

# Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Second Quarter 2009

## 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 2009, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from April to June 2009. The estimates refer to the Mauritian 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 2001 to 2009.

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. Key points

### (a) First semester 2009

#### *Survey estimates – change from first semester 2008 to first semester 2009*

- (i) The Mauritian labour force increased by 7,300 from 556,400 to 563,700.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians increased by 4,750 from 513,100 to 517,850.
- (iii) Unemployment increased by 2,550 from 43,300 to 45,850.
- (iv) Unemployment rate increased from 7.8% to 8.1%.

#### *Survey estimates – change from second semester 2008 to first semester 2009*

- (i) The Mauritian labour force increased by 600 from 563,100 to 563,700.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians decreased by 7,650 from 525,500 to 517,850.
- (iii) Unemployment increased by 8,250 from 37,600 to 45,850.
- (iv) Unemployment rate increased from 6.7% to 8.1%.

### (b) Second quarter 2009

#### *Survey estimates – change from second quarter 2008 to second quarter 2009*

- (i) The Mauritian labour force increased by 5,400 from 559,100 to 564,500.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians decreased by 300 from 518,000 to 517,700.
- (iii) Unemployment increased by 5,700 from 41,100 to 46,800.
- (iv) Unemployment rate increased from 7.4% to 8.3%.

***Survey estimates – change from first quarter 2009 to second quarter 2009***

- (i) The Mauritian labour force increased by 1,600 from 562,900 to 564,500.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians decreased by 300 from 518,000 to 517,700.
- (iii) Unemployment increased by 1,900 from 44,900 to 46,800.
- (v) Unemployment rate increased from 8.0% to 8.3%.

***Seasonally adjusted estimates***

- (i) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 7.4% to 7.9% between the first and second quarters of 2009.
- (ii) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 6.9% to 7.9% between the second quarter of 2008 and the second quarter of 2009.

***Year 2009***

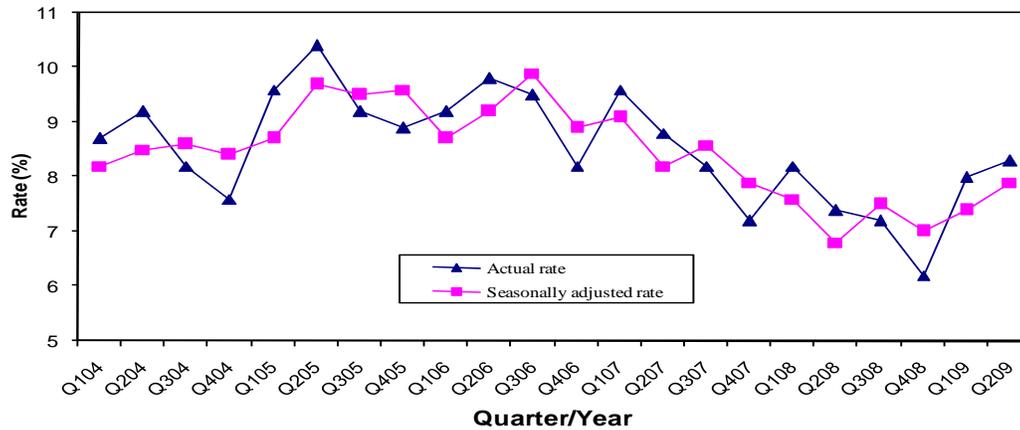
- (i) The Mauritian Labour force is expected to increase by 7,500 from 559,400 in 2008 to 566,900 in 2009.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians is expected to increase by 2,000 from 519,000 in 2008 to 521,000 in 2009.
- (iii) Unemployment is expected to increase by 5,500 from 40,400 in 2008 to 45,900 in 2009.
- (iv) Unemployment rate is expected to increase from 7.2% in 2008 to 8.1% in 2009.

