



Economic and Social Indicators

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Export Oriented Enterprises

1st Quarter 2026

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Statistics Mauritius
Ministry of Finance
Port Louis

Note: Readers are invited to make the distinction between official data which are published in the Economic and Social indicators and the analysis presented for the benefit of general readers. Differences of opinion may arise regarding the analytical part but these do not in any way, undermine the quality of the data. The Editors welcome constructive critical comments.

Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE) **1st Quarter 2026**

1. Introduction

This issue of “Economic and Social Indicators” (ESI) presents the results of the Quarterly Survey of Employment among Export Oriented Enterprises (EOE), conducted by Statistics Mauritius at the end of March 2026.

It also includes provisional figures on EOE imports and exports for the first quarter of 2026 as well as figures for the years 2024 and 2025. Table 1 shows the main indicators of the EOE sector for the period 2017 to 2025.

EOE consist of enterprises formerly holding an EPZ certificate as well as enterprises manufacturing goods for export and holding a registration certificate issued by the ex-Board of Investment.

2. Employment

2.1 Employment – 1st Quarter 2026

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2025, employment in EOE decreased by 572 (-2.0%) from 28,224 to 27,652. Male employment dropped by 333 from 16,198 to 15,865 and female employment decreased by 239 from 12,026 to 11,787 (Table 2).

The number of Mauritians employed in the EOE sector fell by 160 (-1.1%) (-94 males and -66 females) from 14,738 to 14,578 and the number of foreign workers decreased by 412 (-3.1%) (-239 males and -173 females) from 13,486 at the end of December 2025 to 13,074 at the end of March 2026 (Table 2).

The decrease of 572 in employment in the EOE sector during the first quarter of 2026 is the net result of 801 jobs lost and 229 jobs created. The job losses were due to contraction of workforce in some enterprises and closure of enterprises whilst jobs created were due to expansion in existing enterprises.

2.2 Evolution of employment from March 2025 to March 2026

From March 2025 to March 2026, total employment in EOE decreased by 2,453 (-8.1 %) from 30,105 to 27,652. Employment of Mauritian workers decreased by 1,621 (-424 males and -1,197 females). The number of foreign workers decreased by 832 (-603 males and -229 females) (Tables 2 and 5).

Job losses occurred mainly in enterprises engaged in the manufacture of “Wearing apparel” and “Food” with decreases of 1,403 and 576 jobs respectively.

Details of employment by product group and sex are given in Table 3 and changes in employment by product group in Table 4.

3. Exports and Imports

Statistics on imports and exports are compiled from declarations lodged at Customs by importers and exporters. Some of these declarations are, at times, revised at a later period and corrections made accordingly on the computerised database of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) - Customs Department. Thus, while figures for 2024 are final, those for 2025 and first quarter 2026 are subject to revision as and when the MRA - Customs Department submits latest amendments to Statistics Mauritius.

3.1 Exports and Imports – 1st Quarter 2026

3.1.1 Exports (f.o.b)

Provisional figures show that EOE exports during the first quarter of 2026 amounted to R 9,277 million, that is, R 1,583 million (-14.6%) lower compared to the fourth quarter of 2025 (Table 6). That was mainly the result of decreases observed in exports of “Live animals other than fish” (-R 583 million or -31.3%), “Articles of apparel and clothing” (-R 559 million or -20.3%) and “Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles” (-R 384 million or -27.8%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2025, EOE exports increased by R 45 million (+0.5%).

Details on EOE exports by section are given in Table 7.

United Kingdom (UK), South Africa, United States of America (USA), Spain and France are the principal EOE markets in the first quarter of 2026, together accounting for R 6,205 million (66.9%) of total EOE exports (Table 9). The table below highlights the changes in our main EOE exports markets.

EOE exports by main country of destination

(R million)

Country of destination	Exports Q1 2026	Change on	
		Q4 2025	Q1 2025
United Kingdom	1,530	+90	+53
South Africa	1,470	-653	-84
USA	1,239	-794	+435
Spain	993	+418	-114
France	973	-17	0

Compared to the previous quarter, EOE exports to Spain and United Kingdom showed increases of 72.7% and 6.3% respectively while decreases were observed in the other markets as follows: USA (-39.1%), South Africa (-30.8%) and France (-1.7%).

When compared to the first quarter of 2025, increases in exports were observed for USA (+54.1%) and United Kingdom (+3.6%), while decreases of 10.3% and 5.4% were noted in exports towards Spain and South Africa respectively.

Further details are given in Table 9.

