

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Fourth Quarter 2008

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the fourth quarter of 2008, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from October to December 2008. The estimates refer to the 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 third to fourth quarter of 2008

- (i) Employment of Mauritians increased by 13,700 to 532,300.
- (ii) Unemployment decreased by 5,200 to 35,000.
- (iii) Unemployment rate decreased from 7.2% to 6.2%.

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

- (i) Employment of Mauritians increased by 25,500 to 532,300.
- (ii) Unemployment decreased by 4,300 to 35,000.
- (iii) Unemployment rate decreased from 7.2% to 6.2%.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

- (i) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 7.5% to 7.0% between the third and fourth quarters of 2008.
- (ii) Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 8.1% to 7.0% between the fourth quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2008.

Year 2008

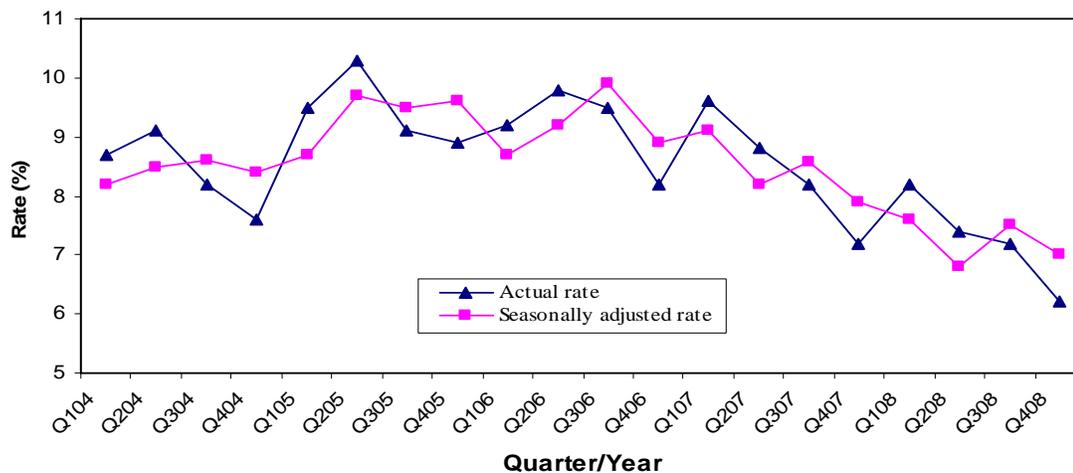
- (i) Employment of Mauritians increased by 16,900 from 502,100 in 2007 to 519,000 in 2008.
- (ii) Unemployment decreased by 6,400 from 46,800 in 2007 to 40,400 in 2008.
- (iii) Unemployment rate decreased from 8.5% in 2007 to 7.2% in 2008.

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. 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 fourth quarter 2008, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates obtained are presented in Table 1 (for years 2007 and 2008) and Chart 1.

Table 1 – Actual and seasonally adjusted quarterly unemployment rates, Q₁ 2007 – Q₄ 2008

Unemployment rate (%)	2007					2008				
	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Year
Actual	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.5	8.2	7.4	7.2	6.2	7.2
Seasonally adjusted	9.0	8.2	8.5	8.1	8.5	7.6	6.8	7.5	7.0	7.2

Chart 1 - Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rates, Q₁ 2004 – Q₄ 2008



3. Characteristics of the unemployed

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

- (i) The 35,000 unemployed comprised 11,300 males (32%) and 23,700 females (68%).
- (ii) Around 11,300 or about 32% of the unemployed were below 25 years. Some 5,100 or 45% of the unemployed males and 26% or 6,200 of the unemployed females were below 25 years.

- (iii) About 40% (13,900) of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (8,500 or 75%) was single while among females, the majority (18,300 or 77%) was ever married (including widowed, divorced or separated).
- (iv) Some 8,700 or 25% had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) examination or equivalent and a further 15,700 (45%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (v) Around 27,800 (80%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 7,200 (20%) for more than one year.
- (vi) About 24,500 (70%) had working experience and 10,500 (30%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- (vii) Around 13,000 (37%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 6,400 (18%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 3,300 (52%) 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 12,500. Among them, about 8,700 (70%) had not passed SC.
- (x) 4,200 or 12% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- (xi) 5,400 (15%) lived in households with no employed persons.

