

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Year 2018

Introduction

1. This tenth issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2018, 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 tend to be relatively large in cases where the sample numbers are small.

Key figures

| | 2017 | 2018 | Change 2018 - 2017 |
|---|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| Population (aged 16+) | 984,000 | 990,900 | +6,900 |
| Labour Force (Economically active) | 586,900 | 583,800 | -3,100 |
| <i>Of which Employment</i> | 545,100 | 543,700 | 1,400 ³ |
| <i>Unemployment</i> | 41,800 | 40,100 | -1,700 |
| Outside Labour Force (Economically inactive) | 397,100 | 407,100 | +10,000 |
| <i>Of which Potential Labour Force ¹</i> | 5,800 | 3,800 | -2,000 |
| Activity rate (%) | 59.6 | 58.9 | -0.7 |
| Employment-to-population ratio ² | 55.4 | 54.9 | -0.5 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 7.1 | 6.9 | -0.2 |
| Youth unemployment | 19,300 | 19,700 | +400 |
| Youth unemployment rate (%) | 24.9 | 25.1 | +0.2 |

¹ Potential labour force refers to persons not in employment and who were not actively looking but were available for work or those who were actively looking but were not available for work.

² Employment-to-population ratio refers to the ratio of total employment to the working age population in contrast to the activity rate which is the ratio of the labour force (employed + unemployed) to the working age population.

³ The net change in employment level in the above table is equal to “Employment creations minus employment losses” during the period under reference.

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

Key points

3. Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2018

- a. The employed population comprised 336,100 (62%) males and 207,600 (38%) females.
- b. Among the total of 40,100 unemployed, women outnumbered men (23,400 women compared to 16,700 men). The unemployed youth aged 16 to 24 years numbered 19,700.
- c. The labour force (employed + unemployed) comprised 352,800 (60%) males and 231,000 (40%) females.

4. Change in Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2017 to 2018

Male

- a. Male employment decreased by 3,300 and unemployment by 500 and hence male labour force declined by 3,800.
- b. Male unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 4.8% in 2017 to 4.7% in 2018.
- c. Male activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) declined from 74.3% in 2017 to 73.1% in 2018 as a result of a decrease of 3,800 in the male labour force compared to an increase of 2,900 in the male population aged 16 years and above.

Female

- d. Female employment increased by 1,900 and unemployment decreased by 1,200 and hence female labour force increased by 700.
- e. Female unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 10.7% in 2017 to 10.1% in 2018.
- f. Female activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) declined from 45.7% in 2017 to 45.5% in 2018 as a result of an increase of 700 in the female labour force compared to an increase of 4,000 in the female population aged 16 years and above.

Both sexes

- g. Employment decreased by 1,400 and unemployment by 1,700 and hence the labour force declined by 3,100.
- h. Unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 7.1% in 2017 to 6.9% in 2018.
- i. The overall activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) declined from 59.6% in 2017 to 58.9% in 2018 as a result of a decrease of 3,100 in the labour force compared to an increase of 6,900 in the population aged 16 years and above.

Youth

- j. Youth employment increased by 500 from 58,300 in 2017 to 58,800 in 2018 and unemployment increased by 400 from 19,300 to 19,700.
- k. Youth unemployment rate therefore increased by 0.2 percentage point from 24.9% to 25.1%.

5. Evolution from 2008 to 2018

- a. Men are more economically active than women but the gap is decreasing over time (Table 2).
- b. Female employment is increasing faster than male employment (Table 10).
- c. The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment (Table 10).
- d. From a rate of 7.2% recorded in 2008, the unemployment rate was its lowest in 2018.
- e. From a rate of 19.3% in 2008, youth unemployment rose to 25.1% in 2018 (Table 14).

Labour market overview, 2018

Chart 1- The Labour Market, 2018

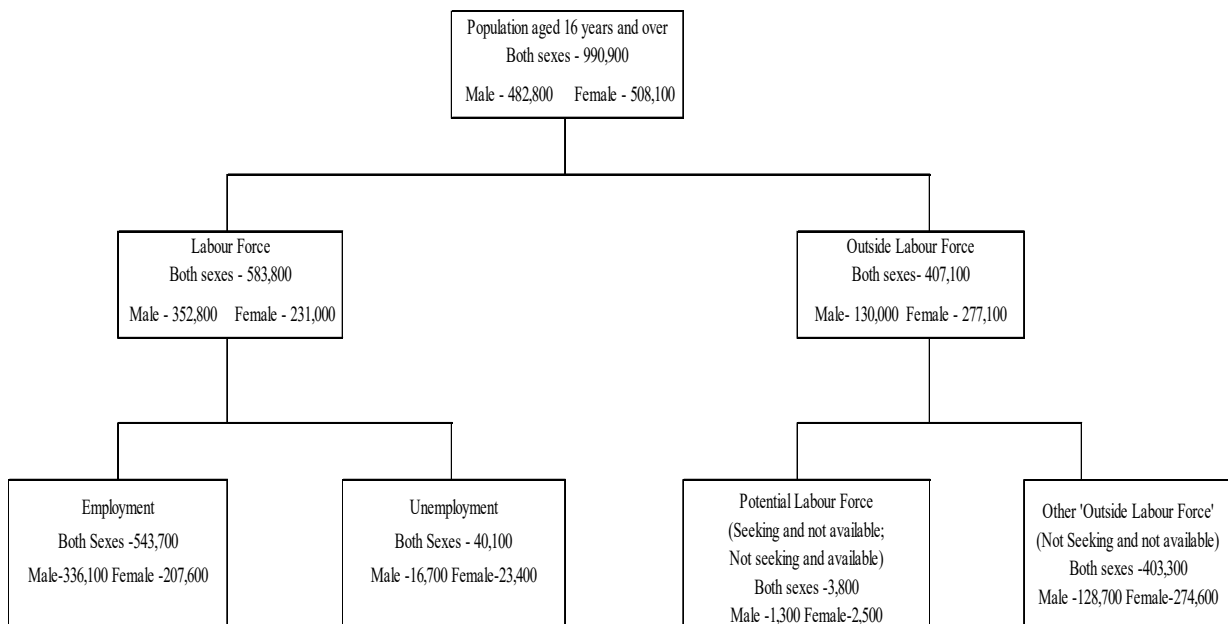


Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2018



Labour Force

6. In 2018, the population of working age (aged 16 years and over) numbered 990,900, of whom 583,800 consisted of the labour force (or were economically active) resulting in an activity rate of 58.9%. (Table1)

7. Out of the 583,800 persons in the labour force, 543,700 (93.1%) were employed and 40,100 (6.9%) were unemployed.

- a. The number of persons outside the labour force was significantly higher among women than men at all ages (Chart 2)
- b. There were fewer women than men among the employed at all ages.
- c. There were more unemployed women than unemployed men at almost all ages.
- d. As from age 20-24 years, the number of unemployed generally decreased with age.

