



Republic of Mauritius

# Central Statistics Office

## Newsletter

Issue 1 March 2007

### Editorial Note

The primary purpose of this newsletter is to keep staff informed about statistical developments at a time when the CSO is being called upon to respond to events on several fronts. At the local level, the whole civil service is being reformed to focus on results, whilst the international community is pressing for reforms of national statistical systems to effectively respond to the data needs of the “managing for results” agenda.

Although CSO staff is the target audience, the newsletter will be posted on the website; hard copies will also be distributed to institutional stakeholders of the existing statistical system.

The Editorial Team will spare no efforts to ensure that the Newsletter lives through the current reforms and stays one of the key vehicles to inform about statistical developments and activities on a quarterly basis.

### Message of the Director

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) was established in 1945. It is not easy to introduce the first newsletter of an institution which is 62 years old. News will inevitably be entangled with history. It is convenient to start with the modernisation of the Statistics Act in 2000. Also in 2000, four management support posts, created some 12 years earlier, were filled for the first time. For some, this was a consolidation of a merit-based appointment process. For others, it was a gross injustice, a denial of seniority, experience and acquired rights. The CSO went through a difficult 5-year period when top management posts could not be filled because of legal actions. However, all staff, despite divergent convictions about the selection exercises, teamed up to deliver the statistics required of them.

In 2003, the Pay Research Bureau recommended that the CSO be restructured. The exercise started in 2004 with the creation of additional posts at top management level and the preparation of the first strategic plan. The process was soon overtaken by pressures from the international community for all developing countries to develop a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) by 2006 for implementation by 2007. This strategy was finalised in December 2006. A Performance Management System (PMS) was also piloted through 2006 and implemented as from 2007.

### In this Issue

Editorial Note

Message of the Director

The CSO

National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

Performance Management System

Public Service Excellence Award

Censuses and Surveys

Important Indicators

Training/Meetings

CSO Staff Association

CSO Staff Welfare Association

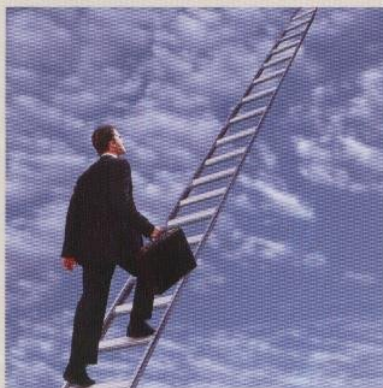
The backdrop to the NSDS and the PMS was Government's commitment to civil service reforms and its stated policy to "review the feasibility of converting the CSO into an autonomous body". The NSDS recommends the creation of an autonomous national statistical agency which will be the hub and coordinator of a national statistical system comprising all data producers, suppliers and users, both within and outside Government. It will also absorb the current activities of the CSO. The NSDS thus integrates CSO's objectives and Government policy with international best practice in national statistical development.

The NSDS was adopted by the Statistics Advisory Council in February 2007 on the condition that any institutional changes be operated within the local context, after consultation with concerned stakeholders, including staff associations.

CSO's strategic plans, the PMS and the NSDS were all developed in a participatory manner; it is worth noting that CSO's vision "To be a key provider of world-class statistical information" was retained for the national statistical system. The same consultative and participatory approach will be adopted during the implementation phase of the NSDS.

Harish Bundhoo

## Our Vision, Mission and Principles



### Our Vision

To be a key provider of world class statistical information

### Our Mission

To provide timely, relevant and reliable statistics, consistent with international principles and standards, for effective decision-making and monitoring

### Our Principles

- Access for all
- Relevance
- Integrity & trust
- Timeliness
- Confidentiality
- Trust in our people

## The Central Statistics Office



First location of CSO at Municipality of Beau-Bassin/Rose-hill

The CSO was set up in July 1945 in consequence of a recommendation made by the “Commission of Enquiry into the disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius”.

The office was first located in the upper wing of the Town Hall of the Municipality of Beau Bassin/Rose-Hill and in 1949 it moved to a rented building at Abbé La Caille St, Rose Hill pending the construction of a building of its own in Rose Hill. In 1989 the headquarters moved to Toorawa building in Port-Louis until 1996 when it moved to its present location in the LIC building, Port-Louis.

