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1. 1990 HOUSING CENSUS - MAIN RESULTS
2. SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS IN
LARGE ESTABLISHMENT - September 1990
(Preliminary Results)

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

1990 HOUSING CENSUS - MAIN RESULTS

1. Introduction

The Central Statistical Office conducted a Census of Housing from February to April 1990, followed by a Population Census in July. The Processing of the Housing Census data has been completed and the results will be published shortly. The Population Census data are currently being edited, coded and keyed in for computer processing. These operations are expected to be completed during the first half of 1991. The longer delay is due to the larger volume and greater complexity of the population data as compared to the housing data.

The Housing Census enumerated 210,000 buildings (of which 188,000 residential or partly residential), 224,000 housing units, and 237,000 private households with a population total of 1,048,000. These figures are for the country as a whole, inclusive of Rodrigues.

2. Buildings

The 210,000 buildings in 1990 represent an increase of 24,000 over the 1983 Census figure of 186,000. This translates into an average growth rate of 1.73% per annum during the seven-year period. During the same interval, residential and partly residential buildings increased by 22,000, from 166,000 to 188,000, representing an annual growth rate of 1.80%.

Parallel with the increase in the stock of buildings, there has been a marked improvement in the qualitative aspects of building construction. Thus almost 71% of residential and partly residential buildings enumerated in 1990 were wholly in concrete as compared to 54% in 1983. Furthermore, out of the 50,000 residential and partly residential buildings constructed between mid-1983 and mid-1990, around 40,000 were wholly in concrete.

3. Housing units

The number of housing units was 224,000 in 1990 compared to 199,000 in 1983. This represents an increase of 25,000, or an average growth of 1.72% per annum.

Private ownership of housing units, although very high, increased further from 97.7% in 1983 to 98.5% in 1990. Moreover, 76% of households owned the housing unit they occupied in 1990 as compared to 67% in 1983. Conversely, the proportion of households renting their accommodation dropped from 18% in 1983 to 15% in 1990; however, in absolute terms, the number of tenants remained at around 36,000 in 1990 compared to 36,500 in 1983.

4. Living space

In 1983 there were 204,000 private households for 199,000 housing units, giving a national average of 1.03 households per housing unit. In 1990 there were 237,000 households for 224,000 housing units, which gives an average of 1.06 households per housing unit. It therefore seems that the extent to which households are sharing a housing unit has deteriorated by about 3% during the last seven years.

But this does not necessarily imply that the density of occupation has deteriorated in 1990 as compared to 1983. In fact the average size of household has decreased from 4.86 to 4.43 between the two census years, whilst the average number of rooms per housing unit has increased from 3.55 to 3.98. The combined effect of these two factors has been to reduce the average number of persons per housing unit from 5.00 in 1983 to 4.68 in 1990.

However, because of the heterogeneity of a housing unit, a better measure of the density of occupation is the average number of persons per room used for living purposes. This ratio has improved from 1.47 to 1.22 between 1983 and 1990.

5. *Living conditions*

The 1990 Census data indicate a general improvement in the living conditions of the population with regard, not only to living space, but also the amenities provided by housing units.

The table below shows that the percentage of households having access to electricity, piped water, bathroom with running water, and hygienic toilet facilities, has increased markedly over the seven-year intercensal period. Thus, 97% of households had electricity in 1990 as compared to 91% in 1983; only 10% of households obtained their water supply from public fountains, wells or rivers as compared to 20% in 1983, and only 5% did not have bathroom facilities as compared to 16% in 1983. As regards toilets, the percentage of households having the flush type increased from 47% to 63% whilst those having pit latrines dropped from 51% to 36%. However, there are about 2,500 households, representing 1% of all households, who still do not have proper toilet facilities.

<u>Amenity available</u>	<u>Percentage of households</u>	
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1990</u>
(a) <u>Electricity</u>	91	97
(b) <u>Water supply</u>		
(i) Piped water inside house	40	56
(ii) Piped water outside on premises	40	34
(iii) Public fountain, well, river, etc.	20	10
(c) <u>Bathroom</u>		
(i) With running water	48	64
(ii) Without running water	36	31
(iii) No bathroom	16	5
(d) <u>Toilet</u>		
(i) Flush toilet	47	63
(ii) Pit latrine	51	36
(iii) Pail or no toilet	2	1
(e) <u>Kitchen</u>		
(i) Inside housing unit	49	65
(ii) Outside housing unit	46	33
(iii) No kitchen	5	2
(f) <u>Fuel for cooking</u>		
(i) Wood and charcoal	55	26
(ii) Kerosene	35	22
(iii) Electricity	5	2
(iv) Gas	5	50

The proportion of households having no kitchen decreased from 5% in 1983 to 2% in 1990; furthermore, in 1990, 65% of households had their kitchen inside their housing unit as compared to 49% in 1983.

6. *Fuel used for cooking*

There has been a remarkable change in the type of fuel used by households for cooking purposes. The percentage of households using wood and charcoal dropped from 55% in 1983 to 26% in 1990 whilst the percentage using gas increased from 5% to 50%. The share of kerosene dropped from 35% to 22% and that of electricity from 5% to 2% during the same period.

7. *Conclusion*

The above is only a very brief summary of the changes that have occurred, at the national level, in the housing conditions of the population between 1983 and 1990. A detailed analysis of the data, highlighting possible regional differences, will be carried out and published in due course.

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