

COLONY OF MAURITIUS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

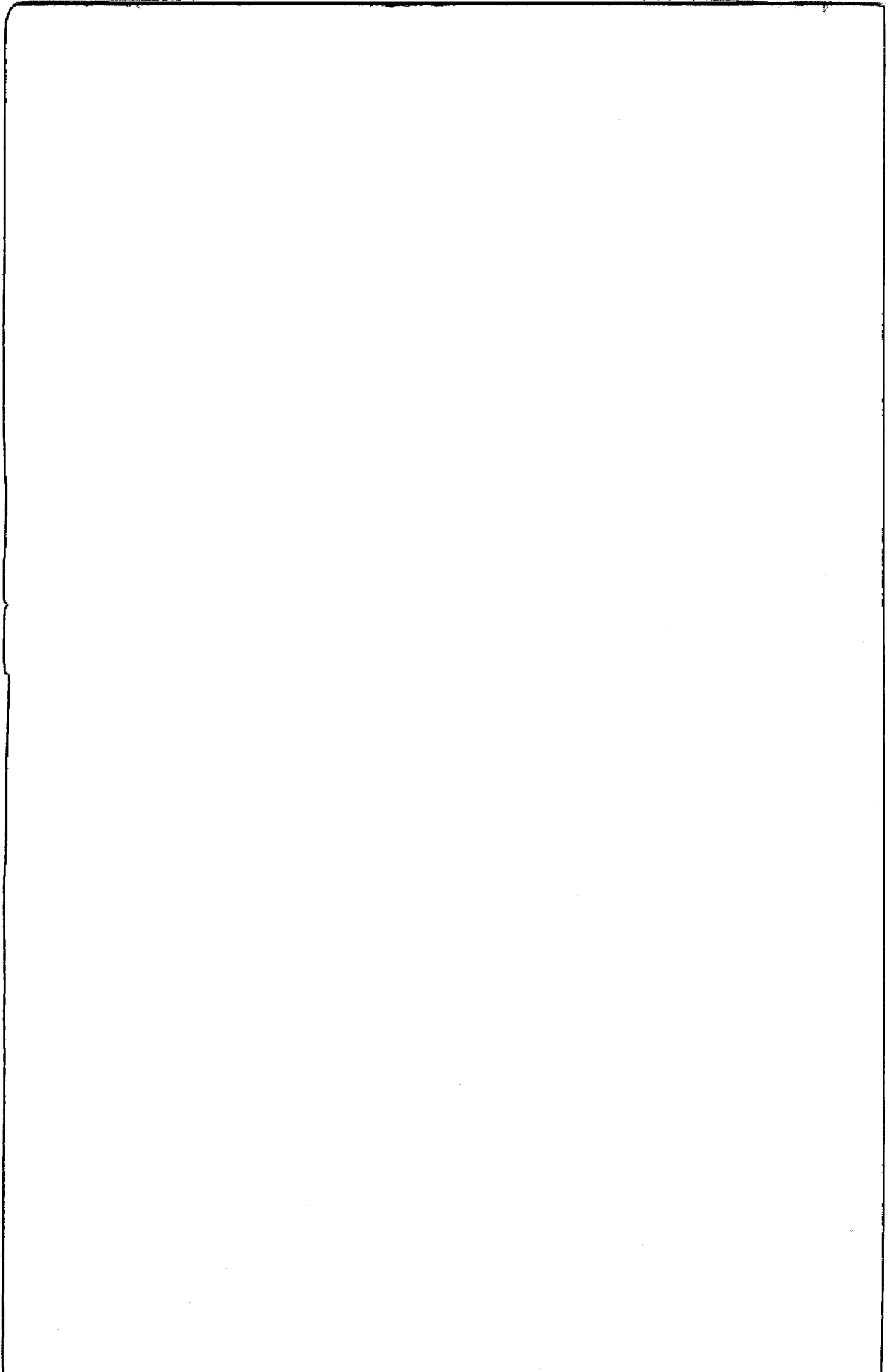
Central Statistical Office

for the year 1963



No. 21 of 1964

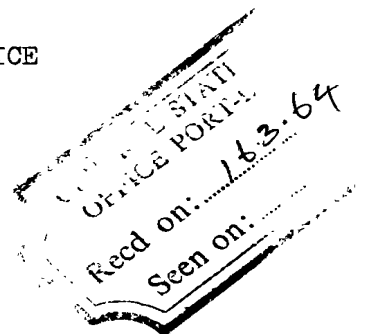
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CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
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1. FUNCTIONS

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 coordinating the statistical data collected in various Government Departments. These functions of the Bureau were gradually extended to involve the periodical industrial 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.

