

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, JANUARY - JUNE 2006

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicator presents population estimates for mid-year 2006 and vital statistics for the first semester of 2006. It also includes forecasts of vital events and rates for the year 2006.

It is to be noted that as from January 2005, data for the compilation of vital statistics is being extracted from the computerised system in place at the Central Civil Status Office. Previously, all civil status offices were manually filling in a statistical form for each vital event registered. These forms were subsequently submitted to the Central Statistics Office where they were coded and edited prior to data capture at the Central Informatics System Division.

2. Population estimates, 1st July 2006

As at 1st July 2006, the population of the Republic of Mauritius was estimated at 1,252,989 of whom 619,447 were males and 633,542 females, resulting in a sex ratio of 97.8 males per 100 females.

Given a population of 1,243,541 in the Republic of Mauritius at mid-2005, the population growth during the period July 2005 to June 2006 is estimated at around 0.8%. The population of the Island of Mauritius also grew at a rate of 0.8%, rising from 1,206,345 (596,497 males and 609,848 females) to 1,215,621 (600,905 males and 614,716 females). Over the same period, the population of Rodrigues grew at a lower rate of 0.5% from 36,907 (18,288 males and 18,619 females) to 37,079 (18,349 males and 18,730 females).

The Republic of Mauritius, with a total land area of 2,040 square kilometres, had a population density of around 614 persons per square km in mid-2006. The population densities of the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues were 652 and 357 respectively (Table 1).

3. Components of population growth

Table 3 shows the contribution of each component of population growth, namely natural increase and net international migration, to the population increase of 4,404 persons in the first semester of 2006. This was the result of an excess of 4,164 live births over deaths (natural increase) and a gain of 240 persons due to excess arrivals over departures (net international migration).

4. Vital Statistics and rates

Table 4 shows some vital statistics for 2005 and 2006 while Table 5 gives a series of rates for the years 2004 to 2006 for the Republic of Mauritius, the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues.

4.1 *Live births*

During the first semester of 2006, 9,066 live births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, 5.8% less than in the corresponding period of 2005. For the year 2006, the number of live births is forecast at 18,470 resulting in a crude birth rate of 14.7 live births per 1,000 mid-year population compared to 15.1 in 2005. The forecast for the Island of Mauritius is 17,600 live births in 2006 (rate of 14.5). For Rodrigues, it is 870 (rate of 23.6).

4.2 *Deaths*

During the first six months of 2006, 4,902 deaths were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, 703 more or 16.7% higher than in the corresponding period of 2005 (4,199). This abnormally high increase reflects a higher death toll among the elderly aged 60 years and above. In fact, there were 533 or 19.8% more deaths among the elderly in the first semester of 2006 (3,224) as compared to the first semester of 2005 (2,691). It is estimated that the total number of deaths for the year 2006 will be around 9,300 for the Republic, leading to a crude death rate of 7.5 deaths per 1,000 mid-year population compared to 7.0 in 2005. The expected number of deaths in 2006 for the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues are 9,100 (rate of 7.5) and 230 (rate of 6.2) respectively.

4.3 Infant deaths

During the period January to June 2006, 152 infant deaths were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 135 during the same period in 2005, i.e an increase of 12.6%. For the year 2006, around 260 infant deaths are expected for the Republic, giving an infant mortality rate of 14.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births against 13.2 in 2005. The forecast for 2006 are 240 (rate of 13.6) for the Island of Mauritius and 20 (rate of 22.9) for the Island of Rodrigues.

4.4 Still births

During the first semester of 2006, 83 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 93 in the same period of 2005, i.e a 10.8% decrease. For the year 2006, the number of still births expected for the Republic of Mauritius is 180, giving a still birth rate of 9.6 still births per 1,000 total births against 9.7 in 2005. The number of still births forecast for the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues in 2006 are 160 (rate of 9.0) and 20 (rate of 22.3) respectively.

4.5 Marriages

A total of 5,116 marriages were registered in the Republic of Mauritius during the first semester of 2006 representing an increase of 1.8% over the number registered during the same period in 2005 (5,024). The number of marriages forecast for 2006 is 11,370 giving a crude marriage rate of 18.2 same as in 2005. The expected number of marriages in 2006 for the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues are 11,150 (rate of 18.3) and 220 (rate of 12.1) respectively.

