



جباتن قرانچن ايكونومي دان ستاتيسٲك

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STATISTICS
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

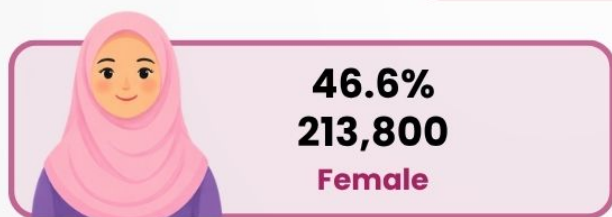
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM **GENDER STATISTICS 2025**

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Population



Distribution of Population by Age Group (%)

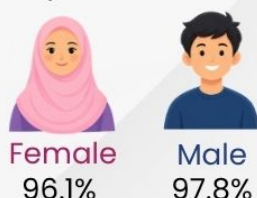


Education

Gross Enrolment Rate (%)



Literacy Rate (%) (10 years and over)

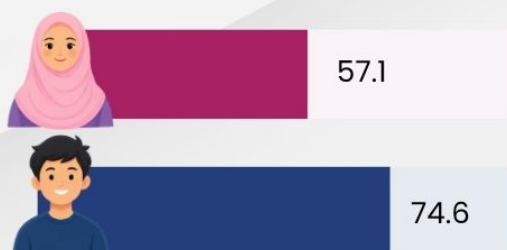


Distribution of Educators (%)

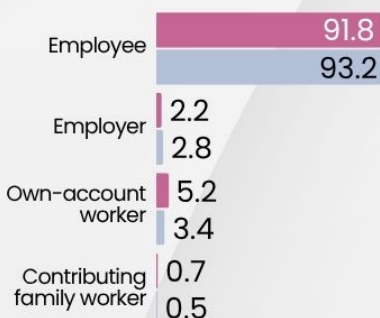


Economic Activity aged 18 years and over

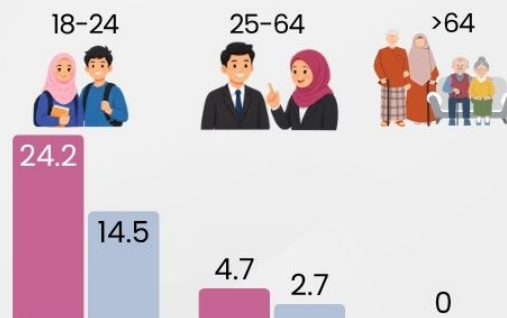
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)



Employment (%)



Unemployment Rate (%)



Health

Life Expectancy at Birth (year)

Female: 81.9
Male: 79.0



Maternal Mortality Ratio



Infant and Under-5 Mortality Ratio (deaths per 1,000 live births)

Infant mortality rate **Female: 8.4**
Male: 7.9
Under-5 mortality rate **Female: 8.8**
Male: 8.6

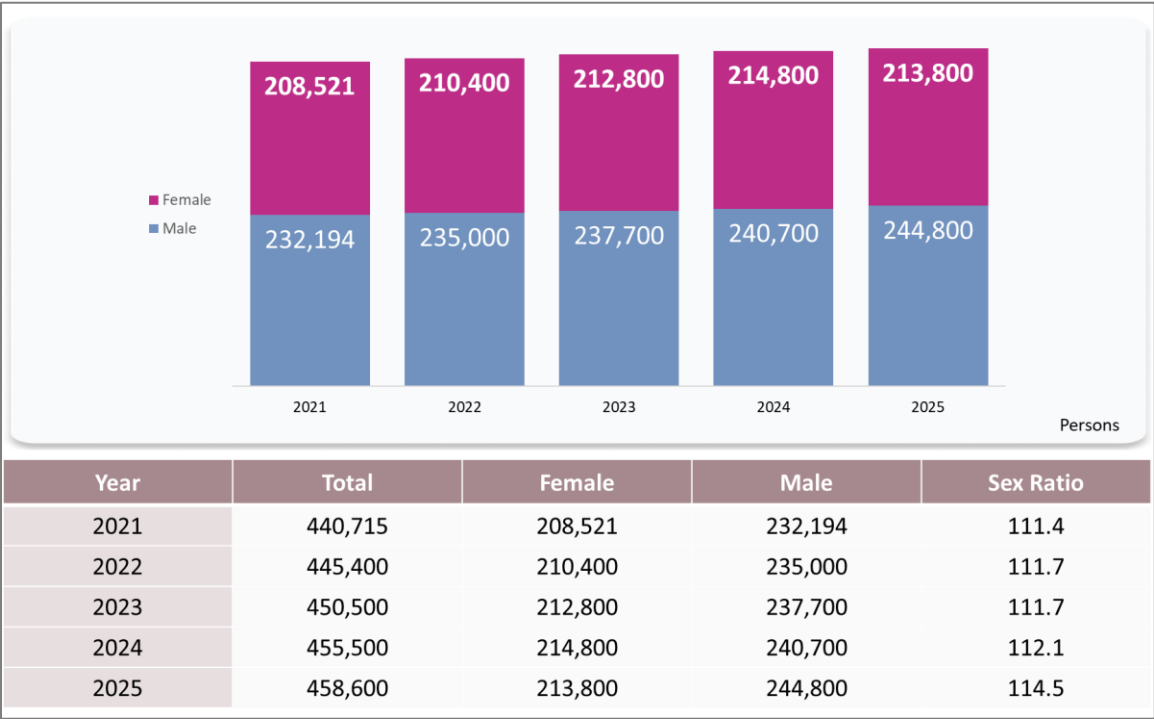
1. Population

1.1 Population by Sex

In 2025, the population of Brunei Darussalam was estimated at 458,600 persons. Of this total, females accounted for 46.6 per cent (213,800 persons), while males comprised 53.4 per cent (244,800 persons) (Table 1.1).

The sex ratio in 2025 was 114.5 males for every 100 females, indicating that there were more males than females in Brunei Darussalam. A value greater than 100 reflects a higher number of males compared to females.

Table 1.1: Population by sex, 2021-2025



Note:
(1) Year 2021 is the Population and Housing Census Year (BPP) 2021; and
(2) Year 2022 to 2025 are population estimates.

Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

GENDER STATISTICS 2025

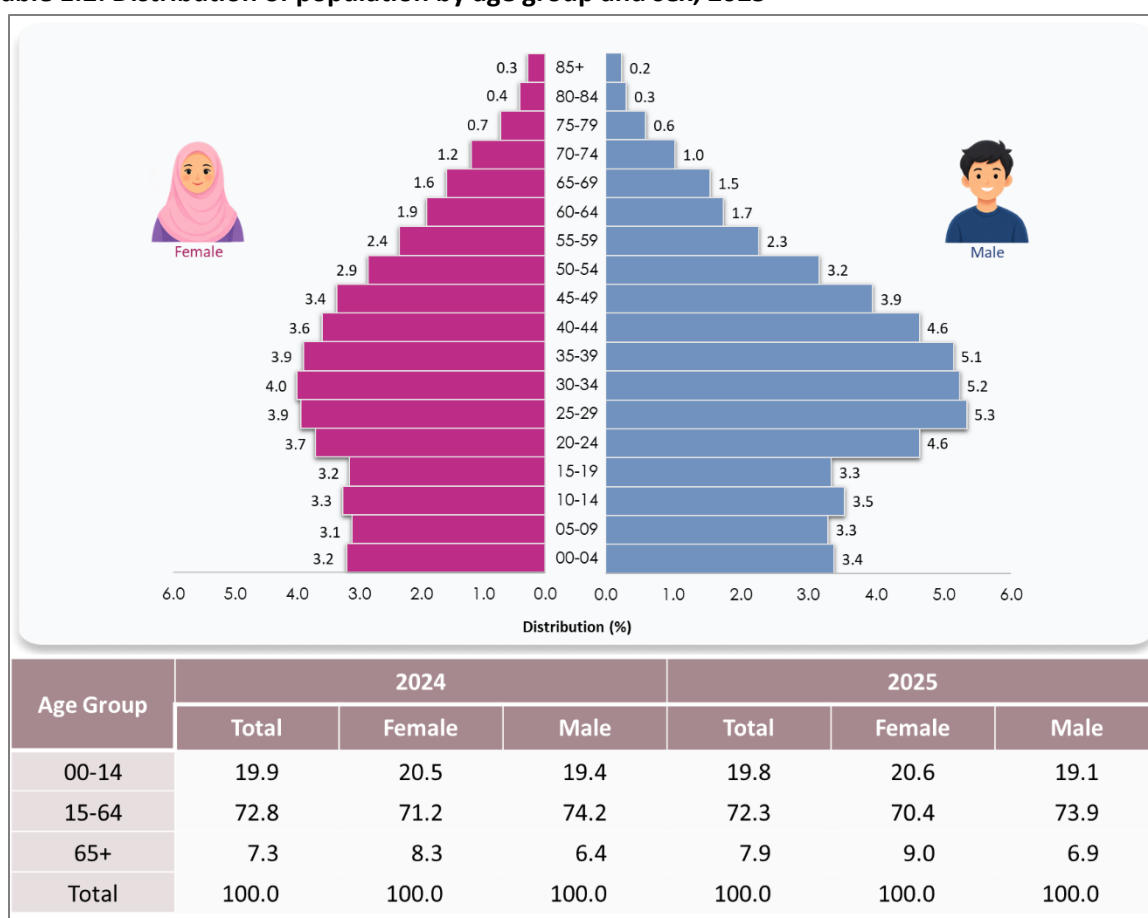
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

1.2 Population by Age Group

The population pyramid of Brunei Darussalam in 2025 retained its slightly distorted shape, showing a broadening in the middle age groups due to the presence of working age migrant workers, both female and male. Males remained more concentrated in the working-age group aged 15-64 years, with 73.9 per cent of the male population compared with 70.4 per cent of females (**Table 1.2**).

In contrast, females recorded a slightly higher proportion of children aged 0-14 years (20.6 per cent) than males (19.1 per cent). At the older ages, females also represented a larger share of the elderly population aged 65 and over, with 9.0 per cent of females compared with 6.9 per cent of males. This reflects the higher life expectancy among females, resulting in greater female representation at older ages.

Table 1.2: Distribution of population by age group and sex, 2025



Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

1.3 Marriages and Divorces

In 2025, a total of 3,070 marriages were recorded, reflecting an increase of 12.3 per cent from 2024 (Table 1.3). These include all types of marriages such as Islam, Civil, Customary and others. For divorces, 2025 registered a total of 505 cases, showing a decrease of 24.9 per cent from 2024.

