Economic

and

Social Indicators

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Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Year 2024

Introduction

1. This sixteenth issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2024, 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

	2023	2024	Change 2023 - 2024
Population (aged 16+)	1,015,000	1,018,500	+3,500
Labour Force (Economically active)	592,800	596,100	+3,300
Of which Employment	*555,200*	*560,300*	*+5,100* [1]
Unemployment	*37,600*	*35,800*	*-1,800*
Outside Labour Force (Economically inactive)	422,200	422,400	+200
Of which Potential Labour Force [2]	*3,900*	*4,600*	*+700*
Activity rate (%)	58.4	58.5	+0.1
Employment-to-population ratio [3]	54.7	55.0	+0.3
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3	6.0	-0.3
Youth unemployment	12,800	12,500	-300
Youth unemployment rate (%)	18.2	17.5	-0.7

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[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, 2024**

   a. The employed population comprised 326,100 (58.2%) males and 234,200 (41.8%) females.

   b. Among the total of 35,800 unemployed, women outnumbered men (21,200 women compared to 14,600 men). The unemployed youth aged 16 to 24 years numbered 12,500.

   c. The labour force (employed + unemployed) comprised 340,700 (57.2%) males and 255,400 (42.8%) females.

4. **Change in Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2023 to 2024**

   Male

   a. Male employment decreased by 2,200 and unemployment by 1,400 and hence male labour force decreased by 3,600.

   b. Male unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 4.6% in 2023 to 4.3% in 2024.

   c. Male activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) decreased from 70.0% in 2023 to 69.1% in 2024 as a result of a decrease of 3,600 in the male labour force compared to an increase of 1,200 in the male population aged 16 years and above.

   Female

   d. Female employment increased by 7,300 and unemployment decreased by 400 and hence female labour force increased by 6,900.

   e. Female unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) decreased from 8.7% in 2023 to 8.3% in 2024.

   f. Female activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 47.5% in 2023 to 48.6% in 2024 as a result of an increase of 6,900 in the female labour force and an increase of 2,300 in the female population aged 16 years and above.

   Both sexes

   g. Employment increased by 5,100 while unemployment decreased by 1,800 and hence the labour force increased by 3,300.

   h. Unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 6.3% in 2023 to 6.0% in 2024.

   i. The overall activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 58.4% in 2023 to 58.5% in 2024 as a result of an increase of 3,300 in the labour force and an increase of 3,500 in the population aged 16 years and above.

Youth

j. Youth employment increased by 1,300 from 57,600 in 2023 to 58,900 in 2024 and unemployment decreased by 300 from 12,800 to 12,500.

k. Youth unemployment rate therefore decreased by 0.7 percentage point from 18.2% to 17.5%.

5. **Evolution from 2014 to 2024**

a. Men are more economically active than women but the gap is decreasing over time (Table 2).

b. Male employment was some 7,300 less than its 2014 level while female employment was higher (+36,700) (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 6.0% in 2024 compared to 7.8% in 2014 (Table 18).

e. From a rate of 25.3% in 2014, youth unemployment declined to 17.5% in 2024 (Table 14).

