

# **Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment 2002 and 2003**

**June 2003 Issue**

## **1. Introduction**

Mid-year estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment have so far been released on an annual basis in issues of Economic and Social Indicators in March of the following year. Following the need expressed by users for more frequent updates, the Central Statistics Office will, as from this year, publish mid-year estimates based on the latest data available at the end of every quarter. Henceforth, Economic and Social Indicators on labour force, employment and unemployment will appear in January, April, July and October.

This issue presents final mid-year estimates for 2002 and a first forecast for 2003 based on data available at the end of June 2003.

All data presented in this publication relate to the Republic of Mauritius.

## **2. Definitions**

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

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

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

## **3. Coverage**

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

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

#### 4. Sources of data

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

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

#### 5. Year 2002 (revised estimates)

Final data for year 2002 indicate that at the end of June 2002, the total labour force was 540,900 comprising 490,100 persons in employment and 50,800 unemployed. The unemployment rate works out to 9.7%.

##### 5.1 Labour force

In 2002, total labour force including expatriates, was estimated at 540,900 (353,600 males and 187,300 females) compared to 538,500 (352,100 males and 186,400 females) in 2001 (*Table 2*).

The net increase in the labour force in 2002 was 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.

##### 5.2 Employment

Total employment in 2002 was 490,100 (324,000 males and 166,100 females), that is, a decline of 700 from the 2001 figure of 490,800 (321,600 males and 169,200 females). The drop is the net result of an increase of 12,100 jobs in some industry groups together with a total reduction of 12,800 in some others, as follows:

###### Increases:

Non-EPZ, non-sugar manufacturing	+1,400
Trade and Hotels and restaurants	+3,500
Transport and communications	+1,800
Public administration, Education and Health	+3,400
Construction	+600
Other services	+1,400
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	+12,100

Decreases:	
EPZ manufacturing	-5,300
Sugar industry	-6,600
Agriculture other than sugar cane	-900
	-12,800

Breakdown of total employment in large establishments and outside shows a drop of 4,800 in large establishments from 301,000 in 2001 to 296,200 in 2002, and an increase of 4,100 outside large establishments from 189,800 in 2001 to 193,900 in 2002 (*Table 4*).

### **5.3 Unemployment**

The number of unemployed persons in 2002 is estimated at 50,800 (29,600 males and 21,200 females), that is an increase of 3,100 over the 2001 figure of 47,700 (30,500 males and 17,200 females). The unemployment rate works out to 9.7% (8.5% for males and 12.0% for females) compared to 9.1% (8.8% for males and 9.8% for females) in 2001 (*Table 5*).

## **6. Year 2003 (Forecast)**

Latest available data indicate that the total labour force at the end of June 2003 would be around 549,600, total employment about 495,200 and unemployment about 54,400. The unemployment rate would work out to 10.2%.

### **6.1 Labour force**

Based on past trends, the total labour force is expected to increase by 8,700 from 540,900 (353,600 males and 187,300 females) in 2002 to 549,600 (358,600 males and 191,000 females) in 2003. These figures include foreign workers whose number is expected to increase from 17,000 in 2002 to about 18,500 in 2003.

### **6.2 Employment**

Preliminary results of the 2003 March Survey of Employment and Earnings in large establishments and other latest available information indicate that in 2003, employment in the EPZ and the sugar sectors would decline by about 3,800 and 2,800 respectively while other sectors would register an increase of about 11,700.

Total employment is thus expected to grow by 5,100 from 490,100 (324,000 males and 166,100 females) in 2002 to around 495,200 (327,400 males and 167,800 females) in 2003.

Employment in large establishments is expected to increase by about 900 from 296,200 in 2002 to around 297,100 in 2003. Employment outside large establishments is expected to increase by around 4,200 from 193,900 to about 198,100 during the same period.

### **6.3 Unemployment**

The number of unemployed persons in year 2003 is expected to be around 54,400 (31,200 males and 23,200 females) compared to 50,800 (29,600 males and 21,200 females) in 2002. The unemployment rate would be around 10.2% (8.9% for males and 12.9% for females) against 9.7% (8.5% for males and 12.0% for females) in 2002.

