1. Introduction
This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents mid-year estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for years 2001 to 2003. Figures for years 2001 and 2002 are final and those for 2003 have been revised in the light of most recent available data.

Figures presented in this publication have been worked out according to data sources and methodology described at paragraph 4 below and relate to the Republic of Mauritius. This current issue is the last in the series. Forthcoming issues will be based on new data sources and methodology, as explained in paragraph 6.

2. Definitions
Definitions of labour force, employment and unemployment used are according to the ILO recommendations.

The labour force is made up of the employed and the unemployed populations. The employed population consists of persons who are working while the unemployed population consists of persons who are not working but who are looking for work and are available for work.

The unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of the Mauritian labour force who is unemployed.

3. Coverage
The population considered in estimating the size of the labour force comprises persons aged 12 years and above. The labour force includes expatriate workers but separate figures for Mauritians are also given.

Employment figures comprise employment in large establishments (that is those employing 10 or more persons) as well as employment outside large establishments including own-account workers.

4. Sources of data and methodology
The labour force is estimated by applying age-sex specific activity rates to the mid-year population by age group and sex. The activity rates have been worked out on the basis of data available from the 2000 Population Census and the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey.

The mid-year estimates of employment in large establishments are the averages of data obtained from the March and September surveys of employment and earnings conducted by the Office. Employment outside large establishments is estimated on the basis of censuses, surveys, administrative records of permits and licences and area under cultivation.
5. **Year 2003 (revised estimates)**
Estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment published earlier in the December issue have been revised in the light of latest available information.

Total labour force is now estimated at around 549,500 and total employment at 495,100. Unemployment is maintained at 54,400 and unemployment rate (percentage of Mauritian labour force who is unemployed) at 10.2%.

5.1 **Labour force**
Between 2002 and 2003, the total labour force increased by 8,600 from 540,900 (353,600 males and 187,300 females) to 549,500 (358,900 males and 190,600 females). Excluding foreign workers whose number increased from 17,000 to 18,200, the Mauritian labour force went up from 523,900 to 531,300.

5.2 **Employment**
Total employment in 2003 was 495,100 (327,300 males and 167,800 females), that is an increase of 5,000 over the 2002 figure of 490,100 (324,000 males and 166,100 females). This is the result of net employment increases in some industry groups and net employment decreases in others as given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net increases:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale &amp; retail trade</td>
<td>3,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-sugar, non-EPZ manufacturing</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-sugar cane agriculture</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels &amp; restaurants</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration &amp; Defence</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport, storage &amp; communication</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; social work</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial intermediation</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate, renting &amp; business activities</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net decreases:</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPZ Manufacturing</td>
<td>5,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar (agriculture and manufacturing)</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining &amp; quarrying</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity &amp; water supply</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,400</strong></td>
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</table>

Net employment decreases were registered mainly in the EPZ manufacturing (-5,700) and in the Sugar sector (-2,600) while net employment increases were mainly in the Wholesale & retail trade (+3,400) and Construction (+1,700).
Breakdown of total employment in large establishments and outside shows a drop of 300 in large establishments from 296,200 in 2002 to 295,900 in 2003, and an increase of 5,300 outside large establishments from 193,900 to 199,200.

5.3  Unemployment
The number of unemployed persons in 2003 was around 54,400 (31,600 males and 22,800 females) compared to 50,800 (29,600 males and 21,200 females) in 2002. The unemployment rate worked out to 10.2% (9.0% for males and 12.6% for females) against 9.7% (8.5% for males and 12.0% for females) in 2002.

6.  Forthcoming changes
The Office has, till now, used different data sources for estimating mid-year labour force, employment and unemployment figures.

Henceforth, quarterly estimates will be published based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) which will, as from 2004, be the dedicated instrument for measuring labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis. The survey will be conducted every quarter with the last week of each quarter as reference week. Furthermore, estimates will refer to the population aged 15 years and over instead of 12 years and over.

The above changes follow the recommendations of a Technical Committee on Unemployment, made on the basis of the findings of a study on Unemployment in Mauritius carried out jointly by Government and World Bank.

Quarterly figures on labour force, employment and unemployment based on the results of the CMPHS will be published in January, April, July and October of every year. The first issue presenting the estimates as at March 2004 will be published in July 2004.

