

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment based on the results of the Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey – Year 2009

Introduction

1. This first issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2009, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS). The estimates refer to the Mauritian population aged 16 years and above in the Republic of Mauritius; foreign workers are not included.
2. The estimates in this publication are subject to sampling error that tends to be relatively large as the sample numbers are small.

Key figures

	2008	2009	Change 2008 - 2009
Labour force	559,400	566,300	+6,900
Employment	519,000	524,800	+5,800
Unemployment	40,400	41,500	+1,100
Unemployment rate (%)	7.2	7.3	+0.1 pt
Activity rate (%)	59.2	59.1	-0.1 pt

Detailed estimates together with sampling error and confidence interval are given in Table 1 at Annex.

Key points

3. Change from 2008 to 2009

- a. Labour force increased by 6,900 from 559,400 to 566,300
- b. Activity rate dropped marginally from 59.2% to 59.1%. Male activity rate declined from 76.6% to 76.1% while female activity rate increased from 42.4% to 42.6%
- c. Employment increased by 5,800 from 519,000 to 524,800 driven by an increase of 4,500 in female employment while male employment increased by 1,300
- d. Unemployment rate increased marginally from 7.2% to 7.3%. Male unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 4.4% while female unemployment rate dropped from 12.7% to 12.3%

4. Situation in 2009

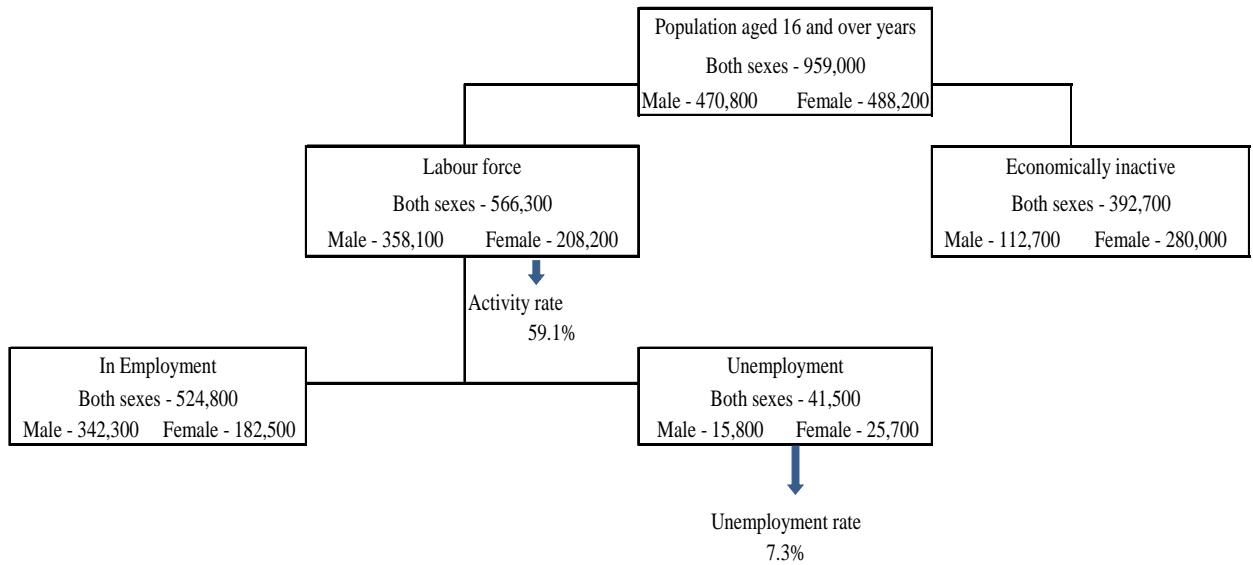
- a. The workforce was made up of twice as many men as women.
- b. Most of the workers were employees.
- c. The tertiary sector was the main source of jobs for Mauritians.
- d. Unemployed women outnumbered unemployed men though they were generally more qualified.

5. Evolution from 2001 to 2009

- a. Men are more economically active than women but the gap is decreasing over time
- b. Female employment is increasing faster than male employment
- c. The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment
- d. Unemployment rate has been increasing to reach a peak in 2005; it then decreased till 2009 when a slight upward trend was observed

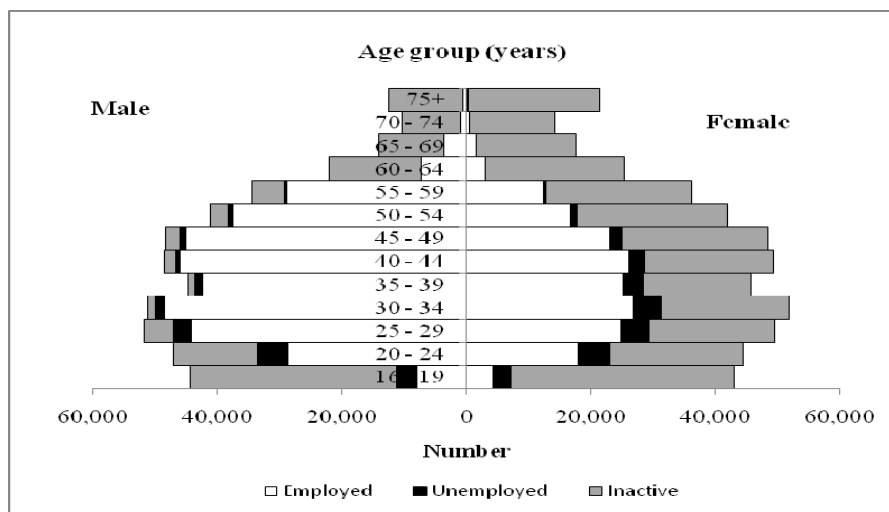
Labour market overview

Chart 1 – The Labour Market, 2009



6. In 2009, the population of working age (aged 16 years and over) numbered 959,000, of whom 566,300 fell in the labour force (or were economically active) resulting in an activity rate of 59.1%. The number employed totalled 524,800 whilst the number unemployed stood at 41,500; the unemployment rate worked out to 7.3% of the labour force.

Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2009

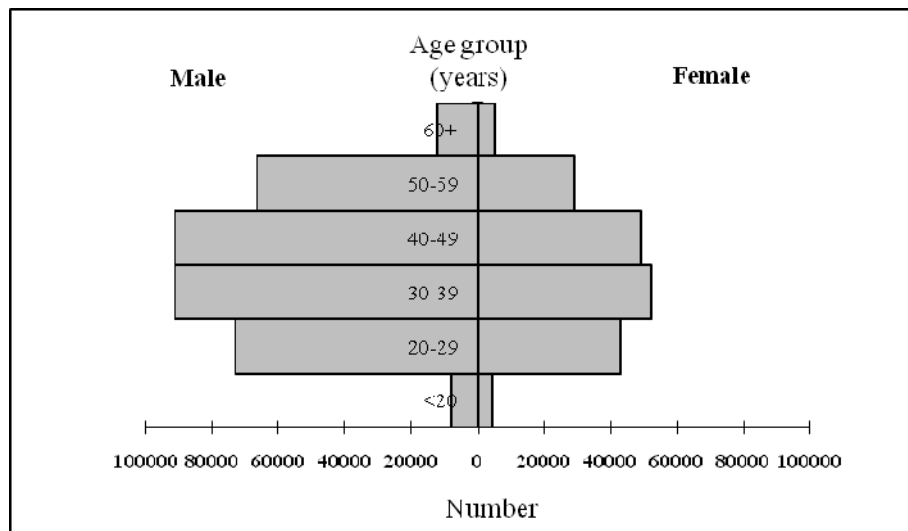


7. The pyramid (Chart 2) and Table 2 indicates that in 2009:
- i. The number of inactive women was significantly higher than that of men at all ages;
 - ii. There were fewer women than men among the employed at all ages ;
 - iii. Unemployed women were more numerous than unemployed men at all ages except for those aged under 20 years;
 - iv. As from age 20 – 24 years, the number of unemployed tends to decrease as age increases.

Employment

8. Total employment stood at 524,800 (342,300 males and 182,500 females) in 2009. The employment to population ratio was around 55% (73% for males and 37% for females).

