

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Second quarter 2012

Introduction

1. This issue of Economic and Social Indicators (ESI) presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the second quarter of 2012, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from April to June 2012. The estimates refer to the Mauritian population aged 16 years and above.
2. Annual estimates of labour force including foreign workers derived after integrating data from CMPHS with other sources are given at Annex 3.

Key figures

	Q2 2011	Q1 2012 ¹	Q2 2012 ²	Change	
				Q2 2012 - Q2 2011	Q2 2012 - Q1 2012
Labour force	577,600	582,300	597,200	+19,600	+14,900
Employment	531,400	535,500	548,300	+16,900	+12,800
Unemployment	46,200	46,800	48,900	+2700	+2,100
Unemployment rate (%)	8.0	8.0	8.2	+0.2	+0.2
Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (%)	7.5	7.4	7.7	+0.2	+0.3

¹ revised

²provisional

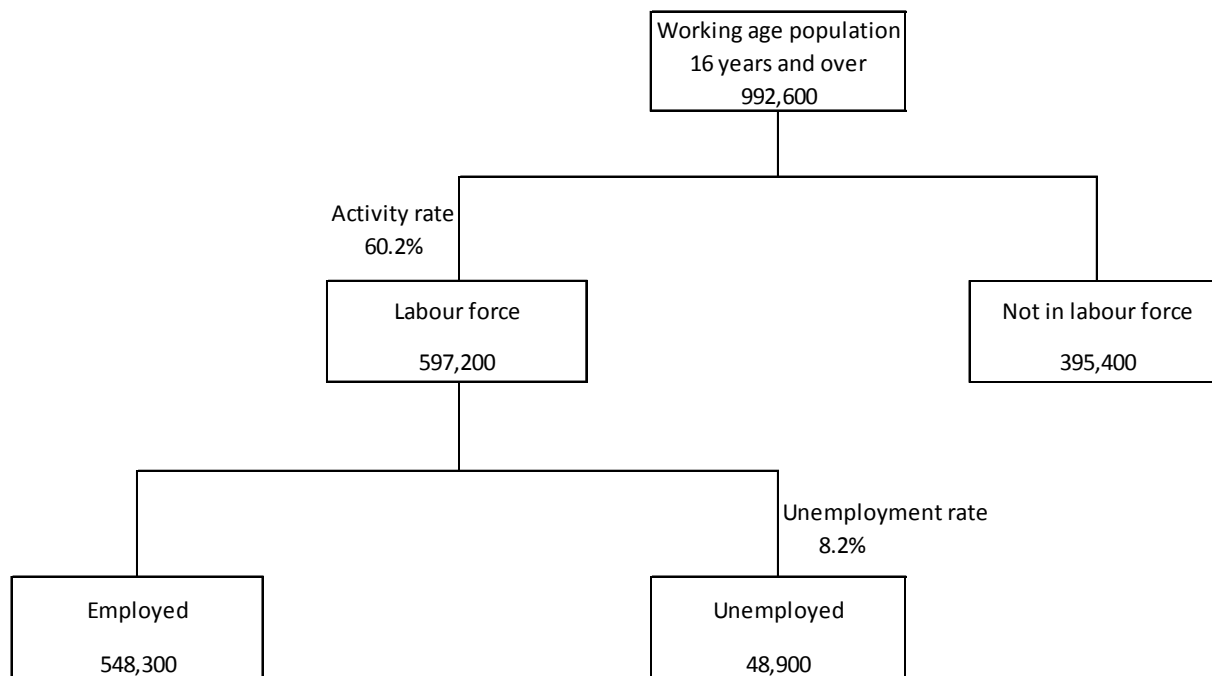
Forecasts of Employment and Unemployment - Year 2012

	Year 2011	Forecast Year 2012	Change
Employment	536,700	538,000	+1,300
Unemployment	46,100	46,800	+700
Unemployment rate (%)	7.9	8.0	+0.1

Labour market overview, second quarter 2012

3. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2011, there has been an increase in the labour force (+19,600) with an increase in both unemployment (+2,700) and employment (+16,900).
4. Compared with the previous quarter, labour force also showed an increase of 14,900 with increases in employment (+12,800) and unemployment (+2,100).