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. In order to observe the overall trend, it is more relevant to remove the seasonal fluctuations from the time-series. Based on the quarterly data for the period first quarter 2001 to second quarter 2009, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates obtained are presented in Table 1 (from first quarter 2008 to second quarter 2009) and Chart 1.

**Table 1 – Survey estimates and seasonally adjusted quarterly estimates of unemployment rate, Q<sub>1</sub> 2008 – Q<sub>2</sub> 2009**

Unemployment rate (%)	2008					2009	
	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr
Survey estimates	8.2	7.4	7.2	6.2	7.2	8.0	8.3
Seasonally adjusted	7.6	6.9	7.5	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.9

**Chart 1 – Survey and seasonally adjusted quarterly estimates of unemployment rate, Q<sub>1</sub> 2004 – Q<sub>2</sub> 2009**



### 3. Characteristics of the unemployed

The main characteristics of the unemployed at the second quarter of 2009 were:

- (i) The 46,800 unemployed comprised 17,000 males (36%) and 29,800 females (64%).
- (ii) Around 18,200 (8,800 males and 9,400 females) or about 39% of the unemployed were below 25 years.
- (iii) Around 46% (21,700) of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (75%) was single while among females, the majority (70%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- (iv) Some 8,900 or 19% had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level or equivalent and a further 20,600 (44%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (v) Around 34,400 (74%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 12,400 (26%) for more than one year.
- (vi) About 31,300 (67%) had working experience and 15,500 (33%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- (vii) Around 18,000 (39%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 9,400 (20%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 3,900 (41%) 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 12,700. Among them, about 9,100 (72%) had not passed SC.
- (x) 4,700 or 10% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- (xi) 4,300 (9%) lived in households with no employed persons.

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

Among the 957,800 persons aged 16 years and over in the second quarter of 2009, about 564,500 or 59% were economically active, with 517,700 (54%) employed and 46,800 (5%) unemployed. The remaining 393,300 (41%) persons were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2008 were 518,000 (55%) employed, 41,100 (4%) unemployed and 384,200 (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, 2nd quarter 2008 & 2009**

	2nd Quarter 2008				2nd Quarter 2009			
	Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
<b>Labour Force</b>								
Both Sexes	559,100	17,100	525,400	592,700	564,500	16,600	531,800	597,100
Male	355,100	10,600	334,100	375,900	357,300	11,300	335,000	379,700
Female	204,000	7,700	188,900	219,200	207,200	7,400	192,400	221,800
<b>Employment</b>								
Both Sexes	518,000	15,100	488,200	547,700	517,700	14,800	488,500	546,900
Male	341,500	10,200	321,300	361,600	340,300	10,700	319,200	361,400
Female	176,500	6,200	164,300	188,700	177,400	6,000	165,500	189,200
<b>Unemployment</b>								
Both Sexes	41,100	3,800	33,700	48,500	46,800	3,300	40,200	53,300
Male	13,600	1,500	10,700	16,500	17,000	1,700	13,700	20,400
Female	27,500	3,000	21,700	33,300	29,800	2,900	23,900	35,600
<b>Inactive Population</b>								
Both Sexes	384,200	11,600	361,300	407,200	393,300	11,000	371,500	415,000
Male	108,600	4,900	99,100	118,200	113,000	4,000	104,800	121,100
Female	275,600	8,500	258,800	292,400	280,300	8,700	263,100	297,500
<b>Activity rate (%)</b>								
Both Sexes	59.3	0.5	58.2	60.3	58.9	0.7	57.6	60.3
Male	76.6	0.7	75.3	77.9	76.0	0.7	74.5	77.5
Female	42.5	0.9	40.9	44.2	42.5	1.0	40.5	44.5
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>								
Both Sexes	7.4	0.6	6.2	8.5	8.3	0.5	7.3	9.2
Male	3.8	0.4	3.0	4.6	4.8	0.4	3.9	5.6
Female	13.5	1.2	11.2	15.8	14.4	1.2	12.1	16.7

Table 3 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for 2008 and 2009.

