

Crime, Justice and Security Statistics, 2008

(Police, Judiciary, Prisons and Probation)

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicator (ESI) is the second in the series on crime, justice and security statistics. It is based on administrative data for 2007 and 2008 from the Mauritius Police Force (MPF), the Judiciary, the Mauritius Prison Services (MPS) and the Probation and After-care Service.

It is to be noted that the criminal justice system is very complex, involving police, prosecution, judiciary, prison and probation and after-care service as well as the socio-economic situation in which crimes occur. These statistics would be necessary to fully interpret the figures in this ESI. It has not however been possible yet to include any figures on prosecutions which will be developed and added in forthcoming issues as soon as they are available. Statistics from victimisation surveys are also not included in this ESI. These statistics are not collected on an annual basis; the latest available ones refer to years 2004 & 2007 and have already been published in the previous issue of this ESI.

To assist in interpreting the figures, a reference chart of the flow through the criminal justice system is included at Annex I and a glossary of terms used at Annex II.

2. Statistical Notes

The following points should be recalled when drawing any conclusions from the figures in this publication:

- (a) When comparing figures it should be realised that police and judiciary figures are based on offences but prison and probation figures are based on offenders, and that many offenders are sentenced for more than one offence.
- (b) Offences can sometimes be reclassified, usually as less serious, as they proceed from police investigation through prosecution to final court sentence. This is usually due to evidence not being as robust as at first thought or more evidence coming to light following the initial report.
- (c) Through various stages of police investigation, a suspect may be cleared of all charges, while other suspects may be detected. The database is not updated to take into account these changes. Hence, analysis of offenders by characteristics such as age and sex is not meaningful. However, a database on finger printed convicted offenders is regularly kept by the police where such analysis is possible.

3. Key points

3.1 Police

- (a) In 2008, the total number of offences reported at the police was 178,103 of which 123,690 (69.4%) were contraventions (mainly road traffic offences), 43,738 (24.6%) misdemeanours, 6,458 (3.6%) crimes punishable by penal servitude, and 4,217 (2.4%) drug related offences.
- (b) From 2007 to 2008, the total number of offences reported at the police decreased by about 15,600 or 8.1%. Contraventions fell by 11.4%, drug related offences by 5.5%, crimes by 4.2% while misdemeanours increased by 2.1%.
- (c) The juvenile delinquency rate increased from 4.7 per 1,000 juvenile population in 2007 to 5.3 in 2008.

3.2 Judiciary

- (a) In 2008, the total number of criminal cases lodged in court was 105,206, down by 10.2% from 117,172 cases in 2007. Criminal cases disposed of dropped by 16.6% from 122,105 to 101,821.
- (b) The total number of convicted offences dropped by 14.7% from 116,390 in 2007 to 99,298 in 2008. Significant decreases were registered among convictions for embezzlement (45.9%), followed by fraud and dishonesty (25.1%), assault and related offences (18.6%), sexual offences (11.8%) and contraventions (14.8%). Conversely, conviction for homicides and related offences was on the rise (17.3%).

3.3 Prisons

- (a) Some 70% of the prison detainees in 2007 and 2008 consisted of convicts, the remaining 30% being mainly on remand and awaiting trial.
- (b) The daily average number of prison detainees decreased by 4.8% from 2,271 in 2007 to 2,161 in 2008.
- (c) The daily average number of convicts decreased by 8.7% from 1,665 in 2007 to 1,520 in 2008, while the average number on remand and trial increased by 6.7% from 600 to 640.
- (d) The number of convicts admitted to prison in 2008 was 3,187 of whom nearly 40% were fine defaulters, i.e. had not paid fines. The majority of the fine defaulters (nearly 90%) had not paid fines amounting to Rs 10,000 or less.

3.4 Probation

- (a) The number of offenders sentenced with probation orders under supervision in the community declined by 21.8% from 467 in 2007 to 365 in 2008.
- (b) The number of offenders subjected to community service work increased by 31% from 226 in 2007 to 295 in 2008.

4. Police Statistics

4.1 Reported cases

Cases reported at the police are either offences punishable by law or relate to other occurrences such as accidental deaths, accidental fires, suicides or attempted suicides and street accidents, which are not connected to any offence.

The total number of cases reported at the police in the Republic of Mauritius decreased by 4.0% from 258,955 in 2007 to 248,532 in 2008 (Table 1). Rodrigues, however, registered an increase in the number of reported cases.

