The Export Processing Zone and Pioneer Status Enterprises,

1st Quarter 1997

Introduction

This issue of the "Economic Indicators" presents the results of the "Quarterly Survey of Employment" carried out at the end of March 1997. Figures are given separately for the Export Processing Zone and Pioneer Status Enterprises. The latter are "small and medium" enterprises engaged, mainly, in new technology as well as support and service industries. The report also includes provisional figures of EPZ imports and exports for the 1st quarter 1997 as well as revised figures for previous years.

I. The Export Processing Zone (EPZ)

(i) Number of enterprises

The number of EPZ enterprises at the end of the 1st quarter of 1997 stood at 483 of which 95 were small, that is, with fewer than 10 employees.

During the 1st quarter 4 enterprises closed down and 6 new enterprises started operation resulting in a net gain of 2 enterprises, one in "Textile yarn and fabrics" and the other in "Jewellery and related articles". The "Wearing apparel" sector remained with 234 enterprises after 3 closures and the coming into operation of 3 new enterprises. The number of enterprises by product group is given in Table 1.5.

(ii) Employment evolution, 1st quarter 1997

At the end of March 1997, employment in the EPZ stood at 81,572, an increase of 1,779 over the previous quarter. The number of male employees went up by 911 from 24,598 to 25,509 and that of female rose by 868 to reach 56,063.

"Wearing apparel", the most important group in the EPZ, witnessed the highest increase in employment (+1,593). Within the group, there were increases of 575 and 1,018 in "Pullovers and other knitted garments" and "Other garment" respectively. Moderate increases were noted in "Jewellery and related articles" (+124) and in "Food" (+104). On the other hand, employment in "Textile yarn and fabrics" and "Electronic watches and clocks" fell by 96 and 65 respectively. Details of net change in employment by product group, are shown in Table 1.6.

During the 1st quarter of 1997, a total of 4,075 jobs were created, of which 3,907 through expansion in 37 existing enterprises. The number of jobs created by the 6 new enterprises was 168. On the other hand, 2,296 jobs were lost: 1,815 through reduction in 21 existing enterprises and 481 following the closure of 4 enterprises (Table 1.4).
Foreign workers, who numbered 6,771 at the beginning of the quarter, rose by 181 to reach 6,952 at the end of March 1997. Male employment rose by 5 to reach 2,118 whilst female employment moved up by 176 from 4,658 to 4,834.


During the one-year period ending March 1997, there was a net gain of 3 in the number of enterprises and 524 in the workforce.

In the "Wearing apparel" group, employment went up by 592 despite a fall in the number of enterprises from 242 to 234 showing consolidation of the most important group in the EPZ. Other moderate increases were also registered in the following groups: "Jewellery and related articles" (+178), "Food" (+161) and "Wood and paper products" (+108). Groups which witnessed decreases were: "Wood and paper products" (-202), "Electronic watches and clocks" (-200), "Flowers" (-113), "Optical goods" (-109) and "Textile yarn and fabrics" (-72). Details of the changes by product group are given in Table 1.6.

(iv) Exports and Imports

EPZ Exports, for the 1st quarter of 1997, reached Rs 4,675 million and represent an absolute increase of Rs 465 million when compared to the corresponding quarter of 1996 (Table 1.8). In nominal terms, the increase works out to 11% and is explained mostly by price increases.

Exports of manufactured articles of apparel and clothing went up by Rs 488 million.

An analysis by country of destination (Table 1.11) shows a 48% increase (+ Rs 356 million) in exports to the United Kingdom. On the other hand, exports towards France decreased slightly from Rs 1,231 million to Rs 1,201 million. Movement in foreign exchange rate, namely the Pound Sterling and the French Franc, could be one of the factors influencing exports performance towards these countries. It will be noted that exports to the U.S.A, our most important market outside the European Union countries, fell down from Rs 799 million to Rs 694 million.

