



MAURITIUS



INTRODUCTION

The French assumed control in 1715, developing the island into an important naval base overseeing Indian Ocean trade. The British captured the island in 1810, during the Napoleonic Wars. Mauritius remained a strategically important British naval base. Independence from the UK was attained in 1968. A stable democracy with regular free elections and a positive human rights record, the country has attracted considerable foreign investment.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Prithvirajsing ROOPUN

Head of Government

Prime Minister Pravind JUGNAUTH

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Port Louis

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly or Assemblée Nationale (70 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 2,040 sq km
Land: 2,030 sq km
Water: 10 sq km

Climate

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

Natural Resources

arable land, fish

ECONOMY

upper middle-income Indian Ocean island economy; diversified portfolio; investing in maritime security; strong tourism sector decimated by COVID-19; expanding in information and financial services; environmentally fragile

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$24.64 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$19,500 (2020 est.)

Industries - food processing, textiles, clothing, mining, chemicals, metal products, transport equipment, nonelectrical machinery

Agricultural products - sugarcane, poultry, pumpkins, gourds, potatoes, eggs, tomatoes, pineapples, bananas, fruit

Exports \$2.36 billion (2017 est.)

fish products, raw sugar, clothing, apparel, diamonds, refined petroleum (2019)

partners: France 10%, South Africa 10%, US 10%, UK 8%, Zambia 7%, Madagascar 6% (2019)

Imports \$4.986 billion (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, fish products, aircraft, packaged medicines (2019)

partners: China 15%, India 13%, France 10%, South Africa 8%, UAE 7% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

1.4 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.52% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Indo-Mauritian (compose approximately two thirds of the total population), Creole, Sino-Mauritian, Franco-Mauritian

Language

Creole 86.5%, Bhojpuri 5.3%, French 4.1%, two languages 1.4%, other 2.6% (includes English, the official language of the National Assembly), unspecified 0.1% (2011 est.)

Religion

Hindu 48.5%, Roman Catholic 26.3%, Muslim 17.3%, other Christian 6.4%, other 0.6%, none 0.7%, unspecified 0.1% (2011 est.)

