

Library



MAURITIUS

Economic Indicators

An Occasional Paper

Issue No 241

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

13 January, 1997

Issue No 241

1. **Labour Force Sample Survey - 1995
Preliminary Report**

Note

Readers are invited to make the distinction between official data which are published in the Economic 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 SAMPLE SURVEY - 1995

Preliminary Report

1. Introduction

This paper presents national estimates of employment and unemployment based on a Labour Force Sample Survey carried out in June and July 1995 in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. It highlights the main findings only. A detailed report, including a description of the methods and procedures adopted for the survey will be published later.

The sample consisted of 9,900 households selected to be representative of urban, semi-urban and rural areas. The results of the survey have been examined by various experts and found to be reliable. However, the estimates of the country as a whole need to be treated with caution, particularly because the estimates based on sample surveys are subject to errors of sampling as well as response.

The estimates at the national level have been compared with the 1990 Census which is the next most recent source of comprehensive data on the labour force. These comparisons between the 1990 Census and the 1995 Survey are made on the actual unadjusted data; it is expected that any response errors such as under reporting in employment and over reporting in unemployment would be similar at the two rounds and will not unduly undermine the trends. However, as regards levels of activity, employment and unemployment, a preliminary evaluation is attempted at the end of the report.

2 Economic activity

At the 1995 Labour Force Sample Survey, as well as the 1990 Census, information on economic activity was collected from all persons aged 12 years and above. However, relatively few persons in the age bracket 12-14 years were either working or looking for work. Hence, for some analytical purposes it is desirable to consider the

population aged 15 years and above only. In this report all persons aged 12 years and above are included, but where necessary, indicators for persons aged 15 years and above are also quoted.

2.1 Changes in the economic activity status of the population aged 12 years and above, 1990 - 1995

The total population of the Republic of Mauritius increased by 65,400 from 1,056,700 in June 1990 to 1,122,100 in June 1995. The male population increased by 33,700 from 527,800 to 561,500 while the female population increased by 31,700 from 528,900 to 560,600.

2.1.1 Both sexes

Changes between 1990 and 1995 in the activity status of the population aged 12 years and over are summarised in table 1 and described below. Table 2 shows details of national estimates of activity status by sex and age group derived from the 1995 Labour Force Sample Survey.

The population aged 12 years and above is estimated to have increased from 808,300 in June 1990 to 874,800 in June 1995 (Table 1). This represents an increase of 66,500 out of which 52,000 represents net additions to the labour force (i.e persons who either have a job or who are looking for a job), and the remaining 14,500 are additions to the inactive population (i.e persons who are neither working nor looking for work). Thus the average annual addition to the labour force is estimated at about 10,400 and the addition to the inactive population at about 2,900.

As regards changes in the composition of the labour force, it is estimated that the employed population has increased from 407,600 in June 1990 to 436,300 in June 1995, i.e a net increase of 28,700 giving a yearly average of 5,700. The unemployed population is estimated to have increased from 24,400 to 47,700 during the same period, which represents a net increase of 23,300 and a yearly average of about 4,600.

Table 1 - Changes in economic activity of the population aged 12 years and over by sex, 1990 - 1995

	1990 Census	1995 Survey estimates	Change
<u>Both sexes</u>			
Total population	<u>1,056,700</u>	<u>1,122,100</u>	<u>65,400</u>
Population 12 + years	<u>808,300</u>	<u>874,800</u>	<u>66,500</u>
Economically active	<u>432,000</u>	<u>484,000</u>	<u>52,000</u>
Employed	407,600	436,300	28,700
Unemployed	24,400	47,700	23,300
Not economically active (Inactive)	<u>376,300</u>	<u>390,800</u>	<u>14,500</u>
Household duties only	218,400	180,700	-37,700
Studies	86,000	111,500	25,500
Health problems	17,600	15,400	-2,200
Retired/old age	40,800	62,500	21,700
Other and not stated	13,500	20,700	7,200
<u>Male</u>			
Total population	<u>527,800</u>	<u>561,500</u>	<u>33,700</u>
Population 12 + years	<u>402,200</u>	<u>434,400</u>	<u>32,200</u>
Economically active	<u>301,400</u>	<u>324,800</u>	<u>23,400</u>
Employed	283,600	299,300	15,700
Unemployed	17,800	25,500	7,700
Not economically active (Inactive)	<u>100,800</u>	<u>109,600</u>	<u>8,800</u>
Household duties only	5,900	3,200	-2,700
Studies	45,100	57,300	12,200
Health problems	9,800	7,900	-1,900
Retired/old age	30,500	30,800	300
Other and not stated	9,500	10,400	900
<u>Female</u>			
Total population	<u>528,900</u>	<u>560,600</u>	<u>31,700</u>
Population 12 + years	<u>406,100</u>	<u>440,400</u>	<u>34,300</u>
Economically active	<u>130,600</u>	<u>159,200</u>	<u>28,600</u>
Employed	124,000	137,000	13,000
Unemployed	6,600	22,200	15,600
Not economically active (Inactive)	<u>275,500</u>	<u>281,200</u>	<u>5,700</u>
Household duties only	212,500	177,500	-35,000
Studies	40,900	54,200	13,300
Health problems	7,800	7,500	-300
Retired/old age	10,300	31,700	21,400
Other and not stated	4,000	10,300	6,300

Table 2 - Estimated population 12 years of age and over by activity status, age group and sex, 1995

