

# AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

Year 2009

## Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicator presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the year 2009, as well as revised figures for year 2008. 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 rainfall during the months of October and November 2009 affected the extraction rate of sugar.

## 2. Sugar cane

The production of sugar cane increased by 3.0% from 4,533,000 tonnes in 2008 to 4,666,942 tonnes in 2009. However, total area harvested went down by 2.5% from 62,024 hectares in 2008 to 60,503 hectares in 2009, resulting in a 5.6% increase in the yield per hectare, from 73.1 tonnes to 77.1 tonnes.

The production of sugar, consequently, went up by 3.4% from 452,062 tonnes in 2008 to 467,234 tonnes in 2009. Compared to 9.98% in 2008, the average extraction rate was 10.02% in 2009, representing a rise of 0.4%. It is to be noted that the extraction rate in 2009 was lower when compared to that registered during the last ten years except for 2008.

## 3. Tea

The area under tea plantation in 2009 was 713 hectares, representing an increase of 1.7% over the figure of 701 hectares in 2008. The production of green tea leaves went down by 11.6%: 7,663 tonnes as compared to 8,672 tonnes in 2008.

Production of manufactured tea decreased by 11.2% from 1,668 tonnes in 2008 to 1,481 tonnes in 2009. Further details on tea are given in Table 4.

## 4. Tobacco

An area of 238 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested in 2009, that is, 8.5% lower than the 260 hectares harvested in the preceding year. Consequently, the production of tobacco leaves decreased by 10.0% from 349 tonnes in 2008 to 314 tonnes in 2009.

## 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 rose by 9.7% from 6,266 hectares in 2008 to 6,875 hectares in 2009. Consequently, production of food crops increased by 18.1% from 93,021 tonnes in 2008 to 109,888 tonnes in 2009.

## **6. Livestock**

In 2009, the production of beef from slaughter of live cattle increased by 9.9% to 2,090 tonnes from 1,902 tonnes in 2008. The production of beef from the slaughter of imported cattle went up by 9.5% from 1,875 tonnes to 2,054 tonnes in 2009. Local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) also increased by 33.3%, from 27 tonnes to 36 tonnes. Local production of beef for 2009 accounted for 1.7% of the total.

The production of goat meat and mutton in 2009 was 77 tonnes, almost the same level as in 2008. The share of local production, inclusive of imports from Rodrigues, was 38.3 %.

Production of pork went by 29.7% from 330 tonnes in 2008 to 428 tonnes in 2009. It is to be noted that the production in 2008 was affected by the spread of “African swine fever”.

## **7. Poultry**

The production of poultry grew by 4.8% in 2009 to reach 44,000 tonnes compared to 42,000 tonnes in the previous year.

## **8. Fish**

The production of fish went up by 6.0% to reach 6,385 tonnes in 2009 from 6,025 tonnes in 2008. Fresh coastal fish catch rose by 19.9% while other catch (tuna, bank, etc) stagnated at around 4,225 tonnes.

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**Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2008 - 2009**

Crops	2008		2009 <sup>1</sup>	
	Area harvested (hectares) <sup>2</sup>	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Sugar cane	62,024	4,533,000	60,503	4,666,942
Tea (green leaves)	701 <sup>3</sup>	8,672	713 <sup>3</sup>	7,663
Tobacco <sup>4</sup>	260	349 <sup>2</sup>	238	314
Food crops	6,266	93,021 <sup>2</sup>	6,875	109,888

<sup>1</sup> Provisional<sup>2</sup> Revised<sup>3</sup> Area under cultivation<sup>4</sup> Crop year (April - March)**Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2008 - 2009**

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2008	2009 <sup>1</sup>
Sugar	tonnes	452,062	467,234
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,668	1,481
Beef <sup>2</sup>	"	1,902	2,090
- Local (incl. imports from Rodrigues)	"	27	36
- Imported	"	1,875	2,054
Goat meat and mutton <sup>2</sup>	"	76 <sup>4</sup>	77
Pork <sup>2</sup>	"	330	428
Poultry	"	42,000	44,000
Milk	000 Litres	3,300	3,400
Fish <sup>3</sup>	tonnes	6,025 <sup>4</sup>	6,385
- Coastal	"	1,802	2,160
- Other (tuna, bank, etc)	"	4,223	4,225

<sup>1</sup> Provisional<sup>2</sup> Comprises abattoir slaughters only<sup>3</sup> Fresh weight equivalent<sup>4</sup> Revised

**Table 3.1 - Sugar Industry - Field statistics, 2008 - 2009**

Ownership	2008 <sup>1</sup>			2009 <sup>2</sup>		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield
Estate	26,573	2,227,017	83.81	29,605	2,528,868	85.42
Metayers	907	44,719	49.30	807	40,038	49.61
Planters	34,544	2,261,264	65.46	30,091	2,098,036	69.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,024</b>	<b>4,533,000</b>	<b>73.08</b>	<b>60,503</b>	<b>4,666,942</b>	<b>77.14</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised<sup>2</sup> Provisional**Table 3.2 - Sugar Industry - Factory statistics, 2008 - 2009**

Details	Unit	2008	2009 <sup>1</sup>
Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	4,528,225	4,662,542
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered as a % of cane)	%	9.98	10.02
Average polarisation	degrees	98.50	98.50
Average yield of sugar	tonnes per hectare	7.29	7.72
Average tonnes of cane per tonne of sugar	tonnes	10.02	9.98
Production of sugar	"	452,062	467,234
- <i>White</i>	"	2,852	207,230
- <i>Raw</i>	"	377,337	182,832
- <i>Special</i>	"	71,873	77,172
Production of molasses	"	167934 <sup>2</sup>	145,721

<sup>1</sup> Provisional<sup>2</sup> Revised

**Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2008 - 2009**

(Tonnes)

Type of Producer	2008	2009 <sup>1</sup>
Estates	1,788	1,375
Metayers	2,424	2,256
Free planters	3,113	2,788
Planters in Co-operatives Societies	1,347	1,244
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,672</b>	<b>7,663</b>

<sup>1</sup> Provisional**Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 2008 - 2009**

Variety	2008 <sup>1</sup>		2009 <sup>2</sup>	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Virginia (flue-cured)	247	333	226	301
Amarello (air-cured)	13	16	12	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>314</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised<sup>2</sup> Provisional

**Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested, production and yield per hectare, 2008 - 2009**

Foodcrops	2008 <sup>1</sup>			2009 <sup>2</sup>		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)
Potato	648	14,868	22.9	727	16,411	22.6
Maize	61	460	7.5	34	272	8.0
Groundnut	143	320	2.2	162	385	2.4
Onion	225	5,558	24.7	205	4,672	22.8
Ginger	53	709	13.4	32	599	18.7
Garlic	3	20	6.7	4	28	7.0
Chillies	208	969	4.7	247	1,227	5.0
Tomato	744	11,518	15.5	800	12,493	15.6
Beans and Peas	272	1,187	4.4	284	1,365	4.8
Cabbage	202	3,732	18.5	225	4,644	20.6
Cauliflower	62	1,209	19.5	73	1,680	23.0
Brinjal	162	1,810	11.2	198	2,829	14.3
Creepers	1,893	23,279	12.3	2,116	28,868	13.6
Other vegetables	860	10,525	12.2	979	14,169	14.5
Banana	502	10,463	20.8	517	11,370	22.0
Pineapple	228	6,394	28.0	272	8,876	32.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,266</b>	<b>93,021</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>6,875</b>	<b>109,888</b>	<b>16.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised<sup>2</sup> Provisional

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