

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA**

**Honor — Fraternity — Justice**

**Ministry of Economy and Finance**

**Directorate of Studies and  
Programming**

# **RAMS PROJECT**

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Employment Situation

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EMPLOYMENT REPORT

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## Chapter 1. POPULATION AND MANPOWER STOCK

### 1. Overview

#### 1.1. Introduction

This section presents an analysis of the population and manpower characteristics of Mauritania. The distribution of the population by age, gender, and geographical location (rural/urban, sedentary/nomad, and by agro-ecological zones) is described. Data are presented separately, wherever possible, for the sedentary and nomadic population.

All data are derived from the national census which was conducted from December 1976 through March 1977 and is referred to as the 1977 census.

#### 1.2. Population

The population of Mauritania in 1977 was 1,338,800. Population growth between the census years of 1965 and 1977 is estimated to be between 2,5% and 2,7%. Based on the census figures for these two years the rate of growth was 2,7%. However, Dr. Waltz's study(1) refers to the probable underestimation of the early age-groups in the 1965 census which would lead to a somewhat lower rate of 2,5%.

In any case, the current rate of population growth is based on a high birth rate and a high death rate particularly in the lowest age-groups. Further improvement of health care, both in the rural and urban areas, should bring the death rates down. If this assumption proves correct, Mauritania's population will grow even more rapidly for several years. The demand on limited resources will augment beyond current rates imposing an even greater burden on the public and private sectors to provide additional employment to support the increasing dependent population.

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(1) See Demographic Projections, RAMS Project, March 1980.

### 1.3 Manpower Stock.

Of the total population, those who can potentially work represent the "manpower stock". This is usually defined to include those males and females contained within given age-groups. In modern economies, the most common age-groups utilised are 16-64 and 19-64.

In Mauritania, it is obvious that people generally start to work at an age younger than 16, and that they frequently work beyond 64. Certain types of economic activity have traditionally included persons under 16 years of age. It is not unusual for example, to see youths under the age of 16 and even children down the age of 6, among the herders. Likewise, persons over the age of 64 are commonly found working.

To take these considerations into account, data of manpower stock in Mauritania are presented by four different age-groups, namely:

- Age 6 - 11
- Age 12 - 64
- Age 15 - 64
- Age 65 and over.

In this report, the manpower pools most commonly referred to embrace the age-groups of 12-64 and 15-64... This is, in part, dictated by census definition which automatically exclude from the active population all children under age 12 (even those who had indicated that they were working) and by the normative consideration that this age-group be considered as part of the school population.

The manpower stock between the ages of 12-64 numbered 795.211 or 58 % of the population, and that between the ages 15-64, 708.893 or 52 %. Children 0-11 years numbered 506.453 or 37 % of the population. Within this group, those 6-11 years numbered 240.376 or 17 %. Persons 65 and over numbered 51.154 or 4 %. The population 12 years and over was 846.365 or 63 % of the total. This may be taken as the broadest limits of the manpower stock (see Table 1.1).

Table 1.1  
Mauritania's Manpower Stock (1977)

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent of Total Population</u>
Age 6-11	240.376	17
Age 12-64	795.211	58
Age 15-64	708.893	52
Age 6 and over	1.086.701	80
Age 12 and over	846,365	63
Age 15 and over	760.047	56
Age 65 and over	51.154	4

#### 1.4 The Labor Force.

Although the manpower stock represents the population that potentially can work, obviously there are some persons that realistically cannot work : (the seriously handicapped, the ill, the elderly, pregnant women); others who could work, but work is not generally expected of them (children, students, housewives, the retired), and still others who are capable of working but have chosen not to (persons with independent means, those who cannot find an employment equivalent to their education, and others). All together, these represent the "inactive" part of the manpower stock. In 1977, the inactive population was 394.749 or 29 % of the total population.

The remainder of the manpower stock is economically active. This "labor force" consists of those who are working - the employed - and those who are not working - the unemployed - but who want and are seeking employment.

In 1977, the labor force consisted of 451.616 persons or 33 % of the total population and 56 % of the manpower stock (12-64). It is estimated that 406.956 persons were employed and 44.660 were unemployed at this time, these representing 90,1 % and 9,9 %, respectively, of the labor force.

Recapitulating the preceding paragraphs, the 1977 population, "manpower stock", and the labor force are shown in Table 1.2 .

Table 1.2  
Partition of the Total Population into Children  
Manpower Stock, Inactive, Labor Force, Employed and Unemployed (1977)

Total Population  
 1.339.700

Source : Census Tables  
 TD 02, SA 10, and NA 12

<u>Children 0 - 11</u>  506.453 (37 %)		<u>Population 12 and over</u> (Manpower Stock)  846.365 (63 %)		
% of total population :		<u>12-14</u> 86.318 (10 %)	<u>15 - 64</u> 708.893 (84 %)	<u>65 and over</u> 51.154 (6 %)
		6 %	52 %	4 %
<u>Children 0-5</u>  266.117	<u>Children 6-11</u> 240.336 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> 635.085	<u>Inactive 12 and over</u>  394.749 (47 %)		<u>Labor Force</u>  451.616 (53 %)
% of total Population 20 %	17 %	29 %		<u>Employed</u> 406.956 (90 %)
				<u>Unemployed</u> 44.660 (10 %)
				30 %
				3 %

## Chapter 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION

### 2.1. Introduction

There are various ways of describing the population, each of which has implications for employment. In this section, the analysis will be primarily quantitative and will include the following characteristics: gender, age, nomad/sedentary, and geographical distribution, this last being sub-divided into rural/urban, the District of Nouakchott, the Administrative Regions, and agro-ecological zones (2).

### 2.2. Distribution by Gender

In any given population, it is usual to expect that the number of males and females will be roughly the same. This is true for Mauritania where in 1977 there were 668.000 males and 684.818 females, representing 49,4% and 50,6% respectively, of the population. In various of the age-groups, however, the relationship of the number of males to the number of females shows a departure from the average. The sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) is well above the average through the age of 14 following which it falls below the average. As will be noted in Table 2.1., the ratio of the lower age-groups 0-4, 5-9, and 10-14, are well above 100. A sharp drop in the ratio occurs in the age-group 15-19, and holds for the higher age-groups. One explanation for this is that the sex ratios in the earlier years are inflated due to under-reporting of females (3). Another explanation is that Mauritania's overall balance of in- and out-migration may well be negative. If estimates of a "normal" sex ratio distribution are made (assuming a linear descent from early ages to old ages), approximately 17.500 men aged 20-45 appear to be "missing". This number may be a reflection of the Mauritanian population abroad. This is also supported

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- (2) Other characteristics of the population relating to the qualitative aspects of the population are discussed in RAMS' companion volume MANPOWER. It will include: household size, marital status, professional qualifications, literacy, level of formal and non-formal education, size of family, per capita income and social status.
- (3) See Demographic Projections, RAMS study, p. 102, which also refers to the similarity of this feature with other African countries.

by responses to census items concerning former place of residence which indicate that an average 2.000 to 3.000 Mauritians come home each year to stay for at least two or three years. In order for such a flow to be possible, several thousand Mauritians must also leave the country annually. Most of this movement centers upon the Fleuve region: 80 % of the Mauritians returning each year settle in the Fleuve area (4).

The higher than average concentrations of males in the urban areas - 54 % of the urban population - is attributable to those looking for work and better opportunities. The proportion of males in the sedentary rural areas is also above the norm but less so than in the cities.

Table 2.1  
Sex Ratios of the Resident Population by Age-Groups 1977  
(Males per 100 Females)

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Sex Ratio</u>
0 - 4	104
5 - 9	108
10 - 14	114
15 - 19	96
20 - 24	94
25 - 29	88
30 - 34	82
35 - 39	89
40 - 44	91
45 - 49	99
50 - 54	93
55 - 59	97
60 - 64	88
65 - 69	92
70 - 74	72

Source: GIRM, unpublished census data  
(computer output)

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(4) Ibid. p. 19.

### 2.3 Distribution by Age.

Mauritania has a relatively young population. Over 50 % is under age 18, while children under 12 constitute 37 % of the population. This contributes to a high "dependency index" - the number of people having to be supported by those who work. The relationship of the total population to those employed is 3.3 : 1, that is one person employed has to support 3.3 persons. If the comparison is made between the population and the number of males between the ages of 20 and 64 (270,645), then the ratio rises to 5.0 : 1.

For the foreseeable future, the disproportionately high number of children in the total population's make-up will impose a heavy burden on the working population.

### 2.4 Distribution Sedentary/Nomad

The sedentary population was listed at 295,700 or 67 % of the total, and nomads numbered 444,000 or 33 %. This is quite the reverse of the situation in the year 1965 when the sedentary population was 33 % and the nomadic population 67 %. The severe drought of the late sixties and early seventies gave impulse to a process already under way. Many fled to the cities seeking food and refuge. The rate of growth of the capital city of Nouakchott, already high, was boosted further by the in-migration of large numbers of nomads.

The nomadic population is found mainly in the western and eastern parts of the country. In the regions of Hodh Oriental, Hodh Occidental, Tagan Trarza, and Inchiri, the number of nomads hovers around 50 % of the population. They are found, however, throughout the country albeit in smaller percentages (Table 2.2.).

Table 2.2.

Distribution of the Total Population by  
Sedentary or Nomad and by Region (1977)

(figures in thousands)

Administrative Region or District	POPULATION			Total
	Sedentary	Nomads	% Nomad	
0. NOUAKCHOTT	134.7	0		134.7
1. HODH ORIENTAL	71.0	85.7	55 %	156.7
2. HODH OCCIDENTAL	60.2	64.0	52 %	124.2
3. ASSABA	85.7	43.4	34 %	129.1
4. GORGOL	133.1	16.4	11 %	149.5
5. BRAKNA	100.8	50.6	33 %	151.4
6. TRARZA	109.9	106.1	49 %	216.0
7. ADRAAR	37.7	17.7	32 %	55.4
8. NOUADHIBOU	24.3	0.1		24.4
9. TAGANT	32.5	42.5	57 %	75.0
10. GUIDIMAKA	74.2	9.0	11 %	83.2
11. TIRIS ZEMMOUR	21.8	0.7	3 %	22.5
12. INCHIRI	9.8	7.8	44 %	17.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>895.7</b>	<b>444.0</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>1.339.7</b>

Source: Based on Demographic Projections study, p. 6.

## 2.5 Geographic Distribution

The following section deals with the geographic distribution of the population - in the rural/urban areas, in the Capital District of Nouakchott, in the Administrative Regions, and in the agro-ecological zones. But some preliminary remarks are in order.

Mauritania is something of a paradox. It is a huge country with a relatively small population. Except for the major cities like Nouakchott and Nouadhibou, the population density is very low, ranging from zero in the

"empty quarter" (Majabat Al Koubra) and 0.2 persons per Km<sup>2</sup> in the largely desert regions of Adrar and Inchiri in the north to 9.8 persons per Km<sup>2</sup> in the Gorgol along the Senegal River. Yet, despite the barrenness of the country, and possibly because of it, people will be found in some part of it. Nomads following traditional circuits, the sedentarization of displaced herders who have lost their herds, the urbanization of farmers whose fields are unproductive, the migration of workers from throughout the country to Zouerate and to Akjoujt when the mines were operating, the shanty-towns in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Rosso, villages without prime-age men, and even the ubiquitous Moor businessmen through West Africa - all of these factors attest to the fluid, highly mobile population and work force.

#### 2.5.1. Rural/Urban Distribution

The census lists 1,044,524 persons or 77% of the population as living in rural areas. These sub-divide into sedentary rural of 599,344 and nomadic rural of 445,150 which represent 44% and 33%, respectively, of the population. The sedentary rural population (including transhumants or semi-nomads) is located in some 2,400 villages and small towns. The nomadic population live in a large number of compounds scattered throughout the country, except in the "empty quarter". Region VIII (Nouadhibou) and Region XII (Inchiri) each have less than a thousand nomads.

Mauritania is still very much a rural country. Over three-fourths of the population live in villages or localities of less than 5,000 persons.

The urban population totals 308,294 or 23% of the population. Nouakchott, the capital, alone had 134,708 inhabitants. While this was 44% of the urban population, it represented less than 10% of the total population. Nouadhibou and Kaedi followed with 21,930 and 20,707 inhabitants, respectively, or 7% each of the total population.

Nouakchott is fast becoming a city whose population magnitude and economic importance (related, of course, to its status as the capital city) far out-distances the cities next in size (Table 2.3). The population ratio of Nouakchott to Nouadhibou and to Kaedi is now 7 : 1,

and given the current rates of growth, it may well become 10 : 1 by the end of the eighties. This condition is still in evolution, as evidenced by the continuing influx of nomads into the cities with Nouakchott as their main resting place. Given the fact, however, the Nouakchott's population is now but 10% of the total population, there is fortunately still time to forestall the eventuality so common to developing countries, of a single city (often the capital city) dominating the nation's social and economic life to the point of "suffocating" the development of other regions.

#### 2.5.2. Distribution by Administrative Region

The country is divided into 12 Administrative Regions and the Capital District. The regions with the largest areas are the desert lands, largely barren, found in the north and east. Tiris Zemmour has an area of 252.900 Km<sup>2</sup>, Adrar 215.300 Km<sup>2</sup> and Hodh Oriental 182.700 Km<sup>2</sup>. The three regions combined account for two-thirds of the national territory.

The population is largely concentrated in the southern third of the country, however, roughly below a line running from Nouakchott in the west to Nema in the east, the five northern regions (Adrar, Nouadhibou, Tagant, Tiris Zemmour, and Inchiri) have a total population of 194.900 or 15% of the total population, while the remaining seven regions and the Capital District have 1.144.100 inhabitants or 85% of the population. The region with the largest population is Trarza with 216.400 inhabitants. It is followed by Brakna with 151.400 and Gorgol with 149.500. In the next rank are Hodh Oriental with 134.700, Assaba 129.100, and Hodh Occidental 124.000. The Capital District of Nouakchott has 134.704.

Population density is highest, of course, in the Capital District, 1.122 persons per Km<sup>2</sup>. In contrast, the density in the other regions is low, varying from 9.8 persons per Km<sup>2</sup> in the Gorgol to 0.2 per Km<sup>2</sup> in Adrar. For the country as a whole, the population density is 1.2 per Km<sup>2</sup>.

Between the censuses of 1965 and 1977, the Capital District increased its share of the total population from 1.2 % to 9.6 %. Likewise, the region of Nouadhibou raised its share from 1.0 % to 1.7 %. Where other regions increased their share of the population, it was usually due to the increase in population of the urban centers. Hodh Occidental went from 8.5 % to 9.5 % and Gorgol from 8.0 % to 10.7 %. The remaining regions saw their share of the population reduced in this period, except for Tiris ~~Le~~hour which remained virtually unchanged (Table 2.4.)

