

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, YEAR 2017

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents population estimates as at December 2017 and vital statistics, including rates, for the year 2017.

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 1,265,309 as at 31 December 2017, with a growth rate of 0.1% since end 2016.
- As at end 2017, the female population was higher than the male population by 13,133.
- The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 19.0% as at mid 2016 to 18.5%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years was 71.0 % for both 2016 and 2017 and the proportion aged 65 years and above increased from 10.0% to 10.5% 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 2016 and 408 for 2017.
- The number of live births registered during year 2017 was 13,479, representing an increase of 3.0 % over the figure of 2016.
- The number of deaths registered in 2017 stood at 10,140, i.e. 0.3 % lower than in 2016.
- The number of infant deaths increased by 6.5%, from 154 in 2016 to 164 in 2017.
- The number of still births increased by 6.3 %, from 127 in 2016 to 135 in 2017.
- The number of marriages registered in 2017 was 9,757, that is, 2.8% less than in 2016.
- 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.

3. Estimated resident population

Table 3.1 - Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2017

Island	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Density per km ²
Island of Mauritius	1,222,217	604,898	617,319	98.0	654
Island of Rodrigues	42,818	21,016	21,802	96.4	389
Agalega and St. Brandon	274	174	100	174.0	10
Republic of Mauritius	1,265,309	626,088	639,221	97.9	630

The estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius was 1,265,309 as at 31 December 2017. The female population was 639,221 compared to a male population of 626,088. There were 97.9 males for every 100 females.

The population was estimated at 1,222,217 and 42,818 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 km², had a population density of 630 persons per km² as at end 2017. Among its constituent islands, the Island of Mauritius had the highest density (654), compared to 389 for the Island of Rodrigues.

4. Population growth

Table 4.1 - Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2016 and 31 December 2017

Island	Population		Change	
	31 December 2016	31 December 2017	Number	%
Island of Mauritius	1,221,150	1,222,217	1,067	0.1
Island of Rodrigues	42,396	42,818	422	1.0
Agalega and St. Brandon	274	274	-	-
Republic of Mauritius	1,263,820	1,265,309	1,489	0.1

The population of the Republic of Mauritius increased by 1489 from 31st December 2016 to 31st December 2017. The growth rate works out to 0.1 % for the Republic of Mauritius and Island of Mauritius, compared to 1.0 for the Island of Rodrigues.

Table 4.2 - Components of population growth, Republic of Mauritius^{1/}, 2016 and 2017

Components of population growth	2016	2017
Resident population as at beginning of year	<u>1,262,588</u>	<u>1,263,546</u>
Live Births	13,082	13,479
Deaths	10,174	10,140
Natural increase	<u>2,908</u>	<u>3,339</u>
Net international migration	-1,950	-1,850
Resident population as at end of year	1,263,546	1,265,035

^{1/} 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 2017, the natural increase was 3,339, with births adding 13,479 babies and deaths removing 10,140 persons from the population. For the same period, net international migration of residents was estimated at -1,850 persons.

5. Age distribution of population

Table 5.1 - Estimated resident population^{1/} by broad age group and sex – Republic of Mauritius^{2/}, 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2017

Age group (Years)	1st July 2016			1st July 2017		
	Male	Female	B. Sexes	Male	Female	B. Sexes
0	6,509	6,188	12,697	6,614	6,293	12,907
1 - 4	27,879	26,910	54,789	27,057	25,931	52,988
5 - 9	39,671	38,815	78,486	38,317	37,725	76,042
10 - 14	47,895	46,380	94,275	46,766	45,088	91,854
15 - 19	49,953	48,270	98,223	49,751	47,911	97,662
20 - 29	95,936	94,079	190,015	97,133	95,316	192,449
30 - 39	95,566	93,513	189,079	93,890	91,830	185,720
40 - 49	86,958	85,115	172,073	86,910	84,958	171,868
50 - 59	88,510	90,511	179,021	88,534	90,686	179,220
60-64	32,860	35,716	68,576	34,242	36,972	71,214
65+	53,469	72,770	126,239	56,513	76,176	132,689
All ages	625,206	638,267	1,263,473	625,727	638,886	1,264,613

