

2000 POPULATION CENSUS - MAIN RESULTS

1. Introduction

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) conducted a Housing Census from February to April 2000, followed by a Population Census in July of the same year.

The processing and tabulation of the Housing Census data were completed last year. Main results were published in an issue of an Economic and Social Indicator in September 2000 while detailed results were published in November of the same year in a tabulation report entitled:

Volume I - Housing and Living Conditions.

The processing and tabulation of the Population Census data are now completed and the detailed results are being published in six volumes as follows:

Volume II - Demographic and Fertility Characteristics

Volume III - Economic Characteristics

Volume IV - Educational Characteristics

Volume V - Household Characteristics

Volume VI - Geographical and Migration Characteristics

Volume VII - Disability.

The longer delay in producing the Population Census tables is due to the larger volume and greater complexity of the Population Census data as compared to the Housing Census data.

Tables for all reports are ready; however, it may take some time before a sufficient number of copies are produced by the Government Printer for distribution. A printout and a soft copy of all reports are available at the CSO. If data users are in urgent need of specific tables before reports are disseminated, photocopies or soft copies can be made available. Furthermore, the tabulation files have been converted to HTML and are posted on the CSO's website (<http://statsmauritius.gov.mu>).

2. Status of published data

Censuses in all countries are subject to various types of errors, e.g. omission of households and persons, overstatement of unemployment and understatement of income. Many countries, including developed countries, adjust for certain types of coverage errors and inconsistencies before publishing their census results.

The CSO usually publishes unadjusted census data as soon as they are available and then carries out an exhaustive analysis and evaluation exercise before making any adjustments that may be warranted. Data evaluation and analysis will be carried out in the coming months and will be published in a series of reports during the course of next year.

This report presents a summary of the main results of the 2000 Population Census. Intercensal comparisons made in this report are based on unadjusted data. This reduces the effects of errors on the analysis of trends since both censuses are expected to be affected by similar types of errors.

3. Households

The 2000 Population Census enumerated 296,300 private households, representing an increase of 25% over the 1990 Census figure of 236,100.

On the other hand, the household size dropped from 4.5 in 1990 to 3.9 in 2000 reflecting the continued tendency of newly formed families to make separate living arrangements.

4. Population size and density

The resident population of the Republic of Mauritius increased from 1,056,800 at the 1990 Census to 1,179,100 at Census 2000, giving an average annual growth rate of 1.1% for the period 1990-2000 compared to 0.79% for the intercensal period 1983-1990 (Table 1). The main reason for the higher growth rate in 1990-2000 is that there was much less migration of residents to other countries during 1990-2000 as compared to 1983-1990.

The population density increased from 518 persons per sq km at the 1990 Census to 578 at Census 2000.

Table 1 - Resident population by gender, 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Island	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Island of Mauritius	510,676	511,780	1,022,456	566,056	577,013	1,143,069
Island of Rodrigues	17,084	17,120	34,204	17,700	18,079	35,779
Other islands	91	76	167	193	96	289
Republic of Mauritius	527,851	528,976	1,056,827	583,949	595,188	1,179,137

5. Sex ratio

The number of males (men and boys) enumerated at Census 2000 was 583,900 compared to 527,900 in 1990 while the number of females (women and girls) was 595,200 in 2000 against 529,000 in 1990.

The number of males per 1000 females thus declined from 998 in 1990 to 981 in 2000. This is mainly due to the fact that women live longer than men.

6. Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth for men improved from 65.6 years in 1990 to 68.2 in 2000 while for women the improvement was from 73.4 to 75.3 years.

7. Fertility

The average number of children born alive to an average woman decreased from 2.32 in 1990 to 2.01 in 2000.

8. Population ageing

The number of persons aged 60 years and above increased by 20,000 from 87,500 at the 1990 Census to 107,500 at Census 2000. As a percentage of total population, this represents an increase from 8.3% in 1990 to 9.1% in 2000. Conversely the percentage of children under 15 years decreased from 29.7% in 1990 to 25.2% in 2000 (Table 2).

Table 2 - Percentage distribution of resident population by age group, Republic of Mauritius - 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Age-group	1990	2000
Under 15	29.7	25.2
15 - 59	62.0	65.7
60 and over	8.3	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0

9. Lone parent households

The number of female-headed households with unmarried children only (i.e. without spouse) increased from 16,700 in 1990 to 19,900 in year 2000.

10. Unmarried mothers

The number of unmarried women with children increased from around 900 in 1990 to 2,100 at Census 2000.

11. Households of elderly persons

The number of households consisting only of old persons aged 60 years and above increased from 10,900 in 1990 to 15,600 in 2000. Out of these, the number of elderly persons living alone increased from 6,700 in 1990 to 8,900 in 2000.