The 17 towns in which the urban population are located are listed below :

Table 2.3.  
Distribution of the Urban Population by City (1977)

<u>City</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>% of Urban Population</u>
Nouakchott	134.704	44 %
Nouadhibou	21.930	7 %
Kaedi	20.707	7 %
Zouerate	19.473	6 %
Rosso	16.510	5 %
Atar	16.180	5 %
Kiffa	10.266	3 %
Aioun	8.505	3 %
Akjoujt	8.042	3 %
Nema	7.938	3 %
Tidjikja	7.861	2 %
Boghé	7.836	2 %
Boutilimit	7.256	2 %
Selibaby	5.993	2 %
Aleg	5.316	2 %
Timbedra	5.302	2 %
Total	303,819	100 %

Source : RAMS Demographic Projections, p. 25

### 2.5.3 Distribution of Population by Agro-Ecological Zones

Five agro-ecological zones have been identified in Mauritania (5) :

- a) The alluvial valley of the River Senegal
  - b) A zone, roughly between the precipitation lines of 600 mm and 400 mm, where a precarious rain-fed agriculture is carried out
  - c) Wadi-agriculture based on the damming of gullies or gorges utilizing the available precipitation run-off
  - d) Oasis agriculture, mainly palm plantations
  - e) Pastures for the keeping of herds
- (Map. 2.1. and Table 2.5,2.6.)

In the case of (a) and (b) above, the agricultural activities are confined to a particular physical space. In the case of (c), (d), and (e), however, the agricultural activity is concentrated in given zones of the country, but they may also be found in other areas where essentially the same agro-ecological conditions exist. In this case, there is some overlapping of zones.

The most fertile lands of the country are undoubtedly found in the valley of the Senegal River. According to RAMS study: "It is a privileged zone with a potential greatly superior to the other agro-ecological zones. The River Senegal flows in a fertile, alluvial valley which is enriched with loam every year thanks to the rising of the river between June and October. This valley extends approximately 400 Kilometers from the village of Dembakane to St. Louis, located on the delta in the west. The extent of the river's rising determines the cultivable area in the Oualo (bottom land). In 1972, the rising was practically non-existent as a result of which farmers could not cultivate but very narrow bands of land, altogether around 15.000 hectares according to estimates made by F.A.O. . In this same year, the decline in the harvest of cereals - millet, sorghum, maize, and rice - was estimated at 90 % in the Oualo and on the dieri (higher ground) of the river."

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(5) See study on The Major Agro-Ecological Zones of Mauritania, in two volumes, 1980; RAMS PROJECT. For the sake of completion, mention is also made of three non-agro-ecological zones: The Desert Majabat Al Koubra, urban centers, and zones of transition crossed by major roads.

There are also parts of the valley where the precipitation is just sufficient (600 mm to 450 mm) to permit a rain-fed agriculture. This condition extends north of the valley for approximately 100 kilometers, say, to latitude 18. Thus, both the recession-agriculture and rain-fed agriculture are current practices in the valley. Indeed, instances of pastoralism are also found where the attempt is made to derive benefit from the scattered vegetation as one proceeds north from the border.

Only a rough estimate can be made of the population living in the valley, since the data are collected on the basis of administrative subdivisions. By piecing together the census data for the departments which border the Senegal River, it is estimated that the population is around 325,000 or one-fourth of the total population. In this zone are included the regional urban centers of Rosso, Boghe, Kaedi, Maghama, Selibaby.

The rain-fed agriculture of Zone 2 is confined essentially to that part of the territory south of the precipitation line of 450 mm, a band roughly 75 kilometers in width. It includes parts of the regions of Guidimaka, Assaba, Western Hodh, and Eastern Hodh. The agriculture is traditional and of the extensive type (spade, hoe, etc...).

The meager precipitation does not permit but a partial use of the agriculture potential. The cultivated area varies considerably from year to year. Compared to the river valley, this zone is vastly more subject to the vagaries of climate, and the insufficiency of water does not permit the installation of hydraulic facilities contemplated for Zone 1. The principal crops are sorghum and millet.

Pasturage of the extensive type rather than dry-farming has been recommended for the conditions of this zone. Stands of gum trees have managed to survive the drought contrary to the situation in the southwest and north.

The population of this zone is estimated to be 175,000.

In an area where a rain-fed agriculture would be all but impossible, wadi-agriculture of Zone 3 uses the accidental terrain and its soil structure to make the most of the sparse rainfall (450 - 150 mm). The massif of this zone provides a surface and conformation favorable to the flow and collection of water. Small dams are erected across the wadis permitting the collection and storage of water from the network of small streams which drain into the wadi. This process is assisted by the presence of clay-type soils.

The use of wadis for agricultural purposes is particularly concentrated in the regions of Assaba, Tagant, Adrar, and Brakna, although they are not uncommon in other parts of the country where the physical conditions are similar.

The current contribution to the nation's agriculture is minor: barely 3.000 hectares were cultivated in 1979. Its potential is reported to be greater if the dams were kept in good condition and other dams built. For the present, they make a contribution to the nourishment of semi-nomads and to the relatively sparse sedentary populations of those areas. Livestock is the principal activity of these areas, but it is a fragile existence.

The population in this zone, embracing those parts of Assaba, Tagant, Adrar and Brakna where wadi-agriculture is practiced is small. It is estimated at around 75.000.

The cultivation of the date palms requires, ideally, a dry climate where the rain is sparse or not existent, and where the humidity is low. It also requires the existence of shallow aquifers within the reach of the roots of the date palm. Generally speaking, these conditions are found north of the 200 mm isohyet (precipitation line) covering the broad central part of the country. South of the 200 mm line to the 300 mm line, the cultivation of date palms is possible provided that the harvest could be protected against the rain. South of the 300 mm line it is not recommended because the quantity of rain is excessive. Along the coast, from a point south of Nouakchott to north of Nouadhibou

the cultivation is possible provided that varieties are selected that can tolerate the higher humidities of the coastal areas. Most of the desert of Majabat El Koubra and the northern part of the country are excluded because of the absence, or excessive depth, of the underlying aquifers.

Put differently, the zone of oasis agriculture stretches across the administrative regions of the two Hodhs, Assaba, Adrar, and Tagant.

In this zone are 256 localities or 19% of the total of 1.349 localities in these six regions. These add up to a sedentary population (rural and urban) of 122.337 or 31.7% of the total sedentary population of these regions. In addition, it is estimated that the nomad population would include 124.878 inhabitants or 48.2% of the total nomad population of these regions. The sum of sedentary and nomad population in the zone of oasis agriculture thus is 247.715 inhabitants or 35.8% of the population of these regions, and 18.3% of the country's population. By 1980, this population was probably closer to 256.000 inhabitants.

Having said this, it is well to point out that oasis agriculture rarely constitutes the sole means of existence of a given group, but rather forms part of a mixture of activities according to the physical and human environment, which may include the cultivation of crops, livestock, commerce, and herding (Figure 2).

TABLE 2.4

AGRO-ECOLOGICAL ZONES

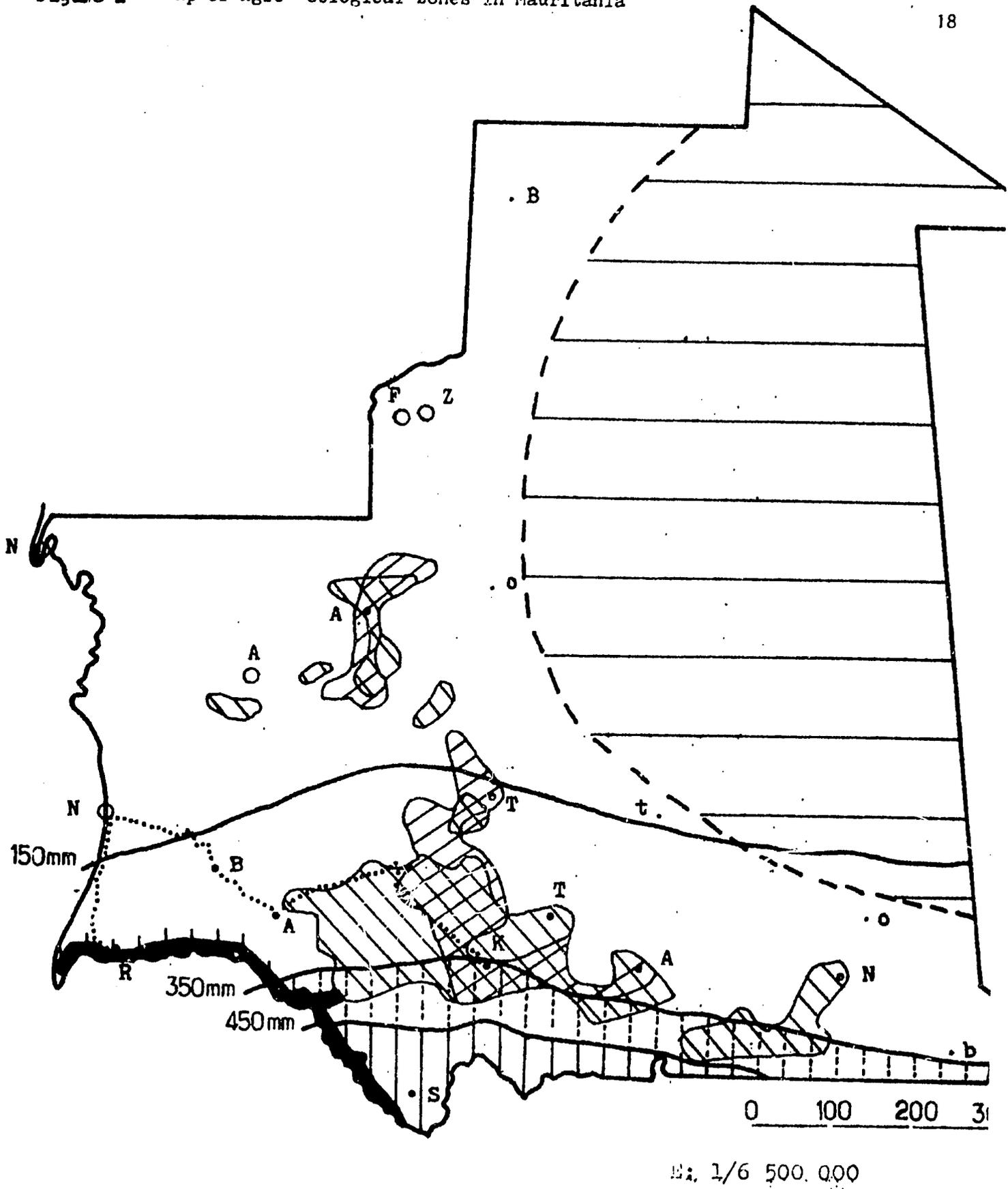
Zone No.	Name	Activity Determining Choice of Zone	Physical Limits	Other Major Activities
1	Senegal River Valley	Floodland cultivation in the Oualo, irrigation. Complementary diersi cultivation.	Senegal River alluvial valley	Livestock, fishing
2	Rainfed Cultivation	Generalized practice of rainfed cultivation, millet dominant.	450 mm isohyetal in the north, but can attain 350 mm occasionally.	Livestock (transhumance and nomadism) is the major activity.
3	Oued Floodland Cultivation	Numerous agricultural dams either traditional or modern for floodland cultivation (Sorghum dominant)	Impermeable rocky substrata : highlands and rags. Not represented on too sandy surfaces.	Livestock (transhumance and nomadism) is the main activity.
4	Palm Groves	Raising of date palms.	Average temperature higher than 28° C, presence of alluvial aquifers. Preference for highlands	Livestock secondary. Different secondary crops: cereals, vegetables.
5	Pastoral	Raising of camels, cattle, sheep, goats.	Limited rainfall, pastures and water holes are constraints for pastoral activities.	Extensive livestock raising is the only activity. According to rainfall; small islets of cultivation occasionally appear.

Table 2.5

OTHER ZONES  
(non "agro-ecological")

<u>Zone No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Determining Zone</u>	<u>Location (See Map)</u>
6	Desert (Majabat al Koubra)	Zone with no human activity. A mineral world where vege- tation is rare. This extremely arid zone is a special ecological zone.	East of Mauritania
7	Modern Urban Zones	Towns linked to mining and port activities. Administrative and political capitals, with small industry. These towns have a direct and indirect impact on Mauritanian activities.	Zouérate-F'Derick (Akjoujt) Nouadhibou Nouakchott
8	Transition Zones corre- sponding to recently paved roads.	These road axes modify regional equilibrium by exchanges between regions and population movements, thus, their impact on the envi- ronment crossed is not neg- ligeable.	Road axes: Nouakchott - Rosso and Nouakchott - Kiffa

Figure 1 Map of Agro-Ecological zones in Mauritania



Legend of the Map of Mauritanian Agro-Ecological  
Zones .

