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Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

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ANALYSIS REPORT

Volume VIII- Nuptiality, Fertility and Childlessness

July 2015

FOREWORD

Statistics Mauritius conducted a Housing and Population Census in year 2011. Census 2011 was the eighteenth for the Island of Mauritius and the eighth for the Island of Rodrigues.

A series of table reports covering housing and living conditions, geographical and migration characteristics and demographic, fertility, disability, educational and economic characteristics was published during the following year. Analysis and evaluation of the census data are currently being carried out and the results published in a series of analytical reports.

This report is the eighth of the series and presents an analysis of nuptiality, fertility and childlessness data as collected at the 2011 Population Census and as obtained through the Vital Registration System of the Civil Status Division.

It is hoped that the report will be useful to the public in general and in particular to policy makers, planners and researchers.

I would like here to thank members of the public for their understanding and co-operation during Census 2011. My thanks also go to all persons and staff who contributed in one way or another to the production of this report.

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Nuptiality, Fertility and Childlessness

1. Introduction

Nuptiality refers to marriage as a population phenomenon, where marriage is defined as “a union between a man and a woman who are living together as husband and wife whether or not they have been through any civil or religious ceremonies”. Over the years, the average age of women at first marriage has increased with young people marrying at older ages than their parents did, thus impacting on the fertility level.

Fertility refers to the number of live births women have, and is one of the main factors influencing population growth besides mortality and migration. Fertility indicators measure the frequency of child bearing in a given population. Such measures provide indication on the future growth of a population if the observed fertility pattern remains unchanged. This information has implications on the country’s ability to develop. A high fertility, coupled with low or declining mortality, will cause the population to grow at a very fast rate, meaning that the country will have to progressively invest to sustain its current standard. Analysis of the evolution of fertility pattern also helps in detecting problem areas such as adolescent fertility in order to initiate prompt intervention programmes.

Childlessness is the condition of having no children; it may be voluntary or involuntary. It may happen in circumstances where women delay having children to a point where they are no longer able to conceive or carry a pregnancy to term. Childlessness is influenced by the socio-economic characteristics of women such as the educational level and the economic activity status.

This report presents an analysis of nuptiality, fertility and childlessness data as collected at the 2011 Population Census and as obtained through the Vital Registration System.

2. Key Findings

- a) The population contains a smaller proportion of married persons.
- b) The trend is towards later marriage.
- c) Women postponed age at first marriage by a longer period than men.
- d) Women with higher educational attainment tend to marry later.
- e) Births per 1,000 population decreased by 75% over the past 60 years.
- f) Teenage fertility is on the decline but remains high compared to developed countries.
- g) Fertility declines across all ages.
- h) The number of children born to a woman increases with duration of marriage but decrease with age at marriage.
- i) Women with higher educational attainment tend to have fewer children.
- j) Economically active women show lower fertility than their non-active counterparts.
- k) African countries have high fertility and Mauritius can be considered an exception.

- l) Childlessness is on the rise.
- m) Women with higher educational attainment are more prone to childlessness.
- n) Childlessness is more prevalent among employed women than housewives.

3. Nuptiality

3.1 Marital status of the population

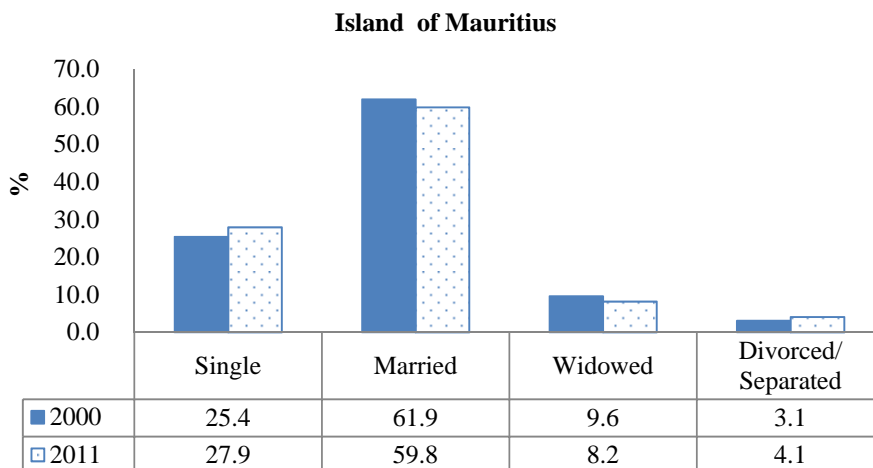
The population contains a smaller proportion of married persons

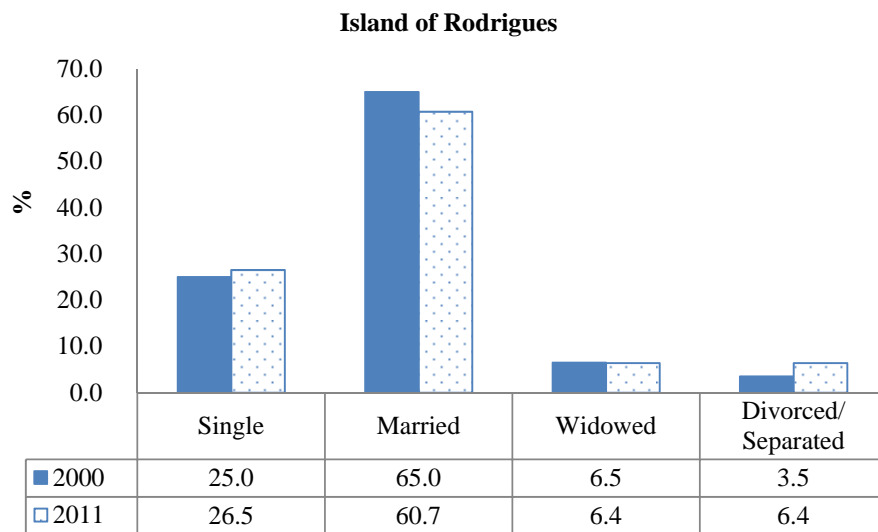
During the intercensal period 2000 to 2011, there has been a decrease in the proportion of married persons (from 61.9% to 59.8%), in favour of single (from 25.5% to 27.8%) and divorced/separated (from 3.1% to 4.2%) persons. The proportion of widowed decreased from 9.5% to 8.2%.

The decrease in the share of married population is more pronounced in the Island of Rodrigues, where the proportion of married persons dropped by 4.3 percentage points while that of divorced/separated rose by 2.9 percentage points.

The distributions have been standardized to take into account the change in the age structure of the population over time. The year 2011 age distributions have been used as standard.

Figure 1 – Standardised Percentage Distribution of the population aged 15 years and over by marital status, Islands of Mauritius & Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011





The trend is towards later marriage

Table 1 shows the distribution of female population by age group and marital status for years 2000 and 2011. The proportion of single women aged 15 - 34 years in the Island of Mauritius increased while that of married from the same age group decreased, indicating that women are marrying later in life.

In 2011, around 35% women in the age group 20 - 24 were married in the Island of Mauritius while in the Island of Rodrigues the proportion was higher (45%), thus indicating that Rodriguan women marry at a younger age. Around 7% of women in the age group 50 - 54 were still single in the Island of Mauritius compared to 3% in the Island of Rodrigues, showing a higher level of celibacy among women in the Island of Mauritius than in the Island of Rodrigues.

Table 1 – Distribution (%) of female population by age group and marital status, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

(a) Republic of Mauritius

Age	Single ^{1/}		Married ^{2/}		Widowed		Divorced/Separated	
	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011
15-19	90.2	93.2	9.6	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3
20-24	50.1	62.6	48.1	35.1	0.2	0.1	1.6	2.2
25-29	19.4	28.2	77.1	67.0	0.6	0.3	3.0	4.5
30-34	9.9	10.8	84.6	82.4	1.4	0.9	4.1	5.8
35-39	8.3	6.4	83.8	85.2	2.9	2.1	5.0	6.4
40-44	8.1	5.3	80.1	83.6	5.9	4.4	6.0	6.7
45-49	8.4	5.8	73.6	79.4	11.4	7.8	6.6	7.0
50-54	7.4	6.7	66.0	73.1	20.1	13.6	6.5	6.6
15-54	27.5	28.1	64.4	63.5	4.2	3.6	3.9	4.9

(b) Island of Mauritius

Age	Single ^{1/}		Married ^{2/}		Widowed		Divorced/Separated	
	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011
15-19	90.4	93.4	9.4	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3
20-24	50.1	63.0	48.1	34.8	0.2	0.1	1.6	2.1
25-29	19.3	28.5	77.2	66.8	0.6	0.3	3.0	4.4
30-34	10.0	10.9	84.6	82.6	1.4	0.9	4.1	5.7
35-39	8.4	6.3	83.7	85.3	2.9	2.1	5.0	6.2
40-44	8.2	5.3	79.9	83.7	5.9	4.4	6.0	6.6
45-49	8.5	5.9	73.5	79.5	11.4	7.8	6.6	6.8
50-54	7.5	6.8	65.8	73.0	20.3	13.7	6.4	6.5
15-54	27.4	28.1	64.5	63.5	4.3	3.6	3.9	4.8

(c) Island of Rodrigues

Age	Single ^{1/}		Married ^{2/}		Widowed		Divorced/Separated	
	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011
15-19	86.0	87.8	13.6	11.4	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.8
20-24	50.1	49.7	47.3	44.9	0.2	0.1	2.4	5.3
25-29	21.4	17.8	73.7	72.1	0.6	0.6	4.3	9.4
30-34	8.1	9.2	85.3	78.8	1.4	1.2	5.2	10.9
35-39	4.1	7.0	85.6	79.3	2.7	1.9	7.6	11.7
40-44	2.9	4.3	87.7	79.7	4.6	3.7	4.9	12.3
45-49	3.6	3.3	79.6	77.3	9.8	5.9	7.0	13.5
50-54	2.3	3.1	80.2	77.8	10.7	10.7	6.8	8.4
15-54	33.6	26.6	60.0	62.3	2.4	2.5	4.0	8.6

^{1/} Excludes unmarried mothers

^{2/} Includes religious, civil and consensual marriages

3.2 Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM)

Women postponed age at first marriage by a longer period than men

The Singulate Mean Age at Marriage measures the mean age at first marriage for those who ever marry and is calculated from marital status categories of men and women aged 15 - 54 at the census date. Thus it assumes that no first marriage occurs after age 54 or before 15 years.

