

CONTINUOUS MULTIPURPOSE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - 2002

MAIN RESULTS

1. Introduction

The Central Statistics Office conducted the third round of the Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS) from January to December 2002. The primary objective of the CMPHS is to provide a permanent platform for the collection of information relevant to the computation of appropriate socio-economic indicators to keep track of development on the social front.

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents the main findings of the survey based on responses cumulated over the twelve survey months and covers the following:

- (i) demographic, health and educational characteristics of all household members;
- (ii) environment;
- (iii) information technology;
- (iv) sport and leisure activities; and
- (v) household conditions, including expenditure and income.

2. Coverage

Each month, a sample of 525 households was surveyed. The selection of these households was done in such a way as to represent all private non institutional households in all urban, semi urban and rural areas. Thus, a total of 6,300 households (6,075 in the Island of Mauritius and 225 in the Island of Rodrigues) was covered during the period January to December 2002.

3. The sample

At the first round of the survey in 1999, a master sample of 420 regions or primary sampling units (PSUs), 35 for each of the 12 survey months during a year, was selected and a complete listing of private households was made from each of these PSUs. At a second stage, 15 households were selected from each PSU for interviews. The listings made in 1999, were again used in 2001 and 2002 for selection of households.

3.1 Sampling Error

Estimates worked out from household survey data are inevitably subject to sampling error since they are based on information collected from only a sample of households rather than from all households.

The Standard Error (S.E.) is a measure of the precision of estimates derived from samples and it can be used to set confidence limits to these estimates. Thus, the S.E. for average household income estimated at Rs13,360 from the sample, is Rs269 and its 95% confidence interval would be $Rs13,360 \pm 2(269)$, i.e. Rs.12,822 to Rs 13,898.

4. Response

Out of the 6,300 selected households, 518 (8%) could not be contacted. This is due to the fact that the households had moved since 1999, year during which listings were made. The non-contacts were therefore replaced by other households with similar characteristics.

5. Households

In 1,089 or 17.3 % of the 6,300 households surveyed, the heads were women. Female heads of households were mostly (95%) widowed, divorced or separated while among male heads, 93% were reported as married.

Analysis by age shows that 21% of heads of households were aged 60 years and over. The median age was 46.8 years for male heads and 56.9 years for female heads.

The average household size worked out to 3.9, same as at CMPHS 1999 and 2001. About 6% of the households surveyed constituted of one person only. Among those persons who were living alone, 57% were aged 60 years and over, and four out of five were women.

6. Characteristics of household members

6.1 Sex distribution

The sampled households comprised a total of 24,552 household members, of whom 12,103 (49.3%) were males and 12,449 (50.7%) were females. The sex ratio hence worked out to 97.2 males for every 100 females.

Table 1 - Household members in sampled households by sex

Sex	Number	%
Male	12,103	49.3
Female	12,449	50.7
Total	24,552	100.0

6.2 Age composition

Some 24% of household members were below 15 years while the elderly, i.e. those aged 60 years and over, represented 10%. The mean age was 31.8 years (31.3 for males and 32.2 for females), while the median age worked out to 30.8 (30.2 for males and 31.4 for females).

Table 2 - Household members in sampled households by age group and sex

Age group (years)	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Under 15	5,963	24.3	2,945	24.3	3,018	24.2
15 - 59	16,133	65.7	8,072	66.7	8,061	64.8
60 and over	2,456	10.0	1,086	9.0	1,370	11.0
Total	24,552	100.0	12,103	100.0	12,449	100.0

6.3 Health

Table 3 shows the percentage of household members suffering from some specified health problems by age group and sex. Hypertension was topmost with 8.1% of household members suffering from it, followed by diabetes (5.4%). In both cases, the proportion of women was higher than that of men.

In general, the prevalence of the specified health problems increases with age, with the highest proportions of persons affected being among the elderly, that is, those aged 60 years and over. Approximately one out of four elderly persons interviewed suffered from diabetes and

nearly two out of five were suffering from hypertension. Among respondents aged 30 to 59 years, 10.1% were reported as suffering from hypertension and 6.8% from diabetes.