Labour market overview, 2024
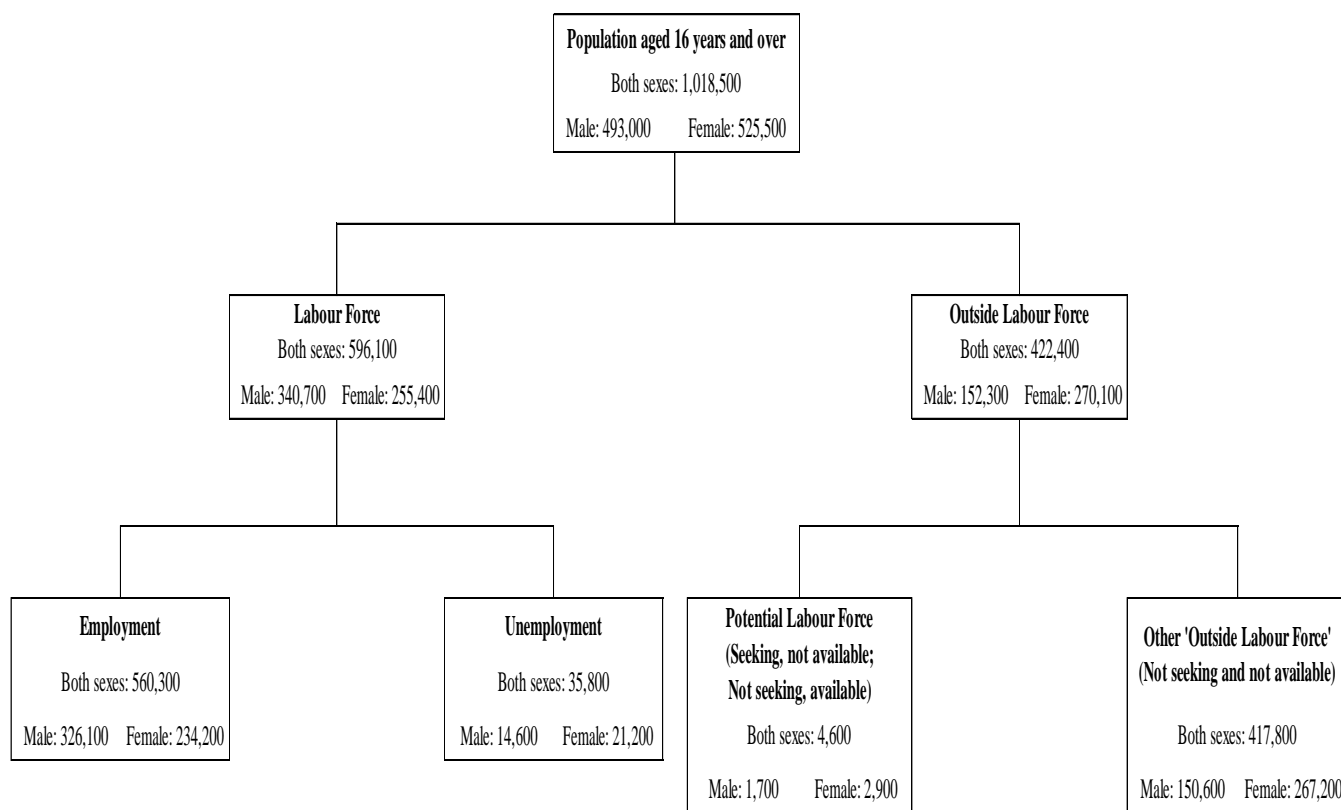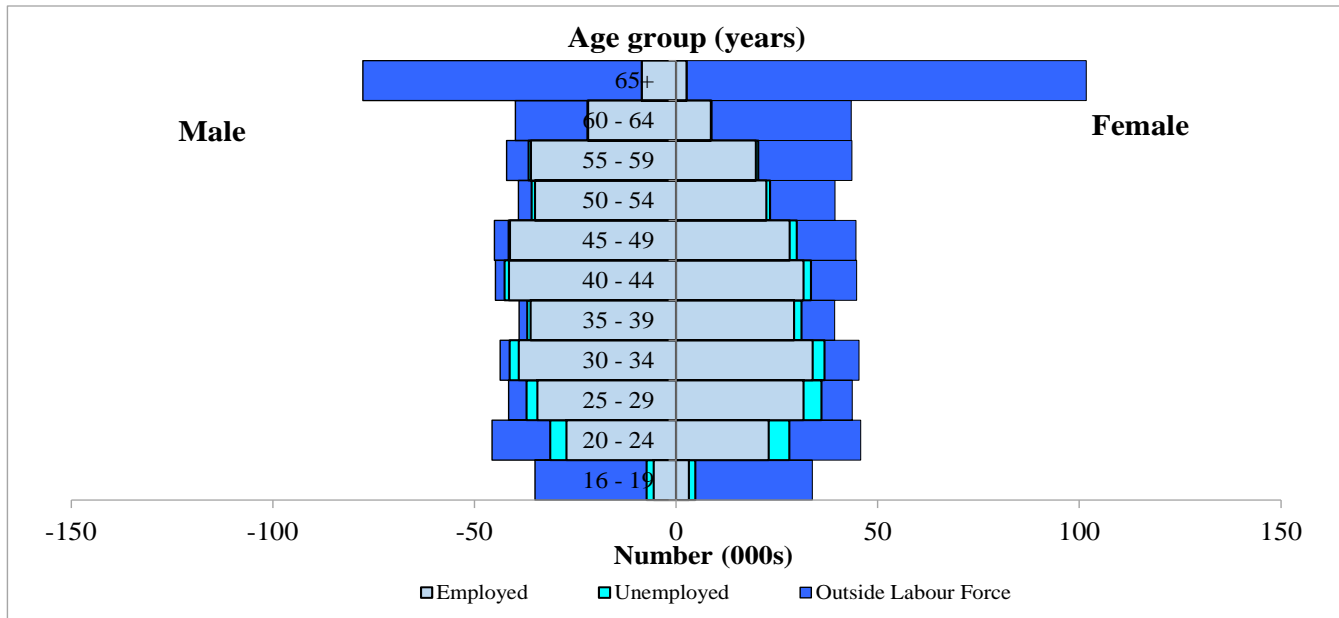
Chart 1 - The Labour Market, 2024

Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2024

Age group (years)

Male | Female

Age groups (top to bottom): 65+, 60 - 64, 55 - 59, 50 - 54, 45 - 49, 40 - 44, 35 - 39, 30 - 34, 25 - 29, 20 - 24, 16 - 19

Number (000s) — axis from -150 to 150

Legend: □ Employed □ Unemployed ■ Outside Labour Force

Labour Force

6. The population of working age (aged 16 years and over) numbered 1,018,500, of whom 596,100 consisted of the labour force (or were economically active) resulting in an activity rate of 58.5% (Table 1).

7. Out of the 596,100 persons in the labour force, 560,300 (94.0%) were employed and 35,800 (6.0%) 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 422,400 (152,300 males and 270,100 females) (Table 19).

9. Some 4,600 (1,700 males and 2,900 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 44% 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 36.5% retired or old persons, 31.9% homemakers, 18.7% students and 9.0% sick or disabled persons.

Labour underutilization

11. In 2024, labour underutilization worked out to be 135,600, comprising:

   - Unemployed (35,800).

   - Potential labour force (4,600), 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 (50,000), 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 (45,200), 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 560,300 (326,100 or 58% males and 234,200 or 42% females) in 2024. The employment to population ratio was around 55% (66% for males and 45% for females).

Men comprise 58% of the workforce

13. Out of every 100 persons in the workforce, 58 were men and the mean age of a worker was 42.0 years for men and 39.5 years for women.

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

14. Some 79.4% of the employed were employees while around 19.1% were self-employed (own account workers or employers) and the remaining 1.5% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (86.6% against 74.2% among males) and contributing family workers (2.5% against 0.7% among males) but a lower proportion of self-employed (10.9% against 25.1% among males) (Table 4).

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

15. On average, an employee worked 39.3 hours per week. A male employee worked 41.3 hours per week on average compared to 36.8 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 (40.3 hours per week), compared to 39.1 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 37.8 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 32,800 (Rs 35,800 for males and Rs 29,200 for females) (Table 7)

18. Average monthly income for employees was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 33,900), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 29,400) and the primary sector (Rs 24,400) (Table 7).

