

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, YEAR 2008

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicator presents population estimates as at December 2008 and vital statistics including rates for year 2008.

This office compiles vital statistics from data obtained from the computerised system in place at the Central Civil Status Office.

Definitions of terms used are given at Annex.

2. Key points

- The population of the Republic of Mauritius was estimated at 1,272,040 as at 31 December 2008, growing at a rate of 0.6% since end 2007.
- As at end 2008, female population was higher than the male population by about 15,830.
- In 2008, the population aged 0-14 years comprised 22.7% of the total population. The population aged 15-64 years and that aged 65 years and over comprised 70.5% and 6.8% respectively of the total population.
- The dependency ratio (the child population under 15 years of age and the elderly population aged 65 years and above per 1,000 population aged 15-64 years) decreased from 430 in 2007 to 419 in 2008.
- The number of live births registered during year 2008 was 16,334, representing a decrease of 4.1% over the figure of 2007.
- The number of deaths registered in 2008 stood at 8,957, 5.4% higher than for 2007.
- The number of infant deaths decreased by 8.4% from 261 in 2007 to 239 in 2008.
- The number of still births decreased by 1.7%, from 172 in 2007 to 169 in 2008.
- The number of marriages registered in 2008 was 11,120, that is 3.7% less than in 2007.

3. Estimated resident population

**Table 3.1: Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius,
31 December 2008**

Island	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
Island of Mauritius	1,234,052	609,274	624,778	97.5
Island of Rodrigues	37,699	18,638	19,061	97.8
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	193	96	201.0
Republic of Mauritius	1,272,040	628,105	643,935	97.5

The estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius was 1,272,040 at 31 December 2008. The female population was 643,935 compared to a male population of 628,105. There were 97.5 males for every 100 females.

The population was estimated at 1,234,052 and 37,699 respectively for the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues. In both islands, females outnumbered males. However, Agalega and St Brandon, with an estimated population of 289, had more males (193) than females (96).

Table 3.2: Population density, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2008

Island	Both Sexes	Area (km²)	Density per km²
Island of Mauritius	1,234,052	1,864.8	662
Island of Rodrigues	37,699	104.0	362
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	71.2	4
Republic of Mauritius	1,272,040	2,040.0	624

The Republic of Mauritius, with a total land area of 2,040 km² had a population density of 624 persons per km² as at end 2008. Among its constituent islands, the Island of Mauritius had the highest density (662), followed by Rodrigues (362). The population density for the Republic of Mauritius increased from 620 in 2007 to 624 in 2008.

Table 3.3: Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2006-2008 (end of year estimates)

Island	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio
2006	1,256,727	621,304	635,423	97.8
2007	1,264,863	625,030	639,833	97.7
2008	1,272,040	628,105	643,935	97.5

Comparative population estimates and sex ratios for the past three years are given in Table 3.3. There was a slight decline in the sex ratio from 2006 to 2008, indicating an increasing proportion of females over time.

4. Population growth

Table 4.1: Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2007 and 31 December 2008

Island	Population		Change	
	31 December 2007	31 December 2008	Number	%
Island of Mauritius	1,227,075	1,234,052	6,977	0.6
Island of Rodrigues	37,499	37,699	200	0.5
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	289	0	0.0
Republic of Mauritius	1,264,863	1,272,040	7,177	0.6

The population of the Republic of Mauritius increased by 7,177 persons from 31 December 2006 to 31 December 2007. The population growth rate was thus 0.6% during the 12-month period. The growth rate for the Island of Mauritius was also 0.6%; whilst for Rodrigues it was around 0.5%.

Table 4.2: Components of population growth, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2007 and 2008

Components of population growth	2007	2008
Resident population as at beginning of year	1,256,438	1,264,574
Live Births	17,034	16,334
Deaths	8,498	8,957
Natural Increase	<u>8,536</u>	<u>7,377</u>
Net international migration	-400	-200
Resident population as at end of year	1,264,574	1,271,751

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Population growth has two components: natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) and net international migration (net international movement of residents).

