

Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey
Main Results (Including Labour force Estimates)
3rd Quarter 2004

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Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey - Third Quarter 2004

Main results

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents the main results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) for the third quarter of 2004. The CMPHS, which started in 1999, is a permanent household survey carried out continuously over a year to collect information on topics of current interest.

Following the recommendations of a Technical Committee set up to analyse the findings of a World Bank study on unemployment, the CMPHS is used as the instrument for measuring labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis as from 2004. Up to 2003, only mid-year estimates have been made on the basis of the latest Population Census or Labour Force Sample Survey, updated with data from surveys of establishments and information from various administrative sources. The Technical Committee also recommended that the lower age cut-off point for the labour force should be 15 years instead of 12 years used hitherto.

It is to be stressed that the labour force, employment and unemployment estimates given in this report are based on a sample of households and relate to the last week of June and of September 2004. Hence they are not strictly comparable with the mid-year estimates published up to 2003.

2. The sample

The CMPHS spreads over the whole of 2004 and covers a total of 8,640 households (7,920 in the Island of Mauritius and 720 in Rodrigues). The results for each quarter are based on a sample of 2,160 households (1,980 in the Island of Mauritius and 180 in Rodrigues).

The sampling method used is a stratified two-stage design, which ensures representativeness of all regions and all households in the country.

3. Estimation and reliability of results

Estimates worked out from household survey data are inevitably subject to sampling variability since they are based on information collected from only a sample of households rather than from all households. The Standard Error (S.E) which is a measure of this variability, can be used to set confidence intervals for any estimate (whether a total or a rate) derived from the sample. For example, a 95% confidence interval indicates that there is 95% confidence that the upper and lower limits of the interval enclose the true value (which would be obtained if all households had been surveyed).

Standard errors and confidence intervals have been calculated for the main labour force estimates and are shown in Table 1. Although the survey results for June 2004 are also given in this report, the margins of uncertainty associated with the sample estimates do not

support the monitoring of trends in the short term. Almost all the changes observed lie within the error range determined by the 95% confidence intervals for the September estimates.

Survey results

4. Labour force characteristics

4.1 Definitions

Definitions of labour force, employment and unemployment used are according to the ILO recommendations.

The labour force or active population is made up of the employed and the unemployed populations. The employed population consists of persons who are working while the unemployed population consists of persons who are *not working* but who are *looking for work* and are *available for work*.

The inactive population is neither employed nor unemployed and consists mainly of students, homemakers, retired persons and the disabled.

The unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of the Mauritian labour force who is unemployed.

4.2 Activity status

The total population estimated from the CMPHS data as at September 2004 was 1,222,900. The population aged 15 years and over was 913,900: among them, some 483,500 (53%) had a job, 44,300 (5%) were unemployed, 168,600 (18%) were homemakers, 84,000 (9%) were students, 95,400 (10%) were retired or too old to work, and 23,100 (3%) were disabled.

It is to be noted that an estimated 5,300 persons were not working but were available for work; however, they were not actively looking for work. These persons have been classified among the inactive; they have not been considered as unemployed since they do not satisfy all the three criteria for unemployment (i.e. not working, looking for work and available for work).

From the survey responses, about 31% of these 5,300 persons believed that suitable jobs were not available. Another 38%, mostly women, were not actively looking for work because of household responsibilities.

Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, June & September 2004

	June 2004 Estimates	September 2004			
		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Labour Force					
Both Sexes	540,700	527,800	16,600	494,800	560,600
Male	347,500	349,400	11,100	327,300	371,500
Female	193,200	178,400	7,000	164,500	192,200
Employment					
Both Sexes	491,200	483,500	15,600	452,500	514,400
Male	324,600	329,800	10,600	308,600	350,900
Female	166,600	153,700	6,400	140,900	166,400
Unemployment					
Both Sexes	49,500	44,300	3,800	36,800	51,800
Male	22,900	19,600	2,200	15,300	24,000
Female	26,600	24,700	2,500	19,600	29,700
Unemployment rate (%)					
Both Sexes	9.2	8.4	0.7	7.1	9.7
Male	6.6	5.6	0.6	4.4	6.8
Female	13.8	13.8	1.3	11.2	16.4
Inactive Population					
Both Sexes	373,000	386,100	13,000	360,500	411,900
Male	102,400	100,000	5,100	89,900	110,200
Female	270,600	286,100	9,800	266,700	305,600

4.3 Employed population

At September 2004, the number of persons at work was estimated at 483,500 (329,800 males, 153,700 females) as shown in Table 1. Employment sex ratio works out to 2 males to 1 female.