Age at marriage determines the length of time women are exposed to the risk of childbearing; hence the lower the Singulate Mean Age at Marriage the higher the risk of fertility in the absence of contraceptive use or abstinence. From 2000 to 2011, women postponed age at first marriage by around 1.5 years against 0.5 year for men.

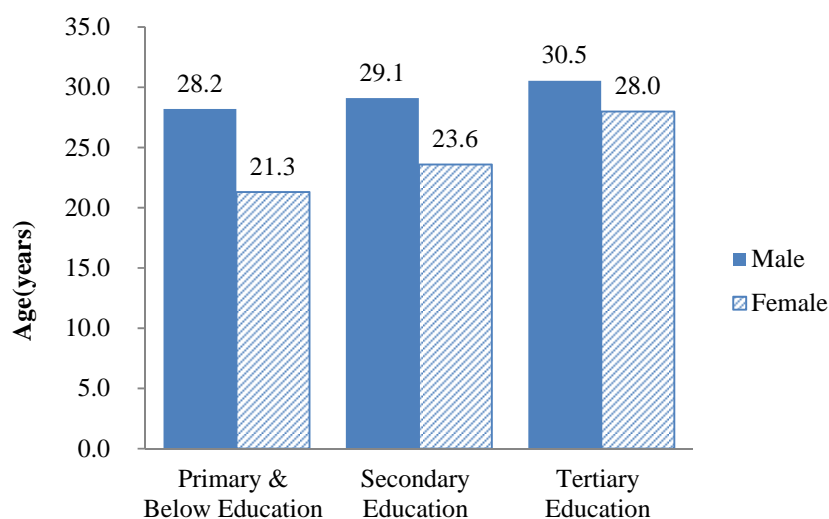
Table 2 - SMAM in years by sex, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

Census	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2000	28.5	22.5	28.6	22.5	27.4	22.6
2011	29.0	23.9	29.0	23.9	27.6	22.5

Education is a factor related to the postponement of marriage

Figure 2 shows the Singulate Mean Age at Marriage by sex and educational attainment for the Republic of Mauritius. Women's entry into marriage is closely associated with their level of educational attainment. In 2011, the SMAM was 21.3 years for women with primary education compared to 28.0 years for women at tertiary level. Similar observations are made for men except that men tend to marry at a much later age.

Figure 2 - SMAM by sex and educational attainment, Republic of Mauritius – 2011



4. Fertility level and trend

4.1 Crude fertility measure

Births per 1,000 population decreased by 75% over the past 60 years

Crude Birth Rate (CBR) defined as the number of live births registered in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, is a crude measure of fertility because not all persons in the population used as denominator in the calculation of the rate are at the risk of giving birth. More refined measures of fertility which are less affected by the age patterns of the population are the Total Fertility Rate, Gross Reproduction Rate and Net Reproduction Rate.

Table 3 shows a general fall in fertility over time. From a high value of 44 in the early 50's, the CBR for the Island of Mauritius more than halved to 21 in 1990, and further decreased to around 10 in 2014. The CBR for the Island of Rodrigues stood at 42 in the early 50's. After an increase to reach a maximum of 50.8 in the early 60's, the CBR halved to 25 in the late 80's and continued to decline to reach 16.5 in 2014.

Table 3 - Crude Birth Rate, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues (1951 - 2014)

Year	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues *	Year	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues *
1951-1955	44.3	44.3	42.0	1991	20.7	20.7	22.3
1956-1960	40.9	40.7	46.9	1992	21.1	21.1	20.8
1961-1965	38.9	38.6	50.8	1993	20.3	20.4	20.7
1966-1970	30.6	30.2	46.1	1994	19.6	19.5	20.5
1971	26.1	25.5	44.8	1995	18.3	18.2	20.9
1972	25.3	24.8	42.1	1996	18.3	18.2	20.2
1973	23.0	22.4	44.5	1997	17.4	17.4	19.8
1974	27.3	26.8	44.8	1998	16.7	16.7	20.2
1975	25.3	24.8	43.4	1999	17.3	17.1	21.2
1976	25.8	25.3	43.9	2000	17.0	16.9	22.2
1977	26.0	25.5	42.5	2001	16.5	16.3	22.4
1978	27.1	26.7	42.3	2002	16.6	16.4	22.3
1979	27.5	27.2	42.4	2003	15.9	15.7	23.2
1980	27.2	26.6	44.0	2004	15.7	15.4	23.7
1981	25.5	24.9	42.9	2005	15.3	15.1	23.9
1982	22.6	22.1	38.4	2006	14.3	14.0	22.8
1983	21.0	20.6	34.7	2007	13.7	13.5	21.6
1984	20.1	19.6	30.7	2008	13.2	12.9	20.0
1985	19.0	18.8	28.5	2009	12.3	12.1	18.7
1986	18.6	18.3	26.3	2010	12.0	11.8	17.8
1987	19.3	19.1	26.2	2011	11.7	11.6	17.7
1988	20.1	19.9	25.9	2012	11.5	11.3	17.4
1989	20.8	20.6	25.1	2013	10.9	10.7	17.1
1990	21.3	21.3	23.7	2014	10.6	10.4	16.5**

* because of the small number of events, the rates have been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove out wide fluctuations in the yearly data

** Year only

4.2 Refined fertility measures

This section introduces some more refined measures of fertility levels namely Gross Reproduction rate, Net Reproduction rate and Total Fertility rate.

Table 4 shows selected fertility rates for the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues during census years. The fertility rates for the Island of Mauritius were much lower than those for the Island of Rodrigues. In 2011, Total Fertility Rate in Rodrigues was 2.2, that is, just around replacement level. The rate in Mauritius was already below replacement level in year 2000.

Replacement level fertility is the total fertility rate at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next assuming there is no migration. The Island of Mauritius first attained below replacement level fertility in 1984 and then in 1997 and which has been maintained till now.

Table 4 – Selected Fertility Rates, Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues at census years

Island of Mauritius				Island of Rodrigues*			
Year/period	T.F.R	G.R.R	N.R.R	Year/period	T.F.R	G.R.R	N.R.R
1972	3.4	1.7	1.5	1972	N/a	N/a	N/a
1983	2.2	1.1	1.1	1983	N/a	N/a	N/a
1990	2.3	1.1	1.1	1990	3.2	1.6	1.5
2000	2.0	1.0	0.9	2000	2.6	1.3	1.3
2011	1.5	0.8	0.7	2011	2.2	1.1	1.1

* because of the small number of events, the rates have been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove out wide fluctuations in the yearly data