Population outside Labour Force

8. The number of persons aged 16 years and over not forming part of labour force (population outside labour force) stood at 407,100 (130,000 males and 277,100 females (Table 20).

9. Some 3,800 (1,300 males and 2,500 females) of the population outside labour force were classified as forming part of the potential labour force (i.e persons not in employment and who were not actively looking but were available for work or those who were actively looking but were not available 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, actively looking for work and available for work. About 29% of these persons outside the labour force did not look for work because either they believed that suitable jobs were not available or did not know where to look for work.

10. The population outside labour force comprised 41% homemakers, 19% students, 28% retired or old persons and 9% sick or disabled persons.

Labour underutilization

11. In 2018, labour underutilization worked out to be 168,800, comprising:

- Unemployed (40,100).
- Potential labour force (3,800), i.e persons not in employment and who were not actively looking but were available for work or those who were actively looking but were not available for work.
- Skills-related underemployed (39,100), i.e those who were in employment and having tertiary qualifications and were engaged in occupations such as clerical support workers, service and sales workers, skilled agricultural workers, plant and machine operators and elementary occupations.
- Time-related underemployed (85,800), i.e those who were in employment and were available for extra work.

Note: persons holding tertiary qualifications and available for extra work are included in skills-related underemployed and excluded in the time-related underemployed.

Employment

12. Total employment stood at 543,700 (336,100 or 62% males and 207,600 or 38% females) in 2018. The employment to population ratio was around 55% (70% for males and 41% for females) (Table 1)

Men comprise 60% of the workforce

13. 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 proportion of self-employed among women is still low compared to men

14. 80.2% of the employed were employees while around 17.9% were self-employed (own account workers or employers) and the remaining 1.9% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (86.1% against 76.6% among females) and contributing family workers (3.7% against 0.8%) but a lower proportion of self-employed (10.2% against 22.6% among males) (Table 4).

Male employees work longer hours and earn more than their female counterparts

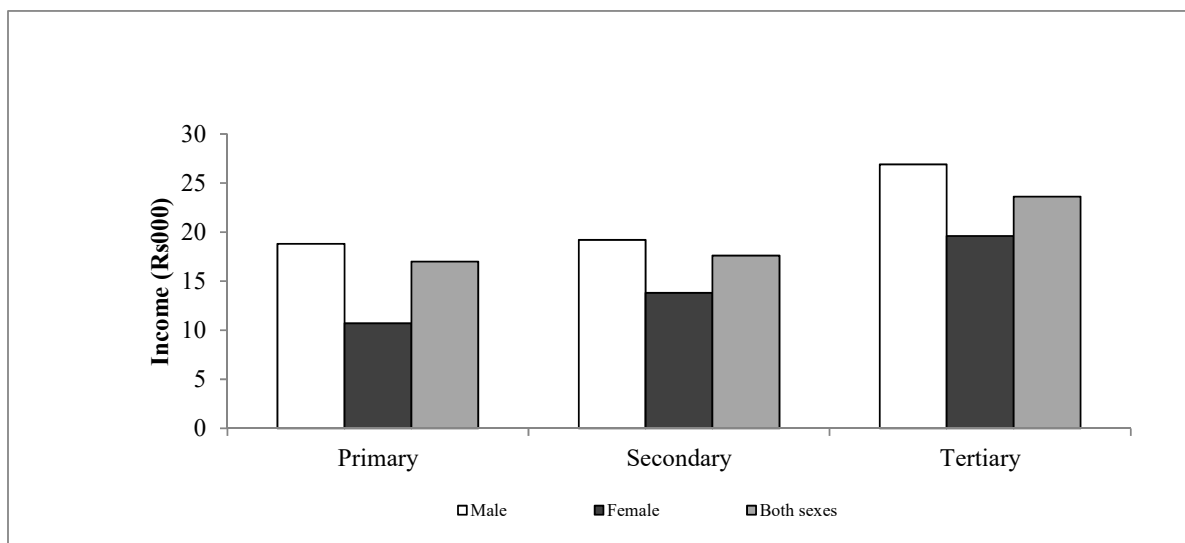
15. On average, an employee worked 38.5 hours per week. A male employee worked 40.7 hours per week on average compared to 35.4 hours per week for a female employee (Table 5).

16. Employees in the secondary sector had the longest hours of work (39.8 hours per week), followed by those in the tertiary sector (38.3 hours) and the primary sector (35.9 hours) (Table 6).

17. Average monthly income for an employee amounted to Rs 22,000 (Rs 24,400 for males and Rs 18,600 for females) (Table 7)

18. Income for employees was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 23,600), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 17,600) and the primary sector (Rs 17,000) (Table 7).

Chart 3 – Average monthly income for employees by industrial sector and sex, 2018



Median income of employees

19. In 2018, the median monthly income of employees (comprising basic pay, allowances and overtime) was around Rs 16,000 ; i.e 50% of employees earned less than Rs 16,000 while the other 50% earned more than it. (Table 8).

20. Chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals earned the highest monthly income (Rs 38,000), followed by clerical and support workers (Rs 20,500). The lowest income was drawn by those engaged in elementary occupations (Rs 11,200) (Table 9).

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

21. Out of every 100 workers, 70 were employed in the tertiary sector (covering trade, accommodation and food service activities, transportation and storage and all the other service industries), 24 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 6 in the primary sector (covering agriculture, forestry and fishing and mining & quarrying) (Table 10).

1 out of 4 employed persons engaged as managers, professionals or technicians

22. Around 25% of the employed was engaged in the highest occupational groups (ISCO 1-3) which comprised chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals. Clerical and support workers (ISCO 4) made up 9% of the workforce; service and sales workers (ISCO 5) 21%. Another 29% 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% of the workforce (Table 11).

