

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – First Quarter 2006

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the first quarter of 2006, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from January to March 2006. For comparison purposes, the estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2005 are also presented.

As from 2004, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) is using the CMPHS for the measurement of quarterly labour force, employment and unemployment. The methodology of the CMPHS and the definition of terms used are 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. Provisional estimates for 2006 are also given.

It is to be noted that all estimates in this report are subject to sampling error which tends to be relatively large when the sample numbers are small.

For 2005, the survey was carried out every month and the survey reference week was the last week of the month. For the 2006 round, the reference week has been changed to the second week of the month. This change will enable the CSO to work out the estimates within one quarter of the reference period, as required by the IMF Special Data Dissemination System (SDDS) to which the country expects to graduate by 2007.

2. Main findings

- (i) The number of employed persons for the first quarter of 2006 was estimated at 496,100 and the number of unemployed at 50,600. Labour force thus worked out to 546,700. Comparative figures for the corresponding quarter of 2005 were: 485,800 employed, 51,500 unemployed and a labour force of 537,300.
- (ii) The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2006 was 9.3% compared to 8.9% at the previous quarter and 9.6% at the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Based on data collected for the first quarter of 2006 and trends for the past years, it is expected that unemployment rate for the year 2006 will remain at the same level as in 2005, i.e 9.6%.

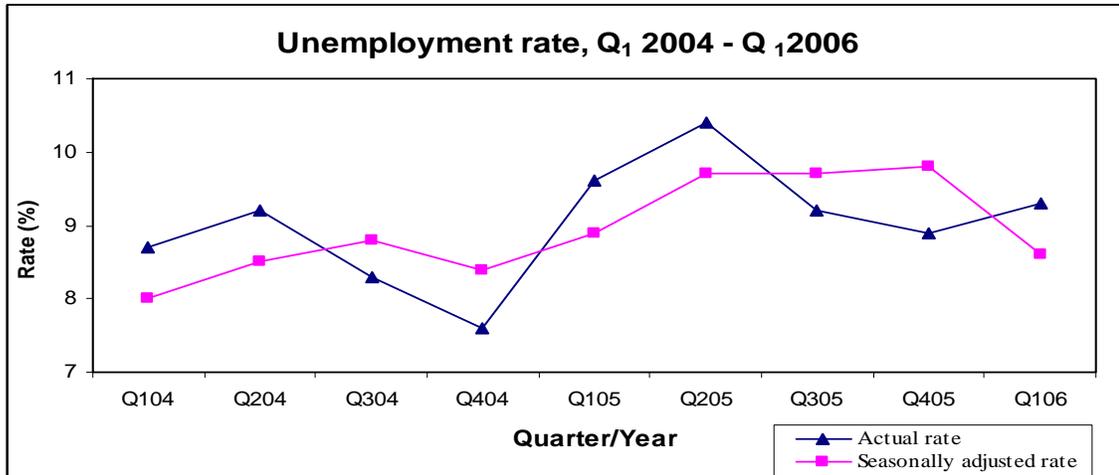
Unemployment rate is influenced by seasonal factors. It is usually higher in the first half of the year because of school leavers joining the labour market, and lower in the second half with more casual jobs being available mainly in the trade sector (street vendors, salespersons in shops, etc.) at the end of the year. Based on the quarterly data for the period first quarter 2001 to first quarter 2006, seasonally adjusted unemployment rates have been calculated and are presented in Table 1 and Chart 1.

Table 1 – Actual and seasonally adjusted quarterly unemployment rates, Q₁ 2004 – Q₁ 2006

| Unemployment rate | 2004 | | | | | 2005 | | | | | 2006 |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
| | 1st Qr | 2nd Qr | 3rd Qr | 4th Qr | Mid year | 1st Qr | 2nd Qr | 3rd Qr | 4th Qr | Mid year | 1st Qr |
| Actual | 8.7 | 9.2 | 8.3 | 7.6 | 8.5 | 9.6 | 10.4 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 9.6 | 9.3 |
| Seasonally adjusted | 8.0 | 8.5 | 8.8 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.9 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.8 | 9.6 | 8.6 |

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2006 works out to 8.6% compared to 9.8 % at the fourth quarter of 2005 and 8.9% for the first quarter of 2005.

