



# Report of the

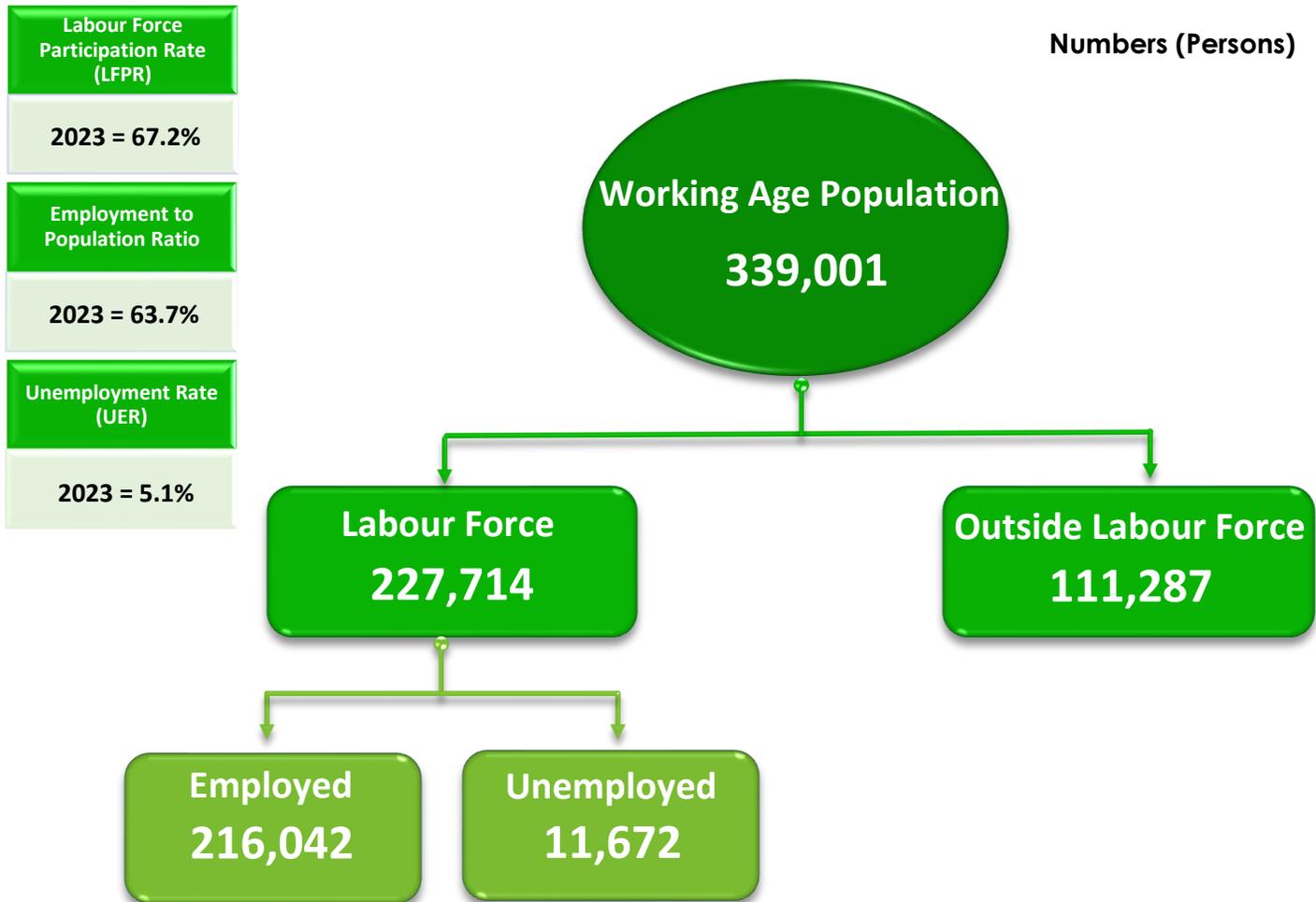
# LABOUR FORCE

# SURVEY 2023

Department of Statistics  
Department of Economic Planning and Statistics  
Ministry of Finance and Economy  
Brunei Darussalam

# LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2023

## Labour Force Framework, Brunei Darussalam, 2023 Aged 18 years and over



Notes: Data may not add up to the total due to the rounding.  
Source: Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (JPES)

## Introduction

The Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (JPES) conducted the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2023 from 16 October to 19 November 2023. The main objective of LFS 2022 was to collect latest information on the size, structure, distribution and characteristics of the labour force, employment, unemployment and other economic characteristics of the population, which will be used to assist in the planning, research, policy-making and management concerning the labour force in the country.

