

# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

## REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, YEAR 2019

### 1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents population estimates as at December 2019 and vital statistics, including rates, for the year 2019.

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 1,265,475 as at 31 December 2019, with a net decrease of 162 from previous year's figure.
- As at end 2019, the female population was higher than the male population by 13,431.
- The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 18.0% as at mid-2018 to 17.5%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years was 71.0 % in 2019 same as in 2018. As for the population aged 65 years and above, the proportion increased from 11.0% to 11.5% during 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 408.3 for 2018 and 408.5 for 2019.
- The number of live births registered during year 2019 was 12,862, representing a decrease of 0.8 % over the figure for 2018.
- The number of deaths registered in 2019 stood at 11,174, that is, 3.6% higher than in 2018.
- The number of infant deaths increased by 3.3%, from 181 in 2018 to 187 in 2019.
- The number of still births rose by 6.9%, from 130 in 2018 to 139 in 2019.
- The number of marriages registered in 2019 was 9,709, that is, 3.2% lower than in 2018.
- Since the late nineties, females outnumbered males in increasing proportions in the population.
- The actual decrease in the population for 2019 is due to a falling fertility during previous years.
- The dependency ratio is declining over the years because the number of children under 15 years of age in the population, is decreasing.
- 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.

### 3. Estimated resident population

**Table 3.1 - Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2019**

Island	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Density per km <sup>2</sup>
Island of Mauritius	1,221,663	604,499	617,164	97.9	654
Island of Rodrigues	43,538	21,349	22,189	96.2	396
Agalega and St. Brandon	274	174	100	174.0	10
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>1,265,475</b>	<b>626,022</b>	<b>639,453</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>631</b>

The estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius was 1,265,475 as at 31 December 2019. The female population was 639,453 compared to a male population of 626,022. There were 97.9 males for every 100 females.

The population was estimated at 1,221,663 and 43,538 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 km<sup>2</sup>, had a population density of 631 persons per km<sup>2</sup> as at end 2019. Among its constituent islands, the Island of Mauritius had the highest density (654), compared to 396 for the Island of Rodrigues.

### 4. Population growth

**Table 4.1 - Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2019**

Island	Population		Change	
	31 December 2018	31 December 2019	Number	%
Island of Mauritius	1,222,208	1,221,663	-545	0.0
Island of Rodrigues	43,155	43,538	383	0.9
Agalega and St. Brandon	274	274	-	-
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>1,265,637</b>	<b>1,265,475</b>	<b>-162</b>	<b>-0.01</b>

The population of the Republic of Mauritius decreased by 162 from 31 December 2018 to 31 December 2019.

**Table 4.2 - Components of population growth, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 2018 and 2019**

Components of population growth	2018	2019
<b>Resident population as at beginning of year</b>	<u>1,265,035</u>	<u>1,265,363</u>
Live Births	12,965	12,862
Deaths	10,787	11,174
Natural increase	<u>2,178</u>	<u>1,688</u>
Net international migration	-1,850	-1,850
<b>Resident population as at end of year</b>	<b>1,265,363</b>	<b>1,265,201</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 2019, the natural increase was 1,688, with births adding 12,862 babies and deaths removing 11,174 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 population<sup>1</sup> by broad age group and sex – Republic of Mauritius<sup>2</sup>, 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019**

Age group (Years)	1 July 2018			1 July 2019		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
0	6,650	6,350	<b>13,000</b>	6,605	6,365	<b>12,970</b>
1 - 4	26,558	25,489	<b>52,047</b>	26,359	25,160	<b>51,519</b>
5 - 9	37,121	36,266	<b>73,387</b>	36,111	35,125	<b>71,236</b>
10 - 14	45,202	43,539	<b>88,741</b>	43,349	42,074	<b>85,423</b>
15 - 19	49,644	48,006	<b>97,650</b>	49,436	47,808	<b>97,244</b>
20 - 29	97,777	95,721	<b>193,498</b>	97,895	95,683	<b>193,578</b>
30 - 39	92,313	90,115	<b>182,428</b>	90,796	88,601	<b>179,397</b>
40 - 49	87,183	84,998	<b>172,181</b>	88,736	86,268	<b>175,004</b>
50 - 59	89,075	91,281	<b>180,356</b>	88,501	90,389	<b>178,890</b>
60-64	34,776	37,598	<b>72,374</b>	35,777	38,717	<b>74,494</b>
65+	59,731	79,910	<b>139,641</b>	62,602	83,354	<b>145,956</b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>626,030</b>	<b>639,273</b>	<b>1,265,303</b>	<b>626,167</b>	<b>639,544</b>	<b>1,265,711</b>

