Labour force, Employment and Unemployment - Third quarter 2011

Introduction

1. This issue of Economic and Social Indicators (ESI) presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the third quarter of 2011, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPSH) from July to September 2011. The estimates refer to the Mauritian population aged 16 years and above.

2. Annual estimates of labour force including foreign workers derived after integrating data from CMPSH with other sources are given at Annex 3.

Key figures

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Forecasts of employment and unemployment - Year 2011

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Labour market overview, third quarter 2011

3. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2010, there has been a decrease in the labour force (-2,900); employment decreased by 4,400 while unemployment increased by 1,500.

4. Compared with the previous quarter, labour force increased by 6,100 with an increase in employment (+6,400) and a fall in unemployment (-300).

Chart 1: The Labour Market, 3rd quarter 2011

Labour force participation

5. The activity rate for third quarter 2011 was 59.3%, down by 1.0 percentage point from 60.3% in the corresponding period one year earlier. The activity rates for male and female decreased respectively by 1.9 percentage points to 75.0% and by 0.2 percentage point to 44.1%.

6. Compared with the previous quarter, the activity rate increased by 0.4 percentage point (from 58.9% to 59.3%) with an increase of 0.6 percentage point in the male activity rate and 0.2 in the female rate.
Employment

7. From third quarter 2010 to third quarter 2011, employment decreased by 4,400 (-0.8%) to 537,800; male employment decreased by 8,300 to 342,600 whilst female employment increased by 3,900 to 195,200.

8. Compared with the previous quarter, employment increased by 6,400 with a rise of 4,500 in male employment and of 1,900 in female employment.

Unemployment

9. From third quarter 2010 to third quarter 2011, the number of unemployed persons increased by 1,500 to 45,900. This rise was the combined effect of an increase of 3,300 in the number of unemployed males and a decrease of 1,800 in the number of unemployed females.

10. The unemployment rate increased by 0.3 percentage point to 7.9% from third quarter 2010 to third quarter 2011. Male unemployment rate increased by 1.0 percentage point to 5.4% whilst female unemployment rate decreased by 0.9 percentage point to 11.9%.

11. When compared with second quarter of 2011, the number of unemployed persons decreased marginally by 300 (-200 males and -100 females)

12. From second quarter 2011 to third quarter 2011, the unemployment rate decreased marginally by 0.1 percentage point with a fall of 0.1 percentage point in the rates for male and 0.2 for female.

Chart 2: Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by quarter, 1st quarter 2010 - 3rd quarter 2011

![Chart 2: Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by quarter, 1st quarter 2010 - 3rd quarter 2011](image-url)
13. Unemployment rate is usually higher in the first half of the year because of school leavers joining the labour market, and lower in the second half with more casual jobs being available mainly in the trade sector (street vendors, salespersons in shops, etc.) at the end of the year. In order to observe the real trend over time, adjustments have to be made for seasonal fluctuations. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2011 was 8.1%, higher than the rate of 7.5% for the second quarter of 2011 and that of 7.8% for the third quarter of 2010.

14. The main characteristics of the unemployed as at third quarter 2011 were as follows:

(i) The 45,900 unemployed comprised 19,500 males (42%) and 26,400 females (58%).

(ii) Around 17,600 (38%) of them were aged below 25 years.

(iii) About 52% (23,800) of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (75%) was single while among females, the majority (65%) was ever married.

(iv) Some 8,400 or 18% had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level or equivalent and a further 18,400 (40%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.

(v) Around 35,500 (77%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 10,400 (23%) for more than one year.

(vi) About 30,500 (66%) had working experience and 15,400 (34%) were looking for a job for the first time.

(vii) Around 19,000 (41%) were registered at the Employment Service.

(viii) There were 8,600 (19%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 3,700 (43%) of them had not passed SC.

(ix) Ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated) unemployed persons aged 25 to 44 years and having worked before numbered 11,800. Among them, about 9,100 (77%) had not passed SC.

(x) 4,800 or 10% of the unemployed were heads of households.

(xi) 6,700 (15%) lived in households with no employed persons.
Economically inactive population

15. The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 401,100 at third quarter 2011.

16. The inactive population was made up of 120,500 males and 280,600 females. Among inactive males, 45% were ‘retired or old persons’ and 36% were students. Among females, 56% were homemakers and 15% students.

