

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Second Quarter 2005

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the second quarter of 2005, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from April to June 2005.

It is to be noted that, as from 2004, the Central Statistics Office is using the CMPHS for the measurement of labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis. The methodology of the CMPHS is given in Annex I. Annex II shows a series of comparable annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the period 2000 to 2005.

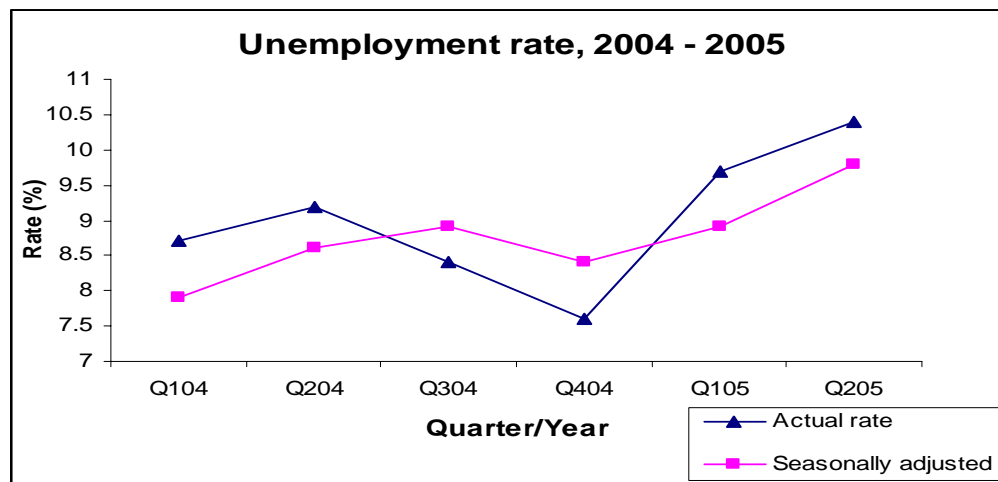
2. Main findings

(i) The number of employed persons at the second quarter of 2005 was estimated at 482,700 and the number of unemployed at 56,100. Hence, the labour force worked out to 538,800.

(ii) Unemployment rate for the second quarter of 2005 was 10.4% compared to 9.6% at the previous quarter and 9.2% at the corresponding quarter of the previous year. On the basis of data available for the first two quarters of 2005 and the trend observed since the first quarter of 2004, the estimated unemployment rate of 9.5% for 2005 is maintained.

It is to be noted that the unemployment rates are influenced by seasonal factors. Unemployment rate is usually higher in the first half of the year because of school leavers joining the labour market, and lower in the second half because of more casual jobs available mainly in the trade sector (street vendors, salespersons in shops, etc.) at the end of the year.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the second quarter of 2005 works out to 9.8% compared to 8.9% at the first quarter of 2005 and 8.6% at the second quarter of 2004.



(iii) The main characteristics of the unemployed at the second quarter of 2005 were:

- 12,700 (55%) unemployed males were below 25 years compared to 13,800 (41%) unemployed females.
- About half of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (17,400 or 76%) was single while among females, the majority (22,800 or 69%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- Some 11,300 (20%) had not passed the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examination or equivalent and a further 27,400 (49%) had not passed Cambridge School Certificate (SC) examination or equivalent.
- Around 32,700 (59%) had been looking for work for up to one year and 23,400 (41%) for more than one year.
- About 33,400 (60%) had worked before and 22,700 (40%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- Around 25,700 (46%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- Among the unemployed, there were 15,000 (27%) young persons aged 15 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 7,300 (49%) of them had not passed SC.
- Ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated) unemployed persons aged 25 to 44 years and having worked before numbered 15,400. Among them 12,900 (84%) had not passed SC.
- 7,000 or 12 % of the unemployed were heads of households.
- 7,300 (13%) lived in households with no employed persons.

It is to be noted that the above estimates are based on small numbers in the sample and hence subject to larger margins of error.

3. Activity status of the population aged 15 years and over

In the second quarter of 2005, among the population aged 15 years and over, some 482,700 (52%) had a job, 56,100 (6%) were unemployed and 387,200 (42%) were inactive.

