

## CHAPTER VI:

## ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

One of the key indicators of improvement in the economic environment is that of the ability of people to obtain work so as to meet their daily needs. The demographic focus on economic activity is on the population 15 years and over, and more specifically those 15-64 years. The census determines the characteristics of this population, who in the week preceding the Census Day, were either economically active or inactive.

The *economically active* population consists of all persons of either sex who furnish the supply of labor for the production of economic goods and services. They include, (a) the regular employed people (“worked” and “had a job” but were on leave/vacation), and (b) the unemployed consisting of: (1) those who were looking for work or who wanted and were available for work, but because they believe no jobs were open were not actively searching or (2) those who had become disillusioned. On the other hand, the *economically inactive* population includes students, homemakers, retired persons and persons whose disability prevented them from working. It is from these categorizations of the working age population that measures of labor force participation are determined.

Many countries routinely (on a quarterly or yearly basis) collect information on the working-age population and their activities, as it is an important aspect of development planning. For other countries, however, the decennial population census or a labor force survey is the means of collecting these data. Another means is through the household income and expenditure surveys, conducted to monitor cost of living and more recently to determine levels of poverty. A household income and expenditure survey (HIES) was last conducted in Guyana in 1992 and a labor force survey in 1997. Because surveys are more closely monitored, survey estimates are considered more reliable than census results in most cases. Where a survey date is close to that of the census, it is more useful to use the survey data. Since the HIES was close to the census year 1991, its estimates of the size and activity status of the working-population are considered more reliable than those of the census. In comparison tables over time, therefore, the 1992 survey estimates of the working population and labor force participation rates are used instead. For the census years of 1980 and 2002 there were no comparable surveys, hence the census estimates are used. The analysis of the working-population and their economic activity follows.

### 6.1 Working Age Population

The size of the working age population has grown steadily over the decades (Table 6.1). In 2002 it was two-thirds of the total population (475,219 persons), up from 417,770 in 1980 and approximately 467,173 in 1992<sup>1</sup>. On average 28 percent of the working age population is involved in home duties, approximately 5 percent are retired and 7 percent attend school. The institutional population is only 1.3 percent of the working-age population (Table 6.1 and Figure 6.1).

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<sup>1</sup>Figure taken from the 1992 Household Income and Expenditure Survey.

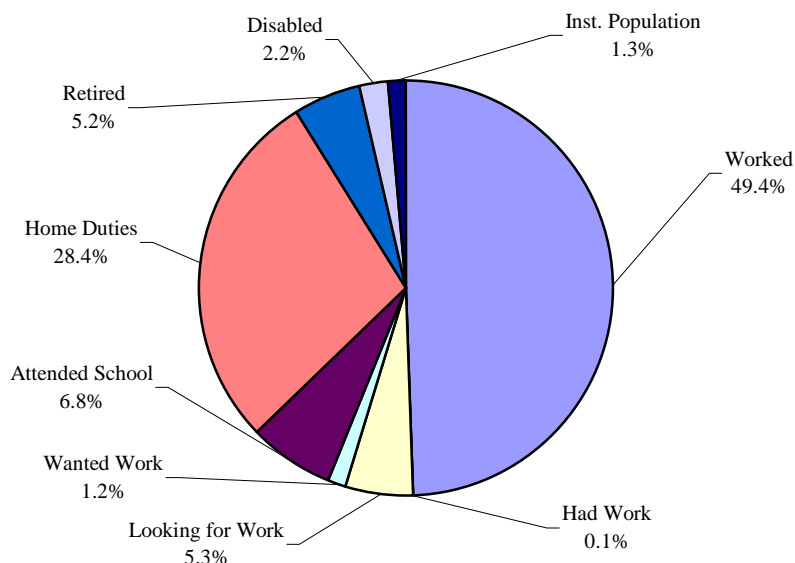
**Table 6.1: Principal Activities of the Population 15 Years and Over, Guyana: 1980 - 2002**

Principal Activities	2002			1992 (HIES)			1980		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Worked	165,659	69,083	234,743	170,861	78,959	249,820	156,656	44,703	201,359
Had Work	258	94	352	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Looking for Work	15,139	10,276	25,415	15,693	17,451	33,144	22,344	9,146	31,490
Wanted Work	3,586	2,072	5,657	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,579	3,506	9,085
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>184,642</b>	<b>81,525</b>	<b>266,167</b>	<b>186,554</b>	<b>96,410</b>	<b>282,964</b>	<b>184,579</b>	<b>57,355</b>	<b>241,933</b>
Attended School	15,732	16,559	32,291	17,920	20,269	38,189	3,016	4,443	7,459
Home Duties	11,643	123,405	135,048	5,688	108,263	113,950	2,373	142,979	145,352
Retired	12,955	11,962	24,917	10,961	12,405	23,365	11,191	4,903	16,094
Disabled	5,959	4,470	10,430	4,542	4,163	8,705	5,029	4,893	9,923
Inst. Population	4,848	1,518	6,366	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>51,138</b>	<b>157,914</b>	<b>209,052</b>	<b>39,111</b>	<b>145,098</b>	<b>184,209</b>	<b>21,610</b>	<b>157,218</b>	<b>178,828</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>235,780</b>	<b>239,439</b>	<b>475,219</b>	<b>225,665</b>	<b>241,508</b>	<b>467,173</b>	<b>206,189</b>	<b>214,573</b>	<b>420,762</b>
<b>Percentage</b>									
Worked	70.3	28.9	49.4	75.7	32.7	53.5	76.0	20.8	47.9
Had Work	0.1	0.0	0.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Looking for Work	6.4	4.3	5.3	7.0	7.2	7.1	10.8	4.3	7.5
Wanted Work	1.5	0.9	1.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.7	1.6	2.2
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>82.7</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>57.5</b>
Attended School	6.7	6.9	6.8	7.9	8.4	8.2	1.5	2.1	1.8
Home Duties	4.9	51.5	28.4	2.5	44.8	24.4	1.2	66.6	34.5
Retired	5.5	5.0	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.0	5.4	2.3	3.8
Disabled	2.5	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.4
Inst. Population	2.1	0.6	1.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>42.5</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Note:** "Age not stated category" was excluded and "Activity Not Stated" and " Other" prorated.  
**na** = not available.

The growth of the retired population is notable. This group increased from 3.9 percent in 1980 to 5.2 percent in 2002. This is another indication that the population is maturing. The proportion of retired citizens is expected to rise due to increase in life expectancy, hence the need for re-training programs so that the skills and expertise of the ageing population could still be utilized. The rate of growth of this group also signals the need for effective social programmes and national insurance for the elderly so that they could enjoy their later years.

**Fig. 6.1: Principal Activities of the Population 15 Years and Over, Guyana: 2002**



Although males comprise a little over one-half of the total population, they only account for 49.6 percent of the working-age population (see Figure 6.2). Of males of working-age, approximately 7 percent are still attending school, another 6 percent are retired, 5 percent perform home duties and 2 percent are part of the institutional population. By contrast, for females of working age, a little over one-half perform home duties, 7 percent attend school and 5 percent are retired. The female institutional population is also very small compared to males (0.6 percent).

In sum, only 22 percent of the male working-age population is not engaged in any type of activity to earn an income, compared with 66 percent of females. On average, for the whole population, 44 percent of the persons of working-age are not engaged in any economic activity. This means that the national average is heavily weighted by the number of women who do not perform any activity for pay (Table 6.1).

**Table 6.2: Percent Distribution of Population 15 Years and Over by Principal Activities One Week Preceding the Census, by Sex and Region, Guyana: 2002**

Principal Activities	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Total
<b>Both sexes</b>											
Worked	48.8	46.0	49.1	52.2	41.2	44.1	58.6	49.2	56.0	49.1	49.2
Had Work	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Looked for work	5.3	6.5	3.4	6.1	5.9	4.2	4.6	6.3	2.1	7.4	5.3
Wanted work	4.4	1.9	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.8	1.9	5.4	2.2	1.4	1.2
Attended School	3.2	5.9	5.9	7.9	6.0	5.4	5.2	3.9	8.8	8.9	6.8
Home Duties	30.0	31.3	32.0	23.5	36.3	35.9	22.7	27.5	21.7	24.6	28.4
Retired/Too Old	4.4	4.5	5.5	5.3	5.1	6.0	3.3	3.0	2.8	5.0	5.2
Disabled	2.0	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.8	2.5	1.6	1.6	0.9	1.7	2.2
Other Activity	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.7
Not Stated	1.4	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.6	1.1	2.2	4.9	1.1	0.9
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Males</b>											
Worked	69.4	70.5	74.5	69.8	66.2	69.4	78.9	66.4	75.2	66.5	70.3
Had Work	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Looked for work	7.3	7.5	4.4	7.0	7.5	5.9	4.4	8.5	2.8	8.0	6.4
Wanted work	4.1	2.0	1.3	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.7	5.8	2.3	1.7	1.5
Attended School	3.2	6.0	5.6	7.8	5.8	5.4	4.7	3.5	9.6	8.9	6.7
Home Duties	6.8	4.8	4.0	4.1	6.8	7.0	3.0	8.9	3.7	4.6	4.9
Retired/Too Old	4.6	4.5	6.1	5.4	6.2	6.4	3.0	2.2	2.5	5.7	5.5
Disabled	2.2	2.7	2.7	2.4	3.4	3.0	1.8	1.5	0.9	1.9	2.5
Other Activity	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.4	0.8	1.1	1.4	0.6	1.0	1.1
Not Stated	1.7	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.8	2.4	1.5	0.9
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Females</b>											
Worked	25.7	21.4	23.6	36.0	16.5	19.3	36.2	22.4	35.0	32.4	28.7
Had Work	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Looked for work	3.1	5.5	2.5	5.2	4.2	2.5	4.8	3.0	1.3	6.8	4.3
Wanted work	4.7	1.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.3	2.1	4.8	2.2	1.0	0.9
Attended School	3.3	5.9	6.1	7.9	6.2	5.4	5.8	4.4	8.0	8.9	6.9
Home Duties	55.9	57.8	60.1	41.4	65.4	64.2	44.6	56.4	41.4	43.8	51.2
Retired/Too Old	4.3	4.4	4.9	5.2	4.1	5.6	3.8	4.2	3.1	4.3	5.0
Disabled	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.8	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.6	0.9	1.5	1.9
Other Activity	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4
Not Stated	1.0	0.7	0.4	1.2	0.3	0.5	0.8	2.9	7.6	0.9	1.0
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Note:** Institutional popn. (6,366), and Age "not stated" (5,341) were excluded.

