

## Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Second Quarter 2007

### 1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the second quarter of 2007, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from April to June 2007. The estimates refer to population aged 16 years and above.

As from 2004, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) is using the CMPHS for the measurement of quarterly labour force, employment and unemployment. The methodology of the CMPHS and the definition of terms used are given at Annex I.

It is to be noted that all estimates in this report are subject to sampling error that tends to be relatively large when the sample numbers are small.

### 2. Main findings

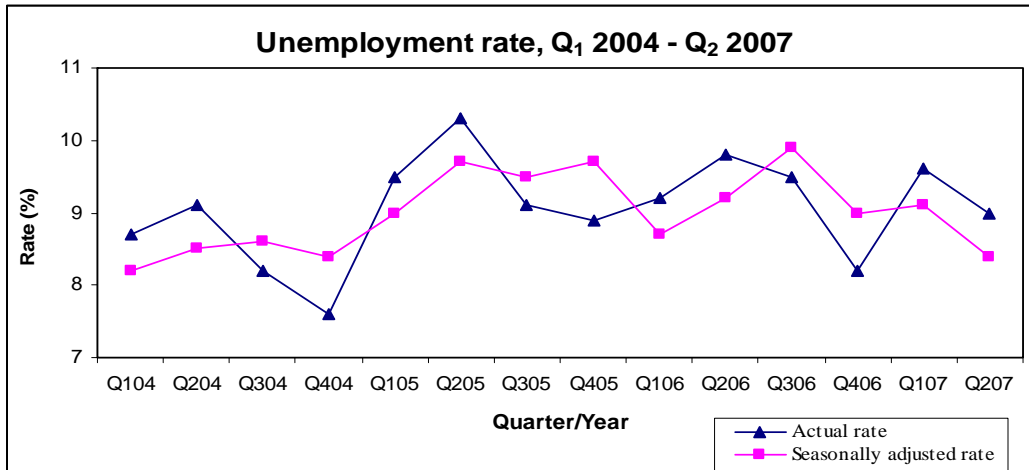
- (i) The number of employed persons for the second quarter of 2007 was estimated at 502,100 and the number of unemployed at 49,500. Labour force thus worked out to 551,600. Comparative figures for the corresponding quarter of 2006 were: 493,400 employed, 53,800 unemployed and a labour force of 547,200.
- (ii) The unemployment rate for the second quarter of 2007 was 9.0%, lower than the rate of 9.6% at the previous quarter and 9.8% at the second quarter of 2006. Unemployment rate for the year 2007 is estimated at 9.2% compared to 9.1% in 2006.

Unemployment rate is influenced by seasonal factors. It is usually higher in the first half of the year because of school leavers joining the labour market, and lower in the second half with more casual jobs being available mainly in the trade sector (street vendors, salespersons in shops, etc.) at the end of the year. Based on the quarterly data for the period first quarter 2001 to second quarter 2007, seasonally adjusted unemployment rates have been calculated and are presented in Table 1 and Chart 1.

**Table 1 – Actual and seasonally adjusted quarterly unemployment rates, Q<sub>1</sub> 2005 – Q<sub>2</sub> 2007**

Unemployment rate (%)	2005					2006					2007	
	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr
<b>Actual</b>	9.5	10.3	9.1	8.9	<b>9.6</b>	9.2	9.8	9.5	8.2	<b>9.1</b>	9.6	9.0
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>	9.0	9.7	9.5	9.7	<b>9.6</b>	8.7	9.2	9.9	9.0	<b>9.1</b>	9.1	8.4

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the second quarter of 2007 works out to 8.4%, lower than the rate of 9.1% at the previous quarter and 9.2% at the first quarter of 2006.