Chart 1 - Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rates, Q₁ 2004 – Q₁ 2006



3. Characteristics of the unemployed.

The main characteristics of the unemployed at the first quarter of 2006 were:

- The 50,600 unemployed comprised 19,000 males (38%) and 31,600 females (62%).
- 9,600 (50%) unemployed males were below 25 years compared to 11,100 (35%) unemployed females.
- About half of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (13,100 or 69%) was single while among females, the majority (20,400 or 64%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- Some 12,500 or 25% had not passed the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examination or equivalent and a further 23,000 (45%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- Around 33,500 (about 2 out of 3 or 67%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 17,100 (33%) for more than one year.
- About 31,900 (63%) had working experience and 18,700 (37%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- Around 19,400 (38%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- There were 11,000 (22%) young persons aged 15 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 6,600 (60%) 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 13,100. Among them 10,400 (79%) had not passed SC
- 6,700 or 13 % of the unemployed were heads of households.
- 7,800 (15%) lived in households with no employed persons.

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

In the first quarter of 2006, among the 933,800 persons aged 15 years and over, 58% were active, with 496,100 (53%) having a job and 50,600 (5%) being unemployed, and 387,100 (42%) were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2005 were 485,800 or 53% employed, 51,500 (5%) unemployed and 385,200 (42%) inactive.

Standard errors and confidence intervals have been calculated for the main labour force estimates and are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 1st quarter 2005 & 2006

| | 1st Quarter 2005 | | | | 1st Quarter 2006 | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | Estimates | Standard Error | 95% Confidence Interval | | Estimates | Standard Error | 95% Confidence Interval | |
| | | | Lower Limit | Upper Limit | | | Lower Limit | Upper Limit |
| Labour Force | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 537,300 | 11,300 | 515,000 | 559,600 | 546,700 | 8,500 | 529,900 | 563,500 |
| Male | 347,900 | 7,800 | 332,500 | 363,400 | 351,400 | 5,400 | 340,800 | 362,100 |
| Female | 189,400 | 5,400 | 178,800 | 200,000 | 195,300 | 5,400 | 184,700 | 205,900 |
| Employment | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 485,800 | 10,500 | 465,000 | 506,600 | 496,100 | 7,800 | 480,700 | 511,600 |
| Male | 326,500 | 7,100 | 312,500 | 340,600 | 332,400 | 5,200 | 322,300 | 342,600 |
| Female | 159,300 | 5,200 | 149,100 | 169,500 | 163,700 | 4,800 | 154,200 | 173,200 |
| Unemployment | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 51,500 | 2,800 | 46,000 | 57,100 | 50,600 | 3,000 | 44,600 | 56,600 |
| Male | 21,400 | 1,900 | 17,700 | 25,200 | 19,000 | 1,700 | 15,600 | 22,400 |
| Female | 30,100 | 2,200 | 25,800 | 34,400 | 31,600 | 2,500 | 26,800 | 36,400 |
| Inactive Population | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 385,200 | 8,700 | 368,100 | 402,300 | 387,100 | 7,500 | 372,300 | 401,800 |
| Male | 106,100 | 4,200 | 97,900 | 114,400 | 108,200 | 3,500 | 101,200 | 115,100 |
| Female | 279,100 | 6,600 | 266,200 | 292,100 | 278,900 | 6,100 | 266,800 | 290,900 |
| Activity rate (%) | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 58.2 | 0.7 | 56.9 | 59.6 | 58.5 | 0.7 | 57.2 | 59.9 |
| Male | 76.6 | 0.8 | 75.0 | 78.3 | 76.5 | 0.7 | 75.1 | 77.8 |
| Female | 40.4 | 0.9 | 38.6 | 42.2 | 41.2 | 1.0 | 39.1 | 43.2 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 9.6 | 0.5 | 8.6 | 10.5 | 9.3 | 0.5 | 8.2 | 10.3 |
| Male | 6.2 | 0.5 | 5.2 | 7.1 | 5.4 | 0.5 | 4.5 | 6.3 |
| Female | 15.9 | 1.1 | 13.7 | 18.0 | 16.2 | 1.1 | 14.0 | 18.4 |

Table 3 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the period first quarter 2004 to first quarter 2006.

