



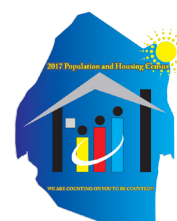
The Kingdom of Eswatini

2017 Population and Housing Census Volume 5

LITERACY
& EDUCATION

ECONOMIC
ACTIVITY

YOUTH



December 2019
Central Statistical Office

Preface

The literacy and education, economic activity and youth report is one publication in a series of reports that have been produced from the 2017 Population and Housing Census results. The Census results are presented at national, regional and urban/ rural level.

On behalf of the Government, the Central Statistical Office (CSO) would like to express its sincere gratitude to all organizations and individuals who have made contributions towards the success of the Census. Special thanks go to the authors who have contributed in the thematic analysis of the various reports; Amos Zwane , Phumlile Dlamini, Nolwazi Dlamini, Mcebo Bhiya, Hanson Dlamini, Nelisiwe Dlamini, Rachel Masuku, Sabelo Simelane, Nombulelo Dlamini, Tsembayena Phakathi, Gcina Gumedze , Colisile Masilela and Malungisa Mkhathshwa.

We thank the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for her continued financial and technical support in all stages of the Census. We are also grateful to UNICEF, UNDP, WFP and UNAIDS for the contributions.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the enumerators and supervisors who worked tirelessly during the main census enumeration. We are also grateful to the Data processing staff; Choice Ginindza, Qhawe Tfwala, Ronald Malangwane and Robert Fakudze, with the assistance of Matthew Msibi, Alfred Magagula, Napoleon Hlophe and Glenrose Malindzisa who produced the tables needed by the different authors. Last but not least, we would like to acknowledge the support and cooperation of the general public, especially during the enumeration period.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone that contributed directly or indirectly to the success of the census and in the publication of this report, but not mentioned above. The statistical data obtained from the 2017 census is massive and rich allowing for extensive use and application. As such, what is contained in the report is not the whole but only a very small portion. I urge all of the census data users to feel free and request CSO for any data not found in this publication but was collected in the Census.



Amos M. Zwane
Director of Statistics
Central Statistical Office

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface.....	1
List of Figures.....	3
List of Tables	4
CHAPTER 1 LITERACY AND EDUCATION.....	5
1.1 Introduction.....	5
1.1.1 General relevance of the study of literacy and education.....	5
1.1.2 Brief review of contents of the chapter.....	5
1.1.3 Census as a source of data on literacy and education.....	5
1.1.4 Definitions and other concepts	5
1.2 Literacy	6
1.2.1 Literacy rates by sex	6
1.2.2 Trends in the Literacy rate	6
1.2.3 Literacy rate by Residence and Region	6
1.2.4 Literacy rates by Region according to Sex.....	7
1.2.5 Age Specific Literacy Rates by region.....	8
1.2.6 Literacy rates by Age according to language.....	9
1.3 Formal education.....	9
1.3.1 School attendance by Urban- rural Residence and Region.....	9
1.3.2 Age specific school attendance.....	10
1.4 Early Childhood Care and Developmental Education (ECCDE).....	11
1.4.1 ECCDE Differentials	11
1.5 Education Attainment.....	11
1.5.1 Highest level of school or literacy program attained.....	11
1.5.2 Highest qualification attained.....	13
1.5.3 Highest qualification by field of study	13
1.6 Conclusions and Recommendation	14
CHAPTER 2 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	15
2.1 Introduction	15
2.1.1 General relevance of economic activity and labour force	15
2.1.2 Brief overview of contents of the chapter	15
2.1.3 Census as source of data of economic activity	15
2.1.4 Definitions and other concepts	15
2.2 Working Age Population Framework.....	15
2.3 Labour force participation rates	16
2.4 Unemployment rates.....	17
2.5 Trends in unemployment rates.....	19
2.6 Characteristics of the employed population.....	20
2.7 Characteristics of the unemployed persons	25
2.8 Characteristics of the economically inactive persons	27
2.9 Conclusion and recommendations for the next census.....	28
CHAPTER 3 YOUTH.....	29
3.1 Introduction	29
3.1.1 General relevance of the study of youth in a population.....	29
3.1.2 Brief overview of contents of the chapter	29
3.1.3 Census as a source of data on youth	29
3.1.4 Definitions and other Concepts	29
3.2 Distribution of young people.....	30

3.2.1 The share of young people in the total population	30
3.2.2 Population size and the geographic spread of young people	30
3.2.3 Sex Ratio of young people	31
3.2.4 Young people with disability.....	31
3.2.5 Young people and marriage.....	32
3.3 Young people and education	34
3.3.1 Youth Literacy Rates by sex	34
3.3.2 Young people and educational attainment.....	34
3.3.3 Highest level of education attained	35
3.4 Young people and the economy	36
3.4.1 Participation of young people in the labour force.....	36
3.4.2 Youth unemployment by educational attainment.....	38
3.4.3 Young people who are in education, employment and training (NEET)	38
3.5 Conclusion	39

REFERENCES	39
-------------------------	-----------

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.2.1: Percentage distribution of literacy rates by sex, 2007 and 2017	6
Figure 1.2.2 Percent Distribution of Literate Persons age 10 years and older by region a sex, 2017	7
Figure 2.2.1: Population age 15 years and above by activity status, 2017	16
Figure 2.3.1: Labour force participation rate by age group and sex, 2017	17
Figure 2.4.1: Unemployment rate by age groups and sex, 2017	18
Figure 2.5.1: Trends in unemployment rates.....	19
Figure 2.6.1 Percentage distribution of employed persons by marital status, 2017	20
Figure 2.6.2: Percentage distribution of never married and employed persons, 2017	21
Figure 2.6.3: Percentage distribution of married and employed persons, 2017	22
Figure 2.6.4: Percentage distribution of employed persons by major industry and sex, 2017	25
Figure 2.7.1: Percentage distribution of unemployed persons by marital status, sex and age group, 2017	25
Figure 2.7.2: Percentage distribution of married and unemployed persons by age group and sex, 2017	26
Figure 2.7.3 Percentage distribution of never married and unemployed persons by age group and sex, 2017	26
Figure 2.7.4: Percentage distribution of unemployed persons by level of qualification, 2017	27
Figure 2.8.1: Percentage distribution of economically inactive persons by primary reasons and sex, 2017	28
Figure 2.8.2: Percentage distribution of inactive population by marital status and sex, 2017	28
Figure 3.2.1: The population pyramid of 2017	30
Figure 3.2.2: Population age 15-35: National, Rural & Urban areas and Regions, 2017	30
Figure 3.2.3 Distribution of young people age 15 to 34 with disability, 2017	31
Figure 3.2.4 Number of males and females age 15 to 34 who have a disability, 2017.....	32
Figure 3.2.5 Percent distribution of married population age 15-34 by age group and sex, 2017.	32
Figure 3.2.6: Percent distribution of consensually married population age 15-34 by age group and sex, 2017..	33
Figure 3.2.7 Percent distribution of the married population age 15-34 by age group and sex, 2017.	33
Figure 3.2.8 Percent distribution of young married females by age group and sex: 2007 and 2017	34
Figure 3.2.9 Percent distribution of young married men by age group and sex: 2007 and 2017.....	34
Figure 3.3.1: Literacy rates among young people age 15 to 35 by sex: 2017	34
Figure 3.3.2: Percentage distribution of young people aged 15-35 years by educational attainment: 2017	35
Figure 3.4.1: Population aged 15 – 35 years3by activity status, 2017.....	36
Figure 3.4.2: Labour force participation rates by age group and sex, 2017.....	37
Figure 3.4.3 Youth unemployment by age group and sex, 2017	38

Figure 3.4.4 Percentage distribution of youth unemployment by educational attainment, 2017	38
Figure 3.4.5 Percent distribution of men and females age 15 to 35 who are neither in employment education and training (NEET) by age and sex, 2017.....	39

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.2.1: Literacy rates by sex over the past three decades	6
Table 1.2.2: Literacy rate by Residence and Region.....	7
Table 1.2.3 Percent distribution of literate persons age 10 years and older according to age and region, 2017	8
Table 1.2.4: Percentage distribution of literate persons 10 years and older by age, sex, residence and language, 2017	9
Table 1.3.1: Percent distribution of school attendance for persons 5 years and older by urban-rural residence and region, 2017	10
Table 1.3.2 Age Specific School Attendance by sex, 2017	10
Table 1.4.1: Percentage distribution of ECCDE enrolments by sex, region and urban- rural residence for population aged 3 to 6 years, 2017.....	11
Table 1.5.1 Percentage distribution of 5 years or older who completed each school level	12
Table 1.5.2 Percentage distribution of highest qualification attained for persons 10 years and above, 2017 PHC	13
Table 1.5.3. Highest qualification by field of study, sex, residence, 2017	14
Table 2.3.1: Labour force participation rates (%) by rural, urban, region and sex, Eswatini, 2017.....	16
Table 2.4.1 Unemployment rates by rural, urban, region and sex, Eswatini, 2017	17
Table 2.4.2: Eswatini Unemployment rate by Age group, urban and rural and Sex	19
Table 2.6.1: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Occupation and Sex, 2017.....	23
Table 2.6.2: Percentage Distribution of Occupation by Sex, According to Urban, Rural and Region, Eswatini, 2017	24
Table 3.2.1 Sex ratio of young people by age, 2017	31
Table 3.3.1 Educational attainment among young people age 15-35 years by residence and region, Eswatini...	35
Table 3.3.2 Percent distribution of young people aged 15 – 35 years by highest level of education attained.....	36
Table 3.4.1: Percentage Distribution of Youth Unemployment Rates, Eswatini 2017	37

CHAPTER 1 LITERACY AND EDUCATION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 General relevance of the study of literacy and education

This chapter discusses literacy and education as determined by the 2017 Population and Housing Census. Literacy as a basic human right equips and capacitates one with skills for life which contributes to personal and social development. The role of education in poverty eradication, in close co-operation with other social sectors, is crucial and is also a key to an independent nation in terms of socio-economic issues.

Literacy and education information is not only useful to policy makers and programmers for formulating public policies and programmes but it is also important for national and personal development assessment. The information gathered from a census is crucial for the country in terms of gauging progress made in response to international, regional and local development initiatives, such as SDG's, national development strategy; Vision 2022 and the education sector development improvement plan.

1.1.2 Brief review of contents of the chapter

This chapter discusses literacy and education in the following outlines:-

- **Literacy rate and trend in literacy rates:** This looks at the literacy rates of the general population from age 10 years and older. These are categorized by sex, age, residence and region.
- **Literacy rates by language:** Literacy is also disaggregated by the language one uses when reading or writing. Siswati and English are the main official languages in the country, so the main interest of the discussion is to determine the proportion of Siswati and English speaking population in the country.
- **School attendance:** It looks at the population which have attended, have never attended or are currently attending school disaggregated by sex, age, residence and also region.
- **Education attainment:** The discussion focuses on the highest level of education completed by persons 10 years and older by sex, age, residence and region as well the highest qualification attained and field of tertiary qualification attained.
- **Early Childhood and Care Developmental Education:** This looks at the rate of the population aged 3 to 6 years old that attend pre-school level.

1.1.3 Census as a source of data on literacy and education

The decennial population census is a major source of literacy and education information in the country. The 2017 PHC specifically defined literacy as the "ability to read and write a simple sentence with understanding in Siswati, English, Portuguese, French or any other language". This question was asked to all residents age 3 years and older in all households.

The education information was captured from residents 3 years and older in all households. The residents were asked if they were currently attending, ever attended or never attended school. The aim of the question was to ascertain the population that is accessing education or have accessed education. The level of education attained was also asked from the residents aged 10 years and above to determine the highest qualification they have attained.

1.1.4 Definitions and other concepts

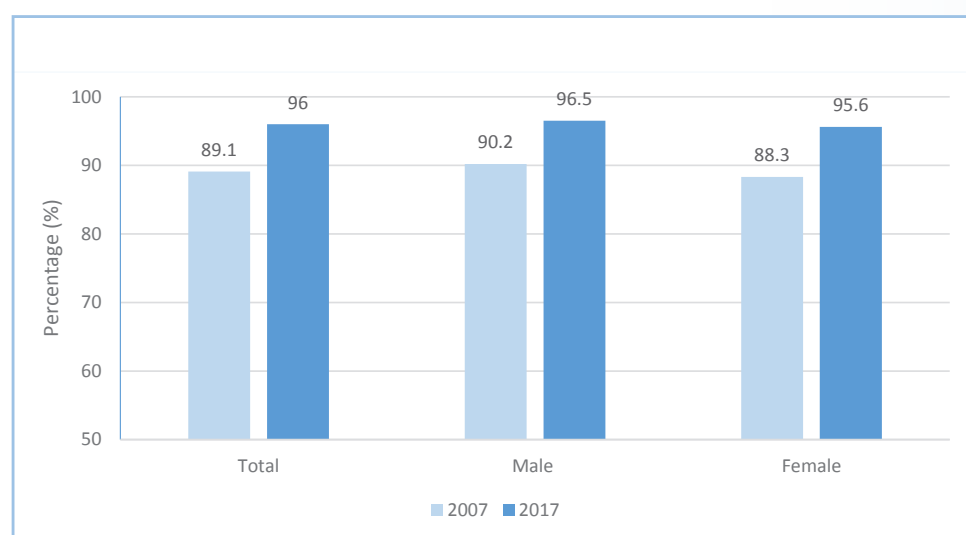
- **Literacy:** The ability to read and write a simple sentence in any language with understanding.
- **Formal education:** An official, structured, organised learning by public institutions or recognised private institutions. Formal education is usually organised as a full – time, continuous process with defined stages. Formal education encompasses primary, lower and upper secondary education, higher and university education that culminate in the achievement of a degree or a professional qualification or diploma or a recognised certification as well as adult education programmes.
- **Non-formal Education:** Education that is institutionalized, intentional and planned by an education provider. The defining characteristic of non-formal education is that it is an addition, alternative and/or a complement to formal education within the process of the lifelong learning of individuals.

1.2 Literacy

1.2.1 Literacy rates by sex

The literacy rate of Eswatini has increased from 89.1 percent in 2007 to 96 percent in 2017. The increase is suggesting that the policies and programmes that the education sector has been implementing which are outlined in the Education Sector Policy of 2011 and National Education Improvement Plan. A significant increase is observed in the literacy rates for females in 2017 compared to 2007 literacy rates (from 88.3 percent to 95.6 percent). The percentage of literate males also increased over the decade, from 90.2 percent to 96.5 percent. There are still more literate males than females but the gap has decreased by a percentage point over time whereby there were 1.9 percent more males literate in 2007 and 0.9 percent more literate males in 2017. Figure 1.2.1 below shows the percentage distribution of literacy rates of the country by sex in 2017.

Figure 1.2.1: Percentage distribution of literacy rates by sex, 2007 and 2017



1.2.2 Trends in the Literacy rate

Table 1.2.1 below shows literacy trends from the year 1997 to 2017. It can be observed from the table that there has been an increase in literacy rates over the past 20 years in the country. In 1997, the total literacy rate was 81.3 percent and it increased to 89.1 percent in 2007. A further increase of 7.1 percent was observed in 2017. The overall increase in literacy rates in the last two decades is estimated at 14.9 percent, and the increase is slightly higher in females at 15.4 percent than in males at 13.9 percent. The gap between male and female literacy rates is also narrowing down. The gap between male and female literacy has reduced from 1.9 percentage points in 2007 to 0.9 percentage points.

Table 1.2.1: Literacy rates by sex over the past three decades

Year	Total	Male	Female
1997	81.3	82.6	80.2
2007	89.1	90.2	88.3
2017	96.0	96.5	95.6

1.2.3 Literacy rate by Residence and Region

Table 1.2.2 depicts literacy rates for the population aged 10 years and above residing in urban and rural areas and in different regions. Urban residents are more literate than rural residents with a literacy rate of 99.5 percent while rural literacy stands at 95.0 percent. Over the last decade, literacy rates in the rural areas have not shown an increase or improvements.

