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VOLUME VIII - ECONOMIC ACTIVITY CHARACTERISTICS

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FOREWORD

The Central Statistics Office conducted a Housing and Population Census in year 2000. Census 2000 was the seventeenth for the Island of Mauritius and the seventh for the Island of Rodrigues.

A series of table reports covering housing and living conditions, demographic and fertility characteristics, economic characteristics, educational characteristics, household characteristics, geographical and migration characteristics, and disability was published during the following year. Analysis and evaluation of the census data are currently being carried out and the results published in a series of analytical reports.

This present report is the eighth of the series of analytical reports and covers economic activity characteristics of the population as reported at Census 2000. Projections of the labour force up to year 2020 based on certain specified assumptions are also included.

It is hoped that the report will be useful to the public in general and to policy makers, planners and researchers in particular.

I would like here to thank all staff who contributed in one way or another in the preparation of this report.

H.Bundhoo
Director of Statistics

Central Statistics Office
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Port Louis
Mauritius

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Contact Person: M. Ganoo (Mrs)

Labour Unit

Central Statistics Office

LIC Centre

Port Louis

Tel: 212 - 2316/7

Fax: 211- 4150

Email: cso@mail.gov.mu

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Chapter 1

Measurement of Economic Activity

1.1 Introduction

One of the objectives of the 2000 Population Census is to obtain comprehensive and up to date statistical data on the economically active population, comprising employed and unemployed persons, as well as on the inactive population. The data are useful mainly for policy development and planning.

This report is one of the series of analytical reports on the 2000 Housing and Population Census and examines the economic characteristics of the population.

The Census data on population of the working age, the active population, the employed population and the unemployed population are analysed in chapters 2 to 5, while current estimates and forecast of the economically active population (labour force) based on the 2000 Census are given in the last chapter.

1.2 Population coverage

The 2000 Population Census covered all persons in private households as well as those living in communal households in the Islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega and St. Brandon. Information on economic activity was reported by all persons aged 12 years and over. Analysis of economic activity has been carried out using data for the Island of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

The International Labour Office (ILO) does not specify any age limit in its definition of the employed, unemployed and inactive population, but recommends that the age limit should be set in accordance with prevailing conditions in the country.

Although the minimum legal age for employment is 15 years in Mauritius, the Central Statistics Office used 12 years as the lower age limit for reporting of economic activities as there were some young persons aged less than 15 years joining the labour force each year. In fact, those in the age group 12 to 14 years who reported having a job at the 2000 Census numbered 760 only, indicating a low level of child labour.

No upper age limit is set in the measurement of economic activity as there are persons beyond the retirement age of 60 years still active. They numbered about 11,500 in 2000.

1.3 Concepts and definitions

Concepts and definitions used are in line with the recommendations of the International Labour Office.

(a) *Economically active population or labour force*

The economically active population or labour force comprises all persons aged 12 years and over who furnish the supply of labour for the production of economic goods and services as defined by the UN System of National Accounts, during a reference period. They are made up of the employed and the unemployed.

The reference period at Census 2000 was the week from 26 June to 2 July 2000.

(b) *Employed*

The employed population comprises all persons aged 12 years and over who

- (i) worked for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during the reference week, or
- (ii) held a job during the reference week, but did not do any work because of illness, injury, holiday, industrial dispute, temporary disorganisation of work, etc.

(c) *Unemployed*

The unemployed population comprises all persons aged 12 years and over who satisfied all of the following criteria :

- (i) did not do any work for pay, profit or family gain during the reference week,
- (ii) did not hold a job during the reference week,
- (iii) took active steps to look for work or set up a business at anytime during the four weeks ending with the reference week, and
- (iv) were available for work during the reference week.

1.4 Questions asked at the Census 2000

Several questions were asked to enable the identification of the economic activity of the respondents. These were :

- (i) How many hours in all did the person work for pay, profit or family gain during the past week from Monday 26 June to Sunday 2 July 2000?
- (ii) Was there a job, business, family enterprise or agricultural holding or farm, at which the person did not work because of illness, injury, holiday, industrial dispute, off-season inactivity, temporary disorganisation, etc.?
- (iii) Did the person take any active steps to look for work or set up a business of his/her own, any time during the past 4 weeks?
- (iv) Was the person available for work during the past week?

Questions asked relate to the person's job during the reference week. If the person had more than one job, he/she reported the one at which he/she worked the most hours so that persons doing multiple jobs, as is frequently the case in the informal sector, would be counted once only.

Chapter 2

Population of the working age

2.1 Number and growth

At Census 2000, the number of persons of working age, i.e. those aged 12 and above, were 937,520 compared to 808,251 in 1990. The proportion of the working age population in the total population thus increased from 76.5% in 1990 to 79.5% in 2000. This population has grown at a faster annual rate (1.5 %) than the total population (1.1%).

2.2 Sex and age composition

The working age population consisted of 461,834 males (49%) and 475,686 (51%) females, giving a sex ratio of 97 males to 100 females, compared to 100 males to 100 females in 1990, indicating a higher proportion of females than males in the working age population at the last census.

Table 2.1 – Distribution (%) of the working age population by age group and sex, 1990 and 2000 Censuses

Age group (years)	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
12 - 14	8.2	7.9	8.1	6.1	5.8	6.0
15 - 44	68.3	65.6	66.9	65.2	62.6	63.8
45 - 59	13.9	14.5	14.2	18.6	18.8	18.7
60+	9.6	12.0	10.8	10.1	12.8	11.5
Total : %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No.	402,144	406,107	808,251	461,834	475,686	937,520

During the 10-year period, the proportion of the population in the age groups 12 to 14 years and 15 to 44 years decreased while those in the older age groups increased indicating the ageing of the population of the working age. The mean age of the population of working age was 36.9 years in 2000 compared to 34.7 years in 1990.

2.3 Activity status

Table 2.2 shows the distribution of the population aged 12 years and above by activity status and sex at the two censuses.

The active population grew by 8,237 or 1.8% annually to reach 514,385 in 2000 from 432,019 in 1990. In 2000, active persons represented 54.9% of the working age population, compared to 53.5% in 1990.

**Table 2.2 - Population 12 years and over by activity status and sex,
1990 and 2000 Censuses****Both sexes**

Activity status	1990		2000	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Currently Active	432,019	53.5	514,385	54.9
Not Currently Active	374,065	46.2	420,582	44.8
<i>Household duties</i>	218,337	27.0	217,129	23.1
<i>Studies</i>	85,980	10.6	115,527	12.3
<i>Retired, disabled & other</i>	69,748	8.6	87,926	9.4
Not stated	2,167	0.3	2,553	0.3
Total	808,251	100.0	937,520	100.0

Male

Activity status	1990		2000	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Currently Active	301,368	74.9	341,306	73.9
Not Currently Active	99,558	24.8	119,073	25.8
<i>Household duties</i>	5,875	1.5	3,185	0.7
<i>Studies</i>	45,067	11.2	59,460	12.9
<i>Retired, disabled & other</i>	48,616	12.1	56,428	12.2
Not stated	1,218	0.3	1,455	0.3
Total	402,144	100.0	461,834	100.0

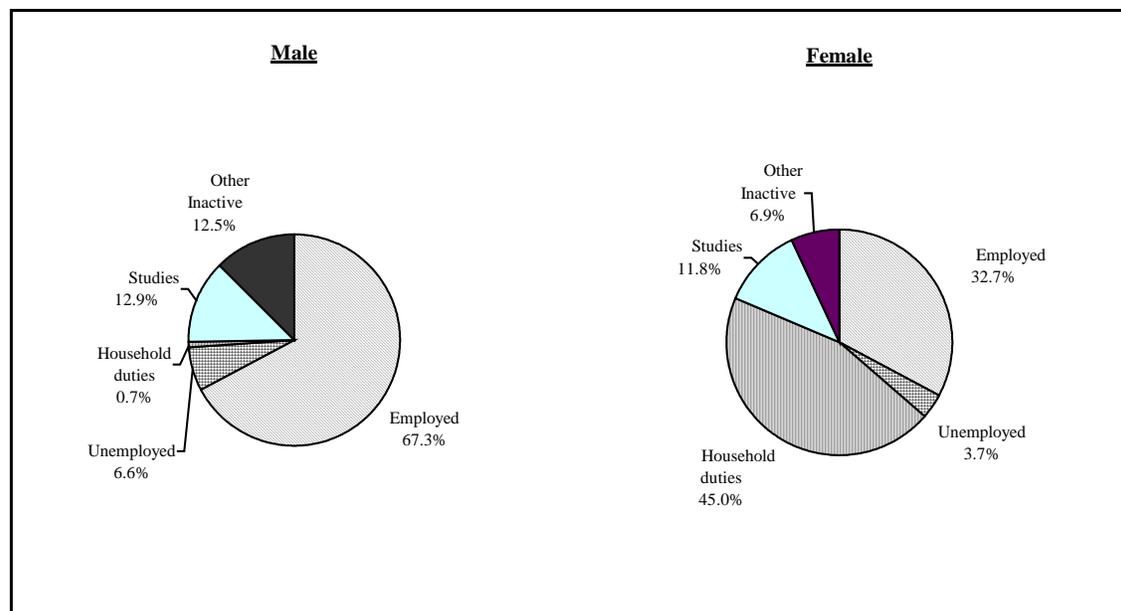
Female

Activity status	1990		2000	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Currently Active	130,651	32.2	173,079	36.4
Not Currently Active	274,507	67.6	301,509	63.4
<i>Household duties</i>	212,462	52.3	213,944	45.0
<i>Studies</i>	40,913	10.1	56,067	11.8
<i>Retired, disabled & other</i>	21,132	5.2	31,498	6.6
Not stated	949	0.2	1,098	0.2
Total	406,107	100.0	475,686	100.0

During the same period, the inactive population increased by 4,652 or 1.2% annually to attain 420,582 in 2000. Hence, the proportion of inactive to the working age population decreased from 46.2% in 1990 to 44.8% in 2000.

2.4 Activity status by sex

Figure 2.1 - Population 12 years and above by activity status and sex, 2000 Census



In 2000, there were 341,306 active males compared to 301,368 in 1990, an annual growth rate of 1.3%. Female active population grew at a faster rate of 2.8% annually from 130,651 in 1990 to reach 173,079 in 2000.

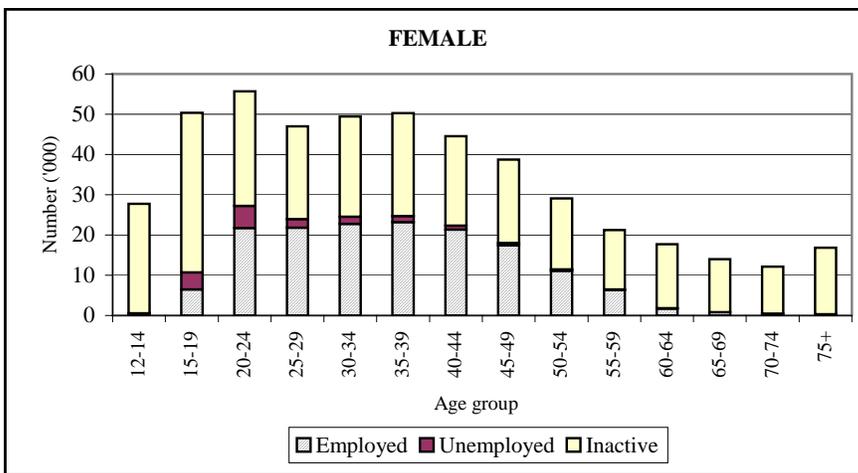
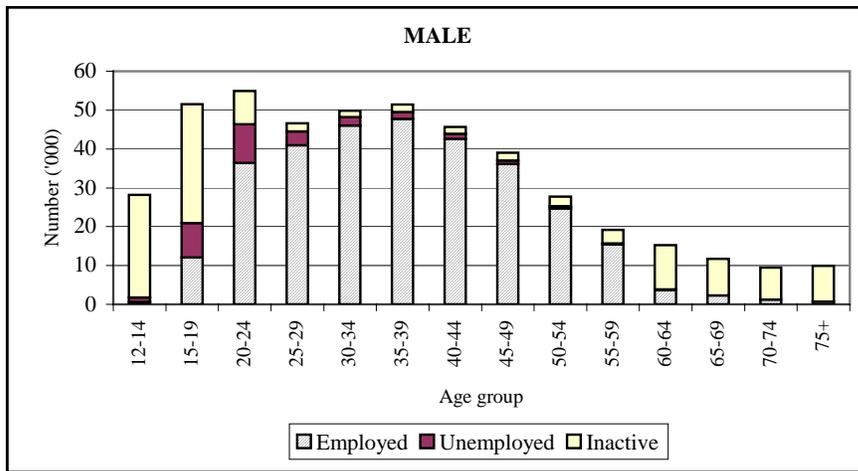
During the same period, male inactive population increased by 1.8% annually to reach 119,073 in 2000 from the 1990 figure of 99,558. However the female inactive population grew at a lower rate of 0.9% from 274,507 in 1990 to reach 301,509 in 2000.

Among the males, those studying constituted the highest proportion (50.0%) of the inactive while among females, a large majority (70.9%) of the inactive was involved in household duties.

2.5 Activity status by age and sex

Figure 2.2 shows the distribution of the population aged 12 years and above by age, sex and broad activity status at the 2000 Population Census. For both males and females, the number of active persons (employed and unemployed) is relatively low at the lower age groups and then it increases with age. Active population starts decreasing around the age of 40 years. It is also observed that at all ages the number of inactive persons is higher for females.

Figure 2.2 - Distribution of the population aged 12 years and above by age group, sex and activity status, 2000 Census



Chapter 3

Labour force

The labour force or the economically active population represents the country's supply of labour available for the production of goods and services. It comprises all persons at work as well as those not currently working but looking for work.

The size of the labour force is normally influenced by changes in the size and age-sex structure of the population over time, employment opportunities, education prospects and training facilities.

3.1 Changes in the labour force, 1990 - 2000

At the 2000 Population Census, the labour force was 514,385 (341,306 males, 173,079 females) compared to 432,019 (301,368 males, 130,651 females) in 1990 representing an increase of 19.1%. The annual average increase to the labour force during the intercensal period works out to 8,237 giving a growth rate of 1.8% (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1 - Labour force and change in labour force, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

	1990		2000		Annual yearly increase	Annual growth rate (%)
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage		
Male	301,368	69.8	341,306	66.4	3,994	1.3
Female	130,651	30.2	173,079	33.6	4,243	2.9
Both sexes	432,019	100.0	514,385	100.0	8,237	1.8

3.2 Labour force by age and sex

In 2000, the share of the female labour force was 33.6% compared to 30.2% in 1990. This is the result of a higher annual growth of the female labour force of 2.9% against 1.3% for the male labour force (Table 3.1). Consequently, the sex ratio of the labour force, which was 2.3 males to 1 female in 1990, declined to 2 males to 1 female in 2000.

