

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Third Quarter 2008

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the third quarter of 2008, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from July to September 2008. The estimates refer to Mauritian population aged 16 years and above.

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. Annex II shows a series of comparable annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the period 2000 to 2008.

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. Key points

Actual estimates – change from second to third quarter of 2008

- (i) Employment of Mauritians increased by 600 to 518,400.
- (ii) Unemployment decreased by 600 to 40,500
- (iii) Unemployment rate decreased from 7.4% to 7.2%.

Actual estimates – change from third quarter of 2007 to third quarter of 2008

- (i) Employment of Mauritians increased by 11,000 to 518,400.
- (ii) Unemployment decreased by 4,600 to 40,500.
- (iii) Unemployment rate decreased from 8.2% to 7.2%.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

- (i) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 6.8% to 7.5% between the second and third quarters of 2008.
- (ii) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 8.5% to 7.5% between the third quarter of 2007 and the third quarter of 2008.

Estimates for year 2008

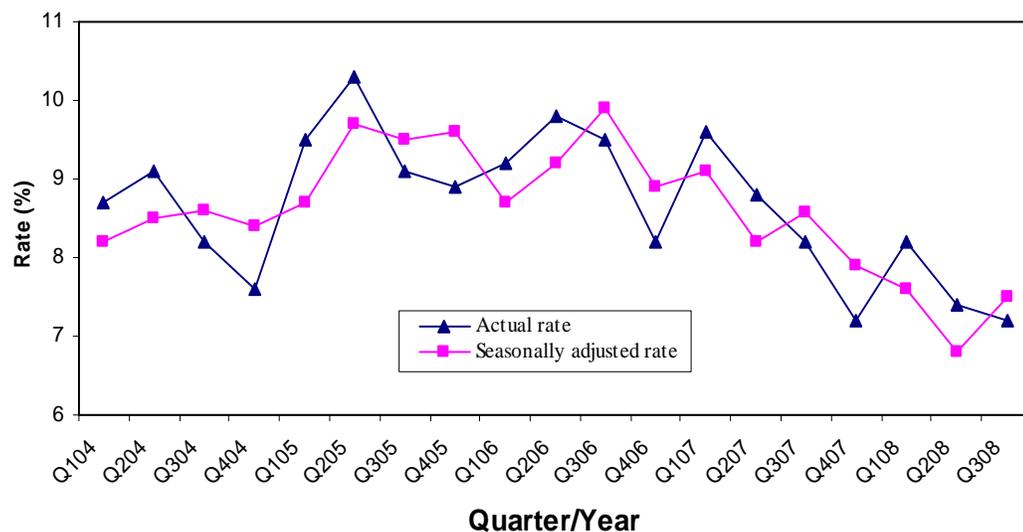
- (i) Employment of Mauritians is expected to increase by 8,400 from 502,100 in 2007 to 510,500 in 2008.
- (ii) Unemployment is expected to decrease by 3,400 from 46,800 in 2007 to 43,400 in 2008.
- (iii) Unemployment rate is expected to decrease from 8.5% in 2007 to 7.8% in 2008.

Unemployment rate is influenced by seasonal factors. It is usually higher in the second 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. In order to observe the real trend over time, it is more relevant to remove the seasonal fluctuations from the time-series. Based on the quarterly data for the period first quarter 2001 to third quarter 2008; the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates obtained are presented in Table 1 (for year 2006 onwards) and Chart 1.

Table 1 – Actual and seasonally adjusted quarterly unemployment rates, Q₁ 2006 – Q₃ 2008

Unemployment rate (%)	2006					2007					2008		
	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr
Actual	9.2	9.8	9.5	8.2	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.5	8.2	7.4	7.2
Seasonally adjusted	8.6	9.2	9.8	9.1	9.1	9.0	8.2	8.5	8.1	8.5	7.6	6.8	7.5

Chart 1 - Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rates, Q₁ 2004 – Q₃ 2008



3. Characteristics of the unemployed

The main characteristics of the unemployed at the third quarter of 2008 were:

- (i) The 40,500 unemployed comprised 14,400 males (36%) and 26,100 females (64%).

