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- 1 ⇨ **LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT
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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

YEAR 1998

1. INTRODUCTION

This publication consists of a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment. All the data presented here relate to the Republic of Mauritius (including Rodrigues) and refer to the middle of years mentioned. Figures for the year 1998 are provisional, and that for 1996 and 1997 are revised estimates.

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. 'Other than large' establishments cover all other units including own account/self employed workers. 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 are averages 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 Labour Force Sample Survey, the 1997 Census of Economic Activities in small establishments and information from administrative records of permits and licenses as well as area under cultivation in the agricultural sector.

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 (Table 1).

The total labour force (including 10,000 foreigners) was estimated at 517,000 for 1998, showing thus an increase of 12,200 (or 2.4%) over the 1997 figure of 504,800. Details are available in Table 2. The male labour force was 340,500 or 5,100 more than in 1997, while that for females stood at 176,500 showing an increase of 7,100 from 169,400 in 1997.

5. EMPLOYMENT LEVEL

Total employment has increased by 12,100 (or 2.5%) over the 1997 estimate of 475,500 to reach 487,600 in 1998. This latter figure included 10,000 foreign workers.

Total male employment was estimated to have increased by 1.8%, that is, from 322,300 in 1997 to 328,100 in 1998. Female employment, on the other hand, worked out to 159,500, i.e., an increase of 4.1% over the figure of 153,200 estimated for 1997 (Table 3).

Employment level in 'large' establishments has increased by 6,400 from 287,800 in 1997 to 294,200 in 1998, compared to an increase of 1,000 from 1996 to 1997 (Table 4).

Estimates worked out for 'other than large' establishments indicate an increase of 5,700 workers in 1998, i.e, from 187,700 in 1997, the number of persons engaged in that sector was estimated to have reached 193,400 in 1998 (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 29,400 (12,400 males and 17,000 females). The unemployment rate (number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the Mauritian labour force) worked out to 5.8% in 1998. The unemployment rate stood at 3.7% for male 10.0 % for female (Table 5).

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

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Table 1 - Activity rates by age-group and sex , 1996 - 1998

Age (years)	MALE			FEMALE		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
12 - 14	6.2	5.6	5.1	2.2	2.1	2.0
15 - 19	37.6	35.8	34.0	21.1	20.5	19.9
20 - 24	88.7	88.4	88.1	49.2	50.2	51.2
25 - 29	95.5	95.5	95.5	45.6	46.1	46.6
30 - 34	96.3	96.4	96.6	47.0	48.0	49.0
35 - 39	96.8	96.9	97.1	54.6	55.9	57.2
40 - 44	96.2	96.4	96.6	52.2	53.4	54.6
45 - 49	95.4	95.5	95.6	45.6	46.6	47.6
50 - 54	92.3	92.5	92.7	38.4	39.2	40.0
55 - 59	83.7	84.1	84.4	29.6	30.2	30.8
60 - 64	35.4	35.8	36.2	9.4	9.4	9.5
65 - 69	26.7	26.8	26.9	7.3	7.3	7.4
70 - 74	14.3	14.2	14.1	3.1	3.1	3.0
75 and above	10.2	10.2	10.1	0.8	0.9	0.9
12 and above	73.7	73.9	74.2	35.6	36.4	37.2
15 and above	78.7	78.7	78.8	38.0	38.7	39.4

Table 2 - Labour force by age group and sex , 1996 - 1998 (in thousands)

