

COLONY OF MAURITIUS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Central Statistical Office

for the year 1964

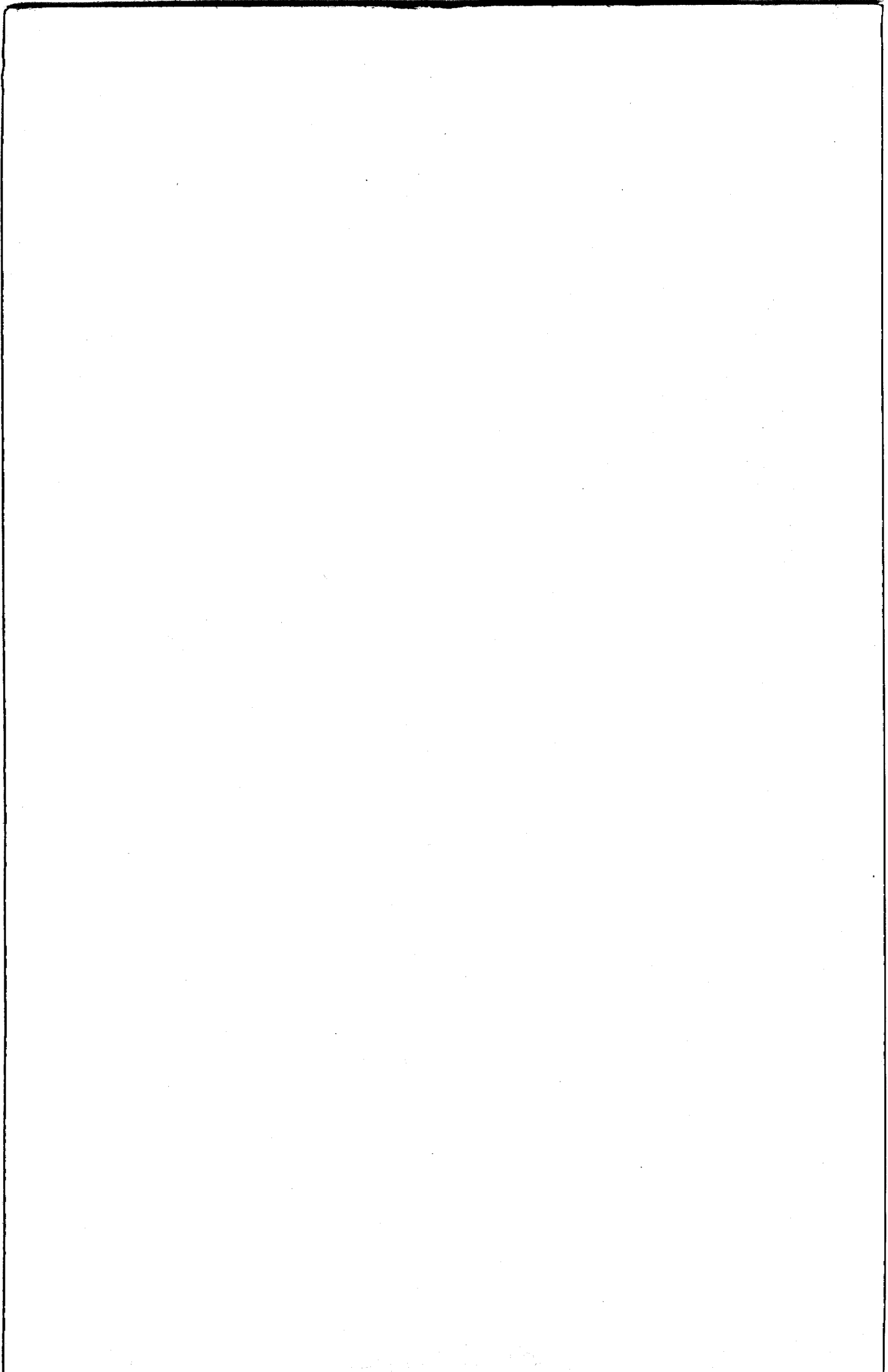


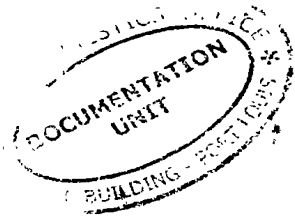
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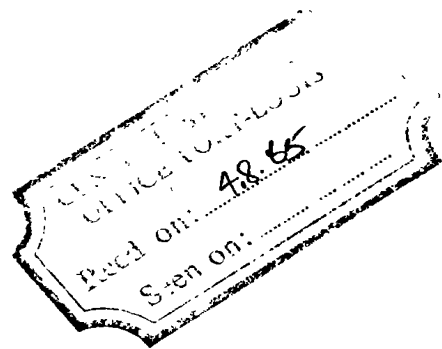
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No. 7 of 1965





ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR 1964



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 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.

