

Ministry of Finance

STATISTICS MAURITIUS

HOUSEHOLD BUDGET SURVEY 2023

Republic of Mauritius

ANALYTICAL REPORT

February 2025

FOREWORD

Statistics Mauritius conducted its eleventh Household Budget Survey (HBS) from January to December 2023 in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. The first Household Budget Survey was undertaken in 1961/62. The second was carried out in 1975. Since then, the survey was conducted once every five years however, due to COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the latest HBS was conducted six years after 2017, i.e., in 2023.

The main purpose of the HBS is to collect data on the consumption expenditure of private households to determine the weights of goods and services for the computation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The survey also provides data on the distribution of household income and expenditure, and constitutes a reliable source of information for estimates of consumption expenditure of private households in the system of National Accounts, and for poverty analysis and other analytical and research work.

A first report, entitled “Household Budget Survey 2023 and the Updated Consumer Price Index: Methodological Report”, covering the methodology of the survey and the updated Consumer Price Index was published in September 2024.

This report presents the results of the analysis of the survey data in terms of household characteristics, income and expenditure. It also highlights the changes with the results of the previous Household Budget Survey conducted in 2017. It is hoped that the report will be of assistance to planners, policy makers, research workers and the public in general.

I would like to thank all participating households whose co-operation was vital to the success of the survey. My thanks also go to the various organisations, the field staff as well as the office staff for their valuable contribution.

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HOUSEHOLD BUDGET SURVEY 2023

KEY FINDINGS

Household and Members Characteristics

- a) The average household size decreased from 3.4 in 2017 to 3.2 members in 2023.
- b) Women headed households are on the increase, representing 24.8% of households in 2023 against 22.0% in 2017.
- c) Availability of living space and household durable goods has improved.
- d) Slightly more than half of the population aged 16 years and above had a job in 2023, and the tertiary sector employed about three quarter of them.

Household Income

- e) In 2023, the average household disposable income stood at Rs 55,578 per month, 22.3% higher than in 2017 after adjusting for price increases and change in household size.
- f) The 20% of households at the upper end of income range shared 43.4% of total income while the 20% at the lower end had only 6.2% of the income.
- g) The income Gini coefficient decreased from 0.400 in 2017 to 0.370 in 2023, showing an improvement of income inequality.
- h) Income inequality is highest among households in the fifth income quintile, with a Gini coefficient of 0.203.
- i) Income from paid and self-employment represented around 75% of household income in 2023.
- j) Transfers made up to 62.1% of the income for households in the lowest income quintile.

Household Consumption Expenditure

- k) Average monthly household consumption expenditure was Rs 35,344 in 2023, 12.9% higher than in 2017 after adjusting for price increases and change in household size.
- l) In 2023, households, on average, spent 30% of their consumption expenditure on “Food & non-alcoholic beverages”, an increasing share compared to 2017.
- m) The lowest income quintile spent 40% of their consumption expenditure on “Food & non-alcoholic beverages” against 23% for the highest income quintile.

Indebted Households

- n) Some 48% of households were indebted in 2023, of which 62% had a debt on credit purchase of household durables housing, 38% had a debt on housing and 15% had a debt on motor vehicles. In 2017, there were 44% indebted households and most of the households (52.5%) had a housing debt.
- o) An indebted household disbursed on average Rs 11,118 monthly on debt repayment in 2023, compared to Rs 8,289 in 2017.

Point of Purchase

- p) Some 94% households are buying groceries from supermarkets, hypermarkets and neighbourhood shops, an increasing trend compared to 2017.
- q) Though health service is free, 35% of households reported having recourse to paid health services only in 2023, compared to 9.5% in 2017.

MAJOR COMPARISONS BETWEEN FIRST & FIFTH QUINTILES, HOUSEHOLD BUDGET SURVEY 2023

				First Quintile	Fifth Quintile
HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS					
Household size	...	...	...	1.9	4.0
House ownership (%)	...	...	...	80.8	93.4
Free Accommodation (%)	...	...	...	12.1	4.7
HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
No. of income earners per household	...	...	...	1.2	2.7
Monthly gross income (Rs)	...	...	...	17,215	128,414
<i>Share of wages and salaries</i>	...	...	...	37.6	84.5
<i>Share of transfer income</i>	...	...	...	62.1	14.4
Monthly disposable income (Rs)	...	...	...	17,135	120,515
Gini Coefficient	...	...	...	0.154	0.203
Monthly consumption expenditure (Rs)	...	...	...
<i>Share of food</i>	...	...	...	40.4	22.8
<i>Share of transport</i>	...	...	...	6.1	16.3
<i>Share of education (%)</i>	...	...	...	1.0	3.7
HOUSEHOLD INDEBTEDNESS					
Household indebted (%)	...	...	...	20.3	67.1
Monthly debt repayment	...	...	...	3,009	20,860
<i>House (%)</i>	...	...	...	17.3	43.8
<i>Motor vehicle</i>	...	...	...	3.6	8.9
<i>Household Durable (%)</i>	...	...	...	47.0	16.7
<i>Education (%)</i>	...	...	...	8.0	5.7
<i>Other (%)</i>	...	...	...	24.2	24.9
Debt repayment as a percentage of disposable income (%)	...	...	...	16.7	17.3

1. INTRODUCTION

Statistics Mauritius conducted its eleventh Household Budget Survey (HBS) from January to December 2023. The survey was conducted among a sample of 7,000 private households, representative of all households in the Republic of Mauritius.

1.1 Objectives

The main objectives of the HBS are to:

- a) Obtain up to date information on the consumption pattern of the Mauritian population mainly with a view to update the basket of goods and services used for the computation of the monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI);
- b) Derive the weight (relative importance) of each item in the CPI basket;
- c) Provide data on the distribution of household income and expenditure;
- d) Supplement the data used in the household accounts for National Accounting purposes;
- e) Provide information for the nutritional analysis of food consumption; and
- f) Provide information for poverty analysis.

1.2 Coverage

The HBS 2023 covered all private non-institutional households in the Republic of Mauritius, including non-resident households. Institutional households such as hotels, hospitals, boarding houses and prisons were excluded. Collective quarters (dortoirs) with foreign employees were also excluded. However, for the purpose of analysis in this report, only Mauritian households are considered.

1.3 Concepts and definitions

The concepts and definitions used in the 2023 HBS are according to the recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

1.4 Sampling design

A sample of 7,000 households, out of an estimated total of 368,800, was selected for the HBS 2023. The national sample comprised 2 separate samples, one of 6,520 households (out of 355,700) for the Island of Mauritius and another of 480 households (out of 13,100) for the Island of Rodrigues.

The sampling fraction for the Island of Rodrigues was higher than that for Island of Mauritius to collect adequate amount of data for the analysis of the estimates.

Furthermore, to cater for better poverty analysis for Island of Mauritius, most of the regions with lowest relative development index (RDI) have been sampled. (The RDI is a composite index that measures the relative development of region). The number of households surveyed in these low RDI regions were 584, while for the other regions, 6,416 households were contacted.

It is to be noted that oversampling of low RDI did not affect the overall results of the survey, as it has been accommodated through the weight done at the level of Primary Sampling Units (PSU).

It is worth to be noted that sampling was done through a 2-stage design with probability proportional to size. At the first stage, PSU's were selected with probability proportional to size, which was followed by selection of households within the selected PSU's.

The HBS 2023 spanned over 12 months to account for seasonal fluctuations in consumption. Around 26% of the 7,000 households in the initial sample had to be replaced.

1.5 Sampling Errors

The HBS 2023 estimates are based on a sample of observations. Hence, they are subject to sampling errors; that is estimates could differ from the figures that would have been produced if information had been collected from all households in the country.

1.6 Topics investigated at the survey

During the survey, information was collected on:

- a) Demographic characteristics of household members;
- b) Characteristics of dwellings and availability of household durable goods;
- c) Household income;
- d) Household expenditure;
- e) Household indebtedness; and
- f) Household points of purchase of goods and services.

The survey questionnaires can be accessed at:

<https://statsmauritius.govmu.org/Pages/Censuses%20and%20Surveys/Surveys/HBS.aspx>

1.7 Survey methodology

The “Household Budget Survey 2023 and the Updated Consumer Price Index: Methodological Report” is accessible at: ‘ [HBS 2023 Methodological Report and updated CPI](#) ’

2. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

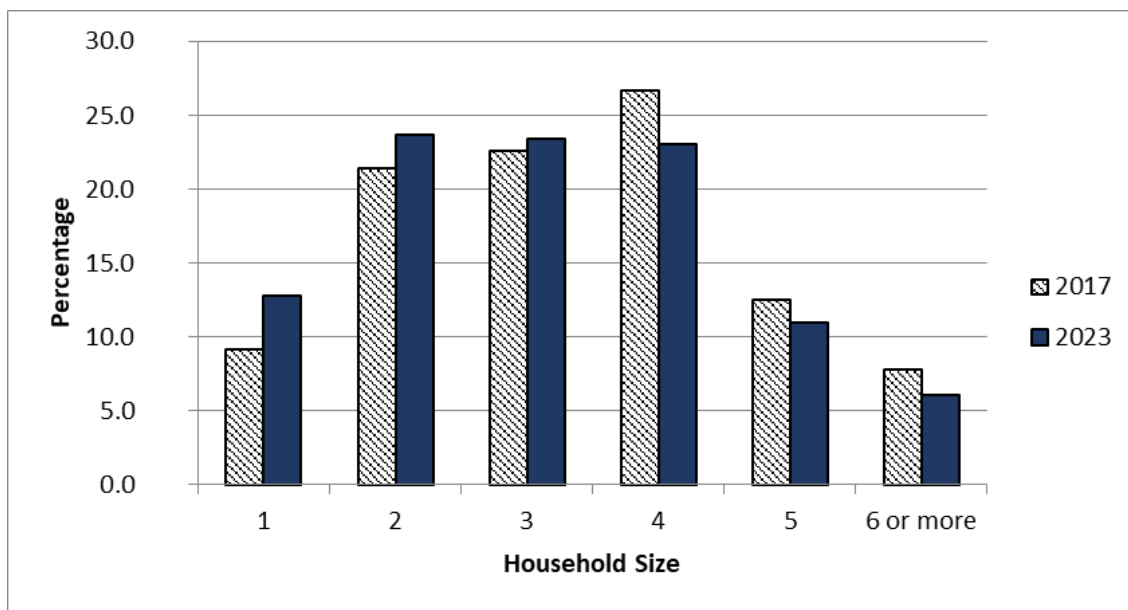
The HBS 2023 covered 7,000 households comprising some 22,275 members.

2.1 Household size

Household size continues to decline

The decreasing trend in the household size has continued during the period 2017 to 2023 from 3.4 to 3.2. The share of households with four or more members decreased from 46.9% in 2017 to 40.1% in 2023 while that with three or fewer members increased from 53.1% to 59.9% during the same period.

Figure 2.1 –Distribution (%) of households by household size¹, 2017 and 2023 HBS



Women headed households are on a slight rise

Women headed 24.8% of all households in 2023 compared to some 22.0% in 2017. Female heads were predominant among one member households while their counterparts tend to head larger households.

¹ It is the number of persons living in the household irrespective of age and relationship to the head.

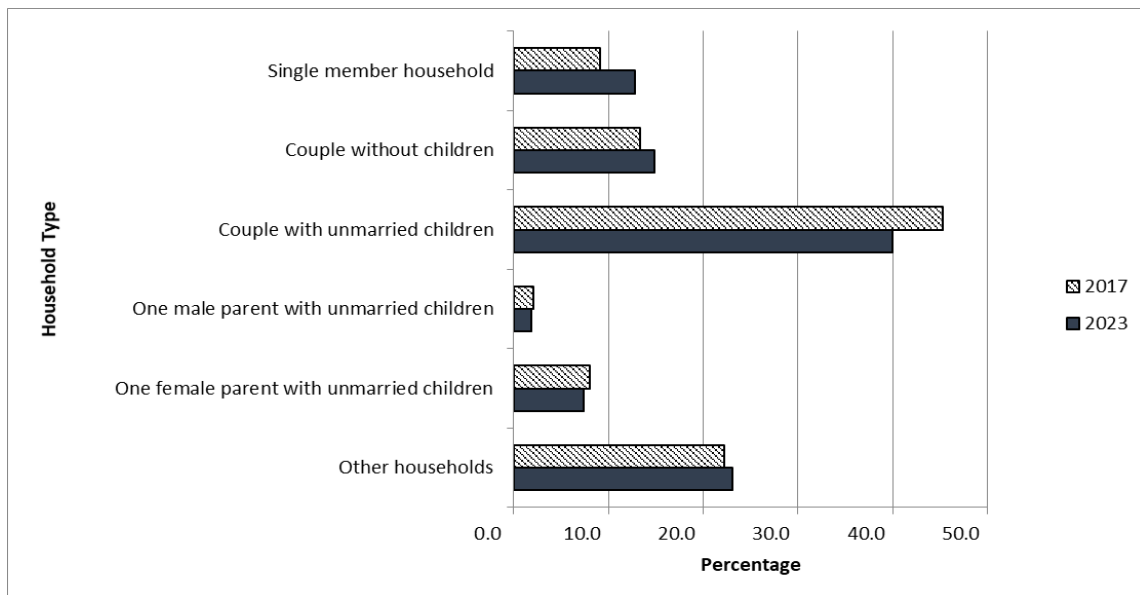
Table 2.1 – Distribution (%) of households by size and sex of head, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Household Size	2017			2023		
	Male-headed household	Female-headed household	Total	Male-headed household	Female-headed household	Total
1	3.3	5.8	9.1	5.4	7.3	12.8
2	15.3	6.1	21.4	17.0	6.7	23.7
3	18.4	4.2	22.6	18.6	4.8	23.3
4	23.8	2.8	26.6	19.8	3.2	23.0
5	11.0	1.5	12.5	9.5	1.6	11.1
6 or more	6.2	1.6	7.8	5.0	1.2	6.1
total	78.0	22.0	100.0	75.2	24.8	100.0

2.2 Household type

“Couple with unmarried children” was still the most common type of household in 2023 but compared to 2017, is on a decline

In 2023, households comprising “Couple with unmarried children” accounted for two-fifth of all households. However, the proportion of such households declined from 45.3% in 2017 to 40.0% in 2023. On the other hand, “Couple without children” rose from 13.3% to 14.9% and the percentage of single member households showed an upward trend from 9.1% in 2017 to 12.8% in 2023.

Figure 2.2 – Distribution (%) of households by household type², 2017 and 2023 HBS

² Households have been classified according to their composition with respect to members constituting the households.

2.3 Household tenure

Rented households are on the decline but owner-occupied dwellings are on the rise

In 2023, 4.7% of households rented their dwellings compared to 6.0% in 2017. While the majority of households (95.1%) owned their dwellings or are supplied free by parents or relatives, less than 1% was supplied free by employer (0.2% in 2023, compared to 0.4% in 2017).

Table 2.3 – Distribution (%) of households by tenure, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Type of tenure	Percentage of households	
	2017	2023
Owner occupied and supplied free by parents/relatives	93.6	95.1
Rented	6.0	4.7
Supplied free by employer	0.4	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Household ownership is increasing in the urban regions

In 2023, ownership of dwellings or housing supplied free by parents and relatives were more prominent in rural regions (97.3%) than in urban regions (91.5%). Compared to a figure of 89.9% in 2017, more households are owning their dwellings in urban regions in 2023. Notably, 8.1% of households in urban regions lived in rented dwellings compared to 2.6% in rural regions (**Table A2.3**).

2.4 Average number of persons per room

Availability of living space has improved

The percentage of households with less than one person per room increased from 79.8% in 2017 to 94.7% in 2023, while that for households with more than one but less than two persons per room declined from 18.8% to 5.2%. The availability of living space thus improved from 0.68 person per room in 2017 to 0.51 person in 2023.

Availability of living space improved for both urban and rural households. However, the living space available in rural households remained higher at 0.52 person per room compared to urban households with 0.49 person per room.