Chart 3 – Average monthly income of employees by industrial sector and sex, 2024
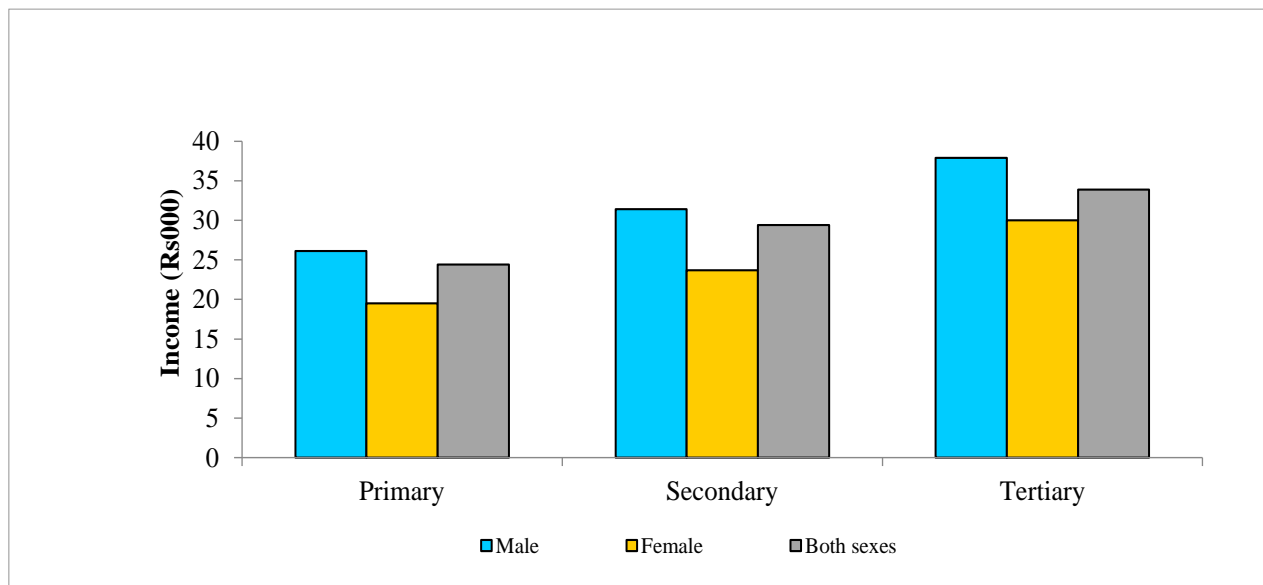
Median income of employees

19. The median monthly income of employees (comprising basic pay, allowances and overtime) was around Rs 25,000; i.e., 50% of employees earned less than Rs 25,000 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 50,100), followed by clerical and support workers (Rs 28,000). The lowest income was drawn by those engaged in elementary occupations (Rs 18,000) (Table 9).

The tertiary sector provides jobs to 3 out of every 4 workers and gave the highest pay

21. Out of every 100 workers, 75 were employed in the tertiary sector, 20 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 30% 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 14% of the workforce (Table 11).
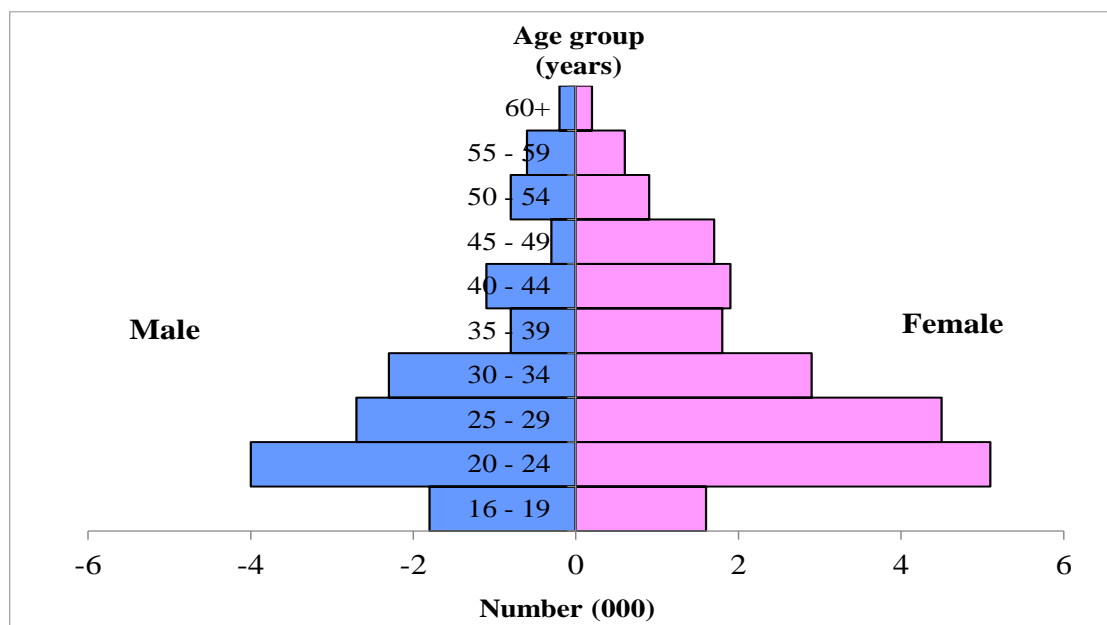
Unemployment

23. In 2024, unemployed persons numbered 35,800, comprising 14,600 men and 21,200 women. The unemployment rate was 6.0% (4.3% among men and 8.3% 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 2024.

Chart 4 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2024

25. The mean age of an unemployed male was 30.5 years and that of unemployed female was 31.7 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 17.5% among those below 25 years and 2.1% 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 5.3 percentage points.

58% of unemployed women are ever-married while unemployed men are mostly single

28. About 43% of the unemployed were ever-married, i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated. Most of the unemployed men were single (79%). Around 58% of the unemployed women were ever-married (Table 15).

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

29. Around 50% of the unemployed, representing 18,000 persons, did not hold a Cambridge School Certificate (SC): 8% had not attained the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC)/Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, 3% held the PSAC/CPE certificate, and a further 39% attended secondary school but did not pass the SC. The proportion having SC was

16% and Higher School Certificate (HSC) was 13%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 7,300 and represented 21% of the total unemployed (Table 16).

