

Labour force, Employment and Unemployment – Fourth quarter 2012

Introduction

1. This issue of Economic and Social Indicators (ESI) presents a set of estimates of labour force, employment and unemployment for the fourth quarter of 2012, based on the results of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from October to December 2012. The estimates refer to the Mauritian population aged 16 years and above.
2. Annual estimates of labour force including foreign workers derived after integrating data from CMPHS with other sources are given at Annex 3.

Key figures

	Q4 2011	Q3 2012	Q4 2012 ¹	Change	
				Q4 2012 - Q4 2011	Q4 2012 - Q3 2012
Labour force	585,600	596,400	602,900	+17,300	+6,500
Employment	541,800	549,300	556,100	+14,300	+6,800
Unemployment	43,800	47,100	46,800	+3,000	-300
Unemployment rate (%)	7.5	7.9	7.8	+0.3	-0.1
Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate (%)	8.4	8.1	8.6	+0.2	+0.5

¹ Provisional

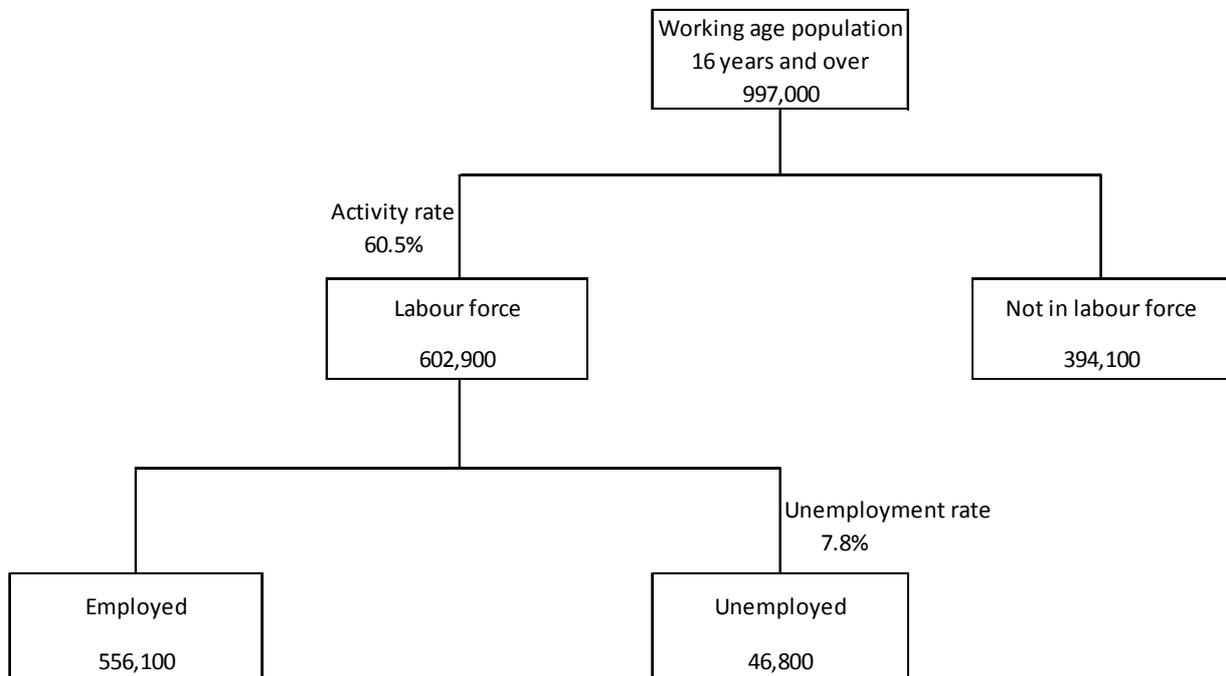
Employment and unemployment – Year 2011 & 2012

	Year 2011	Year 2012	Change
Employment	536,700	544,800	+8,100
Unemployment	46,100	48,300	+2,200
Unemployment rate (%)	7.9	8.1	+0.2

Labour market overview, fourth quarter 2012

3. Compared with the corresponding quarter of 2011, there has been an increase in the labour force (+17,300) with an increase in both employment (+14,300) and unemployment (+3,000).
4. Compared with the previous quarter, labour force showed an increase of 6,500 with an increase in employment (+6,800) and a fall in unemployment (-300).

