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**DIGEST
OF
ROAD TRANSPORT
AND
ROAD ACCIDENT STATISTICS
2007**

August 2008

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Digest of Road Transport and Road Accident Statistics - 2007

FOREWORD

This is the twenty third issue of the Digest of Road Transport and Road Accident Statistics published by the Central Statistics Office.

It presents statistics on road transport and road traffic accidents relating to the Island of Mauritius. Data on vehicles have been compiled from the register of the National Transport Authority (NTA) and those on road traffic accidents from returns provided by police stations and insurance companies. It is to be noted that, as from August 2004, most non-injury road traffic accidents are not reported to the police, but only to insurance companies which provide aggregated data on such accidents. Thus detailed information on non-injury accidents are not available.

The figures published are the latest available. Some of them are provisional and are therefore subject to revision in later issues. Figures in this issue of the digest supersede those appearing in previous ones.

It is hoped that the data presented in this report will be of valuable help to planners, policy-makers and the public in general.

This digest has been prepared with the collaboration of the National Transport Authority, the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping, the Police Department and insurance companies. Their assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

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CONTENTS

Page

Definition and Explanatory Notes	5 - 7
Abbreviations and Symbols	8
Road Transport and Road Traffic Accident Statistics, 2007 - An overview	9
Main Road Transport and Road Accident Indicators, 2006 - 2007	11

PART 1 - VEHICLE STATISTICS

Table 1.1 - Road network as at end of year, 2003 - 2007	15
1.2 - Vehicles registered, 1998 - 2007	17
1.3 - New vehicles registered, 2003 - 2007	18
1.4 - Imported second-hand and re-registered vehicles, 2003 - 2007	19
1.5 - Vehicles off the road, 2003 - 2007	20
1.6 - Age composition of cars and dual purpose vehicles, 2006 - 2007	21
1.7 - Age composition of operational bus fleet, 2006 - 2007	22
1.8 - Bus operational statistics, 2003 - 2007	23
1.9 - Evolution of bus fares (adults), 1997 - 2007	24
1.10 - Receipts from the activities of the National Transport Authority, 2003 - 2007	25
1.11 - Driving licences issued during the year by type of licence, 1998 - 2007	26
1.12 - Imports of vehicles and spare parts by country of origin, 2006 - 2007	27 - 35

PART 2 - ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS

Table 2.1 - Road traffic accidents and casualties, 1998 - 2007	39
2.2 - Road traffic accidents, motor-vehicles involved and casualties, 2003 - 2007	41
2.3 - Number of casualty accidents by degree of casualty and casualty rate, 2003 - 2007	41
2.4 - Casualty accidents, pedestrian and rider (auto/moto cycle) casualties by police district, 2006 - 2007	42
2.5 - Pedestrian and total casualties by police district and semester, 2007	43
2.6 - Distribution of casualty accidents by day of the week and time, 2007	44
2.7 - Number of accidents by severity of accident, 2003 - 2007	46
2.8 - Number of casualty accidents involved in "hit and run cases", by semester, 2006 - 2007	46
2.9 - Number of accidents by severity of accident and police district, 2006 - 2007	47

CONTENTS (cont'd)	Page
Table 2.10 - Number of accidents by severity of accident and weather conditions, 2006 - 2007	48
2.11 - Number of accidents by severity of accident and light conditions, 2006 - 2007	49
2.12 - Number of casualty accidents by severity of accident, type of road and collision type, 2007	50
2.13 - Number of accidents by severity of accident and type of road, 2006 - 2007	51
2.14 - Number of casualty accidents by degree of casualties and junction type, 2007	52
2.15 - Number of vehicles involved in casualty accidents by type, 2006 - 2007	53
2.16 - Number of motor-vehicles involved in casualty accidents by type of vehicle and nature of damage, 2007	54
2.17 - Number of drivers and riders involved in casualty accidents by age group and sex, 2007	55
2.18 - Number of drivers/riders involved in casualty accidents by driving experience and sex, 2007	56
2.19 - Number of casualties by class of road users, 2006 - 2007	57
2.20 - Number of casualties by degree of casualty and class of road users, 2006 - 2007	58
2.21 - Number of casualties by class of road users, age-group and sex, 2007	59
2.22 - Number of pedestrian casualties by age-group, 2006 - 2007	60
2.23 - Number of fatalities by class of road users, age-group and sex, 2007	61
2.24 - Number of road traffic deaths by road user category, 2006 -2007	62
2.25 - Number of fatalities by police district and by class of road users, 2007	63
 PART 3 - PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	
Table 3.1 - Evolution of price and sales (quantity) of gasoline and gas oil, 1998 - 2007	67
3.2 - Imports of motor-spirit and gas oil by country of origin, 2006 - 2007	68
3.3 - Imports of lubricating oils and greases by country of origin, 2006 - 2007	69

