

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, JANUARY – JUNE 2008

1. Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicator presents provisional population estimates for mid-year 2008 and vital statistics for the first semester of 2008. Forecasts of vital events and rates for the year 2008 are also included.

It is to be noted that preliminary data for the compilation of vital statistics are being extracted from the computerised system in place at the Central Civil Status Office.

Definitions of terms used are at Annex.

2. Key points

- The population of the Republic of Mauritius is growing at a rate of 0.6% since mid-2007 and was estimated at 1,268,835 as at 1st July 2008.
- As at mid-2008, female population outnumbered male population by about 15,353.
- The number of live births forecast for the Republic of Mauritius for year 2008 is 16,383, corresponding to a crude birth rate of 12.9, against 13.5 in 2007.
- Forecast for the number of deaths for 2008 is 8,469 giving a crude death rate of 6.7 as for the previous year.
- The forecast for the number of infant deaths for the Republic is 235 representing an infant mortality rate of 14.3 against 15.3 in 2007.
- The number of still births forecast for 2008 is 211 giving a still birth rate of 12.7, compared to 10.0 in 2007.
- The forecast for the number of marriages for 2008 is 11,255 corresponding to a marriage rate of 17.7, against 18.3 in 2007.

3. Estimated resident population

Table 1: Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1st July 2008

Island	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio
Island of Mauritius	1,230,975	607,983	622,992	97.6
Island of Rodrigues	37,571	18,565	19,006	97.7
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	193	96	201.0
Republic of Mauritius	1,268,835	626,741	642,094	97.6

As at 1st July 2008, the population of the Republic of Mauritius was estimated at 1,268,835 of whom 626,741 were males and 642,094 females, giving a sex ratio of 97.6 males per 100 females.

The population of the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues were estimated at 1,230,975 and 37,571 respectively. In both islands, females outnumbered males.

Agalega and St. Brandon had an estimated population of 289 with 97 more males than females.

Table 2: Population density, Republic of Mauritius, 1st July 2008

Island	Both Sexes	Area (km ²)	Density per km ²
Island of Mauritius	1,230,975	1864.8	660
Island of Rodrigues	37,571	104.0	361
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	71.2	4
Republic of Mauritius	1,268,835	2,040.0	622

The Republic of Mauritius, with a total land area of 2,040 square kilometres, had a population density of around 622 persons per square km at mid-2008. The population densities of the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues were 660 and 361 respectively.

Table 3: Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2006-2008 (mid-year estimates)

Year	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio
2006	1,252,987	619,436	633,551	97.8
2007	1,260,692	623,119	637,573	97.7
2008	1,268,835	626,741	642,094	97.6

In the above table, population estimates and sex ratios for the past three years are displayed for comparative purpose. The drop in the sex ratio indicates a slight fall in the proportion of males in the population.

4. Population growth

Table 4: Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 1st July 2007 and 1st July 2008

Island	Population		Change	
	1 st July 2007	1 st July 2008	Number	%
Island of Mauritius	1,223,089	1,230,975	7,886	0.6
Island of Rodrigues	37,314	37,571	257	0.7
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	289	0	0.0
Republic of Mauritius	1,260,692	1,268,835	8,143	0.6

An increase of 8,143 (0.6%) between mid-2007 and mid-2008 was observed for the population of the Republic of Mauritius. The growth rate for the island of Mauritius was 0.6% and 0.7% for the Island of Rodrigues.

Table 5: Components of population growth during the first semester of 2007 and 2008, Republic of Mauritius¹

Components of population growth	2007	2008
Resident population as at beginning of year	1,256,438	1,264,574
Live Births, January-June	8,664	8,313
Deaths, January-June	4,006	4,213
Natural increase, January-June	4,658	4,100
Net international migration, January-June	-693	-128
Resident population as at mid-year	1,260,403	1,268,546

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Population growth is the change in size of population between two dates. It is determined by combining a country's natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) and its net migration (the net movements of residents).

During the first semester of 2008, the population registered a natural increase of 4,100, which was the result of an addition of 8,313 persons due to live births and a subtraction of 4,213 persons due to deaths. For the same period, the net international migration of residents was -128.

5. Vital statistics and rates

5.1: Live births and crude birth rate

Table 6: Live births registered and crude birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 and 2008¹

Island	Number of live births				Crude birth rate	
	2007		2008		2007	2008 ¹
	Jan-Jun	Year	Jan-Jun	Year ¹		
Island of Mauritius	8,241	16,190	7,932	15,553	13.2	12.6
Island of Rodrigues	423	844	381	830	22.6	22.1
Republic of Mauritius	8,664	17,034	8,313	16,383	13.5	12.9

¹ forecast

For the first six months of 2008, 8,313 live births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, 4.1% less than for the corresponding period of 2007. For the year 2008, the number of live births is forecast at 16,383 resulting in a crude birth rate of 12.9 live births per 1,000 mid-year population compared to 13.5 in 2007. The forecast for 2008 for the Island of Mauritius is 15,553 live births (rate of 12.6), and for Rodrigues it is 830 (rate of 22.1).

