

IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus

On 16 March 2026, Mauritius adhered to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus, the highest tier of the IMF's Data Standards Initiatives. It is the first country in Africa and the 32nd country globally to achieve this milestone in data transparency. The country's subscription to the SDDS Plus represents a significant advancement in its commitment to data transparency and full compliance with the highest international standards for the dissemination of macroeconomic and financial statistics. This achievement underscores Mauritius's sustained efforts to enhance the quality, coverage, and accessibility of official statistics, thereby better serving users at both national and international levels.

What is the SDDS Plus?

In February 2012, the IMF Executive Board approved the establishment of the SDDS Plus as a third tier of the IMF's Data Standards Initiatives to address data gaps revealed during the global crisis. The SDDS Plus goes beyond the focus of SDDS on access to international capital markets by putting an emphasis on countries that have systemically important financial sector and are integral to the working of the international monetary system.

The SDDS Plus is open to all SDDS subscribers and adherence to the SDDS Plus is voluntary. An SDDS Plus adherent must observe requirements for nine data categories, in addition to being an SDDS subscriber in full observance of all SDDS requirements. These nine data categories are:

- Sectoral balance sheets,
- Quarterly general government operations (GGO),
- General government total gross debt (GGD),
- Other Financial Corporations Survey (OFCS),
- Financial Soundness Indicators (FSIs),
- Debt Securities,
- Participation in the coordinated portfolio investment survey (CPIS),
- Participation in the coordinated direct investment survey (CDIS), and
- Participation in the currency composition of official foreign exchange reserves (COFER) database.

For each of the nine data categories, the SDDS Plus prescribes the components, periodicity and timeliness with which data are to be disseminated or reported to the IMF.

Key Aspects of Dissemination

Countries adhering to the SDDS Plus must undertake to observe the various dimensions and elements of the SDDS Plus and provide the necessary information to the IMF for dissemination on the DSBB. The SDDS plus, like the SDDS, identifies four dimensions of data dissemination:

- **Data coverage, periodicity (frequency) and timeliness:** Comprehensive economic and financial data disseminated on a timely basis are essential to the transparency of macroeconomic performance and policy analysis. Countries adhering to the SDDS Plus are obliged to disseminate the prescribed categories of data with the specified coverage, periodicity, and timeliness.
- **Access by the public:** Dissemination of official statistics is an essential feature of statistics as a public good. The SDDS Plus calls for providing the public, including market participants, ready and equal access to the data. Countries adhering to the SDDS Plus are obliged to disseminate advance release calendars (ARCs) for the data except for CPIS, CDIS, and COFER; and release the data, to all interested parties simultaneously.
- **Integrity:** To fulfill the purpose of providing the public with information, official statistics must have the confidence of their users. In turn, confidence in the statistics ultimately becomes a matter of confidence in the objectivity and professionalism of the agency producing the statistics. Transparency of practices and procedures is a key factor in creating this confidence.
- **Quality:** Countries adhering to the SDDS Plus are obliged to (1) disseminate documentation on methodology and sources used in preparing statistics, including the identification of methodological deviations from internationally accepted statistical methodologies; (2) encouraging data modules of the Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (Data ROSCs) or other quality assessments every 7–10 years; and (3) disseminate component detail, reconciliations with related data, and statistical frameworks that support statistical cross- checks and provide assurance of reasonableness.

With regard to data access, integrity and quality, the SDDS Plus emphasizes transparency in the compilation and dissemination of data. To promote ready and equal access, the SDDS Plus prescribes:

- dissemination of Advance Release Calendars (ARCs). The ARC for an adherent is to include release dates for all the SDDS prescribed data categories and the additional SDDS Plus data categories except for CPIS, CDIS and COFER data.
- simultaneous release to all in traditional and electronic formats through the National Summary Data Page (NSDP). The NSDP should contain information on the SDDS prescribed data categories and the nine additional SDDS Plus data categories. The SDDS Plus also requires that hyperlinks on NSDPs to the IMF's Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) provide users with access to time series for all data categories, except for COFER data, for the last five years (or less than five years if the data series was created less than five years from the date of posting the hyperlink). Adherents should use the SDMX format as established by the IMF for reporting in their NSDP.
- dissemination of metadata on the DSSB in English, using the predetermined electronic format provided by IMF to facilitate cross-adherent comparison.