ILLUSTRATIONS	Page
Figure 1.1 - Stock of registered vehicles, 1998 - 2007	16
1.2 - Age composition of cars and dual purpose vehicles as at 31st December, 2006 - 2007	21
1.3 - Age composition of operational bus fleet, as at 31st December, 2006 - 2007	22
2.1 - Number of vehicles registered and road accidents, 1998 - 2007	40
2.2 - Number of casualty accidents by day of week, 2007	45
2.3 - Number of casualty accidents by time of day, 2007	45
2.4 - Vehicles involved in casualty accidents by type of vehicle, 2007	53
2.5 - Casualties by class of road users, 2007	57
2.6 - Percentage of road traffic deaths by road user category, 2006 - 2007	62
 Appendix Police form (P.f 178)	

Vehicle Statistics¹

Definitions

Definitions as stipulated in Section 4 of Road Traffic Act of 1962 for types of vehicles

1. Motor cars

Motor cars are mechanically propelled vehicles, other than vehicles classified as motor cycles, which are constructed themselves to carry a load or passengers and whose unladen weight –

- (i) in case of vehicles which are –
 - (A) constructed solely for the carriage of passengers and their effects;
 - (B) adapted to carry not more than 7 passengers exclusive of the driver; and
 - (C) fitted with tyres of the prescribed type, does not exceed 3 tons;
- (ii) in any other case does not exceed 3 tons.

2. Heavy motor cars

Heavy motor cars are mechanically propelled vehicles, other than vehicles classified as motor cars, which are constructed themselves to carry a load or passengers and whose unladen weight exceeds 2½ tons.

3. Dual purpose vehicles

Dual purpose vehicles are vehicles constructed or adapted for the carriage both of passengers and of goods or burden of any description whose unladen weight does not exceed two tons and which either:-

- (a) are so constructed or adapted that the driving power of the engine is, or by the appropriate use of the controls of the vehicle can be, transmitted to all the wheels of the vehicle; or
- (b) satisfied the following conditions as to construction -
 - (i) the vehicle is permanently fitted with a rigid roof, with or without a sliding panel,
 - (ii) the area of the vehicle to the rear of the driver's seat is -
 - (A) permanently fitted with at least one row of transverse seats (fixed or folding) for 2 or more passengers and those seats are properly sprung or cushioned and provided with upholstered back-rests, attached either to the seats or to a side or the floor of the vehicle; and

¹ excludes pedal cycles

- (B) lit on each side and at the rear by a window or windows of glass or other transparent material having an area or aggregate area of not less than 2 square feet on each side and not less than 120 square inches on the rear.
- (iii) the distance between the rearmost part of the steering wheel and the backrests of the row of transverse seats satisfying the requirements specified in subparagraph (ii) (A) (or, where there is more than one row of seats, the distance between the rearmost part of the steering wheel and the backrests of the rearmost row) is, when the seats are ready for use, not less than one-third of distance between the rearmost part of the steering wheel and the rearmost part of the floor of the vehicle.

4. Motor cycles

Motor cycles are mechanically propelled vehicles, other than auto-cycles, with not more than 4 wheels and whose unladen weight does not exceed 400 kilograms.

5. Auto cycles

Auto cycles are bicycles which have pedals and a motor attached which can be propelled by means of those pedals and by mechanical or electrical power from that motor and the swept volume of the cylinders of that motor does not exceed 50 cubic centimeters.

6. Motor tractors

Motor tractors are mechanically propelled vehicles which are not constructed themselves to carry any load and whose unladen weight does not exceed 7¼ tons.