5.2: Deaths and crude death rate

Table 7: Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 and 2008¹

Island	Number of deaths				Crude death rate	
	2007		2008		2007	2008 ¹
	Jan-Jun	Year	Jan-Jun	Year ¹		
Island of Mauritius	3,912	8,323	4,119	8,288	6.8	6.7
Island of Rodrigues	94	175	94	181	4.7	4.8
Republic of Mauritius	4,006	8,498	4,213	8,469	6.7	6.7

¹ forecast

The number of deaths registered during the first semester of 2008 in the Republic of Mauritius was 4,213, representing 5.2% increase from the corresponding period in 2007. The forecast for 2008 is 8,469 deaths with a crude death rate of 6.7. The expected number of deaths for the Island of Mauritius for 2008 is 8,288 (rate of 6.7) and that for Rodrigues 181 (rate of 4.8).

5.3: Infant deaths and infant mortality rate

Table 8: Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 and 2008¹

Island	Number of infant deaths				Infant mortality rate	
	2007		2008		2007	2008 ¹
	Jan-Jun	Year	Jan-Jun	Year ¹		
Island of Mauritius	140	248	119	220	15.3	14.1
Island of Rodrigues	7	13	7	15	15.4	18.1
Republic of Mauritius	147	261	126	235	15.3	14.3

¹ forecast

During the first semester of 2008, 126 infant deaths were registered in the Republic of Mauritius compared to 147 for the same period in 2007, i.e., a decrease of 14.3%. 235 infant deaths are expected to occur in the Republic of Mauritius, giving an infant mortality rate of 14.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2008 against 15.3 in 2007. The forecasted figures are 220 (rate of 14.1) and 15 (rate of 18.1) for the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues respectively.

5.4: Still births and still birth rate

Table 9: Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 and 2008¹

Island	Number of still births				Still birth rate	
	2007		2008		2007	2008 ¹
	Jan-Jun	Year	Jan-Jun	Year ¹		
Island of Mauritius	62	157	83	207	9.6	13.1
Island of Rodrigues	6	15	2	4	17.5	4.8
Republic of Mauritius	68	172	85	211	10.0	12.7

¹ forecast

During the first six months of 2008, 85 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius compared to 68 during the same period in 2007, i.e. a 25% increase. The number of still births expected for the Republic of Mauritius is 211 for year 2008, giving a still birth rate of 12.7 still births per 1,000 total births against 10.0 in 2007. Forecast for the number of still births for the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues for year 2008 are 207 (rate of 13.1) and 4 (rate of 4.8) respectively.

5.5: Marriages and crude marriage rate

Table 10: Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 and 2008¹

Island	Number of marriages				Crude marriage rate	
	2007		2008		2007	2008 ¹
	Jan-Jun	Year	Jan-Jun	Year ¹		
Island of Mauritius	5,040	11,361	4,924	11,065	18.6	18.0
Island of Rodrigues	78	186	81	190	10.0	10.1
Republic of Mauritius	5,118	11,547	5,005	11,255	18.3	17.7

¹ forecast

A total of 5,005 marriages were registered in the Republic of Mauritius during the first semester of 2008 representing a decrease of 2.2% over the number registered during the same period in 2007. The number of marriages forecast for 2008 is 11,255 giving a crude marriage rate of 17.7, against 18.3 in 2007. The expected number of marriages in 2008 for the Island of Mauritius is 11,065 (rate of 18.0) and the Island of Rodrigues is 190 (rate of 10.1).

6. International comparison of vital rates

Vital statistics for countries in the world are published in the UN publication “The Demographic Yearbook”. The table below displays some comparative figures from the latest Yearbook (2004).

Table 11 - Vital rates for selected countries

Country	Year	Crude birth rate	Crude Death rate	Infant mortality rate
Mauritius	2004	15.6	6.9	14.4
Botswana	2001	32.0	12.4	29.3
Mozambique	2001	42.7	18.8	131.6
Canada	2003	10.6	7.1	5.3
India	2004	24.1	7.5	58.0
Philippines	2003	20.6	4.9	13.7
France	2003	12.7	9.2	4.0

It is to be noted that the crude birth/death rates are strictly not comparable between countries as it is affected by the age structure of the population. For instance, the crude death rate for Mauritius is lower than that for France. This can be explained by the fact that Mauritius has a relatively young population and hence proportionately less death is expected.

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Annex

Definition of terms

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|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Vital Statistics | The statistics pertaining to vital events which include live births, deaths, still births, marriages and divorces |
| 2. Population density | The number of persons per square kilometre |
| 3. Dependency ratio | The child population under 15 years of age and the elderly population aged 65 years and above per 1,000 population aged 15-64 years. |
| 4. Sex ratio | The number of males to every 100 females. |
| 5. Natural increase | The excess of live births over deaths. |
| 6. Crude birth rate | The number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population. |
| 7. Crude death rate | The number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population. |
| 8. Infant mortality rate | The number of deaths in a year of infants aged under one year per 1,000 live births during the year. |
| 9. Still birth rate | The number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births (live births and still births) during the year. |
| 10. Marriage rate | The number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population. |

Note: The vital rates for Rodrigues are usually calculated as an average of three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data. The rates for year 2008 is however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.