



Economic and Social Indicators

Issue No 1925

Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment

(based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey)

Year 2025

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Statistics Mauritius
Ministry of Finance
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 2025

Introduction

1. This seventeenth issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2025, 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. As from the first quarter 2025, labour force, employment and unemployment estimates are published based on population figures revised according to the 2022 population census results. Prior estimates have been revised for the period 2012 to 2024.
3. As from 2025, the estimates on labour underutilization are compiled according to the recommendations of the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) (see ‘*Definitions of Terms*’ for more details).
4. 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

	2024	2025	Change 2024 - 2025
Population (aged 16+)	992,400	992,500	+100
Labour Force (Economically active)	581,900	587,200	+5,300
<i>Of which Employment</i>	<i>547,000</i>	<i>553,700</i>	<i>+6,700¹</i>
<i>Unemployment</i>	<i>34,900</i>	<i>33,500</i>	<i>-1,400</i>
Outside Labour Force (Economically inactive)	410,500	405,300	-5,200
<i>Of which Potential Labour Force²</i>	<i>4,600</i>	<i>4,700</i>	<i>+100</i>
Activity rate (%)	58.6	59.2	+0.6
Employment-to-population ratio ³	55.1	55.8	+0.7
Unemployment rate (%)	6.0	5.7	-0.3
Youth unemployment	11,800	11,700	-100
Youth unemployment rate (%)	17.7	18.4	+0.7

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 employed person 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

5. Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2025

- a. The employed population comprised 317,300 (57.3%) males and 236,400 (42.7%) females.
- b. Among the 33,500 unemployed, women outnumbered men (19,400 women compared to 14,100 men). The unemployed youth aged 16 to 24 years numbered 11,700 (47.0% males and 53.0% female).
- c. The labour force (employed + unemployed) comprised 331,400 (56.4%) males and 255,800 (43.6%) females.

6. Change in Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2024 to 2025

Male

- a. Male employment increased by 900 and unemployment by 100 and hence, male labour force increased by 1,000.
- b. Male unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) rose from 4.2% in 2024 to 4.3% in 2025.
- c. Male activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 69.2% in 2024 to 69.6% in 2025 as a result of an increase of 1,000 in the male labour force compared to a decrease of 1,200 in the male population aged 16 years and above.

Female

- d. Female employment increased by 5,800 whereas unemployment decreased by 1,500 and hence, female labour force increased by 4,300.
- e. Female unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) decreased from 8.3% in 2024 to 7.6% in 2025.
- f. Female activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 48.8% in 2024 to 49.6% in 2025 as a result of an increase of 4,300 in the female labour force and an increase of 1,300 in the female population aged 16 years and above.

Both sexes

- g. Employment increased by 6,700 while unemployment decreased by 1,400 and hence, the labour force increased by 5,300.
- h. Unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 6.0% in 2024 to 5.7% in 2025.
- i. The overall activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 58.6% in 2024 to 59.2% in 2025 as a result of an increase of 5,300 in the labour force and an increase of 100 in the population aged 16 years and above.

Youth

- j. Youth employment decreased by 2,900 from 54,900 in 2024 to 52,000 in 2025 whilst unemployment decreased by 100 from 11,800 to 11,700.
- k. Youth unemployment rate therefore increased by 0.7 percentage point from 17.7% to 18.4%.

7. Evolution from 2015 to 2025

- a. Men are more economically active than women but the gap is decreasing over time (Table 2).
- b. Compared to its 2015 level, male employment was lower (-13,200) while female employment was higher (+32,900) (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 5.7% in 2025 from to 7.9% in 2015 (Table 18).
- e. From a rate of 26.3% in 2015, youth unemployment declined to 18.4% in 2025 (Table 14).

