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Population and Vital Statistics

Year 2023

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POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, YEAR 2023

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents population estimates as at December 2023 and vital statistics, including rates, for the year 2023. Please note that population estimates presented in this report are based on the 2011 Census data.

Statistics Mauritius compiles vital statistics from data obtained from the computerised system in place at the Civil Status Division.

Definitions of terms used are given at **Annex**.

2. Key points

- The population of the Republic of Mauritius was estimated at 1,260,379 as at 31 December 2023, with a net decrease of 817 from previous year's figure.
- As at end 2023, the female population was higher than the male population by 15,085.
- The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 16.3% as at mid-2022 to 16.0%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years declined from 70.6% in 2022 to 70.4% in 2023 while for those aged 65 years and above, the proportion increased from 13.1% to 13.6% for the same period.
- 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 to 64 years) was 416.1 for 2022 and 420.9 for 2023.
- The number of live births registered during year 2023 was 12,872, representing an increase of 6.4% over the figure for 2022.
- The number of deaths registered in 2023 was 11,839, that is, 8.5% lower than in 2022.
- The number of infant deaths decreased by 2.3%, from 172 in 2022 to 168 in 2023.
- The number of still births declined by 6.3%, from 111 in 2022 to 104 in 2023.
- The number of marriages registered in 2023 was 8,654, that is, 9.5% lower than in 2022.
- Since the late nineties, females outnumber males in the population.
- The dependency ratio is slowly rising in recent years as a result of increasing old age dependency.
- Over time, the population age structure depicted by a population pyramid has shifted from wide base to shrinking base and thickening body, showing an ageing population.
- Life expectancy is increasing over time.

3. Estimated resident population

Table 3.1 - Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2023

Island	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Density per km²
Island of Mauritius	1,214,997	600,459	614,538	97.7	650
Island of Rodrigues	45,108	22,014	23,094	95.3	410
Agalega and St. Brandon	274	174	100	174.0	10
Republic of Mauritius	1,260,379	622,647	637,732	97.6	628

The estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius was 1,260,379 as at 31 December 2023. The female population was 637,732, compared to a male population of 622,647. There were 97.6 males for every 100 females.

The population was estimated at 1,214,997 and 45,108 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 274, had more males (174) than females (100).

The Republic of Mauritius, with a total land area of 2,007 km², had a population density of 628 persons per km² as at end 2023. Among its constituent islands, the Island of Mauritius had the highest density (650), compared to 410 for the Island of Rodrigues.

4. Population growth

Table 4.1 - Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2023

Island	Population		Change	
	31 December 2022	31 December 2023	Number	%
Island of Mauritius	1,216,139	1,214,997	-1,142	-0.09
Island of Rodrigues	44,783	45,108	325	0.73
Agalega and St. Brandon	274	274	-	-
Republic of Mauritius	1,261,196	1,260,379	-817	-0.06

The population of the Republic of Mauritius decreased by 817 from 31 December 2022 to 31 December 2023, representing a decrease of 0.06%.

Table 4.2 - Components of population growth, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2022 and 2023

Components of population growth	2022	2023
Resident population as at beginning of year	<u>1,263,614</u>	<u>1,260,922</u>
Live Births	12,096	12,872
Deaths	12,938	11,839
Natural increase	<u>-842</u>	<u>1,033</u>
Net international migration	-1,850	-1,850
Resident population as at end of year	1,260,922	1,260,105

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 2023, there was a natural increase of 1,033 persons, with births adding 12,872 babies and deaths removing 11,839 persons from the population. For the same period, net international migration of residents was estimated at -1,850 persons.

5. Age distribution of population

Table 5.1 - Estimated resident population¹ by broad age group and sex – Republic of Mauritius², 1 July 2022 and 1 July 2023

Age group (Years)	1 July 2022			1 July 2023		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
0	6,114	6,110	12,224	6,263	6,091	12,354
1 - 4	26,428	25,423	51,851	25,886	25,189	51,075
5 - 9	33,613	32,176	65,789	33,158	31,789	64,947
10 - 14	38,275	37,699	75,974	37,077	36,233	73,310
15 - 19	46,606	44,957	91,563	45,044	43,415	88,459
20 - 29	97,276	95,021	192,297	96,691	94,176	190,867
30 - 39	88,253	85,241	173,494	88,943	86,097	175,040
40 - 49	92,511	90,067	182,578	93,106	90,696	183,802
50 - 59	85,332	86,785	172,117	83,317	84,663	167,980
60-64	37,883	41,429	79,312	38,808	42,358	81,166
65+	71,496	93,554	165,050	74,524	97,243	171,767
All ages	623,787	638,462	1,262,249	622,817	637,950	1,260,767

¹ based on 2011 Population Census data adjusted for underenumeration of children

² excluding Agalega and St Brandon

The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 16.3% as at mid-2022 to 16.0%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years decreased to 70.4% in 2023 from 70.6% in 2022. As for the population aged 65 years and above, the proportion increased from 13.1% in 2022 to 13.6% in

2023. 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 to 64 years) was 416.1 for 2022 and 420.9 for 2023.