Chart 1: The Labour Market, 4th quarter 2012



Labour force participation

5. The activity rate for fourth quarter 2012 was 60.5 %, up by 1.2 percentage point from 59.3% in the corresponding period one year earlier. The activity rates for male increased by 0.3 percentage points to 75.8% whilst those of female increased by 2.1 percentage points to 45.8%.
6. Compared with the previous quarter, the activity rate increased by 0.5 percentage point (from 60.0% to 60.5%) with an increase of 1.7% in the female activity rate and a decrease of 0.6 % in the male activity rate.

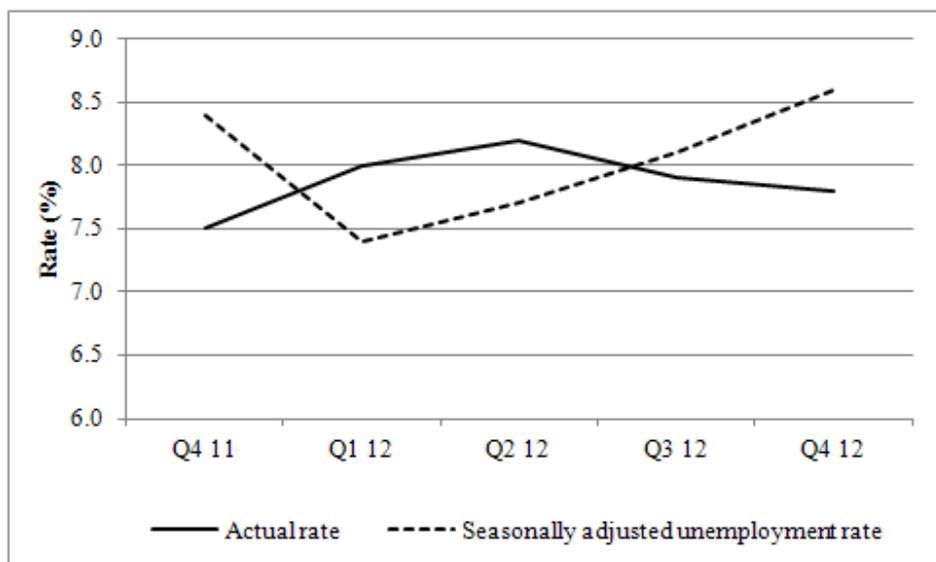
Employment

7. From fourth quarter 2011 to fourth quarter 2012, employment increased by 14,300 to 556,100; male employment increased by 3,600 to 351,200 whilst female increased by 10,700 to 204,900.
8. Compared with the previous quarter, employment increased by 6,800 with an increase of 9,300 in female employment and a decrease of 2,500 in male employment.

Unemployment

9. From fourth quarter 2011 to fourth quarter 2012, the number of unemployed persons increased by 3,000 to 46,800. This increase was due to an increase of 2,100 in the number of unemployed females and 900 in unemployed males.
10. The unemployment rate increased by 0.3 percentage point to 7.8% from fourth quarter 2011 to fourth quarter 2012. Male unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 5.1% whilst female unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 12.0%.
11. When compared with third quarter of 2012, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 300 (200 males and -500 females).
12. From third quarter to fourth quarter 2012, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point with a drop of 0.7 percentage point in the female rate and a rise of 0.1 percentage point in that of male.

Chart 2: Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by quarter, 4th quarter 2011 – 4th quarter 2012



13. Unemployment rate 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, adjustments have to be made for seasonal fluctuations. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2012 was 8.6%, higher than the rate of 8.1% for third quarter of 2012 and 8.4% for the fourth quarter of 2011.

