

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – First Quarter 2007

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the first quarter of 2007, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from January to March 2007.

As from 2004, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) is using the CMPHS for the measurement of quarterly labour force, employment and unemployment. The methodology of the CMPHS and the definition of terms used are given at Annex I.

It is to be noted that all estimates in this report are subject to sampling error that tends to be relatively large when the sample numbers are small.

2. Change in the lower age limit

The Central Statistics Office has been publishing, in the previous issues of this Economic and Social Indicator, labour force, employment and unemployment estimates based on population aged 15 years and above. These estimates now refer to population aged 16 years and above following the amendment to the Labour Act in December 2006, whereby the minimum legal working age is raised from 15 to 16 years, and the subsequent recommendation of ILO to be in line with the Act.

Estimates for first quarter of 2007 published in this issue of Economic and Social Indicator are therefore based on population aged 16 years and above. To allow comparison, estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2006 based on population 16 years and above have been compiled and presented in the tables.

Furthermore, series of comparable annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment based on both lower age limits have been worked out for the period 2000 to 2007 and are given at Annex II. It is observed that raising the lower age limit from 15 to 16 years has negligible or no effect on the unemployment rates.

For year 2006, the unemployment rate by sex stood at the same level for both population 15 years and above and 16 years and above. It should be noted that the difference in labour force, upon raising the lower age limit, is a decrease of around 1,100 of whom 800 (500 males, 300 females) were employed and 300 (all males) unemployed.

3. Main findings

- (i) The number of employed persons for the first quarter of 2007 was estimated at 486,600 and the number of unemployed at 51,500. Labour force thus worked out to 538,100. Comparative figures for the corresponding quarter of 2006 were: 496,200 employed, 50,300 unemployed and a labour force of 546,500.
- (ii) The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2007 was 9.6% compared to 8.2% at the previous quarter and 9.2% at the first quarter of 2006. Unemployment rate for the year 2007 is estimated at 9.3% against 9.1% in 2006.

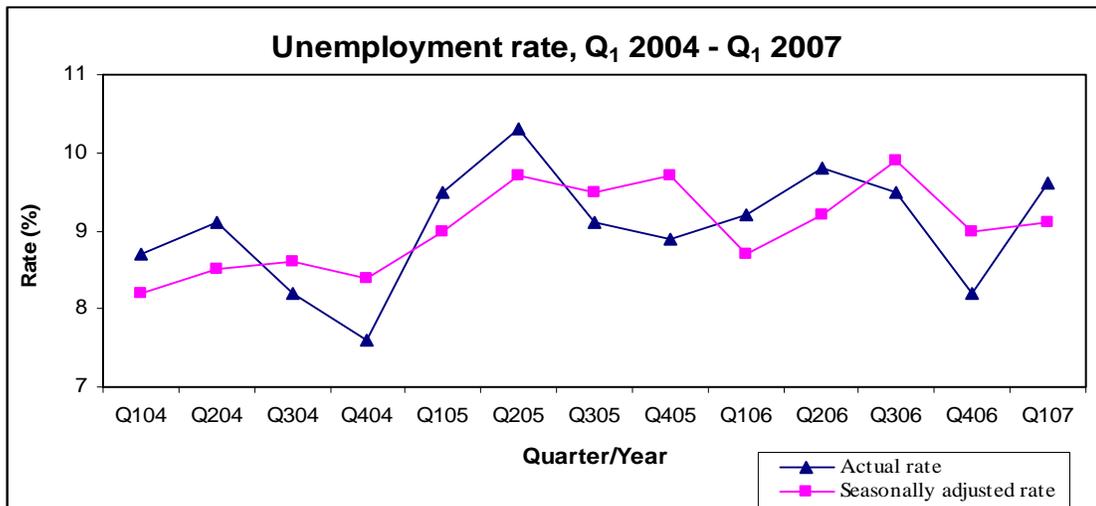
Unemployment rate is influenced by seasonal factors. It is usually higher in the first half of the year because of school leavers joining the labour market, and lower in the second half with more casual jobs being available mainly in the trade sector (street vendors, salespersons in shops, etc.) at the end of the year. Based on the quarterly data for the period first quarter 2001 to first quarter 2007, seasonally adjusted unemployment rates have been calculated and are presented in Table 1 and Chart 1.

