



# Annual Report 2018/19

## 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 a pre-release calendar and the 2017 Household Budget Survey analytical and methodological reports, in addition to regular digests of statistics on various topics.

The first phase of the Census of Economic Activities covering a sample of small businesses, i.e. those engaging less than 10 persons was successfully completed, and the second phase aimed at large businesses was launched online. The office also launched a new survey on living condition in October 2018 to collect data for the production of a wider range of Quality of Life statistics.

We have contributed to the work of several working groups and committees at both national and international levels. These are amongst others the National Wage Consultative Council and its sub-committee on the impact of the minimum wage introduced in January 2018, the Tripartite Committee on salary compensation, the Steering Committee on the implementation of Accrual IPSAS and the UN Committee on Business and Trade Statistics.

The design of a National Strategy for Official Statistics (NSOS) 2020 -2025 aimed at providing 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, is ongoing. 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, and will be built on the findings of the Peer Review mission conducted in

June 2018. The design is being done in a participatory approach involving other producers of official statistics and sector ministries, with the assistance of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the African Development Bank.

During the past year, the office benefited from the World Bank Trust Fund for Capacity Building to improve the quality and to extend the scope of statistics it produced. Staff were exposed to new statistical techniques and best practices. Alongside, the office initiated a training agreement with the University of Mauritius under of the Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration signed between the two institutions in 2016.

As in previous years, we celebrated the African Statistics Day to engage with all producers and users of data about the importance of statistics for development. A workshop on the theme “Data for development – Opportunities and Challenges” was held in November 2018. The items on the agenda were the National Strategy for Official Statistics, Data initiatives in Mauritius, and Challenges in acquiring data for official statistics.

Finally, I would like to seize this opportunity to express 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.

As far as possible, 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. 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 June 2019, staff of SM comprised 237 officers as follows:

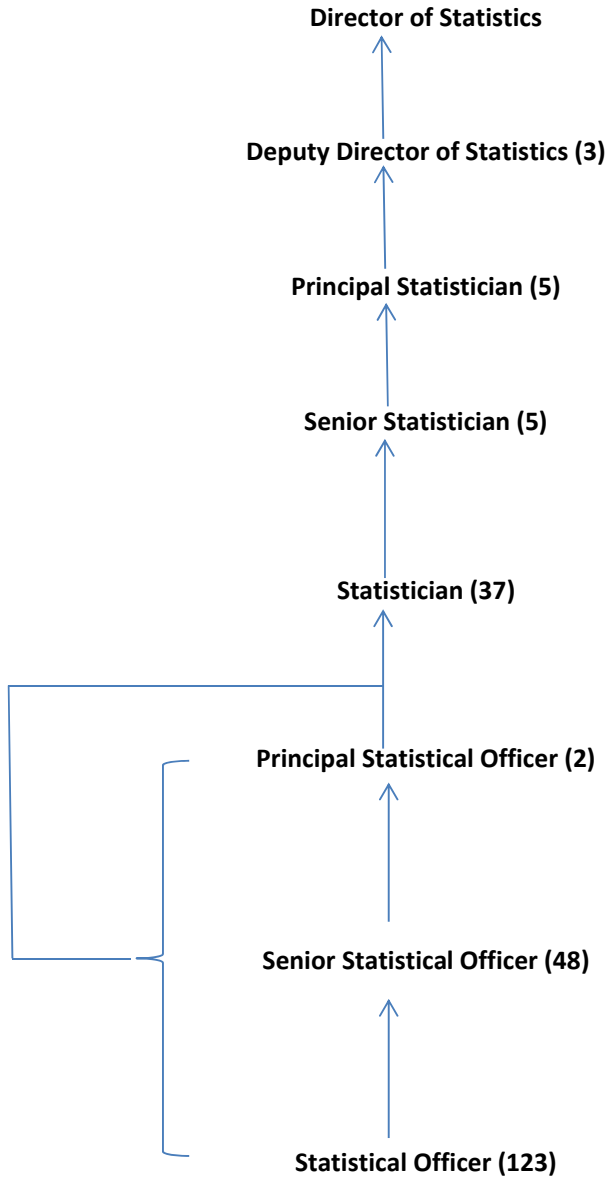
Technical staff	164
<i>of whom</i>	
<i>Statistician Cadre</i>	45
<i>Statistical Officer Cadre</i>	119
General Services staff	49
Interns under Service to Mauritius	2
Census and Survey Assistant	22

