

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Year 2021

Introduction

1. This thirteenth issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the year 2021, 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 as they are based on information from a sample of households rather than from all households. Margin of error associated with estimates of the main labour force indicators are given in Table 1.

Key figures

	2020	2021	Change 2020 - 2021
Population (aged 16+)	1,001,700	1,008,400	+6,700
Labour Force (Economically active)	570,100	532,800	-37,300
<i>Of which Employment</i>	<i>517,900</i>	<i>484,400</i>	<i>-33,500¹</i>
<i>Unemployment</i>	<i>52,200</i>	<i>48,400</i>	<i>-3,800</i>
Outside Labour Force (Economically inactive)	431,600	475,600	+44,000
<i>Of which Potential Labour Force²</i>	<i>42,000</i>	<i>14,900</i>	<i>-27,100</i>
Activity rate (%)	56.9	52.8	-4.1
Employment-to-population ratio ³	51.7	48.0	-3.7
Unemployment rate (%)	9.2	9.1	-0.1
Youth unemployment	17,200	16,000	-1,200
Youth unemployment rate (%)	26.1	27.7	+1.6

¹ The net change in employment level in the above table is equal to “Employment creations minus employment losses” during the period under reference.

² 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.

³ 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.

Key points

3. Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2021

- a. The employed population comprised 293,000 (60.5%) males and 191,400 (39.5%) females.
- b. Among the total of 48,400 unemployed, women outnumbered men (25,800 men compared to 22,600 women). The unemployed youth aged 16 to 24 years numbered 16,000.
- c. The labour force (employed + unemployed) comprised 318,800 (59.8%) males and 214,000 (40.2%) females.

4. Change in Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment, 2020 to 2021

Male

- a. Male employment and unemployment decreased by 17,300 and 500 respectively and hence male labour force decreased by 17,800.
- b. Male unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) rose from 7.8% in 2020 to 8.1% in 2021.
- c. Male activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) declined from 69.3% in 2020 to 65.3% in 2021 as a result of a decrease of 17,800 in the male labour force compared to an increase of 2,100 in the male population aged 16 years and above.

Female

- d. Female employment decreased by 16,200 and unemployment by 3,300 and hence female labour force declined by 19,500.
- e. Female unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) decreased from 11.1% in 2020 to 10.6% in 2021.
- f. Female activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) decreased from 45.3% in 2020 to 41.1% in 2021 as a result of a decrease of 19,500 in the female labour force compared to an increase of 4,600 in the female population aged 16 years and above.

Both sexes

- g. Employment and unemployment decreased by 33,500 and 3,800 respectively and hence the labour force declined by 37,300.
- h. Unemployment rate (number of unemployed/labour force) went down from 9.2% in 2020 to 9.1% in 2021.
- i. The overall activity rate (labour force/population aged 16 years and above) decreased from 56.9% in 2020 to 52.8% in 2021 as a result of a drop of 37,300 in the labour force compared to an increase of 6,700 in the population aged 16 years and above.

Youth

- j. Youth employment decreased by 7,000 from 48,700 in 2020 to 41,700 in 2021 and unemployment decreased by 1,200 from 17,200 to 16,000.
- k. Youth unemployment rate therefore increased by 1.6 percentage points from 26.1% to 27.7%.

5. Evolution from 2011 to 2021

- a. Both men and women were less economically active in 2021, compared to 2011 (Table 2).
- b. Male employment was some 33,000 less than its 2011 level while female employment was higher (+11,500) (Table 10).
- c. Employment in the primary and secondary sectors declined over the ten-year period, while that of the tertiary sector showed an increase (Table 10).
- d. The unemployment rate reached 9.1% in 2021 compared to 7.8% in 2011 (Table 18).
- e. From a rate of 22.2% in 2011, youth unemployment rose to 27.7% in 2021 (Table 14).

