

# POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

## REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, YEAR 2020

### 1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents population estimates as at December 2020 and vital statistics, including rates, for the year 2020.

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

Definitions of terms used are given at **Annex**.

### 2. Key points

- The population of the Republic of Mauritius was estimated at 1,266,030 as at 31 December 2020, with a net increase of 555 from previous year's figure.
- As at end 2020, the female population was higher than the male population by 13,718.
- The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 17.5% as at mid-2019 to 17.0%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years remained at 71.0 % in 2020, same as in 2019 while for those aged 65 years and above, the proportion increased from 11.5% to 12.0% for 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 408.5 for 2019 and 409.0 for 2020.
- The number of live births registered during year 2020 was 13,465, representing an increase of 4.7 % over the figure for 2019.
- The number of deaths registered in 2020 was 11,060, that is, 1.0% lower than in 2019.
- The number of infant deaths increased by 7.0%, from 187 in 2019 to 200 in 2020.
- The number of still births rose by 1.4%, from 139 in 2019 to 141 in 2020.
- The number of marriages registered in 2020 was 6,929, that is, a high decrease of 28.6% than in 2019, due to very few marriages being celebrated during COVID-19 lockdown.
- Since the late nineties, females outnumber males in the population.
- The slight increase in the population for 2020 is mainly due to the increase in live births registered and less deaths.
- The dependency ratio is slowly rising as a result of increasing old age dependency.
- 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 2020**

<b>Island</b>	<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Sex ratio</b>	<b>Density per km<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Island of Mauritius</b>	<b>1,221,759</b>	<b>604,449</b>	<b>617,310</b>	97.9	654
<b>Island of Rodrigues</b>	<b>43,997</b>	<b>21,533</b>	<b>22,464</b>	95.9	400
<b>Agalega and St. Brandon</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100</b>	174.0	10
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>1,266,030</b>	<b>626,156</b>	<b>639,874</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>631</b>

The estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius was 1,266,030 as at 31 December 2020. The female population was 639,874, compared to a male population of 626,156. There were 97.9 males for every 100 females.

The population was estimated at 1,221,759 and 43,997 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 631 persons per km<sup>2</sup> as at end 2020. Among its constituent islands, the Island of Mauritius had the highest density (654), compared to 400 for the Island of Rodrigues.

### 4. Population growth

**Table 4.1 - Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2020**

<b>Island</b>	<b>Population</b>		<b>Change</b>	
	<b>31 December 2019</b>	<b>31 December 2020</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Island of Mauritius</b>	1,221,663	1,221,759	96	0.01
<b>Island of Rodrigues</b>	43,538	43,997	459	1.05
<b>Agalega and St. Brandon</b>	274	274	0	0.00
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>1,265,475</b>	<b>1,266,030</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>0.04</b>

The population of the Republic of Mauritius increased by 555 from 31 December 2019 to 31 December 2020, resulting in a growth rate of 0.04%.

**Table 4.2 - Components of population growth, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 2019 and 2020**

Components of population growth	2019	2020
<b>Resident population as at beginning of year</b>	<u>1,265,363</u>	<u>1,265,201</u>
Live Births	12,862	13,465
Deaths	11,174	11,060
Natural increase	<u>1,688</u>	<u>2,405</u>
Net international migration	-1,850	-1,850
<b>Resident population as at end of year</b>	<b>1,265,201</b>	<b>1,265,756</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 2020, the natural increase was 2,405, with births adding 13,465 babies and deaths removing 11,060 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<sup>1</sup> by broad age group and sex - Republic of Mauritius<sup>2</sup>, 1 July 2019 and 1 July 2020**

Age group (Years)	1 July 2019			1 July 2020		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
0	6,605	6,365	<b>12,970</b>	6,455	6,405	<b>12,860</b>
1 - 4	26,359	25,160	<b>51,519</b>	26,328	25,137	<b>51,465</b>
5 - 9	36,111	35,125	<b>71,236</b>	35,122	34,005	<b>69,127</b>
10 - 14	43,349	42,074	<b>85,423</b>	41,550	40,378	<b>81,928</b>
15 - 19	49,436	47,808	<b>97,244</b>	48,736	47,337	<b>96,073</b>
20 - 29	97,895	95,683	<b>193,578</b>	98,128	95,656	<b>193,784</b>
30 - 39	90,796	88,601	<b>179,397</b>	89,058	86,673	<b>175,731</b>
40 - 49	88,736	86,268	<b>175,004</b>	89,994	87,663	<b>177,657</b>
50 - 59	88,501	90,389	<b>178,890</b>	88,356	89,982	<b>178,338</b>
60-64	35,777	38,717	<b>74,494</b>	36,863	39,893	<b>76,756</b>
65+	62,602	83,354	<b>145,956</b>	65,438	86,583	<b>152,021</b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>626,167</b>	<b>639,544</b>	<b>1,265,711</b>	<b>626,028</b>	<b>639,712</b>	<b>1,265,740</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 17.5% as at mid-2019 to 17.0%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years remained at 71.0% in 2020, same as in 2019. As for the population aged 65 years and above, the proportion moved from 11.5% to reach 12.0% in 2020.

