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Central Statistical Office
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Port-Louis
Republic of Mauritius

LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

YEAR 1999

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 are mid-year estimates. Figures for the year 1999 are provisional, and those for 1998 are revised estimates.

2. COVERAGE

The population considered in estimating the size of the Mauritian labour force comprises all Mauritian residents 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. To have a complete picture of the total size of the workforce, foreigners working on contractual basis in Mauritius have also been included.

3. SOURCES OF DATA

Estimates of labour force (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 (i) the 1995 Labour Force Sample Survey, (ii) the 1997 Census of Economic Activities in small establishments, (iii) administrative records of permits and licenses and (iv) area under cultivation in the agricultural sector.

4. LABOUR FORCE

The size of the Mauritian labour force is estimated by applying age-sex specific activity rates to the population figures. These rates have been worked out on the basis of data available from the latest survey, that is, the 1995 LFSS (Table 1).

The total labour force (including 12,900 foreigners) is estimated at 530,200 for 1999, showing an increase of 13,200 (2.6%) over the 1998 figure which was 517,000. The male labour force stood at 346,000 while the female labour force numbered 184,200, showing respectively increases of 5,500 (1.6%) and 7,700 (4.4%) from their levels in 1998. Table 2 gives further details by age group since 1997.

5. EMPLOYMENT LEVEL

Total employment has increased by 9,700 (2.0%) over the 1998 figure of 487,200 to reach 496,900 in 1999. Foreign workers numbering 12,900 are included in the 1999 estimate.

Total male employment is estimated to have increased by 1.5%, that is, from 327,700 in 1998 to 332,500 in 1999. Female employment increased by 3.1% to reach 164,400, as compared to 159,500 estimated for 1998 (Table 3).

Employment level in 'large' establishments has increased by 3,600 (1.2%) from 294,700 in 1998 to 298,300 in 1999.

Estimates worked out for 'other than large' establishments indicate an increase of 6,100 (3.2%) workers in 1999. The number of persons engaged in that sector rose from 192,500 in 1998 to reach 198,600 in 1999 (Table 4).

6. UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed persons (those not working but looking for work) was obtained by subtracting the estimated number of persons working in the different sectors from the total labour force. This estimate stood at 33,300 (13,500 males and 19,800 females). The unemployment rate (number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the Mauritian labour force) was estimated at 6.4% in 1999. The corresponding unemployment rates by sex stood at 4.0% for male and 11.3 % for female (Table 5).

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

PORT LOUIS

March 2000

Table 1 - Activity rates by age-group and sex , 1997 - 1999

Age (years)	MALE			FEMALE		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
12 - 14	5.6	5.1	4.3	2.1	2.0	1.5
15 - 19	35.8	34.0	31.7	20.5	19.9	18.4
20 - 24	88.4	88.1	86.0	50.2	51.2	51.5
25 - 29	95.5	95.5	95.5	46.1	46.6	47.1
30 - 34	96.4	96.6	96.8	48.0	49.0	50.0
35 - 39	96.9	97.1	97.3	55.9	57.2	58.5
40 - 44	96.4	96.6	96.8	53.4	54.6	55.8
45 - 49	95.5	95.6	95.8	46.6	47.6	48.6
50 - 54	92.5	92.7	92.9	39.2	40.0	40.8
55 - 59	84.1	84.4	84.7	30.2	30.8	31.4
60 - 64	35.8	36.2	36.6	9.4	9.5	9.5
65 - 69	26.8	26.9	27.0	7.3	7.4	7.4
70 - 74	14.2	14.1	14.0	3.1	3.0	3.0
75 and above	10.2	10.1	9.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
12 and above	73.9	74.2	74.2	36.4	37.2	37.8
15 and above	78.7	78.8	78.7	38.7	39.4	40.0

Table 2 - Labour force by age group and sex , 1997 - 1999 (in thousands)

