

COLONY OF MAURITIUS

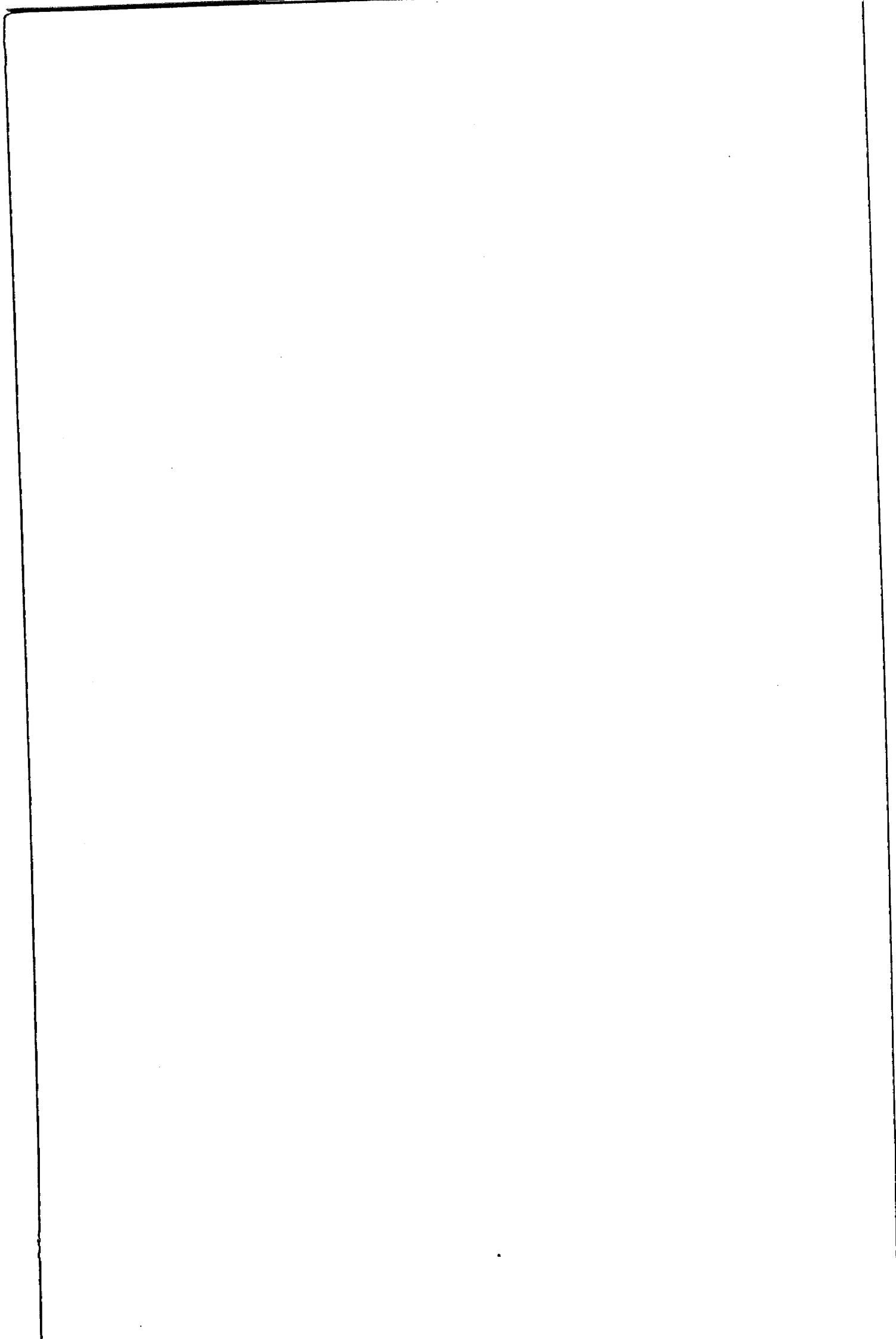
ANNUAL REPORT

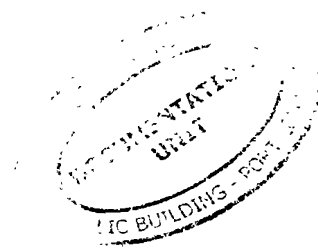
OF THE

Central Statistical Office

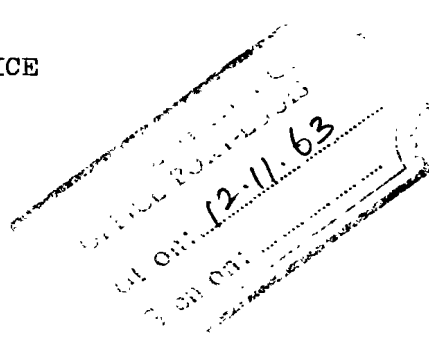
for the year 1962







ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR 1962



.....

1. 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 co-ordinating 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 had hitherto been presented in an annual handbook. The publication of the Yearbook was discontinued in 1961 and in its stead was substituted, as from March, 1961, a Quarterly Digest of Statistics the aim of which is to provide information more quickly to users of Statistics.

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 large 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.

2. 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 Supervisor
- A Hollerith Operator
- A Typist-Stenographer
- Four Punch & Verifier Operators

3. QUARTERLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS

The digest for the fourth quarter of 1961 was issued in April, 1962. Owing to the heavy commitments of the Central Statistical Office, the digests for the year under review were, of necessity, not published as quickly as had been hoped. A combined volume for the first and second quarters of 1962 was issued in October.