Chart 1: The Labour Market, 2nd quarter 2012



Labour force participation

5. The activity rate for second quarter 2012 was 60.2%, up by 1.3 percentage points from 58.9% in the corresponding period one year earlier. The activity rates for male and female increased respectively by 1.4 percentage points to 75.8% and by 1.2 percentage points to 45.1%.
6. Compared with the previous quarter, the activity rate increased by 1.4 percentage points (from 58.8% to 60.2%) with increases of 0.7% in the male activity rate and 1.9% in the female rate.

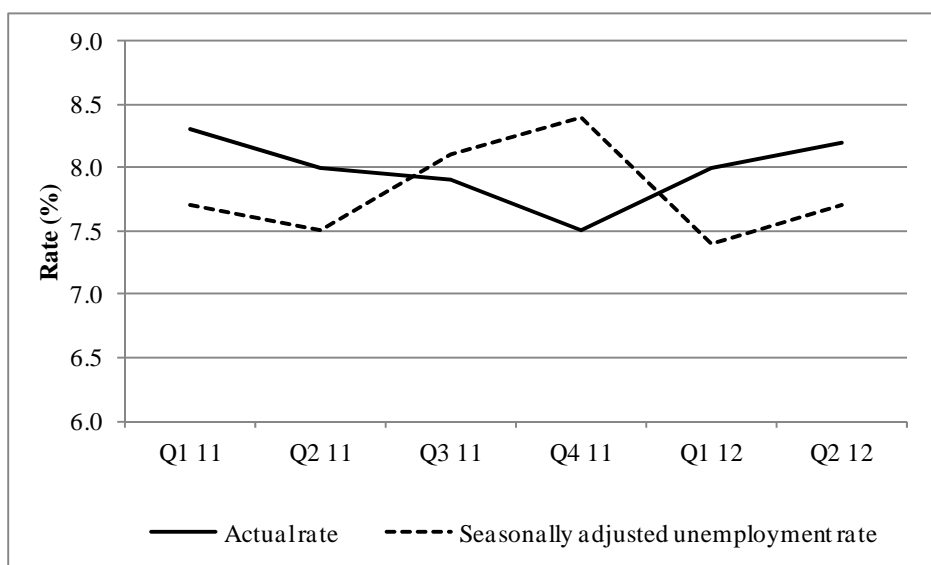
Employment

7. From second quarter 2011 to second quarter 2012, employment increased by 16,900 to 548,300; male employment increased by 10,500 to 348,600 whilst female increased by 6,400 to 199,700.
8. Compared with the previous quarter, employment increased by 12,800 with increases of 4,700 in male employment and 8,100 in female employment.

Unemployment

9. From second quarter 2011 to second quarter 2012, the number of unemployed persons increased by 2,700 to 48,900. This increase was due to respective increases of 2,300 in the number of unemployed females and 400 in unemployed males.
10. The unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 8.2% from second quarter 2011 to second quarter 2012. Female unemployment rate increased by 0.5 percentage point to 12.6% whilst male unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5%.
11. When compared with first quarter of 2012, the number of unemployed persons increased by 2,100 (-100 males and +2,200 females).
12. From first quarter to second quarter 2012, the unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point with a rise of 0.4 percentage point in the female rate and no change in that of male.

Chart 2: Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by quarter, 1st quarter 2011 – 2nd quarter 2012



13. Unemployment rate 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, adjustments have to be made for seasonal fluctuations. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the second quarter of 2012 was 7.7%, higher than the rate of 7.5% for second quarter of 2011 and 7.4% for the first quarter of 2012.

14. The main characteristics of the unemployed as at second quarter 2012 were as follows:

- (i) The 48,900 unemployed comprised 20,100 males (41%) and 28,800 females (59%).
- (ii) Around 22,300 (46%) of them were aged below 25 years.
- (iii) About 55% of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (80%) was single while among females, the majority (61%) was ever married.
- (iv) Some 7,800 or 16% had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level or equivalent and a further 21,900 (45%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (v) Around 37,600 (77%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 11,300 (23%) for more than one year.
- (vi) About 30,000 (61%) had working experience and 18,900 (39%) were looking for a job for the first time.