3.1.2 Imports (c.i.f)

EOE imports during the first quarter of 2026 were estimated at R 5,236 million, representing a decrease of R 389 million (-6.9%) compared to the fourth quarter of 2025. This decrease is due to lower imports of raw materials by R 253 million (-4.8%) and “Machinery” by R 136 million (-40.0%) (Table 6).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2025, imports increased by R 88 million (+1.7%), mainly due to an increase in imports of “Fish & fish preparations” by R 443 million (+31.7%) partly offset by a decrease in imports of “Textile yarn and fabrics” by R 393 million (-33.0%).

Details on EOE imports by section are given in Table 8.

3.1.3 Net exports

Net exports, i.e. exports minus imports, amounted to R 4,041 million in the first quarter of 2026 and its ratio to total exports worked out to 43.6% compared to 44.2% in the corresponding quarter of 2025 (Table 6).

It is to be noted that the above exports and imports figures do not include transactions of the EOE with the Freeport. EOE sales to the Freeport, considered as local sales, were valued at R 5 million in the first quarter of 2026 compared to R 2 million in the first quarter of 2025. These sales are included in exports of Freeport, as and when the goods leave the country.

Statistics Mauritius

Ministry of Finance

Port Louis

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Table 1 - Main economic indicators, EOE Sector, 2017 - 2025

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 ¹
1. No of enterprises as at December	280	263	239	235	233	232	231	228	223
- New	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
- Closures	2	17	24	4	2	1	1	3	5
2. Employment as at December	52,172	49,866	44,160	36,736	35,024	36,109	33,293	31,406	28,224
- Net change	-430	-2,306	-5,706	-7,424	-1,712	+1,085	-2,816	-1,887	-3,182
- Growth rate (%)	-0.8	-4.4	-11.4	-16.8	-4.7	+3.1	-7.8	-5.7	-10.1
3. Exports (f.o.b, R million) (excluding sales to Freeport)	43,027	43,311	42,319	37,289	42,657	49,918	47,247	43,865	41,932
4. Imports (c.i.f, R million):	27,094	25,929	24,645	19,629	25,673	33,466	26,781	23,656	22,987
- Raw materials	25,891	24,596	23,641	18,786	24,684	32,147	25,421	22,560	21,719
- Machinery & spare parts	1,203	1,333	1,004	843	989	1,319	1,360	1,096	1,268
5. Net exports (R million)	15,933	17,382	17,674	17,660	16,984	16,452	20,466	20,209	18,945
6. Net exports to Exports (%)	37.0	40.1	41.8	47.4	39.8	33.0	43.3	46.1	45.2
7. Value added at basic prices (R million)	22,105	22,406	18,711	16,039	18,430	21,306	21,176	22,065	22,296
- Share in Manufacturing (%)	39.5	39.6	34.7	33.0	32.9	31.6	28.9	28.7	26.7
- Share in Gross value added (%)	5.3	5.1	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.3	3.8	3.7	3.5
8. Annual Real Growth rate of Value added (%)	+0.3	-4.5	-3.2	-21.9	+6.5	+11.8	-11.2	-1.0	-1.3
9. Investment (R million)	1,091	1,104	739	724	848	1,184	1,220	1,210	1,200
- of which Machinery	745	770	625	610	703	1,022	1,025	1,015	1,015

¹ Revised

Table 2 - Employment by size of enterprise and sex, EOE Sector, March 2025 - March 2026

Category	Number of enterprises as at			Employment								
				March 2025 ¹			December 2025			March 2026 ²		
	March 2025 ¹	December 2025	March 2026 ²	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Enterprises with less than 10 employees	70	77	77	109	85	194	107	79	186	116	80	196
Enterprises with 10 or more employees	156	146	144	16,756	12,951	29,707	16,065	11,781	27,846	15,720	11,533	27,253
Outworkers	Napp	Napp	Napp	27	177	204	26	166	192	29	174	203
TOTAL	226	223	221	16,892	13,213	30,105	16,198	12,026	28,224	15,865	11,787	27,652
<i>Mauritian</i>	<i>Napp</i>	<i>Napp</i>	<i>Napp</i>	6,688	9,511	16,199	6,358	8,380	14,738	6,264	8,314	14,578
<i>Foreign workers (Expatriates)</i>	<i>Napp</i>	<i>Napp</i>	<i>Napp</i>	10,204	3,702	13,906	9,840	3,646	13,486	9,601	3,473	13,074

Napp - Not applicable

¹ Revised

² Provisional

Table 3 - Employment by product group and sex, EOE Sector, March 2025 - March 2026