14. The main characteristics of the unemployed as at fourth quarter 2012 were as follows:

- (i) The 46,800 unemployed comprised 18,800 males (40%) and 28,000 females (60%).
- (ii) Around 19,300 (41 %) of them were aged below 25 years.
- (iii) About 24,000 (51%) of the unemployed were single. Among males, the majority (69%) was single while among females, the majority (54%) was ever married.
- (iv) Some 6,500 or 14% had not reached the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) level or equivalent and a further 15,300 (33%) did not have the Cambridge School Certificate (SC) or equivalent.
- (v) Around 34,100 (73%) had been looking for work for up to one year and the remaining 12,700 (27%) for more than one year.
- (vi) About 30,500 (65%) had working experience and 16,300 (35%) were looking for a job for the first time.
- (vii) Around 19,600 (42%) were registered at the Employment Service.
- (viii) There were 10,000 (21%) young persons aged 16 to 24 years, not yet married and looking for a first job. Some 3,400 (34%) 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 10,300. Among them, about 7,900 (77%) had not passed SC.
- (x) 6,000 or 13% of the unemployed were heads of households.
- (xi) 7,900 (17%) lived in households with no employed persons.

Economically inactive population

15. The number of persons aged 16 years and over, not forming part of the labour force (inactive population) was estimated at 394,100 at fourth quarter 2012.
16. The inactive population was made up of 118,200 males and 275,900 females. Among inactive males, 42% were 'retired or old persons' and 34% were students. Among females, 53% were homemakers and 18% 'retired or old persons' and 16% students.

Sampling errors

17. The estimates in this publication are based on the results of a sample survey and are thus subject to sample variability. Standard errors and confidence intervals give an indication of this variability.
18. The standard error of the estimates and the 95% confidence interval which represent a 95% chance that the true value lies within that interval, are given in the tables that follow.

Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 4th quarter 2011 –
4th quarter 2012

		Estimates	Standard Error	95% confidence interval	
				Lower limit	Upper limit
Both Sexes					
Labour force					
	2011Q4	585,600	16,800	552,500	618,800
	2012 Q1	582,300	13,700	555,400	609,400
	Q2	597,200	16,600	564,600	629,800
	Q3	596,400	12,600	571,600	621,200
	Q4 ¹	602,900	17,300	568,800	637,100
Employment					
	2011Q4	541,800	15,400	511,600	572,100
	2012 Q1	535,500	12,800	510,300	560,800
	Q2	548,300	16,100	516,600	579,900
	Q3	549,300	11,800	526,200	572,500
	Q4 ¹	556,100	16,000	524,600	587,600
Unemployment					
	2011Q4	43,800	3,800	36,300	51,300
	2012 Q1	46,800	3,000	40,900	52,800
	Q2	48,900	3,100	42,900	55,100
	Q3	47,100	2,900	41,400	52,700
	Q4 ¹	46,800	3,500	39,900	53,700
Unemployment rate, %					
	2011Q4	7.5	0.6	6.3	8.6
	2012 Q1	8.0	0.5	7.1	9.0
	Q2	8.2	0.5	7.2	9.2
	Q3	7.9	0.4	7.0	8.8
	Q4 ¹	7.8	0.5	6.8	8.8
Activity rate, %					
	2011Q4	59.3	0.6	58.1	60.6
	2012 Q1	58.8	0.6	57.7	60.0
	Q2	60.2	0.6	59.0	61.4
	Q3	60.0	0.6	58.8	61.1
	Q4 ¹	60.5	0.7	59.1	61.8

¹ Provisional

Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 4th quarter 2011 –
4th quarter 2012

Male

		Estimates	Standard Error	95% confidence interval	
				Lower limit	Upper limit
Labour force					
	2011Q4	365,500	11,500	342,900	388,100
	2012 Q1	364,100	8,900	346,500	381,700
	Q2	368,700	10,300	348,400	389,000
	Q3	372,300	8,200	356,200	388,400
	Q4 ¹	370,000	11,700	346,900	393,200
Employment					
	2011Q4	347,600	10,600	326,600	368,500
	2012 Q1	343,900	8,400	327,300	360,600
	Q2	348,600	10,200	328,400	368,700
	Q3	353,700	7,800	338,400	369,000
	Q4 ¹	351,200	11,200	329,200	373,200
Unemployment					
	2011Q4	17,900	2,200	13,700	22,200
	2012 Q1	20,200	1,800	16,600	23,700
	Q2	20,100	1,700	16,700	23,600
	Q3	18,600	1,800	14,900	22,200
	Q4 ¹	18,800	2,000	14,800	22,800
Unemployment rate, %					
	2011Q4	4.9	0.5	3.8	6.0
	2012 Q1	5.5	0.5	4.6	6.4
	Q2	5.5	0.5	4.5	6.4
	Q3	5.0	0.5	4.1	5.9
	Q4 ¹	5.1	0.5	4.1	6.1
Activity rate, %					
	2011Q4	75.5	0.7	74.1	77.0
	2012 Q1	75.1	0.7	73.8	76.4
	Q2	75.8	0.7	74.5	77.1
	Q3	76.4	0.7	75.1	77.7
	Q4 ¹	75.8	0.8	74.3	77.3

