

GENDER STATISTICS, 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

This first issue of Economic and Social Indicator (ESI) on gender statistics presents a portrait of women in the Republic of Mauritius and includes their demographic profile, family status, educational attainment, labour force characteristics and their role in decision making.

This ESI is based on latest available sex disaggregated data from administrative sources and household surveys. Many of the statistics presented therefore refer to years earlier than 2009.

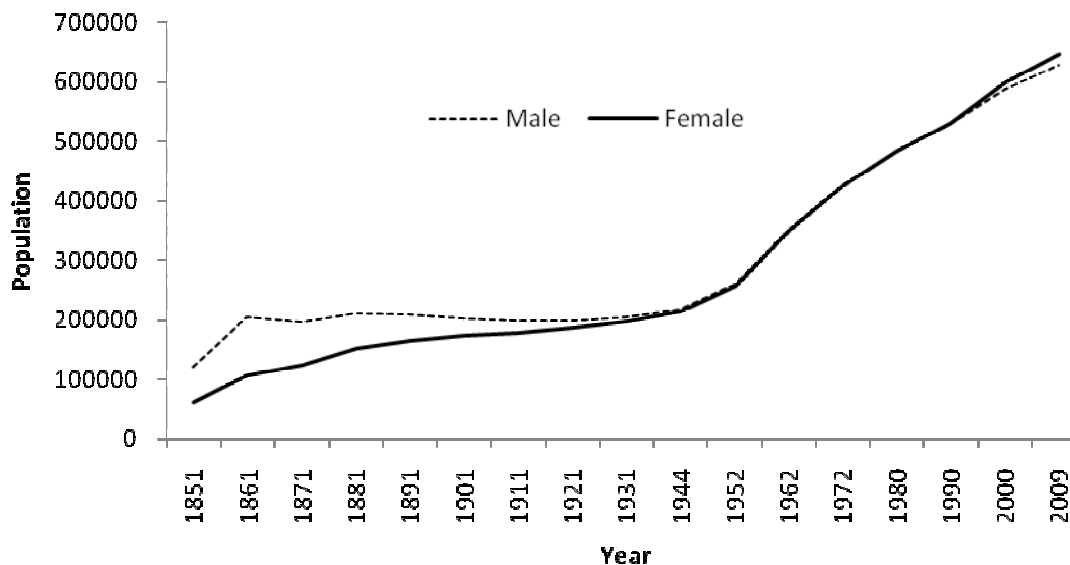
2. HIGHLIGHTS

- (i) There were 16,700 more women than men in 2009, as women live on average seven years longer than men.
- (ii) Women are more likely than men to be poor, widowed, living alone, divorced/separated and unemployed.
- (iii) Working women are more likely than men to be employees and contributing family workers but less likely to be heading businesses.
- (iv) On average, working women spend more time than working men on household chores while men spend more time at work. A working woman has around 1 hour of free time less than a working man everyday.
- (v) Women are largely under-represented in decision making at higher sphere of society. The number of female ministers was only 2 out of a total of 22 and the number of female parliamentarians was 12 out of a total of 70 in 2009.
- (vi) Girls outperform boys in examinations at both primary and secondary levels.
- (vii) Girls aged 12-19 years are more likely than boys of the same age to use a computer and the internet. At the older age-group, the reverse is true.
- (viii) Women were more likely than men to die of diabetes in 2009 but less likely to die of cirrhosis of liver and to commit suicide.
- (ix) In 2007, Mauritius ranked 67th out of 182 countries according to the Gender Development Index and 71st out of 108 countries according to the Gender Empowerment Index of the UN.

3. POPULATION

Prior to the 1950's women were fewer than men in number. During the 100-year period (1850–1950) , the gap between male and female population narrowed over time and eventually bridged in the period 1950 – 1990, when there was almost the same number of men and women. As from 1990 women are increasingly outnumbering men (Chart 1).

Chart 1 - Population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1851 - 2009



In 2009, women outnumbered men by 16,700. Out of a total population of 1,275,000, there were 645,850 women against 629,150 men. Though women are more numerous in the total population, this is not the case at all age groups (Table 1). At the younger ages (under 30 years), men are more numerous mainly due to more births of baby boys than baby girls. In fact, there were 102.3 male births for every 100 female births in 2009.

At ages 30 years and above, women outnumber men and their proportion increases as age increases. The male-female ratio which was 98 for the ages 30-39 years reached 52 among the oldest old aged 80 years and over; i.e. there were around 2 women for every man in this age group. The main reason for this imbalance is that women live longer than men - life expectancy at birth for women was 76 years in 2009, 7 years more than for men.