For the 2017 PHC, literacy rates amongst all regions are above 93 percent with Manzini region maintaining the highest rate at 97.2 percent and Shiselweni region having the lowest rate of 93.8 percent. The table below also shows that the literacy rates for Lubombo region in 2017 has improved more than that of Shiselweni region, yet in the past two census years (1997 and 2007) Lubombo literacy was the least amongst the regions. The literacy rates for 2017 in all the regions show a commendable increase but caution should be taken when implementing programmes in all the regions such that they all benefit equally.

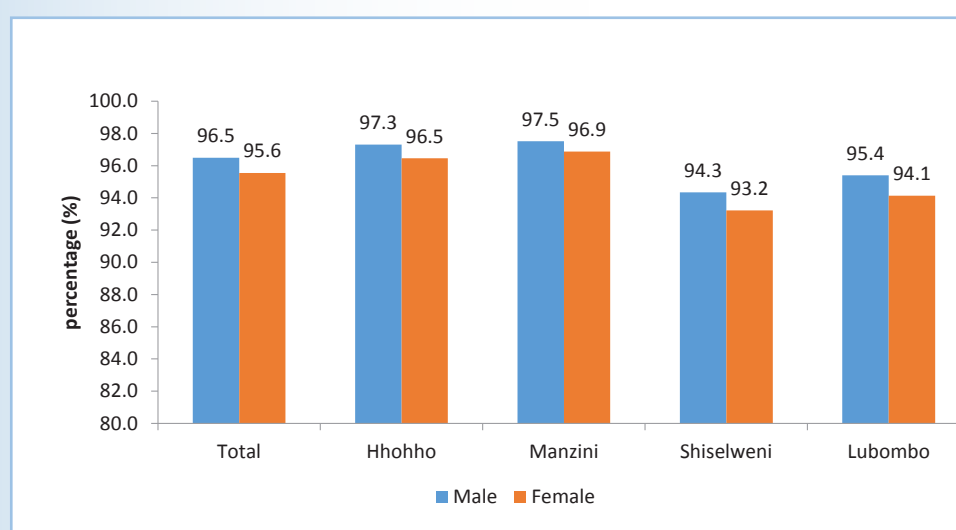
Table 1.2.2: Literacy rate by Residence and Region

Residence	Year		
	1997	2007	2017
Urban	90.0	87.8	99.5
Rural	78.3	95.6	95.0
Hhohho	82.2	89.3	96.9
Manzini	87.2	93.5	97.2
Shiselweni	79.8	88.4	93.8
Lubombo	73.1	82.8	94.8
Total	81.3	89.1	96.0

1.2.4 Literacy rates by Region according to Sex

In general males are more literate than females as shown in Figure 1.2.2 below and such pattern is observed in all the regions. Manzini and Hhohho regions have literacy rates above the country's literacy rates, while Lubombo and Shiselweni regions recorded below the rates and this is true for both sexes.

Figure 1.2.2 Percent Distribution of Literate Persons age 10 years and older by region and sex, 2017



1.2.5 Age Specific Literacy Rates by region

There are minor differences in literacy rate by age group especially for the population aged 10 to 39 year old which is above 95 percent. Table 1.2.3 below shows that as the population gets older, the rate decreases from ages 20 years and above. The age group 15 – 19 years shows a higher literacy rate across all the regions compared to the other age groups. The age groups 60 years and above have the lowest literacy rate compared to the other age groups

Table 1.2.3 Percent distribution of literate persons age 10 years and older according to age and region, 2017

Age group	Total population	Total	Hhohho	Manzini	Shiselweni	Lubombo
10- 14	125,512	98.5	98.9	98.7	97.5	98.5
15- 19	119,255	99.2	99.4	99.4	98.9	99.1
20- 24	105,325	98.9	99.3	99.0	98.4	98.5
25- 29	95,048	98.3	98.7	98.7	97.3	97.3
30- 34	84,280	97.6	98.2	98.5	95.9	96.0
35- 39	65,057	97.1	97.7	98.3	95.2	95.4
40- 44	47,843	96.3	97.0	97.6	93.8	94.6
45- 49	39,235	95.1	96.2	97.0	92.7	91.9
50- 54	30,464	92.8	94.0	95.1	89.7	90.2
55- 59	25,265	90.8	92.8	93.7	87.5	86.9
60- 64	19,917	87.1	89.9	90.5	81.6	83.4
65+	74,704	72.6	78.9	76.6	67.6	72.9
Age not stated	4,994	93.7	94.2	97.2	91.3	89.3
Total	836,899	96	96.9	97.2	93.7	94.8

1.2.6 Literacy rates by Age according to language

A majority (73.3 percent) of the Eswatini population can read and write with understanding a simple sentence in both Siswati and English and only 18.2 percent can do so in Siswati only. Only 1 percent can read and write in any other language, excluding the Eswatini official languages (English and Siswati). “Other language” includes French, Portuguese and any other language. More females (at 21.1 percent) than males (at 15.2 percent) can only read and write in Siswati language only while when considering the two official languages more males at 73.8 percent can read and write a simple sentence in both languages compared to the 72.7 percent females. For rural residence, a higher proportions can read and write in Siswati only at 23.0 percent compared to population in the urban area at 14.6 percent. A higher population in the urban area (3.6 percent) can read and write English only compared to population in the rural area (0.3 percent). Table 1.2.4 shows the percentage distribution of literate persons 10 years and older by age and languages.

Table 1.2.4: Percentage distribution of literate persons 10 years and older by age, sex, residence and language, 2017

Age group	Siswati	English	Siswati and English	Other Language
10- 14	22.9	0.7	74.6	0.2
15- 19	10.6	0.7	87.6	0.4
20- 24	11.3	0.6	86.3	0.6
25- 29	14.0	0.9	82.5	0.8
30- 34	17.3	1.1	78.3	0.8
35- 39	19.1	1.5	75.6	0.9
40- 44	22.6	1.7	71.1	0.8
45- 49	27.5	1.8	65.0	0.7
50- 54	31.6	1.5	59.0	0.8
55- 59	36.8	1.4	51.8	0.8
60- 64	40.4	1.6	44.1	1.0
65+	48.7	1.2	25.5	1.1
Total				
Sex				
Male	15.2	1.2	73.8	1.2
Female	21.1	0.9	72.7	0.9
Residence				
Urban	14.6	3.6	78.4	2.4
Rural	23.0	0.3	71.0	0.7

1.3 Formal Education

1.3.1 School attendance by Urban- Rural Residence and Region

The 2017 PHC examined whether those 5 years and older had never attended, once attended or were currently attending school. About one in twelve people in the Kingdom of Eswatini have never attended school (11.5 percent) with a higher percentage being males at 11.6 percent compared to 11.4 percent for females. A third of the population is currently attending school (at 30.3 percent) with females being a majority at 31.6 percent compared to their male counterparts at 29.1 percent. A majority of the population has once attended school at 58.2 percent. A comparison by region shows that a higher rate of those who never attended school are found in the Lubombo region at 17.3 percent, and those who have ever attended school are in the Manzini region at 64 percent and for those currently attending are in the Shiselweni region at 33.8 percent compared to the other regions. Table 1.3.1 shows the percent distribution of school attendance for persons 5 years and older by residence and region.

Table 1.3.1: Percent distribution of school attendance for persons 5 years and older by urban-rural residence and region, 2017

Residence	Has never attended			Has ever attended			Is currently attending		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Urban	13.2	13.4	12.9	53.7	55.2	52.0	33.2	31.4	35.1
Rural	6.2	5.5	6.9	72.9	73.2	72.6	21.0	21.3	20.6
Region									
Hhohho	10.6	10.8	10.5	58.2	58.9	57.5	31.1	30.3	32.1
Manzini	7.9	7.9	8.0	64.0	65.1	62.9	28.0	27.0	29.1
Shiselweni	13.3	13.2	13.4	52.9	55.5	49.9	33.8	31.3	36.8
Lubombo	17.0	17.3	16.8	53.7	54.1	53.2	29.3	28.6	30.0
Total	11.5	11.6	11.4	58.2	59.4	57.0	30.3	29.1	31.6

1.3.2 Age specific school attendance

A close observation of school attendance by specific age groups reveals that over 75 percent males and females aged 5-14 years are still attending school, while in the ages 20 -54 years more than 80 percent have ever attended school. For the ages 65 years and older, over 30 percent have never attended school. The older the population becomes, the higher the number of those who never attended school and the younger the population the higher the number of those who have ever attended school as well as those who are still attending school. This is shown in Table 1.3.2 below.

Table 1.3.2 Age Specific School Attendance by sex, 2017

Age group	Has never attended			Has ever attended			Currently attending		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
5 – 9	7.7	7.3	8.0	16.6	16.9	16.4	75.7	75.8	75.6
10 - 14	1.2	1.1	1.3	19.0	19.1	18.9	79.8	79.8	79.8
15 – 19	17.4	13.1	21.6	32.7	35.8	29.7	49.9	51.2	48.7
20 – 24	4.1	3.5	4.7	73.9	77.7	69.9	22.0	18.8	25.4
25 – 29	5.4	4.9	5.9	89.7	90.1	89.2	5.0	5.0	4.9
30 – 34	7.6	6.8	8.3	91.2	91.7	90.7	1.2	1.5	1.0
35 – 39	9.0	8.2	9.8	90.2	90.8	89.6	0.8	0.9	0.6
40 – 44	11.6	11.1	12.1	87.9	88.3	87.5	0.5	0.6	0.4
45 – 49	14.6	14.7	14.6	85.0	84.9	85.1	0.4	0.4	0.3
50 – 54	19.3	20.5	17.8	80.7	79.5	82.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
55 - 59	23.6	24.8	21.9	76.4	75.2	78.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
60 – 64	30.0	31.5	28.1	70.0	68.5	71.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
65 – 69	37.1	39.9	33.2	62.9	60.1	66.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
70 – 74	47.9	52.1	40.9	52.1	47.9	59.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
75 - 79	53.4	57.6	46.4	46.6	42.4	53.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
80 +	65.3	68.1	59.3	34.7	31.9	40.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not stated	31.0	33.2	29.0	69.0	66.8	71.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	11.5	11.6	11.4	58.2	59.4	57.0	30.3	29.1	31.6

1.4 Early Childhood Care and Developmental Education (ECCDE)

ECCDE is crucial in the learning stage of a child as it a fundamental base for not only learning but it ensures that a child is prepared mentally, intellectually, emotionally as well as socially for school attendance. In the 2017 PHC, information on ECCDE was only based on formal, registered centres and Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) and Gogo centres were not included as ECCDE institutions. The age group considered for this analysis was between 3 to 6 year olds.

1.4.1 ECCDE Differentials

Enrolment is higher in urban area by 8 percent, at 28.3 percent in urban areas when compared to rural areas at 20.3 percent. The population attending ECCDE in Manzini and Hhohho region is relatively higher at 23.1 percent and 24.4 percent respectively. Table 1.4.1 below shows the percentage distribution of ECCDE enrolments by sex, region and residence for population aged 3 to 6 years.

Table 1.4.1: Percentage distribution of ECCDE enrolments by sex, region and urban- rural residence for population aged 3 to 6 years, 2017

Sex	Male	21.9
	Female	21.7
Residence	Urban	28.3
	Rural	20.3
Region	Hhohho	24.4
	Manzini	23.1
	Shiselweni	18.5
	Lubombo	19.5
Total		21.8

1.5 Education Attainment

1.5.1 Highest level of school or literacy program attained

Of those that reported to have ever attended school, a majority of them have completed secondary or high school level at 35.4 percent compared to primary level at 24.7 percent and higher/ tertiary level at 11 percent. There are more females compared to males that have completed primary school at 27.1 and 24.7 percent respectively. On the other hand more males have completed secondary / high school levels than females at 36.9 and 33.9 percent respectively. At tertiary level the gap is less than 1 percent, with males recording 11.3 percent and females recording 10.6 percent. Shiselweni region has the highest primary level completion rate at 26.8 percent, whilst Manzini region has the highest secondary/high school level completion rate at 39.1 percent and Hhohho region has the highest rate of higher/tertiary level at 14 percent compared to the other regions. Table 1.5.1 shows the percentage distribution of 5 years and older who completed each level of school or literacy program.

Table 1.5.1 Percentage distribution of 5 years or older who completed each school level

	Primary	Secondary/ High	Tertiary
Sex			
Male	22.3	36.9	11.34
Female	27.1	33.9	10.6
Regions			
Hhohho	24.4	36.5	14.0
Manzini	24.2	39.1	12.4
Shiselweni	26.8	31.7	6.4
Lubombo	25.1	29.3	7.2
Residence			
Urban	26.6	32.3	7.3
Rural	20.6	42.6	2.5
	Primary	Secondary/High	Tertiary
Age group			
5 – 9	0.0	0.0	0.0
10 – 14	16.4	0.3	0.0
15 -19	41.6	31.4	0.1
20 -24	28.0	51.1	4.3
25 – 29	24.1	47.0	12.2
30 – 34	26.2	40.4	14.7
35 – 39	25.4	39.8	16.1
40 – 44	23.8	37.4	17.6
45 – 49	25.3	31.9	16.9
50 – 54	25.1	30.8	15.2
55 -59	24.1	25.3	15.7
60 – 64	21.4	21.8	15.1
65 – 69	21.5	16.2	10.8
70 – 74	19.2	11.4	8.3
75 – 79	18.0	10.2	6.7
80+	13.6	9.0	7.0
Not stated	23.3	30.5	5.2

1.5.2 Highest qualification attained

A majority of Eswatini population highest qualification obtained is a primary certificate (39.8 percent). The majority who hold the primary certificate reside in the rural areas (at 45.6 percent). Males with O' level certificate (29.5 percentage) and Tertiary certificate (13.3 percentage) are higher than their female counterparts who recorded 25 and 12.7 percent respectively. This is shown in Table 1.5.2 below;

Table 1.5.2 Percentage distribution of highest qualification attained for persons 10 years and above, 2017 PHC

Sex	Primary Certificate	Junior Certificate	O' Level Certificate	Tertiary (Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor, Masters and PHD)
Male	37.6	19.5	29.5	13.3
Female	41.8	20.5	25.0	12.7
Residence				
Urban	27.1	17.5	33.6	21.9
Rural	45.6	21.2	24.2	8.9
Region				
Hhohho	37.8	19.2	27.3	15.7
Manzini	35.8	19.4	30.2	14.5
Shiselweni	46.7	22.7	22.8	7.7
Lubombo	46.0	20.6	23.9	9.5
Total	39.8	20.1	27.1	13.0

1.5.3 Highest qualification by field of study

The 2017 PHC only considered population aged 15 years and above for the highest qualification attained by the field of study. The field of study were categorised according to international set standard by the United Nations. Table 1.5.3 shows that there is still gender imbalances for certain field of study, which include: engineering, manufacturing and construction whereby it is dominated by males at 20.4 percent compared to the 2.2 percent of their female counterparts. This trend is observed in the Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary field of study, which has more males at 5.4 percent than females at 1.8 percent. The health and welfare field of study has more females at 11.6 percent compared to males at 6.2 percent. This trend is also observed in the education field whereby there are 31.1 percent females compared to 20.1 percent males. The population residing in urban areas is more qualified in the different fields of studies except for Education; and the population residing in rural areas is more qualified in Agriculture, forestry fisheries and veterinary and generic programmes and qualification.

Table 1.5.3. Highest qualification by field of study, sex, residence, 2017

Field of study	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	Total
Generic Programmes and Qualifications	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.3
Education	20.1	31.0	17.6	34.7	25.7
Arts and Humanities	5.3	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.8
Social Sciences, Journalism, Information	4.6	5.2	5.7	4.1	4.9
Business, Administration and Law	17.9	24.6	26.1	16.1	21.4
Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics	3.6	3.6	4.2	2.9	3.6
Information and Communication Technologies	9.3	6.4	8.6	7.0	7.8
Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction	20.4	2.2	12.0	9.9	11.0
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary	5.4	1.8	2.9	4.3	3.6
Health and Welfare	6.2	11.6	10.4	7.5	9.0
Services	4.3	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.6
Not stated	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.7	1.4

1.6 Conclusions and Recommendation

The literacy rates in Eswatini are high, almost 96 in 100 persons can read and write a simple sentence with understanding in any language. Men are more literate than women. There is a relationship between literacy rates and age, the older the population, the less literate.