^{1/} based on 2011 Population Census data adjusted for underenumeration of children

^{2/} excluding Agalega and St Brandon

The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 19.0% as at mid 2016 to 18.5%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years was 71.0 % for both 2016 and 2017 and the proportion aged 65 years and above increased from 10.0% to 10.5% 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, 2016 and 2017^{1/}

Island	Number of live births registered		Crude birth rate	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Island of Mauritius	12,330	12,671	10.1	10.4
Island of Rodrigues	752	808	17.7 ^{2/}	19.0
Republic of Mauritius	13,082	13,479	10.4	10.7

^{1/} Provisional

^{2/} Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2016 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 2017, some 13,479 live births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, representing a 3.0 % increase over the 2016 figure of 13,082. The crude birth rate, i.e., the number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, rose from 10.4 in 2016 to 10.7 in 2017.

In the Island of Mauritius, the number of live births registered increased from 12,330 in 2016 to 12,671 in 2017, bringing about a rise in the crude birth rate from 10.1 to 10.4. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of live births increased from 752 (rate of 17.7) in 2016 to 808 (rate of 19.0) in 2017.

6.2 Deaths and crude death rate

Table 6.2 - Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2016 and 2017^{1/}

Island	Number of deaths registered		Crude death rate	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Island of Mauritius	9,920	9,914	8.1	8.1
Island of Rodrigues	254	226	5.8 ^{2/}	5.3
Republic of Mauritius	10,174	10,140	8.1	8.0

^{1/} Provisional

^{2/} Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2016 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 2017 was 10,140, representing a 0.3% decrease over the figure of 10,174 for 2016. The crude death rate, i.e., the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population was 8.0 in 2017 compared to 8.1 in 2016.

The Island of Mauritius registered a decrease in the number of deaths, from 9,920 in 2016 to 9,914 in 2017 with a rate of 8.1 for both years. During the same period, the number of deaths in Rodrigues decreased from 254 to 226, with a rate of 5.8 for 2016 and 5.3 for 2017.

6.3 Infant deaths and Infant mortality rate

Table 6.3 - Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2016 and 2017^{1/}

Island	Number of infant deaths registered		Infant mortality rate	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Island of Mauritius	143	148	11.6	11.7
Island of Rodrigues	11	16	15.6 ^{2/}	19.8
Republic of Mauritius	154	164	11.8	12.2

^{1/}Provisional

^{2/} Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2016 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, increased from 11.8 in 2016 to 12.2 in 2017. During the year 2017, some 164 infant deaths (deaths to children aged under one year) were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 154 in 2016, representing an increase of 6.5%.

The number of infant deaths in the Island of Mauritius increased from 143 in 2016 to 148 in 2017. The infant mortality rate rose from 11.6 to 11.7 during that period. For Rodrigues, the number of infant deaths increased from 11 in 2016 to 16 in 2017 and the infant mortality rate rose from 15.6 to 19.8 during the same period.

6.4 Still births and still birth rate

Table 6.4 - Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2016 and 2017^{1/}

Island	Number of still births registered		Still birth rate	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Island of Mauritius	117	128	9.4	10.0
Island of Rodrigues	10	7	10.6 ^{2/}	8.6
Republic of Mauritius	127	135	9.6	9.9

^{1/} Provisional

^{2/} Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2016 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

In 2017, some 135 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, which is 6.3% higher than the 2016 figure of 127. The still birth rate which is the number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births during the year increased from 9.6 in 2016 to 9.9 in 2017.

The Island of Mauritius registered 128 still births in 2017 against 117 in 2016, with the still birth rate rising from 9.4 in 2016 to 10.0 in 2017. In Rodrigues, 7 still births were registered in 2017 compared to 10 in 2016. The still birth rate fell from 10.6 in 2016 to 8.6 in 2017.