- (vii) Around 17,500 (36%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 12,500 (26%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 4,100 (33%) 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 10,200. Among them, about 8,100 (79%) had not passed SC.
- (x) 4,500 or 9% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- (xi) 5,800 (12%) lived in households with no employed persons.

Economically inactive population

15. The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 395,400 at second quarter 2012.
16. The inactive population was made up of 117,500 males and 277,900 females. Among inactive males, 43% were 'retired or old persons' and 36% were students. Among females, 58% were homemakers and 16% students.

Sampling errors

17. The estimates in this publication are based on the results of a sample survey and are thus subject to sample variability. Standard errors and confidence intervals give an indication of this variability.
18. The standard error of the estimates and the 95% confidence interval which represent a 95% chance that the true value lies within that interval, are given in the tables that follow.

Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 2nd quarter 2011 –
2nd quarter 2012

		Estimates	Standard Error	95% confidence interval	
				Lower limit	Upper limit
Both Sexes					
Labour force					
	2011 Q2	577,600	15,800	546,400	608,800
	Q3	583,700	12,600	559,000	608,400
	Q4	585,600	16,800	552,500	618,800
	2012 Q1 ¹	582,300	13,700	555,400	609,400
	Q2 ²	597,200	16,600	564,600	629,800
Employment					
	2011 Q2	531,400	14,300	503,200	559,600
	Q3	537,800	11,700	514,700	560,900
	Q4	541,800	15,400	511,600	572,100
	2012 Q1 ¹	535,500	12,800	510,300	560,800
	Q2 ²	548,300	16,100	516,600	579,900
Unemployment					
	2011 Q2	46,200	3,700	38,900	53,500
	Q3	45,900	3,200	39,600	52,200
	Q4	43,800	3,800	36,300	51,300
	2012 Q1 ¹	46,800	3,000	40,900	52,800
	Q2 ²	48,900	3,100	42,900	55,100
Unemployment rate, %					
	2011 Q2	8.0	0.6	6.9	9.1
	Q3	7.9	0.5	6.9	8.9
	Q4	7.5	0.6	6.3	8.6
	2012 Q1 ¹	8.0	0.5	7.1	9.0
	Q2 ²	8.2	0.5	7.2	9.2
Activity rate, %					
	2011 Q2	58.9	0.6	57.7	60.0
	Q3	59.3	0.6	58.1	60.5
	Q4	59.3	0.6	58.1	60.6
	2012 Q1 ¹	58.8	0.6	57.7	60.0
	Q2 ²	60.2	0.6	59.0	61.4

¹ revised ² provisional

Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 2nd quarter 2011 –
2nd quarter 2012

Male

		Estimates	Standard Error	95% confidence interval	
				Lower limit	Upper limit
Labour force					
	2011 Q2	357,800	10,000	338,000	377,500
	Q3	362,100	8,500	345,500	378,800
	Q4	365,500	11,500	342,900	388,100
	2012 Q1 ¹	364,100	8,900	346,500	381,700
	Q2 ²	368,700	10,300	348,400	389,000
Employment					
	2011 Q2	338,100	9,500	319,500	356,700
	Q3	342,600	8,000	326,900	358,400
	Q4	347,600	10,600	326,600	368,500
	2012 Q1 ¹	343,900	8,400	327,300	360,600
	Q2 ²	348,600	10,200	328,400	368,700
Unemployment					
	2011 Q2	19,700	2,300	15,200	24,100
	Q3	19,500	1,900	15,700	23,300
	Q4	17,900	2,200	13,700	22,200
	2012 Q1 ¹	20,200	1,800	16,600	23,700
	Q2 ²	20,100	1,700	16,700	23,600
Unemployment rate, %					
	2011 Q2	5.5	0.6	4.3	6.7
	Q3	5.4	0.5	4.4	6.4
	Q4	4.9	0.5	3.8	6.0
	2012 Q1 ¹	5.5	0.5	4.6	6.4
	Q2 ²	5.5	0.5	4.5	6.4
Activity rate, %					
	2011 Q2	74.4	0.8	72.8	75.9
	Q3	75.0	0.7	73.7	76.4
	Q4	75.5	0.7	74.1	77.0
	2012 Q1 ¹	75.1	0.7	73.8	76.4
	Q2 ²	75.8	0.7	74.5	77.1

