

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS, REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS - YEAR 2003

1. Population estimates, 31st December 2003

As at end 2003, the population of the Republic of Mauritius was estimated at 1,228,965 of whom 607,969 were males and 620,996 females, giving a sex ratio of 97.9. With an estimated population of 1,216,781 at the beginning of the year, the population growth rate works out to 1.0%.

The population of the Island of Mauritius grew at a rate of 1.0% from 1,180,189 at the beginning of 2003 to 1,192,137 by the end of the year. Over the same period, the population of Rodrigues increased from 36,303 to 36,539, at a rate of 0.7%. The population of the outer islands (Agalega and Saint Brandon) is estimated at around 289 (193 males and 96 females).

The Republic of Mauritius, with a total land area of 2,040 square kilometres, had a population density of around 602 persons per square kilometre at the end of 2003 (Table 1). Corresponding figures for the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues were 639 and 351 respectively.

Table 2 shows comparative population estimates and selected indicators for the past three years.

2. Components of population growth

Table 3 shows the contribution of each component of population growth, namely natural increase and net international migration, to the population change during the year. In 2003, natural increase (the excess of live births over deaths) added 11,660 persons while net international migration added 524 persons, resulting in an overall population increase of 12,184 (1.0%) during the year.

3. Population estimates by age-group and sex

Table 4 gives the estimated mid-year population of the Republic of Mauritius in 2002 and 2003 by age and sex. Between 2002 and 2003, the proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 25.4% to 25.2%. In contrast, increases were registered in the proportion aged 15-64 years, from 68.2% to 68.3% and in the proportion aged 65+ years from 6.4% to 6.5%. As a result, the dependency ratio (the child population under 15 years of age and the elderly population aged 65+ years per 1,000 population aged 15-64 years) decreased from 468 to 464.

Figure 1 on page 7 shows a population pyramid depicting changes in the age structure between 1993 and 2003.

4. Vital statistics and rates

Tables 5(a) to 5(c) give a series of vital statistics and rates from 1994 to 2003 for the Republic of Mauritius, the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues respectively.

4.1 Live births

In 2003, 19,896 live births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, representing a 0.4% decrease over the number registered in 2002 (19,983). The crude birth rate consequently dropped from 16.5 to 16.3.

In the Island of Mauritius, 19,038 live births were registered in 2003 against 19,169 in 2002, that is a 0.7% decrease. The crude birth rate thus declined from 16.3 to 16.0. In the Island of Rodrigues however, the number of live births increased from 814 in 2002 to 858 in 2003 resulting in a rise of the crude birth rate from 22.9 to 23.5.

4.2 Deaths

In the Republic of Mauritius, 8,236 deaths were registered in year 2003, showing a 0.9% decrease over the number registered in 2002 (8,310). The crude death rate consequently dropped to 6.7 from 6.9 in 2002.

In the Island of Mauritius, the number of deaths decreased by 0.6%, from 8,081 in 2002 to 8,029 in 2003; consequently the crude death rate declined from 6.9 to 6.8. A decreasing trend was also observed in the Island of Rodrigues where the number of deaths declined from 229 (rate of 6.1) in 2002 to 207 (rate of 5.7) in 2003.

4.3 Infant deaths

A 11.4% decrease was noted in the number of infant deaths for the Republic of Mauritius, from 297 in 2002 to 263 in 2003. The infant mortality rate consequently fell from 14.9 to 13.2.

In the Island of Mauritius, the number of infant deaths decreased from 278 in 2002 to 242 in 2003. The infant mortality rate thus fell from 14.5 to 12.7. In the Island of Rodrigues, however, the number of infant deaths increased from 19 (rate of 22.9) to 21 (rate of 24.5) between 2002 and 2003.

4.4 Still Births

In 2003, the number of still births registered in the Republic of Mauritius was 218, which is 7.4% higher than that registered in 2002 (203). The still birth rate consequently rose from 10.1 in 2002 to 10.8 in 2003.

The Island of Mauritius registered 209 still births in 2003 against 197 in 2002; thus the still birth rate rose from 10.2 in 2002 to 10.9 in 2003. The number of still births registered in Rodrigues also increased - from 6 (rate of 10.1) in 2002 to 9 (rate of 10.4) in 2003.

4.5 Marriages

There was a 0.3% decrease in the number of marriages registered in the Republic of Mauritius, from 10,484 in 2002 to 10,451 in 2003. The marriage rate consequently declined from 17.3 to 17.1.

The number of marriages registered in the Island of Mauritius decreased from 10,253 in 2002 to 10,235 in 2003 with the crude marriage rate falling from 17.5 to 17.3. The Island of Rodrigues also registered a decrease in the number of marriages from 231 (rate of 12.3) to 216 (rate of 11.9).