During the year 2008, the natural increase was 7,377, with births adding 16,334 babies and deaths removing 8,957 persons from the population. For the same period, net international migration of residents was -200 persons.

5. Age distribution of the population

Table 5.1: Estimated resident population¹ by broad age group and sex – Republic of Mauritius², 1 July 2007 and 1 July 2008

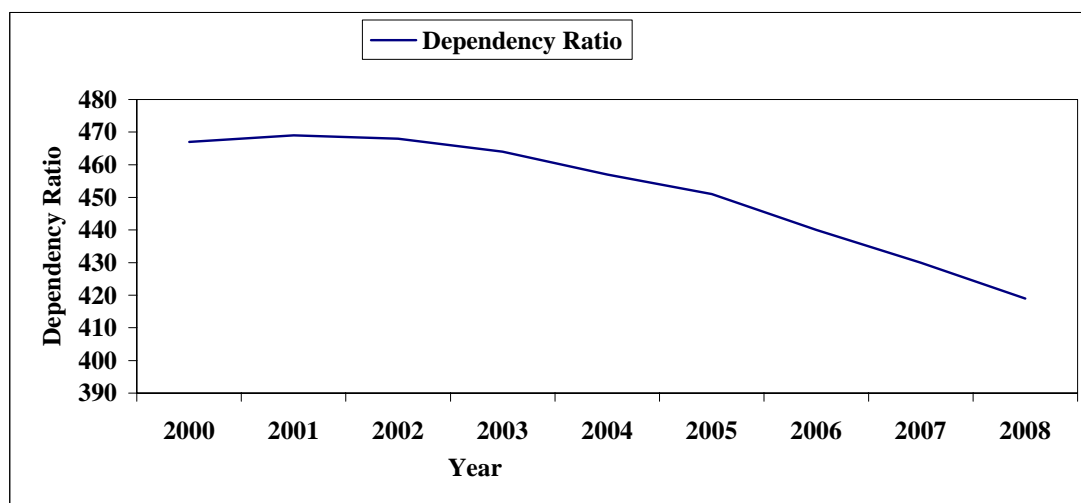
Age group (Years)	1 st July 2007			1 st July 2008		
	Male	Female	B. Sexes	Male	Female	B. Sexes
0	8,727	8,255	16,982	8,303	8,194	16,497
1-4	38,212	36,933	75,145	37,040	35,426	72,466
5-9	49,883	47,912	97,795	49,806	48,033	97,839
10-14	52,387	51,902	104,289	51,210	50,411	101,621
15-19	53,496	51,658	105,154	54,815	53,150	107,965
20-29	103,889	103,146	207,035	102,495	101,329	203,824
30-39	94,890	96,237	191,127	95,783	97,371	193,154
40-49	96,883	96,684	193,567	97,694	97,916	195,610
50-59	70,451	72,778	143,229	73,106	75,340	148,446
60-64	19,085	22,081	41,166	20,743	24,018	44,761
65+	35,023	49,891	84,914	35,561	50,821	86,382
All ages	622,926	637,477	1,260,403	626,556	642,009	1,268,565

¹ based on 2000 census data adjusted for underenumeration of young children

² excluding Agalega and St Brandon

The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 23.3% in 2007 to 22.7% in 2008. In contrast, an increase was registered in the proportion aged 15-64 years from 69.9% to 70.5% and the proportion aged 65 years and above from 6.7% to 6.8% during the same period. The overall effect was a decrease in the dependency ratio from 430 to 419 thus confirming the decreasing trend observed since 2000 (see Figure 5.1).

