POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, YEAR 2015

1. Introduction

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents population estimates as at December 2015 and vital statistics including rates for the year 2015.

Statistics Mauritius compiles vital statistics from data obtained 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 1,262,862 as at 31 December 2015, with a growth rate of 0.1% since end 2014.
- As at end 2015, the female population was higher than the male population by 13,094.
- In 2015, the population aged 0 to 14 years comprised 19.6 % of the total population. The population aged 15 to 64 years and that aged 65 years and over comprised 71.0 % and 9.4 % respectively of the total population.
- The 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 to 64 years) decreased from 410 in 2014 to 409 in 2015.
- The number of live births registered during year 2015 was 12,738 representing a decrease of 5.0 % over the figure of 2014.
- The number of deaths registered in 2015 stood at 9,747, i.e. 0.7 % higher than in 2014.
- The number of infant deaths decreased by 10.8 % from 194 in 2014 to 173 in 2015.
- The number of still births decreased by 9.4 %, from 138 in 2014 to 125 in 2015.
- The number of marriages registered in 2015 was 9,709, that is, 2.5% less than in 2014.
- Since the late nineties, females outnumbered males in the population.
- The present low population growth rate is due to low fertility prevailing in the population.
- The falling dependency ratio over time is mainly due to a fall in the number of children under 15 years of age in the population.
- Over time, the population age structure depicted by a population pyramid has shifted from wide base to shrinking base and thickening body as a result of lowering fertility and mortality resulting in an ageing population.

3. Estimated resident population

Table 3.1 - Estimated resident population by sex, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2015

Island	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio	Density per km²
Island of Mauritius	**1,220,530**	604,028	616,502	98.0	654
Island of Rodrigues	**42,058**	20,682	21,376	96.8	404
Agalega and St. Brandon	**274**	174	100	174.0	4
Republic of Mauritius	**1,262,862**	**624,884**	**637,978**	**97.9**	**619**

The estimated resident population of the Republic of Mauritius was 1,262,862 as at 31 December 2015. The female population was 637,978 compared to a male population of 624,884. There were 97.9 males for every 100 females.

The population was estimated at 1,220,530 and 42,058 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 274, had more males (174) than females (100).

The Republic of Mauritius, with a total land area of 2,040 km^2, had a population density of 619 persons per km^2 as at end 2015. Among its constituent islands, the Island of Mauritius had the highest density (654), compared to 404 for the Island of Rodrigues.

4. Population growth

Table 4.1 - Population change, Republic of Mauritius, 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015

Island	Population		Change	
	31 December 2014	31 December 2015	Number	%
Island of Mauritius	1,219,659	1,220,530	871	0.1
Island of Rodrigues	41,788	42,058	270	0.6
Agalega and St. Brandon	274	274	-	-
Republic of Mauritius	**1,261,721**	**1,262,862**	**1,141**	**0.1**

The population of the Republic of Mauritius increased by 1,141 from 31st December 2014 to 31st December 2015. The growth rate works out to 0.1 %, same as for the Island of Mauritius compared to 0.6 for the Island of Rodrigues.

Table 4.2 - Components of population growth, Republic of Mauritius[1/], 2014 and 2015

Components of population growth	2014	2015
Resident population as at beginning of year	1,259,564	1,261,447
Live Births	13,415	12,738
Deaths	9,682	9,747
Natural increase	3,733	2,991
Net international migration	-1,850	-1,850
Resident population as at end of year	**1,261,447**	**1,262,588**

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 2015, the natural increase was 2,991, with births adding 12,738 babies and deaths removing 9,747 persons from the population. For the same period, net international migration of residents was estimated at -1,850 persons.

