Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – First quarter 2010

Introduction

- 1. This issue of Economic and Social Indicators (ESI) presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the first quarter of 2010, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from January to March 2010. The estimates refer to the Mauritian population aged 16 years and above.
- **2.** Annual estimates of labour force including foreign workers derived after integrating data from CMPHS with other sources are given at Annex 3.

Key figures

				Change		
	Q1 2009	Q4 2009	Q1 2010	Q1 2009 - Q1 2010	Q4 2009 - Q1 2010	
Labour force	562,900	572,200	572,400	+9,500	+200	
Employment	518,000	536,400	524,400	+6,400	-12,000	
Unemployment	44,900	35,800	48,000	+3,100	+12,200	
Unemployment rate (%)	8.0	6.3	8.4	+0.4	+2.1	
Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (%)	7.4	7.2	7.8	+0.4	+0.6	

Forecast of employment and unemployment - Year 2010

	Year 2009	Forecast Year 2010	Change
Employment	524,800	530,200	+5,400
Unemployment	41,500	42,700	+1,200
Unemployment rate (%)	7.3	7.5	+0.2

Labour market overview, first quarter 2010

- 3. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2009, there has been an increase in the labour force (+9,500) as both employment (+6,400) and unemployment increased (+3,100).
- 4. Compared with the previous quarter, labour force increased marginally by 200; employment decreased by 12,000 while unemployment increased by 12,200.

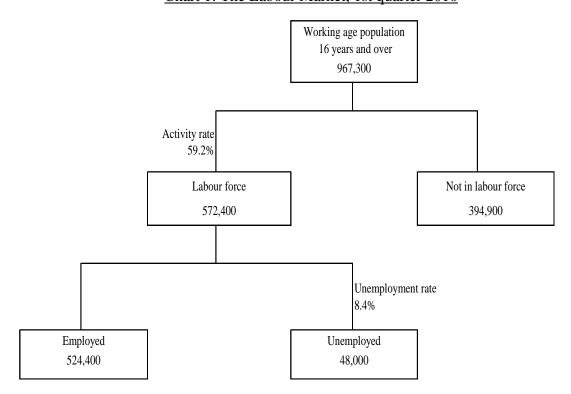


Chart 1: The Labour Market, 1st quarter 2010

Labour force participation

- 5. The activity rate for first quarter 2010 was 59.2%, up by 0.2 percentage point from 59.0% in the corresponding period one year earlier. Male activity rate decreased by 0.5 percentage point to 75.4% while female activity rate increased by 0.7 percentage point to 43.5%.
- 6. Compared with the previous quarter, the activity rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point (from 59.4% to 59.2%) with male activity rate decreasing by 0.8 percentage point and female activity increasing by 0.3 percentage point.

Employment

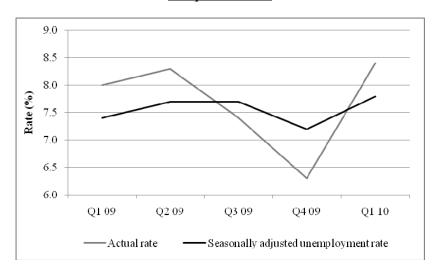
- 7. From first quarter 2009 to first quarter 2010, employment rose by 6,400 (+1.2%) to 524,400. This rise was driven by an increase of 5,500 in female employment to 186,000 while male employment increased by 900 to 338,400.
- 8. Compared with the previous quarter, employment declined by 12,000 due to a fall of 8,400 in male employment and 3,600 in female employment.