Labour market overview, 2021

Chart 1 - The Labour Market, 2021

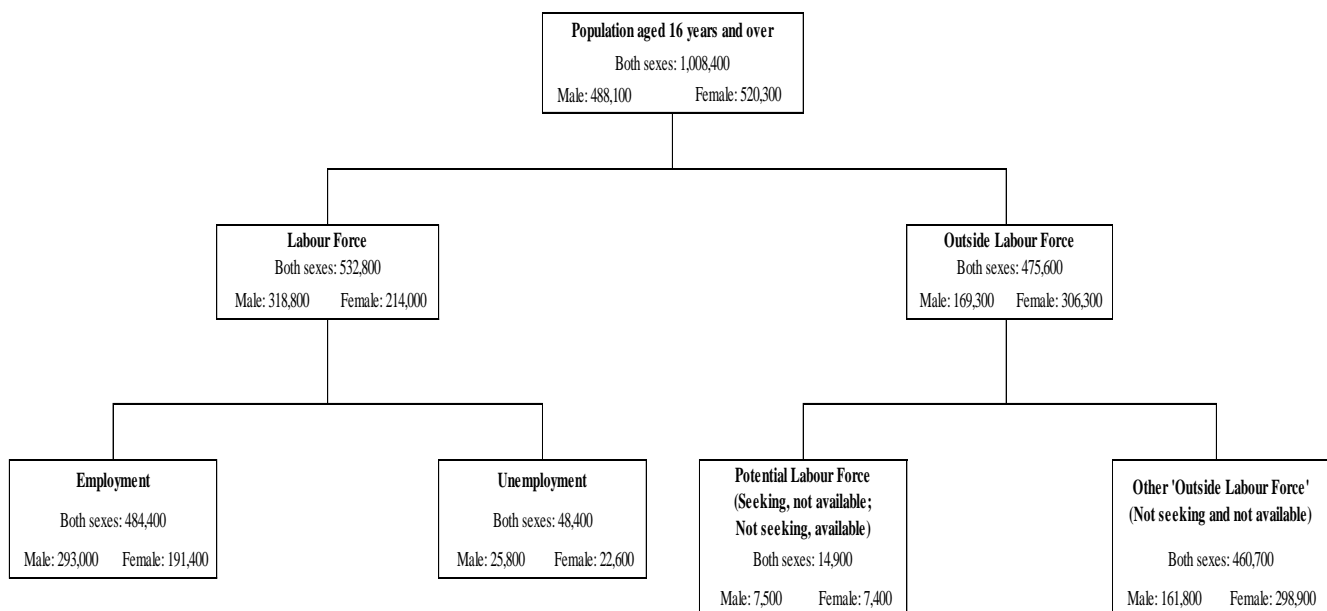
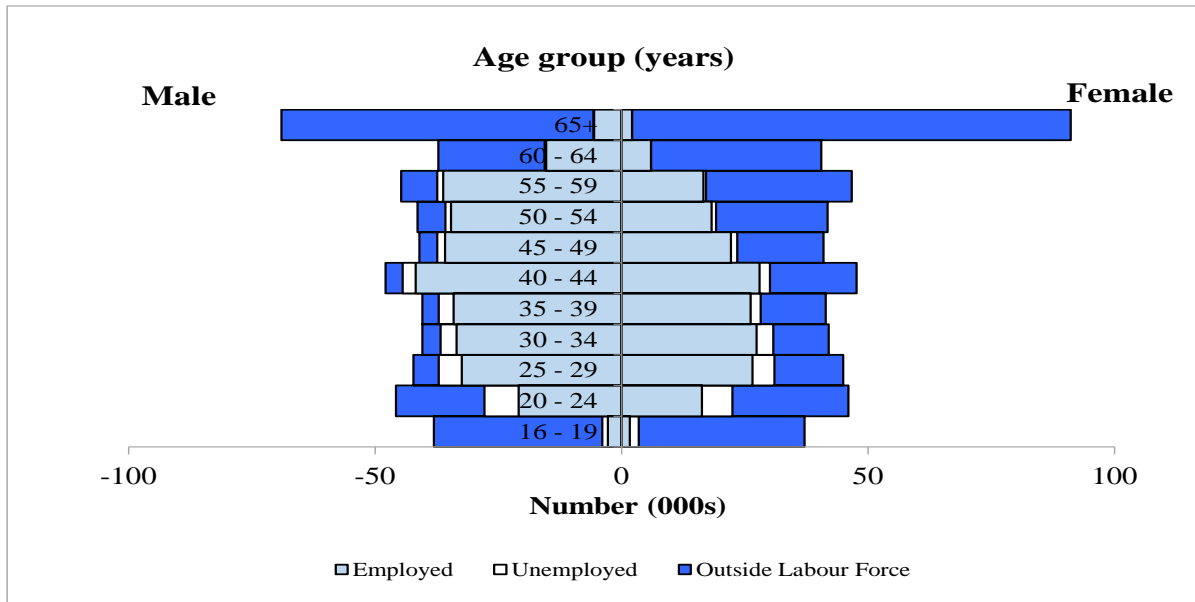


Chart 2 – Population structure by age, sex and economic activity, 2021



Labour Force

6. The population of working age (aged 16 years and over) numbered 1,008,400, of whom 532,800 consisted of the labour force (or were economically active) resulting in an activity rate of 52.8% (Table1).
7. Out of the 532,800 persons in the labour force, 484,400 (90.9%) were employed and 48,400 (9.1%) were unemployed.
 - a. The number of persons outside the labour force was significantly higher among women than among men at all ages, except for age group 16 - 19 years (Chart 2).
 - b. There were fewer women than men among the employed at all ages.
 - c. As from age group 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 475,600 (169,300 males and 306,300 females) (Table 19).
9. Some 14,900 (7,500 males and 7,400 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 66% 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 32% homemakers, 17% students, 32% retired or old persons and 8% sick or disabled persons.

Labour underutilization

11. In 2021, labour underutilization worked out to be 204,300, comprising:

- Unemployed (48,400).
- Potential labour force (14,900), 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 (48,000), 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 (93,000), 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 484,400 (293,000 or 60% males and 191,400 or 40% females) in 2021. The employment to population ratio was around 48% (60% for males and 37% for females).

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 42.2 years for men and 39.6 years for women.

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

14. Some 80.6% of the employed were employees while around 18.4% were self-employed (own account workers or employers) and the remaining 1.0% were contributing family workers. The female workforce as compared to the male workforce comprised a higher proportion of employees (87.9% against 75.9% among males) and contributing family workers (1.7% against 0.5%) but a lower proportion of self-employed (10.4% against 23.6% among males) (Table 4).

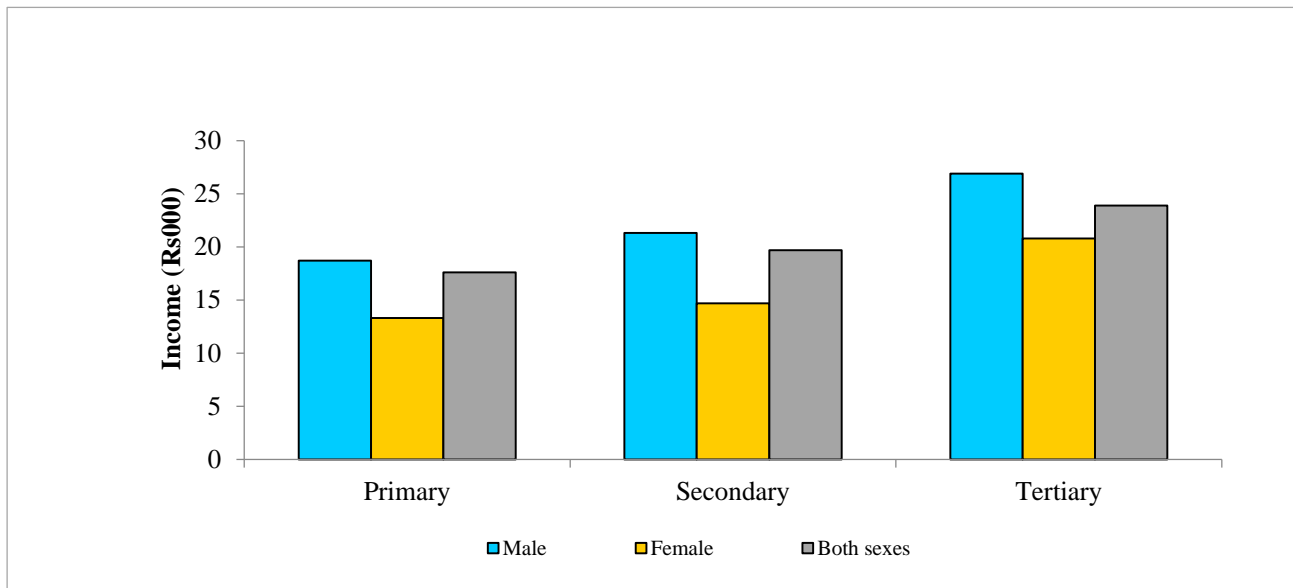
Male employees work longer hours and earn more than their female counterparts