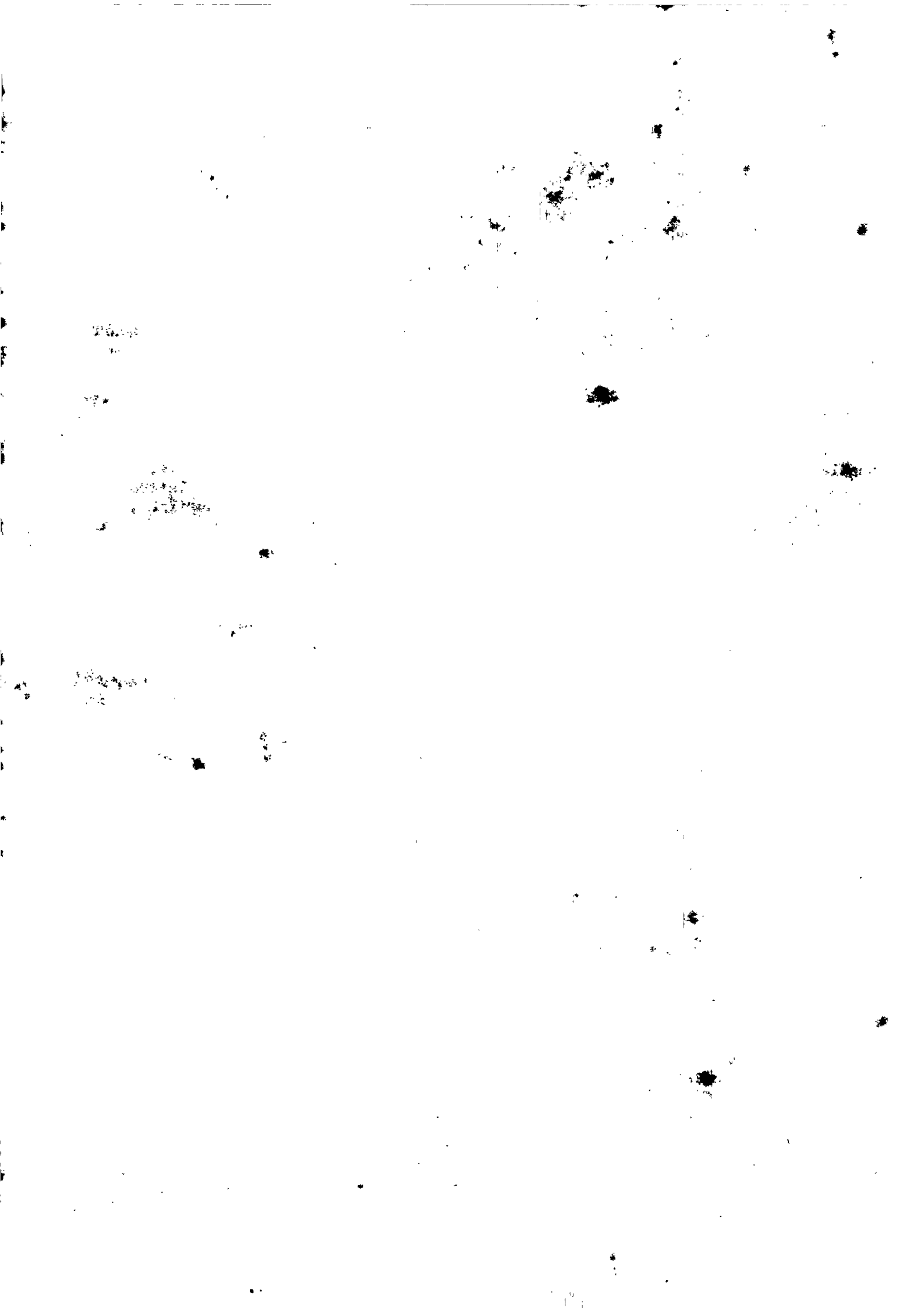
In addition, the Central Statistical Office has also to prepare numerous statistical reports for submission to the Colonial Office and to the various agencies of the United Nations Organisation. It has to reply to a large number of enquiries from abroad, in addition to those from local organisations,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

2. STAFF

The establishment of this department is as follows:

- The Director of Statistics
- The Assistant Director
- Two Statisticians
- Four Assistant Statisticians
- An Office Superintendent
- Nine Compilers
- A Machine Room Supervisor
- An Assistant Machine Room Supervisor
- A Confidential Assistant
- Nine Machine Operators and Coders.