5. Age distribution of the population

Table 5.1 - Estimated resident population[1/] by broad age group and sex – Republic of Mauritius[2/], 1 July 2014 and 1 July 2015

Age group (Years)	1st July 2014			1st July 2015		
	Male	Female	B. Sexes	Male	Female	B. Sexes
0	6,852	6,670	**13,522**	6,638	6,395	**13,033**
1 - 4	29,322	28,495	**57,817**	28,540	27,651	**56,191**
5 - 9	43,388	42,111	**85,499**	41,593	40,411	**82,004**
10 - 14	49,594	47,946	**97,540**	48,897	47,473	**96,370**
15 - 19	49,383	48,399	**97,782**	49,417	48,090	**97,507**
20 - 29	94,071	92,266	**186,337**	94,981	93,067	**188,048**
30 - 39	97,940	95,886	**193,826**	96,765	94,886	**191,651**
40 - 49	89,518	88,021	**177,539**	88,715	86,861	**175,576**
50 - 59	84,959	86,889	**171,848**	86,887	88,927	**175,814**
60-64	31,971	34,970	**66,941**	32,404	35,372	**67,776**
65+	47,004	65,279	**112,283**	49,932	68,703	**118,635**
All ages	**624,002**	**636,932**	**1,260,934**	**624,769**	**637,836**	**1,262,605**

1/ based on 2011 Population Census data adjusted for underenumeration of children

2/ excluding Agalega and St Brandon

The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 20.2% as at mid 2014 to 19.6%, one year later. In contrast, increases were registered in the proportion aged 15-64 years from 70.9% to 71.0 % and the proportion aged 65 years and above from 8.9 % to 9.4% during the same period.

6. Vital statistics and rates

6.1 Live births and crude birth rate

Table 6.1 - Live births registered and crude birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2014 and 2015[1/]

Island	Number of live births registered		Crude birth rate	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Island of Mauritius	12,727	12,057	10.4	9.9
Island of Rodrigues	688	681	16.6*	16.2
Republic of Mauritius	**13,415**	**12,738**	**10.6**	**10.1**

[1/] Provisional

* because of the small number of events, the rates have been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

During the year 2015, 12,738 live births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, representing a 5.0 % fall over the 2014 figure of 13,415. The crude birth rate, i.e., the number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, fell from 10.6 in 2014 to 10.1 in 2015.

In the Island of Mauritius, the number of live births registered decreased from 12,727 in 2014 to 12,057 in 2015, bringing about a fall in the crude birth rate from 10.4 to 9.9. For the Island of Rodrigues, the number of live births decreased from 688 (rate of 16.6) in 2014 to 681 (rate of 16.2) in 2015.

6.2 Deaths and crude death rate

Table 6.2 - Deaths and crude death rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2014 and 2015[1/]

Island	Number of deaths registered		Crude death rate	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Island of Mauritius	9,438	9,496	7.7	7.8
Island of Rodrigues	244	251	5.6*	6.0
Republic of Mauritius	**9,682**	**9,747**	**7.7**	**7.7**

[1/] Provisional

* because of the small number of events, the rates have been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The number of deaths registered in the Republic of Mauritius in 2015 was 9,747, representing a 0.7% increase over the figure of 9,682 for 2014. The crude death rate, i.e., the number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population was 7.7 in 2015, same as in 2014.

The Island of Mauritius registered an increase in the number of deaths, from 9,438 in 2014 (rate of 7.7) to 9,496 in 2015 (rate of 7.8). During the same period, the number of deaths in Rodrigues increased from 244 (rate of 5.6) to 251 (rate of 6.0).

6.3 Infant deaths and Infant mortality rate

Table 6.3 - Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2014 and 2015[1/]

Island	Number of infant deaths registered		Infant mortality rate	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Island of Mauritius	179	165	14.1	13.7
Island of Rodrigues	15	8	14.0*	11.7
Republic of Mauritius	**194**	**173**	**14.5**	**13.6**

[1/] Provisional

* because of the small number of events, the rates have been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

During the year 2015, 173 infant deaths (deaths to children aged under one year) were registered in the Republic of Mauritius against 194 in 2014, representing a decrease of 10.8%. The infant mortality rate, defined as the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, decreased from 14.5 in 2014 to 13.6 in 2015.