Age and sex	Activity status										
	Total	Economically active					Not Economically active				
		Employed	Unemployed		Total	Worked before	Household responsibilities only	Studies/training	Poor health/disabled	Retired/ too old	Other
Both sexes											
Total (12+)	874,800	436,300	47,700	23,100	24,600	390,800	180,700	111,500	15,400	62,500	20,700
12 - 14	64,400	2,300	1,000	900	100	61,100	4,700	52,100	300	-	4,000
15 - 19	113,500	26,700	12,000	9,100	2,900	74,800	16,000	52,700	1,300	-	4,800
20 - 24	92,900	52,400	12,600	7,600	5,000	27,900	19,200	5,700	900	-	2,100
25 - 29	95,000	61,300	7,500	2,600	4,900	26,200	22,800	600	1,000	-	1,800
30 - 34	104,400	74,300	5,000	1,300	3,700	30,100	26,400	300	1,900	-	1,500
35 - 39	94,100	71,600	3,800	900	2,900	22,500	19,600	100	1,600	-	1,200
40 - 44	80,900	60,500	2,400	300	2,100	20,400	17,400	-	1,900	-	1,100
45 - 49	58,700	42,000	1,400	300	1,100	16,700	14,400	-	1,800	-	500
50 - 54	41,400	26,700	700	-	700	14,700	11,800	-	2,000	300	600
55 - 59	35,300	19,200	500	100	400	15,600	10,700	-	2,700	1,700	500
60 - 64	29,900	6,100	500	-	500	23,300	7,800	-	-	14,800	700
65 - 69	25,500	4,400	300	-	300	21,100	5,000	-	-	15,600	500
70 - 74	19,100	1,500	-	-	-	17,600	2,700	-	-	14,300	600
75+	19,700	900	-	-	-	18,800	2,200	-	-	15,800	800
Male											
Total (12+)	434,400	299,300	25,500	10,500	15,000	109,600	3,200	57,300	7,900	30,800	10,400
12 - 14	32,200	1,900	600	500	100	29,700	1,100	25,900	100	-	2,600
15 - 19	56,000	17,400	7,200	5,200	2,000	31,400	800	27,200	800	-	2,600
20 - 24	47,800	35,600	7,300	3,800	3,500	4,900	200	3,300	500	-	900
25 - 29	48,300	42,800	3,700	800	2,900	1,800	100	500	500	-	700
30 - 34	51,000	49,200	1,900	200	1,700	1,800	100	300	900	-	500
35 - 39	47,800	46,300	1,700	-	1,700	1,500	-	100	800	-	600
40 - 44	42,000	40,400	1,100	-	1,100	1,600	200	100	900	-	500
45 - 49	30,400	28,400	700	-	700	1,300	100	-	900	-	500
50 - 54	20,200	18,200	400	-	400	1,600	100	-	1,000	-	200
55 - 59	17,200	14,100	300	-	300	2,800	200	-	1,000	200	300
60 - 64	13,400	4,600	400	-	400	8,400	0	-	1,400	1,000	200
65 - 69	11,800	3,100	200	-	200	8,500	100	-	-	8,000	400
70 - 74	8,500	1,200	-	-	-	7,300	100	-	-	8,100	300
75+	7,800	800	-	-	-	7,000	100	-	-	6,900	300

The estimated increase of 14,500 among the inactive population is the net result of substantial increases mainly in the student population (25,500) and the retired (21,700) coupled with a big decrease of 37,700 in the number of persons (mostly women) engaged exclusively in household duties in their own homes. It is to be noted that this last category of persons is not considered as being economically active according to international recommendations.

2.1.2 Male population

The male population aged 12 years and over is estimated to have increased from 402,200 in June 1990 to 434,400 in June 1995. This increase of 32,200 is made up of net additions of 23,400 to the male labour force and 8,800 to the inactive male population. Thus, the annual average addition is estimated at about 4,700 to the male labour force and about 1,800 to the inactive male population.

The employed male workforce is estimated to have increased from 283,600 in June 1990 to 299,300 in June 1995, i.e a net increase of 15,700 for the five-year period and a yearly average addition of 3,100. The number of unemployed males is estimated to have risen by 7,700 from 17,800 to 25,500 during the same period, giving an average of 1,500 additions per annum.

The net increase of 8,800 noted above among inactive males is due mainly to an increase of 12,200 among students coupled with a decrease of 2,700 among males engaged only in homemaking, and a decrease of 1,900 among males not active because of health problems.

2.1.3 Female population

It is estimated that the female population aged 12 years and over has risen from 406,100 in June 1990 to 440,400 in June 1995. The net increase of 34,300 is made up of additions of 28,600 to the female labour force and 5,700 to the inactive female population. The annual average addition is therefore estimated to be 5,700 for the female labour force and 1,100 for the inactive group.

The employed female workforce is estimated to have grown from 124,000 in June 1990 to 137,000 in June 1995; this represents a total increase of 13,000 or a yearly average increase of 2,600. The unemployed female population is estimated to have risen by 15,600 from 6,600 in June 1990 to 22,200 in June 1995, giving an average of 3,100 additions per year.

As noted above, the inactive female population (i.e not working and not looking for work), is estimated to have increased by 5,700 from 275,500 in June 1990 to 281,200 in June 1995. It is interesting to point out that this relatively small increase is mainly the result of the offsetting effect of a substantial decrease of 35,000 in the number of women engaged exclusively in household duties in their own homes. In fact all the other categories of inactive women and girls (students, retired, sick, disabled, etc.) together showed an increase of 40,700.

3 Labour Force

3.1 Labour Force by age group and sex

Table 3 gives comparative figures of the labour force by age group and sex for 1990 and 1995.

It is observed that the male labour force has decreased at all ages under 30 years probably because of more and more men continuing with education and training for a longer period. On the other hand, increases in the size of the labour force are noted throughout all ages above 30 years.

As regards females, the size of the labour force has increased for almost all age groups probably because of a larger number of women coming on the labour market.

