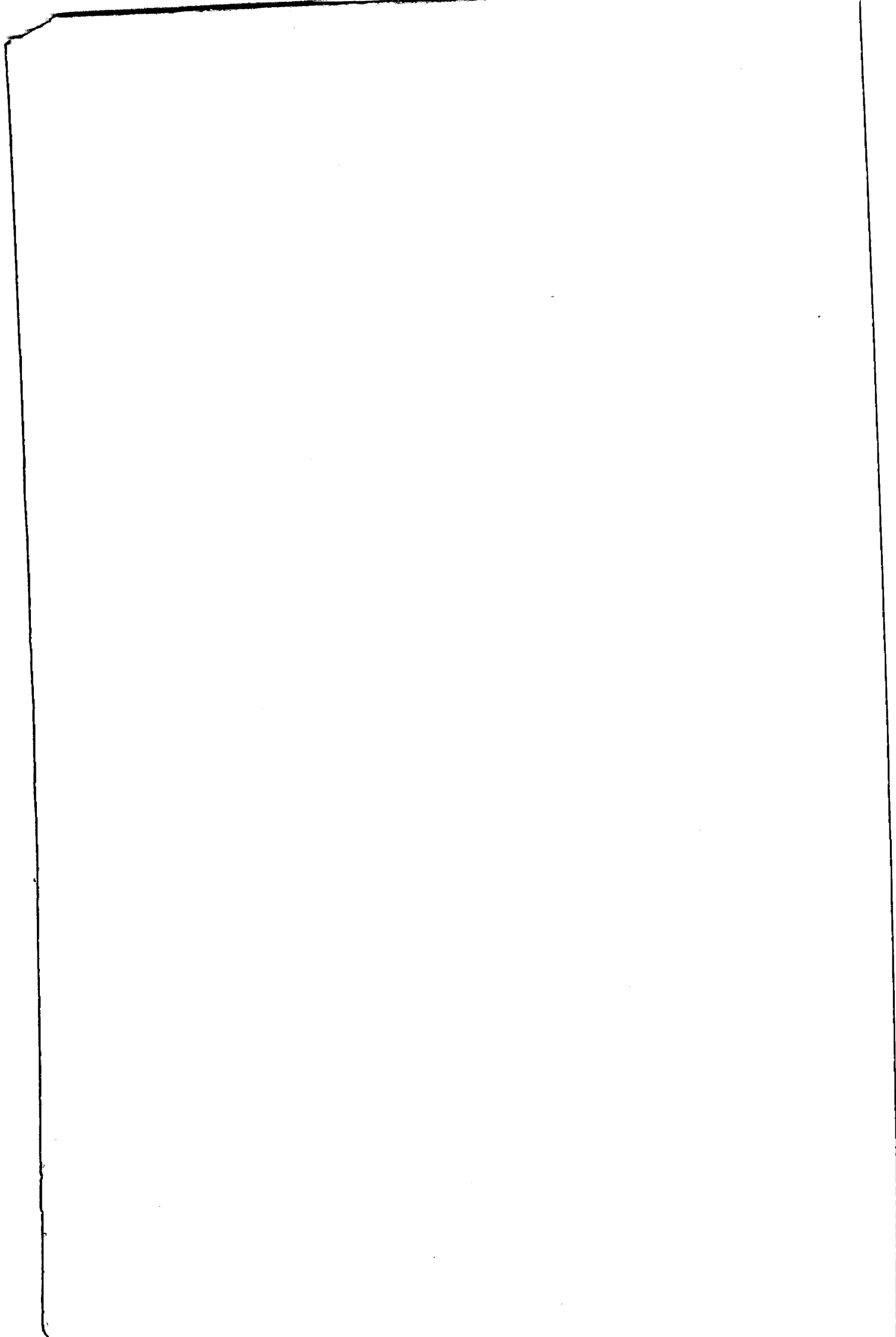


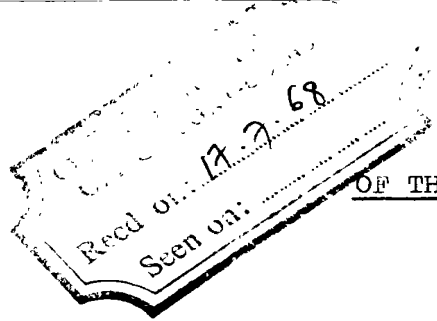
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MAURITIUS

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Central Statistical Office
for the Year 1967







ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1967



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 the remuneration 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 is also responsible for the compilation and analyses of 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 Bi-annual 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

3. STAFF MOVEMENTS

Mr. Louis Honoré, who had been Director of Statistics since 1959, went on leave prior to retirement on the 15th May.