Labour market overview, 2025

Chart 1 – The Labour Market, 2025

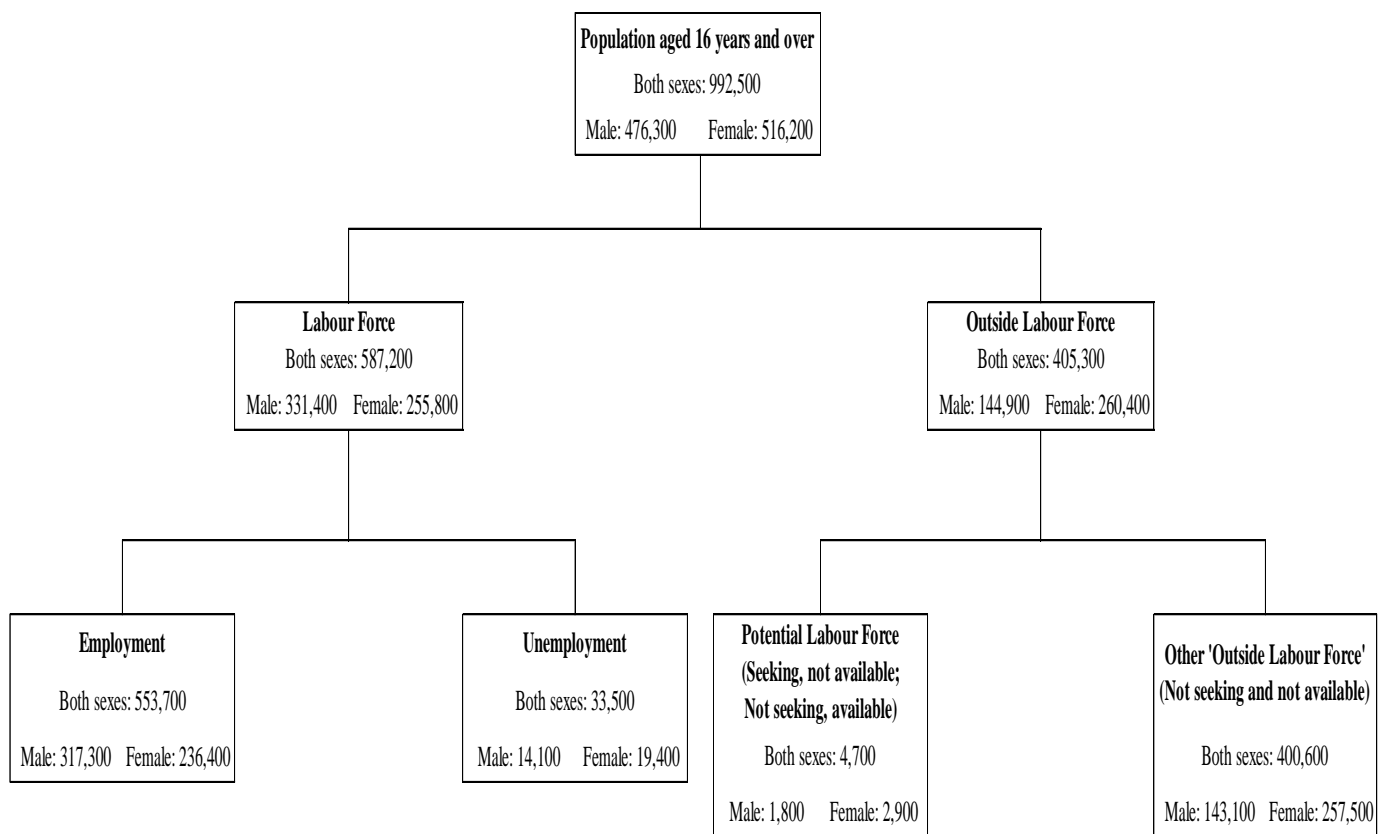
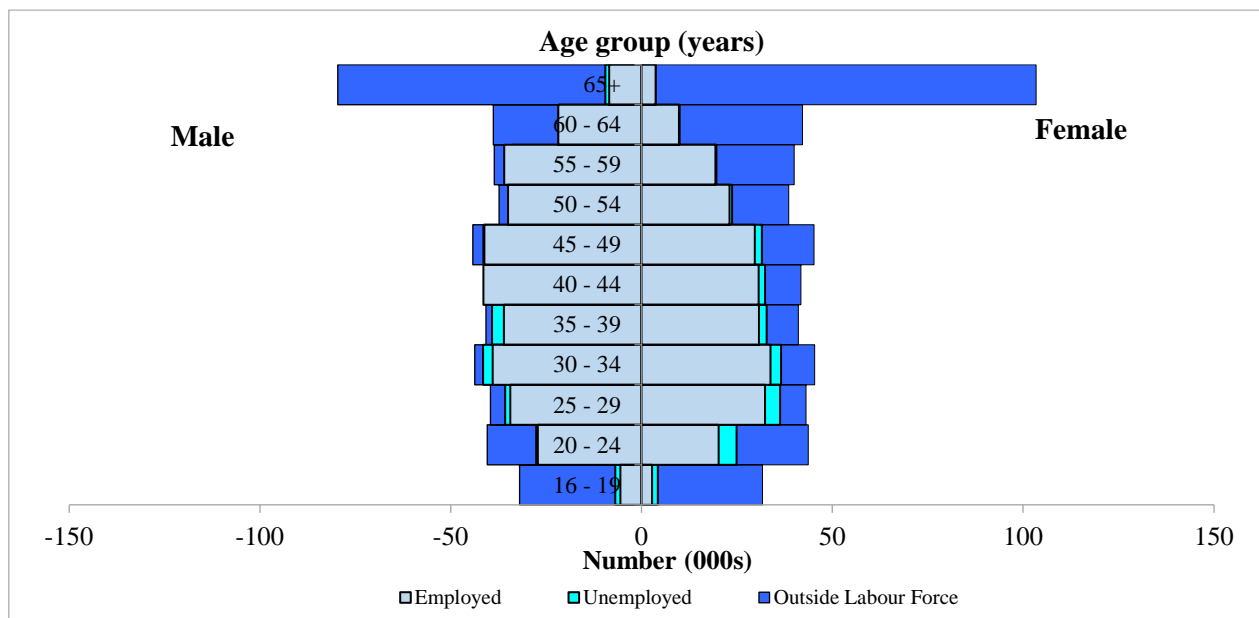


Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2025



Labour Force

8. The population of working age (aged 16 years and over) numbered 992,500, of whom 587,200 consisted of the labour force (or were economically active) resulting in an activity rate of 59.2% (Table 1).
9. Out of the 587,200 persons in the labour force, 553,700 (94.3%) were employed and 33,500 (5.7%) were unemployed.
 - a. The number of persons outside the labour force was significantly higher among women than among men at almost all age groups (Chart 2).
 - b. There were fewer women than men among the employed at all ages.
 - c. As from age group 25-29 years, the number of unemployed generally decreased with age.

Population outside Labour Force

10. The number of persons aged 16 years and over not forming part of labour force stood at 405,300 (35.8% males and 64.2% females) (Table 19).
11. Some 4,700 (1,800 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 40% 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.
12. The population outside labour force comprised mainly 37.1% retired or old persons, 32.2% homemakers, 18.5% students and 8.2% sick or disabled persons.

Labour underutilization¹

13. In 2025, labour underutilization worked out to be 94,400, comprising:

- Unemployed (33,500)
- Potential labour force (4,700), 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.
- Time-related underemployed (56,200), i.e. persons in employment and who were willing and available to work additional hours, and whose hours actually worked were below a specified threshold.

¹ As from 2025, the estimates on labour underutilization are compiled according to the recommendations of the 19th ICLS (see 'Definitions of Terms' for more details).

Skills-related underemployment

14. Skills-related underemployed (45,500), 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.

Employment

15. The employed population stood at 553,700 (317,300 or 57% males and 236,400 or 43% females) in 2025. The employment to population ratio was around 56% (67% for males and 46% for females).

Men comprise 57% of the workforce

16. Out of every 100 persons in the workforce, 57 were men and the mean age of a worker was 42.2 years for men and 40.0 years for women.

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

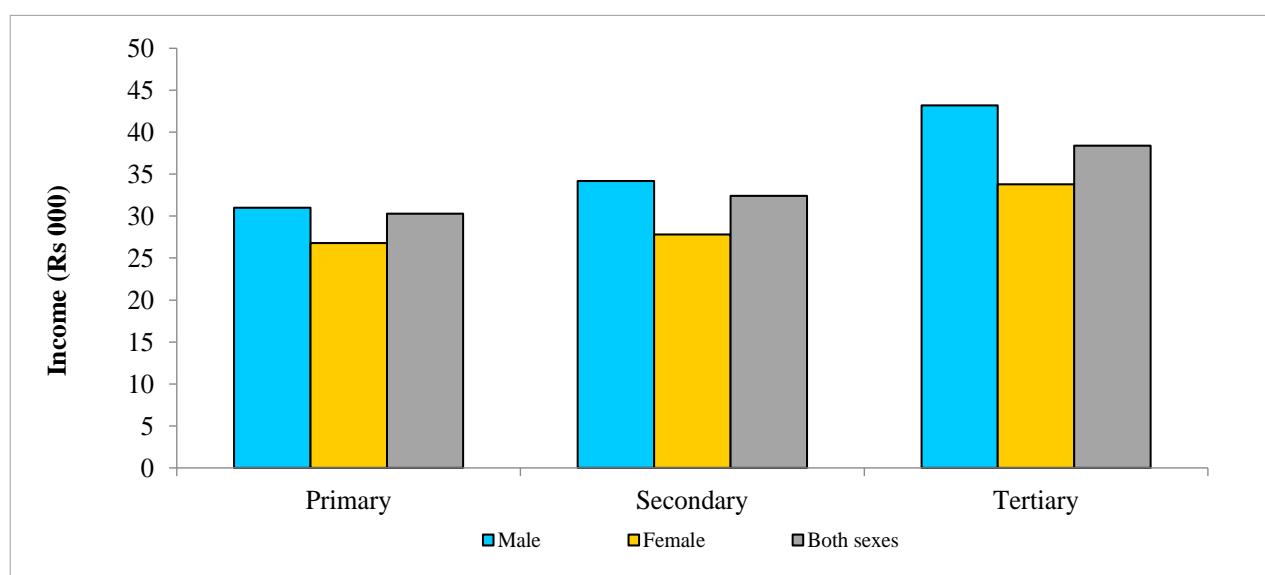
17. Some 80.0% of the employed were employees while around 18.6% were self-employed (own account workers or employers) and the remaining 1.4% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (86.4% against 75.2% among males) and contributing family workers (2.5% against 0.6% among males) but a lower proportion of self-employed (11.1% against 24.2% among males) (Table 4).

