LFS Total	Correction factor
0	499	17	29.4
1	533	32	16.6
2	588	37	15.9
3	495	48	10.3
4	551	46	12.0
5	522	39	13.4
6	539	47	11.5
7	514	43	12.0
8	520	54	9.6
9	549	36	15.3
10	569	42	13.5
11	497	40	12.4
12	503	36	14.0
13	529	45	11.8
14	516	46	11.2
15	523	56	9.3
16	505	50	10.1
17	481	49	9.8
18	345	35	9.9
19	318	42	7.6
20	360	25	14.4
21	358	27	13.3
22	384	24	16.0

Age	Population Total	LFS Total	Correction factor
23	393	21	18.7
24	413	37	11.2
25	442	44	10.1
26	443	40	11.1
27	452	42	10.8
28	503	39	12.9
29	495	40	12.4
30	530	29	18.3
31	509	31	16.4
32	535	42	12.7
33	529	37	14.3
34	553	29	19.1
35	589	38	15.5
36	599	51	11.8
37	618	33	18.7
38	648	49	13.2
39	655	39	16.8
40	651	63	10.3
41	642	44	14.6
42	661	53	12.5
43	624	45	13.9
44	612	40	15.3
45	624	50	12.5

Age	Population Total	LFS Total	Correction factor
46	626	58	10.8
47	622	42	14.8
48	595	57	10.4
49	558	45	12.4
50	517	55	9.4
51	538	42	12.8
52	528	52	10.1
53	510	52	9.8
54	442	55	8.0
55	453	45	10.1
56	439	35	12.5
57	402	33	12.2
58	371	41	9.1
59	387	29	13.3
60	353	37	9.5
61	301	25	12.0
62	277	26	10.7
63	273	22	12.4
64	250	22	11.4
65	207	20	10.4
66	148	9	16.5
67	138	23	6.0
68	135	11	12.3

Age	Population Total	LFS Total	Correction factor
69	123	9	13.6
70	88	13	6.8
71	70	7	10.0
72	77	10	7.7
73	79	3	26.2
74	68	4	17.0
75	56	10	5.6
76	48	6	8.0
77	40	5	8.0
78	35	3	11.7
79	27	3	8.9
80	18	1	18.3
81	13	1	12.8
82	22	-	22.0
83	24	-	23.7
84	17	-	17.0
85	16	4	3.9
86	13	1	13.5
87	11	-	11.4
88	13	2	6.3
89	13	1	12.7
90	6	1	6.4
91	1	1	1.0

Age	Population Total	LFS Total	Correction factor
92	9	1	9.3
93	6	1	6.0
94	3	-	2.6
95	1	-	1.4
96	1	1	0.9
97	2	-	2.2
98	0	-	0.1
99	1	-	0.7
100	2	-	1.6