

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – First Quarter 2008

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 2008, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from January to March 2008. The estimates refer to Mauritian 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. Annex II shows a series of comparable annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the period 2000 to 2008.

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. Key points

Trend estimates

- (i) The number of Mauritians in employment was 508,200 in the first quarter of 2008, up by 1,400 from the fourth quarter of 2007 and by 21,500 on a year earlier.
- (ii) The number of unemployed was 45,600 in the first quarter of 2008, higher by 6,300 from the fourth quarter of 2007 but 5,800 lower when compared to a year earlier.
- (iii) The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2008 was 8.2%, higher than the rate of 7.2% at the fourth quarter of 2007 but lower than the rate of 9.6% at the first quarter of 2007.
- (iv) The unemployment rate for the year 2008 is estimated at 8.0%, lower than 8.5% in 2007.

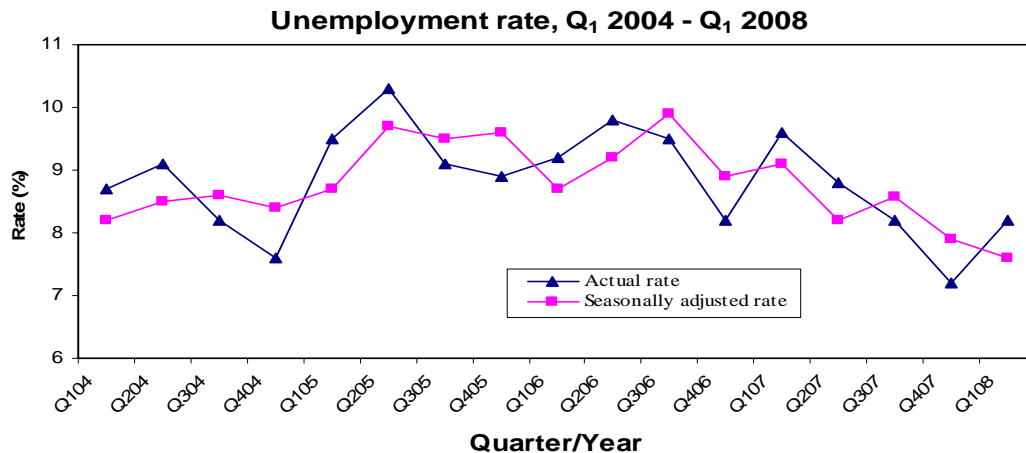
Seasonally adjusted estimates

- (v) The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2008 works out to 7.6%, lower than the rate of 8.1% at the fourth quarter of 2007 and 9.0% at the first quarter of 2007.

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. In order to observe the real trend over time, it is more relevant to remove the seasonal fluctuations from the time-series. Based on the quarterly data for the period first quarter 2001 to first quarter 2008; the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates obtained are presented in Table 1 (for year 2006 onwards) and Chart 1.

Table 1 – Actual and seasonally adjusted quarterly unemployment rates, Q₁ 2006 – Q₁ 2008

Unemployment rate (%)	2006					2007					2008
	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr
Actual	9.2	9.8	9.5	8.2	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.5	8.2
Seasonally adjusted	8.6	9.2	9.8	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.2	8.5	8.1	8.5	7.6

Chart 1 - Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rates, Q₁ 2004 – Q₁ 2008

3. Characteristics of the unemployed

The main characteristics of the unemployed at the first quarter of 2008 were:

- (i) The 45,600 unemployed comprised 17,900 males (39%) and 27,700 females (61%).
- (ii) Around 17,600 or about 39% of the unemployed were below 25 years. Some 9,300 or 52% of the unemployed males and 30% or 8,300 of the unemployed females were below 25 years.
- (iii) About 46% (20,900) of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (13,100 or 73%) was single while among females, the majority (19,800 or 72%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- (iv) Some 9,900 or 22% had not passed the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examination or equivalent and a further 18,800 (41%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (v) Around 33,400 (73%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 12,200 (27%) for more than one year.
- (vi) About 30,500 (67%) had working experience and 15,100 (33%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- (vii) Around 15,600 (34%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 7,900 (17%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 2,400 (31%) of them had not passed SC.
- (ix) Ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated) unemployed persons aged 25 to 44 years and having worked before numbered 12,100. Among them, about 9,900 (82%) had not passed SC.
- (x) 5,200 or 11% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- (xi) 4,500 (10%) lived in households with no employed persons.

