

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Year 2017

Introduction

1. This ninth issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2017, 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 present issue has been enhanced to include additional indicators in line with international recommendations of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The additional indicators relate mainly to employment-to-population ratio, labour underutilization and potential labour force.
3. The estimates in this publication are subject to sampling variability that tend to be relatively large in cases where the sample numbers are small.

Key figures

	2016	2017	Change 2017 - 2016
Population (aged 16+)	975,500	984,000	+8,500
Labour Force (Economically active)	581,000	586,900	+5,900
<i>Of which Employment</i>	<i>538,600</i>	<i>545,100</i>	<i>+6,500</i>
<i>Unemployment</i>	<i>42,400</i>	<i>41,800</i>	<i>-600</i>
Outside Labour Force (Economically inactive)	394,500	397,100	+2,600
<i>Of which Potential Labour Force¹</i>	<i>7,600</i>	<i>5,800</i>	<i>-1,800</i>
Activity rate (%)	59.6	59.6	0.0
Employment-to-population ratio ²	55.2	55.4	+0.2
Unemployment rate (%)	7.3	7.1	-0.2
Youth unemployment	18,900	19,300	+400
Youth unemployment rate (%)	23.9	24.9	+1.0

¹ Potential labour force refers to persons not in employment and who were not looking but were available for work or those who were looking but were not available for work.

² Employment-to-population ratio refers to the ratio of total employment to the working age population in contrast to the activity rate which is the ratio of the labour force (employed + unemployed) to the working age population.

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

NOTE: The increase in employment, e.g 6,500 in the above table represents the net change in employment level i.e “Employment creations minus employment losses” during the period under reference.

Key points

4. Change from 2016 to 2017

- a. The Mauritian labour force increased by 5,900 from 581,000 to 586,900.
- b. Employment went up by 6,500 from 538,600 to 545,100.
- c. Unemployment decreased by 600 from 42,400 to 41,800.
- d. The overall activity rate remained unchanged at 59.6% and the unemployment rate decreased from 7.3% to 7.1%.

Youth

- e. Youth employment decreased by 1,800 from 60,100 to 58,300 and unemployment increased by 400 from 18,900 to 19,300.
- f. Youth unemployment rate therefore increased by 1.0 percentage point from 23.9% to 24.9%.

Male

- g. Male labour force increased by 3,000 from 353,600 to 356,600 and the number of those outside the labour force increased by 700 from 122,600 to 123,300.
- h. Male employment increased up by 2,700 from 336,700 to 339,400 and unemployment by 300 from 16,900 to 17,200.
- i. Male activity rate and unemployment rate remained unchanged at 74.3% and 4.8% respectively.

Female

- j. Female labour force increased by 2,900 from 227,400 to 230,300 and the number of those outside the labour force increased by 1,900 from 271,900 to 273,800.
- k. Female employment increased by 3,800 from 201,900 to 205,700 while unemployment decreased by 900 from 25,500 to 24,600.
- l. Female activity rate increased from 45.5% to 45.7% while unemployment rate decreased from 11.2% to 10.7%.

5. Situation in 2017

- a. Men comprised 61% of the labour force (Table 2).
- b. Most of the workers (79%) were employees (Table 4).
- c. Among the unemployed, women outnumbered men (24,600 compared to 17,200) though they were generally more qualified (Table 16).

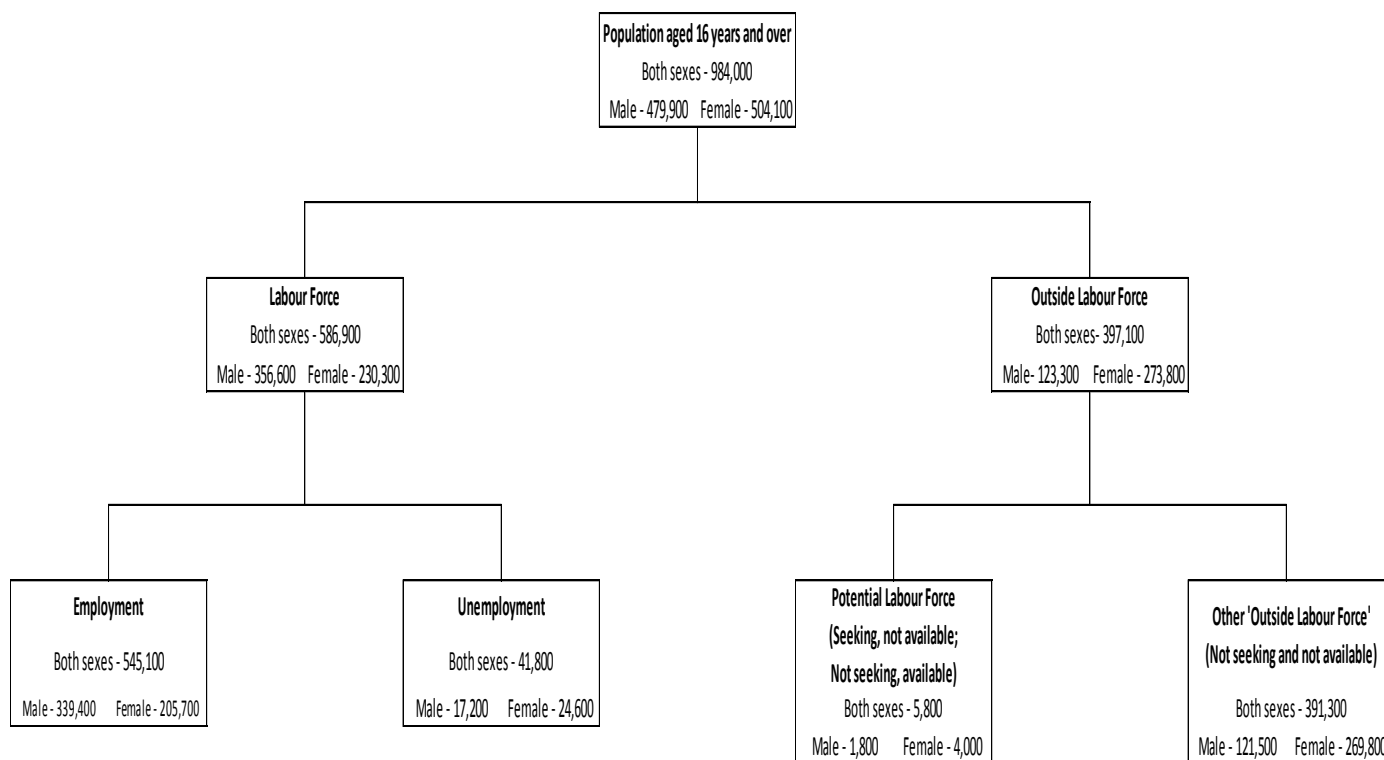
- d. Unemployment rate was highest in the lowest age groups and decreased progressively with increasing age (Table 13). Youth (aged 16 to 24 years) unemployment rate stood at 24.9% (19.5% for male and 31.9% for female).