¹ revised

² provisional

Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 2nd quarter 2011 –
2nd quarter 2012

Female					
		Estimates	Standard Error	95% confidence interval	
				Lower limit	Upper limit
Labour force					
	2011 Q2	219,800	7,500	205,000	234,700
	Q3	221,600	6,000	209,700	233,400
	Q4	220,100	7,200	206,000	234,300
	2012 Q1 ¹	218,200	6,300	205,800	230,800
	Q2 ²	228,500	7,700	213,300	243,800
Employment					
	2011 Q2	193,300	6,700	180,200	206,400
	Q3	195,200	5,600	184,200	206,200
	Q4	194,200	6,500	181,500	207,000
	2012 Q1 ¹	191,600	6,000	179,800	203,400
	Q2 ²	199,700	7,200	185,500	213,900
Unemployment					
	2011 Q2	26,500	2,500	21,700	31,400
	Q3	26,400	2,300	21,900	30,800
	Q4	25,900	2,900	20,200	31,600
	2012 Q1 ¹	26,600	1,900	22,800	30,500
	Q2 ²	28,800	2,300	24,200	33,500
Unemployment rate, %					
	2011 Q2	12.1	1.0	10.1	14.0
	Q3	11.9	0.9	10.0	13.8
	Q4	11.8	1.2	9.4	14.1
	2012 Q1 ¹	12.2	0.8	10.5	13.9
	Q2 ²	12.6	1.0	10.7	14.5
Activity rate, %					
	2011Q2	43.9	0.9	42.1	45.8
	Q3	44.1	0.9	42.3	45.9
	Q4	43.7	0.9	41.9	45.6
	2012 Q1 ¹	43.2	0.9	41.5	45.0
	Q2 ²	45.1	0.9	43.3	46.9

¹ revised ² provisional

Longer time series

19. The following graphs show the series for employment, unemployment and activity rate from 1st quarter 2008 to 2nd quarter 2012.

