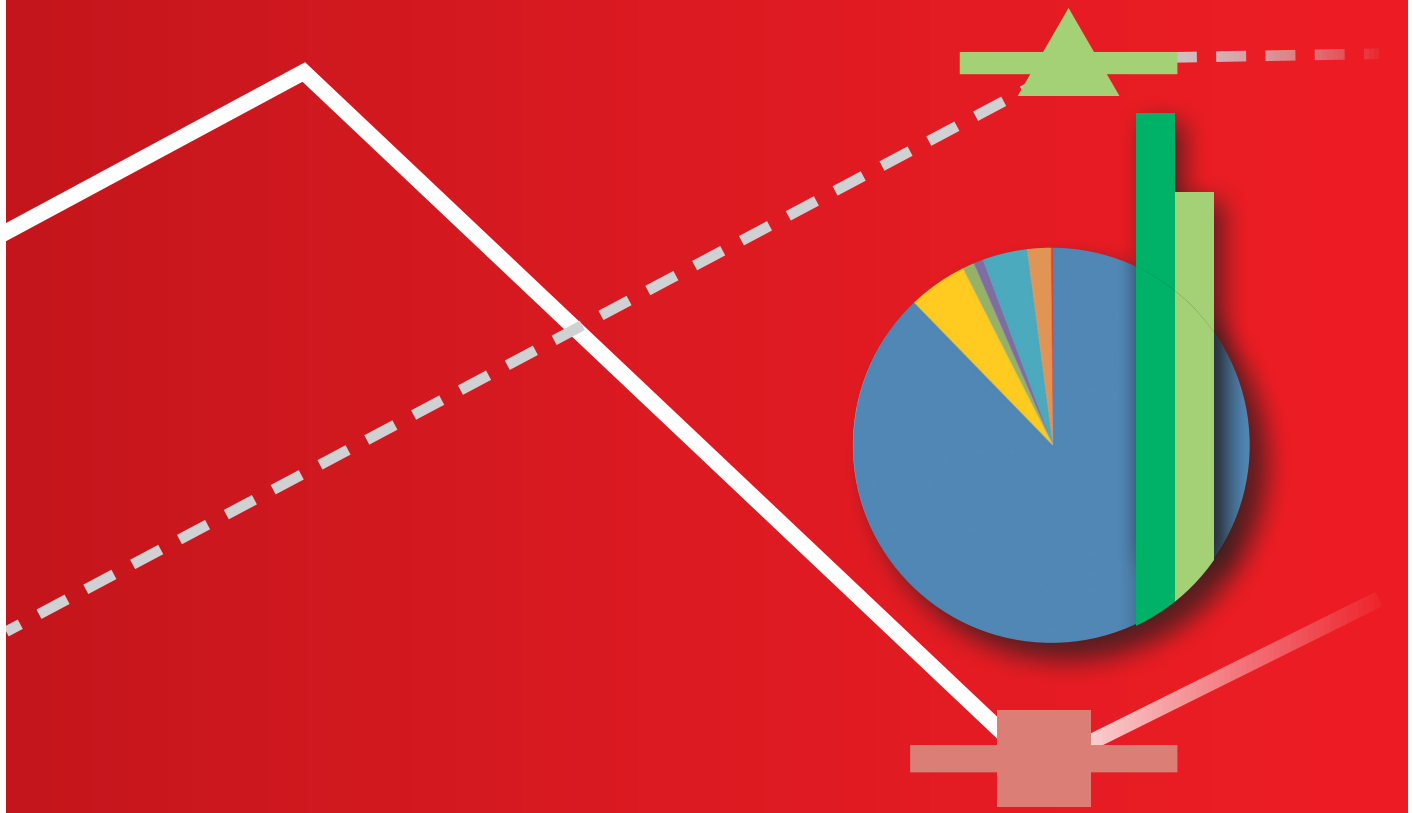


TRENDS IN LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL COURT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO | MAY 2016, VOL. 2



PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Dear Stakeholders,

The Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago hosted a series of events last year in celebration of its 50th Anniversary; among these events were the publication and the launch of the first "*Trends in Labour and Industrial Relations*" Bulletin. This year, we are happy to provide you with the second Bulletin on "*Trends in Labour and Industrial Relations*".

As I said in the past, there is a need for the strengthening of the country's information base on labour market activity, therefore, the main objective of the Industrial Court's Bulletin is to provide stakeholders, as well as the wider working public, with information on trends in labour and Industrial Relations. This information, for the most part, is collated from the database of the Industrial Court.

The statistics provided in this Bulletin are for the Court's fiscal year and not for a calendar year (for example, the Court's fiscal year of 1st October, 2013 to 30th September, 2014).

The information coverage of this Bulletin includes inter alia:

- Volume of matters filed and disposed at the Industrial Court
- Nature of disputes
- Types of matters filed at the Registry of the Industrial Court
- Work stoppages

I do hope that the information which is provided in this Bulletin is useful. The Industrial Court will continue to review and develop new data sets on trends in the labour market, and in this regard, suggestions are welcomed from stakeholders and from the public in general to enhance the usefulness of the Bulletin.