Derived from Appendix B.6.2

Principal activities at the regional level only for 2002 shown in Table 6.2 did not show a marked difference from the national figures. But in descending order, Regions 7, 8, 9 and 4 have a little higher proportion of economically active population than the national average; and while only one third of females in other regions were reported to be active, the proportion of active females in Regions 4, 7, 9 and 10 was slightly higher, about two-fifths. In order of significance, in Regions 5, 6, 3, 2, 8 and 1 house keeping duties rank first among women in the inactive category (Table 6.2).

The high proportion of women in what would be called non-economic activity (not for pay) is generally misleading as many women who report doing 'home duties' are usually involved in some small activity, for example, making sugar-cakes, mitai, etc. or tend a garden to supplement family income or to have a small income of their own. Additionally, some other non-economic activities performed by women such as cooking or caring for the family are usually chores that normally have to be paid for in cases where women work and should be costed as a contribution to the household budget. Costing the contribution of women to reproductive activity is a subject for further research.

The apparent concentration of women in the areas of work that are considered non-productive also raises other concerns that warrant further research. It is probable that males control most of the resources of households and women are left to negotiate their share. This finding deserves further enquiry into intra-household power relations between men and women and, into issues such as domestic violence and even women's power over their own bodies, particularly their ability to avoid the contraction of diseases such as HIV.

**Disability:** Disability levels within the working age-population are generated from data collected from all households to which questions on disabilities which prevented members from being economically active were asked. This section of the report therefore, only identifies disabilities within the economically inactive population to sensitize the policymakers to the magnitude of this phenomenon.

The 2002 census shows that 2.2 percent (10,430 persons) of the working-age population suffer from some form of disability and presumably cannot perform to their maximum capability (Table 6.1). Fifty-seven percent are males. The number of persons who are impaired and cannot work has increased slightly from 1980 (9,923). The percentage of males who are disabled also increased by 7 percent for the same period. There are also social implications for persons with a disability. In addition to the need for government to allocate resources for their upkeep, there is the issue of care-giving. Care-givers for the most part, tend to be women, regardless of the sex or even marital status of the disabled person. The burden of care-giving is one that could be the subject of further investigation.

## **6.2 Labour Force Participation**

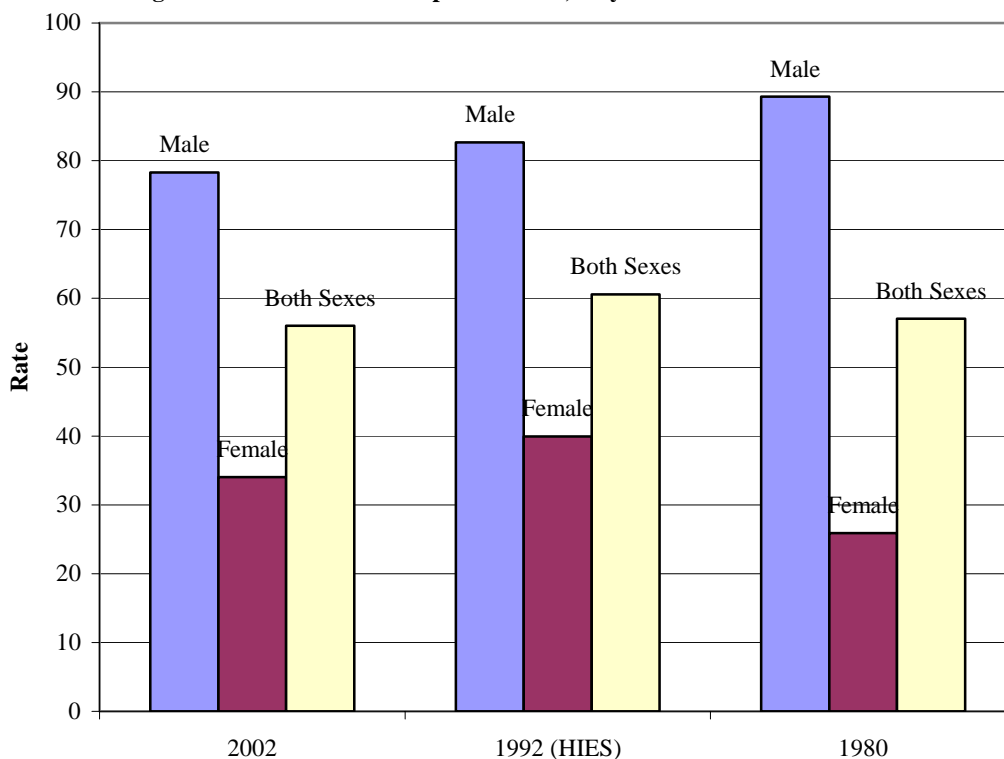
### **6.2.1 Labour force size**

The size of the economically active population is distilled from the population in the working ages of 15 years and over. The level of involvement of members of the working-age population in the labor force is described as *the participation rate*. A little over one-half of the working-age population (56 percent) participates in the labor force. This 2002 labor force participation rate has been constant as it compares with participation rates of 61 percent found by the 1992 HIES<sup>2</sup> and 57 percent by the 1980 census (Table 6.3 and Figure 6.2).

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<sup>2</sup> Figures taken from 1992 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. Data from this HIES for this variable is more reliable. The survey was also conducted close to the 1991 census, but with greater controls for this variable. (Tables 6.1 and 6.3)

**Fig.6.2: Labour Force Participation Rates, Guyana: 1980 - 2002**



**Sex Differentials:** Seventy-eight percent or a little over three-quarters of the male working-age population carry out economic activities for pay or are economically active. On the other hand, only 34 percent or just over one-third of the women of working age were involved in economic activities for pay (Figure 6.2 and Table 6.3). Further analysis that compares the type of occupations undertaken by males with those of the females is required. Such analysis would reveal whether females are in lower-paying and more insecure jobs than males and therefore, more at risk for living in or falling into poverty situations.

When comparisons are made with the earlier years, we see higher participation rates for males in 1980 (89 percent) and 1992 (83 percent) and fluctuating rates for females, i.e., lower (27 percent) in 1980 and higher (40 percent) in 1992.

The reducing participation rates for males from 1980 to 2002, indicated in Table 6.3, are of some concern. It could mean that some men are genuinely disillusioned. On the other hand, it could be only a slight dip that would correct itself with the coming on stream of new initiatives, such as the mining and quarrying activities on the rise in Region 8 and, which would be reflected in the HBS (Household Budget Survey) in 2006.

**Table 6.3: Employment status by sex, Guyana: 1980 - 2002**

Employment Status	2002		1992 (HIES)*		1980	
Both Sexes	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total: 15 years and over	475,219	100	467,173	100	420,762	100
Labor force	266,167	56.0	282,964	60.6	241,934	57.5
Employed	235,095	88.3	249,820	88.3	201,359	83.2
Unemployed	31,072	11.7	33,144	11.7	40,575	16.8
Not in labor force	209,052	44.0	189,095	40.5	178,828	42.5
<b>Male</b>						
Total: 15 years and over	235,780	100	225,665	100	206,189	100
Labor force	184,642	78.3	186,554	82.7	184,579	89.5
Employed	165,917	89.9	170,861	91.6	156,656	84.9
Unemployed	18,725	10.1	15,693	8.4	27,923	15.1
Not in labor force	51,138	21.7	39,111	17.3	21,610	10.5
<b>Female</b>						
Total: 15 years and over	239,439	100	241,508	100	214,573	100
Labor force	81,525	34.0	96,410	39.9	57,355	26.7
Employed	69,178	84.9	78,959	81.9	44,703	77.9
Unemployed	12,347	15.1	17,451	18.1	12,652	22.1
Not in labor force	157,914	66.0	145,098	60.1	157,218	73.3

**Note:** Derived from Table 6.1 and \*HIES = Household income and expenditure survey.  
Unemployment Rate = (unemployed/total labour force) x 100.

Comparison at the regional level in Table 6.4 indicates higher participation rates for the hinterland regions (7, 8 and 9) in 2002, about 60 percent compared to the others which are identical to the national average for either sex. The higher rates in these regions could be because workers there are mostly self-employed unpaid family workers who may be engaged in small scale agricultural activities (see employment status in section 6.3.3) as opposed to employment in non-agricultural industries in regions with urban cities where employees work for paid jobs.

