

## Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Year 2020

### Introduction

1. This twelfth issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2020, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) and Survey on Monitoring the Socio-Economic Effects of COVID-19 on Mauritian Households. **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 annual averages computed from data collected from the above surveys. They are also subject to sampling variability as they are based on information from a sample of households rather than from all households. Margin of error associated with estimates of the main labour force indicators are given in Table 1.

### Key figures

	2019	2020	Change 2019 to 2020
Population (aged 16+)	996,600	1,001,700	+5,100
Labour Force (Economically active)	591,000	570,100	-20,900
<i>Of which Employment</i>	<i>551,300</i>	<i>517,900</i>	<i>-33,400<sup>1</sup></i>
<i>Unemployment</i>	<i>39,700</i>	<i>52,200</i>	<i>+12,500</i>
Outside Labour Force (Economically inactive)	405,600	431,600	+26,000
<i>of which Potential Labour Force</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>42,000</i>	<i>+39,600<sup>2</sup></i>
Activity rate (%)	59.3	56.9	-2.4
Employment-to-population ratio <sup>3</sup>	55.3	51.7	-3.6
Unemployment rate (%)	6.7	9.2	+2.5
Youth unemployment	17,100	17,200	+100
Youth unemployment rate (%)	22.8	26.1	+3.3

<sup>1</sup> The net change in employment level in the above table is equal to “Employment creations minus employment losses” during the period under reference.

<sup>2</sup> Potential labour refers to persons not in employment and who were not actively looking but were available for work, and those who were actively looking but were not available for work. The high increase in potential labour in 2020 was mainly due to the COVID-19 lockdown situation where many, though available for work, could not look for work. These would include previously working persons (self-employed and employees of the informal sector) who could not work during the lockdown and did not look for work.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

## **Key points**

### **3. Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2020**

- a. In 2020, the number of employed was 517,900 (310,300 males and 207,600 females).
- b. The number of unemployed reached 52,200 (26,300 males and 25,900 females). The unemployed youth aged 16 to 24 years numbered 17,200.
- c. The labour force (employed + unemployed) stood at 570,100 (336,600 males and 233,500 females).

### **4. Change in Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2019 to 2020**

During the lockdown period in May 2020, many (in particular the self-employed and employees in the informal sector) were out of the labour force as they were not able to work, nor were they looking for work. With the lifting of the lockdown in June, people were gradually back to work; however, the number of unemployed increased while many remained out of the labour force.

The average yearly figure on labour force decreased by 20,900 to 570,100 in 2020 from 591,000 in 2019. Also, during 2020, men were more severely affected than women.

#### **Male**

- a. Male employment decreased by 28,800 while unemployment rose by 10,700 resulting in a decrease of 18,100 in male labour force.
- b. Male unemployment rate rose from 4.4% in 2019 to 7.8% in 2020.
- c. Male activity rate went down from 73.1% to 69.3% in 2020.

#### **Female**

- d. Female employment decreased by 4,600 and female unemployment increased by 1,800, causing a decline of 2,800 in female labour force.
- e. Female unemployment rate increased from 10.2% in 2019 to 11.1% in 2020.
- f. Female activity rate fell from 46.2% in 2019 to 45.3% in 2020.

#### **Both sexes**

- g. Total employment dropped by 33,400 while total unemployment increased by 12,500 resulting in a drop of 20,900 in the labour force.
- h. Total unemployment rate rose from 6.7% in 2019 to 9.2% in 2020.
- i. The overall activity rate declined from 59.3% in 2019 to 56.9% in 2020, as a result of a decrease of 20,900 in the labour force.

### **Youth (16-24 years)**

- j. Youth employment decreased by 9,300 from 58,000 in 2019 to 48,700 in 2020, while youth unemployment increased marginally by 100 from 17,100 to 17,200.
- k. Youth labour force fell sharply by 9,200 from 75,100 in 2019 to 65,900 in 2020.
- l. Unemployment rate among the youth increased from 22.8% to 26.1%, as a result of above decline.

### **5. Change in hours of work and income from work, 2019 to 2020**

- a. On average, 16% of employees were working less than their usual hours of work during the period post lockdown (May to December 2020).
- b. Average monthly income for an employee went down to Rs 21,500 in 2020 from Rs 22,600 in 2019.
- c. The median monthly income of employees declined to around Rs 16,000 from Rs 16,900 in 2019.

### **6. Evolution from 2010 to 2020**

- a. Men were less economically active in 2020, compared to 10 years before (partly due to COVID-19 pandemic) while women were more active (Table 2).
- b. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted more severely on male employment than on female employment (Table 7). Thus, male employment was some 18,400 less than its 2010 level. On the other hand, female employment was higher.
- c. Employment in the primary and secondary sectors declined over the ten-year period, while that in the tertiary sector augmented (Table 7).
- d. The unemployment rate reached to 9.2% in 2020 compared to 7.6 % in 2010 (Table 12).
- e. From a rate of 23.7% in 2010, youth unemployment rose to 26.1% in 2020 (Table 9).