**Chart 1 - Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rates, Q<sub>1</sub> 2004 – Q<sub>2</sub> 2007**

### 3. Characteristics of the unemployed

The main characteristics of the unemployed at the second quarter of 2007 were:

- The 49,500 unemployed comprised 19,800 males (40%) and 29,700 females (60%).
- Around 22,000 or about 44% of the unemployed were below 25 years. Some 11,000 or 56% of the unemployed males and 37% or 11,000 of the unemployed females were below 25 years.
- Around 27,100 (55%) unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (15,500 or 78%) was single while among females, the majority (18,000 or 61%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- Some 9,500 or 19% had not passed the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examination or equivalent and a further 19,700 (40%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- Around 33,700 (69%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 15,800 (31%) for more than one year.
- About 29,900 (60%) had working experience and 19,600 (40%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- Around 18,900 (38%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- There were 12,600 (25%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 4,700 (38%) of them had not passed SC.
- Ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated) unemployed persons aged 25 to 44 years and having worked before numbered 10,800. Among them, about 7,700 (71%) had not passed SC.
- 4,900 or 10% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- 4,800 (10%) lived in households with no employed persons.

#### 4. Activity status of the population aged 16 years and over

Among the 927,100 persons aged 16 years and over, in the second quarter of 2007, about 551,600 or 59% were economically active, with 502,100 (54%) having a job and 49,500 (5%) unemployed. The remaining 375,500 (41%) persons were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2006 were 493,400 (54%) employed, 53,800 (6%) unemployed and 370,300 (40%) inactive persons.

Standard errors and confidence intervals have been calculated for the main labour force estimates and are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2nd quarter 2006 & 2007**

	2nd Quarter 2006				2nd Quarter 2007			
	Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
<b>Labour Force</b>								
Both Sexes	547,200	8,500	530,400	563,900	551,600	8,600	534,800	568,600
Male	351,500	6,100	339,400	363,500	354,500	5,700	343,300	365,800
Female	195,700	4,900	186,000	205,400	197,100	5,100	187,100	207,200
<b>Employment</b>								
Both Sexes	493,400	7,700	478,200	508,600	502,100	8,500	485,500	518,800
Male	330,800	5,700	319,600	342,000	334,700	5,300	324,200	345,200
Female	162,600	4,600	153,700	171,600	167,400	5,300	157,000	177,900
<b>Unemployment</b>								
Both Sexes	53,800	3,100	47,700	59,800	49,500	4,000	41,700	57,400
Male	20,700	1,800	17,200	24,100	19,800	1,800	16,300	23,400
Female	33,100	2,200	28,800	37,400	29,700	2,900	24,000	35,400
<b>Inactive Population</b>								
Both Sexes	370,300	7,700	355,200	385,500	375,500	7,200	361,100	389,700
Male	100,000	3,700	92,700	107,400	101,600	4,100	93,400	109,700
Female	270,300	6,100	258,400	282,300	273,900	5,400	263,200	284,500
<b>Activity rate (%)</b>								
Both Sexes	59.6	0.7	58.3	61.0	59.5	0.7	58.2	60.8
Male	77.8	0.8	76.4	79.3	77.7	0.8	76.2	79.3
Female	42.0	1.0	40.0	44.0	41.9	0.9	40.0	43.7
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>								
Both Sexes	9.8	0.5	8.8	10.8	9.0	0.7	7.6	10.4
Male	5.9	0.5	5.0	6.8	5.6	0.5	4.6	6.6
Female	16.9	1.0	14.9	18.9	15.1	1.4	12.2	17.9

Table 3 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment from 2004 to 2007.

