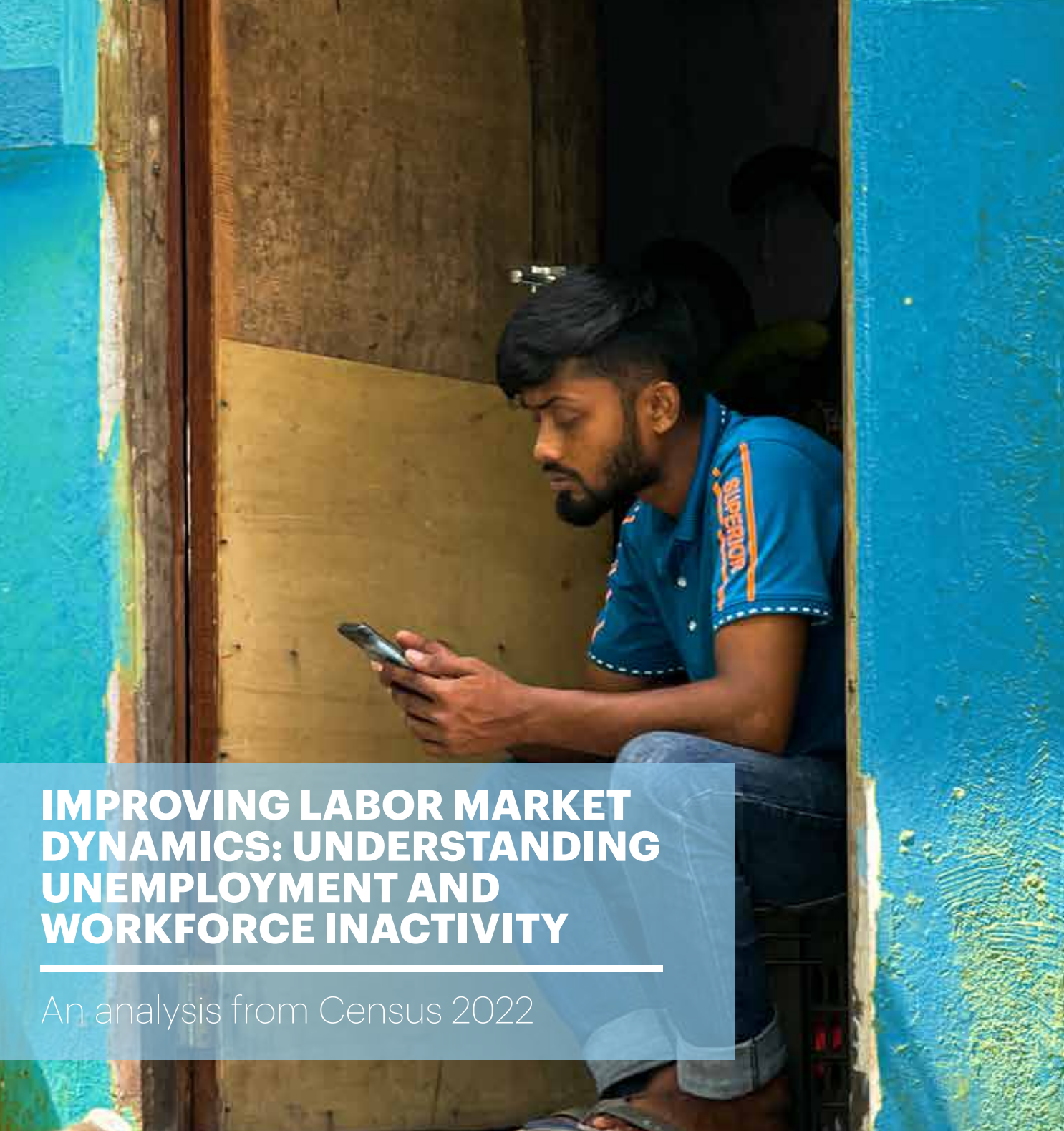




IMPROVING LABOR MARKET DYNAMICS: UNDERSTANDING UNEMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE INACTIVITY

An analysis from Census 2022



Maldives Bureau of Statistics
Ministry of Housing, Land & Urban Development





Improving Labor Market Dynamics:

Understanding Unemployment and Workforce Inactivity

An analysis from Census 2022



Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS) is the National Statistical Office of the Maldives and we provide the public with reliable and timely statistics and cater to all data demands nationally and internationally.

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FOREWORD

The Population and Housing Census of Maldives stands as the most extensive national statistical undertaking, offering a highly comprehensive source of data on the population and households. Maldives has been conducting censuses since 1911 with the first modern census conducted in 1977. Censuses were conducted every five years since between 1985 and 2000. The 2005 census was postponed to 2006 due to tsunami of 2004, resulting in an eight-year gap between the last two censuses. The 2022 represents a significant milestone as the 30th census conducted in the Maldives owing to a gap of 8 years.

This series of statistical releases aim to provide an in-depth view of what is behind the census figures, shedding light on the fundamental population issues that underlie them. It is our goal to enhance the understanding of population and development issues within the country, providing a comprehensive view of the data. Additionally, the census plays a crucial role in reporting on numerous SDG indicators by providing essential updates and with necessary disaggregation of data.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all individuals and organisations whose contributions made it possible for us to present the census findings to the public. Special thanks are due to United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) for providing financial support throughout the process and for facilitating the technical input from consultants, whose expertise and guidance were invaluable in successfully completing these releases. I would like to start by thanking Mr. Andreas Kutka and Mr. Peter Bruekmann for the continuous support they provided our team for the implementation of the census, from designing stage to the release of census preliminary results. My thanks go out to Professor Lakshman Dissanayake and Dr. Liwan Liyanage, for overseeing the progress of each chapter, and guiding the chapter writers and enhancing their capacities throughout the process. Lastly, the success of this census releases owes much to the tireless effort and dedication of the Maldives Bureau of Statistics staff, and I take this moment to express my sincere appreciation to each and every one of them.

This information is accessible through our website www.statisticsmaldives.gov.mv. We believe in the dissemination of reliable statistics in an unbiased manner to the general public. We encourage data users to utilize the Census results effectively, promoting a culture of decision-making in the country.

I am hopeful that the information in this Release and other subsequent census related publications, would be very useful for evidence based decision-making and formulation of policies and plans. Both the national and local level could use the census information to define service areas, identify current requirement of services and infrastructure, and future demands. Further, it would serve as the basis for measuring progress towards the achievement of key national targets as well as other time-bound targets of the country as we undergo a new phase in administration.

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Chief Statistician

Maldives Bureau of Statistics
Ministry of National Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

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The conduct of the 2022 Population and Housing Census of Maldives entailed nationwide coordination and collaboration. The Maldives Bureau of Statistics (MBS), would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all the agencies and individuals who contributed immensely to the success of the Census.

We are truly indebted to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the immense support provided throughout the process, from census planning stage to the publication of these census Releases. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to UNICEF, UNDP, ADB, World Bank, PARIS21 and IOM for their support in the implementation of a successful census. Our sincere appreciation also goes to Ministries, Agencies, CSOs for their cooperation and contribution to complete the census operation across the country. We are indeed grateful to City Councils, Atoll Councils, Island Councils, Atoll Census Managers, island census focal points for their support and leadership in ensuring the successful completion of census in their respective communities. We would like to convey our sincere appreciation to the government for funding and providing other financial support when needed. We would like to thank Maldives Police Services for arranging security services during the entire enumeration process, MTCC for transport arrangement and local media for their coverage and dissemination of census announcements in a timely manner.

We also wish to acknowledge and earnestly thank the 3,974 enumerators and supervisors for their hard work and sincerity. Supervisors and enumerators worked from the early hours of the morning till late in the evening during the census enumeration period. The commitment and dedication shown by the supervisors and enumerators are exemplary and inspiring. We would like to sincerely thank the general public for the unprecedented support and cooperation extended to the census supervisors and enumerators during the enumeration. The support and enthusiasm displayed by the general public were heartfelt and gratifying.

This series of statistical releases would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the following MBS staff.

Statistical Release 1: Population dynamics in the Maldives

Ms. Fathimath Yania

Statistical Release 2: Population movement and migration dynamics

Statistical Release 3: Disability in the Maldives

Ms. Fathimath Riyaza

Statistical Release 4: Education status of the population

Ms. Ashiyath Shazna

Statistical Release 5: Mapping the Employment Landscape: A Comprehensive Analysis of the situation in the Maldives

Ms. Aishath Hassan

Statistical Release 6: In-depth analysis of informality and informal employment in the Maldives

Ms. Lizama Faheem

Statistical Release 7: Improving Labor Market Dynamics: Understanding Unemployment and Workforce Inactivity

Ms. Aishath Shahuda

Statistical Release 8: An insightful analysis of resort employment in the Maldives

Ms. Sajida Ahmed

Statistical Release 9: Nuptiality and Fertility in The Maldives

Ms. Mariyam Shadeena

Statistical Release 10: Household Characteristics

Ms. Aishath Sobaha

Finally, special thanks, appreciation and gratitude to all staff of Maldives Bureau of Statistics for overseeing the whole processes, from planning, organisation, implementation, cleaning and having the results published.

SUMMARY INDICATORS

Resident Maldivian population

Indicator	Unit	Republic			Maale			Atolls			Atolls (admin islands)		
		Both Sexes	Female	Male	Both Sexes	Female	Male	Both Sexes	Female	Male	Both Sexes	Female	Male
Working-age Maldivians (15+)	number	281,131	138,584	142,547	122,451	62,361	60,090	158,680	76,223	82,457	141,550	75,282	66,268
Labour force	number	180,374	67,111	113,263	80,830	32,140	48,690	99,544	34,971	64,573	82,423	34,031	48,392
Employed	number	171,130	62,927	108,203	76,307	30,051	46,256	94,823	32,876	61,947	77,702	31,936	45,766
Labour force participation rate	%	64.2	48.4	79.5	66.0	51.5	81.0	62.7	45.9	78.3	58.2	45.2	73.0
Outside labour force	number	100,757	71,473	29,284	41,621	30,221	11,400	59,136	41,252	17,884	59,127	41,251	17,876
Inactivity rate	%	35.8	51.6	20.5	34.0	48.5	19.0	37.3	54.1	21.7	41.8	54.8	27.0
Unemployed	number	9,244	4,184	5,060	4,523	2,089	2,434	4,721	2,095	2,626	4,721	2,095	2,626
Unemployment rate	%	5.1	6.2	4.5	5.6	6.5	5.0	4.7	6.0	4.1	5.7	6.2	5.4
Potential labour force	number	18864	13773	5091	6367	4650	1717	12497	9123	3374	12497	9123	3374
Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	%	14.1	22.2	8.6	12.5	18.3	8.2	15.4	25.4	8.8	18.1	26.0	11.6
Youth population (15-24 years)	number	53,537	25,912	27,625	26,006	13,225	12,781	27,531	12,687	14,844	23,792	12,313	11,479
Employed Youth (15-24 years)	number	24,244	10,019	14,225	11,912	5,651	6,261	12,332	4,368	7,964	8,595	3,994	4,601
Unemployed Youth (15-24 years)	number	3,319	1,353	1,966	1,793	754	1,039	1,526	599	927	1,526	599	927
Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years)	%	12.0	11.9	12.1	13.1	11.8	14.2	11.0	12.1	10.4	15.1	13.0	16.8
Youth NEET (15-24 years)	number	10,416	5,672	4,744	4,153	2,086	2,067	6,263	3,586	2,677	6,261	3,586	2,675
Youth NEET rate (15-24 years)	%	19.5	21.9	17.2	16.0	15.8	16.2	22.7	28.3	18.0	26.3	29.1	23.3

1 OVERVIEW



1. OVERVIEW

1.1 Executive Summary

Labour force status of working age population working-age population of Maldives, comprising individuals aged 15 years and older, totals 411,219. Out of this 281,131 (68%) are resident Maldivians.

Almost all foreigners living in the country are migrant workers, and are part of the employed population. As such the detailed analysis of this chapter is focused more on the Maldivian population.

Within the resident Maldivian working-age population, a total of 9,244 individuals (3%) are unemployed. This category encompasses individuals who are willing and able to work but are presently without employment and actively seeking job opportunities.

A significant portion of the working-age Maldivian population, specifically 100,757 individuals (36%), falls outside the labor force. This category includes individuals who are neither employed nor actively seeking employment.

Unemployed population Out of the 9,244 unemployed Maldivians, 55% are males, and 45% are females. In Maale, out of the 4,523 unemployed Maldivians, 54% are males, and 46% are females. Within the administrative islands of Atolls as a whole, out of the 4,721 unemployed Maldivians, 56% are males, and 44% are females.

Across the country, Maale, and the administrative islands of Atolls, a higher number of men are unemployed compared to women. However, it's worth noting that in certain Atolls (Thaa, Laamu, Faafu, and Shaviyani), there are instances where more women are unemployed than men.

Labour underutilization The most commonly used labour underutilization indicator is unemployment rate. Some additional indicators, complementary to unemployment rate, recommended to be used alongside with it, to further explore the labour underutilization phenomena.

Unemployment rate The unemployment rate among resident Maldivians stands at 5.1%, with a slightly higher rate of 5.6% in the case of Maale. The highest unemployment rate is observed in Addu (S) at 10%, followed by 7% in Fuvahmulah and 6.7% in Laamu Atoll. Conversely, the lowest unemployment rates are found in Meemu at 2.3%, followed by Kaafu, ADh, and AA Atolls, all with rates below 3%.

The unemployment rate exhibits a significant increase among newcomers to the labor market, especially at younger ages. Among those aged 15-19, the rate reaches as high as 20% for males and 17% for females. It subsequently decreases to 9% between the ages of 20-24 and stabilizes at around 5% thereafter.

The gender gap in unemployment widens notably during the 35-49 age group, with higher rates for women. This phase often coincides with women attempting to re-enter the labor market after periods of childbearing.

Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force This is an additional indicator, complementary to unemployment rate, recommended to be used alongside with unemployment rate, to further explore the labour underutilization phenomena.

While unemployment rate (LU1) is 5.1% at national level, the combined rate of unemployment and labour underutilization (LU3) is almost three times as high at 14.1%.

Youth Unemployment rate The international definition of youth, encompassing individuals aged 15-24 years, reveals an unemployment rate of 12.0%. However, within the Maldives, the definition of youth extends to individuals aged 18-35 years. When considering this broader age group, the unemployment rate for youth (18-35 years) is significantly lower, standing at 6.1%.

Youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) Approximately one in every five (19%) young Maldivians aged 15-24, totaling 10,416 youths, are categorized as not in education, employment, or training (NEET). The NEET rate among young women is higher (22%) compared to young men (17%).

Interestingly, among youth who are not part of the labor force, 34% are currently engaged in education or training. Similarly, a corresponding 34% of youth who are not in education or training are actively employed.

Persons Outside the Labour force Twenty percent of individuals outside the labor force fall within the young age bracket of 15-19 years, while another 17% are elderly individuals aged 65 and above.

The majority of individuals in both the young and elderly age groups are categorized as “others outside the labor force”.

Among the “others outside the labor force” group, there is a higher representation of women than men in the remaining age categories.

The “others outside the labor force” category includes individuals who have indicated that they are neither actively seeking employment nor available for it. Typically, these individuals have other responsibilities and face various challenges that prevent them from participating in the labor force.

Potential labour force Within the group of individuals classified as outside the labor force, 19% belong to the potential labor force category, indicating some level of connection to the labor market.

The remaining 81% of individuals outside the labor force are those neither actively seeking jobs nor available for employment at the moment.

Available, potential job seekers Within the potential labor force, a total of 18,203 individuals indicated their availability for work but did not actively seek employment for various reasons, constituting 97% of the potential labour force.

The primary reason for not seeking employment among this group is the fulfillment of family and household responsibilities. Gender disparity is evident from this as 92% of the persons who stated this as the reason were women.

For young individuals aged 15-19 years, the primary reason is their involvement in studies and training, given that many are still pursuing secondary and higher secondary education during this age. Among the elderly population aged 65 years and above, the primary reason is often retirement, receipt of pensions, or having another source of income. Notably, the government’s retirement age as well as the existing social protection scheme, which provide a monthly basic pension to every citizen, contribute to this circumstance.

Discouraged workers Among the top five reasons for not seeking employment, “weariness from job hunting” and the unavailability of job opportunities in the area are prevalent. People often become disheartened and cease their job search, particularly when suitable job opportunities are scarce in their locality.

Discouraged job-seekers totals 1,720 accounting for 9.4 percent of the total potential job-seekers (18,208). For females it is 717 out of 13,325 (5.4%) and for males it is 1,003 out of 4,877 (20.6%)

1.2 Introduction

The Maldives currently enjoys a demographic advantage, with a significant proportion of its population in the working ages. This presents a crucial window of opportunity to foster employment prospects and improve labor market outcomes. By examining the composition of the labor force, unemployment, and those outside the labor force, including potential labor force, this chapter aims to shed light on the intricacies of the Maldivian labor market. Emphasis will be given to disaggregation by age, sex, and locality, providing valuable insights into the dynamics of labor utilization.

Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 8, which emphasizes decent work and inclusive economic growth, this chapter also focuses on deriving SDG indicators to measure progress. These indicators include the unemployment rate by sex, age, and persons with disabilities (8.5.2) and the proportion of youth not in education, employment, or training (8.6.1).

Furthermore, this chapter aims to offer evidence-based recommendations and policy directions for achieving sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth through full and productive employment and decent work for all.

1.3 Background

1.3.1 Maldivian population

Over the past three decades, substantial changes have taken place in the age structure of Maldivian population. This is due to the demographic transition, with a shift from high to low crude birth and death rates, resulting from improvements in access to health care, education and socio-economic developments over the years. Similarly, high rate of urbanization has taken place over the years with a high level of migration towards the capital Maale.

At present, Maldives has a demographic window of opportunity, with population in the working ages (15 years and above) accounting for 73% of the total resident Maldivians. This can be seen from the changes in population by broad age-groups from censuses 1995 to 2022 in figure 1.

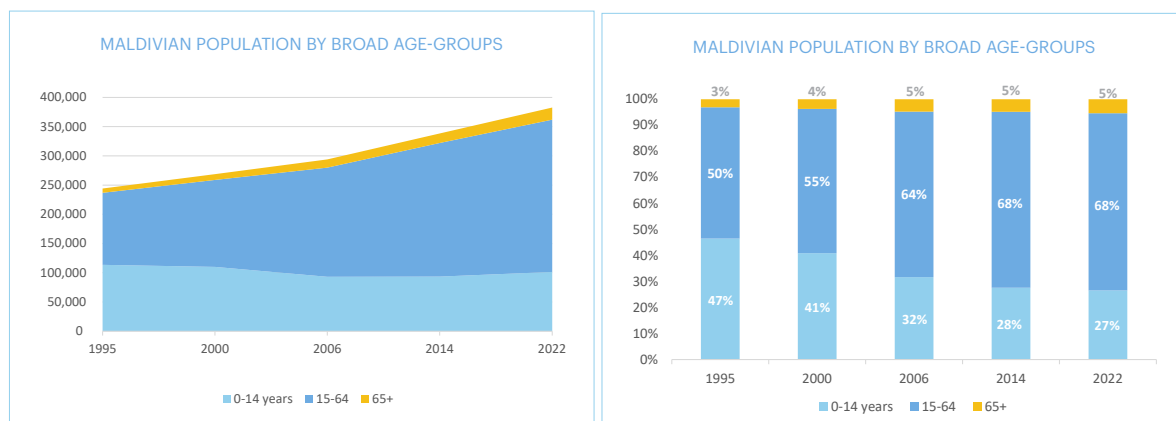


Figure 1: Population and percentage share by broad age-groups, Maldivians, Censuses 1995 to 2022

Figure 2 shows the population pyramid for resident Maldivians from most recent censuses 2014 and 2022. It is easier to visualize changes that has taken place in the age cohorts during the eight-year period from the pyramid. In 2014, highest concentration of population is in the 20-24 and 25-29 age-groups. As these age cohorts move up the population pyramid, we see highest concentration of population in 30-34 and 35-39 age-groups in 2022.

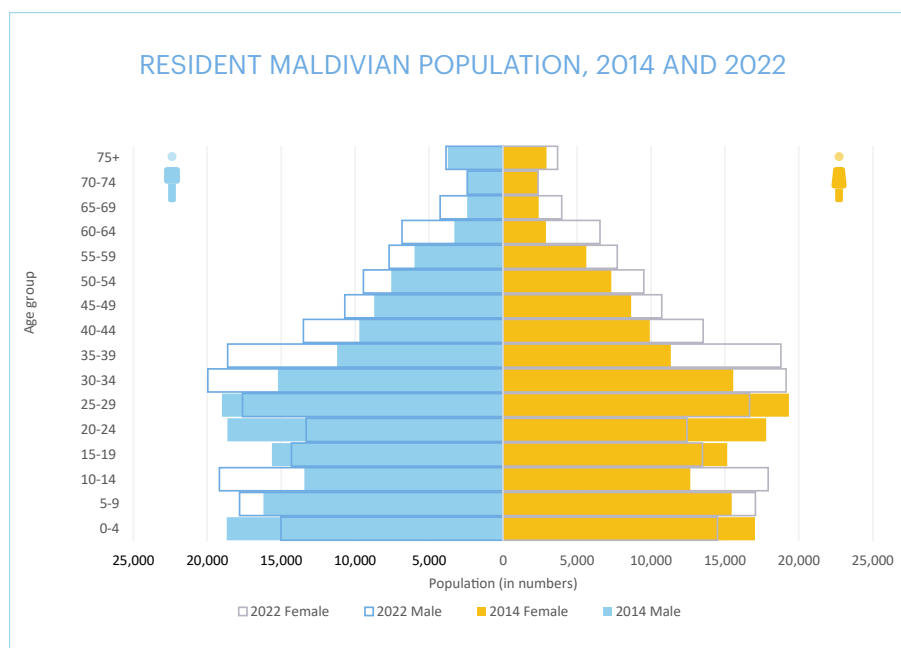


Figure 2: Resident Maldivian population, 2014 and 2022

1.3.2 Resident population (Maldivian and Foreign)

Table 1 looks at the resident population of the country, including the foreigners and Maldivians. In 2022, foreigners accounted for 25.7 percent of the resident population (1 in every 4 individuals). During the past two censuses 2014 to 2022, the resident population of Maldives increased by 113,061 individuals reaching over five hundred thousand (515,132). This portrays a population growth rate of 3.1 percent per annum during this intercensal period. Maldivian population grew at the rate of 1.5 percent per year while foreign population grew at a much higher rate of 9.2 percent, during the period.

Locality	2022			2014			Intercensal Population Growth Rate (2014-2022) in %		
	Total	Maldivian	Foreign	Total	Maldivian	Foreign	Total	Maldivian	Foreign
Republic	515,132	382,639	132,493	402,071	338,434	63,637	3.1%	1.5%	9.2%
Maale	211,908	160,187	51,721	153,904	129,381	24,523	4.0%	2.7%	9.3%
Admin islands	236,911	205,312	31,599	211,543	195,539	16,004	1.4%	0.6%	8.5%
Non-admin islands	66,313	17,140	49,173	36,624	13,514	23,110	7.4%	3.0%	9.5%

Table1: Resident population and population growth by nationality and locality, 2014 and 2022

Population residing in the capital, Maale, grew at a higher rate of 4.0 percent per annum, while the rest of the 186 administrative islands in the twenty Atolls grew at a much lower rate of 1.5 percent. In 2022 close to half (46.0%) the population were located in Maale reaching over two hundred thousand (211,908).

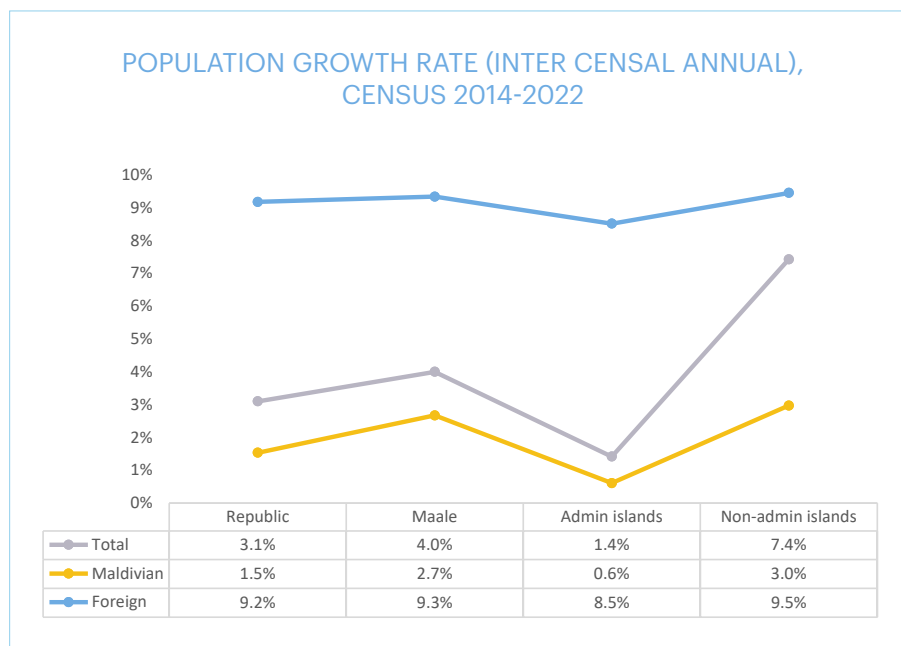


Figure 3: Population growth rate (inter censal annual), census 2014-2022

Non-administrative islands, comprising of tourist resorts and islands used for other industrial purposes grew at a higher rate, due to the expansion of these economic activities. Majority of the foreign migrant workers residing in the country are unskilled or low-skilled, many of whom are from neighboring South Asian countries.

Once the foreign resident population is included, the total population, working-age population and the sex-age structure of the population changes substantially as seen from table 2 and figure 4. Another aspect of importance to highlight is the dominance of males among the foreign migrant workers in the country.

Locality	Maldivian			Foreigner			% share foreign		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
0-4	14,503	15,016	29,519	383	417	800	2.6	2.7	2.6
5-9	17,060	17,820	34,880	407	498	905	2.3	2.7	2.5
10-14	17,930	19,179	37,109	271	429	700	1.5	2.2	1.9
15-19	13,482	14,303	27,785	307	595	902	2.2	4.0	3.1
20-24	12,430	13,322	25,752	1,841	10,893	12,734	12.9	45.0	33.1
25-29	16,663	17,621	34,284	3,157	27,901	31,058	15.9	61.3	47.5
30-34	19,137	19,968	39,105	2,972	27,785	30,757	13.4	58.2	44.0
35-39	18,792	18,625	37,417	2,394	22,671	25,065	11.3	54.9	40.1
40-44	13,533	13,507	27,040	1,473	14,138	15,611	9.8	51.1	36.6
45-49	10,734	10,700	21,434	884	6,855	7,739	7.6	39.0	26.5
50-54	9,523	9,439	18,962	461	3,358	3,819	4.6	26.2	16.8
55-59	7,717	7,704	15,421	271	1,236	1,507	3.4	13.8	8.9
60-64	6,550	6,828	13,378	166	433	599	2.5	6.0	4.3
65+	10,023	10,530	20,553	74	223	297	0.7	2.1	1.4
Total	188,077	194,562	382,639	15,061	117,432	132,493	7.4	37.6	25.7
15+	138,584	142,547	281,131	14,000	116,088	130,088	9.2	44.9	31.6

Table2: Resident population by nationality age and sex, 2022

High gender gap exists among foreign population resident in the Maldives. While 25.7 percent of the resident population comprise of foreigners, it is substantially higher among males (37.6%) compared to females (7.4%). Most of the men are in the peak working-ages, with over half of the resident males in the age-groups 25-29 up to 40-44 years. As for females, higher share of foreigners in the age-groups twenties and thirties (ranging between 11.3% to 15.9%).

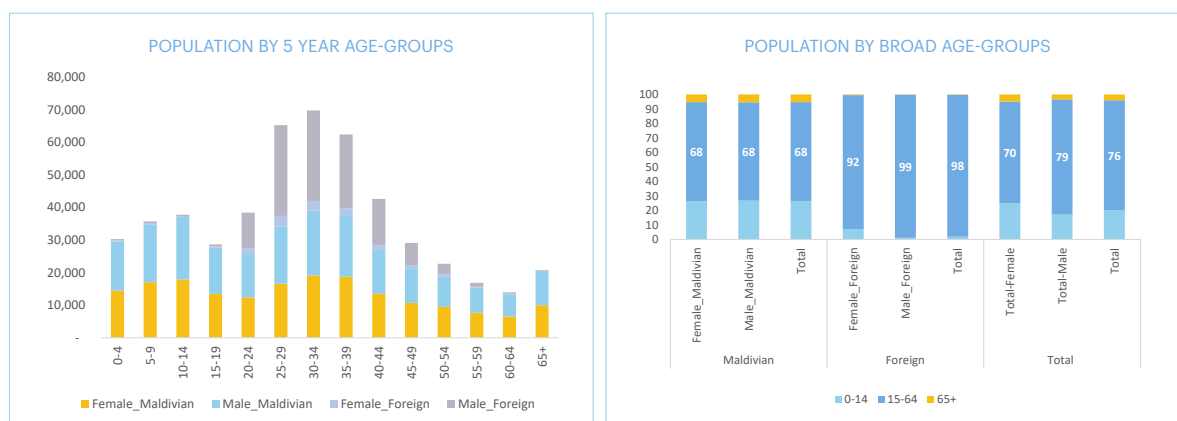


Figure 4: Resident population and percentage share by age-groups, sex and nationality, 2022



2

POPULATION BY LABOUR FORCE STATUS

2. POPULATION BY LABOUR FORCE STATUS

Working-age population comprises of persons 15 years of age and above, who are in the labour force (employed and unemployed) and persons outside the labour force¹. Definitions and categorization of working-age population by labour force status categories are given in Box 1 and Diagram 1.

In 2022, the total working-age population amounted to 411,219 with 281,131 (68.4%) being Maldivian and 130,088 (31.6%) being foreigners (1 in every 3 individuals). Nearly all foreigners living in the country are migrant workers who are employed.

Box 1: Definitions

Labour force includes employed and unemployed population combined.

Employed persons are engaged in income generating activities (in jobs, businesses, self-employment etc)

Unemployed is the number of people looking for and available for income-generating work.

Persons outside the labour force include:

1. Persons not in employment who are looking for work, although not available at present; available for work at present, but not currently looking for work (**potential labour force**)
2. Persons not available and not looking for work at present (Others outside the labour force)

¹ Labour force status categories and sub-categories and the definitions used to classify the population in the Census 2022 is based on the resolution adopted at the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2013. In order to accurately measure labour under-utilisation the concept of potential labour force has been introduced in these recommendations, and is included here.

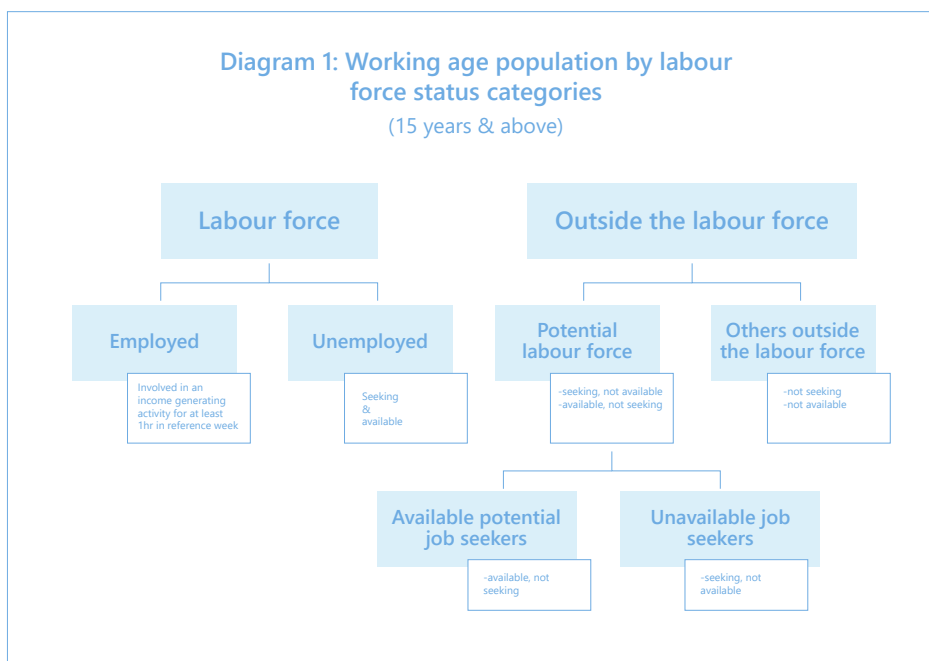


Table 3 presents valuable insights into the labor force dynamics by nationality, shedding light on the distribution of employment, unemployment, and those outside the labor force among the Maldivian and foreign population in 2022.

