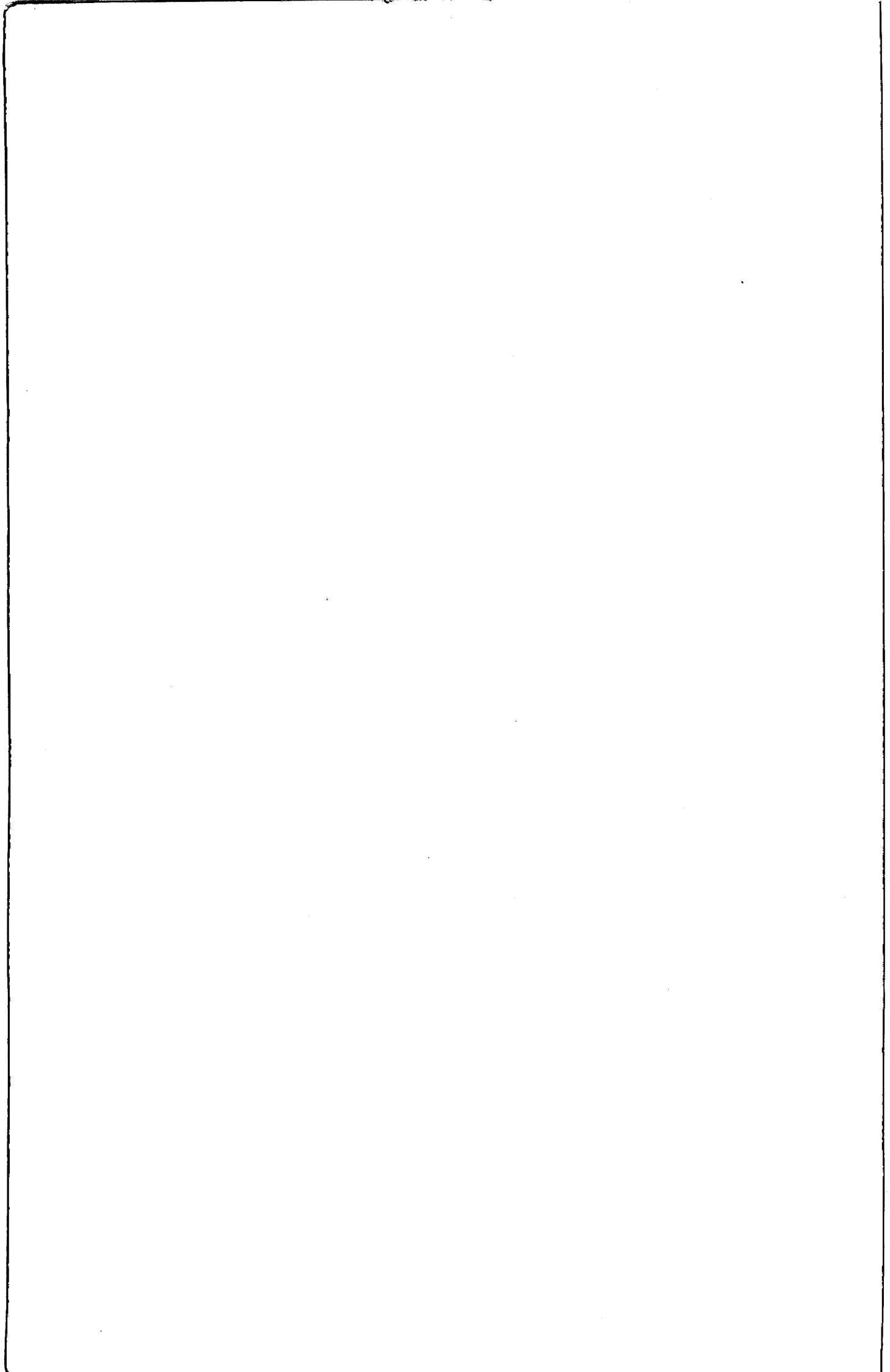


COLONY OF MAURITIUS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Central Statistical Office
for the year 1966





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OF THE

CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1966

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
Six 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 additional Assistant Statistician has been appointed to devise methods for the collection, analysis and presentation of Education Statistics.

/Staff Movements ...

