



VANUATU

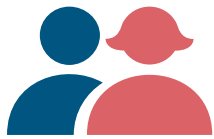
LABOUR FORCE SURVEY FACT SHEET



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Source: 2025 Vanuatu Labour Force Survey

DEMOGRAPHICS



343,320

Population (2025)



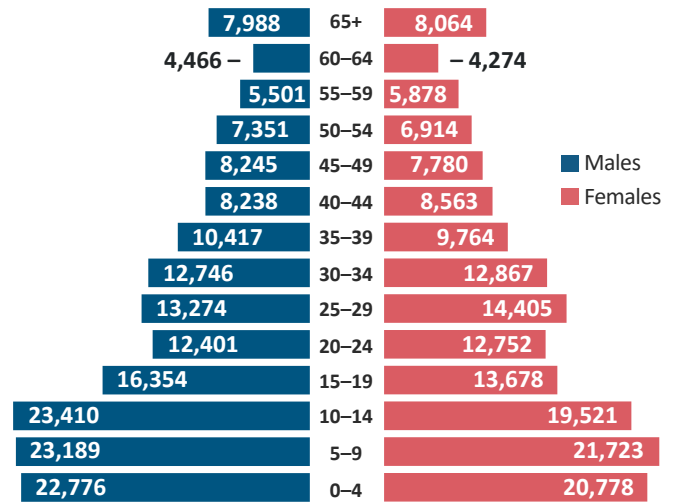
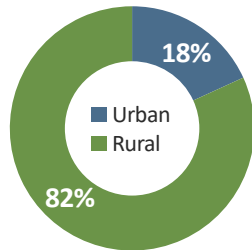
166,962

Females (49%)



62%

Working-age population
(15+)



2025 population distribution in Vanuatu

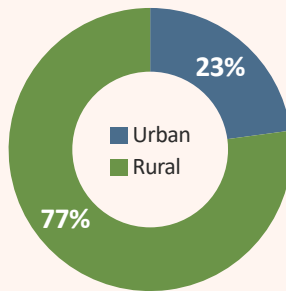
LABOUR FORCE

Labour force 105,491

Total LFPR 49.8%

Informal Employment 58.5%

Labour Underutilisation¹ 24.6%



Males

Females



LF Participation Rate

53.7% **45.7%**

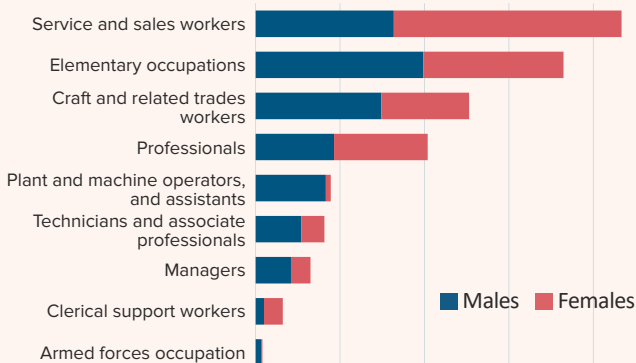
Informal Employment

57.8% **59.5%**

Labour Underutilisation

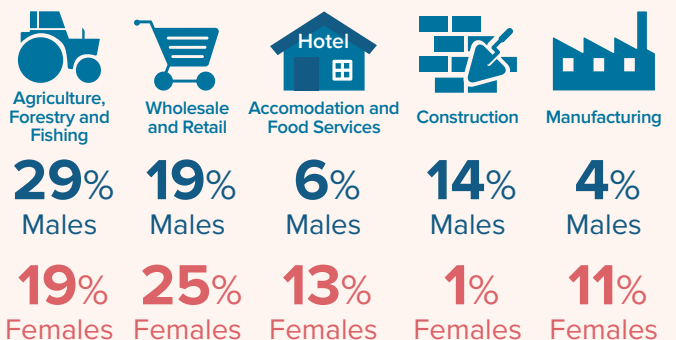
23.7% **25.6%**

¹ ILO Labour Underutilisation (Composite measure) shows mismatch between the supply and demand for labour, encompassing unemployment, underemployment, and potential labour force members who are available but not fully engaged in productive work.

