

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, JANUARY – JUNE 2009

1. Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicator presents provisional population estimates for mid-year 2009 and vital statistics for the first semester of 2009. Forecasts of vital events and rates for the year 2009 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 0.5 % since mid-2008 and was estimated at 1,275,323 as at 1st July 2009.
- As at mid-2009, female population outnumbered male population by about 16,627.
- The number of live births forecast for the Republic of Mauritius for year 2009 is 16,250, corresponding to a crude birth rate of 12.7, against 12.9 in 2008.
- Forecast for the number of deaths for 2009 is 9,040 giving a crude death rate of 7.1 same as for the previous year.
- The forecast for the number of infant deaths for the Republic of Mauritius is 238 representing an infant mortality rate of 14.6 against 14.4 in 2008.
- The number of still births forecast for 2009 is 156 giving a still birth rate of 9.5, compared to 10.0 in 2008.
- The forecast for the number of marriages for 2009 is 11,184 corresponding to a marriage rate of 17.5, against 17.7 in 2008.

3. Estimated resident population

Table 3.1: Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1st July 2009

Island	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio
Island of Mauritius	1,237,286	610,485	626,801	97.4
Island of Rodrigues	37,748	18,670	19,078	97.9
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	193	96	201.0
Republic of Mauritius	1,275,323	629,348	645,975	97.4

As at 1st July 2009, the population of the Republic of Mauritius was estimated at 1,275,323 of whom 629,348 were males and 645,975 females, giving a sex ratio of 97.4 males per 100 females.

The population of the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues were estimated at 1,237,286 and 37,748 respectively. In both islands, females outnumbered males.

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

Table 3.2: Population density, Republic of Mauritius, 1st July 2009

Island	Both Sexes	Area (km ²)	Density per km ²
Island of Mauritius	1,237,286	1864.8	663
Island of Rodrigues	37,748	104.0	363
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	71.2	4
Republic of Mauritius	1,275,323	2,040.0	625

The Republic of Mauritius, with a total land area of 2,040 square kilometres, had a population density of around 625 persons per square km at mid-2009. The population densities of the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues were 663 and 363 respectively.

Table 3.3: Estimated resident population by sex and sex ratio, Republic of Mauritius, 2007-2009 (mid-year estimates)

Year	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio
2007	1,260,692	623,119	637,573	97.7
2008	1,268,854	626,749	642,105	97.6
2009	1,275,323	629,348	645,975	97.4

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 4.1: Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 1st July 2008 and 1st July 2009

Island	Population		Change	
	1 st July 2008	1 st July 2009	Number	%
Island of Mauritius	1,230,995	1,237,286	6,291	0.5
Island of Rodrigues	37,570	37,748	178	0.5
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	289	0	0.0
Republic of Mauritius	1,268,854	1,275,323	6,469	0.5

An increase of 6,469 (0.5 %) between mid-2008 and mid-2009 was observed for the population of the Republic of Mauritius. The growth rate for both the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues was 0.5%.

Table 4.2: Components of population growth during the first semester of 2008 and 2009, Republic of Mauritius¹

Components of population growth	2008	2009
Resident population as at beginning of year	1,264,574	1,271,742
Live Births, January-June	8,345	7,873
Deaths, January-June	4,226	4,431
Natural increase, January-June	4,119	3,442
Net international migration, January-June	-128	-150
Resident population as at mid-year	1,268,565	1,275,034

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 2009, the population registered a natural increase of 3,442 which was the result of an addition of 7,873 persons due to live births and a subtraction of 4,431 persons due to deaths. For the same period, the net international migration of residents was -150.

5. Vital statistics and rates

5.1: Live births and crude birth rate

Table 5.1: Live births registered and crude birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 and 2009¹

Island	Number of live births				Crude birth rate	
	2008		2009		2008	2009 ¹
	Jan-Jun	Year	Jan-Jun	Year ¹		
Island of Mauritius	7,958	15,590	7,508	15,480	12.7	12.5
Island of Rodrigues	387	782	365	770	20.8	20.4
Republic of Mauritius	8,345	16,372	7,873	16,250	12.9	12.7

¹ forecast

For the first six months of 2009, 7,873 live births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, 5.7 % less than for the corresponding period of 2008. For the year 2009, the number of live births is forecast at 16,250 resulting in a crude birth rate of 12.7 live births per 1,000 mid-year population compared to 12.9 in 2008. The forecast for 2009 for the Island of Mauritius is 15,480 live births (rate of 12.5), and for Rodrigues it is 770 (rate of 20.4).

