

CHAPTER 1

Chapter 1

LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

YEAR 2007

1. Introduction

This chapter presents estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the Republic of Mauritius.

Prior to 2004, mid-year estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment published were based on the latest Population Census or Labour Force Sample Survey, updated with data from surveys of establishments and information from various administrative sources. The estimates refer to population aged 12 years and over.

As from 2004, the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) is used to measure labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis. This follows the recommendations of a Technical Committee set up to analyse the findings of a World Bank study on unemployment in Mauritius. With the amendment to the Labour Act in December 2007, whereby the minimum legal working age has been raised from 15 to 16 years, and the subsequent recommendation of ILO to be in line with the Act, the lower age cut-off point for the labour force is 16 years as from 2007.

Quarterly estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment have been published in Economic and Social Indicators on the main results of CMPHS. Estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for years 2006 and 2007 based on the CMPHS data have been worked out and are presented in this chapter.

2. Definitions

Definitions of labour force, employment and unemployment used are according to the ILO recommendations.

The labour force or the active population is made up of the employed and the unemployed populations. The employed population consists of persons who are working while the unemployed population consists of persons who are not working but who are looking for work and are available for work.

The unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of the Mauritian labour force who is unemployed.

It is to be noted that the same definitions are used for both methodologies mentioned in the introduction.

3. Estimation and reliability of results

The Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey covers a total of 11,280 private Mauritian households (10,560 in the Island of Mauritius and 720 in Rodrigues), spread over the whole year.

The sampling method used is a stratified two-stage design which ensures representativeness of all regions and all households in the economy.

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, can be used to set confidence intervals for any estimate (whether a total or a rate) derived from the sample. For example, a 95% confidence interval encloses the true value which would be obtained if all households had been surveyed.

The main labour force estimates together with the standard errors and confidence intervals are shown in Table 1.1. It is to be noted that the figures refer to the Mauritian population aged 16 years and over.

Table 1.1 – Estimated Labour Force, Employment, Unemployment and Inactive Population by sex Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey (Mauritian population aged 16 years and over)

	2006				2007			
	Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Labour Force								
Both Sexes	548,400	6,700	535,400	561,600	548,900	6,400	536,500	561,500
Male	351,400	4,400	342,700	360,100	353,600	4,300	345,200	362,100
Female	197,000	3,700	189,900	204,200	195,300	3,500	188,400	202,300
Employment								
Both Sexes	498,600	6,200	486,500	510,800	502,100	5,700	491,000	513,500
Male	332,200	4,200	323,900	340,500	335,000	4,000	327,200	342,900
Female	166,400	3,400	159,800	173,000	167,100	3,300	160,600	173,700
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	49,800	1,800	46,200	53,400	46,800	1,800	43,100	50,400
Male	19,200	1,000	17,200	21,300	18,600	1,100	16,500	20,700
Female	30,600	1,400	27,900	33,300	28,200	1,400	25,500	30,900
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	370,900	5,200	360,700	381,100	383,200	5,100	373,300	393,300
Male	100,600	2,300	96,000	105,200	104,600	2,500	99,700	109,600
Female	270,300	4,100	262,200	278,400	278,600	3,900	270,900	286,300
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	59.7	0.4	58.8	60.5	58.9	0.4	58.1	59.7
Male	77.7	0.4	76.9	78.6	77.2	0.5	76.2	78.1
Female	42.2	0.7	40.9	43.5	41.2	0.6	40.0	42.4
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	9.1	0.3	8.5	9.7	8.5	0.3	7.9	9.1
Male	5.5	0.3	4.9	6.0	5.3	0.3	4.7	5.8
Female	15.5	0.6	14.2	16.8	14.4	0.7	13.1	15.7

4. Coverage

The population considered in estimating labour force, employment and unemployment comprises the total resident population aged 16 years and over. The labour force includes foreign workers but separate figures for Mauritians are also given.

Employment figures comprise employment in large establishments (that is those employing 10 or more persons) as well as employment outside large establishments including own-account workers.