Age (years)	MALE			FEMALE		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
12 - 14	1.9	1.7	1.5	0.7	0.6	0.5
15 - 19	22.0	20.9	19.4	12.0	11.7	11.1
20 - 24	43.5	45.1	47.1	23.4	24.7	26.6
25 - 29	47.1	46.4	45.1	21.0	21.1	20.6
30 - 34	51.8	51.9	51.7	24.1	24.3	24.8
35 - 39	45.7	46.6	48.2	24.6	25.9	27.2
40 - 44	39.0	40.6	41.4	20.6	21.8	22.6
45 - 49	31.0	33.0	35.0	14.8	16.1	17.4
50 - 54	19.6	20.9	22.8	8.9	9.5	10.5
55 - 59	14.2	14.3	14.2	5.5	5.7	5.8
60 - 64	5.0	5.3	5.4	1.5	1.6	1.6
65 - 69	3.1	2.9	2.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
70 - 74	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
75 and above	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1
Mauritian labour force	326.0	331.7	336.8	158.6	164.5	170.2
Foreign labour force	4.2	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.9	6.3
Total labour force	330.2	335.4	340.5	162.6	169.4	176.5

Table 3 - Employment¹ by industry and sex, 1995 - 1998

Industry	1995			1996 ²			1997 ²			1998 ³		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)
Agriculture & fishing of which sugar cane	44.6 (24.5)	17.0 (10.0)	61.6 (34.5)	43.8 (24.9)	16.6 (9.7)	60.4 (34.6)	43.5 (24.6)	15.8 (9.3)	59.3 (33.9)	42.9 (24.1)	15.1 (9.0)	58.0 (33.1)
Mining & quarrying	1.5	0.1	1.6	1.5	0.1	1.6	1.3	0.1	1.4	1.3	0.1	1.4
Manufacturing of which sugar EPZ	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)	70.3 (4.3) (25.4)	66.4 (0.1) (55.9)	136.7 (4.4) (81.3)	72.9 (4.0) (26.7)	70.4 (0.1) (58.6)	143.3 (4.1) (85.3)
Electricity & water	3.3	0.2	3.5	3.2	0.2	3.4	3.1	0.2	3.3	3.1	0.2	3.3
Construction	36.6	0.2	36.8	37.6	0.2	37.8	36.6	0.2	36.8	36.4	0.2	36.6
Wholesale & retail trade, restaurants & hotels	46.2	18.7	64.9	48.3	20.8	69.1	52.5	22.8	75.3	55.5	24.4	79.9
Transport, storage, & communication	25.9	2.5	28.4	26.1	2.5	28.6	27.1	2.8	29.9	27.2	3.3	30.5
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services	9.5	4.6	14.1	10.3	4.8	15.1	10.8	5.2	16.0	11.3	5.7	17.0
Community, social and personal services	73.6 (44.2)	38.3 (12.1)	111.9 (56.3)	74.0 (44.1)	39.0 (12.3)	113.0 (56.4)	74.7 (43.4)	39.6 (12.6)	114.3 (56.0)	75.0 (43.2)	40.0 (12.9)	115.0 (56.1)
of which : Central government Local government	(4.8)	(0.6)	(5.4)	(4.8)	(0.7)	(5.5)	(5.1)	(0.7)	(5.8)	(4.9)	(0.8)	(5.7)
Activities n.e.c	3.0	0.0	3.0	2.9	0.1	3.0	2.4	0.1	2.5	2.5	0.1	2.6
Total	314.2	146.3	460.5	317.6	148.4	466.0	322.3	153.2	475.5	328.1	159.5	487.6

