

## Gender Statistics - 2019

### 1. Introduction

This is the eleventh issue of Economic and Social Indicators (ESI) on gender statistics. It presents a portrait of women and men in the Republic of Mauritius and includes their demographic profile, health, family status, educational attainment and labour force characteristics.

The ESI is based on latest available sex disaggregated data from administrative sources, household surveys and censuses. Some of the statistics presented therefore refer to years earlier than 2019.

### 2. Highlights

- (i) In 2019, the population comprised 639,544 women compared to 626,167 men. Women outnumbered men by 13,377 as they live on average 6.5 years longer than men.
- (ii) Diabetes mellitus, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and hypertensive disease together accounted for 55.5% of all deaths among women against 51.3% among men.
- (iii) More women than men are enrolled in tertiary institutions, but there are fewer women in research (PhD, MPhil and Doctor of Business Administration).
- (iv) Working women are more likely than men to be employees and contributing family workers, but less likely to be heading a business.
- (v) In spite of being fewer in the labour force, women are more numerous among the unemployed.
- (vi) Unemployed women are generally more qualified than their male counterparts.
- (vii) Average monthly income tends to be lower for women than men – Rs 19,100 against Rs 25,100 in 2019.
- (viii) Women are more likely than men to live in poverty. Poor households are more likely to be headed by women.
- (ix) Women are largely under-represented in decision making at higher sphere of society. The number of female ministers was only 3 out of 24 and the number of female mayors was one out of 5 in 2019.
- (x) The proportion of women in the most senior positions in government services (Senior Chief Executive, Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Director, Manager, Judge and Magistrate) was 37% and 39% in 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- (xi) Women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence than men.
- (xii) Men are more likely to be victims of homicides and assaults, while women are more prone to sexual violence and sexual exploitation.
- (xiii) Men are more likely than women to participate in sports as high level athletes.
- (xiv) In 2019, according to the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) of the World Economic Forum, Mauritius was ranked 115 out of 153 countries worldwide compared to 109 in 2018. The GGI measures gender equality across four key areas, namely: (a) economic participation and opportunity, (b) educational attainment, (c) health and survival and (d) political empowerment.

### 3. Population

Prior to 1950 women were fewer than men in number. However, the female population has been growing at a faster rate such that in the 50's there were almost equal numbers of men and women. This balance in the population has been maintained for some 40 years. As from 1990, women have been increasingly outnumbering men over the years.

In 2019, there were 13,377 more women than men. Out of a total population of 1,265,711, there were 639,544 women against 626,167 men, i.e., 98 men for every 100 women (Table 1).

Though women were more numerous in the total population, this was not the case in all age groups. At the younger ages (under 50 years), men were more numerous. In 2019, there were 98 male births for every 100 female births.

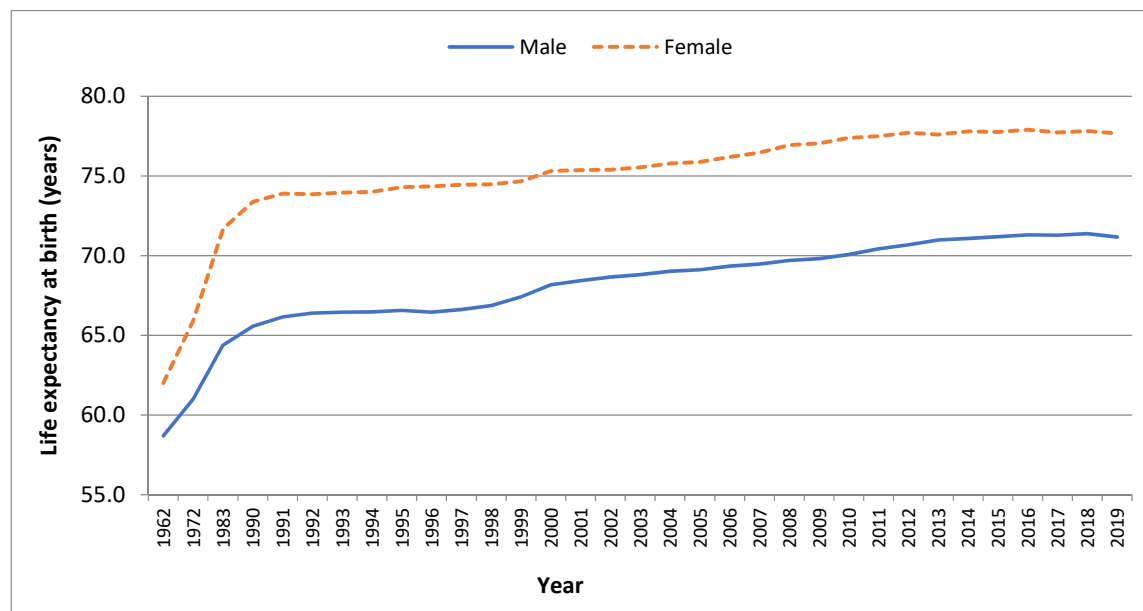
At ages 50 years and above, women outnumbered men and their proportion increased at higher ages. The male-female ratio stood at around 103 for those aged between 40 to 49 years compared to 54 among those aged 80 years and over; there were around 2 women for every man in this age group. The main reason for this imbalance is that women live longer than men.

**Table 1 – Population by age and sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019**

<b>Age Group (years)</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>Sex ratio (males per 100 females)</b>
Under 10	69,075	66,650	135,725	103.6
10 - 19	92,785	89,882	182,667	103.2
20 - 29	97,895	95,683	193,578	102.3
30 - 39	90,796	88,601	179,397	102.5
40 - 49	88,736	86,268	175,004	102.9
50 - 59	88,501	90,389	178,890	97.9
60 - 79	89,653	105,931	195,584	84.6
80+	8,726	16,140	24,866	54.1
<b>All age groups</b>	<b>626,167</b>	<b>639,544</b>	<b>1,265,711</b>	<b>97.9</b>

Women have a higher life expectancy than men. In fact, women live some 6.5 years longer than men. In 2019, life expectancy at birth for women was 77.7 years compared to 71.2 years for men. Life expectancy at birth has improved over the years for both men and women and over the past eight years, the gap between life expectancy of men and women has decreased from 7.3 years in 2010 to 6.5 years in 2019 (Chart 1).

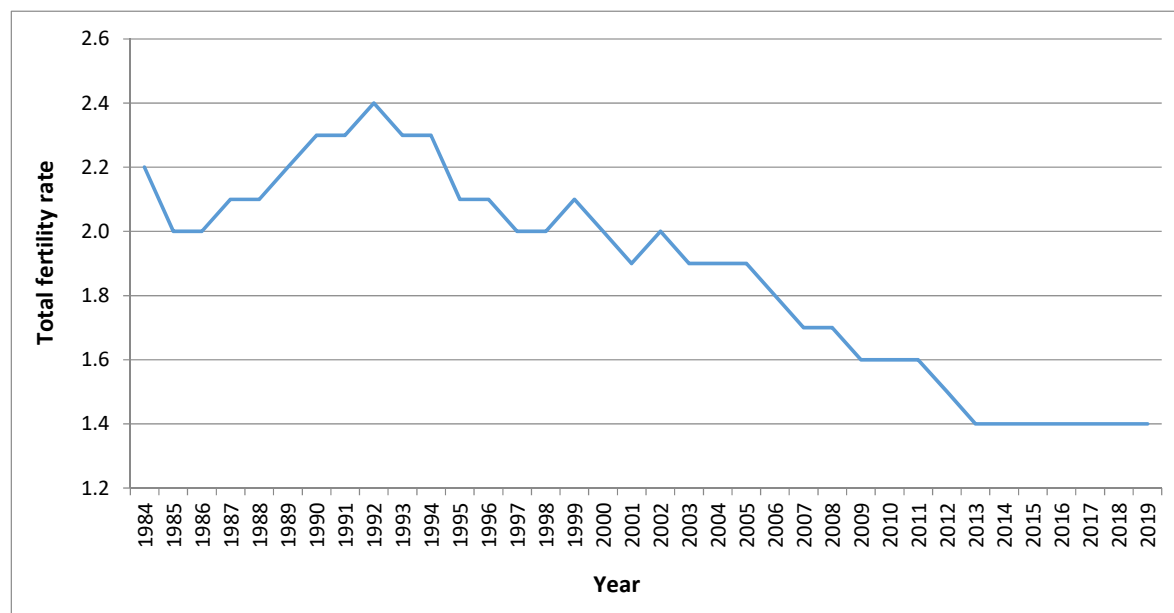
**Chart 1 - Life Expectancy at birth, Republic of Mauritius, 1962 – 2019**



#### 4. Fertility and Contraceptive Use

Women continue to give birth to fewer children than in the past. The total fertility rate, which is an indication of the average number of babies born to a woman during her childbearing period, has maintained a general decreasing trend after 1992 until 2013. Compared to 1992, the average number of children born to a woman dropped by nearly one child to reach a total fertility rate of 1.4 from 2013 to 2019 (Chart 2).