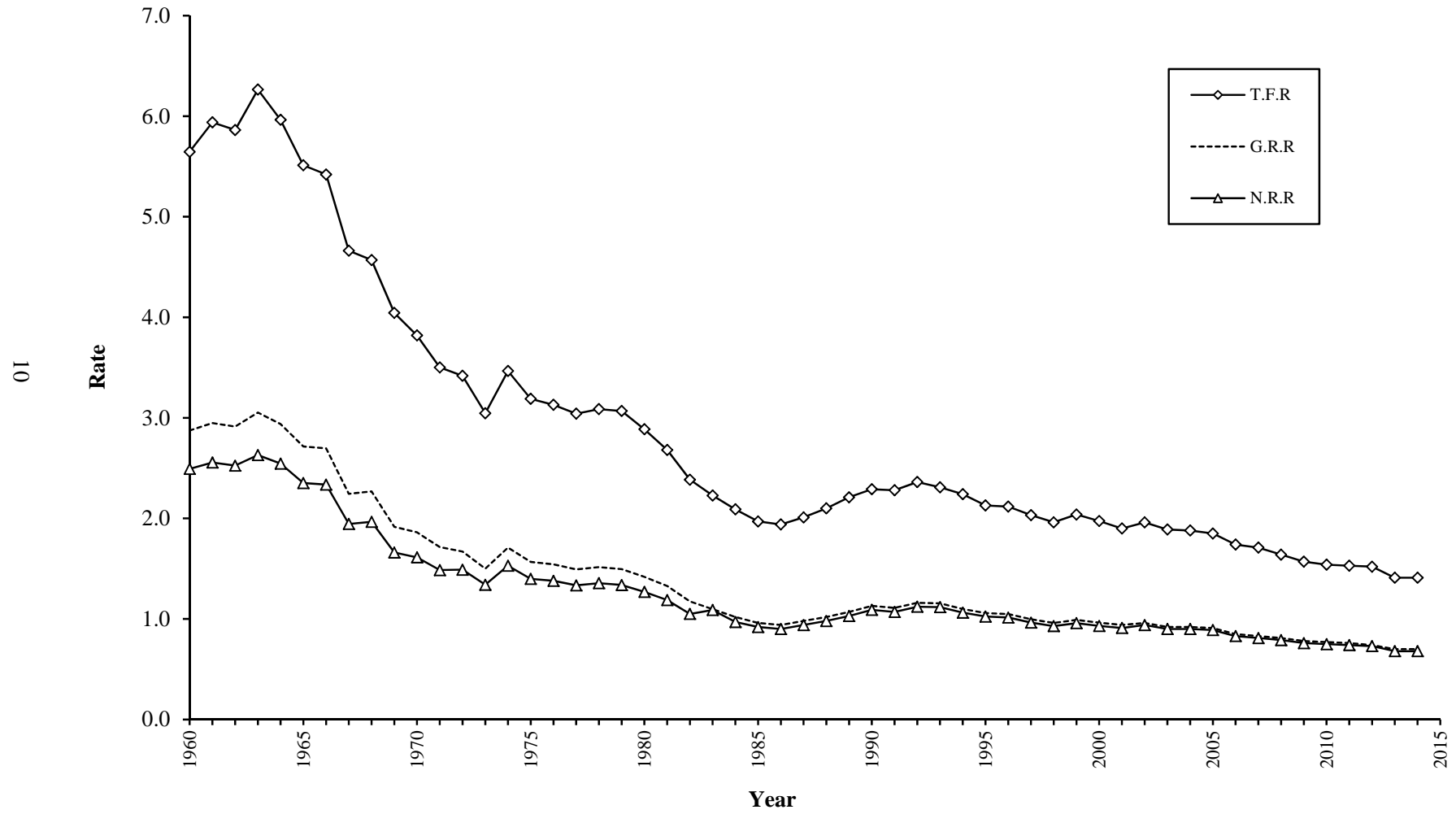
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In 2014, Total Fertility Rate was nearly one quarter of that in the early 60's

Figure 3 depicts the evolution of the Total Fertility Rate, the Gross Reproduction Rate and the Net Reproduction Rate for the Island of Mauritius. The Total Fertility Rate is the average number of children born to an average woman assuming that she survives to the end of her child-bearing age and is subjected to a fixed schedule of age specific fertility rates. A major decline in fertility occurred in the Island of Mauritius during the period 1963 to 1973, followed by a second fall registered from 1980 to 1986. Fertility then rose to a peak in 1992, after which it maintains a declining trend.

The fall in fertility is attributable to the use of family planning methods, later age at marriage, as a result of better and longer education opportunities and increased employment opportunities for women.

Figure 3 - Selected Fertility Rates - Island of Mauritius, 1960 - 2014



4.3 Age Pattern of fertility

Fertility decline across all ages

Age Specific Fertility Rate measures the frequency of child bearing among women of different age groups within the reproductive ages (15 - 49 years). The trends in age specific fertility rates reflect changes in the pattern of fertility. The pattern of fertility has been influenced by an increase in the age of mothers.

Table 5 - Fertility Rates, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius & Island of Rodrigues – 2000 & 2011

Age Specific Fertility Rate	Republic of Mauritius			Island of Mauritius			Island of Rodrigues		
	2000	2011	Change (%)	2000	2011	Change (%)	2000	2011	Change (%)
15-19	38.9	31.6	-18.8	37.7	30.4	-19.4	64.8	64.5	-0.5
20-24	121.5	81.7	-32.8	121.6	81.2	-33.2	120.8	108.3	-10.3
25-29	120.4	94.6	-21.4	119.6	93.8	-21.5	141.2	108.1	-23.4
30-34	75.1	66.0	-12.1	74.4	65.5	-11.9	101.6	81.7	-19.6
35-39	34.2	29.4	-14.0	33.4	28.6	-14.3	66.7	56.4	-15.4
40-44	8.1	6.8	-16.0	7.5	6.2	-17.5	28.0	21.7	-22.5
45-49	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.5	-16.7	3.7	2.7	-27.0
Mean age of childbearing	26.9	27.5		26.9	27.5		26.8	27.5	

In 2011, the age specific fertility rates were lower for all age groups compared to the rates in 2000. For the Island of Mauritius, the fall at the ages of 20 - 24 years was the highest and this might have the biggest impact on the overall fertility decline, being the prime age of childbearing among women. The fertility rate was highest among women aged 25 - 29 years in 2011 recording 94 babies per 1,000 women against 120 babies per 1,000 women in 2000. The mean age of mothers at the birth of their children was 27.5 years compared to 26.9 years ten years back, thus indicating a shift of childbearing to older age. Among the reasons which account for the delay in childbearing are the pursuit of higher level education, labour force participation and delayed union formation.

In the Island of Rodrigues, fertility was highest in the age group 20 - 24 years (108.3 births per 1,000 women) in 2011 compared to a peak of 141.2 births registered in the age group 25 - 29 years in 2000. However, the fall in fertility registered during the intercensal period 2000 - 11 was more pronounced in the age group 25 - 29 years.

In general, the fall of fertility was more concentrated in the middle age groups and contributed to Rodrigues total fertility rate falling from 2.63 in 2000 to 2.22 in 2011. The fertility rates for women in their early forties were around one third (21.7) that of women in their late teens (64.5).

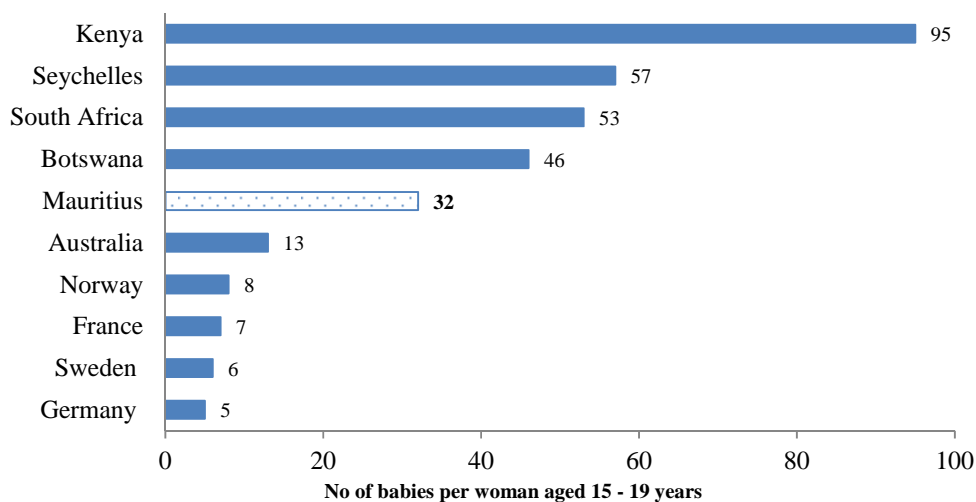
As for the Island of Mauritius, the pattern of fertility for Rodrigues has become more concentrated in the middle of the childbearing age.

4.4 Teenage fertility

Teenage fertility on the decline but remains high compared to developed countries

In 2011, the teenage fertility rate for the Republic of Mauritius was around 32 births per 1,000 women aged 15 - 19 compared to 39 births per 1000 women aged 15 - 19 in 2000. The rate is higher than those for some developed countries such as Germany, Sweden, France, Norway and Australia and lower than those for African countries such as South Africa, Kenya, Botswana and Seychelles. The teenage fertility rate for the Island of Rodrigues remained at around 65 births per 1,000 women aged 15 - 19 years during the period 2000 to 2011, comparable to the rates for the African countries.

Figure 4 – Teenage fertility rates for selected countries



4.5 Live birth order of babies born

A shift of babies born from higher to lower birth order

Live birth order is the ordinal number of a given live birth to all previous live births of the same woman. Table 6 gives the General Fertility Rate by birth order for the Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues.

Table 6 – General Fertility Rates by birth order, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius & Island of Rodrigues - 2000 & 2011

Year	Live birth order						Total
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth & over	
2000							
Republic of Mauritius	27.0	21.3	7.9	2.5	0.8	0.6	60.1
Island of Mauritius	26.8	21.3	7.7	2.4	0.7	0.5	59.4
Island of Rodrigues	35.2	21.9	12.3	6.1	2.9*	4.2	82.6
2011							
Republic of Mauritius	21.5	15.3	5.3	1.4	0.5	0.3	44.3
Island of Mauritius	21.4	15.1	5.1	1.3	0.5	0.1	43.5
Island of Rodrigues	30.9	18.4	11.0	4.2	1.5*	1.2*	67.2
Change 2000 - 2011							
Republic of Mauritius	5.5	6.0	2.6	1.1	0.3	0.3	15.8
Island of Mauritius	5.4	6.2	2.6	1.1	0.2	0.4	15.9
Island of Rodrigues	4.3	3.5	1.3	1.9	1.4	3.0	15.4

* rates based on a small number of events (<30)

Close to half (that is 21.5 out of 44.3 births per 1,000 women aged 15 - 49 years) of babies born were first order births in the Republic of Mauritius in 2011 while more than one third (that is 15.3 out of 44.3 births per 1,000 women aged 15 - 49 years) were second order births. However, 34% of the fall in the fertility during the intercensal period occurred in the first order and 39% in the second order.

