

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Year 2015

Introduction

1. This seventh issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2015, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS). The estimates refer to the Mauritian population aged 16 years and above in the Republic of Mauritius; foreign workers are not included.
2. The estimates in this publication are subject to sampling variability that tends to be relatively large in cases where the sample numbers are small.

Key figures

	2014	2015	Change 2014 - 2015
Labour force	575,700	584,600	+8,900
Employment	530,900	538,300	+7,400
Unemployment	44,800	46,300	+1,500
Unemployment rate (%)	7.8	7.9	+0.1 pt
Activity rate (%)	59.9	60.4	+0.5pt

Detailed estimates together with sampling error and confidence interval are given in Table 1 at Annex.

NOTE: The increase in employment, e.g 7,400 in the above table represents the net change in employment level i.e “Employment creations minus employment losses” during the period under reference.

Key points

3. Change from 2014 to 2015

- a. Labour force increased by 8,900 from 575,700 to 584,600.
- b. Activity rate increased by 0.5 from 59.9% to 60.4%. Male activity rate decreased from 75.2% to 74.8% while female activity rate increased from 45.3% to 46.6%.
- c. Employment increased by 7,400 from 530,900 to 538,300 driven by an increase of 7,000 in female employment and 400 in male employment.
- d. Unemployment increased by 1,500 (100 among males and 1,400 among females) to 46,300, resulting in a slight increase in the unemployment rate from 7.8% to 7.9%. Female unemployment rate increased from 11.4% to 11.6% while male unemployment rate remained at the same level of 5.5%.

4. Situation in 2015

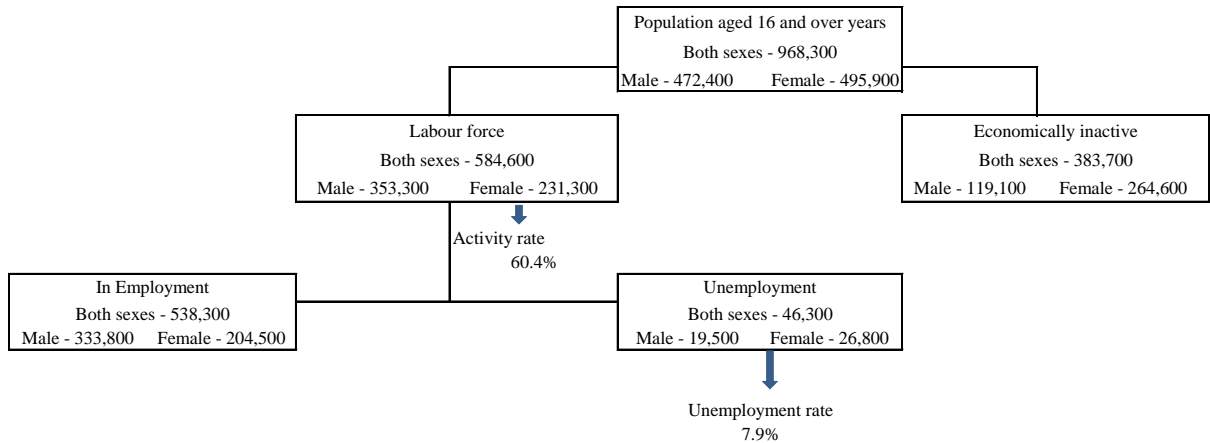
- a. Men comprised 60% of the workforce (Table 2).
- b. Most of the workers (79%) were employees (Table 4)
- c. Among the unemployed, women outnumbered men (26,800 compared to 19,500) though they were generally more qualified (Table 16).
- d. Unemployment rate was highest at the lowest age groups and decreased progressively with increasing age (Table 13). Youth (aged 16 to 24 years) unemployment rate stood at 26.3% (21.6% for male and 32.7% for female).

5. Evolution from 2005 to 2015

- a. Men are more economically active than women but the gap is decreasing over time (Table 20).
- b. Female employment is increasing faster than male employment (Table 7).
- c. The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment (Table 7).
- d. From 9.6% recorded in 2005, the unemployment rate decreased to 7.2% in 2008 after which an upward trend was observed till 2012 (8.0%). In 2014 and 2015, the unemployment rate stood at 7.8% and 7.9% respectively (Table 21).
- e. From a rate of around 26% in 2005, youth unemployment dropped to 19% in 2008. It then rose to around 26% again in 2015 (Table 14).

Labour market overview

Chart 1 – The Labour Market, 2015



6. In 2015, the population of working age (aged 16 years and over) numbered 968,300, of whom 584,600 consisted of the labour force (or were economically active) resulting in an activity rate of 60.4%. The number employed totalled 538,300 whilst the number unemployed stood at 46,300; the unemployment rate worked out to 7.9% of the labour force.

Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2015



7. The pyramid (Chart 2) and Table 2 indicate that in 2015:
- i. The number inactive was significantly higher among women than men at all ages;
 - ii. There were fewer women than men among the employed at all ages ;
 - iii. Unemployed women were more numerous than unemployed men at almost all ages except in the age group 16 to 19 years.
 - iv. As from age 25 – 29 years, the number unemployed generally decreased with age.

Employment

8. Total employment stood at 538,300 (333,800 males and 204,500 females) in 2015. The employment to population ratio was around 56% (71% for males and 41% for females).

Men comprised 60% of the workforce

9. Out of every 100 persons in the workforce, 60 were men and the mean age of a worker was 42 years for men and 40 years for women.

The workforce is mainly made up of married persons

10. The workforce was made up mainly of married persons (65.7%), followed by persons in the single state (26.3%). A small proportion of the employed were widowed, divorced and separated (8.0%). Compared to the male workforce, the female workforce consisted of a higher proportion of widowed, divorced and separated persons (13.9% compared to 4.4%) (Table 3).

The workforce is mostly made up of employees

11. 79.1% of the employed were employees while around 18.5% were self-employed (own account workers or employers) and the remaining 2.4% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (83.9% against 76.1% among males) and contributing family workers (4.7% against 1.0%) but a lower proportion of self-employed (11.3% against 22.8% among males) (Table 4).