Four out of ten Emaswati have attained primary certificate levels as the highest qualification. Whilst about one in five population have attained junior certificate, 27 percent have attained O' level certificate and one in ten population have attained certificates, diplomas, masters and Ph.D.

There are methodological limitations that are to be taken into consideration when dealing with literacy information as obtained from the census. A practical test in a form of a short sentence with language of choice is supposed to be given to eligible respondents to read. The test ensures that the data captured is correct and reliable as the enumerator records observed information about the respondent instead of relying on what they are told regarding their ability to read and write. However, in the 2017 PHC there was no practical test given to respondents, therefore the data that is available is dependent only on the response provided by the informant.

CHAPTER 2 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 General relevance of economic activity and labour force

Employment and job creation are essential for economic development and poverty reduction of a country. The main objective of collecting such data is to help planners and policy makers in understanding the characteristics, structure and the size of the labour force in the country. Moreover, such information helps in formulating and evaluating macro-economic policies in the economy. The economic activity is mainly analyzed at the macro level to assist planners to design area specific intervention programmes geared towards achieving desired goals leading to economic growth. The data is disaggregated by age, sex, residence, occupation and industry.

2.1.2 Brief overview of contents of the chapter

This chapter gives detailed analysis of both the economically active and economically inactive population of the kingdom of Eswatini aged 15 years and over by age, sex and regions. In addition, this analysis the details of the employed, unemployed and economically inactive by analyzing the labour force participation rates, characteristics of the employed and unemployed population of the country.

2.1.3 Census as source of data of economic activity

There are a lot of sources of data on economic activity and labour force in the country, some of which are: Decennial Population and Housing Census, the Annual Employment and Wages Survey, the Household Income and Expenditure Survey and the Integrated Labour Force Survey. The PHC provides the benchmark data on economic activity in the country. Thus, this economic information is then supplemented by the other sources in order to get a clear picture of the economic activity in the country, for example the Integrated Labour Force Survey provides a detailed analysis of the economic activity. The new International Labour Organization's concepts on economic activity is used in the analysis of the 2017 PHC.

Information on occupation was collected for the employed population and are classified at ISCO-08 level 1. Based on the similarity between the economic activities, they are grouped into a classification structure. In the 2017 PHC, the International Standard Industrial Classification of all economic activities (ISIC), review 4 was used. For this analysis, these groups were further summarized into broad industry classification as follows: Agriculture (ISIC A), Industry (ISIC Groups B – D) and Services (ISIC Groups E to U).

2.1.4 Definitions and other concepts

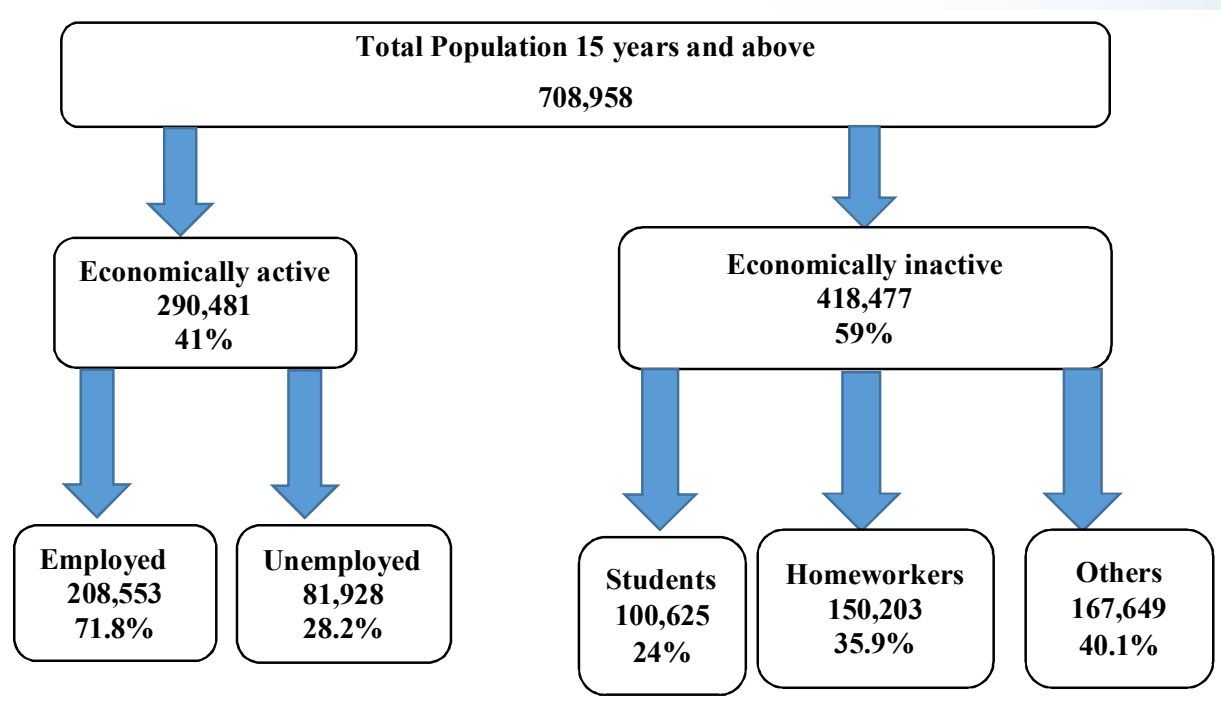
- **Employed population:** all persons in the working age population who, during a specified short reference period of one week, performed some work for pay (pay can be in cash or in kind) or for profit.
- **Unemployed population:** all persons in the working age population who during the reference period were searching and available for employment.
- **Economically active:** persons who participate in the labour market that is they are employed or unemployed.
- **Economically inactive:** persons who are not employed and they are not searching and not available for work. Sometimes we refer to them as outside labour force. They mainly, constitute full time students, retired individuals and homeworkers.
- **Occupation:** the kind of work an individual does irrespective of the qualification or place of work.
- **Industry:** The industry associated with a person in a job is determined by the economic activities (goods or services produced) in the establishment where the job is located.

2.2 Working Age Population Framework

The following Figure 2.2.1 represents the working age population by activity status. The 2017 Population and Housing Census of Eswatini indicates that the total population aged 15 years and above is 708,958. This figure further shows that among those who are in this population 41 percent are economically active and 59 percent are economically inactive. Also, within those that are economically active, about 72 percent are employed while 28 percent are unemployed. Twenty four percent of the economically inactive persons are students while 36 percent are homeworkers and 40 percent have other reasons of being economically inactive such as the elderly, retirees,

pensioners and the disabled.

Figure 2.2.1: Population age 15 years and above by activity status, 2017



2.3 Labour force participation rates

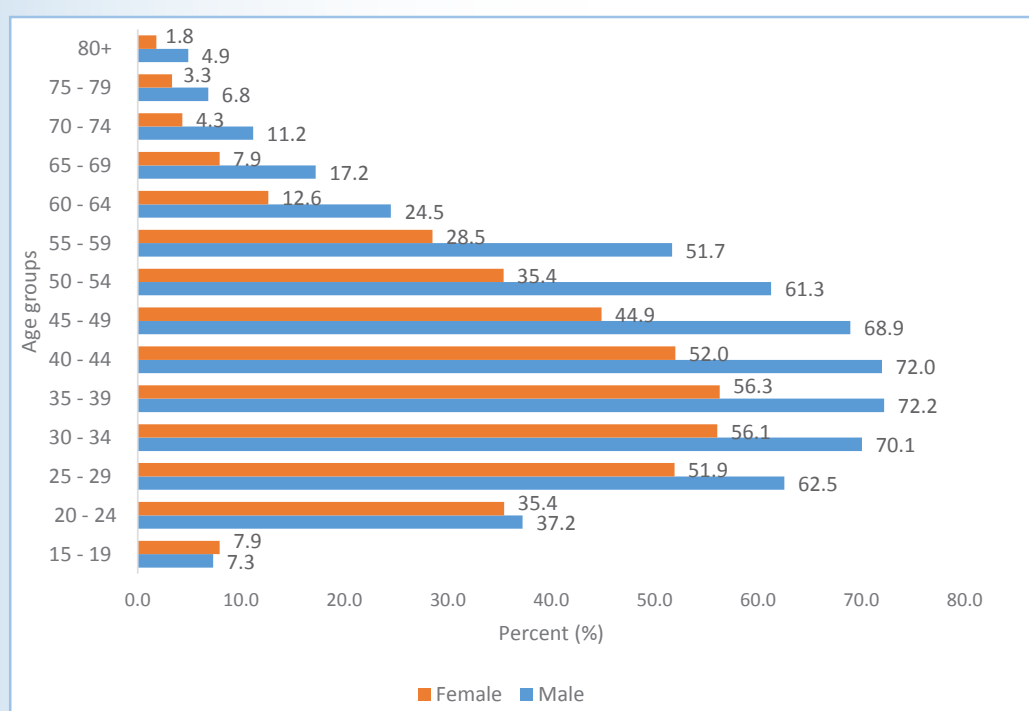
The labour force participation rate is defined as the percentage of economically active population of the working age. Table 2.3.1 below represents the labour force participation rates by rural, urban, region and sex. The labour force participation rate of the Kingdom of Eswatini has decreased from 54.4 percent in the 2007 PHC to 41 percent in the 2017 PHC. There is a significant difference in the labour force participation rates between males and females. Female labour force participation rate is about 36 percent while males labour force participation rate is about 47 percent. Female labour force participation rates are even lower than the national rate, which makes them worse off compared to males. The rural rates are much lower as they are almost half of that of the urban areas. Urban males have the highest rates as they stand at 65 percent. At regional level, Manzini has higher rates than all the other regions as its total rate is 46 percent while the Shiselweni region has the lowest rates at about 33 percent, far below the national rate.

Table 2.3.1: Labour force participation rates (%) by rural, urban, region and sex, 2017

Area	Total	Male	Female
Total	41.0	46.8	35.6
Rural	33.9	39.7	28.8
Urban	60.1	65.1	55.1
Regions			
Hhohho	42.0	47.1	37.2
Manzini	46.0	51.2	41.2
Shiselweni	32.5	36.9	28.8
Lubombo	38.3	47.4	29.7

Figure 2.3.1 below illustrates the labour force participation rate by age group and sex. Like most national rates, the Kingdom of Eswatini labour force participation rate has an inverted-U shape as seen from below. Labour force participation rates tend to be very low in the lower ages and higher at the ages above 25 years then decrease drastically at the ages of 60 and above. Generally, males always tend to have higher rates compared to females, however, the age group 15 to 19 years indicates that females have slightly higher rates than males.

Figure 2.3.1: Labour force participation rate by age group and sex, 2017



2.4 Unemployment rates

The following Table 2.4.1 below represents the unemployment rates by rural, urban, region and sex. According to the 2017 PHC, the national unemployment rate is 28.2 percent and this shows a substantial decrease from the 2007 PHC of the Kingdom of Eswatini (40.6 percent). Females have higher rates of unemployment compared to their counterparts, as it is about 32 percent, which is more than the national unemployment rate. Population living in rural areas have higher unemployment rates (38.2 percent) compared to the population living in urban areas (13 percent). The urban unemployment rate (13 percent) is almost one third of that of the rural areas. Regionally, the Lubombo is mostly affected by the problem of unemployment as its rate stands at 38 percent while the Manzini region (23 percent) is the least affected. In addition, females in the Lubombo region have much higher unemployment rates compared to all other region as it stands at 48 percent.

Table 2.4.1 Unemployment rates by rural, urban, region and sex, 2017

Area	Total	Male	Female
Total	28 .2	25 5	31. 5
Rural	38 .2	34 9	42. 3
Urban	13 .0	10 7	15. 6
Regions			
Hhohho	27 .3	24 .9	30 .2
Manzini	22 .6	20 .1	25 .4
Shiselweni	33 .9	33 .9	33 .9
Lubombo	37 .5	30 .8	47 .6

Figure 2.4.1 below is a comparison of the unemployment rates across the age groups. This graph clearly shows us that unemployment rate is very high among those who are between the ages of 15 to 24 years but as the years increase, unemployment rates drop.

Figure 2.4.1: Unemployment rate by age groups and sex, 2017

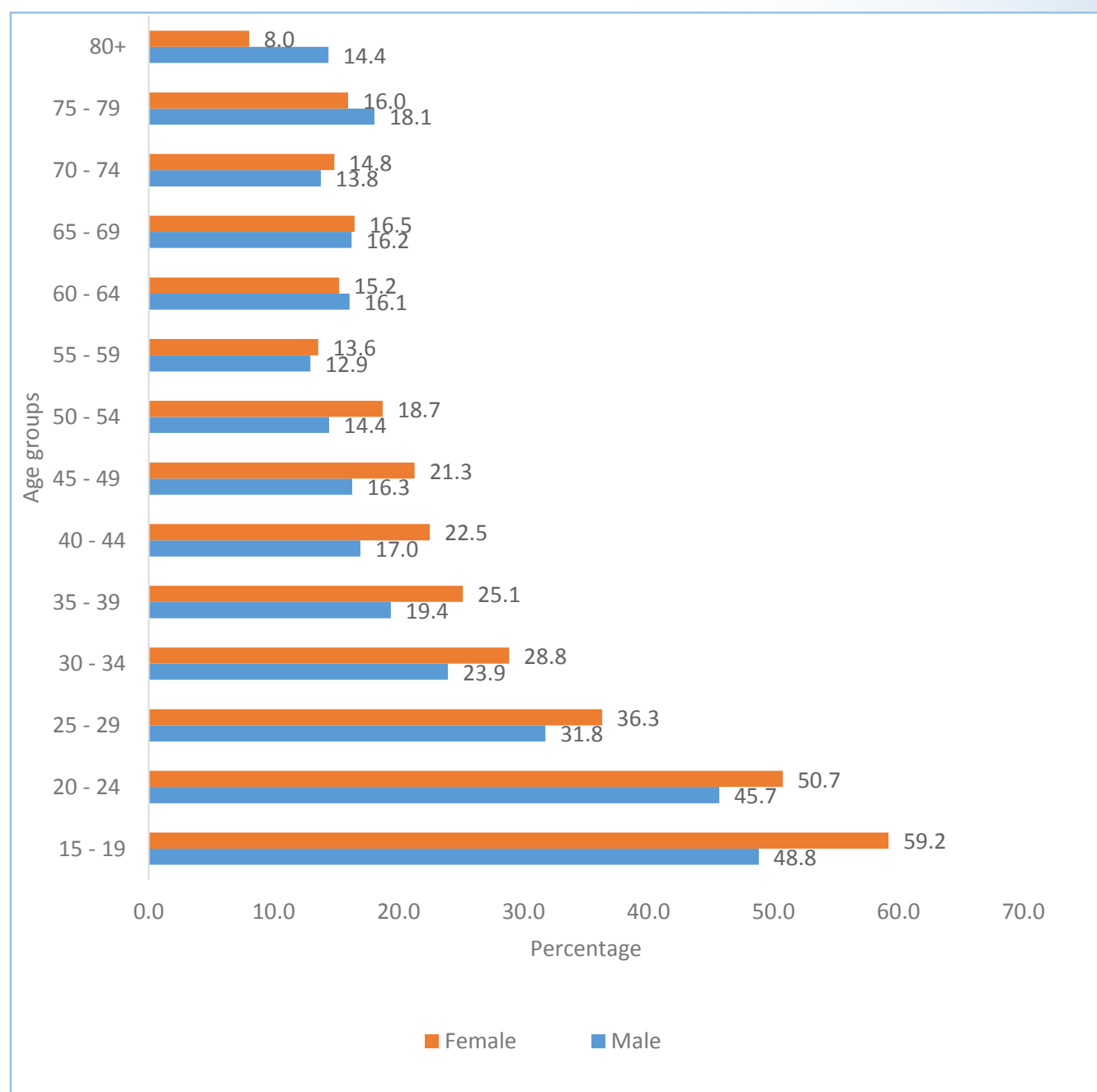


Table 2.4.2 represents unemployment rate by age groups, urban, rural and sex. The youth (age 15 to 24 years) as per the definition of the International Labour Organization has high unemployment rate. Specifically, high unemployment rate is observed in the rural area. Moreover, females living in rural areas who are in the same age group have the highest rate (65 percent) among all other age groups.