**Table 3 - Quarterly estimates of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2008 - 2009**

	1st Quarter 2008	2nd Quarter 2008	3rd Quarter 2008	4th Quarter 2008	Year 2008	1st Quarter 2009	2nd Quarter 2009	Year 2009 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Labour Force</b>								
Both Sexes	553,800	559,100	558,800	567,300	<b>559,400</b>	562,900	564,500	<b>566,900</b>
Male	352,800	355,100	353,900	358,000	<b>355,600</b>	355,300	357,300	<b>358,300</b>
Female	201,000	204,000	204,900	209,300	<b>203,800</b>	207,600	207,200	<b>208,600</b>
<b>Employment</b>								
Both Sexes	508,200	518,000	518,600	532,300	<b>519,000</b>	518,000	517,700	<b>521,000</b>
Male	334,900	341,500	339,700	346,700	<b>341,000</b>	337,500	340,300	<b>341,800</b>
Female	173,300	176,500	178,900	185,600	<b>178,000</b>	180,500	177,400	<b>179,200</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>								
Both Sexes	45,600	41,100	40,200	35,000	<b>40,400</b>	44,900	46,800	<b>45,900</b>
Male	17,900	13,600	14,200	11,300	<b>14,600</b>	17,800	17,000	<b>16,500</b>
Female	27,700	27,500	26,000	23,700	<b>25,800</b>	27,100	29,800	<b>29,400</b>
<b>Inactive Population</b>								
Both Sexes	386,300	384,200	387,700	382,500	<b>385,600</b>	390,800	393,300	<b>392,100</b>
Male	109,300	108,600	111,300	108,700	<b>108,900</b>	113,100	113,000	<b>112,500</b>
Female	277,000	275,600	276,400	273,800	<b>276,700</b>	277,700	280,300	<b>279,600</b>
<b>Activity rate (%)</b>								
Both Sexes	58.9	59.3	59.0	59.7	<b>59.2</b>	59.0	58.9	<b>59.1</b>
Male	76.3	76.6	76.1	76.7	<b>76.6</b>	75.9	76.0	<b>76.1</b>
Female	42.1	42.5	42.6	43.3	<b>42.4</b>	42.8	42.5	<b>42.7</b>
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>								
Both Sexes	8.2	7.4	7.2	6.2	<b>7.2</b>	8.0	8.3	<b>8.1</b>
Male	5.1	3.8	4.0	3.2	<b>4.1</b>	5.0	4.8	<b>4.6</b>
Female	13.8	13.5	12.7	11.3	<b>12.7</b>	13.1	14.4	<b>14.1</b>

<sup>1</sup> forecast

## 5. Employment

The number of employed persons during the second quarter of 2009 was estimated at 517,700 with 340,300 males and 177,400 females (Table 2). Employment sex ratio remained at approximately 2 males to 1 female.

### 5.1 *Employment by industrial sector*

During the second quarter of 2009, the primary sector comprising agriculture and mining & quarrying employed nearly 8% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water and construction, employed nearly 29%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries, the remaining 63%.

**Table 4 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by industrial sector and sex, 2nd quarter 2008 & 2009**

Industrial sector	2nd quarter 2008			2nd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
<b>Primary</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>
of which Manufacturing	20.3	17.7	25.3	17.1	14.6	21.7
Construction	10.9	16.1	0.9	10.8	16.0	0.9
<b>Tertiary</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>70.5</b>
of which Wholesale and retail trade	14.6	14.5	14.7	15.0	14.8	15.4
Hotels and restaurants	7.0	7.3	6.4	8.2	8.3	8.2
Transport, storage and communications	7.5	9.9	3.1	7.6	10.0	3.0
Public administration and defence	6.9	7.3	6.0	6.8	7.4	5.5
Education, health and social work	8.8	6.0	14.0	8.7	5.7	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 5.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the second quarter of 2009, around 33% 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 20% each of the workforce. The remaining consisted of “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals” (16%) and “clerks” (10%).

