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**1 ⇨ LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND
UNEMPLOYMENT 1997**

2 ⇨ SOCIAL SECURITY STATISTICS 1991/92 - 1995/96

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT 1997

1. INTRODUCTION

This publication consists of a set of preliminary estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the Republic of Mauritius (including Rodrigues). All the data presented here refer to the middle of years mentioned.

2. COVERAGE

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

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 1995 Labour Force Sample Survey (LFSS) and annual mid-year estimates of population size by age group.

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 1995 LFSS and information from administrative records of permits and licenses as well as area under cultivation in the agricultural sector. These latter estimates for the years 1996 and 1997 are subject to revision when more reliable data become available from future surveys.

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 latest survey data available, that is, the 1995 LFSS.

The total labour force (including 9,300 foreigners) was estimated at 505,500 for 1997, showing thus an increase of 12,700 (or 2.5%) over the figure of 492,800 estimated for 1996 (Table 5). The male labour force was estimated at 335,700, or 5,500 more than in 1996, while estimates for females stood at 169,800 showing an increase of 7,200 from 162,600 in 1996.

5. EMPLOYMENT LEVEL

After the downward trend in the employment level of 'large' establishments in 1995 and 1996, a slight improvement was noted in 1997, with a total of 287,700 employees; representing an increase of 900 over the 1996 figure of 286,800 (Table 3).

Estimates worked out for 'other than large' establishments indicate an increase of 8,800 workers in 1997, i.e, from 179,200 in 1996, the number of persons engaged in that sector was estimated to have reached 188,000 in 1997 (Table 3).

Hence the total number of persons (including foreigners) with jobs was found to have increased by 9,700 over the 1996 estimate of 466,000 to reach 475,700 in 1997 - increase occurring mainly in 'other than large' establishments as indicated by abovementioned figures.

Total male employment was estimated to have increased by 1.6%, that is from 317,600 in 1996 to 322,600 in 1997. Female employment, on the other hand, worked out to 153,100, i.e. an increase of 3.2% over the figure of 148,400 estimated for 1996 (Table 4).

6. UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed persons (those not working but looking for work), obtained by subtraction of the estimated number of persons working in the different sectors from the labour force total, worked out to 29,800 (13,100 males and 16,700 females) as at mid 1997, showing thus an increase of 3,000 over the 1996 estimated figure of 26,800 (Table 5). The unemployment rate (number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the Mauritian labour force) worked out to 5.5% and 6.0% in 1996 and 1997 respectively.

Central Statistical Office,
Ministry of Economic Development and Regional Co-operation,
PORT LOUIS

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Table 1 - Activity rates by age-group and sex , 1995 - 1997

| Age (years) | MALE | | | FEMALE | | |
|----------------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
| 12 - 14 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 5.6 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.1 |
| 15 - 19 | 39.4 | 37.6 | 35.8 | 21.7 | 21.1 | 20.5 |
| 20 - 24 | 89.0 | 88.7 | 88.4 | 48.2 | 49.2 | 50.2 |
| 25 - 29 | 95.4 | 95.5 | 95.5 | 45.1 | 45.6 | 46.1 |
| 30 - 34 | 96.2 | 96.3 | 96.4 | 46.0 | 47.0 | 48.0 |
| 35 - 39 | 96.7 | 96.8 | 96.9 | 53.3 | 54.6 | 55.9 |
| 40 - 44 | 96.1 | 96.2 | 96.4 | 51.0 | 52.2 | 53.4 |
| 45 - 49 | 95.3 | 95.4 | 95.5 | 44.6 | 45.6 | 46.6 |
| 50 - 54 | 92.1 | 92.3 | 92.5 | 37.6 | 38.4 | 39.2 |
| 55 - 59 | 83.3 | 83.7 | 84.1 | 29.0 | 29.6 | 30.2 |
| 60 - 64 | 34.9 | 35.4 | 35.8 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 9.4 |
| 65 - 69 | 26.6 | 26.7 | 26.8 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 7.3 |
| 70 - 74 | 14.4 | 14.3 | 14.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 |
| 75 and above | 10.3 | 10.2 | 10.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| 12 and above | 73.6 | 73.7 | 73.9 | 34.9 | 35.6 | 36.4 |
| 15 and above | 79.0 | 78.7 | 78.7 | 37.4 | 38.0 | 38.7 |