The number of infant deaths in the Island of Mauritius was 179 in 2014 and 165 in 2015. The infant mortality rate decreased from 14.1 to 13.7 during that period. For Rodrigues, the number of infant deaths decreased from 15 in 2014 to 8 in 2015 and the infant mortality rate fell from 14.0 to 11.7 during the same period.

6.4 Still births and still birth rate

Table 6.4 - Still births and still birth rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2014 and 2015[1/]

Island	Number of still births registered		Still birth rate	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Island of Mauritius	130	118	10.1	9.7
Island of Rodrigues	8	7	8.6*	10.2
Republic of Mauritius	**138**	**125**	**10.2**	**9.7**

[1/] Provisional

* because of the small number of events, the rates have been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

In 2015, 125 still births were registered in the Republic of Mauritius, which is 9.4% lower than the 2014 figure of 138. Consequently, the still birth rate which is the number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births during the year decreased from 10.2 in 2014 to 9.7 in 2015.

The Island of Mauritius registered 118 still births in 2015 against 130 in 2014, with the still birth rate falling from 10.1 in 2014 to 9.7 in 2015. In Rodrigues, 7 still births were registered in 2015 compared to 8 in 2014. The still birth rate rose from 8.6 in 2014 to 10.2 in 2015.

6.5 Marriages and crude marriage rate

Table 6.5 - Marriages and crude marriage rate, Republic of Mauritius, 2014 and 2015[1/]

Island	Number of marriages registered		Marriage rate	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Island of Mauritius	9,796	9,548	16.1	15.6
Island of Rodrigues	163	161	8.1*	7.7
Republic of Mauritius	**9,959**	**9,709**	**15.8**	**15.4**

[1/] Provisional

* because of the small number of events, the rates have been calculated by taking an average of events for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data

The number of marriages registered in the Republic of Mauritius decreased by 2.5% from 9,959 in 2014 to 9,709 in 2015. The crude marriage rate, i.e., the number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population, fell from 15.8 to 15.4 during the same period.

The number of marriages in the Island of Mauritius fell from 9,796 in 2014 (rate of 16.1) to 9,548 in 2015 (rate of 15.6). The Island of Rodrigues registered a decrease in the number of marriages from 163 in 2014 (rate of 8.1) to 161 in 2015 (rate of 7.7).

7. International Comparison

Population growth rates for various countries in the world are published in the UN publication "The Demographic Yearbook 2014". The figures indicate that the population growth rate for the Republic of Mauritius during the period 2010 to 2014 was 0.2%, lower than the estimated world's population growth rate of 1.2%. The Republic's growth rate was lower than that for Singapore(1.9), Australia(1.6), South Africa(1.5), United Kingdom (0.6) and China(0.5) but higher than Japan (-0.2) and Germany(-0.3)

Table 7.1 – Demographic indicators for selected countries, 2014

	Midyear Estimates(in thousands)	Average annual rate of population change(2010-2014)	Density	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
World	**7,266,800**	**1.2**	**53**	**20.0**	**8.0**	**n/a**
Singapore	5,470	1.9	7,618	10.9	5.0	2.0
United Kingdom	64,308	0.6	265	12.1	n/a	n/a
Germany	80,767	-0.3	226	8.7	10.8	n/a
Japan	127,132	-0.2	336	*8.1*	*10.0*	*2.1*
Seychelles	91	0.4	200	17.0	7.9	n/a
South Africa	54,002	1.5	44	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mauritius	**1,261**	**0.2**	**640**	**10.6**	**7.7**	**14.5**
Australia	23,491	1.6	3	*13.3*	*6.4*	*3.6*
China	1,364,270	0.5	142	12.4	7.2	n/a
India	n/a	n/a	n/a	*21.4*	*7.0*	*n/a*
Canada	35,540	1.1	4	10.9	7.5	n/a

Source: Demographic Yearbook, 2014(except for the Republic of Mauritius) Note: Figures in italics refer to the year 2013.