**Labour market overview, 2020**

Chart 1 - The Labour Market, 2020

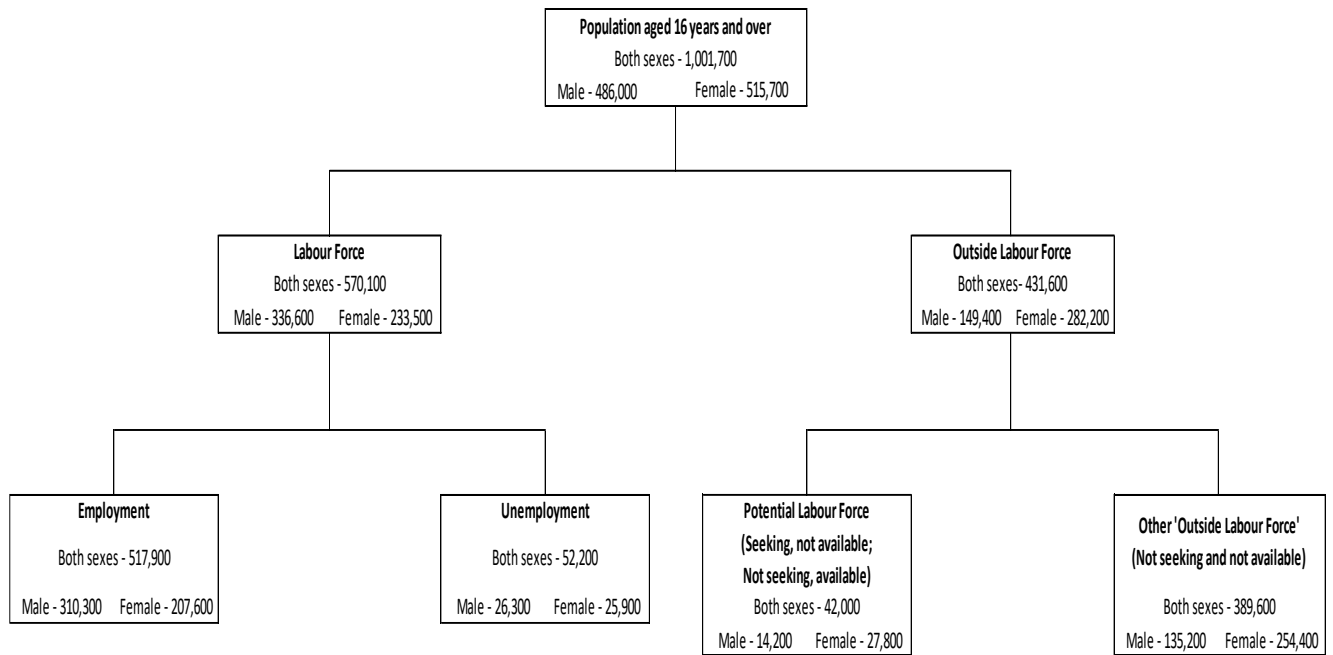


Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2020



**Labour Force**

7. In 2020, the working age population (16 years and over) numbered 1,001,700. Some 570,100 were in the labour force (or economically active), resulting in an activity rate of 56.9%. (Table1)

8. Out of the 570,100 persons in the labour force, 517,900 (90.8%) were employed and 52,200 (9.2%) were unemployed.

- a. The number of persons outside the labour force was significantly higher among women than among men at all ages (Chart 2)
- b. There were fewer women than men among the employed at all ages.
- c. There were more unemployed women than unemployed men at almost all ages.
- d. As from age 20-24 years, the number of unemployed generally decreased with age.

### **Population outside Labour Force**

9. The number of persons aged 16 years and over not forming part of labour force stood at 431,600 (149,400 males and 282,200 females) (Table 1).

### **Employment**

10. Total employment stood at 517,900 (310,300 or 60% males and 207,600 or 40% females) in 2020. The employment to population ratio was around 52% (64% for males and 40% for females) (Table 1)

#### ***Men comprise 60% of the workforce***

11. Out of every 100 persons in the workforce, 60 were men. The mean age of a worker was 42 years for men and 40 years for women.

#### ***The proportion of self-employed among women is still low compared to men***

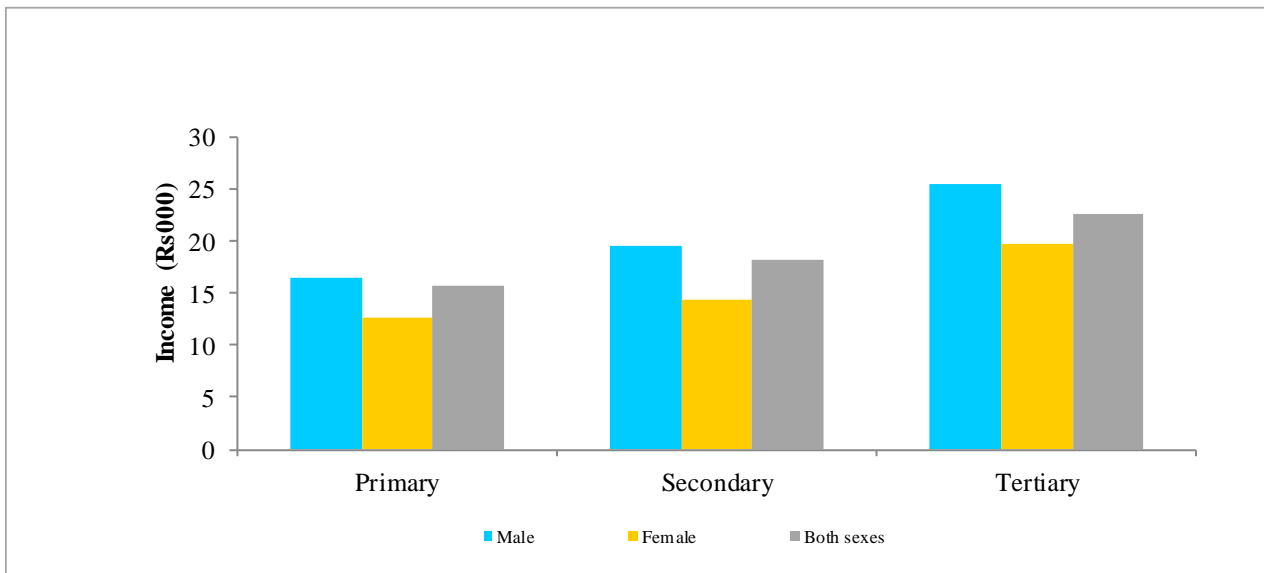
12. 81.0% of the employed were employees while around 15.9% were self-employed (own account workers or employers) and the remaining 3.1% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (83.4% against 79.4% among males) and contributing family workers (4.7% against 2.0% among males) but a lower proportion of self-employed (11.9% against 18.6% among males) (Table 4).