Table 3 - Labour force by age group and sex, 1990 and 1995

Age (years)	1990 Census		1995 Survey estimates	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
12 - 14	3,700	1,100	2,500	800
15 - 19	25,000	12,300	24,600	14,100
20 - 24	47,400	21,900	42,900	22,100
25 - 29	51,200	21,700	46,500	22,300
30 - 34	46,200	20,900	49,200	25,100
35 - 39	40,100	18,300	46,300	25,300
40 - 44	29,100	12,700	40,400	20,100
45 - 49	20,700	8,500	29,100	12,900
50 - 54	16,800	6,300	18,600	8,100
55 - 59	12,800	4,100	14,400	5,300
60 - 64	4,400	1,500	5,000	1,600
65 - 69	2,400	800	3,300	1,100
70 - 74	1,000	300	1,200	300
75 and above	600	200	800	100
12 and above	301,400	130,600	324,800	159,200
15 and above	297,700	129,600	322,300	158,400

Table 4 shows the percentage distribution of the labour force in 1990 and 1995 by broad age group and sex. It is noted that the labour force in the younger age group 12 - 24 years has decreased from 25.8% in 1990 to 22.2% in 1995 while increases were noted in the higher age brackets. In the 25 - 44 years age group, an increase of 1.2 percentage points was noted while in the 45+ years age group, a larger increase of 2.4 percentage points was noted during the same five year period.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of the labour force by age group and sex, 1990 and 1995

Age (years)	1990 Census			1995 Survey		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
12 - 14	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.7
15 - 24	24.0	26.2	24.7	20.9	22.6	21.5
25 - 44	55.3	56.5	55.6	56.0	58.5	56.8
45 - 59	16.7	14.4	16.0	19.1	16.5	18.3
60 and above	2.8	2.1	2.6	3.2	1.9	2.7
All ages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

These figures indicate an aging of the labour force caused mainly by ageing of the population and later entry of young people into the labour force due to increasing educational opportunities. The pattern of changes in age distribution is almost similar for the two sexes as shown in table 4.

3.2 Activity rates by age group and sex

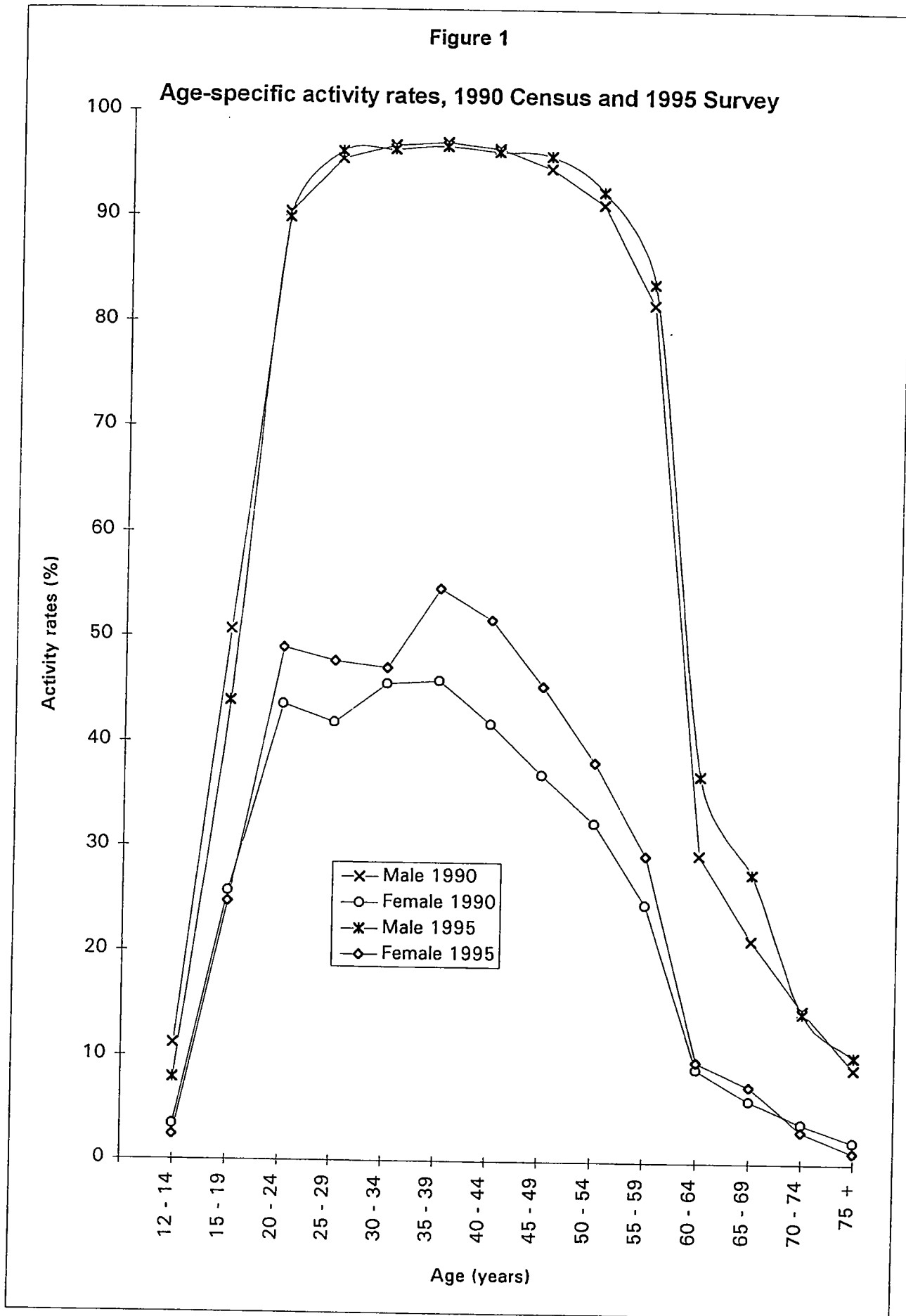
The overall activity rate for males aged 12 years and over (i.e. the number of males working or looking for work as a percentage of the total number of males aged 12 years and over) has decreased marginally from 74.9% in 1990 to 74.7% in 1995 while the rate for females increased from 32.2% to 36.1%. Since relatively few people aged 12 - 14 years are in the labour force, the activity rate for persons aged 15 years and above is a better indicator of economic activity in the country. This rate is seen to have decreased from 80.6% in 1990 to 80.1% in 1995 for males while the rate for females rose from 34.7% to 38.8% during the same period.