15. On average, an employee worked 40.7 hours per week. A male employee worked 42.1 hours per week on average compared to 38.9 hours per week 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 (41.8 hours per week), compared to 40.6 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 36.9 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 22,800 (Rs 25,000 for males and Rs 20,000 for females) (Table 7)
18. Average monthly income for employees was highest in the tertiary sector (Rs 23,900), followed by the secondary sector (Rs 19,700) and the primary sector (Rs 17,600) (Table 7).

Chart 3 – Average monthly income of employees by industrial sector and sex, 2021



Median income of employees

19. 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 39,800), followed by clerical and support workers (Rs 20,900). The lowest income was drawn by those engaged in elementary occupations (Rs 12,700) (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, 72 were employed in the tertiary sector, 22 in the secondary sector and 6 in the primary sector (Table 10).

1 out of 5 employed persons engaged as managers, professionals or technicians

22. Around 22% of the employed was engaged in the highest occupational groups (ISCO group 1-3) which comprised chief executives, senior officials and legislators; professionals; technicians and associate professionals. Clerical and support workers (ISCO group 4) made up 11% of the workforce; service and sales workers (ISCO group 5) 22%. Another 28% were skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers (ISCO group 6-8). Those engaged in elementary occupations (ISCO group 9) made up 17% of the workforce (Table 11).

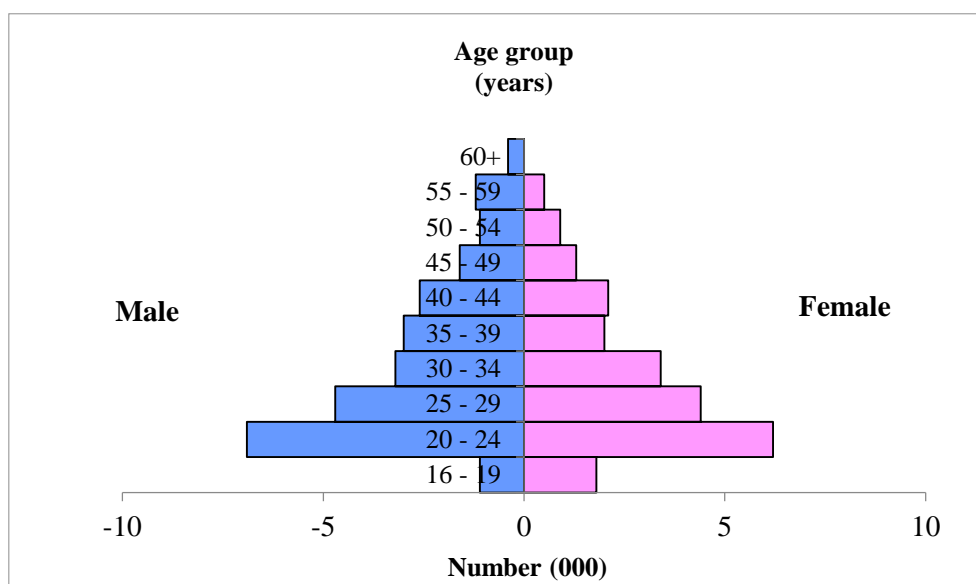
Unemployment

23. In 2021, unemployed persons numbered 48,400, comprising 25,800 men and 22,600 women. The unemployment rate was 9.1% (8.1% among men and 10.6% among women) (Table 1).

Number of unemployed women almost same as unemployed men

24. The shape of the pyramid in Chart 4 indicates a more or less similar pattern between male and female among the unemployed at almost all age-groups in 2021.

Chart 4 – Age-sex structure of the unemployed population, 2021



25. The mean age of an unemployed male was 32.7 years and that of unemployed female was 30.7 years.

Unemployment rate is highest among young persons

26. Unemployment rate was highest at the lowest age groups and decreased progressively with increasing age. It was 27.7% among those below 25 years and 3.0% among those aged 50 years and above (Table 13).

27. The disparity between male and female unemployment rate was highest in the lowest age group of 16 - 24 years; the difference being 5.6 percentage points.

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

28. About 43% of the unemployed were ever-married, i.e. currently married, widowed, divorced or separated. Most of the unemployed men were single (62%). 50% of the unemployed women were ever-married (Table 15).

More than half of the unemployed do not hold the School Certificate

29. Around 55% of the unemployed, representing 26,800 persons, did not hold a Cambridge School Certificate (SC): 17% had not attained the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC)/Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, 5% held the PSAC/CPE certificate, and a further 34% attended secondary school but did not pass the SC. The proportion having SC was

14% and Higher School Certificate (HSC) was 9%. Unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level numbered some 10,100 and represented 21% of the total unemployed (Table 16).

