

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, YEAR 2006

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicator presents population estimates as at December 2006 and vital statistics and rates for year 2006.

Prior to 2005, all civil status offices in the Republic of Mauritius were manually filling in a statistical form for each vital event registered. These forms were subsequently submitted to the Central Statistics Office where they were coded and edited prior to data capture at the Central Informatics System Division. However, as from January 2005, with the computerisation of the registration of vital events, data for the compilation of vital statistics are being extracted from the computerised system in place at the Central Civil Status Office.

Definitions of terms used are given at Annex.

2. Key points

- The population of the Republic of Mauritius was estimated at 1,256,739 as at 31 December 2006, growing at a rate of 0.7% since end 2005.
- As at end 2006, female population was higher than the male population by about 14,000.
- In 2006, the population aged 0-14 years comprised 23.9% of the total population. The population aged 15-64 years and that aged 65 years and over comprised 69.5% and 6.6% respectively of the total population.
- The number of live births registered during year 2006 was 17,605, representing a decrease of 6.5% over the figure of 2005.
- The number of deaths registered in 2006 stood at 9,151, 5.8% higher than for 2005.
- The number of infant deaths rose by 2.4% from 248 in 2005 to 254 in 2006.
- The number of still births decreased by 20.5%, from 185 in 2005 to 147 in 2006.
- The number of marriages registered in 2006 was 11,471, that is 1.6% more than in 2005.

3. Estimated resident population

Table 1: Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2006

Island	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio
Island of Mauritius	1,219,220	602,694	616,526	97.8
Island of Rodrigues	37,230	18,423	18,807	98.0
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	193	96	201.0
Republic of Mauritius	1,256,739	621,310	635,429	97.8

The estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius was 1,256,739 at 31 December 2006. The female population was 635,429 compared to a male population of 621,310. There were 97.8 males for every 100 females.

The population was estimated at 1,219,220 and 37,230 respectively for the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues. In both islands, females outnumbered males.

However, Agalega and St Brandon, with an estimated population of 289, had more males (193) than females (96).

Table 2: Population density, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2006

Island	Both sexes	Area (km ²)	Density per km ²
Island of Mauritius	1,219,220	1,864.8	654
Island of Rodrigues	37,230	104.0	358
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	71.2	4
Republic of Mauritius	1,256,739	2,040.0	616

The Republic of Mauritius, with a total land area of 2,040 km² had a population density of 616 persons per km² as at end 2006. Among its constituent islands, the Island of Mauritius had the highest density (654), followed by Rodrigues (358).

The population density for the Republic of Mauritius increased from 607 in 2004 to 616 in 2006.

Table 3: Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 2004-2006 (end of year estimates)

Year	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio
2004	1,238,061	612,473	625,588	97.9
2005	1,248,585	617,409	631,176	97.8
2006	1,256,739	621,310	635,429	97.8

Comparative population estimates and sex ratios for the past three years are given in Table 3. There was a slight decline in the sex ratio from 2004 to 2006, indicating an increasing proportion of females over time.

4. Population growth

Table 4: Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2005 and 31 December 2006

Island	Population		Change	
	31 December 2005	31 December 2006	Number	%
Island of Mauritius	1,211,302	1,219,220	7,918	0.7
Island of Rodrigues	36,994	37,230	236	0.6
Agalega and St. Brandon	289	289	0	0.0
Republic of Mauritius	1,248,585	1,256,739	8,154	0.7

The population of the Republic of Mauritius increased by 8,154 persons from 31 December 2005 to 31 December 2006. The population growth rate was thus 0.7% during the 12-month period. The growth rate for the Island of Mauritius was also 0.7%; Rodrigues had a lower population growth of around 0.6%.

Table 5: Components of population growth, Republic of Mauritius¹, 2005 and 2006

Components of population growth	2005	2006
Resident population as at beginning of year	<u>1,237,772</u>	<u>1,248,296</u>
Live Births	18,820	17,605
Deaths	8,646	9,151
Natural increase	<u>10,174</u>	<u>8,454</u>
Net international migration	350	-300
Resident population as at end of year	1,248,296	1,256,450

¹ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

Population growth has two components: natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) and net international migration (net international movement of residents).

During the year 2006, the natural increase was 8,454, with births adding 17,605 babies and deaths removing 9,151 persons from the population. The natural increase noted in 2006 was lower than that of 2005 by about 1,700 as a result of a smaller number of births and a larger number of deaths. For the same period, net international migration of residents was -300 persons.