Table 2.4 – Distribution (%) of households by average number of persons per room, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Number of persons per room	Urban		Rural		Total	
	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023
less than 1	81.2	95.2	78.7	94.5	79.8	94.7
1 or more but less than 2	17.8	4.8	19.6	5.5	18.8	5.2
2 or more but less than 3	0.7	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.1	0.0
3 or more	0.3	-	0.3	-	0.3	-
All households	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of persons per room	0.66	0.49	0.69	0.52	0.68	0.51

2.5 Household durable goods

Availability of household durable goods has improved

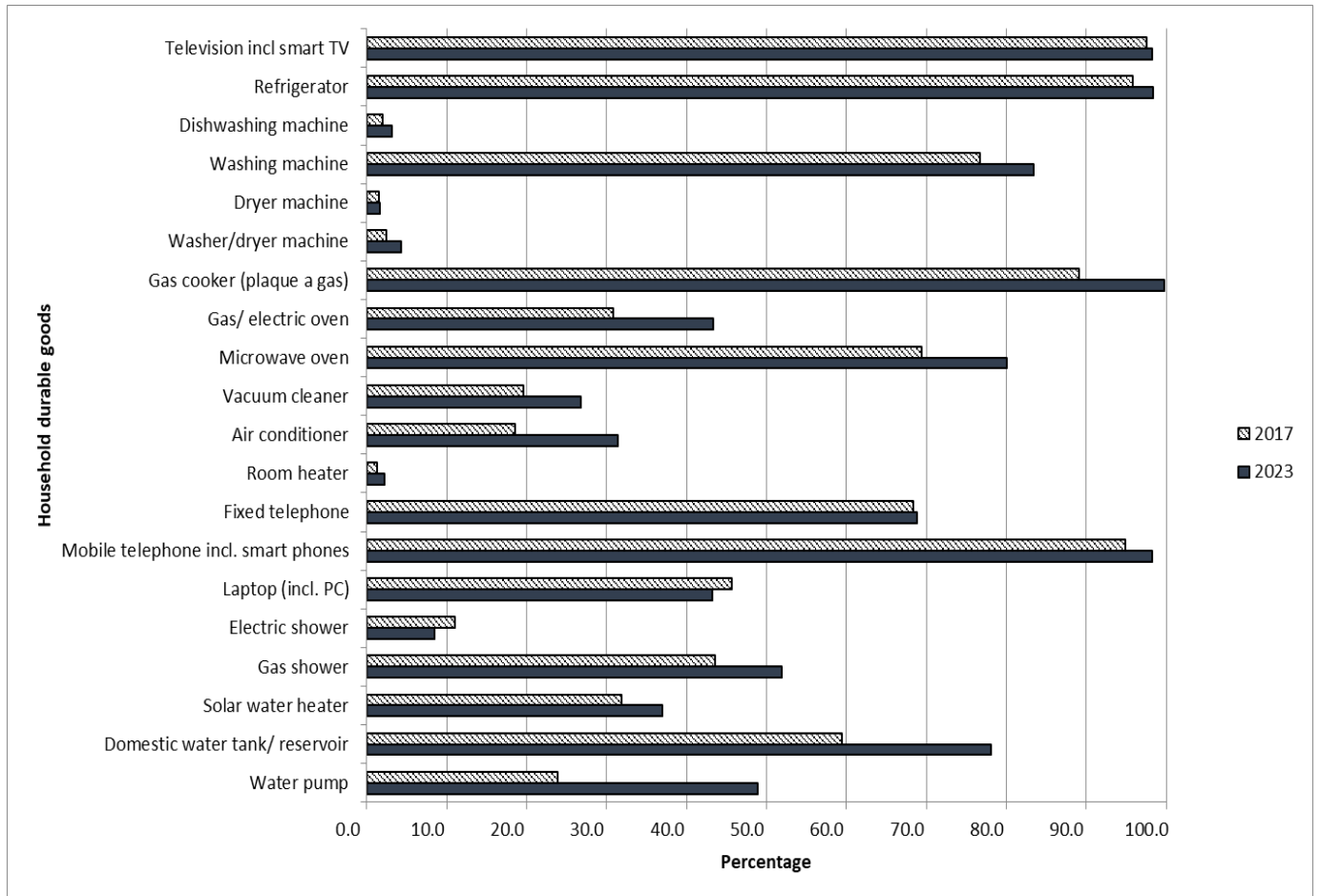
The proportions of households with appliances such as refrigerator, washing machine, microwave oven, gas cooker (*plaque a gas*), mobile phones, solar water heater and air conditioner increased during past six-years period.

Mobile phones including smart phones and air-conditioner have become so popular in almost all households. In 2023, 98.2% of households had at least one household member who possessed a mobile phone including smart phones compared to 94.9% in 2017. Similarly, from 2017 to 2023, the percentage of households having air-conditioner rose from 18.5% to 31.4%. On the other hand, the proportion of households in possession of a fixed telephone was 68.8% in 2023 compared to 68.4% in 2017. In 2023, around 99.8% of households indicated having a gas cooker (*plaque a gas*) compared to around 89.1% six-years earlier. Same increasing trend from 69.4% in 2017 to 80.1% in 2023, has been noticed in the proportion of households owning a microwave oven.

More households are equipped with a solar water heater, 36.9% in 2023 against 31.9% in 2017. The same trend has been observed for gas shower with a share of 43.6% in 2017 to 51.9% in 2023. On the other hand, the share of households with electric shower declined from 11.0% to 8.4% during the same period.

The proportions of households equipped with domestic water tanks (from 59.5% to 78.1%) and water pumps (from 23.8% to 48.9%) were on the rise during the period under review.

Figure 2.5 – Distribution (%) of households with selected durable goods, 2017 and 2023 HBS



2.6 Domestic Services

The most common employee remained domestic servants

Around 5.7% of households reported employing domestic workers either full time or part time. Similar to 2017, the most common employee remained domestic servant followed by gardener (1.7%), carer services (0.6%), babysitter (0.3%) and cook (0.3%).

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

3.1 Age structure

The child population is declining whilst our elders are living longer

Comparing 2017 and 2023 HBS data by age reveals a decline in the share of the child population aged less than 15 years and a rise in the share of the elderly population aged 60 years and above. This change in age structure of the population reveals an ageing population.

Table 3.1 – Distribution (%) of the population by age group and sex, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Age group	2017			2023		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Less than 15 years	18.6	17.2	17.9	15.0	14.5	14.7
15 to 59 years	65.2	63.9	64.5	64.2	62.0	63.1
60 years and above	16.2	18.9	17.6	20.8	23.6	22.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.2 Marital status

A decreasing share of single persons in the population

The proportion of single persons decreased from 42.0% in 2017 to 40.2% in 2023, explained by the lower share of the young age group in the population. During the same period, the percentage of widowed increased from 7.2% to 7.9%, again explained by the change in the age structure of the population with an increasing number of elderly persons.

Marital breakdown has reached a standstill because marital bliss is increasing

In 2023, divorced and separated persons made up 3.9% of the population, same as in 2017. It is also noted that among women, 17.5% were widowed, divorced or separated compared to 5.8% among men indicating that women are less likely to remarry. Conversely, the percentage of married persons or those in a union, has increased from 46.9% in 2017 to 48.0% in 2023.

Table 3.2 – Distribution (%) of the population by marital status and sex, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Marital Status	2017			2023		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Single	46.9	37.2	42.0	45.3	35.3	40.2
Married/In a union	47.9	46.0	46.9	48.9	47.2	48.0
Widowed	2.0	12.2	7.2	2.3	13.3	7.9
Divorced/separated	3.2	4.6	3.9	3.5	4.3	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3.3 Activity status

Slightly more than half of the population aged 16 years and above had a job

In 2023, 83.8% of the population were aged 16 years and over. Around 53% of them had a job, 3.8% were looking for work, 15.5% were homemakers, 8.0% were students, and 17.5% were retired.

Table 3.3 – Distribution (%) of population aged 16 years and above by activity status and sex, 2023 HBS

Activity Status	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Currently Active	69.0	44.3	56.3
With a job	64.6	41.0	52.5
Without a job	4.4	3.3	3.8
Currently inactive	31.0	55.7	43.7
Homemaker	0.1	30.2	15.5
Student	8.0	8.0	8.0
Disabled	3.4	1.9	2.6
Retired	19.5	15.5	17.5
Other	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Analysis by sex shows that the proportion of active (those with a job and those looking for work) was higher among men (69.0%) than among women (44.3%) while the proportion of inactive (homemakers, students, disabled and retired) was higher among women (55.7%) compared to the men (31.0%). Among inactive women, a high majority were homemakers as opposed to a negligible proportion among men. The proportion of retired persons in 2023, was higher among men (19.5%), compared to women (15.5%), though the share of female population aged above 60 years old is higher in the overall population.

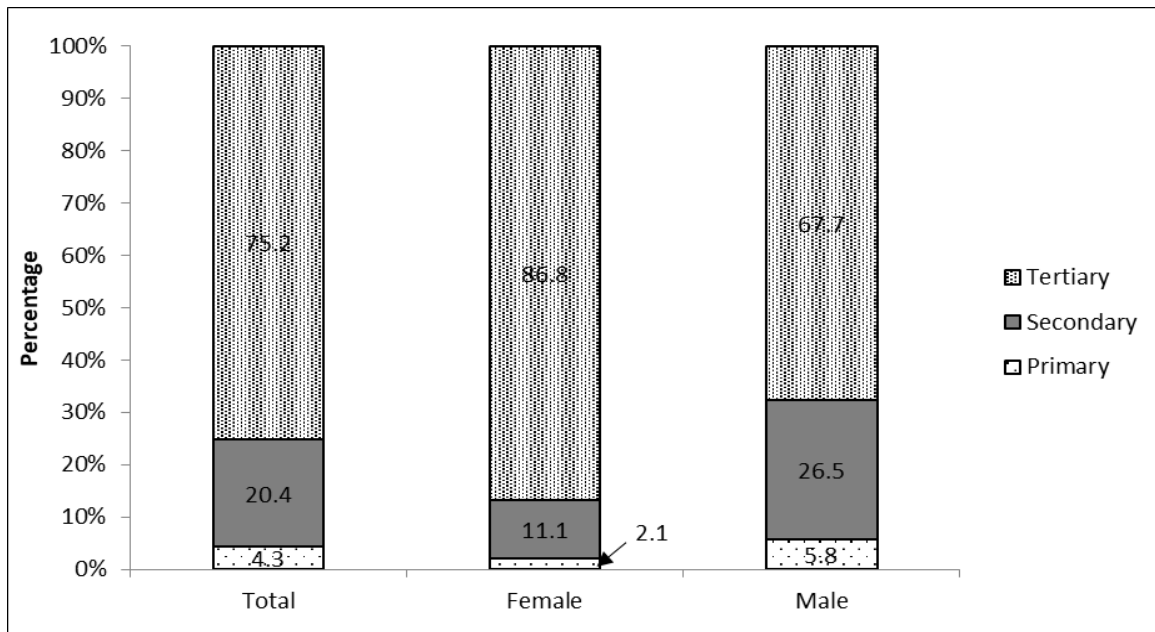
3.4 Industry group

Three out of four persons are employed in the tertiary sector

In 2023, the tertiary sector (covering trade, accommodation and food service activities, transportation and storage and all the other service industries) employed 75.2% of the employed person followed by the secondary sector (covering manufacturing, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage waste management and remediation activities and construction) with a share of 20.4%. The primary sector (covering agriculture, forestry and fishing and mining & quarrying) had an employment share of 4.3%.

The share of women employed in the tertiary sector stood at 86.8% compared to 67.7% for their male counterpart. However, the secondary sector which comprises the construction industry had a higher proportion of men (26.5%) than women (11.1%).

Figure 3.4 – Distribution (%) of working persons by sector and sex, 2023 HBS



In 2023, an employed person worked on average 39.8 hours per week.

The sectors with the highest weekly working hours were “Administrative and support service activities” (43.2 hours), “Accommodation and food service activities” (42.8 hours), “Transportation and storage” (42.8 hours) and “Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles” (42.4 hours). “Other services” and “Education” had the lowest average weekly hours of 30.1 and 32.6 hours, respectively. (Table A3.4.2).

3.5 Occupation

One of five employment was in the “Service Workers and sales Workers” occupational group

In 2023, the occupational group “Service Workers and sales Workers” with 20.6%, constituted the highest proportion of workers, followed by “Craft and Related Trade Workers” with a share of 18.7%, and “Elementary Occupations” with a share of 13.1%. “Clerks” had the least proportion of employed person (3.8%) after “Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers” (5.4%), “Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers” (6.2%) and “Professionals” (8.9%).

Women are more likely to work in “Elementary Occupations” than men

Around 31.1% of employed women worked in “Elementary Occupations” compared to 10.2% for men. Another 25.0% of women worked as “Service and sales workers”. Men worked mainly as “Craft and related trades workers” (21.1%) followed by “Service and sales workers” (19.9%) and “Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers” (12.6%). A notable increase from 7.1% in 2017 to 10.0% in 2023, has been observed in the share of woman in the “Professionals” occupational group.

Table 3.5 – Distribution (%) of working persons by major occupational group and sex, 2023 HBS

Major Occupational Group	Male	Female	Total
Clerks	3.3	7.2	3.8
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	5.8	3.1	5.4
Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers	6.4	4.8	6.2
Professionals	8.7	10.0	8.9
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	12.6	4.6	11.5
Technicians and Associate Professionals	12.1	10.3	11.8
Elementary Occupations	10.2	31.1	13.1
Craft and Related Trade Workers	21.1	3.9	18.7
Service Workers and Shop Sales Workers	19.9	25.0	20.6
All occupational groups	100.0	100.0	100.0

Persons employed as “Plant and machine operators and assemblers” work the most hours

The occupational group “Service and sales workers” had the highest average number of hours per week, 43.1 hours followed by “Plant and machine operators and assemblers”, 42.4 hours and “Legislators, senior officials and managers”, 42.3 hours. “Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers” worked the least hours, 34.5 hours per week (**Table A3.5**).

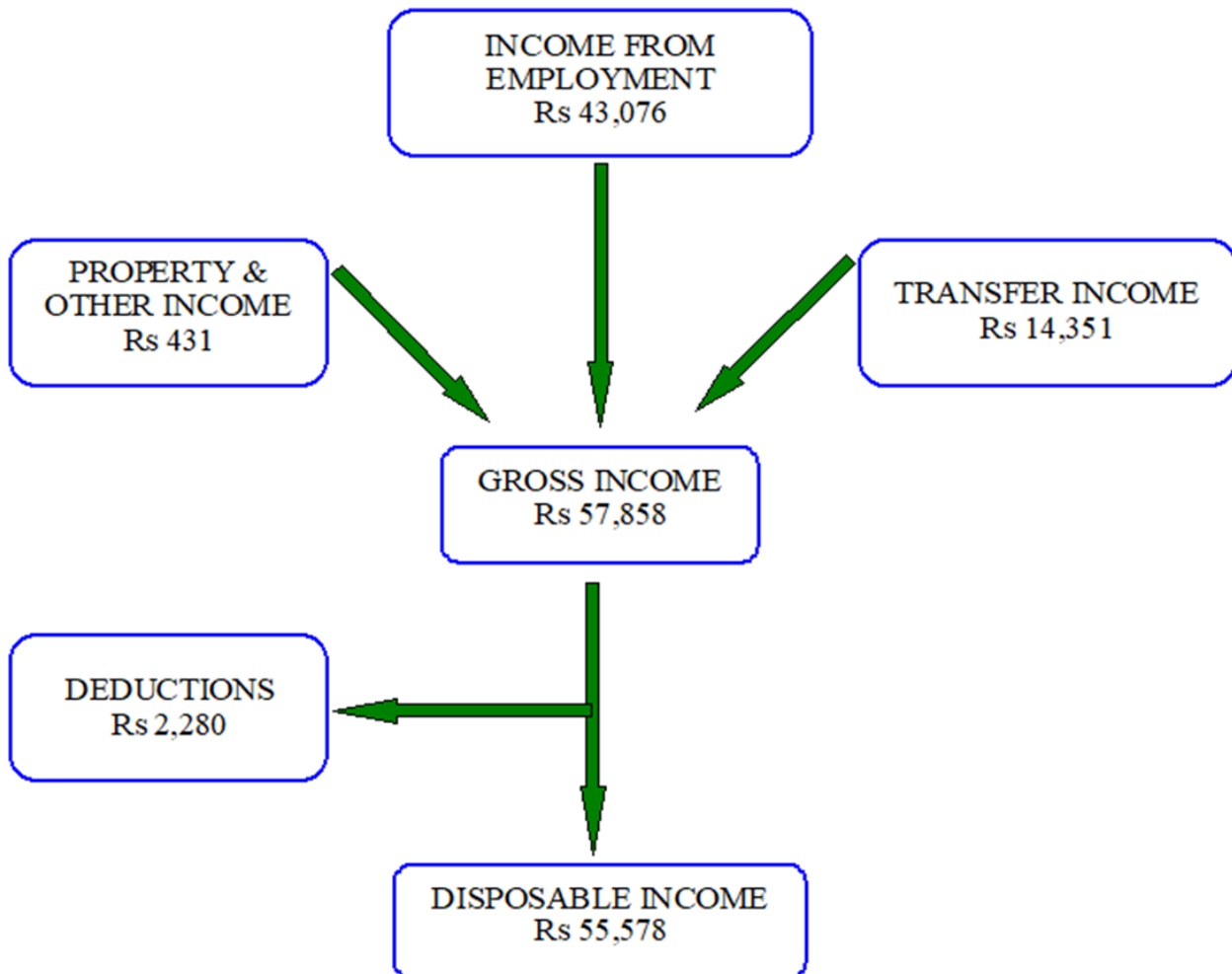
4. HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In addition to its main objective to obtain information on the expenditure of households, the 2023 HBS collects data on the income of households. The income data were used to assess the reliability of the household expenditure and to analyse the variations in levels of income over time and among households of different types.

The concepts and definitions of these various types of income are in accordance with the recommendations of International Labour Office (ILO) and are defined at **Annex 2**.

The chart presents an overview of the composition of household income.

Figure 4 - Sources of household income, 2023 HBS



4.1 Household gross income

Average household gross income stood at Rs 57,858 per month

In 2023, the average household gross income, comprising income from employment, property³, transfers⁴ and other sources⁵ before compulsory deductions and taxes, amounted to Rs 57,858, 51.3% higher than the figure of Rs 38,253 in 2017.

Income from employment represents around 75% of household gross income

Together, income from paid and self-employment made up around 75% of household gross income in 2023. While transfer income represented some 25%, property income had a negligible share of around 1% of the household income.

During the past six years, transfer income increased by 94.7% and its share rose to 24.8% in 2023 from 19.3% in 2017. This increase impacted on the share of employment income which dropped to 61.5% in 2023 from 67.6% in 2017.

Table 4.1 – Average monthly household gross income by source of income, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Sources of income	Average monthly gross income (Rs)				
	2017	%	2023	%	% change
Wages and salaries	25,848	67.6	35,561	61.5	37.6
Entrepreneurial	4,569	11.9	7,515	13.0	64.5
Property	460	1.2	415	0.7	-9.8
Transfer	7,370	19.3	14,351	24.8	94.7
Other income	6	0.0	16	0.0	180.1
Average monthly household gross income	38,253	100.0	57,858	100.0	51.3

Transfers are the main source of income for households in the lowest income quintiles⁶

Around 62% of the average household gross income in the lowest quintile was made up of transfers. This indicates that these households were highly dependent on non-employment income. Paid

³ Property income relates to net receipts derived from ownership of assets and includes interests, dividends as well as rent of buildings, land, machinery and equipment.