8. Demographic trends

8.1 Sex ratio

Figure 8.1.1 – Sex ratio of resident population, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 – 2015

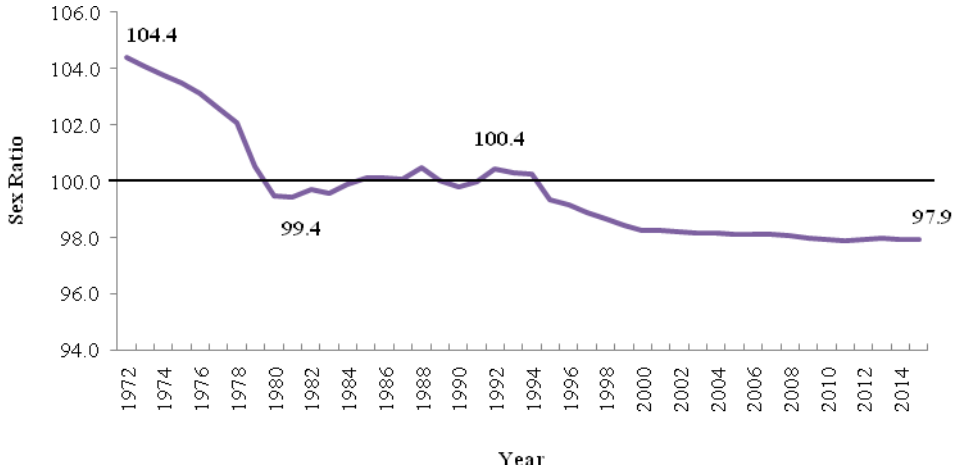
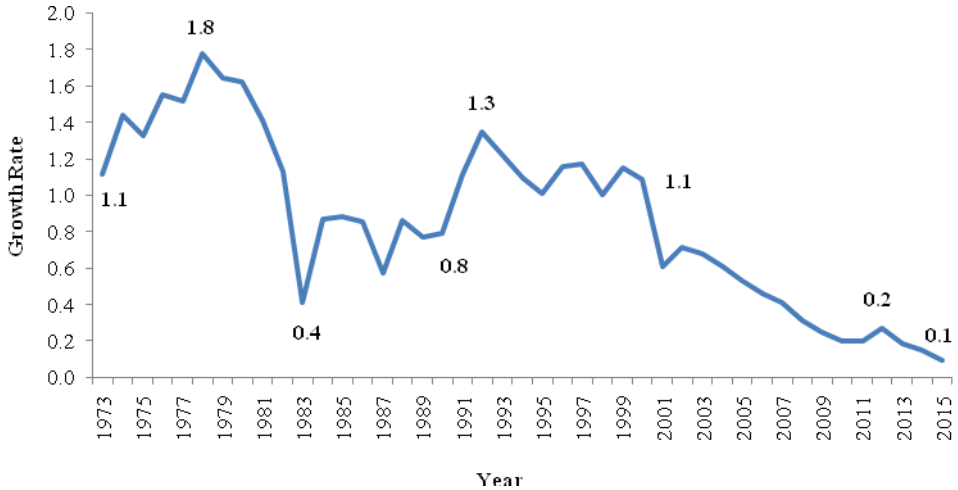


Figure 8.1.1 depicts the evolution of sex ratio (i.e. the number of males per 100 females) for the past forty years. Before the eighties, males outnumbered females in the population (e.g. 104.4 males per 100 females in 1972) and as from the late nineties, the reverse trend was noted whereby females outnumbered males in the population (e.g. 97.9 males per 100 females in 2015). This shift was mainly due to ageing given that females live longer than males.

8.2 Population growth rate

During the same period, the population growth rate peaked in the late seventies followed by a fall in the eighties. The population growth rate caught up in the mid nineties after which it dropped again to attain the lowest rate in 2015. These dips observed since the eighties are associated with low fertility.

