

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, YEAR 2021

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents population estimates as at December 2021 and vital statistics, including rates, for the year 2021.

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 1,263,888 as at 31 December 2021, with a net decrease of 2,142 from previous year's figure.
- As at end 2021, the female population was higher than the male population by 14,248.
- The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 17.0% as at mid-2020 to 16.6%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years declined from 71.0 % in 2020 to 70.8% in 2021 while for those aged 65 years and above, the proportion increased from 12.0% to 12.6% 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 409.0 for 2020 and 413.0 for 2021.
- The number of live births registered during year 2021 was 12,982, representing a decrease of 3.6 % over the figure for 2020.
- The number of deaths registered in 2021 was 13,274, that is, 20.0% higher than in 2020.
- The number of infant deaths decreased by 10.5%, from 200 in 2020 to 179 in 2021.
- The number of still births declined by 7.1%, from 141 in 2020 to 131 in 2021.
- The number of marriages registered in 2021 was 8,186, that is, 18.1% higher than in 2020.
- Since the late nineties, females outnumber males in the population.
- 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 2021

Island	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Density per km²
Island of Mauritius	1,219,187	602,917	616,270	97.8	653
Island of Rodrigues	44,427	21,729	22,698	95.7	404
Agalega and St. Brandon	274	174	100	174.0	10
Republic of Mauritius	1,263,888	624,820	639,068	97.8	630

The estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius was 1,263,888 as at 31 December 2021. The female population was 639,068, compared to a male population of 624,820. There were 97.8 males for every 100 females.

The population was estimated at 1,219,187 and 44,427 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 2021. Among its constituent islands, the Island of Mauritius had the highest density (653), compared to 404 for the Island of Rodrigues.

4. Population growth

Table 4.1 - Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2021

Island	Population		Change	
	31 December 2020	31 December 2021	Number	%
Island of Mauritius	1,221,759	1,219,187	-2,572	-0.21
Island of Rodrigues	43,997	44,427	430	0.98
Agalega and St. Brandon	274	274	-	-
Republic of Mauritius	1,266,030	1,263,888	-2,142	-0.17

The population of the Republic of Mauritius decreased by 2,142 from 31 December 2020 to 31 December 2021, representing a decrease of 0.17%.

Table 4.2 - Components of population growth, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2020 and 2021

Components of population growth	2020	2021
Resident population as at beginning of year	<u>1,265,201</u>	<u>1,265,756</u>
Live Births	13,465	12,982
Deaths	11,060	13,274
Natural increase	<u>2,405</u>	<u>-292</u>
Net international migration	-1,850	-1,850
Resident population as at end of year	1,265,756	1,263,614

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 2021, there was a natural increase of -292 persons, with births adding 12,982 babies and deaths removing 13,274 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 population¹ by broad age group and sex – Republic of Mauritius², 1 July 2020 and 1 July 2021

Age group (Years)	1 July 2020			1 July 2021		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
0	6,455	6,405	12,860	6,761	6,354	13,115
1 - 4	26,328	25,137	51,465	26,282	25,363	51,645
5 - 9	35,122	34,005	69,127	34,331	33,057	67,388
10 - 14	41,550	40,378	81,928	39,626	38,789	78,415
15 - 19	48,736	47,337	96,073	47,743	46,238	93,981
20 - 29	98,128	95,656	193,784	98,073	95,669	193,742
30 - 39	89,058	86,673	175,731	88,288	85,669	173,957
40 - 49	89,994	87,663	177,657	91,384	88,952	180,336
50 - 59	88,356	89,982	178,338	87,316	88,970	176,286
60-64	36,863	39,893	76,756	37,344	40,346	77,690
65+	65,438	86,583	152,021	68,855	90,650	159,505
All ages	626,028	639,712	1,265,740	626,003	640,057	1,266,060

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 17.0% as at mid-2020 to 16.6%, one year later. The proportion aged 15-64 years decreased to 70.8% in 2021 from 71.0 in 2020. As for the

population aged 65 years and above, the proportion moved from 12.0% to reach 12.6% in 2021. 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 409.0 for 2020 and 413.0 for 2021.

