Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Year 2019

Introduction

1. This eleventh issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2019, 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

	2018	**2019**	**Change 2019 - 2018**
Population (aged 16+)	990,900	996,600	+5,700
Labour Force (Economically active)	583,800	591,000	+7,200
Of which Employment	*543,700*	*551,300*	*+7,600 [3]*
Unemployment	*40,100*	*39,700*	*-400*
Outside Labour Force (Economically inactive)	407,100	405,600	-1,500
Of which Potential Labour Force [1]	*3,800*	*2,400*	*-1,400*
Activity rate (%)	58.9	59.3	+0.4
Employment-to-population ratio[2]	54.9	55.3	+0.4
Unemployment rate (%)	6.9	6.7	-0.2
Youth unemployment	19,700	17,100	-2,600
Youth unemployment rate (%)	25.1	22.8	-2.3

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

3. **Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2019**

   a. The employed population comprised 339,100 (62%) males and 212,200 (38%) females.

   b. Among the total of 39,700 unemployed, women outnumbered men (24,100 women compared to 15,600 men). The unemployed youth aged 16 to 24 years numbered 17,100.

   c. The labour force (employed + unemployed) comprised 354,700 (60%) males and 236,300 (40%) females.

4. **Change in Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2018 to 2019**

   Male

   a. Male employment increased by 3,000 and unemployment decreased by 1,100 and hence male labour force increased by 1,900.

   b. Male unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 4.7% in 2018 to 4.4% in 2019.

   c. Male activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) remained unchanged at 73.1%.

   Female

   d. Female employment increased by 4,600 and unemployment by 700 and hence female labour force increased by 5,300.

   e. Female unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) increased from 10.1% in 2018 to 10.2% in 2019.

   f. Female activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 45.5% in 2018 to 46.2% in 2019 as a result of an increase of 5,300 in the female labour force compared to an increase of 3,500 in the female population aged 16 years and above.

   Both sexes

   g. Employment increased by 7,600 while unemployment decreased by 400 and hence the labour force increased by 7,200.

   h. Unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 6.9% in 2018 to 6.7% in 2019.

   i. The overall activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) increased from 58.9% in 2018 to 59.3% in 2019 as a result of an increase of 7,200 in the labour force compared to an increase of 5,700 in the population aged 16 years and above.

Youth

j. Youth employment decreased by 800 from 58,800 in 2018 to 58,000 in 2019 and unemployment decreased by 2,600 from 19,700 to 17,100.

k. Youth unemployment rate therefore decreased by 2.3 percentage points from 25.1% to 22.8%.

5. **Evolution from 2009 to 2019**

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 7.3% recorded in 2009, the unemployment rate was its lowest in 2019 (Table 19).

e. From a rate of 21.6% in 2009, youth unemployment rose to 22.8% in 2019 (Table 14).

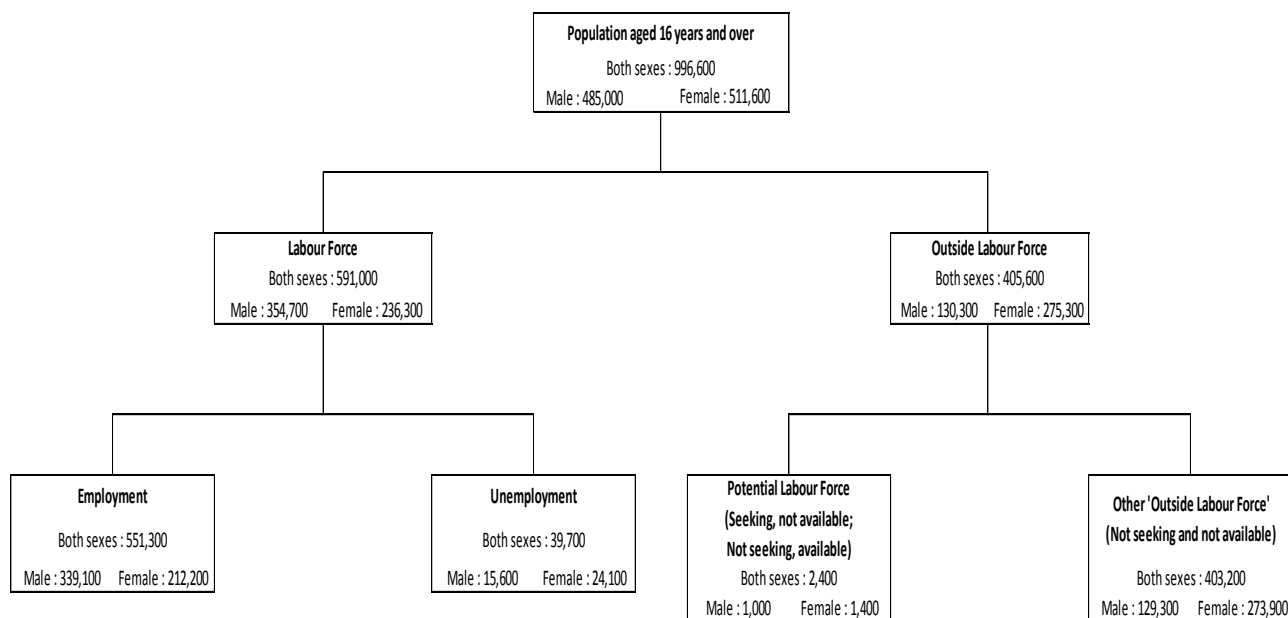**Labour market overview, 2019**

Chart 1 - The Labour Market, 2019

Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2019

Age group (years)

