

## The Unemployed Population

### 9.0 Introduction 9.1 Currently Unemployed Population by Sex and Residence

The unemployment rate is conventionally defined as the proportion of the labour force that, on a given Table 9.1 shows the percentage distribution of period of time, is unemployed. In the Labour Force Survey 2005 (LFS 2005) the distinct periods were the province. Nationally, 16 percent of the labour force last 7 days and 12 months. The former period of time population was unemployed of which 14 and 17 defines the current unemployed labour force whilst percent were male and female respectively. the latter defines the long term unemployment.

**Table 9.1: Proportion of Currently Unemployed Persons by Sex and Residence**

Sex/Province	Unemployment Rates									Labour Force
	Total			Rural			Urban			
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	
All Zambia	16	14	17	10	9	10	28	23	36	4,918,788
Province										
Central	23	20	27	21	19	23	32	25	39	478,480
Copperbelt	22	17	29	6	8	4	27	20	38	688,314
Eastern	6	7	6	4	4	4	36	38	33	704,202
Luapula	7	6	8	6	4	7	17	16	18	422,668
Lusaka	29	22	39	26	22	32	29	22	40	613,798
Northern	6	6	6	3	3	3	22	21	22	707,362
Northwestern	5	6	4	3	4	2	14	15	14	309,698
Southern	11	12	11	7	8	7	28	26	30	591,691
Western	30	28	33	28	25	30	52	48	57	402,575

Unemployment rate is dominantly higher in urban areas, 28 percent, than in rural areas, 10 percent. Unemployment is lower among the male and female labour force population in rural areas at 9 percent and 10 percent respectively, than their urban counterparts at 23 percent among the male and 36 percent among the female labour force. There were no major differences between the unemployment rates of male and female in rural areas, more female were unemployed by one percentage point than male labour force. However, in urban areas, there was a remarkable difference between unemployed male and female population, 23 percent of male labour force

unemployment rates were noticeable in NorthWestern Province, 5 percent followed by Northern Province, 6 percent and Luapula Province, 7 percent. Within the provinces distribution shows, unemployment rate was higher in the urban part of the province than the rural part. Female population tends to be more unemployed than the male population.

### 9.2 Currently Unemployed Population by Sex, Residence and Age Group

Table 9.2 shows the percentage distribution of currently employed by sex, rural/urban and age group. At national level the labour force constituting the age group 15-19 exhibited the highest unemployment rate of 25 percent. The rates slowed down to 22 percent for the age group 20-24, furthermore it went down to 13 percent for the age group 30-34, the rate continued to drop down until stabilized at an average rate of 8 percent among the age group 35-49, and then rose gradually to an average rate of 10 percent for the age group 50 and older.

were unemployed as 36 percent compared t of o population across the province shows a distinct pattern. The most urbanised provinces have higher proportion of unemployed population than the least urbanised provinces. Lusaka province has the highest, 29 percent followed by central, 23 percent and Copperbelt, 22 percent. Lower levels of

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**Table 9.2: Proportion of Currently Unemployed Population by Sex, Residence and Age Group, 2005**

Sex/Age-Group	Unemployment Rates									Labour Force
	Total			Rural			Urban			
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	
All Zambia	16	14	17	10	9	10	28	23	36	4,918,788
<b>Age-Group</b>										
15-19	25	24	26	13	13	13	59	57	61	788,850
20-24	22	21	24	11	12	10	46	38	56	863,423
25-29	15	13	18	9	8	10	24	19	31	821,838
30-34	13	11	15	10	9	11	18	14	24	628,116
35-39	8	7	10	6	5	6	13	10	18	451,667
40-44	9	8	10	8	7	8	11	8	15	351,255
45-49	8	7	9	6	6	7	12	9	16	296,673
50-54	10	8	12	8	5	10	14	13	16	210,839
55-59	10	11	9	6	7	4	19	17	25	162,977
60-64	12	11	14	12	9	14	15	15	16	120,283
65+	10	7	14	9	7	12	21	12	37	222,867