12. Internal migration

About 48,000 persons had moved from one district to another during the 5-year period preceding Census 2000. Port Louis was the biggest net loser while Plaines Wilhems and Black River were the two main receiving districts. A similar trend was observed at the 1990 Census.

13. Literacy rate

The literacy rate of the population aged 12 years and above improved from 80.8% in 1990 to 85.0% in 2000. For males, the rate improved from 85.6% to 88.7% and for females from 76.1% to 81.5%.

14. Educational attainment

The highest educational attainment of the population aged 15 years and over has improved between 1990 and 2000 (Table 3).

Table 3 - Percentage distribution of the resident population aged 15 years and over by highest educational attainment, Republic of Mauritius - 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Highest educational attainment	1990	2000
Nil & preprimary	13.9	9.6
Primary	45.5	40.2
Forms I - V	24.4	27.7
School Certificate	11.2	13.6
Higher School Certificate	3.4	6.7
Tertiary level	1.6	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0

The proportion with primary school level only or below decreased from 59.4 % in 1990 to 49.8% in 2000. During the same period, the proportion having passed SC increased from 11.2% to 13.6% while the proportion having passed HSC increased from 3.4% to 6.7%. About 2.2 % had a tertiary qualification in 2000 compared to 1.6% in 1990.

15. Disability

The number of disabled persons increased from 27,800 at the 1990 Census to 40,800 at Census 2000. As a percentage of the total population, this represents an increase from 2.6% in 1990 to 3.5% in 2000.

At the 2000 Census, the most common disability reported was “walking, running and other ambulation disability” with 9,100 cases compared to 5,300 in 1990. This was followed by “seeing disability” with 6,700 cases in 2000 against 5,700 in 1990 (Table 4).

Table 4 - Disabled resident population by type of disability, Republic of Mauritius - 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Type of disability	1990		2000			
	Number	%	Number	%		
Walking, running and other ambulation disability	5,300	19.0	9,100	22.3		
Manual activity disability	1,300	4.7	2,300	5.6		
Ambulation and manual activity disability	1,700	6.1	800	2.0		
Seeing disability	5,700	20.5	6,700	16.4		
Hearing and listening disability	1,600	5.8	2,000	4.9		
Seeing, and hearing and listening disability	500	1.8	900	2.2		
Speaking and talking disability	1,100	4.0	2,600	6.4		
Hearing, listening and speaking, talking disability	500	1.8	800	2.0		
Disturbance of ability to learn	1,400	5.0	1,500	3.7		
Disturbance of behaviour	}	}	4,900	12.0		
Inability to look after oneself, with regard to personal care and hygiene, etc.			8,700	31.3	4,000	9.8
Other					5200	12.7
Total	27,800	100.0	40,800	100.0		

16. Language usually or most often spoken at home

The number of persons reporting only “Creole” as the language usually spoken in their home, rose from 652,200 in 1990 to 826,200 at Census 2000. As a percentage of the total population, this represents an increase from 62% in 1990 to 70% in 2000.

Increases were also observed for “French” which was reported by 40,000 persons at Census 2000 compared to 34,500 in 1990, and for “English” which was reported by 3,500 persons in 2000 against 2,200 in 1990 (Table 5).

Conversely, decreases were noted in the use of most asian languages.

Table 5 - Resident population by language usually or most spoken at home, Republic of Mauritius - 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Language usually or most often spoken at home	1990		2000	
	Number	%	Number	%
Bhojpuri only	201,600	19.1	142,400	12.1
Chinese languages only	3,700	0.4	8,700	0.7
Creole only	652,200	61.7	826,200	70.1
English only	2,200	0.2	3,500	0.3
French only	34,500	3.3	40,000	3.4
Hindi only	12,800	1.2	7,300	0.6
Marathi only	7,500	0.7	1,900	0.2
Tamil only	8,000	0.8	3,600	0.3
Telegu only	6,400	0.6	2,200	0.2
Urdu only	6,800	0.6	1,800	0.1
Other (including combination of languages)	121,000	11.5	141,300	12.0
Total	1,056,700	100.0	1,178,900	100.0

17. Activity status

The number of currently active (i.e. employed and unemployed) persons aged 12 years and over increased by 82,300 from 432,100 in 1990 to 514,400 in 2000 (Table 6).