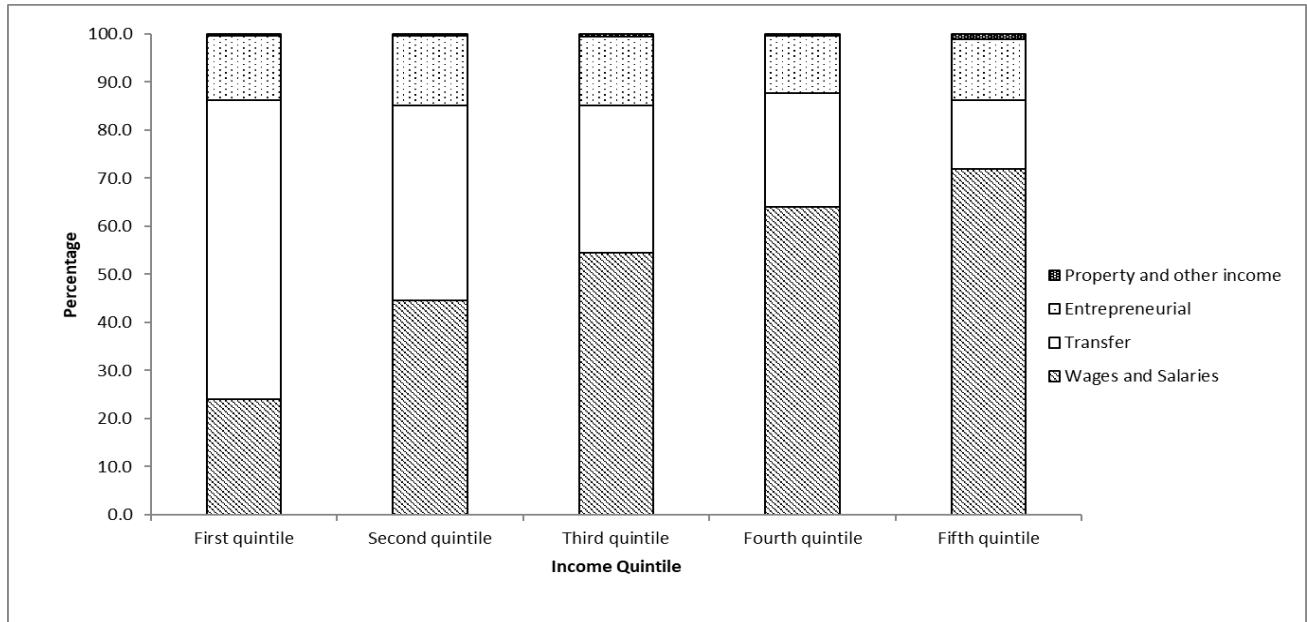
⁴ Transfer income consists of pensions, social contribution (CSG) income allowance and other allowances from government and private organisations as well as inter household transfers.

⁵ Other income is mainly the value of sales for goods produced by households.

⁶ Households are ranked according to their disposable income from lowest to highest and were divided into 5 equal classes.

employment was the major source of income for all other quintiles, ranging from 45% for the second quintile to 72% for the fifth quintile. The share of income from self-employment was highest (15%) among the second quintile. Conversely, in 2017, the highest share of income from self-employment was in the third quintile (19%).

Figure 4.1 – Distribution (%) of monthly household gross income by source of income and income quintile, 2023 HBS



4.2 Household disposable income

Average household disposable income⁷ stood at Rs 55,578 per month

In 2023, the average monthly household disposable income stood at Rs 55,578 compared to Rs 36,803 in 2017.

Table 4.2 – Measures of monthly household income, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Sources of income	Average monthly income(Rs)	
	2017	2023
Average monthly household gross income	38,253	57,858
Deductions	1,450	2,280
Average monthly household disposable income	36,803	55,578
Other receipts	2,249	4,435
Average monthly household receipts	39,051	60,013

⁷ The household disposable income is defined as the gross household income less compulsory deductions such as income tax (PAYE) and contributions to pensions and social security schemes.

During the six-year period, the amount of compulsory deductions increased by 57.3% to reach Rs 2,280 in 2023; it constituted 3.9% of gross income in 2023 compared to 3.8% in 2017. The per capita disposable income, at Rs 18,884 in 2023, increased by a larger percentage (+60.7%) than household income, explained by the decline in household size from 3.4 in 2017 to 3.2 in 2023.

Household disposable income increased by 22.3% in real terms

From 2017 to 2023, the price of goods and services, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased by 31.2% and the average household size decreased by 5.9% from 3.4 to 3.2 persons. After adjusting for smaller household size and price increases, the real increase in the household disposable income works out to 22.3%.

In 2023, there were 2.1 income earners for an average household of size 3.2, higher as compared to 2.0 income earners in 2017 but for a household size 3.4. Thus, there was an increase of 11.6% in the average number of income earners per household after adjusting for smaller household size.

Non-regular household receipts, such as money from sale of property, withdrawals from savings, cash gifts, etc, accruing to households amounted to Rs 4,435 monthly in 2023, compared to Rs 2,249 in 2017.

4.3 Household income distribution

Households have shifted towards higher income groups

The rise observed in the average household disposable income is explained by the shift of households towards higher income groups. The proportion of household having income less than Rs 10,000 decreased from 8.3% in 2017 to 0.7% in 2023. During the same period, the share of households with a monthly income between Rs 20,000 and Rs 70,000 increased from 57.9% to 61.8%. The increase in the share of households with a monthly income above Rs 70,000 was even higher, from 10.7% in 2017 to 24.9% in 2023.

Table 4.3.1 – Distribution (%) of households by income class, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Monthly Household Disposable Income (Rs)	Households (%)	
	2017 HBS	2023 HBS
Under 10,000	8.3	0.7
10,000 to < 12,000	4.6	3.1
12,000 to < 14,000	4.5	3.1
14,000 to < 16,000	5.3	2.3
16,000 to < 18,000	4.2	2.1
18,000 to < 20,000	4.5	2.0
20,000 to < 25,000	11.4	6.4
25,000 to < 30,000	10.2	8.4
30,000 to < 35,000	8.9	7.7
35,000 to < 40,000	6.9	7.4
40,000 to < 45,000	5.3	6.6
45,000 to < 50,000	4.4	6.7
50,000 to < 60,000	7.0	10.5
60,000 to < 70,000	3.6	8.2
70,000 & above	10.7	24.9
Total	100.0	100.0

The 20% of households at the upper end of income range of households share nearly 43% of total income and 20% at the lower end of income range of households share nearly 6% of total income

Analysis of household income by quintiles revealed that the highest 20% of households shared 43.4% of the total income while those in the lowest 20% shared only 6.2% of the total income. This reflects income inequality among households.

Figure 4.3.1 – Share of total income by quintiles (%), 2023 HBS

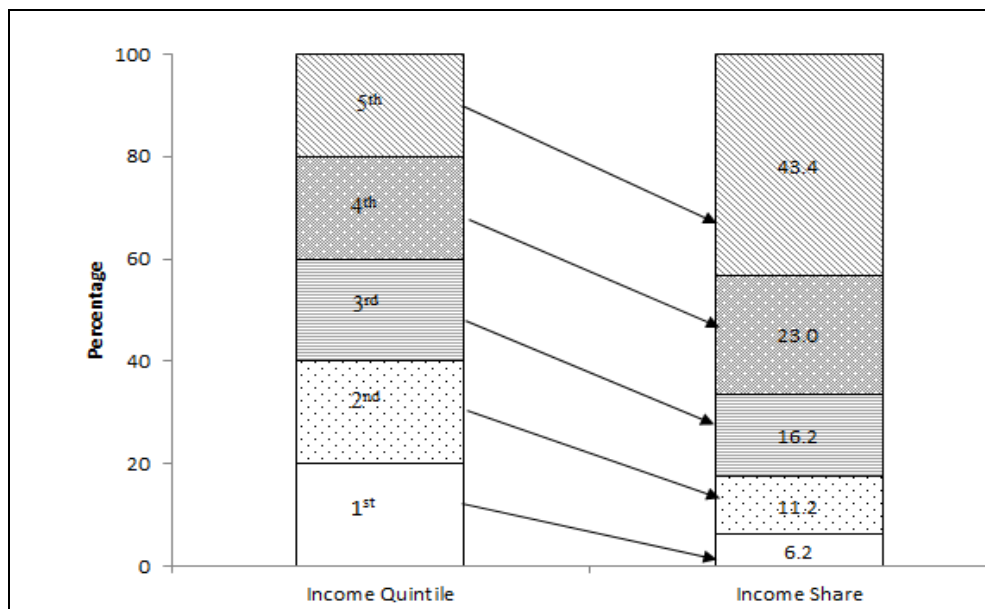


Table 4.3.2 – Share of total income (%), 2017 and 2023 HBS

	2017	2023
Percentage of total income going to:-		
Lowest 20% of households	5.6	6.2
Highest 20% of households	46.0	43.4
Ratio of highest 20% to lowest 20%	8.2	7.0

The share of total income going to the 20% of households at the lower end of the income range increased from 5.6% in 2017 to 6.2% in 2023. On the other hand, the share of the upper 20% of households decreased from 46.0% to 43.4%, displaying an improvement in income inequality.

Per capita income of households in the lower income groups registered larger increase

Between 2017 and 2023, average household disposable income among all income quintiles registered an increase of around 51%. However, average household income rose by 66.6% for the lowest quintile households, 24.3 percentage points higher than the increase of 42.3% for households in the fifth quintile. Additionally, during the same period, the average per capita income among all income quintiles registered an increase of around 61%.

After adjusting for different household size across the quintiles, the average per capita income for the first quintile rose by 140.2%, that is, 95.9 percentage points higher than the increase of 44.3% for households in the fifth quintile. This huge difference is mainly explained by a decrease of 16.6% in the household size for the first quintile and 0.8% for fifth quintile, along with an increase of 100.4% and 43.1% in the average monthly disposable income per capita, for the first and fifth quintile, respectively.

Table 4.3.3 – Average monthly household disposable income by quintile group of household income, 2017 and 2023 HBS

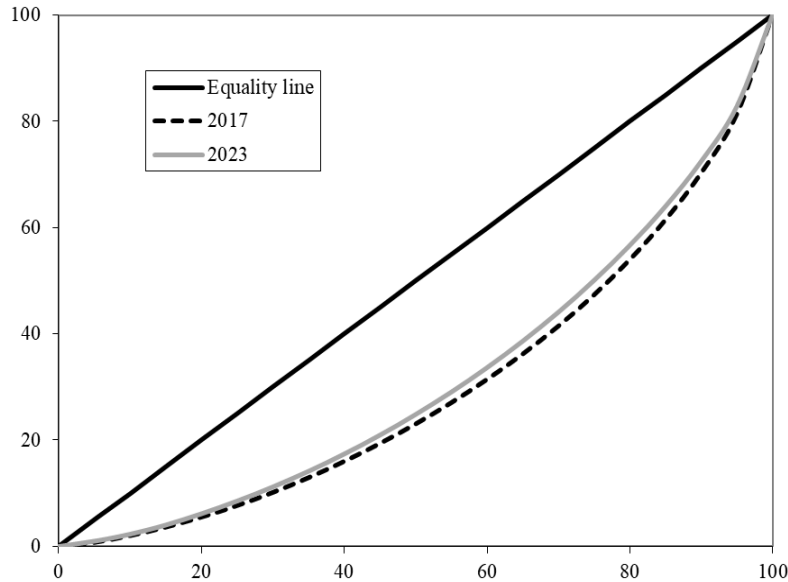
Income Quintile	Average monthly disposable income (Rs)		% change	Average monthly disposable income per capita (Rs)		% change
	2017	2023		2017	2023	
First Quintile	10,288	17,135	66.6	5,619	11,261	100.4
Second Quintile	19,357	31,234	61.4	7,515	13,287	76.8
Third Quintile	28,389	45,140	59.0	9,228	15,821	71.5
Fourth Quintile	41,499	63,961	54.1	12,366	19,630	58.7
Fifth Quintile	84,691	120,515	42.3	24,071	34,443	43.1
All quintiles	36,803	55,578	51.0	11,751	18,884	60.7
Ratio highest to lowest quintile	8.2	7.0		4.3	3.1	

Gap between high-income and low-income households is narrowing

The higher increase in the income of households in the first quintile compared to that of households in the fifth quintile resulted in a narrowing gap between low-income and high-income households. The ratio of the highest to the lowest household disposable income per capita decreased from 4.3 in 2017 to 3.1 in 2023.

Household income distribution has improved

The dispersion of the income distribution can be illustrated by a Lorenz curve, which shows the income share for any selected cumulative proportion of households. If all incomes were equally distributed, the plot would coincide with the diagonal line known as the line of equality. **Figure 4.3.2** shows that the Lorenz curve has moved nearer to the equality line in 2023 as compared to 2017, thus indicating an improvement in the income distribution.

Figure 4.3.2 – Lorenz curves, 2017 and 2023 HBS

The decrease in Gini coefficient confirms the improvement in income inequality

The degree of inequality in income can also be measured by the Gini coefficient that ranges between 0 (complete equality) and 1 (complete inequality). Data from past two surveys show that the Gini coefficient decreased from 0.400 in 2017 to 0.370 in 2023.

Income inequality is largest among the highest income households

The Gini coefficient is highest for the fifth income quintile, at 0.203, showing largest income inequality among the households. Income inequality is low in the second, third and fourth quintiles with Gini coefficient less than 0.1. From 2017 to 2023, income inequality improved for first, second, third, fourth and fifth quintiles, whilst for the third quintile, it remained unchanged.

Table 4.3.4 – Gini coefficient by income quintile, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Income Quintile	2017	2023
First quintile	0.171	0.154
Second quintile	0.074	0.066
Third quintile	0.055	0.055
Fourth quintile	0.071	0.060
Fifth quintile	0.216	0.203
All households	0.400	0.370

4.4 Household income by region

Household income in urban regions 7.0% higher than that in rural regions

In 2023, the monthly disposable income of households in urban regions stood at Rs 57,923, 7.0% higher than that of households in rural regions. Comparison of the per capita income discloses a higher income gap of 15.5%, explained by the larger household size of 3.3 in rural regions against 3.0 in urban regions.

Table 4.4 – Monthly household income by region, 2017 and 2023 HBS

	2017			2023		
	Urban	Rural	All regions	Urban	Rural	All regions
Average monthly household disposable income (Rs)	39,803	34,546	36,803	57,923	54,117	55,578
Average monthly per capita household income (Rs)	12,986	10,822	11,751	20,589	17,823	18,884

The income gap between households in urban and rural households narrowed

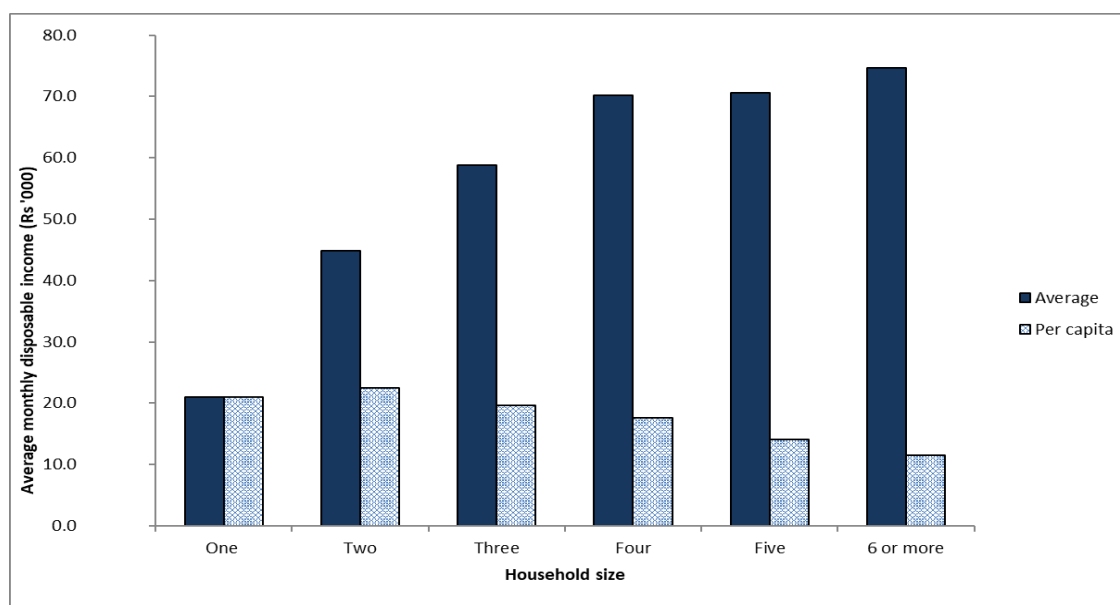
In 2023, the average household disposable income of urban households was 1.07 times higher than that of rural households, compared to a higher ratio of 1.15 in 2017. The decrease in the income gap between urban and rural households is explained by the higher increase in income among rural households, 57% against 46% for urban households.

4.5 Income by household size and type

While household income increases with household size, per capita income shows the reverse

In 2023, the average monthly household disposable income, which was Rs 74,651 for households with six or more members, stood at more than three times that for one-member households, at Rs 21,043. This is explained by the fact that larger households contain more income earners and hence higher household income.

