

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Third Quarter 2009

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the third quarter of 2009, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from July to September 2009. The estimates refer to the 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 2001 to 2009.

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

(a) Third quarter 2009

Survey estimates – change from second quarter 2009 to third quarter 2009

- (i) The Mauritian labour force increased by 4,900 from 564,500 to 569,400.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians increased by 9,600 from 517,700 to 527,300.
- (iii) Unemployment decreased by 4,700 from 46,800 to 42,100.
- (iv) Unemployment rate decreased from 8.3% to 7.4%.

Survey estimates – change from third quarter 2008 to third quarter 2009

- (i) The Mauritian labour force increased by 10,600 from 558,800 to 569,400.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians increased by 8,700 from 518,600 to 527,300.
- (iii) Unemployment increased by 1,900 from 40,200 to 42,100.
- (iv) Unemployment rate increased from 7.2% to 7.4%.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

- (i) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 7.8% to 7.7% between the second and third quarters of 2009.
- (ii) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 7.5% to 7.7% between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2009.

(b) Year 2009

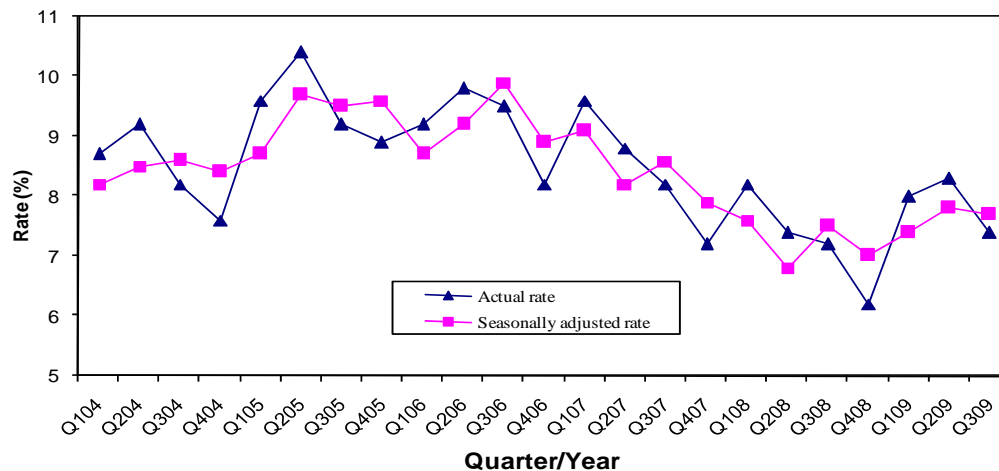
- (i) The Mauritian Labour force is expected to increase by 8,300 from 559,400 in 2008 to 567,700 in 2009.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians is expected to increase by 4,800 from 519,000 in 2008 to 523,800 in 2009.
- (iii) Unemployment is expected to increase by 3,500 from 40,400 in 2008 to 43,900 in 2009.
- (iv) Unemployment rate is expected to increase from 7.2% in 2008 to 7.7% in 2009.

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 overall trend, 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 third quarter 2009, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates obtained are presented in Table 1 (from first quarter 2008 to third quarter 2009) and Chart 1.

Table 1 – Survey estimates and seasonally adjusted quarterly estimates of unemployment rate, Q₁ 2008 – Q₃ 2009

Unemployment rate (%)	2008					2009		
	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr
Survey estimates	8.2	7.4	7.2	6.2	7.2	8.0	8.3	7.4
Seasonally adjusted	7.6	6.9	7.5	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.8	7.7

Chart 1 – Survey and seasonally adjusted quarterly estimates of unemployment rate, Q₁ 2004 – Q₃ 2009



3. Characteristics of the unemployed

The main characteristics of the unemployed at the third quarter of 2009 were:

- (i) The 42,100 unemployed comprised 14,900 males (35%) and 27,200 females (65%).
- (ii) Around 15,800 (7,200 males and 8,600 females) or about 37% of the unemployed were below 25 years.
- (iii) Around 41% (17,400) of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (70%) was single while among females, the majority (75%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- (iv) Some 8,000 or 19% had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level or equivalent and a further 20,000 (47%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (v) Around 31,600 (77%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 10,500 (23%) for more than one year.
- (vi) About 28,100 (67%) had working experience and 14,000 (33%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- (vii) Around 15,400 (37%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 7,500 (18%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 2,800 (37%) 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 12,900. Among them, about 9,700 (75%) had not passed SC.
- (x) 6,200 or 15% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- (xi) 4,800 (11%) lived in households with no employed persons.

