# SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS IN LARGE

# (employing 10 or more persons) ESTABLISHMENTS (SEE)

**March 2025 (Preliminary results)**

1. **Introduction**

Statistics Mauritius carries out the annual Survey of Employment and Earnings in ‘large’ establishments with March as reference period so as to obtain a continuous series of comparable data on the level of employment and earnings in these establishments. This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents the preliminary results for March 2025 with comparative figures for 2023 and 2024.

Concepts and definitions are provided at section 4.

###### **Response**

The preliminary results of the survey presented below are based on responses obtained from 69% of large establishments, representing 79% of total employment in this category of establishments. Estimates have been worked out for non-response on the basis of previous data, observed trend and employment figures from the statistics unit of the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives.

###### **Main results**

##### **Employment Level, March 2024 - March 2025**

A preliminary estimate of total employment in large establishments is 308,169 in March 2025 compared to 304,649 in March 2024, representing an increase of 3,520 (Table 1). This is the net result of employment increases in some industrial groups, partly offset by decreases in some other groups.

A sectorwise analysis shows that employment in the primary sector increased by 108 from 9,030 in March 2024 to 9,138 in March 2025. During the same period, employment in the secondary sector showed decrease by 2,395 from 69,393 to 66,998 while the tertiary sector increased by 5,807 from 226,226 to 232,033.

The total employment figure includes 5,025 persons working in large establishments in Rodrigues, compared to 4,719 in March 2024. They are mainly government employees of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly numbering 2,904 in March 2025.

As at March 2025, the number of foreign workers stood at 28,157 *(23,313 males and 4,844 females)* of whom 16,671 were engaged in activities of the ‘Manufacturing’ sector, 5,799 in ‘Construction’, 1,940 in ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ and 955 in ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (Table 6).

## **Employment by Industry**

Between March 2024 and March 2025, main increases occurred in the following industrial groups: ‘Public administration and defence; compulsory social security’ (+2,426), ‘Financial and insurance activities’ (+888), ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ (+654) and ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (+542).

Decrease in employment was in ‘Manufacturing’ (-2,364) (Chart 1).

2,462

Public administration and defence; compulsory social security

-2,364

414

-165

408

888

109

542

Administrative and support service activities

Professional, scientific and technical activities

Financial and insurance activities

Accommodation and food service activities

Transportation and storage

Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles

276

654

Human health and social work activities

Information and communication

Manufacturing

2,426

## **Employment by Sex**

As at March 2025, among the 308,169 employees in large establishments, 181,854 or 59.0% were male. Compared to March 2024, male employment increased by 2,452 while female employment increased by 1,068.

Male employment increased mainly in ‘Public administration and defence; compulsory social security’ (+965), ‘Financial and insurance activities’ (+738), ‘Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles’ (+574) and ‘Transportation and storage’ (+150) (Table 1).

Female employment increased mainly in ‘Public administration and defence; compulsory social security’ (+1,461), ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (+433), ‘Human health and social work activities’ (+394) and ‘Professional, scientific and technical activities’ (+306).

## **Employment in General Government Sector**

Employment in the General Government Sector increased by 5,671 from 75,382 in March 2024 to 81,053 in March 2025. Male employment increased by 1,931 from 42,384 to 44,315 and female employment increased by 3,740 from 32,998 to 36,738 (Tables 3, 3a & 3b).

## **Employment in large establishments of the Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE) sector**

The number of persons employed by large establishments of the EOE sector decreased by 2,763 from 32,026 *(17,699 Mauritians and 14,327 foreigners)* in March 2024 to 29,263 *(15,364 Mauritians and 13,899 foreigners)* in March 2025 (Table 4). The main decreases were in the ‘Wearing apparel (except footwear)’ (-1,736) and ‘Food’ (-692).

From March 2024 to March 2025, the number of male employees showed decrease by 913 from 17,652 to 16,739 and the number of female employees showed decrease by 1,850 from 14,374 to 12,524.

* 1. **Employment of foreign workers**

The number of foreign workers in large establishments in March 2025 stood at 28,157 (23,313 males and 4,844 females) compared to 26,598 (21,610 males and 4,988 females) in March 2024, showing a net increase of 1,559 (+1,703 males and -144 females) (Table 6).

Male employment increased mainly in ‘Manufacturing’ (+478).

Female employment decreased mainly in ‘Manufacturing’ (-255).