Employers worked longer hours than other categories of workers and earned the highest income

12. On average, an employed person worked 38.8 hours per week. An employer put in 40.3 hours of work compared to 39.8 hours for an employee and 34.4 hours for an own-account worker (Table 5).
13. Monthly income from employment, which includes income from paid work and income from business activities, amounted to Rs 19,100. The average monthly

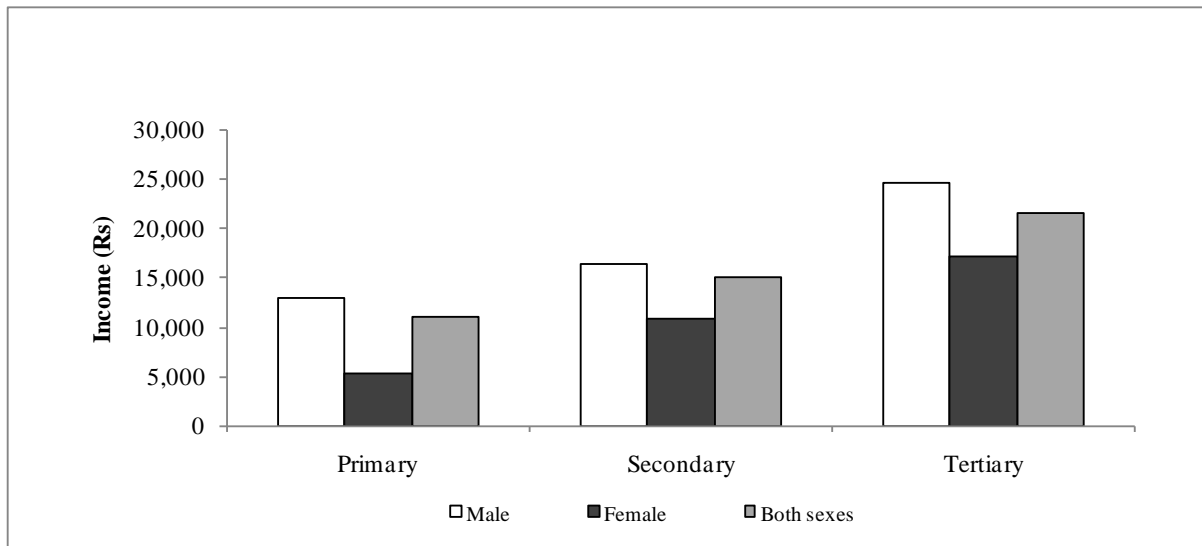
income for an employer was Rs 27,000 against Rs 11,200 for an own-account worker while that for an employee stood at Rs 20,200 (Table 6).

The tertiary sector provided jobs to 7 out of every 10 workers and gave the highest pay

14. Out of every 100 workers, 67 were employed in the tertiary sector (covering trade, accommodation and food service activities, transportation and storage and all the other service industries), 25 in the secondary sector (covering manufacturing, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage waste management and remediation activities and construction) and 8 in the primary sector (covering agriculture, forestry and fishing and mining & quarrying) (Table 7).

15. Income from employment was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 21,500), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 15,000) and the primary sector (Rs 11,100) (Table 8).

Chart 3 – Average monthly income from employment by industrial sector and sex, 2015



Workers in the primary sector had the highest length of service but worked for fewer hours

16. Workers in the primary sector had the highest length of service with their present employer (12.8 years), followed by both the tertiary and the secondary sectors at 9.8 years (Table 9).

17. Employed persons in the secondary sector had the longest hours of work (39.7 hours per week), followed by those in the tertiary sector (39.3 hours) and the primary sector (32.0 hours) (Table 10).

Employed Mauritian are distributed across all occupational groups

18. Around 24.6% of the employed was engaged in the highest occupational group (ISCO 1-3) which comprised chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals. Clerical and support workers (ISCO 4) made up 8.8% of the workforce; service and sales workers (ISCO 5) 20.8%. Another 29.4% were skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers (ISCO 6-8). Those engaged in elementary occupations (ISCO 9) made up 16.4% of the workforce. (Table 11).
19. Chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals earned the highest monthly income (Rs 36,000), followed by clerical and support workers (Rs 19,200). The lowest income was drawn by those engaged in elementary occupations (Rs 10,000) (Table 12).

1 out of every 4 workers was available for additional work

20. In addition to their main job and secondary job (if any), 23.2% of the employed population was available for additional work. Employed women were less available for additional work than their male counterparts; 17% reported that they were willing to work additional hours against 27% for men.

Some 6% of the employed had secondary jobs

21. Out of the 538,300 employed, 5.6% held a secondary job. Around 73.0% of the secondary job holders were employees. The main sectors in which they were operating were: agriculture (28.4%), wholesale and retail trade and repairs (11.8%) and construction (9.9%).

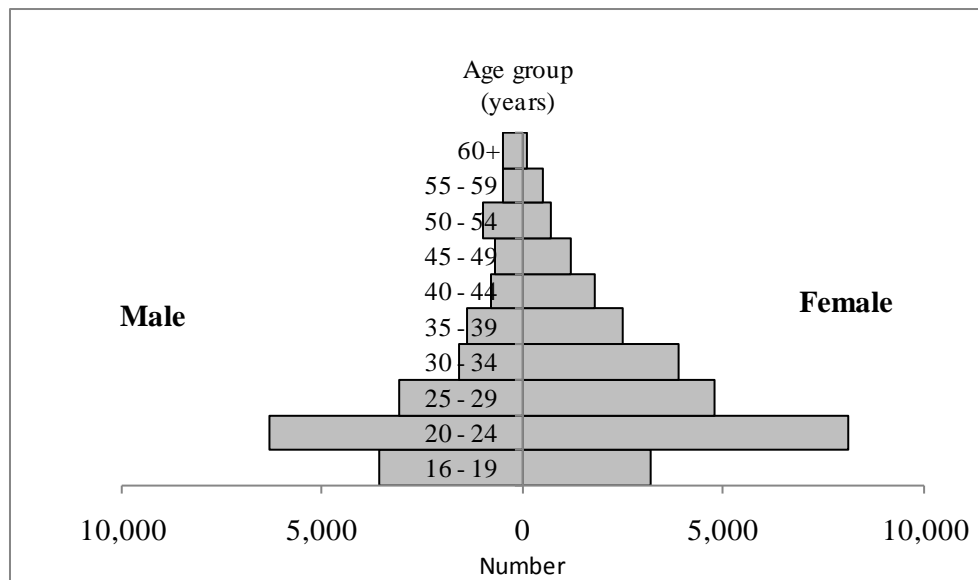
Unemployment

22. In 2015, unemployed persons numbered 46,300, comprising 19,500 men and 26,800 women. The unemployment rate was 7.9%, 11.6% among women and 5.5% among men.