Table 2 - Labour force by age and sex , 1995 - 1997 (in thousands)

| Age (years) | MALE | | | FEMALE | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
| 12 - 14 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| 15 - 19 | 22.4 | 22.0 | 20.9 | 12.1 | 12.0 | 11.7 |
| 20 - 24 | 43.1 | 43.5 | 45.1 | 22.4 | 23.4 | 24.7 |
| 25 - 29 | 49.0 | 47.1 | 46.4 | 21.7 | 21.0 | 21.1 |
| 30 - 34 | 50.7 | 51.8 | 51.9 | 23.0 | 24.1 | 24.3 |
| 35 - 39 | 45.1 | 45.7 | 46.6 | 23.8 | 24.6 | 25.9 |
| 40 - 44 | 38.5 | 39.0 | 40.6 | 19.9 | 20.6 | 21.8 |
| 45 - 49 | 27.6 | 31.0 | 33.0 | 13.2 | 14.8 | 16.1 |
| 50 - 54 | 19.0 | 19.6 | 20.9 | 8.3 | 8.9 | 9.5 |
| 55 - 59 | 14.1 | 14.2 | 14.3 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.7 |
| 60 - 64 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 5.3 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.6 |
| 65 - 69 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 70 - 74 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| 75 and above | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Mauritian labour force | 321.7 | 326.0 | 331.7 | 153.3 | 158.6 | 164.5 |
| Foreign labour force | 5.6 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 5.3 |
| Total | 327.3 | 330.2 | 335.7 | 157.5 | 162.6 | 169.8 |

Table 3 - Employment¹ by industry and size of establishment, 1994 - 1997

(thousands)

| Industry | 1994 | | | 1995 | | | 1996 | | | 1997 ² | | |
|---|--|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Large | Other | Total | Large | Other | Total | Large | Other | Total | Large | Other | Total |
| | Agriculture & fishing of which sugar cane | 35.3 (31.2) | 27.0 (4.8) | 62.3 (36.0) | 34.0 (30.0) | 27.6 (4.5) | 61.6 (34.5) | 33.6 (30.1) | 26.8 (4.5) | 60.4 (34.6) | 32.2 (29.2) | 26.3 (4.5) |
| Mining & quarrying | 0.2 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| Manufacturing of which sugar EPZ | 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) (1.9) | 134.7 (5.9) (82.3) | 106.4 (5.0) (78.1) | 27.6 (0.0) (1.2) | 134.0 (5.0) (79.3) | 106.5 (4.3) (79.9) | 30.4 (0.0) (1.4) | 136.9 (4.3) (81.3) |
| Electricity & water | 3.5 | 0.0 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 0.0 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 3.3 |
| Construction | 13.2 | 25.0 | 38.2 | 10.6 | 26.2 | 36.8 | 10.1 | 28.0 | 38.1 | 9.5 | 28.5 | 38.0 |
| Wholesale & retail trade, restaurants & hotels | 23.3 | 37.9 | 61.2 | 24.6 | 40.3 | 64.9 | 24.9 | 42.7 | 67.6 | 26.3 | 45.6 | 71.9 |
| Transport, storage & communication | 14.3 | 13.5 | 27.8 | 14.6 | 13.8 | 28.4 | 14.6 | 14.0 | 28.6 | 15.0 | 14.4 | 29.4 |
| Financing, insurance, real estate & business services | 11.6 | 2.0 | 13.6 | 12.1 | 2.0 | 14.1 | 12.6 | 2.2 | 14.8 | 13.2 | 2.4 | 15.6 |
| Community, social and personal services of which : Central government Local government | 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) | 78.0 (56.4) (5.5) | 36.5 (0.0) (0.0) | 114.5 (56.4) (5.5) | 79.1 (56.1) (5.9) | 39.0 (0.0) (0.0) | 118.1 (56.1) (5.9) |
| Activities n.e.c | 3.1 | 0.0 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 2.4 |
| Total | 292.7 | 162.1 | 454.8 | 289.2 | 171.3 | 460.5 | 286.8 | 179.2 | 466.0 | 287.7 | 188.0 | 475.7 |