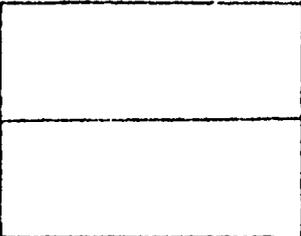
1. Agro-Ecological Zones

-  1. Senegal River Valley
-  250mm  
+0  
450mm
-  450mm  
+0  
650mm
- } 2. Rain-fed cultivation
-  3. Oued floodland cultivation
-  4. Palm groves (oasis)
-  5. Pastoral zone

Overlapping Zone

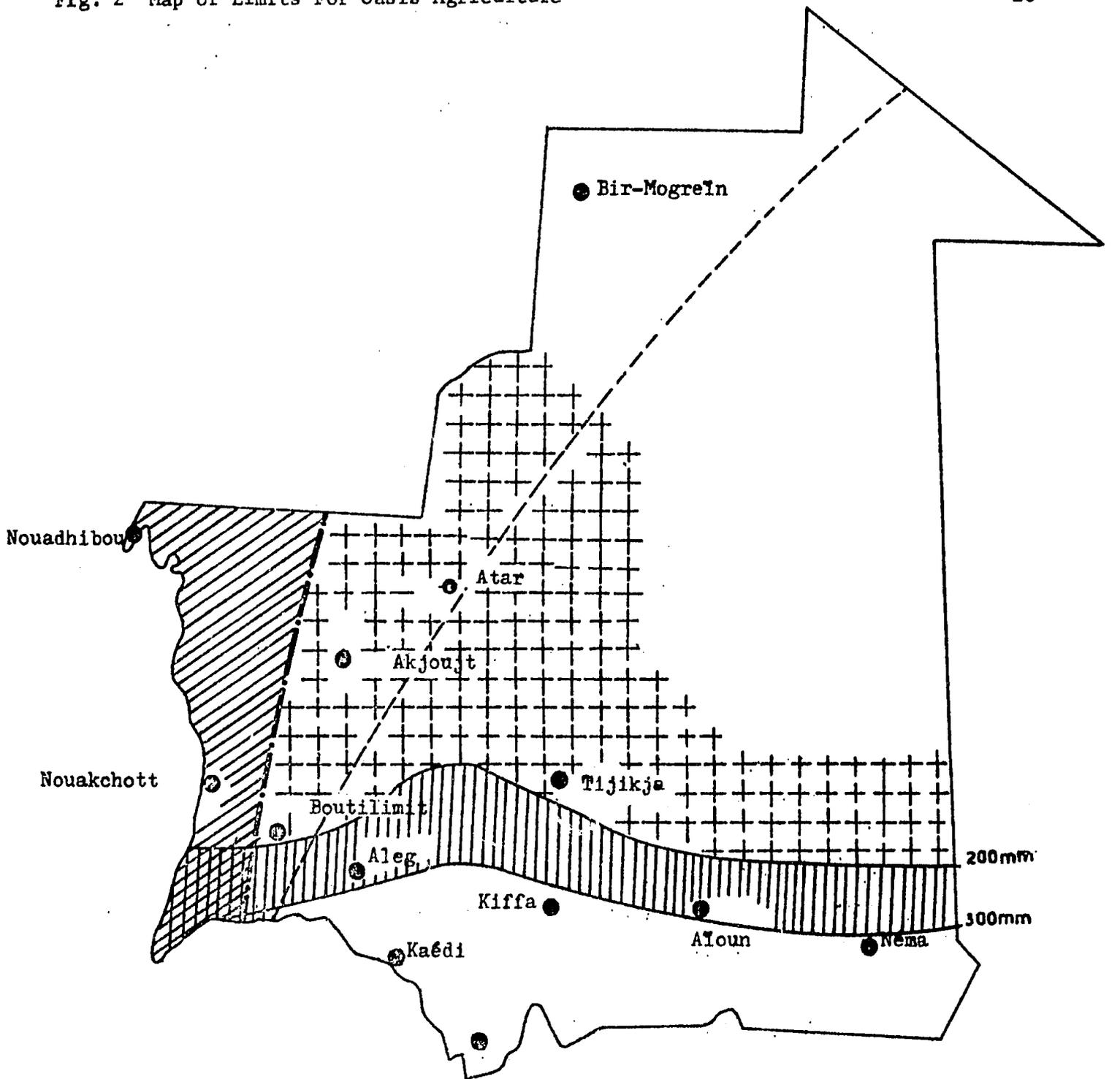
-  1. Oued floodland cultivation and palm groves
-  2. Oued floodland cultivation and rainfed cultivation  
(between 350mm +0 450MM)
-  3. Intermixing of 3 zones - Palm groves  
- Oued floodland cultivation  
- Rainfed cultivation  
(between 350mm +0 450mm)

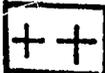
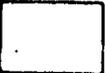
2. Special Ecological zone

-  Majabat Al Koubra

3. Other Non-Ecological zones

- Modern urban zones
- Transitional zones: recently paved roads.



-  Zone where oasis agriculture is economical without risk.
-  Zone where oasis agriculture would be economic without the proper suitable variety of plants.
-  Zone where oasis agriculture would be economic assuming protection of the harvest against rain.
-  Zone where oasis agriculture is compromised by precipitation.
-  Zone where oasis agriculture would be compromised by excessive humidity and precipitation.
-  annual isohyete
-  relative humidity 50%
-  trade wind
-  principal cities

## Chapter 3. THE EXISTING LABOR FORCE

### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the existing labor force in terms of its basic sub-divisions - sedentary/nomad, rural/urban, and public/private. In doing so, it deals with the sectoral/occupational structure within these sub-divisions, and, so far as the data will permit, with employment status, the role of women etc... The analysis is based on the data provided by the national population census of 1977 supplemented by the (separate) censuses of the modern business sector (six cities) and of the informal business sector of Nouakchott. The chapter concludes with some observations regarding the employment implications of the data.

#### 3.1.1 The Sedentary Labor Force

It will be recalled (chapter 1) that the manpower stock numbered 846.000 (12 years and older) in 1977, and that the labor force consisted of 451.000 persons. Of this, the sedentary portion consisted of 301.000 and the nomad portion 150.000 (Table 3.1.)

#### 3.1.2 Sectoral Employment in Rural/Urban Areas

The importance of the rural areas, in employment terms, is evidenced by the fact that the sedentary labor force is two-third rural and one-third urban. The predominance of the agricultural sector in the rural areas is, of course, to be expected: it accounts for 135.000 or 69.3 % of the total employment in rural areas. This exceeds by 10 times the next most numerous groups of 13.900 (7.1 %) for commerce and transport and by 13 times the 10.870 service and social workers (5.6 %). The handicraft and light industrial sectors are not to be discounted, however, as sources of employment in the rural areas: apprentices numbered 15.900 and artisans 6.840, and between them accounting for 11.7 % of rural jobs.

In the urban areas, commerce (and transport) accounted for 23.320 jobs or 22% and this was followed by 21.200 apprentices or 20 %. Other service

(and social) workers were listed at 14,830 or 14,0%. Industrial workers in the modern sector were indicated at 3,170 or only 3,0%. For the country as a whole, the agricultural sector absorbed 142,810 workers or 48% of the sedentary labor force. The next most important sectors were commerce (and transport) with 37,220 or 12,4%, apprentices and other inexperienced workers with 37,100 or 12,3%, and service (and social) workers 25,700 or 8,5%. At the next lower level are construction and public works with 16,560 or 5,5%; armed and security forces with 15,830 or 5,3%; and artisans numbering 12,480 or 4,0%. Administration and communications with 7,370 and professional and technical workers completed the roster with 2,090 (Table 3.2).

### 3.1.3. The Occupational Mix in the Rural/Urban Areas

Reference to the 92 distinct occupations in Table 3.3 indicates that 59,880 or 33,5% of 178,855 workers in rural areas were listed as farmers, the remainder of 118,975 consisting of family workers, hired hands, herders, and a few engaged in large agricultural projects. Non-agricultural workers, who constituted a slight majority of total workers in rural areas, were engaged mainly in commerce, in handling and transporting crops, in handicrafts and light industries and household work.

Occupational categories appear to be more evenly distributed in urban areas. The largest single occupation consists of retail merchants - 11,158 or 13,9% of the urban total. This is followed by houseboys with 9,212 or 11,5%, drivers/mechanics 6,228 or 7,8%, manual labor in construction 5,551 or 6,9%, and soldiers and policemen 4,547 or 5,7%. All of these taken together add up to 36,696 or 45,8% of the urban total, well short of the single occupation of 59,880 farmers in the rural sector. Although total urban employment is less than total rural employment, about half of the listed occupations (48 out of 92) are found in the urban areas. Most are typically urban such as industrial and construction labor, carpenters, metal workers, drivers, masons, dockers, but also bookkeepers, nurses, Government administration, and workers in personal services. The obviously rural occupations

Table 3.1.

Sedentary Labor Force by Age-Groups  
Male/Female, Employed/Unemployed (1977)

Age Groups	Employed				Unemployed				Total Sedentary Labor Force			
	Male	% Male	Female	Total	Male	% Male	Female	Total	Male	% Male	Female	Total
12-14	10.190	67,08	5.000	15.190	2.080	52,92	1.850	3.930	12.270	64,17	6.350	19.120
15-19	24.930	72,36	9.520	34.450	7.150	62,50	4.290	11.440	32.080	69,91	13.810	45.890
20-64	159.310	79,56	40.940	200.250	19.200	71,51	7.650	26.850	178.510	78.60	48.590	227,100
65-75	7.150	83,26	1.440	8.600	190	79,17	50	240	7.350	83,14	1.490	8.840
15-64	186.240	78,50	50.460	234.700	26.350	68,82	11.940	38.290	210.590	77,14	62.400	272.990
12-64	194.430	77,81	55.460	249.890	28.430	67,34	13.790	42.220	222.860	76,29	69.250	292.110
Total	201.590	77,99	56.900	258.490	28.620	67,40	13.840	42.460	230.210	76,48	79.740	300.950
				(259.166) (1)								(301.826) (1)

(1) This table uses a 10 % sample of responses. As a result, the total 12 + sedentary employed population indicated is only 258.490, instead of the 259.166 figure found in census table 22 bis which has a 100 % sample of the same population. The 259.166 plus the 42.460 unemployed gives a total sedentary work force of 301.626 rather than the 300.950 of table SA 10. The difference of 676 may be due to rounding errors. A 100 % sample by age and sex is not currently available.

Source: Census table SA 10

are farmers ; other agricultural workers, fishermen, herders, charcoal producers and lumberjacks. In a third group, however, are occupations which are fairly evenly divided between the rural and urban areas: artisan and handicraft workers such as leather-workers, jewelers, weavers, artists, basketmakers and tanners. Also included in this group are vendors and the security occupations.

#### 3.1.4 Employment Status

Total sedentary employment was 258.490 in 1977, and unemployment was 42.460. The self-employed constituted the largest group among the employed, numbering 118.070 or 45 % of the total. If working family members listed at 61.070 are added to the self-employed, the individual household accounts for 184.000 persons or almost 70 % of the sedentary employed. Wage and salary earners followed with 66.070 or 25 % of the total . Non-family dependents were 12.710 and owners 570. Unemployment is more concentrated in the non-formal private sector particularly among apprentices and inexperienced workers. This group accounts for 85 % of sedentary unemployment. The open unemployment rate in commerce and transport was 4 %, construction and public works 3 %, and agriculture 2 %. (Table 3.4.)

#### 3.1.5 Employment of Women

Males comprise 76 % of the sedentary labor force, and females 24 %. Males predominate in the armed and security forces, construction and public works, industry, commerce and transport, administration and communication, and as apprentices in the artisanal and semi-industrial crafts. The percentage of women is high in artisanry, in the social and service fields, and as doctors, nurses, teachers, and as domestic workers and clerical workers.

Table 3.2.

THE SEDENTARY LABOR FORCE : SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION IN  
RURAL/URBAN AREAS (1977)

<u>Sector Group</u>	<u>Urban Areas</u>		<u>Rural Areas</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agriculture	7.730	1,3	135.080	69,3	142.810	47,5
Industry	3.170	3,0	0.620	0,3	3.790	1,3
Artisan	5.640	5,3	6.840	3,54	12.480	4,0
Administration and Communication	6.760	6,4	0.610	0,3	7.370	7,5
Construction and Public Works	13.840	13,1	2.720	1,4	16.560	5,5
Commerce and Transport	23.320	22,0	13.900	7,1	37.220	12,4
Professional and Technical	1.680	1,6	0.410	0,2	7.090	0,7
Armed and Security Forces	7.760	7,3	8.070	4,1	15.830	5,3
Service/Social	14.830	14,0	10.870	5,6	25.700	8,5
Apprentices, Retirees and Inexperienced	21.200	20,0	15.900	8,2	37.100	12,3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105.930</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>195.020</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>300.950</b>	<b>100,0</b>

Table 3.3.  
Sedentary Population Employed by Occupation (1977)

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number of Workers</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>
1. Farmers	63.283	3.403	59.880
2. Others in Agriculture	51.045	970	50.075
3. Retail Merchants	21.276	11.158	10.118
4. Houseboys	17.024	9.212	7.812
5. Herders	11.666	909	10.757
6. Shepherds	11.237	370	10.867
7. Soldiers, Policemen	9.888	4.547	5.341
8. Drivers, Mechanics	7.084	6.228	856
9. Manual Labor in construction	6.810	5.551	1.259
10. Guards, Militia	4.069	1.613	2.456
11. Salesmen	3.614	1.871	1.743
12. Masons	3.240	2.488	752
13. Leatherworkers	3.016	756	2.260
14. Jewelers	2.821	975	1.846
15. Fisherman	2.375	733	1.642
16. Primary School Teachers	2.223	1.323	901
17. Workers in Personal Services	1.953	1.665	288
18. Secretaries	1.876	1.742	134
19. Clergy	1.873	724	1.149
20. Tailors	1.867	1.546	321
21. Slaughterers, Bakers	1.668	1.104	564
22. Non-specified Industrial Labor	1.495	1.251	244
23. Administratives agents and Office workers	1.433	1.267	166

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number of Workers by Occupations</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>
24. Weavers	1,271	346	925
25. Wholesaler, Merchants transporter	1,211	780	431
26. Carpenters	1,159	1,056	103
27. Other artisans	1,090	387	903
28. Orderlies	1,051	926	125
29. Bookkeepers	972	930	42
30. Dockers, seaman	914	813	101
31. Other construction and public work workers	850	665	185
32. Agricultural workers in large projects	845	355	490
33. Nurses, Aides, and Other Health workers	753	591	162
34. Electricians	730	696	34
35. Charcoal producers and Lumber jacks	711	159	552
36. Gardeners	700	211	489
37. Metal workers	695	630	65
38. Prison workers, detectives	638	528	110
39. Others in services; beggars	609	224	385
40. Construction apprentices, bulldozer operators	606	466	140
41. Heavy machinery operators	590	502	140
42. Other industrial workers	563	427	136
43. Peddlers	562	317	245
44. Secondary School Teachers	546	481	65
45. Artists writers	504	278	226
46. Others in government administration	472	413	59
47. Others in administration and communications	471	389	82

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number of Workers by Occupation</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>
48. Office Managers	467	389	82
49. Nurses, Midwives, Mid-level Health Workers	461	370	91
50. Painters, glassmakers, Plasterers	442	423	19
51. Other Apprentices	407	340	67
52. Custom Officials	401	330	71
53. Contractors, foreman	394	369	25
54. Radio and telephone Operators	392	343	49
55. Owners and Directors in commerce and Transportation	363	202	161
56. Others in commerce and transportation	330	253	77
57. Architects, technical engineers	286	280	6
58. Other School Personnel	285	217	68
59. Agents, sales chief	276	270	6
60. Economists, accountants	258	254	4
61. Nurserymen	249	22	227
62. Pottery workers	236	65	171
63. Industrial foremen	231	206	25
64. Plumbers	214	182	32
65. Armed Forces officers	195	157	38
66. High Level Technicians	182	178	4
67. Printers	173	155	18
68. Armed Forces Staff	167	156	11
69. Miners	135	128	7
70. Firemen, Environmental Protection Officers	128	103	25
71. Warehousemen	119	115	4
72. Armed Forces technicians	112	110	2

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number of Workers by Occupation</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>
73. Basketmakers	111	28	83
74. Judges, lawyers	99	78	21
75. Tool operators	98	95	3
76. Doctors	88	84	4
77. Clerks	82	51	31
78. Receptionists	68	67	1
79. Artisans of household articles	66	46	20
80. Biologist, agronomists,	49	43	6
81. Tanners	46	11	35
82. Sociologists, anthropologists	43	40	3
83. Chemists, geologists	42	41	1
84. Communicators	26	25	1
85. Other professional and technical workers	25	25	-
86. Mineral Processing	15	15	-
87. Insurance, real estate agents	14	13	1
88. Hunters	13	1	12
89. Food Processing	12	9	3
90. Retired	8	6	2
91. Others in Armed Forces	5	4	1
92. Textile workers	4	4	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	259.166	80.311	178.855

Source : 1977 Census of Mauritania;  
computer printout table 22 B  
these data are summarized  
without adjustment.