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**Table 1 - Activity rates (%) by age-group and sex , 2001 - 2003**

Age (years)	MALE			FEMALE		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
12 - 14	4.4	4.2	4.1	1.2	1.1	1.0
15 - 19	36.9	36.7	36.6	19.4	19.3	19.2
20 - 24	85.9	85.7	85.6	50.6	50.9	51.1
25 - 29	96.3	96.3	96.3	54.6	55.1	55.4
30 - 34	97.5	97.5	97.5	53.1	53.5	53.6
35 - 39	97.3	97.3	97.3	52.3	52.6	52.8
40 - 44	96.7	96.7	96.7	53.4	53.7	53.9
45 - 49	96.2	96.2	96.2	49.7	49.9	50.1
50 - 54	92.7	90.1	90.7	42.5	38.5	40.2
55 - 59	83.6	75.1	77.5	34.0	29.2	31.3
60 - 64	35.1	35.3	35.4	12.1	12.2	12.3
65 - 69	27.0	27.2	27.3	7.7	7.7	7.8
70 - 74	16.5	16.7	16.8	4.0	4.0	4.1
75 and above	9.1	9.1	9.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
12 and above	75.2	74.6	74.6	38.6	38.3	38.5
15 and above	79.9	79.5	79.7	41.0	40.7	41.0

**Table 2 - Labour force by age group and sex , 2001 - 2003 (in thousands)**

Age (years)	MALE			FEMALE		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
12 - 14	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
15 - 19	18.2	17.5	17.3	9.4	9.0	8.9
20 - 24	48.8	48.8	47.7	28.8	29.0	28.3
25 - 29	45.6	47.1	49.3	26.2	27.2	28.9
30 - 34	47.0	45.8	44.5	25.5	25.3	24.5
35 - 39	51.3	50.8	50.3	27.1	26.9	27.2
40 - 44	44.9	45.5	46.8	24.2	25.0	25.6
45 - 49	38.1	39.7	40.2	19.5	20.3	20.7
50 - 54	29.1	29.9	32.0	13.8	13.2	14.4
55 - 59	16.6	15.9	17.7	7.5	6.8	7.9
60 - 64	5.4	5.4	5.4	2.1	2.2	2.2
65 - 69	3.3	3.5	3.5	1.1	1.2	1.2
70 - 74	1.5	1.4	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
75 and above	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.4
<b>Total labour force</b>	<b>352.1</b>	<b>353.6</b>	<b>358.6</b>	<b>186.4</b>	<b>187.3</b>	<b>191.0</b>
<i>Mauritian labour force</i>	<i>346.3</i>	<i>347.2</i>	<i>351.1</i>	<i>175.7</i>	<i>176.7</i>	<i>180.0</i>
<i>Foreign labour force</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>11.0</i>

**Table 3 - Employment by industrial group and sex, 2001- 2003**

(thousands)

Industrial group	2001			2002 <sup>1</sup>			2003 <sup>2</sup>		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	40.5	13.8	54.3	36.2	10.7	46.9	36.0	10.2	46.2
<i>Sugar cane</i>	(20.8)	(7.3)	(28.1)	(17.0)	(4.6)	(21.6)	(16.1)	(3.6)	(19.7)
Mining & quarrying	1.2	0.1	1.3	1.2	0.1	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
Manufacturing	71.0	72.5	143.5	70.9	68.6	139.5	70.2	66.4	136.6
<i>Sugar</i>	(3.2)	(0.0)	(3.2)	(3.1)	(0.0)	(3.1)	(2.2)	(0.0)	(2.2)
<i>EPZ</i>	(29.8)	(61.2)	(91.0)	(28.7)	(57.0)	(85.7)	(27.0)	(54.9)	(81.9)
Electricity & water	2.8	0.2	3.0	2.9	0.2	3.1	2.9	0.2	3.1
Construction	42.7	0.8	43.5	43.3	0.8	44.1	44.6	0.8	45.4
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods	43.9	21.2	65.1	45.3	22.1	67.4	46.6	23.2	69.8
Hotels & restaurants	17.6	6.6	24.2	18.5	6.9	25.4	18.8	7.6	26.4
Transport, storage & communications	27.7	3.9	31.6	29.4	4.0	33.4	30.3	4.4	34.7
Financial intermediation	4.5	3.0	7.5	4.5	3.0	7.5	4.5	3.3	7.8
Real estate, renting and business activities	10.3	4.0	14.3	10.1	4.2	14.3	10.2	4.3	14.5
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	28.8	7.4	36.2	30.2	8.0	38.2	30.7	8.7	39.4
Education	11.2	12.1	23.3	11.4	12.9	24.3	11.9	13.2	25.1
Health & social work	6.6	5.7	12.3	6.8	5.9	12.7	7.1	6.2	13.3
Other services	12.8	17.9	30.7	13.3	18.7	32.0	13.4	19.2	32.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>321.6</b>	<b>169.2</b>	<b>490.8</b>	<b>324.0</b>	<b>166.1</b>	<b>490.1</b>	<b>327.4</b>	<b>167.8</b>	<b>495.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> revised