Chart 5 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2024
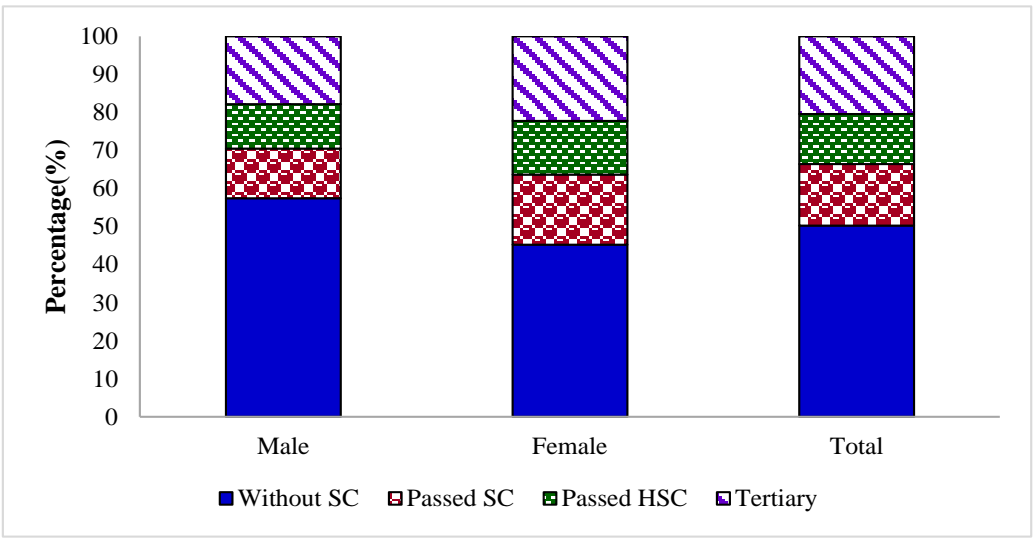
Unemployed women are generally more qualified than unemployed men

30. Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around 55% of them possessed at least a School Certificate against 42% among males.

Women remain in unemployment around four months more than men

31. The proportion of persons in unemployment for a duration of less than six months is higher among males (56%) compared to females (53%) while the proportion of those who are unemployed for more than twenty four months is higher among females (10%) against 8% 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 14 months for females.

Chart 6 – Duration of unemployment by sex, 2024
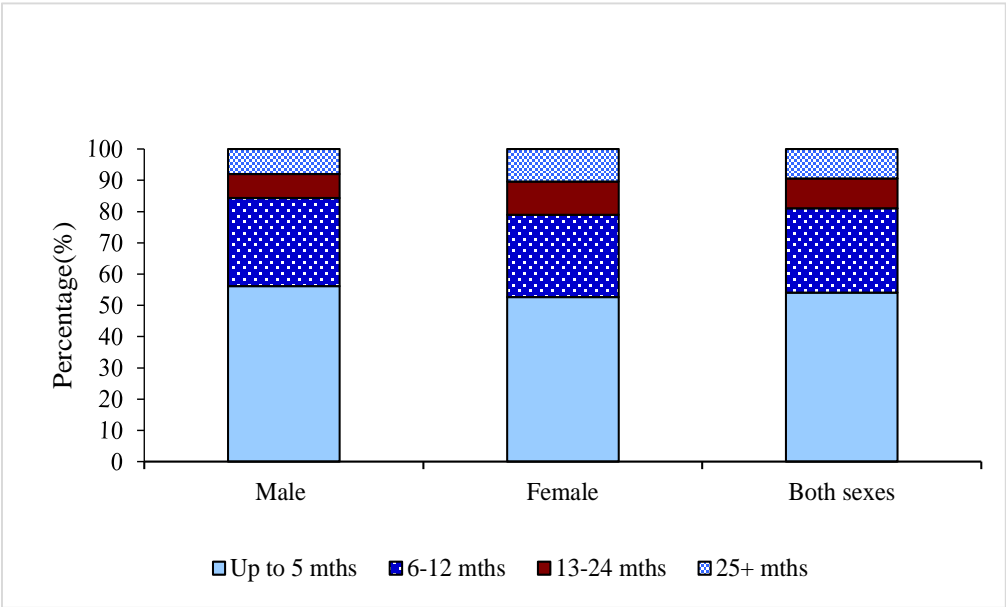
The unemployed is predominantly made up of persons with work experience

33. Around 72% of the unemployed had worked in the past. More than two thirds (74%) had worked previously in the tertiary sector, mainly 'Wholesale & retail trade' (21%) followed by 'Accommodation and food service activities' (15%). Another 23% had worked previously in the secondary sector, mainly in 'Construction' (14%) followed by 'Manufacturing'(9%). The remaining 3% previously worked in the agricultural sector.

One out of 3 unemployed who worked left their job due job dissatisfaction.

34. Some 26% of the unemployed lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job. Another 33% left their job due to dissatisfaction with job while around 12% left due to marriage/household responsibilities. Closure of establishment accounted for 6% of the job losses.

Six out of 10 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'(52%) followed by 'checked at factories,worksites, etc' (47%). Around 40% were registered at the Employment Service (Table 17).

Evolution from 2014 to 2024

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

36. During the period 2014 to 2024, 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).

<u>Chart 7 – Activity rate by sex, 2014 – 2024</u>
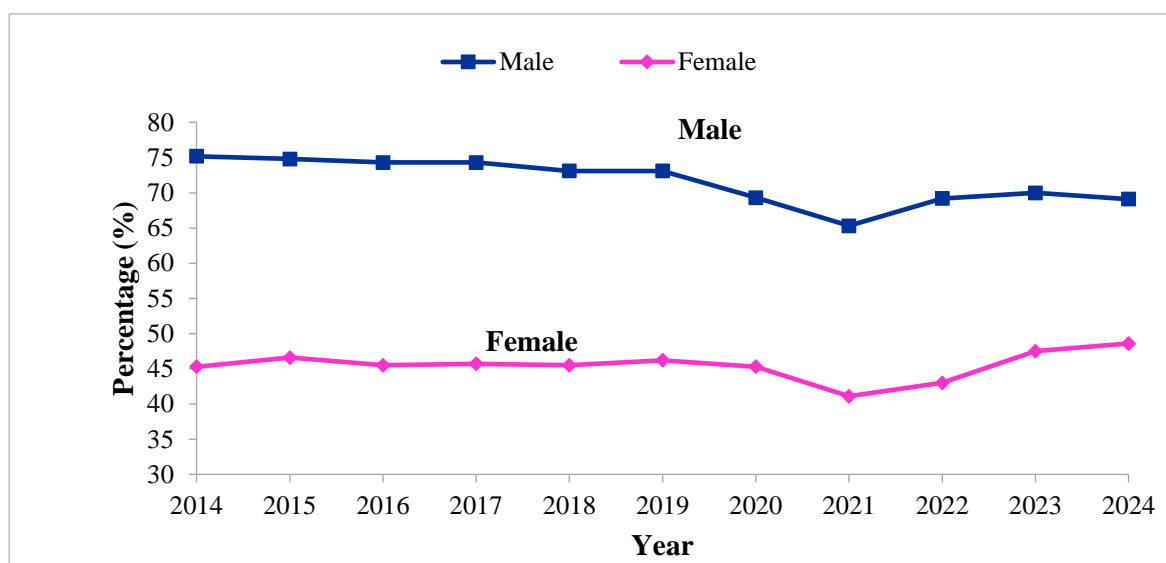
37. From 2014 to 2024, male age-specific activity rate had remained almost the same between 25 and 59 years. On the other hand, female age-specific activity rate in 2024 was higher than those of 2014 for all age groups between 20 and 64 years.

