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Honor — Fraternity — Justice

Ministry of Economy and Finance

**Directorate of Studies and
Programming**

RAMS PROJECT

Rural Assessment and Manpower Surveys

Supplement to the
Employment Situation

FS ~2



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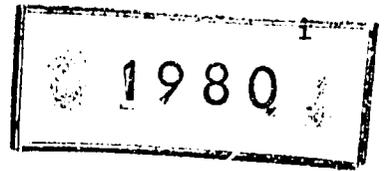


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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of the survey was to gather baseline data and information regarding the employment and unemployment situation of the country and to explore several employment issues.

At the time of the survey (September 1979 - January 1980), adequate data were not available to serve as a foundation for Government decisions regarding employment. Since that time, more findings from the 1977 Census of Population have become available. These provide a general framework within which the more detailed information from this survey can be included. It should be remembered, however, that approximately three years separate the gathering of data from the two sources. Some of the differences between them can only be explained by changes which have occurred during this period.

Other RAMS surveys studied employment characteristics of those already working in specific sectors of the economy : the modern sector, private and para-statal sector: government; the informal or nonstructural sector; and the rural, traditional sector. This supplement contains the findings of a household survey of the population, and deals with : the employed, unemployed, housewives, students and children. Respondants to the survey were selected at random regardless of employment status or economic sector.

1.2. Methodology

It was intended at the outset that the survey be nationwide; however, constraints of time and resources limited its actual scope. The nomadic

population, an important part of the nation's manpower, was excluded. Questionnaires were distributed ~~in~~ in small villages of the rural area, but the number was too small to give statistical significance to the survey of the rural areas. On the other hand, the results are complementary and consistent ~~with~~ to those of the RAMS survey of Rural Occupations and Qualifications. The economy of the urban areas is of course more complex than that of rural areas, but the sample size there lends more confidence to the reliability of the numbers. All of the major population centers were surveyed, viz.: Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Atar, Zouerate, Akjoujt, Rosso and Kaedi (not included were Kiffa and Selibaby). In Nouakchott, all wards or "arrondissements" were included, as were the different socio-economic parts of the city including the downtown, the established residential areas, and the shanty-town or "keba" area. Families in each city were selected randomly, but sample size relative to population was only roughly similar; therefore, comparison between cities or regions cannot always be legitimately made.¹⁾

1) See Annex 1, p. 80

1.3. The Questionnaire

The questionnaire itself consisted of six parts :

- 1) A face page which identified the family by its location and identified each member of the family by their principal and secondary activity;
- 2) A sheet for each working member of the family;
- 3) A sheet for each unemployed member of the family;
- 4) A sheet for each housewife member of the family;
- 5) A sheet for each student member of the family, and
- 6) A page which details household income from each member of the family.

A copy of the questionnaire is included as Annex 2.

The questions are self-explanatory. They seek data and information about :

- a) The distribution of the family by employment status (working or unemployed);
- b) For workers, the nature of their occupation and details about how they started, problems encountered, type of work, length of work, and secondary employment, if any;
- c) For the unemployed, why they are not working, what kind of work they are capable of doing, and their aspirations;
- d) For housewives, secondary employment, qualifications and aspirations;
- e) For students and the other three groups except children, educational background, both public and religious;
- f) For all adult groups, job history, reasons and methods for changing occupations and
- g) For all family members amount and nature of income (monetary or in-kind) by source of that revenue.

It was felt at the outset that if sufficiently accurate and detailed information could be obtained based on these questions, the data base thus produced could form the basis for establishing the Governmental policies and programs needed to solve the obviously serious employment problems

facing the nation. The data finally produced were less than that originally hoped for, but sufficient to form a basis for judgements with respect to employment policy.

The next section presents the data and findings. The last section presents some conclusions based upon those data.

2. Survey Data And Findings

2.1. Employment Status

There were 4,788 individuals surveyed. These were individually classified by their employment status. Of the total, 803 were working at the time of the survey; the other 3,985 were not working.

All of those not working are the "dependent population," i.e. they must be supported by those who are working. The ratio of dependent population to workers is just under 5 : 1. In other words, on the average each of the 803 workers must support himself or herself and an additional 5 members of the dependent population. The relative distribution of the population by activity status is shown in Figure 1. The distribution of the population between workers and dependent population is presented as Figure 2.

The 83 % of the surveyed population that is not working is further divided into four categories : unemployed, housewives, students and infants. A total of 1 466 infants and 1 120 students were counted. These 2 586 youth are over half (54 %) of the surveyed population. Although in the long run, they represent the nation's potential, in the short run, they are a considerable financial burden for those who support them.

Also included are those housewives who do not have remunerative employment as a principal activity. Some 762 housewives who constitute 16 % of the total surveyed population were counted. Ignoring for the moment those female workers who are also housewives and those housewives who have a job as a secondary occupation (see Table 1), the number and percent of housewives is only slightly less than that for workers.

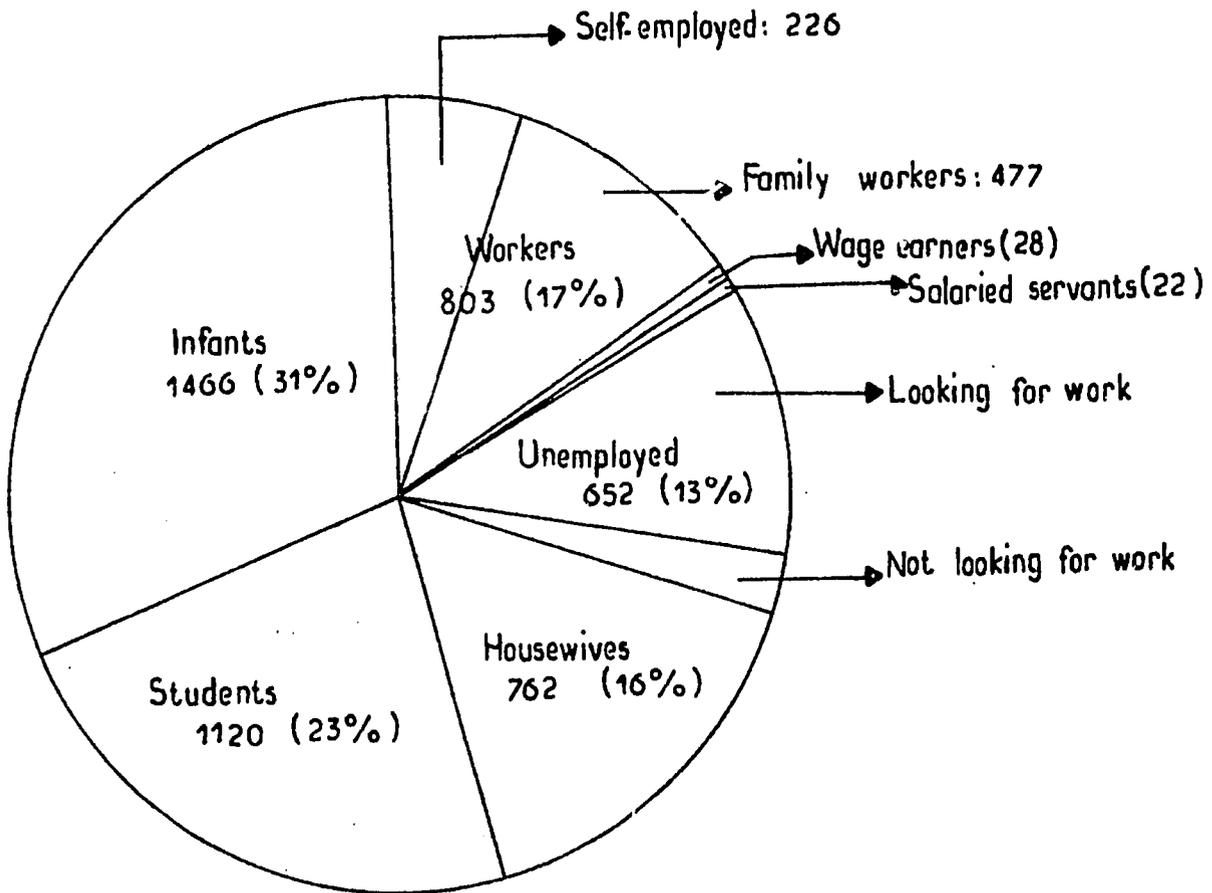


Figure 1

Distribution of the Population by
Employment Status

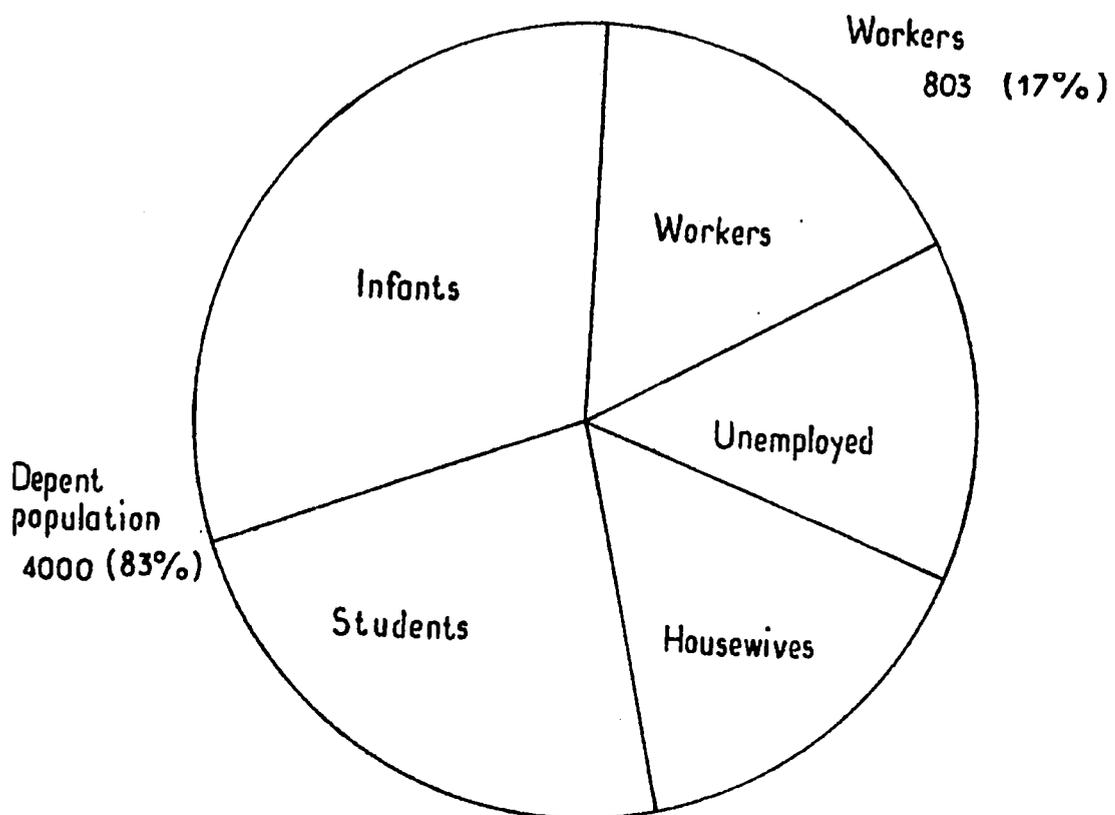


Figure 2

Distribution of the Population by Workers
and Dependent Population

The last category of those not working are the unemployed. They are those who identified themselves as being without work but desiring employment. Unlike the definition used in some other countries, individuals were not excluded from this category if they desired work but were not actively seeking it. This classification obviates the problem of classifying the "discouraged worker", i.e. those who want employment but because of the apparent hopelessness of finding it have given up looking for it. A total of 652 individuals, 13 % of the total population, indicated that they were unemployed. (In fact, most of the unemployed - 534, or 82 % - were actively seeking work; but another 118, or 18 % of the unemployed, were not looking for work).

The 652 unemployed are an astonishing 45 % of the labor force of 1,455.¹⁾ This is much higher than the unemployment rates suggested by the 1977 Census of Sedentary Population. Explanations of this difference must include consideration of the possibility that open unemployment has worsened drastically during the past three years. Another possibility may be ~~that the census may have included as employed individuals~~ those who had a profession but were not actually working at the time the census was taken.

Whatever the cause, given the representativeness of this survey, it must be concluded that unemployment represents a critical national problem.

The 803 employed workers were also classified by status :self-emplo; family worker, wage or salary earner and salaried servant. There were 276

1) As indicated, 13 % of the total population were unemployed; however, the unemployment rate is the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed.

workers counted (34 % of all workers) who worked for themselves and 477 (60 %) who worked for the family. An overwhelming 94 % of the total workers worked for themselves or their family: only 6 % (50 workers) were paid a wage by a non-family member. Of those, about half, 28 workers, were wage or salary earners working for an enterprise and the rest, 22 workers, were salaried servants paid by a family.¹⁾

Nor is this just a rural phenomenon; the percent of self-employed and family workers in urban areas is also 94 % (see Figure 3).