Table 1.3: Marriages and Divorce, 2025

Indicator	2024	2025
Marriages	2,733	3,070
Divorces	672	505

Persons

Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

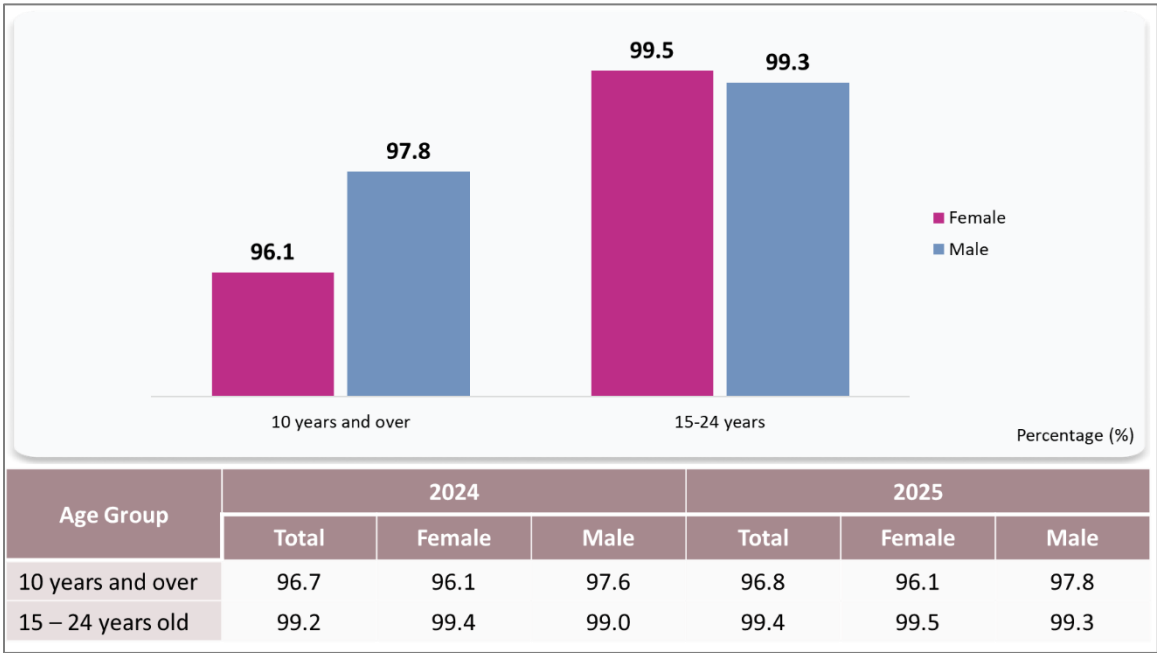
2. Education

2.1 Literacy Rate

Literacy is defined as the ability of a person to read and write, with understanding, a short and simple sentence related to his or her everyday life.

In 2025, the literacy rate among females aged 10 years and over in Brunei Darussalam was 96.1 per cent, slightly lower than that of males (97.8 per cent) **(Table 2.1)**. In contrast, among the younger population aged 15–24 years, females recorded a slightly higher literacy rate (99.5 per cent) compared to males (99.3 per cent).

Table 2.1: Literacy rate by sex and age groups, 2025



Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

2.2 Gross Enrolment Rate

The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) measures total enrolment in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to that level of education.

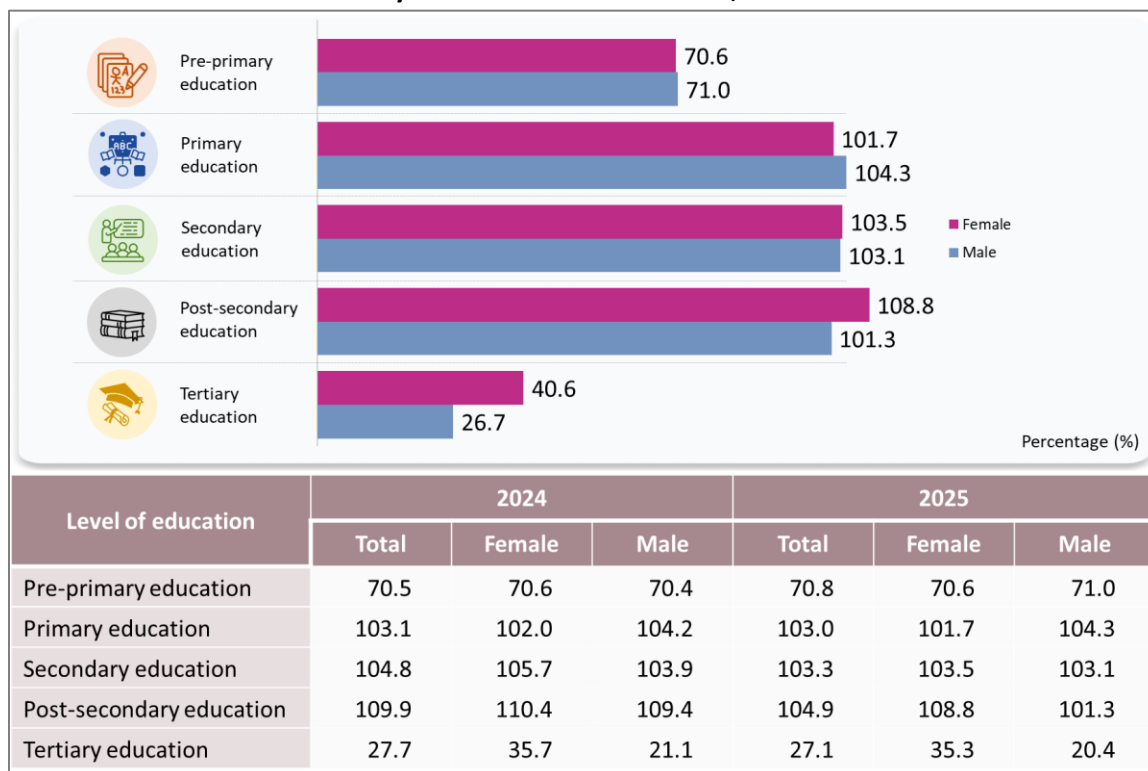
A high GER, around 100 per cent or above, indicates that many students are enrolled, including those outside the official school-age, showing sufficient school capacity and broad access to education. In contrast, a GER below 100 per cent indicates that fewer students are enrolled than expected for that official school-age population, highlighting that some children of the relevant age group are not enrolled in school.

In 2025, females recorded a slightly lower GER than males at the pre-primary and primary levels, with rates of 70.6 per cent and 101.7 per cent, respectively, compared with 71.0 per cent and 104.3 per cent for males (**Table 2.2**).

At the secondary and post-secondary levels, females recorded higher GER than males. At the secondary level, the GER for females was 103.5 per cent compared with 103.1 per cent for males. Similarly, at the post-secondary level, females recorded a GER of 108.8 per cent, exceeding the 101.3 per cent recorded for males.

At the tertiary level, females also recorded a higher GER than males. The GER for females was 35.3 per cent, compared with 20.4 per cent for males.

Table 2.2: Gross enrolment rate by level of education and sex, 2025



Source:

Enrolment - Ministry of Education

Population - Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

2.3 Gender Parity Index

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) measures the relative access to education between females and males by comparing the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) of females with that of males. A GPI value of 1 indicates parity between females and males. A GPI above 1 indicates that the enrolment rate is higher for females, while a GPI below 1 indicates that the enrolment rate is higher for males.

In 2025, the GPI was 0.99 at the pre-primary level and 0.98 at the primary level, indicating slightly higher enrolment among males than females (**Table 2.3**). At the secondary level, the GPI was 1.00, reflecting gender parity in enrolment between females and males.

At the post-secondary level, the GPI was 1.07, indicating relatively higher enrolment among females than males. At the tertiary level, the GPI was 1.74, showing that female enrolment was substantially higher than male enrolment.

