

# LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT 1996

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This publication presents a set of preliminary estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 1996 based on the results of the 1995 Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS), as well as other current data sources. In the light of the new data which have become available from the 1995 LFSS, previously published figures for 1990 to 1995 have been revised and are also presented here.

## 2. COVERAGE

The population considered in estimating the size of the Mauritian labour force comprises all resident Mauritians aged 12 years and above. Both Mauritius and Rodrigues are included.

Employment figures cover 'large' as well as 'other than large' establishments. Large establishments are those employing 10 or more persons. For a more complete picture of the total size of the workforce, foreigners working on contract in Mauritius have also been included.

## 3. SOURCES OF DATA

Estimates of labour force (which is the total of all persons at work as well as those looking for work) have been worked out using activity rates derived from the 1990 Population Census and the 1995 LFSS together with annual mid-year estimates of population size by age group.

Estimates of unemployment have been based on the 1990 Census and the 1995 LFSS unemployment rates as well as on observed trends in the number of registered unemployed persons at the middle of each year as published by the Employment Division of the Ministry of Employment, Manpower Resources and Training.

Mid-year estimates of employment in 'large' establishments is an average of the March and September figures obtained from CSO's recurrent surveys of employment and earnings. Estimates of employment in establishments other than those covered by the recurrent establishment surveys have been based on data from the 1990 Population Census, the 1992 Census of Economic Activities in small establishments and the 1995 LFSS.

#### **4. LABOUR FORCE**

The size of the Mauritian labour force is estimated by applying sex-age-specific activity rates to the population figures. These age specific activity rates have been worked out on the basis of the 1990 Census and the 1995 LFSS rates.

The total labour force (including foreigners) was estimated at 492,800 for 1996, indicating an increase of 7,800 (or 1.6%) over the figure of 485,000 estimated for 1995. The male labour force was estimated at 330,300, or 3000 more than in 1995, while estimates for females showed an increase of 4,800, from 157,700 in 1995 to 162,500 in 1996.

#### **5. EMPLOYMENT LEVEL**

The total number of persons (including foreigners) with jobs was estimated at around 460,500 and 466,100 in 1995 and 1996 respectively. A net decrease of around 2,200 was noted in the employment level of 'large' establishments while estimates worked out for 'other than large' establishments indicate an increase of about 7,800.

Total male employment is estimated to have increased by 0.6%, that is from 314,200 in 1995 to 316,200 in 1996. Female employment, on the other hand, works out to 149,900, i.e. an increase of 2.5% over 146,300 in 1995.

#### **6. UNEMPLOYMENT**

From data collected at the 1995 LFSS, the number of unemployed persons (those not working but looking for work) as at mid 1995, was estimated at 24,500 (13,100 males and 11,400 females). The unemployment rate (number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the Mauritian labour force) worked out to 5.2%. On the basis of observed trends in the number of registered unemployed persons, a preliminary estimate for 1996 is around 5.5%.

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Table 1 - Activity rates by age-group and sex , 1990,1995 &amp; 1996

Age (years)	MALE			FEMALE		
	1990 <sup>1</sup>	1995 <sup>1</sup>	1996	1990 <sup>1</sup>	1995 <sup>1</sup>	1996
12 - 14	11.2	6.8	6.0	3.4	2.3	2.2
15 - 19	50.7	39.4	38.0	25.7	21.7	21.0
20 - 24	90.4	89.0	89.0	43.6	48.2	49.0
25 - 29	95.5	95.4	95.4	41.9	45.1	45.6
30 - 34	96.8	96.2	96.2	45.6	46.0	46.2
35 - 39	97.1	96.7	96.7	45.9	53.3	54.5
40 - 44	96.6	96.1	96.1	41.8	51.0	53.0
45 - 49	94.6	95.3	95.4	37.0	44.6	46.0
50 - 54	91.2	92.1	92.2	32.4	37.6	38.6
55 - 59	81.7	83.3	83.5	24.6	29.0	30.0
60 - 64	29.7	34.9	35.5	9.0	9.4	9.4
65 - 69	21.3	26.6	27.0	6.0	7.2	7.2
70 - 74	14.7	14.4	14.4	3.8	3.1	3.1
75 and above	9.1	10.3	10.3	2.1	0.8	0.8
12 and above	74.9	73.6	73.7	32.2	34.9	35.6
15 and above	80.6	79.0	78.8	34.7	37.4	38.0

