

Gender Statistics - 2021

1. Introduction

This is the thirteenth 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 2021.

2. Highlights

- (i) In 2021, the population comprised 640,057 women compared to 626,003 men. Women outnumbered men by 14,054 as they lived on average 6.9 years longer than men.
- (ii) Diabetes mellitus, heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and hypertensive disease together accounted for 52.5% of all deaths among men against 56.0% among women.
- (iii) Only 10.4% of working women were heads of business compared to 23.6% among men.
- (iv) Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts: 22.1% among women possessed tertiary qualifications compared to 19.8% men.
- (v) Women were largely under-represented in decision making at higher sphere of society: the number of female ministers was only 3 out of 21.
- (vi) 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 37.8%.
- (vii) Among victims of domestic violence, 86.7% were women and 13.3% were men.
- (viii) Some 4,724 men were victims of homicides and assaults compared to 4,427 women whereas 588 women were victims of sexual violence and sexual exploitation compared to 42 men.
- (ix) Women participated less than men in sports as high level athletes (68.0% men against 32.0% women).
- (x) According to the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) of the World Economic Forum, Mauritius was ranked 110 out of 155 countries worldwide. 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 2021, there were 14,054 more women than men. Out of a total population of 1,266,060, there were 640,057 women against 626,003 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, mainly due to more births of baby boys than girls. In 2021, there were 103 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 around 55 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.

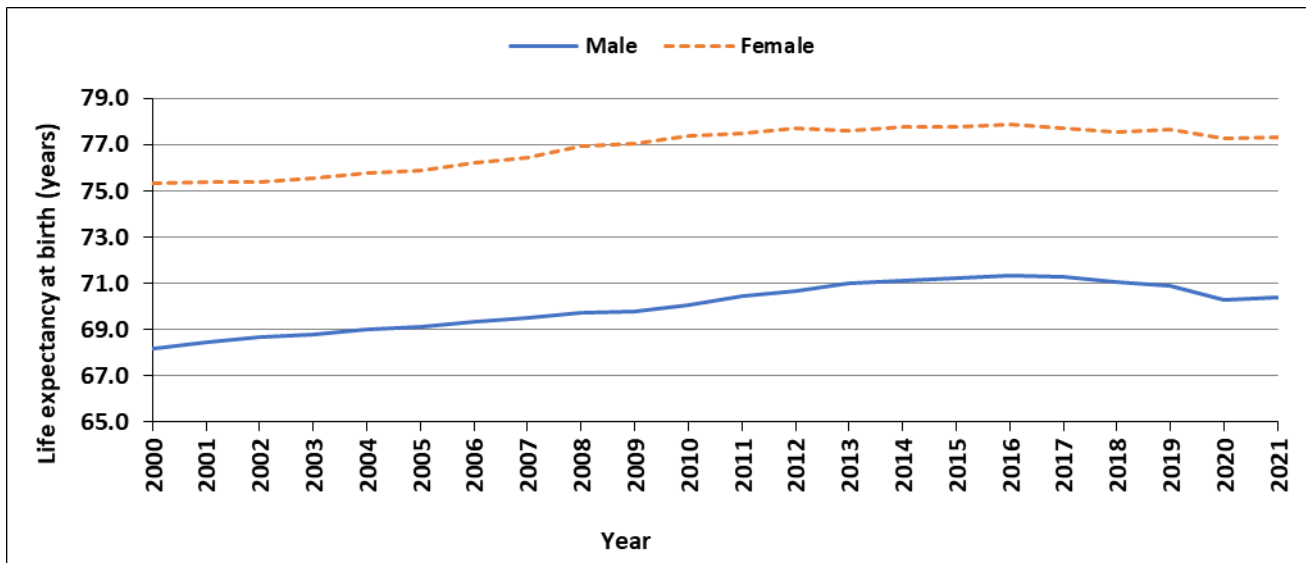
Table 1 – Population by age and sex, Republic of Mauritius, 1st July 2021

Age Group (years)	Male	Female	Both sexes	Sex ratio (males per 100 females)
Under 10	67,374	64,774	132,148	104.0
10 - 19	87,369	85,027	172,396	102.8
20 - 29	98,073	95,669	193,742	102.5
30 - 39	88,288	85,669	173,957	103.1
40 - 49	91,384	88,952	180,336	102.7
50 - 59	87,316	88,970	176,286	98.1
60 - 79	96,809	113,954	210,763	85.0
80+	9,390	17,042	26,432	55.1
Total	626,003	640,057	1,266,060	97.8

Source: Statistics Mauritius

Women have a higher life expectancy than men. In fact, women live some 6.9 years longer than men. In 2021, life expectancy at birth for women was 77.3 years compared to 70.4 years for men. Life expectancy at birth has improved over the years for both men and women and from 2010 to 2016, the gap was on a decreasing trend. However, as from 2017 to 2021, it increased from 6.8 years to 7.0 years (Chart 1).

Chart 1 - Life Expectancy at birth, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 – 2021

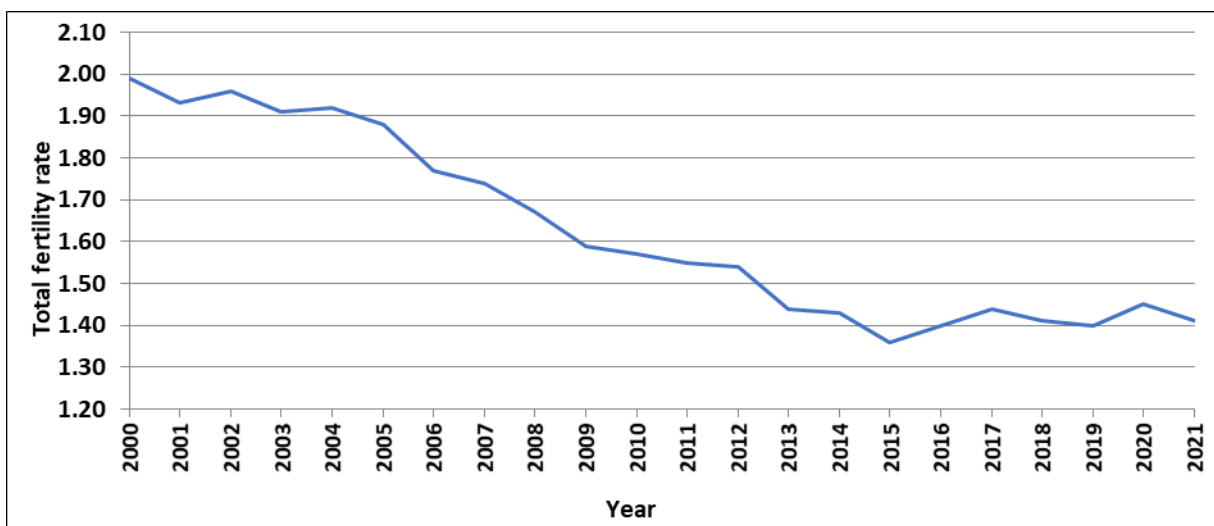


Source: Statistics Mauritius

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 2002. Compared to 2002, the average number of children born to a woman dropped by nearly one child to oscillate at around a total fertility rate of 1.44 from 2013 to 2021 (Chart 2).