Sampling errors

17. The estimates in this publication are based on the results of a sample survey and are thus subject to sample variability. Standard errors and confidence intervals give an indication of this variability.

18. The standard error of the estimates and the 95% confidence interval which represent a 95% chance that the true value lies within that interval, are given in the tables that follow.
### Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 3rd quarter 2010 – 3rd quarter 2011

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Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 3rd quarter 2010 – 3rd quarter 2011

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## Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 3rd quarter 2010 – 3rd quarter 2011

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Longer time series

19. The following graphs show the series for employment, unemployment and activity rate from 1st quarter 2006 to 3rd quarter 2011.

Chart 3: Employment by quarter, 1st quarter 2006 - 3rd quarter 2011

Chart 4: Unemployment rate by quarter, 1st quarter 2006 - 3rd quarter 2011
Chart 5: Activity rate by quarter, 1st quarter 2006 - 3rd quarter 2011

Chart 6: Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1st quarter 2006 - 3rd quarter 2011
The following tables together with the web version of this publication can be downloaded from Statistics Mauritius website at [http://statsmauritius.gov.mu](http://statsmauritius.gov.mu). From the homepage, click on ‘Statistics by subject’ followed by ‘labour’ then select the appropriate publication under the heading ‘Publications – Economic and Social Indicators’.

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*Table 2:* Labour force characteristics by age and sex, 3rd Quarter 2011

*Table 3:* Employment by industrial activity, 3rd Quarter 2010 to 3rd Quarter 2011

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*Table 8:* Unemployment by work experience, 3rd Quarter 2010 to 3rd Quarter 2011

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Statistics Mauritius
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Port Louis

December 2011

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NOTES

Release of Labour Force data

Labour Force statistics are compiled and published in the “Economic and Social Indicators” in March, June, September and December according to an advance calendar posted on the website of Statistics Mauritius (http://statsmauritius.gov.mu). This issue provides data for the third quarter 2011 compared to the same quarter a year ago.

However, where appropriate, historical series are also provided for the main indicators.

The CMPHS Survey methodology

Data collection

Face to face interviews of household members are carried out by qualified interviewers recruited by the office.

Frequency of data collection

Data collection is carried out monthly except in 2004 when it was carried out every quarter. Up to 2005, the reference period for data on labour force was the last week of the survey month. As from 2006, the reference week has been changed to the second week of the survey month so that estimates can be published within one quarter of the reference period, as required by the IMF Special Data Dissemination System (SDDS) to which the country expects to graduate by December 2011.

Scope and coverage of collection

All private Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues are covered.

Sampling method

A Stratified two-stage sampling design is used. At the first stage, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) are selected with probability proportional to size and at the second stage, a fixed number of households is selected from each selected PSU.

Prior to 2005, the first stage stratification factors were urban, semi urban and rural geographical locations. As from 2005, the Relative Development Index (RDI) is used as the spatial stratification factor. This index is based on 12 variables encompassing housing and living conditions, literacy and education, and employment derived from the 2000 Housing and Population Census to rank PSUs. A set of RDIs for administrative regions has been published in the series "Economic and Social Indicators" - Issue No. 393.
The second stage stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household.

**Sample size**

From 1999 to 2003, around 6,500 households were covered each year. In 2004, the sample was increased to 8,640 so that reliable quarterly estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment could be worked out. As from 2005, the sample for the year has been further increased to 11,280. Furthermore, in order to measure quarterly changes, 50% of the households sampled in a quarter are re-interviewed in the following quarter; for example, 50% of the households sampled in the first quarter of 2005 have been re-interviewed in the second quarter of 2005.

**Questionnaire**

The CMPHS questionnaire comprises three modules: a basic module common to all rounds of the survey covering the general characteristics of the population (b) a second module covering labour force with in-depth investigation and a core set of questions which are kept constant at all rounds of the survey and (c) a third module grouping other topics of interest but investigated in less details.