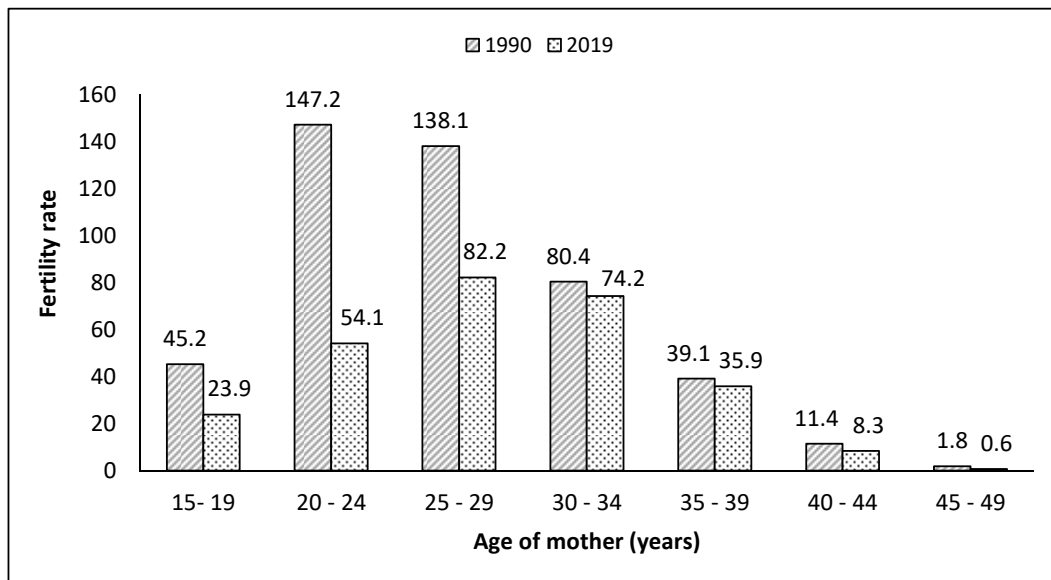
**Chart 2 - Total Fertility Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1984 – 2019**



In the 1990's, women in the age bracket 20-24 years had the highest fertility with 147 births per 1,000 women of that age group (Chart 3). In 2019, the peak fertility rate is observed in the age

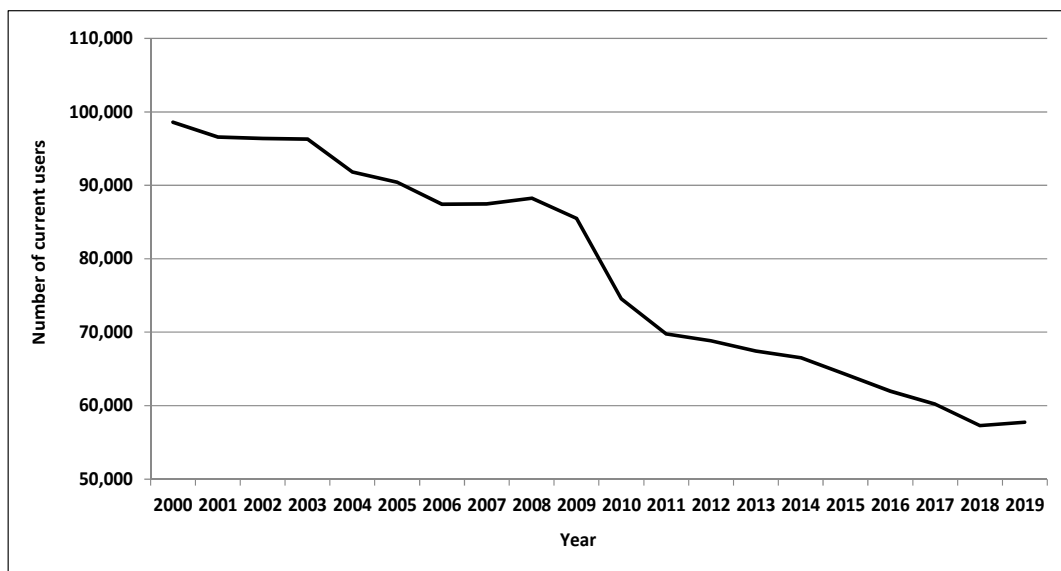
bracket 25-29 years but with only 82 births per 1,000 women in that age group. One of the reasons explaining this shift is that women are getting married at an older age.

**Chart 3 – Fertility Rate by age of mother, Republic of Mauritius, 1990 and 2019**



In 2019, Government Family Planning Clinics, Mauritius Family Planning & Welfare Association and “Action Familiale” registered a total of some 57,724 current users of contraceptive methods in the Island of Mauritius, an increase of 449 compared to 57,275 in 2018 and a decrease of 27,779 from 85,503 in 2009 (Chart 4).

**Chart 4 – Number of current users of contraceptives, Island of Mauritius, 2000 – 2019**



New acceptors of contraceptive methods registered in 2019 numbered 3,577, of whom 501 had tubal ligation. A declining trend was observed in the number of new acceptors from 6,227 in 2009.

Among the new acceptors in 2019, 3-month injectable (21.6%), Male condom (20.7%) and Sympto-thermal (19.6%) were the preferred methods of contraception while for current users Sympto-thermal (46.2%) was the preferred method (Table 2).

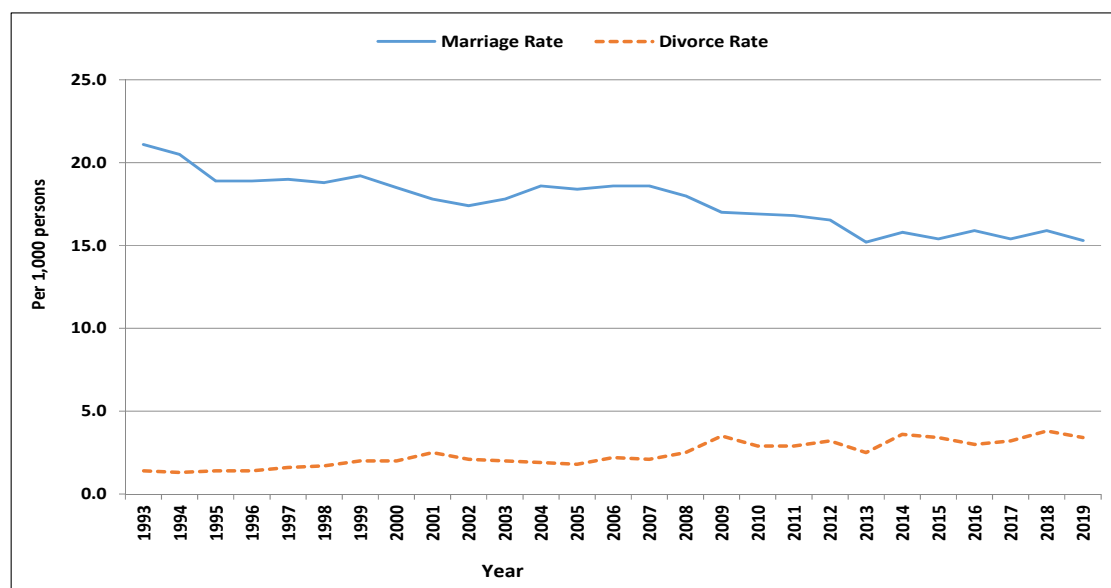
**Table 2 – Method of family planning, Island of Mauritius, 2019**

Methods	New Acceptors (%)	Current Users (%)
Pill	17.4	6.7
Male Condom	20.7	11.5
Intra-Uterine Devices	2.0	3.2
3-month injectable	21.6	5.1
1-month injectable	3.6	0.8
Implant	1.1	1.6
Tubal Ligation	14.0	24.7
Sympto thermal	19.6	46.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 5. Family Status

While marriage rate is declining, divorce rate is on the rise. The marriage rate, i.e., the number of persons married per 1,000 mid-year population, fell from 21.1 in 1993 to 15.3 in 2019. The number of divorced persons per 1,000 mid-year population increased from 1.4 in 1993 to 3.4 in 2019 (Chart 5).

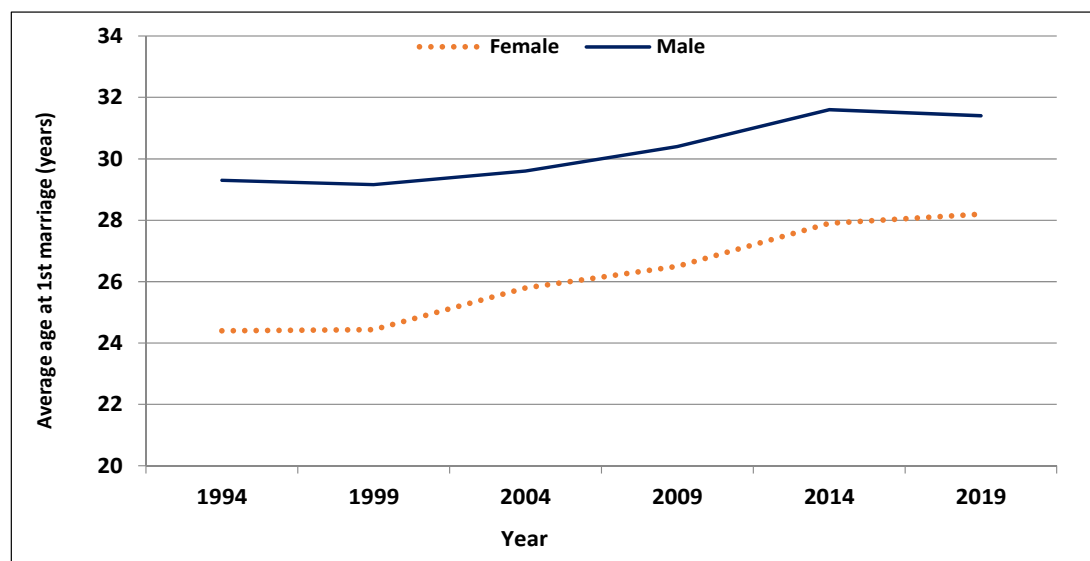
**Chart 5 – Marriage and Divorce Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 1993 – 2019**



Generally women tend to marry men who are older than them. However, over the past 25 years the age difference between husband and wife narrowed from 4.9 years in 1994 to 3.2 years in 2019 (Chart 6).

The average age at first marriage has been gradually increasing over the years for both women and men. The average age at first marriage for women increased from 24.4 years in 1994 to reach 28.2 years in 2019, while that for men increased from 29.3 to 31.4 during the same period.

**Chart 6 – Average age at first marriage, Republic of Mauritius, 1994 – 2019**



Of the 2,174 divorces granted by the Supreme Court in 2019, woman was the petitioner in 43.5% of the cases (Table 3).