Unemployment

- 9. From first quarter 2009 to first quarter 2010, the number of unemployed persons increased by 3,100 to 48,000. The number of unemployed males increased by 1,500 and unemployed females by 1,600.
- 10. The main characteristics of the unemployed as at first quarter 2010 are as follows:
 - (i) The 48,000 unemployed comprised 19,300 males (40%) and 28,700 females (60%).
 - (ii) Around 20,200 (42%) of them were aged below 25 years.
 - (iii) About half (24,100) of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (77%) was single while among females, the majority (68%) was ever married.
 - (iv) Some 10,000 or 21% had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level or equivalent and a further 21,200 (44%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
 - (v) Around 39,600 (83%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 8,400 (17%) for more than one year.
 - (vi) About 32,600 (68%) had working experience and 15,400 (32%) were looking for a job for the first time.
 - (vii) Around 20,100 (42%) were registered at the Employment Service.
 - (viii) There were 9,300 (19%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 4,000 (43%) 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 11,800. Among them, about 8,500 (72%) had not passed SC.
 - (x) 5,400 or 11% of the unemployed were heads of households.
 - (xi) 6,800 (14%) lived in households with no employed persons.

- 11. The unemployment rate went up by 0.4 percentage point to 8.4% from first quarter 2009 to first quarter 2010. Male unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage point to 5.4% and female unemployment rate increased by 0.3 percentage point to 13.4%.
- 12. When compared with fourth quarter of 2009, the number of unemployed persons increased by 12,200 (5,800 males and 6,400 females) and the unemployment rate by 2.1 percentage points.

<u>Chart 2: Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by quarter, 1st quarter 2009 - 1st quarter 2010</u>



13. Unemployment rate is usually higher in the first half of the year because of school leavers joining the labour market, and lower in the second half 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 real trend over time, adjustments have to be made for seasonal fluctuations. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2010 was 7.8%, higher than the rate of 7.2% for the fourth quarter of 2009 and 7.4% for the first quarter of 2009.

Economically inactive population

- 14. The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 394,900 at first quarter 2010.
- 15. Among them, 2,500 persons were not working and available for work but were not actively looking for work. These 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, those inactives either believed that suitable jobs were not available or did not know where to look for work.
- 16. The inactive population was made up of 116,600 males and 278,300 females. Among inactive males, 43% were "Retired or old persons" and 40% were students. Among females, 63% were homemakers and 16% students.

Sampling errors

- 17. The estimates in this publication are based on the results of a sample survey and are thus subject to sample variability. Standard errors and confidence intervals give an indication of this variability.
- 18. The standard error of the estimates and the 95% confidence interval which represent a 95% chance that the true value lies within that interval, are given in the table that follows.

Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 1st quarter 2009 – 1st quarter 2010

Both Sexes

		6. 1.1	95% confidence	interval	
	Estimates	Standard — Error	Lower limit	Upper limit	
Labour force					
2009 Q1	562,900	11,900	539,300	586,400	
Q2	564,500	16,600	531,800	597,100	
Q3	569,400	13,300	543,300	595,500	
Q4	572,200	15,900	540,800	603,500	
2010 Q1	572,400	12,100	548,500	596,300	
Employment					
2009 Q1	518,000	11,000	496,400	539,600	
Q2	517,700	14,800	488,500	546,900	
Q3	527,300	12,500	502,600	551,800	
Q4	536,400	15,400	505,900	566,600	
2010 Q 1	524,400	11,400	502,000	546,900	
Unemployment					
2009 Q1	44,900	3,000	38,900	50,800	
Q2	46,800	3,300	40,200	53,300	
Q3	42,100	3,000	36,200	48,000	
Q4	35,800	2,800	30,500	41,300	
2010 Q 1	48,000	3,000	42,100	53,800	
Unemployment rate (%)					
2009 Q1	8.0	0.5	7.0	8.9	
Q2	8.3	0.5	7.3	9.2	
Q3	7.4	0.5	6.4	8.4	
Q4	6.3	0.5	5.4	7.2	
2010 Q1	8.4	0.5	7.4	9.3	
Activity rate (%)					
2009 Q1	59.0	0.7	57.7	60.3	
Q2	58.9	0.7	57.6	60.3	
Q3	59.3	0.6	58.0	60.5	
Q4	59.4	0.7	58.0	60.7	
2010 Q1	59.2	0.6	57.9	60.4	

Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 1st quarter 2009 – 1st quarter 2010