Male   Female

Age group
75+
70 - 74
65 - 69
60 - 64
55 - 59
50 - 54
45 - 49
40 - 44
35 - 39
30 - 34
25 - 29
20 - 24
16 - 19

-60   -40   -20   0   20   40   60

Number (000s)

☐ Employed   ■ Unemployed   ☐ Outside Labour Force

Labour Force

6. The population of working age (aged 16 years and over) numbered 996,600, of whom 591,000 consisted of the labour force (or were economically active) resulting in an activity rate of 59.3%. (Table1)

7. Out of the 591,000 persons in the labour force, 551,300 (93.3%) were employed and 39,700 (6.7%) were unemployed.

   a. The number of persons outside the labour force was significantly higher among women than among 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 stood at 405,600 (130,300 males and 275,300 females) (Table 20).

9. Some 2,400 (1,000 males and 1,400 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 and 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 20% of the 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 39% homemakers, 20% students, 30% retired or old persons and 8% sick or disabled persons.

Labour underutilization

11. In 2019, labour underutilization worked out to be 158,000, comprising:

- Unemployed (39,700).

- Potential labour force (2,400), 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 (43,700), 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 (72,200), 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 551,300 (339,100 or 62% males and 212,200 or 38% females) in 2019. The employment to population ratio was around 55% (70% for males and 41% for females) (Table 1)

Men comprise 62% of the workforce

13. Out of every 100 persons in the workforce, 62 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 17.8% were self-employed (own account workers or employers) and the remaining 2.0% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (86.3% against 76.4% among males) and contributing family workers (3.5% against 1.1% among males) but a lower proportion of self- employed (10.2% against 22.5% among males) (Table 4).

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

15. On average, an employee worked 39.8 hours per week. A male employee worked 42.1 hours per week compared to 36.7 hours for a female employee (Table 5)**.**

16. Employees in the secondary sector (covering manufacturing, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage waste management and remediation activities and construction) had the longest hours of work (41.7 hours per week), compared to 39.4 hours to those in the tertiary sector (covering wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food service

activities, transportation and storage and all the other service industries) and 37.5 hours in the primary sector (covering agriculture, forestry and fishing and mining & quarrying) (Table 6).

17. Average monthly income for an employee amounted to Rs 22,600 (Rs 25,100 for males and Rs 19,100 for females) (Table 7)

18. Average monthly income for employees was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 24,100), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 18,400) and the primary sector (Rs 16,500) (Table 7).

<u>Chart 3 – Average monthly income of employees by industrial sector and sex, 2019</u>
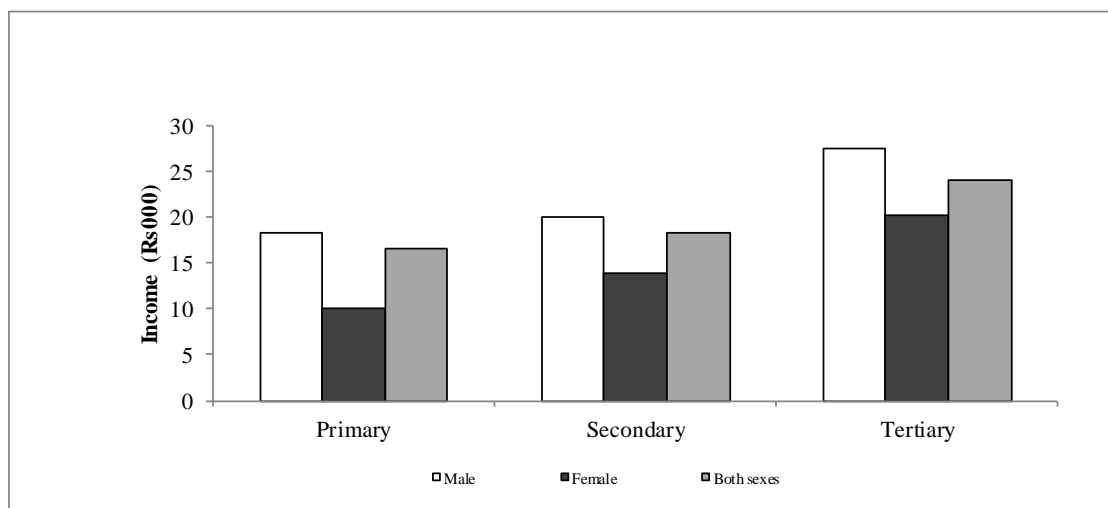
Median income of employees

19. The median monthly income of employees (comprising basic pay, allowances and overtime) was around Rs 16,900 ; i.e 50% of employees earned less than Rs 16,900 while the other 50% earned more than it (Table 8).

20. Chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals (ISCO 1-3) earned the highest monthly income (Rs 38,700), followed by clerical and support workers (Rs 20,900). The lowest income was drawn by those engaged in elementary occupations (Rs 12,000) (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, 24 in the secondary sector and 6 in the primary sector (Table 10).

