

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Fourth Quarter 2007

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the fourth quarter of 2007, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from October to December 2007. The estimates refer to population aged 16 years and above.

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 at Annex I. Annex II shows a series of comparable annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the period 2000 to 2007.

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

2. Main findings

- (i) The number of employed persons for the fourth quarter of 2007 was estimated at 506,800 and the number of unemployed at 39,300. Labour force thus worked out to 546,100. Comparative figures for the corresponding quarter of 2006 were: 495,800 employed, 44,000 unemployed and a labour force of 539,800.
- (ii) The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2007 was 7.2%, lower than the rate of 8.2% at the previous quarter as well as at the fourth quarter of 2006. Unemployment rate for the year 2007 is estimated at 8.5%, lower than 9.1% in 2006.

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 fourth quarter 2007, 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 2006 – Q₄ 2007

Unemployment rate (%)	2006					2007				
	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year
Actual	9.2	9.8	9.5	8.2	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.5
Seasonally adjusted	8.7	9.2	9.9	8.9	9.1	9.1	8.2	8.6	7.9	8.5

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2007 works out to 7.9%, lower than the rate of 8.6% at the previous quarter and 8.9% at the fourth quarter of 2006.

Chart 1 - Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rates, Q₁ 2004 – Q₄ 2007



3. Characteristics of the unemployed

The main characteristics of the unemployed at the fourth quarter of 2007 were:

- (i) The 39,300 unemployed comprised 14,300 males (36%) and 25,000 females (64%).
- (ii) Around 14,900 or about 38% of the unemployed were below 25 years. Some 7,000 or 49% of the unemployed males and 32% or 7,900 of the unemployed females were below 25 years.
- (iii) Nearly half (18,900) of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (11,700 or 82%) was single while among females, the majority (17,800 or 71%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- (iv) Some 8,900 or 23% had not passed the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examination or equivalent and a further 18,700 (48%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (v) Around 28,900 (74%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 10,400 (26%) for more than one year.
- (vi) About 26,600 (68%) had working experience and 12,700 (32%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- (vii) Around 14,000 (36%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 7,100 (18%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 3,900 (55%) of them had not passed SC.
- (ix) Ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated) unemployed persons aged 25 to 44 years and having worked before numbered 10,900. Among them, about 8,700 (80%) had not passed SC.

- (x) 3,000 or 8% of the unemployed were heads of households.
 (xi) 3,700 (9%) lived in households with no employed persons.

4. Activity status of the population aged 16 years and over

Among the 936,900 persons aged 16 years and over in the fourth quarter of 2007, about 546,100 or 58% were economically active, with 506,800 (54%) having a job and 39,300 (4%) unemployed. The remaining 390,800 (42%) persons were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2006 were 495,800 (54%) employed, 44,000 (5%) unemployed and 384,300 (41%) inactive persons.

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

Table 2 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 4th quarter 2006 & 2007

	4th Quarter 2006				4th Quarter 2007			
	Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Labour Force								
Both Sexes	539,800	12,000	516,200	563,300	546,100	13,300	520,000	572,300
Male	349,800	7,700	334,600	365,000	352,400	9,400	333,900	370,900
Female	190,000	6,900	176,400	203,500	193,700	6,200	182,000	205,900
Employment								
Both Sexes	495,800	10,800	474,400	517,000	506,800	12,200	482,800	530,800
Male	334,600	7,400	320,000	349,200	338,100	9,200	320,000	356,200
Female	161,200	5,900	149,500	172,800	168,700	5,500	157,900	179,500
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	44,000	3,600	36,900	51,200	39,300	3,000	33,400	45,300
Male	15,200	1,900	11,400	19,000	14,300	1,700	11,000	17,600
Female	28,800	2,700	23,400	34,200	25,000	2,400	20,300	29,700
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	384,300	9,000	366,700	402,000	390,800	12,200	366,700	414,900
Male	104,500	4,200	96,200	112,900	108,100	5,200	97,800	118,400
Female	279,800	7,300	265,500	294,200	282,700	9,000	265,100	300,400
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	58.4	0.7	57.0	59.8	58.3	0.6	57.0	59.6
Male	77.0	0.8	75.4	78.5	76.5	0.8	74.9	78.1
Female	40.4	1.2	38.1	42.8	40.7	1.0	38.6	42.7
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	8.2	0.6	6.9	9.4	7.2	0.5	6.2	8.2
Male	4.4	0.5	3.3	5.4	4.1	0.5	3.1	5.0
Female	15.2	1.3	12.7	17.6	12.9	1.1	10.7	15.1

Table 3 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment from 2005 to 2007.