Chart 2 - Total Fertility Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 – 2021

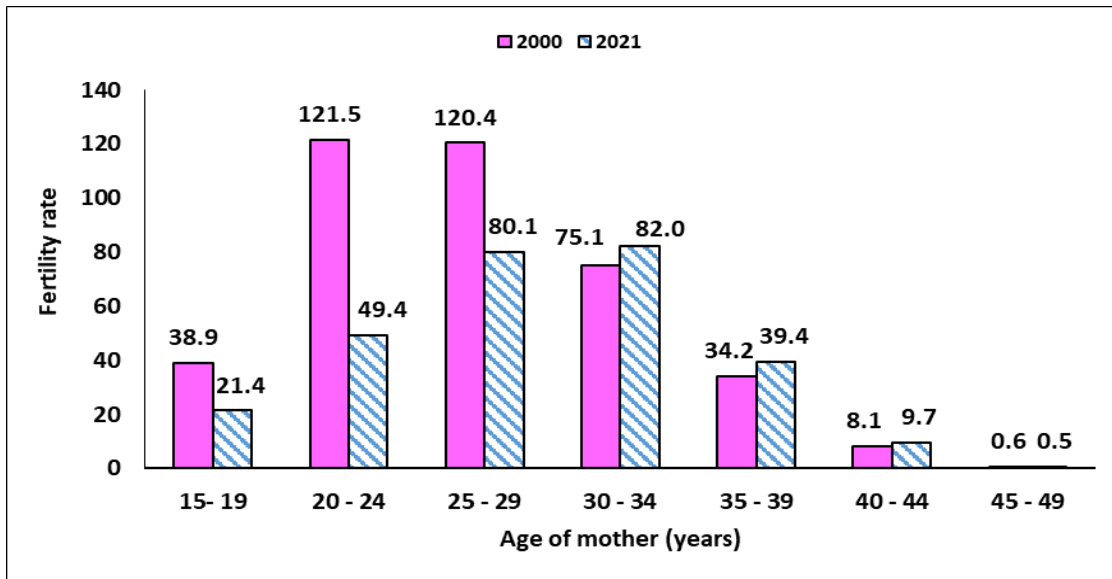


Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

In 2000, women in the age bracket 20-24 years had the highest fertility with 121 births per 1,000 women of that age group (Chart 3). In 2021, the peak fertility rate is observed in the age bracket 30-

34 years with 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.

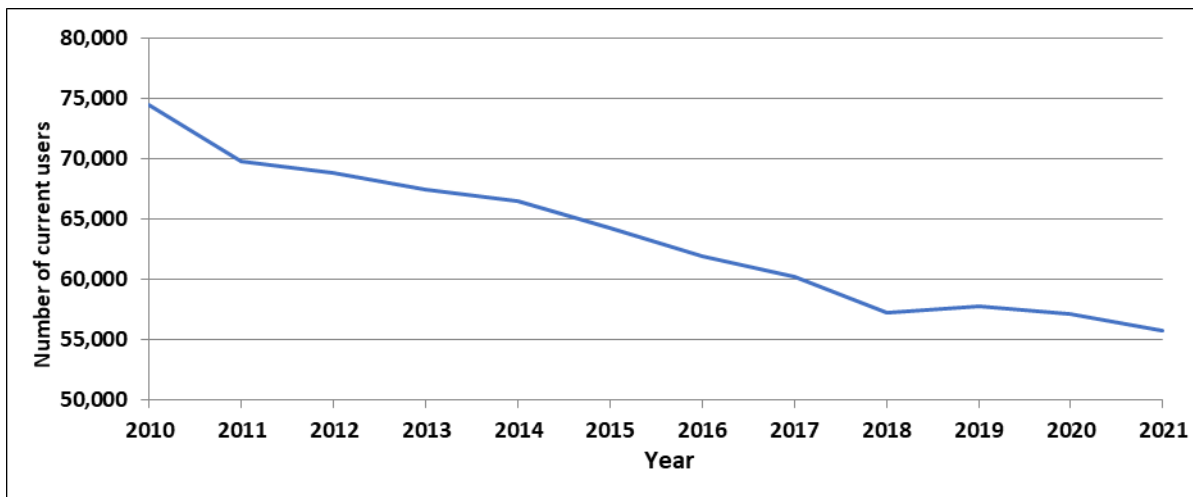
Chart 3 – Fertility Rate by age of mother, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 and 2021



Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

In 2021, Government Family Planning Clinics, Mauritius Family Planning & Welfare Association and “Action Familiale” registered a total of some 55,792 current users of contraceptive methods in the Island of Mauritius, a decrease of 1,300 compared to 57,092 in 2020 (Chart 4).

Chart 4 – Number of current users of contraceptives, Island of Mauritius, 2010 – 2021



Source: Ministry of Health & Wellness

New acceptors of contraceptive methods registered in 2021 numbered 2,775, of whom 334 had sympto-thermal. A declining trend was observed in the number of new acceptors from 11,164 in 2000.

Among the new acceptors in 2021, 3-month injectable (24.7%), pill (19.9%) and condom (18.9%) were the three most preferred methods of contraception while for current users sympto-thermal (47.1%) was the preferred method (Table 2).

Table 2 – Method of family planning, Island of Mauritius, 2021

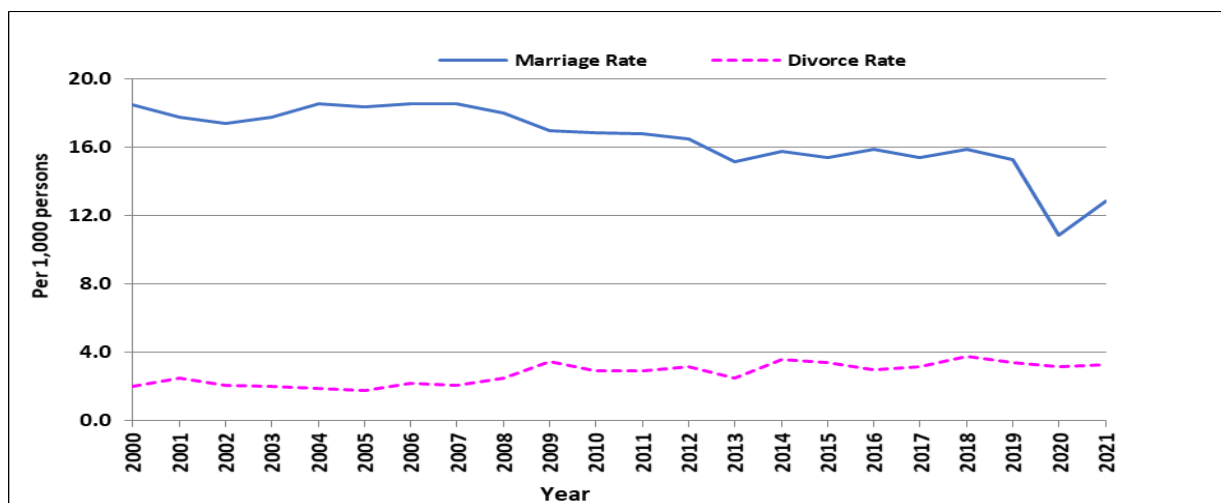
Methods	New Acceptors (%)	Current Users (%)
Pill	19.9	6.0
Tubal Ligation	17.5	25.5
Sympto-thermal	12.1	47.1
Condom	18.9	11.1
3-month injectable	24.7	5.0
Intra-Uterine Devices	1.6	3.0
1-month injectable	3.7	0.8
Implant	1.6	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

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 18.5 in 2000 to 12.9 in 2021. The number of divorced persons per 1,000 mid-year population increased from 2.0 in 2000 to 3.3 in 2021 (Chart 5).

Chart 5 – Marriage and Divorce Rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 – 2021

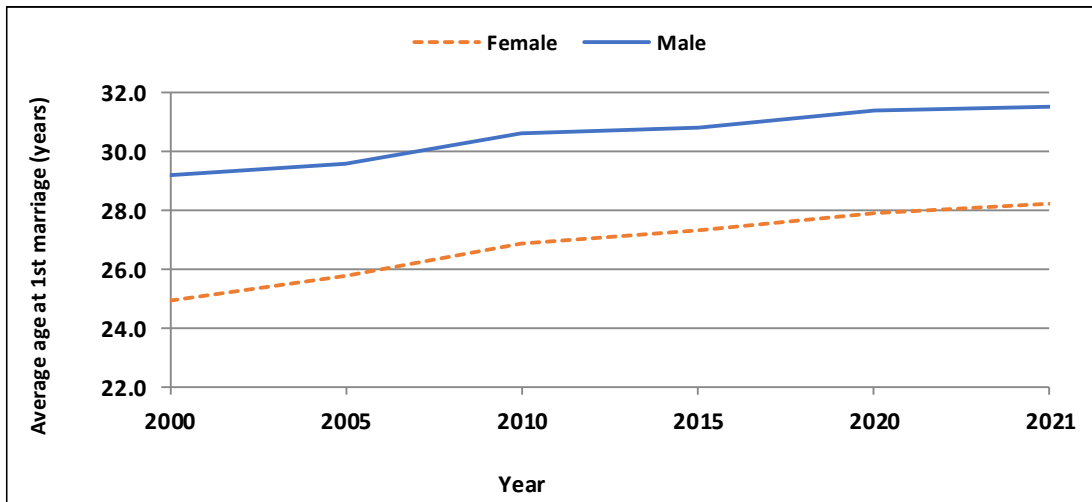


Source: Statistics Mauritius

Generally, women tend to marry men who are older than them. However, over the past 20 years the age difference between husband and wife narrowed from 4.3 years in 2000 to 3.3 years in 2021 (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 24.9 years in 2000 to reach 28.2 years in 2021, while that for men increased from 29.2 to 31.5 during the same period.