Product group	March 2025 ¹				March 2026 ²			
	Number of enterprises	Employment			Number of enterprises	Employment		
		Male	Female	Both sexes		Male	Female	Both sexes
1. Food	16	1,624	2,620	4,244	16	1,487	2,181	3,668
2. Flowers	1	18	18	36	1	18	17	35
3. Textile yarn and fabrics	20	1,995	275	2,270	20	1,950	263	2,213
4. Wearing apparel:	80	9,206	5,928	15,134	78	8,496	5,235	13,731
<i>Pullovers</i>	10	313	139	452	10	269	134	403
<i>Other garments</i>	70	8,893	5,789	14,682	68	8,227	5,101	13,328
5. Leather products and footwear	5	129	410	539	5	104	366	470
6. Wood and paper products	10	258	308	566	10	248	260	508
7. Optical goods	2	187	195	382	2	176	178	354
8. Electronic watches and clocks	4	231	241	472	4	236	248	484
9. Electric and electronic products	5	57	111	168	4	55	103	158
10. Jewellery and related articles	12	225	337	562	12	131	215	346
11. Toys and carnival articles	2	10	144	154	2	8	113	121
12. Other products	69	2,952	2,626	5,578	67	2,956	2,608	5,564
TOTAL	226	16,892	13,213	30,105	221	15,865	11,787	27,652

¹ Revised ² Provisional

Table 4 - Net change in employment by product group, EOE Sector, March 2025 - March 2026

Product group	Employment			Net change from	
	Mar. 25 ¹	Dec. 25	Mar. 26 ²	Dec. 25 to Mar. 26 ²	Mar. 25 ¹ to Mar. 26 ²
1. Food	4,244	3,787	3,668	-119	-576
2. Flowers	36	36	35	-1	-1
3. Textile yarn and fabrics	2,270	2,290	2,213	-77	-57
4. Wearing apparel:	15,134	14,112	13,731	-381	-1,403
<i>Pullovers</i>	452	409	403	-6	-49
<i>Other garments</i>	14,682	13,703	13,328	-375	-1,354
5. Leather products and footwear	539	467	470	3	-69
6. Wood and paper products	566	529	508	-21	-58
7. Optical goods	382	360	354	-6	-28
8. Electronic watches and clocks	472	478	484	6	12
9. Electric and electronic products	168	159	158	-1	-10
10. Jewellery and related articles	562	346	346	0	-216
11. Toys and carnival articles	154	142	121	-21	-33
12. Other products	5,578	5,518	5,564	46	-14
TOTAL	30,105	28,224	27,652	-572	-2,453

¹ Revised ² Provisional

Table 5 - Expatriate employment by product group and sex, EOE Sector, March 2025 - March 2026

Product group	Employment					
	March 2025 ¹			March 2026 ²		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
1. Food	676	1,132	1,808	577	1,101	1,678
2. Flowers	0	0	0	3	0	3
3. Textile yarn and fabrics	1,552	29	1,581	1,527	28	1,555
4. Wearing apparel:	7,249	2,455	9,704	6,788	2,251	9,039
<i>Pullovers</i>	231	5	236	183	4	187
<i>Other garments</i>	7,018	2,450	9,468	6,605	2,247	8,852
5. Leather products and footwear	42	5	47	28	2	30
6. Wood and paper products	39	1	40	46	0	46
7. Optical goods	90	0	90	83	10	93
8. Electronic watches and clocks	55	1	56	56	0	56
9. Electric and electronic products	20	0	20	19	4	23
10. Jewellery and related articles	60	2	62	58	4	62
11. Toys and carnival articles	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Other	421	77	498	416	73	489
TOTAL	10,204	3,702	13,906	9,601	3,473	13,074

¹ Revised ² Provisional

Table 6 - Net EOE Exports, 2024 - 1st Quarter 2026

Value: R Million

Item	2024	2025 ¹	2025 ¹				2026 ²
			1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr
A. Total exports (f.o.b)	43,865	41,932	9,232	10,873	10,966	10,860	9,277
B. Total imports (c.i.f)	23,656	22,987	5,148	6,292	5,922	5,625	5,236
<i>Raw materials</i>	<i>22,560</i>	<i>21,719</i>	<i>4,825</i>	<i>6,046</i>	<i>5,563</i>	<i>5,285</i>	<i>5,032</i>
<i>Machinery</i>	<i>1,096</i>	<i>1,268</i>	<i>323</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>359</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>204</i>
Net Exports (A - B)	20,209	18,945	4,084	4,581	5,044	5,235	4,041
Net Exports as % of Total Exports	46.1	45.2	44.2	42.1	46.0	48.2	43.6