Some of the information collected, tabulated and analysed by the Central Statistical Office is presented in a Quarterly Digest of Statistics in such a form as can be conveniently utilized by all 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 numerous 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
Four Punch and Verifier Operators

3. STAFF MOVEMENT

Mr. L.Honoré was absent from the colony on overseas leave from the 17th June to the 16th September. During his absence Mr. M.Etienne acted as Director and Mr. F.Empeigne as Assistant Director.

4. QUARTERLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS

The Digest for the third quarter of 1962 was published in January 1963, and that of the fourth quarter in April 1963.

The digests for the first and second quarters of 1963 were issued in July and October 1963 respectively.

5. CONSUMER PRICE INDICES

Mr. Wolf Scott B.Sc (Econ), an International Labour Office Consultant conducted a family budget enquiry amongst a random sample of 1,053 urban and rural households whose chief earner's income did not exceed 1,000 rupees per month. The interviews were spread over a complete year from June 1961 to June 1962 to cover the different seasons.

Following his recommendations, the following indices are compiled as from April 1962, using the period January to June 1962 as base:

- An urban consumer price index
- A rural consumer price index
- A consumer price index for Mauritius.

These monthly indices are regularly published in the government gazette.

Current prices for most items are collected monthly by officers of the Central Statistical Office from retail shops and markets in urban and rural areas; prices for fruits, vegetables and fresh fish are collected weekly. The number of items of consumption covered is 223 of which 108 are in the food group, 34 are articles of clothing and clothing materials and 21 are items of personal care.

These new indices differ considerably from those of the former series. Consequently there has been no formal linkage, but the old indices have been computed until the end of 1962, giving an overlap of nine months during which both sets of indices are available.

6. STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Several monthly and quarterly returns of demographic, vital, industrial production and trade statistics were regularly furnished to the Statistical section of the Department of Technical Cooperation in London.

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 the 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 revised and issued for official information.

The computation of the estimates for 1962 could not be completed by the end of the year under review as much of the essential data required were not available.

11. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE COLONY

Tables of the Balance of Payments for the year 1962 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 1962 were compiled and issued as previously at the request of the Secretary of State. The tables were forwarded to the Secretary of State at the beginning of May.

13. POPULATION CENSUS

The analysis of data obtained from the population census held on the 30th June, 1962 was actively pursued throughout the year.

Since the International Computers and Tabulators' equipment was almost fully occupied with the current work of the Statistical and other Departments, most of the census work could only be undertaken after office hours and on Sundays and public holidays.

The transfer to punched cards of information recorded on the first census schedules was terminated in June, and at the close of the year most of the final tabulations were completed.

The first volume of the report was issued at the end of December. It covers the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population of Mauritius and of its main dependency, Rodrigues.

Coding and punching work on the second census schedules has started. It is hoped that the second volume of the report, giving detailed information about population by localities, households and families, buildings, dwellings and housing conditions will have been released by June 1964.

14. SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

(i) Commission of Enquiry (Sugar Industry)

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

(ii) Wages Councils

In April, the Minister of Labour and Social Security issued orders establishing wages councils for agricultural and non-agricultural workers employed in the sugar industry. The Director of Statistics was appointed a member of these councils.

This department was called upon to give extensive assistance to the wages councils and to prepare special tabulations and analyses on wages, employment and various other matters.

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 workmen's compensation;
- (ix) statistics of employment and wages of artisans in sugar factories.

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 (1951-1953)	December, 1954
National Income and National Accounts of Mauritius 1948-1954 ⁺	November, 1955
Gross and 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 and Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948-1956 (revised version)	December, 1957
1962 Population Census of Mauritius and its Dependencies (Volume I)	December, 1963

⁺ computed annually since 1954.

L.HONORE
Director of Statistics

31st March, 1964.