Standard errors and confidence intervals have been calculated for the main labour force estimates and are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2nd quarter 2005

| | 2nd Quarter 2005 | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | Estimates | Standard Error | 95% Confidence Interval | |
| | | | Lower Limit | Upper Limit |
| Labour Force | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 538,800 | 9,100 | 520,900 | 556,700 |
| Male | 347,800 | 5,500 | 337,000 | 358,600 |
| Female | 191,000 | 6,100 | 178,900 | 203,000 |
| Employment | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 482,700 | 8,100 | 466,700 | 498,700 |
| Male | 324,900 | 5,000 | 315,000 | 334,800 |
| Female | 157,800 | 5,500 | 146,900 | 168,600 |
| Unemployment | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 56,100 | 3,300 | 49,700 | 62,600 |
| Male | 22,900 | 2,000 | 19,000 | 26,800 |
| Female | 33,200 | 2,300 | 28,700 | 37,700 |
| Inactive Population | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 387,200 | 9,800 | 367,900 | 406,600 |
| Male | 108,000 | 4,900 | 98,400 | 117,600 |
| Female | 279,200 | 6,700 | 266,100 | 292,300 |
| Activity rate (%) | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 58.2 | 0.9 | 56.4 | 60.0 |
| Male | 76.3 | 0.9 | 74.5 | 78.1 |
| Female | 40.6 | 1.2 | 38.2 | 43.1 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 10.4 | 0.5 | 9.3 | 11.5 |
| Male | 6.6 | 0.5 | 5.5 | 7.6 |
| Female | 17.4 | 1.1 | 15.3 | 19.5 |

Table 2 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for 2004 and 2005.

Table 2 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2004 and 2005

| | 1st Quarter 2004 | 2nd Quarter 2004 | 3rd Quarter 2004¹ | 4th Quarter 2004¹ | Year 2004 | 1st Quarter 2005¹ | 2nd Quarter 2005 | Year 2005² |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Labour Force | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 541,100 | 540,700 | 526,800 | 523,500 | 532,100 | 537,300 | 538,800 | 541,100 |
| Male | 348,700 | 347,500 | 349,000 | 348,500 | 348,200 | 347,900 | 347,800 | 351,200 |
| Female | 192,400 | 193,200 | 177,800 | 175,000 | 183,900 | 189,400 | 191,000 | 189,900 |
| Employment | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 494,100 | 491,200 | 483,300 | 483,800 | 487,000 | 485,800 | 482,700 | 489,900 |
| Male | 328,400 | 324,600 | 329,800 | 330,100 | 327,900 | 326,500 | 324,900 | 329,100 |
| Female | 165,700 | 166,600 | 153,500 | 153,700 | 159,100 | 159,300 | 157,800 | 160,800 |
| Unemployment | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 47,000 | 49,500 | 43,500 | 39,700 | 45,100 | 51,500 | 56,100 | 51,200 |
| Male | 20,300 | 22,900 | 19,200 | 18,400 | 20,300 | 21,400 | 22,900 | 22,100 |
| Female | 26,700 | 26,600 | 24,300 | 21,300 | 24,800 | 30,100 | 33,200 | 29,100 |
| Inactive Population | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 367,700 | 373,000 | 390,300 | 395,800 | 381,500 | 385,200 | 387,200 | 384,900 |
| Male | 98,800 | 102,400 | 102,500 | 104,000 | 101,600 | 106,100 | 108,000 | 104,600 |
| Female | 268,900 | 270,600 | 287,800 | 291,800 | 279,900 | 279,100 | 279,200 | 280,300 |
| Activity rate (%) | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 59.6 | 59.2 | 57.4 | 56.9 | 58.2 | 58.2 | 58.2 | 58.4 |
| Male | 78.0 | 77.2 | 77.3 | 77.0 | 77.4 | 76.6 | 76.3 | 77.1 |
| Female | 41.7 | 41.7 | 38.2 | 37.5 | 39.7 | 40.4 | 40.6 | 40.4 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 8.7 | 9.2 | 8.3 | 7.6 | 8.5 | 9.6 | 10.4 | 9.5 |
| Male | 5.8 | 6.6 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 6.3 |
| Female | 13.9 | 13.8 | 13.7 | 12.2 | 13.5 | 15.9 | 17.4 | 15.3 |

¹ Figures have been revised on the basis of revised quarterly population estimates

² Provisional

4 Employment

The number of persons at work during the second quarter of 2005 was estimated at 482,700 (324,900 males and 157,800 females). Employment sex ratio works out to approximately 2 males to 1 female.

4.1 *Employment by industrial sector*

Table 3 shows that, during the second quarter of 2005, the primary sector comprising agricultural and mining & quarrying industries, provided jobs to about 11% 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, 57%.