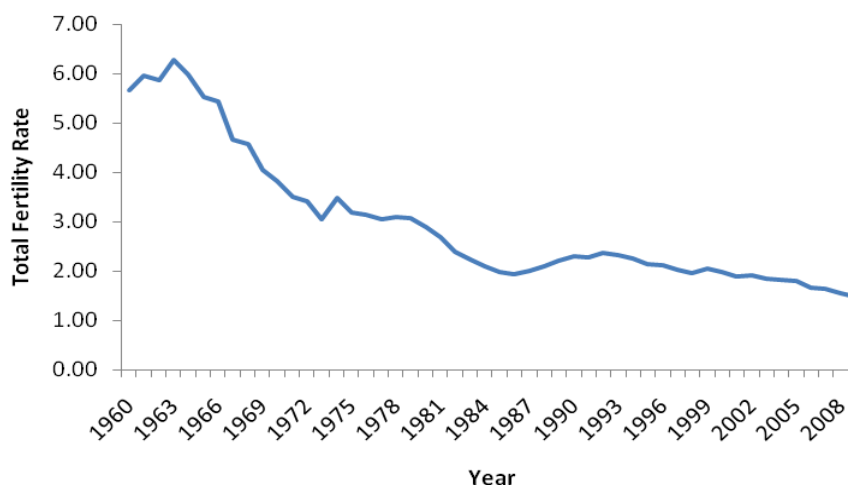
Table 1 – Population by age and sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1st July 2009

Age-group (years)	Male	Female	Sex ratio (males per 100 females)
Under 10	93,103	90,010	103.4
10 - 19	105,502	102,910	102.5
20 - 29	101,514	99,717	101.8
30 - 39	97,774	99,791	98.0
40 - 49	97,348	97,886	99.5
50 - 59	75,457	77,924	96.8
60 - 79	52,388	65,913	79.5
80+	6,071	11,724	51.8
Total	629,157	645,875	97.4

4. FERTILITY

Women now give birth to fewer children than in the past. The total fertility rate (TFR), which is an indication of the number of babies born to a woman on the basis of prevailing fertility pattern, has been continuously declining since 2000 and fell from 2.0 to 1.5 in 2009, the lowest level ever attained so far.

Chart 2 – Total Fertility Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1960 – 2009



In 2009, women in their late twenties had the highest fertility. The fertility rate was 33 births per 1,000 adolescents aged 15–19 years; it peaked at 91 for women aged 25–29 years.

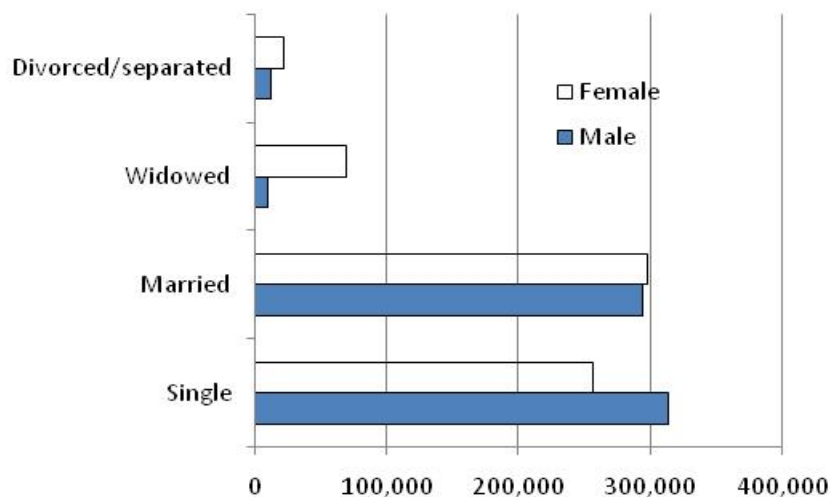
Table 2 – Fertility rates by age, Republic of Mauritius, 2009

Age group (years)	2009
15 – 19	32.6
20 – 24	82.2
25 – 29	91.2
30 – 34	60.7
35 – 39	26.1
40 – 44	7.2
45 – 49	0.5
15 – 49	43.5

5. MARRIAGES AND MARITAL STATUS

Women tend to marry men who are older than them. Based on marriages registered in 2009, the average age at first marriage was 27 years for women, 4 years younger than for men (31 years).

Chart 3 – Population by marital status and sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2009



Women make up slightly more than half of the total population but are largely over-represented among the widowed, divorced and separated indicating that women are less likely to re-marry than men.

6. HOUSEHOLD AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Women are much less likely than men to be heads of households. In 2009, there were 4 male heads of household for every female head.

Among persons living alone, women were found to be more numerous than men. Out of every 10 persons living alone in 2009, 7 were women as compared to 3 men.

7. MORTALITY

Though women are more numerous than men, there are fewer deaths among women than among men with female deaths representing 43% of all deaths in 2009.

