

Island Profile: Nassau

Economic Development Strategy

Background

Nassau is located 83 kilometres south of Pukapuka. This small island rises 9 metres above the sea level and has an area of 1.3 square kilometres. It is the only island in the Northern Group without a lagoon. Nassau is surrounded by a 90 to 130 metres wide reef flat which makes access to the island a challenge. The only reef passage is located on the north side of the island.

Nassau had a population of 78 people in 2016 which is a slight drop since the 1996 census (99). In the early 1900s Nassau was uninhabited and the highest population ever recorded on the island was 167 residents in 1966.

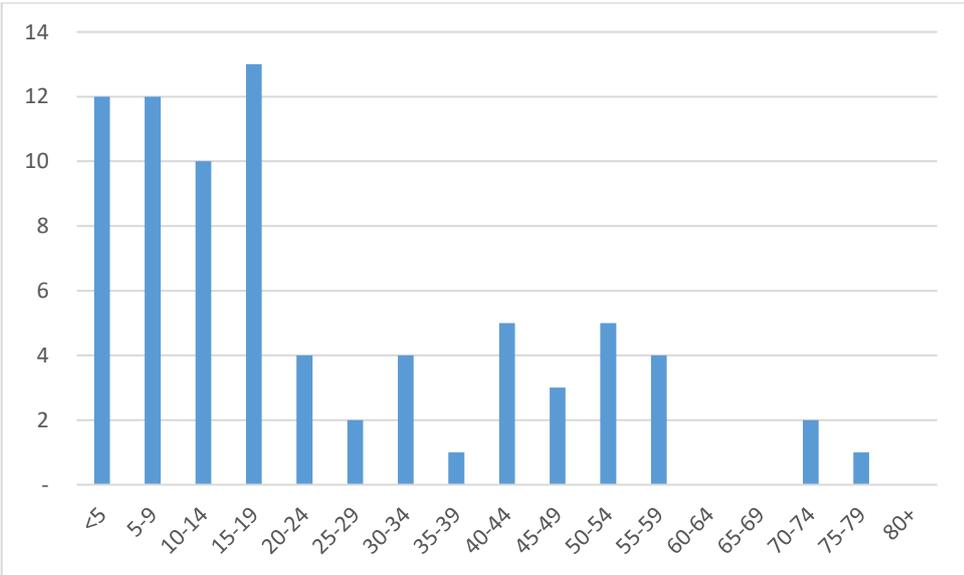
In 2016 there were 11 dwelling units on the island.

Nassau and Pukapuka share their Community Sustainability Development Plan 2016-2020 which was designed to promote the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of the two islands.

Demographics

Figure 1 represents Nassau population reported in 2016 census. The population primarily is comprised of children and youth. In 2016 sixty per cent of the residents were under the age of 19. Three residents on the island were 60 and older.

Figure 1: Age profile – Nassau



Labour statistics

As per 2016 census, the active labour force in Nassau was made up of 24 people aged 15 years and over. All the employment on the island was provided through the public sector. Seventy five per cent of the labour force were employed by the public administration (18), followed by the education (3), and the agriculture and fisheries sector (2). One person reported working for the human health and social work services.

Average income in Nassau was just around \$12,500 per year in 2016.

Industry

Nassau is dependent on the Government as the primary employer and on the subsistence lifestyle. One of the most efficient government programs was the road beautification which provided small income to the young men and women on the island.

Both Pukapuka and Nassau are rich in natural resources. The soils are fertile for growing taro and pulaka. The waters around the islands are abundant in marine life.

Information Technology

In 2016, 24 per cent of the resident population over the age 10 had cellular phones, 44 per cent had access to the internet and 59 per cent had land line. Seven people reported not having access to any of the above forms of telecommunication technology.

Budget

In 2019/20 budget Pukapuka and Nassau island administration was appropriated \$1,188,409 of which \$906,017 was allocated to personnel and \$142,706 to operating expenditure.

Outer Island Small Capital Fund for Pukapuka and Nassau was \$12,000. The fund's purpose is to enable the islands to purchase small capital such as ICT equipment and machinery parts.

Welfare payments in Pukapuka and Nassau totalled \$588,700.

In 2019/20 budget \$350,000 was appropriated to Nassau to enable the purchase and replacement of the Nassau ferry. Due to the age of the current ferry the transportation between the islands of Nassau and Pukapuka became unsafe.

An additional \$150,000 was appropriated for the construction of the Nassau and Penrhyn harbours. In 2019/20 the works include the design and subsequent construction of the harbours.

Pukapuka and Nassau are additionally provided support by a number of agencies through the national and Pa Enea initiatives such as the Government IT Network.

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