The total number of employed individuals was 300,422 out of which 171,130 were Maldivians, and 129,292 were foreigners. The percentage of employed Maldivians was 57.0%, while foreigners accounted for 43.0% of the employed population. As such, a major chunk of jobs available in the Maldivian job market are filled by foreign migrant workers, instead of local population.

The total number of unemployed individuals was 9,324 with 9,244 being Maldivian and less than one hundred being foreigners. Maldivians constituted the vast majority of the unemployed population, making up 99.1 percent. The category of individuals outside the labor force included 101,473 people, with 100,757 being Maldivian and 716 being foreigners. The overwhelming majority of those outside the labor force were Maldivians (99.3%).

Nationality	Sex	Labour Force Status				% share		
		Employed	Unemployed	Outside Labour Force	Total	Employed	Unemployed	Outside Labour Force
Maldivians	Female	62,927	4,184	71,473	138,584	45.4%	3.0%	51.6%
	Male	108,203	5,060	29,284	142,547	75.9%	3.5%	20.5%
	Total	171,130	9,244	100,757	281,131	60.9%	3.3%	35.8%
Foreigners	Female	13,353	51	596	14,000	95.4%	0.4%	4.3%
	Male	115,939	29	120	116,088	99.9%	0.0%	0.1%
	Total	129,292	80	716	130,088	99.4%	0.1%	0.6%
Total	Female	76,280	4,235	72,069	152,584	50.0%	2.8%	47.2%
	Male	224,142	5,089	29,404	258,635	86.7%	2.0%	11.4%
	Total	300,422	9,324	101,473	411,219	73.1%	2.3%	24.7%
% Maldivian		57.0%	99.1%	99.3%	68.4%			
% foreign		43.0%	0.9%	0.7%	31.6%			

Table 3: Labour force status of working age population by nationality and sex, 2022

At the national level 3.3 percent of the working-age Maldivians are unemployed. This percentage represents those who are willing and available to work but are currently jobless and actively seeking employment. Furthermore, over a third (35.8%) of the working-age Maldivian population is not part of the labor force. This means they are neither employed nor actively seeking employment. (Table 3 and figure 5)

Among the foreign population, almost all (99%) are employed. This indicates that a large proportion of the foreign population of the working age have found employment and are contributing to the labor force. Less than 1percent of the foreign population are unemployed and outside of the labor force. This small percentage represents mainly those who are outside labour force, most likely dependents of foreign migrant workers.

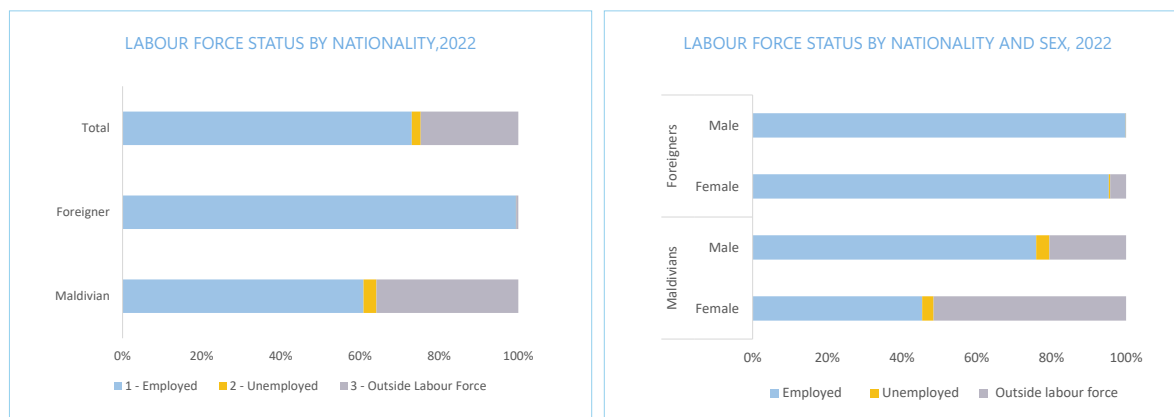


Figure 5: Percentage of resident population by labour force status, sex and nationality, 2022

Gender gap in employment is quite prominent among Maldivians (figure 5), with less than half of the females (45.4%) employed compared to 75.9 percent among males. This gap is reflected in substantially high share of over half (51.5%) the females remaining outside the labour force, not being engaged in an income generating activity, nor actively seeking such work, compared to 20.5 percent for men. In other words, 1 in every 2 Maldivian women of working-age remain outside labour force.

Low labour force participation rates and high inactivity rates has prevailed in the country, as evident from previous censuses as well. Several barriers and challenges still exist for women in the job market, as they are almost fully engaged with family responsibilities and unpaid care work at home.

There is a notion that people outside labour force are not doing productive work. However, it is important to acknowledge that individuals outside the labor are engaged in productive activities, in forms of work other than employment work (comprising work performed for others in exchange for pay or profit).

Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization (19th ICLS adopted in 2013)² identifies five different forms of work which includes Own-use production work comprising production of goods and services for own final use.

2.1: Persons Outside the labour force by degree of labour market attachment

For analysis of persons outside the labour force, the following alternative classifications has been used to shed light on specific subgroups affected by discouragement as well as by gender-based, economic or social barriers to employment.

Degree of labour market attachment of persons outside the labour force includes:

1. Persons “seeking employment” but not “currently available”;
2. Persons not “seeking employment” but “currently available”;
3. Persons neither “seeking employment” nor “currently available”

Potential labour force:

1. **Unavailable jobseekers:** Individuals actively seeking employment, even though job opportunities are not readily available.
2. **Available potential jobseekers:** Individuals who are not currently seeking employment but are available and ready to commence work.

Individuals in the potential labour force can be mobilized into the work force, provided the variety of issues and challenges they face can be addressed in the labour market. As such they form part of a potential supply of labour, underutilised at present and if tapped can contribute to increases economic growth.

Table 4 looks at the labour force status and population outside labour force by degree of labour market attachment for Maldivians and Foreigners. Foreigners account for less than one percent of individuals outside the labour force.

Labour Force Status	Maldivians	Foreigners	Total	% Maldivians	% Foreigners
Employed	171,130	129,292	300,422	57.0%	43.0%
Unemployed	9,244	80	9,324	99.1%	0.9%
Outside Labour Force	100,757	716	101,473	99.3%	0.7%
ow: Potential labour force	18,864	66	18,930	99.7%	0.3%
-unavailable jobseekers	661	2	663	99.7%	0.3%
-available potential jobseekers	18,203	64	18,267	99.6%	0.4%
ow: Others Outside Labour force	81,893	650	82,543	99.2%	0.8%
Total	281,131	130,088	411,219	68.4%	31.6%

Table 4: Labour force status and degree of labour market attachment among persons outside labour force, by nationality, 2022

Table 5 looks at the Maldivians outside labour force by degree of labour market attachment and sex. Out of the 100,757 Maldivians outside the labor force, 18,864 (18.7%) consists of a potential labor force (PLF), indicating some degree of labor market attachment. Among the potential labour force almost all (18,203 individuals) are, are currently available for employment, although not seeking employment. Majority of these are females (73.2%). As such they can be mobilized into the work force, provided the variety of issues and challenges they face can be addressed in the labour market.

The remaining 81,893 of individuals outside the labor force are those neither actively seeking jobs nor available for employment at the moment. They are likely students, homemakers, or individuals who have chosen not to participate in the labor market for various reasons.

Outside labour force	Numbers			% Share			% Share		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Potential labour force	13,773	5,091	18,864	19.3%	17.4%	18.7%	73.0%	27.0%	100%
ow: seeking, not available	447	214	661	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	67.6%	32.4%	100%
ow: Not seeking, available	13,326	4,877	18,203	18.6%	16.7%	18.1%	73.2%	26.8%	100%
Not seeking,not available (Others OLF)	57,700	24,193	81,893	80.7%	82.6%	81.3%	70.5%	29.5%	100%
Total	71,473	29,284	100,757	100%	100%	100%	70.9%	29.1%	100%

Table 5: Maldivians outside labour force by degree of labour market attachment, 2022

A huge gender gap is observed among in all these categories as evident from figure 6. Considering the high level of engagement of women in family responsibilities such as unpaid care work it is difficult for them to stay in the unemployment pool (actively looking for work, and ready to start within a two-week period). It also indicates limited employment opportunities and discouragement.

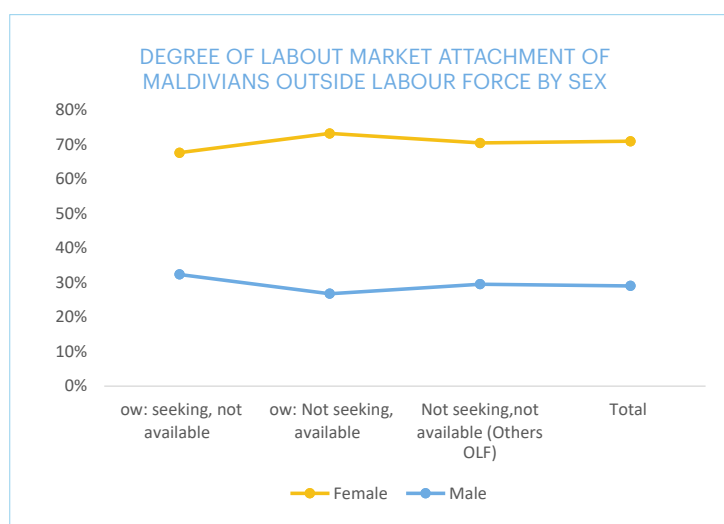


Figure 6: Degree of labour market attachment of Maldivians Outside labour force by sex

2.2 Labour force status of working age population by locality

The distribution of the working-age population reveals that 42 percent (173,041 individuals) reside in the capital city, aligning with the population concentration in that area. The working-age population in the Atolls, encompassing both administrative and non-administrative islands, totals 238,178 individuals.

Labourforce Status	Maale			Atolls (admin & non-admin)			Atolls (admin)		
	Maldivian	Foreign	Total	Maldivian	Foreign	Total	Maldivian	Foreign	Total
Employed	76,307	50,079	126,386	94,823	79,213	174,036	77,702	30,072	107,774
Unemployed	4,523	67	4,590	4,721	13	4,734	4,721	13	4,734
Outside Labour Force	41,621	444	42,065	59,136	272	59,408	59,127	267	59,394
ow: Potential labour force	6,367	35	6,402	12,497	31	12,528	12,497	31	12,528
-unavailable jobseekers	329	2	331	332	-	332	332	-	332
-available non-jobseekers	6,038	33	6,071	12,165	31	12,196	12,165	31	12,196
ow: Others Outside Labour force	35,254	409	35,663	46,639	241	46,880	46,630	236	46,866
Total	122,451	50,590	173,041	158,680	79,498	238,178	141,550	30,352	171,902

Table 6: Degree of labour market attachment by nationality and locality, 2022

Considering only the administrative islands within the Atolls (comprising 186 islands across 20 Atolls), the working-age population totals 171,902 individuals, including 141,550 Maldivians and 30,352 foreigners.

Among the working age Maldivian population, the proportion employed are higher in Maale (62.3%) compared to administrative islands in the Atolls (54.9%). On the other hand, the share of available potential job seekers are higher in the administrative islands in the Atolls (8.6% vs 4.9%). This indicates more discouraged workers outside the capital, due to the limited employment opportunities. Similarly, the share of Others outside labour force (persons not seeking and not available for employment) are higher in the administrative islands.

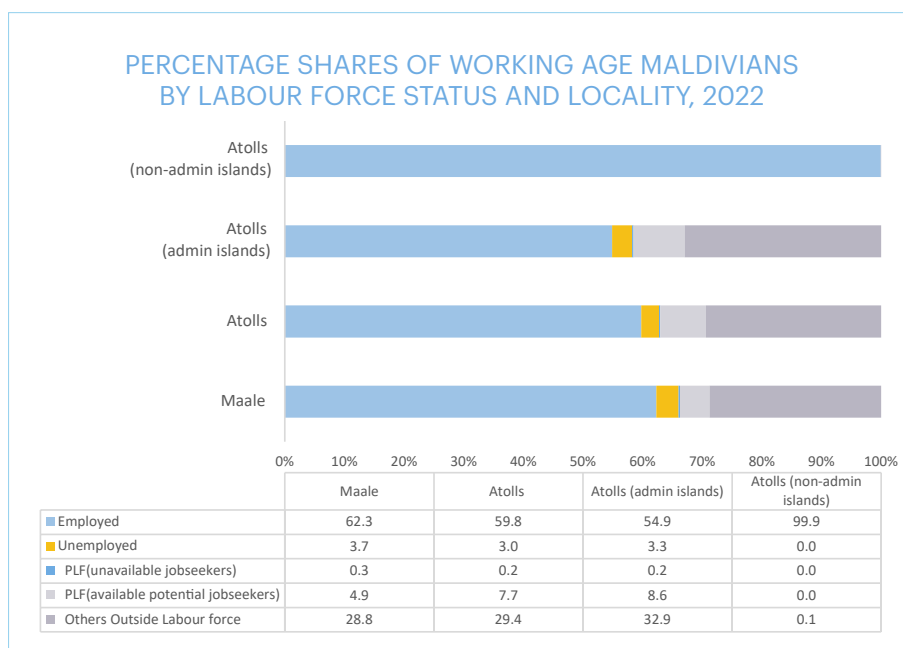


Figure 7: Percentage shares of working age Maldivians by Labour force status and locality, 2022

In summary, the data reveals that a higher proportion of the Maldivian working-age population is not part of the labor force in comparison to the foreign population. At the same time higher rates of labour underutilization is observed among Maldivian women, with disproportionately higher shares of women in the potential labour force. Foreign migrant workers in the working-age population, are mostly males in the prime working ages. The jobs created within the period 2014 to 2022 seems to have been mainly filled by foreigners. This disparity in the labour market could stem from a variety of factors, including varying opportunities, preferences, and eligibility criteria for employment in the Maldives as well as the existing gender norms in the society.

The detailed analysis in the remaining sections of this chapter will primarily focus on the Maldivian population, due to the limited numbers of foreigners among the unemployed population and those outside labour force.



3

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF MALDIVIANS

3. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF MALDIVIANS

Diagram 2 gives a snap shot of the number of Maldivians in the different labour force status categories according to census 2022. Out of the 281,131 individuals in the working-age 180,374 are in the labour force, while 100,757 are outside the labour force.

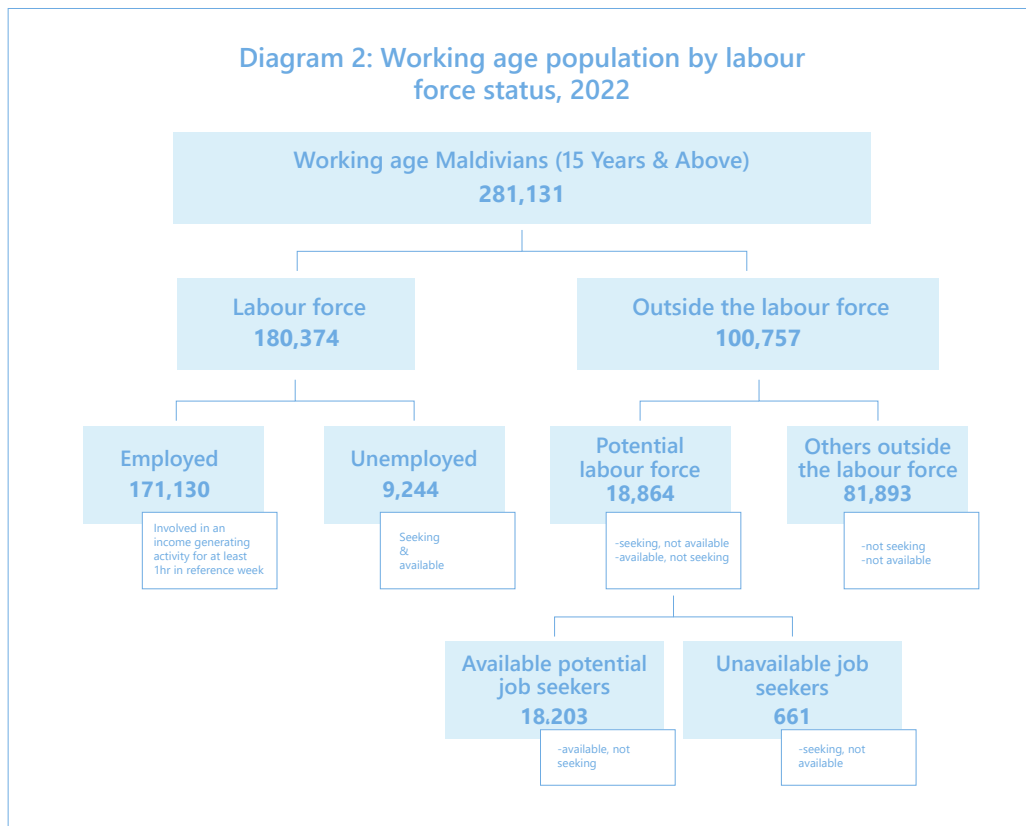


Figure 8 looks at the sex-age structure of working-age Maldivians by labour force status in 2022. The gender gap among females and males in the labour force (employed and unemployed) is clearly observed in almost all age-groups, especially in the peak working ages. Furthermore, there is a substantially high number of women among those outside labour force and less among the employment.

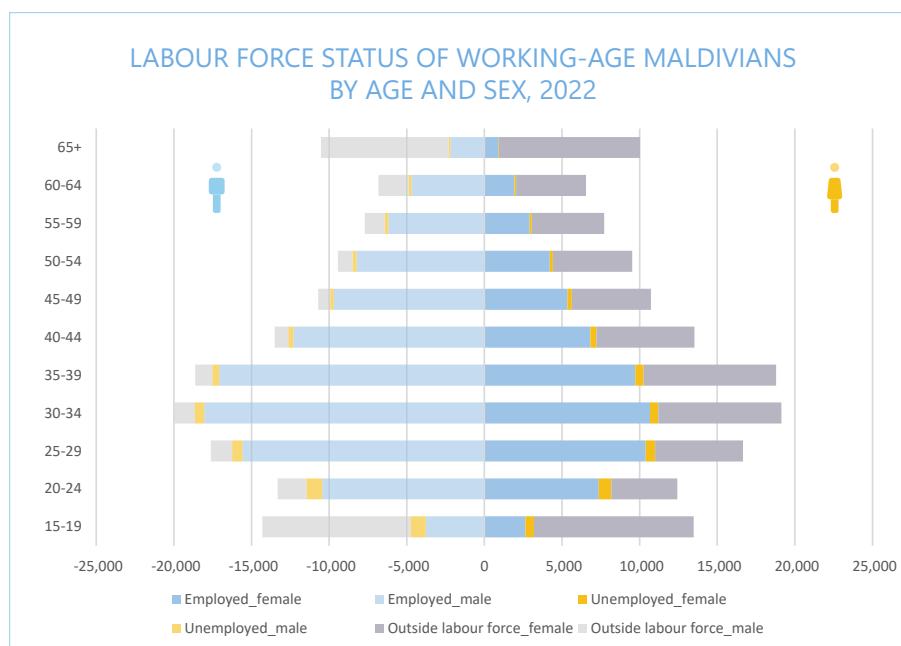


Figure 8: Labour force status of working-age Maldivians by age and sex, 2022

As seen from table 7, from 2014 to 2022 there is an overall increase in working-age Maldivian population as well as those employed, unemployed and outside labour force. Working-age Maldivian population increased by 36,175 individuals from 244,956 to 281,131. Despite this overall increase, some of the age-groups experienced decreases, and the magnitude of the changes differ across the age-groups.

Age group	Working-age population		Employed		Unemployed		Outside labour force		Change in working-age popn.
	2014	2022	2014	2022	2014	2022	2014	2022	2014-2022
Total	244,956	281,131	145,757	171,130	8,005	9,244	87,182	100,757	36,175
15-19	30,788	27,785	7,488	6,422	1,796	1,508	20,987	19,855	(3,003)
20-24	36,440	25,752	23,222	17,822	2,566	1,811	9,947	6,119	(10,688)
25-29	38,344	34,284	26,494	25,971	1,282	1,278	10,003	7,035	(4,060)
30-34	30,792	39,105	21,287	28,714	706	1,159	8,364	9,232	8,313
35-39	22,561	37,417	16,075	26,811	429	978	5,724	9,628	14,856
40-44	19,636	27,040	14,212	19,127	349	708	4,819	7,205	7,404
45-49	17,371	21,434	12,362	15,055	297	505	4,481	5,874	4,063
50-54	14,884	18,962	10,201	12,448	262	461	4,202	6,053	4,078
55-59	11,610	15,421	7,391	9,092	180	371	3,883	5,958	3,811
60-64	6,193	13,378	3,528	6,619	72	287	2,488	6,472	7,185
65+	16,337	20,553	3,497	3,049	66	178	12,284	17,326	4,216

Table 7: Working-age Maldivians by labour force status categories 2014 to 2022

Figure 9 show these changes in the Maldivian working-age, employed, unemployed, labour force as well as those outside labour force during 2014 to 2022. Most prominent change observed, is the decline in younger age-groups 15-19, 20-24 and 25-29 years. Number of individuals in the working-age, labour force, employed, unemployed as well as persons outside the labour force have all declined for these younger age-groups during the period. Another observation is the decline in employed and labour force among the elderly 65 years and above population.

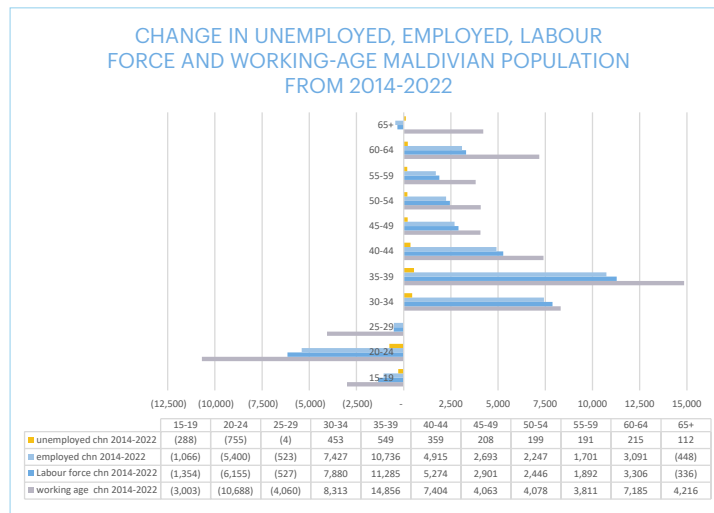


Figure 9: Change in unemployed, employed, labour force and working-age Maldivian population from 2014-2022

During the intercensal period 2014 to 2022 Maldivians in the working-ages of 15 years and above grew at an average annual rate of 1.7%. Employment grew at a higher rate of 2.0 percent, while unemployment and outside labour force at slightly lower rate (1.8%) as seen from figure 10.

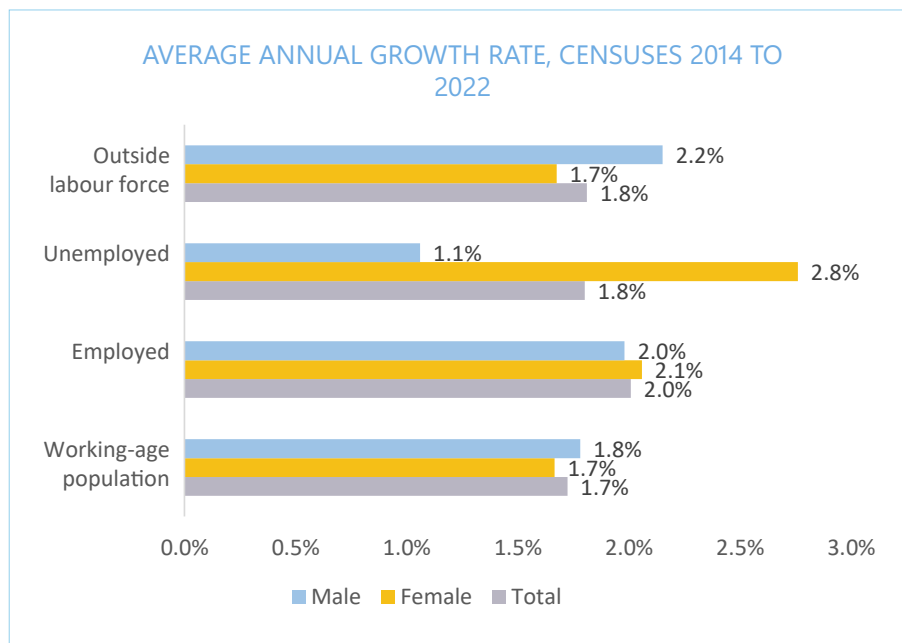


Figure 10: Average annual growth rate, Censuses 2014 to 2022

As for females, employment growth was slightly higher by 0.1 percentage point compared to males. On the other hand, the growth rate in unemployment is wider with 0.7 percentage points higher among females. Growth rate of males outside labour force was twice that for females (2.2%).

Figure 11 shows the percentage share of working-age Maldivians by labour force status categories during 2014 to 2022, shows the share of persons outside labour force has decreased from 36.2% to 35.8% while employment has increase slightly from 60.5% to 60.9%. Percentage share of unemployed persons has remained stable at around 3% over the period.

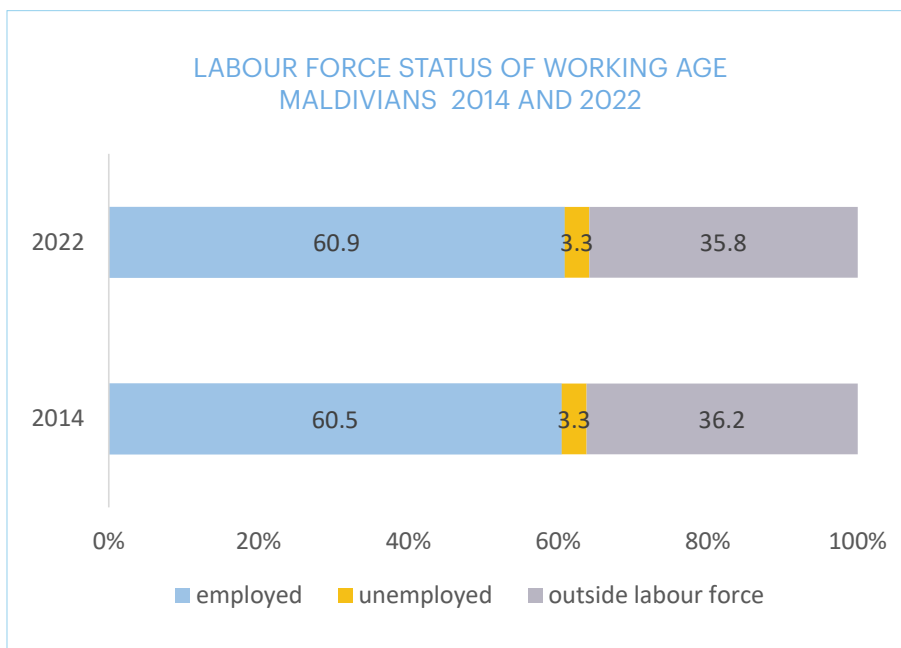


Figure 11: Labour force status of working age Maldivians 2014 and 2022

In summary, Maldivians in the working-ages, labour force, employed as well as unemployed has increased during the past eight years 2014 to 2022. However, a decline is observed in the younger and those in the prime working ages 15-29. Highest number of persons among the working age population were in the twenties in 2014 which is now in the age thirties. Although the share of persons outside the labour force has decreased over the period, still over one third of the working-age population remain outside the labour force.

The current demographic window of opportunity, with existing high number of individuals in the working-ages, compared to the young and the elderly dependents, will be limited in time. As such it is important to create more and better employment opportunities. While doing so, there need to be a special focus on ways to tackle the existing barriers faced by individuals outside the labour force, especially women, those residing in the administrative islands in the Atolls, to improve labour market outcomes for the most disadvantages and vulnerable people.



4

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG MALDIVIANS

4. UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG MALDIVIANS

Diagram 2 gives a snap shot of the number of Maldivians in the different labour force status categories according to census 2022. Out of the 281,131 individuals in the working-age 180,374 are in the labour force, of which 171,130 are employed and 9,244 are unemployed.

The unemployed population includes any person 15 years and above who are not engaged in an income generating activity during the last week, have looked for work in the last month, and ready to start work within two weeks.

Unemployment rate is calculated by expressing the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the total number of persons in the labour force (employed and unemployed).

4.1 Unemployed and unemployment rates: National level

According to data from the past two censuses taken over the past eight years (2014, and 2022), the unemployed Maldivian population has seen an increase of 1,239 individuals. Despite this increase, the overall unemployment rate has remained relatively stable at around 5 percent.

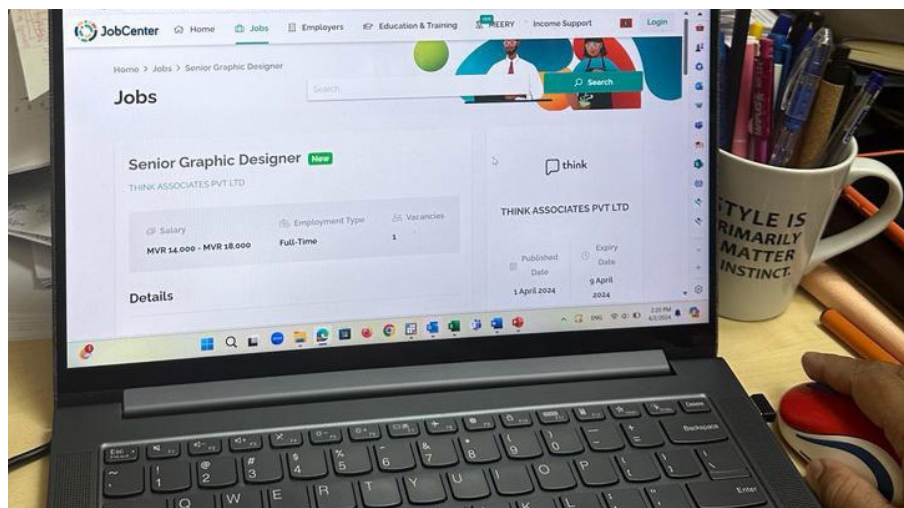
Specifically, among Maldivians, the number of unemployed persons rose from 8,005 in 2014 to 9,244 in 2022. The corresponding unemployment rates were 5.2% in 2014 and 5.1% in 2022. This indicates that despite the growth in the number of unemployed individuals, the overall proportion of unemployed people in the labor force has not changed significantly over the years.

Age group	labour force		Unemployed		change in unemployed	Unemployment rate (%)	
	2014	2022	2014	2022	2014-2022	2014	2022
Total	153,762	180,374	8,005	9,244	1,239	5.2	5.1
15-19	9,284	7,930	1,796	1,508	(288)	19.3	19.0
20-24	25,788	19,633	2,566	1,811	(755)	10.0	9.2
25-29	27,776	27,249	1,282	1,278	(4)	4.6	4.7
30-34	21,993	29,873	706	1,159	453	3.2	3.9
35-39	16,504	27,789	429	978	549	2.6	3.5
40-44	14,561	19,835	349	708	359	2.4	3.6
45-49	12,659	15,560	297	505	208	2.3	3.2
50-54	10,463	12,909	262	461	199	2.5	3.6
55-59	7,571	9,463	180	371	191	2.4	3.9
60-64	3,600	6,906	72	287	215	2.0	4.2
65+	3,563	3,227	66	178	112	1.9	5.5

Table 8: Unemployed population and unemployment rate, 2014 to 2022

Between 2014 and 2022, number of unemployed people decreased in this the age-groups 15-19, 20-24 and 25-29 years. During this period working-age population, labour force and employed persons in these age-groups decreased as well.

During the reference week of the census, 9,244 Maldivians were unemployed. This indicates that they were actively seeking income-generating work during the preceding month and were available to start within two weeks if given the opportunity. Among the unemployed, the proportion of men (55%) was higher than that of women (45%).



