



Economic and Social Indicators

Issue No 1787

**Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment (based on the
results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey)**

Year 2023

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Statistics Mauritius
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Port Louis

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Year 2023

Introduction

1. This fifteenth issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2023, 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

	2022	2023	Change 2022 - 2023
Population (aged 16+)	1,011,000	1,015,000	+4,000
Labour Force (Economically active)	562,800	592,800	+30,000
<i>Of which Employment</i>	<i>519,600</i>	<i>555,200</i>	<i>+35,600¹</i>
<i>Unemployment</i>	<i>43,200</i>	<i>37,600</i>	<i>-5,600</i>
Outside Labour Force (Economically inactive)	448,200	422,200	-26,000
<i>Of which Potential Labour Force²</i>	<i>1,500</i>	<i>3,900</i>	<i>+2,400</i>
Activity rate (%)	55.7	58.4	+2.7
Employment-to-population ratio ³	51.4	54.7	+3.3
Unemployment rate (%)	7.7	6.3	-1.4
Youth unemployment	15,500	12,800	-2,700
Youth unemployment rate (%)	25.1	18.2	-6.9

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

² 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.

³ 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, 2023

- a. The employed population comprised 328,300 (59.1%) males and 226,900 (40.9%) females.
- b. Among the total of 37,600 unemployed, women outnumbered men (21,600 women compared to 16,000 men). The unemployed youth aged 16 to 24 years numbered 12,800.
- c. The labour force (employed + unemployed) comprised 344,300 (58.1%) males and 248,500 (41.9%) females.

4. Change in Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2022 to 2023

Male

- a. Male employment increased by 10,300 and unemployment decreased by 4,400 and hence male labour force increased by 5,900.
- b. Male unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 6.0% in 2022 to 4.6% in 2023.
- c. Male activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 69.2% in 2022 to 70.0% in 2023 as a result of an increase of 5,900 in the male labour force and an increase of 2,600 in the male population aged 16 years and above.

Female

- d. Female employment increased by 25,300 and unemployment decreased by 1,200 and hence female labour force increased by 24,100.
- e. Female unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) decreased from 10.2% in 2022 to 8.7% in 2023.
- f. Female activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 43.0% in 2022 to 47.5% in 2023 as a result of an increase of 24,100 in the female labour force and an increase of 1,400 in the female population aged 16 years and above.

Both sexes

- g. Employment increased by 35,600 while unemployment decreased by 5,600 and hence the labour force increased by 30,000.
- h. Unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 7.7% in 2022 to 6.3% in 2023.
- i. The overall activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 55.7% in 2022 to 58.4% in 2023 as a result of an increase of 30,000 in the labour force and an increase of 4,000 in the population aged 16 years and above.

Youth

- j. Youth employment increased by 11,400 from 46,200 in 2022 to 57,600 in 2023 and unemployment decreased by 2,700 from 15,500 to 12,800.
- k. Youth unemployment rate therefore decreased by 6.9 percentage points from 25.1% to 18.2%.

5. Evolution from 2013 to 2023

- a. Men are more economically active than women but the gap is decreasing over time (Table 2).
- b. Male employment was some 3,500 less than its 2013 level while female employment was higher (+33,000) (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 6.3% in 2023 compared to 8.0% in 2013 (Table 18).
- e. From a rate of 23.2% in 2013, youth unemployment declined to 18.2% in 2023 (Table 14).

