

**FOR
AGENDA**

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To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: **Mauritius—Selected Issues and Statistical Appendix**

This paper provides background information to the staff report on the 2004 Article IV consultation discussions with Mauritius (SM/04/193, 6/21/04), which is tentatively scheduled for discussion on **Friday, July 23, 2004**. At the time of circulation of this paper to the Board, the Secretary's Department has not received a communication from the authorities of Mauritius indicating whether or not they consent to the Fund's publication of this paper; such communication may be received after the authorities have had an opportunity to read the paper.

Questions may be referred to Mr. C. McDonald (ext. 36893) and Mr. Yao (ext. 34984) in AFR.

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MAURITIUS

Selected Issues and Statistical Appendix

Prepared by a staff team consisting of Calvin McDonald (head),
James Y. Yao, Jung Yeon Kim, Marwan Mikhael (all AFR),
and Nathan Porter (FIN)

Approved by the African Department

July 8, 2004

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Mauritius: Social and Demographic Indicators ¹

Population		Education	
Population (thousands; 2002)	1,200	Adult illiteracy rate (percent; 1995)	15
Annual rate of growth (percent; annual)	1.02	Female	19
Population under age 15 (percent; 1999)	26	Male	12
Density (per square km.; 1999)	591	Gross primary school enrollment (percent; 2001) 2/	93.2
Land area (square km.)	2,030	Gross secondary school enrollment (percent; 2000) 2/	77
Population characteristics		Income	
Life expectancy at birth (years; 2002)	72.5	GDP per capita (U.S. dollars; 2002/2002) 3/	4,352
Male	68	Poverty	
Female	76	Population below \$1 a day	...
Infant mortality (per thousand; 2001)	17		
Crude birth rate (per thousand; 1999)	17		
Crude death rate (per thousand; 1999)	7		
Fertility rate (births per woman; 2001)	2.01		
Labor force		Health	
Total (thousands, including foreigners; 2003)	549	Health care access (percent of population; 1991)	99
Of which: female (percent; 2003)	34.6	Immunization for measles (percent of population less than 12 months; 1995)	79
Annual growth rate (percent; average 1998-2003)	1.5	Population per physician (1999)	1,107
Sugar workers (percent of total employment; 2003)	5.2	Population per hospital bed (1999)	294
Export processing zone workers (percent of total employment; 2003)	27.6	Safe water access (percent of population; 1993)	100
		Sanitation access (percent of population; 1993)	100

Sources: Central Statistical Office; IMF, *International Financial Statistics*; World Bank, *World Development Indicators* database; and World Bank, Country Assistance Strategy of the World Bank Group for the Republic of Mauritius, 1997.

1/ The Republic of Mauritius consists of the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues, and two very small "outer" islands. Population density varies greatly among these.

2/ Gross enrollment ratio is the ratio of total enrollment, regardless of age, to the population of the age group that officially corresponds to the level of education shown.

3/ Fiscal year July to June constant 1995 US\$.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. **This collection of selected issues papers provides background information and analytical support for key policy issues discussed in the 2004 Article IV consultation discussions with Mauritius.** The Article IV consultation report identifies three immediate and medium-term challenges facing Mauritius, namely, the need to adapt the economy to the impending loss of trade preferences in sugar and textiles, the urgency of carrying out structural reforms to lessen labor market rigidities and the requirement to reduce fiscal deficits over the medium term to ensure fiscal sustainability and macroeconomic stability. Regarding the latter, the staff report for the consultation discussions contains a detailed appendix on the medium-term path toward public debt sustainability. The consultations also assessed the monetary policy framework in Mauritius and identified further structural reforms that should be pursued in order to strengthen the financial system.
2. **In the first of the four papers, the impact of the erosion of trade preferences on exports, growth, and employment is assessed under two scenarios—a moderate and an extreme scenario.** To quantify the adverse impact of trade liberalization, the paper estimates various elasticities of GDP growth to exports, and unemployment to growth. The analysis finds that in the worst case scenario, medium-term growth could be up to 50 percent below the staff's baseline projections of 4 percent annual growth.
3. **The paper on labor market institutions and low-skilled employment uses a simple stylized model of the job creation and destruction process to assess the potential benefits of labor market reform.** The conclusion is that even relatively minor wage compression and restrictions on the redeployment of workers can have a dramatic impact on the fragility of jobs and the extent of unemployment and labor-market churning.
4. **Mauritius has achieved success in its informal inflation targeting framework.** By combining a standard macro-finance model with an open economy model, an empirical assessment is made of the critical channels through which the central bank has been able to implement credible monetary policies. The empirical results indicate that the informal inflation targeting framework (by targeting inflationary expectations) has been able to provide a strong nominal anchor even in the context of a managed float exchange rate system.
5. **Finally, the last paper discusses the institutional requirements for developing a corporate bond market in Mauritius.** Credit concentration in the banking sector is a major concern in Mauritius. Development of an efficient bond market would not only provide alternative investment opportunities for institutional investors, but would also spread credit risk in the economy. Successful development of an active bond market will require a deepening of the market for government debt, a strengthening of the legal and credit risk infrastructure and a broadening of the investor and issuer base.