Table 3 - Percentage of household members in sampled households suffering from specified health problems by age and sex

Age and sex	Diabetes	Hyper-tension	Asthma	Epilepsy	Cancer	Amputation
All ages						
Total	5.4	8.1	2.0	0.4	0.1	0.2
Male	4.9	6.9	2.1	0.5	0.1	0.2
Female	5.9	9.2	1.9	0.4	0.2	0.1
0 - 29 years						
Total	0.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	-	-
Male	0.1	0.2	1.8	0.4	-	-
Female	0.1	0.3	1.2	0.3	-	-
30 - 59 years						
Total	6.8	10.1	1.7	0.5	0.2	0.3
Male	7.0	9.0	1.5	0.6	0.1	0.4
Female	6.7	11.1	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.2
60 years and over						
Total	25.3	38.0	5.4	0.6	0.6	0.4
Male	22.0	33.8	6.1	0.7	0.6	0.7
Female	28.0	41.4	4.8	0.5	0.5	0.1

6.4 Education characteristics

Some 62.7% of respondents attended school in the past; 27.3% were currently attending school and 10.0% had never been to school. The latter includes children under 5 years who were not yet at school (4.2%).

Among a total of 15,411 persons having completed their studies, 48.2% had a primary level of education only, 46.2% a secondary level and only 5.6% a post secondary level (Table 4). It may be noted that among persons having completed their studies, 926 or 6.0% also had vocational or technical certificates.

Table 4 - Households members in sampled households, having completed their studies by educational level and sex

Educational level	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Primary	7,433	48.2	3,655	46.1	3,778	50.5
Secondary	7,128	46.2	3,715	46.9	3,413	45.6
Post Secondary						
Diploma	395	2.6	236	3.0	159	2.1
University Degrees	455	3.0	320	4.0	135	1.8
Total	15,411	100.0	7,926	100.0	7,485	100.0

Table 5 shows the distribution of household members who were studying at the time of the survey by level at which they were studying. The figures also include students following part time courses or undertaking private studies but exclude 10 children who were attending specialised schools for persons with disabilities.

Table 5 - Households members in sampled households studying at the time of the survey by educational level and sex

Educational level	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Pre Primary	804	12.0	382	11.4	422	12.6
Primary	2,741	41.0	1,361	40.7	1,380	41.3
Secondary	2,503	37.4	1,230	36.7	1,273	38.1
Vocational and technical courses	261	3.9	154	4.6	107	3.2
Diploma courses	116	1.7	68	2.0	48	1.4
First University Degrees or above	269	4.0	155	4.6	114	3.4
Total	6,694	100.0	3,350	100.0	3,344	100.0

Respondents who were studying for post secondary qualifications (diploma or degree) at the time of the survey numbered 385. Among them, 63% were following full time courses and 37% were undergoing part time or private studies. Around 52% of the full time students were abroad and 48% were in Mauritius.

7. Environment

7.1 Solid waste disposal

At the 2002 CMPHS, heads of households were requested to report on the way they disposed of their solid wastes (refuse). Around 95% reported that their solid wastes were collected by authorised collectors and 5% dumped them on their own premises or on roadsides/bare land. Comparison with the 2000 Census results shows some improvements; in fact at the Census, 91.5% of households had their refuse collected by authorised collectors and 8.5% dumped their wastes in their backyards or on roadsides.

From the survey responses, frequency of solid waste collection worked out to an average of 5.9 times a month. The results also show that 9.3% of households kept kitchen wastes in their backyard/garden for compost, while the majority, 90.7%, disposed of them together with other household wastes. Furthermore, 53.2 % of household heads were reported as being aware that vegetable wastes could be transformed into fertiliser, but nevertheless they disposed of them together with other wastes.

The survey also revealed that 46.6% of households surveyed were not aware that special bins for the collection of plastic soft drink bottles were available at specific locations across the island. Among those who were aware of such facilities, 31.0% had made use of them during the month preceding their interviews.

