

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

Year 2008

Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicator presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the year 2008, as well as revised figures for year 2007. Table 1 shows area harvested and production in respect of the main agricultural crops while Table 2 shows production of the main agro-industrial products. Details on the sugar industry and food crops are given in Tables 3 and 6 respectively.

It is to be noted that excessive rain coupled with the duration of bright sunshine which was below average over all sugar regions in September 2008 resulted in higher yield of sugar cane but a fall in the extraction rate of sugar.

2. Sugar cane

The production of sugar cane increased by 7.0% from 4,235,849 tonnes in 2007 to 4,533,000 tonnes in 2008. However, total area harvested went down by 3.5% from 64,260 hectares in 2007 to 62,011 hectares in 2008, resulting in a 10.9% increase in the yield per hectares, from 65.9 tonnes to 73.1 tonnes.

The production of sugar, consequently, went up by 3.7% from 435,972 tonnes in 2007 to 452,062 tonnes in 2008. Compared to 10.31% in 2007, the average extraction rate was 9.98% in 2008, representing a fall of 3.2%. It is to be noted that the average extraction rate was also below the level of 10.00% in 1960 (9.85%) due to cyclones Alix and Carol and in 1999 (9.62%) due to a severe drought.

3. Tea

The area under tea plantation in 2008 was 702 hectares, representing a decrease of 1.0% over the figure of 709 hectares in 2007. The production of green tea leaves rose by 8.0%: 8,672 tonnes as compared to 8,027 tonnes in 2007.

Production of black tea increased by 6.7% from 1,563 tonnes in 2007 to 1,668 tonnes in 2008. Further details on tea are given in Table 4.

4. Tobacco

An area of 259 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested in 2008, that is, 2.8% higher than the 252 hectares harvested in the preceding year. Consequently, the production of tobacco leaves increased by 9.8% from 316 tonnes in 2007 to 347 tonnes in 2008.

5. Food crops

Data on food crops production are supplied by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). Figures are thereafter adjusted to take into account backyard production, namely banana, eddoes, manioc and sweet potato.

Area under food crops harvested registered a fall of 9.2% from 6,740 hectares in 2007 to 6,120 hectares in 2008. Consequently production of food crops decreased by 7.7% from 99,130 tonnes in 2007 to 91,470 tonnes in 2008.

6. Livestock

In 2008, the production of beef from slaughter of live cattle increased by 3.0% to 1,902 tonnes from 1,847 tonnes in 2007. The production of beef from the slaughter of imported cattle went up by 6.7% from 1,757 tonnes to 1,875 tonnes in 2008. Local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) fell by 70.0%, from 90 tonnes to 27 tonnes. Local production of beef for 2008 accounted for 1.4% of the total.

The production of goat meat and mutton stagnated at 75 tonnes for 2007 and 2008. The share of local production, inclusive of imports from Rodrigues, was 27.0 %.

Production of pork decreased by 35.4% from 511 tonnes in 2007 to 330 tonnes in 2008. This decrease was mainly attributable to the spread of “African swine fever” which affected pig population during the last quarter of 2007.

7. Poultry

The production of poultry grew by 5.0% in 2008 to reach 42,000 tonnes compared to 40,000 tonnes in the previous year.

8. Fish

The production of fish went up slightly by 0.3% to reach 6,006 tonnes in 2008 from 5,987 tonnes in 2007. Fresh coastal fish catch went up by 2.6% while other catch (tuna, bank, etc) edged down by 0.5% from 4,397 tonnes in 2007 to 4,374 tonnes in 2008.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2007 - 2008

Crops	2007		2008 ¹	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Sugar cane	64,260 ²	4,235,849	62,011	4,533,000
Tea (green leaves)	709 ³	8,027	702 ³	8,672
Tobacco ⁴	252 ²	316 ²	259	347
Food crops	6,740 ²	99,130 ²	6,120	91,470

¹ Provisional² Revised³ Area under cultivation⁴ Crop year (April - March)**Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2007 - 2008**

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2007	2008 ¹
Sugar	tonnes	435,972	452,062
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,563	1,668
Beef ²	"	1,847	1,902
Local (incl. imports from Rodrigues)	"	(90)	(27)
Imported	"	(1,757)	(1,875)
Goat meat and mutton ²	"	75	75
Pork ²	"	511	330
Poultry	"	40,000	42,000
Milk	000 Litres	3,500	3,300
Fish ³	tonnes	5,987 ⁴	6,006
Coastal	"	(1,590)	(1,632)
Other (tuna,bank,etc)	"	(4,397)	(4,374)

¹ Provisional² Comprises abattoir slaughters only³ Fresh weight equivalent⁴ Revised

Table 3.1 - Sugar Industry - Field statistics, 2007 - 2008

Ownership	2007 ¹			2008 ²		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield
Estate	24,360	1,783,356	73.21	26,574	2,227,017	83.80
Metayers	964	40,312	41.82	874	44,718	51.16
Planters	38,935	2,412,181	61.95	34,563	2,261,265	65.42
Total	64,260	4,235,849	65.92	62,011	4,533,000	73.10

¹ Revised² Provisional**Table 3.2 - Sugar Industry - Factory statistics, 2007 - 2008**

Details	Unit	2007	2008 ¹
Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	4,230,629	4,528,225
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered as a % of cane)	%	10.31	9.98
Average polarisation	degrees	98.50	98.50
Average yield of sugar	tonnes per hectare	6.78 ²	7.29
Average tonnes of cane per tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.70	10.02
Production of sugar	"	435,972	452,062
- White	"	0	2,852
- Raw	"	367,814	377,338
- Special	"	68,158	71,873
Production of molasses	"	130,917	141,347

¹ Provisional² Revised

Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2007 - 2008

(Tonnes)

Type of Producer	2007	2008 ¹
Estates	1,686	1,788
Metayers	2,233	2,424
Free planters	2,870	3,113
Planters in Co-operatives Societies	1,238	1,347
TOTAL	8,027	8,672

¹ Provisional**Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 2007 - 2008**

Variety	2007 ¹		2008 ²	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Virginia (flue-cured)	230	300	246	331
Amarello (air-cured)	22	16	13	16
TOTAL	252	316	259	347

¹ Revised² Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested, production and yield per hectare, 2007 - 2008

Foodcrops	2007 ¹			2008 ²		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)
Potato	610	15,367	25.2	641	14,696	22.9
Maize	108	1,021	9.5	47	365	7.8
Groundnut	140	290	2.1	114	254	2.2
Onion	242	6,187	25.6	223	5,515	24.7
Ginger	81	1,299	16.0	53	708	13.4
Garlic	9	59	6.6	3	20	6.7
Chillies	282	1,421	5.0	207	968	4.7
Tomato	734	11,117	15.1	720	11,151	15.5
Beans and Peas	306	1,447	4.7	272	1,190	4.4
Cabbage	226	4,430	19.6	202	3,733	18.5
Cauliflower	82	1,631	19.9	62	1,207	19.5
Brinjal	215	2,759	12.8	162	1,812	11.2
Creepers	2,078	24,679	11.9	1,855	22,984	12.4
Other vegetables	960	11,999	12.5	852	10,516	12.3
Banana	463	9,026	19.5	479	9,958	20.8
Pineapple	204	6,398	31.4	228	6,393	28.0
Total	6,740	99,130	14.7	6,120	91,470	14.9

¹ Revised² Provisional

Source: Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) and CSO estimates