

# **CONTINUOUS MULTIPURPOSE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - 2001**

## **MAIN RESULTS**

### **1. Introduction**

The Central Statistics Office conducted the second round of the Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from January to December 2001. The primary objective of the CMPHS is to provide a permanent platform for the collection of information relevant to the computation of appropriate socio-economic indicators to keep track of development on the social front.

This report presents the main findings of the second round of the survey based on responses cumulated over the twelve months covered.

### **2. Coverage**

Each month, a sample of 525 households was surveyed. The selection of these households was done in such a way as to represent all private non institutional households in all urban, semi urban and rural areas. Thus, a total of 6,300 households (6,075 in the Island of Mauritius and 225 in the Island of Rodrigues) was covered during the period January to December 2001.

### **3. The Sample**

At the first round of the survey in 1999, a master sample of 420 regions (PSUs), 35 for each of the 12 survey months during a year, was selected and a complete listing of private households was made from each of these PSUs. At a second stage, 15 households were selected from each PSU for interviews. The same listings made in 1999, were again used in 2001 for selection of households.

#### **3.1 Sampling Error**

Estimates worked out from household survey data are inevitably subject to sampling error since they are based on information collected from only a sample of households rather than from all households.

The Standard Error (S.E.) is a measure of the precision of estimates derived from samples and it can be used to set confidence limits to these estimates. Thus, the S.E for the unemployment rate of 9.4% derived from the sample is 0.4% and a 95% confidence interval for the unemployment rate would be  $9.4\% \pm 2(0.4\%)$ , i.e. 8.6% to 10.2%. In the same way, a 95% confidence interval for average household income would be Rs 12,340  $\pm$  478.

#### 4. Data collected

Data collected through the CMPHS 2001 covered mainly the following:

- (i) demographic and educational characteristics of all household members
- (ii) labour force characteristics of household members aged 12 years and over
- (iii) education and training of full time students
- (iv) environmental problems
- (v) household conditions including expenditure and income

#### 5. Response

Out of the total 6,300 households selected over the whole year, 417 (7%) could not be contacted. The reasons for non-contacts were mainly because the households had moved. They were therefore replaced by other households with similar characteristics.

#### 6. Households

Out of the total of 6,300 households surveyed, 1,051 or 17% were headed by women. Analysis by age shows that 21% of heads of households were aged 60 years and over. Similar proportions were noted at both the CMPHS 1999 and Census 2000.

The average household size worked out to 3.9, same as at the CMPHS 1999 and at Census 2000. About 6% of the households surveyed in 2001 constituted of one person only. Among those persons who were living alone, 56% were aged 60 years and over.

#### 7. Characteristics of household members

##### 7.1 Gender

The sampled households comprised a total of 24,539 household members, of whom 12,246 (49.9%) were males and 12,293 (50.1%) were females. The sex ratio hence worked out to 99.6 males for every 100 females.

*Table 1 - Household members in sampled households by gender*

Gender	Number	%
Male	12,246	49.9
Female	12,293	50.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,539</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 7.2 Age composition

Some 25% of household members were below 15 years while the elderly, i.e. those aged 60 years and over, represented 10%. The mean age was 31.2 years (30.5 for males and 31.9 for females), while the median age worked out to 30.0 (29.4 for males and 31.9 for females).

*Table 2 - Household members in sampled households by age group and gender*

Age group (years)	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Under 15	6,073	24.7	3088	25.2	2,985	24.3
15 - 59	16,091	65.6	8156	66.6	7,935	64.5
60 and over	2,375	9.7	1002	8.2	1,373	11.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,539</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12246</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,293</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 7.3 Education level

The highest educational level of household members aged 5 years and over is given in table 3 below. The figures include both household members who have completed their studies as well as those studying at the time of the survey, but exclude 16 children who were attending specialised schools for persons with disabilities.

The proportions with primary level education and secondary level education were 46 and 42 percent respectively while those having studied or were studying beyond secondary level formed around 5%.