Despite the apparent economic importance of employment in the modern private and Government sectors, this emphasizes once again the insignificance of this sector in employing large numbers of workers.

Only 3-4% of workers are wage earners in the modern sector. This sector simply cannot be expected to absorb rapidly large numbers of the unemployed or of new entrants into the labor force.

1) The data reported on servants should be treated with some reserve; because of under-reporting. It should be noted that non-paid servants were included in the category "family workers".

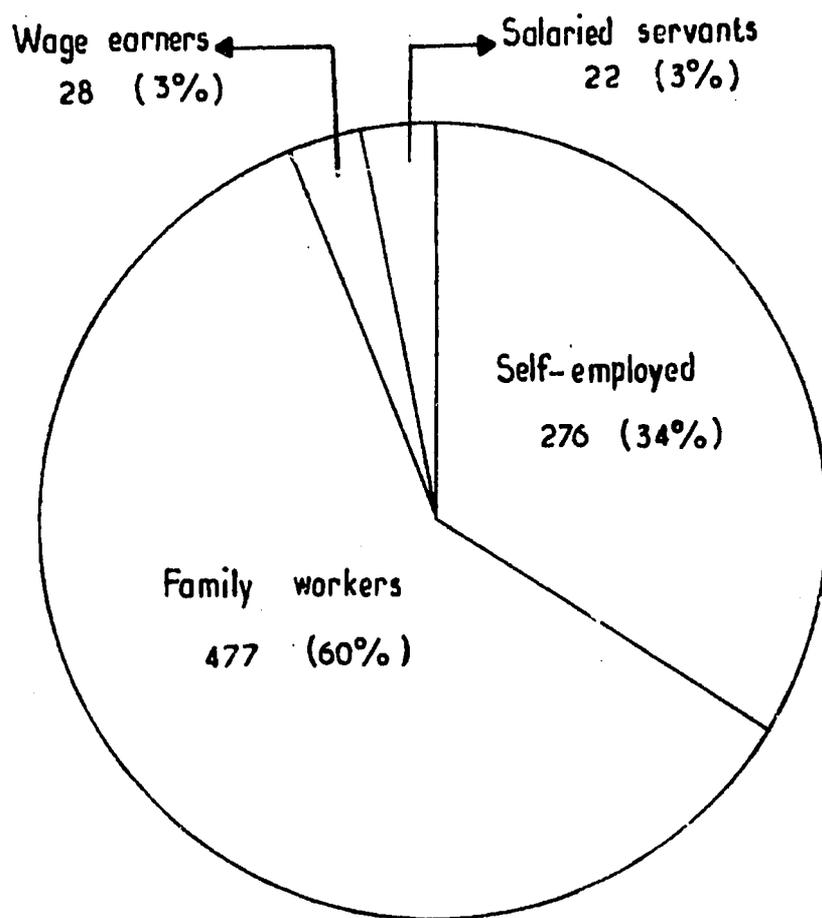


Figure 3

Distribution of the Employed by Type of
Employment

2.2. Age And Sex Characteristics of the Labor Force

The population is divided for analytical purposes into the labor force and the "inactive" population.¹⁾ Figure 4 shows that distribution : 30 % of the population were in the labor force and the other 70 % were inactive.

The labor force itself is also divided into employed and unemployed, as shown in Figure 5 : with 55 % of the labor force employed and 45 % unemployed.

Table 1 presents detailed information about the age and sex characteristics of the labor force.

The number of those in the 12 - 14 age group is insignificant: only four were employed and six unemployed. This finding is generally consistent with the results of the census, which found that labor force participation rates of this age group in rural areas were, while considerably lower than adults, still significant; but the labor force participation rates of their counterparts in urban areas were very low.

Youth aged 15-19 were 13 % of the total labor force and young adults 20-24 were a high 18 %. The bulk of the labor force, 62 %, was between 25 and 60. Six percent were over age 60. Figure 6 shows the frequency distribution by each age group. The age group 20 - 24 is the one with the highest average number of workers :

the 253 workers in that age group average just over 50 workers for each of the five years in that group; while the 545 in the 25-40 group and the 106 in the 15-20 group average 36 and 37 workers per year of age respectively.

1) The labor force consists of those who are employed and unemployed. The inactive population consists of those from whom work is not generally expected (children, the aged, retired, housewives, students).

While men dominate the labor force, women continue to play an important role. Of the 1 420 surveyed in the labor force, 80 % were male and 20 % were female. This 4 : 1 ratio corresponds to the findings of the census which indicated that labor force participation rates for prime age males were over 90 % and for females around 25 %. The ratio of female to male workers declines as the age of the workers increases, until age sixty, as shown below :

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Female/Male Ratio</u>
12 - 14	1 : 1
15 - 19	1 : 1.4
21 - 24	1 : 3
25 - 39	1 : 5
40 - 59	1 : 8
60 +	1 : 3

Women in the labor force tended to be clustered more in the younger age groups than men :

<u>Age-Group</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>
12 - 14	2 %	1 %
15 - 19	27 %	10 %
20 - 24	20 %	17 %
25 - 39	31 %	40 %
40 - 59	13 %	27 %
60 +	7 %	5 %
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100 %	100 %

There is a striking conclusion from the data on unemployment : it is extremely high for all age groups and for both sexes. As expected, unemployment rates are higher for younger workers and for females. The 15-19 age group and the 20-24 age group had rates of 83 % and 61 % respectively. The total female rate of 58 % is 16 % higher than that of the males. But the most disturbing numbers are those for prime age males who presumably are the principal breadwinners for the family. The lowest rate for any group

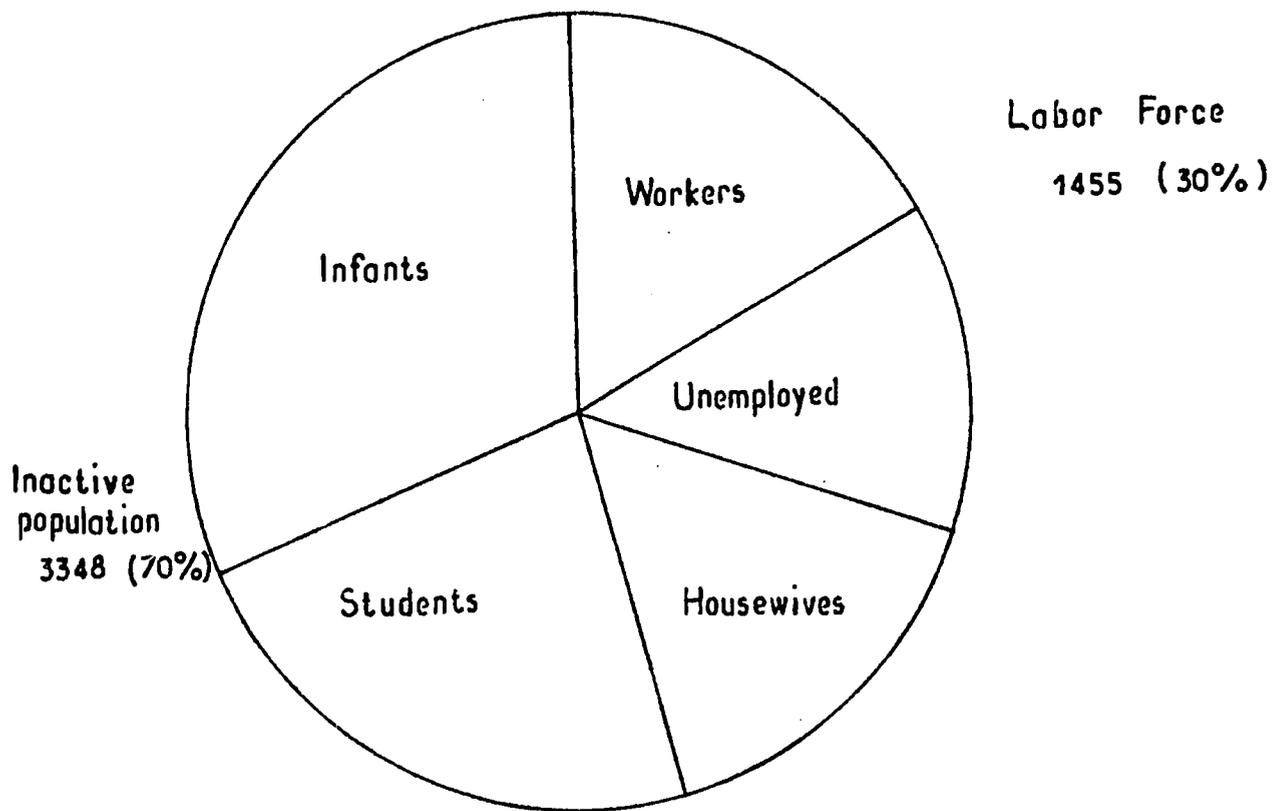


Figure 4

Distribution of the Population by Labor
Force and Inactive Population

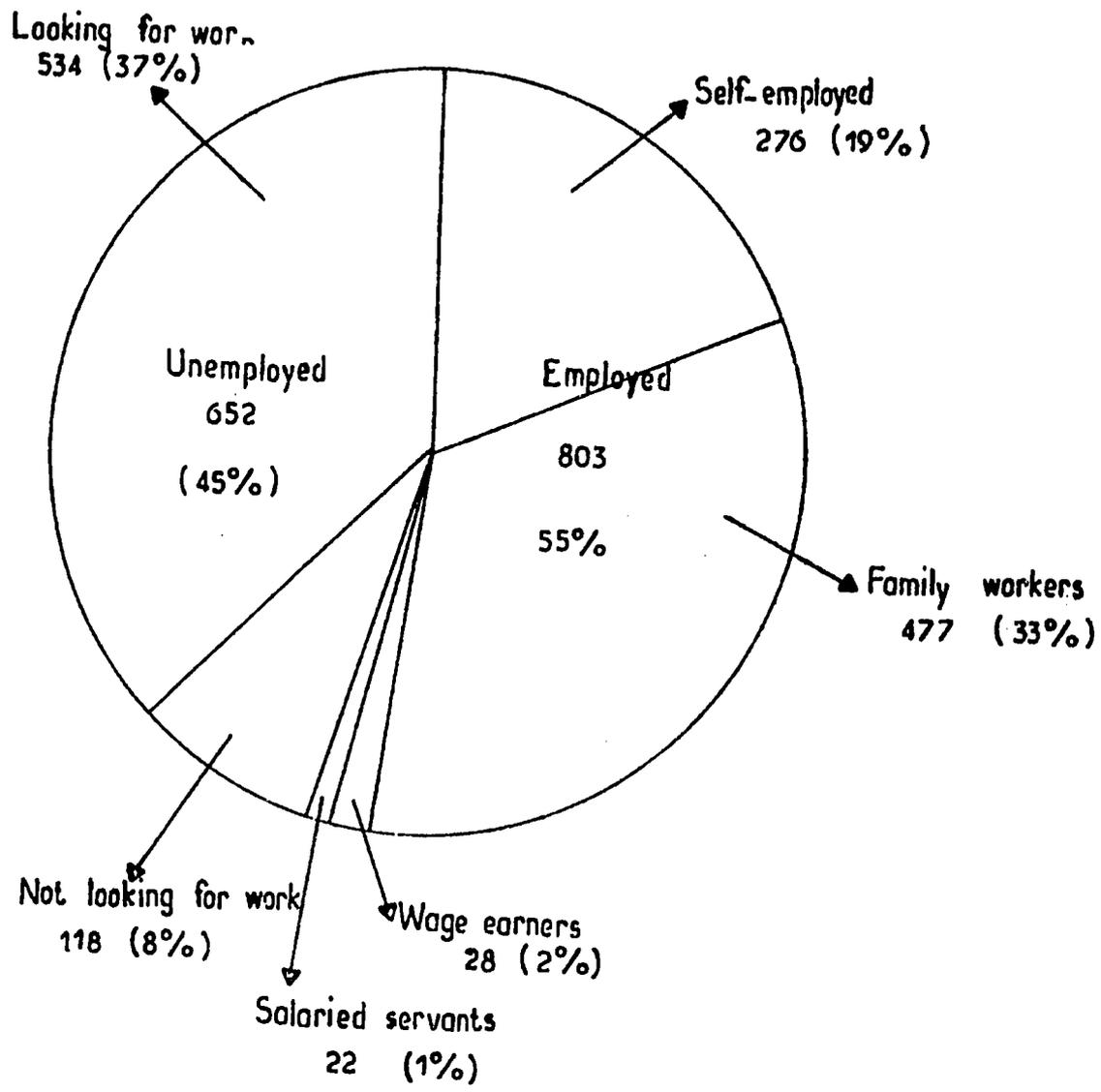


Figure 5

Distribution of the Labor Force Between
Employed and Unemployed

Table 1 : Age And Sex Characteristics of The Labor Force

Age Group	Self-Employed		Family Workers		Salaried Workers		Servants		Total Employed	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
12 - 14	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	1
15 - 19	1	7	12	3	3	2	3	1	19	13
20 - 24	14	6	38	15	7	1	7	1	66	23
25 - 39	81	27	211	27	7	0	5	0	304	54
40 - 59	91	17	145	4	3	1	2	0	241	22
60 +	18	6	9	0	0	0	0	0	27	6
Total	205	63	415	49	20	5	20	2	660	119
Percent Dis- tribution	14 %	4 %	29 %	3 %	1 %	0.3 %	1 %	0.1 %	46 %	8 %