6.5 Marriages and crude marriage rate

Table 6.5 - Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2016 and 2017^{1/}

Island	Number of marriages registered		Marriage rate	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Island of Mauritius	9,882	9,586	16.2	15.7
Island of Rodrigues	160	171	7.8 ^{2/}	8.0
Republic of Mauritius	10,042	9,757	15.9	15.4

^{1/} Provisional

^{2/} Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2016 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 decreased by 2.8% from 10,042 in 2016 to 9,757 in 2017. The crude marriage rate, i.e., the number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, fell from 15.9 to 15.4 during the same period.

The number of marriages in the Island of Mauritius fell from 9,882 in 2016 (rate of 16.2) to 9,586 in 2017 (rate of 15.7). The Island of Rodrigues registered an increase in the number of marriages from 160 in 2016 (rate of 7.8) to 171 in 2017 (rate of 8.0).

7. International Comparison

Population growth rates for various countries in the world are published in the UN publication “The Demographic Yearbook 2016”. The figures indicate that the population growth rate for the Republic of Mauritius during the period 2010 to 2016 was 0.2%, lower than the estimated world’s population growth rate of 1.1%. 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 (-0.1) .

Table 7.1 – Demographic indicators for selected countries, 2016

	Mid year Estimates(in thousands)	Average annual rate of population change(2010- 2016)	Density	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
World	7,467,000	1.1	57	19.0	8.0	n/a
Mauritius	1,263	0.2	639	10.4	8.1	11.8
<i>Seychelles^{1/}</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>n/a</i>
South Africa	55,909	1.5	46	n/a	n/a	n/a
Canada	36,286	1.1	4	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>China^{1/}</i>	<i>1,371,220</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>12.1</i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>India^{1/}</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>20.8</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>37.0</i>
Japan	126,995	-0.1	336	7.7	10.3	n/a
Singapore	5,607	1.7	7,799	10.5	5.1	2.4
Germany	82,176	0.1	230	9.4	11.2	n/a
United Kingdom	65,383	0.7	270	11.9	9.1	n/a
<i>Australia^{1/}</i>	<i>23,778</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>3.2</i>

Source: UN Demographic Yearbook, 2016(except for the Republic of Mauritius)

^{1/} Figures in italics refer to the year 2015.

8. Demographic trends

8.1 Sex ratio

Figure 8.1.1 – Sex ratio of resident population, Republic of Mauritius, 1974 – 2017

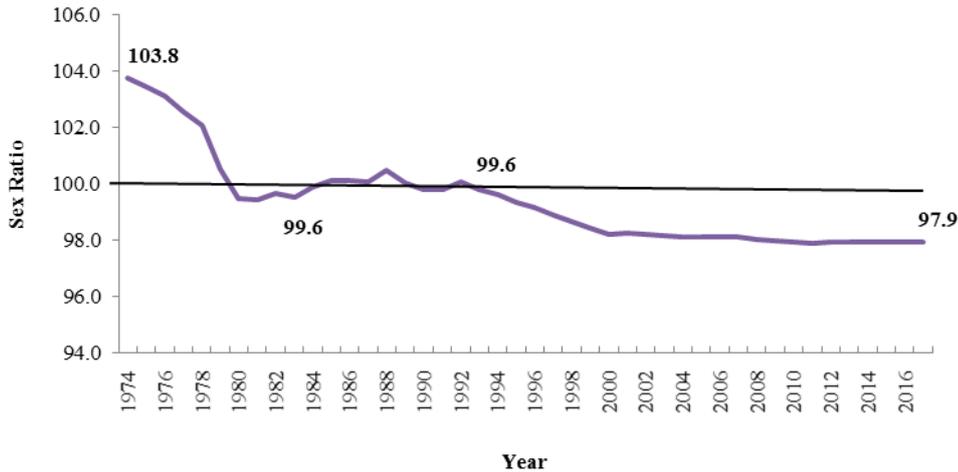
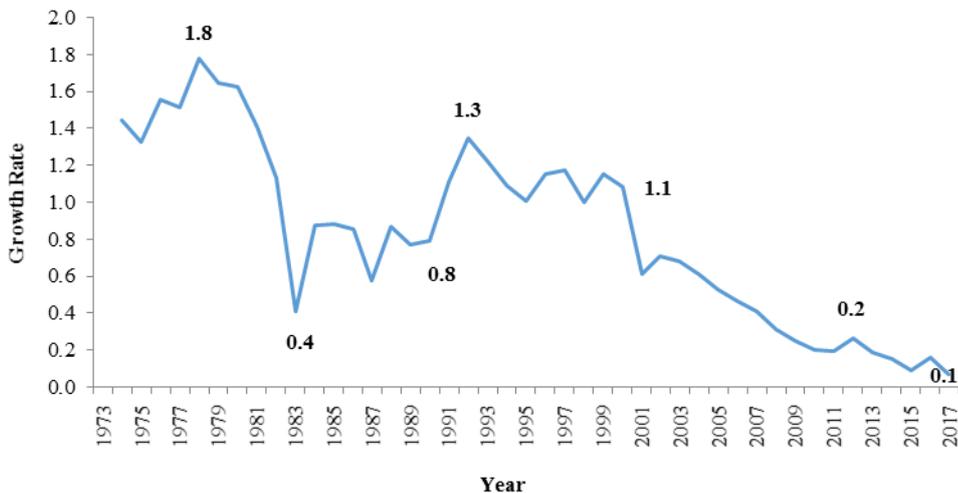