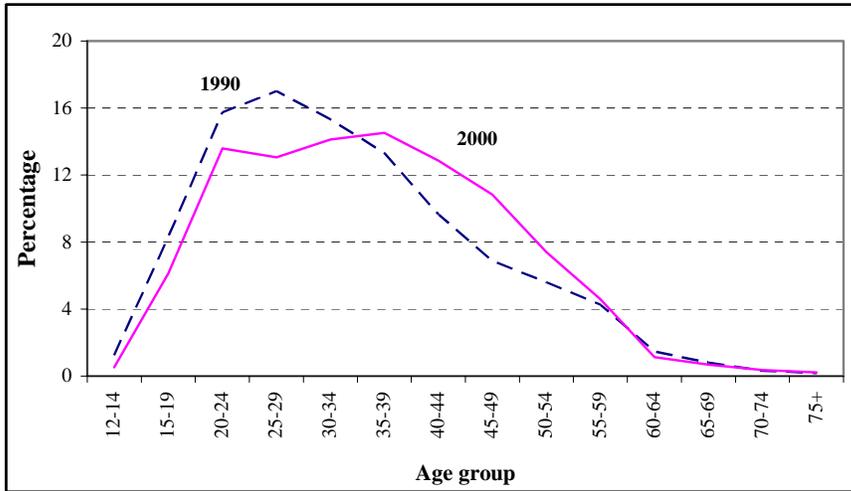
Table 3.2 - Distribution (%) of labour force by age group and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Age (year)	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
12 - 44	80.5	83.5	81.4	74.8	77.4	75.7
45 - 59	16.7	14.4	16.0	22.8	20.7	22.1
60 and over	2.8	2.1	2.6	2.4	1.9	2.2
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Average age of person in the labour force</i>	<i>33.9</i>	<i>33.0</i>	<i>33.6</i>	<i>36.1</i>	<i>35.2</i>	<i>35.8</i>

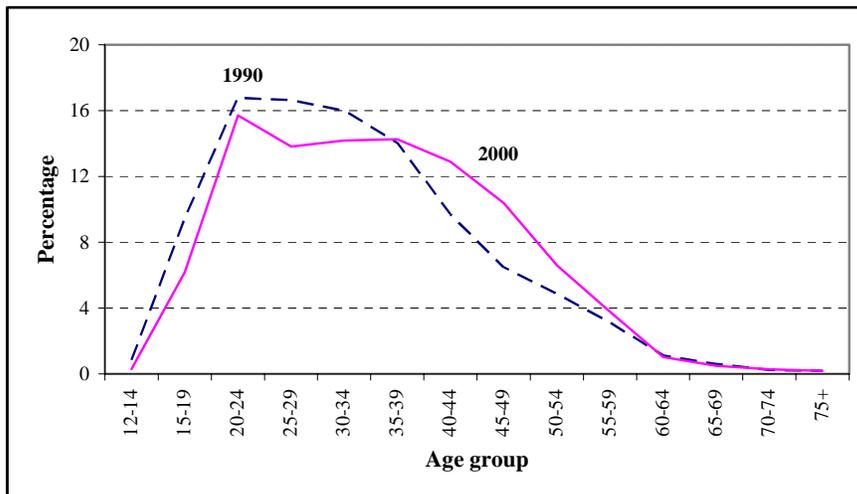
Analysis by age shows that the labour force is growing older. Over the past ten years, the proportion of both male and female labour force in the age groups 45 to 59 years increased while that of the younger groups decreased. The share of the labour force aged 60 years and above decreased slightly to about 2.0% in 2000 (Table 3.2).

Figure 3.1 - Distribution (%) of labour force by age group and sex, 1990 and 2000 Censuses

MALE



FEMALE



The ageing of the labour force can also be seen in Figure 3.1, where a shift in the distribution from left to right, i.e. from the lower age groups to higher age groups, is noted for both males and females. In 2000, a person in the labour force was on average 35.8 years old compared to 33.6 years in 1990. A male person in the labour force was, on average, about one year older than his female counterpart at both the 1990 and 2000 censuses.

3.3 Activity rates

Crude activity rate is the proportion of the total population which is economically active. At the 2000 Census, 514,385 persons were economically active out of a total population of 1,178,848, giving a crude activity rate of 43.6%. The 1990 figure is 40.9%.

The crude activity rates for males and females in 2000 were 58.5% and 29.1% respectively, which represent rises of 1.4 and 4.4 percentage points over the 1990 rates.

Table 3.3 - Activity rates (%), 1990 & 2000 Censuses

	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Population aged 12 years and above	402,144	406,107	808,251	461,834	475,686	937,520
Labour force	301,368	130,651	432,019	341,306	173,079	514,385
Activity rate (%)	74.9	32.2	53.5	73.9	36.4	54.9

A more refined measure relates the number of economically active persons to the population aged 12 years and above (Table 3.3). Male activity rate decreased from 74.9% in 1990 to 73.9% in 2000, while the female activity rate increased from 32.2% in 1990 to 36.4% in 2000.

Table 3.4 and Figure 3.2 give the activity rates by age group and sex. Male activity rates are higher than female activity rates at all ages; however, the gap has narrowed since 1990.

Figure 3.2 - Activity rates (%) by age group and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

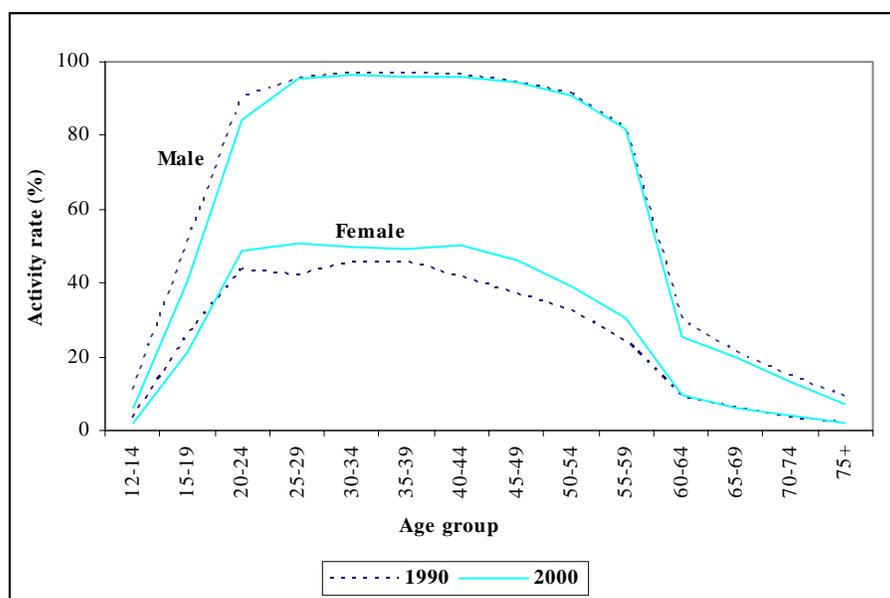


Table 3.4 - Activity rates (%) by age group and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

MALE						
Age (years)	1990			2000		
	Total population	Active population	Activity Rate (%)	Total population	Active population	Activity Rate (%)
Total (12+)	402,144	301,368	74.9	461,834	341,306	73.9
12-14	32,906	3,689	11.2	28,228	1,748	6.2
15-19	49,238	24,971	50.7	51,671	20,914	40.5
20-24	52,426	47,407	90.4	55,108	46,374	84.2
25-29	53,689	51,251	95.5	46,749	44,534	95.3
30-34	47,714	46,181	96.8	49,964	48,217	96.5
35-39	41,284	40,088	97.1	51,621	49,559	96.0
40-44	30,126	29,087	96.6	45,798	43,872	95.8
45-49	21,908	20,727	94.6	39,133	37,025	94.6
50-54	18,462	16,836	91.2	27,790	25,242	90.8
55-59	15,688	12,817	81.7	19,228	15,677	81.5
60-64	14,758	4,389	29.7	15,301	3,849	25.2
65-69	11,301	2,407	21.3	11,758	2,335	19.9
70-74	6,480	955	14.7	9,491	1,246	13.1
75+	6,164	563	9.1	9,994	714	7.1
FEMALE						
Total (12+)	406,107	130,651	32.2	475,686	173,079	36.4
12-14	32,231	1,099	3.4	27,795	507	1.8
15-19	47,964	12,334	25.7	50,417	10,702	21.2
20-24	50,238	21,920	43.6	55,784	27,188	48.7
25-29	51,893	21,742	41.9	47,048	23,905	50.8
30-34	45,875	20,912	45.6	49,551	24,536	49.5
35-39	39,925	18,340	45.9	50,325	24,670	49.0
40-44	30,309	12,671	41.8	44,608	22,306	50.0
45-49	22,802	8,446	37.0	38,798	17,975	46.3
50-54	19,576	6,347	32.4	29,149	11,413	39.2
55-59	16,475	4,054	24.6	21,263	6,502	30.6
60-64	16,088	1,448	9.0	17,796	1,756	9.9
65-69	12,952	781	6.0	14,010	846	6.0
70-74	8,269	311	3.8	12,203	465	3.8
75+	11,510	246	2.1	16,939	308	1.8
BOTH SEXES						
Total (12+)	808,251	432,019	53.5	937,520	514,385	54.9
12-14	65,137	4,788	7.4	56,023	2,255	4.0
15-19	97,202	37,305	38.4	102,088	31,616	31.0
20-24	102,664	69,327	67.5	110,892	73,562	66.3
25-29	105,582	72,993	69.1	93,797	68,439	73.0
30-34	93,589	67,093	71.7	99,515	72,753	73.1
35-39	81,209	58,428	71.9	101,946	74,229	72.8
40-44	60,435	41,758	69.1	90,406	66,178	73.2
45-49	44,710	29,173	65.2	77,931	55,000	70.6
50-54	38,038	23,183	60.9	56,939	36,655	64.4
55-59	32,163	16,871	52.5	40,491	22,179	54.8
60-64	30,846	5,837	18.9	33,097	5,605	16.9
65-69	24,253	3,188	13.1	25,768	3,181	12.3
70-74	14,749	1,266	8.6	21,694	1,711	7.9
75+	17,674	809	4.6	26,933	1,022	3.8

The 2000 Census data show that the male activity rate increased rapidly from a low level of 6.2% at age group 12 to 14 years to a high level of 84.2% at the age group 20 to 24 years. It then increased marginally to peak at a level of 96.5% for the age group 30 to 34 years before starting to decrease: marginally at first till the age group 50 to 54, then rapidly, the highest drop occurring for the age group 60 to 64 years.

As for females, the activity rates also increased from a low level of 1.8% at age 12 to 14 years; it peaked at 50.8% for age group 25-29 years. The rate remained high till the age group 40 to 44 years, and then decreased with increasing age.

3.4 Changes in activity rates

Between 1990 and 2000, the male age-specific activity rates have undergone little changes, except for the age groups 12 to 24 years where important decreases were noted. For those in the age groups 25 to 60 years, the activity rates registered marginal decreases or remained unchanged while for those aged 60 years and over, relatively small decreases were registered. The net result is a decrease of 1.0 percentage point in the overall male activity rate.

In spite of the decrease in the overall male activity rate during the period 1990 to 2000, the male labour force has increased by 39,938. This increase is attributable to the growth of the male population of working age over the period and the different age structure of the 1990 and 2000 populations.

On the other hand, female activity rates increased in all age groups, except for those in the age groups 12 to 19 and those aged 65 years and over, resulting in an increase of 4.2 percentage points in the overall activity rate. Significant increases in the activity rates among females occurred at age groups 25-29 years, 40-44 years and 45-49 years where increases of 8 to 9 percentage points were noted in each of these age groups. However, the female rates, though on the increase, remained at a much lower level than the male rates.

From Figure 3.2, it is noted that female activity rates is losing its 'M' shape' curve and is approaching one similar to that of the male. This evolution has already been observed in other countries. This may be explained by the fact that now the female population tends to stay in the labour force when they get married and at child bearing age, whereas previously they tend to move out of the labour force temporarily.

The decreases in the activity rates of the lower age groups for both males and females were mainly due to increased educational and vocational training opportunities.

3.5 Standardised activity rates

The overall activity rate is affected by variation in the level of economic activity at different ages, i.e., activity rates in the different age brackets, and the age composition of the population.

Standardised activity rates show how the size of the labour force would vary under the influence of variations of age-specific activity rates only, assuming a constant population structure.

Standardized activity rates for year 2000 have been worked out by applying age-specific activity rates of 2000 to the 1990 population-age structure. The standardized rates are shown in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5 - Standardised activity rates (%), 1990 & 2000

	Male	Female	Both sexes
1990 activity rates	74.9	32.2	53.5
2000 activity rates	73.9	36.4	54.9
2000 standardised activity rates	71.9	35.8	53.6

The standardised rate of 71.9% for males in 2000 compared to the 1990 rate shows that there has been a drop of 3.0 percentage points in the economic activity of the males. On the other hand, female standardized activity rate stood at 35.8% in 2000 showing an increase of 3.6 percentage points over the 1990 figure of 32.2%.

3.6 Activity rates by marital status

Table 3.6 shows the level of activity among men and women of different marital states.

Table 3.6 - Activity rates (%) by marital status and sex, 1990 and 2000 Censuses

Marital status	1990		2000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Single	64.0	34.2	59.5	34.9
Married	85.9	31.6	85.3	38.4
Widowed/divorced/ separated	49.4	30.1	52.6	31.8
All states	74.9	32.2	73.9	36.4

In 2000, the activity rate of single men was 59.5%, compared to 64.0% in 1990. This drop is probably due to the higher proportion of males postponing their entry in the labour market for further studies or training.

Activity rate for married men remained at almost the same level of 85-86% during the period 1990 to 2000. In 2000, more than 75% of the married men were in the age group 25-54 years, where almost all of them (97%) were active. Table 3.7 indicates high level of activity rates in the five year age groups, ranging from 92.5% to 98.8% for married men aged 25 to 54 years.

Table 3.7 - Activity rates by marital status, age group and sex, 2000 Census

Age group	Male				Female			
	Single	Married	Widowed/ Divorced/ Separated	All marital states	Single	Married	Widowed/ Divorced/ Separated	All marital states
12-14	6.2	-	-	6.2	1.8	-	-	1.8
15-19	40.1	97.5	58.3	40.5	21.3	19.6	42.9	21.2
20-24	82.3	98.5	95.4	84.2	64.2	32.1	59.0	48.7
25-29	92.2	98.8	96.5	95.3	76.6	43.4	68.7	50.8
30-34	89.8	98.8	93.9	96.5	67.0	45.9	72.2	49.5
35-39	84.0	98.3	90.5	96.0	58.6	45.6	73.3	49.0
40-44	80.2	97.8	87.1	95.8	55.4	46.3	70.2	50.0
45-49	74.5	96.4	84.9	94.6	52.0	41.8	61.7	46.3
50-54	68.7	92.5	80.4	90.8	44.6	33.8	50.7	39.2
55-59	58.1	83.4	72.0	81.5	34.9	25.5	38.4	30.6
60-64	22.3	25.6	21.8	25.2	14.3	8.3	11.2	9.9
65-69	16.1	20.7	15.5	19.9	10.1	4.8	6.7	6.0
70-74	12.4	13.7	11.0	13.1	8.8	3.3	3.8	3.8
75+	9.5	7.6	5.9	7.1	4.6	1.6	1.7	1.8
Total (12+)	59.5	85.3	52.6	73.9	34.9	38.4	31.8	36.4

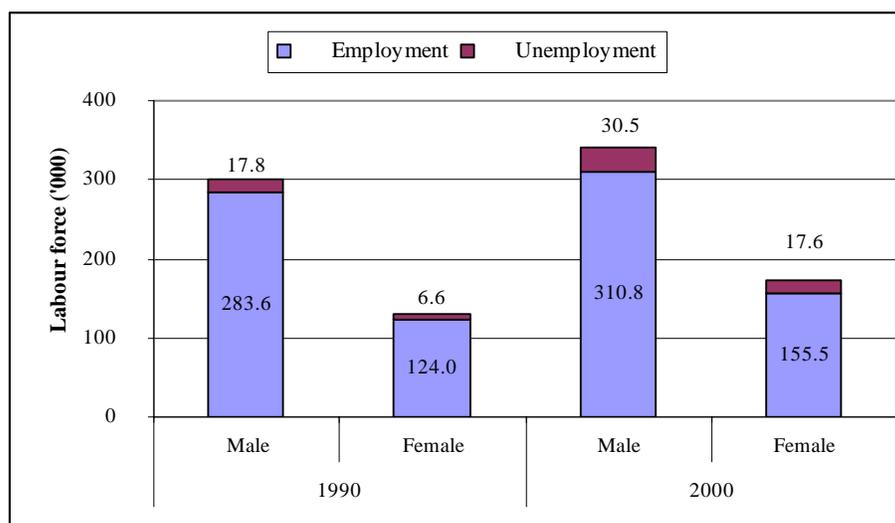
Among married women, an increase of 6.8 percentage points is noted in the activity rate, which rose from 31.6% in 1990 to 38.4% in 2000. There is not much change in the category 'single' (from 34.2% to 34.9%), while the activity rate of the 'widowed/divorced/separated' women increased from 30.1% to 31.8%. In 2000, high activity rates of about 70% have been noted in the age interval 25 - 44 years for the widowed/divorced/separated, most probably because of the necessity for work due to family responsibilities.