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

Among the 949,800 persons aged 16 years and over in the fourth quarter of 2008, about 567,300 or 60% were economically active, with 532,300 (56%) having a job and 35,000 (4%) unemployed. The remaining 382,500 (40%) persons were inactive. The estimates for the corresponding quarter of 2007 were 506,800 (54%) employed, 39,300 (4%) unemployed and 390,800 (42%) 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, 4th quarter 2007 & 2008

	4th Quarter 2007				4th 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	546,100	13,300	520,000	572,300	567,300	15,200	537,300	597,200
Male	352,400	9,400	333,900	370,900	358,000	10,000	338,300	377,700
Female	193,700	6,200	182,000	205,900	209,300	6,900	195,600	222,900
Employment								
Both Sexes	506,800	12,200	482,800	530,800	532,300	14,400	503,900	560,700
Male	338,100	9,200	320,000	356,200	346,700	9,700	327,600	365,800
Female	168,700	5,500	157,900	179,500	185,600	6,400	173,000	198,100
Unemployment								
Both Sexes	39,300	3,000	33,400	45,300	35,000	2,800	29,400	40,500
Male	14,300	1,700	11,000	17,600	11,300	1,400	8,500	14,000
Female	25,000	2,400	20,300	29,700	23,700	2,200	19,400	28,000
Inactive Population								
Both Sexes	390,800	12,200	366,700	414,900	382,500	12,300	358,400	406,700
Male	108,100	5,200	97,800	118,400	108,700	5,400	98,100	119,400
Female	282,700	9,000	265,100	300,400	273,800	8,700	256,800	290,900
Activity rate (%)								
Both Sexes	58.3	0.6	57.0	59.6	59.7	0.7	58.3	61.1
Male	76.5	0.8	74.9	78.1	76.7	0.8	75.1	78.3
Female	40.7	1.0	38.6	42.7	43.3	1.0	41.3	45.3
Unemployment rate (%)								
Both Sexes	7.2	0.5	6.2	8.2	6.2	0.5	5.3	7.1
Male	4.1	0.5	3.1	5.0	3.2	0.4	2.4	3.9
Female	12.9	1.1	10.7	15.1	11.3	1.0	9.4	13.2

Table 3 shows quarterly and annual estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for 2007 and 2008.

Table 3 - Quarterly estimates of labour force, employment, unemployment and inactive population by sex, 2007 - 2008

	1st Quarter 2007	2nd Quarter 2007	3rd Quarter 2007	4th Quarter 2007	Year 2007	1st Quarter 2008	2nd Quarter 2008	3rd Quarter 2008	4th Quarter 2008	Year 2008
Labour Force										
Both Sexes	538,100	551,600	552,500	546,100	548,900	553,800	559,100	558,800	567,300	559,400
Male	350,400	354,600	354,600	352,400	353,600	352,800	355,100	353,900	358,000	355,600
Female	187,700	197,000	197,900	193,700	195,300	201,000	204,000	204,900	209,300	203,800
Employment										
Both Sexes	486,700	503,000	507,400	506,800	502,100	508,200	518,000	518,600	532,300	519,000
Male	329,400	335,200	338,000	338,100	335,000	334,900	341,500	339,700	346,700	341,000
Female	157,300	167,800	169,400	168,700	167,100	173,300	176,500	178,900	185,600	178,000
Unemployment										
Both Sexes	51,400	48,600	45,100	39,300	46,800	45,600	41,100	40,200	35,000	40,400
Male	21,000	19,400	16,600	14,300	18,600	17,900	13,600	14,200	11,300	14,600
Female	30,400	29,200	28,500	25,000	28,200	27,700	27,500	26,000	23,700	25,800
Inactive Population										
Both Sexes	389,200	378,900	381,200	390,800	383,200	386,300	384,200	387,700	382,500	385,600
Male	105,500	102,800	104,400	108,100	104,600	109,300	108,600	111,300	108,700	108,900
Female	283,700	276,100	276,800	282,700	278,600	277,000	275,600	276,400	273,800	276,700
Activity rate (%)										
Both Sexes	58.0	59.3	59.2	58.3	58.9	58.9	59.3	59.0	59.7	59.2
Male	76.9	77.5	77.3	76.5	77.2	76.3	76.6	76.1	76.7	76.6
Female	39.8	41.6	41.7	40.7	41.2	42.1	42.5	42.6	43.3	42.4
Unemployment rate (%)										
Both Sexes	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.2	8.5	8.2	7.4	7.2	6.2	7.2
Male	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.1	5.3	5.1	3.8	4.0	3.2	4.1
Female	16.2	14.8	14.4	12.9	14.4	13.8	13.5	12.7	11.3	12.7

5. Employment

The number of employed persons during the fourth quarter of 2008 was estimated at 532,300 with 346,700 males and 185,600 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 fourth 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 31%, and the tertiary sector, which covers trade, hotels & restaurants, transport and all the other service industries, the remaining 59%.