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

18. On average, an employee worked 40.2 hours per week (42.1 hours for male and 38.0 hours for female) (Table 5).

19. 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 (41.3 hours per week), compared to 40.1 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 38.0 hours in the primary sector (covering agriculture, forestry and fishing and mining & quarrying) (Table 6).
20. Average monthly income for an employee amounted to Rs 37,200 (Rs 40,600 for males and Rs 33,100 for females) (Table 7)
21. Average monthly income for employees was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 38,400), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 32,400) and the primary sector (Rs 30,300) (Table 7).

Chart 3 – Average monthly income of employees by industrial sector and sex, 2025



Median income of employees

22. The median monthly income of employees (comprising basic pay, allowances and overtime) was around Rs 28,000; i.e., 50% of employees earned less than Rs 28,000 while the other 50% earned more than it (Table 8).
23. Chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals earned the highest monthly income (Rs 55,700), followed by service and sales workers (Rs 30,100). The lowest income was drawn by those engaged in elementary occupations (Rs 21,500) (Table 9).

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

24. 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

25. 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) 22%. Another 24% 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).

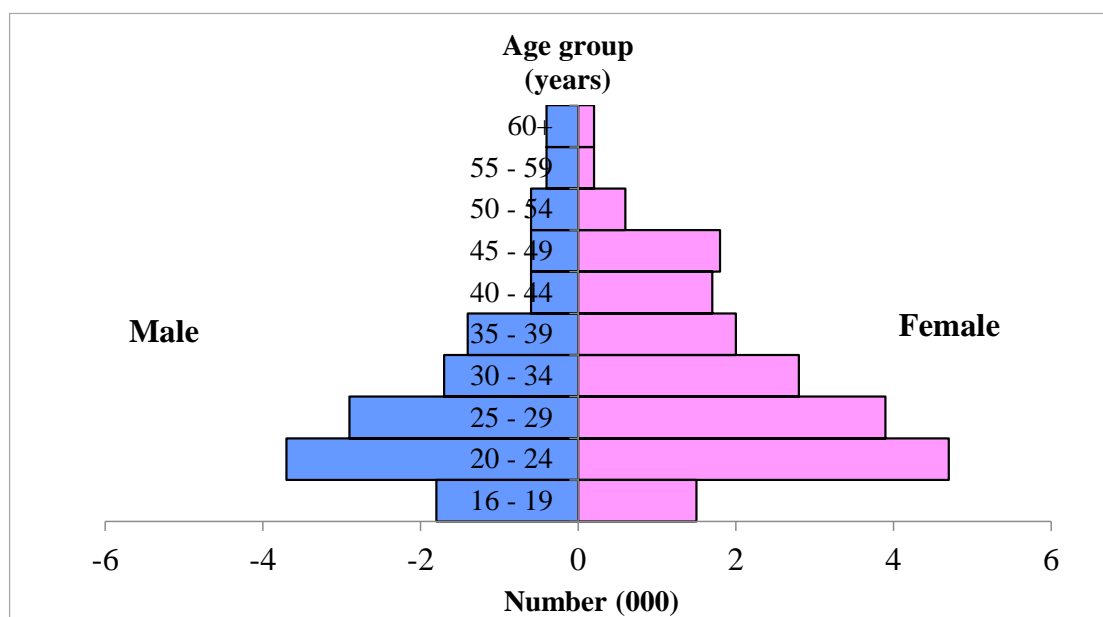
Unemployment

26. In 2025, unemployed persons numbered 33,500 (42.1% males and 57.9% females). The unemployment rate was 5.7% (4.3% among men and 7.6% among women) (Table 1).

There are more unemployed among women than among men

27. The shape of the pyramid in Chart 4 indicates the predominance of women among the unemployed at almost all age-groups in 2025.

Chart 4 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2025



28. The mean age of an unemployed male was 30.4 years and that of unemployed female was 31.6 years.

Unemployment rate is highest among young persons

29. Unemployment rate was highest at the lowest age groups and decreased progressively with increasing age. It was 18.4% among those below 25 years and 1.5% among those aged 50 years and above (Table 13).

30. 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.

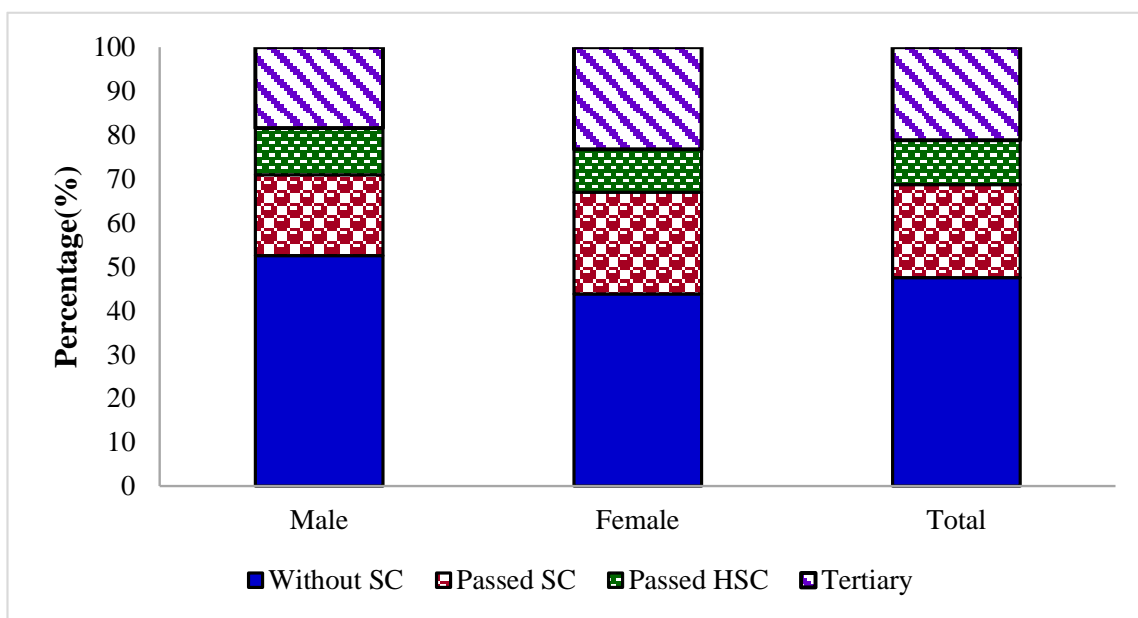
58% of unemployed women are ever-married while unemployed men are mostly single

31. About 44% of the unemployed were ever-married, i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated. Most of the unemployed men were single (74%). Around 58% of the unemployed women were ever-married (Table 15).

