

11-EMPLOYMENT

At the time of the **2004 population census**, the population aged 14 years and over was 169 056 people, of which 96 406 in the employment market (workers with a job or unemployed). This **labour force** was 20% larger than recorded in the previous census in 1996. Of this labour force, there were 25% more (total 80 685) **workers in employment**, while those **unemployed in the census definition** (15 721) increased by only 5%. The growth in the labour force, and therefore the number of people in the labour market was significantly more pronounced for women (+30%) than for men (+13%), illustrating the continuing rise in female employment.

The breakdown for the three provinces showed 7% of the labour force in the Loyalty islands, 18% in the North, and 75% in the South. The concentration of unemployed in the South was less significant, with only 53% residing in the Southern province, 31% in the Northern province and 16% in the Loyalty islands.

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The **activity rate** was 57.0%, slightly lower than the previous censuses of 1996 (57.3%) and 1989 (57.7%) which may be an illustration of the “ageing” of the New Caledonian population. It was higher than in Metropolitan France (54.4% in 2002).

The **unemployment rate** in New Caledonia was 16.3% of the labour force, as opposed to 16.3% at the time of the 1996 census and 16% in 1989. The territorial average conceals significant provincial differences : 38.9% in the Loyalty islands, 28.4% in the North and 11.4% in the South. Although it is higher than in Metropolitan France (9.8% in 2005), the New Caledonian unemployment rate is far inferior to those recorded in the departments of overseas France.

Unemployment affected young people and those without qualifications. In effect, more than half of the unemployed (55%) were under 30 years old and half did not have a qualification (conversely, only 3% had higher education qualifications).

▶ **2004 Population census.** See 5.4.

▶ **Labour force.** In accordance with International labour organisation (ILO) instructions, INSEE has defined it as all persons occupying a position (*workers in employment*), be it ongoing, seasonal or exceptional, enlisted military and the *unemployed*. In the 1983 census, seasonal workers who had not worked the week preceding the survey and enlisted military were not included in the labour force, and similarly only those enrolled with the APE employment agency and receiving an unemployment benefit were considered unemployed.

▶ **Workers in employment.** See 11.2.

▶ **Unemployed in the census definition.** In New Caledonia, the unemployed are persons aged 14 years and over who have declared themselves as unemployed and looking for a job, without necessarily being enrolled with the employment services. This definition of unemployed is quite close to that of *unemployed in the ILO sense*, but must not be confused with *job seeker in the APE sense*.

▶ **Unemployed in the ILO sense.** In application of the definition adopted in 1982 by the International labour organisation (ILO), an employed person is someone old enough to work (15 years and over) simultaneously satisfying three conditions : to be without a job, i.e. not having worked, be it a single hour, during the reference week ; be available to take up employment within fifteen days ; be actively seeking a job or have found one that commences at a later date, without necessarily being enrolled with APE.

▶ **Activity rate.** Ratio between the labour force and the total population aged 14 years and over.

▶ **Unemployment rate.** Number of unemployed in relation to the corresponding labour force.

▶ **Job seeker in the APE sense.** See 11.5.

SOURCES

[1] INSEE-ISEE, *Résultats du recensement de la Population 2004*.

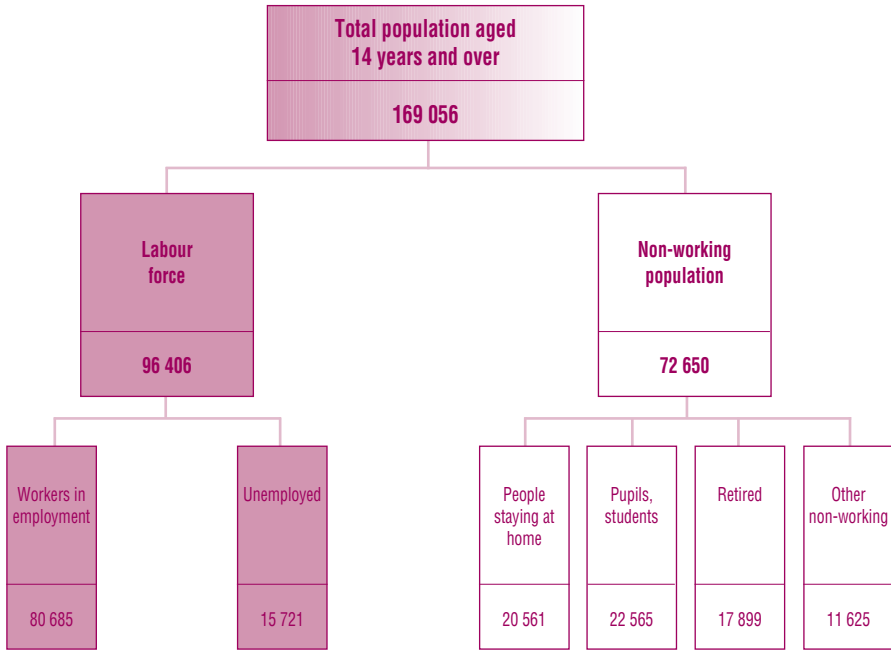
[2] INSEE-ITSEE, *Résultats des recensements de la Population 1996, 1989 et 1983*.

SEE ALSO

Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE) : www.isee.nc

11.1 LABOUR FORCE

Population aged 14 years and over according to activity status
(2004 Population Census) [1]



Labour force by situation and province (2004 Census) [1]

	Workers in employment	Unemployed	Labour force
Loyalty islands province	4 049	2 579	6 628
Northern province	12 291	4 872	17 163
Southern province	64 345	8 270	72 615
New Caledonia	80 685	15 721	96 406

Unit : number

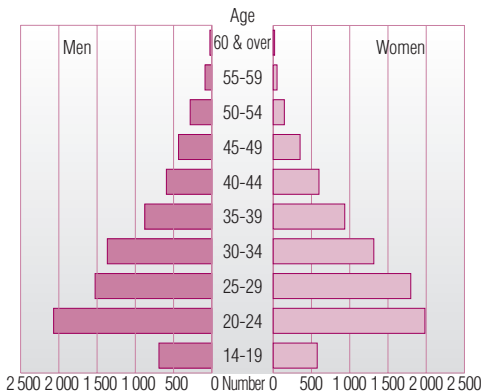
Labour force, unemployment rate and activity rate in various censuses [1 and 2]

	Workers in employment	Unemployed	Labour force	Unemployment rate	Activity rate
1989 (a)	54 230	10 520	65 945	16.0	57.7
1996 (a)	64 377	15 018	80 589	18.6	57.3
2004	80 685	15 721	96 406	16.3	57.0

(a) Including in the labour force, enlisted military being 1 195 in 1989 and 1 194 in 1996.

Units : number, %

Unemployed by gender and age at 2004 census [1]



Unemployed by highest qualification at 2004 census [1]