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

Industrial sector	4th quarter 2007			4th quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Primary	9.5	10.9	6.7	9.9	10.5	8.8
Secondary	31.9	35.0	25.4	30.9	34.5	24.2
of which Manufacturing	20.1	17.8	24.7	19.3	17.3	23.2
Construction	11.1	16.3	0.4	11.2	16.6	1.0
Tertiary	58.6	54.1	67.9	59.2	55.0	67.0
of which Wholesale and retail trade	14.3	12.6	17.8	13.1	12.2	14.8
Hotels and restaurants	7.8	8.0	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.7
Transport, storage and communications	7.2	9.3	3.0	6.8	9.0	2.7
Public administration and defence	6.6	7.4	4.9	6.2	7.1	4.5
Education, health and social work	9.2	6.3	15.5	9.4	6.6	14.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.2 *Employment by occupation*

During the fourth quarter of 2008, 36% 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 44% of males were employed as “skilled agricultural workers and fishery workers; craft and related trades workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers”

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of employees was slightly higher among working women (83%) 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 5% 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 4% of employed persons did not work during the reference week because they were sick or on leave. Another 52% reported having worked for more than 40 hours. They were mostly in manufacturing enterprises (14%), wholesale & retail trade (8%), construction (6%), hotels & restaurants (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, 4th quarter 2007 & 2008

Actual number of hours worked per week	4th quarter 2007			4th quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0	4.2	3.5	5.5	4.0	3.4	5.1
1 - 23	8.0	4.7	14.5	8.0	4.2	15.0
24 - 40	36.5	34.3	41.0	36.3	34.2	40.3
41 - 50	32.9	35.4	28.0	33.6	36.5	28.3
51 and above	18.4	22.1	11.0	18.1	21.7	11.3
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 41.5 with men reporting having worked 43.9 hours on average and women, 36.9 hours.

6. Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in the fourth quarter of 2008 is estimated at 35,000 comprising 11,300 males and 23,700 females (Table 2). The unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed in the labour force, works out to 6.2% (3.2% for males and 11.3% for females). The 95% confidence interval for the overall unemployment rate is 5.3% to 7.1%. The seasonally adjusted rate works out to 7.0% with the rate being 3.8% for males and 12.3% for females.

6.1 *Age and sex*

From Table 8, it is observed that 45% of the males were under 25 years compared to 26% for females. On the other hand, 52% of unemployed females were in the age bracket 25 to 39 years compared to 35% for males. However, the mean age of the unemployed works out to 29 years for males and 31% for females.

Table 8 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by age and sex, 4th quarter 2007 & 2008

Age group (years)	4th quarter 2007			4th quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Below 20	13.3	21.9	8.3	12.4	21.3	8.2
20 - 24	24.5	26.7	23.3	19.9	24.0	18.0
25 - 29	18.2	15.3	19.9	18.6	20.6	17.6
30 - 39	25.5	16.3	30.7	28.2	14.3	34.8
40 - 49	12.1	9.0	13.9	13.0	9.5	14.6
50 & over	6.4	10.8	3.9	7.9	10.3	6.8
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 40% were single and around 51% were married. Unemployed males were mostly single (75%) whilst unemployed females were mostly ever married (77%), i.e, currently married, widowed, divorced or separated (Table 9).

Table 9 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by marital status and sex, 4th quarter 2007 & 2008

Marital status	4th quarter 2007			4th quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Married	47.4	14.4	66.3	50.9	20.1	65.5
Widowed, divorced or separated	4.5	3.5	5.0	9.3	4.6	11.5
Single	48.1	82.1	28.7	39.8	75.3	23.0
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 fourth quarter of 2008, 25% of the unemployed had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level, and a further 45% did not possess the Cambridge School Certificate (SC). The proportion with SC as highest educational attainment was 19% and that with Higher School Certificate (HSC) 6%. The number of unemployed having studied up to the tertiary level represented nearly 6%.