Labour market overview, 2023

Chart 1 - The Labour Market, 2023

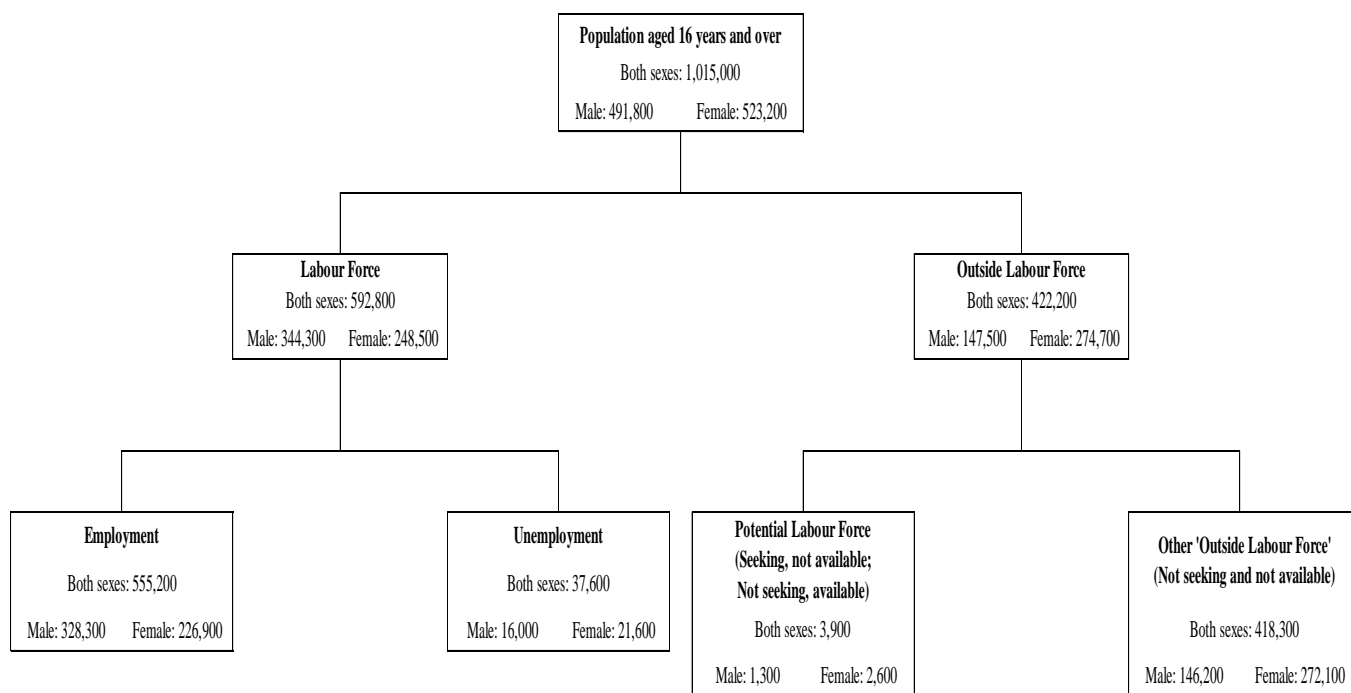
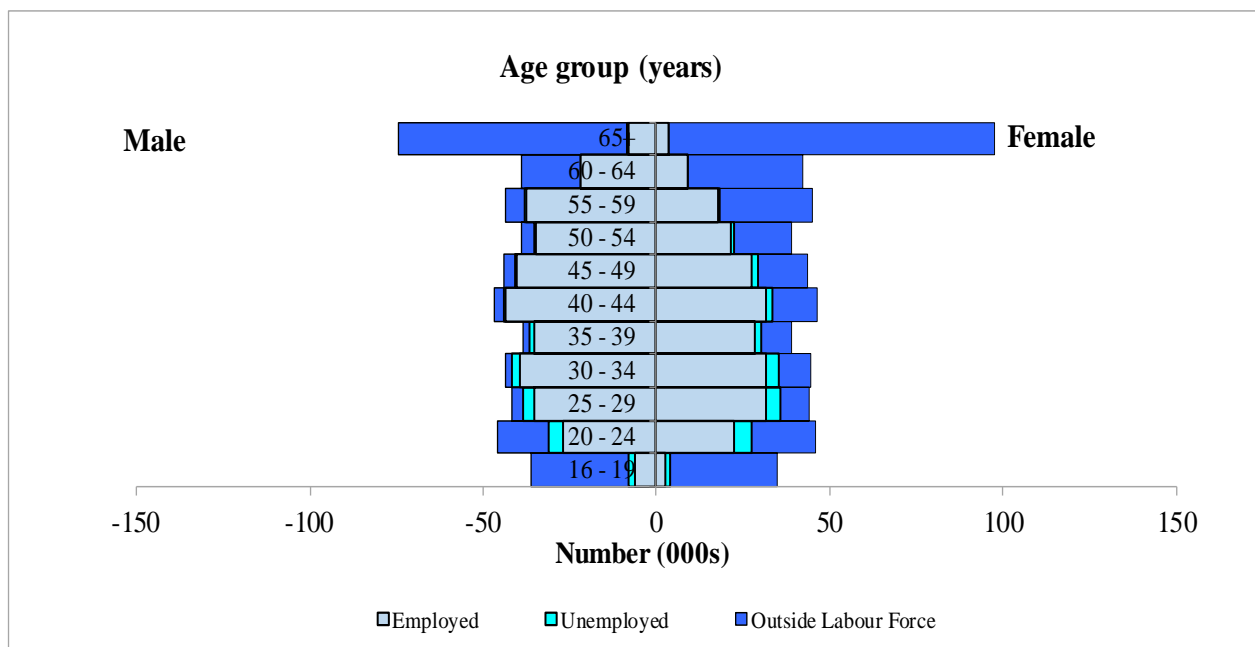


Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2023



Labour Force

6. The population of working age (aged 16 years and over) numbered 1,015,000, of whom 592,800 consisted of the labour force (or were economically active) resulting in an activity rate of 58.4% (Table 1).
7. Out of the 592,800 persons in the labour force, 555,200 (93.7%) were employed and 37,600 (6.3%) 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. 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 422,200 (147,500 males and 274,700 females) (Table 19).
9. Some 3,900 (1,300 males and 2,600 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 60% 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 34.5% retired or old persons, 33.2% homemakers, 18.7% students and 9.0% sick or disabled persons.

Labour underutilization

11. In 2023, labour underutilization worked out to be 137,500, comprising:

- Unemployed (37,600).
- Potential labour force (3,900), 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 (46,400), 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 (49,600), 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 555,200 (328,300 or 59% males and 226,900 or 41% females) in 2023. The employment to population ratio was around 55% (67% for males and 43% for females).

Men comprise 59% of the workforce

13. Out of every 100 persons in the workforce, 59 were men and the mean age of a worker was 41.9 years for men and 39.6 years for women.

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

14. Some 78.2% of the employed were employees while around 19.6% were self-employed (own account workers or employers) and the remaining 2.2% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (85.1% against 73.4% among males) and contributing family workers (3.5% against 1.4% among males) but a lower proportion of self-employed (11.4% against 25.2% among males) (Table 4).

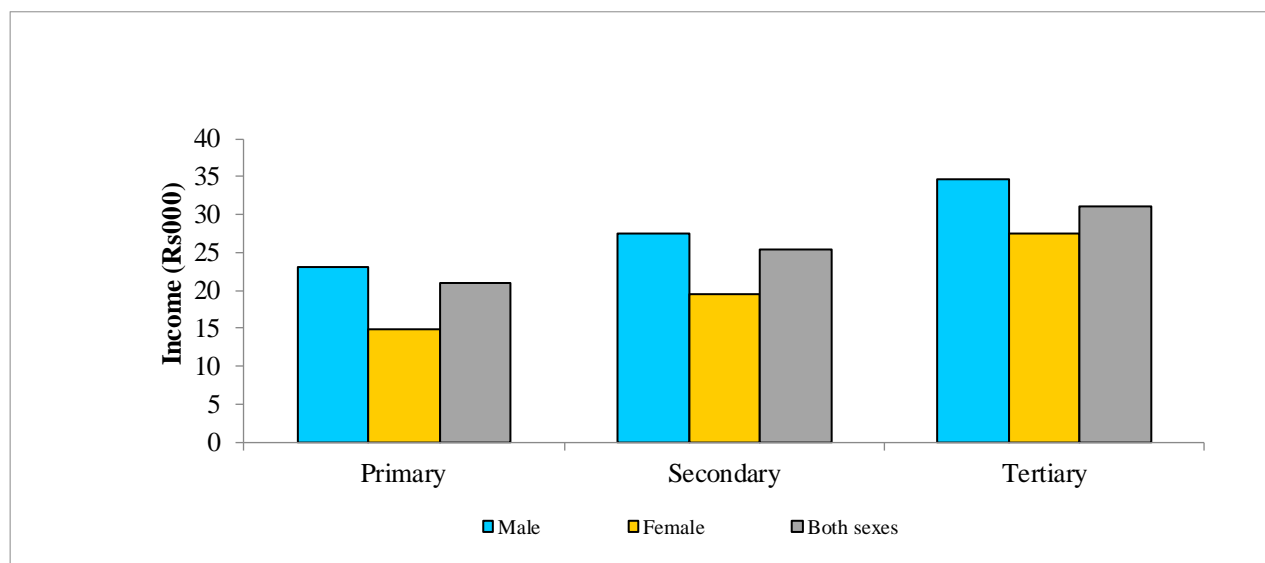
Male employees work longer hours and earn more than their female counterparts