Chart 6 – Average age at first marriage, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 – 2021



Source: *Statistics Mauritius*

Of the 2,110 divorces granted by the Supreme Court in 2021, women were the petitioners in 36.4% of the cases (Table 3).

Table 3 – Divorce by petitioner, Republic of Mauritius, 2020 & 2021

Petitioner	2020	%	2021	%
Husband	559	28.0	515	24.4
Wife	816	40.9	768	36.4
Joint petitioner (both husband & wife)	620	31.1	827	39.2
Total divorces	1,995	100.0	2,110	100.0

Source: *The Judiciary*

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 divorces by duration of union, Republic of Mauritius, 2021

Duration of union (years)	Number	%
< 1 year	10	0.5
1 and <3	151	7.2
3 and <5	267	12.6
5 and <10	577	27.3
10 and <15	384	18.2
15 and <25	534	25.3
25 or more	187	8.9
Total divorces	2,110	100.0

Source: The Judiciary

Some 18.8% of couples who divorced in 2021 did not have any children, while 67.6% of them had 1 to 2 children. There were 48 couples with 4 or more children (Table 5).

Table 5 – Number of dependent children ¹, Republic of Mauritius, 2021

Number of children	Number	%
0	397	18.8
1	788	37.3
2	639	30.3
3	238	11.3
4	31	1.5
5 or more	17	0.8
Total	2,110	100.0

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

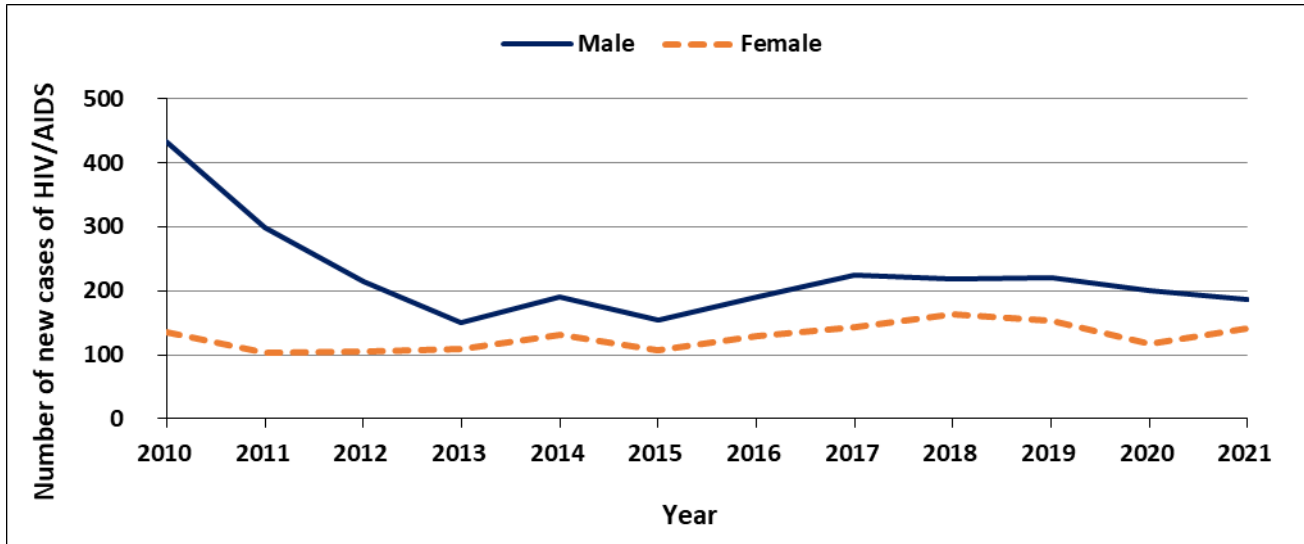
Source: The Judiciary

6. Health

Since the first cases of HIV/AIDS were registered in October 1987, the number has been increasing to reach 8,440 in December 2021, of whom 27.6% were women.

During 2021, 327 new cases of HIV/AIDS were registered among Mauritians and the proportion of women among the new cases was 43.1% compared to 23.8% in 2010.

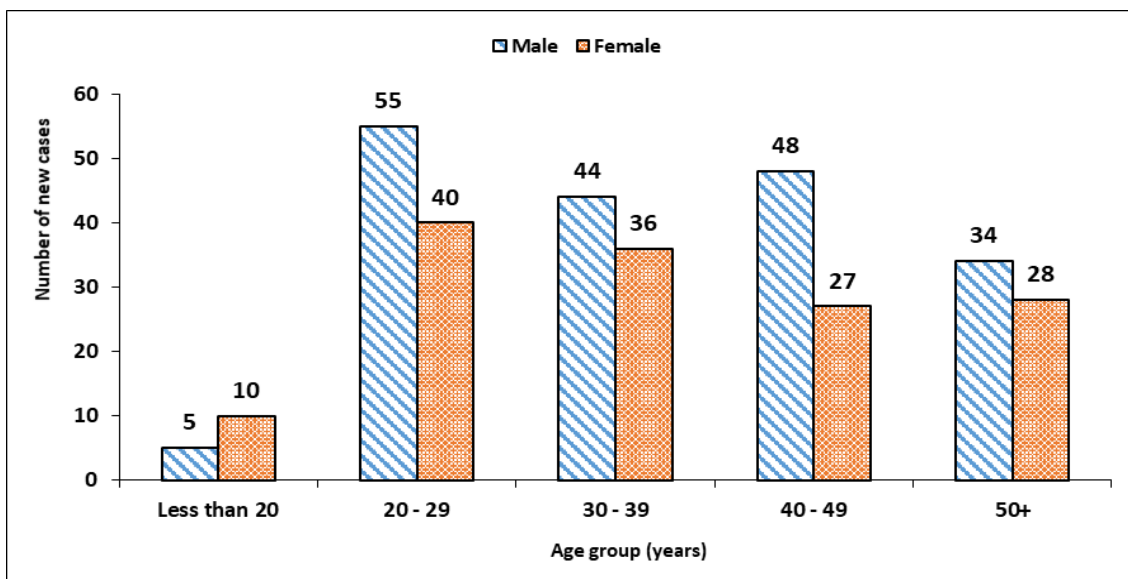
Chart 7 – New HIV/AIDS cases, Republic of Mauritius, 2010 – 2021



Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

In 2021, out of the 141 new HIV/AIDS cases detected among females, 77.3% was mainly due to heterosexual as mode of transmission and 9.2% to drug injection. As regards males, among the 186 new cases, the mode of transmission was mainly due to heterosexual (57.0%) and drug injection (31.2%).