Table 3 - Number of deaths by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2009

Sex	Deaths
Male	5,226
Female	3,998
Total	9,224

The main causes of death for women in 2009 were diabetes, heart disease and cancer (neoplasm), same as for men. These causes accounted for slightly more than half (53%) of all deaths among women against 49% of men's deaths.

Compared to men, women were more likely to die of diabetes but less likely to die of cirrhosis of liver and to commit suicide.

Causes specific to women such as breast and uterus cancer were responsible for 4% of deaths among women and maternal deaths another 0.2%.

Table 4 - Deaths (%) by selected cause and sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2009

Cause of death	Male	Female
Diabetes mellitus	20.5	25.4
Heart disease	19.4	18.4
Neoplasm:	10.9	13.7
of which: breast cancer (malignant)	n/a	3.1
uterus cancer (malignant)	n/a	1.7
Cerebrovascular disease	7.9	9.2
Cirrhosis of liver	2.3	0.8
Suicide	1.8	0.6
Maternal death	n/a	0.3
Other	37.2	26.8
Total	100.0	100.0

8. DISABILITY

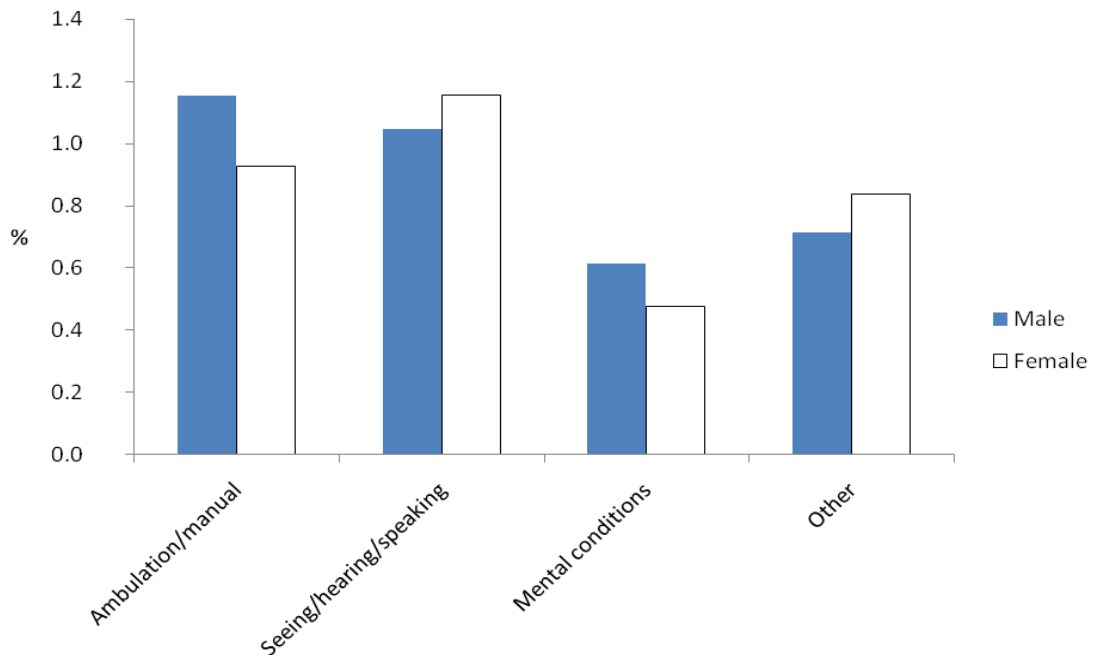
Women are slightly less likely than men to be disabled. Disability prevalence in 2000, as measured by the percentage of the population who reported themselves as being disabled, was 3.4% among women against 3.5% among men. For both men and women, the prevalence of disability increased with increasing age.

The most common type of disability reported among women was seeing/hearing/speaking difficulties; among men ambulation/manual difficulties was the common disability.

Table 5 - Disability prevalence rate (%) by age and sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 Population Census

Age-group (years)	Male	Female
Under 10	0.9	0.7
10 - 19	1.6	1.1
20 - 29	1.8	1.1
30 - 39	2.9	2.0
40 - 49	4.0	3.3
50 - 59	7.1	6.4
60 - 74	11.2	10.4
75 +	24.0	27.6
Total	3.5	3.4

Chart 4 - Disability prevalence rate (%) by type of disability and sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 Population Census



9. EDUCATION

Boys and girls are equally likely to go to primary schools but girls are more likely than boys to be in secondary schools

