

# LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

## YEAR 2002

### 1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment. All data presented are mid-year estimates and relate to the Republic of Mauritius (including Rodrigues). Figures for the year 2001 have been revised while 2002 figures 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. 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

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

The mid-year estimates of employment in large establishments are the averages of data obtained from the March and September surveys of employment and earnings conducted by the 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. Labour force

In year 2002, total labour force (including expatriates) was estimated at 541,100, showing an increase of 2,600 (0.5%) over the 2001 figure of 538,500. The increase of 2,600 persons in the labour force is made up of 500 foreigners and 2,100 Mauritians. The net increase in the Mauritian labour force in 2002 is lower than increases noted during the past years as a result of the moving out of some 5,000 Sugar Industry workers from the labour force, following the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

The male labour force in 2002 stood at 353,700 while the female labour force numbered 187,400 showing respectively increases of 1,600 (0.5 %) and 1,000 (0.5 %) on their levels in 2001. Table 2 and Figure 2 give further details by age group and sex for 2001 and 2002.

### 6. Employment

Total employment has decreased by 800 (0.2 %) from the 2001 figure of 490,800 to reach 490,000 in 2002. This drop in employment is the net result of the employment loss in EPZ sector (about 5,300) and the employment reduction in the sugar industry (about 6,500) following the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme, coupled with increases mainly in 'Wholesale & retail trade, hotels and restaurants' (3,100), 'Public administration and Education' (3,000), 'Transport, storage & communication' (1,800), 'Non-EPZ manufacturing' (1,400) and 'Other services' (1,300). Foreign workers numbering 16,500 in 2001 and 17,000 in 2002 are included in the estimates.

Total male employment is estimated to have increased by 2,500 (0.8%) from 321,600 in 2001 to 324,100 in 2002. However, female employment decreased by 3,300 (2.0 %) from 169,200 in 2001 to reach 165,900 in 2002 (Table 3).

Employment in large establishments decreased by 4,800 from 301,000 in 2001 to 296,200 in 2002 mainly due to employment loss in the EPZ and sugar industry. Employment outside large establishments is estimated to have increased by 4,000 from 189,800 in 2001 to 193,800 in 2002 (Table 4).

## **7. Unemployment**

The number of unemployed persons in year 2002 is estimated at 51,100, showing an increase of 3,400 over the 2001 figure of 47,700. This gives an unemployment rate of 9.8% of the Mauritian labour force (Table 5). Male unemployment decreased by 900 to stand at 29,600 in 2002, with a slightly lower unemployment rate of 8.5% compared to 8.8% in 2001. In 2002, the number of unemployed females was 21,500, an increase of 4,300 over the 2001 figure of 17,200. Female unemployment rate was 12.2% compared to 9.8% in 2001.

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Central Statistics Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs

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| Contact person : Mrs. M. Ganoo<br>Statistician, Labour Unit<br>Central Statistics Office<br>LIC Centre<br>Port Louis<br>Tel: 2122316<br>Fax: 2114150<br>Email: <a href="mailto:cso@mail.gov.mu">cso@mail.gov.mu</a> |
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**Table 1 - Activity rates (%) by age-group and sex , 2001 and 2002**

| Age (years)  | MALE |      | FEMALE |      |
|--------------|------|------|--------|------|
|              | 2001 | 2002 | 2001   | 2002 |
| 12 - 14      | 4.4  | 4.2  | 1.2    | 1.1  |
| 15 - 19      | 36.9 | 36.7 | 19.4   | 19.3 |
| 20 - 24      | 85.9 | 85.7 | 50.6   | 50.9 |
| 25 - 29      | 96.3 | 96.3 | 54.6   | 55.1 |
| 30 - 34      | 97.5 | 97.5 | 53.1   | 53.5 |
| 35 - 39      | 97.3 | 97.3 | 52.3   | 52.6 |
| 40 - 44      | 96.7 | 96.7 | 53.4   | 53.7 |
| 45 - 49      | 96.2 | 96.2 | 49.7   | 49.9 |
| 50 - 54      | 92.7 | 90.1 | 42.5   | 38.5 |
| 55 - 59      | 83.6 | 75.1 | 34.0   | 29.2 |
| 60 - 64      | 35.1 | 35.3 | 12.1   | 12.2 |
| 65 - 69      | 27.0 | 27.2 | 7.7    | 7.7  |
| 70 - 74      | 16.5 | 16.7 | 4.0    | 4.0  |
| 75 and above | 9.1  | 9.1  | 2.0    | 2.0  |
| 12 and above | 75.2 | 74.6 | 38.6   | 38.3 |
| 15 and above | 79.9 | 79.5 | 41.0   | 40.7 |