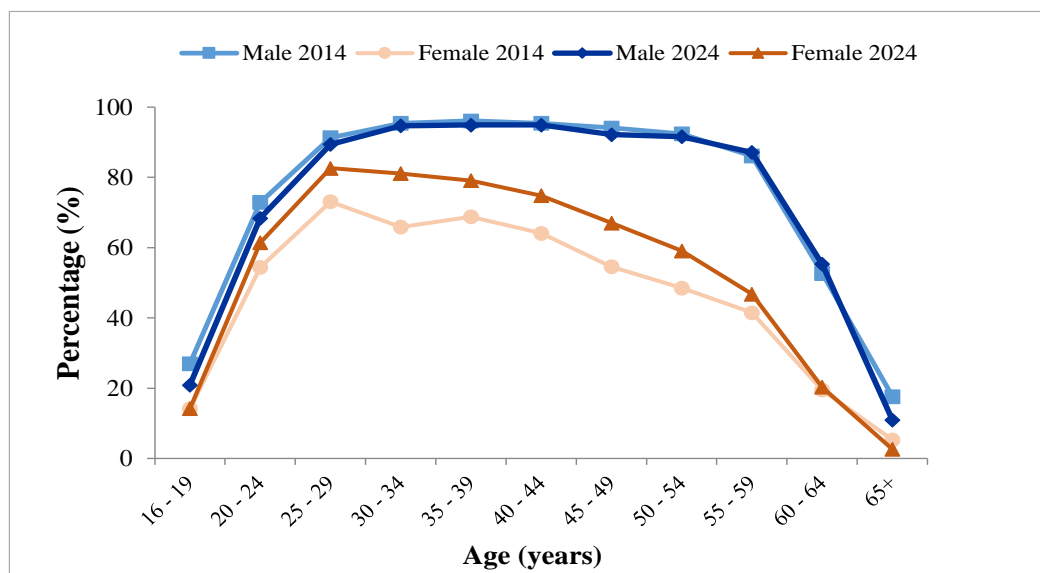Chart 8 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2014 & 2024

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 2014 to 2024, employment in this sector rose from 351,900 to 418,000; its share over total employment also increased from 66% to 75%. In contrast, employment in the primary and secondary sectors has been declining over time. In the primary sector, employment went down from 40,500 in 2014 to 30,400 in 2024 mainly due to a decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment dropped from 138,500 to 111,900 mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector (Table 10).

Chart 9 – Employed population by industrial sector, 2014 & 2024
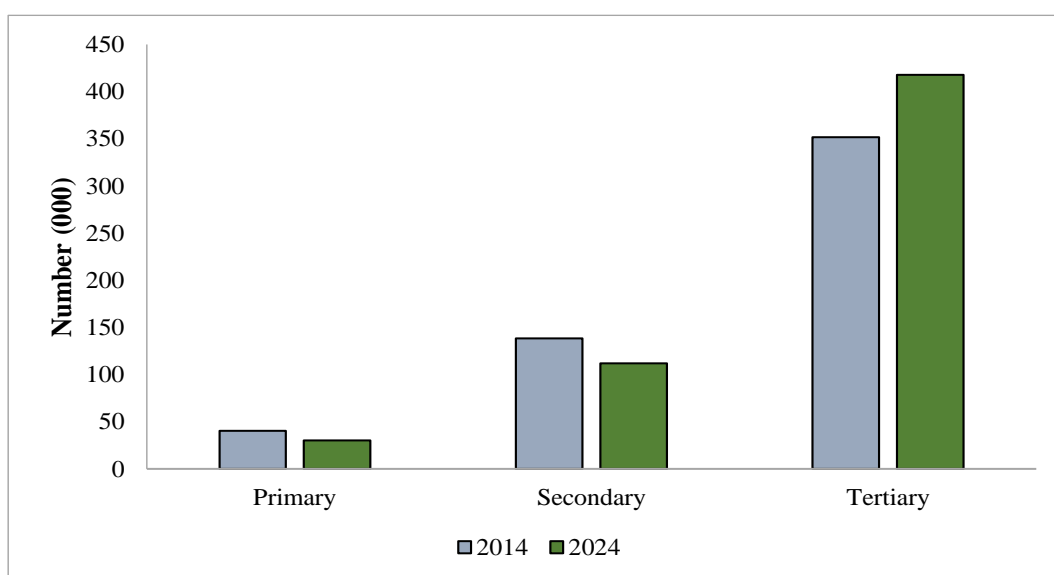
Mauritian workforce is moving up the occupation ladder

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 24.8% in 2014 to 30.1% in 2024, while the share of employment in the lowest occupational group (ISCO group 9) representing elementary jobs decreased from 16.1% to 13.5%.