Male

	T 41 4	Standard	95% confidence interval		
	Estimates	Error	Lower limit	Upper limit	
Labour force					
2009 Q1	355,300	7,000	341,500	369,000	
Q2	357,300	11,300	335,000	379,700	
Q3	357,700	8,500	341,000	374,300	
Q4	360,300	10,300	340,000	380,600	
2010 Q1	357,700	7,800	342,300	373,200	
Employment					
2009 Q1	337,500	6,900	323,800	351,100	
Q2	340,300	10,700	319,200	361,400	
Q3	342,800	8,300	326,300	359,100	
Q4	346,800	10,200	326,600	366,900	
2010 Q1	338,400	7,500	323,600	353,300	
Unemployment					
2009 Q1	17,800	1,700	14,500	21,000	
Q2	17,000	1,700	13,700	20,400	
Q3	14,900	1,800	11,500	18,400	
Q4	13,500	1,700	10,300	16,900	
2010 Q1	19,300	1,900	15,600	23,000	
Unemployment rate (%)					
2009 Q1	5.0	0.5	4.1	5.9	
Q2	4.8	0.4	3.9	5.6	
Q3	4.2	0.5	3.2	5.1	
Q4	3.7	0.5	2.9	4.7	
2010 Q1	5.4	0.5	4.4	6.4	
Activity rate (%)					
2009 Q1	75.9	0.7	74.4	77.3	
Q2	76.0	0.7	74.5	77.5	
Q3	75.8	0.8	74.3	77.4	
Q4	76.2	0.8	74.7	77.7	
2010 Q1	75.4	0.7	74.0	76.8	

Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 1st quarter 2009 – 1st quarter 2010

Female

	Fatherstee	Standard	95% confidence interval		
	Estimates	Error	Lower limit	Upper limit	
Labour force					
2009 Q1	207,600	6,800	194,300	220,900	
Q2	207,200	7,400	192,400	221,800	
Q3	211,700	6,500	198,900	224,600	
Q4	211,900	7,000	198,100	225,600	
2010 Q1	214,700	6,400	202,100	227,200	
Employment					
2009 Q1	180,500	6,000	168,700	192,200	
Q2	177,400	6,000	165,500	189,200	
Q3	184,500	6,000	172,800	196,300	
Q4	189,600	6,800	176,200	202,900	
2010 Q	186,000	6,000	174,200	197,700	
Unemployment					
2009 Q1	27,100	2,400	22,400	31,800	
Q2	29,800	2,900	23,900	35,600	
Q3	27,200	2,200	22,900	31,600	
Q4	22,300	2,000	18,500	26,200	
2010 Q1	28,700	2,200	24,400	33,000	
Unemployment rate (%)					
2009 Q1	13.1	1.0	11.1	15.0	
Q2	14.4	1.2	12.1	16.7	
Q3	12.8	1.0	11.0	14.7	
Q4		0.9	8.8	12.3	
2010 Q1	13.4	0.9	11.5	15.2	
Activity rate (%)					
2009 Q1	42.8	1.0	40.8	44.8	
Q2	42.5	1.0	40.5	44.5	
Q3		0.9	41.4	45.1	
Q4		1.0	41.3	45.1	
2010 Q1		1.0	41.6	45.4	