¹ Employment figures include foreign workers² Revised³ Provisional

Table 4 - Employment¹ by industry and size of establishment, 1995 - 1998

Industry	(thousands)											
	1995			1996 ²			1997 ²			1998 ³		
	Large	Other	Total	Large	Other	Total	Large	Other	Total	Large	Other	Total
Agriculture & fishing of which sugar cane	34.0 (30.0)	27.6 (4.5)	61.6 (34.5)	33.8 (30.1)	26.6 (4.5)	60.4 (34.6)	32.8 (29.3)	26.5 (4.6)	59.3 (33.9)	31.7 (28.5)	26.3 (4.6)	58.0 (33.1)
Mining & quarrying	0.2	1.4	1.6	0.2	1.4	1.6	0.2	1.2	1.4	0.2	1.2	1.4
Manufacturing of which sugar EPZ	109.3 (5.9) (80.4)	25.4 (0.0) (1.9)	134.7 (5.9) (82.3)	105.8 (5.0) (78.1)	28.2 (0.0) (1.2)	134.0 (5.0) (79.3)	105.9 (4.4) (79.9)	30.8 (0.0) (1.4)	136.7 (4.4) (81.3)	111.2 (4.1) (84.0)	32.1 (0.0) (1.3)	143.3 (4.1) (85.3)
Electricity & water	3.5	0.0	3.5	3.4	0.0	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.3	3.3	0.0	3.3
Construction	10.6	26.2	36.8	10.0	27.8	37.8	9.4	27.4	36.8	8.9	27.7	36.6
Wholesale & retail trade, restaurants & hotels	24.6	40.3	64.9	25.1	44.0	69.1	26.3	49.0	75.3	27.9	52.0	79.9
Transport, storage & communication	14.6	13.8	28.4	14.6	14.0	28.6	15.1	14.8	29.9	15.1	15.4	30.5
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services	12.1	2.0	14.1	12.7	2.4	15.1	13.0	3.0	16.0	13.6	3.4	17.0
Community, social and personal services	77.3 (56.3) (5.4)	34.6 (0.0) (0.0)	111.9 (56.3) (5.4)	78.2 (56.4) (5.5)	34.8 (0.0) (0.0)	113.0 (56.4) (5.5)	79.3 (56.0) (5.8)	35.0 (0.0) (0.0)	114.3 (56.0) (5.8)	79.7 (56.1) (5.7)	35.3 (0.0) (0.0)	115.0 (56.1) (5.7)
Activities n.e.c	3.0	0.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	2.5	0.0	2.5	2.6	0.0	2.6
Total	289.2	171.3	460.5	286.8	179.2	466.0	287.8	187.7	475.5	294.2	193.4	487.6

¹ Employment figures include foreign workers

² Revised

³ Provisional

Table 5 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 1990 - 1998 (thousands)

Year	Labour force			Employment ¹			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments ²	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	8.6	504.8	287.8	187.7	475.5	29.3	5.9
1998	507.0	10.0	517.0	294.2	193.4	487.6	29.4	5.8
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	184.4	133.2	317.6	12.6	3.9
1997	331.7	3.7	335.4	184.3	138.0	322.3	13.1	3.9
1998	336.8	3.7	340.5	186.7	141.4	328.1	12.4	3.7
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	102.4	46.0	148.4	14.2	9.0
1997	164.5	4.9	169.4	103.5	49.7	153.2	16.2	9.8
1998	170.2	6.3	176.5	107.5	52.0	159.5	17.0	10.0