Table 3 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by industrial sector and sex, 2nd quarter 2005

| Industrial sector | 2nd quarter 2005 | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Primary | 10.8 | 10.7 | 11.0 |
| Secondary | 32.5 | 34.4 | 28.7 |
| of which Manufacturing | 21.2 | 17.9 | 27.9 |
| Construction | 10.7 | 15.5 | 0.7 |
| Tertiary | 56.7 | 54.9 | 60.3 |
| of which Wholesale and retail trade | 12.7 | 12.1 | 13.9 |
| Education, health and social work | 9.1 | 5.9 | 15.8 |
| Transport, storage and communications | 8.1 | 10.6 | 2.9 |
| Public administration and defence | 7.1 | 8.1 | 5.1 |
| Hotels and restaurants | 7.1 | 7.4 | 6.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

4.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the second quarter of 2005, the majority (37%) of the working population was employed as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers”. They were followed by workers engaged in “elementary occupations” (21%), “service workers and shop market sales workers” (19%), legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals” (15%) and “clerks” (8%).

A sex-wise analysis shows that 44% of males were employed as “skilled agricultural workers and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers” compared to only 24% among females. On the other hand, 14% of females were engaged in clerical duties compared to 5% males.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by occupation group and sex, 2nd quarter 2005

| ISCO ¹ Major occupational group | Occupation group | 2nd quarter 2005 | | |
|---|--|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| 1 - 3 | Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals | 15.0 | 13.6 | 17.9 |
| 4 | Clerks | 8.2 | 5.2 | 14.5 |
| 5 | Service workers and shop and market sales workers | 18.5 | 18.1 | 19.3 |
| 6 - 8 | Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers | 37.4 | 43.9 | 23.7 |
| 9 | Elementary occupations | 20.9 | 19.2 | 24.6 |
| | Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

¹ International Standard Classification of Occupations

4.3 *Employment status*

During the second quarter of 2005, 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 5 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by employment status and sex, 2nd quarter 2005

| Employment status | 2nd quarter 2005 | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Employer | 2.7 | 3.7 | 0.8 |
| Own account worker | 15.1 | 17.5 | 10.3 |
| Employee | 79.8 | 78.1 | 83.0 |
| Contributing family worker | 2.4 | 0.7 | 5.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The data for the second quarter of 2005 also show that the proportion of employees was higher among working women (83%) 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 about 6% of working women compared to about one per cent among working men (Table 5).

4.4 Hours of work

About 4% of employed persons did not work during the reference week, either because they were sick or on leave (Table 6). Some 53% reported having worked for more than 40 hours. Those workers were mostly in manufacturing enterprises (26%), wholesale & retail trade (15%), construction (11%) and hotels & restaurants (10%).

The average number of hours worked per week, including overtime but excluding all leaves and lunch time, was 40.4 hours (42.4 for men and 36.2 for women).

Table 6 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the survey reference week, 2nd quarter 2005

| Actual number of hours worked per week | 2nd quarter 2005 | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| 0 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| 1 - 23 | 8.8 | 5.7 | 15.2 |
| 24 - 40 | 34.1 | 32.1 | 38.0 |
| 41 - 50 | 34.4 | 36.5 | 30.0 |
| 51 and above | 19.0 | 22.0 | 13.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

5. Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in the second quarter of 2005 is estimated at 56,100 (22,900 males and 33,200 females). The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of the labour force that is unemployed, works out to 10.4% (6.6% for males and 17.4% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 9.3% to 11.5%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 9.8% (6.1% for males and 16.7% for females).

5.1 Age and sex

Table 7 shows that unemployed males were younger than unemployed females. Thus, 55% of the males were under 25 years compared to 41% for females. On the other hand, 41% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to 30% for males. The mean age of the unemployed works out to 27 years for males and 30 years for females.

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by age and sex, 2nd quarter 2005

| Age group (years) | 2nd quarter 2005 | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Below 20 | 16.5 | 23.9 | 11.4 |
| 20 - 24 | 30.6 | 31.4 | 30.0 |
| 25 - 29 | 18.2 | 20.1 | 17.0 |
| 30 - 39 | 18.3 | 10.0 | 24.0 |
| 40 - 49 | 10.8 | 8.3 | 12.5 |
| 50 & over | 5.6 | 6.3 | 5.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

5.2 *Marital status*

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 2nd quarter 2005

| Marital status | 2nd quarter 2005 | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Married | 43.9 | 21.3 | 59.4 |
| Widowed, divorced or separated | 6.5 | 2.5 | 9.2 |
| Single | 49.6 | 76.2 | 31.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Approximately 50% of the unemployed were single, 44% were married and the remaining 6% were widowed, divorced or separated. Unemployed males were mostly single (76%) while among females, 69% were ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated) and 31% single (Table 8).