### 9.3 Currently Unemployed Population by Literacy and Educational Level, Sex and Residence

Among the literate population, there was significance Table 9.3 shows percentage distribution of difference between the unemployed rural and urban unemployed by literacy and education levels, sex and dwellers. The percentage of unemployed population rural-Urban. Overall, there is no difference in in urban areas is more than twice that of the rural unemployment rates between the literate and areas. The proportion of unemployed illiterate in illiterate. Of the unemployed literate population 2 urban areas tripled that of the rural population, 8 percent are male whilst 20 percent are female. The percent were unemployed illiterates in rural areas picture is not very different in terms of illiteracy higher whereas 26 percent were unemployed illiterates in percentage of females are unemployed than males at urban areas. It can be observed that the female 20 and 3 percent respectively. population is generally disadvantaged in terms of employment and it is even more pronounced in urban areas.

**Table 9.3: Unemployed Persons by Literacy and Education Status, Sex and Rural/Urban, 2005**

Education background	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
All Zambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,918,788
Literate	10	2	20	6	2	12	15	3	30	3,442,531
Illiterate	10	3	14	8	3	10	26	6	35	1,311,493
Not Stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	164,764
<b>Level of education</b>										
All Zambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,918,788
None	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,416
Grade 1-7	10	3	16	7	2	11	22	5	32	2,308,629
Grade 8-9	15	3	28	7	3	14	23	4	40	819,498
Grade 10-12	9	2	22	5	1	12	11	2	24	855,502
A Level	2	.	6	3	.	9	2	.	5	38,150
Degree	2	1	2	.	.	.	2	1	2	134,625
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	760,968

Generally, unemployment is lowest among the male cutting across all age groups and higher among female of all age groups. For both sex and all age groups unemployment rate was higher in urban areas than rural areas. There are marginal differences in unemployment rate between the male and female within the rural areas. On the contrast the difference in unemployment rate between the male and female within the urban area was notable. Discernable from the table is also that unemployment rate increases with young age groups.

The table further shows that the level of education determines the economic activity of an individual. As evident from table 8.3 persons with low levels of education were likely to be unemployed than persons with higher levels of education. The scenario is not different even between rural and urban, though higher unemployment rates were observed in urban areas for persons with primary and secondary education.

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#### 9.4 Youth Unemployment by Sex, Residence and Age Group

Youth unemployment was defined as proportion of labour force aged through 15 and 35 years not working at given period of time. Nationally, among the youth labour force, 14 percent were unemployed youth. Among these only 4 percent were male whilst 22 percent were female population. A larger proportion of youth labour force is unemployed in urban areas, 23 percent, than rural areas, 7 percent. The unemployment rate was worse among the urban female population, 38 percent as compared to 12 percent of the rural female population.

In the age group 15- 19 years the unemployment rate was 13 percent, one percentage point below the national average. However among the age group 20-24 it rose sharply to 16 percent.

Comparison of the results by residence shows that unemployment is more of an urban phenomenon than a rural one. In rural areas, the unemployment rate for both sexes was less than 9 percent, with that of males in the age group 15-19 being observed at 6 percent

while that for males in the age group 20 – 24 was recorded at 3 percent. In contrast, female unemployment in rural areas was slightly higher than that of their male counterparts. The overall unemployment rate for females in rural areas was observed at 12 percent. The rate for females in the age group 15-19 was recorded at 10 percent and 12 percent for those aged 20-24 in rural areas.

In urban areas, the overall unemployment rate for both sexes was recorded at 23 percent. The older youths were more likely to be unemployed than were the younger ones. Looking at sex differentials, the results show that females in urban areas had a higher likelihood than their male counterparts to be unemployed. The overall urban female unemployment rate was observed at 38 percent while that for males was observed at 7 percent. The unemployment rate for female youths in the age group 15-19 was 32 percent while that for males was observed at 20 percent. The rate of unemployment for females in the age group 20-24 was observed at 43 percent while that of their male counterparts was recorded at 8 percent.