15. On average, an employee worked 41.5 hours per week. A male employee worked 43.3 hours per week on average compared to 39.2 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 (42.9 hours per week), compared to 41.2 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 39.4 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 29,800 (Rs 32,500 for males and Rs 26,300 for females) (Table 7)
18. Average monthly income for employees was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 31,100), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 25,400) and the primary sector (Rs 20,900) (Table 7).

Chart 3 – Average monthly income of employees by industrial sector and sex, 2023



Median income of employees

19. The median monthly income of employees (comprising basic pay, allowances and overtime) was around Rs 22,000; i.e., 50% of employees earned less than Rs 22,000 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 46,400), followed by clerical and support workers (Rs 25,000). The lowest income was drawn by those engaged in elementary occupations (Rs 15,600) (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, 74 were employed in the tertiary sector, 21 in the secondary sector and 5 in the primary sector (Table 10).

3 out of 10 employed persons engaged as managers, professionals or technicians

22. Around 31% 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% of the workforce; service and sales workers (ISCO 5) 21%. Another 26% 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 13% of the workforce (Table 11).

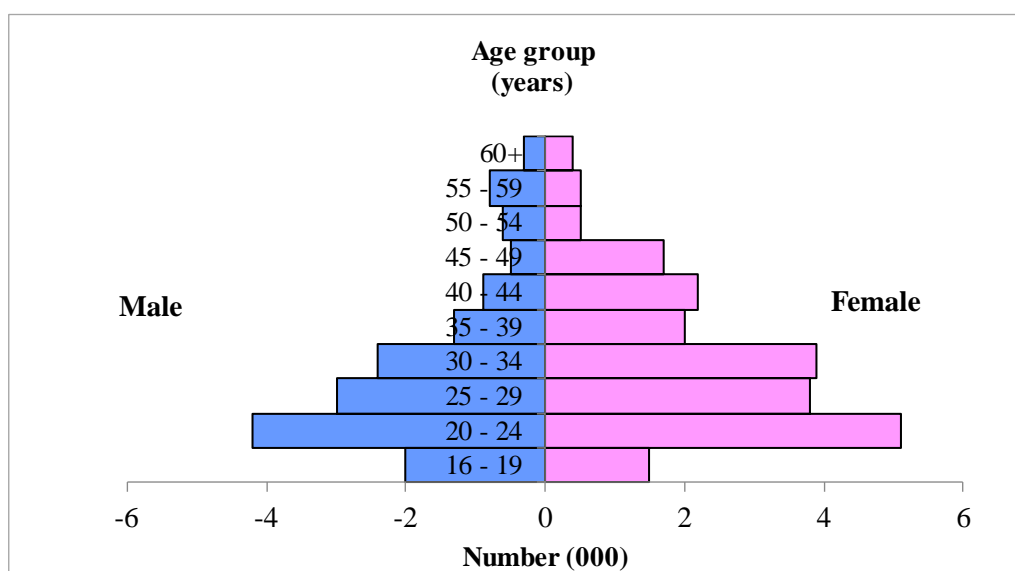
Unemployment

23. In 2023, unemployed persons numbered 37,600, comprising 16,000 men and 21,600 women. The unemployment rate was 6.3% (4.6% among men and 8.7% 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 2023.

Chart 4 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2023



25. The mean age of an unemployed male was 30.6 years and that of unemployed female was 31.9 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 18.2% among those below 25 years and 2.0% 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 5.2 percentage points.

60% of unemployed women are ever-married while unemployed men are mostly single

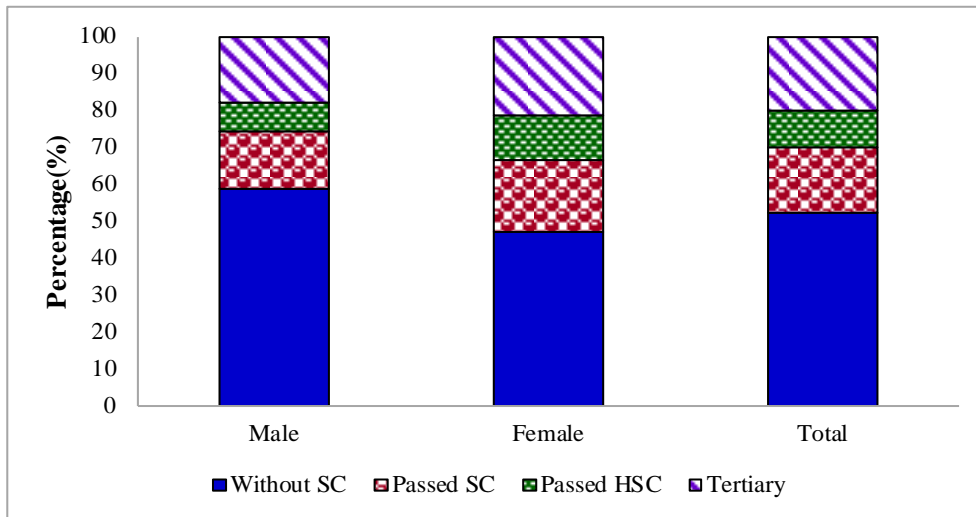
28. About 44% of the unemployed were ever-married, i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated. Most of the unemployed men were single (79%). Around 60% of the unemployed women were ever-married (Table 15).

