

# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

## REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, YEAR 2016

### 1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents population estimates as at December 2016 and vital statistics including rates for the year 2016.

Statistics Mauritius compiles vital statistics from data obtained from the computerised system in place at the Central Civil Status Office.

Definitions of terms used are given at Annex.

### 2. Key points

- The population of the Republic of Mauritius was estimated at 1,263,820 as at 31 December 2016, with a growth rate of 0.1% since end 2015.
- As at end 2016, the female population was higher than the male population by 13,104.
- The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 19.6% as at mid 2015 to 19.0%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years was 71.0 % for both 2015 and 2016 and the proportion aged 65 years and above increased from 9.4% to 10.0% during the same period.
- The 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 to 64 years) was 409 for both 2015 and 2016.
- The number of live births registered during year 2016 was 13,082 representing an increase of 2.7 % over the figure of 2015.
- The number of deaths registered in 2016 stood at 10,174, i.e. 4.4 % higher than in 2015.
- The number of infant deaths decreased by 11.0%, from 173 in 2015 to 154 in 2016.
- The number of still births increased by 1.6 %, from 125 in 2015 to 127 in 2016.
- The number of marriages registered in 2016 was 10,042, that is, 3.4% more than in 2015.
- Since the late nineties, females outnumbered males in the population.
- The present low population growth rate is due to low fertility prevailing in the population.
- The falling dependency ratio over time is mainly due to a fall in the number of children under 15 years of age in the population.
- Over time, the population age structure depicted by a population pyramid has shifted from wide base to shrinking base and thickening body showing an ageing population.
- Life expectancy is increasing over time.

### 3. Estimated resident population

**Table 3.1 - Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2016**

Island	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Density per km <sup>2</sup>
Island of Mauritius	<b>1,221,150</b>	604,352	616,798	98.0	654
Island of Rodrigues	<b>42,396</b>	20,832	21,564	96.6	385
Agalega and St. Brandon	<b>274</b>	174	100	174.0	10
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>1,263,820</b>	<b>625,358</b>	<b>638,462</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>630</b>

The estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius was 1,263,820 as at 31 December 2016. The female population was 638,462 compared to a male population of 625,358. There were 97.9 males for every 100 females.

The population was estimated at 1,221,150 and 42,396 respectively for the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues. In both islands, females outnumbered males. However, Agalega and St Brandon, with an estimated population of 274, had more males (174) than females (100).

The Republic of Mauritius, with a total land area of 2,007 km<sup>2</sup>, had a population density of 630 persons per km<sup>2</sup> as at end 2016. Among its constituent islands, the Island of Mauritius had the highest density (654), compared to 385 for the Island of Rodrigues.

### 4. Population growth

**Table 4.1 - Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2016**

Island	Population		Change	
	31 December 2015	31 December 2016	Number	%
Island of Mauritius	1,220,530	<b>1,221,150</b>	620	0.1
Island of Rodrigues	42,058	<b>42,396</b>	338	0.8
Agalega and St. Brandon	274	<b>274</b>	-	-
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>1,262,862</b>	<b>1,263,820</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>0.1</b>

The population of the Republic of Mauritius increased by 958 from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. The growth rate works out to 0.1 % for the Republic of Mauritius and Island of Mauritius, compared to 0.8 for the Island of Rodrigues.

**Table 4.2 - Components of population growth, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1/</sup>, 2015 and 2016**

Components of population growth	2015	2016
<b>Resident population as at beginning of year</b>	<u>1,261,447</u>	<u>1,262,588</u>
Live Births	12,738	13,082
Deaths	9,747	10,174
Natural increase	<u>2,991</u>	<u>2,908</u>
Net international migration	-1,850	-1,950
<b>Resident population as at end of year</b>	<b>1,262,588</b>	<b>1,263,546</b>

<sup>1/</sup> excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Population growth has two components: natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) and net international migration (net international movement of residents).

During the year 2016, the natural increase was 2,908, with births adding 13,082 babies and deaths removing 10,174 persons from the population. For the same period, net international migration of residents was estimated at -1,950 persons.