<sup>2</sup> forecast

**Table 4 - Employment by industrial group and size of establishment, 2001 - 2003**

(thousands)

Industrial group	2001			2002 <sup>1</sup>			2003 <sup>2</sup>		
	Large	Other than large	Total	Large	Other than large	Total	Large	Other than large	Total
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	31.5	22.8	54.3	24.5	22.4	46.9	23.5	22.7	46.2
<i>Sugar cane</i>	(23.8)	(4.3)	(28.1)	(17.4)	(4.2)	(21.6)	(15.5)	(4.2)	(19.7)
Mining & quarrying	0.2	1.1	1.3	0.2	1.1	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.3
Manufacturing	115.9	27.6	143.5	111.2	28.3	139.5	107.2	29.4	136.6
<i>Sugar</i>	(3.2)	(0.0)	(3.2)	(3.1)	(0.0)	(3.1)	(2.2)	(0.0)	(2.2)
<i>EPZ</i>	(89.6)	(1.4)	(91.0)	(84.4)	(1.3)	(85.7)	(80.7)	(1.2)	(81.9)
Electricity & water	3.0	0.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	3.1	3.1	0.0	3.1
Construction	13.3	30.2	43.5	13.7	30.4	44.1	14.7	30.7	45.4
vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods	16.5	48.6	65.1	17.0	50.4	67.4	17.6	52.2	69.8
Hotels & restaurants	16.3	7.9	24.2	17.3	8.1	25.4	18.1	8.3	26.4
Transport, storage & communications	16.6	15.0	31.6	17.7	15.7	33.4	18.2	16.5	34.7
Financial intermediation	7.0	0.5	7.5	7.0	0.5	7.5	7.3	0.5	7.8
Real estate, renting and business activities	9.0	5.3	14.3	8.8	5.5	14.3	8.9	5.6	14.5
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	36.2	0.0	36.2	38.2	0.0	38.2	39.4	0.0	39.4
Education	18.4	4.9	23.3	19.3	5.0	24.3	20.1	5.0	25.1
Health & social work	10.9	1.4	12.3	11.2	1.5	12.7	11.7	1.6	13.3
Other services	6.2	24.5	30.7	7.0	25.0	32.0	7.1	25.5	32.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>301.0</b>	<b>189.8</b>	<b>490.8</b>	<b>296.2</b>	<b>193.9</b>	<b>490.1</b>	<b>297.1</b>	<b>198.1</b>	<b>495.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> revised

<sup>2</sup> forecast

**Table 5 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, mid-year estimates, 1996 - 2003**

(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>								
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 <sup>4</sup>	523.9	17.0	540.9	296.2	193.9	490.1	50.8	9.7
2003 <sup>5</sup>	531.1	18.5	549.6	297.1	198.1	495.2	54.4	10.2
<b>Male</b>								
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 <sup>4</sup>	347.2	6.4	353.6	187.9	136.1	324.0	29.6	8.5
2003 <sup>5</sup>	351.1	7.5	358.6	188.8	138.6	327.4	31.2	8.9
<b>Female</b>								
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 <sup>4</sup>	176.7	10.6	187.3	108.3	57.8	166.1	21.2	12.0
2003 <sup>5</sup>	180.0	11.0	191.0	108.3	59.5	167.8	23.2	12.9