- (ii) Around 13,100 or about 32% of the unemployed were below 25 years. Some 5,800 or 40% of the unemployed males and 28% or 7,300 of the unemployed females were below 25 years.
- (iii) Nearly 44% (17,600) of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (9,500 or 66%) was single while among females, the majority (18,000 or 69%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- (iii) Some 8,700 or 22% had not passed the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examination or equivalent and a further 17,000 (42%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (iv) Around 31,600 (79%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 8,900 (21%) for more than one year.
- (v) About 28,100 (69%) had working experience and 12,400 (31%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- (vii) Around 15,300 (38%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 6,800 (17%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 2,700 (40%) of them had not passed SC.
- (ix) Ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated) unemployed persons aged 25 to 44 years and having worked before numbered 13,500. Among them, about 10,100 (75%) had not passed SC.
- (x) 5,000 or 12% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- (xi) 5,400 (13%) lived in households with no employed persons.

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

Among the 946,500 persons aged 16 years and over in the third quarter of 2008, about 558,900 or 59% were economically active, with 518,400 (55%) having a job and 40,500 (4%) unemployed. The remaining 387,600 (41%) persons were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2007 were 507,400 (54%) employed, 45,100 (5%) unemployed and 381,200 (41%) 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, 3rd quarter 2007 & 2008

	3rd Quarter 2007				3rd Quarter 2008			
	Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval		Estimates	Standard Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Labour Force								
Both Sexes	552,500	11,600	529,600	575,400	558,900	12,800	533,600	584,100
Male	354,600	7,200	340,500	368,700	354,000	8,500	337,100	370,800
Female	197,900	6,600	185,000	211,000	204,900	6,100	192,900	217,000
Employment								
Both Sexes	507,400	10,700	486,400	528,600	518,400	12,000	494,700	542,000
Male	338,000	6,800	324,500	351,500	339,600	8,200	323,500	355,700
Female	169,400	6,100	157,400	181,500	178,800	5,700	167,600	190,100
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	45,100	3,100	39,000	51,100	40,500	2,900	34,800	46,200
Male	16,600	1,600	13,500	19,600	14,400	1,600	11,300	17,400
Female	28,500	2,500	23,500	33,500	26,100	2,200	21,700	30,500
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	381,200	8,100	365,300	397,000	387,600	8,400	371,100	404,300
Male	104,400	3,900	96,700	112,100	111,200	4,500	102,300	120,200
Female	276,800	6,600	263,900	289,700	276,400	6,600	263,300	289,500
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	59.2	0.6	57.9	60.4	59.0	0.6	57.8	60.2
Male	77.3	0.7	75.8	78.7	76.1	0.8	74.5	77.6
Female	41.7	1.0	39.7	43.7	42.6	1.0	40.7	44.5
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	8.2	0.5	7.2	9.2	7.2	0.5	6.3	8.2
Male	4.7	0.4	3.8	5.5	4.1	0.4	3.2	4.9
Female	14.4	1.1	12.1	16.7	12.7	1.0	10.7	14.7

Table 3 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment from 2006 to 2008.