Almost half of the unemployed do not hold the School Certificate

32. Around 48% of the unemployed, representing 15,900 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, 3% held the PSAC/CPE certificate, and a further 36% attended secondary school but did not pass the SC. The proportion having SC was 21% and Higher School Certificate (HSC) was 10%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 7,100 and represented 21% of the total unemployed (Table 16).

Chart 5 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2025



Unemployed women are generally more qualified than unemployed men

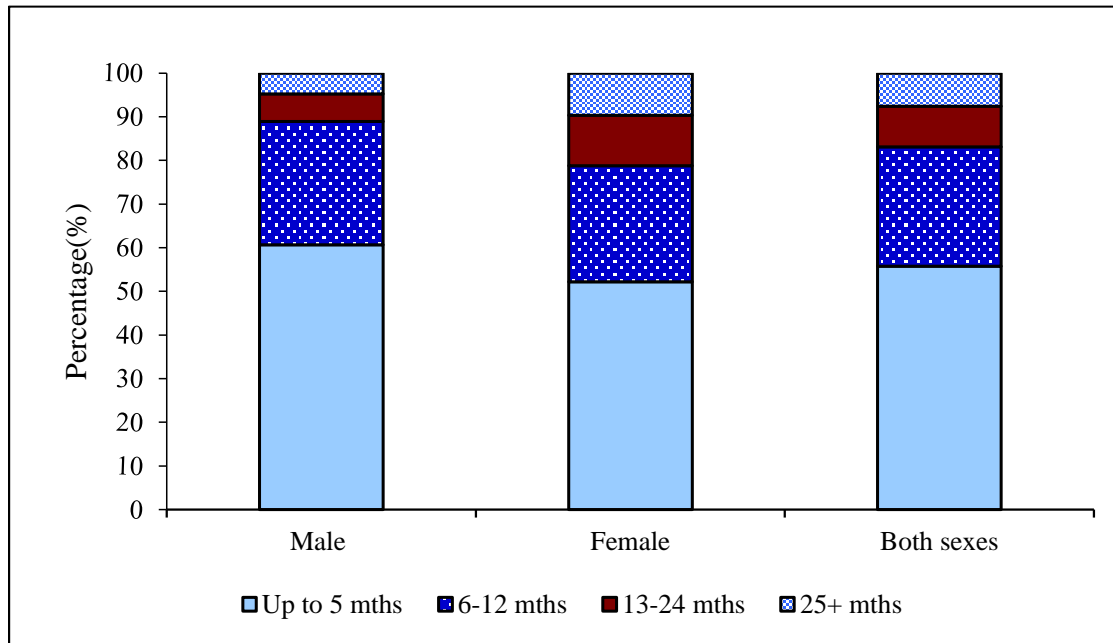
33. Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around 56% of them possessed at least a School Certificate against 48% among males.

Women remain in unemployment around five months more than men

34. The proportion of persons in unemployment for a duration of less than six months was higher among males (61%) compared to females (52%) while the proportion of those who were unemployed for more than twenty four months was higher among females (10%) against 5% among males (Chart 6).

35. On average, an unemployed person had been without a job for 11 months (8 months for males and 13 months for females).

Chart 6 – Duration of unemployment by sex, 2025



The unemployed is predominantly made up of persons with work experience

36. Around 72% of the unemployed had worked in the past. Nearly 4 out of 5 unemployed (78%) had worked previously in the tertiary sector, mainly ‘Wholesale & retail trade’ (21%) followed by ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (19%). Another 20% had worked previously in the secondary sector, mainly in ‘Manufacturing’(11%) followed by ‘Construction’ (9%). The remaining 2% previously worked in the agricultural sector.

More than 1 out of 4 unemployed who worked left their job due job dissatisfaction.

37. Some 29% of the unemployed left their job due to ‘dissatisfaction with job’. Another 26% lost their job following ‘completion of their contract or temporary job’ while around 15% 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.

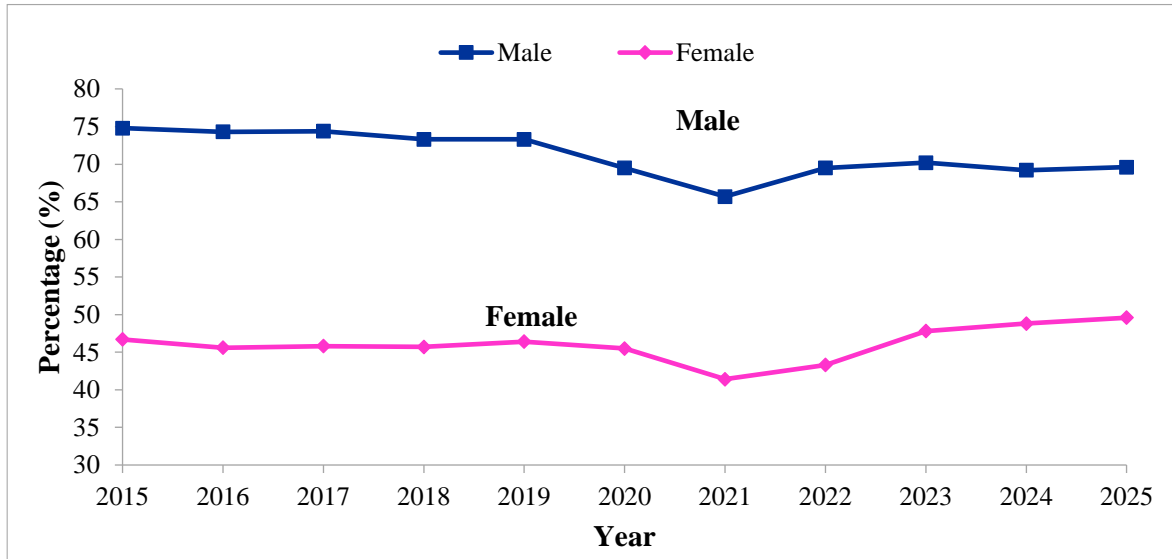
38. The unemployed had, usually, recourse to more than one method of job search. The most common method was ‘applied to prospective employers’(56%) followed by ‘checked at factories,worksites, etc’ (45%). Around 42% were registered at the Employment Service (Table 17).