6. Evolution from 2007 to 2017

- a. Men are more economically active than women but the gap is decreasing over time (Table 20).
- b. Female employment is increasing faster than male employment (Table 7).
- c. The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment (Table 7).
- d. From a high rate of 8.5% recorded in 2007, the unemployment rate was its lowest in 2017.
- e. From a rate of 24.7% in 2007, youth unemployment rose to 24.9% in 2017 (Table 14).

Labour market overview, 2017

Chart 1- The Labour Market, 2017



Population outside Labour Force

- 7. The number of persons aged 16 years and over not forming part of the labour force (population outside labour force) stood at 397,100 (123,300 males and 273,800 females) (Table 19). Some 5,800 of them were classified as forming part of the potential labour force (i.e. persons not in employment and who were not looking but were available for work or those who were looking but were not available 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 33% of these persons outside the labour force did not look for work because they either believed that suitable jobs were not available or did not know where to look for work.

8. The population outside labour force comprised 42% homemakers, 20% students, 25% retired or old persons and 9% sick or disabled persons.

Labour underutilization

9. In 2017, the population of working age (aged 16 years and over) numbered 984,000, of whom 586,900 consisted of the labour force (or were economically active) resulting in an activity rate of 59.6%. The number employed totaled 545,100, of whom around 117,700 (22%) stated that that they would be available for extra work. The number unemployed stood at 41,800; the unemployment rate worked out to 7.1% of the labour force.
10. In 2017, labour underutilization worked out to be 165,300, comprising those who were in employment and were available for extra work, i.e. time-related underemployment (117,700), the unemployed (41,800) and the potential labour force (5,800).

Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2017



11. The pyramid (Chart 2) and Table 2 indicate that in 2017:
 - i. The number of persons outside the labour force was significantly higher among women than men at all ages;
 - ii. There were fewer women than men among the employed at all ages;
 - iii. There were more unemployed women than unemployed men at almost all ages.
 - iv. As from age 20 – 24 years, the number unemployed generally decreased with age.

Employment

Total employment stood at 545,100 (339,400 males and 205,700 females) in 2017. The employment to population ratio was around 55% (71% for males and 41% for females) (Table 1)

Men comprised 61% of the workforce

12. Out of every 100 persons in the workforce, 61 were men and the mean age of a worker was 42 years for men and 40 years for women.

The workforce is mainly made up of married persons

13. The workforce was made up mainly of married persons (65.1%), followed by persons in the single state (25.5%). A small proportion of the employed were widowed, divorced and separated (9.4%). Compared to the male workforce, the female workforce consisted of a higher proportion of widowed, divorced and separated persons (15.3% compared to 5.9%) (Table 3).

The workforce is mostly made up of employees

14. 79.4% of the employed were employees while around 18.5% were self-employed (own account workers or employers) and the remaining 2.1% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (85.2% against 75.9% among males) and contributing family workers (3.6% against 1.2%) but a lower proportion of self-employed (11.2% against 23.0% among males) (Table 4).

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

15. On average, an employed person worked 39.5 hours per week. An employer put in 42.4 hours of work compared to 40.4 hours for an employee and 34.2 hours for an own-account worker (Table 5).
16. Average monthly income from employment, which includes income from paid work and income from business activities, amounted to Rs 20,300. The average monthly income for an employer was Rs 29,900 against Rs 11,900 for an own-account worker while that for an employee stood at Rs 21,200 (Table 6).

Median basic wage of Mauritian employees

17. In 2017, the median monthly basic wage of Mauritian employees was around Rs 13,000 ; i.e 50% of employees earned less than Rs 13,000 while the other 50% earned more than it. Basic wage comprises all emoluments, including yearly compensation and increment but excludes allowances such as bonus or overtime, (Table 22).

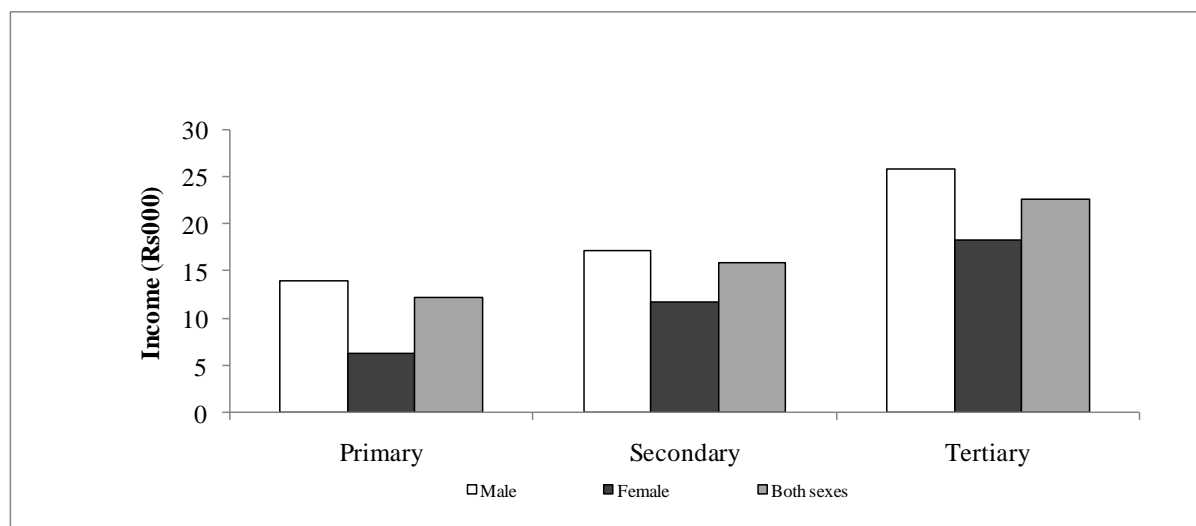
The tertiary sector provided jobs to 7 out of every 10 workers and gave the highest pay

18. Out of every 100 workers, 68 were employed in the tertiary sector (covering trade, accommodation and food service activities, transportation and storage and all the other service industries), 25 in the secondary sector (covering manufacturing, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage waste management and remediation activities

and construction) and 7 in the primary sector (covering agriculture, forestry and fishing and mining & quarrying) (Table 7).

19. Income from employment was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 22,600), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 15,900) and the primary sector (Rs 12,200) (Table 8).

Chart 3 – Average monthly income from employment by industrial sector and sex, 2017



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

20. Workers in the primary sector had on average the highest length of service (13.0 years) with their present employer, followed by 9.5 years for both in the secondary and tertiary sector (Table 9).
21. Employed persons in the secondary sector had the longest hours of work (40.9 hours per week), followed by those in the tertiary sector (39.7 hours) and the primary sector (32.0 hours) (Table 10).