Table 2 - Labour force by age and sex , 1990,1995 &amp; 1996(in thousands)

Age (years)	MALE			FEMALE		
	1990 <sup>1</sup>	1995 <sup>1</sup>	1996	1990 <sup>1</sup>	1995 <sup>1</sup>	1996
12 - 14	3.7	2.2	1.9	1.1	0.7	0.7
15 - 19	25.0	22.4	22.2	12.3	12.1	11.9
20 - 24	47.4	43.1	43.6	21.9	22.4	23.3
25 - 29	51.2	49.0	47.0	21.7	21.7	21.0
30 - 34	46.2	50.7	51.8	20.9	23.0	23.7
35 - 39	40.1	45.1	45.7	18.3	23.8	24.6
40 - 44	29.1	38.5	38.9	12.7	19.9	20.9
45 - 49	20.7	27.6	31.0	8.4	13.2	15.0
50 - 54	16.8	19.0	19.6	6.3	8.3	8.9
55 - 59	12.8	14.1	14.2	4.1	5.4	5.5
60 - 64	4.4	4.8	5.0	1.5	1.4	1.5
65 - 69	2.4	3.2	3.1	0.8	1.0	1.0
70 - 74	1.0	1.2	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
75 and above	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.1
Mauritian labour force	301.4	321.7	326.1	130.6	153.3	158.5
Foreign labour force	0.7	5.6	4.2	0.3	4.2	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>302.1</b>	<b>327.3</b>	<b>330.3</b>	<b>130.9</b>	<b>157.5</b>	<b>162.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised

Fig 1- Age-specific activity rates, 1990 &amp; 1996

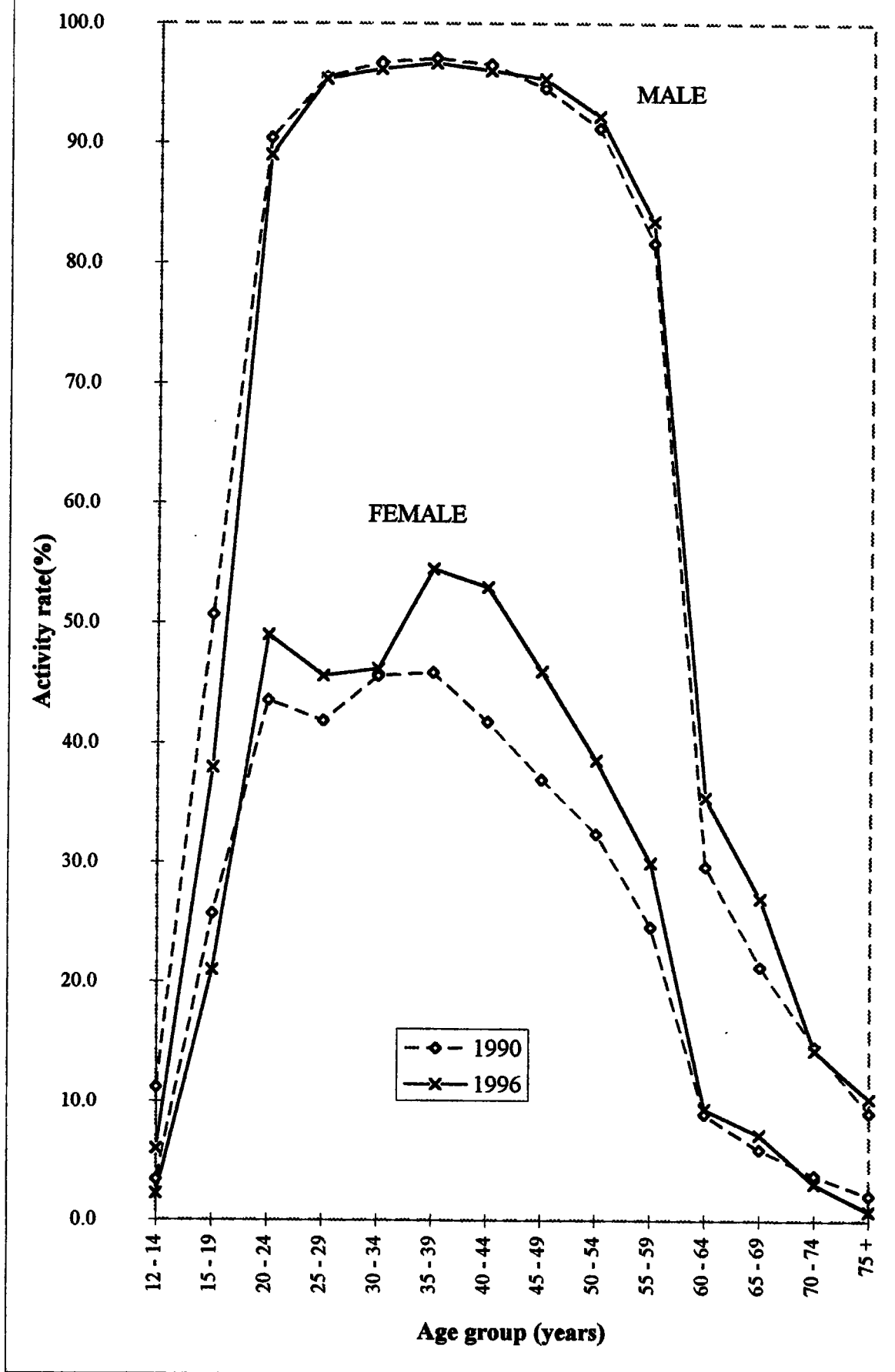


Table 3 - Employment<sup>1</sup> by industry and size of establishment, 1990 - 1995

Industry	1990 <sup>2</sup>			1992 <sup>2</sup>			1994 <sup>2</sup>			1995 <sup>2</sup>		
	Large	Other	Total	Large	Other	Total	Large	Other	Total	Large	Other	Total
	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)
Agriculture & fishing of which sugar cane	37.7 (33.0)	25.5 (7.4)	63.2 (40.4)	37.1 (32.5)	25.5 (5.5)	62.6 (38.0)	35.3 (31.2)	27.0 (4.8)	62.3 (36.0)	34.0 (30.0)	27.6 (4.5)	61.6 (34.5)
Mining & quarrying	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.9	1.1	0.2	1.2	1.4	0.2	1.4	1.6
Manufacturing of which sugar EPZ	117.7 (7.5) (85.8)	14.8 (0.0) (3.0)	132.5 (7.5) (88.8)	117.0 (7.3) (87.2)	16.9 (0.0) (2.8)	133.9 (7.3) (90.0)	111.5 (6.8) (81.1)	22.5 (0.0) (2.0)	134.0 (6.8) (83.1)	109.3 (5.9) (80.4)	25.4 (0.0) (0.5)	134.7 (5.9) (80.9)
Electricity & water	3.4	0.0	3.4	3.4	0.0	3.4	3.5	0.0	3.5	3.5	0.0	3.5
Construction	11.7	19.3	31.0	13.1	22.2	35.3	13.2	25.0	38.2	10.6	26.2	36.8
Wholesale & retail trade, restaurants & hotels	17.1	29.9	47.0	19.5	34.2	53.7	23.3	37.9	61.2	24.6	40.3	64.9
Transport, storage, & communication	12.8	13.9	26.7	14.1	13.4	27.5	14.3	13.5	27.8	14.6	13.8	28.4
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services	9.3	2.1	11.4	10.2	2.2	12.4	11.6	2.0	13.6	12.1	2.0	14.1
Community, social and personal services of which: central government local government	69.8 (54.1) (5.1)	30.3 (0.0) (0.0)	100.1 (54.1) (5.1)	73.0 (54.8) (5.1)	31.6 (0.0) (0.0)	104.6 (54.8) (5.1)	76.7 (56.0) (5.3)	33.0 (0.0) (0.0)	109.7 (56.0) (5.3)	77.3 (56.3) (5.4)	34.6 (0.0) (0.0)	111.9 (56.3) (5.4)
Activities n.e.c	4.8	0.0	4.8	3.4	0.0	3.4	3.1	0.0	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>284.5</b>	<b>136.3</b>	<b>420.8</b>	<b>291.0</b>	<b>146.9</b>	<b>437.9</b>	<b>292.7</b>	<b>162.1</b>	<b>454.8</b>	<b>289.2</b>	<b>171.3</b>	<b>460.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Employment figures include foreign workers

