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Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment - 1994

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS
LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT
1994

Introduction

This publication consists of a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the Republic of Mauritius (including Rodrigues). All the data presented here refer to the middle of the years mentioned.

Coverage

The population considered covers all resident Mauritians aged 12 years and above. Hence, some 8000 foreigners working on contract in Mauritius have not been included.

Employment figures have been given for 'large' and 'other than large' establishments separately. 'Large' establishments comprise sugar cane plantations of 10 hectares or more; tea plantations of 2 hectares or more; all 'flue-cured' tobacco establishments; other agricultural and non-agricultural establishments having 10 or more employees, as well as all central and local government departments.

Sources of data

Estimates of labour force (which is the total of employed and unemployed population) have been worked out using the 1990 Population Census data and current estimates of population size by age group.

Unemployment estimates have been based on the number of registered unemployed at the middle of each year as published by the Employment Service Division of the Ministry for Civil Service Affairs and Employment.

Employment in large establishments is obtained from the annual Survey of Employment and Earnings. Estimates of employment in establishments other than those covered by the Survey of Employment and Earnings have been based on data from the 1990 Population Census, the 1992 Census of Economic Activities in small establishments as well as information from various administrative records such as licences and permits.

Labour force

The labour force (or currently active population) has been estimated by applying sex-age-specific activity rates to the population figures in the different age brackets. The age specific activity rates for the years 1991 to 1994, which have been projected from the 1990 Population Census reported rates, are shown in table 1.

The total labour force, estimated at 503,100 for 1994, shows an increase of 13,400 (or 2.7%) from the estimated figure of 489,700 worked out for 1993. The increase among females was larger than for males in both absolute and relative terms. In fact, the increase in the number of economically active males was 5,900 or 2% more than in 1993 while the corresponding increase in the number of active females was 7,500 or 4.5%.
The increase in male labour force from 322,600 to 328,500 is due to changes in the age structure of the population mainly, i.e. in 1994 compared to 1993, there are more persons in those age groups where activity rates are high. On the other hand, the increase in female labour force, from 167,100 in 1993 to 174,600 in 1994, is mainly due to rising economic activity among women.

**Employment level**

The total number of persons with jobs is estimated at 481,000 and 495,000 in 1993 and 1994 respectively, i.e. an increase of about 3%. After the drop of 3,300 (or -1.1%) registered in 1993, employment level in 'large' establishments went up by 4500 (or 1.6%) in 1994. On the other hand, employment in 'other than large' establishments, derived by subtracting figures for 'large' establishments from estimates of total employment, indicate a faster rate of growth outside 'large' establishments. The rates worked out for 1993 and 1994 are 8 and 5 per cent respectively.

**Employment by industry**

The distribution of employees in the different industrial sectors has remained almost unchanged between 1993 and 1994 except for small decreases of 0.7 and 0.5 percentage points in 'Manufacturing' and 'Agriculture and fishing' respectively, compensated by increases of 0.8 and 0.4 percentage points in 'Wholesale, retail trade, restaurants and hotels' and 'Community, social and personal services'.

In absolute terms, the two sectors registering important rises in employment between 1993 and 1994 are 'Wholesale, retail trade, restaurants & hotels' and 'Community, social and personal services' with increases of 6,500 and 5,200 respectively. An increase of 1,100 employees is also noted in 'Financing, insurance, real estate and business services'. The number of persons engaged in the agricultural sector, which has been declining over the past few years, as a result of a reduction in the workforce of the Sugar Industry, has gone down by 400.

**Employment by sex**

Analysis of the data by sex shows that male employment has increased by 2%, that is from 317,100 in 1993 to 323,200 in 1994. Female employment on the other hand, increased by 5% from 163,900 to 171,800. As a result of these changes, the proportion of women in total employment stood at 34.7% in 1994 compared to 34.1% in 1993.

The rise of 6,100 noted in male employment is mostly accounted for by 'Wholesale, retail trade, restaurants and hotels' (+3,100) and 'Community, social and personal services' (+2,300). Female employment as well showed increases in these same two sectors, i.e 3,400 in 'Wholesale, retail trade, restaurants and hotels' and 2,900 in 'Community, social and personal services'.
Unemployment

Estimates of unemployment levels have been based on the trend observed in the number of registered unemployed persons by sex as published by the Ministry for Civil Service Affairs and Employment. Hence, the same unemployment rate of 1.6% has been adopted for both males and females in 1994. The total number of unemployed persons is therefore 7,100, made up of 5,300 males and 2,800 females.