**Table 6.4: Employment Status of the Population 15 Years and Over, by Region and Sex, Guyana: 2002**

<b>Employment status</b>	<b>Region 1</b>	<b>Region 2</b>	<b>Region 3</b>	<b>Region 4</b>	<b>Region 5</b>	<b>Region 6</b>	<b>Region 7</b>	<b>Region 8</b>	<b>Region 9</b>	<b>Region 10</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Both Sexes</b>											
Total Popn 15 yrs+	11,278	29,788	66,887	199,833	32,731	78,693	9,595	5,709	10,033	24,306	468,853
Labour Force	6,596	16,230	35,770	118,420	15,828	38,654	6,258	3,479	6,056	14,096	261,387
Employed	5,504	13,719	32,913	104,429	13,514	34,748	5,632	2,809	5,626	11,960	230,854
Unemployed	1,092	2,511	2,857	13,991	2,314	3,906	626	670	430	2,136	30,533
Not in Labour Force	4,502	13,297	30,692	79,227	16,774	39,427	3,199	2,057	3,307	9,856	202,338
Not Stated	484	468	789	5,030	364	885	342	229	722	549	9,862
<b>Males</b>											
Total Popn 15 yrs+	5,947	14,929	33,473	95,690	16,247	38,960	5,047	3,479	5,256	11,904	230,932
Labour Force	4,805	11,959	26,879	74,681	12,311	29,894	4,295	2,806	4,221	9,095	180,946
Employed	4,131	10,536	25,000	66,877	10,788	27,083	3,985	2,310	3,955	7,931	162,596
Unemployed	674	1,423	1,879	7,804	1,523	2,811	310	496	266	1,164	18,350
Not in Labour Force	1,025	2,814	6,331	20,080	3,835	8,645	668	591	851	2,586	47,426
Not Stated	294	259	436	2,372	207	528	189	111	207	331	4,934
<b>Females</b>											
Total Popn 15 yrs+	5,331	14,859	33,414	104,143	16,484	39,733	4,548	2,230	4,777	12,402	237,921
Labour Force	1,791	4,271	8,891	43,739	3,517	8,760	1,963	673	1,835	5,001	80,441
Employed	1,373	3,183	7,913	37,552	2,726	7,665	1,647	499	1,671	4,029	68,258
Unemployed	418	1,088	978	6,187	791	1,095	316	174	164	972	12,183
Not in Labour Force	3,486	10,485	24,381	59,201	12,917	30,777	2,547	1,493	2,577	7,295	155,159
Not Stated	54	103	142	1,203	50	196	38	64	365	106	2,321
<b>PERCENT</b>											
<b>Both Sexes</b>											
Total Popn 15 yrs+	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Labour Force	58.5	54.5	53.5	59.3	48.4	49.1	65.2	60.9	60.4	58.0	55.8
Employed	83.4	84.5	92.0	88.2	85.4	89.9	90.0	80.7	92.9	84.8	88.3
Unemployed	16.6	15.5	8.0	11.8	14.6	10.1	10.0	19.3	7.1	15.2	11.7
Not in Labour Force	39.9	44.6	45.9	39.6	51.2	50.1	33.3	36.0	33.0	40.5	43.2
Not Stated	4.3	1.6	1.2	2.5	1.1	1.1	3.6	4.0	7.2	2.3	2.1
<b>Males</b>											
Total Popn 15 yrs+	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Labour Force	80.8	80.1	80.3	78.0	75.8	76.7	85.1	80.7	80.3	76.4	78.4
Employed	86.0	88.1	93.0	89.6	87.6	90.6	92.8	82.3	93.7	87.2	89.9
Unemployed	14.0	11.9	7.0	10.4	12.4	9.4	7.2	17.7	6.3	12.8	10.1
Not in Labour Force	17.2	18.8	18.9	21.0	23.6	22.2	13.2	17.0	16.2	21.7	20.5
Not Stated	4.9	1.7	1.3	2.5	1.3	1.4	3.7	3.2	3.9	2.8	2.1
<b>Females</b>											
Total Popn 15 yrs+	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Labour Force	33.6	28.7	26.6	42.0	21.3	22.0	43.2	30.2	38.4	40.3	33.8
Employed	76.7	74.5	89.0	85.9	77.5	87.5	83.9	74.1	91.1	80.6	84.9
Unemployed	23.3	25.5	11.0	14.1	22.5	12.5	16.1	25.9	8.9	19.4	15.1
Not in Labour Force	65.4	70.6	73.0	56.8	78.4	77.5	56.0	67.0	53.9	58.8	65.2
Not Stated	1.0	0.7	0.4	1.2	0.3	0.5	0.8	2.9	7.6	0.9	1.0

**Note:** Derived from Appendix B.6.2.



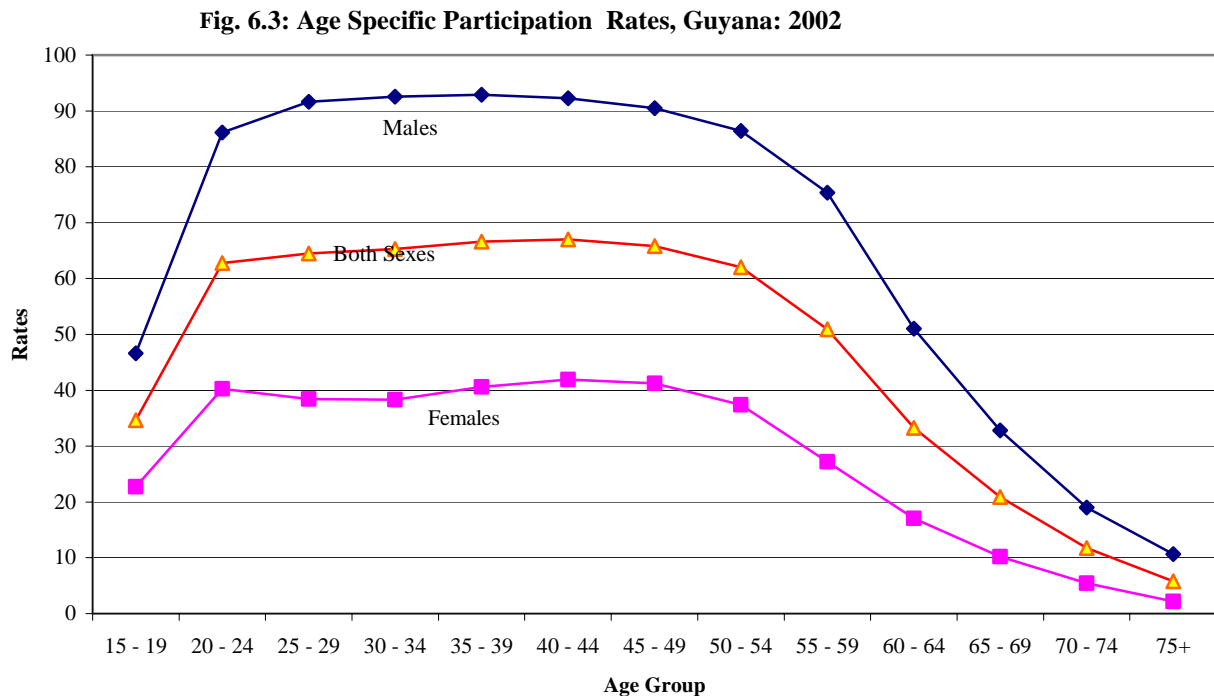
### 6.2.2 Age-sex pattern

Within the employable age groups economic activity is not distributed randomly either for males or females. The universal differential pattern in labour force, where the proportion economically active rises from near 100 percent in some categories and down to zero in others is reflected in Figure 6.3 and Table 6.5.

In Guyana, males enter the labour force from age 15 and their activity rate rises sharply to 86 percent by age 20-24, and after that rises sharply to more than 90 percent until the 45-49 age group. From age 50, we notice a progressive attrition from the labour force because of retirement and death.

The female specific participation rates are much lower than the males but both of them form the similar dome shape curve (Figure 6.3). Like the males, small proportion of the females enters labour force from age 15 which is the legal age at work entry in Guyana, and then the rate rises and remains high in the main working age groups, and marking the maximum average in 40-44 years (42 percent) before declining.

There was slight undulation within the participation of women. The seesaw pattern is congruent with the unusual way in which women enter and exit from labour force participation, sometime at most due to child-bearing and rearing or marriage. At times some women enter the labour force for first time in their thirties, forties, or even later, while others are retiring, and then move into and out again several times in the course of their lives.



**Table 6.5: Age-Specific Activity  
Rates of Males and Females,**

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>
15 - 19	46.6	22.7	34.7
20 - 24	86.2	40.3	62.8
25 - 29	91.6	38.4	64.5
30 - 34	92.5	38.3	65.3
35 - 39	92.9	40.6	66.6
40 - 44	92.3	41.9	67.0
45 - 49	90.5	41.2	65.8
50 - 54	86.4	37.4	62.0
55 - 59	75.4	27.2	50.9
60 - 64	51.0	17.1	33.3
65 - 69	32.8	10.2	20.9
70 - 74	19.0	5.5	11.7
75+	10.6	2.2	5.8
NS	15.5	6.2	11.1
Total	77.6	33.5	55.2

### **6.2.3 Unemployment**

Unless there is full employment within the country, not all persons who participate in the labour force have jobs. In 2002, 88 percent of persons participating in the labor force had jobs (Table 6.6). The others (approximately 12 percent) were unemployed. This 2002 census unemployment figure compares with a level of 16.8 percent in 1980 and 11.7 percent in 1992.<sup>3</sup> In reality, employment and unemployment rates have remained fairly constant between 1992 and the present.