*Table 3 - Household members aged 5 years and over in sampled households by educational attainment and gender*

Educational attainment	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Nil	1,435	6.3	371	3.3	1,064	9.3
Pre-primary	238	1.1	117	1.0	121	1.1
Primary	10,434	45.8	5,179	45.8	5,255	45.8
Secondary	9,634	42.3	4,993	44.2	4,641	40.5
Post Secondary						
Diplomas <sup>1/</sup>	430	1.9	268	2.4	162	1.4
University Degrees	592	2.6	378	3.3	214	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,763</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,306</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,457</b>	<b>99.9</b>

<sup>1/</sup> 'Diplomas' here comprise awards whose levels lie between a Higher School Certificate and just below a First University Degree

## 8. Labour force characteristics

### 8.1 Activity status

In the 6,300 households surveyed, 19,739 persons were aged 12 years and over. Among them, 9,544 (or 48%) were employed, 990 (or 5%) were unemployed and 9,205 (or 47%) were not economically active. It is to be noted that the proportion of unemployed in the population aged 12 years and over is not the unemployment rate. Unemployment rate is based on the total of employed and unemployed persons only and was 9.4% at the 2001 survey.

*Table 4 - Population aged 12 years and over in sampled households by activity status and gender*

Activity Status	Total	Male	Female
Employed	9,544	6,584	2,960
Unemployed	990	591	399
Not economically active	9,205	2,614	6,591
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,739</b>	<b>9,789</b>	<b>9,950</b>

Comparative figures from the 1999 CMPHS show a decline in the proportion of employed persons from 51% in 1999 to 48% in 2001 whilst the proportion of unemployed has remained almost the same, i.e. 5%. The proportion of inactive persons has risen from 44% in 1999 to 47% in 2001 (Table 5). This rise is due to increases among persons engaged in household activities and those who were retired/sick.

*Table 5 - Percentage distribution of the population aged 12 years and over in sampled households by activity status and gender, 1999 and 2001*

Activity Status	Total (%)		Male (%)		Female (%)	
	1999	2001	1999	2001	1999	2001
Employed	51.4	48.4	71.2	67.3	32.1	29.7
Unemployed <sup>1/</sup>	4.8	5.0	4.8	6.0	4.9	4.0
Not economically active	43.8	46.6	24.0	26.7	63.0	66.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Percentages shown here are not unemployment rates

## 8.2 Employment

The total of 9,544 employed persons comprised 6,584 (69%) males and 2,960 (31%) females. The mean age of employed persons was 37.5 years (37.7 years for males and 37.1 years for females).

### 8.2.1 Employment status

The majority (79%) of workers were employees, i.e. they were paid by an employer for the work that they were doing. This proportion was higher among females than among males (87% for females against 76% for males). Self-employed persons, that is, employers and own account workers, made up for nearly 19% of the employed population in the sampled households. This ratio was 10% among women compared to 22% among men.

Comparison with the 1999 survey figures shows that the proportion of persons engaged in businesses of their own or belonging to their families (that is, employers, own account workers and unpaid family workers) has gone down to 20% in 2001 from 21% in 1999 (Table 6).

### 8.2.2 Industrial sector

*Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the employed population in sampled households by sector and gender, 1999 and 2001*

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### 8.2.3 Occupation

The proportion of persons engaged in the higher occupational groups; i.e. 'administrators, managers, professionals, technicians and clerks', was 22% in 2001 compared to 21% in 1999. An increase of the same magnitude is noted among service workers as well whilst a decrease is noted among manual workers, that is, those engaged in agricultural tasks, factory operations and other elementary jobs. The distributions of female and male workers by occupation group are also given in table 8.

*Table 8 - Percentage distribution of the employed population in sampled households by occupation group and gender, 1999 and 2001*

Occupation group	Total (%)		Male (%)		Female (%)	
	1999	2001	1999	2001	1999	2001
Legislators, senior officials and managers	3.1	2.7	3.6	3.1	2.0	1.7
Professionals, associate professionals and technicians	10.3	11.1	9.4	10.1	12.1	13.1
Clerks	7.7	8.2	5.0	5.6	13.4	14.0
Service and sales workers	14.5	15.4	14.5	16.1	14.4	13.6
Skilled agricultural workers	4.7	3.9	5.9	4.8	2.3	2.0
Craft workers, plant and machine operators	37.0	34.7	40.8	37.8	28.8	28.1
Elementary occupations	22.7	23.8	20.8	22.2	27.0	27.4
Not stated	-	0.2	-	0.3	-	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 8.2.4 Hours of work

The distributions of employed persons by average number of hours worked per week for 1999 and 2001 are given in table 9. At the 2001 survey, nearly 4% of workers reported being away from work during the whole of the reference week while 18% had worked for more than 50 hours.