Chart 3 – Age-sex structure of the employed population, 2009



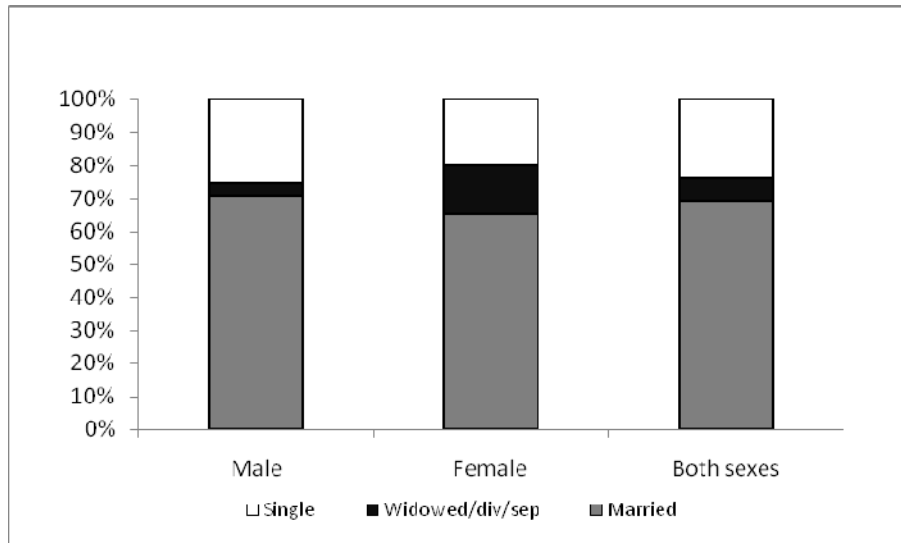
There are two times as many men as women in the workforce

9. The workforce comprised around twice as many men as women and was concentrated in the age group 30 to 50 years. The mean age of a worker was 39.7 years for males and 38.4 years for females.

The workforce is mainly made up of married persons

10. The workforce was mainly made up of married persons (68.9%), followed by persons in the single state (23.7%). A small proportion of the employed were widowed, divorced and separated (7.4%). Compared to the male workforce, the female workforce consisted of a higher proportion of widowed, divorced and separated persons (14.6% compared to 3.6%) (Table 3).

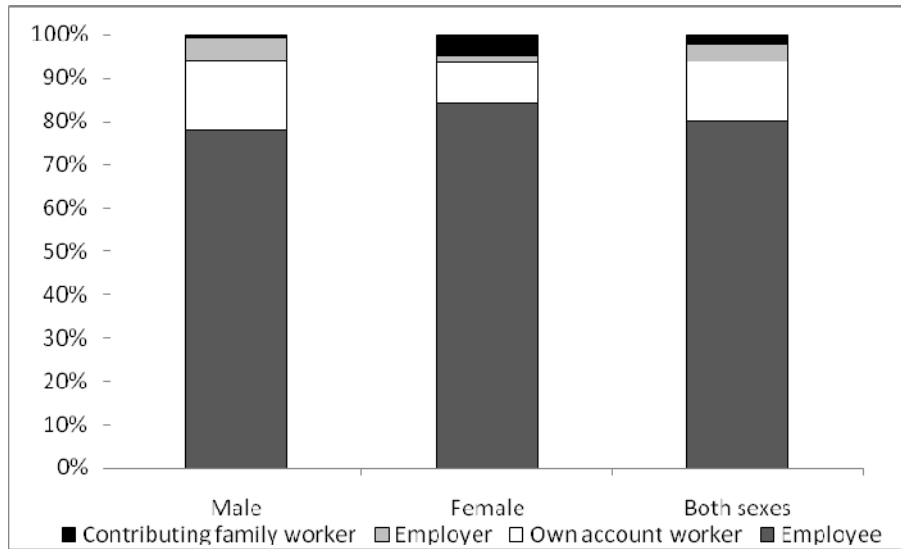
Chart 4 – Employed population by marital status and sex, 2009



The workforce is mostly made up of employees

11. Some 80% of the employed were employees while around 18% were self-employed (own account workers or employer) and the remaining 2% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (84.1% against 78.1% among males) and contributing family workers (4.8% against 0.7%) but a smaller proportion of self employed (11.1% against 21.2% among males) (Table 4).

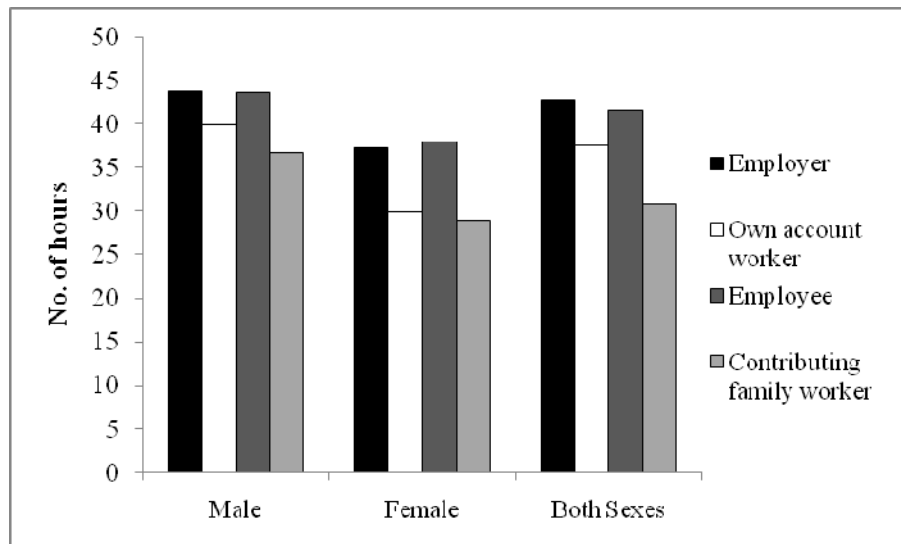
Chart 5 – Employed population by employment status and sex, 2009



Employers worked longer hours than other categories of workers and earned the highest income

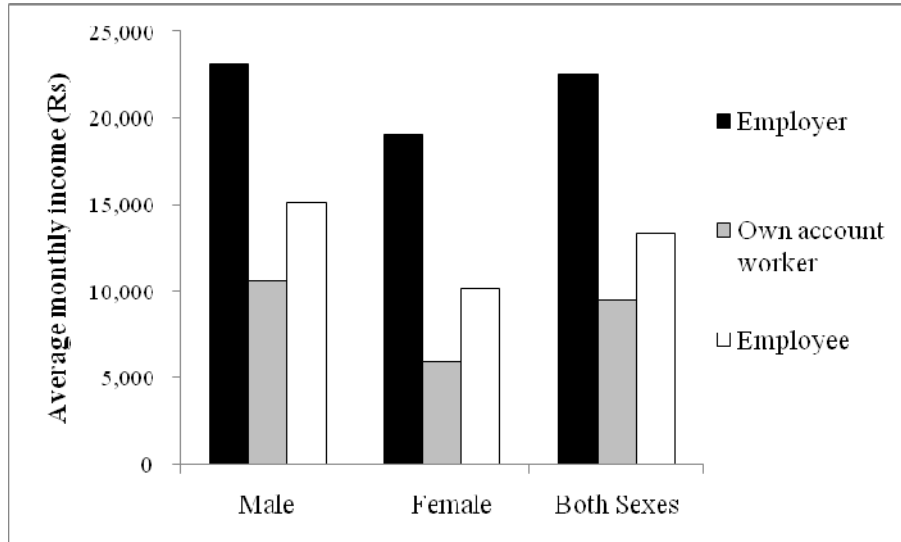
12. On average, an employed person worked 40.8 hours per week. An employer put in 42.8 hours of work compared to 41.5 hours for an employee and 37.6 hours for an own-account worker (Table 5).

Chart 6 – Mean hours of work by employment status and sex, 2009



13. Monthly income from employment, which includes income from paid work and income from business activities, amounted to Rs 13,100. The average monthly income for an employer was Rs 22,500 against Rs 9,500 for an own-account worker while that for an employee stood at Rs 13,300 (Table 6).