Employment levels are higher for males than for females (90 percent for males compared with 85 percent for females) participating in the labor force (Table 6.6). As a result, unemployment rates are higher for women (15 percent compared with 10 percent for males).

At the regional level, the highest unemployment rates by order of significance are shown among workers in Regions 8, 1, 2, 10 and 5 (19.4, 16.7, 15.5, 15.2, and 14.6 percent) respectively, and higher for females, nearly twice than that of males (Table 6.6). Again, while unemployment rates in other regions were moderate and identical to the national total, women in Regions 1, 2, 5, 8 and 10 experienced the worst, with about a quarter of them reported being unemployed in 2002.

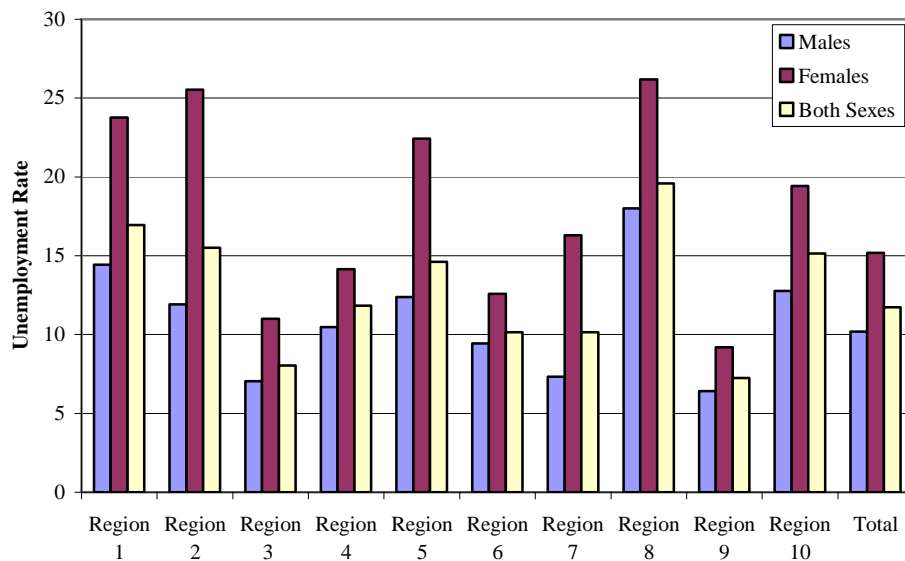
<sup>3</sup> Figure taken from the 1992 Household Income and Expenditure Survey-see Table 6.3.

**Table 6.6: Employment and Unemployment Rates by Region and Sex, Guyana: 200**

Region	Number			Rates		
	Employed	Unemployed	Total	Employed	Unemployed	Total
<b>Both Sexes</b>						
Region 1	5,504	1,092	6,596	83.4	16.6	100
Region 2	13,719	2,511	16,230	84.5	15.5	100
Region 3	32,913	2,857	35,770	92.0	8.0	100
Region 4	104,429	13,991	118,420	88.2	11.8	100
Region 5	13,514	2,314	15,828	85.4	14.6	100
Region 6	34,748	3,906	38,654	89.9	10.1	100
Region 7	5,632	626	6,258	90.0	10.0	100
Region 8	2,809	670	3,479	80.7	19.3	100
Region 9	5,626	430	6,056	92.9	7.1	100
Region 10	11,960	2,136	14,096	84.8	15.2	100
Total	230,854	30,533	261,387	88.3	11.7	100
<b>Males</b>						
Region 1	4,131	674	4,805	86.0	14.0	100
Region 2	10,536	1,423	11,959	88.1	11.9	100
Region 3	25,000	1,879	26,879	93.0	7.0	100
Region 4	66,877	7,804	74,681	89.6	10.4	100
Region 5	10,788	1,523	12,311	87.6	12.4	100
Region 6	27,083	2,811	29,894	90.6	9.4	100
Region 7	3,985	310	4,295	92.8	7.2	100
Region 8	2,310	496	2,806	82.3	17.7	100
Region 9	3,955	266	4,221	93.7	6.3	100
Region 10	7,931	1,164	9,095	87.2	12.8	100
Total	162,596	18,350	180,946	89.9	10.1	100
<b>Females</b>						
Region 1	1,373	418	1,791	76.7	23.3	100
Region 2	3,183	1,088	4,271	74.5	25.5	100
Region 3	7,913	978	8,891	89.0	11.0	100
Region 4	37,552	6,187	43,739	85.9	14.1	100
Region 5	2,726	791	3,517	77.5	22.5	100
Region 6	7,665	1,095	8,760	87.5	12.5	100
Region 7	1,647	316	1,963	83.9	16.1	100
Region 8	499	174	673	74.1	25.9	100
Region 9	1,671	164	1,835	91.1	8.9	100
Region 10	4,029	972	5,001	80.6	19.4	100
Total	68,258	12,183	80,441	84.9	15.1	100

**Note:** Institutional population (6,366) and age "not stated" (5,341) of the entire popn. were excluded.

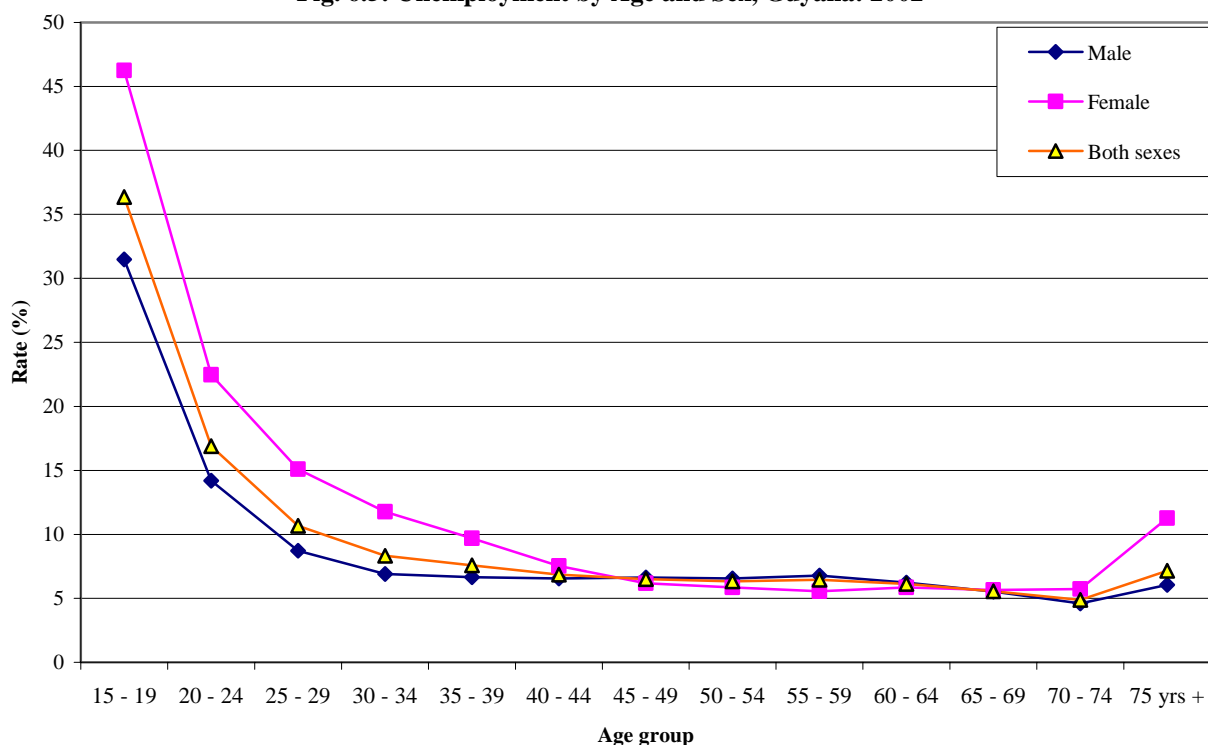
Fig. 6.4: Unemployment Rate by Region, Guyana: 2002



**Age-Related Unemployment Levels:** Traditionally, school leavers have a waiting period before they find their first job, due to the fact that they have no work-experience. Unemployment levels for them therefore, are usually high. It is no exception for Guyana. The 15-19 age-group for both sexes has unemployment levels that are almost five times as high as the 35-39 and 40-44 age groups. For the 20-24 age-group, unemployment levels are high, but only twice as high as for the older ages (Table 6.7 and Figure 6.5).

There is a sex differential in unemployment however, as female unemployment levels are still high into the 30-34 age group while male unemployment levels off by age 20-24. A possible reason for early abatement in male unemployment could be males at all ages are more likely than females to accept 'odd jobs' as a mean of ending their unemployment.