5. Sources of data

The CMPHS supplies data for the Mauritian population while information on foreign workers is obtained from surveys of employment and earnings.

Previously estimates of employment in large establishments were the averages of data obtained from the March and September surveys of employment and earnings. In 2007, the average for the four quarterly surveys was used. Estimates of employment outside large establishments are obtained as a residual.

6. Year 2007 Estimates

6.1 Labour force

The total labour force for year 2007 is estimated at 570,500 (365,700 males and 204,800 females) as compared to 565,100 (359,700 males and 205,400 females) for the year 2006. The number of foreign workers in 2007 stood at 21,600 (12,100 males and 9,500 females) compared to 16,700 (8,300 males and 8,400 females) in 2006 while the Mauritian labour force is estimated at 548,900 (353,600 males and 195,300 females) in 2007 as compared to 548,400 (351,400 males and 197,000 females) in 2006. The Mauritian labour force by age group and sex is shown in Table 1.2. Activity rate, defined as the proportion of the population aged 16 years and over which is economically active, by age group and sex is given in Table 1.3.

6.2 Employment

For year 2007, the total number of employed persons, including foreign workers, was estimated at 523,700 (347,100 males and 176,600 females) as compared to 515,300 (340,500 males and 174,800 females) in 2006. Table 1.4 shows the distribution of the employed population by industry group and sex.

The number of persons employed in large establishments in 2007 stood at 301,300 (195,000 males and 106,300 females) as compared to 295,100 (190,000 males and 105,100 females) in 2006. Employment outside large establishments was estimated at 222,400 (152,100 males and 70,300 females) as compared to 220,200 (150,500 males and 69,700 females) in 2006. Employment by size of establishment and industry group is given in Table 1.5.

6.3 Unemployment

Based on data collected throughout the year, the number of unemployed persons for year 2007 was estimated at 46,800 (18,600 males and 28,200 females) as compared to 49,800 (19,200 males and 30,600 females) in 2006. The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of the labour force who is unemployed, worked out to 8.5 % (5.3% for males and 14.4% for females) in 2007 as compared to 9.1% (5.5% for males and 15.5% for females) for 2006. The figures are presented in Table 1.6.

7. Year 2000 to 2003 Estimates

Estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment have been worked out for the period 2000 to 2003 on the basis of the results of CMPHS 2004 and the trend observed in the estimates of the previous methodology. The estimates are given in Table 1.6.

Table 1.2 - Labour force ('000) by age group and sex, 2006 and 2007

Age (years)	Labour Force Year 2006			Labour Force Year 2007		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 - 19	11.9	7.3	19.2	12.2	7.2	19.4
20 - 24	37.9	26.3	64.2	34.8	24.8	59.6
25 - 29	51.6	30.8	82.4	51.1	30.3	81.4
30 - 34	44.4	27.3	71.7	45.9	27.4	73.3
35 - 39	44.5	27.3	71.8	43.2	25.7	68.9
40 - 44	49.0	27.8	76.8	48.9	26.4	75.3
45 - 49	42.4	21.1	63.5	43.2	22.1	65.3
50 - 54	34.9	14.8	49.7	36.9	16.5	53.4
55 - 59	24.5	10.3	34.8	26.4	11.1	37.5
60 - 64	5.6	2.2	7.8	6.4	2.1	8.5
65 - 69	2.8	1.0	3.8	2.4	1.2	3.6
70 - 74	1.4	0.5	1.9	1.4	0.4	1.8
75+	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.9
Mauritian labour force	351.4	197.0	548.4	353.6	195.3	548.9
Foreign labour force	8.3	8.4	16.7	12.1	9.5	21.6
Total labour force	359.7	205.4	565.1	365.7	204.8	570.5

Table 1.3 - Activity rate of Mauritian population by age group and sex, 2006 and 2007