## 5. Age distribution of the population

**Table 5.1 - Estimated resident population<sup>1/</sup> by broad age group and sex – Republic of Mauritius<sup>2/</sup>, 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016**

Age group (Years)	1st July 2015			1st July 2016		
	Male	Female	B. Sexes	Male	Female	B. Sexes
0	6,638	6,395	<b>13,033</b>	6,509	6,188	<b>12,697</b>
1 - 4	28,540	27,651	<b>56,191</b>	27,879	26,910	<b>54,789</b>
5 - 9	41,593	40,411	<b>82,004</b>	39,671	38,815	<b>78,486</b>
10 - 14	48,897	47,473	<b>96,370</b>	47,895	46,380	<b>94,275</b>
15 - 19	49,417	48,090	<b>97,507</b>	49,953	48,270	<b>98,223</b>
20 - 29	94,981	93,067	<b>188,048</b>	95,936	94,079	<b>190,015</b>
30 - 39	96,765	94,886	<b>191,651</b>	95,566	93,513	<b>189,079</b>
40 - 49	88,715	86,861	<b>175,576</b>	86,958	85,115	<b>172,073</b>
50 - 59	86,887	88,927	<b>175,814</b>	88,510	90,511	<b>179,021</b>
60-64	32,404	35,372	<b>67,776</b>	32,860	35,716	<b>68,576</b>
65+	49,932	68,703	<b>118,635</b>	53,469	72,770	<b>126,239</b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>624,769</b>	<b>637,836</b>	<b>1,262,605</b>	<b>625,206</b>	<b>638,267</b>	<b>1,263,473</b>

<sup>1/</sup> based on 2011 Population Census data adjusted for underenumeration of children

<sup>2/</sup> excluding Agalega and St Brandon

The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 19.6% as at mid 2015 to 19.0%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years was 71.0 % for both 2015 and 2016 and the proportion aged 65 years and above increased from 9.4% to 10.0% during the same period.

## 6. Vital statistics and rates

### 6.1 Live births and crude birth rate

**Table 6.1 - Live births registered and crude birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2015 and 2016<sup>1/</sup>**

Island	Number of live births registered		Crude birth rate	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Island of Mauritius	12,057	12,330	9.9	10.1
Island of Rodrigues	681	752	16.9*	17.8
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>12,738</b>	<b>13,082</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.4</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Provisional

\* because of the small number of events, the rate for 2015 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

During the year 2016, 13,082 live births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, representing a 2.7 % increase over the 2015 figure of 12,738. The crude birth rate, i.e., the number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, rose from 10.1 in 2015 to 10.4 in 2016.

In the Island of Mauritius, the number of live births registered increased from 12,057 in 2015 to 12,330 in 2016, bringing about a rise in the crude birth rate from 9.9 to 10.1. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of live births increased from 681 (rate of 16.9) in 2015 to 752 (rate of 17.8) in 2016.

### 6.2 Deaths and crude death rate

**Table 6.2 - Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2015 and 2016<sup>1/</sup>**

Island	Number of deaths registered		Crude death rate	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Island of Mauritius	9,496	9,920	7.8	8.1
Island of Rodrigues	251	254	6.0*	6.0
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>9,747</b>	<b>10,174</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>8.1</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Provisional

\* because of the small number of events, the rate for 2015 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The number of deaths registered in the Republic of Mauritius in 2016 was 10,174, representing a 4.4% increase over the figure of 9,747 for 2015. The crude death rate, i.e., the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population was 8.1 in 2016 compared to 7.7 in 2015.

The Island of Mauritius registered an increase in the number of deaths, from 9,496 in 2015 (rate of 7.8) to 9,920 in 2016 (rate of 8.1). During the same period, the number of deaths in Rodrigues increased from 251 to 254, with a rate of 6.0 for both 2015 and 2016.

### 6.3 Infant deaths and Infant mortality rate

**Table 6.3 - Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2015 and 2016<sup>1/</sup>**

Island	Number of infant deaths registered		Infant mortality rate	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Island of Mauritius	165	143	13.7	11.6
Island of Rodrigues	8	11	16.0*	14.6
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>11.8</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Provisional

\* because of the small number of events, the rate for 2015 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

During the year 2016, 154 infant deaths (deaths to children aged under one year) were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 173 in 2015, representing a decrease of 11.0%. The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, decreased from 13.6 in 2015 to 11.8 in 2016.

The number of infant deaths in the Island of Mauritius decreased from 165 in 2015 to 143 in 2016. The infant mortality rate fell from 13.7 to 11.6 during that period. For Rodrigues, the number of infant deaths increased from 8 in 2015 to 11 in 2016 and the infant mortality rate fell from 16.0 to 14.6 during the same period.

## 6.4 Still births and still birth rate

**Table 6.4 - Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2015 and 2016<sup>1/</sup>**

Island	Number of still births registered		Still birth rate	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Island of Mauritius	118	117	9.7	9.4
Island of Rodrigues	7	10	11.6*	13.1
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>9.6</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Provisional

\* because of the small number of events, the rate for 2015 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

In 2016, 127 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, which is 1.6% higher than the 2015 figure of 125. The still birth rate which is the number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births during the year decreased from 9.7 in 2015 to 9.6 in 2016.