There are more unemployed among women than among men

23. The unbalanced shape of the pyramid in Chart 4 indicates the predominance of females among the unemployed at almost all age-groups. Women represented 58% of the total unemployed and they outnumbered men by 7,300.

Chart 4 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2015



24. The mean age of both unemployed men and women was 29 years.

Unemployment rate is highest among young persons

25. Unemployment rate was highest at the lowest age groups and decreased progressively with increasing age. It was 26.3% among those below 25 years and 2.1% at age 50 years and above (Table 13).

26. The disparity between male and female unemployment rate was highest in the lower age group; the difference was around 11 percentage points among the unemployed below 25 years.

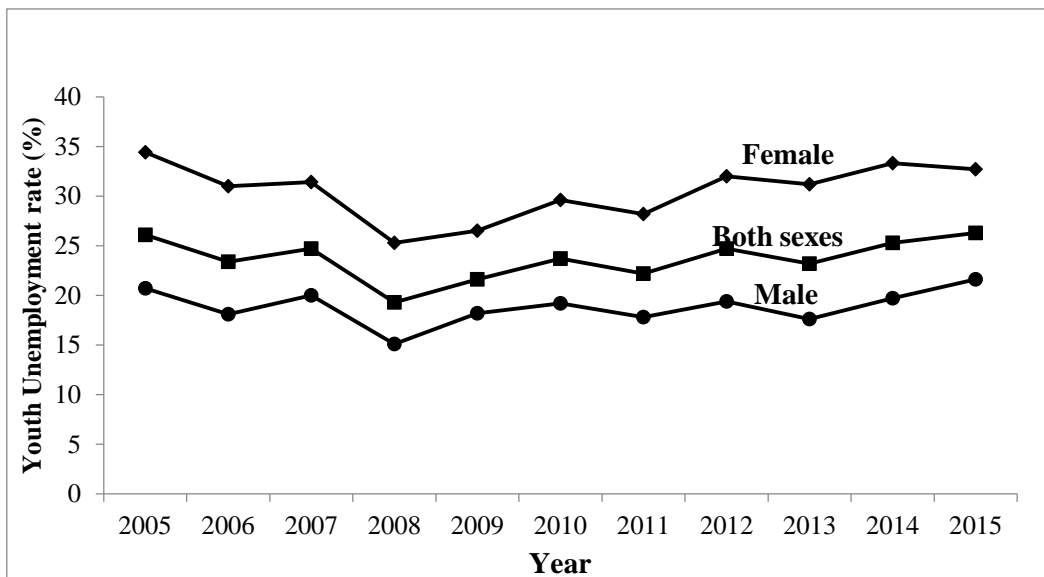
Trend in youth unemployment, 2005 to 2015

27. From a rate of around 26% in 2005, youth unemployment rate dropped to 19% in 2008. It then rose to around 26% again in 2015 (Table 14). A similar trend was observed for men and women over the past ten years.

28. Youth unemployment rate for women has been consistently higher than that of men. During the period 2005 to 2008, the gap between male and female youth unemployment rate decreased as a result of a sharper decline in female unemployment rate. The gap then widened due to a higher increase in female unemployment rate.

29. The young unemployed in 2015 numbered 21,200 of whom 9,900 were men and 11,300 women compared to 10,400 men and 11,200 women in 2005.

Chart 5 – Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployment rate, 2005-2015



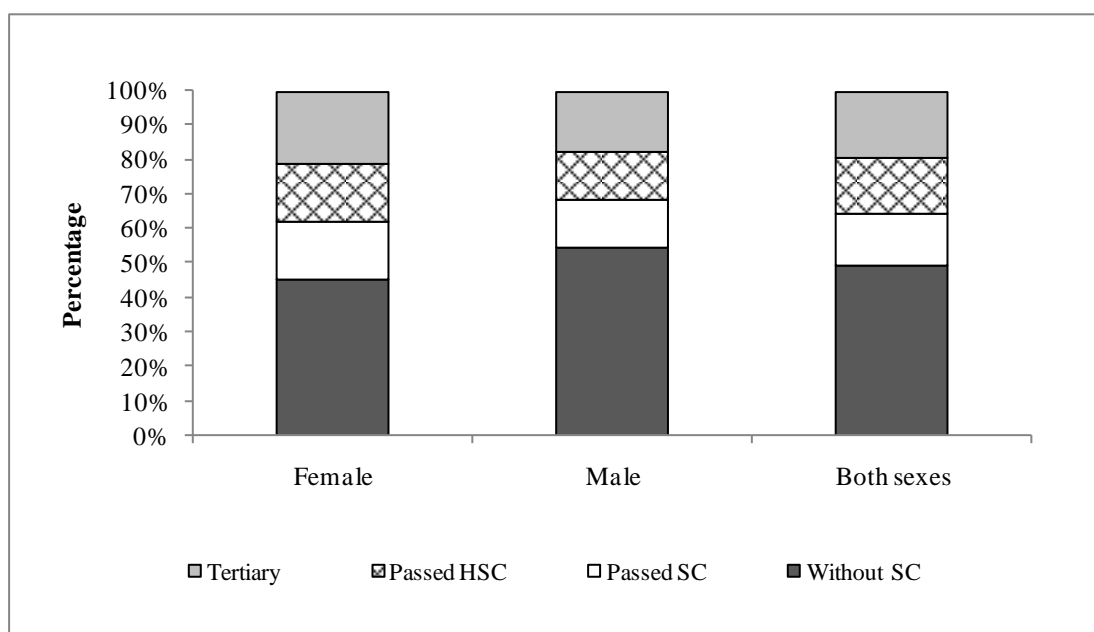
The unemployed men are mostly single while the unemployed women are mostly ever-married

30. About 41% of the unemployed were ever-married and the remaining were single. Most of the unemployed men, however, were single (76%) whereas most of the unemployed women were ever-married (53%), i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 15).

A high percentage of the unemployed do not hold the School Certificate

31. Around 49% of the unemployed, representing 22,900 persons, did not hold a Cambridge School Certificate (SC): 13% had not attained the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, 5% held the CPE certificate only, and a further 31% attended secondary school but did not pass the SC. The proportion with SC as highest attainment was 15% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 16%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 9,000 and represented 19% of the total unemployed (Table 16).

