



# Economic and Social Indicators

**Issue No 1718**

**Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment**

**(based on the results of the Continuous Multipurpose Household Survey)**

**Year 2022**

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Statistics Mauritius  
Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development  
Port Louis

Note: Readers are invited to make the distinction between official data which are published in the Economic and Social indicators and the analysis presented for the benefit of general readers. Differences of opinion may arise regarding the analytical part but these do not in any way, undermine the quality of the data. The Editors welcome constructive critical comments.

## Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Year 2022

### Introduction

1. This fourteenth issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2022, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS). **The estimates refer to the Mauritian population aged 16 years and above in the Republic of Mauritius; foreign workers are not included.**
2. The estimates in this publication are subject to sampling 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

	2021	2022	Change 2021 - 2022
Population (aged 16+)	1,008,400	1,011,000	+2,600
Labour Force (Economically active)	532,800	562,800	+30,000
<i>Of which Employment</i>	<i>484,400</i>	<i>519,600</i>	<i>+35,200<sup>1</sup></i>
<i>Unemployment</i>	<i>48,400</i>	<i>43,200</i>	<i>-5,200</i>
Outside Labour Force (Economically inactive)	475,600	448,200	-27,400
<i>Of which Potential Labour Force<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>14,900</i>	<i>1,500</i>	<i>-13,400</i>
Activity rate (%)	52.8	55.7	+2.9
Employment-to-population ratio <sup>3</sup>	48.0	51.4	+3.4
Unemployment rate (%)	9.1	7.7	-1.4
Youth unemployment	16,000	15,500	-500
Youth unemployment rate (%)	27.7	25.1	-2.6

<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 force 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.

<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, 2022**

- a. The employed population comprised 318,000 (61.2%) males and 201,600 (38.8%) females.
- b. Among the total of 43,200 unemployed, women outnumbered men (22,800 women compared to 20,400 men). The unemployed youth aged 16 to 24 years numbered 15,500.
- c. The labour force (employed + unemployed) comprised 338,400 (60.1%) males and 224,400 (39.9%) females.

### **4. Change in Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2021 to 2022**

#### **Male**

- a. Male employment increased by 25,000 and unemployment decreased by 5,400 and hence male labour force increased by 19,600.
- b. Male unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 8.1% in 2021 to 6.0% in 2022.
- c. Male activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 65.3% in 2021 to 69.2% in 2022 as a result of an increase of 19,600 in the male labour force compared to an increase of 1,100 in the male population aged 16 years and above.

#### **Female**

- d. Female employment increased by 10,200 and unemployment by 200 and hence female labour force increased by 10,400.
- e. Female unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) decreased from 10.6% in 2021 to 10.2% in 2022.
- f. Female activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 41.1% in 2021 to 43.0% in 2022 as a result of an increase of 10,400 in the female labour force compared to an increase of 1,500 in the female population aged 16 years and above.

#### **Both sexes**

- g. Employment increased by 35,200 while unemployment decreased by 5,200 and hence the labour force increased by 30,000.
- h. Unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 9.1% in 2021 to 7.7% in 2022.
- i. The overall activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 52.8% in 2021 to 55.7% in 2022 as a result of an increase of 30,000 in the labour force compared to an increase of 2,600 in the population aged 16 years and above.

## Youth

- j. Youth employment increased by 4,500 from 41,700 in 2021 to 46,200 in 2022 and unemployment decreased by 500 from 16,000 to 15,500.
- k. Youth unemployment rate therefore decreased by 2.6 percentage points from 27.7% to 25.1%.

### 5. Evolution from 2012 to 2022

- a. Men are more economically active than women but the gap is decreasing over time (Table 2).
- b. Male employment was some 10,800 less than its 2012 level while female employment was higher (+18,700) (Table 10).
- c. Employment in the primary and secondary sectors declined over the ten-year period, while that of the tertiary sector showed an increase (Table 10).
- d. The unemployment rate reached 7.7% in 2022 compared to 8.0% in 2012 (Table 18).
- e. From a rate of 24.7% in 2012, youth unemployment rose to 25.1% in 2022 (Table 14).

### Labour market overview, 2022

Chart 1 - The Labour Market, 2022

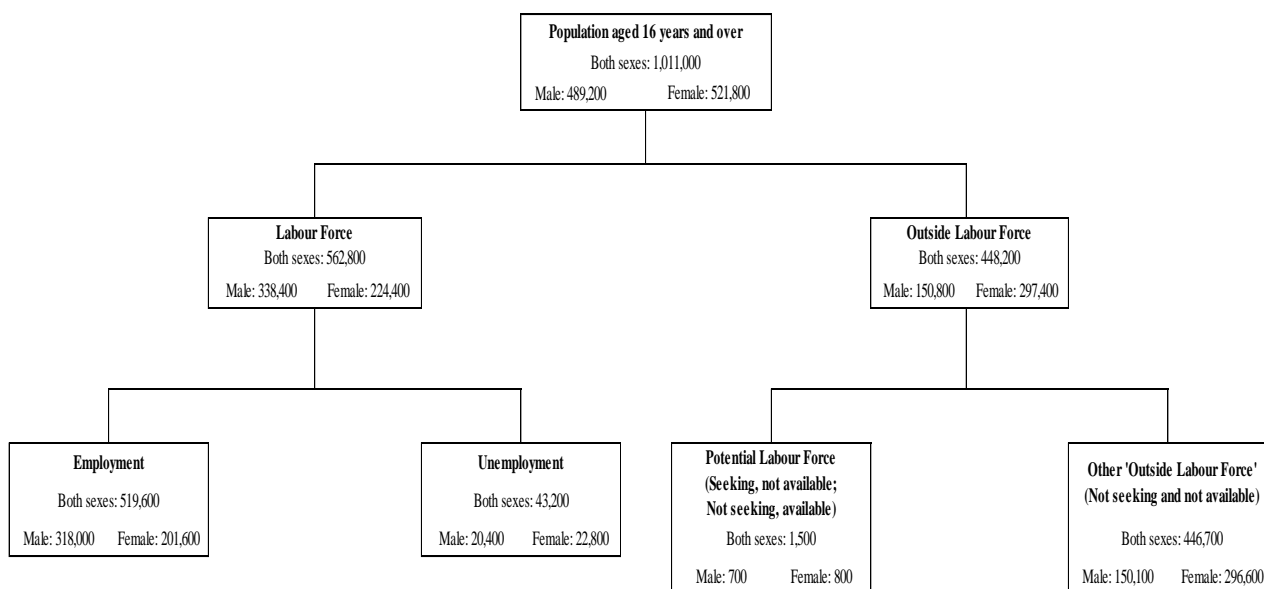


Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2022



### **Labour Force**

6. The population of working age (aged 16 years and over) numbered 1,011,000, of whom 562,800 consisted of the labour force (or were economically active) resulting in an activity rate of 55.7% (Table 1).
7. Out of the 562,800 persons in the labour force, 519,600 (92.3%) were employed and 43,200 (7.7%) were unemployed.
  - a. The number of persons outside the labour force was significantly higher among women than among men at all ages, except for age group 16 - 19 years (Chart 2).
  - b. There were fewer women than men among the employed at all ages.
  - c. As from age group 20-24 years, the number of unemployed generally decreased with age.