Table 1 – Actual and seasonally adjusted quarterly unemployment rates, Q₁ 2005 – Q₁ 2007

Unemployment rate (%)	2005					2006					2007
	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr
Actual	9.5	10.3	9.1	8.9	9.6	9.2	9.8	9.5	8.2	9.1	9.6
Seasonally adjusted	9.0	9.7	9.5	9.7	9.6	8.7	9.2	9.9	9.0	9.1	9.1

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2007 works out to 9.1% compared to 9.0% at the previous quarter and 8.7% at the first quarter of 2006.

Chart 1 - Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rates, Q₁ 2004 – Q₁ 2007



4. Characteristics of the unemployed

The main characteristics of the unemployed at the first quarter of 2007 were:

- The 51,500 unemployed comprised 21,200 males (41%) and 30,300 females (59%).

- Around 23,400 or about 45% of the unemployed were below 25 years. Some 11,200 or 53% of the unemployed males and 40% or 12,200 of the unemployed females were below 25 years.
- Around 27,500 (53%) unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (15,100 or 71%) was single while among females, the majority (17,900 or 59%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- Some 14,500 or 28% had not passed the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examination or equivalent and a further 19,200 (37%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- Around 35,600 (70%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 15,900 (30%) for more than one year.
- About 31,200 (61%) had working experience and 20,300 (39%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- Around 17,200 (33%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- There were 11,400 (22%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 5,100 (45%) of them had not passed SC.
- Ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated) unemployed persons aged 25 to 44 years and having worked before numbered 10,500. Among them, about 8,000 (76%) had not passed SC.
- 7,900 or 15% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- 6,800 (13%) lived in households with no employed persons.

5. Activity status of the population aged 16 years and over

Among the 928,600 persons aged 16 years and over, in the first quarter of 2007, about 538,100 or 58% were active, with 486,600 (52%) having a job and 51,500 (6%) unemployed. The remaining 390,500 (42%) persons were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2006 were 496,200 (54%) employed, 50,300 (6%) unemployed and 367,000 (40%) inactive persons.

Standard errors and confidence intervals have been calculated for the main labour force estimates and are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 - Estimated labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 1st quarter 2006 & 2007

	1st Quarter 2006				1st Quarter 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	546,500	8,600	529,700	563,400	538,100	10,100	518,100	558,100
Male	351,300	5,400	340,700	361,900	350,700	6,600	337,700	363,800
Female	195,200	5,400	184,600	205,900	187,400	5,700	176,100	198,600
Employment								
Both Sexes	496,200	7,800	480,800	511,600	486,600	9,400	468,000	505,100
Male	332,500	5,100	322,400	342,600	329,500	6,400	317,000	342,000
Female	163,700	4,800	154,200	173,200	157,100	5,400	146,500	167,700
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	50,300	3,000	44,400	56,300	51,500	3,200	45,300	57,900
Male	18,800	1,700	15,400	22,200	21,200	2,000	17,300	25,200
Female	31,500	2,500	26,700	36,400	30,300	2,300	25,700	34,900
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	367,000	7,200	352,800	381,200	390,500	8,600	373,600	407,500
Male	97,600	3,300	91,100	104,200	107,500	4,500	98,700	116,300
Female	269,400	6,000	257,600	281,200	283,000	6,200	270,700	295,300
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	59.8	0.7	58.5	61.1	57.9	0.7	56.6	59.2
Male	78.2	0.7	76.9	79.6	76.5	0.9	74.9	78.2
Female	42.0	1.1	39.9	44.1	39.8	1.0	38.0	41.7
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	9.2	0.5	8.2	10.2	9.6	0.6	8.5	10.7
Male	5.4	0.5	4.4	6.3	6.0	0.5	5.0	7.1
Female	16.1	1.1	13.9	18.4	16.2	1.2	13.9	18.5

Table 3 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment from 2004 to 2007.

