# SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS IN LARGE

# (employing 10 or more persons) ESTABLISHMENTS (SEE)

**March 2021 (Preliminary results)**

1. **Introduction**

Statistics Mauritius carries out the annual Survey of Employment and Earnings in ‘large’ establishments with March as reference period so as to obtain a continuous series of comparable data on the level of employment and earnings in these establishments. This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents the preliminary results for March 2021 with comparative figures for 2019 and 2020.

It is to be noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted on employment and earnings of large establishments in most sectors of the economy.

Concepts and definitions are provided at section 4.

###### **Response**

The preliminary results of the survey presented below are based on responses obtained from 69% of large establishments, representing 76% of total employment in this category of establishments. Estimates have been worked out for non-response on the basis of previous data, observed trend and employment figures from the statistics unit of the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives.

###### **Main results**

##### **Employment Level, March 2020 - March 2021**

A preliminary estimate of total employment in large establishments is 305,532 in March 2021 compared to 325,351 in March 2020, representing a decrease of 19,819 (Table 1). This is the net result of employment decreases in most industrial groups, partly offset by increases in some other groups.

A sectorwise analysis shows that employment in the primary sector went down by 866 from 10,162 in March 2020 to 9,296 in March 2021. During the same period, employment in the secondary and tertiary sectors also showed decreases respectively by 7,579 from 85,384 to 77,805 and by 11,374 from 229,805 to 218,431.

The total employment figure includes 4,590 persons working in large establishments in Rodrigues, compared to 4,699 in March 2020. They are mainly government employees of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly numbering 2,786 in March 2021.

As at March 2021, the number of foreign workers stood at 30,013 *(23,961 males and 6,052 females)* of whom 19,662 were engaged in activities of the ‘Manufacturing’ sector and 6,901 in ‘Construction’ (Table 6).

## **Employment by Industry**

Between March 2020 and March 2021, main decreases occurred in the industrial groups: ‘Manufacturing’ (-6,912), ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (-3,564), ‘Public administration and defence ; compulsory social security’ (-2,263), ‘Human health and social work activities’ (-1,304) and ‘Administrative and support service activities’ (-1,191). The decrease in the manufacturing sector was mostly attributed to ‘Textiles and wearing apparel’.

Increases in employment were noted only in ‘Professional, scientific and technical activities’ (+279) and ‘Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’ (+14) (Chart 1).



## **Employment by Sex**

As at March 2021, among the 305,532 employees in large establishments, 186,227 or 61% were male. Compared to March 2020, male and female employment decreased respectively by 12,521 and 7,298.

Male employment decreased mainly in ‘Manufacturing’ (-3,293), ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (-2,324), ‘Public administration and defence; compulsory social security’ (-1,490),‘Human health and social work activities’ (-855) and ‘Administrative and support service activities’ (-627) (Table 1).

Similarly, female employment dropped mainly in ‘Manufacturing’ (-3,619), ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (-1,240) and ‘Public administration and defence; compulsory social security’ (-773), ‘Administrative and support service activities’ (-564) and ‘Human health and social work activities’ (-449).

## **Employment in General Government Sector**

Employment in the General Government Sector decreased by 4,378 from 79,771 in March 2020 to 75,393 in March 2021. Male employment decreased by 2,915 from 47,025 to 44,110 and female employment by 1,463 from 32,746 to 31,283 (Tables 3, 3a & 3b).

## **Employment in large establishments of the Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE) sector**

The number of persons employed by large establishments of the EOE sector decreased by 6,252 from 43,968 *(23,389 Mauritians and 20,579 foreigners)* in March 2020 to 37,716 *(19,774 Mauritians and 17,942 foreigners)* in March 2021 (Table 4). The main decreases in the manufacturing establishments were as follows: ‘Wearing apparel - except footwear’ (-5,329) and ‘Food’ (-521).

From March 2020 to March 2021, the number of male and female employees showed decreases respectively by 2,685 from 23,516 to 20,831 and by 3,567 from 20,452 to 16,885.

* 1. **Employment of foreign workers**

The number of foreign workers in large establishments in March 2021 stood at 30,013 (23,961 males and 6,052 females) compared to 33,323 (26,447 males and 6,876 females) in March 2020, showing a net decrease of 3,310 (-2,486 males and -824 females) (Table 6).

Male employment decreased mainly in ‘Manufacturing’ (-1,849) and ‘Construction’ (-316) while increases was mainly observed in ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles’ (+42).

Female employment decreased mainly in ‘Manufacturing’ (-775).