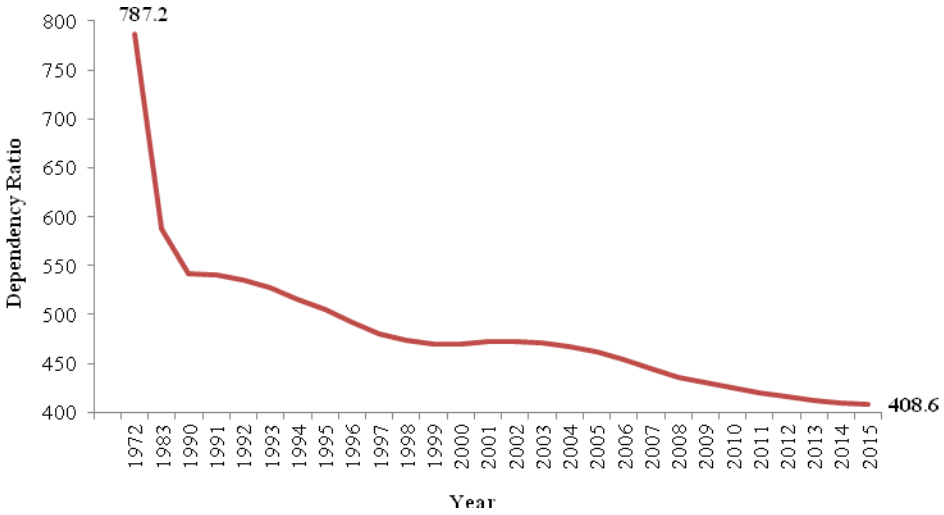
Figure 8.2.1 – Growth rate of resident population, Republic of Mauritius, 1973 - 2015



8.3 Dependency Ratio

There has been a general decrease in the dependency ratio from 787.2 in 1972 to 408.6 in 2015 (Figure 8.3.1). Dependency ratio is defined as the combined child population (under 15 years) and population aged 65 years and over per 1,000 population of intermediated age (16-64years) in a particular year. The fall in dependency ratio observed is mainly the result of a decline in child population over the years.

Figure 8.3.1 - Dependency Ratio, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 - 2015



8.4 Population age structure

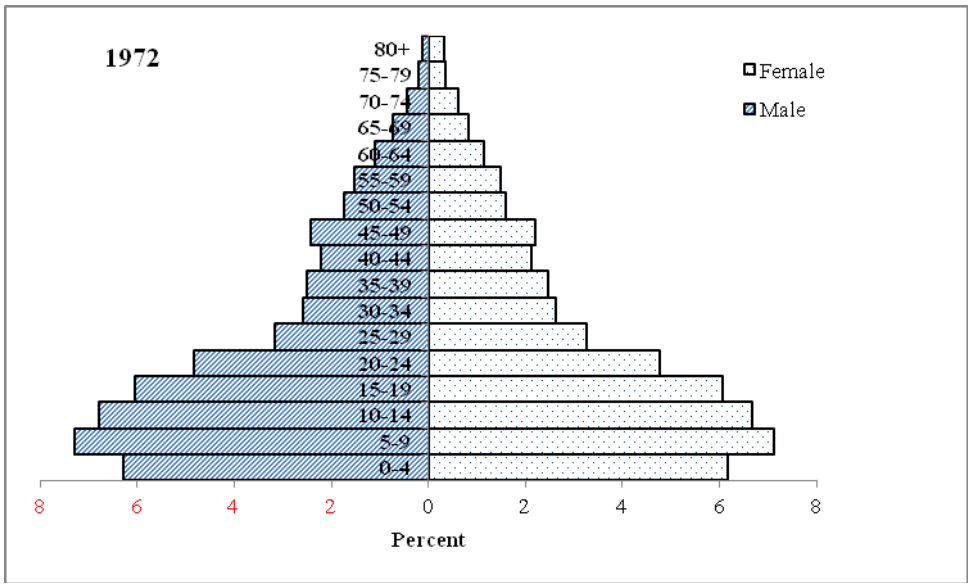
The size and structure of the pyramids in Figure 8.4.1 are determined by the patterns of births, deaths and migration which took place prior to the reference period of the pyramid. The pyramids compare the age structure of the population between 1972, 2000 and 2015 and show some important trends in the demographics of Mauritius.