Possible causes for these changes in the overall rate can be analysed by looking at the activity rates by age group. These are shown in table 5 and figure 1.

Table 5 - Activity rates by age group and sex, 1990 and 1995

Age (years)	1990 Census		1995 Survey	
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
12 - 14	11.2	3.4	7.9	2.4
15 - 19	50.7	25.7	43.9	24.7
20 - 24	90.4	43.6	89.9	49.0
25 - 29	95.5	41.9	96.2	47.7
30 - 34	96.8	45.6	96.4	47.1
35 - 39	97.1	45.9	96.7	54.7
40 - 44	96.5	41.8	96.2	51.7
45 - 49	94.6	37.0	95.8	45.4
50 - 54	91.2	32.4	92.4	38.2
55 - 59	81.7	24.6	83.7	29.3
60 - 64	29.4	9.0	37.0	9.7
65 - 69	21.3	6.0	27.6	7.4
70 - 74	14.7	3.8	14.4	3.1
75 and above	9.1	2.1	10.3	1.1
12 and above	74.9	32.2	74.7	36.1
15 and above	80.6	34.7	80.1	38.8

Changes in the age distribution of the labour force are attributable to changes in the population structure, i.e. number of persons in the different age brackets and also to variations in the pattern of economic activity at different ages which are measured by age specific activity rates. Age specific activity rate is equal to the number of economically actives (i.e. working or looking for work) within a particular age group expressed as a percentage of the total number of persons in the same age group.



Activity rates of males aged 12 to 24 years dropped from 56.5% as measured at the 1990 Census to 51.5% at the 1995 Survey. This change was mainly due to increased educational opportunity, particularly in the 12 - 19 age bracket, as indicated by the study rate (i.e., the proportion of persons being engaged in studies in this age bracket) which has reached 60.1% in 1995 from 50.8% in 1990. Among males in the prime working age (25 to 44 years) activity rate has remained at the 1990 level, i.e. at 96.4%, while in the 45-59 years age bracket, the rate has risen from 89.9% in 1990 to 91.7% in 1995. An important rise in activity level is also noted among males aged 60 years and more, i.e. from 16.4% to 24.7% over the same five year period.

Female activity rates have gone up at almost all ages except for those below 20 years and the very old ones, i.e 70 years and above. The fall in economic activity among females aged 12-19 years was however much less than for males of the same age group while study rate has risen by approximately the same amount, i.e. from 48.6% in 1990 to 57.6% in 1995. The smaller decrease in female activity rate at ages 12-19 years in spite of an increased number being engaged in studies is explained by a larger proportion of young girls being at work or interested to work and fewer being engaged in household activities.

3.3 Activity rates by marital status and sex

Activity rates have also been analysed by marital status. It was noted that activity rates of married men and those classified as 'Widowed, divorced and separated' showed significant increases between 1990 and 1995. From 85.9% and 49.4% respectively noted at the 1990 Census, the corresponding rates worked out for the 1995 Labour Force Survey were 87.3% and 53.1%. However, among single men aged 12 years and above, a decline of 4.5 percentage points was noted due to a higher proportion of young males being engaged in studies in 1995.

Among women, a marked rise in economic activity is noted in the category 'Married'. From 31.6% in 1990, the 1995 rate worked out to 38.7%, i.e an increase of 7.1

percentage points. Those in the category 'Widowed, divorced and separated' also showed increasing economic activity, while among single females, particularly the younger ones, a lower rate of economic activity was noted in 1995 mainly due to an increased number of the younger females being engaged in studies. The various rates worked out from the 1990 Census and the 1995 Survey are given in table 6.

Table 6 - Activity rates of persons aged 12 years and above by marital status and sex, 1990 and 1995

Marital Status	1990 Census		1995 Survey	
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Single	64.0	34.2	59.5	33.5
Married	85.9	31.6	87.3	38.7
Widowed, divorced & separated	49.4	30.1	53.1	32.1
All marital states	74.9	32.2	74.7	36.1

3.4 Labour force by educational attainment and training

Educational attainment of the 1995 labour force was of a higher level than that of the 1990 labour force. As shown in table 7, the proportion of the economically active population having been educated up to pre-primary and primary levels only was 49.9% in 1995 compared to 54.6% in 1990 whereas the percentage of those having attended secondary schools was 47.6 in 1995 compared to only 43.2% in 1990. A small improvement is noted at tertiary level as well.

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the labour force by educational attainment, 1990 and 1995

Educational Attainment	1990 Census			1995 Survey		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Nil and pre-primary	5.7	14.1	8.2	3.9	10.4	6.1
Primary	47.6	43.6	46.4	45.0	41.3	43.8
Secondary	44.2	40.7	43.2	48.4	46.1	47.6
University degree	2.5	1.6	2.2	2.7	2.2	2.5
All levels	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

As regards vocational and technical training, a higher proportion of the 1995 labour force has been trained compared to that of 1990. The percentage having been trained was 13.2% compared to only 7.6% in 1990. Among the trained persons in 1995, around 90% were in employment.

4 Employment

The number of persons with jobs in 1995, estimated from the sample survey data, was 436,300. Out of this total, 299,300 were male and 137,000 female. On comparison with data from the 1990 census, the proportion of women in total employment is found to have gone up by one percentage point in 1995, i.e. from 30.4% in 1990 to 31.4% in 1995 (Table 8).

Table 8 - Employed population by sex, 1990 and 1995

Sex	1990 Census		1995 Survey estimates	
	Number	%	Number	%
Male	283,605	69.6	299,300	68.6
Female	124,013	30.4	137,000	31.4
Both sexes	407,618	100.0	436,300	100.0

4.1 Employed population by employment status

Comparison of the 1990 and 1995 data indicates a marked increase in the proportion of the number of persons being engaged in enterprises of their own. From 12% in 1990, the percentage of these self-employed workers has risen to 17% in 1995, while the proportion classified as employees has gone down to 81% from 85% in 1990. This phenomenon of increasing interest in running businesses of their own is noted among both male and female workers, as shown by the figures of table 9.