In the Island of Rodrigues, there is a larger proportion of higher order births than in the Island of Mauritius. In 2011, some 10% of babies born are found in the third and higher live birth order compared to 4% for the Island of Mauritius. The Island of Rodrigues also witnessed a shift of babies born to lower birth order; the proportion of babies in the fourth and higher live birth order fell from 16% in 2000 to 10% in 2011.

In the Island of Rodrigues, 50% of the fall in fertility occurred in the first two orders during the intercensal period.

4.6 Marital Fertility

A Total Marital Fertility Rate of 5.0 against a Total Fertility Rate of 1.5 in 2011

Marital fertility refers to fertility prevailing among married women. As expected, married women tend to have higher fertility since they are more exposed to the risk of childbearing. Total Marital Fertility Rate is the average number of births a married woman is expected to have assuming she survives to the end of her childbearing age. The Total Marital Fertility Rate (TMFR) for the Republic was 4.98 compared to a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 1.55 in 2011. The observed fall in fertility (TFR) is not due to control of fertility within marriage which in fact increased, but rather to fall in proportion of married women in the population.

The GMFR is the number of live births occurring in a year per 1,000 married women aged 15 - 49 years. The GMFR has decreased as a result of an older profile of married women aged 15 - 49 years in 2011 than in 2000.

A 4% rise in TMFR was noted in the Island of Mauritius while the same level of TMFR was observed in the Island of Rodrigues in 2000 and 2011. Although there has been a general fall in fertility over the different age groups, an increase of around 21% in fertility among women aged 15 - 19 years was registered in the Island of Mauritius and 15% in the Island of Rodrigues. A rise in marital fertility was also observed in the age group 20-24 years in the Island of Rodrigues.

Table 7 – Age Specific Marital Fertility Rates (ASMFR), Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

Age Specific Marital Fertility Rate	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011
15 - 19	408.0	488.7	402.7	487.3	486.8	560.0
20 - 24	254.0	237.4	253.6	237.0	265.8	273.9
25 - 29	157.2	144.4	155.5	142.6	222.2	174.4
30 - 34	89.3	81.4	88.3	80.3	133.3	116.9
35 - 39	41.0	35.0	40.0	33.9	83.7	79.1
40 - 44	10.2	8.3	9.4	7.5	40.7	31.5
45 - 49	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	5.4	2.4
General Marital Fertility Rate	94.1	72.2	92.6	70.7	151.4	122.2
Total Marital Fertility Rate	4.80	4.98	4.75	4.95	6.19	6.19

4.7 Parity Distribution

A very important type of fertility data collected at censuses is the number of children ever born to ever-married women. The age specific parity is the average number of children an ever-

married woman of a specified age group has given birth. Parity data gives the fertility performance of an actual age cohort as opposed to indicators such as the TFR derived from vital statistics that give the fertility performance of a synthetic cohort. A general decrease in parity across the different age groups between 2000 and 2011 indicates a general fertility decline in the country.

Table 8 – Parity Distribution, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

Age Group	Republic of Mauritius		Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues	
	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011
15 - 19	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.11	0.12
20 - 24	0.47	0.34	0.47	0.33	0.57	0.62
25 - 29	1.18	0.88	1.18	0.86	1.40	1.31
30 - 34	1.74	1.48	1.72	1.47	2.25	1.80
35 - 39	2.10	1.86	2.07	1.84	3.15	2.30
40 - 44	2.40	2.04	2.36	2.02	4.08	2.75
45 - 49	2.71	2.12	2.66	2.10	4.91	3.15
15 - 49	1.45	1.24	1.44	1.23	1.81	1.60

From 2000 to 2011, the completed family size decreased by 20%

The completed family size is another indicator of fertility. It is obtained from the mean number of children born to women at the end of their reproductive period of life that is, women aged 45 - 49 years. In 2011, the completed family size for the Republic of Mauritius was 2.12, some 20% lower than the figure of 2.71 in 2000. Island of Rodrigues had a larger completed family size of 3.15, i.e, one and a half time larger than the Island of Mauritius, in spite of a decrease of 35% against 21% for the Island of Mauritius.

Stable marital relationship tends to increase fertility

Table 9 gives the average parity for all women, ever married women and currently married women. Parity for currently married women is the highest since these women are exposed to the risk of childbearing while parity of ever-married women who include widowed, divorced and separated are slightly lower.

Table 9 – Mean number of children ever born to women aged 15 - 49 years by marital status, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

	All women		Ever married women		Currently married women	
	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011
Republic of Mauritius	1.45	1.24	2.05	1.80	2.27	2.03
Island of Mauritius	1.44	1.23	2.03	1.79	2.25	2.00
Island of Rodrigues	1.81	1.60	2.72	2.17	3.29	2.90

The number of children born to a woman increases with duration of marriage but decrease with age at marriage

The figures indicate that as the duration of marriage increases, the mean number of children ever born also increases. Age at marriage is an important determinant of fertility since women marrying early tend to have more children over time; however, women marrying late tend to have their first child sooner after marriage.

Table 10 – Mean number of children ever born, by age of women at marriage and duration of marriage, Republic of Mauritius – 2011

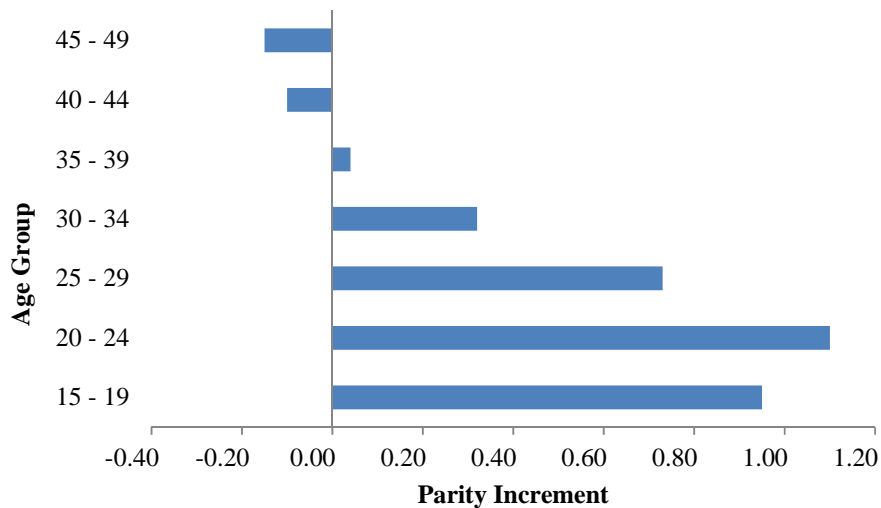
Age at marriage	Duration of marriage (yrs)					
	< 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 +	All durations
< 15	0.00	0.99	1.92	2.28	4.43	3.99
15 – 19	0.19	0.87	1.59	2.06	3.03	2.61
20 – 24	0.18	0.69	1.41	1.88	2.47	2.05
25 – 29	0.15	0.65	1.32	1.76	2.18	1.72
30 – 34	0.24	0.69	1.26	1.50	1.85	1.50
35 +	0.35	0.51	0.73	0.89	1.27	0.92
All ages	0.18	0.72	1.40	1.86	2.62	2.14

In general, parity increment decreases with age of woman

The mean number of children ever born to ever married women of a particular age group as at census 2000 has been compared to the mean number of children ever born to women aged eleven years older at census 2011. The fertility performance of the same cohort of women was thus compared at two points in time, eleven years apart. The change in fertility of a particular age group of women, as at census 2000, during the 2000-2011 inter-censal period gives the parity increment during that period.

As expected there is a general fall in parity increment with increasing age, that is older women tend to have less additional children compared to younger ones. The age group 20 - 24 years registered the highest increment probably due to the highest fertility prevailing at that age. The negative figures are probably due to older women omitting to report some of the live births occurring to them, due to memory lapse.

Figure 5 – Parity increment 2000-2011, Republic of Mauritius



5. Stable Parameters

Intrinsic growth rate remained negative, but registered a large decline

Stable parameters are usually associated with a stable population. A stable population is one in which the age specific birth and death rates have remained constant for a long period of time resulting in a fixed age structure of the population and a constant population growth rate. The resulting parameters of the population such as birth rates and death rates are called intrinsic parameters.

Due to changing levels of fertility over time, the population age structure of Mauritius tends to bulge at certain ages and shrink at other ages, thus producing waves in the age profile. These have an impact on current estimates of population growth and vital rates. For instance, since Mauritius is experiencing below replacement fertility for quite some time, the country was supposed to experience negative population growth. This is not so as a result of the wavy profile of the population that has created a momentum of growth. It would be interesting to estimate intrinsic population parameters of the population whereby all the waves have subsided and that the current birth and death rates become constant over time and that the age structure has stabilized into a constant one.