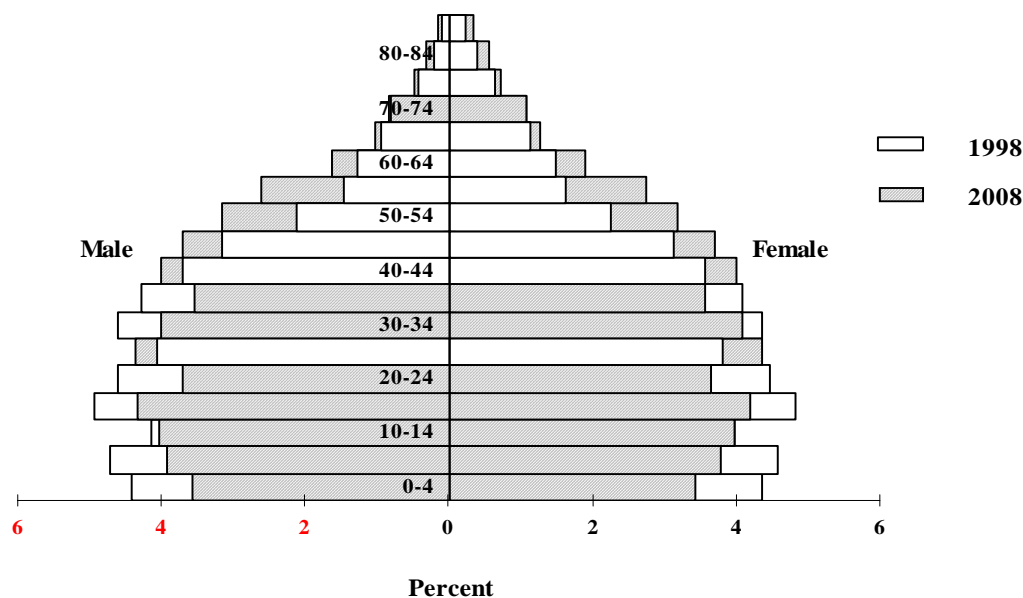
Figure 5.1: Dependency Ratio, 2000-2008



The population pyramid in Figure 5.2 compares the age structure of the population between 1998 and 2008. The main changes observed over time are:

- the shrinking of the base of the pyramid due to falling fertility;
- the thickening of the upper body of the pyramid indicating an increase in expectation of life
- the relatively longer bars on the female side of the pyramid around its apex indicating the predominance of females among the elderly.

Figure 5.2: Population pyramids – Republic of Mauritius, 1998 & 2008



6 Vital statistics and rates

6.1: Live births and crude birth rate

Table 6.1: Live births registered and crude birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 and 2008¹

Island	Number of live births registered		Crude birth rate	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Island of Mauritius	16,190	15,591	13.2	12.7
Island of Rodrigues	844	743	22.6	19.8
Republic of Mauritius	17,034	16,334	13.5	12.9

¹ Provisional

During the year 2008, 16,334 live births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, representing a 4.1% fall over the 2007 figure of 17,034. The crude birth rate, i.e., the number of live birth in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, fell from 13.5 in 2007 to 12.9 in 2008.

In the Island of Mauritius, the number of live births registered decreased from 16,190 in 2007 to 15,591 in 2008 bringing about a fall in the crude birth rate from 13.2 to 12.7. Similarly, for the Island of Rodrigues, the number of live births decreased from 844 (rate of 22.6) in 2007 to 743 (rate of 19.8) in 2008.

6.2: Deaths and crude death rate

Table 6.2: Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 and 2008

Island	Number of deaths registered		Crude death rate	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Island of Mauritius	8,323	8,789	6.8	7.1
Island of Rodrigues	175	168	4.7	4.5
Republic of Mauritius	8,498	8,957	6.7	7.1

¹ Provisional

The number of deaths registered in the Republic of Mauritius in 2008 was 8,957, representing a 5.4% increase over the figure of 8,498 for 2007. The crude death rate, i.e., the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, consequently rose from 6.7 to 7.1.

The Island of Mauritius registered an increase in the number of deaths, from 8,323 in 2007 (rate of 6.8) to 8,789 in 2008 (rate of 7.1). During the same period, the number of deaths in Rodrigues decreased from 175 (rate of 4.7) to 168 (rate of 4.5).