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 Mauritius¹, 2022 and 2023²

Island	Number of live births registered		Crude birth rate	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Island of Mauritius	11,223	12,097	9.2	9.9
Island of Rodrigues	873	775	18.8 ³	17.2
Republic of Mauritius	12,096	12,872	9.6	10.2

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

² Provisional

³ Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2022 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2021, 2022 and 2023) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

For the year 2023, there were 12,872 live births registered in the Republic of Mauritius, representing an increase of 6.4% over the 2022 figure of 12,096. The crude birth rate, i.e., the number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, increased from 9.6 in 2022 to 10.2 in 2023.

For the Island of Mauritius, the number of registered live births increased from 11,223 in 2022 to 12,097 in 2023, consequently bringing a rise in the crude birth rate from 9.2 to 9.9. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of live births decreased from 873 in 2022 to 775 in 2023, with the crude birth rate decreasing from 18.8 to 17.2 during the same period.

6.2 Deaths and crude death rate

Table 6.2 - Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2022 and 2023²

Island	Number of deaths registered		Crude death rate	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Island of Mauritius	12,581	11,549	10.3	9.5
Island of Rodrigues	357	290	6.9 ³	6.5
Republic of Mauritius	12,938	11,839	10.2	9.4

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

² Provisional

³ Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2022 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2021, 2022 and 2023) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data.

The number of deaths registered in the Republic of Mauritius in 2023 was 11,839, representing a decrease of 8.5% over the figure of 12,938 for 2022. The crude death rate, i.e., the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population was 9.4 in 2023, compared to 10.2 in 2022.

The Island of Mauritius registered a decrease in the number of deaths from 12,581 in 2022 to 11,549 in 2023, resulting in a decline in the crude death rate from 10.3 to 9.5 during the same period. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of deaths also decreased from 357 to 290, with the crude death rate decreasing from 6.9 in 2022 to 6.5 in 2023.

6.3 Infant deaths and Infant mortality rate

Table 6.3 - Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2022 and 2023²

Island	Number of infant deaths registered		Infant mortality rate	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Island of Mauritius	165	157	14.7	13.0
Island of Rodrigues	7	11	12.7 ³	14.2
Republic of Mauritius	172	168	14.2	13.1

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

² Provisional

³ Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2022 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2021, 2022 and 2023) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

For the year 2023, some 168 infant deaths (deaths to children aged under one year) were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 172 in 2022, representing a decline of 2.3%. The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births decreased from 14.2 in 2022 to 13.1 in 2023.

The number of infant deaths in the Island of Mauritius was 165 for 2022 and 157 for 2023, with infant mortality rates of 14.7 and 13.0 respectively. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of infant deaths increased from 7 in 2022 to 11 in 2023, with the infant mortality rate increasing from 12.7 to 14.2 during the same period.

6.4 Still births and still birth rate

Table 6.4 - Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2022 and 2023²

Island	Number of still births registered		Still birth rate	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Island of Mauritius	105	99	9.3	8.1
Island of Rodrigues	6	5	8.3 ³	6.4
Republic of Mauritius	111	104	9.1	8.0

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

² Provisional

³ Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2022 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2021, 2022 and 2023) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

In 2023, some 104 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, which is 6.3% lower than the 2022 figure of 111. The still birth rate which is the number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births was 8.0 for 2023, compared to 9.1 in 2022.

The Island of Mauritius registered 99 still births in 2023 against 105 in 2022, with the still birth rate decreasing from 9.3 in 2022 to 8.1 in 2023. For the Island of Rodrigues, there were 6 still births registered in 2022 and 5 in 2023, and the still birth rate decreased from 8.3 to 6.4 during the same period.