Chart 6 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2015



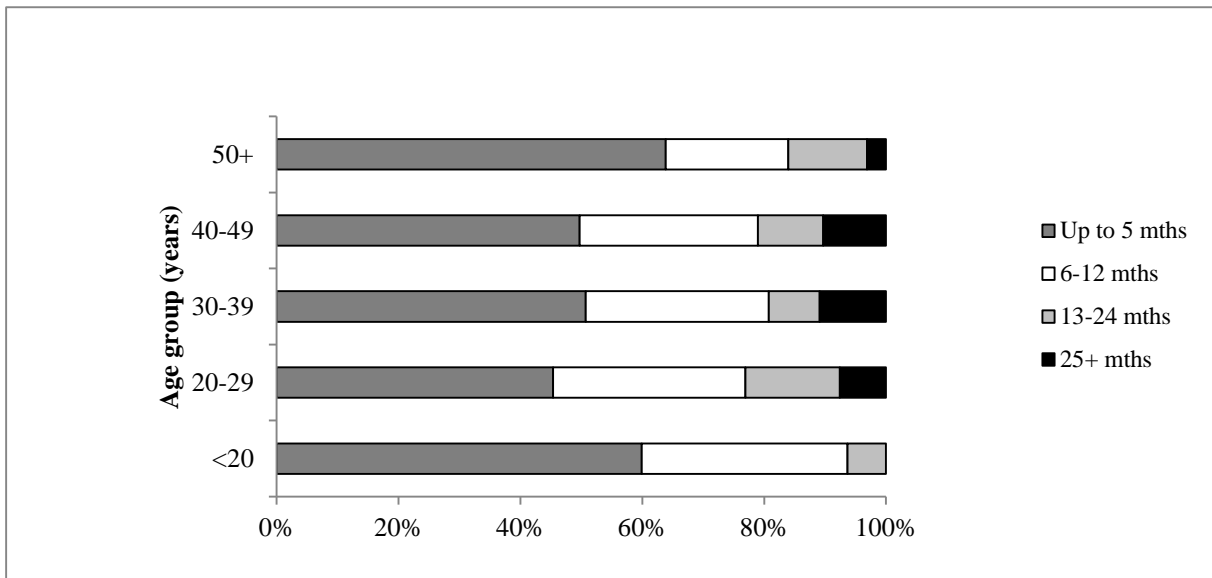
Unemployed women are generally more qualified than unemployed men

32. Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around 34% of them possessed the School Certificate or the Higher School Certificate against 28% among males. Similarly, a higher proportion of unemployed women (21%) attained tertiary level education as compared to unemployed men (17%).

Women are in unemployment nearly five months more than men

33. On average, an unemployed person had been without a job for 9.8 months. Women remained unemployed for 11.3 months compared to 7.7 months for men. The duration of unemployment varies with age (Chart 7). The proportion unemployed for less than six months was highest among those aged 50 years and above while the proportion unemployed for more than 24 months was highest among those aged 30 to 39 years.

Chart 7 – Duration of unemployment by age group, 2015



The unemployed is predominantly made up of persons with work experience

34. Around two thirds of the unemployed had worked in the past. Nearly two third (68%) had work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly ‘Wholesale & retail trade’ and ‘Accommodation and food service activities’. Another 29% had worked previously in the secondary sector, mainly in ‘Manufacturing’ followed by ‘Construction’.The remaining 3.0% previously worked in the agricultural sector.

28% of the unemployed who worked before lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job

35. Some 28% of the unemployed lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job. Another 24% left their job due to non-satisfaction with job while around 10% left due to marriage/household responsibilities. Closure of establishment and reduction in workforce accounted for 22% of the job losses.

The most popular method of job search was ‘applied to prospective employers’and ‘checked at factories, worksites’

36. The unemployed usually had recourse to more than one method of job search. The most common method was ‘applied to prospective employers’(55%) followed by ‘checked at factories,worksites, etc’ (45%). Around 44% were registered at the Employment Service (Table 17).

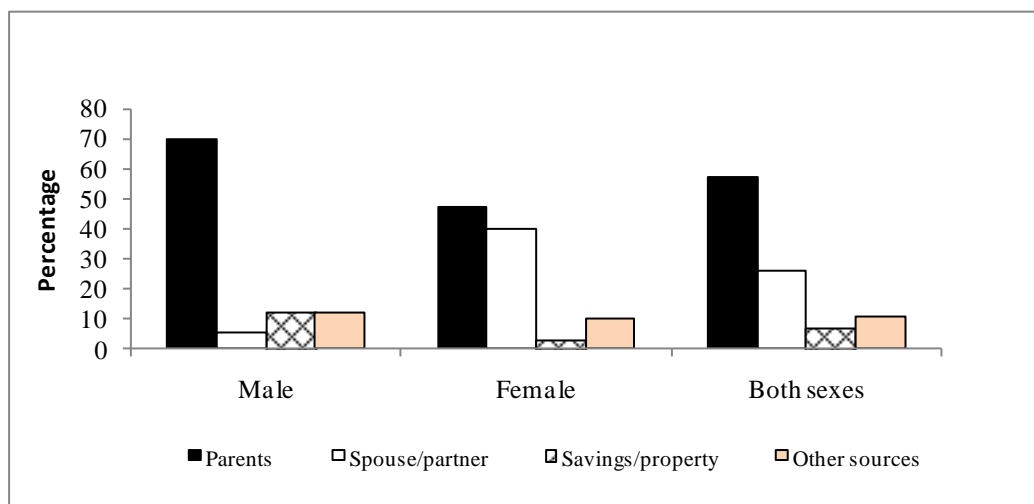
The unemployed were more willing to accept full time rather than part time employment

37. The unemployed were more likely to accept full time employment (94%) rather than part time employment (64%). 89% would take up a job either in the private sector or in the public sector. Only 51% were willing to accept a temporary job. Some 57% would accept a job below their qualification while 53% were willing to work outside their level of qualification or training.(Table 18).

The unemployed relied mainly on their parents and spouse for financial support

38. The main source of income support for the unemployed to meet their daily needs was their parents (57%) followed by their spouse/partner (26%). Other sources of support were from other relatives, savings and pensions.

Chart 8 – Unemployed population by main source of income to meet daily needs and sex, 2015



Inactive population

39. The number of persons aged 16 years and over not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) stood at 383,700 (119,100 males and 264,600 females) (Table 19). Some 5,600 of them were classified as inactive 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. About 32% of these inactive did not look for work because they either believed that suitable jobs were not available or did not know where to look for work.