Chart 5 – Unemployed population by education attainment and sex, 2021



Unemployed women are generally more qualified than unemployed men

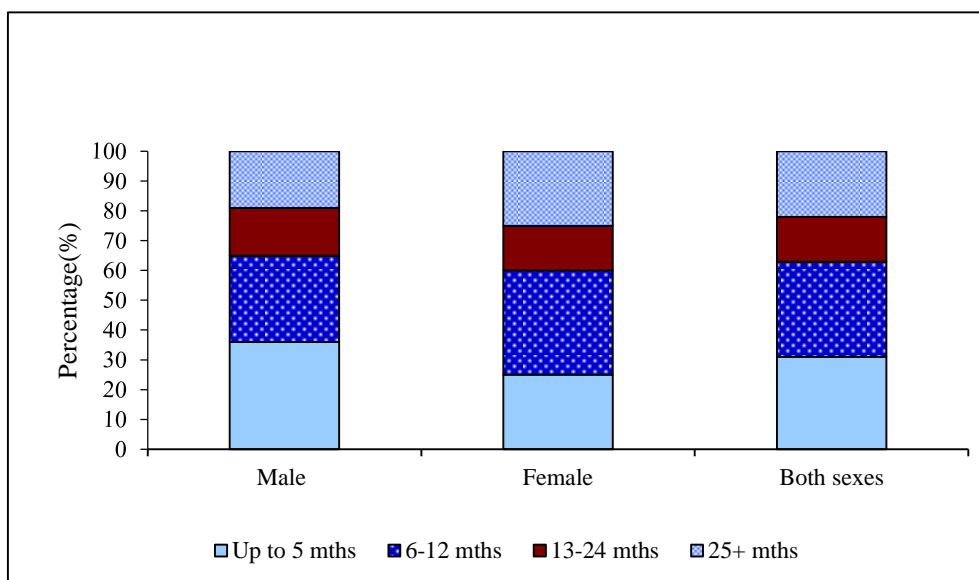
30. Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; around 51% of them possessed at least a School Certificate against 39% among males.

Women remain in unemployment around four months more than men

31. The proportion of persons in unemployment for a duration of less than six months is higher among males (36%) compared to females (25%) while the proportion of those who are unemployed for more than twenty four months is higher among females (25%) against 19% among males (Chart 6).

32. On average, an unemployed person had been without a job for 21 months. Average duration of unemployment for males was 19 months compared to 23 months for females.

Chart 6 – Duration of unemployment by sex, 2021



The unemployed is predominantly made up of persons with work experience

33. Around 68% of the unemployed had worked in the past. More than two third (67%) had worked previously in the tertiary sector, mainly ‘Wholesale & retail trade’ (16%) followed by ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ (14%). Another 31% had worked previously in the secondary sector, mainly in ‘Construction’ (19%) followed by ‘Manufacturing’(12%). The remaining 2% previously worked in the agricultural sector.

Nearly two out of 5 unemployed who worked before leave their job because of closure of establishment and reduction in workforce due to COVID-19.

34. Some 22% of the unemployed lost their job following completion of their contract or temporary job. Another 12% left their job due to dissatisfaction with job while around 12% left due closure of establishment/reduction for another reasons. Closure of establishment and reduction in workforce due to COVID-19 accounted for 42% of the job losses.

Almost half of the unemployed are not registered at the Employment Service.

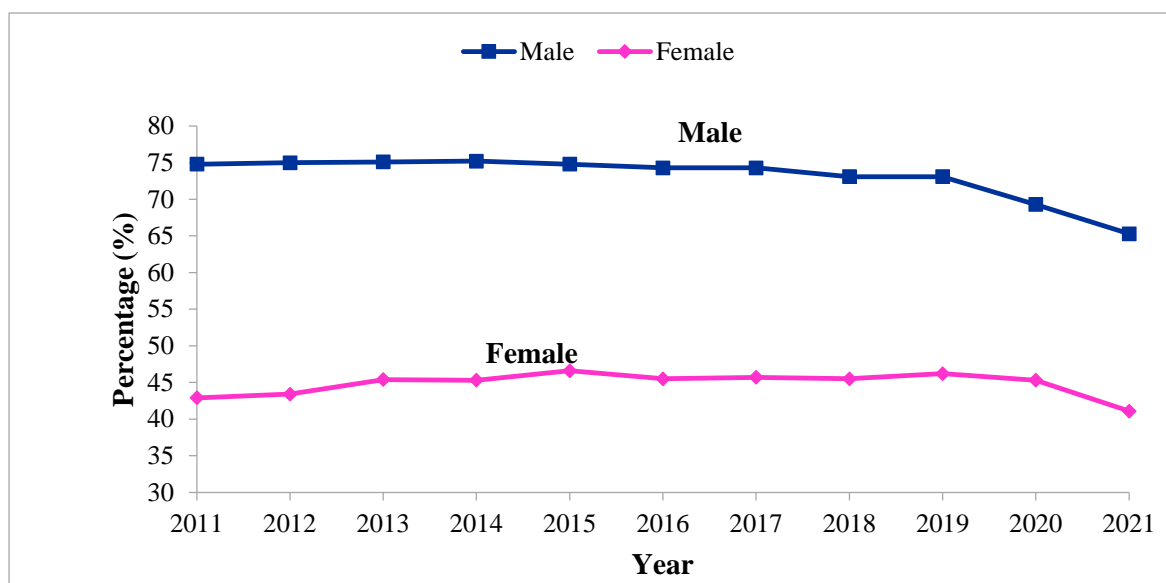
35. The unemployed usually had recourse to more than one method of job search. The most common method was ‘applied to prospective employers’(59%) followed by ‘checked at factories,worksites, etc’ (53%). Around 48% were registered at the Employment Service (Table 17).