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August 2006

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NOTES

1. Vital Statistics : The statistics pertaining to vital events which include live births, deaths, still births, marriages and divorces.
2. Sex ratio : The number of males to every 100 females.
3. Natural increase : The excess of live births over deaths.
4. Crude birth rate : The number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
5. Crude death rate : The number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
6. Infant mortality rate : The number of deaths in a year of infants aged under one year per 1,000 live births during the year.
7. Still birth rate : The number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births (live births and still births) during the year.
8. Marriage rate : The number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
9. Divorce rate : The number of persons to whom divorce is granted in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.

Table 1 - Estimated resident population - Republic of Mauritius, 1st July 2006

Island	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Area (km ²)	Population density (per km ²)
Mauritius	1,215,621	600,905	614,716	97.8	1,864.8	652
Rodrigues	37,079	18,349	18,730	98.0	104.0	357
Other	289	193	96	201.0	71.2	4
Republic	1,252,989	619,447	633,542	97.8	2,040.0	614

Table 2 - Estimated resident population by sex - Republic of Mauritius, 2004 - 2006
(Mid-year estimates)

Year	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Population density (per km ²)
2004	1,233,675	610,301	623,374	97.9	605
2005	1,243,541	614,978	628,563	97.8	610
2006 ¹	1,252,989	619,447	633,542	97.8	614

Table 3 - Components of population growth during the first semester of
2005 and 2006, Republic of Mauritius ²

Components of population growth	2005	2006 ³
<u>Resident population as at beginning of year</u>	<u>1,237,772</u>	<u>1,248,296</u>
<i>Live births, January-June</i>	9,629	9,066
<i>Deaths, January-June</i>	4,199	4,902
<u>Natural increase, January-June</u>	<u>5,430</u>	<u>4,164</u>
<i>Arrival of residents, January-June</i>	83,584	81,189
<i>Departure of residents, January-June</i>	83,534	80,949
<u>Net international migration, January-June</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>240</u>
<u>Resident population as at mid-year</u>	<u>1,243,252</u>	<u>1,252,700</u>

¹ provisional; based on the adjusted 2000 population census data.² excluding other islands (Agalega and St Brandon), where 289 residents were enumerated at the 2000 Census.³ provisional

Table 4 - Vital statistics, 2005 - 2006

*(a) Republic of Mauritius*¹

Vital events	Jan-June 2005	Year 2005	Jan-June 2006²
Live births	9,629	18,820	9,066
Deaths	4,199	8,646	4,902
Natural increase	5,430	10,174	4,164
Marriages	5,024	11,294	5,116
Infant deaths	135	248	152
Still births	93	185	83
Divorces	...	1,133	...

(b) Island of Mauritius

Vital events	Jan-June 2005	Year 2005	Jan-June 2006²
Live births	9,158	17,924	8,638
Deaths	4,088	8,422	4,774
Natural increase	5,070	9,502	3,864
Marriages	4,933	11,076	5,011
Infant deaths	132	237	138
Still births	86	173	74

(c) Island of Rodrigues

Vital events	Jan-June 2005	Year 2005	Jan-June 2006²
Live births	471	896	428
Deaths	111	224	128
Natural increase	360	672	300
Marriages	91	218	105
Infant deaths	3	11	14
Still births	7	12	9

¹ excluding Agalega and Saint Brandon² provisional

... not available

Table 5 - Vital statistics rates ¹, 2004 -2006*(a) Republic of Mauritius*

Rate	2004	2005	2006 ²
Crude birth rate	15.6	15.1	14.7
Crude death rate	6.9	7.0	7.5
Rate of natural increase	8.7	8.2	7.2
Crude marriage rate	18.5	18.2	18.2
Infant mortality rate	14.4	13.2	14.1
Still birth rate	9.8	9.7	9.6
Divorce rate	1.9	1.8	...

(b) Island of Mauritius

Rate	2004	2005	2006 ²
Crude birth rate	15.3	14.9	14.5
Crude death rate	6.9	7.0	7.5
Rate of natural increase	8.4	7.9	7.0
Crude marriage rate	18.6	18.4	18.3
Infant mortality rate	14.0	13.2	13.6
Still birth rate	9.1	9.6	9.0

(c) Island of Rodrigues

Rate	2004 ³	2005 ³	2006 ⁴
Crude birth rate	24.2	24.4	23.6
Crude death rate	5.9	5.8	6.2
Rate of natural increase	18.3	18.7	17.4
Crude marriage rate	13.1	12.5	12.1
Infant mortality rate	19.5	19.1	22.9
Still birth rate	18.8	20.2	22.3

¹ refer to explanatory notes² forecast³ because of the small number of events registered in Rodrigues, the rates have been calculated by taking the average for a period of three years so as to remove wide fluctuations.⁴ based on projected events for the year only

... not available