The average number of hours worked (including overtime but excluding all types of leaves and lunch time break) was 39.7 weekly. Genderwise, this works out to 37.2 for women compared to 40.8 for men. Corresponding figures for 1999 were 37.2 for women and 42.0 for

men. Slightly higher figures were obtained from the Census 2000 data, that is, 37.9 hours for women and 42.3 hours for men.

*Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the employed population in sampled households by gender and number of hours worked during reference week, 1999 and 2001*

Actual number of hours worked per week	Total (%)		Male (%)		Female (%)	
	1999	2001	1999	2001	1999	2001
0	3.4	3.7	3.1	3.9	4.1	3.3
1 - 30	20.0	19.3	16.2	16.3	28.3	26.1
31 - 40	29.7	28.7	31.2	29.3	26.3	27.3
41 - 50	30.0	30.6	30.9	31.3	28.1	28.9
51 and above	16.9	17.5	18.6	18.9	13.2	14.3
Not stated	-	0.2	-	0.3	-	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 8.2.5 Income from work

The distribution by income range of all persons deriving an income from work during the month, together with comparative figures for 1999, is shown in table 10.

The median income for 2001 worked out to Rs 5,203, that is, 50% of these persons were drawing incomes of Rs 5,203 or less per month. The corresponding figures for males and females were Rs 5,812 and Rs 3,452 respectively. In 1999, the overall median monthly income was Rs 4,400 and the figures obtained for males and females were Rs 5,100 and Rs 3,000 respectively.



*Table 10 - Employed population in sampled households by monthly income range and gender, 1999 and 2001*

Monthly income from work (Rs)	Total (%)		Male (%)		Female (%)	
	1999	2001	1999	2001	1999	2001
Up to 2,000	14.5	10.6	7.7	5.9	29.9	21.4
2,001 - 4,000	31.5	24.5	26.8	18.0	41.6	39.4
4,001 - 6,000	25.2	24.7	31.3	28.8	11.3	15.2
6,001 - 8,000	12.0	15.0	14.5	17.8	6.4	8.6
8,001 - 10,000	6.5	8.7	7.3	10.1	4.6	5.7
10,001 - 15,000	6.7	9.6	7.7	11.2	4.7	5.9
15,001 - 20,000	1.8	3.5	2.2	4.0	1.0	2.2
20,001 - 25,000	0.8	1.5	1.1	1.7	0.3	0.9
25,001 - 30,000	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.1	0.4
30,001 - 50,000	0.5	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.1	0.3
50,000 and above	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 8.3 Unemployment

In the 6,300 households surveyed, 990 persons aged 12 years and over were classified as unemployed, that is, they were without work and were looking and available for work. Among them, 60% were males and 40% females. The unemployment rate which represents the proportion of unemployed persons forming part of the labour force (total of employed and unemployed persons) worked out to 9.4% (8.2% for males and 11.9% for females). The higher unemployment rate for females was partly due to a large number of women laid off in the EPZ sector during the second half of year 2001.

The rate obtained at the CMPHS 1999 was 8.6% (6.3% for males and 12.9% for females). The corresponding rate from Census 2000 data was 8.8% (8.3% for males and 9.6% for females).

#### 8.3.1 Characteristics of unemployed persons

Unemployed persons were mostly (61%) young people below the age of 25. Among unemployed males, two thirds were below 25 years while among females, 53% were in this lower age group (Table 11).

*Table 11 - Unemployed population in sampled households by age group and gender*

Age group (years)	Total		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
12 - 19	242	24.4	166	28.1	76	19.0
20 - 24	361	36.5	224	37.9	137	34.3
25 - 34	201	20.3	103	17.4	98	24.6
35 - 44	128	12.9	67	11.3	61	15.3
45 - 54	46	4.7	21	3.6	25	6.3
55 and above	12	1.2	10	1.7	2	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100.0</b>

About 70% of unemployed persons were single. The majority of unemployed males, that is, (80%) were single while among unemployed females, 57% were single and 43% had been married or were married (Table 12).