Longer time series

19. The following graphs show the series for employment, unemployment and activity rate over a six year period.

Chart 3: Employment by quarter, 1st quarter 2004 - 1st quarter 2010

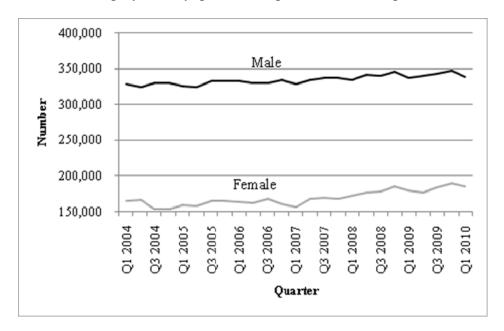


Chart 4: Unemployment rate by quarter, 1st quarter 2004 - 1st quarter 2010

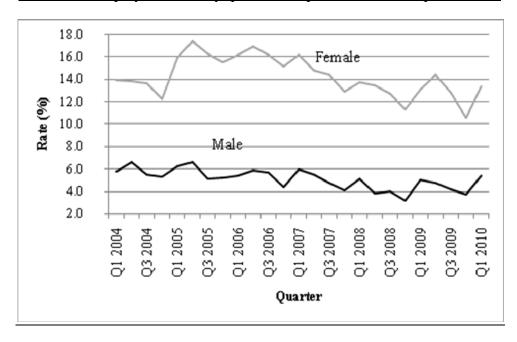


Chart 5: Activity rate by quarter, 1st quarter 2004 - 1st quarter 2010

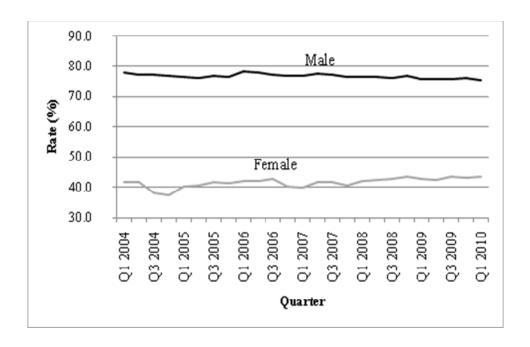
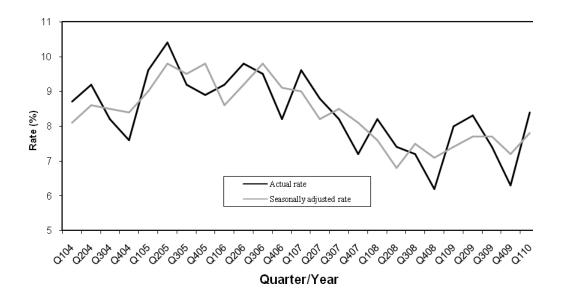


Chart 6: Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1st quarter 2004 - 1st quarter 2010



The following tables are available together with the web version of this publication and can be downloaded from the CSO website at http://statsmauritius.gov.mu. From the homepage, click on 'Statistics by subject' followed by 'labour' then select the appropriate publication under the heading 'Publications – Economic and Social Indicators'.

List of tables

Table1: Labour market activity by status, 1st Quarter 2009 to 1st Quarter 2010

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by age and sex, 1st Quarter 2010

Table 3: Employment by industrial activity, 1st Quarter 2009 to 1st Quarter 2010

Table 4: Employment by occupational group, 1st Quarter 2009 to 1st Quarter 2010

Table 5: Employment by hours worked, 1st Quarter 2009 to 1st Quarter 2010

Table 6: Unemployment by educational attainment, 1st Quarter 2009 to 1st Quarter 2010

Table 7: Unemployment by age, 1st Quarter 2009 to 1st Quarter 2010

Table 8: Unemployment by work experience, 1st Quarter 2009 to 1st Quarter 2010

Table 9: Economically inactive population by reason, 1st Quarter 2009 to 1st Quarter 2010

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NOTES

Release of Labour Force data

Labour Force statistics are compiled and published in the "Economic and Social Indicators" in March, June, September and December according to an advance calendar posted on the website of the Central Statistics Office (http://statsmauritius.gov.mu). This issue provides data for the 1st quarter 2010 compared to the same quarter a year ago.

However, where appropriate, historical series are also provided for the main indicators.

The CMPHS Survey methodology

Data collection

Face to face interviews of household members are carried out by qualified interviewers recruited by the office.

Frequency of data collection

Data collection is carried out monthly except in 2004 when it 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.

Scope and coverage of collection

All private Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues are covered.

Sampling method

A Stratified two-stage sampling design is used. 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.

The second stage stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household.

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 (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.

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, 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.

Annex 2

Definitions

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.

Employment

Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 16 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.).

It is to be noted that 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.

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.

Labour force

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

Unemployment rate

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

Inactive population

Inactive population includes all Mauritians aged 16+ years, 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.

Activity rate

Activity rate is the ratio (%) of labour force to population aged 16+ (active and inactive population).

Employer

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

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.

Employee

An Employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity.

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.