The survey covered about 3,200 selected households throughout the country using systematic sampling method. The data obtained from the selected households were extrapolated according to the sampling weights and then calibrated to represent the total population living in regular households in Brunei Darussalam.

The collection and compilation of labour statistics for Brunei Darussalam through the Labour Force Survey are in line with the international standards, adopted by the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (20th ICLS) in 2018.

This **Report of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2023** contains the findings of the main indicators of LFS 2023 on economic activity of the population of Brunei Darussalam in 2022, which provide information on the status of economic activity of the population, labour force participation rate and unemployment. It provides information on the labour force profile for population aged 18 years and over, taking into account the accepted definition of working age in Brunei Darussalam. Information on the labour force profile for population aged 15 years and over is also provided as a reference and recommendation from International Labour Organization (ILO).

The more detailed information on the labour force such as employment status, types of economic activity, employment, employment sector and income from employment will be released in the detailed Report of Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2023.

## Key Findings

### Working Age Population and Labour Force

In 2023, the working age population (aged 18 years and over) was 339,000 persons, consisting of 180,200 males (53.2 per cent) and 158,800 females (46.8 per cent).

The labour force participation rate was 67.2 per cent, with the rate for males (75.8 per cent) being higher than females (57.3 per cent) by 18.5 percent.

### Employed

The total number of employed persons was 216,000 persons comprising of 129,700 males (60.1 per cent) and 86,300 females (39.9 per cent).

Majority of employed persons were local workers, totaling of 152,600 persons (70.6 per cent) with 63,400 being non-local workers (29.4 per cent).

### Unemployed

Out of the total population aged 18 years and over, around 11,700 persons were not working and actively looking for a job (unemployed), consisting of 7,000 males (59.6 per cent) and 4,700 females (40.4 per cent).

The unemployment rate in 2023 was 5.1 per cent. While the unemployment rate for persons aged 18 to 24 years old was 16.8 per cent, the rate for females (20.6 per cent) was higher compared to male (14.7 per cent).

### Outside Labour Force

The total number of persons in the outside labour force was 111,300 persons, consisting of 43,500 males (39.1 per cent) and 67,700 females (60.9 per cent).

Table 1a: Labour Market Indicator aged 18 years and over by Sex, 2022 and 2023

Labour Market Indicator	2022			2023		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Number</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)</b>	<b>335,059</b>	<b>177,523</b>	<b>157,536</b>	<b>339,001</b>	<b>180,238</b>	<b>158,763</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>220,949</b>	<b>133,489</b>	<b>87,460</b>	<b>227,714</b>	<b>136,697</b>	<b>91,017</b>
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>114,111</b>	<b>44,035</b>	<b>70,076</b>	<b>111,287</b>	<b>43,541</b>	<b>67,745</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>209,875</b>	<b>127,355</b>	<b>82,520</b>	<b>216,042</b>	<b>129,742</b>	<b>86,300</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	20,253	12,930	7,323	19,653	12,918	6,735
25 – 64	185,980	111,580	74,400	192,761	114,673	78,088
65 and over	3,642	2,845	797	3,628	2,151	1,476
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>11,073</b>	<b>6,133</b>	<b>4,940</b>	<b>11,672</b>	<b>6,955</b>	<b>4,718</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	4,213	2,318	1,895	3,968	2,222	1,746.00
25 – 64	6,832	3,787	3,045	7,688	4,733	2,956
65 and over	28	28	-	16	-	16
<b>Percentage (%)</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>46.8</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>40.0</b>
Labour Force Participation Rate	65.9	75.2	55.5	67.2	75.8	57.3
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>60.9</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>39.9</b>
Employment to Population Ratio	62.6	71.7	52.4	63.7	72.0	54.4
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	9.7	10.2	8.9	9.1	10.0	7.8
25 – 64	88.6	87.6	90.2	89.2	88.4	90.5
65 and over	1.7	2.2	1.0	1.7	1.7	1.7
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>40.4</b>
Unemployed Rate	5.0	4.6	5.6	5.1	5.1	5.2
Youth Unemployment Rate	17.2	15.2	20.6	16.8	14.7	20.6
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	38.0	37.8	38.4	34.0	31.9	37.0
25 – 64	61.7	61.7	61.6	65.9	68.1	62.7
65 and over	0.3	0.5	-	0.1	-	0.3

Notes: Data may not add up to the total due to the rounding.