Some 4% of the employed have secondary jobs

23. Out of the 543,700 employed, 4% held a secondary job. Around 35% of the secondary job holders were employees. The main sectors in which they were operating were: agriculture (27.9%), wholesale and retail trade and repairs (11.8%) and activities of household as employers (11.8%).

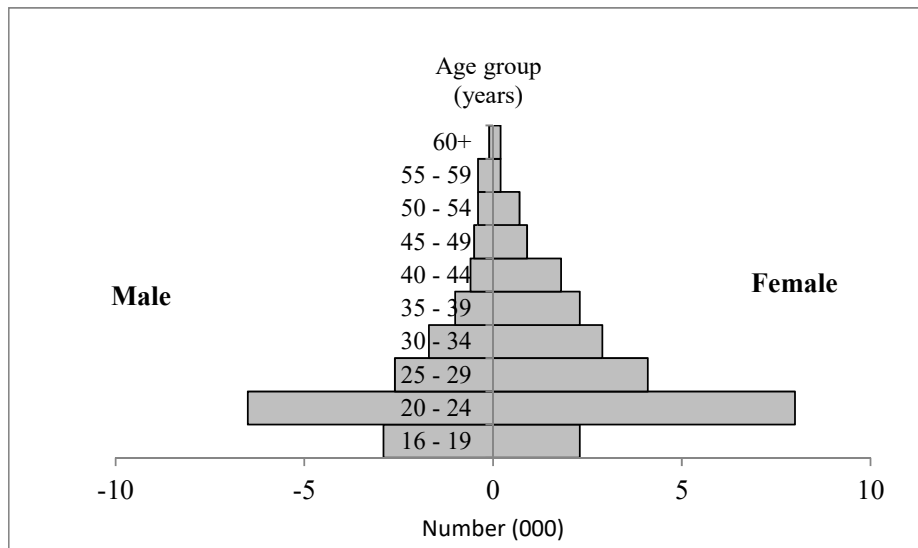
Unemployment

24. In 2018, unemployed persons numbered 40,100, comprising 16,700 men and 23,400 women. The unemployment rate was 6.9% (10.1% among women and 4.7% among men). (Table 1)

There are more unemployed among women than among men

25. The unbalanced shape of the pyramid in Chart 4 indicates the predominance of women among the unemployed at almost all age-groups. They represented 58% of the total unemployed and they outnumbered men by 6,700.

Chart 4 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2018



26. The mean age of an unemployed male was 28 years and that of unemployed female was 29 years.

Unemployment rate is highest among young persons

27. Unemployment rate was highest at the lowest age groups and decreased progressively with increasing age. It was 25.1% among those below 25 years and 1.3% among those aged 50 years and above (Table 13).

28. The disparity between male and female unemployment rate was highest in the lower age group; the difference was around 8 percentage points among the unemployed below 25 years.

50% of unemployed women are ever-married while unemployed men are mostly single

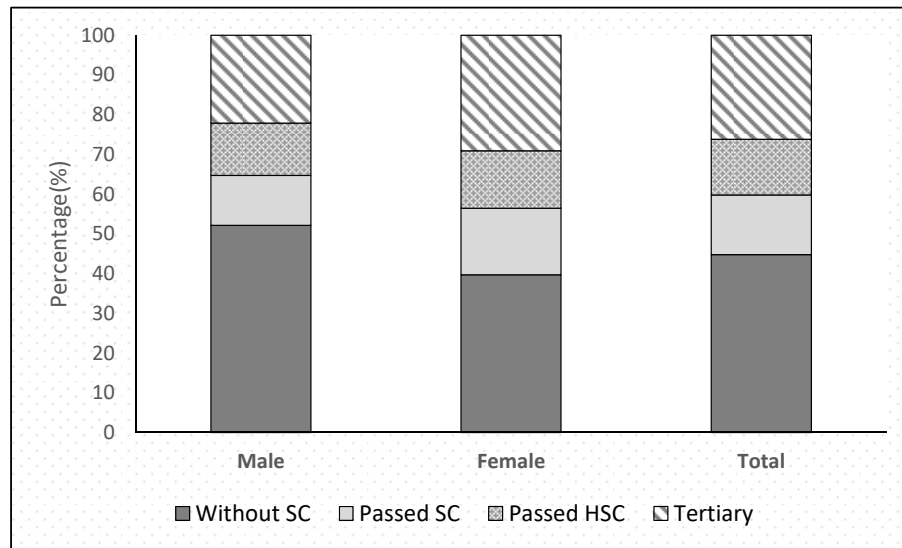
29. About 35% of the unemployed were ever-married. Most of the unemployed men were single (85%). 50% of the unemployed women were ever-married, i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 15).

Almost half of the unemployed do not hold the School Certificate

30. Around 45% of the unemployed, representing 18,000 persons, did not hold a Cambridge School Certificate (SC): 9% had not attained the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, 2% held the CPE certificate only, and a further 34% 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)

14%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 10,500 and represented 26% of the total unemployed (Table 16).

Chart 5 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2018



Unemployed women are generally more qualified than unemployed men

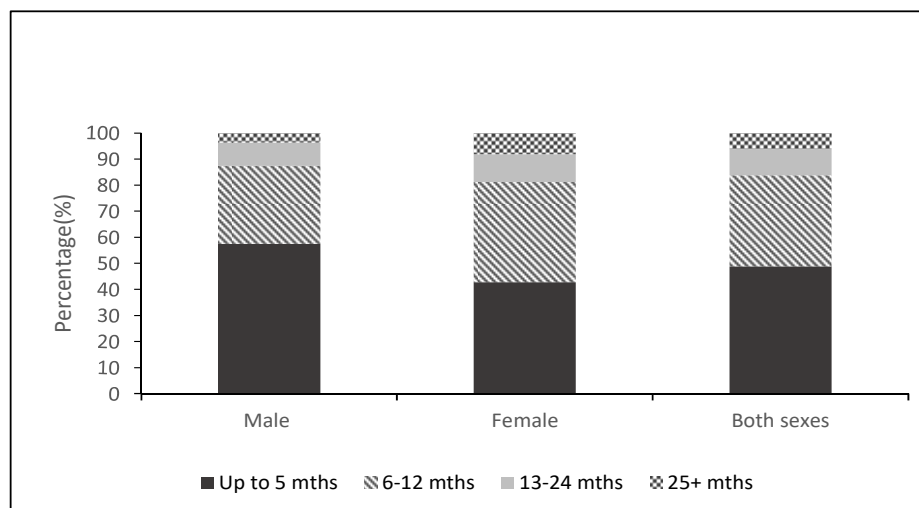
31. Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around 60% of them possessed at least a School Certificate against 48% among males.

