

Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey – 2005

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – First Quarter 2005

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the first quarter of 2005, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from January to March 2005.

It is to be noted that, as from 2004, the Central Statistics Office is using the CMPHS for the measurement of labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis.

2. The sample

Following the mission undertaken by an ILO consultant for the development of an efficient sample design that can measure changes over time, the number of households covered by the CMPHS has been increased from 8,640 in 2004 to 11,280 (10,560 in the Island of Mauritius and 720 in Rodrigues) in 2005. Each month, 940 households (880 in the Island of Mauritius and 60 in Rodrigues) are being interviewed. Hence, the quarterly results are based on a sample of 2,820 households.

The sampling method used is a stratified two-stage design, which ensures representativeness of all regions and all households in the country. Furthermore, 50 % of households interviewed at one quarter are re-interviewed at the next quarter for more reliable estimates of changes between the two quarters.

3. Estimation and reliability of results

Estimates worked out from households 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, is 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% chances 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.

4. Definitions

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

The labour force or active population (aged 15 years and over) 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 (aged 15 years and over) is neither employed nor unemployed and consists mainly of students, homemakers, retired persons and the disabled.

The activity rate is defined as the percentage of the Mauritian population aged 15 years and over who is active (employed or unemployed).

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the Mauritian labour force that is unemployed.

5. Survey results

5.1 Activity status

The total population estimated from the CMPHS data for the first quarter of 2005 was 1,227,000. The population aged 15 years and over was 918,900. Among them, some 485,400 (53%) had a job, 52,000 (6%) were unemployed and 381,500 (41%) were inactive.

The estimate of 381,500 inactive persons includes 4,800 who were not working but were available for work; however, they were not actively looking for work. Those persons have been classified as inactive and not 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, 60% of those 4,800 persons believed that suitable jobs were not available or they did not know where to look for work.

Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 4th quarter 2004 & 1st quarter 2005

	4th Quarter 2004 Estimates	1st Quarter 2005			
		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
				Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Labour Force					
Both Sexes	522,300	537,400	11,300	515,100	559,600
Male	346,900	347,000	7,800	331,400	362,200
Female	175,400	190,400	5,400	179,900	201,100
Employment					
Both Sexes	482,400	485,400	10,500	464,700	506,100
Male	328,400	325,400	7,100	311,200	339,300
Female	154,000	160,000	5,200	150,000	170,300
Unemployment					
Both Sexes	39,900	52,000	2,800	46,400	57,600
Male	18,500	21,600	1,900	17,800	25,300
Female	21,400	30,400	2,200	26,100	34,800
Inactive Population					
Both Sexes	392,200	381,500	8,600	364,700	398,400
Male	103,200	105,100	4,200	97,100	113,500
Female	289,000	276,400	6,500	263,500	289,000
Activity rate (%)					
Both Sexes	57.1	58.5	0.7	57.2	59.8
Male	77.1	76.7	0.8	75.1	78.4
Female	37.8	40.8	0.9	39.0	42.6
Unemployment rate (%)					
Both Sexes	7.6	9.7	0.5	8.7	10.6
Male	5.3	6.2	0.5	5.2	7.2
Female	12.2	16.0	1.1	13.8	18.2

Table 2 shows estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the four quarters of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005.

The unemployment rate has increased from 7.6% in the fourth quarter of 2004 to 9.7% in the first quarter of 2005. This is partly due to the fact that usually during the fourth quarter, more casual jobs are available mainly in the trade sector (street vendors, salespersons in shops, etc).

5.2 Employment

The number of persons, at work during the first quarter of 2005, was estimated at 485,400 (325,400 males and 160,000 females) as shown in Table 1. Employment sex ratio works out to approximately 2 males to 1 female.

5.2.1 Employment by industrial sector

Table 3 shows that, during the first quarter of 2005 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 33%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all service industries, 56%.

Table 3 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by industrial sector and sex, 4th quarter 2004 & 1st quarter 2005

Industrial sector	4th quarter 2004			1st quarter 2005		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	9.7	10.3	8.6	10.9	11.0	10.6
Secondary	33.7	35.1	30.6	33.1	34.6	30.1
Tertiary	56.6	54.6	60.8	56.0	54.4	59.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.2.2 Employment by occupation

Table 4 shows the distribution of the employed population by occupation. During the first quarter of 2005, some 15% were “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals”, 8% 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 22% were engaged in “elementary occupations”.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of employed population by occupation group and sex, 4th quarter 2004 & 1st quarter 2005

ISCO ¹ Major occupational group	Occupation group	4th quarter 2004			1st quarter 2005		
		Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1 - 3	Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals	16.2	15.7	17.6	14.5	13.1	17.1
4	Clerks	8.6	5.1	15.8	8.3	5.0	15.1
5	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	16.8	16.3	18.1	17.4	17.4	17.3
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers	36.8	42.6	24.0	38.2	44.5	25.8
9	Elementary occupations	21.6	20.3	24.5	21.6	20.0	24.7
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ International Standard Classification of Occupations

Analysis by sex shows that 65% of males were employed as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers” and in “elementary occupations” and 35% were 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”.