**Table 3 – Divorce by petitioner, Republic of Mauritius, 2018 & 2019**

Petitioner	2018	%	2019	%
Husband	643	26.5	596	27.4
Wife	1,075	44.3	946	43.5
Joint petitioner (both husband & wife)	707	29.2	632	29.1
<b>Total divorces</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,174</b>	<b>100.0</b>

An analysis of the divorce statistics by single year duration of marriage indicate that couples had the highest tendency to divorce within the 5-10 years duration of marriage (Table 4).

**Table 4 – Number of divorce by duration of union, Republic of Mauritius, 2019**

<b>Duration of union (years)</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
< 1 year	1	0.0
1 and <3	119	5.5
3 and <5	238	10.9
5 and <10	595	27.4
10 and <15	481	22.1
15 and <25	526	24.2
25 or more	214	9.8
<b>Total divorces</b>	<b>2,174</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Some 35.6% of couples who divorced in 2019 did not have any children, while 53.9% of them had 1 to 2 children. There were 52 couples with 4 or more children (Table5).

**Table 5 – Number of dependent children <sup>1</sup>, Republic of Mauritius, 2019**

<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
0	773	35.6
1	668	30.7
2	504	23.2
3	177	8.1
4	44	2.0
5 or more	8	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,174</b>	<b>100.0</b>

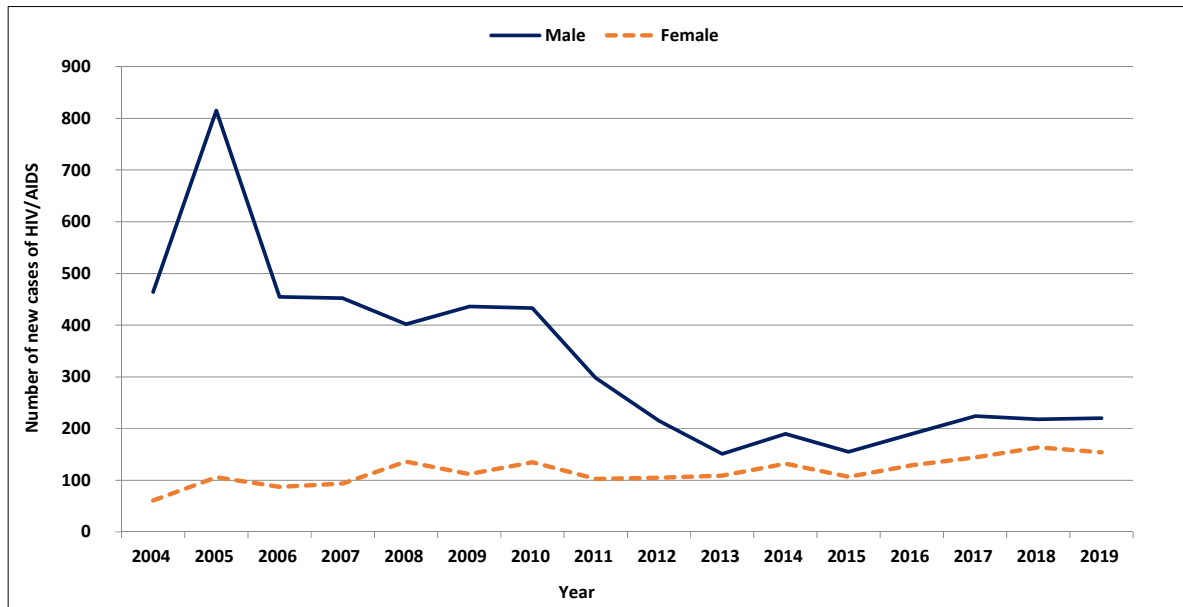
<sup>1</sup> dependent children are the living children who are dependent on either of the divorcees at the time the divorce petition is filed

## **6. Health**

Since October 1987 when the first cases of HIV/AIDS were registered, the number has been increasing to reach 7,795 in December 2019, of whom 26.6 % were women.

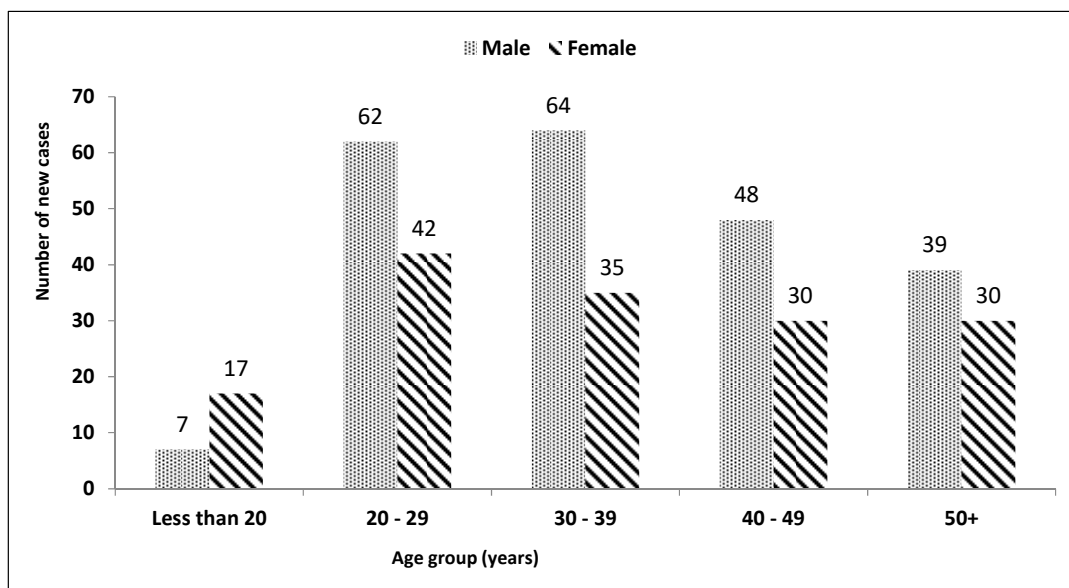
During 2019, 374 new cases of HIV/AIDS were registered among Mauritians and the proportion of women among the new cases was 41.2% compared to 11.6% in 2004.

**Chart 7 – New HIV/AIDS cases, Republic of Mauritius, 2004 – 2019**



In 2019, out of the 154 new HIV/AIDS cases detected among females, 85.7% was mainly due to heterosexual as mode of transmission and 8.4% to drug injection. As regards males, among the 220 new cases, the mode of transmission mainly due to heterosexual and drug injection were respectively 44.5% and 45.0%.

**Chart 8 – Number of new HIV/AIDS cases by sex and age, 2019**



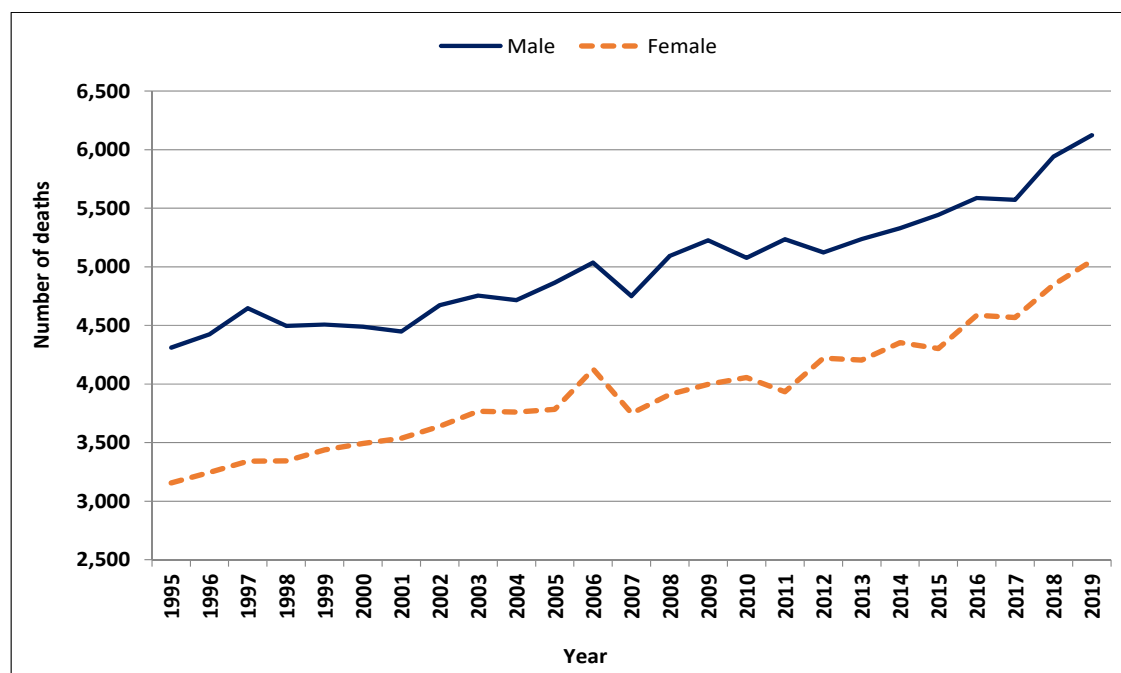
Among the newly detected cases in 2019, some 54.3% were in the age-group 20-39 years. However, women were predominant in the age-group 20-29 years with 27.3%, while men were mostly in the age-group 30-39 years with 29.1% (Chart 8).



## 7. Mortality

Though women are more numerous than men in the population, there are fewer deaths among women than among men. In 2019, 6,124 men compared to 5,050 women died (Chart 9). The crude death rate for 2019 was 9.8 for man and 7.9 for woman.

Chart 9 – Number of deaths by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1995 – 2019



In 2019, diabetes mellitus and heart disease were the leading causes of deaths among women and men. Diabetes mellitus and heart disease were respectively responsible for 23.4% and 17.5% of deaths among women and 20.8% and 18.0% of deaths among men. Cerebrovascular disease was responsible for 8.7% of deaths among women and 8.1% of deaths among men. Causes of death specific to women, such as breast and uterus cancer, were responsible for 5.7% of deaths among women while maternal deaths were responsible for another 0.2%. Compared to men, women were more likely to die of hypertensive disease and neoplasms but less likely to die of cirrhosis of the liver and to commit suicide (Table 6).