Women are in unemployment nearly three months more than men

32. The proportion of persons in unemployment for a duration of less than six months is higher among males (57%) compared to females (43%) while the proportion of those who are unemployed for more than twenty four months is higher among females (8%) against 4% among males (Chart 6).

33. On average, an unemployed person had been without a job for 10 months. Average duration of unemployment for males was 8 months compared to 11 months for females.

Chart 6 – Duration of unemployment by sex, 2018



The unemployed is predominantly made up of persons with work experience

34. Around 66% of the unemployed had worked in the past. More than two third (75%) had worked previously in the tertiary sector, mainly ‘Wholesale & retail trade’ (24%) followed by ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (15%). Another 23% had worked previously in the secondary sector, mainly in ‘Manufacturing’ (14%) followed by ‘Construction’ (9%). The remaining 2.0% previously worked in the agricultural sector.

Nearly 1 out of 3 unemployed who worked before leave their job due to job dissatisfaction.

35. Some 27% of the unemployed lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job. Another 31% left their job due to dissatisfaction with job while around 9% left due to marriage/household responsibilities. Closure of establishment and reduction in workforce accounted for 18% of the job losses.

More than half of the unemployed are not registered at the Employment Service.

36. The unemployed usually had recourse to more than one method of job search. The most common method was ‘applied to prospective employers’ (58%) followed by ‘checked at factories, worksites, etc’ (41%). Around 45% were registered at the Employment Service (Table 17).

Almost 7 out of 10 unemployed are willing to accept a job below their qualification

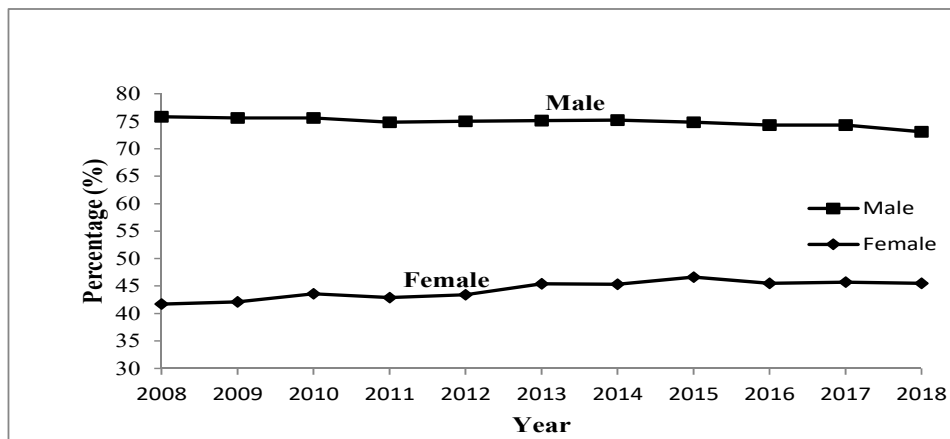
37. Around 68% of the unemployed would accept a job below their qualification while 72% were willing to work outside their field of study. Some 59% were willing to accept a temporary job. (Table 18).

Evolution from 2008 to 2018

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

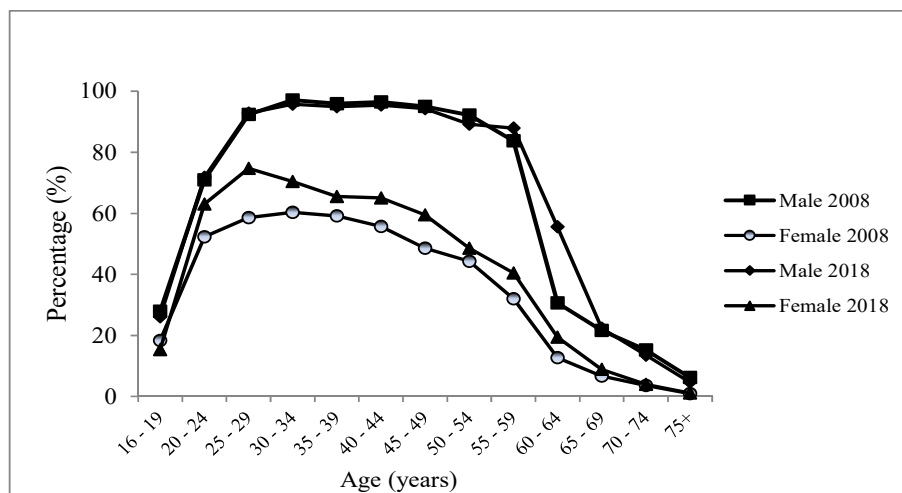
38. During the period 2008 to 2018, male activity rate was consistently higher than female activity rate (Chart 7). However, the gap has been narrowing over time with activity rate for men decreasing and that of women generally increasing over the years (Table 2).

Chart 7 – Activity rate by sex, 2008 – 2018



39. Increases in activity rate were noted for females aged 25 years and over, being more pronounced for women aged 25-49 years.

Chart 8 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2008 & 2018



40. From 2008 to 2018, age-specific activity rates for male had remained almost the same for age group 16-59 years, while they increased significantly for women aged 25 years and over.

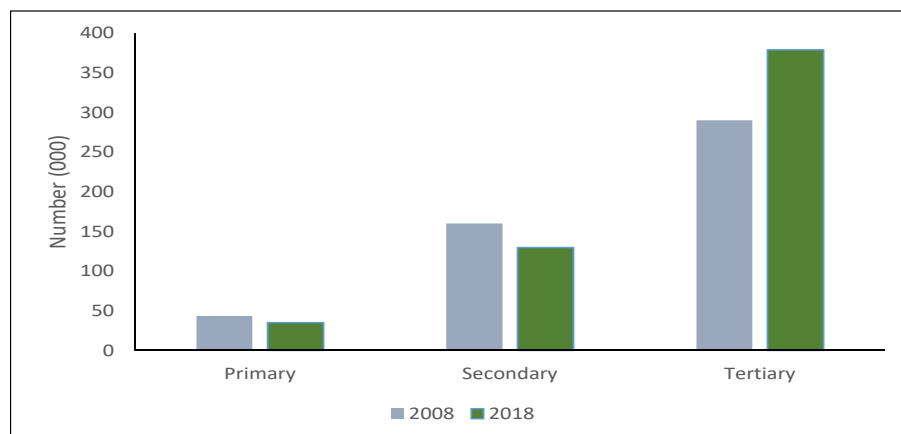
Female employment is increasing faster than male employment

41. During the period 2008 to 2018, female employment increased at a faster rate than male employment. On average, female employment increased annually by 2% whereas male employment increased by 0.4%.