4.3.1 Employment by industrial sector

Table 2 shows that, at September 2004, the primary sector, comprising the agricultural and mining & quarrying industries, provided jobs to about 11% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water, and construction industries employed another 35%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all service industries, 54%.

Table 2 - Percentage distribution of employed population by industrial sector and sex, June & September 2004

Industrial sector	June 2004			September 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	9.9	10.7	8.1	11.3	12.5	9.0
Secondary	32.4	33.4	30.7	34.4	35.9	31.0
Tertiary	57.7	55.9	61.2	54.3	51.6	60.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.3.2 Employment by occupation

Table 3 shows the distribution of the employed population by occupation. At September 2004, some 16% were “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals”, 9% were “clerks”, 17% “service workers and shop and market sales workers”, 38% “skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers”, and the remaining 20% were engaged in “elementary occupations”.

Table 3 - Percentage distribution of employed population by occupation group and sex, June & September 2004

ISCO ¹ Major occupational group	Occupation group	June 2004			September 2004		
		Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1 - 3	Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals	16.0	15.3	17.4	15.9	14.7	18.4
4	Clerks	9.8	6.2	16.7	9.2	5.9	16.4
5	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	16.5	16.6	16.4	16.5	16.0	17.7
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers	36.8	44.0	23.0	38.2	44.4	24.9
9	Elementary occupations	20.9	17.9	26.5	20.2	19.0	22.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ International Standard Classification of Occupations

A higher proportion (63%) of males was employed as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers” and in “elementary occupations” compared to females (48%). On the other hand, a larger proportion of females (52%) was engaged in the higher occupation groups, namely “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate

professionals; clerks; service workers and shop and market sales workers” compared to males (37%).

4.3.3 *Employment status*

At September 2004, the majority, 81%, of workers were employees and the remaining 19% were working in their own or family enterprises as employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of employed population by employment status and sex, June & September 2004

Employment status	June 2004			September 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Employer	3.3	4.4	1.2	2.4	3.2	0.9
Own account worker	14.5	17.0	9.5	14.9	17.0	10.2
Employee	80.5	78.1	85.5	80.8	79.2	84.3
Contributing family worker	1.7	0.5	3.8	1.9	0.6	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The data at September 2004 also show that the proportion of employees was higher among working women (84%) than among working men (79%) while the proportion of employers and own-account workers was higher among men (20%) than among women (11%). Contributing family workers constituted 5% of working women compared to less than one per cent among working men (Table 4).

4.3.4 *Hours of work*

Table 5 - Percentage distribution of employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the survey reference week, June & September 2004

Actual number of hours worked per week	June 2004			September 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0	2.2	1.9	2.8	2.6	3.1	1.6
1 - 23	7.5	5.0	12.3	6.9	5.1	10.8
24 - 40	43.6	41.5	47.6	42.3	40.2	46.7
41 - 50	30.9	33.4	26.0	31.6	32.6	29.5
51 and above	15.8	18.2	11.3	16.6	19.0	11.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

About 3% of employed persons did not work during the reference week, either because they were sick or on leave (Table 5). Some 48% reported having worked for more than 40 hours. These workers were mostly in manufacturing, trade, hotels & restaurants and construction industries.

About 7% of the total employed population had worked for less than 24 hours during the reference week. It is worthwhile noting that for 42% of these persons, the usual working hours were in fact less than 24 hours per week while 26% had worked less than 24 hours because of insufficient work, and a further 18% because of the temporary or part-time nature of their jobs.

The average number of hours worked during the reference week of September 2004, including overtime but excluding all leaves and lunchtime, was 40.9 hours (42.6 for men and 37.5 for women).

4.4 Unemployment

The number of unemployed at September 2004 is estimated at 44,300 (19,600 males and 24,700 females). The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of the labour force who is unemployed, works out to 8.4% (5.6% for males and 13.8% for females). As shown in Table 1, the 95% Confidence Interval for the September 2004 estimate of unemployment rate is 7.1% to 9.7%.