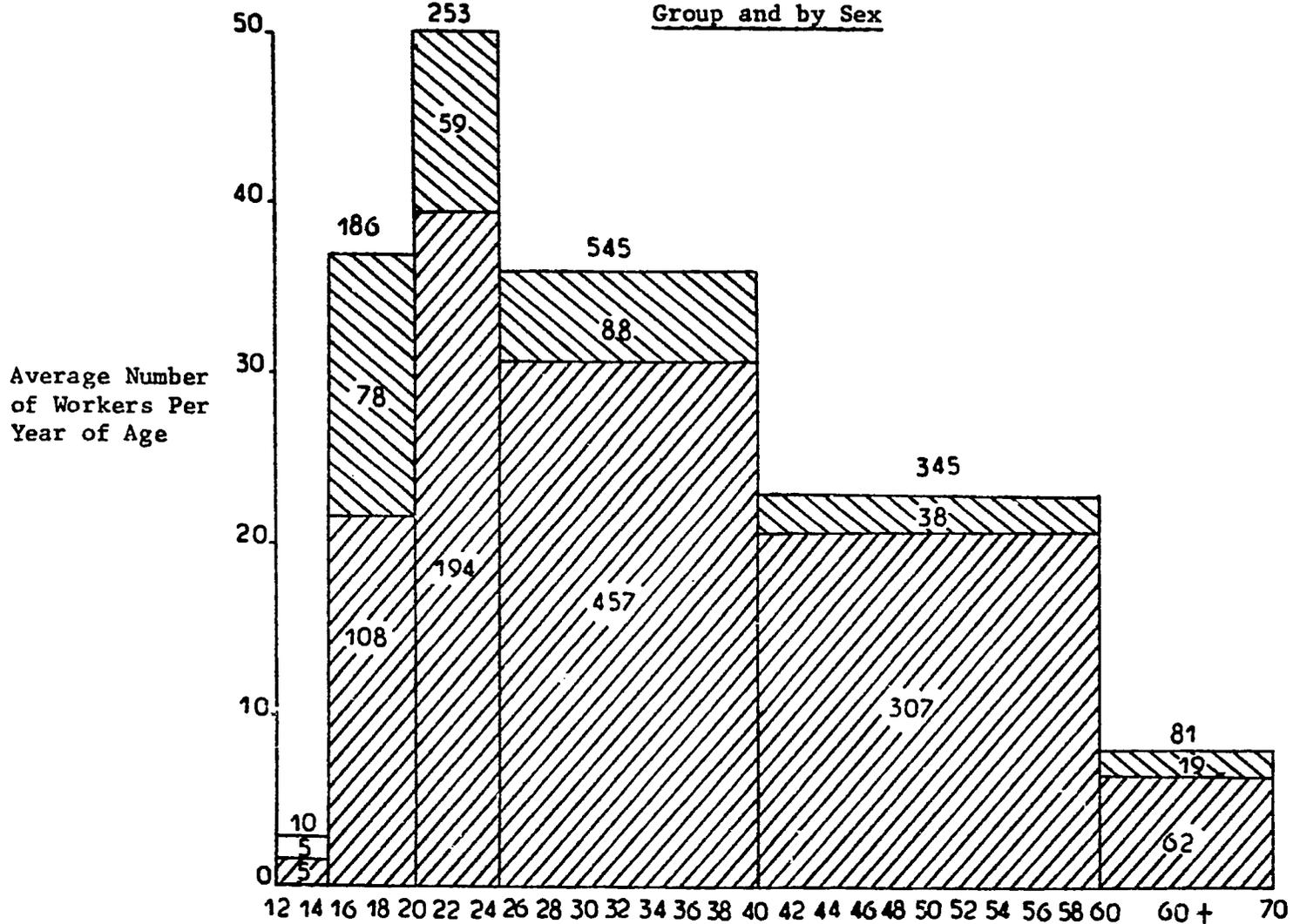
Table 1 : Cont.

Age- Group	Unemployed : Looking for work		Unemployed: not looking for work		Total unemployed		Total Labor Force			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total Percent	Percent
12 - 14	2	3	-	1	2	4	5	5	10	0.7
15 - 19	84	46	5	19	89	65	108	78	186	13
20 - 24	126	29	2	7	128	36	194	59	253	18
25 - 39	147	26	6	8	153	34	457	88	545	38
40 - 59	50	3	16	13	66	16	307	38	345	24
60 +	9	0	26	13	35	13	62	19	81	6
Total	418	107	55	61	473	168	1133	287	1420	
Percent Distribution	29 %	7 %	4 %	4 %	33 %	12 %	80 %	20 %		100 %

Figure 6

Distribution of the Labor Force by Age

Group and by Sex



Note:

/// = males

=== = females

Number of the top of each column

= the total number of workers in that age group

was 21 % for males 40-59 which is still remarkably high; but the rate for prime age males 20-59 was an extraordinary 36% - well over a third of its prime age males.

Unemployment rates by age group and by sex are presented in Table 2 and in Figure 7.

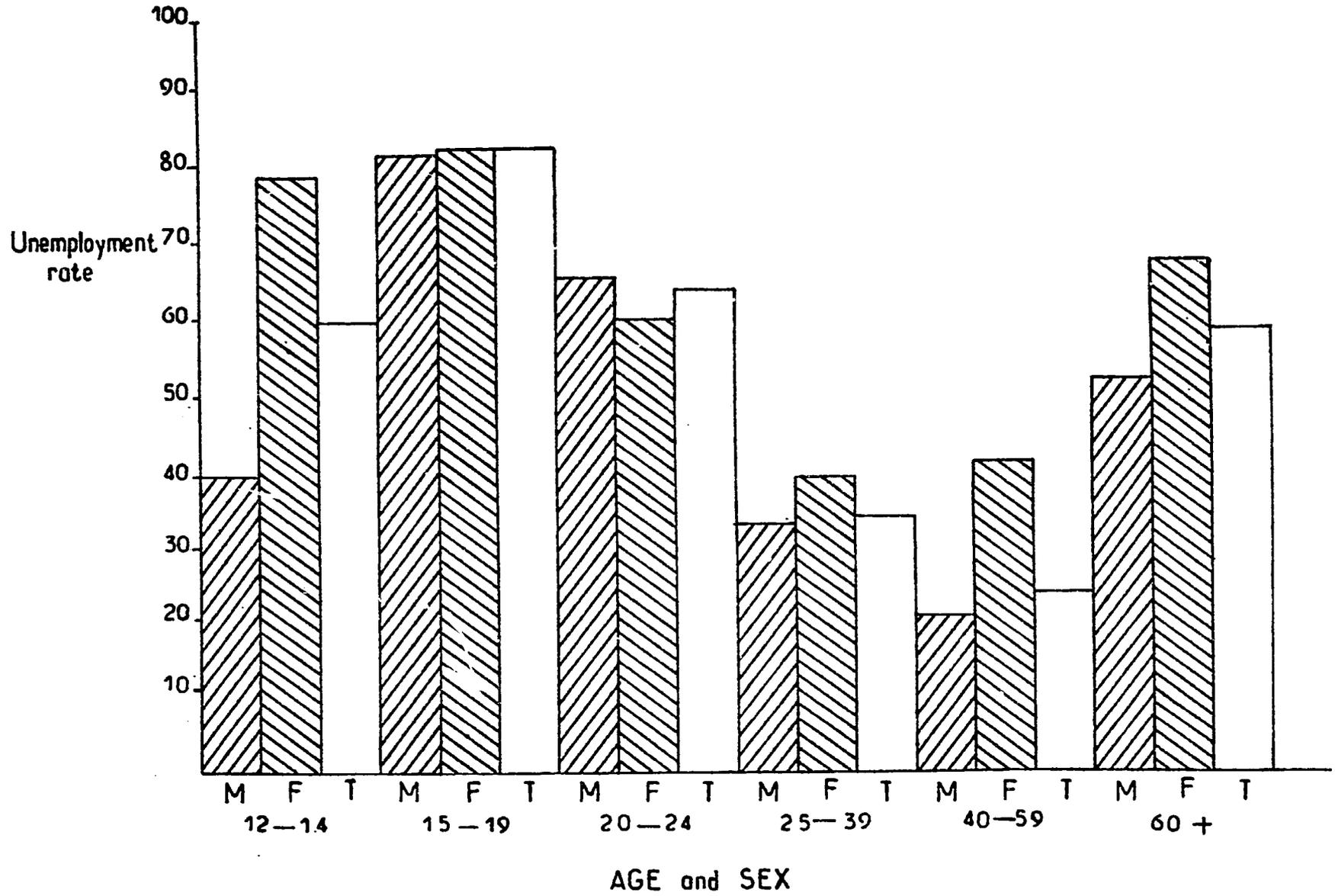
Table 2 : Unemployment rates (%)

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
12 - 14 ¹⁾	40	80	60
15 - 19	82	33	83
20 - 24	66	61	65
25 - 39	33	39	34
40 - 59	21	42	24
60 +	56	60	59
Total	42	58	45
Sub-Total 20-59	36	46	38

1) Sample Size is too small to be significant

Figure 7

Unemployment Rates by Age and Sex



2.3. Occupations

Among the 740 workers surveyed, 57 different occupations were identified out of the 100 occupational groups classified by the census. This supports a conclusion also drawn from the census : a wide diversity of occupations exists which reflects a wide range of skills and qualifications. It should be remembered that most of these occupations are held by individuals who are either self-employed or are in family enterprises.

Another conclusion for economic development is suggested by the diversity of occupations : Mauritians have the capacity to adapt to change and to learn new skills and new occupations as the economy moves from traditional to modern.

The size of the sample was too small to represent adequately the geographical distribution of occupations. Although representative of urban areas, rural occupations are clearly underreported. One of the principal occupations, herding, is almost completely ignored and the other one, farming, is underreported.

Of the workers surveyed, the largest group was commerce with 124 workers (divided among four sub-categories) which is 17 % of the total number of workers. This supports the findings of other RAMS surveys of the predominance of this activity in the economy. Other occupations with relatively large numbers of workers included drivers and mechanics (82), police and soldiers (47), farmers and gardeners (44), custodians and guards (14), servants and houseboys (25), primary school teachers (20) and accountants (20). There were also 39 unidentified professions. Occupations with 10-19 workers included : weavers and dyers, administrative agents, secretaries, masons, carpenters, dockworkers, health aides,

and religious instructors (Marabouts). There were also 43 workers classified as "other". One of the mild surprises was that there were only 5 workers who identified themselves as laborers.

The diversity of occupations among women is much less than that among men: women were found working in 19 of the 100 census occupational groups. Almost half (42%) of the female workers surveyed were engaged in some form of commerce. Other occupations which had more than five females included : weavers and dyers, secretaries, nurses aides and primary school teachers.

A comparison of the number of males and females holding given occupations confirms what is already commonly known about occupations which are generally held by males, by females, and those which are more evenly shared.

Differences in age do not seem to make much difference in occupations held except in the following instances : guards and large scale merchants tend to be concentrated in the 40-59 group: while drivers, mechanics and soldiers tend to be more concentrated in the younger age groups.

2.4. Regions

Table 3 calculates unemployment rates and dependency ratios for the regions

Of the seven regions which had a reasonably large sample size, five had unemployment rates of between 39 % and 47 %, which is close to the national average of 44 % in this survey. However, Atar in Region 7 reported a much higher unemployment rate of 56 %; and Kaedi in Region 4 reported a relatively remarkably low rate of 15 %. The general uniformity of rates suggests that with some exceptions high open unemployment is not just a phenomenon of a single area such as Nouakchott but rather is spread throughout the urban areas of the country.

The four regions with small sample sizes all had low worker/dependent ratios, ranging from 1 : 1.5 to 1 : 3. The reasons for this are not very clear. The other seven surveyed regions ranged from 1 : 4 to 1 : 6, clustering around the national average and Nouakchott's 1.5. Atar had a 1 : 8 ratio. Assuming that incomes of workers are roughly the same, these differences are significant.

Compare Atar, for example, where 47 workers supported 402 dependents, with Kaedi where almost the same number of dependents (427) were supported by almost twice as many workers (95), or with Selibaby where only about a tenth as many dependents (44) were supported by two thirds (30) as many workers.