II. IMPACT OF THE EROSION OF TRADE PREFERENCES ON EXPORTS, GROWTH, AND EMPLOYMENT IN MAURITIUS ¹

A. Introduction

6. **Mauritius faces significant challenges in the sugar and textile sectors in an increasingly competitive global environment.** Increased trade liberalization is expected to have a positive impact on international trade and growth in the long run, but could have adverse effects on Mauritius in the short run. In particular, Mauritius will have to cope with the decision of the WTO regarding the liberalization of the sugar sector and with the phasing out of the textile quotas with the expiration of the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) in January 2005. In addition, Mauritius does not qualify for the third country fabric under the U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) II. These developments could lead to a temporary deterioration in Mauritius's current account balance.

7. **In the past three decades, Mauritius showed the ability to cope with challenges and registered impressive growth rates.** Growth rates of the economy averaged around 6 percent and the exports² to GDP ratio currently hovers around 40 percent, which puts Mauritius at the forefront of export-oriented economies. Three decades ago, Mauritius mainly relied on the sugar sector for its exports earnings. The economy subsequently diversified to include tourism and textile manufacturing in the export processing zone (EPZ). In light of the current challenges, the authorities now aim to develop the economy into a hub for the technology and financial services sectors.

8. **In the medium term, the baseline growth projection in the Article IV consultation report is 4 percent per annum.** This baseline scenario assumes a weak performance in both the sugar sector and the export processing zone (EPZ), reflecting increased global competition, a reduction in the area used for sugarcane production, and a gradual disinvestment of some foreign textile companies. These developments are expected to be balanced by the economy's partial adjustment to the changing international business environment through the restructuring of the economy and the development of other sources of growth, including the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and financial services sectors.

9. **The rest of the paper is organized as follows:** Section B analyzes the relationship among exports, economic growth, and the labor market in Mauritius in order to derive elasticities that are used to estimate the effects of negative shocks in subsequent sections. Section C examines the current situation in the sugar sector and the likely impact of trade liberalization. Section D discusses the textile sector and the possible impact of the phasing out of textile quotas in international trade on growth and employment. The impact of combined shocks to the sugar and textile sectors are also considered. Section E provides concluding remarks.

¹ Prepared by Marwan Mikhael.

² Exports of goods.

B. Exports, Growth, and the Labor Market

10. **The literature has extensively examined the relationship between exports and economic growth.** Since exports are part of GDP, it is expected that GDP and exports will be positively correlated (Kravis, 1970). In addition, exports might stimulate output through a number of channels. McKinnon(1964) and Chenery and Strout (1966) point out that the foreign exchange earned from exports allows imports of intermediate and capital goods that increase production potential. Keesing (1967), Michaely (1977), Balassa (1978), Krueger (1980), and Tyler (1981) show that exports contribute to GDP by more than the export volume by pointing to the positive external benefits of exports, including greater capacity utilization, economies of scale, incentives for technological improvement, and more efficient management of the firm due to competitive pressures of foreign markets.

Impact of exports on growth

11. **In our analysis, we examine the impact of a change in nominal exports on real GDP and the labor market in Mauritius.** An external shock in one sector will not only have an impact on the output of this sector but it can also have a spillover effect on other sectors of the economy. In Mauritius, foreign exchange is the main source of wealth and the main driver of domestic consumption, given the high share of exports in total output.