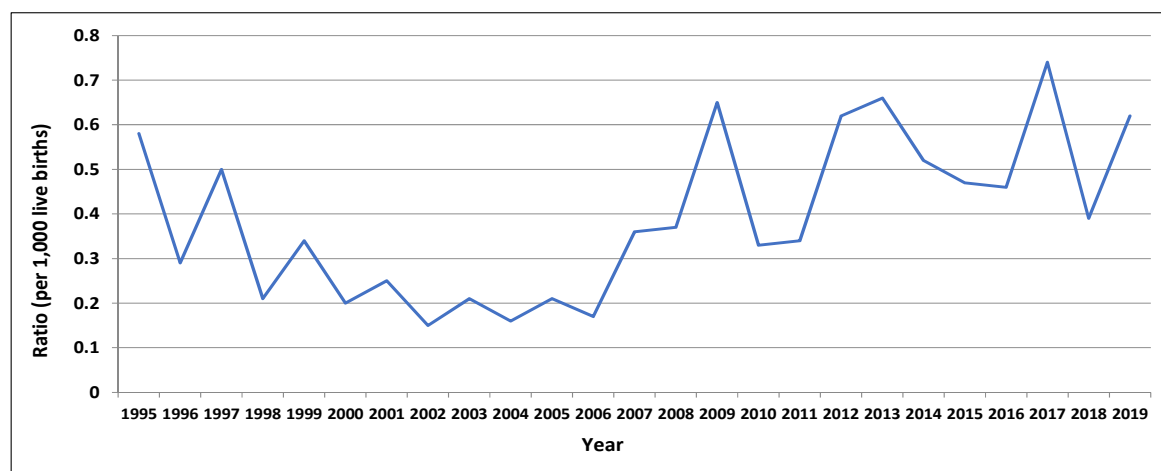
**Table 6 – Deaths (%) by cause and sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2019**

<b>Cause of death</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Diabetes mellitus	20.8	23.4
Heart disease	18.0	17.5
Hypertensive Disease	4.4	5.9
Neoplasm:	1.6	5.7
of which: breast cancer (malignant)	0	4.2
uterus cancer (malignant)	Napp	1.5
prostate cancer (malignant)	1.6	Napp
Cerebrovascular disease	8.1	8.7
Cirrhosis of liver	1.3	0.3
Suicide	1.7	0.3
Pneumonia	2.3	2.9
Maternal death	Napp	0.2
Other	41.8	35.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Napp: Not Applicable

The risk of a woman dying as a result of pregnancy or childbirth during her lifetime has generally been declining over the years with slightly higher level of maternal deaths in recent years. From 1995 to 2006, the maternal mortality ratio declined from 0.58 maternal death per 1,000 live births to 0.17. After 2006, the maternal mortality ratio was on a rising trend to reach 0.66 in 2013, but then decreased to reach 0.46 in 2016. The maternal mortality ratio increased again in 2017 to 0.74 and it dropped to 0.39 in 2018, and then increased to 0.62 in 2019 (Chart 10).

**Chart 10 – Maternal Mortality Ratio, Republic of Mauritius, 1995 – 2019**



## 8. Education

Boys and girls are equally likely to go to pre-primary and primary schools. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) which measures the relative educational participation of boys and girls was 1.0 for both pre-primary and primary, indicating no disparity (Table 7).

**Table 7 – Gross Enrolment Rates (%) by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2019**

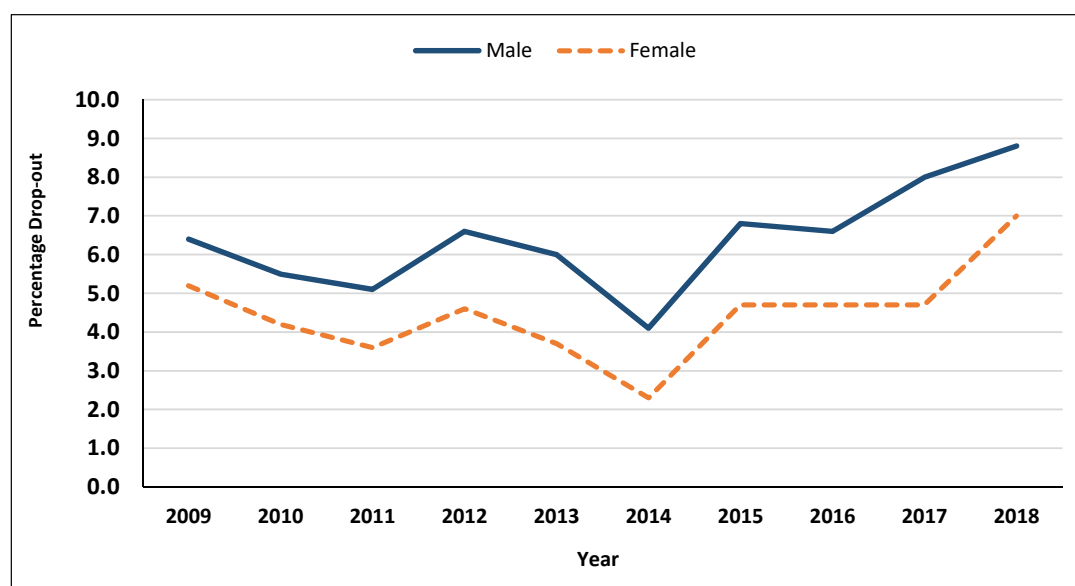
Gross Enrolment Rate	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index
Pre-Primary (4 - 5 years)	97	96	96	1.0
Primary (6 - 11 years)	95	96	95	1.0
Secondary (12 - 19 years)	69	76	72	1.1

At the end of primary, girls generally perform better than boys at the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) examinations. In 2019, the pass rate for girls was 82.8% against 71.7% for boys.

At secondary level, girls are more likely to be enrolled than boys. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) in secondary enrolment, which measures the relative access to secondary education of males and females was 1.1 in 2019 showing a disparity in favour of girls.

Girls are less likely than boys to drop out from secondary academic stream, 7.0% against 8.8% for boys (Chart 11).

**Chart 11 – Drop-Out Rate at secondary academic stream, Republic of Mauritius, 2009 – 2018**



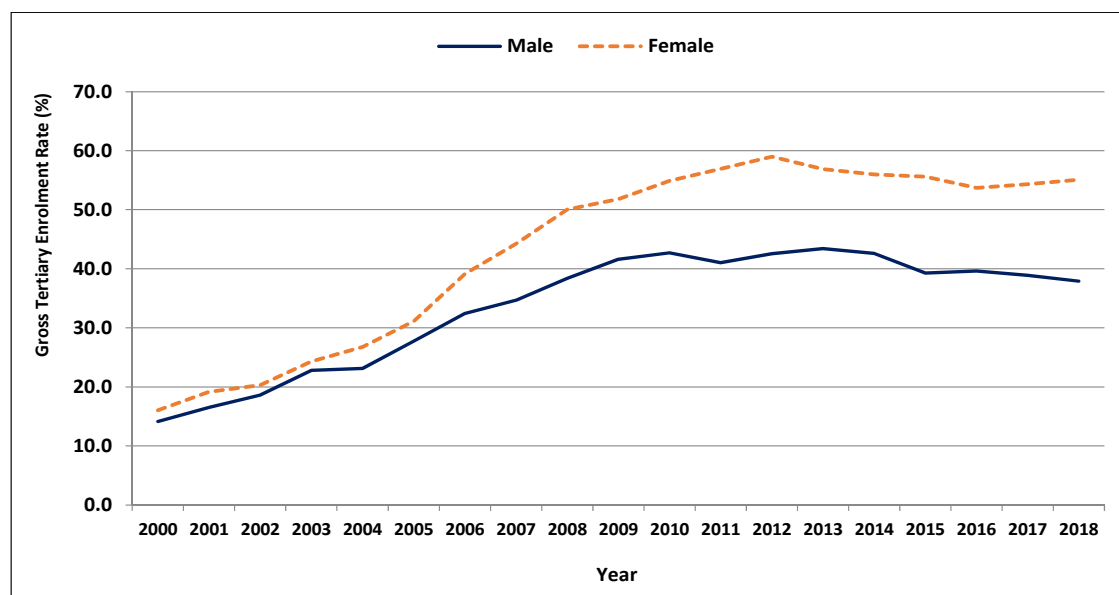
Girls generally perform better than boys at Higher School Certificate (HSC) examinations (Table 8).

**Table 8 – Pass Rate (%) at HSC, Republic of Mauritius, 2010 – 2019**

Year	Male	Female
2010	73.7	81.7
2011	75.3	82.3
2012	74.8	82.2
2013	73.9	80.8
2014	70.0	79.1
2015	72.0	77.8
2016	70.9	78.7
2017	69.5	77.9
2018	70.6	78.0
2019	70.8	77.8

Consequently, more women than men are enrolled in tertiary institutions. Tertiary enrolment for both girls and boys increased over time but with a widening gap in favour of girls. Tertiary enrolment, as measured by Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate (GTER), rose from 16.0 in 2000 to 55.1 per cent in 2018 for women, and from 14.1 to 37.9 per cent for men during the same period (Chart 12). In 2018, women enrolled in public, private and overseas tertiary institutions numbered 27,641, representing 58.3% of the student population which stood at 47,398.

**Chart 12 – Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate (GTER), Republic of Mauritius, 2000 – 2018**



Both men and women were mostly enrolled in Bachelor Degree (Table 9). There were fewer women than men at PhD, MPhil and DBA<sup>2</sup> levels, 260 women against 305 men in 2018. As a result, women continue to be under-represented in research.