6.5 Marriages and crude marriage rate

Table 6.5 - Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2022 and 2023²

Island	Number of marriages registered		Marriage rate	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Island of Mauritius	9,386	8,471	15.4	13.9
Island of Rodrigues	172	183	7.9 ³	8.1
Republic of Mauritius	9,558	8,654	15.1	13.7

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

² Provisional

³ Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2022 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2021, 2022 and 2023) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The number of marriages registered in the Republic of Mauritius decreased by 9.5%, from 9,558 in 2022 to 8,654 in 2023. The crude marriage rate, i.e., the number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, decreased from 15.1 to 13.7 for the same period.

For the Island of Mauritius, the number of marriages decreased from 9,386 in 2022 to 8,471 in 2023, resulting in a fall in the marriage rate from 15.4 to 13.9. The Island of Rodrigues registered an increase in the number of marriages from 172 in 2022 to 183 in 2023, showing an increase in the marriage rate from 7.9 to 8.1.

7. International Comparison

Population and demographic estimates for many countries of the world are published in the United Nations Demographic Yearbook. A zero population growth was registered for the Republic of Mauritius during the period 2015 to 2022. The other countries shown in Table 7.1 had a positive population growth namely South Africa (1.3%), Canada (1.2%), China (0.3%), Germany (0.3%) with the exception of Japan (-0.2%).

Table 7.1 – Demographic indicators for selected countries, 2022

	Mid year Estimates (in thousands)	Average annual rate of population change (2015-2022)	Population Density (km ²)	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
World ¹	7,975,100	n/a	61	17.0	8.0	n/a
Mauritius	1,262	0.0	628	9.6	10.2	14.2
Reunion ¹	870	0.3	347	15.7	6.7	6.6
South Africa	60,605	1.3	50	n/a	n/a	n/a
Canada ¹	38,930	1.2	4	9.6	n/a	n/a
China	1,411,750	0.3	147	6.8	7.4	n/a
Japan ¹	125,125	-0.2	331	6.5	11.5	1.7
Singapore ¹	5,637	0.3	7,688	9.7	6.1	2.0
Germany	83,237	0.3	233	8.8	12.7	n/a
United Kingdom ¹	64,875	n/a	n/a	10.3	10.0	4.0
Australia ¹	25,979	1.2	3	12.1	6.7	3.3

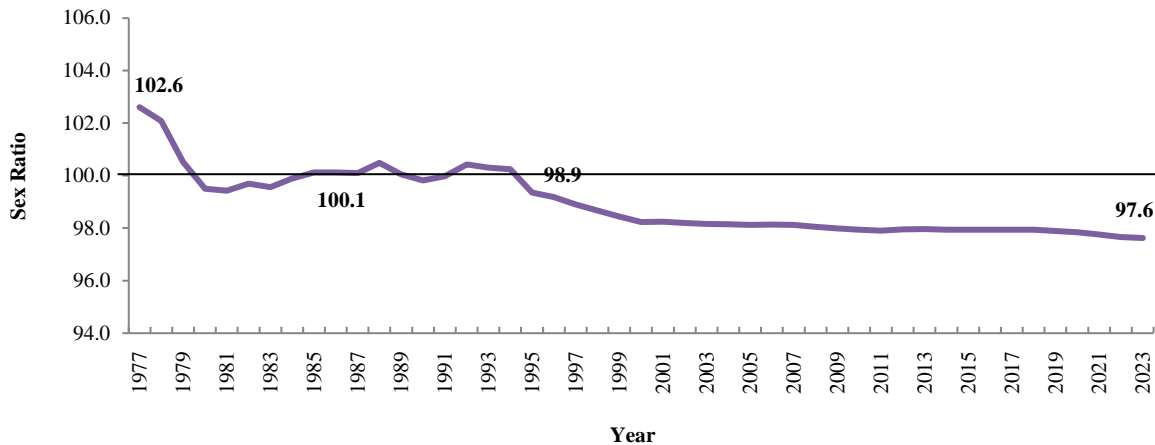
Source: UN Demographic Yearbook, 2022 (except for the Republic of Mauritius)

¹ Figures in italics refer to year 2021

8. Demographic trends

8.1 Sex ratio

Figure 8.1.1 – Sex ratio of resident population, Republic of Mauritius¹, 1977 – 2023