Table 3 : Unemployment Rates and Dependency Ratios by Region¹⁾

Region	Unemployment Rate	No. of Workers	No. of inactive population	Ratio of Workers to Dependents
00	47 %	393	1910	1 : 5
02 ²⁾	20 %	8	17	1 : 2
04	15 %	65	427	1 : 5
05 ²⁾	0	10	31	1 : 3
06	43 %	90	505	1 : 6
07	56 %	47	402	1 : 8
08	47 %	158	604	1 : 4
09 ²⁾	43 %	8	22	1 : 3
10 ²⁾	19 %	30	44	1 : 1.5
11	46 %	61	250	1 : 4
12	39 %	25	133	1 : 5
Total	44 %	921	4,355	1 : 5

1) Excludes Regions 01 and 03

2) Sample Size less than 75: conclusions questionable.

2.5. Economic Sectors

Table 4 presents the results of classifying workers by economic sector. These results are not satisfactory and should only be used with caution. Only 485 of the workers were included and classified. One important sector, agriculture, was not included.

The largest sector indicated is Administration. It was intended that this sector would include government and financial institutions. It appears that in coding, individuals may have been included who were administrators, regardless of their economic sector. The finding that 38 % of the work force is in this sector is completely inconsistent with the finding of that only 3 % of the work force worked as wage earners for another institution, eg. the Government.

The smallest sector indicated is Artisanal with less than 1 % of the work force. If this sector was coded to include only traditional, rural artisans this low figure is not surprising since the survey was primarily an urban one; but if, as intended, it includes those in the urban non-structural sector of the economy it is clearly underreported.

The Services Sector, with only 3 % of the work force also seems abnormally low, as does Commerce with only 6 %. The results, such as they are, are presented in graphic form in Figure 8.

Table 4: Workers by Economic Sectors

Economic Sector	No of Reported Workers	% Distribution
Agricultural Workers	30	16
Extractive	96	17
Manufacturing	15	3
Artisanal	1	0.1
Construction and Public Works	46	8
Commerce	36	6
Transportation and Communication	50	9
Administration	220	38
Services	19	3
Total	573	100

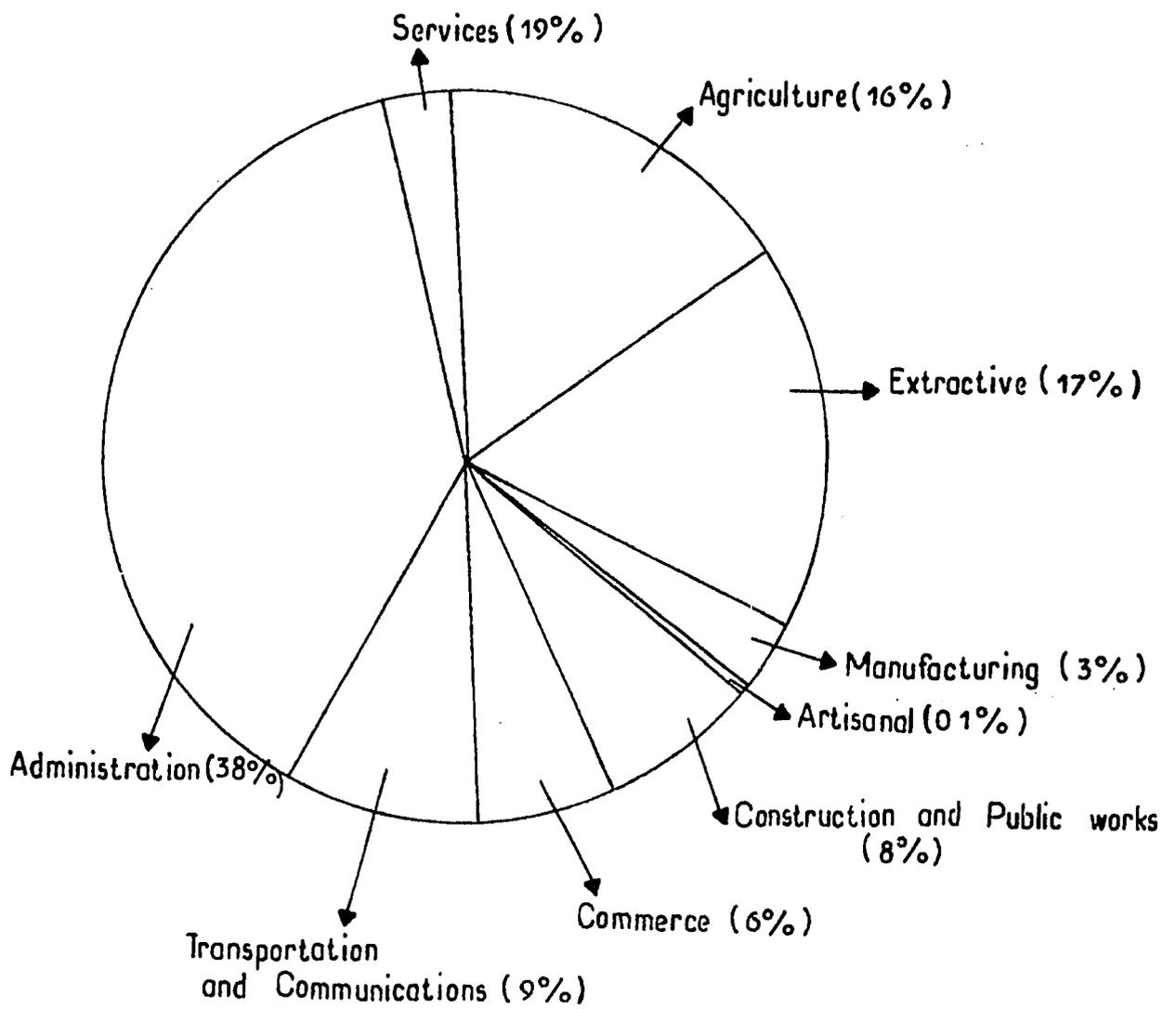


Figure 8

Distribution of the Work Force by Economic Sector

2.6. Occupations Desired

One of the objectives of the survey was to obtain information regarding the need for creation of employment. One method used was simply to ask each adult if he or she wanted a job, and if so, what occupation one would like to have. Responses were received from the unemployed and housewives, and from workers who already had jobs but might consider a new occupation. The results of the responses to these questions are presented as

Figure 9, Table 2.3.

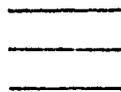
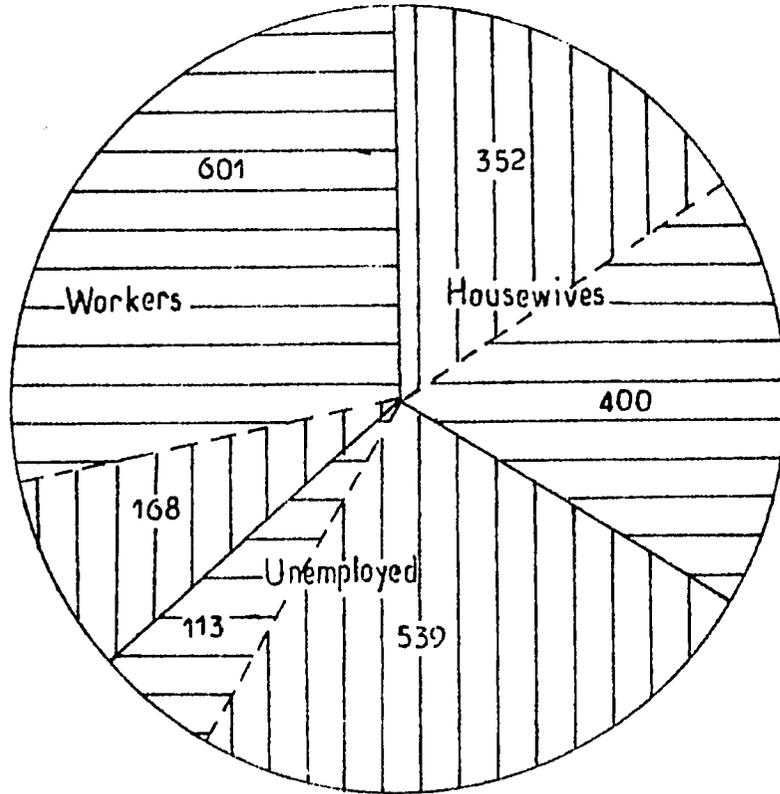
Most of the unemployed were looking for work : 539 or 82 % of the 657 who were counted. Almost half of the housewives also wanted a job : 352 or 47 % of the 752 respondents. More surprising is the finding that almost a fourth of those already working wanted to change occupations, i.e. 168 or 22 % of the 769 who responded to this question.

According to previous calculations jobs are wanted by most of the 45% of the labor force that is unemployed. These data suggest that the need is even greater than that. Just under half (49 %) of the adult population, including workers, unemployed and housewives, want a new job (See Figure 4). Housewives, for example, most wanted to be health aides or have some type of job in commerce.

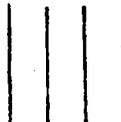
Weaving and dyeing, tailor, secretary, and household help or cook were also frequently mentioned by them.

The 518 unemployed specified 49 different occupations that they wanted. The most frequently cited occupations (putting aside the 51 unidentified responses) were driver/mechanic, guard and secretary. The 148 workers who wanted to change jobs also indicated a wide variety of choices. To the extent that there was any concentration of occupations desired they seemed similar to the desires of the unemployed.

Figure 9
Distribution of Those Looking for Work and
Those Not Looking for Work



= Those not looking for work



= Those looking for work

2.7. Reasons for Unemployment and Changing Occupations

Another objective of the survey was to identify and measure the reasons why people change jobs. Three questions were asked : the employed were asked why they had changed occupations; and the unemployed were asked why they were not working and why they had left their former job, in those instances where they had had one. The questions were open-ended, ie. no answers were given to choose from. Some of the responses received were therefore redundant or nonsensical. They have however all been included, summarized and presented as Table 5. Of the 510 employed who responded, 105 said that they "had not changed professions." Since that answer does not respond to the question, those responses should be ignored.

The biggest reason given by the employed for changing occupations was "to make more money." The next most frequent reason was "the drought." Approximately one-fifth of the legitimate answers gave that as the reason. The other frequent response was "to find more interesting work."

Over half of the unemployed gave as their reason for not working an answer to the effect that they "could not find work." The other principal reasons given were "uneducated" and "without a profession."

The discouraged worker syndrome does not seem to play an important role.

of the unemployed who were not looking for work listed as reasons old age, illness, without profession, or uneducated.

The most frequent reasons given by the unemployed for leaving a former job included : fired, reduction of work force, end of work, or closure of business; the drought; and work did not pay enough or to earn more money.

Table 8: Reasons given by the Employed for Changing Occupations and Reasons Given by the Unemployed for no Longer Working

Code		Why employed changed occupations	Why unemployed are not working		Why unemployed left former job	
			Looking for work	Not looking for work	Looking for work	Not, looking for work
00	No response	-	-	-	1	2
01	Did not change professions	105	1	1	1	3
02	Could not find work	-	293	7	23	1
03	Not looking	-	18	5	-	-
10	End of contract	-	4	-	6	-
11	Fired	-	9	1	45	-
12	Reduction of work force	13	15	-	25	2
13	Closure of the business	10	4	1	9	1
14	Retirement	-	2	2	3	-
15	Resulted from a change	4	3	-	1	-
16	End of work	-	5	-	14	-
17	Quit	4	3	-	5	-
20	Found a better profession	14	-	-	4	-
21	To earn more money	63	-	-	6	-
22	Find more interesting work	37	-	-	3	-
23	Learn a new profession	5	3	-	2	-
24	Ambition	13	-	-	1	-
25	Parental influence	4	-	-	-	-
26	Patriotism	9	-	-	-	-
27	Defend the nation	-	-	-	-	-
30	Did not like the job	-	-	-	1	-
31	Work did not pay enough	45	1	1	21	-
32	Tired of the job	-	1	-	2	2
33	Work too difficult, hard	-	-	-	-	-
34	Difficulties	-	3	-	7	-
35	Changed work	-	-	-	-	-
36	Lack of intervention	-	5	-	-	-
40	Far from trade	-	-	-	1	-
41	The drought	57	9	-	28	3
42	Marriage	-	1	3	2	2

Table 5 : Cont.

Code		Why Employed changed occu- pation	Why unemployed are not working		Why unemployed left former job	
			Looking for work	Not looking for work	Looking for work	Not looking for work
43	Rural exodus	5	13	3	-	-
44	To look for work	-	19	-	4	-
45	Tourisme	-	-	-	-	-
46	Illness	-	9	11	10	3
47	Uneducated	-	45	8	-	-
48	Old Age	-	8	39	4	15
49	Without a profession	1	43	26	-	-
99	Other Service Professions	32	17	10	40	8
	Other	84	-	-	-	-
	Total :	510	534	118	269	40

2.8. Public Education

Another objective of the survey was to measure the educational characteristics of the population. Employed, unemployed and housewives were all asked to list diplomas they had received and if they had not received a diploma to specify the highest level of education they had attained. Students were asked which class they were currently in.

