No. 04 *August 2024*

Youth population to increase by 6 million before 2050

Population projections highlight importance of addressing youth challenges

The youth population in Ghana is projected to increase by six million over the next few decades. This information emanates from the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC) Thematic Report on Population Projections (2021 – 2050) which projects that the **population aged 15 to 35 years in Ghana will increase from 11.7 million in 2021 to 17.7 million in 2050,** highlighting the importance in investing in the youth population.

The overall youth unemployment in Q3 2023 was 21.7 percent according to the Annual Household Income and Expenditure Survey (AHIES) Labour Statistics Bulletin. **Seven in every 10 (72.4%) unemployed persons in Q3 2023 was aged 15 to 35 years.** In all, an estimated 1.3 million youth were unemployed in the third quarter of 2023.

An estimated 3.1 million employed youth were in vulnerable employment i.e. self-employed without employees or a contributing family worker. Two in every three (63.9%) persons aged 15 to 35 that was employed in Q3 2023 was in vulnerable employment. **The percentage of youth workers in vulnerable employment was substantially higher for females (71.3%) compared to males (55.7%).**

One in every 10 (10.6%) persons aged 15 to 35 years did not use an ICT device in the three months preceding the Census Night (27th June 2021) according to the 2021 PHC Thematic Brief on Digital Exclusion. **At least a quarter of the youth population did not use an ICT device during the period in three regions - North East (33.0%), Upper East (28.6%), and Savannah (24.6%).**

Nationally, **over a million (1.2 million) youth were digitally excluded during the 2021 PHC** i.e., they did not use an ICT device within the previous three months. Also, 2.3 million youth, representing **one in every five (19.7%) persons aged 15 to 35 years did not use the internet in the three months before the Census** Night.

International Youth Day is commemorated annually on 12th August to raise awareness of issues that concern youth. The theme for 2024 is "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development."

Disaggregated census and AHIES data are available from the [GSS StatsBank](#) and microdata can be accessed from the [GSS microdata catalogue](#) at no cost. The Q3 2023 AHIES Labour Statistics Bulletin can be downloaded from [www.statsghana.gov.gh.](http://www.statsghana.gov.gh) The 2021 PHC Thematic Reports on Population Projections (2021 – 2050) and Digital Exclusion in Ghana can be downloaded from www.statsghana.gov.gh. The 2023 Annual Household Income and Expenditure Survey report, resources, and microdata are available to download at no cost from [www.statsghana.gov.gh.](http://www.statsghana.gov.gh)

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About the Ghana Statistical Service

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) provides comprehensive, reliable, quality, relevant, accurate, and timely statistical information to guide national development as stipulated in Section 3 of the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003). The organisation's vision is to be the trusted provider of official statistics for good governance. Its mission being the efficient collection, production, management, and dissemination of quality official statistics based on international standards, using competent and motivated staff for evidence-based decision-making, in support of national development.

The Statistical Service produces monthly and quarterly data on important economic indicators such as inflation, Consumer Price Index, Producer Price Index, and Gross Domestic Product. GSS also regularly generates periodic population, housing, demographic and economic data at the locality, district, and national levels from routine surveys and censuses. The statistics generated by GSS can be utilised by a wide cross-section of users including public sector, businesses, academia, civil society organisations and development partners. For more information visit www.statsghana.gov.gh.

GSS for the first time has developed an online database for accessing disaggregated census statistics. The StatsBank (https://statsbank.statsghana.gov.gh) is an innovative and user-friendly results dissemination method that allows users to generate customised tables and maps at the national, and sub-national levels at no cost. The StatsBank is a repository for macroeconomic indicators, trade indicators, the 2017 Ghana Census of Agriculture, the 2010 and 2021 Population and Housing Censuses, and the 2022-2023 Annual Household Income and Expenditure Survey.