The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment

42. Over time, the tertiary sector has become increasingly important in terms of employment. From 2008 to 2018, employment in this sector rose from 289,900 to 378,900; its share over total employment also increased from 59% to 70%. In contrast, employment in the primary and secondary sectors has been declining over time. In the primary sector, employment went down from 43,500 in 2008 to 35,000 in 2018 mainly due to a decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment dropped from 160,300 to 129,800 mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector (Table 10).

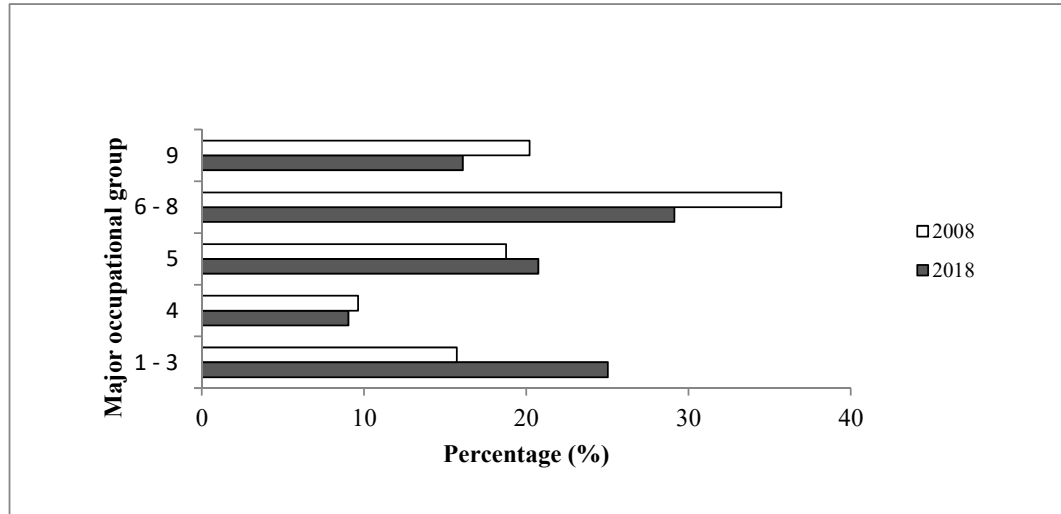
Chart 9 – Employed population by industrial sector, 2008 & 2018



Mauritian workforce is moving up the occupation ladder

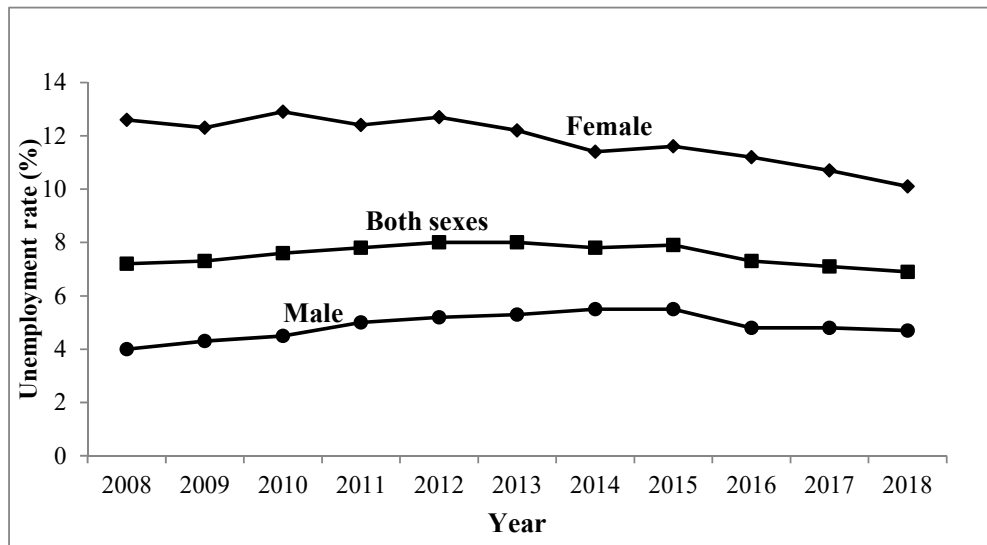
43. The share of employment in the higher occupational groups (ISCO 1-3) comprising legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals increased from 15.7% in 2008 to 25.0% in 2018. On the other hand, the share of employment in the lowest occupational group (ISCO 9) representing elementary jobs decreased from 20.2% to 16.1%

Chart 10 – Employed population by occupational group, 2008 – 2018



Female unemployment rate remains higher but with a decreasing gender gap.

Chart 11 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2008 – 2018



44. From 7.2% recorded in 2008, an upward trend was observed in the unemployment rate till the period 2012- 2013 when it peaked at 8.0%. Thereafter it declined generally to reach 6.9% in 2018 (Table 19).

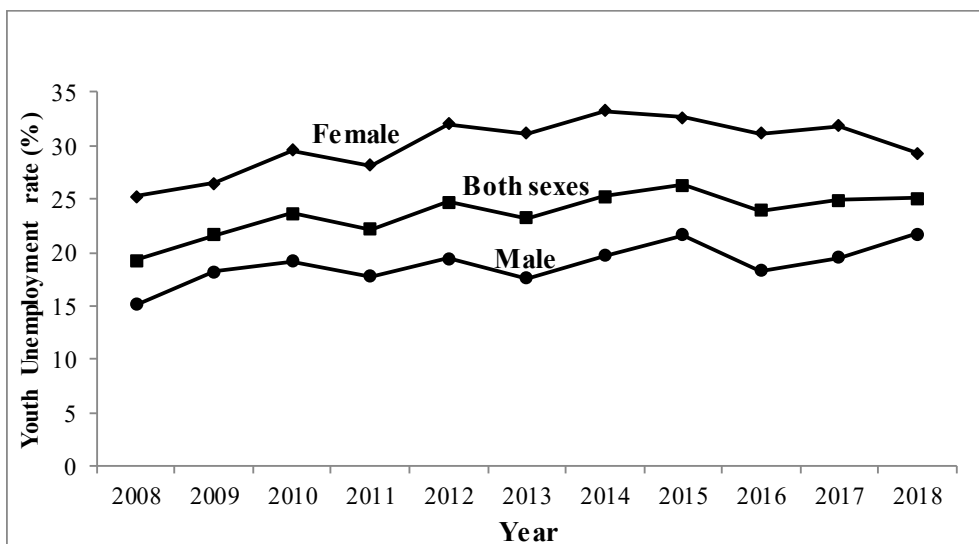
45. The change over time was smoother for male than for female. Female unemployment rate was 12.6% in 2008, after which it declined to 12.3% in 2009 when it took an up and down movement. The gender gap with regards to activity rate decreased from 2008 to 2018.

