



Annual Report 2017/18

STATISTICS MAURITIUS

ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE – STATISTICS MAURITIUS

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1. Vision and Mission

Vision

To be a key provider of world-class statistical information.

Mission

To provide coherent, timely, relevant and reliable statistics, consistent with international principles and standards, for effective policy and decision-making and for monitoring national development processes.

2. Statement from the Director of Statistics

Statistics Mauritius (SM) is committed to provide timely, relevant and reliable statistics for effective policy and decision-making and for monitoring national development processes.

During the past year, we have published some 140 statistical releases according to the pre-release calendar, in addition to regular digests of statistics on various topics. We have updated the basket of the Consumer Price Index according to the 2017 Household Budget Survey results. New poverty statistics and some additional indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and Labour Market have been released.

We have contributed to the work of several working groups and committees at both national and international levels. These are the National Wage Consultative Council and its sub-committee on the introduction of a national minimum wage and its impact, the Tripartite Committee on salary compensation, the National Working Group on migration, the Steering Committee of Sustainable Development Goals, the Steering Committee on the implementation of Accrual IPSAS, and the UN Friends of the Chair on Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics amongst others.

To address the evolving data needs for policy making and monitoring, actions have been initiated to design a new strategy for official statistics. The strategy will take into account strategies of Vision 2030, the Global Action Plan for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other international and national initiatives and best practices. As a prelude to the design of a new strategy, a peer review of the national statistical system was carried out the African Union Commission in May 2018. The peer review revealed many strengths and

positive elements of the official statistics, brought to light some weaknesses and challenges, and recommended remedial actions. These will serve as inputs in the design of the new strategy which will be in place in 2019.

I would like to seize this opportunity to show my gratitude to all staff of Statistics Mauritius for their hard work, commitment, and invaluable support throughout the year.

3. Roles and Functions of Statistics Mauritius

Statistics Mauritius operates under the Statistics Act of 2000. We produce official statistics relating to all aspects of the country's economic, demographic and social activities except health statistics which fall under the responsibility of the Ministry responsible for Health, and monetary and financial, banking and balance of payment statistics for which the Bank of Mauritius is responsible.

We collect, compile and analyse data which are collected through censuses and surveys, and from administrative sources. For more efficiency and to reduce response burden, we make maximum use of data collected for administrative purposes and collect data only where there is a need to do so.

Our statistics are compiled according to the latest international standards; and to classify our data in meaningful classes and to enable comparability at the international level, we make use of classifications recommended by international institutions.

By virtue of the Statistics Act, SM is mandated to co-ordinate statistical activities of all producers of official statistics including public sector agencies to ensure standards and to minimize overlap and duplication in production of official statistics in the country. It collaborates with Ministries and Departments of the Government in the collection, compilation, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistical information. As working arrangement, staff of the statistical cadre are posted in line ministries, while several Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with some data producing agencies to set out the framework for cooperation, with a view to facilitating data sharing and coordination.

We conduct regular consultations with main data users to assess their needs in order to produce statistics of relevance and provide Government with statistics relevant for policy formulation and development planning.

4. Gender Statement

As a department of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, we are participating towards the ministry's initiatives to address gender-related issues.

SM is a member of the National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming chaired by the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. We provide updated gender-related statistics to the committee for informed decisions on gender issues. In addition, our statisticians form part of Gender Cells of line ministries and provide gender-related statistics to the ministries concerned to help them engender their budget as well as mainstream gender in the activities of their respective sector.

5. About Our People

The office is headed by the Director of Statistics who is assisted by the three Deputy Directors, each in charge of a division, namely:

- Social and Labour Statistics;
- National Accounts and Prices; and
- Statistical Support, Informatics and Dissemination

As at Dec 2018, staff of SM comprised 245 officers as follows:

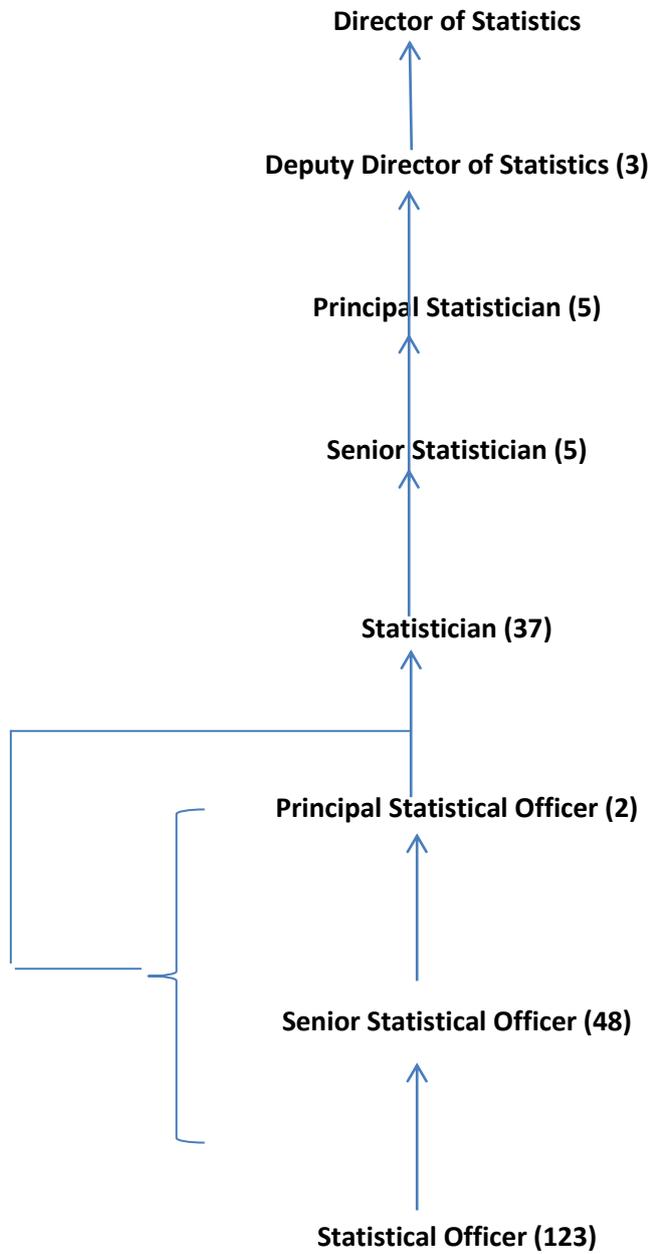
Technical staff	163
<i>of which</i>	
<i>Statistician Cadre</i>	44
<i>Statistical Officer Cadre</i>	119
General Services staff	50
Interns under Service to Mauritius	2
Census and Survey Assistant	30

SM staff comprises more women than men:

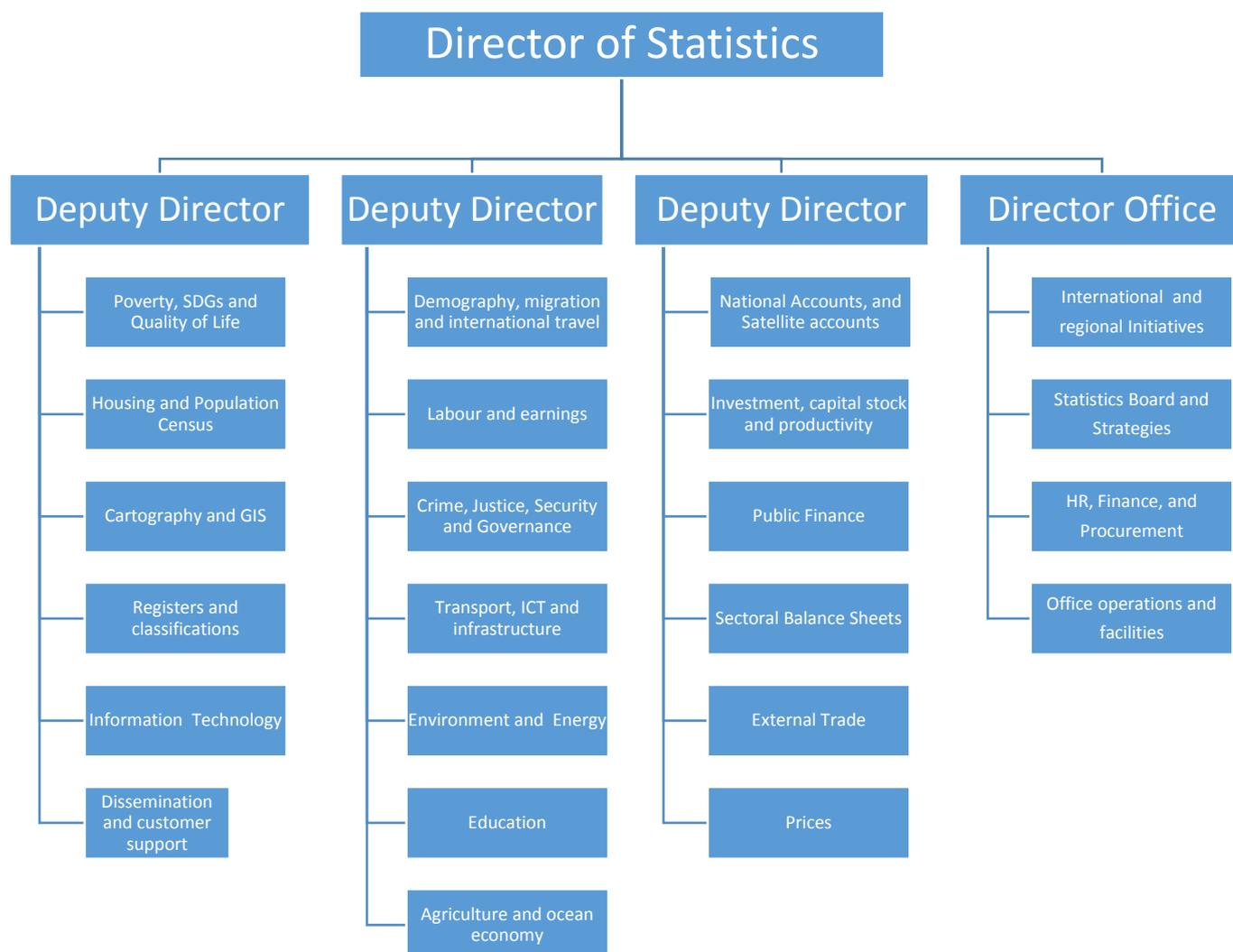
	Male	Female	Total
Number of staff	84	159	243
<i>Of which</i>			
<i>Senior management</i>	3	4	7