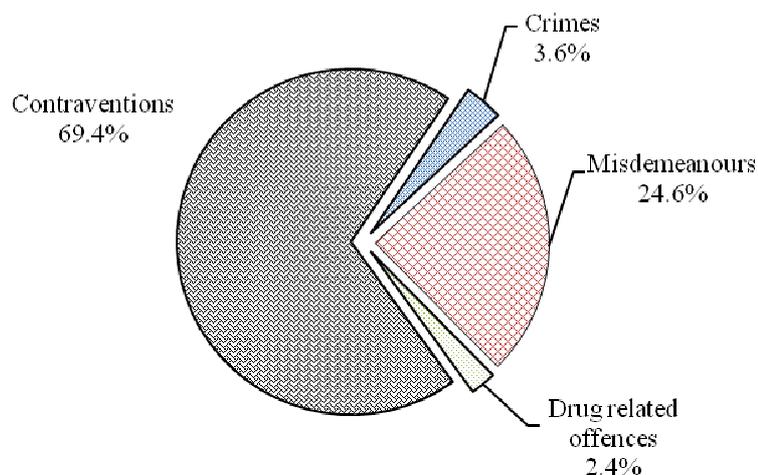
Table 1 - Cases reported by type , Island of Mauritius, Island of Rodrigues & Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Cases	2007			2008		
	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius
Crimes	6,591	153	6,744	6,340	118	6,458
Misdemeanours	41,748	1,081	42,829	42,771	967	43,738
Drug related offences	4,440	24	4,464	4,156	61	4,217
Contraventions	137,490	2,184	139,674	120,215	3,475	123,690
<i>of which Road traffic contraventions</i>	<i>123,093</i>	<i>1,882</i>	<i>124,975</i>	<i>105,823</i>	<i>3,116</i>	<i>108,939</i>
All offences	190,269	3,442	193,711	173,482	4,621	178,103
Other occurrences	63,890	1,354	65,244	69,175	1,254	70,429
Total cases	254,159	4,796	258,955	242,657	5,875	248,532

4.2 Reported offences

In 2008, the total number of offences reported at the police in the Republic of Mauritius was 178,103 of which 69.4% were contraventions, 24.6% misdemeanours, 3.6% crimes and 2.4% drug related offences (Table 2 & Figure 1).

Figure 1 - Offences by type, Republic of Mauritius, 2008



The total number of reported offences in the Republic of Mauritius decreased by 8.1% from 193,711 in 2007 to 178,103 in 2008; contraventions decreased by 11.4% from 139,674 to 123,690, drug related offences decreased by 5.5% from 4,464 to 4,217 and reported crimes by 4.2% from 6,744 to 6,458. On the other hand, misdemeanours increased by 2.1% from 42,829 to 43,738 (Table 2).

Table 2 - Offences reported by type, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Offences	2007		2008		% Change 2007 - 2008
	Number	%	Number	%	Number
Crimes	6,744	3.5	6,458	3.6	-4.2
Misdemeanours	42,829	22.1	43,738	24.6	2.1
Drug related offences	4,464	2.3	4,217	2.4	-5.5
Contraventions	139,674	72.1	123,690	69.4	-11.4
<i>of which Road traffic contraventions</i>	<i>124,975</i>	<i>64.5</i>	<i>108,939</i>	<i>61.2</i>	<i>-12.8</i>
All offences	193,711	100.0	178,103	100.0	-8.1

In the Republic of Mauritius, the overall offence rate decreased from 153.7 per 1,000 population in 2007 to 140.4 in 2008 (Table 3). Decreases were observed in the rate for crimes (from 5.4 to 5.1), drug related offences (from 3.5 to 3.3) and the contraventions dropped (from 110.8 to 97.5). The rate for misdemeanours, on the other hand, went up from 34.0 to 34.5.

As shown in Table 3, in both 2007 and 2008, the offence rate (for all type of offences) was lower in Rodrigues than in the Island of Mauritius.

Table 3 - Offence rate by type, 2007 & 2008

Offences	Rate per 1000 mid-year population					
	2007			2008		
	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius
Crimes	5.4	4.1	5.4	5.2	3.1	5.1
Misdemeanours	34.1	29.0	34.0	34.7	25.7	34.5
Drug related offences	3.6	0.6	3.5	3.4	1.6	3.3
Contraventions	112.4	58.5	110.8	97.7	92.5	97.5
All offences	155.6	92.2	153.7	140.9	123.0	140.4

4.3 Offences according to United Nations (UN) Classification

Table 4 presents reported offences in 2007 and 2008 grouped according to the UN Classification of Offences. Increases are noted in assault and related offences (3.9%), sexual offences (7.5%), fraud and dishonesty (8.2%) and embezzlement (6.7%). On the other hand, homicides and related offences decreased by 7.7%, drug related offences by 5.5% and thefts by 4.4%.

Table 4 - Reported offences according to United Nations classification of offences, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Offences	2007	2008
Homicide and related offences	116	107
<i>Intentional Homicide</i>	45	48
Murder	30	35
Manslaughter	4	1
Murder of newly born child	1	0
Infanticide	0	1
Abortion	10	11
<i>Intentional Homicide (attempted)</i>	13	11
Attempted murder	13	11
<i>Non Intentional Homicide</i>	58	48
Involuntary homicide	57	43
Wounds & blows	1	5
Assault and related offences	13,768	14,307
Assaults causing loss of eye and limbs	1	1
Assault against public functionary	52	45
Serious wounds & blows	87	102
Simple wounds & blows	13,628	14,159
Sexual Offences	384	413
Rape	77	69
Sexual intercourse with female under 16	145	156
Sodomy	50	63
Bestiality	1	4
Attempt upon chastity	111	121
Fraud and dishonesty	1,001	1,083
Forgery	185	200
Swindling	286	421
Currency offences including coinage	71	53
Issuing Cheque without provision	417	361
Officer with public body accepting bribe	4	3
Bribing public functionary	5	5
Impersonation	10	4
Swearing false affidavit	17	29
Extortion	6	7

