Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey – Second Quarter 2004
Main results
(Including Labour Force Estimates)

Introduction

Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, March & June 2004

Table 2 - Percentage distribution of employed population by industrial sector and sex, March & June 2004

Table 3 - Percentage distribution of employed population by occupation group and sex, March & June 2004

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and sex, March & June 2004

Table 5 - Percentage distribution of employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the reference week, March & June 2004

Table 6 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by age and sex, March & June 2004

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by marital status and sex, March & June 2004

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, March & June 2004

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by duration of unemployment and sex, March & June 2004

Table 10 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by main job search and sex, March & June 2004

Table 11 - Principal fuel used for cooking purposes, 1st quarter and 2nd quarter, 2004

Table 12 - Main source of energy used for heating water for bathing purposes, 1st quarter and 2nd quarter, 2004

Table 13 - Measures taken to reduce electrical energy consumption, 1st quarter and 2nd quarter, 2004

Table 14 - Measures taken to improve the security of the dwellings, 1st quarter and 2nd quarter, 2004

Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey – Second Quarter 2004
Main results

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents the main results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) for the second quarter of 2004. The CMPHS, which started in 1999, is a permanent household survey carried out continuously over a year to collect information on topics of current interest.

Following the recommendations of a Technical Committee set up to analyse the findings of a World Bank study on unemployment, the CMPHS is used as the instrument for measuring labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis as from 2004. Up to 2003, only mid-year estimates have been made on the basis of the latest Population Census or Labour Force Sample Survey, updated with data from surveys of establishments and information from various administrative sources. The Technical Committee also recommended that the lower age cut-off point for the labour force should be 15 years instead of 12 years used hitherto.

It is to be stressed that the labour force, employment and unemployment estimates given in this report are based on a sample of households and relate to the last week of March and of June 2004. Hence they are not strictly comparable with the mid-year estimates published up to 2003.

2. The sample

The CMPHS spreads over the whole of 2004 and covers a total of 8,640 households (7,920 in the Island of Mauritius and 720 in Rodrigues). The results for each quarter are based on a sample of 2,160 households (1,980 in the Island of Mauritius and 180 in Rodrigues).

The sampling method used is a stratified two-stage design, which ensures the representativeness of all regions in the country.

3. 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. The Standard Error (S.E) which is a measure of this variability, can be used to set confidence intervals for any estimate (whether a total or a rate) derived from the sample. For example, a 95% confidence interval indicates that there is 95% confidence that the upper and lower limits of the interval enclose the true value (which would be obtained if all households had been surveyed).

Standard errors and confidence intervals have been calculated for the main labour force estimates and are shown in Table 1. It is observed that none of the changes between March and June are statistically significant since all the estimates lie within the error range determined by the 95% confidence interval. Although the survey results for March 2004 are

also given in this report, the margins of uncertainty associated with the sample estimates do not support the monitoring of trends in the short term.

Survey results

4. Labour force characteristics

4.1 Definitions

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

The labour force or active population 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 inactive population is neither employed nor unemployed and consists mainly of students, homemakers, retired persons and the disabled.

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

4.2 Activity status

The total population estimated from the CMPHS data as at June 2004 was 1,220,100. The population aged 15 years and over was 913,700: among them, some 491,200 (54%) had a job, 49,500 (5%) were unemployed, 155,500 (17%) were homemakers, 81,900 (9%) were students, 94,800 (10%) were retired or too old to work, and 24,600 (3%) were disabled.

It is to be noted that an estimated 4,700 persons were not working but were available for work; however, they were not actively looking for work. These persons have been classified among the inactive; they have not been considered as unemployed since they do not satisfy all the three criteria for unemployment (i.e. not working, looking for work and available for work).

From the survey responses, about 45% of these 4,700 persons believed that suitable jobs were not available. Another 40% (all women) were not actively looking for work because of household responsibilities.

Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, March & June 2004

	March 2004 Estimates	June 2004			
		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Labour Force					
Both Sexes	541,100	540,700	17,400	506,100	575,200
Male	348,700	347,500	12,200	323,200	371,700
Female	192,400	193,200	6,900	179,500	206,800
Employment					
Both Sexes	494,100	491,200	15,700	459,900	522,300
Male	328,400	324,600	11,200	302,400	346,800
Female	165,700	166,600	6,100	154,400	178,700
Unemployment					
Both Sexes	47,000	49,500	4,200	41,300	57,800
Male	20,300	22,900	2,700	17,600	28,200
Female	26,700	26,600	2,300	22,000	31,300
Unemployment rate (%)					
Both Sexes	8.7	9.2	0.7	7.8	10.5
Male	5.8	6.6	0.7	5.2	7.9
Female	13.9	13.8	1.1	11.7	15.9
Inactive Population					
Both Sexes	367,700	373,000	14,100	345,100	400,900
Male	98,800	102,400	5,100	92,200	112,600
Female	268,900	270,600	10,100	250,500	290,700

4.3 Employed population

At June 2004, the number of persons at work was estimated at 491,200 (324,600 males, 166,600 females) as shown in Table 1. Employment sex ratio works out to 2 males to 1 female.

4.3.1 Employment by industrial sector

Table 2 shows that, at June 2004, the primary sector, comprising the agricultural and mining & quarrying industries, provided jobs to about 10% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water, and construction industries employed another 32%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all service industries, 58%.

Table 2 - Percentage distribution of employed population by industrial sector and sex, March & June 2004

Industrial sector	March 2004			June 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	9.6	10.9	7.3	9.9	10.7	8.1
Secondary	33.0	33.7	31.7	32.4	33.4	30.7
Tertiary	57.4	55.4	61.0	57.7	55.9	61.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

4.3.2 Employment by occupation

Table 3 shows the distribution of the employed population by occupation. At June 2004, some 16% were “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals”, 10% were “clerks”, 16% “service workers and shop and market sales workers”, 37% “skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers”, and the remaining 21% were engaged in “elementary occupations”.

Table 3 - Percentage distribution of employed population by occupation group and sex, March & June 2004

ISCO [1] Major occupational group	Occupation group	March 2004			June 2004		
		Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1 - 3	Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals	14.9	13.5	17.6	16.0	15.3	17.4
4	Clerks	8.9	5.2	16.2	9.8	6.2	16.7
5	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	17.3	17.2	17.4	16.5	16.6	16.4
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers	36.4	42.7	23.6	36.8	44.0	23.0
9	Elementary occupations	22.5	21.4	25.2	20.9	17.9	26.5
	Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

[1] International Standard Classification of Occupations

A higher proportion (62%) of males was employed as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers” and in “elementary occupations” compared to females (50%). On the other hand, a larger proportion of females (50%) was engaged in the higher occupation groups, namely “clerks; service workers and shop and market sales workers; legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals” compared to males (38%).

4.3.3 Employment status

At June 2004, the majority, 80%, of workers were employees and the remaining 20% were working in their own or family enterprises as employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and sex, March & June 2004

Employment status	March 2004			June 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Employer	3.2	4.5	0.8	3.3	4.4	1.2
Own account worker	13.9	16.6	8.6	14.5	17.0	9.5
Employee	80.0	77.7	84.5	80.5	78.1	85.5
Contributing family worker	2.9	1.2	6.1	1.7	0.5	3.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

The data at June 2004 also show that the proportion of employees was higher among working women (85%) than among working men (78%) while the proportion of employers and own-account workers was higher among men (21%) than among women (11%). Contributing family workers constituted 4% of working women compared to less than one per cent among working men (Table 4).

4.3.4 Hours of work

Table 5 - Percentage distribution of employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the reference week, March & June 2004

Actual number of hours worked per week	March 2004			June 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.8
1 - 23	8.4	5.7	13.7	7.5	5.0	12.3
24 - 40	42.4	41.0	45.3	43.6	41.5	47.6
41 - 50	31.3	33.2	27.6	30.9	33.4	26.0
51 and above	15.6	17.8	11.2	15.8	18.2	11.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

About 2% of employed persons did not work during the reference week, either because they were sick or on leave (Table 5). Some 47% reported having worked for more than 40 hours. These workers were mostly in manufacturing, trade, hotels & restaurants and construction industries.

About 8% of the total employed population had worked for less than 24 hours during the reference week. It is worthwhile noting that for 39% of these persons, the usual working hours were in fact less than 24 hours per week while 22% had worked less than 24 hours because of insufficient work, and a further 16% because of the temporary or part-time nature of their jobs.

