

SADC Regional Workshop on the Use of Administrative Data Sources for Migration Statistics

Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA
17-21 March 2025

Presentation - REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

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Organisational structure

- National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

THE STATISTICS ACT MAKES PROVISION FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Every public sector agency, which provides statistics in relation to its activities to the Director for the purposes of the integration of the statistics into official statistics, shall provide the Director with the administrative datasets and copies of the report on the compiled statistics, within one month of the date of its publication.

- Organizational structure and relevant human resources in the NSO and in the Labour and Immigration departments for the production of migration statistics

STATISTICS MAURITIUS HAVE 2 PART TIME STAFFS (1 FOCAL PERSON & 1 STATISTICIAN) TO WORK ON MIGRATION STATISTICS. MINISTRY OF LABOUR HAS A STATISTICS UNIT COMPOSED OF FULL TIME STAFFS (1 STATISTICIAN AND 3 STATISTICAL OFFICERS). PIO HAS NO PARTICIPANT

Institutional arrangements and data sharing

- Institutional arrangements between the NSO, Labour and Immigration departments for accessing data (MOUs, technical working groups, etc.)

NO ARRANGEMENT FOR MIGRATION DATA EXCEPT FOR TOURISM DATA

- Legal provisions for access to migration data records from Labour and Immigration departments

NO PROVISION

- Operational administrative data sharing procedures within the NSS

PROCEDURES NEED TO BE WORKED OUT

- Are there any constraints? If yes, elaborate

NOT YET EXPERIENCED

Migration statistics produced and disseminated

Mauritius gathers migration statistics through censuses, records from the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO), and work permit data from the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations. This data is disseminated via the National Employment Department's online monthly bulletin. While digitalization efforts such as the National Electronic Licensing System (NELS) have improved efficiency, challenges persist, including fragmented data management and limited real-time data capture. This presentation provides an overview of migration statistics in Mauritius, highlighting practices, gaps, and recommendations for improvement.

Migration Data Producers:

Statistics Mauritius

Statistics Mauritius conducts census every 10 years. The most recent round was in year 2022. In addition to the questions in the Census questionnaire related to migration, an module on EMIGRATION was introduced in 2022 Census. Another source is from the Annual Survey of Employment & Earnings. The migration statistics are as follows:

- 1) Migrant population by sex, age, country of origin (**Source: Population Census, every 10 years**)
- 2) Employed migrants by sex, education, employment status, country of origin, economic activity and occupation group, average monthly wages (**Source: Population Census, every 10 years**)
- 3) Foreign workers by sex, age, type of occupation, sector (**Source: Population Census, every 10 years**)
- 4) Employment of foreigners and their earnings (**Source: Annual Survey of Employment & Earnings**)

Based on the **2022 Population Census** results, SM produced/contributed in the following reports on migration:

- ✓ Volume III: Geographical and Migration Characteristics, 2022 HPC
(https://statsmauritius.govmu.org/Documents/Census_and_Surveys/Census2022/HPC_TR_Vol3_Geo_Migration_Yr22.pdf)
- ✓ Migration in Mauritius: A Country Profile 2023 funded by IOM Development Fund: **in process of finalization by IOM**

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Migration in Population Census

List of variables pertaining to Migration from Housing and Population Census, 2011 & 2022	
2011 Census	2022 Census
In-migrants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Gender · Age · Citizenship - Place of residence · Reasons for staying in Mauritius · Education · Occupation · Employment status · Marital status · Religion 	In-migrants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Gender · Age · Nationality/Citizenship/Place of birth/ Country of birth · Year of last arrival · Reasons for staying in Mauritius · Education · Occupation · Employment status · Marital status · Religion
Out-migrants:	Out-migrants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Gender · Age · Country of Residence · Reason for departure · Date of departure · Educational level attained

Migration statistics produced and disseminated

Passport and Immigration Office (PIO)

- The Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) enforces migration policy and manages migration data, manages border control at ports of arrival, enforces immigration regulations, processes applications and issues work, occupation and residence permits to applicants who wish to work, invest, or live in the Republic of Mauritius.