Table 4 (cont'd) - Reported offences according to United Nations classification of offences, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Offences	2007	2008
Embezzlement	690	736
Embezzlement by public servant	31	45
Simple embezzlement	659	691
Theft	21,005	20,090
Automobile theft	971	974
Auto/moto larceny	832	778
Car/van larceny	122	190
Larceny of other heavy vehicles	17	6
Theft (excluding automobile theft)	15,887	15,390
Praedial larceny	524	471
Bicycles	475	432
Fowls theft	18	31
Larceny from motor vehicles	1,637	1,499
Larceny of cellular phones /pagers	1,247	1,227
Other simple larcenies	10,881	10,567
Larceny (aggravating circumstances)	136	181
Larceny by servant	199	207
Attempt at larceny	770	775
Robbery	1,497	1,260
Larceny with violence	1,103	932
Larceny night breaking with violence	32	21
Larceny armed with offensive weapon	339	279
Larceny with wounding	23	28
Burglary	2,650	2,466
Larceny night breaking	1,507	1,342
Larceny day breaking	997	984
Larceny false key	12	21
Larceny scaling	134	119
Drug related offences	4,464	4,217
Other	12,609	13,460
Crime	744	697
Misdemeanour	11,865	12,763
Sub-total	54,037	54,413
Contraventions	139,674	123,690
Road traffic contraventions	124,975	108,939
Other	14,699	14,751
Total	193,711	178,103

4.4 Drug related offences reported at the police

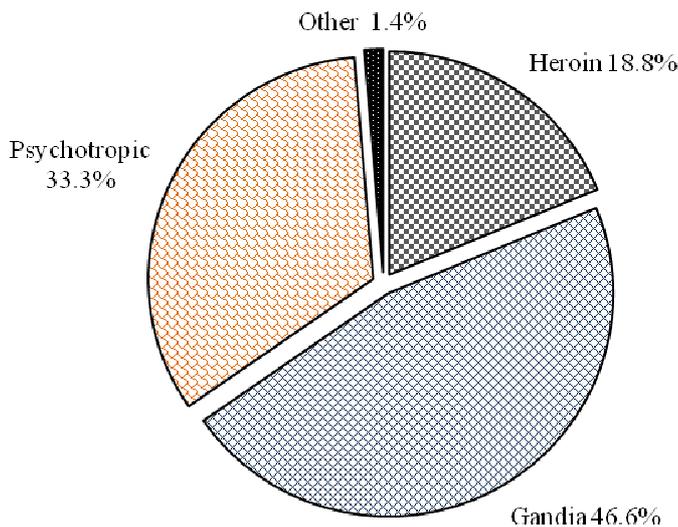
In 2008, 4,217 drugs related offences were reported at the police of which 791 were related to heroin (18.8%), 1,964 to gandia (46.6%) and 1,405 (33.3%) to psychotropic drugs (Table 5 & Figure 2).

During the period 2007 to 2008, drug related offences decreased by 5.5%, driven by a fall in offences related to heroin (32.4%). The number of offences linked to gandia however rose by 19.7%.

Table 5 - Drug related offences reported at the police, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Type of drug	2007		2008		% Change 2007 - 2008
	Number	%	Number	%	
Heroin	1,170	26.2	791	18.8	-32.4
Gandia	1,641	36.8	1,964	46.6	+19.7
Psychotropic and other restricted substances	1,608	36.0	1,405	33.3	-12.6
Other drugs	45	1.0	57	1.4	+26.7
Total	4,464	100.0	4,217	100.0	-5.5

Figure 2 - Drug related offences by type, Republic of Mauritius, 2008



4.5 Juvenile offences reported at the police

In 2008, 986 juvenile offences involving 1,067 juvenile offenders (persons aged 12 to 17 years old) were reported at the police. Around 45% of the reported offences were misdemeanours, 40% were contraventions, while 13% were crimes. A small proportion (1.8%) of the juvenile offences was drugs related (Table 6).

Table 6 - Juvenile offences reported at the police, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Offences	2007		2008	
	Juvenile offences	Juvenile offenders ¹	Juvenile offences	Juvenile offenders ¹
Crimes	103	113	130	150
Misdemeanours	451	471	443	497
Drug related offences	23	31	18	32
Contraventions	328	325	395	388
All offences	905	940	986	1,067

¹ Persons aged 12 to 17 years

The total number of juvenile offenders increased by 13.5% from 940 in 2007 to 1,067 in 2008. As shown in Table 7, the number of juvenile offenders involved in intentional homicides more than doubled (from 4 to 9), while those involved in sexual offences increased by 51.1% (from 45 to 68).

Table 7 - Juvenile offenders involved by type of offence according to United Nations classification of offences, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Offences	2007	2008
Intentional homicide	4	9
Assault and related offences	261	275
<i>of which simple wounds & blows</i>	258	268
Sexual Offences	45	68
<i>of which rape</i>	7	9
Fraud and dishonesty	2	-
Embezzlement	-	2
Theft	168	196
Drug related offences	31	32
Contraventions	325	388
<i>of which road traffic contraventions</i>	268	301
Other offences	104	97
Total	940	1,067

The juvenile delinquency rate for the Republic of Mauritius went up from 4.7 in 2007 to 5.3 per 1,000 juvenile populations in 2008. In the Island of Mauritius, the rate increased from 4.8 to 5.3 and in the Island of Rodrigues from 1.6 to 3.9.