### **Population outside Labour Force**

8. The number of persons aged 16 years and over not forming part of labour force stood at 448,200 (150,800 males and 297,400 females) (Table 19).
9. Some 1,500 (700 males and 800 females) of the population outside labour force were classified as forming part of the potential labour force (i.e., 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). Those persons have not been classified as unemployed since they did not satisfy all the three criteria for unemployment i.e., not working, actively looking for work and available for work. About 36% of the persons outside the labour force did not look for work because either they believed that suitable jobs were not available or did not know where to look for work.
10. The population outside labour force comprised 39.1% homemakers, 19.5% students, 31.0% retired or old persons and 6.5% sick or disabled persons.

## **Labour underutilization**

11. In 2022, labour underutilization worked out to be 113,600, comprising:

- Unemployed (43,200).
- Potential labour force (1,500), i.e persons not in employment and who were not actively looking but were available for work or those who were actively looking but were not available for work.
- Skills-related underemployed (33,900), i.e those who were in employment and having tertiary qualifications and were engaged in occupations such as clerical support workers, service and sales workers, skilled agricultural workers, plant and machine operators and elementary occupations.
- Time-related underemployed (35,000), i.e those who were in employment and were available for extra work.

*Note: persons holding tertiary qualifications and available for extra work are included in skills-related underemployed and excluded in the time-related underemployed.*

## **Employment**

12. Total employment stood at 519,600 (318,000 or 61% males and 201,600 or 39% females) in 2022. The employment to population ratio was around 51% (65% for males and 39% for females).

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

13. Out of every 100 persons in the workforce, 60 were men and the mean age of a worker was 42.0 years for men and 39.6 years for women.

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

14. Some 77.1% of the employed were employees while around 21.3% were self-employed (own account workers or employers) and the remaining 1.6% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (86.2% against 71.3% among males) and contributing family workers (3.4% against 0.4% among males) but a lower proportion of self-employed (10.4% against 28.3% among males) (Table 4).

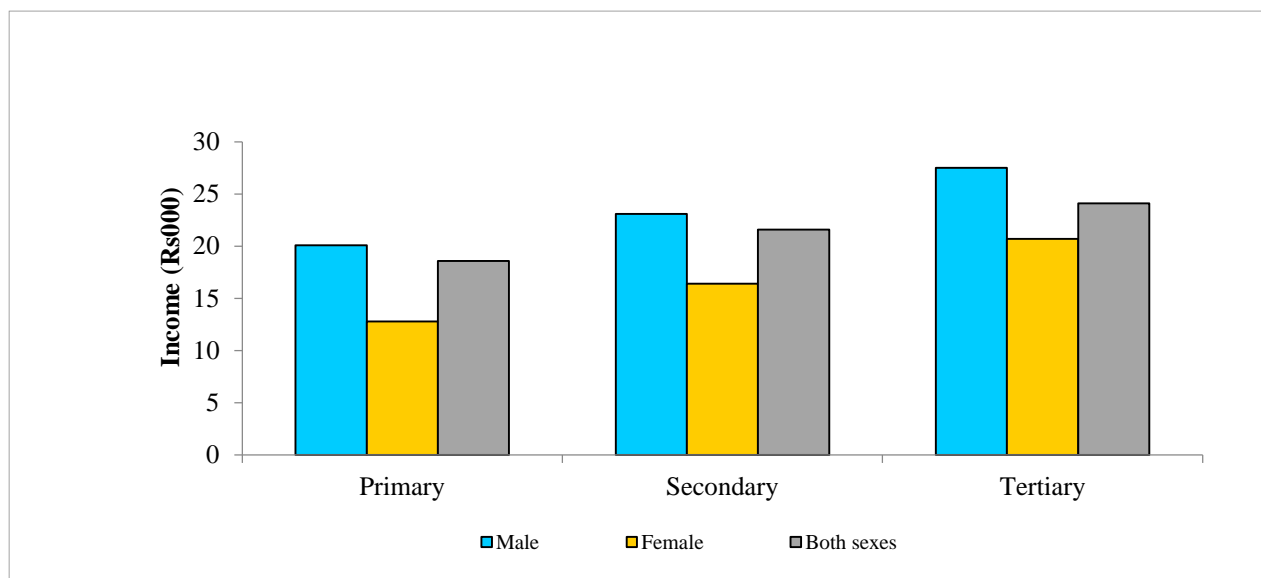
### ***Male employees work longer hours and earn more than their female counterparts***

15. On average, an employee worked 41.1 hours per week. A male employee worked 42.1 hours per week on average compared to 39.8 hours per week for a female employee (Table 5).

16. Employees in the secondary sector (covering manufacturing, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage waste management and remediation activities and construction) had the longest hours of work (41.9 hours per week), compared to 41.0 hours to those in the tertiary sector (covering wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food service activities, transportation and storage and all the other service industries) and 39.5 hours in the primary sector (covering agriculture, forestry and fishing and mining & quarrying) (Table 6).

17. Average monthly income for an employee amounted to Rs 23,400 (Rs 25,900 for males and Rs 20,100 for females) (Table 7)
18. Average monthly income for employees was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 24,100), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 21,600) and the primary sector (Rs 18,600) (Table 7).

Chart 3 – Average monthly income of employees by industrial sector and sex, 2022



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

19. The median monthly income of employees (comprising basic pay, allowances and overtime) was around Rs 18,000; i.e., 50% of employees earned less than Rs 18,000 while the other 50% earned more than it (Table 8).
20. Chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals earned the highest monthly income (Rs 39,200), followed by clerical and support workers (Rs 22,400). The lowest income was drawn by those engaged in elementary occupations (Rs 13,600) (Table 9).