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

Among the 940,100 persons aged 16 years and over in the first quarter of 2008, about 553,800 or 59% were economically active, with 508,200 (54%) having a job and 45,600 (5%) unemployed. The remaining 386,300 (41%) persons were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2007 were 486,700 (52%) employed, 51,400 (6%) unemployed and 389,200 (42%) 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, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

	1st Quarter 2007				1st Quarter 2008			
	Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Labour Force								
Both Sexes	538,100	10,100	518,100	558,000	553,800	10,800	532,600	575,000
Male	350,400	6,600	337,400	363,400	352,800	7,100	338,900	366,800
Female	187,700	5,700	176,400	198,900	201,000	5,400	190,300	211,700
Employment								
Both Sexes	486,700	9,400	468,100	505,200	508,200	10,300	488,000	528,500
Male	329,400	6,300	316,900	341,900	334,900	6,800	321,400	348,300
Female	157,300	5,400	146,700	167,900	173,300	5,400	162,800	183,900
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	51,400	3,200	45,100	57,700	45,600	2,800	40,100	51,000
Male	21,000	2,000	17,100	24,800	17,900	1,700	14,600	21,200
Female	30,400	2,300	25,800	35,000	27,700	2,000	23,800	31,500
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	389,200	8,600	372,400	406,100	386,300	8,700	369,100	403,400
Male	105,500	4,400	96,800	114,100	109,300	4,600	100,300	118,400
Female	283,700	6,300	271,400	296,100	277,000	5,900	265,400	288,500
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	58.0	0.7	56.7	59.3	58.9	0.7	57.6	60.2
Male	76.9	0.8	75.2	78.5	76.3	0.8	74.8	77.9
Female	39.8	1.0	37.9	41.7	42.1	0.9	40.4	43.7
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	9.6	0.6	8.5	10.6	8.2	0.5	7.3	9.2
Male	6.0	0.5	4.9	7.0	5.1	0.5	4.2	6.0
Female	16.2	1.2	13.9	18.5	13.8	1.0	11.9	15.7

Table 3 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment from 2005 to 2008.

Table 3 - Quarterly estimates of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2005 - 2008

	Year 2005	Year 2006	1st Quarter 2007	2nd Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2007	4th Quarter 2007	Year 2007	1st Quarter 2008	Year 2008 ^{1/}
Labour Force									
Both Sexes	542,500	548,400	538,100	551,600	552,500	546,100	548,900	553,800	554,500
Male	349,600	351,400	350,400	354,600	354,600	352,400	353,600	352,800	355,300
Female	192,900	197,000	187,700	197,000	197,900	193,700	195,300	201,000	199,200
Employment									
Both Sexes	490,600	498,600	486,700	503,000	507,400	506,800	502,100	508,200	510,000
Male	329,400	332,200	329,400	335,200	338,000	338,100	335,000	334,900	338,700
Female	161,200	166,400	157,300	167,800	169,400	168,700	167,100	173,300	171,300
Unemployment									
Both Sexes	51,900	49,800	51,400	48,600	45,100	39,300	46,800	45,600	44,500
Male	20,200	19,200	21,000	19,400	16,600	14,300	18,600	17,900	16,600
Female	31,700	30,600	30,400	29,200	28,500	25,000	28,200	27,700	27,900
Inactive Population									
Both Sexes	364,100	370,900	389,200	378,900	381,200	390,800	383,200	386,300	388,400
Male	96,300	100,600	105,500	102,800	104,400	108,100	104,600	109,300	108,200
Female	267,800	270,300	283,700	276,100	276,800	282,700	278,600	277,000	280,200
Activity rate (%)									
Both Sexes	59.8	59.7	58.0	59.3	59.2	58.3	58.9	58.9	58.8
Male	78.4	77.7	76.9	77.5	77.3	76.5	77.2	76.3	76.7
Female	41.9	42.2	39.8	41.6	41.7	40.7	41.2	42.1	41.6
Unemployment rate (%)									
Both Sexes	9.6	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.5	8.2	8.0
Male	5.8	5.5	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.1	5.3	5.1	4.7
Female	16.4	15.5	16.2	14.8	14.4	12.9	14.4	13.8	14.0