<sup>1</sup> based on 2011 Population Census data adjusted for underenumeration of children

<sup>2</sup> excluding Agalega and St Brandon

The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 18.0% as at mid-2018 to 17.5%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years was 71.0% in 2018 and remained at 71.0% in 2019. As for the population aged 65 years and above, the proportion moved from 11.0% to reach 11.5% in 2019.

## 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, 2018 and 2019<sup>1</sup>**

Island	Number of live births registered		Crude birth rate	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
Island of Mauritius	12,202	12,056	10.0	9.9
Island of Rodrigues	763	806	18.4 <sup>2</sup>	18.6
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>12,965</b>	<b>12,862</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2018 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2017, 2018 and 2019) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

For the year 2019, some 12,862 live births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, representing a decrease of 0.8% over the 2018 figure of 12,965. The crude birth rate, i.e., the number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, remained at 10.2 for both years.

For the Island of Mauritius, the number of live births registered decreased from 12,202 in 2018 to 12,056 in 2019, bringing a slight fall in the crude birth rate from 10.0 to 9.9. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of live births increased from 763 in 2018 to 806 in 2019, resulting in an increase in the crude birth rate from 18.4 to 18.6.

### 6.2 Deaths and crude death rate

**Table 6.2 - Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2018 and 2019<sup>1</sup>**

Island	Number of deaths registered		Crude death rate	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
Island of Mauritius	10,521	10,911	8.6	8.9
Island of Rodrigues	266	263	5.8 <sup>2</sup>	6.1
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>10,787</b>	<b>11,174</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2018 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2017, 2018 and 2019) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The number of deaths registered in the Republic of Mauritius in 2019 was 11,174, representing an increase of 3.6% over the figure of 10,787 for 2018. The crude death rate, i.e., the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population was 8.8 in 2019, compared to 8.5 in 2018.

The Island of Mauritius registered an increase in the number of deaths from 10,521 in 2018 to 10,911 in 2019, resulting in a rise in the crude death rate from 8.6 to 8.9. On the other hand, the number of deaths in the Island of Rodrigues decreased from 266 to 263, with a rate of 5.8 for 2018 and 6.1 for 2019.

### 6.3 Infant deaths and Infant mortality rate

**Table 6.3 - Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2018 and 2019<sup>1</sup>**

Island	Number of infant deaths registered		Infant mortality rate	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
Island of Mauritius	168	173	13.8	14.3
Island of Rodrigues	13	14	18.1 <sup>2</sup>	17.4
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>14.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2018 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2017, 2018 and 2019) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

For the year 2019, some 187 infant deaths (deaths to children aged under one year) were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 181 in 2018, representing a rise of 3.3%. The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, increased from 14.0 in 2018 to 14.5 in 2019.

The number of infant deaths in the Island of Mauritius increased from 168 in 2018 to 173 in 2019, resulting in a rise in infant mortality rate from 13.8 to 14.3. During the same period, the number of infant deaths in the Island of Rodrigues increased from 13 to 14, with an infant mortality rate of 18.1 for 2018 against 17.4 in 2019.

## 6.4 Still births and still birth rate

**Table 6.4 - Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2018 and 2019<sup>1</sup>**

Island	Number of still births registered		Still birth rate	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
Island of Mauritius	123	131	10.0	10.7
Island of Rodrigues	7	8	9.2 <sup>2</sup>	9.8
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>10.7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2018 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2017, 2018 and 2019) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

In 2019, some 139 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, which is 6.9% higher than the 2018 figure of 130. The still birth rate which is the number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births was 9.9 for 2018 and 10.7 for 2019.