Chart 8 -Number of new HIV/AIDS cases by sex and age, 2021



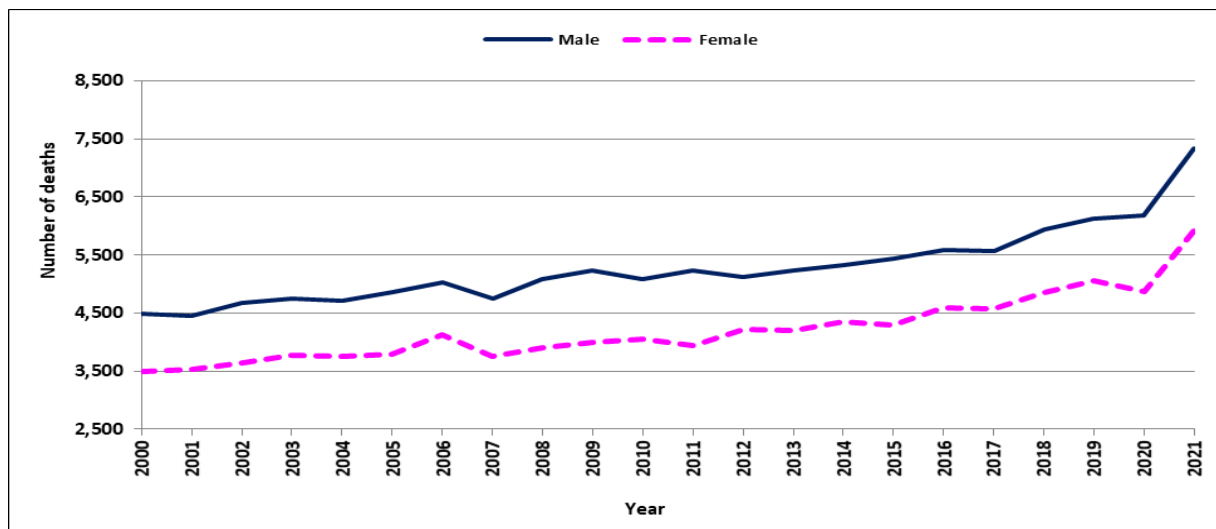
Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

Among the newly detected cases in 2021, some 53.5% were in the age-group 20-39 years. Both men and women were predominant in the same age-group, i.e, 20-29 years with 29.6% and 28.4% respectively (Chart 8).

7. Mortality

Though women are more numerous than men in the population, there are fewer deaths among women than among men. In 2021, 7,334 men compared to 5,940 women died (Chart 9). The crude death rate for 2021 was 11.7 for man and 9.3 for woman.

Chart 9 – Number of deaths by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 – 2021



Source: Civil Status Division

In 2021, heart disease and diabetes mellitus were the leading causes of deaths among women and men. Diabetes mellitus and heart disease were respectively responsible for 20.7% and 21.3% of deaths among women and 19.0% and 21.4% of deaths among men. Cerebrovascular disease was responsible for 8.4% of deaths among women and 7.8% of deaths among men. Causes of death specific to women, such as breast and uterus cancer, were responsible for 5.0% of deaths among women while maternal deaths were responsible for another 0.1%. Compared to men, women were more likely to die of hypertensive disease and neoplasms but less likely to die of diseases of the liver and to commit suicide (Table 6).

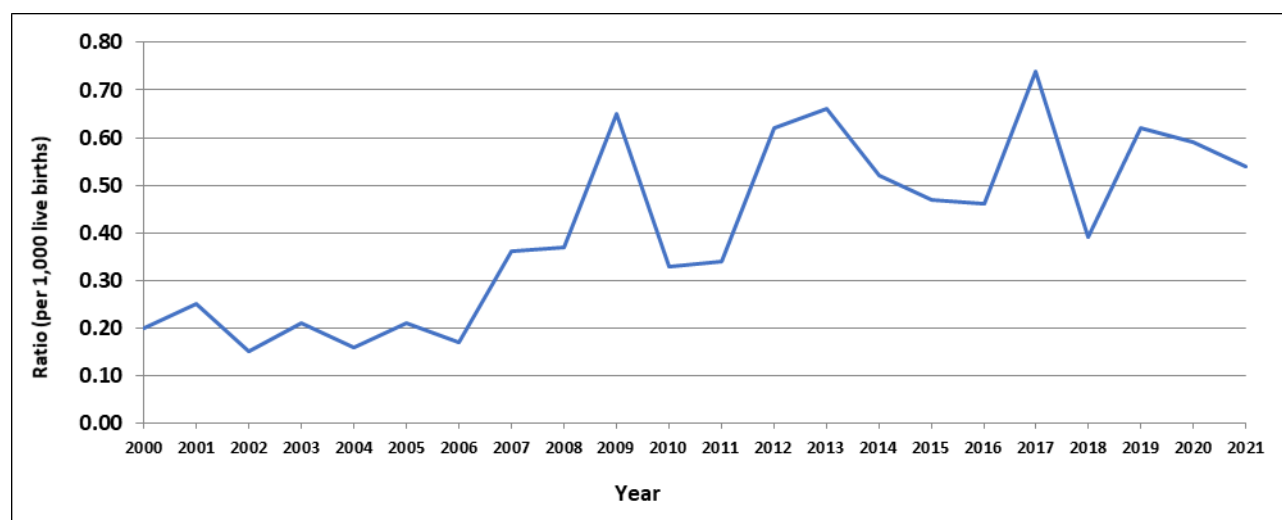
Table 6 – Deaths (%) by cause and sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2021

Cause of death	Male	Female
Diabetes mellitus	19.0	20.7
Heart disease	21.4	21.3
Hypertensive Disease	4.3	5.6
Neoplasm:	9.4	12.4
of which: breast cancer (malignant)	0	3.8
uterus cancer (malignant)	Napp	1.2
Cerebrovascular disease	7.8	8.4
Diseases of liver	2.6	1.1
Suicide	1.6	0.3
Maternal death	Napp	0.1
Other	33.9	30.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Napp: Not Applicable

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

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 2020 to 2021, the maternal mortality ratio declined from 0.59 maternal death per 1,000 live births to 0.54 in 2021 (Chart 10).

Chart 10 – Maternal Mortality Ratio, Republic of Mauritius, 2000 – 2021

Source: Ministry of Health and Wellness

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 pre-primary and primary indicating no disparity (Table 7).

Table 7 – Gross Enrolment Rates (%) by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2021

GER	Male	Female	Total	Gender Parity Index
Pre-Primary (4 - 5 years)	92	93	92	1.0
Primary (6 - 11 years)	99	101	100	1.0
Secondary (12 - 19 years)	69.4	74.4	71.9	1.1

Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

At the end of primary, girls generally perform better than boys at the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) examinations. In 2020/2021, the pass rate for girls was 83.4% against 72.8% 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 2021 showing a disparity in favour of girls.

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

Table 8 – Pass Rate (%) at HSC, Republic of Mauritius, 2010 – 2020/2021

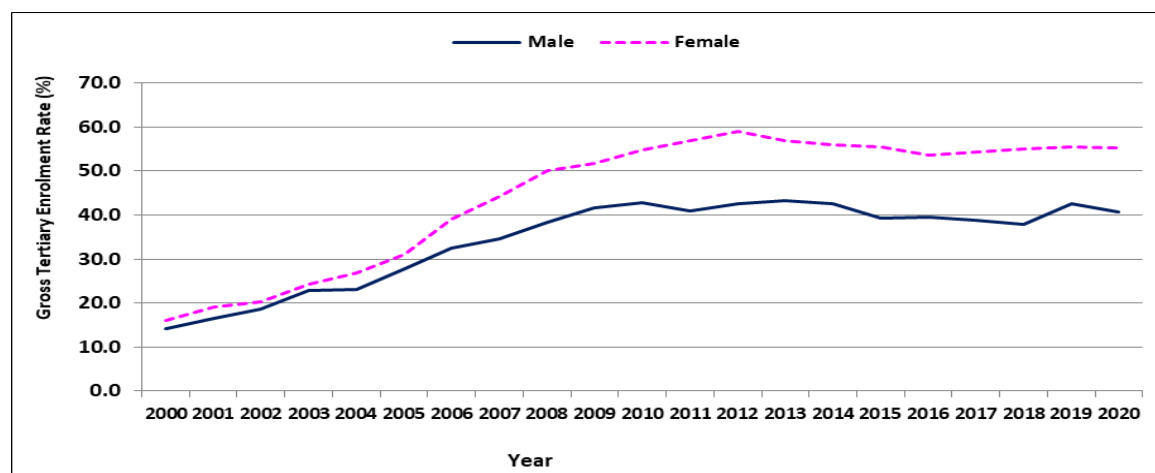
Year	Male	Female
2010	73.7	81.7
2011	75.3	82.3
2012	74.8	82.2
2013	73.9	80.8
2014	70.0	79.1
2015	72.0	77.8
2016	70.9	78.2
2017	69.5	77.9
2018	70.6	78.0
2019	70.8	77.8
2020/2021	87.3	92.0

Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

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 55.2 per cent in 2020 women, and from 14.1 to 40.6 per cent for men during the same period (Chart 11). In 2020, women enrolled in public, private and overseas tertiary institutions numbered 27,493, representing 56.6% of the student population which stood at 48,568.