Table 3 - Quarterly estimates of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2004 - 2007

	Year 2004	Year 2005	1st Quarter 2006	2nd Quarter 2006	3rd Quarter 2006	4th Quarter 2006	Year 2006	1st Quarter 2007	Year 2007¹
Labour Force									
Both Sexes	530,700	541,200	546,500	547,200	550,900	540,200	548,100	538,100	555,200
Male	347,200	348,700	351,300	351,500	350,300	350,300	351,200	350,700	354,600
Female	183,500	192,500	195,200	195,700	200,600	189,900	196,900	187,400	200,600
Employment									
Both Sexes	486,000	489,500	496,200	493,400	498,300	496,000	498,300	486,600	503,800
Male	327,200	328,600	332,500	330,800	330,200	334,900	332,000	329,500	334,900
Female	158,800	160,900	163,700	162,600	168,100	161,100	166,300	157,100	168,900
Unemployment									
Both Sexes	44,700	51,700	50,300	53,800	52,600	44,200	49,800	51,500	51,400
Male	20,000	20,100	18,800	20,700	20,100	15,400	19,200	21,200	19,700
Female	24,700	31,600	31,500	33,100	32,500	28,800	30,600	30,300	31,700
Inactive Population									
Both Sexes	363,400	362,200	367,000	370,300	371,500	386,500	370,100	390,500	374,900
Male	92,600	95,700	97,600	100,000	103,700	106,300	100,700	107,500	102,700
Female	270,800	266,500	269,400	270,300	267,800	280,200	269,400	283,000	272,200
Activity rate (%)									
Both Sexes	59.3	59.9	59.8	59.6	59.7	58.3	59.7	57.9	59.7
Male	78.9	78.5	78.2	77.8	77.2	76.7	77.7	76.5	77.5
Female	40.4	41.9	42.0	42.0	42.8	40.4	42.2	39.8	42.4
Unemployment rate (%)									
Both Sexes	8.4	9.6	9.2	9.8	9.5	8.2	9.1	9.6	9.3
Male	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.9	5.7	4.4	5.5	6.0	5.6
Female	13.5	16.4	16.1	16.9	16.2	15.2	15.5	16.2	15.8

¹ Provisional estimates

6. Employment

The number of employed persons during the first quarter of 2007 was estimated at 486,600 with 329,500 males and 157,100 females. Employment sex ratio works out to approximately 2 males to 1 female.

6.1 *Employment by industrial sector*

As shown in Table 4, during the first quarter of 2007, the primary sector comprising agriculture, and mining & quarrying, provided jobs to about 9% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water and construction, employed another 34%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries, the remaining 57%.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by industrial sector and sex, 1st quarter 2006 & 2007

Industrial sector	1st quarter 2006			1st quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	10.5	10.4	10.6	8.6	9.3	7.2
Secondary	32.6	35.3	27.0	34.1	36.7	28.6
of which Manufacturing	21.7	19.3	26.6	22.4	19.6	28.2
Construction	10.2	15.1	0.4	10.9	15.9	0.4
Tertiary	56.9	54.3	62.4	57.3	54.0	64.2
of which Wholesale and retail trade	14.1	13.2	15.8	13.5	12.6	15.4
Hotels and restaurants	7.1	6.8	7.5	7.2	7.3	7.1
Transport, storage and communications	6.5	8.4	2.7	7.2	9.2	3.1
Public administration and defence	7.8	8.9	5.5	7.5	8.9	4.5
Education, health and social work	8.8	6.7	13.1	9.2	6.5	15.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the first quarter of 2007, 37% of the working population were employed as “skilled agricultural and fishery workers or craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers”. Workers engaged in “elementary occupations” and “service workers and shop and market sales workers” accounted for 20% and 19% of the workforce respectively. The remaining consisted of “legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals” (15%) and “clerks” (9%).

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of employees was higher among working women (84%) than among working men (78%), while the proportion of employers and own account workers was higher among men (21%) than among women (12%). On the other hand, contributing family workers constituted about 4% of working women compared to only one per cent of working men.

6.4 *Hours of Work*

Table 7, on distribution of employment by hours worked, shows that some 4% of employed persons did not work during the reference week, either because they were sick or on leave and some 38% reported having worked for more than 40 hours. Those workers were mostly in manufacturing enterprises (11%), followed by wholesale & retail trade (7%), hotels & restaurants (4%), and transport and construction with 3% in each activity group.