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

Among the 960,800 persons aged 16 years and over in the third quarter of 2009, about 569,400 or 59% were economically active, with 527,300 (55%) employed and 42,100 (4%) unemployed. The remaining 391,400 (41%) persons were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2008 were 518,600 (55%) employed, 40,200 (4%) unemployed and 387,700 (41%) 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, 3rd quarter 2008 & 2009

	3rd Quarter 2008				3rd Quarter 2009			
	Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Labour Force								
Both Sexes	558,800	13,000	533,100	584,500	569,400	13,300	543,300	595,500
Male	353,900	8,700	336,900	371,000	357,700	8,500	341,000	374,300
Female	204,900	6,200	192,700	217,100	211,700	6,500	198,900	224,600
Employment								
Both Sexes	518,600	12,200	494,500	542,700	527,300	12,500	502,600	551,800
Male	339,700	8,300	323,300	356,000	342,800	8,300	326,300	359,100
Female	178,900	5,800	167,500	190,300	184,500	6,000	172,800	196,300
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	40,200	2,900	34,600	45,900	42,100	3,000	36,200	48,000
Male	14,200	1,500	11,200	17,300	14,900	1,800	11,500	18,400
Female	26,000	2,200	21,600	30,300	27,200	2,200	22,900	31,600
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	387,700	8,600	370,900	404,600	391,400	9,300	373,200	409,600
Male	111,300	4,500	102,400	120,200	113,900	5,000	104,200	123,700
Female	276,400	6,700	263,200	289,600	277,500	6,600	264,400	290,600
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	59.0	0.6	57.8	60.2	59.3	0.6	58.0	60.5
Male	76.1	0.8	74.5	77.6	75.8	0.8	74.3	77.4
Female	42.6	1.0	40.7	44.5	43.3	0.9	41.4	45.1
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	7.2	0.5	6.3	8.1	7.4	0.5	6.4	8.4
Male	4.0	0.4	3.2	4.8	4.2	0.5	3.2	5.1
Female	12.7	1.0	10.7	14.7	12.8	1.0	11.0	14.7

Table 3 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for 2008 and 2009.

Table 3 - Quarterly estimates of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2008 - 2009

	1st Quarter 2008	2nd Quarter 2008	3rd Quarter 2008	4th Quarter 2008	Year 2008	1st Quarter 2009	2nd Quarter 2009	3rd Quarter 2009	Year 2009¹
Labour Force									
Both Sexes	553,800	559,100	558,800	567,300	559,400	562,900	564,500	569,400	567,700
Male	352,800	355,100	353,900	358,000	355,600	355,300	357,300	357,700	358,300
Female	201,000	204,000	204,900	209,300	203,800	207,600	207,200	211,700	209,400
Employment									
Both Sexes	508,200	518,000	518,600	532,300	519,000	518,000	517,700	527,300	523,800
Male	334,900	341,500	339,700	346,700	341,000	337,500	340,300	342,800	342,300
Female	173,300	176,500	178,900	185,600	178,000	180,500	177,400	184,500	181,500
Unemployment									
Both Sexes	45,600	41,100	40,200	35,000	40,400	44,900	46,800	42,100	43,900
Male	17,900	13,600	14,200	11,300	14,600	17,800	17,000	14,900	16,000
Female	27,700	27,500	26,000	23,700	25,800	27,100	29,800	27,200	27,900
Inactive Population									
Both Sexes	386,300	384,200	387,700	382,500	385,600	390,800	393,300	391,400	391,300
Male	109,300	108,600	111,300	108,700	108,900	113,100	113,000	113,900	112,500
Female	277,000	275,600	276,400	273,800	276,700	277,700	280,300	277,500	278,800
Activity rate (%)									
Both Sexes	58.9	59.3	59.0	59.7	59.2	59.0	58.9	59.3	59.2
Male	76.3	76.6	76.1	76.7	76.6	75.9	76.0	75.8	76.1
Female	42.1	42.5	42.6	43.3	42.4	42.8	42.5	43.3	42.9
Unemployment rate (%)									
Both Sexes	8.2	7.4	7.2	6.2	7.2	8.0	8.3	7.4	7.7
Male	5.1	3.8	4.0	3.2	4.1	5.0	4.8	4.2	4.5
Female	13.8	13.5	12.7	11.3	12.7	13.1	14.4	12.8	13.3

¹ forecast

5. Employment

The number of employed persons during the third quarter of 2009 was estimated at 527,300 with 342,800 males and 184,500 females (Table 2). Employment sex ratio remained at approximately 2 males to 1 female.