Unfortunately, the data gathered on diploma holders could not be computerized. The data on highest education level attained by non-diploma holders is not particularly useful or informative when considered without the companion information on diploma holders.

Of the 803 workers, 115 reported some education without a diploma. Most of them (69%) had some primary education, particularly at the last grade level; 33 reported some secondary education; only 3 reported some post-secondary non-diploma education. Only 60 housewives reported some non-diploma education - 53 with primary education and 7 with some secondary education. Of the unemployed not looking for work, only 9 cited any non-diploma education. However, 103 of the 534 unemployed looking for work listed some education, most of them (84) at the primary level, but 19 with some secondary education.

There were 1 069 students reported, about three-fourths of whom were in primary school. Distribution among grade levels seemed normal. Another 36 students were listed as pursuing post-secondary or professional education.

2.9. Religious Education

Respondents were also asked to indicate how much, if any, religious education they had received. Their responses are presented as Table 6..

About two-thirds of the workers, slightly over half of both the unemployed and housewives, and one-third of the students cited at least some religious instruction had been received. Roughly 7 % of those who had received any religious instruction had also taken more advanced education in "mahadras."

Table C : Religious Education Received by the Population

Number of Years	Workers		Unemployed				Housewives		Students		Total	
	C ¹⁾	M ²⁾	Looking for Work		Not looking for Work		C	M	C	M	C	M
			C	M	C	M						
Indefinite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81	7	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	1	-	-
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	1	-	-
1-3	160	-	106	10	23	-	199	11	-	-	765	38
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
4-6	150	18	75	3	26	2	135	6	-	-	443	34
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
7-9	67	4	33	4	6	1	40	1	-	-	158	13
10 +	112	16	39	6	15	1	34	1	-	-	200	24
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9	-
11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-
13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
Total	489	45	253	25	70	4	408	19	375	12	1592	109

1) C : Coranique 2) M : Mahadras

2.10. Work Search Methods : Unemployed

One objective of the survey was to gather information about how prospective employees search for work. The answers were clear. By far the most frequent method was to be placed on the roster at the Labor Inspection Office. The other method frequently used was to apply directly to the employer. All other possible methods that were mentioned together did not equal either of those methods.

2.11. Profession Acquisition Methods

One of the questions addressed by the survey was how workers learn their profession.¹⁾

By far the most frequent method was "apprenticeship." The next most often listed method was "practice." The other frequently listed method was unspecified "training." Formal education and training schools and programs do not seem to play an important role at least for the unemployed.

1) This question was treated in much greater detail for rural workers in the RAMS Survey of Rural Occupations and Qualifications.

2.12. Work Search Methods : Employed

The employed were also asked how they actually acquired their employment. As with the unemployed the most frequent methods used were to register at the Labor Inspection Office and to apply directly to the employer. Those two methods together however accounted for less than half of the successful candidates. On the whole, the employed used a much wider variety of methods than the unemployed. Recruitment by the employer, testing, try-outs, parental influence, employment training and contracts were all often mentioned as successful methods.

This may reflect a more active, varied job search. It may also reflect higher levels of qualifications of the employed who tend to rely more on formal qualifications. The unemployed seem to put their name on the list at the Labor Inspection Office, ask in person at possible employers if work is available, and then just hope that something turns up.

2.13. Secondary Employment

It appears that a number of workers have more than one job and that secondary employment contributes significantly to family income and the economy. All of those surveyed were asked to give their principal activity and their secondary profession if they had one. Not only did workers report secondary occupations, but some housewives and students also reported that work was their secondary activity.

Almost all of the 101 students who listed a secondary occupation (usually done during summer vacation) identified "family worker" or "farmer" as the occupation they did. Housewives and the employed showed a much greater variety of occupations : farmer, tanner and merchant were all frequently mentioned.

While secondary employment may have some importance, it is apparently not as prevalent as was anticipated. Only 7 %, 8 % and 9 % of the employed, housewives, and students surveyed reported a secondary occupation.

2.14. Income

One of the major objectives of the survey was to measure family and personal income. Although employment is in one view a goal in itself (because it contributes to self-worth, social status, etc.), its major function is to meet a more basic goal: earning income. Income is the principal means of obtaining most basic needs; employment is the principal means of obtaining income. The analysis of income earned is, therefore, central to any study of employment.

To gather the data needed for this analysis, each family was asked to indicate all income received by each member of the family from every source during the year. The responses received were not as complete or accurate as desired. Surveyors reported hesitation or even refusal to respond by many respondents and they often felt that the answers received were neither candid nor accurate. Despite the special efforts made to encourage full, frank, honest replies, the data reported are less than that desired. They should be used with caution. (See Tables :7 to :9).

2.15 Sources of Income

Because in the Mauritanian Economy non-wage and non-monetary income seem to play important roles, the survey was designed to gather information about income from all sources, whether monetary or in-kind. In all cases, income was to be expressed as annual income. In those cases in which it was expressed otherwise, the surveyor was to convert it into an annual sum. In-kind income (e.g. a sheep, clothing, board and room, etc.) were also to be converted into a monetary value using current market prices. The fourth column in the survey form was reserved specifically for in-kind revenue. The first column was for wage and salary income, including that paid to other family members or to oneself for those that were self-employed. The second and third column were for profit from commerce and production respectively. Production includes any manufacturing or transformation business as well as primary production from farming, herding, etc. The fifth column was particularly applicable to farmers, but also included merchants, artisans, etc. it is the value of all goods produced and consumed directly by the family rather than sold. The last column is for all other sources of income. Table 7 displays the distribution of income earned by source of the income. The numbers indicate the individuals who received a given amount of income from a given source.

In some cases a single individual indicated income from more than one source (which explains why the columns do not add to the same total); but in most cases, only one source was cited. The numbers in the income interval "0" are all those who did not receive any income from that particular source; for example, 354 individuals received no income from salaries, although they did from at least one other source.

As Table 7 shows, the most frequently cited source of income, and which produced by far the most income, was salaries and wages. A total of 569

workers reported income from this source ranging up to 1,500,000 UM. (plus one at over 4.5 million UM). The income for the mean of this group was around 90,000 UM.¹⁾

There were 102 individuals who reported income from profits from commerce. All but four of them received less than 650,000 UM., but those four joined only two others (one from "salary", one from "other") who reported incomes above 2,500,000 UM. Mean income from commerce was about 80 000 UM.

Profit from production, in-kind revenue, and auto-consumption all had similar responses : 61, 60 and 60 respectively reported income from each source; the bulk of respondents in all three categories reported income in the lowest (under 10,000 UM) category; and because of this the mean incomes were all very low, i.e. 20,000 UM, 10,000 UM and 10,000 UM respectively. The "Other" source of income included a surprisingly large number of responses : 194. The exact source of income was not requested for this source, but gifts from relatives and remittances from family workers working abroad or elsewhere are two sources that were mentioned. The mean income for this source was about 40,000 UM.

1) UM = Ouguiya, one Ouguiya = 0.022 U.S.-Dollar; one U.S.-Dollar = 45 UM

10.000 UM	=	222 U.S.-Dollar
25.000 UM	=	555 U.S.-Dollar
50.000 UM	=	1.111 U.S.-Dollar
75.000 UM	=	1.666 U.S.-Dollar
100.000 UM	=	2.222 U.S.-Dollar
250.000 UM	=	5.555 U.S.-Dollar
500.000 UM	=	11.111 U.S.-Dollar
750.000 UM	=	16.666 U.S.-Dollar
1.000.000 UM	=	22.222 U.S.-Dollar
2.500.000 UM	=	55.555 U.S.-Dollar

The "Total Income" column adds all income for each individual, whether from a single or multiple source. There were 52 families who reported that no member of their family had any income. A total of \$61 reported income with a median income of \$0,000 US.

Table 7 - Sources of Income (Number = Number of Individual Worker)

Income Internals	Salary And Wages	Profit from Commerce	Profit from Pro- duction	In-Kind Revenue	Value of Auto- consum- ump- tion	Other	Total All Income
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
0	354	834	862	868	861	743	52
1 - 9,999	12	14	22	33	23	32	5
10,000 - 19,999	12	6	7	6	7	14	31
20,000 - 29,999	15	3	4	9	7	12	44
30,000 - 39,999	31	8	5	2	6	30	73
40,000 - 49,999	45	5	5	-	3	25	74
50,000 - 59,999	27	1	1	4	1	11	48
60,000 - 69,999	41	6	1	1	-	16	64
70,000 - 79,999	46	8	3	2	2	14	72
80,000 - 89,999	35	1	3	1	1	3	44
90,000 - 99,999	30	2	1	-	-	2	40
100,000 - 109,999	41	3	2	-	-	8	51
110,000 - 119,999	13	-	-	-	-	-	13
120,000 - 129,999	30	1	-	-	-	4	35
130,000 - 139,999	16	1	-	-	-	-	17
140,000 - 149,999	25	3	4	-	1	5	36
150,000 - 159,999	11	-	2	-	-	1	14
160,000 - 169,999	14	1	-	-	-	1	15
170,000 - 179,999	4	-	-	-	-	-	3
180,000 - 189,999	20	6	-	2	-	8	36
190,000 - 199,999	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
200,000 - 249,999	28	6	2	-	3	4	40
250,000 - 299,999	10	2	1	-	2	1	17
300,000 - 349,999	16	1	-	-	-	-	18
350,000 - 399,999	9	7	2	-	-	1	21
400,000 - 449,999	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
450,000 - 499,999	8	2	-	-	-	-	10
500,000 - 549,999	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
550,000 - 599,999	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
600,000 - 649,999	3	4	1	-	-	-	8
650,000 - 699,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
700,000 - 749,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
750,000 - 799,999	3	-	-	-	-	-	3

Table 7 : Cont.

Income Internals	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
800,000 - 849,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
850,000 - 899,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
900,000 - 949,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
950,000 - 999,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
1,000,000 - 1,499,999	4	-	-	-	-	-	3
1,500,000 - 1,999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2,000,000 - 2,499,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2,500,000 - 2,999,999	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
3,000,000 - 3,499,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3,500,000 - 3,999,999	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
4,000,000 - 4,499,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4,500,000 - 4,999,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
5,000,000 - 5,499,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6,000,000 - 6,499,999	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total (except "0")	569	102	61	60	60	194	862

2.16. Household Income Earners

Table 8 shows the distribution of income earners by the size of the household and the number of income earners in the household. Over two-thirds of the households reported having only one person in the family with an income. Almost all of the rest of those households who had income had two income earners in the family; only six households had more than two income earners. There were also 115 families that reported that no one in the family had any income, almost one of six of the total number of families; however, that is over twice as many families without income as reported in Table 7, and the difference is inexplicable.

Table 8: Number of Income Earners by Size of Household

Size of Household	Number of Income Earners							Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	7	16	--	--	--	--	--	23
2	7	23	7	--	--	--	--	37
3	12	55	9	--	--	--	--	76
4	8	72	10	1	--	--	--	91
5	14	68	21	--	--	--	--	103
6	14	66	13	--	--	--	--	93
7	16	52	19	--	1	--	--	88
8	7	57	10	--	--	--	--	74
9	12	30	9	--	1	--	--	52
10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
11	5	17	2	--	--	--	1	26
12	2	13	1	1	1	--	--	18
13	4	8	1	--	--	--	--	13
14	--	4	2	--	--	--	--	6
15	1	5	4	--	--	--	--	10
16	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
17	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1
18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
19	--	2	--	--	--	--	--	2
20	--	3	2	--	--	--	--	5
21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
22	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1
29	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	1
Total	115	493	111	2	3	--	1	725