Evolution from 2015 to 2025

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

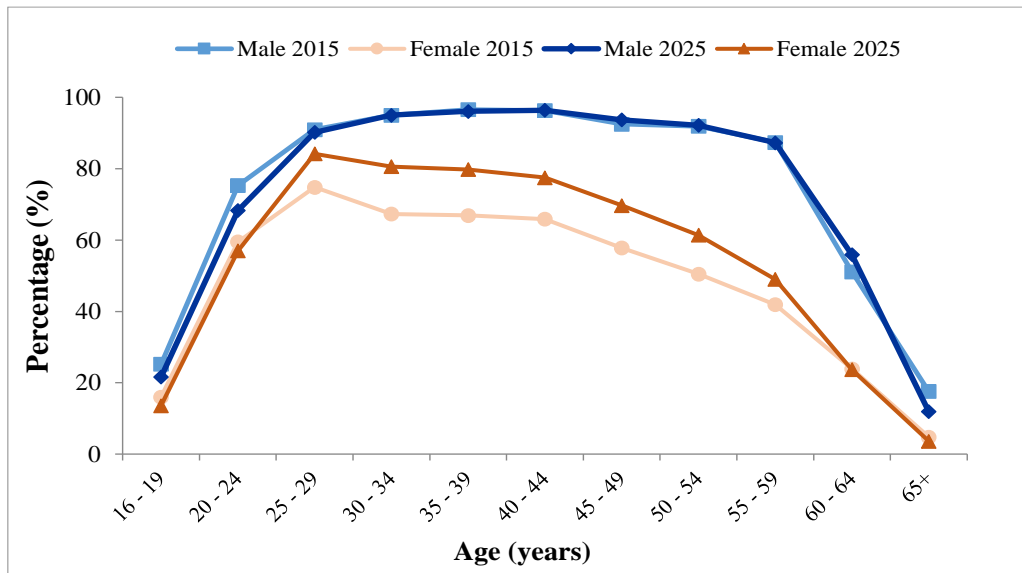
39. During the period 2015 to 2025, male activity rate was consistently higher than female activity rate (Chart 7). However, the gap between male and female activity rates is decreasing over time (Table 2).

Chart 7 – Activity rate by sex, 2015 – 2025



40. From 2015 to 2025, male age-specific activity rate remained almost the same between 25 and 59 years. On the other hand, female age-specific activity rate in 2025 was higher than those of 2015 for all age groups between 25 and 59 years (Chart 8).

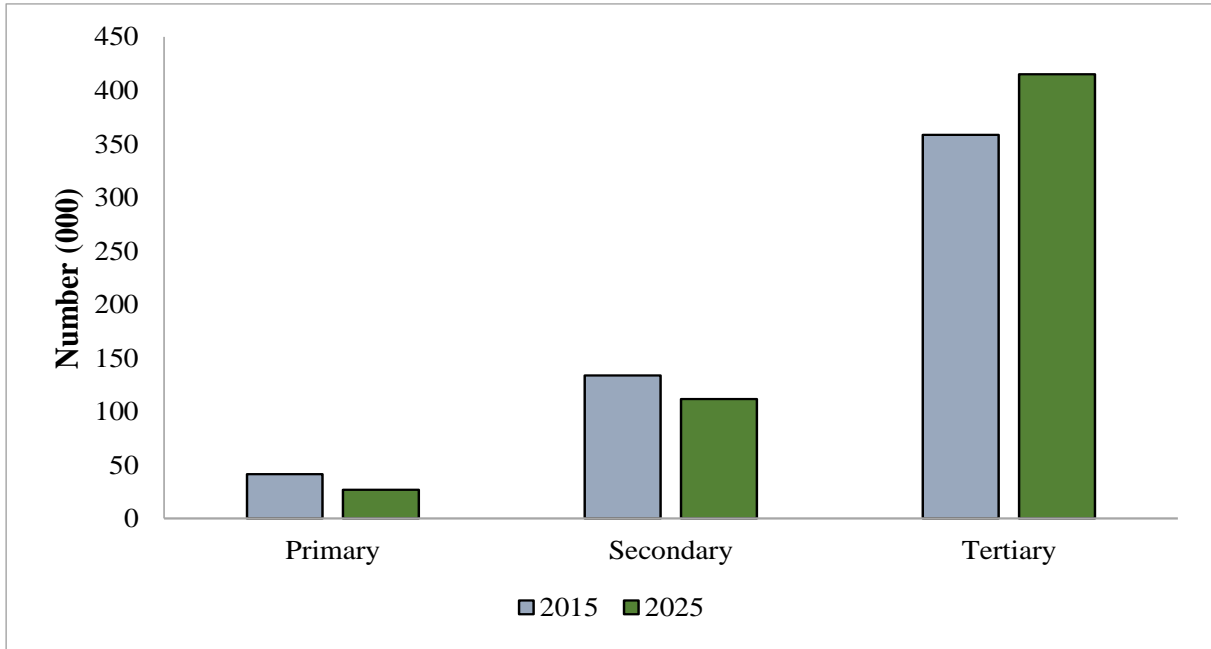
Chart 8 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2015 & 2025



The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment

41. Over time, the tertiary sector has become increasingly important in terms of employment. From 2015 to 2025, employment in this sector rose from 358,700 to 415,200; due to an increase in its share from 67% to 75%. In contrast, employment in the primary and secondary sectors has been declining over time. In the primary sector, employment went down from 41,600 in 2015 to 26,800 in 2025 mainly due to a decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment dropped from 133,700 to 111,700 mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector (Chart 9 & Table 10).

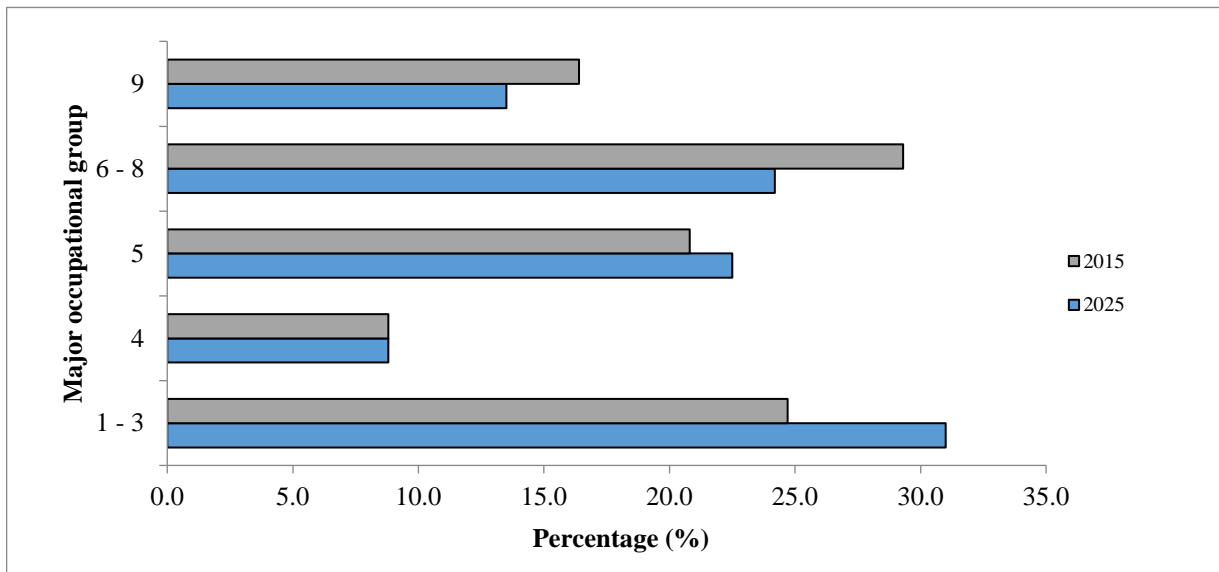
Chart 9 – Employed population by industrial sector, 2015 & 2025