Age group	Unemployed			% distribution			% Share		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
15-19	547	961	1,508	13.1	19.0	16.3	36.3	63.7	100
20-24	806	1,005	1,811	19.3	19.9	19.6	44.5	55.5	100
25-29	616	662	1,278	14.7	13.1	13.8	48.2	51.8	100
30-34	529	630	1,159	12.6	12.5	12.5	45.6	54.4	100
35-39	539	439	978	12.9	8.7	10.6	55.1	44.9	100
40-44	380	328	708	9.1	6.5	7.7	53.7	46.3	100
45-49	275	230	505	6.6	4.5	5.5	54.5	45.5	100
50-54	201	260	461	4.8	5.1	5.0	43.6	56.4	100
55-59	138	233	371	3.3	4.6	4.0	37.2	62.8	100
60-64	98	189	287	2.3	3.7	3.1	34.1	65.9	100
65+	55	123	178	1.3	2.4	1.9	30.9	69.1	100
Total	4,184	5,060	9,244	100	100	100	45.3	54.7	100

Table 9: Unemployed population by sex and age 2022

Age distribution of unemployed (table 9 and figure 12) show highest numbers among young people aged 20-24 years followed by 15-19 years. Over three thousand (3,319) youth 15-24 years were unemployed, accounting for 36% of the unemployed Maldivians.

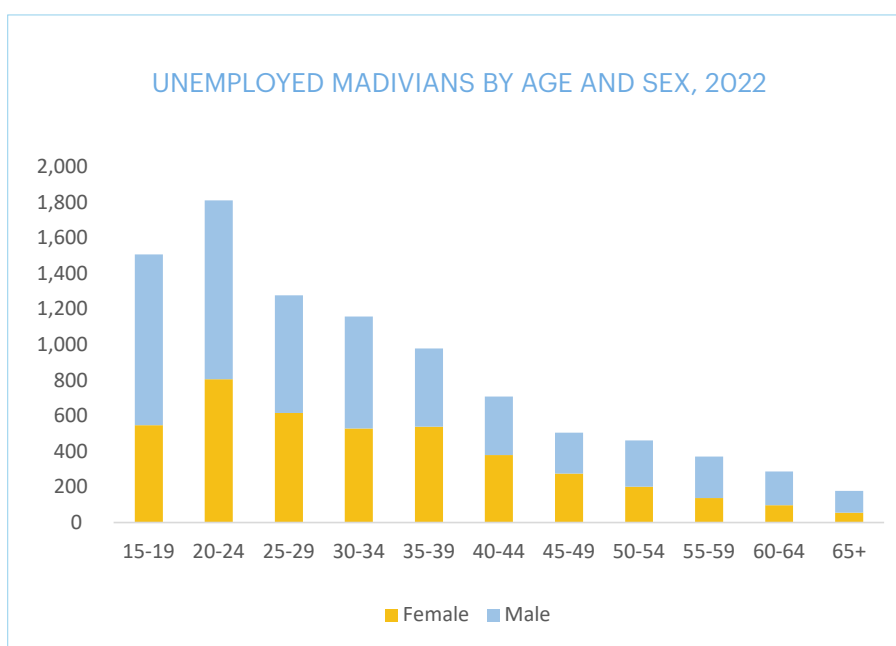


Figure 12. Unemployed Madivians by age and sex, 2022

Young individuals between the ages of 15 and 19 experience higher unemployment rates (figure 13). The rate of 20% is notably elevated, suggesting that a considerable portion of young people in this age group are struggling to find employment opportunities. This may be attributed to factors such as limited work experience, lack of specialized skills, and competition for entry-level positions. Within the 15-19 age group, there is a notable gender gap in unemployment rates, with boys facing a higher rate compared to girls. This gender difference may be influenced by various socio-economic factors, societal norms, and educational choices that could lead to differences in employability between young males and females. As individuals progress from the 15-19 age group to the 20-24 age group, there is a significant decline in the unemployment rate, dropping to 9%. This suggests that with time, young people tend to gain more skills, education, and experience, which positively impacts their employability and likelihood of securing jobs.

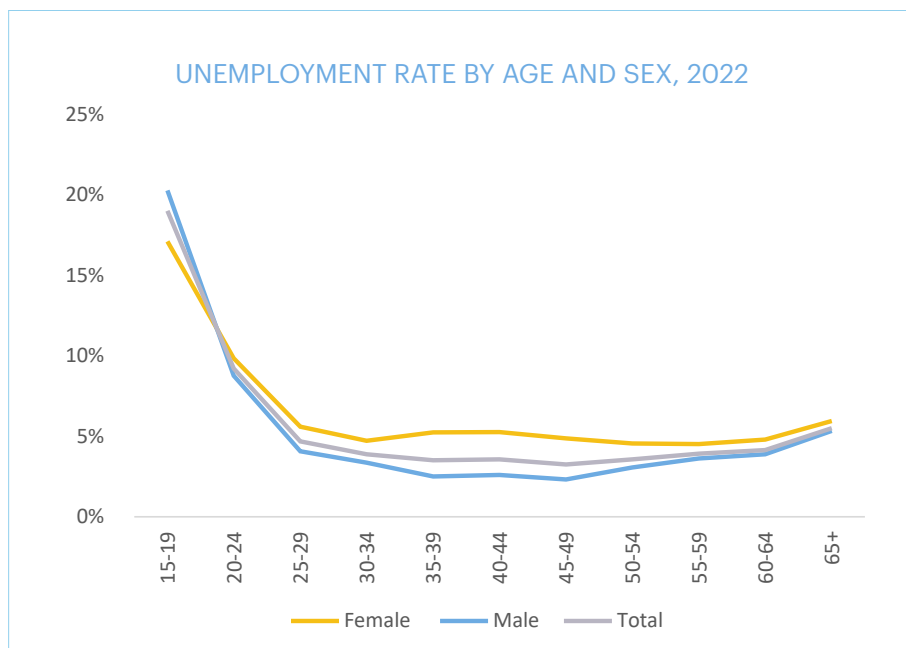


Figure 13: Unemployment rate by age and sex, 2022

Beyond the 20-24 age bracket, the unemployment rate continues to decrease, reaching 5% and below for individuals aged 25 and beyond. This trend indicates that once individuals overcome the initial hurdles of finding employment, their chances of remaining employed increase, and they experience more stable career trajectories. Figure 6 also reveals that the gender gap in unemployment rates becomes more prominent among individuals aged 35 to 49 years. This indicates that during this phase of life, women might face specific challenges or barriers in accessing job opportunities, leading to higher unemployment rates compared to men.

The unemployment rate across various age groups and genders in the Maldives, as reported in the 2022 census, offers valuable insights into the dynamics of the labor market. It illuminates the employment challenges encountered by different demographic groups, unveiling distinct patterns and disparities. This data serves as a critical foundation for crafting focused policy interventions and initiatives aimed at addressing specific issues (refer to figure 13).

4.2 Unemployed and unemployment rates by locality: Maale and all Atolls

Almost half of the unemployed individuals (48%) were located in the capital city, Male'. This outcome is anticipated given that the capital city typically provides a greater number of job opportunities, considering that close to half of the country's population resides there.

In Male', the capital city of the Maldives, the unemployment rate decreased from 6.3% to 5.6% from 2014 to 2022. For the administrative islands of Atolls, there was a slight decrease from 5.2% in 2014 to 5.1% in 2022, indicating an improvement in the employment situation.

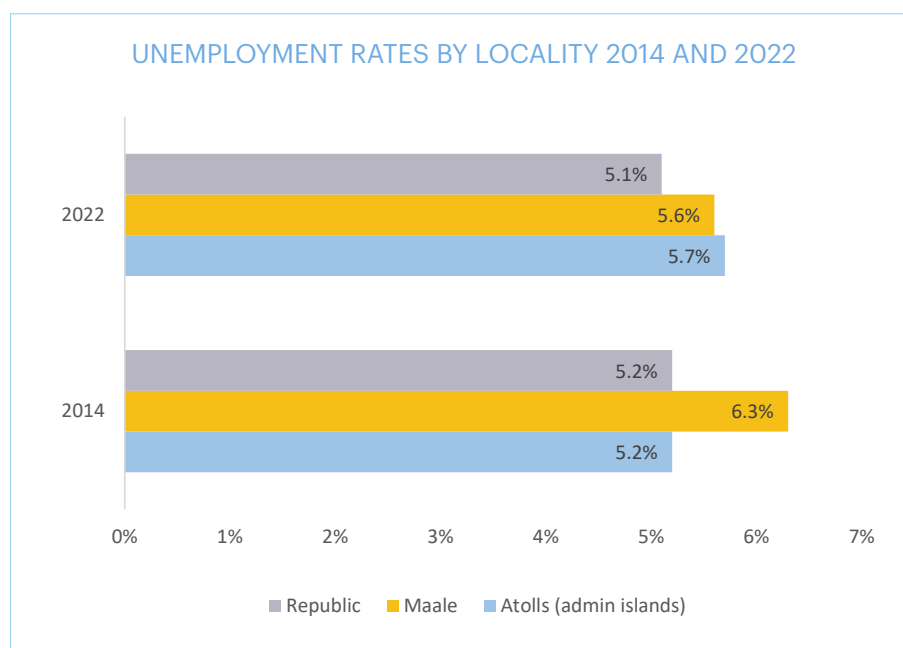


Figure 14: Unemployment rates by locality 2014 and 2022

Unemployment rates in non-administrative islands have been reported to be almost insignificant in censuses, as these areas are primarily used for employment purposes such as tourist resorts, agriculture, fish manufacturing, airports, and other official purposes, so unemployment analysis is more relevant for Male' and the administrative islands in the Atolls.

In summary, while the number of unemployed individuals in Maldives has increased over the past eight years from 2014 to 2022, the overall unemployment rate has remained stable at around 5 percent. The employment situation has shown fluctuations in Male' and the administrative islands of Atolls, with slight variations in unemployment rates. However, non-administrative islands have consistently reported low unemployment rates due to their specific economic activities.

4.3 Unemployed and unemployment rates by Atoll

In the Atolls, Seenu (S) had the highest number of individuals unemployed (792), as illustrated in figure 15. Throughout the nation, both in Male' and the administrative islands of the Atolls, a higher number of men are experiencing unemployment in comparison to women. However, in specific Atolls (Thaa-Th, Laamu-L, Faafu-F, and Shaviyani-Sh), there is a higher prevalence of unemployed women than men.

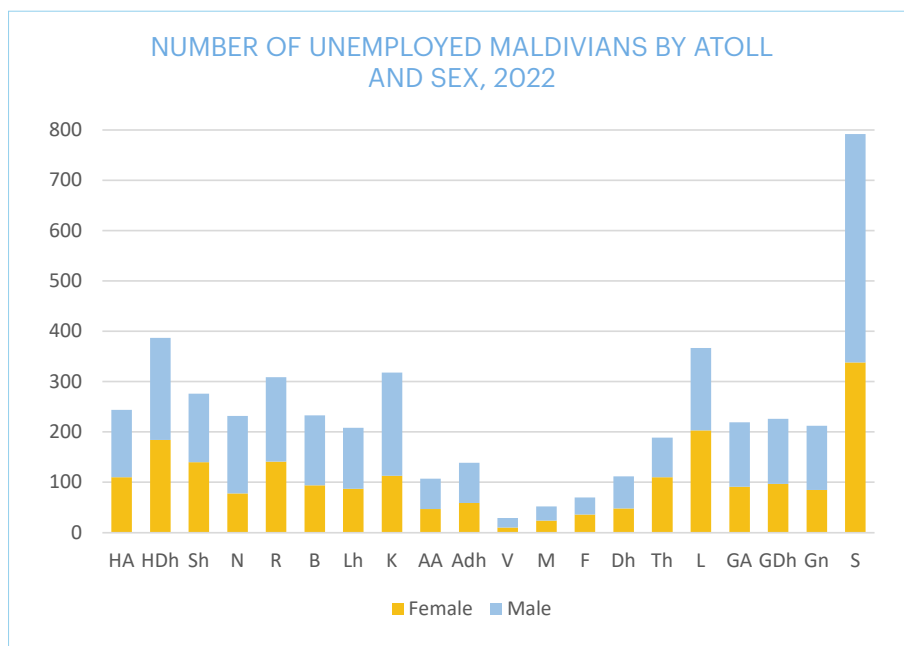
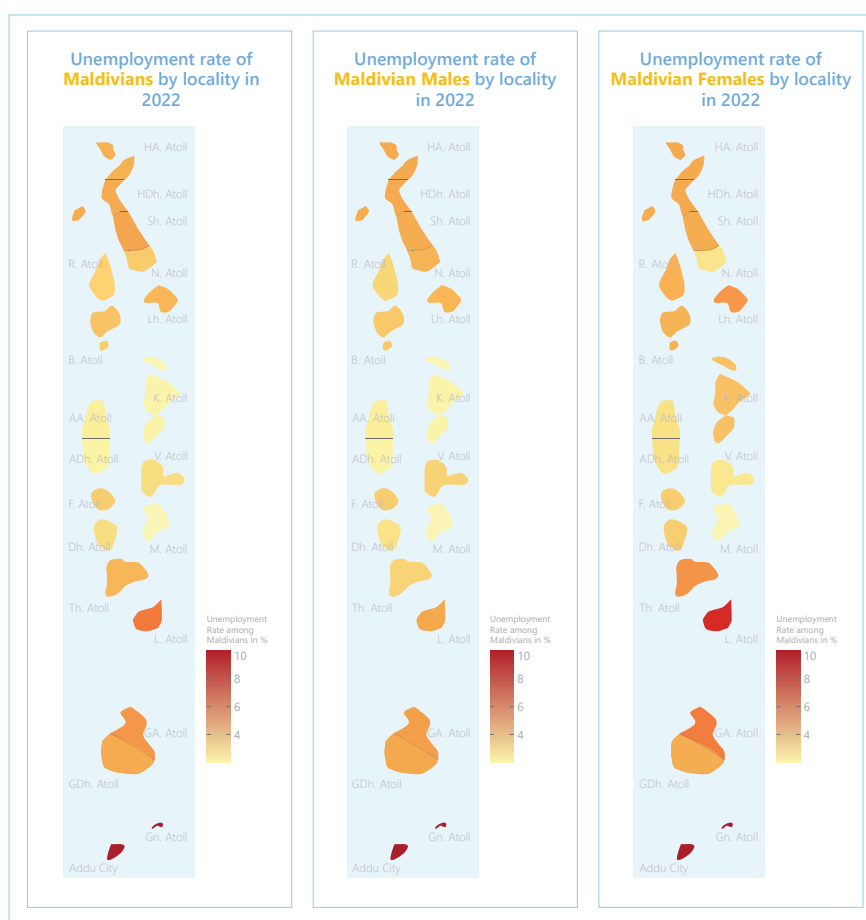


Figure 15: Number of unemployed Maldivians by Atoll and sex, 2022

The national-level unemployment rate in 2022 was reported as 5.1%. It is worth noting that the overall unemployment rate is slightly higher for women (6.2%) compared to men (4.5%). Furthermore, unemployment rates were notably higher in the capital Male' area, where it reached 5.6%. Within Male', the unemployment rate was slightly higher for women (6.5%) compared to men (5.0%). This higher rate in the capital can be attributed to the fact that many individuals migrate there in search of better job opportunities.

Among the Atolls (administrative and non-administrative islands), highest unemployment rate is observed in Seenu-S at 9.5%, followed by Fuvahmulah-Gn at 7.0% and Laamu-L at 6.7%. Much higher rates of unemployment are observed among women in Laamu compared to men (9.6% vs 4.8%).



There are noticeable differences in unemployment rates when considering both administrative and non-administrative islands combined and when only the administrative islands are considered (refer to figure 17).

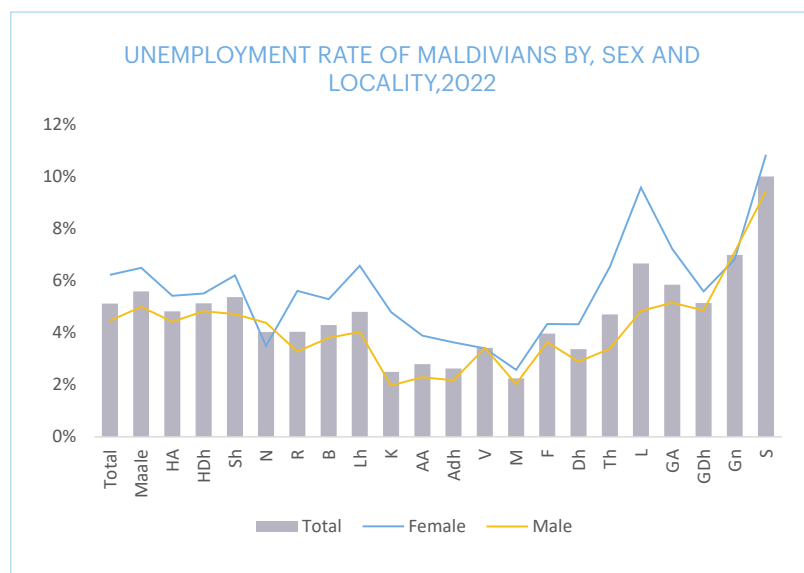


Figure 16: Unemployment rate of Maldivians by sex and locality, 2022

This difference can be attributed to the higher numbers of employed persons residing in resorts and industrial islands in some of the Atolls, significantly reducing the unemployment rates when non-admin islands are included. (Unemployment rate is equal to unemployed population as a share of persons in the labour force, where both employed and unemployed persons are part of the labor force and included in the denominator)

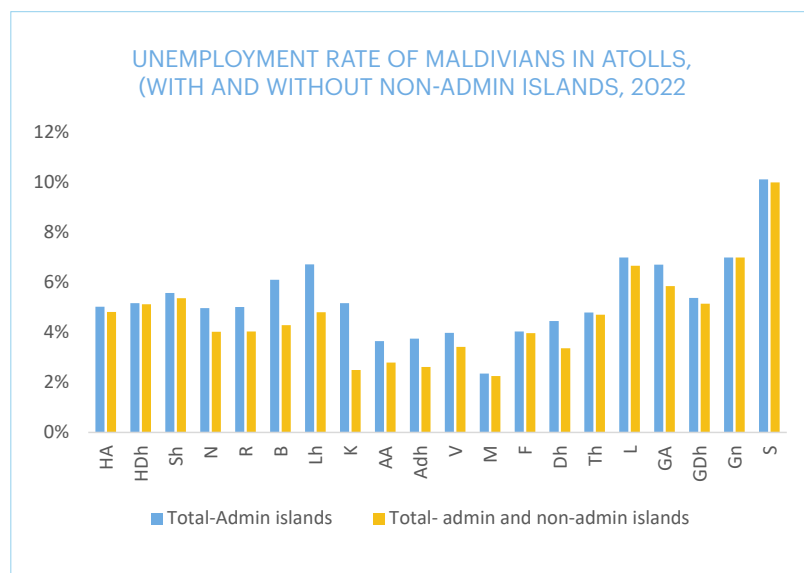


Figure 17: Unemployment rate of Maldivians in Atolls, (with and without non-admin islands, 2022)

The difference is more prominent, particularly in Atolls such as Kaafu-K, Lhaviyani-Lh, Baa-B. For instance, in Kaafu-K Atoll, the unemployment rate is 2.5% when non-administrative islands are included, but it doubles to 5.2% when considering only administrative islands. Similarly, in Lhaviyani-Lh Atoll, the unemployment rate is 4.8% when including non-administrative islands and 6.7% for administrative islands only.

Highest unemployment rate is observed in Seenu when including as well as excluding non-administrative islands. Among the administrative islands in the Atolls, the highest unemployment rate is observed in Seenu at 10%, followed by Gn and Laamu at 7%. This is closely followed by GA and Lh Atolls at 6.7%.

The gender gap is significantly noticeable, when non-administrative islands (comprises of resorts and industrial islands) are included (refer to Figure 18). This disparity is attributed to a substantial proportion of employed men residing in resorts and industrial islands, compared to only a few Maldivian women).

On the other hand, the gender gap is less prominent for most of the Atolls, when considering only the administrative islands within the Atoll. Addu has the highest unemployment rates for both women and men. Laamu Atoll follows with the second highest rates for women, showcasing a substantial gender gap. Conversely, Noonu Atoll exhibits lower rates for women at 3.6%, with considerably lower rates for men, accentuating a wider gender gap.

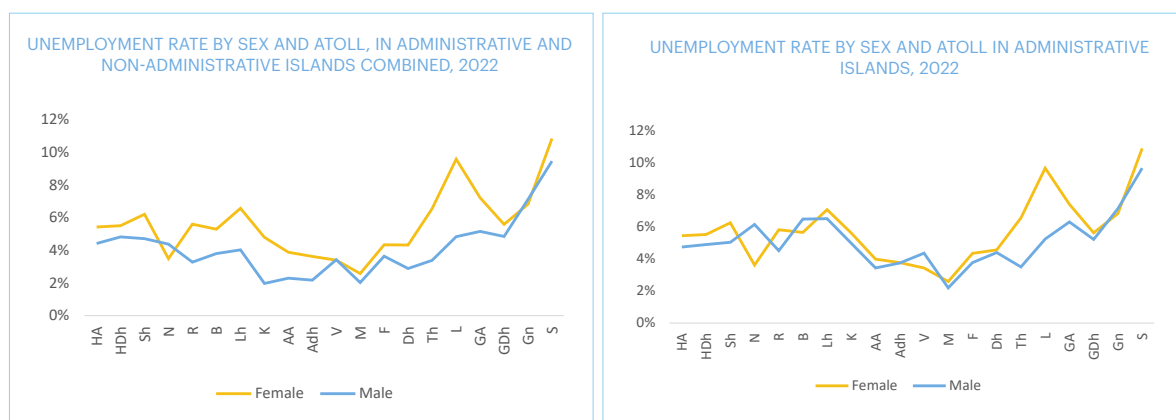


Figure 18: Gender gap in unemployment rate of Maldivians for administrative & non-administrative islands and administrative islands, by Atoll and sex 2022

4.4 Administrative islands in Atolls with highest unemployment rates

The unemployment rates among resident Maldivians in 16 islands were notably high, reaching double digits. The highest was recorded at 17.7% in HDh.Nolhivaranfaru. Significant disparities in unemployment rates were observed between women and men, with the most substantial gender gap seen in R.Fainu, where unemployment rates for women were as high as 26.2%, compared to 2.7% for men. HDh.Nolhivaranfaru and Th.Thimarafushi also displayed significantly higher unemployment rates for women, exceeding 20%.

It's crucial to highlight that when considering the unemployment rate for the resident population, which includes employed foreign workers, the unemployment rates tend to be lower, especially in islands with a significant proportion of foreign workers.



Figure 19: Islands with highest unemployment rates among resident Maldivians, 2022

The findings from the 2022 census data present several important policy implications. To address the high unemployment rates among young people (15-19), initiatives focused on providing vocational training, apprenticeships, and career guidance can be implemented to enhance their employability and smooth their transition into the labor market. Additionally, tackling the gender disparity in unemployment rates requires targeted efforts to promote gender equality in education, workforce participation, and opportunities. Offering support to women seeking employment, providing a more flexibility such as work from home and

support services such as child care facilities could help reduce the gender gap. For older age groups (25 and beyond), focusing on maintaining a stable and conducive business environment, fostering economic growth, and promoting upskilling opportunities can contribute to sustaining low unemployment rates. Furthermore, a comprehensive analysis of the factors contributing to the gender gap among ages 35 to 49 is essential to design policies that address the specific challenges faced by women in this age group. In conclusion, the 2022 census data on unemployment rates by age and gender in the Maldives highlights the significance of understanding labor market dynamics and the need for targeted interventions to address the unique challenges faced by different demographic groups. By implementing appropriate policies and initiatives, the Maldives can work towards reducing unemployment rates, fostering inclusive economic growth, and promoting gender equality in the workforce.

4.5 Youth Unemployment

The 2022 census data for the Maldives provides valuable insights into the youth unemployment situation in the country. The overall unemployment rate among youth aged 15-24 is reported at 12.0% at the national level. This means that out of the total youth labor force (both employed and unemployed), approximately 12.0% of young individuals are actively seeking but unable to find employment opportunities.

When comparing youth unemployment (15-24 years) to adult unemployment (25 years and above), it is evident that youth face a significantly higher unemployment rate. The data shows that youth unemployment is three times higher than the unemployment rate among adults. This indicates that young people in the Maldives have more difficulty securing employment compared to their older counterparts. The ratio of youth to adult unemployment rate is 3.1. This ratio indicates the stark difference in the employment challenges faced by youth compared to adults. It highlights the need for targeted policies and initiatives to address youth unemployment specifically.

The data shows that youth (15-24 years) account for one-third (35%) of the total labor force actively seeking and available for work in the country. This indicates a relatively high level of youth engagement in the labor market, as a significant portion of the youth population is actively participating in the job search.

The proportion of youth unemployment (15-24 years) out of the total youth population (15-24) is 6.2%. This figure indicates that approximately 6.2% of the youth population in the age group of 15-24 years is unemployed. It demonstrates the need for effective measures to provide employment opportunities and support for the youth to ensure productive and sustainable economic growth.

Age group	Republic		
	Female	Male	Total
Number of persons	138,584	142,547	281,131
Youth (15-24 years)	25,912	27,625	53,537
Adult (25 + years)	112,672	114,922	227,594
Unemployed persons	4,184	5,060	9,244
Youth (15-24 years)	1,353	1,966	3,319
Adult (25 + years)	2,831	3,094	5,925
Labour force	67,111	113,263	180,374
Youth (15-24 years)	11,372	16,191	27,563
Adult (25 + years)	55,739	97,072	152,811
Share of youth unemployed in total unemployment (%)	32.3	38.9	35.9
Share of youth unemployed in youth population(%)	5.2	7.1	6.2
Unemployment rate (%)	6.2	4.5	5.1
Youth (15-24 years)	11.9	12.1	12.0
Adult (25 + years)	5.1	3.2	3.9
Ratio of youth-to-adult unemployment rate	2.3	3.8	3.1

Table 10: Youth Unemployment Rates, 2022

The international definition of youth, encompassing individuals aged 15-24 years, reveals an unemployment rate of 12.0%. However, within the Maldives, the definition of youth extends to individuals aged 18-35 years. When considering this broader age group, the unemployment rate for youth (18-35 years) is significantly lower, standing at 6.1%.

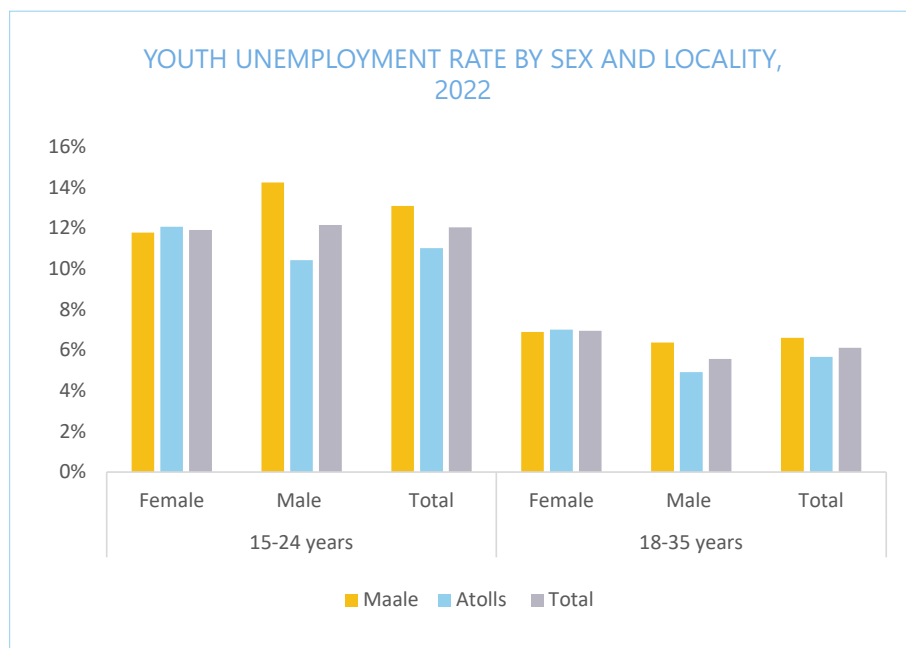


Figure 20: Youth unemployment rate by sex and locality, 2022

In conclusion, the 2022 census data on youth unemployment in the Maldives reveals a significant challenge in providing employment opportunities for young individuals aged 15-24. With a youth unemployment rate of 12.1%, which is three times higher than the adult unemployment rate, and youth accounting for one-third of the labor force actively seeking work, targeted strategies are essential to address this issue. Policymakers should focus on initiatives that enhance youth employability, provide vocational training, and create a conducive environment for youth to enter and succeed in the labor market. Addressing youth unemployment can contribute to economic growth and build a more prosperous future for the Maldives.

5

CHARACTERISTICS OF UNEMPLOYED MALDIVIANS



5. CHARACTERISTICS OF UNEMPLOYED MALDIVIANS

5.1 Educational Status of the Unemployed Population

Table 11 displays the distribution of unemployed individuals categorized by their educational status in the Maldives, derived from the 2022 census data.

Age group	Female		Male		% Female		% Male	
	In Education	Not in Education	In Education	Not in Education	In Education	Not in Education	In Education	Not in Education
15-19	166	381	179	782	30.3	69.7	18.6	81.4
20-24	198	608	113	892	24.6	75.4	11.2	88.8
25-29	93	523	38	624	15.1	84.9	5.7	94.3
30-34	48	481	18	612	9.1	90.9	2.9	97.1
35-39	53	486	13	426	9.8	90.2	3.0	97.0
40-44	46	334	9	319	12.1	87.9	2.7	97.3
45-49	18	257	5	225	6.5	93.5	2.2	97.8
50-54	13	188	3	257	6.5	93.5	1.2	98.8
55-59	6	132	3	230	4.3	95.7	1.3	98.7
60-64	2	96	1	188	2.0	98.0	0.5	99.5
65+	2	53		123	3.6	96.4	0.0	100.0
Total	645	3,539	382	4,678	15.4	84.6	7.5	92.5

Table 11: Unemployed Maldivians “in” or “not in” Education by sex and age, 2022

Table 11 indicates that within the 15-19 age group, 345 unemployed individuals are actively pursuing their education, whereas a larger portion (1,163) are not enrolled in any educational institution. Likewise, within the 20-24 age group, 313 unemployed individuals are still pursuing their education, while a higher number (1,500) are not currently attending any educational institution. This trend continues with age, showing a decreasing number of individuals in education as age increases. In these age groups, the majority of unemployed individuals are not currently enrolled in any form of education, suggesting they have either completed their formal education or exited the educational system.

Looking from a gender dimension (figure 21) a higher proportion of unemployed females are in education across all age groups, with a higher gender gap at the younger ages.

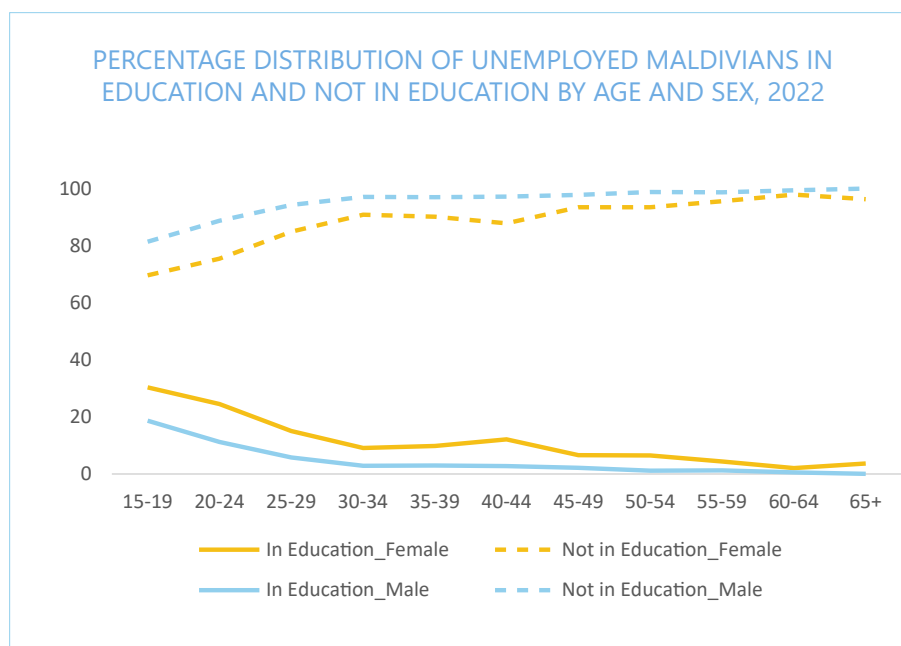


Figure 21: Percentage distribution of unemployed Maldivians in education and not in education, by age and sex, 2022

The data presented in the table unveils a clear connection between unemployment and educational status within various age groups in the Maldives. It emphasizes the critical role of education in shaping employment outcomes. The younger age groups (15-24) predominantly consist of individuals still pursuing their education, a trend anticipated given their likelihood of being enrolled in schools or universities. Conversely, as individuals age, a higher number transition into the workforce, leading to a notable increase in the “Currently not in Education” category.