On the other hand, as the household size increases, the per capita income decreases. The per capita income was Rs 21,043 for one-member household compared to Rs 11,512 for households with six or more members. This is explained by the presence of more children, who were not income earners in larger households.

Figure 4.5 – Average household and per capita income by household size, 2023 HBS

Couple without children had a per capita income of around Rs 24,120

In 2023, the average monthly household disposable income per capita for “Couple without children” amounted to Rs 24,117. Per capita income for households consisting of one male parent with unmarried children stood at around Rs 18,063, 3.1% higher than that of a household with one female parent with unmarried children. This is explained by the fact that employment income for households comprising “One male parent with unmarried children” was 16.7% higher than that for households with “One female parent with unmarried children” while transfer income was higher by 30.9% for the latter group.

Table 4.5 – Average household and per capita income by type of household, 2023 HBS

Type of household	Household monthly income (Rs)	
	Average	Per capita
Single member household	21,028	21,028
Couple without children	48,233	24,117
Couple with unmarried children	66,695	18,280
One male parent with unmarried children	44,635	18,063
One female parent with unmarried children	42,939	17,528
Other households	65,059	15,879
All households	55,578	18,884

5. HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

The consumption expenditure of households has been classified according to the UN COICOP (Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose) 2018 which consists of 13 major divisions, each representing a specific set of commodities. The complete definition of household consumption expenditure is given at **Annex 2**.

5.1 Household monthly consumption expenditure

Average monthly household consumption expenditure as reported at HBS 2023 stood at Rs 35,344

The average monthly expenditure reported by households at the HBS 2023 was Rs 35,344, 39.4% higher than Rs 25,348 recorded six years earlier. After adjusting for price increases and decrease in household size between 2017 and 2023, the real increase in household expenditure works out to 12.9%.

After comparing expenditure data collected at the 2023 HBS with data from other sources, it has been found necessary to adjust the household consumption expenditure for underreporting of alcoholic beverages and cigarettes. It has been estimated from other sources, such as data on production, imports, exports and local sales, that household consumption of alcoholic beverages and cigarettes represents about 80% of total sales in the country. On this basis, an adjustment of Rs 3,362 has been made for the average monthly household consumption expenditure. The COICOP divisions affected are 'Alcoholic beverages and tobacco' and 'Restaurants and accommodation services' since the latter includes alcoholic drinks and cigarettes consumed in bars and restaurants.

Adjustment has also been made to cater for the interests paid on housing loans with an imputation of an amount of Rs 1,253. This imputation is based on the methodology recommended by ILO. The COICOP division affected is 'Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels'.

After adjustments, the average monthly household consumption expenditure works out to Rs 39,959

The average adjusted monthly household consumption expenditure stood at Rs 39,959 in 2023, 39.4% higher than the figure of Rs 28,667 in 2017. This represented a real increase of 12.9% after adjusting for price increases and smaller household size.

Expenditure on “Health”, “Personal Care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services”, “Restaurants and accommodation services”, “Information and Communication” and “Food and non-alcoholic beverages” registered highest increases

Comparison of monthly consumption expenditure in 2023 with figures recorded six years earlier shows highest increases in the COICOP groups: “Health” (78%), “Personal Care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services” (55%), “Restaurants and accommodation services” (48%), “Information and Communication” (47%) and “Food and non-alcoholic beverages” (47%). Note that due to a shift from COICOP 1999 to 2018, “Insurance and financial services” showed an exponential increase but this change may not be strictly comparable with the figure reported in 2017. Percentage increases in the other COICOP groups ranges from 12.0% for “Recreation, sport and culture” to 36.9% for “Transport”. The only decrease of 9.1% was noted in “Education services”.

Table 5.1 – Adjusted average monthly household consumption expenditure (Rs) and distribution (%) by COICOP division, 2017 and 2023 HBS

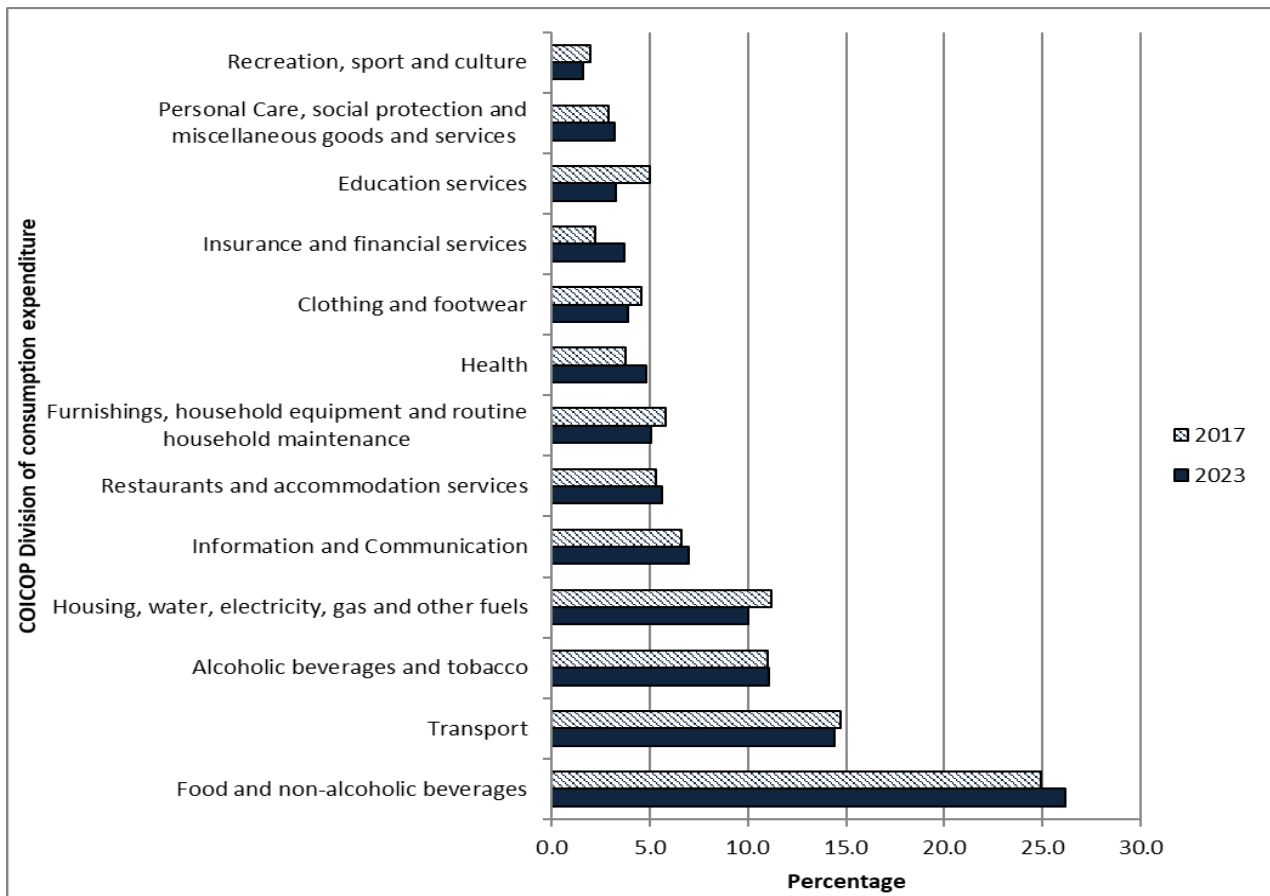
COICOP Division of consumption expenditure	2017		2023	
	Rs	%	Rs	%
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	7,138	24.9	10,462	26.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	3,153	11.0	4,431	11.1
Clothing and footwear	1,319	4.6	1,565	3.9
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	3,211	11.2	4,001	10.0
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	1,663	5.8	2,030	5.1
Health	1,089	3.8	1,936	4.8
Transport	4,214	14.7	5,771	14.4
Information and Communication	1,892	6.6	2,785	7.0
Recreation, sport and culture	573	2.0	642	1.6
Education services	1,433	5.0	1,303	3.3
Restaurants and accommodation services	1,519	5.3	2,255	5.6
Insurance and financial services	631	2.2	1,492	3.7
Personal Care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	831	2.9	1,285	3.2
All Items	28,667	100.0	39,959	100.0

Note: Aggregates have been computed from unrounded figures, hence may vary slightly when using rounded figures.

Nearly one quarter of household expenditure is spent on “Food & non-alcoholic beverages”

In 2023, “Food & non-alcoholic beverages” had the highest share of household consumption expenditure accounting for 26.2%, followed by “Transport” - 14.4%, “Alcoholic beverages and tobacco” - 11.1%, “Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels” - 10.0% and “Information and Communication” – 7.0%. “Recreation, sport and culture” had the least share of 1.6% of expenditure.

Figure 5.1 – Distribution (%) of adjusted average monthly household consumption expenditure by COICOP division, 2017 and 2023 HBS



“Education services” and “Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels” registered the largest decline in share of expenditure

The share of expenditure on “Education services” dropped by 1.7 percentage points from 5% in 2017 to 3.3% in 2023 whilst that of “Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels” by 1.2 percentage points from 11.2% in 2017 to 10.0% in 2023. Other COICOP groups with declining share of

expenditure are “Clothing and footwear”, “Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance”, “Recreation, sport and culture” and “Transport” with decreases ranging from 0.3 to 1.7 percentage points.

“Food and non-alcoholic beverages” and “Health” were amongst ones with the largest increases with share of 1.3 and 1.0 percentage points respectively.

It is to be noted that the unadjusted consumption expenditure of Rs 35,344 is used for further analysis of household expenditure

5.2 Households by consumption expenditure class

Households have shifted towards higher expenditure group

There is an upward shift in the number of households from lower expenditure classes to higher expenditure classes during the period 2017 to 2023. The proportion of households with a monthly consumption expenditure of less than Rs 15,000 decreased tremendously from 35.1% in 2017 to 16.6% in 2023. During the same period, the share of households with a monthly consumption expenditure of Rs 30,000 or higher increased from 24.1% in 2017 to 45.0% in 2023.

Table 5.2.1 – Distribution (%) of households and total consumption expenditure by monthly expenditure class, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Monthly consumption expenditure class (Rs)	Households (%)		Total Consumption expenditure (%)	
	2017	2023	2017	2023
Less than 5,000	2.6	0.6	1.6	1.5
5,000 to < 7,500	5.9	1.8	2.6	2.6
7,500 to < 10,000	8.1	3.7	3.5	3.5
10,000 to < 12,500	8.7	5.2	4.5	4.5
12,500 to < 15,000	9.8	5.2	5.5	5.5
15,000 to < 20,000	17.2	13.4	7.0	7.0
20,000 to < 30,000	23.6	25.1	9.7	9.9
30,000 to < 40,000	11.0	18.4	13.6	13.8
40,000 to < 50,000	4.9	10.2	17.7	17.8
50,000 and above	8.2	16.4	34.3	34.0
All classes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

From 2017 to 2023, the share of total household expenditure incurred by households with a monthly expenditure of less than Rs 15,000 decreased slightly from 17.6% to 17.5%. The share of expenditure incurred by households with a monthly expenditure of Rs 30,000 and more remained at 65.6% during the same period.

Increase in household consumption expenditure for all income groups

Between 2017 and 2023, households across all income quintiles experienced increases in average monthly household consumption expenditure with the highest increase (63.8%) observed in the first quintile and the lowest (24.5%) in the fifth one. The consumption expenditure for the second quintile increased by 51.8%, higher compared to the increase for third (+46.5%) and fourth quintile (+45.1%). After adjusting for different household size across the quintiles, the same trend is observed.

Table 5.2.2 – Average monthly household consumption expenditure (Rs) by quintile group of household income, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Income Quintile	Average monthly household consumption expenditure (Rs)		% change	Average monthly household consumption expenditure per capita (Rs)		% change
	2017	2023		2017	2023	
First quintile	9,755	15,978	63.8	5,223	10,372	98.6
Second quintile	15,862	24,079	51.8	6,113	10,054	64.5
Third quintile	21,576	31,598	46.5	7,001	10,882	55.4
Fourth quintile	28,666	41,590	45.1	8,501	13,179	55.0
Fifth quintile	51,018	63,523	24.5	14,295	18,482	29.3
All quintiles	25,348	35,344	39.4	8,222	12,593	53.2
Ratio highest to lowest quintile	5.2	4.0		2.7	1.8	

The lowest income quintile spends nearly 40% on food and non-alcoholic beverages against 23% for highest income quintile

The proportion consumption expenditure on “Food & non-alcoholic beverages” decreased with increasing household income, from 40% for households in lowest income quintile to 23% for households in highest income quintile. Similarly, “Alcoholic beverages and tobacco”, “Housing,

water, electricity, gas and other fuels”, “Health” and “Information and Communication” showed a declining share of expenditure with increasing income.

Conversely, “Clothing and footwear”, “Transport”, “Recreation, sport and culture”, “Education services”, “Restaurants and accommodation services”, “Clothing and footwear” and “Personal Care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services” revealed increasing expenditure share with higher income.

The largest difference in share of expenditure occurred in “Insurance and financial services”, 1.0% for highest quintile against 6.9% for households in the lowest quintile, followed by “Education services”- 1.0% against 5.8% and “Transport” – 6.1% against 21.0%.

Table 5.2.3 – Distribution ¹ (%) of monthly household consumption expenditure by COICOP division and quintile group of household income, 2023 HBS

COICOP Division of consumption expenditure		Quintile group of household income					All Classes
		First quintile	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Fifth quintile	
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	40.4	36.6	33.9	28.6	22.8	29.6
2	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	4.7	4.8	3.6	3.2	2.4	3.3
3	Clothing and footwear	3.6	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.9	4.4
4	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	11.0	10.2	8.6	7.1	6.1	7.8
5	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	6.3	5.7	5.2	5.4	6.1	5.7
6	Health	8.9	5.7	5.7	5.5	4.4	5.5
7	Transport	6.1	9.9	13.0	19.4	21.0	16.3
8	Information and Communication	8.2	9.0	8.5	7.9	7.0	7.9
9	Recreation, sport and culture	1.1	1.5	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.8
10	Education services	1.0	2.4	3.0	2.9	5.8	3.7
11	Restaurants and accommodation services	4.6	5.4	6.0	5.9	6.9	6.1
12	Insurance and financial services	1.0	1.4	2.6	4.3	6.9	4.2
13	Personal Care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.6
All Items		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

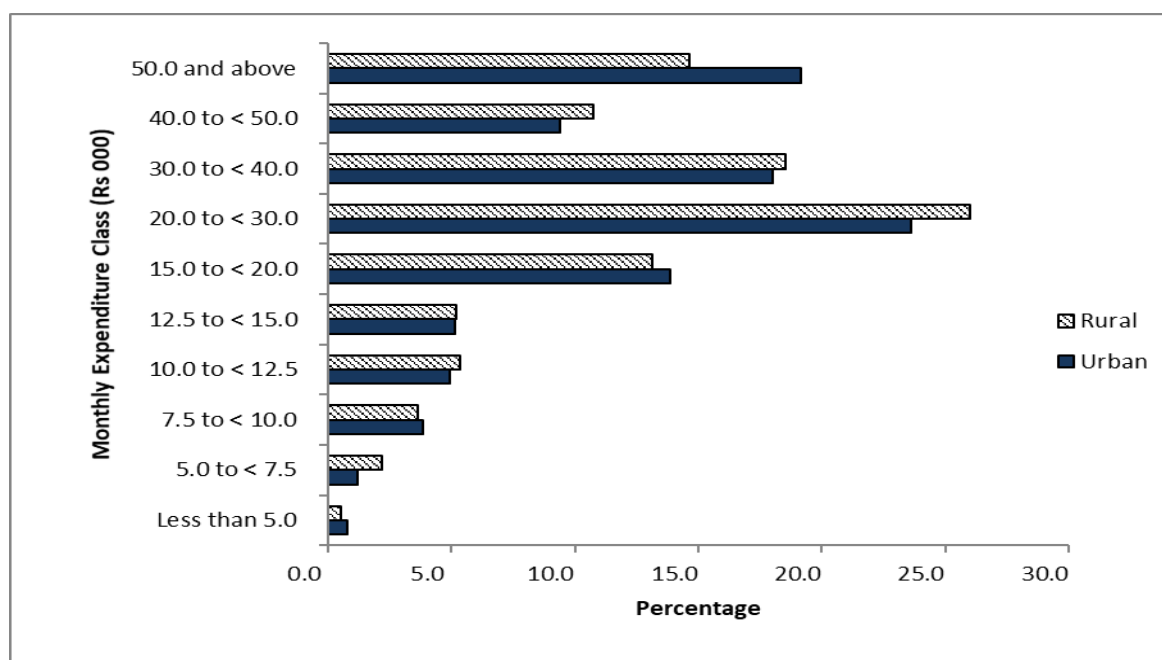
¹ Note: The distribution has been worked out using the unadjusted household consumption expenditure

5.3 Households by monthly consumption expenditure and region

At lower expenditure classes, urban households spend on average more than their rural counterparts

The distribution of households shows higher proportions of urban households than rural households at the highest monthly expenditure classes, Rs 50,000 and higher.

Figure 5.3 – Distribution (%) of households by consumption expenditure class and regional stratum, 2023 HBS



Households in urban regions spent on average Rs 36,964 on consumption goods and services every month, 7.7% more than households living in rural regions with an expenditure of Rs 34,335. Comparison of per capita expenditure shows a higher difference of 18.7% explained by the larger household size in rural regions, 3.3 against 3.0 in urban regions.