^{1/} forecast

5. Employment

The number of employed persons during the first quarter of 2008 was estimated at 508,200 with 334,900 males and 173,300 females (Table 2). 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 first quarter of 2008, the primary sector comprising agriculture, and mining & quarrying, provided jobs to about 8% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water and construction, employed another 33%, 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, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

Industrial sector	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	8.6	9.3	7.2	8.0	8.6	7.0
Secondary	34.1	36.7	28.6	33.1	36.0	27.5
of which Manufacturing	22.4	19.6	28.2	20.8	18.2	26.0
Construction	10.8	15.9	0.4	11.4	16.7	1.2
Tertiary	57.3	54.0	64.2	58.9	55.4	65.5
of which Wholesale and retail trade	13.5	12.6	15.4	13.6	13.1	14.7
Hotels and restaurants	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.4	7.4	7.3
Transport, storage and communications	7.2	9.2	3.1	7.7	9.9	3.3
Public administration and defence	7.4	8.9	4.5	6.9	8.2	4.5
Education, health and social work	9.3	6.5	15.0	9.5	6.4	15.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the first quarter of 2008, 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” (10%).

Analysis by sex shows that 45% 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 21% among females. On the other hand, 16% of females were engaged in clerical duties compared to 6% males.

Table 5 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by occupation group and sex, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

ISCO ¹ Major occupational group	Occupation group	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
		Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1 - 3	Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals	15.3	13.7	18.4	15.1	13.0	19.0
4	Clerks	8.8	5.0	16.5	9.6	6.0	16.3
5	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	19.1	18.2	21.0	18.6	16.9	22.0
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers	37.2	45.0	21.2	36.7	45.0	20.8
9	Elementary occupations	19.6	18.1	22.9	20.0	19.1	21.9
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ International Standard Classification of Occupations

5.3 *Employment status*

In the first quarter of 2008, 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).

Table 6 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by employment status and sex, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

Employment status	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Employer	2.8	3.4	1.6	3.0	4.0	1.0
Own account worker	15.2	17.7	10.0	15.1	17.2	11.0
Employee	79.9	77.8	84.4	80.1	78.1	84.1
Contributing family worker	2.1	1.1	4.0	1.8	0.7	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of employees was higher among working women (84%) than among working men (78%), while the proportion of employers and own account

workers was higher among men (21%) than among women (12%). On the other hand, contributing family workers constituted about 4% of working women compared to only one per cent of working men.

5.4 *Hours of Work*

Table 7, on distribution of employment by hours worked, shows that some 3% of employed persons did not work during the reference week because they were sick or on leave. Another 44% reported having worked for more than 40 hours. They were mostly in manufacturing enterprises (11%), wholesale & retail trade (8%), followed by 5% each in construction and hotels & restaurants and, transport and communications (4%).

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the survey reference week, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

Actual number of hours worked per week	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0	3.9	4.1	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.2
1 - 23	9.9	7.4	15.0	8.8	6.0	14.3
24 - 40	48.0	46.3	51.5	43.7	42.0	47.5
41 - 50	24.9	27.1	20.4	29.8	31.7	25.9
51 and above	13.3	15.1	9.5	14.3	16.9	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The average number of hours worked per week, including overtime but excluding all leaves and lunch time, was 39.9 with men reporting having worked 41.7 hours on average and women, 36.3 hours.

6. Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in the first quarter of 2008 is estimated at 45,600 comprising 17,900 males and 27,700 females (Table 2). The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed in the labour force, works out to 8.2% (5.1% for males and 13.8% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 7.3% to 9.2%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 7.6% with the rate being 4.8% for males and 12.8% for females.