¹ Revised ² Provisional

Table 7 - EOE exports of selected commodities by SITC section, 2024 - 1st Quarter 2026

Value (F.o.b): R Million

SITC Section/Description	2024	2025 ¹	2025 ¹				2026 ²
			1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr
	43,865	41,932	9,232	10,873	10,966	10,860	9,277
0 - Food and live animals	17,510	17,824	3,470	4,769	4,813	4,772	4,209
of which :							
Live animals other than fish	4,559	5,198	463	1,454	1,418	1,864	1,281
Fish & fish preparations	12,220	11,987	2,861	3,150	3,253	2,723	2,741
Cereals and cereal preparations	166	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 - Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	121	120	31	24	35	31	38
5 - Chemicals and related products, n.e.s	468	497	100	112	133	152	121
Medicaments (including Veterinary medicaments)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	7,037	6,382	1,553	1,680	1,525	1,625	1,291
of which :							
Paper, paperboard and articles	44	45	11	7	18	9	16
Textile yarn, fabrics, made up articles	5,730	5,363	1,284	1,418	1,281	1,380	996
Glass	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones	955	642	184	157	146	156	166
Iron and steel	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
7 - Machinery and transport equipment	193	266	68	85	80	34	80
8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	18,345	16,676	3,953	4,158	4,347	4,218	3,503
of which :							
Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	424	385	79	105	93	107	66
Articles of apparel and clothing	11,875	10,642	2,522	2,454	2,908	2,758	2,199
Instruments and appliances, n.e.s., for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary purposes	2,114	2,150	451	537	562	599	518
Optical goods	325	264	65	80	40	80	50
Watches and clocks	1,255	848	235	296	176	140	167
Printed matter	93	87	23	26	19	19	30
Articles, n.e.s. of plastics	898	954	240	248	204	262	159
Toys, games and sporting goods	139	160	34	36	45	46	28
Jewellery, goldsmiths & silversmiths wares	706	581	158	166	152	105	197
Other sections	191	167	57	45	33	28	35

¹ Revised ² Provisional

Note: Breakdowns may not add up to totals due to rounding

Table 8 - EOE imports of selected commodities by SITC section, 2024 - 1st Quarter 2026

Value (C.i.f): R Million

SITC Section/Description	2024	2025 ¹	2025 ¹				2026 ²
			1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr
Total EOE Imports	23,656	22,987	5,148	6,292	5,922	5,625	5,236
0 - Food and live animals	6,942	7,966	1,497	2,414	2,168	1,888	2,028
of which :							
Meat and meat preparations	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish & fish preparations	6,355	7,506	1,397	2,291	2,075	1,742	1,840
2 - Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	2,279	1,974	500	472	551	451	339
of which :							
Cotton	1,647	1,578	339	389	483	367	209
Synthetic fibres suitable for spinning	94	45	8	16	5	16	15
Wool and other animal hair	343	135	79	5	21	30	66
3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants and related products	4	7	2	1	2	2	0
5 - Chemicals and related products, n.e.s	2,301	1,877	405	469	508	494	418
6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	8,462	7,403	1,851	2,019	1,687	1,847	1,546
of which :							
Leather	271	275	61	79	70	65	55
Paper, paperboard and articles	240	219	43	64	51	61	54
Textile yarn and fabrics	5,128	4,253	1,190	1,099	964	999	797
Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones	634	432	127	113	108	85	87
Iron and steel	509	548	99	143	135	171	142
Non-ferrous metals	213	252	51	63	51	88	87
7 - Machinery & transport equipment	1,096	1,268	323	246	359	340	204
of which :							
Machinery specialized for particular industries	417	511	114	122	115	159	45
8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2,275	2,293	526	611	605	551	648
of which :							
Optical goods, watches & clocks	659	648	151	164	169	165	202
Printed matter	119	125	31	33	35	26	32
Articles, n.e.s. of plastics	398	364	76	111	93	85	135
Jewellery, goldsmiths & silversmiths wares	121	99	29	33	23	14	43
Other sections	297	199	44	60	42	52	53