5.3 *Educational attainment*

The data for the second quarter of 2005 show that among the unemployed, 20% had not passed CPE, and a further 49% had not passed SC. The proportions of unemployed with SC, HSC and tertiary education were 18%, 7% and 6% respectively (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, 2nd quarter 2005

| Educational attainment | 2nd quarter 2005 | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Primary | 36.0 | 33.7 | 37.6 |
| Below CPE | 20.2 | 20.4 | 20.1 |
| Passed CPE | 15.8 | 13.3 | 17.5 |
| Secondary | 58.3 | 61.2 | 56.4 |
| Below SC | 33.0 | 34.9 | 31.7 |
| Passed SC | 18.4 | 20.7 | 16.8 |
| Passed HSC | 6.9 | 5.6 | 7.9 |
| Tertiary | 5.7 | 5.1 | 6.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of the unemployed having only primary or lower secondary education, that is they had not reached the Cambridge School Certificate level was the same among males and females (69%). The proportion of unemployed having achieved Cambridge School Certificate was 21% among males and 17% among females; and corresponding figures for Cambridge Higher School Certificate holders were 6% and 8%.

5.4 *Duration of unemployment*

During the second quarter of 2005, 59% of the unemployed reported having been looking for work for up to one year and 41% for more than one year. Analysis by sex shows that unemployed women had been looking for work for longer periods than their male counterparts. About 47% of the unemployed females had been looking for work for more than a year compared to 33% of males.

Table 10 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by duration of unemployment and sex, 2nd quarter 2005

| Duration of unemployment (months) | 2nd quarter 2005 | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Up to 12 | 58.6 | 66.7 | 52.8 |
| 13 - 24 | 23.2 | 17.6 | 27.3 |
| More than 24 | 18.2 | 15.7 | 19.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

5.5 *Work experience*

Around 60% of the unemployed had worked before while the remaining 40% were looking for a job for the first time. Among unemployed males, 56% had worked before while the corresponding proportion among females was 62%.

5.6 *Job search*

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method. During the second quarter of 2005, the most common method of job search was “checked at factories, worksites, etc.”, reported by 54%, followed by “applied to prospective employers”, reported by 51%. Around 46% were registered at the Employment Service. Only 7% had taken steps to start a business of their own (Table 11).

Table 11 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by main job search method and sex, 2nd quarter 2005

| Main job search method | 2nd quarter 2005 | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------|------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Checked at factories, worksites, etc. | 54.0 | 57.8 | 51.3 |
| Applied to prospective employers | 51.2 | 55.2 | 48.4 |
| Registration at Employment Service | 45.7 | 49.2 | 43.3 |
| Sought assistance or advice | 28.0 | 33.7 | 24.1 |
| Placed or answered advertisements | 25.2 | 24.8 | 25.5 |
| Tried to set up own business | 6.9 | 10.0 | 4.8 |

6 **Inactive population**

The number of persons aged 15 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 387,200 (108,000 males and 279,200 females). This inactive population comprised 162,600 (42%) homemakers, 103,100 (27%) retired or old persons, 83,200 (21%) students, and 24,000 (6%) sick or disabled persons.

Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by sex, 2nd quarter 2005

| Activity status | 2nd quarter 2005 | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Homemakers | 42.0 | 0.6 | 58.0 |
| Retired or old persons | 26.6 | 43.1 | 20.3 |
| Students | 21.5 | 41.2 | 13.9 |
| Sick or disabled persons | 6.2 | 10.2 | 4.7 |
| Other | 3.7 | 4.9 | 3.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The male inactives comprised 57,500 (53%) old, retired or disabled persons and 44,500 (41%) students. Inactive females were mostly homemakers (162,000 or 58%), followed by 69,600 (25%) old, retired, or disabled persons and 38,700 (14%) students.

The inactives also included some 7,400 persons not interested to work, among whom 4,700 were aged 15 to 19 years.

Another 3,400 were classified as inactive although they were not working and were available for work because they were not actively looking for work. Those persons have been classified as inactive and not 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, 69% of those 3,400 persons believed that suitable jobs were not available or they did not know where to look for work.