Table 3 - Quarterly estimates of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, first quarter 2004 - first quarter 2006

| | 1st Quarter 2004 | 2nd Quarter 2004 | 3rd Quarter 2004 | 4th Quarter 2004 | Year 2004 | 1st Quarter 2005 | 2nd Quarter 2005 | 3rd Quarter 2005 | 4th Quarter 2005 | Year 2005 | 1st Quarter 2006 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Labour Force | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 541,100 | 540,700 | 526,800 | 523,500 | 532,100 | 537,300 | 538,800 | 549,000 | 546,000 | 542,500 | 546,700 |
| Male | 348,700 | 347,500 | 349,000 | 348,500 | 348,200 | 347,900 | 347,800 | 351,500 | 350,800 | 349,400 | 351,400 |
| Female | 192,400 | 193,200 | 177,800 | 175,000 | 183,900 | 189,400 | 191,000 | 197,500 | 195,200 | 193,100 | 195,300 |
| Employment | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 494,100 | 491,200 | 483,300 | 483,800 | 487,000 | 485,800 | 482,700 | 498,700 | 497,500 | 490,400 | 496,100 |
| Male | 328,400 | 324,600 | 329,800 | 330,100 | 327,900 | 326,500 | 324,900 | 333,400 | 332,600 | 329,100 | 332,400 |
| Female | 165,700 | 166,600 | 153,500 | 153,700 | 159,100 | 159,300 | 157,800 | 165,300 | 164,900 | 161,300 | 163,700 |
| Unemployment | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 47,000 | 49,500 | 43,500 | 39,700 | 45,100 | 51,500 | 56,100 | 50,300 | 48,500 | 52,100 | 50,600 |
| Male | 20,300 | 22,900 | 19,200 | 18,400 | 20,300 | 21,400 | 22,900 | 18,100 | 18,200 | 20,300 | 19,000 |
| Female | 26,700 | 26,600 | 24,300 | 21,300 | 24,800 | 30,100 | 33,200 | 32,200 | 30,300 | 31,800 | 31,600 |
| Inactive Population | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 367,700 | 373,000 | 390,300 | 395,800 | 381,500 | 385,200 | 387,200 | 380,600 | 386,400 | 383,700 | 387,100 |
| Male | 98,800 | 102,400 | 102,500 | 104,000 | 101,600 | 106,100 | 108,000 | 106,000 | 108,100 | 106,500 | 108,200 |
| Female | 268,900 | 270,600 | 287,800 | 291,800 | 279,900 | 279,100 | 279,200 | 274,600 | 278,300 | 277,200 | 278,900 |
| Activity rate (%) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 59.6 | 59.2 | 57.4 | 56.9 | 58.2 | 58.2 | 58.2 | 59.1 | 58.6 | 58.6 | 58.5 |
| Male | 78.0 | 77.2 | 77.3 | 77.0 | 77.4 | 76.6 | 76.3 | 76.8 | 76.4 | 76.6 | 76.5 |
| Female | 41.7 | 41.7 | 38.2 | 37.5 | 39.7 | 40.4 | 40.6 | 41.8 | 41.2 | 41.1 | 41.2 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 8.7 | 9.2 | 8.3 | 7.6 | 8.5 | 9.6 | 10.4 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 9.6 | 9.3 |
| Male | 5.8 | 6.6 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.8 | 5.4 |
| Female | 13.9 | 13.8 | 13.7 | 12.2 | 13.5 | 15.9 | 17.4 | 16.3 | 15.5 | 16.5 | 16.2 |

5. Employment

The number of persons at work during the first quarter of 2006 was estimated at 496,100 with 332,400 males and 163,700 females. Employment sex ratio works out to approximately 2 males to 1 female.