Table 8 - Juvenile delinquency rate (excluding contraventions), Island of Mauritius, Island of Rodrigues & Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

	2007			2008		
	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius	Island of Mauritius	Island of Rodrigues	Republic of Mauritius
Juvenile offenders	608	7	615	662	17	679
Number of juvenile offences	569	8	577	572	19	591
Juvenile delinquency rate	4.8	1.6	4.7	5.3	3.9	5.3

4.6 Road traffic contraventions

The total number of road traffic contraventions decreased by 12.8% from 124,975 in 2007 to 108,939 in 2008. However, contraventions linked to dangerous driving and to driving under the influence of liquor were on the increase. During the same period, contraventions for speeding, for using unlicensed motor vehicles and bicycle contraventions decreased.

It is to be noted that these trends should be interpreted with caution since the number of road traffic contraventions is also affected by the activities and priorities of the police.

Table 9 - Road traffic contraventions, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Road traffic contraventions	2007	2008
Dangerous driving	1,623	1,636
Driving under influence of liquor	947	1,232
Exceeding speed limit	22,871	17,711
Using unlicensed motor vehicles	116	76
Bicycle contraventions	433	335
Contraventions against pedestrians	11	11
Other ¹	98,974	87,938
Total	124,975	108,939

¹ includes offences relating to: non-fastening of seat belts whilst driving, using cellular phones whilst driving, non-compliance with road traffic signs, etc.

4.7 Status of reported offences

Some offences are taken to court after investigation. Others are not, either because some are civil cases and are not prosecuted by the police, or the offenders have not been identified, or there is insufficient evidence to proceed further, or the allegations are withdrawn by the complainants.

In 2008, the number of offences to be dealt with by the police stood at 244,007, an increase of 2% compared to 239,295 in 2007. Furthermore, the number of offences investigated by the police increased by 7% from 173,390 in 2007 to 185,680 in 2008 (Table 10).

Among the 185,680 offences investigated by the police in 2008, 141,255 or 76% were taken to court.

Table 10 - Reported offences by status, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Year	Reported offences					
	Brought forward from previous year	Reported during the year	Total	After investigation		Pending investigation
				Not taken to Court	Taken to Court	
2007	45,584	193,711	239,295	37,230	136,160	65,905
2008	65,905	178,102	244,007	44,425	141,255	58,327

4.8 Finger printed offenders

Offences are either classified as finger printable (whereby the finger prints of the offender are recorded) or non-finger printable according to the seriousness of the offence. Examples of finger printable offences are murder, larceny by night breaking, forgery, rape, etc. Finger printed offenders are persons who are convicted for finger printable offences.

The number of such offenders increased from 5,793 in 2007 to 5,811 in 2008 in the Republic of Mauritius. The majority (82%) of the offenders obtained one conviction during the year. Around 45% (2,616) were first-time finger printed offenders.

Table 11 – Finger printed offenders by number of convictions for the year, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Number of convictions for the year	Number of finger printed offenders	
	2007	2008
1	4,599	4,765
2	767	666
3	249	228
4	92	84
5	42	37
> 5	44	31
Total	5,793	5,811
<i>of whom new finger printed offenders</i>	<i>2,517</i>	<i>2,616</i>

The total number of convictions for finger printed offenders decreased by 3.1% from 7,773 in 2007 to 7,530 in 2008. In the Island of Mauritius a decrease of 3.4% (from 7,624 to 7,368) was noted while in Rodrigues, there was an increase of 8.7% (149 to 162).

Table 12 - Number of convictions for finger printed offenders, Island of Mauritius, Island of Rodrigues and Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

	Number of convictions	
	2007	2008
Island of Mauritius	7,624	7,368
Island of Rodrigues	149	162
Republic of Mauritius	7,773	7,530

From 2007 to 2008, the number of convictions in the Republic of Mauritius for finger printed offenders aged less than 18 years decreased by 8.4% and those aged 22 years and above by 4 %. However, the number of convictions for offenders in the age bracket 18 to 21 years increased by 7.8%.

Table 13 - Number of convictions for finger printed offenders by age-group and sex of offender, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Age group (years)	2007			2008		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
< 18	85	10	95	82	5	87
18 - 21	600	30	630	649	30	679
22 & above	6,689	359	7,048	6,363	401	6,764
Total	7,374	399	7,773	7,094	436	7,530

4.9 Police stations and Police force

The total number of police stations and posts decreased to 112 (92 police posts and 20 National Coast Guard posts) in 2008 from 114 (94 police posts and 20 National Coast Guard posts) in 2007 in the Republic of Mauritius.

The police force increased by 9% from 10,813 (10,237 males and 576 females) in 2007 to 11,795 (11,128 males and 667 females) in 2008. In 2008, the police force per 1,000 population was 9.3 up from 8.6 in 2007.

4.10 Expenditure of the Police Department

The total (recurrent and capital) actual expenditure of the Police Department in the Republic of Mauritius increased from Rs 3,057 Mn in 2006/2007 to Rs 3,184 Mn in 2007/2008. However, the share of the expenditure of the police expressed as a percentage of total government expenditure, decreased from 5.5% in 2006/2007 to 4.9% in 2007/2008.

5. Judiciary statistics

5.1 Total number of criminal cases

The Supreme Court, the Intermediate Court and the District Courts try civil and criminal cases. Cases are lodged in the different courts according to their seriousness. They may also be referred to the Supreme Court, which is the highest judicial authority in the Republic of Mauritius, if the parties involved are not satisfied with the verdict of the lower Courts.