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

21. Out of every 100 workers, 72 were employed in the tertiary sector, 23 in the secondary sector and 5 in the primary sector (Table 10).

### ***1 out of 5 employed persons engaged as managers, professionals or technicians***

22. Around 21% 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 11% of the workforce; service and sales workers (ISCO 5) 22%. Another 29% 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 17% of the workforce (Table 11).



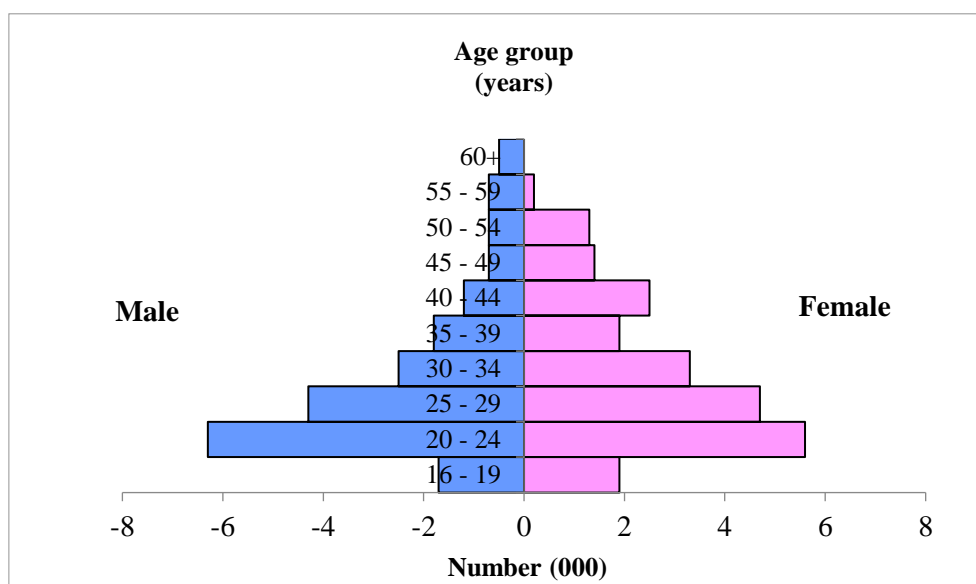
## **Unemployment**

23. In 2022, unemployed persons numbered 43,200, comprising 20,400 men and 22,800 women. The unemployment rate was 7.7% (6.0% among men and 10.2% among women) (Table 1).

### ***There are more unemployed among women than among men***

24. The shape of the pyramid in Chart 4 indicates the predominance of women among the unemployed at almost all age-groups in 2022.

Chart 4 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2022



25. The mean age of an unemployed male was 30.3 years and that of unemployed female was 31.1 years.

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

26. Unemployment rate was highest at the lowest age groups and decreased progressively with increasing age. It was 25.1% among those below 25 years and 2.3% among those aged 50 years and above (Table 13).

27. The disparity between male and female unemployment rate was highest in the lowest age group of 16 - 24 years; the difference being 6.7 percentage points.

### ***51% of unemployed women are ever-married while unemployed men are mostly single***

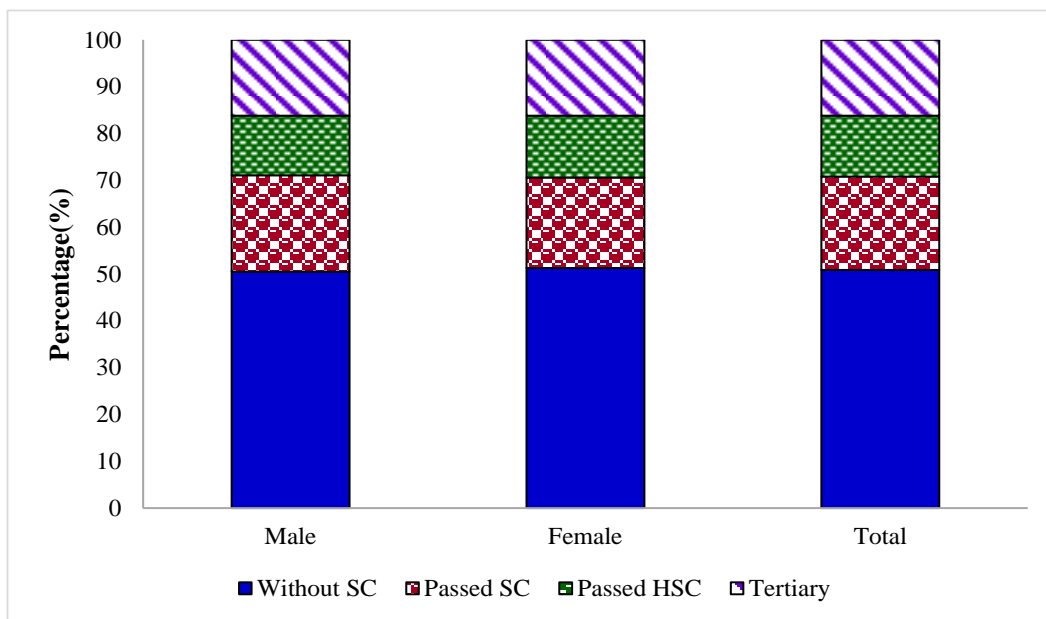
28. About 38% of the unemployed were ever-married, i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated. Most of the unemployed men were single (76%). 51% of the unemployed women were ever-married (Table 15).

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

29. Around 51% of the unemployed, representing 22,000 persons, did not hold a Cambridge School Certificate (SC): 9% had not attained the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC)/Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, 4% held the PSAC/CPE certificate, and a further 38% attended secondary school but did not pass the SC. The proportion having SC was

20% and Higher School Certificate (HSC) was 13%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 7,000 and represented 16% of the total unemployed (Table 16).

