

## **Chapter IV**

### **4 Economic Characteristics**

This chapter deals with the economic characteristics of individuals and households collected from the 2001 Niue Population and Housing Census. The 1997 and 2001 censuses included questions on the basic economic characteristics of respondents age 15 and over. In both censuses, a question on current activity was followed by some more detailed questions concerning occupation, industry and type of employer. These additional questions were asked of all persons in the labour force (defined as those from age 15+). The 2001 census also included some household economic questions.

Census questions on economic characteristics of individuals and households should be simple. Censuses cannot provide detailed information on household and individual income and expenditure, hours worked, employment, underemployment, unemployment, etc. It is not feasible to collect this more sophisticated economic data during one relatively short census interview carried out throughout the entire country by a very large number of enumerators who have only received rather basic training. A more appropriate place for the collection of this type of economic information is sample surveys such as Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, Labour Force Surveys, Employment and Unemployment Surveys etc.

Economic characteristic is an important implication for administrators, planners and policy makers to determine standard of living of the population of the country.

#### **4.1 Economically Active and Economically Not Active**

The 2001 census collected information on 'current' economic activity that is during a short reference period of 1 week prior to the enumeration. The current economic activity question was followed by questions on occupation, industry and type of employer but only for respondents in the money-raising labour force.

Cash workers, substance workers and unemployed persons are categorized as Economically Active Persons whereas students and other are categorized as Economically Not Active Persons. The "Other" includes pensioners, disabled persons and missionaries, etc.

Among Niue household population 61.84 percent are economically active population and 38.16 percent are economically not active population. Most of economically not active persons are pensioners and females who were engaged in housework. Among male population these percentages are 75.34 and 24.66 respectively and among females these percentages are 48.69 and 51.31 respectively. Among economically active population 60.11 percent are males and 39.89 percent are females. Male and female cash workers are almost evenly distributed. Among subsistence workers four fifth of them are male and one fifth are females. Among unemployed persons 52.38percent are males and 47.62 percent are females. Among economically not active population 31.89 percent are males and 68.11 percent are females. Percentage distribution of population 15 years and above by economic activity and gender is presented in Table A16.

**Table A16. Percentage Distribution of Population 15 Years and above by Economic Activity and Gender, Niue 2001**

<i>Economic Activity</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Male %</i>	<i>Female %</i>
	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>		
<i>Population 15 Years and above</i>	1208	100	596	100	612	100	49.34	50.66
<i>Economically Active</i>	747	61.84	449	75.34	298	48.69	60.11	39.89
<i>Cash</i>	663	54.88	387	64.93	276	45.10	58.37	41.63
<i>Subsistence work</i>	63	5.22	51	8.56	12	1.96	80.95	19.05
<i>Unemployed</i>	21	1.74	11	1.85	10	1.63	52.38	47.62
<i>Economically Not Active</i>	461	38.16	147	24.66	314	51.31	31.89	68.11
<i>Domestics Duties</i>	204	16.89	31	5.20	173	28.27	15.20	84.80
<i>Student</i>	116	9.60	48	8.05	68	11.11	41.38	58.62
<i>Other</i>	141	11.67	68	11.41	73	11.93	48.23	51.77

## 4.2 Labour Force Participation

In Table A17, the age and sex specific Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR) of the population enumerated in the 2001 census is given. It should again be stressed that this information is based on the 'current' activity of respondents. The rate for the total population is the Crude Labour Force Participation Rate.<sup>4</sup>

Persons in labour force consist of people who were working fulltime, part time, working to produce for own use, working for sale, unemployed and those who were engaged in domestic duties. Persons not in labour force consist of people who were full time students and other.

<sup>4</sup> The Crude Labour Force Participation Rate in this Report is defined as the number of persons in the Labour Force divided by the total population.

Persons not in labour force consist of people who were full time students and other. Others consist of pensioner, disable, missionaries, etc.

Of total household population 15 years and above 78.73 percent are in labour force and 21.27 are not in labour force with 39.74 percent of males and 38.99 percent of females are in labour force and 9.6 percent of males and 11.67 percent of females are not in labour force. Among men more than four fifth of them are in labour force and only about one fifth are not in labour force. But among women more than three fourth of them are in labour force and nearly one fourth are not in labour force. In age group 15-19 nearly one third of household population are in labour force and more than two third are not in labour force. This is because age group 15-19 is a school going age group and majority of the population in this age group are full time students, among male population about one third of them are in labour force and two third are not in labour force in the same age group, but among females in this age group, only one fourth are in labour force and three fourth are not in labour force. In the age group 20-59, about 95 percent are in labour force and about 5 percent are not in labour force. This statement is true also for males and females of the same age group. In the older age (60 and above) persons in labour force and persons not in labour force are almost equal for both sexes and for females. But for males in this age group two third of them are in labour force and more than one third are not in labour force. Labour Force Participation by Age and Gender is presented in Table A17. Male labour Force Participation rate is higher than Females. It is natural that female generally stay home to take care of the children and do house work.