Mr. Marcel Etienne, Assistant Director was promoted Director as from the 1st July 1967 and, as a result of consequential vacancies occurring in the higher grades, the following appointments were made :

- (a) Mr. France Empeigne, Statistician, was promoted Assistant Director as from the 1st September;
- (b) Mr. M. Baguant, Assistant Statistician, was promoted Statistician as from the same date;
- and (c) Mr. N. Gungaram, Compiler, was promoted Assistant Statistician as from the 16th October.

Mr. J. Ah-Kong, Assistant Statistician returned from overseas study leave on the 14th August.

4. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Mr. Regis Rassou, Statistician, left for Addis Ababa on the 1st May 1967 to attend the 2nd African Seminar on Labour Statistics which was sponsored jointly by the International Labour Office and the Economic Commission for Africa. The Seminar lasted three weeks and covered all aspects of household budget surveys and consumer price indices. It was conducted as an intensive training course consisting of lectures, discussions and practical work.

The following officers were successful at the examinations of the Institute of Statisticians held locally :

Part I - Miss M.N. Moutou and Mr. G. Clarisse

Part II - Mr. N. Gungaram

Part III - Mr. D. Zmanay

5. BI-ANNUAL DIGEST OF STATISTICS

The quarterly digest of statistics has been replaced by a bi-annual digest, the first issue of which was published in April 1967 and covered the 2nd half of 1966. The second issue, published in October 1967 contained some new features or additional tables in the following sections : demography, national accounts, labour and local production. It is proposed to include new statistical series from time to time as they become available.

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. One meeting was 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, labour etc., for Mauritius and its dependencies were answered.

The figures supplied have been published in a condensed form in the Demographic, National Accounts, Statistical and other Yearbooks of the United Nations Organisation, in the International Labour Office Yearbook and in the Production and Trade Yearbooks of the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Since January 1951, monthly statistical tables covering various subjects have been furnished for incorporation into the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations.

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, the Development Bank of Mauritius, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute and the Mauritius Sugar Planters' Association.

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 started 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 1966 were computed and issued for official information.

Progress has been made in bringing up to date and revising these accounts in the light of new information and new concepts.

12. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND CAPITAL FORMATION ESTIMATES

Tables of the Balance of Payments and of Capital Formation Estimates for the year 1966 were computed and published as in previous years. This work necessitated the analysis of the records of the Treasury, the Customs and Excise Department, the Ministry of Works, the Post Office, Urban Authorities, as well as the compilation of returns from shipping and aviation companies, private banks, agricultural, commercial and industrial undertakings.

13. SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

A Bi-annual Survey of Employment and Earnings was initiated by the Central Statistical Office in 1966 to provide a continuous series of comparable data which would show seasonal changes in employment and earnings in the various sectors of the economy.

The third and fourth surveys of the series were carried out, as scheduled, in March and September 1967 respectively, and their results have been published.

As in previous years, this office also made a small survey in October to ascertain the average wage rates and average earnings of certain typical occupations in selected industries.

The results were communicated to the Ministry of Labour for publication in its annual report and for transmission to the International Labour Office.

14. ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT

The Central Statistical Office continued to work in close collaboration with the Economic Planning Unit, and to give it assistance especially in the field of statistical analysis.

15. SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

(i) Survey of Cowkeepers

The Central Statistical Office provided technical advice in the field of sampling for the above survey which was sponsored by the Nuffield Foundation and carried out by Mr.M.Milliken, Economist of the Agricultural Marketing Board. The department organised the field work when the enquiry started in 1966 and was called upon to help with a follow-up survey in 1967.

(ii) Survey of Apprentices

This department co-operated with the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs in carrying out a survey which yielded information to be used in setting up a national system of vocational and technical education. The survey was conducted in March 1967 and more than 200 employers liable to employ apprentices were contacted.

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;
- (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.

The equipment was also put to use in making special tabulations for the Electoral Commissioner and for the demographer of the Ministry of Health (Family Planning Section).

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>
Bi-annual Digest of Statistics	First issue April 1967
Quarterly Digest of Statistics	First issue March 1961 Last issue June 1966
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	First issue July 1966 and thereafter twice yearly

⁺computed annually since 1954

M.ETIENNE
Director of Statistics

16th February, 1968.