Evolution from 2011 to 2021

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

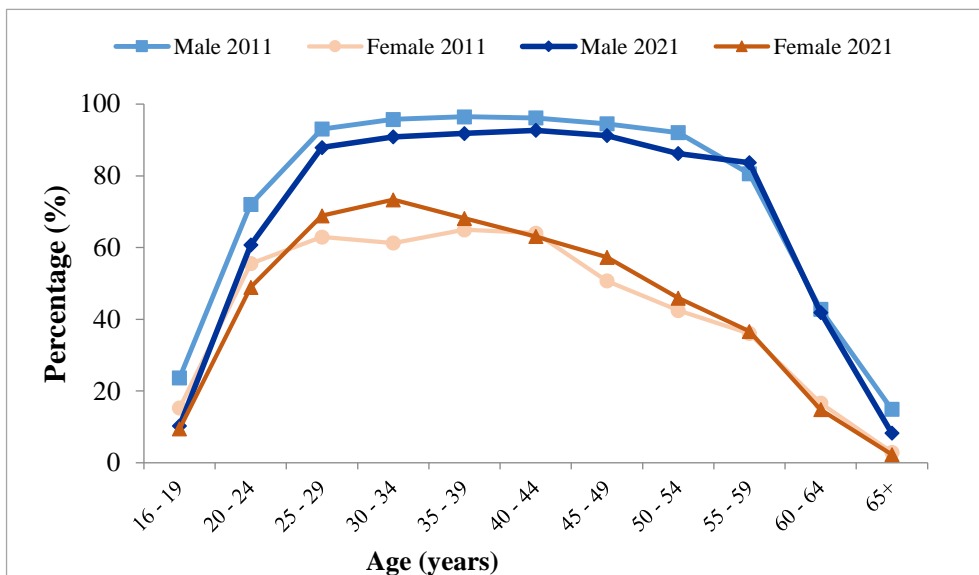
36. During the period 2011 to 2021, male activity rate was consistently higher than female activity rate (Chart 7). However, the gap between male and female activity rates is decreasing over time (Table 2).

Chart 7 – Activity rate by sex, 2011 – 2021



37. Male age-specific activity rate in 2021 was lower than those of 2011 for all age groups between 16 and 54 years. On the other hand, female age-specific activity rate in 2021 was higher than those of 2011 for all age groups between 25 and 59 years.

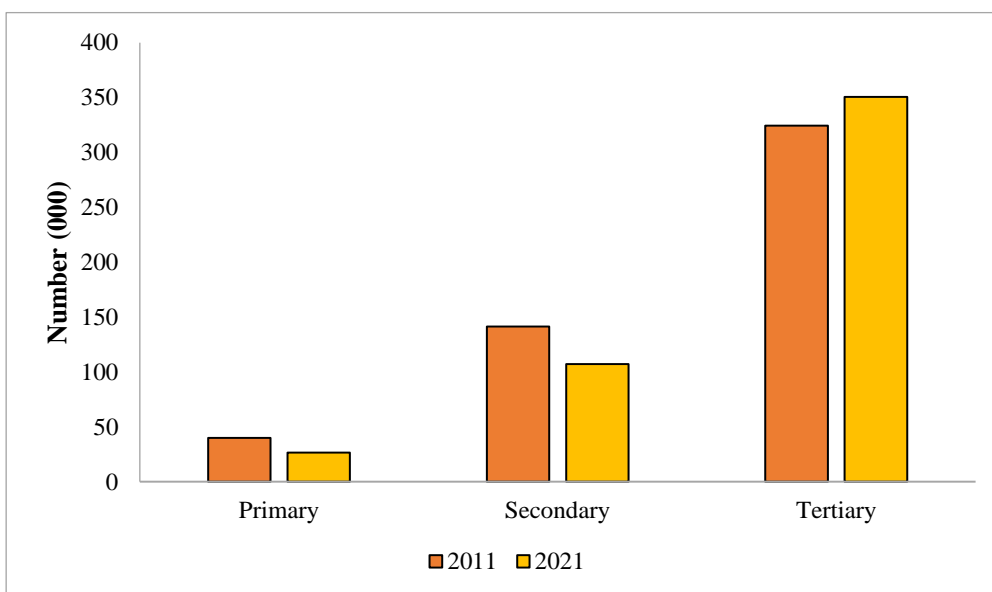
Chart 8 – Activity rate by age and sex – 2011 & 2021



The tertiary sector is becoming increasingly important in terms of employment

38. Over time, the tertiary sector has become increasingly important in terms of employment. From 2011 to 2021, employment in this sector rose from 324,400 to 350,500; its share over total employment also increased from 64% to 72%. In the primary sector, employment went down from 40,100 in 2011 to 26,600 in 2021 mainly due to a decline in the agricultural sector. In the secondary sector, employment dropped from 141,400 to 107,300 mainly due to a decreasing workforce in the manufacturing sector (Table 10).

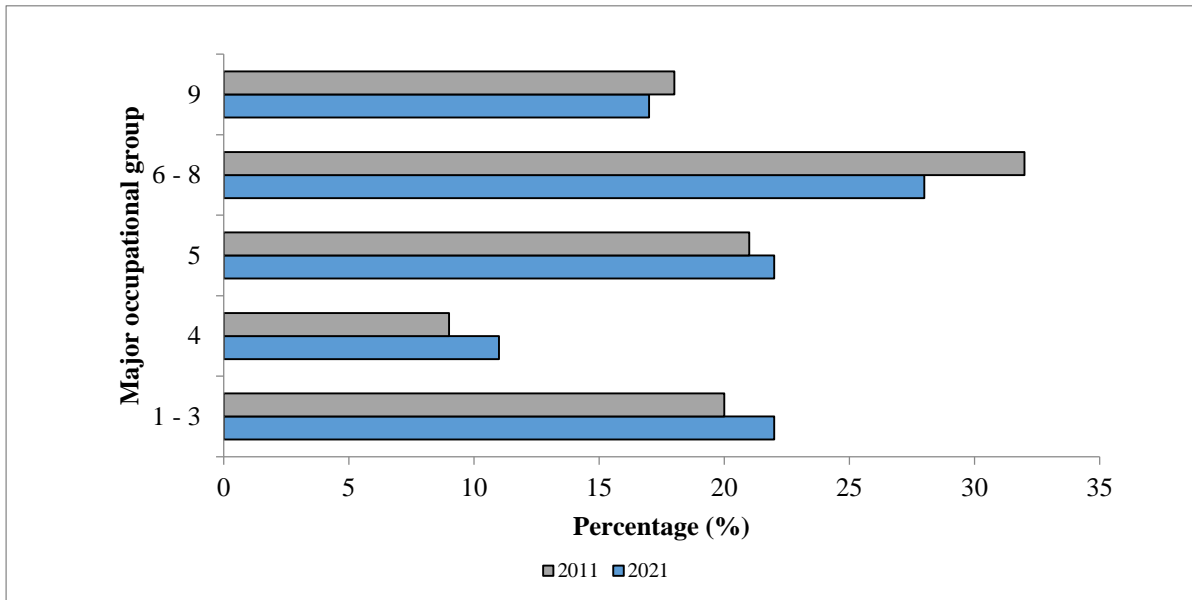
Chart 9 – Employed population by industrial sector, 2011 & 2021



