

PROVISIONAL ESTIMATES OF POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS, JUNE 1988

A. Island of Mauritius

1. Population estimates, June 1988

The total population of the island of Mauritius as at 30th June 1988 is estimated at 1,014,300. This represents a net increase of 10,500 persons (or 1.0 percent) over the figure of 1,003,800 one year ago. As at mid-1988 it is estimated that the population density was 544 persons per square kilometre and the sex-ratio was 99.6 males per 100 females.

2. Population growth, Jan.-June 1988

During the first six months of this year, natural increase (excess of births over deaths) added 6,700 persons to the population while net migration (excess of arrivals over departures) accounted for a net loss of 12,000 persons. The overall balance of change therefore resulted in a deficit of 5,300 persons, causing a decrease of the population from 1,019,600 as at the beginning of the year to 1,014,300 by mid-year. The decrease of population between these two dates is a regular feature of the population statistics of the island of Mauritius. This pattern is due to the presence of a relatively larger number of visitors in the country at the beginning, as compared to the middle of the year.

3. Vital statistics, Jan.-June 1988

The number of live births during the first 6 months of this year was 9,890, 7 percent more than during the same period of last year (9,246). From the available data it is also shown that the number of live births registered during each of the months from January to June of this year was, in all cases, higher than the recorded number during the corresponding months of last year. On this trend, it is worked out that the number of live births by the end of this year would be around 20,500, giving a crude birth rate of about 20.2. This would then indicate a rise in the birth rate for two consecutive years, from 19.1 in 1987 and 18.3 (the lowest ever-recorded) in 1986.

The increase in the number of live births during last year could be due partly to the increase in the number of women of childbearing ages and possibly also to a slight increase in fertility. However, the increase may only reflect a change in the pattern of childbearing without any ultimate increase in the total number of children borne by a woman. It may be that there is a tendency among younger women who are familiar with the means of controlling fertility to complete their childbearing experience earlier, in which case any increase in fertility at the younger ages need not necessarily result in a higher level of completed fertility.

A total of 3,189 deaths were registered during the first half year of 1988, almost the same number as reported during the corresponding period of last year (3,186). The death rate for this is estimated to be around 6.5,

and would not be significantly different from that of last year (6.6).

The number of infant deaths (deaths of children under 1 year of age) registered during the first semester of this year was 225, 10 percent less than the number reported during the same period of last year (250). Assuming a fall of such magnitude to continue during the following six months, the infantile mortality rate is expected to decline from 24.2 in 1987 to 20.5 in 1988, a fall of more than 15 percent.

The number of still births registered during the first six months of this year was the same as during the corresponding period of last year (173). The still birth rate is expected to decline by about 5% from 17.6 in 1987 to 16.8 in 1988, on the basis of the estimated 20,500 births for 1988.

The number of marriages registered during the period from January to June of this year was 4,929, only one more than the number for the corresponding period of last year. However, the marriage rate for this year would probably not be much different from that of last year.

B. Island of Rodrigues

1. Population estimates, June 1988

The population of the island of Rodrigues as at 30th June of this year is estimated at 36,350, 200 less than the estimated figure of 36,550 of one year ago. The sex ratio was 103.7 males for every 100 females.

2. Population change, Jan-June 1988

Population decreased by about 400 persons, from 36,750 at the beginning of the year to an estimated 36,350 by mid-year. This decrease was caused by a significant number of net out-migrants (750) offsetting the gains due to natural increase (350). This large volume of out-migration could possibly be due to more Rodriguans coming to the main island in search of more favourable employment opportunities.

3. Vital events

The numbers of registered vital events during the first six months of this year, except for still births, were all below those reported during the corresponding period of last year. However the range of variation in the percentage decline is large.

There were 430 live births registered during the first half of this year compared to 440 during the same period of last year (a fall of slightly more than 2 percent).

The number of deaths during the period from January to June of this year (88) is about 8 percent below the number recorded during the same period of last year (96).

The number of marriages registered declined by 18 percent, from 76 during the first half of 1987 to 62 during the same period of this year.

The most significant decline among vital events, however, was the reduction in the number of infant deaths, from 30 during the first six months of 1987 to 13 during the same period of this year. Should a fall of such importance still prevail during the remaining months of this year, an overwhelming reduction in the infantile mortality rate can be expected for 1988. The rate could be in the range 20-25 infant deaths per 1,000 live births as compared to 46.5 in 1987.

The number of still births registered during the first semester of 1988 (11) was slightly higher than the number for the corresponding period of last year (8).

