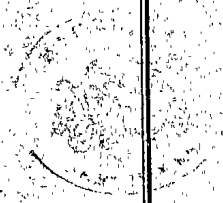


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COLONY OF MAURITIUS

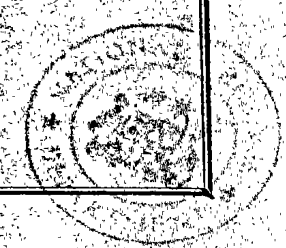


# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# Central Statistical Office

for the year 1957



No. 5 of 1958



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE  
FOR THE YEAR 1957

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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 wages of labour, the number and type of employment in various industries, the level of prices and the computation of cost of living indices. The Bureau was also assigned the task of supervising and coordinating the statistical data collected in 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, financial and commercial. It also keeps under review the demographic, 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 information collected, tabulated and analysed by the Central Statistical Office is presented in an annual handbook, in such a form as it can be conveniently utilised by the Government, the general public and outside institutions. This Year Book of Statistics for Mauritius has been published annually since 1946.

The Office draws up complete annual tables of the Balance of payments of the Colony, of Capital Formation aggregates, of National Income and National Accounts.

In addition, the Central Statistical Office has also to prepare a large 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 great number of enquiries from abroad, in addition to those from local organisations, institutions and individuals. When time and opportunity offer, it also carries out research on the statistical material collected by the Department.

STAFF

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

The Director of Statistics  
The Assistant Director  
The Statistician  
Two Assistant Statisticians  
An Office Superintendent  
Ten Compilers  
A Hollerith Operator  
A Typist-Stenographer  
4 Punch & Verifier Operators

/Qualifying...

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS

Mr. P.R. L'Aiguille returned from overseas vacation on the 8th of August. During his leave in England, he attended the Regent Street Polytechnic and was successful in Part A of the Final Examination of the Associateship of the Association of Incorporated Statisticians.

Local examinations were again held this year by the Association of Incorporated Statisticians.

Four officers of this department took locally various examinations in statistical subjects.

Mr. F. Empeigne, Assistant Statistician, completed Part B of the Final Examination for the Associateship and became thus qualified for this Certificate.

Miss L. Smith passed Part B of the Intermediate examination for the Associateship.

## YEAR BOOK OF STATISTICS

The Year Book of Statistics for 1956 was ready in November and was issued at the end of the year.

## CONSUMERS' PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

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

## CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX

This index (otherwise called "the cost of living index") was computed each month for each of six different categories of consumers. These monthly indexes were regularly published in the Government Gazette.

A new general index of consumers' prices based on the United Nations schedule of private consumption expenditure was also computed using 1950 as year of reference for each of the years 1951 to 1957.

This new index, which was worked out at the request of the Government, purports to give a measure of the general trend in prices.

## STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR THE COLONIAL OFFICE

Several monthly and quarterly returns of demographic, vital, industrial production and trade statistics were regularly furnished to the Statistical Department of the Colonial Office.

The sections on Mauritius in the Digest of Colonial Statistics published by the Colonial Office are also periodically revised.

## STATISTICS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

Extensive questionnaires from the United Nations Organisation and its agencies, dealing with demographic and vital data and statistics of cultivation, production, livestock, foodstuffs,

/external...

external trade, etc., for Mauritius and its Dependencies were answered.

Since January, 1951, monthly Statistical tables (covering various subjects) have been 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 and manufacture in the sugar industry. **Tabular statements** on the crop results were circulated to the Director of Agriculture, the Chamber of Agriculture, the Central Board and the Agricultural Bank. In addition, with the kind assistance of the Registrar of the Co-Operative Societies, a satisfactorily large sample of data relating to small plantations 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

Complete statistics of imports and exports on the basis of the Standard International Trade Classification continued to be compiled in the office in collaboration with the Customs Authorities. Since 1953 a publication embodying complete trade accounts has been produced by the Customs Department. In addition the Year Book of Statistics gives a complementary analysis of the year's trade with relevant index numbers and other information.

#### NATIONAL INCOME AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

The National Income and National Accounts Tables for the current year were prepared in continuation of the published result for previous years and issued for official information in October. Complete information and data on this subject are now available from 1948 onwards.