**Fig. 6.5: Unemployment by Age and Sex, Guyana: 2002**



**Table 6.7: Unemployment Rates by Age and Sex, Guyana: 2002**

Age group	Number Employed			Number Unemployed			Unemployment rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15 - 19	10,423	4,006	14,429	4,792	3,448	8,240	31.5	46.3	36.3
20 - 24	22,866	10,010	32,876	3,780	2,899	6,679	14.2	22.5	16.9
25 - 29	24,523	9,960	34,483	2,344	1,770	4,114	8.7	15.1	10.7
30 - 34	24,352	9,655	34,007	1,801	1,289	3,090	6.9	11.8	8.3
35 - 39	22,291	9,548	31,839	1,584	1,026	2,610	6.6	9.7	7.6
40 - 44	19,642	8,881	28,523	1,374	722	2,096	6.5	7.5	6.8
45 - 49	14,845	6,838	21,683	1,054	450	1,504	6.6	6.2	6.5
50 - 54	11,234	4,857	16,091	786	301	1,087	6.5	5.8	6.3
55 - 59	6,175	2,329	8,504	448	137	585	6.8	5.6	6.4
60 - 64	3,378	1,241	4,619	224	77	301	6.2	5.8	6.1
65 - 69	1,696	584	2,280	99	35	134	5.5	5.7	5.6
70 - 74	705	231	936	34	14	48	4.6	5.7	4.9
75 yrs +	466	118	584	30	15	45	6.0	11.3	7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>162,596</b>	<b>68,258</b>	<b>230,854</b>	<b>18,350</b>	<b>12,183</b>	<b>30,533</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>11.7</b>

**Note:** Unemployment rate = (unemployed/total labour force) x 100

What is notable is the fact, that, there is a significant percentage of elderly persons (7 percent) report themselves as seeking or wanting work at ages 75 and over. The percentage is also higher among women than men – signaling perhaps the loss of a male main income-provider. The observance that some persons well in their retirement ages reported that they still have the need for work suggest that pensions and other welfare support mechanism may be insufficient to maintain them. Unemployment rates by age and sex are given in Table 6.7 and Figure 6.5.

### **6.3 Types of Economic Activities**

The size and changes of labour force along with its composition in term of sex, age and regional differentials in the preceding sections, presented the aggregate dimension of economic functionaries of the population in Guyana, but information on the types of economic activities in which the labour force is engaged is needed to determine the levels and trends of structural changes over time. These types of economic activities described by three primary classifications of workers include:

- Industry – the activities of the establishment or enterprise in which the individual works;
- Occupation – the kind of work done by the individual; and
- Status – whether the individual works as an employer, employee and so on<sup>4</sup>.

Ideally, the interrelations between the industry and occupation distributions and between each of these and the status distribution of the employed labour force in Guyana are necessary and worth examination in order to see how the uses of manpower in production are organized and to gain knowledge of factors and process of changes in the structure of the labour supply and demand in the country. The data would provide the basis for economic policy and development plans; in particular, because they relate to the problem of improving the quality of manpower, raising productivity, minimizing unemployment and underemployment, and serve as a foundation for projection of labour force, and employment in various categories of the economic activities.

In the following sections, the analysis would focus on grouped classifications of industry, occupation and status. This grouping does not include some 30,533 unemployed persons (Table 6.7) some of whom had never worked in any industry nor acquired any occupational skill but were available for employment.

#### **6.3.1 Employment by Industries**

The seventeen major industrial groups over which the labour force in Guyana was engaged are given in Tables 6.8 and broken down into three industrial sectors at both national and regional levels in Table 6.9 and Table 6.10. The three-sector analysis is adopted for easy reference to deal with the changes in the classification between 1991 and 2002. While in 1991 the industries were classified into twelve major groups, the 2002 adopted the revised 1992 standard international classification (SIC) of industries which

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations (1968) Methods of Analysing Census Data on Economic Activities of the population (UN DESA, Population studies, No. 43

gave seventeen major groups, apart from people who did not state industries where they worked.

For instance, in 2002 new categories such as: a). financial intermediation, b). real estate, renting and business activities, c). education, d). private household with employment and e). extra territorial organization and bodies have been added or renamed, while fishing; operators of fish hatchery and fish farms added to agriculture, hunting and forestry category in 1991 have been given separate in 2002.

First, we narrowed the major groups into agricultural and non-agricultural industries. The Agricultural-sector (1 and 2 in Table 6.8) comprises agriculture itself, hunting and forestry, fishing, operators of fish hatchery and fish farms while the non-agricultural sector is sub-divided into manufacturing or “M”-Sector and services or “S” sector. The “M” sector comprises (3-5) or manufacturing itself, mining and quarrying, and construction industries, and services or “S”-sector consists of industry groups from number 6-17 (see detail in Table 6.8).

**Table 6.8: Distribution of Employed Labour Force 15 Years and Over by Major Industrial Groups Where They Work One Week Preceding the Census by Sex, Guyana: 2002**

No.	Major Industry Group	Number			Percent		
		Males	Females	Both	Males	Females	Both
1	Agriculture, Hunting & Forestry	40,639	4,739	45,378	25.0	6.9	19.7
2	Fishing, Operators of Fish hatchery & Fish farms	5,273	260	5,533	3.2	0.4	2.4
3	Mining and Quarrying	8,690	684	9,374	5.3	1.0	4.1
4	Manufacturing	23,369	7,114	30,483	14.4	10.4	13.2
5	Construction	1,752	494	2,246	1.1	0.7	1.0
6	Electricity, Gas, Steam & Water Supply	15,795	305	16,100	9.7	0.4	7.0
7	Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Vehicles, Motor & Hh.goods	22,192	15,498	37,690	13.6	22.7	16.3
8	Hotel and Restaurants	1,962	3,596	5,558	1.2	5.3	2.4
9	Transport Storage and Communication	14,859	1,931	16,790	9.1	2.8	7.3
10	Financial Intermediation	1,343	1,731	3,074	0.8	2.5	1.3
11	Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	4,554	2,830	7,384	2.8	4.1	3.2
	Public Admin & Defense; Compulsory						
12	Social Services	8,630	6,365	14,995	5.3	9.3	6.5
13	Education	3,101	9,914	13,015	1.9	14.5	5.6
14	Health & social Work	1,275	4,238	5,513	0.8	6.2	2.4
	Other Community, Soc & Personal						
15	Activities	6,442	3,157	9,599	4.0	4.6	4.2
16	Private Households with Employment	1,332	4,824	6,156	0.8	7.1	2.7
17	Extra Territorial Organisation & Bodies	213	264	477	0.1	0.4	0.2
18	Not Stated	1,175	314	1,489	0.7	0.5	0.6
	Total	162,596	68,258	230,854	100	100	100

The agricultural sector, comprising commercial and subsistence agriculture workers, provided 22 percent (50,911) of the employment in 2002, a decline of 6 percentage points of the existing level in 1991, which engaged 61,845 or approximately 28 percent of the total employment (Table 6.9).

Next in the order of importance, is the Service-sector, which revealed a definite trend towards expansion, with a workforce of 103,356 (46.4 percent) in 1991, and increased to 122,497 (53.1 percent) in 2002. A significant contribution to the size and growth of the Service-sector came from commerce, particularly, “wholesale and retail trade, repair of vehicles and motor cycles, and household goods” industry (16.3 percent). Relative contributions were also made, but in reducing order by the following industries: transport and communication (7.3 percent), public administration and defense, and compulsory social services (6.5 percent) and education (5.6 percent). The remaining “S”-sector industries accounted for less than 5 percent each with the smallest size being among those engaged in extra territorial organization and bodies (Table 6.8).

Significantly, the M-sector contributed a large number of employments in the country, 26 percent in 1991 and slightly declined by 2 percent in 2002. Those who shifted moved into “S” sector which rose from 46 percent in 1991 to 53 percent in 2002 as reflected in the share of workers there in Table 6.9. Apparently, they were mainly transferred to “wholesale and retail trade, repair of vehicles and motor cycles, and household goods”. In all industries combined, just over a quarter of the workers employed were females in 1991 which rose to nearly one-third during the intercensal period. The sector with the highest proportion of female workers was Services (80 percent), and were mainly involved in wholesale and retail trade businesses (23 percent) compared to males with 14 percent in 2002 (Table 6.8 and 6.9). Education and manufacturing industries also engaged a significant number of women 15 and 10 percent respectively against males with only 2 percent and 14 percent (Table 6.8).

Notably as elaborated, both agriculture and manufacturing industries simultaneously declined over the period, although, the drop in the share of the later was insignificant. But, the decline in the share of agricultural workers has been used as a good indicator of economic development, signaling in many ways that the economy was expanding, but whether the growth was sufficient to alleviate poverty and hunger in Guyana is a topic for more research.



**Table 6.9: Changes in Industrial Distribution of Employed Labour Force, Guyana: 1991 - 20**

<b>Industrial Sector</b>	<b>1991</b>			<b>2002</b>		
	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>
Agricultural Sector	56,143	5,702	61,845	45,912	4,999	50,911
Non-Agricultural Sector	107,430	53,191	160,621	115,509	62,945	178,454
"M" Sector (3 - 5)	47,566	9,699	57,265	47,854	8,103	55,957
"S" Sector-Services (6 - 17)	59,864	43,492	103,356	67,655	54,842	122,497
Not Stated	211	235	446	1,175	314	1,489
All Industries	163,784	59,128	222,912	162,596	68,258	230,854
<b>Industrial Sector</b>	<b>Percent</b>					
Agricultural Sector	34.3	9.6	27.7	28.2	7.3	22.1
Non-Agricultural Sector	65.6	90.0	72.1	71.0	92.2	77.3
"M" Sector (3 - 5)	29.0	16.4	25.7	29.4	11.9	24.2
"S" Sector-Services (6 - 17)	36.6	73.6	46.4	41.6	80.3	53.1
Not Stated	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.6
All Industries	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Note:** Grouping based on major industry groups in Table 6.8

In Table 6.10, an overwhelming proportion of workers in Regions 4 and 10 are in non-agriculture sector, suggesting the pronounced differences in regions with cities and towns as regards the kinds of functions performed by workers within the agricultural sector. For instance, only 9 percent of the workforce in Region 4 was in agricultural sector, compared to 70 and 40 percent in Regions 9 and 1 respectively.