**Table 3 - Quarterly estimates of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2004 - 2007**

	<b>Year 2004</b>	<b>Year 2005</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2006</b>	<b>2nd Quarter 2006</b>	<b>3rd Quarter 2006</b>	<b>4th Quarter 2006</b>	<b>Year 2006</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2007</b>	<b>2nd Quarter 2007</b>	<b>Year 2007<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Labour Force</b>										
Both Sexes	<b>530,700</b>	<b>541,200</b>	546,500	547,200	550,900	540,200	<b>548,100</b>	538,100	551,600	<b>555,200</b>
Male	<b>347,200</b>	<b>348,700</b>	351,300	351,500	350,300	350,300	<b>351,200</b>	350,700	354,500	<b>354,600</b>
Female	<b>183,500</b>	<b>192,500</b>	195,200	195,700	200,600	189,900	<b>196,900</b>	187,400	197,100	<b>200,600</b>
<b>Employment</b>										
Both Sexes	<b>486,000</b>	<b>489,500</b>	496,200	493,400	498,300	496,000	<b>498,300</b>	486,600	502,100	<b>504,300</b>
Male	<b>327,200</b>	<b>328,600</b>	332,500	330,800	330,200	334,900	<b>332,000</b>	329,500	334,700	<b>335,000</b>
Female	<b>158,800</b>	<b>160,900</b>	163,700	162,600	168,100	161,100	<b>166,300</b>	157,100	167,400	<b>169,300</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>										
Both Sexes	<b>44,700</b>	<b>51,700</b>	50,300	53,800	52,600	44,200	<b>49,800</b>	51,500	49,500	<b>50,900</b>
Male	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,100</b>	18,800	20,700	20,100	15,400	<b>19,200</b>	21,200	19,800	<b>19,600</b>
Female	<b>24,700</b>	<b>31,600</b>	31,500	33,100	32,500	28,800	<b>30,600</b>	30,300	29,700	<b>31,300</b>
<b>Inactive Population</b>										
Both Sexes	<b>363,400</b>	<b>362,200</b>	367,000	370,300	371,500	386,500	<b>370,100</b>	390,500	375,500	<b>371,900</b>
Male	<b>92,600</b>	<b>95,700</b>	97,600	100,000	103,700	106,300	<b>100,700</b>	107,500	101,600	<b>101,500</b>
Female	<b>270,800</b>	<b>266,500</b>	269,400	270,300	267,800	280,200	<b>269,400</b>	283,000	273,900	<b>270,400</b>
<b>Activity rate (%)</b>										
Both Sexes	<b>59.3</b>	<b>59.9</b>	59.8	59.6	59.7	58.3	<b>59.7</b>	57.9	59.5	<b>59.9</b>
Male	<b>78.9</b>	<b>78.5</b>	78.2	77.8	77.2	76.7	<b>77.7</b>	76.5	77.7	<b>77.7</b>
Female	<b>40.4</b>	<b>41.9</b>	42.0	42.0	42.8	40.4	<b>42.2</b>	39.8	41.9	<b>42.6</b>
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>										
Both Sexes	<b>8.4</b>	<b>9.6</b>	9.2	9.8	9.5	8.2	<b>9.1</b>	9.6	9.0	<b>9.2</b>
Male	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	5.4	5.9	5.7	4.4	<b>5.5</b>	6.0	5.6	<b>5.5</b>
Female	<b>13.5</b>	<b>16.4</b>	16.1	16.9	16.2	15.2	<b>15.5</b>	16.2	15.1	<b>15.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Provisional estimates

## 5. Employment

The number of employed persons during the second quarter of 2007 was estimated at 502,100 with 334,700 males and 167,400 females. Employment sex ratio works out to approximately 2 males to 1 female.

### 5.1 *Employment by industrial sector*

As shown in Table 4, during the second quarter of 2007, the primary sector comprising agriculture, and mining & quarrying, provided jobs to about 9% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water and construction, employed another 32%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries, the remaining 59%.

