

Main Results for the Island of Rodrigues - 2012 Household Budget Survey

1. Introduction

Statistics Mauritius conducted the ninth Household Budget Survey (HBS) from January to December 2012 in the Republic of Mauritius. The main objective of the survey is to study the consumption pattern of the population living in private households to update the basket of goods and services used for the consumption of the monthly Consumer Price Index.

In 2012, a total of 6,720 households were surveyed (6,240 households in the island of Mauritius and 480 in the island of Rodrigues).

2. Main results

Income

- a. Average monthly household disposable income increased by 32.8% from Rs 13,520 in 2006/07 to Rs 17,950 in 2012.
- b. Median monthly household disposable income increased by 21.7% from Rs 10,170 in 2006/07 to Rs 12,380 in 2012.
- c. Income inequality increased between 2006/07 and 2012. The share of total income going to the 20% of households at the lower end of the income range decreased from 4.8% in 2006/07 to 4.6% in 2012. On the other hand, the share of the upper 20% of households increased from 47.4% to 49.7%. The rise in income inequality is confirmed by an increase in the Gini coefficient from 0.418 in 2006/07 to 0.433 in 2012.

Expenditure

- d. Average monthly household consumption expenditure increased by 46.2% from Rs 10,621 in 2006/07 to Rs 15,533 in 2012.
- e. The largest broad category of household consumption expenditure remained 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' accounting for 33.6% of total household consumption expenditure in 2012 (Rs 5,218 per month). Next comes 'Alcoholic beverages & tobacco' accounting for 14.5% followed by 'Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels' with 11.7% and 'Transport' with 10.3% of total expenditure.

Relative poverty

- f. The relative poverty line defined as half median household income per adult equivalent is estimated at Rs 3,483 in 2012 compared to Rs 2,716 in 2006/07.
- g. The proportion of poor households decreased from 17.9% in 2006/07 to 16.9% in 2012; the number of poor households stood at 1,800 at both periods.
- h. The proportion of poor persons increased from 18.9% in 2006/07 to 19.5% in 2012; the number of poor persons rose from 7,400 to 7500. This is explained by the larger size of poor households in 2012.

Table 1 - Selected measures of monthly household income¹, Island of Rodrigues, 2001/02, 2006/07 & 2012 Household Budget Survey

Measures of income	2001/02	2006/07	2012
Average monthly household income (Rs)	9,700	13,520	17,950
Median monthly household income (Rs)	7,830	10,170	12,380
Gini Coefficient²	0.381	0.418	0.433
Income share			
Percentage of total income going to:-			
Lowest 20% of households	5.0	4.8	4.6
Highest 20% of households	44.3	47.4	49.7
Ratio of highest 20% to lowest 20%	8.9	9.9	10.8

Note:

1 - Income refers to disposable income defined as the income (both in cash and in kind) derived from employment, property and transfers (mainly pensions and other social security benefits) after deduction of income taxes and social security contributions.

2 - Gini coefficient is a measure of income inequality; it ranges between 0 (complete equality) and 1 (complete inequality).