Chart 5 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2022



***Unemployed women are generally as qualified as unemployed men***

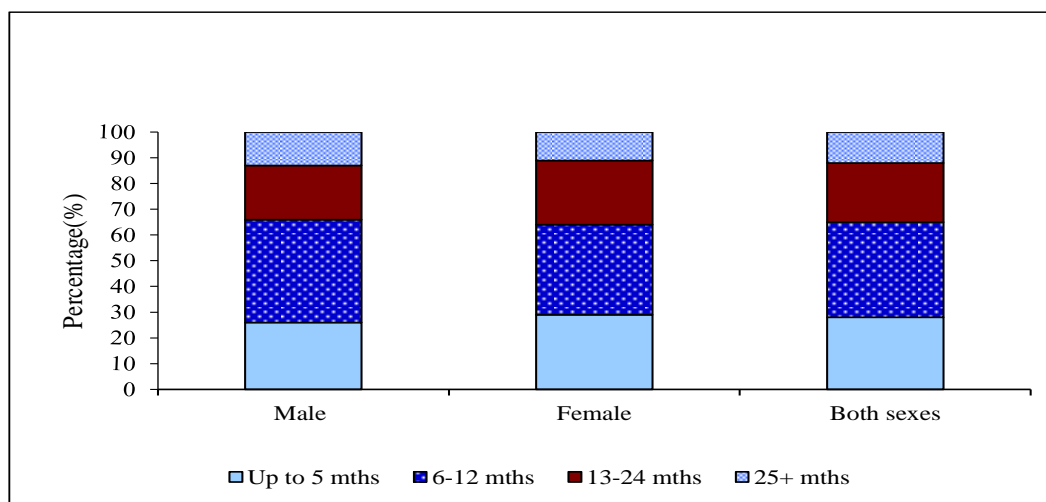
30. Unemployed women were generally as qualified as their male counterparts; around 49% of them possessed at least a School Certificate, same as men.

***Women remain in unemployment around two months more than men***

31. The proportion of persons in unemployment for a duration of less than six months is higher among females (29%) compared to males (26%) while the proportion of those who are unemployed for more than twenty four months is higher among males (13%) against 11% among females (Chart 6).

32. On average, an unemployed person had been without a job for 16 months. Average duration of unemployment for males was 17 months compared to 15 months for females.

Chart 6 – Duration of unemployment by sex, 2022



***The unemployed is predominantly made up of persons with work experience***

33. Around 60% of the unemployed had worked in the past. More than two thirds (73%) had worked previously in the tertiary sector, mainly ‘Wholesale & retail trade’ (18%) followed by ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (14%). Another 25% had worked previously in the secondary sector, mainly in ‘Construction’ (12%) followed by ‘Manufacturing’(12%). The remaining 2% previously worked in the agricultural sector.

***Nearly one out of 4 unemployed who worked lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job.***

34. Some 23% of the unemployed lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job. Another 22% left their job due to dissatisfaction with job while around 13% left due closure of establishment/reduction for another reasons. Closure of establishment and reduction in workforce due to COVID-19 accounted for 19% of the job losses.

***More than two thirds of the unemployed are not registered at the Employment Service.***

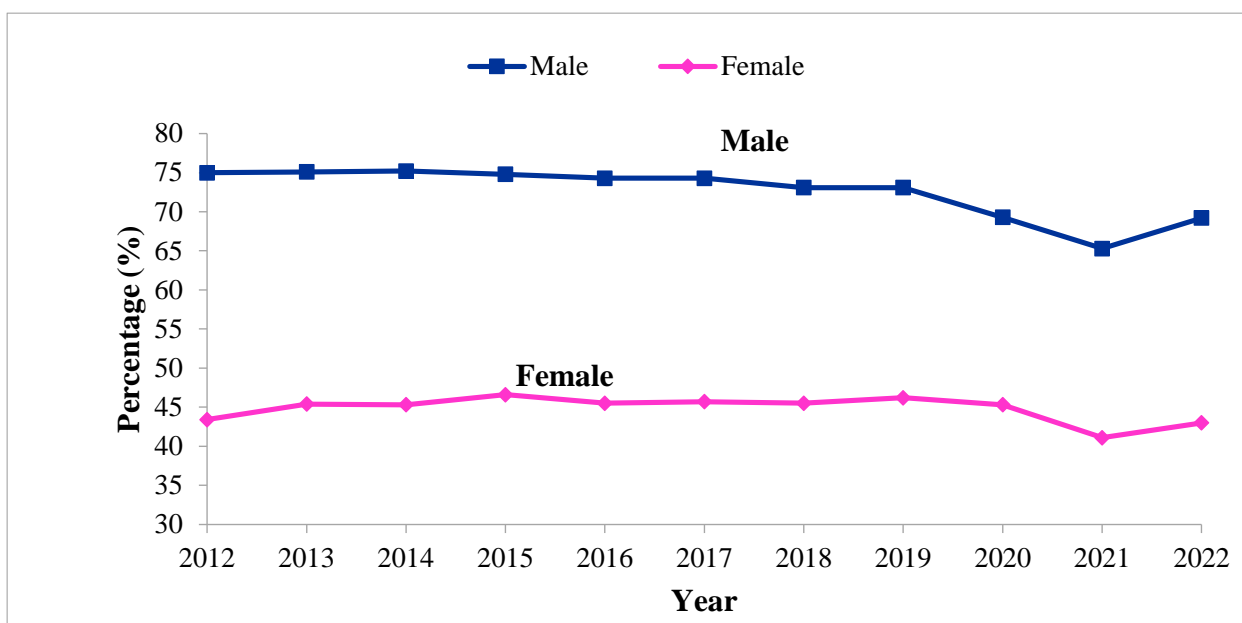
35. The unemployed usually had recourse to more than one method of job search. The most common method was ‘applied to prospective employers’(63%) followed by ‘checked at factories,worksites, etc’ (63%). Around 31% were registered at the Employment Service (Table 17).