Table 5.3.1 – Monthly household consumption expenditure (Rs) by region, 2017 and 2023 HBS

	2017			2023		
	Urban	Rural	All Regions	Urban	Rural	All Regions
Average monthly household consumption expenditure (Rs)	27,115	24,019	25,348	36,964	34,335	35,344
Average monthly household per capita consumption expenditure (Rs)	9,027	7,617	8,222	13,944	11,751	12,593

Slight reduction in the gap of average monthly household expenditure between urban and rural households

During the period 2017 to 2023, the average monthly household expenditure among rural households rose by 43% compared to 36% among urban households. Thus, the ratio of monthly household consumption expenditure among urban households to that among rural households dropped slightly from 1.13 to 1.08.

Rural households spend a higher proportion of their total household expenditure on “Food & non-alcoholic beverages”

In 2023, rural households spent 30.5% of their total household consumption expenditure on “Food & non-alcoholic beverages”, compared to 28.2% for urban households. Rural households also had a higher share of expenditure on “Alcoholic beverages and tobacco”, “Clothing and footwear” and “Personal Care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services”. For urban households, a higher share of their total household consumption expenditure was on “Health”, “Insurance and financial services”, “Transport” and “Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels”.

Table 5.3.2 – Distribution of average monthly household consumption expenditure by COICOP division and regional stratum, 2023 HBS

COICOP Division		Regional Stratum				Total
		Urban	%	Rural	%	
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	10,430	28.2	10,482	30.5	10,462
2	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	1,021	2.8	1,277	3.7	1,179
3	Clothing and footwear	1,475	4.0	1,621	4.7	1,565
4	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	2,986	8.1	2,600	7.6	2,748
5	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	2,061	5.6	2,011	5.9	2,030
6	Health	2,483	6.7	1,594	4.6	1,936
7	Transport	6,141	16.6	5,540	16.1	5,771
8	Information and Communication	2,867	7.8	2,734	8.0	2,785
9	Recreation, sport and culture	635	1.7	646	1.9	642
10	Education services	1,383	3.7	1,253	3.6	1,303
11	Restaurants and accommodation services	2,263	6.1	2,072	6.0	2,145
12	Insurance and financial services	1,964	5.3	1,198	3.5	1,492
13	Personal Care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	1,254	3.4	1,305	3.8	1,285
All Items		36,964	100.0	34,335	100.0	35,344

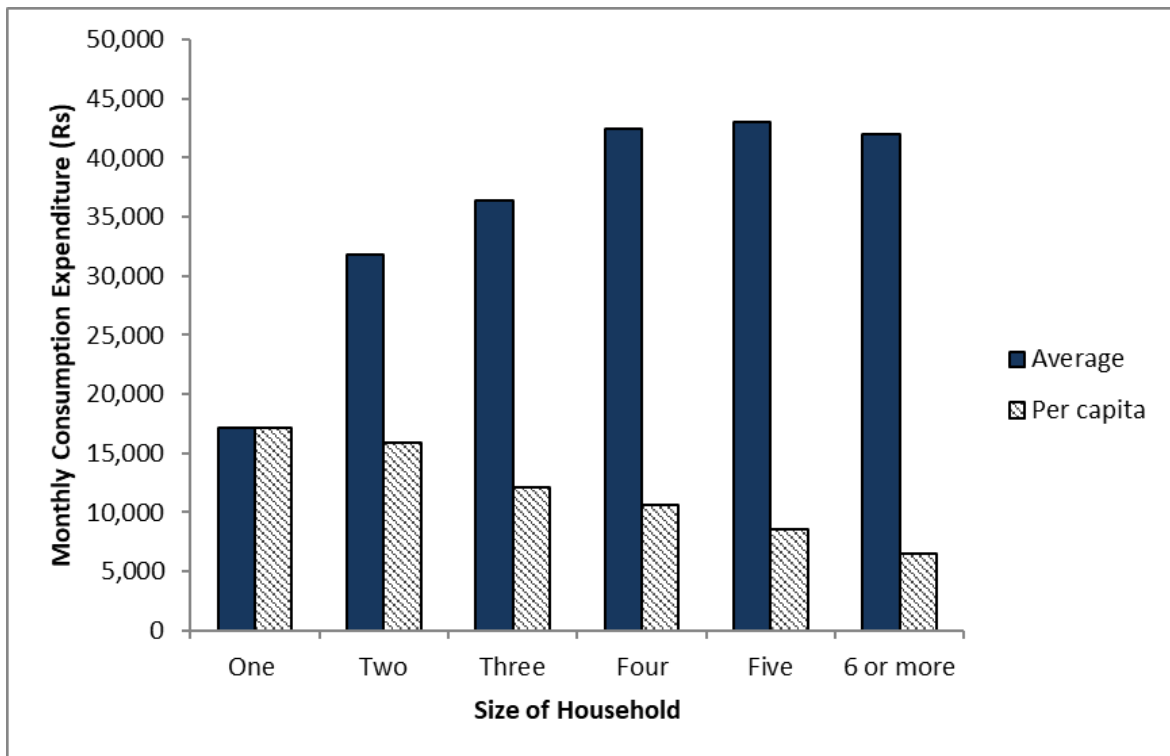
Note: The distribution has been worked out using the unadjusted household consumption expenditure. Aggregates have been computed from unrounded figures, hence may vary slightly when using rounded figures.

5.4 Monthly consumption expenditure by household size and type

Per capita household consumption expenditure decreases with household size

The average household monthly consumption expenditure was higher for larger households, ranging from Rs 17,172 for one-member households to Rs 42,016 for households with six or more members. However, the per capita expenditure decreased from Rs 17,172 for one-member households to Rs 6,524 for the households with six or more members. This can be partly explained by the fact that larger households enjoy economies of scale in sharing common facilities.

Figure 5.4.1 – Average household and per capita household consumption expenditure by household size, 2023 HBS

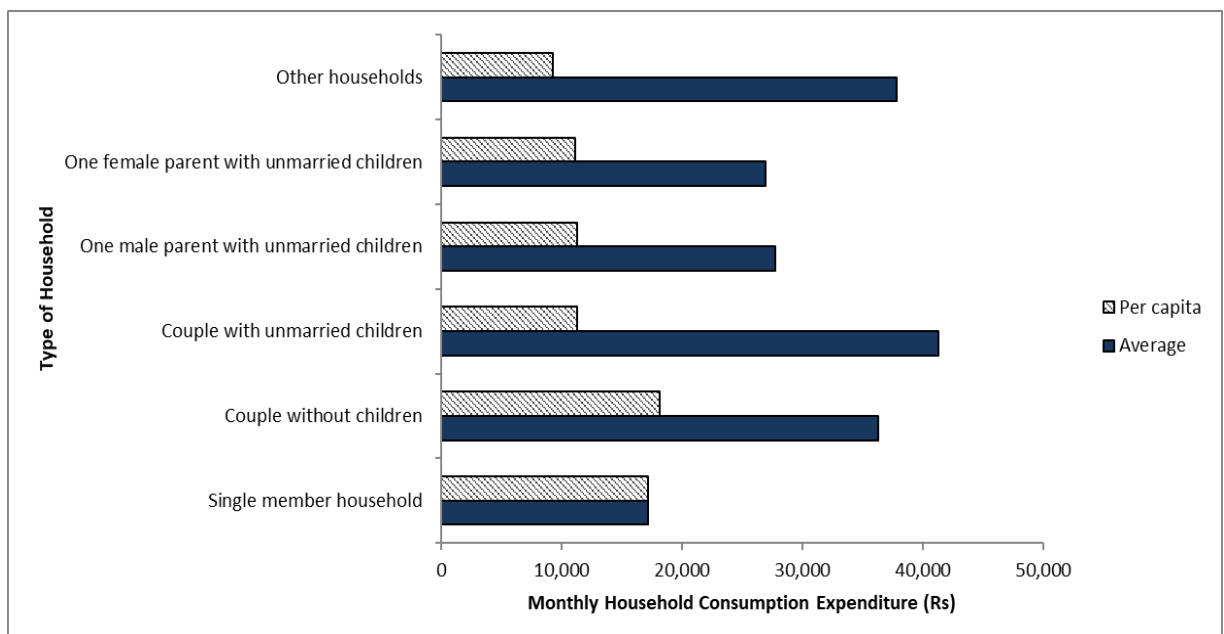


Average household consumption expenditure for “couples with unmarried children” more than doubled that for a “single member household”

In 2023, average household monthly consumption expenditure for “one-member household” was Rs 17,152 while that for “couples with unmarried children” stood at Rs 41,276. In 2017, the average household consumption expenditure for “one-member household” and “Couple with unmarried children” stood at Rs 11,478 and Rs 29,075. This represents an increase of 49.4% and 42.0% respectively. Households comprising “one female parent with unmarried children” spent on average about Rs 26,912 per month compared to “one male parent with unmarried children” households with an average monthly expenditure of Rs 27,746. It is to be noted that the average disposable income of households of “one female parent with unmarried children” is Rs 42,939, 3.8% lower than Rs 44,635 for households with “one male parent with unmarried children”.

The per capita consumption expenditure was higher for “single-member households” and “couple without children” than for the other types of households due to fewer members in these two household types. The per capita consumption expenditure for these two household types worked out to Rs 17,152 and Rs 18,136 respectively compared to an amount ranging from Rs 9,283 to Rs 11,320 for the other household types.

Figure 5.4.2 – Average household and per capita household consumption expenditure by type of household, 2023 HBS



6. INDEBTED HOUSEHOLDS

Household debt includes loans on housing, education, health, motor vehicle and hire purchase goods such as household appliances.

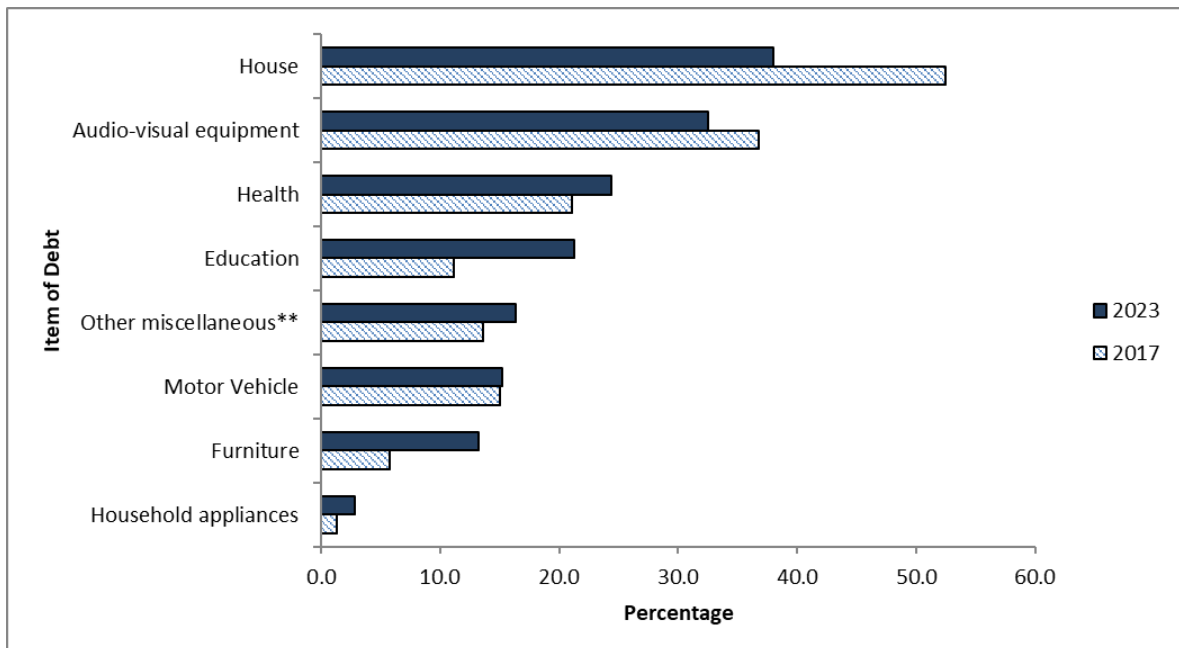
6.1 Level of indebtedness and debt items

Some 48% of the households are indebted, of whom more than half have a debt on household durables and housing

At the 2023 HBS, 47.8% of the households reported having made at least one debt repayment during the month, compared to 43.9% in 2017.

Among indebted households, debts on household appliances (24.3%), audio-visual equipment (21.3%), furniture (16.4%) and, housing (38.0%) were the most common items of debt, followed by motor vehicle (15.2%). Health is the item of debt on which least number of households (2.9%) were indebted.

Figure 6.1.1 – Indebted households (%) by item of debt, 2017 and 2023 HBS



* Include wedding, computer, solar water heater and personal loans

Debt on household durables and housing debt are the two most common debt items reported

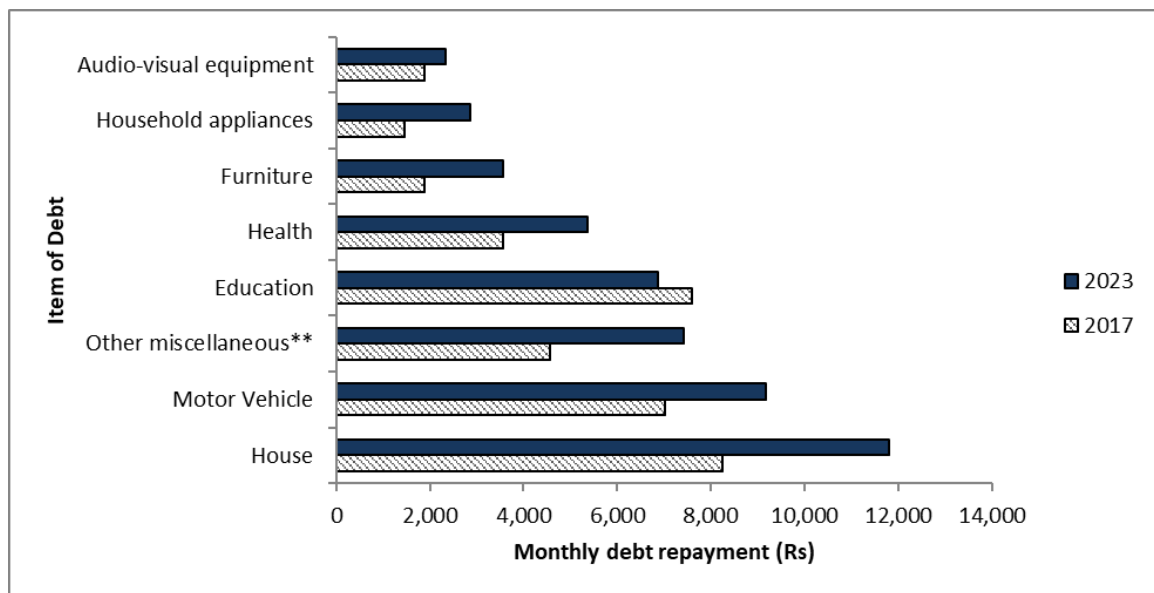
Compared to 2017, in 2023, a larger proportion of households were indebted for audio-visual equipment (from 11.1% to 21.3%), furniture (from 13.6% to 16.4%) and household appliances (from 21.1% to 24.3%). Similarly, the proportion of indebted households for housing decreased slightly from 52.5% in 2017 to 38.0% in 2023 but still remains one of the most common debt items among Mauritian households. Note that from 2017 to 2023, household ownership increased from 93.6% to 95.1% which explains the decline in the proportion of households having a housing debt. Conversely, the proportion of households indebted on motor vehicle increased from 15.0% in 2017 to 15.2% in 2023.

Unlike previous trends, an increase in proportion of indebted households was noted for education (from 5.8% to 13.2%) and health (from 1.3% to 2.9%).

An indebted household disbursed on average Rs 11,118 monthly on debt repayment in 2023

On average, an indebted household disbursed Rs 11,118 per month on debt repayment in 2023, 34.1% higher than the monthly loan repayment of Rs 8,289 in 2017.

Figure 6.1.2 – Average monthly debt repayment by item, 2017 and 2023 HBS



* Include debt on wedding, computer, solar water heater and personal loans

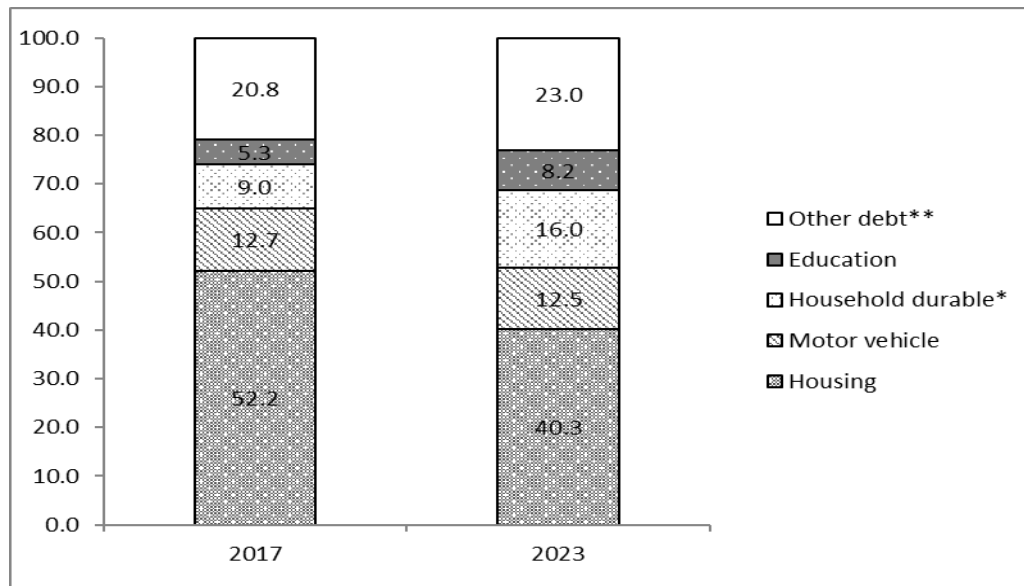
The average monthly debt repayment was highest, at Rs 11,794, for housing followed by motor vehicle (Rs 9,167), other miscellaneous (Rs 7,410) and education (Rs 6,867). Conversely, the debt repayment for household durables like furniture (Rs 3,556), audio-visual equipment (Rs 2,339) and household appliances (Rs 2,859) were comparatively lower, explaining the high proportion of indebted households for these items. In 2017, the highest debt repayment was on housing followed by education.