12. **Our empirical analysis is based on a demand-oriented theory of growth, first emphasized by Kaldor (1970) and then explored by McCombie and Thirlwall (1994).** This paper will investigate the relationship between exports and growth, but unlike the above mentioned theories, it will not analyze the determinants of exports,³ and therefore exports are considered as a totally exogenous variable. In addition, this paper will include other demand variables such as consumption and investment in order to avoid an overestimation of the elasticity coefficient of exports.

13. Let us define:

$$X_t = X_{St} + X_{Tt} + X_{Ot} \quad (1)$$

Where: X_t is total exports of goods, X_{St} is exports of sugar, X_{Tt} is exports of textile, and X_{Ot} are other exports. From this equation we have $\partial X_t / \partial X_{St} = \partial X_t / \partial X_{Tt} = \partial X_t / \partial X_{Ot} = 1$ implying that the elasticity of total exports to any of the sectors is equal to the ratio of the exports in this sector to total exports.

14. In order to compute the impact of a variation of exports on GDP, we use a simple dynamic ordinary least squares (OLS) estimation method to regress the real growth rate of the economy at time t (Δy_t) on the real change in consumption at time t (Δc_t), investment at

³ In this case, it will not be necessary to introduce another equation to the model where exports are specified and could depend on world income and exchange rate.

time t-1 (Δi_{t-1}), and the nominal change in exports at time t (ΔX_t). Results of this exercise should be taken with caution, since the sample period is short, as it stretches over 25 years only (1978-2002) and the data is annual. The equation is the following:

$$\Delta y_t = \alpha \Delta c_t + \beta \Delta i_{t-1} + \gamma \Delta X_t + \xi_t \quad (2)$$

15. It appears from the results that investment does not have a significant impact on the growth rate. Although this result appears to be worrisome, it could be the consequence of a data collection problem. Therefore, we introduced the growth rate for the period t-1 to account for the investment and other factors. Thus the equation will become:

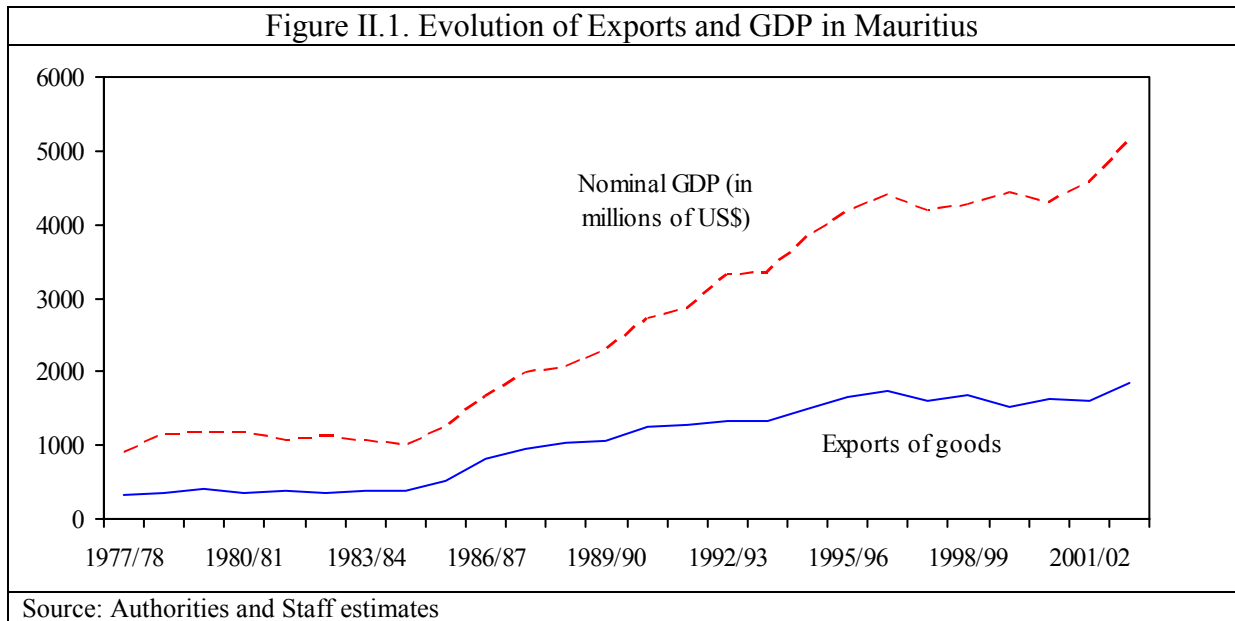
$$\Delta y_t = \alpha \Delta c_t + \gamma \Delta X_t + \delta \Delta y_{t-1} + \xi_t \quad (3)$$