Table 3 - Quarterly estimates of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2006 - 2008

	Year 2006	1st Quarter 2007	2nd Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2007	4th Quarter 2007	Year 2007	1st Quarter 2008	2nd Quarter 2008	3rd Quarter 2008	Year 2008 ^{1/}
Labour Force										
Both Sexes	548,400	538,100	551,600	552,500	546,100	548,900	553,800	558,900	558,900	553,900
Male	351,400	350,400	354,600	354,600	352,400	353,600	352,800	355,000	354,000	352,700
Female	197,000	187,700	197,000	197,900	193,700	195,300	201,000	203,900	204,900	201,200
Employment										
Both Sexes	498,600	486,700	503,000	507,400	506,800	502,100	508,200	517,800	518,400	510,500
Male	332,200	329,400	335,200	338,000	338,100	335,000	334,900	341,400	339,600	337,300
Female	166,400	157,300	167,800	169,400	168,700	167,100	173,300	176,400	178,800	173,200
Unemployment										
Both Sexes	49,800	51,400	48,600	45,100	39,300	46,800	45,600	41,100	40,500	43,400
Male	19,200	21,000	19,400	16,600	14,300	18,600	17,900	13,600	14,400	15,400
Female	30,600	30,400	29,200	28,500	25,000	28,200	27,700	27,500	26,100	28,000
Inactive Population										
Both Sexes	370,900	389,200	378,900	381,200	390,800	383,200	386,300	384,400	387,600	389,400
Male	100,600	105,500	102,800	104,400	108,100	104,600	109,300	108,700	111,200	111,000
Female	270,300	283,700	276,100	276,800	282,700	278,600	277,000	275,700	276,400	278,400
Activity rate (%)										
Both Sexes	59.7	58.0	59.3	59.2	58.3	58.9	58.9	59.3	59.0	58.7
Male	77.7	76.9	77.5	77.3	76.5	77.2	76.3	76.6	76.1	76.1
Female	42.2	39.8	41.6	41.7	40.7	41.2	42.1	42.5	42.6	42.0
Unemployment rate (%)										
Both Sexes	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.5	8.2	7.4	7.2	7.8
Male	5.5	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.1	5.3	5.1	3.8	4.1	4.4
Female	15.5	16.2	14.8	14.4	12.9	14.4	13.8	13.5	12.7	13.9

^{1/} forecast

5. Employment

The number of employed persons during the third quarter of 2008 was estimated at 518,400 with 339,600 males and 178,800 females (Table 2). Employment sex ratio works out to approximately 2 males to 1 female.

5.1 *Employment by industrial sector*

As shown in Table 4, during the third quarter of 2008, the primary sector comprising agriculture, and mining & quarrying, provided jobs to about 10% of the working population. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, electricity & water and construction, employed another 30%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries, the remaining 60%.

Table 4 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by industrial sector and sex, 3rd quarter 2007 & 2008

Industrial sector	3rd quarter 2007			3rd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	10.0	10.6	8.6	10.0	11.0	8.1
Secondary	30.5	34.7	22.3	29.7	33.8	21.9
of which Manufacturing	18.7	17.3	21.3	17.9	16.3	20.9
Construction	11.2	16.6	0.4	11.2	16.8	0.6
Tertiary	59.5	54.7	69.1	60.3	55.2	70.0
of which Wholesale and retail trade	15.4	14.3	17.6	13.4	12.4	15.3
Hotels and restaurants	7.0	7.1	6.7	8.3	8.6	7.7
Transport, storage and communications	6.3	8.2	2.3	6.9	8.8	3.3
Public administration and defence	7.1	8.2	5.0	6.6	7.3	5.3
Education, health and social work	9.6	6.2	16.4	9.6	6.9	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the third quarter of 2008, 35% 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” (17%) and “clerks” (9%).

Analysis by sex shows that 44% of males were employed as “skilled agricultural workers and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers” compared to only 17% among females. On the other hand, 16% of females were engaged in clerical duties compared to 6% of males.