3.7 Composition of the labour force

Table 3.8 - Composition of labour force by sex, 1990 and 2000 Censuses

	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Labour force	301,368	130,651	432,019	341,306	173,079	514,385
Employment	283,605	124,013	407,618	310,778	155,512	466,290
Unemployment	17,763	6,638	24,401	30,528	17,567	48,095

Table 3.8 and Figure 3.3 show the composition of the labour force at the last two censuses. The labour force includes all employed persons as well as those not currently working but looking for work. At the 2000 Census, the number of persons with jobs was 466,290, an increase of 58,672 over the 1990 figure of 407,618. The unemployed population increased by 23,694 from 24,401 to 48,095 during the same period.

Figure 3.3 - Composition of the labour force, 1990 and 2000 Censuses

During the ten year period, employed population grew at 1.4% annually, equivalent to 5,867 additional employed persons each year (Table 3.9). Analysis by sex shows that female employment grew at a higher average annual rate of 2.3% compared to 0.9% for male.

Table 3.9 - Changes in components of labour force by sex, 1990 to 2000

	Average yearly increase			Annual growth rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Labour force	4,000	4,200	8,200	1.3	2.9	1.8
Employment	2,700	3,100	5,800	0.9	2.3	1.4
Unemployment	1,300	1,100	2,400	5.6	10.2	7.0

Between 1990 and 2000, unemployed population grew at an average annual rate of 7.0%, representing an average increase of 2,370 unemployed persons each year. Female unemployment grew at a much higher rate of 10.2% annually, against 5.6% for male.

3.8 Economically active life

Working life tables, representing the life cycle of economic activity in hypothetical cohorts of persons, subject at each period of their lives to given rates of mortality and participation in economic activities, have been calculated from data obtained at the 2000 Population Census. The calculations have been based on the Mauritian population and the corresponding activity rates adjusted for under reporting of economic activity, as given in section 6.1 of Chapter 6.

These tables provide estimates of the duration of productive life span as compared to total life span. For example, the average economically active male aged 20 years could expect to live for an additional 51.6 years and to remain in the labour force for an additional 40.0 years. The

expected number of remaining years that person would be inactive is 11.6 on average. On the other hand, a woman aged 20 years is expected to live for a further 60.5 years, to be economically active for some 38.6 years and to be inactive for some 21.9 years. The figures worked out for the different age groups of the population are given in Table 3.10.

Life expectancy of women is higher than that of men by about 9 years up to the age interval 20 to 25 years, then diminishes with increasing age. However, the expected number of remaining active years is lower for females up to the age of 60. The difference is about 1.4 years in the lower age groups, then increases to peak at 2.2 years in the age interval 40 to 45 years. The difference diminishes with increasing age to reach 0.6 year at age group 55 to 60 years. For population aged 60 years and above, the expected number of remaining active years for females and males are almost equal.

Table 3.10 - Life expectancy of the active population by age group and sex, 2000

Age interval (x to x+5) years	Male			Female		
	Total life expectancy at age x	Average number of remaining active years at age x	Average number of remaining inactive years at age x	Total life expectancy at age x	Average number of remaining active years at age x	Average number of remaining inactive years at age x
10 - 15	61.3	49.8	11.5	70.3	48.4	21.9
15 - 20	56.4	44.8	11.6	65.3	43.5	21.8
20 - 25	51.6	40.0	11.6	60.5	38.6	21.9
25 - 30	46.9	35.2	11.7	55.6	33.6	22.0
30 - 35	42.3	30.5	11.8	50.9	28.8	22.1
35 - 40	37.7	25.8	11.9	46.1	23.9	22.2
40 - 45	33.2	21.2	12.0	41.3	19.0	22.3
45 - 50	29.0	16.8	12.2	36.8	14.7	22.1
50 - 55	25.1	12.7	12.4	32.3	11.3	21.0
55 - 60	21.5	9.0	12.5	28.2	8.4	19.8
60 and over	18.2	8.0	10.2	24.5	8.1	16.4

Table 3.11 - Changes in the labour force by new entries, retirements, deaths and by age & sex, 2000

Age (years)	Male				Female			
	Labour force	Annual entries	Annual retirements	Deaths	Labour force	Annual entries	Annual retirements	Deaths
10 - 14	1,350	1,844		1	388	939		0
15 - 19	19,292	4,313		12	9,794	2,343		4
20 - 24	46,908	3,204		56	24,978	1,624		11
25 - 29	43,497	508		78	21,998	115		21
30 - 34	47,472	54		90	23,568	47		21
35 - 39	49,533		36	156	25,437	132		30
40 - 44	43,958		47	222	23,354		96	51
45 - 49	37,465		157	292	18,985		414	62
50 - 54	25,609		348	315	12,190		456	72
55 - 59	16,006		1,288	265	7,084		742	69
60 and over	10,985		1,222	148	3,986		464	31
Total	342,074	9,924	3,097	1,635	171,762	5,200	2,172	372

3.9 Entries into the labour force, retirements and losses by deaths

Measures of rates of entry into and retirement from the labour force as well as the depletion of labour force by death have also been derived from the working life tables. The annual loss from the labour force by death and retirement and gains by entries from the inactive population in the different 5-year age groups have been calculated. The figures are shown in Table 3.11.

The crude rates of entry, retirement and death which represent the number of entries, retirements and deaths per 1,000 persons in the labour force are given in Table 3.12.

Table 3.12 - Crude rate of entry, retirement and death by sex, 2000

Rate per thousand	Male	Female
Crude entry rate (e)	29.0	30.3
Crude retirement rate (r)	9.0	12.6
Crude death rate (d)	4.8	2.2
Replacement rate (e-r-d)	15.2	15.5
Replacement ratio	210	205

Though the number of male entries into the labour force is almost twice the number of females, the entry rate for females is higher than that for males. Retirement rate, which represent the number of persons leaving the labour force is also higher among females, indicating that in general women remain economically active for a lesser number of years. On the other hand, death rate among active males is more than twice that noted among active females.

The net effect of entry, death and retirement is given by the replacement rate which can be interpreted as the rate of natural increase of the labour force. The replacement rates observed in 2000 are 15.2 for males and 15.5 for females. The corresponding rates for 1990 were 19.2 for males and 20.3 for females.

The labour force replacement ratio, defined as the annual number of entries in the labour force per 100 of the sum of retirements and deaths, represents the demands of entering workers for jobs in proportion to the number of jobs vacated by retirement and death. In 2000, for each 100 male departures (retirements and deaths), 210 were joining the labour market and the corresponding figure for women was 205 against every 100 departures. In 1990, the replacement ratio was higher for females; for every 100 females who left the labour force, 241 were joining the labour market against 235 for males.

Chapter 4

Employed Population

The employed population, as defined at the 2000 Population Census, consists of all persons aged 12 years and over who worked for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during the reference week of the census, or held a job during the reference week but did not do any work because of illness, injury, holiday, industrial dispute, temporary disorganisation of work, etc.

4.1 Characteristics

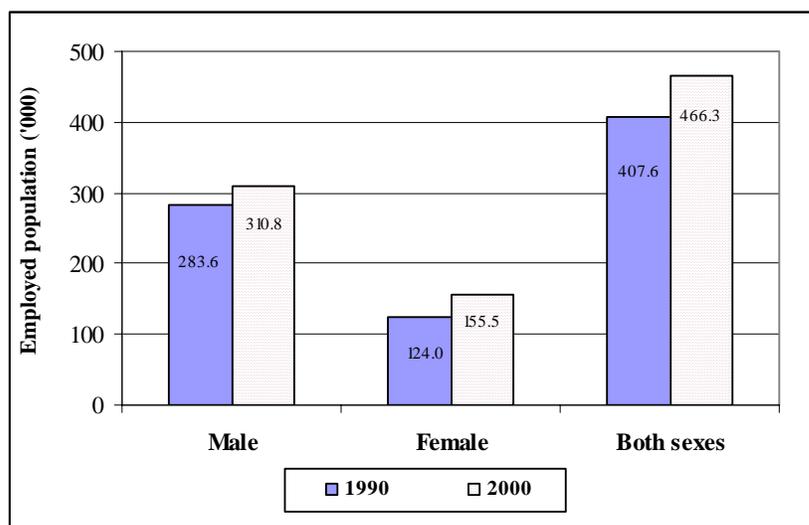
4.1.1 Sex

Table 4.1 - Employed population by sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

	1990		2000	
	Number	%	Number	%
Male	283,605	69.6	310,778	66.6
Female	124,013	30.4	155,512	33.4
Both sexes	407,618	100.0	466,290	100.0

At the 2000 Population Census, total employment stood at 466,290 (310,778 males, 155,512 females), representing an increase of 58,672 or 14.4% over the 1990 Census figure of 407,618 (Table 4.1 & Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1 - Employed population by sex, 1990 and 2000 Censuses



Female employment has been increasing at a much faster rate than male employment during the intercensal period. Thus female employment grew by 25.4% between 1990 and 2000 compared to 9.6% for males. The average annual increase to employment works out to 3,150 for the females and to 2,717 for the males. This has resulted in an increase in the proportion of women in the total employment, from 30.4% in 1990 to 33.4% in 2000.

4.1.2 Age

Table 4.2 - Employed population by age group and sex (%), 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Age Group (years)	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
12-14	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.2
15-19	6.7	8.6	7.3	3.9	4.2	4.0
20-24	14.7	16.0	15.1	11.7	14.0	12.4
25-29	17.2	16.6	17.0	13.2	14.0	13.5
30-34	15.9	16.3	16.0	14.8	14.6	14.7
35-39	14.0	14.5	14.1	15.4	14.9	15.2
40-44	10.2	10.1	10.1	13.7	13.7	13.7
45-49	7.2	6.7	7.1	11.6	11.2	11.5
50-54	5.9	5.1	5.7	8.0	7.1	7.7
55-59	4.5	3.3	4.1	5.0	4.1	4.7
60-64	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.2
65-69	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.7
70-74	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
75+	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total : %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No.	283,605	124,013	407,618	310,778	155,512	466,290

Table 4.2 shows that in 2000 the employed population was older than that in 1990, with the proportion of employed population aged 12 to 44 years falling from 80.4% to 73.7% while that aged 45 to 59 years rising from 16.9 % to 23.9%.

The mean age of an employed person increased from 34.2 years to 36.8 years. On the average, a male employed person was 37.1 years old in 2000 compared to 34.6 years in 1990 while a female employed person was on the average 36.2 years old against 33.5 years in 1990.

4.1.3 Marital status

Among the employed population, 314,706 or 67.5% were married while 119,832 or 25.7% were single, and the remaining 31,231 or 6.7% were either widowed, divorced or separated.

The distribution of the employed males and females by marital status differs. About 70% of the employed males were married compared to 61.8% for employed females. Only 2.6% were widowed, divorced or separated among employed males against 14.9% among females (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3 - Employed population by marital status and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Marital status	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Single	98,051	39,923	137,974	83,630	36,202	119,832
Married	179,645	66,060	245,705	218,558	96,148	314,706
Widowed/divorced/ separated	5,862	18,015	23,877	8,070	23,161	31,231
Not stated	47	15	62	520	1	521
All marital states	283,605	124,013	407,618	310,778	155,512	466,290

Comparison over time shows that a higher proportion of the employed was married in 2000 than in 1990. In 2000, some 67.5% of the employed were married compared to 60.3% in 1990 while the proportion of single dropped from 33.8% to 25.7% during the same period.

4.1.4 Educational attainment

Table 4.4 shows the distribution of employed population by educational attainment and sex at the 2000 Population Census. Out of an employed population of 466,290, 22,153 persons, or nearly 5.0% of total employment, never attended school or attended only preprimary school. Some 188,490 employed persons (or 40.4%) had been to primary school only, and among them only 25,630 passed the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE). The proportion of employed population who has passed only the CPE stood at 5.5%.

