

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Fourth Quarter 2009

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators (ESI) presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the fourth quarter of 2009, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from October to December 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.

Note to readers

A new issue of ESI presenting annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment will be introduced this year. The ESI for the year 2009 will be released on the CSO website on 1 June 2010.

The contents and presentation of the ESI giving quarterly estimates are being reviewed. The revised version will be used for forthcoming ESIs presenting quarterly estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment.

2. Key points

(a) Fourth quarter 2009

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

- (i) The Mauritian labour force increased by 2,800 from 569,400 to 572,200.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians increased by 9,100 from 527,300 to 536,400.
- (iii) Unemployment decreased by 6,300 from 42,100 to 35,800.
- (iv) Unemployment rate decreased from 7.4% to 6.3%.

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

- (i) The Mauritian labour force increased by 4,900 from 567,300 to 572,200.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians increased by 4,100 from 532,300 to 536,400.
- (iii) Unemployment increased by 800 from 35,000 to 35,800.
- (iv) Unemployment rate increased from 6.2% to 6.3%.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

- (i) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 7.7% to 7.2% between the third and fourth quarters of 2009.
- (ii) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 7.1% to 7.2% between the fourth quarter of 2008 and the fourth quarter of 2009.

(b) Year 2009

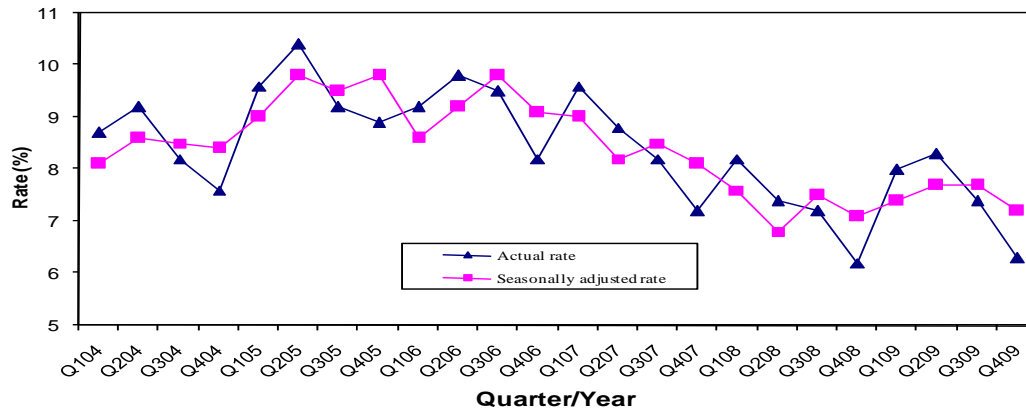
- (i) The Mauritian Labour force increased by 6,900 from 559,400 in 2008 to 566,300 in 2009.
- (ii) Employment of Mauritians increased by 5,800 from 519,000 in 2008 to 524,800 in 2009.
- (iii) Unemployment increased by 1,100 from 40,400 in 2008 to 41,500 in 2009.
- (iv) Unemployment rate increased slightly from 7.2% in 2008 to 7.3% 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 fourth 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, 2008 – 2009

Unemployment rate (%)	2008					2009				
	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year
Survey estimates	8.2	7.4	7.2	6.2	7.2	8.0	8.3	7.4	6.3	7.3
Seasonally adjusted estimates	7.6	6.8	7.5	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.7	7.7	7.2	7.3

Chart 1 – Survey and seasonally adjusted quarterly estimates of unemployment rate, Q1 2004 – Q4 2009



3. Characteristics of the unemployed

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

- (i) The 35,800 unemployed comprised 13,500 males (38%) and 22,300 females (62%).
- (ii) 13,800 (6,600 males and 7,200 females) or 39% of the unemployed were below 25 years.
- (iii) 16,700 (47%) unemployed persons were single. Among males, the majority (69%) was single while among females, the majority (69%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- (iv) 8,000 or 22% had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level or equivalent and a further 14,800 (41%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (v) 27,000 (75%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 8,800 (25%) for more than one year.
- (vi) 23,700 (66%) had working experience and 12,100 (34%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- (vii) 14,300 (40%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 6,900 (19%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 2,400 (35%) 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 11,000. Among them, about 8,300 (76%) had not passed SC.
- (x) 5,100 or 14% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- (xi) 5,800 (16%) lived in households with no employed persons.

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

Among the 963,900 persons aged 16 years and over in the fourth quarter of 2009, 572,200 (59%) were economically active, with 536,400 (55%) employed and 35,800 (4%) unemployed. The remaining 391,700 (41%) persons were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2008 were 532,300 (56%) employed, 35,000 (4%) unemployed and 382,500 (40%) inactive persons.