The core business of the CSO is to produce official statistics. Currently, this is being carried out by a technical staff force of around 200 officers belonging to 7 statistical grades. The office is also staffed with some 60 officers belonging to General Services grades and providing administrative support to the technical staff.

The majority of officers are posted at the Head Office in Port-Louis and the Sub Office in Rose-Hill. The other officers are posted in the Statistical Units of various Ministries/Departments.



CSO in the LIC Building

## National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

In order to produce better statistics for national and international development, developing countries have been urged to design a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) by the end of 2006 and to start implementation by 2007.

An NSDS provides a country with the strategy for strengthening statistical capacity across the entire National Statistical System comprising data producers, suppliers as well as users.

In line with international recommendations, the Statistics Advisory Council initiated, at the beginning of 2006, the process of designing an NSDS for Mauritius. In this endeavour, the Central Statistics Office was assisted by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through one of its consultants, Prof. Ben Kiregyera, a leading authority in statistics. The strategy which was submitted in December 2006 includes a number of reforms to our National Statistical System and its implementation would necessitate revisiting the current Statistics Act.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is currently working on the draft legislation on the proposed National Statistical System.

## Performance Management System



Another major reform initiative taken by the CSO to improve service delivery has been the implementation of a Performance Management System (PMS) in the office.

The PMS will serve as an instrument to measure in a systematic and effective manner the performance of the office at both individual and organisational levels with a view to optimising resources while at the same time achieving better employee and customer satisfaction.

The PMS was launched at the CSO in March 2006. A Management Consultant assisted the office in the design and implementation process, which started with the sensitisation of all officers. After having gone through other phases (training of staff, process write-up, and pilot testing in 3 Statistical Units and the Finance Section), the PMS is effective for all officers as from January 2007. The implementation of the PMS applies to both technical and non-technical grades, including statistical staff posted in other Ministries/Departments and General Services staff posted at the CSO.

Among other mechanisms, a Departmental Steering Committee (comprising representatives of both Management and the staff) and Implementation Work Teams (composed of volunteering

officers at various levels in the hierarchy) were set up and they have been providing active support for the smooth implementation of the PMS.

Now that the PMS has been implemented at the CSO, the objective is to ensure that this process is sustained over time. In this connection, the Steering Committee, which has now completed its mandate, has been replaced by a Departmental Monitoring Committee. One of the priorities of the Monitoring Committee is to improve existing communication on the PMS in the office and this newsletter has been identified as a key vehicle for this purpose. It would also serve for keeping officers updated about the strategic objectives of the office and for acknowledging efforts and achievements of performing officers.

---

## The Public Service Excellence Award

The Central Statistics Office participated in the Public Service Excellence Award (PSEA) Scheme newly launched by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms in collaboration with the Mauritian Quality Institute. The Scheme is meant to encourage innovation and excellence in the delivery of government services. The participation of the CSO hints at the additional efforts made by the office during the past years to better serve its customers.

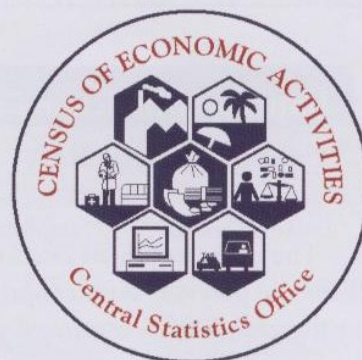
---

## Censuses and Surveys

### Census of Economic Activities

The Central Statistics Office is currently conducting a Census of Economic Activities in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. The main objective of this Census is to collect up-to-date data on the operating characteristics and structure of all types of economic activities, except agriculture.

The Census is undertaken in two phases. The first phase, lasting from January to December 2007, covers a sample of around 3,500 small establishments (employing 9 or fewer persons) and itinerant units. Data are collected by direct interview method. The second phase consists of the complete enumeration of around 2,500 large establishments (employing 10 or more persons) by mail questionnaire from July 2008 to March 2009.



## Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey

The CSO is also conducting the 2007 round of the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) which started in January this year. The primary objective of the survey is to provide a permanent platform for the collection of information relevant to the computation of appropriate indicators to keep track of development on the social front. As from 2004, the CMPHS is also the dedicated instrument for the measurement of employment and unemployment on a quarterly basis.