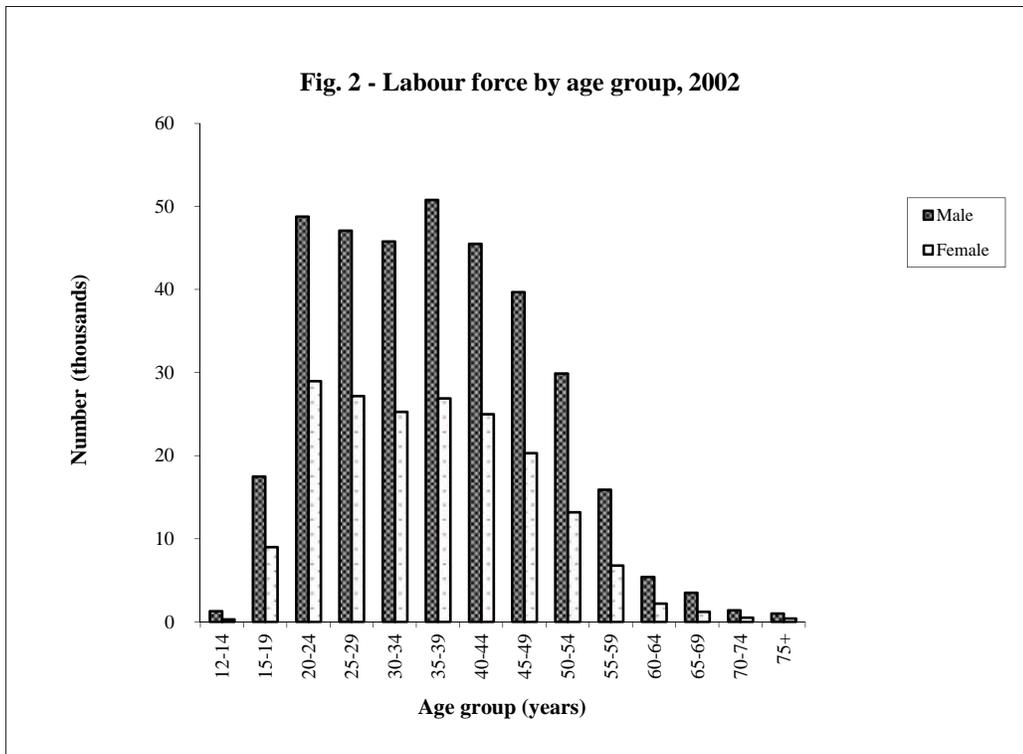
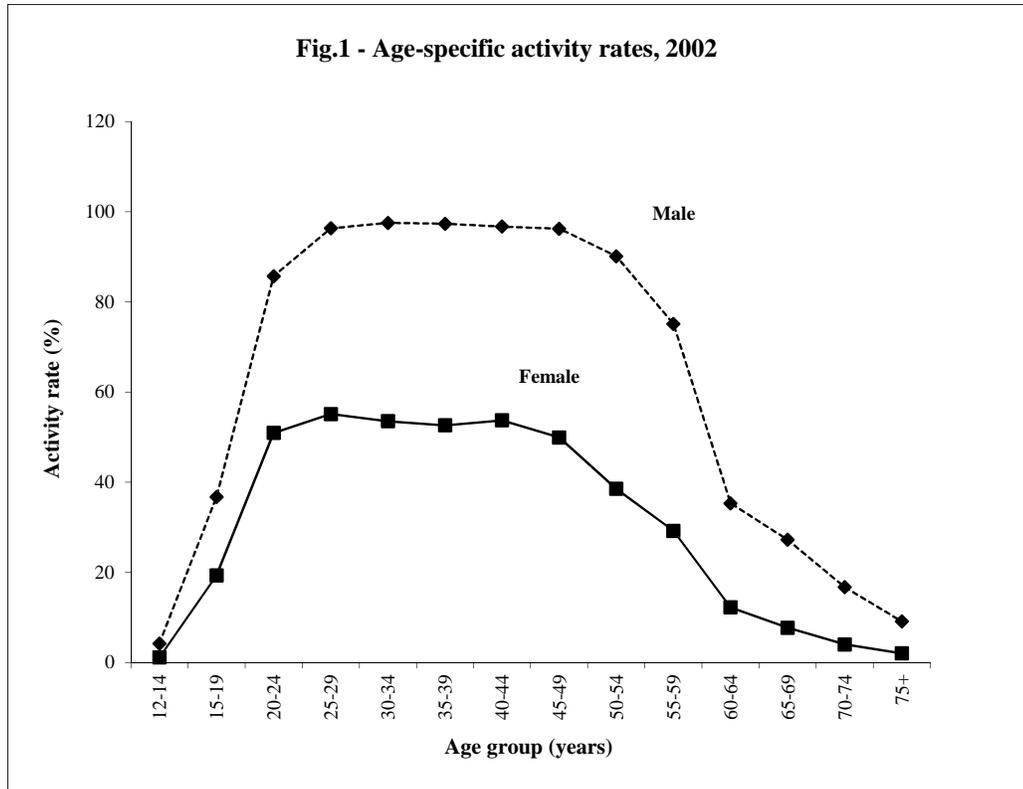
<sup>1</sup> Includes foreign workers