Trend in youth unemployment, 2008 to 2018

46. From a rate of around 19.3% in 2008, youth unemployment rate followed an increasing trend to peak at 26.3% in 2015. It declined to 23.9% in 2016, after which it increased gradually to 25.1% in 2018 (Table 14).

47. The young unemployed in 2018 numbered 19,700 of whom 9,400 were men and 10,300 women compared to 6,300 men and 7,400 women in 2008.

Chart 12 – Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployment rate, 2008-2018



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Table 1 - Estimated Labour Force, Employment, Unemployment and population outside the labour force by sex, 2017-2018

| | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | Estimates | Standard Error | 95% Confidence Interval | | Estimates | Standard Error | 95% Confidence Interval | |
| | | | Lower Limit | Upper Limit | | | Lower Limit | Upper Limit |
| Population | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 984,000 | 10,600 | 963,300 | 1,004,800 | 990,900 | 2,100 | 986,700 | 995,100 |
| Male | 479,900 | 6,100 | 467,900 | 491,900 | 482,800 | 3,100 | 476,700 | 489,000 |
| Female | 504,100 | 5,800 | 492,800 | 515,500 | 508,100 | 3,200 | 501,900 | 514,300 |
| Labour Force | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 586,900 | 7,800 | 571,700 | 602,100 | 583,800 | 2,900 | 578,100 | 589,600 |
| Male | 356,600 | 5,000 | 346,800 | 366,400 | 352,800 | 1,800 | 349,300 | 356,400 |
| Female | 230,300 | 4,100 | 222,300 | 238,300 | 231,000 | 2,100 | 226,800 | 235,200 |
| Employment | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 545,100 | 7,300 | 530,800 | 559,500 | 543,700 | 3,000 | 537,900 | 549,500 |
| Male | 339,400 | 4,800 | 330,000 | 348,800 | 336,100 | 1,900 | 332,400 | 339,800 |
| Female | 205,700 | 3,800 | 198,200 | 213,200 | 207,600 | 2,100 | 203,400 | 211,800 |
| Unemployment | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 41,800 | 1,500 | 39,300 | 45,400 | 40,100 | 1,200 | 37,800 | 42,500 |
| Male | 17,200 | 1,000 | 15,000 | 18,700 | 16,700 | 800 | 15,200 | 18,300 |
| Female | 24,600 | 1,200 | 23,200 | 27,800 | 23,400 | 900 | 21,600 | 25,200 |
| Inactive Population | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 397,100 | 5,800 | 385,700 | 408,600 | 407,100 | 2,900 | 401,300 | 412,800 |
| Male | 123,300 | 2,900 | 117,600 | 129,000 | 130,000 | 1,800 | 126,400 | 133,600 |
| Female | 273,800 | 4,200 | 265,600 | 282,100 | 277,100 | 2,100 | 272,900 | 281,300 |
| Activity rate (%) | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 59.6 | 0.4 | 58.8 | 60.5 | 58.9 | 0.4 | 58.1 | 59.7 |
| Male | 74.3 | 0.5 | 73.3 | 75.3 | 73.1 | 0.5 | 72.2 | 74.0 |
| Female | 45.7 | 0.6 | 44.5 | 46.8 | 45.5 | 0.6 | 44.4 | 46.6 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 7.1 | 0.2 | 6.6 | 7.6 | 6.9 | 0.2 | 6.4 | 7.3 |
| Male | 4.8 | 0.3 | 4.3 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 0.2 | 4.3 | 5.2 |
| Female | 10.7 | 0.5 | 9.7 | 11.6 | 10.1 | 0.5 | 9.2 | 11.0 |
| Youth unemployment | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 19,300 | 1,000 | 17,300 | 21,300 | 19,700 | 800 | 18,100 | 21,400 |
| Male | 8,500 | 600 | 7,200 | 9,700 | 9,400 | 600 | 8,300 | 10,500 |
| Female | 10,800 | 800 | 9,200 | 12,400 | 10,300 | 600 | 9,100 | 11,600 |
| Youth unemployment rate (%) | | | | | | | | |
| Both Sexes | 24.9 | 1.1 | 22.6 | 27.1 | 25.1 | 1.1 | 22.9 | 27.3 |
| Male | 19.5 | 1.3 | 16.8 | 21.9 | 21.7 | 1.3 | 19.1 | 24.1 |
| Female | 31.9 | 1.9 | 28.1 | 35.7 | 29.3 | 1.9 | 25.8 | 33.1 |

Table 2 - Age specific activity rate (%) by sex - 2008 & 2018

| Age group (years) | 2008 | | | 2018 | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
| 16 - 19 | 27.9 | 18.3 | 23.1 | 26.1 | 15.3 | 20.8 |
| 20 - 24 | 71.0 | 52.3 | 61.7 | 71.8 | 63.1 | 67.5 |
| 25 - 29 | 92.4 | 58.6 | 75.3 | 92.8 | 74.7 | 83.7 |
| 30 - 34 | 97.1 | 60.3 | 78.5 | 95.8 | 70.4 | 82.9 |
| 35 - 39 | 95.9 | 59.1 | 77.5 | 94.9 | 65.5 | 80.3 |
| 40 - 44 | 96.5 | 55.7 | 76.2 | 95.5 | 65.1 | 80.4 |
| 45 - 49 | 95.0 | 48.6 | 71.9 | 94.3 | 59.5 | 76.9 |
| 50 - 54 | 92.2 | 44.3 | 68.1 | 89.2 | 48.6 | 68.8 |
| 55 - 59 | 83.7 | 32.0 | 57.2 | 87.9 | 40.5 | 63.7 |
| 60 - 64 | 30.6 | 12.7 | 21.0 | 55.6 | 19.4 | 36.8 |
| 65+ | 14.4 | 3.5 | 8.0 | 15.0 | 4.9 | 9.2 |
| All Ages | 75.8 | 41.7 | 58.3 | 73.1 | 45.5 | 58.9 |