**Evolution from 2012 to 2022**

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

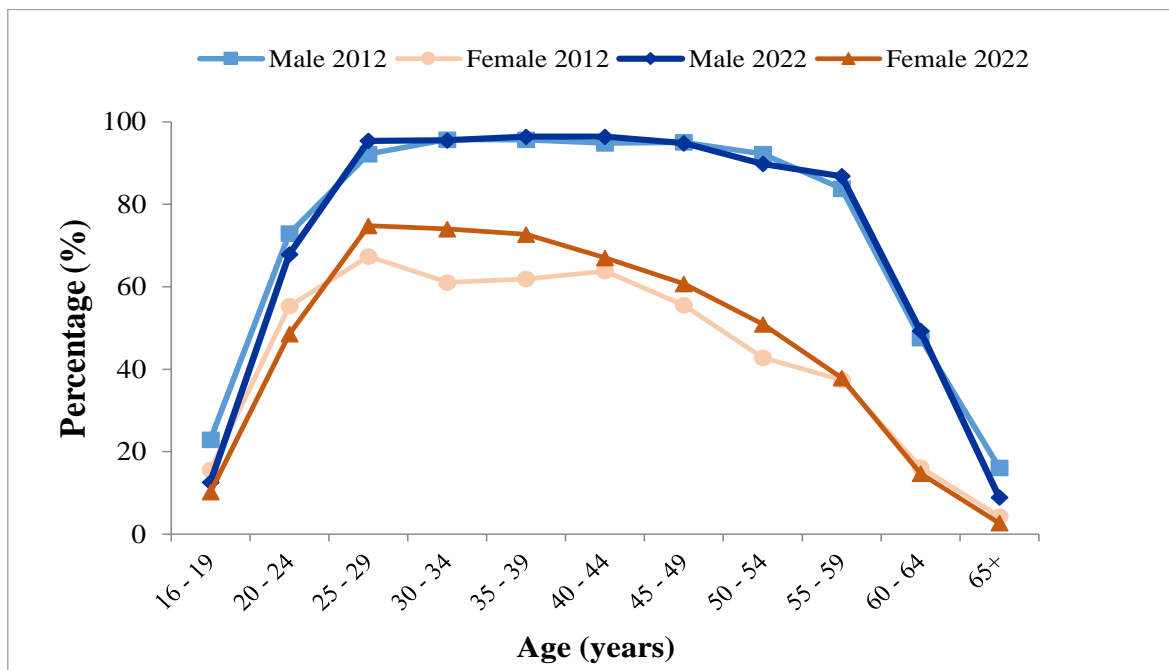
36. During the period 2012 to 2022, male activity rate was consistently higher than female activity rate (Chart 7). However, the gap between male and female activity rates is decreasing over time (Table 2).

Chart 7 – Activity rate by sex, 2012 – 2022



37. From 2012 to 2022, male age-specific activity rate had remained almost the same between 25 and 54 years. On the other hand, female age-specific activity rate in 2022 was higher than those of 2012 for all age groups between 25 and 59 years.

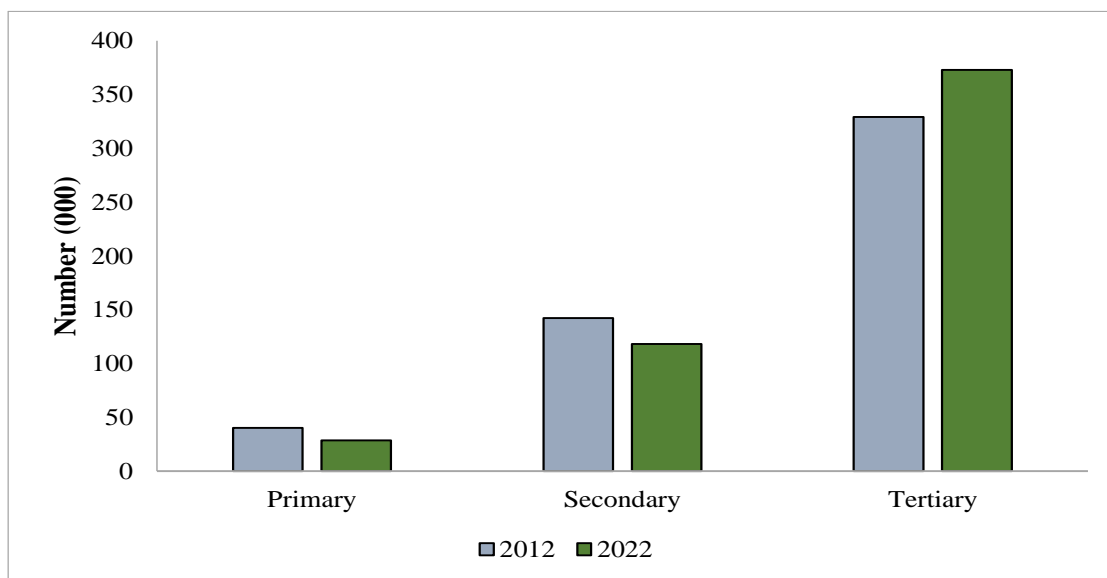
Chart 8 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2012 & 2022



***The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment***

38. Over time, the tertiary sector has become increasingly important in terms of employment. From 2012 to 2022, employment in this sector rose from 329,200 to 372,800; its share over total employment also increased from 64% to 72%. In contrast, employment in the primary and secondary sectors has been declining over time. In the primary sector, employment went down from 40,200 in 2012 to 28,600 in 2022 mainly due to a decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment dropped from 142,300 to 118,200 mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector (Table 10).

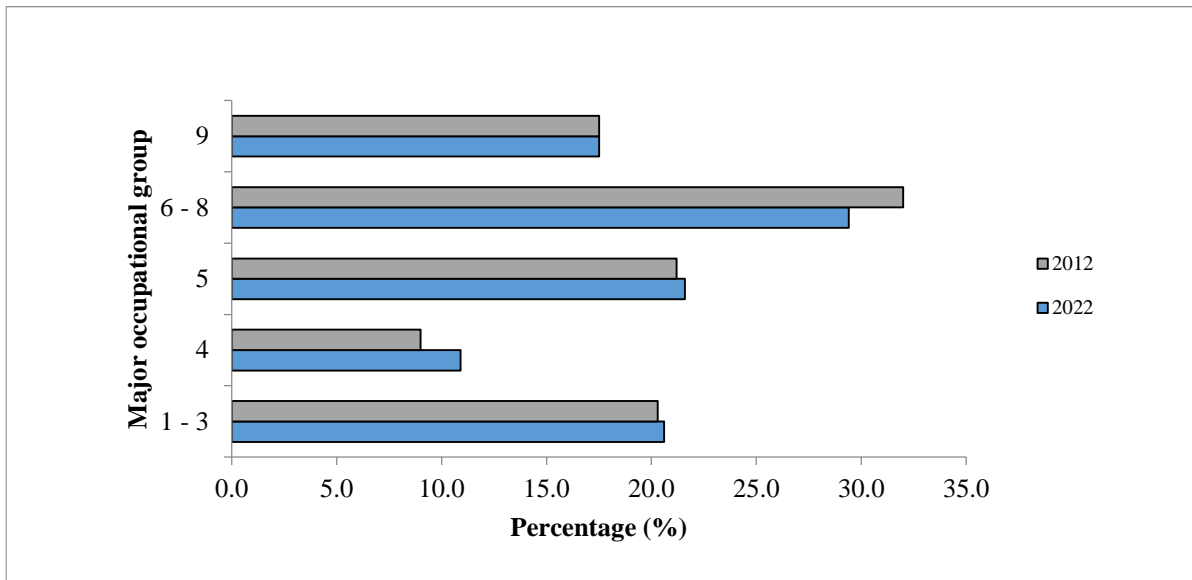
Chart 9 – Employed population by industrial sector, 2012 & 2022