The insights gleaned from Table 11 underscore the imperative of providing education and skill development opportunities, particularly for the youth, to enhance their employability. It also signals the necessity for tailored programs and support aimed at unemployed individuals who are no longer engaged in formal education, assisting them in acquiring new skills or facilitating their re-entry into the education system to bolster their employment prospects. These targeted efforts hold the potential to mitigate unemployment rates and cultivate a more skilled and productive workforce in the Maldives.

5.2 Educational Attainment of the Unemployed People

Among the unemployed population, 2.4% have never attended any educational institution, while the majority, constituting 97.6%, have attended. Figure 22 illustrates the highest educational attainment of the unemployed population, as per the Census 2022 data.

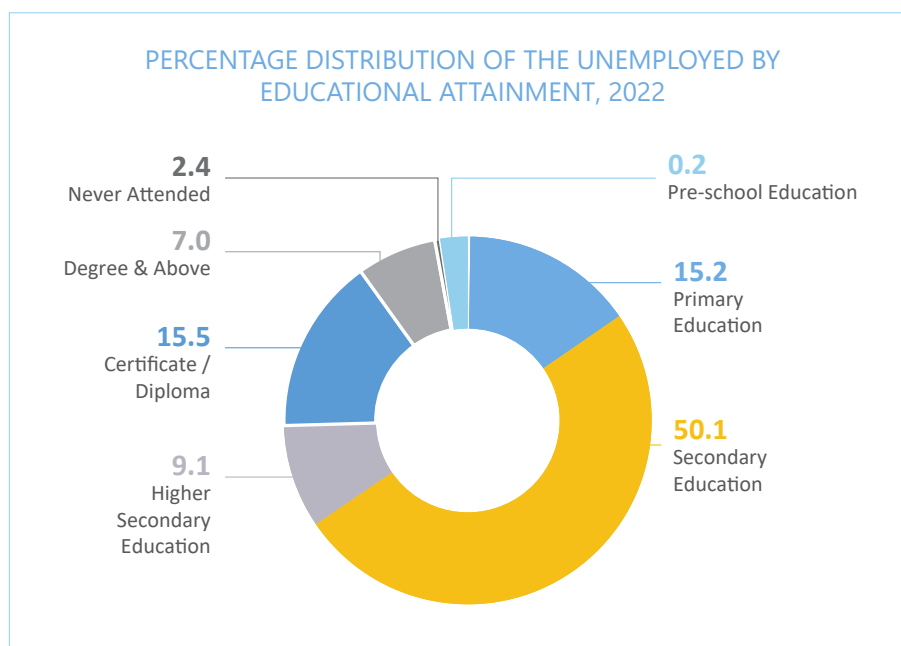


Figure 22: Percentage Distribution of the Unemployed by Highest Educational Attainment, 2022

Half of the unemployed individuals have achieved a level of secondary education as their highest educational attainment (50.1%), followed by Certificate or Diplomas (15.5%) and primary education (15.2%).

Among both men and women, the majority of unemployed individuals have attained a level of secondary education as their highest qualification. However, this tendency is more pronounced among unemployed men compared to women (Figure 23). Conversely, a higher percentage is observed among women with certificates or diplomas and those with degree and above qualifications when compared to unemployed men.

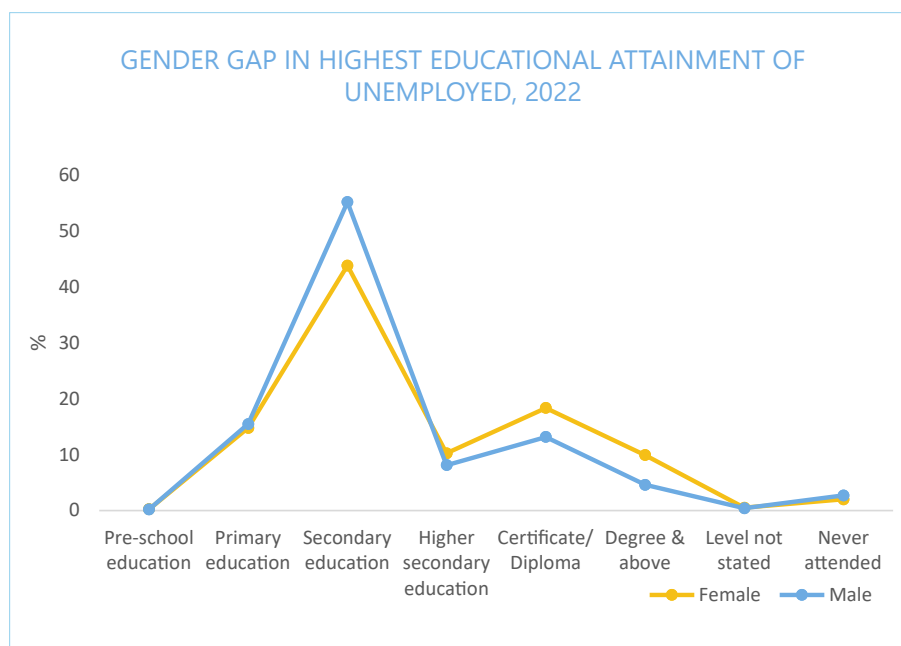


Figure 23: Gender gap in highest educational attainment of unemployed, 2022

Figure 24 provides a comprehensive overview of the percentage distribution of unemployed individuals categorized by age groups, showcasing their educational backgrounds, spanning from pre-school education to higher levels of academic achievements.

In the age group 15-19, a significant majority of unemployed individuals have successfully completed secondary education (86.5%) and obtained certificates or diplomas (8.6%). This highlights a strong presence of secondary school students actively seeking employment.

Moving to the age range of 20-24, unemployed individuals present a more diverse educational background. A notable portion has achieved higher secondary education (52.6%), indicating a substantial number of secondary school students actively pursuing employment. Furthermore, a significant percentage hold certificates or diplomas (21.9%). Additionally, a considerable proportion has attained higher education levels, with 13.4% achieving higher secondary education and 9.8% holding degree and above qualifications. This showcases a clear ambition among the unemployed youth to pursue higher education.

Among unemployed individuals aged 25-29, the majority have successfully completed secondary education (52.3%) and possess certificates or diplomas (18.8%). A significant number have achieved a degree or above (15.9%), reflecting an increasing trend of university graduates actively seeking employment. This highlights the importance of higher education in this age group as they venture into the job market.

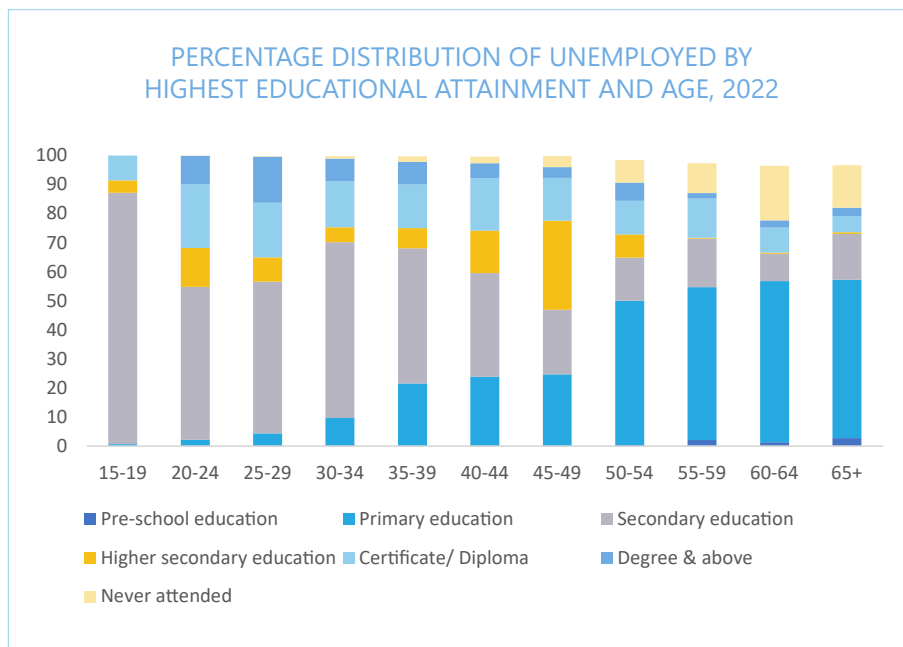


Figure 24: Percentage distribution of unemployed by education attainment and age, 2022

The majority of unemployed individuals in the 30-34 age group have completed secondary education as their highest level (60.9%), with a significant proportion also holding certificates or diplomas (16.0%). In the older age groups (35 and over), there's an observable increase in the proportion of individuals with primary education. Table 10 looks at the unemployment rates by levels of educational attainment and sex for Maldivians.

Highest Educational Attainment	Unemployed rate (%)			Unemployed (nos.)			Unemployed (%)			Unemployed (%)		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Pre-school education	21.3	15.7	17.9	10	11	21	0.2	0.2	0.2	47.6	52.4	100
Primary education	7.3	4.3	5.3	619	784	1,403	14.8	15.5	15.2	44.1	55.9	100
Secondary education	9.5	6.0	7.1	1,835	2,793	4,628	43.9	55.2	50.1	39.6	60.4	100
Higher education	4.8	2.6	3.4	429	411	840	10.3	8.1	9.1	51.1	48.9	100
Certificate / Diploma	5.4	3.6	4.4	769	667	1,436	18.4	13.2	15.5	53.6	46.4	100
Level not stated	2.8	2.0	2.5	416	234	650	9.9	4.6	7.0	64.0	36.0	100
Never attended	10.1	5.3	6.9	22	22	44	0.5	0.4	0.5	50.0	50.0	100
Never attended	7.4	5.1	5.8	84	138	222	2.0	2.7	2.4	37.8	62.2	100
Total	6.2	4.5	5.1	4,184	5,060	9,244	100	100	100	45.3	54.7	100

Table 12: Unemployment rate by highest educational attainment and sex, Maldivians, 2022

At the national level, highest unemployment rate is observed among individuals with pre-school level as highest education attained (17.9%), with a higher rate among females (21.3%) compared to males (15.7%).

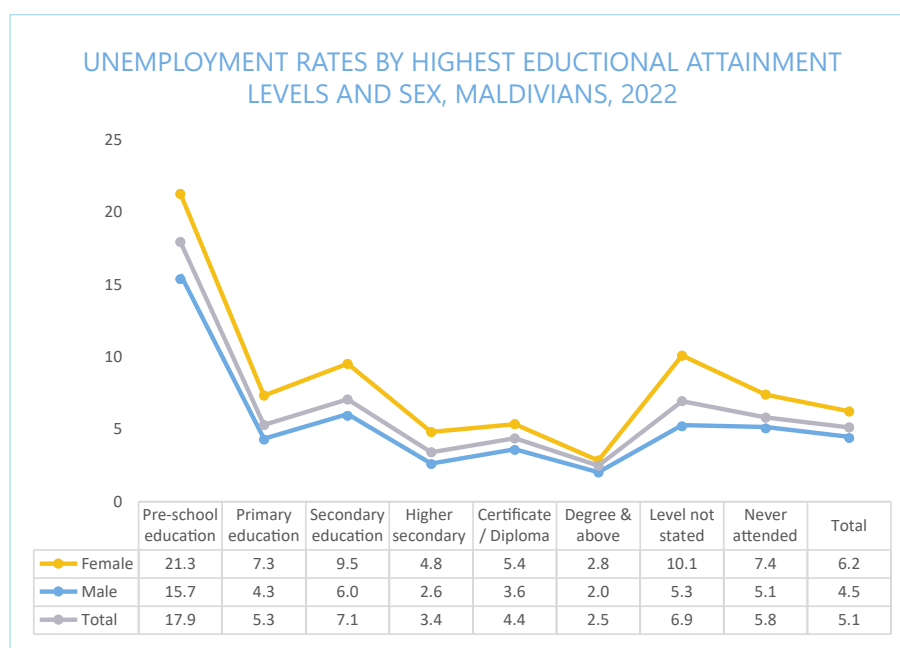


Figure 25: Unemployment rates by highest educational attainment levels and sex, Maldivians, 2022

Second highest unemployment rate is among those with secondary education (5.3%), with a higher rate for women (9.5) compared to men (6.0%). Unemployment rate among graduates is lower (2.5%).

Overall, the data reveals a significant proportion of unemployed individuals in the Maldives possess educational qualifications beyond primary education. As age groups progress, higher levels of educational attainment become more prevalent among the unemployed population. This trend suggests an increasing number of individuals in the workforce are opting for higher education to enhance their employability and secure better job opportunities.

However, it is crucial to note that there are still unemployed individuals with lower educational attainment, indicating the necessity for targeted efforts to address their specific employment challenges. Policymakers can leverage this data to tailor educational and training programs that align with the needs of the labor market and support the unemployed population in their pursuit of meaningful employment.

5.3 Marital status among unemployed people

The majority of unemployed individuals were married, followed by those who have never married, while unemployment among the divorced and widowed was significantly lower.

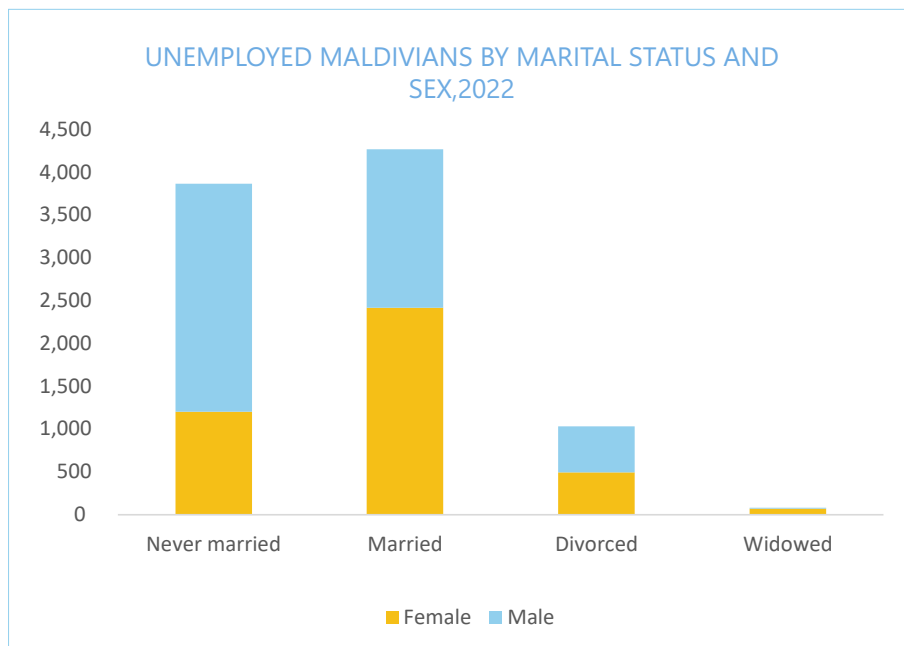


Figure 26: Unemployed persons by marital status and sex, 2022

Examining the distribution of unemployed individuals by five-year age-groups, it is evident that, except for the younger ages 15 to 24, the majority of unemployed individuals in all other age groups were married.

When considering the gender dimension of unemployed individuals by age groups, there is a higher share of married females in the younger ages. Conversely, in the older age groups of unemployed individuals, there are higher shares of divorced and widowed women.

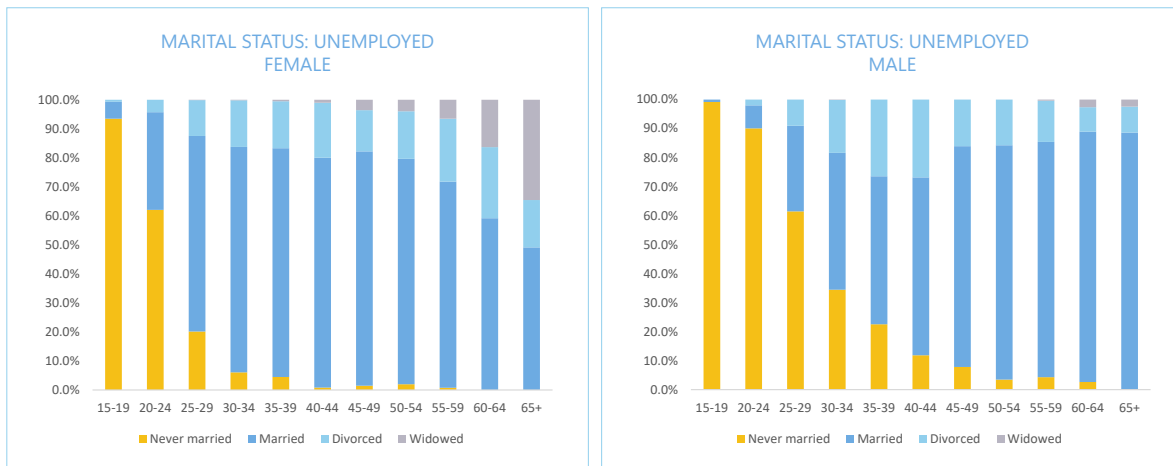


Figure 27: Unemployed Maldivians by marital status and sex, 2022

At the national level, highest unemployment rate is observed among individuals who have never married (10.5%), same for females as well as males. Second highest unemployment rate is among those divorced (6.8%), with a higher rate for men (7.2) compared to women (6.5%). Table 13 and figure 28, looks at the unemployment rates by marital status and sex for Maldivians.

Marital status	Unemployed rate (%)			Unemployed (nos.)			Unemployed (%)			Unemployed (%)		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Never married	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,203	2,662	3,865	28.8	52.6	41.8	31.1	68.9	100
Married	5.2	2.3	3.4	2,416	1,851	4,267	57.7	36.6	46.2	56.6	43.4	100
Divorced	6.5	7.2	6.8	494	537	1,031	11.8	10.6	11.2	47.9	52.1	100
Widowed	5.9	3.7	5.5	71	10	81	1.7	0.2	0.9	87.7	12.3	100
Total	6.2	4.5	5.1	4,184	5,060	9,244	100	100	100	45.3	54.7	100

Table 13: Unemployment rate by marital status and sex, Maldivians, 2022

Unemployment rate females are higher than males among those married and widowed.

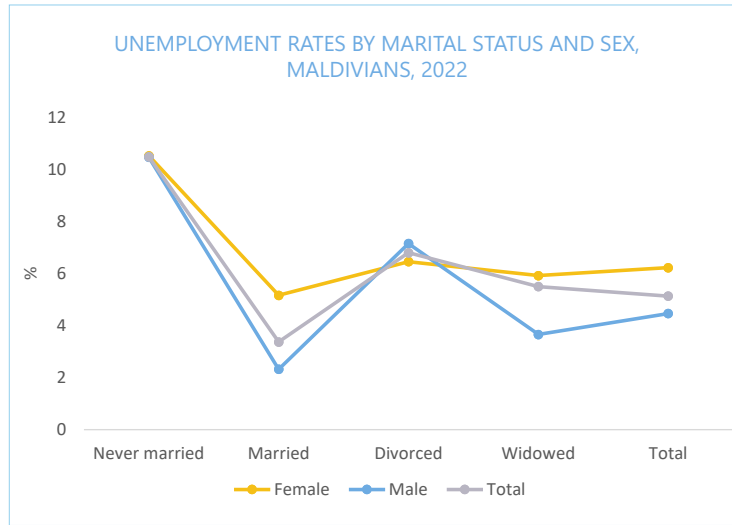


Figure 28: Unemployment rates by marital status and sex, Maldivians, 2022

5.4 Unemployment and fertility

Out of the 4,148 women among the unemployed 2,438 (59%) had one or more children alive at the time of Census 2022. Share of women with children increases with age, as expected. Among women 20-24 years 12% had one or more children alive, 52% for 25-29 years, 80% for 30-34 and for women 35 years of age and older it is 90% and above.

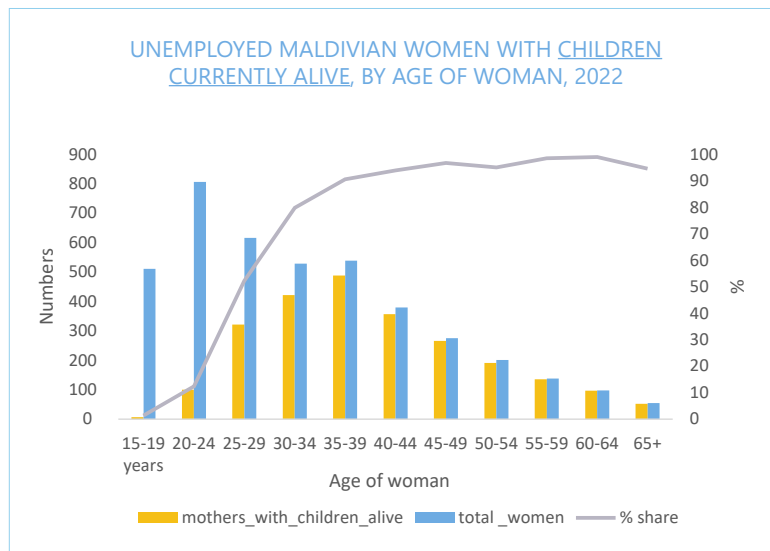


Figure 29: Unemployed Maldivian women with children currently alive, by age of woman, 2022

Looking at these 2,438 unemployed women with children alive, by number of children alive, shows 26% of women had 1 child, 27% had 2 children, 21% has 3 children 11% has 4 children. Those with 5 or more children alive accounts for 14% of the unemployed women.

Furthermore, if we look by age of mother, majority of young women in the ages 20-24 and 25-29 has 1 child alive, at the time of Census.

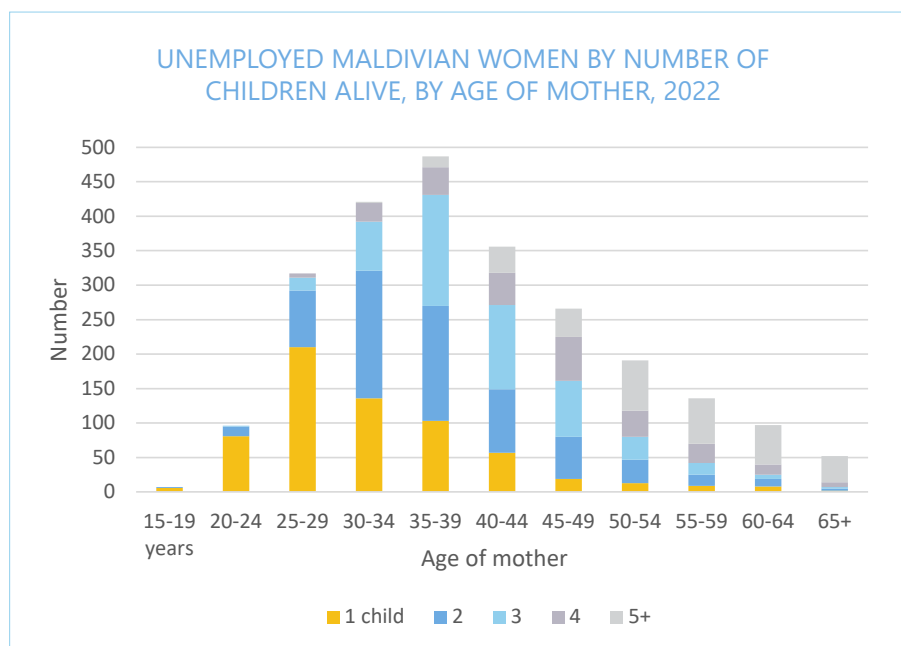


Figure 30: Unemployed Maldivian women by number of children alive, by age of mother, 2022

Children born alive during the past year were also asked for women in the reproductive ages 15-49 years in the Census. This refers to the twelve months preceding the census data collection.

It shows 5% of the unemployed women in the reproductive ages had a live birth during the 12 months preceding the census. In terms of numbers, they account for 184 out of 3,692 women among the unemployed women ages 15-49 years.

Among the unemployed there were only a very few individuals who had no children alive. Unemployment rate among these Maldivian women with no children alive at the time of census had higher rates of 8.2 percent. Among those with 1 child and 2 children the rate was around 5 percent. However, among those with 3 or 4 children the unemployment rates were higher at 6.2 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively.

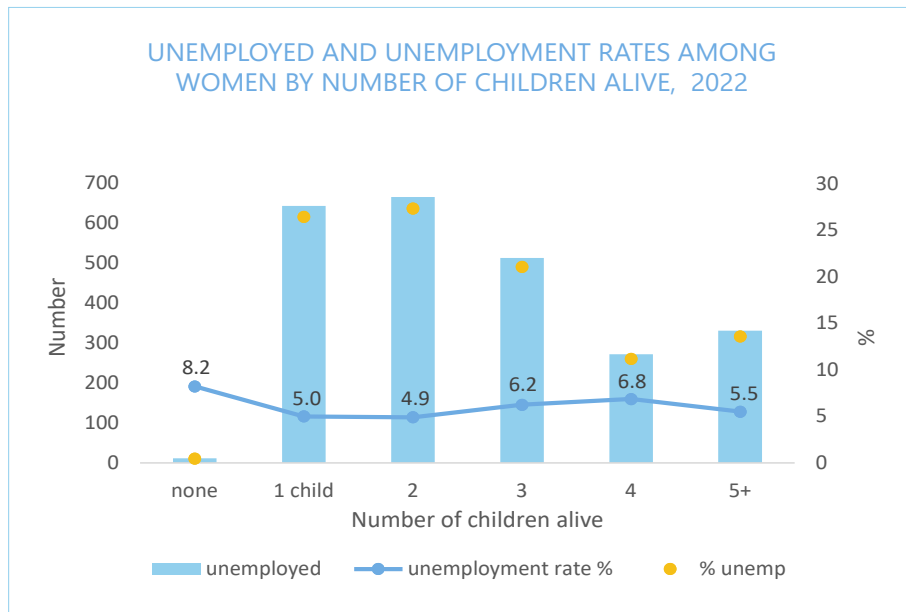


Figure 31: Unemployed and unemployment rates among women by number of children alive, 2022

5.5 Unemployment and disability

The data highlights that disability prevalence among the unemployed remains at 5.6%, with a total of 518 individuals out of 9,244 being identified as having a disability. This percentage underscores the significance of addressing disability-related challenges within the unemployed population, emphasizing the importance of tailored support, accessibility, and inclusivity initiatives in the employment sector. Such efforts can significantly enhance opportunities and inclusivity for individuals with disabilities in the workforce, promoting a more equitable and diverse job market.

Age (5-year age bands)	Female			Male			Total		
	Without Disability	With Disability	Total	Without Disability	With Disability	Total	Without Disability	With Disability	Total
15-19	533	14	547	938	23	961	1,471	37	1,508
20-24	783	23	806	978	27	1,005	1,761	50	1,811
25-29	594	22	616	635	27	662	1,229	49	1,278
30-34	510	19	529	619	11	630	1,129	30	1,159
35-39	465	74	539	420	19	439	885	93	978
40-44	344	36	380	309	19	328	653	55	708
45-49	247	28	275	219	11	230	466	39	505
50-54	176	25	201	244	16	260	420	41	461
55-59	108	30	138	211	22	233	319	52	371
60-64	80	18	98	168	21	189	248	39	287
65+	40	15	55	105	18	123	145	33	178
Total	3,880	304	4,184	4,846	214	5,060	8,726	518	9,244

Table 14: Disability Prevalence Among the Unemployed by Age and Sex, 2022

The data categorized by age group and sex reveals proportionately higher rates of disability among females compared to males, particularly in the elderly age groups. This suggests a notable gender disparity in disability prevalence as individuals age, emphasizing the need for targeted support and initiatives to address the specific challenges faced by elderly women with disabilities. Additionally, this highlights the importance of considering gender dynamics in disability-related policies and interventions to ensure equitable assistance and opportunities for all individuals, regardless of gender and age.

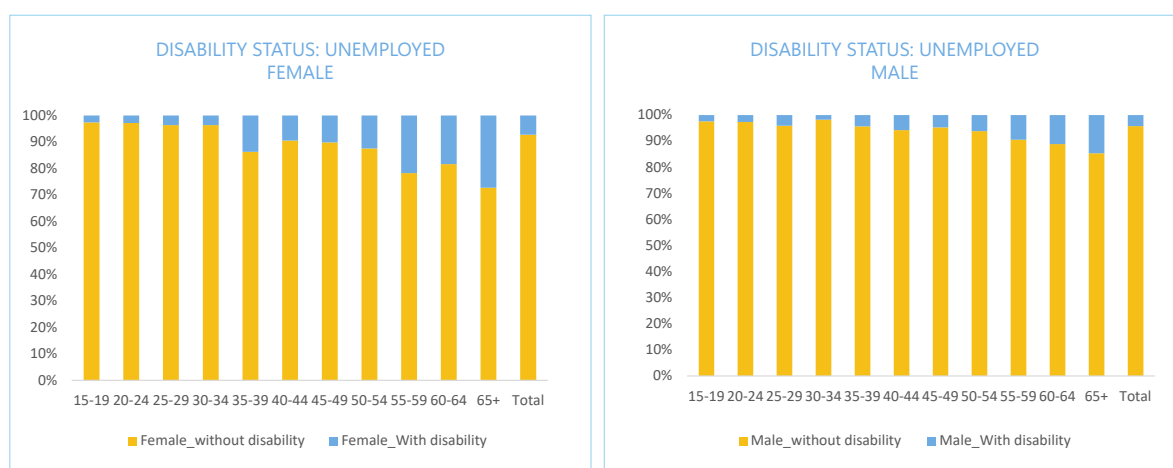


Figure 32: Unemployed Maldivians by disability status and sex and locality, 2022

At the national level, unemployment rate is higher for persons with disability (7.1%) compared to persons without disability (5%). Females with disability face higher rate (8.7%) compared to males with disability (5.6%).

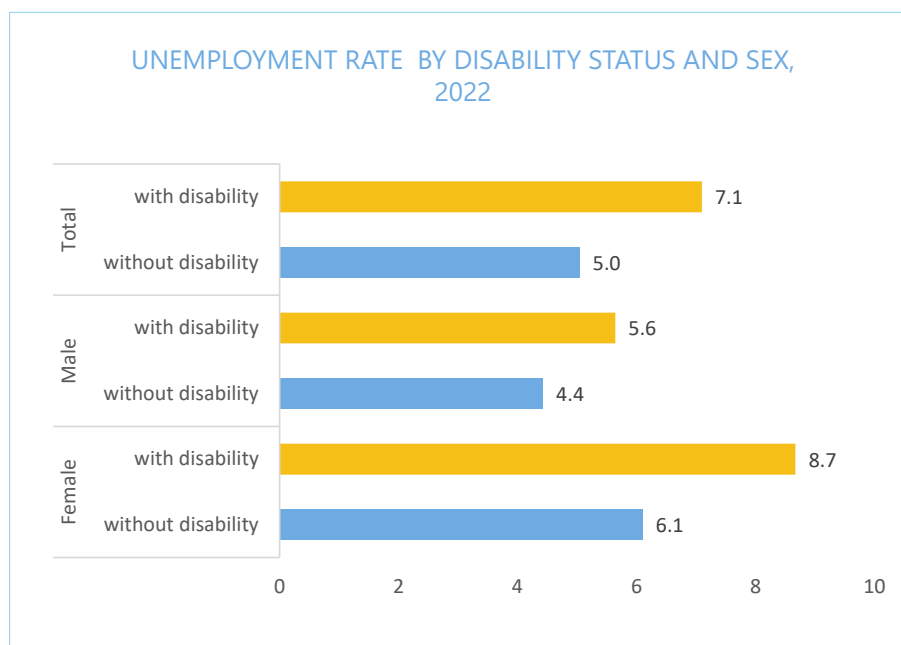


Figure 33: Unemployment rate by disability status and sex, 2022

At the locality level, for capital Maale and the twenty Atolls, unemployment rate is higher for persons with disability (7.1%) compared to persons without disability (5%). Females with disability face higher rate (8.7%) compared to males with disability (5.6%).

At the locality level, for capital Maale and the twenty Atolls (administrative islands in respective Atoll), unemployment rate is highest for persons with disability among males in Gn (16.0%). The second highest is among females in Maale (13.1%) followed by S (11.0%) and GDh (10.9%).