Table 6.10 also revealed that the economic functions of the hinterland and coastal belt regions are to large extent complementary, the former being related mainly to primary production, while processing, distribution, and service functions are concentrated in the cities, with substantial number of workers in Regions 4, 10 and 3 in service sector (66, 51 and 49 percent) respectively. Region 8, though part of the hinterland region, has nearly one half of its workers in manufacturing – mainly mining and quarrying.

One striking finding of Table 6.10 is that nearly all working women (92 percent) at the regional level were engaged in non-agricultural activities; of this, 80 percent in services and another 12 percent in manufacturing activities, except Region 9, in which agriculture served as the main source of employment.

**Table 6.10: Percent Distribution of Employed Labour Force by Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Sector, Guyana: 2002**

Region	Non-Agricultural Sector					Non-Agricultural Sector				
	Agri.	Total	"M"	Sector-	Number	Agri.	Total	"M"	Sector-	Percent All
	Sector	Non-	Sector (3	Services	All	Sector	Non-	Sector	Services	
	(1 - 2)	Agri.	- 5)	(6 - 17)	Industries	(1 - 2)	Agri.	(3 - 5)	(6 - 17)	Industries
Both Sexes	Number					Percent				
Region 1	2,197	3,307	1,374	1,934	5,504	39.9	60.1	25.0	35.1	100
Region 2	3,707	10,012	3,513	6,499	13,719	27.0	73.0	25.6	47.4	100
Region 3	8,921	23,992	7,878	16,114	32,913	27.1	72.9	23.9	49.0	100
Region 4	9,850	94,579	26,062	68,517	104,429	9.4	90.6	25.0	65.6	100
Region 5	5,060	8,454	3,052	5,402	13,514	37.4	62.6	22.6	40.0	100
Region 6	13,076	21,672	6,843	14,829	34,748	37.6	62.4	19.7	42.7	100
Region 7	1,539	4,093	1,904	2,189	5,632	27.3	72.7	33.8	38.9	100
Region 8	812	1,997	1,370	627	2,809	28.9	71.1	48.8	22.3	100
Region 9	3,957	1,669	474	1,195	5,626	70.3	29.7	8.4	21.2	100
Region 10	1,973	9,987	3,901	6,085	11,960	16.5	83.5	32.6	50.9	100
Total	51,091	179,763	56,371	123,391	230,854	22.1	77.9	24.4	53.4	100
<b>Males</b>										
Region 1	1,754	2,377	1,250	1,128	4,131	42.4	57.6	30.3	27.3	100
Region 2	3,361	7,175	3,118	4,057	10,536	31.9	68.1	29.6	38.5	100
Region 3	8,415	16,585	6,730	9,855	25,000	33.7	66.3	26.9	39.4	100
Region 4	8,842	58,035	21,324	36,711	66,877	13.2	86.8	31.9	54.9	100
Region 5	4,878	5,910	2,755	3,155	10,788	45.2	54.8	25.5	29.2	100
Region 6	12,448	14,635	6,222	8,413	27,083	46.0	54.0	23.0	31.1	100
Region 7	1,037	2,948	1,777	1,170	3,985	26.0	74.0	44.6	29.4	100
Region 8	663	1,647	1,291	356	2,310	28.7	71.3	55.9	15.4	100
Region 9	2,906	1,049	393	656	3,955	73.5	26.5	9.9	16.6	100
Region 10	1,779	6,152	3,368	2,784	7,931	22.4	77.6	42.5	35.1	100
Total	46,082	116,514	48,229	68,285	162,596	28.3	71.7	29.7	42.0	100
<b>Females</b>										
Region 1	443	930	124	806	1,373	32.3	67.7	9.0	58.7	100
Region 2	346	2,837	395	2,442	3,183	10.9	89.1	12.4	76.7	100
Region 3	506	7,407	1,148	6,259	7,913	6.4	93.6	14.5	79.1	100
Region 4	1,008	36,544	4,738	31,806	37,552	2.7	97.3	12.6	84.7	100
Region 5	182	2,544	297	2,247	2,726	6.7	93.3	10.9	82.4	100
Region 6	628	7,037	621	6,416	7,665	8.2	91.8	8.1	83.7	100
Region 7	501	1,146	127	1,019	1,647	30.4	69.6	7.7	61.8	100
Region 8	149	350	78	272	499	29.9	70.1	15.7	54.4	100
Region 9	1,051	620	81	539	1,671	62.9	37.1	4.9	32.3	100
Region 10	194	3,835	533	3,302	4,029	4.8	95.2	13.2	82.0	100
Total	5,009	63,249	8,142	55,106	68,258	7.3	92.7	11.9	80.7	100

**Note:** Industries "not stated" have been prorated and grouping based on major industry groups in Table 6.8

### 6.3.2 Employment by Occupations

For the purpose of occupational analysis, the labour force was classified under nine main occupation groups in 2002, besides the "not stated category", which accounted for less than one percent in the two censuses. While in 1991, the occupations were classified by eleven major groups, during the 2002 census, "defense force" and "managers and

hospitality” had been dropped and workforce expected there spread across the new classification plan based on their professions. For instance, a mechanic or driver in the defense force was placed under “plant and machine operators and assemblers”, while top ranking officers were placed under “legislators, senior officials and managers occupation group”, etc. Adjustment for comparison has been ignored because the effect of change of the two categories combined is very insignificant.

In Table 6.11, occupation groups are given and the patterns followed by men and women are somehow different in Guyana, and also clearly indicate the relation between industries and occupations.

Overwhelmingly, the situation in 2002 was that a fifth of the women’s employment was in service, shop and market sale professions” and another 16 percent in “clerical” and “technical and associate” professions respectively, and in reverse, the men were mainly in the production occupations such as, craft and related trades (21 percent), agricultural and related occupations (14 percent) and plant and machine operators and assemblers (12 percent) (see Tables 6.11 and 6.12).

As displayed in Table 6.11, there have been structural changes within the occupational groups. These shifts are reflection of the changes in industrial distribution discussed earlier, that is, the share of agriculture and related occupations shrank simply because the proportion of agriculture in the industry distribution diminished during the intercensal period.

Although, there have been shifts from one occupation group to the other, but the main observation is, the patterns of the occupational distribution between 1991 and 2002 had remained unchanged. For example, apart from the elementary workers which comprises unspecified number of minor occupations and consisted the overall larger number of the labour force, occupations which absorbed higher number of workers in 1991 census had likewise retained their rank in the later census, such that, shop and market sale workers, clerical, and technical and associate professions, which attracted women in 1991 continued to play the same dominant role in 2002, while craft and related trades, agricultural and related occupations, and plant and machine operators and assemblers continued to be the main areas for the men as well (Table 6.11).

**Table 6.11: Percent Distribution of the Employed Persons 15 Years and Over by Major Occupation Groups  
One Week Preceding the Census by Sex, Guyana: 1991 - 2002**

No. Occupation Groups	1991			2002		
	Males	Females	Both	Males	Females	Both
1 Defense Force	0.6	0.3	0.5	na	na	na
2 Legislators, Senior Officials & Managers	3.5	3.3	3.4	2.9	2.4	2.8
3 Managers hospitality	0.0	0.0	0.0	na	na	na
4 Professionals	2.3	4.5	2.9	1.7	4.2	2.4
5 Technicians & Associate Professionals	3.0	13.5	5.8	4.3	16.1	7.8
6 Clerks	3.7	20.7	8.2	3.3	15.9	7.0
7 Service Workers, Shop & Market Sales Workers	9.7	15.9	11.3	12.0	21.6	14.8
8 Agricultural & Fishery Workers/Farmers	17.9	5.5	14.6	13.7	4.9	11.1
9 Craft and Related Trades Workers	19.4	6.9	16.1	20.8	5.6	16.3
10 Plant & Machine Operators & Assemblers	8.5	1.3	6.6	12.2	1.4	9.0
11 Elementary Occupation	31.0	27.5	30.1	28.8	27.6	28.4
12 Not Stated	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Number	163,784	59,128	222,912	162,596	68,258	230,854

**Note:** na = not available/ was changed in 2002 and emerged with either of the groups.

In the regional distribution given in Tables 6.12 and 13, nevertheless, there are variations which occurred as a result of the degree of polarization of economic functions within these regions, but one thing seemingly sure is, the pattern of occupational employments was identical to the national average. What is also obvious regarding the distribution of specific occupation within each region (Table 6.12) is the high degree of concentration of almost every profession, particularly white-collar workers such as, professional and legislators, senior officials and managers in Region 4 in contrast to the share of agriculture and elementary workers. The disproportionate distribution of these occupations in favour of Region 4 is due to the presence of the country's capital and the main body of civil service being there. This region also has the highest percentage and concentration of the population in the country.