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 Mauritius¹, 2020 and 2021²

Island	Number of live births registered		Crude birth rate	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Island of Mauritius	12,554	12,108	10.3	9.9
Island of Rodrigues	911	874	19.7 ³	19.8
Republic of Mauritius	13,465	12,982	10.6	10.3

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

² Provisional

³ Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2020 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2019, 2020 and 2021) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

For the year 2021, there were 12,982 live births registered in the Republic of Mauritius, representing a decrease of 3.6% over the 2020 figure of 13,465. The crude birth rate, i.e., the number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, decreased from 10.6 in 2020 to 10.3 in 2021.

For the Island of Mauritius, the number of live births registered decreased from 12,554 in 2020 to 12,108 in 2021, consequently bringing a fall in the crude birth rate from 10.3 to 9.9. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of live births decreased from 911 in 2020 to 874 in 2021, with the crude birth rate increasing from 19.7 to 19.8 during the same period.

6.2 Deaths and crude death rate

Table 6.2 - Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2020 and 2021²

Island	Number of deaths registered		Crude death rate	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Island of Mauritius	10,768	12,990	8.8	10.6
Island of Rodrigues	292	284	6.4 ³	6.4
Republic of Mauritius	11,060	13,274	8.7	10.5

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

² Provisional

³ Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2020 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2019, 2020 and 2021) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The number of deaths registered in the Republic of Mauritius in 2021 was 13,274, representing an increase of 20.0% over the figure of 11,060 for 2020. The crude death rate, i.e., the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population was 10.5 in 2021, compared to 8.7 in 2020.

The Island of Mauritius registered an increase in the number of deaths from 10,768 in 2020 to 12,990 in 2021, resulting in a rise in the crude death rate from 8.8 to 10.6. On the other hand, the number of deaths in the Island of Rodrigues decreased from 292 to 284, with a rate of 6.4 for both years.

6.3 Infant deaths and Infant mortality rate

Table 6.3 - Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2020 and 2021²

Island	Number of infant deaths registered		Infant mortality rate	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Island of Mauritius	184	165	14.7	13.6
Island of Rodrigues	16	14	17.0 ³	16.0
Republic of Mauritius	200	179	14.9	13.8

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

² Provisional

³ Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2020 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2019, 2020 and 2021) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

For the year 2021, some 179 infant deaths (deaths to children aged under one year) were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 200 in 2020, representing a decline of 10.5%. The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, decreased from 14.9 in 2020 to 13.8 in 2021.

The number of infant deaths in the Island of Mauritius decreased from 184 in 2020 to 165 in 2021, resulting in a fall in infant mortality rate from 14.7 to 13.6. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of infant deaths decreased from 16 to 14, with the infant mortality rate decreasing from 17.0 in 2020 to 16.0 in 2021.

6.4 Still births and still birth rate

Table 6.4 - Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2020 and 2021²

Island	Number of still births registered		Still birth rate	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Island of Mauritius	132	121	10.4	9.9
Island of Rodrigues	9	10	10.3 ³	11.3
Republic of Mauritius	141	131	10.4	10.0

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

² Provisional

³ Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2020 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2019, 2020 and 2021) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

In 2021, some 131 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, which is 7.1% lower than the 2020 figure of 141. The still birth rate which is the number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births was 10.0 for 2021, compared to 10.4 in 2020.

The Island of Mauritius registered 121 still births in 2021 against 132 in 2020, with the still birth rate decreasing from 10.4 in 2020 to 9.9 in 2021. For the Island of Rodrigues, there were 9 still births registered in 2020 and 10 in 2021, and the still birth rate increased from 10.3 to 11.3 during the same period.

6.5 Marriages and crude marriage rate

Table 6.5 - Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2020 and 2021²

Island	Number of marriages registered		Marriage rate	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Island of Mauritius	6,735	8,011	11.0	13.1
Island of Rodrigues	194	175	8.8 ³	7.9
Republic of Mauritius	6,929	8,186	10.9	12.9

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

² Provisional

³ Because of the small number of events, the rate for 2020 has been calculated by taking an average of events for three years (2019, 2020 and 2021) in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The number of marriages registered in the Republic of Mauritius increased by 18.1%, from 6,929 in 2020 to 8,186 in 2021. The crude marriage rate, i.e., the number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, rose from 10.9 to 12.9 for the same period.

For the Island of Mauritius, the number of marriages increased from 6,735 in 2020 to 8,011 in 2021, resulting in a rise in the marriage rate from 11.0 to 13.1. The Island of Rodrigues registered a decrease in the number of marriages from 194 in 2020 to 175 in 2021, consequently decreasing the marriage rate from 8.8 to 7.9.

