

Summary of Key Findings: - Key Trends and Developments

1. Marginal declines in the primary labour force statistics (labour force, employed labour force & participation rate)
2. Unemployment, particularly youth employment has been rising since 2008
3. The number of persons classified as inactive rose over the review period, due mainly to increases in (i) the number of retired persons, as well as (ii) persons attending education and training institutions
4. The high-skill grouping, comprising technical and professional workers account for around 22% of the employed labour force
5. Government employees account for around 22% of the employed labour force
6. Some 40% of the employed labour force does not possess any qualifications. In contrast, persons with Diplomas or higher, comprise 19% of the labour force
7. The length of time taken for workers to be re-absorbed back into the workforce appears to be increasing

8. Developed Commonwealth Countries such as Australia and New Zealand tend to have a third of their workforce in high-skilled areas and approximately 10-11% in Elementary-type occupations

9. Any growth in employment should be primarily led by the private sector

10. The adult population is increasing very slowly, growing at an annual average of some 0.19% from 2003 to 2013

11. In Barbados, the three largest industrial divisions by numbers employed are:
 - “Wholesale and Retail Trade”
 - “Accommodation and Food Services” and
 - “Construction, Mining and Quarrying”

12. As at 2013, the two largest occupational groupings were “Elementary Occupations” and “Service/Shop Workers”. Combined, these two cohorts account for nearly 37% of the employed labour force