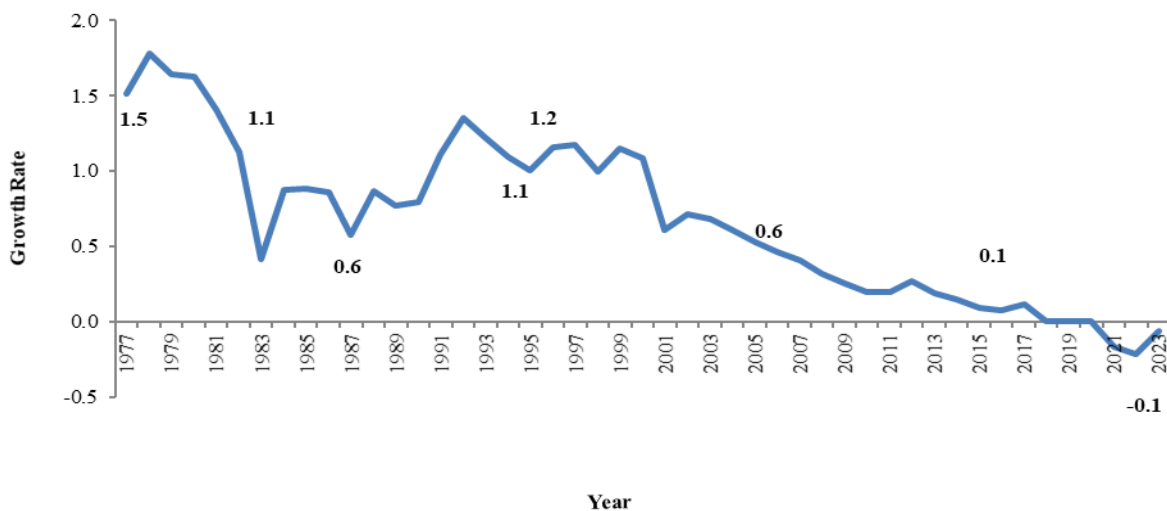


¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Figure 8.1.1 depicts the evolution of sex ratio (i.e. the number of males per 100 females) for the past forty-six years. Before the eighties, males outnumbered females in the population (e.g. 102.6 males per 100 females in 1977) and as from the nineties, the reverse trend was noted whereby females outnumbered males in the population (e.g. 97.6 males per 100 females in 2023). This shift was mainly due to ageing of the population given that females live longer than males.

8.2 Population growth rate

Figure 8.2.1 – Growth rate of resident population, Republic of Mauritius¹, 1977 – 2023



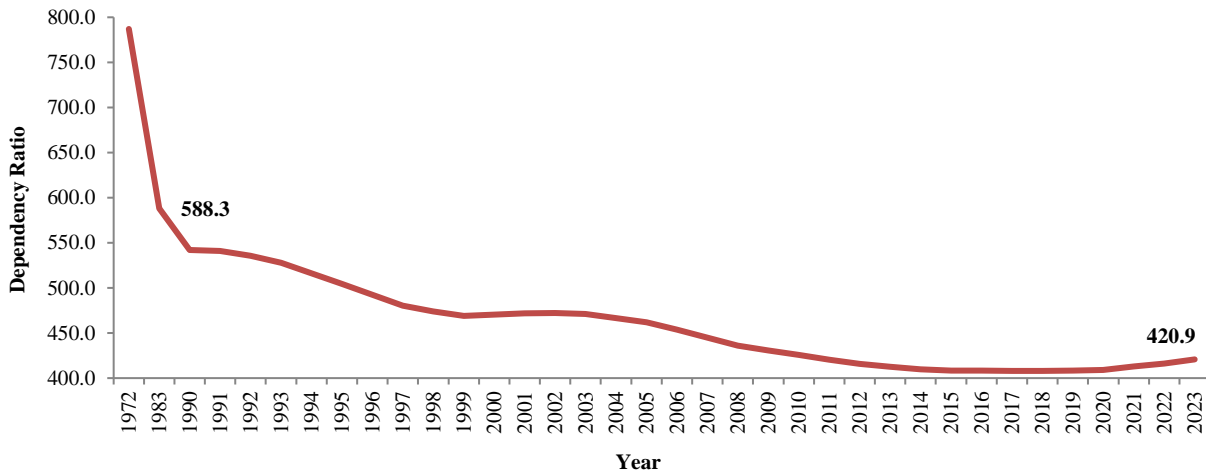
¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Figure 8.2.1 shows the evolution of the growth rate of the resident population from 1977 to 2023. The population growth rate reached its peak in the late seventies and then declined in the eighties. There was a catch up in the nineties after which it continued to drop. The declining fertility rate,

resulting in a drop in number of live births together with an increase in the number of deaths, caused the population growth rate to decline, attaining zero growth rate or lower as from 2019 onwards.