Central Statistical Office
Rose Hill

September 1988

Table 1 - Estimated total population by sex of the island of Mauritius,
1986 - 1988 (Mid-year estimates)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Both sexes</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Sex Ratio</u>	<u>Density/Km²</u>
1986	993,851	497,659	496,192	100.3	533
1987	1,003,794	501,221	502,573	99.7	538
1988 ^{1/}	1,014,285	506,222	508,063	99.6	544

Table 2 - Population increase during the first half year of 1987 and 1988,
Island of Mauritius

	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Population as at beginning of year	<u>1,008,864</u>	<u>1,019,624</u>
Live births, January - June	9,246	9,890
Deaths, January - June	3,186	3,189
Natural increase, January - June	<u>+ 6,060</u>	<u>+ 6,701</u>
Arrivals, January - June	127,990	149,440
Departures, January - June	139,120	161,480
Net migration, January - June	<u>- 11,130</u>	<u>- 12,040</u>
Population as at mid-year	<u>1,003,794</u>	<u>1,014,285^{1/}</u>

^{1/} provisional

Table 3 - Vital Statistics, Island of Mauritius, 1987 and 1988

	<u>1 9 8 7</u>		<u>1988^{1/}</u>
	<u>Jan.-June</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>January-June</u>
Live births	9,246	19,151	9,890
Deaths	3,186	6,581	3,189
Natural increase	6,060	12,570	6,701
Marriages	4,928	11,201	4,929
Divorces	...	842	...
Infant Deaths	250	463	225
Still births	173	344	173

^{1/} provisional

Table 4 - Vital Statistics rates, Island of Mauritius, 1986 - 1988

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988^{1/}</u>
Crude birth rate	18.3	19.1	20.2
Crude death rate	6.7	6.6	6.5
Rate of natural increase	11.7	12.5	13.7
Crude Marriage Rate	20.8	22.3	22.1
Crude Divorce Rate	1.2	1.7	...
Infant Mortality Rate	26.3	24.2	20.5
Still birth rate	18.4	17.6	16.8

^{1/} estimates

Table 5 - Vital Statistics by month of registration, Island of Mauritius,
1987 - 1988

<u>Month/Year</u>	<u>Live births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Marriages</u>	<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Still births</u>
January	1,509	561	728	39	29
February	1,428	465	655	49	27
March	1,667	518	689	36	22
April	1,577	525	980	39	32
May	1,425	525	894	45	30
June	1,640	592	982	42	33
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Jan. - June 1987	9,246	3,186	4,928	250	173
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January	1,627	617	752	36	35
February	1,537	494	669	37	28
March	1,754	534	743	49	28
April	1,653	460	947	28	24
May	1,670	511	888	43	26
June	1,649	573	930	32	32
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Jan. - June 1988 ^{1/}	9,890	3,189	4,929	225	173
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1/ provisional

Table 6 - Estimated total population by sex of the Island of Rodrigues,
1986 - 1988 (Mid-year estimates)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Both Sexes</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Sex Ratio</u>	<u>Density/ Km²</u>
1986	35,588	18,070	17,518	103.2	342
1987	36,537	18,673	17,864	104.5	351
1988 ^{1/}	36,356	18,510	17,846	103.7	350

^{1/} provisional

Table 7 - Population increase during the first half year of 1987 and 1988,
Island of Rodrigues

	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Population at beginning of year	36,115	36,743
Live births, Jan - June	440	430
Deaths, Jan - June	96	88
Natural increase, Jan - June	+ 344	+ 342
Arrivals, Jan - June	3,924	3,635
Departures, Jan - June	3,846	4,364
Net migration, Jan - June	+ 78	- 729
Population at mid year	<u>36,537</u>	<u>36,356^{1/}</u>

^{1/} provisional

Table 8 - Vital Statistics, Island of Rodrigues, 1987 and 1988

	<u>1 9 8 7</u>		<u>1988^{1/}</u>
	<u>Jan.-June</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>January-June</u>
Live births	440	882	430
Deaths	96	172	88
Natural increase	344	710	342
Marriages	76	191	62
Infant deaths	30	41	13
Still births	8	19	11

^{1/} provisional

Table 9 - Vital Statistics rates^{1/}, Island of Rodrigues, 1986 and 1987

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987^{2/}</u>
Crude birth rate	25.1	24.1
Crude death rate	5.3	4.7
Rate of natural increase	19.8	19.4
Crude marriage rate	10.6	10.5
Infant mortality rate	48.8	46.5
Still birth rate	20.8	21.1

^{1/} because of the small number of events, the rates have been calculated by taking the average for three years and dividing by the midperiod population

^{2/} based on events for the year 1987 only

Table 10 - Vital statistics by month of registration, Island of Rodrigues,
1987 and 1988

<u>Month/year</u>	<u>Live births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Marriages</u>	<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Still births</u>
January	73	19	7	7	-
February	59	17	8	3	1
March	84	15	13	3	1
April	75	19	12	9	4
May	58	15	16	3	-
June	91	11	20	5	2
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January-June 1987	440	96	76	30	8
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January	66	21	6	4	1
February	71	16	10	1	2
March	74	13	10	3	2
April	67	16	22	2	3
May	80	5	5	1	-
June	72	17	9	2	3
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January-June 1988 1/	430	88	62	13	11
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1/ provisional