The Island of Mauritius registered 117 still births in 2016 against 118 in 2015, with the still birth rate falling from 9.7 in 2015 to 9.4 in 2016. In Rodrigues, 10 still births were registered in 2016 compared to 7 in 2015. The still birth rate rose from 11.6 in 2015 to 13.1 in 2016.

## 6.5 Marriages and crude marriage rate

**Table 6.5 - Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2015 and 2016<sup>1/</sup>**

Island	Number of marriages registered		Marriage rate	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Island of Mauritius	9,548	9,882	15.6	16.2
Island of Rodrigues	161	160	7.7*	7.6
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>9,709</b>	<b>10,042</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>15.9</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Provisional

\* because of the small number of events, the rate for 2015 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The number of marriages registered in the Republic of Mauritius increased by 3.4% from 9,709 in 2015 to 10,042 in 2016. The crude marriage rate, i.e., the number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, rose from 15.4 to 15.9 during the same period.

The number of marriages in the Island of Mauritius rose from 9,548 in 2015 (rate of 15.6) to 9,882 in 2016 (rate of 16.2). The Island of Rodrigues registered a decrease in the number of marriages from 161 in 2015 (rate of 7.7) to 160 in 2016 (rate of 7.6).

## 7. International Comparison

Population growth rates for various countries in the world are published in the UN publication “The Demographic Yearbook 2015”. The figures indicate that the population growth rate for the Republic of Mauritius during the period 2010 to 2015 was 0.2%, lower than the estimated world’s population growth rate of 1.2%. The Republic’s growth rate was lower than that of Singapore (1.7), Australia (1.5), South Africa (1.5), United Kingdom (0.7) and China (0.5) but higher than Japan (-0.2) and Germany (-0.1).

**Table 7.1 – Demographic indicators for selected countries, 2015**

	Mid year Estimates(in thousands)	Average annual rate of population change(2010-2015)	Population Density	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
<b>World</b>	<b>7,349,500</b>	1.2	<b>54</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	n/a
<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>13.6</b>
Seychelles	93	0.8	204.0	17.0	7.5	n/a
<i>South Africa</i>	<i>54,002</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Canada	35,849	1.1	4	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	n/a
China	1,371,220	0.5	143	12.1	7.1	n/a
<i>India</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>21.0</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>39.0</i>
Japan	126,958	-0.2	336.0	7.9	10.2	n/a
Singapore	5,535	1.7	7698.0	10.8	5.1	2.0
Germany	81,198	-0.1	227	9.1	11.4	n/a
United Kingdom	64,875	0.7	268	12	9.3	n/a
Australia	23,778	1.5	3	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: UN Demographic Yearbook, 2015(except for the Republic of Mauritius) Note: Figures in italics refer to the year 2014.

## 8. Demographic trends

### 8.1 Sex ratio

**Figure 8.1.1 – Sex ratio of resident population, Republic of Mauritius, 1973 – 2016**

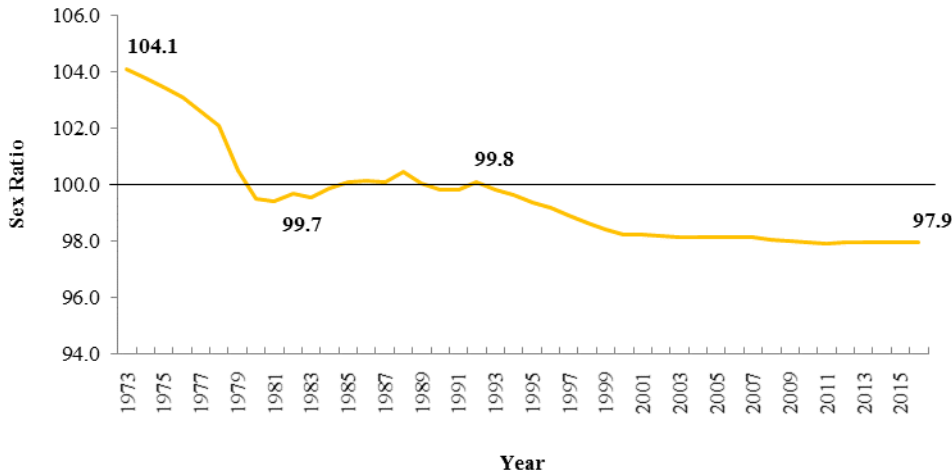
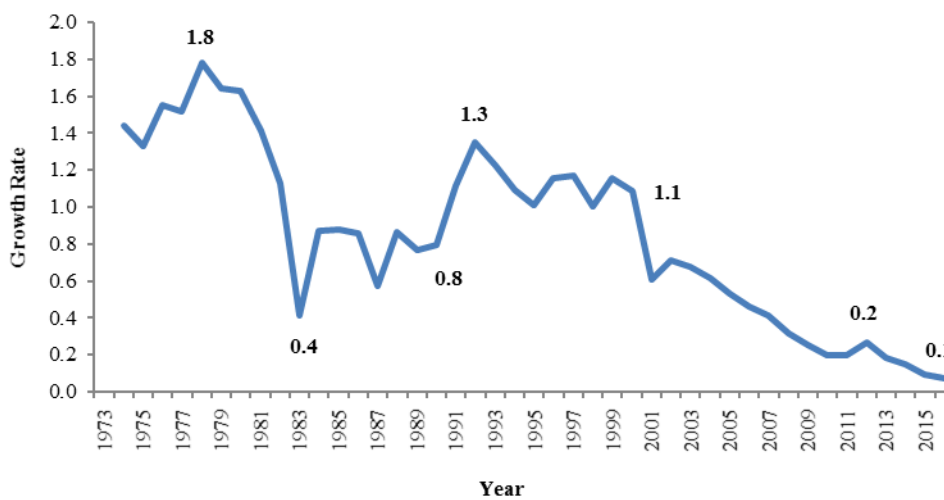