Mauritian workforce is moving up the occupation ladder

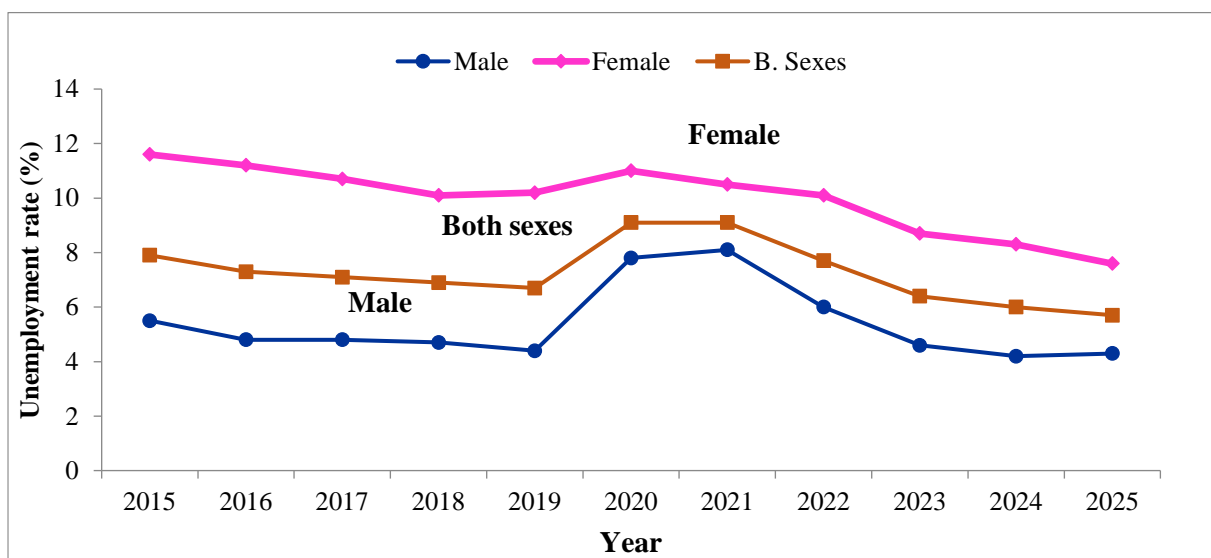
42. The share of employment in the higher occupational groups (ISCO group 1-3) comprising legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals increased from 24.7% in 2015 to 31.0% in 2025, while the share of employment in the lowest occupational group (ISCO group 9) representing elementary jobs decreased from 16.4% to 13.5% (Chart 10 & Table 11).

Chart 10 – Employed population by occupational group, 2015 & 2025



Female unemployment rate remains higher but gender gap is decreasing

Chart 11 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2015 – 2025

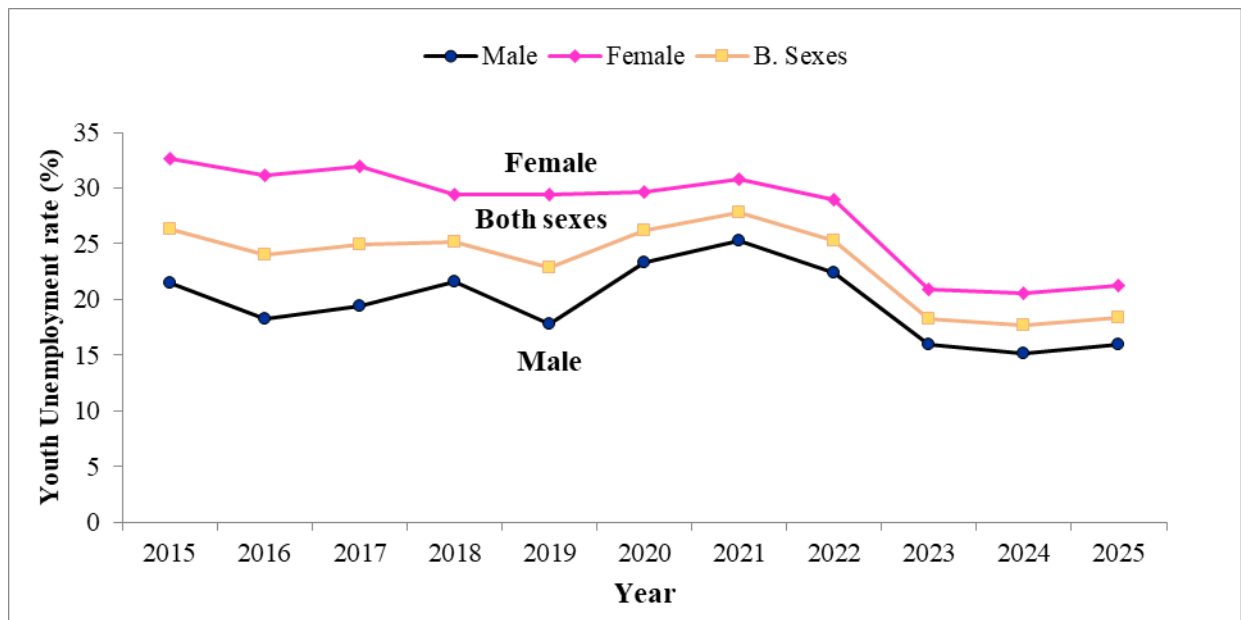


- 43. From a figure of 7.9% recorded in 2015, a downward trend was observed in the overall unemployment rate up to 2019 (6.7%). Then, it picked up to reach 9.1% in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Thereafter, it declined continuously to reach 5.7% in 2025 (Chart 11 & Table 18).
- 44. From 2015 to 2019, male unemployment rate decreased gradually from 5.5% to 4.4%. However, the rate increased to 7.8% in 2020 and further to 8.1% in 2021. Thereafter, it decreased to reach 4.2% in 2024 and then, increased slightly to 4.3% in 2025.
- 45. Female unemployment rate, which stood at 11.6% in 2015, declined to 10.2% in 2019. Then, it increased to 11.0% in 2020 and declined continuously to reach 7.6% in 2025.