Central Statistics Office
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
PORT LOUIS
April 2004

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Statistician, Labour Unit
Central Statistics Office
LIC Centre
Port Louis
Tel: 2122316/7
Fax: 2114150
Email: cso_labour@mail.gov.mu
Table 1 - Activity rates (%) by age-group and sex, 2001 - 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years)</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
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<th></th>
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<tr>
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<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 - 19</td>
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<td>36.6</td>
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<td>20 - 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 - 29</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>96.3</td>
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<td>97.3</td>
<td>97.3</td>
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<td>52.3</td>
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<td>40 - 44</td>
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<td>96.7</td>
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<td>4.1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 and above</td>
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<td>9.1</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
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Table 2 - Labour force by age group and sex, 2001 - 2003

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<th></th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
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<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<td>0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 - 19</td>
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<td>17.5</td>
<td>17.3</td>
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<td>8.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 - 24</td>
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<td>47.8</td>
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<td>49.4</td>
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<td>27.2</td>
<td>28.9</td>
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<td>30 - 34</td>
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<td>25.5</td>
<td>25.3</td>
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<td>35 - 39</td>
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<td>50.8</td>
<td>50.4</td>
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<td>26.9</td>
<td>27.2</td>
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<td>40 - 44</td>
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<td>25.6</td>
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<td>45 - 49</td>
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<td>20.8</td>
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<td>55 - 59</td>
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<td>7.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>7.7</td>
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<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 - 69</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 74</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 and above</td>
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<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total labour force</td>
<td>352.1</td>
<td>353.6</td>
<td>358.9</td>
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<td>186.4</td>
<td>187.3</td>
<td>190.6</td>
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<td>Mauritain labour force</td>
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<td>176.7</td>
<td>180.3</td>
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<td>Foreign labour force</td>
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<td>7.9</td>
<td></td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>10.3</td>
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1 Revised
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Industrial group</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003¹</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Both sexes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, hunting, forestry &amp; fishing</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>54.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> Sugar cane</td>
<td>(20.8)</td>
<td>(7.3)</td>
<td>(28.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> Non-Sugar cane</td>
<td>(19.7)</td>
<td>(6.5)</td>
<td>(26.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining &amp; quarrying</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>71.0</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>143.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> Sugar</td>
<td>(3.2)</td>
<td>(0.0)</td>
<td>(3.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> EPZ</td>
<td>(29.8)</td>
<td>(61.2)</td>
<td>(91.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> Non-Sugar, Non-EPZ</td>
<td>(38.0)</td>
<td>(11.3)</td>
<td>(49.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity, gas and water supply</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>43.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale &amp; retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles,</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>65.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> personal and household goods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels &amp; restaurants</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport, storage &amp; communications</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial intermediation</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real estate, renting and business activities</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration and defence; compulsory social security</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>23.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; social work</td>
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<td>12.3</td>
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<td>Other community, social and personal service activities and private</td>
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<td> households with employed persons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>321.6</td>
<td>169.2</td>
<td>490.8</td>
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¹ Revised
### Table 4 - Employment by industrial group and size of establishment, 2001 - 2003

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<th>Industrial group</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003¹</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Other than large</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, hunting, forestry &amp; fishing</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>54.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar cane</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non - Sugar cane</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining &amp; quarrying</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>115.9</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>143.5</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sugar</td>
<td>3.2</td>
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<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPZ</td>
<td>89.6</td>
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<td>Electricity, gas and water supply</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>30.2</td>
<td>43.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale &amp; retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>65.1</td>
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<td>Hotels &amp; restaurants</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>24.2</td>
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<td>15.0</td>
<td>31.6</td>
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<td>Real estate, renting and business activities</td>
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<td>14.3</td>
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<td>Public administration and defence; compulsory social security</td>
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¹ Revised
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¹ Includes foreign workers
² Average of March and September figures
³ Unemployment as a percentage of Mauritian labour force

4 The low increase results from the implementation of the VRS. It is assumed that out of the 8,000 affected 5,000 moved out the labour force, 2,000 found employment and 1,000 looked for work

5 Revised
Fig. 1 - Labour Force, Employment & Unemployment, 1996 - 2003

Fig. 2 - Unemployment rate (%), 1996 - 2003