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FOREWORD

This is the twentieth issue of a regular publication of the Central Statistics Office on Demographic Statistics. It presents the latest available statistics on population, live births, still births, marriages, deaths and divorces. A set of population projections and life-tables is also included.

As in previous issues, data are presented for the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues, as well as for the Republic.

It is hoped that the data published in this report will prove valuable to the public at large and particularly to planners and decision makers.

Data required for the preparation of this report were obtained mainly from the Civil Status Division of the Prime Minister's Office and from the Judicial Department. The assistance and cooperation of these two departments are herewith gratefully acknowledged.

H. Bundhoo
Director of Statistics

Central Statistics Office,
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development,
Port Louis.
MAURITIUS

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Contact person

Mr S. JUGOO
Ag. Statistician
Demography Unit
Central Statistics Office
LIC Building
John Kennedy Street
Port Louis
Tel: 2133074
Fax: 2114150
Email: cso_demography@mail.gov.mu

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INTRODUCTORY NOTES

Section 1 - Population

As in the previous issue of the Digest, this report deals with the resident population of the country rather than "de facto" or present population.

Prior to 1990, censuses were taken on a "de facto" basis, i.e they counted all persons present in a household or institution on census night. This method is simple and reduces the risk of omissions and double counts, but it includes non-residents present on census night and excludes residents who were away. For the 1990 and 2000 censuses, a series of questions were asked which allow a count of the resident population to be made by excluding foreign visitors and including residents who were temporarily away on census night.

The resident population base is expected to be more realistic than the "de facto" base. As from 1990, post-censal population estimates relate to resident population.

Section 2 - Vital Statistics

The statistics of births, deaths and marriages have been compiled from raw data supplied by the Civil Status Division, Prime Minister's Office while statistics of divorce have been obtained from the Office of the Master and Registrar, Supreme Court.

The Vital Registration Forms for the recording of live births, still births, deaths and marriages occurring in Mauritius are shown at the end of this report.

Section 3 - Live births

Formerly, the birth statistics published in the Annual Digest of Statistics for any year related only to births which were registered in that year. Although not all births occurring in a year are registered within that year because a delay of 45 days is allowed for registration, the differences between birth statistics tabulated by year of registration and year of occurrence are not expected to be large. However, as recommended by the United Nations, an additional series of tabulations which present birth statistics according to year of occurrence have been included in this report.

All fertility and reproduction rates, whether in previous reports or in the present one, are based on births occurred during the year. The only exception is the crude birth rate which is based on total births registered during the year.

Section 4 - Still births

Data on still births are compiled only according to date of registration. Since still births are normally registered within 24 hours of occurrence, there is not much difference between the data tabulated by date of registration and those tabulated by date of occurrence.

Section 5 - Deaths

The death statistics for any year are based on events registered during that year. Like still births, there is no significant difference between the number registered or occurred since death registration also take place within 24 hours of occurrence.

The main tables included in this section are the life tables for the years 1990, 2000 , 2002 (Rodrigues only) and 2003 (excluding Rodrigues) and the tables showing deaths due to selected causes.

Section 6 - Marriages

Prior to 1982, the statistics of marriages for any given year comprised civil marriages and marriages by legally authorised religious persons.

With the introduction of the Civil Status Act of 1981 which came into operation on 1st January 1982, the figures for marriages for the period January 1982 to November 1987 included:

- (a) Civil marriages
- (b) Religious marriages having civil effect
- (c) 'Past religious marriages', i.e. marriages celebrated before 1982 (either in Mauritius or abroad) but registered during the year; and
- (d) Muslim religious marriages (i.e. marriages under Muslim Personal Law)

On the 14th November 1987, the Civil Status Act was amended and since then marriage statistics no longer include Muslim religious marriages under Muslim Personal Law.

It is to be noted that from January 1982 to date, some double counting may be present in the marriage statistics. This occurs because some couples married under Muslim Personal Law during the period January 1982 to November 1987 subsequently marry civilly as well. It is estimated that between 10 to 40 such cases may have been registered annually from 1982 onwards. The total number of marriages celebrated under the Muslim Personal Law during the period when it was in force was 2,580.

Section 7 - Divorces

The number of divorces for any year relates to provisional decrees of divorce which are granted when the Court is satisfied that the petitioner has established his case. Three months after a provisional decree is made, any of the two parties may apply to the Court for the provisional decree to be made permanent.