4. CONSUMERS' PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

Monthly surveys of the current retail prices of a large number of articles of common consumption were continued. The indices 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.

5. CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX

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

6. 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.

7. 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 incorporation into the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations Organisation.

8. 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.

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

9. 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 and Excise Department.

10. NATIONAL INCOME AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

During the year under review, the National Income and National Accounts estimates for 1961 were computed and issued for official information.

11. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE COLONY

Tables of the Balance of Payments for the year 1961 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 June.

12. CAPITAL FORMATION ESTIMATES

Tabular statements of Capital Formation and Consumption in the Colony during the year 1961 were compiled and issued as previously at the request of the Secretary of State. Provisional tables were forwarded to the Secretary of State at the end of April and the final tables at the end of October.

13. POPULATION CENSUS

The 13th Population Census of Mauritius was taken on Saturday, the 30th June, 1962, in compliance with an order from the Governor in Council dated 29th December, 1961.

Problems of unprecedented magnitude had this time to be faced by the Central Statistical Office:- the size of the population to be enumerated, the wide range of questions to be asked in order to meet as far as possible the requirements of the different Ministries, the designing of units of enumeration so as to fit not only geographical districts, but also electoral areas, townships, village councils areas, etc.

Planning work consequently started around mid- 1961. The preliminary enumeration of all buildings and their occupiers lasted from the beginning of March to mid-May, 1962.

During the next stage which extended to the end of June, the work done by the enumerators was checked, the central and local organizations for the final enumeration set up, the staff of sub-enumerators chosen and briefed, and the Census Schedules were numbered and addressed.

Census Schedules were delivered and collected in a satisfactory manner and although a number had to be returned to householders for completion, the great majority had been handed over by the sub-enumerators to the enumerators by the 5th of July and reached the Central Statistical Office a month later after having been checked both by enumerators and superintendents

A preliminary/.

A preliminary count of the population by sex for Mauritius as a whole, as well as for each electoral district was released at the end of the year.

The information recorded on the census schedules is being coded and transferred to punched cards which are processed on an "International Computers and Tabulators Company (Hollerith)" equipment.

The analysis of census data will be, on this occasion, a slower process on account of the fact that the International Computers and Tabulators equipment is almost fully occupied by the current work of the statistical and other Departments. Most of the census work can only be undertaken after office hours and on Sundays and public holidays.

At the close of the year, coding was nearly completed and punching work had made good progress. Assuming no unforeseen impediment to the work of compilation, it is probable that most of the final tabulations will have been completed by the end of June, 1963.

14. SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

(i) The Mauritius Family Budget Enquiry

The Family Budget Enquiry, which was conducted by Mr. Wolf Scott, B.Sc.(Econ.), an expert commissioned by the International Labour Office, started in June, 1961, and was completed in August, 1962.

In the course of the second round of the survey which lasted from the 15th January to the 4th June, 1016 households were interviewed at the rate of about 50 each week. These households were selected according to a mathematical formula which ensured that each type of household, by community, size, age-group, locality etc., was represented in the same proportion as in the population. The interviewers obtained from each family details of all items of its expenditure as well as information on age, education, occupation of household members, housing conditions, sources of income and on unemployment.

The information collected was transferred to punched cards and processed on the Hollerith equipment. This part of the work was completed in August. From the results obtained, new consumer Price Indices will be computed.

Mr. Scott left the Colony in August to report on his mission to the International Labour Office. The report of the I.L.O. is expected in the very near future.

(ii) Mission from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

A Mission from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development visited the Colony in June and July to study the economic and financial position and the potentialities for the future, consequent upon an application made by Government for a loan to finance the development of electricity.

During/

During the stay of the Mission, as well as before and after, this Department was called upon to give extensive assistance to the Mission and to prepare for it special tabulations and analyses on such various matters as:- National income, balance of payments of the colony, capital formation estimates, agricultural and industrial production, land utilization, external trade, cost of living indices, banking and demography.

(iii) Commission of Enquiry (Sugar Industry) 1962

The Commission of Enquiry into the Sugar Industry under the Chairmanship of Dr.T.Balogh of Balliol College, Oxford, started its proceedings in December. Numerous demands for computations and data of a statistical nature were made on this Department in connexion with the work of the Commission.

15. 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.

16. PUNCHED CARD EQUIPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPUTERS AND TABULATORS COMPANY

In addition to the work of the Central Statistical Office, this 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 Ministry of Health and Reform Institutions;
- (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 Posts and Telegraphs Department;
- (vii) Crown Agents monthly statements of Revenue and Expenditure for the Accountant General's Department;
- (viii) statistics of employment and wages of artisans in sugar factories.

The equipment was also put to use in producing special tabulations for the Mauritius Family Budget Enquiry.

17. PUBLICATIONS OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

The following list of all publications issued by the Central Statistical Office since its foundation is inserted hereunder for reference:-

<u>Title of Publication</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
Quarterly Digest of Statistics	Quarterly since March, 1961
Year Book of Statistics	Annually from 1946 to 1959
Mauritius Life Table (1944 - 46)	September, 1947
Mauritius Life Table (1951 - 53)	December, 1954
National Income and 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 Sucrière de l'Ile Maurice)
Gross & Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948 - 1956 (revised version)	December, 1957

⁺ computed annually since 1954.

L.HONORE
Director of Statistics

27th February, 1963.