Trend in youth unemployment, 2015 to 2025

- 46. From a rate of 26.3% in 2015, youth unemployment rate followed a decreasing trend up to 2019 (22.9%). Then, it rose to 26.2% and 27.8% in 2020 and 2021 respectively. However, it dropped to 17.7% in 2024, and thereafter it increased to 18.4% in 2025 (Chart 12 & Table 14).
- 47. In 2025, unemployed young persons numbered 11,700 of whom 5,500 were male and 6,200 female compared to 9,600 and 11,100 respectively in 2015.

Chart 12 – Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployment rate, 2015 – 2025



Statistics Mauritius
Ministry of Finance
Port Louis
19 May 2026

Contact persons: (1) Ms. B. Sookram (Statistician/Senior Statistician)
Email: bsookram@govmu.org
(2) Ms. M. J. U. Allyjane (Statistical Officer/Senior Statistical Officer)
Email: mallyjane@govmu.org

Statistics Mauritius
LIC Centre, Port Louis
Tel: +230 650 1838/39 Fax: +230 211 4150

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Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and population outside the labour force by sex, 2024 & 2025

	2024			2025		
	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)
Population						
Both Sexes	992,400	7,300	0.7	992,500	7,300	0.7
Male	477,500	4,800	1.0	476,300	4,800	1.0
Female	514,900	4,400	0.9	516,200	4,700	0.9
Labour Force						
Both Sexes	581,900	6,200	1.1	587,200	6,300	1.1
Male	330,400	4,000	1.2	331,400	4,200	1.3
Female	251,500	3,500	1.4	255,800	3,900	1.5
Employment						
Both Sexes	547,000	5,900	1.1	553,700	5,900	1.1
Male	316,400	3,900	1.2	317,300	4,000	1.3
Female	230,600	3,400	1.5	236,400	3,700	1.6
Unemployment						
Both Sexes	34,900	1,400	4.0	33,500	1,400	4.2
Male	14,000	900	6.4	14,100	900	6.4
Female	20,900	1,100	5.3	19,400	1,000	5.2
Inactive Population						
Both Sexes	410,500	4,700	1.1	405,300	4,700	1.2
Male	147,100	2,800	1.9	144,900	2,600	1.8
Female	263,400	3,500	1.3	260,400	3,500	1.3
Activity rate (%)						
Both Sexes	58.6	0.4	0.7	59.2	0.4	0.7
Male	69.2	0.5	0.7	69.6	0.5	0.7
Female	48.8	0.5	1.0	49.6	0.6	1.2
Unemployment rate (%)						
Both Sexes	6.0	0.2	3.3	5.7	0.2	3.5
Male	4.2	0.3	7.1	4.3	0.3	7.0
Female	8.3	0.4	4.8	7.6	0.4	5.3
Youth unemployment						
Both Sexes	11,800	800	6.8	11,700	800	6.8
Male	5,300	500	9.4	5,500	500	9.1
Female	6,500	600	9.2	6,200	600	9.7
Youth unemployment rate (%)						
Both Sexes	17.7	1.0	5.6	18.4	1.1	6.0
Male	15.1	1.4	9.3	15.9	1.4	8.8
Female	20.5	1.6	7.8	21.2	1.7	8.0

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 - 2015 & 2025

Age group (years)	2015			2025		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 19	25.2	16.0	20.6	21.6	13.6	17.6
20 - 24	75.3	59.5	67.3	68.3	57.0	62.4
25 - 29	91.0	74.8	82.9	90.2	84.2	87.1
30 - 34	95.0	67.3	81.1	95.0	80.6	87.7
35 - 39	96.6	66.9	81.8	96.1	79.8	87.9
40 - 44	96.3	65.9	81.1	96.4	77.5	86.9
45 - 49	92.5	57.8	75.1	93.7	69.7	81.5
50 - 54	91.9	50.5	71.1	92.2	61.4	76.5
55 - 59	87.4	41.9	64.2	87.3	49.0	67.8
60 - 64	51.1	23.9	36.9	55.9	23.7	39.1
65+	17.6	4.8	10.2	11.9	3.6	7.2
All Ages	74.8	46.7	60.4	69.6	49.6	59.2

Table 3 – Labour force, employment and unemployment by age group and sex - 2025

Age group	Labour Force			Employment			Unemployment		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 - 19	6,900	4,300	11,200	5,100	2,800	7,900	1,800	1,500	3,300
20 - 24	27,600	24,900	52,500	23,900	20,200	44,100	3,700	4,700	8,400
25 - 29	35,700	36,300	72,000	32,800	32,400	65,200	2,900	3,900	6,800
30 - 34	41,500	36,600	78,100	39,800	33,800	73,600	1,700	2,800	4,500
35 - 39	39,200	32,800	72,000	37,800	30,800	68,600	1,400	2,000	3,400
40 - 44	39,800	32,400	72,200	39,200	30,700	69,900	2,600	1,700	2,300
45 - 49	41,400	31,500	72,900	40,800	29,700	70,500		1,800	2,400
50 - 54	34,400	23,700	58,100	33,800	23,100	56,900	2,600	1,000	1,200
55 - 59	33,700	19,600	53,300	33,300	19,400	52,700			1,200
60 - 64	21,700	10,000	31,700	21,300	9,800	31,100			1,200
65 & over	9,500	3,700	13,200	9,500	3,700	13,200			
Total	331,400	255,800	587,200	317,300	236,400	553,700	14,100	19,400	33,500

Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2025

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	19,000	3,600	22,600
Own Account worker	57,900	22,600	80,500
Employee	238,600	204,300	442,900
Contributing family worker	1,800	5,900	7,700
All employment states	317,300	236,400	553,700

Table 5 - Mean hours of work per week by employment status and sex - 2025

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	41.8	41.5	41.7
Own Account worker	34.2	29.0	32.7
Employee	42.1	38.0	40.2
Contributing family worker	31.1	25.4	26.8
All employment states	40.6	36.9	39.0

Table 6 - Mean hours of work of employees by industrial sector and sex – 2025

Industrial sector	Mean hours of work per week		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	38.2	36.9	38.0
Secondary	41.5	40.8	41.3
Tertiary	42.5	37.7	40.1
All sectors	42.1	38.0	40.2

Table 7 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex – 2025

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	31,000	26,800	30,300
Secondary	34,200	27,800	32,400
Tertiary	43,200	33,800	38,400
All sectors	40,600	33,100	37,200

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of employees by income range – 2025

Income range Rupees per month	Employees		Income	
	%	Cumulative %	%	Cumulative %
Up to 5,000	1.3	1.3	0.1	0.1
5,001 - 10,000	3.3	4.6	0.8	0.9
10,001 - 15,000	3.4	8.0	1.2	2.1
15,001 - 20,000	16.9	24.9	8.5	10.6
20,001 - 25,000	18.9	43.8	11.8	22.4
25,001 - 50,000	38.4	82.2	36.6	59.0
50,001 - 75,000	10.7	92.9	17.7	76.7
75,001 and Over	7.1	100.0	23.3	100.0
Total	100.0		100.0	