6.2 Composition of household debt

Housing remained the largest component of debt repayment

Housing and motor vehicle are still two of the largest debt components in both 2017 and 2023. However, their respective share in the composition of household debt have decreased from 52.2% to 40.3% (housing) and slightly from 12.7% to 12.5% (motor vehicle). Conversely, increases ranging from 8.2% to 23.0% have been observed in the component household durables, education and other debt which comprises of health, wedding, computer, solar water heater, personal loans, during that review period.

Figure 6.2 – Component (%) of household debt, 2017 and 2023 HBS



* include furniture, audio-visual equipment and household appliances

**include wedding, computer, solar water heater, personal loans and health

6.3 Indebtedness across income groups

The proportion of indebted households in the highest income quintile is more than three times than households in the lowest quintile

Some 67% of households in the fifth quintile were indebted in 2023. This proportion decreases with lower income to reach 20% for the first quintile. Comparison with 2017 HBS data shows that the proportion of indebted households increased for all income groups. The highest percentage point increase in the proportion of indebted households was noticed in the third quintile and the lowest one was in the fifth quintile.

Table 6.3.1 – Indebted households as a percentage of total households and average monthly loan repayment by income class, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Income quintile	Indebted households as a percentage of total households		Average monthly debt repayment by indebted households (Rs)		% change in average monthly debt repayment
	2017	2023	2017	2023	
First quintile	16.7	20.3	1,940	3,009	55.1
Second quintile	34.8	40.5	3,309	4,802	45.2
Third quintile	45.9	51.8	4,808	7,244	50.7
Fourth quintile	55.4	59.3	7,122	10,574	48.5
Fifth quintile	66.9	67.1	15,797	20,860	32.1
All quintiles	43.9	47.8	8,289	11,118	34.1

Average monthly debt repayment across all income group have registered an increase

From 2017 to 2023, the average monthly debt repayment from the first to the fifth quintiles, has increased, ranging from 32.1% to 55.1%. The highest increase was noticed in the first (55.1%) and third (50.7%) quintiles and the lowest increase was in the fifth quintile with 32.1%.

The monthly average debt repayment for 2023 has consequently increased by 34.1% compared to 2017.

Table 6.3.2 – Component (%) of household debt by income quintile, 2023 HBS

Item of Debt	Quintile Group					All Households
	First Quintile	Second Quintile	Third Quintile	Fourth Quintile	Fifth Quintile	
House	17.3	34.2	32.7	43.8	42.6	40.3
Motor vehicle	3.6	5.7	6.1	8.9	17.2	12.5
Household Durable*	47.0	29.3	23.3	16.7	10.5	16.0
Education	8.0	6.1	11.7	5.7	8.7	8.2
Other**	24.2	24.8	26.3	24.9	21.0	23.0
All items	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average monthly debt repayment (Rs)	3,009	4,802	7,244	10,574	20,860	11,118

*Include furniture, audio-visual equipment and household appliances

**include wedding, computer, solar water heater, personal loans and health

Households in the lowest income groups allocate most of their debt repayment on household durables

In 2023, households in the lowest income quintile allocated around 47.0% of their debt repayment on household durables, against households in the fourth and fifth quintiles that had a greater share of 43.8% and 42.6% respectively in debt repayment in housing. The proportion of debt repayment on motor vehicle and education increased with higher income, while the share of debt repayment on household durable decreased with increasing income.

6.4 Share of total household debt

Households in the highest income quintile had the largest share of total debt in 2023

The large share of total debt for households in the fifth quintile is explained by its higher level of indebtedness and larger debt repayment. Its share of total debt stood at 52.7% in 2023 compared to a share of 2.3% for households in the lower income quintile - this shows that concentration of debt is more among the highest income households.

During the period under review, the share of total debt decreased for fifth quintile, except for the other quintiles. The other quintiles recorded an increase ranging from 0.5 to 2.0 percentage points.

Table 6.4 – Share of total debt (%) by income quintile , 2017 and 2023 HBS

Income quintile	2017	2023
First quintile	1.8	2.3
Second quintile	6.2	7.3
Third quintile	12.1	14.1
Fourth quintile	21.7	23.6
Fifth quintile	58.1	52.7
All quintiles	100.0	100.0

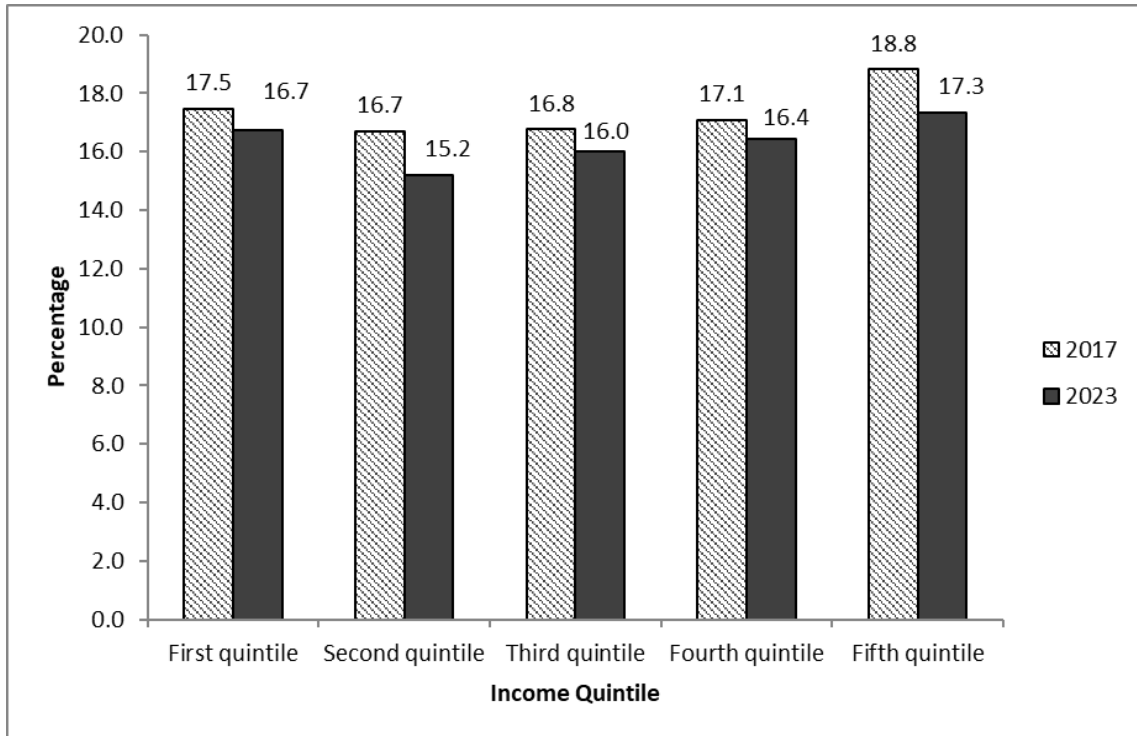
6.5 Debt repayment

Households in all income quintile group allocate nearly same proportion (15% to 17%) of their disposable income on debt repayment

Debt repayment as a percentage of disposable income stood at 16.7% among households in the lowest quintile, slightly lower than 17.5% in 2017. Similarly, for the highest quintile, the proportion of disposable income devoted to debt repayment was 17.3% in 2023 compared to 18.8% in 2017. It is to be noted that over the six years period, the proportion of debt repayment on disposable income decreased by around 15% to 17% for the other quintiles as well.

In 2023, an indebted household, on average, allocated 16.4% of its disposable income on debt repayment compared to 17.5% in 2017.

Figure 6.5 – Debt repayment as a percentage of disposable income, 2017 and 2023 HBS



Housing was the most common debt item among the highest income group

Among the highest income groups (fourth and fifth quintiles), the most common debt item was housing whilst for the lowest income group (first quintile), household appliances were the most common debt item. For the second and third quintile, the most common debt item was other miscellaneous items which includes wedding, computer, solar water heater and personal loans. Note that the proportion of households with housing debt increased from 15.9% among households in the lowest quintile to 49.7% among households in the highest quintile.

Similarly, the proportion of households with motor vehicle and education debt increased as income increased.

Table 6.5 – Indebted households (%) by item of debt and income quintile, 2023 HBS

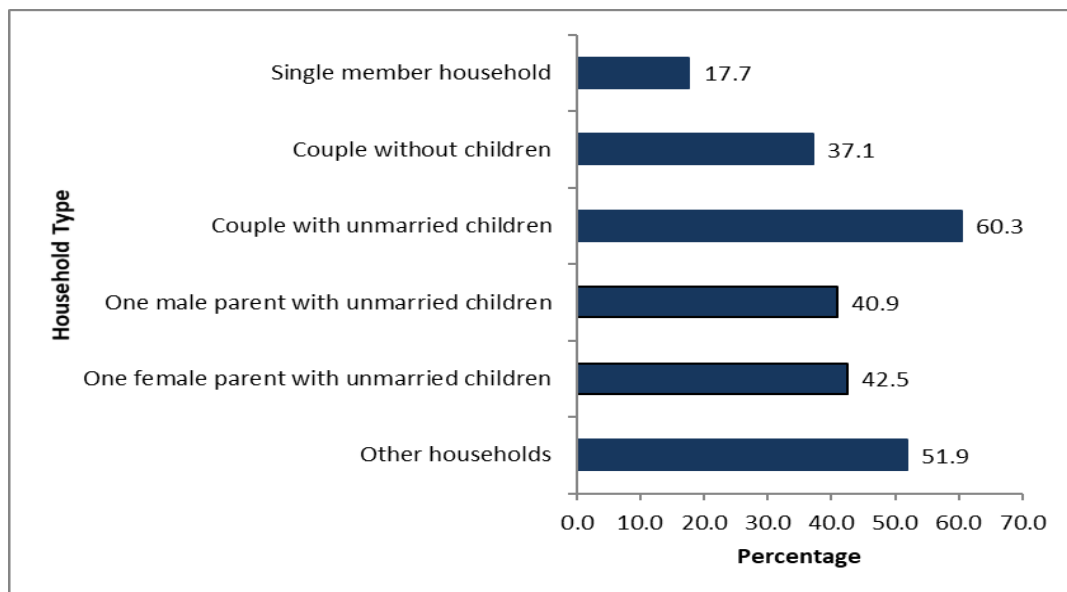
Item of debt	Income Quintile					All households
	First Quintile	Second Quintile	Third Quintile	Fourth Quintile	Fifth Quintile	
House	15.9	28.1	31.9	44.4	49.7	38.0
Motor vehicle	3.2	6.2	9.2	13.6	30.3	15.2
Furniture	20.2	19.9	15.8	15.7	14.2	16.4
Audio-visual equipment	26.4	23.1	25.0	21.1	15.9	21.3
Household appliances	31.8	26.5	25.0	25.9	18.9	24.3
Education	9.0	10.3	13.2	13.2	16.3	13.2
Other miscellaneous items	22.2	28.3	34.3	37.2	42.8	35.4

However, for household durables, household indebtedness decreased with increasing income quintile.

6.6 Profile of indebted households

Higher indebtedness prevails among couple with unmarried children

The degree of indebtedness among the various types of households varies. Some 60% of “Couples with unmarried children” were indebted compared to some 37% for “Couples without children” while “Single member households” were less likely to be indebted (17.7%). Housing was the main item of debt across all household types.

Figure 6.6 – Indebted households (%) by type of households, 2023 HBS

7. POINT OF PURCHASE

At the 2023 HBS, households were requested to state the outlets where they usually purchase selected goods and services. Information about frequency of purchase and usage of health public services were also collected. An analysis of the data collected is given below.

7.1 Point of purchase

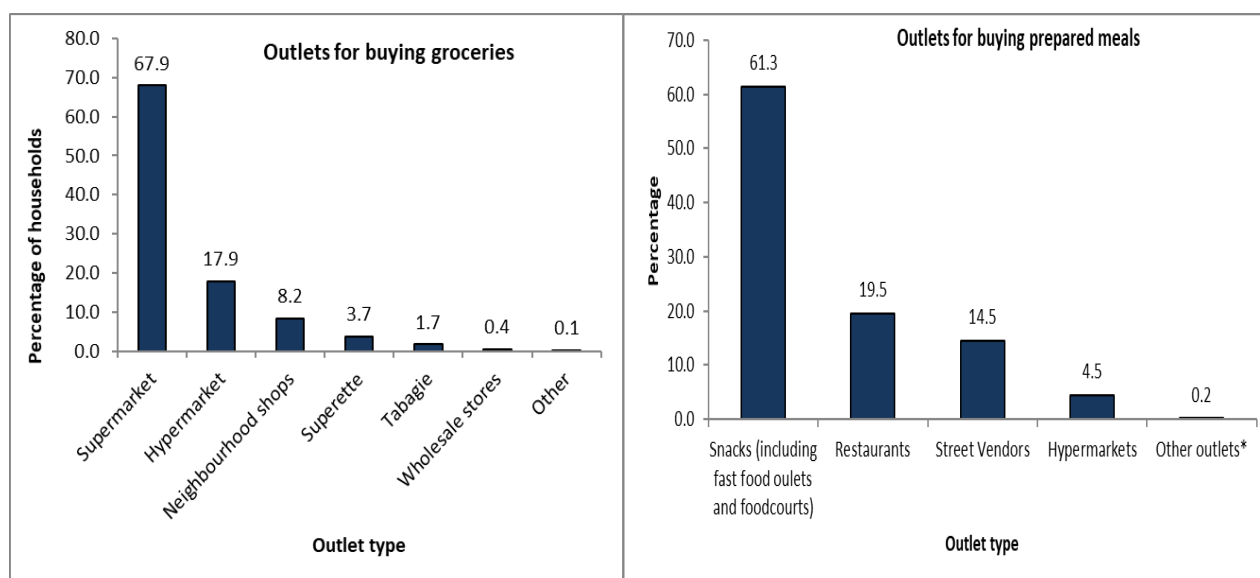
7.1.1 Groceries and prepared food

More households are buying groceries from supermarkets and hypermarkets

In 2023, around 68% of households bought their groceries at supermarkets followed by hypermarkets (18%) and neighbourhood shops (8%). The corresponding figures for 2017 were 81% for supermarkets, 10% for hypermarkets and 9% for neighbourhood shops.

Data show that prepared meals are usually bought at snacks including fast food outlets and food courts (61.3%) followed by restaurants (19.8%), street vendors (14.5%) and hypermarkets (4.5%).

Figure 7.1.1 – Distribution (%) of outlets visited by households for buying of groceries⁸ and prepared meals, 2023 HBS



* shops, tabagie, canteen, open market, market

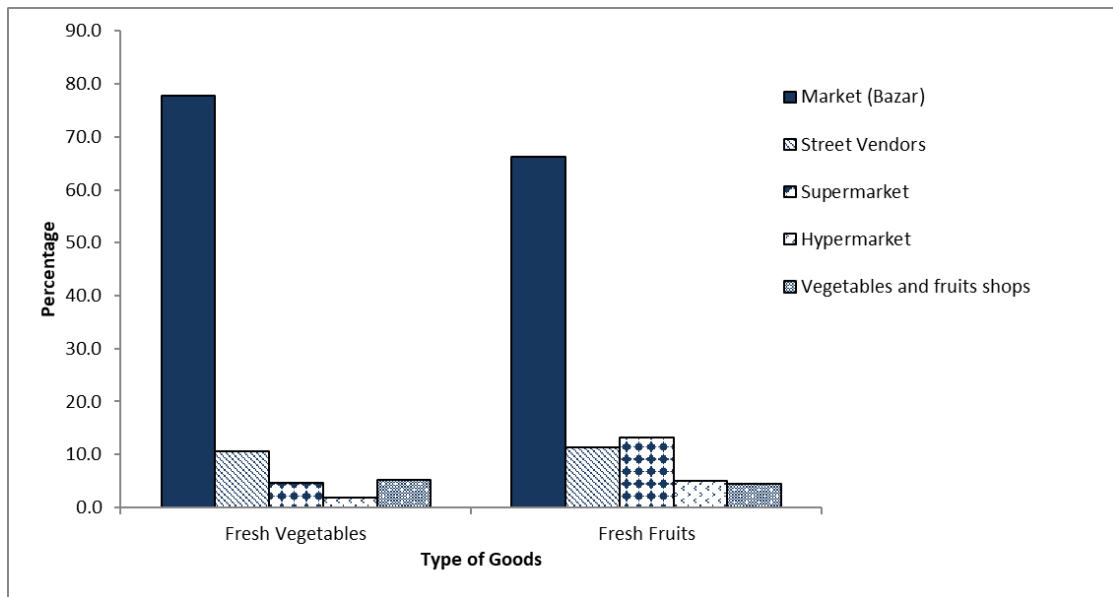
⁸ refer to goods (often denoted as "ration") usually bought by households at the end of the month

7.1.2 Fresh vegetables and fruits

Fresh vegetables and fruits are usually bought at market but a higher proportion of households have started buying fruits from supermarkets

Most households tend to buy fresh vegetables from the market (77.7%), followed by street vendors (10.6%) and supermarkets (4.6%). An almost similar distribution is observed for purchase of fresh fruits where market accounted for 66.3%, followed by supermarkets (13.1%) and street vendors (11.3%). Conversely, compared to 2017, it has been observed that more households are buying from vegetables shops (5.2% in 2023 compared to 3.2 in 2017) and fruits shops (4.4% in 2023 compared to 3.4% in 2017).