4.4.1 Characteristics of unemployed persons

(i) Age and sex

Table 6 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by age and sex, June & September 2004

Age group (years)	June 2004			September 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	15.6	20.5	11.5	12.3	12.7	11.9
20 - 24	35.2	38.5	32.5	36.9	43.8	31.5
25 - 29	14.8	14.0	15.5	16.7	19.7	14.2
30 - 39	16.3	14.0	18.1	17.1	10.7	22.3
40 - 49	12.8	8.6	16.4	11.3	7.6	14.2
50 & over	5.3	4.4	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6 shows that unemployed males are younger than unemployed females. Thus, 57% of the males were under 25 years compared to 43% for females. On the other hand, 13% of unemployed males were 40 years or more compared to 20% for females. The mean age of the unemployed works out to 27 years for males and 30 years for females.

(ii) *Marital status***Table 7 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by marital status and sex, June & September 2004**

Marital status	June 2004			September 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	32.3	15.5	46.7	36.9	18.0	51.9
Widowed, divorced or separated	5.2	2.6	7.5	5.7	4.9	6.3
Single	62.5	81.9	45.8	57.4	77.1	41.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

A high proportion of the unemployed (57%) were single, 37% were married and the remaining 6% were widowed, divorced or separated. Unemployed males were mostly single (77%) while 52% of unemployed females were married and 42% single (Table 7).

(iii) *Educational attainment*

The September 2004 figures show that among the unemployed, 24% had not passed CPE, and a further 42% had not passed SC. The proportions of unemployed with SC, HSC and tertiary education were 23%, 6% and 5% respectively.

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, June & September 2004

Educational attainment	June 2004			September 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	29.8	34.1	26.2	31.3	33.1	29.9
Below CPE	25.0	28.8	21.8	23.9	27.2	21.3
Passed CPE	4.8	5.3	4.4	7.4	5.9	8.6
Secondary	67.9	64.1	71.1	64.1	62.5	65.4
Below SC	38.0	43.1	33.5	34.4	40.2	29.8
Passed SC	19.5	13.8	24.3	23.3	17.6	27.9
Passed HSC	10.4	7.2	13.3	6.4	4.7	7.7
Tertiary	2.3	1.8	2.7	4.6	4.4	4.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Unemployed females had higher educational levels than unemployed males. Table 8 shows that 28% of unemployed females had passed SC compared to 18% of males and a further 8% had HSC compared to 5% of males. Almost 5% of unemployed females had a tertiary education against 4% for males.

(iv) Duration of unemployment

At September 2004, 59% of the unemployed reported having been looking for work for up to one year and 41% for more than one year. Analysis by sex shows that unemployed women had been looking for work for longer periods than their male counterparts (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by duration of unemployment and sex, June & September 2004

Duration of unemployment (months)	June 2004			September 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Up to 12	64.6	68.1	61.7	59.0	62.4	56.2
13 - 24	18.4	17.3	19.2	20.6	17.0	23.4
More than 24	17.0	14.6	19.1	20.4	20.6	20.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(v) Work experience

Around 59% of the unemployed had worked before while the remaining 41% were looking for a job for the first time. Among unemployed males, 63% had worked before while the corresponding proportion among females was 57%.

(vi) Job search

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method. At September 2004, the most common response was “applied to prospective employers”, reported by 44% of the unemployed followed by “checked at factories, worksites, etc.” reported by 41%. Around 33% were registered at the Employment Service. Only 2% had taken steps to start a business of their own (Table 10).

Table 10 - Percentage distribution of unemployed persons by main job search method and sex, June & September 2004

Main job search method	June 2004			September 2004		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Applied to prospective employers	42.0	41.3	42.7	43.8	45.2	42.7
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	46.6	51.2	42.6	41.3	50.6	33.9
Registration at Employment Service	37.3	42.5	33.0	32.8	31.8	33.6
Placed or answered advertisements	21.5	22.0	21.0	22.4	17.4	26.3
Sought assistance or advice	15.1	16.1	14.2	22.2	16.1	27.1
Tried to set up own business	3.2	3.9	2.5	2.2	0.7	3.4

4.5 Inactive population

The number of persons aged 15 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 368,100 (100,000 males and 286,100 females) at September 2004. The male inactives comprised mainly old, retired or disabled persons (51,000) and students (44,000). Inactive females were mostly homemakers (168,100) while, old, retired or disabled persons was estimated at 67,500 and students 40,000.