Table 9 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by occupational group and sex - 2025

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Average monthly income (Rs)		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	63,700	48,100	55,700
4	Clerical support workers	32,300	29,000	30,000
5	Service and sales workers	35,000	24,600	30,100
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	27,600	22,100	26,900
9	Elementary occupations	25,100	18,400	21,500
	All occupational groups	40,600	33,100	37,200

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 10 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2015 & 2025

Industrial Sector	2015			2025		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	29,700	11,900	41,600	20,800	6,000	26,800
Secondary	99,400	34,300	133,700	86,700	25,000	111,700
<i>of which Manufacturing</i>	44,000	32,000	76,000	35,400	23,500	58,900
<i>Construction</i>	48,700	1,600	50,300	46,100	600	46,700
Tertiary	201,400	157,300	358,700	209,800	205,400	415,200
<i>of which Wholesale and retail trade</i>	44,400	33,700	78,100	44,700	41,100	85,800
<i>Accommodation and food service activities</i>	23,200	16,500	39,700	23,400	21,500	44,900
<i>Transportation and storage</i>	29,500	3,400	32,900	28,800	7,600	36,400
<i>Public administration and defence</i>	28,900	10,100	39,000	30,900	16,200	47,100
<i>Education and Human Health & social work activities</i>	19,700	34,900	54,600	20,400	40,600	61,000
All Sectors	330,500	203,500	534,000	317,300	236,400	553,700

Table 11 - Employed population by occupational group and sex - 2015 & 2025

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	2015			2025		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	73,900	57,800	131,700	88,700	82,800	171,500
4	Clerical support workers	18,900	28,400	47,300	15,100	33,600	48,700
5	Service and sales workers	63,600	47,500	111,100	62,300	62,400	124,700
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	131,900	24,500	156,400	117,000	16,900	133,900
9	Elementary occupations	42,200	45,300	87,500	34,200	40,700	74,900
	All occupational groups	330,500	203,500	534,000	317,300	236,400	553,700

*International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 12 - Employed population with tertiary qualification by occupational group and sex – 2025

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1	Managers	12,500	8,600	21,100
2	Professionals	27,100	30,800	57,900
3	Technicians and associate professionals	17,000	19,400	36,400
4	Clerical support workers	4,800	15,400	20,200
5	Service and sales workers	9,100	7,600	16,700
6-8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	4,900	1,100	6,000
9	Elementary occupations	1,100	1,500	2,600
	All occupational groups	76,500	84,400	160,900

*International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 13 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2025

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 24	15.9	21.2	18.4
25 - 29	8.1	10.7	9.4
30 - 39	3.8	6.9	5.3
40 - 49	1.5	5.5	3.2
50 and over	1.4	1.8	1.5
All ages	4.3	7.6	5.7

Table 14 - Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex, 2015 - 2025

Year	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
2015	9,600	11,100	20,700	21.5	32.6	26.3
2016	7,900	10,500	18,400	18.3	31.2	24.0
2017	8,100	10,600	18,700	19.4	31.9	24.9
2018	8,900	10,100	19,000	21.6	29.4	25.2
2019	7,200	9,200	16,400	17.8	29.4	22.9
2020	7,900	8,500	16,400	23.3	29.6	26.2
2021	7,500	7,700	15,200	25.3	30.8	27.8
2022	7,400	7,200	14,600	22.4	29.0	25.3
2023	5,700	6,300	12,000	16.0	20.9	18.3
2024	5,300	6,500	11,800	15.1	20.5	17.7
2025	5,500	6,200	11,700	15.9	21.2	18.4

Table 15 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex – 2025

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Ever Married	3,700	11,200	14,900
Single	10,400	8,200	18,600
Total	14,100	19,400	33,500

Table 16 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex - 2025

Educational attainment	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	1,900	2,100	4,000
<i>Below PSAC/CPE</i>	1,900]	2,100]	3,000
<i>Passed PSAC/CPE</i>			1,000
Secondary	9,600	12,800	22,400
<i>Grade 7 - 11 but not passed SC</i>	5,500	6,400	11,900
<i>Passed SC</i>	2,600	4,500	7,100
<i>Passed HSC</i>	1,500	1,900	3,400
Tertiary	2,600	4,500	7,100
Total	14,100	19,400	33,500

Table 17 - Unemployed population by method of job search and sex – 2025

Method of job search	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Applied to prospective employers	8,200	10,600	18,800
Checked at factories, worksites etc	7,200	7,800	15,000
Registered at Employment Service *	4,800	9,300	14,100
Placed or answered advertisements	5,200	6,700	11,900
Sought assistance and advices **	5,300	7,100	12,400
All Unemployed	14,100	19,400	33,500

* 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 - 2015 - 2025

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
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	11.0	9.1
2021	8.1	10.5	9.1
2022	6.0	10.1	7.7
2023	4.6	8.7	6.4
2024	4.2	8.3	6.0
2025	4.3	7.6	5.7

Table 19 - Population outside labour force by inactivity status and sex – 2025

Inactivity status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Students	34,700	40,200	74,900
Retired or old persons	84,000	66,500	150,500
Sick or disabled	17,600	15,400	33,000
Homemakers	8,600	130,100	130,600
Other		8,200	16,300
Total	144,900	260,400	405,300

Table 20 – Labour Underutilisation indicators (LU1 to LU4) - 2025

Indicators	2025 (%)
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5.7
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	15.3
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	6.5
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	15.9

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 religion, 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 classifications:** Statistics Mauritius is using, as from 2012, adapted versions to the national context of the following classifications:
- a. UN International Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities, ISIC Rev. 4 of 2007;
 - b. UN International Standard Classification of Occupations, ISCO-08.

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.

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

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 underutilization

Labour underutilization refers to mismatches between labour supply and demand, which translate into an unmet need for employment among the population. The measure of Labour underutilization includes unemployment, potential labour force, time-related underemployment and LU1-LU4 rates as defined below:

LU1: Unemployment rate = Persons unemployed / Labour force x 100

LU2: Combined rate of time related underemployment and unemployment = (Time-related underemployed + Persons unemployed) / Labour Force) x 100

LU3: Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force = (Persons unemployed + Potential labour force) / Extended labour force x 100

LU4: Composite measure of labour underutilization = (Time-related underemployed + Persons unemployed + Potential labour force) / Extended labour force x 100

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.

17. Extended labour force

Extended labour force refers to the sum of the potential labour force and the labour force.

Statistics Mauritius
LIC Centre,
John Kennedy Street,
Port Louis, MAURITIUS
T: +230 650 1800
F: +230 211 4150
W: <https://statsmauritius.govmu.org>
E: statsmauritius@govmu.org