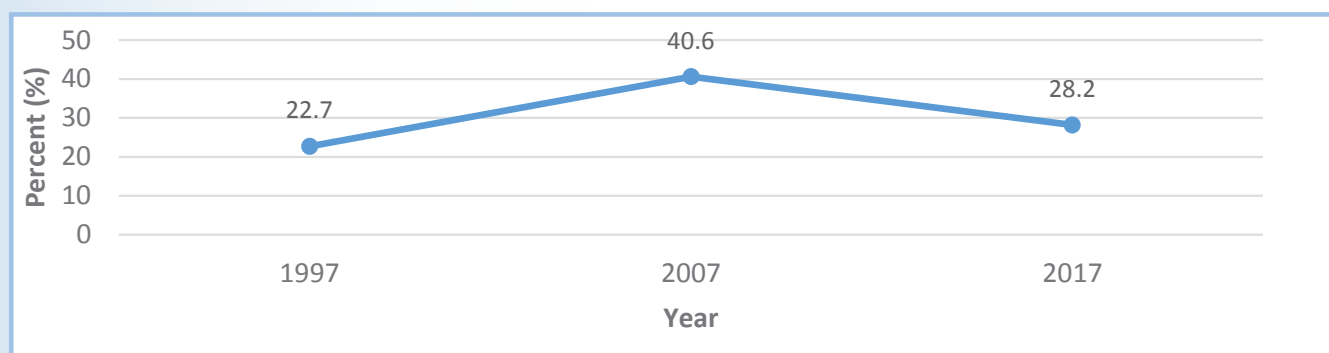
Table 2.4.2: Eswatini Unemployment rate by Age group, urban and rural and Sex

Age group	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
15 - 19	54.2	59.0	38.4	48.8	52.8	34.6	59.2	65.2	41.5
20 - 24	48.2	58.0	27.8	45.7	54.9	24.5	50.7	61.4	30.7
25 - 29	33.9	45.5	16.5	31.8	43.0	14.0	36.3	48.4	19.1
30 - 34	26.2	37.1	11.6	23.9	34.1	9.7	28.8	41.0	13.7
35 - 39	21.9	31.9	9.2	19.4	28.4	7.6	25.1	36.6	11.1
40 - 44	19.3	27.9	8.0	17.0	24.9	6.4	22.5	31.9	10.1
45 - 49	18.4	26.2	6.8	16.3	23.3	6.1	21.3	30.0	7.8
50 - 54	16.3	22.8	5.9	14.4	20.3	5.5	18.7	26.1	6.5
55 - 59	13.2	18.3	4.5	12.9	18.2	4.2	13.6	18.4	5.0
60 - 64	15.7	20.5	6.4	16.1	20.9	6.7	15.2	19.8	6.1
65 - 69	16.3	21.6	5.1	16.2	22.5	3.6	16.5	20.3	7.9
70 - 74	14.2	18.2	3.9	13.8	18.5	3.9	14.8	17.9	3.9
75 - 79	17.1	21.7	2.9	18.1	23.8	3.0	16.0	19.3	2.6
80+	11.6	14.8	1.6	14.4	19.2	0.0	8.0	9.4	3.7
Not Stated	22.6	31.7	10.5	22.4	31.6	9.5	23.0	31.8	12.0

2.5 Trends in unemployment rates

Figure 2.5.1 below illustrates the trends in unemployment rate from 1997 to 2017. The 2017 PHC estimates the level of unemployment to be 28.2 percent. This basically indicates that out of every 100 persons who are economically active, about 28 of them are searching and are available for employment. The results show that unemployment rate was 22.7 percent in 1997 PHC, and there was a very high increase to 40.6 percent in 2007 PHC and a decline is noticed in the 2017 PHC as indicated below. The high increase of unemployment rate from 1997 to 2007 maybe due to the definition of unemployment as it differs. In 1997 a person was considered to be unemployed if he/she was seeking and available for employment while in 2007 a person was considered to be unemployed if he/she was seeking and available for employment plus discouraged job seekers.

Figure 2.5.1: Trends in unemployment rates



2.6 Characteristics of the employed population

Figure 2.6.1 below shows the percentage distribution of employed persons by marital status and age group. The distribution of employed persons by marital status, age and sex shows that employed and never married male in the ages 15 to 34 years have high number compared to the other three categories (married male, never married female and married female). While at the ages 35 years and above married male have high number of employed compared to the other three categories. This might be following the population distribution by marital status hence a thorough analysis was done in the following graphs.

Figure 2.6.1 Percentage distribution of employed persons by marital status, 2017

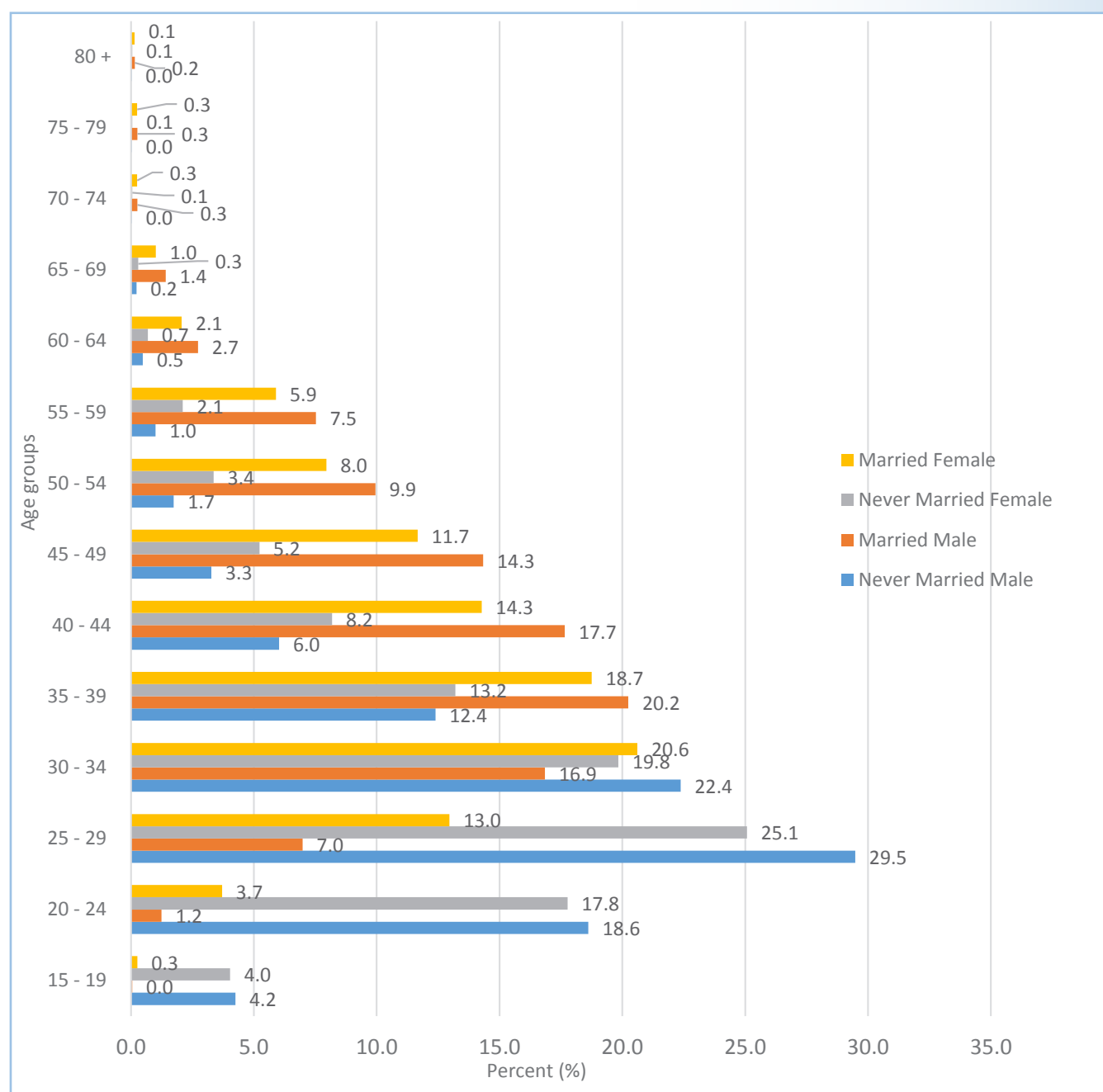


Figure 2.6.2 illustrates the percentage distribution of never married and employed persons by age group and sex. The distribution of the never married and employed persons shows that 29.5 percent of them are male and are between the ages of 25 to 29 years while never married employed females in the same age group are 25.1

percent. As expected, as the age increases the percentage of the employed who are never married decreases to almost zero percent for both males and females. From age groups 35 years to 69 years, the percentage of employed female who never married is higher than that of employed males who never married yet in the age groups less than 35 years it is vice versa.

Figure 2.6.2: Percentage distribution of never married and employed persons, 2017

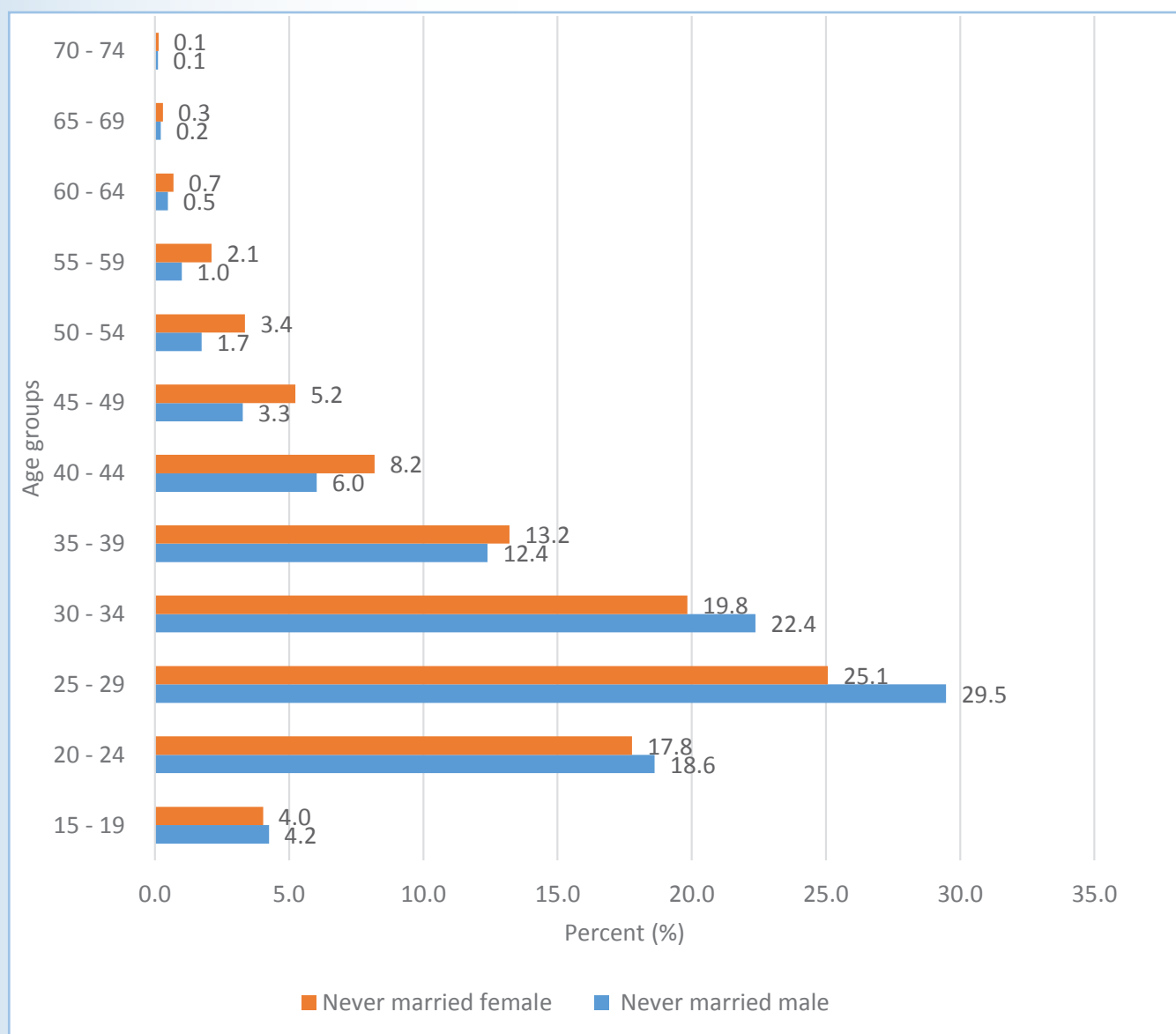


Figure 2.6.3 shows the percentage distribution of married and employed persons by age group and sex. Generally, as expected that there should be less employed married persons in the age group 15 to 19 years. Married employed female in this age group, are less than half a percent while married employed male is zero percent. The trend of employed married males reaches its climax at the age group of 35 to 39 years (20.2 percent) while in female it is at the age group of 30 to 34 years (20.6 percent).

Figure 2.6.3: Percentage distribution of married and employed persons, 2017

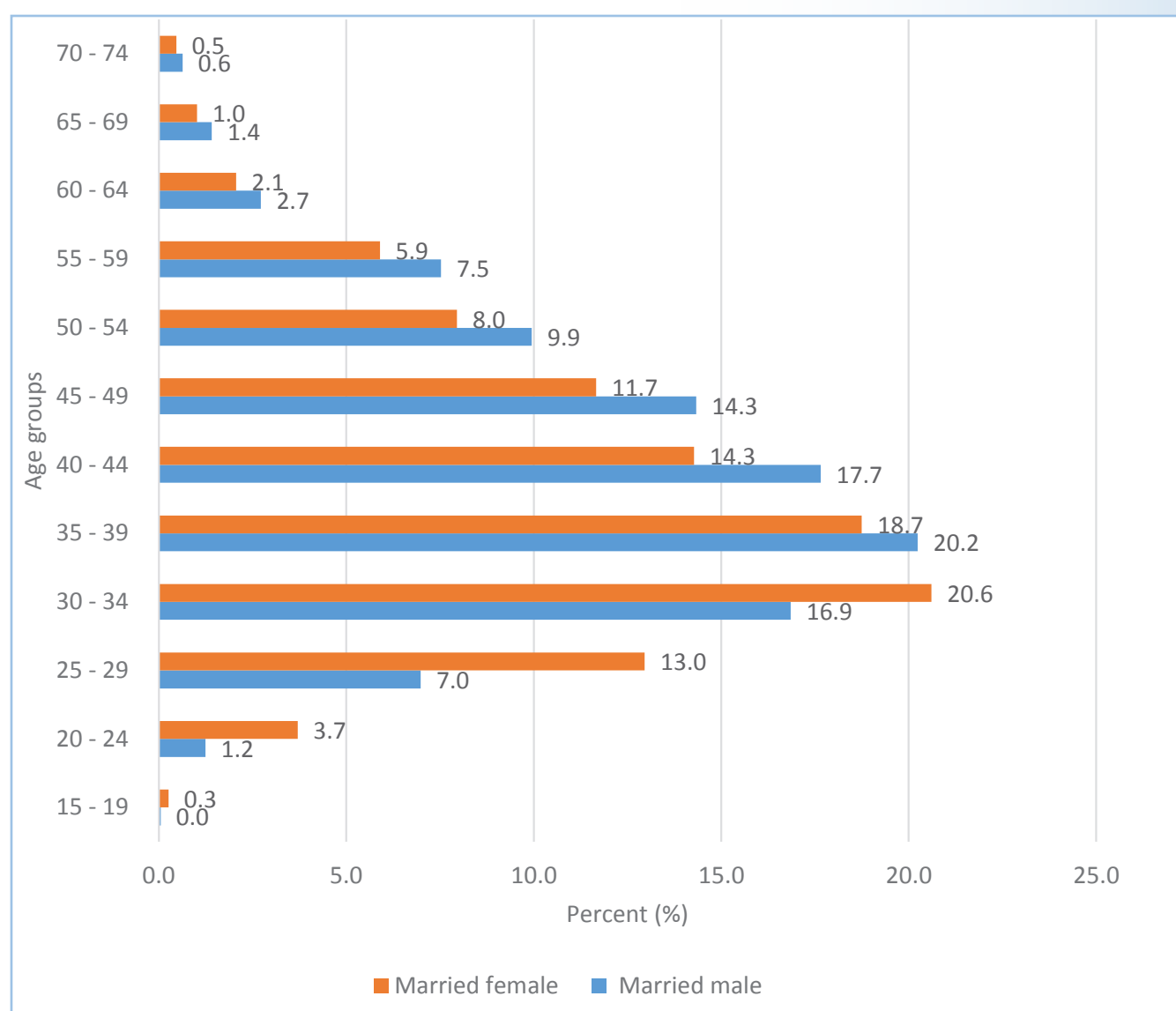


Table 2.6.1 shows the percentage distribution of employed person by occupation and sex. About 28 percent of the employed population are in elementary occupations as shown in Table 2.6.1. Professionals constitutes 16.6 percent while Technicians and associate professional workers 4.2 percent of the employed population. However, within gender in professionals, the distribution was different as 21.4 percent of the employed females are professionals while professional males are only 12.9 percent of the employed males. As expected there are less female (1.4 percent) in the category of plant and machine operators and assemblers than males (7.6 percent). The percentage of skilled males in agricultural, forestry and fishery workers is 9.9 percent, which is more than twice of that of females (3.8 percent).