Age (years)	MALE			FEMALE		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
12 - 14	1.7	1.5	1.2	0.6	0.5	0.4
15 - 19	20.9	19.4	17.5	11.7	11.1	9.9
20 - 24	45.1	47.1	47.4	24.7	26.6	27.7
25 - 29	46.4	45.1	46.2	21.1	20.6	21.5
30 - 34	51.9	51.7	50.4	24.3	24.8	24.6
35 - 39	46.6	48.2	50.0	25.9	27.2	28.7
40 - 44	40.6	41.4	42.6	21.8	22.6	23.9
45 - 49	33.0	35.0	36.6	16.1	17.4	18.4
50 - 54	20.9	22.8	23.9	9.5	10.5	11.2
55 - 59	14.3	14.2	15.3	5.7	5.8	6.3
60 - 64	5.3	5.4	5.3	1.6	1.6	1.6
65 - 69	2.9	2.9	3.0	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	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1
Mauritian labour force	331.7	336.8	341.6	164.5	170.2	175.7
Foreign labour force	3.7	3.7	4.4	4.9	6.3	8.5
Total labour force	335.4	340.5	346.0	169.4	176.5	184.2

Table 3 - Employment¹ by industry and sex, 1996 - 1999

Industry	1996			1997			1998 ²			1999 ³		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	Agriculture & fishing of which sugar cane	43.8 (24.9)	16.6 (9.7)	60.4 (34.6)	43.5 (24.6)	15.8 (9.3)	59.3 (33.9)	42.2 (23.5)	15.5 (9.2)	57.7 (32.7)	41.1 (22.6)	14.8 (8.6)
Mining & quarrying	1.5	0.1	1.6	1.3	0.1	1.4	1.3	0.1	1.4	1.3	0.1	1.4
Manufacturing of which sugar EPZ	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)	74.1 (4.0) (27.7)	69.9 (0.1) (59.0)	144.0 (4.1) (86.7)	75.7 (3.83) (29.4)	72.6 (0.04) (61.1)	148.3 (3.87) (90.5)
Electricity & water	3.2	0.2	3.4	3.1	0.2	3.3	3.1	0.2	3.3	3.0	0.2	3.2
Construction	37.6	0.2	37.8	36.6	0.2	36.8	36.6	0.2	36.8	37.6	0.3	37.9
Wholesale & retail trade, restaurants & hotels	48.3	20.8	69.1	52.5	22.8	75.3	54.8	24.5	79.3	56.8	25.9	82.7
Transport, storage, & communication	26.1	2.5	28.6	27.1	2.8	29.9	27.1	3.0	30.1	27.6	3.3	30.9
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services	10.3	4.8	15.1	10.8	5.2	16.0	11.2	5.6	16.8	12.0	5.9	17.9
Community, social and personal services of which : Central government Local government	74.0 (44.1) (4.8)	39.0 (12.3) (0.7)	113.0 (56.4) (5.5)	74.7 (43.4) (5.1)	39.6 (12.6) (0.7)	114.3 (56.0) (5.8)	74.9 (43.3) (4.8)	40.4 (13.2) (0.8)	115.3 (56.5) (5.6)	75.5 (43.3) (5.0)	41.2 (13.5) (0.8)	116.7 (56.8) (5.8)
Activities n.e.c	2.9	0.1	3.0	2.4	0.1	2.5	2.4	0.1	2.5	1.9	0.1	2.0
Total	317.6	148.4	466.0	322.3	153.2	475.5	327.7	159.5	487.2	332.5	164.4	496.9