7.2 Use of plastic bags and plastic bottles

In 5,802 or 92.1% of the households surveyed, plastic bags provided at shopping places were used for carrying purchases, mainly groceries and vegetables. Among them, 4,414 reported using plastic bags provided as well as their own bags or baskets, while the other 1,388 used plastic bags only. Only 498 households representing 7.9% of the 6,300 households surveyed, did not use plastic bags for carrying goods purchased.

Table 6 - Distribution of households surveyed by method of carrying goods purchased

Method of carrying goods purchased	Number of households	%
Plastic bags provided and own bag/basket	4,414	70.1
Only plastic bags provided	1,388	22.0
Own bag/basket only	498	7.9
Total	6,300	100.0

It was also noted that re-using of plastic bags provided at shopping places was a common practice in Mauritian households. In fact, out of the 5,802 households who reported using plastic bags provided at shopping places, only 701 or 12.1% did not use any of those plastic bags again, while the others (87.9%) used them for disposal of wastes or as carry bags.

Plastic soft drink bottles also, were used again as containers or for other purposes such as making artisanal products, as reported by around 54% of the households surveyed.

7.3 Environmental concerns

A list of specific environmental problems and the extent to which they affect people is given in Table 7 below.

Table 7 - Households surveyed by specified environment problem

Environmental problem	Percentage of households affected			
	Not affected at all	Affected to some extent	Seriously affected	Total
Dumping of solid waste	80.4	12.8	6.8	100.0
Waste/stagnant water	83.1	10.8	6.1	100.0
Stray dogs	62.1	25.6	12.3	100.0
Breeding of animals by neighbours	89.6	7.5	2.9	100.0
Rats/mice	64.9	26.3	8.8	100.0
Presence of crows	90.8	6.8	2.4	100.0
Traffic noise	75.7	18.0	6.3	100.0
Industrial noise	95.2	3.3	1.5	100.0
Other noise	86.8	9.8	3.4	100.0
Smoke/dust	81.7	13.0	5.3	100.0
Odours	83.1	10.8	6.1	100.0

Stray dogs in their vicinity was the most important environmental problem reported by households surveyed. In fact, this was reported as a serious problem by 12.3% of the households and a further 25.6% were affected to some extent. Rats and mice seriously affected some 8.8% of the households and affected another 26.3% to some extent. Another important concern was noise pollution, particularly traffic noise which seriously affected 6.3% of households and affected another 18.0% to some extent.

7.4 Water consumption

Nearly one out of four households surveyed reported not using tap water as such for drinking; 86.9% of them drank boiled tap water and 13.1% filtered tap water or bottled water.

In 3,033 (48.2%) households, all members were drinking tap water as such while in 1,786 (28.3%), some members consumed tap water as such and some members, particularly children, drank boiled tap water.

7.5 Water saving

In 5,473 or 86.9% of the households covered, the heads reported that measures were taken to reduce water consumption at their places. The main household activities in which water

saving was practiced were 'dish washing' reported by 85.9% of households taking steps to reduce water consumption and 'clothes washing' reported by 85.4% of them.

Water consumption reduction was practiced, firstly because it is an important natural resource as reported by 33.9% of the households surveyed, and secondly to reduce bills as reported by 12.9% of the households.

8. Information technology

8.1 Computer at home

Households owning computers numbered 1,136, representing 18.0% of the households surveyed in 2002 against 13.3 % of households at the 2001 CMPHS.

Among the 5,164 households who did not have a computer, 3,112 or 60.3% reported that a computer at home was not necessary, although 548 had the intention to buy one. A further 1,756 representing 34.0% of households with no computer stated that the cost was too high. Among them, 117 or 6.7 % signified their intention to buy one within a year while 880 or 50.1% would be able to buy one after one year.

Heads of households not owning computers were also asked whether they were aware of loan facilities for purchase of a computer at the Development Bank of Mauritius and it was found that 42.2% of them were not aware of such facilities.