5.1 *Employment by industrial sector*

As shown in table 4, during the first quarter of 2006, the primary sector comprising 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 33%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries, the remaining 57%.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by industrial sector and sex, 1st quarter 2005 & 2006

| Industrial sector | 1st quarter 2005 | | | 1st quarter 2006 | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female |
| | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) | (%) |
| Primary | 11.0 | 11.0 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 10.6 |
| Secondary | 33.1 | 34.6 | 30.1 | 32.6 | 35.3 | 27.0 |
| of which Manufacturing | 22.0 | 18.5 | 29.3 | 21.7 | 19.3 | 26.6 |
| Construction | 10.4 | 15.1 | 0.7 | 10.2 | 15.1 | 0.4 |
| Tertiary | 55.9 | 54.4 | 59.2 | 57.0 | 54.3 | 62.4 |
| of which Wholesale and retail trade | 13.7 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 14.2 | 13.4 | 15.8 |
| Hotels and restaurants | 6.7 | 6.9 | 6.3 | 7.1 | 6.8 | 7.5 |
| Transport, storage and communications | 7.3 | 9.6 | 2.5 | 6.5 | 8.4 | 2.7 |
| Public administration and defence | 6.9 | 7.8 | 5.0 | 7.8 | 8.9 | 5.5 |
| Education, health and social work | 9.0 | 6.2 | 14.9 | 8.8 | 6.7 | 13.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

5.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the first quarter of 2006, most of the working population (36%) was employed as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers”. Workers engaged in “elementary occupations” and “service workers and shop and market sales workers” accounted for 22% and 19% of the workforce respectively. The remaining 23% consisted of “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals” (15%) and “clerks” (8%).

In the first quarter of 2006, the majority or 79%, of workers were employees and the remaining 21% were working in their own or family enterprises with 18% as either employers or own account workers and 3% as contributing family workers (Table 6).

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of employees was higher among working women (83%) than among working men (77%), while the proportion of employers and own account workers was higher among men (22%) than among women (11%). On the other hand, contributing family workers constituted about 6% of working women compared to only one per cent of working men.

5.4 Hours of work

Table 7, on distribution of employment by hours worked, shows that some 3% of employed persons did not work during the reference week, either because they were sick or on leave. About half (51%) has reported having worked for more than 40 hours. Those workers were mostly in manufacturing enterprises (15%), followed by wholesale & retail trade (9%) and construction and hotels & restaurants, with 5% in each activity group.

The average number of hours worked per week, including overtime but excluding all leaves and lunch time, was 41.0 hours with men reporting having worked 43.0 hours on average and women, 37.2 hours.

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the survey reference week, 1st quarter 2005 & 2006

| Actual number of hours worked per week | 1st quarter 2005 | | | 1st quarter 2006 | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| 0 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 2.4 |
| 1 - 23 | 11.2 | 8.0 | 17.7 | 8.4 | 5.5 | 14.3 |
| 24 - 40 | 47.0 | 45.5 | 50.2 | 37.6 | 35.6 | 41.7 |
| 41 - 50 | 24.6 | 25.9 | 21.8 | 34.8 | 36.5 | 31.2 |
| 51 and above | 13.0 | 15.8 | 7.4 | 16.0 | 18.8 | 10.4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

6. Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in the first quarter of 2006 is estimated at 50,600 comprising 19,000 males and 31,600 females. The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed to labour force, works out to 9.3% (5.4% for males and 16.2% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 8.2% to 10.3%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 8.6% with the rate being 5.1% for males and 14.9% for females.

6.3 *Educational attainment*

From Table 10, it is observed that in the first quarter of 2006, 25% of the unemployed had not passed the CPE, and a further 45% did not possess the School Certificate. The proportions of unemployed with SC and HSC were respectively 19% and 6%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented 5% with 4% having a first degree and 1% a postgraduate qualification.