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the survey reference week, 1st quarter 2006 & 2007

Actual number of hours worked per week	1st quarter 2006			1st quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0	3.2	3.7	2.5	4.0	4.1	3.6
1 - 23	8.3	5.3	14.2	9.9	7.4	15.0
24 - 40	37.7	35.7	41.7	48.0	46.3	51.5
41 - 50	34.8	36.5	31.3	24.9	27.1	20.4
51 and above	16.0	18.8	10.3	13.2	15.1	9.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The average number of hours worked per week, including overtime but excluding all leaves and lunch time, was 38.7 with men reporting having worked 40.2 hours on average and women, 35.5 hours.

7. **Unemployment**

The number of unemployed persons in the first quarter of 2007 is estimated at 51,500 comprising 21,200 males and 30,300 females. The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed to labour force, works out to 9.6% (6.0% for males and 16.2% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 8.5% to 10.7%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 9.1% with the rate being 5.8% for males and 15.2% for females.

7.1 *Age and sex*

From Table 8, it is observed that unemployed males were generally younger than unemployed females. Thus, 53% of the males were under 25 years compared to 40% for females. On the

other hand, 40% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to 30% for males. The mean age of the unemployed works out to 28 years for males and 29 years for females.

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by age and sex, 1st quarter 2006 & 2007

Age group (years)	1st quarter 2006			1st quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	15.0	19.3	12.5	19.3	23.5	16.3
20 - 24	25.3	30.4	22.2	26.1	29.1	24.1
25 - 29	20.5	16.3	23.0	16.1	12.5	18.6
30 - 39	23.8	20.2	26.0	19.9	17.1	21.8
40 - 49	10.4	8.3	11.6	11.4	9.0	13.0
50 & over	5.0	5.5	4.7	7.2	8.8	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

7.2 *Marital status*

Out of the total number of persons who were unemployed, 53% were single, 39% were married and the remaining 8% were widowed, divorced or separated. Unemployed males were mostly single (71%). Unemployed females were mostly ever married (59%), i.e, currently married, widowed, divorced or separated, and 41% were single (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 1st quarter 2006 & 2007

Marital status	1st quarter 2006			1st quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	43.3	24.5	54.5	38.6	25.7	47.6
Widowed, divorced or separated	8.9	6.9	10.1	8.1	3.3	11.4
Single	47.8	68.6	35.4	53.3	71.0	41.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

7.3 *Educational attainment*

From Table 10, it is observed that in the first quarter of 2007, 28% of the unemployed had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, and a further 37% did not possess

the Cambridge School Certificate (SC). The proportions of unemployed with SC and Higher School Certificate (HSC) were respectively 20% and 9%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented about 6%.

Table 10 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by educational attainment and sex, 1st quarter 2006 & 2007

Educational attainment	1st quarter 2006			1st quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	37.1	45.3	32.3	34.5	39.7	30.7
Below CPE	24.5	34.5	18.5	28.1	34.4	23.7
Passed CPE	12.6	10.8	13.8	6.4	5.3	7.0
Secondary	58.2	52.3	61.7	60.0	53.2	64.9
Below SC	32.9	33.8	32.3	30.9	29.5	31.8
Passed SC	19.0	15.8	20.9	19.7	16.9	21.8
Passed HSC	6.3	2.7	8.5	9.4	6.8	11.3
Tertiary	4.7	2.4	6.0	5.5	7.1	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of the unemployed having only primary or lower secondary education, that is they had not reached the SC level, was higher for males (69%) than for females (63%). The proportion of unemployed having achieved SC was 17% for males and 22% for females. Corresponding figures for HSC holders were 7% and 11%. The proportion of unemployed males with a tertiary qualification was 7% against 4% for females.

7.4 Duration of unemployment

During the first quarter of 2007, about 70% of the unemployed reported being without a job for up to one year and 30% for more than one year. Analysis by sex shows that women were unemployed for longer periods than their male counterparts. About 36% of the unemployed females had been looking for work for more than a year compared to 21% of males.

Table 11 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by duration of unemployment and sex, 1st quarter 2006 & 2007

Duration of unemployment (months)	1st quarter 2006			1st quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Up to 12	66.5	81.1	57.8	70.1	79.4	63.6
13 - 24	18.4	14.0	21.0	19.6	15.6	22.4
More than 24	15.1	4.9	21.2	10.3	5.0	14.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

7.5 *Work experience*

Around 39% of the unemployed were first job seekers while the remaining 61% had work experience. The proportion of males having work experience was 73% while that for females stood at 52%.

