



Republic of Botswana

STATS BRIEF

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PRELIMINARY 2005/06 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY RESULTS

1. Introduction

“The survey results revealed an overall unemployment rate of 17.6 percent. The male unemployment rate was 15.3 percent while females’ was 19.9 percent”.

This Stats Brief presents results of the 2005/06 Labour Force Survey (2005/06 LFS). The results are therefore preliminary and are subject to change. Data collection was carried out from July 2005 to June 2006. The 2005/06 LFS asked employment questions to people aged 7 years and over. The inclusion of the seven year olds was a request from Department of Labour and Social Security because they wanted to assess and evaluate the extent of child labour (if any) in Botswana.

2. Survey Objectives

The main objective of the survey was to obtain comprehensive data on the status of the labour market prevailing in Botswana.

The sample consisted of 9,720 households that were systematically selected from a fresh list of occupied households prepared at the beginning of the survey's fieldwork (i.e. listing of households for the selected Enumeration Areas).

The sample of the households covered was 9,169 (94 percent of total selected households) households nationally of which 2,623 were from cities/towns, 2,729 from urban villages and 3,817 from rural areas.

3. Major Concepts and Definitions

- Employed Persons – Persons who did some work during the reference period either for payment in cash or in kind (paid employees) or who were engaged in self employment for profit or family gain, and persons temporarily absent from these activities but definitely going to return to them (e.g. on sick leave). Some work was defined as one hour or more in the reference seven days. It should be noted that any economic work took priority over all other activities.
- Unemployed Persons – Persons who were not employed as defined above, who were available for work and took some steps to look for work in the last 30 days.

4. Survey Results

4.1 Total Population

The 2005/06 Labour force survey estimated the population at 1,702,829 persons, of which 798,460 (46.9 percent) were males and 904,369 (53.1 percent) were females (see table 2). This total of 1,702,829 is perceived accurate as it is 1.0 percent less than the projected total population of 1,719,996 for 2006 estimated through our population projection system done in 2005. The number of households was estimated at 515,294 of which 266,331 (51.7 percent) were male headed households and 248, 963 (48.3 percent) were female headed during the survey.

4.2 Employed Population

The total currently employed population was estimated at 548,594, of which 287,303 (52.4 percent) were males and 261,290 (47.6 percent) were females. Major industrial employers were Agriculture (30.9 percent), Retail (14.5 percent), Public Administration (10.9 percent) and Education (7.9 percent). The least number of employees 895 (0.2 percent) were found in Foreign Missions. (See Table 5)

Employment by occupation showed that the most common occupation was Agricultural workers (26.4 percent), followed by Elementary occupation at 18.9 percent and Service workers coming third with 16.9 percent. There are less women working as plant and machine operators (See Table 4)

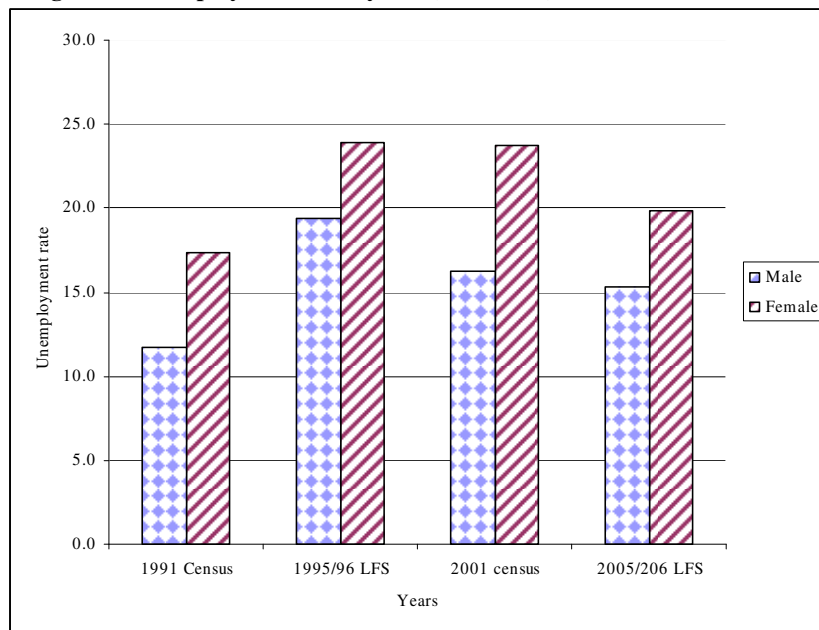
Of the 548, 594 employed persons, 37,936 are children (aged 7 to 17 years old). These account for 6.9 percent of the employed population. Male Children constitute 60.9 percent of the employed children. Agriculture is the major employer of children with 66.1 percent followed by Retail Trade with 22.0 percent. Employed children constituted 8.9 percent of the children aged 7-17 years (See Table 8). Although the results shows that 6.9 were shown as workers we still need to do further analysis by hours worked to see if these children were really workers or were family helpers.