*Table 12 - Unemployed population in sampled households by marital status and gender*

Marital status	Total		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Married	255	25.8	107	18.1	148	37.1
Widowed/Divorced/Separated	38	3.8	14	2.4	24	6.0
Single	697	70.4	470	79.5	227	56.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100.0</b>

About 37% of the total number of unemployed persons had only primary level education, 26% had lower secondary education, (Form I to Form IV) and 25% had studied up to Form V (Table 13).

*Table 13 - Unemployed population in sampled households by educational level and gender*

Educational level	Total		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Primary	364	36.8	249	42.1	115	28.8
Lower secondary (Forms I - IV)	256	25.9	176	29.8	80	20.1
Form V	250	25.3	116	19.6	134	33.6
Form VI	79	8.0	33	5.6	46	11.5
Diplomas and Degrees	41	4.0	17	2.9	24	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It may also be noted that only about 10% of the unemployed persons had been trained in vocational or technical subjects.

### 8.3.2 *Work experience*

First job seekers formed 41% of the number of unemployed persons at the 2001 survey and those having worked before and were looking for new jobs formed 59 %. At the 1999 CMPHS, the proportion of first job seekers was higher than that of unemployed with work experience, i.e. 52% and 48% respectively.

### 8.3.3 *Duration of unemployment*

Among the 990 unemployed persons in the sampled households, 588 or about 60% had been in search of a job for a year or less. About 20% reported a job search duration of 1 to 2 years, another 13% reported 2 to 4 years and the rest, 7%, more than 4 years.

*Table 14 - Unemployed population in sampled households by duration of job search and gender*

Duration of job search (months)	Total		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Up to 6 months	380	38.4	261	44.2	119	29.8
7 - 12 months	208	21.0	123	20.8	85	21.3
13 - 24 months	199	20.1	113	19.1	86	21.6
25 - 48 months	133	13.4	65	11.0	68	17.0
More than 4 years	70	7.1	29	4.9	41	10.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 8.3.4 Job search method

Respondents looking for jobs had to report on their job search methods and the results are shown in table 15. The two most common job search methods reported were ‘checked at factories and worksites’ (47%) and ‘applied to prospective employers’ (41%). Those registered at the Employment Service accounted for only 30% of the unemployed. It is to be noted that some respondents have had recourse to more than one means of looking for work.

*Table 15 - Unemployed population in sampled households by job search method*

Job search method	Number	%
Checked at factories and work sites	466	47.0
Applied to prospective employers	410	41.4
Registration at Employment Service	295	29.8
Placed or answered advertisements	190	19.2
Sought assistance or advice	118	11.9
Tried to set up own business	54	5.5
Other	31	3.1

Only 5% of unemployed persons reported having taken steps to start a business of their own. For the others, the main reasons given for not trying to start a business of their own were 'lack of finance' (48%) and 'not interested' (35%).

### 8.3.5 Constraints in getting jobs

The major constraints in getting jobs, reported by unemployed persons, were lack of qualifications (46%), lack of experience or training (36%) and lack of suitable jobs (33%). Other problems reported are given in table 16. It is to be noted that some unemployed persons reported more than one constraint in getting jobs.

*Table 16 - Main constraints preventing unemployed persons from getting jobs as reported by unemployed persons in the sampled households*

<b>Constraints in getting jobs</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Lack of educational qualifications	460	46.5
Lack of experience/training	360	36.4
Lack of suitable jobs	331	33.4
Lack of awareness of vacancies	124	12.5
Too low salary	112	11.3
Too far from residence	45	4.5
Gender bias	15	1.5
Other	145	14.6

It may also be noted that 134 unemployed persons, representing 14% of the total number of unemployed persons in the sampled households said that they had refused a job for various reasons such as, 'low wage/salary', 'long hours of work', 'place of work too far from residence' (Table 17).

*Table 17 - Unemployed persons in sampled households having refused job offers by reason for not accepting the job*

<b>Reason for not accepting job</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Low wage/salary	60	44.8
Long hours of work	18	13.5
Place of work too far from residence	16	11.9
Temporary job	16	11.9
Overqualified for proposed job	4	3.0
Other reasons	20	14.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### **8.4 Population aged 12 years and over, not economically active.**

Persons aged 12 years and over classified as not economically active or simply inactive, totalled 9,205 in the households surveyed. Among them, 256 (38 males and 218 females) claimed to be available for work but were classified as inactive because they were not looking for work.