2.17 Per Capita Income

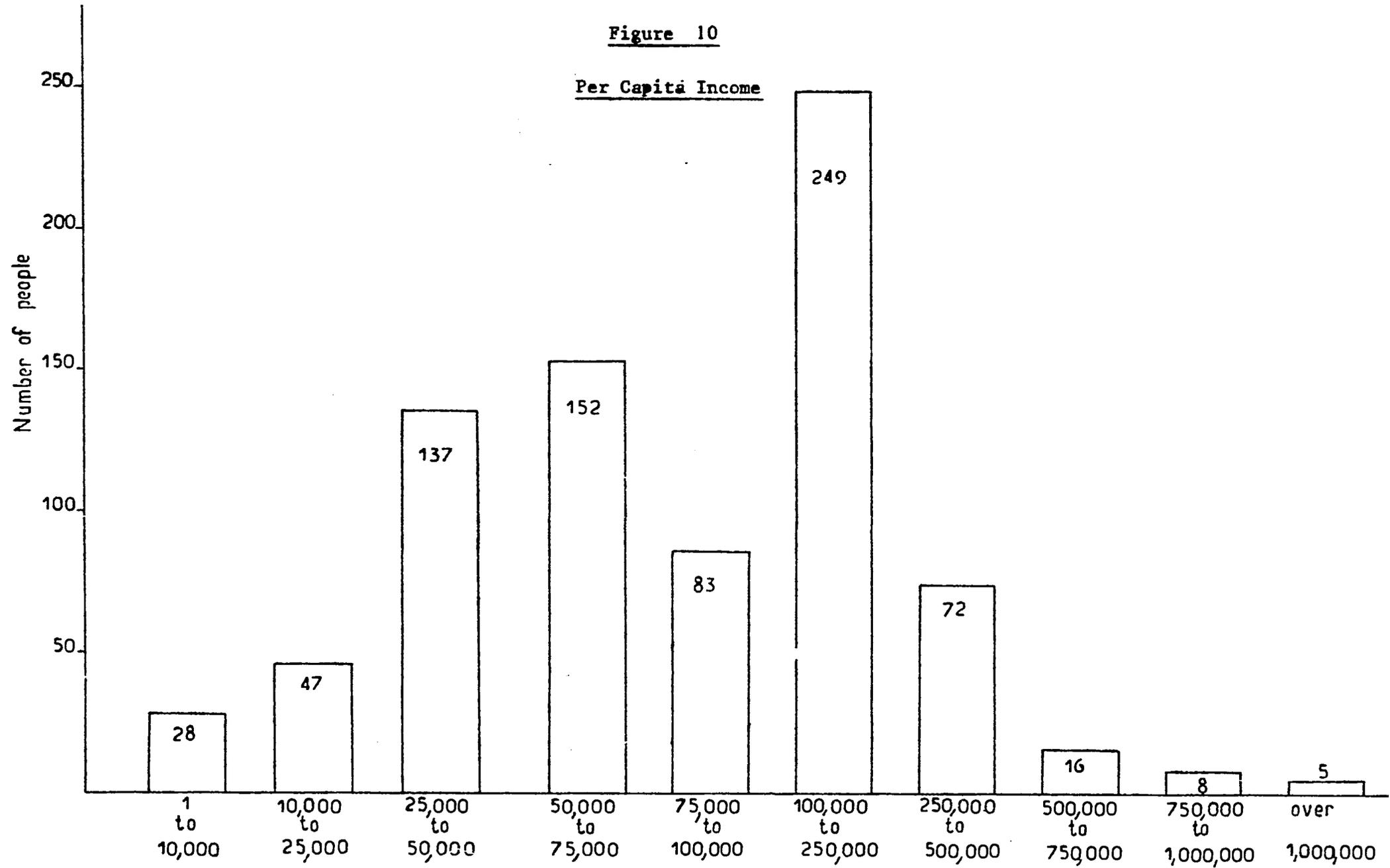
Figure 10 shows in bar graph form the distribution of income per capita. Only 797 people who had income, out of a total of 5,277 counted, were included in this tabulation. It should be noted also that the income intervals used are of different sizes and therefore are not comparable.

Over half (447) of the income earners had less than 100,000 UM annual per capita income.

Since non-earners are excluded, no conclusions can be drawn about family per capita income.

Figure 10

Per Capita Income



2.18 Income by Household Size

Table 9 is more useful in presenting a picture of family income. It shows the distribution of annual family income by size of the family.

There is a remarkable uniformity in median family income between different family sizes. It would be expected that, as the size of the family increased, its needs would also increase and therefore, the income to support it would also increase. This does not appear to be the case. Almost all of the families, grouped by size of family, showed a median income of between 80,000 and 100,000 UM. Only in families with 14 and over members does the median income seem higher, and the sample size is too small to reach any valid conclusion regarding these large families. Table 8 probably explains this phenomenon. Most families have a single income earner, and almost all of the rest have either no income earners or two income earners. Because of the extended family, a household generally clusters around one, or perhaps two, income earners, and the income earned is divided among the members of the family regardless of the amount of income earned or the size of the family.

Table 9 : Income Distribution By Size of Household And By Income Intervals

Household Income Intervals	Size of Household											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
0	6	5	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1 -- 9,999	--	--	1	4	2	4	--	1	1	--	1	--
10,000 -- 19,999	--	1	4	4	--	--	7	--	1	--	--	1
20,000 -- 29,999	1	3	4	2	--	1	2	3	--	--	1	--
30,000 -- 39,999	1	2	7	9	6	7	8	7	4	--	--	2
40,000 -- 49,999	1	1	7	11	5	9	1	3	1	--	2	2
50,000 -- 59,999	--	--	2	5	6	5	4	4	3	--	3	1
60,000 -- 69,999	--	2	5	4	11	8	7	6	3	--	--	1
70,000 -- 79,999	--	4	9	7	10	3	6	5	3	--	2	2
80,000 -- 89,999	--	1	1	6	6	1	4	6	5	--	--	--
90,000 -- 99,999	2	2	4	3	3	5	3	1	2	--	--	1
100,000 -- 109,999	3	2	1	6	7	--	4	10	2	--	1	--
110,000 -- 119,999	--	--	1	4	5	1	1	3	1	--	1	--
120,000 -- 129,999	--	--	4	2	2	4	8	1	1	--	1	1
130,000 -- 139,999	--	1	3	2	5	1	--	1	--	--	--	--
140,000 -- 149,999	2	--	2	2	4	7	2	4	2	--	1	--
150,000 -- 159,999	--	--	1	2	2	4	3	2	--	--	--	--
160,000 -- 169,999	1	2	3	2	4	2	3	2	1	--	1	--
170,000 -- 179,999	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--
180,000 -- 189,999	1	1	3	2	2	3	1	3	1	--	--	--
190,000 -- 199,999	--	--	2	1	1	1	--	1	1	--	--	--
200,000 -- 249,999	--	2	--	10	8	5	4	3	10	--	1	1
250,000 -- 299,999	1	1	--	1	3	5	1	--	1	--	1	1
300,000 -- 349,999	1	1	2	--	3	1	5	4	1	--	2	1
350,000 -- 399,999	2	3	2	1	3	2	--	--	2	--	2	1
400,000 -- 449,999	--	2	1	--	2	1	7	--	2	--	--	--
450,000 -- 499,999	1	--	--	1	--	--	2	2	--	--	--	1
500,000 -- 549,999	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
550,000 -- 599,999	--	--	--	2	1	--	--	--	1	--	1	1
600,000 -- 649,999	--	--	--	1	--	2	1	1	--	--	--	--
650,000 -- 699,999	--	--	1	--	--	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
700,000 -- 749,999	--	2	--	--	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--
750,000 -- 799,999	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
800,000 -- 849,999	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
850,000 -- 899,999	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
900,000 -- 949,999	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	9	--	--	--
950,000 -- 999,999	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1,000,000 -- 1,499,999	--	--	3	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1,500,000 +	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total	23	38	85	101	102	84	88	74	59	--	21	17

Table 9 Cont.

Household Income Intervals	Household Size											Total
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	29	
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
1 - 9,999	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
10,000 - 19,999	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
20,000 - 29,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
30,000 - 39,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	54
40,000 - 49,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	44
50,000 - 59,999	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
60,000 - 69,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	48
70,000 - 79,999	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53
80,000 - 89,999	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
90,000 - 99,999	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
100,000 - 109,999	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
110,000 - 119,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
120,000 - 129,999	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	27
130,000 - 139,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
140,000 - 149,999	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	29
150,000 - 159,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
160,000 - 169,999	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
170,000 - 179,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
180,000 - 189,999	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
190,000 - 199,999	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
200,000 - 249,999	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
250,000 - 299,999	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	19
300,000 - 349,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	22
350,000 - 399,999	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
400,000 - 449,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
450,000 - 499,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
500,000 - 549,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
550,000 - 599,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
600,000 - 649,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
650,000 - 699,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
700,000 - 749,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
750,000 - 799,999	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
800,000 - 849,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
850,000 - 899,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
900,000 - 949,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
950,000 - 999,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1,000,000 - 1,499,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
1,500,000 +	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	12	5	10	5	1	-	3	-	4	1	1	734

2.19 Income And Basic Needs

A crucial question is whether or not family income is sufficient to meet basic needs. This survey answers half of the equation, and that only for the urban and principal town populations. The other half requires a definition of basic needs and a quantification of how much they cost per individual and per family. Once this is established, it can become the criterion for determining the number of people falling below the minimum level, and thus the magnitude of the problem can be established.

2.20 Income By Regions

Table 10 displays annual family income by region. Recall that the sample size relative to population is different between regions; and therefore, the fact that two families in Region 4 had income less than 10,000 UM compared to six families in Region 6 has no significance whatsoever. A comparison between regions can be made, however, on the basis of median income, at least for those regions where the sample size was sufficiently large to be statistically significant. Regional median incomes are as follows

Region	City	Median Annual Income per family (UM)
0	Nouakchott	70,000
4	Kaedi	90,000
6	Rosso	80,000
7	Atar	150,000
8	Nouadhibou	140,000
11	Zouerate	120,000
12	Akjoujt	50,000

It is not surprising that Atar and Nouadhibou would have high median incomes, given the relative importance of the modern sector in those areas; or that Akjoujt, an economically depressed area, would be so low; or that Kaedi and Rosso would be in the middle. It is somewhat surprising that Atar is so high and Nouakchott is so low.

As indicated, Atar had an even higher unemployment rate than other regions; but apparently that is offset by the fact that a disproportionate number of those who are working are in higher income brackets. Nouakchott is similar a case. There income distribution covers a wide spectrum ranging from none to the highest reported. Because of the size of the population and the more modern nature of the economy, there are far more families with high levels of income than anywhere else in the country. However, those high incomes are more than offset by the numerous people who are unemployed and those, particularly, in the "keba" areas, with very low incomes.

Table 10 : Income Distribution of Households By Region And By Income Interval

Income Interval	Regions											
	0	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1 - 9,999	7	-	-	2	4	6	-	1	-	2	1	1
10,000 - 19,999	12	4	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	1
20,000 - 29,999	15	2	3	4	2	6	2	-	-	4	-	1
30,000 - 39,999	38	1	-	2	-	5	4	5	1	-	1	4
40,000 - 49,999	38	-	-	3	-	7	1	8	-	-	2	5
50,000 - 59,999	18	-	-	3	-	4	3	4	-	-	6	3
60,000 - 69,999	39	-	-	2	1	1	7	1	-	-	1	1
70,000 - 79,999	39	-	-	1	-	2	1	11	-	-	13	1
80,000 - 89,999	19	-	-	4	-	-	1	7	-	-	6	-
90,000 - 99,999	20	-	-	5	-	3	-	3	-	-	4	1
100,000 - 109,999	16	-	-	4	-	7	1	11	-	-	4	1
110,000 - 119,999	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	1	-	1	-
120,000 - 129,999	17	-	-	1	-	4	3	9	-	-	1	1
130,000 - 139,999	5	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	2	-
140,000 - 149,999	10	-	-	5	-	3	3	11	-	-	4	1
150,000 - 159,999	6	-	-	1	-	2	-	5	-	1	-	-
160,000 - 169,999	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	4	-
170,000 - 179,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
180,000 - 189,999	6	-	-	2	-	5	6	9	-	-	1	1
190,000 - 199,999	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
200,000 - 249,999	12	-	-	2	-	5	6	7	-	-	4	-
250,000 - 299,999	3	-	-	-	-	1	6	7	-	-	2	-
300,000 - 349,999	10	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	3	2
350,000 - 399,999	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	1	4	-
400,000 - 449,999	1	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	-	-	-	1
450,000 - 499,999	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
500,000 - 549,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
550,000 - 599,999	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
600,000 - 649,999	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
650,000 - 699,999	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
700,000 - 749,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
750,000 - 799,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
800,000 - 849,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
850,000 - 899,999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
900,000 - 949,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
950,000 - 999,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1,000,000 - 1,499,999	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1,500,000 +	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total	356	9	4	43	7	68	56	140	3	9	58	26