Table 3.4.  
Sedentary Labor Force in Urban and Rural Areas by Professional Status in 1977

PROFESSIONAL STATUS	Wage and Salary Workers	Non-Family Domestic Workers	Self - Employed Workers	Owners	Working Family Members	Total Employed	Unemployed Workers	Total
Rural	18.640 (10 %)	9.340 (5 %)	90.210 (46 %)	240 (0,1 %)	59.520 (30 %)	177.950 (91 %)	17.070 (0,9 %)	195.020 (100 %)
Urban	47.430 (45 %)	3.370 (3 %)	27.860 (26 %)	330 (0 %)	1.550 (2 %)	80.540 (76 %)	25.390 (24 %)	105.930 (100 %)
Total	66.070 (22 %)	12.710 (4 %)	118.070 (39 %)	570 (0,2 %)	61.070 (20 %)	258.490 (86 %)	42.460 (14 %)	300.950 (100 %)

Source: 1977 census of Mauritania; Computer printout table SA 19. Data are summarized without adjustment.

### 3.2 The Nomad Labor Force

The nomad labor force numbered 149.990 in 1977, constituting one-third of the national total. The vast majority of nomad workers are engaged in livestock and/or farming. Tending of livestock accounted for 77,6% and farming for 14,9% of those employed. Other activities such as artisanal activities, commerce and household services are relatively minor in respect to the number of persons employed. The unemployed were 1,8% of the total.

About one-sixth of the total number of households, 24.272 out of 149.990, were headed by women. This is explained by the number of males who, for shorter or longer periods of time, are absent seeking more remunerative employment elsewhere.

The importance of pastoralism in the nomad way of life is indicated also by the fact that 80% of the nomad population is supported through this activity. Farming accounts for 15%.

Most households combine a principal economic activity with a secondary activity, the most frequent being livestock and farming. For those households engaged primarily in the rearing of livestock, somewhat more than a fifth of them are also engaged in farming. Of those who are dedicated primarily to farming, as many are also engaged in the tending of livestock. Only to a small extent are they engaged in other activities.

Tables summarizing the characteristics of the nomad labor force are shown in the Tables 3.5 through 3.8.

Table 3.5.  
NOMADIC POPULATION SUPPORTED BY  
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (1977)

	Number	%
Livestock	350.580	78,8
Farming	67.232	15,1
Commerce, transport	10.739	2,4
Artisan	4.511	1,0
Other services	7.166	1,6
Unemployed	4.922	1,1
<b>Total</b>	<u>445.150</u>	<u>100 %</u>

Source: Census Data, Exhibit 5

Table 3.6.  
NOMAD LABOR FORCE BY ECONOMIC SECTOR.  
EMPLOYED/UNEMPLOYED AND MALE/FEMALE  
HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD ((1977))

<u>Employed</u>	<u>Economic Sector</u>		<u>Head of Household</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Male(12 year and over)</u>	<u>Female</u>
Agriculture	138.906	92,5	174.335	23.024
Livestock	116.323	77,6	99.028	17.295
Farming	22.583	14,9	18.983	3.600
Crafts	1.821	1,2	1.270	551
Com. Rest. + Hotels	3.677	2,5	3.030	647
Services	2.955	2,0	2.024	931
<u>Unemployed</u>	<u>7.631</u>	<u>1,8</u>	<u>1.383</u>	<u>1.748</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>149.990</u>	<u>100,0</u>	<u>125.718</u>	<u>24.272</u>

Source: Census Data, Exhibit 5

Table 3.7.  
 NOMAD POPULATION BY PRINCIPAL/SECONDARY/OTHER  
 ACTIVITIES OF HOUSEHOLDS

Rank of Household Activity	Population	%
1. Livestock	257.075	73
2. Farming	75.418	22
3. Other	18.087	5
Sub Total	<u>350.580</u>	<u>100</u>
1. Farming	28.731	43
2. Livestock	35.783	53
3. Other	2.718	4
Sub Total	<u>67.232</u>	<u>100</u>
1. Crafts	2.855	63
2. Other	1.664	37
Sub Total	<u>4.519</u>	<u>100</u>
1. Commerce, transport	4.290	40
2. Other	6.499	60
Sub Total	<u>10.739</u>	<u>100</u>
1. Services	5.719	80
2. Other	1.447	20
Sub Total	<u>7.166</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTAL	445.150	-

Table 3.8.

Nomad Labor Force by Age Groups and Male/Female (1977)

Males (12years +) <sup>a)</sup>				Females (Heads of Household) <sup>b)</sup>				Total Labor Force			
Age Groups	With Activity	Without Activity	Total	Age Groups	With Activity	Without Activity	Total	Age Groups	With Activity	Without Activity	Grand Total
12-14 <sup>c)</sup>	14.650	299	14.949	0-14	34	7	41	12-14	14.634	306	14.990
15-19	20.422	129	20.551					15-19	47.146	450	47.596
20-24	13.296	111	13.407	15-29	2.238	137	3.075				
25-29	10.490	73	10.563	30-34	5.764	269	6.033	30-59	66.503	780	67.288
30-39	17.510	84	17.594	45-59	7.056	287	7.343	60 et +	19.452	664	20.116
40-49	20.230	87	20.317	60 et +	7.232	548	7.780				
50-59	15.948	52	16.001								
60 et +	12.220	116	12.336								
total											
15-60	10.116	653	110.769		22.990	1.241	24.231		133.106	1.894	135.000
Grand Total	124.766	952	125.718		23.024				147.790	2.200	149.990

Sources: a) Census table NA 13

b) Census table NA 12

c) Census table TD 02. Actual numbers of "with activity" and "without activity" are calculations based on the assumption that 98 % of that age group="with activity" and 2% of that age group="without activity".

### 3.3 Government Employment

The Government is the largest single employer in the country. Computer printouts provided by the Government list a total of 9,570 employees. Table 3.9. summarizes the 1980 printout by Ministry and grade level of employment.

The largest number of employees are found in those Ministries which provide services directly to the people. Two Ministries, Education (with 37 %) and Health, Labor, and Social Affairs (with 19 %) together provide over half of the total non-security Government employment. Finance and Commerce is the next largest with 12 %. By far the large majority of the population live in the rural areas, but the Ministry of the Rural Development has only 7 % of the total employees of the Government. The Ministry of Interior, without security has 6 % of that work force, and the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs has 5 %. The other ten Ministries have each 3 % or less.

Of the grade levels, Category A with 619 employees is the smallest and makes up only 6 % of the (non military) Government work force. Category B has triple the employment of Category A with 1,772 (19 %). Category C and D each have 31 % of the total with 2,927 and 2,998, respectively. Finally, the Category "Other" has 1,254 (13 %). Of these, about half (688) are persons hired under contract rather than as regular civil servants, chauffeurs (265), and servants (111).

The Government constitutes a major reservoir (with the modern private sector) of educated and skilled manpower in Mauritania. A fair approximation of the educational attainments of the Government's employees can be made from the 1980 printout, since each category and grade corresponds to a specific minimum entry level of educational attainment. (Table 3.10.)

The manpower skills stock is derived by counting the number of employees at each grade/education level. Therefore, there are:

619	With a high school diploma and higher education
1,772	With a junior high diploma and advanced education or training
2,927	With a grade school diploma and additional education or technical training
2,998	With some combination of primary education, technical training and job experience
1,254	With a wide variety of education experience and skills.

The distribution of current employment in the Government gives an approximate idea of the types of occupations that are likely to be most in demand in the future. The demand for teachers is the most obvious. Other service-related occupations, such as health workers, also appear likely to be much in demand. If the high priority assigned to the agricultural sector and to the development of the rural areas is implemented, then relatively large numbers of specialists in these areas will be needed. It can also be assumed that there will be further need for administrators and office workers in the Ministries, and for technicians and specialists as well.

Source: Gouvernement of Mauritania  
1980 Print-out

Table 3.9.

Government Employees by Ministries and Grade Level, 1980

Employees' Grade Level

Ministry	A	B	C	D	Other	Total	%distribution
<b>Fundamental and Secondary</b>							
Education .....	231	918	1.631	492	288	3.560	37 ..
Industry and Mines.....	11	17	28	35	18	109	1 ..
Rural Development.....	14	121	194	2.155	137	681	7 ..
Youth, Sports, Artisans, and Tourism .....	9	34	58	162	48	311	3 ..
Civil Service and Staff Training.....	17	21	33	38	49	158	2 ..
Interior.....	89	89	170	115	65	528	6 ..
Equipment and Transport... Culture, Information, and Telecommunication.	5	39	47	79	47	217	2 ..
8	7	9	45	13	82	1 ..	
Planning and Fishing.....	7	12	7	23	11	60	1 ..
Finance and Commerce.....	135	174	157	556	132	1.154	12 ..
Justice and Islamic Affairs	11	47	117	147	121	443	5 ..
Foreign Affairs .....	17	9	11	22	11	70	1..
Health, Labor and Social Affairs.....	30	254	418	949	171	1.822	19
Headquarters of the Military Committee of National Salvation....	3	3	4	18	6	34	0,4 ..
Presidency of the Government .....	31	25	40	98	128	322	3 ..
Community Expense .....	2	2	3	4	8	19	0,2 ..
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>1.772</b>	<b>2.927</b>	<b>2.993</b>	<b>1.254</b>	<b>9.570</b>	
<b>% Distribution</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>100</b>

Table 3.10.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES : EDUCATION REQUIRED  
FOR EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY (ENTRY LEVEL)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Education required for Entry Level</u>
A	Baccalauriat (High School Diploma), usually plus advanced education such as B.A., M.A., or PhD, or equivalent or graduation from the highest levels of Mauritania post-secondary (Cycle A) education.
B	Brevet (Junior High School Diploma), usually plus additional secondary, advanced, or technical education
C	C.E.F. (Grade School Diploma), usually plus additional secondary, advanced, or technical education of a lower level than in category B
D	Some primary education and/or additional technical education or job experiences
Other	Varies according to position. No single education level applies.

### 3.4 The Modern Business Sector

#### 3.4.1 Introduction

This section contains the findings of the Census of the Modern Business Sector which was conducted jointly by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs, and RAMS, during the period of March- June 1980. It covered 199 establishments in the six largest cities of Mauritania<sup>(1)</sup> Of the 199 businesses contacted, a response was received from 191 firms. Those which did not respond were out of business or too small.

The information obtained from the census covered the following categories:

- economic activity
- employees
  - number
  - sex
  - citizenship
  - occupation
  - salary
  - employment grade
  - apprentices
  - education/training
  - turnover
- estimate of manpower needs by occupational group
- estimate of minimum desirable education training and experience by occupational group
- recruitment problems and means of recruitment.

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(1) The cities and their respective populations were:  
Nouakchott 134.704, Nouadhibou 21.930, Kaedi 20.707,  
Zouerate 19.473, Rosso 16.510, and Kiffa 10.266.

### 3.4.2 Modern Sector Firms by Economic Activity and Size of Work Force

Most of the businesses in the modern sector are quite small in terms of the number of employees. (No data were gathered on the values of assets). Of the 191 firms in the census, 74 firms or 38.7% had less than 15 employees, and a total of 146 firms or 77% had less than 50 employees. Only 29 businesses or 15.2% had more than 100 employees each. Of these, the Government-owned mining company, SNIM, had 5,182, and the privately-owned road construction firm has 1,121.

In terms of economic activity, 62 firms or 32% of the total were in commerce, restaurants and hotels, and 30 firms or 16% in manufacturing. At the next level were transport and communication with 24 firms, Government and financial institutions with 23, household and business services with 25, and construction and public work with 21. The 4 firms in the extractive and utility sub-sector included the water company and electric company. There were 2 firms in agriculture. (Table 3.11.)

A comparison of the modern sector employment with that of the national economy shows that the modern sector predominates overwhelmingly in the extractive (and utility) sub-sector and in manufacturing. They are also strong in construction and in transport. Total employment in the modern sector of 15,562 accounts for only 3.82% of total employment of 406,525. (Table 3.12)

### 3.4.3 Gender

Ninety six percent of the workers in the modern sector were male, and 74% were regarded as permanent employees. Twenty-one percent were occasional day laborers. A very small number were independent workers or workers employed by contractors. (Table 3.13.)

#### 9.4.4 Salaries

Three questions were included in the census about salaries, but the response rate was very low: they reached 644 employees out of the 15.562 or 4 %.

Such as it is, the distribution shows, as expected, that the bulk of the salaries are on the lower end of the scale. Over 70 % of the workers earned a gross salary of less than 20.000 UM per month. (7) At the top, 24 employees were making more than 75.000 UM per month. In general, salaries are lower in small companies than in large companies.

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(7) US \$ 433/month

Table 3.11.  
THE MODERN SECTOR :  
Establishments by Economic Activity  
and by Size of Work Force in Mauritania's Six Largest Cities (1)

ECONOMIC SECTORS	Number of Firms by Size of Work Force					Percent Distribution
	5 - 14	15 - 49	50 - 99	100 or more	Total	
1. Agricultural Processing	-	1	-	1	2	1
2. Extractive Industries plus Water and Electricity	-	-	-	4	4	2
3. Manufacturing	14	11	1	4	30	16
4. Construction and Public Works	3	10	3	5	21	11
5. Commerce, Restaurants and Hotels	36	20	4	2	62	32
6. Transport and Communication	10	6	3	5	24	13
7. Government and Financial Institutions	2	8	5	8	23	12
8. Household and Business Services	9	16	-	-	25	13
Total	74	72	16	29	191	100
Percent Distribution	39 %	38 %	8 %	15 %	100 %	

(1) Establishments with five or more employees

Source: 1980 Census of Businesses of the Modern Sector.