Chart 7 – Average monthly income from employment by employment status and sex, 2009

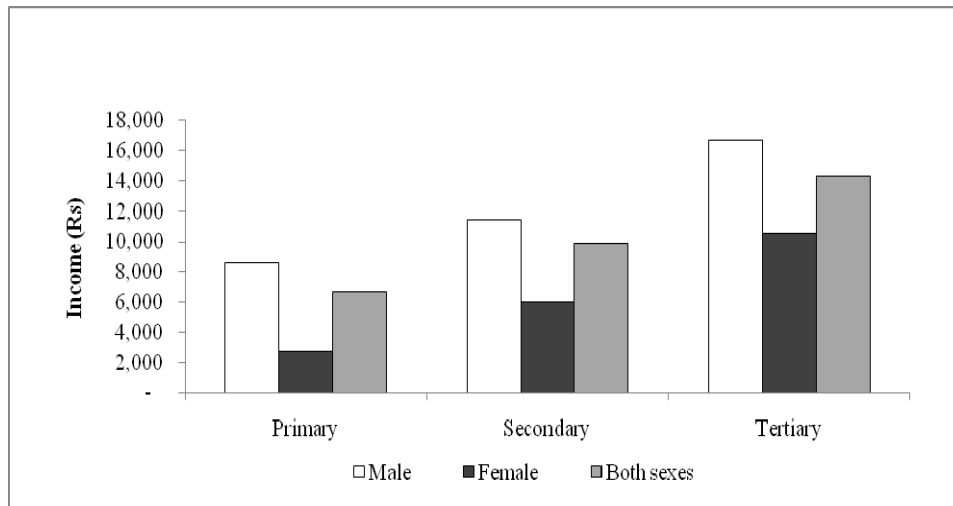


The tertiary sector provided jobs to 6 out every 10 workers and gave the highest pay

14. Out of every 10 workers, 6 were employed in the tertiary sector (covering trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries), 3 in the secondary sector (covering manufacturing, electricity & water and construction) and 1 in the primary sector (covering agriculture and mining & quarrying) (Table 7).

15. Income from employment was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 15,200), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 10,400) and the primary sector (Rs 8,100) (Table 8).

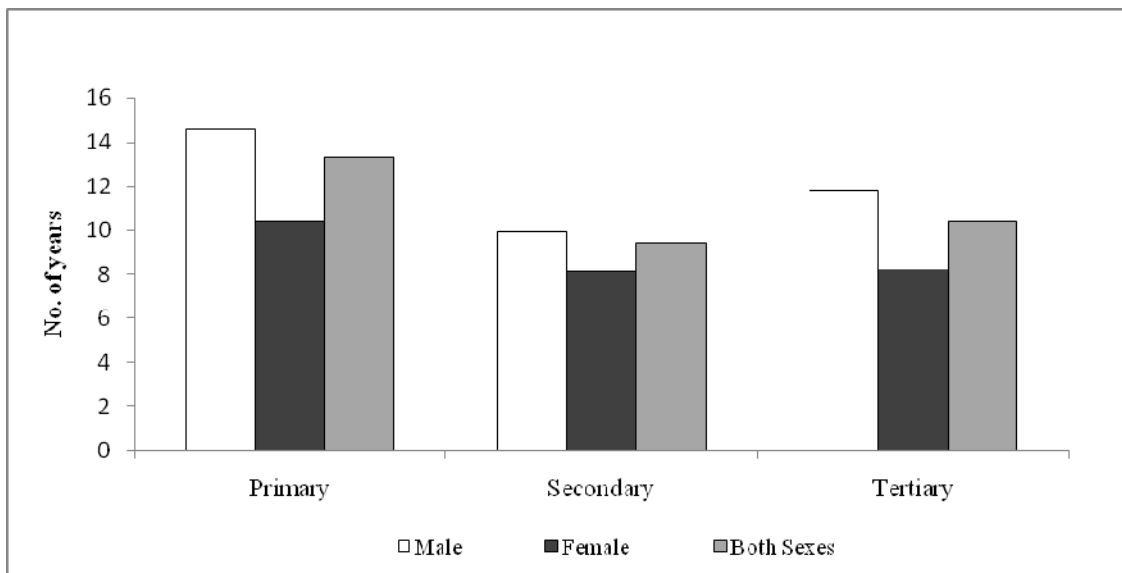
Chart 8 – Average monthly income from employment by industrial sector and sex, 2009



Workers in the primary sector had the highest length of service but worked for fewer hours

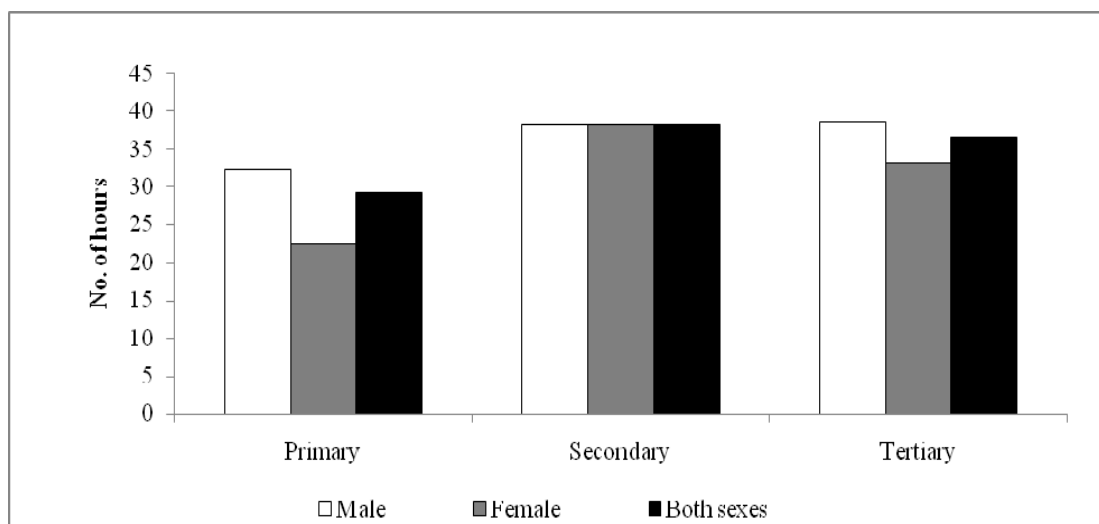
16. Workers in the primary sector had the highest length of service with their present employer (13.3 years), followed by the tertiary sector (10.4 years) and the secondary sector (9.4 years) (Table 9).

Chart 9 – Mean length of service by industrial sector and sex, 2009



17. Employed persons in the secondary sector had the longest hours of work (42.5 hours per week), followed by those in the tertiary sector (41.1 hours) and the primary sector (33.2 hours) (Table 10).

Chart 10 – Mean hours of work per week by industrial sector and sex, 2009



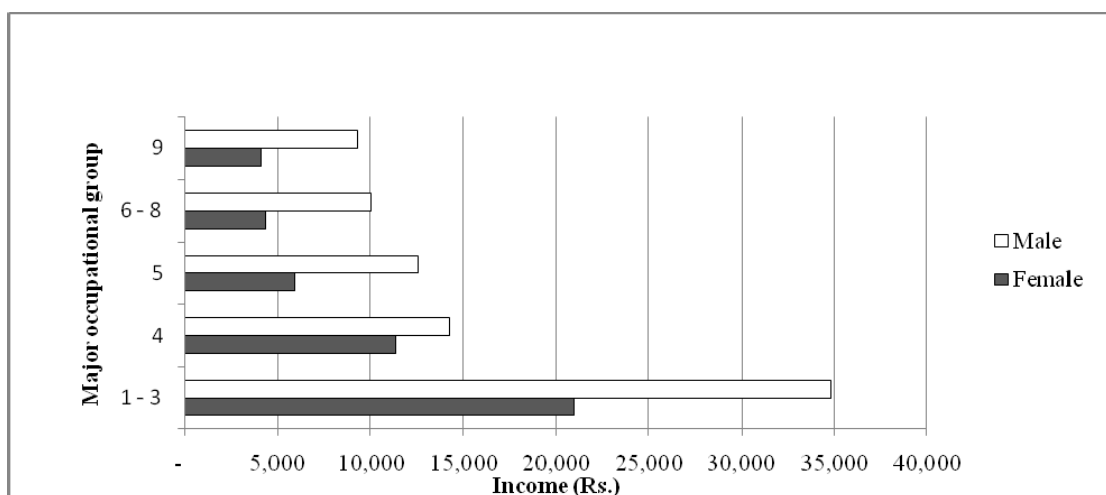
The Mauritian workforce is distributed across all occupational groups

18. Some 16.5% of the workforce was engaged in the higher occupational group (ISCO 1-3) which comprises legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals. Clerks (ISCO 4) made up 9.8% of the workforce; service, shop and market sales workers (ISCO 5) 19.1%. Another 34.9% were skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers (ISCO 6-8). Those engaged in elementary occupations (ISCO 9) made up 19.7% (Table 11).