Table 1b: Labour Market Indicator aged 18 years and over by Local and Non-local, 2022 and 2023

Labour Market Indicator	2022			2023		
	Total	Local	Non-local	Total	Local	Non-local
<b>Number</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)</b>	<b>335,059</b>	<b>263,426</b>	<b>71,633</b>	<b>339,001</b>	<b>266,128</b>	<b>72,873</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>220,949</b>	<b>159,474</b>	<b>61,474</b>	<b>227,714</b>	<b>164,093</b>	<b>63,621</b>
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>114,111</b>	<b>103,926</b>	<b>10,185</b>	<b>111,287</b>	<b>102,035</b>	<b>9,251</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>209,875</b>	<b>148,590</b>	<b>61,285</b>	<b>216,042</b>	<b>152,620</b>	<b>63,422</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	20,253	15,047	5,206	19,653	15,056	4,597
25 – 64	185,980	130,691	55,288	192,761	134,249	58,512
65 and over	3,642	2,852	790	3,628	3,315	313
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>11,073</b>	<b>10,884</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>11,672</b>	<b>11,473</b>	<b>199</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	4,213	4,213	-	3,968	3,864	105.00
25 – 64	6,832	6,642	190	7,688	7,594	95
65 and over	28	28	-	16	16	-
<b>Percentage (%)</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 18 years and over)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>21.5</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>27.9</b>
Labour Force Participation Rate	65.9	60.5	85.8	67.2	61.7	87.3
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>29.4</b>
Employment to Population Ratio	62.6	56.4	85.6	63.7	57.3	87.0
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	9.7	10.1	8.5	9.1	9.9	7.2
25 – 64	88.6	88.0	90.2	89.2	88.0	92.3
65 and over	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.7	2.2	0.5
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Unemployed Rate	5.0	6.8	0.3	5.1	7.0	0.3
Youth Unemployment Rate	17.2	21.9	-	16.8	20.4	2.2
<u>Age Group</u>						
18 – 24	38.0	38.7	-	34.0	33.7	52.8
25 – 64	61.7	61.0	100.0	65.9	66.2	47.7
65 and over	0.3	0.3	-	0.1	0.1	-

Notes: Data may not add up to the total due to the rounding.

**Table 2a: Labour Market Indicator aged 15 years and over by Sex, 2022 and 2023**

Labour Market Indicator	2022			2023		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Number</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)</b>	<b>353,900</b>	<b>187,300</b>	<b>166,600</b>	<b>359,300</b>	<b>190,400</b>	<b>168,900</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>221,968</b>	<b>134,013</b>	<b>87,955</b>	<b>228,598</b>	<b>137,108</b>	<b>91,490</b>
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>131,932</b>	<b>53,288</b>	<b>78,645</b>	<b>130,702</b>	<b>53,292</b>	<b>77,410</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>210,523</b>	<b>127,666</b>	<b>82,857</b>	<b>216,718</b>	<b>130,095</b>	<b>86,622</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	20,901	13,241	7,660	20,329	13,271	7,058
25 – 64	185,980	111,580	74,400	192,761	114,673	78,088
65 and over	3,642	2,845	797	3,628	2,151	1,476
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>11,445</b>	<b>6,347</b>	<b>5,098</b>	<b>11,880</b>	<b>7,012</b>	<b>4,868</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	4,584	2,531	2,053	4,176	2,280	1,897
25 – 64	6,832	3,787	3,045	7,688	4,733	2,956
65 and over	28	28	-	16	-	16
<b>Percentage (%)</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>47.0</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>40.0</b>
Labour Force Participation Rate	62.7	71.5	52.8	63.6	72.0	54.2
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>59.2</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>40.0</b>
Employment to Population Ratio	59.5	68.2	49.7	60.3	68.3	51.3
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	9.9	10.4	9.2	9.4	10.2	8.1
25 – 64	88.3	87.4	89.8	88.9	88.1	90.1
65 and over	1.7	2.2	1.0	1.7	1.7	1.7
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>
Unemployed Rate	5.2	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.1	5.3
Youth Unemployment Rate	18.0	16.0	21.1	17.0	14.7	21.2
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	40.1	39.9	40.3	35.2	32.5	39.0
25 – 64	59.7	59.7	59.7	64.7	67.5	60.7
65 and over	0.2	0.4	-	0.1	-	0.3

Notes: Data may not add up to the total due to the rounding.