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

29. Around 52% of the unemployed, representing 19,600 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 39% attended secondary school but did not pass the SC. The proportion having SC was

18% and Higher School Certificate (HSC) was 10%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 7,500 and represented 20% of the total unemployed (Table 16).

Chart 5 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2023



Unemployed women are generally more qualified than unemployed men

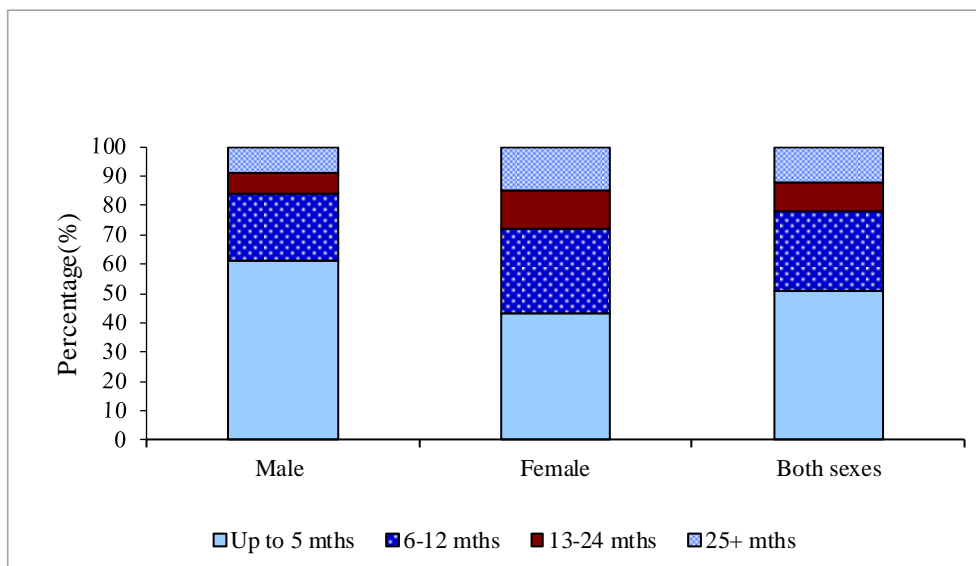
30. Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around 53% of them possessed at least a School Certificate against 41% among males.

Women remain in unemployment around five months more than men

31. The proportion of persons in unemployment for a duration of less than six months is higher among males (61%) compared to females (43%) while the proportion of those who are unemployed for more than twenty four months is higher among females (15%) against 9% among males (Chart 6).

32. On average, an unemployed person had been without a job for 12 months. Average duration of unemployment for males was 10 months compared to 15 months for females.

Chart 6 – Duration of unemployment by sex, 2023



The unemployed is predominantly made up of persons with work experience

33. Around 71% of the unemployed had worked in the past. More than two thirds (71%) had worked previously in the tertiary sector, mainly ‘Wholesale & retail trade’ (19%) followed by ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (14%). Another 27% had worked previously in the secondary sector, mainly in ‘Construction’ (14%) followed by ‘Manufacturing’(12%). The remaining 2% previously worked in the agricultural sector.

Nearly one out of 3 unemployed who worked lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job.

34. Some 35% of the unemployed lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job. Another 25% left their job due to dissatisfaction with job while around 10% left due to marriage/household responsibilities. Closure of establishment accounted for 6% of the job losses.

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

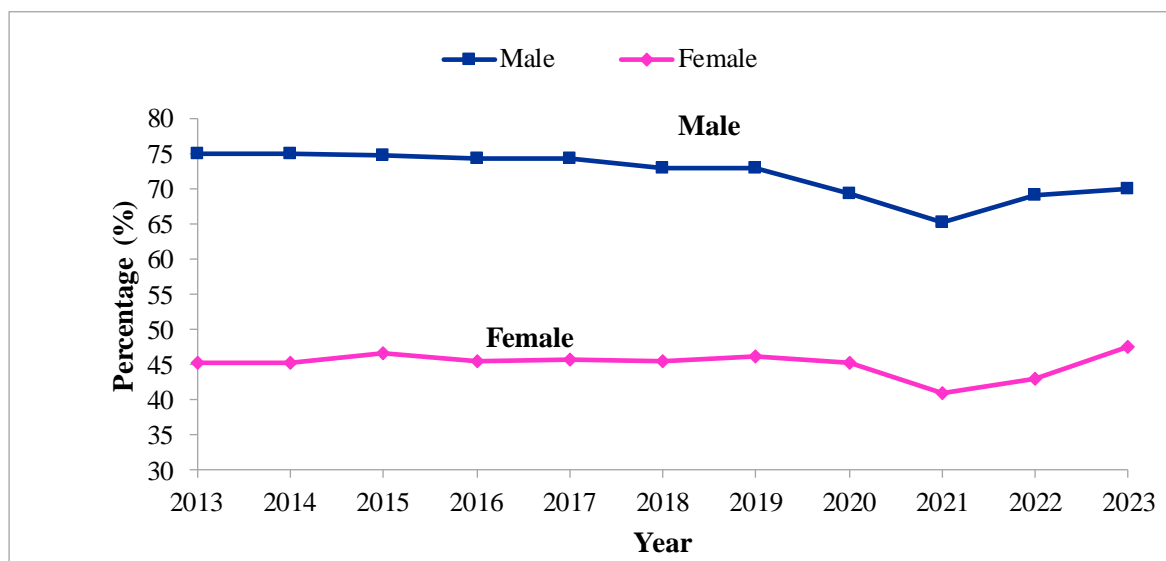
35. The unemployed usually had recourse to more than one method of job search. The most common method was ‘applied to prospective employers’(55%) followed by ‘checked at factories,worksites, etc’ (52%). Around 47% were registered at the Employment Service (Table 17).