The intrinsic population growth rate for the Republic of Mauritius in 2011 was -1.03, lower than the rate of -0.20 in 2000. This is due to the fall in fertility registered between the two censuses. In 2011, the intrinsic death rate was higher than the intrinsic birth rate resulting in a negative growth rate for the Republic and Island of Mauritius. The intrinsic growth for the Island of Rodrigues remained positive due to past level of high fertility and fertility remaining still above replacement level, though it has regressed over the years.

During the intercensal period, the mean length of generation, defined as the mean age of mothers at the birth of their daughters, slightly increased from 27.1 to 27.7 years for the Island of Mauritius. For the Island of Rodrigues there has been a slight fall in mean length of generation from 28.2 to 27.8 years.

Table 11 – Stable population parameters, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius & Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

(a) Year 2000

Stable parameters	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues
Intrinsic growth rate (%)	-0.20	-0.24	0.80
Intrinsic birth rate (/1000)	12.92	12.75	18.38
Intrinsic death rate (/1000)	14.92	15.11	10.36
Mean length of generation (yrs)	27.09	27.10	28.22

(b) Year 2011

Stable parameters	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues
Intrinsic growth rate (%)	-1.03	-1.08	0.13
Intrinsic birth rate (/1000)	8.77	8.58	14.03
Intrinsic death rate (/1000)	19.13	19.44	12.61
Mean length of generation (yrs)	27.72	27.69	27.84

6. Fertility rates among women of different backgrounds

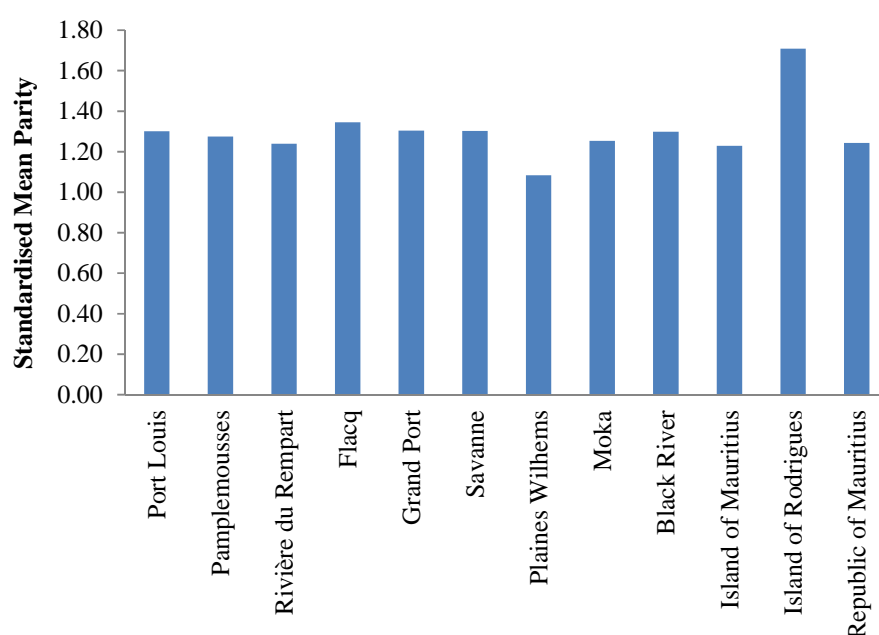
The level and age pattern of current fertility are known to vary with social and economic characteristics of the population. This section analyses fertility differentials using parity by geographic and rural-urban residence, education attainment, economic activity and occupation of women. Parity refers to the number of children born alive to a woman. In order to take care of the varying age structures, the average parities have been standardized for age to allow comparison. The 2011 age distribution of women in the Republic of Mauritius has been used as standard.

6.1 Geographical Characteristics

Women living in rural areas have higher parity than those in urban areas

In 2011, the highest parity prevailed in the district of Flacq (1.34) while the lowest parity was observed in Plaines Wilhems (1.08). Island of Rodrigues had a parity of 1.71. Between 2000 and 2011, parity in the districts of Port Louis and Savanne decreased by around 14%, while the other districts registered higher decreases ranging from 18% to 20%. The largest drop in parity occurred among women in the Island of Rodrigues (27%) followed by the district of Black River (20%) (Table A9).

Figure 6 – Standardised Mean Parity by district and island – 2011



Differential in parity due to rural/urban residence still exists. Women living in rural areas have higher parity than those living in urban areas. The fall in parity between 2000 and 2011 has been of almost the same order for urban and rural areas.

Table 12 - Standardised Mean Parity by rural/urban region, Republic of Mauritius – 2000 and 2011

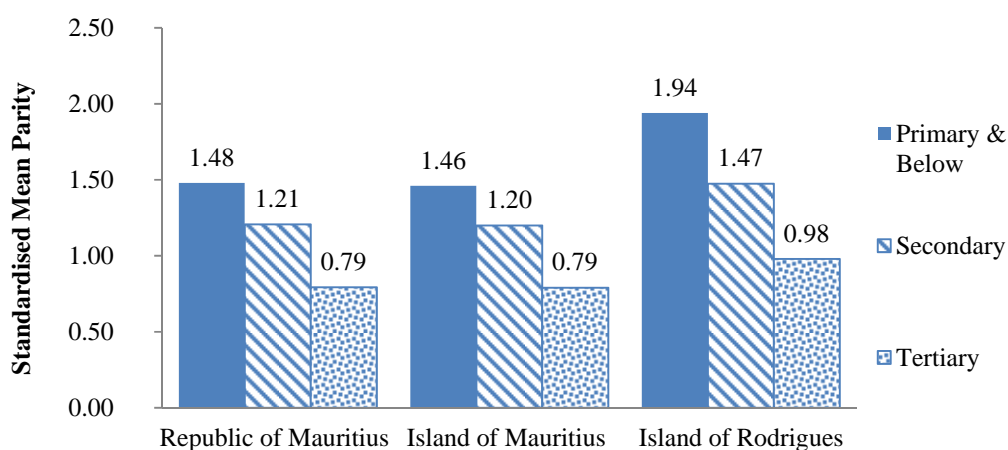
Region	Republic of Mauritius	
	2000	2011
Urban	1.38	1.14
Rural	1.58	1.29

6.2 Educational Characteristics

Women with higher educational attainment have fewer children

Lower parity prevails among women with higher educational attainment, that is, they have fewer children. In 2011, women with tertiary education had on average 0.8 child compared to 1.2 children for women with secondary education and 1.5 children for women with primary education.

Figure 7 - Standardised Mean Parity by educational attainment, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2011



Comparison of 2000 and 2011 parity figures indicates that the Island of Mauritius registered the highest decline among women with tertiary education (15.1%) (Table A10). The Island of Rodrigues showed a different trend; the highest decline was observed among women with primary or lower education, 22%.

6.3 Economic Characteristics

Economically active women showed lower fertility than their non-active counterparts

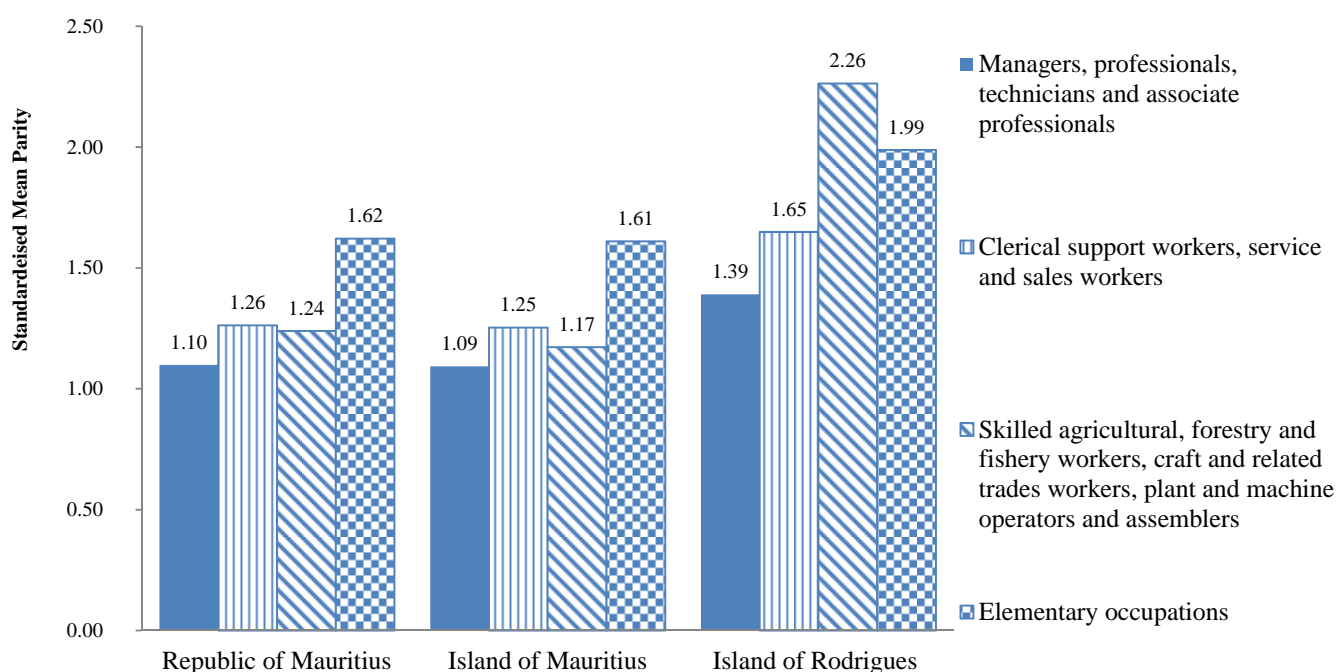
In the Republic of Mauritius, housewives had the highest parity (1.63) followed by unemployed women (1.34) and employed women (1.15). During the intercensal period, parity dropped by 16.7% among employed women against 10.7% and 9.4% among the unemployed and housewife respectively. Table 13 shows the standardized mean parity by type of economic activity for the Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues.

