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WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

156

1.1 156.guide

Texified version of data for Mauritius.

Texified using wfact from

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Mauritius

1.2 156.guide/Mauritius

Mauritius

Geography (Mauritius)
People (Mauritius)
Government (Mauritius)
Government (Mauritius 2. usage)
Economy (Mauritius)
Economy (Mauritius 2. usage)
Communications (Mauritius)
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1.3 156.guide/Geography (Mauritius)

Geography (Mauritius)

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Location:

Southern Africa, in the western Indian Ocean, 900 km east of Madagascar

Map references: Africa, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

1,860 km²

land area:

1,850 km²

comparative area:

slightly less than 10.5 times the size of Washington, DC

note:

includes Agalega Islands, Cargados Carajos Shoals (Saint Brandon), and Rodrigues

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

177 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

24 nm

continental shelf:

200 nm or the edge of continental margin

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

claims UK-administered Chagos Archipelago, which includes the island of Diego Garcia in UK-administered British Indian Ocean Territory; claims French-administered Tromelin Island

Climate:

tropical modified by southeast trade winds; warm, dry winter (May to November); hot, wet, humid summer (November to May)

Terrain:

small coastal plain rising to discontinuous mountains encircling central plateau

Natural resources:

arable land, fish
 Land use:
 arable land:
 54%
 permanent crops:
 4%
 meadows and pastures:
 4%
 forest and woodland:
 31%
 other:
 7%
 Irrigated land:
 170 km2 (1989 est.)
 Environment:
 subject to cyclones (November to April); almost completely surrounded by reefs

1.4 156.guide/People (Mauritius)

People (Mauritius)

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Population:
 1,106,516 (July 1993 est.)
 Population growth rate:
 0.95% (1993 est.)
 Birth rate:
 19.67 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Death rate:
 6.44 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Net migration rate:
 -3.71 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)
 Infant mortality rate:
 19 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)
 Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 70.24 years
 male:
 66.34 years
 female:
 74.3 years (1993 est.)
 Total fertility rate:
 2.23 children born/woman (1993 est.)
 Nationality:
 noun:
 Mauritian(s)
 adjective:
 Mauritian
 Ethnic divisions:
 Indo-Mauritian 68%, Creole 27%, Sino-Mauritian 3%, Franco-Mauritian 2%
 Religions:
 Hindu 52%, Christian 28.3% (Roman Catholic 26%, Protestant 2.3%), Muslim

16.6%, other 3.1%

Languages:
English (official), Creole, French, Hindi, Urdu, Hakka, Bojpoori

Literacy:
age 13 and over can read and write (1962)
total population:
61%

male:
72%

female:
50%

Labor force:
335,000

by occupation:
government services 29%, agriculture and fishing 27%, manufacturing 22%,
other 22%

note:
43% of population of working age (1985)

1.5 156.guide/Government (Mauritius)

Government (Mauritius)

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Names:
conventional long form: Republic of Mauritius
conventional short form:
Mauritius

Digraph:
MP

Type:
parliamentary democracy

Capital:
Port Louis

Administrative divisions:
9 districts and 3 dependencies*; Agalega Islands*, Black River, Cargados, ↔
Carajos*, Flacq,
Grand, Port, Moka, Pamplemousses, Plaines Wilhems, Port
Louis, Riviere du Rempart, Rodrigues*, Savanne, Independence:
12 March 1968 (from UK)

Constitution:
12 March 1968

Legal system:
based on French civil law system with elements of English common law in
certain areas

National holiday:
Independence Day, 12 March (1968)

Political parties and leaders:
government coalition:
Militant Socialist Movement (MSM), A. JUGNAUTH
Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM), Paul BERENGER; Organization of the ↔
People

of Rodrigues (OPR), Louis Serge CLAIR; Democratic Labor Movement (MTD), ↔
 Anil
 BAICHOO
 opposition:
 Mauritian Labor Party (MLP), Navin RAMGOOLMAN
 Socialist Workers Front, Sylvio MICHEL; Mauritian Social Democratic Party
 (PMSD), X. DUVAL
 Other political or pressure groups:
 various labor unions
 Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal
 Elections:
 Legislative Assembly:
 last held on 15 September 1991 (next to be held by 15 September 1996);
 results - MSM/MMM 53%, MLP/PMSD 38%; seats - (70 total, 62 elected) MSM/MMM
 alliance 59 (MSM 29, MMM 26, OPR 2, MTD 2); MLP/PMSD 3
 Executive branch:
 president, vice president, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Council ↔
 of
 Ministers (cabinet)
 Legislative branch:
 unicameral Legislative Assembly
 Judicial branch:
 Supreme Court
 Leaders:
 Chief of State:
 President Cassam UTEEM (since 1 July 1992); Vice President Robin Dranooth
 GHURBURRON (since 1 July 1992)
 Head of Government:
 Prime Minister Sir Anerood JUGNAUTH (since 12 June 1982); Deputy Prime
 Minister Prem NABABSING (since 26 September 1990)