Chart 3: Employment by quarter, 1st quarter 2008 – 2nd quarter 2012



Chart 4: Unemployment rate by quarter, 1st quarter 2008 - 2nd quarter 2012

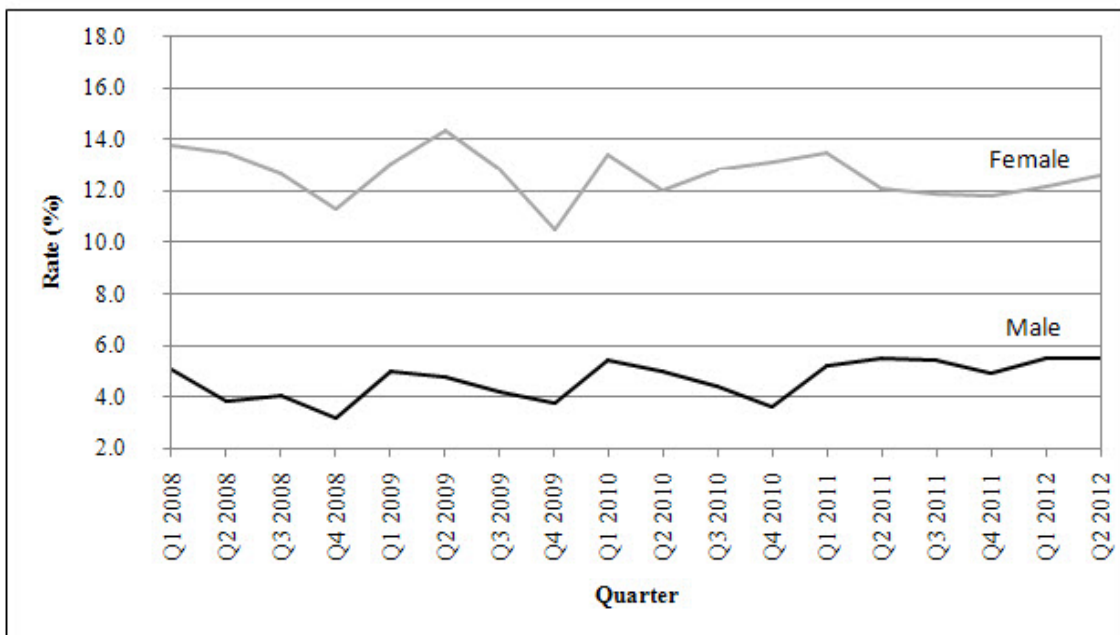


Chart 5: Activity rate by quarter, 1st quarter 2008 - 2nd quarter 2012

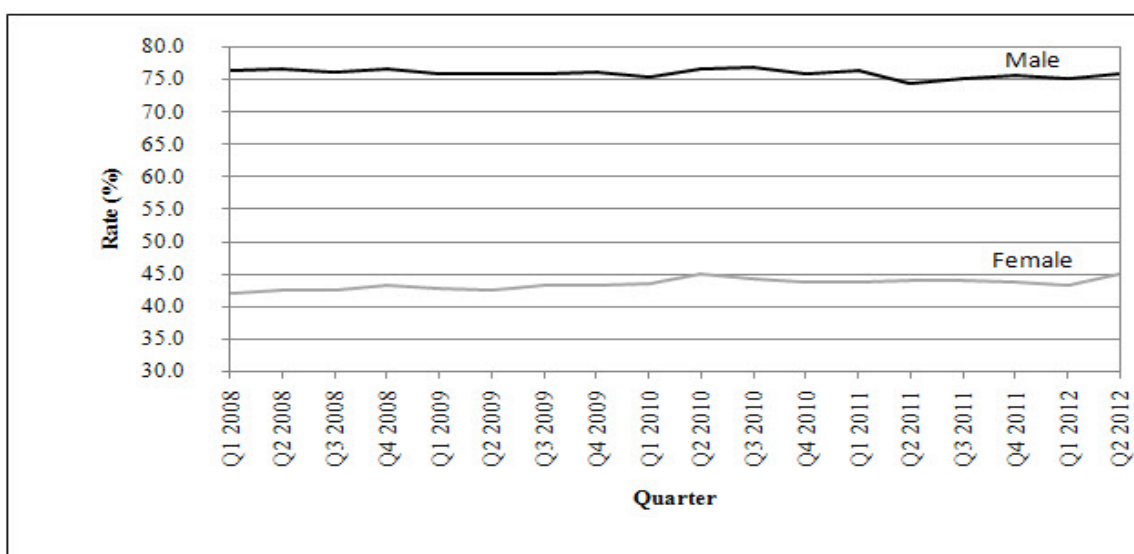
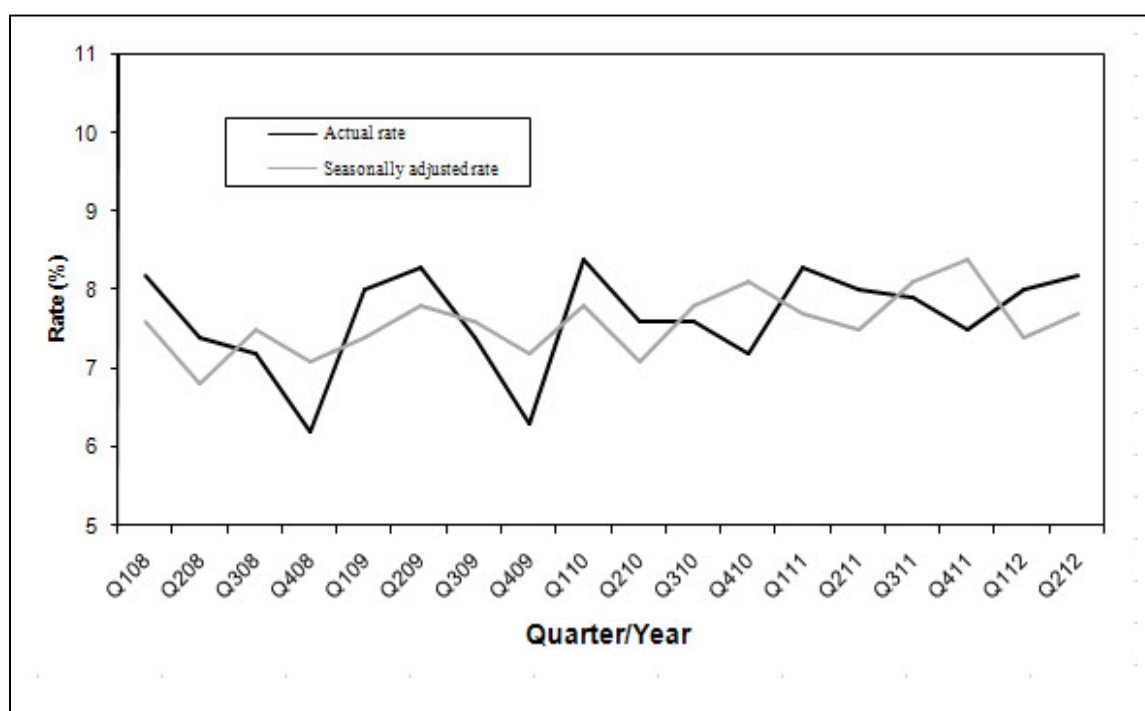