Table 13 - Standardised Mean Parity by type of economic activity, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

Island/ Region	Type of activity		
	Employed	Unemployed	Housewife
<u>2000 Census</u>			
Republic of Mauritius	1.38	1.50	1.80
Island of Mauritius	1.36	1.43	1.78
Island of Rodrigues	2.29	2.36	2.58
<u>2011 Census</u>			
Republic of Mauritius	1.15	1.34	1.63
Island of Mauritius	1.13	1.31	1.62
Island of Rodrigues	1.70	1.95	1.99

Type of employment also impacts on the level of fertility, as shown in Figure 8. Women who are managers, professionals, technicians and associate professionals had the lowest parity (1.10). Women in elementary occupations had the highest parity (1.62). Largest decrease in parity between 2000 and 2011 was experienced by women engaged in elementary occupations. (Table A11)

Figure 8 - Standardised Mean Parity by occupational group, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2011



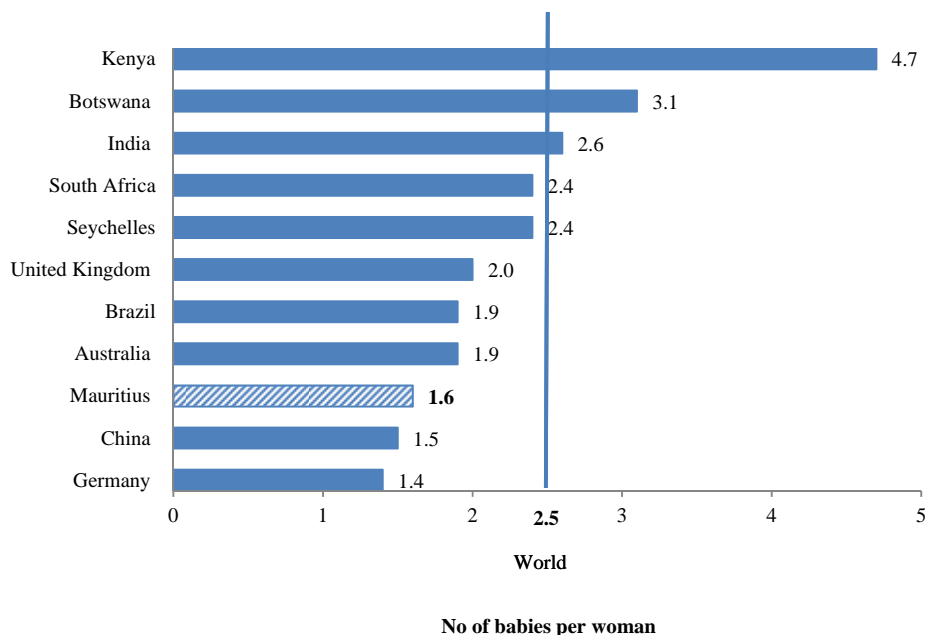
7. International comparison of fertility

African countries have high fertility but Mauritius can be considered an exception

In the period 1950 - 2010, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in the world halved from around 5 to around 2.5 children. The replacement level is the number of children needed per woman for a population to replace itself. It is generally taken to be a TFR value between 2.10 and 2.33 children per woman depending on the impact of child and infant mortality, the lower the levels of these two phenomena, the lower the value of the replacement level. Populations below the replacement level ultimately confront the danger of extinction. Populations with higher TFR than replacement level face the challenges of sustaining the growing population. Although this general trend of women having fewer children is evident in all regions of the world, it has not had the same intensity everywhere.

Low fertility rate (i.e., below replacement) is common among developed countries. According to Population Reference Bureau World Population Data Sheet, countries with the lowest fertility in 2011 were Hungary, Germany and Japan. Although still below replacement level, the total fertility rate in certain developed countries was higher than that of Mauritius such as in Belgium, Norway, France, United Kingdom, Sweden and Brazil. However, the total fertility rate in African countries is quite high as compared to other countries in the world.

Figure 9 - Total Fertility Rate for selected countries – 2011



The Republic of Mauritius, with a TFR of 1.55 in 2011, does not follow the African trend. It has the lowest TFR compared to all countries of the African region and is even lower than that of some developed countries. In 2011, the estimated TFR for the world as a whole was 2.5 children per woman, for the more developed countries 1.7 and for the least developed countries 4.5.

8. Consequence of Fertility decline

A key factor in assessing the impact of fertility decline on the future population of Mauritius is the relationship between births and deaths. In 2011, births in Mauritius numbered 14,626 while 9,170 deaths were registered. Therefore the natural increase of the population was positive at 5,456, but it is expected that the number of deaths will increase over time while the number of births will decrease. During the last ten years, the fertility rate for the Republic of Mauritius has been below the replacement level, currently 1.56 children per woman, meaning that on average, couples are no longer having enough children to replace themselves.

In the long run, the number of younger people is expected to form a smaller proportion of the total population and older people a larger proportion. In 2011, there were 3 persons of working age (15 - 64 years) to support every person aged less than 15 years and 65 years and over. In 2051, with a declining fertility rate, there will be 2 persons of working age to support every person aged less than 15 years and 65 years and over. Moreover, with the expected fall in household size, there will be fewer children in the family to take care of their elderly parents.

9. Childlessness

Childlessness is the proportion of women who have reached the end of their child-bearing years and have not had any children. This can be derived for women aged 50 years and over from the census question which asks each woman the number of live babies she has ever had. The proportion of women aged 50 - 54 who have never had a baby represents the group who has most recently completed their reproductive life, childless. This proportion is used as an indicator of the level of childlessness in the population. Childlessness of women may be influenced by factors such educational level and labour force participation.

9.1 Childlessness prevalence

Childlessness is on the rise

In 2011, around 5% of women aged 50 - 54 years were childless in the Republic of Mauritius. The level of childlessness in Rodrigues, with 2.6% of women aged 50 - 54 years who never had a baby, was half that of the Island of Mauritius. During the intercensal period, the proportion of childless women increased from 4.2% to 5.1% in Island of Mauritius. The rise was lower in the Island of Rodrigues, 2.6% in 2011 against 2.2% in 2000.

9.2 Childlessness and Marital Status

Increase in childlessness is highest among divorced/separated women

In 2011, out of 2,030 ever-married women aged 50 to 54 years who reported having no children, 69.1% were married, 11.7% were widowed, 14.5% were divorced or separated and 4.6% were either unmarried parent or married consensually. The picture was somewhat different for Rodrigues with 61.5% women married, 11.5% widowed, divorced or separated and 15.4% unmarried parent or married consensually or other.

The level of childlessness was highest among the divorced/separated women followed by women who were married consensually or unmarried parent. Among the married women, only 4.6% were childless. During the period 2000 to 2011, the increase in prevalence of childlessness was highest among divorced/separated women.

Table 14 – Proportion of childless women by marital status, Republic of Mauritius – 2000 and 2011

Marital Status	Republic of Mauritius	
	2000	2011
Married^{1/}	3.5	4.6
Widowed	4.2	4.1
Divorced/ Separated	6.2	10.4
Other^{2/}	12.3	9.1
All Marital States	4.2	5.0

^{1/}- Married civilly & religiously, married civilly only & married religiously only

^{2/}- Married consensually, unmarried parent, other and not stated

9.3 Childlessness and Educational Attainment

Women with higher level of education are more prone to childlessness

In 2011, out of 2,030 ever-married childless women, only around 3% had studied up to tertiary level while 42% up to secondary level and 55% had only primary and below level education.

Table 15 shows the proportion of childless women by educational attainment in the Republic of Mauritius. Prevalence of childlessness increases with higher educational attainment, from 4.0% among women with primary education as highest level to 6.6% among those with tertiary level education.

During the intercensal period, the prevalence of childlessness increased among women with educational attainment up to the secondary level. However, a slight decrease is observed in the level of childlessness among women with a tertiary qualification.

Table 15 – Proportion of childless women by educational attainment, Republic of Mauritius – 2000 and 2011

Educational attainment	Republic of Mauritius	
	2000	2011
Primary & below	4.0	4.9
Secondary	4.7	5.1
Tertiary	6.6	6.3
All levels	4.2	5.0

9.4 Childlessness and Type of Economic Activity

Higher prevalence of childlessness among employed women than housewives.

Out of 2,030 childless women in 2011, around 41% were employed, 48% housewives and 3% unemployed. Table 16 shows the proportion of childless women aged 50 to 54 years by type of economic activity in the Republic of Mauritius.

The prevalence of childlessness was higher among women who participated in the labour market, 5.1% and 7.0% respectively among the employed and the unemployed, against 4.7% among the housewives. During the period 2000 to 2011, the level of childlessness increased among all these categories of women, the highest change being observed for housewives.