## 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<sup>1</sup>, 2019 and 2020<sup>2</sup>**

Island	Number of live births registered		Crude birth rate	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Island of Mauritius	12,056	12,554	9.9	10.3
Island of Rodrigues	806	911	19.1 <sup>3</sup>	20.8
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>12,862</b>	<b>13,465</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.6</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Provisional

<sup>3</sup> Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2019 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2018, 2019 and 2020) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

For the year 2020, there were 13,465 live births registered in the Republic of Mauritius, representing an increase of 4.7% over the 2019 figure of 12,862. The crude birth rate, i.e., the number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, increased from 10.2 in 2019 to 10.6 in 2020.

For the Island of Mauritius, the number of live births registered increased from 12,056 in 2019 to 12,554 in 2020 and consequently bringing a rise in the crude birth rate from 9.9 to 10.3. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of live births increased from 806 in 2019 to 911 in 2020, resulting in an increase in the crude birth rate from 19.1 to 20.8.

### 6.2 Deaths and crude death rate

**Table 6.2 - Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 2019 and 2020<sup>2</sup>**

Island	Number of deaths registered		Crude death rate	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Island of Mauritius	10,911	10,768	8.9	8.8
Island of Rodrigues	263	292	6.3 <sup>3</sup>	6.7
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>11,174</b>	<b>11,060</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>8.7</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Provisional

<sup>3</sup> Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2019 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2018, 2019 and 2020) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The number of deaths registered in the Republic of Mauritius in 2020 was 11,060, representing a decrease of 1.0% over the figure of 11,174 for 2019. The crude death rate, i.e., the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population was 8.7 in 2020, compared to 8.8 in 2019.

The Island of Mauritius registered a decrease in the number of deaths from 10,911 in 2019 to 10,768 in 2020, resulting in a fall in the crude death rate from 8.9 to 8.8. On the other hand, the number of deaths in the Island of Rodrigues increased from 263 to 292, with a rate of 6.3 for 2019 and 6.7 for 2020.

### 6.3 Infant deaths and Infant mortality rate

**Table 6.3 - Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 2019 and 2020<sup>2</sup>**

Island	Number of infant deaths registered		Infant mortality rate	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Island of Mauritius	173	184	14.3	14.7
Island of Rodrigues	14	16	17.3 <sup>3</sup>	17.6
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.9</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Provisional

<sup>3</sup> Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2019 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2018, 2019 and 2020) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

For the year 2020, some 200 infant deaths (deaths to children aged under one year) were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 187 in 2019, representing a rise of 7.0%. The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, increased from 14.5 in 2019 to 14.9 in 2020.

The number of infant deaths in the Island of Mauritius increased from 173 in 2019 to 184 in 2020, resulting in a rise in infant mortality rate from 14.3 to 14.7. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of infant deaths increased from 14 to 16, with an infant mortality rate increasing from 17.3 in 2019 to 17.6 in 2020.

## 6.4 Still births and still birth rate

**Table 6.4 - Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 2019 and 2020<sup>2</sup>**

Island	Number of still births registered		Still birth rate	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Island of Mauritius	131	132	10.7	10.4
Island of Rodrigues	8	9	9.6 <sup>3</sup>	9.8
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>10.4</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Provisional

<sup>3</sup> Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2019 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2018, 2019 and 2020) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

In 2020, some 141 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, which is 1.4% higher than the 2019 figure of 139. The still birth rate which is the number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births was 10.7 for 2019 and 10.4 for 2020.

The Island of Mauritius registered 131 still births in 2019 against 132 in 2020, with the still birth rate decreasing from 10.7 to 10.4 during the same period. For the Island of Rodrigues, there were 8 still births registered in 2019 and 9 in 2020, and the still birth rate increased from 9.6 to 9.8 during the same period.

## 6.5 Marriages and crude marriage rate

**Table 6.5 - Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 2019 and 2020<sup>2</sup>**

Island	Number of marriages registered		Marriage rate	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Island of Mauritius	9,501	6,735	15.5	11.0
Island of Rodrigues	208	194	9.3 <sup>3</sup>	8.9
<b>Republic of Mauritius</b>	<b>9,709</b>	<b>6,929</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>10.9</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Provisional

<sup>3</sup> Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2019 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2018, 2019 and 2020) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

Due the COVID-19 lockdown last year, there was a drastic fall in the number of marriages registered in the Republic of Mauritius from 9,709 in 2019 to 6,929 in 2020. The crude marriage rate, i.e., the number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, declined from 15.3 to 10.9 for the same period.