***Mauritian workforce is moving up the occupation ladder***

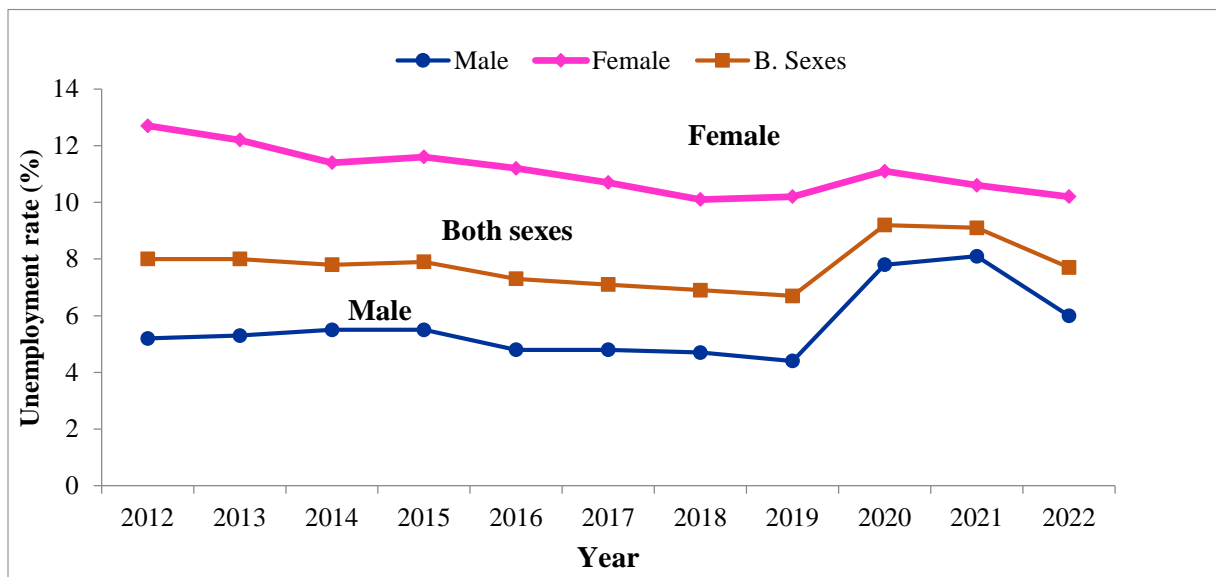
39. The share of employment in the higher occupational groups (ISCO group 1-3) comprising legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals increased from 20.3% in 2012 to 20.6% in 2022, while the share of employment in the lowest occupational group (ISCO group 9) representing elementary jobs remained same at 17.5%.

Chart 10 – Employed population by occupational group, 2012 & 2022



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

Chart 11 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2012 – 2022



40. From 2012 to 2015, the overall unemployment rate oscillated around 8.0%. However, for period 2016 to 2019, it remained around 7.0% and thereafter it picked up to reach 9.1% in 2021. Then, it declined to 7.7% in 2022 (Table 18).

41. Male unemployment rate increased steadily during the period 2012 to 2015, from 5.2% to 5.5%; then declined gradually to reach 4.4% in 2019. However, the rate increased significantly to 8.1 % in 2021 followed by a decrease to reach 6.0% in 2022 .

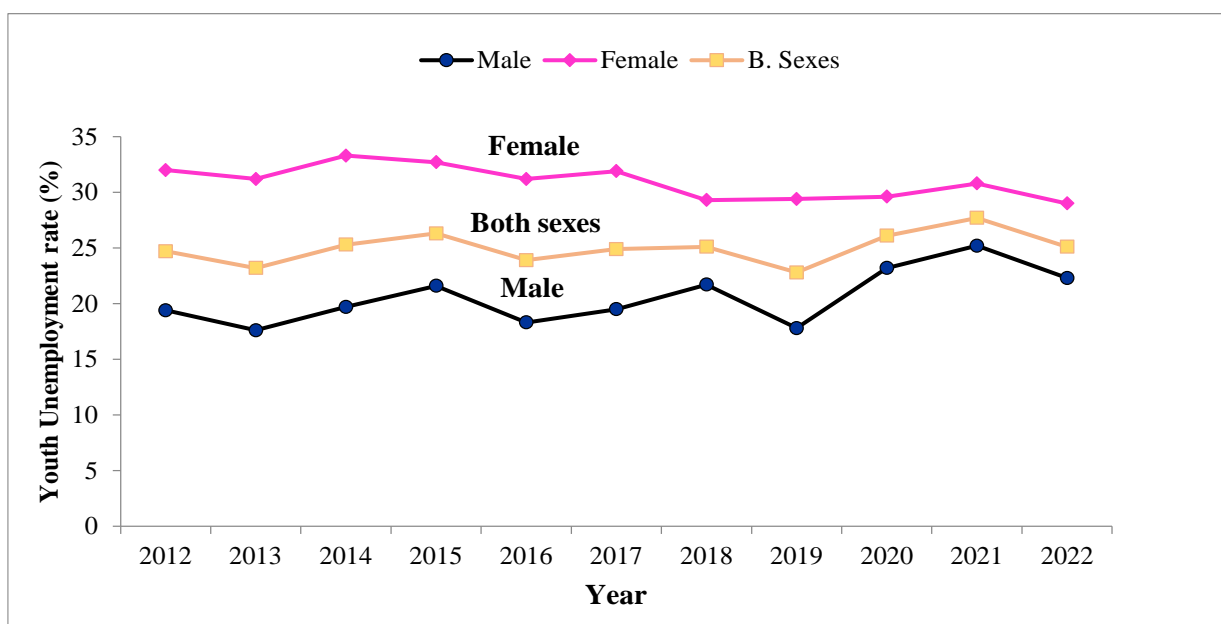
42. Female unemployment rate which stood at 12.7% in 2012 declined to 10.1% in 2018; thereafter it increased to 11.1% in 2020 and gradually declined to reach 10.2% in 2022. However, the gender gap with regards to unemployment rate was on a decreasing trend from 2012 to 2022.