Figure 7.1.2 – Distribution (%) of outlets visited by households for buying fresh vegetables and fresh fruits, 2023 HBS



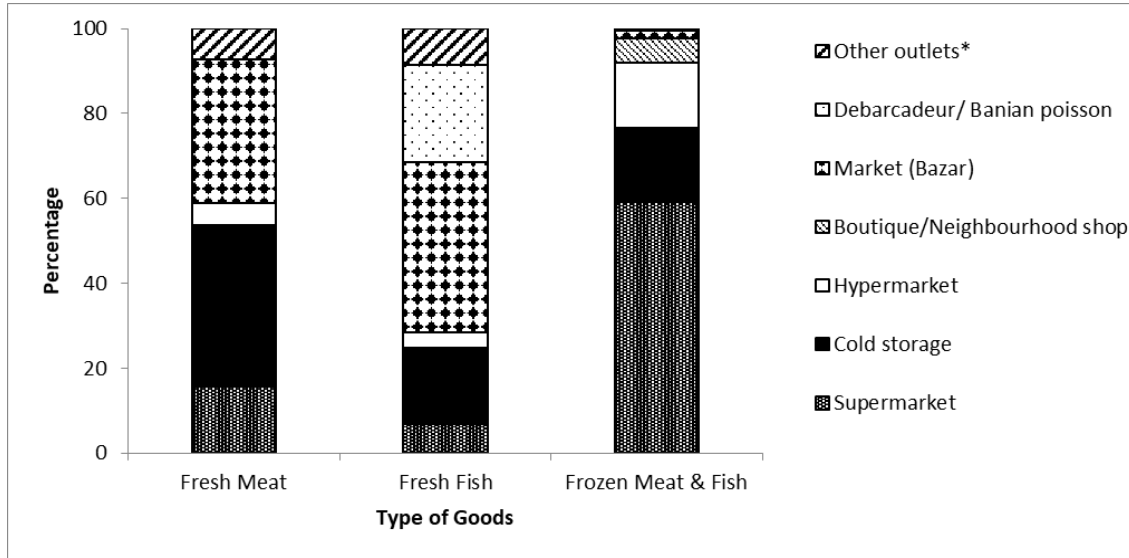
7.1.3 Meat and fish

Most households buy fresh meat from cold storage, fresh fish from market and, frozen meat and fish are usually bought at supermarkets

Among households consuming fresh meat, 38% made their purchase from cold storage, 34% from market and 16% from supermarkets. Conversely, fresh fish was mainly bought from market by 40% of households. About 23% of households purchased fresh fish from “banian poisson” while 18% would buy from cold storage.

Similar to 2017, frozen meat and fish were usually bought at supermarkets (59%), followed by cold storage (17%), hypermarkets (15%) and neighbourhood shops (6%).

Figure 7.1.3 – Distribution (%) of outlets visited by households for buying fresh meat, fresh fish and, frozen meat and fish, 2023 HBS

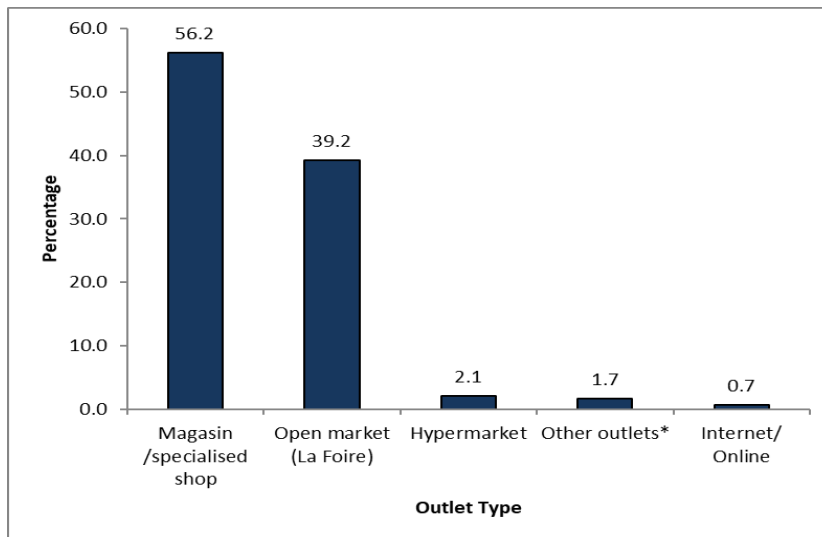


*includes boucheries, street vendors, Open Market (La Foire)

7.1.4 Ready-made Garments

Most households tend to buy readymade garments in “magasin” and there was also a proportion of households buying from the internet/online

Figure 7.1.4 – Distribution (%) of outlets visited by households for buying ready-made garments, 2023 HBS



* market and supermarkets

In 2023, around 56% of households bought their readymade garments at “magasin”, followed by open market (39%), hypermarkets (2.1%), other outlets* (1.7%) and internet/online (0.7%).

7.2 Paid services

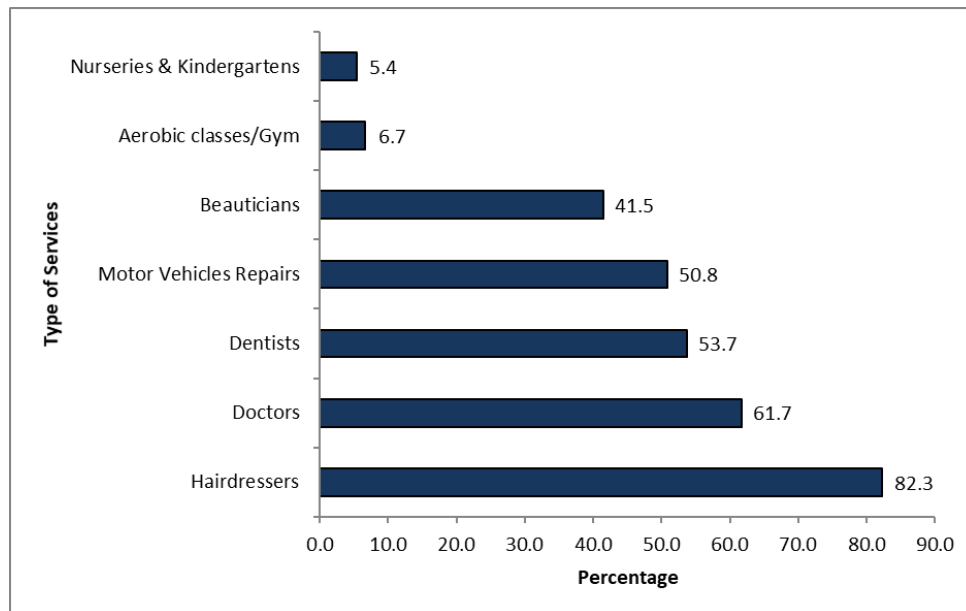
Though health service is free, an important proportion of the households had recourse to paid health services

In 2017, some 90% of households normally had recourse to free public health services but in 2023, it has been noticed that the proportion of households have dropped to some 65%. It is noted that some 62% of households paid for private doctor fees and 54% for dentist fees.

Data collected on household paid services in 2023 showed that some 82% of households spent on hairdresser services followed by some 42% of households which paid for beautician services. Compared to 2017, an increase of 7.0 percentage points has been observed in the proportion of households paying for beautician’ services. Similarly, around 7% of them spent on aerobic classes or gym and around 5% on services provided by kindergartens and nurseries.

Compared to 2017, the proportion of household having recourse to services for the repairs and maintenance of motor vehicles, have increased from 45.0% to 50.8%.

Figure 7.2 – Distribution (%) of households by type of services paid, 2023 HBS



7.3 Purchase of groceries

Some 59% households buy their groceries when needed

At the HBS 2023, 59% of households reported that they buy their groceries when needed, i.e., on and off purchases. Nearly 35% of households reported purchasing groceries in the fourth week of the month, and a slightly lower proportion, say nearly one third of households, in the first week. It has been worked out that around 61% of households were purchasing their groceries either at the end or beginning of the month. The third week of the month was the week where the least number of households, only 2.8% of all households, purchase groceries. This figure, compared to 2017 has further dropped from 4.0%.

Table 7.3 – Period when households usually purchase groceries, HBS 2023

Period	Percentage of households
First week of the month	29.3
Second week of the month	7.7
Third week of the month	2.8
Fourth week of the month	34.2
When needed (on/off purchases)	59.1
Other	0.0

Note: The percentages do not add to 100 due to multiple answers reported for this question

8. Impact of introducing new weight on CPI

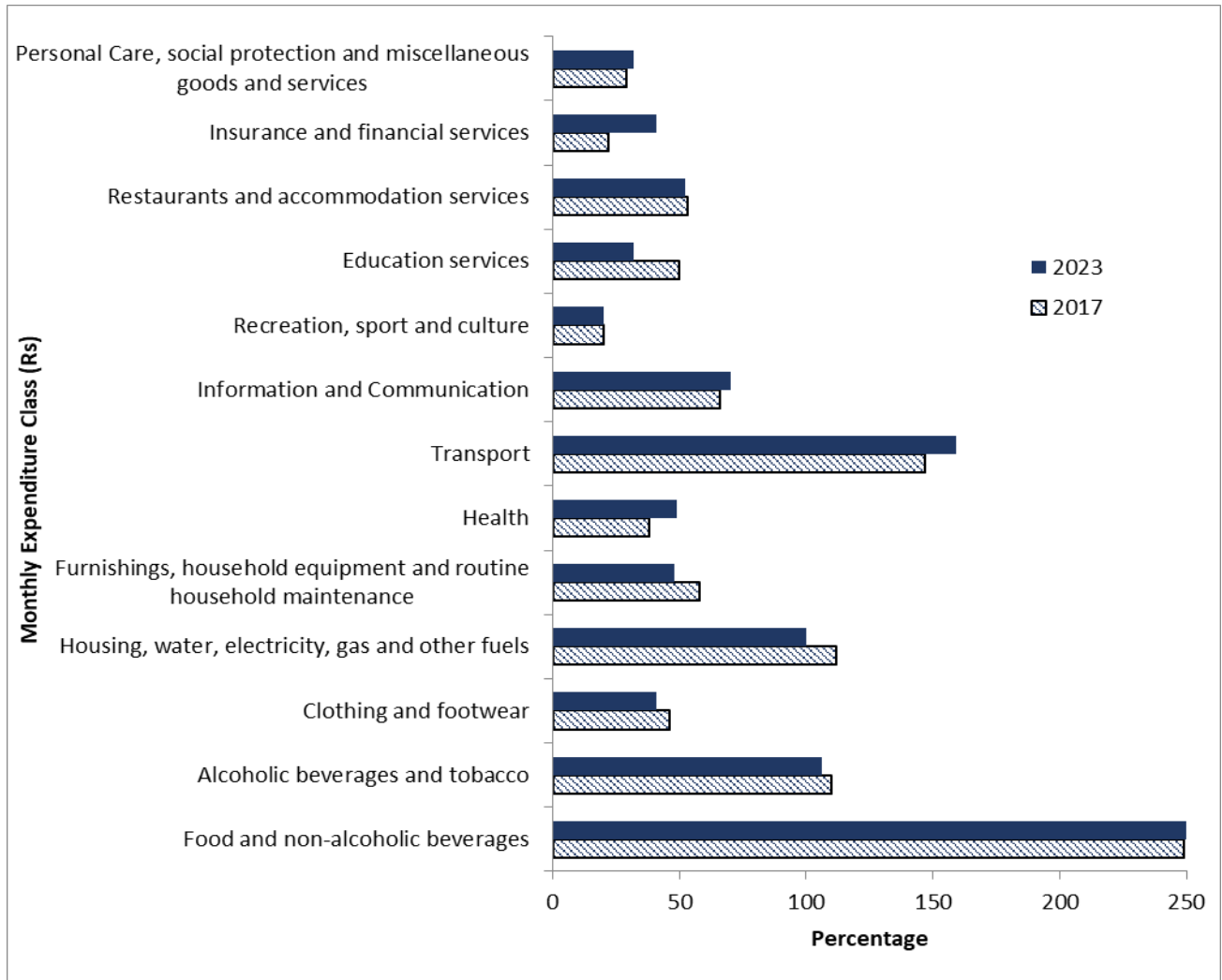
8.1 Weighting system for 2017 and 2023

The International Labour Organisation recommends that the composition of goods and services as well as the weighting pattern for the CPI be revised every five years in order to reflect changes in the expenditure of private households. The weight of the CPI has been revised using the results of Household Budget Survey 2023 and the previous revision was done in 2017.

Table 8.1 shows the weighting pattern for 2023 based CPI together with the corresponding weighting pattern for 2017.

Table 8.1 - CPI: Distribution of weight by COICOP division, 2017 & 2023

Division	Consumption expenditure group	2017	2023
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	249	250
2	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	110	106
3	Clothing and footwear	46	41
4	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	112	100
5	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	58	48
6	Health	38	49
7	Transport	147	159
8	Information and Communication	66	70
9	Recreation, sport and culture	20	20
10	Education services	50	32
11	Restaurants and accommodation services	53	52
12	Insurance and financial services	22	41
13	Personal Care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	29	32
All Items		1000	1000

Figure 8.1.1 - Distribution of weight by COICOP division, 2017 & 2023

Note that prior to the Household Budget Survey (HBS) 2023, Statistics Mauritius was using the COICOP 1999 to classify the different expenditure of items of goods and services however, as from now, the expenditure of items of goods and services which forms part of the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket is classified under the COICOP 2018.

Further to these revisions in the classification of commodities from COICOP 1999 to COICOP 2018, the HBS 2017 consumption of goods and services which was initially classified under COICOP 1999, had been re-classified under COICOP 2018. As such, data for certain categories like 'Recreation, sport and culture', 'Insurance and financial services' and 'Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services', are strictly not comparable.

From the Figure 8.1.1, major changes in the weight that occurred from 2017 to 2023 are as follows:

- a) The highest weight in the CPI is that of the COICOP division ‘Food and non-alcoholic beverages’ which registered an increase from 249 to 250, largely due to increases in the number of items falling under the Group – Food (for example, pre-cooked food).
- b) The weight for ‘Alcoholic beverages and tobacco’ decreased from 110 in 2017 to 106 in 2023. Weight for whisky decreased from 9 in 2017 to 8 in 2023, and that of Rhum went down from 12 in 2017 to 9 in 2023;
- c) ‘Clothing and footwear’ witnessed a decrease in its weight from 46 in 2017 to 41 in 2023 as the weight for ‘Ready-made garments’ went down from 35 in 2017 to 31 in 2023;
- d) ‘Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels’ had a lower share of expenditure in the overall CPI basket in 2023, compared to 2017 (weight fell from 112 in 2017 to 100 in 2023) mainly due to lower weight for ‘Water Charges’ (from 7 in 2017 to 5 in 2023), ‘Electricity’ (from 37 in 2017 to 30 in 2023) and ‘Cooking gas’ (from 10 in 2017 to 9 in 2023);
- e) Households gave less importance to items under ‘Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance’ as its weight decreased from 58 in 2017 to 48 in 2023.
- f) The weight for ‘Health’ had an increase from 38 in 2017 to 49 in 2023 mainly due to higher weight for ‘Hospital services’ (from 9 in 2017 to 15 in 2023) and ‘Pharmaceutical products’ (from 10 in 2017 to 16 in 2023). It is to be noted that prices for this division increased by 31.4% during that period.
- g) The weight for ‘Transport’ rose from 147 to 159, mainly due to higher weight of gasoline (from 46 in 2017 to 64 in 2023) and also inclusion of newer items like ‘Car Rental’ (weight was negligible in 2017 and 1 in 2023) and ‘Passenger transport by light rail’ (weight was nil in 2017 and 1 in 2023).
- h) The weight for ‘Information and Communication’ rose from 66 in 2017 to 70 in 2023, as items like ‘Internet access services’ (weight rose from 16 in 2017 to 29 in 2023) and ‘Bundled telecommunication services’ (weight was negligible in 2017 and 9 in 2023) are gaining more importance in the CPI basket.
- i) The weight for ‘Recreation, sport and culture’ remained unchanged at 20 in 2017 and 2023.
- j) The weight for ‘Education Services’ has decreased from 50 in 2017 to 32 in 2023 due to downward shift in weight for ‘University fees’ from 33 in 2017 to 18 in 2023, mitigated by higher weight for ‘Early childhood and primary education’, from 4 in 2017 to 5 in 2023.

- k) The weight for ‘Restaurants and accommodation services’ decreased from 53 in 2017 to 52 in 2023.
- l) ‘Insurance and financial services’ and ‘Personal Care, social protection and Miscellaneous goods and services’ have a share of 4.1% and 3.2%, respectively in 2023, compared to a share of 2.2% and 2.9% in 2017, respectively.

8.2 The impact of the new weight on CPI and inflation rate

To facilitate comparison of price changes over time and assess the impact of new weight on inflation rate, the CPI values by major division using 2017 weight and those based on 2023 weight were compared for the period January to December 2024. The basket of 2023 was thus used for the exercise. The inflation rates by major division were also compared.