For the Island of Mauritius, the number of marriages decreased from 9,501 in 2019 to 6,735 in 2020, resulting in a fall in the marriage rate from 15.5 to 11.0. The Island of Rodrigues also registered a decrease in the number of marriages from 208 in 2019 to 194 in 2020, consequently decreasing the marriage rate from 9.3 to 8.9.

## 7. International Comparison

Population and demographic estimates for many countries of the world are published in the United Nations Demographic Yearbook. From 2010 to 2019, the average annual rate of change in the population of the world was estimated at 1.1% with a rate of only 0.1% for the Republic of Mauritius. All other countries shown in Table 7.1 had a positive change in their population namely South Africa (1.5%), India (1.2%), Singapore (1.3%), United Kingdom (0.7%) and Australia (1.6%) with the exception of Japan (-0.2%).

**Table 7.1 – Demographic indicators for selected countries, 2019**

	Mid year Estimates (in thousands)	Average annual rate of population change (2010-2019)	Population Density (km <sup>2</sup> )	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
<b>World</b>	<b>7,713,500</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	n/a
<b>Mauritius</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>14.5</b>
Seychelles	98	0.9	214	16.4	8.1	n/a
South Africa	58,775	1.5	48	n/a	n/a	n/a
Canada <sup>1</sup>	37,589	1.1	4	<i>10.0</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>4.7</i>
China	1,397,715	0.5	146	10.5	7.1	n/a
India <sup>1</sup>	1,312,240	1.2	399	<i>20.0</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>32.0</i>
Japan	126,265	-0.2	334	6.9	10.9	n/a
Singapore	5,704	1.3	7,867	9.8	5.3	1.9
Germany	83,019	0.2	232	9.4	11.3	n/a
United Kingdom	66,797	0.7	275	10.7	9.0	n/a
Australia <sup>1</sup>	25,366	1.6	3	<i>12.6</i>	<i>6.3</i>	<i>3.1</i>

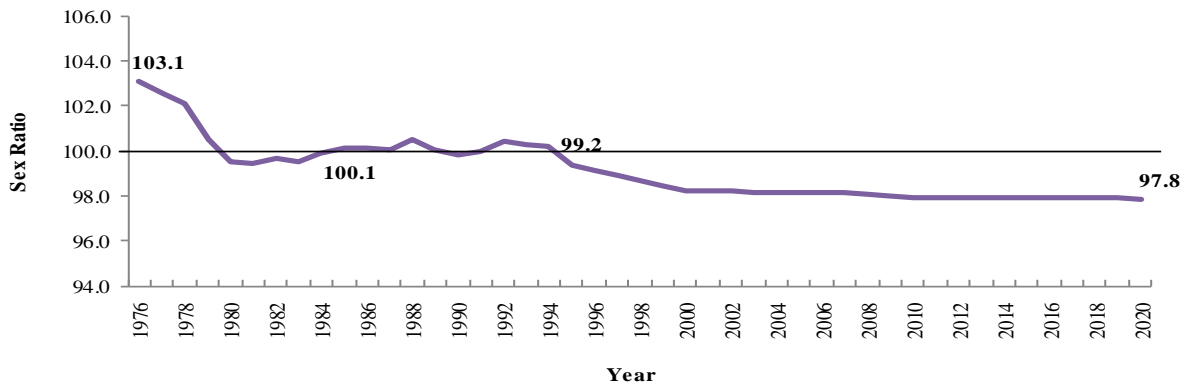
Source: UN Demographic Yearbook, 2019 (except for the Republic of Mauritius)

<sup>1</sup> Figures in italics refer to the year 2018.

## 8. Demographic trends

### 8.1 Sex ratio

Figure 8.1.1 – Sex ratio of resident population, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 1976 – 2020

