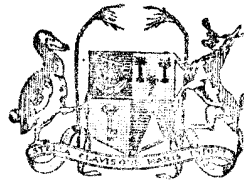


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MAURITIUS

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
**Central Statistical Office**  
for the Year 1968

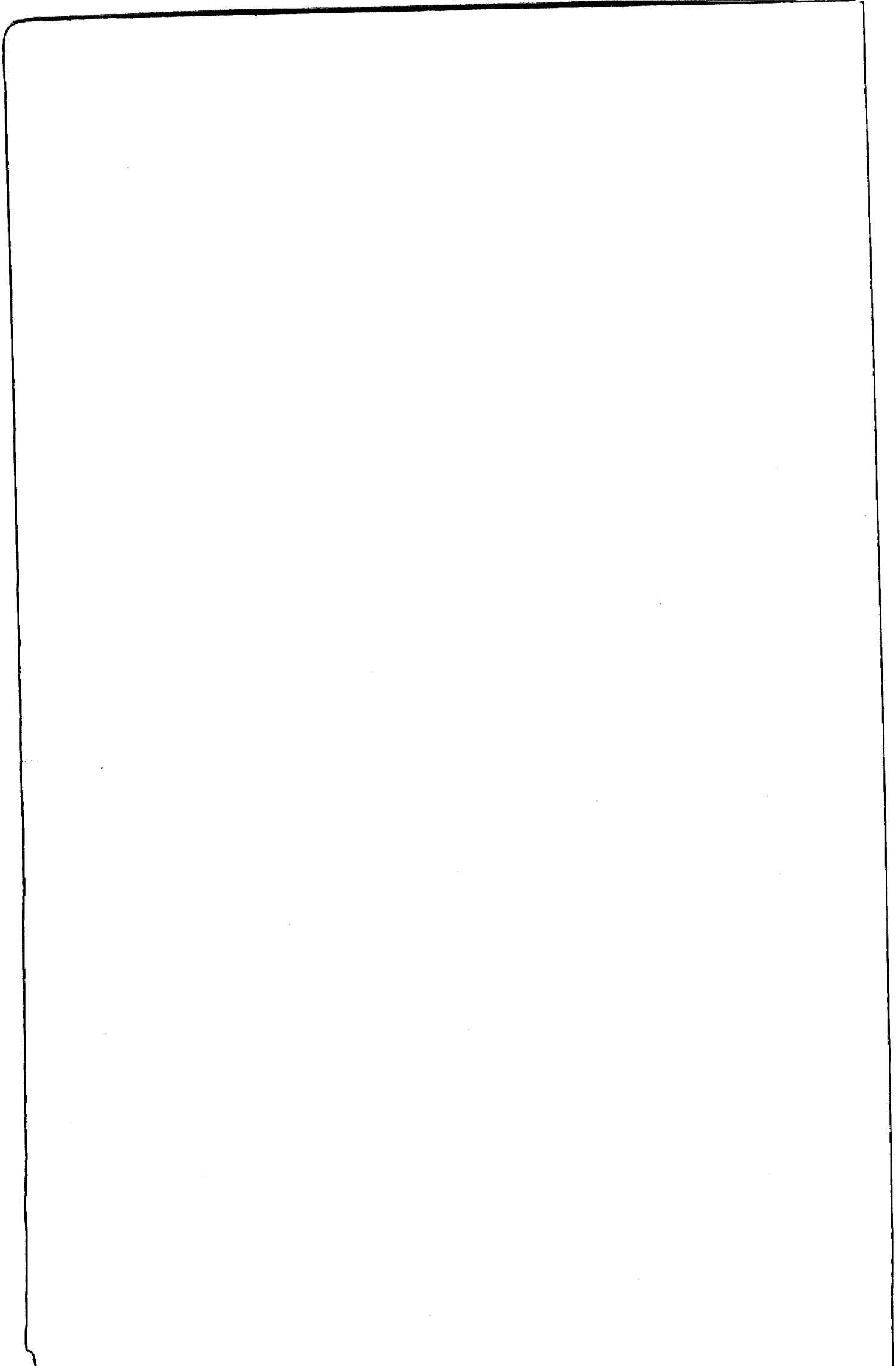


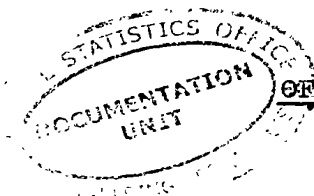
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No. 10 of 1969





ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1968

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE  
PORT-LOUIS  
Date on: 19.8.69  
Date on: \_\_\_\_\_

1. FUNCTIONS

The Statistical Bureau was created in July 1945. Its original functions were to collect and compile accurate information as to the remuneration of labour, the number and the type of employment in various industries, the level of prices, the computation of cost of living indices, and to supervise and co-ordinate all 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 Mauritius : agricultural, industrial, financial and commercial. It is now also responsible for the compilation and analyses of demographic, vital, health, educational and other social statistics. 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 the public.

The office draws up complete annual tables of the Balance of Payments, of Capital Formation aggregates and of National Accounts.

In addition, the Central Statistical Office has also to prepare numerous statistical reports for submission to the various agencies of the United Nations Organisation. It has to reply to a large number of enquiries from abroad, as well as from local organisations, institutions and individuals. It also carries out research on the statistical material collected.

2. STAFF

The establishment of this department is as follows :

- The Director of Statistics
- The Assistant Director
- Two Statisticians
- Six Assistant Statisticians
- Ten Compilers
- One Machine Room Supervisor
- One Assistant Machine Room Supervisor
- One Executive Officer
- One Confidential Assistant
- Nine Machine Operators and Coders

3. STAFF RELATIONS

The Departmental Whitley Council is constituted as follows :

Official Side

- The Assistant Director of Statistics - Chairman
- A Statistician

Staff Side

- The President of the Central Statistical Office Staff Union
- The Secretary of the Central Statistical Office Staff Union

The main topic discussed by the Council during the year was the proposed changes to the schedule of duties and qualifications of the staff.

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#### 4. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Mr. Marcel Etienne, Director of Statistics, attended a seminar on the organisation and conduct of Censuses of Population and Housing in Addis Ababa. The purpose of this seminar which lasted from the 17th to the 29th June 1968, was to assist member states in the implementations of their censuses of population and housing as part of the 1970 World Census Programme. The seminar examined in detail the procedures to be adopted in formulating and carrying out a census plan in the light of national resources and of national needs for data to be used in economic and social planning.

During Mr. Etienne's absence, from the 17th June to the 2nd July, Mr. F.Empeigne acted as Director.

Mr.R.Rassou, Statistician, attended a seminar which also took place in Addis Ababa from the 3rd to the 14th June, 1968, to study the methods used in sample surveys. The purpose of the seminar was to examine improvements in the application of sampling methods and to make these known to persons likely to be responsible for such surveys in the future. The seminar dealt with applications of sampling to all types of sample surveys.

Mr.M.Baguant, Statistician, was nominated to the Working Group on Income Distribution Statistics which met in Addis Ababa from the 9th to the 14th of December 1968. This working group was convened jointly by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Statistical Office of the United Nations. The main object of the meeting was to discuss the adaptation to the needs and conditions of African countries, of a system of statistics of the distribution of income and wealth supplementary to the United Nations system of National Accounts.

Mr.D.Zmanay, Assistant Statistician, attended a training course on agricultural census techniques held from the 8th of July to the 21st of September, 1968, in Kampala. This course was sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the Government of Uganda and was organised for English-speaking African countries in view of the 1970 World Census of Agriculture. The training was designed to give census officials who will be responsible for major technical phases of planning, organizing and executing national censuses of agriculture, an opportunity to strengthen their skills, to gain insight into the solutions of some of the particular problems that they will meet in their own countries and to see how the various census tasks fit into the entire framework of census operations.

During the absence of Mr. Zmanay, Mr. M. Khadaroo, Compiler, acted as Assistant Statistician in charge of agricultural statistics.