**Table 9 – No. of student enrolled<sup>1</sup> in tertiary institutions by level, 2018**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
PhD	161	145	306
MPhil	94	97	191
DBA <sup>2</sup>	50	18	68
Masters Degree	1,888	2,121	4,009
Post Graduate Diploma	110	88	198
Post Graduate Certificate	189	540	729
Professional	2,162	3,111	5,273
Bachelor Degree	8,251	11,402	19,653
Diploma/Bachelor	125	152	277
Diploma	1,177	1,972	3,149
Certificate	138	314	452
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,345</b>	<b>19,960</b>	<b>34,305</b>

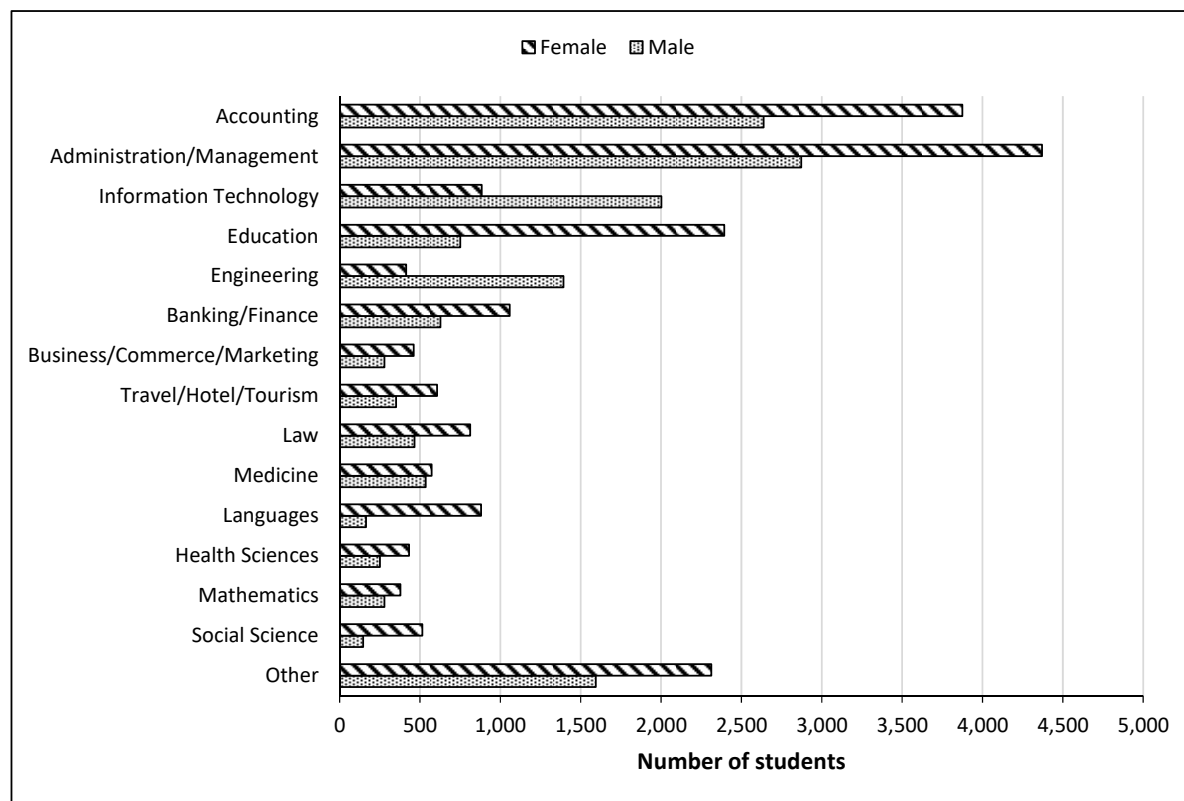
<sup>1</sup>*Enrolment in public and private institutions, including students studying through Distance Education mode but excluding overseas students*

<sup>2</sup>*Doctor of Business Administration*

Administration/Management and Accounting were the most popular fields of study for both men (20.0% and 18.4% respectively) and women (21.9% and 19.4% respectively) in 2018. Information Technology was the third most popular subject for men (13.9%) followed by Engineering (9.7%). Education was the third choice for women (12.0%).

Women were under-represented in science related fields such as Engineering (2.1% against 9.7%) and Information Technology (4.4% against 13.9%) whereas men were under-represented in Education (5.2% against 12.0%) and Languages (1.1% against 4.4%) (Chart 13).

**Chart 13 – Number of student enrolled <sup>1</sup> in tertiary institutions by field of study, 2018**



<sup>1</sup>Enrolment in local public and private institutions, excluding overseas students

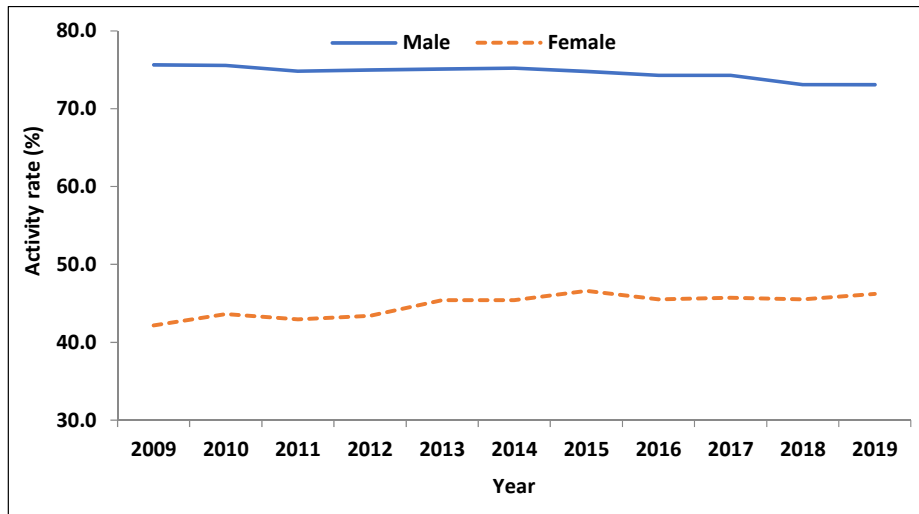
## 9. Economics Characteristics

In 2019, the active Mauritian population (aged 16 years and above) stood at 591,000 with 339,100 men and 212,200 women. Around 46% of women of working age was in the labour force compared to 73% of men.

The number of persons aged 16 years and over not forming part of the labour force (population outside the labour force) stood at 405,600 (130,300 males and 275,300 females).

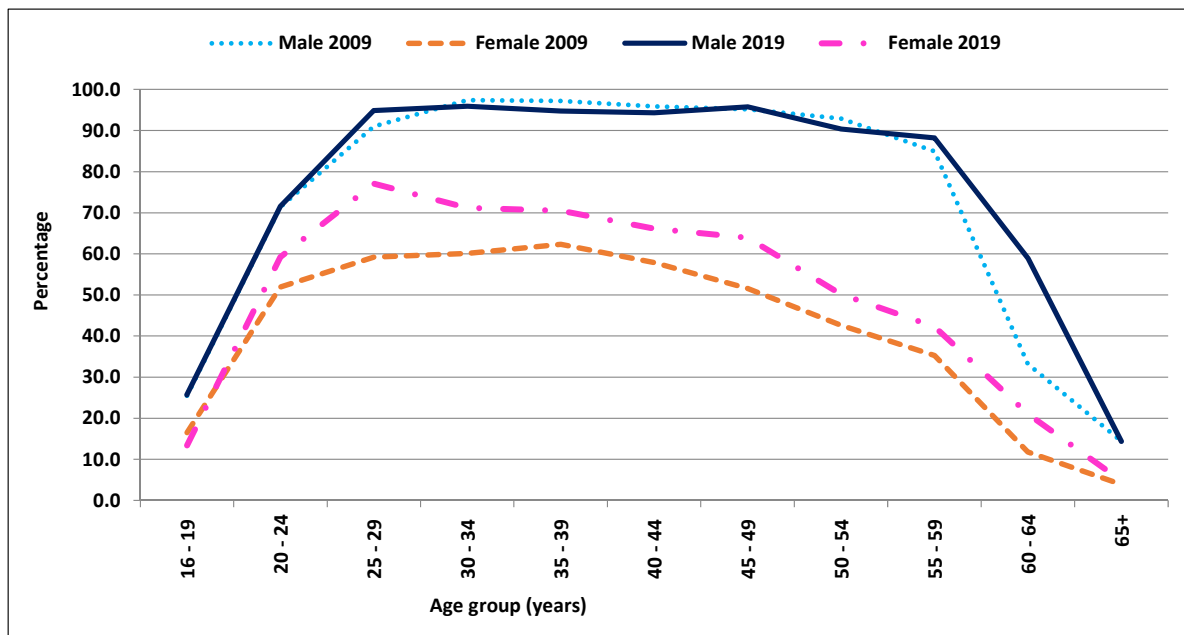
During the period 2009 to 2019, male activity rate was consistently higher than female activity rate. However, the gap has been narrowing over time as the activity rate for men has been decreasing over the years from 75.6% in 2009 to 73.1% in 2019, while that of females has been generally increasing from 42.1% in 2009 to 46.2% in 2019 (Chart 14).

Chart 14 – Activity rate (%) by sex, 2009 – 2019



Men and women have a similar age pattern of economic activity, i.e., less active at the younger and older age-groups (Chart 15). Over the years, the shape of the curve for female activity rate by age has been tending towards that of the male. The increase in the level of activity among women was more pronounced among those aged 25 to 29 years.

Chart 15 – Activity rate (%) by age-group and sex, 2009 and 2019



**Table 10 – Employed persons by industrial sector and sex, 2019**

Industrial sector	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
Primary	24,000	7.1	8,200	3.9
Secondary	100,100	29.5	30,500	14.4
Tertiary	215,000	63.4	173,500	81.8
<b>All sectors</b>	<b>339,100</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>212,200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Both women and men had a high proportion of their working population in the tertiary sector (covering trade, accommodation service, transportation, health, education and other service industries), 63.4% for men and 81.8% for women. The secondary sector (covering manufacturing, electricity & water and construction) accounted for 29.5% of the working men and 14.4% of the working women. The primary sector (comprising agriculture and mining & quarrying) employed 7.1% and 3.9% of the working men and women respectively (Table 10).