5.1 *Employment by industrial sector*

During the third quarter of 2009, the primary sector comprising agriculture and mining & quarrying employed nearly 9% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water and construction, employed nearly 29%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries, the remaining 62%.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by industrial sector and sex, 3rd quarter 2008 & 2009

Industrial sector	3rd quarter 2008			3rd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	10.0	11.0	8.1	9.2	9.8	8.2
Secondary	29.8	33.8	21.9	29.3	33.2	22.1
of which Manufacturing	17.9	16.2	21.0	17.7	15.9	21.2
Construction	11.3	16.9	0.6	10.9	16.4	0.8
Tertiary	60.2	55.2	70.0	61.5	57.0	69.7
of which Wholesale and retail trade	13.3	12.4	15.3	13.7	13.0	15.0
Hotels and restaurants	8.5	8.9	7.7	8.7	8.9	8.2
Transport, storage and communications	7.0	8.8	3.4	7.5	9.4	4.1
Public administration and defence	6.6	7.3	5.3	6.5	7.6	4.5
Education, health and social work	8.9	6.3	14.1	8.7	5.5	14.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the third quarter of 2009, around 35% 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” accounted for 20% of the workforce; “service workers as well as shop and market sales workers” accounted for another 19%. The remaining consisted of “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals” (17%) and “clerks” (9%).

Analysis by sex shows that 43% 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 19% among females. On the other hand, 16% of females were engaged in clerical duties compared to 6% of males.

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of employees was slightly higher among working women (85%) than among working men (78%), while the proportion of employers and own account workers was higher among men (21%) than among women (11%).

5.4 *Hours of Work*

Table 7, on distribution of employment by hours worked, shows that some 4% of employed persons did not work during the reference week because they were sick or on leave. 50% reported having worked for more than 40 hours.

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the survey reference week, 3rd quarter 2008 & 2009

Actual number of hours worked per week	3rd quarter 2008			3rd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
0	3.2	3.2	3.1	4.1	3.9	4.4
1 - 23	9.0	5.2	16.3	8.1	5.1	13.7
24 - 40	42.3	40.0	47.1	37.9	34.8	43.6
41 - 50	30.5	33.6	24.5	31.9	34.4	27.1
51 and above	15.0	18.0	9.0	18.0	21.8	11.2
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 41.5 with men reporting having worked 43.9 hours on average and women, 37.1 hours.

6. *Unemployment*

The number of unemployed persons in the third quarter of 2009 is estimated at 42,100 comprising 14,900 males and 27,200 females (Table 2). The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed in the labour force, works out to 7.4% (4.2% for males and 12.8% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 6.4% to 8.4%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 7.7% with the rate being 4.4% for males and 13.3% for females.

6.1 *Age and sex*

From Table 8, it is observed that 48% of the males were under 25 years compared to 31% for females. On the other hand, 49% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to 28% for males. However, 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, 3rd quarter 2008 & 2009

Age group (years)	3rd quarter 2008			3rd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	9.2	14.5	6.3	12.1	16.9	9.5
20 - 24	23.0	25.6	21.5	25.2	31.3	21.9
25 - 29	23.3	23.5	23.1	19.1	17.4	20.0
30 - 39	26.4	13.0	33.8	22.6	10.9	28.9
40 - 49	11.1	13.8	9.7	16.4	16.1	16.6
50 & over	7.0	9.6	5.6	4.6	7.4	3.1
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, 41% were single and around 53% were married. Unemployed males were mostly single (70%) whilst unemployed females were mostly ever married (75%), i.e, currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 3rd quarter 2008 & 2009

Marital status	3rd quarter 2008			3rd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	49.6	30.5	60.0	53.2	28.7	66.6
Widowed, divorced or separated	7.0	3.5	9.0	5.6	1.0	8.1
Single	43.4	66.0	31.0	41.2	70.3	25.3
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 third quarter of 2009, 19% of the unemployed had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, and a further 47% did not possess the Cambridge School Certificate (SC). The proportion with SC as highest educational attainment was 21% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 8%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented 5%.