The Industrial Courts try matters relating to industrial disputes.

In 2008, the total number of criminal cases lodged in court was 105,206, representing a decrease of 10.2% compared to 117,172 in 2007 (Table 14). Criminal cases disposed of dropped by 16.6% from 122,105 to 101,821 during the same period. The number of outstanding cases fell by 8.1% from 34,380 at the end of 2007 to 31,603 at the end of 2008.

The Supreme Court and the Court of Rodrigues disposed of more criminal cases in 2008 than in 2007 whilst the Intermediate Court, the Industrial Court and the District Courts disposed of fewer cases. This could possibly be due to trials of Assizes cases at the Supreme Court held all year round instead of on a quarterly basis and the posting of a full time Magistrate at the Courts of Rodrigues.

Table 14 - Criminal cases in court, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Courts	No. of cases pending at the beginning of the year		Number of cases lodged		Number of cases disposed		Number of cases outstanding at the end of the year	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Republic of Mauritius	44,699	34,380	117,172	105,206	122,105	101,821	34,380	31,603
Island of Mauritius	44,300	33,929	115,677	102,174	120,662	100,206	33,929	29,735
<i>Supreme Court</i>	229	335	221	249	115	168	335	416
<i>Industrial Court</i>	168	181	313	206	300	271	181	116
<i>Intermediate Court</i>	1,443	1,230	1,278	1,400	1,491	1,445	1,230	1,185
<i>District Courts</i>	42,460	32,183	113,865	100,319	118,756	98,322	32,183	28,018
Court of Rodrigues	399	451	1,495	3,032	1,443	1,615	451	1,868

5.2 Convicted offences

The number of convicted offences registered in courts dropped by 14.7% from 116,390 in 2007 to 99,298 in 2008 (Table 15).

Convictions for homicide and related offences increased by 17.3% from 52 in 2007 to 61 in 2008. During the same period, the number of convictions for embezzlement decreased by 45.9%, for fraud and dishonesty by 25.1%, for assault and related offences by 18.6%, for sexual offences by 11.8% and for contraventions by 14.8%.

Table 15 - Convicted offences according to United Nations Classification of offences, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Offences	Number of convicted offences		% Change 2007 - 2008
	2007	2008	
Homicide and related offences	52	61	+17.3
<i>of which intentional homicide</i>	8*	19	+137.5
Assault and related offences	5636*	4,585	-18.6
Sexual offences	110	97	-11.8
<i>of which rape</i>	10	2	-80.0
Fraud and dishonesty	455	341	-25.1
Embezzlement	196	106	-45.9
Larceny (excluding automobile larceny)	2,858	2,678	-6.3
Drug and related offences	3,330	3,252	-2.3
Contraventions	93,218	79,450	-14.8
<i>of which road traffic contraventions</i>	87,828	77,147	-12.2
Other offences	10,535	8,728	-17.2
Total	116,390	99,298	-14.7

* Revised, corrected for misclassification.

5.3 Sentence imposed

The number of convicted offences for which the offenders were sentenced to imprisonment, fell by 12.9% from 2,739 in 2007 to 2,386 in 2008 (Table 16). Offences for which fines were imposed dropped by 14.8% from 111,459 to 94,989 and offences involving juvenile offenders sentenced to Rehabilitation Youth Centre (RYC) and Correctional Youth Centre (CYC) fell by 14.9% from 47 to 40. Other sentences which include mainly probation and community service orders, conditional and absolute discharges dropped by 12.2 % from 2,145 to 1,883.

Table 16 - Convicted offences by sex of offender and outcome of judgement, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

	Outcome of judgement									
	2007					2008				
	Imprisonment	Detention at RYC & CYC	Fine	Other ¹	Total	Imprisonment	Detention at RYC & CYC	Fine	Other ¹	Total
Adult	2,739	0	111,442	2,135	116,316	2,386	0	94,967	1,848	99,201
<i>Male</i>	2,691	0	109,410	2,065	114,166	2,350	0	92,629	1,789	96,768
<i>Female</i>	48	0	2,032	70	2,150	36	0	2,338	59	2,433
Juvenile	0	47	17	10	74	0	40	22	35	97
<i>Male</i>	0	41	14	9	64	0	36	20	29	85
<i>Female</i>	0	6	3	1	10	0	4	2	6	12
Total	2,739	47	111,459	2,145	116,390	2,386	40	94,989	1,883	99,298

¹ includes Probation Orders, Community Service Orders, conditional and absolute discharge

5.4 Court rooms and staff

The number of court rooms in the Republic of Mauritius increased from 43 in 2007 to 46 in 2008, following the introduction of Family Courts and Commercial Courts.

From 2007 to 2008, the staff of the Judiciary, excluding administrative and supporting staff, decreased from 322 (208 males and 114 females) to 313 (208 males and 105 females). In 2008, there were 63 Judges/Senior Magistrates/Magistrates including one Chief Justice and one Senior Puisne Judge.

5.5 Expenditure of the Judiciary

The total (recurrent and capital) actual expenditure of the Judiciary in the Republic of Mauritius increased from Rs 184 Mn in 2006/2007 to Rs 196 Mn in 2007/2008.