Note: 1998 figures are provisional

1996 and 1997 figures are revised estimates

¹ Includes foreign workers

² Average of March and September figures

³ Unemployment total as a percentage of

Mauritian labour force

Fig 1 - Age-specific activity rates, 1998

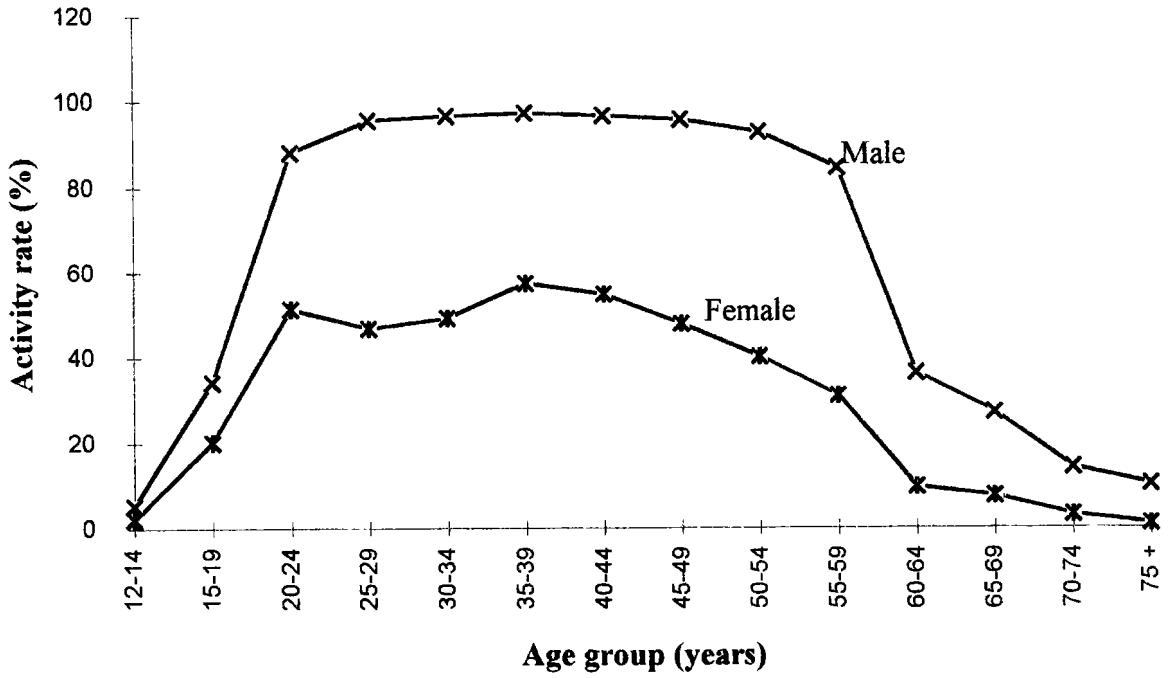