Table 2.6.1: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Occupation and Sex, 2017

Occupation	Male	Female	Both sexes
Managers	2.7	2.1	2.5
Professionals	12.9	21.4	16.6
Technicians and associate professionals	5.5	2.6	4.2
Clerical support workers	3.5	6.0	4.6
Service and sales workers	17.8	21.5	19.4
Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery workers	9.9	3.8	7.2
Craft and Related Trades Workers	7.1	8.3	7.6
Plant and Machine operators and assemblers	7.6	1.4	4.9
Elementary occupations	28.5	26.6	27.7
Not Stated	4.5	6.3	5.2
All Occupations	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	118 171	90 382	208 553

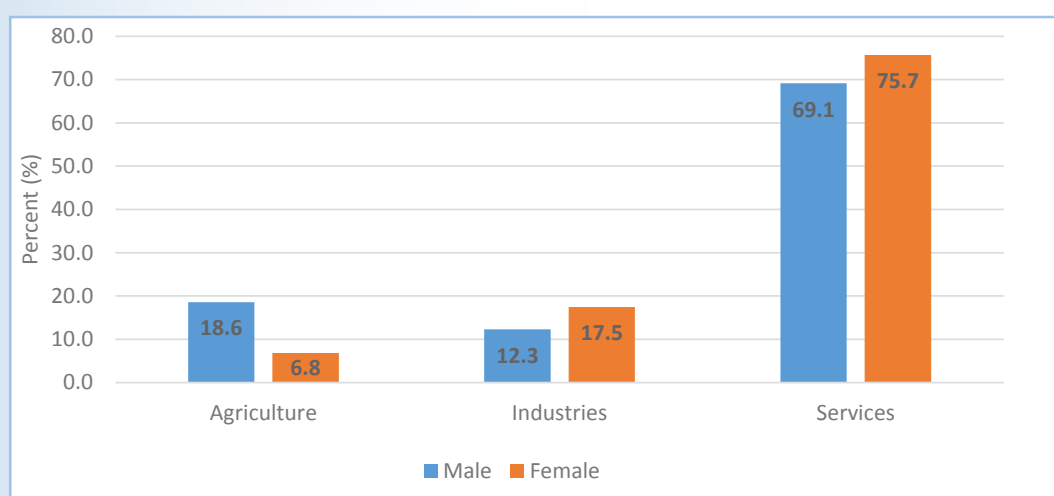
Table 2.6.2 represents percentage distribution of occupation by sex, according to urban, rural and region. The distribution of population by occupation shows that elementary occupations are prominent among both males and females in both urban and rural areas and also in the regions with the exception of Lubombo where females have slightly higher percentage in professional category. As expected, the Lubombo region is known as the sugar belt which is where most sugar cane is grown, skilled agricultural workers are prominent in males (20.4 percent) in this region.

Table 2.6.2: Percentage Distribution of Occupation by Sex, According to Urban, Rural and Region, 2017

Occupation	Total		Urban		Rural		Hhohho		Manzini		Shiselweni		Lubombo	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Managers	2.7	2.1	2.1	1.6	3.3	2.7	3.4	2.8	2.6	2.1	1.7	1.0	2.4	2.0
Professionals	12.9	21.4	11.8	20.3	14.3	22.4	14.4	23.6	13.1	20.6	13.7	17.6	9.6	22.9
Technician & Ass. Professional	5.5	2.6	4.4	2.2	6.7	3.0	6.3	3.4	5.9	2.6	3.1	1.2	4.9	2.2
Clerks	3.5	6.0	3.8	5.7	3.1	6.3	3.7	6.5	3.4	5.8	3.1	4.0	3.5	7.7
Service & sale	17.8	21.5	16.3	20.6	19.5	22.5	17.0	21.5	20.8	22.7	16.8	19.7	13.4	20.0
Skilled agric.	9.9	3.8	11.1	4.9	8.5	2.7	7.4	3.0	6.8	2.9	10.6	4.5	20.4	8.4
Craft & trade	7.1	8.3	7.0	7.9	7.3	8.7	6.4	4.2	8.7	11.1	8.5	12.9	3.9	3.1
Plant & Mach.	7.6	1.4	7.6	0.9	7.6	2.0	6.3	0.8	7.0	1.8	6.0	1.4	12.5	1.6
Elementary	28.5	26.6	29.6	26.4	27.2	26.9	30.5	28.9	28.5	25.9	28.5	27.6	25.0	22.0
Not Stated	4.5	6.3	6.3	9.6	2.4	2.9	4.5	5.2	3.3	4.7	8.0	10.1	4.5	10.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	118171	90382	62977	45448	55194	44934	36507	28149	46630	38604	13854	13040	21180	10589

Figure 2.6.4 below represents the percentage distribution of employed persons by major industry and sex. The employment intensive industry in services, especially in the employment of females who make up 75.7 percent while males constitutes 69.1 percent. Agriculture is yet to feature as an important industry for males (18.6 percent). However, the percentage of males employed in this industry are more than twice to that of females. There are more females (17.5 percent) employed in industries compared to males (12.3 percent).

Figure 2.6.4: Percentage distribution of employed persons by major industry and sex, Eswatini, 2017



2.7 Characteristics of the unemployed persons

Figure 2.7.1 below represents the distribution of unemployed persons by marital status, sex and age group. This distribution shows that unemployed and never married female in the ages 15 to 29 years have high number compared to the other three categories. At age group 30 to 34 years unemployed and married female have high number while at the ages of 35 years and the above unemployed and married male remain higher.

Figure 2.7.1: Percentage distribution of unemployed persons by marital status, sex and age group Eswatini, 2017

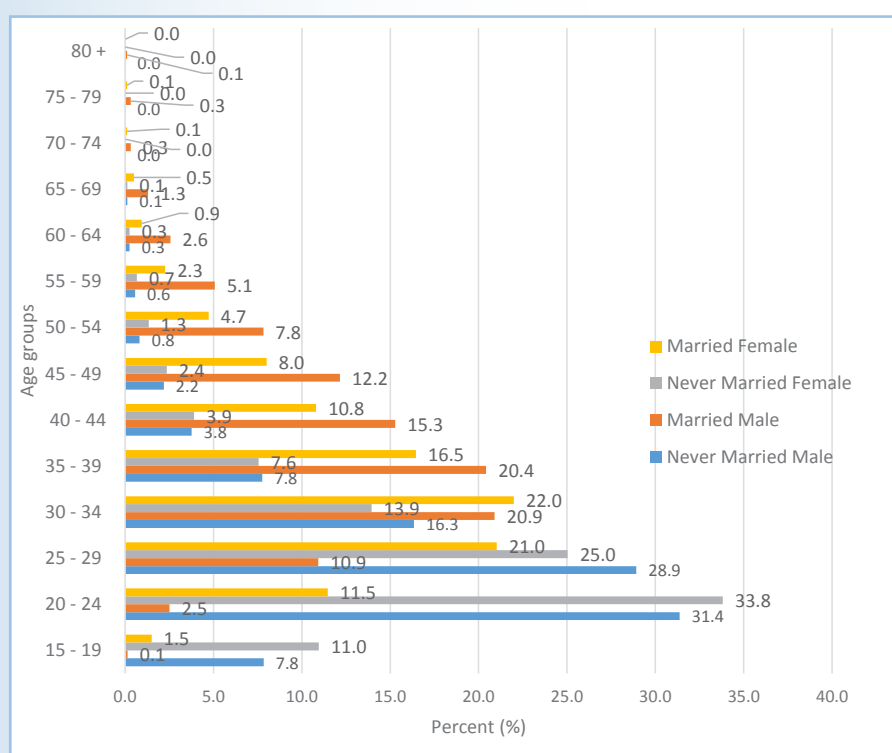


Figure 2.7.2 below represents the percentage distribution of married and unemployed persons by age group and sex. The distribution of unemployed married persons is high among the younger ages below 35 years especially married females. Unemployed and married male are higher compared to married female in the ages of 35 years and above.

Figure 2.7.2: Percentage distribution of married and unemployed persons by age group and sex, 2017

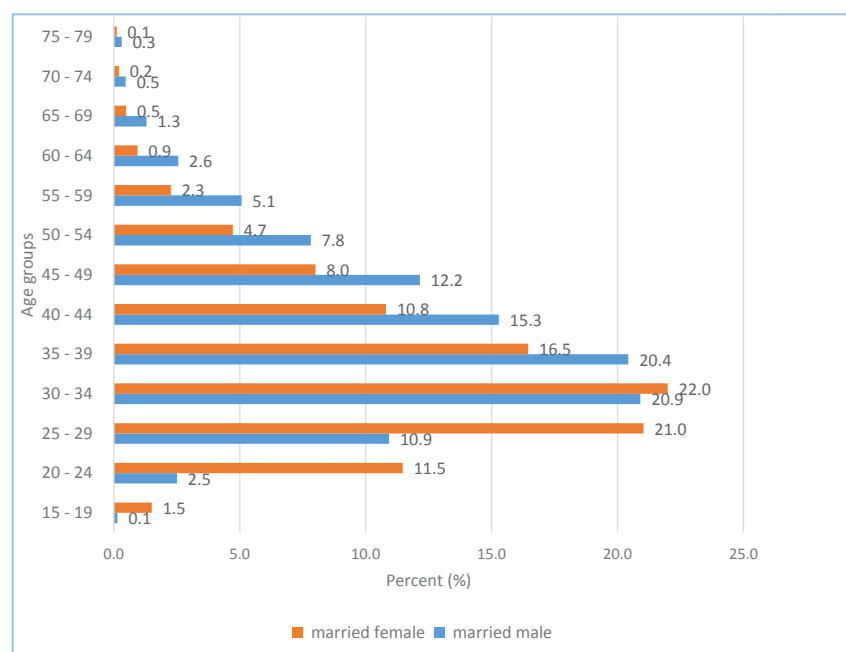


Figure 2.7.3 below shows the percentage distribution of married and unemployed persons by age group and sex. Among the unemployed population, never married females in the age group of 20 to 24 years constitute 33.8 percent of the total never married unemployed female population whereas the comparative figure for males is 31.4 percent. The result indicates that never married population in the age group of 20 to 24 years are the people who are mostly in need of employment followed by those in the age group of 25 to 29 years.

Figure 2.7.3 Percentage distribution of never married and unemployed persons by age group and sex, 2017

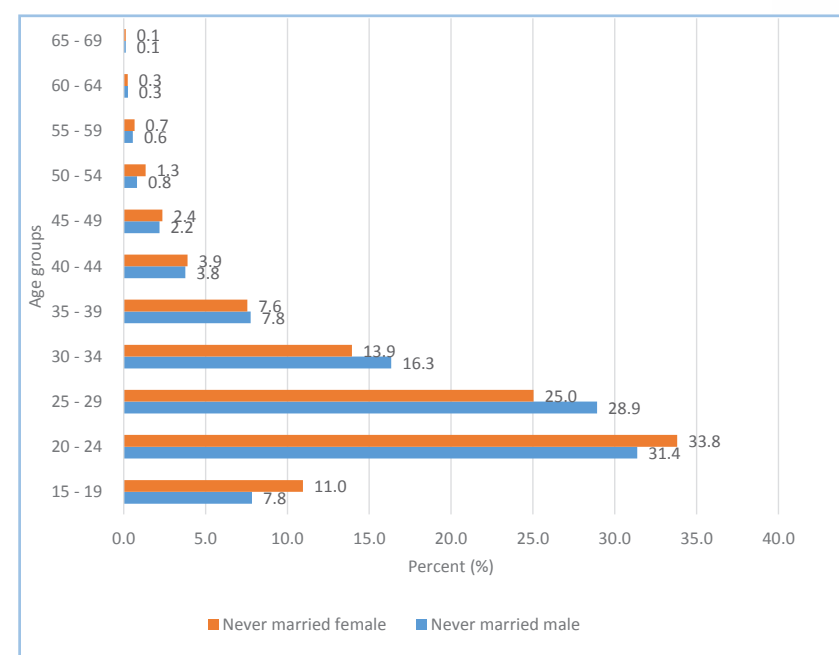
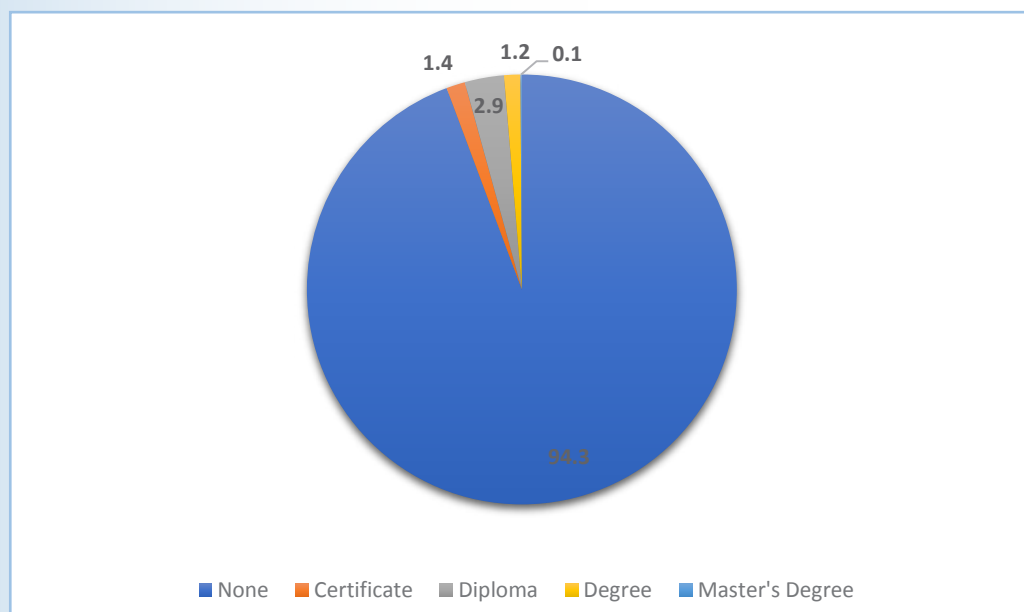


Figure 2.7.4 below represents the level of qualification possessed by those who are unemployed. In all countries, human resources represent, directly or indirectly, the most valuable and productive resource; countries traditionally depend on the health, strength and basic skills of their workers to produce goods and services for consumption and trade. About 3 percent of the unemployed population have Diploma certificates while 1.2 percent of the unemployed have Degrees. A larger share of the unemployed have no qualification (94.3 percent) as shown in Figure 2.7.3 below. These statistics indicates that there is a usage of high level of qualification because as the level goes up the lesser the unemployed.