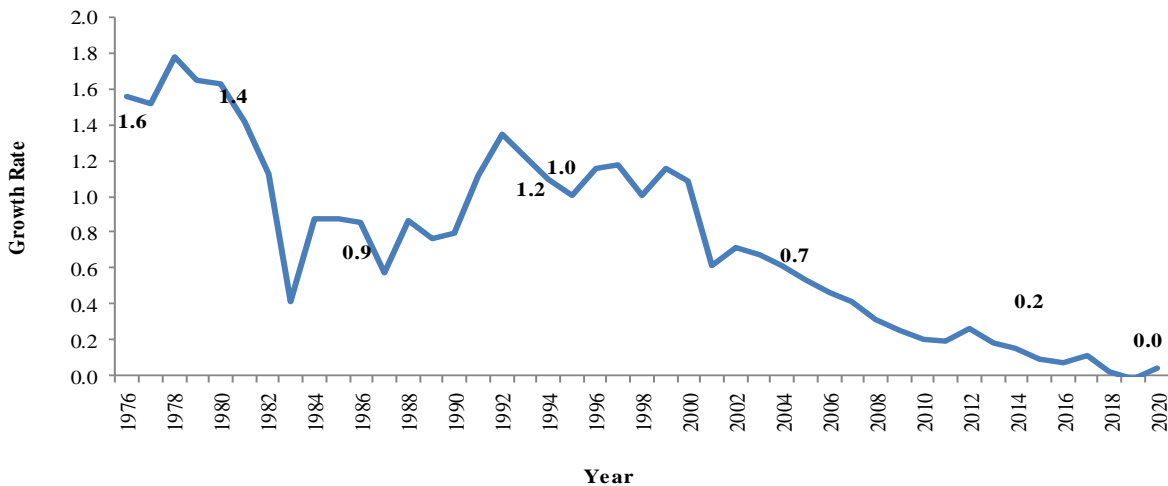


<sup>1</sup> excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Figure 8.1.1 depicts the evolution of sex ratio (i.e. the number of males per 100 females) for the past forty-four years. Before the eighties, males outnumbered females in the population (e.g. 103.1 males per 100 females in 1976) and as from the nineties, the reverse trend was noted whereby females outnumbered males in the population (e.g. 97.8 males per 100 females in 2020). This shift was mainly due to ageing given that females live longer than males.

### 8.2 Population growth rate

Figure 8.2.1 – Growth rate of resident population, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 1976 – 2020



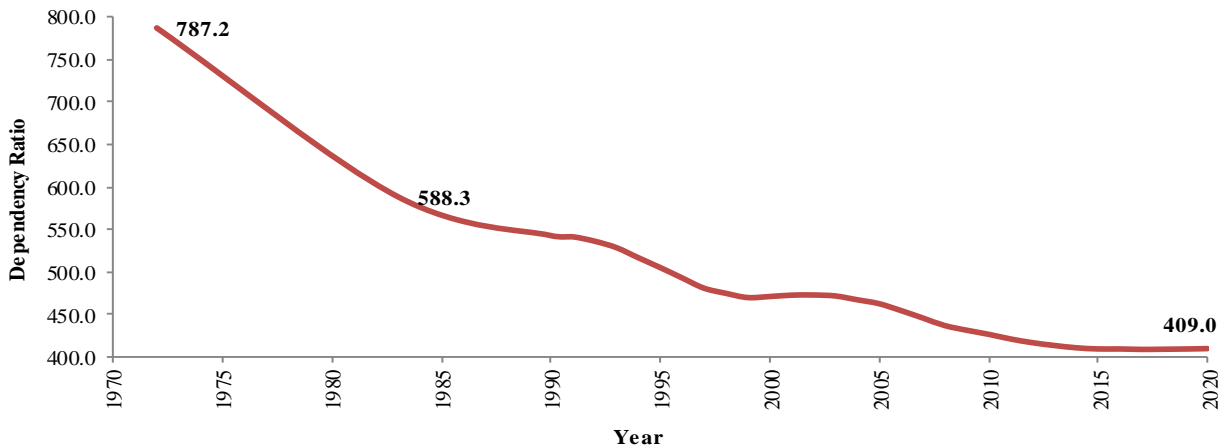
<sup>1</sup> excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Figure 8.2.1 shows the evolution of the growth rate of resident population from 1976 to 2020. The population growth rate reached its peak in the late seventies and then declined in the eighties. There was a catch up in the nineties after which it continued to drop. The declining fertility rate together with a drop in number of live births and an increase in number of deaths, caused the population growth rate to decline, attaining zero growth rate in 2020.



### 8.3 Dependency Ratio

**Figure 8.3.1 - Dependency Ratio, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 1972 - 2020**



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

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.

There has been a general decrease in the dependency ratio from 787.2 in 1972 to 409.0 in 2020 (Figure 8.3.1). The fall in dependency ratio observed is mainly the result of a decline in child population over the years.