**Table A17. Labour Force Participation by Age and Gender**

Labour Force Participation	Total	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
In Labour Force	78.73	29.38	94.34	96.52	96.48	93.46	58.04
Not in Labour Force	21.27	70.63	5.66	3.48	3.52	6.54	41.96
Male	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
In Labour Force	80.54	33.78	94.78	94.12	97.30	92.11	61.02
Not in Labour Force	19.46	66.22	5.22	5.88	2.70	7.89	38.98
Female	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
In Labour Force	76.96	25.58	93.81	98.99	95.69	94.81	55.47
Not in Labour Force	23.04	74.42	6.19	1.01	4.31	5.19	44.53

Compared to the 1997 Census, the labour force participation rates of the total population is higher in the 2001 Census. It is also true for females as opposed to males which were higher in 1997 than 2001. Employment to population ratio is higher in 2001 Census compared to the

1997 census for both sex - males and females. On the other hand, unemployment rate was lower in 2001 census than 1997 census. The economic activity by gender, Niue, 1997 and 2001 is presented in Table A18.

**Table A18. Economic Activity by Gender, Niue, 1997 and 2001**

<i>Economic Indicators</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>	
	<i>1997</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>2001</i>
<i>Labour Force Participation Rate</i>	74.8	78.7	83.3	80.5	66.2	77.0
<i>Employment-Population Ratio</i>	49.3	54.9	57.4	64.9	41.1	45.1
<i>Unemployment Rate</i>	5.2	2.8	3.2	2.5	7.8	3.4

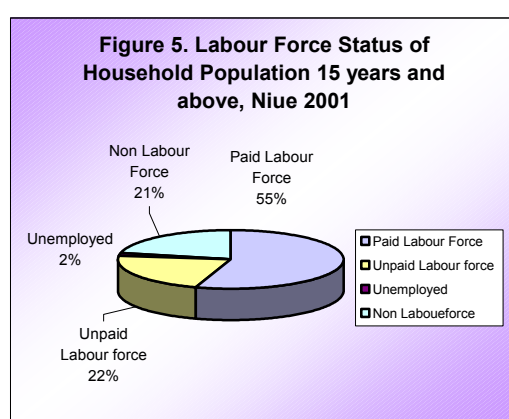


Figure 5 shows Labour force status of household population 15 years and above. About 55 percent is paid labour force whereas 22 percent is unpaid labour force. Unemployed contribute 2 percent of household population, while Non labour force contributes 21 percent of household population. Non labour force includes students, retired persons, and missionaries, etc.

### 4.3 Occupation

During the 2001 census, the question on occupation was asked of all respondents in the labour force. The data on occupation was coded using a classification system based on the International Classification of Occupation (ISCO) 1988.<sup>5</sup>