The survey results show that use of computer at home is a recent feature of Mauritian households. In fact, more than half, 52.3%, of the households having computers had acquired them at some time during the two years preceding the survey. Another 23.0% reported as having been using a computer at home since three to four years and only 24.7% since more than 4 years.

Around 70% of households owning computers had access to Internet and cost of this service to those households averaged Rs506 per month.

Among households having computers but not having the Internet, 28.7% intended getting Internet access within the twelve months following the survey month and 45.5% after one year. The remaining 25.8% were not interested in the service.

8.2 IT qualification and access to computer and internet

Persons aged 12 years and over numbered 19,910 in the 6,300 households surveyed. Among them, 4,341 or 21.8% were using computers. The use of computer could be at any place, including at home and office. The majority of computer users, 82.0%, had no qualification in the field of computer science. Only 6.5% had passed in computer studies at Ordinary Level or School Certificate examinations and a further 1.7% at Advanced Level or Higher School Certificate. Persons having followed other certificate courses in the field of computer science,

formed 6.1% of the total number of persons using computer while only 3.7% had more advanced qualifications, that is, diploma or degree in Information Technology.

Table 8 - IT qualifications of households members aged 12 years and over using a computer

Qualification	Household members aged 12 years and over using a computer	
	Number	%
Computer literate	3,559	82.0
Ordinary level in Computer Studies	283	6.5
Advanced level in Computer Studies	75	1.7
Other Certificate Course in IT	265	6.1
Diploma/Degree in IT or equivalent course	159	3.7
Total	4,341	100.0

Most of the computer users, 60.8%, had access to a computer in their home while persons using computers at their workplaces formed 35.2 % of all users. Use of computer at educational institutions was reported by 1,423 or 32.8% of computer users aged 12 years and over in the surveyed households. The results also show that less than half of the student population aged 12 years and over had access to computers at school.

Table 9 - Households members aged 12 years and over in sampled households using a computer and place of access

Computer available at	Number reporting	% of all computer users
Home	2,638	60.8
Workplace	1,527	35.2
School/ educational institution	1,423	32.8
Cybercafé	272	6.3
Social Welfare centre	94	2.2
Other	196	4.5

Table 9 shows the number of persons who were reported as using computers and place of access. It is to be noted that some persons were using computers at more than one place.

Internet was accessible to 2,547 or 58.7% of the 4,341 computer users aged 12 years and over in the households surveyed. For most of them, 72.2%, internet service was available at their home. Those reporting having such facilities at work formed 25.7% while 16.2% could use the Internet at educational institutions.

Table 10 – Household members aged 12 years and over in sampled households having access to Internet and place of access

Access to Internet at	Number reporting	% of all Internet users
Home	1,838	72.2
Workplace	655	25.7
Educational Institution	412	16.2
Cybercafé	266	10.4
Social Welfare Centre	21	0.8
Other	62	2.4

8.3 Purpose of home computers

Households having computer facilities at home numbered 1,136, representing 18.0% of all households surveyed. The total number of household members aged 12 years and over using computers at home was 2,638, representing 13.2% of households members aged 12 years and over in the sampled households. Purposes for which they were using computers are given in Table 11 below.

Table 11 - Household members aged 12 years and over in sampled households using computer at home and purpose

Computer used for	Number reporting	% of home computer users
Playing games	1436	54.4
Education purposes	1372	52.0
E-mail/Chat	1232	46.7
Entertainment (music, movie)	1068	40.5
Search for information	937	35.5
Doing office work at home	600	22.7
News	393	14.9
Internet telephone	269	10.2
Keeping household records	152	5.8
On line games	146	5.5
Distance learning	88	3.3
Part time job	47	1.8
On line transactions	28	1.1
Other purposes	36	1.4

9. Sports and Leisure

9.1 Physical exercise and sports

The 2002 survey also comprised a section on sports and leisure activities of adult members, that is those aged 18 years and over.

Persons concerned were asked whether they did any physical exercise (jogging, yoga, aerobic, etc.) in the preceding week. The results show that only one out of five adults practiced physical exercises in the week preceding the interviews. The proportions noted among men and women were 26.4 and 13.3 percent respectively.