**Table 2 - Labour force by age group and sex , 2001 and 2002 (in thousands)**

| Age (years)                   | MALE         |              | FEMALE       |              | BOTH SEXES   |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                               | 2001         | 2002         | 2001         | 2002         | 2001         | 2002         |
| 12 - 14                       | 1.3          | 1.3          | 0.3          | 0.3          | 1.6          | 1.6          |
| 15 - 19                       | 18.2         | 17.5         | 9.4          | 9.0          | 27.6         | 26.5         |
| 20 - 24                       | 48.8         | 48.8         | 28.8         | 29.0         | 77.6         | 77.8         |
| 25 - 29                       | 45.6         | 47.2         | 26.2         | 27.3         | 71.8         | 74.5         |
| 30 - 34                       | 47.0         | 45.9         | 25.5         | 25.4         | 72.5         | 71.3         |
| 35 - 39                       | 51.3         | 50.8         | 27.1         | 27.0         | 78.4         | 77.8         |
| 40 - 44                       | 44.9         | 45.5         | 24.2         | 25.0         | 69.1         | 70.5         |
| 45 - 49                       | 38.1         | 39.6         | 19.5         | 20.2         | 57.6         | 59.8         |
| 50 - 54                       | 29.1         | 29.9         | 13.8         | 13.1         | 42.9         | 43.0         |
| 55 - 59                       | 16.6         | 15.8         | 7.5          | 6.8          | 24.1         | 22.6         |
| 60 - 64                       | 5.4          | 5.4          | 2.1          | 2.2          | 7.5          | 7.6          |
| 65 - 69                       | 3.3          | 3.5          | 1.1          | 1.2          | 4.4          | 4.7          |
| 70 - 74                       | 1.5          | 1.5          | 0.5          | 0.5          | 2.0          | 2.0          |
| 75 and above                  | 1.0          | 1.0          | 0.4          | 0.4          | 1.4          | 1.4          |
| <b>Total labour force</b>     | <b>352.1</b> | <b>353.7</b> | <b>186.4</b> | <b>187.4</b> | <b>538.5</b> | <b>541.1</b> |
| <i>Mauritian labour force</i> | <i>346.3</i> | <i>347.3</i> | <i>175.7</i> | <i>176.8</i> | <i>522.0</i> | <i>524.1</i> |
| <i>Foreign labour force</i>   | <i>5.8</i>   | <i>6.4</i>   | <i>10.7</i>  | <i>10.6</i>  | <i>16.5</i>  | <i>17.0</i>  |

**Table 3 - Employment by industrial group and sex, 2001 & 2002**

(thousands)