¹ Employment figures include foreign workers

² Provisional

Table 4 - Employment¹ by industry and sex, 1994 - 1997

| Industry | (thousands) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 1994 | | | 1995 | | | 1996 | | | 1997 ² | | |
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Agriculture & fishing of which sugar cane | 45.3 (25.5) | 17.0 (10.5) | 62.3 (36.0) | 44.6 (24.5) | 17.0 (10.0) | 61.6 (34.5) | 43.8 (24.9) | 16.6 (9.7) | 60.4 (34.6) | 42.9 (24.2) | 15.6 (9.5) | 58.5 (33.7) |
| Mining & quarrying | 1.3 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 1.6 |
| Manufacturing of which sugar EPZ | 69.0 (6.7) (23.9) | 65.0 (0.1) (59.2) | 134.0 (6.8) (83.1) | 70.0 (5.8) (23.9) | 64.7 (0.1) (58.4) | 134.7 (5.9) (82.3) | 69.9 (4.9) (23.6) | 64.1 (0.1) (55.7) | 134.0 (5.0) (79.3) | 72.2 (4.2) (25.2) | 64.7 (0.1) (56.1) | 136.9 (4.3) (81.3) |
| Electricity & water | 3.4 | 0.1 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 0.2 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 0.2 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 0.2 | 3.3 |
| Construction | 38.0 | 0.2 | 38.2 | 36.6 | 0.2 | 36.8 | 37.9 | 0.2 | 38.1 | 37.8 | 0.2 | 38.0 |
| Wholesale & retail trade, restaurants & hotels | 44.4 | 16.8 | 61.2 | 46.2 | 18.7 | 64.9 | 47.8 | 19.8 | 67.6 | 50.1 | 21.8 | 71.9 |
| Transport, storage, & communication | 25.4 | 2.4 | 27.8 | 25.9 | 2.5 | 28.4 | 26.1 | 2.5 | 28.6 | 26.7 | 2.7 | 29.4 |
| Financing, insurance, real estate & business services | 9.3 | 4.3 | 13.6 | 9.5 | 4.6 | 14.1 | 10.0 | 4.8 | 14.8 | 10.5 | 5.1 | 15.6 |
| Community, social and personal services of which : Central government Local government | 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) | 74.5 (44.1) (4.8) | 40.0 (12.3) (0.7) | 114.5 (56.4) (5.5) | 75.4 (43.5) (5.2) | 42.7 (12.6) (0.7) | 118.1 (56.1) (5.9) |
| Activities n.e.c | 3.0 | 0.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 2.4 |
| Total | 311.8 | 143.0 | 454.8 | 314.2 | 146.3 | 460.5 | 317.6 | 148.4 | 466.0 | 322.6 | 153.1 | 475.7 |

¹ Employment figures include foreign workers² Provisional

(thousands)

Table 5 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 1990 - 1997

| Year | Labour force | | | in large establishments ² | Employment ¹ | | Unemployment | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | Mauritian | Foreign workers | Total | | outside large establishments | Total | Number | Rate ³ (%) |
| Both sexes | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | 475.0 | 9.8 | 484.8 | 289.2 | 171.3 | 460.5 | 24.3 | 5.1 |
| 1996 | 484.6 | 8.2 | 492.8 | 286.8 | 179.2 | 466.0 | 26.8 | 5.5 |
| 1997 | 496.2 | 9.3 | 505.5 | 287.7 | 188.0 | 475.7 | 29.8 | 6.0 |
| Male | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | 326.0 | 4.2 | 330.2 | 183.7 | 133.9 | 317.6 | 12.6 | 3.9 |
| 1997 | 331.7 | 4.0 | 335.7 | 184.3 | 138.3 | 322.6 | 13.1 | 3.9 |
| Female | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | 153.3 | 4.2 | 157.5 | 103.5 | 42.8 | 146.3 | 11.2 | 7.3 |
| 1996 | 158.6 | 4.0 | 162.6 | 103.1 | 45.3 | 148.4 | 14.2 | 9.0 |
| 1997 | 164.5 | 5.3 | 169.8 | 103.4 | 49.7 | 153.1 | 16.7 | 10.2 |