Table 2.3: Gender Parity Index by level of education, 2025

Level of education	2024	2025
 Pre-primary education	1.00	0.99
 Primary education	0.98	0.98
 Secondary education	1.02	1.00
 Post-secondary education	1.01	1.07
 Tertiary education	1.69	1.74

Source:

Enrolment - Ministry of Education

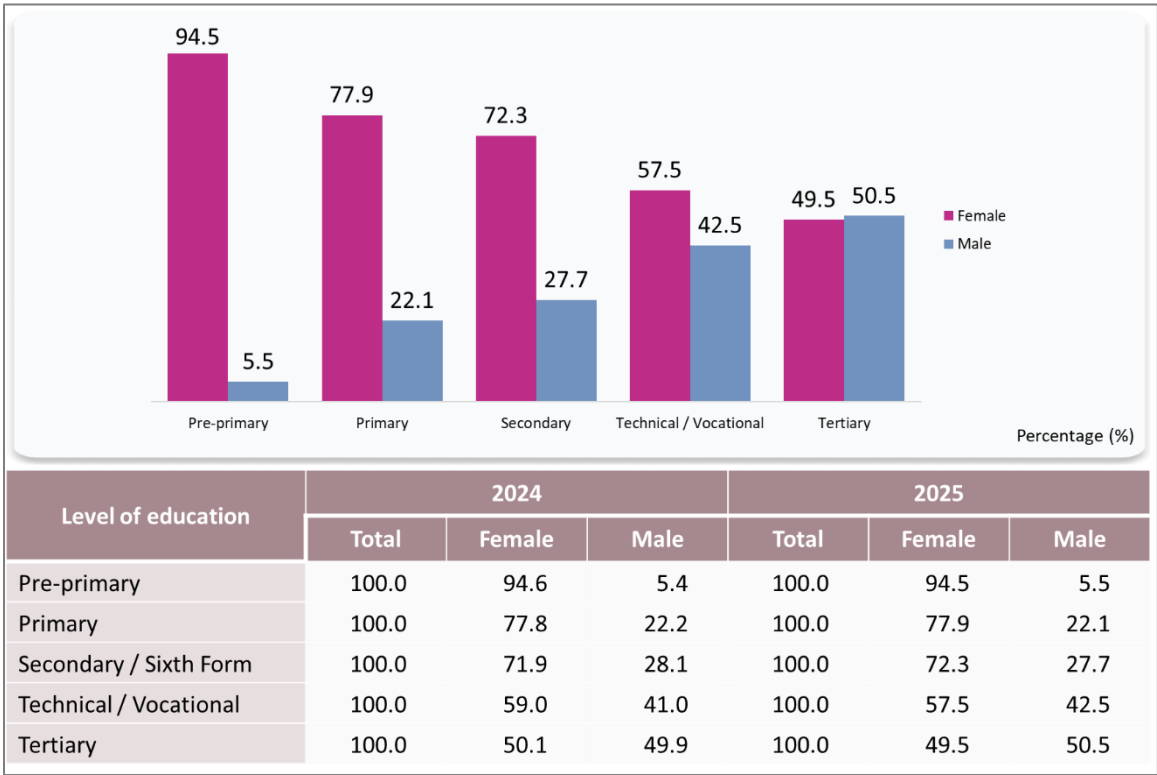
Population - Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

2.4 Distribution of Educators by Level of Education

In 2025, female educators continued to dominate the teaching workforce at most level of education in Brunei Darussalam. The highest proportion of female educators was recorded at the pre-primary level, accounting for 94.5 per cent of all pre-primary educators, while males represented only 5.5 per cent. Female representation also remained high at the primary and secondary/sixth form levels, comprising 77.9 per cent and 72.3 per cent, respectively. At the technical/vocational level, females accounted for 57.5 per cent of educators, compared with 42.5 per cent for males.

At the tertiary level, the distribution of educators was nearly equal, with males accounting for a slightly higher proportion (50.5 per cent) than females (49.5 per cent). Overall, the results indicate that female educators were more prevalent across most levels of education, while the gender distribution became more balanced at the higher levels of education, particularly in tertiary institutions.

Table 2.4: Distribution of educators by level of education and sex, 2025



Source:
Ministry of Education

3. Economic Activity

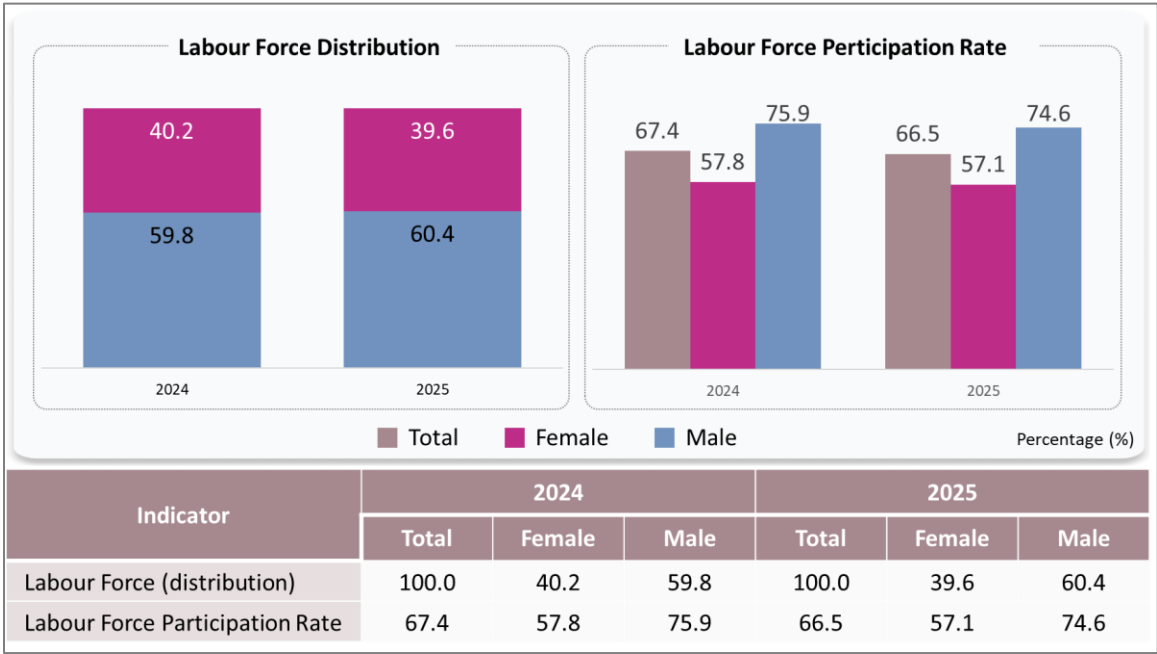
3.1 Labour Force (aged 18 years and over)

The labour force comprises persons aged 18 years and over who were either employed or looking for job (unemployed) during the reference period. The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is the ratio of labour force population to the total working age population. It measures the proportion of the working-age population that is economically active, either by being employed or actively seeking and available for work.