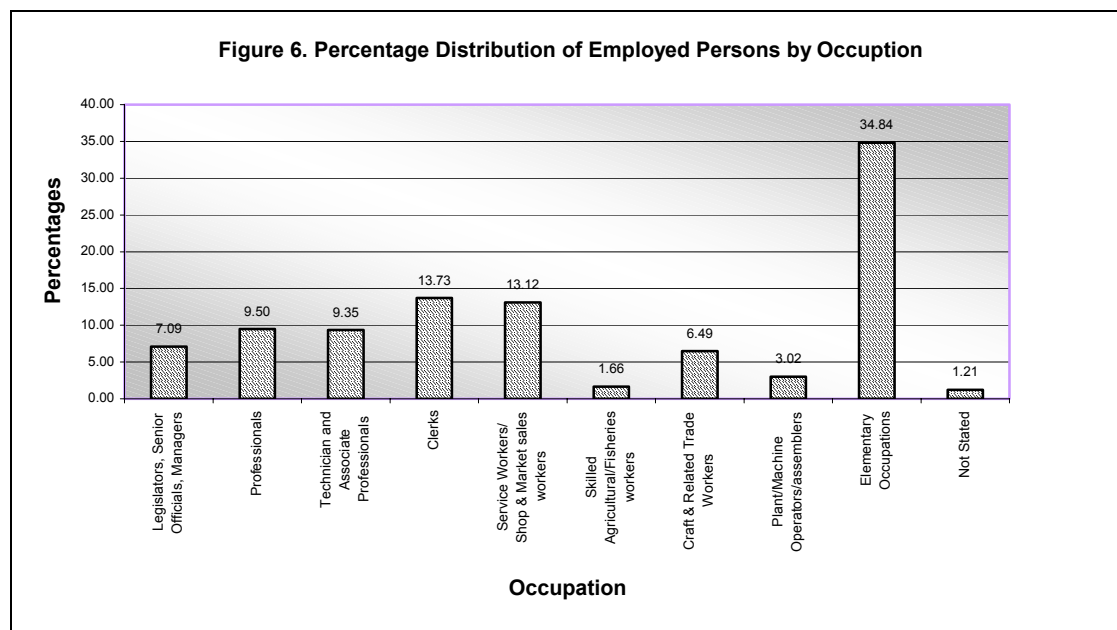
Table A19 presents the occupational status of labour force in Niue in the 2001 Census. The figures are only given for the major occupation groups, (1 digit code). The table shows that among employed persons, those engaged in elementary occupation constitute 34.84 percent and among males and females this percentage is 36.18 and 32.97 respectively, followed by clerks with 13.73 percent for both sexes, 10.85 percent for males and 17.75 percent for females. And then followed by service workers/shop and market sales workers with 13.12 percent for both sexes, 10.59 percent for males and 16.67 percent for females. The others are less than 10

<sup>5</sup> See: Report of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), 28 October - 6 November, 1987.

percent. Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons by Occupation and Gender is given in Table A19 and a bar chart for the same is presented in Figure 6.

**Table A19. Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons by Occupation and Gender**

Occupation	Total		Male		Female	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Total	663	100	387	100	276	100
Armed Forces	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legislators, Senior Officials, Managers	47	7.09	32	8.27	15	5.43
Professionals	63	9.50	34	8.79	29	10.51
Technician and Associate Professionals	62	9.35	37	9.56	25	9.06
Clerks	91	13.73	42	10.85	49	17.75
Service Workers/ Shop & Market sales workers	87	13.12	41	10.59	46	16.67
Skilled Agricultural/Fisheries workers	11	1.66	8	2.07	3	1.09
Craft & Related Trade Workers	43	6.49	32	8.27	11	3.99
Plant/Machine Operators/assemblers	20	3.02	15	3.88	5	1.81
Elementary Occupations	231	34.84	140	36.18	91	32.97
Not Stated	8	1.21	6	1.55	2	0.72



#### 4.4 Industry

During the 2001 census, the question on industry was asked of all respondents in the working labour force. The data on industry was coded using a classification system based on the International Standard Industry Classification (ISIC).

Among employed persons 14.48 percent are working in Public Administration 10.86 percent are working in Construction and the same percentages in Health Social Welfare.

Among males, Public Administration constitutes the highest percentage of 13.95 followed by construction 17.31 percent. Among females, education constitutes the highest proportion with 15.94 percent followed by public administration 15.22 percent. 12.68 percent of females are engaged in health/social welfare. Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons by Industry and Gender is presented in Table A20.

**Table A20. Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons by Industry and Gender**

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Total</i>	663	100	387	100	276	100
Agriculture/Hunting/Forestry	55	8.30	39	10.08	16	5.80
Fishing	5	0.75	5	1.29	0	0.00
Mining/Quarrying	17	2.56	16	4.13	1	0.36
Manufacturing	19	2.87	5	1.29	14	5.07
Electricity/Water/Gas/	27	4.07	23	5.94	4	1.45
Construction	72	10.86	67	17.31	5	1.81
Wholesale / Retail	48	7.24	24	6.20	24	8.70
Hotels / Restaurants	29	4.37	8	2.07	21	7.61
Transport / Storage / Communication	64	9.65	39	10.08	25	9.06
Financing	35	5.28	15	3.88	20	7.25
Real Estate / Rent	3	0.45	2	0.52	1	0.36
Public Administration	96	14.48	54	13.95	42	15.22
Education	63	9.50	19	4.91	44	15.94
Health / Social Welfare	72	10.86	37	9.56	35	12.68
Other	51	7.69	30	7.75	21	7.61
Non profit Services	4	0.60	2	0.52	2	0.72
Not Stated	3	0.45	2	0.52	1	0.36

#### **4.5 Employment Status**

In the 2001 census, the question on type of employer was asked of all respondents in the working labour force. The data was coded using a classification system listed on Table A21.