The hierarchical structure of the technical grades and the organization chart are below.

Hierarchical Structure



Organisational Chart



SM also outposts its staff in various ministries to assist on statistical matters. These units fall under the responsibility of the Deputy Directors.

SM has successfully implemented the major reform initiatives of the government with relation to Human Resource Management such as the Performance Management System, Human Resource Management Information System, and the Electronic Attendance System.

SM officers are given regular training both locally or abroad. Some 30 officers attended training abroad during the year, and 130 locally of which 84 at the Civil Service College. All new staff follow an induction course and are made aware of the standards when they join the organization.

SM has in place a staff rotation policy, with a view to providing staff with opportunities to work in different areas to expand their work knowledge and skills as well as to broaden their understanding

of the organization. The policy also works towards overcoming potential job boredom, and creates back-up for long leaves and retirements.

The Occupational Health and Safety Committee meets every two months, in accordance with the regulations in force, to resolve issues related to health and safety of our officers.

PART II –ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES

6. Major Achievements

SM has been able to meet the targets set for financial year 2017/2018. The main achievements are given below:

- 100% Social and Economic data published as per released calendar
- Census of Economic Activities 2018 – phase I in progress
- Completion of the 2017 Household Budget Survey and release of the main results
- Publication of Consumer Price Indices according to an updated consumer basket based on the results of the 2017 HBS
- Scope of published indicators extended to include Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators, Key Indicators of Labour Market indicators, and Infrastructure statistics

7. Status on Implementation of Key Actions

The status of implementation of key actions is given in the table below:

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target	Achievement 2017/18
Updated social and economic data available to support policy decision making	% of Economic and Social Indicators published as per release calendar	100%	Completed
Conduct Statistical Business Register (SBR) improvement survey	% of establishments profiled	20%	Updating of SBR is in progress. Instead of profiling, SM is tapping administrative data to update the SBR.
Conduct of Census of Economic Activities	Starts in Dec 2017	Data collection starts in Dec 2017	Data collection is ongoing and is being carried out until December 2018
Conduct Living Conditions Survey	Survey starts in June 2018	Survey starts in June 2018	Delayed due to late availability of staff. The survey started in October 2018
Conduct of the 2017 Household Budget Survey	Successful completion.	Survey completed in December 2017	Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First results published in April 2018 • Consumer Price Index according to new basket published as from May 2018

8. Risk Management, Citizen Oriented Initiatives & Good Governance

We continually work towards improving the quality of our statistics to better satisfy users' needs. Some of the main actions include:

- We interact with our main stakeholders to gather their views so as to produce statistics that are relevant.
- We have an advance release calendar posted on our website and release our statistics accordingly on our website so that all users have free access simultaneously. We send email alerts to our main stakeholders whenever there is a new release.
- To ensure transparency, our methodologies are published together with the statistical releases. Advance notice is given to our users whenever there are major changes in methodology, including data sources and statistical techniques.
- We produce our statistics according to professional standards and publish them in ways which explain and inform without advocating a particular position.
- We have a compact with respondents; they are encouraged to provide accurate information while we ensure that the data provided are strictly protected. Our staff is required by law to give an undertaking of secrecy while we make sure that in publishing the statistics, identifiable information is not released. We also take necessary measures to ensure the security of the statistical information collected.