Chart 10 – Employed population by occupational group, 2014 & 2024
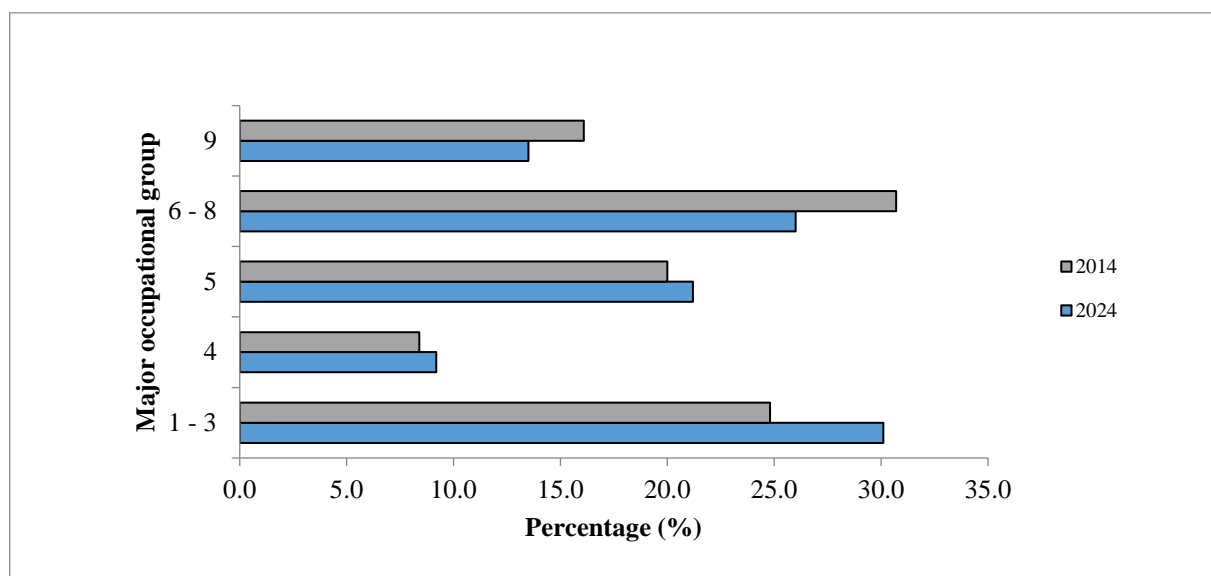
Female unemployment rate remains higher but gender gap is decreasing

Chart 11 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2014 – 2024
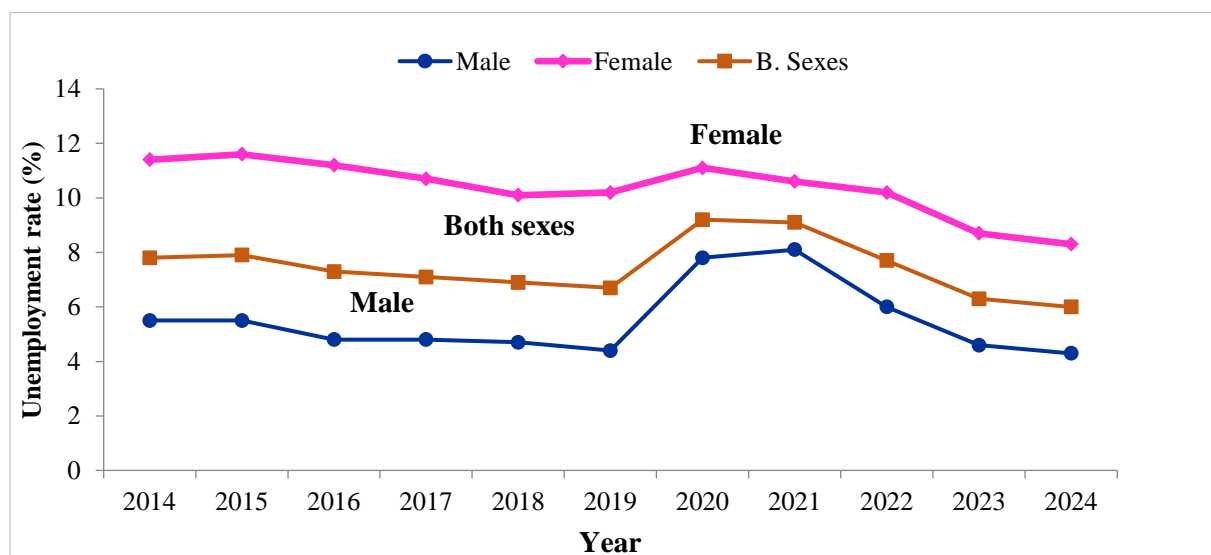
40. From a figure of 7.8% recorded in 2014, a downward trend, except in 2015, was observed in the overall unemployment rate up to 2019. Thereafter, it picked up to reach 9.2% in 2020. Then, it declined continuously to reach 6.0% in 2024 (Table 18).

41. Male unemployment rate decreased gradually during the period 2014 to 2019, from 5.5% to 4.4%. However, the rate increased to 7.8% in 2020 and 8.1% in 2021, followed by continuous decreases to reach 4.3% in 2024.

42. Female unemployment rate which stood at 11.4% in 2014 declined to 10.2% in 2019. Thereafter, it increased to 11.1% in 2020 and continously declined to reach 8.3% in 2024.

Trend in youth unemployment, 2014 to 2024

43. From a figure of 25.3% in 2014, youth unemployment rate increased to 26.3% in 2015 and went down to 22.8% in 2019. Thereafter, it rose to 26.1% and 27.7% in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Then, it decreased continuously to reach 17.5% in 2024 (Table 14).

44. Unemployed young persons in 2024 numbered 12,500 of whom 5,800 were male and 6,700 female compared to 9,000 and 10,500 respectively in 2014.

Chart 12 – Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployment rate, 2014 – 2024
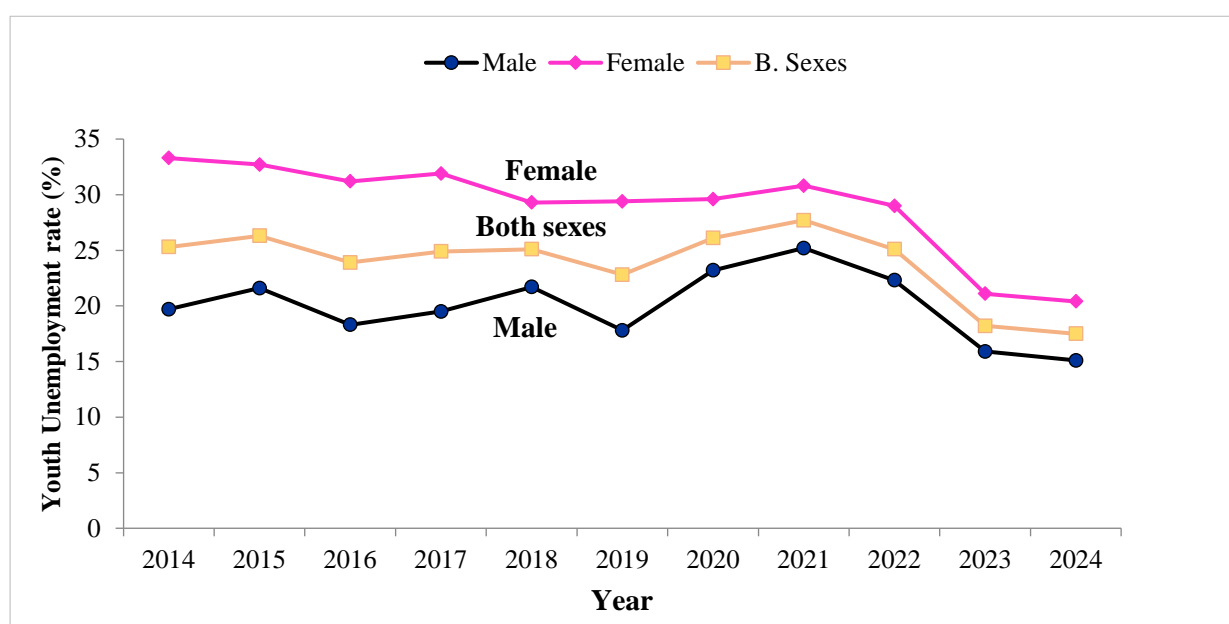
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20 May 2025