1.6 156.guide/Government (Mauritius 2. usage)

Government (Mauritius 2. usage)

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Member of:
 ACCT, ACP, AfDB, C, CCC, ECA, FAO, G-77, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA ↔
 ,
 IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU ↔
 ,
 LORCS, NAM, OAU, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCL, WFTU, WHO, WIPO,
 WMO, WTO
 Diplomatic representation in US:
 chief of mission:
 Ambassador Chitmansing JESSERAMSING
 chancery:
 Suite 134, 4301 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008
 telephone:
 (202) 244-1491 or 1492
 US diplomatic representation:
 chief of mission:

Ambassador vacant
 embassy:
 4th Floor, Rogers House, John Kennedy Street, Port Louis
 mailing address:
 4th Floor, Rogers House, John Kennedy Street, Port Louis
 telephone:
 [230] 208-9763 through 208-9767
 FAX:
 [230] 208-9534
 Flag:
 four equal horizontal bands of red (top), blue, yellow, and green

1.7 156.guide/Economy (Mauritius)

Economy (Mauritius)

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Overview:

The economy is based on sugar, manufacturing (mainly textiles), and tourism ←
 .
 Sugarcane is grown on about 90% of the cultivated land area and accounts ←
 for
 40% of export earnings. The government's development strategy is centered ←
 on
 industrialization (with a view to exports), agricultural diversification,
 and tourism. Economic performance in FY91 was impressive, with 6% real
 growth and low unemployment.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$2.5 billion (FY91 est.)

National product real growth rate:

6.1% (FY91 est.)

National product per capita:

\$2,300 (FY91 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

7% (FY91)

Unemployment rate:

2.4% (1991 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$557 million; expenditures \$607 million, including capital
 expenditures of \$111 million (FY90)

Exports:

\$1.2 billion (f.o.b., 1990)

commodities:

textiles 44%, sugar 40%, light manufactures 10%

partners:

EC and US have preferential treatment, EC 77%, US 15%

Imports:

\$1.6 billion (f.o.b., 1990)

commodities:

manufactured goods 50%, capital equipment 17%, foodstuffs 13%, petroleum
 products 8%, chemicals 7%

partners:

EC, US, South Africa, Japan

External debt:

\$869 million (1991 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 7% (1990); accounts for 25% of GDP

Electricity:

235,000 kW capacity; 630 million kWh produced, 570 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

food processing (largely sugar milling), textiles, wearing apparel, chemicals, metal products, transport equipment, nonelectrical machinery, tourism

Agriculture:

accounts for 10% of GDP; about 90% of cultivated land in sugarcane; other products - tea, corn, potatoes, bananas, pulses, cattle, goats, fish; net food importer, especially rice and fish

Illicit drugs:

illicit producer of cannabis for the international drug trade

Economic aid:

US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-89), \$76 million; Western (non-US) countries (1970-89), \$709 million; Communist countries (1970-89), \$54 million

Currency:

1 Mauritian rupee (MauR) = 100 cents

Exchange rates:

Mauritian rupees (MauRs) per US\$1 - 16.982 (January 1993), 15.563 (1992), 15.652 (1991), 14.839 (1990), 15.250 (1989), 13.438 (1988)

1.8 156.guide/Economy (Mauritius 2. usage)

Economy (Mauritius 2. usage)

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Fiscal year:

1 July - 30 June

1.9 156.guide/Communications (Mauritius)

Communications (Mauritius)

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Highways:

1,800 km total; 1,640 km paved, 160 km earth

Ports:

Port Louis

Merchant marine:

7 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 103,328 GRT/163,142 DWT; includes 3 cargo, 1 liquefied gas, 3 bulk

Airports: total:

5

usable:
 4
 with permanent-surface runways:
 2
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 0
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m:
 1
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 0
 Telecommunications:
 small system with good service utilizing primarily microwave radio relay;
 new microwave link to Reunion; high-frequency radio links to several
 countries; over 48,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 2 AM, no FM, 4 TV; ←
 1
 Indian Ocean INTELSAT earth station

1.10 156.guide/Defense Forces (Mauritius)

Defense Forces (Mauritius)

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Branches:

National Police Force (including the paramilitary Special Mobile Force (SMF), Special Support Units (SSU), and National Coast Guard

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 312,056; fit for military service 159,408 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$5 million, 0.2% of GDP (FY89)