Table 2. 12.  
Employment in the Modern Sector 1980 and  
in the Total Economy 1977, by Economic Activity

Economic Sector	Modern Sector 1980		Total Economy 1977		Modern Sector Employment 1980 as Percentage of National Employment 1977
	No. Employed	% of Total	No. Employed	% of Total	
1. Agriculture	143	1	281.339	69	.05
2. Extractive	5.701	37	7.278	2	78,30
3. Manufacture	1.363	9	1.541	0,4	84,44
4. Artisans	0	0	15.194	4	0
5. Construction	2.522	16	9.565	2	26,36
6. Commerce	1.616	10	32.084	8	5,04
7. Transport	1.716	11	4.803	1	35,22
8. Government and Financial	2.00	13	28.899	7	6,94
9. Services	493	3	25.683	6	1,91
NCE			139		
Total	15.562	100	406.525	99,4	3,82

Source: Census 1977, RAME Survey

Table 3. 13.  
 Employment Status of Workers in The Modern Business Sector of  
 Mauritania's Six Largest Cities (1980) (1)

Employment Status	Numbers of Workers			Percent Distribution
	Male	Female	Total	
Employers and Proprietors	220	13	233	2
Permanent Employees	10.722	603	11.325	74
Occasional day laborers	3.125	12	3.132	21
Part Time Permanent Workers and Apprentices and New Conditional Workers	127	3	130	0,9
Independant workers (2)	18	1	19	0,1
Contractors (3)	253	26	279	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.465</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>15.123</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Percent Distribution</b>	<b>96 %</b>	<b>4 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	

(1) These data are based on establishments with five or more employees.

(2) Hired by a firm on a contract basis

(3) Hired by an intermediary that supplies labor to a firm on a contract basis.

Source: 1980 Census of Business of the Modern Sector.

### 3.5. The Informal (Traditional) Urban Business Sector

#### 3.5.1. Introduction

This sector embraces the remainder of those economic activities not included in the formal or modern business sector. Recalling that activities of the modern business sector were grouped in eight classifications (agriculture, extractive, manufacturing, construction, commerce, transport, Government and financial, and services), the informal sector, instead, is grouped into only four of them (manufacturing, construction, commerce and services). Modern manufacturing, agriculture and Government and financial are excluded by definition. In transport, taxis, (and animal-drawn carriages) could not be included, because the means were not available for reaching and interviewing the taxi-drivers.

Although there is a great variety of occupations and specializations in the sector, most of it is provided by self-employed individuals. A respectful percentage (not counted in this survey) consists of individuals who work with family and/or non-family members (apprentices and employees working on a salary or piece-work basis). A large proportion of the establishments consists of one or two persons, and they seldom go beyond five. The capital employed is small, and correspondingly, the technology used in artisanal or repair work is simple, most commonly hand tools, labor-intensive, although simple power-run machinery may also be employed.

The following pages contain a summary of the findings of a census conducted jointly by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs and RAMS in Nouakchott. A total of 11,747 establishments were indentified. These were classified by city, economic activity, ward (arrondissement) and market place. (Table 3.14 through 3.16.)

#### 3.5.2. Economic Activities

These were classified into: Commerce, Manufacturing, Construction, and Services. Each sector was further sub-divided as shown below, and each establishment was identified by the nature of the product and

the size of the work force. The sectoral sub-divisions were

#### Commerce

- food
- hardware
- books and paper
- cloth, clothing and deluxe items
- miscellaneous

#### Manufacturing

- wood
- metal
- cloth
- straw
- leather
- flour
- jewelry
- upholstery
- brick

#### Construction

- general
- electrical
- plumbing
- tile-setting
- painting

#### Services

- personal
- repair
- signs

### 3.5.3. The Commercial Sector

There is a saying that "every Mauritanian is a merchant (commerçant)". While this is an exaggeration of course, it may be noted that by far the largest number of establishments identified were in the business of buying and selling: 9.133 or 78 % of the total.

The question arose whether some of the larger stores belonged more appropriately in the modern sector. On the one hand, they had a large inventory and capital stock, but on the other hand, they had very few employees. Another consideration was the general perception of how "modern" the building, products, and selling methods were. The decision in each case was admittedly judgmental.

The commercial sector is large and varied. The following classification was adopted: food, clothing, hardware, books and paper, and miscellaneous. Each of these was further sub-divided. In the case of food, for example the sub-division was based on the size of the establishment: general store, small shops, stands (waist-high), sidewalk tables (seller sits on the ground with a small flat box in front of him/her), and vendors (seller moves from one location to another carrying merchandise).

As will be noted in Table 3.17 food stores numbered 4.725 or 51,7 % of the total in this sector. Of these, the most frequently encountered is the small convenience store ("petite boutique") which carries primarily food items but with a variety of other small items frequently used in the household. There were 1.595 of these scattered throughout the residential areas of the city. A similar but smaller shop, attached to or part of a residence, also numerous (936) was found particularly in the kebas. A large number (695) of sidewalk sellers of vegetables were counted. These were readily identified as women who spread a variety of products over a small area on the ground in front of them.

Other numerically important food purveyors were the larger retail general food stores (300), traditional restaurants (275), fish sales (276), and shops selling vegetables (123) or local food products (126) usually found in the market-place.

It should be noted that butchers, bakers, and cookie shops were included in manufacturing (food processing) rather than in commerce.

Various kinds of cloth and clothing sales are also very important. Stores of imported cloth, traditional and western clothing (including second-hand), shoes, sunglasses, jewelry, and vendors selling T-shirts on the street - all of these account for the major part of the 1,927 establishments in this category.

A still significant number of stores sell hardware items: automobile parts, construction materials, and kitchen utensils seem to predominate. In this category, 195 stores and vendors were counted.

Only 35 establishments were counted which sold books, magazines, and assorted religious literature and articles.

The miscellaneous category is also big with 2,251 stores and vendors. The roadside stands with cigarettes and matches, cookies, etc... make up 1,229 of this group. Another 618 merchants sell charcoal. Skins, mats, ocean salvage, traditional art, beauty products, and the wooden stick "tooth brushes" altogether add up to more than 150 sellers. Side-walk tables of assorted traditional articles such as beads and other jewelry, henna, pipes, etc... accounted for 578 women, all of them located in markets or the keba. Finally, 240 vendors of a variety of products were counted walking along the streets.

It is clear that commerce in the informal sector is an important source of employment. Assuming a low average of a person and a half per establishment, there are as many people working in this sector in Nouakchott than there are employees in the entire modern sector.

#### 3.5.4. Manufacturing

Artisanal manufacturing is a sector which is frequently underestimated. One tends to think in terms of large, modern factories and dismiss as unimportant everything less than that. That the informal manufacturing sector is numerous, dynamic, and important to the economy is evident from this census.

A total of 1,741 enterprises were identified in this sector: artisans working with wood, metal, cloth, straw, leather, food, precious metals, upholstery, cement, etc... and producing, improving, and selling a large variety of products. Techniques, processes, tools, and skills employed run a wide range from the simple to the complex.

The most numerous occupations in this sector are the sewing machine operators and tailors. Over a third (660) are in these occupations. The list also includes: woodwork and carpentry (144), cloth dyeing (124), hand embroidery (109), butchers (180), flour millers (76), jewelers (72), and various (156). (Table 3.18)

#### 3.5.5. Construction

One of the disappointments of the census was that only eleven construction businesses were located.

It is probably true that most construction companies are bigger and have at least five employees and so were included in the modern sector. Of the remainder, however, most of them are apparently independent craftsmen who work by the job contract, but they do not have an identifiable shop or workplace. This being the case, it was at best difficult to locate them by the method of going up and down individual streets.

The building contractors located included in their ranks electricians, plumbers, painters, and helpers. (Table 3.19)

### 3.5.6. Services

A total of 862 enterprises were found in the service sector. By far, the largest single group were laundries (391). Other services with sizable number of enterprises were barbers (70), radio repair (82), garages (133), tire repair (57), and watch repair (42). (Table 3.20.)

### 3.5.7. Location of Informal Business Sector in Nouakchott

The informal business sector is found through the city, from fruit stands and tire repair stands on the main street to small stores and industries at the very ends of the kebas (shanty-towns at the edge of the city). They are found in virtually every neighborhood and residential area regardless of socio-economic status or ethnic group.

Some types of businesses are concentrated in specific areas of the city - in wards, Central area, market-places, and kebas. Since the kebas extend beyond the city limits, it would not be out of place to refer to the composite as 'Greater Nouakchott'. The city is divided administratively into six wards. The Fourth Ward contains the largest number of establishments. The Central Market and the Fish Market are found in this ward. To the naked eye oblivious to the administrative boundary, it would appear that the Fifth Ward has the largest number of businesses, since it is adjoined by the city's largest keba.

The Central Area refers to "downtown" and to the main residential areas. There are eleven market-places including the Central Market and the keba market contiguous to the 6th Ward.

On the periphery of the city are two vast kebas inhabited by recent arrivals to the city. A good many are refugees from the drought, others are migrants seeking jobs and/or better living conditions, some are relatives of land speculators, and many are unemployed. No population figures are available for these areas. Guesses vary widely, but one is not far off to estimate that at least one-third of the population of Greater Nouakchott lives there.

At first glance, the kebas appear to be just improvised camps contributing unskilled workers and unemployed to the city. Closer inspection, however, reveals an extensive and active international economy of 1,954 establishments, or one-sixth of the city's total.

A glance at Table 2.23 and 2.24 shows the relative weight by sectors and their location in the city. Of the 11,747 establishments in the city, the largest number, 9,133 or 72,7%, are in the commercial sector. Artisanal and small industrial establishments numbered 1,741 or 14,8%, followed by 862 service establishments or 7,4% and 11 construction firms.

Wards 4 and 5 have the largest number of establishments with 2,982 (29,7%) and 2,840 (29,6%), respectively. The smallest number of establishments are in Ward 3: 604 or 6,0%.

Commercial establishments are distributed throughout the wards, of course, but there are more than twice as many in Wards 4 and 5 as in Wards 1 and 2. Manufacturing is also concentrated in Wards 4 and 5. Indeed, it is only a small exaggeration to say that they constitute the informal sector's small-scale industrial zones. There are more services personnel working in Ward 2 than any other. Construction establishments, few in number, are found in Wards 2, 3, and 4, that is, in the central areas.

The market-places of Nouakchott are shown in Table 2.15. The main market in the 5th Ward and the Central Market next to the downtown area are by far the largest in terms of the number of businesses. The smallest is the little market at the edge of the keba in the 1st Ward.

The markets appear to be quite fluid in terms of the businesses located there. Major changes in individual proprietors and in the mix of businesses and products sold occur frequently. There has been some movement from the 5th Ward to two new markets.

One is an open-air market with concrete stalls just east of the gardens which specializes in cloth and traditional jewelry. The other is just getting started in the dune area just south of the Moroccan mosque. These appear to be relocations rather than new businesses (Table 3.21).

The Central Areas, although containing many residences, also have numerous business establishments. In these areas are 4,753 establishments or 40,5% of the total (Table 3.22, 3.23, 3.24).

Table 3.14  
THE MODERN SECTOR  
NUMBER OF FIRMS BY CITY AND SIZE OF WORK FORCE

	1 - 14	15 - 49	50 - 99	100 or more	Total
NOUAKCHOTT	58	43	15	20	136
NOUADHIBOU	8	16	1	4	29
KAEDI	4	2	-	1	7
ZOUERATE	4	7	-	2	13
RCSSC	-	2	-	2	4
KIFFA	-	2	-	-	2
Total	74	72	16	29	191

Table 3. 15  
 MODERN BUSINESS SECTOR: NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS  
 BY SIZE FORCE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

<u>Economic Sectors</u>	Number of firms by size of work force					Total	Percent Distribution
	5 - 14	15 - 44	50 - 99	100 or more			
Agriculture	-	1	-	1		2	1.1
Extractive Industries plus water and electricity	-	-	-	4		4	2.2
Modern manufacturing	14	11	1	4		30	15.7
Construction and Public Works	3	10	3	5		21	11.0
Commerce, restaurants and Hotels	36	20	4	2		62	32.0
Transport and Communication	10	6	3	5		24	12.7
Government and Financial Institutions	2	8	5	8		23	12.0
Household and Business services	9	16	-	-		25	13.1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>29</u>		<u>191</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Table 3. 16  
THE INFORMAL SECTOR NOUAKCHOTT  
NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS  
I. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (1980)

COMMERCE	9.133
MANUFACTURING	1.741
CONSTRUCTION; (1)	11
SERVICES	<u>862</u>
Total	11.747

(1) Only shops and courtyards with an exterior sign or other identification were counted. Independent workers with their own tools exist but could not be located.

Source: Census of Informal Business  
Sector of Nouakchott.

Table 3. 17  
THE INFORMAL SECTOR OF NOUAKCHOTT:  
COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS (1980)

1) FOOD

STORES	4.725
Wholesalers and importers	107
Large retail general food stores	1.300
Small retail general food stores	1.595
SHOPS	
Restaurants	275
Vegetable shops	123
Local food product shops	126
Food shops attached to residence	936
STANDS	
Fruit stands	28
Grilled meat snack-bar	56
Fresh, frozen and dried fish stands	276
Ice cream stands	0
TABLES	
Sidewalk vegetable tables	695
Sidewalk tables of flour and couscous	38
Sidewalk date and fruit tables	20
Sidewalk tables of cola nuts	55
VENDORS	
Buttermilk vendors	10
Vendors of traditional foods	73
Ice cream vendors	11

2) CLOTHING

Delux items and Miscellaneous (sub-total)	1.927
Large store selling delux imports importer wholesale and retail	76
Small shop selling delux imports only	84
Large cloth store importer, wholesale and retail	45
Small cloth shop-retail only	129
Shoe store	2
Record store	4
Shoe stand	22
Women clothers stand (Melalifa)	41
Cloth stand	223
Sidewalk table for cloth	178
Sidewalk costume jewelry table	578
Jewelry store	8
Sidewalk table of delux imports items	184
Sidewalk table of used clothing	118
Sidewalk table of shoes	2
Vendors of watches and sunglasses	18
Vendors of clothing	215

3) HARDWARE (sub-total) 195

Large wholesale and retail of construction and kitchen hardware	30
Retail shop of small inexpensive utensils and hardware items	36
Sidewalk table of kitchen utensils	7
Vendors of traditional stores	25
Retail shops of construction materials	9
Retail shops of material for woodwork	2
Matress sales	1
Large store selling primary construction materials	21
Automobile parts store	64

4) BOOK STORE AND PAPER

Supply (Sub-Total)	195
Large store	3
Arabic books and religious articles stands	18
Magazine and used books stand	14

5) MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS

(Sub-Total)	2.251
Stand of cigarettes etc...	1.229
Charcoal importer, wholesale and retail	110
Sidewalk sellers of skins and mats	37
Salvage from the ocean	69
Sidewalk tables of traditional black African beauty products	19
Sidewalk tables of local and imported traditional art objects	17
Sidewalk tables of wooden tooth brush sticks	21
Miscellaneous vendors	240

TOTAL COMMERCE SECTOR 9.133

Table 3.18  
MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENT  
IN THE INFORMAL BUSINESS SECTOR OF NOUAKCHOTT  
(1980)