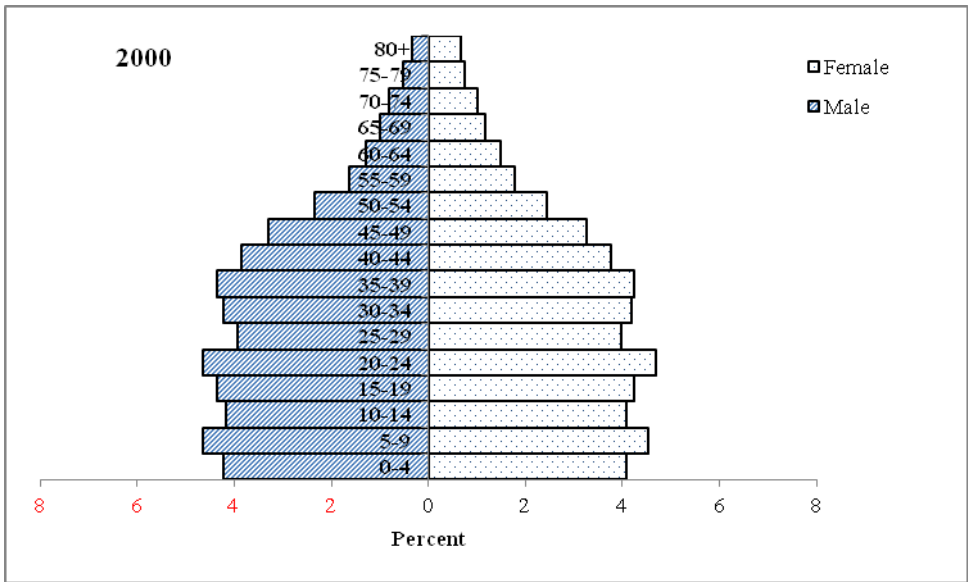
The main changes observed over time are:

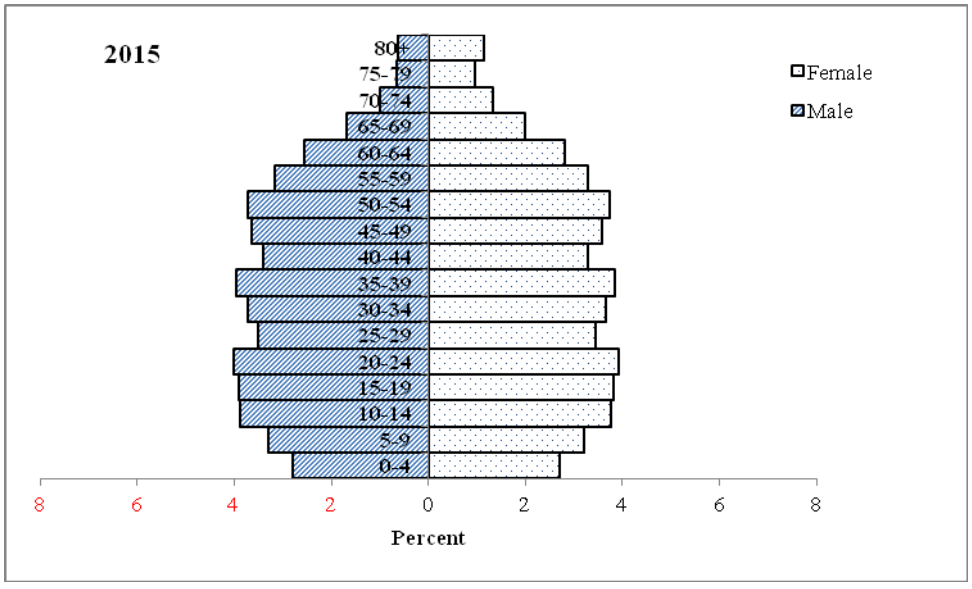
- the shrinking of the base of the pyramid over time due to falling fertility;
- the thickening of the upper body of the pyramid indicating an increase in expectation of life;
- the relatively longer bars on the female side of the pyramid around its apex indicating the predominance of females among the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

The first pyramid in 1972, with its wide base and narrow top, is typical of a young population. This shape is the results of high birth rates that feed more and more people into the lowest bars and in turn shrink the relative proportion at the oldest ages. In 2000 and 2015, the base of the pyramid has started to narrow because of the fall in birth rates. These are typical of a population with a slow growth. The female bars are almost always longer because women live longer than men. Between 1972 and 2015, there has been a decline in the proportion of children in the age group 0-14 while the proportion of old persons aged 60 and above has increased steadily.