<sup>2</sup> Revised

Fig 2 - Employment by size of establishment and sex, 1990 - 1995

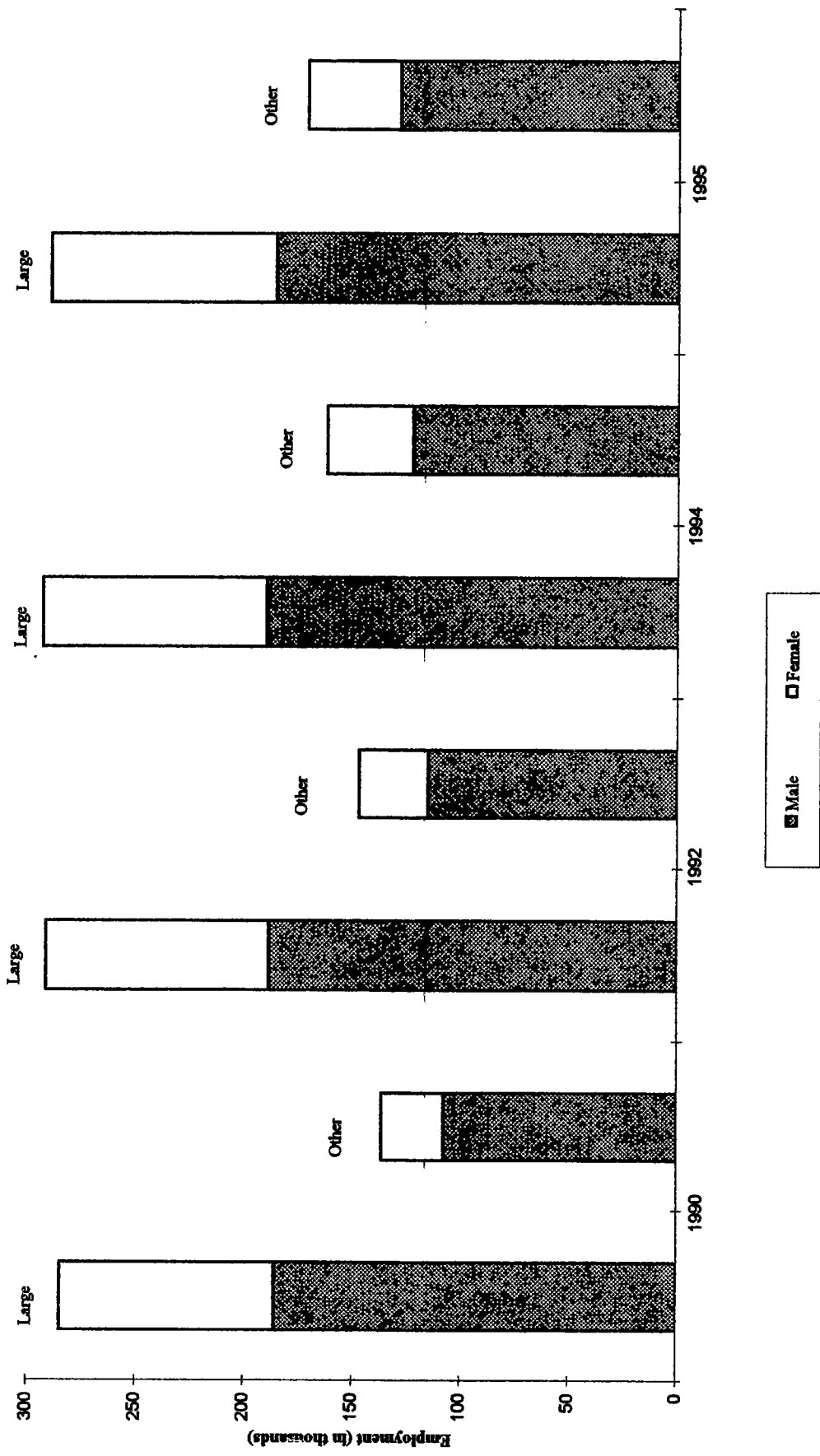