Mauritian workforce is moving up the occupation ladder

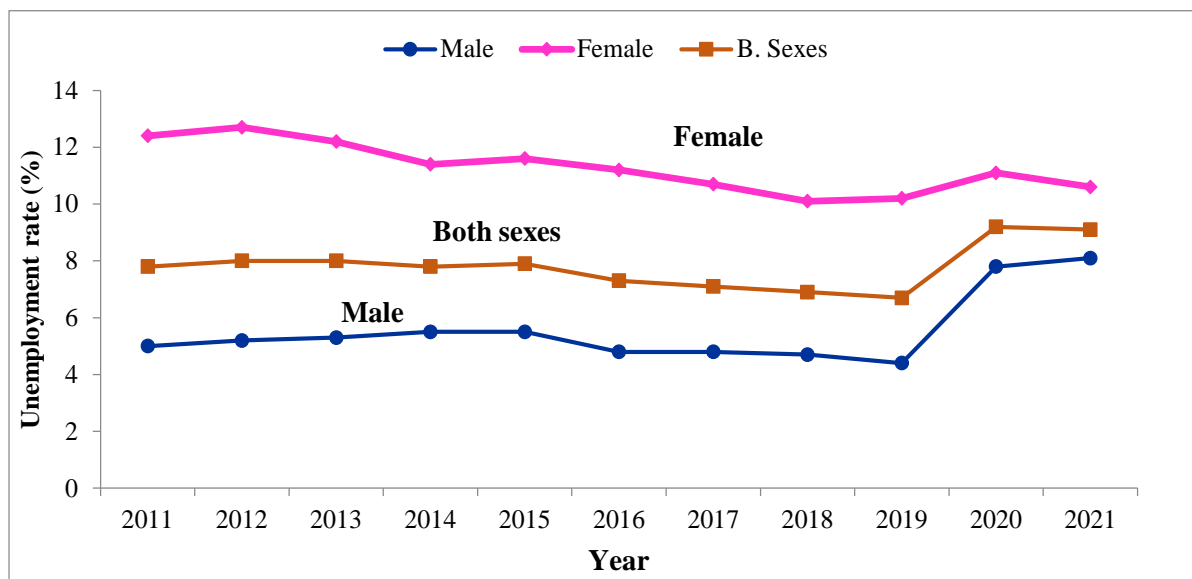
39. The share of employment in the higher occupational groups (ISCO group 1-3) comprising legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals increased from 19.9% in 2011 to 22.5% in 2021, while the share of employment in the lowest occupational group (ISCO group 9) representing elementary jobs decreased from 17.7% to 16.7%.

Chart 10 – Employed population by occupational group, 2011 – 2021



Female unemployment rate remains higher but gender gap is decreasing

Chart 11 – Unemployment rate by sex, 2011 – 2021



40. From 2011 to 2015, the overall unemployment rate oscillated around 8.0%. However, for the period 2016 to 2019 it remained around 7.0% and thereafter it picked up to reach 9.2% and 9.1% in 2020 and 2021 respectively (Table 18).

41. Male unemployment rate increased steadily during the period 2011 to 2015, from 5.0% to 5.5%; then declined gradually to reach 4.4% in 2019. However, the rate increased significantly to 7.8% and 8.1 % in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

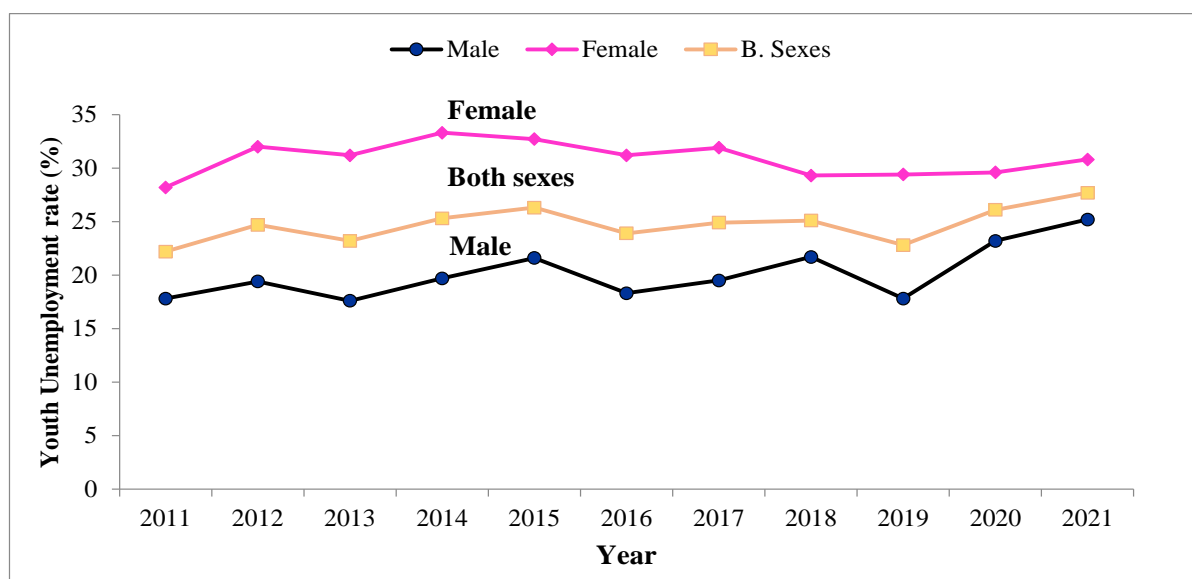
42. Female unemployment rate which stood at 12.4% in 2011 declined to 10.2% in 2019; thereafter it increased to 11.1% in 2020 followed by a decrease to reach 10.6% in 2021. However, the gender gap with regards to unemployment rate decreased from 2011 to 2021.