Table 6 - Population 12 years of age and above by activity status and gender, Republic of Mauritius - 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Activity status	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
<u>Currently Active</u>	<u>301,400</u>	<u>130,700</u>	<u>432,100</u>	<u>341,300</u>	<u>173,100</u>	<u>514,400</u>
Employed	283,600	124,000	407,600	310,800	155,500	466,300
Unemployed	17,800	6,700	24,500	30,500	17,600	48,100
<u>Not Currently Active</u>	<u>99,500</u>	<u>274,500</u>	<u>374,000</u>	<u>119,100</u>	<u>301,500</u>	<u>420,600</u>
Household duties	5,900	212,500	218,400	3,200	213,900	217,100
Studies	45,000	40,900	85,900	59,500	56,100	115,600
Retired, disabled & other	48,600	21,100	69,700	56,400	31,500	87,900
<u>Not stated</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Total	402,100	406,100	808,200	461,800	475,700	937,500

During the same period, the number of currently inactive persons (i.e. not working and not looking for work) grew from 374,000 to 420,600. The number of persons who were inactive because they were studying increased from 85,900 in 1990 to 115,600 in 2000. The number inactive because of household duties decreased marginally from 218,400 in 1990 to 217,100 in 2000.

18. Employment

The number of persons with a job increased by 58,700 from 407,600 in 1990 to 466,300 in 2000, which represents an annual increase of about 5,900.

The employed male population increased from 283,600 in 1990 to reach 310,800 at Census 2000 while the female employed population grew from 124,000 to 155,500 during the same period.

The mean age of the working population increased from 34.2 years in 1990 to 36.8 years in year 2000.

19. Employment status

The percentage of self-employed persons increased from 13% in 1990 to 16% in 2000 while the percentage of employees declined from 85% to 83% during the same period (Table 7).

Table 7 - Employed population by employment status and gender, Republic of Mauritius - 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Employment status	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
<u>Self-employed</u>	<u>45,700</u> (16.1%)	<u>6,800</u> (5.5%)	<u>52,500</u> (12.9%)	<u>62,700</u> (20.2%)	<u>11,200</u> (7.2%)	<u>73,900</u> (15.8%)
with employees	12,300	1,500	13,800	15,200	2,700	17,900
without employees	33,400	5,300	38,700	47,500	8,500	56,000
<u>Employee</u>	<u>232,900</u> (82.1%)	<u>113,000</u> (91.1%)	<u>345,900</u> (84.8%)	<u>245,900</u> (79.1%)	<u>141,300</u> (90.8%)	<u>387,200</u> (83.0%)
paid by month	150,800	62,000	212,800	192,000	108,900	300,900
paid by day, week, fortnight, job	79,000	50,800	129,800	51,500	31,900	83,400
apprentice	3,100	200	3,300	2,400	500	2,900
<u>Other</u>	<u>5,000</u> (1.8%)	<u>4,200</u> (3.4%)	<u>9,200</u> (2.3%)	<u>2,200</u> (0.7%)	<u>3,000</u> (2.0%)	<u>5,200</u> (1.2%)
Total	283,600 (100.0%)	124,000 (100.0%)	407,600 (100.0%)	310,800 (100.0%)	155,500 (100.0%)	466,300 (100.0%)

Among employees, the percentage on monthly rates of pay increased from 62% in 1990 to 78% in 2000, implying improvement in job security.

20. Industrial sector of employment

The tertiary services sector continued to grow in importance, accounting for 49% of employment in 2000 compared to 40% in 1990. The share of the primary sector (mainly agriculture) dropped from 17% in 1990 to 12% in 2000, while that of the secondary sector (mainly manufacturing and construction) decreased from 43% to 39% (Table 8).

Table 8 - Employed population by industrial sector and gender, Republic of Mauritius - 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Industrial Sector	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Primary ¹	50,800 (17.9%)	17,800 (14.4%)	68,600 (16.8%)	40,800 (13.1%)	13,700 (8.8%)	54,500 (11.7%)
Secondary ²	113,100 (39.9%)	62,000 (50.0%)	175,100 (43.0%)	114,100 (36.7%)	67,300 (43.3%)	181,400 (38.9%)
Tertiary ³	119,200 (42.0%)	43,900 (35.4%)	163,100 (40.0%)	155,500 (50.0%)	74,200 (47.7%)	229,700 (49.2%)
Not stated	500 (0.2%)	300 (0.2%)	800 (0.2%)	400 (0.2%)	300 (0.2%)	700 (0.2%)
All sectors	283,600 (100.0%)	124,000 (100.0%)	407,600 (100.0%)	310,800 (100.0%)	155,500 (100.0%)	466,300 (100.0%)

¹ Agriculture, mining & quarrying

² Electricity & water, manufacturing & construction

³ Trade, hotels & restaurants, transport & communication, financial services, community, social & personal services

21. Employment by occupational groups

The number of persons engaged in the upper occupational groups “legislators, senior officials & managers, professionals, technicians and associate professionals” increased by 40%, from 48,700 in 1990 to 68,400 at Census 2000 (Table 9).