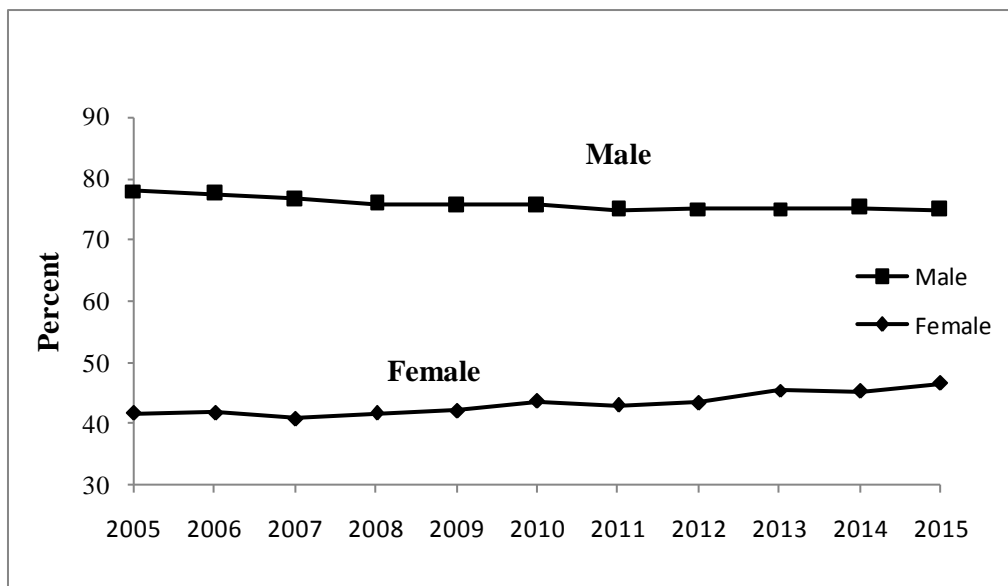
40. The inactive population comprised 40% homemakers, 21% students, 26% retired or old persons and 9% sick or disabled persons.

Evolution from 2005 to 2015

Male activity rate is higher than for females but the gap is decreasing over time

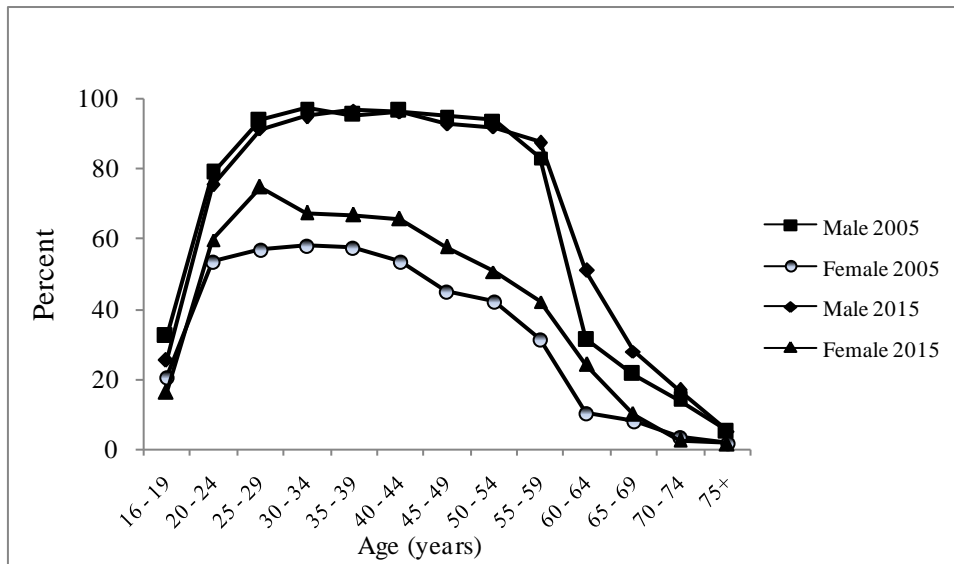
41. During the period 2005 to 2015, male activity rate was consistently higher than female activity rate (Chart 9). However, the gap was narrowing over time as the activity rate for men has been constantly decreasing over the years while that of females has been generally increasing (Table 20).

Chart 9 – Activity rate by sex, 2005 - 2015



42. Over the years, the shape of the curve for female activity rate by age (Chart 10) has been tending towards that of the male. Increases in activity rate were noted for females aged 20 years and over, being more pronounced for women aged 20-49 years.

Chart 10 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2005 & 2015



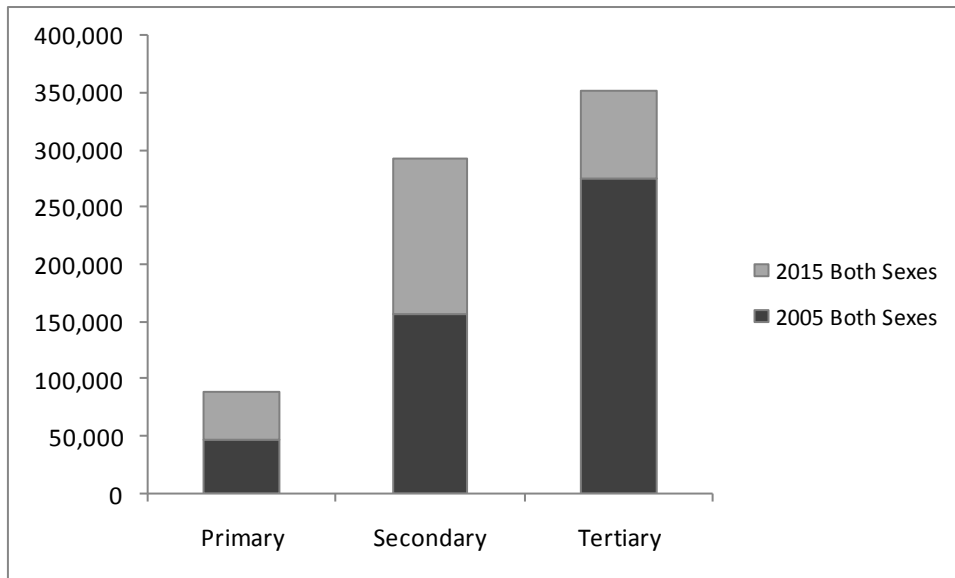
Female employment is increasing faster than male employment

43. During the period 2005 to 2015, female employment increased at a faster rate than male employment. On average, female employment increased annually by 4,700 or 2.6% whereas male employment increased by 1,300 or 0.4% (Table 7).