6. Prison statistics

6.1 Number of detainees

The daily average number of detainees (including juveniles in CYC) in prison decreased by 4.8% from 2,271 in 2007 to 2,161 in 2008 in the Republic of Mauritius (Table 17). During the same period the number of convicts decreased by 8.7% (from 1,665 to 1,520), and the number on remand and trial increased by 6.7% (from 600 to 640).

In 2008, out of the 2,161 total prison population, 70.3% (1,520) were convicts; the remaining constituted mainly the remand and trial prison population (26.4%) and the civil debtors (0.3%). The very small number of civil debtors in prison will eventually fall to zero as a result of the Courts (Civil Procedure) Act being repealed in 2006, whereby civil debtors are no longer sent to prison.

Table 17 - Daily average number of detainees* by type of detainee, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Type of detainee	2007		2008		% Change 2007 - 2008
	Number	%	Number	%	
Convicts	1,665	73.3	1,520	70.3	-8.7
Remand and trial	600	26.4	640	29.6	+6.7
Civil debtors	6	0.3	1	0.1	-83.3
Total	2,271	100.0	2,161	100.0	-4.8

* including detainees in Correctional Youth Centre (CYC)

6.2 Prison admission rate

In 2008, the overall admission rate of convicts to prison was 318.3 per 100,000 mid-year population. The admission rate varies with age; it increases from 4.6 for age-group 14 - 17 years to a peak of 699.0 for age-group 26 - 30 years, then declines to 54.1 for those over 50 years (Table 18).

Out of the 3,187 convicts admitted to prison in 2008, 3,084 (96.8%) were males and 103 (3.2%) females. The admission rate per 100,000 mid-year population was 628.2 for males and 20.2 for females.

Table 18 - Prison admission rate for convicts by age-group , Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Age - group (years)	2007		2008	
	Number	Rate per 100,000 mid-year population	Number	Rate per 100,000 mid-year population
14 -17	8	9.1	4	4.6
18 - 21	182	239.1	249	313.9
22 - 25	399	505.1	476	631.8
26 - 30	676	599.6	791	699.0
31 - 35	505	534.8	578	592.6
36 - 50	888	309.8	947	331.1
Over 50	119	47.3	142	54.1
Total	2,777	281.0	3,187	318.3

6.3 Convicts admitted to prison by number of previous imprisonments

Statistics for convicts admitted to prison by number of previous imprisonments are available only for male adult convicts in the Island of Mauritius.

In 2008, among the 3,032 male adult convicts admitted to prison, 81% (2,459) were re-offenders with at least one previous imprisonment compared to 84% (2,199) among the 2,626 male convicts admitted in 2007.

Table 19 - Male adult convicts admitted to prison by number of previous imprisonment, Island of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

No. of previous imprisonment	2007	2008
No previous	427	573
One	326	511
Two or more	1,873	1,948
Total	2,626	3,032

6.4 Convicts admitted to prison by length of sentence

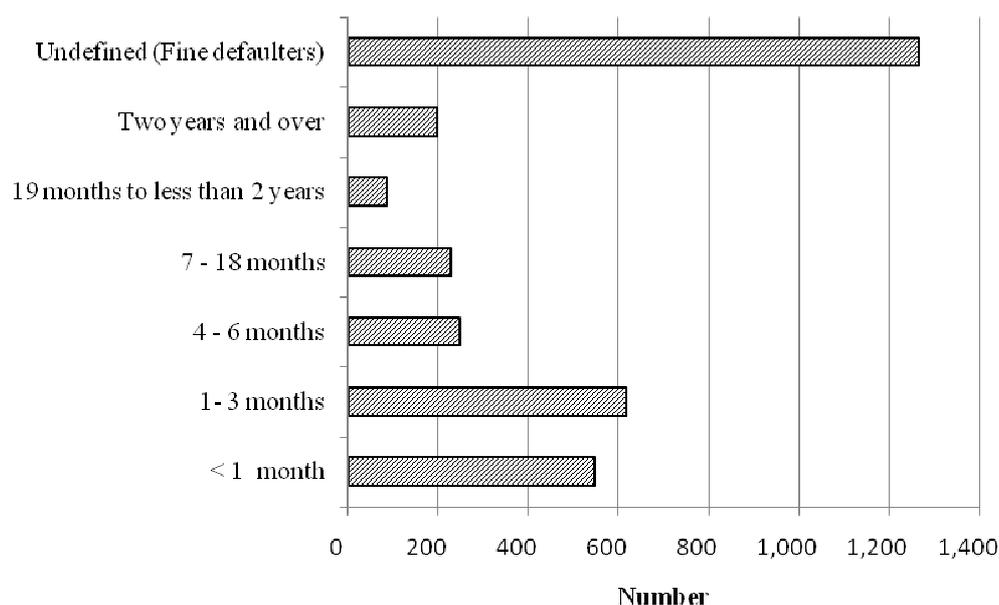
Table 20 shows that 44% of convicts admitted to prison in 2008 served relatively short sentences of 6 months or less, 16% served sentences of 7 months or more and no convicts were sentenced to life imprisonment. Another 39% of the convicts were fine defaulters sentenced to imprisonment for non-payment of fines; they either stay in prison for a specified period of time or are released as soon as they pay the fines.

