



COLONY OF MAURITIUS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Central Statistical Office

for the year 1958



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR 1958

FUNCTIONS

In July, 1945, a Statistical Bureau was created in consequence of a recommendation made by the Commission of Enquiry into the disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius in 1943.

The original functions assigned to this Bureau were to collect and compile accurate information as to wages of labour, the number and type of employment in various industries, the level of prices and the computation of cost of living indices. The Bureau was also assigned the task of supervising and coordinating the statistical data collected in various Government Departments. These functions of the Bureau were gradually extended to involve the periodical statistical survey of every branch of economic activity in the island; agricultural, industrial, financial and commercial. It also keeps under review the demographic, vital, health, educational and other social statistics of the life of the Colony. In July, 1948, the original Statistical Bureau became the Central Statistical Office.

The information collected, tabulated and analysed by the Central Statistical Office is presented in an annual handbook, in such a form as can be conveniently utilised by the Government, the general public and outside institutions. This Year Book of Statistics for Mauritius has been published annually since 1946.

The Office draws up complete annual tables of the Balance of payments of the Colony, of Capital Formation aggregates, of National Income and National Accounts.

In addition, the Central Statistical Office has also to prepare a large number of statistical reports for submission to the Colonial Office and to the various agencies of the United Nations Organisation. It has to reply to a great number of enquiries from abroad, in addition to those from local organisations, institutions and individuals. When time and opportunity offer, it also carries out research on the statistical material collected by the Department.

STAFF

The strength of the staff as at the end of the year consisted of: -

The Director of Statistics
The Assistant Director
The Statistician
Two Assistant Statisticians
An Office Superintendent
Ten Compilers
A Hollerith Operator
A Typist-Stenographer
4 Punch & Verifier Operators

/ Qualifying ...

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QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS

Mr Yves Tanyan returned from overseas vacation on the 3rd of December. During his leave in England, he attended the Regent Street Polytechnic and completed part B of the Intermediate Examination of the Associateship of the Association of Incorporated Statisticians and thus became qualified for this Certificate.

Local examinations were again held this year by the Association of Incorporated Statisticians.

Miss L. Smith completed part A of the Intermediate examination and thus qualified for this Certificate.

YEAR BOOK OF STATISTICS

The Year Book of Statistics for 1957 was issued in October.

CONSUMERS' PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

Monthly surveys of the current retail prices of a large number of articles of common consumption were continued. Indexes of these prices relative to pre-war were worked out for 72 articles of food and beverages, 40 articles of clothing and textiles and 43 articles of household necessity, including fuel.

CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX

This index (otherwise called "the cost of living index") was computed each month for each of six different categories of consumers. These monthly indexes were regularly published in the Government Gazette.

At the request of Government a Comparative Cost of Living Index for the Income Group of Rs 300 to Rs 500 a month was worked out for Rodrigues using the commodity weights in the Mauritius index.

The purpose of this comparison was to find out whether the disturbance allowance to Officers working in Rodrigues was adequate.

STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR THE COLONIAL OFFICE

Several monthly and quarterly returns of demographic, vital, industrial production and trade statistics were regularly furnished to the Statistical Department of the Colonial Office.

The sections on Mauritius in the Digest of Colonial Statistics published by the Colonial Office are also periodically revised.

STATISTICS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

Extensive questionnaires from the United Nations Organisation and its agencies, dealing with demographic and vital data and statistics of cultivation, production, livestock, foodstuffs, external trade, etc., for Mauritius and its Dependencies were answered.

Since January, 1951, monthly Statistical tables (covering various subjects) have been furnished for the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations Organisation.

STATISTICS OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

As in previous years, the Central Statistical Office undertook the compilation of complete data relating to cultivation, production and manufacture in the sugar industry. Tabular statements on the crop results were circulated to the Director of Agriculture, the Chamber of Agriculture, the Central Board and the Agricultural Bank. In addition, with the kind assistance of the Registrar of the Co-Operative Societies, a satisfactorily large sample of data relating to small plantations was analysed and published.

Bi-annual statements of employment and wages for artisans and skilled personnel in the sugar industry were collected, compiled and analysed.