The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment

44. Over time, the tertiary sector has become increasingly important in terms of employment. From 2005 to 2015, employment in this sector rose from 274,300 to 361,200; its share over total employment also increased from 57% to 67%. In contrast, employment in the primary and secondary sectors has been declining over time. In the primary sector, employment went down from 47,300 in 2005 to 42,100 in 2015 mainly due to a decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment declined from 156,500 to 135,000 mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector (Table 7).

Chart 11 – Employed population by industrial sector and sex, 2005 & 2015



Mauritian workforce is moving up the occupation ladder

45. The share of employment in the higher occupational groups (ISCO 1-3) comprising legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals increased from 15.5% in 2005 to 24.6% in 2015. In contrast the share of employment in the lowest occupational group (ISCO 9) representing elementary jobs decreased from 20.8% to 16.4%

Chart 12 – Employed population by occupational group, 2005 -2015

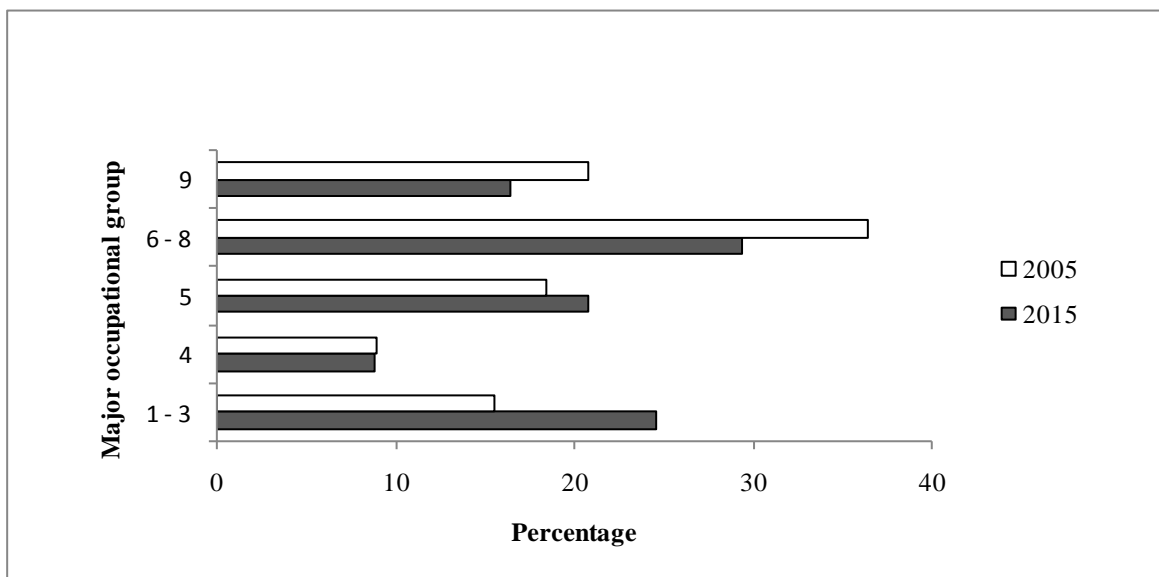
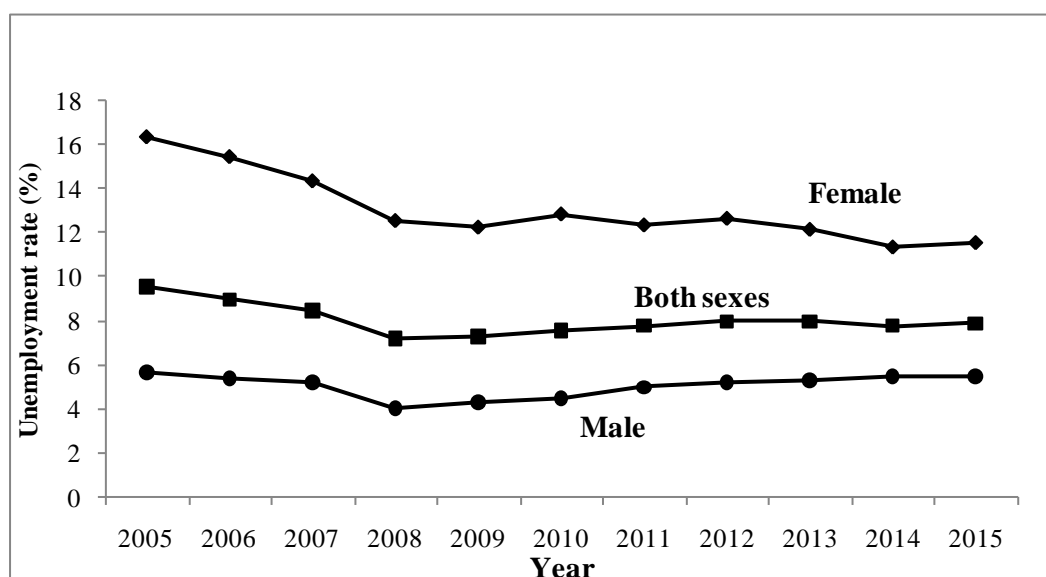


Chart 13 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2005 – 2015



46. From 9.6% recorded in 2005, the unemployment rate decreased to 7.2% in 2008 after which an upward trend was observed till 2012 (8.0%). In 2014 and 2015, the unemployment rate stood at 7.8% and 7.9% respectively.

47. The change over time was smoother for male than for female. Female unemployment rate was 16.4% in 2005, after which it declined to 7.3% in 2009 when it took an up and down movement. The disparity between male and female unemployment rate was lower in 2015 than in 2005.