Table 20 -Convicts admitted to prison by length of sentence, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Length of sentence	2007		2008	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
< 1 month	431	15.5	547	17.2
1- 3 months	525	18.9	615	19.3
4 - 6 months	349	12.6	248	7.8
7 - 18 months	224	8.1	228	7.2
19 months to less than 2 years	133	4.8	86	2.7
Two years and over	143	5.1	196	6.1
Life sentence	0	0	0	0
Undefined (Fine defaulters ¹)	972	35.0	1,267	39.7
Total	2,777	100.0	3,187	100.0

¹ Fine defaulters are convicts sentenced to imprisonment for non - payment of fines; they either stay in prison for a specified period or are released as soon as they pay the fines.

Figure 3 - Convicts admitted to prison by length of sentence, Republic of Mauritius, 2008



6.5 Fine defaulters

There was an increase of 30.3 % in the number of fine defaulters from 972 in 2007 to 1,267 in 2008. It is to be noted that around 90% (1,139) of the fine defaulters admitted to prison in 2008 were due to non-payment of fines of Rs 10,000 or less.

Table 21 - Fine defaulters admitted to prison by amount of fine due, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Amount of fine (Rs)	Number of detainees	
	2007	2008
< 201	15	-
201-1,000	191	289
1,001 - 5,000	444	687
5,001 - 10,000	185	163
10,001 - 20,000	102	68
20,001 - 40,000	24	32
40,001 - 60,000	4	10
60,001 & over	7	18
Total	972	1,267

6.6 International comparison of imprisonment rate

The imprisonment rate per 100,000 mid-year population for the Republic of Mauritius was 166 in 2008.

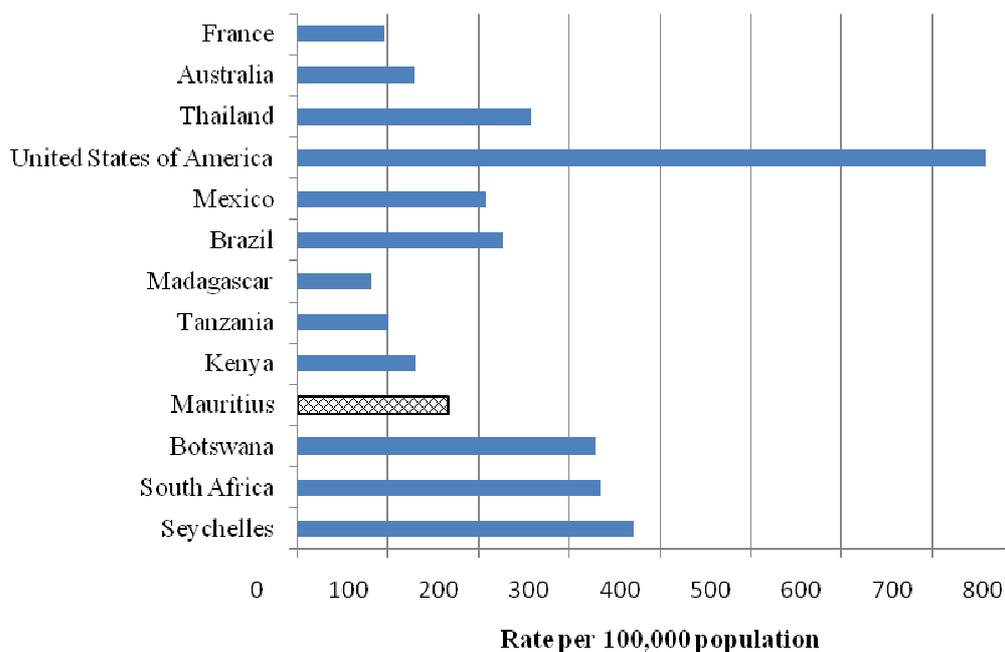
In 2008, there was considerable variation in imprisonment rates among selected countries from different continents (Table 22 & Figure 4). The United States of America had a rate as high as 760 prisoners per 100,000 population.

Countries in the African region with higher imprisonment rates than Mauritius include Seychelles (371), South Africa (335) and Botswana (329); and countries with lower imprisonment rates include Kenya (130), Tanzania (100) and Madagascar (80).

Table 22 - Imprisonment rate for selected countries, 2008

Country	Imprisonment rate per 100,000 population
Botswana	329
Kenya	130
Madagascar	81
Mauritius	166
Seychelles	371
South Africa	335
Tanzania	100
Brazil	227
Mexico	207
United States of America	760
Thailand	257
Australia	129
France	96

Figure 4 - Imprisonment rate for selected countries, 2008



(Source: World Prison Brief, International Centre for Prison Studies, Kings College, London, UK <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/law/research/icps/worldbrief/>)

6.7 Number of escapes from prison custody

The number of cases of escape from prison custody involving male (adult and juvenile) detainees increased from 6 in 2007 to 10 in 2008 in the Island of Mauritius.

6.8 Prisons and Prison Staff

There were 9 prisons in the Republic of Mauritius in both 2007 and 2008. Out of the nine prisons, 8 were in the Island of Mauritius and one in Rodrigues. The 8 prisons in the Island of Mauritius comprised one women prison, one juvenile prison (CYC) and 6 adult male prisons.

The prison staff, excluding administrative and supporting staff, increased by 7% from 1,021 (951 males and 70 females) in 2007 to 1,097 (1,021 males and 76 females) in 2008. In 2008, there was on average 2 detainees per prison staff in the island of Mauritius.