¹ Provisional

Estimated labour force, employment and unemployment by sex, 4th quarter 2011 –
4th quarter 2012

Female					
		Estimates	Standard Error	95% confidence interval	
				Lower limit	Upper limit
Labour force					
	2011Q4	220,100	7,200	206,000	234,300
	2012 Q1	218,200	6,300	205,800	230,800
	Q2	228,500	7,700	213,300	243,800
	Q3	224,100	6,700	210,800	237,400
	Q4 ¹	232,900	7,500	218,000	247,700
Employment					
	2011Q4	194,200	6,500	181,500	207,000
	2012 Q1	191,600	6,000	179,800	203,400
	Q2	199,700	7,200	185,500	213,900
	Q3	195,600	6,300	183,300	207,900
	Q4 ¹	204,900	6,800	191,400	218,300
Unemployment					
	2011Q4	25,900	2,900	20,200	31,600
	2012 Q1	26,600	1,900	22,800	30,500
	Q2	28,800	2,300	24,200	33,500
	Q3	28,500	2,200	24,100	32,800
	Q4 ¹	28,000	2,400	23,200	32,800
Unemployment rate, %					
	2011Q4	11.8	1.2	9.4	14.1
	2012 Q1	12.2	0.8	10.5	13.9
	Q2	12.6	1.0	10.7	14.5
	Q3	12.7	0.9	10.9	14.5
	Q4 ¹	12.0	0.9	10.2	13.9
Activity rate, %					
	2011Q4	43.7	0.9	41.9	45.6
	2012 Q1	43.2	0.9	41.5	45.0
	Q2	45.1	0.9	43.3	46.9
	Q3	44.1	1.0	42.2	46.1
	Q4 ¹	45.8	1.0	43.7	47.8

¹ Provisional

Longer time series

19. The following graphs show the series for employment, unemployment and activity rate from 4th quarter 2008 to 4th quarter 2012.