5.6 Unemployment and migration

As per the definition used in census 2022, a migrant is a person if he/she has ever resided in another island or abroad, different from the island of their current residence, for a duration of one year or more.

Table 15 looks at migrant status among unemployed population by 5-year age-groups and sex. Highest number of migrants are among age-group 20-24 years.

Age-group	Female			Male			Total		
	Migrant	Non-migrant	Total	Migrant	Non-migrant	Total	Migrant	Non-migrant	Total
15-19	255	292	547	427	534	961	682	826	1,508
20-24	511	295	806	494	511	1,005	1,005	806	1,811
25-29	382	234	616	360	302	662	742	536	1,278
30-34	329	200	529	345	285	630	674	485	1,159
35-39	322	217	539	240	199	439	562	416	978
40-44	214	166	380	166	162	328	380	328	708
45-49	159	116	275	130	100	230	289	216	505
50-54	101	100	201	154	106	260	255	206	461
55-59	71	67	138	123	110	233	194	177	371
60-64	37	61	98	107	82	189	144	143	287
65+	22	33	55	61	62	123	83	95	178
Total	2,403	1,781	4,184	2,607	2,453	5,060	5,010	4,234	9,244

Table 15: Unemployed Maldivians by migration status and sex, 2022

Among the unemployed Maldivians more than half (54.2%) are migrants. Gender disaggregation a higher share of migrants among females are higher (57.4%) compared to that among males (51.5%). Locality wise, higher share of migrants are located in the capital Maale (61.5%) compared to rest of the other administrative island in the Atolls (47.2%).

Age-group	Maale			Atolls (admin islands)			Total		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Unemployed									
Migrants	1,380	1,402	2,782	1,023	1,205	2,228	2,403	2,607	5,010
Non-migrants	709	1,032	1,741	1,072	1,421	2,493	1,781	2,453	4,234
Share of migrants%	66.1	57.6	61.5	48.8	45.9	47.2	57.4	51.5	54.2
Unemployment rate %									
Migrants	6.4	4.5	5.3	6.1	5.0	5.4	6.1	3.7	4.6
Non-migrants	6.6	5.8	6.1	6.3	5.9	6.0	6.4	5.7	6.0

Table 16: Unemployed Maldivians and unemployment rates by migration status, sex and locality, 2022

Unemployment rates are higher among non-migrants compared to that of migrants. This is the case for Maale as well as the Atolls. From a gender perspective there is a wider gap with unemployment rates much lower among migrant males (3.7%) compared to that for migrant females (6.1%).

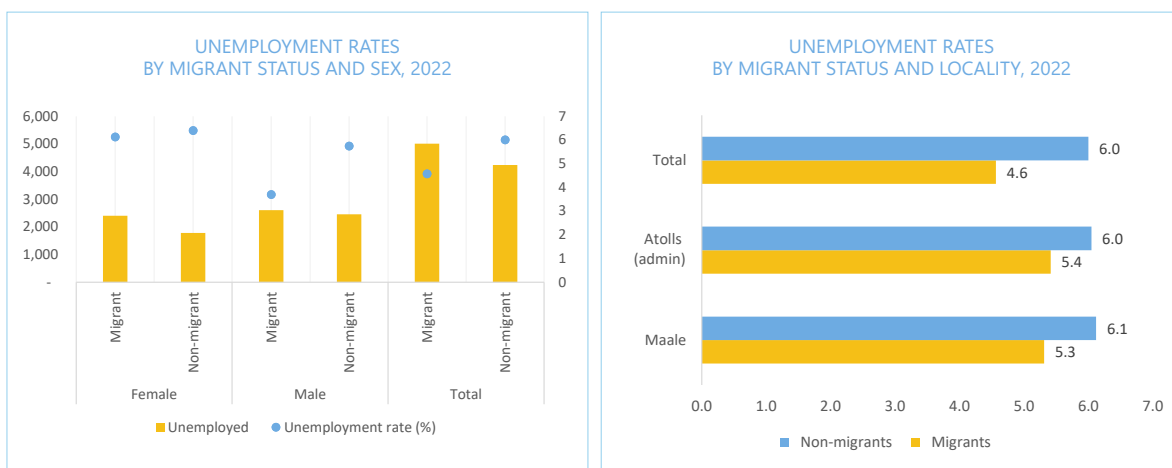


Figure 34: Unemployed and unemployment rates by migrant status, sex and locality, 2022



6

MALDIVIANS OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

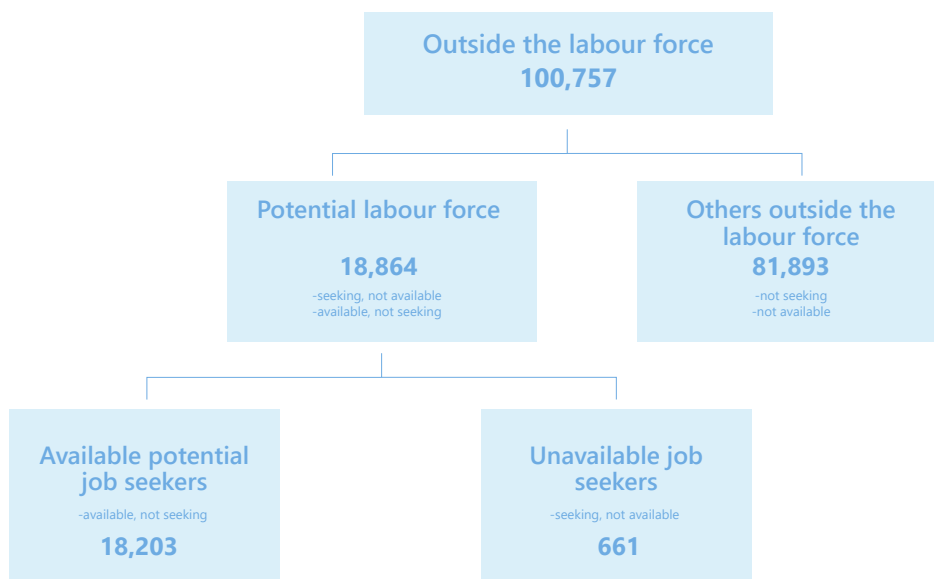
6. MALDIVIANS OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

Persons outside the labour force are those of working age who were neither in employment nor in unemployment in the short reference period. A subcategory of Persons outside labour force includes the potential labour force. The rest are Others outside the labour force comprising of persons who were not available and who did not seek employment during the reference period.

Potential labour force is defined as all persons of working age who, during the short reference period, were neither in employment nor in unemployment and:

(a) carried out activities to “seek employment”, were not “currently available” but would become available within a short subsequent period established in the light of national circumstances (i.e. unavailable jobseekers); or

(b) did not carry out activities to “seek employment”, but wanted employment and were “currently available” (i.e. available potential jobseekers).



6.1 Persons outside labour force: Resident Maldivians

A significant portion of the working-age Maldivian population, specifically 100,757 individuals (36%), falls outside the labor force in 2022. Persons outside labour force include individuals who are neither employed nor actively seeking employment.

During 2014 and 2022 (eight-year inter-censal period) the number of persons outside labour force increased by 13,575 individuals. However, this increase is observed in age-groups 30-34 years and beyond. As for the younger ages (15-19, 20-24 and 25-29) number of persons outside labour force has actually declined between 2014 and 2022.

Age-group	Persons outside labour force		Change	Inactivity rate (%)	
	2014	2022	2014-2022	2014	2022
Total	87,182	100,757	13,575	35.6	35.8
15-19	20,987	19,855	(1,132)	68.2	71.5
20-24	9,947	6,119	(3,828)	27.3	23.8
25-29	10,003	7,035	(2,968)	26.1	20.5
30-34	8,364	9,232	868	27.2	23.6
35-39	5,724	9,628	3,904	25.4	25.7
40-44	4,819	7,205	2,386	24.5	26.6
45-49	4,481	5,874	1,393	25.8	27.4
50-54	4,202	6,053	1,851	28.2	31.9
55-59	3,883	5,958	2,075	33.4	38.6
60-64	2,488	6,472	3,984	40.2	48.4
65+	12,284	17,326	5,042	75.2	84.3

Table 17: Persons outside labour force and change during 2014 to 2022

Overall, inactivity rates (persons outside labour force as a share of persons in the working-age) remained around the same at 35.6% in 2014 and 35.8% in 2022.

Inactivity rates differ substantially by age-groups with highest at 15-19 years and those among the elderly 65 years and above. This is expected as at the young age high proportion will be in studies and in case of elderly many would have retired.

During the the census 2022 reference week 100,757 Maldivians were outside the labour force, which included 71,473 women (71%) and 29,284 men (29%). The proportion of women is substantially higher compared to men, translating to 40 males per every 100 females among those outside labour force.

Age-group	Persons outside labour force			% distribution			% share		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
15-19	10,287	9,568	19,855	14.4	32.7	19.7	51.8	48.2	100
20-24	4,253	1,866	6,119	6.0	6.4	6.1	69.5	30.5	100
25-29	5,660	1,375	7,035	7.9	4.7	7.0	80.5	19.5	100
30-34	7,937	1,295	9,232	11.1	4.4	9.2	86.0	14.0	100
35-39	8,525	1,103	9,628	11.9	3.8	9.6	88.5	11.5	100
40-44	6,323	882	7,205	8.8	3.0	7.2	87.8	12.2	100
45-49	5,104	770	5,874	7.1	2.6	5.8	86.9	13.1	100
50-54	5,107	946	6,053	7.1	3.2	6.0	84.4	15.6	100
55-59	4,669	1,289	5,958	6.5	4.4	5.9	78.4	21.6	100
60-64	4,509	1,963	6,472	6.3	6.7	6.4	69.7	30.3	100
65+	9,099	8,227	17,326	12.7	28.1	17.2	52.5	47.5	100
Total	71,473	29,284	100,757	100	100	100	70.9	29.1	100

Table 18: Persons outside labour force by sex and age, 2022

Age distribution of outside labour force that highest numbers are young people 15-19 years followed by elderly persons ages 65 years and above. A huge gender gap exists in all age-groups with much higher share of females compared to males.

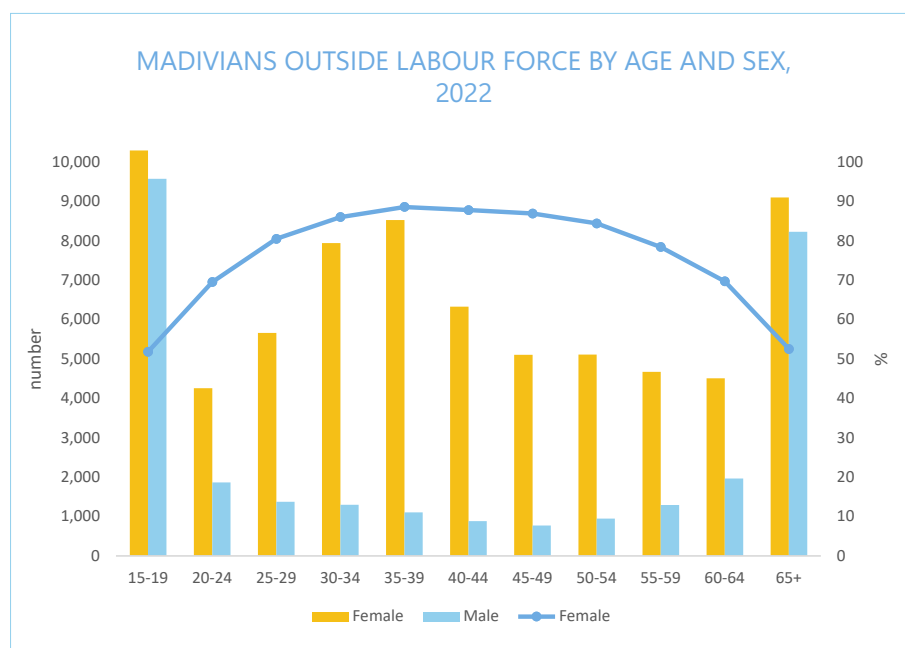


Figure 35: Madivians outside labour force by age and sex, 2022

Youth (15-24 years) among those outside labour force accounts for over twenty-five thousand (25,874). As such one in four individuals outside labour force (26%) is a young person aged 15-24 years.

Over half of the individuals outside labour force (59%) were located in the Atolls, while 41% in the capital city, Male'. In the Atolls, Seenu (S) had the highest number of individuals (7,142) outside labour force. Throughout the nation, in Male' and all the Atolls, a higher number of women are outside the labour force. The share of women among those outside the labour force is lowest in Kaafu -K at 57 percent followed by Vaavu -V at 63 percent. Highest in Lhaviyani-Lh and Haa Dhaalu -HDh at 74%.

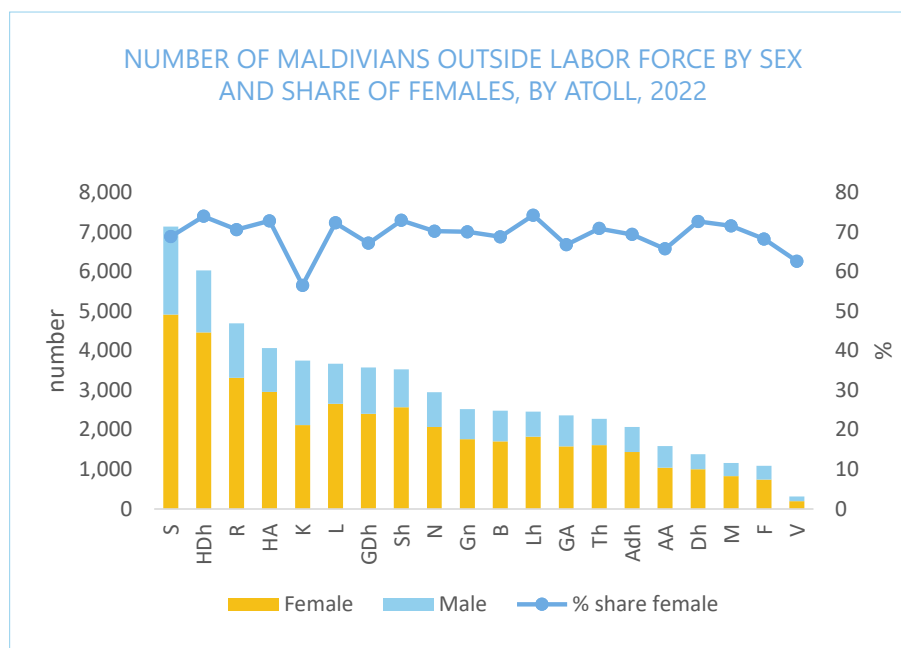


Figure 36: Number of Maldivians Out side labor force by sex and share of females, by Atoll, 2022

It is essential to acknowledge that some individuals not currently in the labor force may still have a connection to the labor market, as they are part of the potential labor force. The potential labor force encompasses those available for work but not actively seeking employment, as well as those actively seeking employment but currently unavailable. Within the group of individuals classified as outside the labor force, 19% belong to the potential labor force category, indicating some level of connection to the labor market.

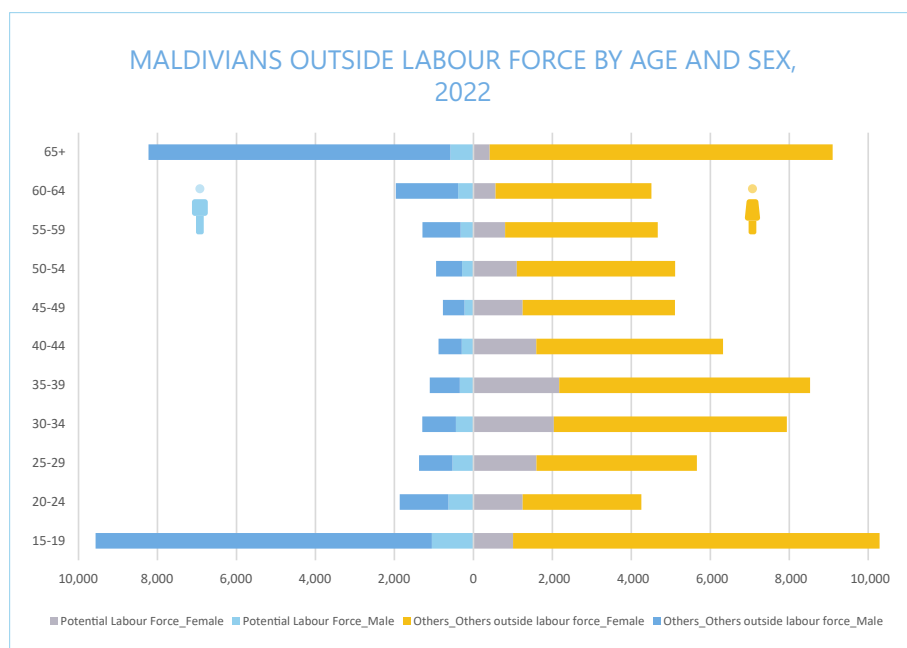


Figure 37: Maldivians Outside labour force by age and sex, 2022

Figure 37 illustrates the distribution of Maldivian population outside the labor force categorized by potential labor force and others outside labor, further classified by age groups and sex.

The category “others outside the labor force” encompasses individuals who have stated that they are neither actively seeking employment nor available for it. Typically, these individuals bear other responsibilities and encounter diverse challenges that hinder their participation in the labor force.

Of those outside the labor force, 20% belong to the youthful age group of 15-19 years, and 17% comprise elderly individuals aged 65 and above.

6.2 Potential labour force: Available potential job seekers

Within the potential labor force, a total of 18,203 individuals have expressed their readiness for employment but have not actively pursued job opportunities due to various reasons, representing 97% of the potential labour force.

Main reason for not seeking employment can be broadly categorized as follows:

- Personal reasons (own illness, disability, studies);
- Family-related reasons (pregnancy, presence of small children, refusal by family);
- Labour market reasons (past failure to find a suitable job, lack of experience, qualifications or jobs matching the person's skills, lack of jobs in the area, considered too young or too old by prospective employers);
- Lack of infrastructure (assets, roads, transportation, employment services); other sources of income (pensions, rents); social exclusion;

The primary rationale for not seeking employment within this group is the fulfillment of family and household responsibilities, which can be categorized as family related reasons. As such they are engaged in own-use production work as per the forms of work framework categorized by the ILO resolution mentioned above.

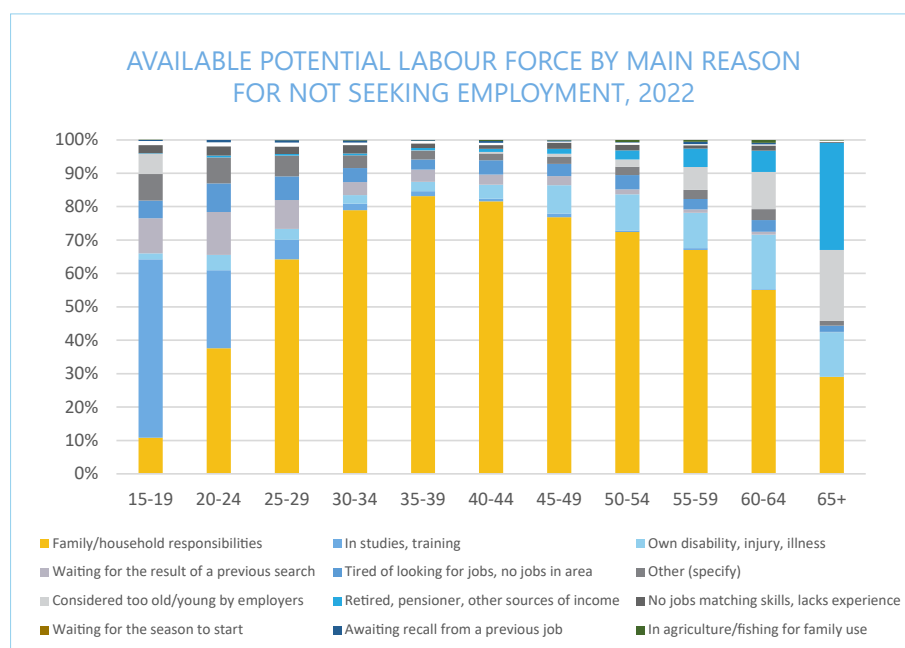


Figure 38: Available potential labour force by main reason for not seeking employment, 2022

For young individuals aged 15-19 years, their predominant reason for not seeking employment is their engagement in studies and training, especially considering that many are still actively pursuing secondary and higher secondary education at this age.

Conversely, among the elderly population aged 65 years and above, the primary reason is typically retirement, receipt of pensions, or having an alternative source of income. Notably, the government's social protection schemes, which offer a basic pension of MVR 5,000 per month to every citizen, significantly contribute to this circumstance.

Examining the top five reasons for not seeking employment, “weariness from job hunting” and the lack of job opportunities in the area are notable factors. Individuals often experience demotivation and discontinue their job search, particularly when suitable job opportunities are scarce in their locality.

Among the top 5 reasons cited by individuals for not seeking employment, the primary factor is fulfilling family and household responsibilities (Figure 39). Overall, the number and share of those not seeking employment due care responsibilities female dominated with females (77%) compared to males (19.5%) and varies by age with the share of over 90% among those women in their mid-thirties to mid-fourties, as given in Table 19.

Age-group	Family/hh responsibilities			Total available potential job-seekers			% family/hh responsibilities			% family/hh out of total		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
15-19	163	49	212	951	1,008	1,959	1.6	5.2	1.9	17.1	4.9	10.8
20-24	624	53	677	1,197	602	1,799	6.1	5.6	6.0	52.1	8.8	37.6
25-29	1,244	76	1,320	1,544	512	2,056	12.1	8.0	11.8	80.6	14.8	64.2
30-34	1,787	108	1,895	1,976	424	2,400	17.4	11.4	16.9	90.4	25.5	79.0
35-39	1,952	89	2,041	2,123	332	2,455	19.0	9.4	18.2	91.9	26.8	83.1
40-44	1,414	79	1,493	1,547	283	1,830	13.8	8.3	13.3	91.4	27.9	81.6
45-49	1,036	70	1,106	1,218	221	1,439	10.1	7.4	9.9	85.1	31.7	76.9
50-54	877	93	970	1,065	275	1,340	8.5	9.8	8.7	82.3	33.8	72.4
55-59	614	117	731	780	310	1,090	6.0	12.3	6.5	78.7	37.7	67.1
60-64	374	124	498	539	366	905	3.6	13.1	4.4	69.4	33.9	55.0
65+	178	92	270	385	544	929	1.7	9.7	2.4	46.2	16.9	29.1
Total	10,263	950	11,213	13,325	4,877	18,202	100.0	100.0	100.0	77.0	19.5	61.6

Table 19: Available Potential job-seekers, not seeking due to family reasons by age and sex, 2022

Notably, there is a gender disparity, of those identifying family reasons, with 92% of those in this category being women (10,263 women and 950 men).

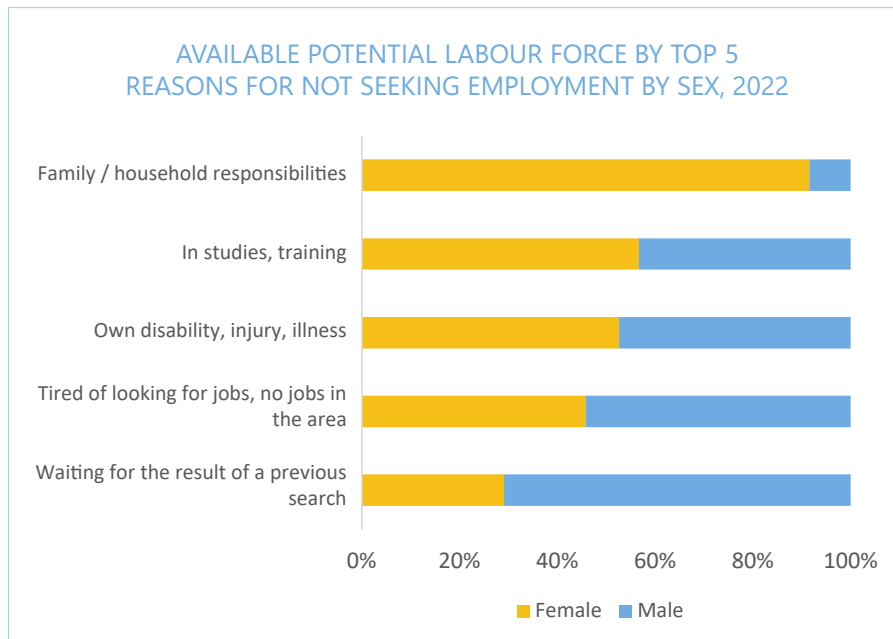


Figure 39: Available potential labour force by top 5 reasons for not seeking employment by sex, 2022

This phenomenon is primarily attributed to deeply ingrained gender roles within society, leading to significant gender inequality. In these traditional roles, family and household responsibilities, such as caring for children, tending to elderly parents, handling cooking, and managing household chores, are predominantly perceived as the responsibility of women. This imbalance in gender roles perpetuates a systemic inequality that restricts women's engagement in the workforce and hampers their access to equal economic opportunities.

6.3 Discouraged jobseekers

As it may be useful to identify discouraged workers separately, figure 40 looks at these individuals. This category discouraged jobseekers in the sense that they did not carry out activities to “seek employment”, but were “currently available” for employment for labour market-related reasons. These reasons include past failure to find a suitable job; lack of experience; qualifications or jobs matching the person's skills; lack of jobs in the area; considered too young or too old by prospective employers. According to census 2022 data discouraged job-seekers totals 1,720 accounting for 9.4 percent of the total available potential job-seekers (18,203). For females it is 717 out of 13,325 (5.4%) and for males it is 1,003 out of 4,877 (20.6%)

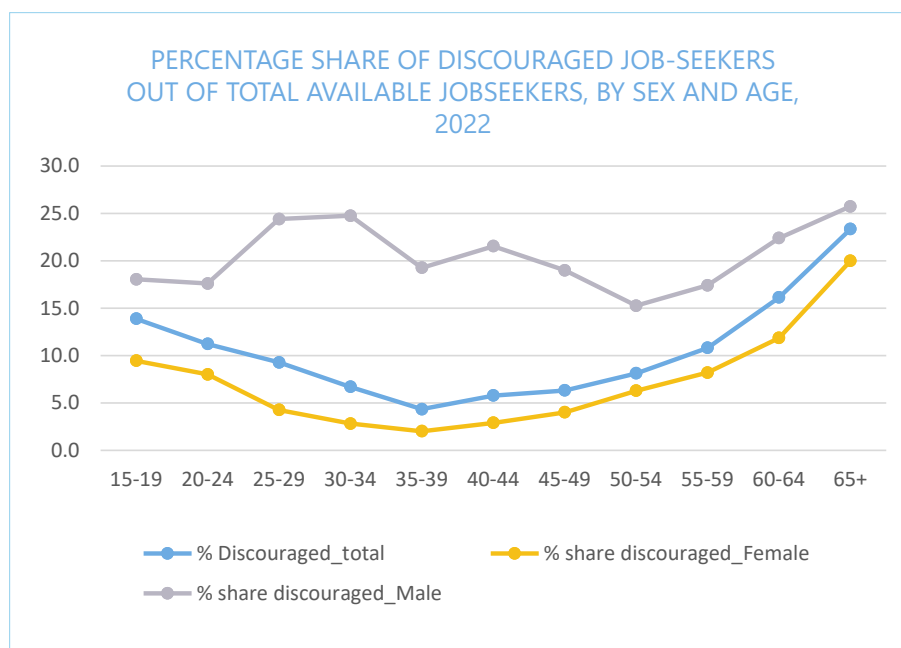


Figure 40: Percentage share of discouraged job-seekers out of total available jobseekers, by sex and age, 2022

Overall, the number and share of discouraged job-seekers is male dominated with males accounting for over half (58.3%) compared to females (35.5%) and varies by age, as given in table 20.

Age-group	Discouraged jobseekers			% share			% share		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
15-19	90	182	272	12.6	18.1	15.8	33.1	66.9	100
20-24	96	106	202	13.4	10.6	11.7	47.5	52.5	100
25-29	66	125	191	9.2	12.5	11.1	34.6	65.4	100
30-34	56	105	161	7.8	10.5	9.4	34.8	65.2	100
35-39	43	64	107	6.0	6.4	6.2	40.2	59.8	100
40-44	45	61	106	6.3	6.1	6.2	42.5	57.5	100
45-49	49	42	91	6.8	4.2	5.3	53.8	46.2	100
50-54	67	42	109	9.3	4.2	6.3	61.5	38.5	100
55-59	64	54	118	8.9	5.4	6.9	54.2	45.8	100
60-64	64	82	146	8.9	8.2	8.5	43.8	56.2	100
65+	77	140	217	10.7	14.0	12.6	35.5	64.5	100
Total	717	1,003	1,720	100	100	100	41.7	58.3	100

Table 20: Discouraged job-seekers by age and sex, 2022

Figure 41 looks at the composition of discouraged job-seekers by reason for not seeking work by sex and age to understand the gender differences in discouragement.

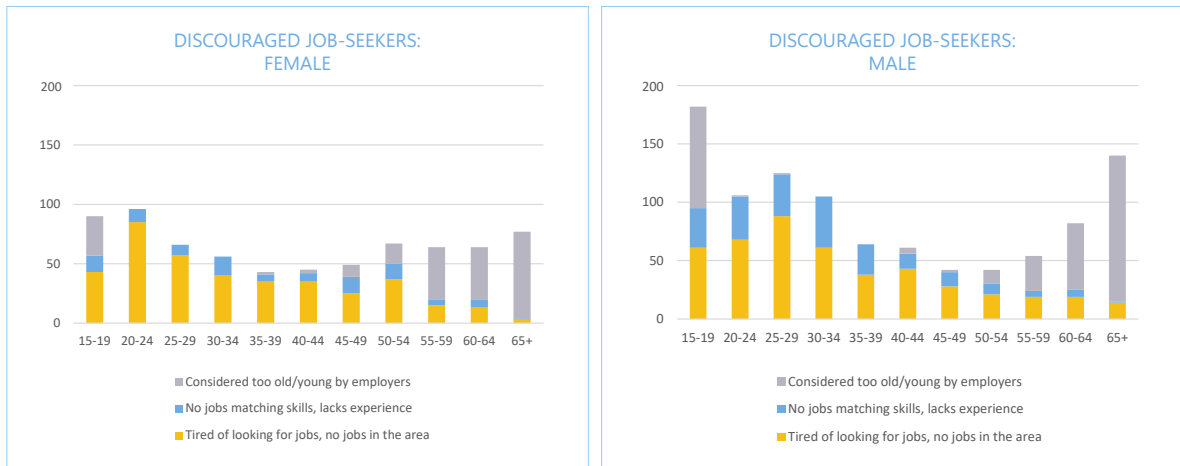


Figure 41: Discouraged job-seekers by main reason for not seeking work, by age and sex, 2022

Gender inequality not only impacts women's economic prospects but also has broader societal implications, reinforcing stereotypes and potentially limiting overall economic growth by underutilizing a significant portion of the workforce. Addressing this issue requires concerted efforts to challenge and reshape traditional gender norms, promoting more equitable opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their gender. Encouraging a shift towards shared responsibilities and promoting policies that support work-life balance can play a crucial role in reducing this inequality and fostering a more inclusive and productive society.

6.4 Outside the Labour Force: Not seeking, not available

Among the 100,757 individuals outside the labor force, a significant majority 81,893 (81%) were neither “seeking employment” nor “currently available”. Women are disproportionately high among this category (70.5%).

Main activity status, here was taken as self-declared by the respondents by means of a specific question with pre-coded answer categories asked in the Census 2022 (which of the following best describes what the person is mainly doing at present).

ILO guidelines on this aspect recommend countries to look at the main activity status, as self-declared, in the following categories: relevant own-use production of goods; own-use provision of services; unpaid trainee work; volunteer work; studies; self-care (due to illness or disability); leisure activities (social, cultural, recreational).

Table 21 looks at the responses to the question based on these categories. Highest number of individuals has self-declared their main activity status, as the fulfillment of family and household responsibilities. This falls broadly under own-use production of services. Over thirty-seven thousand (37,965) individuals, close to half (46.4%) declared ‘taking care of home or family’ as the main reason, disproportionately higher among females. Second highest category was studying as declared by 24.2 percent, almost 1 in every 4 individuals. This is mainly among 15–24-year-olds. This was followed by individuals that declared ‘long-term illness, injury, disability’ (self-care) related reasons (15.6%).