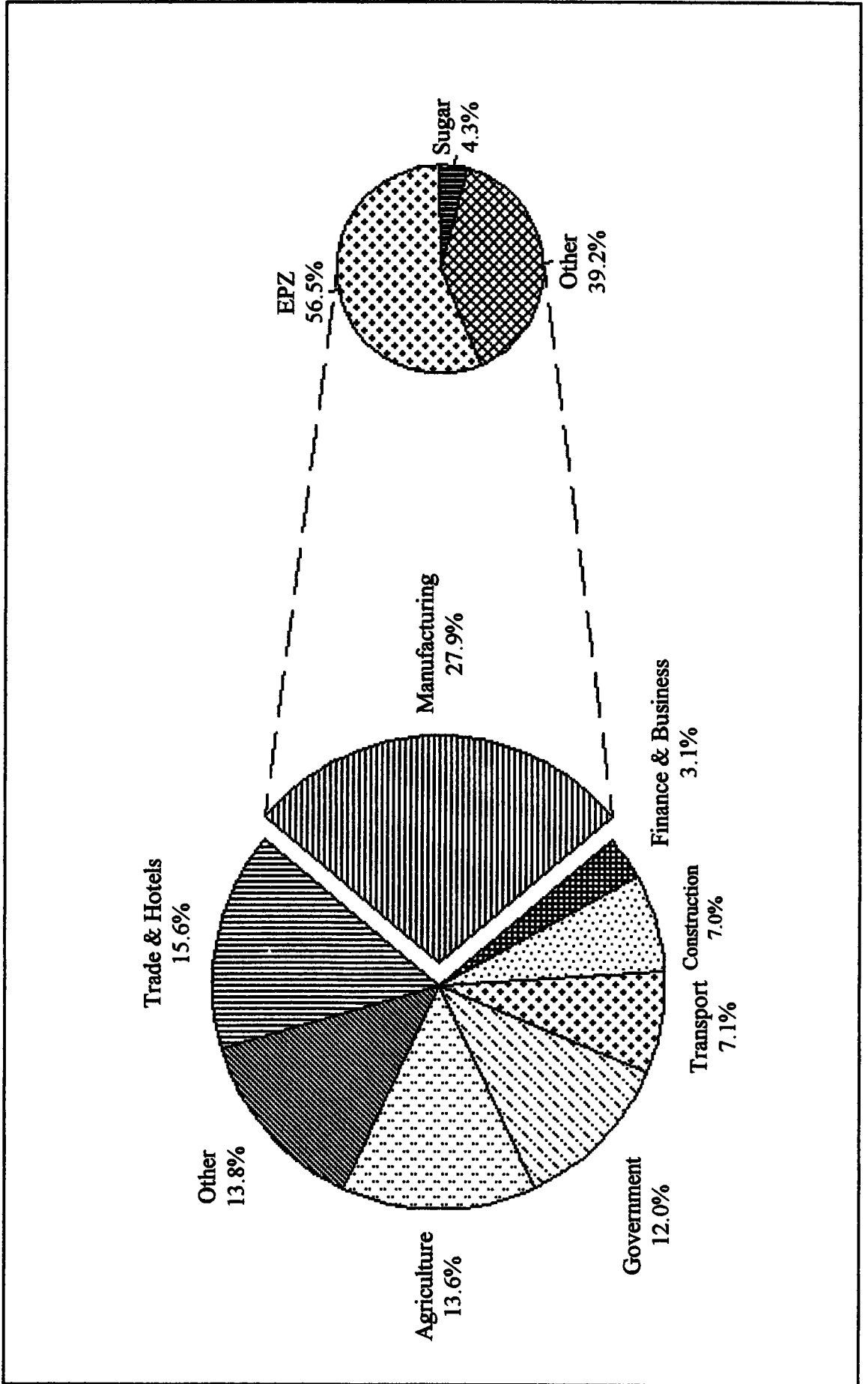
Table 4 - Employment<sup>1</sup> by industry and sex, 1990 - 1995