The Island of Mauritius registered 123 still births in 2018 compared to 131 in 2019, resulting in an increase in still birth rate from 10.0 to 10.7 during the same period. For the Island of Rodrigues, 7 still births were registered in 2018 compared to 8 in 2019 and then the still birth rate increased from 9.2 to 9.8 during the same period.

## 6.5 Marriages and crude marriage rate

**Table 6.5 - Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2018 and 2019<sup>1</sup>**

Island	Number of marriages registered		Marriage rate	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
Island of Mauritius	9,834	9,501	16.1	15.5
Island of Rodrigues	200	208	9.0 <sup>2</sup>	9.6
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>10,034</b>	<b>9,709</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>15.3</b>

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

<sup>2</sup> Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2018 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2017, 2018 and 2019) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The number of marriages registered in the Republic of Mauritius decreased by 3.2%, from 10,034 in 2018 to 9,709 in 2019. The crude marriage rate, i.e., the number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, declined from 15.9 to 15.3 during the same period.

For the Island of Mauritius, the number of marriages decreased from 9,834 in 2018 to 9,501 in 2019 resulting in a decline in the crude marriage rate from 16.1 to 15.5. The Island of Rodrigues registered an increase in the number of marriages from 200 in 2018 to 208 in 2019, thus bringing an increase in the crude marriage rate from 9.0 to 9.6.

## 7. International Comparison

Population and demographic estimates for many countries of the world are published in the United Nations Demographic Yearbook. From 2010 to 2018, the average annual rate of change in the population of the world was estimated at 1.1%, with a rate of only 0.1% for the Republic of Mauritius. All other countries shown in Table 7.1 had a positive average annual change in their population namely South Africa (1.6%), India (1.2%), Singapore (1.3%), United Kingdom (0.7%) and Australia (1.6%) with the exception of Japan (-0.2%).

**Table 7.1 – Demographic indicators for selected countries, 2018**

	Mid year Estimates (in thousands)	Average annual rate of population change (2010-2018)	Density	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
<b>World</b>	<b>7,631,100</b>	1.1	<b>59</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	n/a
<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>14.0</b>
Seychelles	97	0.9	212	17.1	8.5	n/a
South Africa	57,726	1.6	47	16.1	n/a	n/a
Canada	37,059	1.1	4	10.3	7.6	4.5
China	1,392,730	0.5	145	10.9	7.1	n/a
India <sup>1</sup>	1,298,041	1.2	395	20.2	6.3	33.0
Japan <sup>1</sup>	126,529	-0.2	335	7.3	10.8	n/a
Singapore	5,639	1.3	7,804	10.0	5.3	2.4
Germany	82,792	0.2	232	9.5	11.5	3.2
United Kingdom	66,274	0.7	273	11.4	9.2	3.9
Australia <sup>1</sup>	24,993	1.6	3	n/a	6.3	n/a

Source: UN Demographic Yearbook, 2018 (except for the Republic of Mauritius)

<sup>1</sup> Figures in italics refer to the year 2017.

## 8. Demographic trends

### 8.1 Sex ratio

Figure 8.1.1 – Sex ratio of resident population, Republic of Mauritius, 1975 – 2019

