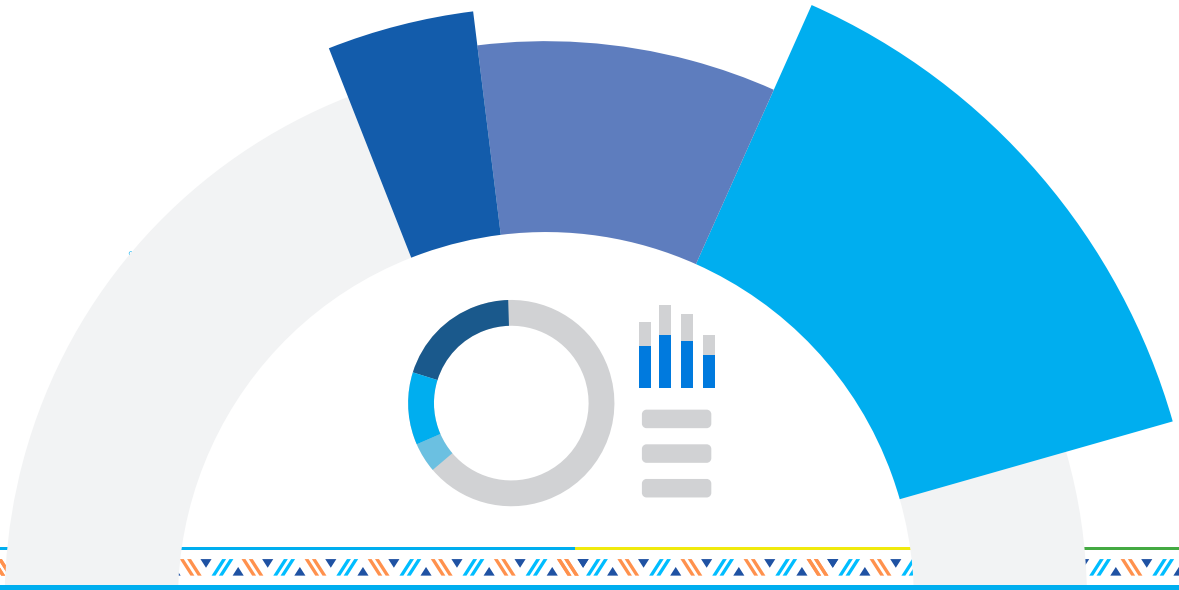
Republic of Rwanda

NISR
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS OF RWANDA



Labour Force survey

Quarter 3, October 2026

NISR © 2026 National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda. Licensed under CC BY 4.0

P.O Box: 6139 Kigali, Rwanda
Tel: +250 788 383103
Email: info@statistics.gov.rw
Website: www.statistics.gov.rw

Recommended citation:
National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force survey, 2026

Contents

Figures and Tables ---- 4

Foreword ---- 5

Executive summary ---- 6

Rwanda Labour force survey, August 2026 (Q3) Summary labour force indicators ---- 8

1. Introduction ---- 9

2. Labour Market Overview ---- 10

2.1 Labour force participation rate, employment to population ratio and unemployment rate 10

2.2 Trend of labour Underutilization 10

2.3. Rate of population outside the labour force 11

3. Characteristics of population in labour force ---- 12

3.1 Labour force participation among males and females 12

3.2 Labour force participation by education 12

3.3 Labour force participation by age group 13

3.4 Labour force participation by area of residence 13

4. Characteristics of employed population ---- 14

4.1 Employment to population ratio (EPR) 14

4.2 Status in employment 16

4.3 Main occupation 17

4.4 Main Economic activity 18

4.5 Means of transport by areas of residence. 20

4.6 Actual hours worked. 21

5. Unemployment and Labour Underutilization ---- 22

5.1 Unemployment rate 22

5.2. Labour Underutilization 23

5.3 Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) 25

6. Population outside the Labour Force ---- 27

6.1 Main components of population outside the labour Force 27

6.2 Population outside the labour force by area of residence 27

6.3 Population outside the labour force by age group 29

6.4 Population outside the labour force by level of educational attainment 29

7. Work in agriculture ---- 30

7.1 Agricultural status of workers 30

7.2 Characteristics of agricultural workers 30

7.3 Share of agriculture in the total work force 32

A. Standard errors, 95% confidence intervals, coefficient of variation (CV) and design effect of selected main labour force indicators. ---- 34

B. Tables on mobile phone ownership and digital skills ---- 39

Labour force survey contributors ---- 43

© NISR

ii Figures and Tables

Figure 01: Key figures, August 2026 (Q3) 6
Figure 02: Labour force participation rate, employment-to-population ratio and unemployment rate, August 2021 to August 2026 (Q3) 7
Figure 03: Distribution of employed population (%) by broad sector of economic activity, August 2021 to August 2026 (Q3) 7
Figure 2. 1. Trend Labour force participation rate, employment to population ratio and unemployment rate 10
Figure 2. 2 Trends of labour underutilization 11
Figure 2. 3 Trends of outside labour force rate and potential labour force 11
Figure 3. 1 Labour force participation rate by sex 12
Figure 3. 2 Labour force participation rate by level of education 12
Figure 3. 3 Labour force participation rate by age group 13
Figure 3. 4 Labour force participation rate by area of residence 13
Figure 4. 1: Employment to population ratio (EPR) by area of residence. 14
Figure 4. 2: Employment to population ratio by sex 16
Figure 4. 3: Employment to population ratio by age group. 16
Figure 4. 4: Distribution of employed population (%) by status in employment as per ICSE-18.. 17
Figure 4.5: Length of employment contract (Only for the current quarter) by sex, area of residence and level of education attained. 20
Figure 4. 6: Means of transport for employed people by province 21
Figure 4. 7: Average actual hours worked 21
Figure 5. 1: Unemployment rate by sex. 22
Figure 5. 2: Unemployment rate by area of residence. 23
Figure 5.3: Unemployment rate among youth and Adult 23
Figure 5. 4: Labour under-utilization rate by sex 24
Figure 5. 5: Labour under-utilization rate by area of residence. 24
Figure 5. 6: Trend in labour underutilization rate by Youth and Adult. 25
Figure 5.7: NEET rate trend by sex 25
Figure 5.8: NEET rate trend by area of residence 26
Figure 6. 1: Main components of Persons outside the labour force 27
Figure 6. 2: Population outside Labour force by Area of residence 28
Figure 6. 3: Population outside the Labour force by age group 28
Figure 6. 4: Population outside the Labour force by Education level attained 29
Figure 7. 1: Share of workers in agriculture by sex 32
Figure 7. 2: Share of workers in agriculture by level of education attained. 33
Figure B.1: Proportion of Households owning mobile phone by District in August 2026. 39

Table 4. 1:Distribution of employed population (,000) by status in employment as per ICSE-18 17
Table 4.2: Distribution of employed population (,000) by occupations 18
Table 4. 3: Percentage distribution of employed population by branch of economic activity. 19
Table 4. 4: Distribution of employed population by economic activities (,000) 20
Table 7. 1: Works status in agriculture 29
Table 7. 2: Trend of proportion of agricultural workers by sex. 31
Table 7. 3: Trend of proportion of agricultural workers by age group 32
Table 7. 4: Trend of proportion of agricultural workers by level of education attainment 32

© NISR

Foreword

The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) conducts the labour force survey (LFS) to provide labour statistics that are essential for the development of policies and monitoring the country's progress toward achieving decent work for all.

These statistics also support the government of Rwanda to track the implementation of Second National Strategy for Transformation (NST2), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as vision 2050. Effective monitoring of the progress towards these targets requires the production of relevant, reliable, coherent, timely and accessible labour statistics.

The goal of the Labour Force Survey is to provide comprehensive data on the structure and trends of the labour force, including employment and unemployment, as well as other key labour market indicators. These data support the formulation, implementation and evaluation of economic and social policies related to employment creation, skills development, and the promotion of decent work.

The Labour Force survey has been conducted on quarterly basis since 2019, following an initial pilot survey conducted in February 2016 and a bi-annual series implemented between August 2016 and August 2018. This report presents the findings of the third quarter (Q3) of 2026, based on data collected in August 2026.

NISR welcome feedback on this publication from all users. We remain committed to continuously improve the scope and presentation of our analysis to maximize their utility.

NISR congratulates all those who contributed to this exercise. NISR recognize the dedication of survey coordinators, supervisors, analysts, team leaders, interviewers, drivers, and respondents for making this survey possible.

Furthermore, NISR invites policy makers, program managers, researchers, and all users to use the valuable data presented in this report to contribute and enhance Rwanda's economic development.

for

MWIZERWA Jean Claude
Deputy Director General

MURENZI Ivan

Director General of NISR

© NISR

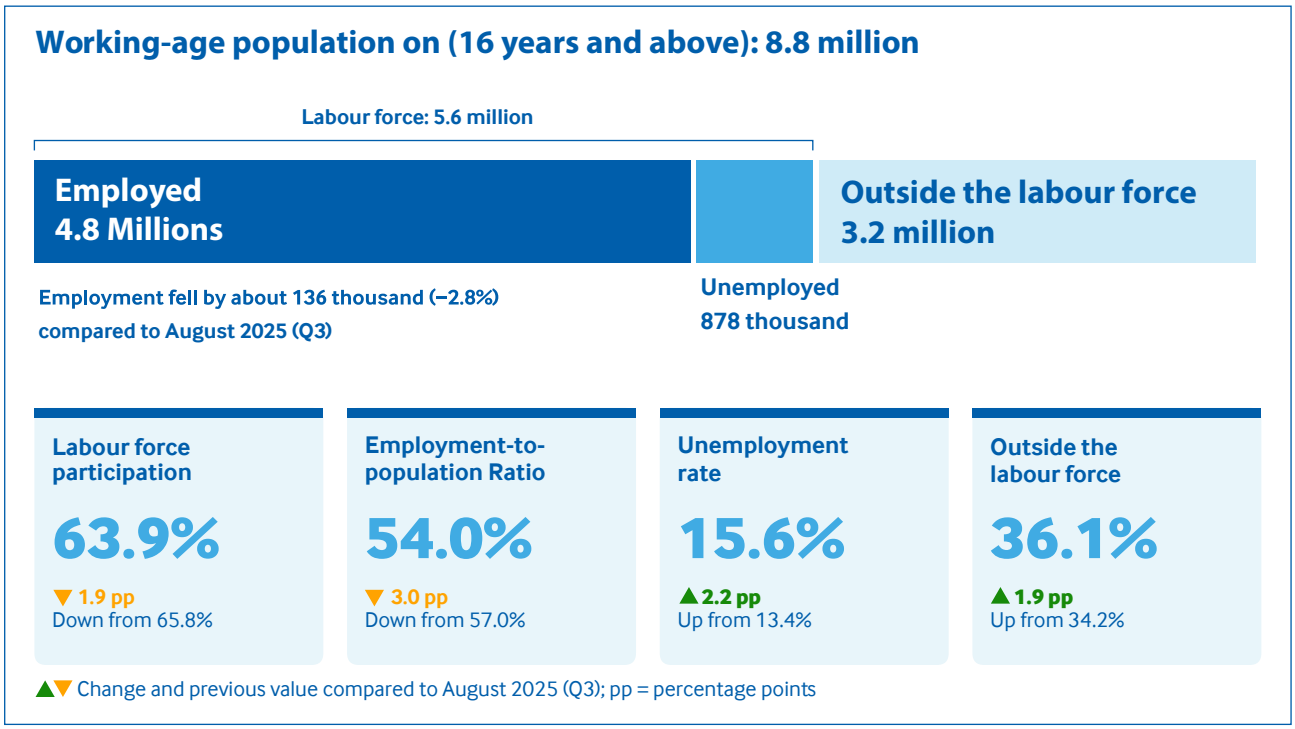
iv Executive summary

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) is a household-based sample survey conducted by the NISR. It collects data on the labour market activities among individuals aged 14 years and above who live in private households across Rwanda. However, only persons aged 16 years and above are covered for reporting. This report mainly compares survey results for the month of August each year, starting from 2021. However, the tables in a separate excel file published together with this report contain more observed data points of the labour force survey since 2019.

Headline

In August 2026 (Q3), the labour force participation rate was 63.9%, a decrease from the 65.8% estimated in August 2025 (Q3).

Figure 01: Key figures, August 2026 (Q3)



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

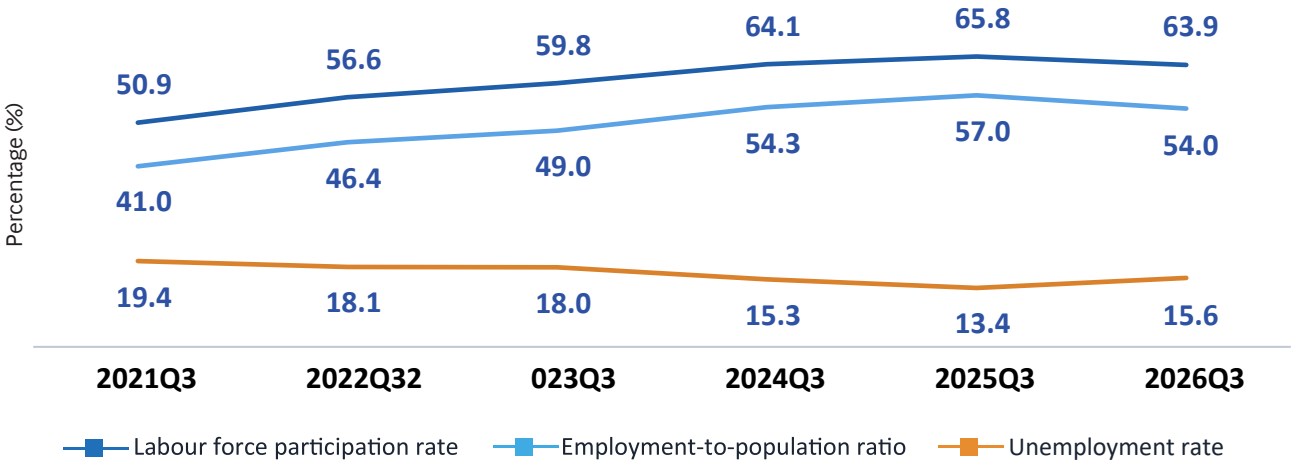
Labour Force headline indicators

Between August 2025 (Q3) and August 2026 (Q3), all three headline indicators weakened.

- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) fell by 1.9 percentage points to 63.9%, its first decline in the August series since 2021, after rising steadily from 50.9% in August 2021 to 65.8% in August 2025.
- The employment-to-population ratio (EPR) fell further, by 3.0 percentage points to 54.0%, ending a similar rise from 41.0% in August 2021.
- Meanwhile, the unemployment rate (UR) rose by 2.2 percentage points to 15.6%, reversing its decline from 19.4% in August 2021 to 13.4% in August 2025.

© NISR

Figure 02: Labour force participation rate, employment-to-population ratio and unemployment rate, August 2021 to August 2026 (Q3)

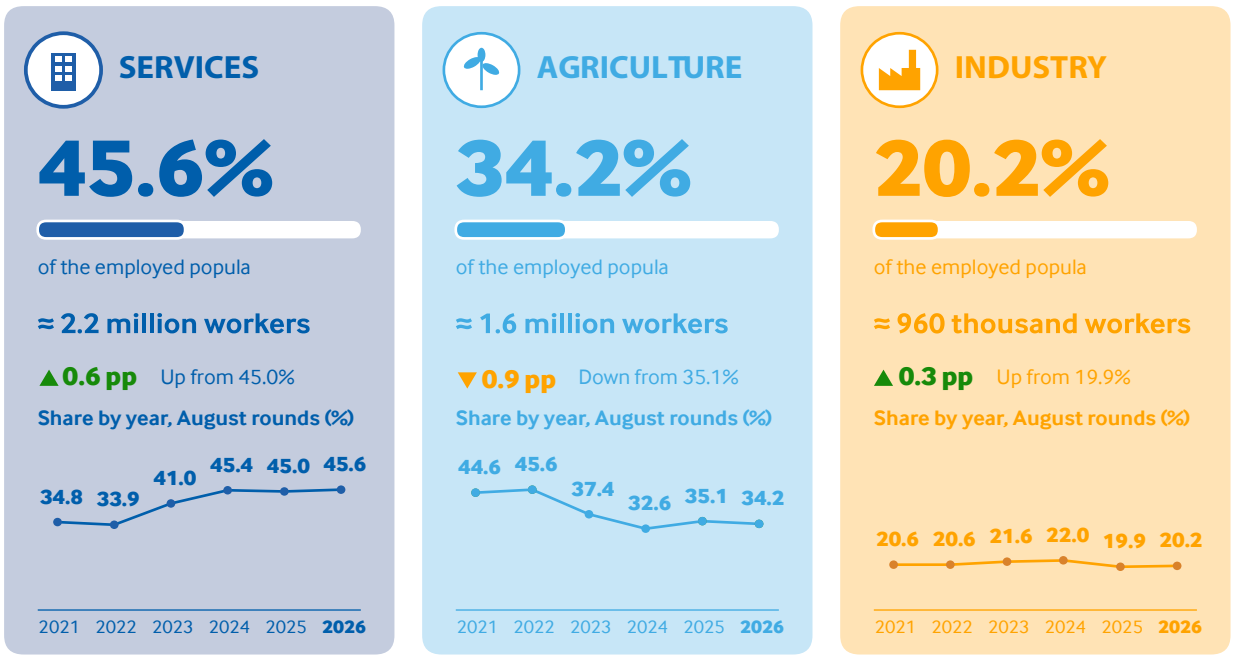


Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Employment by broad sector of economic activity

In August 2026 (Q3), services remained the largest employer (45.6% of the employed population), followed by agriculture (34.2%) and industry (20.2%). Compared to August 2025 (Q3), agriculture's share fell by 0.9 percentage points, while services and industry remained almost stable. Since August 2021 (Q3), employment has shifted away from agriculture: its share fell by about 10 percentage points, services rose by about 11 points and overtook agriculture in August 2023 (Q3), and industry stayed at around 20–22%.