6.5 *Work experience*

Out of the 42,100 unemployed at the third quarter of 2009, some 14,000 or nearly 33% were first job seekers while the remaining 28,100 or 67% had work experience.

Table 12 shows the distribution of the unemployed with work experience by industrial sector. About 49% of the unemployed with job experience had worked previously in the secondary sector, with 36% in manufacturing and 12% in construction. Approximately the same percentage had previous work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly in 'Wholesale & retail trade' (12%) and 8% each in 'Private household with employed persons' and 'Hotels & restaurants'.

Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population with work experience by industrial sector, 3rd quarter 2008 & 2009

Industrial sector	3rd quarter 2008			3rd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Primary	7.8	11.7	5.3	2.9	4.7	1.7
Secondary	46.7	43.9	48.5	48.6	56.1	43.9
Tertiary	45.5	44.4	46.2	48.5	39.2	54.4
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. The main reasons being 'completed their temporary job' (23%) and 'taken up by household responsibilities' (23%).

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 third quarter of 2009, the most common method of job search was "checked at factories, worksites, etc." (52%) and "applied to prospective employers" (49%). Around 37% were registered at the Employment Service. The percentage who had sought assistance or advice was 38% whilst 30% had placed or answered advertisements. About 9% had taken steps to start a business of their own.

Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by job search method and sex, 3rd quarter 2008 & 2009

Job search method	3rd quarter 2008			3rd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Applied to prospective employers	52.1	54.6	50.7	49.0	46.7	46.7
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	49.8	60.4	44.1	52.2	61.0	47.3
Registration at Employment Service	37.9	28.4	43.1	36.6	30.5	40.0
Sought assistance or advice	34.6	38.9	32.3	37.7	28.5	42.8
Placed or answered advertisements	24.1	15.4	28.7	30.7	27.1	32.7
Tried to set up own business	9.1	13.8	6.5	8.5	8.2	10.6

7. Inactive population

As shown in Table 2, the number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 391,400 (113,900 males and 277,500 females). The inactive population comprised nearly 46% (177,500) homemakers, 23% (89,000) students, 21% (80,600) retired or old persons, and 7% (27,800) sick or disabled persons (Table 14).

Table 14 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by inactivity status and sex, 3rd quarter 2008 & 2009

Inactivity status	3rd quarter 2008			3rd quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Homemakers	46.5	0.6	65.0	46.1	0.6	64.5
Retired or old persons	21.3	43.7	12.3	20.9	42.6	12.1
Students	21.2	39.1	14.0	23.1	40.8	15.9
Sick or disabled persons	7.9	13.6	5.6	7.2	13.2	4.7
Other	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

It is to be noted that 4,200 persons aged 16 years and over were classified as inactives although they were not working and were available for work; the main reason being that they were not actively looking for work. Those persons have not been classified as unemployed since they did not satisfy all the three criteria for unemployment, i.e. not working, looking for work and

available for work. From the survey responses, it has been noted that 49% of those 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 (Table 14) reveals that the inactive males comprised old, retired, sick or disabled persons (56%) and students (41%). The inactive females were mostly homemakers (65%), old, retired, sick or disabled persons (17%) and students (16%).

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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 except in December when it was the second week. 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 2010.
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 religious group, 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, 2001 - 2009

('000) ANNEX II

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								
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	302.0	221.7	523.7	46.8	8.5
2008	559.4	24.0	583.4	311.6	231.4	543.0	40.4	7.2
2009 ⁵	567.7	21.0	588.7	305.8	239.0	544.8	43.9	7.7
Male								
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	195.6	151.5	347.1	18.6	5.3
2008	355.6	14.7	370.3	201.0	154.7	355.7	14.6	4.1
2009 ⁵	358.3	13.0	371.3	198.0	157.3	355.3	16.0	4.5
Female								
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	106.4	70.2	176.6	28.2	14.4
2008	203.8	9.3	213.1	110.6	76.7	187.3	25.8	12.7
2009 ⁵	209.4	8.0	217.4	107.8	81.7	189.5	27.9	13.3

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