Figure 8.1.1 depicts the evolution of sex ratio (i.e. the number of males per 100 females) for the past forty years. Before the eighties, males outnumbered females in the population (e.g. 104.1 males per 100 females in 1973) and as from the late nineties, the reverse trend was noted whereby females outnumbered males in the population (e.g. 97.9 males per 100 females in 2016). This shift was mainly due to ageing given that females live longer than males.

### 8.2 Population growth rate

During the same period, the population growth rate peaked in the late seventies followed by a fall in the eighties. The population growth rate caught up in the mid nineties after which it dropped again to attain the lowest rate in 2016. The dips observed since the eighties mainly indicate falling fertility.

**Figure 8.2.1 – Growth rate of resident population, Republic of Mauritius, 1973 - 2016**

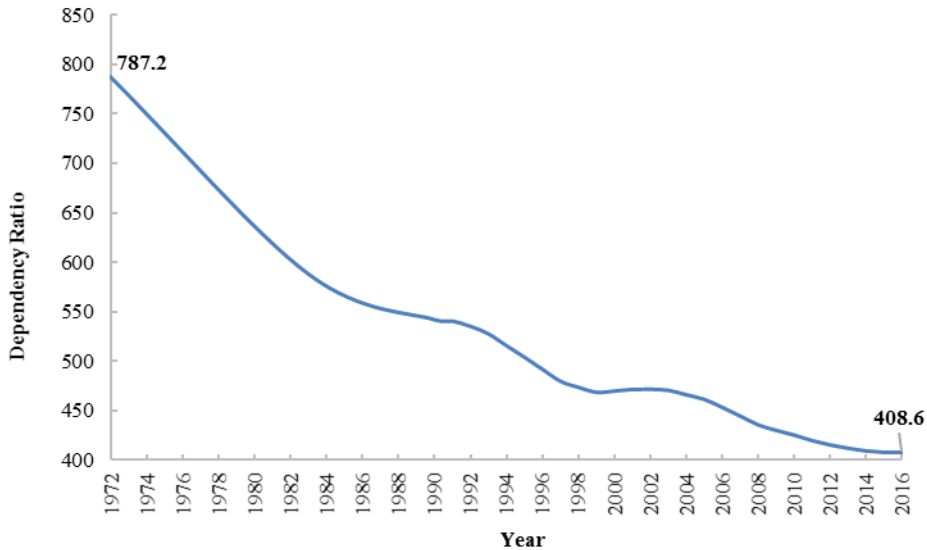




### 8.3 Dependency Ratio

There has been a general decrease in the dependency ratio from 787.2 in 1972 to 408.6 in 2016 (Figure 8.3.1). Dependency ratio is defined as the combined child population (under 15 years) and population aged 65 years and over per 1,000 population of intermediated age (15-64 years) in a particular year. The fall in dependency ratio observed is mainly the result of a decline in child population over the years.