MANUFACTURING

WOOD

Woodwork and carpentry	141
Wood and metal work combined	21

METAL

Metal work and welding	29
Artisan metal work	71
Artisan aluminium foundry	21
Traditional stores manufacture	10
Artisan workshop	25

CLOTH

Dyeing	124
Machine embroidery	5
Hand embroidery	109
Tailor shop	75
Sewing machine operator	585
Traditional weaving	2
Tent manufacture	28

STRAW

Straw mattress manufacture	4
Straw mats manufacture	28

LEATHER

Leather products manufacture	59
Tanning	17

(MANUFACTURE)

FOOD

Flour mill	76
Cookies: shops	2
Bakeries	5
Butchers shops	180

OTHER

Jeweler	72
Upholstery	13
Brick manufacturing	46

TOTAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR 1.741

Table 3. 19.  
CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE  
INFORMAL BUSINESS SECTOR OF NCUAKCHOTT (1980)

CONSTRUCTION :

General construction labor contractors	1
Electricity contractors	2
Plumbing contractors	6
Painting contractors	2
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION SECTOR	11

Table 3. 20  
 SERVICES ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE  
 INFORMAL BUSINESS SECTOR OF NDIAKHOT (1980)

SERVICES

PERSONAL

Laundry	391
Driving school	7
Barber	70
Beautician	2
Photographer	16
Photographer framer	5
Shoe shine boy	10
Traditional dentist	6

REPAIR

Radio repair	82
Soldering	5
Refrigerator and stove repair	9
Business machine repair	3
Sewing machine repair	1
Electrical installations and repair	1
Gas and refrigerator repair	1
Garage	133
Cart repair	7
Motorbike repair	7
Bicycle repair	1
Tire repair	57
Watch repair	42
Eyeglasses repair	3

SIGNS

Sign making and decoration	1
Sign lettering	2

TOTAL SERVICES SECTOR

862

ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR OF NOUAKCHOTT,  
BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND CITY LOCATIONS (1980)

	Number of Businesses							
	Central		Market(1)		Keba (1)		Total	% Distribution
	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%	N°	%
Commerce	3.291	69,2	4.125	22,0	1.717	87,5	9.133	72,7
Manufacturing	749	15,8	810	16,1	182	9,3	1.741	14,8
Services	703	14,8	95	1,9	64	3,2	862	7,4
Construction	10	0,1	0	0	1	0	11	0,1
Total -	4.753	100,0	5.030	100,0	1.964	100,0	11.747	100,0
Percent Distribution		40,5		42,6		16,7		100,0

(1) The Keba market is included in the market column and excluded from the Keba column.

Table 3. 22

BUSINESS OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR OF  
NOUAKCHOTT, BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND WARD (1980)

(Number of businesses)

Economic Activities	Wards						Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	
Commerce	108	905	410	2.242	2.238	1.030	7.633
Manufacturing	125	241	109	585	430	107	1.597
Services	75	196	83	150	172	131	807
Construction	0	3	2	5	0	0	10
Total (1)	1.008	1.345	604	2.982	2.840	1.268	10.047
% Distribution	9,7%	13,38%	6,01%	29,68%	29,26%	12,62%	

(1) Total excludes the 1,700 businesses of the Keba areas of the V and VI Wards

Table 3. 23  
MARKETS OF NOUAKCHOTT BY NUMBER OF BUSINESSES

MARKETS	NUMBER OF BUSINESSES
Main market: fifth ward	1.590
Capital market: downtown, fourth ward	1.393
Keba market: sixth ward shanty town	499
Fish market: fourth ward	342
Main market: Ksar ward II	301
Charcoal market: fourth ward	228
Main market: first ward	219
Salt market: first ward	162
Market n° 2: second ward	106
Taxi market: first ward	83
Total	10.023

Table 3. 24  
DISTRIBUTION OF THE CENTRAL AREA ESTABLISHMENTS  
BY WARD, OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN NOUAKCHOTT (1980)

SECTOR	W A R D						Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	
Commerce	338	508	410	662	746	627	3.291
Manufacturing	47	134	109	230	163	66	749
Services	57	188	83	121	131	123	703
Construction	0	3	2	5	0	0	10
Total	442	833	604	1.047	1.081	824	4.753

### 3.6 Observations

#### 3.6.1 The "Modern" Sub-Sector of the Informal Sector

Recent literature on the informal business sector makes the distinction between the "modern" sub-sector and the remainder of traditional activities. Thus, recent studies by the International Labor Organization in Francophone Africa have selected the activities of woodworking, metalworking, building and mechanical and electrical repairs for special study on the grounds that these are important employers and trainers of urban labor. Contained in the entrepreneurial activities of this sub-sector is a system of training and instruction and employment for a significant number of newcomers into the labor force. It is manifested that the contribution of this sub-sector can be considerably enhanced through a discriminating choice of self-improvement measures. It is also emphasized that this be done through trade associations of the self-employed and entrepreneurs themselves and not through Government institutions.

#### 3.6.2 "Market Towns"

The technical desideratum of collecting and classifying data on a rural/urban basis should not divert attention from the importance of integrating so-called "urban" activities such as agricultural processing and agro-industrial operations into the rural areas. Every consideration should be given to the possibilities of locating modern sector and informal sector activities in the regional centers of Kaedi, Rosso, Zouerate, Kiffa, and others. In certain instances, the possibilities are admittedly quite limited. Nevertheless, the maximum integration of the urban regional centers with the surrounding rural communities should be recognized as a valid national objective.

### 3.6.3. Formal/Informal Education

The observation that the degree of formal education in the modern work force was neither the sole criterion nor a prerequisite for success in a given occupation (section 2.4.4.) may have implications for manpower planning. Significant numbers of current employees have been able to reach high levels of professional groups through means other than formal education, presumably by some combination of nonformal education and on-the-job training. If, in fact, they are successfully performing their assigned tasks, then others should also be able to perform the same job without extensive formal education. Information available from this survey is inadequate for any conclusions other than this warrants further study. The experience of the Centre de Formation de Perfectionnement Professionnelle (CFPP) should be followed closely in this regard.

### 3.6.4. The Self-Employed

The self-employed are the most important component of the labor force in the rural areas and are second in importance, after wage and salary workers, in the urban areas. They numbered 90,210 in the rural areas (71,910 were farmers), or 46,3 % out of a total of 195,020. In the urban areas, wage and salary workers numbered 47,430 or 45 % of the total, while the self-employed numbered 27,860 or 26,3 %.

Since it is evident that adding appreciably to the ranks of wage and salary workers, whether in the public or private sector, can only take place gradually and only over period of years, the policies for keeping and adding to the ranks of the self-employed takes on a crucial importance. Separate policies and programs will be needed for the self-employed in the rural and urban areas; for the farmers, entrepreneurs and artisans, and for the merchants and vendors. (Tables 3.25, 3.26, 3.27, and 3.28).

Table 3. 25  
The Rural Sedentary Labor Force by Employment Status (1977)

Age Group	Wage and Salary Workers	Non Family Domestic Workers	Self Employed	Business Owners	Working Family Members	Total Employment	Unemployed Workers	TOTAL
12-14	350	1,170	730	-	11,610	13,870	2,340	16,210
15-19	2,220	2,140	4,230	-	17,920	26,510	5,130	31,640
20-24	5,400	1,540	6,820	-	10,740	24,500	3,840	28,340
FIRST TOTAL 12-24	7,980	4,850	11,780	-	40,270	64,880	11,310	76,190
SECOND TOTAL 12-60 plus	13,640	9,340	90,210	240	59,520	177,950	17,070	195,020
12-24 12-60	47,8	51,9	13,1	0	67,7	36,5	66,3	39,1

Table 3. 26

## The Urban Sedentary Labor Force by Employment Status (1977)

Age Group	Wage and Salary Workers	Non Family Domestic Workers	Self Employed	Business Owners	Working Family Members	Total Employment	Unemployed Workers	TOTAL
12-14	570	320	230	-	200	1,320	1,590	2,910
15-19	4,460	900	2,120	-	960	7,940	6,310	14,250
20-24	10,770	980	4,000	-	180	15,960	6,750	22,740
FIRST TOTAL FROM 12-24	15,800	2,200	6,350	-	840	24,220	14,680	39,900
SECOND TOTAL FROM 12-60 plus	47,430	3,370	27,860	330	1,550	80,540	25,390	105,930

$\frac{12-24}{12-60}$ (%)	33,3	65,3	77,8	0	54,2	30,0	57,8	37,7
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Table 3. 27

## The Self-Employed: Sedentary Rural/Urban by Economic Activity (1977)

	SEDENTARY RURAL	SEDENTARY URBAN	TOTAL
AGRICULTURE	71.910	5.250	77.160
INDUSTRY	10	30	40
ARTISAN	4.950	4.340	9.290
ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION	0	0	0
CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC WORKS	930	3.100	4.030
SECURITY FORCES	0	0	0
COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT	10.870	12.950	23.820
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	160	140	300
SERVICES AND SOCIAL WORKERS	1.380	2.020	3.400
APPRENTICES, RETIREES AND NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	0	30	30
TOTAL	90.210	27.860	118.070
TOTAL SEDENTARY	195.020	105.930	300.950
	46,3	26,3	39,2

Table 3. 28  
The Self-Employed: Administrative Regions and Economic Activity (1977)

	DISTRICT	HODH ORIENTAL	HODH COCCIDENTAL	ASSABA	GORGOL	BRAKNA	TARZA	ADRAR	DAKLET NOUADH IBOU	TAGANT	GUI DJIMAKA	TIRIS ZEMIGUE	TI CHIRI
AGRICULTURE	910	7.650	7.560	11.650	16.700	9.770	5.660	2.380	160	3.030	10.920	160	500
INDUSTRY	30	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
ARTISAN	1.760	1.400	730	620	930	990	1.300	470	150	330	450	80	60
ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC WORK	1.560	270	260	160	280	200	220	480	140	150	90	110	30
COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT	5.940	1.840	1.150	2.480	1.500	1.460	4.890	1.150	900	540	660	690	260
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL	60	50	20	20	30	0	30	10	0	0	90	0	0
ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SERVICES AND SOCIAL WORKERS	950	460	280	150	290	250	410	170	110	50	130	100	50
APPRENTICES RETIRES AND NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SEDENTARY	11.240	11.670	10.000	15.080	19.730	12.670	12.560	4.660	1.460	4.100	12.340	1.140	900

Chapter 4                    FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

4.1    Projections of Population, Labor Supply and Employment

The purpose of this chapter is to consider the perspectives for future population growth, manpower stock, labor force, and employment for the period 1980-2000. The intention is not to make any predictions or forecasts. It is rather to begin consideration of the factors which bear importantly on the results with a view to weighing the implications of such results and to think in terms of policies and programs which can influence their desired evolution.

We begin with the selection of a reasonable growth rate for each of the above-mentioned parameters in order to give the reader some idea of the order of magnitude involved in the given projection, and to illustrate the nature of the intricate inter-relationships involved in the likely event that we choose to consider alternative possibilities.

The population projections by five-year intervals from the year 1980 to 2000 are taken from RAMS Demographic Projections (March 1980). In this study, alternative assumptions were adopted for the projections: growth rates of 2.5%, 2.7%, and variations inbetween. In this instance (Table 4.1), we have adopted for illustrative purposes the growth rate of 2.5% (8) which corresponds to that for the period 1965-1977. This shows that the total population will grow by approximately one million to 2,371,000 between 1980 and the end of the century (9).

They also indicate that by the year 2000 nomads will represent only 12% of the nation's population compared to 28% in 1980. The projections, however, are derived from relatively tenuous data and definitions which may no longer be appropriate. The above cited report says:

Much needed is a study spelling out the dynamics of  
sedentarization - identifying the reasons why nomads

- 
- (8) This may well be a conservative rate of growth: RAMS study referred to the reasonableness of even a 3.0% growth rate because of the declining death rate and the lag in the decline of the birth rate.
- (9) See Table 4.2 for RAMS' minimum, medium, and maximum population projections.

choose to settle, and the determinants of a choice to engage in semi-nomadic pastoralism rather than make the radical move to the city.

Perhaps even more needed is an assessment of the economic viability of semi-nomadism, for the success of this compromise between nomadism and sedentary life will have great import not only for the growth of Mauritanian towns and the demand for social services, but will also affect the quality and quantity of demands placed on Mauritania's deteriorating environment. (10)

Thus, this projection shows that the sedentary population will grow by something over 1 million, while the nomad population will decline by a little over 100,000; in effect, the decline in the nomad population is absorbed by the rise in the sedentary population.

The projections of manpower are based on the age groups of 15-64 years inclusive, which, it is assumed, will become the norm over the years to come. (11) As a proportion of the total population, the manpower stock holds to a constant 53% over this period. This will grow from an estimated 756,000 in 1980 to 1,276,000 by 2000; or at an average annual rate of growth of 2,65%.

The derivation of the labor force projections is based essentially on the participation rate, a composite expression for the interaction of a large number of other variables. One of the most important is the number of women in the work force. This is subject to considerations such as the number of women of childbearing age and the average number of children of such women, the efficacy of population control measures, the effects of nomad/sedentary life and of rural/urban life on fertility, and a number of cultural factors including men's attitudes with respect to women's participation in the work force.

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(10) See Demographic Projections, RAMS Project, p. 122.

(11) It is assumed that increasingly children and adolescents up to the age of 15 will be in school.

The number of women and men working and seeking work swell or decline, of course, in accordance with the assumption made with respect to a given participation rate. In Table 3.1, the participation rate is held at 60% of the manpower stock. At this point in our analysis, we are simply assuming that this rate will hold for the years to come. Further along in our analysis, we will recognize the probable incidence of factors which can change the rate. For now, labor force is projected to increase from 453.000 in 1980 to 766.000 in the year 2000. This is an increase of 300.000 for the period or an average annual increase of 15.000. In fact, the annual increases rise gradually from about 10.000 in the first quinquennium to 18.000 in the last quinquennium.

The projections of employment, unemployment, and underemployment are subject to still other variables, the two major ones being the rate of growth of the economy as a whole as expressed in the Gross Domestic Product, and the structure of that growth, that is the relative weight played by each of the sectors (agriculture, fishing, forestry, industry, commerce, services, Government, etc...). But a whole host of factors in the public and the private sector will bear importantly on the evolution of the economy's rate of growth and its structure. One of the important decisions to be made early is how to distribute of the national investment with respect to the nation's physical and human resources, especially in the agricultural sector and in rural areas. This includes the appropriate mix of technology and human labor in each of the sectors so as to find the balance to provide a condition of nearfull employment, a distribution of income to meet basic human needs, and an increase in production needed for consumption at home and for sale abroad.

These highly relevant considerations have been put aside for the moment. To illustrate the range of choices, we have simplified the panorama to the utmost degree by presenting the two extremes; that of full employment and that of low employment as an illustration of the outside limits.

