

Nigeria Labour Force Survey (Q4:2022 & Q1:2023)



Key Result Statistics: Q1:2023

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has released the Nigeria Labour Force Survey (NLFS) for Q4:2022 and Q1:2023. There was a significant change in the methodology used, in accordance with the International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s guidelines. Below is summary of the key results:



Approximately 76.70% of Nigerians within the working-age demographic were gainfully employed



About 10.60% were involved in assisting a household business without any monetary gain or compensation.



Unemployment rate was 4.10%.



Underemployment rate was 12.20%.



Wage employment accounted for 11.80% of the total employment share.



75.40% of Nigerians operated their own businesses or engaged in farming activities.



2.20% were involved in apprentices or intern roles.



33.20% of employed individuals worked for less than 40 hours per week.



Approximately 20.10% of the working-age population were out of the labour force



Rate of informal employment amongst employed Nigerians was 92.60%.

Key Result Statistics: Q4:2022



Approximately 73.60% of Nigerians within the working-age demographic were gainfully employed



About 10.70% were involved in assisting a household business without any monetary gain or compensation.



Unemployment rate was 5.30%.



Underemployment rate was 13.70%.



Wage employment accounted for 13.40% of the total employment share.



73.10% of Nigerians operated their own businesses or engaged in farming activities.



2.60% were involved in apprentices or intern roles.



36.40% of employed individuals worked for less than 40 hours per week.



Approximately 22.30% of the working-age population were out of the labour force



Rate of informal employment amongst employed Nigerians was 93.50%.

Significant Changes in Methodology



In coming up with the new data, the NBS made significant changes to the methodology for conducting the NLFS. A summary of the key changes is presented below:

	Old Methodology	New Methodology
01 Working Age	Individuals aged 15 - 64 years.	Individuals aged 15 years and above.
02 Employment	Individuals within the working-age population who participated in activities generating goods or services for a minimum of 20 hours.	Working-age individuals who participated in activities to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit for a minimum of one hour.
03 Labour Force	Employed and unemployed individuals within the working-age population (15 - 64 years).	Employed and unemployed individuals aged 15 years and above.
04 Unemployed	Worked less than 20 hours or actively searching and available for work.	Unemployed and actively available (was without pay or profit).
05 Underemployed	Worked 20-39 hours weekly.	Worked under 40 hours per week but available for additional hours.
06 Periodicity	One-time data collection (cross-sectional).	Continuous year-long collection.
07 Sample Size	33,300 households every quarter.	35,520 households over 12 months.
08 Data Collection	17-21 days per quarter.	Continuously for 12 months.
09 Employment in Agriculture	Considered employed if 20-hour threshold is met.	Distinguishes between commercial and subsistence agriculture.
10 Reporting	Quarterly estimates at national and state levels.	Quarterly national and annual state level estimates.

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