TRADE STATISTICS

Complete statistics of imports and exports on the basis of the Standard International Trade Classification continued to be compiled in the Office in collaboration with the Customs Authorities. Since 1953 a publication embodying complete trade accounts has been produced by the Customs Department. In addition the Year Book of Statistics gives a complementary analysis of the year's trade with relevant index numbers and other information.

NATIONAL INCOME AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

The National Income and National Accounts Tables for the current year were prepared in continuation of the published result for previous years and issued for official information in October. Complete information and data on this subject are now available from 1948 onwards.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE COLONY

Tables of the Balance of Payments for the year 1957 were computed as in previous years and this work, which necessitated analyses of the records of the Treasury and the Post Office, and the compilation of returns from private banks and commercial agencies, was completed in August.

CAPITAL FORMATION ESTIMATES

Tabular statements of Capital Formation and Consumption in the Colony during the year 1957 were compiled and issued as previously at the request of the Secretary of State. Provisional tables were forwarded to the Secretary of State by the middle of April and the final tables in June.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Employment Survey

In December 1957 a Commissioner arrived in the Colony to carry out an enquiry and survey on employment, unemployment and underemployment in the Colony. Soon after his arrival, the Commissioner Mr R.W. Luce, C.B., M.B.E., called on the Director of Statistics and asked for his assistance and that of his staff in connexion with this investigation.

The plan for the survey was worked out in consultation with the Director. It involved a preliminary random sampling of households all over the island, the training of enumerators, island-wide supervision of the work and the statistical analysis of the schedules and punch card tabulation of the findings, - all of which were carried out with the help of the Central Statistical Office staff. The whole of the operations including preparation of the tabulated statements of the results lasted until July, 1958. Thus for more than six months, the whole staff of the Central Statistical Office was occupied on this survey, in addition to its routine work.

Other Surveys

A random sampling of school children over the whole island was worked out at his request for Dr. J. Stott, a W.H.O. expert on nutrition who was carrying out an investigation in the Colony. There were besides, miscellaneous statistical data furnished to Dr. J. Goujou and Miss D. Miley, also of W.H.O., who were engaged on special health investigations in the island.

COMMISSION ON PURCHASING POWER OF THE RUPEE

Early in May there was constituted a Commission of six Members of the Legislative Council, with the Director of the Central Statistical Office as an additional member, whose terms of reference were broadly to investigate matters affecting the purchasing power of the rupee, the structure of the credit system, interest levels, etc.

The work of the Commission started in June and continued for the rest of the year. Numerous demands for investigations, computations and data of a statistical nature were made on the Central Statistical Office in connexion with the work of the Commission.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

During the year the office dealt with a large number of enquiries of a private nature from individuals and institutions both local and abroad.

HOLLERITH PUNCHED CARD EQUIPMENT

In addition to the work of the Central Statistical Office, the Hollerith equipment is at present used to compile and tabulate: -

- (i) trade statistics of which monthly, quarterly and annual accounts are produced;
- (ii) statistics of the Health Department;
- (iii) statistics of the Income Tax Department;
- (iv) statistics of crime;
- (v) complete monthly and annual statements of vital statistics for the Civil Status Office;
- (vi) certain statistics of the Postal Department;
- (vii) Crown Agents monthly statements of Revenue and Expenditure for the Accountant General's Department.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

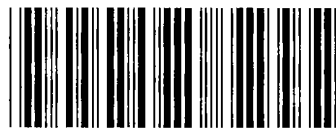
The following list of all publications issued by the Central Statistical Office as from its foundation is inserted here for reference:

<u>Title of Publication</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
Year Book of Statistics	Annually
Mauritius Life Table (1944-1946)	September, 1947
Mauritius Life Table (1951-1953)	December, 1954
National Income & National Accounts of Mauritius 1948 - 1954 ⁺	November, 1955
Gross & Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948 - 1954	March, 1956
Natality and Fertility in Mauritius 1825 - 1955	June 1956
Highlights of Mauritian Economy 1946-1956	January - February 1957 (Revue Agricole et Sucriere de l'ile Maurice)
Gross & Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948 - 1956 (revised version)	December, 1957

M. Herchenroder
Director of Statistics

29th January, 1959.

+ Computed annually since 1954.



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