In 2025, females accounted for 39.6 per cent of the total labour force, while males represented 60.4 per cent (**Table 3.1**).

The LFPR for both females and males decreased slightly in 2025 compared to 2024. Among females, the LFPR decreased from 57.8 per cent in 2024 to 57.1 per cent in 2025. Similarly, the LFPR for males decreases from 75.9 per cent to 74.6 per cent over the same period.

Table 3.1: Labour force distribution and participation rate by sex, 2024 and 2025



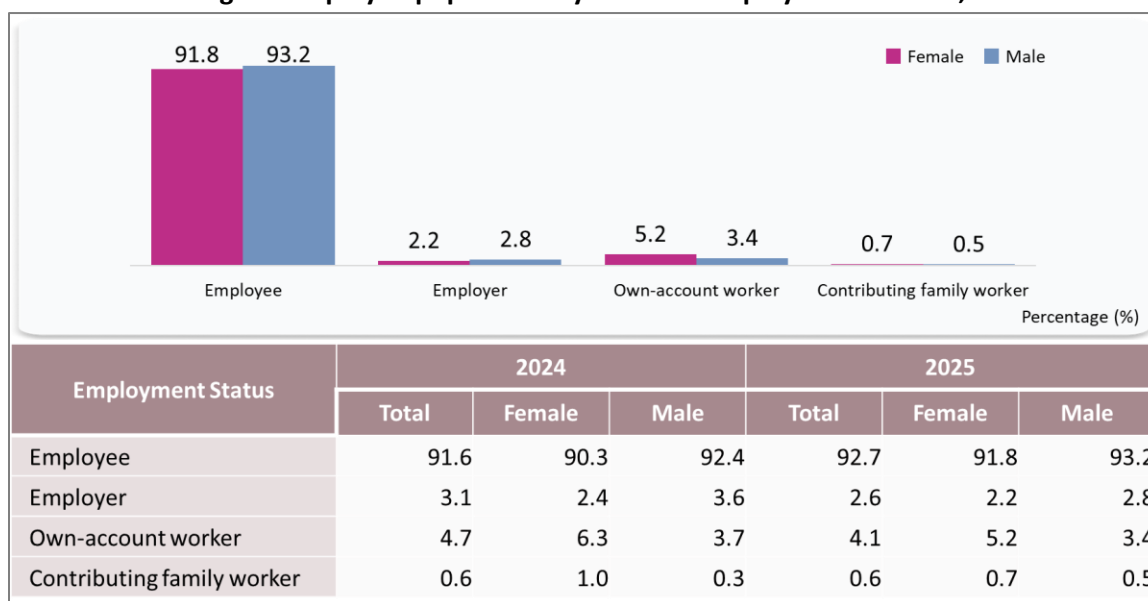
Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2025, Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

3.2 Employment (aged 18 years and over)

In 2025, total employment comprised 38.9 per cent females and 61.1 per cent males, with male employment remaining higher by around 20 per cent.

The majority of employed persons were engaged as employees, accounting for 91.8 per cent of female workers and 93.2 per cent of male workers. Males were slightly more likely to be employers (2.8 per cent) than females (2.2 per cent), while females were slightly more represented as own-account workers and contributing family workers (**Table 3.2**).

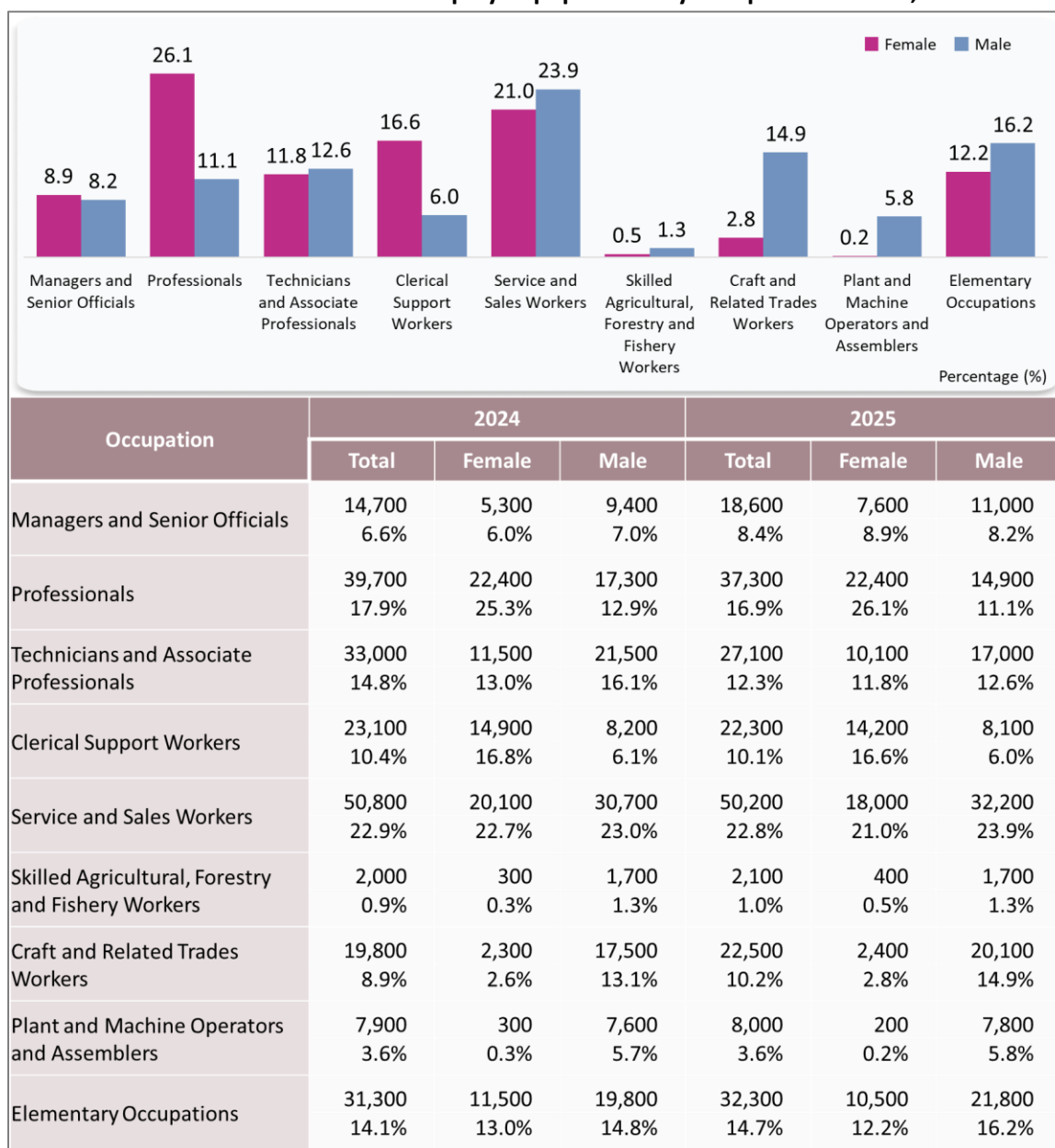
Table 3.2: Percentage of employed population by status of employment and sex, 2025



Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2025, Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

3.3 Employment by Occupation (aged 18 years and over)

In 2025, the distribution of employment by sex showed distinct patterns in occupational choices (**Table 3.3**). Among females, the top three occupations were Professionals (26.1 per cent), Service and Sales Workers (21.0 per cent), and Clerical Support Workers (16.6 per cent). In comparison, males were predominantly employed as Service and Sales Workers (23.9 per cent), Elementary Occupations (16.2 per cent) and Craft and Related Trades Workers (14.9 per cent).

Table 3.3: Number and distribution of employed population by occupation and sex, 2025


Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2025, Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

3.4 Employment by Type of Economic Activity (aged 18 years and over)

In 2025, the distribution of employment by economic activity showed clear gender differences (**Table 3.4**). Among females, the three largest economic activities were Education (17.5 per cent), Public Administration (16.4 per cent), and Wholesale and Retail Trade (12.9 per cent). In contrast, males were primarily employed in Public Administration (20.6 per cent), Construction (16.3 per cent), and Wholesale and Retail Trade (12.8 per cent).

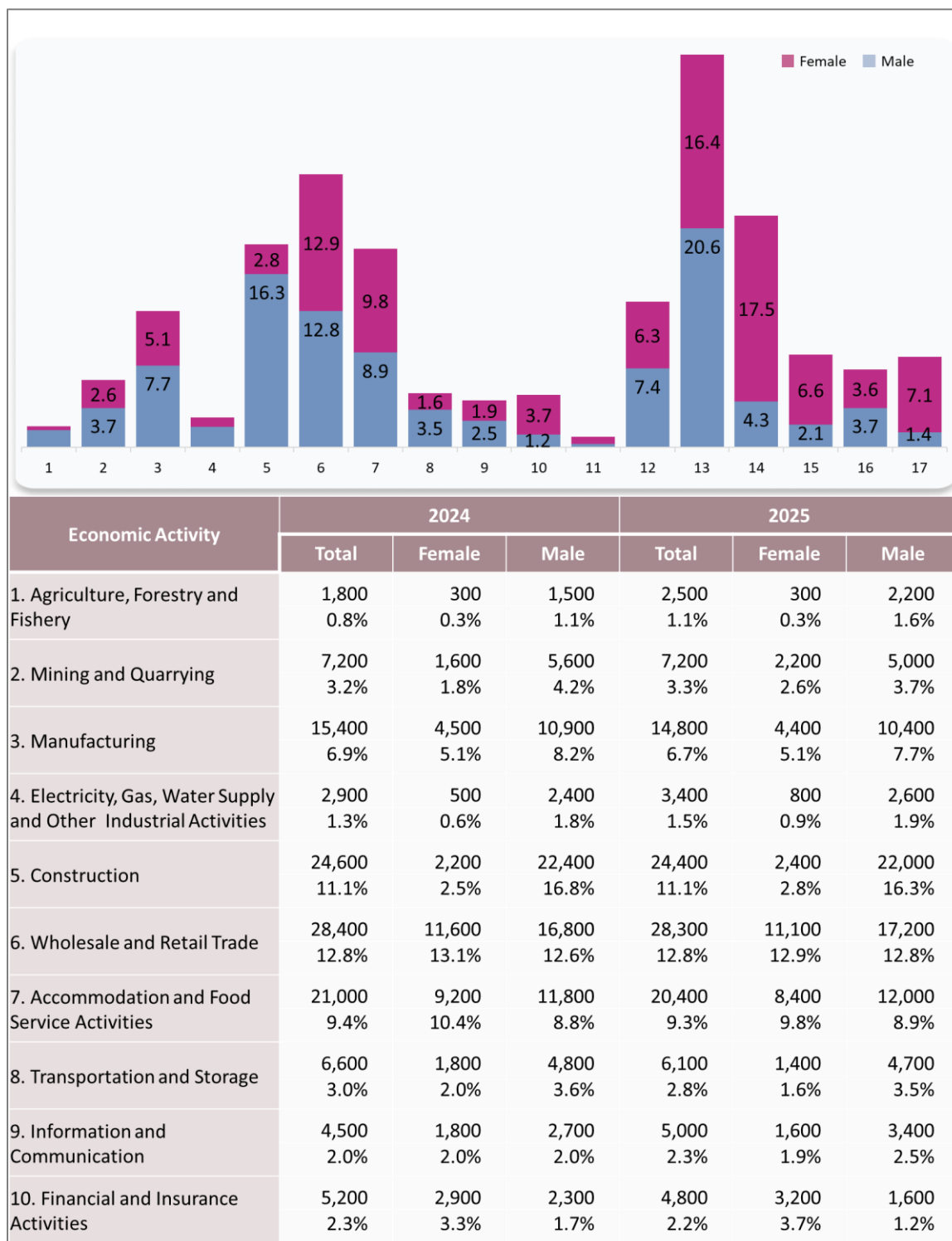
Table 3.4: Number and distribution of employed population by type of economic activity and sex, 2025