7. International Comparison

Population and demographic estimates for many countries of the world are published in the United Nations Demographic Yearbook. From 2015 to 2020, the average annual rate of change in the population of the world was estimated at 1.1% with a zero population growth for the Republic of Mauritius. All other countries shown in Table 7.1 had a positive population growth namely South Africa (1.5%), Canada (1.2%), India (1.1%), United Kingdom (0.6%) and Singapore (0.5%) with the exception of Japan (-0.2%).

Table 7.1 – Demographic indicators for selected countries, 2020

	Mid year Estimates (in thousands)	Average annual rate of population change (2015-2020)	Population Density (km ²)	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
World	7,794,800	1.1	60	18.0	8.0	n/a
Mauritius	1,266	0.0	631	10.6	8.7	14.9
Seychelles	98	1.1	215	15.8	6.8	n/a
South Africa	59,622	1.5	49	n/a	n/a	n/a
Canada ¹	38,005	1.2	4	9.9	7.6	4.4
India ¹	1,353,378	1.1	412	18.5	5.7	n/a
Japan ¹	125,836	-0.2	333	6.9	10.9	1.9
Singapore	5,686	0.5	7,810	n/a	n/a	n/a
Germany	83,167	0.4	233	9.3	11.9	3.1
United Kingdom	67,081	0.6	277	10.2	10.3	n/a
Australia ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.1	6.7	3.3

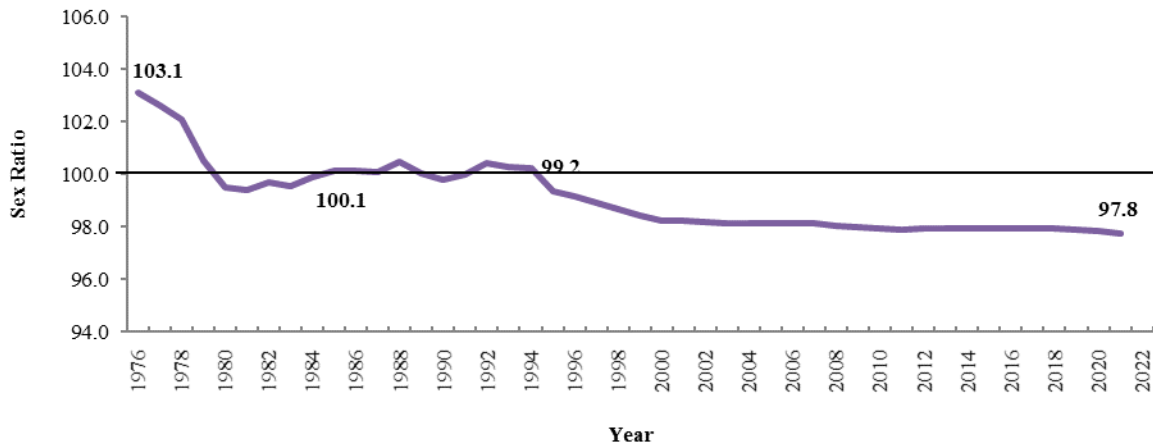
Source: UN Demographic Yearbook, 2020 (except for the Republic of Mauritius)

¹ Figures in italics refer to the year 2019.

8. Demographic trends

8.1 Sex ratio

Figure 8.1.1 – Sex ratio of resident population, Republic of Mauritius¹, 1976 – 2021