Table 10 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, 1st quarter 2005 & 2006

| Educational attainment | 1st quarter 2005 | | | 1st quarter 2006 | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Primary | 37.3 | 36.6 | 37.8 | 37.3 | 45.5 | 32.4 |
| Below CPE | 24.7 | 24.1 | 25.1 | 24.8 | 34.9 | 18.7 |
| Passed CPE | 12.6 | 12.5 | 12.7 | 12.5 | 10.6 | 13.7 |
| Secondary | 59.5 | 58.8 | 59.9 | 58.0 | 52.1 | 61.6 |
| Below SC | 33.5 | 37.0 | 31.0 | 32.8 | 33.8 | 32.3 |
| Passed SC | 20.6 | 17.1 | 23.0 | 18.9 | 15.7 | 20.9 |
| Passed HSC | 5.4 | 4.7 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 2.6 | 8.4 |
| Tertiary | 3.2 | 4.6 | 2.3 | 4.7 | 2.4 | 6.0 |
| First degree | na | na | na | 3.9 | 1.3 | 5.4 |
| Postgraduate | na | na | na | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

na : not available

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 higher for males (79%) than for females (65%). The proportion of unemployed having achieved Cambridge School Certificate was 16% for males and 21% for females. Corresponding figures for Cambridge Higher School Certificate holders were 3% and 8%. The proportion of unemployed males with a tertiary qualification was 2% against 6% for females.

6.4 *Duration of unemployment*

During the first quarter of 2006, 2 out of 3 or 67% of the unemployed have reported being without a job for up to one year and 33% for more than one year. Analysis by sex shows that women were unemployed for longer periods than their male counterparts. About 42% of the unemployed females had been looking for work for more than a year compared to 19% of males

Table 11 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by duration of unemployment and sex, 1st quarter 2005 & 2006

| Duration of unemployment (months) | 1st quarter 2005 | | | 1st quarter 2006 | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Up to 12 | 56.2 | 64.3 | 50.5 | 66.7 | 81.3 | 57.9 |
| 13 - 24 | 18.9 | 17.8 | 19.8 | 18.2 | 13.8 | 20.9 |
| More than 24 | 24.9 | 17.9 | 29.7 | 15.1 | 4.9 | 21.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

6.5 Work experience

Around 37% of the unemployed were first job seekers while the remaining 63% had work experience. The proportion of males having work experience was 69% while that for females stood at 60%.

6.6 Job search

Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by main job search method and sex, 1st quarter 2005 & 2006

| Main job search method | 1st quarter 2005 | | | 1st quarter 2006 | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------|------------|------------------|----------|------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Checked at factories, worksites, etc. | 55.0 | 59.5 | 51.8 | 54.6 | 67.5 | 46.8 |
| Applied to prospective employers | 46.5 | 48.7 | 45.0 | 47.0 | 48.3 | 46.2 |
| Registration at Employment Service | 38.0 | 42.1 | 35.0 | 38.2 | 38.5 | 38.1 |
| Sought assistance or advice | 24.1 | 20.0 | 27.0 | 26.6 | 30.7 | 24.2 |
| Placed or answered advertisements | 25.9 | 27.1 | 25.0 | 29.5 | 21.2 | 34.4 |
| Tried to set up own business | 6.4 | 5.3 | 7.2 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.7 |

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method. As shown in Table 12, during the first quarter of 2006, the most common method of job search was “checked at factories, worksites, etc.”, as reported by 55% of the unemployed, followed by “applied to prospective employers”, being reported by 47% of them. Around 38% were registered at the Employment Service. Only 4% of the unemployed had taken steps to start a business of their own.

7. Inactive population

The number of persons aged 15 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 387,100 (108,200 males and 278,900 females). As given in Table 13, the inactive population comprised 155,000 (40%) homemakers, 96,600 (25%) retired or old persons, 82,000 (21%) students, and 34,600 (9%) sick or disabled persons.

Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by sex, 1st quarter 2005 & 2006

| Activity status | 1st quarter 2005 | | | 1st quarter 2006 | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) | Both Sexes (%) | Male (%) | Female (%) |
| Homemakers | 42.2 | 1.1 | 57.7 | 40.3 | 0.4 | 55.7 |
| Retired or old persons | 26.1 | 42.5 | 20.0 | 25.1 | 42.4 | 18.4 |
| Students | 20.5 | 39.0 | 13.6 | 21.3 | 40.7 | 13.8 |
| Sick or disabled persons | 9.2 | 15.4 | 6.8 | 9.0 | 13.7 | 7.1 |
| Other | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 4.3 | 2.8 | 5.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The male inactives comprised 60,300 (56%) old, retired, sick or disabled persons and 43,800 (41%) students. The inactive females were mostly homemakers (154,600 or 56%); 70,900 or 26% were old, retired, sick or disabled persons and 38,300 (14%) were students.

The inactives also included some 6,500 persons not interested to work, among whom 1,800 were aged 15 to 19 years.

Another 2,000 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, 72% of those 2,000 persons believed that suitable jobs were not available or they did not know where to look for work.

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PORT LOUIS

July 2007

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Methodology of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 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. Up to 2005, the reference period for data on labour force was the last week of the survey month. As from 2006, the reference week has been changed to the second 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 | <p>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. As from 2005, the sample for the year has been further increased to 11,280. Furthermore, in order to measure quarterly changes, 50% of the households sampled in a quarter will be re-interviewed in the following quarter; for example, 50% of the households sampled in the first quarter of 2005 have been re-interviewed in the second quarter of 2005.</p> |

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.

Definition of terms used

1. Household

A household is defined as either a person living on his/her own or a group of two or more persons, who may or may not be related, but who live together and make common provision for food and other essentials for living.

2. Employment

Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 15 years and above (15+) who have worked for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during the reference week of a month. It includes those who are temporarily absent from work for reasons such as leave with pay, leave without pay and temporary disorganization of work (bad weather, break down of equipment, lack of order, etc..).

3. Unemployment

Unemployed population comprises all Mauritians aged 15+ who are not working but who are looking for work and are available for work during the reference period.

4. Labour force

Labour force or active population is made up of employed and unemployed population.

5. Unemployment rate

Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to that of labour force.

6. Inactive population

Inactive population includes all Mauritians aged 15+, not forming part of the labour force for reasons such as attendance at educational institutions, engagement in household duties, retirement, old age and infirmity/disablement.

7. Activity rate

Activity rate is the ratio (%) of labour force to that of population aged 15+ (active + inactive population).

8. Employer

An employer is a person who operates his/her own business or trade and hires one or more employees.

9. Own account worker

An Own account worker is a person who operates his/her own business or trade but does not hire employees. He/She may be working alone or with the help of unpaid family members.

10. Employee

An Employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity. An Apprentice, who is a person being trained for a job or trade and does not receive pay or may just receive some pocket money is also considered as an employee.

11. Contributing family worker

A Contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an enterprise operated by a family member.

12. Educational attainment

Primary : comprises those who have studied up to a “Standard” between standard 1 and the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) or equivalent.

Secondary : comprises those who have studied up to a “Form” between Form 1 and the Higher School Certificate (HSC) or equivalent.

Tertiary: comprises those who above their secondary certificates (SC and HSC or equivalent) also possess either a diploma/certificate, which is above the HSC but below a first degree, or a degree.

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 15 years and over, 2000 - 2006

| 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 | 542.5 | 16.6 | 559.1 | 291.2 | 215.8 | 507.0 | 52.1 | 9.6 |
| 2006 ⁵ | 549.5 | 16.3 | 565.8 | 291.0 | 222.3 | 513.3 | 52.5 | 9.6 |
| 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 | 349.4 | 9.1 | 358.5 | 189.0 | 149.2 | 338.2 | 20.3 | 5.8 |
| 2006 ⁵ | 352.5 | 8.3 | 360.8 | 188.5 | 153.3 | 341.8 | 19.0 | 5.4 |
| 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 | 193.1 | 7.5 | 200.6 | 102.2 | 66.6 | 168.8 | 31.8 | 16.5 |
| 2006 ⁵ | 197.0 | 8.0 | 205.0 | 102.5 | 69.0 | 171.5 | 33.5 | 17.0 |

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