**Table 4 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by industrial sector and sex, 2nd quarter 2006 & 2007**

Industrial sector	2nd quarter 2006			2nd quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
<b>Primary</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>27.0</b>
of which Manufacturing	20.0	17.5	25.3	20.5	17.8	25.9
Construction	10.4	15.3	0.3	11.2	16.6	0.7
<b>Tertiary</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>65.7</b>
of which Wholesale and retail trade	13.8	13.2	15.0	13.5	12.9	14.5
Hotels and restaurants	6.6	6.2	7.5	7.6	7.8	7.2
Transport, storage and communications	8.3	10.5	4.0	8.4	10.5	4.1
Public administration and defence	7.2	8.3	4.8	6.7	8.0	4.0
Education, health and social work	9.4	6.4	15.5	9.7	6.9	15.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 5.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the second quarter of 2007, 37% of the working population were employed as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers or craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers”. Workers engaged in “elementary occupations” and “service workers and shop and market sales workers” accounted for 20% and 19% of the workforce respectively. The remaining consisted of “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals” (15%) and “clerks” (9%).

Analysis by sex shows that 44% of males were employed as “skilled agricultural workers and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers” compared to only 22% among females. On the other hand, 16% of females were engaged in clerical duties compared to 5% males.

**Table 5 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by occupation group and sex, 2nd quarter 2006 & 2007**

ISCO <sup>1</sup> Major occupational group	Occupation group	2nd quarter 2006			2nd quarter 2007		
		Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1 - 3	Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals	15.2	13.8	18.1	15.4	13.5	19.2
4	Clerks	9.4	5.5	17.3	9.2	5.4	16.3
5	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	17.8	17.0	19.4	18.8	18.2	20.1
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers	36.3	43.6	21.5	36.7	44.4	21.5
9	Elementary occupations	21.3	20.1	23.7	19.9	18.5	22.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> International Standard Classification of Occupations

### 5.3 *Employment status*

In the second quarter of 2007, the majority or 80% of workers were employees and the remaining 20% were working in their own or family enterprises with 18% as either employers or own account workers and 2% as contributing family workers (Table 6).



The average number of hours worked per week, including overtime but excluding all leaves and lunch time, was 41.4 with men reporting having worked 43.2 hours on average and women, 37.8 hours.

## 6. Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in the second quarter of 2007 is estimated at 49,500 comprising 19,800 males and 29,700 females. The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed to labour force, works out to 9.0% (5.6% for males and 15.1% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 7.6% to 10.4%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 8.4% with the rate being 5.1% for males and 14.3% for females.

### 6.1 Age and sex

From Table 8, it is observed that unemployed males were generally younger than unemployed females. Thus, 56% of the males were under 25 years compared to 37% for females. On the other hand, 41% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to 30% for males. The mean age of the unemployed works out to 27 years for males and 31 years for females.

**Table 8 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by age and sex, 2nd quarter 2006 & 2007**

Age group (years)	2nd quarter 2006			2nd quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	12.7	15.8	10.8	15.3	24.0	9.5
20 - 24	25.5	33.4	20.6	29.2	31.5	27.6
25 - 29	18.3	16.1	19.6	17.1	19.7	15.4
30 - 39	25.5	17.0	30.9	19.2	10.1	25.3
40 - 49	13.3	11.8	14.2	13.3	7.7	17.1
50 & over	4.7	5.9	3.9	5.9	7.0	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 6.2 Marital status

Out of the total number of persons who were unemployed, 55% were single, 37% were married and the remaining 8% were widowed, divorced or separated. Unemployed males were mostly single (78%). Unemployed females were mostly ever married (61%), i.e, currently married, widowed, divorced or separated, and 39% were single (Table 9).



**Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 2nd quarter 2006 & 2007**

Marital status	2nd quarter 2006			2nd quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	49.5	22.7	66.2	37.5	16.9	51.2
Widowed, divorced or separated	7.3	5.6	8.3	7.8	5.3	9.6
Single	43.2	71.7	25.5	54.7	77.8	39.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 6.3 Educational attainment

From Table 10, it is observed that in the second quarter of 2007, 19% of the unemployed had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, and a further 40% did not possess the Cambridge School Certificate (SC). The proportions of unemployed with SC and Higher School Certificate (HSC) were respectively 26% and 9%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented about 7%.