Figure 2.7.4: Percentage distribution of unemployed persons by level of qualification, 2017



2.8 Characteristics of the economically inactive persons

Figure 2.8.1 shows the percentage distribution of economically inactive persons by primary reasons and sex. The highest proportion of inactive females (45 percent) reported household work as their primary reason of being outside the labour force while the highest proportion of inactive males (30.9 percent) reported studying (full-time students) as their primary reason of inactive. Inactive males who mentioned production of goods for own final use as their primary reason were 17.7 percent of the economically inactive males while among females the corresponding percentage was 16.3 percent. The other types of economically inactive persons were pensioner or retired or elderly, ill or disabled, too young to work and other unspecified.

Figure 2.8.1: Percentage distribution of economically inactive persons by primary reasons and sex, 2017

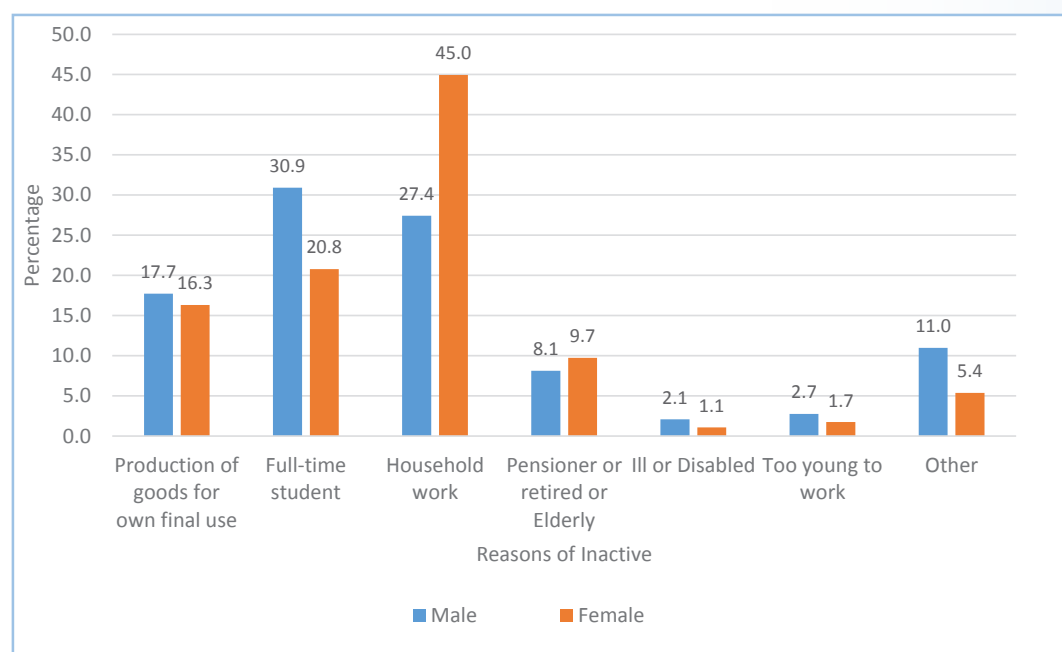
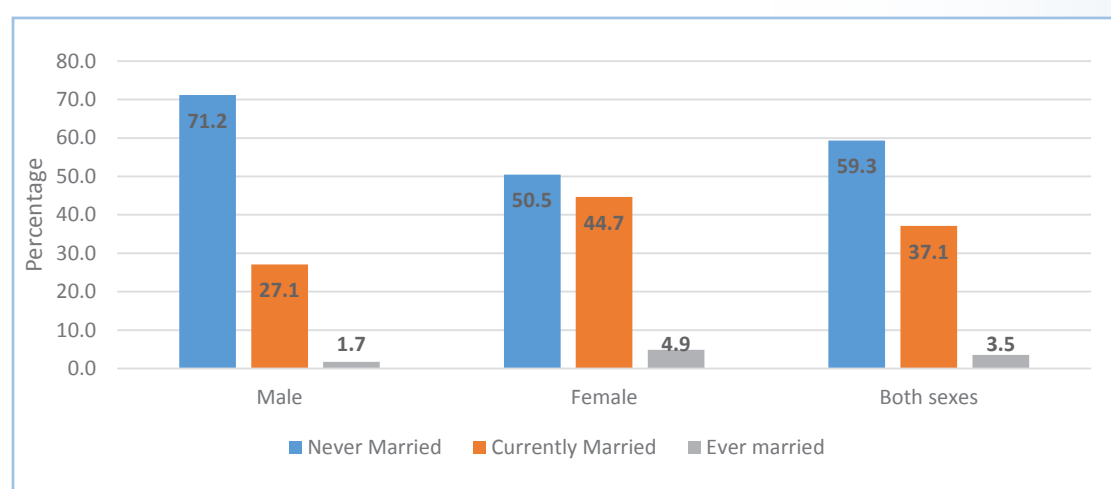


Figure 2.8.2 below shows the percentage distribution of the economically inactive population by marital status and sex. Among the economically inactive the largest proportion is of those that are never married (59.3 percent) while ever married has the least (3.5 percent). Inactive males that constitutes the highest percentage are those that are never married (71.2 percent) which is also the same in females (59.3 percent). 44.7 percent of female economically inactive are currently married while in males it is 27.1 percent.

Figure 2.8.2: Percentage distribution of inactive population by marital status and sex, 2017



2.9 Conclusion and recommendations for the next census

Data on economic activity for Eswatini from the 2017 PHC show that about 64.8 percent of the total population is in the age group 15 years and above. The economically active population constitutes 41 percent of persons aged 15 years and above. Of the economically active population, 28.2 percent are unemployed and 71.8 percent are employed. Most of the employed are in elementary occupations (27.2 percent). To be engaged in household work was cited as the major reason of being economically inactive among those who are outside labour force. About 18 percent of the inactive males and 16.3 percent of the inactive females are engaged in production of goods for own final use. This category although economically inactive is engaged in production of goods for final use.

CHAPTER 3 YOUTH

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 General relevance of the study of youth in a population

The population of Eswatini is generally young as confirmed by the median age of the population which currently stands at 21.7 years. Young people aged 15-35 years make up over 70 percent of the total population and are therefore a majority in the entire population. As such, young people ought to be studied as a separate group to better understand their demographic and socio-economic profiles and to optimize Eswatini's potential to harness the demographic dividend due to the changing age structure of the population of Eswatini. Therefore, the study of young people as a special group could not have been more significant.

3.1.2 Brief overview of contents of the chapter

This chapter starts off by highlighting the relevance of the study of young people in the country. This is followed by the demographic and socio-economic profile of young people age 15 to 35 years by their sex groupings is presented next. The profile covers the spread or distribution of young people in the four regions of Eswatini, examines their human capital development in terms of educational attainment and their employment opportunities.

The chapter specifically focuses on all persons aged 15 to 35 years. As much as possible, the report breaks down the broad age category of 15 to 35 years to 15-19, 20-24, 25-29 and 30-35 to accommodate the conventional definition which uses the classification of 15-24 years as a definition for young people.

3.1.3 Census as a source of data on youth

The power of the census as a rich source of demographic and socio-economic data, stems from its ability to enumerate everyone in the population, therefore making it possible to study special groups, at whatever level of disaggregation and in greater detail. It is only the census that can, for example, map out the educational qualifications of young people, in a particular area with the highest level of precision.

3.1.4 Definitions and other Concepts

- **Young people:** Eswatini Youth Policy defines young people as all persons aged 15 to 35 years. This definition is aligned to the definition of the African Youth Charter.
- **Demographic dividend (DD):** Refers to the economic benefit arising from a significant increase in the ratio of working-aged adults relative to young dependents.
- **Sex ratio:** This is the ratio of males to females in a given population, usually expressed as the number of males for every 100 females.
- **Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET):** The proportion of young people age 15 to 35 who are not in education, not in employment and not in training.
- **Literacy:** The ability to read and write a sentence in any language with understanding.
- **Employed youth:** The population age 15-35 years who, during a specified short reference period of one week, performed some work for pay or for profit.
- **Unemployed youth:** The population age (15-35 years) who, during the reference period were actively searching and available for employment.
- **Economically active:** Persons who participate in the labour market and they are either employed or unemployed.
- **Economically inactive:** Persons who are neither employed nor unemployed. These categories of persons are not available for work and not looking for work and are therefore not part of the labour force. They mainly consist of homeworkers, students and retired individuals.
- **Labour force participation rate:** The proportion of the economically active population in a given population group to the total population in that same population group.

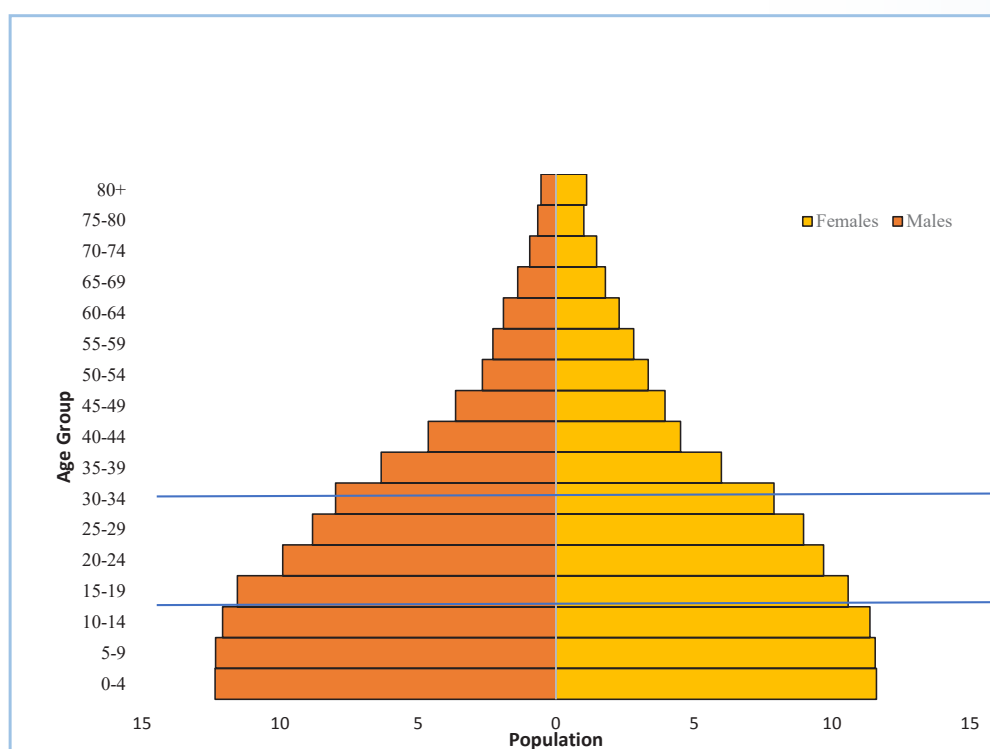
The labour framework for people aged 15 years and above has already been shared in a previous chapter. The framework presented in this chapter specifically focuses on the youth population age 15-35 years.

3.2 Distribution of young people

3.2.1 The share of young people in the total population

The population of Eswatini is typically young, with its median age at 21.7 years. Figure 3.2.1 below shows that the population is largely dominated by children and young people. The share of the population of young people in the entire population is 37.5 percent.

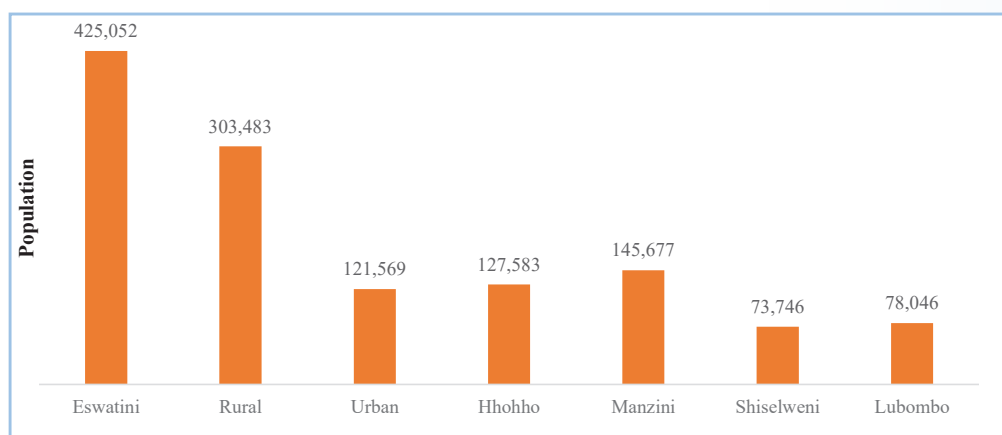
Figure 3.2.1: The population pyramid of, 2017



3.2.2 Population size and the geographic spread of young people

Figure 3.2.2 below shows that the population of young people is 425,052 out of a total population of 1,093, 238. Over two thirds (73 percent) of the youth population lives in rural areas, whilst Manzini has the highest number of young people, followed by Hhohho, Shiselweni and Lubombo. The distribution of young people by region conforms to the distribution of the general population.

Figure 3.2.2: Population age 15-35: National, Rural & Urban areas and Regions, 2017



3.2.3 Sex Ratio of young people

Table 3.2.1 below shows that overall, there are 97 males for every 100 females pointing to a deficit in the number of males vis-à-vis females amongst young people. However, the number of males exceeds that of females in the age group 15-19 years as it stands at 103 males for every 100 females. In summary, the population of young females exceeds the population of young males.

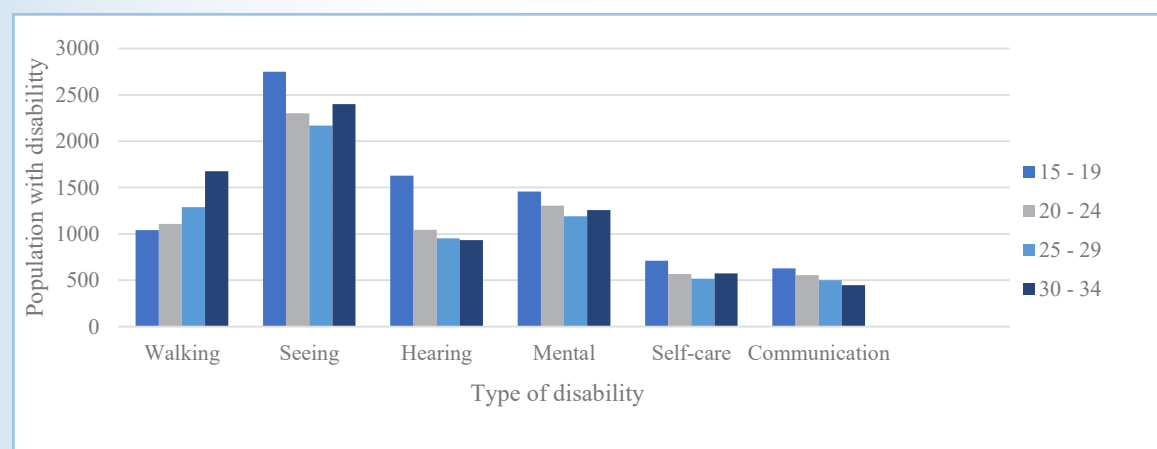
Table 3.2.1 Sex ratio of young people by age, 2017

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Sex ratio
15-19	60955	59213	103
20-24	52280	54236	96
25-29	46551	50188	93
30-35	49719	51910	96
Total	209505	215547	97

3.2.4 Young people with disability

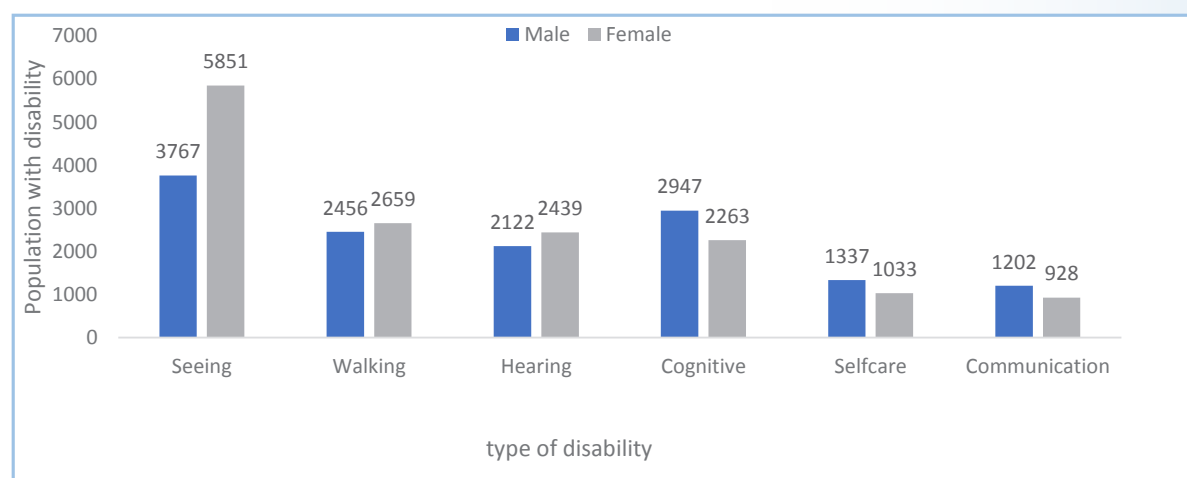
To measure disability, the census asked all members of each household if they had difficulty in walking including climbing steps and carrying items, in seeing even if wearing glasses, in hearing even if using a hearing aid, cognition, in caring for one's self and in communication. Figure 3.2.3 below shows that 29,004 of the population of young people age 15 to 34, has difficulty in either walking, seeing, hearing, in cognition, self-care and in communication. The most common form of disability is seeing and it affects 9,618 young people and the majority of those affected are in the age-group 15-19 years.