**Estimation and reliability of results**

Estimates worked out from household survey data are inevitably subject to sampling variability since they are based on information collected from only a sample of households rather than from all households. The Standard Error (S.E) which is a measure of this variability, used to set confidence intervals for any estimate (whether a total or a rate) derived from the sample. For example, a 95% confidence interval indicates that there is 95% chance that the upper and lower limits of the interval enclose the true value (which would be obtained if all households had been surveyed). Standard errors and confidence intervals are calculated for the main labour force estimates.
Definitions

Household

A household is defined as either a person living on his/her own or a group of two or more persons, who may or may not be related, but who live together and make common provision for food and other essentials for living.

Employment

Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 16 years and above (16+) who have worked for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during the reference week of a month. It includes those who are temporarily absent from work for reasons such as leave with pay, leave without pay and temporary disorganisation of work (bad weather, break down of equipment, lack of order, etc.).

It is to be noted that as from year 2007, labour force estimates are based on population aged 16 years and above, following the amendment to the Labour Act in December 2006 whereby the minimum legal working age is 16 years, and the subsequent recommendation by the ILO to be in line with the amended Labour Act.

Unemployment

Unemployed population comprises all Mauritians aged 16+ who are not working but who are looking for work and are available for work during the reference period.

Labour force

Labour force or active population is made up of employed and unemployed population.

Unemployment rate

Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to labour force.

Inactive population

Inactive population includes all Mauritians aged 16+ years, not forming part of the labour force for reasons such as attendance at educational institutions, engagement in household duties, retirement, old age and infirmity/disablement.

Activity rate

Activity rate is the ratio (%) of labour force to population aged 16+ (active and inactive population).
**Employer**

An employer is a person who operates his/her own business or trade and hires one or more employees.

**Own account worker**

An Own account worker is a person who operates his/her own business or trade but does not hire employees. He/She may be working alone or with the help of contributing family workers.

**Employee**

An Employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity.

**Apprentice**

An Apprentice is a person being trained for a job or trade and does not receive pay or may just receive some pocket money; an apprentice is considered as an employee.

**Contributing family worker**

A Contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an enterprise operated by a family member.

**Educational attainment**

*Primary:* comprises persons who have studied up to a “Standard” between Standard 1 and the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) or equivalent.

*Secondary:* comprises persons who have studied up to a “Form” between Form 1 and the Higher School Certificate (HSC) or equivalent.

*Tertiary:* comprises persons who in addition to their secondary educational certificates (SC and HSC or equivalent) also possess either a certificate/diploma (which is above the HSC but below a first degree) or a degree.
### Annual labour force estimates based on data from different data sources, 2003 - 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Both sexes</th>
<th>Mauritians aged 16+ (000s)</th>
<th>Foreign workers (000s)</th>
<th>Total (000s)</th>
<th>in large establishments (000s)</th>
<th>outside large establishments (000s)</th>
<th>Total of whom Mauritians (000s)</th>
<th>Unemployment 1 (000s)</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Rate (%)</th>
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<td>502.1</td>
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<td>603.3</td>
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<td>248.0</td>
<td>558.1</td>
<td>536.1</td>
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<td>606.5</td>
<td>311.1</td>
<td>249.5</td>
<td>560.6</td>
<td>537.6</td>
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#### Change current year over previous:

- Male: 2.2, 1.0, 3.2, 1.0, 1.5, 2.5, 1.5, 0.7, 0.1
- Female: 1.0, 0.3, 1.3, 0.3, 0.5, 0.8, 0.5, 0.5, 0.1

#### Note:

The above figures have been worked out in order to give a set of comparable labour force estimates obtained from different sources. Users are cautioned in the use of these figures given that there are differences related to the reference period, coverage and methodology. The different sources from which these estimates have been obtained are as follows:

1. CMPHS for Mauritian labour force estimates which are subject to sampling variability as mentioned at paragraph 17.
2. The Annual Survey of Employment and Earnings (SEE) carried out in March of each year. Employment figures refer to jobs in large establishments employing 10 or more persons and include both Mauritians and foreign workers.
3. Employment in 'other than large' establishments has been estimated after reconciling data from CMPHS, SEE and administrative sources.