**Table 10 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, 2nd quarter 2006 & 2007**

Educational attainment	2nd quarter 2006			2nd quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
<b>Primary</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>25.7</b>
Below CPE	28.3	28.6	28.2	19.3	23.3	16.5
Passed CPE	9.1	10.6	8.1	7.1	4.2	9.2
<b>Secondary</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>70.5</b>
Below SC	33.0	35.8	31.3	32.6	35.0	31.0
Passed SC	19.8	15.9	22.1	25.6	20.8	28.9
Passed HSC	6.2	4.3	7.4	8.7	5.7	10.6
<b>Tertiary</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of the unemployed having only primary or lower secondary education, that is they had not reached the SC level, was higher for males (63%) than for females (57%). The proportion of unemployed having achieved SC was 21% for males

and 29% for females. Corresponding figures for HSC holders were 6% and 11%. The proportion of unemployed males with a tertiary qualification was 11% against 4% for females.

#### 6.4 *Duration of unemployment*

During the second quarter of 2007, about 69% of the unemployed reported being without a job for up to one year and 31% for more than one year. Analysis by sex shows that women were unemployed for longer periods than their male counterparts. About 35% of the unemployed females had been looking for work for more than a year compared to 25% of males.

**Table 11 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by duration of unemployment and sex, 2nd quarter 2006 & 2007**

Duration of unemployment (months)	2nd quarter 2006			2nd quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Up to 12	69.0	85.7	58.6	68.7	74.6	64.8
13 - 24	19.1	9.6	25.0	22.8	15.4	27.7
More than 24	11.9	4.7	16.4	8.5	10.0	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 6.5 *Work experience*

Out of the 49,500 unemployed at the second quarter of 2007, some 19,600 or 40% were first job seekers while the remaining 29,900 or 60% had work experience.

Table 12 shows the distribution of the unemployed with work experience by industrial sector. About 4% of those with work experience were previously in the primary sector, mainly agriculture. Half of the unemployed with job experience had worked in the secondary sector, with 37% in manufacturing and 13% in construction. The remaining 46% had previous work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly in 'Wholesale & retail trade' (11%), 'Private households with employed persons' (9%), 'Hotels & restaurants' (7%) and 'Transport, storage & communication' (6%).

**Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population with work experience by industrial sector, 2nd quarter 2006 & 2007**

Industrial sector	2nd quarter 2006			2nd quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	7.2	10.1	5.0	4.5	6.5	3.1
Secondary	56.3	50.3	60.5	49.8	53.2	47.1
Tertiary	36.5	39.6	34.5	45.7	40.3	49.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The unemployed, who worked before, had to stop working for several reasons. About one quarter of them had completed their temporary job, some 22% left because they were unsatisfied with their job and around 20% due to closure of firms and reduction in workforce.

## 6.6 Job search

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method. As shown in Table 13, during the second quarter of 2007, the most common method of job search was “checked at factories, worksites, etc.”, as reported by 57% of the unemployed, followed by “applied to prospective employers”, being reported by 53% of them.

Around 38% were registered at the Employment Service. Only 5% of the unemployed had taken steps to start a business of their own.

**Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by job search method and sex, 2nd quarter 2006 & 2007**

Job search method	2nd quarter 2006			2nd quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	52.0	62.1	45.9	56.9	64.3	51.9
Applied to prospective employers	49.8	53.9	47.2	53.2	56.4	51.0
Registration at Employment Service	41.5	34.5	45.9	38.2	33.2	41.5
Sought assistance or advice	38.2	33.2	41.3	29.7	31.7	28.3
Placed or answered advertisements	24.5	21.5	26.4	32.6	34.1	31.6
Tried to set up own business	6.4	5.5	7.0	5.3	4.7	5.6

## 7. Inactive population

The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 375,500 (101,600 males and 273,900 females). As given in Table 14, the inactive population comprised 43% (161,000) homemakers, 26% (96,800) retired or old persons, 20% (74,100) students, and 8% (28,900) sick or disabled persons.

