

LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

2000 and 2001

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment based on the results of Census 2000. Data for 1996 to 1999 have also been revised to be comparable with the estimates based on Census 2000. Data for 1995 which are based on the 1995 Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS) have not been revised. All data presented are mid-year estimates and relate to the Republic of Mauritius (including Rodrigues). Figures for the year 2001 are provisional.

2. Definitions

Definitions of labour force, employment and unemployment are based on ILO recommendations.

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

3. Coverage

The population considered in estimating the size of the labour force comprises persons aged 12 years and above. However, it is to be noted that the labour force aged 12 to 14 years is relatively small (around 1,800 in 2000). The labour force includes expatriate workers but separate figures for Mauritians are also given (Tables 2 and 5).

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

4. Sources of data

Estimates of labour force have been worked out using activity rates (Table 1) derived from Census 2000 (Figure 1) and the 1995 LFSS together with annual mid-year population by age-group and sex.

The mid-year estimates of employment in large establishments are the averages of data obtained from the March and September surveys of employment and earnings conducted by the Central Statistics Office. Employment outside large establishments is estimated on the basis of censuses, surveys, administrative records of permits and licences and area under cultivation in the agricultural sector.

5. Evaluation of Census 2000 data

A preliminary evaluation of Census 2000 results indicates that economic activity may have been under-reported and unemployment may have been over-reported. It also appears that male unemployment may have increased faster than female unemployment. Details of the analysis and evaluation will be given in one of the Census 2000 analytical reports entitled “Economic Activity – Characteristics and Prospects” to be published later. However, the main adjustments to the labour force data resulting from the analysis are shown in Table A below.

Table A – Unadjusted and adjusted figures of labour force, employment and unemployment and inactive population - Census 2000

	Census 2000					
	Unadjusted figures			Adjusted figures		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
Labour force ('000)	514.4	341.3	173.1	528.6	347.2	181.4
Total employment ('000)	466.3	310.8	155.5	483.6	318.7	164.9
Unemployment ('000)	48.1	30.5	17.6	45.0	28.5	16.5
Inactive population ('000)	420.6	119.1	301.5	409.0	114.7	294.3
Unemployment rate (%)	9.6	9.1	10.8	8.8	8.3	9.6

It may be noted that the number of registered unemployed increased by 10,600 (5,800 males and 4,800 females) from 9,400 (3,800 males and 5,600 females) in 1995 to 20,000 (9,600 males and 10,400 females) in year 2000. During the same period, the number of Mauritians employed in large establishments increased by only 3,700 (2,100 males and 1,600 females) while the number of foreign workers in these establishments increased by 4,800 (the net effect of a decrease of 600 among males and an increase of 5,400 among females).

6. Labour force

In year 2000, total labour force (including expatriates) was estimated at 528,600. This was made up of 347,200 males and 181,400 females. In 2001, the labour force stood at 538,500 which represents an increase of 9,900 over the figure for year 2000. Male labour force was estimated at 352,100 and female labour force at 186,400 representing additions of 4,900 and 5,000 respectively.

7. Employment

Total employment, including expatriates, stood at 483,600 in 2000. The estimate for 2001 is 490,300, an increase of 6,700 from year 2000. The number of expatriates working in Mauritius was 14,600 in 2000 and 16,500 in 2001.

Total male employment is estimated to have increased by 2,900 from 318,700 in 2000 to 321,600 in 2001, and female employment by 3,800 from 164,900 in 2000 to reach 168,700 in 2001 (Table 3).

Employment in large establishments increased by 2,800 from 297,700 in 2000 to 300,500 in 2001. Employment outside large establishments is estimated to have increased by 3,900 from 185,900 in 2000 to 189,800 in 2001 (Table 4).

8. Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in year 2000 is estimated at around 45,000 (28,500 males and 16,500 females) giving an unemployment rate of 8.8% of the Mauritian labour force (Table 5); the rates for males and females separately were 8.3% and 9.6% respectively. The unemployment figure for year 2001 is estimated at 48,200 (30,500 males and 17,700 females), which gives an unemployment rate of 9.2% (8.8% for males and 10.1% for females).

Central Statistics Office

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Table 1 - Activity rates (%) by age-group and sex , 2000 and 2001

Age (years)	MALE		FEMALE	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
12 - 14	4.8	4.4	1.4	1.2
15 - 19	37.3	36.9	19.5	19.4
20 - 24	86.4	85.9	50.1	50.6
25 - 29	96.3	96.3	53.6	54.6
30 - 34	97.5	97.5	52.3	53.1
35 - 39	97.3	97.3	51.8	52.3
40 - 44	96.7	96.7	52.8	53.4
45 - 49	96.2	96.2	49.1	49.7
50 - 54	92.7	92.7	41.9	42.5
55 - 59	83.6	83.6	33.4	34.0
60 - 64	35.1	35.1	11.8	12.1
65 - 69	27.0	27.0	7.7	7.7
70 - 74	16.5	16.5	4.0	4.0
75 and above	9.3	9.1	2.0	2.0
12 and above	75.2	75.2	38.1	38.6
15 and above	79.8	79.9	40.0	41.0

Table 2 - Labour force by age group and sex , 2000 and 2001 (in thousands)

