



# KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE REPORT

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Quarter 1, 2019  
January – March, 2019

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## 1. Introduction

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) is a modular survey under the Kenya Continuous Household Survey Programme (KCHSP). The programme is designed to provide a constant stream of data on a wide range of socio-economic indicators. The QLFS collects information about the Kenyan labour market activities for the population aged 5 years and above.

This quarterly release analyses the labour market situation for the population aged 15 to 64 years. Topics covered include labour force participation, employment, unemployment, Labour underutilization and inactivity.

This report presents the results for the period January to March 2019.

## 2. Key Highlights

Table 1 presents a summary of the Key Labour Market Indicators contained in this report.

**Table 1: Key Labour Market Indicators**

January -March 2019	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Quarter 1</b>
Population (15-64).....	26,593,770
Labour Force.....	17,727,200
Employed.....	16,635,704
Employed/Population Ratio (%).....	62.6
Unemployed.....	1,091,496
Unemployment Rate (%).....	6.2
Long-Term Unemployed (%).....	3.3
Not in Labor Force (Inactive).....	8,866,570
Labour Force Participation (%).....	66.7
Labour Underutilization.....	2,115,500
Labour Underutilization rate (LU2).....	11.9

### 3. Labour Force Participation

Table 2 presents the labour force participation by age cohorts. The overall labour force participation rate stood at 66.7 per cent. Persons aged 40 – 44 years recorded the highest rate at 90.6 per cent while those aged 15 – 19 years recorded the lowest rate at 15.3 per cent.

**Table 2: Participation Rates for Population 15 – 64 Years by age cohorts**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>Not in Labour Force (Inactive)</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Participation Rate</b>
15-19	793,017	4,384,368	5,177,385	15.3
20-24	2,346,460	2,009,865	4,356,325	53.9
25-29	3,010,136	765,277	3,775,413	79.7
30-34	2,980,740	516,652	3,497,393	85.2
35-39	2,282,042	313,674	2,595,715	87.9
40-44	2,004,356	208,514	2,212,870	90.6
45-49	1,550,954	198,646	1,749,600	88.6
50-54	1,127,350	154,399	1,281,749	88.0
55-59	936,104	159,051	1,095,155	85.5
60-64	696,041	156,124	852,165	81.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,727,200</b>	<b>8,866,570</b>	<b>26,593,770</b>	<b>66.7</b>

## 4. Employment

### 4.1 Employment to Population Ratio

Table 3 presents the employment to population ratios for the population (15- 64). The survey revealed that the overall employment to population ratio in the country, for the working age population, was 62.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2019. The highest ratio at 88.0 per cent was for those aged 40-44 years while the lowest 13.6 per cent was for the 15-19 years' age cohort.

**Table 3: Employment to Population Ratios**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Employed</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Employment Ratio</b>
15-19	704,828	5,177,385	13.6
20-24	1,953,135	4,356,325	44.8
25-29	2,724,080	3,775,413	72.2
30-34	2,829,918	3,497,393	80.9
35-39	2,235,826	2,595,715	86.1
40-44	1,947,912	2,212,870	88.0
45-49	1,527,365	1,749,600	87.3
50-54	1,105,151	1,281,749	86.2
55-59	920,029	1,095,155	84.0
60-64	687,460	852,165	80.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,635,704</b>	<b>26,593,770</b>	<b>62.6</b>

## 5. Unemployment, Long term unemployment and Labour Underutilization

Information on unemployment and long-term unemployment rates are discussed in this section. The strict definitions of unemployment was used. These results are presented in Tables 4, 5 and 6, respectively.

### 5.1 Unemployment rate [LU1]

As indicated in Table 4, the survey results give a 6.2 per cent unemployment rate using the strict definition of unemployment. The youth aged 20-24 had the highest unemployment rate of 16.8 per cent followed by those aged 15 -19 years at 11.1 per cent. On the other hand, those aged 35 – 64 years recorded unemployment rates of 2.8 per cent or less for each age cohort.

**Table 4: Unemployment by Age Cohorts**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Employed</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>Total Labour Force</b>	<b>Unemployment Rate</b>
15-19	704,828	88,189	793,017	11.1
20-24	1,953,135	393,324	2,346,460	16.8
25-29	2,724,080	286,055	3,010,136	9.5
30-34	2,829,918	150,823	2,980,740	5.1
35-39	2,235,826	46,216	2,282,042	2.0
40-44	1,947,912	56,444	2,004,356	2.8
45-49	1,527,365	23,589	1,550,954	1.5
50-54	1,105,151	22,199	1,127,350	2.0
55-59	920,029	16,075	936,104	1.7
60-64	687,460	8,581	696,041	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,635,704</b>	<b>1,091,495</b>	<b>17,727,200</b>	<b>6.2</b>

### 5.2 Long Term Unemployment Rate

As indicated in Table 5, the survey results give a 3.3 per cent rate for the long-term unemployment. The youth aged 20- 24 had the highest proportion of the long-term unemployed at 8.8 per cent. On the other hand, those aged 60 - 64 years had a long-term unemployment rate of less than 1.0 per cent.