### 8.4 Population age structure

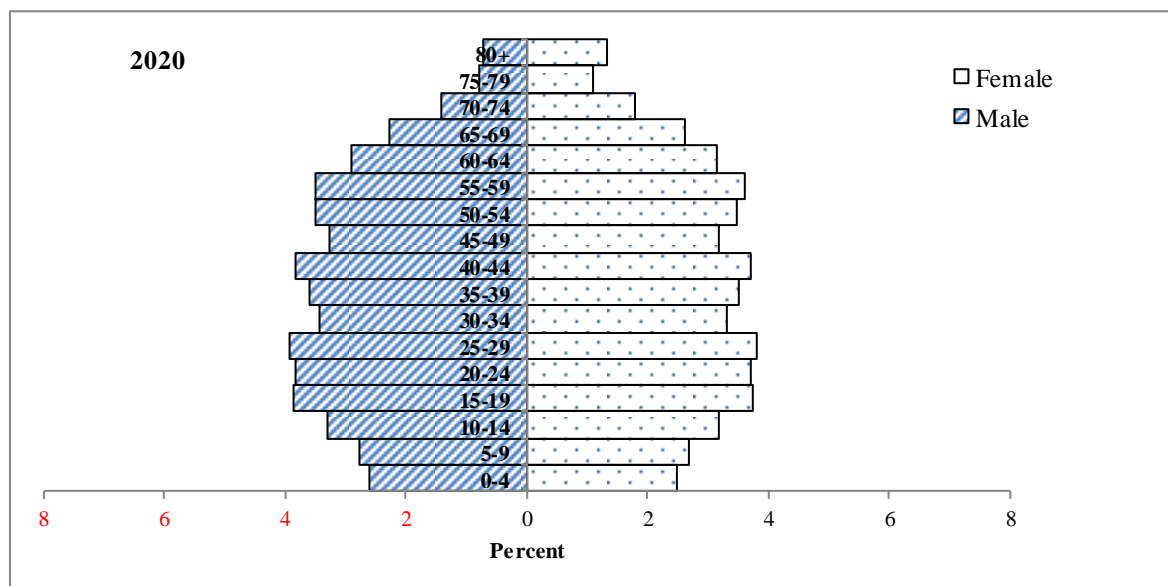
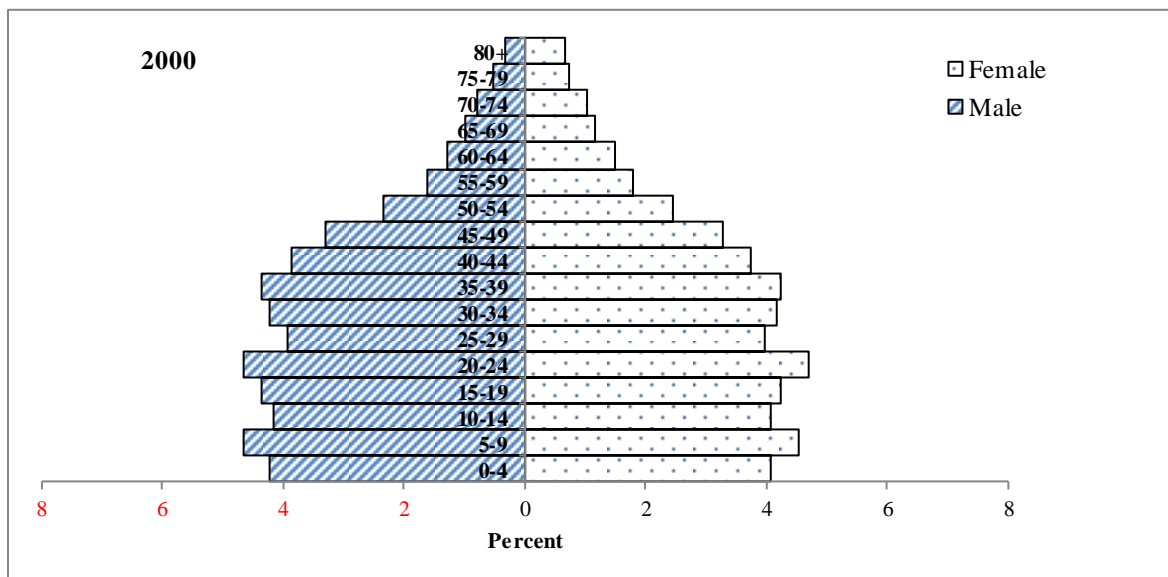
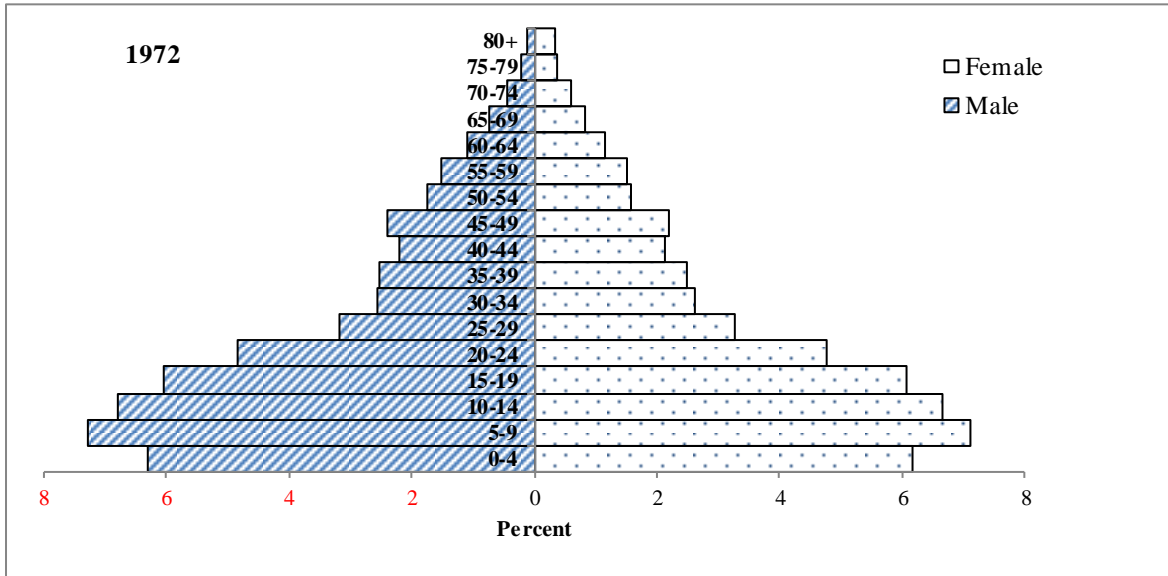
The structure of the pyramids in Figure 8.4.1 are determined by the patterns of births, deaths and migration which took place prior to the reference period of the pyramid. The pyramids compare the age structure of the population between 1972, 2000 and 2020 and show some important trends in the demographics 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 pyramid for 1972 shows a typical young population with a wide base indicating a high birth rate, and a narrow top showing a relatively small proportion in the oldest ages. For 2000 and 2020, there is a 'fill up' of the pyramids above the base mainly due to the progression of the birth cohorts of the high fertility periods up the pyramid. The upper body of the 2020 pyramid is thicker than the one of 2000 due to improved life expectancy: the people alive today are expected to live longer than previous generations. Women tend to live longer than men as can be seen from the population above 60 years in all the pyramids.