¹ Employment figures include foreign workers² Revised³ Provisional

Table 4 - Employment¹ by industry and size of establishment, 1996 - 1999

Industry	1996			1997			1998 ²			1999 ³		
	Large	Other	Total	Large	Other	Total	Large	Other	Total	Large	Other	Total
		(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)	(thousands)
Agriculture & fishing of which sugar cane	33.8 (30.1)	26.6 (4.5)	60.4 (34.6)	32.8 (29.3)	26.5 (4.6)	59.3 (33.9)	31.1 (28.0)	26.6 (4.7)	57.7 (32.7)	29.5 (26.5)	26.4 (4.7)	55.9 (31.2)
Mining & quarrying of which sugar EPZ	0.2	1.4	1.6	0.2	1.2	1.4	0.2	1.2	1.4	0.2	1.2	1.4
Manufacturing of which sugar EPZ	105.8 (5.0)	28.2 (0.0)	134.0 (5.0)	105.9 (4.4)	30.8 (0.0)	136.7 (4.4)	112.2 (4.1)	31.8 (0.0)	144.0 (4.1)	115.3 (3.9)	33.0 (0.0)	148.3 (3.9)
Electricity & water	(78.1)	(1.2)	(79.3)	(79.9)	(1.4)	(81.3)	(85.3)	(1.4)	(86.7)	(88.9)	(1.6)	(90.5)
Construction	3.4	0.0	3.4	3.3	0.0	3.3	3.3	0.0	3.3	3.2	0.0	3.2
Wholesale & retail trade, restaurants & hotels	10.0	27.8	37.8	9.4	27.4	36.8	8.9	27.9	36.8	9.3	28.6	37.9
Transport, storage & communication	25.1	44.0	69.1	26.3	49.0	75.3	27.9	51.4	79.3	28.5	54.2	82.7
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services	14.6	14.0	28.6	15.1	14.8	29.9	14.9	15.2	30.1	15.0	15.9	30.9
Community, social and personal services	12.7	2.4	15.1	13.0	3.0	16.0	13.6	3.2	16.8	14.3	3.6	17.9
of which : Central government	78.2 (56.4)	34.8 (0.0)	113.0 (56.4)	79.3 (56.0)	35.0 (0.0)	114.3 (56.0)	80.1 (56.5)	35.2 (0.0)	115.3 (56.5)	81.0 (56.7)	35.7 (0.0)	116.7 (56.7)
Local government	(5.5)	(0.0)	(5.5)	(5.8)	(0.0)	(5.8)	(5.6)	(0.0)	(5.6)	(5.8)	(0.0)	(5.8)
Activities n.e.c	3.0	0.0	3.0	2.5	0.0	2.5	2.5	0.0	2.5	2.0	0.0	2.0
Total	286.8	179.2	466.0	287.8	187.7	475.5	294.7	192.5	487.2	298.3	198.6	496.9

¹ Employment figures include foreign workers

² Revised

³ Provisional

(thousands)

Table 5 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 1991 - 1999

Year	Labour force		Employment ¹		Unemployment			
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments ²	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate ³ (%)
Both sexes								
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	294.7	192.5	487.2	29.8	5.9
1999	517.3	12.9	530.2	298.3	198.6	496.9	33.3	6.4
Male								
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	186.4	141.3	327.7	12.8	3.8
1999	341.6	4.4	346.0	187.8	144.7	332.5	13.5	4.0
Female								
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	108.3	51.2	159.5	17.0	10.0
1999	175.7	8.5	184.2	110.5	53.9	164.4	19.8	11.3