Suggestions and general feedback on the publication can be addressed to:

Director
Office of Economic and Industrial Research
Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago
#7 St. Vincent Street
Port of Spain.

or via email at feedback@industrialcourt.org.tt

Thank you.

Best Regards,



Deborah Thomas-Felix
President

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Table 1: KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2012	2013	2014	2015 ^p
Real GDP Growth (%)	1.3	2.3	-1.0	-2.1
GDP Per Capita (US\$)	19,322.9	19,809.7	20,344.4	19,274.6
Headline Inflation (% end-of-period)	7.2	5.6	8.5	1.5
Government Revenue (TT\$Bn)	49.3	52.8	58.4	54.7
Government Expenditure (TT\$Bn)	51.5	57.7	62.8	61.8
Exchange Rates (end-of-period): (TT\$/US\$)	6.4349	6.4426	6.4086	6.3776
Net Official Reserves (US\$Mn)	9,200.7	9,987.0	11,316.6	9,788.0
Net Official Reserves (in months import cover)	10.4	12.0	12.7	11.1

Source: Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago, Central Statistical Office of Trinidad and Tobago (CSO)

Preliminary data from the Central Bank's Index of Quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2015 estimate that the domestic economy weakened further in 2015 as Real GDP declined by 2.1% compared with a decline of 1.0% in 2014. This deteriorating performance reflected contractions in both the energy and non-energy sectors. Lower crude oil and natural gas production was due to maintenance and infrastructural works by key industry producers as well as maturing oil and gas fields. Headline inflation based on the CSO's Retail Prices Index (RPI) slowed to 1.5% in 2015 from 8.5% in the previous year due to a significant deceleration in food prices in the second half of 2015. Provisional data for FY2014/15, reveal that the fiscal deficit widened substantially to TT\$7.1 billion (4.2% of GDP) compared with TT\$4.4 billion (2.6% of GDP) in FY 2013/14 as revenues from the energy sector declined at a substantially faster pace than the fall in expenditure. The foreign market remained tight in 2015 and the country's net official reserves fell to US\$9,788.0 million (11.1 months import cover) compared to US\$11,316.6 (12.7 months import cover) in 2014. At the close of 2015 the exchange rate stood at TT\$6.3776/US\$1.

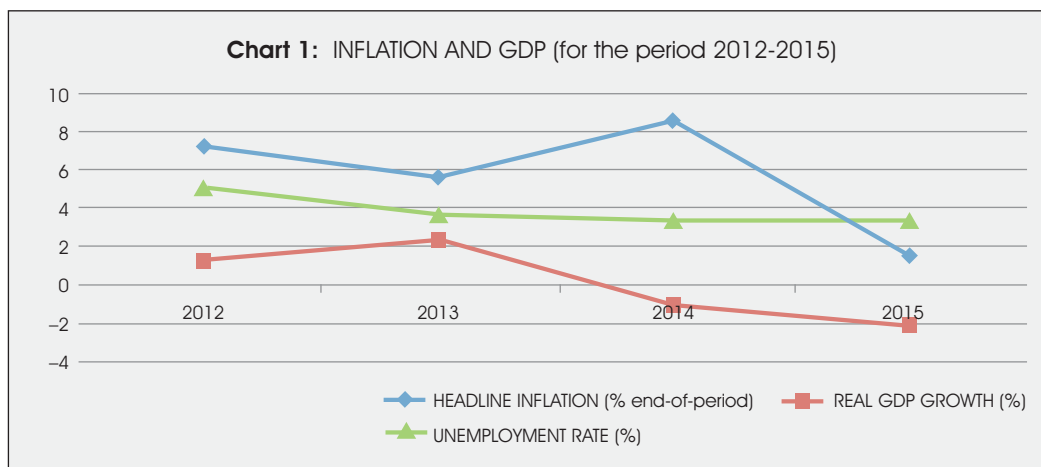


Table 2: LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS

LABOUR STATISTICS (in thousand persons)	2012	2013	2014	2015 (Q III)
Non-Institutional Population (15 Years and Over)	1,044.1	1,059.6	1,063.4	1,064.7
Labour Force	646.0	650.2	658.6	645.7
Persons With Jobs	614.0	626.3	636.8	623.9
Participation Rate (%)	61.9	61.4	61.9	60.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.0	3.7	3.3	3.4
Productivity Growth/Changes (%)	-3.6	4.5	-2.0	-0.1

Source: Central Statistical Office of Trinidad and Tobago (CSO)

Consistent with declining economic activity, data for the first nine months of 2015 revealed a slight increase in the unemployment rate to 3.4% from 3.3% in 2014. Notwithstanding an expansion in the non-institutional population to 1,064.7 thousand persons over the period, the tighter domestic labour market conditions was also evidenced by a decline in the labour force and the number of persons with jobs to 645.7 thousand persons and 623.9 thousand persons, respectively. Meanwhile, growth in productivity which had rebounded to 4.5% in 2013, remained depressed in 2014 and 2015, declining by 2.1% and 0.1%, respectively.