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

22. Around 24% 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) 22%. 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 551,300 employed, 4% held a secondary job. Around 31% of the secondary job holders were employees. The main sectors in which they were operating in their secondary jobs were: agriculture (25.4%), Construction (12.9%), wholesale and retail trade and repairs (11.3%) and activities of household as employers (9.2%).
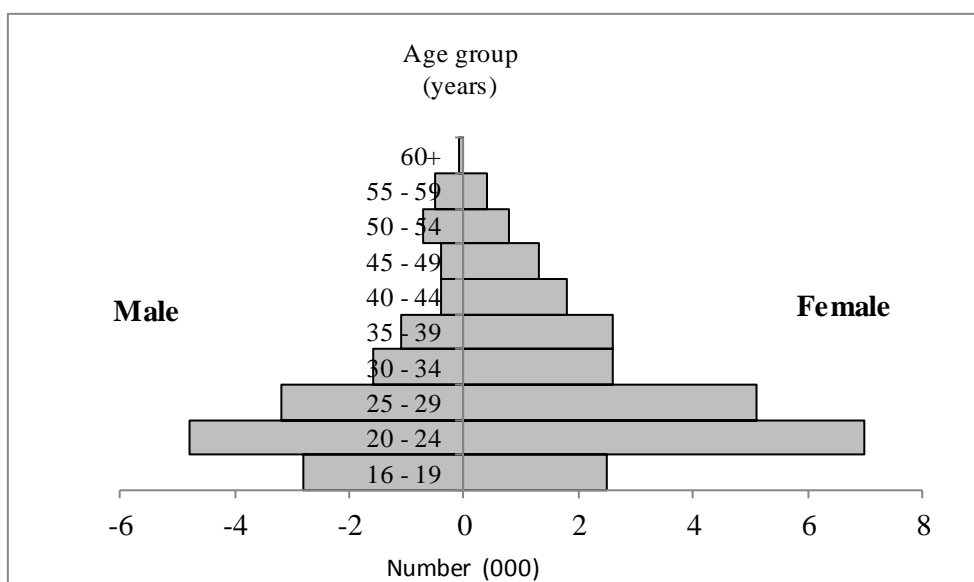
Unemployment

24. In 2019, unemployed persons numbered 39,700, comprising 15,600 men and 24,100 women. The unemployment rate was 6.7% (10.2% among women and 4.4% 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 60.7% of the total unemployed and they outnumbered men by 8,500.

Chart 4 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2019

26. The mean age of an unemployed male was 28 years and that of an unemployed female was 30 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 22.8% among those below 25 years and 1.5% 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 12 percentage points among the unemployed below 25 years.

51% of unemployed women are ever-married while unemployed men are mostly single

29. About 39% of the unemployed were ever-married, i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated. Most of the unemployed men were single (80%). 51% of the unemployed women were ever-married (Table 15).

Almost half of the unemployed do not hold the School Certificate

30. Around 47% of the unemployed, representing 18,600 persons, did not hold a Cambridge School Certificate (SC): 10% had not attained the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, 4% held a CPE certificate, and a further 33% attended secondary school but did not pass the SC. The proportion having SC was 17% and Higher School Certificate (HSC) was 13%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 9,300 and represented 23% of the total unemployed (Table 16).

Chart 5 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2019
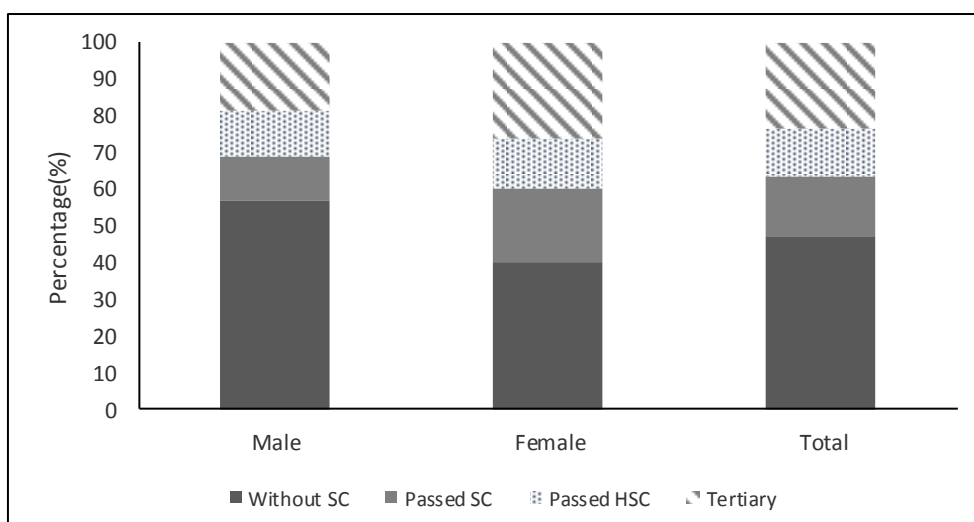
Unemployed women are generally more qualified than unemployed men

31. Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around 60% of them possessed at least a School Certificate against 43% among males.

Women remain 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 (61%) compared to females (45%) while the proportion of those who are unemployed for more than twenty four months is higher among females (6%) against 5% among males(Chart 6).

33. On average, an unemployed person had been without a job for 9 months. Average duration of unemployment for males was 8 months compared to 10 months for females.