SM staff comprises more women than men:

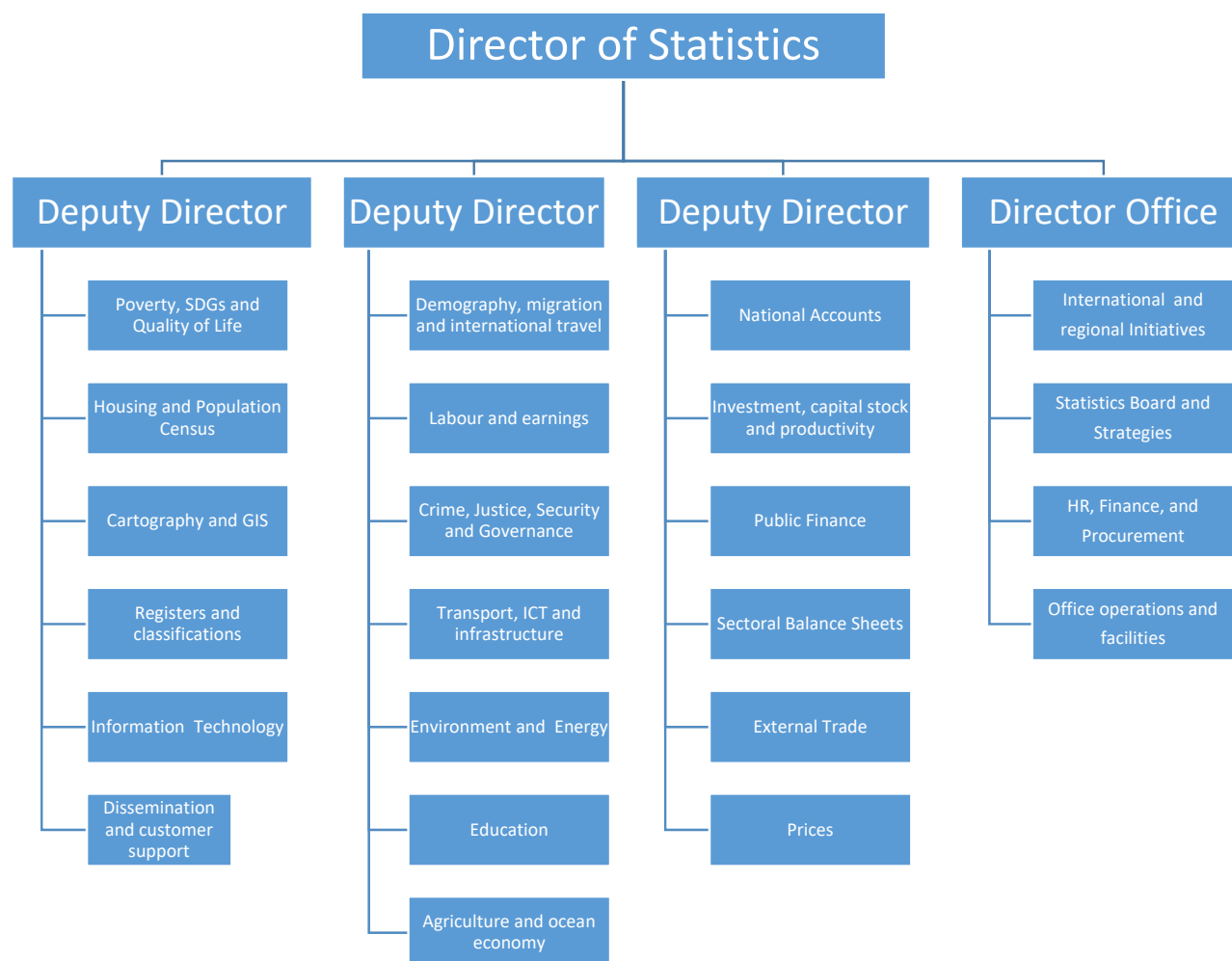
	Male	Female	Total
Number of staff	81	156	237
<i>Of whom</i>			
<i>Senior management</i>	3	5	8

