
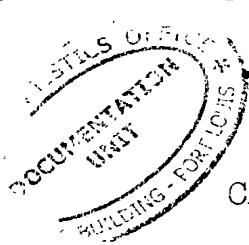
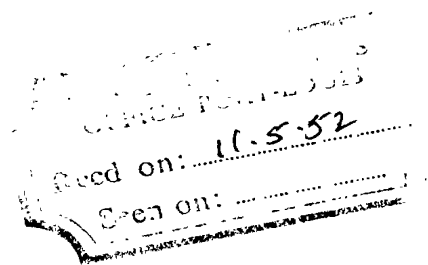


ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE  
FOR THE YEAR 1951





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE  
FOR THE YEAR 1951



FUNCTIONS.

In July 1945, a Statistical Bureau was created in consequence of a recommendation made by the Commission of Enquiry into the disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius in 1943.

The original functions assigned to this Bureau were to collect and compile accurate information as to the wages of labour; the number and type of employment in various industries; the level of prices and computation of cost of living indices; the Bureau was also assigned the task of supervising and co-ordinating the statistical data collected in the various Government Departments. These functions of the Bureau were gradually extended to involve the periodical statistical survey of every branch of economic activity in the island; agricultural, industrial and commercial. The scope of its activities now is no longer so limited, however, for it also keeps under review the demographic, the vital, health, educational and other social statistics of the life of the Colony. In July, 1948, the original Statistical Bureau became the Central Statistical Office.

The whole mass of valuable information collected and analysed by the Central Statistical Office is presented in an annual handbook, in a form in which it can be conveniently utilised by the Government, the general public and outside institutions. The preparation of such a handbook calls for general familiarity with statistical technique; it demands a discriminating appraisal of the data obtained in order to render them, in the way of presenting the information involved, of greater use. This Year Book of Statistics for Mauritius has been published annually since 1946.

In addition, the Central Statistical Office has also to prepare a number of statistical reports for submission to the Colonial Office and to the various agencies of the United Nations Organisation. It has to reply to a large number of enquiries from abroad, in addition to those from local organisations, institutions and individuals. When time and opportunity offers, it also carries out research on the material collected by the department.

The Central Statistical Office is now in constant contact with the Colonial Office Statistical Department, a new separate organisation created towards the end of 1948.

LOCATION.

Throughout the year, the Central Statistical Office was housed in a stone and concrete building at 8, Révérend Lebrun Street, Rose Hill.

In the course of the year, this building was purchased by the Government for the permanent location of the Central Statistical Office as it appeared that the new building,

plans for which had already been made, could not be erected for some considerable length of time.

#### STAFF.

The strength of the staff as at the end of the year consisted of:

The Director of Statistics  
The Assistant Director  
A Senior Statistician  
Two Assistant Statisticians  
A Senior Compiler and five Compilers  
One typist.

#### STAFF MOVEMENTS.

In June, Mr. L. HONORE, B.Sc (Econ), F.S.S. F.I.S. completed his course at the L.S.M. and obtained the degree of B.Sc. (Economics) being awarded Second Class Honours (Lower Division). He subsequently went through a course of practical training in the Central Statistical Office, London, in the General Register Office, in the Board of Trade and in the Ministry of Labour's Statistics Department. In September, he attended the Annual Conference of the Association of Incorporated Statisticians at Balliol College, Oxford.

Mr. HONORE was appointed to the newly created post of Assistant Director as from the 1st July, 1951. He returned to the Colony on the 9th of December, 1951, and assumed duty on the 10th.

Mr. H. ETIENNE, who had been acting as Senior Statistician during the absence on study leave of Mr. HONORE, was confirmed in that appointment as from the 1st of July, 1951. On the 13th of November, Mr. ETIENNE left the Colony on over-seas vacation leave. During his leave in England, Mr. ETIENNE proposes to take a course in statistics at the West London College of Commerce, West Kensington, and also to take advantage of the facilities offered to him to undergo practical training in certain special branches of statistical work.

During the absence on leave of Mr. ETIENNE, Mr. F. ALPHIGNE, one of the Assistant Statisticians, acted as Senior Statistician.

Mr. T. RADLURSLEIGH, one of the Compilers, was appointed to one of the posts of Assistant Statisticians.

On the 1st of July, 1951, Mr. E. HOUEIX, Senior Compiler, was transferred to the Legislature in the Capacity of Special Grade Clerk, post to which he had been appointed on the 1st of April, 1951.

Miss M. LILLET, Compiler, was promoted to the post of Senior Compiler as from the 1st of April.

Messrs. L. LEGUEN of the Supreme Court, F. DESVENUX of the Electricity and Telephones Department and Y. THUYAN of

the Customs Department, joined the Department as Compilers with effect from the 1st August, 16th November and 20th November, 1951, respectively.

### YEAR BOOK OF STATISTICS.

The Year Book of Statistics for 1950 was prepared as usual and was almost complete in MSS in October.

Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. J.A. Sangster of Messrs. Blanche Poupard and Co., agents of the Gestetner, and of the Commissioner for the Government of India, it was possible to produce the requisite number of copies of the Year Book on an electrically-driven Gestetner Duplicator.

I wish to record my thanks to the Commissioner for the Government of India and to Mr. Sangster for their kind assistance in the loan of this machine, without which the Year Book could not have been issued.

### CONSUMERS' PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

Monthly surveys of the current retail prices of a large number of articles of common consumption were continued as heretofore. Indexes of these prices relative to prewar were worked out for 71 articles of food and beverages, 40 articles of clothing and textiles, 43 articles of household necessity, including fuel items.

CONSUMERS' PRICE INDICES. (otherwise called the cost of living index), were computed each month for six different groups of consumers. These monthly indexes were regularly published in the Government Gazette as from the 1st of September.

### STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

About twenty-two Monthly and Quarterly returns of demographic, vital and trade statistics were regularly furnished to the statistical department of the Colonial Office.

### STATISTICS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER AGENCIES.

Extensive questionnaires from the United Nations Organisation and its agencies, dealing with demographic and vital statistics, cultivation, production, livestock, foodstuffs, external trade, etc., for Mauritius and its Dependencies were replied to. Other extensive questionnaires from the Economic Reporting Service of the State Department, Washington, dealing with sea port facilities and connected matters in Mauritius were also dealt with. Statistical information on various subjects was supplied to the British Consul in Madagascar.

Since January, 1951, monthly statistical tables (covering varied subjects), were in addition furnished for the monthly bulletin of statistics of the United Nations Organisation.

### STATISTICS OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

As in previous years, the Central Statistical Office undertook the compilation of complete data relating to cultivation,

/production ...

production and manufacture in the Sugar Industry. The tabulated data on the crop results were circulated to the Director of Agriculture, the Chamber of Agriculture and the Agricultural Bank. In addition, with the kind assistance of the Registrar of the Co-Operative Societies, a satisfactorily large sample of small plantation results was analysed and published.

Bi-annual statements of employment and wages for artisans and skilled personnel in the Sugar Industry were collected, compiled and analysed.

#### TRADE STATISTICS.

The adoption of a new classified Customs Tariff based on the Standard International Trade Classification has been under consideration of the Comptroller and of the Central Authorities during the year, but no final decision had been reached at the end of the year .

However, it was possible for the Central Statistical Office to adopt the Standard International Trade Classification (S.I.T.C.) for the analysis of the Trade of the Colony, which is published in the Year Book for 1950.

#### SALARIES COMMISSION.

Early in the year, the Central Statistical Office started contributing statistical and financial information to the investigations of the Salaries Commission. A very considerable amount of work had to be performed in connection with the preparation of the Commissioner's second Interim Report on cost of living allowances published in May and later in connection with the Commissioner's Final Report on Salaries, published in December.

#### STANDING COST OF LIVING COMMITTEE.

In June, Government established a " Standing Cost of Living Allowance Committee " to which the Director was appointed as a member. A considerable amount of computational work for the Committee was performed at the Central Statistical Office between June and September in connection with the Consolidation of the existing Cost of Living allowances and with the determination of the subsequent trend in Cost of Living indices.

#### BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE COLONY.

On request from the Secretary of State, work on the Balance of Payments of the Colony for the years 1948 and 1949 was started early in the year and completed in July.

This work required extensive investigations to be carried out in the records of the Treasury, the Shipping Agents, Insurance Companies, Banks, etc.

In this connection, the Director wishes to record his appreciation of the interest taken and of the kind assistance given by Mr. A.T. FRANCIS, the Manager of Barclays Bank, who, in consultation with the other Bank Managers, collected the banking data relevant to this calculation.

### CAPITAL FORMATION ESTIMATES.

Calculation of the Capital Formation in the Colony for the years 1948 and 1949 was undertaken at the request of the Secretary of State. This work involved very extensive investigations into private as well as public capital investments, covering the agricultural, industrial and constructional and other activities in the Colony. The final tables were completed in about mid-April.

### QUANTUM AND PRICE INDICES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

A complete revision of the quantum and price indices for imports and exports independently were carried out from 1948 onwards. The coverage originally used for the price index was extended to 74% of the total for imports, and 100% for exports. The quantum index originally based on gross tonnage valuation was recomputed, using the net tonnage. The two independently worked out indexes were found finally to fit in with the index of total value.

### LEGISLATION.

Ordinance No.11 of 1951, providing for the taking of censuses and the collection of statistical information in the Colony, was adopted by the Legislative Council on the 27th of March, 1951.

Under this Ordinance, a number of Regulations were also enacted during the year. These were:

- (i) Government Notices Nos.139 and 153 of 1951 which provided for the collection of statistical information relating to agricultural production and manufacture in the Colony; and to information required for computing the Balance of Payments, Capital Formation, etc.
- (ii) Government Notice No.244 of 1951, which provided for information to be collected in the population Census of 1952.
- (iii) Government Notice No.245 of 1951, which fixed by Order of the Governor in Council the date of the final Census of Population in 1952.

### CENSUS 1952.

All the preliminary work relating to the Population Census to be taken in 1952 was carried out during the year. It involved the preparation of the regulations, the framing of appropriate schedules for the enumeration, both preliminary and final, and the drafting of instructions to this effect. All this preparatory work had been completed before the end of the year. Interviews in connection with the selection of the personnel to be employed on the Census work also took place towards the end of the year.

VISITS.

A number of visitors to the island, whose interests were concerned with the commercial and economic or social activities of the Colony, called on the Director for information.

MISCELLANEOUS OTHER ACTIVITIES.

The office had to reply during the year to a large number of enquiries of a private nature from individuals and institutions, both local and abroad, in addition to numerous enquiries of an official character.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND LIBRARY.

Some valuable books and publications were added in the Library during the year.

HOLLERITH PUNCHED CARD EQUIPMENT.

Steps were taken during the latter part of the year to secure a Hollerith punching, sorting and tabulating equipment to be utilised in the first place in the compilation of the Population Census 1952. The plan of work to be put on the Hollerith installation involves the compilation and tabulation of the Statistics of the Customs, the Income Tax and the Medical Departments besides its use in the Central Statistical Office.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

I have much pleasure in recording here my appreciation of the good work throughout the year, by every member of the staff.

M. HERCHENRODER

April, 1952.

Director of Statistics.