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by employment status and sex, 1990 & 1995

Employment Status	1990 Census			1995 Survey		
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Self-employed	16	6	12	20	10	17
Employees	82	91	85	78	86	81
Unpaid family workers	2	3	3	2	4	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

4.2 Employed population by industry

In 1995, manufacturing industries, with 28.8% of total employment, were employing the largest number of persons, followed by 'Agriculture & fishing' and 'Wholesale & retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, personal and household goods' with 14.5% and 13.1% respectively (table 10).

Analysis of the data by sex shows that the largest absorber of male labour was the manufacturing sector with 23% of total male employment. The other sectors employing important numbers of men were 'Agriculture and fishing' with 15% of the total of male workers and the sectors 'Wholesale & retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, personal

Table 10 - Employed population by industry and sex, 1990 and 1995

Occupation	1990 Census						1995 Survey estimates					
	Both sexes		Male		Female		Both sexes		Male		Female	
	No. (000)	%	No. (000)	%	No. (000)	%	No. (000)	%	No. (000)	%	No. (000)	%
Agriculture and fishing	64.5	15.8	47.3	16.7	17.2	13.9	63.2	14.5	45.9	15.3	17.3	12.6
Mining and quarrying	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	2.0	0.5	1.9	0.6	0.1	0.1
Manufacturing	130.9	32.1	69.4	24.5	61.5	49.6	125.5	28.8	68.1	22.8	57.4	41.9
Electricity and water	3.5	0.9	3.4	1.2	0.1	0.1	4.4	1.0	4.1	1.4	0.3	0.2
Construction	39.1	9.6	38.8	13.7	0.3	0.2	41.9	9.6	41.4	13.8	0.5	0.4
Wholesale & retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles, personal and household goods	43.9	10.8	35.2	12.4	8.7	7.0	57.3	13.1	41.9	14.0	15.4	11.2
Hotels and restaurants	10.6	2.6	8.6	3.0	2.0	1.6	14.5	3.3	11.2	3.7	3.3	2.4
Transport, storage and communication	24.3	6.0	22.5	7.9	1.8	1.5	27.6	6.3	24.9	8.3	2.7	2.0
Financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities	11.6	2.8	8.2	2.9	3.4	2.7	13.2	3.0	9.6	2.9	4.6	3.4
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	28.3	6.9	23.4	8.3	4.9	4.0	26.6	6.1	21.2	7.1	5.4	3.9
Education, health and social work	26.2	6.4	14.6	5.1	11.6	9.4	34.1	7.8	18.0	6.0	16.1	11.8
Other services	24.0	5.9	11.6	4.1	12.4	10.0	26.0	6.0	12.1	4.0	13.9	10.1
Total	407.6	100.0	283.6	100.0	124.0	100.0	436.3	100.0	299.3	100.0	137.0	100.0

and household goods' and 'Construction' , each of which accounting for around 14% of total male employment.

Manufacturing enterprises employ a large proportion of female workers as well. In fact, 42% of the total number of women employed in 1995, were engaged in manufacturing industries. Other branches of the economy where relatively large numbers of women were employed in 1995 are 'Agriculture & fishing' (13%), 'Education, health and social work' (12%), 'Wholesale and retail trade' (11%) and 'Other services' (10%).

A shift from primary industries (Agriculture & fishing and Mining & Quarrying) and secondary industries (Manufacturing, Electricity & Water and Construction) to the tertiary sector (all the other service industries) has occurred during the period 1990 to 1995 as shown by the proportions of persons employed in each of these three sectors in 1990 and 1995 (table 11). From 16% in 1990, the primary sector's share in total employment has gone down to 14.9% in 1995. Similarly, the secondary sector's share has declined to 39.4% from 42.6% in 1990. On the other hand, the tertiary sector has gained 4.3 percentage points, i.e. from 41.4% in 1990, it has reached 45.7% in 1995.

Table 11 - Percentage distribution of the currently employed population by sector, 1990 and 1995

Sector	1990 Census (%)	1995 Survey (%)
Primary	16.0	14.9
Secondary	42.6	39.4
Tertiary	41.4	45.7
All sectors	100.0	100.0

4.3 Employed population by occupation

The proportion of the employed population engaged as 'Professionals' and 'Technicians and associate professionals'; occupations requiring high level of professional and technical knowledge, was found to be 10.2% in 1995 compared to 8.0% in 1990.

Table 12 - Employed population by occupation and sex, 1990 and 1995

Occupation	1990 Census						1995 Survey estimates					
	Both sexes		Male		Female		Both sexes		Male		Female	
	No. (000)	%	No. (000)	%	No. (000)	%	No. (000)	%	No. (000)	%	No. (000)	%
Legislators and senior officials and managers	8.8	2.1	7.2	2.5	1.6	1.3	11.5	2.6	8.9	3.0	2.6	1.9
Professionals	9.5	2.3	6.8	2.4	2.7	2.2	13.0	3.0	8.7	2.9	4.3	3.1
Technicians and associate professionals	23.4	5.7	14.6	5.2	8.8	7.1	31.5	7.2	18.7	6.2	12.8	9.3
Clerks	31.7	7.8	16.7	5.9	15.0	12.1	36.8	8.4	18.6	6.2	18.2	13.3
Service workers, shop and market sales workers	40.3	9.9	31.9	11.2	8.4	6.8	54.1	12.4	38.8	13.0	15.3	11.2
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	17.4	4.3	15.0	5.3	2.4	2.0	19.6	4.5	16.1	5.4	3.5	2.6
Craft and related trades workers	81.7	20.1	71.6	25.2	10.2	8.2	83.6	19.2	77.5	25.9	6.1	4.5
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	83.8	20.6	43.7	15.4	40.1	32.3	77.2	17.7	41.8	14.0	35.4	25.8
Elementary occupations	111.0	27.2	76.2	26.9	34.8	28.1	109.0	25.0	70.2	23.4	38.8	28.3
Total	407.6	100.0	283.6	100.0	124.0	100.0	436.3	100.0	299.3	100.0	137.0	100.0

