

COLONY OF MAURITIUS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Central Statistical Office
for the year 1965

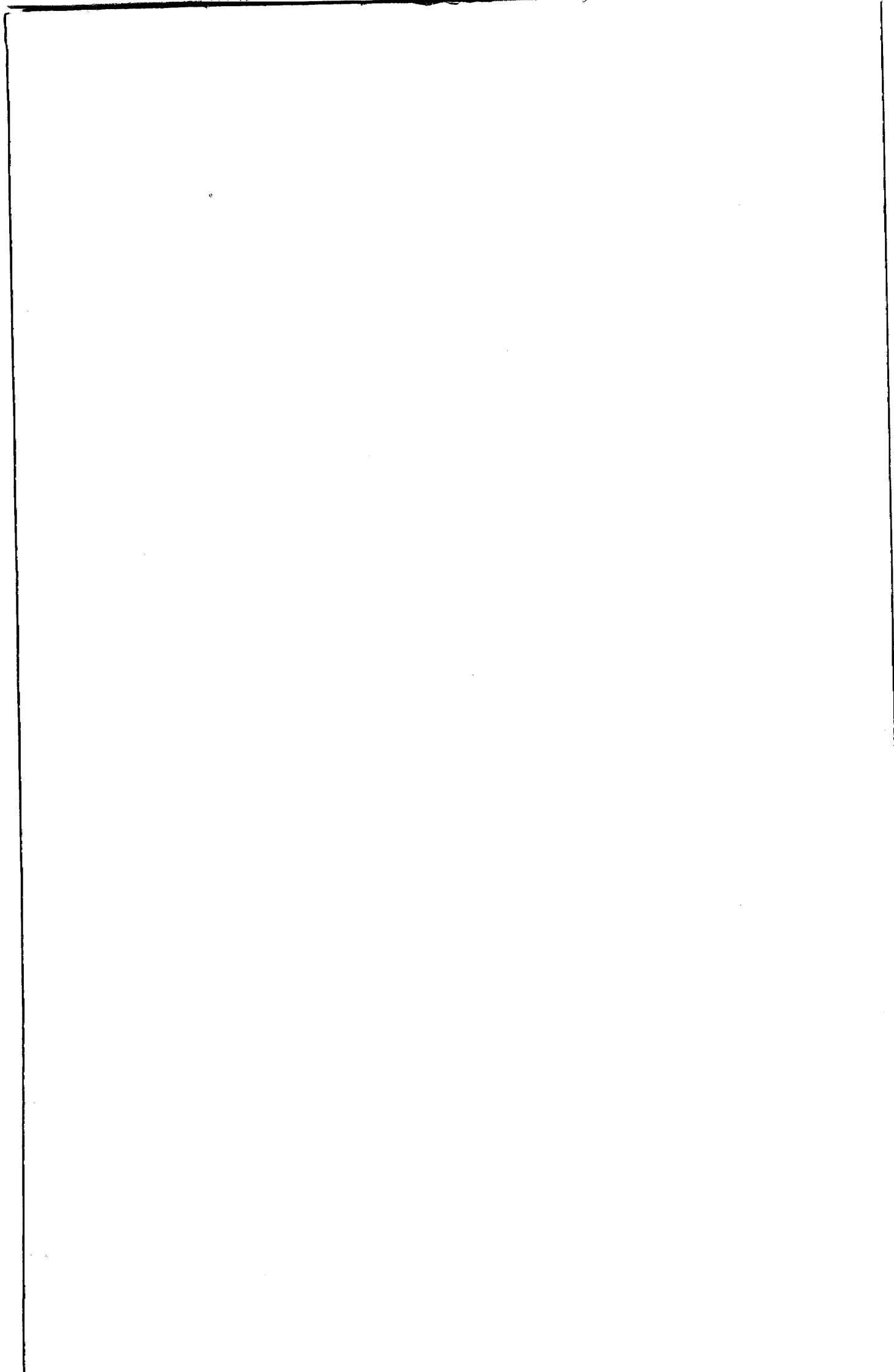


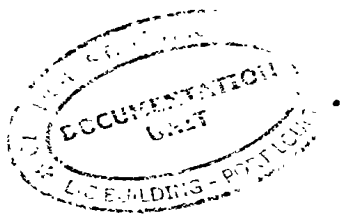
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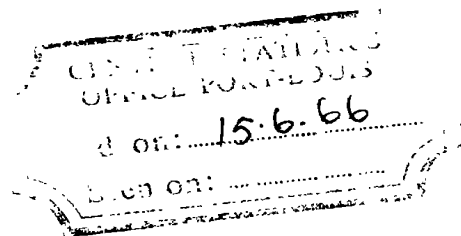
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No. 12 of 1966





ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR 1965



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.