Government service workers with 60.03 percent constitute the largest proportion of the total employed persons followed by self-employed workers with 18.25 percent. While the largest proportion of employed males i.e. 60.98 percent, is constituted to government service workers and also the largest proportion of employed females with 58.70 percent in the same category. Among total employed persons 35.60 percent of males and 24.43 percent of females are engaged in government while 10.86 percent of males and 7.39 percent of females are self-employed. 9.05 percent of males and 8.14 percent of females are constituted in private sector. The Percentage Distribution of Employed persons by Employment Status are shown in Table A21.

**Table A21. Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons by Employment Status and Gender**

<i>Employment Status</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Male%</i>	<i>Female %</i>
	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>		
<i>Total</i>	663	100	387	100	276	100	58.37	41.63
<i>Government</i>	398	60.03	236	60.98	162	58.70	35.60	24.43
<i>Private Sector</i>	114	17.19	60	15.50	54	19.57	9.05	8.14
<i>Self Employed</i>	121	18.25	72	18.60	49	17.75	10.86	7.39
<i>Other</i>	30	4.52	19	4.91	11	3.99	2.87	1.66

#### 4.6 Annual Gross Income

The 2001 census also asked a question on gross annual income (before tax) of all respondents in the working labour force. The results are summarized in table A22 below.

A little over 53 percent of Niue population earned between 0-4999 New Zealand Dollars annually. This is followed by about 10 percent of the population earning between NZ\$5000-19999, while less than 4 percent of the population earned over NZ\$25000. In general the earnings of men were higher than those for women. Percentage Distribution of Household Population by annual Gross Income in New Zealand Dollars is presented in Table A22.

**Table A22. Percentage Distribution of Household Population Age 15 and above by Annual Gross Income (in NZ\$)**

<i>Annual Gross Income (NZ\$)</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Num</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Total</i>	1208	100	596	49.34	612	50.66
<i>0-4999</i>	644	53.31	259	21.44	385	31.87
<i>5000-9999</i>	134	11.09	88	7.28	46	3.81
<i>10000-14999</i>	150	12.42	89	7.37	61	5.05
<i>15000-19999</i>	100	8.28	48	3.97	52	4.30
<i>20000-24999</i>	66	5.46	40	3.31	26	2.15
<i>25000-29999</i>	19	1.57	11	0.91	8	0.66
<i>30000-34999</i>	20	1.66	12	0.99	8	0.66
<i>35000-39999</i>	5	0.41	4	0.33	1	0.08
<i>40000-44999</i>	4	0.33	4	0.33	0	0.00
<i>45000+</i>	10	0.83	8	0.66	2	0.17
<i>Not Stated</i>	56	4.64	33	2.73	23	1.90

#### 4.7 Land used for Planting Crops

The 2001 census also asked question on land area used by households to cultivate crops. From this data, the total land area used for planting crops is 1026.3 hectares. Of the total land area used for planting crops, 613 hectares is used for taro, 290 hectares, 49 hectares and 65 hectares are used for planting coconuts, Kava and Nonu respectively, and for planting tapioca is 5.6 hectares and vanilla 3.7 hectares. Total land use for the crops is in Table A23. Land area used for planting crops by each village is shown in Table 16, Part II.

**Table A23. Land area used (in Hectares) for planting taro, coconuts, kava, nonu, tapioca, and vanilla.**

<i>Crops</i>	<i>Land used (in Hectares)</i>
<i>Taro</i>	613.0
<i>Coconuts</i>	290.0
<i>Kava</i>	49.0
<i>Nonu</i>	65.0
<i>Tapioca</i>	5.6
<i>Vanilla</i>	3.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>1026.3</i>

The census also collected information on vegetables grown on the above land. Table A24 shows that lettuce is the most common vegetables grown in Niue followed by cabbage and the third is tomato. Vegetables grown in each village are shown in Table 17 in Part II.

**Table A24. Number of Vegetables grown**

<i>Vegetables</i>	<i>Number</i>
<i>Lettuce</i>	2008
<i>Pak_choy</i>	450
<i>Saladeer</i>	782
<i>Tomato</i>	1530
<i>Cabbage</i>	1901
<i>Capsicum</i>	588
<i>Other</i>	1523