Age-group	Not Seeking, not available			% share		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Taking care of the home/family	34,844	3,121	37,965	60.4	12.9	46.4
Studying	10,839	9,001	19,840	18.8	37.2	24.2
Long term illness, injury, disability	7,253	5,496	12,749	12.6	22.7	15.6
Retired, pensioner	3,501	3,874	7,375	6.1	16.0	9.0
Doing an unpaid apprenticeship/internship	42	79	121	0.1	0.3	0.1
Farming or fishing to produce food for family	36	92	128	0.1	0.4	0.2
Doing unpaid voluntary, community, charity work	31	72	103	0.1	0.3	0.1
Other reasons	948	1,199	2,147	1.6	5.0	2.6
Not stated	206	1,259	1,465	0.4	5.2	1.8
Total	57,700	24,193	81,893	100	100	100

Table 21: Others outside labour force by main activity status, as self declared by sex, 2022



From a gender perspective, (figure 42) the highest difference is for care responsibilities, where over half the females (60.4%) percent compared to 12.9 percent males. Second highest category 'studying' had higher number of females, although percentage distribution within the sexes results in a higher share for males. Third highest category 'long term illness, injury, disability' also had more females in terms of numbers, percentage share was higher among males. Rest of the categories had more men in terms of numbers as well as in terms of percentage shares, (table 21 and figure 42).

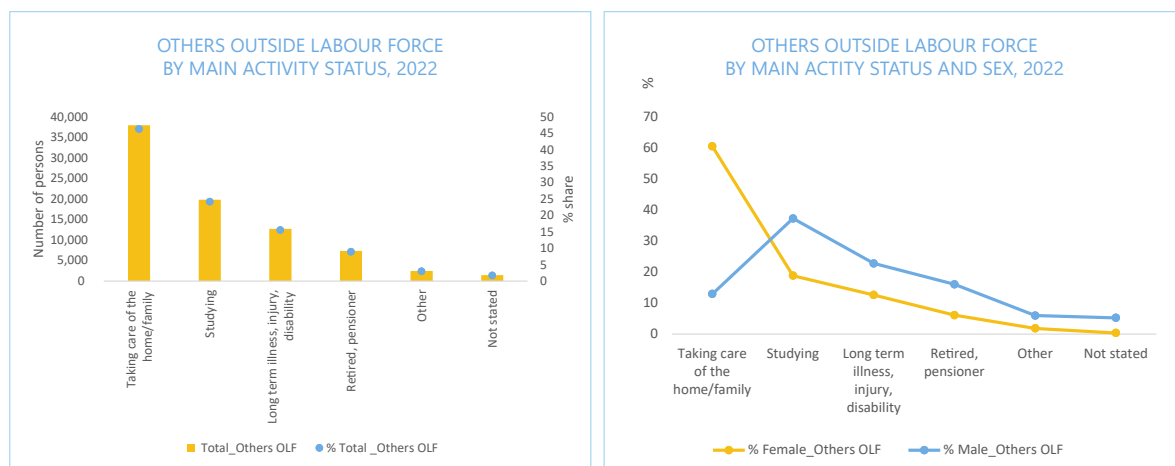


Figure 42: Others outside labour force (not seeking, not available), by main activity status, as self-declared, 2022

Figure 43 look at the main activity status, as self-declared by five-year age-groups. For young individuals aged 15-19 years, their main reason is their engagement in studies and training, as a significant number are still in the process of pursuing secondary and higher secondary education during this age. Among the elderly population aged 65 years and above, the primary reason is retirement, receipt of pensions. This is followed by the category long-term illness, injury, disability.

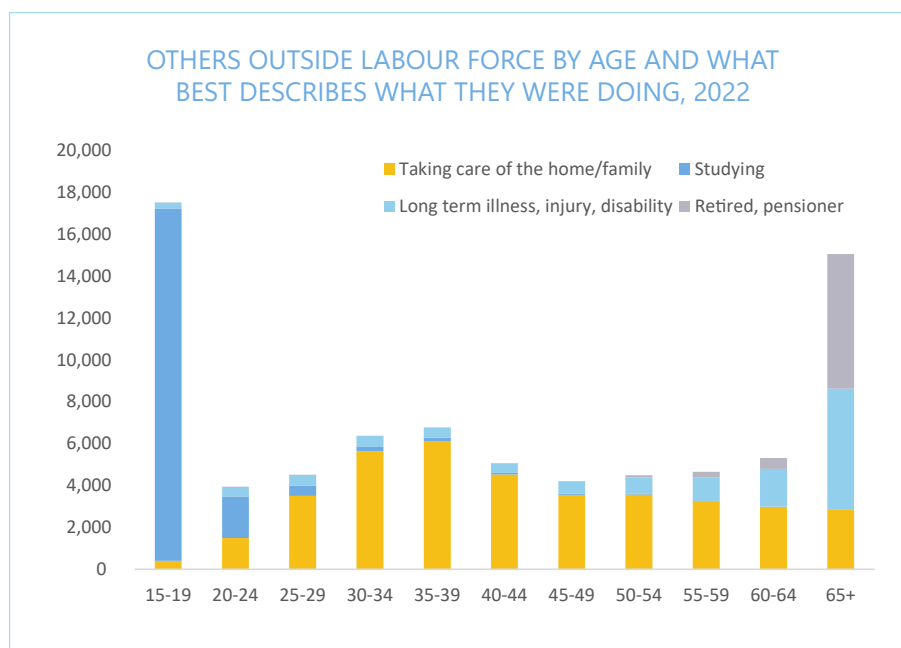


Figure 43: Others outside labour force by age and what best describes what they were doing, 2022

Among the elderly population aged 65 years and above, the primary reason is retirement, receipt of pensions. This is followed by the category long-term illness, injury, disability, Figure 44 looks at the differences in the reasons by sex among the five-year age-groups..

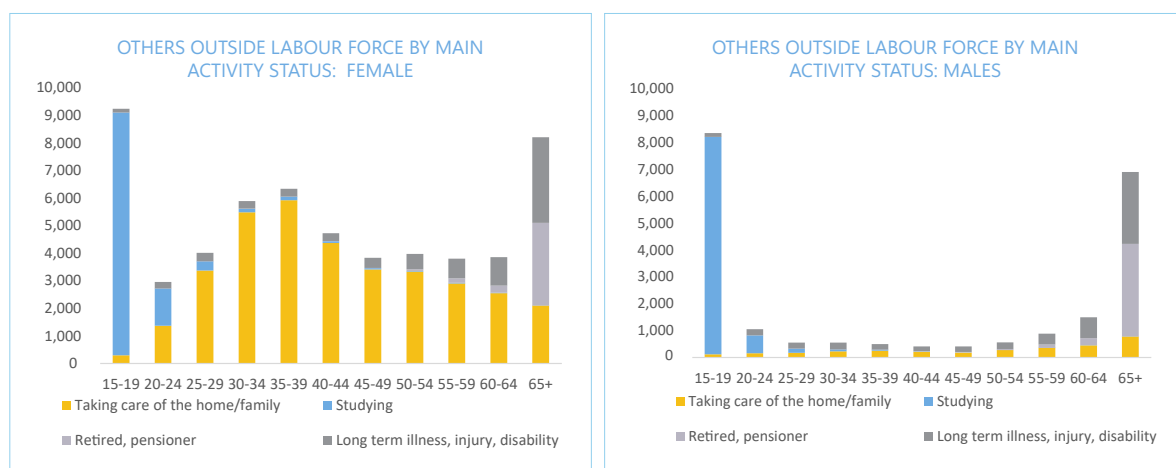


Figure 44: Others outside labour force, main activity status, as self-declared by age and sex, 2022



7

CHARACTERISTICS OF MALDIVIANS OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

7. CHARACTERISTICS OF MALDIVIANS OUTSIDE LABOUR FORCE

7.1 Education status of Persons outside labour force

Individuals outside the labour force include all individuals in the working ages 15 years and above, who were not in jobs or engaged in income generating activities or actively seeking such work, during the census reference week. As such several full-time students enrolled in school and universities also fall in this category of individuals outside labour force. Similarly, it includes those who have already completed their education.

Table 22 looks at the distribution of Maldivian population outside the labour and their education attendance status, at the time of census 2022.

Within the 15-19 age group there are 16,047 individuals who are outside the labour force as they are actively pursuing education. This account for 81% of those in the age-group. Likewise, within the 20-24 age group 2,174 are still pursuing their education (36%).

Age-group	Female		Male		% Female		% Male	
	In education	Not in education	In education	Not in education	In education	Not in education	In education	Not in education
15-19	8,335	1,952	7,712	1,856	81.0	19.0	80.6	19.4
20-24	1,522	2,731	652	1,214	35.8	64.2	34.9	65.1
25-29	550	5,110	173	1,202	9.7	90.3	12.6	87.4
30-34	456	7,481	79	1,216	5.7	94.3	6.1	93.9
35-39	506	8,019	57	1,046	5.9	94.1	5.2	94.8
40-44	327	5,996	30	852	5.2	94.8	3.4	96.6
45-49	265	4,839	26	744	5.2	94.8	3.4	96.6
50-54	214	4,893	19	927	4.2	95.8	2.0	98.0
55-59	180	4,489	17	1,272	3.9	96.1	1.3	98.7
60-64	81	4,428	15	1,948	1.8	98.2	0.8	99.2
65+	41	9,058	17	8,210	0.5	99.5	0.2	99.8
Total	12,477	58,996	8,797	20,487	17.5	82.5	30.0	70.0

Table 22: Maldivians outside labour force “in” or “not in” Education by sex and age, 2022

Among persons outside labour force, those attending education decreases with age, as most of them would have either completed their formal education or exited the educational system.

Looking from a gender dimension, overall, there is a higher proportion of males in education (30%) compared to females (18%) as well as across all age groups.

7.2 Educational Attainment of persons outside labour force

Among the population outside labour force, 8.4% have never attended any educational institution, while the majority, constituting 91.6%, have attended. Table 23 illustrates the educational attainment of the Maldivians outside labour force, as per the Census 2022 data.

	Pre-school education	Primary education	Secondary education	Higher secondary education	Certificate/ Diploma	Degree & above	Level not stated	Never attended
15-19	0.0	2.6	92.8	1.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
20-24	0.2	3.3	51.2	21.8	18.4	3.5	0.0	1.7
25-29	0.1	5.7	60.2	7.8	16.5	7.1	0.1	2.5
30-34	0.1	7.0	65.9	4.7	14.4	5.5	0.2	2.2
35-39	0.0	14.4	56.3	7.9	14.0	4.9	0.2	2.4
40-44	0.0	23.5	36.9	19.1	12.4	3.6	0.4	4.0
45-49	0.0	21.1	19.5	37.8	11.7	2.7	0.7	6.5
50-54	0.6	51.0	15.7	10.2	9.3	1.6	2.1	9.4
55-59	1.1	58.1	11.6	0.3	8.6	1.6	3.5	15.2
60-64	1.4	56.8	10.0	0.2	6.2	1.2	4.5	19.7
65+	1.5	54.4	9.1	0.1	4.5	0.7	4.6	25.0
Total	0.5	25.5	44.6	7.6	9.3	2.5	1.5	8.4

Table 23: Distribution of the persons outside labour force by highest educational attainment and age, 2022

Highest share of individuals outside labour force have achieved a level of secondary education as their highest educational attainment (44.6%), followed by primary education (25.5%) and Certificate or Diplomas (9.3%).

In the age group 15-19, a significant majority of individuals outside labour force (18,416) have attained some level of secondary education (92.8%) and obtained certificates or diplomas (3.0%). Majority of these include students currently attending educational institutions and continuing their studies. As such they are not in the labour force at the time.

Individuals in the age range of 20-24, has a more diverse educational background. Half of them has achieved secondary education (51.2%), followed by higher secondary education (21.8%) a significant percentage hold certificates or diplomas (18.4%). This showcases a clear ambition among the youth to pursue higher education. A high proportion of the young people are still in education at the time.

Table 24 looks at the gender gap in highest education attainment of persons outside labour force. For both men and women, the majority of individuals outside labour force have attained a level of secondary education as their highest qualification. However, this tendency is more pronounced among unemployed men compared to women. Conversely, a higher percentage is observed among women with certificates or diplomas and those with degree and above qualifications when compared to unemployed men.

Sex	Pre-school education	Primary education	Secondary education	Higher secondary education	Certificate/Diploma	Degree & above	Level not stated	Never attended	Total
Female	299	17,787	31,154	6,407	7,594	1,950	1,020	5,245	71,456
Male	191	7,900	13,807	1,210	1,808	560	515	3,265	29,256
Total	490	25,687	44,961	7,617	9,402	2,510	1,535	8,510	100,712
%distribution									
Female	0.4	24.9	43.6	9.0	10.6	2.7	1.4	7.3	100
Male	0.7	27.0	47.2	4.1	6.2	1.9	1.8	11.2	100
Total	0.5	25.5	44.6	7.6	9.3	2.5	1.5	8.4	100
%									
Female	61.0	69.2	69.3	84.1	80.8	77.7	66.4	61.6	71.0
Male	39.0	30.8	30.7	15.9	19.2	22.3	33.6	38.4	29.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 24: Persons outside labour force by highest educational attainment and age, 2022

Overall, the data reveals a significant proportion of unemployed individuals in the Maldives possess educational qualifications beyond primary education. As age groups progress, higher levels of educational attainment become more prevalent among the unemployed population. This trend suggests an increasing number of individuals in the workforce are opting for higher education to enhance their employability and secure better job opportunities.

However, it is crucial to note that there are still unemployed individuals with lower educational attainment, indicating the necessity for targeted efforts to address their specific employment challenges. Policymakers can leverage this data to tailor educational and training programs that align with the needs of the labor market and support the unemployed population in their pursuit of meaningful employment.

7.3 Marital status among persons outside labour force

Majority of Maldivian outside the labour force are married (57%), followed by those who have never married (28%). As expected, most are never married at the younger ages 15-17 and decrease as they age, with more widowed people among the older ages 65 and above.

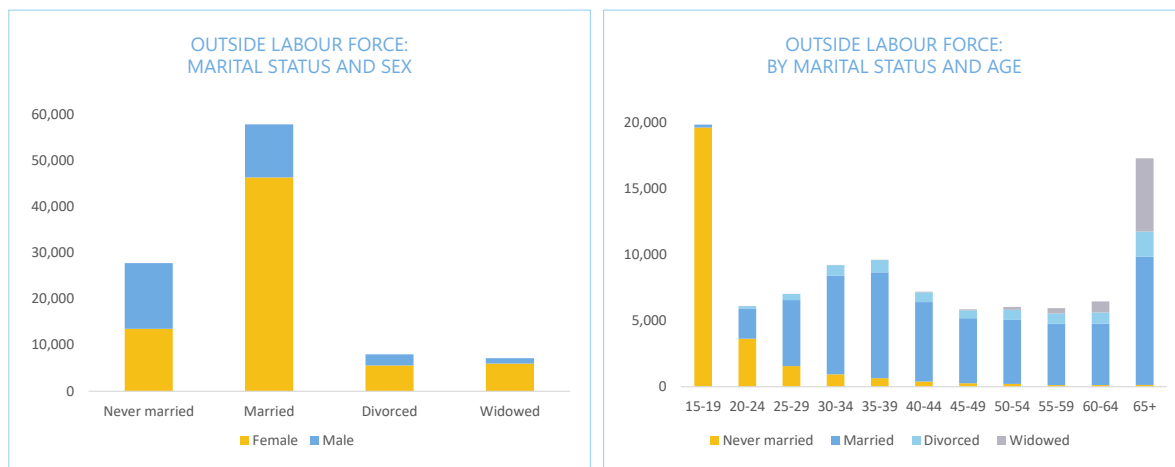


Figure 45: Maldivians outside labour force by marital status, age and sex, 2022

Among Potential labour force, highest number of individuals (27%) are in their thirties. As for the marital status 67% are married, while 22% are never married.

When considering the gender dimension of those in the potential labour force by age-groups, there is a higher share of never married males in the younger ages. Conversely, in the older age groups of individuals in the potential labour force, there are higher shares of widowed women.

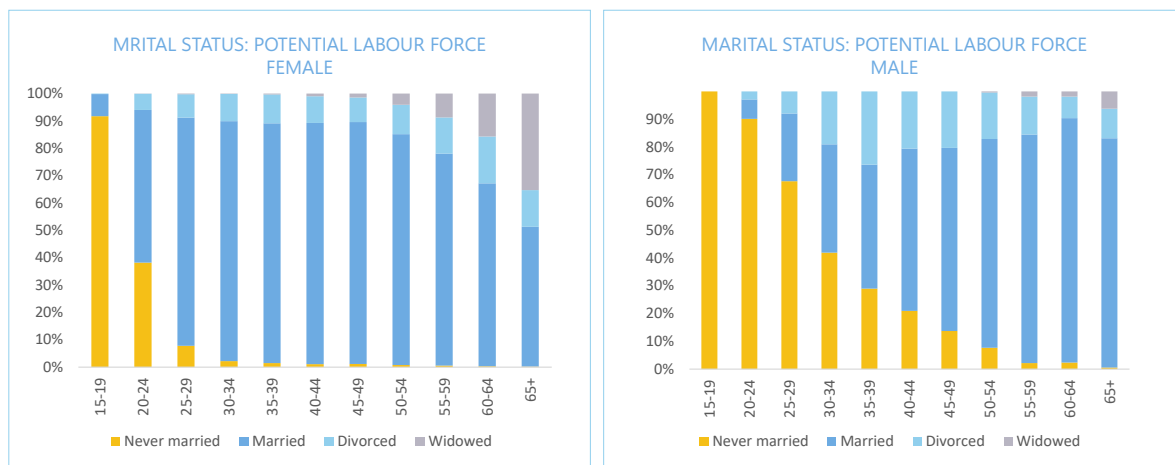


Figure 46: Maldivians among potential labour force by marital status, age and sex, 2022

7.4 Persons outside labour force and fertility

Out of the 71,473 Maldivian women outside the labourforce 54,039 (75%) had one or more children alive at the time of Census 2022. The share increases from 30% among women aged 20-24 to 73% for 25-29 to 90% and higher for those aged 35 and above.

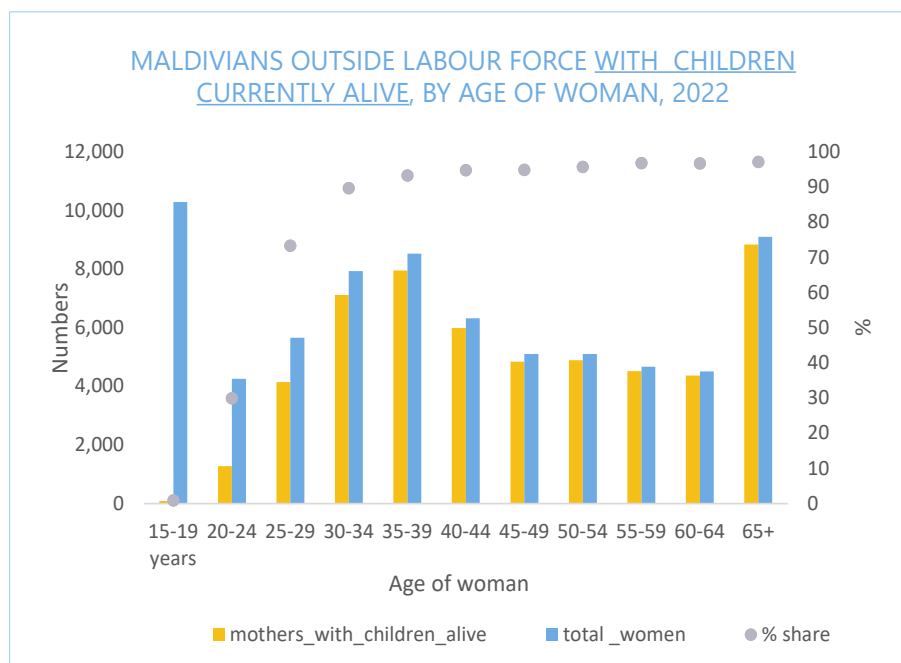


Figure 47: Maldivians outside labour force with children currently alive, by age of woman, 2022

Looking at the potential labour and others outside the labour force, shows substantially higher number of elderly women with children in others outside labour force category, followed by those in their thirties. However, in-terms of proportion of women with children alive out of total women in the age-group shows hardly any difference for these two categories.



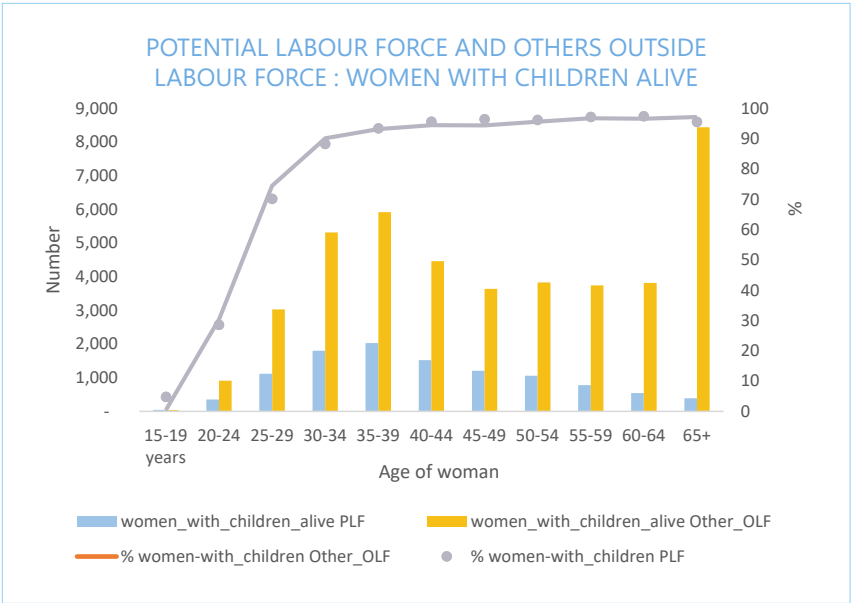


Figure 48: Potential labour force and others outside labour force : women with children alive

Furthermore, if we look at women who had one or more children alive, at the time of Census by age of mother, majority of young women in the ages 20-24 and 25-29 has 1 child alive, at the time of Census.

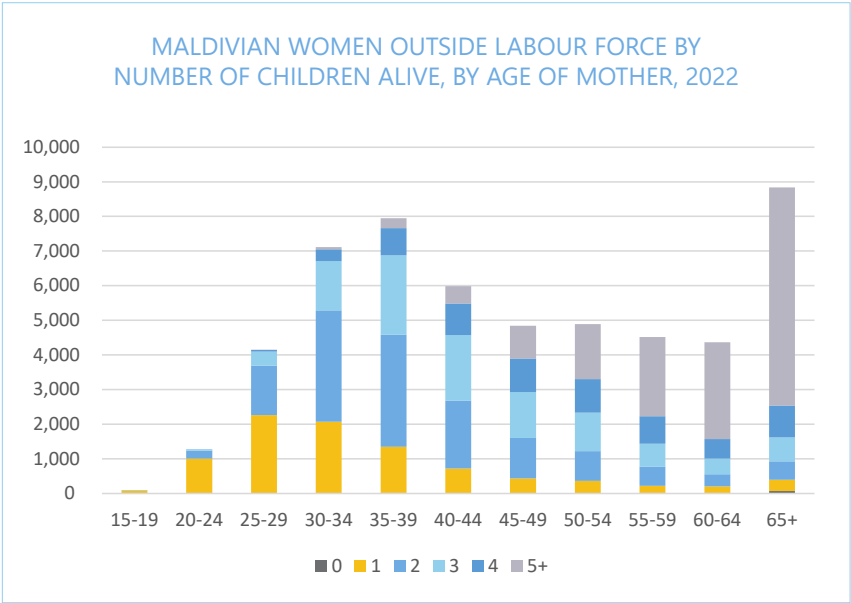


Figure 49: Maldivian women outside labour force by number of children alive, by age of mother, 2022

7.5 Persons outside labour force and disability

The data highlights that disability prevalence among those outside the labour force remains at 14.2%, with a total of 14,292 individuals out of 100,757 being identified as having a disability. This is high owing to the disproportionately high number of elderly people 65 and above among those outside labour force, and disability prevalence is high among the elderly.

Age-group	Female			Male			Total		
	without disability	with disability	Total	without disability	with disability	Total	without disability	with disability	Total
15-19	9,963	324	10,287	9,179	389	9,568	19,142	713	19,855
20-24	4,039	214	4,253	1,657	209	1,866	5,696	423	6,119
25-29	5,337	323	5,660	1,202	173	1,375	6,539	496	7,035
30-34	7,583	354	7,937	1,121	174	1,295	8,704	528	9,232
35-39	8,115	410	8,525	935	168	1,103	9,050	578	9,628
40-44	5,885	438	6,323	723	159	882	6,608	597	7,205
45-49	4,582	522	5,104	607	163	770	5,189	685	5,874
50-54	4,434	673	5,107	790	156	946	5,224	829	6,053
55-59	3,844	825	4,669	1,033	256	1,289	4,877	1,081	5,958
60-64	3,533	976	4,509	1,498	465	1,963	5,031	1,441	6,472
65+	5,287	3,812	9,099	5,118	3,109	8,227	10,405	6,921	17,326
Total	62,602	8,871	71,473	23,863	5,421	29,284	86,465	14,292	100,757

Table 25: Disability prevalence among persons outside labour force by age and sex, 2022

In terms of number of individuals with a disability, there are more females than males, among persons outside labour force. However, percentage of males with a disability out of total males in the age-group is higher for most age-groups, except among the young (15-19 years) and the elderly (65 years and above). Gender gap in disability prevalence is most prominent in the 45–49 age-group where disability prevalence among males were twice as high (21%) compared to females (10%).

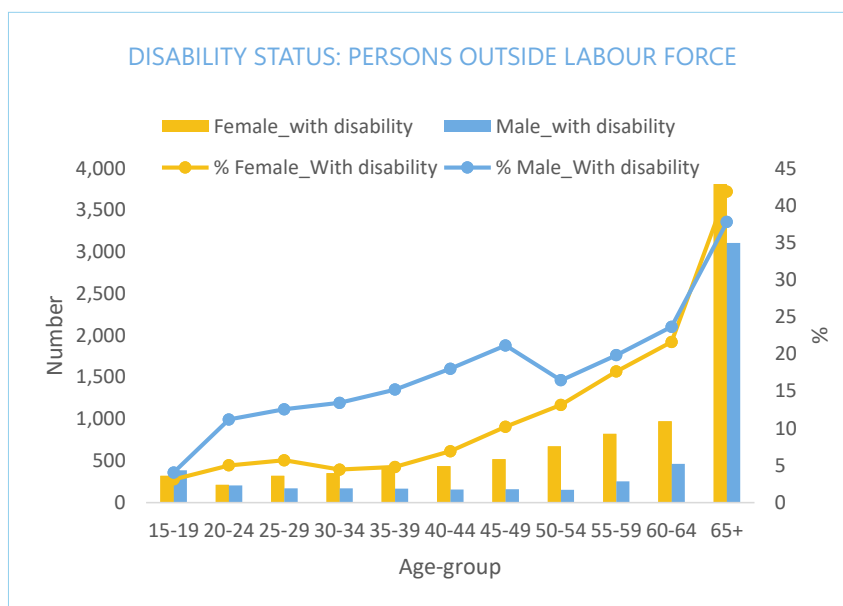


Figure 50: Disability status: Persons outside labour force



8

LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION INDICATORS

8: LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION INDICATORS

The most commonly used labour underutilization indicator “unemployment rate” has been reviewed in the sections above in much detail. This section explores some additional indicators, complementary to unemployment rate, recommended to be used alongside with it, to further explore the labour underutilization phenomena.

8.1 Ratio of the Unemployed to Potential Labour Force

To stay within the unemployed pool, individuals must actively search for employment and remain available for work opportunities. However, maintaining this active job search and constant availability for immediate employment, often within a two-week period, can be challenging and impractical. In cases where job searching is difficult, discouraging, or individuals face obstacles in being readily available for employment, those who are unemployed may opt to discontinue their active job search while remaining part of the potential labor force.

The ratio of unemployment to the potential labor force provides insights into the challenges related to job searching and availability for employment. For instance, a ratio higher than 1 observed for men in Maale (1.4) indicates relatively fewer difficulties in these aspects, emphasizing a more favorable environment for job searching and availability for employment.

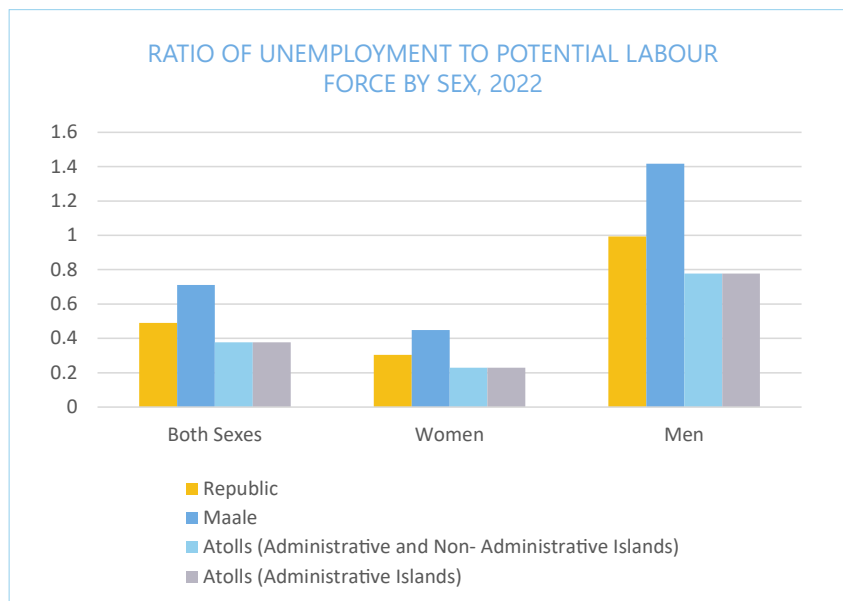


Figure 51: Ratio of unemployment to potential labour force by sex, 2022

The gender gap, characterized by a higher ratio for men compared to women across all Atolls, indicates that women encounter greater challenges accessing job search networks and becoming available for employment. This suggests a gender disparity in the ability to actively engage in the job market and be readily available for employment opportunities.

Among the Atolls, only Kaafu and Seenu display a ratio higher than 1, specifically for men. This signifies that, in these Atolls, men face relatively fewer difficulties in terms of job searching and availability for employment compared to other Atolls, underlining a more favorable environment for male job seekers.

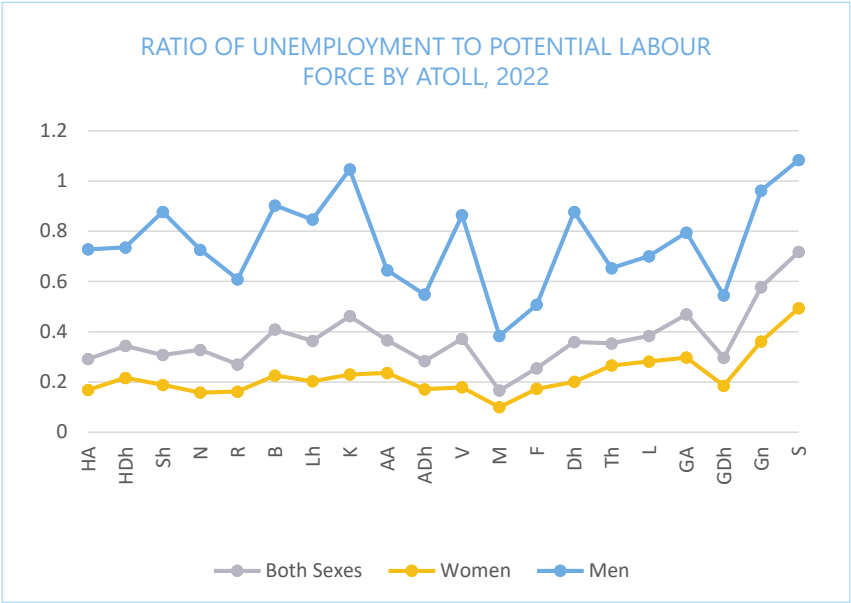


Figure 52: Ratio of unemployment to potential labour force by Atoll, 2022

The observed gender gap, with a higher ratio for men compared to women across all Atolls, highlights that women encounter more challenges when it comes to accessing job search networks and being readily available for employment. This gender disparity indicates that women may face barriers in actively engaging with the job market and expressing their willingness to participate in the workforce.