Among females, 50% were employed as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers” and in “elementary occupations” and 50% were 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”.

5.2.3 Employment status

During the first quarter of 2005, the majority, 79%, of workers were employees and the remaining 21% were working in their own or family enterprises as employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

Approximately 52% of the unemployed were single, 42% were married and the remaining 6% were widowed, divorced or separated. Unemployed males were mostly single (81%) while among females, 68% were ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated) and 32% single (Table 8).

(iii) *Educational attainment*

The data for the first quarter of 2005 show that among the unemployed, 24% had not passed CPE, and a further 46% had not passed SC. The proportions of unemployed with SC, HSC and tertiary education were 21%, 6% and 3% respectively (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, 4th quarter 2004 & 1st quarter 2005

Educational attainment	4th quarter 2004			1st quarter 2005		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	34.7	34.2	35.1	37.1	36.5	37.4
Below CPE	25.3	24.0	26.4	24.5	24.0	24.8
Passed CPE	9.4	10.2	8.7	12.6	12.5	12.6
Secondary	60.5	60.7	60.3	59.6	58.9	60.2
Below SC	31.1	36.3	26.6	33.5	37.0	31.1
Passed SC	22.5	16.9	27.3	20.6	17.1	23.1
Passed HSC	6.9	7.5	6.4	5.5	4.8	6.0
Tertiary	4.8	5.1	4.6	3.3	4.6	2.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Analysis by sex shows that 73% of the unemployed males had only primary or lower secondary education, that is they had not reached the School Certificate level, compared to 69% of unemployed females. The proportion of unemployed having a School Certificate was 17% among males and 23% among females; and corresponding figures for Higher School Certificate holders were 5% and 6%.

(iv) *Duration of unemployment*

During the first quarter of 2005, 56% of the unemployed reported having been looking for work for up to one year and 44% for more than one year. Analysis by sex shows that unemployed women had been looking for work for longer periods than their male counterparts. Almost 50% of the unemployed females had been looking for work for more than a year compared to 36% of males; the females were mostly (67%) married while the males were mostly (83%) single.

Table 10 - Percentage distribution of unemployed population by duration of unemployment and sex, 4th quarter 2004 & 1st quarter 2005

Duration of unemployment (months)	4th quarter 2004			1st quarter 2005		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Up to 12	67.1	71.6	63.2	56.0	64.2	50.3
13 - 24	15.5	12.4	18.2	19.1	17.8	19.9
More than 24	17.4	16.0	18.6	24.9	18.0	29.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(v) *Work experience*

Around 58% of the unemployed had worked before while the remaining 42% were looking for a job for the first time. Among unemployed males, 60% had worked before while the corresponding proportion among females was 56%.

(vi) *Job search*

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method. During the first quarter of 2005, the most common method of job search was “checked at factories, worksites, etc.”, reported by 54%, followed by “applied to prospective employers”, reported by 46%. Around 38% were registered at the Employment Service. Only about 2% had taken steps to start a business of their own (Table 11).

Table 11 - Percentage distribution of unemployed persons by main job search method and sex, 4th quarter 2004 & 1st quarter 2005

Main job search method	4th quarter 2004			1st quarter 2005		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	51.2	57.0	46.3	53.9	58.1	51.0
Applied to prospective employers	48.2	54.8	42.6	46.0	47.9	44.7
Registration at Employment Service	42.9	39.2	46.0	38.2	42.3	35.3
Placed or answered advertisements	15.1	11.5	18.2	25.8	26.7	25.2
Sought assistance or advice	10.7	7.9	13.1	23.6	22.5	24.4
Tried to set up own business	1.5	2.2	1.0	2.5	2.5	2.6

5.4 Inactive Population

The number of persons aged 15 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 381,500 (105,100 males and 276,400 females). This inactive population comprised 160,500 (42%) homemakers, 103,400 (27%) retired or old persons, 77,000 (20%) students, and 27,600 (7%) sick or disabled persons.

The male inactives comprised 59,400 (57%) old, retired or disabled persons and 40,300 (38%) students. Inactive females were mostly homemakers (159,300 or 58%), followed by 71,600 (26%) old, retired, or disabled persons and 36,800 (13%) students.

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