Figure 03: Distribution of employed population (%) by broad sector of economic activity, August 2021 to August 2026 (Q3)



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

© NISR

V Rwanda Labour force survey, August 2026 (Q3) Summary labour force indicators

Working age population 16 years old and over (WAP): 8,808,239 persons

(This includes those who are in labour force and those out of labour force)

THE LABOUR FORCE

The sum of employed and unemployed | **Labour Force Participation** 5,630,632 persons | 63.9%

EMPLOYED
All who worked for pay or profit
4,752,916 persons

EMPLOYMENT TO POPULATION RATIO (EPR)
54%

AGRICULTURE
Excluding subsistence foodstuff production
34.2 %

INDUSTRY
20.2 %

SERVICE
45.6 %

UNEMPLOYED
All not employed but seeking and available to work for pay or profit
877,716 persons

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (UR)
15.6 %

$$UR = \frac{\text{Unemployed}}{\text{Labour Force}} \times 100$$

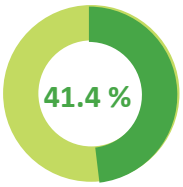
Share of unemployed but engaged in subsistence agriculture.
43.3 %

Other unemployed
56.7 %

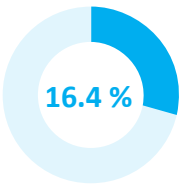
OUT OF LABOUR FORCE

Out of Labour Force rate 36.1%

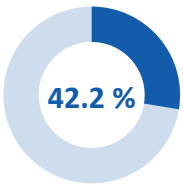
Population outside the labour force
(Not employed nor unemployed)
3,177,607 persons



Subsistence agriculture



Exclusively Students



Other outside LF (Elderly, people with disabilities, discouraged job seekers)

Labour underutilization | **4,594,976persons**
Composite measure of labour underutilization rate **61.8 %**

Unemployed
877,716

Potential labour force
Portion of out of labour force)
1,807,065

Time-related underemployed
(Portion of employed)
1,910,195

© NISR

Chapter

1 Introduction

The Rwanda Labour Force Survey (RLFS) was established in 2016 to provide robust data for main labour market indicators. From February 2019, the sample was spread into four rounds to provide estimates of labour market indicators at national level on a quarterly basis. The main objective of the survey is to provide data on the structure and trends of labour force, employment, and unemployment as well as other related labour market statistics for the implementation and evaluation of economic and social policies related to employment creation, income generation, skills development, and related decent work policies.

In February 2024, NISR increased the sample size and updated the sampling design to obtain more precise quarterly estimates at the National level and annual estimates at districts and other sub national areas. The current findings are from the Third quarter of LFS 2026, with data collected in August 2026.

The current LFS is designed using a two-stage stratified design with a 2-2-2 rotational scheme. At the first stage of sampling, a stratified sample of 552 census enumeration areas, referred to as primary sampling units (PSUs) are drawn from the 2022 census sampling frame. The selection is based on probabilities proportional to size measured in terms of number of households according to the latest census of population. The sample includes 36 strata composed of the 24 complete administrative districts and 6 districts subdivided into urban and rural each.

At the second stage of sampling, 12 households were selected from each of the sampled PSUs with equal probabilities. All household members in the sample are then selected for a survey interview. At the end of the data collection, the response rate was evaluated to 96.2 %, which increased compared to the same quarter one year back (95.4 %). The resulting estimates of the main labour force indicators at the national level have the standard errors of about 0.4%.

The focus of the present report is the analysis of trends of employment and labour underutilization. This includes unemployment at the national level by selected demographic and socioeconomic characteristics such as sex, age group, and educational attainment. This report compares the results of August 2026 (Q3) labour force survey with those of August 2025 (Q3). However, in some sections, the tables or figures are presented with the additional time series of results of the same quarters from August 2021 to August 2026. The excel file including the full quarterly time series of the main indicators is also published along with this report at the NISR website.

The survey results analysed in this report are presented into seven chapters, including this introduction. The other chapters cover the following:

- Labour market overview
- Characteristics of the population in the labour force
- Characteristics of employed population
- Unemployment and labour underutilization
- Population outside the labour force and Work in agriculture

© NISR

Chapter

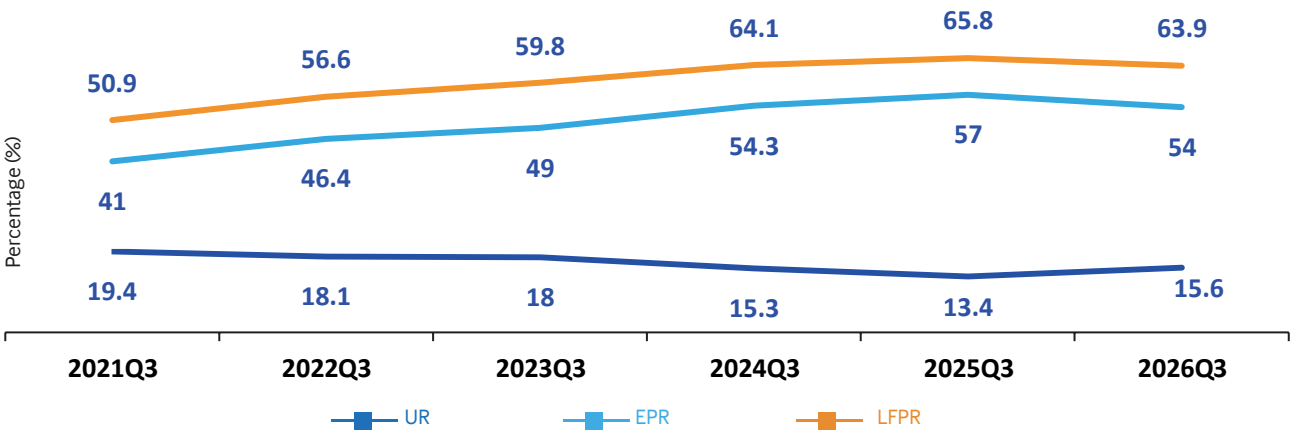
2 Labour Market Overview

2.1 Labour force participation rate, employment to population ratio and unemployment rate

Figure 2.1 illustrates the trends of some key labour market indicators. In August 2026 (Q3), the unemployment rate increased at a rate of 15.6% compared to one observed in August 2025 (Q3).

An analysis of employment trends shows that in August 2026 (Q3), the employment-to-population ratio decreased to 54% from 57% in August 2025 (Q3) and the labour force participation also decreased to 63.9% in the same period.

Figure 2. 1. Trend Labour force participation rate, employment to population ratio and unemployment rate



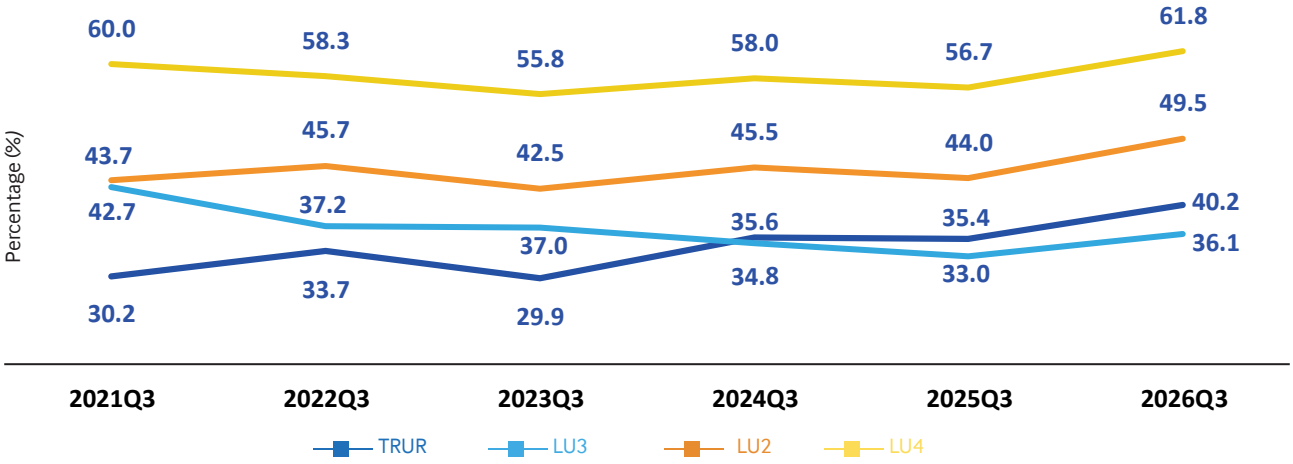
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

2.2 Trend of labour Underutilization

A comparison of August 2026 (Q3) with August 2025 (Q3) reveals increases. Specifically, time-related underemployment (TRUR) increased by 4.8 percentage points, the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3) increased by 3.1 percentage points, the composite measure of labour underutilization (LU4) increased by 5.1 and combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment (LU2) increased by 5.5 percentage points.

© NISR

Figure 2. 2 Trends of labour underutilization



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

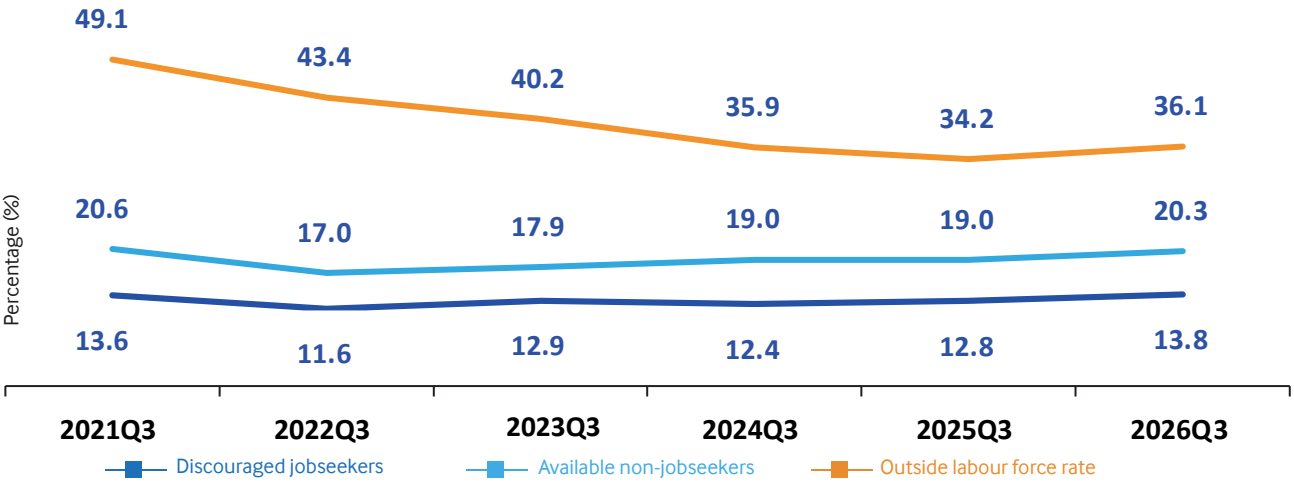
2.3. Rate of population outside the labour force

Figure 2.3 presents trends in rates of population outside the labour force, disaggregated by categories. The results show that the rate of population outside labour force in August 2026 (Q3) increased to 36.1 % compared to the estimated value for the same quarter one year back (August 2025).

Among the components of the population outside the labour force, available non-job seekers constitute a substantial category in Rwanda. More people in this category are primarily subsistence farmers. In August 2026 (Q3), the proportion of the working age population in this category increased by 1.3 percentage points compared to the estimate of the same quarter in the previous year (August 2025).

An important sub-category within available non-job seekers is discouraged jobseekers, these are people outside the labour force who did not “seek employment” for labour market-related reasons such as past failure to find a suitable job, lack of experience, required qualifications matching the person’s skills, lack of job opportunities in the area, being considered too young or too old by prospective employers. In August 2026 (Q3), the proportion of discouraged jobseekers within the working age population increased by 1 percentage point compared to the same quarter one year back (August 2025).

Figure 2. 3 Trends of outside labour force rate and potential labour force



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

© NISR

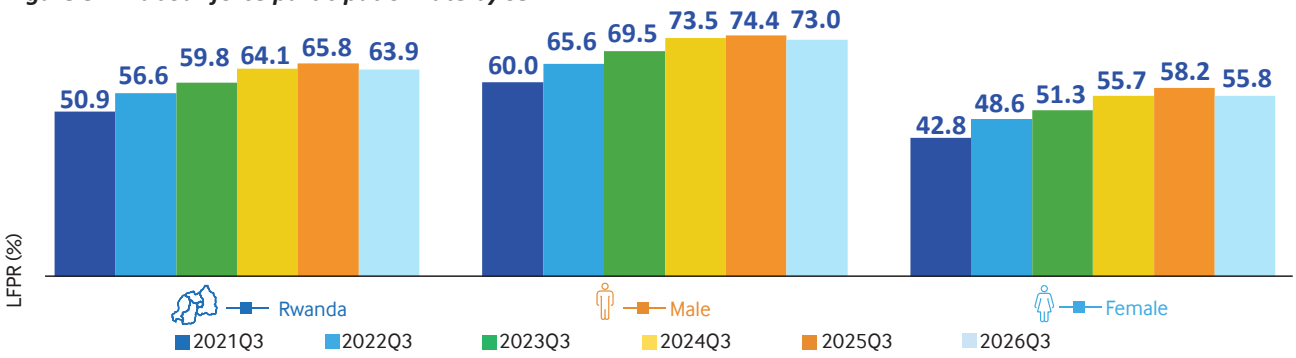
Chapter

3 Characteristics of population in labour force

3.1 Labour force participation among males and females

The labour force participation rate, which is the ratio of the labour force to the working age population, decreased by 1.9 percentage points in August 2026 (Q3) compared to August 2025 (Q3). The rate also decreased among females by 2.4 percentage points and among males by 1.4 percentage points in the same period. Furthermore, results show that labour force participation rate continued to be higher among males than females over time. In August 2026 (Q3), the gender gap in labour force participation rate was 17.2 percentage points and it increased compared to 16.2 percentage points recorded in August 2025 (Q3).

Figure 3. 1 Labour force participation rate by sex

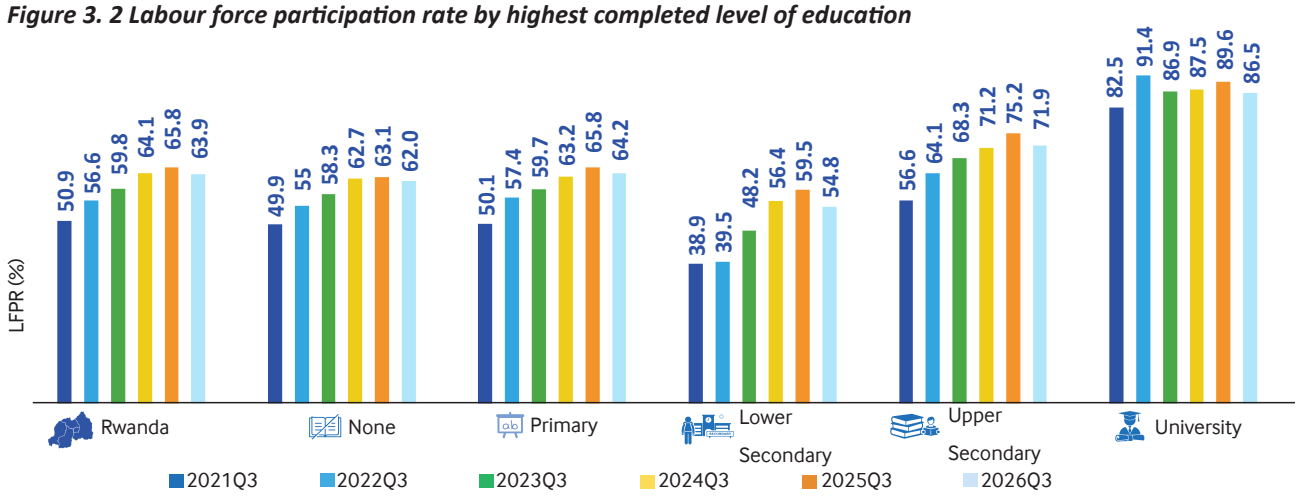


Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

3.2 Labour force participation by education

The labour force participation rate disaggregated by educational attainment, shows that individuals with higher levels of educational attainment exhibited higher participation rates over time compared to those with lower educational attainment. A comparison of August 2026 (Q3) with August 2025 (Q3) shows that the labour force participation rate decreased across all levels of education especially for university level and lower secondary where it decreased by 3.1 and 4.7 percentage points, respectively.