**Table 6.12: Percent Distribution of the Employed Persons 15 Years and Over by Major Occupation Group One Week Preceding the Census, by Region, Guyana: 2002 (Both Sexes Only)**

Occupation No. Groups	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Total % Number
<b>A. Percent of Specific Occupation Within Each Region</b>											
Legislators, Senior Officials &											
1 Managers	0.8	4.1	9.4	62.2	4.2	10.2	2.1	1.4	2.0	3.6	100 6,422
2 Professionals	0.4	2.3	9.8	72.8	2.9	6.5	0.7	0.2	1.6	2.8	100 5,626
Technicians & Associate											
3 Professionals	2.3	6.2	12.0	47.0	5.8	14.0	1.9	1.1	2.1	7.6	100 18,012
4 Clerks	0.6	3.1	13.8	63.6	3.0	9.5	1.1	0.1	0.4	4.8	100 16,268
Service Workers, Shop & Market											
5 Sales Workers	1.5	5.0	12.1	54.9	4.7	12.2	2.1	0.8	0.6	6.2	100 34,229
Agricultural & Fishery											
6 Workers/Farmers	6.7	9.1	13.9	17.5	8.2	17.7	5.2	3.1	14.8	3.7	100 25,579
Craft and Related											
7 Trades Workers	2.4	5.1	13.8	50.4	4.9	11.8	2.5	1.8	0.9	6.6	100 37,570
Operators &											
8 Assemblers	1.5	7.1	15.6	42.2	6.3	14.8	2.1	0.9	0.7	8.8	100 20,714
9 Elementary Occupa	2.3	6.5	17.0	39.5	7.2	20.5	2.3	0.9	0.7	3.1	100 65,640
10 Not Stated	0.9	1.2	1.6	91.0	0.9	1.2	0.2	0.9	0.6	1.4	100 794
Total	2.4	5.9	14.2	45.3	5.9	15.0	2.4	1.2	2.4	5.2	100 230,854
<b>B. Percent of Occupations by Region</b>											
Legislators, Senior											
1 Officials & Managers	1.0	1.9	1.8	3.8	2.0	1.9	2.4	3.1	2.3	1.9	2.8
2 Professionals	0.4	0.9	1.7	3.9	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.3	1.6	1.3	2.4
Technicians & Associate											
3 Professionals	7.4	8.1	6.6	8.1	7.8	7.3	6.2	6.9	6.7	11.5	7.8
4 Clerks	1.6	3.7	6.8	9.9	3.6	4.5	3.1	0.8	1.3	6.5	7.0
Service Workers, Shop & Market Sales											
5 Workers	9.1	12.5	12.6	18.0	11.9	12.0	12.8	9.4	3.9	17.8	14.8
Skilled Agricultural & Fishery											
6 Workers/Farmers	31.2	17.1	10.8	4.3	15.5	13.0	23.7	28.1	67.4	8.0	11.1
Craft and Related											
7 Trades Workers	16.1	14.0	15.8	18.1	13.6	12.8	16.4	23.8	5.7	20.6	16.3
Plant & Machine Operators &											
8 Assemblers	5.5	10.7	9.8	8.4	9.6	8.8	7.9	6.3	2.6	15.3	9.0
9 Elementary Occup.	27.6	31.0	34.0	24.8	34.8	38.7	26.9	21.0	8.4	17.0	28.4
10 Not Stated	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Number	5,504	13,719	32,913	104,429	13,514	34,748	5,632	2,809	5,626	11,960	230,854

**Table 6.13: Percent Distribution of the Employed Persons 15 Years and Over by Major Occupation Group  
One Week Preceding the Census, by Region and Sex, Guyana: 2002**

No.	Occupation Groups	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Total
<b>Both Sexes</b>												
	Legislators, Senior Officials &											
1	Managers	1.0	1.9	1.8	3.8	2.0	1.9	2.4	3.1	2.3	1.9	2.8
2	Professionals	0.4	0.9	1.7	3.9	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.3	1.6	1.3	2.4
	Technicians & Associate											
3	Professionals	7.4	8.1	6.6	8.1	7.8	7.3	6.2	6.9	6.7	11.5	7.8
4	Clerks	1.6	3.7	6.8	9.9	3.6	4.5	3.1	0.8	1.3	6.5	7.0
	Service Workers, Shop & Market											
5	Sales Workers	9.1	12.5	12.6	18.0	11.9	12.0	12.8	9.4	3.9	17.8	14.8
	Skilled Agricultural & Fishery											
6	Workers/Farmers	31.2	17.1	10.8	4.3	15.5	13.0	23.7	28.1	67.4	8.0	11.1
	Craft and Related											
7	Trades Workers	16.1	14.0	15.8	18.1	13.6	12.8	16.4	23.8	5.7	20.6	16.3
	Plant & Machine Operators &											
8	Assemblers	5.5	10.7	9.8	8.4	9.6	8.8	7.9	6.3	2.6	15.3	9.0
	Elementary											
9	Occupation	27.6	31.0	34.0	24.8	34.8	38.7	26.9	21.0	8.4	17.0	28.4
10	Not Stated	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3
	<b>Total %</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	<b>Number</b>	5,504	13,719	32,913	104,429	13,514	34,748	5,632	2,809	5,626	11,960	230,854
<b>Males</b>												
	Legislators, Senior Officials &											
1	Managers	1.1	2.1	2.0	4.1	2.3	2.0	2.9	3.5	2.5	2.1	2.9
2	Professionals	0.3	0.6	1.1	2.9	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.3	1.3	0.9	1.7
	Technicians & Associate											
3	Professionals	4.1	3.7	3.3	5.3	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.3	4.8	5.6	4.3
4	Clerks	0.9	1.9	3.4	4.8	1.6	2.1	1.3	0.4	0.5	3.0	3.3
	Service Workers, Shop & Market											
5	Sales Workers	7.3	10.7	10.5	15.3	9.7	9.8	9.0	6.5	3.1	11.8	12.0
	Skilled Agricultural & Fishery											
6	Workers/Farmers	32.0	19.7	13.5	6.2	18.5	15.6	22.0	27.7	70.5	10.6	13.7
	Craft and Related											
7	Trades Workers	19.9	16.2	18.8	24.9	16.0	15.2	21.5	28.0	6.6	28.5	20.8
	Plant & Machine Operators &											
8	Assemblers	7.2	13.8	12.3	12.2	11.7	11.2	11.0	7.6	3.7	22.4	12.2
9	Elementary Occupat	27.0	31.0	35.1	23.6	36.2	40.0	28.9	22.6	7.0	15.1	28.8
10	Not Stated	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4
	<b>Total %</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	<b>Number</b>	4,131	10,536	25,000	66,877	10,788	27,083	3,985	2,310	3,955	7,931	162,596

Note: Derived from Appendix B.6.4

<b>Table 6.13 Continued: Percent Distribution of the Employed Persons 15 Years and Over by Major Occupation Group One Week Preceding the Census, by Region and Sex, Guyana: 2002</b>												
<b>No.</b>	<b>Occupation Groups</b>	<b>Region 1</b>	<b>Region 2</b>	<b>Region 3</b>	<b>Region 4</b>	<b>Region 5</b>	<b>Region 6</b>	<b>Region 7</b>	<b>Region 8</b>	<b>Region 9</b>	<b>Region 10</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Females</b>											
	Legislators, Senior Officials											
1	& Managers	0.6	1.3	1.4	3.3	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.4	2.0	1.6	2.4
2	Professionals Technicians & Associate	0.4	1.9	3.5	5.7	3.3	1.8	1.3	0.4	2.4	2.2	4.2
3	Professionals	17.3	22.5	16.9	13.1	25.9	21.1	13.9	24.1	11.1	23.1	16.1
4	Clerks Service Workers, Shop & Market Sales	3.9	9.7	17.7	18.9	11.4	12.7	7.5	2.6	3.2	13.4	15.9
5	Workers Skilled Agricultural & Fishery	14.5	18.2	19.2	22.8	20.6	20.1	22.0	22.9	5.7	29.5	21.6
6	Craft and Related Trades	28.9	8.4	2.5	0.9	3.7	3.9	27.8	30.0	60.2	2.9	4.9
7	Workers	4.5	6.3	6.4	6.0	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.2	3.7	5.2	5.6
	Plant & Machine Operators & Assemblers											
8	Elementary Occupation	0.4	0.7	2.0	1.6	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	1.4	1.4
9	Not Stated	29.3	31.1	30.3	27.1	28.8	34.2	22.1	13.3	11.6	20.7	27.6
10	<b>Total %</b>	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.3
	<b>Number</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
		1,373	3,183	7,913	37,552	2,726	7,665	1,647	499	1,671	4,029	68,258

**Note:** Derived from Appendix B.6.4

### 6.3.3 Employment Status of the Labour Force

In addition to the kind of work and establishment where the individual works, the status, whether the individual is an employer, employee, unpaid family workers, etc. is an important index used to determine the polarization of poverty level in Guyana. In particular, it is, for the main fact, because economic development involves an expansion of the employee group and contraction of the groups of own-account workers and unpaid family workers, and even the employers, in proportion to the total labour force. Changes in this direction are necessary and enable the analyst to study whether the economic activity is carried on in small scale family-operated enterprises, or had moved or in transition toward more integrated organization with large-scale mass-production units.

As reflected in Table 6.14, one of the major long-term trends in employment status in Guyana has been increase in number of employees, and contraction in the number of “own account workers” and “unpaid family workers” for both males and females. The

proportion of employees rose from 69 percent in 1991 to 73 percent in 2002, while those of own-account/own business without paid help and unpaid family workers dropped by 6 and 43 percent respectively, and relatively small increase of 1 percent within the employer/own business with paid help category.