| Industrial group  | 2001 <sup>1</sup> |               |               | 2002 <sup>2</sup> |               |               |
|---|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | Male              | Female        | Both sexes    | Male              | Female        | Both sexes    |
| Agriculture, forestry & fishing   | 40.5              | 13.8          | 54.3          | 36.5              | 10.8          | 47.3          |
| <i>Sugar cane</i>   | <i>(20.8)</i>     | <i>(7.3)</i>  | <i>(28.1)</i> | <i>(17.0)</i>     | <i>(4.6)</i>  | <i>(21.6)</i> |
| Mining & quarrying  | 1.2               | 0.1           | 1.3           | 1.2               | 0.1           | 1.3           |
| Manufacturing   | 71.0              | 72.5          | 143.5         | 70.9              | 68.7          | 139.6         |
| <i>Sugar</i>  | <i>(3.2)</i>      | <i>(0.0)</i>  | <i>(3.2)</i>  | <i>(3.1)</i>      | <i>(0.0)</i>  | <i>(3.1)</i>  |
| <i>EPZ</i>  | <i>(29.8)</i>     | <i>(61.2)</i> | <i>(91.0)</i> | <i>(28.7)</i>     | <i>(57.0)</i> | <i>(85.7)</i> |
| Electricity & water   | 2.8               | 0.2           | 3.0           | 2.9               | 0.2           | 3.1           |
| Construction  | 42.7              | 0.8           | 43.5          | 43.3              | 0.8           | 44.1          |
| Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods | 43.9              | 21.2          | 65.1          | 45.1              | 22.0          | 67.1          |
| Hotels & restaurants  | 17.6              | 6.6           | 24.2          | 18.5              | 6.8           | 25.3          |
| Transport, storage & communications   | 27.7              | 3.9           | 31.6          | 29.5              | 3.9           | 33.4          |
| Financial intermediation  | 4.5               | 3.0           | 7.5           | 4.5               | 3.0           | 7.5           |
| Real estate, renting and business activities  | 10.3              | 4.0           | 14.3          | 10.1              | 4.1           | 14.2          |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security                                 | 28.8              | 7.4           | 36.2          | 30.2              | 8.0           | 38.2          |
| Education   | 11.2              | 12.1          | 23.3          | 11.4              | 12.9          | 24.3          |
| Health & social work  | 6.6               | 5.7           | 12.3          | 6.7               | 5.9           | 12.6          |
| Other services  | 12.8              | 17.9          | 30.7          | 13.3              | 18.7          | 32.0          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>321.6</b>      | <b>169.2</b>  | <b>490.8</b>  | <b>324.1</b>      | <b>165.9</b>  | <b>490.0</b>  |

**Table 4 - Employment by industrial group and size of establishment, 2001 & 2002**

(thousands)

| Industrial group  | 2001 <sup>1</sup> |                  |              | 2002 <sup>2</sup> |                  |              |
|---|-------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
|   | Large             | Other than large | Total        | Large             | Other than large | Total        |
| Agriculture, forestry & fishing   | 31.5              | 22.8             | 54.3         | 24.5              | 22.8             | 47.3         |
| <i>Sugar cane</i>   | (23.8)            | (4.3)            | (28.1)       | (17.4)            | (4.2)            | (21.6)       |
| Mining & quarrying  | 0.2               | 1.1              | 1.3          | 0.2               | 1.1              | 1.3          |
| Manufacturing   | 115.9             | 27.6             | 143.5        | 111.2             | 28.4             | 139.6        |
| <i>Sugar</i>  | (3.2)             | (0.0)            | (3.2)        | (3.1)             | (0.0)            | (3.1)        |
| <i>EPZ</i>  | (89.6)            | (1.4)            | (91.0)       | (84.4)            | (1.3)            | (85.7)       |
| Electricity & water   | 3.0               | 0.0              | 3.0          | 3.1               | 0.0              | 3.1          |
| Construction  | 13.3              | 30.2             | 43.5         | 13.7              | 30.4             | 44.1         |
| Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods | 16.5              | 48.6             | 65.1         | 17.0              | 50.1             | 67.1         |
| Hotels & restaurants  | 16.3              | 7.9              | 24.2         | 17.3              | 8.0              | 25.3         |
| Transport, storage & communications   | 16.6              | 15.0             | 31.6         | 17.7              | 15.7             | 33.4         |
| Financial intermediation  | 7.0               | 0.5              | 7.5          | 7.0               | 0.5              | 7.5          |
| Real estate, renting and business activities  | 9.0               | 5.3              | 14.3         | 8.8               | 5.4              | 14.2         |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security                                 | 36.2              | 0.0              | 36.2         | 38.2              | 0.0              | 38.2         |
| Education   | 18.4              | 4.9              | 23.3         | 19.3              | 5.0              | 24.3         |
| Health & social work  | 10.9              | 1.4              | 12.3         | 11.2              | 1.4              | 12.6         |
| Other services  | 6.2               | 24.5             | 30.7         | 7.0               | 25.0             | 32.0         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>301.0</b>      | <b>189.8</b>     | <b>490.8</b> | <b>296.2</b>      | <b>193.8</b>     | <b>490.0</b> |