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List of tables

Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and population outside the labour force by sex, 2023 & 2024

	2023			2024		
	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)
Population						
Both Sexes	1,015,000	7,500	0.7	1,018,500	7,500	0.7
Male	491,800	4,800	1.0	493,000	4,900	1.0
Female	523,200	4,500	0.9	525,500	4,500	0.9
Labour Force						
Both Sexes	592,800	6,200	1.0	596,100	6,400	1.1
Male	344,300	4,100	1.2	340,700	4,200	1.2
Female	248,500	3,700	1.5	255,400	3,600	1.4
Employment						
Both Sexes	555,200	6,000	1.1	560,300	6,100	1.1
Male	328,300	4,000	1.2	326,100	4,000	1.2
Female	226,900	3,600	1.6	234,200	3,500	1.5
Unemployment						
Both Sexes	37,600	1,500	4.0	35,800	1,400	3.9
Male	16,000	900	5.6	14,600	900	6.2
Female	21,600	1,100	5.1	21,200	1,100	5.2
Inactive Population						
Both Sexes	422,200	5,100	1.2	422,400	4,800	1.1
Male	147,500	2,900	2.0	152,300	3,000	2.0
Female	274,700	3,900	1.4	270,100	3,600	1.3
Activity rate (%)						
Both Sexes	58.4	0.4	0.7	58.5	0.4	0.7
Male	70.0	0.5	0.7	69.1	0.5	0.7
Female	47.5	0.6	1.3	48.6	0.5	1.0
Unemployment rate (%)						
Both Sexes	6.3	0.2	3.2	6.0	0.2	3.3
Male	4.6	0.3	6.5	4.3	0.3	7.0
Female	8.7	0.4	4.6	8.3	0.4	4.8
Youth unemployment						
Both Sexes	12,800	800	6.3	12,500	800	6.4
Male	6,200	500	8.1	5,800	600	10.3
Female	6,600	600	9.1	6,700	600	9.0
Youth unemployment rate (%)						
Both Sexes	18.2	1.1	6.0	17.5	1.0	5.7
Male	15.9	1.3	8.2	15.1	1.3	8.6
Female	21.1	1.7	8.1	20.4	1.6	7.8

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 - 2014 & 2024

Age group (years)	2014			2024		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 19	27.0	14.2	20.7	20.9	14.2	17.6
20 - 24	72.9	54.4	63.7	68.4	61.4	64.9
25 - 29	91.3	73.1	82.2	89.4	82.6	85.9
30 - 34	95.4	65.9	80.6	94.7	81.1	87.8
35 - 39	96.1	68.8	82.5	94.9	79.1	87.0
40 - 44	95.4	64.1	79.8	94.9	74.8	84.8
45 - 49	94.1	54.6	74.4	92.2	67.0	79.7
50 - 54	92.4	48.5	70.3	91.6	59.1	75.3
55 - 59	86.1	41.5	63.3	87.1	46.8	66.6
60 - 64	52.7	19.5	35.3	55.3	20.3	37.0
65+	17.6	5.3	10.4	10.9	2.6	6.2
All Ages	**75.2**	**45.3**	**59.9**	**69.1**	**48.6**	**58.5**

Table 3 – Labour force, employment, unemployment by age group and sex - 2024

Age group	Labour Force			Employment			Unemployment		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 - 19	7,300	4,800	12,100	5,500	3,200	8,700	1,800	1,600	3,400
20 - 24	31,200	28,100	59,300	27,200	23,000	50,200	4,000	5,100	9,100
25 - 29	37,100	36,100	73,200	34,400	31,600	66,000	2,700	4,500	7,200
30 - 34	41,300	36,800	78,100	39,000	33,900	72,900	2,300	2,900	5,200
35 - 39	36,900	31,100	68,000	36,100	29,300	65,400		1,800	2,600
40 - 44	42,500	33,500	76,000	41,400	31,600	73,000		1,900	3,000
45 - 49	41,500	29,900	71,400	41,200	28,200	69,400		1,700	2,000
50 - 54	35,800	23,300	59,100	35,000	22,400	57,400	3,800		1,700
55 - 59	36,600	20,400	57,000	36,000	19,800	55,800		1,700	
60 - 64	22,000	8,800	30,800	21,800	8,600	30,400			1,600
65 & over	8,500	2,600	11,100	8,500	2,600	11,100			
Total	**340,700**	**255,400**	**596,100**	**326,100**	**234,200**	**560,300**	**14,600**	**21,200**	**35,800**

Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2024

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	21,200	3,400	24,600
Own Account worker	60,600	22,100	82,700
Employee	241,900	202,800	444,700
Contributing family worker	2,400	5,900	8,300
All employment states	**326,100**	**234,200**	**560,300**

Table 5 - Mean hours of work per week by employment status and sex - 2024

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	41.2	37.8	40.8
Own Account worker	35.1	28.4	33.3
Employee	41.3	36.8	39.3
Contributing family worker	27.7	28.0	27.9
All employment states	**40.1**	**35.9**	**38.4**