Note: 1997 figures are provisional

¹ Includes foreign workers² Average of March and September figures³ Unemployment total as a percentage of Mauritian labour force

Fig 1 - Age-specific activity rates, 1997

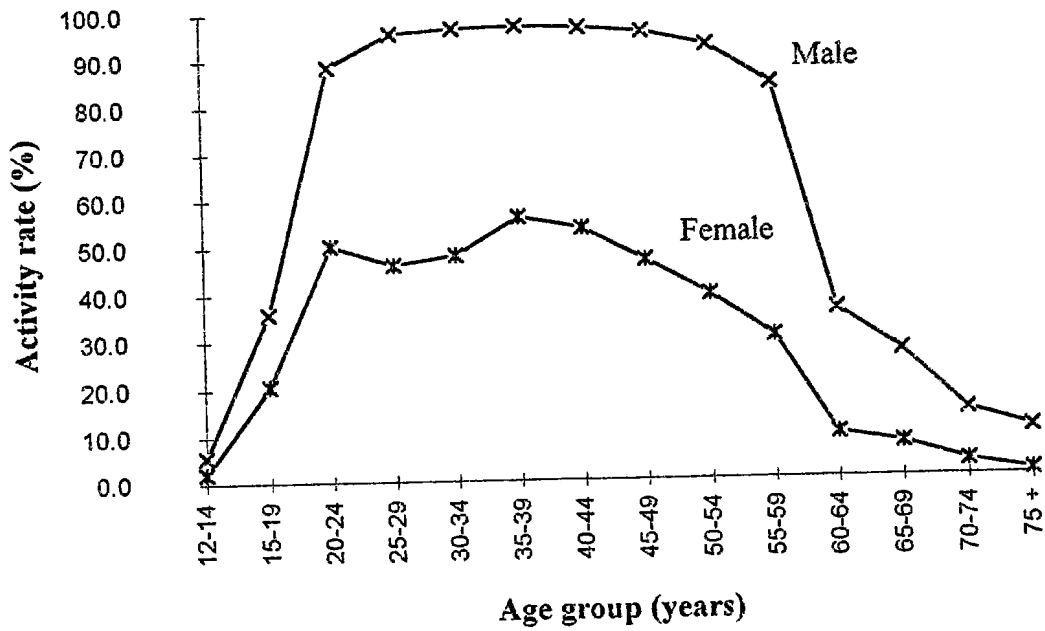