Employed Mauritian are distributed across all occupational groups

22. Around 23.9% of the employed was engaged in the highest occupational groups (ISCO 1-3) which comprised chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals. Clerical and support workers (ISCO 4) made up 9.4% of the workforce; service and sales workers (ISCO 5) 20.9%. Another 30.1% were skilled agricultural, forestry 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 15.6% of the workforce (Table 11).
23. Chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals earned the highest monthly income (Rs 38,200), followed by clerical and support workers (Rs 19,500). The lowest income was drawn by those engaged in elementary occupations (Rs 10,300) (Table 12).
24. In addition to their main job and secondary job (if any), 21.7% of the employed population was available for additional work. Employed women were less available for additional work

than their male counterparts; 17% reported that they were willing to work additional hours against 25% for men.

Some 5% of the employed had secondary jobs

25. Out of the 545,100 employed, 4.8% held a secondary job. Around 30.0% of the secondary job holders were employees. The main sectors in which they were operating were: agriculture (27.5%), wholesale and retail trade and repairs (11.5%) and manufacturing (10.0%).

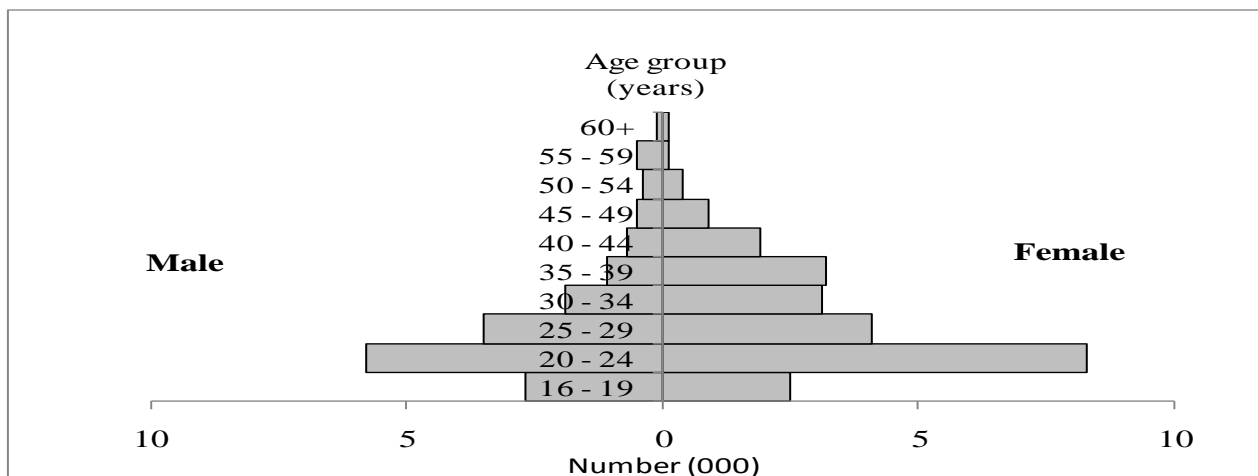
Unemployment

26. In 2017, unemployed persons numbered 41,800, comprising 17,200 men and 24,600 women. The unemployment rate was 7.1%, 10.7% among women and 4.8% among men. (Table 1)

There are more unemployed among women than among men

27. The unbalanced shape of the pyramid in Chart 4 indicates the predominance of women among the unemployed at almost all age-groups. They represented 59% of the total unemployed and they outnumbered men by 7,400.

Chart 4 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2017



28. The mean age of an unemployed male was 27.9 year and that of unemployed female was 28.9 years.

Unemployment rate is highest among young persons

29. Unemployment rate was highest at the lowest age groups and decreased progressively with increasing age. It was 24.9% among those below 25 years and 1.0% among those aged 50 years and above (Table 13).

30. The disparity between male and female unemployment rate was highest in the lower age group; the difference was around 12 percentage points among the unemployed below 25 years.

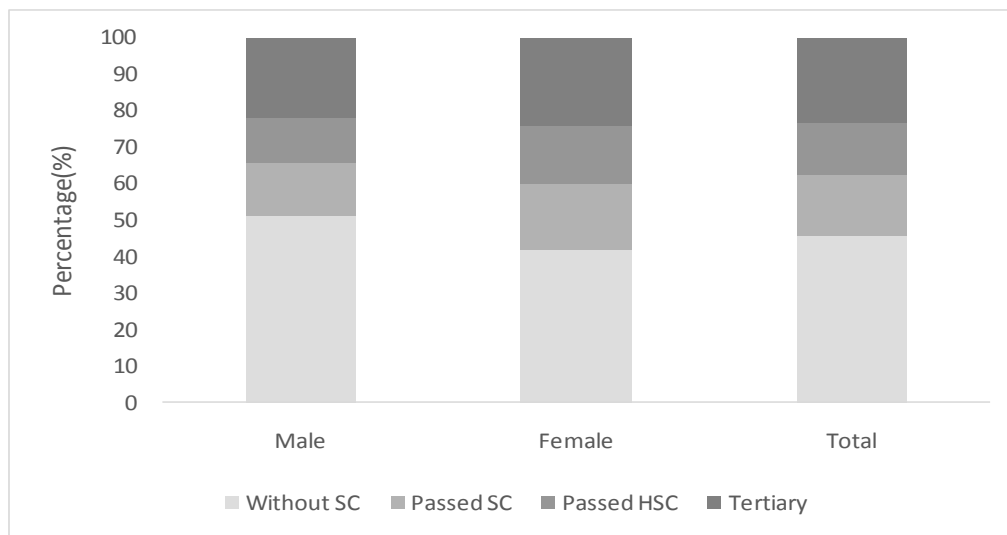
The unemployed men are mostly single while the unemployed women are mostly ever-married

31. About 39% of the unemployed were ever-married. While most of the unemployed men were single (79%) unemployed women were mostly ever-married (52%), i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 15).

Almost half of the unemployed do not hold the School Certificate

32. Around 45% of the unemployed, representing 19,100 persons, did not hold a Cambridge School Certificate (SC): 9% had not attained the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, 3% held the CPE certificate only, and a further 33% attended secondary school but did not pass the SC. The proportion with SC as highest attainment was 17% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 14%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 9,700 and represented 23% of the total unemployed (Table 16).