Figure 8.4.1 - Population pyramids, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 1972, 2000 & 2020



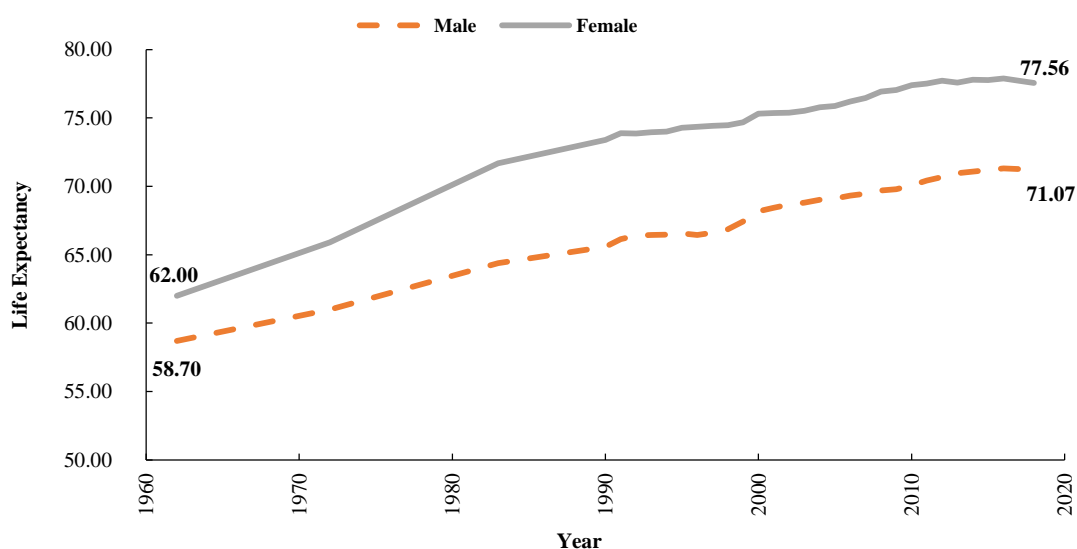
<sup>1</sup> excluding Agalega and St Brandon

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

Life expectancy at birth is defined as the average number of years that a newborn could be expected 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 2018 is expected to reach age 78, however a woman who was already 60 years old in 2018 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 prevailing in the country. 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, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 1962 - 2018**



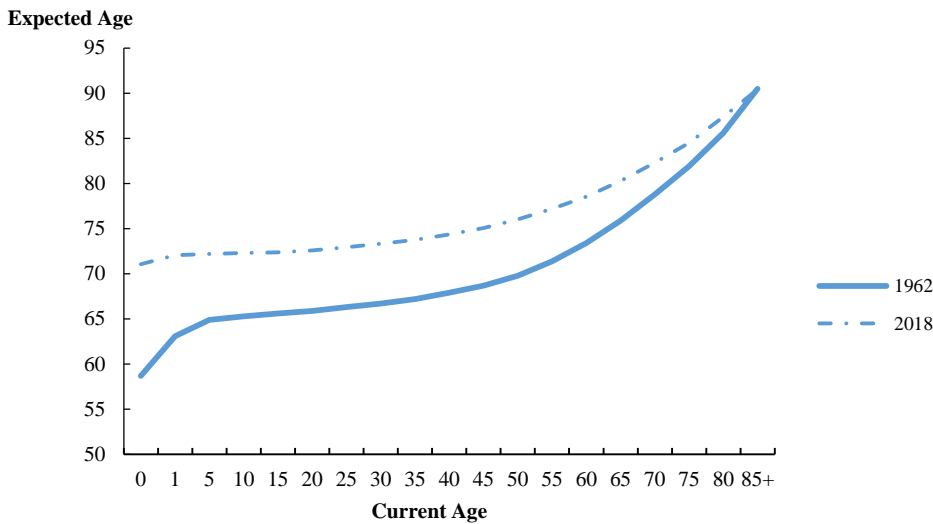
<sup>1</sup> excluding Agalega and St Brandon