4.6 Divorces

Between 2002 and 2003, there was an increase in the number of divorce cases lodged at Supreme Court from 1,480 to 1,586. The number of cases disposed of, however decreased from 1,630 to 1,507. The number of divorce granted also declined from 1,291 to 1,190 during the same period. However in both 2002 and 2003, the proportion of divorce granted remained at around 80%.

The crude divorce rate expressed as the number of persons divorced in a year per 1,000 mid-year population decreased from 2.1 to 1.9 during the same period.

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NOTES

1. Vital Statistics : The statistics pertaining to vital events which include live births, deaths, still births, marriages and divorces.
2. Sex ratio : The number of males to every 100 females.
3. Natural increase : The excess of live births over deaths.
4. Crude birth rate : The number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
5. Crude death rate : The number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
6. Infant mortality rate : The number of deaths in a year of infants aged under one year per 1,000 live births during the year.
7. Still birth rate : The number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births (live births and still births) during the year.
8. Marriage rate : The number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
9. Divorce rate : The number of persons to whom divorce is granted in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.

Table 1 - Estimated resident population¹ of the Republic of Mauritius as at 31st December 2003

Island	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Area (km ²)	Density per km ²
Mauritius	1,192,137	589,678	602,459	97.9	1,864.8	639
Rodrigues	36,539	18,098	18,441	98.1	104.0	351
Other	289	193	96	201.0	71.2	4
Republic	1,228,965	607,969	620,996	97.9	2,040.0	602

Table 2 - Estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius, 2001 - 2003 (31st December)

Year	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Density per Km ²	Annual growth rate (%)
2001	1,205,677	597,261	608,416	98.2	591	1.0
2002	1,216,781	602,490	614,291	98.1	596	0.9
2003	1,228,965	607,969	620,996	97.9	602	1.0

Table 3 - Components of population growth - Republic of Mauritius², 2003

Components of population growth	2003 ¹
Resident population as at beginning of year	<u>1,216,492</u>
Live Births	19,896
Deaths	8,236
Natural increase	<u>11,660</u>
Net international migration	<u>524</u>
Resident population as at end of year	1,228,676

¹ provisional² excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Table 4 - Estimated resident population¹ by age-group and sex - Republic of Mauritius², 1st July 2002 and 1st July 2003

Age group (Years)	1st July 2002				1st July 2003			
	Male	Female	Both sexes		Male	Female	Both sexes	
			Number	%			Number	%
0	9,842	9,524	19,366	1.6	9,907	9,753	19,660	1.6
1 - 4	40,153	38,500	78,653	6.5	40,009	38,379	78,388	6.4
5 - 9	52,451	51,953	104,404	8.6	51,264	50,464	101,728	8.3
10 - 14	53,635	51,768	105,403	8.7	54,939	53,243	108,182	8.8
15 - 19	47,678	46,629	94,307	7.8	47,426	46,391	93,817	7.7
20 - 24	56,897	56,989	113,886	9.4	55,825	55,496	111,321	9.1
25 - 29	48,894	49,387	98,281	8.1	51,338	52,327	103,665	8.5
30 - 34	47,006	47,346	94,352	7.8	45,682	45,784	91,466	7.5
35 - 39	52,207	51,213	103,420	8.6	51,743	51,452	103,195	8.4
40 - 44	47,067	46,484	93,551	7.7	48,438	47,563	96,001	7.9
45 - 49	41,221	40,594	81,815	6.8	41,845	41,402	83,247	6.8
50 - 54	33,236	34,201	67,437	5.6	35,347	35,978	71,325	5.8
55 - 59	21,125	23,382	44,507	3.7	22,943	25,429	48,372	4.0
60 - 64	15,351	17,661	33,012	2.7	15,299	17,717	33,016	2.7
65 - 69	12,775	15,443	28,218	2.3	12,957	15,782	28,739	2.4
70 - 74	8,670	11,410	20,080	1.7	8,678	11,457	20,135	1.6
75 - 79	6,607	9,626	16,233	1.3	6,789	9,991	16,780	1.4
80 - 84	2,873	5,056	7,929	0.7	3,085	5,226	8,311	0.7
85 +	1,569	3,773	5,342	0.4	1,570	3,893	5,463	0.4
All ages	599,257	610,939	1,210,196	100.0	605,084	617,727	1,222,811	100.0

¹ based on 2000 population census data adjusted for underenumeration of young children

² excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Figure 1

Population Pyramids - Republic of Mauritius, 1993 & 2003

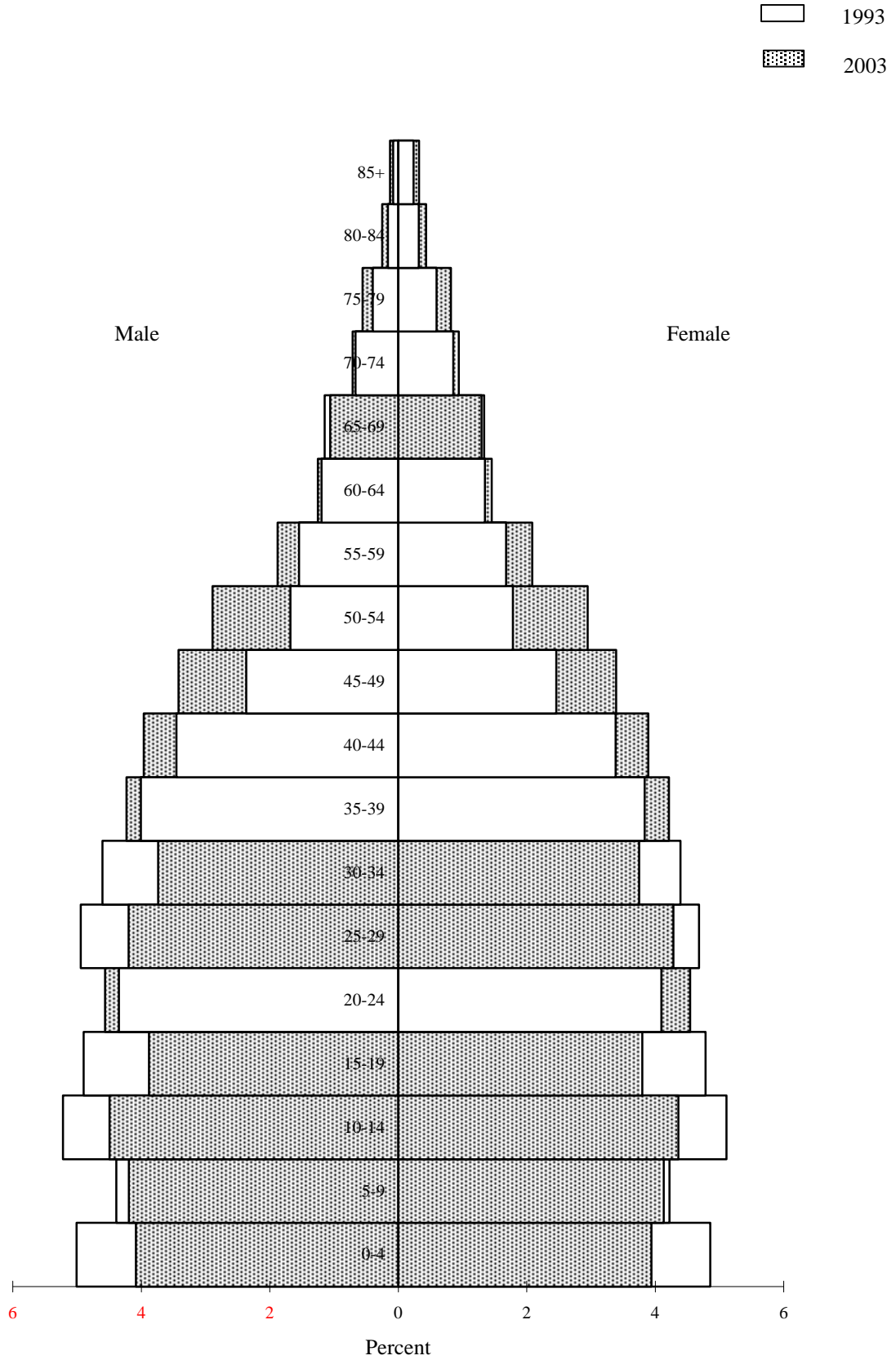


Table 5(a) - Population¹, vital statistics and vital rates - Republic of Mauritius², 1994 - 2003³