The topics covered in 2007 are:-

- Module I: Demographic and educational characteristics
- Module II: Labour force (current activity, nature of work, hours of work, self-employment and unemployment)
- Module III: Environment and solid waste; Safety and security; Education; Household income and expenditure

In the current 2007 round, some 11,280 households are being surveyed at the rate of 940 per month.

## Household Budget Survey

In addition to the two above mentioned surveys, a Household Budget Survey is being conducted in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues from July 2006 to June 2007.

The main objective of the survey is to obtain up-to-date information on the consumption pattern of Mauritian households with a view to updating the basket of goods and services to be used for the computation of the Consumer Price Index.

In all, some 6,720 households are being interviewed at a rate of 560 per month.

---

## Important Indicators released during the 1st Quarter 2007

### Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2006 is estimated at 8.2% compared to 9.5 % for the previous quarter and 8.9% for the corresponding quarter of 2005. Unemployment rate for the year 2006 is estimated at 9.1% down from 9.6% in 2005.

## GDP Growth Rate

The latest release of the “National Accounts Estimates” in March 2007 indicates that our economy is expected to grow by around 5.0% in 2007, the same rate as in 2006.

## Consumer Price Index and Inflation

The rate of inflation for the financial year 2006/07 is estimated at around 10.5% compared to 5.1% for financial year 2005/06.

## Training/ Meetings attended by staff during the first quarter of 2007

### (i) Overseas

Name	Programme	Country	Period
Mr. H. Bundhoo ( <i>Director</i> ) & Mrs Y. Cassimally ( <i>Deputy Director</i> )	2007 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development	Rwanda	15th to 19th January
Ms L.F.Cheung Kai Suet ( <i>Deputy Director</i> )	ICP- Workshop on the African Comparison of PPP adjusted GDP's and Price Level Differentials	Rwanda	15th to 19th January
Mr Y. Thorabally ( <i>Statistician</i> )	Les Statistiques de la Comptabilite Nationale	Tunisia	3rd to 12th February
Mr S. Haulcooree & Mr A. Ramasamy ( <i>Statisticians</i> )	Survey Methodology Training Course	South Africa	9th to 16th February
Mr. D. Juleemun ( <i>Senior Statistician</i> ) & Mrs. C. Bandinah ( <i>Statistician</i> )	Regional Short Training Course on basic data analysis and report writing	South Africa	12th to 23rd February
Mr. H. Bundhoo ( <i>Director</i> )	38th Session of UN Statistical Commission and Side Events	USA	23rd Feb to 2nd March
Mr A. Bundhoo ( <i>Statistician</i> )	Joint ECA-ITU-UNCTAD Regional Workshop on Information Society Measurements in Africa	Ethiopia	7th to 9th March
Mrs. Y. Cassimally ( <i>Deputy Director</i> ) & Mr.A. Haulkhory ( <i>Statistician</i> )	Security and Justice Module Workshop	Tanzania	19th to 23rd March

## (ii) Local

Name	Programme	Period
Mr. S. Ghoorun ( <i>Telephone Operator</i> )	Techniques in dealing with the public	16th to 17 January
Mrs. S. Chellen ( <i>Clerical Officer</i> )	Follow up Programme on Distance Learning Modules	18th January
Mr. C. Arianaick, Mr. D. Pothegadoo ( <i>Statisticians</i> )	Leadership and Supervision	1st to 2nd March
Mr. S. Bhonoo, Mrs. R. Soborun, Mr. Y. Thorabally ( <i>Statisticians</i> ) & Mr. K. Kowlessur ( <i>Office Superintendent</i> )		21st to 22nd March

## Central Statistics Office Staff Association

The Staff Association held its Annual General Meeting on 7 March 2007. The decision of members on the issues raised in the meeting was thereafter forwarded to the Director.

In February 2007, the union submitted proposals of members to the PRB through a memorandum.

## Central Statistics Office Welfare Association

The objectives of the association are:

- (i) to create an 'esprit de corps' among members of the staff (both technical and non-technical) and to collaborate with other organizations; and
- (ii) to organise sports, cultural, recreational and educational activities for the welfare of its members.

The Association organised the following activities in 2006:-

- Kids Party
- Corbeille Ménagère (won by Mrs Y. Seeboruth)
- End of year party at La Plantation Hotel

Besides, our members participated in the following activities of the Public Officers Welfare Council in 2006:-

- Football Tournament: May - October
- Badminton Tournament: May - June