Age (years)	MALE		FEMALE		BOTH SEXES	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
12 - 14	1.4	1.3	0.4	0.3	1.8	1.6
15 - 19	19.3	18.2	9.8	9.4	29.1	27.6
20 - 24	47.6	48.8	28.0	28.8	75.6	77.6
25 - 29	45.0	45.6	25.2	26.2	70.2	71.8
30 - 34	48.7	47.0	25.8	25.5	74.5	72.5
35 - 39	50.2	51.3	26.2	27.1	76.4	78.4
40 - 44	44.3	44.9	23.6	24.2	67.9	69.1
45 - 49	37.7	38.1	19.1	19.5	56.8	57.6
50 - 54	25.8	29.1	12.2	13.8	38.0	42.9
55 - 59	16.1	16.6	7.1	7.5	23.2	24.1
60 - 64	5.4	5.4	2.1	2.1	7.5	7.5
65 - 69	3.2	3.3	1.1	1.1	4.3	4.4
70 - 74	1.6	1.5	0.5	0.5	2.1	2.0
75 and above	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.4	1.2	1.4
Total labour force	347.2	352.1	181.4	186.4	528.6	538.5
<i>Mauritian labour force</i>	<i>342.2</i>	<i>346.3</i>	<i>171.8</i>	<i>175.7</i>	<i>514.0</i>	<i>522.0</i>
<i>Foreign labour force</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>14.6</i>	<i>16.5</i>

Table 3 - Employment by industrial group and gender, 2000 & 2001

(thousands)

Industrial group	2000			2001		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	41.6	14.2	55.8	40.7	13.8	54.5
<i>Sugar cane</i>	(21.7)	(7.7)	(29.4)	(20.7)	(7.3)	(28.0)
Mining & quarrying	1.2	0.1	1.3	1.2	0.1	1.3
Manufacturing	70.5	71.5	142.0	71.2	72.3	143.5
<i>Sugar</i>	(3.33)	(0.03)	(3.36)	(3.14)	(0.03)	(3.17)
<i>EPZ</i>	(29.1)	(60.7)	(89.8)	(29.9)	(61.2)	(91.1)
Electricity & water	2.8	0.1	2.9	2.8	0.2	3.0
Construction	42.0	0.8	42.8	42.7	0.8	43.5
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods	43.2	20.5	63.7	43.9	21.2	65.1
Hotels & restaurants	16.5	6.2	22.7	17.6	6.6	24.2
Transport, storage & communications	27.4	3.4	30.8	27.7	3.9	31.6
Financial intermediation	4.4	2.9	7.3	4.5	3.0	7.5
Real estate, renting and business activities	10.2	3.9	14.1	10.2	4.0	14.2
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	28.3	6.8	35.1	28.5	7.2	35.7
Education	11.3	11.4	22.7	11.2	12.0	23.2
Health & social work	6.7	5.9	12.6	6.6	5.7	12.3
Other services	12.6	17.2	29.8	12.8	17.9	30.7
Total	318.7	164.9	483.6	321.6	168.7	490.3

Table 4 - Employment by industrial group and size of establishment, 2000 & 2001

(thousands)

Industrial group	2000			2001		
	Large	Other than large	Total	Large	Other than large	Total
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	32.8	23.0	55.8	31.7	22.8	54.5
<i>Sugar cane</i>	(25.1)	(4.3)	(29.4)	(23.8)	(4.2)	(28.0)
Mining & quarrying	0.2	1.1	1.3	0.2	1.1	1.3
Manufacturing	115.0	27.0	142.0	115.9	27.6	143.5
<i>Sugar</i>	(3.4)	(0.0)	(3.4)	(3.2)	(0.0)	(3.2)
<i>EPZ</i>	(88.2)	(1.6)	(89.8)	(89.7)	(1.4)	(91.1)
Electricity & water	2.9	0.0	2.9	3.0	0.0	3.0
Construction	13.5	29.3	42.8	13.3	30.2	43.5
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods	16.5	47.2	63.7	16.5	48.6	65.1
Hotels & restaurants	14.9	7.8	22.7	16.3	7.9	24.2
Transport, storage & communications	16.1	14.7	30.8	16.6	15.0	31.6
Financial intermediation	6.8	0.5	7.3	7.0	0.5	7.5
Real estate, renting and business activities	8.9	5.2	14.1	8.9	5.3	14.2
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	35.1	0.0	35.1	35.7	0.0	35.7
Education	17.8	4.9	22.7	18.3	4.9	23.2
Health & social work	11.2	1.4	12.6	10.9	1.4	12.3
Other services	6.0	23.8	29.8	6.2	24.5	30.7
Total	297.7	185.9	483.6	300.5	189.8	490.3

Table 5 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, mid-year estimates, 1995 - 2001

(thousands)

Year	Labour force			Employment ¹			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments ²	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate ³ (%)
Both sexes								
1995	475.0	9.8	484.8	289.2	171.3	460.5	24.3	5.1
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	300.5	189.8	490.3	48.2	9.2
Male								
1995	321.7	5.6	327.3	185.7	128.5	314.2	13.1	4.1
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
Female								
1995	153.3	4.2	157.5	103.5	42.8	146.3	11.2	7.3
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	112.5	56.2	168.7	17.7	10.1

Note: (a) 2000 figures are Census adjusted figures

(b) 1996-1999 figures are rebased on 2000 Census adjusted figures

(c) 2001 figures are provisional

¹ Includes foreign workers

² Average of March and September figures

³ Unemployment total as a percentage of Mauritian labour force