6.1 *Age and sex*

From Table 8, it is observed that unemployed males were generally younger than unemployed females. Thus, 52% of the males were under 25 years compared to 30% for females. On the other hand, 48% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to 27% for males. The mean age of the unemployed works out to 29 years for males and 31 years for females.

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by age and sex, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

Age group (years)	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	18.9	22.4	16.4	14.3	17.2	12.4
20 - 24	26.3	29.5	24.0	24.4	34.9	17.7
25 - 29	16.1	12.6	18.6	16.2	16.1	16.2
30 - 39	20.0	17.4	21.8	23.7	10.8	31.9
40 - 49	11.4	9.2	13.0	13.3	9.0	16.2
50 & over	7.3	8.9	6.2	8.1	12.0	5.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.2 *Marital status*

Out of the total number of persons who were unemployed, 46% were single, 48% were married and the remaining 6% were widowed, divorced or separated. Unemployed males were mostly single (73%). Unemployed females were mostly ever married (72%), i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

Marital status	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	38.8	26.1	47.6	47.8	23.1	63.8
Widowed, divorced or separated	8.1	3.3	11.4	6.3	3.8	7.9
Single	53.1	70.6	41.0	45.9	73.1	28.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.3 *Educational attainment*

From Table 10, it is observed that in the first quarter of 2008, 22% of the unemployed had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, and a further 41% did not possess the Cambridge School Certificate (SC). The proportion with SC as highest educational attainment was 22% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 10%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented about 5%.

Table 10 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

Educational attainment	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	34.4	39.8	30.6	29.8	29.9	30.0
Below CPE	28.0	34.3	23.6	21.7	24.6	19.9
Passed CPE	6.4	5.5	7.0	8.1	5.3	10.1
Secondary	60.1	53.0	65.0	65.1	62.8	66.3
Below SC	30.8	29.2	31.9	33.2	31.0	34.5
Passed SC	19.8	17.0	21.8	22.3	19.8	23.8
Passed HSC	9.5	6.8	11.3	9.6	12.0	8.0
Tertiary	5.5	7.2	4.4	5.1	7.3	3.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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 slightly higher for females (65%) than for males (61%). The proportion of unemployed having achieved SC was 24% for females and 20% for males. Corresponding figures for HSC holders were about 12% for males and 8% for females. The proportion of unemployed males with a tertiary qualification was 7% against 4% for females.

6.4 Duration of unemployment

During the first quarter of 2008, about 73% of the unemployed reported being without a job for up to one year and 27% for more than one year. Analysis by sex shows that women were unemployed for longer periods than their male counterparts. About 33% of the unemployed females had been looking for work for more than a year compared to 18% of males.

Table 11 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by duration of unemployment and sex, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

Duration of unemployment (months)	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Up to 12	70.0	79.2	63.7	73.0	81.6	67.5
13 - 24	19.7	15.8	22.4	16.3	10.7	19.9
More than 24	10.3	5.0	13.9	10.7	7.7	12.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.5 Work experience

Out of the 45,600 unemployed at the first quarter of 2008, some 15,100 or 33% were first job seekers while the remaining 30,500 or 67% had work experience.

Table 12 shows the distribution of the unemployed with work experience by industrial sector. About 5% of those with work experience were previously in the primary sector, mainly agriculture. About 44% of the unemployed with job experience had worked in the secondary sector, with 33% in manufacturing and 11% in construction. The remaining 51% had previous work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly in 'Wholesale & retail trade' (21%), 'Hotels & restaurants' (9%), 'Private households with employed persons' (6%), and 'Real estate' (5%).

Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population with work experience by industrial sector, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

Industrial sector	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	5.1	6.2	4.0	5.2	9.2	1.9
Secondary	49.0	59.6	38.6	44.2	38.6	48.7
Tertiary	45.9	34.2	57.4	50.6	52.2	49.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The unemployed, who worked before, had to stop working for several reasons. About 24% of them had completed their temporary job, 21% were unsatisfied with their job and about 19% left their job due to closure of firm.