Figure 3. 2 Labour force participation rate by highest completed level of education



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

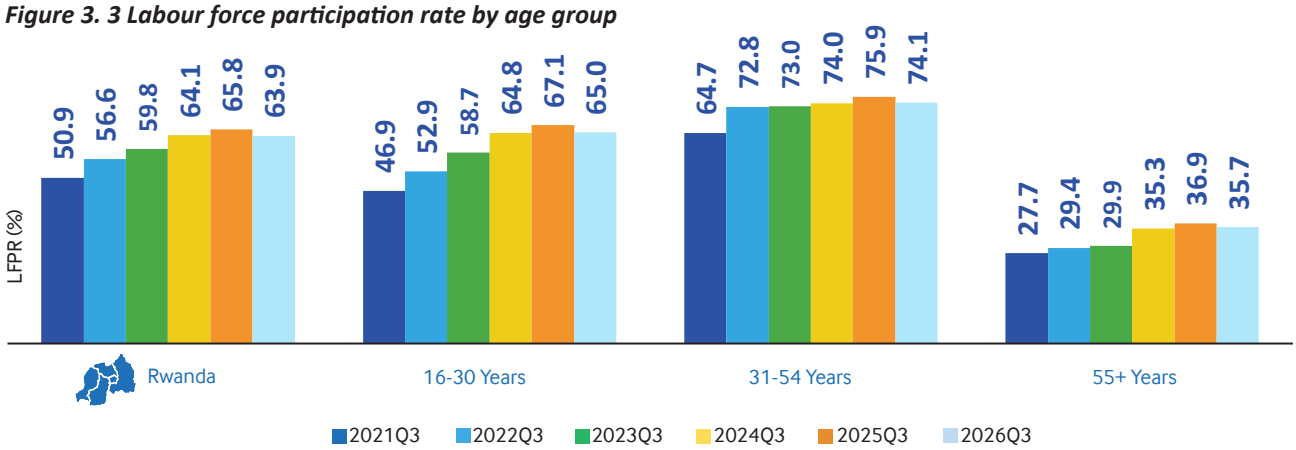
© NISR

3.3 Labour force participation by age group

In August 2026 (Q3), the labour force participation rate among youth aged 16 to 30 years was 65% and it decreased by 2.1 percentage points compared to August 2025 (Q3) among youth, while among those aged 55 years and above had a slight decrease of 1.2 percentage points in the same period. During this period, the rate decreased by 1.8 percentage points among people aged 31 to 54 years.

Generally, the labour force participation rate was higher among population aged 31-54 years compared to the remaining age groups.

Figure 3. 3 Labour force participation rate by age group



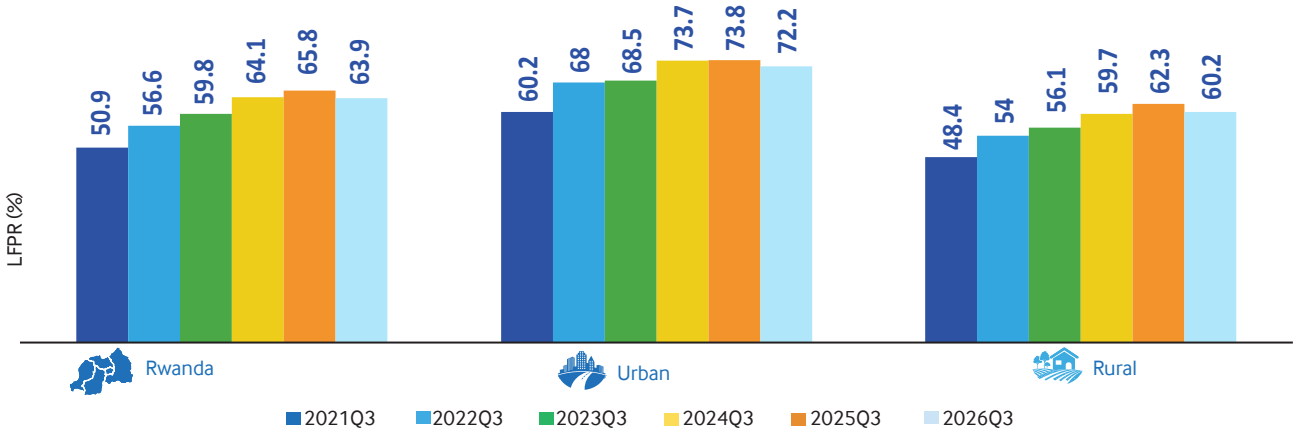
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

3.4 Labour force participation by area of residence

Labour force participation rate by area of residence (urban and rural) was higher in urban areas compared to rural areas. This variation can be attributed to the diversity of job opportunities available in urban areas compared to rural areas and to the fact that most people in rural areas are involved in subsistence agriculture. In August 2026 (Q3), the gap in labour force participation rate between urban and rural areas remained almost stable as compared to August 2025 (Q3).

The comparison between August 2026 (Q3) and August 2025 (Q3) reveals that the labour force participation rate decreased slightly by 1.6 percentage points in urban areas, while it decreased by 2.1 percentage points in rural areas.

Figure 3. 4 Labour force participation rate by area of residence



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

© NISR

Chapter

4 Characteristics of employed population

The 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), held in 2013, through its resolution on statistics of work, employment, and labour underutilization, classifies persons of working age as employed if, during a short reference period of seven days or one week,

1. They did some work (even for just one hour) for profit or pay, in cash or in kind.
2. They were attached to a job or had an enterprise from which they were 'temporarily' absent during this period.

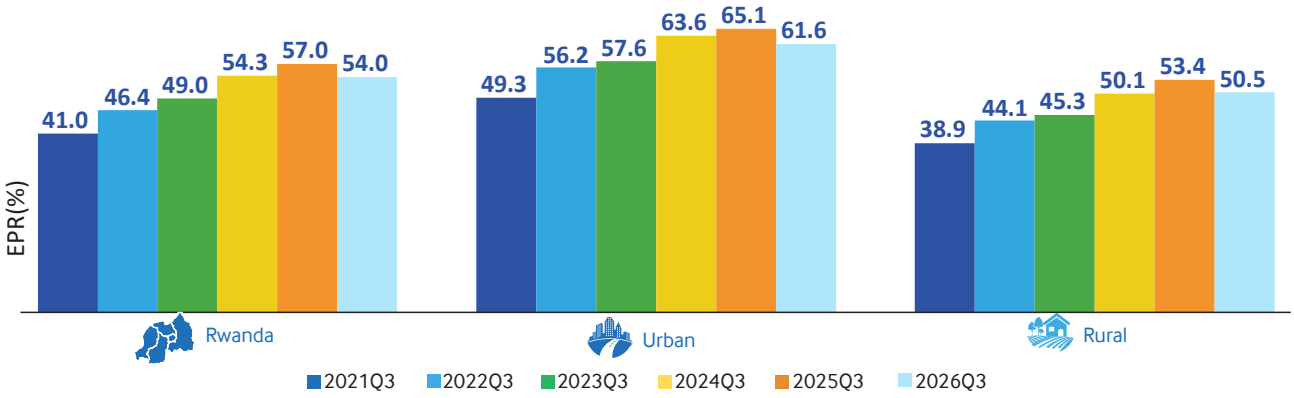
4.1 Employment to population ratio (EPR)

Aggregate employment generally increases with population growth. Therefore, the Employment to Population Ratio (EPR) serves as an indicator of the economy's effectiveness in creating income-generating jobs for the working-age population (aged 16 years and above). It reflects the demand for labour in the economy in terms of the number of workers.

An increase in the employment-to population ratio is often regarded as a sign of economic acceleration, while a rise in total employment is considered as an indicator of economic stability. In August 2026 (Q3), the Employment-to-population ratio was 54 %, it decreased by 3 percentage points compared to the rate observed in August 2025 (Q3). Relative to August 2025 (Q3), the employment to population ratio decreased by 3.5 percentage points and 2.9 percentage points in urban and rural areas, respectively.

Across all rounds of the labour force survey, the employment-to-population ratio has been higher in urban areas than in rural areas. The gap between the employment-to-population ratio in urban and rural areas remained significant at 11.1 percentage points in August 2026 (Q3), compared to 11.7 percentage points observed in August 2025 (Q3).g

Figure 4. 1: Employment to population ratio (EPR) by area of residence.

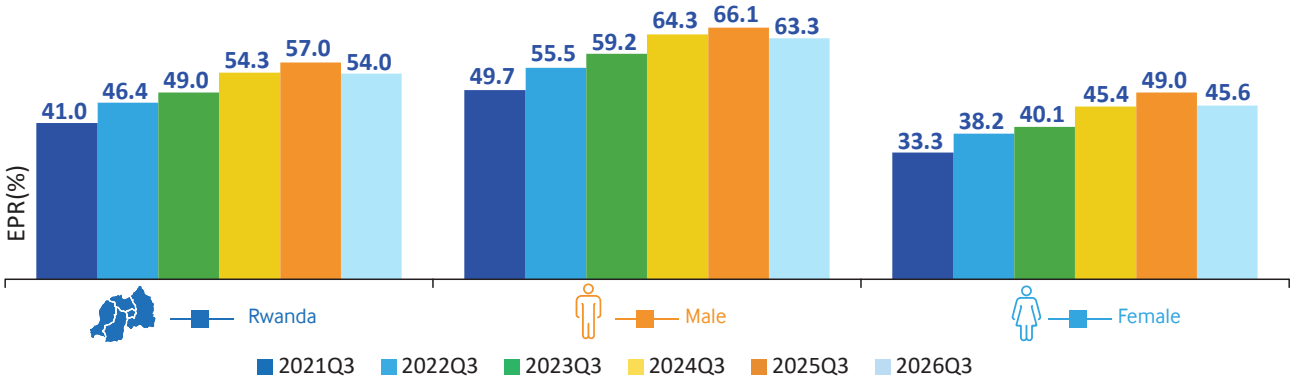


Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

© NISR

Figure 4.2 shows the trend in the employment-to-population ratio disaggregated by sex, revealing a persistent gap between male and female ratios. In August 2026 (Q3), the employment-to-population ratio decreased by 2.8 percentage points and 3.4 percentage points among males and females, respectively. The gender gap in the employment-to-population ratio remained significant in August 2026 (Q3), standing at (17.7 percentage points). It slightly increased as compared to the gap recorded in August 2025 (Q3) (17.1 percentage points).

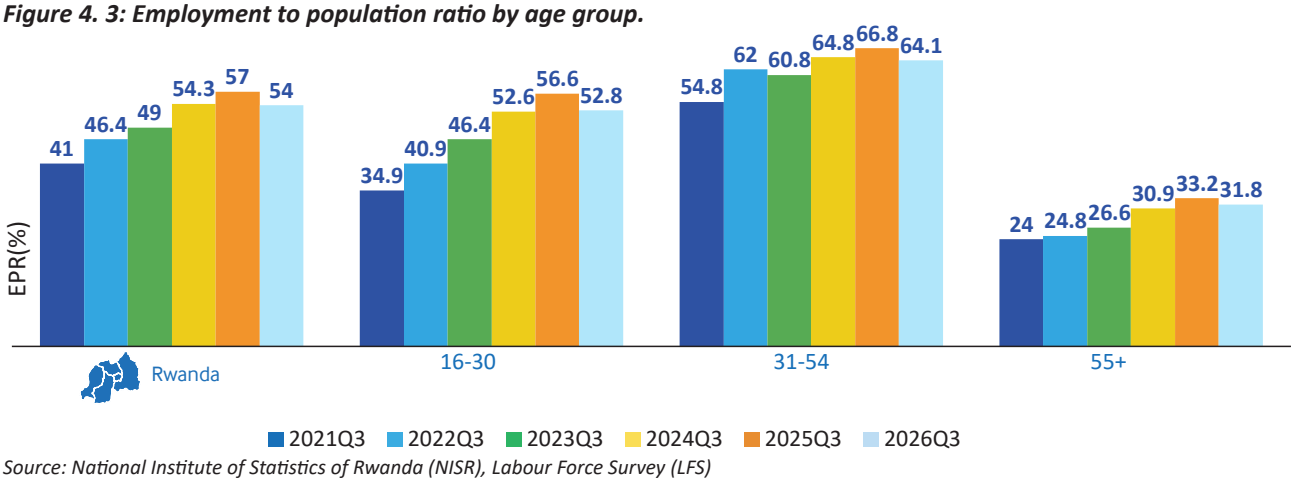
Figure 4. 2: Employment to population ratio by sex



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 4.3 below shows the trend in the employment-to-population ratio across different age groups. A high gap has persisted between the employment-to-population ratio of youth and adults aged 31-54 years over time. A comparison of August 2026 (Q3) with August 2025(Q3), indicates that the employment-to-population ratio decreased by 3.8 percentage points among youth. It decreased by 2.7 percentage points and 1.4 percentage points among adults in the 31-54 age group and the population aged 55 years and above, respectively. The employment-to-population ratio among the population aged 55 years and above was relatively lower compared to that of the other age groups presented in the figure, as some of the people in this age group are retiring.

Figure 4. 3: Employment to population ratio by age group.



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

© NISR

4.2 Status in employment

Since the launch of the Rwanda Labour Force Survey in 2016, status in employment has been reported using International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93), which was adopted by the 15th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in January 1993. However, starting in February 2025, Rwanda through National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) adopted the updated international classification of status in employment (ICSE-18) which replaced the old one (ICSE-93). The main changes compared to ICSE-93 are summarized as follows: ICSE-18 comprises 10 categories of status in employment compared to 5 in ICSE-93, to provide a more detailed and meaningful classification reflecting working relationships in the labour market. These 10 categories can be organized by the type of authority the worker is able to exercise or by the type of economic risk the worker is exposed to, as illustrated in the table below:

ICSE-18 versus ICSE-93

ICSE-18	ICSE-93
Independent workers	Self-employment jobs
Employers • Employers in Corporations • Employers in household market enterprises	Employers
Independent workers without employees Owner-operators of corporations without employees	
Own-account workers in household market enterprises without employees	Own-account workers
	Contributing family workers
	Members of producer cooperatives
Dependent workers	Paid employment Jobs
Dependent contractors	
Employees • Permanent employees • Fixed term employees • Short-term and casual employees • Paid apprentices	Employees

Apart from providing more detail on existing ICSE-93 categories, ICSE-18 also includes a new category named 'dependent contractors', while the former category 'Members of producer cooperatives' is not recognized as an employment category in ICSE-18. Dependent contract can be defined as an employed person who is not an employee but also not fully independent worker. They are classified in between of both categories. They are not employees because they are working under contractual arrangement and receive a compensation that is not a wage or salary, and they are not benefiting any social security protection from their so-called employers. They are not classified as self-employed because they are not fully independent in their work as they may depend on a single main client for their income, do not have any authority to make strategic decision about the business or are subject to major economic dependency and operational control by other person or entity. The design of LFS allows the production of status in employment based on both standards (ICSE-93 and ICSE-18) mainly to allow readers understanding the effect of dependent contractor category on the former distribution of employed population according to status in employment based on ICSE-93.

© NISR

Table 4.1 below presents the distribution of the employed population (,000) by status in employment, according to ICSE-18. In August 2026 (Q3), the number of employed populations decreased by 2.8 % compared to August 2025 (Q3).

Across all rounds of the labour force survey, the category of employees recorded the highest share of employment, followed by independent workers. In August 2026 (Q3), the number of employees decreased by 3.9 % compared to August 2025 (Q3).

During the same period, the number of independent workers without employees decreased by 8.4%, the number employer decreased by 35.7% and the number of contributing family workers decreased by 3.2 %. Conversely, the number of dependent contractors increased by 33.8%.