8.3 Dependency Ratio

Figure 8.3.1 - Dependency Ratio, Republic of Mauritius¹, 1972 - 2023



¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Dependency ratio is defined as the combined child population (under 15 years) and population aged 65 years and over per 1,000 population of intermediated age (15-64 years) in a particular year.

There has been a general decrease in the dependency ratio from 787.2 in 1972 to 409.0 in 2020 (Figure 8.3.1). The fall in dependency ratio observed is mainly the result of a decline in child population over the years. However, the dependency ratio is picking up in recent years as a result of ageing.

8.4 Population age structure

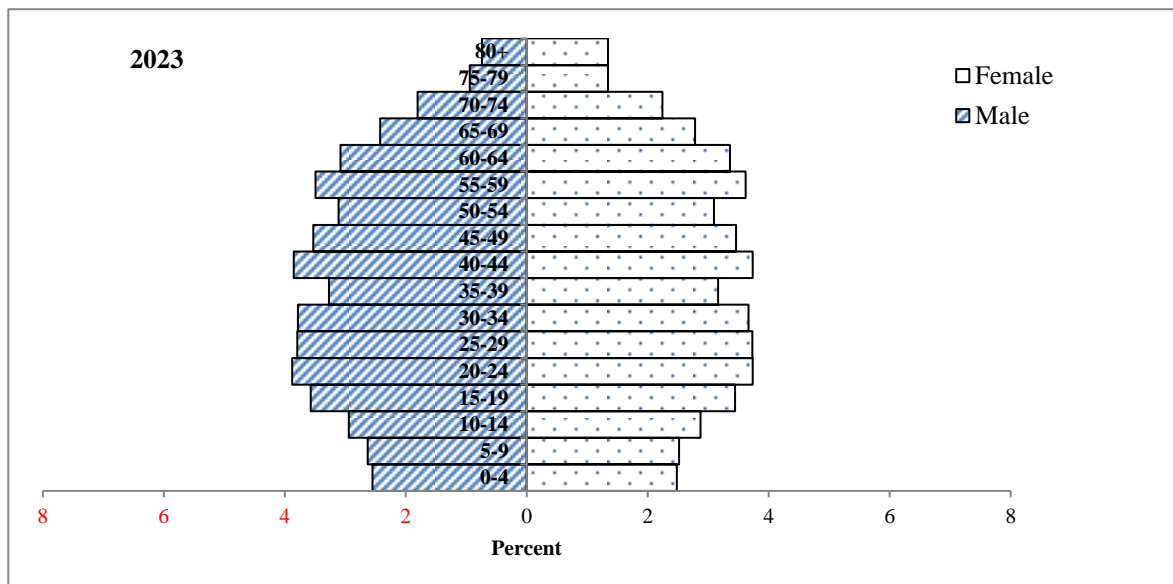
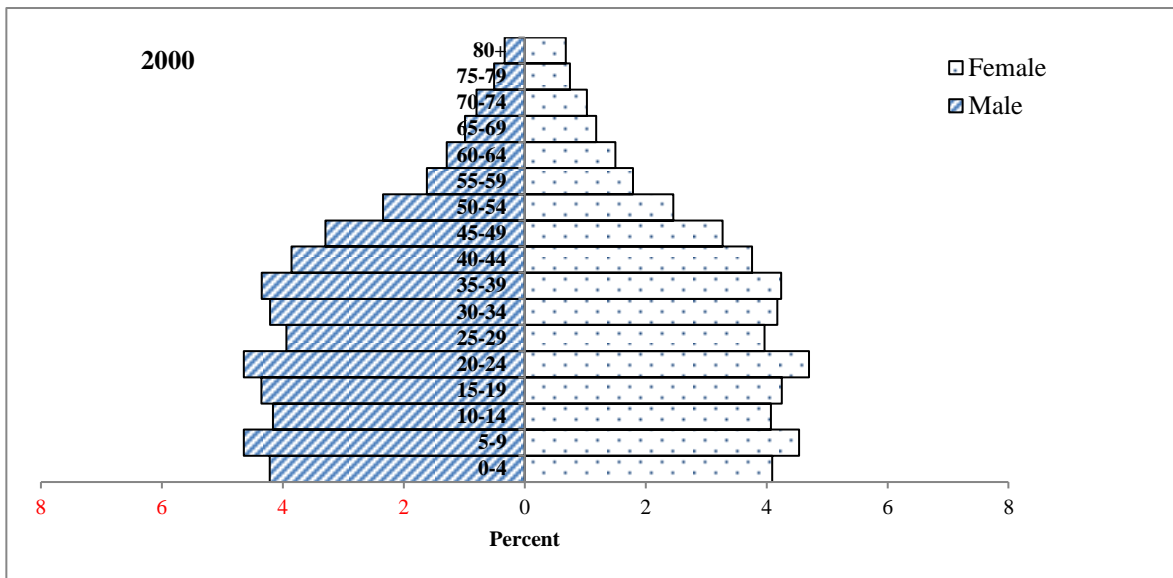
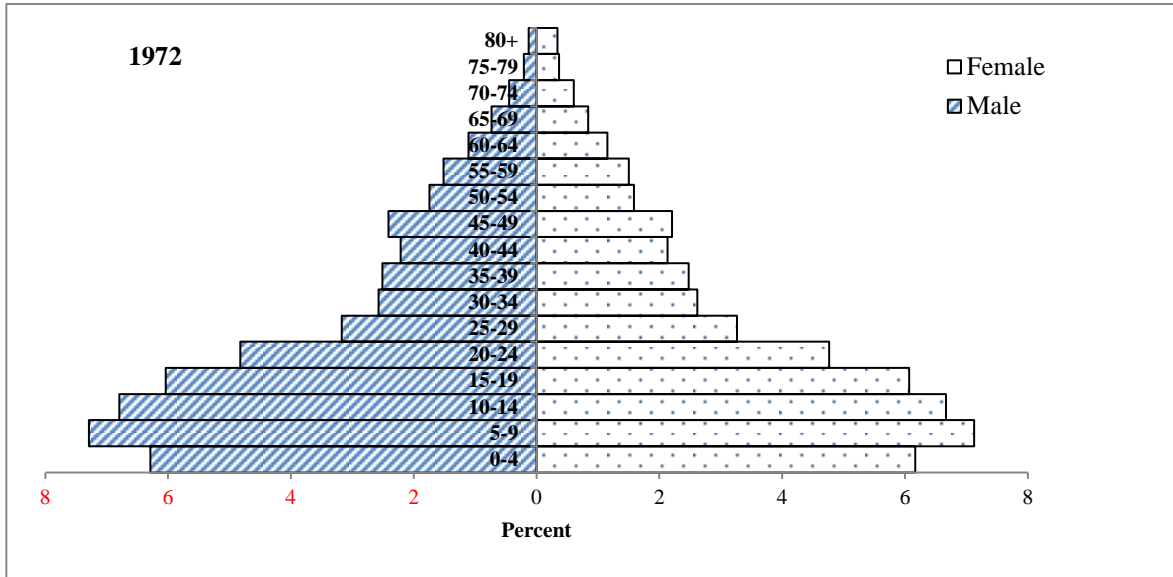
The structure of the pyramids in Figure 8.4.1 are determined by the patterns of births, deaths and migration which took place prior to the reference period of the pyramid. The pyramids compare the age structure of the population for years 1972, 2000 and 2023 and show some important trends in the demographics of Mauritius.

