

Budget Alert 4.1 (F) Highlights of the *National Housing and Population Census 2021* - Population by education

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This article is a continuation of the highlights of the National Housing and Population Census (2021) which contains comprehensive information on the features of the population and social indicators. The following highlights the educational attainment of the population as published in the National Housing and Population Census of 2021; and compares these with the results of the Grenada National Population and Housing Census Report of 2011. The analysis suggests that public policies should be well targeted to link the education attainment to the needs of the economy and to address disparities in education.

The educational attainment (senior secondary to tertiary) of the population improved and shifted over the decade, recording an increase in the attainment of tertiary education, while there was a decline in Post Secondary Non -Tertiary (Diploma or Associate Degree). However, the greatest proportion of the population had the highest level of education attainment at secondary school.

The census of 2021 recorded an overall increase of 18 per centage points for the proportion of the population within the combined category of senior primary to tertiary, up from 57 per cent of the population (45,950) in 2011 to 75 per cent of the population (63,599) in 2021. In the 2021 census, the proportion of the population with upper secondary education was 23,850 (28.2 per cent) followed by tertiary non university 10,030 (11.9 per cent) then senior primary 9,951 (11.8 per cent). The attainment of post secondary education stood in 4th position at 5,734 (6.8 per cent).

The main difference between the 2021 census and the 2011 census was the relative increase in the proportion of the population attaining tertiary education and the relative decline in the proportion of the population attaining post-secondary school education. In the 2011 census, most persons recorded the education level at upper secondary 20,818 (25.69 per cent) followed by post-secondary 9,977 (12.31 per cent) and senior primary 7,844 (9.68 per cent) as their Highest Level of Education attained. There was an increase in the number of participants for the Bachelors from 2,399 (2.96 per cent) in 2011 to 3,960 (4.7 per cent) in 2021, Masters program participants went

from 817 (1.01 per cent) to 1,631 (1.9 per cent) and Doctorate participants increased from 206 (0.26 per cent) to 382 (0.5 per cent) in 2021.

In general, secondary school is the highest level of education attained, suggesting the existence of more broad-based education. The upgrading of the education system to increase participants in post-secondary and tertiary education is paramount for closing the gaps in the labour market. (See table 1)

TABLE 1 HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF THE POPULATION IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS BY SEX AND PER CENTAGE

Highest Level of Education	2011						2021					
	Number			Per centage			Number			Per centage		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Senior Primary (Grade 7 & 8 or Lower/Junior Secondary (Forms 1-3))	4,092	3,752	7,844	10.10	9.26	9.68	5,387	4,564	9,951	12.9	10.7	11.8
Upper Secondary (Forms 4 & 5)							11,750	12,100	23,850	28.1	28.4	28.2
Upper Secondary	9,513	11,305	20,818	23.5	27.90	25.7						
Short Cycle Certification							455	450	905	1.1	1.1	1.1
Post Secondary, Non - Tertiary(Diploma or Associate Degree)	4,245	5,732	9,977	10.5	14.15	12.3	2,545	3,189	5,734	6.1	7.5	6.8
Tertiary (Non-University) (Diploma or Associate Degree)							4,218	5,812	10,030	10.1	13.6	11.9
Tertiary Level -Bachelor Degree	981	1,418	2,399	2.42	3.50	2.96	1,513	2,447	3,960	3.6	5.7	4.7
Tertiary Level -Masters Degree	442	375	817	1.09	0.93	1.01	670	961	1,631	1.6	2.3	1.9
Doctorate Level	128	79	207	0.31	0.19	0.26	184	198	382	0.4	0.5	0.5
Other (Specify)	887	785	1,672	2.19	1.94	2.06	471	515	986	1.1	1.2	1.2
None	728	605	1,333	1.80	1.49	1.64	725	612	1,337	1.7	1.4	1.6
Not Stated	463	420	883	1.14	1.04	1.09	2,423	2,410	4,833	5.6	5.7	5.7
Total	21,479	24,471	45,950	53	60	57	30,341	33,258	63,599	72	78	75

Source: Grenada National Population and Housing Census Report 2011 <https://stats.gov.gd/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Census-Report-2011-Revised-Final.pdf>

2021 Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique National Housing and Population Census Results

Knowledge is power and experience is the greatest teacher.

Disclaimer: This article is written in my personal capacity and not in my capacity as Chairwoman of the Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee.

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