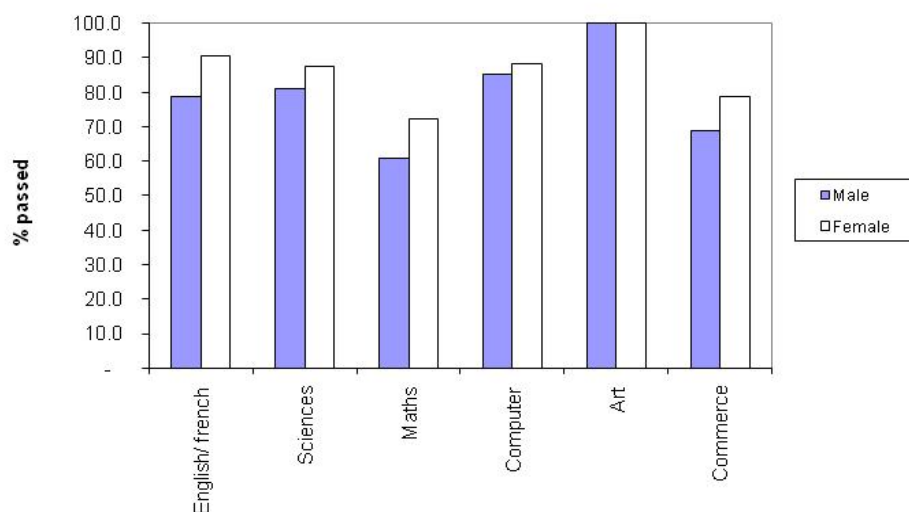
Enrolment statistics for 2009 from the Ministry of Education indicate full enrolment in primary schools for both boys and girls. However at secondary level, enrolment dropped to 84% for girls as compared to 75% for boys largely due more school drop-outs among boys.

Girls generally perform better than boys at Certificate of Primary Education (CPE), School Certificate (SC) and Higher School Certificate (HSC) examinations. The difference in boys' and girls' performance was higher at lower level of education and narrowed down as the level increases.

Table 6 – Pass rates (%) at CPE, SC and HSC, Republic of Mauritius, 2009

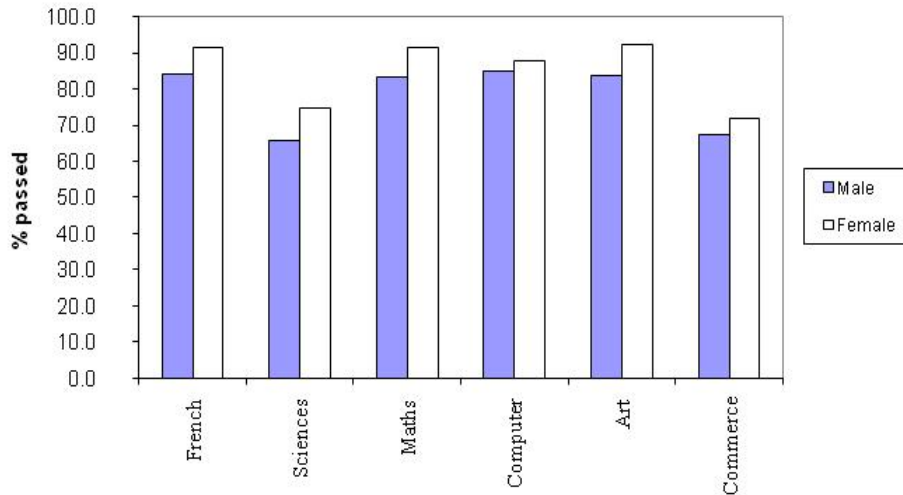
	Male	Female	Difference
CPE	62.3	74.5	12.2
SC	71.9	82.6	10.7
HSC	74.3	82.1	7.8

Chart 5 - Pass rate (%) by selected subject, SC , 2009



Girls outperform boys in virtually all subjects at secondary level. They did better than boys in the majority of subjects at SC except for Art, where the performance of boys and girls, as measured by the pass rate, was the same. At the HSC level, girls also performed better than boys in most subjects.