The main changes observed over time are:

- the shrinking of the base of the pyramid over time 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.

The pyramid for 1972 shows a typical young population with a wide base indicating a high birth rate, and a narrow top showing a relatively small proportion in the oldest ages. For 2000 and 2023, there is a 'fill up' of the pyramids above the base mainly due to the progression of the birth cohorts of the high fertility periods up the pyramid. The upper body of the 2023 pyramid is thicker than the one of 2000 due to improved life expectancy: the people born today are expected to live longer than previous generations. Women tend to live longer than men as can be seen from the population above 60 years in all the pyramids.

Figure 8.4.1 - Population pyramids, Republic of Mauritius¹, 1972, 2000 & 2023



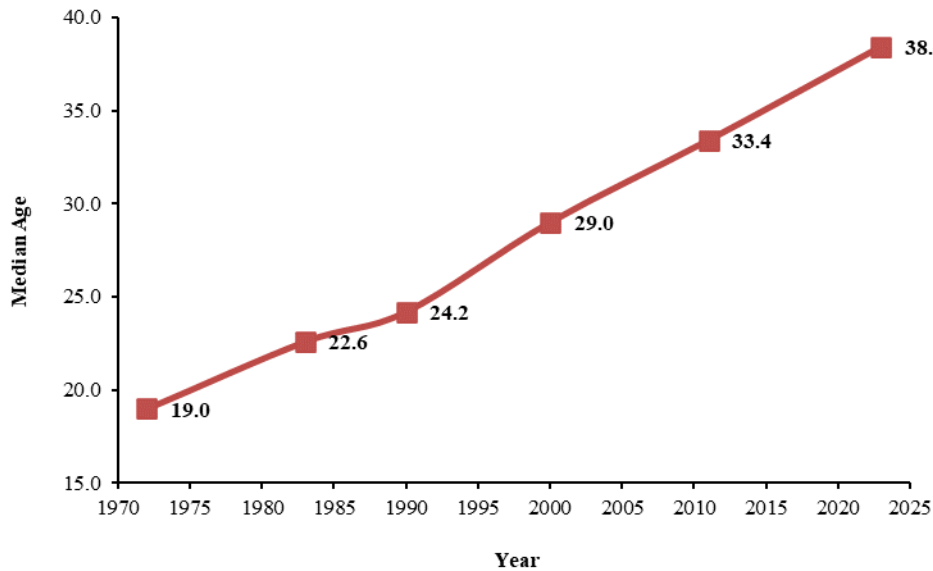
¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