Chart 3: Employment by quarter, 4th quarter 2008 – 4th quarter 2012

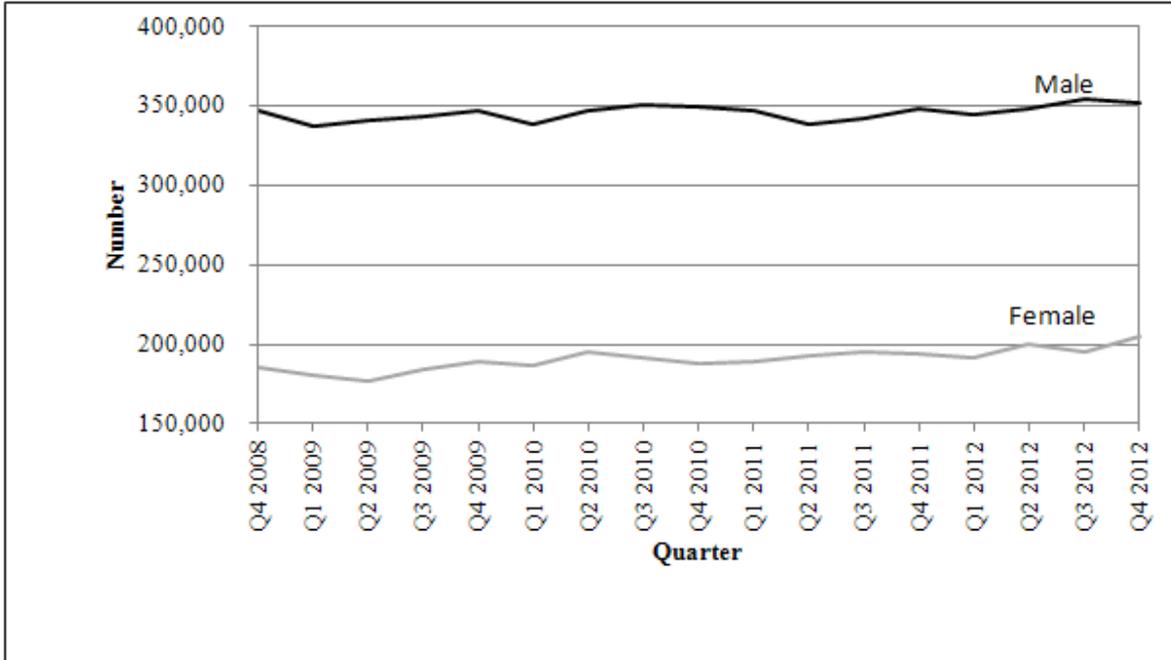


Chart 4: Unemployment rate by quarter, 4th quarter 2008 – 4th quarter 2012