A new born boy was expected to live to 59 years in 1962, compared to 71 years in 2018, whereas a baby girl was expected to live 62 years in 1962 and 78 years in 2018 (Figure 9.1).

### 9.1 Historically infant deaths were a major factor in life expectancies

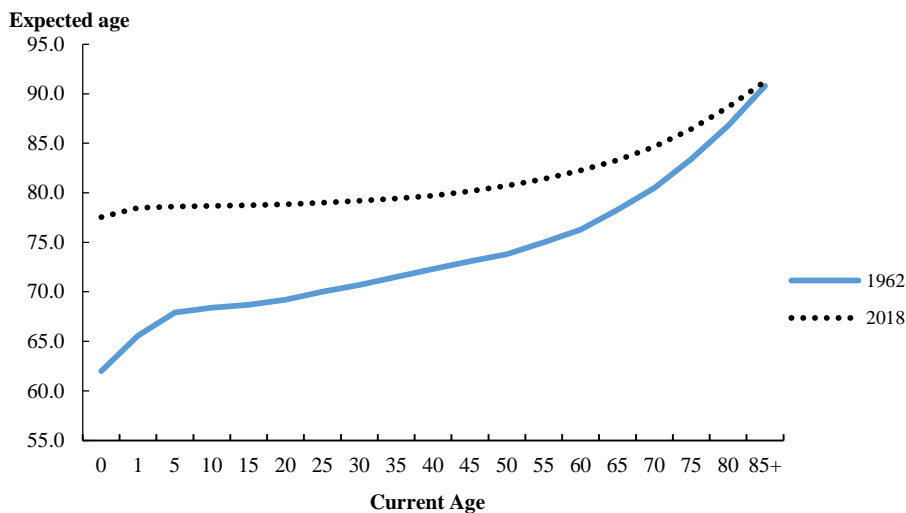
Low life expectancies prevailing in countries may be attributed to higher infant mortality rate. Surviving the first year of life was historically a predominant factor in determining life expectancies and once a child had reached five years of age, he or she was much more likely to reach an older age. While 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 and 9.3 highlight the increase in life expectancy at birth by sex since 1962.

**Figure 9.2 – Male life expectancy by age, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 1962 - 2018**



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

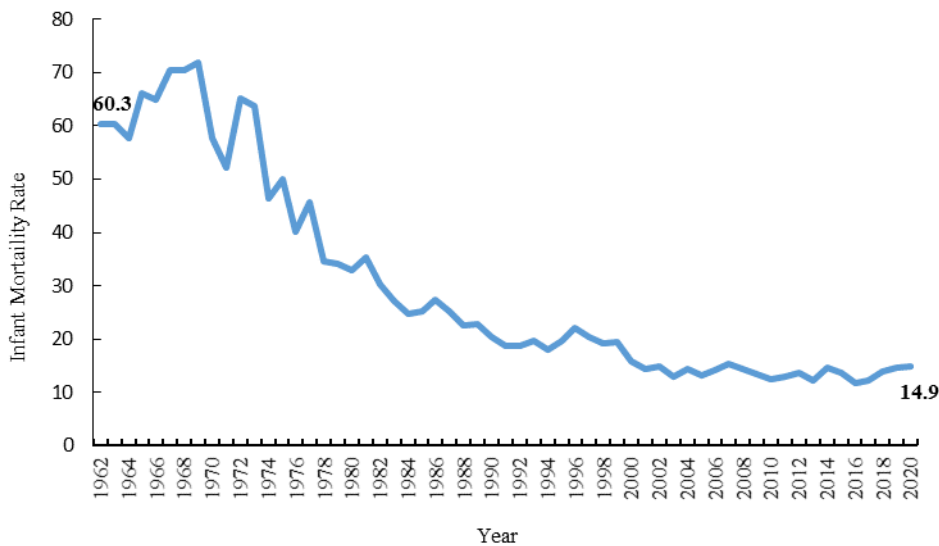
**Figure 9.3 – Female life expectancy by age, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 1962 - 2018**



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

In 1972, 6.5% of babies died in the Republic of Mauritius before their first birthday compared to 1.5% in 2020, showing the vast improvements made in reducing child mortality. Following the opening of Neonatal Intensive Care Service at Victoria Hospital in May 1999 and subsequently in other regional hospitals, the Infant Mortality Rate drastically fell from 19.5 in 1999 to 14.9 in 2020. The lowest IMR (11.8) was recorded in 2016 (Figure 9.4).