Chart 6 – Duration of unemployment by sex, 2019
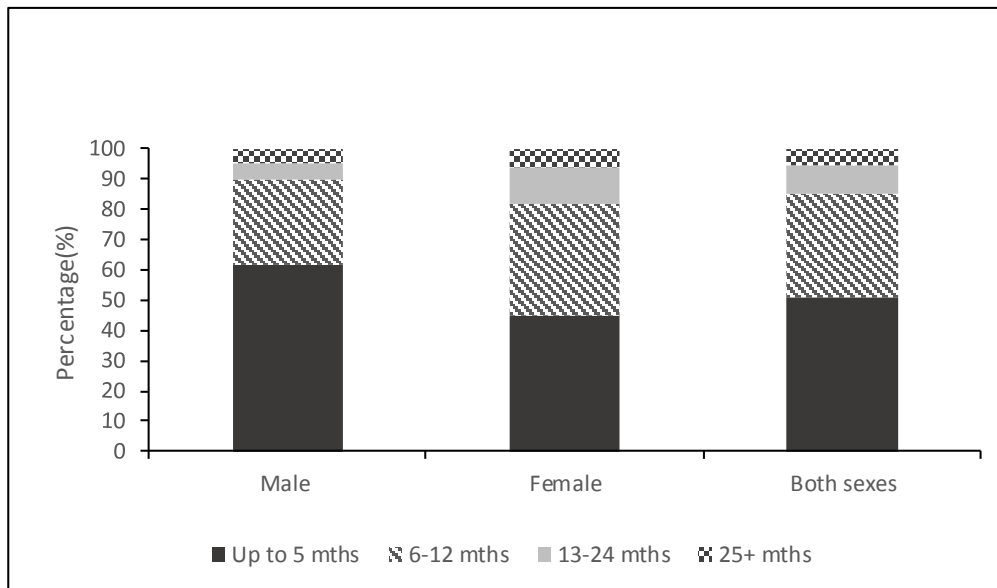
The unemployed is predominantly made up of persons with work experience

34.   Around 69% of the unemployed had worked in the past.   More than two third (74%) had worked previously in the tertiary sector, mainly 'Wholesale & retail trade' (21%) followed by 'Accommodation and food service activities' (15%). Another 23% had worked previously in the secondary sector, mainly in 'Manufacturing' (13%) followed by 'Construction'(9%).   The remaining 3% previously worked in the agricultural sector.

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

35. Some 28% of the unemployed lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job.   Another 30% left their job due to dissatisfaction with job while around 11% 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'(59%) followed by 'checked at factories,worksites, etc' (45%).   Around 47% were registered at the Employment Service (Table 17).

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

37. Around 74% of the unemployed would accept a job below their qualification while 76% were willing to work outside their field of study.   Some 65% were willing to accept a temporary job. (Table 18).

Evolution from 2009 to 2019

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

38. During the period 2009 to 2019, 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, 2009 – 2019
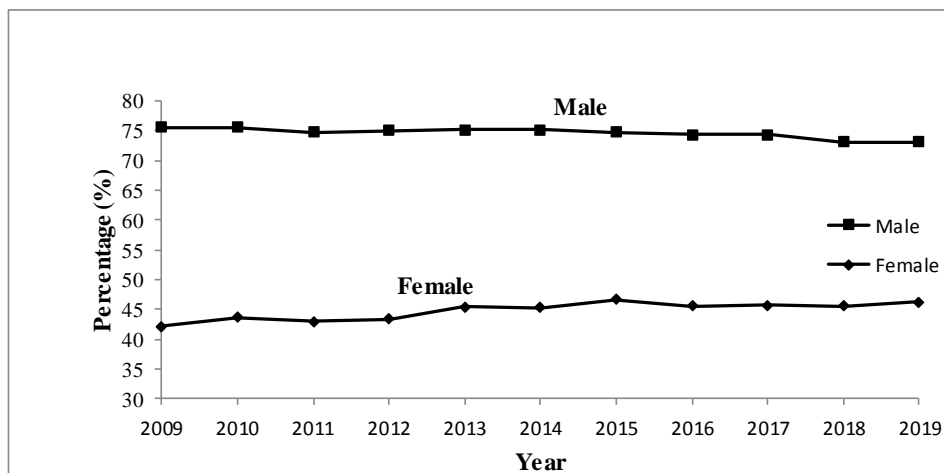
39. The activity rates in 2019 were higher than in 2009 across all age groups, being more pronounced for women aged 25-49 years.

Chart 8 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2009 & 2019
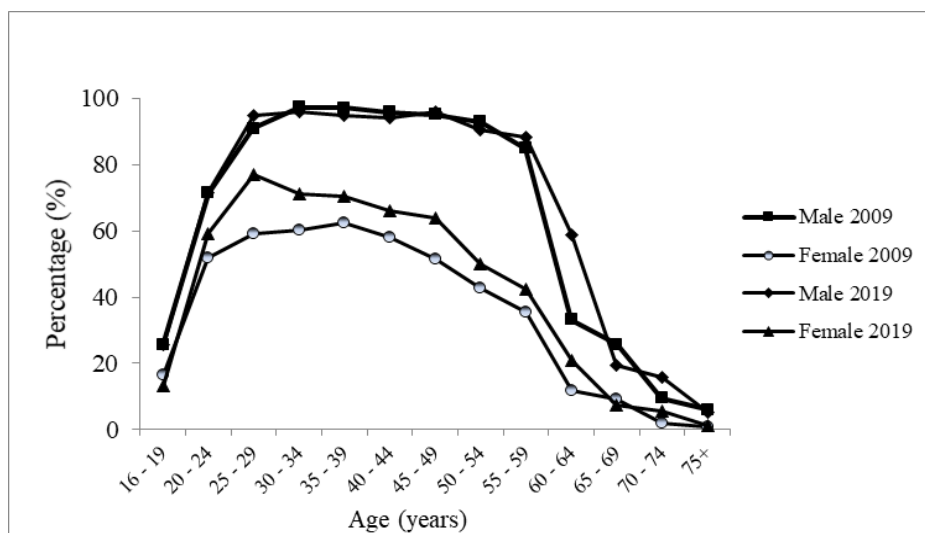
40. From 2009 to 2019, age-specific activity rates for male had remained almost the same for age group 16-59 years, while they increased significantly for women aged 25 years and over.