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

Table 2 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 4th quarter 2008 & 2009

	4th Quarter 2008				4th 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	567,300	15,200	537,300	597,200	572,200	15,900	540,800	603,500
Male	358,000	10,000	338,300	377,700	360,300	10,300	340,000	380,600
Female	209,300	6,900	195,600	222,900	211,900	7,000	198,100	225,600
Employment								
Both Sexes	532,300	14,400	503,900	560,700	536,400	15,400	505,900	566,600
Male	346,700	9,700	327,600	365,800	346,800	10,200	326,600	366,900
Female	185,600	6,400	173,000	198,100	189,600	6,800	176,200	202,900
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	35,000	2,800	29,400	40,500	35,800	2,800	30,500	41,300
Male	11,300	1,400	8,500	14,000	13,500	1,700	10,300	16,900
Female	23,700	2,200	19,400	28,000	22,300	2,000	18,500	26,200
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	382,500	12,300	358,400	406,700	391,700	12,300	367,500	415,800
Male	108,700	5,400	98,100	119,400	112,600	4,800	103,200	122,000
Female	273,800	8,700	256,800	290,900	279,100	9,400	260,600	297,500
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	59.7	0.7	58.3	61.1	59.4	0.7	58.0	60.7
Male	76.7	0.8	75.1	78.3	76.2	0.8	74.7	77.7
Female	43.3	1.0	41.3	45.3	43.2	1.0	41.3	45.1
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	6.2	0.5	5.3	7.1	6.3	0.5	5.4	7.2
Male	3.2	0.4	2.4	3.9	3.7	0.5	2.9	4.7
Female	11.3	1.0	9.4	13.2	10.5	0.9	8.8	12.3

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	4th Quarter 2009	Year 2009
Labour Force										
Both Sexes	553,800	559,100	558,800	567,300	559,400	562,900	564,500	569,400	572,200	566,300
Male	352,800	355,100	353,900	358,000	355,600	355,300	357,300	357,700	360,300	358,100
Female	201,000	204,000	204,900	209,300	203,800	207,600	207,200	211,700	211,900	208,200
Employment										
Both Sexes	508,200	518,000	518,600	532,300	519,000	518,000	517,700	527,300	536,400	524,800
Male	334,900	341,500	339,700	346,700	341,000	337,500	340,300	342,800	346,800	342,300
Female	173,300	176,500	178,900	185,600	178,000	180,500	177,400	184,500	189,600	182,500
Unemployment										
Both Sexes	45,600	41,100	40,200	35,000	40,400	44,900	46,800	42,100	35,800	41,500
Male	17,900	13,600	14,200	11,300	14,600	17,800	17,000	14,900	13,500	15,800
Female	27,700	27,500	26,000	23,700	25,800	27,100	29,800	27,200	22,300	25,700
Inactive Population										
Both Sexes	386,300	384,200	387,700	382,500	385,600	390,800	393,300	391,400	391,700	392,700
Male	109,300	108,600	111,300	108,700	108,900	113,100	113,000	113,900	112,600	112,700
Female	277,000	275,600	276,400	273,800	276,700	277,700	280,300	277,500	279,100	280,000
Activity rate (%)										
Both Sexes	58.9	59.3	59.0	59.7	59.2	59.0	58.9	59.3	59.4	59.1
Male	76.3	76.6	76.1	76.7	76.6	75.9	76.0	75.8	76.2	76.1
Female	42.1	42.5	42.6	43.3	42.4	42.8	42.5	43.3	43.2	42.6
Unemployment rate (%)										
Both Sexes	8.2	7.4	7.2	6.2	7.2	8.0	8.3	7.4	6.3	7.3
Male	5.1	3.8	4.0	3.2	4.1	5.0	4.8	4.2	3.7	4.4
Female	13.8	13.5	12.7	11.3	12.7	13.1	14.4	12.8	10.5	12.3

5. Employment

The number of employed persons during the fourth quarter of 2009 was estimated at 536,400 of whom 346,800 males and 189,600 females (Table 2). Employment sex ratio remained at approximately 2 males to 1 female.

5.1 *Employment by industrial sector*

During the fourth quarter of 2009, the primary sector comprising agriculture and mining & quarrying employed 9% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water and construction, employed 30%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries, the remaining 61%.

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

Industrial sector	4th quarter 2008			4th quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Primary	9.9	10.5	8.8	9.4	10.1	8.3
Secondary	30.9	34.5	24.2	29.6	33.0	23.2
of which Manufacturing	19.3	17.3	23.2	18.3	16.4	22.0
Construction	11.2	16.6	1.0	10.7	16.1	1.0
Tertiary	59.2	55.0	67.0	61.0	56.9	68.5
of which Wholesale and retail trade	13.1	12.2	14.8	14.2	14.0	14.6
Hotels and restaurants	7.4	7.3	7.7	7.3	6.8	8.1
Transport, storage and communications	6.8	9.0	2.7	7.4	10.0	2.4
Public administration and defence	6.2	7.1	4.5	7.3	9.1	4.0
Education, health and social work	9.4	6.6	14.7	9.4	5.9	15.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the fourth 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 19% of the workforce; “service workers as well as shop and market sales workers” accounted for another 20%. The remaining consisted of “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals” (16%) and “clerks” (10%).

Analysis by sex shows that men were more likely than women to run their own business; the proportion of employers and own account workers was 22% among men against only 11% among women.