6.9 Expenditure of the Prison Services

The total (recurrent and capital) actual expenditure of the Prison Services in the Island of Mauritius increased from Rs 280 Mn in 2006/2007 to Rs 314 Mn in 2007/2008.

7. Probation statistics

Probation is a system for rehabilitating offenders in the open community under the supervision of a Probation officer as an alternative to sending them to prison. The Probation officer also supervises persons subjected to community service order, and those released on parole or after care.

On completion of the sentence, the Probation officers report to the Judiciary whether the sentence was successfully completed or not. Breach of the orders can lead to imprisonment.

7.1 Probation orders

Between 2007 and 2008, the number of offenders sentenced to probation orders dropped by 21.8% from 467 to 365. Among the 365 offenders (318 males and 47 females) in 2008, 87% were adults.

Table 23 - Offenders sentenced with Probation Orders, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

	2007			2008			% Change 2007 - 2008
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Adult	385	40	425	273	45	318	-25.2
Juvenile	41	1	42	44	3	47	+11.9
Total	426	41	467	317	48	365	-21.8

7.2 Community service orders

In 2008, the total number of offenders subjected to community service work in the Republic of Mauritius was 295 up by 31% from 226 in 2007. The majority of the offenders were males in both 2007 and 2008.

Table 24 - Offenders subjected to community service work, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

	2007	2008	% Change 2007 - 2008
Male	216	275	+27
Female	10	20	+100
Total	226	295	+31

7.3 Admissions to Rehabilitation Youth Centre (RYC)

There were 154 juvenile detainees (91 males and 63 females) admitted to RYC in 2008, up by 10% from 140 in 2007. In both 2007 and 2008, the majority of the detainees admitted were on remand.

Table 25 - Juvenile admission to RYC by type of detainees, Republic of Mauritius, 2007 & 2008

Type of detainee	2007			2008			% Change 2007 - 2008
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Convicts	4	17	21	15	11	26	+24
Remand	63	56	119	76	52	128	+8
Total	67	73	140	91	63	154	+10

7.4 Probation offices, institutions and staff

There were 11 probation offices located in the District Court premises of the Republic of Mauritius in both 2007 and 2008. Two semi-open residential institutions, one for male and one female juvenile, as well as a suicide and prevention unit were also under the purview of the Probation and After care Service.

The Probation and After care Service had a workforce of 70, excluding administrative and supporting staff, in the Republic of Mauritius in both 2007 and 2008.

7.5 Expenditure of the Probation Service

The total (recurrent and capital) actual expenditure of the Probation service in the Island of Mauritius increased from Rs 20 Mn in 2006/2007 to Rs 22 Mn in 2007/2008.

Central Statistics Office

Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment

Port Louis

August 2009

This ESI has been prepared with the contribution of the Mauritius Police Force, the Judiciary, the Mauritius Prison Services and the Probation and After-care Service.

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GLOSSARY

1. **Absolute discharge** is complete and unconditional release.
2. **Admission rate** is defined as the number of people admitted to prison in a given year per 100,000 mid-year population.
3. **Community Service Order** is a sentence requiring an offender to perform unpaid community work.
4. **Conditional discharge** is a sentence whereby an offender is released under certain conditions, e.g., regular reporting to police stations for a specified period of time.
5. **Contraventions** are defined as offences that are punishable by:
 - (a) imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 days;
 - (b) a fine not exceeding 5,000 rupees.
6. **Contravention rate** is defined as the number of reported contraventions per 1,000 mid-year population.
7. **Crimes** are defined as offences that are punishable by:
 - (a) penal servitude;
 - (b) a fine exceeding 5,000 rupees.
8. **Crime rate** is defined as the number of reported crimes per 1,000 mid-year population.
9. **Criminal case** is a case dealing with an offender indicted for a public offence.
10. **Detainee** is referred to as any person confined to prison and is classified as follows:
 - (a) Convict: person sentenced to imprisonment.
 - (b) Person on remand and trial: person charged for an offence with a court of law and awaiting judgment.
 - (c) Civil debtor: person found guilty by the court for the non-payment of debts.
11. **Drug related offences** are as spelt out under the Dangerous Drug Act 2000. They relate mainly to drugs like gandia, heroin, hashish, opium, cocaine and other psychotropic substances.
12. **Drug related offence rate** is defined as the number of reported drug offences per 1,000 mid-year population.

13. **Fine Defaulters** are convicts sentenced to imprisonment for non - payment of fines; they either stay in prison for a specified period or are released as soon as they pay the fines.
14. **Finger printed offences** are offences for which fingerprints of offenders are taken.
15. **Imprisonment rate** is defined as the number of detainees in prison per 100,000 mid-year population.
16. **Juveniles** are defined as persons aged 12 to 17 years.
17. **Juvenile delinquency rate** is defined as the number of juvenile offenders involved in offences (**excluding contraventions**) per 1,000 juvenile populations.
18. **Misdemeanours** are defined as offences that are punishable by:
 - (a) imprisonment for a term exceeding 10 days;
 - (b) a fine exceeding 5,000 rupees.
19. **Misdemeanour rate** is defined as the number of reported misdemeanours per 1,000 mid-year population.
20. **Offences** punishable by the law are crimes, misdemeanours and contraventions.
21. **Probation order** is a sentence whereby an offender is placed under the supervision of a probation officer for a period not less than one nor more than three years.