Workers engaged in higher occupational groups earned the highest income

19. Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals earned the highest income (Rs 29,500), followed by clerks (Rs 12,900). The lowest income was drawn by those engaged in elementary occupations (Rs 7,400) (Table 12).

Chart 11 – Average monthly income from employment by occupational group and sex, 2009



1 out every 5 workers was available for additional work

20. In addition to this main job and secondary job (if any), 21.2% of the employed population were available for additional work. Employed women were less available for additional work than their male counterparts; 17.9% reported they were willing to work additional hours against 22.9% for men.

Only 5% of the employed had secondary jobs

21. Out of the 524,800 employed, 27,100, that is, around 5% held a secondary job. Most of the secondary job holders (72%) were employees in their main job. The main sectors in which they got their secondary jobs were: agriculture (33.2%), wholesale and retail trade and repairs (15.0%), and construction (11.5%).

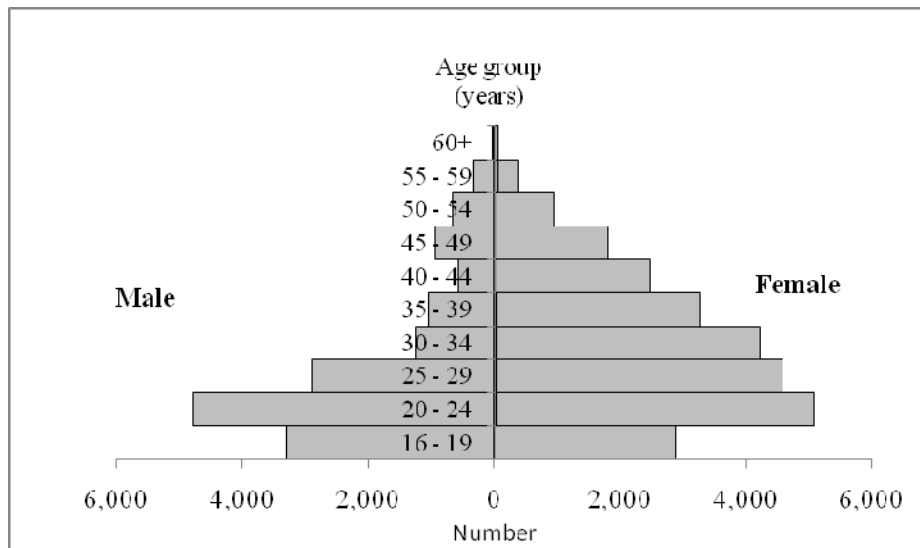
Unemployment

22. The number of unemployed persons numbered 41,500, comprising 15,800 males and 25,700 females. The unemployment rate was 7.3%, higher among females (12.3%) than among males (4.4%).

There are more unemployed among females than among males

23. The unbalanced shape of the pyramid in Chart 12 indicates the predominance of females among the unemployed at all age-groups. Women represented 62% of the total unemployed and they outnumbered men by 9,900.

Chart 12 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2009



Unemployed males are younger than their female counterparts

24. On average, an unemployed male was more than three years younger than his female counterpart. The mean age of the unemployed male was 28.5 years and that of unemployed female was 31.8 years.

Unemployment rate is highest among young persons

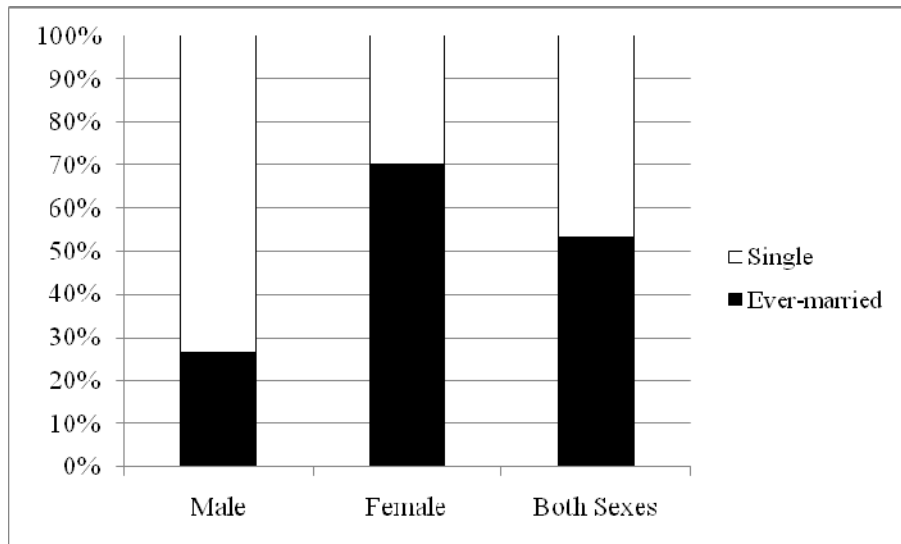
25. Unemployment rate was highest at the lowest age groups and decreased progressively with increasing age. It was 33.7% among those below 20 years and 2.1% at age 50 years and above (Table 13).

26. The disparity between male and female unemployment was highest in the lower age group; the difference was nearly 12 percentage points among the unemployed below 20 years and less than 3 percentage points among those aged 50 years and above.

The unemployed men are mostly single while the unemployed women are mostly ever-married

27. Out of the total number of unemployed, around half were ever-married and half were single. Most of the unemployed men, however, were single (73.4%) whereas most of the unemployed women were ever-married (70.0%), i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 14).

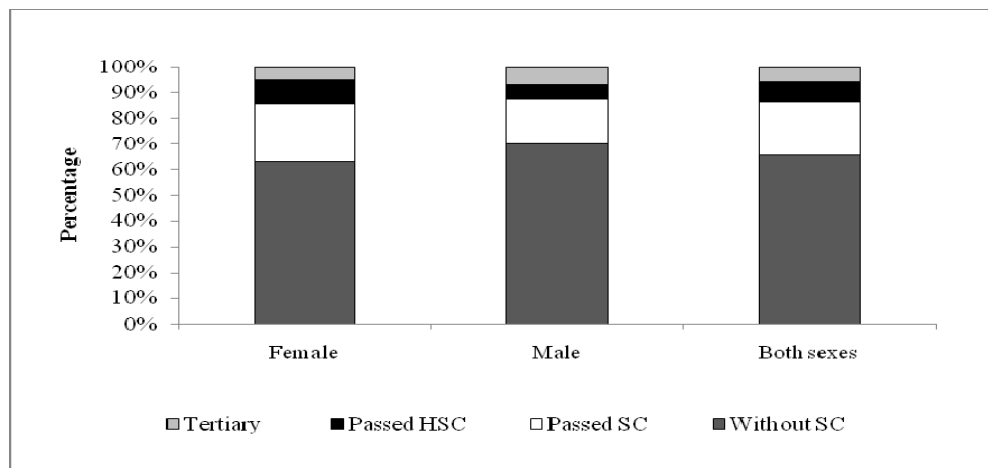
Chart 13 – Unemployed population by marital status and sex, 2009



A large majority of the unemployed do not hold the School Certificate

28. Some 65% of the unemployed, representing 27,300 persons, were without a Cambridge School Certificate (SC): 20% had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, 10% held the CPE certificate only, and a further 35% attended secondary school but did not pass the SC. The proportion with SC as highest attainment was 21% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 8%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 2,500 and represented 6% of the total unemployed (Table 15).