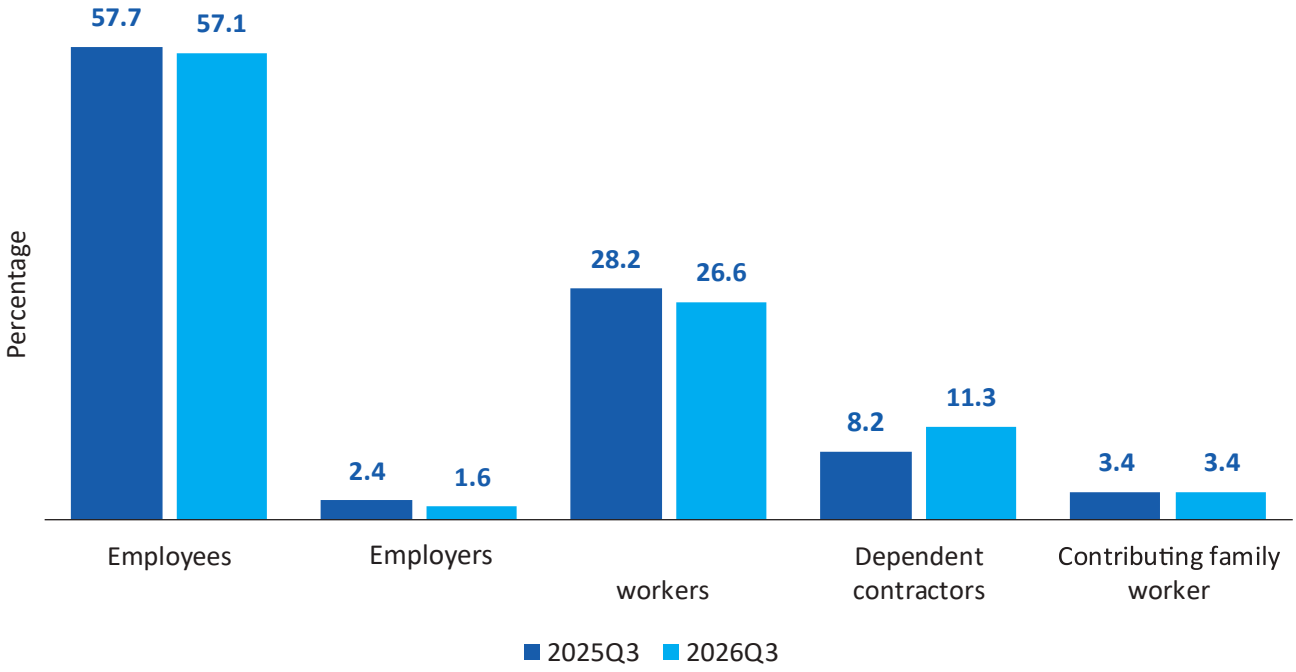
Table 4. 1:Distribution of employed population (,000) by status in employment as per ICSE-18

Status in employment	2025Q3	2025Q4	2026Q1	2026Q2	2026Q3	% change 2025Q3-2026Q3
Total	4,889	4,890	4,974	4,706	4,753	-2.8
Employee	2,822	2,899	2,999	2,706	2,712	-3.9
Employer	115	119	113	84	74	-35.7
Independent worker without employees	1,380	1,279	1,278	1263	1,264	-8.4
Dependent contractors	403	451	448	502	539	33.8
Contributing family worker	168	141	136	151	163	-3.2

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 4.4 reveals that the share of employees in August 2026(Q3) was 57.1 %, while independent workers represented 26.6 %. Compared to August 2025 (Q3), only the share of contributing family workers remained stable. Over the same period, the share of dependent contractors increased by 3.1 percentage point, while it decreased by 0.6, 0.8 and 1.6 percentage points for employees, employers, independent workers, respectively.

Figure 4. 4: Distribution of employed population (%) by status in employment as per ICSE-18



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

© NISR

4.3 Main occupation

Table 4.2 results indicate that total employment decreased by 2.8 % in the third quarter (Q3) of 2026 compared to August 2025 (Q3). Employment rose across most occupational groups over this period, with the exception for the group of Technicians and associate professionals, service and sales workers, and Elementary occupations. In August 2026 (Q3), the group of elementary occupations recorded the highest share of employment, followed by service and sales workers. Among the occupations representing at least 5% of total employment, the highest increases were observed among professionals (5.2 %) and Craft and related trades workers (2.7 %). Conversely, decreases were recorded among Service and sales workers (9 %) and Elementary occupations (3.7 %).

Table 4. 2: Distribution of employed population (,000) by occupations

Major Occupation group	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	2025Q3	2026Q3	%change 2025Q3-2026Q3
Total	3,179	3,711	3,972	4,523	4,889	4,753	-2.8%
Managers	32	38	38	43	55	54	-0.5%
Professionals	179	216	259	285	270	284	5.2%
Technicians and associate professionals	41	47	29	73	92	75	-17.7%
Clerical support workers	25	38	30	42	43	50	14.9%
Service and sales workers	478	469	721	902	1041	947	-9.0%
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	204	248	184	280	362	370	2.2%
Craft and related trades workers	277	372	366	456	450	463	2.7%
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	84	78	110	157	164	187	14.3%
Elementary occupations	1859	2206	2236	2286	2412	2322	-3.7%

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

4.4 Main Economic activity

Table 4.3 shows that, in August 2026 (Q3), the large number of employed populations was engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fishing (34.2%). Other sectors employing a substantial number of populations included wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (15.4%); construction (11.9%); transportation and storage (7.7%); manufacturing (6.2 %); and Other services (5.2%).

Table 4. 3: Percentage distribution of employed population by branch of economic activity.

ISIC High level	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	2025Q3	2026Q3
Agriculture forestry and fishing	44.6	45.6	37.4	32.6	35.1	34.2
Mining and quarrying	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.9	1.8
Manufacturing	5.6	6.5	6.2	6.9	6.4	6.2
Electricity gas stream and air conditioning supply	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Water supply, gas, and remediation services	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3
Construction	13.6	12.5	14.0	13.1	11.3	11.9
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	12.2	9.8	13.7	15.1	15.6	15.4
Transportation and storage	4.7	5.4	6.7	7.2	7.0	7.7
Accommodation and food services activities	1.1	2.0	3.0	3.8	4.1	3.1
Information and communication	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Financial and insurance activities	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.1
Real estate activities	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.7
Administrative and support activities	1.6	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.0	1.9
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7
Education	3.3	3.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.4

© NISR

ISIC High level	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	2025Q3	2026Q3
Human health and social work activities	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.0	1.0
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Other services	3.0	2.6	2.9	3.7	3.8	5.2
Activities of households as employers	3.7	4.0	4.3	3.8	3.5	2.5
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The results presented in Table 4.4 reveal that, in August 2026 (Q3), 9 branches of economic activity increased compared to August 2025 (Q3). Among those economic activities accounting for at least 5 percent of total employment, notable increases were observed in Other services (35.7%), transportation and storage (8.1%), and construction (1.8%).

Table 4. 4: Distribution of employed population by economic activities (,000)

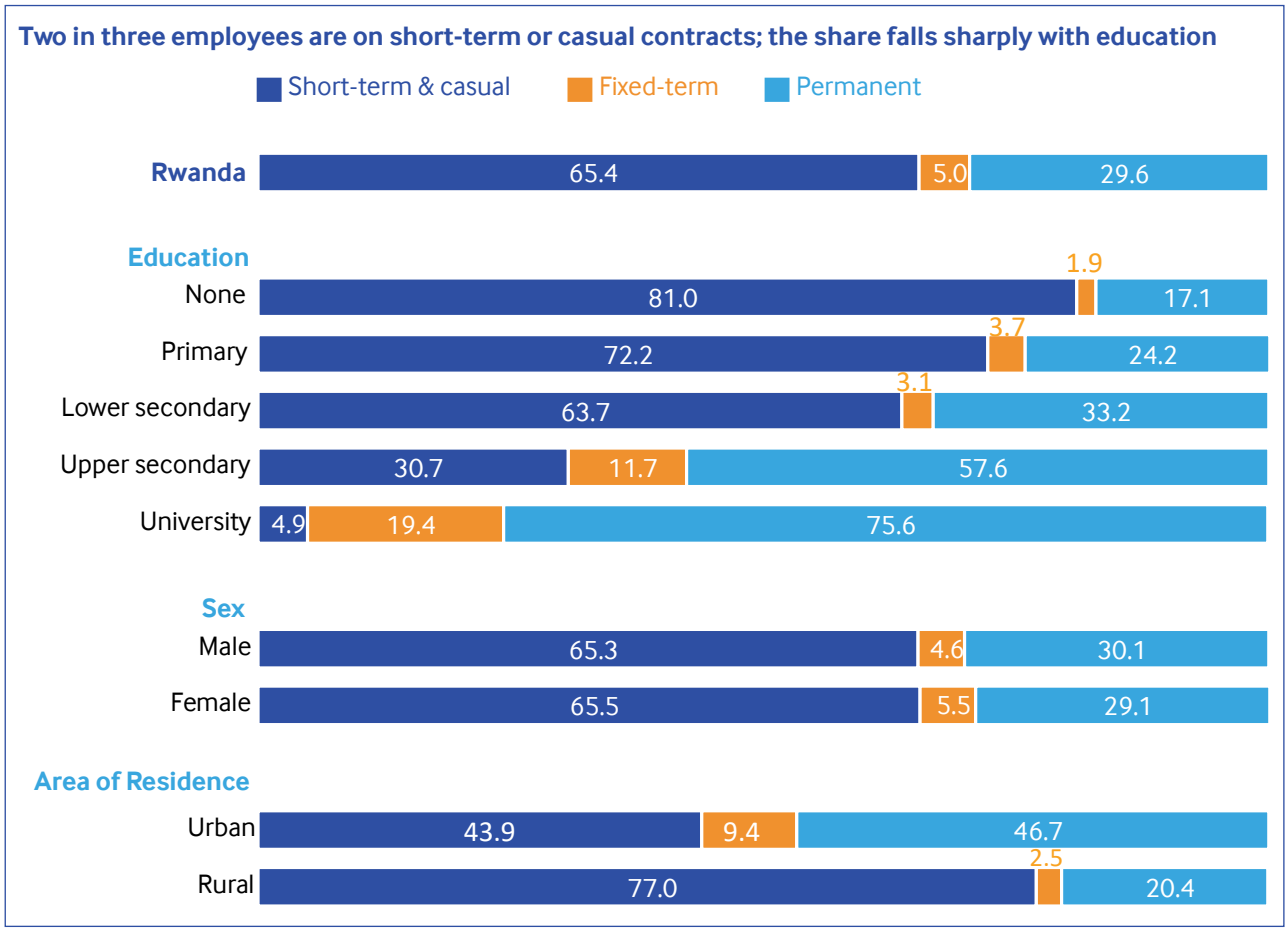
ISIC High level	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	2025Q3	2026Q3	%change 2025Q3-2026Q3
Total	3179	3711	3972	4523	4889	4753	-2.8%
Agriculture forestry and fishing	1419	1691	1485	1476	1714	1623	-5.3%
Mining and quarrying	31	52	53	81	92	85	-7.9%
Manufacturing	177	240	247	312	315	295	-6.3%
Electricity gas stream and air conditioning supply	8	2	2	3	1	2	55.0%
Water supply, gas, and remediation services	7	4	1	6	10	13	25.9%
Construction	431	465	554	594	554	564	1.8%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	387	364	545	685	763	733	-4.0%
Transportational and storage	148	201	266	327	340	368	8.1%
Accommodation and food services activities	35	73	120	171	200	149	-25.7%
Information and communication	12	11	12	13	19	15	-21.9%
Financial and insurance activities	29	25	38	39	38	53	40.3%
Real estate activities	4	5	3	8	10	12	17.9%
Professional, scientific, and technical activities	16	30	17	35	43	35	-18.4%
Administrative and support activities	51	57	66	97	96	89	-6.5%
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	56	67	61	78	83	83	-0.9%
Education	105	121	164	187	196	207	6.0%
Human health and social work activities	44	47	38	65	50	45	-9.2%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	2	8	8	6	7	10	33.8%
Other services	96	95	117	167	184	249	35.7%
Activities of households as employers	119	149	170	171	170	120	-29.0%
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	2	5	4	3	3	2	-10.8%

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The figure 4.5 below shows that, in August 2026 (Q3), 65.4 % of employees held short-term or casual contracts. This phenomenon was higher in rural areas (77 %) than in urban areas of Rwanda (43.9 %). The results further show that females had same short term or casual contracts (65.5 %) as males (65.3 %). Additionally, it was observed that the proportion of employees with short-term or casual contracts decreases progressively with higher levels of educational attainment.

© NISR

Figure 4.5: Length of employment contract by sex, area of residence and level of education attained in August 2026.



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

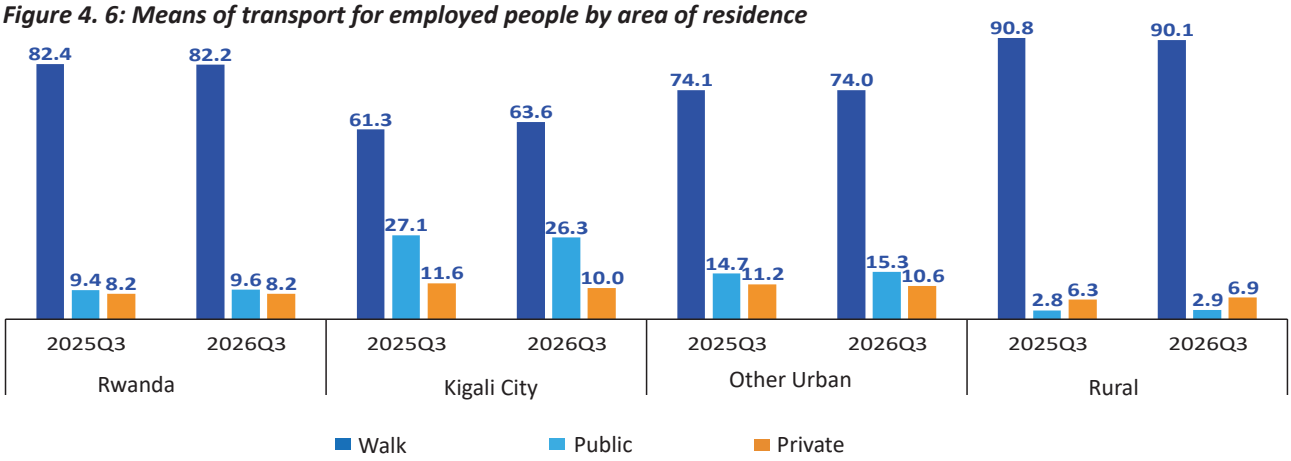
4.5 Means of transport by areas of residence.

Figure 4.6 presents the means of transport used by employed persons for commuting to and from work. In August 2026 (Q3), walking remained the predominant mode of transportation in Rwanda, accounting for 82.2% of the employed population, and this proportion slightly decreased compared to August 2025 (82.4%). In the same period, the shares of public transport slightly increased by 0.2 percentage points while private transport remained stable.

In Kigali City, the trend diverged from the national average; the percentage of employed population commuting by walking increased to 63.6% in August 2026, from 61.3% in August 2025. Conversely, the use of public transport decreased to 26.3%, from 27.1%, while private transport decreased from 11.6 % to 10 % over the same period. This evolving pattern suggests that urban workers are increasingly commuting longer distances and have improved access to motorised transport options

Overall, despite a modest transition away from walking toward alternative modes of transport, walking remains the most prevalent means of commuting to work across Rwanda.

Figure 4. 6: Means of transport for employed people by area of residence

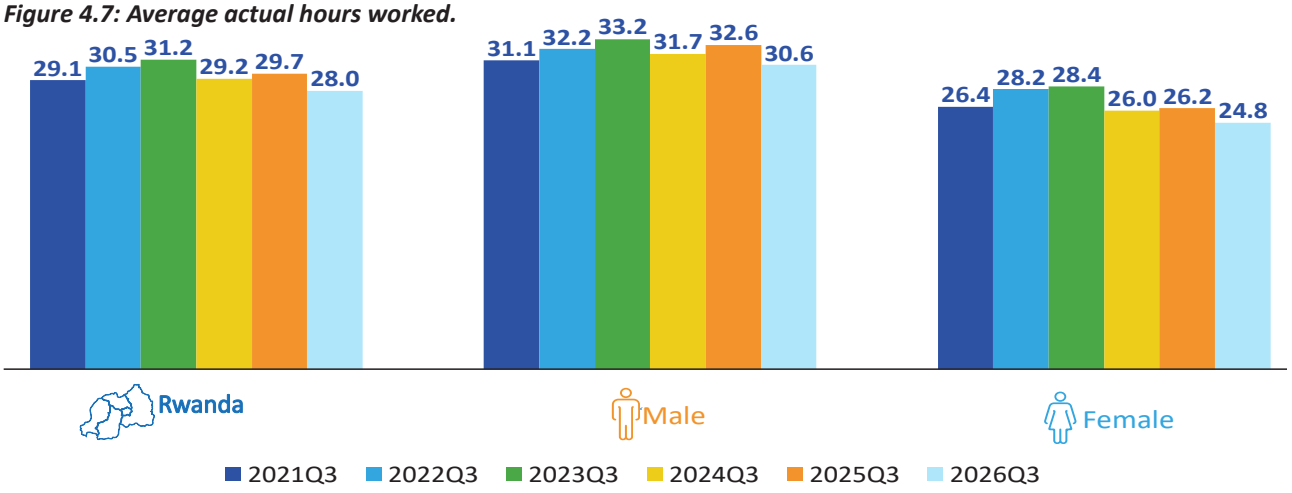


Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

4.6 Actual hours worked.

Figure 4.7 shows the average number of hours worked during the reference week. The results indicate that the average number of hours worked in August 2026 (Q3) decreased by one hour and 42 minutes compared to August 2025 (Q3). During the same period, the average number of hours worked by males decreased by two hours, while the average hours worked by females decreased by one hour and 24 minutes. Overall, employed males worked around 5.8 hours more per week than employed females in August 2026 (Q3).

Figure 4.7: Average actual hours worked.



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

© NISR

Chapter

5 Unemployment and Labour Underutilization

Unemployment is a particular form of labour underutilization reflecting the pressure on the labour market. It is measured in terms of number of persons without employment, actively seeking and available for employment. Labour underutilization refers to mismatch between labour supply and demand resulting into an unmet need for employment among the population. It includes unemployment, time-related underemployment, and potential labour force. Potential labour force refers to the population not in employment who express an interest in this form of work, but for whom existing conditions limit their active job search or their availability for employment.