**Figure 8.3.1 - Dependency Ratio, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 - 2016**



### 8.4 Population age structure

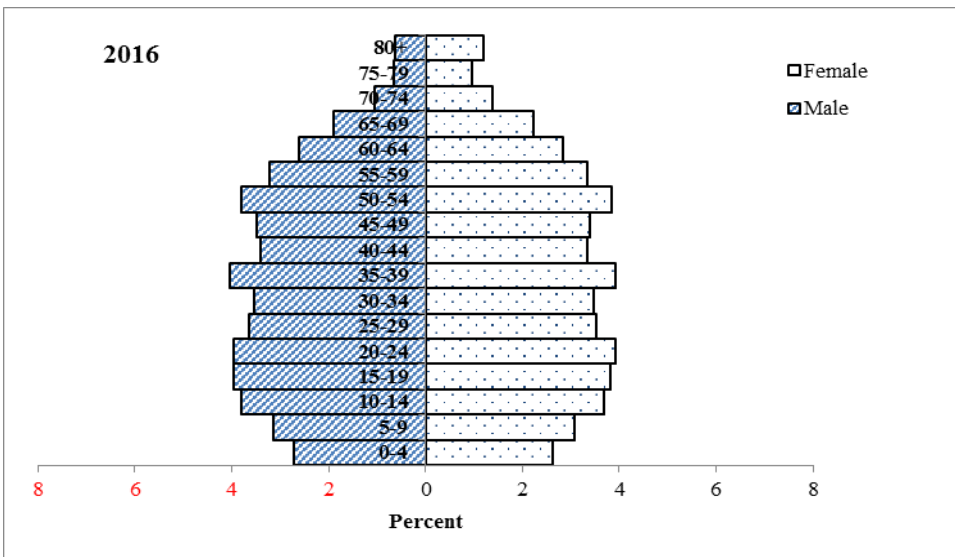
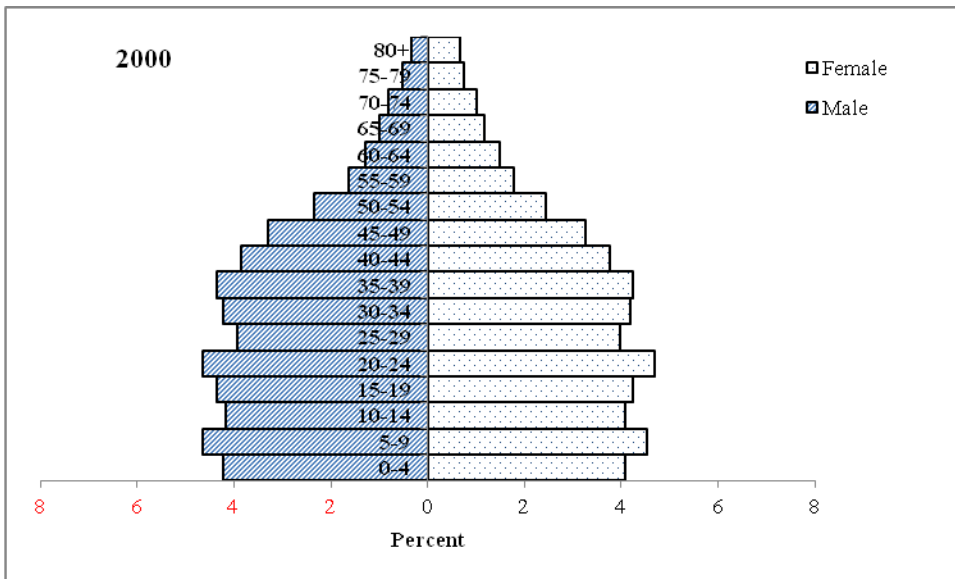
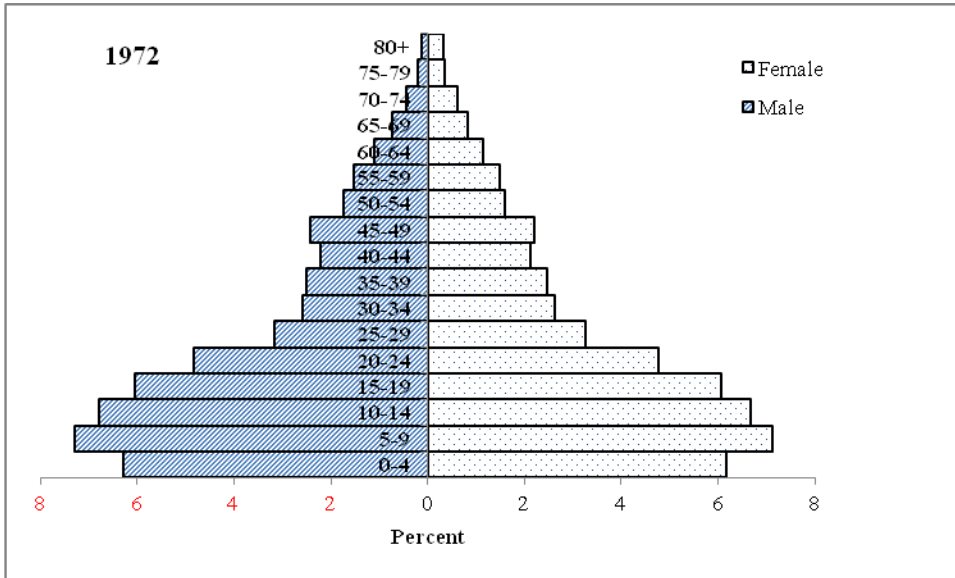
The structure of the pyramids in Figure 8.4.1 are determined by the patterns of births, deaths and migration which took place prior to the reference period of the pyramid. The pyramids compare the age structure of the population between 1972, 2000 and 2016 and show some important trends in the demographics of Mauritius.