Evolution from 2013 to 2023

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

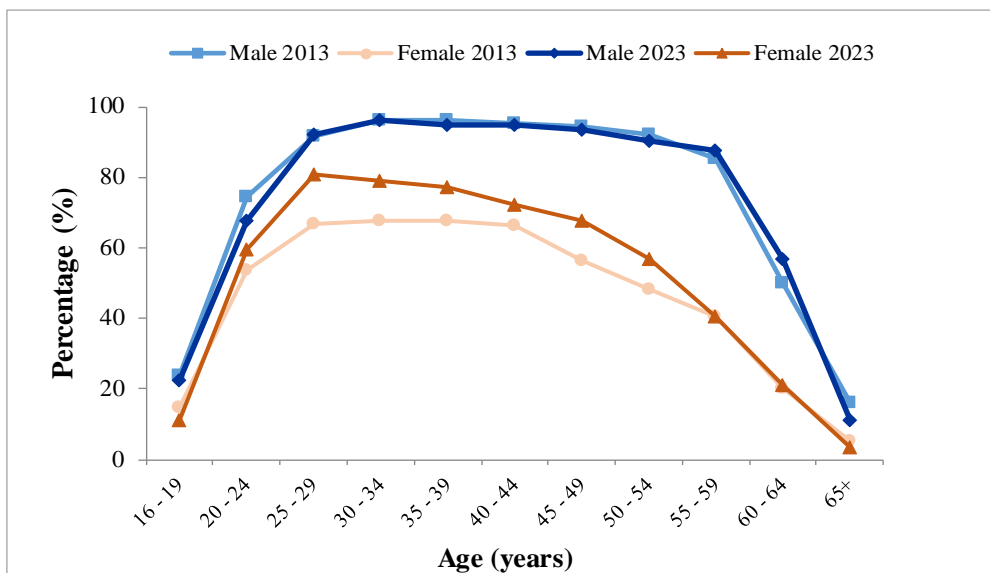
36. During the period 2013 to 2023, male activity rate was consistently higher than female activity rate (Chart 7). However, the gap between male and female activity rates is decreasing over time (Table 2).

Chart 7 – Activity rate by sex, 2013 – 2023



37. From 2013 to 2023, 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 2023 was higher than those of 2013 for all age groups between 20 and 54 years.

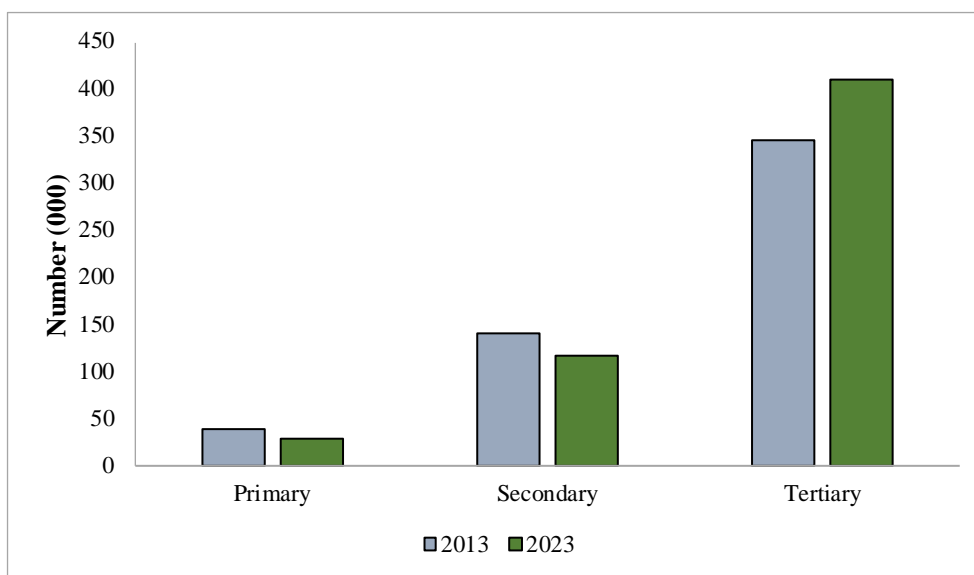
Chart 8 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2013 & 2023



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 2013 to 2023, employment in this sector rose from 345,800 to 409,600; its share over total employment also increased from 66% to 74%. In contrast, employment in the primary and secondary sectors has been declining over time. In the primary sector, employment went down from 38,900 in 2013 to 29,300 in 2023 mainly due to a decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment dropped from 141,000 to 116,300 mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector (Table 10).

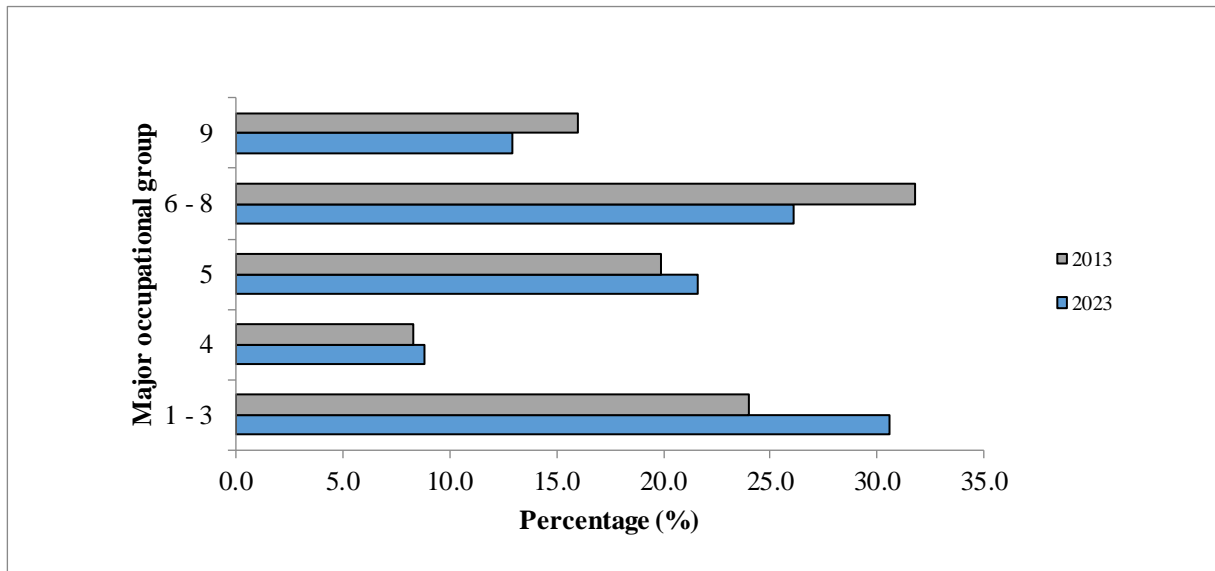
Chart 9 – Employed population by industrial sector, 2013 & 2023



