MAURITIUS

Capital
Port Louis

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

Languages
Creole 86.5%, Bhojpuri 5.3%, French 4.1%, two languages 1.4%, other 2.6% (includes English, one of the two official languages of the National Assembly, which is spoken by less than 1% of the population), unspecified 0.1%

Religions
Hindu 48.5%, Roman Catholic 26.3%, Muslim 17.3%, other Christian 6.4%, other 0.6%, none 0.7%, unspecified 0.1%

Population
Total: 1.3 million
Median age: 36.3 years
Population growth rate: 0.09%
Urban: 40.9%
Rural: 59.1%

Fertility
Birth rate: 9.82 births/1,000 population
Total fertility rate: 1.35 children born/woman
Sex ratio of population: 0.95 male(s)/female

Mortality
Death rate: 8.95 deaths/1,000 population
Life expectancy at birth: 75.13 years
Maternal mortality rate: 61 deaths/100,000 live births
Infant mortality rate: 11.84 deaths/1,000 live births
**Migration**

Net migration rate: 0 migrants/1,000 population

**Health**

Current health expenditure: 6.7% of GDP
Physician density: 2.71 physicians/1,000 population
Adult obesity: 10.8%
Alcohol consumption per capita: 3.39 liters of pure alcohol

**Education**

Education expenditures: 4.9% of GDP
Literacy: 91.3%

**Population Distribution**

Population density is one of the highest in the world; urban clusters are found throughout the main island, with a greater density in and around Port Luis; population on Rodrigues Island is spread across the island with a slightly denser cluster on the north coast

**Demographic Profile**

Mauritius has transitioned from a country of high fertility and high mortality rates in the 1950s and mid-1960s to one with among the lowest population growth rates in the developing world today. After World War II, Mauritius’ population began to expand quickly due to increased fertility and a dramatic drop in mortality rates as a result of improved health care and the eradication of malaria. This period of heightened population growth – reaching about 3% a year – was followed by one of the world’s most rapid birth rate declines.

The total fertility rate fell from 6.2 children per women in 1963 to 3.2 in 1972 – largely the result of improved educational attainment, especially among young women, accompanied by later marriage and the adoption of family planning methods. The family planning programs’ success was due to support from the government and eventually the traditionally pronatalist religious communities, which both recognized that controlling population growth was necessary because of Mauritius’ small size and limited resources. Mauritius’ fertility rate has consistently been below replacement level since the late 1990s, a rate that is substantially lower than nearby countries in southern Africa.