The following results for CPI value and inflation rate for year 2024 were obtained:

Table 8.2 - Consumer Price Index and inflation rate, 2024

Division		Consumer Price Index, Year 2024 using		Inflation rate (%)		
		Weight 2023	Weight 2017	Weight 2023 (A)	Weight 2017 (B)	Difference (A-B)
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	108.2	107.5	8.2	7.5	0.7
2	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	103.5	103.5	3.5	3.5	0.0
3	Clothing and footwear	103.0	103.1	3.0	3.1	-0.1
4	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	99.6	99.6	-0.4	-0.4	0.0
5	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	104.3	103.8	4.3	3.8	0.5
6	Health	106.0	105.5	6.0	5.5	0.5
7	Transport	99.1	99.7	-0.9	-0.3	-0.6
8	Information & Communication	100.4	100.4	0.4	0.4	0.0
9	Recreation, sports and culture	103.8	102.6	3.8	2.6	1.2
10	Education services	102.7	103.8	2.7	3.8	-1.1
11	Restaurants and accommodation services	105.1	105.3	5.1	5.3	-0.2
12	Insurance and financial services	101.6	101.5	1.6	1.5	0.1
13	Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	104.7	104.7	4.7	4.7	0.0
Total		103.6	103.4	3.6	3.4	0.2

The inflation rates of 2024 based on the 2023 updated weights were higher for some expenditure groups, with the largest differences in Division 9 - Recreation, sports and culture, Division: 1- Food and non-alcoholic beverages, and Division 6 – Health:

- a) 'Recreation, sports and culture' have known price increases of 3.8% with 2023 weight while price increases registered with 2017 weight would have been 2.6%. This difference of 1.2 percentage point is mainly due to higher weights of video games, celebration articles and music lessons (these had a negligible weight in 2017 but in 2023, weight for video games is 2 and, for celebration articles and for music lessons each are 1).
- b) 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' have known price increases of 8.2% with 2023 weight while price increases registered, using weight of 2017, would have been 7.5%, that is, a difference of 0.7 percentage point. This is mainly because of higher weight of frozen semi-prepared meat preparations, non-alcoholic beverages like tea in 2023.
- c) For 'Health', price change of +0.5 percentage point has been observed since price increases of 6.0% was reported in 2023, compared to 5.5% in 2017. This is mainly due to increase in the weight of pharmaceutical products from 10 in 2017 to 16 in 2023, along with increases in the weight of clinic fees from 9 in 2017 to 15 in 2023.

On the other hand, the inflation rates were lower for some other expenditure groups, with the largest differences in Division 10 - Education services and Division 7 - Transport:

- a) 'Education services' have known price increases of 2.7% using 2023 weight whilst price increase of 3.8% would have been noted if the weight for 2017 was used – this represents a percentage change of -1.1 percentage points. This difference is mainly due to a drop in the weight for university fees, from 33 in 2017 to 18 in 2023.
- b) 'Transport' has known price decreases of 0.9% with 2023 weight and even with 2017 weight, price decreases would have been -0.3%, which is a difference of -0.6 percentage point. This difference is mainly the effect of lower weight for motor vehicles in 2023.

Overall, the inflation rate for 2024, based on the updated weight of 2023, was 3.6% compared to 3.4% if the weight of 2017 would have been used. The impact of bringing updated weight on the inflation rate of 2024 was of the order of +0.2 percentage point, which indicated that the CPI and inflation rate have gained in precision.

Appendix 1

Annex tables to text

Table A2.1 – Distribution (%) of households by household size, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Household Size	2017	2023
1	9.1	12.8
2	21.4	23.7
3	22.6	23.4
4	26.6	23.0
5	12.5	11.0
6 or more	7.8	6.1
Total	100.0	100.0
Average household size	3.4	3.2

Table A2.2 – Distribution (%) of households by household type, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Household type	Distribution of households	
	2017	2023
Single member household	9.1	12.7
Couple without children	13.3	14.9
Couple with unmarried children	45.3	40.0
One parent with unmarried children	10.1	9.3
<i>of which</i>		
<i>One male parent with unmarried children</i>	2.1	1.9
<i>One female parent with unmarried children</i>	8.0	7.4
Other households	22.2	23.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Table A2.3– Distribution (%) of households by regional stratum and tenure, 2023 HBS

Regional Stratum	Type of tenure			Total
	Owner occupied and supplied free by	Rented	supplied free by employer	
Urban	91.5	8.1	0.5	100.0
Rural	97.3	2.6	0.1	100.0
Total	95.1	4.7	0.2	100.0

Table A2.5 – Distribution (%) of households with selected durable goods, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Household durable goods	Percentage of households	
	2017	2023
Television incl smart TV	97.5	98.2
Refrigerator	95.8	98.3
Dishwashing machine	1.9	3.1
Washing machine	76.6	83.4
Dryer machine	1.5	1.6
Washer/dryer machine	2.5	4.3
Gas cooker (plaque a gas)	89.1	99.8
Gas/ electric oven	30.9	43.4
Microwave oven	69.4	80.1
Vacuum cleaner	19.5	26.7
Air conditioner	18.5	31.4
Room heater	1.3	2.2
Fixed telephone	68.4	68.8
Mobile telephone incl. smart phones	94.9	98.2
Laptop (incl. PC)	45.6	43.2
Electric shower	11.0	8.4
Gas shower	43.6	51.9
Solar water heater	31.9	36.9
Domestic water tank/ reservoir	59.5	78.1
Water pump	23.8	48.9

Table A3.4.1 – Distribution (%) of working persons by industry group and sex, 2023 HBS

Industry Group	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5.5	2.0	4.1
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying	10.0	9.3	9.8
Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply	0.9	0.1	0.6
water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1.0	0.4	0.7
Construction	14.9	1.5	9.6
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	14.4	15.2	14.7
Transportation and storage	9.3	2.1	6.5
Accommodation and food service activities	8.2	8.6	8.4
Information and Communication	2.5	3.2	2.8
Real estate activities, financial and insurance activities	3.2	6.4	4.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	4.2	5.4	4.7
Administrative and support service activities	5.1	6.4	5.6
Public administration and defence; compulsory social activity	11.5	9.4	10.7
Education	3.6	11.2	6.6
Human health and social work activities	1.9	5.7	3.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.6	1.2	1.4
Other services	2.1	11.9	6.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A3.4.2 – Average number of hours worked per week by industry group, 2023 HBS

Industry Group	Average number of hours worked per week
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	36.1
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying	41.9
Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply	42.2
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	38.6
Construction	38.7
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	42.4
Transportation and storage	42.8
Accommodation and food service activities	42.8
Information and Communication	40.6
Real estate activities, financial and insurance activities	40.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	40.4
Administrative and support service activities	43.2
Public administration and defence; compulsory social activity	39.0
Education	32.6
Human health and social work activities	42.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	40.7
Other services	30.1
Total	39.8

Table A3.5 – Average number of hours worked per week by major occupational group, 2023 HBS

Major Occupational Group	Average number of hours worked per week
Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers	34.5
Professionals	36.5
Elementary Occupations	37.1
Craft and Related Trade Workers	39.1
Clerks	40.2
Technicians and Associate Professionals	40.8
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	42.3
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	42.4
Service Workers and Shop Sales Workers	43.1
Total	39.8

Table A4.1 – Distribution (%) of monthly household gross income by source of income and income quintile, 2023 HBS

Income Quintile	Wages and salaries	Transfer	Entrepreneurial	Property & other income
First quintile	24.1	62.1	13.5	0.3
Second quintile	44.6	40.5	14.6	0.3
Third quintile	54.5	30.6	14.4	0.5
Fourth quintile	63.9	23.8	11.8	0.4
Fifth quintile	71.8	14.4	12.6	1.2
Total	61.5	24.8	13.0	0.7

Table A4.3.1 – Distribution (%) of households and total income by income class, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Monthly Household Disposable Income	2017 HBS		2023 HBS	
	Households (%)	Total Income (%)	Households (%)	Total Income (%)
Under 10,000	8.3	1.6	0.7	0.1
10,000 to < 12,000	4.6	1.4	3.1	0.6
12,000 to < 14,000	4.5	1.6	3.1	0.7
14,000 to < 16,000	5.3	2.1	2.3	0.6
16,000 to < 18,000	4.2	1.9	2.1	0.6
18,000 to < 20,000	4.5	2.3	2.0	0.7
20,000 to < 25,000	11.4	7.0	6.4	2.6
25,000 to < 30,000	10.2	7.6	8.4	4.1
30,000 to < 35,000	8.9	7.8	7.7	4.5
35,000 to < 40,000	6.9	7.0	7.4	5.0
40,000 to < 45,000	5.3	6.1	6.6	5.1
45,000 to < 50,000	4.4	5.6	6.7	5.7
50,000 to < 60,000	7.0	10.5	10.5	10.3
60,000 to < 70,000	3.6	6.4	8.2	9.5
70,000 & above	10.7	31.1	24.9	49.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table A4.3.2 – Some selected measures of monthly household income, 1975, 1980/81, 1986/87, 1991/92, 1996/97, 2001/02 2006/07, 2012, 2017 and 2023 HBS

Measures of monthly household income	Household Budget Survey									
	1975	1980/81	1986/87	1991/92	1996/97	2001/02	2006/07	2012	2017	2023
Average monthly household income (Rs)	740	2,212	3,496	6,503	10,179	14,232	19,083	29,421	36,803	55,578
Median monthly household income (Rs)	552	1,518	2,663	5,300	7,870	11,150	14,640	21,848	28,250	45,055
Gini Coefficient	0.42	0.445	0.396	0.379	0.387	0.371	0.388	0.414	0.400	0.370

Table A4.5 – Average monthly and per capita household income by household size, 2023 HBS

Size of household	Household monthly income (Rs)	
	Average	Per capita
One	21,043	21,043
Two	44,908	22,454
Three	58,779	19,593
Four	70,209	17,552
Five	70,551	14,110
6 or more	74,651	11,512
All households	55,578	18,884

Table A5.3 – Distribution (%) of households by consumption expenditure class and regional stratum, 2023 HBS

Consumption expenditure class (Rs 000)	Regional Stratum		
	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	All Households (%)
Less than 5.0	0.8	0.5	0.6
5.0 to < 7.5	1.2	2.2	1.8
7.5 to < 10.0	3.9	3.6	3.7
10.0 to < 12.5	5.0	5.3	5.2
12.5 to < 15.0	5.1	5.2	5.2
15.0 to < 20.0	13.8	13.1	13.4
20.0 to < 30.0	23.6	26.0	25.1
30.0 to < 40.0	18.0	18.6	18.3
40.0 to < 50.0	9.4	10.7	10.2
50.0 and above	19.2	14.6	16.4
All classes	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Table A5.4.1– Average monthly and per capita household consumption expenditure by household size,
2023 HBS**

Size of household	Monthly household consumption expenditure (Rs)	
	Average	Per capita
One	17,172	17,172
Two	31,847	15,923
Three	36,395	12,132
Four	42,477	10,619
Five	43,064	8,613
6 or more	42,016	6,524
All households	35,344	12,593

**Table A5.4.2 – Average monthly and per capita household consumption expenditure by type of households,
2023 HBS**

Types of household	Monthly household consumption expenditure (Rs)	
	Average	Per capita
Single member household	17,152	17,152
Couple without children	36,272	18,136
Couple with unmarried children	41,276	11,320
One male parent with unmarried children	27,746	11,247
One female parent with unmarried children	26,912	11,144
Other households	37,832	9,283
All types of households	35,344	12,593

Table A6.1.1 – Indebted households (%) by item of debt, 2017 & 2023 HBS

Item of debt	Indebted households (%)	
	2017	2023
House	52.5	38.0
Motor Vehicle	15.0	15.2
Furniture	13.6	16.4
Audio-visual equipment	11.1	21.3
Household appliances	21.1	24.3
Education	5.8	13.2
Health	1.3	2.9
Other miscellaneous**	36.8	32.5
All items	43.9	47.8

** include debt on wedding, computer, solar water heater and personal loans

Table A6.1.2 – Average monthly loan repayment by item of debt, 2017 & 2023 HBS

Item of debt	Average monthly loan repayment by indebted households on specific items (Rs)	
	2017	2023
House	8,241	11,794
Motor Vehicle	7,012	9,167
Furniture	1,873	3,556
Audio-visual equipment	1,873	2,339
Household appliances	1,470	2,859
Education	7,585	6,867
Health	3,558	5,372
Other miscellaneous**	4,556	7,410
All items	8,289	11,118

** include debt on wedding, computer, solar water heater and personal loans

Table A6.6 – Indebted households (%) by type of households, 2023 HBS

Type of Households	Percentage
Single member household	17.7
Couple without children	37.1
Couple with unmarried children	60.3
One male parent with unmarried children	40.9
One female parent with unmarried children	42.5
Other households	51.9
All types of households	47.8

Table A7.1.2 – Distribution (%) of outlets visited by households for buying fresh vegetables and fresh fruits, 2023 HBS

Outlet Type	Fresh Vegetables	Fresh Fruits
Market (Bazar)	77.7	66.3
Street Vendors	10.6	11.3
Supermarket	4.6	13.1
Hypermarket	1.9	4.9
Vegetables and fruits shops	5.2	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Appendix 2

Concepts & Definitions

Household size

The household size is defined as the number of persons living in the household irrespective of age and relationship to the head.

Household gross income

Household gross income consists of regular receipts, both in cash or in kind, accruing to members of the household before compulsory deductions and taxes. It is made up of employee income, self-employment or entrepreneurial income, property income, transfer income and other income.

(a) Employee income

Employee income refers to all regular income from paid employment including travelling allowance, rent allowance, bonuses and gratuities as well as any income received in kind. It is to be noted that income derived by employees from subsidiary or parallel business was also included as employee income. However, employers' contributions to social security, pensions and insurance schemes on behalf of employees were excluded.

Estimates of monthly employee income refer to the monthly equivalent income. These are based on the last pay; in cases where the period covered was not monthly, the pay was adjusted to a monthly equivalent income. In addition, the amount received as end of year bonus and leave refund was divided by twelve to obtain the equivalent average monthly income.

(b) Self-employment or entrepreneurial income

Self-employment or entrepreneurial income is defined as the net income (gross receipts minus expenditure) derived from self-employment in household enterprises, business, trade, crop cultivation and independent professional activities.

(c) Property income

Property income relates to net receipts (gross receipts minus expenditure on maintenance and municipal rates where applicable) derived from ownership of assets and includes interests, dividends as well as rent of buildings, land, machinery and equipment.

(d) Transfer income

Transfer income consists of pensions, social contribution (CSG) income allowance and other allowances from government and private organisations as well as inter household transfers such as alimony, child support, parental support and, goods and services from social organisations.

(e) Other income

Other income is mainly the value of sales of goods produced by households. These were valued at the market prices prevailing during the reference period.

Household disposable income

The household disposable income is defined as the gross household income less compulsory deductions such as income tax (PAYE) and contributions to pensions and social security schemes.

Unless otherwise stated, household disposable income has been used as the analytical income measure since it is close to the total income available for consumption expenditure during the accounting period.

Other household receipts

Receipts that are non-regular or non-recurring were not considered as income, but as other receipts. These are

- a) money derived from sale of property and possessions;
- b) withdrawals from savings;
- c) loans obtained;
- d) repayments of loans by other households;
- e) cash gifts from other households; and
- f) capital transfers such as inheritances, lump sum, etc.

Household receipts are defined as the sum of household disposable income and other household receipts.

Income quintile

Households are ranked according to their disposable income from lowest to highest. Then they are divided into 5 equal classes with each containing one fifth of the total households.

Household consumption expenditure

Household consumption expenditure refers to all money expenditure by households on goods and services for consumption as well as the value of goods received as income in kind and consumed by the households. Thus, goods produced by households and utilised for their own consumption as well as those received free or at a reduced price, are included at prevailing market prices. It does not, however, include the value for education, health, transport and other services received free from the government as well as the rental value of owner-occupied and free housing. This concept of household consumption expenditure is different as in the System of National Accounts which includes imputed rental of owner-occupied housing.

Excluded from the household consumption expenditure are direct taxes such as income tax; social security contributions; life insurance premiums; saving bank deposits; repayment of loans; loans provided to other households; disbursement for investments such as purchase of land, houses and major house repairs; gambling losses; and cash grants to other households.

Comparison of expenditure against income

The HBS provides information about both expenditure and income, but it would be misleading to consider the difference between the average monthly income and the average monthly expenditure as shown in the tables in this report as a measure of savings for the following reasons:

- a) Household savings is expressed along the concept of household wealth where all forms of income and expenditure have to be measured. But, the HBS focuses on regular forms of income and expenditure of current consumption. Thus, the average monthly household income does not include non-regular income such capital transfers or windfall gains (inheritances, lump-sum receipts and lotteries) while the average monthly consumption expenditure does not include non-consumption expenditure such as income tax, social security contributions; life insurance premiums and mortgage repayment.

- b) The income and expenditure data do not relate to the same reference period.
- i) Employee income does not refer to the actual income received during the survey month, but is an estimate of the monthly equivalent income, having been adjusted for end of year bonus. Income from self-employment relates to the previous accounting period while property income such as interests and dividends may relate to period earlier than the survey month.
- ii) Expenditure data were collected on an acquisition basis, i.e., the cost of some goods acquired during the survey month was considered as expenditure regardless of whether the household paid for them during the month. Hence, the value of goods acquired on hire purchase during the survey month was considered as expenditure even though the total amount was not paid during that month.
- c) A household expenditure in a particular month may not necessarily be paid from the income received during the same month. It could also have been paid from non-regular receipts (which are not considered as income) such as inheritances, lump-sum receipts and money withdrawn from savings or obtained by way of loan.

Computed aggregates throughout this report have been computed from unrounded figures, hence may vary slightly when using published figures.

Abbreviations

HBS	: Household Budget Survey
CPI	: Consumer Price Index
COICOP	: Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose
ILO	: International Labour Organisation
Rs	: Mauritian Rupees