Chart 5 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2017



Unemployed women are generally more qualified than unemployed men

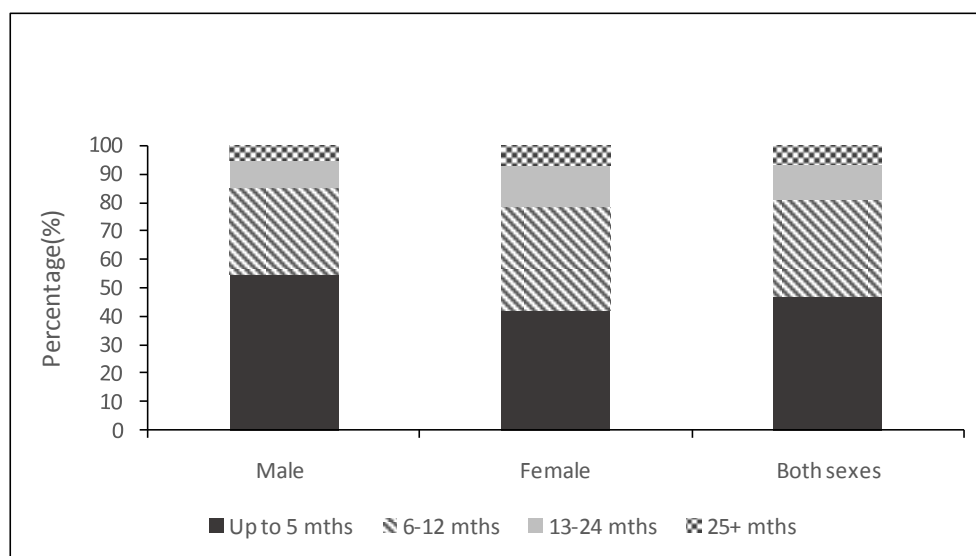
33. Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around 34% of them possessed the School Certificate or the Higher School Certificate against 27% among males.

Women are in unemployment nearly three months more than men

34. The proportion of persons in unemployment for a duration of less than six months is higher among males (55%) compared to females (42%) while the proportion of those who are unemployed for more than twenty four months is higher among females (16.4%) against 11.8% among males(Chart 6).

35. On average, an unemployed person had been without a job for 10 months. Average duration of unemployment for males was 8.8 months compared to 11.7 months for females

Chart 6 – Duration of unemployment by sex, 2017



The unemployed is predominantly made up of persons with work experience

36. Around 67% of the unemployed had worked in the past. More than two third (75%) had worked previously in the tertiary sector, mainly ‘Wholesale & retail trade’ (24%) followed by ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (15%). Another 23% had worked previously in the secondary sector, mainly in ‘Manufacturing’ followed by ‘Construction’.The remaining 2.0% previously worked in the agricultural sector.

More than 1 out of 4 unemployed who worked before left their job due to job dissatisfaction.

37. Some 28% of the unemployed lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job. Another 27% left their job due to dissatisfaction with job while around 11% left due to marriage/household responsibilities. Closure of establishment and reduction in workforce accounted for 16% of the job losses.

More than half of the unemployed are not registered at the Employment Service.

38. The unemployed usually had recourse to more than one method of job search. The most common method was ‘applied to prospective employers’(56%) followed by ‘checked at factories,worksites, etc’ (43%). Around 44% were registered at the Employment Service (Table 17).

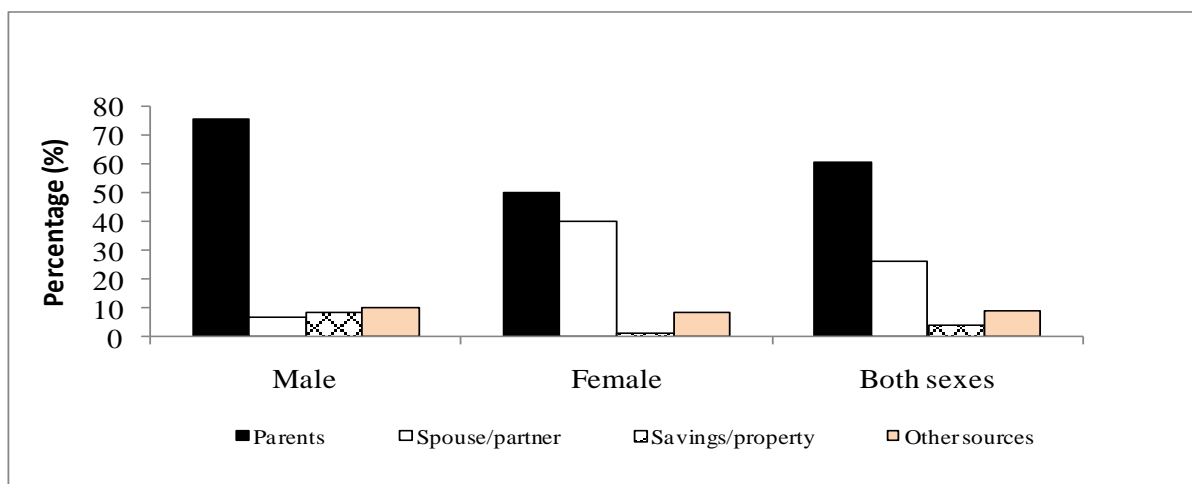
The unemployed were more willing to accept full time rather than part time employment

39. The unemployed were more likely to accept full time employment (94%) rather than part time employment (69%). Around 91% would take up a job in the public sector while 90% in the private sector. Only 59% were willing to accept a temporary job. Some 64% would accept a job below their qualification while 65% were willing to work outside their level of qualification or training.(Table 18).

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

40. The main source of income support for the unemployed to meet their daily needs was their parents (61%) followed by their spouse/partner (26%). Other sources of support were from other relatives, savings and pensions.

Chart 7 – Unemployed population by main source of income to meet daily needs and sex, 2017