To better address the increasing and evolving needs of data users, SM has initiated a structured review and assessment of the National Statistical System as follows:

- In May 2018, we had resort to a Peer Review of our national statistical system by high-level officers from the National Statistics Offices of South Africa, Morocco and Iceland. Their recommendations are being considered for implementation.
- We have also initiated the preparation of a National Strategy for Official Statistics so as to provide the office with a more contemporary framework for harnessing resources, including new data sources and innovative technologies, and a basis for effective and results-oriented strategic management of the national statistical system.

To improve accountability, we regularly receive the visits of the Internal Control Unit of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development as well as the National Audit Office. Remedial actions are promptly taken whenever shortcomings are brought to the attention of management.

PART III – FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

9. Financial Highlights

Statement of Revenue

Rs

Revenue (Rs million)	2016-2017 Actual	2017-2018 Estimates	2017-2018 Actual
Property Income			
Sales of Goods and Services	704,000		735,000
Fines, Penalties and Forfeits			
Miscellaneous Revenues			
Total Revenue from Property Income, User Fees and other Sources	704,000		735,000

Statement of Expenditure

Rs 000

Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure (Rs million)	2016-2017 Actual	2017-2018 Estimates	2017-2018 Actual
Compensation of Employees	101,894	119,255	102,581
Goods and Services	53,818	101,404	66,725
Subsidies	-	-	-
Grants	28	41	29
Social Benefits	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	1,278	15,300	4,423
Acquisition of Financial Assets	-	-	-
Total	157,018	236,000	173,758

Major changes from 2016-17 to 2017-18

The actual budget for 'Goods and Services' increased during the year mainly due to payment of field staff for the 2017 Household Budget Survey which is conducted every five years.

Major variances from budget estimates for 2017-18

The major variance for 'Goods and Services' is mainly due to delays in planned consultancy services.

10. Trends and Challenges

Based on the SWOT analysis carried out at SM, the main strength that emerged is that it is being recognized as a statistical authority. The weaknesses relate to inadequacy of resources and insufficient enforcement of the Statistics Act.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SM has recognized authority in Statistics 2. Statistical outputs are of high quality 3. Professional independence of SM 4. Existence of a good legislative framework 5. Strong network with local and foreign institutions 6. Publication programme available and followed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inadequate human resources 2. Unsatisfactory collaboration from data suppliers in spite of legal provisions 3. Inadequate structure and organisation of the office 4. Inadequate information and knowledge management 5. Inadequate sensitization & awareness programmes to promote statistics 6. Data dissemination not at par with latest technology
Opportunities	Threats
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuous demand for data and information 2. Ongoing Public Sector Business Transformation 3. Government commitment to statistical development 4. Access to regional and international resources and facilities 5. Ongoing preparation of the National Strategy for Official Statistics 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barriers for recruitment of staff 2. Declining response rates at censuses and surveys 3. Failure to communicate statistics in innovative and engaging ways

11. Strategic Direction

- a. Set up a national strategy for official statistics, including a new e-business plan to modernise the office
- b. Extend the scope of our statistics to meet users' needs, comply to international commitments and support government in achieving Vision 2030 by developing/improving the following:
 - i. Poverty/Quality of Life Statistics/Time Use statistics
 - ii. Environment-Economic Accounts
 - iii. Statistics on Rodrigues
 - iv. Indicators on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - v. Labour market indicators
- c. Work towards meeting the requirements of the highest tier of the IMF data dissemination initiative capacity (Special Data Dissemination Standard - SDDS - Plus)
- d. Implement the latest international statistical standards
- e. Develop statistical business and population registers as an important tool for developing sample frameworks and in the production of economic statistics, and as the primary source of official population statistics respectively
- f. Improve data dissemination, accessibility and use
- g. Promote public understanding of statistics by developing appropriate statistical literacy materials and holding workshops for users
- h. Make regular and better statistics available