The main changes observed over time are:

- the shrinking of the base of the pyramid over time due to falling fertility;
- the thickening of the upper body of the pyramid indicating an increase in expectation of life;
- the relatively longer bars on the female side of the pyramid around its apex indicating the predominance of females among the elderly.

The first pyramid in 1972, with its wide base and narrow top, is typical of a young population. This shape is the results of high birth rates that feed more and more people into the lowest bars and in turn shrink the relative proportion at the oldest ages. In 2000 and 2016, the base of the pyramid has started to narrow because of the fall in birth rates. These are typical of a population with a slow growth. The female bars are almost always longer because women live longer than men. Between 1972 and 2016, there has been a decline in the proportion of children in the age group 0-14 while the proportion of old persons aged 60 and above has increased steadily.

**Figure 8.4.1 - Population pyramids, Republic of Mauritius, 1972, 2000 & 2016**

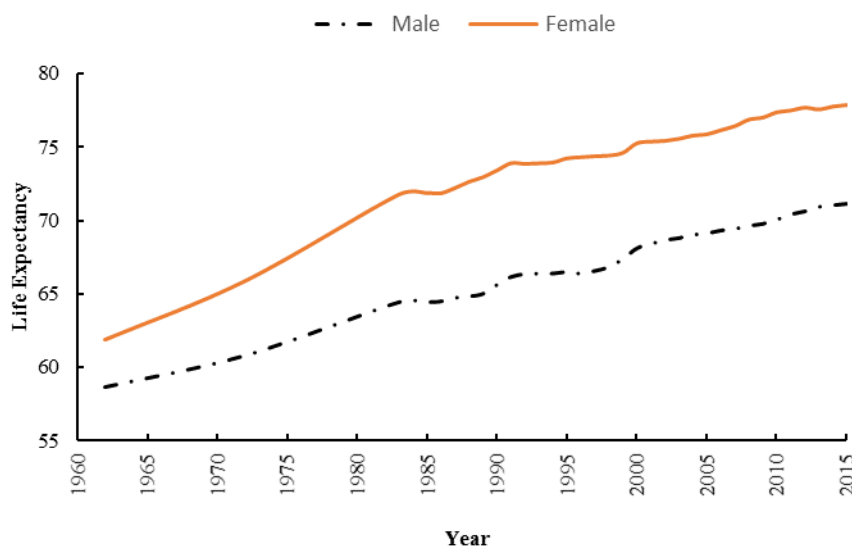


## 9. How has life expectancy changed over time?

Life expectancy at birth is defined as the average number of years that a newborn could expect to live if he/she were to pass through life subject to the age specific mortality rates of a given period. For example, a girl born in 2014 is expected to reach age 78, however a woman who was 60 years old already in 2014 was expected to live a further 22 years, that is until she is 82. Life expectancy at birth is a summary indicator of mortality conditions and, by proxy, of health conditions. It summarizes mortality risks and trends across all age groups, including older people. Measurement of life expectancy at birth also allows for reporting of life expectancy at other ages to track health improvements for specific age groups in populations.

Calculation of life expectancy at birth is based on age-specific death rates for a particular calendar period and is presented in the form of a life table. The death rates are commonly tabulated for ages below 0 years, 1 to 4 years, and for 5-year age groups for ages 5 and above. Life expectancy may be calculated separately for males and females, or for both sexes combined, and can also be presented for particular ages after birth. These rates are derived directly from registered deaths and population counts.