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” compared to only 17% among females. On the other hand, 17% of females were engaged in clerical duties compared to 7% of males.



Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of employees was slightly 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%).

#### 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 48% reported having worked for more than 40 hours.

**Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the survey reference week, 2nd quarter 2008 & 2009**

Actual number of hours worked per week	2nd quarter 2008			2nd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0	3.4	3.2	3.7	4.1	4.2	3.8
1 - 23	7.5	5.1	12.2	8.5	5.6	14.0
24 - 40	37.7	35.0	43.0	39.2	37.3	42.9
41 - 50	34.0	36.3	29.4	31.7	34.2	27.0
51 and above	17.4	20.4	11.7	16.5	18.7	12.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The average number of hours worked per week, including overtime but excluding all leaves and lunch time, was 40.7 with men reporting having worked 42.7 hours on average and women, 37.0 hours.

## 6. **Unemployment**

The number of unemployed persons in the second quarter of 2009 is estimated at 46,800 comprising 17,000 males and 29,800 females (Table 2). The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed in the labour force, works out to 8.3% (4.8% for males and 14.4% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 7.3% to 9.2%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 7.9% with the rate being 4.4% for males and 13.7% for females.

### 6.1 *Age and sex*

From Table 8, it is observed that 52% of the males were under 25 years compared to 32% for females. On the other hand, 33% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to 44% for males. However, the mean age of the unemployed works out to 27 years for males and 31 years for females.

**Table 8 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by age and sex, 2nd quarter 2008 & 2009**

Age group (years)	2nd quarter 2008			2nd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	13.3	19.0	10.4	14.9	25.6	8.7
20 - 24	25.7	23.3	26.8	24.1	26.2	23.0
25 - 29	15.1	16.4	14.4	16.3	20.8	13.8
30 - 39	25.6	15.1	30.9	23.5	12.3	29.9
40 - 49	11.3	9.4	12.3	15.2	7.5	19.5
50 & over	9.0	16.8	5.2	6.0	7.6	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 6.2 *Marital status*

Out of the total number of persons who were unemployed, 46% were single and around 48% were married. Unemployed males were mostly single (75%) whilst unemployed females were mostly ever married (70%), i.e, currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 9).

**Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 2nd quarter 2008 & 2009**

Marital status	2nd quarter 2008			2nd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	46.3	28.2	55.2	48.3	22.7	63.0
Widowed, divorced or separated	8.5	6.2	9.7	5.3	2.2	7.0
Single	45.2	65.6	35.1	46.4	75.1	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 6.3 *Educational attainment*

From Table 10, it is observed that in the second quarter of 2009, 19% of the unemployed had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, and a further 44% did not possess the Cambridge School Certificate (SC). The proportion with SC as highest educational attainment was 21% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 8%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented 8%.



## 6.5 *Work experience*

Out of the 46,800 unemployed at the second quarter of 2009, some 15,500 or nearly 33% were first job seekers while the remaining 31,300 or 67% had work experience.

Table 12 shows the distribution of the unemployed with work experience by industrial sector. About 48% of the unemployed with job experience had worked previously in the secondary sector, with 37% in manufacturing and 11% in construction. Approximately the same percentage had previous work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly in 'Hotels & restaurants' (13%) and 'Wholesale & retail trade' (11%).

**Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population with work experience by industrial sector, 2nd quarter 2008 & 2009**

Industrial sector	2nd quarter 2008			2nd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	5.0	8.4	2.8	3.5	8.1	0.8
Secondary	42.8	47.3	40.2	48.2	53.3	45.3
Tertiary	52.2	44.3	57.0	48.3	38.6	53.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

15% of those who had worked before reported that they had lost their job following a 'reduction of workforce'.