The proportions of those working as clerks, service workers and skilled agricultural workers also showed rises between 1990 and 1995 while in the groups 'craft and trades workers', 'plant & machine operators' and 'elementary occupations', decreases were noted. The decreases of 2.9 and 2.2 percentage points in the categories 'plant & machine operators' and 'elementary occupations' respectively were mainly due to important falls in the levels of employment in EPZ firms and agricultural enterprises.

A distinct upgrading of the occupational distribution of the employed population is therefore noted, in line with improvements in education and training during recent years.

Comparative figures for 1990 and 1995 for each of the major occupational groups are given in table 12.

4.4 Employed population working for pay by income from main occupation

Data on monthly pay drawn from main occupation was also collected at the 1995 Labour Force Survey. These figures exclude payments for overtime work.

The distribution of these wage and salary earners in the different salary brackets is given in table 13. From the table, it appears that the majority of paid employees (85%) were drawing salaries ranging up to Rs 6,000 per month.

Analysis by sex shows that about half of the total number of male workers were earning between Rs 2,000 and Rs 4,000. Among females an even more skewed distribution is noted, with over 75% of them earning up to Rs 4,000 only. The median salary for males was estimated at Rs 3,500, i.e 50% of male workers were earning salaries below Rs 3,500. The female median salary was Rs 2,300.

Table 13 - Percentage distribution of paid employees by salary range and sex, 1995 Survey

Wage/salary per month (Rs)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)
Under 2,000	9.9	44.3	21.3
2,001 - 4,000	51.6	34.3	45.8
4,001 - 6,000	22.1	10.1	18.1
6,001 - 8,000	8.2	5.9	7.4
8,001 - 10,000	3.5	2.4	3.2
10,001 - 15,000	2.7	2.3	2.6
15,001 - 20,000	1.2	0.6	1.0
20,001 and above	0.8	0.1	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

5 Unemployment

5.1 Unemployment as at 1990 Census and 1995 Survey

On the basis of the 1995 Labour Force Survey data, the number of unemployed persons, i.e. those who were looking for jobs, was estimated at 47,700 (25,500 males and 22,200 females). The number of reported cases of 'unemployed' at the 1990 Census was 17,763 among males and 6,638 among females giving thus a total of 24,401 unemployed persons.

At the 1995 Survey, information was also collected on steps taken to find work. The number of those who have had recourse to the Employment Service as a means of getting a job was estimated at 8,500, i.e. only 18% of the total number of unemployed persons. Methods of job search more widely used were 'application to prospective employers' (52%), 'checked at factories and worksite' (45%), 'sought

assistance or advice from friends or relatives' (33%) and 'placed or answered advertisements' (21%). The above percentages are, however, not mutually exclusive as a person looking for work may have had recourse to more than one job search method.

5.2 Unemployed population by age and sex

The 1995 estimates show that young persons aged 12 to 24 years formed 54% of the total number of persons looking for work, i.e. 25,600 out of 47,700. Within this younger age bracket (12 - 24 years), males comprised 59% of the total whilst among those aged 25 and more years, there was a slightly higher proportion of women, i.e. 53%.

The number of persons looking for a first job was estimated at around 23,100 made up of 10,500 males and 12,600 females. Among the males, 90% were from the younger generation (12 - 24 years) whereas among the females, quite a large proportion (36%) were found in the higher age groups as well, i.e. above 24 years.

Table 14 - Unemployed population by age and sex, 1995 Survey estimates

Category of unemployed and sex	Age (years)		
	12+	12 - 24	25+
<u>Total unemployed</u>			
Both sexes	47,700	25,600	22,100
Male	25,500	15,100	10,400
Female	22,200	10,500	11,700
<u>First job seekers</u>			
Both sexes	23,100	17,600	5,500
Male	10,500	9,500	1,000
Female	12,600	8,100	4,500
<u>Job seekers with work experience</u>			
Both sexes	24,600	8,000	16,600
Male	15,000	5,600	9,400
Female	9,600	2,400	7,200

5.3 Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex

Unemployed persons having studied beyond primary level formed 55% of the total unemployed population in 1995. Analysis by sex shows that among females, a higher proportion (60%) had secondary or tertiary education compared to 51% among males.

Table 15 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, 1995

Educational attainment	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both sexes (%)
Nil + pre-primary	2	4	3
Primary	47	36	42
Secondary	50	59	54
University	1	1	1
All levels	100	100	100

Unemployed persons having vocational or technical training formed 14% of the total number of unemployed ones. Among these trained persons without jobs, the estimated figures show that females were in larger numbers, i.e. 4,300 compared to 2,400 males. The majority of the males (52%) were trained in 'Trade, craft and industrial techniques' while among the females, the two main fields of training were 'Mathematics and computer science' and 'Commerce and business administration' with 33 and 27 per cent of total unemployed females respectively.

5.4 Unemployed persons having worked in the past

The number of persons having worked in the past and were looking for new jobs was estimated at 24,600, made up of 15,000 males and 9,600 females.

61% of the unemployed males having work experience, reported to have worked in the manufacturing or construction sector. Among females, 58% of the unemployed with work experience, were previously employed in the manufacturing sector (Table 16).