Table 3 – Labour force, employment, unemployment by age and sex - 2018

| Age group | Labour Force | | | Employment | | | Unemployment | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes |
| 16 -19 | 10,300 | 5,800 | 16,100 | 7,400 | 3,500 | 10,900 | 2,900 | 2,300 | 5,200 |
| 20 - 24 | 33,100 | 29,300 | 62,400 | 26,600 | 21,300 | 47,900 | 6,500 | 8,000 | 14,500 |
| 25 - 29 | 40,100 | 32,500 | 72,600 | 37,500 | 28,400 | 65,900 | 2,600 | 4,100 | 6,700 |
| 30 - 34 | 36,900 | 27,800 | 64,700 | 35,200 | 24,900 | 60,100 | 1,700 | 2,900 | 4,600 |
| 35 - 39 | 45,000 | 31,000 | 76,000 | 44,000 | 28,700 | 72,700 | 1,000 | 2,300 | 3,300 |
| 40 - 44 | 42,800 | 28,900 | 71,700 | 42,200 | 27,100 | 69,300 | | | |
| 45 - 49 | 38,100 | 23,900 | 62,000 | 37,600 | 23,000 | 60,600 | | | |
| 50 - 54 | 41,100 | 22,700 | 63,800 | 40,700 | 22,000 | 62,700 | 2,000 | 3,800 | 5,800 |
| 55 - 59 | 37,100 | 17,900 | 55,000 | 36,700 | 17,700 | 54,400 | | | |
| 60 - 64 | 19,300 | 7,300 | 26,600 | 19,200 | 7,200 | 26,400 | | | |
| 65 & over | 9,000 | 3,900 | 12,900 | 9,000 | 3,800 | 12,800 | | | |
| Total | 352,800 | 231,000 | 583,800 | 336,100 | 207,600 | 543,700 | 16,700 | 23,400 | 40,100 |

Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2018

| Employment status | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Employer | 15,700 | 3,100 | 18,800 |
| Own Account worker | 60,300 | 18,100 | 78,400 |
| Employee | 257,400 | 178,800 | 436,200 |
| Contributing family worker | 2,700 | 7,600 | 10,300 |
| All employment states | 336,100 | 207,600 | 543,700 |

Table 5 - Mean hours of work per week by employment status and sex - 2018

| Employment status | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Employer | 41.4 | 36.8 | 40.6 |
| Own Account worker | 35.2 | 29.3 | 33.8 |
| Employee | 40.7 | 35.4 | 38.5 |
| Contributing family worker | 29.7 | 27.6 | 28.1 |
| All employment states | 39.7 | 34.6 | 37.7 |

Table 6 - Mean hours of work of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2018

| Industrial sector | Mean hours of work per week | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
| Primary | 38.2 | 28.2 | 35.9 |
| Secondary | 39.9 | 39.6 | 39.8 |
| Tertiary | 41.2 | 34.8 | 38.3 |
| All sectors | 40.7 | 35.4 | 38.5 |

Table 7 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2018

| Industrial sector | Average monthly income (Rs) | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
| Primary | 18,800 | 10,700 | 17,000 |
| Secondary | 19,200 | 13,800 | 17,600 |
| Tertiary | 26,900 | 19,600 | 23,600 |
| All sectors | 24,400 | 18,600 | 22,000 |

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of employees by income range- 2018

| Income range Rupees per month | Employees | | Income | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | % | Cumulative % | % | Cumulative % |
| Up to 5,000 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| 5,001 - 10,000 | 19.4 | 26.7 | 7.5 | 8.7 |
| 10,001 - 15,000 | 22.0 | 48.7 | 12.9 | 21.5 |
| 15,001 - 20,000 | 15.9 | 64.6 | 13.0 | 34.5 |
| 20,001 - 25,000 | 9.8 | 74.5 | 10.3 | 44.7 |
| 25,001 - 50,000 | 18.5 | 92.9 | 29.1 | 73.8 |
| 50,001 and Over | 7.1 | 100.0 | 26.2 | 100.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | | 100.0 | |

Table 9 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by occupational group and sex - 2018

| ISCO* major occupational group | Occupational group | Average monthly income (Rs) | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
| 1 - 3 | Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals | 42,800 | 32,100 | 38,000 |
| 4 | Clerical support workers | 21,800 | 19,800 | 20,500 |
| 5 | Service and sales workers | 21,400 | 12,700 | 17,700 |
| 6 - 8 | Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers | 16,300 | 10,700 | 15,400 |
| 9 | Elementary occupations | 14,700 | 8,100 | 11,200 |
| | All occupational groups | 24,400 | 18,600 | 22,000 |

Table 10 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2008 & 2018

| Industrial Sector | 2008 | | | 2018 | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
| Primary | 30,400 | 13,100 | 43,500 | 26,300 | 8,700 | 35,000 |
| Secondary | 116,800 | 43,500 | 160,300 | 97,400 | 32,400 | 129,800 |
| <i>of which Manufacturing</i> | 55,700 | 40,400 | 96,100 | 41,100 | 29,600 | 70,700 |
| <i>Construction</i> | 53,400 | 1,500 | 54,900 | 52,000 | 1,900 | 53,900 |
| Tertiary | 176,600 | 113,300 | 289,900 | 212,400 | 166,500 | 378,900 |
| <i>of which Wholesale and retail trade</i> | 41,100 | 25,600 | 66,700 | 49,900 | 35,300 | 85,200 |
| <i>Accommodation and food service activities</i> | 23,100 | 12,000 | 35,100 | 25,800 | 18,200 | 44,000 |
| <i>Transportation and storage</i> | 27,400 | 2,800 | 30,200 | 29,400 | 5,700 | 35,100 |
| <i>Public administration and defence</i> | 24,000 | 8,400 | 32,400 | 32,400 | 13,400 | 45,800 |
| <i>Education and Human Health & social work activities</i> | 20,200 | 24,400 | 44,600 | 20,800 | 34,700 | 55,500 |
| All Sectors | 323,800 | 169,900 | 493,700 | 336,100 | 207,600 | 543,700 |