Trend in youth unemployment, 2011 to 2021

43. From a rate of around 22.2% in 2011, youth unemployment rate followed an increasing trend to peak at 26.3% in 2015. It then went down to 22.8% in 2019 and gradually increased to 27.7% in 2021 (Table 14).

44. Unemployed young persons in 2021 numbered 16,000 of whom 8,000 were male and 8,000 female compared to 7,500 and 8,700 respectively in 2011.

Chart 12 – Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployment rate, 2011 – 2021



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Table 1 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and population outside the labour force by sex, 2020 & 2021

	2020			2021		
	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)	Estimates	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation (%)
Population						
Both Sexes	1,001,700	16,900	1.7	1,008,400	12,600	1.2
Male	486,000	9,100	1.9	488,100	6,900	1.4
Female	515,700	9,400	1.8	520,300	7,100	1.4
Labour Force						
Both Sexes	570,100	13,200	2.3	532,800	8,700	1.6
Male	336,600	8,100	2.4	318,800	5,700	1.8
Female	233,500	6,800	2.9	214,000	4,400	2.1
Employment						
Both Sexes	517,900	12,200	2.4	484,400	8,100	1.7
Male	310,300	7,500	2.4	293,000	5,400	1.8
Female	207,600	6,400	3.1	191,400	4,100	2.1
Unemployment						
Both Sexes	52,200	2,800	5.4	48,400	2,000	4.1
Male	26,300	1,800	6.8	25,800	1,400	5.4
Female	25,900	1,700	6.6	22,600	1,300	5.8
Inactive Population						
Both Sexes	431,600	6,400	1.5	475,600	7,200	1.5
Male	149,400	2,600	1.7	169,300	3,800	2.2
Female	282,200	5,100	1.8	306,300	5,200	1.7
Activity rate (%)						
Both Sexes	56.9	0.6	1.1	52.8	0.5	0.9
Male	69.3	0.6	0.9	65.3	0.7	1.1
Female	45.3	0.9	2.0	41.1	0.6	1.5
Unemployment rate (%)						
Both Sexes	9.2	0.4	4.3	9.1	0.4	4.4
Male	7.8	0.5	6.4	8.1	0.4	4.9
Female	11.1	0.7	6.3	10.6	0.6	5.7
Youth unemployment						
Both Sexes	17,200	1,400	8.1	16,000	1,100	6.9
Male	8,400	900	10.7	8,000	700	8.8
Female	8,800	1,000	11.4	8,000	800	10.0
Youth unemployment rate (%)						
Both Sexes	26.1	1.8	6.9	27.7	1.5	5.4
Male	23.2	2.0	8.6	25.2	2.0	7.9
Female	29.6	3.1	10.5	30.8	2.5	8.1

Reliability of estimates

High reliability	Less than 7.5
Medium reliability	7.5 - 15.0
Low reliability	Greater than 15.0

Table 2 - Age specific activity rate (%) by sex - 2011 & 2021

Age group (years)	2011			2021		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 19	23.7	15.3	19.5	10.2	9.4	9.8
20 - 24	72.1	55.5	63.9	60.7	48.9	54.8
25 - 29	93.0	63.0	78.0	87.9	68.9	78.1
30 - 34	95.7	61.3	78.6	90.8	73.3	81.9
35 - 39	96.5	64.9	80.7	91.8	68.1	79.8
40 - 44	96.1	64.1	80.2	92.7	63.1	77.9
45 - 49	94.5	50.7	72.6	91.2	57.3	74.3
50 - 54	92.1	42.5	67.2	86.2	45.9	66.0
55 - 59	80.6	36.0	57.8	83.7	36.6	59.6
60 - 64	42.8	16.6	28.9	41.9	14.8	27.8
65+	14.9	2.9	7.9	8.3	2.3	4.9
All Ages	74.8	42.9	58.5	65.3	41.1	52.8

Table 3 – Labour force, employment, unemployment by age group and sex - 2021

Age group	Labour Force			Employment			Unemployment		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 - 19	3,900	3,500	7,400	2,800	1,700	4,500	1,100	1,800	2,900
20 - 24	27,800	22,500	50,300	20,900	16,300	37,200	6,900	6,200	13,100
25 - 29	37,100	31,000	68,100	32,400	26,600	59,000	4,700	4,400	9,100
30 - 34	36,700	30,800	67,500	33,500	27,400	60,900	3,200	3,400	6,600
35 - 39	37,100	28,200	65,300	34,100	26,200	60,300	3,000	2,000	5,000
40 - 44	44,400	30,100	74,500	41,800	28,000	69,800			
45 - 49	37,400	23,500	60,900	35,800	22,200	58,000			
50 - 54	35,700	19,200	54,900	34,600	18,300	52,900	6,900	4,800	11,700
55 - 59	37,400	17,100	54,500	36,200	16,600	52,800			
60 - 64	15,600	6,000	21,600	15,300	6,000	21,300			
65 & over	5,700	2,100	7,800	5,600	2,100	7,700			
Total	318,800	214,000	532,800	293,000	191,400	484,400	25,800	22,600	48,400

Table 4 - Employed population by employment status and sex - 2021

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	12,300	3,200	15,500
Own Account worker	56,800	16,700	73,500
Employee	222,500	168,200	390,700
Contributing family worker	1,400	3,300	4,700
All employment states	293,000	191,400	484,400

Table 5 - Mean hours of work per week by employment status and sex - 2021

Employment status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	40.3	35.8	39.4
Own Account worker	36.0	29.9	34.6
Employee	42.1	38.9	40.7
Contributing family worker	38.8	36.5	37.2
All employment states	40.9	38.1	39.8

Table 6 - Mean hours of work of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2021

Industrial sector	Mean hours of work per week		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	38.4	31.4	36.9
Secondary	41.8	41.7	41.8
Tertiary	42.6	38.6	40.6
All sectors	42.1	38.9	40.7

Table 7 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by industrial sector and sex - 2021

Industrial sector	Average monthly income (Rs)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	18,700	13,300	17,600
Secondary	21,300	14,700	19,700
Tertiary	26,900	20,800	23,900
All sectors	25,000	20,000	22,800