Chart 6: Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 1st quarter 2008 – 2nd quarter 2012



The following tables together with the web version of this publication can be downloaded from Statistics Mauritius website at <http://statsmauritius.gov.mu>. From the homepage, click on 'Statistics by subject' followed by 'labour' then select the appropriate publication under the heading 'Publications – Economic and Social Indicators'.

List of tables

Table 1: Labour market activity by status, 2nd Quarter 2011 to 2nd Quarter 2012

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by age and sex, 2nd Quarter 2012

Table 3: Employment by industrial activity, 2nd Quarter 2011 to 2nd Quarter 2012

Table 4: Employment by occupational group, 2nd Quarter 2011 to 2nd Quarter 2012

Table 5: Employment by hours worked, 2nd Quarter 2011 to 2nd Quarter 2012

Table 6: Unemployment by educational attainment, 2nd Quarter 2011 to 2nd Quarter 2012

Table 7: Unemployment by age, 2nd Quarter 2011 to 2nd Quarter 2012

Table 8: Unemployment by work experience, 2nd Quarter 2011 to 2nd Quarter 2012

Table 9: Economically inactive population by reason, 2nd Quarter 2011 to 2nd Quarter 2012

Statistics Mauritius
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Port Louis

September 2012

Contact persons: (1) Ms. C. Bandinah (Statistician)
Email: cso_cmphs@mail.gov.mu

(2) Mr. C.K. Arianaick (Statistician)
Email: carianaick@mail.gov.mu

Statistics Mauritius
LIC Centre, Port Louis
Tel: 2122316, 2122317 Fax: 2114150

NOTES

Release of Labour Force data

Labour Force statistics are compiled and published in the “Economic and Social Indicators” in March, June, September and December according to an advance calendar posted on the website of Statistics Mauritius (<http://statsmauritius.gov.mu>). This issue provides data for the second quarter 2012 compared to the same quarter a year ago.

However, where appropriate, historical series are also provided for the main indicators.

The CMPHS Survey methodology

Data collection

Face to face interviews of household members are carried out by qualified interviewers recruited by the office.

Frequency of data collection

Data collection is carried out monthly except in 2004 when it 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 has graduated on 28 February 2012.

Scope and coverage of collection

All private Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues are covered.

Sampling method

A Stratified two-stage sampling design is used. 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.

The second stage stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household.

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 (b) a second module covering labour force with in-depth investigation and a core set of questions which are kept constant at all rounds of the survey and (c) a third module grouping other topics of interest but investigated in less details.

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, 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.

Classifications used

Labour force, employment and unemployment estimates are produced according to national classifications based on the following international classifications:

- a. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Rev. 4 of 2007;
- b. International Standard Classification of Occupations, 2008; and
- c. International Standard Classification of Education, 1997.

Definitions

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.

Employment

Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 16 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.).

It is to be noted that 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.

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.

Labour force

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

Unemployment rate

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

Inactive population

Inactive population includes all Mauritians aged 16+ years, 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.

Activity rate

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

Employer

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

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 contributing family workers.

Employee

An Employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity.

Apprentice

An Apprentice is a person being trained for a job or trade and does not receive pay or may just receive some pocket money; an apprentice is considered as an employee.