3. STAFF MOVEMENTS

Mr. Louis Honoré, Director, left Mauritius on ~~the~~ 12th September 1966 for Ottawa, Canada, to attend the Sixth Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians which was followed by a Seminar on Price Statistics. During his absence, from 12th September to 10th October, Mr. M. Etienne acted as Director.

4. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Mr. Marcel Etienne, Assistant Director of Statistics, left for Washington on the 29th of December to follow a course on Balance of Payments Methodology at the International Monetary Fund. Mr. F. Empeigne, Statistician, acted as Assistant Director during his absence.

Mr. France Empeigne who left Mauritius in 1963 on a three years' study leave to read for the B.Sc (Econ) degree at the London School of Economics and Political Science graduated with honours on 1st August 1966 and returned on the 22nd August 1966.

Mr. Madhukarlall Baguant who had been granted a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship in 1963 was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in May 1966 by the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada and returned to Mauritius on 20th June 1966.

Mrs. Ginette Nairn followed the post-graduate course (M.Sc) in demography from October 1965 to September 1966 at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She sat for and successfully passed the examination which was set at M.Sc level.

Mr. Dawood Zmanay was granted a Fellowship under the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan and left for Australia on the 4th January, 1965. He studied Mathematics and Statistics at the National University of Canberra and was attached to the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics where he followed lectures on the theory of sampling techniques and was trained in the collection and presentation of current agricultural statistics.

M. J. Khary, Asst. Statistician, passed Part III and
Mr. M. Khadaroo, Compiler, passed Parts I and II of the examination of the Institute of Statisticians.

5. QUARTERLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS

The volume for the first and second quarters of 1966 were issued in August and November 1966 respectively. The digest will now appear as a bi-annual as from the second half of 1966; it will contain more information than the previous quarterly digests e.g. there will be a chapter on labour statistics.

6. 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 in 1965 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. Two meetings were held this year under the chairmanship of the Director of Statistics.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

The Chamber of Agriculture in cooperation with the Director of Statistics has devised improved methods for the collection of statistics and the new system will start operating in 1967.

10. 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.

11. NATIONAL INCOME AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

The National Income and National Accounts for 1965 were computed and issued for official information.

Work has already started on the bringing up to date and on the revision of these accounts in the light of new information and new concepts. It is hoped during the first half of 1967 to issue a publication on National Income and Expenditure.

12. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE COLONY

Tables of the Balance of Payments for the year 1965 and for the first half of 1966 were computed as in previous years. This work necessitated analyses of the records of the Treasury and the Post Office, and the compilation of returns from private banks and commercial agencies.

13. CAPITAL FORMATION ESTIMATES

Tabular statements of Capital Formation and Consumption in the Colony during the year 1965 were compiled and issued as previously at the request of the Secretary of State.

14. POPULATION CENSUS

An analysis of fertility data collected at the 1962 Population Census was carried out by Mrs. G. Nairn under the supervision of the Population Investigation Committee at the London School of Economics.

15. SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

The absence of regular and comprehensive statistics on employment and earnings has always been keenly felt, and the Central Statistical Office started carrying out bi-annual surveys the main purpose of which is to provide a continuous series of comparable data which would show changes in employment from year to year, from one part of the year to another and also between the various sectors of the economy.

The surveys covered large establishments only because a complete enumeration would have proved a tremendous task in a country with so many small scale activities.

The first survey was carried out in April 1966 and the report was published in July. The second survey was carried out in September 1966 and the report will be published early next year.

In October this office also carried out a small survey in order to ascertain the average wages of certain typical occupations in selected industries. The results will appear in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour.

16. ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT

The Central Statistical Office continued to work in close collaboration with the Economic Planning Unit, and has been called upon to give it extensive assistance throughout the year under review especially in the field of statistical analysis.

17. SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

(i) Banwell Commission

Heavy demands were made upon the office by the Banwell Commission which had been appointed to make recommendations on the electoral system of Mauritius.

(ii) Salaries Commission

This department gave a fair amount of assistance to the Salaries Commissioner.

(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.

18. 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.

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

20. PUBLICATIONS OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE, Mauritius.

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 <i>March 1961</i> Last issue <i>March 1966</i> |
| 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 |
| Survey of Employment and Earnings in large establishments (Bi-annual - March & September) | March July 1966 |

⁺ computed annually since 1954

L. HONORE
Director of Statistics