Figure 8.1.1 depicts the evolution of sex ratio (i.e. the number of males per 100 females) for the past forty years. Before the eighties, males outnumbered females in the population (e.g. 103.8 males per 100 females in 1974) and as from the nineties, the reverse trend was noted whereby females outnumbered males in the population (e.g. 97.9 males per 100 females in 2017). 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 early nineties after which it dropped again to attain the lowest rate in 2017. The dips observed since the eighties mainly indicate falling fertility.

Figure 8.2.1 – Growth rate of resident population, Republic of Mauritius, 1974 – 2017

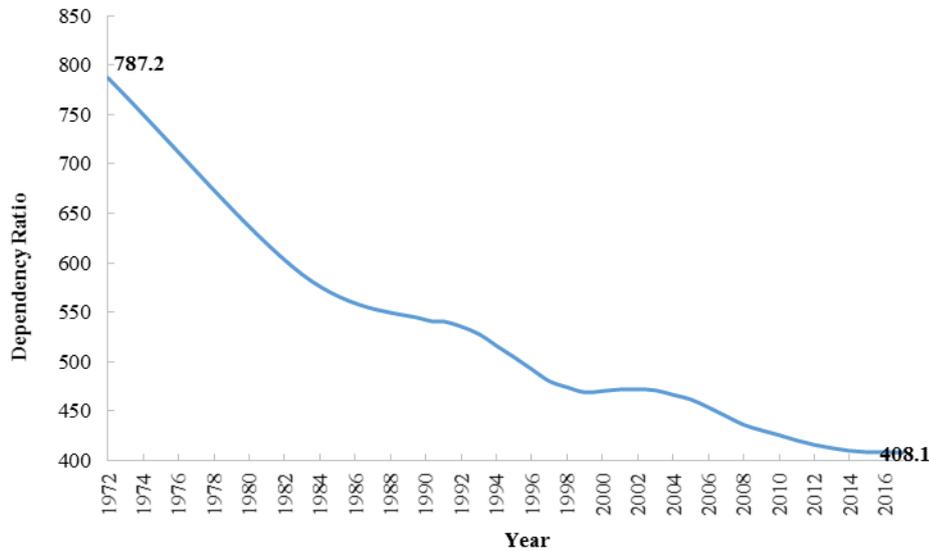


8.3 Dependency Ratio

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 (15-64years) in a particular year.