Parameter estimates are:

$$\Delta y_t = 0.47 \Delta c_t + 0.13 \Delta X_t + 0.27 \Delta y_{t-1} + \xi_t \quad (4)$$

$$\text{t-stat: } [3.84] \quad [3.26] \quad [2.60]$$

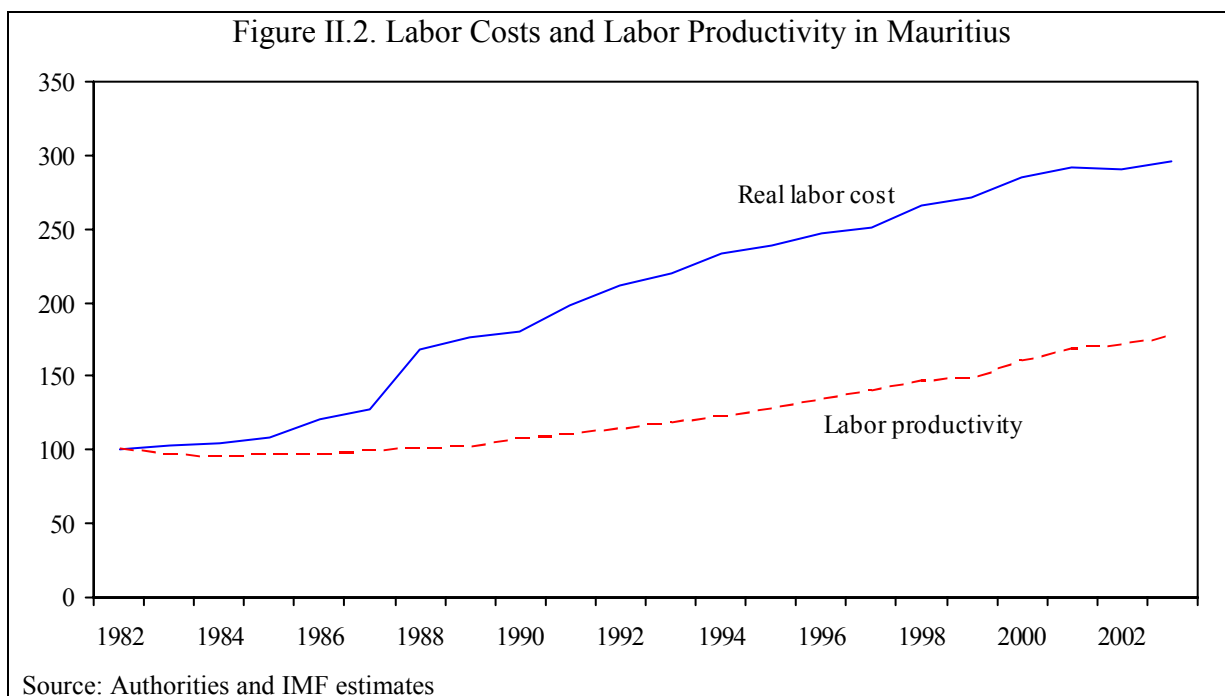
The Durbin-Watson test did not show any serial correlation problem.



Relationship between growth and the labor market

16. **The impact of exports on job creation is more uncertain, given that the impact is not only on jobs in export industries, but also on industries that distribute the outputs or supply the inputs.** Increased exports are expected to increase production and jobs that are

characterized by higher levels of worker productivity. As a result, higher wages could arise when the labor market is competitive. Trade, however, should lead to the elimination of jobs in less competitive industries. In Mauritius, in both sugar and textile sectors, international trade is affected by several constraints and world markets are not competitive. Mauritius has benefited from a quota system and is protected from foreign competition by bilateral or multilateral trade agreements. As a result, Figure II.2 shows that real compensation did grow faster than labor productivity in Mauritius, which has led to an increase in unit labor costs over the past twenty years.