**Figure 9.4 – Infant Mortality Rate, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 1962 - 2020**

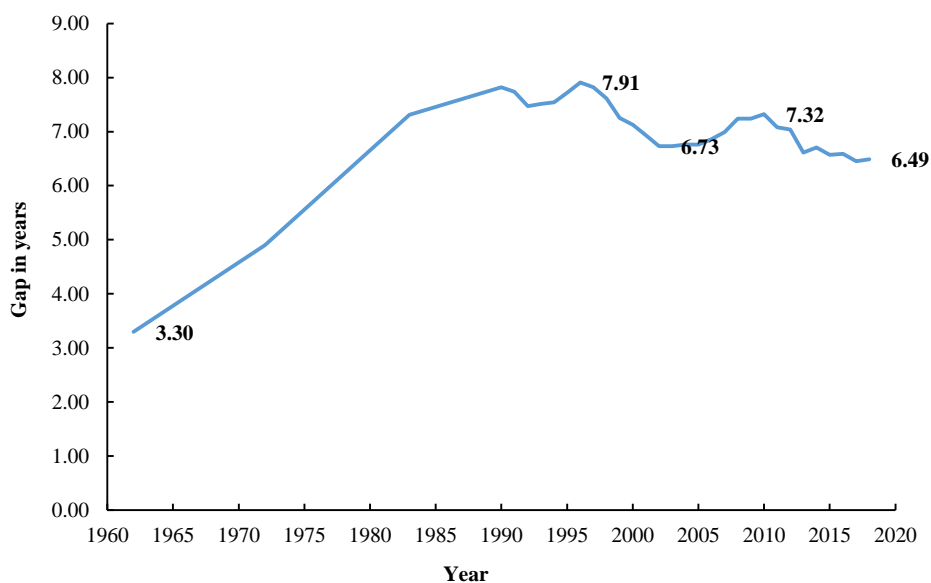


<sup>1</sup> excluding Agalega and St Brandon

## 9.2 Life expectancy gap between male and female

Female life expectancy at birth was 6.49 years higher than for men in 2018, compared to 3.3 years in 1962 in the Republic of Mauritius. The smaller gap in the 1960's may be due to high mortality rate prevailing at that time. Over time, the gap has widened reaching a peak of 7.91 years in 1996, after which it fell down to 6.73 in 2003 and 6.49 in 2018. A slight increase to 7.32 was noted in 2010.

**Figure 9.5 – Difference in male and female life expectancy at birth, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 1962 – 2018**

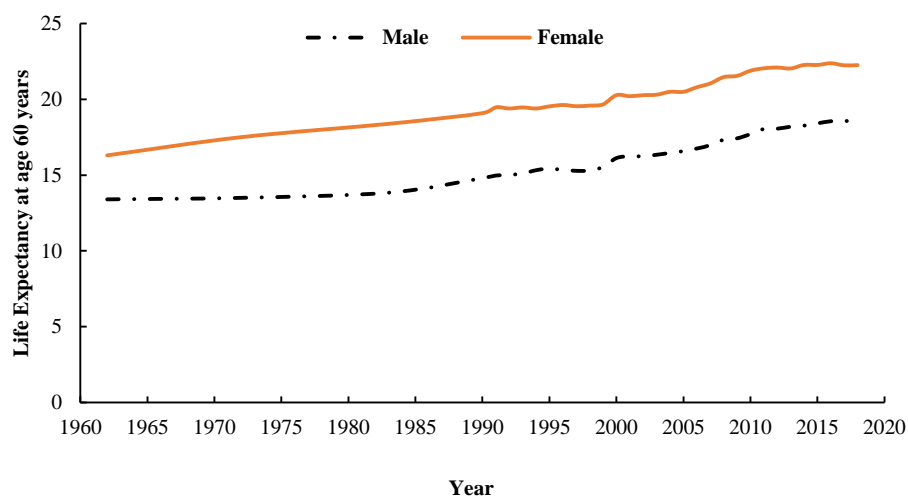


<sup>1</sup> excluding Agalega and St Brandon

### 9.3 Increase in Life expectancy at older age

The life expectancy of a woman aged 60 in 1962 was 16.3 years and reached 22.2 in 2018. For men of the same age it was 13.4 years in 1962 and 18.6 in 2018. The increased life expectancies are also contributing towards ageing.

**Figure 9.6 – Life Expectancy at age 60, Republic of Mauritius<sup>1</sup>, 1962 – 2018**



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

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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 2020 are however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.