<sup>1</sup> revised

<sup>2</sup> provisional

**Table 5 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, mid-year estimates, 1995 - 2002**

(thousands)

| Year              | Labour force |                 |       | Employment <sup>1</sup>              |                              |       | Unemployment |                       |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--------------|-----------------------|
|                   | Mauritian    | Foreign workers | Total | in large establishments <sup>2</sup> | outside large establishments | Total | Number       | Rate <sup>3</sup> (%) |
| <b>Both sexes</b> |              |                 |       |                                      |                              |       |              |                       |
| 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 <sup>4</sup> | 522.0        | 16.5            | 538.5 | 301.0                                | 189.8                        | 490.8 | 47.7         | 9.1                   |
| 2002 <sup>5</sup> | 524.1        | 17.0            | 541.1 | 296.2                                | 193.8                        | 490.0 | 51.1         | 9.8                   |
| <b>Male</b>       |              |                 |       |                                      |                              |       |              |                       |
| 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 <sup>4</sup> | 346.3        | 5.8             | 352.1 | 188.0                                | 133.6                        | 321.6 | 30.5         | 8.8                   |
| 2002 <sup>5</sup> | 347.3        | 6.4             | 353.7 | 187.9                                | 136.2                        | 324.1 | 29.6         | 8.5                   |
| <b>Female</b>     |              |                 |       |                                      |                              |       |              |                       |
| 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 <sup>4</sup> | 175.7        | 10.7            | 186.4 | 113.0                                | 56.2                         | 169.2 | 17.2         | 9.8                   |
| 2002 <sup>5</sup> | 176.8        | 10.6            | 187.4 | 108.3                                | 57.6                         | 165.9 | 21.5         | 12.2                  |

