

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Fourth quarter 2013

Introduction

1. This issue of Economic and Social Indicators (ESI) presents estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the fourth quarter of 2013, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from October to December 2013. 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.

Notes to users

The estimates are based on population figures revised according to the 2011 Population Census results.

The use of the revised population figures has impacted on the level of the labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population which are directly related to the size of the population. Also, changes in the age composition of the population have affected the different rates, namely activity and unemployment rates.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, longer series of employment, unemployment rate and activity rate and sampling errors, as usually published, will be presented in the next issue of this ESI.

The quarterly and yearly revised estimates for 2011 to 2013 are given at Annex 4.

Key figures

	Q4 2012	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Change	
				Q4 2013 - Q4 2012	Q4 2013 - Q3 2013
Labour force	565,100	572,100	578,700	+13,600	+6,600
Employment	521,800	526,200	535,300	+13,500	+9,100
Unemployment	43,300	45,900	43,400	+100	-2,500
Unemployment rate (%)	7.7	8.0	7.5	-0.2	-0.5

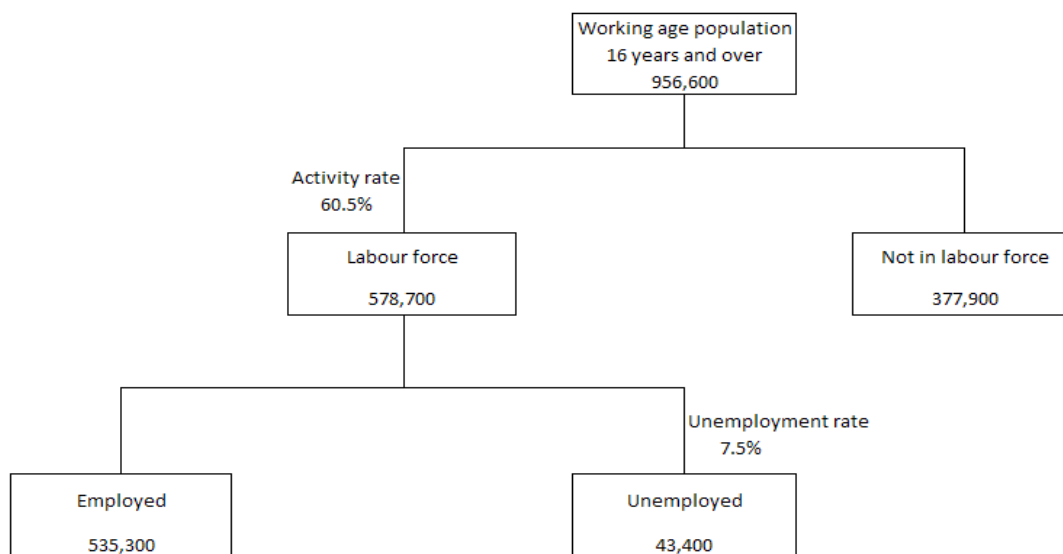
Employment and Unemployment - Year 2012 and 2013

	Year 2012	Year 2013	Change
Employment	511,700	525,700	+14,000
Unemployment	44,600	45,500	+900
Unemployment rate (%)	8.0	8.0	0.0

Labour market overview, fourth quarter 2013

3. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2012, there has been an increase in the labour force (+13,600) with an increase in both employment (+13,500) and in unemployment (+900).
4. Compared with the previous quarter, labour force showed an increase of 8,100 with an increase in employment (+9,100) and a decrease in unemployment (-1,000).

Chart 1: The Labour Market, 4th quarter 2013



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Labour market overview, fourth quarter 2013

3. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2012, there has been an increase in the labour force (+13,600) with an increase in both employment (+13,500) and in unemployment (+100).
4. Compared with the previous quarter, labour force showed an increase of 6,600 with an increase in employment (+9,100) and a decrease in unemployment (-2,500).

28 March 2014

Labour force participation

5. The activity rate for fourth quarter 2013 was 60.5%, up by 0.9 percentage point from 59.6% in the corresponding quarter one year earlier. The activity rate for male increased by 1.3 percentage points to 76.3% while that for female also increased by 0.6 percentage points to 45.4%.
6. Compared with the previous quarter, the activity rate increased to 60.5% by 0.5 percentage point. The male activity rate increased by 1.2 percentage points from 75.1% to 76.3% whilst that of female remained at 45.4%.

Employment

7. From fourth quarter 2012 to fourth quarter 2013, employment increased by 13,500 to 535,300; male employment increased by 8,400 to 339,300 whilst female employment also increased by 5,100 to 196,000.
8. Compared with the previous quarter, employment increased by 9,100 with increases of 8,300 in male employment and 800 in female employment.