Thus PIO tracks entries and exits, offering insights into migration patterns. Includes data on visas, permits, and border crossings, crucial for monitoring migration flows.

Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations

- **Work Permit (WP):** is a legal document authorising a person under certain conditions to take employment in Mauritius. Details from WP of foreign workers are namely: sex, age, country of origin, qualification, skills, health status, employment sector etc.
- **Certificate of Exemption** refers to the Employment (Non-Citizens) (Restriction) Exemptions Regulations 1970, which stipulates that certain categories of expatriates are exempted from a work permit during their period of employment in Mauritius.

Number of work permits issued in January 2025

	Country of Residence	Female	Male	Both sexes
1	Bangladesh	41	282	323
2	Belgium	1		1
3	Cameroon		1	1
4	China		7	7
5	Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)		4	4
6	France		1	1
7	India	3	600	603
8	Kenya		3	3
9	Madagascar	50	219	269
10	Nepal	6	554	560
11	Nigeria		2	2
12	Sri Lanka	2	8	10
13	United States of America (USA)	1		1
14	Zimbabwe		5	5
	All countries	104	1686	1790

Migration statistics produced and disseminated

Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research

- International (Foreign) students

Higher Education Commission

https://www.hec.mu/pdf_downloads/recent_posts/snapshot12122023.pdf

The number of international (foreign) students studying in Mauritius has been on a slow growth path in the last 7 years, increasing from 1,524 in 2015 to 2,858 in 2021 before reaching 3,020 in 2022.

The international students emanated from a total of 72 countries. India (1,115, 36.9%), Nigeria (352; 1.7%), Madagascar (202; 6.7%), France (182; 6.0%), Zimbabwe (181, 6.0%) are amongst the main sources of inflow. Region-wise, the African Continent leads with 54.6% of international students.

The five main fields chosen by the international students were Medicine (38.7%), IT (12.8%), Administration/Management (10.0%), Business/Commerce/Marketing (9.1%) and Hotel/Travel/Tourism (6.8%).

Migration statistics produced and disseminated

Bank of Mauritius

- Remittance statistics

<https://www.bom.mu/publications-and-statistics/statistics/external-sector-statistics/remittances>

The Bank of Mauritius compiles remittance statistics from banks and foreign exchange dealers to meet the requirements of the National Migration and Development Policy and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Economic Development Board (EDB)

- Occupation Permit, Retired Non-Citizen Residence Permit and Young Professional Occupation Permit

Occupation Permit (OP) is a combined work and residence permit which allows foreign nationals to work and reside in Mauritius under 3 specific categories namely: Investor, Professional & Self-employed.

Retired Non-Citizen Residence Permit are foreign nationals, above the age of 50 years, who may choose to retire in Mauritius under a Residence Permit (RP).

Young Professional Occupation Permit (YPOP) are foreign students having completed at least an Undergraduate degree in a tertiary education institution in Mauritius are eligible to apply for a YPOP. The latter is an Occupation Permit valid for a maximum period of 3 years depending on the duration of the contract of employment.

Technical assistance and capacity building needs

- Mention any technical assistance or training obtained in the past 5 years on migration statistics and administrative data systems

No technical assistance to date

However, IOM, SADC, COMESA facilitated some training through workshops and online courses to Statistics Mauritius and other key stakeholders (PMO, PIO, Ministry of Labour)

- Elaborate on your country's capacity building needs and technical assistance required to set up administrative data systems for migration statistics

COMESA will provide technical assistance to Statistics Mauritius (SM) to develop migration statistics and disseminate them. Preliminary works start in April 2025 through a 3-day workshop in Mauritius.

However, Statistics Mauritius will request any further TA if the need arises. For instance to develop more indicators for national, regional and international reporting.