7. Trailer

- (a) means a vehicle which has no independent motive power of its own and which is drawn, or designed to be drawn, by a motor vehicle,
- (b) does not include a sidecar attached to a motor cycle, nor a farm implement that is not constructed or adapted for the conveyance of goods or burden of any description.

8. Weight Unladen

Means the weight of a vehicle which:-

- (a) includes the body and all parts (the heavier being taken where alternative bodies or parts are used) which are necessary to, or ordinarily used with, the vehicle when working on a road;
- (b) excludes the weight of water, fuel or accumulators used for the purpose of the supply of power for the propulsion of vehicle or of loose tools and loose equipment.

Road Traffic Accidents

Definitions and Explanatory Notes

In this report, data on accidents refer to all road accidents reported to police stations and to insurance companies.

Road Traffic Accident

A road traffic accident is an accident between two or more vehicles, a vehicle and a cyclist, a vehicle and a pedestrian, a vehicle and a fixed object, such as a bridge, building, tree, post, etc, or a single vehicle that overturned on or near a public road.

Severity of accident

Road traffic accidents are classified into the following categories according to the severity of the accident.

Fatal accident - an accident resulting in the death of one or more persons. Prior to 2002, a fatal accident was defined as an accident where deaths occurred within 7 days. As from 2002, a fatal accident is defined as an accident where deaths occurred within 30 days.

Serious injury accident - An accident in which one or more persons are seriously injured.

Slight injury accident - An accident in which one or more persons are slightly injured. The above three categories are jointly referred to as *casualty accident*

Non injury accident - An accident in which no one is killed or injured but which results in damage to the vehicle/s and/or other property only.

Casualty

Any person killed or injured in a road accident is referred to as a casualty.

Fatality - Any person killed during an accident or within 30 days (7 days prior to 2002) as a result of an accident is referred to as a fatality.

Serious Injury - An injury for which a person is detained in hospital as an "in-patient" or any of the following injuries (whether or not he is detained in hospital): fractures, concussions, internal injuries, severe cuts and lacerations, crushings and severe general shock requiring medical treatment.

Slight Injury - An injury of minor character such as a sprain, bruise and cut not judged to be severe.

Abbreviations and Symbols

Abbreviations

No.	:	Number
000	:	Thousand
%	:	Percentage
km	:	Kilometre
sq	:	Square
M/ton	:	Metric ton : 1,000 kilos
Mn	:	Million
Rs	:	Rupees
c.i.f	:	Cost, insurance and freight
n.e.s	:	Not elsewhere specified
000 Litres:		Thousand Litres

Symbols

-	Nil or negligible
...	Not available

Road Transport and Road Traffic Accident Statistics – An overview (Island of Mauritius)

Year 2007

1. Vehicles registered in 2007

At the end of December 2007 there were 334,145 vehicles registered at the National Transport Authority (NTA). This represents a net increase of 14,705 vehicles (4.6%) as compared to end of year 2006 when the number of registered vehicles was 319,440.

During the year 2007, the fleet was strengthened with the registration of 19,246 vehicles, of which 12,428 (65%) were new, 5,354 (27%) were imported second-hand and 1,464 (8%) were re-registered vehicles; i.e., those which had been previously de-registered (put off the road). However during the same period 4,541 vehicles were put off the road, resulting in a net addition of 14,705 vehicles to the existing fleet (Table 1.3 to 1.5).

2. Composition of the fleet

A breakdown of the fleet by type of vehicle is given in Table 1.2. At the end of December 2007, the fleet consisted of 43% (144,405) cars and dual purpose vehicles and 43% (142,606) auto/motor cycles. The remaining 14% comprised vans (24,934), lorries and trucks (12,536), buses (2,753) and other vehicles (6,911).

3. Vehicles used for the transport of passengers

3.1 *Cars and dual purpose vehicles*

At the end of 2007, the number of cars and dual purpose vehicles was 144,405, a rise of 6.9% over the 2006 figure which stood at 135,132. This increase was the result of the registration of 10,898 such vehicles (5,453 new, 4,662 imported second-hand and 783 re-registered), partly offset by 1,625 that were put off the road.