Unemployment

9. From fourth quarter 2012 to fourth quarter 2013, the number of unemployed persons increased by 100 to 43,400. This increase is the net effect of increase of 200 in unemployed males and a decrease of 100 in the number of unemployed females.
10. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point from fourth quarter 2012 to fourth quarter 2013. Male unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point while that of female by 0.3 percentage point.
11. When compared with third quarter of 2013, the total number of unemployed persons decreased by 2,500 (2,100 males and 400 females).
12. From third quarter to fourth quarter 2013, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.5 percentage point with decreases of 0.7 percentage point in that of male and of 0.2 percentage point in the female rate.
13. The main characteristics of the unemployed as at fourth quarter 2013 were as follows:
 - (i) The 43,400 unemployed comprised 17,500 males (40%) and 25,900 females (60%).
 - (ii) Around 16,800 (39%) of them were aged below 25 years.

- (iii) About half of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (69%) was single while among females, the majority (60%) was ever married.
- (iv) Some 6,800 or 16% had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level or equivalent and a further 12,600 (29%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (v) Around 33,300 (77%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 10,100 (23%) for more than one year.
- (vi) About 27,500 (63%) had working experience and 15,800 (37%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- (vii) Around 15,800 (36%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 9,900 (23%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 2,700 (27%) 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 9,300. Among them, about 6,200 (67%) had not passed SC.
- (x) 6,100 or 14% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- (xi) 6,000 (14%) lived in households with no employed persons.

Economically inactive population

14. The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 377,900 at fourth quarter 2013.
15. The inactive population was made up of 111,000 males and 266,900 females. Among inactive males, around 46% were 'retired or old persons' and 35% were students. Among females, 55% were homemakers. 'Retired or old persons' and students each represented 17% of inactive females.

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'.

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March 2014

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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 fourth quarter 2013 compared to the same quarter a year ago.

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 2011 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. 977.

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.

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, 2011 - 2013

	Labour force			Employment				Unemployment ¹	
	Mauritians aged 16+	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishment	outside large establishment	Total	of whom Mauritians	Number	Rate
	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(%)
Both sexes									
2011	548.6	23.0	571.6	310.7	218.2	528.9	505.9	42.7	7.8
2012	556.3	24.0	580.3	311.5	224.2	535.7	511.7	44.6	8.0
2013	571.2	26.3	597.5	312.5	239.5	552.0	525.7	45.5	8.0
Change current year over previous:	14.9	2.3	17.2	1.0	15.3	16.3	14.0	0.9	0.0
Male									
2011	343.3	13.4	356.7	197.8	141.6	339.4	326.0	17.3	5.0
2012	346.9	14.2	361.1	198.3	144.7	343.0	328.8	18.1	5.2
2013	350.4	16.5	366.9	199.1	149.2	348.3	331.8	18.6	5.3
Change current year over previous:	3.5	2.3	5.8	0.8	4.5	5.3	3.0	0.5	0.1
Female									
2011	205.3	9.6	214.9	112.9	76.6	189.5	179.9	25.4	12.4
2012	209.4	9.8	219.2	113.2	79.5	192.7	182.9	26.5	12.7
2013	220.8	9.8	230.6	113.4	90.3	203.7	193.9	26.9	12.2
Change current year over previous:	11.4	0.0	11.4	0.2	10.8	11.0	11.0	0.4	-0.5

¹ Unemployment figures and rates refer to Mauritians

Note:

1. 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.
2. The Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment estimates are based on population figures revised according to the 2011 Population Census results.

**Labour force estimates based on population figures revised according to 2011
Population Census results, 2011, 2012 and 2013**

Estimates	Q 1 2011	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Year 2011
Labour Force	550,900	544,100	549,000	550,600	548,600
Employed	505,900	501,400	506,600	509,900	505,900
Unemployed	45,000	42,700	42,400	40,700	42,700
Inactive Population	383,200	392,900	390,100	390,600	388,400
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.2	7.8	7.7	7.4	7.8
Activity Rate (%)	59.0	58.1	58.5	58.5	58.5

Estimates	Q 1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Year 2012
Labour Force	546,300	560,300	559,500	565,100	556,300
Employed	503,000	515,100	516,100	521,800	511,700
Unemployed	43,300	45,200	43,400	43,300	44,600
Inactive Population	395,900	383,900	386,900	383,500	389,100
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.9	8.1	7.8	7.7	8.0
Activity Rate (%)	58.0	59.3	59.1	59.6	58.8

Estimates	Q 1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Year 2013
Labour Force	562,200	567,600	572,100	578,700	571,200
Employed	513,900	522,000	526,200	535,300	525,700
Unemployed	48,300	45,600	45,900	43,400	45,500
Inactive Population	387,400	384,200	382,100	377,900	381,900
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.6	8.0	8.0	7.5	8.0
Activity Rate (%)	59.2	59.6	60.0	60.5	59.9