The "high" employment figures shown in Table 4.1 run from 453.000 in 1980 to 766.000 in the year 2000. Of this, sedentary employment, (urban and rural) increases from 351.000 to 710.000, and nomad employment declines from 102.000 to 56.000. This increase in overall employment will be at a rate well ahead of the labor force with the result that open unemployment and underemployment will fall to zero. The assumption was also made that the secondary sector industries (industry, construction) and the tertiary sector industries (commerce, trade, finance) in the urban centers would grow at a pace ahead of that of the Gross Domestic Product. However, because of the relatively small base of these industries in the overall economy in 1980, they will not absorb large numbers of workers despite their relatively rapid growth. In consequence of this, the remainder of the labor force (the largest part of it) will be absorbed in the field of agriculture and in the rural sector.

How realistic is this? That depends. Over the past two decades, despite the rapid increase of employment in the modern sector, it has fallen far short of the increase in the urban population with the resulting sharp rise in the rolls of the unemployed. It is likely that this tendency will continue to hold sway unless measures are taken to arrest it. In general, this means the adoption of measures that will induce the rural population to stay in the countryside, and this includes: promotion of self-employment through the provision of land and tools to more farmers, better social and living conditions (electricity, roads, health clinics, better schools and training), a steady increase in wage-employment through agricultural processing facilities and agro-industries, and community participation in the decision-making affecting their lives and families. Short-term employment measures should also be considered such as reforestation, the erection of dune barriers, etc. Assuming that all of these measures were adopted, they would contribute to holding steady the level of the rural work-force and this would be quite an achievement. This is posed as an admittedly optimistic but feasible - case.

At the other end of the spectrum is the case of "low" employment and high unemployment where the agricultural work force not absorbed in the primary and secondary sectors finds its way into urban centers. Since the capacity of the secondary and tertiary sectors, especially in the urban centers, is foreseen (from our presently limited vision) to be limited, unemployment/underemployment rises from 50,000 in 1980 to 294,000 in the year 2000. This, too, is not a likely scenario, but it is posed as an extreme, if pessimistic, case.

More than likely, the "solution" will be located somewhere in between those two extremes. Yet the range is sufficiently broad to require the most careful consideration of the nation's resources and of its policies and programs with respect to the rural sector exports, imports of capital and investments in the public and private sectors, education and training programs, etc... Options involving these variables will be our concern in Phase II of this project.

#### 4.2. Future Employment and Underemployment

What of the unemployment and the underemployment? The elimination of unemployment and underemployment are indeed the national objectives. But how likely is it to be achieved, and how long will the process take? Much depends on the policies pursued. A successful choice of policies and their successful implementation should result in the gradual reduction of unemployment and underemployment over the years of these projections.

It may be worthwhile at this point to define our terms. What is meant by unemployment is fairly clear it exists when there is a person without employment who is willing and able to work. It must be clear that there is always some unemployment, so-called "frictional" unemployment, of people who are "between jobs". Depending on conditions, frictional unemployment will vary, say, between 1 - 2% of the labor force.

This is not our main concern here. It is rather the long-lasting or structural unemployment. The distinction has also been made between "open" and "invisible" unemployment. The former refers to those in the labor force who report that they are able and willing to work. But there are also those who, having become discouraged after a long period of unemployment, or seeing no prospect for employment, do not report themselves as being available for work. The data for Mauritania report only the "open" unemployment, but undoubtedly the invisible and unreported unemployed also exists. In some countries, this is recognized statistically, and this has shown, for example, that in a given case women were reported as not being in the labor force (for traditional reasons), but it was known that they were willing to work. In another case, men reported themselves as not interested in working, but it was known that they were discouraged because women could find work, and they could not.

Underemployment applies to employed workers who work part of the time. This part-time employment may be spaced over a day (as in piece-work) or over a year (as in seasonal work). In any given country, it is interpreted according to the country's own norms. Underemployment is evident in the case of construction workers and farmers who work seasonally, and who do not have out-of-season employment. It is also used to describe those who are working well below their capacity, for example,

laid-off workers who, in a period of economic recession, will take any job they can get even if it is less than they are capable of doing. Thus, underemployment requires of them less than their training and experience qualify them for. Underemployment represents a loss both to the individual and to the nation; the individual cannot meet his (and his family's) basic needs, while the country is not utilizing its human resources to the full.

The reasons for unemployment are not necessarily the same as those for underemployment, although they may overlap in good part. Thus, in developed countries, both unemployment and underemployment may be due to a cyclical economic recession. Presumably, on the return, those workers will become employed or more fully employed. In the case of many developing countries, however, the "mis-match" may not be temporary or short-term. It may be more deeply rooted, built-in, with historical or traditional antecedents in a word, structural (12). In part, this may be due to the poor distribution of the land which prevents many farmers or would-be farmers to work on the land (at whatever level of skills they possess) to earn even minimal incomes. In part, it may be due to the large number of persons with low literacy or skill levels, especially in the cities where the supply far exceeds the demand. In part, it may be due to artisans not having the tools or small capital to become actively self-employed. All of this is related where the nation's accumulation of productive capital and/or the current availability of capital are insufficient to permit the "overnight" absorption of the levels of skills already on the market, etc...(13).

In light of the above what can be said about the degree of invisible unemployed and underemployed in Mauritania? In the absence of statistics on this subject, one may draw some inferences from RAMS' analysis of the 1977 census data, from the four surveys done in the employment and manpower field, and from the experience of some other countries.

- 
- (12) Structural unemployment may exist, of course, in developed countries, as in the case of a declining industry. But the difference is that it doesn't encompass such a large part of the economy.
- (13) A common reflection of this is the failure to provide one or another sector - farmers, artisans, small industrialists with the tools and materials and training to make them more productive.

"Open" unemployment was 45,000 in the year 1977, and this represented approximately 10% of the labor force of 450,000. Probably, it is somewhat worse today 1980 (14). Undoubtedly, the figure on "open" unemployment was swelled by the refugees from the drought who otherwise could be employed in their pastoral work. Similarly, the figure on underemployment was increased by the drought, since many of these forcibly sedentarized nomads are now partially employed in some work or occupation different from their pastoral line work. In this case, the place mobility has also contributed to occupational mobility. This also applies to many of the formerly nomad women.

The tendency is probably for the number of the "invisible" unemployed to increase, especially in the case of women. It is known that there are many women who would like to work and would indeed work if (a) work were offered to them, (b) they could feel social approval, and, (c) they were better trained. The extent to which women are not part of the labor force is strongly influenced by social convention. Its revolution remains to be seen.

In recent years, however, a consensus has developed as expressed in documents of the United Nations, that employment-and-basic-human-needs must be given top priority in developing nations' plans for economic and social development. Achieving this objective, in the light of the structural obstacles touched upon above, is the challenge of development.

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(14) The results of RAMS' survey on Employment indicate a worsening of the situation (see Annex to this report).

Table 4.1

Population Manpower Stock Labor Force Employment and Unemployment

Actual 1977 Estimate 1980 and Projections 1985 1990 1995 and 2000

(in thousands)

	1977	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Total Population <sup>1)</sup>	1 339.7	1 443	1 636	1 852	2 096	2 371
Sedentary Population <sup>1)</sup>	895.7	1 034	1 273	1 522	1 792	2 089
Nomad Population <sup>1)</sup>	440.0	409	363	330	304	282
Total Manpower Stock (15-64 years)	708.9	756	864	984	1 121	1 276
Total Labor Force <sup>2)</sup>	451.0	453	518	590	673	766
Sedentary Labor Force <sup>4)</sup>	301.0	351	433	518	609	719
Nomad Labor Force <sup>4)</sup>	150.0	102	85	72	64	56
Employment (H) <sup>3)</sup>	406.5	435	503	571	647	730
Employment (L) <sup>3)</sup>	406.5	404	419	434	455	472
Unemployment (H) <sup>3)</sup>	45.0	50	100	119	218	294
Unemployment (L) <sup>3)</sup>	45.0	0	0	0	0	0

- 1) Taken from RAMS' study Demographic Projections March 1980 Projections based on 2.57 Population Growth Rate.
- 2) Projections based on 60% participation rate.
- 3) High employment projections are correlated to high G.D.P. growth rate and absorption of unemployed and underemployed among the various sectors.  
Low employment/high unemployment are correlated to low G.D.P. growth rate.
- 4) Labor force = 34% population.

Table 4.2.

Projections of Mauritania's Resident Population through 2000  
(Unit: 000's of persons)

Year	Minimum Growth	Medium Growth			Maximum Growth
	I <sup>a</sup>	II <sup>b</sup>	III <sup>c</sup>	IV <sup>d</sup>	V <sup>e</sup>
1977	1339.7	1339.7	1339.7	1339.7	1339.7
1980	1434	1443	1451	1443	1464
1985	1607	1636	1662	1646	1697
1990	1800	1852	1900	1883	1967
1995	2017	2096	2171	2165	2281
2000	2260	2371	2480	2502	2644

- a) Under assumptions of a constant 2,3 per cent growth rate through 2000.  
b) Under assumptions of a constant 2,5 per cent growth rate through 2000.  
c) Under assumptions of a constant 2,7 per cent growth rate through 2000.  
d) Under assumptions of a growth rate increasing steadily from 2,5 in 1977 to an annual 3,0 percent by 2000.  
e) Under assumptions of a constant 3,0 per cent growth rate through 2000.

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Appendix

Table 1

Manpower Stock for Total Population by Age-Groups

Age Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	663,000	684,818	1,352,818	100.00	..
Children 0 - 11	252,326	244,326	506,453	37.44	..
<u>Manpower Stocks</u>					
12 and over	405,674	440,691	846,365	62.56	..
15 and over	350,594	399,453	760,047	56.18	..
12 - 54	384,367	410,844	795,211	58.78	..
15 - 64	339,257	369,605	708,893	52.40	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age-Groups</u>					
12 - 14	45,080	41,691	86,318	6.33	..
15 - 19	58,642	71,213	139,855	10.34	19.73
20 - 24	55,453	59,013	114,466	8.46	16.15
25 - 29	42,525	48,348	90,674	6.70	12.80
30 - 34	33,690	40,899	74,589	5.51	10.52
35 - 39	29,453	33,004	62,457	4.61	8.81
40 - 44	32,953	35,202	69,200	5.11	9.75
45 - 49	24,020	24,208	48,228	3.56	5.80
50 - 54	22,842	24,557	47,409	3.50	5.69
55 - 59	17,057	17,593	34,622	2.56	4.88
60 - 64	12,834	14,559	27,393	2.02	3.86

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

Appendix

Table 2

Manpower Stock for Sedentary Population by Various Age-groups (1977)

Age Groups	Manpower Stock:			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male Male	Female Female	Total Total		
Total Population	456,041	451,627	907,668	100.00	--
Children 0 - 11	176,000	162,405	338,490	37.29	--
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	279,956	289,222	569,178	62.71	--
15 and over	240,325	261,489	501,814	55.33	--
12 - 64	268,646	271,637	540,283	59.30	
15 - 64	236,515	243,904	480,419	52.93	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age Group</u>					
12 - 14	30,131	27,733	57,864	6.38	--
15 - 19	48,071	49,010	97,101	10.70	20.21
20 - 24	42,040	39,262	81,308	8.96	16.92
25 - 29	31,753	32,343	64,106	7.06	13.34
30 - 34	24,894	28,075	53,069	5.85	11.04
35 - 39	20,555	20,172	40,727	4.49	8.48
40 - 44	22,214	24,214	46,526	5.13	9.70
45 - 49	14,310	14,147	28,456	3.14	5.93
50 - 54	13,967	16,361	30,328	3.34	6.31
55 - 59	9,003	10,355	20,258	2.23	4.22
60 - 64	8,495	9,965	18,460	2.03	3.84

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

## Appendix

Table 3

Manpower Stock for Total Population by Various Age-Groups (1977)

Age Groups	Manpower Stock:			% Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	211,359	233,191	445,150	100.00	-
Children 0 - 11	86,241	81,722	167,963	37.73	-
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	175,713	151,459	277,187	62.27	-
15 and over	110,760	137,964	248,733	55.88	-
12 - 64	117,721	139,207	256,928	57.72	-
15 - 64	162	125,702	223,474	51.33	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	14,949	13,505	28,454	6.39	-
15 - 19	20,351	22,203	42,754	9.60	16.71
20 - 24	13,407	19,751	33,158	7.45	14.51
25 - 29	10,533	16,035	26,568	5.97	11.63
30 - 34	8,696	12,324	21,520	4.83	9.42
35 - 39	8,898	12,832	21,730	4.88	9.51
40 - 44	10,616	11,988	22,604	5.08	9.89
45 - 49	9,701	10,061	19,762	4.44	8.65
50 - 54	8,375	8,205	17,031	3.83	7.43
55 - 59	7,125	7,238	14,364	3.23	6.29
60 - 64	4,339	4,594	8,933	2.01	3.91

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02

Appendix

Table 4

Manpower Stock for Urban Population by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	165,534	141,350	306,294	100.00	--
Children 0 - 11	55,254	52,028	103,282	35.12	--
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	110,680	89,332	200,012	64.38	--
15 and over	100,760	80,289	181,049	53.73	--
12 - 64	107,824	85,609	193,433	62.74	--
15 - 64	97,904	76,563	174,470	53.60	100.00
<u>12 Years and over by Age-Groupss</u>					
12 - 14	3,920	9,043	13,063	6.15	--
15 - 19	18,634	16,050	34,714	11.26	19.00
20 - 24	20,804	13,635	34,439	11.17	19.74
25 - 29	16,210	11,342	27,558	8.94	15.79
30 - 34	11,421	8,675	20,097	6.52	11.52
35 - 39	9,002	6,562	15,564	5.05	8.92
40 - 44	8,242	7,006	15,248	4.35	8.74
45 - 49	4,940	4,170	9,110	2.95	5.22
50 - 54	4,191	4,354	8,545	2.77	4.90
55 - 59	2,591	2,685	5,276	1.71	3.02
60 - 64	1,869	2,050	3,919	1.27	2.25

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table ED 02.