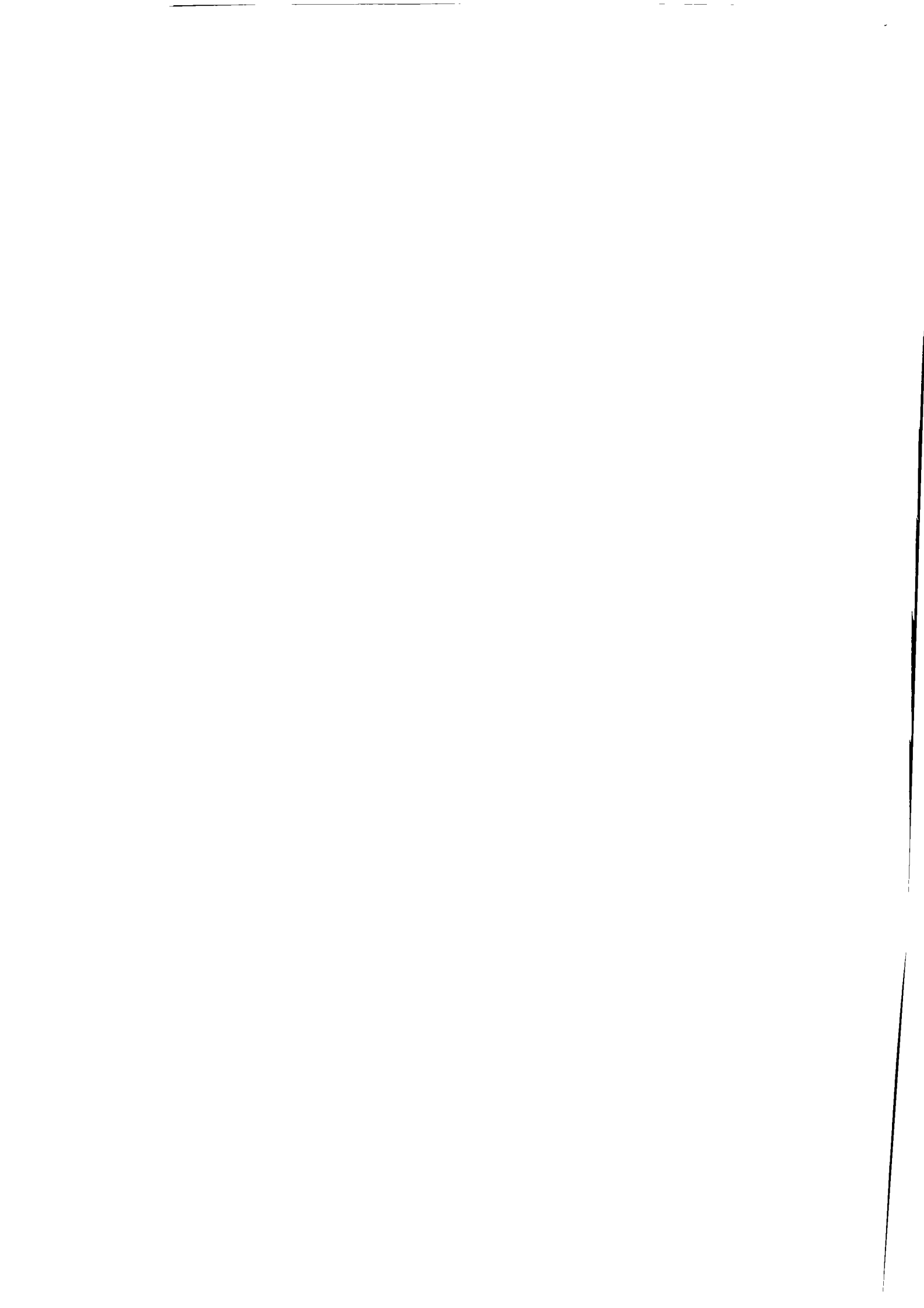
#### BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE COLONY

Tables of the Balance of Payments for the year 1956 were computed as in previous years and this work, which necessitated analyses of the records of the Treasury and the Post Office, and the compilation of returns from private banks and commercial agencies, was completed in August.

#### CAPITAL FORMATION ESTIMATES

Tabular statements of Capital Formation and Consumption in the Colony during the year 1956 were compiled and issued as previously at the request of the Secretary of State. Provisional tables were forwarded to the Secretary of State by the middle of April and the final tables in June.

A publication summarising and analysing the estimates over the period 1948 to 1956 was prepared and issued in December. After consultation with the Colonial Office, these estimates have now been recomputed so as to show the industrial distribution of capital investments in conformity with the International Standard Industrial Classification.