Figure 3.2.3 Distribution of young people age 15 to 34 with disability



More females (15,173) than males (13,831) have some form of disability. Figure 3.2.4 shows that the most prevalent form of disability is seeing. Other forms of disability that are common regardless of sex, include walking and hearing. Cognitive functioning or cognition related disabilities affect mostly males than females.

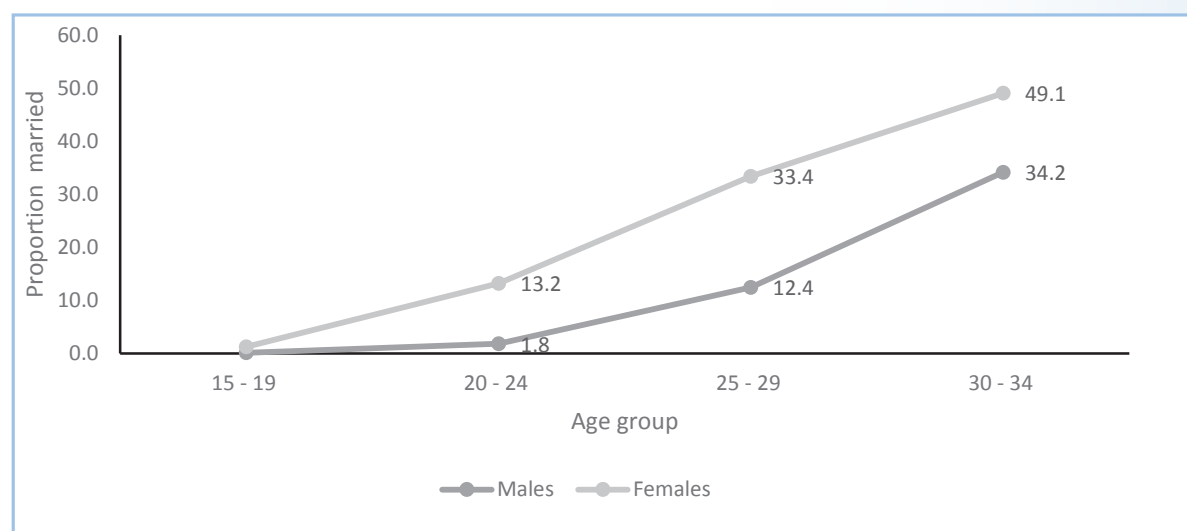
Figure 3.2.4 Number of males and females age 15 to 34 who have a disability, 2017



3.2.5 Young people and marriage

The purpose of this section, is to assess the extent in which young Emaswati transition to marriage, no matter the form of marriage. Figure 3.2.5 below shows that at every age group, more females tend to get married than their male counterparts. For example, 1 in 10 females aged 20 to 24 years are already married when compared with 1 in 50 males, of the same age group. The proportion married among young people increases with increasing age and by age 30-34 years nearly 1 in 2 females are married compared with 3 in 10 men. This finding seems to suggest that young females tend to pair up with older males.

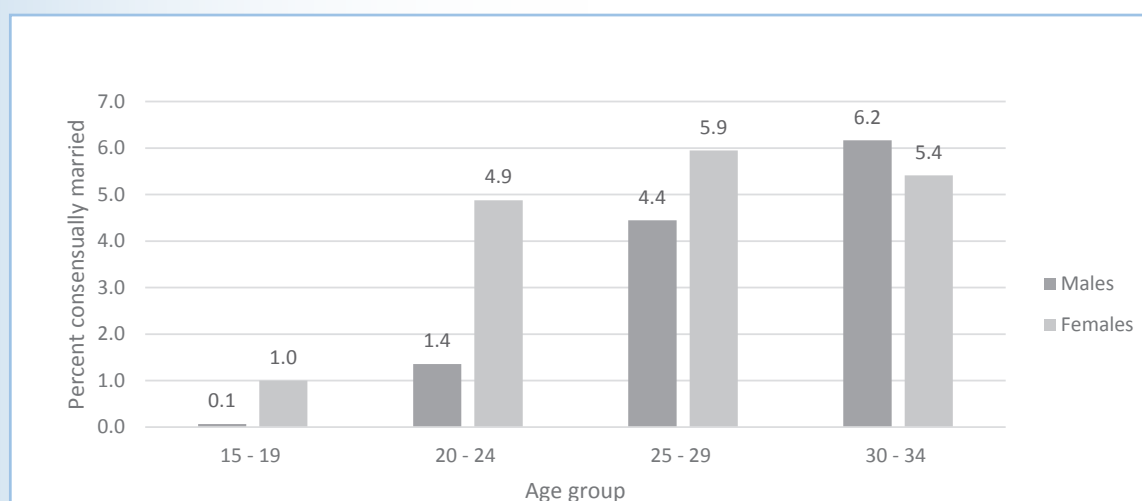
Figure 3.2.5 Percent distribution of married population age 15-34 by age group and sex, 2017.



***NB Figure 3.2.5 excludes population age 35**

Figure 3.2.6 shows that a good number young people are consensually married. The age pattern of consensual unions is similar to that of marriage, with females having proportionately higher consensual rates than males except for age 30-34 years, where the rate for consensually married among males reached 6.2 percent compared with 5.4 percent for females.

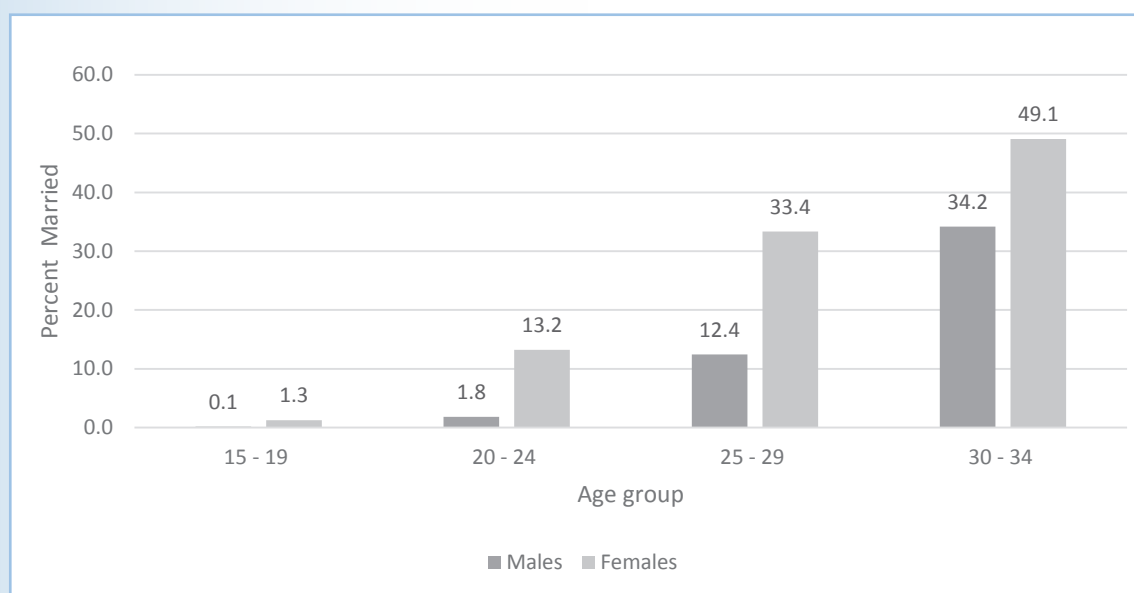
Figure 3.2.6: Percent distribution of consensually married population age 15-34 by age group and sex, 2017.



***NB Figure 3.2.6 excludes population age 35.**

Figure 3.2.7 below shows that overall, females have higher marriage rates (Swazi law & Custom and Civil Rites) than males. Most males tend to postpone marriage until the late 20s.

Figure 3.2.7 Percent distribution of the married population age 15-34 by age group and sex.



Figures 3.2.8 and 3.2.9 show declining marriage rates across all age groups for males and females between the 2007 and 2017. Among females, the largest fall occurred among those aged 20 to 24 and the margin was 7.7 percentage points. Among males, the highest fall occurred among those aged 30 to 34 years, where the marriage rate fell by 8.7 percentage points. It would seem that marriage is slowly losing its popularity especially among the younger generation.

Figure 3.2.8 Percent distribution of young married females by age group and sex: Eswatini, 2007 and 2017

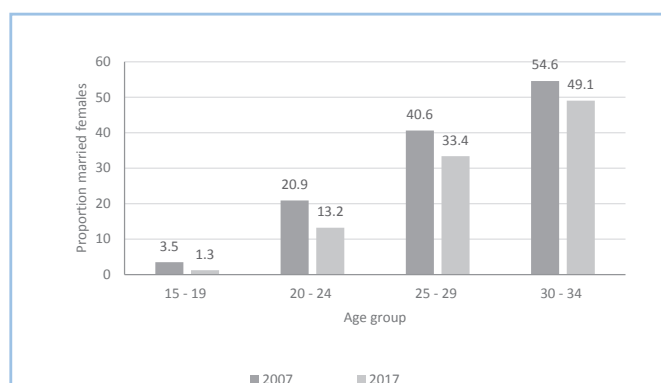
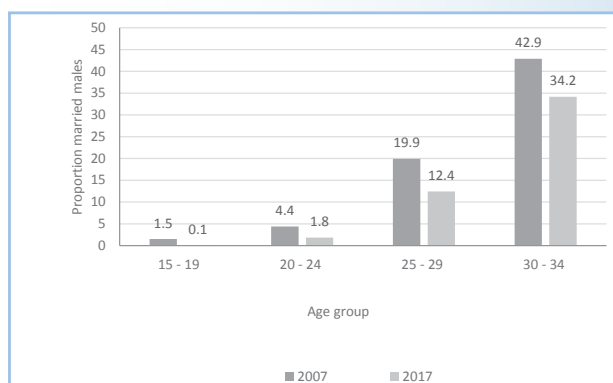


Figure 3.2.9 Percent distribution of young married men by age group and sex: Eswatini, 2007 and 2017

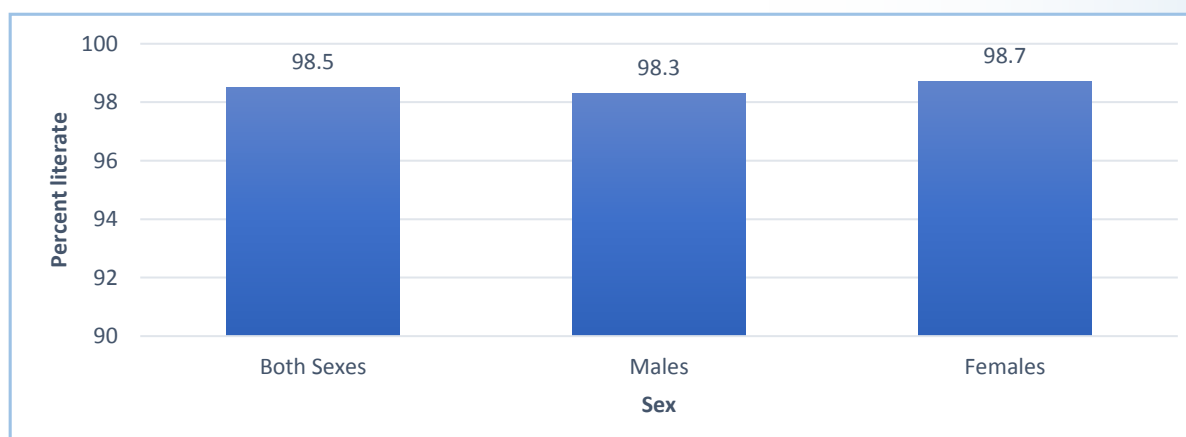


3.3 Young people and education

3.3.1 Youth Literacy Rates by sex

Figure 3.3.1 below shows that the overall literacy rate among young people is 98.5 percent. There is no significant difference in literacy rates for both males and females 98.3 percent and 98.7 percent, respectively. This implies that only 1.3 percent of young females and 1.7 percent of young males are illiterate. In absolute numbers this works out to 3,562 young males and 2,802 young females who are illiterate.

Figure 3.3.1: Literacy rates among young people age 15 to 35 by sex: 2017



Differentials in literacy rates by rural (99.2 percent) and urban (98.2 percent) location as well as regional are minimal; Hhohho and Manzini are both tied at 98.9 percent, whilst Lubombo and Shiselweni are also tied at 97.8percent.

3.3.2 Young people and educational attainment

The 2017 PHC asked of all persons who were age 3 years and above if they never attended, ever attended or were currently attending school, (inclusive of pre-school or a literacy program). Figure 3.3.2 below shows that overall, 9 percent (38,255) of young people were reported to have never attended school 11 percent (23,048) young males against 7 percent (15,088) young females). However, this trend seemed to have reversed in 2017. When educational attainment is compared against literacy, it is apparent that acquisition of literacy skills is not only limited to classroom learning but that it goes beyond the formal learning.

Figure 3.3.2: Percentage distribution of young people aged 15-35 years by educational attainment: 2017

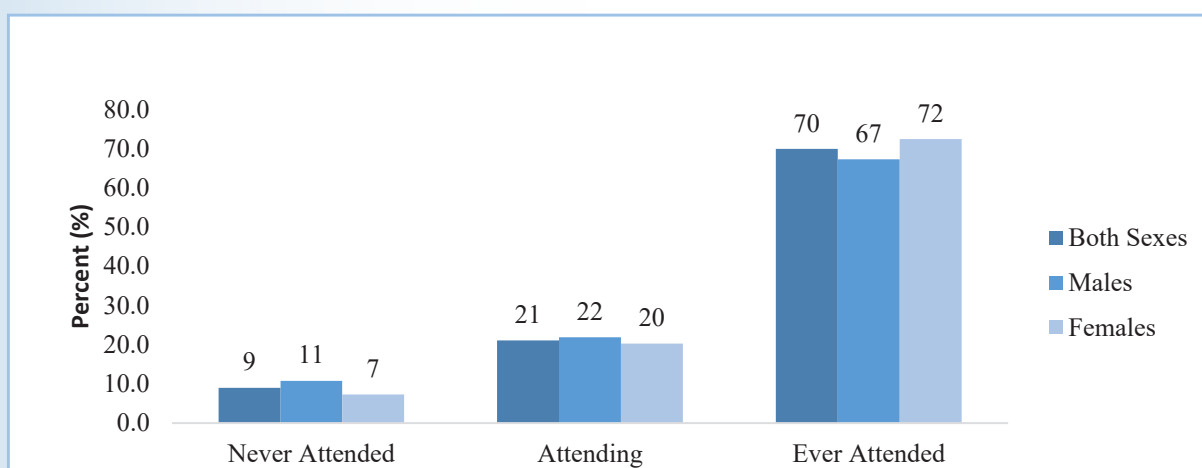


Table 3.3.1 below shows that young people who live in rural areas, especially those who are male, are more likely not to attend school than their urban counterparts. Lubombo (16 percent) and Shiselweni (13 percent) have the highest number of young people who have never attended school.