There has been a general decrease in the dependency ratio from 787.2 in 1972 to 408.1 in 2017 (Figure 8.3.1). 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 - 2017



8.4 Population age structure

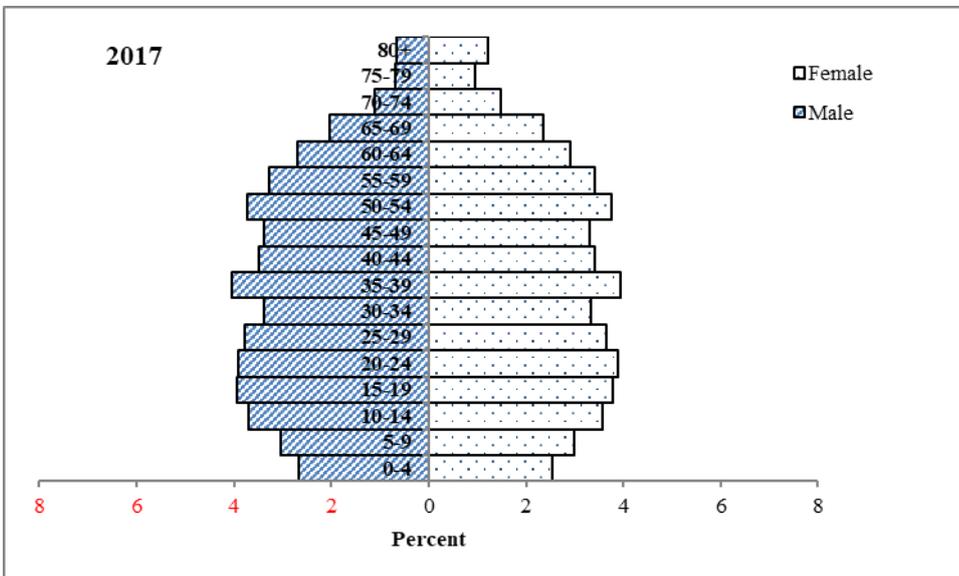
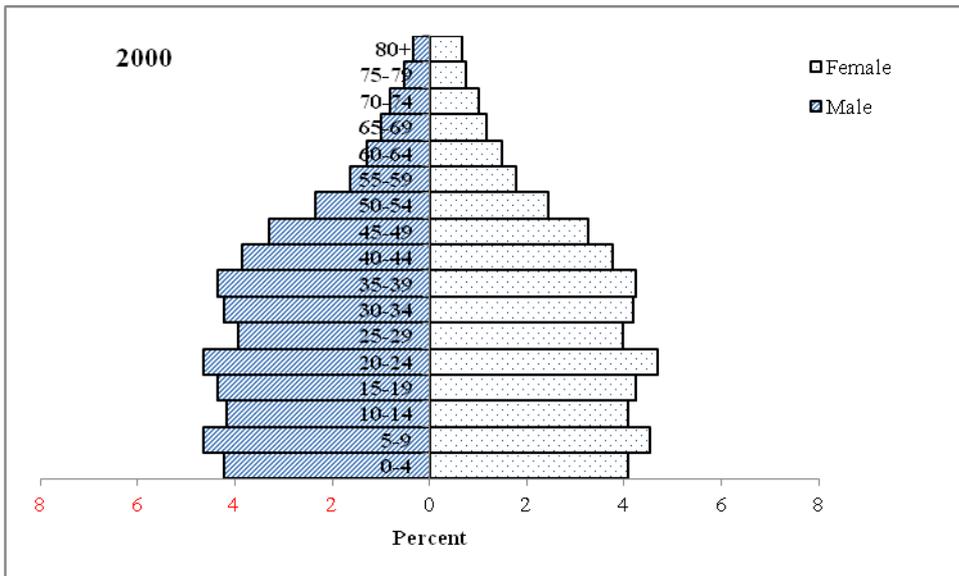
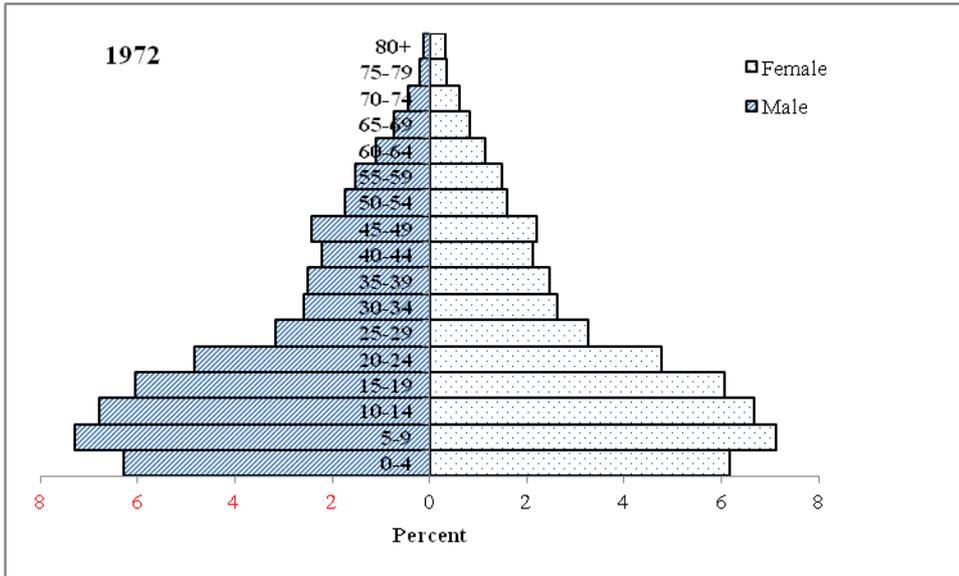
The structure of the pyramids in Figure 8.4.1 are determined by the patterns of births, deaths and migration which took place prior to the reference period of the pyramid. The pyramids compare the age structure of the population between 1972, 2000 and 2017 and show some important trends in the demographics 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 2017, 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 2017, 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 & 2017