Two posts of Assistant Statistician were created during the year and one post of Compiler abolished. One Assistant Statistician has taken full charge of Trade Statistics and the other one will, when appointed, be responsible for devising improved methods for the collection, analysis and presentation of Labour Statistics.



3. STAFF MOVEMENT

The staff of the statistical branch of the Customs and Excise Department consisting of 1 Assistant Statistician and 5 Machine Operators and Coders was transferred to this department in December and this transfer enabled a complete reorganisation of the data processing section.

Mr. L.Honoré, Director of Statistics, attended a Conference on agricultural statistics in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from the 24th August to the 1st September, 1964; and Mr. M.Etienne, Assistant Director, attended a Seminar on labour statistics in the same town from the 3rd to the 13th of November, 1964.

4. QUARTERLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS

The digest for the third quarter of 1963 was published in January 1964, and that of the fourth quarter in May 1964.

The digests for the first and second quarters of 1964 were issued in August and November 1964.

5. CONSUMER PRICE INDICES

The Consumer price indices were computed every month and 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.

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

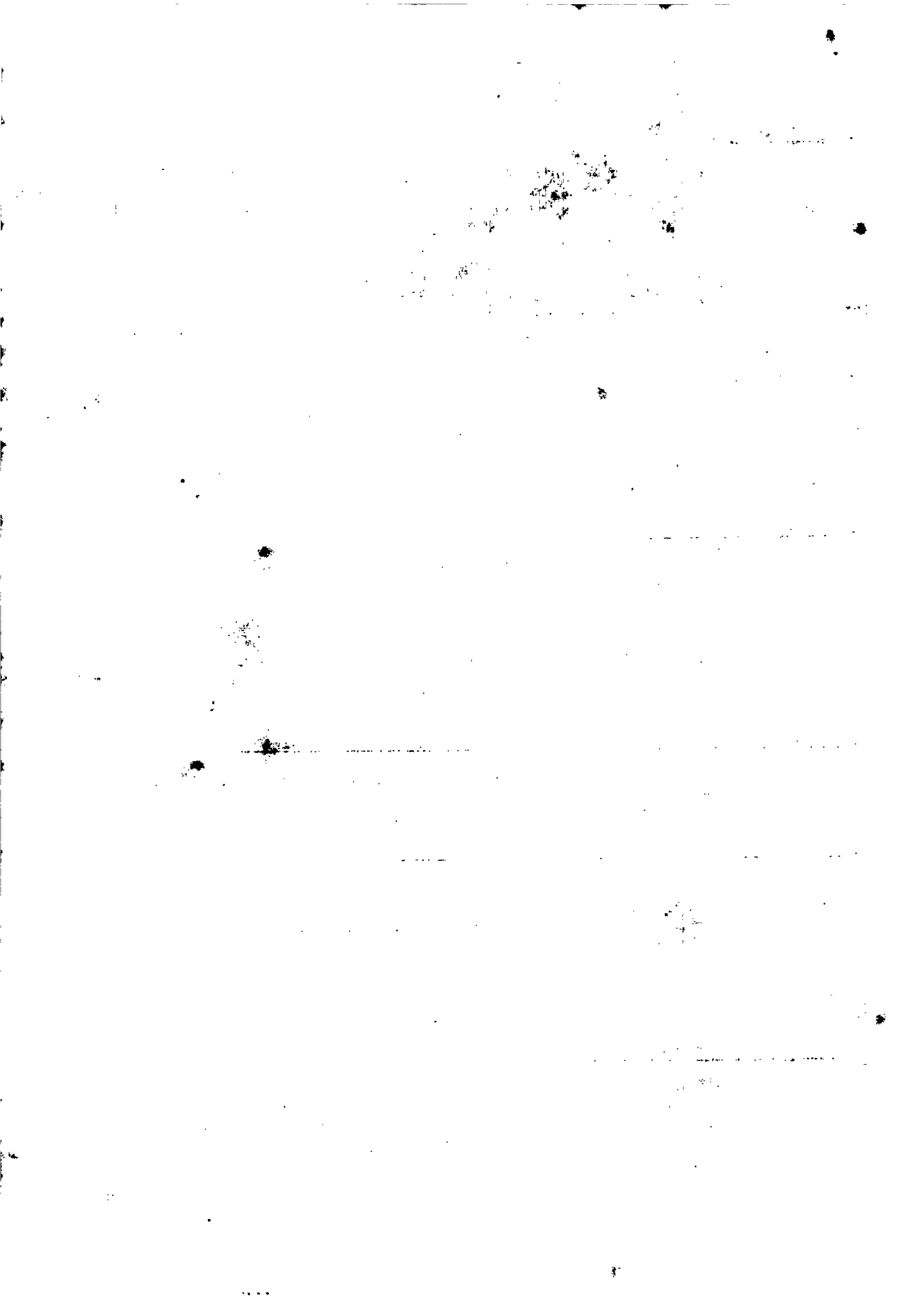
Extensive questionnaires from the United Nations Organisation and its agencies, dealing with demographic and vital data and statistics of cultivation, production, livestock, foodstuffs, external trade, etc., for Mauritius and the dependencies were answered.