It is worth noting that the number of females engaged in the upper occupational groups registered an increase of 72% growing from 14,100 to 24,300 during the period 1990-2000.

During the same period, the number of “clerks” rose by 24% from 31,600 to 39,200, while “service workers & shop sales workers” registered an increase of 92%, from 33,200 in 1990 to 63,800 in 2000. A 10% increase was also noted in the number of “craft and related trades workers”, which rose from 81,800 in 1990 to 90,200 in year 2000.

The number of “plant and machine operators & assemblers” which stood at 83,800 in 1990 dropped marginally to 82,300 in year 2000. The number of persons engaged in elementary occupations declined by 6%, from 110,400 to 103,500 during the same period.

Table 9 - Employed population by major occupational group and gender, Republic of Mauritius - 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Occupational group	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Legislators, senior officials and managers	13,200	2,600	15,800	11,500	3,200	14,700
Professionals	6,800	2,700	9,500	9,400	4,100	13,500
Technicians and associate professionals	14,600	8,800	23,400	23,200	17,000	40,200
Clerks	16,600	15,000	31,600	17,500	21,700	39,200
Service workers and shop sales workers	25,900	7,300	33,200	45,500	18,300	63,800
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	15,000	2,400	17,400	15,500	2,600	18,100
Craft and related trades workers	71,600	10,200	81,800	77,300	12,900	90,200
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	43,700	40,100	83,800	44,300	38,000	82,300
Elementary occupations	75,800	34,600	110,400	66,100	37,400	103,500
Not stated	400	300	700	500	300	800
All occupations	283,600	124,000	407,600	310,800	155,500	466,300

22. Computing professionals

The reported number of computing professionals increased from around 200 in 1990 to 800 in 2000, while the number of computer associate professionals rose from 700 to 850 during the same period.

23. Hours of work

The average weekly number of hours worked decreased from 42.2 in 1990 to 40.8 in 2000 (Table 10). The decrease was higher for women than for men. In fact the decrease for men was 0.6 hour (from 42.9 in 1990 to 42.3 in 2000) against 2.7 hours for women (from 40.6 hours in 1990 to 37.9 in 2000).

As regards changes by sector of employment, the largest decrease occurred in co-operative enterprises (-7.8 hours) followed by household services (-5.4 hours).

The EPZ remains the sector with the longest weekly average although the figure declined by 2.0 hours (from 46.2 in 1990 to 44.2 in 2000). It is to be noted that hours worked include overtime, if any.

Table 10 - Average weekly number of hours worked by sector of employment and gender,
Republic of Mauritius - 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Sector of employment	1990			2000		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Central Government	41.3	35.8	40.2	41.2	35.2	39.6
Local Government						
Municipal Councils	39.7	34.2	39.2	38.8	34.1	38.2
District Councils	39.1	24.0	37.5	39.0	26.8	37.5
Public enterprises	41.6	36.7	41.0	41.3	35.6	40.2
Private enterprises						
Sugar	41.8	35.9	40.3	42.1	34.8	40.3
EPZ	46.5	46.0	46.2	47.1	42.8	44.2
Other	43.5	39.2	42.6	42.1	36.4	40.8
Household services	41.3	33.3	34.7	38.2	27.9	29.3
Co-operative enterprises	44.7	36.8	43.5	35.8	35.4	35.7
All sectors	42.9	40.6	42.2	42.3	37.9	40.8

24. Unemployment

The number of unemployed **unadjusted for possible over-reporting**, increased from 24,400 at the 1990 Census to 48,100 at Census 2000 (Table 11). The corresponding unemployment rate works out to 5.6% in 1990 and 9.6% in 2000.

Table 11 - Unemployed population by gender, Republic of Mauritius -
1990 and 2000 Population Censuses

Gender	1990		2000	
	Number unemployed	Unemployment rate (%)	Number unemployed	Unemployment rate (%)
Male	17,800	5.9	30,500	9.1
Female	6,600	5.1	17,600	10.8
Both sexes	24,400	5.6	48,100	9.6

It may be noted that the number of unemployed persons registered at the Employment Service Division of the Ministry of Training, Skills Development and Productivity increased from 14,100 in 1990 to 20,000 in year 2000.

Thus the number of unemployed reported at the Census shows an increase of 97% over the period 1990 – 2000 while the number of unemployed registering at the Employment Service Division shows an increase of 42% only.

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Port Louis

December 2001

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