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 Ministry of Overseas Development 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
Five Assistant Statisticians
Nine Compilers
One Machine Room Supervisor
One Assistant Machine Room Supervisor
One Executive Officer
One Confidential Assistant
Nine Machine Operators and Coders

One post of Assistant Statistician and one post of Executive Officer were created during the year and the post of Office Superintendent abolished. The additional Assistant Statistician, when appointed, will be responsible for devising improved methods for the collection, analysis and presentation of Agricultural Statistics.

3. QUARTERLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS

The Digest for the third quarter of 1964 was published in January 1965, and that of the fourth quarter in April 1965.

The digests for the first and second quarters of 1965 were issued in July and October 1965 respectively.

4. 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.

A Consumer Price Advisory Committee was appointed during the year under review to supervise the consumer price indices, to comment on changes in retail prices, and, where necessary, to make recommendations on measures to curb the rise in prices.

Representatives of Government ministries, of the principal employers' and employees' associations, of chambers of commerce and agriculture, and of the Agricultural Marketing Board sit on this committee. The first meeting was held on the 25th November 1965 under the chairmanship of the Director of Statistics.

5. STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

Several monthly and quarterly returns of demographic, vital, industrial production and trade statistics were regularly furnished to the statistical section of the Ministry of Overseas Development in London.

6. 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.

7. 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 Development Bank of Mauritius.

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

8. 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 annual and quarterly 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.

9. NATIONAL INCOME AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

During the year under review, the National Income and National Accounts estimates for 1963 and 1964 were computed and issued for official information.

10. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE COLONY

Tables of the Balance of Payments for the year 1964 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.

11. CAPITAL FORMATION ESTIMATES

Tabular statements of Capital Formation and Consumption in the Colony during the year 1964 were compiled and issued as previously at the request of the Secretary of State. The tables were forwarded to the Secretary of State in July.

12. POPULATION CENSUS

Miss Edith Adams, demographer of the United Nations Branch of Social Affairs (Population Branch) had from February to September 1964 carried out certain analyses of the 1962 Population Census data. Miss Adams started examining fertility data but was unable to complete her examination within the period of her assignment. In view of the special importance of population trends in Mauritius, it has been decided that the examination of fertility data should continue. The data has been summarised and sent to Mrs. Nairn, a compiler of this department, who has been awarded a United Nations fellowship for studies in demography at the London School of Economics. The analyses will be carried out by Mrs. Nairn under the guidance and supervision of the tutors of the Demographic Research Division of the School.

13. CENSUS OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The first Census of Industrial Production for Mauritius was taken by the Central Statistical Office in 1965 at the request and with the collaboration of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and External Communications. In view of the importance of the basic information that could be obtained from it, a wide coverage was aimed at. All establishments engaged in mining and quarrying, manufacturing or repairs, construction and electricity, employing in 1964 an average of three or more persons, were surveyed.

Planning work on the Census of industrial production started in December 1964. The questionnaire which was drafted to meet primarily the requirements of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and External Communications, the Ministry of Labour and the Central Statistical Office followed, as far as possible the international recommendation of the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics.

As a preliminary to this census, a directory of industrial establishments was compiled after a survey of the whole island.

Large establishments employing 10 or more persons were surveyed by means of a postal questionnaire. Experienced field surveyors were assigned to the task of surveying between the end of April and the middle of June, all establishments which employed from 3 to 9 persons (inclusive) in 1964. A total of 889 establishments were approached and non response was negligible.

The census forms were edited as soon as they were received in the Central Statistical Office, and all incomplete or incorrectly filled returns were immediately queried.

The report was published in September. It gives, inter alia, detailed information about the number of establishments classified according to size and industrial group, the number of persons engaged in each industry, the seasonal pattern of employment, the wages and salaries paid, the cost of material used, the sales, gross output and net output in 1964.

14. ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT

The Director of Statistics was appointed a member of the Economic Planning Unit soon after its creation in April 1965.

Since then the Central Statistical Office has worked in close collaboration with the Unit, and has been called upon to give it extensive assistance throughout the year under review.

15. SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

(i) 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 Mauritius on the 13th October 1964, and left on the 2nd October, 1965.

Mr. Nair was stationed in this department where he worked in collaboration with the senior staff. As far as his duties allowed him, the Assistant Director acted as his national counterpart.