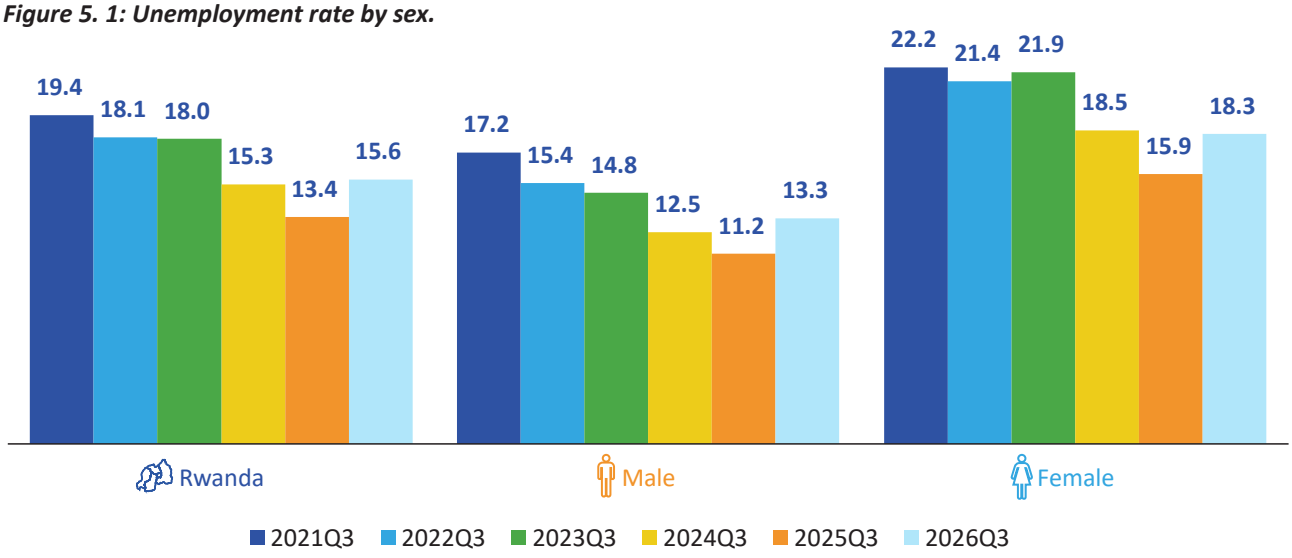
5.1 Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate, defined as the proportion of unemployed persons within the labour force, serves as a key indicator of labour market and often viewed in a general sense as an indicator of overall economic health. According to the results of LFS for August 2026 (Q3), the unemployment rate in Rwanda stood at 15.6 %, it increased by 2.2 percentage points

compared to the one observed in August 2025 (Q3).

As illustrated in Figure 5.1, the unemployment rate was higher among females (18.3 %) compared to males (13.3 %) in August 2026 (Q3). The unemployment rate increased among both females and males (2.4 and 2.1 percentage points, respectively) compared to the estimates observed in August 2025 (Q3).

Figure 5. 1: Unemployment rate by sex.

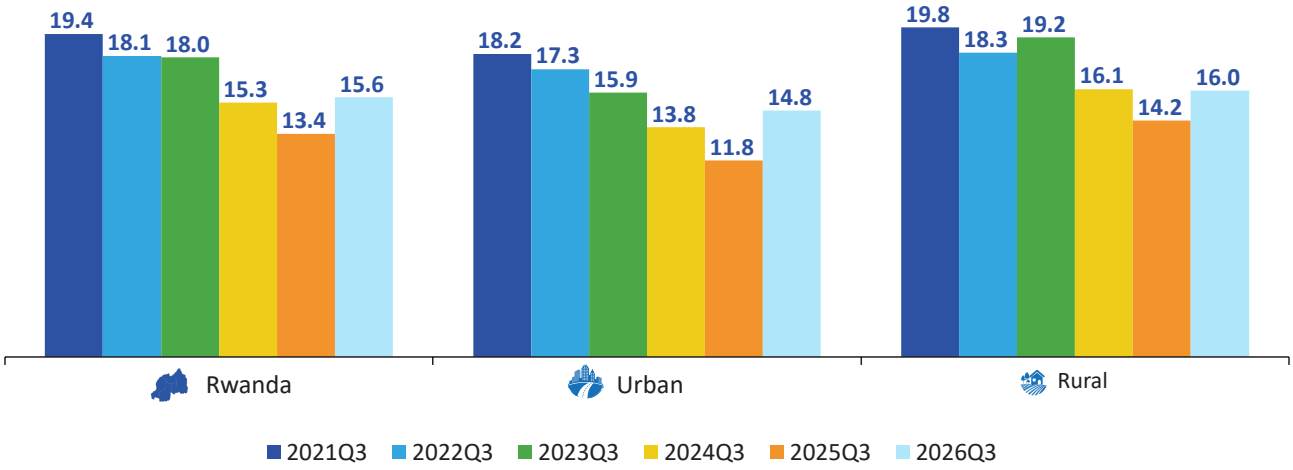


Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 5.2 shows that in August 2026, the unemployment rate was higher among the population living in Rural areas compared to those living in Urban areas of Rwanda (16.0 % and 14.8%, respectively). The comparison between August 2026(Q3) with August 2025(Q3) shows that the unemployment rate increased for both populations living in Rural and Urban areas of Rwanda (1.8 and 3 percentages points, respectively).

© NISR

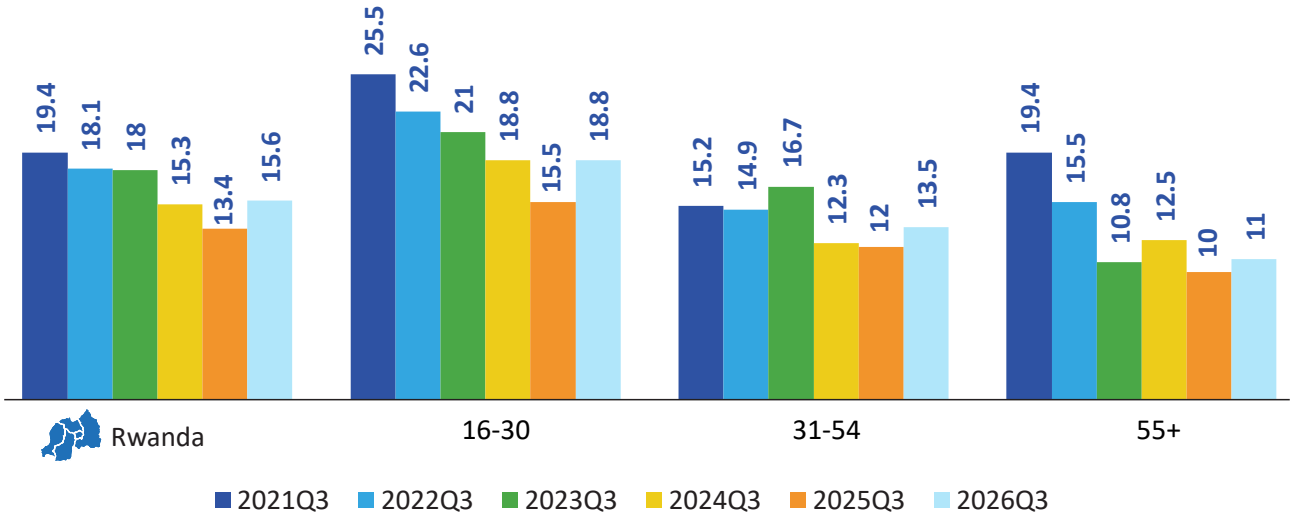
Figure 5. 2: Unemployment rate by area of residence.



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 5.3 shows the trend in the unemployment rate across different age groups. In Rwanda, the youth population is defined as individuals aged 16 to 30 years. The results show that unemployment rate among youth has been relatively higher than that of adults over time. A comparison between the current survey results with those obtained in the same quarter one-year back shows that the unemployment rate increased across all age groups.

Figure 5.3: Unemployment rate among youth and Adult



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

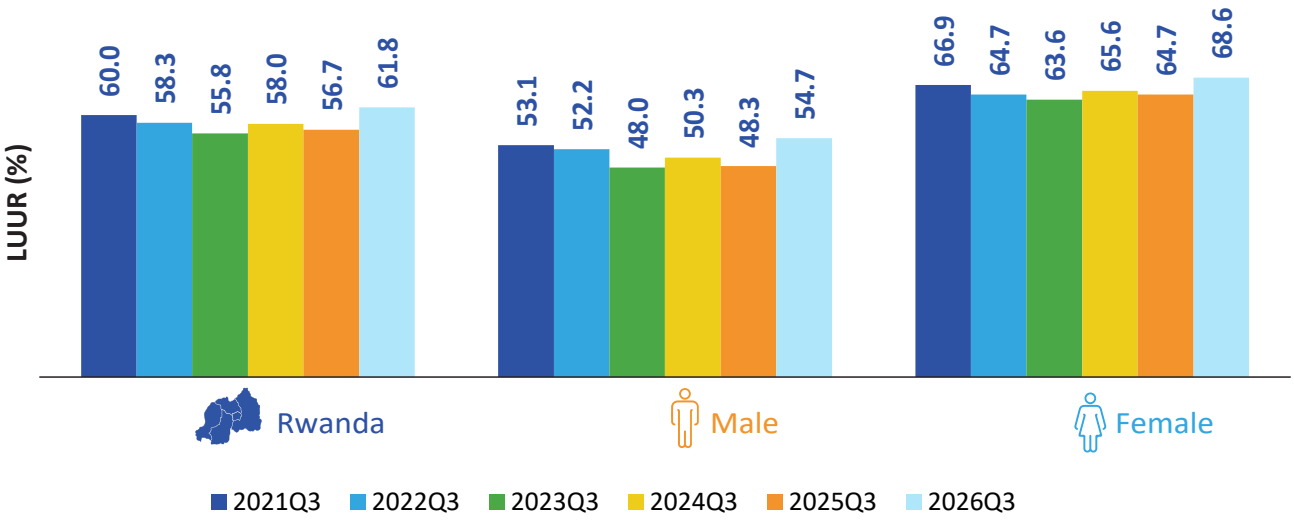
5.2. Labour Underutilization

Labour underutilization encompasses three components: unemployment, time-related underemployment, and the potential labour force. Time-related underemployment refers to situations in which the working time of persons in employment is insufficient in relation to alternative employment situations that they are willing and available to engage. The potential labour force is defined as all persons of working age who are outside the labour force and who, during the reference period, were neither in employment nor in unemployment, but were considered as either (a) unavailable jobseekers (seeking employment but not currently available) or (b) available potential jobseekers (currently available for employment but did not carry out activities to seek employment).

© NISR

Figure 5.4 illustrates that the composite measure of labour underutilization rate stood at 61.8% in August 2026 (Q3), reflecting an increase of 5.1 percentage points compared to August 2025 (Q3). The labour underutilization rate was higher among females (68.6 %) than among males (54.7 %). From August 2025 (Q3) to August 2026 (Q3), the labour underutilization rate increased for both sexes, rising by 6.4 percentage points among males and 3.9 percentage points among females.

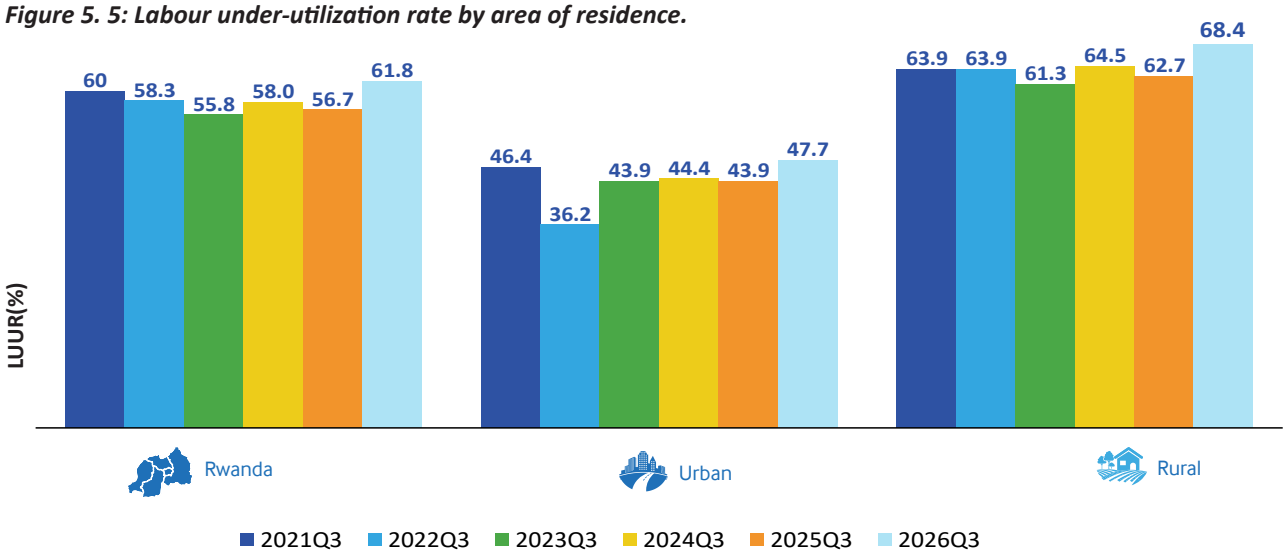
Figure 5. 4: Labour under-utilization rate by sex



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The results presented in figure 5.5 illustrate that the labour underutilization rate was higher among the population living in rural areas than those in urban areas of Rwanda. The comparison of August 2026 (Q3) and August 2025 (Q3) reveals that the labour underutilization increased by 5.7 percentage points among population living in Rural areas and 3.8 percentage points among population living in Urban areas.

Figure 5. 5: Labour under-utilization rate by area of residence.



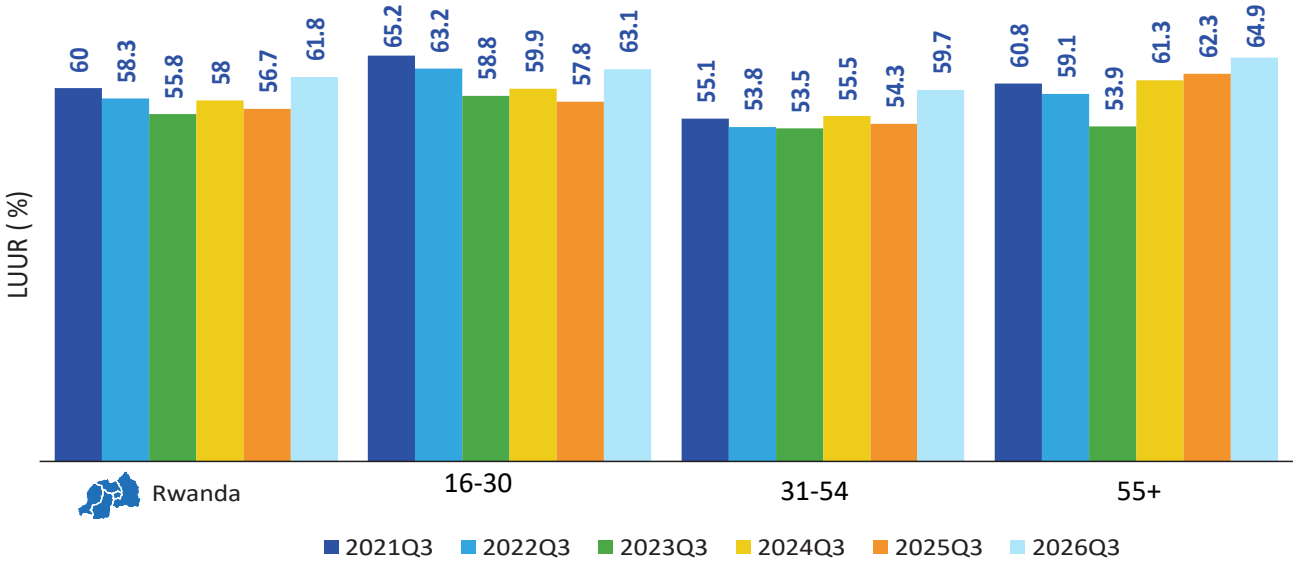
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 5.6 presents the labour underutilization rate disaggregated by age group. The results show that in August 2026 (Q3), the labour underutilization rate increased across all age groups compared to August 2025

© NISR

(Q3). The rate increased by 5.3 percentage points among youth, 5.4 percentage points among persons aged 31–54 years, and 2.6 percentage points among those aged 55 years and above.

Figure 5. 6: Trend in labour underutilization rate by Youth and Adult.