³ Unemployment total as a percentage of Mauritian labour force

¹ Includes foreign workers

² Average of March and September figures

Note: 1999 figures are provisional
1998 figures are revised estimates

Fig 1 - Age-specific activity rates, 1999

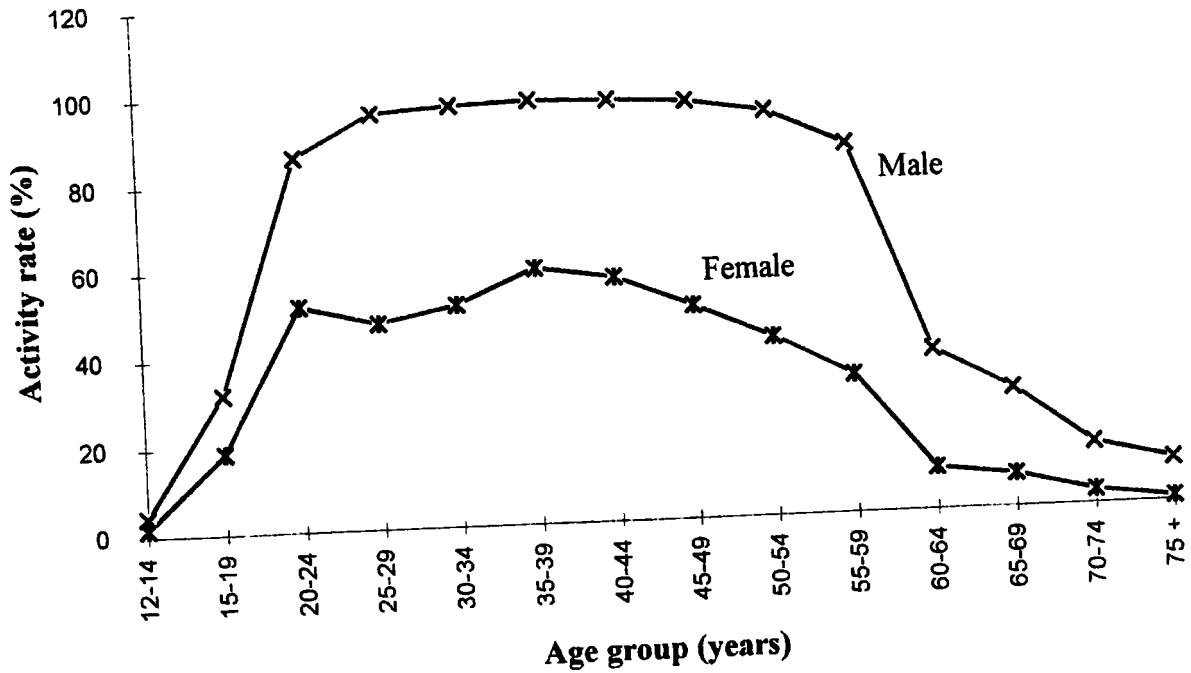