The average number of hours worked during the reference week of June 2004, including overtime but excluding all leaves and lunchtime, was 40.4 hours (42.3 for men and 36.7 for women).

4.4 Unemployment

The number of unemployed at June 2004 is estimated at 49,500 (22,900 males and 26,600 females). The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of the labour force who is unemployed, works out to 9.2% (6.6% for males and 13.8% for females). As shown in Table 1, the 95% Confidence Interval for the June 2004 estimate of unemployment rate is 7.8% to 10.5%.

4.4.1 Characteristics of unemployed persons

(i) Age and sex

Table 6 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by age and sex, March & June 2004

Age group (years)	March 2004			June 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	17.8	20.9	15.5	15.6	20.5	11.5
20 - 24	36.5	42.1	32.3	35.2	38.5	32.5
25 - 29	14.1	15.3	13.2	14.8	14.0	15.5
30 - 39	17.5	14.5	19.7	16.3	14.0	18.1
40 - 49	10.9	4.8	15.5	12.8	8.6	16.4
50 & over	3.2	2.4	3.8	5.3	4.4	6.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 6 shows that unemployed males are younger than unemployed females. Thus, 59% of the males were under 25 years compared to 44% for females. On the other hand, 27% of unemployed males were 30 years or more compared to 40% for females. The mean age of the unemployed works out to 27 years for males and 30 years for females.

(ii) Marital status

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by marital status and sex, March & June 2004

Marital status	March 2004			June 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	35.1	17.7	48.3	32.3	15.5	46.7
Widowed, divorced or separated	7.5	3.2	10.7	5.2	2.6	7.5
Single	57.4	79.1	41.0	62.5	81.9	45.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

The majority of the unemployed (63%) were single, 32% were married and the remaining 5% were widowed, divorced or separated. Unemployed males were mostly single (82%) while 47% of unemployed females were married and 46% single (Table 7).

(iii) Educational attainment

The June 2004 figures show that among the unemployed, 25% had not passed CPE, and a further 43% had not passed SC. The proportions of unemployed with SC, HSC and tertiary education were 20%, 10% and 2% respectively.

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, March & June 2004

Educational attainment	March 2004			June 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	**36.4**	**38.6**	**34.9**	**29.8**	**34.1**	**26.2**
Below CPE	24.4	28.1	21.7	25.0	28.8	21.8
Passed CPE	12.0	10.5	13.2	4.8	5.3	4.4
Secondary	**54.1**	**52.6**	**55.1**	**67.9**	**64.1**	**71.1**
Below SC	25.9	31.9	21.3	38.0	43.1	33.5
Passed SC	16.8	12.4	20.0	19.5	13.8	24.3
Passed HSC	11.4	8.3	13.8	10.4	7.2	13.3
Tertiary	**9.5**	**8.8**	**10.0**	**2.3**	**1.8**	**2.7**
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Unemployed females had higher educational levels than unemployed males. Table 8 shows that 24% of unemployed females had passed SC compared to 14% of males and a further 13% had HSC compared to 7% of males. Almost 3% of unemployed females had a tertiary education against 2% for males.

(iv) Duration of unemployment

At June 2004, about 65% of the unemployed reported having been looking for work for up to one year and 35% for more than one year. Analysis by sex shows that unemployed women had been looking for work for longer periods than their male counterparts (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by duration of unemployment and sex, March & June 2004

Duration of unemployment (months)	March 2004			June 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Up to 12	67.8	71.4	65.0	64.6	68.1	61.7
13 - 24	14.5	13.2	15.5	18.4	17.3	19.2
More than 24	17.7	15.4	19.5	17.0	14.6	19.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(v) Work experience

Around 61% of the unemployed had worked before while the remaining 39% were looking for a job for the first time. Among unemployed males, 65% had worked before while the corresponding proportion among females was 58%.

(vi) Job search

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method. At June 2004, the most common response was "checked at factories, worksites, etc.", reported by 47% of the unemployed followed by "applied to prospective employers" reported by 42%. Around 37% were registered at the Employment Service. Only 3% had taken steps to start a business of their own (Table 10).