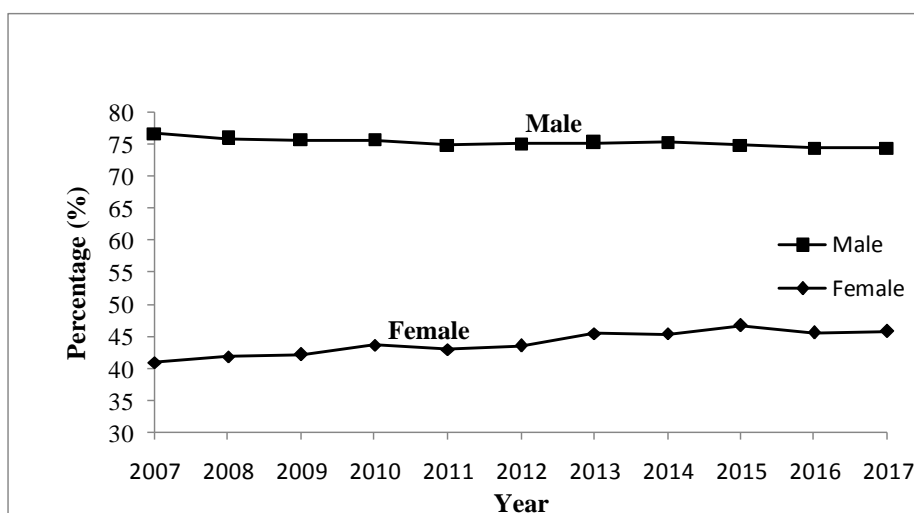


Evolution from 2007 to 2017

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

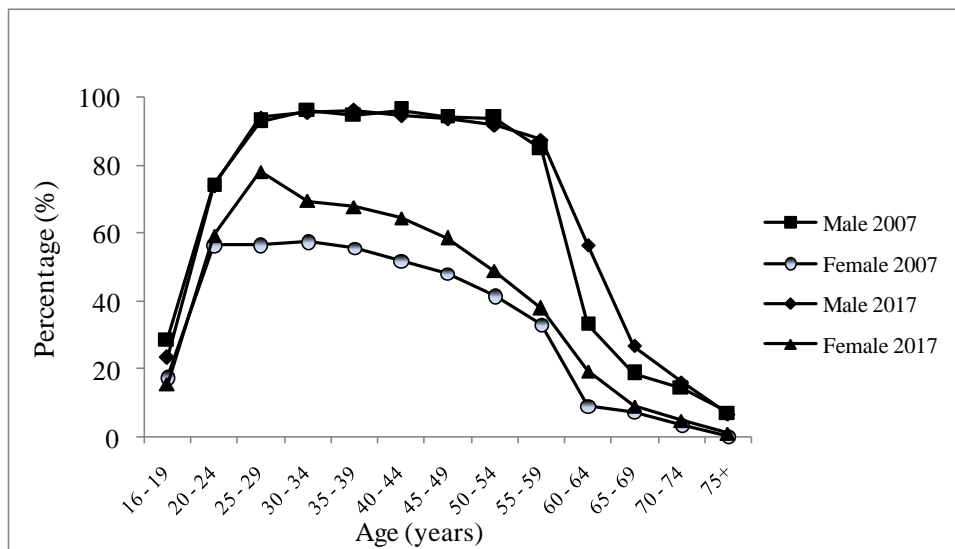
41. During the period 2007 to 2017, male activity rate was consistently higher than female activity rate (Chart 8). However, the gap has been narrowing over time with activity rate for men decreasing and that of women generally increasing over the years (Table 20).

Chart 8 – Activity rate by sex, 2007 - 2017



42. Increases in activity rate were noted for females aged 25 years and over, being more pronounced for women aged 25-49 years.

Chart 9 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2007 & 2017



43. From 2007 to 2017, age-specific activity rates for male had remained mostly the same for age group 16-59 years, while they increased significantly for women aged 25 years and over.

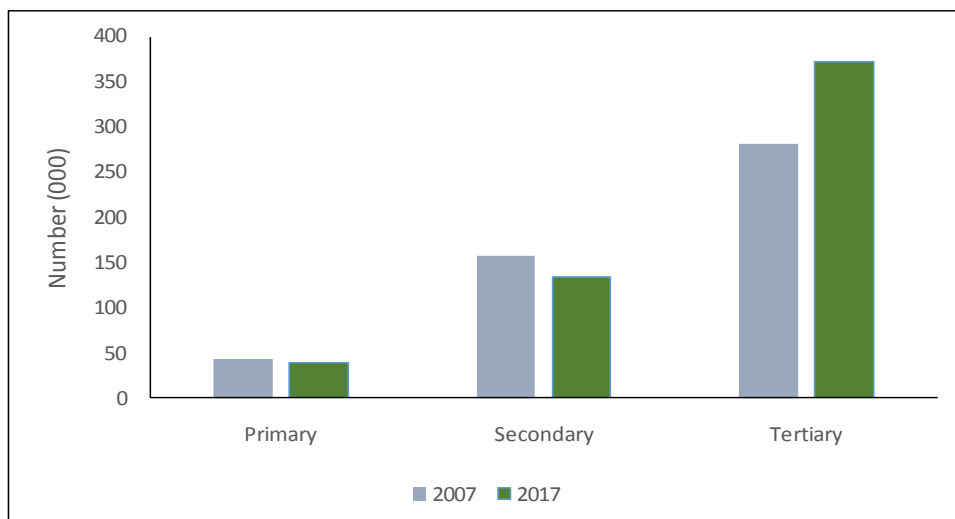
Female employment is increasing faster than male employment

44. During the period 2007 to 2017, female employment increased at a faster rate than male employment. On average, female employment increased annually by 2.3% whereas male employment increased by 0.4%.

The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment

45. Over time, the tertiary sector has become increasingly important in terms of employment. From 2007 to 2017, employment in this sector rose from 281,800 to 372,600; its share over total employment also increased from 58% to 68%. In contrast, employment in the primary and secondary sectors has been declining over time. In the primary sector, employment went down from 44,100 in 2007 to 38,800 in 2017 mainly due to a decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment dropped from 156,900 to 133,700 mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector (Table 7).

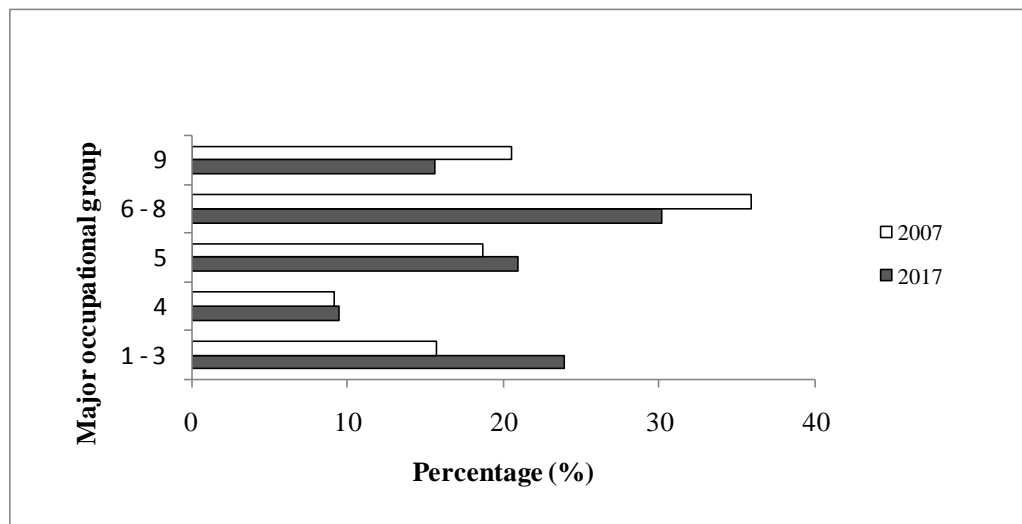
Chart 10 – Employed population by industrial sector, 2007 & 2017