Table 4.4 - Employed population by educational attainment and sex, 2000 Census

Educational attainment	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nil & preprimary	9,445	3.0	12,708	8.2	22,153	4.8
Primary	127,424	41.0	61,066	39.3	188,490	40.4
<i>Standard I - VI</i>	<i>109,715</i>	<i>35.3</i>	<i>53,145</i>	<i>34.2</i>	<i>162,860</i>	<i>34.9</i>
<i>Passed CPE</i>	<i>17,709</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>7,921</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>25,630</i>	<i>5.5</i>
Secondary	160,959	51.8	76,280	49.0	237,239	50.9
<i>Form I to V</i>	<i>93,056</i>	<i>29.9</i>	<i>34,585</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>127,641</i>	<i>27.4</i>
<i>Passed SC</i>	<i>46,755</i>	<i>15.0</i>	<i>24,476</i>	<i>15.7</i>	<i>71,231</i>	<i>15.3</i>
<i>Passed HSC</i>	<i>21,148</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>17,219</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>38,367</i>	<i>8.2</i>
Tertiary	11,798	3.8	4,811	3.1	16,609	3.5
Not stated	1,152	0.4	647	0.4	1,799	0.4
Total	310,778	100.0	155,512	100.0	466,290	100.0

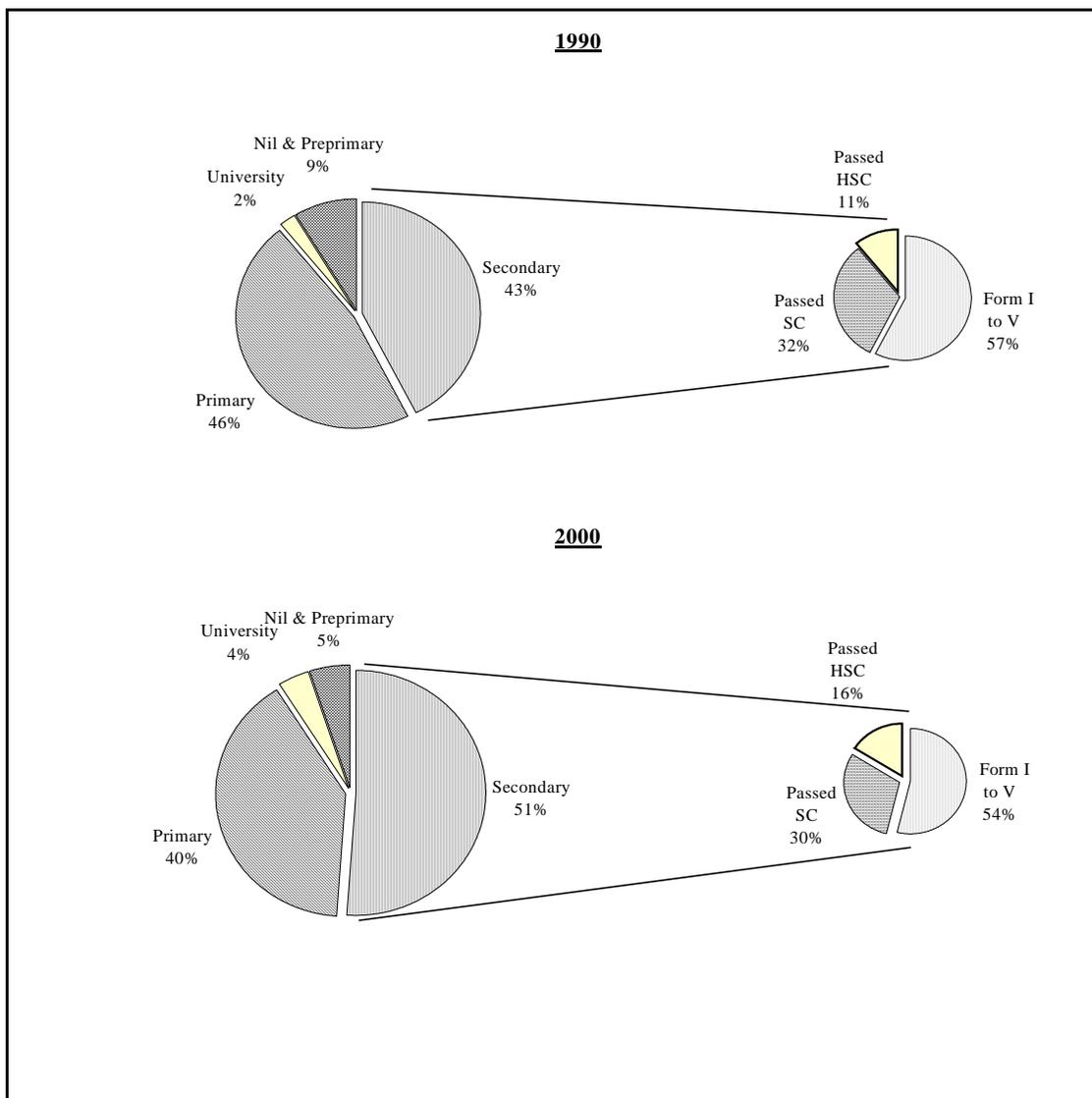
About 51.0% of the employed population studied up to secondary level of education. This category, numbering 237,239, included 71,231 (15% of total employment) and 38,367 (8% of total employment) holders of the School Certificate (SC) and the Higher School Certificate

(HSC) respectively. Among the employed persons there were some 16,609 university degree holders, representing 3.5% of total employment.

Analysis by sex shows that in 2000, 8.2% of female employed population never attended school or had attended the preprimary level of education only, compared to 3.0% for male. Among employed males, about 41.0% and 51.8% attended primary and secondary school respectively. The respective proportions for females were 39.3% and 49.0%.

However, the proportion of employed persons who attained SC or HSC level was higher among females than among males. The proportions worked out to 26.8% for females against 21.8% for males. Nevertheless, there was a higher proportion of degree holders among employed males (3.8%) than among employed females (3.1%).

Figure 4.2 - Employed population by educational attainment, 1990 and 2000 Censuses



A comparison of the 1990 and 2000 Census data shows that the general educational level of the working population improved during the past ten years (Figure 4.2). The proportion of employed population with primary level of education dropped from 46.4% to 40.4% while that with secondary level of education increased from 42.5% to 50.9% during the intercensal period. Among the latter, 16% attained HSC level in 2000 compared to 10.7% in 1990.

4.1.5 Vocational and technical training

In 2000, among the employed population with an academic background, 44,315 (or 10.0%) had also followed some form of vocational or technical training. The highest proportion (16.9%) was registered among employed persons who had studied up to secondary level (Table 4.5).

Among employed population with primary education level, less than one percent had such form of training compared to 16.7% among university degree holders.

Table 4.5 - Employed population by educational attainment, training and sex, 2000 Census

Educational attainment and training	Male	Female	Both sexes
University degree of whom having vocational or technical training	11,798 (2,065)	4,811 (703)	16,609 (2,768)
Secondary level of whom having vocational or technical training	160,959 (24,278)	76,280 (15,757)	237,239 (40,035)
Up to primary level of whom having vocational or technical training	136,869 (1,158)	73,774 (267)	210,643 (1,425)
Not stated of whom having vocational or technical training	1,152 (59)	647 (28)	1,799 (87)
Total employed population of whom having vocational or technical training	310,778 (27,560)	155,512 (16,755)	466,290 (44,315)

The various levels of vocational or technical training are:

The ***elementary level*** includes literacy programmes for older people who are illiterate as well as programmes with a vocational emphasis for those who have had some primary schooling.

The ***preliminary level*** includes out-of-school vocational programmes for those who already have some five or six years of full-time schooling in primary institutions. Such programmes include training for jobs requiring relatively elementary skills.

The ***lower intermediate level*** includes vocational and technical programmes whose level would lie between the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate in the regular academic programme. Examples of programmes included here are training for semi-skilled and skilled jobs, primary school teacher training, nursing and secretarial training.

The *higher intermediate level* includes vocational and technical programmes leading to awards whose level would lie between the Higher School Certificate and just below a first university degree. The programmes are of a more 'practical orientation' and a typically subject matter specialised. Mastery of programmes at this level requires the equivalent of full secondary education.

Table 4.6 shows the distribution of employed population by level and field of vocational or technical training at the 2000 Census. Out of 40,880 employed persons (excluding those who also had a university degree) with vocational and technical training, 25,812 (or 63.1%) had obtained certificates or diplomas at lower intermediate level. A further 29.5% had reached higher intermediate level while the remaining 7.4% had followed courses at elementary and preliminary levels.

The table also shows that, out of 54,161 persons with some form of vocational or technical training, 40,880 or 75.5% were in employment.

Among the 4,307 persons trained at the elementary and preliminary level, 3,023 or 70.2% were employed; they were trained mainly in the 'Trade, craft & industrial techniques'.

Persons trained at the lower intermediate level numbered 33,700, of which 25,812 or 76.6% were employed, and the main fields of training were 'Commerce & business administration', 'Teacher training', 'Trade, craft & industrial techniques' and 'Mathematics & computer science'. These four fields of training made up to about 55% of the employed persons who had been trained at the lower intermediate level.

Some 16,154 persons had been trained at the higher intermediate level of which 12,045 or 74.6% were employed. About one fifth of these employed persons were trained in 'Commerce & business administration' and about one tenth had training in 'Mathematics & computer science'.

Table 4.6 - Employed population having vocational or technical training by level and broad field of training, 2000 Census

Level of Training Field of training	Elementary & preliminary level		Lower intermediate level		Higher intermediate level		All levels	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Commerce & business administration	98	2.3	5,339	15.8	3,521	21.8	8,958	16.5
Teacher training	35	0.8	5,926	17.6	1,119	6.9	7,080	13.1
Trade, craft & industrial techniques	2,213	51.4	3,561	10.6	986	6.1	6,760	12.5
Mathematics & computer science	75	1.7	3,592	10.7	1,467	9.1	5,134	9.5
Medical diagnostic & treatment	47	1.1	2,405	7.1	949	5.9	3,401	6.3
Service trades	193	4.5	1,625	4.8	613	3.8	2,431	4.5
Engineering	34	0.8	1,219	3.6	1,022	6.3	2,275	4.2
Fine & applied arts	20	0.5	327	1.0	356	2.2	703	1.3
Humanities	35	0.8	287	0.9	376	2.3	698	1.3
Agriculture, forestry & fishery	42	1.0	308	0.9	331	2.1	681	1.2
Other	231	5.3	1,223	3.6	1,305	8.1	2,759	5.1
Total employed	3,023	70.2	25,812	76.6	12,045	74.6	40,880	75.5
Total of all persons	4,307		33,700		16,154		54,161	

Note : (1) The table excludes 2,768 persons who have university degree as well as vocational training and 1,021 persons of whom 724 were employed, who did not state in which fields they have received training
 (2) The percentage represents the number of employed persons in each of the cells (level of training/field of training) as a proportion of the total of trained persons at that level of training

4.2 Employed population by industrial sector

Table 4.7 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Industrial sector	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Primary	50,810	17,820	68,630	40,832	13,737	54,569
Secondary	113,105	62,002	175,107	114,088	67,330	181,418
Tertiary	119,690	44,191	163,881	155,858	74,445	230,303
Total	283,605	124,013	407,618	310,778	155,512	466,290

A shift from the primary sector (Agriculture, hunting, forestry & fishing and mining & quarrying) and the secondary sector (Manufacturing, Electricity & water and Construction) to the tertiary sector (all the services) is noted during the period 1990 to 2000, as shown in Table 4.7.

From 68,600 employed persons or 16.8% of total employment in 1990, the share of the primary sector went down to 54,569 or 11.7% in 2000, with an employment loss of 14,061. Similarly, that of the secondary sector declined from 43.0% to 38.9%, however employment in the secondary sector increased by 6,311 or 3.6%. On the other hand, the tertiary sector grew by 66,422 (or 40.5%), its share being 49.4% of total employment in 2000 compared to 40.2% in 1990.

4.3 Employed population by industry

Table 4.8 shows the distribution of the employed population by industry and sex in 1990 and 2000. The 'Manufacturing' sector remains the largest employment generator. In 2000, 134,027 persons were engaged in this sector, representing an increase of 2.4% over the 1990 figure. However, the share of employment in the 'Manufacturing' sector fell from 32.1% in 1990 to 28.8% in 2000.

The second largest generator of employment, with a share of 12.9%, was 'Wholesale & retail trade' with some 60,273 employed persons. Employment in this industry group increased by 37.0% from the 1990 employment figure of 43,983.

Other main increases in employment were registered in 'Hotels and restaurants' (11,225); 'Public administration, defence & compulsory social security' (10,051) and 'Real estates & business services' (8,000). Employment in these industry groups increased by 105.7%, 50.1% and 132.7% respectively. Employment level in the 'Education' and 'Transport, storage & communication' sectors went up by 29% and 25% respectively.

The agricultural sector is the only industry witnessing employment loss. In 2000, 'Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing' employed 53,219 persons or 11.4% of total employment against 67,968 or 16.7% in 1990. The fall in employment has occurred mainly in sugarcane plantation where the number of employees decreased by 50% or some 20,000 from

Table 4.8 - Employed population by industry and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Industry	1990						2000					
	Male		Female		Both sexes		Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Number	%										
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	50,252	17.7	17,716	14.3	67,968	16.7	39,581	12.7	13,638	8.8	53,219	11.4
Mining & quarrying	558	0.2	104	0.1	662	0.2	1,251	0.4	99	0.1	1,350	0.3
Manufacturing	69,405	24.5	61,530	49.6	130,935	32.1	67,636	21.7	66,391	42.7	134,027	28.8
Electricity, gas and water supply	3,438	1.2	143	0.1	3,581	0.9	3,630	1.2	201	0.1	3,831	0.8
Construction	40,262	14.2	329	0.3	40,591	9.9	42,822	13.8	738	0.5	43,560	9.3
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles & personal & household goods	35,247	12.4	8,736	7.1	43,983	10.8	43,292	13.9	16,981	10.9	60,273	12.9
Hotels and restaurants	8,621	3.0	1,994	1.6	10,615	2.6	16,376	5.3	5,464	3.5	21,840	4.7
Transport, storage & communication	23,016	8.1	1,742	1.4	24,758	6.1	27,552	8.9	3,516	2.3	31,068	6.7
Financial intermediation	3,671	1.3	1,862	1.5	5,533	1.4	4,451	1.4	2,960	1.9	7,411	1.6
Real estate, renting & business activities	4,523	1.6	1,503	1.2	6,026	1.5	10,249	3.3	3,776	2.4	14,025	3.0
Public administration & defence; compulsory social security	16,649	5.9	3,395	2.7	20,044	4.9	24,131	7.8	5,964	3.8	30,095	6.5
Education	10,745	3.8	7,855	6.3	18,600	4.5	11,488	3.7	12,468	8.0	23,956	5.1
Health & social work	5,527	1.9	4,643	3.8	10,170	2.5	6,834	2.2	6,382	4.1	13,216	2.8
Other services	11,230	4.0	12,198	9.8	23,428	5.7	11,125	3.6	16,635	10.7	27,760	6.0
Not stated	461	0.2	263	0.2	724	0.2	360	0.1	299	0.2	659	0.1
Total	283,605	100.0	124,013	100.0	407,618	100.0	310,778	100.0	155,512	100.0	466,290	100.0

40,200 in 1990 to 20,000 in 2000. However, it should be noted that employment in non-sugarcane agriculture increased by 20% or some 5,500 persons.

Analysis of data by sex shows that about one fifth of male employment was found in 'Manufacturing', and about 13-14% in each of the industry groups, 'Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing', 'Construction' and 'Wholesale and retail trade'.

Female employment had the highest share of 42.7% in 'Manufacturing'. 'Wholesale and retail trade' and 'Other services' had an equal share of about 11.0% each, while 8.8% and 8.0% of employed females worked in "Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing" and 'Education' respectively.

4.4 Employed population by occupation

Table 4.9 shows the distribution of employed population by occupation group for 1990 and 2000 censuses.

Some changes have been noted in the structure of employment within the various occupational groups between the two censuses. An upgrading of the occupation distribution of the employed population is noted, the effect being more pronounced among employed females. In general, the proportion of persons engaged in manual work and jobs not needing too much skill has decreased in favour of jobs demanding higher academic or vocational training.

The proportion of persons involved in the elementary occupations such as domestic workers, garbage collectors, street vendors and manufacturing labourers remained the highest though the share has fallen from 27.1% in 1990 to 22.2% in 2000. The shares of the other occupational groups with significant number of workers having registered decreases were: 'Plant and machine operators' from 20.5% to 17.6% and 'Craft and related trade workers' from 20.0% to 19.4%.

On the other hand, the proportion of 'Service workers and shop sales workers' went up from 8.2% in 1990 to 13.7% in 2000. Increases in shares were also noted among 'Technicians and associate professionals' from 5.7% to 8.6%, 'Clerks' from 7.8% to 8.4% and 'Professionals' from 2.3% to 2.9%.