Table 16 – Proportion of childless women by type of economic activity, Republic of Mauritius – 2000 and 2011

Type of Activity	Republic of Mauritius	
	2000	2011
Employed	4.5	5.1
Unemployed	6.3	7.0
Housewife	3.6	4.7
Other	7.1	7.1
All Activity Types	4.2	5.0

9.5 International comparison of childlessness

Compared to developed countries the level of childlessness in Mauritius is very low

The past few decades have witnessed a major decline in world fertility. According to the World Fertility Report, level of childlessness in the range of 1-3% is considered to reflect the effects of primary infertility, estimated as the proportion of married couples without a live born child. In parts of Africa, reductions in childlessness have been mostly brought about by the successful treatment of sexually transmitted infections, which were a major cause of infertility in the 1970s and earlier decades. In contrast, childlessness is assumed to be rising in other parts of the world, mainly due to postponement of childbearing and a deliberate intention not to have children.

Table 17 – Percentage of childless women aged 40 – 44 years in selected countries

Country	Year	Percentage of childless women
Kenya	2009	2.6
Botswana	2006	3.4
India	2006	3.4
Mauritius	2011	4.8
South Africa	2003	5.9
Dominican Republic	2010	7.2
Mexico	2010	8.6
Brazil	2006	11.3
Saudi Arabia	2007	13.4
Australia	2006	15.9
United States of America	2010	18.8
United Kingdom	2010	20.0
Singapore	2010	23.1

Source: United Nations, World Fertility Report 2012

10. Notes

10.1 Contact Person

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10.2 Glossary

Age Specific Fertility Rate: the number of live births to women of a specified age-group per 1,000 women in that age-group.

Crude Birth Rate: The number of live births registered in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.

General Fertility Rate: The number of live births occurring in a year per 1,000 women aged 15 - 49 years at mid-year.

General Marital Fertility Rate: The number of live births occurring in a year per 1,000 married women aged 15 – 49 years.

Gross Reproduction Rate: The average number of daughters born to an average woman assuming that she survives to the end of her child-bearing age and is subjected to a fixed schedule of age-specific fertility rates.

Live birth order: The ordinal number of a given live birth in relation to all previous live births of the same woman.

Mean age of childbearing: the mean age of mothers at the birth of their children if women were subject throughout their lives to the age specific fertility rates observed in a given year.

Net Reproduction Rate: The extent to which an average woman will replace herself assuming a fixed schedule of age-specific mortality and fertility rates to prevail through her reproductive span of life.

Parity: the number of children previously born alive to a woman.

Replacement-level fertility: the level of fertility at which women in the same cohort have exactly enough daughters (on average) to replace themselves in the population. TFR of about 2.1 is considered to be replacement level.

SMAM: The Singulate Mean Age at Marriage measures the mean age at first marriage for those who ever marry.

Total Fertility Rate: the average number of children born to an average woman assuming that she survives to the end of child-bearing age and is subjected to a fixed schedule of age-specific fertility rates.

Total Marital Fertility Rate: The average number of children born to an average married woman assuming that she survives to the end of child-bearing age and is subjected to a fixed schedule of age-specific marital fertility rate.

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Figure 10 – Total Fertility Rate for selected countries – 2011

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A 2 – SMAM in years by sex and educational attainment, Republic of Mauritius – 2011

A 3 – Age Specific Fertility Rates by age of mother and live births order, Republic of Mauritius – 2000 & 2011

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A 9 – Mean Parity and Standardised Mean Parity by district, Republic of Mauritius – 2000 and 2011

A 10 – Standardised Mean Parity by level of education, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

A 11 – Standardised Mean Parity of mother by occupational group, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

Annexed tables

A 1 – Standardised Percentage Distribution of the population aged 15 years and over by sex and marital status, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

1. Republic of Mauritius

Sex and census year		Marital Status			
		Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced/Separated
Male:	2000	30.7	64.8	2.3	2.2
	2011	33.5	60.7	2.2	3.6
Female:	2000	20.4	59.1	16.5	4.0
	2011	22.4	58.8	14.0	4.8
Both Sexes	2000	25.5	61.9	9.5	3.1
	2011	27.8	59.8	8.2	4.2

2. Island of Mauritius

Sex and census year		Marital Status			
		Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced/Separated
Male:	2000	30.7	64.8	2.3	2.2
	2011	33.4	60.9	2.2	3.5
Female:	2000	20.4	58.9	16.7	4.0
	2011	22.5	58.7	14.1	4.7
Both Sexes	2000	25.4	61.9	9.6	3.1
	2011	27.9	59.8	8.2	4.1

3. Island of Rodrigues

Sex and census year		Marital Status			
		Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced/Separated
Male:	2000	30.3	64.8	2.2	2.7
	2011	33.6	58.5	2.5	5.4
Female:	2000	20.0	65.2	10.5	4.3
	2011	19.8	62.7	10.1	7.4
Both Sexes	2000	25.0	65.0	6.5	3.5
	2011	26.5	60.7	6.4	6.4

Married = Married civilly and religiously, married consensually and unmarried parent

A 2 – SMAM in years by sex and educational attainment, Republic of Mauritius – 2011

2011	Primary & Below Education	Secondary Education	Tertiary Education
Male	28.2	29.1	30.5
Female	21.3	23.6	28.0

A 3 - Age Specific Fertility Rates by age of mother and live births order, Republic of Mauritius – 2000 & 2011

Year	Age of mother	Live birth order						Total
		First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth & over	
2000	15 - 19	33.0	5.5	0.4*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	38.9
	20 - 24	75.9	38.3	6.2	1.0	0.1*	0.0*	121.5
	25 - 29	43.2	54.7	17.4	4.2	0.7	0.2*	120.4
	30 - 34	15.7	31.1	18.9	6.2	1.9	1.3	75.1
	35 - 39	6.3	11.1	8.8	4.5	1.7	1.8	34.2
	40 - 44	1.3	2.0	1.8	1.5	0.7	0.8	8.1
	45 - 49	0.1*	0.1*	0.1*	0.1*	0.0*	0.2*	0.6*
G.F.R	15 - 49	27.0	21.3	7.9	2.5	0.8	0.6	60.1
2011	15 - 19	26.2	5.2	0.2*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	31.6
	20 - 24	50.5	25.1	5.0	1.0	0.1*	0.0*	81.7
	25 - 29	44.2	36.1	10.5	2.7	0.9	0.2*	94.6
	30 - 34	20.1	29.4	12.3	2.5	1.3	0.4*	66.0
	35 - 39	8.3	10.3	7.1	2.3	0.8	0.6*	29.4
	40 - 44	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.1	0.5*	0.4*	6.8
	45 - 49	0.2*	0.1*	0.2*	0.0*	0.0*	0.1*	0.6
G.F.R	15 - 49	21.5	15.3	5.3	1.4	0.5	0.3	44.3

1/ in calculating the rates, live births occurring to mothers less than 15 years have been included in the age group (15-19) whilst those occurring to mothers aged 50 years and above in the age group (45 – 49). Births for age “Not stated” and birth order “Not stated” have been prorated.

2/ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

* rates based on a small number of events (<30)

A 4 - Age Specific Fertility Rates by age of mother and live births order, Island of Mauritius – 2000 & 2011

Year	Age of mother	Live birth order						Total
		First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth & over	
2010	15 - 19	32.0	5.2	0.5*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	37.7
	20 - 24	75.9	38.4	6.3	0.9	0.1*	0.0*	121.6
	25 - 29	43.4	54.3	17.0	4.0	0.7	0.2*	119.6
	30 - 34	15.8	31.3	18.5	5.9	1.8	1.1	74.4
	35 - 39	6.4	11.1	8.7	4.2	1.5	1.5	33.4
	40 - 44	1.3	2.0	1.7	1.4	0.6*	0.5*	7.5
	45 - 49	0.2*	0.1*	0.1*	0.1*	0.0*	0.1*	0.6*
G.F.R	15 - 49	26.8	21.3	7.7	1.2	0.7	0.5	59.4
2011	15 - 19	24.9	5.3	0.2*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	30.4
	20 - 24	50.4	24.8	4.9	1.0	0.1*	0.0*	81.2
	25 - 29	44.7	35.4	10.0	2.5	0.9	0.3*	93.8
	30 - 34	20.3	29.2	11.9	2.4	1.2	0.5*	65.5
	35 - 39	8.2	10.2	6.9	2.1	0.7	0.5*	28.6
	40 - 44	1.8	1.2	1.7	0.9	0.3*	0.3*	6.2
	45 - 49	0.3*	0.1*	0.1*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	0.5*
G.F.R	15 - 49	21.4	15.1	5.1	1.3	0.5	0.1	43.5

1/ in calculating the rates, live births occurring to mothers less than 15 years have been included in the age group (15-19) whilst those occurring to mothers aged 50 years and above in the age group (45 - 49). Births for age "Not stated" and birth order "Not stated" have been prorated.