Mauritian workforce is moving up the occupation ladder

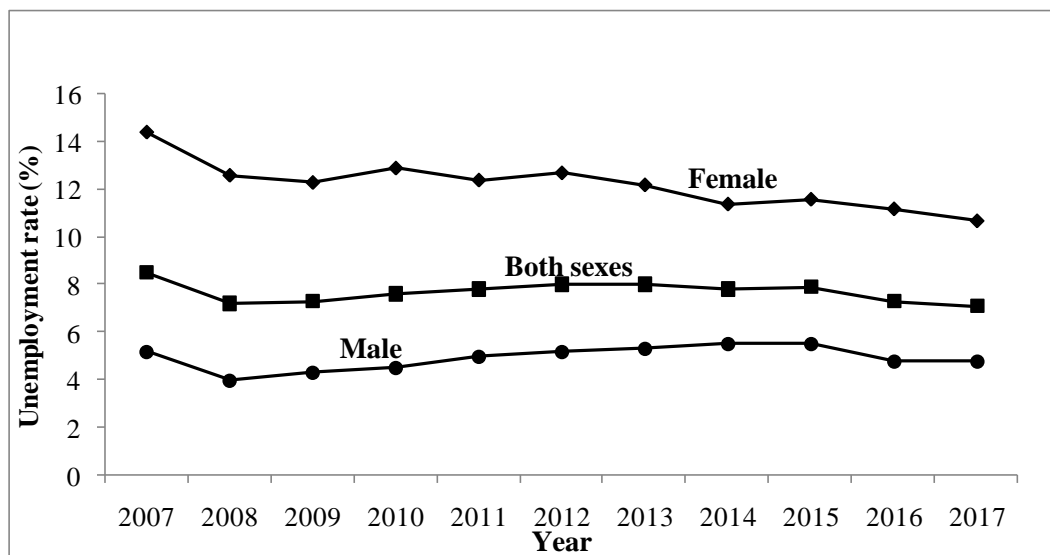
46. The share of employment in the higher occupational groups (ISCO 1-3) comprising legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals increased from 15.7% in 2007 to 23.9% in 2017. On the other hand, the share of employment in the lowest occupational group (ISCO 9) representing elementary jobs decreased from 20.5% to 15.6%

Chart 11 – Employed population by occupational group, 2007 – 2017



Female unemployment rate remains higher but with a decreasing gender gap.

Chart 12 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2007 – 2017



47. From 8.5% recorded in 2007, the unemployment rate decreased to 7.2% in 2008 after which an upward trend was observed till the period 2012- 2013 when it peaked at 8.0%. Thereafter it declined generally to reach 7.1% in 2017 (Table 21).

48. The change over time was smoother for male than for female. Female unemployment rate was 14.4% in 2007, after which it declined to 12.3% in 2009 when it took an up and down movement. The gender gap with regards to activity rate decreased from 2007 to 2017.

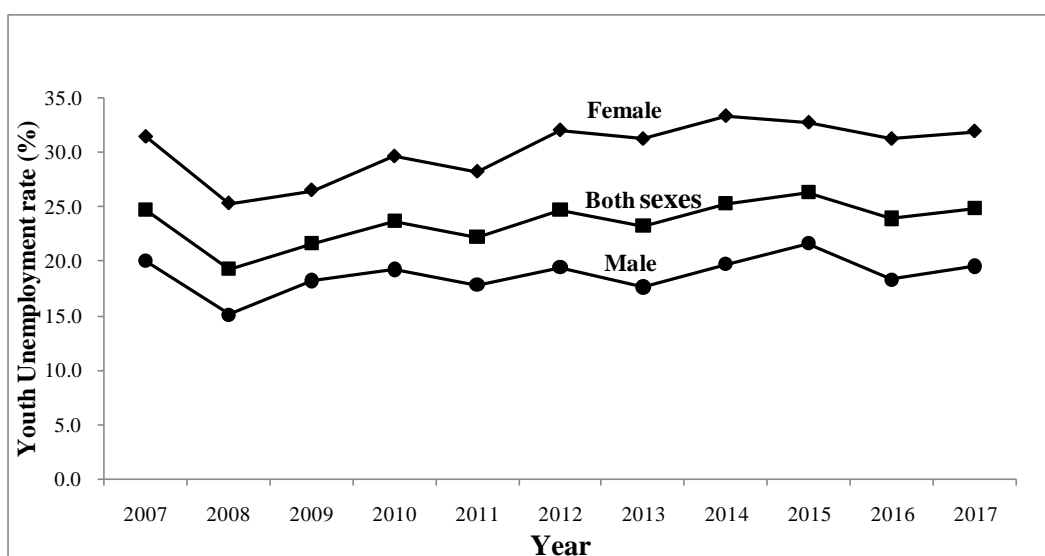
Trend in youth unemployment, 2007 to 2017

49. From a rate of around 24.7% in 2007, youth unemployment rate dropped to 19.3% in 2008. It then followed an increasing trend to peak at 26.3% in 2015. It then declined to reach 24.9% in 2017 (Table 14).

50. Youth unemployment rate for women has been consistently higher than that of men. During the period 2007 to 2009, the gap between male and female youth unemployment rate decreased as a result of a sharper decline in female unemployment rate. The gap then widened due to a higher increase in female unemployment rate.

51. The young unemployed in 2017 numbered 19,300 of whom 8,500 were men and 10,800 women compared to 8,800 men and 9,700 women in 2007.

Chart 13 – Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployment rate, 2007-2017



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Table 1 - Estimated Labour Force, Employment, Unemployment and Inactive Population by sex, 2016-2017

	2016				2017			
	Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Population								
Both Sexes	975,500	11,100	953,600	997,400	984,000	10,600	963,300	1,004,800
Male	476,200	6,200	467,900	488,300	479,900	6,100	467,900	491,900
Female	499,300	6,000	493,600	511,100	504,100	5,800	492,800	515,500
Labour Force								
Both Sexes	581,000	8,000	565,200	596,800	586,900	7,800	571,700	602,100
Male	353,600	5,100	343,500	363,700	356,600	5,000	346,800	366,400
Female	227,400	4,100	219,300	235,400	230,300	4,100	222,300	238,300
Employment								
Both Sexes	538,600	7,600	523,700	553,500	545,100	7,300	530,800	559,500
Male	336,700	5,000	327,000	346,500	339,400	4,800	330,000	348,800
Female	201,900	3,800	194,500	209,300	205,700	3,800	198,200	213,200
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	42,400	1,500	39,300	45,400	41,800	1,500	38,800	44,800
Male	16,900	1,000	15,000	18,700	17,200	1,000	15,300	19,000
Female	25,500	1,200	23,200	27,800	24,600	1,200	22,300	26,900
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	394,500	5,800	383,100	406,000	397,100	5,800	385,700	408,600
Male	122,600	2,800	117,200	128,000	123,300	2,900	117,600	129,000
Female	271,900	4,200	263,700	280,200	273,800	4,200	265,600	282,100
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	59.6	0.4	58.7	60.4	59.6	0.4	58.8	60.5
Male	74.3	0.5	73.3	75.2	74.3	0.5	73.3	75.3
Female	45.5	0.6	44.4	46.7	45.7	0.6	44.5	46.8
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	7.3	0.2	6.8	7.8	7.1	0.2	6.6	7.6
Male	4.8	0.3	4.3	5.3	4.8	0.3	4.3	5.3
Female	11.2	0.5	10.3	12.1	10.7	0.5	9.7	11.6
Youth unemployment								
Both Sexes	18,900	1,000	17,000	20,800	19,300	1,000	17,300	21,300
Male	8,200	600	7,000	9,500	8,500	600	7,200	9,700
Female	10,700	800	9,200	12,200	10,800	800	9,200	12,400
Youth unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	23.9	1.0	21.9	26.0	24.9	1.1	22.6	27.1
Male	18.3	1.3	15.9	20.9	19.5	1.3	16.8	21.9
Female	31.2	1.8	27.7	34.8	31.9	1.9	28.1	35.7