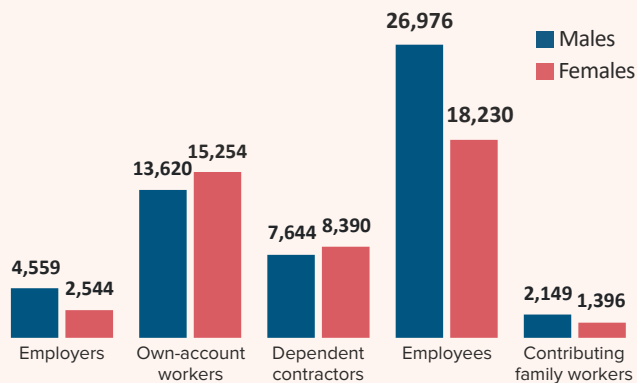


Main job occupation classification by sex (ISCO²)

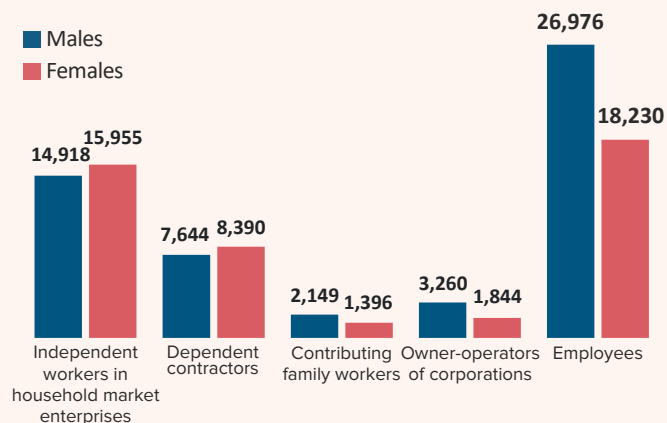
Top 5 industries for employed population by sex



² ICSO (International Standard Classification of Occupations) is an ILO framework for classifying jobs by skill level and specialisation.



Employment Status by type of Authority (ICSE-18A³)



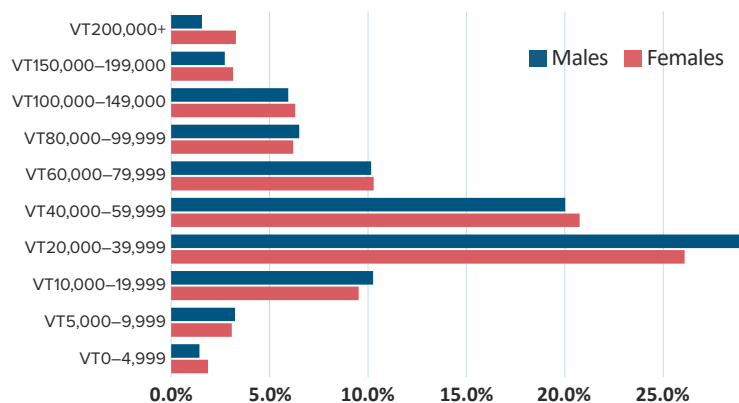
Employment Status by type of Economic Risk (ICSE-18R⁴)

Employment rate increased from 46.3% to 47.5% in 6 years

³ The ICSE-18A classifies workers based on type of authority. It captures diverse employment relationships, including gig and platform work.

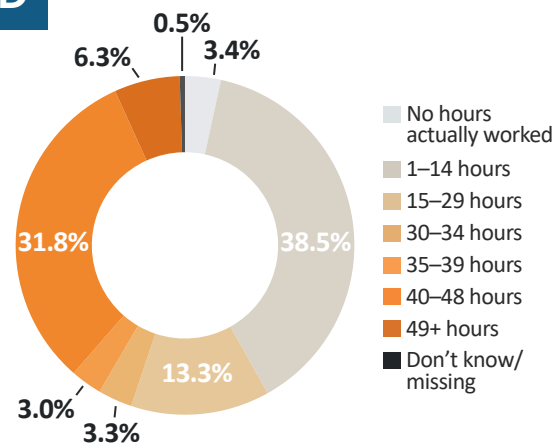
⁴ ICSE-18R classifies workers based on their employment relationships, specifically focusing on economic risk.