**Table 14 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by inactivity status and sex, 2nd quarter 2006 & 2007**

Inactivity status	2nd quarter 2006			2nd quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Homemakers	41.3	0.2	56.4	43.1	0.5	58.8
Retired or old persons	26.5	43.2	20.3	25.9	45.8	18.6
Students	19.1	38.9	11.7	19.8	38.2	13.0
Sick or disabled persons	8.4	14.1	6.3	7.7	11.7	7.0
Other	4.7	3.6	5.3	3.5	3.8	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The inactives also included some 4,500 persons not interested to work, among whom 1,100 were aged 16 to 19 years.

Another 1,000 were classified as inactive although they were not working and were available for work because 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, it is estimated that 60% or 600 of those 1,000 inactives either believed that suitable jobs were not available or did not know where to look for work.

An analysis of the inactive population by sex in the above table reveals that the inactive males comprised mostly old, retired, sick or disabled persons (58%) and students (38%). The inactive females were mostly homemakers (59%); old, retired, sick or disabled persons (26%) and students (13%).

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### Methodology of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

Data collection	Face to face interviewing of household members.
Frequency of data collection	Monthly except in 2004 when data collection was carried out every quarter. Up to 2005, the reference period for data on labour force was the last week of the survey month. As from 2006, the reference week has been changed to the second week of the survey month so that estimates can be published within one quarter of the reference period, as required by the IMF Special Data Dissemination System (SDDS) to which the country expects to graduate by end 2007.
Scope and coverage of collection	Private Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.
Sampling method	<p>Stratified two-stage sampling design. At the first stage, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) are selected with probability proportional to size and at the second stage, a fixed number of households is selected from each selected PSU. Prior to 2005, the first stage stratification factors were urban, semi urban and rural geographical locations. As from 2005, the Relative Development Index (RDI) is used as the spatial stratification factor. This index is based on 12 variables encompassing housing and living conditions, literacy and education, and employment derived from the 2000 Housing and Population Census to rank PSUs. A set of RDIs for administrative regions has been published in the series "Economic and Social Indicators" - Issue No. 393.</p> <p>The second stage stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household.</p>
Sample size	From 1999 to 2003, around 6,500 households were covered each year. In 2004, the sample was increased to 8,640 so that reliable quarterly estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment could be worked out. As from 2005, the sample for the year has been further increased to 11,280. Furthermore, in order to measure quarterly changes, 50% of the households sampled in a quarter are re-interviewed in the following quarter; for example, 50% of the households sampled in the first quarter of 2005 have been re-interviewed in the second quarter of 2005.

## Questionnaire

The CMPHS questionnaire comprises three modules: a basic module common to all rounds of the survey covering the general characteristics of the population, one or more special topic modules dealing with subjects requiring in-depth investigation and a third module grouping other topics of interest but investigated in less details.

Every year different topics are covered according to users' needs. As from 2004, the CMPHS is also being used as the instrument for the measurement of labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis; hence, a set of core questions on the labour force has been included and will be kept constant at all rounds of the survey.

**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, 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% chance 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 are calculated for the main labour force estimates.

## **Definition of terms used**

### **1. Household**

A household is defined as either a person living on his/her own or a group of two or more persons, who may or may not be related, but who live together and make common provision for food and other essentials for living.

### **2. Employment**

Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 16<sup>1</sup> years and above (16+) who have worked for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during the reference week of a month. It includes those who are temporarily absent from work for reasons such as leave with pay, leave without pay and temporary disorganisation of work (bad weather, break down of equipment, lack of order, etc.).

### **3. Unemployment**

Unemployed population comprises all Mauritians aged 16+ who are not working but who are looking for work and are available for work during the reference period.

### **4. Labour force**

Labour force or active population is made up of employed and unemployed population.

### **5. Unemployment rate**

Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to that of labour force.

### **6. Inactive population**

Inactive population includes all Mauritians aged 16+, not forming part of the labour force for reasons such as attendance at educational institutions, engagement in household duties, retirement, old age and infirmity/disablement.