Fig 2 - Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 1991 - 1999

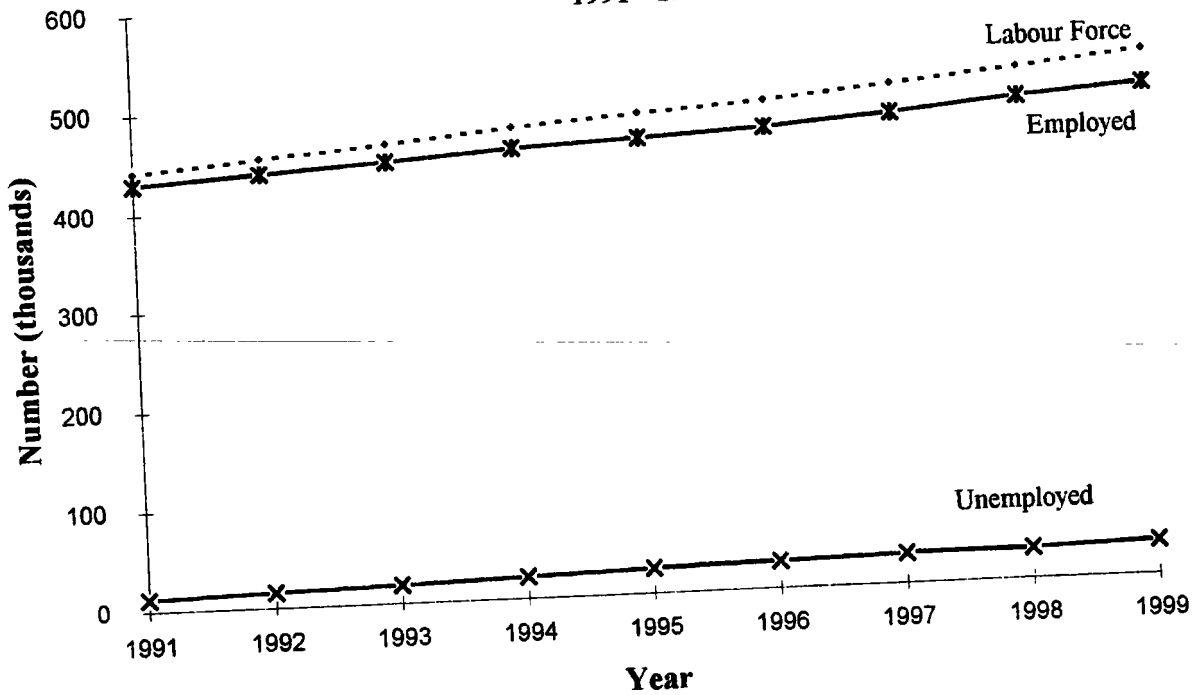


Fig 3 - Employment by size of establishment and sex, 1991-1999

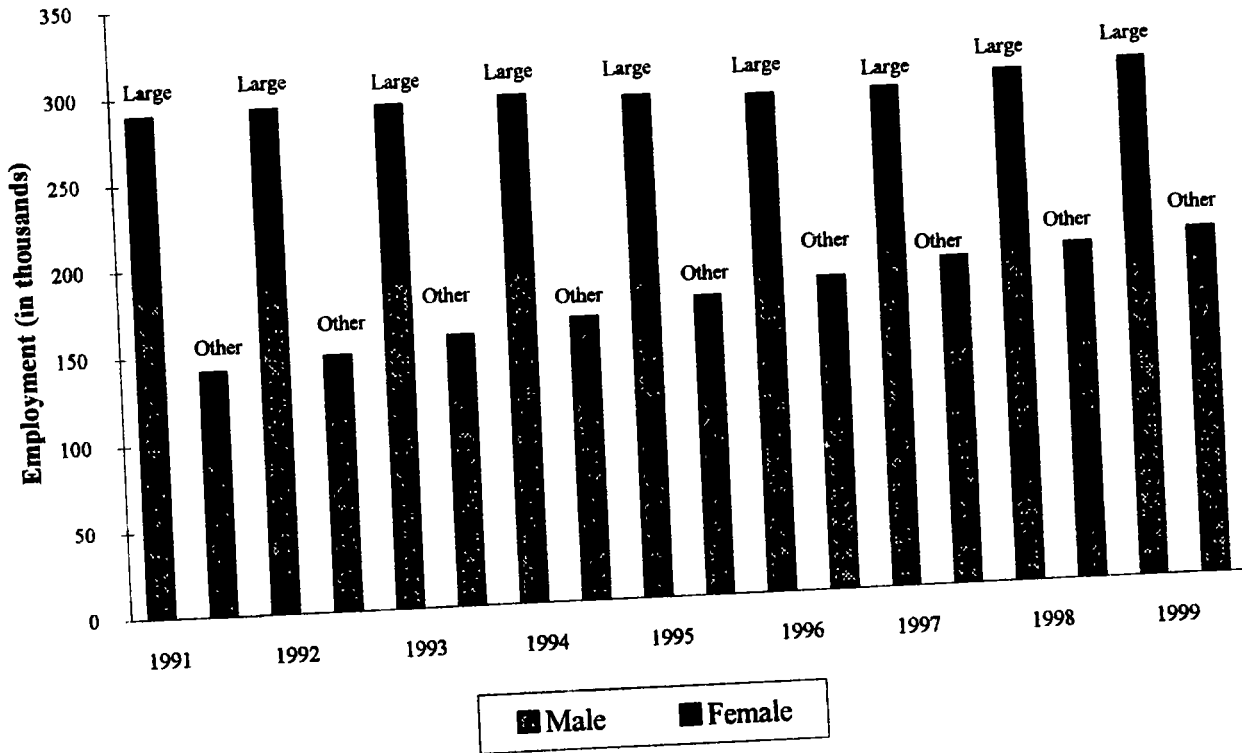


Fig 4 - Employment by industry, 1999