Chart 6 - Pass rate (%) by selected subject, HSC, 2009

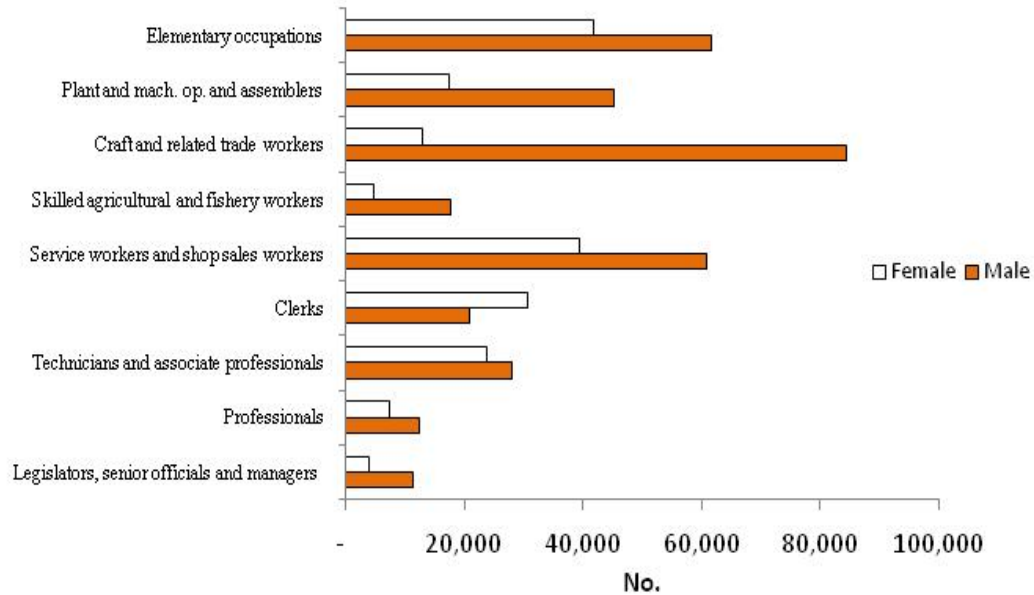


10. LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT FOR MAURITIAN POPULATION

In 2009, a lesser proportion of women than men of working age (16 years and above) were in employment or actively looking for, and available to start, work, i.e. they were economically active. The economic activity rate was 43% for women against 76% for men.

Working women were 182,500 in number and accounted for 35% of the total Mauritian workforce. They were mostly engaged (53%) in the teaching, nursing & health-related, manufacturing and trade sectors. They were also mostly working in traditional 'female occupations' with 61% of them in clerical positions, sales and service occupations and in 'elementary' occupations. On the other hand, a significant proportion have entered executive and professional speciality occupations with 19% in the occupation group 'Legislators, professionals and semi-professionals'.

Chart 7 – Employment by occupational group and sex, 2009



Women were more likely than men to be employees with 84% of the female workforce in that employment status as compared to 78% of the male workforce. They were also much less likely than men to work on their own and to head their own business. Whereas 21% of the working men were employers or own account workers, only 11% of the women held that status.

Table 7 – Distribution of employed persons by employment status and sex, 2009

Employment status	Male	Female
Employer	5.1	1.7
Own account worker	16.1	9.4
Employee	78.1	84.1
Contributing family worker	0.7	4.8
Total	100.0	100.0

In spite of being fewer in the labour force, women are over represented among the unemployed. The number of unemployed women was 25,700 in 2009 compared to 15,800 men. Female unemployment rate at 12.3%, was almost thrice the rate for men.

11. WORK LIFE BALANCE AND TIME USE

On average, working women spend more time than working men on household chores while men spend more time at work. A working woman has around 1 hour of free time less than a working man everyday.

On a typical working day, a working woman spends around 7 hours at work and 3 hours 30 minutes doing household chores and caring for the children compared to 8 hours and 1 hour respectively for a working man.

On Sundays, the working woman spends on average 4 hours 30 minutes on household chores and caring for the children, and 2 hours at work. By contrast, the working man spends 2 hours and 3 hours respectively on these activities.

12. INCOME , SOCIAL BENEFITS AND POVERTY

Women are more likely than men to live in poverty. In 2006/07, 8.9% of the female population and 8.1% of the male population lived below the relative poverty line.

Table 8 - Average monthly income (Rs) by source of income and sex of income earner, 2006/07

Source of income	Male income earner	Female income earner
Paid employment	8,760	4,910
Self employment	2,330	400
Transfers	1,170	1,810
Other income	320	100
Average monthly gross income	12,580	7,220
<i>Deduction</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>140</i>
Average monthly income	12,330	7,080

Female income earners drew an average income of Rs 7,100 per month compared to Rs 12,300 for male income earners. They derived their income mainly from paid employment and transfers.

Female income earners were more dependent than men on transfers which represented about 25% of their gross income compared to only 10% for men.

Women are over represented among beneficiaries of basic pensions for old-age, widowhood, disability and orphanhood. In June 2009, there were 187,035 basic pension beneficiaries of whom 60% were women. Women were also more numerous than men among beneficiaries of Social Aid, an allowance payable to the low income group.

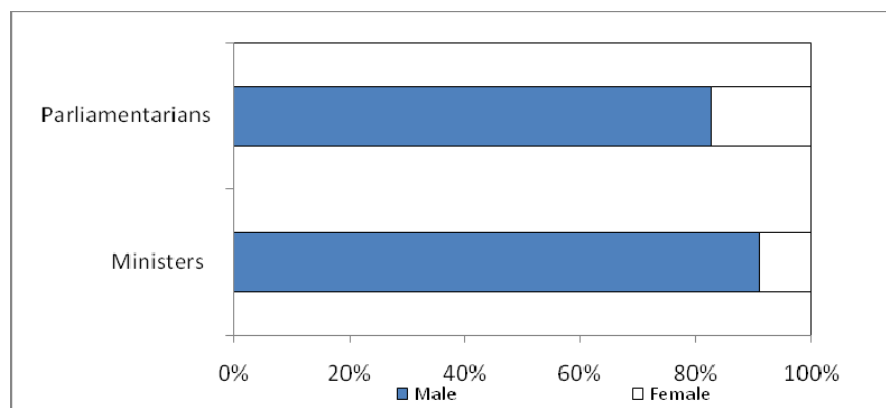
Table 9 - Number of beneficiaries by selected benefits, 2009