Table 2 – Labour force, employment, unemployment by age and sex - 2017

Age group	Labour Force			Employment			Unemployment		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 -19	9,200	5,900	15,100	6,500	3,400	9,900	2,700	2,500	5,200
20 - 24	34,500	28,000	62,500	28,700	19,700	48,400	5,800	8,300	14,100
25 - 29	39,900	32,900	72,800	36,400	28,800	65,200	3,500	4,100	7,600
30 - 34	37,400	27,900	65,300	35,500	24,800	60,300	1,900	3,100	5,000
35 - 39	46,900	33,000	79,900	45,800	29,800	75,600	1,100	3,200	4,300
40 - 44	40,900	27,700	68,600	40,200	25,800	66,000			
45 - 49	39,200	24,300	63,500	38,700	23,400	62,100			
50 - 54	43,000	23,100	66,100	42,600	22,700	65,300			
55 - 59	36,100	16,400	52,500	35,600	16,300	51,900	2,200	3,400	5,600
60 - 64	19,200	7,200	26,400	19,100	7,100	26,200			
65 & over	10,300	3,900	14,200	10,300	3,900	14,200			
Total	356,600	230,300	586,900	339,400	205,700	545,100	17,200	24,600	41,800

Table 3 - Employed population by marital status and sex – 2017

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Married	224,400	130,300	354,700
Widowed/Divorced / Seperated	19,900	31,500	51,400
Single	95,100	43,900	139,000
All marital states	339,400	205,700	545,100

Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2017

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	20,100	3,400	23,500
Own Account worker	57,800	19,600	77,400
Employee	257,500	175,200	432,700
Contributing family worker	4,000	7,500	11,500
All employment states	339,400	205,700	545,100

Table 5 - Mean hours of work per week by employment status and sex - 2017

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	43.0	39.5	42.4
Own Account worker	36.0	28.9	34.2
Employee	42.6	37.2	40.4
Contributing family worker	30.1	30.3	30.2
All employment states	41.4	36.3	39.5

Table 6 - Average monthly income (Rs) from employment status and sex - 2017

Employment status	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	30,200	27,600	29,900
Own Account worker	13,300	7,800	11,900
Employee	23,700	17,500	21,200
All employment states	22,300	16,800	20,300

Table 7 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2007 & 2017

Industrial Sector	2007			2017		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	31,600	12,500	44,100	28,600	10,200	38,800
Secondary	115,400	41,500	156,900	101,300	32,400	133,700
<i>of which Manufacturing</i>	56,700	39,700	96,400	42,100	28,900	71,000
<i>Construction</i>	52,600	800	53,400	54,100	2,300	56,400
Tertiary	174,700	107,100	281,800	209,500	163,100	372,600
<i>of which Wholesale and retail trade</i>	41,200	26,400	67,600	47,100	34,900	82,000
<i>Accommodation and food service activities</i>	22,200	11,200	33,400	27,100	18,500	45,600
<i>Transportation and storage</i>	26,800	2,700	29,500	32,200	5,600	37,800
<i>Public administration and defence</i>	26,500	7,200	33,700	29,900	12,100	42,000
<i>Education and Human Health & social work activities</i>	20,800	24,700	45,500	20,100	30,400	50,500
All Sectors	321,700	161,100	482,800	339,400	205,700	545,100

Table 8 - Average monthly income (Rs) from employment status by industrial sector and sex - 2017

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	14,000	6,200	12,200
Secondary	17,200	11,700	15,900
Tertiary	25,900	18,300	22,600
All sectors	22,300	16,800	20,300

Table 9 - Mean length of service by industrial sector and sex - 2017

Industrial sector	length of service (years)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	14.3	9.4	13.0
Secondary	9.7	9.0	9.5
Tertiary	11.1	7.6	9.5
All sectors	10.9	7.9	9.8

Table 10 - Mean hours of work by industrial sector and sex - 2017

Industrial sector	Mean hours of work per week		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	35.4	22.5	32.0
Secondary	40.9	40.9	40.9
Tertiary	42.5	36.2	39.7
All sectors	41.4	36.3	39.5

Table 11 - Employed population by occupational group and sex - 2007 & 2017

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	2007			2017		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	45,200	30,600	75,800	75,300	55,200	130,500
4	Clerical support workers	18,100	26,200	44,300	19,500	31,800	51,300
5	Service and sales workers	56,100	34,200	90,300	65,000	49,100	114,100
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	140,900	32,500	173,400	138,900	25,400	164,300
9	Elementary occupations	61,400	37,600	99,000	40,700	44,200	84,900
	All occupational groups	321,700	161,100	482,800	339,400	205,700	545,100

Table 12 - Average monthly income (Rs) from employment by occupational group and sex - 2017

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Average monthly income (Rs)		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	43,200	31,500	38,200
4	Clerical support workers	22,200	17,900	19,500
5	Service and sales workers	19,800	11,700	16,400
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	14,500	8,100	13,500
9	Elementary occupations	13,900	7,000	10,300
	All occupational groups	22,300	16,800	20,300

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 13 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2017

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 24	19.5	31.9	24.9
25 - 29	8.8	12.5	10.4
30 - 39	3.6	10.3	6.4
40 - 49	1.5	5.4	3.0
50 and over	0.9	1.2	1.0
All ages	4.8	10.7	7.1

Table 14 - Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex

Year	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
2007	8,800	9,700	18,500	20.0	31.4	24.7
2008	6,300	7,400	13,700	15.1	25.3	19.3
2009	7,500	7,600	15,100	18.2	26.5	21.6
2010	8,000	9,200	17,200	19.2	29.6	23.7
2011	7,500	8,700	16,200	17.8	28.2	22.2
2012	8,400	10,100	18,500	19.4	32.0	24.7
2013	7,900	9,700	17,600	17.6	31.2	23.2
2014	9,000	10,500	19,500	19.7	33.3	25.3
2015	9,900	11,300	21,200	21.6	32.7	26.3
2016	8,200	10,700	18,900	18.3	31.2	23.9
2017	8,500	10,800	19,300	19.5	31.9	24.9

Table 15 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex – 2017

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Ever Married	3,600	12,900	16,500
Single	13,600	11,700	25,300
Total	17,200	24,600	41,800