Table 3 - Quarterly estimates¹ of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2005 - 2007

	Year 2005	1st Quarter 2006	2nd Quarter 2006	3rd Quarter 2006	4th Quarter 2006	Year 2006	1st Quarter 2007	2nd Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2007	4th Quarter 2007	Year 2007
Labour Force											
Both Sexes	542,500	546,900	547,200	550,700	539,800	548,400	538,100	551,600	552,500	546,100	548,900
Male	349,600	351,600	351,400	350,100	349,800	351,400	350,400	354,600	354,600	352,400	353,600
Female	192,900	195,300	195,800	200,600	190,000	197,000	187,700	197,000	197,900	193,700	195,300
Employment											
Both Sexes	490,600	496,400	493,400	498,200	495,800	498,600	486,700	503,000	507,400	506,800	502,100
Male	329,400	332,700	330,700	330,100	334,600	332,200	329,400	335,200	338,000	338,100	335,000
Female	161,200	163,700	162,700	168,100	161,200	166,400	157,300	167,800	169,400	168,700	167,100
Unemployment											
Both Sexes	51,900	50,500	53,800	52,500	44,000	49,800	51,400	48,600	45,100	39,300	46,800
Male	20,200	18,900	20,700	20,000	15,200	19,200	21,000	19,400	16,600	14,300	18,600
Female	31,700	31,600	33,100	32,500	28,800	30,600	30,400	29,200	28,500	25,000	28,200
Inactive Population											
Both Sexes	364,100	367,700	370,600	370,200	384,300	370,900	389,200	378,900	381,200	390,800	383,200
Male	96,300	98,200	99,900	102,700	104,500	100,600	105,500	102,800	104,400	108,100	104,600
Female	267,800	269,500	270,700	267,500	279,800	270,300	283,700	276,100	276,800	282,700	278,600
Activity rate (%)											
Both Sexes	59.8	59.8	59.6	59.8	58.4	59.7	58.0	59.3	59.2	58.3	58.9
Male	78.4	78.2	77.9	77.3	77.0	77.7	76.9	77.5	77.3	76.5	77.2
Female	41.9	42.0	42.0	42.9	40.4	42.2	39.8	41.6	41.7	40.7	41.2
Unemployment rate (%)											
Both Sexes	9.6	9.2	9.8	9.5	8.2	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.5
Male	5.8	5.4	5.9	5.7	4.4	5.5	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.1	5.3
Female	16.4	16.2	16.9	16.2	15.2	15.5	16.2	14.8	14.4	12.9	14.4

¹ Revised

5. Employment

The number of employed persons during the fourth quarter of 2007 was estimated at 506,800 with 338,100 males and 168,700 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 fourth quarter of 2007, the primary sector comprising agriculture, and mining & quarrying, provided jobs to about 9% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water and construction, employed another 32%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries, the remaining 59%.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by industrial sector and sex, 4th quarter 2006 & 2007

Industrial sector	4th quarter 2006			4th quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	9.5	11.1	6.1	9.5	10.9	6.7
Secondary	33.0	34.8	29.2	31.9	35.0	25.4
of which Manufacturing	21.7	18.6	28.1	20.1	17.8	24.7
Construction	10.6	15.3	1.0	11.1	16.3	0.4
Tertiary	57.5	54.1	64.7	58.6	54.1	67.9
of which Wholesale and retail trade	13.6	12.7	15.3	14.3	12.6	17.8
Hotels and restaurants	7.6	8.2	6.3	7.8	8.0	7.4
Transport, storage and communications	6.3	8.0	2.6	7.2	9.3	3.0
Public administration and defence	8.0	9.0	5.8	6.6	7.4	4.9
Education, health and social work	8.6	6.0	13.9	9.2	6.3	15.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the fourth quarter of 2007, 34% of the working population were employed as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers or craft and related trade 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 consisted of “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals” (16%) and “clerks” (9%).

Analysis by sex shows that 42% of males were employed as “skilled agricultural workers and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers”

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of employees was higher among working women (82%) than among working men (77%), while the proportion of employers and own account workers was higher among men (22%) than among women (12%). 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 4% of employed persons did not work during the reference week because they were sick or on leave. Another 51% reported having worked for more than 40 hours. They were mostly in manufacturing enterprises (13%), followed by wholesale & retail trade (10%), construction (6%), hotels & restaurants (5%) and, transport and communications (4%).