### **7. Activity rate**

Activity rate is the ratio (%) of labour force to that of population aged 16+ (active + inactive population).

### **8. Employer**

An employer is a person who operates his/her own business or trade and hires one or more employees.

**9. Own account worker**

An Own account worker is a person who operates his/her own business or trade but does not hire employees. He/She may be working alone or with the help of unpaid family members.

**10. Employee**

An Employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity. An Apprentice, who is a person being trained for a job or trade and does not receive pay or may just receive some pocket money is also considered as an employee.

**11. Contributing family worker**

A Contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an enterprise operated by a family member.

**12. Educational attainment**

*Primary* : comprises those who have studied up to a “Standard” between Standard 1 and the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) or equivalent.

*Secondary* : comprises those who have studied up to a “Form” between Form 1 and the Higher School Certificate (HSC) or equivalent.

*Tertiary*: comprises those who above their secondary certificates (SC and HSC or equivalent) also possess either a diploma/certificate, which is above the HSC but below a first degree, or a degree.

*<sup>1</sup> As from year 2007, labour force estimates are based on population aged 16 years and above, following the amendment to the Labour Act in December 2006 whereby the minimum legal working age is 16 years, and the subsequent recommendation by the ILO to be in line with the amended Labour Act*



## ANNEX II

## Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 16 years and over, 2000 - 2007

('000)

Year	Labour force			Employment (including foreign workers)			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments <sup>1</sup>	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate <sup>2</sup>
Both sexes								
2000	503.0	14.6	517.6	298.7	186.2	484.9	32.7	6.5
2001	510.3	16.5	526.8	302.0	190.1	492.1	34.7	6.8
2002 <sup>3</sup>	513.0	17.0	530.0	297.2	196.0	493.2	36.8	7.2
2003	520.9	18.2	539.1	296.9	202.1	499.0	40.1	7.7
2004	530.7	17.5	548.2	293.3	210.2	503.5	44.7	8.4
2005	541.2	16.6	557.8	292.2	213.9	506.1	51.7	9.6
2006	548.1	16.7	564.8	295.1	219.9	515.0	49.8	9.1
2007	555.2	21.0	576.2	300.5	224.8	525.3	50.9	9.2
Male								
2000	334.7	5.0	339.7	187.5	135.0	322.5	17.2	5.1
2001	337.9	5.8	343.7	188.3	137.0	325.3	18.4	5.4
2002 <sup>3</sup>	339.8	6.4	346.2	188.2	140.0	328.2	18.0	5.3
2003	343.1	7.9	351.0	188.2	143.2	331.4	19.6	5.7
2004	347.2	9.0	356.2	189.1	147.1	336.2	20.0	5.8
2005	348.7	9.1	357.8	189.3	148.4	337.7	20.1	5.8
2006	351.2	8.3	359.5	190.0	150.3	340.3	19.2	5.5
2007	354.6	11.6	366.2	193.3	153.3	346.6	19.6	5.5
Female								
2000	168.3	9.6	177.9	111.2	51.2	162.4	15.5	9.2
2001	172.4	10.7	183.1	113.7	53.1	166.8	16.3	9.5
2002 <sup>3</sup>	173.2	10.6	183.8	109.0	56.0	165.0	18.8	10.9
2003	177.8	10.3	188.1	108.7	58.9	167.6	20.5	11.5
2004	183.5	8.5	192.0	104.2	63.1	167.3	24.7	13.5
2005	192.5	7.5	200.0	102.9	65.5	168.4	31.6	16.4
2006	196.9	8.4	205.3	105.1	69.6	174.7	30.6	15.5
2007	200.6	9.4	210.0	107.2	71.5	178.7	31.3	15.6

<sup>1</sup> Average of March and September figures<sup>2</sup> Unemployment as a percentage of Mauritian labour force<sup>3</sup> The low increase results from the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the sugar industry