Table 5 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by occupation group and sex, 3rd quarter 2007 & 2008

ISCO ¹ Major occupational group	Occupation group	3rd quarter 2007			3rd quarter 2008		
		Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
1 - 3	Legislators, senior officials and managers; professionals; technicians and associate professionals	16.3	15.0	18.9	17.1	15.6	19.8
4	Clerks	9.3	6.0	15.9	9.1	5.7	15.6
5	Service workers and shop and market sales workers	18.4	16.8	21.8	19.0	17.9	21.1
6 - 8	Skilled agricultural and fishery workers; craft and related trade workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers	34.9	43.1	18.5	34.8	44.1	17.3
9	Elementary occupations	21.1	19.1	24.9	20.0	16.7	26.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ International Standard Classification of Occupations

5.3 *Employment status*

In the third quarter of 2008, the majority or 81% of workers were employees and the remaining 19% were working in their own or family enterprises with 17% as either employers or own account workers and 2% as contributing family workers (Table 6).

Table 6 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by employment status and sex, 3rd quarter 2007 & 2008

Employment status	3rd quarter 2007			3rd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Employer	3.1	4.3	0.6	4.0	5.4	1.5
Own account worker	14.0	16.4	9.3	13.3	15.4	9.1
Employee	80.7	78.4	85.4	80.8	78.2	85.5
Contributing family worker	2.2	0.9	4.7	1.9	1.0	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of employees was slightly higher among working women (86%) than among working men (78%), while the proportion of employers and own account workers was higher among men (21%) than among women (11%). On the other hand,

contributing family workers constituted about 4% of working women compared to only one per cent of working men.

5.4 *Hours of Work*

Table 7, on distribution of employment by hours worked, shows that some 3% of employed persons did not work during the reference week because they were sick or on leave. Another 46% reported having worked for more than 40 hours. They were mostly in manufacturing enterprises (11%), wholesale & retail trade (7%), hotels & restaurants (6%), construction (5%), and, transport and communications (4%).

Table 7 - Percentage distribution of the employed population by sex and number of hours worked during the survey reference week, 3rd quarter 2007 & 2008

Actual number of hours worked per week	3rd quarter 2007			3rd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0	2.9	3.3	2.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
1 - 23	8.0	4.7	14.5	9.0	5.2	16.4
24 - 40	37.6	33.8	45.0	42.3	39.9	47.0
41 - 50	33.7	37.0	27.1	30.5	33.7	24.4
51 and above	17.8	21.2	11.2	15.0	18.0	9.0
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 40.0 with men reporting having worked 42.5 hours on average and women, 35.4 hours.

6. Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in the third quarter of 2008 is estimated at 40,500 comprising 14,400 males and 26,100 females (Table 2). The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed in the labour force, works out to 7.2% (4.1% for males and 12.7% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 6.3% to 8.2%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 7.5% with the rate being 4.3% for males and 13.3% for females.

6.1 *Age and sex*

From Table 8, it is observed that 40% of the males were under 25 years compared to 28% for females. On the other hand, 57% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to 37% for males. However, the mean age of the unemployed works out to 31 years for males as well as for females.

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by age and sex, 3rd quarter 2007 & 2008

Age group (years)	3rd quarter 2007			3rd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	12.4	17.5	9.5	9.2	14.5	6.3
20 - 24	23.0	24.2	22.3	23.0	25.6	21.6
25 - 29	20.7	21.7	20.0	23.2	23.5	23.0
30 - 39	24.2	16.2	28.9	26.6	13.3	33.9
40 - 49	13.3	10.9	14.7	11.0	13.4	9.6
50 & over	6.4	9.5	4.6	7.0	9.7	5.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.2 *Marital status*

Out of the total number of persons who were unemployed, nearly 44% were single and around 50% were married. Unemployed males were mostly single (66%) whilst unemployed females were mostly ever married (69%), i.e, currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 3rd quarter 2007 & 2008

Marital status	3rd quarter 2007			3rd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	41.6	20.0	54.1	49.5	30.7	59.8
Widowed, divorced or separated	8.2	4.0	10.6	7.0	3.5	9.0
Single	50.2	76.0	35.3	43.5	65.8	31.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

6.3 *Educational attainment*

From Table 10, it is observed that in the third quarter of 2008, 22% of the unemployed had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, and a further 42% did not possess the Cambridge School Certificate (SC). The proportion with SC as highest educational attainment was 22% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 8%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented nearly 7%.