An analysis by sex reveals that in 2000, employed males were mostly engaged as 'Craft and related trades workers' (24.9%) and in 'Elementary occupations' (21.3%), while females were preponderant as 'Plant and machine operators' (24.4%) and as 'Elementary occupations' workers (24.0%). Other mostly female oriented occupations were 'Clerks', 13.9% as compared to 5.6% for males; Technicians and associate professionals, 10.9% against 7.5%. 'Skilled agricultural & fishery workers' had a share of 5.0% among males compared to 1.7% among females.

The following changes have been noted in the pattern of employment by occupation group during the two censuses. Among males, the most prominent changes were the share of 'service workers & shop sales workers' rising from 9.1% in 1990 to 14.6% in 2000, and that of workers in 'Elementary occupation' going down from 26.7% to 21.3%.

Table 4.9 - Employed population by occupation group and sex, 1990 and 2000 Censuses

Occupation group	1990						2000					
	Male		Female		Both sexes		Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Number	%										
Legislators, senior officials & managers	13,176	4.7	2,644	2.1	15,820	3.9	11,463	3.7	3,238	2.1	14,701	3.1
Professionals	6,802	2.4	2,745	2.2	9,547	2.3	9,374	3.0	4,117	2.7	13,491	2.9
Technicians & associate professionals	14,608	5.2	8,776	7.1	23,384	5.7	23,249	7.5	16,982	10.9	40,231	8.6
Clerks	16,652	5.9	15,018	12.1	31,670	7.8	17,472	5.6	21,674	13.9	39,146	8.4
Service workers & shop sales workers	25,924	9.1	7,332	5.9	33,256	8.2	45,517	14.6	18,293	11.8	63,810	13.7
Skilled agricultural & fishery workers	15,002	5.3	2,431	2.0	17,433	4.3	15,499	5.0	2,620	1.7	18,119	3.9
Craft & related trades workers	71,573	25.2	10,158	8.2	81,731	20.0	77,315	24.9	12,946	8.3	90,261	19.4
Plant & machine operators	43,686	15.4	40,094	32.3	83,780	20.5	44,303	14.3	37,988	24.4	82,291	17.6
Elementary occupations	75,761	26.7	34,561	27.9	110,322	27.1	66,135	21.3	37,385	24.0	103,520	22.2
Not stated	421	0.1	254	0.2	675	0.2	451	0.1	269	0.2	720	0.2
Total	283,605	100.0	124,013	100.0	407,618	100.0	310,778	100.0	155,512	100.0	466,290	100.0

Among employed females, the most noticeable changes were: ‘Service workers’ from 5.9% to 11.8%, ‘Technicians and associate professionals’ from 7.1% to 10.9%, ‘Plant and machine operators’ from 32.3% to 24.4% and ‘Elementary occupations’ from 27.9% to 24.0%.

4.5 Employed population by employment status

Table 4.10 - Employed population by employment status and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Employment status	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Self-employed	45,727	6,854	52,581	62,715	11,194	73,909
<i>With employees</i>	12,290	1,507	13,797	15,195	2,732	17,927
<i>Without employees</i>	33,437	5,347	38,784	47,520	8,462	55,982
Employee	232,896	112,952	345,848	245,802	141,316	387,118
<i>Paid by month</i>	150,758	61,960	212,718	192,003	108,953	300,956
<i>Paid by day, week, fortnight, job</i>	78,985	50,810	129,795	51,463	31,913	83,376
<i>Apprentice</i>	3,153	182	3,335	2,336	450	2,786
Unpaid family worker	4,229	3,827	8,056	1,417	2,574	3,991
Member of producers' co-operatives	180	55	235	135	23	158
Not stated	573	325	898	709	405	1,114
Total	283,605	124,013	407,618	310,778	155,512	466,290

Table 4.10 gives the distribution of the employed population by employment status. In 2000, 83.0% of the employed population, representing 387,118 persons were registered as employees, and more than 75% of them were paid by the month. Another 15.6% or 73,909 persons were self-employed, of whom three quarters were operating without employees. Some 4,000 persons were engaged as unpaid family workers, representing less than one percent of total employment.

Self-employment was more pronounced among males. In fact, 20.2% of males in employment in 2000 were self-employed compared to only 7.2% among females

Comparison between the two censuses indicates more inclination towards entrepreneurship with the proportion of self-employed going up from 12.9% in 1990 to 15.8% in 2000.

4.6 Employed population by institutional sector

The distribution of the employed population by the different institutional sectors is given in Table 4.11. At the 2000 Census, out of a total employment of 466,290, 62,132 persons or 13.3% were employed in the Central and Local Government against 59,623 or 14.6% in 1990. The share of those employed in public enterprises dropped from 6.3% (25,573) in 1990 to 4.7% (21,786) in 2000. However, employment in private enterprises increased by 58,331 during the intercensal period, with its share rising from 75.8% in 1990 to 78.7% in 2000. Within the private enterprises, the sugar sector witnessed a drop of nearly 50% while

employment in the EPZ sector increased by 10,598 from 77,314 in 1990 to 87,912 in 2000, with the share of employment out of total employment stagnating at about 20%.

Table 4.11 - Employed population by institutional sector and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Sector of employment	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Central Government	42,566	10,721	53,287	41,184	14,755	55,939
Local Government	5,767	569	6,336	5,400	793	6,193
<i>Municipal Councils</i>	4,014	362	4,376	3,832	579	4,411
<i>District Councils</i>	1,753	207	1,960	1,568	214	1,782
Public Enterprises	22,281	3,292	25,573	17,640	4,146	21,786
Private Enterprises	209,829	98,998	308,827	243,871	123,287	367,158
<i>Sugar</i>	35,842	11,924	47,766	19,824	6,218	26,042
<i>EPZ</i>	27,426	49,888	77,314	29,721	58,191	87,912
<i>Other & not stated</i>	146,561	37,186	183,747	194,326	58,878	253,204
Household services	2,103	10,075	12,178	1,870	12,228	14,098
Co-operative enterprises	666	119	785	554	75	629
Not Stated	393	239	632	259	228	487
Total	283,605	124,013	407,618	310,778	155,512	466,290

Comparison of male and female employment by sector shows that, while the share of employment in the government sector decreased by about 2.0 percentage points for males, that for females increased by 1.0 percentage point. The share of employment in private enterprises increased by 4.5 percentage points for male and dropped by 0.5 for females.

4.7 Employed population by length of service and sector of employment

Table 4.12 - Average length of service of employed population by sector of employment and sex, 2000 Census

Sector of employment	Average length of service (years)		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Central and Local Government	19.9	15.0	18.6
Public Enterprises	15.3	11.7	14.6
Private Enterprises	10.1	7.7	9.3
<i>Sugar</i>	21.5	18.4	20.7
<i>EPZ</i>	6.9	6.2	6.4
<i>Other</i>	9.4	8.0	9.1
Household services	7.8	6.7	6.9
All sectors	11.9	8.4	10.7

Table 4.12 shows the average length of service of the employed population with their present employer by sector of employment and sex at the 2000 Census. On average, an employed person had been working for 10.7 years with his current employer, the average number of years being 11.9 for males and 8.4 for females.

Employees of the Central and Local Government had the greatest length of service, with an average of 18.6 years. In fact, 70.9% of the government employees had completed at least 10 years of service while those having completed 20 years or more represented half of its workforce (Table 4.13).

Table 4.13 - Employed population (%) by length of service and sector of employment, 2000 Census

Length of service	Central and local Government	Public enterprises	Private enterprises				Household services
			Sugar industry	EPZ	Other private	Total	
Less than 1 year	3.6	6.2	2.7	15.7	16.0	14.9	19.1
1 - 4 years	10.7	14.9	4.7	41.7	29.5	30.7	37.7
5 - 9 years	14.5	18.6	10.0	20.7	20.4	19.8	21.0
10 - 19 years	20.4	27.5	29.8	17.6	20.5	20.5	15.2
20 years & above	50.5	32.5	52.6	3.8	12.9	13.5	6.6
Not stated	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.4
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No.	62,132	21,786	26,042	87,912	253,204	367,158	14,098

On the average, employees of public enterprises had been in post for 14.6 years. About 60% of the employed population had at least 10 years of service and about one third had completed 20 years of service.

In private enterprises, the average length of service of an employed person with his current employer was 9.3 years. However in the sugar sector, where employment represented about 7% of private sector employment, a person had been working for about 20 years with his current employer. On the other hand, in the EPZ sector, the average length of service was only 6.4 years. Nearly 80% of EPZ employees had less than 10 years of service while some 58% had less than 5 years of service. Only about 4% of employed persons in the EPZ sector had been there for more than 20 years (Table 4.13).

It is also observed that, in all sectors, the average length of service for males was higher than that for females.

4.8 Employed population by hours of work

At both the 1990 and 2000 Censuses, information was collected on the number of hours actually worked, including overtime but excluding lunch break and period of leave, during

the reference week. The 2000 Census data show that an employed person worked on average 40.8 hours during the reference week. Employed males worked 42.3 hours, that is, 4.4 hours longer than employed females who worked 37.9 hours.

Comparison of the data over the ten years shows that, on average during the reference week, an employed person worked 1.4 hour less in year 2000, the reduction among female workers being more significant with a figure of 2.7 hours against 0.6 hour for males.

Table 4.14 - Average hours of work per week by sector of employment and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Sector of employment	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Central and Local Government	41.1	35.5	40.0	40.9	35.0	39.5
Public Enterprises	41.6	36.7	41.0	41.3	35.6	40.2
Private Enterprises	43.6	42.2	43.2	42.7	39.4	41.6
<i>Sugar</i>	41.8	35.9	40.3	42.1	34.8	40.3
<i>EPZ</i>	46.5	46.0	46.2	47.1	42.9	44.3
<i>Other</i>	43.5	39.2	42.6	42.1	36.4	40.8
Household services	41.3	33.3	34.7	38.2	27.9	29.3
Co-operative enterprises	44.7	36.8	43.5	35.8	35.5	35.8
All sectors	42.9	40.6	42.2	42.3	37.9	40.8

Table 4.14 shows the average number of hours worked in the different sectors. The EPZ remains the sector with the longest weekly average hours worked although the figure declined by 2.0 hours from 46.2 in 1990 to 44.3 in 2000. From 1990 to 2000, there has been a drop in the number of hours worked throughout all sectors, except for the sugar sector, where the average number of hours remained at 40.3.

4.9 Household level employment

Table 4.15 shows that in 2000 the average number of employed persons increases with household size, from 0.420 for one-person households to 3.935 for households with 10 persons or more.

In 2000, the propensity for employment, defined as the ratio of the average number of employed to household size, fluctuates in the interval 0.35 to 0.48. This ratio declines steadily from 0.48 for two-member households to 0.35 for households with six members. The propensity of employment rises again in households with more than six members as a result of grown-up children entering the labour market to reach 0.36 for households with nine members. Similar trend was observed at the 1990 Census.

It was found that, except for one-member, three-member and four-member households, the propensity for employment was lower in 2000 than in 1990. The lower propensity in 2000 indicates the presence of more unemployed in households. This is confirmed by a higher proportion of unemployed among the population aged 12 years and above at the 2000 Census; the proportions of the unemployed among the population aged 12 years and above were 3% and 5% respectively in 1990 and 2000.

Table 4.15 - Employment by household size, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Household size	1990		2000	
	Average number employed	Propensity for employment	Average number employed	Propensity for employment
1	0.401	0.401	0.420	0.420
2	0.971	0.486	0.951	0.476
3	1.351	0.450	1.365	0.455
4	1.551	0.388	1.573	0.393
5	1.813	0.363	1.792	0.358
6	2.149	0.358	2.105	0.351
7	2.556	0.365	2.484	0.355
8	2.967	0.371	2.824	0.353
9	3.495	0.388	3.214	0.357
10 and above	4.414	0.401	3.935	0.349
Total	1.729		1.537	

Comparison of the 1990 and 2000 Censuses data shows that the number of households increased by 26% while that of employed persons went up by 12%. The number of households grew twice as fast as the number of employed persons therein. The average annual growth rate of the number of households and their employed population were 2.3% and 1.1% respectively. This has resulted in a decrease in the average number of employed persons per household from 1.7 in 1990 to 1.5 in 2000.

4.10 Income

For the first time, information was collected on the income received by each member of the household. Income data collected were for the month of June and included

- (i) income from paid employment
- (ii) income from self-employment
- (iii) income of members of producers' co-operatives
- (iv) property income
- (v) social security benefits
- (vi) other income.

Lottery prizes, receipts from sales of possessions, withdrawals from savings, lump sum pension, lump sum insurance payments and lump sum inheritances were excluded.

An attempt has been made to compare income data from the 2000 Census with those from the 2001/2002 Household Budget Survey (2001/2002 HBS), though the data from the two different sources did not refer to the same period. It is observed that income at the 2000 Census was under-reported. Income figures from Household Budget Survey would be more precise as they are collected at detailed level and are also cross-checked with other information collected, such as expenditure.

Analysis of income data at the 2000 Census has, however, been carried out to provide information on how income varies within different sectors, occupational groups and by household size.

4.10.1 Income of employed person

Table 4.16 shows the distribution of employed population by income range at the 2000 Census. Out of a total employment of 466,290, 13,216 persons (2.8%) did not state their income. Nearly one tenth of the employed population or 43,389 persons received less than Rs 2,000 for the month of June 2000. This includes 10,528 persons with income less than Rs1,000. Some 43% received, for the month of June 2000, an income between Rs 2,000 and Rs 5,000, while nearly one third was found in the income range Rs 5,000 to Rs10,000. The share of employed population with income between Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000 was about 10%. However, only 3.2% of total employed, representing 14,640 persons, earned Rs 20,000 or above. Among them, 5,854, or 1.3% of employed population, received Rs 30,000 or more. The mean income of an employed person for the month of June 2000 was about Rs 6,100.

Table 4.16 - Employed population by income range (%), 2000 Census

Income range (Rs)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
less than 2,000	5.4	17.2	9.3
2,000 - 4,999	40.4	49.5	43.4
5,000 - 9,999	38.0	18.0	31.4
10,000 - 19,999	10.9	7.9	9.9
20,000 and above	4.0	1.6	3.2
Not stated	1.3	5.8	2.8
Total : %	100.0	100.0	100.0
No.	310,778	155,512	466,290
<i>Mean income (Rs)</i>	<i>6,807</i>	<i>4,683</i>	<i>6,126</i>

Analysis by sex reveals that a female employed person received lower income than a male employed. Only 5.4% of employed males received less than Rs 2,000 compared to 17.2% for employed females. Nearly 53% of male employment had an income of more than Rs 5,000 while the corresponding share for female employment was about 28.0%. On average a male employed person received about Rs 6,800 compared to Rs 4,700 for female.

The median income of the employed population was Rs 4,600. The median value shows that 50% of all employed persons received an income of less than Rs 4,600 for the month of June 2000 while the remaining employed persons earned more than Rs 4,600. The median income values for male and female employed population were Rs 5,100 and Rs 3,300 respectively.

4.10.2 Income by occupation

The mean income of employed population by occupation group and sex for June 2000 is given in Table 4.17. As expected, employed persons in the higher occupation groups received higher income than those in the lower occupation groups. 'Legislators, senior officials & managers' was the occupation group with the highest level of income (Rs 23,900), followed by 'Professionals' (Rs 17,500). More than 75% of the employed persons in each of these two occupation groups earned Rs 10,000 or more. 'Skilled agricultural & fishery workers' earned

the lowest income of Rs 3,700. In fact, nearly 95% of them earned less than Rs 10,000 for June 2000.