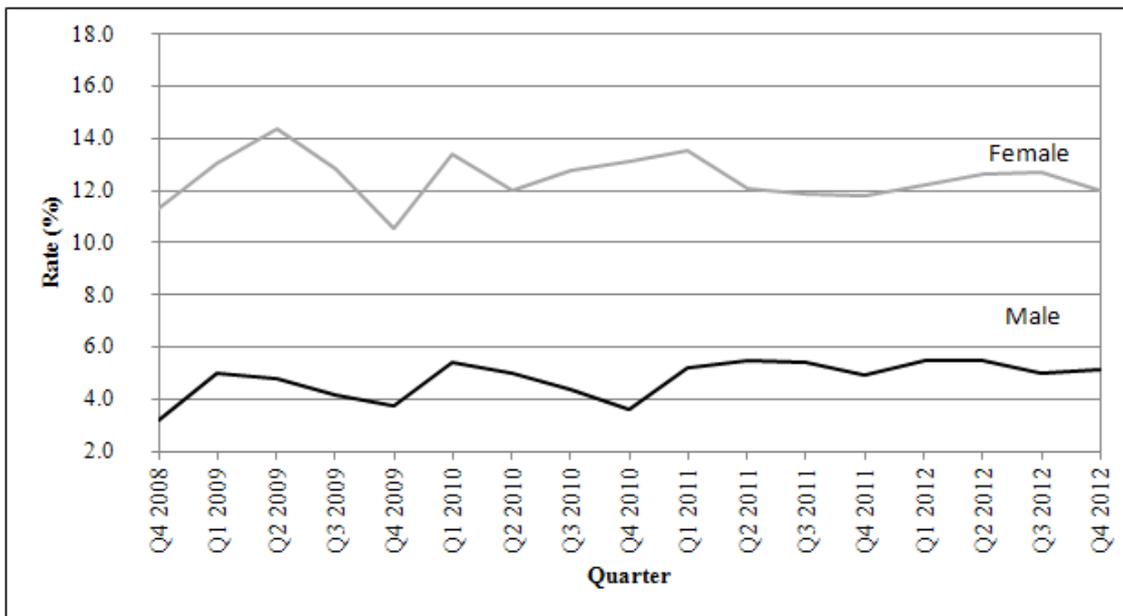


Chart 5: Activity rate by quarter, 4th quarter 2008 – 4th quarter 2012

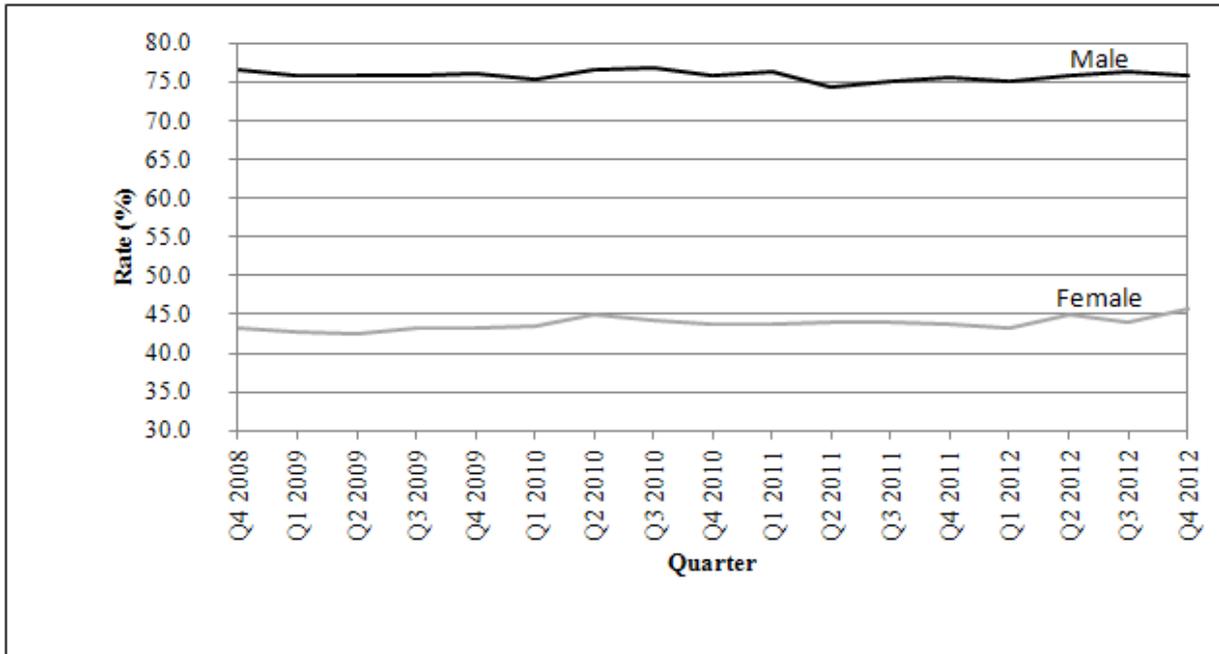
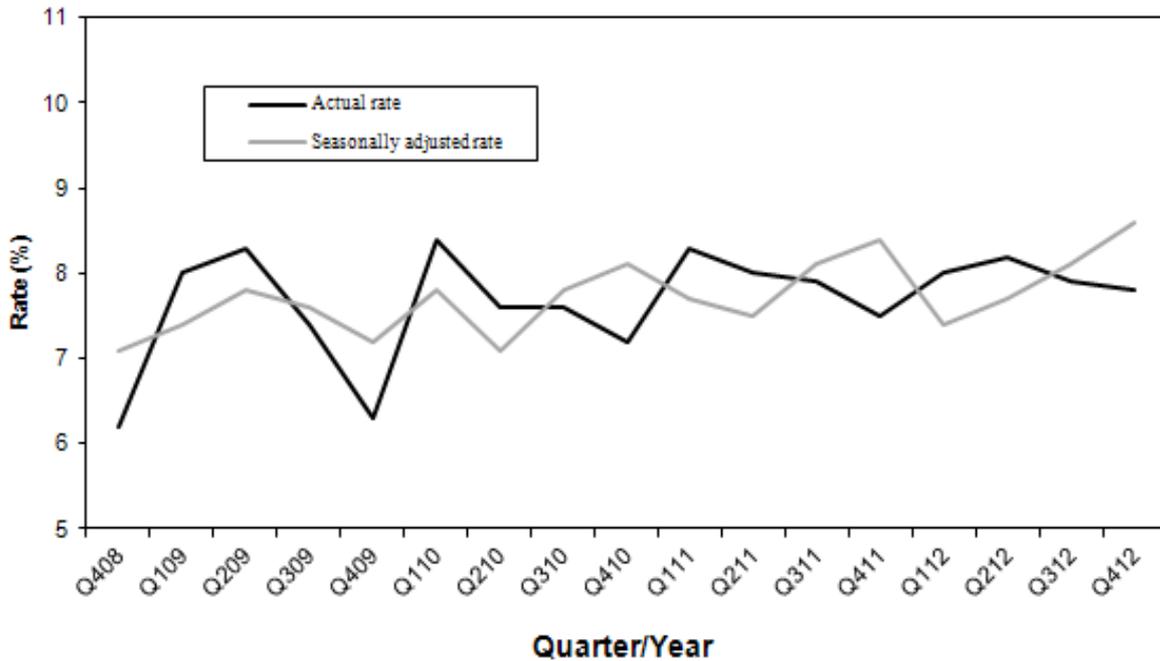