Pension type	Male	Female
Basic Retirement pension	58,949	78,813
Basic Widow's pension	n/a	22,596
Basic Invalid's pension	13,224	13,100
Basic Orphan's pension	198	155
Social Aid	13,625	20,920

13. PUBLIC LIFE AND DECISION MAKING

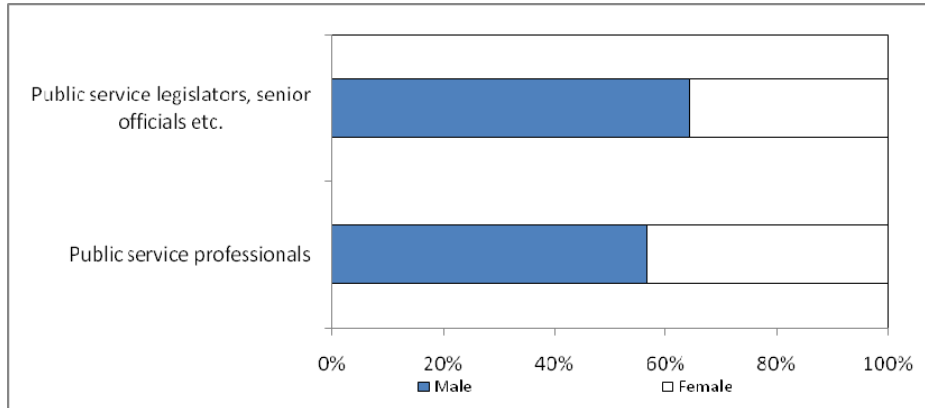
Women are under represented in the highest sphere of decision making. In 2009, there were only 2 women ministers out of a total of 22. The number of women among parliamentarians was only 12 out of a total of 70 (18%).

Chart 8 – Participation at ministerial and parliamentary level, 2009



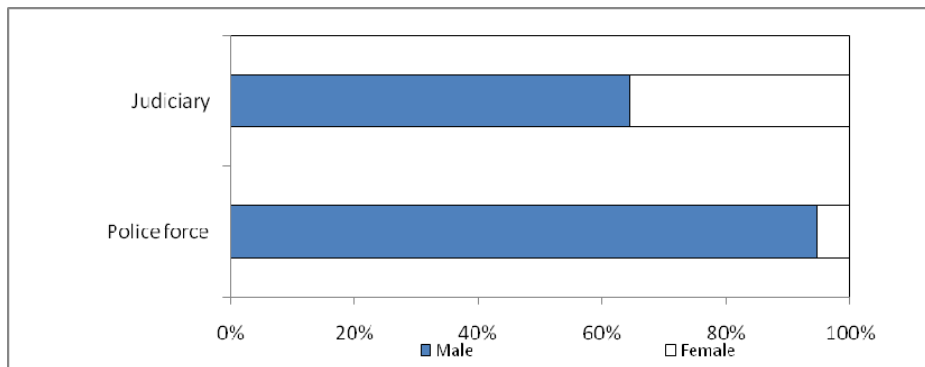
Women made up of 36% of “legislators and senior officials” in the public service. They also constituted 43% of professionals in the public service.

Chart 9 – Employment by sex and selected occupational group in public service, 2008



In the judiciary, women made up 35% of the personnel compared to only 5% in the police force.

Chart 10 – Employment by sex and selected sectors, 2008



14. ICT

Girls aged 12-19 years are more likely than boys of the same age to use a computer and the internet. At the older age-group, the reverse is true.

In 2008, 79% of girls aged 12-19 years used a computer and 43% used the internet. Among boys of the same age, the corresponding proportions are 77% and 42% respectively.

Among women aged 20 years and above, 24.4% used a computer and 16.3% used the internet. As age increases, use of these ICT facilities decreased for both women and men.