Table 16 - Estimated unemployed population having worked in the past by industry and sex, 1995

Industry	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Agriculture	1600	11	500	5	2100	9
Manufacturing	4600	31	5600	58	10200	42
Construction	4500	30	-	-	4500	18
Trade (incl. hotels and restaurants)	2500	16	1500	16	4000	16
Other	1800	12	2000	21	3800	15
Total	15000	100	9600	100	24600	100

6. Evaluation of the 1995 Labour Force Survey data

6.1 Background

National estimates of employment and unemployment are worked out every year using data from the Population Census as well as other sources such as

- (i) the Survey of Employment, Earnings and Job vacancies in large establishments carried out by the Central Statistical Office;

- (ii) licences and operation permits issued by various government departments;
- (iii) persons registered as unemployed with the Employment Service Division of the Ministry for Civil Service Affairs and Employment;
- (iv) the number of work permits issued for recruitment of foreign workers.

Table 17 - Indicators of labour market situation 1983 - 1995

Year	Employment in large establishments ^{1/}	Registered unemployed	Job vacancies in large establishments	Permits issued to foreign workers
1983	196,000	75,000	505	N/A
1984	200,000	73,000	819	N/A
1985	214,000	67,000	762	N/A
1986	235,000	55,000	1,696	N/A
1987	257,000	48,000	1,665	N/A
1988	273,000	29,000	3,182	N/A
1989	276,000	18,000	4,913	1,554
1990	284,000	14,000	7,285	1,555
1991	287,000	12,000	7,052	2,667
1992	287,000	9,000	5,735	2,013
1993	284,000	8,000	4,359	6,290
1994	285,000	8,000	3,657	10,463
1995	282,000	10,000	3,238	8,045

1/ Employment figures are from establishments having 10 or more employees and exclude foreigners.

The labour market situation of the early eighties was characterised by a high level of unemployment. A labour-intensive export-oriented development strategy succeeded in changing this picture to one of almost full employment within a few years.

Thus, in 1990, employment in large establishments was on the increase while registered unemployment was low and decreasing, reported job vacancies in large establishments were at their highest and recruitment of foreign workers was felt to be a necessity. All indicators pointed to a relatively tight labour market situation (Table 17).

By 1993, however, employment in large establishments as well as job vacancies started declining, indicating possible stagnation of employment. But the other two indicators tended to show the opposite: registered unemployment continued to decline and the number of foreign workers was still rising.

It was only in 1995 that all the four indicators in table 17 showed a definite turning point. Therefore, with hindsight, the 1995 Labour Force Survey is considered vital for assessing the exact labour market situation and for obtaining up-to-date comprehensive data for effective planning.

6.2 Analysis of employment data

Although there are clear indications that the downward trend in unemployment was reversed in 1995, preliminary analysis of the data collected at the 1995 Labour Force Sample Survey indicates that there may be some over reporting of unemployment and/or under reporting of employment. Data on employment are examined in this section to see if some light can be thrown on possible adjustments that could be made to the national estimates obtained from the survey. Once again, the comparison between the 1990 Census and the national estimates from the 1995 survey are made on the actual unadjusted data to minimise the effects of misreporting. Furthermore, the figures for employment in large establishments used for the evaluation exercise exclude expatriates since this category of workers was not included at the 1995 Survey.

Table 18 shows employment data for 1990 and 1995 obtained from different sources. Total employment is from the 1990 Census and the 1995 Survey. Employment in large establishments is from the annual survey of these establishments. Employment in 'other than large establishments' is obtained by subtraction, but a separate independent estimate is also shown. This estimate was worked out on the basis of surveys of small establishments as well as administrative data such as changes in the number of licence

and permit holders (e.g. hawkers, retailers, operators of taxis, buses, vans and lorries, insurance and real estate agents, etc.) and registration information on professionals and semi-professionals providing services such as medical and dental care, legal services, pre-primary education, hair dressing, etc.

Table 18 - Changes in employment between 1990 and 1995 in large establishments and 'other than large establishments'

	1990	1995	Change
<u>Both sexes</u>			
Total employed	408,000	436,000	28,000
Large establishments	284,000	282,000	- 2,000
Other: by subtraction	124,000	154,000	30,000
Estimated	(161,000)	(223,000)	(62,000)
<u>Male</u>			
Total employed	284,000	299,000	15,000
Large establishments	185,000	182,000	- 3,000
Other: by subtraction	99,000	117,000	18,000
Estimated	(112,000)	(146,000)	(34,000)
<u>Female</u>			
Total employed	124,000	137,000	13,000
Large establishments	99,000	100,000	1,000
Other: by subtraction	25,000	37,000	12,000
Estimated	(49,000)	(77,000)	(28,000)

The data presented in table 18 also show that employment in large establishments declined by some 2,000 between 1990 and 1995 while employment outside large establishments increased. This increase works out at around 30,000 on the basis of data obtained at the 1990 Census, the 1995 Survey and the annual survey of large

establishments. Estimates based on other sources indicate an increase of 62,000. Although the latter estimated increase may appear too high, it is not unreasonable to assume that the 'true' increase lies between the 'observed' 30,000 and the estimated 62,000. The reason is that people, particularly those engaged in the informal sector, have a tendency to under report employment, either by saying that they are inactive (i.e. not working and not looking for work) or unemployed (i.e. not working but looking for work).

6.3 Evaluation of unemployment data

It is very difficult to estimate the number of persons who are employed but who reported themselves as inactive. As regards the unemployed, it is possible to look at their various characteristics and cross-tabulations of these characteristics, to determine whether there has been any over reporting in the light of ancillary information about the labour market situation. Such a preliminary analysis of the 1995 Survey data has been done and the main findings are as follows:

- (i) The 5,700 (3,600 males and 2,100 females) unemployed first job seekers aged 12 - 19 years having been looking for a job for one year or more were probably not among the hard core unemployed. Active job search for more than 12 months would probably have landed these teenagers with a job, but possibly not commensurate with their expectations.
- (ii) The 4,100 (800 males and 3,300 females) unemployed first job seekers aged 25 years and over having been looking for a job for one year or more were also probably not among the hard core unemployed, particularly since the majority were married women. Such women cannot be regarded as being 'active job seekers', i.e. they look for, and take up a particular job according to whether or not it can be accommodated into their normal 'private' life, their own 'prestige' considerations, available alternatives, etc.. For example, jobs demanding long hours of work may not be suitable for many of these married women and hence though they claim to be interested to work, they would not accept such jobs, specially if these would require them to work late into the evening. Similarly, high academic educational attainment may be another reason for some women interested in working, to be still unemployed though

jobs are available. Females with parents' or spouse's support who do not desperately need to work for a living, tend to be more choosy in the kind of jobs they would take up.

