

# Liberia

## Identification

**Title of the survey:** Labour Force Survey 2010

**Organisation responsible:** Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)

**Objectives of the survey:** Liberia has long mounted a search for concrete and reliable data on the labour market that will serve as a tool for policy formulation and development. The absence of such information has led to a series of misunderstandings about labour market indicators such as employment and unemployment. Consequently, the results of this Labour Force Survey have realized a long-standing desire for reliable data on the labour market that will dispel rumors, misconceptions and misinterpretations of level, size and characteristics of employment, unemployment and other labour market indicators. The data will assist the government, development partners and data users in planning, decision making and developing policies intended to improve the welfare of the labour force.

**Date:** 24/10/2011

## Periodicity and coverage

**Periodicity of data collection:** Irregularly or only once, the last was carried out in 2010 and the previous one in the 1980's

**Geographical coverage:** Whole country

**Definition of usual resident:** A usual resident is a person who spent at least 4 nights a week during the 4 weeks preceding the interview date in the household in question.

**Definition of household and household members:** A household consists of one or more persons who usually share their living quarters and who usually share their main meals. These are the two requirements for a person to count as a member of a household. Traditionally, the household is defined as those persons who “live together and eat out of the same cooking pot”.

**Age coverage:** The labour related questions of the survey relate to the population of 5 years old and over

### Topics covered:

*Demographic characteristics:* age, sex, marital status, nationality, ethnicity, educational attainment, relationship to household head, disability

*Main labour related characteristics:* employment, unemployment, underemployment, hours of work, wages, employment in informal sector, informal employment, occupational injuries,

trade union affiliations, training received, usual activity, production for own final use by the household, labour migration, absence from work

*Other labour related characteristics:* industry, occupation, status in employment, institutional sector (public/private), size of establishment, type of workplace, existence of more than one job, characteristics of the second job(s), duration of unemployment, previous working experience, characteristics of the last job, search for another job, reasons for seeking another job, methods of looking for work, reasons for not being in the labour force

*Other characteristics:* household chore activities

## Concepts and definitions

### Current employment

**Definition of employment:** Currently employed are defined as all persons who were actually working in the reference week, or did not work during the reference week but had an attachment to a job or business. Those who were not working but who had a job attachment were counted as employed, even if they had been away from work without pay.

**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:** The seven days preceding the interview date (moving)

### Current unemployment

**Definition of unemployment:** The 'relaxed' definition of unemployment has been used as the standard measure of unemployment in Liberia. It is based on two criteria which must be satisfied simultaneously. These criteria are: 'to be without work' and 'to be currently available for work'. Under this definition, the so-called 'discouraged workers' are also considered as unemployed. It refers to those persons who want a job and are currently available for work but who have not taken up any active search for work because they believe that they cannot find it. There may be a variety of reasons for this. They may believe that no suitable job is presently available in the area, or it may be related to personal factors, such as the belief that they lack qualifications or that employers think they are too young or too old to work.

**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 30 days preceding the interview date

**Reference period for availability for work:** The seven days preceding the interview date (moving)

## **Underemployment**

**Underemployment concept measured:** Time related underemployment

**Definition of underemployment related to working time:** Underemployment refers to any sort of employment that is in some sense 'unsatisfactory' from the point of view of the worker. Time related underemployment refers to persons working insufficient hours.

**Underemployment refers to employed persons who:**

- are willing to work additional hours in the survey reference period
- are available to work additional hours in the survey reference period
- worked less than 40 hours a week in all jobs

**Information collected on the number of hours of work wanted/ available for:** Yes

**Definition of inadequate employment situations:** This relates to persons who wanted to change their job because their present job made insufficient use of their skills or provided inadequate income.

**Types of inadequate employment situations studied in the survey:** Inadequate use and mismatch of occupational skills, inadequate income in current job(s) and excessive hours of work

## **Hours of work**

**The survey measures:** hours actually worked

**Information is collected for:** main and secondary job(s) separately

**Reference period used for the measure of hours of work:** a week

**Actual hours of work are collected for:** each day in the reference week separately

**Separate information is collected for overtime hours:** no

**Separate information is collected for absence hours:** no

**Separate information is collected for working time arrangements:** no

**Time unit used in the measure of hours of work:** exact hours

## **Income from paid employment**

**The components of income for which separate statistics are available are:** regular cash earnings, payments in kind and services

**Income from paid employment covered:** GROSS income

**Reference period:** the respondent chooses

**Income from paid employment refers to:** main job only

**Information on income from paid employment is requested in:** exact amounts

**Actual/usual income:** actual income for a specific reference period

**Income due/received:** income received in a specific reference period

### **Income from self-employment**

**Income from self-employment covered:** Profit of unincorporated enterprises (receipts less operating expenses)

**Income from self-employment covered relates to:** GROSS income

**Reference period:** a month

**Income from self-employment refers to:** main job only

**Information on income from self-employment is requested in:** exact amounts

**Actual/usual income:** actual income for a specific reference period

**Income due/received:** income received in a specific reference period

### **Employment in the informal sector**

**Definition of informal sector units:** Employment in the informal sector is defined in terms of the characteristics of the establishments where people work. It only refers to persons employed in the non-agricultural sector (excluding section A in ISIC rev 4). It excludes (i) persons producing goods or services for household's own use (ISIC division code 98), (ii) persons coded as professionals (ISCO-08 major group 2); (iii) persons working in establishments registered with the Ministry of Commerce or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (iv) persons working in establishments with 5 or more employed.