Chart 11 – Gross Tertiary Enrolment Rate (GTER), Republic of Mauritius, 2000 – 2020



Source: Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

Both men and women were mostly enrolled in Bachelor Degree (Table 9). There were fewer women than men at PhD, MPhil and DBA² levels, 255 women against 275 men in 2020. As a result, women continue to be under-represented in research.

Table 9 – No. of student enrolled¹ in tertiary institutions by level, 2020

Level	Male	Female	Total
PhD	152	133	285
MPhil	99	112	211
DBA ²	24	10	34
Masters Degree	1,706	2,308	4,014
Post Graduate Diploma	108	137	245
Post Graduate Certificate	116	325	441
Professional	1,420	1,936	3,356
Bachelor Degree	9,675	14,312	23,987
Diploma	1,729	2,402	4,131
Certificate	133	147	280
Total	15,162	21,822	36,984

¹Enrolment in public and private institutions, including students studying through Distance Education mode but excluding overseas students

² Doctor of Business Administration

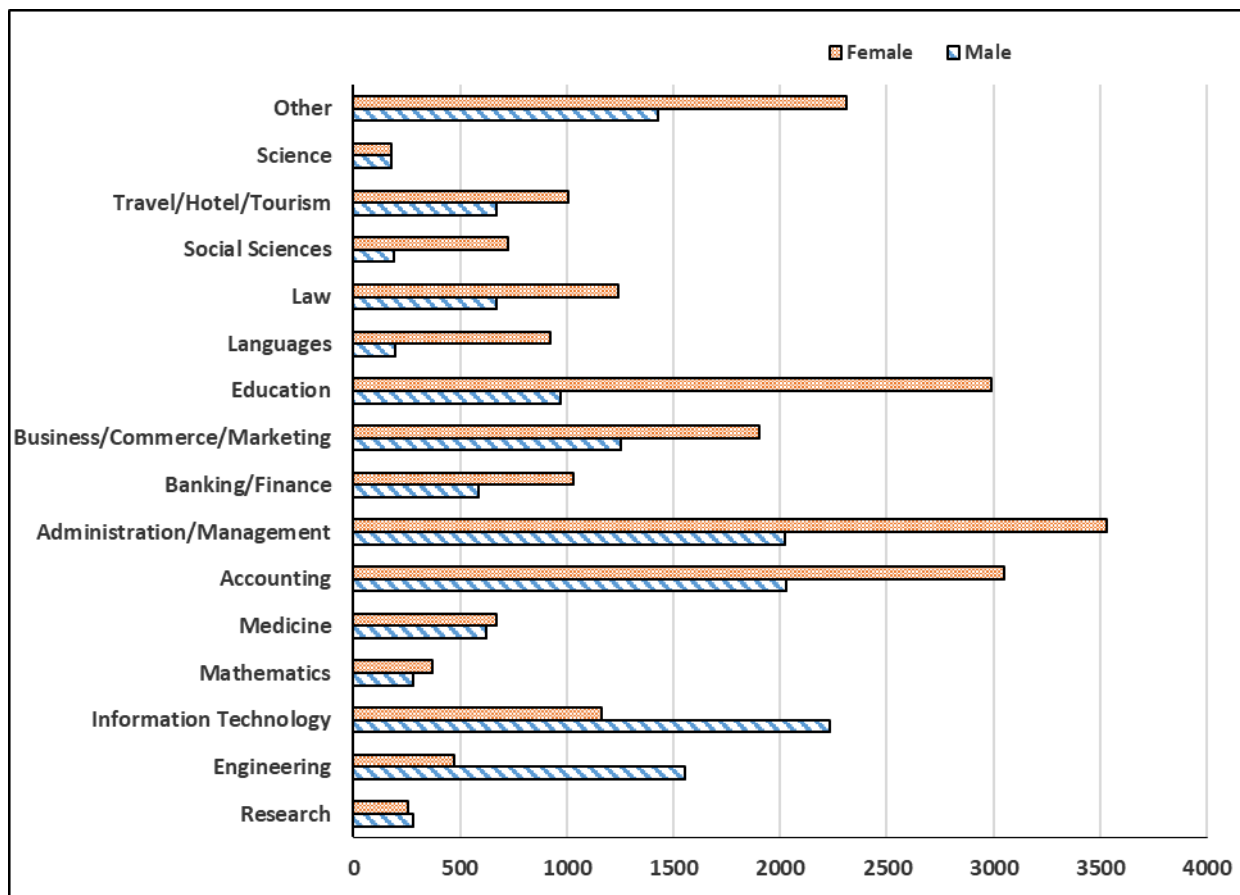
Source: Higher Education Commission

The most popular field of study for men was Information Technology (14.7%) followed by Accounting (13.4%) and Administration/Management (13.3%).

While the most popular field of study for women was Administration/Management (16.2%) followed by Accounting (14.0%) and Education (13.7%).

Women were under-represented in science-related field such as Engineering (2.2% against 10.3% for men) and Information technology (5.3% against 14.7% for men) whereas men were under-represented in Education (6.4% against 13.7% for women) and Languages (1.3% against 4.2% for women) (Chart 12).

Chart 12 – Number of students enrolled ¹ in tertiary institutions by field of study, 2020



¹Enrolment in local public and private institutions, excluding overseas students

Source: Higher Education Commission

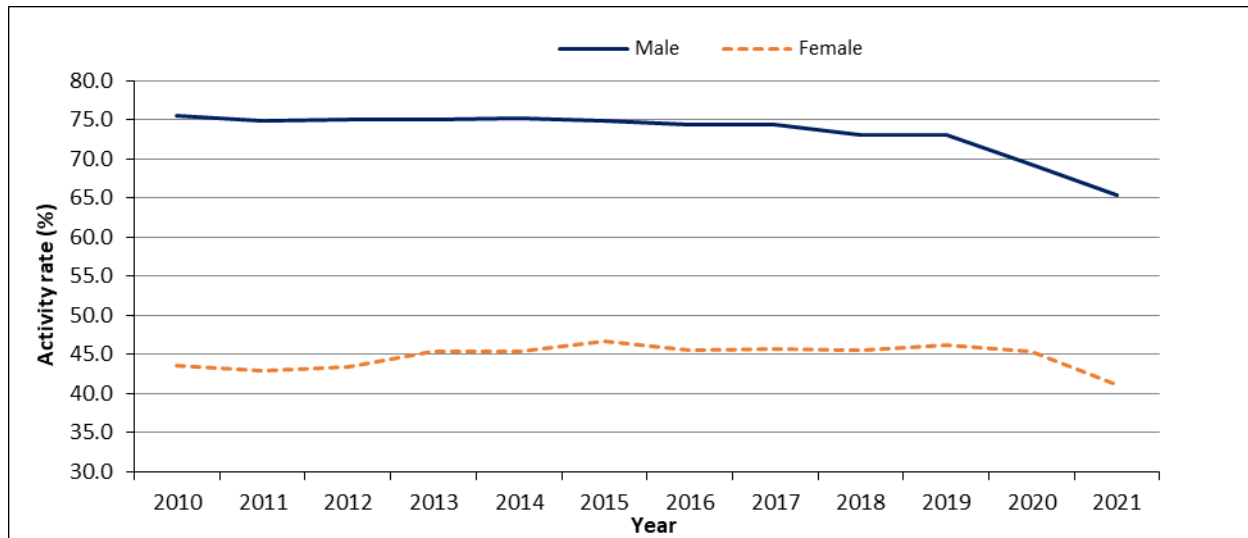
9. Economics Characteristics

In 2021, the active Mauritian population (aged 16 years and above) stood at 532,800 with 318,800 men and 214,000 women. Some 41.1% of women of working age were in the labour force compared to 65.3% 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 475,600 (169,300 males and 306,300 females).

During the period 2010 to 2021, 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 2010 to 65.3% in 2021, and that of females ranged from 43.6% to 41.1% during the same period (Chart 13).