6.5 Work experience

Out of the 35,000 unemployed at the fourth quarter of 2008, some 10,400 or nearly 30% were first job seekers while the remaining 24,600 or 70% had work experience.

Table 12 shows the distribution of the unemployed with work experience by industrial sector. About 5% of those with work experience were previously in the primary sector, mainly agriculture. About 52% of the unemployed with job experience had worked in the secondary sector, with 40% in manufacturing and 12% in construction. The remaining 43% had previous work experience in the tertiary sector, mainly in 'Wholesale & retail trade' (17%), 'Hotels & restaurants' (7%), 'Private households with employed persons' (5%), and 'Real estate' (3%).

Table 12 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population with work experience by industrial sector, 4th quarter 2007 & 2008

Industrial sector	4th quarter 2007			4th quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Primary	3.7	7.1	1.3	4.6	9.0	2.5
Secondary	59.4	51.9	64.7	52.0	56.0	50.0
Tertiary	36.9	41.0	34.0	43.4	35.0	47.5
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' and completed their temporary job' with 24% each followed by 'taken up by household responsibilities' (21%).

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 fourth quarter of 2008, the most common method of job search was "applied to prospective employers" (57%) followed by "checked at factories, worksites, etc." (53%). Around 37% were registered at the Employment Service. The percentage who had sought assistance or advice was 32% whilst 22% had placed or answered advertisements. Only 7% had taken steps to start a business of their own.

Table 13 - Percentage distribution of the unemployed population by job search method and sex, 4th quarter 2007 & 2008

Job search method	4th quarter 2007			4th quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Applied to prospective employers	56.6	54.0	58.1	57.1	56.8	57.3
Checked at factories, worksites, etc.	53.7	62.6	48.5	52.5	65.4	46.5
Registration at Employment Service	35.7	29.7	39.1	37.2	31.9	39.7
Sought assistance or advice	32.7	26.7	36.1	31.6	33.0	30.9
Placed or answered advertisements	29.4	24.7	32.1	22.4	16.5	25.2
Tried to set up own business	7.3	6.0	8.0	7.3	3.9	9.0

7. Inactive population

The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 382,500 (108,700 males and 273,800 females) (Table 2). As shown in Table 14, the inactive population comprised nearly 48% (181,600) homemakers, 22% (83,700) students, 20% (77,200) retired or old persons, and nearly 8% (28,500) sick or disabled persons.

Table 14 - Percentage distribution of the inactive population by inactivity status and sex, 4th quarter 2007 & 2008

Inactivity status	4th quarter 2007			4th quarter 2008		
	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Both Sexes (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Homemakers	42.3	0.2	58.5	47.6	0.1	66.5
Retired or old persons	24.7	41.5	18.3	20.2	42.6	11.4
Students	21.7	41.3	14.2	22.0	41.2	14.3
Sick or disabled persons	7.7	12.9	5.7	7.5	13.6	5.0
Other	3.6	4.1	3.3	2.7	2.5	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The inactives also included some 4,900 persons not interested to work, among whom 1,200 were aged 16 to 19 years.

It is to be noted that 1,000 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 has been noted that 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 (Table 14) reveals that the inactive males comprised old, retired, sick or disabled persons (56%) and students (41%). The inactive females were mostly homemakers (67%), old, retired, sick or disabled persons (16%) 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

ANNEX II

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

('000)

Year	Labour force			Employment (including foreign workers)			Unemployment	
	Mauritian	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishments ¹	outside large establishments	Total	Number	Rate ² (%)
Both sexes								
2000	503.0	14.6	517.6	298.7	186.2	484.9	32.7	6.5
2001	510.3	16.5	526.8	302.0	190.1	492.1	34.7	6.8
2002	513.0 ³	17.0	530.0	297.2	196.0	493.2	36.8	7.2
2003	520.9	18.2	539.1	296.9	202.1	499.0	40.1	7.7
2004	531.3	17.5	548.8	293.3	210.9	504.2	44.6	8.4
2005	542.5	16.6	559.1	292.2	215.0	507.2	51.9	9.6
2006	548.4	16.7	565.1	295.1	220.2	515.3	49.8	9.1
2007	548.9	21.6	570.5	301.3	222.4	523.7	46.8	8.5
2008	559.4	24.0	583.4	308.5	234.5	543.0	40.4	7.2
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	355.6	14.7	370.3	198.8	156.9	355.7	14.6	4.1
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	203.8	9.3	213.1	109.7	77.6	187.3	25.8	12.7

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