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 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. During the year, some 40 officers attended workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences abroad during the year, and 100 were trained locally of which 74 at the Civil Service College. In addition, around 32 (9 Poverty; 8 SSI; 15 Survey Soln) staff received hands-on training under the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building. The Office has also instigated a training agreement with the University of Mauritius under the memorandum of understanding signed between the two institutions in 2016. The training will be conducted during coming year for some 60 staff.

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 is held 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**

The main achievements are given below:

- 100% Social and Economic data published as per released calendar
- Publication of HBS analytical and methodological reports
- Census of Economic Activities phase I successfully completed
- Launch of the Census of Economic Activities phase II
- Launching of the Living Condition Survey
- Use of Computer Assisted Personal Interview for household surveys.
- Capacity of staff strengthened, in particular through the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building



## 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 2018/19
Social and economic data are available to support policy decision making	% of Social and Economic data and monthly are published as per release calendar	100%	100%
Conduct Household Budget Survey	Survey successfully completed and results released on a timely basis	Methodological report published in August 2018  Analytical Report published in December 2018	Methodological report published in August 2018  Analytical Report published in March 2019
Conduct Census of Economic Activities			
Phase 1 - Small establishments	Data collection successfully completed and results released on a timely basis	Data collection completed in January 2019	Data collection completed in January 2019
Phase 2 - Large establishments	Data collection successfully completed and results released on a timely basis	Survey launched in March 2019	Survey launched online in August 2019
Conduct Living Condition and Time Use Survey	Survey successfully completed and results released on a timely basis	Survey launched in September 2018	Survey launched in October 2018 and completed in September 2019

## 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 an agreement 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 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)	2017-2018 Actual	2018-2019 Estimates	2018-2019 Actual
Property Income			
Sales of Goods and Services	735,000		774,104
Fines, Penalties and Forfeits			
Miscellaneous Revenues			
<b>Total Revenue from Property Income, User Fees and other Sources</b>	<b>735,000</b>		<b>774,104</b>

#### Statement of Expenditure

Rs 000

Head/Sub-Head of Expenditure (Rs million)	2017-2018 Actual	2018-2019 Estimates	2018-2019 Actual
Compensation of Employees	102,581	117,570	102,337
Goods and Services	66,725	84,683	62,444
Subsidies	-	-	-
Grants	29	47	27
Social Benefits	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	4,423	1,000	772
Acquisition of Financial Assets	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,758</b>	<b>203,300</b>	<b>165,580</b>

***Major changes from 2017-18 to 2018-19***

The actual budget for 'Goods and Services' decreased during the year since there was no payment of field staff for the Household Budget Survey (payments of CEA and LCS were included but they cost less).

***Major variances from budget estimates for 2018-19***

The major variance for 'Compensation of Employees' is because there were many unfilled vacancies due to delays in the prescription of some schemes of service.

The major variance for 'Goods and Services' is mainly due because actual payment of survey fees has been less than planned.

## PART IV –STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- a. Develop a new national strategy for official statistics to modernize the structure and the operations of Statistics Mauritius, including an e-business plan
- b. Extend the scope of statistics published to cover emerging areas such as Innovation, Digital economy, Productivity gain with digitalization, and Globalisation
- c. Develop a population register as the primary source of official population statistics
- d. Undertake a CAPI Housing and Population Census in 2021
- e. Work towards meeting the requirements of the highest tier of the IMF data dissemination initiative capacity (Special Data Dissemination Standard - SDDS - Plus)
- f. Improve data dissemination, accessibility and use
- g. Develop appropriate tools and methodologies to assess the quality of official statistics.