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 first quarter of 2008, the most common method of job search was “applied to prospective employers”, as reported by 53% of the unemployed, followed by “checked at factories, worksites, etc.” being reported by 49% of them.

Around 34% were registered at the Employment Service. About 27% of the unemployed had sought assistance or advice to start a business and only 2% had taken steps to start a business of their own.

Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by job search method and sex, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

Job search method	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Applied to prospective employers	53.3	52.0	54.1	53.1	54.7	52.1
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	54.4	63.3	48.4	48.6	50.6	47.2
Registration at Employment Service	33.4	26.4	38.2	34.2	30.2	36.8
Sought assistance or advice	36.6	34.7	37.9	27.2	27.3	27.1
Placed or answered advertisements	30.8	25.6	34.3	26.5	25.4	27.2
Tried to set up own business	5.6	5.2	5.9	1.7	2.0	1.5

7. Inactive population

The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 386,300 (109,300 males and 277,000 females) (Table 2). As shown in Table 14, the inactive population comprised 44% (167,900) homemakers, 24% (91,700) retired or old persons, 22% (84,100) students, and 8% (30,100) sick or disabled persons.

Table 14 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by inactivity status and sex, 1st quarter 2007 & 2008

Inactivity status	1st quarter 2007			1st quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Homemakers	41.8	0.2	57.3	43.7	0.4	60.8
Retired or old persons	25.6	42.9	19.2	23.8	42.6	16.4
Students	20.5	38.6	13.7	21.9	42.0	13.9
Sick or disabled persons	8.8	15.0	6.4	7.8	13.0	5.8
Other	3.3	3.3	3.4	2.8	2.0	3.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The inactives also included some 5,700 persons not interested to work, among whom 1,200 were aged 16 to 19 years.

Another 1,900 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 87% of those 1,900 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 old, retired, sick or disabled persons (43%) and students (42%). The inactive females were mostly homemakers (61%), old, retired, sick or disabled persons (16%) and students (14%).

Central Statistics Office
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
PORT LOUIS

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Contact persons: (1) Ms C.Bandinah (Statistician)
Email: cso_cmphs@mail.gov.mu
(2) Mr C.Arianaick (Statistician)
Email: cso_labour@mail.gov.mu
Central Statistics Office
LIC Centre, Port Louis
Tel: 2122316, 2122317 Fax: 2114150

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 June 2009.
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 16¹ 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.

¹ 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

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 16 years and over, 2000 - 2008
ANNEX II
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Year	Labour force			Employment (including foreign workers)			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments ¹	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate ² (%)
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	513.0 ³	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	531.3	17.5	548.8	293.3	210.9	504.2	44.6	8.4
2005	542.5	16.6	559.1	292.2	215.0	507.2	51.9	9.6
2006	548.4	16.7	565.1	295.1	220.2	515.3	49.8	9.1
2007	548.9	21.6	570.5	301.3	222.4	523.7	46.8	8.5
2008 ⁵	554.5	24.5	579.0	307.7	226.8	534.5	44.5	8.0
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	339.8 ³	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	347.8	9.0	356.8	189.1	147.7	336.8	20.0	5.8
2005	349.6	9.1	358.7	189.3	149.2	338.5	20.2	5.8
2006	351.4	8.3	359.7	190.0	150.5	340.5	19.2	5.5
2007	353.6	12.1	365.7	195.0	152.1	347.1	18.6	5.3
2008 ⁵	355.3	13.4	368.7	197.6	154.5	352.1	16.6	4.7
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	173.2 ³	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	63.2	167.4	24.6	13.4
2005	192.9	7.5	200.4	102.9	65.8	168.7	31.7	16.4
2006	197.0	8.4	205.4	105.1	69.7	174.8	30.6	15.5
2007	195.3 ⁴	9.5	204.8	106.3	70.3	176.6	28.2	14.4
2008 ⁵	199.2	11.1	210.3	110.1	72.3	182.4	27.9	14.0

¹ Employing 10 or more persons

² Unemployment as a percentage of Mauritian labour force

³ The low increase results from the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the sugar industry

⁴ The decrease is explained by a larger number of female students and housewives

⁵ Forecast