Imports, during the 1st quarter 1997, reached Rs 2,758 million compared to Rs 2,671 million for the same quarter of 1996. Raw materials amounted to Rs 2,548 million (+6.5%) whilst imports of machinery and equipment fell by Rs 68 million to Rs 210 million.

Net exports, i.e. exports minus imports, totalled Rs 1,917 million and the ratio to exports works out to 41% (Table 1.8).

On the basis of available figures for the 1st quarter of 1997 and taking into consideration past trends, total exports for the year 1997 may attain Rs 23,000 million.
II. The Pioneer Status Enterprises (PSE)

(i) Number of enterprises

During the 1st quarter of 1997, six enterprises closed down whilst twelve new enterprises started operation bringing the total number of PSE enterprises to 138 at the end of the quarter (Table 2.1). Among these enterprises 47 are considered as "large", i.e. as having 10 or more employees. The activities in which the enterprises are engaged are given in Table 2.2. The highest number of enterprises were in "Electric and Electronic products" (29) followed closely by "Informatics" (27). It will be noted that the latter was operating with only 17 enterprises a year ago.

(ii) Employment

The total workforce in the PSE sector at the end of March 1997 was 2,074 (1,225 males and 849 females), an increase of 93 over the previous quarter (Table 2.1). The "large" enterprises employed 1,283 compared to 1,254 at the end of December 1996.

During the 1st quarter 1997, a total of 199 jobs were created: 86 by the 12 new enterprises and 113 following expansion in 37 existing enterprises. On the other hand, 26 enterprises reported a reduction of 82 and job losses due to the 6 closures numbered 24 (Table 2.3).

The number of expatriates employed as at end of the 1st quarter 1997 stood at 68 (57 males and 11 females).