9. Ageing

Population ageing is not a new phenomenon. It started in the developed world and is taking place in nearly all the countries of the world. People are living longer because of better nutrition, sanitation, health care, education and economic well-being. The population of Mauritius as well is ageing.

Population ageing is defined as the rise in the median age of the population (defined as the age which divides the population into two equal size groups, one of which is younger and the other older than the median) as a result of the shifting of the age structure of the population towards the upper end of the age distribution. The median age increased from 19.0 years in 1972 to 38.4 years in 2023 (Figure 9.1).

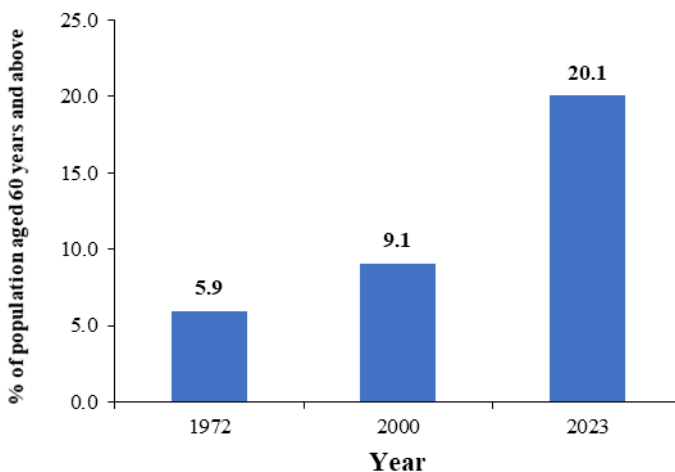
Figure 9.1 – Median Age of the population, Republic of Mauritius¹, 1972 – 2023



¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

For statistical purposes the elderly is taken to be those aged 60 years and above. The population aged 60 years and above represented 5.9% of the population in 1972 compared to 20.1% in 2023 (Figure 9.2).

Figure 9.2 – Percentage of the population aged 60 years and above, Republic of Mauritius¹, 1972, 2000 and 2023



¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

9.1 Why the population is ageing?

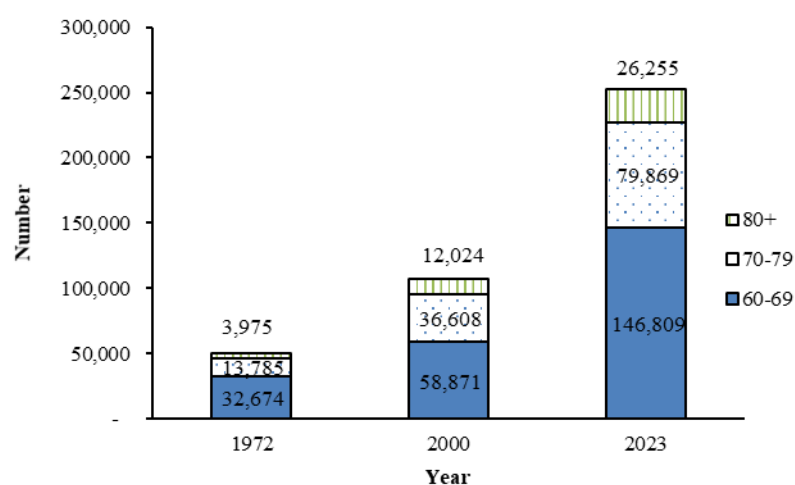
The ageing process can be explained by increased longevity and lowering levels of fertility. The number of births per 1,000 population for Mauritius decreased by 75% over the past 60 years. Low levels of fertility have resulted in a decreasing share of young people in the total population. This is visible through a shrinking of the base of age pyramids from 1972 to 2023 (See Figure 8.4.1).