17. **The main objective of this subsection is to compute the contribution of the labor costs to the value added of the sugar sector, which will help us to estimate the impact on employment of sugar trade liberalization.** We assume a Cobb-Douglas production function of the Mauritian economy with constant returns to scale.⁴ Such a function links the quantity of labor, L , and capital, K , that are used for producing, each period t , the GDP Y .

$$Y_t = L^\alpha K^{(1-\alpha)} \quad (5)$$

Taking the logarithm of terms on both sides of the equation:

⁴ It is important to note that this representation of the economy does not contradict our previous demand-oriented representation for economic growth, since both representations are independent, and the Cobb Douglas function is only used to derive contribution of Labor to the value added of the sugar sector.

$$y_t = \alpha l_t + (1 - \alpha) k_t \quad (6)$$

Where:

$$y_t = \log Y_t, \quad l_t = \log L_t, \quad k_t = \log K_t$$

We divide the economy into three sectors: the sugar sector (S), the textile sector (T) and other sectors (O). Therefore we can rewrite equation (2) as:

$$y_t = y_{St} + y_{Tt} + y_{Ot} \quad (7)$$

$$y_t = \alpha' l_{St} + (1 - \alpha') k_{St} + \alpha'' l_{Tt} + (1 - \alpha'') k_{Tt} + \alpha''' l_{Ot} + (1 - \alpha''') k_{Ot} \quad (8)$$

With the assumption of constant returns-to-scale, the elasticity of output with respect to a given factor is equal to the share of its revenue (net wages, in case of labor) in total income, when factor markets are competitive. In the sugar sector, we have:

$$Y_{St} = L_{St}^{\alpha'} K_{St}^{(1-\alpha')} \quad (9)$$

Having marginal product equal to marginal cost and assuming that w_{St} is the wage in real terms in the sugar sector and is $w_{St} = W_{St} / P_{St}$, where W_{St} is the nominal wage in the sugar sector and P_{St} is the price index in the sugar sector, it follows:

$$w_{St} = \partial Y_{St} / \partial L_{St} = \alpha' L_{St}^{\alpha'-1} K_{St}^{(1-\alpha')} = \alpha' Y_{St} / L_{St} \quad (10)$$

This implies:

$$\alpha' = L_{St} w_{St} / Y_{St} \quad (11)$$

Where the computation of the average of α' during the last four years gave us $\alpha' = 0.65$.

The same reasoning could be applied to the textile sector and we will have:

$$\alpha'' = L_{Tt} w_{Tt} / Y_{Tt} \quad (12)$$

C. Sugar Sector

18. **Mauritius's sugar sector is governed by two important agreements with the European Union.** The two agreements are the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP), European Union (EU) sugar protocol and the Agreement on Special Preferential Sugar (SPS). The fundamental principles enshrined in the sugar protocol are (i) agreed quantities of cane sugar, raw or white, (ii) guaranteed prices, and (iii) indefinite duration. The agreed quantities cannot be reduced without the individual consent of each concerned country. The guaranteed prices are in practice the same prices given to Community sugar producers. The ACP guaranteed prices are linked to the EU intervention price for the domestically produced raw sugar and the guaranteed price of white sugar to the derived intervention price in the U.K.

The sugar agreements

19. **The sugar protocol was annexed in 1975 to the Lomé Convention, which has regulated the trade and aid relations between the EU and its ex-colonies (together with other protocols on bananas, rubber, rice, beef, and rum) since then.** The protocol was revised and included in the new ACP/EU agreements that were signed in 2000 in Cotonou, Benin. The Cotonou Agreement provides for the continuation until 2007 of the Lomé arrangements for trade in goods. Between September 2002 and December 2007, the agreement calls for the negotiations of new trade arrangements to take effect no later than January 2008.

20. **The new trade arrangements envisaged in the Agreement are referred to as “economic partnership agreements” (EPAs).** There is also provision for a review of the negotiations in 2004, at which time the possibility will be explored of “alternative trade arrangements” for those ACP states that are not in a position to enter into EPAs with the EU. The Cotonou Agreement itself continues for 20 years, and its development assistance provisions will remain in force for the whole of this period. The trade provisions, however, expire in December 2007. There are thus no trade arrangements currently in place between the EU and the ACP states covering the period from January 2008 onward.