2.21 Income And Occupations

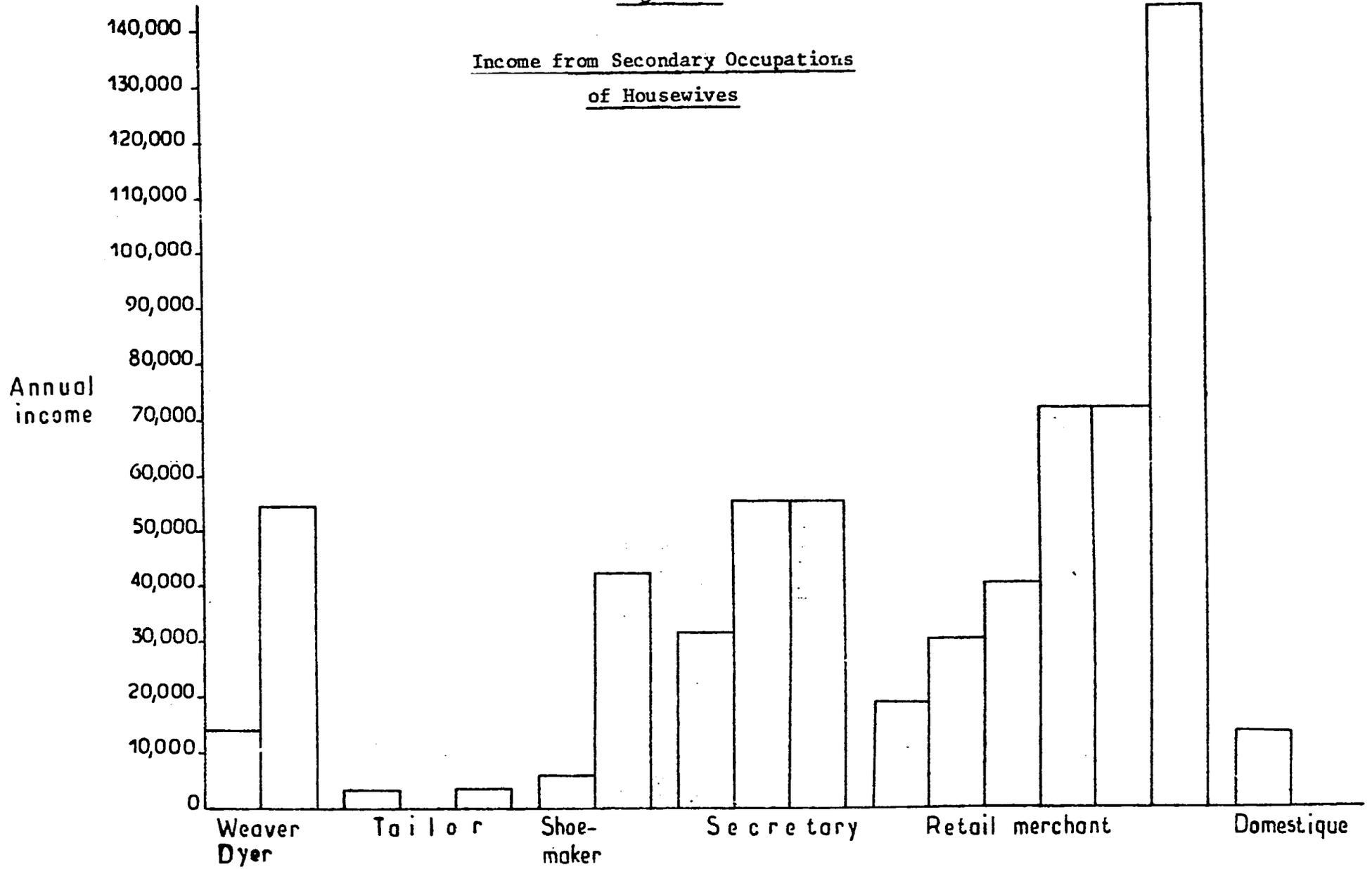
The same income data when classified by occupation of the income earner are not particularly informative. As expected, technical and professional professions tend to make more money than unskilled professions. Perhaps the only somewhat surprising conclusion is that there is such a wide range of income from the same occupation, e.g. farmer, merchant, butcher, driver, etc. That is at least partially explained by the fact that in a two-digit system of occupation classification such as this, an "occupation" may be a group of related occupations with a variety of skill levels from which a range of different wage levels would be expected.

2.22. Housewife Secondary Occupation and Income

As shown in Figure 11, 17 housewives reported income from six different secondary occupations. The data available are too few to reach any conclusion other than the obvious one that of 762 housewives only 17 reported income from secondary sources and that the income reported was relatively quite low.

Figure 11

Income from Secondary Occupations
of Housewives



3. Conclusions and Recommendations

In the previous sections, findings were presented regarding employment and income. In this concluding section, some conclusions and observations are noted with respect to these findings.

3.1. Unemployment Is Too High

The most important conclusion for policy makers is the remarkably high urban open unemployment rates, and most particularly those for prime age males. These rates are particularly distressing when considered in conjunction with two other factors, viz.:

- a) A comparison with the unemployment rates calculated from the census (1977) suggests the possibility of a serious deterioration of the economic situation during the past three years in terms of unemployment. (This could have occurred even during a period of economic growth, because of the rapid rate of sedentarization and urbanization of nomads and rapid expansion of the labor force from population growth, school outputs, and possibly immigration.); and
- b) **The underdevelopment which is also evident in rural areas.**

The significance of these high unemployment rates is that even greater efforts than originally anticipated must be made to provide for basic human needs and to increase economic growth; and that quite apart from employment projections to meet the increasing needs of an expanding, better educated labor force. The unemployment figures reported here are so high that considerations should be given to the institution of measures to alleviate current unemployment.

3.2. Income Is Too Low

The second major conclusion of the survey is that household income of many families, including many of those who are working, is much too low. Even without a "poverty index" or specification of income level needed to meet basic needs, it is evident from the data that too many families are living on a barely subsistence level. Another result of low income is its effect on the economy : the lack of disposable income means that the market for goods and services is out of reach for most people. It also means that savings are so low that they cannot provide the investments needed to stimulate economic growth.

Employment creation should also be accompanied by a general increase in productivity of workers and farmers and by an upgrading of skills of existing and future workers. By these means, the level of wages can rise and with it the level of consumption

3.3. The Role And Responsibility of The Department of Labor Should Be Increased

It is clear from the survey that the Department of Labor is seen by the labor force as playing a key role not only in labor grievances but also in the process of finding jobs for the unemployed. Yet, the DOL has neither the financial means nor adequate numbers of trained and experienced personnel needed to do its share in a stronger promotional effort of jobs location. The tentative efforts of some individual labor inspectors to seek out employment opportunities, rather than merely maintaining a passive bookkeeping system, is one step in the right direction.

3.4. The Human Resources Planning Effort Should Be Greatly Expanded

The fact that this survey needed to be conducted and the lack of other related information, either supporting or contradicting it, emphasizes the need for a comprehensive and permanent program of data-gathering and analysis. The issues which are marginally addressed by this survey are only a few of the many for which information is needed in order to determine the policies needed to meet the existing and anticipated employment issues.

3.5. The Worker/Dependents Ratio Is Too High

There are too few workers supporting too many non-workers. Solving the unemployment problem would only partially alleviate this. Demographic studies indicate that the ratio of children plus elderly to working-age adults will continue to increase for the foreseeable future which will tend to increase the problem. As the economy moves from a traditional, semi-subsistence, extended family-economy to a more monetarized, wage-economy, the primary and secondary employment opportunities for housewives and children will gradually disappear unless provision is made in advance for them. That this is already happening can be seen by comparing the negligible role in the economy of urban youth 12-14 as measured in this survey with the significant role of rural 12-14 youth as measured by the census.

3.6. Manpower Training Programs Should Be Greatly Increased

It is clear from the survey that apprenticeship and individual practice and experience are the principal means by which workers learn their occupations. These methods should not be abandoned; in fact, they should be

assisted as much as possible as they will continue to be the primary thrust. However, much greater efforts need to be made in formal and non-formal vocational and occupation-oriented training. The CFPP program is a much-needed step in the right direction. The survey suggests that one of the major reasons for unemployment is that so many workers are unqualified for any work other than traditional occupations or manual labor. Not only would training help the unemployed to qualify for jobs, it would also improve their productivity, and therefore, their income, when they do work.

3.7. More Employment Opportunities Are Needed for Young Adult Males

Of particular concern are the especially high unemployment rates of young adult males age 20-24. Employment for this group is particularly important as they start families and as they start their work careers.

3.8. Female Labor Force Participation Rates Should Be Increased

The ratio of male to female workers and the expressed desire of many housewives to work suggest that if employment opportunities were available, females would make a much greater contribution to family income and to the economy.

3.9. Means Of Improving The Contribution Of Education To Economic Development Should Be Explored

An integrated education system as a whole must contribute to training for economic development. Analyses of the formal and non-formal systems of education show that they have little relevance to preparing significant numbers of children, youth or adults for productive work in their own communities (see RAMS reports on formal and non-formal education). There

are three fundamental components of a strategy to link education more closely with employment :

- 1) Restructuring curricula and teaching methods in traditional Islamic, in literacy-oriented non-formal, and in formal academic education to give these institutions a more vocational focus;
- 2) Giving a pedagogical function to government services concerned with development. Thus, the Agricultural Extension Service, the Livestock Service and the various public health organizations could add a development-oriented training focus to schools as well as play an informal training role in communities.
- 3) Strengthening or creating professional and occupational organizations that could serve as a context for upgrading the skills of members in addition to helping them to acquire tools, raw materials and gain access to credit and markets.

3.10. The Labor Force Has A Great Potential

The range and diversity of occupations measured in this survey, the ingenuity and entrepreneurship observed particularly in the survey of the non-structured sector, the personal characteristics noted in the sociological studies, and the data of this survey which describes the current situation are all testimony of the capacity and potential for development of the human resources of Mauritania.

A N N E X 1Methodology For The 1980 RAMS Employment Survey1. Overview

This survey consisted of a random sample of 750 households of which :

132 were rural

618 were urban

750 Total

The rural households were located in 32 randomly selected villages : these were the same villages that were randomly selected for the RAMS Qualifications Survey discussed previously in this chapter.

The urban households were distributed as follows :

<u>City or Town</u>	<u>Number of Households</u>
Nouakchott	360
Nouadhibou	120
Atar	60
Kaedi	56
Akjoujt	18
Zouerate	90
Total	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 750

In each household information was collected from five categories of workers. These are :

- Self-employed
- Non-paid family workers
- Salaried, non domestic workers
- Unemployed workers

The major data elements collected from each worker were

- Occupational history
- Secondary economic activities
- Number of job changes in last five years
- Urban/rural job five years ago
- Urban/rural job now

2. Selections of Rural Households Sample

For the rural sample of 32 villages, the selection process involved the following steps :

- .. A sample size of 132 households was determined to be the maximum sample possible given resource constraints
- .. The national household size was determined to be 55.6 persons in a preliminary census report. The number was used to estimate the number of households in each of the 32 villages at 8,945.
- .. The 132 households were distributed among the 32 villages in proportion to the distribution of the total number of households within these villages.

A supervisor was sent to each of the 32 villages to select the households

to be included in the sample using the following procedure :

In each village the supervisor would begin at the oldest mosque, with the mosque to his back facing north he would walk four units (blocks in towns or living units in villages) north, make right turn east, to four units east and select the fourth unit on the right for the interview. Next, the supervisor would turn south, walk south, and select the seventh unit on the right. Next, the interviewer turned north, walked north, and selected the ninth unit. This expanding circular pattern of selections was continued until the required member of households were selected for each of the 32 villages. In larger places like Kaedi, that are partitioned into administratively determined divisions or precincts, the sampling procedure was used in each precinct of the town.

3. Selection of Urban Household Sample

For Nouakchott, the first step in selection of the sample was to number each house, excluding the shanty town. Three maps were used for the purpose : one for the central portion of the city, one for the 5th and 6th wards of the city, and one for the 1st and 2nd wards of the city. The map for central Nouakchott was obtained from the Division of Statistics, Ministry of Economy and Finance. The other two maps were obtained from SONELEC, the national system for distribution of water and electricity. No maps existed for the shanty towns.

Once the houses were numbered, a random sample of 240 houses was taken of the central portion of the city. These houses were then surveyed. When a house was found to contain more than one household, the first household on the right of the entrance was selected for the study.

For portion of the city external to the "central portion", external portions being defined as areas that contain tents and shanties that serve as residence and are not recorded on available maps, different techniques were used. The population in the external portions of the city was estimated to be half as large as the population in central Nouakchott so the sample size was set at 120, half the sample used for the survey of the central city. This estimate of the relative sizes of the population in central and external portions of the city were totally ad hoc quuestimates since no surveys of study are known to exist concerning the population in the external portion of the city.

Two thirds of the population in the external areas were estimated to be the 5th and 6th wards, and the remaining one third was considered to be located in the 1st and 2nd wards and in the Wharf and Tigent areas of the city, areas for which no maps of house existed. The sampling 120 was allocated so that 80 households were visited in the 5th and 6th wards and remaining 40 were visited in the 1st and 2nd wards and in the Wharf and Tigent areas of the city.

Households were selected for the sample in the external portions of the city in the following manner :

- All water distribution points were located in the external portions of the city.
- The survey supervisor stood at each water distribution point with his back towards the central mosque in Nouakchott. He walked forward five houses and selected the fifth house on the right for the survey. He continued walking in a straight line and selected each fifth house on the right for the survey until he reached the desert. Next, he returned to the water distribution point and walked toward the central mosque selecting every fifth house on the right until he reached the edge of town. Next, he re-

turned to the water distribution point, placed his back to the central mosque in the city again, turned 90 degrees to the left and walked in a straight line selecting every fifth house on the right for the survey. If he had not selected 10 houses when he reached the desert again, he returned to the water distribution point and continued in a straight line in the opposite direction, again selecting every fifth house on the right until a total of 10 houses were selected.