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 Board.

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



9. TRADE STATISTICS

As a result of the transfer of the statistical branch of the Customs and Excise department to the Central Statistical Office, all trade statistics are now processed in this department, but the publication of all trade reports remains the responsibility of the Comptroller of Customs.

Complete statistics of imports and exports on the basis of the Standard International Trade Classification were prepared for incorporation into the annual report of the Customs and Excise department.

10. NATIONAL INCOME AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

During the year under review, the National Income and National Accounts estimates for 1962 were revised and issued for official information.

The computation of the estimates for 1963 could not be completed by the end of the year under review because most of the essential data required was not available.

11. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE COLONY

Tables of the Balance of Payments for the year 1963 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 1963 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 completed during the first half of the year under review.

The second volume of the report was issued in July. It gives detailed information about population by locality, households, buildings, dwellings, occupancy, tenure and housing conditions. This part of the report contains also an analysis of the economically active population by sex, status, occupation and industry.

14. SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

(i) Demographic studies

At the request of Government, the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations sent Miss Edith Adams, demographer of the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs (Population Branch) to carry out demographic studies in Mauritius. Miss Adams had already carried out an analysis of our population trends. Her study was published in Prof. R.M. Titmuss and Brian Abel-Smith's report on "Population Growth and Social Policy in Mauritius".

/Miss Adams ...

Miss Adams arrived on the 11th of February and left the Colony on the 23rd of September 1964. During her stay in Mauritius she was stationed in the Central Statistical Office and Mrs. G.Nairn, Compiler, served as her national counterpart.

Miss Adams carried out an evaluation of results of the 1962 population census, prepared a new life-table, worked out population projections by sex and age up to 1987 and started examining fertility differentials between population groups.

She was also requested to prepare manpower projections and estimates of annual labour force accessions and withdrawals during the period 1962-72 for use in the Ministry of Labour and a projection of the population of Port Louis district for use in the planning of a sewerage system.

It is unfortunate that Miss Adams' assignment could not be extended to enable her to complete the analysis of fertility data and to carry out that of other social and economic data collected at the 1962 census.

(ii) Financial studies

Mr. K.P.Narayanan Nair, M.Sc, Deputy Director of Statistics, Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, was commissioned by the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations as economic statistician (financial statistics) to advise, assist and train local personnel in the collection, analysis and interpretation of financial statistics with a view to their use in the framing of economic policy. He arrived in the Colony on the 13th of October.

Mr. Nair is stationed in this department where he is working in collaboration with the senior staff; the Assistant Director, in particular, is closely associated with Mr. Nair's work in all its stages as he has been designated to serve as Mr. Nair's counterpart.

(iii) Wages Councils

The Director of Statistics continued to serve as a member of the Wages Councils for the sugar industry throughout the year.

This department was again called upon to give extensive assistance to these 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 overseas.

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

In addition to the work of the Central Statistical Office, this department is at present used to compile and tabulate:

- (i) trade statistics from 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) ...

- (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.

During the year under review, the equipment was again put to extensive use in processing the population census data.

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 Publications</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
Mauritius Life Table (1961-63)	February 1965 (Quarterly Digest of Statistics Vol.4 No.3)
National Income and National Accounts of Mauritius 1948-54 ⁺	November 1955
Gross and Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948-54	March 1956
Natality and Fertility in Mauritius 1825-1955	June 1956
Gross and Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948-56 (revised version)	December 1957
1962 Population Census of Mauritius and its Dependencies (Volume I)	December 1963
1962 Population Census of Mauritius and its Dependencies (Volume II)	July 1964

⁺computed annually since 1954.

L.HONORE
Director of Statistics

26th February, 1965.