- (iii) The 9,800 persons (4,500 males and 5,300 females) who had worked before but had left their jobs because of resignation, retirement, marriage, etc. were probably not unemployed for the same reasons as described in (ii). Furthermore, many of these persons could be engaged in home based economic activities such as dressmaking, preparation of food items for sale, backyard production of vegetables and livestock.
- (iv) The 3,500 married males who lost their jobs because of reduction in workforce, cessation of business and completion of contract/job were most probably working at another job particularly since very few (about 200) persons were receiving unemployment benefits under the Unemployment Hardship Relief Scheme in 1995. It is highly probable that many of the married men who claimed to be unemployed were already engaged in some form of minor or not so remunerative work, so as to cater for the needs of their families, while at the same time being on the look out for a better paid, a less tiresome or a more 'prestigious' job.

6.4 Adjustments to employment and unemployment data

The total number of persons identified in the four categories of section 6.3 and who may be considered as not forming part of the 'hard core unemployed', is around 23,100 of whom 12,400 males and 10,700 females. It is not easy to decide whether these persons should be considered as inactive (not working and not looking for work) or employed. It is proposed that, except for the 3,500 married men in category (iv) who are all to be considered as employed, the remaining 19,600 be allocated equally to the inactive and employed groups. If this is acceptable then adjusted estimates of employment, unemployment and inactives are as shown in table 19.

Table 19 - Adjusted estimates of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactives from 1995 Labour Force Sample Survey

	Male	Female	Both sexes
Population 12+ years	<u>434,400</u>	<u>440,400</u>	<u>874,800</u>
Labour force	<u>320,400</u>	<u>153,800</u>	<u>474,200</u>
Employed	307,100	142,400	449,500
Unemployed	13,300	11,400	24,700
Inactive	<u>114,000</u>	<u>286,600</u>	<u>400,600</u>

Comparison with table 1 shows that the labour force (economically active population) has been revised downwards from 484,000 to 474,200 (an adjustment of -9,800), while the inactive population has been revised upwards by the same number from 390,800 to 400,600.

The employed population is revised upwards from 436,300 to 449,500 (an adjustment of 13,200) and the unemployed population is revised downwards from 47,700 to 24,700 (an adjustment of -23,000). The adjusted unemployment rate is therefore 5.2% .

6.5 Adjustment to employment data in 'other than large establishments'

From the revised estimate of total employment and the actual employment in large establishments (obtained from the annual survey of these establishments), a revised estimate of employment in 'other than large establishments' can be obtained by subtraction. This is done in table 20 which shows that in 1995, out of the estimated 449,500 employed persons, 282,000 were in large establishments and an estimated 167,500 were working 'outside large establishments'.

Table 20 - Adjusted estimates of employment in large establishments and 'other than large establishments', 1995

	Male	Female	Both sexes
Total Employment	307,100	142,400	449,500
Large establishments	182,000	100,000	282,000
Other than large establishments	125,100	42,400	167,500

7 Summary of findings from the 1995 Labour Force Survey

The main findings from the analysis of the 1995 Labour Force Survey and comparison with the 1990 Census can be summarised as follows:

- (i) There is a tendency for more and more women, including married women, to enter the labour market. In fact, the activity rate for women aged 15 years and over rose from 35% in 1990 to 39% in 1995.
- (ii) On the other hand, the activity rate for men aged 15 years and over decreased marginally from 81% in 1990 to 80% in 1995 mainly because of longer stay in education and training.
- (iii) More and more older persons aged 60 years and above, in particular males, choose to remain in the labour market; for instance the activity rate for the age group 60 - 64 years rose from 29% in 1990 to 37% in 1995. These persons are probably retired persons looking for another, possibly lighter, job.
- (iv) From the relatively large number of persons who are reported as unemployed, it can be deduced that both men and women are more and more choosy about jobs that they are ready to accept.
- (v) The level of education and training of the labour force is improving. The percentage having attended secondary schools rose from 43% in 1990 to 48%

in 1995 and the percentage with vocational or technical training rose from 8% to 13% during the same period.

- (vi) More and more persons are running businesses of their own, with the percentage of self-employed rising from 12% in 1990 to 17% in 1995.
- (vii) The share of employment in the tertiary sector (services) is increasing (from 41% in 1990 to 46% in 1995) at the expense of the primary (agriculture) and secondary (manufacturing and construction) sectors.
- (viii) The labour force is beginning to show some signs of ageing, with the percentage aged 15 - 24 years declining from 25% to 22% and that aged 45 - 59 years rising from 16% to 18% between 1990 and 1995.
- (ix) An upgrading of the occupational distribution is noted with the percentage of persons employed as professionals and technicians rising from 8% in 1990 to 10% in 1995.
- (x) All data now available point to the fact that 1995 saw a turning point in the decreasing trend in unemployment. The 1995 Labour Force Survey confirms this, although the estimates derived from it indicate that there may be some over reporting of unemployment. It is estimated that the unemployment rate of 9.9% derived from the survey may be exaggerated and a more reasonable figure would be around 5.2%. The total labour force in 1995 is estimated at 474,200 (320,400 males and 153,800 females). The employed population is estimated at 449,500 (307,100 males and 142,400 females) and unemployment at 24,700 (13,300 males and 11,400 females)

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
PORT LOUIS

January 1997