* 1. **Earnings**

The level of average earnings is influenced mainly by changes in basic salaries and wages. However, fluctuations may also occur because of:

1. Changes in the mix of employees of various categories or with various lengths of service. For example, a large intake of professionals by, say, an architectural firm can cause a sudden jump in the average monthly earnings. On the other hand, a large intake of employees at the lower end of a wage scale has the effect of lowering the average earnings.
2. Changes in overtime, regular bonuses and commissions.
   * 1. **Earnings in large establishments**

The industrial group with the highest average monthly earnings was ‘Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’ (Rs 79,493) followed by ‘Financial and insurance activities’ (Rs 70,711) and ‘Real estate activities’ (Rs 64,555). Lowest averages were registered in, ‘Administrative and support service activities’ (Rs 29,068) and in ‘Manufacturing’ (Rs 33,777). Within the ‘Manufacturing’ group, ‘Textiles and wearing apparel’ registered average monthly earnings of Rs 31,084.

Overall average monthly earnings in large establishments increased by 5.2% from Rs 43,511 in March 2024 to Rs 45,794 in March 2025. Highest increases were registered in: ‘Arts, entertainment and recreation’ (+18.6%) and ‘Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities’ (+11.9%) (Chart 2).

* + 1. **Earnings in large establishments of the EOE sector**

The average monthly earnings in this sector stood at Rs 32,832 in March 2025, showing an increase of 9.3% over the March 2024 figure of Rs 30,052 (Table 8). The average monthly earnings in the manufacturing establishments were Rs 29,495 compared to Rs 48,631 in the non-manufacturing establishments. The corresponding figures for 2024 were Rs 26,104 and Rs 45,279 respectively.

###### **Concepts and definitions**

* 1. **Large establishments** include:

1. Agricultural establishments comprising:
2. sugar cane plantations of 10 hectares or more;
3. tea plantations of 2 hectares or more;
4. Other agricultural establishments employing at least 10 persons during the reference period (March 2025).
5. Non-agricultural establishments employing at least 10 persons during the reference month. It is to be noted that “outworkers”, that is, piece rate workers who are working in their own homes on materials provided by the establishment, are excluded although they are remunerated by the establishment.
6. All central, regional and local government departments.
   1. **Primary, Secondary and Tertiary sector**

**Primary sector** comprises activities classified in the industrial groups:

1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing
2. Mining and quarrying

**Secondary sector** comprises activities classified in the industrial groups:

1. Manufacturing
2. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
3. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
4. Construction

**Tertiary sector** comprises activities classified in the industrial groups:

1. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
2. Transportation and storage
3. Accommodation and food service activities
4. Information and communication
5. Financial and insurance activities
6. Real estate activities
7. Professional, scientific and technical activities
8. Administrative and support service activities
9. Public administration and defence; compulsory social security
10. Education
11. Human health and social work activities
12. Arts, entertainment and recreation
13. Other service activities

**4.3** The **General Government** sector is made up of (i) Central Government (ii) Regional Government and (iii) Local Government.

**4.3.1 Central Government** covers all units that are agencies of the country’s central authority. It consists of Budgetary Central Government and Extra Budgetary Units.

***Budgetary Central Government*** includes all ministries and departments.

***Extra Budgetary Units*** are agencies responsible for the performance of specialized governmental functions in such fields as health, education, social welfare, construction and so on, under the authority of Central Government

**4.3.2 Regional Government** consists of the administration of Rodrigues.

**4.3.3** **Local Government** consists of municipalities and district councils / village councils exercising an independent competence as government units.

**4.4 Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE)** comprise enterprises formerly operating with an export certificate and those export manufacturing enterprises holding a registration certificate issued by the Board of Investment.

**4.5 Employment in Large establishments** covers all persons in regular or casual employment and includes:

1. Persons temporarily absent on paid sick or vacation leave; and
2. Persons holding managerial posts, family workers receiving wages or salaries, and paid apprentices.

**4.6 Earnings** of employees in large establishments comprise all payments in cash made to employees in connection with work done. Amounts reported include overtime, productivity bonuses, commissions, travelling allowances, attendance bonuses, housing and rent allowances and other regular cash payments before any deductions such as taxes, insurance and pension contributions paid by the employees. They exclude pension payments, family allowances and other similar special benefits paid by the employers. Also excluded are arrears payments made at the end of March in respect of previous pay periods.

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