#### Lectures

During the year lectures were delivered by members of the staff on a number of topics of interest to officers who were reading for the examinations of the Institute of Statisticians. Those who wanted to improve their knowledge of statistics also attended.

#### Examinations

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

Part I - Messrs C. Sesmun and P. Yim Iim  
Part III (B)- formerly Part IV - Mr.J.Ahkong

#### 5. BI-ANNUAL DIGEST OF STATISTICS

The digest for the second half of 1967 was published in May 1968 and contained two additional sections - Climate and Election Statistics, and new features in the following sections : public finance and banking, national accounts, education, transport and communications and local production.

The digest for the first half of 1968, issued in November, contained further additional data on public finance and banking.

#### 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 103 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.

The Committee includes representatives of Government Ministries, of the principal employers' and employees' associations, of chambers of commerce and agriculture and of the Agricultural Marketing Board. One meeting was held this year under the Chairmanship of the Director of Statistics.

#### 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, 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.

During the year under review, quarterly data on consumer price indices, trade statistics, transport statistics and local production have also been forwarded to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa for publication in their quarterly Statistical Bulletin.

### 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 sugar 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.

### 9. DEMOGRAPHY AND VITAL STATISTICS

The Central Statistical Office is responsible for the production of intercensal population estimates and of population projections. The vital statistics section of the Annual Report of the Registrar General (except data for Rodrigues) has been computed entirely in this office since 1955.

### 10. TRADE STATISTICS

All trade statistics are 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 ACCOUNTS

The National Accounts for 1967 were computed and issued for official information.

The accounts have been revised since 1953 in the light of new information and new concepts and made available to the United Nations Organisation.

### 12. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND CAPITAL FORMATION ESTIMATES

Tables of the Balance of Payments and of Capital Formation Estimates for the year 1967 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.

Following the admission of Mauritius as a member of the International Monetary Fund, this office was asked to supply to that organisation extensive and detailed information on the Balance of Payments. Data for 1967 will be published by the International Monetary Fund in its Balance of Payments Yearbook.

This department also gave every possible assistance to the I.M.F. Mission which visited Mauritius in December.

### 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 fifth and sixth surveys of the series were carried out, as scheduled, in March and September 1968 respectively.

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 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.

During the year this office carried out a manpower survey for the Unit, and the Director of Statistics attended all the regular meetings between the officials of the Unit, the Central Statistical Office and the Town and Country Planning Office.

### 15. SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

#### The Census of Industrial Production

The second Census of Industrial Production for Mauritius was taken in 1968. It differed from the first census of 1965 in that :

- (i) it covered all establishments engaged in mining and quarrying, manufacturing or repairs, construction and in electricity generation.
- (ii) more detailed information was collected with a view to improving the National Product's estimates of the Island.
- (iii) it will make it possible to establish a base for the computation of an index of industrial production.

Establishments employing 10 or more persons were surveyed by means of a postal questionnaire whereas those employing less than 10 persons were contacted by enumerators. Field work started in August 1968 and lasted till November.

### 16. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

Among the other responsibilities of the Statistical Office mention must also be made of the annual revision of the section on Mauritius of overseas reference volumes such as The Stateman's Year Book, Whitaker's Almanacks, Encyclopaedia Britannica, etc.

During the year, the Office had also to deal 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 LIMITED

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 demographer of the Ministry of Health (Family Planning Section).

#### 18. LIBRARY

Numerous year books, digests, reports and other statistical publications were received during the year from the United Nations Organisation and its agencies, and from foreign statistical organisations.

#### 19. 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



19. (Cont'd)

<u>Title of Publication</u>	<u>Date of issue</u>
Mauritius Life Table (1961-63)	February 1965 (Quarterly Digest of Statistics Vol. 4 No. 3)
National Income and National Accounts of Mauritius 1948-54 <sup>+</sup>	November 1955
Gross and Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948-54 <sup>+</sup>	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

<sup>+</sup> computed annually since 1954

M. ETIENNE  
Director of Statistics

February 1969.