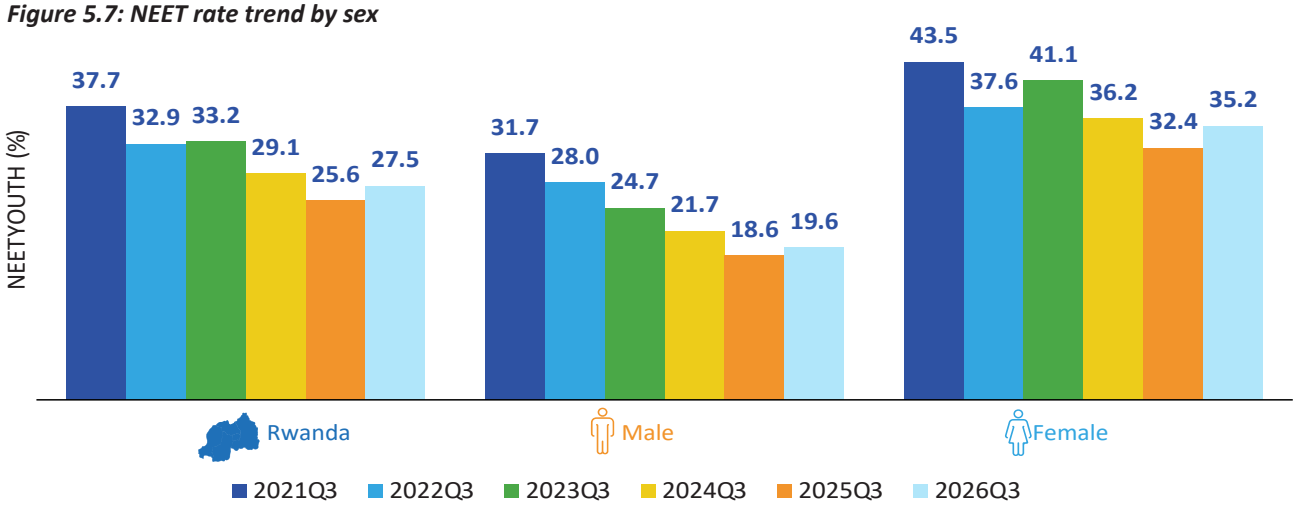


Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

5.3 Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

Participation in employment, education or training is important for youth during their transition to the labour market and supports in the achievement of self-sufficiency. In August 2026 (Q3), the total number of young population aged 16-30 years, who were neither in employment, nor in education or training was estimated at 1,038,707 persons. The share of youth (16-30 years) neither in employment, education or training (NEET) was 27.5% in August 2026 (Q3), with a higher rate observed among females (35.2%) than among males (19.6%). A comparison the NEET rate recorded in August 2026 (Q3) with the results of August 2025 (Q3) indicates that the rate increased at the national level, as well as among both females and males.

Figure 5.7: NEET rate trend by sex



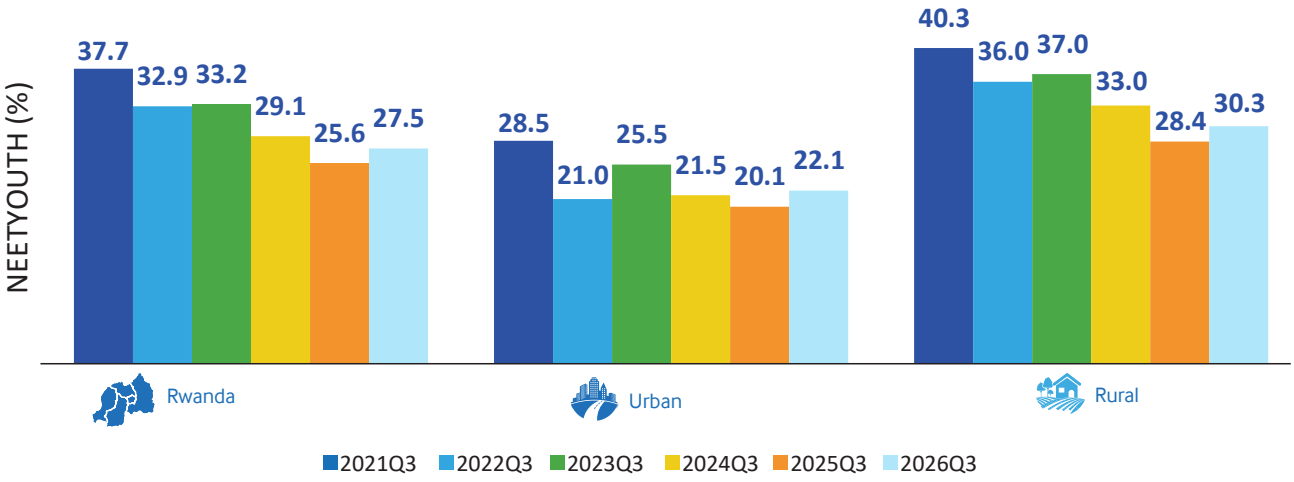
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

In August 2026 (Q3), the NEET rate was higher in rural areas (30.3%) than among those in urban areas (22.1%).

© NISR

A comparison of August 2026 (Q3) with August 2025 (Q3) shows that NEET rate increased for both youth population living in urban and youth population living in rural areas.

Figure 5.8: NEET rate trend by area of residence



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Chapter 6

Population outside the Labour Force

The population outside the labour force constitutes a large part of the working age population. It includes population engaged exclusively in activities for producing goods or services such as subsistence production of goods, own use production of services, volunteer production of goods or services and unpaid trainee or apprentice work who have not carried out any activity for pay or profit during the reference period. It also includes students who are enrolled in schools, persons who currently do not seek for employment opportunities (not job seekers) such as discouraged job seekers.

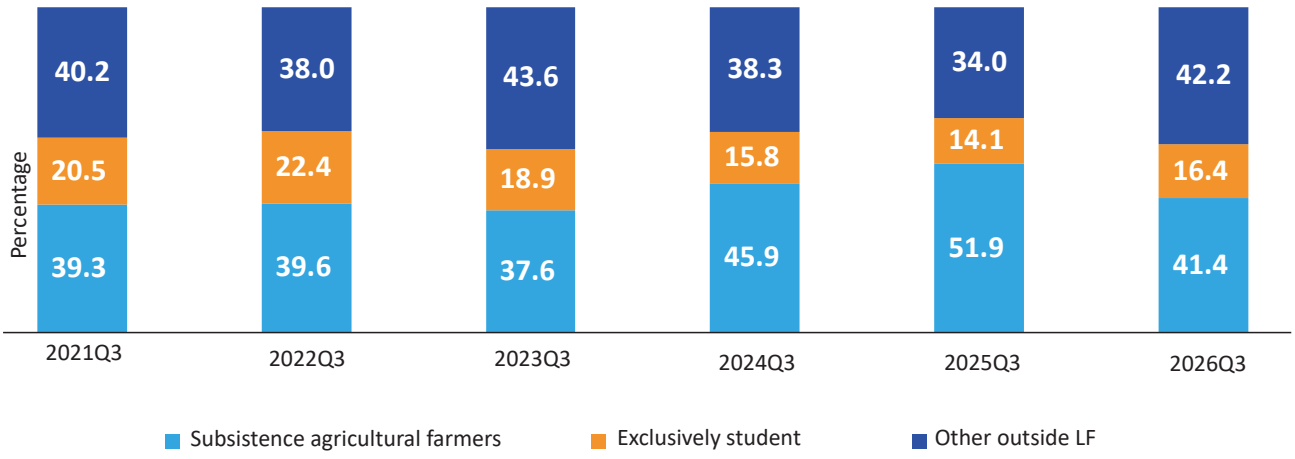
In August 2026 (Q3), the population outside the labour force stood at 36.1% of the working age population. The comparison of the current population outside labour force with the estimated value in the same quarter one year back reveals that it increased by 1.9 percentage points.

6.1 Main components of population outside the labour Force

Figure 6.1 presents the main components of the population outside the labour force. In August 2026 (Q3), 41.4% of the population outside the labour force were engaged in subsistence agriculture, while students exclusively accounted for 16.4%. The remaining 42.2% belonged to other categories.

A comparison with August 2025 (Q3) shows some changes in the distribution of the population outside the labour force. The share of those in other categories increased by 8.2 percentage points, while the proportion of subsistence agriculture farmers decreased by 10.5 percentage points, and 2.3 percentage points of increase for the share of students.

Figure 6. 1: Main components of Persons outside the labour force



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

6.2 Population outside the labour force by area of residence

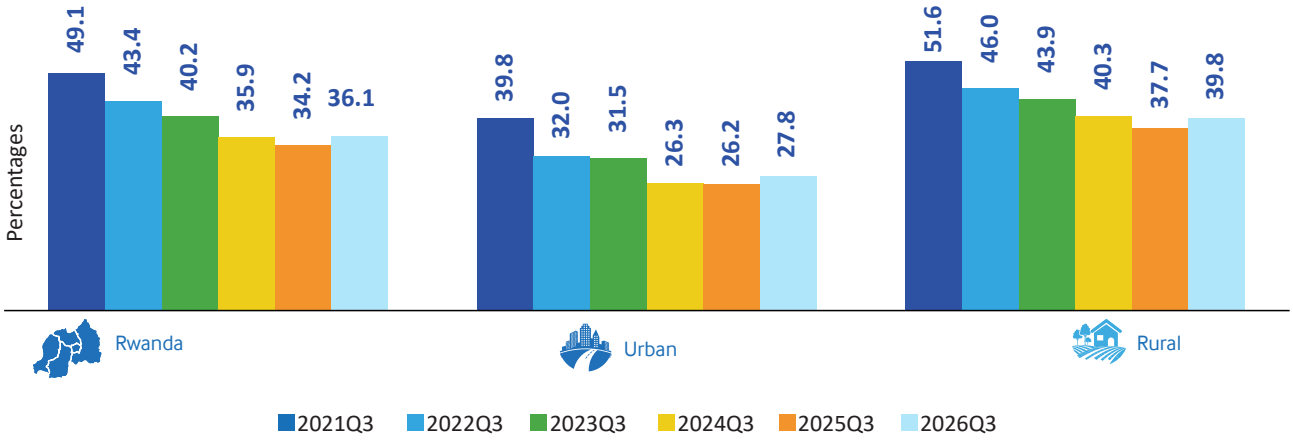
Figure 6.2 presents the proportion of population outside the labour force at the national level, as well as for urban and rural areas separately.

© NISR

A comparison of August 2026 (Q3) and August 2025 (Q3) indicates that this proportion slightly increased 1.9 percentage points at national level, 2.1 in rural areas, and 1,6 percentage points in urban areas.

The proportion of the population outside the labour force was higher in rural areas than urban areas. In August 2026 (Q3), the urban-rural areas gap was approximately 12 percentage points.

Figure 6. 2: Population outside Labour force by Area of residence



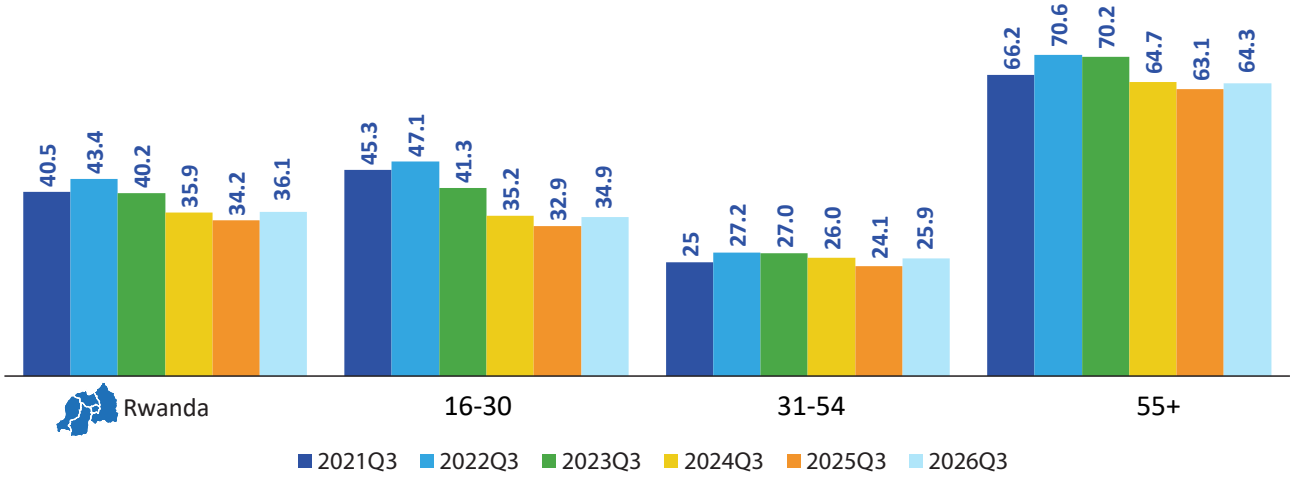
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

6.3 Population outside the labour force by age group

The results indicate that the proportion of population outside labour force was higher among the population with advanced age (aged 55 and above). In August 2026 (Q3), the proportion among youth aged 16-30 years was higher than that among individuals aged 31-54 years (34.9 % and 25.9 %, respectively).

Between August 2025 and August 2026, the proportion of the population outside the labour force increased in all age groups. It increased by 2 percentage points among youth aged 16-30 years, 1.8 among individuals aged 31-54 years, and 1.2 among ones aged 55 years and above.

Figure 6. 3: Population outside the Labour force by age group



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

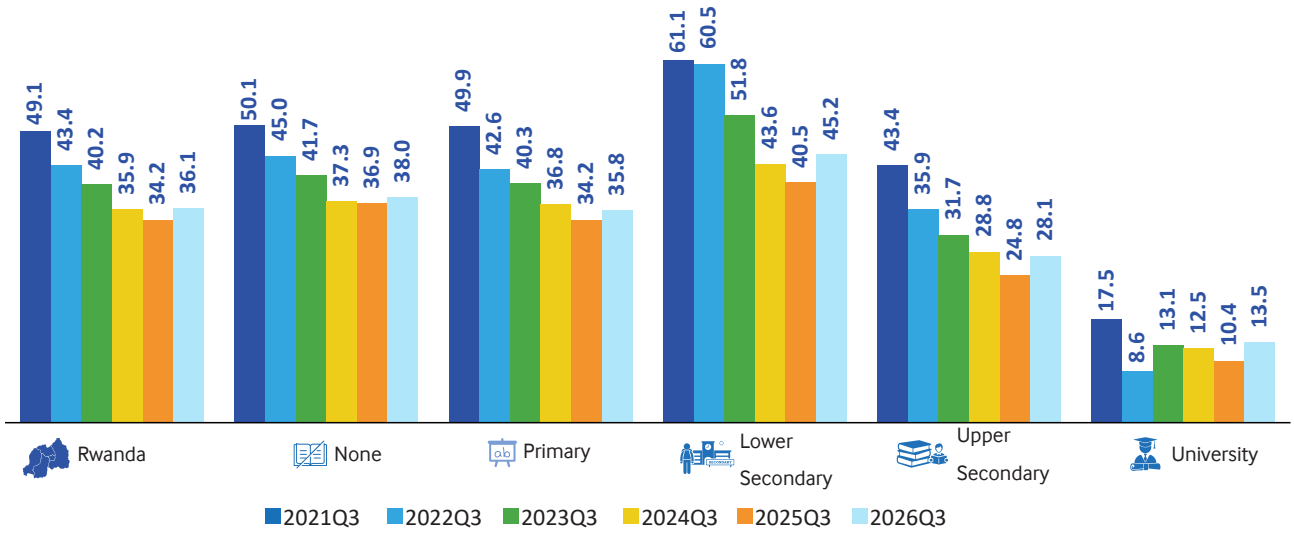
© NISR

6.4 Population outside the labour force by level of educational attainment

Figure 6.4 shows the proportion of the working-age population outside the labour force, disaggregated by highest level of educational attainment. The results indicate that individuals with higher levels of educational attainment generally had a lower share of the working-age population outside the labour force compared to those with lower levels of education, except for individuals with lower secondary education, who recorded the highest proportion.

Between August 2025 (Q3) and August 2026 (Q3), the proportion of population outside the labour force increased in all levels of education. It increased by 4.7 percentage points among individuals with lower secondary, 3.3, and 3.1 percentage points among individuals with upper secondary and university-level of education respectively.

Figure 6. 4: Population outside the Labour force by Education level attained.



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

© NISR

Chapter

7 Work in agriculture

Due to the importance of the agriculture sector for the Rwandan economy, special attention has been given to it in this report. The introduction of the 2013 standards on work, employment and labour underutilization statistics divided workers in agriculture occupation into two categories: market oriented and non-market-oriented workers. Workers in the former category are considered as employed while those in latter are not. In this report, all parts are brought together to analyse the agriculture sector.

7.1 Agricultural status of workers

Three categories of agricultural workers can be distinguished:

a. Those who worked exclusively in market-oriented agriculture for pay or as self-employed individuals.

b. Those who are only engaged in subsistence agriculture.

c. Those whose primary occupation was outside of agriculture but who performed activities related to the production of food for their own consumption.

Table 7.1: presents the total number of workers in the agriculture sector including both market oriented and those involved in subsistence agriculture. The findings show that the share of the working-age population involved in agricultural activities have decreased by 7.2 percentage points compared to August 2025 (Q3).

Among individuals engaged in agricultural activities, the share involved in market-oriented production stood at 40.6% in August 2026 (Q3) compared to 38 % in August 2025 (Q3). The share of those exclusively engaged in subsistence agriculture remained stable compared to August 2025 (Q3).