¹ Revised ² Provisional

Note: Breakdowns may not add up to totals due to rounding

Table 9 - EOE exports by country of destination, 2024 - 1st Quarter 2026

Value (F.o.b): R Million

Country of destination	2024	2025 ¹	2025 ¹				2026 ²
			1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr
Total EOE Exports	43,865	41,932	9,232	10,873	10,966	10,860	9,277
Europe:	22,982	21,920	5,267	5,873	5,677	5,104	5,222
Austria	14	3	1	0	0	1	1
Belgium	671	433	84	127	124	97	96
France	4,507	4,166	973	1,185	1,017	990	973
Germany	822	933	183	186	265	299	282
Italy	1,725	1,429	301	470	299	359	331
Netherlands	3,182	2,510	653	647	672	538	480
Portugal	212	47	28	8	6	7	9
Spain	3,518	3,825	1,107	1,163	981	575	993
Switzerland	671	721	138	223	191	169	234
United Kingdom	5,912	5,797	1,477	1,363	1,517	1,440	1,530
Other	1,748	2,056	322	501	605	629	293
Asia:	1,940	1,237	363	284	212	377	353
China	43	85	5	9	49	22	38
Hong Kong (S.A.R) ³	64	44	12	15	8	9	8
India	609	591	119	178	88	206	179
Japan	115	29	14	2	3	10	9
Sri Lanka	4	3	3	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	697	155	77	28	25	24	34
Other	408	331	133	52	39	107	85
Africa:	12,816	12,472	2,712	3,093	3,373	3,295	2,322
Madagascar	4,111	3,879	988	965	933	993	667
Reunion	207	316	59	74	110	73	67
Seychelles	89	82	26	10	36	9	9
South Africa	8,054	7,858	1,554	1,984	2,196	2,123	1,470
Other	355	338	84	60	98	96	109
America:	5,983	6,180	838	1,572	1,694	2,077	1,311
Canada	73	96	13	4	53	24	67
Panama	11	1	1	0	0	0	0
U.S.A	5,784	6,001	804	1,531	1,633	2,033	1,239
Other	115	82	20	37	8	20	5
Oceania:	144	122	52	51	11	8	69
Australia	124	115	50	51	8	7	69
New Zealand	20	6	3	0	2	1	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

¹ Revised ² Provisional ³ Special Administrative Region of China

Note: Breakdowns may not add up to totals due to rounding

Table 10 - EOE imports by country of origin, 2024 - 1st Quarter 2026

Value (C.i.f): R Million

Country of origin	2024	2025 ¹	2025 ¹				2026 ²
			1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr
Total EOE Imports	23,656	22,987	5,148	6,292	5,922	5,625	5,236
Europe:	8,530	8,734	1,672	2,679	2,294	2,089	2,000
Belgium	402	285	97	90	62	36	75
France	2,701	2,141	485	787	387	482	716
Germany	468	562	121	112	117	212	115
Italy	803	703	178	202	179	144	170
Netherlands	122	42	6	10	19	7	7
Spain	1,494	2,698	226	876	919	676	278
Sweden	1	4	1	1	2	0	0
Switzerland	412	378	113	104	75	87	81
United Kingdom	684	270	51	99	56	63	70
Other	1,443	1,652	395	398	478	381	488
Asia:	8,989	8,451	2,029	2,194	2,027	2,201	1,585
China	3,110	2,886	587	810	791	698	593
Hong Kong (S.A.R) ³	182	205	35	46	72	52	55
India	2,813	2,279	791	513	454	521	361
Indonesia	929	789	189	238	158	204	167
Japan	81	82	25	22	20	16	21
Korea, Republic of	241	168	57	91	13	7	32
Malaysia	108	157	36	27	41	52	32
Pakistan	66	70	18	18	16	18	18
Singapore	61	119	21	26	26	45	15
Thailand	601	521	122	142	109	148	115
Other	797	1,175	148	261	327	440	176
Africa:	4,793	4,138	1,082	927	1,122	1,007	1,324
Burkina Faso	42	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madagascar	417	368	83	110	78	96	42
Seychelles	2,900	2,716	744	590	805	577	1,085
South Africa	344	378	59	61	128	130	87
Zambia	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1,066	676	196	166	111	204	110
America:	1,169	1,580	349	469	462	300	317
Brazil	496	1,043	216	324	335	169	153
U.S.A	440	397	75	124	102	95	93
Canada	99	1	0	0	0	1	0
Other	134	139	58	21	25	35	71
Oceania:	175	84	16	23	16	28	10
Australia	72	18	12	1	5	0	0
Other	103	65	4	22	11	28	10

¹ Revised ² Provisional ³ Special Administrative Region of China

Note: Breakdowns may not add up to totals due to rounding

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