Chart 14 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2009



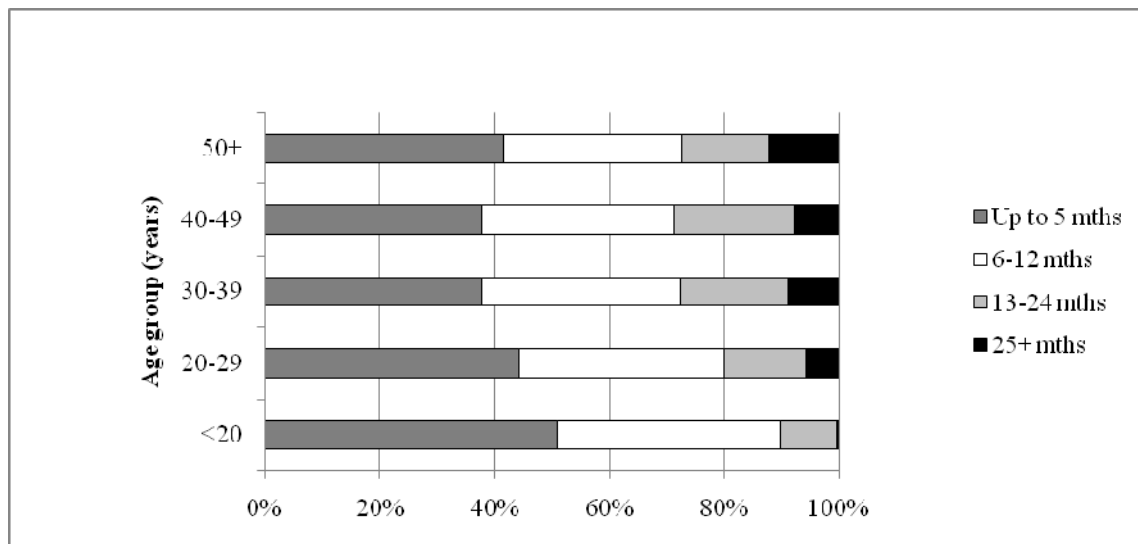
Unemployed women are generally more qualified than unemployed men

29. Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around 37% of them possessed the School Certificate or above against 30% among males. However, a higher proportion of unemployed men (7%) attained tertiary level education as compared to unemployed women (5%).

Women are in unemployment around four and a half months more than men

30. On average, an unemployed person had been without a job for 11.0 months. Women remained unemployed for 12.7 months compared to 8.1 months for men. The duration of unemployment varies with age (Chart 15). The proportion unemployed for less than six months was highest among the youngest age group while that for more than 24 months was highest among those aged 50 years and over.

Chart 15 – Duration of unemployment by age group, 2009



The unemployed is predominantly made up of persons with work experience

31. Around two thirds of the unemployed had worked in the past. Nearly half of them had worked previously in the secondary sector, mainly in 'Manufacturing' followed by 'Construction'. Some 47% had work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly 'Wholesale & retail trade' and 'Hotels & restaurants'. The remaining 4% previously worked in the agricultural sector.

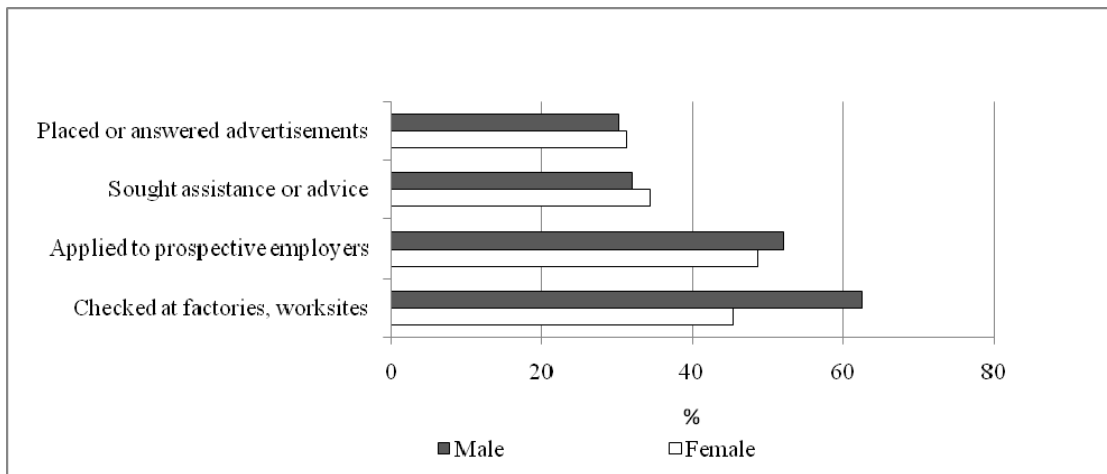
One quarter of the unemployed who worked before lost their job following closures and downsizing of firms

32. Some 25% of the unemployed lost their job following closure of firms and reduction in the workforce. Another 25% became jobless after completing their work while around 23% were dissatisfied with their employment.

The most popular method of job search was ‘checked at factories, worksites’ and ‘applied to prospective employers’

33. The unemployed usually has recourse to more than one method of job search. The most common method was ‘checked at factories, worksites, etc’ (52%) followed by ‘applied to prospective employers’ (50%). Around 36% were registered at the Employment Service. Less than 5% had taken steps to start a business of their own (Table 16).

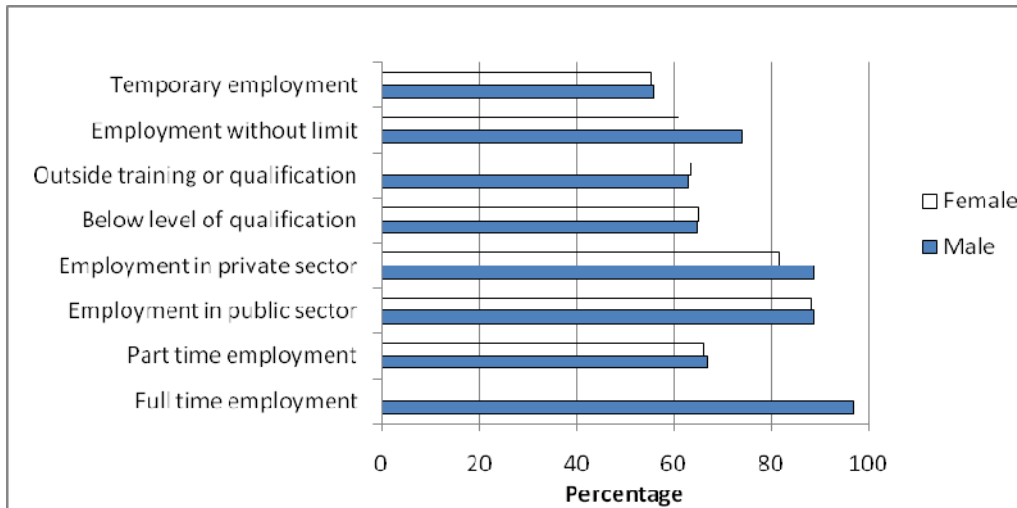
Chart 16 – Unemployed population by method of job search and sex, 2009



The unemployed were more willing to accept full time rather than part time employment

34. The unemployed were more likely to accept full time employment (93.0%) rather than part time employment (66.5%). They showed a slight preference for work in the public sector; 88.4% would take up a job in the public sector against 84.3% in the private sector. Only 55.7% were willing to have a temporary job. The proportion who would accept a job below or outside their level of qualification or training was around 65.0% (Table 17).