Chart 6: Actual and seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, 4th quarter 2008 – 4th quarter 2012



The following tables together with the web version of this publication can be downloaded from Statistics Mauritius website at <http://statsmauritius.gov.mu>. From the homepage, click on 'Statistics by subject' followed by 'labour' then select the appropriate publication under the heading 'Publications – Economic and Social Indicators'.

List of tables

Table 1: Labour market activity by status, 4th Quarter 2011 to 4th Quarter 2012

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by age and sex, 4th Quarter 2012

Table 3: Employment by industrial activity, 4th Quarter 2011 to 4th Quarter 2012

Table 4: Employment by occupational group, 4th Quarter 2011 to 4th Quarter 2012

Table 5: Employment by hours worked, 4th Quarter 2011 to 4th Quarter 2012

Table 6: Unemployment by educational attainment, 4th Quarter 2011 to 4th Quarter 2012

Table 7: Unemployment by age, 4th Quarter 2011 to 4th Quarter 2012

Table 8: Unemployment by work experience, 4th Quarter 2011 to 4th Quarter 2012

Table 9: Economically inactive population by reason, 4th Quarter 2011 to 4th Quarter 2012

Statistics Mauritius
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Port Louis

March 2013

Contact persons: (1) Ms. N. Ramjan (Statistician)
Email: cso_cmphs@mail.gov.mu

(2) Mr. C.K. Arianaick (Statistician)
Email: carianaick@mail.gov.mu

Statistics Mauritius
LIC Centre, Port Louis
Tel: 2122316, 2122317 Fax: 2114150

NOTES

Release of Labour Force data

Labour Force statistics are compiled and published in the “Economic and Social Indicators” in March, June, September and December according to an advance calendar posted on the website of Statistics Mauritius (<http://statsmauritius.gov.mu>). This issue provides data for the fourth quarter 2012 compared to the same quarter a year ago.

However, where appropriate, historical series are also provided for the main indicators.

The CMPHS Survey methodology

Data collection

Face to face interviews of household members are carried out by qualified interviewers recruited by the office.

Frequency of data collection

Data collection is carried out monthly except in 2004 when it 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 has graduated on 28 February 2012.

Scope and coverage of collection

All private Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues are covered.

Sampling method

A Stratified two-stage sampling design is used. 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.

The second stage stratification criteria are community, household size and average monthly expenditure of the household.

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 (b) a second module covering labour force with in-depth investigation and a core set of questions which are kept constant at all rounds of the survey and (c) a third module grouping other topics of interest but investigated in less details.

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, 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.

Classifications used

Labour force, employment and unemployment estimates are produced according to national classifications based on the following international classifications:

- a. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Rev. 4 of 2007;
- b. International Standard Classification of Occupations, 2008; and
- c. International Standard Classification of Education, 1997.

Definitions

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.

Employment

Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 16 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.).

It is to be noted that 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.

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.

Labour force

Labour force or active population is made up of employed and unemployed population.

Unemployment rate

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

Inactive population

Inactive population includes all Mauritians aged 16+ years, 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.

Activity rate

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

Employer

An employer is a person who operates his/her own business or trade and hires one or more employees.

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 contributing family workers.

Employee

An Employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity.

Apprentice

An Apprentice is a person being trained for a job or trade and does not receive pay or may just receive some pocket money; an apprentice is considered as an employee.

Contributing family worker

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

Educational attainment

Primary: comprises persons who have studied up to a “Standard” between Standard 1 and the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) or equivalent.

Secondary: comprises persons who have studied up to a “Form” between Form 1 and the Higher School Certificate (HSC) or equivalent.