Contributing family worker

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

Educational attainment

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

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

Tertiary: comprises persons who in addition to their secondary educational certificates (SC and HSC or equivalent) also possess either a certificate/diploma (which is above the HSC but below a first degree) or a degree.

Annual labour force estimates based on data from different data sources, 2004 - 2012

	Labour force			Employment				Unemployment ¹	
	Mauritians aged 16+	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments	outside large establishments	Total	of whom Mauritians	Number	Rate
	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(%)
Both sexes									
2004	531.3	17.5	548.8	293.3	210.9	504.2	486.7	44.6	8.4
2005	542.5	16.6	559.1	292.2	215.0	507.2	490.6	51.9	9.6
2006	548.4	16.7	565.1	295.1	220.2	515.3	498.6	49.8	9.1
2007	548.9	21.6	570.5	302.0	221.7	523.7	502.1	46.8	8.5
2008	559.4	24.0	583.4	311.6	231.4	543.0	519.0	40.4	7.2
2009	566.3	21.0	587.3	306.0	239.8	545.8	524.8	41.5	7.3
2010	581.3	22.0	603.3	310.1	248.0	558.1	536.1	45.2	7.8
2011	582.8	23.0	605.8	310.7	249.0	559.7	536.7	46.1	7.9
2012 ²	584.8	24.0	608.8	311.2	250.8	562.0	538.0	46.8	8.0
Change current year over previous:	2.0	1.0	3.0	0.5	1.8	2.3	1.3	0.7	0.1
Male									
2004	347.8	9.0	356.8	189.1	147.7	336.8	327.8	20.0	5.8
2005	349.6	9.1	358.7	189.3	149.2	338.5	329.4	20.2	5.8
2006	351.4	8.3	359.7	190.0	150.5	340.5	332.2	19.2	5.5
2007	353.6	12.1	365.7	195.6	151.5	347.1	335.0	18.6	5.3
2008	355.6	14.7	370.3	201.0	154.7	355.7	341.0	14.6	4.1
2009	358.1	13.0	371.1	198.0	157.3	355.3	342.3	15.8	4.4
2010	362.4	13.1	375.5	198.8	160.0	358.8	345.7	16.7	4.6
2011	363.6	13.4	377.0	197.8	160.4	358.2	344.8	18.8	5.2
2012 ²	364.6	13.7	378.3	198.1	161.2	359.3	345.6	19.0	5.2
Change current year over previous:	1.0	0.3	1.3	0.3	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.2	0.0
Female									
2004	183.5	8.5	192.0	104.2	63.2	167.4	158.9	24.6	13.4
2005	192.9	7.5	200.4	102.9	65.8	168.7	161.2	31.7	16.4
2006	197.0	8.4	205.4	105.1	69.7	174.8	166.4	30.6	15.5
2007	195.3	9.5	204.8	106.4	70.2	176.6	167.1	28.2	14.4
2008	203.8	9.3	213.1	110.6	76.7	187.3	178.0	25.8	12.7
2009	208.2	8.0	216.2	108.0	82.5	190.5	182.5	25.7	12.3
2010	218.9	8.9	227.8	111.3	88.0	199.3	190.4	28.5	13.0
2011	219.2	9.6	228.8	112.9	88.6	201.5	191.9	27.3	12.5
2012 ²	220.2	10.3	230.5	113.1	89.6	202.7	192.4	27.8	12.6
Change current year over previous:	1.0	0.7	1.7	0.2	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.1

¹ Unemployment figures and rate refer to Mauritians² Forecast**Note:**

The above figures have been worked out in order to give a set of comparable labour force estimates obtained from different sources. Users are cautioned in the use of these figures given that there are differences related to the reference period, coverage and methodology. The different sources from which these estimates have been obtained are as follows:

- i CMPHS for Mauritian labour force estimates which are subject to sampling variability as mentioned at paragraph 17.
- ii The Annual Survey of Employment and Earnings (SEE) carried out in March of each year. Employment figures refer to jobs in large establishments employing 10 or more persons and include both Mauritians and foreign workers.
- iii Employment in 'other than large' establishments has been estimated after reconciling data from CMPHS, SEE and administrative sources.