Mauritian workforce is moving up the occupation ladder

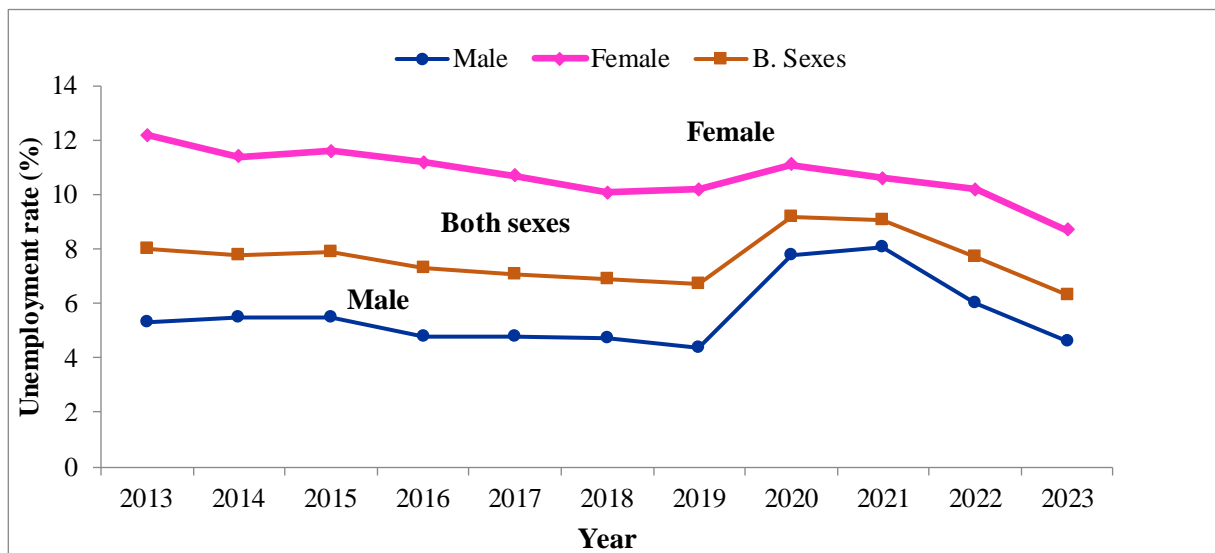
39. The share of employment in the higher occupational groups (ISCO group 1-3) comprising legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals increased from 24.0% in 2013 to 30.6% in 2023, while the share of employment in the lowest occupational group (ISCO group 9) representing elementary jobs decreased from 16.0% to 12.9%.

Chart 10 – Employed population by occupational group, 2013 & 2023



Female unemployment rate remains higher but gender gap is decreasing

Chart 11 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2013 – 2023



40. From 8.0% recorded in 2013, a downward trend was observed in the overall unemployment rate up to 2019 and thereafter it picked up to reach 9.2% in 2020. Then, it declined to reach 6.3% in 2023 (Table 18).

41. Male unemployment rate increased steadily during the period 2013 to 2015, from 5.3% 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 4.6% in 2023 .

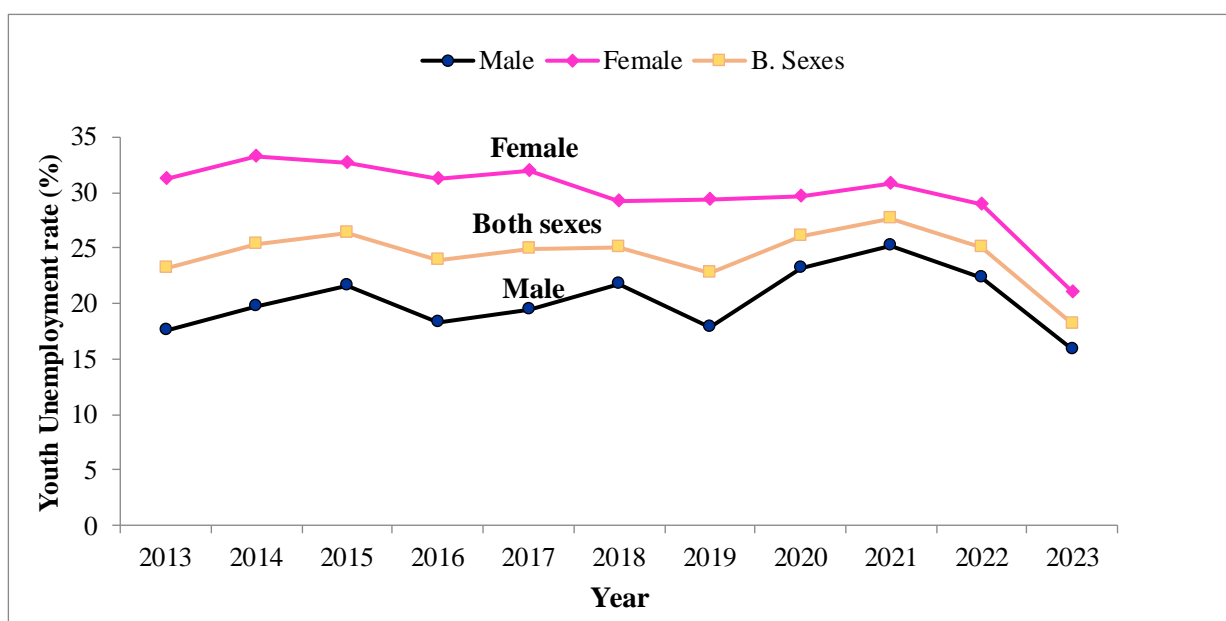
42. Female unemployment rate which stood at 12.2% in 2013 declined to 10.1% in 2018; thereafter it increased to 11.1% in 2020 and gradually declined to reach 8.7% in 2023. However, the gender gap with regards to unemployment rate was on a decreasing trend from 2017 to 2023.