Table 1.6 shows the age distribution of cars and dual purpose vehicles. At the end of December 2007, 39% were less than 5 years, 25% between 5 and 9 years and the remaining 36%, 10 years and above.

3.2 *Buses*

At the end of December 2007, the number of registered buses was 2,753 compared to 2,612 in 2006, following the registration of 219 new buses and 78 put off the road during the year. Out of the 2,753 buses, 1,895 or 69% were public buses operating with a road service licence.

Table 1.7 which gives the age distribution of the fleet of public buses shows that 37% of the buses were under 5 years, 23% between 5 and 9 years and 40%, between 10 and 18 years.

4. Road traffic accidents

The number of road accidents registered during the year 2007 was 20,519 against 20,242 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 1.4%. Among these accidents the majority, 18,329 (89%) were non-injury, 133 fatal, 403 caused serious injuries and 1,654 slight injuries.

Compared to 2006, accidents causing casualties went up by 12.5% and non-injury accidents by 0.2%. Fatal accidents rose by 9.0% and serious injury accidents by 36.1 % and slight injury accidents by 8.2%.

The accident rate expressed as the number of accidents per 100,000 mid-year population increased from 1,665 in 2006 to 1,678 in 2007 while the number of accidents per 1,000 mid-year registered motor vehicles decreased from 65 to 63 (Table 2.1).

5. Vehicles involved in road accidents

During the year 2007, the total number of vehicles (both motor and non-motor) involved in road accidents was 41,355 against 40,205 in the previous year. The number of vehicles involved in accidents resulting in casualties in 2007 was 3,389 against 3,007 in 2006. Table 2.3 shows that 34% of these were private cars, 34% motor cycles and 12% vans.

6. Casualties

The number of casualties (fatalities and persons injured as a result of road accidents) rose by 21.1 % from 2,522 in 2006 to 3,055 in 2007. Among the casualties, 140 were fatal, 500 were seriously injured and the remaining 2,415 were slightly injured.

Compared to 2006, the number of persons who died as a result of road accidents went up by 4.5%. The fatality rate expressed as the number of persons who died as a result of road accidents per 100,000 mid-year population increased from 11.0% in 2006 to 11.4 in 2007

Table 2.19 reveals that, among the casualties in 2007, 33% were riders of auto/motor cycles, 27% passengers, 20% pedestrians, 14% drivers and 6% pedal cyclists.

7. Hit and run cases of accidents causing casualties

In 2007, there were 128 " hit and run" cases causing casualties compared to 127 in 2006. Out of these 128 cases, 60% (77) involved vehicles only while the other 40% (51) involved both vehicles and pedestrians (Table 2.8).

**Main Road Transport and Road Accident Indicators,
2006 - 2007 (Island of Mauritius)**

	2006	2007	
Population (mid - year)	1,215,619	1,223,089	
Area of Mauritius (sq km)	1,865	1,865	
Length of roads (km)	2,021	2,028	
Per Capita G.D.P at market prices (Rs) ¹ - Republic of Mauritius	164,669	186,870	
	2006	2007	% change
Vehicles on register	319,440	334,145	+4.6
Motor cycle and auto cycle	138,174	142,606	+3.2
Car and dual purpose vehicle	135,132	144,405	+6.9
Other	46,134	47,134	+2.2
Road Accidents	20,242	20,519	+1.4
Number of non-injury accidents	18,295	18,329	+0.2
Number of casualty accidents	1,947	2,190	+12.5
<i>Fatal accident</i>	122	133	+9.0
<i>Serious injury accident</i>	296	403	+36.1
<i>Slight injury accident</i>	1,529	1,654	+8.2
Total casualties	2,522	3,055	+21.1
<i>Fatal</i>	134	140	+4.5
<i>Seriously injured</i>	348	500	+43.7
<i>Slightly injured</i>	2,040	2,415	+18.4
Motor vehicles involved in road accidents	40,023	41,355	+3.3
Fatality rate			
Rate per 1,000 registered motor vehicles	0.43	0.43	0.00
Rate per 100,000 population	11.02	11.45	+0.43
Rate per 100 casualty accident	6.88	6.39	-0.49
Rate per 100 casualties	5.31	4.58	-0.73