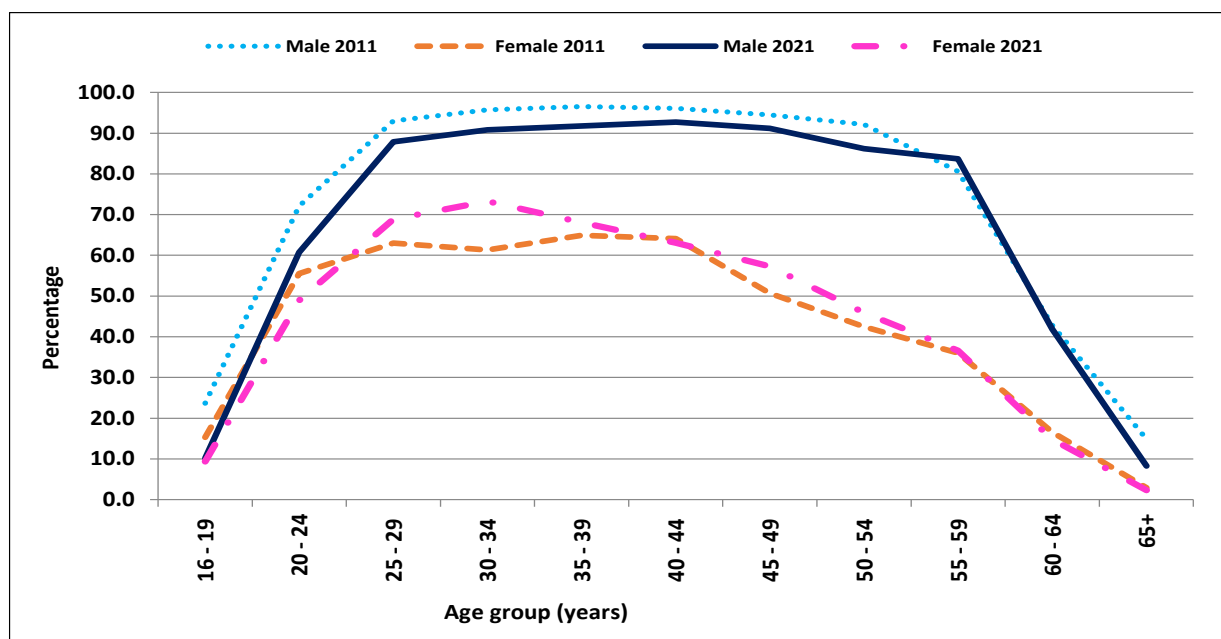
Chart 13 – Activity rate (%) by sex, 2010 – 2021



Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

Men and women have a similar age pattern of economic activity, i.e., less active at the younger and older age-groups (Chart 14). Over the years, the shape of the curve for female activity rate by age has been tending towards that of the male.

Chart 14 – Activity rate (%) by age-group and sex, 2011 and 2021



Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

Table 10 – Employed persons by industrial sector and sex, 2021

Industrial sector	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
Primary	20,600	7.0	6,000	3.2
Secondary	83,500	28.5	23,800	12.4
Tertiary	188,900	64.5	161,600	84.4
All sectors	293,000	100.0	191,400	100.0

Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

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), 64.5% for men and 84.4% for women. The secondary sector (covering manufacturing, electricity & water and construction) accounted for 28.5% of the working men and 12.4% of the working women. The primary sector (comprising agriculture and mining & quarrying) employed 7.0% and 3.2% of the working men and women respectively (Table 10).

Table 11 – Distribution (%) of employed population by employment status and sex, 2021

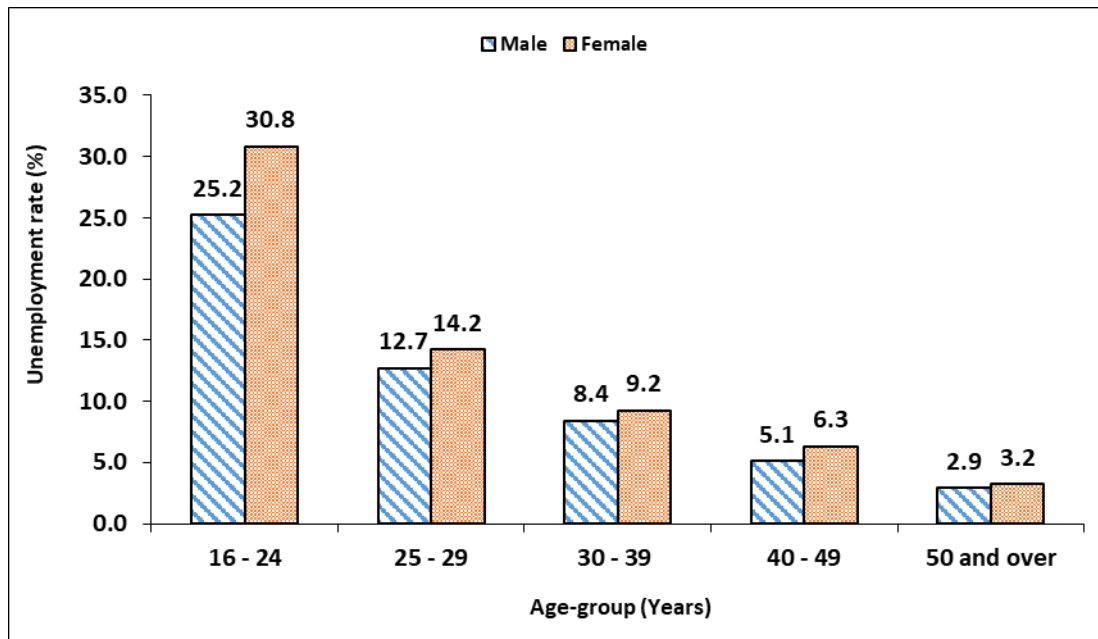
Employment status	Male (%)	Female (%)
Employer	4.2	1.7
Own Account Worker	19.4	8.7
Employee	75.9	87.9
Contributing Family Worker	0.5	1.7
All status	100.0	100.0

Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

Women were more likely than men to be employees, with 87.9% of the female workforce in that employment status as compared to 75.9% for the male workforce. Women were also less likely than men to work for themselves. Some 23.6% of working men were employers or own account workers compared to 10.4% for women (Table 11).

In spite of being fewer in the labour force (representing only 40.2%), women were over-represented among the unemployed; they made up 46.7% of the total unemployed. Unemployed women numbered 22,600 in 2021 compared to 25,800 men. Female unemployment rate stood at 10.6%, much higher than the rate of 8.1% for male. The disparity between male and female unemployment rate was highest in the lower age-groups; the difference was nearly 6 percentage points among the unemployed below 25 years and less than 1 percentage point among those aged 50 years and above (Chart 15).

Chart 15 – Unemployment rate (%) by age group and sex, 2021



Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

Unemployed women were generally more qualified than their male counterparts; 6,600 (29.3%) of them possessed the School Certificate (SC) or Higher School Certificate (HSC) against 4,900 males (19.0%). Also, 5,000 (22.1%) unemployed women attained tertiary level education compared to 5,100 (19.8%) unemployed men (Table 12).

Table 12 – Unemployed persons by educational attainment, 2021

Educational attainment	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
Primary	6,300	24.4	4,300	19.0
<i>Below CPE</i>	4,800	18.6	3,200	14.2
<i>Passed CPE</i>	1,500	5.8	1,100	4.9
Secondary	14,400	55.8	13,300	58.8
<i>Form I - V but not passed SC</i>	9,500	36.8	6,700	29.6
<i>Passed SC</i>	3,100	12.0	3,900	17.3
<i>Passed HSC</i>	1,800	7.0	2,700	12.0
Tertiary	5,100	19.8	5,000	22.1
Total	25,800	100.0	22,600	100.0

Source: Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), Statistics Mauritius

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 13).

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 13 – Number of persons in relative poverty, 2012 and 2017

	2012	2017
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

Source: *Household Budget Surveys, Statistics Mauritius*

11. Social benefits and inmates of infirmaries

As at June 2021, out of 242,367 Basic Retirement pensioners, 55.2% were women (Table 14). During that period, the number of women receiving Basic Retirement Pension outnumbered their male counterparts by 25,017 and this number is expected to increase to around 28,663 by 2060. Both male and female pensioners were concentrated in the age-group 60 to 69 years. It is to be noted that 73.3% 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 18,219 recipients of Basic Widows Pension as at June 2021, a decrease of 14.6% compared to 21,323 in 2000. A large majority (68.7%) of widows were aged between 50 and 59 years.