Table 6 - Mean hours of work of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2024

Industrial sector	Mean hours of work per week		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	39.5	33.3	37.8
Secondary	40.5	39.6	40.3
Tertiary	41.7	36.6	39.1
All sectors	**41.3**	**36.8**	**39.3**

Table 7 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2024

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	26,100	19,500	24,400
Secondary	31,400	23,700	29,400
Tertiary	37,900	30,000	33,900
All sectors	**35,800**	**29,200**	**32,800**

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of employees by income range - 2024

Income range Rupees per month	Employees		Income	
	%	Cumulative %	%	Cumulative %
Up to 5,000	1.6	1.6	0.2	0.2
5,001 - 10,000	4.2	5.8	1.0	1.2
10,001 - 15,000	4.8	10.6	2.0	3.2
15,001 - 20,000	23.9	34.5	13.4	16.6
20,001 - 25,000	19.1	53.6	13.5	30.1
25,001 - 50,000	33.6	87.2	36.0	66.1
50,001 - 75,000	7.5	94.7	13.9	80.0
75,001 and Over	5.3	100.0	20.0	100.0
Total	100.0		100.0	

Table 9 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by occupational group and sex - 2024

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Average monthly income (Rs)		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	57,400	43,100	50,100
4	Clerical support workers	30,700	26,500	28,000
5	Service and sales workers	30,300	21,100	26,200
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	24,300	20,200	23,700
9	Elementary occupations	21,700	15,300	18,000
	All occupational groups	**35,800**	**29,200**	**32,800**

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 10 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2014 & 2024

Industrial Sector		2014			2024		
		Male	**Female**	**Both Sexes**	**Male**	**Female**	**Both Sexes**
Primary		**29,000**	**11,500**	**40,500**	**22,300**	**8,100**	**30,400**
Secondary		**103,800**	**34,700**	**138,500**	**87,200**	**24,700**	**111,900**
of which	*Manufacturing*	*42,500*	*31,500*	*74,000*	*37,400*	*22,600*	*60,000*
	Construction	*53,600*	*2,000*	*55,600*	*45,700*	*1,400*	*47,100*
Tertiary		**200,600**	**151,300**	**351,900**	**216,600**	**201,400**	**418,000**
of which	*Wholesale and retail trade*	*46,000*	*31,800*	*77,800*	*49,100*	*38,400*	*87,500*
	Accommodation and food service activities	*23,500*	*15,800*	*39,300*	*25,700*	*20,700*	*46,400*
	Transportation and storage	*30,400*	*4,300*	*34,700*	*31,400*	*6,200*	*37,600*
	Public administration and defence	*31,500*	*10,500*	*42,000*	*28,800*	*17,700*	*46,500*
	Education and Human Health & social work activities	*24,900*	*39,100*	*64,000*	*20,000*	*39,100*	*59,100*
All Sectors		**333,400**	**197,500**	**530,900**	**326,100**	**234,200**	**560,300**

Table 11 - Employed population by occupational group and sex - 2014 & 2024

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	2014			2024		
		Male	**Female**	**Both Sexes**	**Male**	**Female**	**Both Sexes**
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	75,700	55,900	131,600	87,300	81,400	168,700
4	Clerical support workers	17,600	26,700	44,300	18,300	33,300	51,600
5	Service and sales workers	59,900	46,400	106,300	63,700	55,100	118,800
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	138,800	24,400	163,200	124,400	21,300	145,700
9	Elementary occupations	41,400	44,100	85,500	32,400	43,100	75,500
	All occupational groups	**333,400**	**197,500**	**530,900**	**326,100**	**234,200**	**560,300**

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 12 - Employed population with tertiary qualification by occupational group and sex - 2024

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1	Managers	11,900	6,900	18,800
2	Professionals	27,200	30,400	57,600
3	Technicians and associate professionals	18,900	19,900	38,800
4	Clerical support workers	5,800	15,500	21,300
5	Service and sales workers	11,300	7,200	18,500
6-8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	6,300	1,500	7,800
9	Elementary occupations	1,300	1,300	2,600
	All occupational groups	**82,700**	**82,700**	**165,400**

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 13 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2024

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 24	15.1	20.4	17.5
25 - 29	7.3	12.5	9.8
30 - 39	4.0	6.9	5.3
40 - 49	1.7	5.7	3.4
50 and over	1.6	3.1	2.1
All ages	**4.3**	**8.3**	**6.0**

Table 14 - Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex , 2014 - 2024

Year	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
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
2024	5,800	6,700	12,500	15.1	20.4	17.5

Table 15 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex – 2024

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Ever Married	3,100	12,400	15,500
Single	11,500	8,800	20,300
Total	**14,600**	**21,200**	**35,800**

Table 16 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex - 2024

Educational attainment	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	**1,800**	**2,100**	**3,900**
Below PSAC/CPE	1,800	2,100	2,800
Passed PSAC/CPE			1,100
Secondary	**10,200**	**14,400**	**24,600**
Form I - V but not passed SC	6,600	7,500	14,100
Passed SC	1,900	3,900	5,800
Passed HSC	1,700	3,000	4,700
Tertiary	**2,600**	**4,700**	**7,300**
Total	**14,600**	**21,200**	**35,800**

Table 17 - Unemployed population by method of job search and sex – 2024

Method of job search	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Applied to prospective employers	7,300	11,200	18,500
Checked at factories, worksites etc	8,000	9,000	17,000
Registered at Employment Service *	5,100	9,200	14,300
Placed or answered advertisements	6,000	8,000	14,000
Sought assistance and advices **	6,000	7,900	13,900
All Unemployed	**14,600**	**21,200**	**35,800**

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

**to obtain a paid job or start own business

Table 18 - Unemployment rate (%) by sex - 2014 - 2024

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
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
2024	4.3	8.3	6.0

Table 19 - Population outside labour force by inactivity status and sex – 2024

Inactivity status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Students	39,200	39,700	78,900
Retired or old persons	83,100	71,000	154,100
Sick or disabled	21,500	16,500	38,000
Homemakers	8,500	134,500	134,800
Other		8,400	16,600
Total	**152,300**	**270,100**	**422,400**

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 16[1] 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.

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[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*