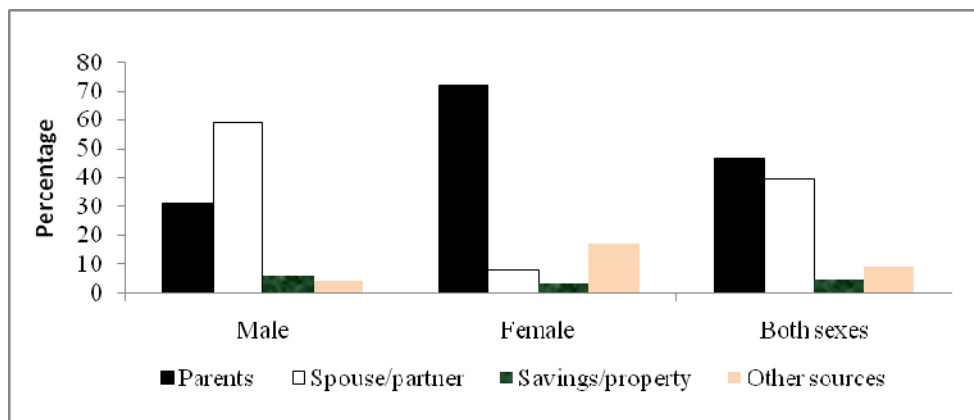
Chart 17 – Unemployed population by type of job willing to accept and sex, 2009



The unemployed relied mainly on their parents and spouse for financial support

35. The main source of income support for the unemployed to meet their daily needs was their parents (46.6%) followed by their spouse/partner (39.4%). Other sources of support were from other relatives, savings and pensions.

Chart 18 – Unemployed population by main source of income to meet daily needs and sex, 2009



Inactive population

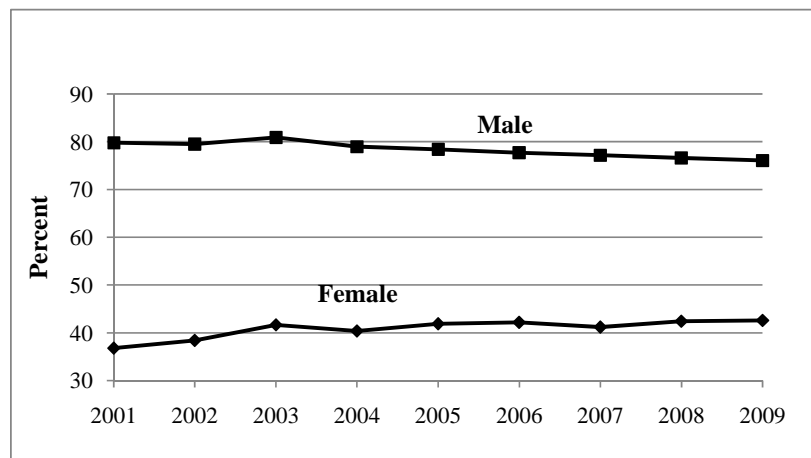
36. The number of persons aged 16 years and over not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) stood at 392,700 (112,700 males and 280,000 females) (Table 18). Some 3,600 of them were classified as inactives although they were not working and were available for work; the main reason being 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. About 56% of these inactives did not look for work because they either believed that suitable jobs were not available or did not know where to look for work.
37. The inactive population comprised 46.1% homemakers, 22.8% students, 21.1% retired or old persons and 7.2% sick or disabled persons.

Evolution from 2001 to 2009

Male activity rate is higher than for females but the gap is decreasing over time

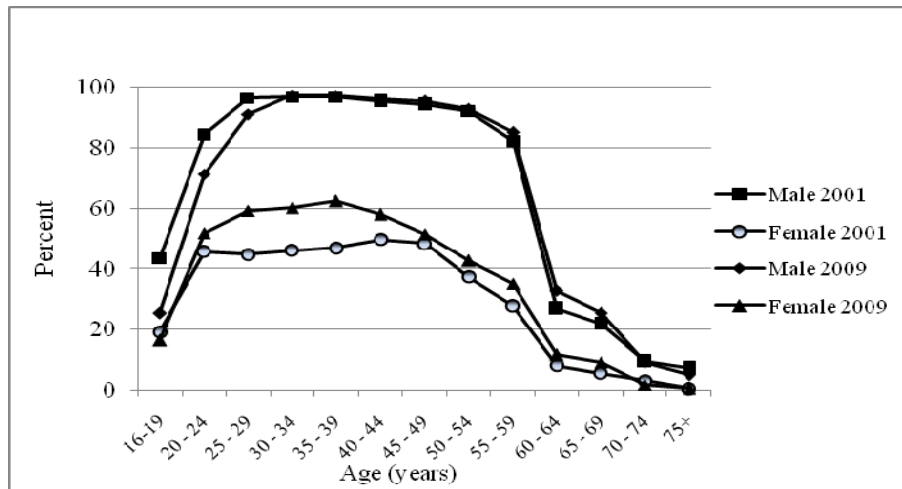
38. During the period 2001 to 2009, male activity rate was always higher than female activity rate (Chart 19). However, the gap is narrowing over time as the activity rate for men has been constantly decreasing over the years while that of females has been increasing (Table 19).

Chart 19 – Activity rate by sex, 2001 - 2009



39. Over the years, the shape of the curve for female activity rate by age (Chart 20) is tending towards that of the male. Increases in activity rate are noted for females aged 20 years and over, being more pronounced for women aged 25 - 44 years.

Chart 20 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2001 & 2009



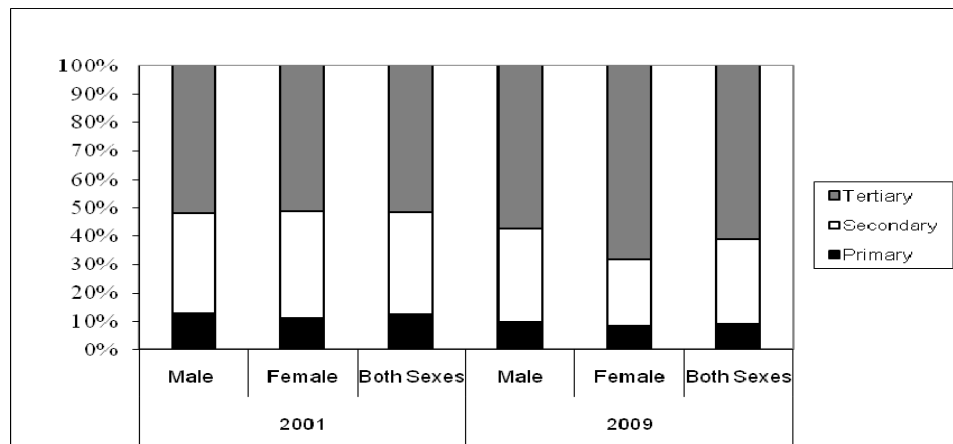
Female employment is increasing faster than male employment

40. During the period 2001 to 2009, female employment increased at a faster rate than male employment. On average, female employment increased annually by 3,300 or 2.0% whereas male employment increased by 2,900 or 0.9%.

The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment

41. Over time, the tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment. From 2001 to 2009, employment in this sector rose from 245,800 to 321,800; its share over total employment also increased from 52% to 61%. In contrast, employment in the primary and secondary sectors has been declining over time. In the primary sector, employment went down from 57,300 in 2001 to 47,100 in 2009 mainly due to a decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment declined from 172,500 to 155,900 mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector (Table 7).