Invalids pensioners numbered 32,321 as at June 2021, with a higher proportion of men (53.8%) compared to women (46.2%).

As at June 2021, some 274 children received Basic Orphans Pension, amongst whom 57.7% were girls.

Table 14 – Number of beneficiaries of selected benefits, 2000 and 2021

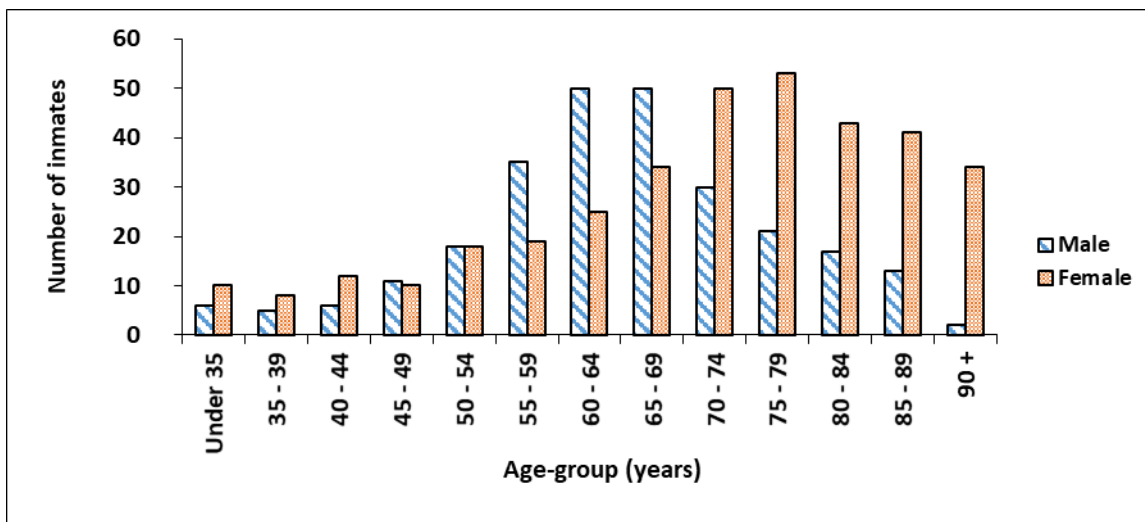
Pension type	June 2000			June 2021		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Basic Retirement Pension	48,321	63,564	111,885	108,675	133,692	242,367
<i>of whom 90 years and above</i>	NA	NA	1,583	1,222	3,360	4,582
Basic Widow's Pension	Napp	21,323	21,323	Napp	18,219	18,219
Basic Invalid's Pension	10,012	9,946	19,958	17,401	14,920	32,321
Basic Orphan's Pension	354	332	686	116	158	274

N.A: Not available; Napp: Not applicable

Source: Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity

In 2021, some 57.5% of the 621 inmates living in infirmaries and orphanages registered at the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity (Social Security Division), were women. The women residents were older than men with 33.1% aged 80 years and over compared to 12.1% for men (Chart 16).

Chart 16 – Number of Inmates in infirmaries and orphanages by age group and sex, 2021



Source: Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity

Both women and men inmates were prone to mental disease (29.1% and 33.7%) while more men inmates than women suffered from diabetes (23.1% compared to 13.2% among women) (Table 15).

Table 15 – Distribution (%) of inmates in infirmaries and orphanages by disability, 2021

Disability	Male	Female
Loss of sight	1.5	0.6
Partial paralysis	7.2	3.9
Total Paralysis	2.7	1.4
Mental diseases	33.7	29.1
Heart diseases	7.2	1.7
Diabetes	23.1	13.2
Other (including those suffering from multiple disabilities)	17.8	41.4
Inmates with no disabilities	6.8	8.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity

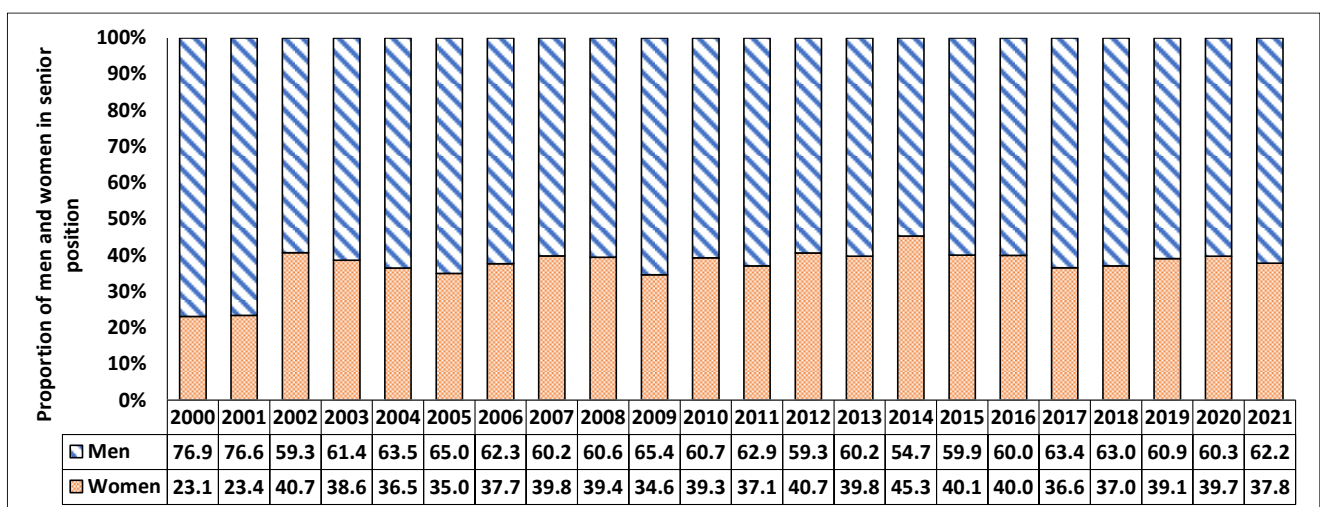
12. Women in decision making

Women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making position in Government cabinet. The share of women among cabinet ministers was 14.3% in 2021 (3 out of 21 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 2021, there was no female mayor in the five municipalities.

More women are holding senior positions in government services. The proportion of women in the most senior positions has increased from 23.1% in 2000 to 37.8% in 2021 (Chart 17).

Chart 17 – Senior position¹ in Government Services, 2000– 2021



¹ Senior Chief Executive, Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Director, Manager, Judge and Magistrate

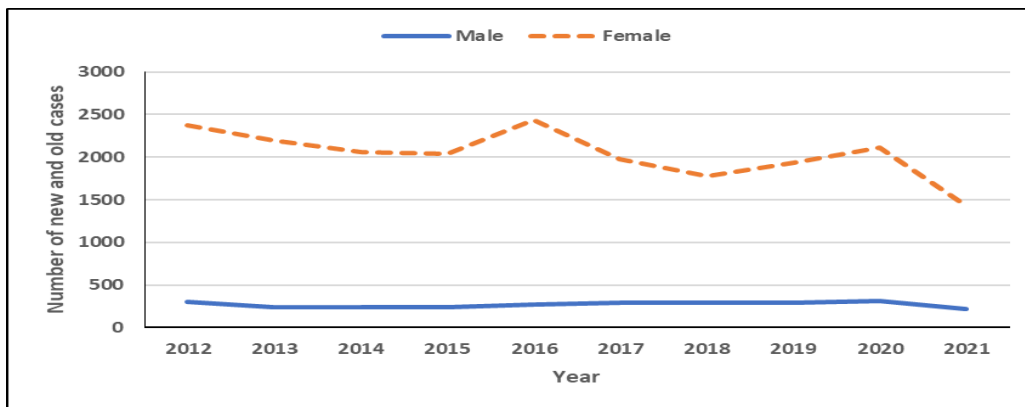
Source: Survey of Employment in Government Services, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

13. Domestic violence

Women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence. The number of cases of domestic violence, reported at the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, went down by 31.8% in 2021 to reach 1,654 from 2,425 in 2020. The total number of domestic violence against women decreased from 2,116 in 2020 to 1,434 in 2021 and those against men fell from 309 to 220 (Chart 18).