In the 1970's, on average, a man was expected to live up to 61 years and a woman up to 66 years; in 2022 they were expected to live up to 70 and 77 years respectively.

9.2 Characteristics of elderly population

Another aspect of population ageing is the progressive ageing of the elderly population itself. The “oldest, old people” that is the population aged 80 years and above is increasing more rapidly than any other age groups within the elderly population. The proportion of “oldest, old people” increased from 7.9% of the elderly population in 1972 to 10.4% in 2023 (Figure 9.3). In absolute terms, between 1972 and 2023 the number of oldest old increased sevenfold, while the population aged 60-69 years and 70-79 years increased fourfold and sixfold respectively.

Figure 9.3 – Age distribution of the elderly, Republic of Mauritius¹, 1972, 2000 and 2023



¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

There are also changes, over the years, in the gender composition by age of the older population. Women live longer than men on average and thus there is an increasing proportion of women especially at the highest ages, resulting in the so-called “feminization” of ageing. In 2023, for every 100 women in the age group 60-69, there were only 90 men. Their number dropped to 77 in the age group 70-79. For the oldest old (80+ years) the sex ratio reached 55 men for every 100 women.

Table 9.4 – Sex Ratio by age, for the Republic of Mauritius¹, 1972, 2000 and 2023

Age Group	1972	2000	2023
60 - 69	92.2	85.1	89.6
70 - 79	66.6	73.8	76.6
80+	37.5	48.9	55.2
All Ages	100.2	98.3	97.6

9.3 Implications of ageing

The implications of ageing are numerous and some of them are highlighted. Ageing will affect pension schemes; beneficiaries will be more numerous and they will claim benefits over a longer period than at present. Population ageing is also correlated with an increase in the prevalence of a number of long-term chronic conditions as well as physical and mental disability. The other concern will be an increased demand for health care services, keeping in mind that women will predominate among the elderly. Living arrangements, including housing and transportation have to be adapted to their needs, so as to minimise their dependence on other people.

9.4 International Comparison

While overall the world is ageing, there are differences among countries in the level of population ageing. As fertility rates continue to decline and life expectancy continues to rise, the proportion of older people will steadily increase leading to population ageing. The old age dependency ratio compares the size of older population (65+ years) to that of the working age population (15-64 years) thus providing an indication of ageing and a comparison across countries at a given point in time. Life expectancy at birth has risen substantially across the world.

Table 9.5 – Demographic ageing indicators for selected countries, 2021

Countries	% of Population aged 65+	Total Fertility Rate	Life Expectancy at birth	Life Expectancy at 65 years	Old age Dependency Ratio (per 100)	Median Age
<i>Africa</i>	3.5	4.31	61.7	12.6	6.2	18.6
Australia	16.6	1.6	84.5	21.6	25.5	37.0
Canada	18.5	1.46	82.7	21.1	28.2	40.2
France	21.3	1.79	82.5	21.3	34.8	41.6
Germany	22.2	1.53	80.6	19.4	34.7	44.9
Greece	22.5	1.37	80.1	19.0	35.5	44.7
India	6.8	2.03	67.2	12.7	10.1	27.6
Italy	23.7	1.28	82.9	20.7	37.2	46.8
Japan	29.8	1.3	84.8	22.4	51.0	48.4
<i>Mauritius</i>	12.6	1.4	73.5	16.4	17.8	37.7
Seychelles	7.9	2.35	71.3	14.5	11.4	32.5
Singapore	14.1	1.02	82.8	20.2	19.1	41.8
South Africa	6.0	2.37	62.3	12.4	9.1	27.1
<i>World</i>	9.6	2.32	71.0	16.2	14.8	30.0

Source: World Population Prospects 2022(except for the Republic of Mauritius)

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Annex

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 to 64 years.
4. Child Dependency ratio	The child population under 15 years of age per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years.
5. Old age Dependency ratio	The elderly population aged 65 years and above per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years.
6. Median age	The age which divides the population into two equal size groups, one of which is younger and the other older than the median.
7. Sex ratio:	The number of males to every 100 females.
8. Natural increase:	The excess of live births over deaths.
9. Crude birth rate:	The number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
10. Crude death rate:	The number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
11. Infant mortality rate:	The number of deaths in a year of infants aged under one year per 1,000 live births during the year.
12. Still birth rate:	The number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births (live births and still births) during the year.
13. 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 for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data. The rates for year 2023 are however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.

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