**Table 11 – Distribution (%) of employed persons by employment status and sex, 2019**

Employment status	Male (%)	Female (%)
Employer	4.5	1.1
Own Account Worker	18.0	9.0
Employee	76.4	86.3
Contributing Family Worker	1.1	3.5
<b>All status</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Women were more likely than men to be employees, with 86.3% of the female workforce in that employment status as compared to 76.4% for the male workforce. Women were also less likely than men to work for themselves. Some 22.5% of working men were employers or own account workers compared to 10.1% for women (Table 11).

On average, a woman worked 5 hours less than a man. In 2019, the average number of hours worked per week by women was 35.9 compared to 41.2 for men.

Across all occupational groups, women on average earned less than men. In the occupational category of managers, professionals and associate professionals, women earned on average 73.3% of what men earned. In elementary occupations, women earned 57.8% of what men earned (Table 12).

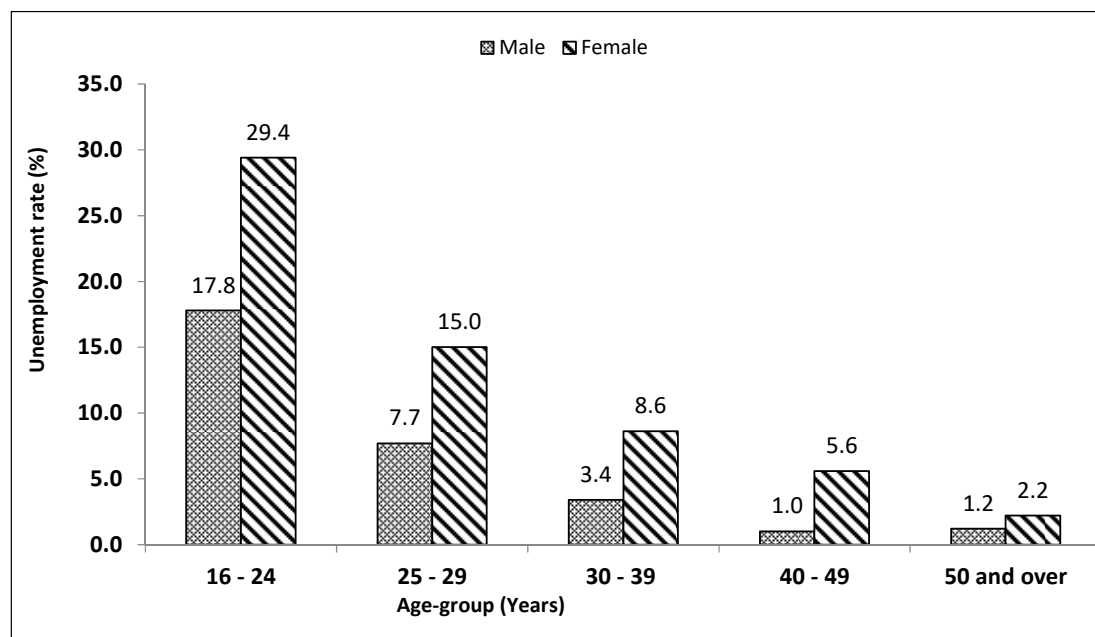


**Table 12 – Average monthly income (Rs) of employees by occupational group, 2019**

Occupational group	Average monthly income (Rs)	
	Male	Female
Managers; Professionals; Technicians and associate professionals	44,200	32,400
Clerical support workers	22,600	19,700
Service and sales workers	22,000	13,300
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; Craft and related trade workers; Plant and machine operators and assemblers	17,200	11,700
Elementary occupations	15,400	8,900
<b>All occupational groups</b>	<b>25,100</b>	<b>19,100</b>

In spite of being fewer in the labour force (representing only 39.9%), women were over represented among the unemployed; they made up 60.7% of the total unemployed. Unemployed women numbered 24,100 in 2019 compared to 15,600 men. Female unemployment rate stood at 10.2%, much higher than the rate of 4.4% for male. The disparity between male and female unemployment rate was highest in the lower age-groups; the difference was nearly 12 percentage points among the unemployed below 25 years and around 1 percentage point among those aged 50 years and above (Chart 16).

**Chart 16 – Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex, 2019**



Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; 8,000 (33.2%) of them possessed the School Certificate (SC) or Higher School Certificate (HSC) against 3,800 males

(24.4%). Also, 6,400 (26.6%) unemployed women attained tertiary level education compared to 2,900 (18.6%) unemployed men (Table 13).

**Table 13 – Unemployed persons by educational attainment, 2019**

Educational attainment	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Primary</b>	2,200	14.1	3,200	13.3
<i>Below CPE</i>	1,400	9.0	2,400	10.0
<i>Passed CPE</i>	800	5.1	800	3.3
<b>Secondary</b>	10,500	67.3	14,500	60.2
<i>Form I - V but not passed SC</i>	6,700	42.9	6,500	27.0
<i>Passed SC</i>	1,800	11.5	4,800	19.9
<i>Passed HSC</i>	2,000	12.8	3,200	13.3
<b>Tertiary</b>	2,900	18.6	6,400	26.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,600</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 10. Poverty

Poor households are households found below the relative poverty line estimated from the Household Budget Survey (HBS). The poverty lines for 2012 and 2017 were estimated at Rs 5,652 and Rs 7,509 respectively (Table 14).

Women are more likely than men to live in poverty. In 2017, 11.0% of the female population was living below poverty line compared to 9.6% for the males. Out of 131,300 persons in relative poverty, 70,800 were females and 60,500 were males.

The 2017 HBS showed that poverty is more likely to be among female headed households than male headed households (15.9% compared to 7.6% in 2017).

**Table 14 – Number of persons in relative poverty, 2012 and 2017**

	2012	2017 <sup>1</sup>
Relative poverty line (Rs)	5,652	7,509
Persons in relative poverty		
Both sexes	122,700	131,300
Male	56,000	60,500
Female	66,700	70,800

<sup>1</sup> Revised

## 11. Social benefits and senior living in infirmaries

As at June 2019, out of 224,277 Basic Retirement pensioners, 55.4% were women (Table 15). During that period, the number of women receiving Basic Retirement Pension outnumbered their male counterparts by 24,331 and this number is expected to increase to around 32,800 by 2047. Both male and female pensioners were concentrated in the age-group 60 to 69 years. It is to be noted that 73.2% of the pensioners in the age group 90 to 99 were women. For every male centenary pensioner, there were 4 female centenary pensioners.

There were 18,830 recipients of Basic Widows Pension as at June 2019, a decrease of 11.0% compared to 21,153 in 1998. A large majority (68.7%) of widows were aged between 50 and 59 years.

Invalids pensioners numbered 31,935 as at June 2019, with a higher proportion of men (53.2%) compared to women (46.8%).

As at June 2019, some 308 children received Basic Orphans Pension, amongst whom 52.6% were girls.

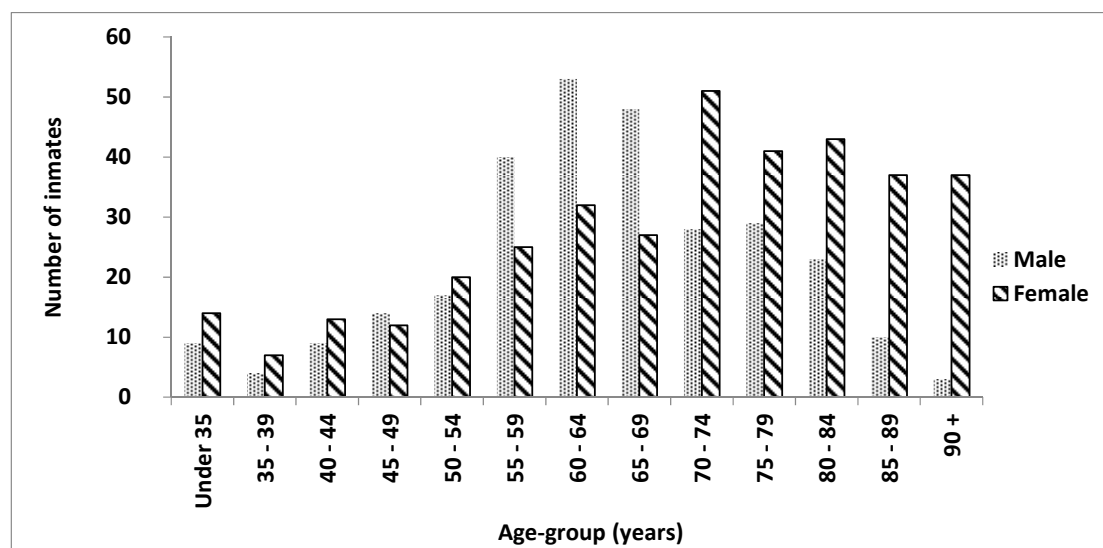
**Table 15 – Number of beneficiaries of selected benefits, 1999 and 2019**

Pension type	June 1999			June 2019		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Basic Retirement Pension	47,462	62,109	<b>109,571</b>	99,973	124,304	<b>224,277</b>
<i>of whom 90 years and above</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>1,150</i>	<i><b>1,510</b></i>	<i>1,164</i>	<i>3,178</i>	<i><b>4,342</b></i>
Basic Widow's Pension	Napp	21,153	<b>21,153</b>	Napp	18,830	<b>18,830</b>
Basic Invalid's Pension	9,472	9,388	<b>18,860</b>	16,985	14,950	<b>31,935</b>
Basic Orphan's Pension	370	347	<b>717</b>	146	162	<b>308</b>

Napp: Not Applicable

In 2019, some 55.6% of the 646 inmates living in infirmaries and orphanages registered at the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development (Social Security Division), were women. The women residents were older than men with 32.6% aged 80 years and over compared to 12.5% for men (Chart 17).