Year	Mid-year population	Vital statistics						Vital rates ⁴					
		Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths	Still births	Civil marriages	Divorces	Crude birth rate	Crude death rate	Infant mortality rate	Still birth rate	Marriage rate	Divorce rate
1994	1,112,846	21,795	7,402	394	274	11,414	733	19.6	6.7	18.1	12.4	20.5	1.3
1995	1,122,457	20,549	7,465	404	299	10,624	801	18.3	6.7	19.7	14.3	18.9	1.4
1996	1,133,996	20,763	7,670	459	266	10,700	792	18.3	6.8	22.1	12.6	18.9	1.4
1997	1,148,284	20,012	7,986	406	257	10,887	891	17.4	7.0	20.3	12.7	19.0	1.6
1998	1,160,421	19,434	7,839	376	227	10,898	1,012	16.7	6.8	19.3	11.5	18.8	1.7
1999	1,175,267	20,311	7,944	396	226	11,295	1,150	17.3	6.8	19.5	11.0	19.2	2.0
2000 ⁵	1,186,873	20,205	7,982	322	266	10,963	1,191	17.0	6.7	15.9	13.0	18.5	2.0
2001	1,199,881	19,696	7,983	282	244	10,635	1,512	16.4	6.7	14.3	12.2	17.7	2.5
2002	1,210,196	19,983	8,310	297	203	10,484	1,291	16.5	6.9	14.9	10.1	17.3	2.1
2003	1,222,811	19,896	8,236	263	218	10,451	1,190	16.3	6.7	13.2	10.8	17.1	1.9

¹ Population estimates for the period 1994-1999 have been revised in the light of the 2000 Population Census figures

² excluding Agalega & Saint Brandon.

³ vital statistics and vital rates for the year 2003 are provisional

⁴ Please see notes on page 4 for definitions

⁵ Population Census figure adjusted for under-enumeration of young children

Table 5(b) - Population¹, vital statistics and vital rates - Island of Mauritius, 1994 - 2003²

Year	Mid-year population	Vital statistics					Vital rates ³				
		Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths	Still births	Civil marriages	Crude birth rate	Crude death rate	Infant mortality rate	Still birth rate	Marriage rate
1994	1,078,148	21,050	7,234	379	271	11,212	19.5	6.7	18.0	12.7	20.8
1995	1,087,636	19,824	7,298	388	297	10,430	18.2	6.7	19.6	14.8	19.2
1996	1,099,057	20,049	7,508	445	264	10,502	18.2	6.8	22.2	13.0	19.1
1997	1,113,144	19,331	7,798	393	253	10,654	17.4	7.0	20.3	12.9	19.1
1998	1,125,118	18,744	7,651	364	221	10,650	16.7	6.8	19.4	11.7	18.9
1999	1,139,718	19,543	7,791	375	219	11,072	17.1	6.8	19.2	11.1	19.4
2000 ⁴	1,151,094	19,398	7,806	306	263	10,720	16.9	6.8	15.8	13.4	18.6
2001	1,163,875	18,884	7,761	263	234	10,414	16.2	6.7	13.9	12.2	17.9
2002	1,174,021	19,169	8,081	278	197	10,253	16.3	6.9	14.5	10.2	17.5
2003	1,186,363	19,038	8,029	242	209	10,235	16.0	6.8	12.7	10.9	17.3

¹ Population estimates for the period 1994-1999 have been revised in the light of the 2000 Population Census

² vital statistics and vital rates for the year 2003 are provisional

³ Please see notes on page 4 for definitions

⁴ Population Census figure adjusted for under-enumeration of young children

Table 5(c) - Population¹, vital statistics and vital rates² - Island of Rodrigues, 1994 - 2003³

Year	Mid-year population	Vital statistics					Vital rates ⁴				
		Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths	Still births	Civil marriages	Crude birth rate	Crude death rate	Infant mortality rate	Still birth rate	Marriage rate
1994	34,698	745	168	15	3	202	20.5	4.7	21.1	4.2	11.3
1995	34,821	725	167	16	2	194	20.9	4.8	20.6	3.2	11.4
1996	34,939	714	162	14	2	198	20.2	4.9	20.3	3.8	11.9
1997	35,140	681	188	13	4	233	19.8	5.1	18.7	5.7	12.9
1998	35,303	690	188	12	6	248	20.2	5.0	21.5	7.9	13.3
1999	35,549	768	153	21	7	223	21.2	4.8	21.6	7.0	13.4
2000 ⁵	35,779	807	176	16	3	243	22.2	5.1	23.5	8.3	12.8
2001	36,006	812	222	19	10	221	22.5	5.8	22.2	7.7	12.9
2002	36,175	814	229	19	6	231	22.9	6.1	22.9	10.1	12.3
2003	36,448	858	207	21	9	216	23.5	5.7	24.5	10.4	11.9

¹ Population estimates for the period 1994-1999 have been revised in the light of the 2000 Population Census

² because of the small number of vital events, the rates have been calculated by taking the average for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations. However, rates for 2003 are based on vital events for that year only

³ vital statistics and vital rates for the year 2003 are provisional

⁴ Please see notes on page 4 for definitions

⁵ 2000 Census figures