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Development
PORT LOUIS
August 1997
Table 1.1: Main economic indicators: 1986 - 1996, EPZ Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. No of enterprises as at December</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- New</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Closures</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>2. Employment as at December</td>
<td>74,015</td>
<td>87,905</td>
<td>89,080</td>
<td>88,658</td>
<td>89,906</td>
<td>90,861</td>
<td>86,937</td>
<td>85,621</td>
<td>82,176</td>
<td>80,466</td>
<td>79,793</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Net change</td>
<td>+20,064</td>
<td>+13,890</td>
<td>+1,175</td>
<td>-422</td>
<td>+1,248</td>
<td>+955</td>
<td>-3,924</td>
<td>-1,316</td>
<td>-3,445</td>
<td>-1,710</td>
<td>-673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Growth rate (%)</td>
<td>+37.2</td>
<td>+18.8</td>
<td>+1.3</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>+1.4</td>
<td>+1.1</td>
<td>-4.3</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>-4.0</td>
<td>-2.1</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Exports (f.o.b, Rs Million)</td>
<td>4,951</td>
<td>6,567</td>
<td>8,176</td>
<td>9,057</td>
<td>11,474</td>
<td>12,136</td>
<td>13,081</td>
<td>15,821</td>
<td>16,533</td>
<td>18,267</td>
<td>21,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Imports (c.i.f, Rs Million):</td>
<td>3,863</td>
<td>4,801</td>
<td>5,890</td>
<td>7,502</td>
<td>7,348</td>
<td>7,067</td>
<td>7,133</td>
<td>9,326</td>
<td>10,125</td>
<td>10,856</td>
<td>12,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Raw materials</td>
<td>(3,427)</td>
<td>(4,296)</td>
<td>(5,056)</td>
<td>(6,539)</td>
<td>(6,554)</td>
<td>(6,348)</td>
<td>(6,456)</td>
<td>(8,221)</td>
<td>(9,016)</td>
<td>(9,869)</td>
<td>(10,988)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Machinery &amp; spare parts</td>
<td>(436)</td>
<td>(505)</td>
<td>(834)</td>
<td>(963)</td>
<td>(794)</td>
<td>(719)</td>
<td>(677)</td>
<td>(1,105)</td>
<td>(1,109)</td>
<td>(987)</td>
<td>(1,118)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Net Exports (Rs Million)</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td>1,766</td>
<td>2,286</td>
<td>1,555</td>
<td>4,126</td>
<td>5,069</td>
<td>5,948</td>
<td>6,495</td>
<td>6,408</td>
<td>7,411</td>
<td>8,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Net Exports to Exports (%)</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>45.5</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>42.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Value added at current prices (Rs Million)</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>2,585</td>
<td>3,125</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>3,975</td>
<td>4,406</td>
<td>5,011</td>
<td>5,702</td>
<td>6,373</td>
<td>7,096</td>
<td>8,197</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Share in Manufacturing (%)</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>53.4</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>50.3</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>50.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Share in GDP (%)</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Value added at constant '82 prices (Rs Million)</td>
<td>1,139</td>
<td>1,390</td>
<td>1,557</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>1,766</td>
<td>1,854</td>
<td>1,965</td>
<td>2,083</td>
<td>2,173</td>
<td>2,281</td>
<td>2,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Growth rate (%)</td>
<td>+34.9</td>
<td>+22.0</td>
<td>+12.0</td>
<td>+6.0</td>
<td>+7.0</td>
<td>+5.0</td>
<td>+6.0</td>
<td>+6.0</td>
<td>+4.3</td>
<td>+5.0</td>
<td>+7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Partial labour productivity Index (1982 = 100)</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Investment (Rs Million)</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Machinery</td>
<td>(450)</td>
<td>(530)</td>
<td>(730)</td>
<td>(840)</td>
<td>(640)</td>
<td>(610)</td>
<td>(540)</td>
<td>(875)</td>
<td>(880)</td>
<td>(805)</td>
<td>(960)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 revised
2 provisional
3 Partial labour productivity index is the variation of value added per worker in constant 1982 prices
Table 1.2: EPZ employment, March 1996 - March 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No. of Enterprises</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar.96 Dec. 96 Mar.97</td>
<td>March 96</td>
<td>December 96</td>
<td>March 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>391 386 388</td>
<td>24,175</td>
<td>55,838</td>
<td>80,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small (&lt;10)</td>
<td>89 95 95</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outworkers</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>480 481 483</td>
<td>24,494</td>
<td>56,554</td>
<td>81,048</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 includes expatriates: No. as at
- Mar.96: 6,045 (1,829 males; 4,216 females)
- Dec.96: 6,771 (2,113 males; 4,658 females)
- Mar.97: 6,952 (2,118 males; 4,834 females)
Table 1.3: EPZ Employment by product group and sex: March 1996 - March 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product group</th>
<th>March 96</th>
<th></th>
<th>March 97</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No of Enterprises</td>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>No of Enterprises</td>
<td>Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Food</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>1,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Flowers</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Textile yarn and fabrics</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2,678</td>
<td>1,199</td>
<td>3,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullovers</td>
<td>(32)</td>
<td>(3,447)</td>
<td>(15,003)</td>
<td>(18,450)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other garments</td>
<td>(210)</td>
<td>(14,412)</td>
<td>(33,948)</td>
<td>(48,360)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Leather products and footwear</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>1,230</td>
<td>1,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Wood and paper products</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Optical goods</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Electronic watches and clocks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Jewellery and related articles</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>1,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Toys and carnival articles</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>1,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Other</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>1,024</td>
<td>1,911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>24,494</td>
<td>56,554</td>
<td>81,048</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Table 1.4: Analysis of net change in EPZ employment, 1st quarter 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Evolution 1st qr 1997</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enterprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Total employment creation:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expansion in existing enterprises</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New enterprises</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Total employment lost:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduction in existing enterprises</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closures</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Net change (A-B)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 No. of enterprises relates to those reporting expansion/reduction in their workforce by more than 25 while employment is total expansion/reduction.
### Table 1.5: - Net change in number of EPZ enterprises by product group, March 1996 - March 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product group</th>
<th>No. of enterprises</th>
<th>Net change</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 96</td>
<td>Dec. 96</td>
<td>Mar. 97</td>
<td>1st quarter</td>
<td>Mar.96 - Mar.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Food</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Flowers</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Textile yarn and fabrics</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Wearing apparel</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullovers</td>
<td>(32)</td>
<td>(31)</td>
<td>(30)</td>
<td>(-1)</td>
<td>(-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other garments</td>
<td>(210)</td>
<td>(203)</td>
<td>(204)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Leather products and footwear</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Wood and paper products</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Optical goods</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Electronic watches and clocks</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Electric and electronic products</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Jewellery and related articles</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Toys and carnival articles</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Other</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>480</strong></td>
<td><strong>481</strong></td>
<td><strong>483</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
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</table>