6.5 Work experience

Out of the 40,500 unemployed at the third quarter of 2008, some 12,400 or nearly 31% were first job seekers while the remaining 28,100 or 69% had work experience.

Table 12 shows the distribution of the unemployed with work experience by industrial sector. About 8% of those with work experience were previously in the primary sector, mainly agriculture. About 46% of the unemployed with job experience had worked in the secondary sector, with 38% in manufacturing and 8% in construction. The remaining 46% had previous work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly in 'Wholesale & retail trade' (14%), 'Private households with employed persons' (9%), 'Hotels & restaurants' (8%), and 'Real estate' (3%).

Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population with work experience by industrial sector, 3rd quarter 2007 & 2008

Industrial sector	3rd quarter 2007			3rd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Primary	2.7	3.9	1.7	7.8	11.7	5.4
Secondary	51.9	49.2	53.8	46.3	43.7	47.9
Tertiary	45.4	46.9	44.5	45.9	44.6	46.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The unemployed, who worked before, had to stop working for several reasons. The main reasons being 'unsatisfied with their job' (25%) followed by 'taken up by household responsibilities' (20%) and 'completed their temporary job' (19%).

6.6 Job search

As regards job search, some of the unemployed had recourse to more than one method. As shown in Table 13, during the third quarter of 2008, the most common method of job search was "applied to prospective employers" (52%) followed by "checked at factories, worksites, etc." (50%). Around 38% were registered at the Employment Service. The percentage who had sought assistance or advice was 36% whilst 24% had placed or answered advertisements. Only 10% had taken steps to start a business of their own.

Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by job search method and sex, 3rd quarter 2007 & 2008

Job search method	3rd quarter 2007			3rd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Applied to prospective employers	52.0	56.8	49.1	52.1	54.5	50.8
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	53.0	59.7	49.1	49.8	60.1	44.2
Registration at Employment Service	35.2	32.8	36.6	37.8	28.6	42.9
Sought assistance or advice	28.6	36.3	24.2	36.2	41.6	33.3
Placed or answered advertisements	34.4	32.1	35.7	23.8	15.4	28.3
Tried to set up own business	4.7	7.5	3.0	9.7	14.0	7.4

7. Inactive population

The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 387,600 (111,200 males and 276,400 females) (Table 2). As shown in Table 14, the inactive population comprised nearly 47% (179,700) homemakers, 21% (82,100) retired or old persons, 21% (81,800) students, and nearly 8% (30,700) sick or disabled persons.

Table 14 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by inactivity status and sex, 3rd quarter 2007 & 2008

Inactivity status	3rd quarter 2007			3rd quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Homemakers	41.5	0.3	57.0	46.5	0.6	65.0
Retired or old persons	26.6	43.0	20.5	21.3	43.6	12.3
Students	21.3	41.3	13.7	21.2	39.1	13.9
Sick or disabled persons	7.8	12.9	5.9	7.9	13.5	5.7
Other	2.8	2.5	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The inactives also included some 5,100 persons not interested to work, among whom 800 were aged 16 to 19 years.

It is to be noted that 1,200 were classified as inactive although they were not working and were available for work; the main reason being that 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 87% of those 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 in the above table reveals that the inactive males comprised old, retired, sick or disabled persons (57%) and students (39%). The inactive females were mostly homemakers (65%), old, retired, sick or disabled persons (18%) 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 June 2009.
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

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, 16 years and over, 2000 - 2008

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
2008 ⁵	553.9	24.0	577.9	306.5	228.0	534.5	43.4	7.8
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
2008 ⁵	352.7	14.7	367.4	197.5	154.5	352.0	15.4	4.4
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
2008 ⁵	201.2	9.3	210.5	109.0	73.5	182.5	28.0	13.9

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 housewives⁵ Forecast