## Appendix

Table 5

Manpower Stock for Rural Population by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	531,066	543,458	1,044,524	100.00	..
Children 0 - 11	206,072	192,039	398,111	38.12	.
<u>Manpower Stocks.</u>					
12 and over	294,394	351,359	646,353	61.88	..
15 and over	259,834	319,164	579,998	55.48	..
12 - 64	276,543	325,235	601,778	57.61	..
15 - 64	241,383	293,340	534,423	51.16	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age-Groups.</u>					
12 - 14	35,160	32,115	67,355	6.45	..
15 - 19	50,008	55,133	105,141	10.07	19.67
20 - 24	34,049	45,076	79,127	7.63	14.97
25 - 29	26,110	37,000	63,116	6.04	11.81
30 - 34	22,253	32,223	54,492	5.22	10.23
35 - 39	20,451	26,442	46,393	4.43	8.77
40 - 44	24,756	23,196	53,952	5.17	10.16
45 - 49	19,030	20,053	39,118	3.75	7.32
50 - 54	18,651	20,213	38,864	3.72	7.27
55 - 59	14,439	14,302	29,346	2.81	5.50
60 - 64	13,065	12,509	23,474	2.25	4.39

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

Appendix

Table 6

Manpower Stock for Woualcott by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	76,406	58,298	134,704	100.00	--
Children 0 - 11	23,277	21,702	44,985	33.40	--
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	55,129	36,590	89,719	66.60	--
15 and over	49,404	32,813	82,417	61.18	--
12 - 64	52,352	35,609	87,961	65.30	--
15 - 64	48,627	32,032	80,659	59.90	100.00
<u>12 Years and over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	3,725	3,577	7,302	5.42	--
15 - 19	3,954	6,730	15,684	11.64	19.44
20 - 24	11,459	6,361	17,820	13.23	22.09
25 - 29	9,022	5,421	14,443	10.72	17.91
30 - 34	5,690	3,436	9,126	6.82	11.34
35 - 39	4,276	2,602	6,878	5.11	8.53
40 - 44	3,692	2,664	6,357	4.72	7.39
45 - 49	2,150	1,567	3,717	2.76	4.61
50 - 54	1,701	1,567	3,268	2.43	4.05
55 - 59	1,010	947	1,965	1.46	2.44
60 - 64	665	676	1,341	1.0	1.66

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

## Appendix

Table 7

## Manpower Stock for Fodh Oriental (El Garbi) by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	76,492	80,229	156,721	100.00	--
Children 0 - 11	31,327	28,253	59,580	38.02	
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	45,165	51,971	97,136	61.93	--
15 and over	40,092	47,626	87,718	55.10	--
<u>12 Years and over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	5,073	4,145	9,218	5.83	
15 - 19	7,360	7,469	14,829	9.46	13.00
20 - 24	4,983	5,256	11,239	7.17	13.63
25 - 29	5,530	5,723	11,253	7.18	11.70
30 - 34	4,755	6,198	10,953	6.99	13.28
35 - 39	3,706	4,534	8,240	5.22	10.19
40 - 44	4,025	4,238	8,263	5.27	10.02
45 - 49	3,374	3,150	6,524	4.16	7.91
50 - 54	2,826	3,006	5,832	3.73	7.07
55 - 59	1,594	1,753	3,347	2.13	3.82
60 - 64	2,126	3,684	5,810	3.71	4.47

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

Appendix

Table 8

Manpower Stock for Hodh Occidental (El Gharbi) by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	58,711	65,423	124,194	100.00	-
Children 0 - 11	23,514	22,656	46,170	37.18	-
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	35,257	42,767	78,024	62.82	-
15 and over	31,086	38,790	69,876	56.32	-
15 - 64	29,011	35,419	64,430	51.88	100.00
<u>12 Years and over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	4,171	3,977	8,148	6.56	-
15 - 19	6,250	6,546	12,906	10.39	20.03
20 - 24	3,917	5,786	9,703	7.81	15.06
25 - 29	2,705	3,806	6,511	5.24	10.11
30 - 34	2,505	3,579	6,084	4.90	9.44
35 - 39	3,276	4,653	7,929	6.38	12.31
40 - 44	3,476	3,297	6,773	5.43	10.51
45 - 49	2,427	2,477	4,904	3.95	7.61
50 - 54	1,854	1,983	3,837	3.09	5.96
55 - 59	1,817	2,275	4,092	3.29	6.35
60 - 64	774	917	1,691	1.36	2.62

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

Appendix

Table 9

Manpower Stock for Assaba by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Group	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	60,181	68,981	129,162	100.00	..
Children 0 - 11	25,527	23,544	49,071	37.99	..
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	34,654	45,437	80,091	62.01	..
15 and over	30,549	41,828	72,377	56.04	..
12 - 64	32,825	42,591	75,416	58.39	..
15 - 64	28,727	38,982	67,702	52.42	100.00
<u>12 Years and over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	4,195	3,609	7,714	5.97	..
15 - 19	5,660	7,423	13,083	10.13	19.32
20 - 24	3,747	5,886	9,633	7.46	14.23
25 - 29	3,414	5,117	8,531	6.60	12.60
30 - 34	2,900	4,099	6,999	5.42	10.34
35 - 39	2,306	3,435	5,741	4.44	8.48
40 - 44	2,664	4,176	7,840	6.07	11.58
45 - 49	1,855	2,436	4,291	3.32	6.34
50 - 54	2,086	2,709	4,795	3.71	7.08
55 - 59	1,660	2,015	3,675	2.85	5.44
60 - 64	1,419	1,686	3,105	2.40	4.59

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

Appendix  
Table 10  
Manpower Stock for Gorgol by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	71,991	77,441	149,432	100.00	-
Children 0 - 11	30,729	29,051	59,780	40.00	-
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	41,202	40,390	81,592	54.60	-
15 and over	38,155	42,472	80,627	53.99	-
12 - 64	38,691	45,251	83,942	56.17	-
15 - 64	33,584	40,333	73,917	49.47	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	5,107	4,918	10,025	6.71	-
15 - 19	7,325	8,917	16,242	10.87	20.76
20 - 24	4,619	5,983	10,602	7.09	14.33
25 - 29	3,207	5,397	8,604	5.76	12.45
30 - 34	3,340	4,664	8,004	5.36	10.83
35 - 39	2,526	3,225	5,751	3.85	7.99
40 - 44	3,345	4,392	7,737	5.18	10.47
45 - 49	2,605	2,546	5,151	3.44	7.05
50 - 54	2,233	2,539	4,772	3.19	6.46
55 - 59	1,853	1,726	3,579	2.40	4.84
60 - 64	1,720	1,844	3,564	2.39	4.82

Source: Unpublished preliminary data census table TD 02.

## Appendix

Table 11

Manpower Stock for Brakna by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	71,007	80,346	151,353	100.00	--
Children 0 - 11	31,408	29,275	60,682	40.09	--
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	39,599	51,071	90,670	59.91	--
15 and over	33,988	45,802	79,790	52.72	--
12 - 64	36,918	47,455	84,373	55.75	--
15 - 64	31,307	42,186	73,493	48.56	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	5,611	5,269	10,880	7.19	--
15 - 19	6,987	7,709	14,696	9.71	20.00
20 - 24	4,052	6,433	10,485	6.93	14.27
25 - 29	2,966	5,705	8,671	5.73	11.80
30 - 34	2,763	4,552	7,315	4.83	9.95
35 - 39	2,131	3,462	5,593	3.70	7.61
40 - 44	3,234	4,440	7,674	5.07	10.44
45 - 49	2,283	2,628	4,911	3.25	6.69
50 - 54	2,674	3,030	5,704	3.77	7.76
55 - 59	2,320	2,026	4,346	2.87	5.91
60 - 64	1,892	2,201	4,093	2.70	5.57

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

Appendix

Table 12

Manpower Stock for Trarza by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	102,437	113,571	216,008	100.00	-
Children 0 - 11	41,327	38,852	80,189	37.12	--
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	61,110	74,709	135,819	62.88	--
15 and over	53,205	67,584	120,789	55.92	--
12 - 64	56,316	67,599	124,515	57.65	--
15 - 64	48,911	60,574	109,485	50.69	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	7,905	7,125	15,030	6.96	--
15 - 19	9,622	11,437	21,059	9.75	19.23
20 - 24	6,596	9,835	16,431	7.61	15.01
25 - 29	5,485	7,453	12,938	5.99	11.82
30 - 34	3,929	6,150	10,079	4.67	9.20
35 - 39	3,944	4,420	8,372	3.86	7.65
40 - 44	4,810	5,751	10,571	4.89	9.65
45 - 49	4,052	4,923	8,975	4.15	8.20
50 - 54	4,594	4,491	9,085	4.21	8.30
55 - 59	3,617	3,489	7,106	3.29	6.49
60 - 64	2,262	2,607	4,869	2.25	4.45

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

## Appendix

Table 13

Manpower Stocks for Adrar by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Group	Manpower			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	28,919	26,435	55,354	100.00	-
Children 0 - 11	10,850	9,269	20,119	36.35	-
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	18,969	17,166	35,235	63.65	-
15 and over	15,202	15,431	31,763	57.33	-
12 - 64	15,646	15,692	32,344	58.43	-
15 - 64	14,013	14,013	29,872	52.16	100.00
12 Years and over by Age-Group:					
12 - 14	1,787	1,685	3,472	6.27	-
15 - 19	3,237	3,054	6,301	11.38	21.32
20 - 24	3,110	2,054	5,164	9.33	17.89
25 - 29	1,223	1,633	3,556	6.43	12.32
30 - 34	1,085	1,329	2,414	4.36	8.36
35 - 39	913	1,204	2,117	3.83	7.33
40 - 44	1,179	1,501	2,680	4.84	9.28
45 - 49	950	893	1,843	3.33	6.33
50 - 54	1,232	1,167	2,399	4.33	8.31
55 - 59	517	659	1,175	2.12	4.07
60 - 64	713	510	1,223	2.21	4.24

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

## Appendix

Table 14

Manpower Stock for Dakhlet Nouadhibou by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	15,055	9,373	24,428	100.00	-
Children 0 - 11	3,856	3,593	7,454	30.51	-
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	11,199	5,775	16,974	69.49	-
15 and over	10,847	5,214	15,061	61.93	-
12 - 64	11,052	5,649	16,701	68.37	-
15 - 64	10,500	5,088	15,588	63.81	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age-Groups:</u>					
12 - 14	552	561	1,113	4.56	-
15 - 19	1,263	996	2,259	9.25	14.49
20 - 24	1,252	1,071	3,323	13.60	21.32
25 - 29	2,192	878	3,070	12.57	19.69
30 - 34	1,599	644	2,243	9.18	14.39
35 - 39	1,234	446	1,730	7.08	11.10
40 - 44	856	422	1,278	5.23	8.20
45 - 49	477	236	713	2.92	4.57
50 - 54	345	211	556	2.28	3.57
55 - 59	136	99	235	0.96	1.51
60 - 64	96	85	181	0.74	1.16

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

Appendix

Table 15

Manpower Stock for Tagant by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	35,042	39,930	78,980	100.00	-
Children 0 - 11	14,242	14,151	28,413	37.89	-
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	20,780	25,787	16,567	62.11	..
15 and over	17,968	23,421	41,389	55.20	..
12 - 64	19,514	24,241	45,755	58.36	..
15 - 64	16,701	21,275	38,577	51.45	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	2,812	2,366	5,178	6.91	..
15 - 19	4,169	4,820	8,989	11.99	23.30
20 - 24	2,638	3,784	6,452	8.60	16.73
25 - 29	1,561	2,032	3,643	4.86	9.44
30 - 34	1,168	2,191	3,359	4.48	8.71
35 - 39	1,416	1,909	3,325	4.43	8.62
40 - 44	1,450	1,929	3,365	4.49	8.72
45 - 49	1,306	1,474	2,782	3.71	7.21
50 - 59	1,253	1,593	2,846	3.60	7.38
55 - 59	1,277	1,358	2,635	3.51	6.33
60 - 64	446	735	1,181	1.58	3.06

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.

## Appendix

Table 16

Manpower Stock for Guidimakha by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	40,213	43,013	83,231	100.00	..
Children 0 - 11	17,125	15,712	32,837	39.45	..
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	23,093	27,301	50,394	60.55	..
15 and over	20,419	24,810	45,229	54.34	..
12 - 64	21,549	25,628	47,277	56.80	..
15 - 64	18,975	23,137	42,112	50.60	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	2,674	2,491	5,165	6.21	..
15 - 19	4,751	4,396	8,447	10.15	20.06
20 - 24	2,616	3,608	6,224	7.48	14.78
25 - 29	2,230	3,501	5,801	7.07	13.96
30 - 34	1,972	2,867	4,839	5.81	11.49
35 - 39	1,759	2,148	3,907	4.69	9.28
40 - 44	1,835	2,026	3,863	4.64	9.17
45 - 49	1,324	1,180	2,504	3.01	5.95
50 - 54	1,217	1,593	2,810	3.38	6.67
55 - 59	954	802	1,756	2.11	4.17
60 - 64	957	914	1,881	2.26	4.47

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TB 02.

Appendix  
Table 17

Manpower Stock for Tiris-Zemmour by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	12,943	9,611	22,554	100.00	--
Children	4,113	4,741	7,854	34.82	--
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	8,830	5,870	14,700	65.12	--
15 and over	8,102	5,214	13,316	59.04	--
12 - 64	8,624	5,650	14,284	63.33	--
15 - 64	7,905	4,924	12,900	57.19	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age-Group:</u>					
12 - 14	728	656	1,384	6.14	--
15 - 19	1,354	1,139	2,503	11.10	19.40
20 - 24	1,806	870	2,775	12.30	21.51
25 - 29	1,176	730	1,906	8.45	14.77
30 - 34	956	525	1,491	6.61	11.56
35 - 39	814	437	1,251	5.55	9.70
40 - 44	722	505	1,227	5.44	9.51
45 - 49	406	250	664	2.94	5.15
50 - 54	303	289	592	2.62	4.59
55 - 59	130	115	254	1.13	1.97
60 - 64	120	117	237	1.05	1.84

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census TD 02.

## Appendix

Table 18

Manpower Stock for Inchiri by Age-Groups (1977)

Age-Groups	Manpower Stock			% of Total Population	% of Population 15 - 64
	Male	Female	Total		
Total Population	9,444	8,167	17,611	100.00	--
Children 0 - 11	3,236	2,796	6,032	34.54	--
<u>Manpower Stocks:</u>					
12 and over	6,153	5,371	11,524	65.46	--
15 and over	5,625	4,754	10,379	58.93	--
12 - 64	5,305	5,029	10,334	51.52	--
15 - 64	5,272	4,412	9,684	54.99	100.00
<u>12 Years and Over by Age Group:</u>					
12 - 14	533	617	1,150	6.53	--
15 - 19	1,293	926	2,219	12.60	22.91
20 - 24	956	649	1,599	9.08	16.51
25 - 29	583	540	1,123	6.41	11.65
30 - 34	412	401	813	4.62	8.40
35 - 39	350	340	690	3.92	7.12
40 - 44	415	660	1,075	6.22	11.31
45 - 49	546	291	837	4.69	8.54
50 - 54	375	263	638	3.62	6.59
55 - 59	298	236	534	2.52	4.58
60 - 64	135	96	231	1.31	2.39

Source: Unpublished preliminary data from census table TD 02.