* rates based on a small number of events (<30)

A 5 - Age Specific Fertility Rates by age of mother and live births order, Island of Rodrigues – 2000 & 2011

Year	Age of mother	Live birth order						Total
		First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth & over	
2000	15 - 19	55.0	9.1*	0.7*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	64.8
	20 - 24	76.5	34.8	7.8*	1.3*	0.4*	0.0*	120.8
	25 - 29	39.5	58.7	30.4	9.4*	2.5*	0.7*	141.2
	30 - 34	13.0*	27.4	32.7	18.3*	4.4*	5.8*	101.6
	35 - 39	4.4*	9.1*	13.5*	13.9*	12.3*	13.5*	66.7
	40 - 44	0.3*	1.7*	3.1*	4.4*	4.1*	14.4*	28.0*
	45 - 49	0.0*	0.0*	1.1*	0.0*	0.0*	2.7*	3.7*
G.F.R	15 - 49	35.2	21.9	12.3	6.1	2.9*	4.2	82.6
2011	15 - 19	59.2	4.8*	0.5*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	64.5
	20 - 24	66.5	30.2	10.1*	1.5*	0.0*	0.0*	108.3
	25 - 29	39.3	40.3	19.8	6.7*	1.2*	0.8*	108.1
	30 - 34	19.2	32.3	20.7	5.4*	2.9*	1.2*	81.7
	35 - 39	11.9*	11.0*	17.1*	10.7*	2.6*	3.1*	56.4
	40 - 44	3.1*	2.6*	5.2*	5.4*	2.3*	3.1*	21.7*
	45 - 49	0.0*	0.0*	1.5*	0.0*	0.6*	0.6*	2.7*
G.F.R	15 - 49	30.9	18.4	11.0	4.2	1.5*	1.2*	67.2

1/ in calculating the rates, live births occurring to mothers less than 15 years have been included in the age group (15-19) whilst those occurring to mothers aged 50 years and above in the age group (45 - 49). Births for age "Not stated" and birth order "Not stated" have been prorated.

* rates based on a small number of events (<30)

A6 – Mean number of children ever born to women aged 15 - 49 years by age and marital status, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

(a) Republic of Mauritius

Age	All women		Ever married women		Currently married women	
	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011
15 - 19	0.06	0.05	0.56	0.64	0.58	0.73
20 - 24	0.47	0.34	0.94	0.90	0.99	0.99
25 - 29	1.18	0.88	1.46	1.23	1.54	1.34
30 - 34	1.74	1.48	1.93	1.67	2.06	1.83
35 - 39	2.10	1.86	2.29	2.00	2.52	2.21
40 - 44	2.40	2.04	2.61	2.17	3.02	2.48
45 - 49	2.71	2.12	2.95	2.26	3.69	2.69
15 - 49	1.45	1.24	2.05	1.80	2.27	2.03

(b) Island of Mauritius

Age	All women		Ever married women		Currently married women	
	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011
15 - 19	0.05	0.04	0.55	0.63	0.57	0.71
20 - 24	0.47	0.33	0.94	0.88	0.98	0.97
25 - 29	1.18	0.86	1.46	1.21	1.53	1.31
30 - 34	1.72	1.47	1.91	1.66	2.04	1.81
35 - 39	2.07	1.84	2.26	1.98	2.48	2.18
40 - 44	2.36	2.02	2.57	2.15	2.97	2.44
45 - 49	2.66	2.10	2.91	2.23	3.64	2.65
15 - 49	1.44	1.23	2.03	1.79	2.25	2.00

(c) Island of Rodrigues

Age	All women		Ever married women		Currently married women	
	2000	2011	2000	2011	2000	2011
15 - 19	0.11	0.12	0.67	0.75	0.80	1.08
20 - 24	0.57	0.62	1.07	1.13	1.30	1.55
25 - 29	1.40	1.31	1.74	1.55	2.13	2.08
30 - 34	2.25	1.80	2.42	1.97	2.91	2.54
35 - 39	3.15	2.30	3.27	2.46	3.91	3.27
40 - 44	4.08	2.75	4.19	2.88	4.93	3.82
45 - 49	4.91	3.15	5.09	3.25	6.45	4.41
15 - 49	1.81	1.60	2.72	2.17	3.29	2.90

A 7 – Mean number of children ever born, by age of women at marriage and duration of marriage, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2011

(a) Republic of Mauritius

Age at marriage	Duration of marriage (yrs)					
	< 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 +	All durations
< 15	0.00	0.99	1.92	2.28	4.43	3.99
15 – 19	0.19	0.87	1.59	2.06	3.03	2.61
20 – 24	0.18	0.69	1.41	1.88	2.47	2.05
25 – 29	0.15	0.65	1.32	1.76	2.18	1.72
30 – 34	0.24	0.69	1.26	1.50	1.85	1.50
35 +	0.35	0.51	0.73	0.89	1.27	0.92
All ages	0.18	0.72	1.40	1.86	2.62	2.14

(b) Island of Mauritius

Age at marriage	Duration of marriage (yrs)					
	< 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 +	All durations
< 15	0.00	1.03	1.96	2.32	4.44	4.04
15 – 19	0.19	0.87	1.59	2.05	2.99	2.59
20 – 24	0.17	0.69	1.41	1.88	2.44	2.03
25 – 29	0.15	0.64	1.31	1.76	2.16	1.71
30 – 34	0.24	0.68	1.25	1.49	1.84	1.49
35 +	0.34	0.50	0.72	0.88	1.26	0.91
All ages	0.18	0.71	1.39	1.85	2.59	2.12

(c) Island of Rodrigues

Age at marriage	Duration of marriage (yrs)					
	< 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 +	All durations
< 15	0.00	0.73	1.64	1.86	3.93	2.77
15 – 19	0.12	0.87	1.55	2.24	4.12	3.20
20 – 24	0.31	0.84	1.51	2.07	4.55	2.86
25 – 29	0.13	0.94	1.44	2.01	3.27	2.15
30 – 34	0.00	0.89	1.64	1.77	2.55	1.82
35 +	2.00	1.24	1.00	1.64	2.08	1.63
All ages	0.21	0.88	1.51	2.10	3.84	2.81

A 8 – Parity increment between 2000 and 2011, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

(a) Republic of Mauritius

Age Group in 2000	Mean parity in 2000	Mean parity in 2011	Parity increment 2000 -2011
15 - 19	0.06	1.01	0.95
20 - 24	0.47	1.57	1.10
25 - 29	1.18	1.91	0.73
30 - 34	1.74	2.06	0.32
35 - 39	2.10	2.14	0.04
40 - 44	2.40	2.30	-0.10
45 - 49	2.71	2.56	-0.15
15 - 49	1.45	1.86	0.41

(b) Island of Mauritius

Age Group in 2000	Mean parity in 2000	Mean parity in 2011	Parity increment 2000 -2011
15 - 19	0.05	0.99	0.94
20 - 24	0.47	1.56	1.09
25 - 29	1.18	1.89	0.71
30 - 34	1.72	2.04	0.32
35 - 39	2.07	2.11	0.04
40 - 44	2.36	2.26	-0.10
45 - 49	2.66	2.52	-0.14
15 - 49	1.44	1.84	0.40

(c) Island of Rodrigues

Age Group in 2000	Mean parity in 2000	Mean parity in 2011	Parity increment 2000 -2011
15 - 19	0.11	1.43	1.32
20 - 24	0.57	1.89	1.32
25 - 29	1.40	2.39	0.99
30 - 34	2.25	2.84	0.59
35 - 39	3.15	3.24	0.09
40 - 44	4.08	3.92	-0.16
45 - 49	4.91	4.54	-0.37
15 - 49	1.81	2.58	0.77

A 9 - Standardised Mean Parity by district, Republic of Mauritius – 2000 and 2011

District/Region	Standardised Mean Parity	
	2000	2011
Port Louis	1.52	1.30
Pamplemousses	1.56	1.28
Riviere du Rempart	1.54	1.24
Flacq	1.66	1.34
Grand Port	1.59	1.30
Savanne	1.51	1.30
Plaines Wilhems	1.33	1.08
Moka	1.51	1.25
Black River	1.63	1.30
Island of Mauritius	1.49	1.23
Island of Rodrigues	2.34	1.71
Republic of Mauritius	1.51	1.24

A 10 - Standardised Mean Parity by educational attainment, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

Island/ Region	Educational Attainment		
	Primary & Below	Secondary	Tertiary
	<u>2000 Census</u>		
Republic of Mauritius	1.68	1.36	0.93
Island of Mauritius	1.65	1.35	0.93
Island of Rodrigues	2.48	1.64	1.03
	<u>2011 Census</u>		
Republic of Mauritius	1.48	1.21	0.79
Island of Mauritius	1.46	1.20	0.79
Island of Rodrigues	1.94	1.47	0.98

A 11 - Standardised Mean Parity of mother by occupational group, Republic of Mauritius, Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues – 2000 and 2011

Island/ Region	Occupational group			
	A	B	C	D
2000				
Republic of Mauritius	1.28	1.39	1.50	1.99
Island of Mauritius	1.27	1.38	1.47	1.98
Island of Rodrigues	1.79	2.03	2.93	2.81
2011				
Republic of Mauritius	1.10	1.26	1.24	1.62
Island of Mauritius	1.09	1.25	1.17	1.61
Island of Rodrigues	1.39	1.65	2.26	1.99

A: Managers, professionals, technicians and associate professionals

B: Clerical support workers, service and sales workers

C: Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers, craft and related trades workers, plant and machine operators and assemblers

D: Elementary occupations