Table 16 - Unemployment population by educational attainment and sex - 2017

Educational attainment	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	2,000	3,100	5,100
<i>Below CPE</i>	1,300	2,400	3,700
<i>Passed CPE</i>	700	700	1,400
Secondary	11,400	15,600	27,000
<i>Form I - V but not passed SC</i>	6,800	7,200	14,000
<i>Passed SC</i>	2,500	4,500	7,000
<i>Passed HSC</i>	2,100	3,900	6,000
Tertiary	3,800	5,900	9,700
Total	17,200	24,600	41,800

Table 17 - Unemployed population by method of job search and sex – 2017

Method of job search	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Applied to prospective employers	9,600	14,000	23,600
Checked at factories, worksites etc	8,500	9,300	17,800
Registered at Employment Service *	5,600	13,000	18,600
Placed or answered advertisements	6,300	9,300	15,600
Sought assistance and advices **	5,500	6,600	12,100
All Unemployed	17,200	24,600	41,800

*Estimates refer to cases reported in the survey and differ from figures of registered unemployed from Employment Service

**to obtain a paid job or start own business

Table 18 - Unemployed population by type of job willing to accept and sex - 2017

Type of job willing to accept	Number		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Full time employment	16,500	22,900	39,400
Part time employment	11,300	17,400	28,700
Employment without limit	15,000	20,000	35,000
Temporary employment	10,100	14,700	24,800
Employment in public sector	15,500	22,500	38,000
Employment in private sector	15,700	22,100	37,800
Below level of qualification	11,000	15,700	26,700
Outside training or qualification	11,400	15,900	27,300
All Unemployed	17,200	24,600	41,800

Table 19 - Inactive population by inactivity status and sex – 2017

Method of job search	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Students	39,000	40,500	79,500
Retired or old persons	58,200	39,900	98,100
Sick or disabled	19,000	16,300	35,300
Homemakers	7,100	167,400	167,900
Other		9,700	16,300
Total	123,300	273,800	397,100

Table 20 - Age specific activity rate (%) by sex - 2007 & 2017

Age group (years)	2007			2017		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 19	28.9	17.5	23.3	23.3	15.5	19.5
20 - 24	74.3	56.5	65.5	74.0	59.3	66.6
25 - 29	93.0	56.5	74.6	94.1	78.1	86.2
30 - 34	96.3	57.4	76.8	95.7	69.6	82.4
35 - 39	94.9	55.7	75.3	96.3	67.9	82.1
40 - 44	96.1	52.1	74.3	94.7	64.6	79.7
45 - 49	94.4	48.2	71.4	93.8	58.6	76.2
50 - 54	93.9	41.5	67.7	91.9	48.8	70.2
55 - 59	84.9	33.3	58.3	87.6	38.0	62.2
60 - 64	33.3	9.4	20.4	56.5	19.5	37.2
65+	13.5	3.5	7.7	18.2	5.1	10.7
All Ages	76.6	40.8	58.3	74.3	45.7	59.6

Table 21 - Unemployment rate (%) by sex - 2007 - 2017

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
2007	5.2	14.4	8.5
2008	4.0	12.6	7.2
2009	4.3	12.3	7.3
2010	4.5	12.9	7.6
2011	5.0	12.4	7.8
2012	5.2	12.7	8.0
2013	5.3	12.2	8.0
2014	5.5	11.4	7.8
2015	5.5	11.6	7.9
2016	4.8	11.2	7.3
2017	4.8	10.7	7.1

Table 22 - Percentage distribution of Mauritian employees² by basic wage range – 2017

Basic wage ³ range Rupees per month	Employees		Wages	
	%	Cummulative %	%	Cummulative %
Up to 3,500	5.2	5.2	0.6	0.6
3,501 - 4,000	1.6	6.8	0.3	0.9
4,001 - 4,500	1.0	7.7	0.2	1.1
4,501 - 5,000	2.1	9.8	0.5	1.7
5,001 - 6,000	4.2	13.9	1.2	2.9
6,001 - 7,000	3.5	17.5	1.2	4.1
7,001 - 8,000	4.9	22.3	1.9	6.0
8,001 - 9,000	6.2	28.6	2.7	8.8
9,001 - 10,000	6.7	35.2	3.3	12.1
10,001- 11,000	5.6	40.8	3.0	15.1
11,001- 12,000	4.9	45.7	2.9	18.0
12,001-13,000	4.1	49.8	2.6	20.6
13,001-14,000	4.8	54.6	3.3	24.0
14,001-15,000	4.0	58.7	3.0	27.0
15,001-20,000	13.1	71.8	11.6	38.6
20,001-25,000	7.6	79.4	8.8	47.4
25,001-30,000	4.6	84.0	6.5	54.0
30,001-35000	3.6	87.6	5.9	59.9
35,001-40,000	3.0	90.6	5.8	65.7
40,001-50000	3.7	94.3	8.5	74.1
50,001-60,000	1.9	96.3	5.5	79.6
60,001-70000	1.1	97.4	3.6	83.2
70,001-75,000	0.4	97.8	1.5	84.8
75,001 and Over	2.2	100.0	15.2	100.0
Total	100.0		100.0	

Notes:

1. The above figures have been worked out using data from different 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 estimates of wages in 'other than large' establishments, i.e those employing less than 10 persons in the private sector. These estimates are subject to sampling variability as mentioned in the methodology of the CMPHS included at the end of this report.
 - (ii) Business surveys carried by Statistics Mauritius for estimates of wages in large private establishments (March 2017) and public establishments (April 2017)
2. The term 'employees', which excludes self-employed and unpaid family workers, covers all persons in regular or casual employment and includes:-
 - (a) Persons temporarily absent on paid sick or vacation leave; and
 - (b) Persons holding managerial posts, family workers receiving wages or salaries and paid apprentices
 - (c) Persons holding both part time and full time jobs
3. The Basic Wage comprises all emoluments, including yearly compensation and increment but excluding allowances such as bonus or overtime

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 graduated in February 2012.
- 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 2011 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. 977. 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.

- 8. Implementation of revised classifications:** Statistics Mauritius is using, as from 2012, adapted versions of the following revised classifications:
- a. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Rev. 4 of 2007;
 - b. International Standard Classification of Occupations, 2008.

For comparison purposes, employment estimates for previous years have been worked out using the revised classifications. There are changes in the employment estimates at industrial group level; hence they are not strictly comparable. The overall employment estimates are however not affected.

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 outside the labour force population).
- 6. Unemployment rate:** Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to labour force.
- 7. Outside the labour force (previously known as the Inactive population) :** Outside the labour force 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. Basic pay comprises all emoluments, including yearly compensation and increment but excluding allowances such as bonus and overtime, i.e. Gross pay, including yearly compensation and increment, minus allowances such as bonus 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

15. Labour underutilisation

Labour underutilisation refers to mismatches between labour supply and demand, which translate into an unmet need for employment among the population. It comprises those who were in employment and were available for extra work, i.e. time-related underemployment, the unemployed and the potential labour force.

16. Potential labour force

Potential labour force refers to persons not in employment and who were not looking but were available for work or those who were looking but were not available for work.