Central Statistical Office,
Ministry of Economic Planning and Development,
PORT LOUIS.

December 1994
Table 1 - Activity rates by age-group and sex, 1991-1994

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Fig 1: Age-specific activity rates, 1994

- Male
- Female

Activity rates (%)

Age (years)
### Male

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<th>1992</th>
<th>1993</th>
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(1) Employment figures do not include foreigners working in Mauritius

(2) Revised

(3) Provisional
Fig 2 - Employment by size of establishment and sex, 1991 - 1994

- Large
- Other

Employment (in thousands)

1991

1992

1993

1994

Male Female
Table 4 - Employment (1) by industry and sex, 1991 - 1994 (in thousands)

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<td>of which sugar cane</td>
<td>(28.2)</td>
<td>(12.1)</td>
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<td>(6.9)</td>
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<td>(7.0)</td>
<td>(6.7)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(6.8)</td>
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<td>Electricity &amp; water</td>
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<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
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<td>3.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<td>30.7</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>32.2</td>
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<td>32.4</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>32.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wholesale &amp; retail trade, restaurants &amp; hotels</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>76.5</td>
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<td>Transport , storage , &amp; communication</td>
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<td>2.1</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financing , insurance , real estate &amp; business services</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community , social and personal services</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>105.1</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>108.8</td>
<td>75.8</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>114.6</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>119.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>of which : central government</td>
<td>(43.9)</td>
<td>(10.9)</td>
<td>(54.8)</td>
<td>(43.9)</td>
<td>(10.9)</td>
<td>(54.8)</td>
<td>(44.4)</td>
<td>(11.5)</td>
<td>(55.9)</td>
<td>(44.2)</td>
<td>(11.8)</td>
<td>(56.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>local government</td>
<td>(4.6)</td>
<td>(0.5)</td>
<td>(5.1)</td>
<td>(4.5)</td>
<td>(0.6)</td>
<td>(5.1)</td>
<td>(4.7)</td>
<td>(0.6)</td>
<td>(5.3)</td>
<td>(4.7)</td>
<td>(0.6)</td>
<td>(5.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities n.e.c</td>
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<td>3.4</td>
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<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>303.3</td>
<td>152.7</td>
<td>456.0</td>
<td>310.8</td>
<td>158.4</td>
<td>469.2</td>
<td>317.1</td>
<td>163.9</td>
<td>481.0</td>
<td>323.2</td>
<td>171.8</td>
<td>495.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Employment figures do not include foreigners working in Mauritius
(2) Revised
(3) Provisional
Fig 3 - Employment by industry, 1994

- Trade & Hotels: 15.5%
- Agriculture: 14.3%
- Other: 13.8%
- Government: 12.0%
- Transport: 7.1%
- Construction: 6.6%
- Finance & Business: 3.0%
- Manufacturing: 27.8%
- EPZ: 57.1%
- Sugar: 4.9%
- Other: 38.0%
Table 5 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment; 1991 - 1994 (in thousands)

### Both sexes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population 12 years and above</th>
<th>Labour Force</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>in large establishments</td>
<td>outside large establishments</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>821.4</td>
<td>286.8</td>
<td>169.2</td>
<td>456.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>838.4</td>
<td>286.9</td>
<td>182.3</td>
<td>469.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993¹</td>
<td>854.4</td>
<td>283.6</td>
<td>197.4</td>
<td>481.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994²</td>
<td>868.0</td>
<td>288.1</td>
<td>206.9</td>
<td>495.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Male

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population 12 years and above</th>
<th>Labour Force</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>in large establishments</td>
<td>outside large establishments</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>408.3</td>
<td>185.4</td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>303.3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>417.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>425.4</td>
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<td>134.1</td>
<td>317.1</td>
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<td>136.8</td>
<td>323.2</td>
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</table>

### Female

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population 12 years and above</th>
<th>Labour Force</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Unemployment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>in large establishments</td>
<td>outside large establishments</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>413.1</td>
<td>101.4</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>152.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>420.6</td>
<td>101.9</td>
<td>56.5</td>
<td>158.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993¹</td>
<td>429.0</td>
<td>100.6</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>163.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994²</td>
<td>435.5</td>
<td>101.7</td>
<td>70.1</td>
<td>171.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Revised
² Provisional