Moreover, when considering the larger share of individuals outside the labor force in the potential labor force for men compared to women, it implies that men maintain stronger connections to the labor force even when they are not actively employed. Additionally, men tend to express their interest in employment more explicitly by actively looking for job opportunities and being available to start working immediately. This further emphasizes the need to address gender-specific obstacles that hinder women from fully engaging with the labor market and expressing their readiness to join the workforce. Creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for women to actively seek employment and readily participate in the labor force is essential for promoting gender equality and ensuring a diverse and robust workforce.

8.2 Combined rate of unemployment and Potential labour force

Current international recommendations on labour statistics identifies four headline labour underutilization indicators. Combined rate of unemployment and Potential labour force (LU3) is one such additional measures of labour underutilisation which is complementary to the unemployment rate (LU1) and for which data is available from Census 2022.

LU3 represents the share of the extended labour force that are in unemployment or the potential labour force. It is derived by adding persons in unemployment and potential labour force and dividing by sum of labour force and potential labour force or extended labour force.

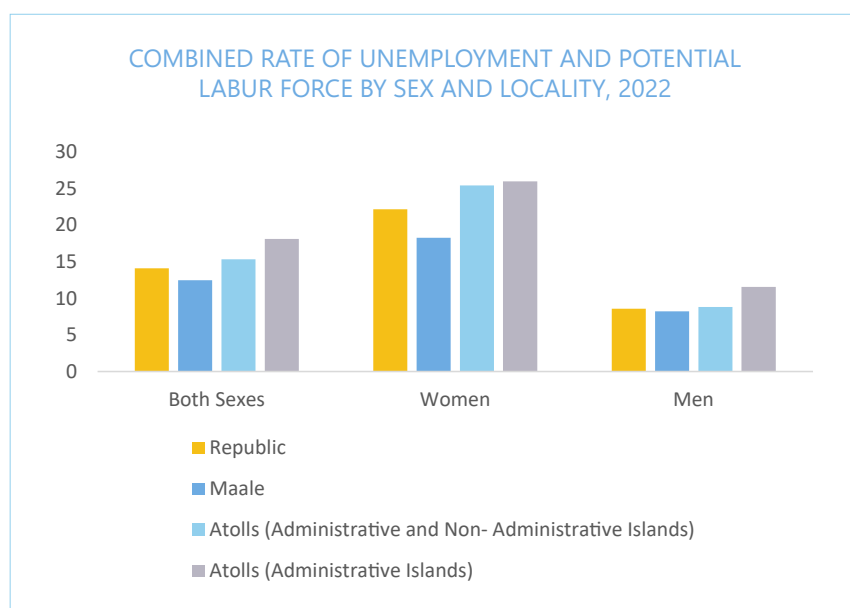


Figure 53: Combined rate of unemployment and potential labor force by sex and locality, 2022

It shows much higher rates compared to unemployment rate. While unemployment rate at national level is at 5.1%, the combined rate LU3 is almost three times as high at 14.1%. LU3 is especially high among women living in the administrative islands in the Atolls (26%) compared to Maale (18%).

The extent of labour underutilization is much higher when we consider the individuals in the potential labour force in combination with the unemployed.

This is especially high for women, which is in double digits across the Atolls, with lowest at 17.8% in AA-Alifu Alifu Atoll and highest at 30.7% in R-Raa Atoll. For men it is lowest at 8.3% in AA- Atoll and highest at 17% in S- Seenu Atoll.

Sex	Unemployment rate(%)	Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)	Unemployment rate (%)	Unemployment rate(%)	Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)	Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)
	Total	Total	Women	Men	Women	Men
HA	5.0	19.0	5.4	4.7	28.5	10.6
HDh	5.2	17.6	5.5	4.9	24.7	10.8
Sh	5.6	20.1	6.2	5.0	29.5	10.2
N	5.0	17.5	3.6	6.1	21.6	13.5
R	5.0	19.9	5.8	4.5	30.7	11.1
B	6.1	18.3	5.6	6.5	24.5	12.7
Lh	6.7	21.3	7.1	6.5	31.1	13.2
K	5.2	14.7	5.6	5.0	24.1	9.3
AA	3.7	12.4	4.0	3.4	17.8	8.3
Adh	3.8	15.0	3.8	3.7	21.2	9.9
V	4.0	13.3	3.4	4.4	19.0	9.0
M	2.4	14.5	2.6	2.2	22.7	7.5
F	4.0	17.2	4.3	3.8	23.5	10.4
Dh	4.5	15.0	4.6	4.4	22.2	9.0
Th	4.8	16.2	6.6	3.5	25.1	8.4
L	7.0	21.4	9.6	5.2	32.7	11.8
GA	6.7	18.4	7.4	6.3	25.8	13.2
GDh	5.4	19.9	5.6	5.2	27.7	13.5
Gn	7.0	17.1	6.8	7.1	21.6	13.5
S	10.1	21.3	10.9	9.6	27.0	17.0

Table 26: Unemployment rate and combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force by sex and Atoll (administrative islands)

9

YOUTH NOT IN EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)



9. YOUTH NOT IN EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

Figure 54 shows youth aged 15 to 24 years by education and labour force status. It also reveals those who are not in employment, education, or training (NEET) in the Maldives. NEET youth are individuals in the specified age groups (15 to 24) who are currently not engaged in any form of employment, education, or vocational training. This category encompasses young people who are not engaged in either formal education, employment, or any formal or informal training programs. In the Maldives, there are a total of 10,416 individuals categorized as NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) in the age group of 15 to 24 years. Among these, 5,672 are females, and 4,744 are males.

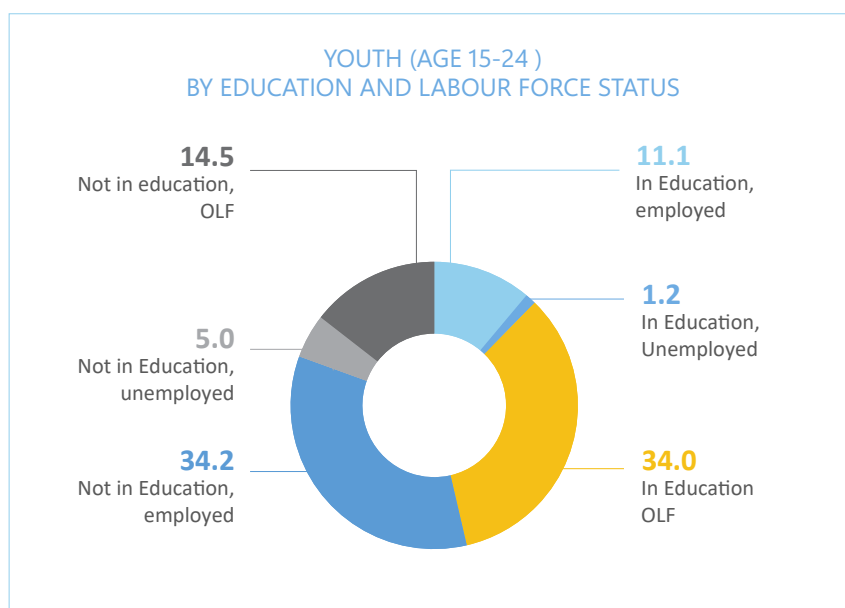


Figure 54: Youth (age 15-24) by education and labour force status

The number of NEET youth significantly rises within the ages 16 to 18, with males outnumbering females in each age group. This pattern indicates a notable transition of young individuals from education to the NEET status after completing their compulsory schooling. Subsequently, the number of NEET youth remains relatively stable within the ages 19 to 24. However, it's important to highlight that females are more represented among NEET youth, especially in the older age groups.

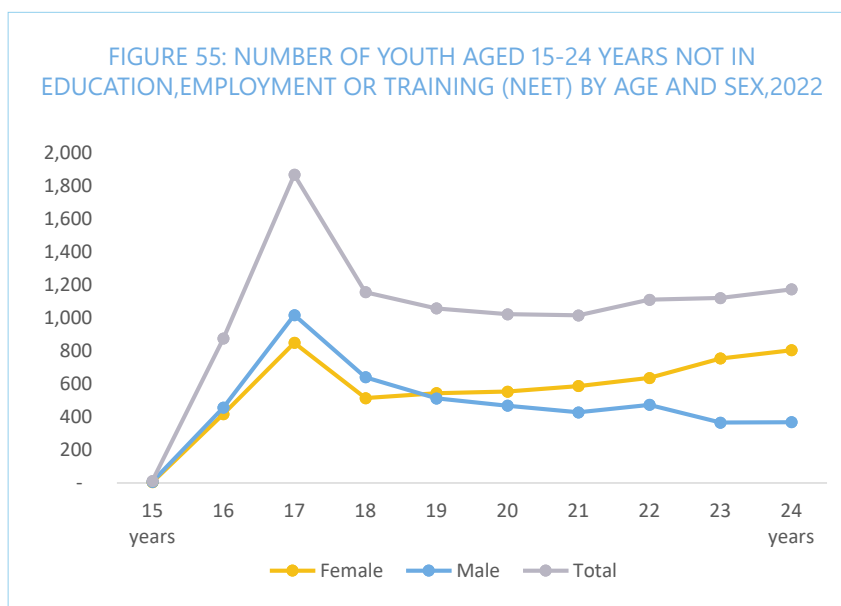


Figure 55: Number of youth aged 15-24 years not in education,employment or training (NEET) by age and sex,2022

Approximately one in every five (19%) young Maldivians aged 15-24, totaling 10,416 youths, are categorized as not in education, employment, or training (NEET). The NEET rate among young women is higher (22%) compared to young men (17%).

Furthermore, it's noteworthy that among youths who are not part of the labor force, 34% are currently engaged in education or training. Conversely, a corresponding 34% of youth who are not in education or training are actively employed. This dual observation underscores the diverse pathways and circumstances young individuals navigate in their transition from education to the workforce or training.

The international definition of youth, comprises individuals aged 15-24 years while within the Maldives, the definition of youth extends to individuals aged 18-35 years. As such NEET for the youth aged 18-35 years is also reviewed here separately (Figure 56).

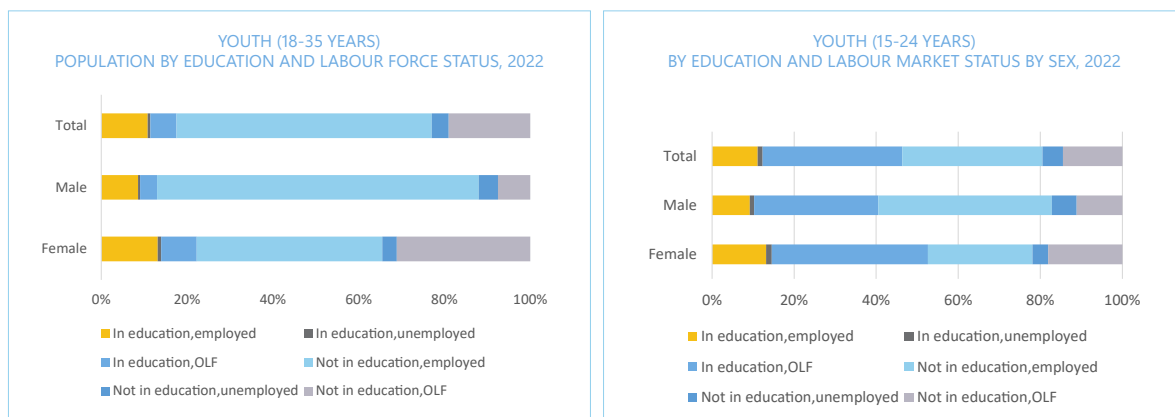


Figure 56: Youth (18-35 years & 15 - 24) population by education and labour force status

Approximately one in every four (23%) young Maldivians aged 18-35, totaling 117,076 youths, fall into the category of not being in education, employment, or training (NEET). The NEET rate among young women is nearly three times as high as that among young men, with 12% for men and 34% for women.

The proportion of women outside the labor force is significantly higher compared to men. Conversely, the percentage of young men who are not in education and not employed is higher when compared to women. A significant gender gap is evident in the count of young individuals aged 15 to 35 years who are not in education, employment, or training. This gender disparity notably expands with age.

At the age of 19 years, the count of males and females is equal, standing at 513 individuals each. However, the gender gap widens drastically over time. By the age of 35, the count for females reaches 1,688, marking a sixfold increase compared to the count for males at the same age, which is 298.

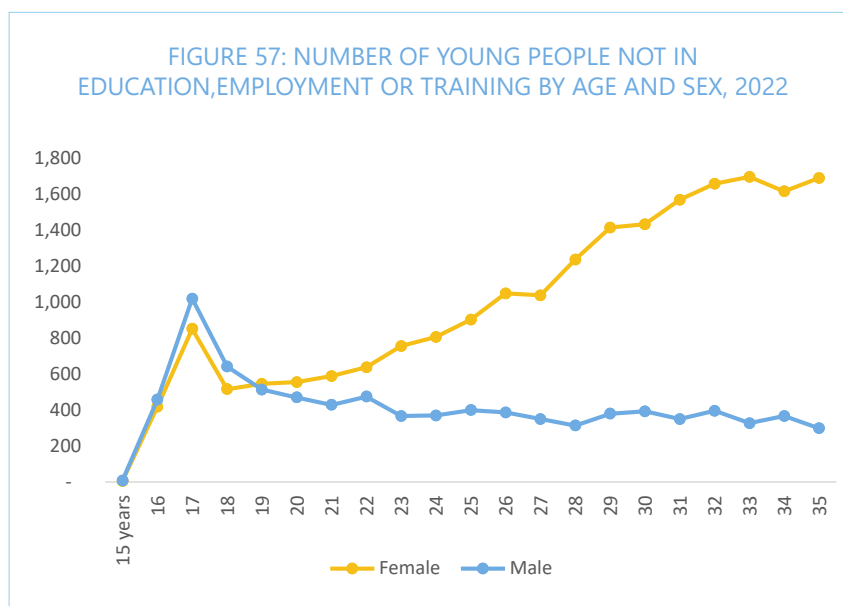


Figure 57: Number of young people not in education,employment or training by age and sex, 2022

Several factors might contribute to youth becoming NEET. These could include the lack of available educational or training opportunities, limited job prospects, mismatch between skills and labor market demands, and social or cultural factors affecting their decisions. The high number of NEET youth in the 16 to 18 years of age highlights the importance of ensuring a smooth transition from compulsory education to further studies, vocational training, or employment opportunities. Addressing the challenges faced by young people during this transitional period can play a crucial role in reducing the number of NEET youth. The higher representation of NEET females compared to males might be influenced by gender-specific factors, such as societal norms, responsibilities, or barriers to accessing education and employment opportunities.

Understanding the number of NEET youth in different age groups and gender categories is essential for formulating targeted policies and interventions. Policymakers can use this data to design initiatives that provide better access to education, vocational training, and employment opportunities for young people. Measures to support career guidance, skill development, and creating an inclusive and supportive environment for youth can help reduce the NEET population and improve overall socio-economic outcomes.



10 CONCLUSION

10. CONCLUSION

At present the country faces a window of opportunity with high proportion of Maldivians in the working ages. However, jobs creation and employment opportunities have gone mainly to foreign migrant workers. While unemployment rate among the Maldivians remains low at national level it is substantially higher in some of the Atolls and islands. Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force, another labour underutilization indicator that is complementary to unemployment rate, indicates much higher rates of labour underutilization among the Maldivians.

Youth unemployment rate is three times as high as that of adults, indicating youth face more difficulties in securing jobs. Youth NEET rate remains high, with rates higher among young women compared to young men.

Gender issues prevail with much lower labour force participation rates for women, high proportion of available potential labour force, not seeking income generating employment work. Women are disproportionately engaged in forms of work other than employment. In this respect being occupied with unpaid care work such as child care and family responsibilities. High proportion of working-age population remain outside labour force, disproportionately high among women.

This phenomenon is primarily attributed to the existing gender roles deeply ingrained in society, which give rise to significant gender inequality. Within these traditional roles, family and household responsibilities, such as caring for children, tending to elderly parents, handling cooking, and managing household chores, are predominantly perceived as the responsibility of women. This imbalance in gender roles perpetuates a systemic inequality that limits women's participation in the workforce and hinders their access to equal economic opportunities.

Gender inequality not only affects women's economic prospects but also has broader societal implications, including reinforcing stereotypes and potentially limiting overall economic growth by underutilizing a significant portion of the workforce. Addressing this issue necessitates efforts to challenge and reshape these traditional gender norms, promoting more equitable opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their gender.

The current demographic window of opportunity, with existing high number of individuals in the working-ages, compared to the young and the elderly dependents, will be limited in time. As such it is important to create more and better employment opportunities. While doing so, there needs to be a special focus on ways to tackle the existing barriers faced by individuals outside the labour force, especially women, those residing in the administrative islands in the Atolls, to improve labour market outcomes for the most

disadvantages and vulnerable people. Similarly, focused measures are needed to support career guidance, skill development, and creating an inclusive and supportive environment for youth can help reduce the NEET population and improve overall socio-economic outcomes.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **Working Age Population:** The population aged 15 years and older.
2. **Labour Force:** The sum of all persons of working age who are employed and those who are unemployed.
 - Employed:** Employed persons are engaged in income generating activities (in jobs, businesses, self-employed etc)
 - Unemployed:** Unemployed is the number of people looking for and available for income generating activities.
3. **Potential Labour Force:** Individuals of working age who are not part of the labour force but may become part of it due to their willingness and ability to work.
4. **Persons Outside the Labour Force:** Individuals of working age who are not part of the labour force, including those not seeking employment and not available for employment.
5. **Unemployment Rate:** Calculated by expressing the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the total number of persons in the labour force. $\text{Unemployment Rate} = (\text{Persons Unemployed} / \text{Labour Force}) \times 100$ where $\text{Labour Force} = (\text{Persons Employed} + \text{Persons Unemployed})$
6. **Youth Unemployment Rate:** The youth unemployment rate is calculated as youth unemployment as a percentage of the youth labour force.
7. **Share of Youth Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET Rate):** Conveys the number of young person's not in education, employment, or training as a percentage of the total youth population. $\text{NEET Rate} = [(\text{Youth} - \text{Youth in Employment} - \text{Youth Not in Employment but in Education or Training}) / \text{Youth}] \times 100$
8. **Combined Rate of Unemployment and Potential Labour Force:** Calculated as a combination of the rate of unemployment and potential labour force, expressed as a percentage. $\text{Combined Rate} = [(\text{Persons Unemployed} + \text{Potential Labour Force}) / (\text{Extended Labour Force})] \times 100$ where $\text{Extended Labour Force} = \text{Labour Force} + \text{Potential Labour Force}$.
9. **Discouraged Jobseekers:** Comprising those who did not "seek employment" for labour market-related reasons (past failure to find a suitable job, lack of experience, qualifications or jobs matching the person's skills, lack of jobs in the area, considered too young or too old by prospective employers) . Inter -changeably used in this chapter as discouraged workers.
10. **Inactivity rate:** the inactivity rate is the proportion of the working-age population that is not in the labour force. Summing up the inactivity rate and the labour force participation rate will yield 100 per cent.



11

ANNEX

Annex Table 1: Selected labour market indicators for resident Maldivians by sex and Atoll (admin and non-admin islands) , 2022

Atoll (admin+non- admin)	Working-age Maldivians (15+) (numbers)			Labour force participation rate (%)			Inactivity rate (%)			Unemployment rate (%)			Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)			Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) (%)			NEET rate (15-24 years) (%)		
	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male
HA	9,121	4,989	4,132	55.4	40.6	73.3	44.6	59.4	26.7	4.8	5.4	4.4	18.3	28.5	9.9	11.8	12.3	11.3	23.9	28.8	16.6
HDh	13,573	7,802	5,771	55.5	42.8	72.8	44.5	57.2	27.2	5.1	5.5	4.8	17.5	24.7	10.7	11.2	8.8	13.9	24.5	28.6	14.8
Sh	8,664	4,829	3,835	59.3	46.7	75.1	40.7	53.3	24.9	5.4	6.2	4.7	19.4	29.4	9.6	14.5	11.4	17.4	25.1	27.1	18.2
N	8,702	4,309	4,393	66.1	51.9	80.0	33.9	48.1	20.0	4.0	3.5	4.4	14.5	21.0	9.8	10.8	9.9	11.3	21.2	23.3	18.0
R	12,337	5,833	6,504	61.9	43.1	78.8	38.1	56.9	21.2	4.0	5.6	3.3	16.6	29.9	8.2	9.9	11.4	9.3	26.0	35.1	16.9
B	7,906	3,484	4,422	68.6	51.0	82.5	31.4	49.0	17.5	4.3	5.3	3.8	13.4	23.3	7.7	11.3	11.7	11.1	19.0	23.0	16.9
Lh	6,784	3,150	3,634	63.7	42.0	82.6	36.3	58.0	17.4	4.8	6.6	4.0	15.9	29.5	8.4	10.0	14.4	7.8	20.9	30.8	11.9
K	16,468	4,474	11,994	77.2	52.6	86.4	22.8	47.4	13.6	2.5	4.8	2.0	7.5	21.3	3.8	4.9	7.6	4.2	14.3	25.1	10.5
AA	5,418	2,255	3,163	70.7	53.6	82.8	29.3	46.4	17.2	2.8	3.9	2.3	9.7	17.5	5.6	7.8	11.3	6.4	21.1	28.4	15.7
Adh	7,371	3,064	4,307	71.9	53.1	85.3	28.1	46.9	14.7	2.6	3.6	2.2	10.9	20.5	5.9	5.7	7.3	5.0	17.6	25.9	11.5
V	1,164	492	672	72.9	59.8	82.4	27.1	40.2	17.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	11.6	18.9	7.1	9.9	11.5	9.1	22.6	28.3	18.8
M	3,470	1,763	1,707	66.5	52.9	80.7	33.5	47.1	19.3	2.3	2.6	2.0	14.0	22.6	7.0	4.9	6.0	4.3	18.8	27.1	7.6
F	2,856	1,575	1,281	61.7	52.6	72.9	38.3	47.4	27.1	4.0	4.3	3.6	16.9	23.5	10.1	13.5	13.9	13.1	22.0	28.4	12.5
Dh	4,701	2,112	2,589	70.6	52.5	85.4	29.4	47.5	14.6	3.4	4.3	2.9	11.7	21.3	6.0	8.9	6.8	9.9	17.0	22.0	11.5
Th	6,292	3,296	2,996	63.8	51.0	77.9	36.2	49.0	22.1	4.7	6.5	3.4	15.9	25.0	8.1	13.5	10.6	15.7	25.9	29.8	20.5
L	9,180	4,776	4,404	60.0	44.3	76.9	40.0	55.7	23.1	6.7	9.6	4.8	20.5	32.6	11.0	19.1	20.4	18.2	30.3	35.8	20.9
GA	6,104	2,838	3,266	61.3	44.4	76.0	38.7	55.6	24.0	5.9	7.2	5.2	16.3	25.4	10.9	13.5	14.5	13.0	26.9	33.8	20.8
GDh	7,966	4,137	3,829	55.1	41.9	69.4	44.9	58.1	30.6	5.1	5.6	4.9	19.2	27.5	12.7	12.3	11.5	13.0	25.8	29.1	19.6
Gn	5,549	3,012	2,537	54.6	41.3	70.3	45.4	58.7	29.7	7.0	6.8	7.1	17.1	21.6	13.5	18.7	14.3	23.5	25.1	24.0	22.5
S	15,054	8,033	7,021	52.6	38.8	68.3	47.4	61.2	31.7	10.0	10.9	9.5	21.0	26.9	16.7	20.2	19.8	20.6	26.0	26.4	24.0

Annex Table 2: Selected labour market indicators for resident Maldivians by sex, administrative islands, 2022

Atoll	Island	Working-age Maldivians (15+) (numbers)			Labour force participation rate (%)			Inactivity rate (%)			Unemployment rate (%)			Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)			Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) (%)			NET rate (15-24 years) (%)		
		Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male
HA	Baarah	700	409	291	52.3	40.8	68.4	47.7	59.2	31.6	9.8	7.2	12.1	27.2	34.4	21.5	15.9	12.5	20.0	29.6	36.1	22.2
HA	Dhidhdhoo	2,002	1,178	824	48.8	32.1	72.6	51.2	67.9	27.4	2.8	4.0	2.0	17.5	32.2	5.8	6.5	7.3	5.9	19.7	22.8	16.3
HA	Filiadhoo	387	205	182	69.3	59.5	80.2	30.7	40.5	19.8	4.5	4.1	4.8	11.1	14.5	8.6	20.0	18.2	21.4	27.3	16.0	36.7
HA	Hoarafushi	1,160	580	580	54.9	39.1	70.7	45.1	60.9	29.3	6.3	9.7	4.4	17.8	30.9	10.7	13.3	17.6	10.7	25.2	27.1	23.9
HA	Ihavandhoo	1,721	976	745	50.5	34.3	71.7	49.5	65.7	28.3	6.1	8.4	4.7	23.7	41.0	10.5	14.6	15.3	13.7	25.2	29.9	18.5
HA	Kelaa	673	374	299	64.8	57.0	74.6	35.2	43.0	25.4	6.2	5.2	7.2	14.3	18.4	10.8	28.6	25.0	33.3	24.3	29.7	18.9
HA	Maarandhoo	398	223	175	50.5	39.0	65.1	49.5	61.0	34.9	2.5	2.3	2.6	10.1	15.3	5.9	8.0	9.1	7.1	18.8	25.7	11.8
HA	Mulhadhoo	178	97	81	78.1	74.2	82.7	21.9	25.8	17.3	1.4	0.0	3.0	2.1	0.0	4.4	7.7	0.0	16.7	9.1	7.7	11.1
HA	Muraidhoo	300	178	122	57.0	47.8	70.5	43.0	52.2	29.5	2.3	0.0	4.7	17.7	25.4	7.9	7.1	0.0	16.7	31.4	41.7	9.1
HA	Thakandhoo	199	111	88	61.8	52.3	73.9	38.2	47.7	26.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.9	10.8	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.4	41.7	18.2
HA	Thuraakunu	284	151	133	54.2	41.1	69.2	45.8	58.9	30.8	0.6	1.6	0.0	20.3	34.1	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	16.7	16.7
HA	Uligamu	253	141	112	49.0	30.5	72.3	51.0	69.5	27.7	9.7	11.6	8.6	34.5	56.0	18.7	7.1	20.0	0.0	45.5	55.6	33.3
HA	Uttheemu	381	211	170	57.5	49.8	67.1	42.5	50.2	32.9	5.9	2.9	8.8	25.1	30.3	20.0	23.8	9.1	40.0	29.8	28.6	30.8
HA	Vashafaru	282	151	131	60.3	45.7	77.1	39.7	54.3	22.9	7.1	8.7	5.9	16.4	24.0	12.0	12.9	14.3	11.8	30.9	40.6	17.4
HDh	Finay	261	152	109	67.4	58.6	79.8	32.6	41.4	20.2	2.8	2.2	3.4	12.8	17.5	7.7	16.7	10.0	25.0	21.2	21.1	21.4
HDh	Hanimaadhoo	1,311	691	620	56.1	38.8	75.3	43.9	61.2	24.7	1.6	1.9	1.5	13.7	22.8	7.8	2.9	2.0	3.7	28.3	35.9	19.8
HDh	Hirimaradhoo	198	106	92	64.1	56.6	72.8	35.9	43.4	27.2	8.7	5.0	11.9	22.1	22.9	22.4	28.6	0.0	66.7	40.0	30.8	50.0
HDh	Kulhudhuffushi	6,253	3,635	2,618	54.1	39.6	74.3	45.9	60.4	25.7	5.1	5.4	4.8	14.5	21.8	9.2	10.8	8.1	13.7	20.4	23.1	16.5
HDh	Kumundhoo	666	397	269	45.2	32.0	64.7	54.8	68.0	35.3	11.6	14.2	9.8	38.6	57.5	21.9	16.3	16.0	16.7	39.3	43.3	33.3
HDh	Kuribi	325	176	149	64.3	52.3	78.5	35.7	47.7	21.5	2.4	1.1	3.4	10.5	15.1	6.6	8.3	0.0	13.6	11.5	13.0	10.3
HDh	Makunudhoo	773	427	346	57.6	48.0	69.4	42.4	52.0	30.6	2.7	1.5	3.8	14.3	20.7	8.0	8.9	4.0	15.0	18.0	20.6	14.6
HDh	Naivaadhoo	286	172	114	61.2	53.5	72.8	38.8	46.5	27.2	4.0	3.3	4.8	24.3	31.7	15.1	11.1	0.0	20.0	22.6	35.7	11.8
HDh	Nellaadhoo	647	373	274	62.4	54.2	73.7	37.6	45.8	26.3	3.2	3.5	3.0	12.3	19.0	5.3	15.6	25.0	6.3	16.5	24.6	6.5
HDh	Neykurendhoo	383	227	156	66.3	62.6	71.8	33.7	37.4	28.2	0.8	0.7	0.9	11.9	13.6	9.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.8	24.1	15.8
HDh	Nolhivaramu	1,179	741	438	47.2	36.8	64.8	52.8	63.2	35.2	3.9	1.8	6.0	25.9	33.4	17.1	10.2	0.0	31.3	45.1	48.6	39.3
HDh	Nolhivaranfaru	759	453	306	60.2	51.7	72.9	39.8	48.3	27.1	17.7	23.5	11.7	28.8	47.2	17.2	27.6	34.4	19.2	28.4	34.8	20.0
HDh	Vaikaadhoo	478	251	227	54.2	44.6	64.8	45.8	55.4	35.2	3.9	2.7	4.8	16.7	20.3	14.1	8.7	7.1	11.1	25.4	35.1	14.7

Atoll	Island	Working-age Maldivians (15+)(numbers)			Labour force participation rate (%)			Inactivity rate (%)			Unemployment rate (%)			Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)			Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) (%)			NEET rate (15-24 years) (%)		
		Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male
Sh	Bilehifahi	313	175	138	67.4	63.4	72.5	32.6	36.6	27.5	2.8	2.7	3.0	12.0	15.3	8.5	9.1	0.0	16.7	22.6	13.3	31.3
Sh	Feevah	426	238	188	66.4	53.8	82.4	33.6	46.2	17.6	4.2	3.9	4.5	14.0	21.9	6.9	13.5	10.5	16.7	14.1	15.4	12.0
Sh	Feydhoo	527	290	237	55.2	46.9	65.4	44.8	53.1	34.6	2.7	2.9	2.6	16.5	22.4	11.2	11.9	14.3	9.5	24.0	21.3	26.5
Sh	Foakadhoo	940	545	395	49.9	33.9	71.9	50.1	66.1	28.1	14.7	20.5	10.9	32.5	56.6	16.8	21.1	18.2	25.0	31.8	37.8	21.1
Sh	Funadhoo	1,407	753	654	62.6	49.5	77.7	37.4	50.5	22.3	4.9	4.6	5.1	15.5	23.6	9.2	13.5	6.7	18.2	25.0	24.5	25.6
Sh	Goldhoo	369	208	161	55.0	42.3	71.4	45.0	57.7	28.6	4.4	8.0	1.7	20.2	36.2	5.8	11.1	10.0	11.8	36.1	41.9	30.0
Sh	Kaditheemu	754	439	315	60.6	47.6	78.7	39.4	52.4	21.3	2.6	3.8	1.6	13.3	23.1	3.9	7.9	5.9	9.5	19.2	24.7	10.6
Sh	Komandoo	603	341	262	56.1	44.0	71.8	43.9	56.0	28.2	5.3	6.0	4.8	23.8	37.1	10.9	22.7	22.2	23.1	19.7	24.2	14.3
Sh	Lhaimagu	377	221	156	57.6	46.6	73.1	42.4	53.4	26.9	7.8	7.8	7.9	21.6	32.0	11.8	12.5	0.0	23.1	14.8	13.8	16.0
Sh	Maaugoodhoo	613	343	270	62.8	51.0	77.8	37.2	49.0	22.2	5.5	5.7	5.2	12.7	20.1	6.6	20.4	14.8	27.3	27.8	27.9	27.8
Sh	Maroshi	302	177	125	59.6	57.1	63.2	40.4	42.9	36.8	7.2	7.9	6.3	15.2	15.8	15.9	50.0	43.8	66.7	27.1	14.3	45.0
Sh	Milandhoo	1,260	762	498	55.6	45.5	70.9	44.4	54.5	29.1	5.0	5.2	4.8	26.2	37.9	12.0	10.1	6.7	16.7	30.2	31.0	29.1
Sh	Narudhoo	353	200	153	55.8	41.0	75.2	44.2	59.0	24.8	4.1	3.7	4.3	25.3	40.2	10.6	15.8	0.0	33.3	20.6	24.2	16.7
Sh	Noomaraa	227	125	102	57.7	44.0	74.5	42.3	56.0	25.5	3.8	3.6	3.9	25.4	37.8	14.1	5.3	0.0	11.1	27.0	30.4	21.4
N	Fodhdhoo	207	104	103	54.6	42.3	67.0	45.4	57.7	33.0	1.8	4.5	0.0	15.9	24.5	10.4	5.9	9.1	0.0	11.8	5.6	18.8
N	Henbadhoo	388	230	158	68.6	63.0	76.6	31.4	37.0	23.4	1.5	2.1	0.8	10.6	14.7	5.5	4.3	3.7	5.0	18.1	22.5	12.5
N	Holhudhoo	912	559	353	56.1	44.5	74.5	43.9	55.5	25.5	4.7	1.6	7.6	15.1	18.3	12.0	14.3	7.4	20.7	16.6	14.7	19.4
N	Kethikulhudhoo	971	560	411	66.4	61.3	73.5	33.6	38.8	26.5	4.3	2.6	6.3	10.1	9.7	10.7	17.6	10.3	25.7	24.2	24.1	24.3
N	Kudafari	355	189	166	71.0	66.7	75.9	29.0	33.3	24.1	2.4	1.6	3.2	7.2	8.3	6.2	3.2	7.1	0.0	6.3	10.3	2.9
N	Landhoo	448	262	186	68.5	60.7	79.6	31.5	39.3	20.4	5.9	4.4	7.4	15.5	18.5	12.7	22.2	18.8	25.0	26.0	26.3	25.7
N	Lhohi	404	224	180	58.7	46.4	73.9	41.3	53.6	26.1	5.1	2.9	6.8	27.9	38.0	17.9	16.7	0.0	30.8	36.2	30.3	44.0
N	Maafaru	600	324	276	65.8	54.9	78.6	34.2	45.1	21.4	7.3	6.2	8.3	19.9	24.6	16.7	16.3	15.2	17.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
N	Maalhendhoo	447	248	199	55.5	48.8	63.8	44.5	51.2	36.2	6.5	4.1	8.7	24.4	27.5	22.1	13.9	0.0	26.3	35.3	23.7	44.7
N	Magoodhoo	182	102	80	73.1	66.7	81.3	26.9	33.3	18.8	4.5	2.9	6.2	16.4	20.0	12.9	13.0	15.4	10.0	16.7	18.8	14.3
N	Manadhoo	1,013	514	499	66.1	55.8	76.8	33.9	44.2	23.2	5.5	4.9	6.0	19.2	24.7	15.3	16.3	14.6	17.8	30.6	36.8	24.4
N	Miadhoo	569	343	226	44.8	31.8	64.6	55.2	68.2	35.4	9.0	6.4	11.0	30.1	40.3	21.7	24.2	25.0	23.1	36.4	38.3	33.3
N	Veldhoo	1,120	573	547	56.4	39.4	74.2	43.6	60.6	25.8	4.3	4.0	4.4	17.8	29.0	10.6	13.5	8.6	17.9	24.2	19.5	28.6