Table 7. 1: Works status in agriculture

Categories of agriculture	2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	2025Q3	2026Q3
Market oriented agriculture as main job (a)	39.7	43.3	43	36.5	38	40.6
Subsistence agriculture exclusively (b)	51	45.5	44.9	43.4	42.6	42.3
Participated in Subsistence agriculture but have non-agriculture as main job (c)	9.3	11.1	12.9	20.2	19.4	17.1
Total (100%)	100	100	100	100	100	100
Count ('000s)	3578	3901	3451	4045	4515	4005
Proportion of working age population involved in agriculture	46.2	48.8	42.6	48.5	52.7	45.5

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS).

7.2 Characteristics of agricultural workers

The section focuses on workers primarily engaged in market-oriented agriculture and those exclusively involved in subsistence agriculture. The results reveal that most agricultural workers were engaged in subsistence agriculture, with a higher proportion observed among female farmers compared to their male counterparts.

In August 2026 (Q3), the share of agricultural workers engaged in subsistence agriculture was 51.1%, reflecting a decrease of 1.8 percentage points compared to August 2025 (Q3). The proportion of male farmers engaged in market-oriented agriculture was 54.4% in August 2026 (Q3), which was higher than the corresponding proportion of female farmers involved in the same activity (45.3%).

© NISR

Conversely, the proportion of female farmers engaged in subsistence agriculture was higher than that of male farmers, at 54.7 % and 45.6 %, respectively.

The results reveal that the engagement level of male farmers in market-oriented agriculture increased by 1.8 percentage points compared to August 2025 (Q3), while it also increased by 1.6 percentage points among female farmers over the same period.

Table 7. 2: Trend of proportion of agricultural workers by sex.

		LFS Round					
		2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	2025Q3	2026Q3
Both	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Market oriented agriculture	43.7	48.8	48.9	45.7	47.1	48.9
	Subsistence agriculture	56.3	51.2	51.1	54.3	52.9	51.1
Male	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Market oriented agriculture	50.3	55.4	56.3	52.4	52.6	54.4
	Subsistence agriculture	49.7	44.6	43.7	47.6	47.4	45.6
Female	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Market oriented agriculture	38.9	44	44.5	41.3	43.7	45.3
	Subsistence agriculture	61.1	56	55.6	58.7	56.3	54.7

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 7.3 below presents the trend in the share of market-oriented and subsistence agricultural workers among youth and adult separately. In August 2026 (Q3), the share of adults engaged in subsistence agriculture was higher than that of youth population engaged in the same activity (51.3% and 50.6%, respectively).

By comparing August 2025 (Q3) and August 2026 (Q3), the share of farmers engaged in subsistence agriculture declined by 1.4 percentage points among youth and by 2 percentage points among adults.

Table 7. 3: Trend of proportion of agricultural workers by age group

		LFS Round					
		2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	2025Q3	2026Q3
Both	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Market oriented agriculture	43.7	48.8	48.9	45.7	47.1	48.9
	Subsistence agriculture	56.3	51.2	51.1	54.3	52.9	51.1
Youth (16-30)	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Market oriented agriculture	44.8	51.6	53.7	48.1	48	49.4
	Subsistence agriculture	55.2	48.4	46.3	51.9	52	50.6
Adults (31+)	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Market oriented agriculture	43.1	47.4	46.8	44.3	46.7	48.7
	Subsistence agriculture	56.9	52.6	53.2	55.7	53.3	51.3

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 7.4 presents the distribution of agricultural workers by educational attainment. The results indicate that individuals with higher levels of education are less likely to engage in agricultural activities, for both market-oriented and subsistence agriculture.

© NISR

Table 7. 4: Trend of proportion of agricultural workers by level of education attainment

		LFS Round					
		2021Q3	2022Q3	2023Q3	2024Q3	2025Q3	2026Q3
Both	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	None	56.3	57.5	58.5	57.2	57	56.8
	Primary	33.7	34.1	33	32.4	31.5	31.3
	Lower secondary	5.7	5.1	5.9	6.7	7.3	7.2
	Upper secondary	3.8	3	2.7	3.4	3.8	4.3
	University	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4
Market oriented agriculture	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	None	62.2	61.5	63.7	63.4	61.3	62
	Primary	30.7	32.2	31.2	28	29.3	28.5
	Lower secondary	4.3	4.4	3.6	5.4	6.4	6.2
	Upper secondary	2.6	1.7	1.4	2.60	2.7	3
	University	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.3
Subsistence agriculture	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
	None	51.8	53.7	53.4	52	53.2	51.7
	Primary	36	36	34.7	36	33.4	34.1
	Lower secondary	6.8	5.7	8	7.8	8.1	8.2
	Upper secondary	4.8	4.4	3.7	4.2	4.9	5.6
	University	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4

Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS).

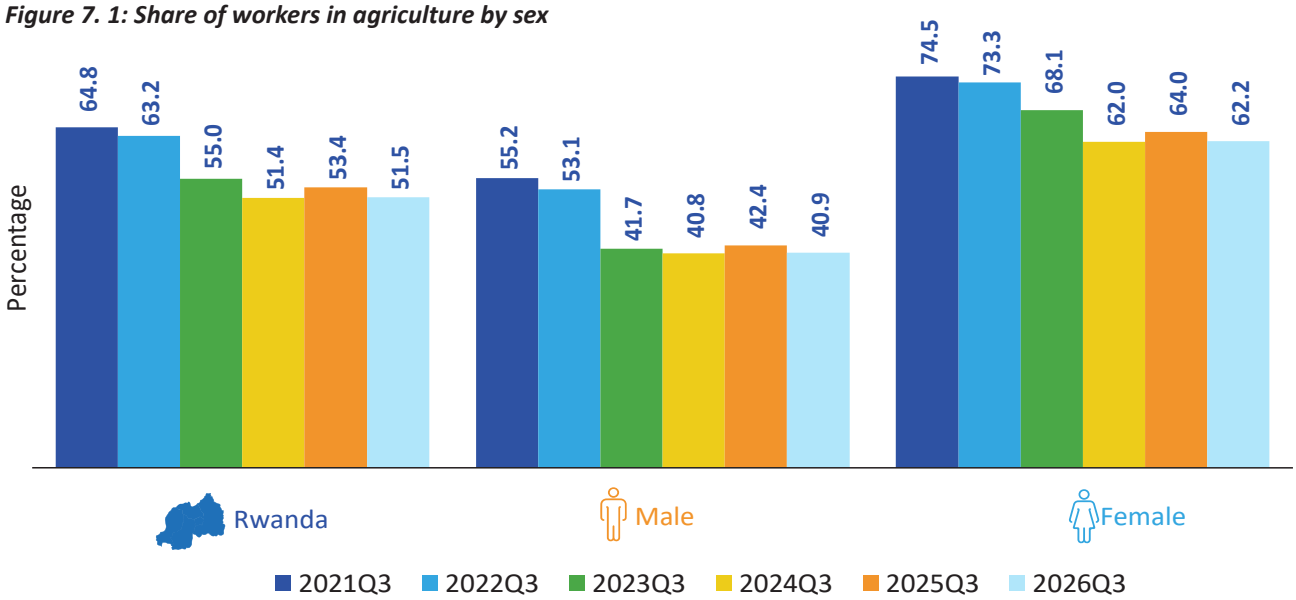
7.3 Share of agriculture in the total work force

The total workforce is defined as the sum of all individuals engaged in paid or profit-oriented employment, as well as those working in subsistence agriculture. Therefore, the share of agricultural workers in the total workforce refers to the proportion of individuals working in agriculture relative to the entire workforce.

As shown in Figure 7.1 below, the proportion of agricultural workers in the workforce in August 2026 (Q3) was 51.5%. This share was significantly higher among females, with 62.2 %, compared to 40.9% of males.

Compared to August 2025 (Q3), the proportion of agricultural workers slightly decreased at the national level and among both males and females.

Figure 7. 1: Share of workers in agriculture by sex



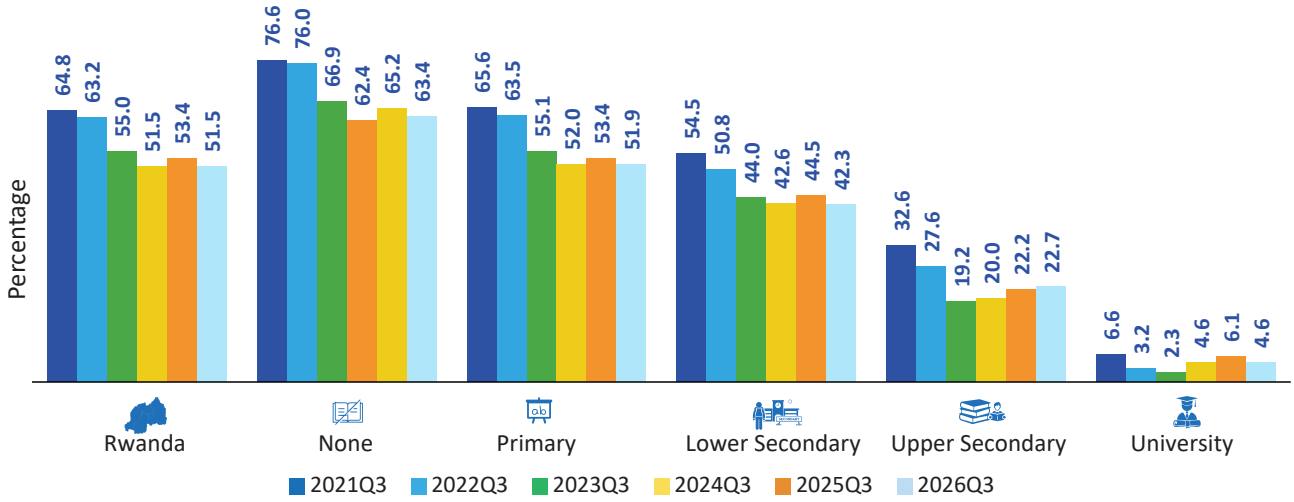
Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

© NISR

The share of agricultural workers in the total workforce is inversely correlated with educational attainment, with lower-educated individuals more likely to engage in agriculture compared to those with higher levels of education.

In August 2026 (Q3), the share among individuals with None and lower level of education decreased by 1.8 and 2.3 percentage points compared to August 2025 (Q3). Among both primary-educated individuals and Universities, the shares also decreased by 1.5 percentage points, while the shares remained relatively stable among individuals with upper secondary level of education.

Figure 7. 2: Share of workers in agriculture by level of education attained.



Source: National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Labour Force Survey (LFS)

© NISR

Annex 1

A. Standard errors, 95% confidence intervals, coefficient of variation (CV) and design effect of selected main labour force indicators.

A.1: Unemployment rate according to sex, age, education, and areas of residence.

Unemployment rate	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
	15.588	0.454	14.696	16.480	2.912	1.507
Sex						
1. Male	13.293	0.538	12.236	14.350	4.047	1.301
2. Female	18.267	0.660	16.970	19.564	3.613	1.296
Age						
Youth(16-30 years)	18.807	0.663	17.504	20.110	3.526	1.211
Adult(31+ years)	13.089	0.534	12.040	14.138	4.080	1.358
16-24 years	20.835	0.870	19.126	22.545	4.176	1.232
25-34 years	14.880	0.798	13.313	16.447	5.360	1.242
35-54 years	13.279	0.639	12.023	14.535	4.814	1.273
55 and over	10.987	1.108	8.811	13.164	10.082	1.103
Education						
None	13.726	0.605	12.538	14.914	4.405	1.280
Primary	15.203	0.747	13.735	16.670	4.913	1.244
Lower secondary	17.818	1.454	14.962	20.674	8.158	1.288
Upper secondary	22.759	1.368	20.071	25.446	6.010	1.264
University	12.406	1.653	9.160	15.653	13.321	1.306
Area of residence						
Urban	14.751	0.697	13.381	16.120	4.726	1.305
Rural	16.041	0.591	14.880	17.202	3.683	1.619

© NISR

A.2: Labour force participation rate according to sex, age, education, and areas of residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
Labour force participation rate	63.925	0.516	62.911	64.938	0.807	1.752
Sex						
1. Male	73.028	0.640	71.770	74.286	0.877	1.490
2. Female	55.807	0.655	54.520	57.093	1.173	1.395
Age						
Youth(16-30 years)	65.053	0.719	63.640	66.467	1.106	1.484
Adult(31+ years)	63.075	0.650	61.798	64.351	1.030	1.569
16-24 years	59.513	0.909	57.727	61.298	1.527	1.559
25-34 years	77.917	0.800	76.346	79.488	1.026	1.189
35-54 years	73.075	0.754	71.593	74.556	1.032	1.431
55 and over	35.712	1.101	33.548	37.876	3.084	1.311
Education						
None	61.986	0.660	60.688	63.283	1.065	1.248
Primary	64.155	0.892	62.403	65.907	1.390	1.562
Lower secondary	54.835	1.390	52.104	57.565	2.535	1.280
Upper secondary	71.866	1.143	69.621	74.111	1.590	1.076
University	86.489	1.371	83.796	89.182	1.585	0.975
Area of residence						
Urban	72.217	0.692	70.859	73.576	0.958	1.124
Rural	60.188	0.678	58.856	61.519	1.126	2.005

A.3: Employment to population ratio according to sex, age, education, and area of residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
Employment to population ratio	53.960	0.564	52.853	55.067	1.044	1.940
Sex						
1. Male	63.320	0.721	61.903	64.738	1.139	1.603
2. Female	45.612	0.673	44.290	46.934	1.475	1.464
Age						
Youth(16-30 years)	52.819	0.748	51.349	54.289	1.417	1.464
Adult(31+ years)	54.819	0.675	53.493	56.145	1.231	1.592
16-24 years	47.113	0.935	45.276	48.950	1.985	1.596
25-34 years	66.323	0.903	64.549	68.097	1.362	1.169
35-54 years	63.371	0.798	61.803	64.939	1.259	1.358
55 and over	31.788	1.085	29.656	33.921	3.415	1.348
Education						
None	53.477	0.705	52.092	54.862	1.318	1.347
Primary	54.402	0.924	52.587	56.217	1.698	1.555
Lower secondary	45.064	1.312	42.487	47.642	2.912	1.141
Upper secondary	55.510	1.364	52.831	58.190	2.457	1.255
University	75.759	1.762	72.296	79.221	2.326	1.025
Area of residence						
Urban	61.565	0.798	59.997	63.132	1.296	1.269
Rural	50.533	0.728	49.103	51.963	1.440	2.217

© NISR

A.4: LU2-Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment (%) according to sex, age, education, and areas of residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment(%)	49.513	0.747	48.046	50.980	1.508	2.147
Sex						
1. Male	45.589	0.853	43.913	47.265	1.871	1.521
2. Female	54.093	0.964	52.199	55.986	1.782	1.662
Age						
Youth(16-30 years)	51.366	0.958	49.484	53.248	1.865	1.545
Adult(31+ years)	48.075	0.892	46.322	49.827	1.856	1.727
16-24 years	53.357	1.128	51.141	55.573	2.114	1.372
25-34 years	47.993	1.223	45.590	50.396	2.548	1.482
35-54 years	49.073	1.050	47.011	51.135	2.139	1.582
55 and over	43.854	1.945	40.033	47.675	4.435	1.350
Education						
None	54.145	0.969	52.242	56.048	1.789	1.567
Primary	51.767	1.123	49.560	53.974	2.170	1.453
Lower secondary	50.136	1.836	46.529	53.744	3.663	1.204
Upper secondary	41.419	1.671	38.137	44.702	4.034	1.367
University	17.646	2.053	13.613	21.678	11.633	1.507
Area of residence						
Urban	37.266	1.140	35.028	39.505	3.058	1.876
Rural	56.135	0.881	54.404	57.866	1.570	1.970

A.5: LU3-Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (%) according to sex, age, education, and areas of residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force(%)	36.097	0.570	34.977	37.217	1.579	1.801
Sex						
1. Male	27.858	0.697	26.490	29.227	2.501	1.514
2. Female	44.012	0.736	42.566	45.459	1.673	1.436
Age						
Youth(16-30 years)	38.443	0.748	36.974	39.913	1.945	1.319
Adult(31+ years)	34.280	0.695	32.915	35.644	2.026	1.544
16-24 years	42.317	0.959	40.433	44.201	2.266	1.396
25-34 years	30.771	0.894	29.015	32.528	2.906	1.148
35-54 years	32.100	0.793	30.543	33.658	2.470	1.330
55 and over	44.347	1.548	41.305	47.389	3.491	1.375
Education						
None	34.895	0.743	33.435	36.356	2.130	1.345
Primary	37.531	0.906	35.750	39.312	2.415	1.377
Lower secondary	40.326	1.450	37.477	43.175	3.596	1.081
Upper secondary	39.598	1.380	36.887	42.308	3.484	1.216
University	19.337	1.819	15.763	22.911	9.408	1.205
Area of residence						
Urban	28.984	0.789	27.435	30.534	2.721	1.233
Rural	39.428	0.748	37.959	40.897	1.896	2.040

© NISR

A.6: LU4-Labour underutilization rate (%) according to sex, age, education, and areas of residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
Labour underutilization rate (%)	61.780	0.657	60.489	63.070	1.063	2.337
Sex						
1. Male	54.729	0.823	53.113	56.346	1.504	1.713
2. Female	68.553	0.757	67.067	70.040	1.104	1.733
Age						
Youth(16-30 years)	63.128	0.823	61.512	64.745	1.304	1.625
Adult(31+ years)	60.735	0.794	59.175	62.296	1.308	1.908
16-24 years	66.014	0.933	64.180	67.848	1.414	1.440
25-34 years	57.703	1.113	55.516	59.889	1.929	1.553
35-54 years	60.126	0.937	58.286	61.966	1.558	1.687
55 and over	64.896	1.587	61.779	68.013	2.445	1.564
Education						
None	65.396	0.808	63.808	66.985	1.236	1.598
Primary	64.468	0.959	62.584	66.351	1.487	1.576
Lower secondary	63.793	1.452	60.94	66.645	2.276	1.129
Upper secondary	54.190	1.431	51.380	57.001	2.640	1.260
University	24.162	2.115	20.007	28.317	8.754	1.387
Area of Residence						
Urban	47.741	1.077	45.626	49.856	2.255	1.896
Rural	68.354	0.743	66.893	69.814	1.088	2.227

A.7: Rate of population out of labour force rate according to sex, age, education and areas of residence

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
Pop_out LFS	36.075	0.516	35.062	37.089	1.430	1.752
Sex						
1. Male	26.972	0.640	25.714	28.230	2.374	1.490
2. Female	44.193	0.655	42.907	45.480	1.482	1.395
Age						
Youth(16-30 yrs)	34.947	0.719	33.533	36.360	2.059	1.484
Adult(31+ yrs)	36.925	0.650	35.649	38.202	1.759	1.569
16-24 years	40.487	0.909	38.702	42.273	2.245	1.559
25-34 years	22.083	0.800	20.512	23.654	3.621	1.189
35-54 years	26.925	0.754	25.444	28.407	2.801	1.431
55 and over	64.288	1.101	62.124	66.452	1.713	1.311
Education						
None	38.014	0.660	36.717	39.312	1.737	1.248
Primary	35.845	0.892	34.093	37.597	2.488	1.562
Lower secondary	45.165	1.390	42.435	47.896	3.077	1.280
Upper secondary	28.134	1.143	25.889	30.379	4.062	1.076
University	13.511	1.371	10.818	16.204	10.146	0.975
Area of residence						
Urban	27.783	0.692	26.424	29.141	2.489	1.124
Rural	39.812	0.678	38.481	41.144	1.702	2.005

© NISR

A.8: Youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) rate according to sex, education, and areas of residence.