**Chart 17 – Number of Inmates in infirmaries and orphanages by age group and sex, 2019**



Women inmates were more likely than men to suffer from a disease or a disability (Table 16). Women inmates suffered mostly from other disabilities including multiple disabilities (30.2%) and from mental diseases (28.1%), whereas men inmates suffered mostly from mental diseases (38.4%) and other disabilities including multiple disabilities (15.6%).

**Table 16 – Distribution (%) of inmates in infirmaries and orphanages by disability, 2019**

Disability	Male (%)	Female (%)
Loss of sight	2.9	0.9
Partial paralysis	11.6	8.2
Mental diseases	38.4	28.1
Heart diseases	3.3	7.6
Rheumatism	2.5	2.7
Asthma	1.1	1.5
Diabetes	9.1	12.1
Other (including those suffering from multiple disabilities)	15.6	30.2
Inmates with no disabilities	15.6	8.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

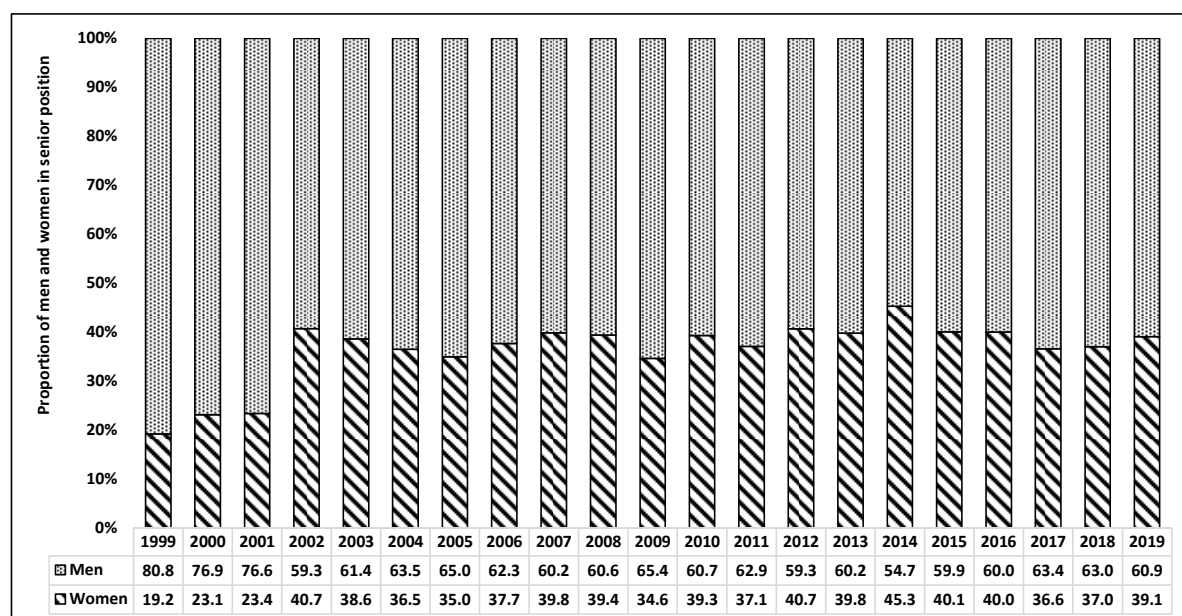
## 12. Women in decision making

Women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making position in Government cabinet. The share of women among cabinet ministers was 12.5% in 2019 (3 out of 24 Ministers).

Even though the proportion of women elected at Municipal Council elections has increased over the years, the number of female mayors remained low. In 2019, out of the five municipalities, only one has a female mayor.

There has been an increase in the proportion of women holding senior positions in government services from 19.2% in 1999 to 40.0% in 2016. However, in 2019 the proportion of women in the most senior positions was 39.1%.

**Chart 18 – Senior position<sup>1</sup> in Government Services, 1999– 2019**



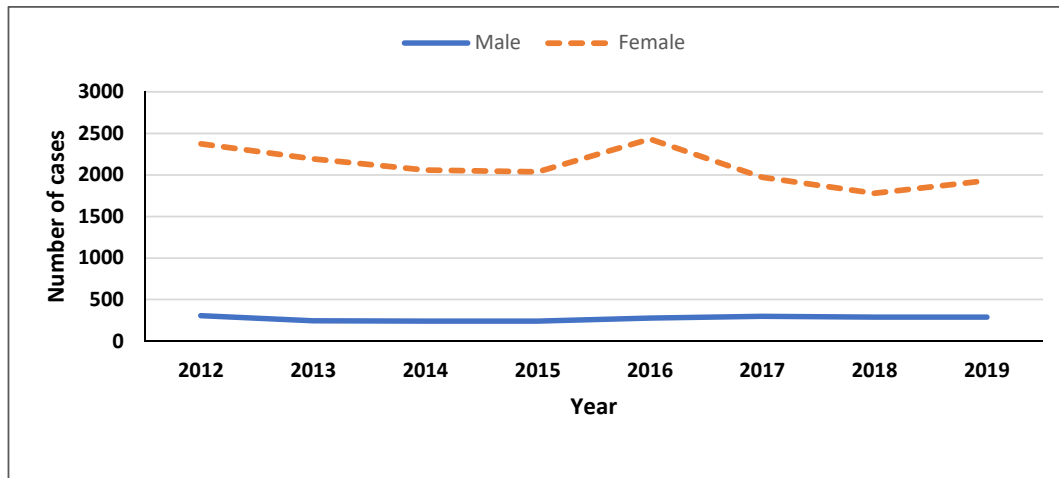
<sup>1</sup> Senior Chief Executive, Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Director, Manager, Judge and Magistrate

## 13. Domestic violence

Women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence. In 2019, there were 2,222 cases of domestic violence reported at the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, 1,710 were new cases out of which 85.9% were against women. The number of new cases of domestic violence against women increased from 1,292 in 2018 to 1,469 in 2019 and those against men increased from 235 to 241 (Chart 19).

It is to be noted that a victim of domestic violence can be subject to one or more types of violence and thus the number of cases of domestic violence tend to be higher than the number of victims.

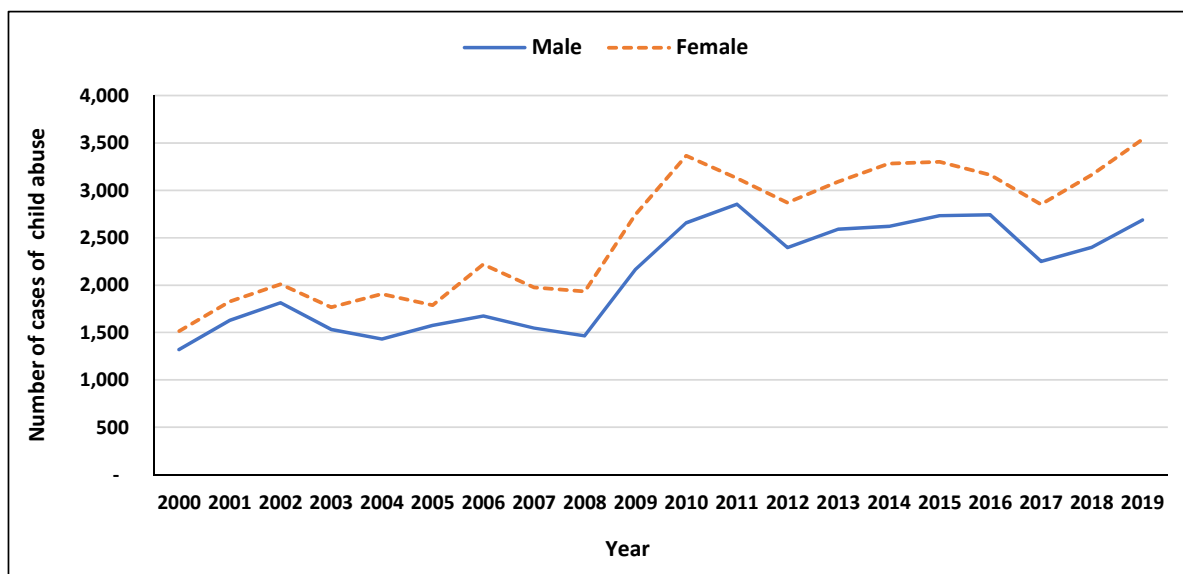
**Chart 19 – Number of cases (new and old) of domestic violence reported, 2012 – 2019**



Some 28.1% of women victims of domestic violence reported physical assault by spouse or partner, 30.7% verbal assault by spouse or partner (ill treatment, harassment, abuse, and humiliation), 10.5% threatening assault by spouse and nearly 5.4% has been subjected to physical assault by others living under the same roof. Reported cases by men related mostly to verbal assault by spouse or partner (26.6%), physical assault by spouse or partner (19.3%) and verbal assault by others living under the same roof (15.1%).

The total number of cases reported at the Child Development Unit is generally on the rise and reached 6,225 in 2019 compared to 5,565 in 2018 (Chart 20).

**Chart 20 – Number of cases reported at the Child Development Unit, 2000 – 2019**



Of the reported cases in 2019, some 56.8% of the victims were females (Table 17). The most common nature of abuse was psychological/emotional (24.6% for male and 22.6% for female) followed by neglect cases (22.6% male and 14.4% for female) and physical abuse (7.3% for male and 5.4% for female).

**Table 17 – Cases reported at Child Development Unit by nature of problem, 2019**

Nature of Problem	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
Abandonment	34	1.3	24	0.7
Physical abuse	196	7.3	190	5.4
Neglect cases	606	22.6	508	14.4
Worst forms of Labour	3	0.1	7	0.2
Sexual abuse	58	2.2	398	11.2
Psychological /Emotional abuse	660	24.6	800	22.6
Other problems	1,130	42.1	1,611	45.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,538</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 14. Offences

Men are more likely to be victims of homicides and assaults, while women are more prone to sexual violence and sexual exploitation. In 2019, some 53.8% of the assaults and 71.7% of the intentional homicides were committed against men. Some 92.6% of victims of sexual violence and sexual exploitation were women (Table 18).