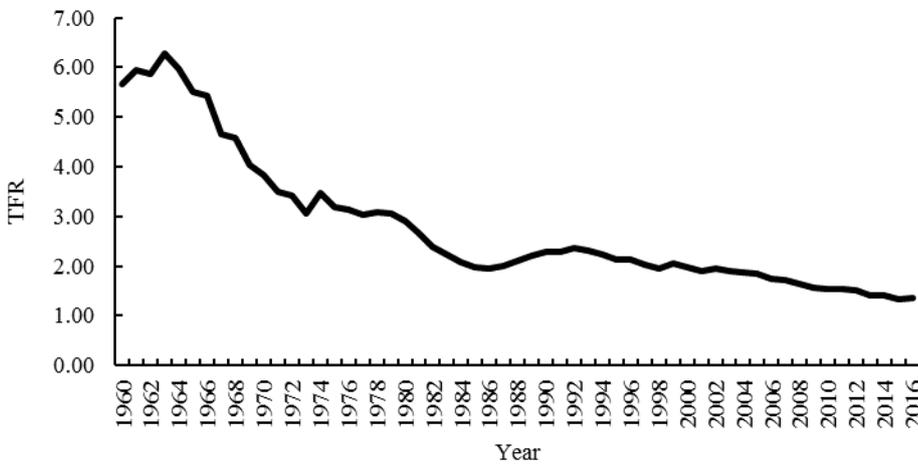
9. Fertility and Births

9.1 Total Fertility Rate

Fertility refers to the number of live births women have, and is one of the main factors influencing population growth besides mortality and migration. Fertility indicators measure the frequency of child bearing in a given population. Such measures provide indication on the future growth of a population if the observed fertility pattern remains unchanged.

Replacement level fertility is the total fertility rate at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next assuming there is no migration. 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. The Island of Mauritius first attained below replacement level fertility, that is, women are having fewer than two babies over their life course, in 1984. Then in 1997, the replacement level fertility which was 2.03 fell continuously to 1.37 in 2016.