EARNINGS & HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED



Monthly earnings for wage workers by sex (VT)

Over half of wage workers earn VT 20,000–60,000 monthly

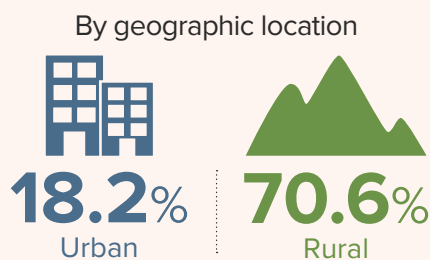
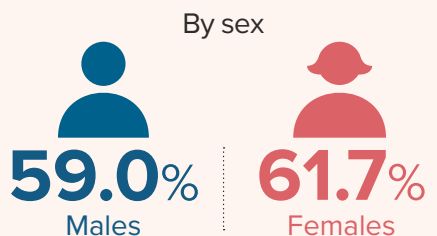


Distribution of workers by weekly hours worked

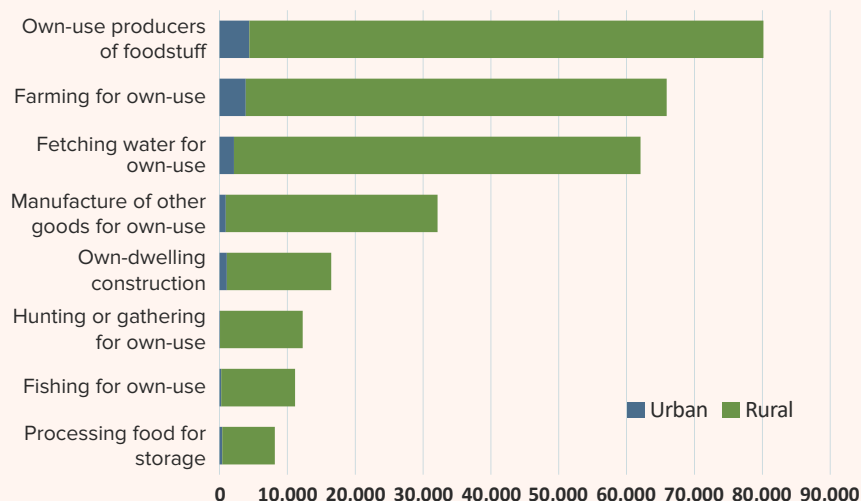
38.5% of workers put in 1–14 hours per week

OWN-USE / SUBSISTENCE PRODUCTION

Total own-use/subsistence producers



60.3% of persons of working-age engage in some form of own-use production/subsistence work



Total own-use/subsistence producers by type and geographic location

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Former household members abroad



10,115

Total Abroad⁵



7,981

Males (78.90%)