**Table 18 –Victims<sup>1</sup> of selected offences<sup>2</sup> reported at the Police, Republic of Mauritius, 2019**

Offences	Male	Female	Both sexes
Homicides	82	23	105
<i>of which Intentional homicides</i>	33	13	46
Assaults	5475	4705	10,180
Sexual violence and sexual exploitation	51	634	685
<i>of which Rape</i>	0	43	43

<sup>1</sup>A person may be victim of one or more than one offence and/or an offence may involve one or more victims

<sup>2</sup>Based on latest Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) Version 1.0, developed by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Boys are much more likely to commit offences than girls. In 2019, only 7.4% of the juvenile offences were committed by girls. The female juvenile delinquency rate stood at 1.4, while that for male was 12.0 (Table 19).

**Table 19 – Number of Juvenile offenders<sup>1</sup> reported, Republic of Mauritius, 2019**

	Male	Female	Both sexes
Crimes	267	11	278
<i>of which drug offences</i>	24	2	26
Misdemeanours	411	66	477
<i>of which drug offences</i>	30	0	30
Contraventions <sup>2</sup>	348	5	353
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1,108</b>
Juvenile Delinquency Rate <sup>3</sup>	12.0	1.4	6.8

<sup>1</sup> Persons aged 12 to 17 years

<sup>2</sup> Exclude contraventions established by camera

<sup>3</sup> Rate per 1,000 mid-year juvenile population and exclude contraventions

## 15. Sports

During the period 2015 to 2019, participation in high level sports was consistently lower among female athletes than male athletes. In 2019, participation among female athletes was 32.1% against 67.9% among male athletes (Table 20).

**Table 20 – Participation of high level athletes in sports, 2016 – 2019**

	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male	63	63.6	69	67.0	93	66.0	89	67.9
Female	36	36.4	34	33.0	48	34.0	42	32.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The most common sporting disciplines in which women participated in 2019 were “athletics” (28.6%) followed by “handisports” (19.0%) and both “weight lifting” and swimming (11.9%). For men, the most common sporting disciplines were “athletics” (21.3%), “boxing” (14.6%) and “Handisports” (13.5%) (Table 21).



**Table 21 – Participation of high level athletes in sports, as at December 2019**

Sports discipline	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Athletics	19	21.3	12	28.6
Tennis	0	0.0	0	0.0
Badminton	6	6.7	2	4.8
Swimming	9	10.1	5	11.9
Table Tennis	2	2.2	3	7.1
Cycling	8	9.0	2	4.8
Boxing	13	14.6	0	0.0
Judo	5	5.6	4	9.5
Weight lifting	7	7.9	5	11.9
Triathlon	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fencing	1	1.1	0	0.0
Kick boxing	4	4.5	0	0.0
Handisports	12	13.5	8	19.0
Ju Jitsu	3	3.4	1	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 16. Global Gender Gap Indices

Since 2006, through the Global Gender Gap Report series, the World Economic Forum has been quantifying the magnitude of gender-based disparities and tracking their progress over time. By providing a comprehensive framework for benchmarking global gender gaps, the report identified countries that are role models in dividing their resources equitably between women and men, regardless of the overall resource level.

The Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) seeks to measure one important aspect of gender equality; their relative gaps between women and men across a large set of countries and across four key areas, namely: (a) economic participation and opportunity, (b) educational attainment, (c) health and survival and (d) political empowerment. The equality benchmark is considered to be one with no gap between men and women.

In 2019, Mauritius was ranked 115 out of 153 countries worldwide compared to 109 in 2018 (Table 22). Mauritius has closed both its education attainment, and health and survival gender gaps with indices nearing 1 (Table 23).

**Table 22 – Global Gender Gap Index by selected countries, 2017 – 2019**

Country	2017		2018		2019	
	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value
Iceland	1	0.878	1	0.858	1	0.877
Norway	2	0.830	2	0.835	2	0.842
France	11	0.778	12	0.779	15	0.781
United Kingdom	15	0.770	15	0.774	21	0.767
Canada	16	0.769	16	0.771	19	0.772
South Africa	19	0.756	19	0.755	17	0.780
Australia	35	0.731	39	0.730	44	0.731
United States	49	0.718	51	0.720	53	0.724
Singapore	65	0.702	67	0.707	54	0.724
Madagascar	80	0.692	84	0.691	62	0.719
Brazil	90	0.684	95	0.681	92	0.691
China	100	0.674	103	0.673	106	0.676
India	108	0.669	108	0.665	112	0.668
<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>0.664</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0.663</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>0.665</b>
Pakistan	143	0.546	148	0.550	151	0.564
Yemen	144	0.516	149	0.499	153	0.494

Source: The Global Gender Gap Report 2019, World Economic Forum

**Table 23 – Global Gender Gap Index for overall and four key areas, Republic of Mauritius, 2008 -2019**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Economic participation</b>	<b>Educational attainment</b>	<b>Health and survival</b>	<b>Political empowerment</b>
2008	0.647	0.527	0.988	0.980	0.091
2009	0.651	0.546	0.988	0.980	0.091
2010	0.652	0.549	0.988	0.980	0.091
2011	0.653	0.544	0.989	0.980	0.099
2012	0.655	0.554	0.990	0.980	0.095
2013	0.660	0.574	0.991	0.980	0.096
2014	0.654	0.551	0.990	0.980	0.097
2015	0.646	0.534	0.991	0.980	0.078
2016	0.652	0.550	0.991	0.980	0.087
2017	0.664	0.595	0.992	0.980	0.090
2018	0.663	0.585	0.991	0.980	0.097
2019	0.665	0.596	0.992	0.980	0.094

**Statistics Mauritius****Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development****Port Louis****July 2020**

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## Appendix: Glossary

**Activity rate:** The ratio (%) of the economically active population (employed and unemployed) to population aged 16 years and above.

**Age specific fertility rate:** the number of live births to women of a specified age-group per 1,000 women in that age-group.

**Assault:** Assault is defined as intentional or reckless application of physical force inflicted upon the body of a person.

**Athletics:** Athletics is a collection of sporting events that involve competitive running, jumping, throwing and walking, such as sprints (100 m, 200 m,...), relays (4×100 m, 4×400 m), running (800 m, 1500 m,...), long jump, triple jump, high jump, hammer throw, javelin throw, race walking, etc

**Contraventions:** Contraventions are defined as offences that are punishable by: (a) imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 days; (b) fine not exceeding 5,000 rupees.

**Contributing Family Worker:** A contributing family worker is a person who works without pay in an enterprise operated by a family worker.

**Crimes:** Offences that are punishable by: (a) penal servitude (b) fine exceeding 5,000 rupees.

**Crude death rate:** the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.

**Current User of contraceptive method:** A new acceptor who continues with the same or different method of contraception and pays regular return visits to the family planning service point to receive services and supplies.

**Divorce rate:** the number of persons divorced in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.

**Employee:** An employee is a person who works for pay for someone else, even in a temporary capacity.

**Employer:** An employer is a person who operates his/her own business or trade and hires one or more employees.

**Employment:** Employed population consists of Mauritians aged 16 years and above who have worked for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during reference week of a month. It includes those who are temporarily absent from work for reason such as leave with pay, leave without pay and temporary disorganisation of work (bad weather, breakdown of equipment, lack of order, etc).

**Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER):** Number of pupils enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population in the relevant age-group

- 4 - 5 years for pre-primary
- 6 – 11 years for primary
- 12 – 19 years for secondary

**Gender Parity Index (GPI):** Ratio of the GER for female to the GER for male. It measures the relative education participation of boys and girls. A GPI of 1 reflects equal enrolment rate for boys and girls, whereas a GPI greater than 1 shows disparity in favour of girls.

**HIV/AIDS:** AIDS (Acquired immune deficiency syndrome or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is a disease caused by a virus called HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus).

**Household income:** It comprises income from work (both paid and self-employment), transfer income (mainly government pensions, regular allowances from relatives and organisations), property income, and income from owned produced goods and it also includes imputed rent – a rental value for non-renting households.

**Intentional homicide:** Intentional homicide is defined as unlawful death inflicted upon a person with the intent to cause death.

**Juvenile:** a person aged below 18 years.

**Juvenile delinquency rate:** the number of juvenile offenders involved in offences (excluding contraventions) per 1,000 juvenile population.

**Life expectancy at birth:** the number of years a new born infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life.

**Marriage rate:** the number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.

**Maternal mortality rate:** number of deaths due to pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium per 10,000 live births during that year.

**Misdemeanours:** Offences that are punishable by:(a) imprisonment for a term exceeding 10 days; (b) fine exceeding 5,000 rupees.

**New acceptor of contraceptive methods:** Someone who accepts a contraceptive method for the first time from a provider of a family planning programme.

**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.

**Primary sector:** Primary Sector comprises activities related to ‘Agriculture, hunting, Forestry and fishing’ and ‘Mining’.

**Relative poverty line (RPL):** It is a threshold below which a household/ person is deemed poor and is set as the ‘half median monthly household income per adult equivalent’.

**Secondary sector:** Secondary Sector comprises activities related to ‘Manufacturing, ‘Electricity, gas and water supply’ and ‘Construction’.

**Sex Ratio:** The sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females.

**Sexual violence:** Sexual violence is defined as unwanted sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or contact or communication with unwanted sexual attention without valid consent or with consent as a result of intimidation, force, fraud, coercion, threat, deception, use of drugs or alcohol, or abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability.

**Sexual exploitation:** Sexual exploitation is defined as acts of abuse of a position of vulnerability, power or trust, or use of force or threat of force, for profiting financially, physically, socially or politically from the prostitution or sexual acts of a person.

**Total fertility rate:** 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.

**Unemployment Rate:** Unemployment rate is the ratio (%) of unemployment to economically active population (employed and unemployed).

**Unemployment:** Unemployed population comprises all Mauritians aged 16 years and over who are not working but who are looking for work and are available for work during the reference week.