#### ***Male employees earn more than their female counterparts***

13. Average monthly income for an employee amounted to Rs 21,500 (Rs 23,400 for males and Rs 18,900 for females) (Table 5)

14. Average monthly income for employees was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 22,700), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 18,300) and the primary sector (Rs 15,800) (Table 5).

Chart 3 – Average monthly income of employees by industrial sector and sex, 2020



### ***Median income of employees***

15. The median monthly income of employees (comprising basic pay, allowances and overtime) was around Rs 16,000; i.e 50% of employees earned less than Rs 16,000 while the other 50% earned more than it (Table 6).

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

16. Out of every 100 workers, 71 were employed in the tertiary sector, 23 in the secondary sector and 6 in the primary sector (Table 7).

### **Unemployment**

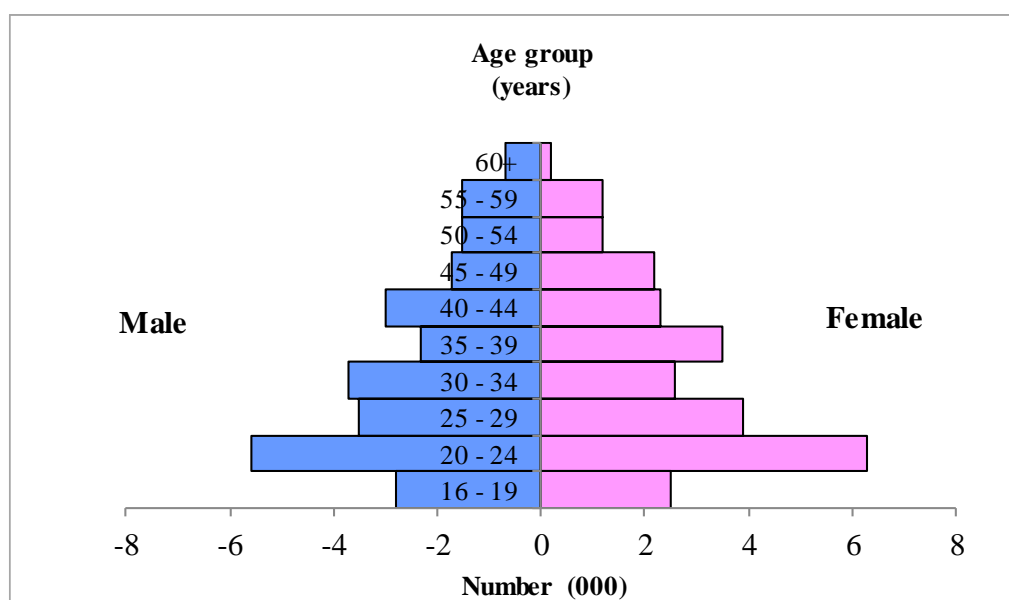
17. In 2020, unemployed persons numbered 52,200, comprising 26,300 men and 25,900 women. The unemployment rate was 9.2% (11.1% among women and 7.8% among men). (Table 1)

### ***Number of unemployed women almost same as unemployed men***

18. The shape of the pyramid in Chart 4 indicates almost a similar pattern between men and women among the unemployed at almost all age-groups in 2020. Male unemployed represented 50.4% of the total unemployed and female 49.6%.

19. The mean age of an unemployed male was 34 years and that of an unemployed female was 33 years.

Chart 4 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2020



***Unemployment rate is highest among young persons***

20. Unemployment rate was highest at the lowest age groups and decreased progressively with increasing age. It was 26.1% among those below 25 years and 3.9% among those aged 50 years and above (Table 8).

21. The disparity between male and female unemployment rates was highest in the lower age group; the difference was around 6 percentage points among the unemployed below 25 years (female unemployment rate was 29.6% compared to 23.2% for male unemployment rate).