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of employees by income range - 2021

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	12.3	17.9	4.7	5.6
10,001 - 15,000	30.9	48.8	17.4	23.0
15,001 - 20,000	15.9	64.7	12.8	35.8
20,001 - 25,000	9.9	74.6	10.2	46.0
25,001 - 50,000	18.3	92.9	28.7	74.7
50,001 - 75,000	4.4	97.3	11.8	86.5
75,001 and Over	2.7	100.0	13.5	100.0
Total	100.0		100.0	

Table 9 - Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by occupational group and sex - 2021

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Average monthly income (Rs)		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	44,600	34,800	39,800
4	Clerical support workers	22,300	20,200	20,900
5	Service and sales workers	23,600	13,300	19,100
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	16,900	11,700	16,400
9	Elementary occupations	16,300	9,700	12,700
	All occupational groups	25,000	20,000	22,800

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 10 - Employed population by industrial sector and sex - 2011 & 2021

Industrial Sector	2011			2021		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	28,600	11,500	40,100	20,600	6,000	26,600
Secondary	103,800	37,600	141,400	83,500	23,800	107,300
<i>of which Manufacturing</i>	48,300	35,700	84,000	33,100	20,700	53,800
<i>Construction</i>	49,400	1,500	50,900	45,200	1,700	46,900
Tertiary	193,600	130,800	324,400	188,900	161,600	350,500
<i>of which Wholesale and retail trade</i>	47,000	32,700	79,700	38,100	32,800	70,900
<i>Accommodation and food service activities</i>	22,000	12,100	34,100	23,600	16,600	40,200
<i>Transportation and storage</i>	26,800	2,600	29,400	27,500	5,100	32,600
<i>Public administration and defence</i>	31,500	9,200	40,700	30,600	13,100	43,700
<i>Education and Human Health & social work activities</i>	19,400	27,300	46,700	19,300	35,600	54,900
All Sectors	326,000	179,900	505,900	293,000	191,400	484,400

Table 11 - Employed population by occupational group and sex - 2011 & 2021

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	2011			2021		
		Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1 - 3	Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	60,700	40,200	100,900	58,300	51,100	109,400
4	Clerical support workers	19,200	28,200	47,400	17,900	34,100	52,000
5	Service and sales workers	65,700	42,100	107,800	58,900	47,200	106,100
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	132,600	27,800	160,400	120,900	15,200	136,100
9	Elementary occupations	47,800	41,600	89,400	37,000	43,800	80,800
	All occupational groups	326,000	179,900	505,900	293,000	191,400	484,400

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 12 - Employed population with tertiary qualification by occupational group and sex - 2021

ISCO* major occupational group	Occupational group	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1	Managers	6,500	4,200	10,700
2	Professionals	18,800	18,100	36,900
3	Technicians and associate professionals	14,600	13,000	27,600
4	Clerical support workers	5,800	13,000	18,800
5	Service and sales workers	10,200	6,600	16,800
6-8	Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	8,000	900	8,900
9	Elementary occupations	2,000	1,500	3,500
	All occupational groups	65,900	57,300	123,200

* International Standard Classification of Occupations

Table 13 - Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex - 2021

Age group (years)	Male	Female	Both Sexes
16 - 24	25.2	30.8	27.7
25 - 29	12.7	14.2	13.4
30 - 39	8.4	9.2	8.7
40 - 49	5.1	6.3	5.6
50 and over	2.9	3.2	3.0
All ages	8.1	10.6	9.1

Table 14 - Youth (16-24 yrs) unemployed and unemployment rate (%) by sex , 2011 - 2021

Year	Unemployment			Unemployment rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
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
2020	8,400	8,800	17,200	23.2	29.6	26.1
2021	8,000	8,000	16,000	25.2	30.8	27.7

Table 15 - Unemployed population by marital status and sex – 2021

Marital status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Ever Married	9,700	11,200	20,900
Single	16,100	11,400	27,500
Total	25,800	22,600	48,400

Table 16 - Unemployed population by educational attainment and sex - 2021

Educational attainment	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Primary	6,300	4,300	10,600
<i>Below PSAC/CPE</i>	4,800	3,200	8,000
<i>Passed PSAC/CPE</i>	1,500	1,100	2,600
Secondary	14,400	13,300	27,700
<i>Form I - V but not passed SC</i>	9,500	6,700	16,200
<i>Passed SC</i>	3,100	3,900	7,000
<i>Passed HSC</i>	1,800	2,700	4,500
Tertiary	5,100	5,000	10,100
Total	25,800	22,600	48,400

Table 17 - Unemployed population by method of job search and sex – 2021

Method of job search	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Applied to prospective employers	15,500	13,200	28,700
Checked at factories, worksites etc	13,300	12,200	25,500
Registered at Employment Service *	11,100	11,900	23,000
Placed or answered advertisements	5,300	4,200	9,500
Sought assistance and advices **	7,000	6,100	13,100
All Unemployed	25,800	22,600	48,400

*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 - Unemployment rate (%) by sex - 2011 - 2021

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
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
2020	7.8	11.1	9.2
2021	8.1	10.6	9.1

Table 19 - Population outside labour force by inactivity status and sex – 2021

Inactivity status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Students	38,300	41,400	79,700
Retired or old persons	81,900	71,500	153,400
Sick or disabled	21,800	14,500	36,300
Homemakers	27,300	154,400	154,600
Other		24,500	51,600
Total	169,300	306,300	475,600

Methodology of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

- 1. Data collection:** Following the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020, the face-to-face interviews of household members have been replaced by telephone interviews until further notice.
- 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) and the Coefficient of Variation (CV), which are measures of this variability have been computed and are given in table 1.
- 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 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 years and above 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 years and above.
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 years and above, 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 persons who have studied from Grade 1 (Standard 1) to Grade 6 (Standard 6) or to Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC)/Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) or equivalent.

Secondary: comprises persons who have studied from Grade 7 (Form 1) to Grade 13 (Form 6) or to Higher School Certificate (HSC) or equivalent.

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

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