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Methodology of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Data collection | Face to face interviewing of household members. |
| Frequency of data collection | Monthly except in 2004 when data collection was carried out every quarter. The reference period for data on labour force is the last week of the survey month. |
| Scope and coverage of collection | Private mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. |
| Sampling method | <p>Stratified two-stage sampling design. At the first stage, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) are selected with probability proportional to size and at the second stage, a fixed number of households is selected from each selected PSU. 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 derived from the 2000 Housing and Population Census to rank PSUs. A set of RDIs for administrative regions has been published in the series "Economic and Social Indicators" - Issue No. 393.</p> <p>The second stage stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household.</p> |
| 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. In 2005, the sample for the year has been further increased to 11,280. Furthermore, 50% of the households sampled in the first quarter have been re-interviewed in the second quarter. |
| Questionnaire | The CMPHS questionnaire comprises three modules: a basic module common to all rounds of the survey covering the general characteristics of the population, one or more special topic modules dealing with subjects requiring in-depth investigation and a third module grouping other topics of interest but investigated in less details. |

Every year different topics are covered according to users' needs. As from 2004, the CMPHS is also being used as the instrument for the measurement of labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis; hence, a set of core questions on the labour force has been included and will be kept constant at all rounds of the survey.

Estimation and reliability of results Estimates worked out from households 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, is 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% chance 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 are calculated for the main labour force estimates.

Definitions used

Definitions of labour force, employment and unemployment used are according to the ILO recommendations. The **labour force** or active population (aged 15 years and over) 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** (aged 15 years and over) is neither employed nor unemployed and consists mainly of students, homemakers, retired persons and the disabled.

Activity rate is defined as the percentage of the Mauritian population aged 15 years and over who is active (employed or unemployed). **Unemployment rate** is the percentage of the Mauritian labour force that is unemployed.

ANNEX II

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 15 years and over, 2000 - 2005

('000)

| Year | Labour force | | | Employment ¹ | | | Unemployment | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | Mauritian | Foreign workers | Total | in large establishments ² | outside large establishments | Total | Number | Rate ³ (%) |
| Both sexes | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 505.2 | 14.6 | 519.8 | 297.7 | 188.2 | 485.9 | 33.9 | 6.7 |
| 2001 | 512.5 | 16.5 | 529.0 | 301.0 | 192.6 | 493.6 | 35.4 | 6.9 |
| 2002 | 514.2 ⁴ | 17.0 | 531.2 | 296.2 | 197.6 | 493.8 | 37.4 | 7.3 |
| 2003 | 522.7 | 18.2 | 540.9 | 295.9 | 204.5 | 500.4 | 40.5 | 7.7 |
| 2004 | 532.1 | 17.5 | 549.6 | 292.3 | 212.2 | 504.5 | 45.1 | 8.5 |
| 2005 ⁵ | 541.1 | 16.2 | 557.3 | 291.4 | 214.7 | 506.1 | 51.2 | 9.5 |
| Male | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 336.2 | 5.0 | 341.2 | 187.2 | 136.0 | 323.2 | 18.0 | 5.4 |
| 2001 | 339.5 | 5.8 | 345.3 | 188.0 | 138.4 | 326.4 | 18.9 | 5.6 |
| 2002 | 340.5 ⁴ | 6.4 | 346.9 | 187.9 | 140.7 | 328.6 | 18.3 | 5.4 |
| 2003 | 344.2 | 7.9 | 352.1 | 187.9 | 144.5 | 332.4 | 19.7 | 5.7 |
| 2004 | 348.2 | 9.0 | 357.2 | 188.8 | 148.1 | 336.9 | 20.3 | 5.8 |
| 2005 ⁵ | 351.2 | 8.7 | 359.9 | 188.2 | 149.6 | 337.8 | 22.1 | 6.3 |
| Female | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 169.0 | 9.6 | 178.6 | 110.5 | 52.2 | 162.7 | 15.9 | 9.4 |
| 2001 | 173.0 | 10.7 | 183.7 | 113.0 | 54.2 | 167.2 | 16.5 | 9.5 |
| 2002 | 173.7 ⁴ | 10.6 | 184.3 | 108.3 | 56.9 | 165.2 | 19.1 | 11.0 |
| 2003 | 178.5 | 10.3 | 188.8 | 108.0 | 60.0 | 168.0 | 20.8 | 11.7 |
| 2004 | 183.9 | 8.5 | 192.4 | 103.5 | 64.1 | 167.6 | 24.8 | 13.5 |
| 2005 ⁵ | 189.9 | 7.5 | 197.4 | 103.2 | 65.1 | 168.3 | 29.1 | 15.3 |

¹ Includes foreign workers² Average of March and September figures³ Unemployment as a percentage of Mauritian labour force⁴ The low increase results from the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the sugar industry⁵ Provisional