**Table 2b: Labour Market Indicator aged 15 years and over by Local and Non-local, 2022 and 2023**

Labour Market Indicator	2022			2023		
	Total	Local	Non-local	Total	Local	Non-local
<b>Number</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)</b>	<b>353,900</b>	<b>280,274</b>	<b>73,626</b>	<b>359,300</b>	<b>284,800</b>	<b>74,500</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>221,968</b>	<b>160,494</b>	<b>61,474</b>	<b>228,598</b>	<b>164,944</b>	<b>63,654</b>
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>131,932</b>	<b>119,780</b>	<b>12,152</b>	<b>130,702</b>	<b>119,856</b>	<b>10,846</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>210,523</b>	<b>149,239</b>	<b>61,285</b>	<b>216,718</b>	<b>153,263</b>	<b>63,455</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	20,901	15,695	5,206	20,329	15,699	4,630
25 – 64	185,980	130,691	55,288	192,761	134,249	58,512
65 and over	3,642	2,852	790	3,628	3,315	313
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>11,445</b>	<b>11,255</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>11,880</b>	<b>11,681</b>	<b>199</b>
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	4,584	4,584	-	4,176	4,072	105
25 – 64	6,832	6,642	190	7,688	7,594	95
65 and over	28	28	-	16	16	-
<b>Percentage (%)</b>						
<b>Working Age Population (aged 15 years and over)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>20.7</b>
<b>Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>27.8</b>
Labour Force Participation Rate	62.7	57.3	83.5	63.6	57.9	85.4
<b>Outside Labour Force</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>29.3</b>
Employment to Population Ratio	59.5	53.2	83.2	60.3	53.8	85.2
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	9.9	10.5	8.5	9.4	10.2	7.3
25 – 64	88.3	87.6	90.2	88.9	87.6	92.2
65 and over	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.7	2.2	0.5
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Unemployed Rate	5.2	7.0	0.3	5.2	7.1	0.3
Youth Unemployment Rate	18.0	22.6	-	17.0	20.6	2.2
<u>Age Group</u>						
15 – 24	40.1	40.7	-	35.2	34.9	52.8
25 – 64	59.7	59.0	100.0	64.7	65.0	47.7
65 and over	0.2	0.2	-	0.1	0.1	-

Notes: Data may not add up to the total due to the rounding.

## Technical Notes

### Concepts and Definitions

The main concepts and definitions used in the survey are as follows:

#### Household:

A household is defined as a group of persons who live together and make common provision for food and other essentials for living. The people in the group may be related or unrelated or a combination of both. A household may consist of only one person or several persons.

#### Reference Period:

This refers to the week preceding the date of the survey interview.

#### Locals and Non-locals:

- a) Local persons are the persons in relation to the immigration laws of the country. The categories are:
  - i) Brunei citizens, i.e. holder of Brunei Darussalam yellow identity card;
  - ii) Permanent resident, i.e. holder of Brunei Darussalam purple identity card.
  
- b) Non-local persons are the persons in relation to the immigration laws of the country which are Temporary resident, i.e. holder of Brunei Darussalam green identity card; and Others

#### Working Age Population:

Persons in the working age population consist of working age population aged 15 years and over; and 18 years and over. Working age population 15 years and over is according to the recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO). While working age population 18 years and over is the accepted definition of working age in Brunei Darussalam.

#### Labour Force:

Persons in the labour force are those who were either employed or looking for job (unemployed) during the reference period.

## **Work:**

The starting point of the international standards on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization is the concept of work defined as:

- “Any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use” in line with the General production boundary defined in the System of National Accounts 2008.
- Work is defined “irrespective of its formal or informal character or the legality of the activity.”
- It excludes “activities not involving production of goods or services (begging, stealing), self-care (personal grooming, hygiene) and activities that cannot be performed by another person on one’s own behalf (sleeping, learning, own recreation).”

The international standards recognize different forms of work:

- Own-use production work (production of goods and services for own final use); - employment (work performed for others in exchange for pay or profit);
- unpaid trainee work (work performed for others without pay to acquire workplace experience or skills);
- volunteer work (non-compulsory work performed for others without pay); and - other forms of work (not defined at this time by the international standards, e.g., community work by prisoners, ordered by court or similar authority).

## **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).

## 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.

## Outside Labour Force:

Persons in the outside labour force are those who were not working, did not have job and were not actively seeking for work during the reference period.

Persons who are categorised as outside labour force include homemakers, students, pensioners and others such as disabled persons.

## Labour Force Participation Rate:

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

$$LFPR = \frac{LF}{WAP} \times 100$$

where

- LFPR* is the labour force participation rate
- LF* is the total labour force population
- WAP* is the total working age population

## Employment to Population Ratio:

Employment to population ratio is the ratio of the employed population to the working age population.

$$ER = \frac{E}{WAP} \times 100$$

where

*ER* is the employment to population ratio

*E* is the total employed population

*WAP* is the total working age population

## Unemployment Rate:

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

$$UR = \frac{U}{LF} \times 100$$

where

*UR* is the unemployment rate

*U* is the unemployment population

*LF* is the total labour force population

## Rounding of estimates:

Individual figures are independently rounded to the nearest whole number; hence the group totals may not always equal to the sum of the individual figures.