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 18 – Number of reported cases (new and old) of domestic violence, 2012 – 2021



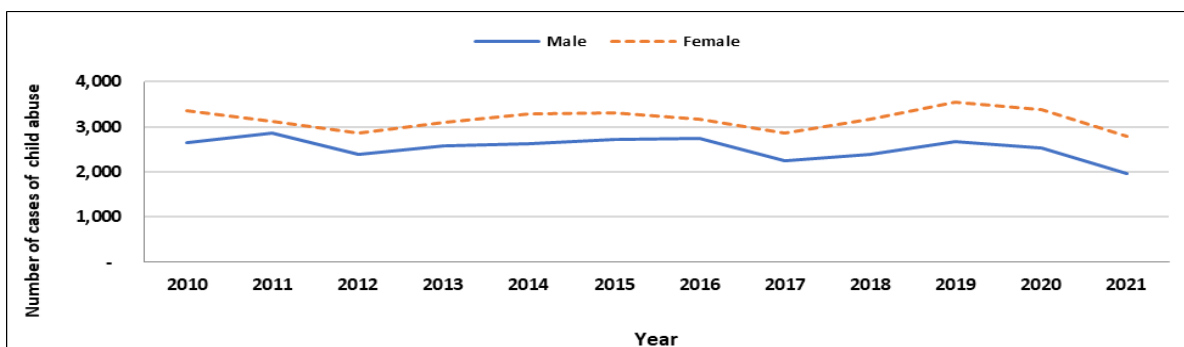
Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

Some 36.2% of women victims of domestic violence reported physical assault by spouse or partner, 27.2% verbal assault by spouse or partner (ill treatment, harassment, abuse, and humiliation), and 13% has been subjected to verbal assault by others living under same roof. Reported cases by men related mostly to verbal assault by spouse or partner (28.7%), verbal assault by others living under the same roof (25.2%) and physical assault by spouse or partner (19.0%).

14. Child Abuse

The total number of cases of child abuse reported at the Child Development Unit went down to 4,746 in 2021 from 5,917 in 2020 (Chart 19).

Chart 19 – Number of reported cases of child abuse at the Child Development Unit, 2010 – 2021



Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

Of the reported cases in 2021, some 58.6% of the victims were females (Table 16). The most common nature of abuse for both male and female was custody of child (25.3% for male and 21.5% for female). Among the females 16.7% cases of psychological/emotional were reported followed by neglect cases (13.1%) and sexual abuse (13.1%). Whereas among the males, 19.1% neglect cases were reported followed by psychological/emotional (18.8%) and physical abuse (13.8%).

Table 16 – Reported cases of child abuse at Child Development Unit by nature of problem, 2021

Nature of Problem	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
Abandonment	35	1.8	20	0.7
Physical abuse	271	13.8	250	9.0
Neglect cases	375	19.1	365	13.1
Worst forms of Labour	9	0.5	14	0.5
Sexual abuse	57	2.9	364	13.1
Psychological /Emotional abuse	370	18.8	464	16.7
Teenage mother	-	-	69	2.5
Teenage pregnancy	-	-	214	7.7
Custody of child	497	25.3	598	21.5
Other problems	350	17.8	424	15.2
Total	1,964	100.0	2,782	100.0

Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

15. Offences

Men are more likely to be victims of homicides and assaults, while women are more prone to sexual violence and sexual exploitation. In 2021, some 51.4% of the assaults and 64.7% of the intentional homicides were committed against men. Some 93.3% of victims of sexual violence and sexual exploitation were women (Table 17).

Table 17 –Victims ¹ of selected offences ² reported at the Police, Republic of Mauritius, 2021

Offences	Male	Female	Both sexes
Homicides	64	21	85
<i>of which Intentional homicides</i>	22	12	34
Assaults	4,660	4,406	9,066
Sexual violence and sexual exploitation	42	588	630
<i>of which Rape</i>	<i>napp</i>	37	37

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

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

Source: Mauritius Police Force

Boys are much more likely to commit offences than girls. In 2021, only 6.6% of the juvenile offences were committed by girls. The female juvenile delinquency rate stood at 0.9, while that for male was 7.4 (Table 18).

Table 18 – Number of Juvenile ¹ offenders reported, Republic of Mauritius, 2021

	Male	Female	Both sexes
Crimes	154	7	161
<i>of which drug offences</i>	23	0	23
Misdemeanours	237	38	275
<i>of which drug offences</i>	13	0	13
Contraventions ²	270	2	272
Total	661	47	708
Juvenile Delinquency Rate ³	7.4	0.9	4.2

¹ Persons aged 12 to 17 years

² Exclude contraventions established by camera

³ Rate per 1,000 mid-year juvenile population and exclude contraventions

Source: Mauritius Police Force

16. Sports

During the period 2019 to 2021, participation in high level sports was consistently lower among female athletes than male athletes. In 2021, participation among female athletes was 32.0% against 68.0% among male athletes (Table 19).

Table 19 – Participation of high-level athletes in sports, 2019 – 2021

	2019		2020		2021	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male	89	67.9	87	65.9	85	68.0
Female	42	32.1	45	34.1	40	32.0
Total	131	100.0	132	100.0	125	100.0

Source: Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation

The most common sporting disciplines in which women participated in 2021 were “athletics” (20.0%) and “handisports” (20.0%) followed by “Judo” (15.0%), badminton (10.0%) and “weight lifting” (10.0%). For men, the most common sporting disciplines were “boxing” (16.5%) and “handisports” (16.5%) followed by athletics” (14.1%) and Judo (12.9%) (Table 20).

Table 20 – Participation of high-level athletes in sports, as at December 2021

Sports discipline	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
Athletics	12	14.1	8	20.0
Tennis	-	-	-	-
Badminton	4	4.7	4	10.0
Swimming	7	8.2	2	5.0
Table Tennis	3	3.5	3	7.5
Cycling	5	5.9	2	5.0
Boxing	14	16.5	-	-
Judo	11	12.9	6	15.0
Weight lifting	6	7.1	4	10.0
Triathlon	1	-	1	-
Fencing	1	1.2	-	-
Kick boxing	4	4.7	1	2.5
Handisports	14	16.5	8	20.0
Ju Jitsu	3	3.5	1	2.5
Total	85	100.0	40	100.0

Source: Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation

17. 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 2021, Mauritius was ranked 110 out of 155 countries worldwide (Table 21). Mauritius has closed both its education attainment, and health and survival gender gaps with indices nearing 1 (Table 22).

Table 21 – Global Gender Gap Index by selected countries, 2019 – 2021

Country	2019		2020		2021	
	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value
Iceland	1	0.877	1	0.877	1	0.892
Norway	2	0.842	2	0.842	3	0.849
France	15	0.781	15	0.781	16	0.784
United Kingdom	21	0.767	21	0.767	23	0.775
Canada	19	0.772	19	0.772	24	0.772
South Africa	17	0.780	17	0.780	18	0.781
Australia	44	0.731	44	0.731	50	0.731
United States	53	0.724	53	0.724	30	0.763
Singapore	54	0.724	54	0.724	54	0.727
Madagascar	62	0.719	62	0.719	57	0.725
Brazil	92	0.691	92	0.691	93	0.695
China	106	0.676	106	0.676	107	0.682
India	112	0.668	112	0.668	140	0.625
Mauritius	115	0.665	115	0.665	110	0.679
Pakistan	151	0.564	151	0.564	153	0.556
Yemen	153	0.494	153	0.494	155	0.492

Source: *Global Gender Gap Report 2021, World Economic Forum*

Table 22 – Global Gender Gap Index for overall and four key areas, Republic of Mauritius, 2009 -2021

Year	Overall	Economic participation	Educational attainment	Health and survival	Political empowerment
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
2020	0.665	0.596	0.992	0.980	0.094
2021	0.679	0.600	0.992	0.980	0.144

Source: *Global Gender Gap Report 2021, World Economic Forum*

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19 July 2022

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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.