**Table 9.4: Proportion of Unemployed Youths by Age Group, Sex and Residence, 2005.**

Sex/Province	Unemployment Rates									Labour force 15 – 24 years
	Total			Rural			Urban			
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	
All Zambia	14	4	22	7	3	12	23	7	38	1,652,273
15-19	13	10	16	8	6	10	27	20	32	788,850
20-24	16	5	24	7	3	12	29	8	43	863,423

#### 9.5 Youth Unemployment by Sex, Residence Copperbelt province with 23 percent and then Central and Province Province with 19 percent and 11 percent for southern

Province. The lowest youth unemployment rates were Table 8.5 shows percentage distribution of youth recorded in Eastern and Western province provinces unemployment by sex, rural/urban and province. Most both at 4 percent. Northern Province had youth urbanized provinces had higher incidence of unemployment rate of 6 percent and Luapula and unemployment rate than the least urbanized NorthWestern provinces both had 7 percent youth provinces. Lusaka province had the highest youth unemployment rates employment rate of 25 percent followed by

The female youth were disadvantaged in terms of employment and more so in the highly urbanized provinces, the unemployment rates were as high as 42 percent for example Lusaka province. In the rest of urbanized provinces the female youth unemployment rate ranged from 20 percent for Southern Province to 30 percent for Central and 38 percent for Copperbelt Province.

**Table 9.5: Proportion of Youth Unemployment by Sex, Residence and Province, 2005.**

Province	Youth Unemployment Rates								
	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Central	19	7	30	20	7	32	17	6	26
Copperbelt	23	6	38	8	5	11	27	6	44
Eastern	4	1	8	2	0	3	20	3	27
Luapula	7	5	9	3	2	4	24	16	30
Lusaka	25	9	42	27	14	42	25	8	42
Northern	6	2	11	5	2	8	13	5	20
North-Western	7	4	10	4	3	6	20	10	27
Southern	11	2	20	8	2	15	20	2	36
Western	4	3	6	4	2	5	8	5	10

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## 9.6 Unemployed Youths by Literacy and Level of Education

Disaggregating the province into rural and urban parts table 8.5 reveals that there were more unemployed youths in urban areas in than in the rural areas except for Central and Lusaka Provinces. Within the province more female youths were unemployed than their male counterparts.

Table 9.6 shows percentage distribution of unemployed youth by literacy and education level, sex and rural/urban. Surprisingly the unemployment rate for literate youths was higher, 14 percent, than that of illiterate youths, 12 percent. More literate female youths were unemployed, 24 percent, than illiterate female youths, 16 percent. However this was not the case for male youths, more literate male youths were employed, 96 percent than illiterate male youths, 94 percent. In urban areas illiteracy was associated with higher unemployment rates, 22 percent of the literate youth labour force were unemployed compared to 30 percent of the illiterate youth labour force in urban areas.

**Table 9.6: Proportion of Unemployed Youths by Literacy and Level of Education, Sex and Residence**

Education Background	Youth Unemployment Rates								
	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
<b>Literacy</b>									
Literate	14	4	24	7	3	12	22	6	38
Illiterates	12	6	16	9	5	11	30	15	38
<b>Level of Education</b>									
None	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grade1-7	12	4	19	7	3	11	31	11	42
Grade8-9	17	5	30	8	3	14	27	7	45
Grade10-12	14	4	28	6	2	13	17	5	32
A Level	8	6	10	.	.	.	9	8	11
Degree	8	2	14	.	.	.	8	2	15

Table 9.6 shows youth unemployment rose with lower levels of education. For youths with primary education the unemployment rate stood at 12 percent then rose to 17 percent for youths with junior secondary school education, then it started reducing to 14 percent for youths with senior secondary education, and furthermore to 8 percent for youths with post secondary education.

In rural areas education levels did not make a major difference, in all levels of education unemployment range between 6 percent and 7 percent for youths with senior secondary and primary school respectively. However, in urban areas the level of education was important determinant of employment. Youths with lower levels of education were more likely to be

were unemployed as compared to female labour force 36 percent of