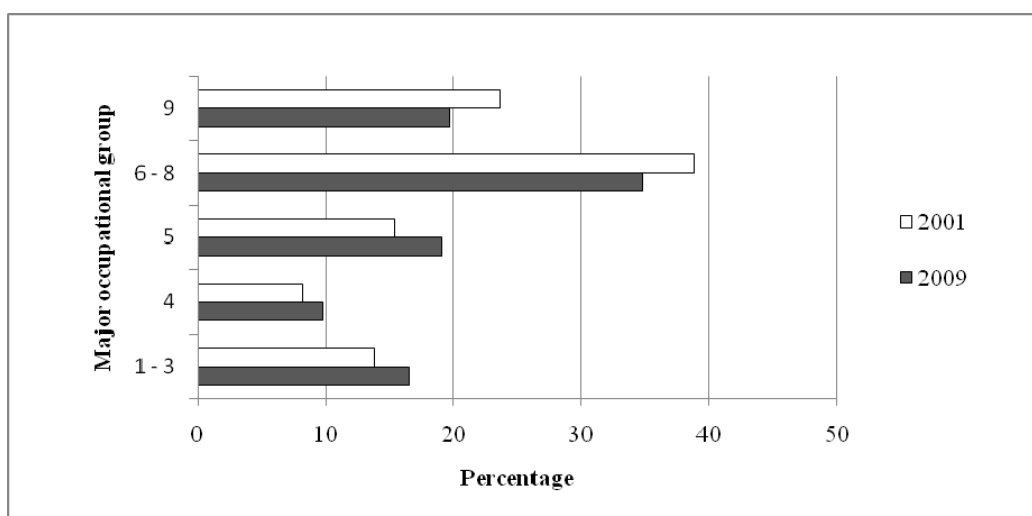
Chart 21 – Employed population by industrial sector and sex, 2001 - 2009



Mauritian workforce is moving up the occupation ladder

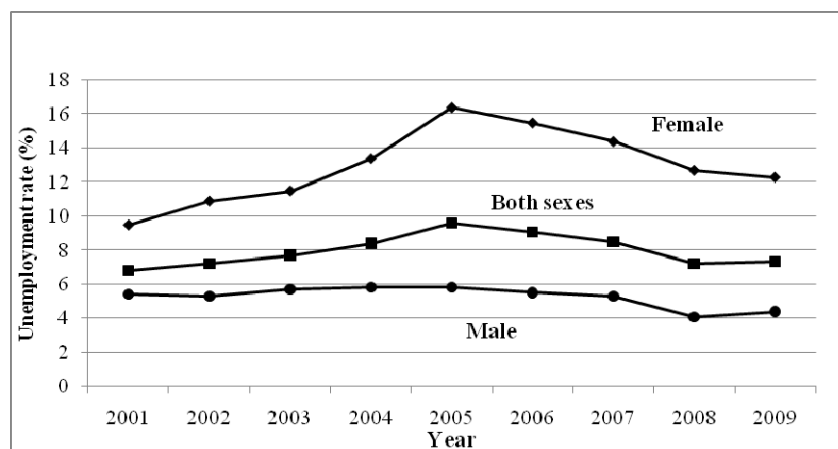
42. The share of employment in the higher occupational groups (ISCO 1-3) comprising legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals increased from 13.8% in 2001 to 16.5% in 2009. Service workers and shop and market sales workers (ISCO 5) also had a larger share of employment in 2009, 15.4% against 19.1% in 2001. In contrast the share of employment in the lowest occupational group (ISCO 9) representing elementary jobs decreased from 23.7% to 19.7%. Also, skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers (ISCO 6-8) were less represented, 34.9% in 2009 against 38.7% in 2001 (Table 11).

Chart 22 – Employed population by occupational group, 2001 – 2009



Unemployment rate has been decreasing since 2005 but has taken a slight upward trend in 2009

Chart 23 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2001 - 2009



43. The unemployment rate increased from 6.8% in 2001, to 9.6% in 2005 after which it started declining. It however rose slightly from 7.2% in 2008 to 7.3% in 2009 (Table 20).
44. The change over time is quite smooth for male while female unemployment rate increased to attain a peak in 2005, after which it declined. The disparity between male and female unemployment is higher in 2009 than in 2001.

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June 2010

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Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2008 & 2009

	2008				2009			
	Estimates	Standard error	95% confidence interval		Estimates	Standard error	95% confidence interval	
			Lower limit	upper limit			Lower limit	upper limit
Labour Force								
Both sexes	559,400	6,100	547,400	571,400	566,300	6,400	553,600	578,900
Male	355,600	4,100	347,400	363,600	358,100	4,300	349,700	366,500
Female	203,800	3,300	197,400	210,400	208,200	3,500	201,300	215,100
Employment								
Both sexes	519,000	5,800	507,700	530,500	524,800	6,100	512,700	536,600
Male	341,000	4,000	333,200	348,700	342,300	4,200	334,100	350,400
Female	178,000	3,200	171,900	184,400	182,500	3,300	175,900	189,000
Unemployment								
Both sexes	40,400	1,600	37,100	43,400	41,500	1,600	38,400	44,800
Male	14,600	900	12,800	16,300	15,800	924	14,000	17,700
Female	25,800	1,200	23,400	28,100	25,700	1,200	23,400	28,100
Inactive population								
Both sexes	385,600	4,800	376,200	394,900	392,700	5,500	381,900	403,400
Male	108,900	2,700	103,700	114,200	112,700	2,700	107,400	117,900
Female	276,700	3,500	269,700	283,600	280,000	4,100	271,900	288,100
Activity rate (%)								
Both sexes	59.2	0.4	58.4	60.0	59.1	0.4	58.3	59.9
Male	76.6	0.5	75.6	77.5	76.1	0.5	75.2	77.0
Female	42.4	0.6	41.3	43.6	42.6	0.6	41.5	43.8
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both sexes	7.2	0.3	6.7	7.7	7.3	0.3	6.8	7.9
Male	4.1	0.2	3.6	4.6	4.4	0.3	3.9	4.9
Female	12.7	0.6	11.5	13.7	12.3	0.5	11.3	13.4

Table 2 - Labour force, employment and unemployment by age group and sex - 2009

Age group (years)	Labour force			Employment			Unemployment		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 19	11,300	7,100	18,400	8,000	4,200	12,200	3,300	2,900	6,200
20 - 24	33,500	23,000	56,500	28,700	18,000	46,700	4,800	5,000	9,800
25 - 29	47,000	29,400	76,400	44,100	24,800	68,900	2,900	4,600	7,500
30 - 34	49,900	31,200	81,100	48,500	26,800	75,300	1,400	4,400	5,800
35 - 39	43,600	28,400	72,000	42,600	25,200	67,800	1,000	3,200	4,200
40 - 44	46,700	28,500	75,200	46,100	26,000	72,100	2,400	5,600	8,000
45 - 49	46,100	24,900	71,000	45,200	23,100	68,300			
50 - 54	38,200	17,800	56,000	37,600	16,900	54,500			
55 - 59	29,200	12,800	42,000	28,900	12,400	41,300			
60 - 64	7,300	3,000	10,300	7,300	3,000	10,300			
65 & over	5,300	2,100	7,400	5,300	2,100	7,400			
Total	358,100	208,200	566,300	342,300	182,500	524,800	15,800	25,700	41,500

Table 3 - Employed population by marital status and sex - 2009

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Married	242,200	119,200	361,400
Widowed/divorced /separated	12,200	26,700	38,900
Single	87,900	36,600	124,500
All marital states	342,300	182,500	524,800

Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2009

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	17,400	3,100	20,500
Own account worker	55,200	17,100	72,300
Employee	267,400	153,500	420,900
Contributing family worker	2,300	8,800	11,100
All employment states	342,300	182,500	524,800

Table 5 - Mean hours of work per week by employment status and sex - 2009

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	43.8	37.2	42.8
Own account worker	39.9	29.9	37.6
Employee	43.6	37.9	41.5
Contributing family worker	36.7	29.0	30.7
All employment states	43.0	36.8	40.8

Table 6 - Average monthly income (Rs) from employment by employment status and sex - 2009

Employment status	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	23,100	19,000	22,500
Own account worker	10,600	5,900	9,500
Employee	15,100	10,200	13,300
All employment states	14,800	9,900	13,100