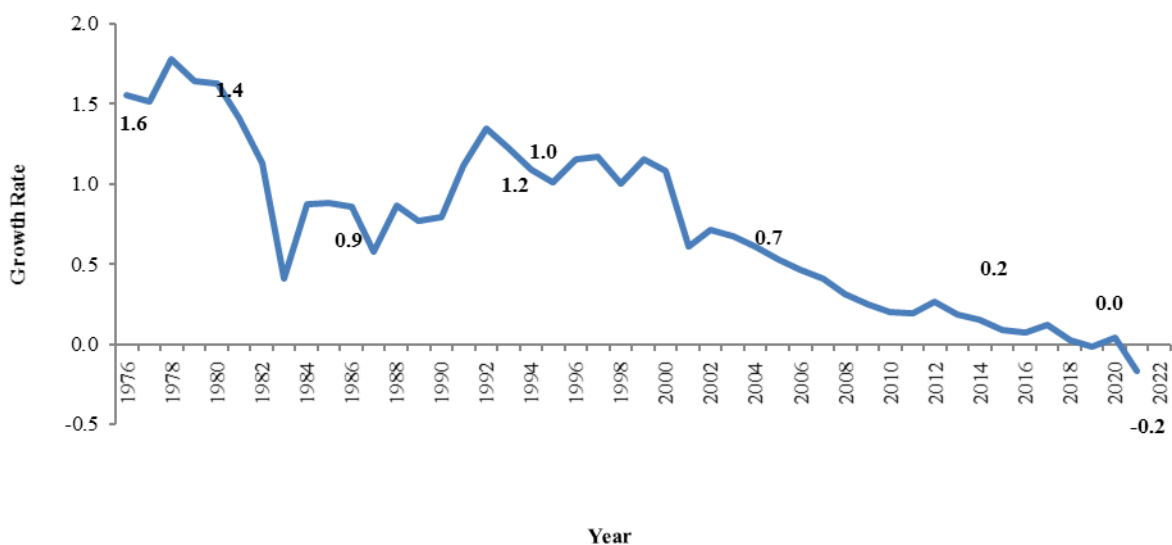


¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Figure 8.1.1 depicts the evolution of sex ratio (i.e. the number of males per 100 females) for the past forty-five 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 2021). 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 Mauritius¹, 1976 – 2021



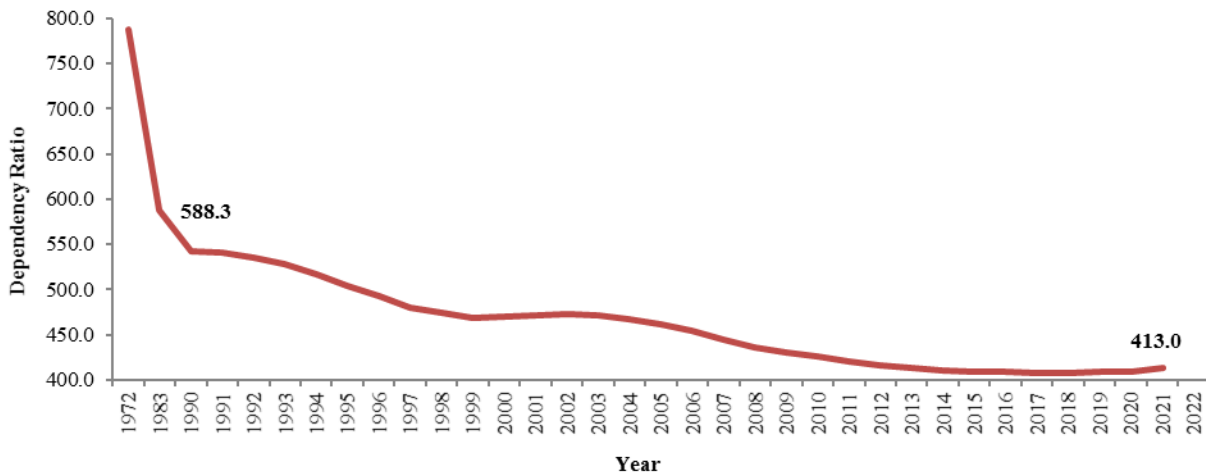
¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Figure 8.2.1 shows the evolution of the growth rate of resident population from 1976 to 2021. 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, resulting in

a drop in number of live births together with an increase in number of deaths caused the population growth rate to decline, attaining zero growth rate or lower as from 2019 onwards.

8.3 Dependency Ratio

Figure 8.3.1 - Dependency Ratio, Republic of Mauritius¹, 1972 - 2021



¹ 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 413.0 in 2021 (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