## 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 second quarter of 2009, the most common method of job search was "applied to prospective employers" and "checked at factories, worksites, etc." with 51% in each category. Around 39% were registered at the Employment Service. The percentage who had sought assistance or advice was 33%, same as for those who had placed or answered advertisements. Less than 4% had taken steps to start a business of their own.

**Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by job search method and sex, 2nd quarter 2008 & 2009**

Job search method	2nd quarter 2008			2nd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Applied to prospective employers	56.4	48.5	60.3	50.9	53.4	49.5
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	48.6	59.0	43.5	50.7	60.1	45.3
Registration at Employment Service	36.6	33.3	38.3	38.5	29.1	43.9
Sought assistance or advice	27.1	29.7	25.8	33.1	31.1	34.2
Placed or answered advertisements	27.2	27.0	27.4	32.8	35.0	31.5
Tried to set up own business	4.6	7.4	3.2	3.5	2.6	4.1

## 7. Inactive population

The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 393,300 (113,000 males and 280,300 females) (Table 2). As shown in Table 14, the inactive population comprised nearly 46% (180,300) homemakers, 23% (88,100) students, 21% (81,300) retired or old persons, and 7% (29,000) sick or disabled persons.

**Table 14 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by inactivity status and sex, 2nd quarter 2008 & 2009**

Inactivity status	1st quarter 2008			1st quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Homemakers	46.6	0.6	64.7	46.3	-	65.0
Retired or old persons	21.7	44.2	12.8	20.9	44.0	11.6
Students	20.2	39.0	12.9	22.6	40.5	15.4
Sick or disabled persons	7.6	12.2	5.7	7.4	12.4	5.5
Other	3.9	4.0	3.9	2.8	3.1	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The inactives also included some 4,400 persons not interested to work, among whom 800 were aged 16 to 19 years.

It is to be noted that 2,300 persons aged 16 years and over were classified as inactives although they were not working and were available for work; the main reason being that they were not

actively looking for work. Those persons have not been classified as unemployed since they did not satisfy all the three criteria for unemployment, i.e. not working, looking for work and available for work. From the survey responses, it has been noted that those 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 (Table 14) reveals that the inactive males comprised old, retired, sick or disabled persons (56%) and students (41%). The inactive females were mostly homemakers (65%), old, retired, sick or disabled persons (17%) and students (15%).

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September 2009

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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 except in December when it was the second week. 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 June 2010.
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 religious group, 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 16<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2001 - 2009**

('000) ANNEX II

Year	Labour force			Employment (including foreign workers)			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments <sup>1</sup>	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup> (%)
<b>Both sexes</b>								
2001	510.3	16.5	526.8	302.0	190.1	492.1	34.7	6.8
2002	513.0 <sup>3</sup>	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	302.0	221.7	523.7	46.8	8.5
2008	559.4	24.0	583.4	311.6	231.4	543.0	40.4	7.2
2009 <sup>5</sup>	566.9	21.0	587.9	305.1	236.9	542.0	45.9	8.1
<b>Male</b>								
2001	337.9	5.8	343.7	188.3	137.0	325.3	18.4	5.4
2002	339.8 <sup>3</sup>	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	195.6	151.5	347.1	18.6	5.3
2008	355.6	14.7	370.3	201.0	154.7	355.7	14.6	4.1
2009 <sup>5</sup>	358.3	13.0	371.3	197.5	157.3	354.8	16.5	4.6
<b>Female</b>								
2001	172.4	10.7	183.1	113.7	53.1	166.8	16.3	9.5
2002	173.2 <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>4</sup>	9.5	204.8	106.4	70.2	176.6	28.2	14.4
2008	203.8	9.3	213.1	110.6	76.7	187.3	25.8	12.7
2009 <sup>5</sup>	208.6	8.0	216.6	107.6	79.6	187.2	29.4	14.1

<sup>1</sup> Employing 10 or more persons

<sup>2</sup> Unemployment as a percentage of Mauritian labour force

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

<sup>4</sup> The decrease is explained by a larger number of female students and housewives

<sup>5</sup> Forecast