Table 3.3.1 Educational attainment among young people age 15-35 years by residence and region, 2017

	Never attended			Ever attended			Currently attending		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Residence									
Urban	5.8	3.9	4.8	78.8	80.4	79.6	15.5	15.7	15.6
Rural	12.6	8.6	10.6	63.4	69.4	66.3	24.2	22.0	23.1
Region									
Hhohho	9.6	6.5	8.1	67.9	72.2	70.1	22.5	21.2	21.9
Manzini	7.9	5.1	6.5	71.7	75.5	73.7	20.4	19.4	19.9
Shiselweni	13.0	8.5	10.7	61.0	69.3	65.3	26.0	22.2	24.1
Lubombo	16.0	11.5	13.7	64.4	69.8	67.2	19.6	18.6	19.1
Total	10.8	7.3	9.0	67.3	72.4	69.9	21.9	20.3	21.1

3.3.3 Highest level of education attained

Table 3.3.2 shows that overall, the proportion of females at each level of highest education attained, is higher than that of males. At primary level there are 31 percent females versus 28.5 percent males; at secondary or high school there 40 percent females versus 38 percent males and at tertiary level it was 7.8 percent females against 6.7 percent males. Similarly, there were proportionately more males (10.47 percent) than females 8.16 percent with no education. In general, there are proportionately more young people who completed secondary/high school education (39.2 percent), than any other level of school.

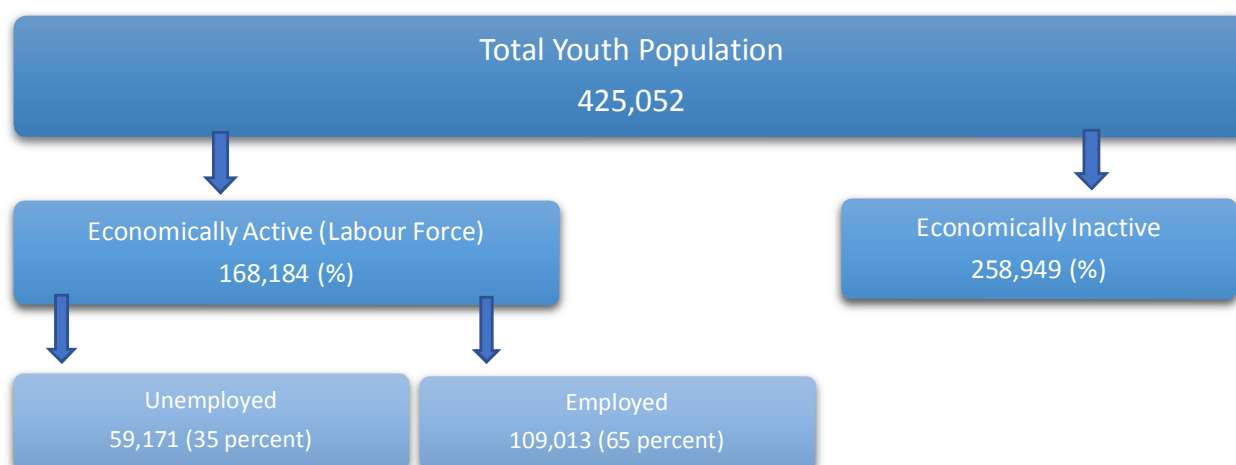
Table 3.3.2 Percent distribution of young people aged 15 – 35 years by highest level of education attained, 2017

	None	Primary	Secondary/high	Tertiary
Sex				
Males	10.47	28.5	38.4	6.7
Females	8.16	31.4	40.0	7.8
Age				
15-19	7.25	46.1	26.2	0.1
20-24	3.49	25.6	51.8	4.5
25-29	3.63	21.6	44.4	11.9
30-34	3.63	23.4	36.6	13.8
35	0.63	23.3	34.4	15.0
Total		30.0	39.2	7.2

3.4 Young people and the economy

In light of the changing age structure of Eswatini's population that has seen a marked increase in the working age population (15-64) vis-à-vis the dependent population (0-14) years, the involvement of young people in the economy as productive citizens has never been more important. Figure 3.4.1 below, shows that of the total population of young people, only 40 percent (168,184) were reported as economically active and of these only 65 percent were employed against 35 percent who were unemployed. These results show that unemployment, especially among young people, is Eswatini's biggest economic challenge.

Figure 3.4.1: Population aged 15 – 35 years by activity status, Eswatini



3.4.1 Participation of young people in the labour force

The overall labour force participation rate of young people is 39.4 percent. The rate is higher for males (42.0 percent) than for females (36.8 percent) implying availability of more opportunities to young males than young females to either work or to find work. Figure 3.4.2 below shows that the labour force participation rate increases with increasing age. Surprisingly, females age 15-19 years, have a slightly higher labour force participation rate than their male counterparts.

Figure 3.4.2: Labour force participation rates by age group and sex, Eswatini

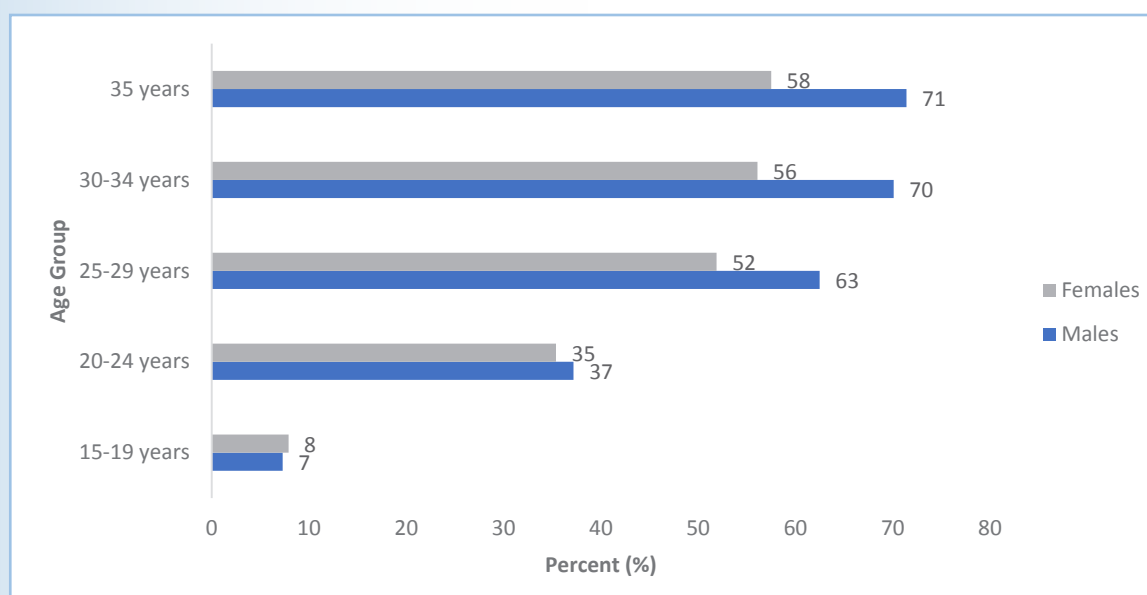


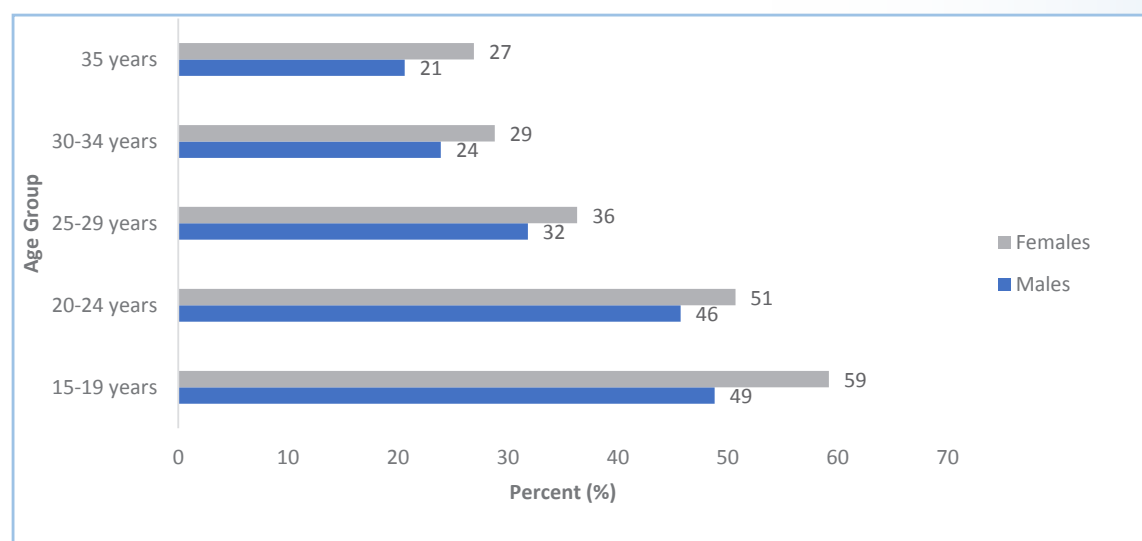
Table 3.4.1 below shows that the overall youth unemployment rate is 35.2 percent. Unemployment is generally higher among young females (38 percent) than among young men (32 percent). Young people who live in rural areas are more likely to be unemployed than their urban counterparts. At regional level, the rates range from 28.9 percent in the Manzini region to 46.8 percent in the Lubombo region. Female youth in the Lubombo region also have the highest overall unemployment rate at 56.4 percent, whereas in Manzini it is 38.3 percent and this is closer to the national rate. Of all the four regions, Lubombo seems to be hardest hit in terms unemployment.

Table 3.4.1: Percentage Distribution of Youth Unemployment Rates, 2017

Area	Total	Male	Female
Eswatini	35.2	32.4	38.3
Urban	17.4	14.6	20.3
Rural	47.1	43.6	51.2
Regions			
Hhohho	35.6	32.7	38.9
Manzini	28.9	26.2	31.8
Shiselweni	40.2	41.3	39.2
Lubombo	46.8	39.7	56.4

Figure 3.4.3 shows that unemployment of young people is generally high across all the age groups, however, it is highest among those in the lower age brackets i.e. 15-19 and 20-24 implying greater hardship in finding a job at that age. Female unemployment exceeds male unemployment at all age groups.

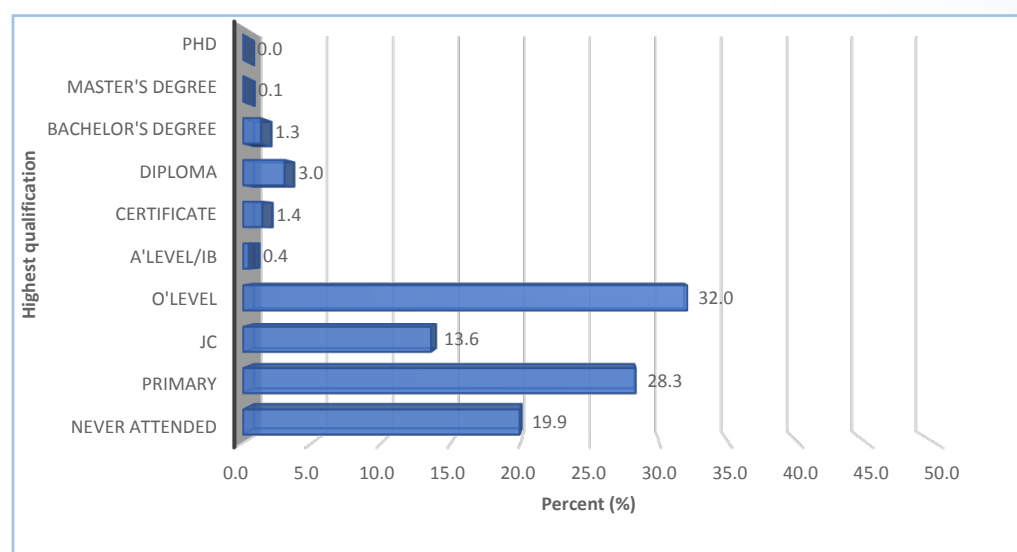
Figure 3.4.3 Youth unemployment by age group and sex



3.4.2 Youth unemployment by educational attainment

It is worth noting that about six percent (3,244) of the unemployed youth have some form of tertiary level education (certificate, diploma, bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD). These are young people who are otherwise qualified for some sort of professional employment. Figure 3.4.4 below, shows that unemployment is generally high among young people who do not have tertiary level education. Surprisingly, young people who only have O'level education are the least likely to find employment than young people with only secondary level education. Similarly, young people who have never attended school are least likely to be unemployed than young people who have acquired primary school education.

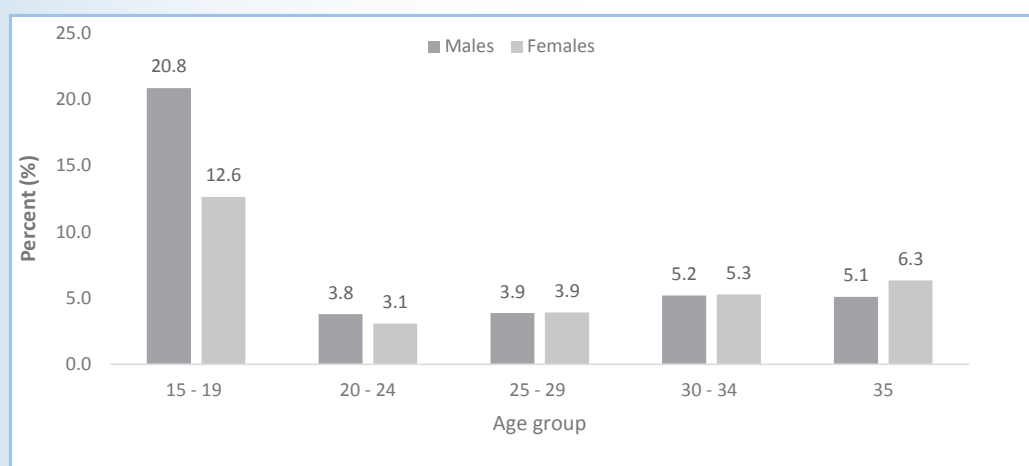
Figure 3.4.4 Percentage distribution of youth unemployment by educational attainment



3.4.3 Young people who are not in education, employment and training (NEET)

Contrary to the high unemployment rate of 35 percent among young people, the proportion of young people who are NEET i.e. not in employment, education and training is highest among adolescents age 15 to 19 years and lowest among young people aged 20 to 24 years regardless of sex (see Figure 3.4.5 below). It would seem that a good number of young people who are otherwise unemployed, engage themselves in training activities.

Figure 3.4.5 Percent distribution of men and females age 15 to 35 who are neither in employment education and training (NEET) by age and sex



3.5 Conclusion

This is an indication that the country is on track to meet the literacy component of SDG target 4.6 which covers both literacy and numeracy. The target on literacy was already achieved during the MDG era and efforts should be directed at sustaining the progress.

REFERENCES

1. <http://www.uis.unesco.org/>
2. 2007 Population and Housing Census, Volume 5
3. Central Statistical Office (1997), **Population and Housing Census**, 1997, Mbabane, Swaziland.
4. Central Statistical Office (2007), **Population and Housing Census**, 2007, Mbabane, Swaziland.
5. National Employment Statistics Unit (2016), **The Eswatini Integrated Labour Force Survey 2016**, October 2018, Mbabane, Eswatini.
6. Statistics Botswana, **Population and Housing Census 2011 Analytical Report**, November 2014, Gaborone, Botswana

NOTES

[illegible]

CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

P.O BOX 456
MBABANE

TEL: (+268) 2404 2151/2
FAX (+268) 2404 3600
EMAIL: statistics@gov.sz