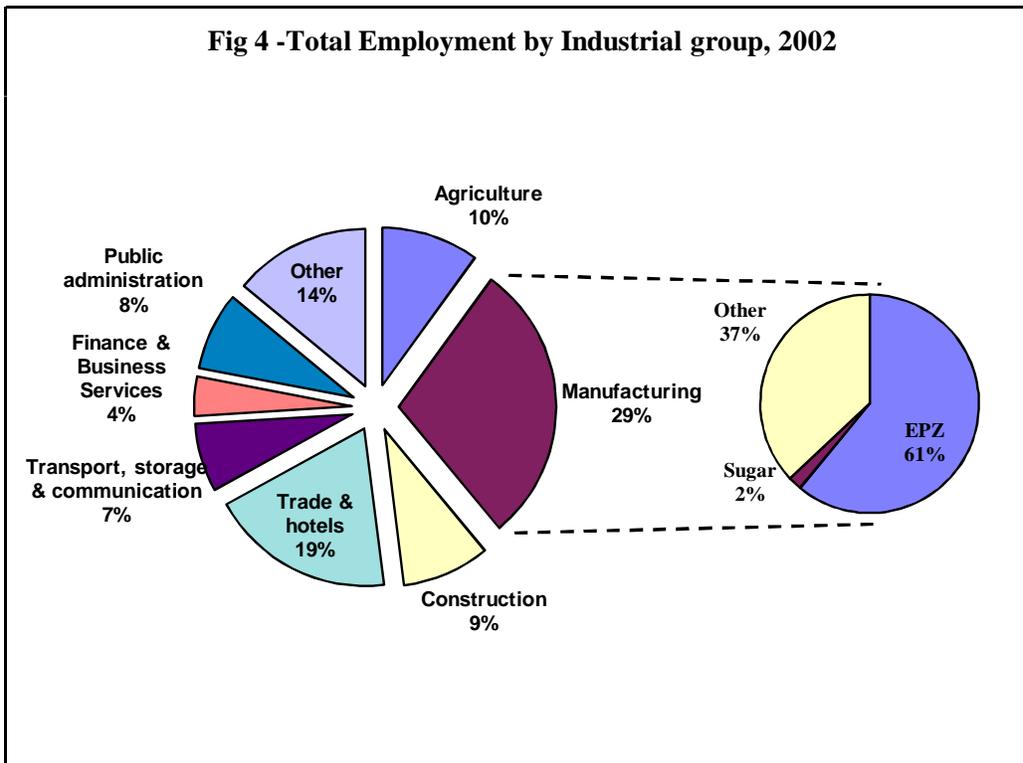
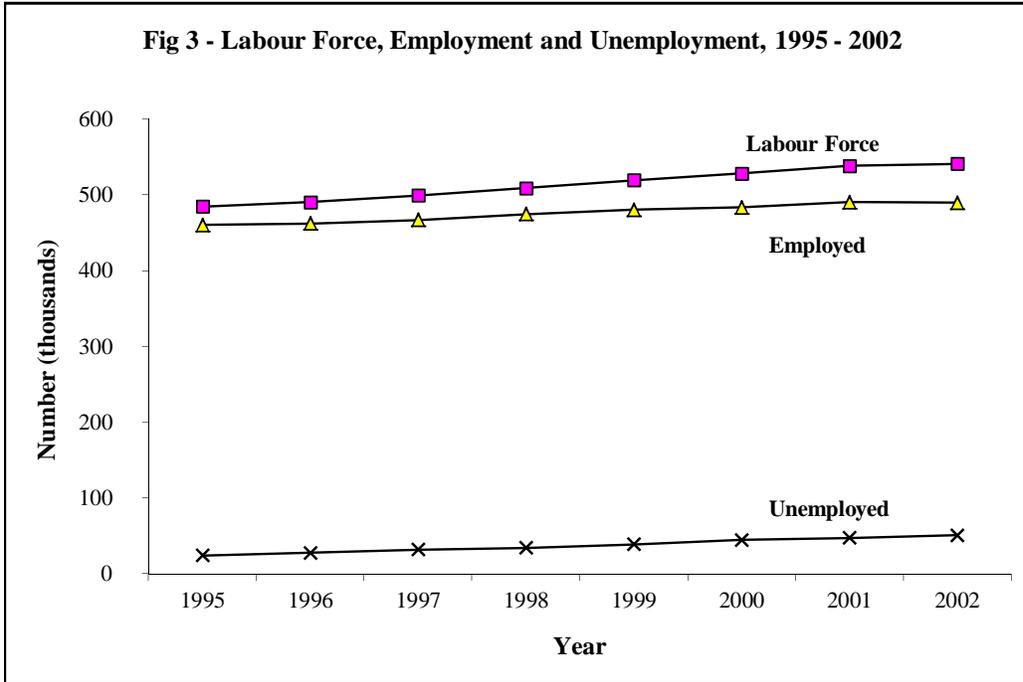
<sup>2</sup> Average of March and September figures