Age (years)	Activity rate (%) Year 2006			Activity rate (%) Year 2007		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
16 - 19	29.5	18.4	24.1	28.9	17.6	23.3
20 - 24	78.5	58.0	68.6	74.4	56.5	65.7
25 - 29	94.1	57.4	75.9	92.9	56.6	75.0
30 - 34	96.6	59.3	77.9	96.4	57.4	76.9
35 - 39	95.2	58.0	76.6	94.9	55.7	75.1
40 - 44	95.7	54.5	75.2	96.1	52.1	74.1
45 - 49	94.3	47.1	70.8	94.5	48.1	71.2
50 - 54	91.9	38.4	65.0	94.0	41.5	67.6
55 - 59	83.9	32.9	57.5	84.9	33.4	58.3
60 - 64	30.9	10.7	20.0	33.1	9.5	20.4
65 - 69	21.5	6.2	13.1	18.6	7.5	12.5
70 - 74	14.0	3.9	8.3	14.1	3.4	8.0
75+	4.5	1.3	2.5	6.9	0.4	2.8
16 and above	77.7	42.2	59.7	77.2	41.2	58.9

Table 1.4 Employment by industry and sex, 16 years and over, 2005 - 2007

('000)

Industry group	2005 ¹			2006 ¹			2007 ¹		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	35.8	12.8	48.6	35.2	12.7	47.9	35.2	12.1	47.3
<i>Sugarcane</i>	15.3	3.3	18.6	15.1	3.1	18.2	15.0	2.8	17.8
<i>Non sugar</i>	20.5	9.5	30.0	20.1	9.6	29.7	20.2	9.3	29.5
Mining and quarrying	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2
Manufacturing	67.0	53.1	120.1	66.3	54.6	120.9	68.4	54.1	122.5
<i>Sugar</i>	2.2	0.0	2.2	2.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
<i>Food</i>	6.3	3.7	10.0	6.8	5.0	11.8	6.9	5.0	11.9
<i>Textiles</i>	26.5	39.0	65.5	25.6	38.6	64.2	27.4	38.2	65.6
<i>Other</i>	32.0	10.4	42.4	31.9	11.0	42.9	32.1	10.9	43.0
Electricity, gas and water	2.8	0.2	3.0	2.8	0.2	3.0	2.8	0.2	3.0
Construction	46.5	0.7	47.2	47.6	0.8	48.4	48.9	0.8	49.7
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods	49.5	27.1	76.6	50.1	28.7	78.8	50.1	28.3	78.4
Hotels and restaurants	22.1	8.8	30.9	22.3	9.3	31.6	22.6	9.5	32.1
Transport, storage and communications	32.1	4.4	36.5	32.3	4.6	36.9	32.7	4.7	37.4
Financial intermediation	4.8	4.0	8.8	5.1	4.3	9.4	5.8	4.8	10.6
Real estate, renting and business activities	13.4	6.6	20.0	14.1	7.0	21.1	15.5	9.2	24.7
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	30.7	8.7	39.4	30.6	9.0	39.6	30.3	8.8	39.1
Education	12.2	14.9	27.1	12.7	15.7	28.4	12.9	15.9	28.8
Health and social work	7.8	7.2	15.0	7.5	7.5	15.0	7.9	7.7	15.6
Other services	13.6	20.1	33.7	13.7	20.3	34.0	13.8	20.5	34.3
Total	338.5	168.7	507.2	340.5	174.8	515.3	347.1	176.6	523.7

Table 1.5 Employment by industry and size of establishments 16 years and over, 2005 - 2007

('000)