6.3: Infant deaths and infant mortality rate

Table 6.3: Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 and 2008¹

Island	Number of infant deaths registered		Infant Mortality rate	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Island of Mauritius	248	228	15.3	14.6
Island of Rodrigues	13	11	15.4	14.8
Republic of Mauritius	261	239	15.3	14.6

¹ Provisional

During the year 2008, 239 infant deaths (deaths to children aged under one year) were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 261 in 2007, representing a decrease of 8.4%. The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, fell from 15.3 in 2007 to 14.6 in 2008.

A decrease in the number of infant deaths was also noted in the Island of Mauritius from 248 in 2007 to 228 in 2008. The infant mortality rate thus declined from 15.3 to 14. Similarly for

Rodrigues, the number of infant deaths decreased from 13 in 2007 (rate of 15.4) to 11 in 2008 (rate of 14.8).

6.4: Still births and Still birth rate

Table 6.4: Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 and 2008¹

Island	Number of still births registered		Still birth rate	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Island of Mauritius	157	159	9.6	10.1
Island of Rodrigues	15	10	17.5	13.3
Republic of Mauritius	172	169	10.0	10.2

¹ Provisional

In 2008, 169 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, which is 1.7% lower than the 2007 figure of 172. However, the still birth rate which is the number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births during the year rose from 10.0 in 2007 to 10.2 in 2008.

The Island of Mauritius registered 159 still births in 2008 against 157 in 2007, with the still birth rate rising from 9.6 in 2007 to 10.1 in 2008. In Rodrigues, 10 still births were registered in 2008 compared to 15 in 2007. The still birth rate fell from 17.5 in 2007 to 13.3 in 2008.

6.5 – Marriages and crude marriage rate

Table 6.5 – Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 and 2008¹

Island	Number of marriages registered		Marriage rate	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Island of Mauritius	11,361	10,943	18.6	17.8
Island of Rodrigues	186	177	10.0	9.4
Republic of Mauritius	11,547	11,120	18.3	17.5

¹ Provisional

The number of marriages registered in the Republic of Mauritius decreased by 3.7% from 11,547 in 2007 to 11,120 in 2008. The crude marriage rate, i.e., the number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, fell from 18.3 to 17.5 during the same period.

The number of marriages in the Island of Mauritius decreased from 11,361 in 2007 (rate of 18.6) to 10,943 in 2008 (rate of 17.8). The Island of Rodrigues also registered a decrease in the number of marriages from 186 in 2007 (rate of 10.0) to 177 in 2008 (rate of 9.4).

6. International Comparison

Population growth rates for various countries in the world are published in the UN publication "The World Population Prospects 2006". The figures indicate that the population growth rate for the Republic of Mauritius during the period 2000-05 was 0.9%, lower than the estimated world's population growth rate of 1.2%. The Republic's growth rate was lower than that for Singapore (1.5%) and India (1.6%), but was higher than that for the United Kingdom (0.5%), Japan (0.1%) and Belgium (0.4%).

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Annex

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| 1. Vital Statistics: | The statistics pertaining to vital events which include live births, deaths, still births, marriages and divorces |
| 2. Population density: | The number of persons per square kilometre |
| 3. Dependency ratio: | The child population under 15 years of age and the elderly population aged 65 years and above per 1,000 population aged 15-64 years. |
| 4. Sex ratio: | The number of males to every 100 females. |
| 5. Natural increase: | The excess of live births over deaths. |
| 6. Crude birth rate: | The number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population. |
| 7. Crude death rate: | The number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population. |
| 8. Infant mortality rate: | The number of deaths in a year of infants aged under one year per 1,000 live births during the year. |
| 9. Still birth rate: | The number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births (live births and still births) during the year. |
| 10. Marriage rate: | The number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population. |

Note: The vital rates for Rodrigues are usually calculated as an average of three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data. The rates for year 2008 are however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.