Female employment is increasing faster than male employment

41. During the period 2009 to 2019, female employment increased at a faster rate than male employment. On average, female employment increased annually by 2.0% 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 2009 to 2019, employment in this sector rose from 309,800 to 388,500; its share over total employment also increased from 62% to 70%. In the primary sector, employment went down from 44,500 in 2009 to 32,200 in 2019 mainly due to a decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment dropped from 146,600 to 130,600 mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector (Table 10).

Chart 9 – Employed population by industrial sector, 2009 & 2019
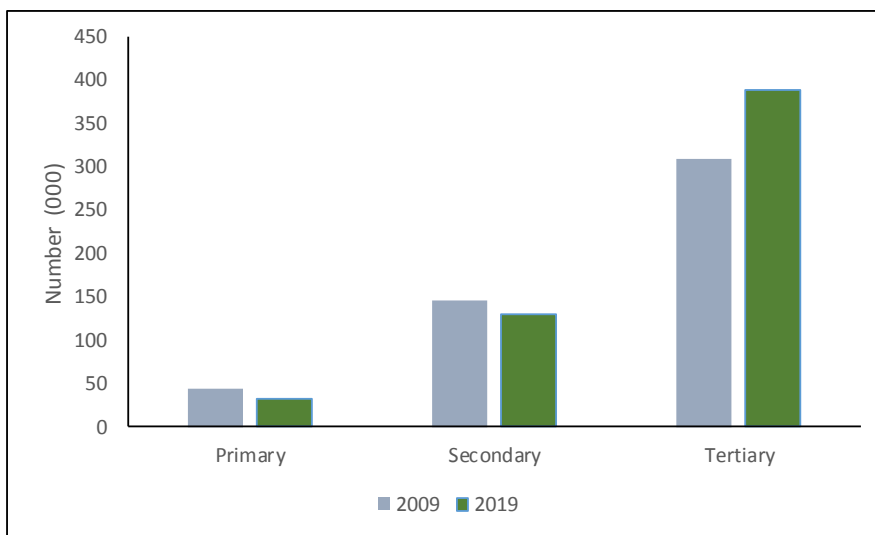
Mauritian workforce is moving up the occupation ladder

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 16.6% in 2009 to 24.2% in 2019, while the share of employment in the lowest occupational group (ISCO 9) representing elementary jobs decreased from 19.9% to 16.0%

Chart 10 – Employed population by occupational group, 2009 – 2019
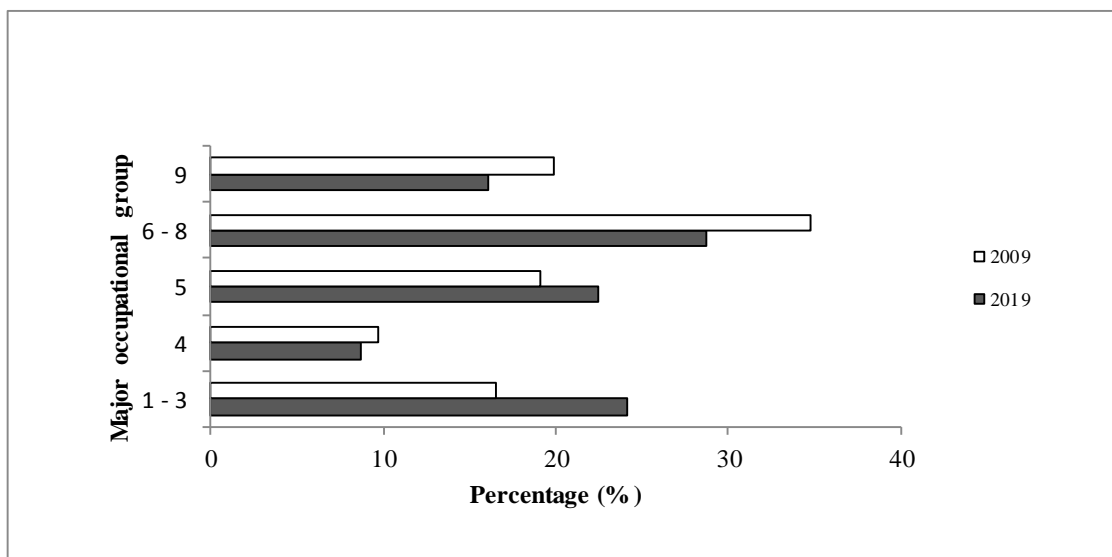
Female unemployment rate remains higher but gender gap is decreasing

Chart 11 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2009 – 2019

44. From 7.3% recorded in 2009, an upward trend was observed in the overall unemployment rate up to 2012 and 2013 when it peaked at 8.0%. Thereafter it declined generally to 6.7% in 2019 (Table 19).