The best estimate of the universe of households available for Nouakchott is contained in the 1977 census of Mauritania. The census estimates the total population of this city at 134,704 in 1977.¹⁾

For Nouadhibou, maps existed for the central permanent portion of the town and for a part referred to as Cansado, a place located about 10 kilometers from Nouadhibou where expatriate and local employees of SNIM (the national mining corporation) live. Houses were numbered in Cansado and a random sample of 32 households was selected. The remaining portions of Nouadhibou, mapped and unmapped, were divided into seven neighborhoods. Each neighborhood is recognized as such by the residents of Nouadhibou; each has a distinct social and ethnic class of residents and many have their own local government. Judgements were made about the relative size of the seven neighborhoods on the basis of on site inspection of their relative sizes and reference to the incomplete description of these neighborhoods on available maps. These proportions were used to distribute the remaining sample of 88 households among them.

1) See 1977 census of Mauritania : computer printout table TD 02.

Central points such as schools, major stores and mosques were selected and used as the starting location for selection of households. The method of household selection was the same as the procedure described above for Nouakchott, the best estimate of the total population in Nouadhibou comes from the 1977 Census.

For all of the other urban towns in Mauritania, that is Atar, Rosso, Kaedi, Akjoujt and Zouerate, the same system was used. The distinct neighborhoods were identified, estimates were made of the population distribution within them, and the sample was distributed on the basis of these estimates of neighborhood population distribution. Central points were identified to serve as a basis for selection of specific households to be included in the sample in each neighborhood. The method described previously for Nouakchott was used to select the households. Maps existed for portions of some of these towns, but they were judged to contain insufficient information to be useful.

Again, the 1977 census provides the best estimates of the total population in each of these towns.

<u>Town</u>	<u>1977 Census Estimate of Population¹⁾</u>
1 Kaedi	20,707
2 Zouerate	19,473
3 Rosso	16,510
4 Atar	16,180
5 Akjoujt	8,042

1) See 1977 Census of Mauritania, Village file

The census estimates of the population in the seven cities and towns included in the Employment Survey are presented in Exhibit 1

Exhibit 1.1 : Census Estimates of Population in Urban Cities and Towns Included in the Employment Survey

City or Town	1977 Census Estimate of Population 1)
Nouakchott	134,704
Nouadhibou	21,930
Kaedi	20,707
Zouerate	19,473
Rosso	16,510
Atar	16,180
Akjoujt	8,042
Total	237,546

1) Source: BCR 1977 census preliminary figures.

4. Blow-up factors for the Rural Sample

The blow-up for the rural sample for the Employment Survey is defined by the following equation :

$$\left(\frac{772,964}{5.6}\right) (1/132) = 1,046$$

where 713,620 = the total rural population in Mauritania.

5.6 = the average number of people in rural households

132 = the number of households interviewed in the rural sample of 32 villages. ¹⁾

5. Blow-up factors for the Urban Sample

The universe of household samples used blow-up factors that were used for the urban component of the Employment Survey.

A N N E X 2

Enquete sur l'Emploi

1. Nom de l'Enquêteur _____
2. Ménage N° _____
3. Région Administrative _____
4. Département _____
5. Ville/Village _____
6. Arrondissement _____
7. Langue de l'Enquête _____

I. Feuille récapitulative des activités des membres du ménage

Membres du Ménage	Activité Princi- pale	Activités Secon- daires	Observations de l'Enquêteur
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			
21.			

III. Feuille Individuelle : Travailleur

N° du ménage _____

Nom de l'Enquêteur _____

1. N° de la personne sur la feuille récapitulative _____

2. Relation de parenté de la personne interrogée avec le chef du Ménage _____

3. Ethnie _____ 4. Nationalité _____

5. Lieu de naissance _____ 6. Sexe _____

7. Age _____
=====

<u>Activité principale</u>	<u>Observation de l'Enquêteur</u>
<p>II.1. Pour qui travaillez-vous ?</p> <p>A. Vous-même / <input type="checkbox"/> / (voir seulement II.1.A.) (C'est-à-dire : propriétaire)</p> <p>B. Dans une entreprise familiale / <input type="checkbox"/> / (Voir seulement II.1.B.; c'est-à-dire : aide familial, domestiques non salariés)</p> <p>C. Dans une autre entreprise / <input type="checkbox"/> / (voir seulement II.1.C.; c'est-à-dire : salariés et apprentis)</p> <p>D. Domestique salarié / <input type="checkbox"/> / (voir seulement II.1.D.)</p> <p>II.1.A.) Travaille pour elle-même :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Indiquer et décrire en détail votre travail _____ _____◦ Pourquoi avez-vous choisi ce travail au lieu d'un autre ? _____ _____◦ Comment avez-vous entrepris le début de votre travail _____ _____	

(voir II.2.)

II.1.B.) Travaille pour la famille (domestique,
aide familial, apprenti, etc.) :

oPouvez-vous nous indiquer et décrire en
détail ce que vous faites comme travail ?

oPourquoi avez-vous choisi ce travail au
lieu d'un autre ?

o(voir II.2.)

II.1.C.) Travaille pour une entreprise quelconque:

oPour quelle entreprise travaillez-vous?

oPouvez-vous indiquer et décrire en détail
ce que vous faites comme travail ?

oQuelle est l'activité de l'entreprise
pour laquelle vous travaillez ?

oComment avez-vous obtenu votre emploi
actuel

oPourquoi pensez-vous que vous avez été
choisi pour ce travail au lieu d'une
autre personne ?

(voir II.2.)

oQuelles sont les difficultés que vous
rencontrez dans votre travail :

Avec votre patron

Avec vos collègues

Autres difficultés

II.1.D.) Domestique, Berger salarié :

◦ Pouvez-vous indiquer et décrire en détail
ce que vous faites comme travail ? _____

◦ Pour qui exactement faites-vous ce travail ?

◦ Pourquoi avez-vous choisi ce travail au
lieu d'un autre ? _____

◦ Qu'avez-vous fait pour obtenir ce travail ?

(voir II.2.)

II.2. Combien d'heures travaillez-vous par se-
maine ? _____

II.3 Depuis quand faites-vous ce travail ? _____

Activité secondaire

II.4. En dehors de votre activité principale,
avez-vous un autre travail ?

Oui Non

Si oui, lequel ? _____

- II.5. Quand accomplissez-vous cette seconde activité ?
- a) _____ durant une période particulière de l'année
 - b) _____ toute l'année
 - c) _____ en même temps que votre activité principale
 - d) _____ pendant vos heures de liberté
 - e) _____ ne la pratique pas actuellement

II.6. Où accomplissez-vous cette activité ?

II.7. Comment avez-vous appris votre second métier?

Activités précédentes

II.8. Que faisiez-vous avant votre travail actuel?

Activité	Quand	Où
a) _____	de _____ à _____	_____
b) _____	de _____ à _____	_____
c) _____	de _____ à _____	_____
d) _____	de _____ à _____	_____

II.9. Quelles sont les raisons qui vous ont poussé à changer d'emploi ? _____

(Si la personne ne sait comment répondre, suggérez comme possibilités : "travail plus intéressant", "attraction de la ville", "salaire plus élevé", etc.)

Activités souhaitées

II.10. Souhaitez-vous changer de travail ?

OUI NON

Si oui, pour faire quoi ? _____

II.11. Comptez-vous apprendre un autre métier ?

OUI NON

Si oui, lequel ? _____

Formation

II.12. Comment avez-vous appris votre travail ?

a) _____ en observant vos parents

b) _____ en travaillant seul

c) _____ par apprentissage

d) _____ à l'école. laquelle? _____

e) _____ autres modes: (préciser) _____

II.13. Quels sont les diplômes scolaires ou autres que vous possédez ?

a) Enseignement fondamental _____

b) Enseignement secondaire : 1er Cycle _____

c) Enseignement secondaire : 2ème Cycle _____

d) Enseignement professionnel (préciser) : _____

e) Autres (préciser): _____

II.14. Si vous ne possédez pas de diplômes, quel est votre niveau d'études ? _____

II.15. Combien d'années avez-vous passées à l'école coranique? _____

II.16. Combien d'années avez-vous étudiées dans les Mahadras ? _____

III. Feuille Individuelle ; sans travail

N° du Ménage _____

Nom de l'Enquêteur _____

1. N° de la personne sur la feuille récapitulative _____
2. Relation de parenté de la personne interrogée avec le chef du ménage _____
3. Ethnie _____ 4. Nationalité _____
5. Lieu de naissance _____ 6. Sexe _____ 7. Age _____

=====

	Observation de l'enquêteur
III.1. Quelles sont les raisons pour lesquelles vous ne travaillez pas ? _____ _____	
III.2. Souhaitez-vous avoir un travail ? Oui <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> (Si non, voir III.6) Si oui, lequel ? _____	
III.3. Avez-vous appris ce travail ? Oui <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> Si oui, comment ? _____ _____	
III.4. Si vous cherchez du travail, comment le cherchez-vous? _____ _____	
III.5. Qu'avez-vous déjà exercé comme travail ? Travail Quand Où _____ de _____ à _____ _____ de _____ à _____ _____ de _____ à _____	
III.6. Pourquoi ne l'exercez-vous plus ? _____ _____ _____	

III.7. Quels sont les diplômes scolaires ou autres que vous possédez ? _____	Observation de l'enquêteur
III.8. Si vous ne possédez pas de diplôme, quel est votre niveau d'études ? _____	
III.9. Combien d'années avez-vous passées à l'école coranique ? _____	
III.10. Combien d'années avez-vous étudiées dans les Mahadras ? _____	

IIV. Feuille Ménagère

N° du ménage _____

Nom de l'Enquêteur _____

IV.1. Pouvez-vous nous indiquer en détail ce que vous faites dans le ménage ? _____	Observation de l'Enquêteur

IV.2. Avez-vous une seconde activité en plus de votre travail dans le foyer ? Oui <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> Si oui, nommez et décrivez cette activité _____	
IV.3. Souhaitez-vous trouver un autre travail ? Oui <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> Si oui, lequel ? _____	
IV.4. Avez-vous déjà appris d'autres métiers ? Oui <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> Si oui, lesquels ? _____	
IV.5. Quels sont les diplômes scolaires ou autres que vous possédez ? _____	
IV.6. Si vous ne possédez pas de diplôme quel est votre niveau d'études ? _____	
IV.7. Combien d'années avez-vous passées à l'école coranique ? _____	
IV.8. Combien d'années avez-vous étudiées dans les Mahadras ? _____	
IV.9. Cours d'alphabétisation : Benamer ¹⁾ _____	
El Fellah ¹⁾ _____	
Autres (précisez) _____	

1) Ecoles privées en langue Arabe;

V. Feuille Etudiant/Elève

N° du Ménage _____

Nom de l'Enquêteur _____

	Observation de l'Enquêteur
<p>V. 1. Cette année-ci vous êtes dans quelles classe ?</p> <p>a. Enseignement fondamental: _____</p> <p>b. Enseignement secondaire : _____ 1er cycle _____ 2ème cycle _____</p> <p>c. Enseignement traditionnel : Ecole coranique : _____ Mahadras : _____</p> <p>d. Enseignement supérieur ; Classe : _____ Lieu : _____ Ecole : _____ Etude : _____</p> <p>e) Enseignement professionnel : Classe : _____ Ecole : _____ Etude : _____ Lieu : _____</p>	
<p>V.2. Pouvez-vous nous indiquer et décrire votre activité secondaire ?</p> <p>a. Pendant l'année scolaire : _____ _____</p> <p>b. Pendant les dernières vacances : _____ _____</p>	
<p>V.3. Quelle occupation comptez-vous faire à la fin de vos études ? _____ _____</p>	
<p>V.4. Quand termineriez-vous vos études ? _____</p>	

VI. Feuille du ménage = revenus des membres du ménage (Montant en UM)

PP : Profession Principale

PS : Profession secondaires

N° d'ordre -	Salaire brut annuel	Bénéfice annuel. des commerçants	Bénéfice net annuel. des produits vendus 1)	Valeur des revenus en nature 2)	Valeur de l'autocon- sommation 3)	Autres revenus 4)	Total
	PP						
	PS						
	PP						
	PS						
	PP						
	PS						
	PP						
	PS						
	PP						
	PS						
	PP						
	PS						
	PP						
	PS						
	PP						
	PS						

1) Exclu les commerçants

2) Il s'agit d'évaluer en UM les revenus en nature

4) Evaluer les produits et biens fabriqués et consommés par le ménage lui-même

5) Y compris les revenus reçus de l'extérieur du ménage