<sup>1</sup> Includes foreign workers

<sup>2</sup> Average of March and September figures

<sup>3</sup> Unemployment as a percentage of Mauritian labour force

<sup>4</sup> Revised

<sup>5</sup> Provisional

**Fig 1 - Age-specific activity rates, 2002**

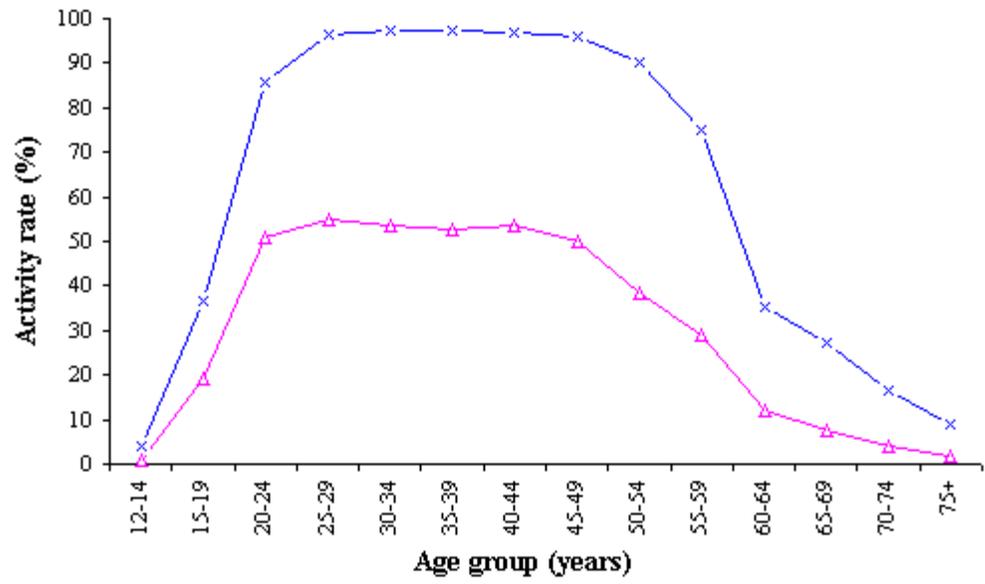
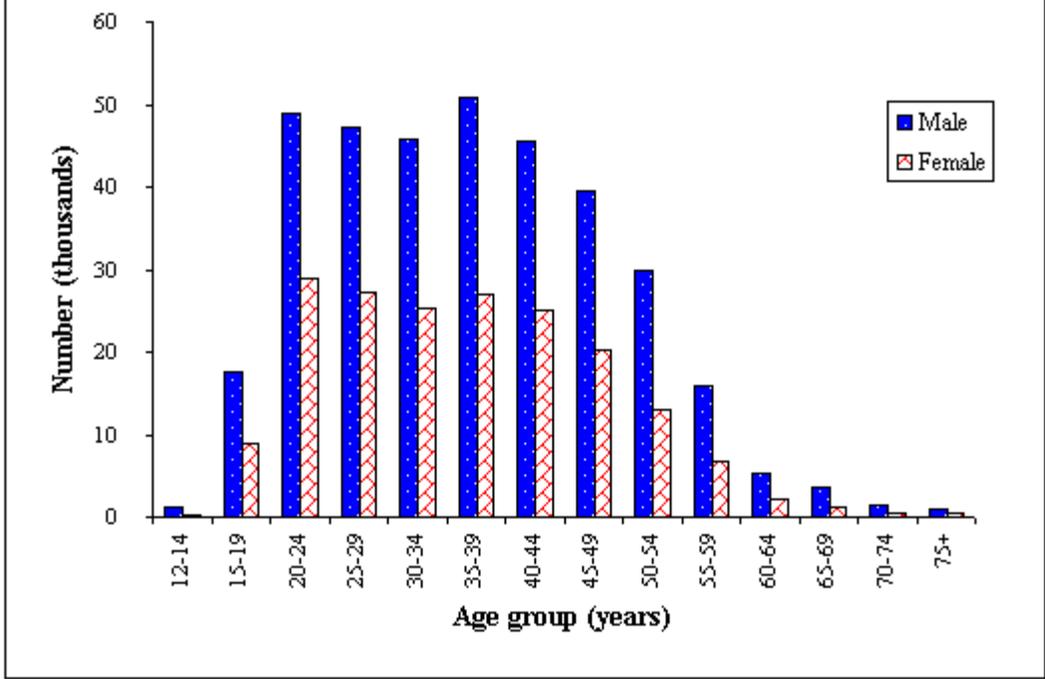
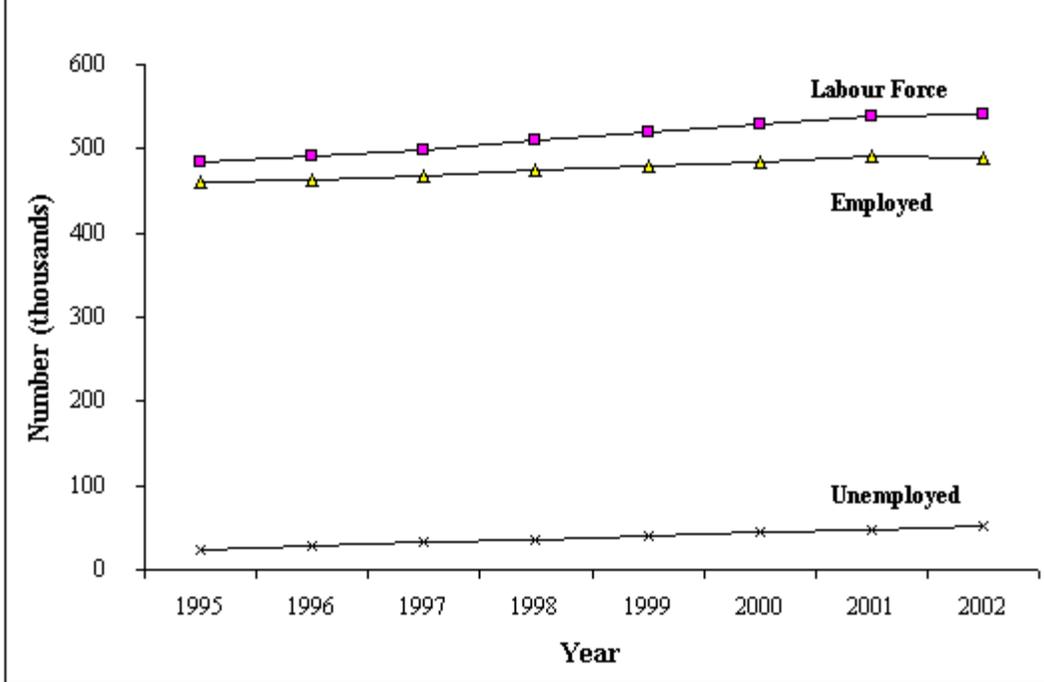


Fig 2 - Labour force by age group, 2002



**Fig 3 - Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 1995 - 2002**



**Fig 4 - Total Employment by Industrial group, 2002**