	Estimate (%)	Std. error (%)	95%CI lower bound	95%CI upper bound	CV	Design effect
NEET 16-30	27.456	0.637	26.204	28.707	2.320	1.317
Sex						
1. Male	19.644	0.831	18.011	21.277	4.231	1.409
2. Female	35.204	0.937	33.363	37.045	2.662	1.250
Education						
None	33.061	1.165	30.773	35.348	3.522	1.164
Primary	28.613	1.102	26.448	30.777	3.851	1.269
Lower secondary	16.223	1.117	14.027	18.418	6.888	1.141
Upper secondary	30.555	1.691	27.233	33.876	5.533	1.330
University	16.622	2.997	10.734	22.509	18.031	1.310
Area of residence						
Urban	22.124	1.022	20.116	24.131	4.619	1.368
Rural	30.315	0.803	28.738	31.892	2.649	1.284

© NISR

Annex 2

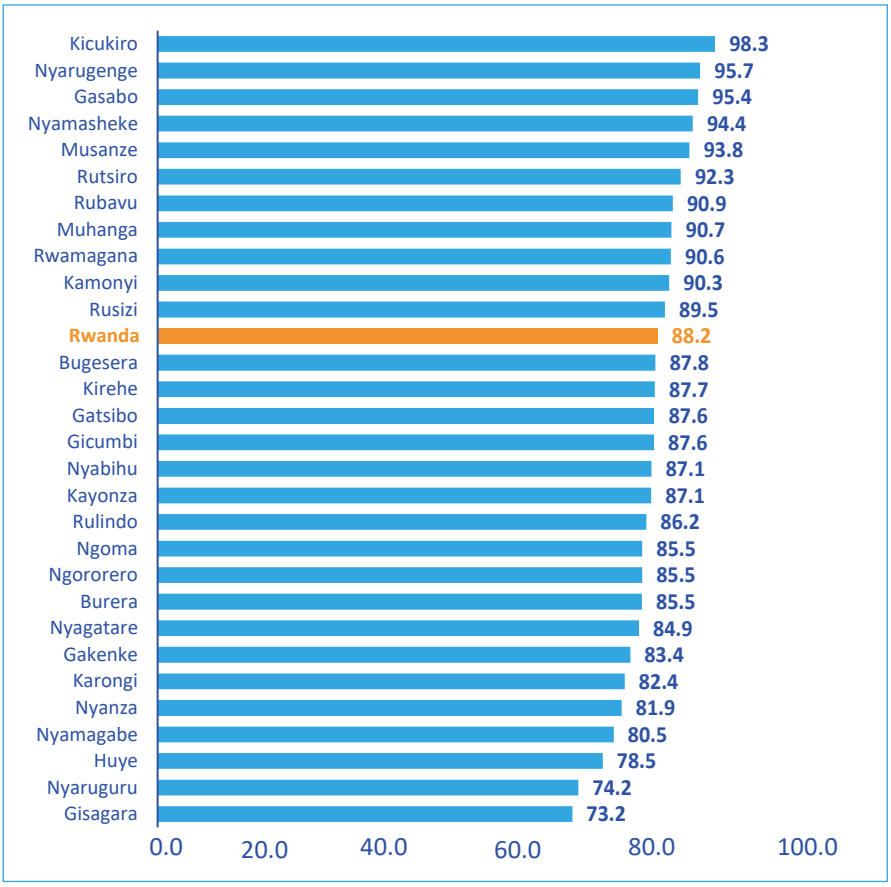
Tables on mobile phone ownership and digital skills

Table B.1: Proportion of Households owning mobile phone by sex, area of residence and province in August 2026.

Table B.1: Proportion of Households owning mobile phone by sex, age, area of residence and province						
	Any mobile phone			Smart phone		
	August 2024	August 2025	August 2026	August 2024	August 2025	August 2026
Rwanda	84.9	85.4	88.2	37.2	42.7	42.8
Sex						
Male	88.5	89.2	91.3	41.0	46.7	46.1
Female	75.9	76.2	80.3	27.7	32.7	34.6
Youth/adult						
Youth (Age:16-30 years)	86.9	90.6	91.7	41.4	46.8	46.3
Adult (Age:31 and over)	84.5	84.5	87.5	36.3	41.9	42.1
Province						
Kigali city	96.8	96.3	96.3	69.2	72.0	69.9
Southern Province	76.5	79.0	82.9	27.3	33.9	34.7
Western Province	85.4	84.9	89.0	31.1	35.4	35.3
Northern Province	85.8	86.2	87.7	32.6	37.2	38.5
Eastern Province	84.2	84.0	87.3	33.7	40.3	40.4
Area of residence						
Urban	95.4	94.6	95.2	65.5	67.6	67.3
Rural	80.2	81.3	85.0	24.5	31.4	31.4

Values in percent (%).

Figure B.1: Proportion of Households owning mobile phone by District in August 2026.



© NISR

Table B.2: Proportion of Population owning mobile phone by type according to age groups, sex, province, area of residence in August 2026.

	Any mobile phone				Smart phone			
	10 yrs and above	16 yrs and above	16-30(youth)	31 yrs and above	10 yrs and above	16 yrs and above	16-30(youth)	31 yrs and above
Rwanda	55.4	67.9	64.9	70.2	23.1	28.2	32.8	24.7
Sex								
Male	59	73.1	68.9	76.6	26	32.1	34.9	29.8
Female	52.1	63.3	60.8	65	20.4	24.8	30.8	20.6
Province								
Kigali city	75.8	86.1	83.3	88.7	49.9	56.6	59.4	53.8
Southern Province	49.9	60.8	59	62	17.7	21.6	26.2	18.5
Western Province	52.4	65.7	60.6	69.3	17.2	21.5	25.7	18.4
Northern Province	53.1	65.3	65.1	65.4	18.9	23.2	28.4	19.3
Eastern Province	52.6	66.6	59.9	71.7	20	25.2	27.8	23.2
Area of residence								
Urban	70.8	82.7	78.8	86.3	44	51.2	52.9	49.6
Rural	48.9	61.3	57.4	63.9	14.3	17.9	22.1	15

Table B.3: Proportion of Population aged 16 years and above having knowledge to apply selected digital by sex, area of residence and province in August 2026.

	Sex			Area of residence		Province				
	Rwanda	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	Kigali city	South	West	North	East
Use USSD code to access E-services or information	74.8	80.9	69.3	86.4	69.5	88.6	70.8	68.8	79.2	71.9
Use application-based system to access E-services or information	36.1	41.9	30.9	56.7	26.7	63.1	28.2	30.3	32.7	33.2
Use mobile financial services (MOMO/AIRTEL MONEY/ MOCASH/PUSH AND PULL)	66.4	74.1	59.5	81.8	59.4	85.5	57.4	60.0	63.9	69.2
Use any social media	38.6	44.7	33.1	61.8	28.0	69.1	29.0	29.7	33.1	38.7
Access information through web browser	33.4	39.7	27.8	55.1	23.6	59.7	26.5	24.2	27.1	34.4
Access IREMBO services	28.5	34.7	23.0	44.7	21.2	49.9	22.3	18.7	24.3	31.1
Use any E-commerce platforms	13.9	15.9	12.1	26.8	8.0	31.7	8.6	10.9	9.5	12.7
Access E-learning platforms	18.7	21.7	16.0	33.3	12.0	36.3	13.6	13.2	14.3	19.3

© NISR

Table B.4: Proportion of Population knowing to apply at least one of selected basic digital skills, by sex, Province, area of residence and District.

	10 years and above	15 years and above	16 years and above	16-30 years	31 years and above
Rwanda	72.8	78.7	79	92.2	69
Sex					
Male	76.8	84.7	85.1	93	78.5
Female	69.1	73.4	73.5	91.4	61.1
Province					
Kigali city	89.2	93	93.1	97.1	89.2
Southern Province	66.5	71.8	72	90.6	59.5
Western Province	64.5	71.9	72.4	87.7	61.4
Northern Province	76.5	81.3	81.5	94.1	72.1
Eastern Province	73.2	79.9	80	92.3	70.7
Area of Residence					
Urban	86	90.3	90.5	96.4	84.9
Rural	67.1	73.5	73.8	89.9	62.6

Table B.5: Proportion of individuals using the internet

	Proportion of Individuals using the internet		
	August 2024	August 2025	August 2026
Rwanda	25.2	28.2	29.6
Sex			
Male	29.7	32.9	33.5
Female	21.2	24.0	26.1
Age group			
10 yrs and above	25.2	28.2	29.6
15 yrs and above	29.0	31.8	33.5
16 yrs and above	29.0	31.8	33.5
16-30 (youth)	37.5	43.0	45.6
31 yrs and above	22.2	23.3	24.4
Province			
Kigali city	56.4	57.5	59.4
Southern Province	17.6	20.5	24.2
Western Province	18.1	19.9	22.1
Northern Province	23.9	26.2	23.3
Eastern Province	20.9	25.8	27.4
Area of residence			
Urban	50.5	51.6	53.7
Rural	14.5	18.3	19.5

Values in percent (%).

© NISR

Table B.6: Proportion of households using the internet

	Proportion of Households using the internet		
	August 2024	**August 2025**	**August 2026**
Rwanda	40.8	44.7	47.2
Sex			
Male	44.2	48.3	50.3
Female	32.0	36.0	39.4
Province			
Kigali city	72.5	73.8	74.2
Southern Province	31.1	34.9	40.4
Western Province	33.1	36.8	39.3
Northern Province	39.6	41.0	40.3
Eastern Province	36.4	42.8	45.6
Area of residence			
Urban	69.1	69.1	72.0
Rural	28.0	33.7	35.7

Values in percent (%).

© NISR

Labour force survey contributors

SURVEY TECHNICAL DIRECTORS

- **MURENZI Ivan**, Director General, NISR
- **MWIZERWA Jean Claude**, Deputy Director General, NISR
- **BYIRINGIRO James**, Survey Program Manager, NISR
- **NILINGIMANA Faustin**, Ag. Director of DSS, NISR

SURVEY TECHNICAL TEAM (Preparation, Supervision, data analysis & report writing)

- **NGIRINSHUTI Fidele**, LFS Specialist
- **UWAMAHORO Pacifique**, LFS Specialist
- **AYINGENEYE Seraphine**, LFS Specialist
- **UMUHOZA Marie Ange**, Labor Statistical Research Statistician Team leader
- **NSHIMIYUMUKIZA Naman**, Formal labor Statistician
- **UFITINEMA Audrey**, Public Sector labor Statistician
- **UMUHOZA Emelyne**, Informal Private Sector labor statistician
- **ISHIMWE SANGWA Peace,** Professional Intern
- **ISHIMWE Gyslaine,** Professional Intern

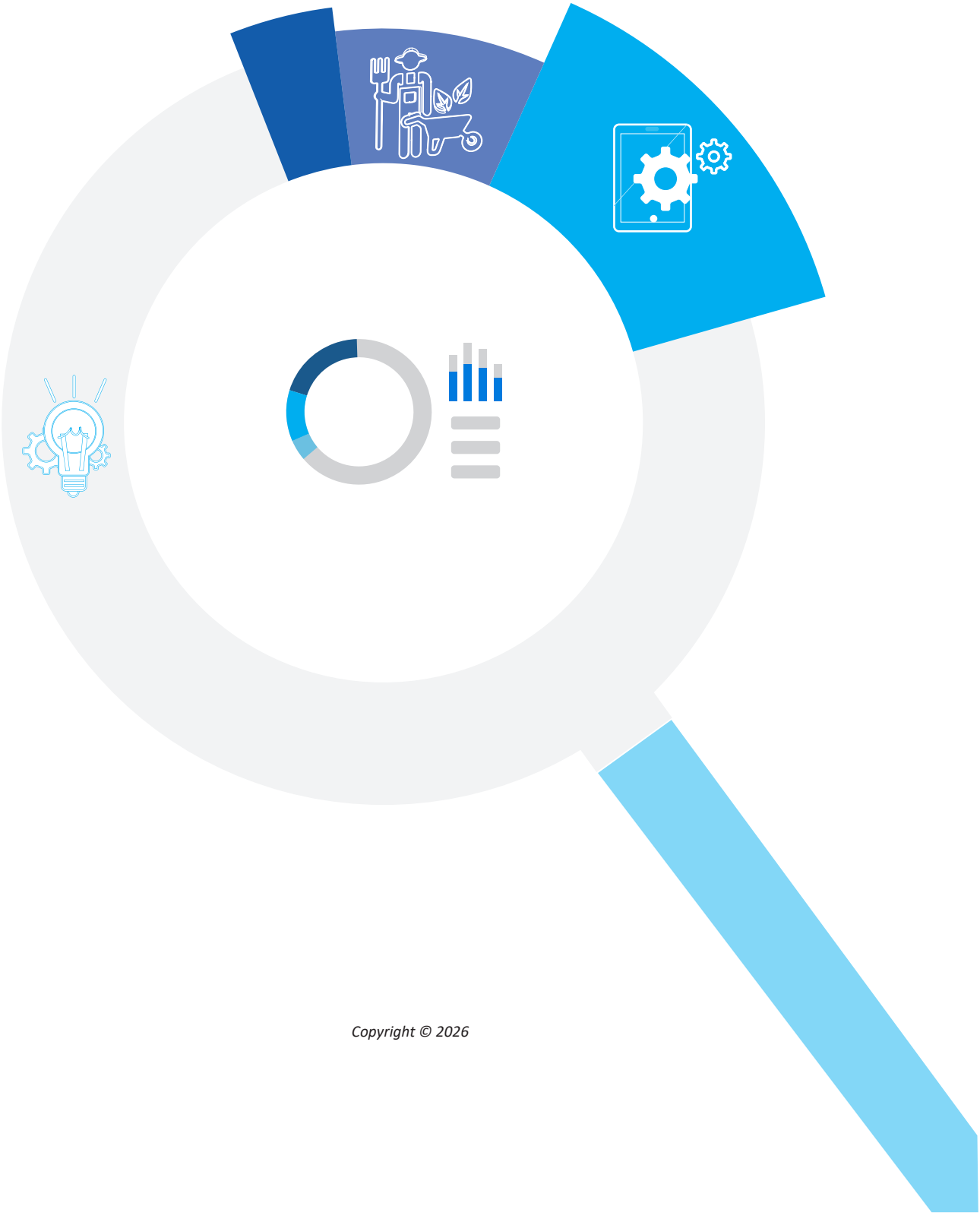
Data Processing

- **MUKANSHIMIYE Peruth**, Data processing officer
- **HARELIMANA Massoud**, Data processing officer

Layout, typesetting & infographic Design.

- **UWAMUNGU Thierry**
- **NEEMA KALISA Grace**
- **MUSHIMIYIMANA Desire**
- **KAGOYIRE Delphine**
- **TWIZERIMANA Promesse**
- **NKURUNZIZA Vital**

© NISR



Copyright © 2026