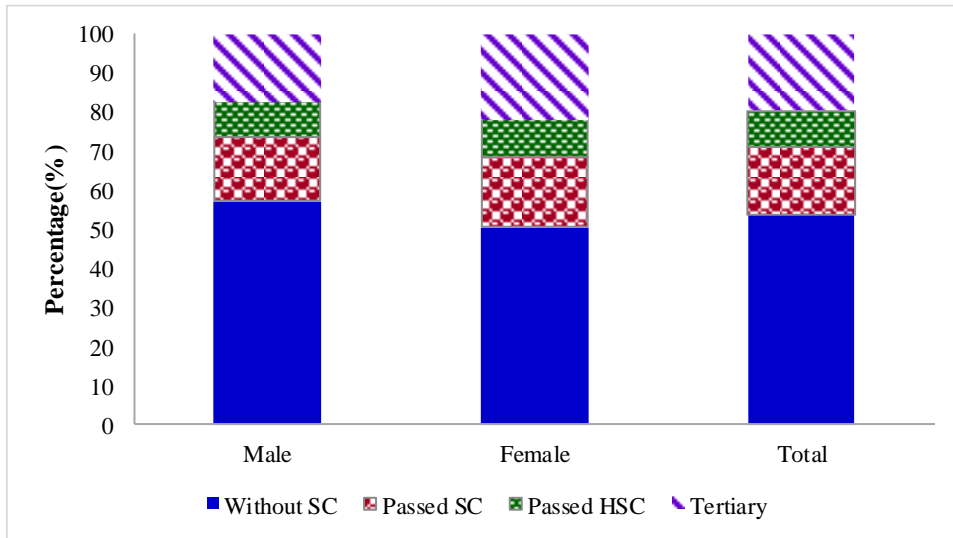
***61% of unemployed women are ever-married while unemployed men are mostly single***

22. About 50% of the unemployed were ever-married, i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated. Around 60% of unemployed men were single while among females, 61% were ever-married (Table 10).

***More than half of the unemployed do not hold the School Certificate***

23. Around 54% of the unemployed, representing 28,100 persons, did not hold a Cambridge School Certificate (SC): 16% had not attained the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, 3% held a CPE certificate, and a further 35% attended secondary school but did not pass the SC. The proportion having SC was 17% and Higher School Certificate (HSC) was 9%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 10,300 and represented 20% of the total unemployed (Table 11).

**Chart 5 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2020**



***Unemployed women are generally more qualified than unemployed men***

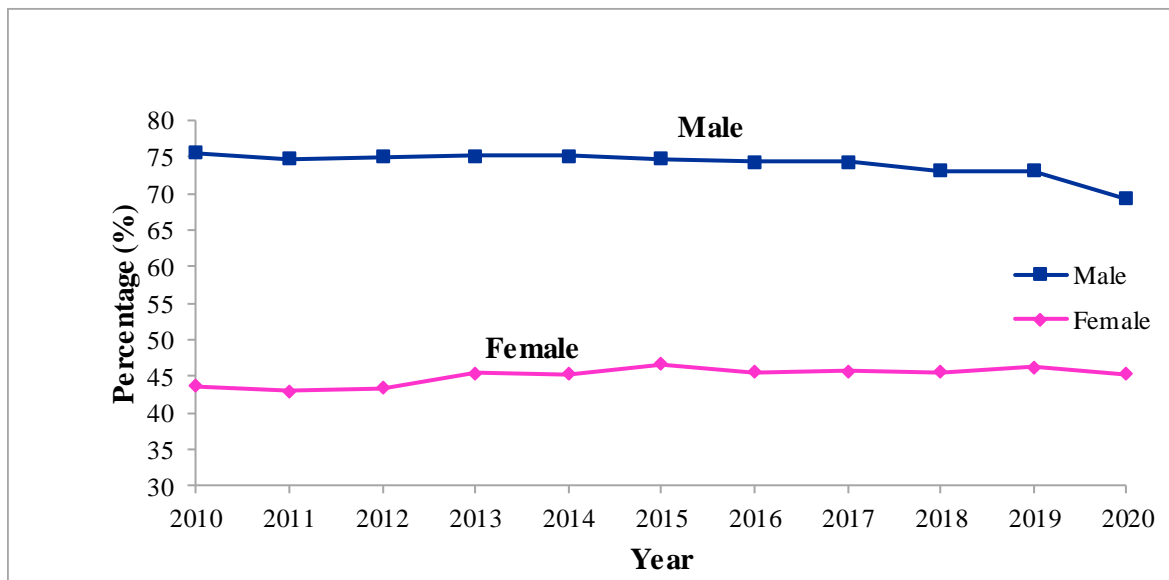
24. Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around 49% of them possessed at least a School Certificate against 43% among males.

**Evolution from 2010 to 2020**

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

25. During the period 2010 to 2020, male activity rate was consistently higher than female activity rate (Chart 6). However, the gap has been narrowing over time with activity rate for men decreasing and that of women generally increasing over the years (Table 2).