4.3 Unemployed Population

The total number of the unemployed was 114,422. Distribution by sex shows that the majority of the unemployed were women, 63,546 or 55.5 percent of the unemployed. Quite significant of these female are youth, which is those aged 12-29 years.

The survey results reveal an overall unemployment rate of 17.6 percent. The male unemployment rate is 15.3 percent while that for females is 19.9 percent. Female youth (12-29 years) unemployment rate is 31.8 percent, while that of males is 23.3. The overall youth unemployment rate is 27.4 percent (See Table 9). Table 10 shows trends of unemployment rates from 1991 to 2006.

Figure 1: Unemployment rate by Sex (1991-2006)



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Table 1: Total Population and Number of Households by Sex, 2006 Botswana

Sex	Total Persons		Household Headship	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	798,460	46.9	266,331	51.7
Female	904,369	53.1	248,963	48.3
Total	1,702,829	100.0	515,294	100.0

Table 2: Total Population by Age Group, 2006 Botswana

Age Group	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
0-4	101,524	102,358	203,882
5-9	105,604	99,703	205,307
10-14	101,918	102,591	204,509
15-19	88,143	90,390	178,533
20-24	77,541	91,830	169,371
25-29	68,127	79,031	147,157
30-34	52,852	67,087	119,939
35-39	43,910	53,395	97,304
40-44	33,260	47,043	80,303
45-49	30,373	40,943	71,316
50-54	25,060	31,505	56,565
55-59	17,418	22,093	39,512
60-64	12,162	17,305	29,467
65 and above	40,369	58,702	99,071
Not stated	199	393	592
Total	798,460	904,369	1,702,829

Table 3: Currently Employed Population by Age and Sex, 2006 Botswana

Age Group	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
7-17	23,109	14,828	37,936
18-24	46,923	36,419	83,342
25-29	42,984	39,871	82,856
30-34	38,520	38,374	76,894
35-39	32,187	32,087	64,274
40-44	23,515	28,388	51,903
45-49	22,907	23,679	46,586
50-54	17,463	17,379	34,842
55-59	12,249	11,092	23,341
60-64	8,047	6,427	14,474
65 and above	19,356	12,747	32,103
Not Stated	43	-	43
Total	287,303	261,290	548,594

Table 4: Currently Employed Population by Occupation and Sex, 2006 Botswana

Occupation	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Legislators	20,738	9,156	29,894
Professionals	15,539	13,097	28,636
Technicians & Ass Professionals	16,782	24,321	41,102
Clerks	7,676	24,506	32,182
Service Workers	32,327	60,461	92,788
Agric Workers	84,211	60,660	144,871
Craft & Related Workers	33,582	16,898	50,480
Plant & Machine Operators	21,982	2,774	24,757
Elementary Occupations	54,465	49,417	103,882
Not Stated	-	-	-
Total	287,303	261,290	548,594

Table 5: Currently Employed Population by Industry and Sex, 2006 Botswana

Industry	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Agriculture	103,924	65,407	169,331
Mining	12,396	1,716	14,112
Manufacturing	16,020	19,963	35,982
Water & Electricity	2,697	1,537	4,234
Construction	22,169	4,265	26,434
Retail Trade	28,791	50,804	79,596
Hotels & Restaurants	3,848	10,968	14,816
Transport & Communications	10,292	5,381	15,674
Financial Intermediaries	3,018	5,406	8,424
Real Estate	15,338	9,778	25,116
Public Administration	34,372	25,417	59,789
Education	15,190	27,987	43,177
Health & Social Work	5,503	8,612	14,114
Other Community Services	5,277	5,283	10,560
Private Households	8,013	18,247	26,261
Foreign Missions	456	439	895
Not Stated	-	78	78
Total	287,303	261,290	548,594