Chart 11 - Usage of computer by age group and sex, 2008

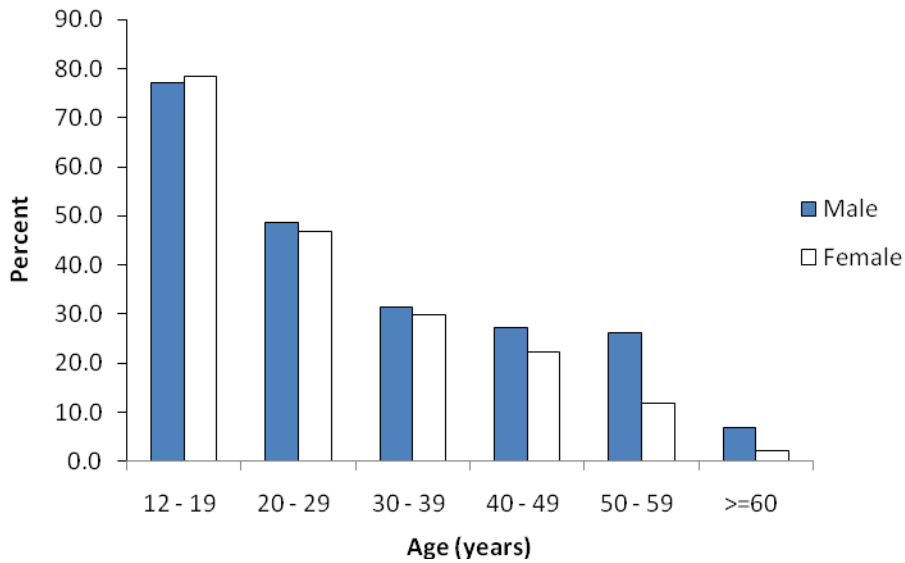
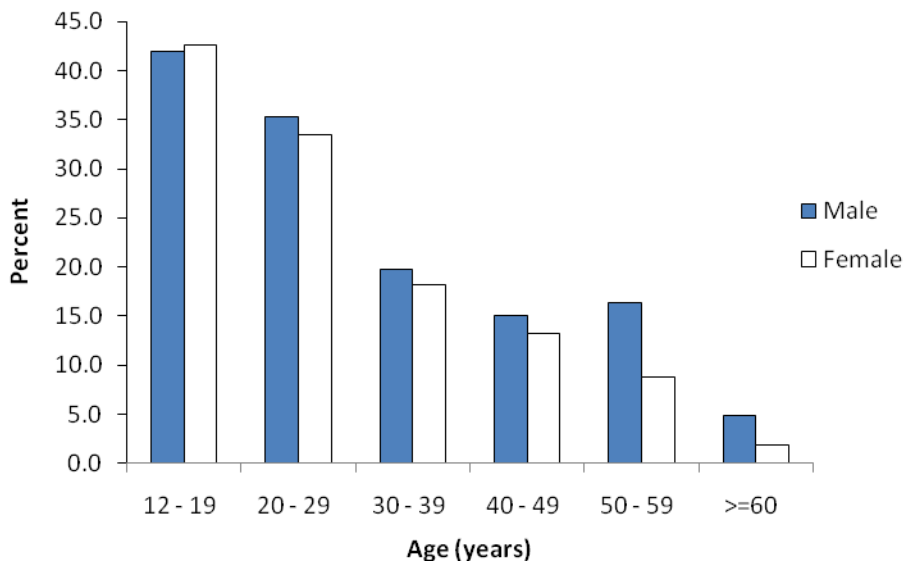
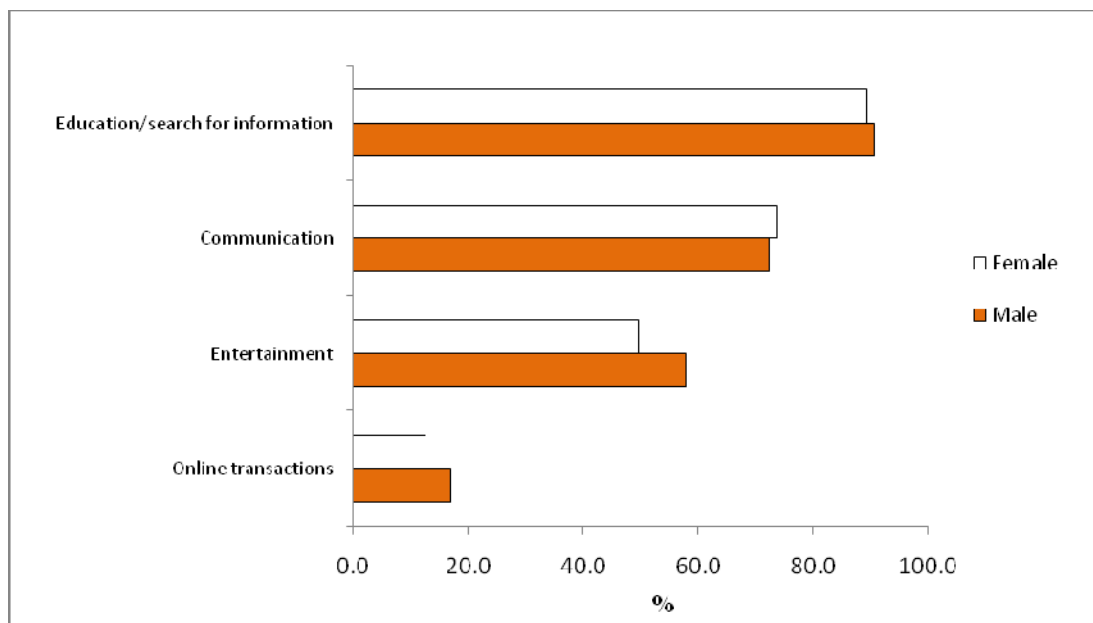


Chart 12 – Usage of internet by age group and sex, 2008



Both men and women used the internet mainly for educational purposes, searching for information and for communication by email and chat. Women were however less likely than men to use the internet for entertainment purposes (playing games) and making on-line transactions.

