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# **The Cayman Islands' Preliminary 2010 Labour Force Report**

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**MARCH 2011**



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## Introduction

In 2010, the annual conduct of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was cancelled in view of the holding of the Cayman Islands' 2010 Population and Housing Census in the same period. Nonetheless, the Census included a section on economic activities with questions similar to those of the LFS.

The key labour force indicators for 2010 presented in this preliminary report were estimated based on responses from a sample of questionnaires drawn from the Census. A sampling of returns was decided in order to facilitate an early reporting of key indicators from the Census which would not have been possible if the estimates are based on all Census returns.

The indicators are limited to key macroeconomic employment indicators: the estimated size of the labour force, employed persons, unemployment rate and persons not in the labour force. A more detailed report with additional indicators such as the size of employment, work hours and earnings by Caymanian/Non-Caymanian status, gender, occupation and industry, etc. will be made available as part of the Census Report to be published by the end of 2011.

## Methodology

A two stage sample designed was used where, in the first stage, a sample of 150 enumeration areas (EAs) were randomly selected in proportion to the distribution of EAs by district. In the second stage, approximately 10 household addresses were systematically selected within each of the selected EA. In total, a sample of 1,500 households was generated from the ESO household register of approximately 24,000 households.

The reference period of the employment questions in the Census was the week preceding October 10<sup>th</sup> 2010. Trained enumerators conducted personal interviews over a ten-week period (October 11<sup>th</sup> to December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010) to collect the data from households. Approximately 47 Supervisors were employed to oversee the work of enumerators. Each supervisor was responsible for about five enumerators. Supervisors in turn reported to one of nine areas coordinators with whom they had weekly meetings to edit and return completed questionnaires.

The data used for this preliminary report were entered into the computer and verified by ESO staff using the Census Processing Systems (CSPro 4.0) data entry application. The data processing operation was supervised by a senior staff.

The LFS concepts used in this report are in accordance with the international Labour Organization (ILO) guidelines and therefore, the indicators produced are comparable to those used internationally and to those used in previous LFS reports.

The labour force estimates in this report were derived by raising the sample results using factors generated from the actual population count for 2010. The latter was earlier presented in the *Preliminary Census 2010 Report*. It excludes the institutional population or those residing in prisons, retirement homes and other institutions.

### Analysis

Preliminary results from the 2010 Census showed that the Cayman Islands' non-institutional population consisted of 54,397 persons. This represented a decrease of

(1.5%) compared to the revised population estimate of 2009 of 55,250<sup>1</sup> (see Table 1 below).

**Table 1: Labour Force Indicators, 2009 and 2010**

Indicator	2009 <sup>r</sup>	2010	Change	
			Number	%
Population	55,250	54,397	-853	-1.5
0-14 Years	11,100	10,542	-558	-5.0
Working Age 15+	44,150	43,855	-295	-0.7
Labour	36,100	35,859	-241	-0.7
Employed	33,920	33,463	-457	-1.3
Unemployed	2,180	2,396	216	9.9
Not in Labour Force	8,050	7,996	-54	-0.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.0	6.7		

Source: 2009 LFS and 2010 Census  
r: revised.

The estimated total labour force in 2010 comprised of 35,859 persons with 33,463 employed and 2,396 unemployed. While the employed persons declined by 1.3 percent, the unemployed rose by 9.9 percent.

The resulting unemployment rate as of October 2010 was 6.7 percent. When compared to 2009, the unemployment rate increased by 0.7 percentage points. Conversely, the rate of employment declined from 93.0 percent in 2009 to 92.3 percent in 2010.

### Conclusion

The forecasted downturn of the local economy in 2010 has impacted the labour market during the year. While labour supply fell by 0.7 percent (or 241 persons), the demand for labour fell at a sharper rate resulting to a higher unemployment rate.

<sup>1</sup> The first population estimate for 2009 (52,830) was derived from the results of the 2009 Labor Force Survey. This was revised by raising the estimated working age population in 2009 by a factor calculated from the sample results of the Census.