Table 10 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by main job search and sex, March & June 2004

Main job search method	March 2004			June 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	44.3	49.6	40.2	46.6	51.2	42.6
Applied to prospective employers	50.9	52.6	49.7	42.0	41.3	42.7
Registration at Employment Service	40.5	43.0	38.7	37.3	42.5	33.0
Placed or answered advertisements	23.6	19.2	26.9	21.5	22.0	21.0
Sought assistance or advice	12.0	8.7	14.5	15.1	16.1	14.2
Tried to set up own business	2.4	2.0	2.7	3.2	3.9	2.5

5. Energy use

The 2004 CMPHS is also investigating the main types of energy used by households as well as measures taken to reduce electrical energy consumption.

Table 11 - Principal fuel used for cooking purposes, 1st quarter and 2nd quarter, 2004

Principal fuel used	% of households reporting	
	1st quarter	2nd quarter
Gas	91.0	92.4
Wood	4.1	3.9
Kerosene	2.6	2.0
Electricity	2.2	1.6
Other	0.1	0.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 11 shows the main types of energy used for cooking. It is noted that gas is by far the most common source of energy used for cooking purposes. The proportion of households who reported using gas for cooking was 92%.

Table 12 - Main source of energy used for heating water for bathing purposes, 1st quarter and 2nd quarter, 2004

Main source of energy used	% of households reporting	
	1st quarter	2nd quarter
Gas	49.7	50.3
of which		
Stove	*38.0*	*34.9*
Water Heater	*11.7*	*15.4*
Electricity	27.7	27.4
of which		
Electrical system inside bathroom	*22.3*	*21.8*
Electric kettle	*5.4*	*5.6*
Wood	10.1	11.1
Solar water heater	4.1	5.1
Kerosene stove	4.1	2.5
Other	0.3	0.5
Do not use hot water for bathing	4.0	3.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

The various sources of energy used to heat water for bathing purposes are given in Table 12. Gas was again the main source of energy used, reported by about half of the households. Almost 15% of households reported having a gas water heater inside the bathroom. On the other hand, the proportion of households heating water on gas stove for bathing was 35%. Electricity was the next most common source of energy for heating water for bathing purposes, reported by about 27% of households.

Only 5% of households were using solar water heaters. About 86% of the households who did not have solar water heaters were not interested in acquiring one. The main reason for this lack of interest was the high cost of the equipment, as reported by 45% of them.

A large proportion (88%) of the households surveyed reported taking various measures to reduce electrical energy consumption. The most common measures taken were 'turning off lights/electrical appliances when not in use', 'use of other types of fuel instead of electricity for cooking' and 'use of low consumption electric bulbs (Table 13).

Table 13 - Measures taken to reduce electrical energy consumption, 1st quarter and 2nd quarter, 2004

Measure	% of households reporting	
	1st quarter	2nd quarter
Turning off lights/electrical appliances when not in use	83.5	81.7
Use of other types of fuel instead of electricity for cooking	51.5	39.9
Use of low consumption electrical bulbs	43.9	39.8
Use of other types of fuel instead of electricity for water heating	39.3	30.7
Use of low consumption electrical appliances	27.6	27.9

6. Safety and security

Another topic covered by the survey was 'safety and security' and the data relate to the twelve months preceding the interview.

Table 14 - Measures taken to improve the security of the dwellings, 1st quarter and 2nd quarter, 2004

Security measure	% of households reporting	
	1st quarter	2nd quarter
Lock gates/entrance to building	59.2	59.2
Keep dog	51.5	48.8
Burglar proof windows/doors or shutters installed	45.0	48.4
Alarm system installed	2.4	2.7
Watchperson/security guard engaged	1.8	1.7

Around 91% of households surveyed during the second quarter reported having taken security measures at their dwellings to minimise risks of burglary. The measures taken are shown in Table 14.

However, only about 4% of households surveyed reported to be insured against theft.

The percentage of households who reported having been victims of house burglary during the twelve months preceding their interviews was around 6%. During the same period, around 4% of households surveyed reported having been victims of theft related to vehicles (that is, vehicles or accessories or objects placed inside).

Apart from house burglary and vehicle theft, around 2% of households reported that during the twelve months preceding the survey, one or more of their members had been victims of theft in a public place.

Central Statistics Office
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
PORT LOUIS

October 2004

Contact person: Mrs G.Appadu (Ag. Senior Statistician)
Mrs M.Ganoo (Statistician)
Central Statistics Office
LIC Centre
Port Louis
Tel: 2122316/7
Fax: 2114150
Email: cso_cmphs@mail.gov.mu