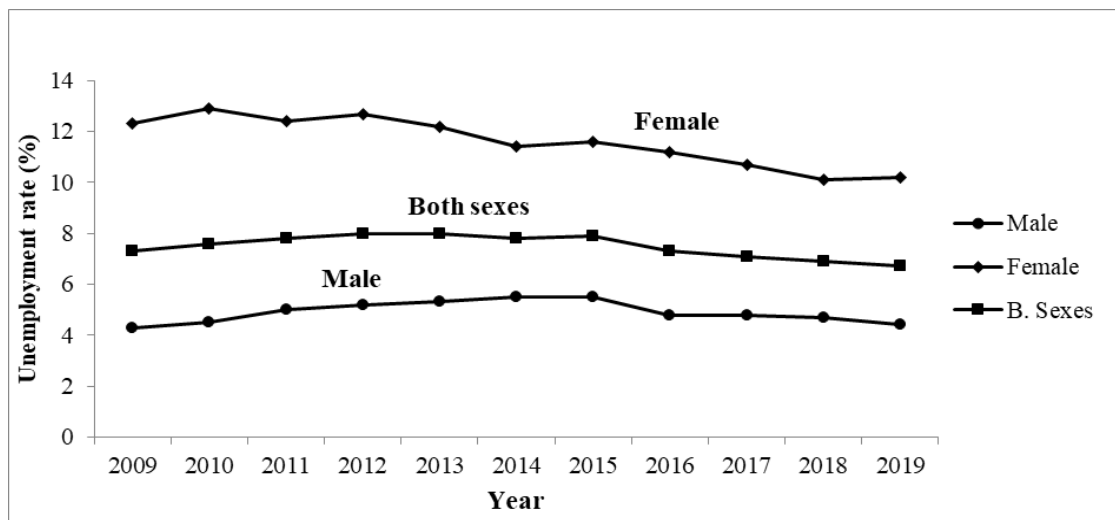45. Male unemployment rate was on the rise during the period 2009 to 2015, from 4.3% to 5.5% and went down thereafter, to almost same level as in 2009. Female unemployment rate was 12.3% in 2009, rose to 12.9% in 2010 and declined thereafter. The gender gap with regards to unemployment rate decreased from 2009 to 2019.

Trend in youth unemployment, 2009 to 2019

46. From a rate of around 21.6% in 2009, youth unemployment rate followed an increasing trend to peak at 26.3% in 2015. It then went down to 23.9% in 2016, rose again to 25.1% by 2018 and was followed by a sharp decline to 22.8% in 2019 (Table 14).

47. Unemployed young persons in 2019 numbered 17,100 of whom 7,600 were male and 9,500 female compared to 7,500 and 7,600 respectively in 2009.

Chart 12 – Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployment rate, 2009 – 2019
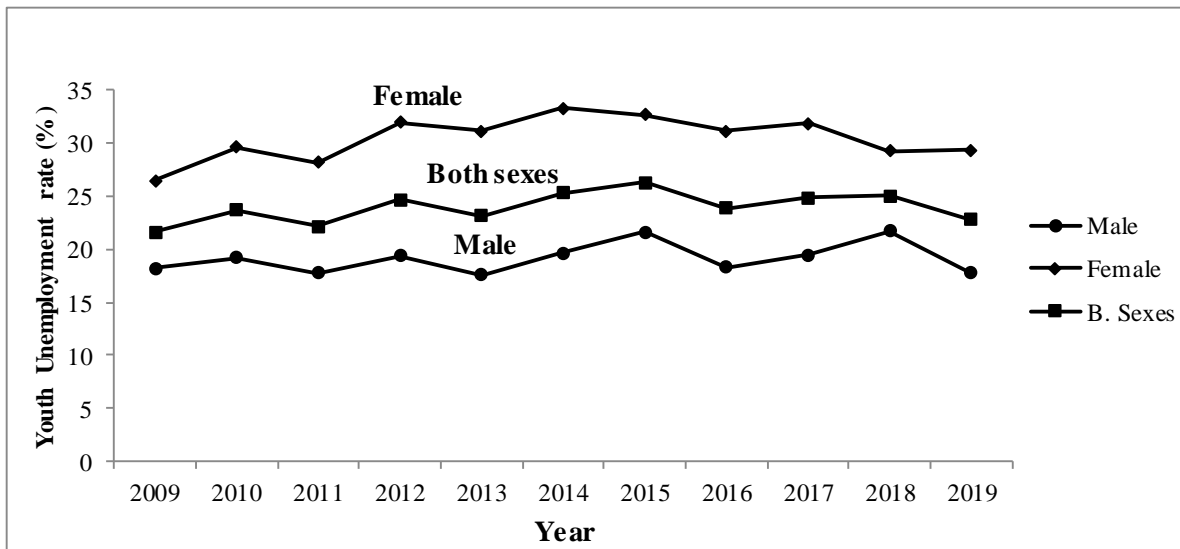
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List of tables

Table 1 - Estimated Labour Force, Employment, Unemployment and population outside the labour force by sex, 2018 & 2019