It is worth noted that the difference in the income of males and females among 'Legislators, senior officials & managers' is as high as Rs 9,000. The income differences among 'Professionals' and 'Technicians & associate professionals' were Rs 4,200 and Rs 3,100 respectively. The differences for the remaining occupation groups ranged from Rs 1,200 to Rs 2,200.

Table 4.17 - Mean income of employed population by occupation group and sex, 2000 Census

Occupation group	Mean income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Legislators, senior officials & managers	25,786	16,828	23,873
Professionals	18,753	14,572	17,489
Technicians & associates professionals	11,186	8,078	9,891
Clerks	7,643	6,401	6,968
Service workers & shop sales workers	6,179	3,959	5,589
Skilled agricultural & fishery workers	3,928	2,189	3,705
Craft & related trades workers	4,731	2,873	4,481
Plant & machinery operators	5,370	3,158	4,394
Elementary occupations	4,589	2,543	3,870
All sectors	6,807	4,683	6,126

4.10.3 Income by sector of employment

Table 4.18 - Mean income of employed population by sector of employment and sex, 2000 Census

Sector of employment	Mean income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Public sector	8,960	8,791	8,921
Central Government	9,135	8,804	9,048
Local Government	6,248	6,164	6,237
Public Enterprises	9,384	9,255	9,360
Private sector	6,237	4,043	5,489
Private enterprises	6,263	4,265	5,621
<i>Sugar</i>	5,920	3,546	5,359
<i>EPZ</i>	5,419	3,256	4,023
<i>Other</i>	6,429	5,349	6,191
Household services	3,308	1,897	2,089
Co-operatives	4,653	4,260	4,609
All sectors	6,807	4,683	6,126

Table 4.18 shows the mean income of an employed person for the month of June 2000 by institutional sector. The mean income of an employed person in the public sector was Rs 8,900, while his private sector counterpart earned Rs 5,500. The EPZ sector, which comprised about one quarter of private sector employment, had a mean income of Rs 4,000. Employees working in private households earned the lowest income, about Rs 2,100 for June 2000. The difference in income between males and females was negligible in the public sector, while in the private sector it was about Rs 2,200.

4.10.4 Household Income

Income data collected at the 2000 Census were also compiled by household. Table 4.19 shows the distribution of households and population by household income range. The proportion of households earning less than Rs 5,000 for the month of June 2000 was 28.2%, representing 79,448 households. This includes 17,563 households with income less than Rs 2,000. Some 38% of households had a monthly income between Rs 5,000 and Rs10,000, while the share of those having income ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 was 23.4%. Households receiving income of Rs 20,000 or more numbered 28,540 representing 10.2% of all households. The mean household income for June 2000 was Rs 10,200.

Table 4.19 - Distribution (%) of households and population by income range, 2000 Census

Household income range (Rs)	Household	Population
less than 2,000	6.2	3.5
2,000 - 4,999	22.0	18.4
5,000 - 9,999	38.2	39.0
10,000 - 19,999	23.4	27.4
20,000 & over	10.2	11.7
Total : %	100.0	100.0
No.	296,294	1,165,570

The median household income worked out to Rs 7,300, i.e., 50% of all households had an income less than Rs 7,300 for the month of June and the other 50% of households had an income greater than Rs 7,300.

Table 4.20 shows the mean household and per capita income by household size. On the average, a one-member household received about Rs 4,400 for the month of June 2000. About 55% of the 18,500 one-member households were headed by older inactive persons receiving on average Rs 2,600 monthly, constituting mainly of social security benefits such as retirement and old age pensions. Another 42% of these one-member households, where their only member is employed, had an income of Rs 7,100.

The mean income of the household increased with household size, from Rs 4,400 for a one-member household to Rs 18,900 for a household with ten or more members. This is explained by the increasing number of employed persons with increasing size of household. It is

however noted that the mean per capita income decreased with increasing household size, from Rs 4,400 for one-member household to Rs 1,700 for households with ten or more members. The overall mean per capita income worked out to Rs 2,600.

Table 4.20 - Average number of employed person per household, mean household income and per capita income by household size, 2000 Census

Household size	Average number of employed person in household	Mean household income (Rs)	Mean per capita income (Rs)
1	0.4	4,418	4,418
2	1.0	7,841	3,921
3	1.4	9,256	3,085
4	1.6	10,813	2,703
5	1.8	11,659	2,332
6	2.1	12,640	2,107
7	2.5	13,679	1,954
8	2.8	14,799	1,850
9	3.2	16,207	1,801
10+	3.9	18,949	1,681
All households	1.5	10,218	2,597

Chapter 5

Unemployed Population

The unemployed population, as defined at the 2000 Population Census, consists of all persons aged 12 years and above who, during the reference week of the census, were without work, were actively seeking work during the four weeks ending with the reference week, and were available for work during that week.

5.1 Change in unemployment

At the 2000 Census, the number of persons reported as unemployed was 48,095 compared to 24,401 in 1990 (Table 5.1). This represents an average annual increase of 2,369 or an annual growth rate of 7.0%. Out of the 48,095 unemployed, 67.6% or 32,512 were first job seekers, i.e., they never worked before. In 1990, the proportion of first job seekers was 84.0%.

Table 5.1 - Unemployment and change in unemployment, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

	1990	2000	Annual yearly increase	Annual growth rate (%)
Male	17,763	30,528	1,277	5.6
Female	6,638	17,567	1,093	10.2
Both sexes	24,401	48,095	2,369	7.0

5.2 Characteristics of the unemployed population

5.2.1 Sex and age

The distribution of the unemployed population by sex is given in Table 5.1. Male unemployment increased from 17,763 in 1990 to 30,528 in 2000, i.e. an average annual increase of 1,277 or an annual growth rate of 5.6%. Female unemployment grew nearly twice as fast, from 6,638 in 1990 to 17,567 in 2000, with an average annual increase of 1,093 or an annual growth rate of 10.2%. This has resulted in a higher share of female unemployment of 36.5% in 2000 against 27.2% in 1990.

Data from Table 5.2 show that the unemployed population was older in 2000 than in 1990. The average age of an unemployed person in 2000 worked out to 25.5 years against 22.9 years in 1990. About 30.0% or 14,527 unemployed persons were below 20 years compared to 37.8% or 9,235 unemployed in 1990. These persons were mostly new entrants into the labour market; in fact, among these 14,527 unemployed below 20 years in 2000, 13,365 or 92.0% were first job seekers.

Table 5.2 - Unemployed population by age group and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Age (years)	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Under 20	7,197	2,038	9,235	9,916	4,611	14,527
20 - 29	8,278	3,216	11,494	13,498	7,594	21,092
30 - 39	1,607	997	2,604	3,968	3,229	7,197
40 - 49	423	304	727	2,152	1,575	3,727
50 & over	258	83	341	994	558	1,552
Total	17,763	6,638	24,401	30,528	17,567	48,095
<i>Average age of an unemployed person</i>	<i>22.4</i>	<i>24.3</i>	<i>22.9</i>	<i>25.0</i>	<i>26.4</i>	<i>25.5</i>

The proportion of unemployed population aged between 20 and 29 years fell from 47.1% in 1990 to 43.9% in 2000. However, unemployed population aged 30 years and above had a higher share of 25.9% of total unemployment in 2000 compared to 15.0% in 1990.

Analysis by sex shows that on the average unemployed females were older than unemployed males by about one and a half year. The average age of an unemployed male in 2000 was 25.0 years compared to 26.4 years for females. The comparative figures for 1990 were 22.4 years for males and 24.3 years for females.

5.2.2 Marital status

Table 5.3 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex, 1990 & 2000 Censuses

Marital status	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Single	88.9	66.5	82.8	81.1	55.2	71.7
Married	10.1	27.9	14.9	16.6	36.7	23.9
Widowed, divorced or separated	1.0	5.6	2.3	2.3	8.1	4.4
All marital states : %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No.	17,763	6,638	24,401	30,528	17,567	48,095

The majority (71.7%) of the unemployed was single, followed by 23.9% who were married and the remaining 4.4% were either widowed, divorced or separated (Table 5.3).

There is marked difference in the distribution of the unemployed males and females by marital status. In fact, more than one third of the unemployed females were married compared to 16.6% for unemployed males. On the other hand, the proportion of singles among unemployed males was higher than among females, 81.1% against 55.2%.

Comparison over time shows that a higher proportion of the unemployed were married in 2000 than in 1990. In 2000, nearly one quarter of the unemployed were married compared to 14.9% in 1990 while the proportion of widowed, divorced or separated rose from 2.3% to 4.4% during the same period.

5.2.3 Educational attainment

Table 5.4 gives the distribution of the unemployed population by educational attainment at the 2000 Census. Out of 48,095 unemployed persons, about 1,000 or 2.1% of total unemployment, had never been to school or attended only preprimary school. Some 19,700 unemployed persons or 40.9% had been to primary school, out of which 2,415 passed the Certificate of Primary Education, representing 5.0% of total unemployment. A further 55.3% had followed or completed secondary education. This category numbering 26,574, includes 6,795 (14.1% of total unemployment) and 3,952 (8.2% of total unemployment) holders of School Certificate and Higher School Certificate respectively. Among the unemployed persons there were also 749 university degree holders, representing 1.6% of unemployment.

Table 5.4 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, 2000 Census

Educational attainment	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nil & preprimary	568	1.9	449	2.6	1,017	2.1
Primary	13,947	45.7	5,717	32.5	19,664	40.9
<i>Standard I - VI</i>	12,281	40.2	4,968	28.3	17,249	35.9
<i>Passed CPE</i>	1,666	5.5	749	4.3	2,415	5.0
Secondary	15,556	51.0	11,018	62.7	26,574	55.3
<i>Form I to V</i>	10,277	33.7	5,550	31.6	15,827	32.9
<i>Passed SC</i>	3,470	11.4	3,325	18.9	6,795	14.1
<i>Passed HSC</i>	1,809	5.9	2,143	12.2	3,952	8.2
University	402	1.3	347	2.0	749	1.6
Not stated	55	0.2	36	0.2	91	0.2
Total	30,528	100.0	17,567	100.0	48,095	100.0

Analysis by sex shows that among unemployed females, the level of education was higher than among unemployed males. Unemployed males had a higher proportion (47.6%) of persons with CPE level or lower than unemployed females (35.1%). On the other hand, more than 30% of the females had either SC or HSC compared to 17.3% males. Furthermore, 2.0% of unemployed females were holders of a university degree against 1.3% for unemployed males.

The first job seekers were generally more qualified than the unemployed persons who had worked before. Thus, about 25% of the first job seekers had either SC or HSC compared to only 17.0% for those who had work experience.

Data from the two censuses show an improvement in the educational attainment of the unemployed population. The proportion of unemployed with secondary level of education

was 55.2% in 2000 against 51.2% in 1990. Similarly the proportion of HSC holders increased from 4.9% to 8.2%. Furthermore, the share of degree holders improved from 0.7% to 1.6% during the same period.

5.2.4 Vocational and technical training

About 7% of the unemployed population, or 3,442 persons had some kind of vocational or technical training compared to 5.8% or 1,424 unemployed persons in 1990. The proportion having been trained among unemployed males and females were 6.1% and 9.1% respectively. The previous census figures were 4.0% for males and 10.9% for females.

Table 5.5 - Unemployed population by educational attainment, training and sex, 2000 Census

Educational attainment and training	Male	Female	Total
University degree of whom having vocational or technical training	402 (53)	347 (40)	749 (93)
Secondary level of whom having vocational or technical training	15,556 (1,507)	11,018 (1,507)	26,574 (3,014)
Up to primary level of whom having vocational or technical training	14,515 (283)	6,166 (44)	20,681 (327)
Not stated of whom having vocational or technical training	55 (4)	36 (4)	91 (8)
Total unemployed population of whom having vocational or technical training	30,528 (1,847)	17,567 (1,595)	48,095 (3,442)

The highest proportion (12.4%) of the unemployed with some kind of vocational or technical training was registered among the university degree holders, followed by those who studied up to secondary level (11.3%). Among the unemployed population with primary level of education, only 1.6% had such form of training (Table 5.5).

The unemployed persons with vocational or technical training were trained mainly in 'Trade, craft & industrial techniques', (27.6%) 'Mathematics and Computer Science' (26.9%) and 'Service trades' (8.7%)

5.3 Unemployed population having work experience

Out of the 48,095 unemployed persons at the 2000 Census, 15,583 (10,652 males and 4,931 females) have worked before, comprising 32.4% of total unemployment. The proportion of unemployed having work experience was 35.1% among males and 27.8% among females.

5.3.1 Unemployed population by duration of unemployment

Table 5.6 - Unemployed population having worked before by duration of current unemployment and sex, 2000 Census

Duration of unemployment	Male	Female	Both sexes
less than 6 months	45.8	28.4	40.3
6 months and less than 12 months	16.0	13.7	15.3
1 year and less than 2 years	12.5	15.2	13.4
2 years and less than 3 years	8.0	10.9	8.9
3 years & over	16.0	31.5	20.9
Not stated	1.7	0.3	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Average duration of unemployment (months)</i>	<i>17.1</i>	<i>28.3</i>	<i>20.7</i>

About 40% of the unemployed with work experience reported to have been unemployed for less than 6 months while another 15.3% for 6 to 11 months (Table 5.6). Some 13% had been employed for 1 to 2 years and another 29.8% for two years or more. On average, an unemployed person had been out of work for 21 months since the last job. The duration of current unemployment is higher for females than for males, with averages of 28 months and 17 months respectively.

5.3.2 Unemployed population by previous employment status

Table 5.7 - Unemployed population having worked before by previous employment status and sex, 2000 Census

Employment status	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Self-employed	2,100	19.7	120	2.4	2,220	14.2
<i>With employees</i>	245	2.3	24	0.5	269	1.7
<i>Without employees</i>	1,855	17.4	96	1.9	1,951	12.5
Employee	8,214	77.1	4,726	95.8	12,940	83.0
<i>Paid by month</i>	4,148	38.9	3,048	61.8	7,196	46.2
<i>Paid by day, week, fortnight, job</i>	3,891	36.5	1,634	33.1	5,525	35.5
<i>Apprentice</i>	175	1.6	44	0.9	219	1.4
Unpaid family worker	53	0.5	20	0.4	73	0.5
Member of producers' co-operatives	2	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.0
Not stated	283	2.7	64	1.3	347	2.2
Total	10,652	100.0	4,931	100.0	15,583	100.0

The majority (83.0%) of the unemployed who had worked before were employees, and more than half of these employees were paid by month (Table 5.7). Another 14.2% worked as self-employed, of which 87.9% were without employees and the remaining 12.1% had employees. Among males, 77.1% were employees and 19.7% were self-employed. Females unemployed worked mostly as employee at their previous job; 95.8% of them were employees and only 2.4% were self-employed.