Out of the total of 8,949 persons who were neither available nor looking for work, 42%, mostly women, were engaged in household activities within their own homes. A further 2,605 (29%), comprising more or less the same number of boys and girls were students. Persons unable to work because of illness or old age numbered 2,335, representing 26% of the inactive population.

*Table 18 - Population aged 12 years and over in sampled households who were not economically active<sup>1/</sup> by gender and reason for not being available for work*

Reason why not available for work	Total		Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Household duties	3772	42.2	40	1.6	3732	58.5
Studies	2605	29.1	1307	50.8	1298	20.4
Illness/Injury/Disability	598	6.7	294	11.4	304	4.8
Retired/Old age	1737	19.4	811	31.4	926	14.5
Other reasons	237	2.6	124	4.8	113	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>8949</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2576</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6373</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1/</sup> - Excludes 256 inactive persons available for work

## 9. Education and training

There was a total of 6,403 household members studying during the survey. Table 19 shows the distribution of these students by level or type of studies.

Vocational/technical training here refers to courses outside normal academic schools ranging from elementary job training to programmes leading to diplomas whose level would lie above a Higher School Certificate but just below a first University Degree in the academic system. Among the 188 full-time students at tertiary institutions, 71 were studying abroad.

*Table 19 - Household members in sampled households, studying at the time of the survey by level/type of education*

<b>Level/type of education</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Pre-primary	827	12.9
Primary	2757	43.1
Secondary	2233	34.9
Vocational/technical training		
Full time	135	2.1
Part time	215	3.4
Tertiary		
Full time	188	2.9
Part time	32	0.5
Specialised training for handicapped children	16	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6403</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### **9.1 Primary school students**

Nearly 76% of primary school students in the households surveyed, lived within one kilometre from their schools. Most of these children attended school on foot. Those requiring some mode of transport to go to school and come back home, travelled an average distance of 5 kms daily.

Some 4% of the total number of primary school children in the sample were attending paid institutions, their monthly school fees averaging Rs 1,550.

Around 80% of the pupils in Standards IV to VI in the surveyed households were taking private tuition and spending on average 7 hours per week and Rs 260 per month thereon. Nearly all these children, as well as some 60% of those not taking tuition, believed it to be necessary.

All heads of households irrespective of whether they had children attending primary school or not, were asked to state their views as regards tuition at primary level. More than 70% reported that it was necessary.



## 9.2 Secondary school students

Students attending secondary schools also, were asked about their modes of transport, travelling distances and time. The majority of them (80%) travelled by public bus to go to school. Only 13% lived within walking distance from school. On average, a secondary school student spent one hour in travelling to and from school daily. The total distance travelled to school and back by a student averaged 13 kms daily.

About 3% of secondary school children were attending paid institutions. Their average monthly school fees was Rs 2,300.

Three out of five secondary level students were taking private tuition. On the average, those students spent five to six hours per week at tuition, in 3 subjects, with total tuition fees amounting to around Rs 600 per month.

Nearly 85% of secondary level students stated that tuition was necessary for them. Furthermore, for the majority (80%) of the heads of households surveyed, tuition at secondary level was considered to be a necessity.

Among the 739 students of Forms V and VI who were interviewed, 81% expressed their intention to pursue tertiary studies on completion of secondary schooling. Among those not intending to study further, 44% gave as reason financial problems and a further 40% was not interested to continue with studies.

## 10. Environment

The 2001 CMPHS questionnaire also comprised a small section eliciting people's opinion on environmental problems. Only heads of households were requested to answer that part of the questionnaire.

Some 48% of heads of households believed that environmental problems were serious while approximately the same proportion expressed the opposite view, that is, the problems were not serious. The remaining 4% had no views.

Ratings of the environment in specific situations such as vicinity of their own houses, rivers, beaches, etc., are summarised in Table 20 below. 'Rivers and riversides' appeared to be the most connected with environment problems as these have been rated as 'poor' or 'bad' by half of the respondents. The state of industrial and commercial sites was also an important concern for some 38% of the respondents who have rated these places as poor or bad.