Figure 8.4.1 - Population pyramids, Republic of Mauritius, 1972, 2000 & 2015





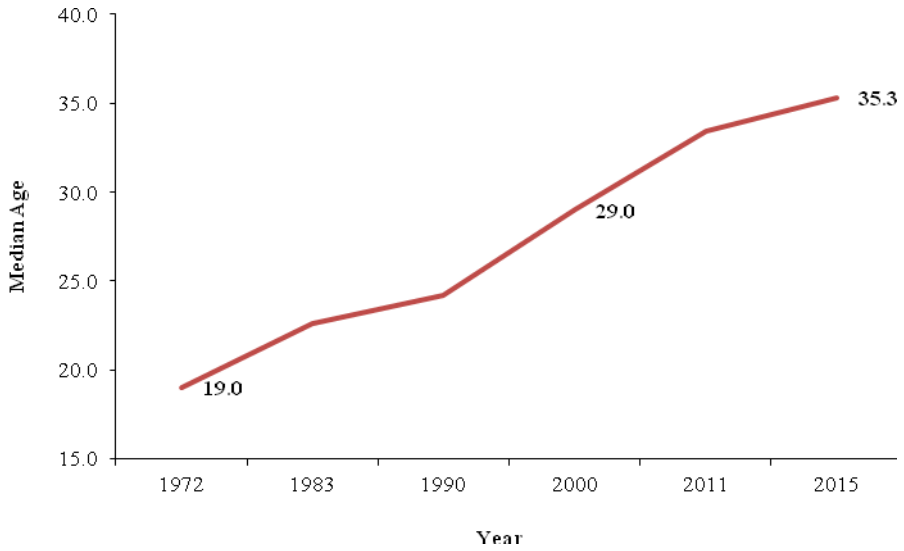


9. Ageing

Population ageing is not a new phenomenon. It started in the developed world and is taking place in nearly all the countries of the world. The population of Mauritius as well is ageing.

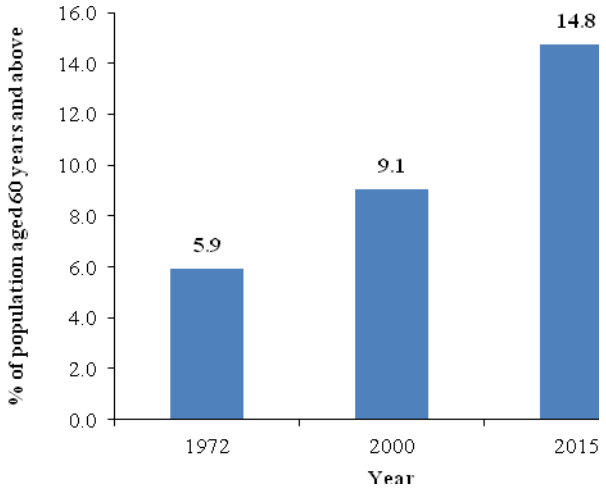
Population ageing is defined as the rise in the median age of the population (defined as the age which divides the population into two equal size groups, one of which is younger and the other older than the median) as a result of the shifting of the age structure of the population towards the upper end of the age distribution. The median age increased from 19.0 years in 1972 to 35.3 years in 2015 (Figure 9.1).

Figure 9.1 – Median Age of the population, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 - 2015



For statistical purposes the elderly is taken to be those aged 60 years and above. The population aged 60 years represented 5.9% in 1972 compared to 14.8% in 2015(Figure 9.2).

Figure 9.2 – Percentage of the population aged 60 years and above, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 - 2015



Why the population is ageing?