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Table 1 - Estimated Labour Force, Employment, Unemployment and Inactive Population by sex, 2014-2015

	2014				2015			
	Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Labour Force								
Both Sexes	575,700	6600	562700	588,700	584,600	7,400	570,100	599,300
Male	352,800	4300	344,200	361,300	353,300	4,800	343,900	362,800
Female	222,900	3,600	215,900	229,900	231,300	4,000	223,500	239,200
Employment								
Both Sexes	530,900	6,200	518,800	543,000	538,300	7,000	524,500	552,200
Male	333,400	4,100	325,400	341,400	333,800	4,700	324,700	343,000
Female	197,500	3,300	191,000	204,100	204,500	3,700	197,200	211,900
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	44,800	1,700	41,300	48,100	46,300	1,600	43,200	49,500
Male	19,400	1,100	17,300	21,400	19,500	900	17,700	21,400
Female	25,400	1,200	23,100	27,700	26,800	1,200	24,400	29,200
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	385,200	4700	375900	394500	383,700	5,500	372,800	394,400
Male	116,300	2500	111400	121300	119,100	2,700	113,800	124,300
Female	268,900	3700	261600	276100	264,600	4,100	256,600	272,500
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	59.9	0.4	59.1	60.7	60.4	0.4	59.5	61.2
Male	75.2	0.5	74.3	76.1	74.8	0.5	73.8	75.8
Female	45.3	0.6	44.2	46.5	46.6	0.6	45.5	47.8
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	7.8	0.3	7.2	8.3	7.9	0.3	7.4	8.4
Male	5.5	0.3	4.9	6.0	5.5	0.3	5.0	6.0
Female	11.4	0.5	10.4	12.3	11.6	0.5	10.6	12.6

Table 2 – Labour force, employment, unemployment by age and sex - 2015

Age group	Labour Force			Employment			Unemployment		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 -19	9,900	6,100	16,000	6,300	2,900	9,200	3,600	3,200	6,800
20 - 24	36,000	28,500	64,500	29,700	20,400	50,100	6,300	8,100	14,400
25 - 29	35,900	29,400	65,300	32,800	24,600	57,400	3,100	4,800	7,900
30 - 34	40,700	29,400	70,100	39,100	25,500	64,600	1,600	3,900	5,500
35 - 39	46,300	31,900	78,200	44,900	29,400	74,300	1,400	2,500	3,900
40 - 44	39,900	27,000	66,900	39,100	25,200	64,300			
45 - 49	41,500	25,800	67,300	40,800	24,600	65,400			
50 - 54	42,900	23,900	66,800	41,900	23,200	65,100			
55 - 59	34,900	17,500	52,400	34,400	17,000	51,400	3,500	4,300	7800
60 - 64	16,400	8,500	24,900	16,000	8,500	24,500			
65 & over	8,900	3,300	12,200	8,800	3,200	12,000			
Total	353,300	231,300	584,600	333,800	204,500	538,300	19,500	26,800	46,300

Table 3 - Employed population by marital status and sex – 2015

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Married	222,000	131,400	353,400
Widowed/Divorced / Seperated	14,800	28,500	43,300
Single	97,000	44,600	141,600
All marital states	333,800	204,500	538,300

Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2015

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	17,900	3,400	21,300
Own Account worker	58,300	19,800	78,100
Employee	254,100	171,600	425,700
Contributing family worker	3,500	9,700	13,200
All employment states	333,800	204,500	538,300

Table 5 - Mean hours of work per week by employment status and sex - 2015

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	40.4	39.6	40.3
Own Account worker	36.4	28.8	34.4
Employee	42.2	36.3	39.8
Contributing family worker	35.3	26.1	28.6
All employment states	41.1	35.2	38.8

Table 6 - Average monthly income (Rs) from employment status and sex - 2015

Employment status	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	28,400	19,900	27,000
Own Account worker	12,800	6,400	11,200
Employee	22,600	16,600	20,200
All employment states	21,200	15,600	19,100

Table 7 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2005 & 2015

Industrial Sector	2005			2015		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	33,100	14,200	47,300	30,100	12,000	42,100
Secondary	111,400	45,100	156,500	100,500	34,500	135,000
<i>of which Manufacturing</i>	<i>55,400</i>	<i>44,000</i>	<i>99,400</i>	<i>44,500</i>	<i>32,200</i>	<i>76,700</i>
<i>Construction</i>	<i>48,800</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>49,800</i>	<i>49,200</i>	<i>1,600</i>	<i>50,800</i>
Tertiary	176,000	98,300	274,300	203,200	158,000	361,200
<i>of which Wholesale and retail trade</i>	<i>41,700</i>	<i>23,200</i>	<i>64,900</i>	<i>44,800</i>	<i>33,900</i>	<i>78,700</i>
<i>Accommodation and food service activities</i>	<i>22,500</i>	<i>10,800</i>	<i>33,300</i>	<i>23,400</i>	<i>16,600</i>	<i>40,000</i>
<i>Transportation and storage</i>	<i>26,100</i>	<i>1,800</i>	<i>27,900</i>	<i>29,800</i>	<i>3,300</i>	<i>33,100</i>
<i>Public administration and defence</i>	<i>27,300</i>	<i>8,100</i>	<i>35,400</i>	<i>29,200</i>	<i>10,100</i>	<i>39,300</i>
<i>Education, health and social work</i>	<i>23,300</i>	<i>26,700</i>	<i>50,000</i>	<i>24,300</i>	<i>39,500</i>	<i>63,800</i>
All Sectors	320,500	157,600	478,100	333,800	204,500	538,300

Table 8 - Average monthly income (Rs) from employment status by industrial sector and sex - 2015

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	13,000	5,300	11,100
Secondary	16,400	10,800	15,000
Tertiary	24,700	17,200	21,500
All sectors	21,200	15,600	19,100

Table 9 - Mean length of service by industrial sector and sex - 2015

Industrial sector	length of service (years)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	14.4	9.0	12.8
Secondary	10.2	8.8	9.8
Tertiary	11.2	8.0	9.8
All sectors	11.2	8.2	10.1

Table 10 - Mean hours of work by industrial sector and sex - 2015

Industrial sector	Mean hours of work per week		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	35.5	23.2	32.0
Secondary	39.7	39.6	39.7
Tertiary	42.5	35.1	39.3
All sectors	41.1	35.2	38.8

Table 11 - Employed population by occupational group and sex - 2005 & 2015

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	2005			2015		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	44,800	29,200	74,000	74,400	58,000	132,400
4	Clerical support workers	17,000	25,500	42,500	19,100	28,400	47,500
5	Service and sales workers	58,800	29,600	88,400	64,200	47,800	112,000
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	136,800	37,100	173,900	133,400	24,600	158,000
9	Elementary occupations	63,100	36,200	99,300	42,700	45,700	88,400
	All occupational groups	320,500	157,600	478,100	333,800	204,500	538,300

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 12 - Average monthly income (Rs) from employment by occupational group and sex - 2015