5.2: Deaths and crude death rate

Table 5.2: Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 and 2009¹

Island	Number of deaths				Crude death rate	
	2008		2009		2008	2009 ¹
	Jan-Jun	Year	Jan-Jun	Year ¹		
Island of Mauritius	4,125	8,798	4,319	8,825	7.1	7.1
Island of Rodrigues	101	206	112	215	5.5	5.7
Republic of Mauritius	4,226	9,004	4,431	9,040	7.1	7.1

¹ forecast

The number of deaths registered during the first semester of 2009 in the Republic of Mauritius was 4,431 representing 4.9 % increase from the corresponding period in 2008. The forecast for 2009 is 9,040 deaths with a crude death rate of 7.1. The expected number of deaths for the Island of Mauritius for 2009 is 8,825 (rate of 7.1) and that for Rodrigues 215 (rate of 5.7).

5.3: Infant deaths and infant mortality rate

Table 5.3: Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 and 2009¹

Island	Number of infant deaths				Infant mortality rate	
	2008		2009		2008	2009 ¹
	Jan-Jun	Year	Jan-Jun	Year ¹		
Island of Mauritius	117	223	115	225	14.3	14.5
Island of Rodrigues	7	13	5	13	16.6	16.9
Republic of Mauritius	124	236	120	238	14.4	14.6

¹ forecast

During the first semester of 2009, 120 infant deaths were registered in the Republic of Mauritius compared to 124 for the same period in 2008. 238 infant deaths are expected to occur in the Republic of Mauritius, giving an infant mortality rate of 14.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2009 against 14.4 in 2008. The forecasted figures are 225 (rate of 14.5) and 13 (rate of 16.9) for the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues respectively.

5.4: Still births and still birth rate

Table 5.4: Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 and 2009¹

Island	Number of still births				Still birth rate	
	2008		2009		2008	2009 ¹
	Jan-Jun	Year	Jan-Jun	Year ¹		
Island of Mauritius	83	159	67	150	10.1	9.6
Island of Rodrigues	2	6	1	6	7.6	7.7
Republic of Mauritius	85	165	68	156	10.0	9.5

¹ forecast

During the first six months of 2009, 68 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius compared to 85 during the same period in 2008, i.e. a 20 % decrease. The number of still births expected for the Republic of Mauritius is 156 for year 2009, giving a still birth rate of 9.5 still births per 1,000 total births against 10.0 in 2008. Forecast for the number of still births for the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues for year 2009 are 150 (rate of 9.6) and 6 (rate of 7.7) respectively.

5.5: Marriages and crude marriage rate

Table 5.5: Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 and 2009¹

Island	Number of marriages				Crude marriage rate	
	2008		2009		2008	2009 ¹
	Jan-Jun	Year	Jan-Jun	Year ¹		
Island of Mauritius	4,944	11,012	4,754	11,000	17.9	17.8
Island of Rodrigues	90	185	84	184	9.8	9.7
Republic of Mauritius	5,034	11,197	4,838	11,184	17.7	17.5

¹ forecast

A total of 4,838 marriages were registered in the Republic of Mauritius during the first semester of 2009 representing a decrease of 3.9 % over the number registered during the same period in 2008. The number of marriages forecast for 2009 is 11,184 giving a crude marriage rate of 17.5, against 17.7 in 2008. The expected number of marriages in 2009 for the Island of Mauritius is 11,000 (rate of 17.8) and the Island of Rodrigues is 184 (rate of 9.7).

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 (2005).

Table 6.1 - Vital rates for selected countries

Country	Year	Crude birth rate	Crude Death rate	Infant mortality rate
Mauritius	2005	15.1	7.0	13.2
Reunion	2003	18.9	5.3	7.4
Australia	2005	12.7	6.4	5.0
Canada	2004	10.5	7.1	5.3
India	2005	23.8	7.6	58.0
Italy	2005	9.5	9.7	4.6
France	2005	12.7	8.6	3.6

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 the year 2009 are however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.