5.3.3 Unemployed population by previous sector of employment

Table 5.8 - Unemployed population having worked before by previous sector of employment and sex, 2000 Census

Sector of employment	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Government & public enterprises	449	4.2	112	2.3	561	3.6
Sugar	375	3.5	66	1.3	441	2.8
EPZ	848	8.0	1,665	33.8	2,513	16.1
Private enterprises excluding sugar and EPZ	8,603	80.8	2,569	52.1	11,172	71.7
Household services	138	1.3	469	9.5	607	3.9
Other & not stated	239	2.2	50	1.0	289	1.9
Total	10,652	100.0	4,931	100.0	15,583	100.0

About 96% of the unemployed who had a job before worked in the private sector while the remaining 4% were in the Government sector or public enterprises (Table 5.8). Among those from the private sector, 16.1% worked in an EPZ enterprise, 2.8% in the sugar industry and 3.9% were engaged in private households. It is worth noted that among the unemployed females who worked before, 33.8% had work experience in the EPZ sector against 8.0% for their male counterparts.

5.3.4 Unemployed population by previous industry group & occupation group

Unemployed persons with job experience had worked mainly in manufacturing sector (31.6%), construction industry (21.7%), wholesale & retail trade (12.6%) and hotels & restaurants (6.2%).

The 2000 Census data also show that the unemployed with job experience worked mainly as craft & related trades workers (32.7%), plant & machine operators & assemblers (15.8%), service workers & shops sales workers (12.4%); about 20% of these unemployed were engaged in elementary occupations.

5.3.5 Unemployed population by length of service with last employer

The distribution of the unemployed population with work experience by length of service with last employer is given in Table 5.9. Nearly one third of the unemployed had worked less

than one year for their last employer. A further 22.3% worked for one to three years and 17.0% had spent 10 years or more with their last employer. On average, an unemployed person with work experience had worked for 5.8 years with his last employer. The average length of service was 6.4 years for male and 4.5 years for female.

Table 5.9 - Unemployed population having worked before by length of service with previous employer and sex, 2000 Census

Length of service	Male	Female	Both sexes
less than 1 year	31.4	30.3	31.1
1 year and less than 3 years	19.9	27.3	22.3
3 years and less than 5 years	11.0	14.8	12.2
5 years and less than 10 years	14.2	15.7	14.6
10 years and less than 20 years	12.3	7.9	10.9
20 years and over	8.0	2.3	6.1
Not stated	3.2	1.7	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Average length of service (years)</i>	6.4	4.5	5.8

5.4 Household level unemployment

Table 5.10 - Number of private households and unemployment in private households by household size, 2000 Census

Household size	Number of households	Number of unemployed	Average number of unemployed	Per capita unemployment
1	18,484	502	0.027	0.027
2	39,184	2,566	0.065	0.033
3	59,082	6,540	0.111	0.037
4	86,512	12,253	0.142	0.035
5	50,851	10,931	0.215	0.043
6	23,179	6,870	0.296	0.049
7	9,918	3,674	0.370	0.053
8	4,495	2,173	0.483	0.060
9	2,209	1,107	0.501	0.056
10 and above	2,380	1,472	0.618	0.055
Total	296,294	48,088	0.162	0.041

Table 5.10 shows the number of households and unemployment by household size at the 2000 Census. The average number of unemployed persons per household increases slowly from 0.027 in one member households to reach 0.142 in households with four members. In the larger households, i.e., those with 5 or more members, the rate of increase is much faster as a result of the presence of more grown up children in search of jobs. In 2000, the overall average number of unemployed persons per household was 0.16, representing an increase of 60% over the 1990 average of 0.10.

Per capita unemployment, which is the ratio of the number of unemployed persons to the total number of persons present in the household, is also given in Table 5.10. The overall per capita unemployment works out to 0.041, ranging from 0.027 in a one-member household to 0.060 in an eight-member household.

Table 5.11 shows the distribution of private households by the number of employed and unemployed persons in the household at the 2000 Census.

Table 5.11 - Distribution of private households by number of employed and unemployed persons in the household, 2000 Census

Number of unemployed persons in household	Number of employed persons in household				Total
	0	1	2	3 or more	
0	26,410	113,166	84,908	33,377	257,861
1	4,484	13,488	8,028	4,731	30,731
2	930	2,619	1,811	826	6,186
3 or more	236	699	391	190	1,516
Total	32,060	129,972	95,138	39,124	296,294

Out of the 296,294 private households, 38,433 or 13.0% had one or more unemployed persons in the household. The majority of these households (80.0%) were households with one unemployed person, while 16.0% had two unemployed members and the remaining 4.0% had three or more unemployed members.

Nearly 15.0% of the 38,433 households with unemployed members did not have any employed member at all and 43.7% had only one employed member. The remaining 41.3% of households with unemployed persons had two or more employed members.

Chapter 6

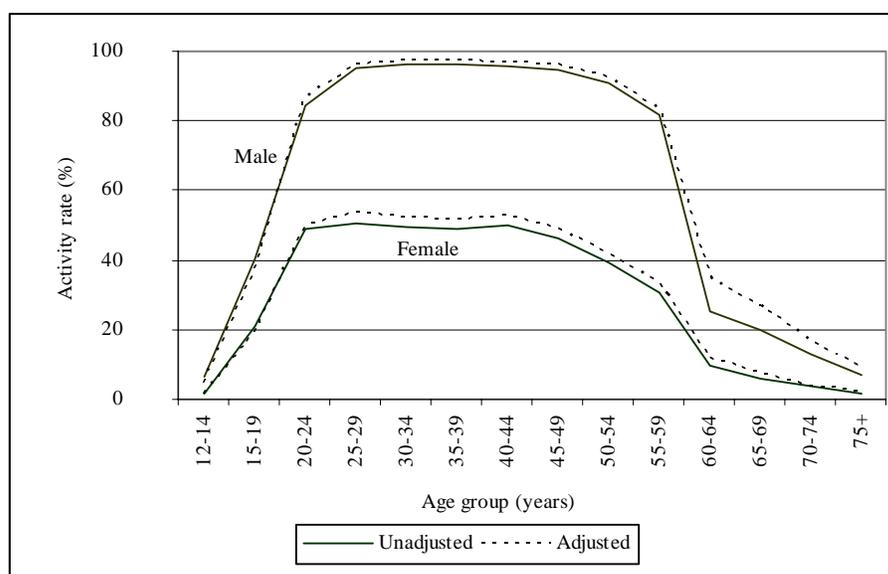
Current estimates and projections

The 2000 Census data relating to economic activity have been evaluated, and adjustments have been made where required. They have also been cross-checked with data from other sources to assess their correctness and reliability.

6.1 Activity rates and labour force

A comparison of the activity rates by age group and sex, worked out from the 2000 Census data, with those from the 1990 Census, the 1995 Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS) and the 1999 Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey, indicates that economic activity has been under-reported for both males and females. It further appears that the degree of under-reporting was higher among females than among males. The 2000 activity rates have therefore been adjusted accordingly; however, the age patterns of participation observed at the census has been maintained (Figure 6.1).

Figure 6.1 - Activity rates (%) by age group and sex, 2000 Census



Comparison of the 1990 Census and the 1995 LFSS data indicates decreasing economic activity among young persons aged 12 to 19 years in the five-year period, as result of greater availability of vocational and technical training opportunities and a higher enrolment ratio in the educational system. Hence, the activity rate in the 12 to 19 age bracket has been adjusted downwards.

On the other hand, activity rates for higher age groups have been adjusted upwards, again based on trends observed at the previous census and the 1995 LFSS. Table 6.1 shows the adjusted activity rates by age group and sex. The overall adjusted activity rate works out to 75.2% for males and 38.1% for females. Activity rates for years 2001 to 2003, based on the adjusted figures for 2000, are also given in the table.

Table 6.1 - Activity rates (%) by age group and sex, 2000 to 2003

Age (years)	Male				Female			
	2000 ¹	2001	2002	2003	2000 ¹	2001	2002	2003
12 - 14	4.8	4.4	4.2	4.1	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.0
15 - 19	37.3	36.9	36.7	36.6	19.5	19.4	19.3	19.2
20 - 24	86.4	85.9	85.7	85.6	50.1	50.6	50.9	51.1
25 - 29	96.3	96.3	96.3	96.3	53.6	54.6	55.1	55.3
30 - 34	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	52.3	53.1	53.5	53.6
35 - 39	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3	51.8	52.3	52.6	52.8
40 - 44	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.7	52.8	53.4	53.7	53.9
45 - 49	96.2	96.2	96.2	96.2	49.1	49.7	49.9	50.1
50 - 54	92.7	92.7	90.1	90.4	41.9	42.5	38.5	39.0
55 - 59	83.6	83.6	75.1	76.7	33.4	34.0	29.2	30.4
60 - 64	35.1	35.1	35.3	35.4	11.8	12.1	12.2	12.3
65 - 69	27.0	27.0	27.2	27.3	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8
70 - 74	16.5	16.5	16.7	16.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.1
75 and above	9.3	9.1	9.1	9.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
12 and above	75.2	75.2	74.6	74.6	38.1	38.6	38.3	38.4
15 and above	79.8	79.9	79.5	79.6	40.0	41.0	40.7	40.9

¹ Adjusted

Labour force by age group and sex in year 2000 was estimated by applying the adjusted age-sex-specific activity rates to the population figures in the different age groups. Hence, labour force in year 2000 worked out to 528,600 (347,200 males, 181,400 females). This figure includes 14,600 foreigners working in Mauritius. Estimates of labour force by age group and sex for years 2000 to 2003 are given in Table 6.2.

It is to be noted that the increase in labour force in 2002 is lower than that observed in 2001 as a result of the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the sugar industry. During the period 2001 to 2002, some 8,000 persons left the sugar industry and it has been assumed that about 5,000 of them moved out of the labour force while some 3,000 were either employed or unemployed.

Table 6.2 - Labour force by age group and sex , 2000 - 2003

(' 000)

Age (years)	Male				Female				Both Sexes			
	2000 ¹	2001	2002	2003	2000 ¹	2001	2002	2003	2000 ¹	2001	2002	2003
12 - 14	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.6
15 - 19	19.3	18.2	17.5	17.3	9.8	9.4	9.0	8.9	29.1	27.6	26.5	26.2
20 - 24	47.6	48.8	48.8	47.8	28.0	28.8	29.0	28.4	75.6	77.6	77.8	76.2
25 - 29	45.0	45.6	47.1	49.4	25.2	26.2	27.2	28.9	70.2	71.8	74.3	78.3
30 - 34	48.7	47.0	45.8	44.6	25.8	25.5	25.3	24.5	74.5	72.5	71.1	69.1
35 - 39	50.2	51.3	50.8	50.4	26.2	27.1	26.9	27.2	76.4	78.4	77.7	77.6
40 - 44	44.3	44.9	45.5	46.8	23.6	24.2	25.0	25.6	67.9	69.1	70.5	72.4
45 - 49	37.7	38.1	39.7	40.3	19.1	19.5	20.3	20.8	56.8	57.6	60.0	61.1
50 - 54	25.8	29.1	29.9	32.0	12.2	13.8	13.2	14.0	38.0	42.9	43.1	46.0
55 - 59	16.1	16.6	15.9	17.6	7.1	7.5	6.8	7.7	23.2	24.1	22.7	25.3
60 - 64	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.6
65 - 69	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.5	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	4.3	4.4	4.7	4.7
70 - 74	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.0
75 and above	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4
Total labour force	347.2	352.1	353.6	358.9	181.4	186.4	187.3	190.6	528.6	538.5	540.9	549.5
<i>Mauritian labour force</i>	<i>342.2</i>	<i>346.3</i>	<i>347.2</i>	<i>351.0</i>	<i>171.8</i>	<i>175.7</i>	<i>176.7</i>	<i>180.3</i>	<i>514.0</i>	<i>522.0</i>	<i>523.9</i>	<i>531.3</i>
<i>Foreign labour force</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>14.6</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>18.2</i>

¹ Adjusted

6.2 Employment

During the intercensal period, annual estimates of total employment are obtained as the sum of employment in large (employing 10 or more persons) establishments and employment outside large establishments. Employment in large establishments is computed as the average of employment data obtained from the March and September Surveys of Employment & Earnings. Estimates of employment outside large establishments is worked out on the basis of the latest population census, labour force surveys and census of economic activities updated with data from different sources such as licence and permit figures and area under cultivation. For year 2000, total employment was estimated at 499,800 : 297,700 in large establishments and 202,100 outside large establishments (Table 6.3).

The number of employed persons enumerated at the 2000 Census was 466,300. Census employment outside large establishments can be obtained by subtracting employment in large establishments from total employment, and it amounted to 168,600. This figure is much lower than the previous estimate of 202,100.

It is felt that employment at the Census has been under-reported and on the other hand the estimate for year 2000 made prior to the census, is high. It is assumed that under-reporting at the census is negligible among employees in large establishments and is more likely among persons engaged outside large establishments, mainly in the informal sector. Hence, a more reasonable estimate of employment outside large establishments would lie between 168,600 and 202,100.

A comparison of the census data by industry group with estimates based on data from other sources indicates that under-reporting of employment occurred mainly in the manufacturing and trade sectors, and to a lesser extent in agriculture and other services.

Table 6.3 - Employment by sex in large and outside large establishments, 2000

	Estimate for year 2000	2000 Population Census	Adjusted Census figures
Both sexes			
Total	499,800	466,300	483,600
In large establishments	297,700	297,700	297,700
Outside large establishments	202,100	168,600 ¹	185,900
Male			
Total	332,800	310,800	318,700
In large establishments	187,200	187,200	187,200
Outside large establishments	145,600	123,600 ¹	131,500
Female			
Total	167,000	155,500	164,900
In large establishments	110,500	110,500	110,500
Outside large establishments	56,500	45,000 ¹	54,400

¹ obtained by subtraction

Table 6.4 - Employment by industry group and size of establishment, 2000 - 2003

(' 000)

Industrial group	2000			2001			2002			2003		
	Large	Other than	Total									
Agriculture, hunting, forestry & fishing	32.8	23.0	55.8	31.5	22.8	54.3	24.5	22.4	46.9	23.4	23.0	46.4
<i>Sugar cane</i>	(25.1)	(4.3)	(29.4)	(23.8)	(4.3)	(28.1)	(17.4)	(4.2)	(21.6)	(15.7)	(4.2)	(19.9)
Mining & quarrying	0.2	1.1	1.3	0.2	1.1	1.3	0.2	1.1	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
Manufacturing	115.1	27.0	142.1	115.9	27.6	143.5	111.2	28.3	139.5	105.4	29.0	134.4
<i>Sugar</i>	(3.3)	(0.0)	(3.3)	(3.2)	(0.0)	(3.2)	(3.1)	(0.0)	(3.1)	(2.2)	(0.0)	(2.2)
<i>EPZ</i>	(88.2)	(1.6)	(89.8)	(89.6)	(1.4)	(91.0)	(84.4)	(1.3)	(85.7)	(78.9)	(1.1)	(80.0)
Electricity, gas and water supply	3.0	0.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.0
Construction	13.5	29.3	42.8	13.3	30.2	43.5	13.7	30.4	44.1	14.5	31.1	45.6
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods	16.5	47.2	63.7	16.5	48.6	65.1	17.0	50.4	67.4	17.7	53.1	70.8
Hotels & restaurants	14.5	7.8	22.3	15.9	7.9	23.8	16.9	8.1	25.0	17.8	8.3	26.1
Transport, storage & communications	16.0	14.7	30.7	16.5	15.0	31.5	17.6	15.7	33.3	17.7	16.2	33.9
Financial intermediation	6.8	0.5	7.3	7.0	0.5	7.5	7.0	0.5	7.5	7.4	0.5	7.9
Real estate, renting and business activities	9.7	5.2	14.9	10.1	5.3	15.4	10.5	5.5	16.0	11.3	5.6	16.9
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	35.1	0.0	35.1	36.2	0.0	36.2	38.2	0.0	38.2	39.2	0.0	39.2
Education	17.8	4.9	22.7	18.4	4.9	23.3	19.3	5.0	24.3	20.8	5.0	25.8
Health & social work	11.2	1.4	12.6	10.9	1.4	12.3	11.2	1.5	12.7	11.8	1.6	13.4
Other community, social and personal service activities and private households with employed persons	5.5	23.8	29.3	5.6	24.5	30.1	5.8	25.0	30.8	5.7	25.7	31.4
Total	297.7	185.9	483.6	301.0	189.8	490.8	296.2	193.9	490.1	295.9	199.2	495.1