Transition period

A transition period is available for an SDDS Plus adherent that commits to comply with all SDDS Plus requirements within five years of the date of adherence. The transition period allows countries to be considered adherents to the SDDS Plus even if they meet the requirements for only five of the nine data categories and they have plans in place to meet all the requirements within 5 years of the date of adherence.

Flexibility Options

No flexibility options are available for any of the nine additional SDDS Plus data categories. However, an SDDS Plus adherent maintains the right to apply the SDDS flexibility options available to it for the SDDS data categories under the SDDS Plus. Flexibility options under the SDDS allow SDDS subscribers to disseminate data with a periodicity or timeliness (or both) 'less' than prescribed.

Monitoring Observance

To maintain the credibility of the SDDS Plus, the IMF verifies whether data posted through an adherent's NSDP (except CPIS, CDIS, and COFER data) are consistent with the release dates indicated in the ARC, as provided by the adherent to the IMF, and with the adherent's metadata posted on the DSBB. The IMF also verifies whether the data accord with the coverage, periodicity, and timeliness prescribe in the SDDS Plus. In addition to monthly report sent to individual adherents about their observance, the IMF staff will post on the DSBB an annual assessment report covering each adherent's observance, the SDDS Plus.

SDDS and SDDS Plus Data categories: Coverage, Periodicity and Timeliness

Sectors	Data category	Data source	Periodicity	Timeliness
Real Sector	1 National Accounts	Statistics Mauritius	Q	Q
	2 Sectoral Balance Sheet	Statistics Mauritius	Q	4M
	3 Index of Production	Statistics Mauritius	M	6W (M encouraged)
	4 Labour Market: Employment	Statistics Mauritius	Q	Q
	5 Labour Market: Unemployment	Statistics Mauritius	Q	Q
	6 Labour Market: Wages/Earnings	Statistics Mauritius	Q	Q
	7 Price Index: Consumer Prices	Statistics Mauritius	M	M
	8 Price Index: Producer Prices	Statistics Mauritius	M	M

Fiscal Sector	9	General Government Operations - Annual	Statistics Mauritius	A	2Q
	10	General Government Operations – Quarterly	Statistics Mauritius	Q	12M
	11	Central Government Debt	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	Q	Q
	12	Central Government Operations	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	M	M
	13	Central Government Debt	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	Q	Q
Financial Sector	14	Depository Corporations Survey	Bank of Mauritius	M	M
	15	Central Bank Survey	Bank of Mauritius	M (W encouraged)	2W (W encouraged)
	16	Interest Rate	Bank of Mauritius	D	
	17	Other Financial Corporations Survey	Bank of Mauritius	Q	4M
	18	Financial Soundness Indicators Excluding Residential Real Estate Prices	Bank of Mauritius	Q	Q
	19	Financial Soundness Indicators Residential Real Estate Prices	Statistics Mauritius	Q	Q
	20	Debt Securities		Q	4M
	21	Stock Market Share Price Index	Stock Exchange of Mauritius	D	
External Sector	22	Balance of Payment	Bank of Mauritius	Q	Q
	23	Official Reserve	Bank of Mauritius	M (W encouraged)	1W
	24	International Reserves & Foreign Currency Liquidity	Bank of Mauritius	M (W encouraged)	M (W encouraged)
	25	Merchandise Trade	Statistics Mauritius	M	8W (4-6 W encouraged)
	26	International Investment Position	Bank of Mauritius	A	3Q
	27	Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS)	International Monetary Fund CDIS	SA	7M
	28	Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS)	International Monetary Fund CDIS	A	9M
	29	External Debt	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	Q	Q
	30	Exchange rate	Bank of Mauritius	D	
	31	Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER)	International Monetary Fund COFER	Q	Q
Socio-demographic Data	32	Population	Statistics Mauritius	A	*

*Although there is no specification for timeliness of population, it is presumed that data are disseminated at least once a year and on a regular basis.

Periodicity and Timeliness: Q-Quarterly; A- Annual; SA-Semi-Annual; M- Monthly; W-Weekly; D-Daily

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