Section 8 - Projections of the resident population

In the past, regular population projections by sex and age have been prepared either for the Island of Mauritius or more recently, for the Republic as a whole. Given the small population size of Rodrigues separate projections for the island were generally restricted to the total population only. Recently there has been more and more pressing demand for projections by sex and age for the two islands separately. An attempt has therefore been made to prepare such projections and the results are presented in this digest. The projection for the Republic has been obtained by summing the separate projections for the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. It has not been possible to integrate Agalega and Saint Brandon islands which together had a resident population of 289 (193 males and 96 females) at the 2000 census.

Until recently, projections published by this office have not gone beyond a range of 20 years. However, there is now more and more interest in long term perspective studies, and in particular the long term implications of ageing with respect to health and pensions issues. It has therefore been decided to carry forward the projections over a period of 40 years and to publish the results although their reliability is expected to diminish over the long range.

It is desirable to prepare projections under different sets of assumptions. However, it has been observed that publication of the different variants often leads to confusion: different users may use different variants and still wish to compare results whilst the same user may use different variants at different times without realising the fact. Hence, although this time three variants have been prepared (medium, high and low), only the medium variant, which is considered to be the most likely, is published in this digest. The relatively few users and analysts who wish to work with the other two variants can obtain them upon request together with technical notes concerning the assumptions.

The base for all projections is the estimated 2004 resident population by sex and age. The estimate has been obtained by adding the balance of births, deaths, and migration to the 2000 census population adjusted for underenumeration of young children.

The estimates by single year of age as figured in tables 8.4(a), 8.4(b) and 8.4(c) have been obtained by appropriate splitting of the projected population by five year age group. Although the figures are given to the last digit, it is recommended that because of the limitations on their reliability, they be rounded before use.

The assumptions for the medium variant projections are as follows:

(i) **Fertility (expressed in terms of total fertility rate)**

	1999-04	2004-2009	2009-14	2014-19	2019-44
Rep.of Mauritius	1.94	1.93	1.91	1.91	1.91
Isl. of Mauritius	1.92	1.91	1.90	1.90	1.90
Isl. of Rodrigues	2.71	2.50	2.30	2.15	2.10

- (ii) **Mortality: Sex and age-specific survival ratios improve from current levels in accordance with the Coale and Guang, “New Regional Model Life Tables at High Expectation of Life”.**

Implied life expectancies at birth (eo) -

Period	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1999-2004	68.53	75.36	68.47	75.34	70.34	75.93
2004-2009	69.77	76.13	69.72	76.10	71.35	77.00
2009-2014	70.82	76.84	70.77	76.80	72.27	77.97
2014-2019	71.80	77.49	71.76	77.45	73.13	78.84
2019-2024	72.77	78.10	72.73	78.05	73.93	79.62
2024-2029	73.65	78.64	73.62	78.59	74.64	80.26
2029-2034	74.53	79.12	74.51	79.07	75.27	80.76
2034-2039	75.13	79.54	75.11	79.49	75.80	81.12
2039-2044	75.59	79.87	75.57	79.83	76.22	81.29

- (iii) **Migration (average annual net migration)**

	<u>2004-2009</u>	<u>2009-14</u>	<u>2014-19</u>	<u>2019-24</u>	<u>2024-44</u>
<u>Republic of Mauritius</u>					
Male	-300	-200	-100	-50	NIL
Female	-200	-150	-100	-50	NIL
	—	—	—	—	—
Both sexes	- 500	-350	-200	-100	NIL
	—	—	—	—	—
<u>Island of Mauritius</u>					
Male	-100	-50	NIL	NIL	NIL
Female	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
	—	—	—	—	—
Both sexes	-100	-50	NIL	NIL	NIL
	—	—	—	—	—

Island of Rodrigues

	<u>2004-2009</u>	<u>2009-2014</u>	<u>2014-2019</u>	<u>2019-2024</u>	<u>2024-44</u>
Male	-200	-150	-100	-50	NIL
Female	-200	-150	-100	-50	NIL
	—	—	—	—	—
Both sexes	-400	-300	-200	-100	NIL
	—	—	—	—	—

Symbols

The following symbols are used throughout:

- Nil or negligible
- ... Not available