Around 61% of the 168,100 inactive women engaged in household activities were below 45 years. Most of the women engaged in household activities (88%) were married, 88% had not reached the School Certificate level and one out of four had worked in the past.

5. Energy use

The 2004 CMPHS is also investigating the main types of energy used by households as well as measures taken to reduce electrical energy consumption.

Table 11 - Principal fuel used for cooking purposes, 2nd quarter and 3rd quarter, 2004

Principal fuel used	% of households reporting	
	2nd quarter 2004	3rd quarter 2004
Gas	92.4	93.1
Wood	3.9	3.7
Kerosene	2.0	2.3
Electricity	1.6	0.7
Other	0.1	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Table 11 shows the main types of energy used for cooking. It is noted that gas is by far the most common source of energy used for cooking purposes. The proportion of households who reported using gas for cooking was 93%.

The various sources of energy used to heat water for bathing purposes are given in Table 12. Gas was again the main source of energy used, reported by more than half of the households. Nearly 18% of households reported having a gas water heater inside the bathroom. On the other hand, the proportion of households heating water on gas stove for bathing was 36%. Electricity was the next most common source of energy for heating water for bathing purposes, reported by about 24% of households.

Only 4% of households were using solar water heaters. About 86% of the households who did not have solar water heaters were not interested in acquiring one. The main reason for this lack of interest was the high cost of the equipment, as reported by 45% of them.

**Table 12 - Main source of energy used for heating water for bathing purposes,
2nd quarter and 3rd quarter, 2004**

Main source of energy used	% of households reporting	
	2nd quarter 2004	3rd quarter 2004
Gas	50.3	53.1
<i>of which</i>		
Stove	34.9	35.6
Water Heater	15.4	17.5
Electricity	27.4	24.3
<i>of which</i>		
Electrical system inside bathroom	21.8	18.7
Electric kettle	5.6	5.6
Wood	11.1	11.5
Solar water heater	5.1	4.4
Kerosene stove	2.5	3.7
Other	0.5	0.2
Do not use hot water for bathing	3.1	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0

A large proportion (89%) of the households surveyed reported taking various measures to reduce electrical energy consumption. The most common measures taken were 'turning off lights/electrical appliances when not in use', 'use of other types of fuel instead of electricity for cooking' and 'use of other types of fuel instead of electricity for water heating' (Table 13).

**Table 13 - Measures taken to reduce electrical energy consumption,
2nd quarter and 3rd quarter, 2004**

Measure	% of households reporting	
	2nd quarter 2004	3rd quarter 2004
Turning off lights/electrical appliances when not in use	81.7	83.5
Use of other types of fuel instead of electricity for cooking	39.9	43.6
Use of other types of fuel instead of electricity for water heating	30.7	34.1
Use of low consumption electrical bulbs	39.8	30.7
Use of low consumption electrical appliances	27.9	18.1

6. Safety and security

Another topic covered by the survey was 'safety and security' and the data relate to the twelve months preceding the interview.

**Table 14 - Measures taken to improve the security of the dwellings,
2nd quarter and 3rd quarter, 2004**

Security measure	% of households reporting	
	2nd quarter 2004	3rd quarter 2004
Keep dog	48.8	51.3
Lock gates/entrance to building	59.2	48.8
Burglar proof windows/doors or shutters installed	48.4	46.9
Alarm system installed	2.7	2.1
Watchperson/security guard engaged	1.7	1.3

Around 90% of households surveyed during the third quarter reported having taken security measures at their dwellings to minimise risks of burglary. The measures taken are shown in Table 14.

However, only about 4% of households surveyed reported to be insured against theft.

The percentage of households who reported having been victims of house burglary during the twelve months preceding their interviews was around 4%. During the same period, around 3% of households surveyed reported having been victims of theft related to vehicles (that is, vehicles or accessories or objects placed inside).

Apart from house burglary and vehicle theft, around 1% of households reported that during the twelve months preceding the survey, one or more of their members had been victims of theft in a public place.

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