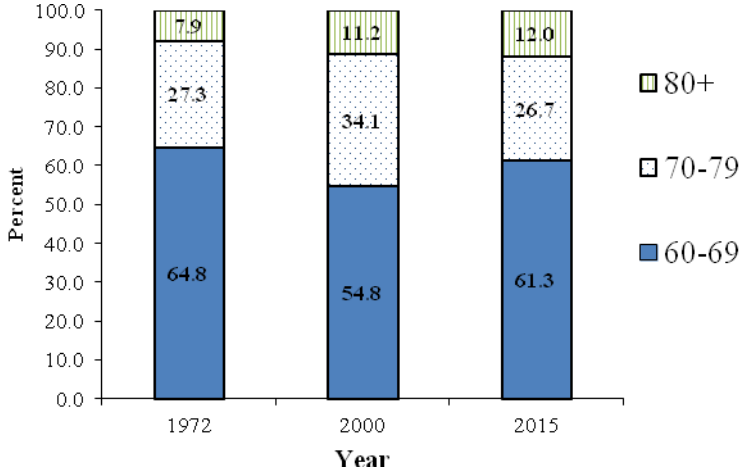
The ageing process can be explained by increased longevity and lowering levels of fertility. The number of births per 1,000 population decreased by 75% over the past 60 years. Low levels of fertility have resulted in a decreasing share of young people in the total population. This is visible through a shrinking of the base of age pyramids from 1972 to 2015 (See Figure 8.4.1).

In the 1970's, on average, a man was expected to live up to 61 years and a woman up to 66 years; in 2015 they are expected to live up to 71 and 78 years respectively.

Characteristics of older population

Another aspect of population ageing is the progressive ageing of the older population itself. Older people are the fastest growing group. The proportion of "old, old people" those aged 80 years and over is a growing fraction of those aged 60 years and above from 7.9% in 1972 to 12.0% in 2015 (Figure 9.3).

Figure 9.3 – Age distribution (%) of the elderly, Republic of Mauritius, 1972 – 2015



There is also a difference in the gender composition by age of the older population. In 2015, for every 100 women in the age group 60-69, there were only 88 men. Their number dropped to 73 in the age group 70-79. For the oldest old (80+ years) the sex ratio reached 53 men for every 100 women.

Table 9.4 – Sex Ratio by age, for the Republic of Mauritius, 1972 - 2015

Age Group	1972	2000	2015
60-69	92.2	85.1	88.4
70-79	66.6	73.8	72.9
80+	37.5	48.9	53.0

Implications of ageing

The implications of ageing are numerous and some of them are highlighted. Ageing will affect pension schemes; beneficiaries will be more numerous and they will claim benefits over a much

longer period than at present. Population ageing is also correlated with an increase in the prevalence of a number of long-term chronic conditions as well as physical and mental disability. The other concern will be an increased demand for health care, keeping in mind that women will predominate among the elderly and other age-related government expenditures.

Statistics Mauritius
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Port Louis
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Contact person:
Mr C. K. Arianaick, Senior Statistician
Mrs. C. Martial, Statistician
Mrs. R. Boolakey, Senior Statistical Officer
Demography Unit
Statistics Mauritius
LIC Centre
John Kennedy Street
Port Louis
Tel: 208 0859
Email: cso_demography@govmu.org

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 to 64 years.
4. Child Dependency ratio	The child population under 15 years of age per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years.
5. Old age Dependency ratio	The elderly population aged 65 years and above per 1,000 population aged 15 to 64 years.
6. Median age	The age which divides the population into two equal size groups, one of which is younger and the other older than the median.
7. Sex ratio:	The number of males to every 100 females.
8. Natural increase:	The excess of live births over deaths.
9. Crude birth rate:	The number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
10. Crude death rate:	The number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population.
11. Infant mortality rate:	The number of deaths in a year of infants aged under one year per 1,000 live births during the year.
12. Still birth rate:	The number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births (live births and still births) during the year.
13. 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 for three years in order to remove wide fluctuations in the yearly data. The rates for year 2015 are however calculated on the basis of data for the year only.