5. Age distribution of the population

Table 6: Estimated resident population¹ by broad age group and sex – Republic of Mauritius², 1 July 2005 and 1 July 2006

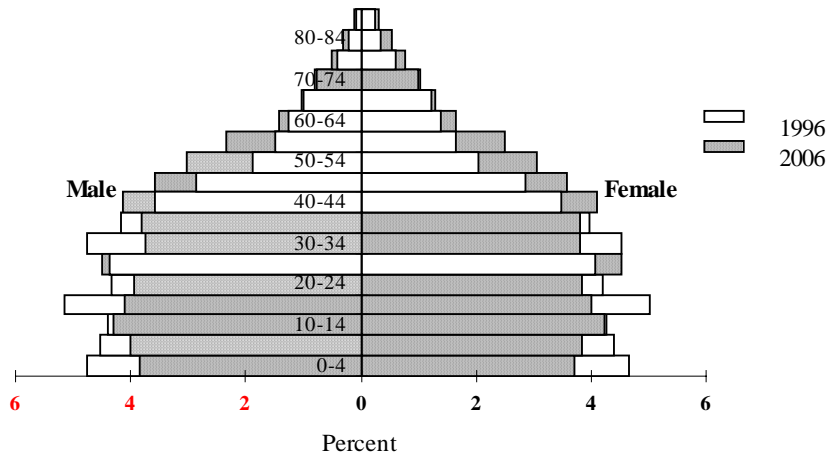
Age group (Years)	1st July 2005			1st July 2006		
	Male	Female	B. Sexes	Male	Female	B. Sexes
0	9,463	9,232	18,695	9,257	8,759	18,016
1 - 4	39,584	38,287	77,871	38,806	37,704	76,510
5 - 9	49,898	48,456	98,354	50,040	48,311	98,351
10 - 14	55,050	53,770	108,820	53,960	52,957	106,917
15 - 19	49,290	48,222	97,512	51,333	50,006	101,339
20 - 29	106,200	105,920	212,120	105,665	104,913	210,578
30 - 39	95,682	96,234	191,916	94,486	95,526	190,012
40 - 49	95,001	93,988	188,989	96,656	96,070	192,726
50 - 59	63,224	66,083	129,307	66,947	69,532	136,479
60-64	17,275	19,945	37,220	17,793	20,834	38,627
65+	34,119	48,330	82,449	34,300	48,843	83,143
All ages	614,786	628,467	1,243,253	619,243	633,455	1,252,698

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

² excluding Agalega and St Brandon

The proportion of the population aged 0- 14 years declined from 24.4% in 2005 to 23.9% in 2006. In contrast, an increase was registered in the proportion aged 15-64 years from 69.0% to 69.5% while the proportion aged 65 years and above remained at 6.6%. As a result, the dependency ratio decreased from 451 to 440.

Figure 1: Population pyramids – Republic of Mauritius, 1996 & 2006



The population pyramid compares the age structure of the population between 1996 and 2006. The main changes observed over time are:

- the shrinking of the base of the pyramid due to falling fertility;
- the thickening of the upper body of the pyramid indicating an increase in expectation of life
- the relatively thicker bars on the female side of the pyramid around its apex indicating the predominance of females among the elderly.

6. Vital statistics and rates

6.1: Live births and crude birth rate

Table 7: Live births registered and crude birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2005 and 2006¹

Island	Number of live births registered		Crude birth rate	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Island of Mauritius	17,924	16,724	14.9	13.8
Island of Rodrigues	896	881	24.6	23.8
Republic of Mauritius	18,820	17,605	15.1	14.1

¹ Provisional

During the year 2006, 17,605 live births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, representing a 6.5% fall over the 2005 figure of 18,820. The crude birth rate fell from 15.1 in 2005 to 14.1 in 2006.

In the Island of Mauritius, the number of live births registered decreased from 17,924 in 2005 to 16,724 in 2006 bringing about a fall in the crude birth rate from 14.9 to 13.8. Similarly, for the Island of Rodrigues, the number of live births decreased from 896 (rate of 24.6) in 2005 to 881 (rate of 23.8) in 2006.