**Table 5: Long-Term Unemployment by Age Cohorts**

Age	Long Term Unemployed*	Total Labour Force	Long Term Unemployment Rate
15-19	19,906	793,017	2.5
20-24	207,321	2,346,460	8.8
25-29	179,539	3,010,136	6.0
30-34	78,885	2,980,740	2.6
35-39	20,468	2,282,042	0.9
40-44	27,812	2,004,356	1.4
45-49	16,141	1,550,954	1.0
50-54	14,320	1,127,350	1.3
55-59	11,433	936,104	1.2
60-64	1,724	696,041	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>577,549</b>	<b>17,727,200</b>	<b>3.3</b>

\* Unemployed persons who have been looking for work for more than twelve months.

### 5.3 Labour underutilization [LU2]

Labour underutilization refers to mismatches between labour supply and demand, which translate into an unmet need for employment among the population. As indicated in Table 6, the Labour Underutilization (LU2), which is the combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment was 11.9 per cent. The highest rates of underutilization are observed in the youth age groups 15-29 with labour underutilization rates of 16.0 per cent and above.

**Table 6: Unemployment, Time - Related Under Employment and Labour Underutilization by Age Cohorts [LU2]**

Age	Time related Under Employed	Unemployed	Total Labour Force	Labour Under - Utilization [LU2]
15-19	41,659	88,189	793,017	16.4
20-24	106,759	393,324	2,346,460	21.3
25-29	194,825	286,055	3,010,136	16.0
30-34	142,114	150,823	2,980,740	9.8
35-39	172,347	46,216	2,282,042	9.6
40-44	124,161	56,444	2,004,356	9.0
45-49	82,210	23,589	1,550,954	6.8
50-54	82,812	22,199	1,127,350	9.3
55-59	43,211	16,075	936,104	6.3
60-64	33,907	8,581	696,041	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,024,005</b>	<b>1,091,495</b>	<b>17,727,200</b>	<b>11.9</b>



## 6. Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

This section presents results of the young persons aged 15 to 34, who are no longer in the education system and are not working or being trained for work. Table 7 presents the distribution of the youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The percentage of youth in NEET was recorded at 16.3 per cent. The age groups 20-24 and 15-19 recorded higher proportions of youth in NEET at 19.4 per cent and 19.3 per cent, respectively.

**Table 7: Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Not in Education, Employment or Training*</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>%</b>
15-19	1,001,472	5,177,385	19.3
20-24	845,530	4,356,325	19.4
25-29	528,571	3,775,413	14.0
30-34	368,271	3,497,393	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,743,844</b>	<b>16,806,516</b>	<b>16.3</b>

\* Vocational training was not captured so, some of the youth might still be in training

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Survey Design and Methodology

#### Sample Design

The KCHSP mainly focuses on data collection for key labour related indicators and poverty. Under the Programme, data is collected on quarterly basis and analysis undertaken to provide national estimates for labour indicators per quarter, and county estimates at the end of each year (12 months) for labour and poverty indicators among others. The monitoring of labour indicators on quarterly basis allows for analysis of changes over specific time periods.

#### Sample Size and Allocation

The KCHSP has a total of 50 study domains, namely; national, urban, rural and 47 counties. In designing the sample, the minimum sample size for anticipated integrated surveys and relative sizes of the counties was considered. The KCHSP sample consists of 1,684 clusters and 25,260 households. This sample comprise 1,300 clusters for cross-sectional survey and 384 clusters for panel study. At the county level, the sample ranges from a minimum of 24 clusters (360 households) to maximum of 56 clusters (840 households).

Two panels are implemented alongside the cross-sectional sample in each quarter. In total, 517 (325-cross-sectional and 192 panel) clusters (7,755 households) are visited every quarter. The sample allocation in each quarter is presented in Table 8.

#### Sample Frame

The sample for this survey was drawn from the Fifth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP V). The NASSEP V Frame is composed of 5,360 clusters selected with Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) from 96,251 Enumeration Areas (EAs) from the 2009 Population and Housing Census. In the development of NASSEP V, the 47 counties were stratified into 92 sampling strata, that is, urban and rural strata in 45 counties plus Nairobi and Mombasa Counties that are wholly urban.

#### Sampling

Two sets of units are sampled, namely; clusters and households. At the time of interviews in the households, it is expected that individuals are eligible for various modules of the survey. The sampling is done separately for cross-sectional and panel surveys.

#### Sampling of Clusters

The clusters are the primary sampling units for KCHSP and are selected independently from each of 92 strata in NASSEP V frame. The required clusters for the entire year are selected systematically with equal probability. The selected clusters from each stratum are further randomized systematically into the four panels.

## Sampling of Households

A total of 15 households per cluster are sampled systematically (with random start) from the list of updated households. Sampling of the households is done centrally at the head-office and interviews are only undertaken in the preselected households.