7.6 *Job search*

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method. As shown in Table 12, during the first quarter of 2007, the most common method of job search was “checked at factories, worksites, etc.”, as reported by 55% of the unemployed, followed by “applied to prospective employers”, being reported by 53% of them.

Around 33% were registered at the Employment Service. Only 6% of the unemployed had taken steps to start a business of their own.

Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by job search method and sex, 1st quarter 2006 & 2007

Job search method	1st quarter 2006			1st quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	54.3	67.1	46.7	54.5	63.5	48.4
Applied to prospective employers	47.0	48.7	45.9	53.2	52.0	54.1
Registration at Employment Service	38.5	39.0	38.2	33.3	26.3	38.3
Sought assistance or advice	27.0	31.0	24.6	36.5	34.5	37.9
Placed or answered advertisements	29.4	20.9	34.6	30.8	25.6	34.3
Tried to set up own business	3.8	3.8	3.7	5.6	5.1	5.9

8. Inactive population

The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 390,500 (107,500 males and 283,000 females). As given in Table 13, the inactive population comprised 42% (161,700) homemakers, 26% (99,500) retired or old persons, 21% (80,600) students, and 9% (33,900) sick or disabled persons.

Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by inactivity status and sex, 1st quarter 2006 & 2007

Inactivity status	1st quarter 2006			1st quarter 2007		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Homemakers	42.6	0.5	57.9	41.6	0.2	57.3
Retired or old persons	26.1	46.2	18.9	25.6	42.4	19.2
Students	17.3	35.4	10.8	20.7	39.4	13.6
Sick or disabled persons	9.6	15.3	7.4	8.7	14.8	6.4
Other	4.4	2.6	5.0	3.4	3.2	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The inactives also included some 5,400 persons not interested to work, among whom 1,000 were aged 16 to 19 years.

Another 1,700 were classified as inactive although they were not working and were available for work because they were not actively looking for work. Those persons have been classified as inactive and not as unemployed since they do not satisfy all the three criteria for unemployment, i.e. not working, looking for work and available for work. From the survey responses, it is estimated that 94% or 1,600 of those 1,700 inactives either believed that suitable jobs were not available or did not know where to look for work.

An analysis of the inactive population by sex reveals that the inactive males comprised mostly old, retired, sick or disabled persons (57%) and students (39%). The inactive females were mostly homemakers (57%); old, retired, sick or disabled persons (26%) and students (14%).

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Methodology of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

Data collection	Face to face interviewing of household members.
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 expects to graduate by end 2007.
Scope and coverage of collection	Private Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.
Sampling method	<p>Stratified two-stage sampling design. At the first stage, Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) are selected with probability proportional to size 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 2000 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. 393.</p> <p>The second stage stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household.</p>
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.

Questionnaire

The CMPHS questionnaire comprises three modules: a basic module common to all rounds of the survey covering the general characteristics of the population, one or more special topic modules dealing with subjects requiring in-depth investigation and a third module grouping other topics of interest but investigated in less details.

Every year different topics are covered according to users' needs. As from 2004, the CMPHS is also being used as the instrument for the measurement of labour force, employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis; hence, a set of core questions on the labour force has been included and will be kept constant at all rounds of the survey.

Estimation and reliability of results 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.

Definition of terms used

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 (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 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. Unemployment rate

Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to that of labour force.

6. Inactive population

Inactive 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.

7. Activity rate

Activity rate is the ratio (%) of labour force to that of population aged 16+ (active + inactive population).

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 unpaid family members.

10. Employee

An Employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity. An Apprentice, who is a person being trained for a job or trade and does not receive pay or may just receive some pocket money is also considered as an employee.

11. Contributing family worker

A Contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an enterprise operated by a family member.

12. 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 certificates (SC and HSC or equivalent) also possess either a diploma/certificate, which is above the HSC but below a first degree, or a degree.