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the survey reference week, 4th quarter 2006 & 2007

Actual number of hours worked per week	4th quarter 2006			4th quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0	4.1	3.9	4.7	4.2	3.5	5.5
1 - 23	7.5	4.7	13.4	8.0	4.7	14.5
24 - 40	35.9	32.6	42.9	36.5	34.3	41.0
41 - 50	32.9	35.5	27.3	32.9	35.4	28.0
51 and above	19.6	23.3	11.7	18.4	22.1	11.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The average number of hours worked per week, including overtime but excluding all leaves and lunch time, was 41.8 with men reporting having worked 44.1 hours on average and women, 37.0 hours.

6. Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in the fourth quarter of 2007 is estimated at 39,300 comprising 14,300 males and 25,000 females. The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed in the labour force, works out to 7.2% (4.1% for males and 12.9% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 6.2% to 8.2%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 7.9% with the rate being 4.7% for males and 14.0% for females.

6.1 *Age and sex*

From Table 8, it is observed that unemployed males were generally younger than unemployed females. Thus, 49% of the males were under 25 years compared to 32% for females. On the other hand, 51% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to

32% for males. The mean age of the unemployed works out to 29 years for males and 30 years for females.

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by age and sex, 4th quarter 2006 & 2007

Age group (years)	4th quarter 2006			4th quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	11.8	14.6	10.3	13.3	21.9	8.3
20 - 24	24.8	23.8	25.4	24.5	26.7	23.3
25 - 29	17.3	17.2	17.3	18.2	15.3	19.9
30 - 39	26.0	22.2	27.9	25.5	16.3	30.7
40 - 49	13.0	11.9	13.6	12.1	9.0	13.9
50 & over	7.1	10.3	5.5	6.4	10.8	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.2 *Marital status*

Out of the total number of persons who were unemployed, 48% were single, 47% were married and the remaining 5% were widowed, divorced or separated. Unemployed males were mostly single (82%). Unemployed females were mostly ever married (71%), i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 4th quarter 2006 & 2007

Marital status	4th quarter 2006			4th quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	48.6	26.2	60.5	47.4	14.4	66.3
Widowed, divorced or separated	6.0	3.5	7.3	4.5	3.5	5.0
Single	45.4	70.3	32.2	48.1	82.1	28.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.3 *Educational attainment*

From Table 10, it is observed that in the fourth quarter of 2007, 23% of the unemployed had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, and a further 47% did not possess the Cambridge School Certificate (SC). The proportion with SC as highest educational attainment was 19% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 6%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented about 5%.

6.5 Work experience

Out of the 39,300 unemployed at the fourth quarter of 2007, some 12,700 or 32% were first job seekers while the remaining 26,600 or 68% had work experience.

Table 12 shows the distribution of the unemployed with work experience by industrial sector. About 4% of those with work experience were previously in the primary sector, mainly agriculture. About 59% of the unemployed with job experience had worked in the secondary sector, with 48% in manufacturing and 12% in construction. The remaining 37% had previous work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly in 'Wholesale & retail trade' (13%), 'Private households with employed persons' (8%), 'Hotels & restaurants' (4%), and 'Real estate' (4%).

Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population with work experience by industrial sector, 4th quarter 2006 & 2007

Industrial sector	4th quarter 2006			4th quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	8.8	18.4	2.6	3.7	7.1	1.3
Secondary	51.3	55.7	48.3	59.4	51.9	64.7
Tertiary	39.9	25.9	49.1	36.9	41.0	34.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The unemployed, who worked before, had to stop working for several reasons. About 28% of them were unsatisfied with their job, about 20% left their job due to household responsibilities and around 16% had completed their temporary job.

6.6 Job search

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method. As shown in Table 13, during the fourth quarter of 2007, the most common method of job search was "applied to prospective employers", as reported by 57% of the unemployed, followed by "checked at factories, worksites, etc." being reported by 54% of them.

Around 36% were registered at the Employment Service. Only 7% of the unemployed had taken steps to start a business of their own.

Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by job search method and sex, 4th quarter 2006 & 2007

Job search method	4th quarter 2006			4th quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Applied to prospective employers	49.2	46.2	50.7	56.6	54.0	58.1
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	53.6	61.1	49.6	53.7	62.6	48.5
Registration at Employment Service	35.1	26.4	39.7	35.7	29.7	39.1
Sought assistance or advice	33.0	36.8	31.0	32.7	26.7	36.1
Placed or answered advertisements	28.0	26.7	28.7	29.4	24.7	32.1
Tried to set up own business	8.4	7.3	9.0	7.3	6.0	8.0

7. Inactive population

The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 390,800 (108,100 males and 282,700 females). As given in Table 14, the inactive population comprised 42% (165,300) homemakers, 25% (96,600) retired or old persons, 22% (84,800) students, and 8% (30,100) sick or disabled persons.