	2018				2019			
	Estimates	**Standard Error [1]**	**95% Confidence Interval [1]**		**Estimates**	**Standard Error**	**95% Confidence Interval**	
			Lower Limit	**Upper Limit**			**Lower Limit**	**Upper Limit**
Population								
Both Sexes	990,900	9,800	971,700	1,010,100	996,600	9,600	977,800	1,015,300
Male	482,800	5,600	471,900	493,800	485,000	5,500	474,200	495,700
Female	508,100	5,500	497,300	518,900	511,600	5,500	500,800	522,400
Labour Force								
Both Sexes	583,800	7,500	569,100	598,600	591,000	7,400	576,400	605,600
Male	352,800	4,800	343,400	362,200	354,700	4,800	345,300	364,100
Female	231,000	4,000	223,200	238,900	236,300	4,100	228,300	244,300
Employment								
Both Sexes	543,700	7,100	529,800	557,700	551,300	7,100	537,400	565,100
Male	336,100	4,600	327,100	345,100	339,100	4,600	330,100	348,100
Female	207,600	3,800	200,300	215,100	212,200	3,900	204,500	219,800
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	40,100	1,400	37,200	42,900	39,700	1,500	36,800	42,700
Male	16,700	900	14,900	18,500	15,600	900	13,700	17,400
Female	23,400	1,100	21,100	25,600	24,100	1,100	22,000	26,300
Population outside labour force								
Both Sexes	407,100	5,200	396,900	417,300	405,600	5,200	395,300	415,800
Male	130,000	2,600	124,900	135,100	130,300	2,800	124,800	135,700
Female	277,100	3,900	269,400	284,700	275,300	3,800	267,800	282,800
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	58.9	0.4	58.1	59.7	59.3	0.4	58.5	60.1
Male	73.1	0.5	72.2	74.0	73.1	0.5	72.2	74.1
Female	45.5	0.6	44.4	46.6	46.2	0.6	45.1	47.3
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	6.9	0.2	6.4	7.3	6.7	0.2	6.3	7.2
Male	4.7	0.2	4.3	5.2	4.4	0.3	3.9	4.9
Female	10.1	0.5	9.2	11.0	10.2	0.4	9.3	11.1
Youth unemployment								
Both Sexes	19,700	1,000	17,700	21,700	17,100	1,000	15,200	19,000
Male	9,400	600	8,100	10,600	7,600	600	6,400	8,800
Female	10,300	800	8,800	11,900	9,500	700	8,100	10,800
Youth unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	25.1	1.1	22.8	27.3	22.8	1.1	20.6	24.9
Male	21.7	1.3	19.0	24.1	17.8	1.3	15.3	20.3
Female	29.3	1.9	25.7	33.0	29.4	1.9	25.7	33.0

[1] Revised

Table 2 - Age specific activity rate (%) by sex - 2009 & 2019

Age group (years)	2009			2019		
	Male	**Female**	**Both Sexes**	**Male**	**Female**	**Both Sexes**
16 - 19	25.5	16.5	21.0	25.7	13.4	19.6
20 - 24	71.4	51.9	61.7	71.6	59.2	65.4
25 - 29	91.0	59.2	75.0	94.9	77.1	86.0
30 - 34	97.4	60.1	78.5	95.9	71.2	83.4
35 - 39	97.2	62.3	79.8	94.7	70.5	82.5
40 - 44	95.9	57.9	77.0	94.3	66.1	80.3
45 - 49	95.2	51.6	73.4	95.8	63.9	79.9
50 - 54	92.9	42.6	67.6	90.4	50.2	70.2
55 - 59	84.9	35.3	59.5	88.2	42.3	64.7
60 - 64	33.2	11.8	21.7	58.9	21.1	39.3
65+	14.4	3.9	8.2	14.4	4.8	8.9
All Ages	**75.6**	**42.1**	**58.5**	**73.1**	**46.2**	**59.3**

Table 3 – Labour force, employment, unemployment by age and sex - 2019

Age group	Labour Force			Employment			Unemployment		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 - 19	10,100	5,100	15,200	7,300	2,600	9,900	2,800	2,500	5,300
20 - 24	32,700	27,200	59,900	27,900	20,200	48,100	4,800	7,000	11,800
25 - 29	41,300	34,000	75,300	38,100	28,900	67,000	3,200	5,100	8,300
30 - 34	37,000	28,200	65,200	35,400	25,600	61,000	1,600	2,600	4,200
35 - 39	42,800	32,200	75,000	41,700	29,600	71,300	1,100	2,600	3,700
40 - 44	43,400	30,000	73,400	43,000	28,200	71,200			
45 - 49	38,800	25,800	64,600	38,400	24,500	62,900			
50 - 54	40,300	22,600	62,900	39,600	21,800	61,400	2,100	4,300	6400
55 - 59	38,200	19,100	57,300	37,700	18,700	56,400			
60 - 64	21,100	8,100	29,200	21,000	8,100	29,100			
65 & over	9,000	4,000	13,000	9,000	4,000	13,000			
Total	354,700	236,300	591,000	339,100	212,200	551,300	15,600	24,100	39,700

Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2019

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	15,200	2,400	17,600
Own Account worker	61,100	19,200	80,300
Employee	259,000	183,100	442,100
Contributing family worker	3,800	7,500	11,300
All employment states	**339,100**	**212,200**	**551,300**

Table 5 - Mean hours of work per week by employment status and sex - 2019

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	43.3	38.3	42.6
Own Account worker	37.1	30.6	35.5
Employee	42.1	36.7	39.8
Contributing family worker	31.4	28.7	29.6
All employment states	**41.2**	**35.9**	**39.1**

Table 6 - Mean hours of work of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2019

Industrial sector	Mean hours of work per week		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	39.9	30.0	37.5
Secondary	41.7	41.7	41.7
Tertiary	42.4	36.0	39.4
All sectors	**42.1**	**36.7**	**39.8**

Table 7 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2019

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	18,400	10,000	16,500
Secondary	20,100	13,900	18,400
Tertiary	27,500	20,200	24,100
All sectors	**25,100**	**19,100**	**22,600**

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of employees by income range - 2019

Income range Rupees per month	Employees		Income	
	%	**Cumulative %**	**%**	**Cumulative %**
Up to 5,000	5.6	5.6	0.9	0.9
5,001 - 10,000	16.4	22.0	6.3	7.1
10,001 - 15,000	23.6	45.6	13.4	20.5
15,001 - 20,000	17.0	62.6	13.5	34.0
20,001 - 25,000	11.4	74.0	11.7	45.7
25,001 - 50,000	18.9	93.0	29.4	75.1
50,001 and Over	7.0	100.0	24.9	100.0
Total	100.0		100.0	