### Table 1.6: - Net change in EPZ employment by product group, March 1996 - March 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product group</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Net change</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 96</td>
<td>Dec. 96</td>
<td>Mar. 97</td>
<td>1st quarter</td>
<td>Mar.96 - Mar.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Food</td>
<td>1,504</td>
<td>1,561</td>
<td>1,665</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Flowers</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td>-113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Textile yarn and fabrics</td>
<td>3,877</td>
<td>3,901</td>
<td>3,805</td>
<td>-96</td>
<td>-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Wearing apparel</td>
<td>66,810</td>
<td>65,809</td>
<td>67,402</td>
<td>1,593</td>
<td>592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pullovers</td>
<td>(18,450)</td>
<td>(18,408)</td>
<td>(18,983)</td>
<td>(575)</td>
<td>(533)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other garments</td>
<td>(48,360)</td>
<td>(47,401)</td>
<td>(48,419)</td>
<td>(1,018)</td>
<td>(59)</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>81,572</strong></td>
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Table 1.8 - Net EPZ exports, 1995 - 1997

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<th>1997</th>
<th>Revised 2 Provisional</th>
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<td>10,856</td>
<td>4,210</td>
<td>21,001</td>
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<td>B. Total imports (c.i.f)</td>
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<td>(9,879)</td>
<td>(2,671)</td>
<td>12,106</td>
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<td>- Raw Materials</td>
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<td>(10,989)</td>
<td>(3,301)</td>
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<td>(9,879)</td>
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1 Revised
2 Provisional
### Table 1.9 - EPZ exports by section/commodity, 1995 - 1997

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<td>21,001</td>
<td>4,210</td>
<td>5,445</td>
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<td>(138)</td>
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<td>(59)</td>
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2 Provisional
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¹ Revised
² Provisional
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1 Provisional
### Table 2.1: Employment by size and sex: March 96 - Dec. 96 - March 97, Pioneer Status Enterprises

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<td>December 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>112</td>
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¹ includes expatriates: No. as at - Mar.96: 56 (50 males, 6 females) - Dec.96: 65 (55 males, 10 females) - Mar.97: 68 (57 males, 11 females)
Table 2.2: Employment by product group and sex: March 1996 - March 1997, Pioneer Status Enterprises

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<td>No. of</td>
<td>Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>enterprises</td>
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<td>Female</td>
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<td>211</td>
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<td>210</td>
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<td>3. Electric and Electronic products</td>
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<td>141</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>205</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Light engineering</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Support to jewellery</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Support to printing and publishing</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>177</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Other support services</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>137</td>
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<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Plastic and rubber products</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Other</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>57</td>
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Table 2.3: Analysis of net change in employment: 1st quarter 1997, Pioneer Status Enterprises

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<td>Expansion in existing enterprises</td>
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<td></td>
<td>New enterprises</td>
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<td>B. Total employment lost:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reduction in existing enterprises</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Closures</td>
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<td>C. Net change (A-B)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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Table 2.4: - Net change in number of enterprises by product group: March 96 - March 97, Pioneer Status Enterprises

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<th>Net change</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>5. Support to jewellery</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Support to printing and publishing</td>
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<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Other support services</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Plastic and rubber products</td>
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<td>9. Other</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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Table 2.5: - Net change in employment by product group: March 96 - March 97, Pioneer Status Enterprises

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