The most common exercise was jogging, reported by 23.2% of adult males and by 9.5% of adult females. The male joggers did an average of 3.6 hours of jogging or brisk walking per week while female joggers did 3.2 hours per week. Other forms of physical exercises practiced and time spent on those activities are shown in Table 12.

Table 12 - Household members aged 18 years and over in sampled households, doing physical exercises during week preceding the survey

Physical exercise	Percentage of household members aged 18 years and over, doing specified physical exercises			Average number of hours spent per week by those reporting members		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Jogging	16.2	23.2	9.5	3.5	3.6	3.2
Yoga	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.8	3.0	2.6
Aerobics	1.3	0.4	2.2	2.9	2.7	2.9
Other	2.0	2.9	1.2	3.7	4.0	2.9

Respondents participating in sports activities during the specified week formed only 9.8% of all persons aged 18 years and over. Only a few women, representing 2.8% of all women aged 18 years and over, practiced sports, while among men, 16.9% did so. Sports practiced and the amount of time spent on each of them are shown in Table 13.

Table 13 - Household members aged 18 years and over in sampled households, participating in sport activities during week preceding the survey

Sport	Percentage of household members aged 18 years and over, doing specified sport			Average number of hours spent per week by those reporting members		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Swimming/diving	3.1	4.5	1.7	2.3	2.5	1.8
Weightlifting	0.7	1.3	0.1	3.5	3.5	2.3
Football	5.8	11.6	0.2	3.2	3.2	7.8 ^{1/}
Volleyball	0.8	1.2	0.5	2.4	2.5	2.3
Basket ball	0.2	0.3	0.1	4.0	4.6	2.0
Athletics	0.4	0.6	0.1	2.9	2.9	3.1
Tennis	0.2	0.4	0.1	2.2	2.5	1.3
Badminton	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.4	2.7	2.0
Table Tennis	0.2	0.4	–	1.7	1.8	0.8
Other	0.7	1.2	0.2	5.6	6.1	2.9

1/ Average for only 16 females who practiced football during week preceding the survey

9.2 Leisure activities

The most popular leisure activity among adult members of the sampled households was ‘watching TV and video films’ reported by 95.7 % of persons aged 18 years and over. Women spent more time watching TV and video films than men, the weekly average time spent being 14.8 and 12.9 hours respectively. The second most important leisure activity was reading, reported by 43.4% of adults. In this activity, males and females spent more or less the same time, that is, around 5.5 hours per week. Quite a large proportion of adults visited/received friends and relatives in their leisure time. Different leisure activities reported and the amount of time spent on those activities are given in Table 14.

Table 14 - Household members aged 18 years and over in sampled households and leisure activities during the week preceding the survey

Leisure activity	Percentage of household members aged 18 years and over, with specified leisure activities			Average number of hours spent per week by the reporting members		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Watching T.V and/or Video films	95.7	95.8	95.6	13.8	12.9	14.8
Reading	43.4	48.3	38.7	5.5	5.4	5.6
Visiting friends/relatives	30.6	31.8	29.3	4.9	4.8	4.9
Receiving friends/relatives	26.8	25.2	28.5	4.2	4.2	4.3
Gardening	17.4	14.3	20.4	2.7	4.3	1.6
'Bricolage'	4.1	6.4	1.8	4.0	4.0	3.9
Dressmaking/knitting/embroidery	9.8	0.8	19.0	4.8	3.9	4.9
Other activities	1.9	2.1	1.7	8.6	7.9	9.5

Adult household members who reported as being members of a sport, social, cultural or recreational club or association formed 17.2% of all adults in the surveyed households. Among women, 12.8% were members of such clubs compared to 21.8% among men.

Only 21.9% of adult members in the sampled households reported to have been to some recreational or entertainment places during the week preceding the survey. The proportion for male adults was 25.6% against 18.0% for female adults. Places visited are given in Table 15.