Table 9 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by occupational group and sex - 2019

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Average monthly income (Rs)		
		Male	**Female**	**Both Sexes**
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	44,200	32,400	38,700
4	Clerical support workers	22,600	19,700	20,900
5	Service and sales workers	22,000	13,300	18,200
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	17,200	11,700	16,300
9	Elementary occupations	15,400	8,900	12,000
	All occupational groups	**25,100**	**19,100**	**22,600**

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 10 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2009 & 2019

Industrial Sector		2009			2019		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary		**30,300**	**14,200**	**44,500**	**24,000**	**8,200**	**32,200**
Secondary		**105,800**	**40,800**	**146,600**	**100,100**	**30,500**	**130,600**
of which	*Manufacturing*	*50,900*	*38,900*	*89,800*	*41,700*	*28,600*	*70,300*
	Construction	*51,600*	*1,500*	*53,100*	*54,100*	*1,300*	*55,400*
Tertiary		**190,100**	**119,700**	**309,800**	**215,000**	**173,500**	**388,500**
of which	*Wholesale and retail trade*	*44,900*	*26,200*	*71,100*	*50,500*	*36,400*	*86,900*
	Accommodation and food service activities	*23,100*	*13,200*	*36,300*	*26,900*	*20,400*	*47,300*
	Transportation and storage	*29,100*	*2,700*	*31,800*	*30,700*	*4,200*	*34,900*
	Public administration and defence	*26,200*	*8,100*	*34,300*	*34,100*	*14,000*	*48,100*
	Education and Human Health & social work activities	*19,600*	*26,200*	*45,800*	*21,100*	*37,900*	*59,000*
All Sectors		**326,200**	**174,700**	**500,900**	**339,100**	**212,200**	**551,300**

Table 11 - Employed population by occupational group and sex - 2009 & 2019

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	2009			2019		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	49,400	33,600	83,000	73,600	59,600	133,200
4	Clerical support workers	19,600	29,200	48,800	19,200	28,600	47,800
5	Service and sales workers	57,700	37,700	95,400	67,500	56,200	123,700
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	140,500	33,700	174,200	135,600	22,600	158,200
9	Elementary occupations	59,000	40,500	99,500	43,200	45,200	88,400
	All occupational groups	**326,200**	**174,700**	**500,900**	**339,100**	**212,200**	**551,300**

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 12 - Employed population with tertiary qualification by occupational group and sex - 2019

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1	Managers	8,800	4,000	12,800
2	Professionals	23,200	23,900	47,100
3	Technicians and associate professionals	16,000	12,900	28,900
4	Clerical support workers	6,000	12,600	18,600
5	Service and sales workers	9,300	6,200	15,500
6-8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	6,900	900	7,800
9	Elementary occupations	1,100	900	2,000
	All occupational groups	**71,300**	**61,400**	**132,700**

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 13 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2019

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 24	17.8	29.4	22.8
25 - 29	7.7	15.0	11.0
30 - 39	3.4	8.6	5.6
40 - 49	1.0	5.6	2.8
50 and over	1.2	2.2	1.5
All ages	**4.4**	**10.2**	**6.7**

Table 14 - Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex , 2009 - 2019

Year	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
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
2019	7,600	9,500	17,100	17.8	29.4	22.8

Table 15 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex – 2019

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Ever Married	3,100	12,300	15,400
Single	12,500	11,800	24,300
Total	**15,600**	**24,100**	**39,700**

Table 16 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex - 2019

Educational attainment	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	**2,200**	**3,200**	**5,400**
Below CPE	1,400	2,400	3,800
Passed CPE	800	800	1,600
Secondary	**10,500**	**14,500**	**25,000**
Form I - V but not passed SC	6,700	6,500	13,200
Passed SC	1,800	4,800	6,600
Passed HSC	2,000	3,200	5,200
Tertiary	**2,900**	**6,400**	**9,300**
Total	**15,600**	**24,100**	**39,700**

Table 17 - Unemployed population by method of job search and sex – 2019

Method of job search	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Applied to prospective employers	8,700	14,800	23,500
Checked at factories, worksites etc	7,900	10,000	17,900
Registered at Employment Service *	6,000	12,500	18,500
Placed or answered advertisements	4,900	8,800	13,700
Sought assistance and advices **	3,000	4,200	7,200
All Unemployed	**15,600**	**24,100**	**39,700**

*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 - 2019

Type of job willing to accept	Number		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Full time employment	14,600	22,800	37,400
Part time employment	10,600	16,900	27,500
Employment without limit	14,000	21,200	35,200
Temporary employment	10,300	15,400	25,700
Employment in public sector	13,900	22,900	36,800
Employment in private sector	13,800	22,000	35,800
Below level of qualification	12,000	17,300	29,300
Outside training or qualification	11,800	18,200	30,000
All Unemployed	**15,600**	**24,100**	**39,700**

Table 19 - Unemployment rate (%) by sex, 2009 - 2019

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
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
2019	4.4	10.2	6.7

Table 20 - Population outside labour force by status and sex – 2019

Status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Students	37,800	42,900	80,700
Retired or old persons	65,700	54,800	120,500
Sick or disabled	19,100	14,500	33,600
Homemakers	7,700	156,100	156,700
Other		7,000	14,100
Total	**130,300**	**275,300**	**405,600**

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**: A Stratified two-stage sampling design is used. At the first stage, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) are selected in proportion to square root of the total number of households in the geographical district 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 16[1] 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.

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[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*