* 1. **Earnings**

The level of average earnings is influenced mainly by changes in basic salaries and wages. However, fluctuations may also occur because of:

1. Changes in the mix of employees of various categories or with various lengths of service. For example, a large intake of professionals by, say, an architectural firm can cause a sudden jump in the average monthly earnings. On the other hand, a large intake of employees at the lower end of a wage scale has the effect of lowering the average earnings.
2. Changes in overtime, regular bonuses and commissions.
   * 1. **Earnings in large establishments**

The industrial group with the highest average monthly earnings was ‘Financial and insurance activities’ (Rs 56,750) followed by ‘Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’ (Rs 55,418) and ‘Professional, scientific and technical activities’ (Rs 48,805). Lowest averages were registered in ‘Administrative and support service activities’ (19,986), ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ group (Rs 20,505). ‘Manufacturing’ (Rs 21,536). Within the ‘Manufacturing’ group, ‘Textiles and wearing apparel’ registered average monthly earnings of Rs 19,775.

Overall average monthly earnings in large establishments increased by 0.7% from Rs 33,544 in March 2020 to Rs 33,767 in March 2021. Highest increases were registered in: ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ (+8.2%) and ‘Human health and social work activities (+6.7%). Decreases were noted in ‘Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities’ (-21.8%), ‘Administrative and support service activities’ (-19.9%) and ‘Transportation and storage’ (-18.6%) (Chart 2).



* + 1. **Earnings in large establishments of the EOE sector**

The average monthly earnings in this sector stood at Rs 20,358 in March 2021, showing an increase of 10.8% over the March 2020 figure of Rs 18,366 (Table 8). The average monthly earnings in the manufacturing establishments was Rs 18,765 compared to Rs 32,575 in the non-manufacturing establishments. The corresponding figures for 2020 were Rs 17,012 and Rs 32,181 respectively.

###### **Concepts and definitions**

* 1. **Large establishments** include:

1. Agricultural establishments comprising:
2. sugar cane plantations of 10 hectares or more;
3. tea plantations of 2 hectares or more;
4. all ‘flue-cured’ tobacco establishments, irrespective of acreage;
5. Other agricultural establishments employing at least 10 persons during the reference period (March 2020).
6. Non-agricultural establishments employing at least 10 persons during the reference month. It is to be noted that “outworkers”, that is, piece rate workers who are working in their own homes on materials provided by the establishment, are excluded although they are remunerated by the establishment.
7. All central, regional and local government departments.
   1. **Primary, Secondary and Tertiary sector**

**Primary sector** comprises activities classified in the industrial groups:

1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing
2. Mining and quarrying

**Secondary sector** comprises activities classified in the industrial groups:

1. Manufacturing
2. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
3. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
4. Construction

**Tertiary sector** comprises activities classified in the industrial groups:

1. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
2. Transportation and storage
3. Accommodation and food service activities
4. Information and communication
5. Financial and insurance activities
6. Real estate activities
7. Professional, scientific and technical activities
8. Administrative and support service activities
9. Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
10. Education
11. Human health and social work activities
12. Arts, entertainment and recreation
13. Other service activities

**4.3** The **General Government** sector is made up of (i) Central Government (ii) Regional Government and (iii) Local Government.

**4.3.1** **Central Government** covers all units that are agencies of the country’s central authority. It consists of Budgetary Central Government and Extra Budgetary Units.

***Budgetary Central Government*** includes all ministries and departments.

***Extra Budgetary Units*** are agencies responsible for the performance of specialized governmental functions in such fields as health, education, social welfare, construction and so on, under the authority of Central Government

**4.3.2 Regional Government** consists of the administration of Rodrigues.

**4.3.3** **Local Government** consists of municipalities and district councils / village councils exercising an independent competence as government units.

**4.4 Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)** comprise enterprises formerly operating with an export certificate and those export manufacturing enterprises holding a registration certificate issued by the Board of Investment.

**4.5 Employment in Large establishments** covers all persons in regular or casual employment and includes:

1. Persons temporarily absent on paid sick or vacation leave; and
2. Persons holding managerial posts, family workers receiving wages or salaries, and paid apprentices.

**4.6 Earnings** of employees in large establishments comprise all payments in cash made to employees in connection with work done. Amounts reported include overtime, productivity bonuses, commissions, travelling allowances, attendance bonuses, housing and rent allowances and other regular cash payments before any deductions such as taxes, insurance and pension contributions paid by the employees. They exclude pension payments, family allowances and other similar special benefits paid by the employers. Also excluded are arrears payments made at the end of March in respect of previous pay periods.

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