*Table 20 - Rating of the state of the environment by heads of households surveyed*

<b>Situation</b>	<b>Percentage of households having rated the situation as:</b>					
	<b>Very good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Bad</b>	<b>Total</b>
Vicinity of house	3.4	34.3	38.0	17.5	6.8	100.0
Rivers/riverside	0.7	17.4	32.3	33.2	16.4	100.0
Industrial/commercial sites	0.6	21.0	40.8	26.4	11.2	100.0
Beaches	5.6	40.3	40.3	10.3	3.5	100.0
Country in general	1.6	24.4	48.4	19.8	5.8	100.0

Around 15% of heads of households reported pollution by smoke, dust or odours as affecting them or other members of their households. Within 40% of these households, there were people suffering from health problems related to this type of pollution. The most common problem was 'breathing difficulties' reported by 62% of the concerned households, that is, households with members suffering from health problems related to air pollution. ENT problems and asthma were also common, affecting 41% and 35% respectively of the households (Table 21). Some households reported more than one health problem.

*Table 21 - Households with members suffering from health problems related to air pollution by type of problem*

<b>Health problem</b>	<b>Households reporting specified health problems</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>as a % of households reporting health problems</b>	<b>as a % of all sampled households</b>
Breathing difficulties	242	62.0	3.8
ENT problems	163	41.2	2.6
Asthma	138	35.4	2.2
Eye troubles	81	20.8	1.3
Skin disease	65	16.7	1.0

Other types of pollution affecting people were ‘noise, mainly from traffic and neighbours’ and ‘dumping of wastes on road sides and bare land’, reported by 14 and 10 percent respectively, of all households surveyed.

The heads of households were asked whether any member of their households had participated in environment care/cleaning campaigns during the twelve months preceding the survey month. Around 13% replied affirmatively.

## 11. Household conditions

### 11.1 Housing units

Among the 6,300 surveyed households, 5,433 or 86% owned their housing units. The remaining 14% were either living in housing units belonging to parents/relatives/employers or were renting their housing units. Of the latter, that is, those not owning a house, some 17% already possessed residential land and about one in five was contributing to the Plan Epargne Logement (PEL) of the Mauritius Housing Corporation.

Households not owning a housing unit were also asked about the amount that they could afford to save in a year in order to build or buy a house. A large proportion (44%) could not make any such savings at all. Around 32% could make some savings but the amounts reported were all up to Rs 10,000. Those who could afford between Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 formed 22% and only two per cent could afford savings higher than Rs 50,000 in a year (Table 22).

*Table 22 - Annual savings for housing purposes by sampled households not already owning their housing units*

Annual amount of savings (Rs)	Households not owning their housing units	
	Number	%
No savings	384	44.3
Up to 10,000	274	31.6
Between 10,000 and 50,000	194	22.4
More than 50,000	15	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 11.2 Household durables/amenities

More than a fifth (21%) of the selected households possessed private cars or vans. A quarter had motorcycles or autocycles.

It is to be noted that the large majority of households (94%) were using gas or electric stoves. The TV set was also very common with 93% of households possessing at least one set, 6% owning more than one.

Other household durables included the refrigerator, present in 83% of households, the telephone, fixed (76%) and mobile (28%), the video set (61%), the stereo set (45%) and the washing machine (41%).

*Table 23 - Sampled households owning specified amenities/durables*

<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Number of households owning amenity</b>	<b>%</b>
Car/Private van	1,323	21.0
Motorcycle/Autocycle	1,568	24.9
Bicycle	2,788	44.3
Refrigerator	5,221	82.9
Gas/Electric cooker	5,899	93.6
Micro-wave	1,156	18.3
Washing machine	2,602	41.3
TV set	5,849	92.8
Video set	3,871	61.4
Stereo set	2,855	45.3
Fixed telephone	4,807	76.3
Mobile telephone	1,769	28.1
Computer	841	13.3

In more than two thirds of the surveyed households, a water heating system was not available in the bathroom. The most widely used water heating system in the bathroom was electrical, owned by one quarter of the households surveyed. Only 4% of the households used gas water heaters and an equal proportion had solar water heating system.