Table 11 - Employed population by occupational group and sex - 2008 & 2018

| ISCO* major occupational group | Occupational group | 2008 | | | 2018 | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
| 1 - 3 | Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals | 45,900 | 31,700 | 77,600 | 78,700 | 57,400 | 136,100 |
| 4 | Clerical support workers | 18,900 | 28,600 | 47,500 | 18,400 | 30,700 | 49,100 |
| 5 | Service and sales workers | 56,500 | 36,100 | 92,600 | 62,000 | 50,800 | 112,800 |
| 6 - 8 | Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine | 142,100 | 34,200 | 176,300 | 135,200 | 23,100 | 158,300 |
| 9 | Elementary occupations | 60,400 | 39,300 | 99,700 | 41,800 | 45,600 | 87,400 |
| | All occupational groups | 323,800 | 169,900 | 493,700 | 336,100 | 207,600 | 543,700 |

Table 12 - Employed population with tertiary qualification by occupational group and sex -2018

| ISCO* major occupational group | Occupational group | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Managers | 9,600 | 4,300 | 13,900 |
| 2 | Professionals | 20,300 | 20,800 | 41,100 |
| 3 | Technicians and associate professionals | 16,600 | 12,800 | 29,400 |
| 4 | Clerical support workers | 5,200 | 13,100 | 18,300 |
| 5 | Service and sales workers | 6,900 | 4,800 | 11,700 |
| 6 - 8 | Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers | 5,800 | 900 | 6,700 |
| 9 | Elementary occupations | 1,200 | 1,200 | 2,400 |
| | All occupational groups | 65,600 | 57,900 | 123,500 |

Table 13 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2018

| Age group (years) | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 16 - 24 | 21.7 | 29.3 | 25.1 |
| 25 - 29 | 6.5 | 12.6 | 9.2 |
| 30 - 39 | 3.3 | 8.8 | 5.6 |
| 40 - 49 | 1.4 | 5.1 | 2.8 |
| 50 and over | 0.8 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| All ages | 4.7 | 10.1 | 6.9 |

Table 14 - Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex ,2008-2018

| Year | Unemployment | | | Unemployment rate | | |
|------|--------------|--------|------------|-------------------|--------|------------|
| | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes |
| 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 |
| 2016 | 8,200 | 10,700 | 18,900 | 18.3 | 31.2 | 23.9 |
| 2017 | 8,500 | 10,800 | 19,300 | 19.5 | 31.9 | 24.9 |
| 2018 | 9,400 | 10,300 | 19,700 | 21.7 | 29.3 | 25.1 |

Table 15 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex – 2018

| Marital status | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ever Married | 2,500 | 11,700 | 14,200 |
| Single | 14,200 | 11,700 | 25,900 |
| Total | 16,700 | 23,400 | 40,100 |

Table 16 - Unemployment population by educational attainment and sex - 2018

| Educational attainment | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Primary | 1,900 | 2,600 | 4,500 |
| <i>Below CPE</i> | 1,400 | 2,200 | 3,600 |
| <i>Passed CPE</i> | 500 | 400 | 900 |
| Secondary | 11,100 | 14,000 | 25,100 |
| <i>Form I - V but not passed SC</i> | 6,800 | 6,700 | 13,500 |
| <i>Passed SC</i> | 2,100 | 3,900 | 6,000 |
| <i>Passed HSC</i> | 2,200 | 3,400 | 5,600 |
| Tertiary | 3,700 | 6,800 | 10,500 |
| Total | 16,700 | 23,400 | 40,100 |

Table 17 - Unemployed population by method of job search and sex – 2018

| Method of job search | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Applied to prospective employers | 9,300 | 13,800 | 23,100 |
| Checked at factories, worksites etc | 7,800 | 8,600 | 16,400 |
| Registered at Employment Service * | 6,400 | 11,700 | 18,100 |
| Placed or answered advertisements | 5,600 | 9,600 | 15,200 |
| Sought assistance and advices ** | 3,200 | 4,400 | 7,600 |
| All Unemployed | 16,700 | 23,400 | 40,100 |

*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 they are willing to accept and sex - 2018

| Type of job they are willing to accept | Number | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
| Full time employment | 15,600 | 21,300 | 36,900 |
| Part time employment | 10,800 | 15,400 | 26,200 |
| Employment without limit | 14,100 | 19,000 | 33,100 |
| Temporary employment | 10,000 | 13,500 | 23,500 |
| Employment in public sector | 14,900 | 21,500 | 36,400 |
| Employment in private sector | 15,100 | 20,600 | 35,700 |
| Below level of qualification | 11,600 | 15,800 | 27,400 |
| Outside field of study/training | 11,900 | 16,900 | 28,800 |
| All Unemployed | 16,700 | 23,400 | 40,100 |

Table 19 - Unemployment rate (%) by sex - 2008 - 2018

| Year | Unemployment Rate (%) | | |
|------|-----------------------|--------|------------|
| | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
| 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 |
| 2016 | 4.8 | 11.2 | 7.3 |
| 2017 | 4.8 | 10.7 | 7.1 |
| 2018 | 4.7 | 10.1 | 6.9 |

Table 20 - Population outside labour force by status and sex – 2018

| Status | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Students | 37,600 | 39,800 | 77,400 |
| Retired or old persons | 63,800 | 48,900 | 112,700 |
| Sick or disabled | 19,700 | 16,000 | 35,700 |
| Homemakers | 8,900 | 165,100 | 165,900 |
| Other | | 7,300 | 15,400 |
| Total | 130,000 | 277,100 | 407,100 |

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.

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 actively 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 outside the labour force population).
- 6. Unemployment rate:** Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to labour force.
- 7. Outside the labour force (previously known as the Inactive population) :** Outside the labour force 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; a paid 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 basic pay, allowances and overtime payments. Basic pay comprises all emoluments, including yearly compensation and increment but excluding allowances such as bonus and overtime, i.e. Gross pay, including yearly compensation and increment, minus allowances such as bonus and overtime payments.

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

15. Labour underutilisation

Labour underutilisation refers to mismatches between labour supply and demand, which translate into an unmet need for employment among the population. It comprises those who were in employment and were available for extra work, i.e. time-related underemployment, the unemployed and the potential labour force.

16. Potential labour force

Potential labour force refers to persons not in employment who express an interest in work but for whom existing conditions limit their active job search and/or their availability.

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