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FOREWORD

This is the fourteenth issue of the Digest of Labour Statistics, an annual publication of the Central Statistics Office. This digest brings together data relating to labour force, employment and unemployment for the Republic of Mauritius for the year 2007. Updated corresponding data for previous years are also given for comparison purposes.

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 establishment surveys and administrative sources.

As from 2004, following the recommendations of a Technical Committee on a World Bank study on unemployment in Mauritius, the Central Statistics Office uses the Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) to measure labour force, employment and unemployment.

It is to be noted that as from 2007, labour force estimates are based on population aged 16 years and above, following amendment to the Labour Act in December 2006 whereby the minimum legal working age is 16 years. Also, as from 2007, the annual September survey has been discontinued and replaced by quarterly surveys (February, May, August and November being the reference periods).

In this volume, statistics are presented for the Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE), which consist of all those enterprises previously operating with an EPZ certificate and those enterprises manufacturing goods for export and holding a registration certificate issued by the Board of Investment. It should be noted that EOE was operational as from October 2006.

Chapter 1 presents estimates for year 2006 and 2007 based on the results of the CMPHS. Data from the March 2007 Survey of Employment and Earnings showing the level of employment and earnings in large establishments are given in chapter 2.

Chapter 3 presents the results of the quarterly Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours of work carried out in 2007 together with figures from September surveys carried out previously. It covers occupational wage rates and average hours of work in different sectors of the economy as well as wage rate indices with base year 2006.

It is to be noted that the reference period as well as the coverage of the various surveys are not the same. Explanatory notes are given at the beginning of each chapter while copies of the questionnaires for the March and quarterly surveys of employment and earnings appear at the Appendix.

It is hoped that the statistics published in this report will be helpful to the public in general and to planners and policy makers in particular.

The co-operation of all organisations, both public and private, which have provided information for the preparation of this publication is gratefully acknowledged.

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