**Agriculture, forestry and fishing is excluded from the scope of the definition:** Yes

**Other economic activities or occupations excluded from the scope of the definition:** Professionals and people working in the production of goods for own consumption

**Information is collected in respect of the following categories of workers:**

- employees
- employers
- own-account workers
- members of producers' cooperatives

- contributing family workers

**Information is collected for:** all jobs

**Employment in the informal sector refers:** to persons whose main and/or secondary job(s) is(are) in the informal sector

### Informal employment

**Definition of informal employment:** Informal employment, in addition to employment in the informal sector, includes persons producing goods or services for household's own use (ISIC division 98). It excludes persons who benefit from employer's contribution to pension/retirement fund or were entitled to paid leave or where the employer deducts income tax from the salary/wage.

**Criteria used to define informal jobs:**

- lack of coverage by social security system by virtue of the job in question
- lack of entitlement to paid annual leave
- lack of entitlement to sick leave
- lack of written employment contract

**If more than one criteria are used:** any one of the criteria should be met

**Information is collected for:** all jobs

**Informal employment refers:** to persons whose main and/or secondary job(s) is(are) informal

### Usual activity

**Reference period used to measure usual activity:** the last 12 months

**Approach used:** month-by-month recall

**The usually active are those who were either employed or unemployed for more than:** 6 month(s) during the reference period

**The usually inactive are those who were neither employed nor unemployed for more than:** 6 month(s) during the reference period

**Comments:** The usually employed are those who were employed for more than half the time they spent being economically active, and the usually unemployed are those who spent most of their economically active time unemployed.

### Treatment of special groups

### Classifications

## **Disaggregations used in the analysis and tabulation of the survey results:**

- The economically active population is tabulated by: sex, age, level of education, urban/rural area
- The employed population is tabulated by: sex, age, industry, occupation, status in employment, urban/rural area
- The unemployed population is tabulated by: sex, age, level of education, urban/rural area
- The economically inactive population is tabulated by: sex, age, urban/rural area

## **Classifications used**

### **Industry:**

- Title of the classification: ISIC Rev.4
- Number of most detailed groups or digits used: 2 digits

### **Occupation:**

- Title of the classification: ISCO-08
- Number of most detailed groups or digits used: 2 digits

### **Status in employment:**

- Title of the classification: ICSE-93 with some modifications
- Number of most detailed groups or digits used: 1 digit

### **Education:**

## **Sample design**

**Sampling frame:** Population census

**The sampling frame is updated:** not updated with a specific frequency

**Lowest level of geographic disaggregation for which reliable estimates of the unemployment rate can be produced and their frequency:** County (annual )

**The sample is stratified:** Yes

**Variables used for stratification:** geographic region, urban/rural areas

**Number of sampling stages:** 2

**Ultimate sampling units:** households

**Number of ultimate sampling units per sample area:** 12

**Sample size:** 6312 ultimate sampling units per year

## Data collection

**Main mode of data collection:** face to face personal interview (paper and pencil)

**Duration of training on the survey for newly recruited interviewers:** 10 day(s)

**Respondents' participation in the survey is compulsory:** No

**Ultimate sampling units that could not be identified are replaced:** Yes

**Ultimate sampling units that could not be contacted are replaced:** Yes

**Ultimate sampling units that refuse to participate are replaced:** Yes

## Estimation and adjustment

**The sample is self-weighting:** No

**Weighting factors used to adjust for:** sample design

### **Selected indicators tabulated from the survey:**

- Unemployment rate by: sex, age, level of education, region (urban/rural)
- Employment to population ratio by:
- Labour force participation rate by: sex, age, region (urban/rural)
- Hours of work (per worker) by: sex, economic activity
- Earnings (per worker) by: sex, economic activity
- Number of workers by hours band by: sex
- Number of workers by earnings class by: sex

### **Availability of data from other sources**

- Data on employment is also available from: population censuses
- Data on unemployment is also available from: population censuses

## Documentation and dissemination

**Publication(s) and website where the survey results can be found:** Report on the Liberia Labour Force Survey 2010; [www.lisgis.org](http://www.lisgis.org)

**Publication(s) and website where methodological information on the survey can be found:** Report on the Liberia Labour Force Survey 2010; [www.lisgis.org](http://www.lisgis.org)

### **Dissemination formats and periodicity:**

- news release
- comprehensive report

**The public is informed in advance on the date of the initial release of survey results:** Yes

## Historical information

**Year when the survey was conducted for the first time:** in the 1980's