5.4 *Hours of Work*

Table 7, on distribution of employment by hours worked, shows that 6% of employed persons did not work during the reference week because they were sick or on leave. On the other hand, 48% 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, 4th quarter 2008 & 2009

Actual number of hours worked per week	4th quarter 2008			4th quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0	4.0	3.4	5.1	5.5	4.4	7.6
1 - 23	8.0	4.2	15.0	8.6	5.2	14.9
24 - 40	36.3	34.2	40.3	38.0	36.3	41.0
41 - 50	33.6	36.5	28.3	29.7	32.0	25.5
51 and above	18.1	21.7	11.3	18.2	22.1	11.0
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 41.3. Men reported having worked 43.9 hours on average and women 36.5 hours.

6. *Unemployment*

The number of unemployed persons in the fourth quarter of 2009 is estimated at 35,800 comprising 13,500 males and 22,300 females (Table 2). The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed in the labour force, works out to 6.3% (3.7% for males and 10.5% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 5.4% to 7.2%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 7.2% with the rate being 4.4% for males and 11.6% for females.

6.1 *Age and sex*

49% of the unemployed males were under 25 years compared to 32% among females. On the other hand, 45% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to 33% 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, 4th quarter 2008 & 2009

Age group (years)	4th quarter 2008			4th quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	12.4	21.3	8.2	14.6	19.4	11.7
20 - 24	19.9	24.0	18.0	24.0	29.9	20.5
25 - 29	18.6	20.6	17.6	15.9	16.3	15.7
30 - 39	28.2	14.3	34.8	24.5	16.5	29.3
40 - 49	13.0	9.5	14.6	15.3	12.4	17.0
50 & over	7.9	10.3	6.8	5.7	5.5	5.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.2 *Marital status*

47% of the unemployed in the fourth quarter of 2009 were single and 53% were ever married. Unemployed males were mostly single (69%) whilst unemployed females were mostly ever married (67%), i.e, currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 4th quarter 2008 & 2009

Marital status	4th quarter 2008			4th quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	50.9	20.1	65.5	46.4	25.7	59.0
Widowed, divorced or separated	9.3	4.6	11.5	7.0	5.7	7.8
Single	39.8	75.3	23.0	46.6	68.6	33.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.3 *Educational attainment*

In the fourth quarter of 2009, 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 21% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 9%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented 6%.

6.5 *Work experience*

Out of the 35,800 unemployed at the fourth quarter of 2009, some 12,100 or nearly 34% were first job seekers while the remaining 23,700 or 66% had work experience.

Table 12 shows the distribution of the unemployed with work experience by industrial sector. 46% of the unemployed with job experience had worked previously in the secondary sector, with 31% in manufacturing and 15% in construction. Approximately the same percentage had previous work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly in 'Wholesale & retail trade' (12%), 'Hotels & restaurants' (9%) and 'Private household with employed persons' (7%).

Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population with work experience by industrial sector, 4th quarter 2008 & 2009

Industrial sector	4th quarter 2008			4th quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	4.6	9.0	2.5	8.3	15.6	3.3
Secondary	52.0	56.0	50.0	45.9	49.4	43.3
Tertiary	43.4	35.0	47.5	45.8	35.0	53.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.6 *Job search*

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method (Table 13). During the fourth quarter of 2009, the most common methods of job search were "checked at factories, worksites, etc." (54%) and "applied to prospective employers" (52%). Around 40% were registered at the Employment Service, 34% sought assistance or advice to obtain a paid job or to start own business and 33% placed or answered advertisements. About 8% took steps to start a business of their own.

Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by job search method and sex, 4th quarter 2008 & 2009

Job search method	4th quarter 2008			4th quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Applied to prospective employers	57.1	56.8	57.3	52.0	53.6	51.0
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	52.5	65.4	46.5	54.0	70.5	44.0
Registration at Employment Service	37.2	31.9	39.7	40.0	44.1	37.5
Sought assistance or advice*	31.6	33.0	30.9	33.6	32.1	34.6
Placed or answered advertisements	22.4	16.5	25.2	33.2	28.3	36.1
Tried to set up own business	7.3	3.9	9.0	7.6	4.1	9.6

* to obtain a paid job or to start own business

7. Inactive population

The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 391,700 (112,600 males and 279,100 females). The inactive population comprised nearly 176,600 (46%) homemakers, 90,700 (24%) students, 83,000 (22%) retired or old persons, and 25,800 (7%) sick or disabled persons (Table 14).

Table 14 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by inactivity status and sex, 4th quarter 2008 & 2009

Inactivity status	4th quarter 2008			4th quarter 2009		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Homemakers	47.6	0.1	66.5	45.9	0.4	64.6
Retired or old persons	20.2	42.6	11.4	21.6	44.4	12.2
Students	22.0	41.2	14.3	23.6	42.0	16.0
Sick or disabled persons	7.5	13.6	5.0	6.7	10.7	5.0
Other	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.2	2.5	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

It is to be noted that 4,400 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 46% 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 mostly of old, retired, sick or disabled persons (55%) and students (42%). 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	566.3	21.0	587.3	306.0	239.8	545.8	41.5	7.3
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	358.1	13.0	371.1	198.0	157.3	355.3	15.8	4.4
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	208.2	8.0	216.2	108.0	82.5	190.5	25.7	12.3

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