Under the Vision 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan framework, we are reporting on key indicators of national well-being for this quarterly press briefing under two main reporting areas—Labour Force Quality and Security Status—which both show continued progress. With this report, we also mark three years since the introduction of the National Dashboard of Indicators in August 2010.

Labour Force Quality improved, with an average of 24.2 per cent of the total labour force having vocational or professional certification based on the quarterly labour force survey for April 2013, an increase of 1.6 percentage points from 22.6 per cent in the April 2012 survey.
In reporting on Security Status, we note that, since January 2013, the indicator formerly classified as Major Crimes is now classified as Serious and Violent Crimes. With respect to Serious and Violent Crimes (murder, shooting, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, break-ins and larceny), 172 serious and violent crimes per 100,000 population were committed over the period January to June 2013, a decline of 10.6 per cent from 192 per 100,000 population over the similar period in 2012. The murder rate for January to June 2013 was 19.9 per 100,000 population, down 3.4 per cent from 20.6 per 100,000 population over the similar period in 2012.

These figures continue the downward trend in crime rates that began in June of 2010 for a third consecutive year.

This concludes the reporting on key indicators of national well-being for this quarterly press briefing.