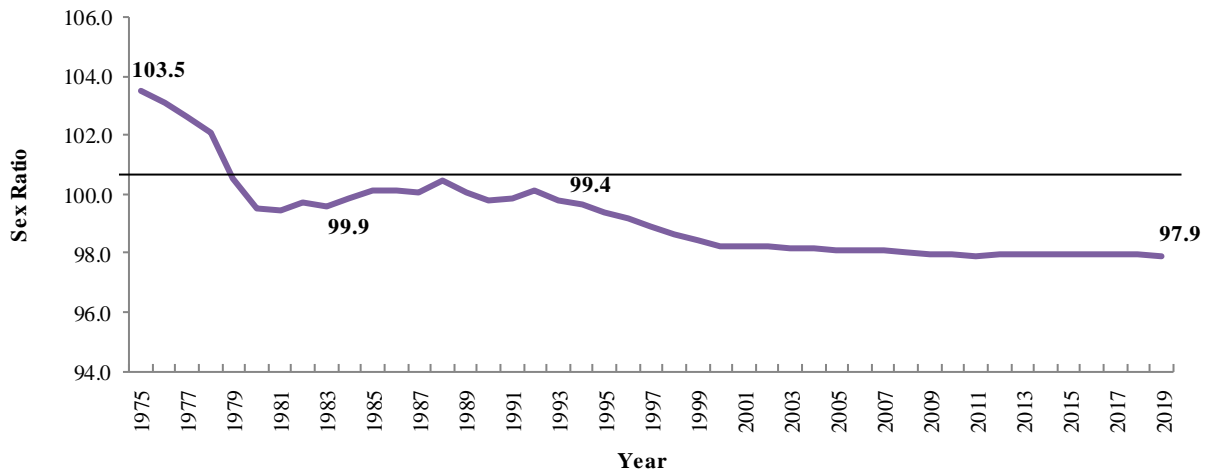


Figure 8.1.1 depicts the evolution of sex ratio (i.e. the number of males per 100 females) for the past forty-four years. Before the eighties, males outnumbered females in the population (e.g. 103.5 males per 100 females in 1975) and from the nineties onwards, females outnumbered males in the population in increasing proportion (e.g. 97.9 males per 100 females in 2019). This shift was mainly due to ageing given that females live longer than males.

### 8.2 Population growth rate

Figure 8.2.1 – Growth rate of resident population, Republic of Mauritius, 1975 – 2019

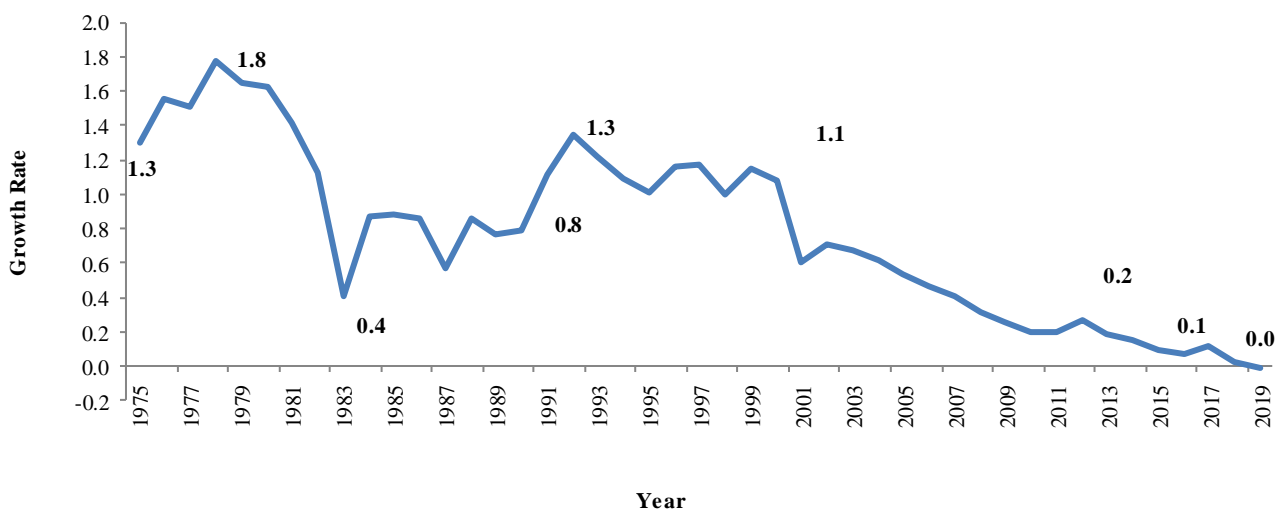
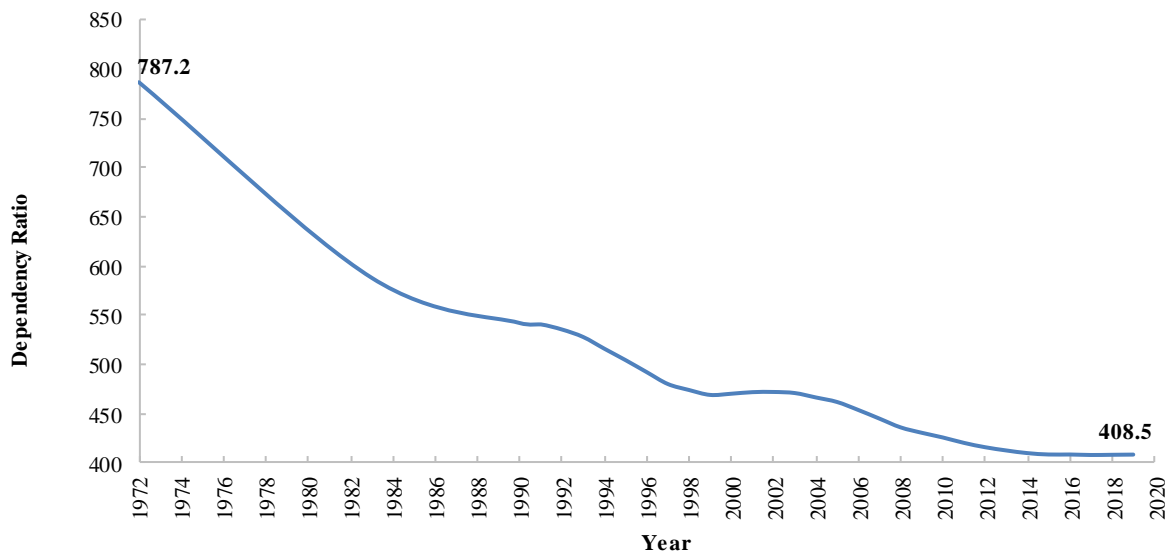