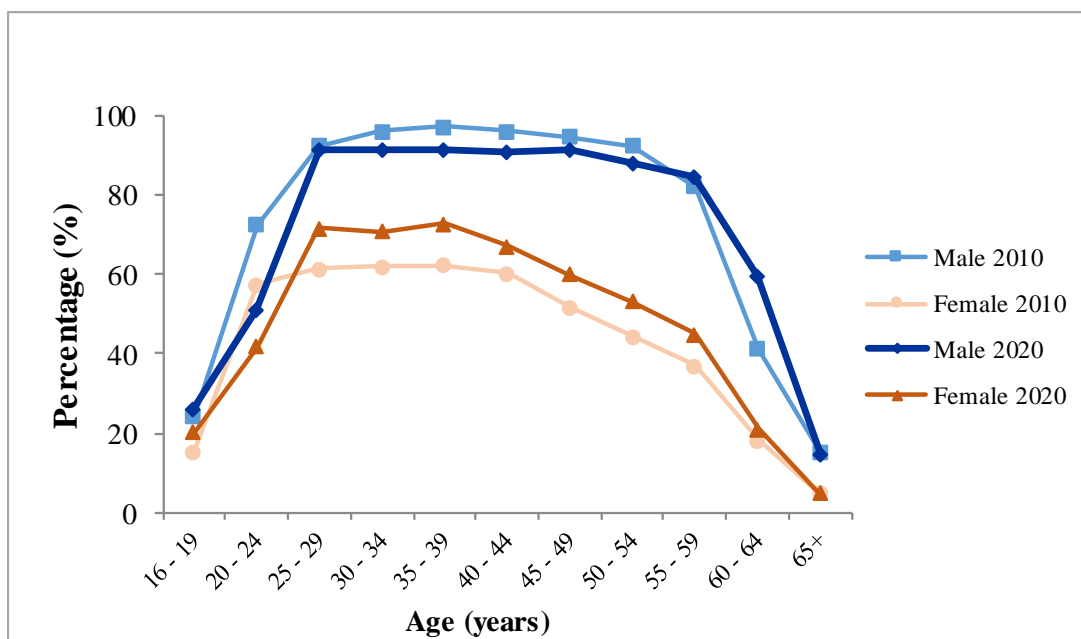
**Chart 6 – Activity rate by sex, 2010 – 2020**





26. Male age specific activity rates in 2020 were lower than in 2010 across nearly all age groups, particularly among those aged 30 to 54 years. Among women, the 2020 rates were higher than in 2010 except for age group 20 to 24 years.

Chart 7 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2010 & 2020



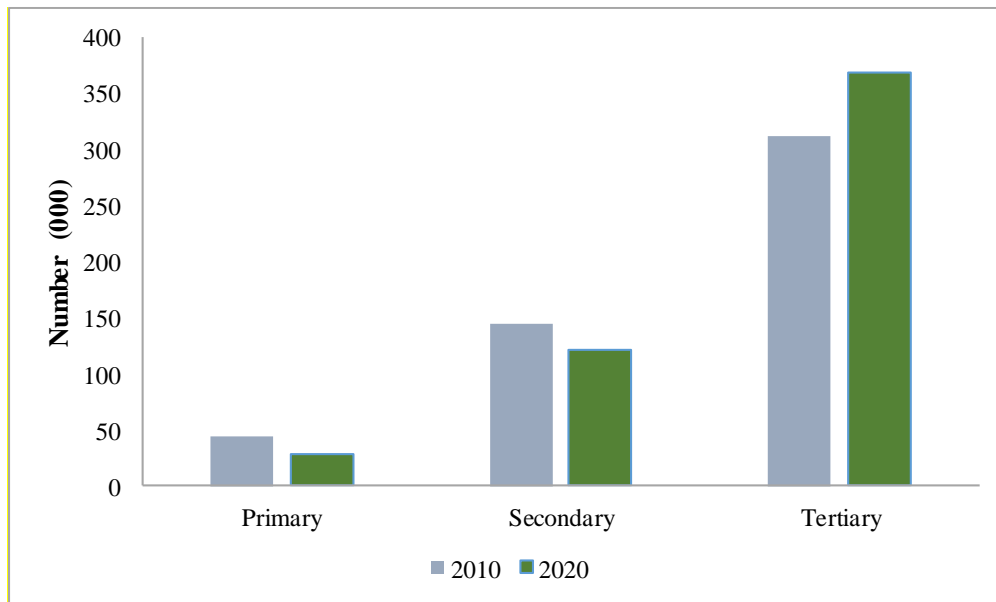
***Female employment is increasing faster than male employment***

27. During the period 2010 to 2020, female employment increased at a faster rate than male employment. On average, female employment increased annually by 1.4% whereas male employment decreased by 0.6%.

