

The Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey Methodology

- 1. Data collection:** Following the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, the face-to-face interviews of household members were replaced by telephone interviews. As from January 2023, face-to-face interviews have been resumed.
- 2. Frequency of data collection:** As from 2005, data collection is carried out monthly except in 2020 after the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, it was carried out only in May, June, July, September, October and December 2020.

The reference week is the second week of the survey month so that quarterly estimates can be published within the quarter following the reference quarter, as required by the IMF Special Data Dissemination System (SDDS) to which the country has graduated on 28 February 2012.

- 3. Scope and coverage of collection:** All private Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues are covered.
- 4. Sampling method:** A stratified two-stage sampling design is used. At the first stage, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) are selected in proportion to square root of the total number of households in the geographical district. Prior to 2005, the first stage stratification factors were urban, semi urban and rural geographical locations. As from 2005, the Relative Development Index (RDI) is used as the spatial stratification factor. This index is based on 12 variables encompassing housing and living conditions, literacy and education, and employment. As from 2023, in order to improve the variance estimates, RDI boundaries have been reviewed such that each geographical district has four even strata. For this exercise, the 2022 Housing and Population Census results have been used.

At the second stage, stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household. From 2005 to 2022, 10 households were selected from each selected PSU in Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. However, as from 2023 the number of households selected for each PSU in Island of Rodrigues have been increased from 10 to 15 while that of Island of Mauritius has remained the same. It is to be noted that the sample size has remained unchanged.

- 5. Sample size:** From 1999 to 2003, around 6,500 households were covered each year. In 2004, the sample was increased to 8,640 so that reliable quarterly estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment could be worked out. As from 2005, the sample for the year has been further increased to 11,280. Furthermore, in order to measure quarterly changes, 50% of the households sampled in a quarter are re-interviewed in the following quarter; for example, 50% of the households sampled in the first quarter of 2005 have been re-interviewed in the second quarter of 2005.
- 6. Questionnaire:** The CMPHS questionnaire comprises three modules: (a) a basic module common to all rounds of the survey covering the general characteristics of the population (b) a second module covering labour force with in-depth investigation and a core set of questions which are kept constant at all rounds of the survey and (c) a third module grouping other topics of interest but investigated in less details.

- 7. Estimation and reliability of results:** Estimates worked out from household survey data are inevitably subject to sampling variability since they are based on information collected from only a sample of households rather than from all households. Standard errors and coefficient of variation for the main labour force estimates are given in this report.

- 8. Weighting:** The CMPHS is based on a two-stage sampling design where the Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were first selected and then households. The sample weight is the product of the reciprocal of selection probability of PSUs in each stratum, and households in each PSU. Moreover, to ensure representativeness of the population by age group and sex, the latest population estimates by 16 age groups and sex were used as ‘calibration weights. Hence, overall weight is equal to sampling weight multiplied by the calibration weight.

Definition of terms

1. Household

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

2. Employment

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

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

3. Unemployment

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

4. Labour force

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

5. Unemployment rate

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

6. Outside the Labour Force (previously known as inactive population)

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

7. Activity rate

Activity rate is the ratio (%) of labour force to population aged 16 years and above.

8. Employer

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

9. Own account worker

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

10. Employee

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

11. Apprentice

An Apprentice is a person being trained for a job or trade and is paid.

12. Contributing family worker

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

13. Educational attainment

Primary: comprises persons who have studied from Grade 1 (Standard 1) to Grade 6 (Standard 6) or to Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC)/Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) or equivalent.

Secondary: comprises persons who have studied from Grade 7 (Form 1) to Grade 13 (Form 6) or to Higher School Certificate (HSC) or equivalent.

Tertiary: comprises persons who in addition to their secondary educational certificates (SC and HSC or equivalent) also possess either a certificate/diploma (which is above the HSC but below a first degree) or a degree.