Figure 8.2.1 shows the evolution of the growth rate of resident population from 1975 to 2019. The population growth rate reached its peak in the late seventies and then declined in the eighties. There was a catch up in the nineties after which it continued to drop. The declining fertility rate together with an increase in number of deaths, caused a decline in the population growth rate, attaining zero population growth in 2019.



### 8.3 Dependency Ratio

**Figure 8.3.1 - Dependency Ratio, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 - 2019**



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 408.5 in 2019 (Figure 8.3.1). The fall in dependency ratio observed is mainly the result of a decline in child population over the years.

### 8.4 Population age structure

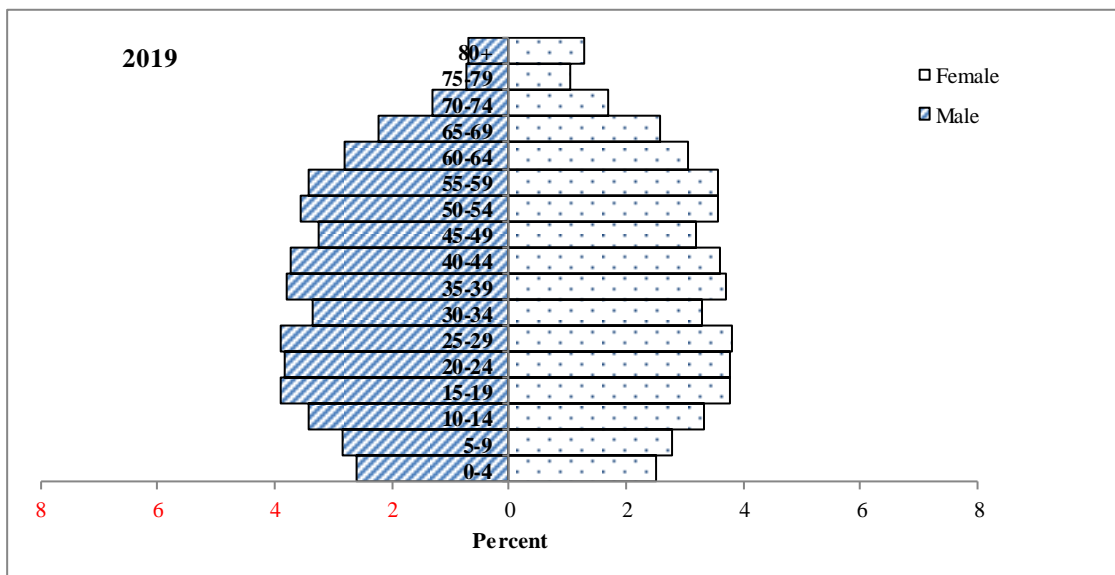
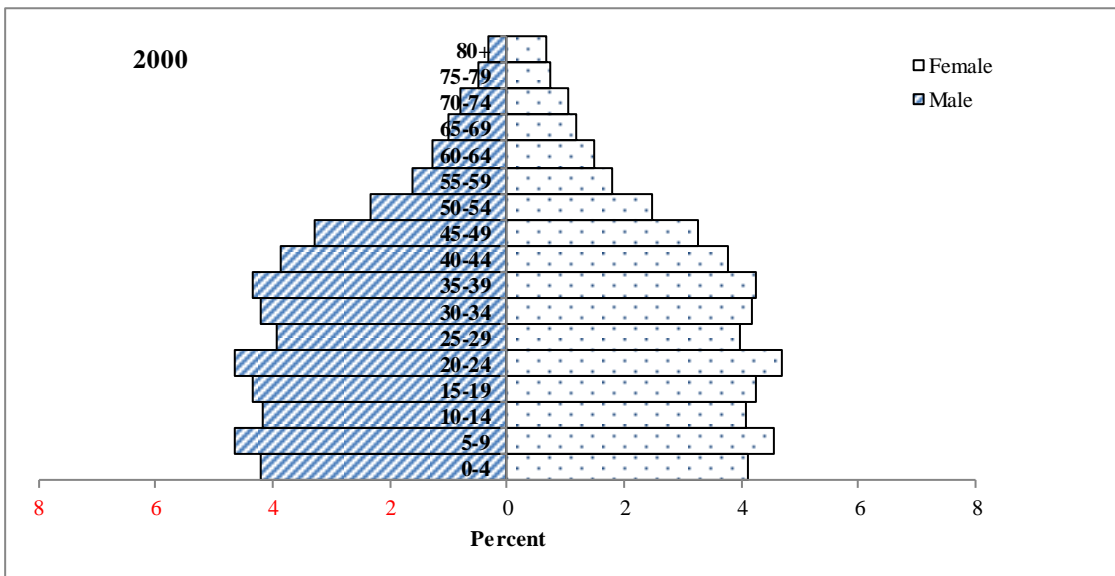
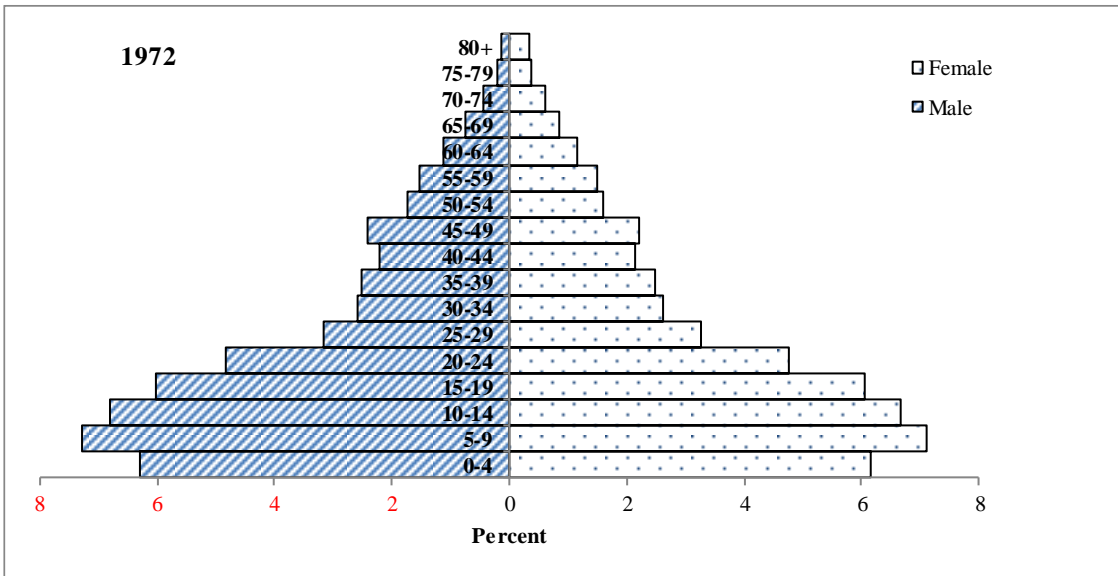
The structure of the pyramids in Figure 8.4.1 are determined by the patterns of births, deaths and migration which took place prior to the reference period of the pyramid. The pyramids compare the age structure of the population between 1972, 2000 and 2019 and show some important trends in the demographics 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 2019, 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 2019 pyramid is also thicker than the one of 2000 due to improved life expectancy: the people alive 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 Mauritius, 1972, 2000 and 2019**