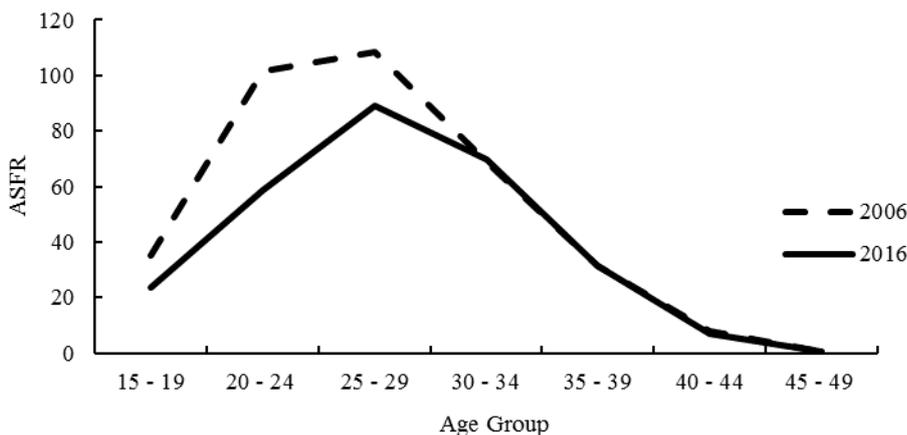
Figure 9.1.1 – Total Fertility Rate, Island of Mauritius, 1960 – 2016



9.2 Age Specific Fertility Rate

Age Specific Fertility Rate refers to the number of live births to women of a specified age-group per 1,000 women in that age-group. When compared to 2006, the fertility rates for those aged below 30 years in 2016 were higher, while the rates for those aged 30 years and over were more or less the same. This reflected the delay in childbearing over the years.

Figure 9.2.1 – Age Specific Fertility Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2006 & 2016



9.3 Live births by nationality of mothers

Among the 13,082 births that were registered in 2016, some 167 were from Asian mothers, 137 were from African mothers (excluding Mauritius), 96 were from European mothers, 11 were from American mothers and 1 was from an Oceanian mother. (Table 9.3.1)

Table 9.3.1 – Live births registered by nationality of mothers, Republic of Mauritius - 2015 & 2016

Nationality of mothers	2015	2016
European	86	96
<i>of whom: French</i>	42	46
African	12,407	12,737
<i>of whom: Malagasy</i>	48	48
<i>Mauritian</i>	12,292	12,600
Asian	147	167
<i>of whom: Indian</i>	84	105
American	15	11
Oceanian	7	1
Not Stated	76	70
Total	12,738	13,082

9.4 Live births by employment status of mothers

In 2016, 44.4% of registered births were from employed mothers, 14.4% were from unemployed mothers, 40.3% were from housewives and 0.6% were from students. (Table 9.4.1)

Table 9.4.1 – Live births registered by employment status of mothers, Republic of Mauritius - 2015 & 2016

Employment Status of Mother	2015	2016
Employed	5,369	5,812
Unemployed	1,911	1,884
Student	80	73
Housewife	5,343	5,272
Not Stated	35	41
Total	12,738	13,082

9.5 Plurality

In 2016, out of 13,082 births registered, multiple births were also registered with 3 triplets and 110 twins.

Table 9.5.1 – Plurality of Live births registered, Republic of Mauritius – 2016

Plurality	Male	Female	Total
Singleton	6,487	6,264	12,751
First Born Twin	55	58	113
Second Born Twin	58	55	113
Third Born Twin	3	0	3
Not Stated	50	52	102
Total	6,653	6,429	13,082

Statistics Mauritius
 Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
 Port Louis
 March 2018

Contact person:
Mrs. C. Martial, Statistician
Mrs. R. Guilbert, Senior Statistical Officer
Demography Unit
Statistics Mauritius
LIC Centre
John Kennedy Street
Port Louis
Tel: (230) 208 0859
Email: cso_demography@govmu.org

Definitions

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 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 2017 are however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.