***The tertiary sector remains the important in terms of employment***

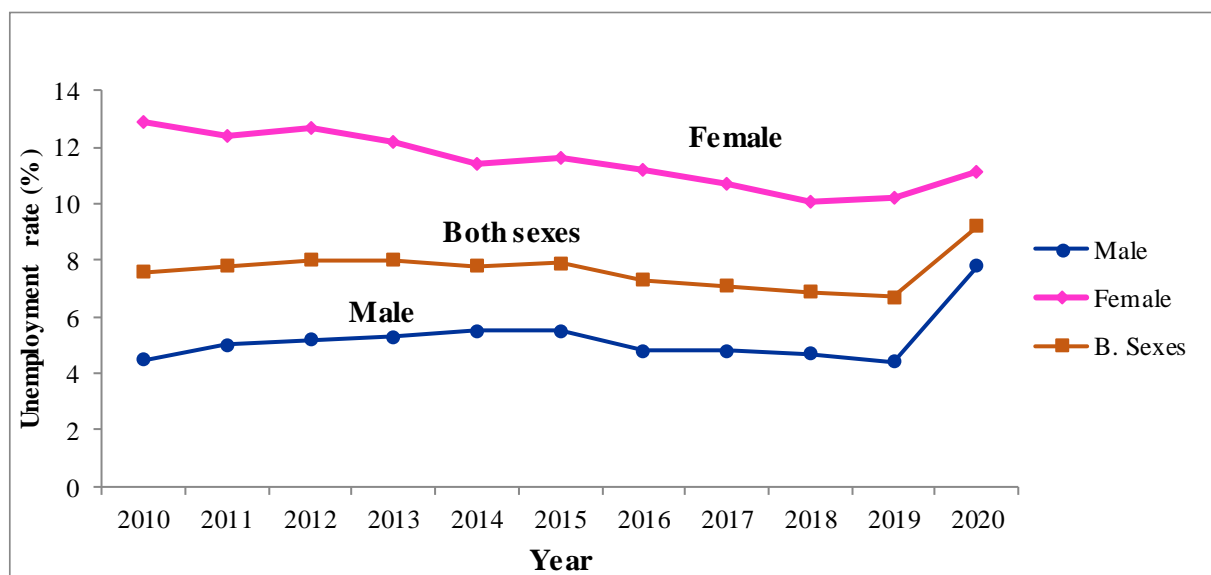
28. Over time, the tertiary sector has become increasingly important in terms of employment. From 2010 to 2020, employment in this sector rose from 321,300 to 368,800; its share over total employment also increased from 63% to 71%. In the primary sector, employment went down from 43,400 in 2010 to 28,100 in 2020 mainly due to the decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment dropped from 145,000 to 121,000 (Table 7).

**Chart 8 – Employed population by industrial sector, 2010 & 2020**



***Female unemployment rate remains higher but gender gap is decreasing***

**Chart 9 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2010 – 2020**



29. From 7.6% recorded in 2010, an upward trend was observed in the overall unemployment rate up to 2012 and 2013 when it peaked at 8.0%. Thereafter it declined generally to 6.7% in 2019 and then increased to 9.2% in 2020, due to Covid-19 pandemic (Table 12).

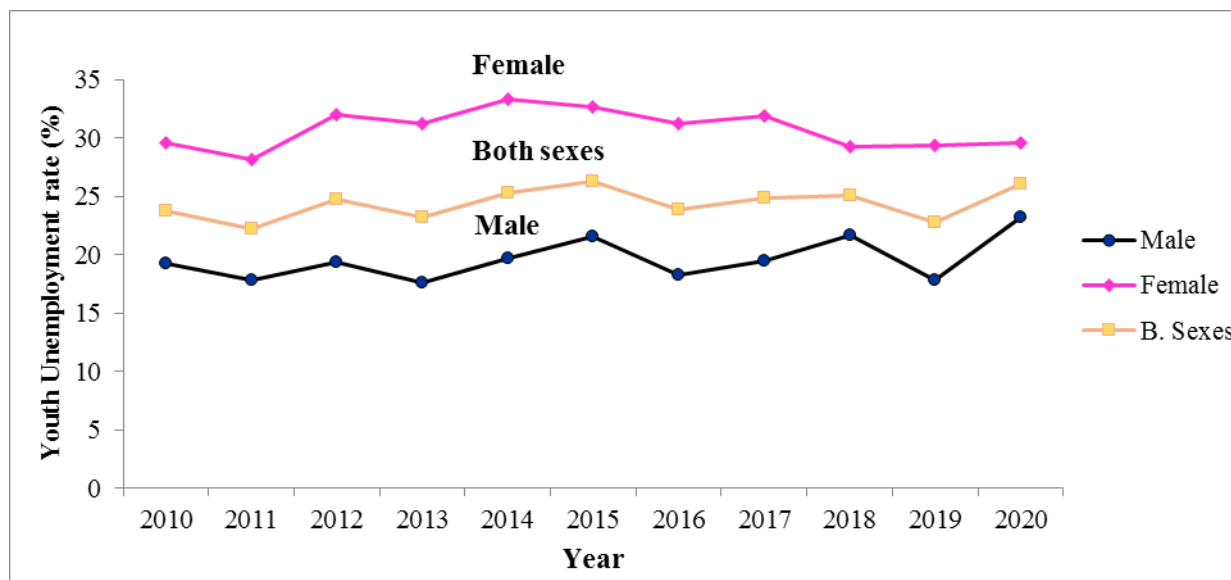
30. Male unemployment rate was on the rise during the period 2010 to 2015, from 4.5% to 5.5%, then declined constantly to reach 4.4% in 2019 and jumped to 7.8% in 2020. Female unemployment rate which stood at 12.9% in 2010 declined to 10.2% in 2019 but was followed by a rise to 11.1% in 2020. The gender gap with regards to unemployment rate decreased from 2010 to 2020.

### ***Trend in youth unemployment, 2010 to 2020***

31. From a rate of around 23.7% in 2010, youth unemployment rate followed an increasing trend to peak at 26.3% in 2015. It then went down to 23.9% in 2016, rose again to 25.1% by 2018 and was followed by a decline to 22.8% in 2019. A sharp increase to 26.1% is noted in 2020 (Table 9).