Trend in youth unemployment, 2013 to 2023

43. From a rate of around 23.2% in 2013, 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% in 2021. A significant decrease to 18.2% is noted in 2023 (Table 14).

44. Unemployed young persons in 2023 numbered 12,800 of whom 6,200 were male and 6,600 female compared to 7,900 and 9,700 respectively in 2013.

Chart 12 – Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployment rate, 2013 – 2023



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Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and population outside the labour force by sex, 2022 & 2023

	2022			2023		
	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)
Population						
Both Sexes	1,011,000	12,000	1.2	1,015,000	7,500	0.7
Male	489,200	6,900	1.4	491,800	4,800	1.0
Female	521,800	6,600	1.3	523,200	4,500	0.9
Labour Force						
Both Sexes	562,800	8,700	1.5	592,800	6,200	1.0
Male	338,400	5,800	1.7	344,300	4,100	1.2
Female	224,400	4,600	2.0	248,500	3,700	1.5
Employment						
Both Sexes	519,600	8,200	1.6	555,200	6,000	1.1
Male	318,000	5,600	1.8	328,300	4,000	1.2
Female	201,600	4,300	2.1	226,900	3,600	1.6
Unemployment						
Both Sexes	43,200	1,900	4.4	37,600	1,500	4.0
Male	20,400	1,200	5.9	16,000	900	5.6
Female	22,800	1,300	5.7	21,600	1,100	5.1
Inactive Population						
Both Sexes	448,200	6,300	1.4	422,200	5,100	1.2
Male	150,800	3,300	2.2	147,500	2,900	2.0
Female	297,400	4,700	1.6	274,700	3,900	1.4
Activity rate (%)						
Both Sexes	55.7	0.4	0.7	58.4	0.4	0.7
Male	69.2	0.6	0.9	70.0	0.5	0.7
Female	43.0	0.6	1.4	47.5	0.6	1.3
Unemployment rate (%)						
Both Sexes	7.7	0.3	3.9	6.3	0.2	3.2
Male	6.0	0.3	5.0	4.6	0.3	6.5
Female	10.2	0.5	4.9	8.7	0.4	4.6
Youth unemployment						
Both Sexes	15,500	1,100	7.1	12,800	800	6.3
Male	8,000	800	10.0	6,200	500	8.1
Female	7,500	700	9.3	6,600	600	9.1
Youth unemployment rate (%)						
Both Sexes	25.1	1.5	6.0	18.2	1.1	6.0
Male	22.3	1.9	8.5	15.9	1.3	8.2
Female	29.0	2.4	8.3	21.1	1.7	8.1

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 - 2013 & 2023

Age group (years)	2013			2023		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 19	23.7	14.6	19.2	22.3	11.2	16.9
20 - 24	74.5	53.8	64.2	67.5	59.7	63.6
25 - 29	91.6	66.6	79.2	92.1	80.7	86.2
30 - 34	96.0	67.5	81.8	96.1	79.0	87.4
35 - 39	96.3	67.6	82.0	94.8	77.0	85.8
40 - 44	95.4	66.1	80.9	94.8	72.4	83.7
45 - 49	94.5	56.2	75.4	93.4	67.6	80.5
50 - 54	91.9	48.2	69.9	90.3	56.6	73.4
55 - 59	85.1	40.7	62.4	87.8	40.7	63.8
60 - 64	50.2	20.2	34.5	56.6	21.2	38.1
65+	16.1	5.1	9.7	11.1	3.6	6.9
All Ages	75.1	45.4	59.9	70.0	47.5	58.4

Table 3 – Labour force, employment, unemployment by age group and sex - 2023

Age group	Labour Force			Employment			Unemployment		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 - 19	8,100	3,900	12,000	6,100	2,400	8,500	2,000	1,500	3,500
20 - 24	31,000	27,400	58,400	26,800	22,300	49,100	4,200	5,100	9,300
25 - 29	38,400	35,600	74,000	35,400	31,800	67,200	3,000	3,800	6,800
30 - 34	41,600	35,300	76,900	39,200	31,400	70,600	2,400	3,900	6,300
35 - 39	36,500	30,200	66,700	35,200	28,200	63,400	1,300	2,000	3,300
40 - 44	44,200	33,600	77,800	43,300	31,400	74,700			
45 - 49	40,900	29,400	70,300	40,400	27,700	68,100			
50 - 54	35,200	22,200	57,400	34,600	21,700	56,300			
55 - 59	38,200	18,400	56,600	37,400	17,900	55,300	3,100	5,300	8,400
60 - 64	21,900	9,000	30,900	21,700	8,800	30,500			
65 & over	8,300	3,500	11,800	8,200	3,300	11,500			
Total	344,300	248,500	592,800	328,300	226,900	555,200	16,000	21,600	37,600

Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2023

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	19,000	4,700	23,700
Own Account worker	63,900	21,100	85,000
Employee	240,900	193,200	434,100
Contributing family worker	4,500	7,900	12,400
All employment states	328,300	226,900	555,200

Table 5 - Mean hours of work per week by employment status and sex - 2023

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	43.0	40.2	42.4
Own Account worker	36.9	30.5	35.3
Employee	43.3	39.2	41.5
Contributing family worker	30.0	29.5	29.6
All employment states	41.9	38.1	40.3

Table 6 - Mean hours of work of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2023