Tertiary: comprises persons who in addition to their secondary educational certificates (SC and HSC or equivalent) also possess either a certificate/diploma (which is above the HSC but below a first degree) or a degree.

Annex 3

Annual labour force estimates based on data from different data sources, 2004 - 2012

	Labour force			Employment				Unemployment ¹	
	Mauritians aged 16+	Foreign workers	Total	in large establishment	outside large establishment	Total	of whom Mauritian	Number	Rate
	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	(%)
Both sexes									
2004	531.3	17.5	548.8	293.3	210.9	504.2	486.7	44.6	8.4
2005	542.5	16.6	559.1	292.2	215.0	507.2	490.6	51.9	9.6
2006	548.4	16.7	565.1	295.1	220.2	515.3	498.6	49.8	9.1
2007	548.9	21.6	570.5	302.0	221.7	523.7	502.1	46.8	8.5
2008	559.4	24.0	583.4	311.6	231.4	543.0	519.0	40.4	7.2
2009	566.3	21.0	587.3	306.0	239.8	545.8	524.8	41.5	7.3
2010	581.3	22.0	603.3	310.1	248.0	558.1	536.1	45.2	7.8
2011	582.8	23.0	605.8	310.7	249.0	559.7	536.7	46.1	7.9
2012	593.1	24.0	617.1	311.5	257.3	568.8	544.8	48.3	8.1
Change current year over previous:	10.3	1.0	11.3	0.8	8.3	9.1	8.1	2.2	0.2
Male									
2004	347.8	9.0	356.8	189.1	147.7	336.8	327.8	20.0	5.8
2005	349.6	9.1	358.7	189.3	149.2	338.5	329.4	20.2	5.8
2006	351.4	8.3	359.7	190.0	150.5	340.5	332.2	19.2	5.5
2007	353.6	12.1	365.7	195.6	151.5	347.1	335.0	18.6	5.3
2008	355.6	14.7	370.3	201.0	154.7	355.7	341.0	14.6	4.1
2009	358.1	13.0	371.1	198.0	157.3	355.3	342.3	15.8	4.4
2010	362.4	13.1	375.5	198.8	160.0	358.8	345.7	16.7	4.6
2011	363.6	13.4	377.0	197.8	160.4	358.2	344.8	18.8	5.2
2012	368.4	14.2	382.6	198.3	164.6	362.9	348.7	19.7	5.3
Change current year over previous:	4.8	0.8	5.6	0.5	4.2	4.7	3.9	0.9	0.1
Female									
2004	183.5	8.5	192.0	104.2	63.2	167.4	158.9	24.6	13.4
2005	192.9	7.5	200.4	102.9	65.8	168.7	161.2	31.7	16.4
2006	197.0	8.4	205.4	105.1	69.7	174.8	166.4	30.6	15.5
2007	195.3	9.5	204.8	106.4	70.2	176.6	167.1	28.2	14.4
2008	203.8	9.3	213.1	110.6	76.7	187.3	178.0	25.8	12.7
2009	208.2	8.0	216.2	108.0	82.5	190.5	182.5	25.7	12.3
2010	218.9	8.9	227.8	111.3	88.0	199.3	190.4	28.5	13.0
2011	219.2	9.6	228.8	112.9	88.6	201.5	191.9	27.3	12.5
2012	224.7	9.8	234.5	113.2	92.7	205.9	196.1	28.6	12.7
Change current year over previous:	5.5	0.2	5.7	0.3	4.1	4.4	4.2	1.3	0.2

¹ Unemployment figures and rate refer to Mauritians

Note:

The above figures have been worked out in order to give a set of comparable labour force estimates obtained from different sources. Users are cautioned in the use of these figures given that there are differences related to the reference period, coverage and methodology. The different sources from which these estimates have been obtained are as follows:

- i CMPHS for Mauritian labour force estimates which are subject to sampling variability as mentioned at paragraph 17.
- ii The Annual Survey of Employment and Earnings (SEE) carried out in March of each year. Employment figures refer to jobs in large establishments employing 10 or more persons and include both Mauritians and foreign workers.
- iii Employment in 'other than large' establishments has been estimated after reconciling data from CMPHS, SEE and administrative sources.