Table 7- Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2001 & 2009

Industrial Sector	2001			2009		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	40,200	17,100	57,300	32,400	14,700	47,100
Secondary	113,500	59,000	172,500	112,800	43,100	155,900
<i>of which Manufacturing</i>	<i>66,400</i>	<i>57,600</i>	<i>124,000</i>	<i>55,000</i>	<i>41,300</i>	<i>96,300</i>
<i>Construction</i>	<i>43,000</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>44,100</i>	<i>54,400</i>	<i>1,500</i>	<i>55,900</i>
Tertiary	165,800	80,000	245,800	197,100	124,700	321,800
<i>of which Wholesale and retail trade</i>	<i>46,800</i>	<i>18,300</i>	<i>65,100</i>	<i>47,200</i>	<i>27,400</i>	<i>74,600</i>
<i>Hotels and restaurants</i>	<i>17,600</i>	<i>6,300</i>	<i>23,900</i>	<i>24,700</i>	<i>13,900</i>	<i>38,600</i>
<i>Transport, storage and communications</i>	<i>29,200</i>	<i>3,500</i>	<i>32,700</i>	<i>34,000</i>	<i>5,600</i>	<i>39,600</i>
<i>Public administration and defence</i>	<i>24,300</i>	<i>5,800</i>	<i>30,100</i>	<i>27,300</i>	<i>8,500</i>	<i>35,800</i>
<i>Education, health and social work</i>	<i>19,300</i>	<i>20,500</i>	<i>39,800</i>	<i>37,400</i>	<i>51,200</i>	<i>88,600</i>
All sectors	319,500	156,100	475,600	342,300	182,500	524,800

Table 8 - Average monthly income (Rs) from employment by industrial sector and sex - 2009

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Primary	9,700	3,900	8,100
Secondary	11,900	6,400	10,400
Tertiary	17,200	11,800	15,200
All sectors	14,800	9,900	13,100

Table 9 - Mean length of service by industrial sector and sex - 2009

Industrial Sector	Length of service (years)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	14.6	10.4	13.3
Secondary	9.9	8.1	9.4
Tertiary	11.8	8.2	10.4
All sectors	11.4	8.4	10.4

Table 10 - Mean hours of work per week by industrial sector and sex - 2009

Industrial Sector	Mean hours of work per week		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	37.2	24.5	33.2
Secondary	42.9	41.3	42.5
Tertiary	43.9	36.6	41.1
All sectors	43.0	36.8	40.8

Table 11 - Employed population by occupational group and sex - 2001 & 2009

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	2001			2009		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals ; technicians and associate professionals	42,600	23,300	65,900	51,500	35,200	86,700
4	Clerks	17,900	22,100	40,000	20,800	30,600	51,400
5	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	52,000	21,100	73,100	60,900	39,400	100,300
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers	136,900	47,000	183,900	147,500	35,400	182,900
9	Elementary occupations	70,100	42,600	112,700	61,600	41,900	103,500
	All occupational groups	319,500	156,100	475,600	342,300	182,500	524,800

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 12 - Average monthly income (Rs) from employment by occupational group and sex - 2009

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Average monthly income (Rs)		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals	34,900	21,600	29,500
4	Clerks	14,400	11,900	12,900
5	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	13,100	7,200	11,000
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers	10,500	5,300	9,600
9	Elementary occupations	9,500	4,300	7,400
	All occupational groups	14,800	9,900	13,100

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 13 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2009

Age group (Years)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Below 20	29.2	40.8	33.7
20 - 29	9.5	18.4	13.0
30 - 39	2.5	12.5	6.4
40 - 49	1.6	8.0	4.0
50 & over	1.3	3.9	2.1
All ages	4.4	12.3	7.3

Table 14 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex - 2009

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Ever-married	4,200	18,000	22,200
Single	11,600	7,700	19,300
Total	15,800	25,700	41,500

Table 15 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex - 2009

Educational attainment	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	5,400	7,100	12,500
<i>Below CPE</i>	3,900	4,600	8,500
<i>Passed CPE</i>	1,500	2,500	4,000
Secondary	9,300	17,200	26,500
<i>Form I - V but not passed SC</i>	5,700	9,100	14,800
<i>Passed SC</i>	3,600	5,800	8,500
<i>Passed HSC</i>		2,300	3,200
Tertiary level	1,100	1,400	2,500
Total	15,800	25,700	41,500

Table 16 - Unemployed population by method of job search and sex - 2009

Method of job search	Male	Female	Both sexes
Applied to prospective employers	8,200	12,600	20,700
Checked at factories, worksites, etc	9,900	11,700	21,600
Registered at Employment Service	5,000	10,100	15,100
Placed or answered advertisements	4,800	8,100	12,900
Sought assistance or advice*	5,100	8,800	13,900
All unemployed	15,800	25,700	41,500

* to obtain a paid job or to start own business

Table 17 - Unemployed population by type of job willing to accept and sex - 2009

Type of jobs willing to accept	Number		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Full time employment	15,400	23,200	38,600
Part time employment	10,600	17,000	27,600
Employment without limit	11,700	15,700	27,400
Temporary employment	8,800	14,200	23,100
Employment in public sector	14,000	22,700	36,700
Employment in private sector	14,000	21,000	35,000
Below level of qualification	10,300	16,700	27,000
Outside training or qualification	10,000	16,300	26,300
All unemployed	15,800	25,700	41,500

Table 18 - Inactive population by inactivity status and sex - 2009

Inactivity status	Male	Female	Both sexes
Students	46,600	43,100	89,700
Retired or old persons	48,700	34,000	82,700
Sick or disabled persons	13,800	15,000	28,800
Homemakers	3,600	180,600	181,000
Other		7,300	10,500
Total	112,700	280,000	392,700

Table 19 - Age specific activity rate (%) by sex - 2001 & 2009

Age group (years)	2001			2009		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 19	43.5	19.4	31.6	25.6	16.5	21.1
20 - 24	84.3	45.8	65.4	71.3	52.0	61.9
25 - 29	96.4	44.8	70.8	90.9	59.2	75.4
30 - 34	96.8	46.2	71.8	97.4	60.2	78.7
35 - 39	96.7	47.1	72.1	97.2	62.3	79.6
40 - 44	95.2	49.7	72.7	96.0	57.9	76.8
45 - 49	94.0	48.4	71.3	95.2	51.5	73.4
50 - 54	92.0	37.5	64.3	92.8	42.6	67.5
55 - 59	82.1	27.9	53.5	84.9	35.2	59.4
60 - 64	27.0	8.2	16.9	33.1	11.7	21.7
65 & over	13.5	3.1	7.5	14.1	3.9	8.1
All ages	79.8	36.8	58.0	76.1	42.6	59.1

Table 20 - Unemployment rate (%) by sex, 2001 - 2009

Year	Unemployment rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
2001	5.4	9.5	6.8
2002	5.3	10.9	7.2
2003	5.7	11.5	7.7
2004	5.8	13.4	8.4
2005	5.8	16.4	9.6
2006	5.5	15.5	9.1
2007	5.3	14.4	8.5
2008	4.1	12.7	7.2
2009	4.4	12.3	7.3

Methodology of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

- 1. Data collection** : Face to face interviewing of household members.
- 2. 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 January 2011.
- 3. Scope and coverage of collection** : Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.
- 4. Sampling methodology** : 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 in October 2002. The second stage stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Questionnaire** : The CMPHS questionnaire comprises three modules: (a) a basic module common to all rounds of the survey covering the general characteristics of the population (b) a second module covering labour force with in-depth investigation and a core set of questions which are kept constant at all rounds of the survey and (c) a third module grouping other topics of interest but investigated in less details.

7. Estimation and reliability of estimates : 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

- 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. Activity rate** : Activity rate is the ratio (%) of labour force to population aged 16+ (active and inactive population).
- 6. Unemployment rate** : Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to labour force.
- 7. 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.
- 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 contributing family workers.
- 10. Employee** : An Employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity.
- 11. Apprentice** : An Apprentice is a person being trained for a job or trade and does not receive pay or may just receive some pocket money; an apprentice is considered as an employee.
- 12. Contributing family worker** : A Contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an enterprise operated by a family member.

13. 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 educational certificates (SC and HSC or equivalent) also possess either a certificate/diploma (which is above the HSC but below a first degree) or a degree.

14. Income from employment

Paid employee : income refers to gross pay, i.e., before tax and other deductions. Gross pay includes all allowances and overtime payments.

Employer and own account worker : income refers to the net income obtained after deductions of expenses.

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*