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Female</th>
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#### Change current year over previous:

- Male: 1.0, 0.3, 1.3, 0.3, 0.5, 0.8, 0.5, 0.5, 0.1
- Female: 1.2, 0.7, 1.9, 0.7, 1.0, 1.7, 1.0, 0.2, 0.0

#### Note:

The above figures have been worked out in order to give a set of comparable labour force estimates obtained from different sources. Users are cautioned in the use of these figures given that there are differences related to the reference period, coverage and methodology. The different sources from which these estimates have been obtained are as follows:

1. CMPHS for Mauritian labour force estimates which are subject to sampling variability as mentioned at paragraph 17.
2. The Annual Survey of Employment and Earnings (SEE) carried out in March of each year. Employment figures refer to jobs in large establishments employing 10 or more persons and include both Mauritians and foreign workers.
3. Employment in 'other than large' establishments has been estimated after reconciling data from CMPHS, SEE and administrative sources.

1. Unemployment figures and rate refer to Mauritians
2. Forecast
Table 1: Labour market activity by status, 3rd Quarter 2010 to 3rd Quarter 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Mauritian population aged 16 &amp; over</th>
<th>In thousands</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both sexes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>972.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>975.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011 Q1</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Q2</td>
<td>981.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>984.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>% change, latest quarter over:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>previous quarter</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>same quarter a year ago</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Q4</td>
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<td>Q2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
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<tr>
<td>% change, latest quarter over:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>previous quarter</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>same quarter a year ago</td>
<td>1.2</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2010 Q3</td>
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<td>% change, latest quarter over:</td>
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<tr>
<td>previous quarter</td>
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<tr>
<td>same quarter a year ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mauritain aged 16 and over</td>
<td>Age group (years)</td>
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<td>------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Both sexes</td>
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<tr>
<td>In employment</td>
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<td>Unemployed</td>
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<td>Labour force</td>
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<td>Total Population</td>
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<td>Activity rate (%)</td>
<td>59.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>In employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employment rate (%)</td>
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<td>Activity rate (%)</td>
<td>44.1</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Table 3: Employment by industrial activity, 3rd Quarter 2010 to 3rd Quarter 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total employed aged 16+</th>
<th>Primary sector</th>
<th>Secondary sector</th>
<th>Tertiary sector</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Wholesale and retail trade</th>
<th>Other services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(000s)</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>(%)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Both sexes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>542.2</td>
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*National version of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC Revision 3)
Table 4: Employment by occupational group, 3rd Quarter 2010 to 3rd Quarter 2011

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<th>Total employed aged 16+</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Managers, senior officials &amp; professionals (000s)</td>
<td>1,2,3 (%)</td>
<td>4 (%)</td>
<td>5 (%)</td>
<td>6,7,8 (%)</td>
<td>9 (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both sexes</td>
<td></td>
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Table 5: Employment by hours worked, 3rd Quarter 2010 to 3rd Quarter 2011

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total employed aged 16+ (000's)</th>
<th>Total hours worked (000's)</th>
<th>% having worked for:</th>
<th>Average number of hours worked</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1 to 23 hours</td>
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0 hour not included in total hours worked & in average number of hours worked
### Table 6: Unemployment by educational attainment, 3rd Quarter 2010 to 3rd Quarter 2011

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<th>Tertiary</th>
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<td></td>
<td>(000s)</td>
<td>Total (%)</td>
<td>Below CPE (%)</td>
<td>Passed CPE (%)</td>
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<td>15.2</td>
<td>10.3</td>
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<td>8.8</td>
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<td>18.9</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
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<td>18.3</td>
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<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
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<td>18.0</td>
<td>11.2</td>
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### Table 7: Unemployment by age, 3rd Quarter 2010 to 3rd Quarter 2011

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<th>50+</th>
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<td>25.0</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>6.2</td>
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<td>9.2</td>
<td>8.4</td>
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<td>Change, latest quarter over:</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td>-1.2</td>
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<td>0.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>18.2</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
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<td>-0.8</td>
<td>0.1</td>
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### Table 8: Unemployment by work experience, 3rd Quarter 2010 to 3rd Quarter 2011

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<th>Unemployed Mauritians aged 16+</th>
<th>No. of first job seekers</th>
<th>Unemployed with work experience by industry</th>
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<td>(000s)</td>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>-0.9</td>
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<td>-0.3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Economically inactive by reason</td>
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<tr>
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<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mauritians aged 16+</td>
<td>Homemakers (%) Retired or elderly (%) Students (%) Sick or disabled (%) Other (%)</td>
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<td>Both sexes</td>
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