

Key Trends and Developments in the Barbados Labour Market – CARICOM Skilled Certificates Issued by the Barbados Accreditation Council (2008-2013)

Under Article 46 of Chapter III of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, CARICOM community nationals in approved skill categories benefit from the right to seek employment in other CARICOM jurisdictions without a work permit. This action is considered to be an integral step towards the ultimate goal of free movement of labour amongst CARICOM community nationals. Institutions such as the Barbados Accreditation Council play a critical role in facilitating this movement, through the issuing of certificates to skills nationals in approved areas.

To analyse the number of certificates issued by the Barbados Accreditation Council from 2008-2013, two statistical tables have been prepared that assess skills certificates issued to (i) Barbadian Nationals and (ii) non-nationals respectively.

TABLE 1

CARICOM SKILLED CERTIFICATES ISSUED TO BARBADIAN NATIONALS BY SKILLS CATEGORY 2008-2013

YEAR	Graduates	Media Persons	Sports Persons	Artistes	Musicians	Teachers	Nurses	Assoc. Deg. or Equiv.	Artisans	TOTAL
2008	44	1	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	52
2009	50	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	57
2010	29	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	35
2011	80	0	4	1	0	0	0	2	0	87
2012	80	0	3	1	0	0	0	5	0	89
2013	76	0	3	0	0	0	1	4	0	84
TOTAL	359	4	11	6	1	1	2	20	0	404

Source: Barbados Accreditation Council

Over the five year review period, 404 CARICOM Skilled National Certificates were issued to Nationals of Barbados. The vast majority of these certificates were issued to University Graduates, consisting of some 89% of all certificates issued. Twenty certificates were issued to persons with Associate Degrees or Equivalent, whilst eleven were issued to Sportspersons.

A notable observation is that the six remaining skills categories **collectively** accounted for fourteen certificates issued over the entire review period. From this observation it may be deduced that to date, no significant exodus of skills sets in approved areas, out of the Barbados labour market to other CARICOM territories, has occurred.

TABLE 2

CARICOM SKILLED CERTIFICATES ISSUED TO NON-NATIONALS BY SKILLS CATEGORY 2008-2013

YEAR	Graduates	Media Persons	Sports Persons	Artistes	Musicians	Teachers	Nurses	Assoc. Deg. or Equiv.	Artisans	TOTAL
2008	89	1	0	2	1	12	6	24	1	136
2009	48	0	3	2	1	1	3	25	1	84
2010	59	0	4	4	0	4	5	25	0	101
2011	66	0	3	2	0	1	2	27	1	102
2012	73	0	0	5	2	1	2	21	0	104
2013	58	0	0	8	0	1	1	18	3	89
TOTAL	393	1	10	23	4	20	19	140	6	616

Source: Barbados Accreditation Council

Table 2 above shows that 616 skills certificates have been issued to CARICOM non-nationals in the approved categories, 212 more than the certificates issued to Barbadian nationals over the same time period. As in the case of table 1, the “graduates” category accounted for the vast majority of certificates issued to non-nationals. This category accounted for nearly 64% of total skills certificates issued to non-nationals, while persons with Associate Degrees or equivalent accounted for around 23%. Collectively, the seven other categories only accounted for 13% of all certificates issued to non-nationals.

Of note was the fact that on average, around 123 skills certificates were issued to non-nationals per year over the review period. Also of note was the fact that only six certificates were issued to Artisans, a skills category that historically has recorded hundreds of work permits being issued in every year.