Fig 2 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 1990 - 1997

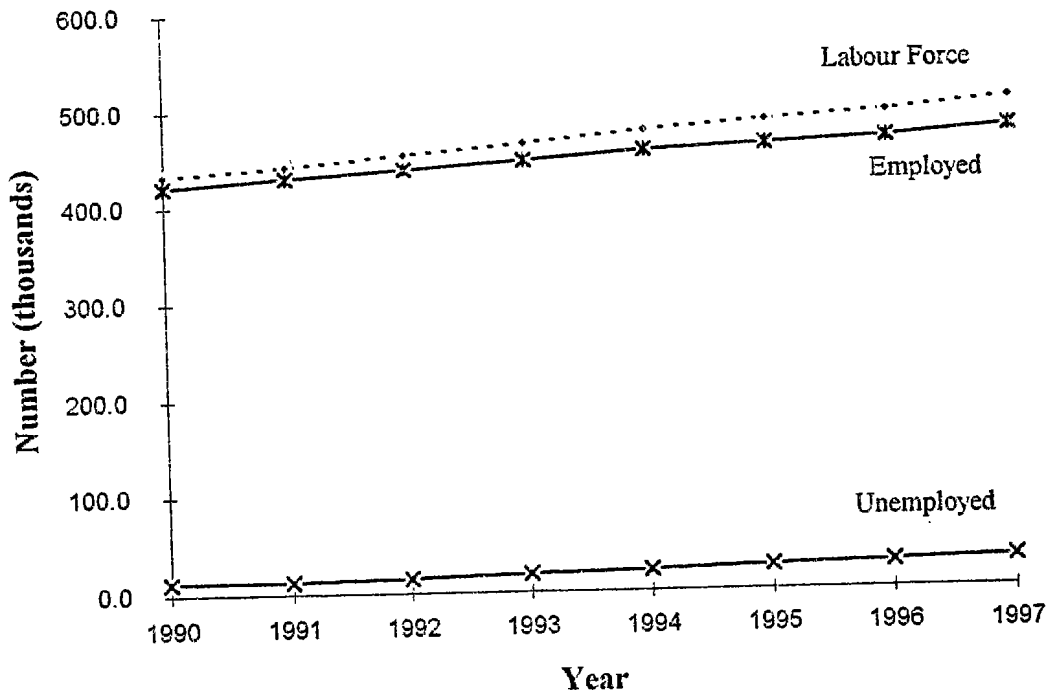


Fig 3 - Employment by size of establishment and sex, 1990 - 1997

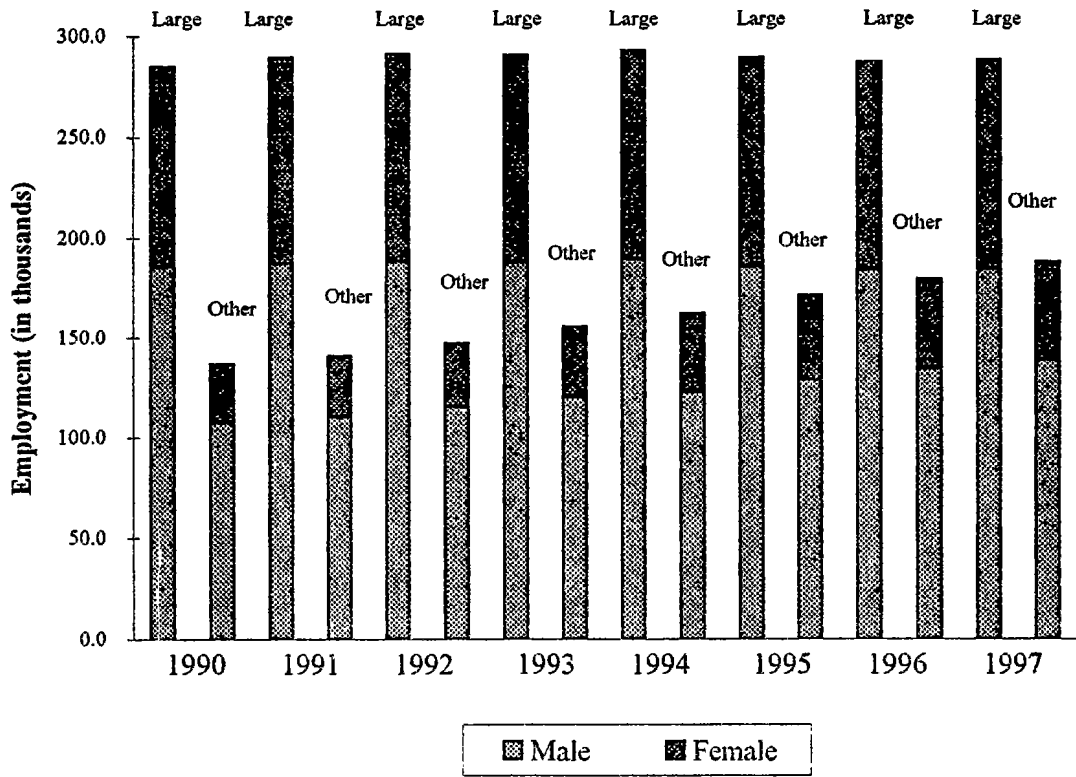


Fig 4 - Employment by industry, 1997