Industry	1990 <sup>2</sup>			1992 <sup>2</sup>			1994 <sup>2</sup>			1995 <sup>2</sup>		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
		(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)
Agriculture & fishing of which sugar cane	45.9 (28.5)	17.3 (11.9)	63.2 (40.4)	45.5 (27.4)	17.1 (12.1)	62.6 (39.5)	45.3 (25.5)	17.0 (10.5)	62.3 (36.0)	44.6 (24.5)	17.0 (10.0)	61.6 (34.5)
Mining & quarrying	0.6	0.1	0.7	1.0	0.1	1.1	1.3	0.1	1.4	1.5	0.1	1.6
Manufacturing of which sugar EPZ	69.1 (7.1) (28.5)	63.4 (0.4) (60.3)	132.5 (7.5) (88.8)	69.2 (7.0) (26.8)	64.7 (0.3) (63.2)	133.9 (7.3) (90.0)	69.0 (6.7) (23.9)	65.0 (0.1) (59.2)	134.0 (6.8) (83.1)	70.0 (5.8) (23.8)	64.7 (0.1) (57.1)	134.7 (5.9) (80.9)
Electricity & water	3.3	0.1	3.4	3.3	0.1	3.4	3.4	0.1	3.5	3.3	0.2	3.5
Construction	30.7	0.3	31.0	35.0	0.3	35.3	38.0	0.2	38.2	36.6	0.2	36.8
Wholesale & retail trade, restaurants & hotels	36.2	10.8	47.0	41.6	12.1	53.7	44.4	16.8	61.2	46.2	18.7	64.9
Transport, storage, & communication	24.9	1.8	26.7	25.4	2.1	27.5	25.4	2.4	27.8	25.9	2.5	28.4
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services	8.0	3.4	11.4	8.5	3.9	12.4	9.3	4.3	13.6	9.5	4.6	14.1
Community, social and personal services of which : central government local government	69.5 (43.6) (4.6)	30.6 (10.5) (0.5)	100.1 (54.1) (5.1)	70.3 (43.9) (4.5)	34.3 (10.9) (0.6)	104.6 (54.8) (5.1)	72.7 (44.2) (4.7)	37.0 (11.8) (0.6)	109.7 (56.0) (5.3)	73.6 (44.2) (4.8)	38.3 (12.1) (0.6)	111.9 (56.3) (5.4)
Activities n.e.c	4.7	0.1	4.8	3.4	0.0	3.4	3.0	0.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>292.9</b>	<b>127.9</b>	<b>420.8</b>	<b>303.2</b>	<b>134.7</b>	<b>437.9</b>	<b>311.8</b>	<b>143.0</b>	<b>454.8</b>	<b>314.2</b>	<b>146.3</b>	<b>460.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Employment figures include foreign workers<sup>2</sup> Revised



**Fig 3 - Employment by industry, 1995**



**Table 5 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 1990 - 1996**

Year	Labour force			Employment <sup>1</sup>			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments <sup>2</sup>	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate <sup>3</sup> (%)
<b>Both sexes</b>								
1990	432.0	1.0	433.0	284.5	136.3	420.8	12.2	2.8
1991	439.2	2.2	441.4	289.0	140.4	429.4	12.0	2.7
1992	448.8	4.1	452.9	291.0	146.9	437.9	15.0	3.3
1993	457.0	6.9	463.9	290.5	155.4	445.9	18.0	3.9
1994	467.5	8.3	475.8	292.7	162.1	454.8	21.0	4.5
1995	475.2	9.8	485.0	289.2	171.3	460.5	24.5	5.2
1996	484.6	8.2	492.8	287.0	179.1	466.1	26.7	5.5
<b>Male</b>								
1990	301.4	0.7	302.1	185.7	107.2	292.9	9.2	3.1
1991	304.4	1.8	306.2	187.2	110.0	297.2	9.0	3.0
1992	309.8	3.4	313.2	188.4	114.8	303.2	10.0	3.2
1993	313.8	4.9	318.7	187.9	119.8	307.7	11.0	3.5
1994	318.6	5.2	323.8	189.6	122.2	311.8	12.0	3.8
1995	321.7	5.6	327.3	185.7	128.5	314.2	13.1	4.1
1996	326.1	4.2	330.3	184.0	132.2	316.2	14.1	4.3
<b>Female</b>								
1990	130.6	0.3	130.9	98.8	29.1	127.9	3.0	2.3
1991	134.8	0.4	135.2	101.8	30.4	132.2	3.0	2.2
1992	139.0	0.7	139.7	102.6	32.1	134.7	5.0	3.6
1993	143.2	2.0	145.2	102.6	35.6	138.2	7.0	4.9
1994	148.9	3.1	152.0	103.1	39.9	143.0	9.0	6.0
1995	153.5	4.2	157.7	103.5	42.8	146.3	11.4	7.4
1996	158.5	4.0	162.5	103.0	46.9	149.9	12.6	7.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes foreign workers

<sup>2</sup> Average of March and September figures

<sup>3</sup> Unemployment total as a percentage of Mauritian labour force