32. Unemployed young persons in 2020 numbered 17,200 of whom 8,400 were male and 8,800 female compared to 8,000 and 9,200 respectively in 2010.

**Chart 10 – Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployment rate, 2010 – 2020**



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**List of tables**

Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and population outside the labour force by sex, 2019 & 2020

Table 2 - Age specific activity rate (%) by sex – 2010 & 2020

Table 3 - Labour force, employment and unemployment by age group and sex - 2020

Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2020

Table 5 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2020

Table 6 - Percentage distribution of employees by income range - 2020

Table 7 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex – 2010 & 2020

Table 8 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex – 2020

Table 9 - Youth (16-24 years) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex, 2010 - 2020

Table 10 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex - 2020

Table 11 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex - 2020

Table 12 - Unemployment rate (%) by sex, 2010- 2020

**Table 1 - Estimated Labour Force, Employment, Unemployment and population outside the Labour force by sex, 2019 & 2020**

	2019			2020		
	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of variation (%)	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of variation (%)
<b>Population</b>						
Both Sexes	996,600	9,600	1.0	1,001,700	16,900	1.7
Male	485,000	5,500	1.1	486,000	9,100	1.9
Female	511,600	5,500	1.1	515,700	9,400	1.8
<b>Labour Force</b>						
Both Sexes	591,000	7,400	1.3	570,100	13,200	2.3
Male	354,700	4,800	1.4	336,600	8,100	2.4
Female	236,300	4,100	1.7	233,500	6,800	2.9
<b>Employment</b>						
Both Sexes	551,300	7,100	1.3	517,900	12,200	2.4
Male	339,100	4,600	1.4	310,300	7,500	2.4
Female	212,200	3,900	1.8	207,600	6,400	3.1
<b>Unemployment</b>						
Both Sexes	39,700	1,500	3.8	52,200	2,800	5.4
Male	15,600	900	5.8	26,300	1,800	6.8
Female	24,100	1,100	4.6	25,900	1,700	6.6
<b>Population outside labour force</b>						
Both Sexes	405,600	5,200	1.3	431,600	6,400	1.5
Male	130,300	2,800	2.1	149,400	2,600	1.7
Female	275,300	3,800	1.4	282,200	5,100	1.8
<b>Activity rate (%)</b>						
Both Sexes	59.3	0.4	0.7	56.9	0.6	1.1
Male	73.1	0.5	0.7	69.3	0.6	0.9
Female	46.2	0.6	1.2	45.3	0.9	2.0
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>						
Both Sexes	6.7	0.2	3.5	9.2	0.4	4.3
Male	4.4	0.3	5.7	7.8	0.5	6.4
Female	10.2	0.4	4.3	11.1	0.7	6.3
<b>Youth unemployment</b>						
Both Sexes	17,100	1,000	5.8	17,200	1,400	8.1
Male	7,600	600	7.9	8,400	900	10.7
Female	9,500	700	7.4	8,800	1,000	11.4
<b>Youth unemployment rate (%)</b>						
Both Sexes	22.8	1.1	4.7	26.1	1.8	6.9
Male	17.8	1.3	7.1	23.2	2.0	8.6
Female	29.4	1.9	6.4	29.6	3.1	10.5

**Reliability of estimates**

High reliability	Less than 7.5
Medium reliability	7.5 - 15.0
Low reliability	Greater than 15.0

**Table 2 - Age specific activity rate (%) by sex - 2010 & 2020**

Age group (years)	2010			2020		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 19	24.2	15.4	19.9	26.1	20.2	23.4
20 - 24	72.4	57.4	64.9	51.2	41.7	46.3
25 - 29	92.4	61.5	76.9	91.5	71.6	81.5
30 - 34	96.3	62.1	79.1	91.5	70.9	81.0
35 - 39	97.4	62.2	79.8	91.5	72.9	82.1
40 - 44	96.3	60.4	78.4	91.1	67.1	79.1
45 - 49	94.6	51.8	73.2	91.4	60.1	75.7
50 - 54	92.4	44.4	68.2	87.8	53.1	70.4
55 - 59	82.3	36.9	59.0	84.8	44.8	64.4
60 - 64	41.2	18.1	28.9	59.8	20.9	39.5
65+	15.4	4.8	9.2	14.4	4.7	8.9
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>56.9</b>

**Table 3 – Labour force, employment, unemployment by age and sex - 2020**

Age group	Labour Force			Employment			Unemployment		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 - 19	7,400	4,900	12,300	4,600	2,400	7,000	2,800	2,500	5,300
20 - 24	28,800	24,800	53,600	23,200	18,500	41,700	5,600	6,300	11,900
25 - 29	39,000	31,300	70,300	35,500	27,400	62,900	3,500	3,900	7,400
30 - 34	35,500	28,700	64,200	31,800	26,100	57,900	3,700	2,600	6,300
35 - 39	38,900	31,500	70,400	36,600	28,000	64,600	2,300	3,500	5,800
40 - 44	42,800	31,400	74,200	39,800	29,100	68,900	3,000	2,300	5,300
45 - 49	37,100	24,400	61,500	35,400	22,200	57,600			
50 - 54	38,200	23,300	61,500	36,700	22,100	58,800			
55 - 59	37,500	20,700	58,200	36,000	19,500	55,500	5,400	4,800	10,200
60 - 64	22,000	8,400	30,400	21,300	8,200	29,500			
65 & over	9,400	4,100	13,500	9,400	4,100	13,500			
<b>Total</b>	<b>336,600</b>	<b>233,500</b>	<b>570,100</b>	<b>310,300</b>	<b>207,600</b>	<b>517,900</b>	<b>26,300</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>52,200</b>

**Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2020**

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	3,800	1,400	5,200
Own Account worker	53,900	23,300	77,200
Employee	246,500	173,100	419,600
Contributing family worker	6,100	9,800	15,900
<b>All employment states</b>	<b>310,300</b>	<b>207,600</b>	<b>517,900</b>

**Table 5 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2020**

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	16,400	12,700	15,800
Secondary	19,600	14,300	18,300
Tertiary	25,500	19,700	22,700
<b>All sectors</b>	<b>23,400</b>	<b>18,900</b>	<b>21,500</b>

**Table 6 - Percentage distribution of employees by income range - 2020**

Income range Rupees per month	Employees		Income	
	%	Cumulative %	%	Cumulative %
Up to 5,000	6.5	6.5	1.0	1.0
5,001 - 10,000	16.7	23.2	6.7	7.7
10,001 - 15,000	24.6	47.8	14.7	22.4
15,001 - 20,000	17.5	65.3	14.7	37.1
20,001 - 25,000	10.0	75.3	10.8	47.9
25,001 - 50,000	19.0	94.3	31.1	79.0
50,001 - 75,000	3.5	97.8	10.0	89.0
75,001 and over	2.2	100.0	11.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	100.0		100.0	

**Table 7 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2010 & 2020**

Industrial Sector	2010			2020		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
<b>Primary</b>	<b>29,800</b>	<b>13,600</b>	<b>43,400</b>	<b>21,300</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>28,100</b>
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>106,400</b>	<b>38,600</b>	<b>145,000</b>	<b>90,200</b>	<b>30,800</b>	<b>121,000</b>
<i>of which Manufacturing</i>	48,500	36,400	84,900	39,800	29,200	69,000
<i>Construction</i>	54,000	1,800	55,800	45,600	1,200	46,800
<b>Tertiary</b>	<b>192,500</b>	<b>128,800</b>	<b>321,300</b>	<b>198,800</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>368,800</b>
<i>of which Wholesale and retail trade</i>	44,100	27,400	71,500	41,700	36,800	78,500
<i>Accommodation and food service activities</i>	23,200	15,400	38,600	22,200	17,800	40,000
<i>Transportation and storage</i>	29,000	2,700	31,700	27,600	5,500	33,100
<i>Public administration and defence</i>	28,400	7,900	36,300	36,800	13,800	50,600
<i>Education and Human Health &amp; social work activities</i>	19,800	28,200	48,000	21,100	35,500	56,600
<b>All Sectors</b>	<b>328,700</b>	<b>181,000</b>	<b>509,700</b>	<b>310,300</b>	<b>207,600</b>	<b>517,900</b>

**Table 8 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2020**

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 24	23.2	29.6	26.1
25 - 29	9.0	12.5	10.5
30 - 39	8.1	10.1	9.0
40 - 49	5.9	8.1	6.8
50 and over	3.5	4.6	3.9
<b>All ages</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>9.2</b>

**Table 9 - Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex , 2010 - 2020**

Year	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
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
2018	9,400	10,300	19,700	21.7	29.3	25.1
2019	7,600	9,500	17,100	17.8	29.4	22.8
2020	8,400	8,800	17,200	23.2	29.6	26.1



**Table 10 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex – 2020**

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Ever Married	10,400	15,800	26,200
Single	15,900	10,100	26,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,300</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>52,200</b>

**Table 11 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex - 2020**

Educational attainment	Male	Female	Both Sexes
<b>Primary</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>9,700</b>
<i>Below CPE</i>	4,300	3,700	8,000
<i>Passed CPE</i>	800	900	1,700
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>16,600</b>	<b>15,600</b>	<b>32,200</b>
<i>Form I - V but not passed SC</i>	9,900	8,500	18,400
<i>Passed SC</i>	4,300	4,700	9,000
<i>Passed HSC</i>	2,400	2,400	4,800
<b>Tertiary</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>10,300</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,300</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>52,200</b>

**Table 12 - Unemployment rate (%) by sex, 2010 - 2020**

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
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
2018	4.7	10.1	6.9
2019	4.4	10.2	6.7
2020	7.8	11.1	9.2

## Methodology of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

- 1. Data collection:** Normally, data is collected by face to face interviewing of household members. However, following lockdown measures introduced by the Government on 20 March 2020, the face-to-face data collection had to be stopped and replaced by a telephone survey.
- 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:** A Stratified two-stage sampling design is used. At the first stage, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) are selected in proportion to square root of the total number of households in the geographical district 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.

In 2020, only 7,644 households were successfully interviewed due to difficulties in obtaining telephone numbers for newly selected households during the second half of the year and also some refusals to give information by telephone.

- 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) and the Coefficient of Variation (CV), which are measures of this variability have been computed and are given in table 1.
- 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 16<sup>1</sup> years and above 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 years and above who are not working but who are actively 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 years and above.
- 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 years and above, 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; a paid 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 basic pay, 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.

### **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 who express an interest in work but for whom existing conditions limit their active job search and/or their availability.

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