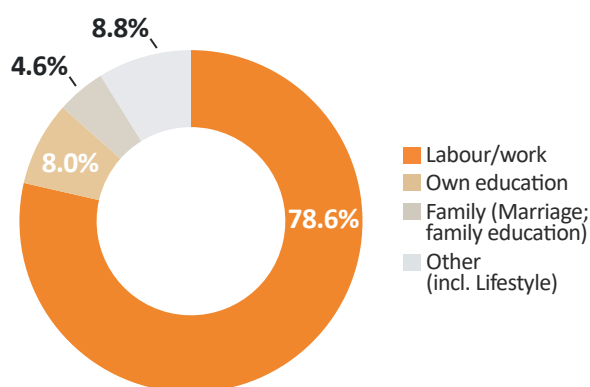
11.90%

HH emigration rate



21.30%

from Shefa Rural



Main reasons for departure

78.6% left for work-related reasons

Top destination countries



Australia

51%



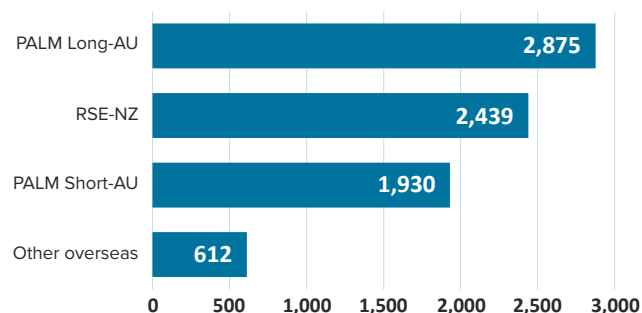
New Zealand

22%

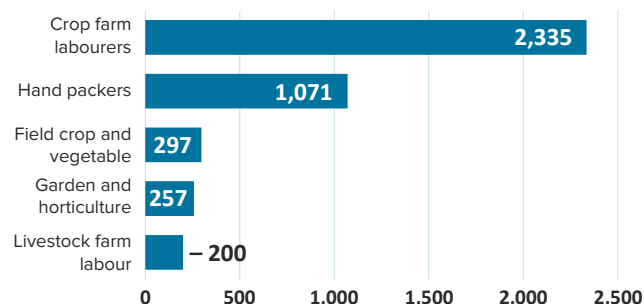


Other Pacific

20%



Household members abroad by mobility programme



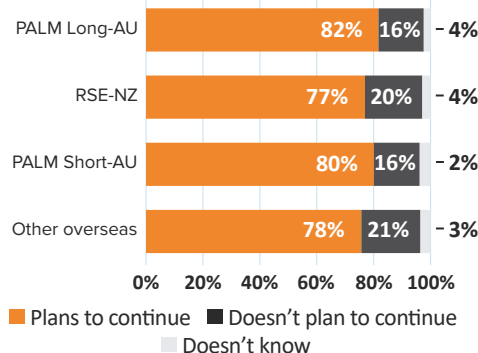
Top 5 occupations of household members abroad (ISCO)

⁵ Total abroad refers to former household members who have left the country for more than 6 months within the past 5 years, and still residing abroad.

Returning international migrants

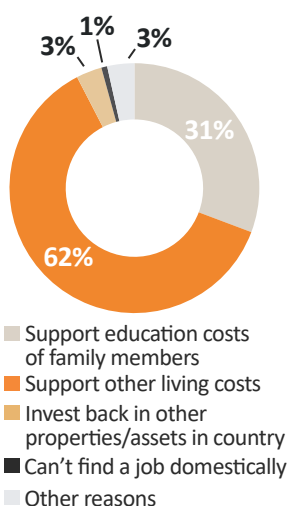
26,876 – of which **12.7%**
Total ever abroad⁶ Working-age population (15+)

Nearly **two-thirds** of all migration is driven by seasonal work programmes such as PALM and RSE schemes

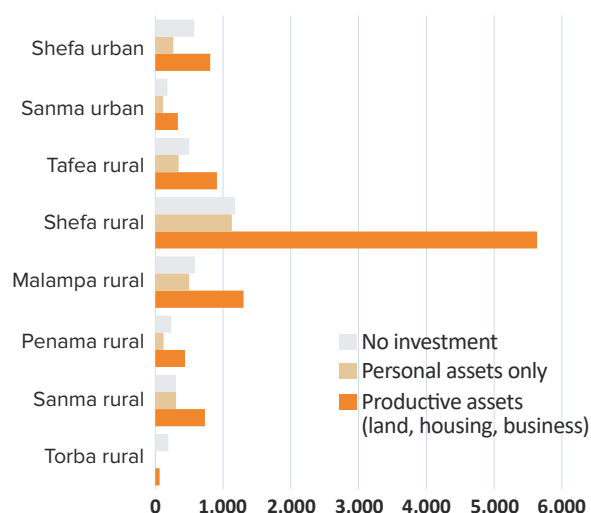


Intention and reasons to continue with seasonal work programmes

62.4% Left for seasonal work
78.9% Plan to return for seasonal work



77.6% Invested in Vanuatu
61.0% of which Invested in productive assets



Number of return migrants who have invested in Vanuatu by type of asset and province

⁶ Total ever abroad refers to any working-age household member who has previously resided or worked outside the country and has since returned to live in the household.