Before leaving Mauritius, Mr. Nair submitted a report on his mission to the United Nations Bureau of Technical Assistance.

(ii) 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.

16. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

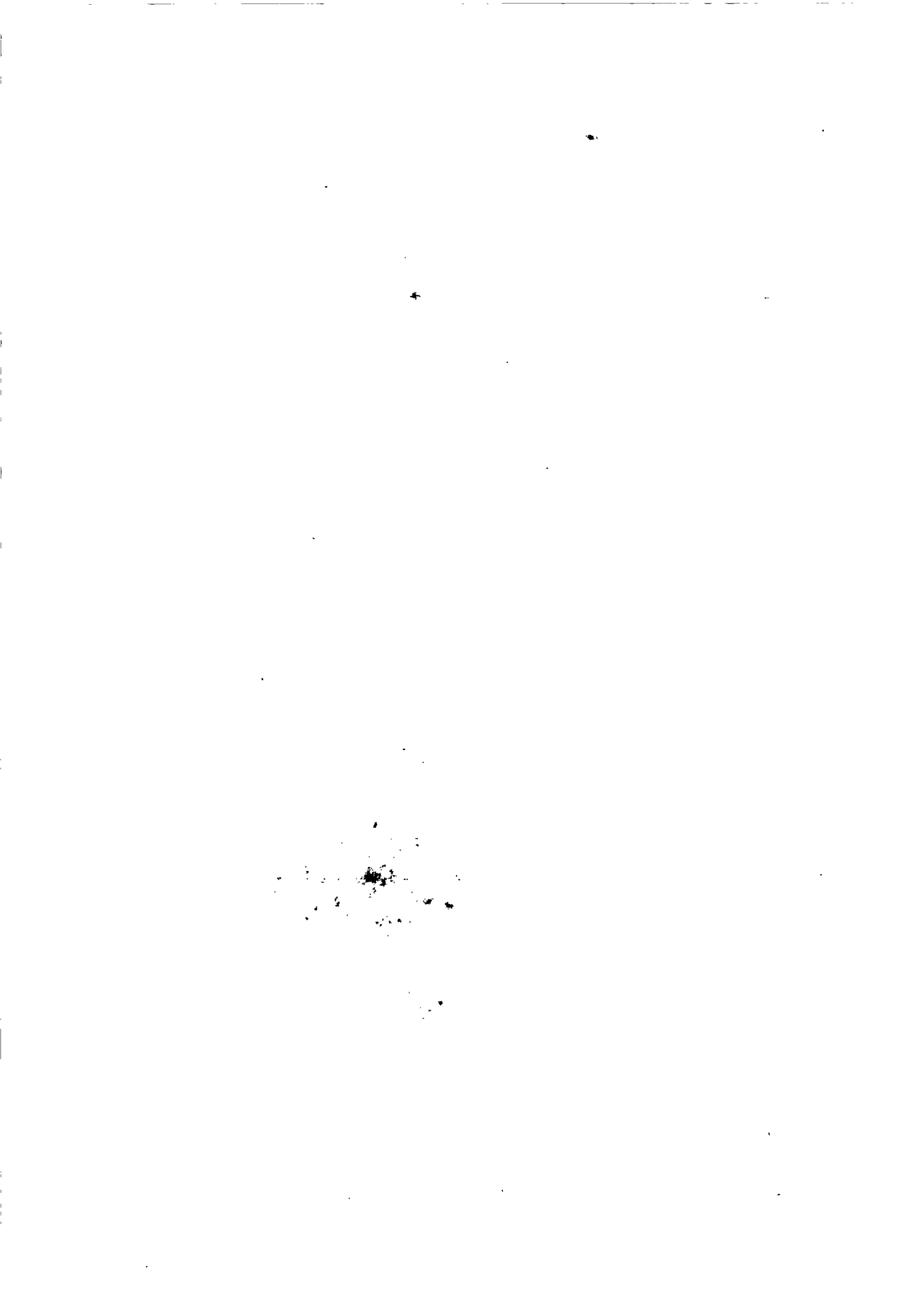
During the year, the Office dealt with a large number of enquiries of a private nature from individuals and institutions both local and overseas.

17. 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 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) 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 workman'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 for a fertility analysis.



18. 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	First issue March 1961
Year Book of Statistics	First issue 1946 Last issue 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
The Census of Industrial Production 1964	September 1965

⁺Computed annually since 1954

L.HONORE
Director of Statistics

3rd February, 1966