Table 3.4: Number and distribution of employed population by type of economic activity and sex, 2025 (continuation)

Economic Activity	2024			2025		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
11. Real Estate Activities	1,600 0.7%	800 0.9%	800 0.6%	1,000 0.5%	600 0.7%	400 0.3%
12. Professional, Technical, Administrative and Support Services	15,500 7.0%	5,400 6.1%	10,100 7.6%	15,300 6.9%	5,400 6.3%	9,900 7.4%
13. Public Administration	41,600 18.7%	14,200 16.0%	27,400 20.5%	41,800 19.0%	14,100 16.4%	27,700 20.6%
14. Education	20,400 9.2%	14,300 16.1%	6,100 4.6%	20,800 9.4%	15,000 17.5%	5,800 4.3%
15. Human Health and Social Work Activities	8,800 4.0%	6,200 7.0%	2,600 1.9%	8,500 3.9%	5,000 6.6%	2,800 2.1%
16. Other Service Activities	8,500 3.8%	4,100 4.6%	4,400 3.3%	8,100 3.7%	3,100 3.6%	5,000 3.7%
17. Activities of Households as Employers of Domestic Personnel	8,300 3.7%	7,200 8.1%	1,100 0.8%	8,000 3.6%	6,100 7.1%	1,900 1.4%

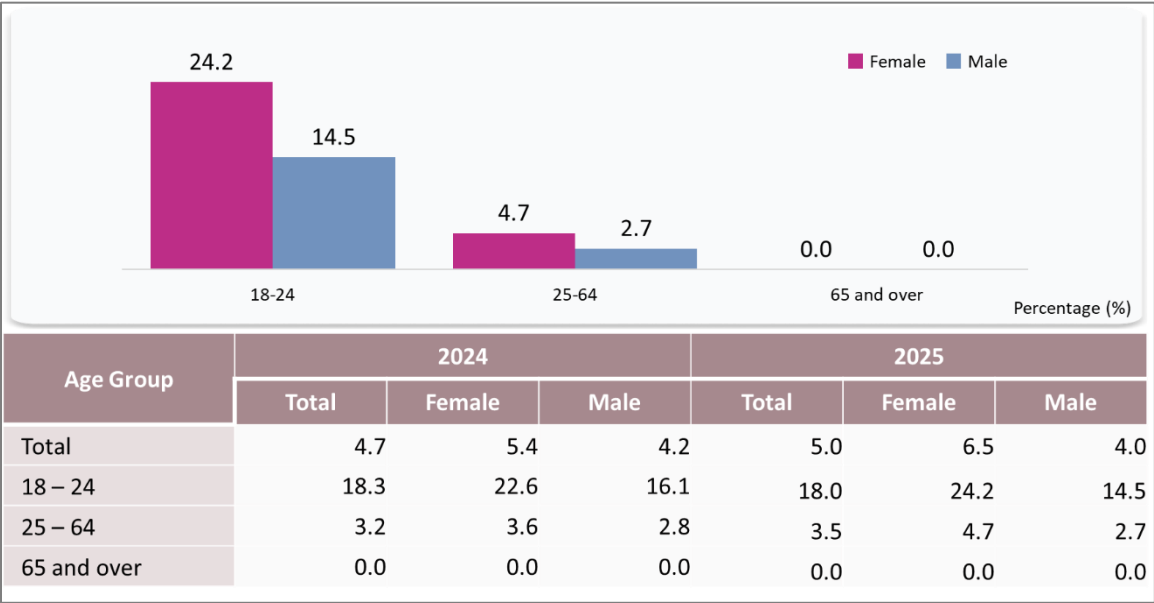
Source:

Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2025, Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

3.5 Unemployment Rate (aged 18 years and over)

In 2025, the overall unemployment rate was higher among females, at 6.5 per cent, compared to 4.0 per cent for males (**Table 3.5**). By age group, youth aged 18–24 had the highest unemployment rate, with 24.2 per cent of females and 14.5 per cent males. In contrast, the population aged 25–64 recorded significantly lower unemployment rates, at 4.7 per cent for females and 2.7 per cent for males.

Table 3.5: Unemployment rate by age group and sex, 2025



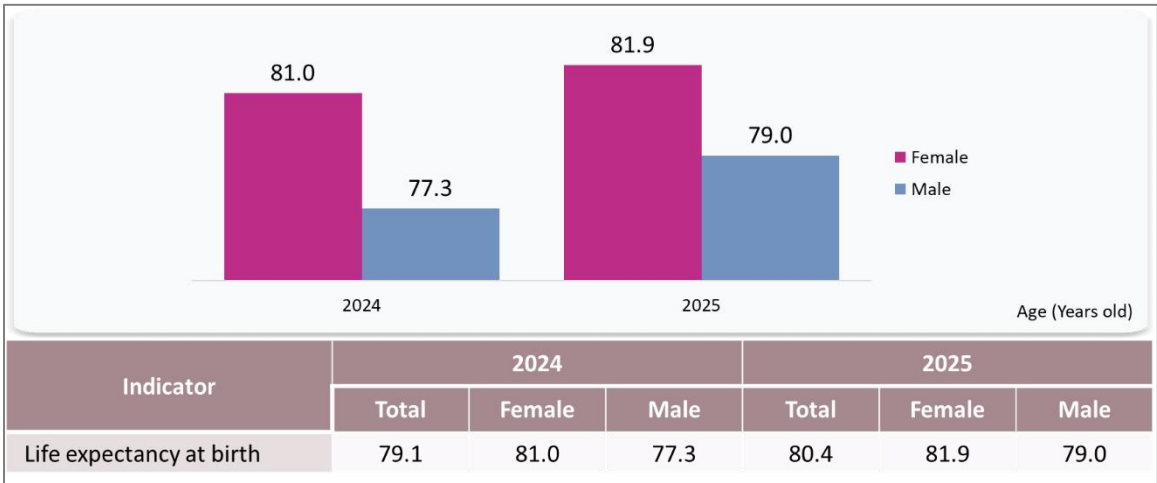
Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2025, Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

4. Health

4.1 Life Expectancy at Birth

In 2025, females had a higher life expectancy at birth compared to males, at 81.9 years and 79.0 years respectively (**Table 4.1**). This represented an increase of 0.9 years for females and 1.7 years for males compared to 2024.