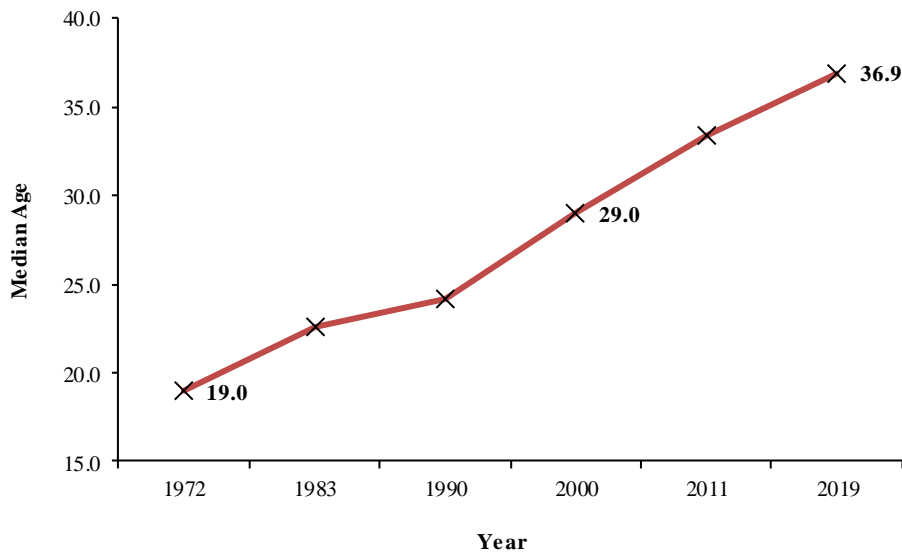


## 9. Ageing

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.

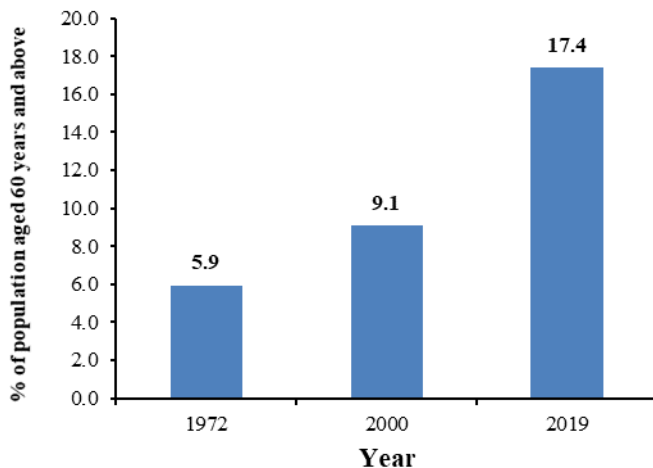
Population ageing is defined as the rise in the median age of the population (defined as the age which divides the population into two equal size groups, one of which is younger and the other older than the median) as a result of the shifting of the age structure of the population towards the upper end of the age distribution. The median age increased from 19.0 years in 1972 to 36.9 years in 2019 (Figure 9.1).

**Figure 9.1 – Median Age of the population, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 – 2019**



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% in 1972 compared to 17.4% in 2019 (Figure 9.2).