Table 6: Currently Employed Population by Employment Status and Sex, 2006 Botswana

Employment Status	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Paid employees	174,576	149,788	324,364
Self employed with employees	13,508	6,413	19,921
Self employed with out employees	14,075	33,555	47,630
Unpaid family helper	6,618	12,699	19,317
Working on own lands/cattle post	78,338	58,714	137,052
Other	187	121	309
Total	287,303	261,290	548,594

Table 7: Currently Employed Children (7-17 years) by Industry and Sex, 2006 Botswana

Industry	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Agriculture	17,503	7,589	25,093
Manufacturing	298	393	692
Construction	201	60	261
Retail Trade	3,632	4,707	8,339
Hotels & Restaurants	361	551	913
Transport & Communications	183	341	523
Real Estate	127	94	222
Education	51	-	51
Other Community Services	-	165	165
Private Households	752	848	1,600
Not Stated	-	78	78
Total	23,109	14,828	37,936

Table 8: Currently Employed Children (7-17 years) by Age Group and Sex, 2006 Botswana

Age Group	Total Number of Children			Total employed Children		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Children (7-13)	141,513	138,923	280,436	11,251	8,183	19,435
Young Persons (14-17)	72,462	75,277	147,739	11,857	6,644	18,501
Total	213,974	214,201	428,175	23,109	14,828	37,936

Table 9: Unemployed Population by Age Group and Sex, 2006 Botswana

Age_group	Unemployed Population			Unemployment rate		
	Sex		Total	Sex		Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
12-14	46	172	218	0.6	3.5	1.7
15-19	5,225	5,524	10,749	21.6	34.9	26.8
20-24	16,220	20,564	36,784	30.7	39.7	35.2
25-29	10,836	14,000	24,836	20.1	26.0	23.1
30-34	4,750	8,558	13,308	11.0	18.2	14.8
35-39	4,099	5,571	9,670	11.3	14.8	13.1
40-44	2,963	4,059	7,023	11.2	12.5	11.9
45-49	2,489	2,705	5,194	9.8	10.3	10.0
50-54	2,120	1,222	3,341	10.8	6.6	8.8
55-59	909	607	1,517	6.9	5.2	6.1
60-64	555	304	859	6.5	4.5	5.6
65+	664	259	923	3.3	2.0	2.8
Total	50,876	63,546	114,422	15.3	19.9	17.6

Table 10: Unemployment rate: 1991-2006

	Unemployed	Employed	Labour Force	Unemployment rate %
1991 Census				
Male	31,852	239,573	271,425	11.7
Female	29,413	140,365	169,778	17.3
Aggregate	61,265	379,938	441,203	13.9
1993/94 Household Income and expenditure Survey (HIES)				
Male	54,959	222,661	277,620	19.8
Female	52,764	169,143	221,907	23.8
Aggregate	107,723	391,804	499,527	21.6
1995/96 Labour Force Survey (LFS)				
Male	45,461	189,301	234,762	19.4
Female	49,067	156,104	205,171	23.9
Aggregate	94,528	345,405	439,933	21.5
1998 Demographic survey (DS)				
Male	56,709	248,913	305,622	18.6
Female	58,994	192,302	251,296	23.5
Aggregate	115,703	441,215	556,918	20.8
2000 Multiple Indicator Survey (MIS)				
Male	46,274	269,425	315,699	14.7
Female	44,455	214,007	258,462	17.2
Aggregate	90,729	483,432	574,161	15.8
2001 Census				
Male	51,916	268,024	319,940	16.2
Female	57,596	185,361	242,957	23.7
Aggregate	109,512	453,385	562,897	19.5
2002/03 HIES				
Male	66,880	245,408	312,288	21.4
Female	77,580	216,959	294,539	26.3
Aggregate	144,460	462,366	606,826	23.8
2004 BAIS 11				
Male	86,233	259,219	345,452	25.0
Female	99,583	311,110	410,693	24.2
Aggregate	185,816	570,329	756,145	24.6
2005/06 Labour Force Survey (LFS)*				
Male	50,876	287,303	331,584	15.3
Female	63,546	261,290	319,880	19.9
Aggregate	114,422	548,594	651,465	17.6

* figures are provisional

Note: Figures may not be equal to the total due to rounding error

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