Table 4.1: Life expectancy at birth by sex



Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

4.2 Maternal Mortality by Age Group

In 2025, no maternal deaths were recorded, compared to a maternal mortality ratio of 18.7 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2024. (**Table 4.2**). This indicator reflects the health and well-being of women during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as the accessibility and quality of maternal healthcare services.

Table 4.2: Maternal mortality, 2025

Indicator	2024	2025
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births)	18.7	0

Source:
Ministry of Health

4.3 Infant and Under-5 Mortality

In 2025, female infants experienced a higher mortality rate of 8.4 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to 7.9 for male infants **(Table 4.3)**. This pattern continued in the under-five age group, with the mortality rate for females standing at 8.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, slightly higher than 8.6 for males.

Table 4.3: Infant and under-5 mortality rate

Indicator	2024			2025		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Infant mortality rate	11.4	10.0	12.7	8.2	8.4	7.9
Under-5 mortality rate	14.0	11.9	16.0	8.8	8.8	8.6

(deaths per 1,000 live births)

Source:
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics

Technical Notes

Gender Statistics 2025 of Brunei Darussalam is the second compilation of gender-related data produced by the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (DEPS), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The publication aims to present a statistical overview of gender equality and the socio-economic status of women and men in Brunei Darussalam.

It covers key domains such as population, education, economic activity and health. The statistics are intended to support evidence-based policymaking, gender mainstreaming, and progress monitoring towards national development goals and international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The indicators presented are compiled from multiple sources, including Population and Housing Census 2021, Labour Force Survey, Vital Statistics, as well as administrative data from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

Concepts and Definitions

The following are some concepts and definitions used in this report:

1. Sex Ratio:

The sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females.

2. Literacy:

According to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (United Nations Statistics Division, 2017), literacy has historically been defined as the ability both to read and to write, distinguishing between “literate” and “illiterate” people. A literate person is one who can both read and write, with understanding, a short, simple statement on his or her everyday life. An illiterate person is one who cannot, with understanding, both read and write such a statement.

3. Gross Enrolment Rate:

Gross enrolment rate (GER) is defined as the total number of students enrolled at a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population for that level.

$$\frac{\text{Total enrolment in the education level}}{\text{Population of the official age group for that level}} \times 100$$

A high GER, around 100% or more, indicates that many students are enrolled, including those outside the typical age, showing sufficient school capacity and broad access to education. In contrast, a low GER, below 100%, indicates fewer students are enrolled than expected for that age group, highlighting that many children who should be in school are not, likely due to limited schools, teachers, or other barriers.

School level are categorized as follows:

- Pre-primary education: Pre-School (for Government Schools) and Kindergarten 1, 2 and 3 (for Private Schools)
- Primary education: Year 1 to Year 6
- Secondary education: Year 7 to Year 11
- Post-secondary education: Sixth forms, Diploma Aliyah Qiraat, Technical and Vocational Education and Training and Politeknik Brunei
- Tertiary education: University College, Institute (except Institute Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah) and Universities.

4. Labour Force Participation Rate (%):

Labour force participation rate is the ratio of labour force population to the total working age population.

$$\frac{\text{Labour force}}{\text{Working age population}} \times 100$$

5. Employment:

Employment is a particular form of work. Persons in employment are defined as all those with working age population, during a short reference period, were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit. It excludes persons engaged wholly in activities to produce goods or services for own final use such as producing agricultural, fishing and gathering products for own-consumption or cleaning, decorating, gardening and maintaining one's own dwelling or premises, durables and other goods.

Persons in employment comprise:

- employed persons "at work," i.e., who worked in a job for at least one hour; and
- employed persons "not at work" due to temporary absence from a job, or to working-time arrangements (such as shift work, flexi-time and compensatory leave for overtime).

6. Employment status:

Employment status refers to the position of the employed person at his/her place of work with regard to employment characteristics.

a) Employers:

A person who runs a business on his own or in partnership and engages at least one paid employee on a continuous basis in operating the business.

b) Employees:

A person who works in government department, private business enterprises or organizations, including family business, and receives regular pay.

c) Own-account workers:

A person who runs a business on his own or in partnership but does not engage any paid employee.

d) Contributing family workers:

A person who works in his/her family business without receiving any regular pay.

7. Unemployment:

Persons in unemployment are defined as all those with working age population during the reference period who:

- a) were not in employment;
- b) carried out activities to seek employment during a specified recent period; and
- c) were currently available to take up employment given a job opportunity.

The definition of unemployment provides an exception in the case of future starters. They are considered as unemployed even if they did not carry out activities to seek employment during the specified recent period, criterion (b) as long as they satisfy the availability condition.

8. Unemployment Rate:

Unemployment rate is the proportion of the unemployed population of the total labour force population.

$$\frac{\text{Unemployment population}}{\text{Labour force}} \times 100$$

9. Infant Mortality Rate:

The ratio of the number of deaths of infants below one (1) year of age in a given year to the total number of live births in that year, expressed per 1,000 live births.

$$\frac{\text{Number of deaths of infants below 1 year in a year}}{\text{Total live birth in the same year}} \times 1,000$$

10. Under-five Mortality:

The ratio of the number of deaths of children below five (5) years of age in a given year to the total number of live births in that year, expressed per 1,000 live births.

$$\frac{\text{Number of deaths of children below 5 in a year}}{\text{Total live births in the same year}} \times 1,000$$