### 11.3 Household expenditure

Average monthly consumption expenditure (that is, all expenditure on goods and services intended for consumption, was around Rs 7,400 per household. The main item of consumption expenditure (food and non-alcoholic beverages) averaged Rs 3,211 per month. The second most important item of consumption expenditure was educational expenses, averaging Rs 862 per household per month. Expenditure on this item was reported by 3,431 or 54% of households and among these reporting households only, the average was Rs 1,583.

Average expenditure on specific items including debt repayment on house or land is shown in Table 24.

*Table 24 - Average monthly expenditure of sampled households on specific items*

Item of expenditure	Average <sup>1/</sup> monthly expenditure of all households surveyed (Rs)	Households having incurred expenditure on specified items		
		Number	Percentage of households surveyed	Average monthly expenditure (Rs)
Food	3211	6,299	100.0	3,211
Medical care	411	2,945	46.7	879
Rent	111	449	7.1	1,563
Gas	185	5,364	85.1	217
Educational expenses	862	3,431	54.5	1,583
Water bill	155	5,791	91.9	155
Waste water bill	14	966	15.3	92
Electricity bill	423	6,070	96.3	439
Telephone bill	309	4,843	76.9	402
Debt repayment on house/land	751	1,625	25.8	2,912
Credit purchase	394	2,248	35.7	1,104
Other debt	231	652	10.3	2,228

<sup>1/</sup> Average based on total expenditure incurred by the 6300 sampled households

### 11.4 Indebtedness

Table 25 shows the number of households who reported having debt and the items on which they were indebted. The major debt was on purchase or construction of a house. Approximately one out of four households reported having debt on their housing units. Other items on which large numbers of households had debt were household appliances (17%) and furniture (13%).

More than 90% of the households having debt on their land or houses had contracted their loans from banks or other financial institutions. Loans for the purchase of motorcycles or cars were contracted from banks or other financial institutions by 54% of the debtors; a further 21% were indebted to their employers and 18% had acquired moto/autocycles by hire purchase. Most of the households (above 90%) having debt on their household appliances or audio-visual equipment or furniture have had recourse to hire purchase.

*Table 25 - Indebted sampled households by debt item*

<b>Debt item</b>	<b>Number of households reporting debt</b>	<b>% of total households surveyed</b>
Purchase of land	198	3.1
Purchase/construction of house	1484	23.6
Auto/motor vehicle	301	4.8
Audio-visual equipment	611	9.7
Household appliances	1049	16.7
Furniture	806	12.8
Purchases at retail shop	337	5.3
Medical expenses	32	0.5
Educational expenses	89	1.4
Other	459	7.3

### 11.5 Household Income

Households derived their income from work (wages, salaries and profits), property (rent, dividends and interests) and regular transfers (pensions and social security benefits, allowances from parents or organisations, etc). The average monthly income per household was Rs 12,340, made up of Rs 10,554 from work, Rs 258 from property and Rs 1,528 as regular transfers.

*Table 26 - Distribution of sampled households by total monthly household income*

<b>Total monthly household income (Rs)</b>	<b>Number of households</b>	<b>%</b>
Up to 2000	184	2.9
2001 - 4000	504	8.0
4001 - 6000	888	14.1
6001 - 8000	1043	16.6
8001 - 10000	886	14.1
10001 - 15000	1325	21.0
15001 - 20000	596	9.5
20001 - 25000	341	5.4
25001 - 30000	179	2.8
30001 and above	354	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 26 shows the distribution of the surveyed households by monthly income range. Household median income worked out to Rs 9,200, that is, 50 % of the households were deriving incomes ranging up to Rs 9,200 per month.

### **11.6 Use of computer at home**

Households having computer facilities at home numbered 841, representing 13% of all households surveyed. The total number of household members (including children) using computers was 2,010, representing 8% of all persons covered in the sampled households. The purposes for which they were using computers are given in table 27 below.

*Table 27 - Household members in sampled households using computer at home*

<b>Computer used for</b>	<b>No. of household members reporting</b>
Playing games, fun	1326
Internet surfing	1054
E-mail	1023
Chat	461
Internet telephone	353
Doing office work at home	485
Part time job	37
Education purposes	1248
Fax	167
Other purposes	121

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