**Figure 9.1 – Life expectancy at birth, Island of Mauritius, 1962 - 2015**

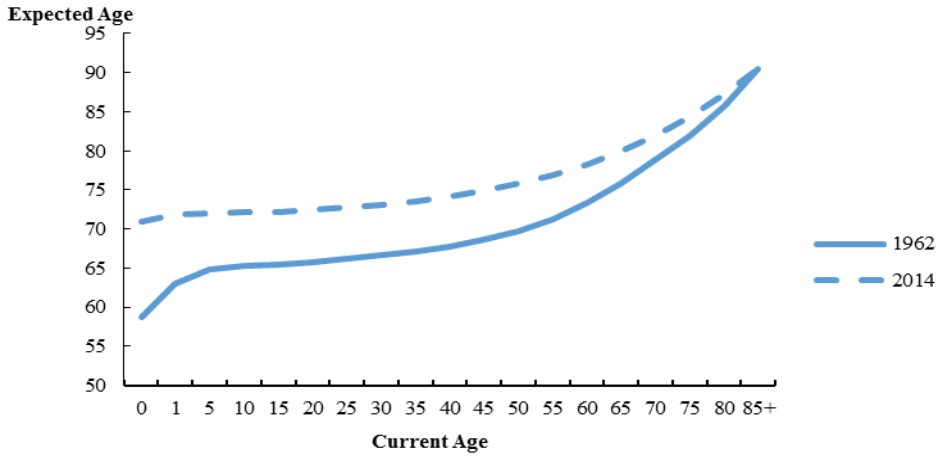


A new born boy was expected to live to 59 years in 1962, compared to 71 years in 2015, whereas a baby girl was expected to live 62 years in 1962 and 78 years in 2015 (Figure 9.1).

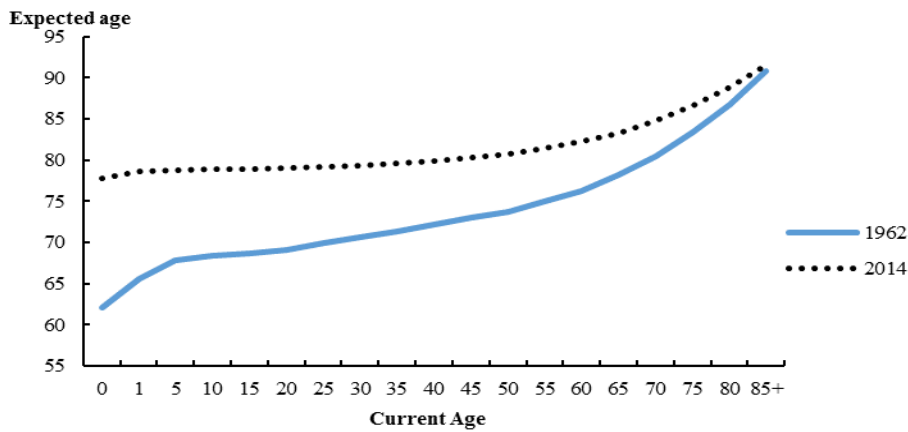
### **Historically infant death was a major factor influencing life expectancies**

Low life expectancies can be explained by the higher number of infant deaths. Surviving the first year of life was historically a predominant factor in determining life expectancies and once a child had reached five years of age, he or she was much more likely to reach a greater age. Whereas a newborn boy was expected to live to age 59 in 1962, a one-year-old boy in that same year had a life expectancy of 62 years, 3 years higher than a new born. Females show a similar pattern. Figures 9.2 & 9.3 highlight the increase in life expectancy at birth since 1962.

**Figure 9.2 –Male life expectancy by age - Island of Mauritius, 1962 and 2014**

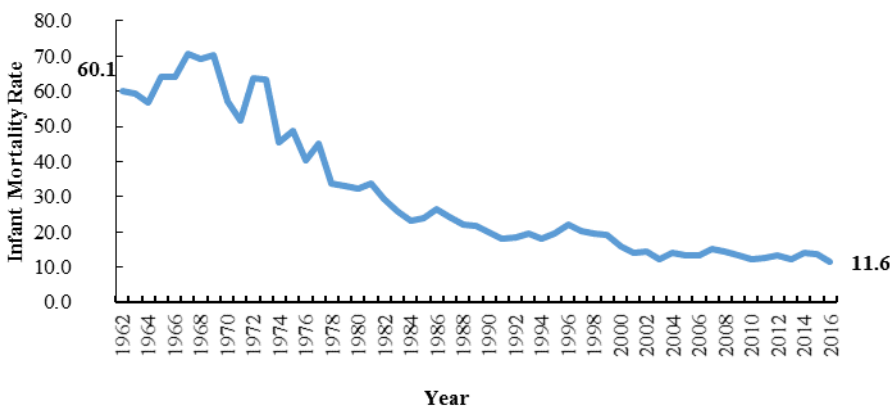


**Figure 9.3 – Female life expectancy by age - Island of Mauritius, 1962 and 2014**



In 1962, 6.0% of babies died before their first birthday compared to 1.2% in 2016, indicating improvements made in reducing child mortality. It is to be noted that a Neonatal Intensive Care Service was opened at Victoria Hospital in May 1999. The Infant Mortality Rate fell from 19.2 in 1999 to 15.8 in 2000 and 13.9 in 2001 and then to 11.6 in 2016 (Figure 9.4).