Atoll	Island	Working-age Maldivians (15+) (numbers)			Labour force participation rate (%)			Inactivity rate (%)			Unemployment rate (%)			Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)			Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) (%)			NEET rate (15-24 years) (%)		
		Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male
R	Agolitheemu	241	124	117	68.9	58.9	79.5	31.1	41.1	20.5	4.2	4.1	4.3	14.1	22.1	7.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	20.0	7.1
R	Alifushi	988	540	448	56.3	42.4	73.0	43.7	57.6	27.0	4.5	6.1	3.4	18.7	33.2	6.5	9.7	13.8	6.1	21.7	32.1	10.8
R	Dhuvaafaru	2,137	1,116	1,021	48.1	27.2	70.8	51.9	72.8	29.2	7.2	8.6	6.6	29.9	51.6	17.0	22.0	14.5	26.3	49.0	56.6	41.2
R	FaINU	274	133	141	63.5	45.9	80.1	36.5	54.1	19.9	10.9	26.2	2.7	32.0	67.4	10.6	23.1	33.3	14.3	16.7	23.8	9.5
R	HulhudhuffaarU	780	441	339	51.2	38.1	68.1	48.8	61.9	31.9	7.3	9.5	5.6	26.6	42.1	13.8	23.3	26.7	20.0	21.7	24.2	18.5
R	IguraIdhoo	811	456	355	56.2	42.8	73.5	43.8	57.2	26.5	2.0	0.5	3.1	14.2	22.5	6.6	11.1	0.0	18.8	25.8	24.0	27.7
R	Innamaadhoo	360	184	176	63.9	44.0	84.7	36.1	56.0	15.3	2.2	2.5	2.0	15.7	31.3	4.6	15.4	13.3	18.2	23.8	24.0	23.5
R	Kinolhas	317	166	151	71.9	64.5	80.1	28.1	35.5	19.9	4.4	1.9	6.6	13.5	15.6	11.7	16.1	5.9	28.6	30.0	26.5	34.6
R	Maakuraathu	602	310	292	60.1	50.0	70.9	39.9	50.0	29.1	13.0	14.8	11.6	26.4	39.8	18.3	18.3	23.8	15.4	29.2	41.2	19.4
R	MaduvarI	1,100	550	550	55.9	42.9	68.9	44.1	57.1	31.1	3.1	4.2	2.4	15.1	24.7	8.6	5.3	7.1	4.3	34.8	35.5	34.1
R	Meedhoo	1,226	645	581	59.2	43.1	77.1	40.8	56.9	22.9	3.7	3.6	3.8	13.1	22.3	6.7	17.4	3.8	25.6	21.8	24.1	19.2
R	Rasgetheemu	331	188	143	52.3	48.9	56.6	47.7	51.1	43.4	5.8	5.4	6.2	24.2	26.1	23.2	25.0	16.7	37.5	38.9	36.4	42.9
R	Rasmaadhoo	346	188	158	67.6	62.8	73.4	32.4	37.2	26.6	2.6	3.4	1.7	9.2	12.0	6.6	7.4	18.2	0.0	19.6	34.8	4.3
R	UgoofaarU	1,044	545	499	60.0	47.0	74.1	40.0	53.0	25.9	1.9	2.3	1.6	14.1	20.0	9.9	3.8	5.7	2.2	20.8	27.8	14.0
R	Vaadhoo	292	159	133	61.3	45.9	79.7	38.7	54.1	20.3	5.6	4.1	6.6	20.3	32.3	10.0	30.0	33.3	28.6	35.8	51.7	16.7
B	Dharavandhoo	566	282	284	69.1	55.7	82.4	30.9	44.3	17.6	6.9	6.4	7.3	14.8	22.2	10.0	17.4	23.5	13.8	27.1	34.1	20.5
B	DhonfaNu	261	145	116	59.4	50.3	70.7	40.6	49.7	29.3	7.1	5.5	8.5	22.2	28.6	16.7	27.8	22.2	33.3	35.4	38.5	31.8
B	Eydhafushi	1,608	904	704	51.1	39.6	65.8	48.9	60.4	34.2	7.2	8.1	6.5	17.0	24.6	11.8	22.2	18.9	24.5	21.6	19.5	23.7
B	Fehendhoo	127	54	73	71.7	53.7	84.9	28.3	46.3	15.1	11.0	13.8	9.7	21.4	34.4	16.4	37.5	42.9	33.3	50.0	61.5	38.5
B	Fulhadhoo	179	70	109	83.2	70.0	91.7	16.8	30.0	8.3	4.0	2.0	5.0	10.1	16.1	6.9	9.5	16.7	6.7	11.1	20.0	5.9
B	Goldhoo	357	197	160	61.9	52.3	73.8	38.1	47.7	26.3	5.4	2.9	7.6	11.8	11.0	12.8	17.6	0.0	33.3	21.1	11.1	30.0
B	Hithaadhoo	430	247	183	56.7	45.7	71.6	43.3	54.3	28.4	6.6	5.3	7.6	22.2	27.9	17.7	25.9	12.5	45.5	26.9	24.3	30.0
B	Kamadhoo	250	122	128	64.4	50.8	77.3	35.6	49.2	22.7	8.1	6.5	9.1	24.5	30.8	21.1	13.0	8.3	18.2	32.7	25.0	41.7
B	Kendhoo	552	297	255	71.7	63.0	82.0	28.3	37.0	18.0	6.3	5.9	6.7	19.0	26.3	12.6	19.3	16.7	21.2	27.7	36.2	19.1
B	Khaadhoo	298	146	152	69.8	74.7	65.1	30.2	25.3	34.9	3.4	0.0	7.1	14.8	10.7	19.3	16.1	0.0	31.3	15.9	16.0	15.8
B	Kudarkitu	307	146	161	65.8	51.4	78.9	34.2	48.6	21.1	2.5	5.3	0.8	16.9	34.3	3.8	3.8	0.0	5.0	13.0	13.3	12.9
B	Maalhos	317	193	124	77.0	73.1	83.1	23.0	26.9	16.9	2.5	2.8	1.9	11.2	14.2	7.3	3.8	0.0	11.1	18.0	12.9	26.3
B	Thulhaadhoo	1,041	571	470	50.7	36.8	67.7	49.3	63.2	32.3	6.8	6.7	6.9	25.9	40.3	14.2	27.9	20.0	35.5	33.3	29.9	36.5

Atoll	Island	Working-age Maldivians (15+) (numbers)			Labour force participation rate (%)			Inactivity rate (%)			Unemployment rate (%)			Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)			Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) (%)			NET rate (15-24 years) (%)		
		Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male
Lh	Hinnavaru	1,529	882	647	55.9	39.9	77.6	44.1	60.1	22.4	8.2	9.4	7.4	23.1	35.0	15.0	16.8	13.0	21.3	25.8	27.2	23.9
Lh	Kurendhoo	718	415	303	45.5	31.8	64.4	54.5	68.2	35.6	6.7	4.5	8.2	30.0	43.7	17.5	23.3	16.7	27.8	48.5	58.0	38.8
Lh	Nafaru	2,859	1,522	1,337	58.0	42.6	75.4	42.0	57.4	24.6	6.2	7.1	5.7	17.7	27.8	11.1	18.0	21.3	15.0	27.0	33.1	20.0
Lh	Olhufelufushi	448	240	208	56.9	40.8	75.5	43.1	59.2	24.5	5.1	2.0	7.0	24.6	36.5	14.6	11.4	0.0	20.0	20.7	25.0	16.3
K	Dhiffushi	712	347	365	58.8	41.2	75.6	41.2	58.8	24.4	9.5	4.2	12.3	24.2	33.2	18.8	20.3	10.5	25.0	23.5	25.9	21.8
K	Gaafaru	754	394	360	56.1	37.6	76.4	43.9	62.4	23.6	4.0	8.1	1.8	19.6	38.9	6.9	10.8	15.6	6.1	25.7	40.0	10.6
K	Gulhi	582	266	316	68.6	48.1	85.8	31.4	51.9	14.2	6.3	6.3	6.3	13.8	24.3	8.6	19.2	16.0	20.8	20.8	22.4	19.4
K	Guraidhoo	1,156	552	604	54.7	46.6	62.1	45.3	53.4	37.9	12.3	11.7	12.8	27.8	36.5	23.4	31.8	17.1	41.5	41.3	38.0	44.0
K	Himmafushi	1,206	363	843	58.6	51.8	61.6	41.4	48.2	38.4	4.0	4.8	3.7	11.0	20.6	7.4	10.0	10.7	9.6	29.9	26.7	31.9
K	Huraa	834	376	458	70.3	49.7	87.1	29.7	50.3	12.9	2.2	4.3	1.3	11.2	25.0	3.7	5.1	9.5	2.6	21.8	31.3	13.2
K	Kaashidhoo	1,246	684	562	62.8	50.7	77.4	37.2	49.3	22.6	8.1	6.3	9.4	19.4	25.6	14.9	29.9	16.7	40.0	37.0	37.8	36.1
K	Maafushi	2,557	752	1,805	63.0	51.9	67.6	37.0	48.1	32.4	1.1	2.1	0.8	5.2	12.8	2.6	1.4	3.5	0.8	18.9	23.0	17.1
K	Thulusdhoo	836	400	436	69.7	56.8	81.7	30.3	43.3	18.3	6.2	4.4	7.3	15.1	20.1	12.0	11.6	7.4	14.3	21.1	21.6	20.6
AA	Bodufolhudhoo	436	218	218	65.1	56.0	74.3	34.9	44.0	25.7	4.2	3.3	4.9	12.3	17.4	8.3	12.1	6.7	16.7	23.1	22.2	23.8
AA	Feridhoo	336	169	167	69.6	67.5	71.9	30.4	32.5	28.1	6.0	7.0	5.0	17.3	21.6	14.3	25.0	30.0	16.7	30.0	25.0	33.3
AA	Himandhoo	477	230	247	71.3	60.9	81.0	28.7	39.1	19.0	6.5	4.3	8.0	14.7	15.8	14.4	16.4	13.6	17.9	23.9	16.7	29.2
AA	Maalhos	269	151	118	72.9	66.2	81.4	27.1	33.8	18.6	5.6	7.0	4.2	16.7	23.9	9.8	12.5	12.5	12.5	20.0	20.0	20.0
AA	Mathiveri	506	263	243	70.4	58.9	82.7	29.6	41.1	17.3	2.8	3.2	2.5	8.0	12.7	4.4	10.9	8.7	13.0	25.0	25.5	24.3
AA	Rasdhoo	771	357	414	62.1	49.6	72.9	37.9	50.4	27.1	3.5	4.0	3.3	13.5	21.3	8.8	12.5	10.5	13.8	28.0	38.0	19.3
AA	Thoddoo	1,057	523	534	56.0	36.9	74.7	44.0	63.1	25.3	1.9	2.6	1.5	13.3	24.1	7.3	9.5	11.1	8.3	32.7	39.4	25.5
AA	Ukulhas	665	316	349	67.1	57.0	76.2	32.9	43.0	23.8	2.2	2.8	1.9	6.8	11.0	4.0	7.5	11.8	5.6	19.9	23.8	16.9

Atoll	Island	Working-age Maldivians (15+) (numbers)			Labour force participation rate (%)			Inactivity rate (%)			Unemployment rate (%)			Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)			Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) (%)			NEET rate (15-24 years) (%)		
		Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male
Adh	Dhagethi	488	239	249	71.7	59.4	83.5	28.3	40.6	16.5	5.7	7.0	4.8	13.2	22.3	7.0	11.1	5.9	15.8	18.5	19.4	17.6
Adh	Dhidhdhoo	85	47	38	80.0	76.6	84.2	20.0	23.4	15.8	5.9	5.6	6.3	7.2	5.9	9.1	28.6	25.0	33.3	37.5	25.0	50.0
Adh	Dhigurah	406	190	216	74.4	60.5	86.6	25.6	39.5	13.4	5.6	4.3	6.4	12.0	17.3	8.9	17.1	0.0	29.2	27.7	24.1	30.6
Adh	Fenfushi	502	261	241	54.4	40.6	69.3	45.6	59.4	30.7	5.9	5.7	6.0	32.2	45.7	21.5	10.7	7.1	14.3	31.7	33.3	29.6
Adh	Hangnameedhoo	283	147	136	73.9	69.4	78.7	26.1	30.6	21.3	2.9	4.9	0.9	11.4	14.8	8.6	5.3	16.7	0.0	18.4	22.2	15.0
Adh	Kuburudhoo	332	176	156	57.8	48.3	68.6	42.2	51.7	31.4	3.1	2.4	3.7	28.7	37.2	20.8	10.0	5.9	15.4	30.6	29.4	32.1
Adh	Maamigili	1,582	811	771	68.5	54.3	83.4	31.5	45.7	16.6	3.5	3.4	3.6	9.4	13.5	6.6	10.4	7.5	13.5	25.3	27.4	22.7
Adh	Mahibadhoo	1,336	708	628	63.0	52.4	75.0	37.0	47.6	25.0	2.7	2.4	3.0	12.3	18.1	7.5	9.4	10.3	8.7	19.1	22.9	15.2
Adh	Mandhoo	215	104	111	76.3	70.2	82.0	23.7	29.8	18.0	2.4	4.1	1.1	11.1	17.3	6.3	8.1	11.8	5.0	17.0	21.4	12.0
Adh	Omadhoo	544	320	224	40.3	29.7	55.4	59.7	70.3	44.6	2.3	2.1	2.4	24.6	33.6	16.6	4.8	9.1	0.0	40.7	42.0	38.9
V	Felidhoo	345	163	182	73.9	67.5	79.7	26.1	32.5	20.3	4.3	4.5	4.1	11.3	15.3	8.6	23.5	22.2	25.0	34.3	37.5	31.6
V	Fulidhoo	220	102	118	73.2	57.8	86.4	26.8	42.2	13.6	5.0	1.7	6.9	15.0	21.9	10.4	8.0	0.0	11.1	20.5	20.0	20.8
V	Keyodhoo	352	185	167	61.1	54.1	68.9	38.9	45.9	31.1	2.8	2.0	3.5	14.7	20.7	9.0	7.7	0.0	20.0	27.3	25.0	30.8
V	Rakeedhoo	58	23	35	74.1	73.9	74.3	25.9	26.1	25.7	7.0	5.9	7.7	14.9	16.7	14.3	na	na	na	na	na	na
V	Thinadhoo	68	16	52	77.9	31.3	92.3	22.1	68.8	7.7	1.9	20.0	0.0	10.3	57.1	4.0	16.7	100.0	0.0	16.7	100.0	0.0
M	Dhiggaru	678	379	299	58.1	41.4	79.3	41.9	58.6	20.7	1.3	1.9	0.8	17.1	32.0	3.7	5.6	0.0	12.5	10.7	12.5	8.6
M	Kohufushi	487	271	216	61.0	47.6	77.8	39.0	52.4	22.2	2.4	3.1	1.8	15.7	26.7	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	25.9	14.3
M	Maduvaru	189	84	105	64.6	46.4	79.0	35.4	53.6	21.0	4.1	2.6	4.8	17.0	28.8	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.6	28.6	10.0
M	Mulah	901	470	431	66.3	54.5	79.1	33.7	45.5	20.9	2.8	3.1	2.6	17.0	26.4	9.0	8.5	11.8	6.7	30.1	41.4	15.1
M	Muli	562	279	283	70.8	59.9	81.6	29.2	40.1	18.4	2.0	1.8	2.2	9.3	10.6	8.5	4.3	7.1	3.1	12.4	18.8	6.1
M	Naalaafushi	284	147	137	68.7	62.6	75.2	31.3	37.4	24.8	3.1	3.3	2.9	14.5	18.1	11.5	7.1	11.1	0.0	34.4	39.1	22.2
M	Raimandhoo	102	50	52	65.7	52.0	78.8	34.3	48.0	21.2	1.5	3.8	0.0	13.2	25.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
M	Veyvah	161	76	85	82.6	77.6	87.1	17.4	22.4	12.9	2.3	1.7	2.7	5.1	5.0	5.3	11.1	0.0	16.7	7.1	16.7	0.0

Atoll	Island	Working-age Maldivians (15+) (numbers)			Labour force participation rate (%)			Inactivity rate (%)			Unemployment rate (%)			Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)			Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) (%)			NEET rate (15-24 years) (%)		
		Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male
F	Billedhoo	554	319	235	59.9	48.0	76.2	40.1	52.0	23.8	4.2	5.9	2.8	22.8	36.0	9.4	15.4	20.0	12.5	16.5	15.8	17.1
F	Dharaboodhoo	250	127	123	66.4	62.2	70.7	33.6	37.8	29.3	4.8	7.6	2.3	14.1	19.3	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.5	29.4	14.8
F	Feeali	564	331	233	50.9	40.5	65.7	49.1	59.5	34.3	5.9	6.0	5.9	27.8	39.2	16.3	16.7	13.3	19.0	35.1	49.2	15.2
F	Magoodhoo	396	220	176	66.7	63.2	71.0	33.3	36.8	29.0	4.2	3.6	4.8	18.4	23.7	12.5	20.0	20.0	20.0	30.6	32.0	29.2
F	Nilandhoo	1,062	578	484	64.4	56.1	74.4	35.6	43.9	25.6	2.9	2.5	3.3	8.8	10.5	7.4	13.3	11.5	14.7	15.8	19.6	11.1
Dh	Baddhoo	346	170	176	65.3	61.8	68.8	34.7	38.2	31.3	8.8	7.6	9.9	25.4	27.6	24.8	19.2	10.0	25.0	28.3	34.5	22.6
Dh	Hulhudheli	467	258	209	73.4	66.7	81.8	26.6	33.3	18.2	3.5	4.1	2.9	12.4	18.6	6.2	11.9	4.5	20.0	20.0	23.8	15.8
Dh	Kudahuvadhoo	1,816	995	821	61.8	45.9	81.1	38.2	54.1	18.9	3.0	3.9	2.4	12.6	22.3	5.2	9.3	7.9	10.6	16.2	17.5	14.6
Dh	Maeboodhoo	468	244	224	64.5	54.5	75.4	35.5	45.5	24.6	6.0	6.0	5.9	19.1	27.8	12.2	18.5	10.0	23.5	38.1	41.7	33.3
Dh	Meedhoo	602	292	310	64.3	43.5	83.9	35.7	56.5	16.1	5.7	3.9	6.5	14.7	25.0	9.0	22.9	15.4	25.7	26.9	31.9	22.8
Dh	Ribudhoo	191	98	93	67.0	60.2	74.2	33.0	39.8	25.8	4.7	3.4	5.8	14.1	17.9	11.0	13.3	0.0	25.0	8.3	0.0	15.4
Th	Buruni	231	121	110	75.3	69.4	81.8	24.7	30.6	18.2	8.0	10.7	5.6	17.5	27.5	9.6	20.0	0.0	33.3	25.0	18.2	30.8
Th	Dhiyamigili	379	207	172	58.3	42.0	77.9	41.7	58.0	22.1	5.9	2.3	8.2	13.0	16.2	10.9	22.7	0.0	29.4	27.8	29.6	25.9
Th	Gaadhifushi	190	95	95	68.4	60.0	76.8	31.6	40.0	23.2	5.4	7.0	4.1	13.4	22.2	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.6	40.0	18.2
Th	Guraidhoo	813	469	344	63.1	57.6	70.6	36.9	42.4	29.4	5.7	6.3	4.9	12.3	15.4	9.8	26.7	10.0	35.0	23.0	25.0	21.1
Th	Hirilandhoo	718	354	364	61.4	41.5	80.8	38.6	58.5	19.2	1.1	2.7	0.3	12.3	24.5	5.2	8.1	16.0	2.7	26.8	37.1	16.2
Th	Kaadoodhoo	256	131	125	67.2	55.0	80.0	32.8	45.0	20.0	4.1	6.9	2.0	18.3	34.0	4.9	8.3	0.0	14.3	15.4	16.7	14.3
Th	Kibdhoo	454	249	205	63.7	53.8	75.6	36.3	46.2	24.4	9.3	12.7	6.5	24.3	38.3	13.2	33.3	16.7	44.4	18.6	21.4	16.1
Th	Madifushi	513	288	225	66.9	52.4	85.3	33.1	47.6	14.7	3.5	4.6	2.6	17.9	28.6	8.3	9.1	10.0	7.7	30.3	26.2	35.3
Th	Omadhoo	277	133	144	62.5	51.9	72.2	37.5	48.1	27.8	1.7	1.4	1.9	6.1	5.6	6.4	4.0	0.0	7.1	28.8	25.9	31.3
Th	Thimarafushi	717	371	346	59.1	43.7	75.7	40.9	56.3	24.3	13.2	20.4	8.8	26.3	47.8	15.2	32.5	37.5	29.2	43.0	52.8	33.3
Th	Vandhoo	224	116	108	69.6	59.5	80.6	30.4	40.5	19.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	23.3	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.6	20.0	31.6
Th	Veymandoo	795	411	384	66.0	53.0	79.9	34.0	47.0	20.1	1.9	3.7	0.7	13.4	23.5	5.6	6.8	7.1	6.5	20.5	24.0	16.9
Th	Vilufushi	648	347	301	58.2	45.2	73.1	41.8	54.8	26.9	1.6	1.9	1.4	15.7	27.4	5.2	11.1	9.1	12.5	18.9	26.1	11.4

Atoll	Island	Working-age Maldivians (15+)(numbers)			Labour force participation rate (%)			Inactivity rate (%)			Unemployment rate (%)			Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)			Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) (%)			NEET rate (15-24 years) (%)		
		Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male
L	Dhabidhoo	389	206	183	53.7	37.9	71.6	46.3	62.1	28.4	6.7	6.4	6.9	14.8	18.1	13.5	23.1	8.3	35.7	30.8	27.0	35.7
L	Fonadhoo	1,912	990	922	58.3	42.4	75.3	41.7	57.6	24.7	6.8	11.0	4.3	18.5	33.9	9.3	29.7	30.8	28.9	31.4	27.3	34.8
L	Gamu	2,599	1,424	1,175	59.0	45.6	75.3	41.0	54.4	24.7	7.0	10.9	4.2	19.9	33.1	10.8	13.5	20.2	7.0	27.5	33.0	19.7
L	Hithadhoo	738	388	350	58.8	39.7	80.0	41.2	60.3	20.0	6.9	9.1	5.7	24.8	44.0	11.4	18.3	36.8	11.5	41.7	64.7	18.1
L	Isdhoo	587	316	271	56.0	38.9	76.0	44.0	61.1	24.0	9.7	7.3	11.2	30.9	45.3	20.1	26.2	10.5	39.1	24.2	17.4	31.1
L	Kaladhoo	399	205	194	61.2	48.8	74.2	38.8	51.2	25.8	4.5	6.0	3.5	20.2	29.6	13.7	3.2	0.0	8.3	12.9	8.6	17.1
L	Kunahandhoo	403	216	187	64.0	53.2	76.5	36.0	46.8	23.5	7.8	7.0	8.4	24.9	35.3	16.0	20.8	8.3	33.3	34.4	45.7	20.7
L	Maabaidhoo	318	190	128	61.0	55.8	68.8	39.0	44.2	31.3	10.8	14.2	6.8	27.0	37.7	18.0	14.3	14.3	14.3	28.6	34.4	17.6
L	Maamendhoo	554	279	275	65.7	51.6	80.0	34.3	48.4	20.0	8.5	12.5	5.9	20.0	36.1	9.6	34.2	47.1	23.8	44.9	66.7	15.2
L	Maavah	914	506	408	52.6	35.8	73.5	47.4	64.2	26.5	3.3	5.0	2.3	21.8	38.3	9.0	16.3	12.5	20.0	34.8	41.8	28.4
L	Mundhoo	100	43	57	77.0	81.4	73.7	23.0	18.6	26.3	10.4	5.7	14.3	20.7	16.2	25.0	21.4	0.0	30.0	27.3	0.0	35.3
GA	Dhaandhoo	638	313	325	49.7	32.9	65.8	50.3	67.1	34.2	1.6	1.0	1.9	15.2	27.3	7.9	2.9	7.1	0.0	26.2	27.7	25.0
GA	Dhewadhoo	347	152	195	60.2	40.8	75.4	39.8	59.2	24.6	1.4	0.0	2.0	8.0	13.9	5.3	6.7	0.0	7.7	20.5	41.2	7.4
GA	Gemanafushi	789	406	383	56.7	44.1	70.0	43.3	55.9	30.0	11.4	12.8	10.4	24.9	32.8	21.6	27.9	17.2	35.9	38.0	36.7	39.4
GA	Kanduhulhudhoo	361	178	183	67.3	54.5	79.8	32.7	45.5	20.2	14.4	14.4	14.4	21.5	31.0	17.2	23.3	0.0	31.8	32.8	34.6	31.3
GA	Kodey	192	98	94	59.9	48.0	72.3	40.1	52.0	27.7	1.7	0.0	2.9	19.3	26.6	13.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.4	35.0	46.2
GA	Kolamaafushi	392	202	190	56.9	44.6	70.0	43.1	55.4	30.0	1.8	2.2	1.5	11.7	18.1	7.1	5.9	0.0	7.7	36.4	50.0	26.9
GA	Maamendhoo	763	386	377	55.0	40.9	69.5	45.0	59.1	30.5	6.0	8.9	4.2	17.7	28.2	11.9	15.0	24.0	8.6	34.2	44.0	25.3
GA	Nilandhoo	360	174	186	66.4	58.6	73.7	33.6	41.4	26.3	6.7	4.9	8.0	20.4	25.8	16.6	20.0	20.0	20.0	35.8	38.2	33.3
GA	Viligili	1,781	899	882	58.8	43.6	74.4	41.2	56.4	25.6	7.4	8.2	7.0	18.9	29.0	13.1	22.2	20.9	22.9	25.2	28.4	22.4

Atoll	Island	Working-age Maldivians (15+) (numbers)			Labour force participation rate (%)			Inactivity rate (%)			Unemployment rate (%)			Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%)			Youth unemployment rate (15-24 years) (%)			NEET rate (15-24 years) (%)		
		Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male	Both Sex	Female	Male
GDh	Fares-Maathodaa	552	287	265	52.2	39.4	66.0	47.8	60.6	34.0	4.2	6.2	2.9	28.3	44.7	14.6	5.4	11.1	3.6	37.1	56.5	16.3
GDh	Fiyoori	370	201	169	54.9	46.8	64.5	45.1	53.2	35.5	2.5	2.1	2.8	12.8	18.2	7.8	9.1	0.0	20.0	28.6	29.4	28.0
GDh	Gadhdhoo	899	446	453	64.1	54.0	74.0	35.9	46.0	26.0	5.7	5.8	5.7	14.5	21.1	10.0	9.0	12.5	5.7	19.4	26.6	11.7
GDh	Hoadeddhoo	526	268	258	63.5	52.2	75.2	36.5	47.8	24.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	16.0	23.0	11.2	12.1	8.3	14.3	23.2	27.0	20.0
GDh	Madeveli	791	396	395	47.9	33.6	62.3	52.1	66.4	37.7	5.5	3.8	6.5	32.6	45.6	23.3	25.0	18.8	30.0	39.1	50.0	27.3
GDh	Nadallaa	414	221	193	43.5	27.6	61.7	56.5	72.4	38.3	14.4	14.8	14.3	33.6	51.1	24.4	37.1	31.6	43.8	50.6	48.0	54.5
GDh	Rathafandhoo	282	132	150	46.5	31.1	60.0	53.5	68.9	40.0	5.3	7.3	4.4	29.9	44.4	22.5	15.0	28.6	7.7	34.1	50.0	20.8
GDh	Thinadhoo	3,587	2,013	1,574	52.0	40.1	67.3	48.0	59.9	32.7	4.7	5.6	4.0	16.5	24.6	10.4	10.4	7.8	13.1	21.0	20.1	22.1
GDh	Vaadhoo	355	163	192	68.2	57.1	77.6	31.8	42.9	22.4	6.6	4.3	8.1	15.7	17.5	14.9	15.0	9.5	21.1	31.7	29.0	34.5
Gn	Fuvahmulah	5,549	3,012	2,537	54.6	41.3	70.3	45.4	58.7	29.7	7.0	6.8	7.1	17.1	22.9	13.5	18.7	14.3	23.5	25.1	24.0	26.5
S	Feydhoo	2,282	1,237	1,045	52.9	38.0	70.5	47.1	62.0	29.5	14.6	17.9	12.5	24.5	38.2	18.7	30.1	30.2	30.1	30.5	33.7	27.3
S	Hithadhoo	8,091	4,360	3,731	52.1	38.9	67.5	47.9	61.1	32.5	8.9	9.5	8.4	18.7	25.3	15.3	17.4	17.4	17.4	24.5	24.5	24.4
S	Hulhudhoo	781	383	398	51.3	38.4	63.8	48.7	61.6	36.2	14.0	12.2	15.0	31.3	40.6	27.3	23.1	19.2	26.9	26.2	25.5	26.9
S	Maradhoo	1,607	852	755	50.8	38.4	64.9	49.2	61.6	35.1	6.5	8.0	5.5	20.0	29.3	14.3	18.2	19.5	17.0	23.6	22.5	24.8
S	Maradhoo-Feydhoo	908	503	405	56.3	40.2	76.3	43.7	59.8	23.7	14.3	15.3	13.6	26.4	40.7	18.6	26.7	23.8	30.3	30.6	28.4	34.4
S	Meedhoo	1,289	691	598	51.5	38.4	66.7	48.5	61.6	33.3	9.0	6.4	10.8	22.4	27.1	19.8	23.2	18.2	27.8	32.3	35.3	29.7

Note: V.Rakeedhoo Maldivian population does not include any youth aged 15-24 years



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