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Average monthly income (Rs)		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	41,400	28,900	36,000
4	Clerical support workers	21,700	17,500	19,200
5	Service and sales workers	18,300	10,100	15,000
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	13,400	7,100	12,500
9	Elementary occupations	13,800	6,400	10,000
	All occupational groups	21,200	15,600	19,100

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 13 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2015

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 24	21.6	32.7	26.3
25 - 29	8.6	16.3	12.1
30 - 39	3.5	10.4	6.3
40 - 49	1.8	5.8	3.4
50 and over	1.9	2.5	2.1
All ages	5.5	11.6	7.9

Table 14 - Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex, 2005 - 2015

Year	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
2005	10,400	11,200	21,600	20.7	34.4	26.1
2006	8,600	10,200	18,800	18.1	31.0	23.4
2007	8,800	9,700	18,500	20.0	31.4	24.7
2008	6,300	7,400	13,700	15.1	25.3	19.3
2009	7,500	7,600	15,100	18.2	26.5	21.6
2010	8,000	9,200	17,200	19.2	29.6	23.7
2011	7,500	8,700	16,200	17.8	28.2	22.2
2012	8,400	10,100	18,500	19.4	32.0	24.7
2013	7,900	9,700	17,600	17.6	31.2	23.2
2014	9,000	10,500	19,500	19.7	33.3	25.3
2015	9,900	11,300	21,200	21.6	32.7	26.3

Table 15 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex – 2015

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Ever Married	4,600	14,300	18,900
Single	14,900	12,500	27,400
Total	19,500	26,800	46,300

Table 16 - Unemployment population by educational attainment and sex - 2015

Educational attainment	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	3,800	4,800	8,600
<i>Below CPE</i>	2,800	3,400	6,200
<i>Passed CPE</i>	1,000	1,400	2,400
Secondary	12,300	16,400	28,700
<i>Form I - V but not passed SC</i>	6,900	7,400	14,300
<i>Passed SC</i>	2,700	4,400	7,100
<i>Passed HSC</i>	2,700	4,600	7,300
Tertiary	3,400	5,600	9,000
Total	19,500	26,800	46,300

Table 17 - Unemployed population by method of job search and sex – 2015

Method of job search	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Applied to prospective employers	10,900	14,600	25,500
Checked at factories, worksites etc	10,200	10,600	20,800
Registered at Employment Service *	7,100	13,300	20,400
Placed or answered advertisements	5,900	10,200	16,100
Sought assistance and advices **	5,000	6,100	11,100
All Unemployed	19,500	26,800	46,300

*Estimates refer to cases reported in the survey and differ from figures of registered unemployed from Employment Service

**to obtain a paid job or start own business

Table 18 - Unemployed population by type of job willing to accept and sex - 2015

Type of job willing to accept	Number		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Full time employment	18,300	24,500	42,800
Part time employment	12,600	16,400	29,000
Employment without limit	15,300	18,100	33,400
Temporary employment	10,600	12,700	23,300
Employment in public sector	16,800	23,700	40,500
Employment in private sector	17,400	22,700	40,100
Below level of qualification	11,900	14,100	26,000
Outside training or qualification	11,000	13,100	24,100
All Unemployed	19,500	26,800	46,300

Table 19 - Inactive population by inactivity status and sex – 2015

Method of job search	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Students	38,700	42,000	80,700
Retired or old persons	54,800	43,100	97,900
Sick or disabled	18,200	16,700	34,900
Homemakers	7,400	153,700	154,300
Other		9,100	15,900
Total	119,100	264,600	383,700

Table 20 - Age specific activity rate (%) by sex - 2005 & 2015

Age group (years)	2005			2015		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 19	32.1	20.2	26.2	25.3	16.0	20.7
20 - 24	78.7	53.3	66.2	75.3	59.6	67.5
25 - 29	93.7	56.7	75.0	91.1	74.8	83.0
30 - 34	97.2	58.1	77.6	94.9	67.3	80.9
35 - 39	95.1	57.7	76.4	96.7	66.9	81.8
40 - 44	96.3	53.7	75.2	96.1	65.7	81.0
45 - 49	95.0	45.2	70.2	92.6	57.7	75.2
50 - 54	93.8	42.2	67.8	91.9	50.5	71.1
55 - 59	82.9	31.3	56.0	87.5	42.1	64.3
60 - 64	31.0	10.4	19.9	50.9	24.0	36.8
65+	13.5	4.1	8.0	17.7	4.8	10.2
All Ages	78.0	41.6	59.4	74.8	46.6	60.4

Table 21 - Unemployment rate (%) by sex - 2005 - 2015

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
2005	5.7	16.4	9.6
2006	5.4	15.5	9.0
2007	5.2	14.4	8.5
2008	4.0	12.6	7.2
2009	4.3	12.3	7.3
2010	4.5	12.9	7.6
2011	5.0	12.4	7.8
2012	5.2	12.7	8.0
2013	5.3	12.2	8.0
2014	5.5	11.4	7.8
2015	5.5	11.6	7.9

Methodology of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

- 1. Data collection:** Face to face interviewing of household members.
- 2. Frequency of data collection:** Monthly except in 2004 when data collection was carried out every quarter. Up to 2005, the reference period for data on labour force was the last week of the survey month. As from 2006, the reference week has been changed to the second week of the survey month so that estimates can be published within one quarter of the reference period, as required by the IMF Special Data Dissemination System (SDDS) to which the country graduated in February 2012.
- 3. Scope and coverage of collection:** Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.
- 4. Sampling methodology:** 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 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Questionnaire:** The CMPHS questionnaire comprises three modules: (a) 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.
- 7. Estimation and reliability of estimates:** 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.

8. Implementation of revised classifications: Statistics Mauritius is using, as from 2012, adapted versions of the following revised classifications:

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

For comparison purposes, employment estimates for previous years have been worked out using the revised classifications. There are changes in the employment estimates at industrial group level; hence they are not strictly comparable. The overall employment estimates are however not affected.

9. Definition of terms

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. **Activity rate**: Activity rate is the ratio (%) of labour force to population aged 16+ (active and inactive population).
6. **Unemployment rate**: Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to labour force.
7. **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.
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 contributing family workers.
10. **Employee**: An Employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity.
11. **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.
12. **Contributing family worker**: A Contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an enterprise operated by a family member.

13. 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 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.

14. Income from employment

Paid employee: income refers to gross pay, i.e., before tax and other deductions. Gross pay includes all allowances and overtime payments.

Employer and own account worker: income refers to the net income obtained after deductions of expenses.

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*