6.2: Deaths and crude death rate

Table 8: Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2005 and 2006¹

Island	Number of deaths registered		Crude death rate	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Island of Mauritius	8,422	8,906	7.0	7.3
Island of Rodrigues	224	245	6.2	6.6
Republic of Mauritius	8,646	9,151	7.0	7.3

¹ Provisional

The number of deaths registered in the Republic of Mauritius in 2006 was 9,151, representing a 5.8% increase over the figure of 8,646 for 2005. The crude death rate consequently rose from 7.0 to 7.3.

The Island of Mauritius registered an increase in the number of deaths, from 8,422 in 2005 (rate of 7.0) to 8,906 in 2006 (rate of 7.3). During the same period, the number of deaths in Rodrigues increased by 21 to reach 245 in 2006.

6.3: Infant deaths and infant mortality rate

Table 9: Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2005 and 2006¹

Island	Number of infant deaths registered		Infant mortality rate	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Island of Mauritius	237	230	13.2	13.8
Island of Rodrigues	11	24	20.6	27.2
Republic of Mauritius	248	254	13.2	14.4

¹ Provisional

During the year 2006, 254 infant deaths (deaths to children aged under one year) were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 248 in 2005, representing an increase of 2.4%. The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, rose from 13.2 in 2005 to 14.4 in 2006.

A slight fall (from 237 to 230) was noted in the number of infant deaths in the Island of Mauritius during the period 2005 to 2006. However, infant mortality rate rose from 13.2 to 13.8. For Rodrigues, the number of infant deaths increased from 11 in 2005 (rate of 20.6) to 24 in 2006 (rate of 27.2).

6.4: Still births and Still birth rate

Table 10: Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2005 and 2006¹

Island	Number of still births registered		Still birth rate	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Island of Mauritius	173	135	9.6	8.0
Island of Rodrigues	12	12	17.6	13.4
Republic of Mauritius	185	147	9.7	8.3

¹ Provisional

In 2006, 147 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, which is 20.5% lower than the 2005 figure of 185. The still birth rate fell from 9.7 in 2005 to 8.3 in 2006.

The Island of Mauritius registered 135 still births in 2006 against 173 in 2005, with the still birth rate falling from 9.6 in 2005 to 8.0 in 2006. In Rodrigues, 12 still births were registered in 2006, the same number as in 2005. The still birth rate however fell from 17.6 to 13.4.

6.5 – Marriages and crude marriage rate

Table 11 – Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2005 and 2006¹

Island	Number of marriages registered		Marriage rate	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Island of Mauritius	11,076	11,262	18.4	18.5
Island of Rodrigues	218	209	12.2	11.3
Republic of Mauritius	11,294	11,471	18.2	18.3

¹ Provisional

The number of marriages registered in the Republic of Mauritius increased by 1.6% from 11,294 in 2005 to 11,471 in 2006. The crude marriage rate rose from 18.2 to 18.3 during the same period.

The number of marriages in the Island of Mauritius increased from 11,076 in 2005 (rate of 18.4) to 11,262 in 2006 (rate of 18.5). However, the Island of Rodrigues registered a decrease in the number of marriages from 218 in 2005 (rate of 12.2) to 209 in 2006 (rate of 11.3).

7. International Comparison

Population growth rates for various countries in the world are published in the UN publication “The World Population Prospects 2004”. The figures indicate that the population growth rate for the Republic of Mauritius during the period 2000-05 was 1.0%, lower than the estimated world’s population growth rate of 1.2%. The Republic’s growth rate was lower than that for Singapore (1.5%) and India (1.6%), but was higher than that for the United Kingdom (0.3%), Japan (0.2%) and Belgium (0.2%).

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Annex

1. Vital Statistics: The statistics pertaining to vital events which include live births, deaths, still births, marriages and divorces
2. Population density: The number of persons per square kilometre
3. Dependency ratio: The child population under 15 years of age and the elderly population aged 65 years and above per 1,000 population aged 15-64 years.
4. Sex ratio: The number of males to every 100 females.
5. Natural increase: The excess of live births over deaths.
6. Crude birth rate: The number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
7. Crude death rate: The number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
8. Infant mortality rate: The number of deaths in a year of infants aged under one year per 1,000 live births during the year.
9. Still birth rate: The number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births (live births and still births) during the year.
10. Marriage rate: The number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.

Note: The vital rates for Rodrigues are usually calculated as an average of three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data. The rates for year 2006 is however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.