

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TONGA

Population Census 2006

Press release No. 16

1. Unemployed

The number of people aged 15 years of age and older who did no work, but spend time looking for work, and were available and willing to start work if a job was offered to them, was only 388 people, 214 males and 174 females. This level of unemployment represents 1.1% of the total labour force (Table 2 - Appendix A).

However, there was a group of 195 people that did not work because of bad weather conditions (159), or because they could not afford the transportation costs to work (36). In addition, a group of 1,241 people did not work, and did not look for work, because they believed that no work was available. If all these people (1,436) would be included in the unemployed category (therefore increasing the total labour force and decreasing the non-labour force by this number), the number of unemployed would increase to 1,824 people, and the **unemployment rate** would be **4.9%** (Table 3 - Appendix B).

Some census users have indicated that they wish to include subsistence workers in the unemployed category, on the grounds that these people would look for work if they believed cash work was available in their labour market community. Using this analysis, the total unemployment level, including subsistence workers, was 13,321 or an unemployment rate of **35.9%**. For the urban-rural distinction, the level would be 1,894 (23%) for the urban and 11,427 (40%) in rural areas (See Table 1 below)

While this assumption would not apply to all in this group, it would likely apply to a proportion of them. Depending on the assumptions a user may wish to use, the resulting unemployment rate would fall somewhere between **4.9%** and **36%**. Regardless of the unemployment concept used, unemployment levels were higher for females than for males.

Table 1: Population aged 15 and older and unemployment status according to various unemployment concepts, Tonga: 2006

Unemployment concept	Number of unemployed			Unemployment rate		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
According to unadjusted definition						
Tonga	214	174	388	1.1	1.1	1.1
Urban	70	56	126	1.5	1.7	1.6
Rural	144	118	262	0.9	1.0	0.9
According to adjusted definition*						
Tonga	924	900	1,824	4.4	5.5	4.9
Urban	230	215	445	4.9	6.1	5.4
Rural	694	685	1,379	4.3	5.4	4.8
If "subsistence work" is classified as unemployed						
Tonga	6,423	6,898	13,321	30.8	42.5	35.9
Urban	854	1,040	1,894	18.1	29.4	23.0
Rural	5,569	5,858	11,427	34.4	46.1	39.6

* Unemployed include people that did not work, but did not look for work because they believed that no work was available, or because of weather condition, or because they cannot afford transportation cost

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Statistics Department Tonga

P.O. Box 149

Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Telephone: + 676 23300

Facsimile: + 676 23303

Email: dept@stats.gov.to

<http://www.spc.int/prism/Country/TO/stats/>

Table 2-Appendix A: Population aged 15 and older by labour market activity, sex, and urban-rural residence, Tonga: 2006

Region/Sex	Labour Force				Non Labour Force				Total
	Paid work	Subsistence work	Work unspecified	Un-employed	Student	Retired, disabled, family responsibilities		Other*	
						Other	Total		
Total	23,438	11,497	355	388	8,906	10,312	8,189	27,407	63,085
Urban	6,222	1,449	133	126	2,289	2,943	2,129	7,361	15,291
Rural	17,216	10,048	222	262	6,617	7,369	6,060	20,046	47,794
Males	14,273	5,499	184	214	4,396	3,115	3,760	11,271	31,441
Urban	3,792	624	64	70	1,108	881	1003	2,992	7,542
Rural	10,481	4,875	120	144	3,288	2234	2757	8,279	23,899
Females	9,165	5,998	171	174	4,510	7,197	4,429	16,136	31,644
Urban	2,430	825	69	56	1,181	2,062	1126	4,369	7,749
Rural	6,735	5,173	102	118	3,329	5135	3303	11,767	23,895

'Other' includes people that did not work because:

- they were not interested in finding work - 5,996
- they were not willing and available to work - 308
- of weather condition -- 159
- they cannot afford transportation cost - 36
- they did not look for work because they believed that no work was available -- 1,241
- not specified -- 449

Table 3 - Appendix B: Population aged 15 and older by labour market activity, sex, and urban-rural residence, Tonga: 2006 (according to an adjusted definition of unemployed)

Region/Sex	Labour Force				Non Labour Force				Total	
	Paid work	Subsistence work	Work unspecified	Un-employed*	Student	Retired, disabled, family responsibilities	Other*	Total		
Total	23,438	11,497	355	1,824	37,114	8,906	10,312	6,753	25,971	63,085
Urban	6,222	1,449	133	445	8,249	2,289	2,943	1,810	7,042	15,291
Rural	17,216	10,048	222	1,379	28,865	6,617	7,369	4,943	18,929	47,794
Males	14,273	5,499	184	924	20,880	4,396	3,115	3,050	10,561	31,441
Urban	3,792	624	64	230	4,710	1,108	881	843	2,832	7,542
Rural	10,481	4,875	120	694	16,170	3,288	2,234	2,207	7,729	23,899
Females	9,165	5,998	171	900	16,234	4,510	7,197	3,703	15,410	31,644
Urban	2,430	825	69	215	3,539	1,181	2,062	967	4,210	7,749
Rural	6,735	5,173	102	685	12,695	3,329	5,135	2,736	11,200	23,895

Unemployed include people that did not work because:

- they did not look for work because they believed that no work was available - 1,241
- of weather condition - 159
- they cannot afford transportation cost - 36

'Other' include people that did not work because:

- they were not interested in finding work - 5,996
- they were not willing and available to work - 308
- not specified - 449