



**THE INDUSTRIAL COURT OF  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**TRENDS IN LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

**May 2015**



## TRENDS IN LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first sitting of the Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago. Since that first sitting on April 29th 1965, the Court has been making significant contributions to the improvement of the industrial relations climate in Trinidad and Tobago and the development of jurisprudence in the field. To celebrate this historic milestone, the Court is publishing the inaugural issue of a Bulletin entitled "*Trends in Labour and Industrial Relations*". It is the Court's intention to issue this Bulletin on an annual basis.

The Bulletin provides industrial relations statistics for each of the Court's fiscal year, for example, Court year 2013/14 spans the period October 1st 2013 to September 30th 2014. In addition, the first issue of the Bulletin, presents provisional data for the first quarter of Court year 2014/15 (i.e. October 1st 2014 to December 31st 2014 which is denoted by 2014/15<sup>P</sup>). Industrial relations trends are analysed against the backdrop of data on the economic environment as well as the labour market. The main objective of the Bulletin is to provide stakeholders, as well as the wider working population, with the most current information from the Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago. The information coverage of the Bulletin includes the following:

- Volume of Matters Filed and Disposed of at the Industrial Court
- Nature of Trade Disputes
- Type of Matters Filed at Registry of the Industrial Court
- Industrial Action by Type

The Industrial Court has embarked on a continuous exercise to review and develop new data sets and in this regard, the Court welcomes suggestions from stakeholders to enhance the usefulness of the Bulletin. Suggestions and general feedback on the publication can be sent to the Director of the Office of Economic and Industrial Research, Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago, St Vincent Street Port of Spain.

My sincere thanks to their Honours Mrs. Janice Christopher-Nicholls and Mrs. Kathleen George-Marcelle, as well as Mrs. Diedra Chapman and the staff of the Office of Economic and Industrial Research for their hard work in making this Bulletin a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Thomas-Felix'.

Deborah Thomas-Felix  
President, Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago

# Contents

## TRENDS IN LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

### SECTION I:

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT .....	3
TABLE 1.1: KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS .....	3

### SECTION 2:

LABOUR MARKET TRENDS .....	4
TABLE 2.1: LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS .....	4

### SECTION 3:

INDUSTRIAL COURT STATISTICS .....	5
TABLE 3.1: VOLUME OF MATTERS FILED & DISPOSED .....	5
TABLE 3.2: MATTERS FILED AND DISPOSED: NORTH & SOUTH COURTS .....	6
TABLE 3.3: MATTERS FILED BY REFERRAL AT INDUSTRIAL COURT .....	7-8
TABLE 3.4: MANNER OF DISPOSAL: NORTH & SOUTH COURTS .....	9
TABLE 3.5: TYPE OF MATTERS FILED AT REGISTRY .....	10-11
TABLE 3.6: TYPE OF TRADE DISPUTES .....	12-13
TABLE 3.7: BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS .....	13
TABLE 3.8: INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY TYPE .....	14
TABLE 3.9: COST OF LIVING ANALYSIS .....	15
TABLE 3.10: ANALYSIS OF WAGE INCREASES BY SECTOR .....	16-17

### APPENDIX:

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF JUDGMENTS DELIVERED IN 2014 .....	18-31
APPENDIX 2: LIST OF REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS AND MEMBERSHIP .....	32-34
APPENDIX 3: INDUSTRIAL COURT ACRONYMS .....	35