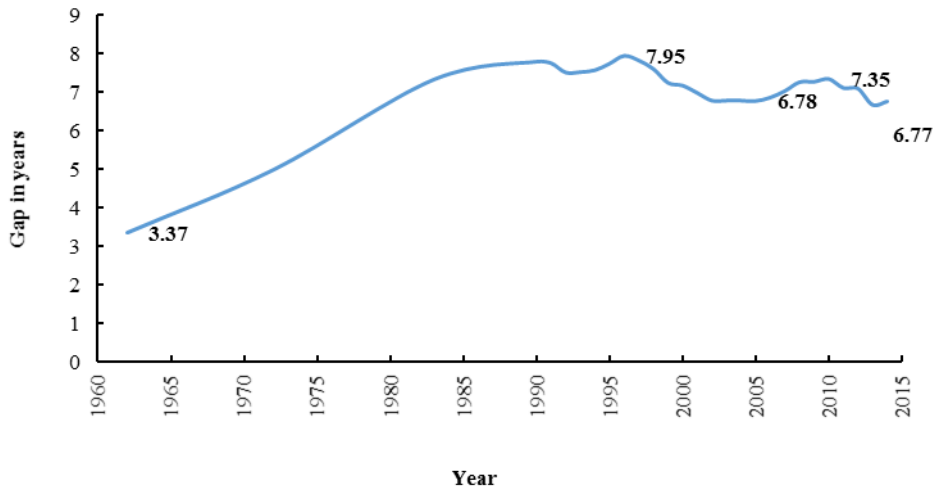
**Figure 9.4 – Infant Mortality Rate, Island of Mauritius, 1962 - 2016**



### Life expectancy gap between male and female

Female life expectancy at birth was 7 years higher than for men in 2014, compared to 3 years in 1962 in the Island of Mauritius. The smaller gap in the 1960's may be due to high mortality prevailing at that time. Over time, the gap has widened reaching a peak of 7.95 years in 1996, after which it fell down to 6.78 in 2005 and 6.77 in 2014. A slight increase to 7.35 was noted in 2010.

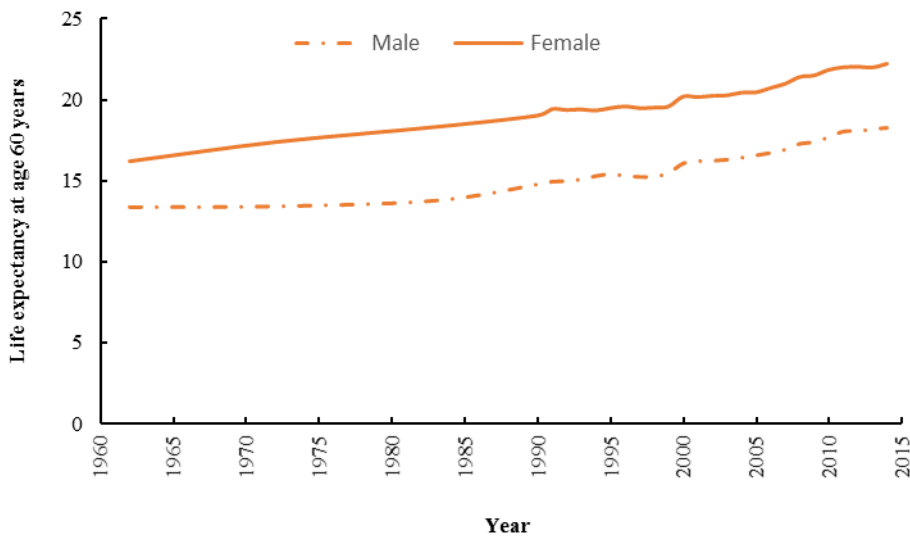
**Figure 9.5 – Difference in male and female life expectancy at birth, Island of Mauritius, 1962 – 2014**



### Increase in Life expectancy at older age

The life expectancy of a woman aged 60 in 1962 was 16.2 years and reached 22.2 in 2014. For men of the same age it was 13.4 years in 1962 and 18.2 in 2014. The increased life expectancies are also contributing towards ageing.

**Figure 9.6 – Life Expectancy at age 60, Island of Mauritius, 1962 – 2014**



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### **Annex**

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 to 64 years.
4. Child Dependency ratio	The child population under 15 years of age per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years.
5. Old age Dependency ratio	The elderly population aged 65 years and above per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years.
6. Median age	The age which divides the population into two equal size groups, one of which is younger and the other older than the median.
7. Sex ratio:	The number of males to every 100 females.
8. Natural increase:	The excess of live births over deaths.
9. Crude birth rate:	The number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
10. Crude death rate:	The number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
11. Infant mortality rate:	The number of deaths in a year of infants aged under one year per 1,000 live births during the year.
12. Still birth rate:	The number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births (live births and still births) during the year.
13. 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 for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data. The rates for year 2016 are however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.