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

<sup>4</sup> Revised

<sup>5</sup> Forecast





## Technical Notes

### Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

GDP is the aggregate money value of all goods and services produced within a country out of economic activity during a specified period, usually a year, before provision for the consumption of fixed capital.

### GDP at basic prices

GDP at basic prices is obtained as the difference between output and intermediate consumption whereby output is valued at basic prices and intermediate consumption at purchasers' prices.

The basic price is the amount receivable by the producer exclusive of taxes on products and inclusive of subsidies on products. The equivalent for imported products is the c.i.f. value, i.e. the value at the border of the importing country.

The purchasers' price is the amount payable by the purchaser exclusive of deductible taxes on products (e.g. deductible value added tax).

### GDP at market prices

GDP at market prices is equal to the GDP at basic prices plus taxes (net of subsidies) on products.

### Gross National Income (GNI)

GDP plus net primary income from abroad gives Gross National Income (GNI).

### Gross National Disposable Income (GNDI)

Gross National Income (GNI) net of transfers from the rest of the world gives Gross National Disposable Income (GNDI).

### Financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM)

FISIM is obtained as the difference between interest received and interest paid by banks excluding those received on own funds. As it is difficult to allocate FISIM to the intermediate consumption of different industries, the total value of FISIM is imputed to a nominal industry with negative value added.

### Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation (GDFCF)

GDFCF is the net additions to the physical assets of the country in a year. These consist mainly of investment in buildings, plants, machinery and transport equipment, all valued at market prices.

### Change in inventories

Change in inventories includes the value of the physical change in inventories of raw materials, work in

progress, and finished goods held by private producers.

## **Consumption expenditure**

Consumption expenditure is made up of final consumption expenditure of households and of government.

Government final consumption expenditure is further disaggregated into collective and individual consumption expenditure. **Collective** expenditure consists of the services which government provides to the community as a whole, for example, security and defence whereas **individual** expenditure is made up of expenses incurred in providing services which are mostly beneficial to individuals, mainly in respect of health and education.

**Actual Government final consumption expenditure** refers to expenditure incurred for the provision of collective services.

Final consumption expenditure incurred by households comprise the value of goods and services purchased by households including the value of imputed rent of owner occupied dwellings. For a better measure of standard of living, actual private final consumption expenditure is used.

**Actual private final consumption expenditure** covers goods and services supplied to households, irrespective of whether these goods and services are actually paid by government or households themselves. Consequently, it consists of expenditure incurred by households and government on the provision of individual services.

## **Gross National Saving**

Gross National Saving is the balancing item in the "Use of Income Account". Gross National Disposable Income (GNDI) less total consumption gives Gross National Saving.

## **Exports and Imports of goods and services**

Both exports and imports are measured f.o.b.

Exports and imports of goods are compiled according to the General Trade System, using the national boundary as the statistical frontier. All goods entering the country are recorded in imports and goods leaving the country in exports. However, for the sake of continuity and consistency gross imports and exports through the customs and the free zone area are shown separately (Table 8).