Table 15 - Household members aged 18 years and over in sampled households having been to recreational/entertainment places during the week preceding the survey

Recreational / entertainment place	Percentage of household members aged 18 years and above having been to specified places		
	Total	Male	Female
Seaside	15.1	16.6	13.4
Restaurant / Pub	4.5	6.3	2.7
Cinema / theatre	3.7	4.6	2.8
Sports event	1.7	3.1	0.3
Nature parks	1.2	1.2	1.1
Night club / discothèque	0.7	1.0	0.4
Casino	0.4	0.5	0.2
Other	0.7	0.7	0.7

10. Household conditions

10.1 Housing units

Among the 6,300 surveyed households, 5,584 or 88.6% owned their housing units. The remaining 11.4% were either living in housing units belonging to parents/relatives/employers or were renting their housing units. Of the latter, that is, the 716 households not owning a house, 18.7% already possessed a residential plot of land and 23.7% were contributing to the Plan Epargne Logement (PEL) of the Mauritius Housing Company Ltd.

Households not owning a housing unit were also asked about the amount that they could afford to save in a year in order to build or buy a house. Nearly 30% could not make any such savings. Around 40% could make some savings up to Rs 10,000 in a year. Those who could afford to save between Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 formed 27% and only about 3% could afford savings more than Rs 50,000 in a year (Table 16).

Table 16 - Annual savings for housing purposes by sampled households not owning a housing unit

Annual amount of savings (Rs)	Households not owning a housing unit	
	Number	%
No savings	214	29.9
Up to 10,000	285	39.8
Between 10,000 and 50,000	192	26.8
More than 50,000	25	3.5
Total	716	100.0

Table 17 shows the distribution of households not owning a housing unit by the monthly amount that they could afford to pay for a housing unit (vente location). From the table, it is noted that 20% reported as not being able to pay for a housing unit, 14% could afford to pay up to Rs500, 23% between Rs500 and Rs1000 and 28% between Rs1000 and Rs2000. Only around 15% could afford to pay more than Rs2000 per month.

Table 17 – Monthly amount that can be paid for a housing unit by sampled households not owning a housing unit

Monthly payment for a housing unit (Rs)	Households not owning a housing unit	
	Number	%
Nil	140	19.6
Up to 500	100	14.0
501 to 1000	165	23.0
1000 to 2000	198	27.7
2001 to 3000	65	9.1
More than 3000	48	6.6
Total	716	100.0

10.2 Household income and expenditure

Households derived their income from work (wages, salaries and profits), property (rent, dividends and interests) and regular transfers (pensions and social security benefits, allowances from parents or organisations, etc). The average monthly income per sampled household worked out to Rs 13,360 in 2002 compared to Rs 12,340 in 2001.

Heads of households were also requested to report on their household total expenditure incurred during the month preceding the survey month as well as on some main items. Average monthly consumption expenditure (that is, on goods and services intended for consumption) was around Rs 8,000 per sampled household. The average amount spent on specified items are given in Table 18.

Table 18 - Average monthly expenditure of sampled households on specific items

Item of expenditure	Average ^{1/} monthly expenditure of all households surveyed (Rs)	Households having incurred expenditure on specified items		
		Number	Percentage of households surveyed	Average monthly expenditure (Rs)
Food	3,400	6,300	100.0	3,400
Medical care	387	2,896	46.0	841
Rent	106	395	6.3	1,690
Gas	204	5,399	85.7	238
Educational expenses	890	3,484	55.3	1,600
Water bill	145	5,819	92.4	157
Waste water bill	21	1,022	16.2	131
Electricity bill	486	6,130	97.3	500
Telephone bill	339	5,036	79.9	424
Debt repayment on house/land	680	1,445	22.9	2,965
Credit purchase	321	1,961	31.1	1,032
Other debt	237	711	11.3	2,102

^{1/} Average based on total expenditure incurred by the 6300 sampled households

It is to be noted that income and expenditure figures obtained at the CMPHS are less precise than those of the Household Budget Survey where information is collected at a detailed level.

Central Statistics Office
Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs
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Contact person:	Mrs G. Appadu Statistician CMPHS Unit Phone No. 2122316/17 Ext. 109
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