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

ANNEX II

(Thousand)

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 2000 - 2007

Year	Labour force						Employment (including foreign workers)						Unemployment			
	Mauritian		Foreign workers		Total		in large establishments ¹		outside large establishments		Total		Number		Rate ²	
	15 yrs and over	16 yrs and over	15 yrs and over	16 yrs and over	15 yrs and over	16 yrs and over	15 yrs and over	16 yrs and over	15 yrs and over	16 yrs and over	15 yrs and over	16 yrs and over	15 yrs and over	16 yrs and over	15 yrs and over	16 yrs and over
Both sexes																
2000	505.2	503.0	14.6	14.6	519.8	517.6	298.7	298.7	187.2	186.2	485.9	484.9	33.9	32.7	6.7	6.5
2001	512.5	510.3	16.5	16.5	529.0	526.8	302.0	302.0	191.6	190.1	493.6	492.1	35.4	34.7	6.9	6.8
2002 ³	514.2	513.0	17.0	17.0	531.2	530.0	297.2	297.2	196.6	196.0	493.8	493.2	37.4	36.8	7.3	7.2
2003	522.7	520.9	18.2	18.2	540.9	539.1	296.9	296.9	203.5	202.1	500.4	499.0	40.5	40.1	7.7	7.7
2004	532.1	530.7	17.5	17.5	549.6	548.2	293.3	293.3	211.2	210.2	504.5	503.5	45.1	44.7	8.5	8.4
2005	542.5	541.2	16.6	16.6	559.1	557.8	292.2	292.2	214.8	213.9	507.0	506.1	52.1	51.7	9.6	9.6
2006	549.2	548.1	16.7	16.7	565.9	564.8	295.1	295.1	220.7	219.9	515.8	515.0	50.1	49.8	9.1	9.1
2007	556.1	555.2	20.0	20.0	576.1	575.2	298.0	298.0	226.6	225.8	524.6	523.8	51.5	51.4	9.3	9.3
Male																
2000	336.2	334.7	5.0	5.0	341.2	339.7	187.5	187.5	135.7	135.0	323.2	322.5	18.0	17.2	5.4	5.1
2001	339.5	337.9	5.8	5.8	345.3	343.7	188.3	188.3	138.1	137.0	326.4	325.3	18.9	18.4	5.6	5.4
2002 ³	340.5	339.8	6.4	6.4	346.9	346.2	188.2	188.2	140.4	140.0	328.6	328.2	18.3	18.0	5.4	5.3
2003	344.2	343.1	7.9	7.9	352.1	351.0	188.2	188.2	144.2	143.2	332.4	331.4	19.7	19.6	5.7	5.7
2004	348.2	347.2	9.0	9.0	357.2	356.2	189.1	189.1	147.8	147.1	336.9	336.2	20.3	20.0	5.8	5.8
2005	349.4	348.7	9.1	9.1	358.5	357.8	189.3	189.3	148.9	148.4	338.2	337.7	20.3	20.1	5.8	5.8
2006	352.0	351.2	8.3	8.3	360.3	359.5	190.0	190.0	150.8	150.3	340.8	340.3	19.5	19.2	5.5	5.5
2007	355.3	354.6	11.0	11.0	366.3	365.6	192.0	192.0	154.5	153.9	346.5	345.9	19.8	19.7	5.6	5.6
Female																
2000	169.0	168.3	9.6	9.6	178.6	177.9	111.2	111.2	51.5	51.2	162.7	162.4	15.9	15.5	9.4	9.2
2001	173.0	172.4	10.7	10.7	183.7	183.1	113.7	113.7	53.5	53.1	167.2	166.8	16.5	16.3	9.5	9.5
2002 ³	173.7	173.2	10.6	10.6	184.3	183.8	109.0	109.0	56.2	56.0	165.2	165.0	19.1	18.8	11.0	10.9
2003	178.5	177.8	10.3	10.3	188.8	188.1	108.7	108.7	59.3	58.9	168.0	167.6	20.8	20.5	11.7	11.5
2004	183.9	183.5	8.5	8.5	192.4	192.0	104.2	104.2	63.4	63.1	167.6	167.3	24.8	24.7	13.5	13.5
2005	193.1	192.5	7.5	7.5	200.6	200.0	102.9	102.9	65.9	65.5	168.8	168.4	31.8	31.6	16.5	16.4
2006	197.2	196.9	8.4	8.4	205.6	205.3	105.1	105.1	69.9	69.6	175.0	174.7	30.6	30.6	15.5	15.5
2007	200.8	200.6	9.0	9.0	209.8	209.6	106.0	106.0	72.1	71.9	178.1	177.9	31.7	31.7	15.8	15.8

¹ Average of March and September figures² Unemployment rate as a percentage of Mauritian labour force³ The low increase in labour force results from the implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the sugar industry