Industry group	2005 ¹			2006 ¹			2007 ¹		
	Large	Other than large	Total	Large	Other than large	Total	Large	Other than large	Total
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	22.7	25.9	48.6	22.0	25.9	47.9	21.1	26.2	47.3
<i>Sugarcane</i>	14.5	4.1	18.6	14.2	4.0	18.2	13.6	4.2	17.8
<i>Non sugar</i>	8.2	21.8	30.0	7.8	21.9	29.7	7.5	22.0	29.5
Mining and quarrying	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
Manufacturing	91.9	28.2	120.1	91.4	29.5	120.9	92.7	29.8	122.5
<i>Sugar</i>	2.2	0.0	2.2	2.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
<i>Food</i>	7.4	2.6	10.0	9.1	2.7	11.8	9.2	2.7	11.9
<i>Textiles</i>	58.3	7.2	65.5	56.6	7.6	64.2	58.0	7.6	65.6
<i>Other</i>	24.0	18.4	42.4	23.7	19.2	42.9	23.5	19.5	43.0
Electricity, gas and water	3.0	0.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	3.0
Construction	12.7	34.5	47.2	13.9	34.5	48.4	14.6	35.1	49.7
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods	18.3	58.3	76.6	18.4	60.4	78.8	17.9	60.5	78.4
Hotels and restaurants	21.1	9.8	30.9	21.4	10.2	31.6	21.5	10.6	32.1
Transport, storage and communications	18.2	18.3	36.5	18.4	18.5	36.9	18.8	18.6	37.4
Financial intermediation	8.4	0.4	8.8	9.0	0.4	9.4	10.1	0.5	10.6
Real estate, renting and business activities	14.3	5.7	20.0	15.0	6.1	21.1	18.6	6.1	24.7
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	39.4	0.0	39.4	39.6	0.0	39.6	39.1	0.0	39.1
Education	23.0	4.1	27.1	24.0	4.4	28.4	24.4	4.4	28.8
Health and social work	13.0	2.0	15.0	12.7	2.3	15.0	13.1	2.5	15.6
Other services	6.0	27.7	33.7	6.1	27.9	34.0	6.3	28.0	34.3
Total	292.2	215.0	507.2	295.1	220.2	515.3	301.3	222.4	523.7

Table 1.6 Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 16 years and over, 2000 - 2007

(000)

Year	Labour force			Employment (including foreign workers)			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments ¹	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate ²
Both sexes								
2000	503.0	14.6	517.6	298.7	186.2	484.9	32.7	6.5
2001	510.3	16.5	526.8	302.0	190.1	492.1	34.7	6.8
2002	513.0 ³	17.0	530.0	297.2	196.0	493.2	36.8	7.2
2003	520.9	18.2	539.1	296.9	202.1	499.0	40.1	7.7
2004	531.3	17.5	548.8	293.3	210.9	504.2	44.6	8.4
2005	542.5	16.6	559.1	292.2	215.0	507.2	51.9	9.6
2006	548.4	16.7	565.1	295.1	220.2	515.3	49.8	9.1
2007	548.9	21.6	570.5	301.3	222.4	523.7	46.8	8.5
Male								
2000	334.7	5.0	339.7	187.5	135.0	322.5	17.2	5.1
2001	337.9	5.8	343.7	188.3	137.0	325.3	18.4	5.4
2002	339.8 ³	6.4	346.2	188.2	140.0	328.2	18.0	5.3
2003	343.1	7.9	351.0	188.2	143.2	331.4	19.6	5.7
2004	347.8	9.0	356.8	189.1	147.7	336.8	20.0	5.8
2005	349.6	9.1	358.7	189.3	149.2	338.5	20.2	5.8
2006	351.4	8.3	359.7	190.0	150.5	340.5	19.2	5.5
2007	353.6	12.1	365.7	195.0	152.1	347.1	18.6	5.3
Female								
2000	168.3	9.6	177.9	111.2	51.2	162.4	15.5	9.2
2001	172.4	10.7	183.1	113.7	53.1	166.8	16.3	9.5
2002	173.2 ³	10.6	183.8	109.0	56.0	165.0	18.8	10.9
2003	177.8	10.3	188.1	108.7	58.9	167.6	20.5	11.5
2004	183.5	8.5	192.0	104.2	63.2	167.4	24.6	13.4
2005	192.9	7.5	200.4	102.9	65.8	168.7	31.7	16.4
2006	197.0	8.4	205.4	105.1	69.7	174.8	30.6	15.5
2007	195.3 ⁴	9.5	204.8	106.3	70.3	176.6	28.2	14.4

¹ Employing 10 or more persons² Unemployment as a percentage of Mauritian labour force³ The low increase results from the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the sugar industry⁴ The decrease is explained by a larger number of female students and housewives