**Trend in youth unemployment, 2012 to 2022**

43. From a rate of around 24.7% in 2012, youth unemployment rate followed an increasing trend to peak at 26.3% in 2015. It then went down to 22.8% in 2019, after which it gradually increased to 27.7% and 25.1% in 2021 and 2022 respectively (Table 14).

44. Unemployed young persons in 2022 numbered 15,500 of whom 8,000 were male and 7,500 female compared to 8,400 and 10,100 respectively in 2012.

Chart 12 – Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployment rate, 2012 – 2022



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**Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and population outside the labour force by sex, 2021 & 2022**

	2021			2022		
	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)
<b>Population</b>						
Both Sexes	1,008,400	12,600	1.2	1,011,000	12,000	1.2
Male	488,100	6,900	1.4	489,200	6,900	1.4
Female	520,300	7,100	1.4	521,800	6,600	1.3
<b>Labour Force</b>						
Both Sexes	532,800	8,700	1.6	562,800	8,700	1.5
Male	318,800	5,700	1.8	338,400	5,800	1.7
Female	214,000	4,400	2.1	224,400	4,600	2.0
<b>Employment</b>						
Both Sexes	484,400	8,100	1.7	519,600	8,200	1.6
Male	293,000	5,400	1.8	318,000	5,600	1.8
Female	191,400	4,100	2.1	201,600	4,300	2.1
<b>Unemployment</b>						
Both Sexes	48,400	2,000	4.1	43,200	1,900	4.4
Male	25,800	1,400	5.4	20,400	1,200	5.9
Female	22,600	1,300	5.8	22,800	1,300	5.7
<b>Inactive Population</b>						
Both Sexes	475,600	7,200	1.5	448,200	6,300	1.4
Male	169,300	3,800	2.2	150,800	3,300	2.2
Female	306,300	5,200	1.7	297,400	4,700	1.6
<b>Activity rate (%)</b>						
Both Sexes	52.8	0.5	0.9	55.7	0.4	0.7
Male	65.3	0.7	1.1	69.2	0.6	0.9
Female	41.1	0.6	1.5	43.0	0.6	1.4
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>						
Both Sexes	9.1	0.4	4.4	7.7	0.3	3.9
Male	8.1	0.4	4.9	6.0	0.3	5.0
Female	10.6	0.6	5.7	10.2	0.5	4.9
<b>Youth unemployment</b>						
Both Sexes	16,000	1,100	6.9	15,500	1,100	7.1
Male	8,000	700	8.8	8,000	800	10.0
Female	8,000	800	10.0	7,500	700	9.3
<b>Youth unemployment rate (%)</b>						
Both Sexes	27.7	1.5	5.4	25.1	1.5	6.0
Male	25.2	2.0	7.9	22.3	1.9	8.5
Female	30.8	2.5	8.1	29.0	2.4	8.3

**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 - 2012 & 2022**

Age group (years)	2012			2022		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 19	22.9	15.5	19.3	12.6	10.2	11.4
20 - 24	72.9	55.3	64.2	67.9	48.5	58.2
25 - 29	92.2	67.3	79.8	95.4	74.8	84.8
30 - 34	95.7	61.1	78.4	95.5	74.0	84.5
35 - 39	95.7	61.9	78.9	96.4	72.7	84.4
40 - 44	94.8	63.8	79.4	96.4	67.0	81.7
45 - 49	95.0	55.5	75.3	94.8	60.7	77.8
50 - 54	92.2	42.8	67.3	89.8	50.9	70.3
55 - 59	83.8	37.4	60.1	86.8	37.9	61.9
60 - 64	47.6	16.2	31.1	49.3	14.7	31.2
65+	16.1	4.3	9.2	8.9	2.7	5.4
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>55.7</b>

**Table 3 – Labour force, employment, unemployment by age group and sex - 2022**

Age group	Labour Force			Employment			Unemployment		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 - 19	4,700	3,700	8,400	3,000	1,800	4,800	1,700	1,900	3,600
20 - 24	31,100	22,200	53,300	24,800	16,600	41,400	6,300	5,600	11,900
25 - 29	39,800	33,600	73,400	35,500	28,900	64,400	4,300	4,700	9,000
30 - 34	40,100	32,100	72,200	37,600	28,800	66,400	2,500	3,300	5,800
35 - 39	37,400	28,800	66,200	35,600	26,900	62,500	1,800	1,900	3,700
40 - 44	46,000	31,900	77,900	44,800	29,400	74,200	3,800	5,400	9,200
45 - 49	39,900	25,500	65,400	39,200	24,100	63,300			
50 - 54	36,100	20,600	56,700	35,400	19,300	54,700			
55 - 59	38,300	17,400	55,700	37,600	17,200	54,800			
60 - 64	18,600	6,100	24,700	18,100	6,100	24,200			
65 & over	6,400	2,500	8,900	6,400	2,500	8,900			
<b>Total</b>	<b>338,400</b>	<b>224,400</b>	<b>562,800</b>	<b>318,000</b>	<b>201,600</b>	<b>519,600</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>22,800</b>	<b>43,200</b>

**Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2022**

<b>Employment status</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>
Employer	32,100	5,000	37,100
Own Account worker	58,000	16,000	74,000
Employee	226,600	173,700	400,300
Contributing family worker	1,300	6,900	8,200
<b>All employment states</b>	<b>318,000</b>	<b>201,600</b>	<b>519,600</b>

**Table 5 - Mean hours of work per week by employment status and sex - 2022**

<b>Employment status</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>
Employer	39.5	35.6	38.9
Own Account worker	37.0	31.4	35.8
Employee	42.1	39.8	41.1
Contributing family worker	30.6	32.3	32.0
<b>All employment states</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>40.1</b>

**Table 6 - Mean hours of work of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2022**

<b>Industrial sector</b>	<b>Mean hours of work per week</b>		
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>
Primary	40.3	36.7	39.5
Secondary	41.9	41.8	41.9
Tertiary	42.4	39.7	41.0
<b>All sectors</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>41.1</b>

**Table 7 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2022**

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	20,100	12,800	18,600
Secondary	23,100	16,400	21,600
Tertiary	27,500	20,700	24,100
<b>All sectors</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>23,400</b>