**Table 8: Sample Allocation for KCHSP Per Quarter**

Code	County	Clusters			Households		
	Name	Cross-sectional	Panel	Total	Cross-sectional	Panel	Total
1	MOMBASA	8	4	12	120	60	180
2	KWALE	7	4	11	105	60	165
3	KILIFI	7	4	11	105	60	165
4	TANA RIVER	6	2	8	90	30	120
5	LAMU	5	2	7	75	30	105
6	TAITA TAVETA	6	4	10	90	60	150
7	GARISSA	6	4	10	90	60	150
8	WAJIR	6	4	10	90	60	150
9	MANDERA	7	4	11	105	60	165
10	MARSABIT	6	4	10	90	60	150
11	ISIOLO	5	2	7	75	30	105
12	MERU	8	6	14	120	90	210
13	THARAKA	6	4	10	90	60	150
14	EMBU	7	4	11	105	60	165
15	KITUI	7	4	11	105	60	165
16	MACHAKOS	8	4	12	120	60	180
17	MAKUENI	7	4	11	105	60	165
18	NYANDARUA	7	4	11	105	60	165
19	NYERI	7	4	11	105	60	165
20	KIRINYAGA	7	4	11	105	60	165
21	MURANG'A	8	4	12	120	60	180
22	KIAMBU	8	6	14	120	90	210
23	TURKANA	7	4	11	105	60	165
24	WEST POKOT	6	4	10	90	60	150
25	SAMBURU	6	2	8	90	30	120
26	TRANS NZOIA	7	4	11	105	60	165
27	BARINGO	6	4	10	90	60	150
28	UASIN GISHU	7	4	11	105	60	165
29	ELGEYO-MARAKWET	6	4	10	90	60	150
30	NANDI	7	4	11	105	60	165
31	LAIKIPIA	6	4	10	90	60	150
32	NAKURU	8	6	14	120	90	210
33	NAROK	7	4	11	105	60	165
34	KAJIADO	7	4	11	105	60	165
35	KERICHO	7	4	11	105	60	165
36	BOMET	7	4	11	105	60	165
37	KAKAMEGA	8	6	14	120	90	210
38	VIHIGA	7	4	11	105	60	165
39	BUNGOMA	8	4	12	120	60	180
40	BUSIA	7	4	11	105	60	165
41	SIAYA	7	4	11	105	60	165
42	KISUMU	7	4	11	105	60	165
43	MIGORI	7	4	11	105	60	165
44	HOMA BAY	7	4	11	105	60	165
45	KISII	7	4	11	105	60	165
46	NYAMIRA	7	4	11	105	60	165
47	NAIROBI	10	8	18	150	120	270
		<b>325</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>4,875</b>	<b>2,880</b>	<b>7,755</b>

## Appendix 2: Concepts and Definitions

**Economically Active:** The activity principle of the labour force framework is based on the concept of production of goods and services falling under the production frontiers of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA 2008). The economically active population analysed here consisted of the employed and the unemployed persons. The employed includes those persons who reported that they did some work during the reference period or they held a job even if they were not actually doing any work at the time. This covers persons who were on leave or had a business to return to. The unemployed were persons who reported to be without work, available for work and actively seeking work. Also included here were persons who though they may not satisfy the criteria for unemployment, reported that they were out of season or on temporary layoff.

**Inactive Population:** The economically inactive population also known as persons not in the labour force, covers persons who did not work or hold a job during the reference period and did not seek work because they were either full time students, infirm/incapacitated, retired or did not need work due to unspecified reasons. Persons who reported that they were retrenched or declared redundant and persons whose businesses closed and had not taken steps towards looking for alternative jobs or starting other businesses were included in the inactive population.

**Labour force:** consists of all persons in the working age population who are either employed or unemployed. It was previously also referred to as the 'currently active population'

**Employment:** Refers to performance of work as defined above. This term is used to measure the number of persons employed, including persons at work during a short reference period, and also persons temporarily absent from work but holding a job.

**Unemployment:** Under the strict terms is defined as people who do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the past four weeks, and are currently available for work.

**Long-term unemployment:** This refers to all unemployed persons with continuous periods of unemployment extending for one year or longer (52 weeks and over).

**Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** The LFPR is a measure of the proportion of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work; it provides an indication of the size of the supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services, relative to the population at working age

**Working patterns:** Depending on their daily or weekly working hours, persons may work either on full-time or part-time basis.

**The Working-age Population (WAP):** includes all persons in the population above a specified age threshold used for statistical purposes to define the economically active population

**Dependency ratio:** This is an indicator of the economic burden the productive portion of the population must bear. It is computed as a ratio of the population considered to be

“dependent” (aged below 15 years and 65 years and above) to the working age population (15 to 64 years).

**Employment to population ratio:** This is the proportion of a country’s working age population that is employed. It gives an indication of the job opportunities that are available for the persons in the economically active age groups in an economy. A high employment to population ratio indicates that a large proportion of the population is employed, while a low ratio means that large share of the population is not directly involved in market related economic activities because they are either unemployed or out of the labour force.

**Time-related underemployment rate:** This is a measure of labour underutilization that provides information regarding the share of employed persons who are willing and available to increase their working time (for production within the SNA production boundary) and worked fewer hours than a specified time threshold during the reference period.

**Labour underutilization:** Refers to mismatches between labour supply and demand, which translate into an unmet need for employment among the population. Labour Under Utilization [LU2] is computed as the combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment.

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