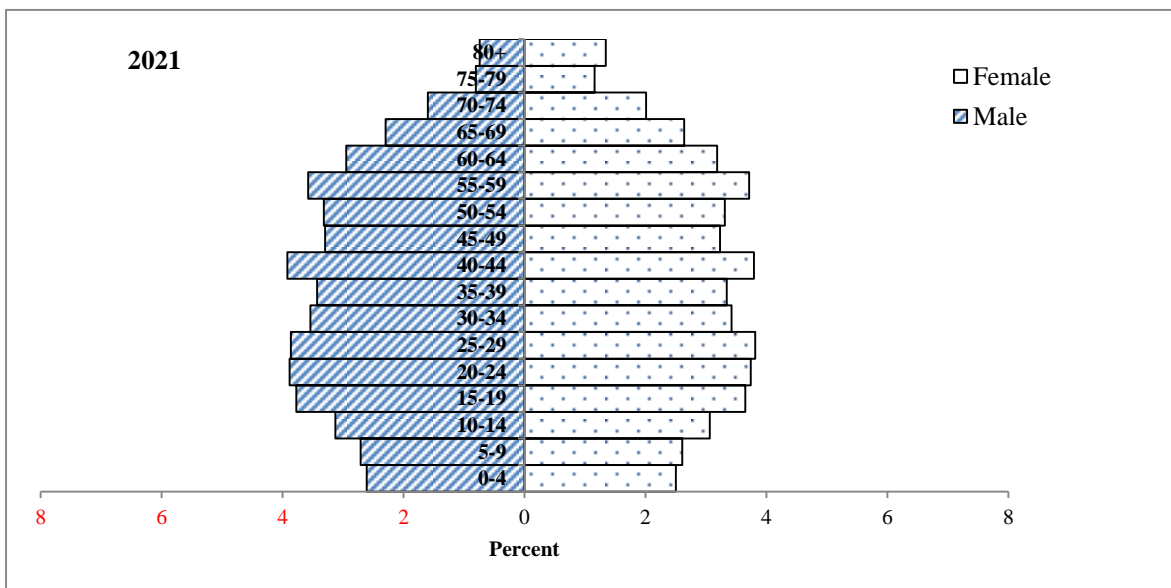
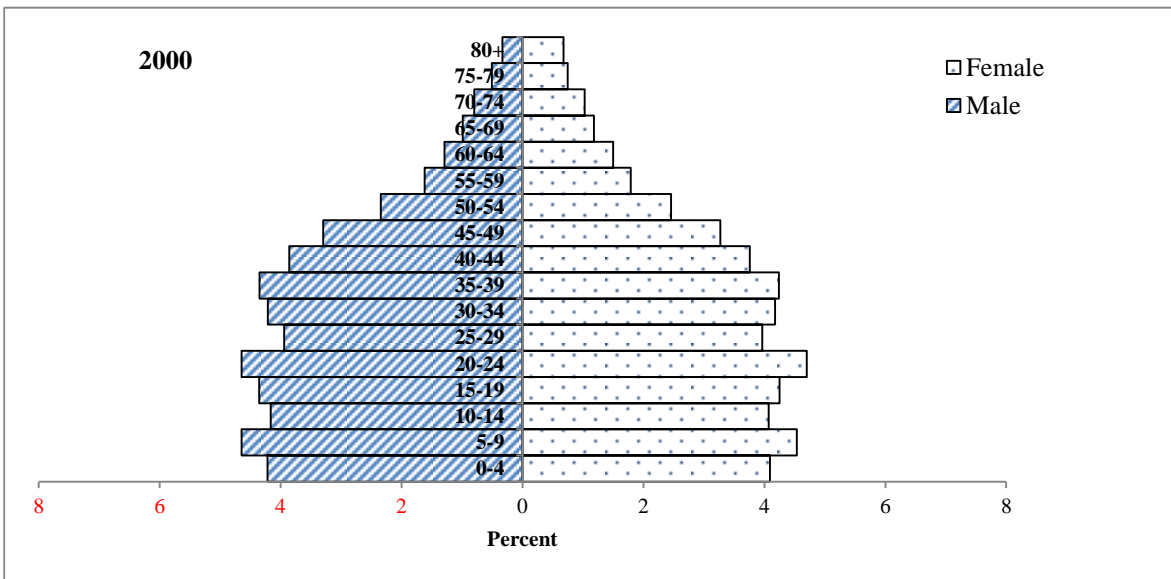
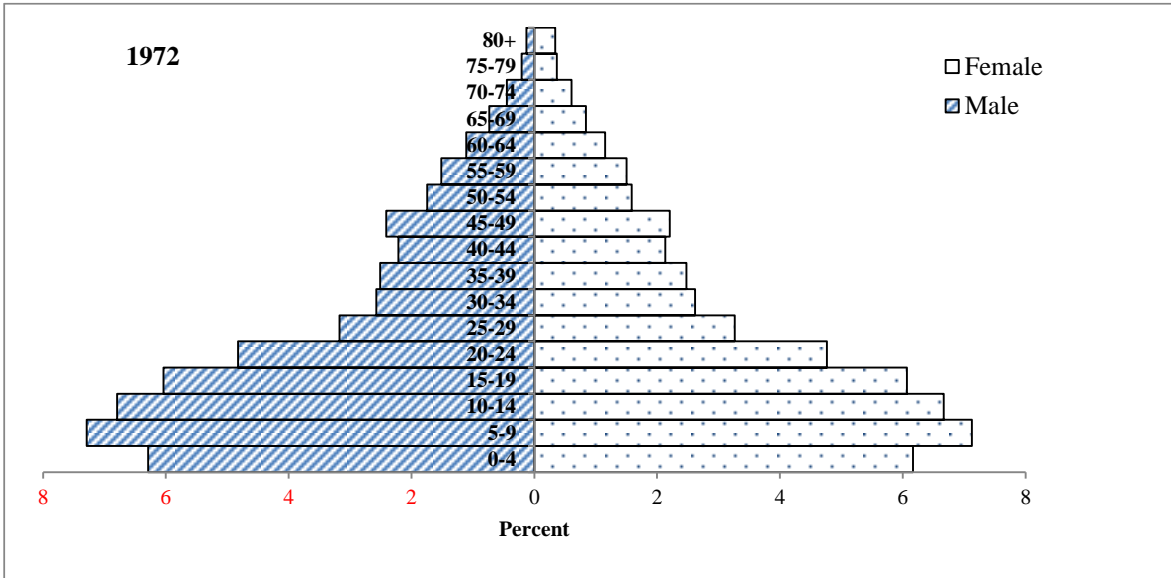
The structure of the pyramids in Figure 8.4.1 are determined by the patterns of births, deaths and migration which took place prior to the reference period of the pyramid. The pyramids compare the age structure of the population between 1972, 2000 and 2021 and show some important trends in the demographics 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 2021, 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 2021 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 Mauritius¹, 1972, 2000 & 2021



¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

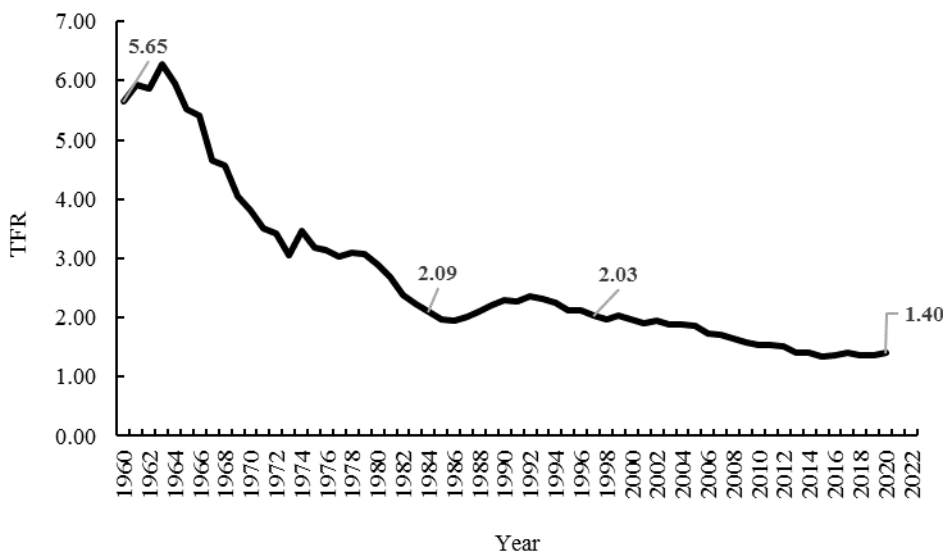
9. Fertility and Births

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.

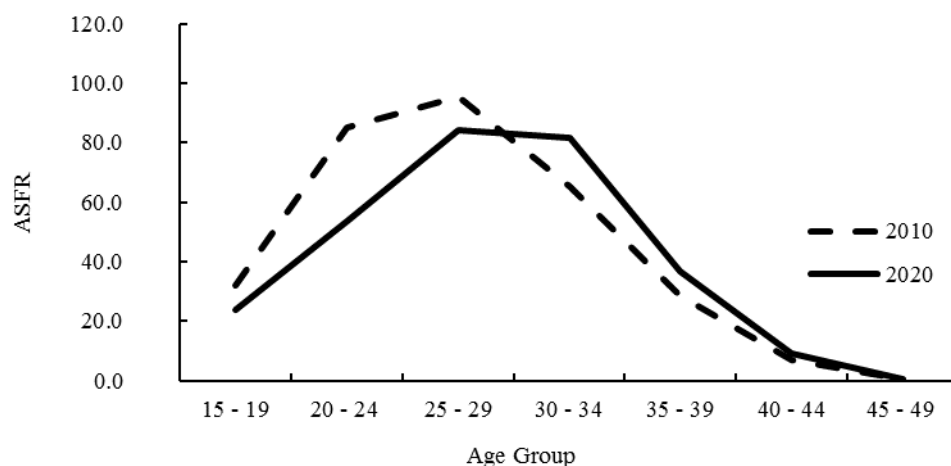
Replacement level fertility is the total fertility rate at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next assuming there is no migration. Total Fertility Rate is the average number of children born to an average woman assuming that she survives to the end of her child-bearing 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. In 1997, fertility which was at 2.03 fell continuously to reach 1.40 in 2020.

