

# Occupations

1. For the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century majority of the people in the British West Indies worked in agricultural. Many worked on sugar, coffee, cocoa and banana estates as:

- Cane cutters
- Weeders
- Coopers
- Water carriers
- Farmers

This group also includes the rising peasantry. These were small landowners who sometimes offered their labour on nearby estates. In this group also are the **market sellers**. Those who sell small livestock, (pigs, fowls etc.,) handicraft goods, household articles, fruits, vegetables and ground provisions produced by the peasants.

2. **Shop keepers** - This group swelled with the coming of the Chinese immigrants many of whom opened shops and ice cream parlours at the end of their contract.

3. **Fishing**

4. **Cabinet makers** (furniture men)

5. **Craftsmen**: potters, tailors, shoemakers, basket makers and carpenters

6. **Professionals**: lawyers, nurses, Ministers of Religion and teachers.

By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a number of openings were created. Political and Constitutional developments meant that emerging educated class filled posts that were created. The legalization of Trade Unions, heavy investments by the United States and industrialization also created a wider variety of jobs for the common man.

a. The Upper Class filled posts such as surveying, Civil Service, army, journalism, banking and the commercial sector.

b. Factory workers

**c. Pharmacists**

**d. Driver**