However, there had been differences in the employment by both government and private sectors. While in 1991, the two sectors competitively engaged equal proportions of paid employees, by 2002 government paid employees had dropped to 25 percent, and in reverse, the proportion of private sector paid employees had risen to 48 percent- an increase by 46 percent. The proportionate decline of government paid employees against private institutions was principally due to privatization of many public corporations. For instance, public corporations such as Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (GT&T), Guyana Power and Light (GPL), Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation (GPC), etc. which accounted for sizeable number of government paid employees in 1991 were privatized and by 2002 workers there were reported under private enterprises (Table 6.14).

**Table 6.14: Percent Distribution and Changes of Employment Status of Employed Labour Force One Week Preceding the Census, Guyana: 1991-2002**

Employment Status	Percentage Distribution						Percentage Change		
	1991			2002			1991 - 2002		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Paid Employee - Govt	31.1	44.2	34.6	21.4	33.3	24.9	-31.6	-13.1	-25.3
Paid Employee - Pvt	35.9	29.9	34.3	51.0	42.4	48.4	40.8	63.5	46.0
Unpaid family worker	3.5	5.2	4.0	1.6	3.6	2.2	-55.1	-21.3	-43.3
Apprentice/Trainee	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.1	0.1	0.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Employer	3.6	1.3	3.0	3.5	1.6	2.9	-4.5	38.5	0.5
Own Account	24.3	17.5	22.5	21.3	18.4	20.4	-12.9	21.6	-5.8
Not Stated	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.9	-28.3	-55.7	-36.7
<b>Total %</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	-0.7	15.4	3.6
<b>Number</b>	163,784	59,128	222,912	162,596	68,258	230,854	-1,188	9,130	7,942

**Note:** a). n/a = not available b). Percentage change =  $(2002 - 1991)/1991 \times 100$

Of special reference was the differentials employment status within the industries (see Table 6.15). A significant proportion (74 percent) of labour force in all industries combined was paid employees, own account totaled 21 percent with about 5 percent being employers, unpaid family workers and trainees.

As expected, industries with high percentage of government paid employees include: "public administration and defense, compulsory social services" (95 percent), education (88 percent), and health and social work (68 percent), and lesser in the others, while private sector taking the lead within the remaining industries accounted for more than 50 percent of the paid employees under each industrial category, except in agriculture, hunting and forestry industry, where both the government and private sectors engaged approximately equal number of paid employees (Table 6.15).



However, in other forms of agriculture such like fishing, operators of fish hatchery and fish farms, government proportion of paid employees was very insignificant, private sector and own-account workers played a major role.

**Table 6.15: Distribution of Employed Labour Force by Status of Employment Within the Industries, Guyana: 2002 (Both Sexes Only)**

Major Industries	Paid Employee - Govt	Paid Employee - Pvt	Unpaid family workers	Trainee	Employer	Own account	Total %	Number
1	28.0	30.2	6.4	0.0	2.7	32.8	100	45,378
2	1.3	64.3	1.3	0.0	3.4	29.7	100	5,533
3	16.9	70.2	0.4	0.0	3.5	8.9	100	9,374
4	22.3	62.3	0.9	0.2	2.7	11.7	100	30,483
5	44.0	55.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.5	100	2,246
6	2.4	81.4	0.3	0.2	3.3	12.5	100	16,100
7	1.8	44.6	3.2	0.2	5.3	45.0	100	37,690
8	1.9	68.4	3.5	0.1	7.1	19.2	100	5,558
9	9.5	64.1	0.8	0.0	4.6	21.0	100	16,790
10	24.1	72.9	0.0	0.0	0.6	2.4	100	3,074
11	12.1	76.7	0.5	0.1	2.4	8.2	100	7,384
12	94.9	4.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	100	14,995
13	88.2	9.8	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.6	100	13,015
14	67.5	28.4	0.1	0.4	1.6	2.0	100	5,513
15	16.2	62.4	0.9	0.2	2.5	17.8	100	9,599
16	1.7	92.6	2.0	0.0	0.1	3.6	100	6,156
17	22.1	74.5	0.9	0.0	0.4	2.1	100	477
18	7.3	65.7	1.6	0.1	3.4	21.9	100	1,489
<b>Total %</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>230,854</b>

**Note:** (1) Agriculture, Hunting & Forestry (2) fishing, operators of fish hatchery & fish farms (3) Mining & quarrying (4) Manufacturing (5) Construction (6) Electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply (7) Wholesale & retail trade, repair of vehicles, motor & Hh.goods (8) Hotel and restaurant (9) Transport storage & communication (10) Financial intermediation (11) Real estate, renting & business activities (12) Public admin & defense, compulsory social services (13) Education (14) Health & social work (15) Other community, social & personal activities (16) Private households with employment (17) Extra territorial organization & bodies (18) Not stated

**Regional Differentials:** Regional distribution of labour force by employment status is given in Table 6.16 only for 2002. Like the industries and occupations, the pattern of employment status followed the similar trend as that of the prevalent situation in the entire country. Those who worked for pay constituted a large part of the workers in all the regions, and were predominately private sector employees. Region 9 is the only exception where own-account /own business without paid help accounted for more than 50 percent. This corresponded to the findings earlier where within the industry and occupation groups, the distribution there indicated substantial number of workers in the hinterland regions, particularly, Region 9, to be in agriculture and related industries, and were doing purely agriculture work.

In addition, less than 15 percent of the workforce comprises government paid employees in the hinterland regions (1, 7, 8, and 9), which in many ways, is related to variations in economic functions (Table 6.16). For example, in Region 9, it is believed that small scale

subsistence agriculture forms the bedrock of their activities, while in Region 8, agriculture and related work, and alluvial mining and quarrying constitute good proportion of workers. At most, these activities usually call for self-employment in the countryside, where unpaid family enterprises or small scale own-account with or without paid help are prevalent.

**Table 6.16: Percent Distribution of Employed Persons 15 Years and Over by Employment Status, by Region and Sex, Guyana: 2002**

Region	Paid Employee - Govt	Paid Employee - Pvte	Unpaid family worker	Trainee	Employer	Own Account	Total %	Number
<b>Both Sexes</b>								
Region 1	15.4	45.8	10.4	0.0	1.8	26.6	100	5,504
Region 2	17.2	54.3	4.0	0.1	3.4	21.0	100	13,719
Region 3	26.6	50.0	1.4	0.1	2.9	18.9	100	32,913
Region 4	22.9	55.1	1.0	0.1	3.2	17.7	100	104,429
Region 5	34.4	39.6	2.4	0.2	2.8	20.7	100	13,514
Region 6	34.9	37.8	1.5	0.1	2.5	23.2	100	34,748
Region 7	12.5	44.7	8.1	0.0	3.2	31.5	100	5,632
Region 8	9.5	54.2	3.6	0.0	3.3	29.4	100	2,809
Region 9	11.8	15.5	15.0	0.1	1.6	55.9	100	5,626
Region 10	31.5	46.5	1.7	0.1	2.9	17.3	100	11,960
<b>Total %</b>	25.1	48.9	2.2	0.1	3.0	20.7	100	x
<b>Number</b>	58,046	112,910	5,103	241	6,866	47,688	x	230,854
<b>Males</b>								
Region 1	10.5	51.1	6.8	0.0	2.0	29.6	100	4,131
Region 2	10.7	60.9	2.8	0.1	3.9	21.6	100	10,536
Region 3	23.3	52.4	1.2	0.1	3.5	19.5	100	25,000
Region 4	18.7	57.9	0.8	0.2	4.0	18.4	100	66,877
Region 5	30.7	42.8	2.1	0.2	3.2	21.0	100	10,788
Region 6	33.7	39.3	1.3	0.1	2.9	22.7	100	27,083
Region 7	7.1	51.6	3.3	0.0	3.9	34.0	100	3,985
Region 8	4.9	59.3	2.5	0.0	3.6	29.7	100	2,310
Region 9	9.3	16.1	8.9	0.1	1.7	63.9	100	3,955
Region 10	25.6	52.3	1.5	0.1	3.4	17.1	100	7,931
<b>Total %</b>	21.6	51.5	1.6	0.1	3.5	21.5	100	x
<b>Number</b>	35,152	83,814	2,635	199	5,762	35,035	x	162,596
<b>Females</b>								
Region 1	30.2	29.9	21.2	0.0	1.1	17.6	100	1,373
Region 2	38.5	32.3	8.2	0.2	1.9	18.9	100	3,183
Region 3	37.0	42.5	2.1	0.1	1.3	17.0	100	7,913
Region 4	30.3	50.1	1.4	0.1	1.8	16.4	100	37,552
Region 5	48.9	27.2	3.6	0.1	1.0	19.3	100	2,726
Region 6	39.2	32.3	2.3	0.0	1.3	24.9	100	7,665
Region 7	25.6	28.0	19.6	0.1	1.6	25.2	100	1,647
Region 8	30.7	30.7	9.0	0.0	1.6	28.0	100	499
Region 9	17.9	14.1	29.5	0.1	1.5	36.9	100	1,671
Region 10	43.2	35.0	2.2	0.1	1.9	17.8	100	4,029
<b>Total %</b>	33.5	42.6	3.6	0.1	1.6	18.5	100	x
<b>Number</b>	22,894	29,096	2,468	42	1,104	12,653	x	68,258

**Note:** Employment status "not stated" was prorated. **Derived from Appendix B.6.5.**