Figure 9.1.1 – Total Fertility Rate, Island of Mauritius, 1960 – 2020



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. The age pattern of fertility for 2010 and 2020 when compared indicate a shift in childbearing towards older ages. For instance, fertility among women aged 20-24 years was 37% lower in 2020 than in 2010 while fertility of women aged 30-34 years was 26% higher in 2020 than in 2010.

Figure 9.2.1 – Age Specific Fertility Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2010 & 2020

9.3 Live births by nationality of mothers

Among the 13,465 births that were registered in 2020, some 179 were from Asian mothers, 156 were from African mothers (excluding Mauritius), 100 were from European mothers, 8 were from American mothers and 5 were from Oceanian mothers (Table 9.3.1). There has been a general increase in the number of births among women of all nationalities except for South Africans, Mauritians and Chinese.

Table 9.3.1 – Live births registered by nationality of mothers, Republic of Mauritius - 2010 & 2020

Nationality of mothers	2010	2020
European	83	100
<i>of whom: French</i>	45	56
African	14,707	13,095
<i>of whom : South African</i>	20	14
<i>Malagasy</i>	36	68
<i>Mauritian</i>	14,617	12,939
Asian	150	179
<i>of whom: Indian</i>	102	124
<i>Chinese</i>	18	13
American	2	8
Oceanian	4	5
Not Stated	59	78
Total	15,005	13,465

9.4 Live births by employment status of mothers

In 2020, 49.6% of registered births were from employed mothers, 18.6% were from unemployed mothers, 30.8% were from housewives and 0.6% were from students (Table 9.4.1). The number of registered births among housewives decreased from 47.4% in 2010 to 30.8% in 2020.

Table 9.4.1 – Live births registered by employment status of mothers, Republic of Mauritius - 2010 & 2020

Employment Status of mothers	2010	2020
Employed	5,441	6,678
Unemployed	2,311	2,509
Student	60	84
Housewife	7,119	4,149
Not Stated	74	45
Total	15,005	13,465

9.5 Plurality

In 2020, out of 13,465 births registered, multiple births were also registered with 4 triplets and 130 twins while in 2010, there were 115 twins and 1 triplet only.

Table 9.5.1 – Plurality of Live births registered, Republic of Mauritius – 2010 & 2020

Plurality	2010			2020		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Singleton	7,445	7,305	14,750	6,740	6,402	13,142
First Born Twin	53	63	116	78	56	134
Second Born Twin	54	62	116	61	73	134
Third Born Twin	-	1	1	3	1	4
Not Stated	15	7	22	28	23	51
Total	7,567	7,438	15,005	6,910	6,555	13,465

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Annex

1. Vital Statistics:	The statistics pertaining to vital events which include live births, deaths, still births, marriages and divorces
2. Population density:	The number of persons per square kilometre
3. Dependency ratio:	The child population under 15 years of age and the elderly population aged 65 years and above per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years.
4. Child Dependency ratio	The child population under 15 years of age per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years.
5. Old age Dependency ratio	The elderly population aged 65 years and above per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years.
6. Median age	The age which divides the population into two equal size groups, one of which is younger and the other older than the median.
7. Sex ratio:	The number of males to every 100 females.
8. Natural increase:	The excess of live births over deaths.
9. Crude birth rate:	The number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
10. Crude death rate:	The number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
11. Infant mortality rate:	The number of deaths in a year of infants aged under one year per 1,000 live births during the year.
12. Still birth rate:	The number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births (live births and still births) during the year.
13. Marriage rate:	The number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.

Note: The vital rates for Rodrigues are usually calculated as an average for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data. The rates for year 2021 are however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.