Industrial sector	Mean hours of work per week		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	41.2	34.5	39.4
Secondary	43.1	42.6	42.9
Tertiary	43.5	38.9	41.2
All sectors	43.3	39.2	41.5

Table 7 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2023

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	23,100	14,900	20,900
Secondary	27,600	19,600	25,400
Tertiary	34,700	27,500	31,100
All sectors	32,500	26,300	29,800

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of employees by income range - 2023

Income range Rupees per month	Employees		Income	
	%	Cumulative %	%	Cumulative %
Up to 5,000	2.2	2.2	0.3	0.3
5,001 - 10,000	5.2	7.4	1.5	1.8
10,001 - 15,000	19.3	26.7	8.8	10.6
15,001 - 20,000	18.9	45.6	11.5	22.1
20,001 - 25,000	14.3	59.9	11.2	33.3
25,001 - 50,000	28.6	88.5	33.8	67.1
50,001 - 75,000	7.0	95.5	14.5	81.6
75,001 and Over	4.5	100.0	18.4	100.0
Total	100.0		100.0	

Table 9 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by occupational group and sex - 2023

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Average monthly income (Rs)		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	52,300	40,400	46,400
4	Clerical support workers	27,900	23,400	25,000
5	Service and sales workers	27,100	18,600	23,200
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	21,600	15,100	20,700
9	Elementary occupations	19,500	12,600	15,600
	All occupational groups	32,500	26,400	29,800

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 10 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2013 & 2023

Industrial Sector	2013			2023		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	27,700	11,200	38,900	21,300	8,000	29,300
Secondary	106,300	34,700	141,000	89,100	27,200	116,300
<i>of which Manufacturing</i>	45,800	32,500	78,300	37,600	24,400	62,000
<i>Construction</i>	52,800	1,300	54,100	46,700	2,100	48,800
Tertiary	197,800	148,000	345,800	217,900	191,700	409,600
<i>of which Wholesale and retail trade</i>	47,600	32,800	80,400	50,500	40,400	90,900
<i>Accommodation and food service activities</i>	24,000	17,200	41,200	26,600	19,300	45,900
<i>Transportation and storage</i>	31,300	3,900	35,200	30,300	5,900	36,200
<i>Public administration and defence</i>	28,900	10,500	39,400	28,300	16,900	45,200
<i>Education and Human Health & social work activities</i>	19,700	32,300	52,000	20,500	37,500	58,000
All Sectors	331,800	193,900	525,700	328,300	226,900	555,200

Table 11 - Employed population by occupational group and sex - 2013 & 2023

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	2013			2023		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	71,900	54,500	126,400	91,000	78,900	169,900
4	Clerical support workers	16,400	27,000	43,400	18,100	31,000	49,100
5	Service and sales workers	60,300	44,100	104,400	62,400	57,300	119,700
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	142,000	25,500	167,500	124,300	20,400	144,700
9	Elementary occupations	41,200	42,800	84,000	32,500	39,300	71,800
	All occupational groups	331,800	193,900	525,700	328,300	226,900	555,200

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 12 - Employed population with tertiary qualification by occupational group and sex - 2023

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1	Managers	13,500	7,700	21,200
2	Professionals	24,400	27,800	52,200
3	Technicians and associate professionals	17,000	17,800	34,800
4	Clerical support workers	6,300	12,800	19,100
5	Service and sales workers	9,300	6,900	16,200
6-8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	7,000	1,800	8,800
9	Elementary occupations	1,500	900	2,400
	All occupational groups	79,000	75,700	154,700

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 13 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2023

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 24	15.9	21.1	18.2
25 - 29	7.8	10.7	9.2
30 - 39	4.7	9.0	6.7
40 - 49	1.6	6.2	3.6
50 and over	1.6	2.6	2.0
All ages	4.6	8.7	6.3

Table 14 - Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex , 2013 - 2023

Year	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
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
2023	6,200	6,600	12,800	15.9	21.1	18.2

Table 15 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex – 2023

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Ever Married	3,400	13,000	16,400
Single	12,600	8,600	21,200
Total	16,000	21,600	37,600

Table 16 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex - 2023

Educational attainment	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	1,800	3,000	4,800
<i>Below PSAC/CPE</i>	1,400	2,000	3,400
<i>Passed PSAC/CPE</i>	400	1,000	1,400
Secondary	11,300	14,000	25,300
<i>Form I - V but not passed SC</i>	7,600	7,200	14,800
<i>Passed SC</i>	2,500	4,200	6,700
<i>Passed HSC</i>	1,200	2,600	3,800
Tertiary	2,900	4,600	7,500
Total	16,000	21,600	37,600

Table 17 - Unemployed population by method of job search and sex – 2023

Method of job search	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Applied to prospective employers	8,300	12,300	20,600
Checked at factories, worksites etc	9,800	9,900	19,700
Registered at Employment Service *	6,100	11,500	17,600
Placed or answered advertisements	7,100	9,000	16,100
Sought assistance and advices **	6,700	8,200	14,900
All Unemployed	16,000	21,600	37,600

*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 - 2013 - 2023

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
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
2023	4.6	8.7	6.3

Table 19 - Population outside labour force by inactivity status and sex – 2023

Inactivity status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Students	38,100	40,900	79,000
Retired or old persons	78,100	67,800	145,900
Sick or disabled	21,700	16,200	37,900
Homemakers	9,600	139,900	140,100
Other		9,900	19,300
Total	147,500	274,700	422,200

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 were replaced by telephone interviews. As from January 2023, face-to-face interviews have been resumed.
- 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. 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. As from 2023, in order to improve the variance estimates, RDI boundaries have been reviewed such that each geographical district has four even strata. For this exercise, the 2022 Housing and Population Census results have been used.

At the second stage, stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household. From 2005 to 2022, 10 households were selected from each selected PSU in Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. However, as from 2023 the number of households selected for each PSU in Island of Rodrigues have been increased from 10 to 15 while that of Island of Mauritius has remained the same. It is to be noted that the sample size has remained unchanged.

- 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 16¹ 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.

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

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.

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