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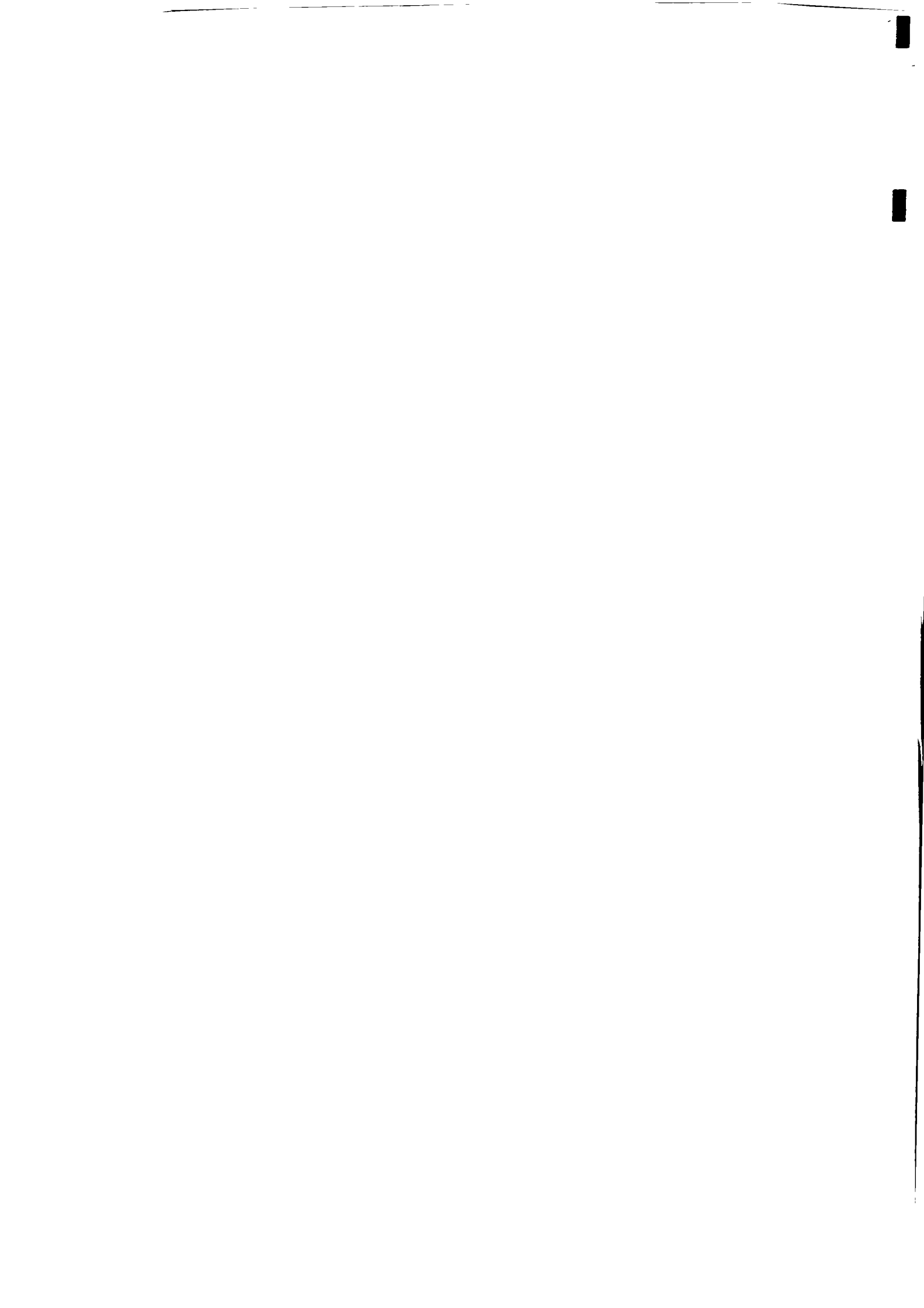
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## ELECTORAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

The Electoral Boundary Commission arrived in Mauritius at the beginning of August and left at about mid-October. Throughout this period the staff of the Central Statistical Office was employed in compilations and computations relating to population numbers and distribution; in particular several forecasts of future population and of its structure had to be worked out. Two members of the staff, Mr. F. Empeigne and Mr. T. Ramdaursingh, who had been District Supervisors during the last Census (1952), were detailed for special work with the Commission.

## SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Particular mention should be made of the important statistical computation and analysis which were effected in connexion with:

- (i) the life expectancy of Government pensioners;
- (ii) certain matters relating to the credit and banking system of the Colony;
- (iii) social security.

A short survey and analysis of economic trends in the Colony during the decade 1946 to 1956 was completed at the beginning of the year and published in the "Revue Agricole et Sucrière de l'Ile Maurice" for January-February 1957, under the title "High Lights of Mauritian Economy, 1946 - 1956".

## MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

During the year the office dealt with a large number of enquiries of a private nature from individuals and institutions both local and abroad.

## HOLLERITH PUNCHED CARD EQUIPMENT

In addition to the work of the Central Statistical Office, the Hollerith equipment is at present used to compile and tabulate:-

- (i) the trade statistics of which monthly, quarterly and annual accounts are produced;
- (ii) the statistics of the Health Department;
- (iii) the statistics of the Income Tax Department;
- (iv) complete monthly and annual statements of vital statistics for the Civil Status Office;
- (v) certain statistics of the Postal Department;
- (vi) the statistics of crime.

The machines were also put to considerable use in extracting detailed information for the Electoral Boundary Commission from the Hollerith Census (1952) Cards.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

The following list of all publications issued by the Central Statistical Office as from its foundation is inserted here for reference:

<u>Title of Publication</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
Year Book of Statistics	Annually
Mauritius Life Table (1944 - 1946)	September, 1947
Mauritius Life Table (1951 - 1953)	December, 1954
National Income & National Accounts of Mauritius 1948 - 1954 <sup>+</sup>	November, 1955
Gross & Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948 - 1954	March, 1956
Natality and Fertility in Mauritius 1825 - 1955	June, 1956
Highlights of Mauritian Economy 1946 - 1956	January - February, 1957 (Revue Agricole et Sucrière de l'île Maurice).
Gross & Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948 - 1956 (revised version)	December, 1957.

+ Computed annually since 1954.

1st February, 1958.

  
Director of Statistics.  
(M. HERCHENRODER).



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