

Stats M releases main results of the 2012 Household Budget Survey 2012

On 30 April 2013, Statistics Mauritius published the main results of the ninth Household Budget Survey conducted from January to December 2012. The survey studied the consumption pattern of the population living in private households in Mauritius with a view to updating the basket of goods and services used for the computation of the monthly Consumer Price Index.

The average monthly household consumption expenditure increased by 51.7% from Rs 15,770 in 2006/07 to Rs 23,930 in 2012. After adjusting for inflation and the decrease in household size, the increase worked out to 20.6%. In 2012, 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' had the largest share of household consumption expenditure (27%) followed by 'Transport' (15%), 'Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels' (12%) and 'Alcoholic beverages and tobacco' (10%).

During the same period, the average monthly household disposable income increased by 53.9% from Rs 19,080 to Rs 29,360. After adjusting for inflation and decrease in household size, the real increase worked out to 22.3%.

Income inequality increased between 2006/07 and 2012. The share of total income going to the 20% of households at the lower end of the income range decreased from 6.1% in 2006/07 to 5.4% in 2006/07 while that of the upper 20% of households increased from 45.6% to 47.4%. The rise in income inequality is confirmed by an increase in the Gini coefficient from 0.388 in 2006/07 to 0.413 in 2012.

Stats M receives technical assistance on Ecosystem/National Capital Accounting

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - or Rio+20 - took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20-22 June 2012. It resulted in a focused political outcome document which contains clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development. Governments requested the United Nations Statistical Commission, in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant organizations, to launch a programme of work in the area of measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions.

In this context, Stats M is receiving technical assistance under the ISLANDS Project of the Commission de L'Océan Indien to implement Ecosystem/Natural Capital Accounting in Mauritius. Mr. Jean Louis Weber, Consultant on Environment-Economic Accounting fielded a mission from 17 to 30 April 2013.

During his visit, the consultant visited some 15 organizations to explain the purpose and methodology of ecosystem capital accounting and to take stock of opportunities and gaps in implementation. In addition a half day workshop was organized by Stats M and all concerned stakeholders were invited to provide in depth discussions on the project.

The consultant made recommendations on the development of a data accounting infrastructure. A first account is expected to be produced on August 2013.

Procedure Agreement

The Employment Relations Act (ERA) 2008 which has replaced the Industrial Relations Act provides for the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining. In this context, Stats M Management and Union had a first meeting in view of signing a Procedure Agreement which sets out the procedure which regulates the relationship between the two parties. Issues concerned relate, inter alia, to the negotiating rights, time off facilities, schemes of service, staff rotation, restructuring and reorganization, health and safety, welfare of staff and equal opportunities. A negotiating body will be set up for the purpose of bargaining and agreements reached will be binding. The procedure agreement also sets the process for the resolution of grievances and conflicts. In case of no agreement disputes may be referred to the Commission for Conciliation and Mediation and eventually to the Employment Relations Tribunal for arbitration.