Table 14 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by inactivity status and sex, 4th quarter 2006 & 2007

Inactivity status	4th quarter 2006			4th quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Homemakers	42.2	0.1	58.0	42.3	0.2	58.5
Retired or old persons	25.3	43.1	18.6	24.7	41.5	18.3
Students	20.2	39.6	13.0	21.7	41.3	14.2
Sick or disabled persons	8.1	14.4	5.8	7.7	12.9	5.7
Other	4.2	2.8	4.6	3.6	4.1	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The inactives also included some 5,000 persons not interested to work, among whom 1,300 were aged 16 to 19 years.

Another 800 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, it is estimated that 92% of those 800 inactives either believed that suitable jobs were not available or did not know where to look for work.

An analysis of the inactive population by sex in the above table reveals that the inactive males comprised mostly old, retired, sick or disabled persons (54%) and students (41%). The inactive females were mostly homemakers (59%); old, retired, sick or disabled persons (24%) and students (14%).

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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. 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 so that estimates can be published 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 end 2007.
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. 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 are 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.

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 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, 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 16¹ years and above (16+) 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 disorganisation of work (bad weather, break down of equipment, lack of order, etc.).

3. Unemployment

Unemployed population comprises all Mauritians aged 16+ 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 16+, 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 16+ (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.

¹ As from year 2007, labour force estimates are based on population aged 16 years and above, following the amendment to the Labour Act in December 2006 whereby the minimum legal working age is 16 years, and the subsequent recommendation by the ILO to be in line with the amended Labour Act

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 16 years and over, 2000 - 2007
**ANNEX II
(‘000)**

Year	Labour force			Employment (including foreign workers)			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments ¹	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate ² (%)
Both sexes								
2000	503.0	14.6	517.6	298.7	186.2	484.9	32.7	6.5
2001	510.3	16.5	526.8	302.0	190.1	492.1	34.7	6.8
2002	513.0 ³	17.0	530.0	297.2	196.0	493.2	36.8	7.2
2003	520.9	18.2	539.1	296.9	202.1	499.0	40.1	7.7
2004	531.3	17.5	548.8	293.3	210.9	504.2	44.6	8.4
2005	542.5	16.6	559.1	292.2	215.0	507.2	51.9	9.6
2006	548.4	16.7	565.1	295.1	220.2	515.3	49.8	9.1
2007	548.9	21.6	570.5	301.3	222.4	523.7	46.8	8.5
Male								
2000	334.7	5.0	339.7	187.5	135.0	322.5	17.2	5.1
2001	337.9	5.8	343.7	188.3	137.0	325.3	18.4	5.4
2002	339.8 ³	6.4	346.2	188.2	140.0	328.2	18.0	5.3
2003	343.1	7.9	351.0	188.2	143.2	331.4	19.6	5.7
2004	347.8	9.0	356.8	189.1	147.7	336.8	20.0	5.8
2005	349.6	9.1	358.7	189.3	149.2	338.5	20.2	5.8
2006	351.4	8.3	359.7	190.0	150.5	340.5	19.2	5.5
2007	353.6	12.1	365.7	195.0	152.1	347.1	18.6	5.3
Female								
2000	168.3	9.6	177.9	111.2	51.2	162.4	15.5	9.2
2001	172.4	10.7	183.1	113.7	53.1	166.8	16.3	9.5
2002	173.2 ³	10.6	183.8	109.0	56.0	165.0	18.8	10.9
2003	177.8	10.3	188.1	108.7	58.9	167.6	20.5	11.5
2004	183.5	8.5	192.0	104.2	63.2	167.4	24.6	13.4
2005	192.9	7.5	200.4	102.9	65.8	168.7	31.7	16.4
2006	197.0	8.4	205.4	105.1	69.7	174.8	30.6	15.5
2007	195.3 ⁴	9.5	204.8	106.3	70.3	176.6	28.2	14.4

¹ Employing 10 or more persons

² Unemployment as a percentage of Mauritian labour force

³ The low increase results from the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the sugar industry

⁴ The decrease is explained by a larger number of female students and housewives