Table 6.5 - Employment by industry group and sex, 2000 - 2003

(' 000)

Industrial group	2000			2001			2002			2003		
	Male	Female	Both sexes									
Agriculture, hunting, forestry & fishing	41.6	14.2	55.8	40.5	13.8	54.3	36.2	10.7	46.9	36.1	10.3	46.4
<i>Sugar cane</i>	(21.7)	(7.7)	(29.4)	(20.8)	(7.3)	(28.1)	(17.0)	(4.6)	(21.6)	(16.2)	(3.7)	(19.9)
Mining & quarrying	1.2	0.1	1.3	1.2	0.1	1.3	1.2	0.1	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
Manufacturing	70.6	71.5	142.1	71.0	72.5	143.5	70.9	68.6	139.5	69.0	65.4	134.4
<i>Sugar</i>	(3.33)	(0.03)	(3.36)	(3.2)	(0.0)	(3.2)	(3.1)	(0.0)	(3.1)	(2.2)	(0.0)	(2.2)
<i>EPZ</i>	(29.1)	(60.7)	(89.8)	(29.8)	(61.2)	(91.0)	(28.7)	(57.0)	(85.7)	(27.0)	(53.0)	(80.0)
Electricity, gas and water supply	2.8	0.2	3.0	2.8	0.2	3.0	2.9	0.2	3.1	2.8	0.2	3.0
Construction	42.0	0.8	42.8	42.7	0.8	43.5	43.3	0.8	44.1	44.8	0.8	45.6
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods	43.2	20.5	63.7	43.9	21.2	65.1	45.3	22.1	67.4	47.4	23.4	70.8
Hotels & restaurants	16.2	6.1	22.3	17.3	6.5	23.8	18.2	6.8	25.0	18.7	7.4	26.1
Transport, storage & communications	27.4	3.3	30.7	27.7	3.8	31.5	29.3	4.0	33.3	29.7	4.2	33.9
Financial intermediation	4.4	2.9	7.3	4.5	3.0	7.5	4.5	3.0	7.5	4.6	3.3	7.9
Real estate, renting and business activities	10.6	4.3	14.9	10.9	4.5	15.4	10.9	5.1	16.0	11.5	5.4	16.9
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	28.3	6.8	35.1	28.8	7.4	36.2	30.2	8.0	38.2	30.8	8.4	39.2
Education	11.3	11.4	22.7	11.2	12.1	23.3	11.4	12.9	24.3	11.9	13.9	25.8
Health & social work	6.7	5.9	12.6	6.6	5.7	12.3	6.8	5.9	12.7	7.0	6.4	13.4
Other community, social and personal service activities and private households with employed persons	12.4	16.9	29.3	12.5	17.6	30.1	12.9	17.9	30.8	12.8	18.6	31.4
Total	318.7	164.9	483.6	321.6	169.2	490.8	324.0	166.1	490.1	327.3	167.8	495.1

Based on the adjustments made to age and sex specific activity rates, described at section 6.1, the resulting increase among economically actives is assumed to be those who were working but reported themselves as inactive.

Thus, the census employment figure was adjusted upwards by 17,300. Total employment was estimated at 483,600 (318,700 males, 164,900 females) for year 2000. Employment in large establishments amounted to 297,700 while employment outside large establishments was estimated at 185,900. The distribution of employment by industry group and in 'large' establishments and 'outside large' establishments for years 2000 to 2003 is given in Table 6.4. Employment data by industry group and sex for years 2000 to 2003 are shown in Table 6.5.

6.3 Unemployment

At the 2000 Census, 48,095 persons (30,528 males, 17,567 females) aged 12 years and above reported themselves as unemployed, yielding an unemployment rate of 9.6% (8.9% for male, 10.1% for female).

The number of persons aged 12 to 19 years reported themselves as unemployed was 14,527 (9,916 males and 4,611 females), giving an unemployment rate of 42.9% (43.8% for male and 41.1% for female). These rates appear to be too high when compared with data from previous censuses and surveys and the number of registered unemployed at the Employment Service of Ministry of Training, Skills Development and Productivity; this may be due to the fact that some young persons who were following some kind of training, working as apprentices, or working but also looking for better jobs, reported themselves as unemployed.

At the 1995 Labour Force Sample Survey, unemployment rate for the age bracket 12 - 19 years was 31.2% (29.1% for male and 35.0% for female). Also, the number of registered unemployed aged 15 to 19 years at the Employment Service was about 3,000, while the 2000 Census enumerated some 13,000 unemployed in this age group.

Based on the data from the other sources, the census unemployment figures in the age group 12 to 19 years have been adjusted downwards by about 3,100, resulting in an unemployment rate of 37.0% (38.2% for male and 34.4% for female).

In the higher age group, over-reporting of unemployment is negligible, thus not requiring adjustment. Hence, the total number of unemployed was estimated at 45,000 (30,500 males, 17,600 females). The unemployment rate worked out to 8.8% (8.3% for male, 9.6% for female) as given in Table 6.6.

6.4 Revised labour force, employment and unemployment figures, 1996 - 1999

Previous estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment made for the years 1996 to 1999 have been revised in the light of the evaluation and adjustment of the 2000 Census data (Table 6.6).

Table 6.6 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment (12 years and above), 1996 - 2003

(' 000)

Year	Labour force			Employment ¹			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments ²	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate ³ (%)
Both sexes								
1996	482.3	8.2	490.5	286.8	175.8	462.6	27.9	5.8
1997	490.8	8.6	499.4	287.8	179.4	467.2	32.2	6.6
1998	499.4	10.0	509.4	294.7	180.3	475.0	34.4	6.9
1999	506.6	12.9	519.5	297.4	183.1	480.5	39.0	7.7
2000	514.0	14.6	528.6	297.7	185.9	483.6	45.0	8.8
2001	522.0	16.5	538.5	301.0	189.8	490.8	47.7	9.1
2002 ⁴	523.9	17.0	540.9	296.2	193.9	490.1	50.8	9.7
2003	531.3	18.2	549.5	295.9	199.2	495.1	54.4	10.2
Male								
1996	325.2	4.2	329.4	184.4	130.0	314.4	15.0	4.6
1997	329.7	3.7	333.4	184.3	130.6	314.9	18.5	5.6
1998	333.8	3.7	337.5	186.4	130.7	317.1	20.4	6.1
1999	338.0	4.4	342.4	187.7	130.9	318.6	23.8	7.0
2000	342.2	5.0	347.2	187.2	131.5	318.7	28.5	8.3
2001	346.3	5.8	352.1	188.0	133.6	321.6	30.5	8.8
2002 ⁴	347.2	6.4	353.6	187.9	136.1	324.0	29.6	8.5
2003	351.0	7.9	358.9	187.9	139.4	327.3	31.6	9.0
Female								
1996	157.1	4.0	161.1	102.4	45.8	148.2	12.9	8.2
1997	161.1	4.9	166.0	103.5	48.8	152.3	13.7	8.5
1998	165.6	6.3	171.9	108.3	49.6	157.9	14.0	8.5
1999	168.6	8.5	177.1	109.7	52.2	161.9	15.2	9.0
2000	171.8	9.6	181.4	110.5	54.4	164.9	16.5	9.6
2001	175.7	10.7	186.4	113.0	56.2	169.2	17.2	9.8
2002 ⁴	176.7	10.6	187.3	108.3	57.8	166.1	21.2	12.0
2003	180.3	10.3	190.6	108.0	59.8	167.8	22.8	12.6

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 of the labour force while the remaining 3,000 remained active

6.5 Activity rates and labour force projections, 2000 to 2020

The size of the labour force is determined by the size and age structure of the population and age specific activity rates. Based on the adjusted activity rates for year 2000 and the projected population figures, the labour force has been projected at five year interval up to year 2020. It should be noted that the projected activity rates and labour force figures worked out and given below do not take into account persons moving out of the labour force due to the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the sugar industry (mentioned in section 6.1).

6.5.1 Projection of activity rates

The projections of activity rates have been based mainly on past trends, and also taking into consideration the increasing opportunities in vocational and technical training and tertiary education. Activity rates, based on assumptions described below, have been projected over the period 2000 to 2020 (Table 6.7).

Male Activity rate

Between 1995 and 2000, male activity rates have remained almost the same, except for changes in the lower age group, 12 to 24 years. A declining trend was noted in that age group, and it has been assumed that this trend would continue but at a lower rate.

Activity rates of those aged 25 years and above increased slightly during the period 1995 to 2000. Assuming that most of the five year age specific activity rates have reached their optimum level, the 2000 rates have been kept almost constant for the period 2000 to 2020.

Female activity rate

On the other hand, female activity rates changed quite significantly between 1995 and 2000. Activity rates rose in all age groups, except for the 12 - 19 years age group where the rates declined. This drop in activity rate among young females is mainly due to increased opportunities for studies. It is expected that this declining trend will continue, but at a lower rate.

For those aged 20 years and above, activity rates increased across all five year age brackets during the period 1995 to 2000, except for age group 35-39 years. It is expected that the activity rates of those aged 20 years and above will continue to increase, but at a lower rate.

Table 6.7 - Projected activity rates¹ (%) by age group and sex, 2000 – 2020**MALE**

Age (years)	Activity rates (%)				
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
12 - 14	4.8	3.8	2.8	2.3	1.8
15 - 19	37.3	36.3	35.3	34.8	34.3
20 - 24	86.4	85.4	84.4	83.9	83.4
25 - 29	96.3	96.3	96.3	96.3	96.3
30 - 34	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5
35 - 39	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3
40 - 44	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.7
45 - 49	96.2	96.2	96.2	96.2	96.2
50 - 54	92.7	92.7	92.7	92.7	92.7
55 - 59	83.6	83.6	83.6	83.6	83.6
60 - 64	35.1	35.6	36.0	36.0	36.0
65 - 69	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.0	28.0
70 - 74	16.5	17.0	17.5	17.5	17.5
75+	9.3	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
12 years and above	75.1	75.0	74.3	73.3	71.6
15 years and above	79.7	79.9	78.4	77.2	75.3

FEMALE

Age (years)	Activity rates (%)				
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
12 - 14	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5
15 - 19	19.5	19.0	18.5	18.0	17.5
20 - 24	50.1	51.6	53.1	54.1	54.6
25 - 29	53.6	55.7	56.6	57.6	58.1
30 - 34	52.3	53.8	55.3	56.3	56.8
35 - 39	51.8	53.3	54.8	55.8	56.3
40 - 44	52.8	54.3	55.8	56.8	57.3
45 - 49	49.1	50.6	52.1	53.1	53.6
50 - 54	41.9	43.4	44.9	45.9	46.4
55 - 59	33.4	34.9	36.4	37.4	37.9
60 - 64	11.8	12.3	12.8	12.8	12.8
65 - 69	7.7	8.0	8.5	8.5	8.5
70 - 74	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5
75+	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
12 years and above	38.1	38.9	39.2	39.1	38.2
15 years and above	40.4	41.4	41.3	41.1	40.1

¹ People moving out of the labour force due to the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the sugar industry during the period 2001 and 2002 are not taken into account

6.5.2 Projection of labour force

Table 6.8 - Projected labour force¹ by age group and sex, 2000 - 2020

MALE

Age (years)	Labour force				
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
12 - 14	1,400	1,200	800	700	500
15 - 19	19,300	17,900	19,400	17,300	17,200
20 - 24	47,600	43,700	41,300	45,900	41,400
25 - 29	45,000	52,400	48,900	46,900	52,500
30 - 34	48,700	44,900	52,600	49,200	47,300
35 - 39	50,200	47,900	44,300	52,000	48,700
40 - 44	44,300	48,900	46,700	43,300	50,800
45 - 49	37,700	42,700	47,200	45,200	42,000
50 - 54	25,800	34,700	39,500	43,800	42,100
55 - 59	16,100	21,600	29,200	33,400	37,300
60 - 64	5,400	6,100	8,400	11,400	13,200
65 - 69	3,200	3,600	4,200	5,700	7,900
70 - 74	1,600	1,600	1,800	2,200	3,000
75+	900	1,100	1,100	1,300	1,500
12 years and above	347,200	368,300	385,400	398,300	405,400
15 years and above	345,800	367,100	384,600	397,600	404,900

FEMALE

Age (years)	Labour force				
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
12 - 14	400	300	100	100	100
15 - 19	9,800	9,200	9,900	8,700	8,500
20 - 24	28,000	25,800	25,500	29,000	26,400
25 - 29	25,200	30,800	28,200	27,600	31,100
30 - 34	25,900	25,100	30,500	28,000	27,200
35 - 39	26,100	26,200	25,500	30,600	27,900
40 - 44	23,600	27,100	27,300	26,300	31,300
45 - 49	19,100	22,300	25,700	25,700	24,600
50 - 54	12,200	16,500	19,500	22,400	22,200
55 - 59	7,100	9,800	13,400	15,800	18,000
60 - 64	2,100	2,500	3,400	4,500	5,200
65 - 69	1,100	1,300	1,600	2,100	2,800
70 - 74	500	500	600	700	1,000
75+	300	400	400	500	500
12 years and above	181,400	197,800	211,600	222,000	226,800
15 years and above	181,000	197,500	211,500	221,900	226,700

¹ People moving out of the labour force due to the Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the sugar industry during the period 2001 and 2002 are not taken into account

Estimates of projected labour force by age group and sex for the years 2000 to 2020, given in Table 6.8, are obtained by applying projected sex-age specific activity rates to the projected population figures in different age brackets. Hence, the total labour force aged 12 years and above is expected to increase from 528,600 in 2000 to reach 632,200 in year 2020, i.e., an increase of 103,600 or 19.6%. This represents an annual increase of 6,800 during the period 2000 to 2010 and 3,500 during the next ten years, i.e., 2010 to 2020 (Table 6.9).

Table 6.9 - Projected annual increase in labour force, 2000 to 2020

	2000 - 2010	2010 - 2020
Male	3,800	2,000
Female	3,000	1,500
Both sexes	6,800	3,500

The male labour force is estimated at 405,400 for year 2020, an increase of 16.8% over the 2000 figure of 347,200. Male labour force is expected to increase by 3,800 annually between 2000 and 2010, and by about 2,000 between 2010 and 2020. As the level of economic activity among men does not change much, the male labour force is expected to increase mainly as a result of population growth.

Based on the assumption of increasing activity among women as well as an increase in the population size, it is estimated that female labour force will increase by 25.0% or 45,500 from 181,400 in 2000 to reach 226,800 in year 2020. The average annual increase is expected to be around 3,000 for the period 2000 to 2010 and 1,500 for the period 2010 to 2020.