Chart 13 – Internet users aged 12 years and above by purpose of use and sex, 2008



15. UN GENDER INDICES

The Gender Related Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), published by the United Nations, are the most commonly used indicators for international comparison. These indices range from 0 (minimum gender development/empowerment) to 1 (maximum gender development/empowerment).

The GDI is a composite index that measures human development in 3 dimensions, namely a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living, while at the same time adjusting for gender inequality in each dimension. It can be interpreted as the Human Development Index (HDI) adjusted for gender inequality.

In Mauritius, gender development improved during the period 2000 to 2007 as indicated by an increase in the GDI from 0.762 to 0.797. In 2007, it ranked 67th among 182 countries according to the GDI.

Table 10 - GDI by selected countries, 2000 & 2007

Country	2000	2007
Norway	0.941	0.961
Australia	0.956	0.966
France	0.926	0.956
United States	0.937	0.942
United Kingdom	0.932	0.943
Mexico	0.789	0.847
Brazil	0.751	0.810
Mauritius	0.762	0.797
Thailand	0.760	0.782
China	0.724	0.770
Botswana	0.566	0.689
South Africa	0.689	0.680
Madagascar	0.463	0.541

The GEM is a composite indicator that measures gender inequality in three key areas namely (i) the extent of women's political participation and decision-making, (ii) economic participation and decision making-power, and (iii) the power exerted by women over economic resources.

Based on the GEM, gender empowerment improved over the period 2000 to 2007 with an increase in the index from 0.410 to 0.538. Relative to a group of 108 countries where gender empowerment was measured, Mauritius ranked 71st.

Both indices indicate that Mauritius is faring relatively well with regard to gender development but not as well when it comes to gender empowerment.

Table 11 - GEM by selected countries, 2000 & 2007

Country	2000	2007
Norway	0.837	0.906
Australia	0.759	0.870
United Kingdom	0.684	0.790
France	n/a	0.779
United States	0.757	0.767
South Africa	n/a	0.687
Mexico	0.517	0.629
Botswana	n/a	0.550
Mauritius	0.410	0.538
China	n/a	0.533
Thailand	0.458	0.514
Brazil	n/a	0.504
Madagascar	n/a	0.398

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. **Household** : A household is defined as either a person living on his/her own or a group of two or more persons, who may or may not be related, but who live together and make common provision for food and other essentials for living.
2. **Employment** : Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 16 years and above (16+) who have worked for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during the reference week of a month. It includes those who are temporarily absent from work for reasons such as leave with pay, leave without pay and temporary disorganisation of work (bad weather, break down of equipment, lack of order, etc.).
3. **Unemployment** : Unemployed population comprises all Mauritians aged 16+ who are not working but who are looking for work and are available for work during the reference period.
4. **Unemployment rate** : Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to labour force.
5. **Employee**: An employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity.
6. **Employer** : An employer is a person who operates his/her own business or trade and hires one or more employees.
7. **Own account worker** : An own account worker is a person who operates his/her own business or trade but does not hire employees. He/She may be working alone or with the help of contributing family workers.
8. **Contributing family workers** : A contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an enterprise operated by a family member.
9. **Sex Ratio** : The sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females
10. **Life expectancy at birth**: Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years that a new born child would be expected to live if subjected to the mortality conditions by a particular set of age specific death rates.
11. **Age specific death rates**: The number of deaths of a specified age-group occurring in a year per 1,000 mid-year population in that age-group.

- 12. Total fertility rate :** Total fertility rate is the average number of children born to an average woman assuming that she survives to the end of her child-bearing age and is subjected to a fixed schedule of age-specific fertility rates.
- 13. Age specific fertility rate:** The number of live births to women of a specified age-group per 1,000 women in that age-group.
- 14. Disability prevalence rate :** The disability prevalence rate is defined as the number of disabled per 1,000 mid-year population.
- 15. Enrolment rate (primary) :** It is defined as the number of pupils in standard I to VI as a percentage of the total population aged 6-11 years.
- 16. Enrolment rate (secondary) :** It is defined as the number of pupils in form I to VI as a percentage of the total population aged 12-19 years.