**Figure 9.2 – Percentage of the population aged 60 years and above, Republic of Mauritius, 1972, 2000 and 2019**



## 9.1 Why the population is ageing?

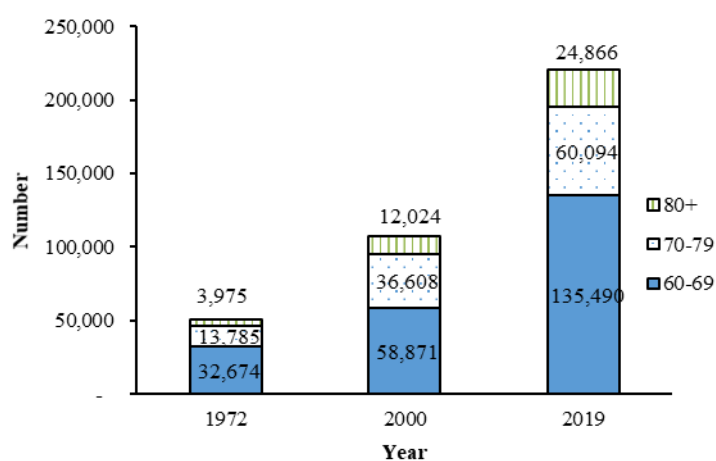
The ageing process can be explained by increased longevity and lowering levels of fertility. The number of births per 1,000 population for Mauritius decreased by 75% over the past 60 years. Low levels of fertility have resulted in a decreasing share of young people in the total population. This is visible through a shrinking of the base of age pyramids from 1972 to 2019 (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 2018 they are expected to live up to 71 and 78 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 younger age group within the elderly population. The proportion of “oldest, old people” increased from 7.9% in 1972 to 11.3% in 2019 (Figure 9.3). In absolute terms, between 1972 and 2019 the number of oldest old increased sixfold, while the population aged 60-69 years and 70-79 years increased fourfold.

**Figure 9.3 – Age distribution of the elderly, Republic of Mauritius, 1972, 2000 and 2019**



There is also a difference in the gender composition by age of the older population. Women tend to live longer than men, resulting in more women than men among the elderly, the so-called “feminization” of ageing. In 2019, for every 100 women in the age group 60-69, there were only 90 men. Their number dropped to 74 in the age group 70-79. For the oldest old (80+ years) the sex ratio reached 54 men for every 100 women.

**Table 9.4 – Sex Ratio by age, for the Republic of Mauritius, 1972, 2000 and 2019**

Age Group	1972	2000	2019
60-69	92.2	85.1	89.7
70-79	66.6	73.8	74.1
80+	37.5	48.9	54.1

### 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 much 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, keeping in mind that women will predominate among the elderly and other age-related government expenditures. Living arrangements, including housing and transportation has to be made elderly-friendly, so as to minimise their dependence on other people.

### 9.4 International Comparison

While overall the world is ageing, there are differences in the speed of population ageing. It is happening fastest in the developing world. Declining fertility rates and increasing survival at older ages have led to population ageing. Life expectancy at birth has risen substantially across the world.

**Table 9.5 – Demographic ageing indicators for selected countries, 2019**

Countries	% of Population aged 65+	Total Fertility Rate	Life Expectancy at birth (Both sexes)	Life Expectancy at age 65	Median Age*
<b><i>Africa</i></b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.35</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>19.7</b>
Australia	15.9	1.82	83.4	21.5	37.9
Finland	22.1	1.48	81.9	20.6	43.1
Germany	21.6	1.60	81.3	20.0	45.7
India	6.4	2.20	69.7	14.7	28.4
Italy	23.0	1.31	83.5	21.2	47.3
Japan	28.0	1.37	84.6	22.3	48.4
<b><i>Mauritius</i></b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>37.5</b>
Seychelles	7.8	2.43	73.4	16.0	34.2
Singapore	12.4	1.22	83.6	21.3	42.2
South Africa	5.4	2.38	64.1	13.4	27.6
<b><i>World</i></b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>2.45</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>30.9</b>

Source: World Population Prospects 2019

\* refer to Year 2020

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**Definitions:**

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 kilometer.
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.
14. Total Fertility Rate: The average number of children born to an average woman assuming that she survives to the end of her child-bearing age and is subject to a fixed schedule of age-specific fertility rates.
15. Life expectancy at birth: The average number of years that a new born child would be expected to live if subjected to the mortality conditions expressed by a particular set of age-specific death rates.
16. Life expectancy at age 65: The average number of years that a person aged 65 years old would be expected to live if subjected to the mortality conditions expressed by a particular set of age-specific death rates.

**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 2019 are however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.