Fig 2 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 1990 - 1998

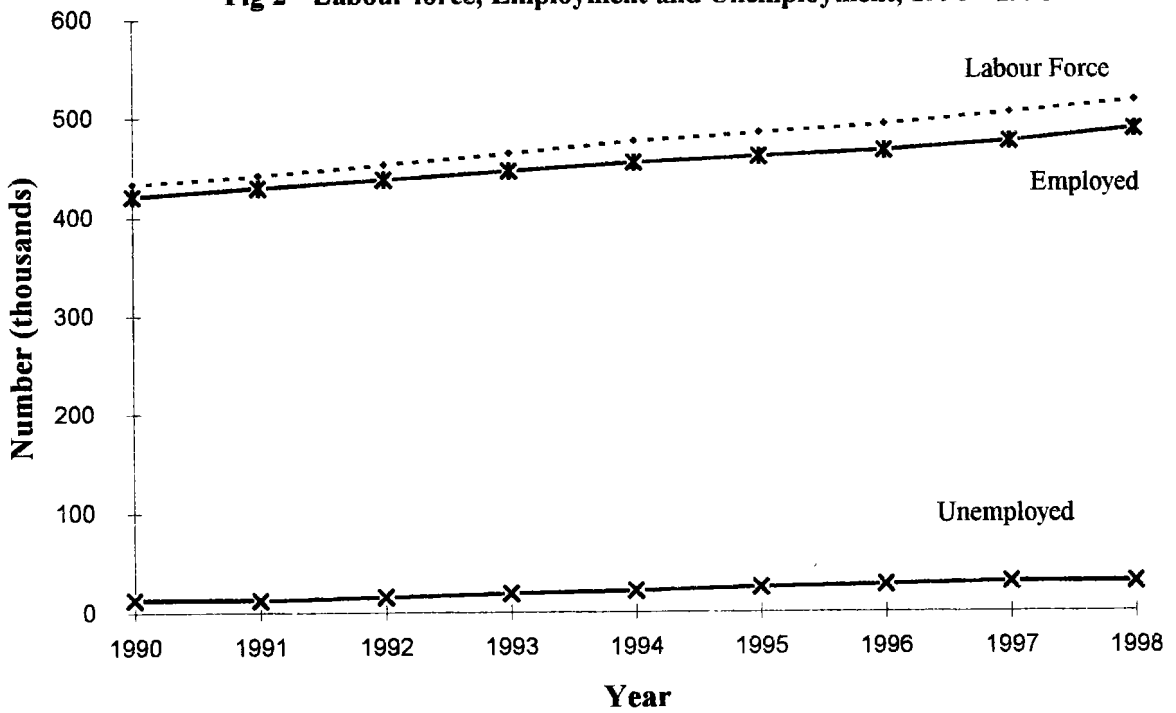


Fig 3 - Employment by size of establishment and sex, 1990 - 1998

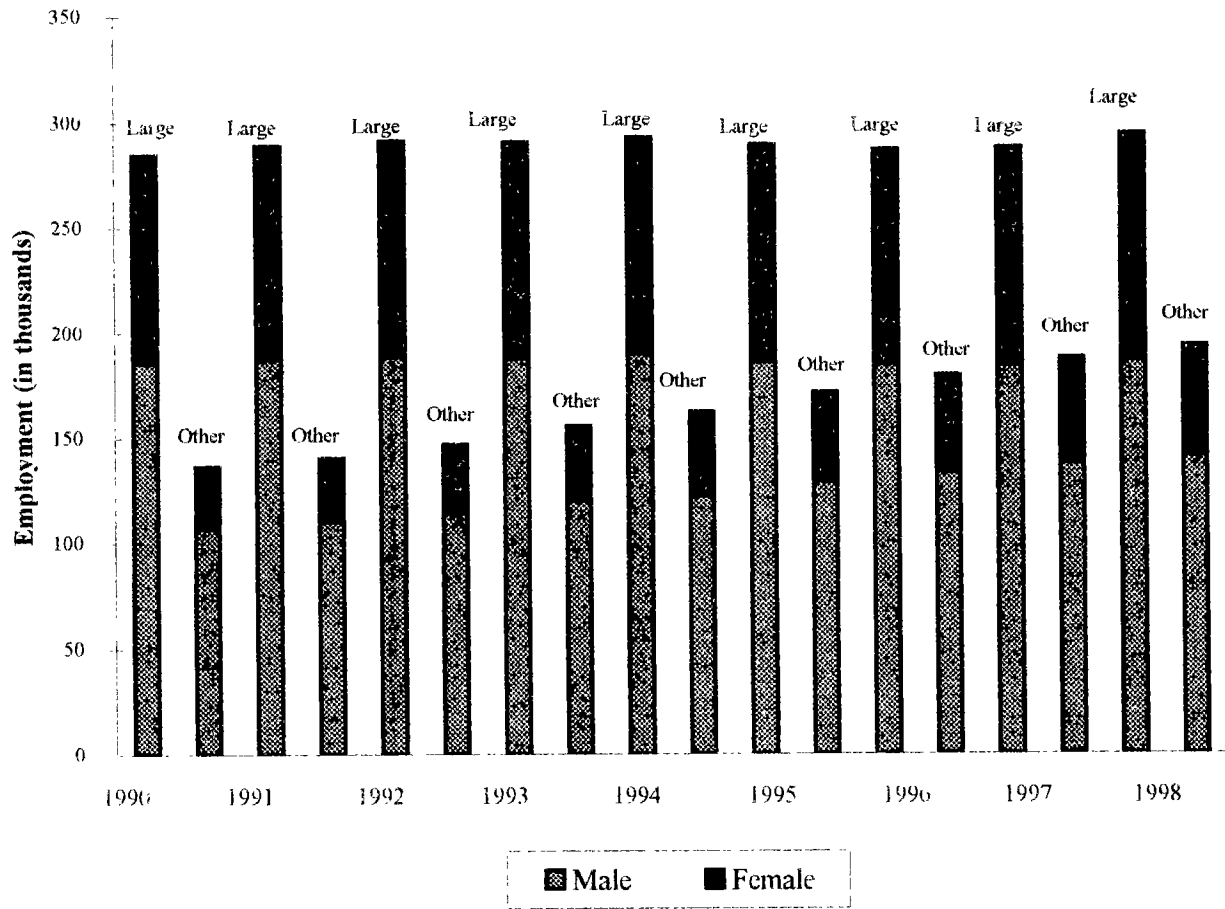


Fig 4 - Employment by industry, 1998