Contributing family worker

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

Educational attainment

Primary: comprises persons who have studied up to a "Standard" between Standard 1 and the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) or equivalent.

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

Tertiary: comprises persons who in addition to 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.

Annual labour force estimates based on data from various sources, 2002 - 2010

Annex 3

	Lal	oour force		Employment			Unemployment ¹		
	Mauritians aged 16+	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments	outside large establishments	Total	of whom Mauritians	Number	Rate
	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(%)
Both sexes									
2002	513.0	17.0	530.0	297.2	196.0	493.2	476.2	36.8	7.2
2003	520.9	18.2	539.1	296.9	202.1	499.0	480.8	40.1	7.7
2004	531.3	17.5	548.8	293.3	210.9	504.2	486.7	44.6	8.4
2005	542.5	16.6	559.1	292.2	215.0	507.2	490.6	51.9	9.6
2006	548.4	16.7	565.1	295.1	220.2	515.3	498.6	49.8	9.1
2007	548.9	21.6	570.5	302.0	221.7	523.7	502.1	46.8	8.5
2008	559.4	24.0	583.4	311.6	231.4	543.0	519.0	40.4	7.2
2009	566.3	21.0	587.3	306.0	239.8	545.8	524.8	41.5	7.3
2010 ²	572.9	21.5	594.4	308.4	243.3	551.7	530.2	42.7	7.5
Change current year over previous:	6.6	0.5	7.1	2.4	3.5	5.9	5.4	1.2	0.2
Male									
2002	339.8	6.4	346.2	188.2	140.0	328.2	321.8	18.0	5.3
2003	343.1	7.9	351.0	188.2	143.2	331.4	323.5	19.6	5.7
2004	347.8	9.0	356.8	189.1	147.7	336.8	327.8	20.0	5.8
2005	349.6	9.1	358.7	189.3	149.2	338.5	329.4	20.2	5.8
2006	351.4	8.3	359.7	190.0	150.5	340.5	332.2	19.2	5.5
2007	353.6	12.1	365.7	195.6	151.5	347.1	335.0	18.6	5.3
2008	355.6	14.7	370.3	201.0	154.7	355.7	341.0	14.6	4.1
2009	358.1	13.0	371.1	198.0	157.3	355.3	342.3	15.8	4.4
2010 ²	360.3	13.5	373.8	199.2	158.3	357.5	344.0	16.3	4.5
Change current year over previous: Female	2.2	0.5	2.7	1.2	1.0	2.2	1.7	0.5	0.1
2002	173.2	10.6	183.8	109.0	56.0	165.0	154.4	18.8	10.9
2003	177.8	10.3	188.1	108.7	58.9	167.6		20.5	11.5
2004		8.5	192.0	104.2		167.4		24.6	13.4
2005	192.9	7.5	200.4	102.9	65.8	168.7	161.2	31.7	16.4
2006		8.4	205.4	105.1	69.7	174.8		30.6	15.5
2007	195.3	9.5	204.8	106.4		176.6		28.2	14.4
2008	203.8	9.3	213.1	110.6		187.3		25.8	12.7
2009	208.2	8.0	216.2	108.0		190.5		25.7	12.3
2010 ²		8.0	220.6	109.2		194.2	186.2	26.4	12.4
Change current year over previous:	4.4	0.0	4.4	1.2	2.5	3.7	3.7	0.7	0.1

Note:

The above figures have been worked out in order to give a set of comparable labour force estimates obtained from various sources. Users are cautioned in the use of these figures given that there are differences related to the reference period, coverage and methodology. The different sources from which these estimates have been obtained are as follows:

i CMPHS for Mauritian labour force estimates which are subject to sampling variability as mentioned at paragraph 17.

ii The Annual Survey of Employment and Earnings (SEE) carried out in March of each year. Employment figures refer to jobs in large establishments employing 10 or more persons and include both Mauritians and foreign workers.

iii Employment in 'other than large' establishments has been estimated after reconciling data from CMPHS, SEE and administrative sources.

¹ Unemployment figures and rate refer to Mauritians

² Forecast