**Table 8 - Percentage distribution of employees by income range - 2022**

Income range Rupees per month	Employees		Income	
	%	Cumulative %	%	Cumulative %
Up to 5,000	2.3	2.3	0.4	0.4
5,001 - 10,000	7.0	9.3	2.4	2.8
10,001 - 15,000	30.9	40.2	17.5	20.3
15,001 - 20,000	16.5	56.7	12.8	33.1
20,001 - 25,000	17.7	74.4	17.7	50.8
25,001 - 50,000	20.4	94.8	30.7	81.5
50,001 - 75,000	3.4	98.2	9.1	90.6
75,001 and Over	1.8	100.0	9.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>	

**Table 9 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by occupational group and sex - 2022**

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Average monthly income (Rs)		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	44,500	33,800	39,200
4	Clerical support workers	24,600	21,200	22,400
5	Service and sales workers	23,900	14,900	20,100
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	19,600	13,400	18,900
9	Elementary occupations	17,500	10,500	13,600
	<b>All occupational groups</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>23,400</b>

\* International Standard Classification of Occupations

**Table 10 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2012 & 2022**

Industrial Sector	2012			2022		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
<b>Primary</b>	<b>28,300</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>40,200</b>	<b>21,900</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>28,600</b>
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>105,800</b>	<b>36,500</b>	<b>142,300</b>	<b>96,200</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>118,200</b>
<i>of which Manufacturing</i>	46,300	34,500	80,800	31,200	20,200	51,400
<i>Construction</i>	52,000	1,300	53,300	60,900	1,300	62,200
<b>Tertiary</b>	<b>194,700</b>	<b>134,500</b>	<b>329,200</b>	<b>199,900</b>	<b>172,900</b>	<b>372,800</b>
<i>of which Wholesale and retail trade</i>	46,900	34,100	81,000	43,600	36,000	79,600
<i>Accommodation and food service activities</i>	22,100	13,600	35,700	24,000	14,900	38,900
<i>Transportation and storage</i>	29,500	3,500	33,000	29,700	5,800	35,500
<i>Public administration and defence</i>	30,000	9,500	39,500	30,800	16,100	46,900
<i>Education and Human Health &amp; social work activities</i>	19,900	26,400	46,300	19,100	34,700	53,800
<b>All Sectors</b>	<b>328,800</b>	<b>182,900</b>	<b>511,700</b>	<b>318,000</b>	<b>201,600</b>	<b>519,600</b>

**Table 11 - Employed population by occupational group and sex - 2012 & 2022**

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	2012			2022		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	63,200	40,500	103,700	57,500	49,700	107,200
4	Clerical support workers	17,900	28,200	46,100	19,700	36,700	56,400
5	Service and sales workers	64,100	44,300	108,400	64,400	48,000	112,400
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	137,800	26,200	164,000	136,500	16,000	152,500
9	Elementary occupations	45,800	43,700	89,500	39,900	51,200	91,100
	<b>All occupational groups</b>	<b>328,800</b>	<b>182,900</b>	<b>511,700</b>	<b>318,000</b>	<b>201,600</b>	<b>519,600</b>

\* International Standard Classification of Occupations

**Table 12 - Employed population with tertiary qualification by occupational group and sex - 2022**

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1	Managers	5,400	2,300	7,700
2	Professionals	18,300	20,900	39,200
3	Technicians and associate professionals	14,300	13,800	28,100
4	Clerical support workers	5,700	11,900	17,600
5	Service and sales workers	6,100	3,400	9,500
6-8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	5,000	500	5,500
9	Elementary occupations	800	500	1,300
	<b>All occupational groups</b>	<b>55,600</b>	<b>53,300</b>	<b>108,900</b>

\* International Standard Classification of Occupations

**Table 13 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2022**

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 24	22.3	29.0	25.1
25 - 29	10.8	14.0	12.3
30 - 39	5.5	8.5	6.9
40 - 49	2.2	6.8	4.0
50 and over	1.9	3.2	2.3
<b>All ages</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>7.7</b>

**Table 14 - Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex , 2012 - 2022**

Year	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
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
2021	8,000	8,000	16,000	25.2	30.8	27.7
2022	8,000	7,500	15,500	22.3	29.0	25.1

**Table 15 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex – 2022**

<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>
Ever Married	4,800	11,600	16,400
Single	15,600	11,200	26,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>22,800</b>	<b>43,200</b>

**Table 16 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex - 2022**

<b>Educational attainment</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>
<b>Primary</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>5,600</b>
<i>Below PSAC/CPE</i>	2,100	1,900	4,000
<i>Passed PSAC/CPE</i>	600	1,000	1,600
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>14,400</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>30,600</b>
<i>Form I - V but not passed SC</i>	7,600	8,800	16,400
<i>Passed SC</i>	4,200	4,400	8,600
<i>Passed HSC</i>	2,600	3,000	5,600
<b>Tertiary</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>22,800</b>	<b>43,200</b>

**Table 17 - Unemployed population by method of job search and sex – 2022**

<b>Method of job search</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Both Sexes</b>
Applied to prospective employers	13,300	14,100	27,400
Checked at factories, worksites etc	13,000	14,100	27,100
Registered at Employment Service *	6,700	6,700	13,400
Placed or answered advertisements	2,200	4,500	6,700
Sought assistance and advices **	6,000	7,300	13,300
<b>All Unemployed</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>22,800</b>	<b>43,200</b>

\*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 - Unemployment rate (%) by sex - 2012 - 2022**

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
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
2021	8.1	10.6	9.1
2022	6.0	10.2	7.7

**Table 19 - Population outside labour force by inactivity status and sex – 2022**

Inactivity status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Students	40,000	47,300	87,300
Retired or old persons	84,300	54,600	138,900
Sick or disabled	18,500	10,600	29,100
Homemakers	8,000	175,500	175,500
Other		9,400	17,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>150,800</b>	<b>297,400</b>	<b>448,200</b>

## Methodology of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

- 1. Data collection:** Following the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, the face-to-face interviews of household members have been replaced by telephone interviews until further notice.
- 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.
- 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 persons who have studied from Grade 1 (Standard 1) to Grade 6 (Standard 6) or to Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC)/Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) or equivalent.

*Secondary*: comprises persons who have studied from Grade 7 (Form 1) to Grade 13 (Form 6) or to 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.

### **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

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