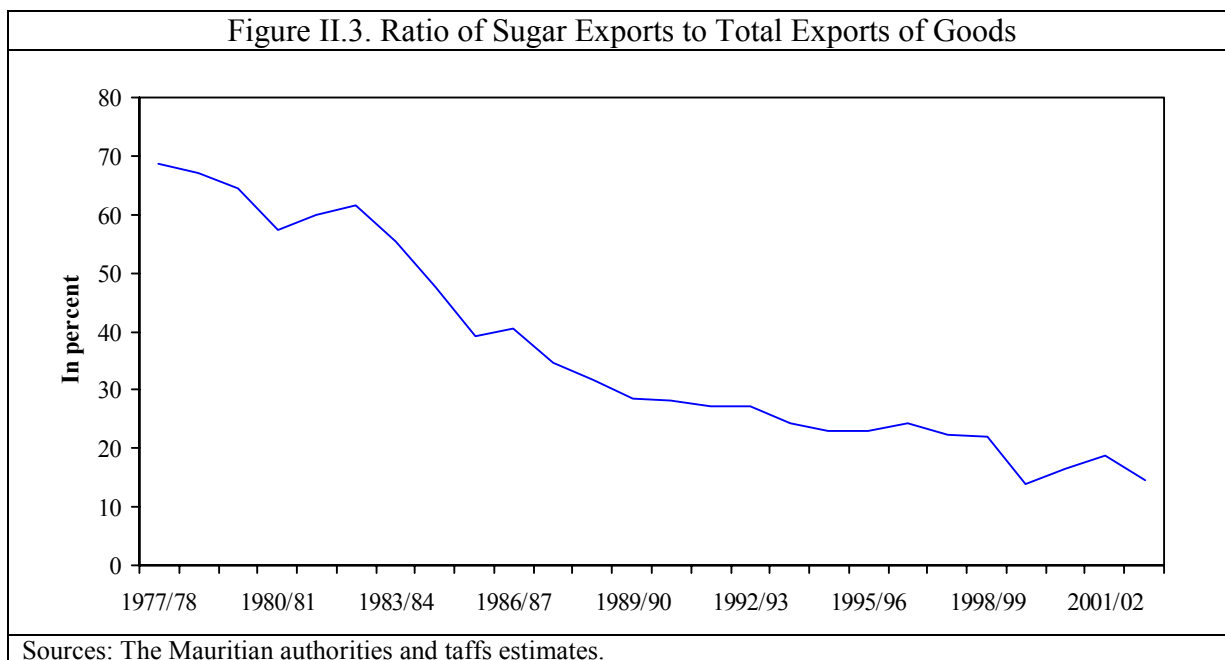
21. **The SPS agreement was introduced in order to meet the needs of EU sugar refiners after the accession of Spain and Portugal to the EU.** It was signed between the EU and the ACP countries in June 1995 for a period of six years, and it was renewed in 2001 for another five years. Unlike the ACP/EU sugar protocol, it is of a fixed duration and the ACP states are jointly and separately liable to supply the quantities of sugar covered by the SPS agreement. The conditions of the SPS agreement include a minimum delivered price to be paid by EU refiners, equivalent to approximately 85 percent of the ACP guaranteed price for raw sugar. Under the SPS, the European Community undertakes to open a special tariff quota for the import of raw cane sugar for refining originating in ACP states, on the basis of the needs determined by the Commission concerning the SPS. Although the agreement was renewed for the period 2001-06, the expected progressive reductions of the SPS quantities as a result of the Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative is a matter of concern for the ACP sugar exporting countries.

22. **The EBA regulation grants duty-free and quota-free access to imports of all products from the least developed countries, with the exception of arms and munitions.** It was adopted by the EU in February 2001 and covers 49 least-developed countries. The EBA foresees that the special arrangements for LDCs should be maintained for an unlimited period of time and not be subject to the periodic renewal of the Community's scheme of generalized preferences.

The world sugar market

23. **In general, the competitive world market for sugar is of marginal importance.** Only around 30 percent of world sugar production is exported and in almost every country the domestic sugar market is protected. Additionally, around one third of world sugar exports

are based on preference agreements or long-term contracts. Consequently, only around 20 percent of world sugar production is traded under free market conditions.



24. **World demand for sugar is assumed to be inelastic to price changes.** However, it generally depends on the economic situation in the importing countries. We can divide the world market into the liberalized market (D_1, S_1, P_1, Q_1) and the preferential market (D_2, S_2, P_2, Q_2), where D is the demand for sugar, S the supply of sugar, P the price, and Q the quantity. In both markets, the demand for sugar is relatively inelastic to price changes. Thus, we have:

$$Q_{Dt} = \alpha Y_t + \beta \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{D1} &= A = cte \\ Q_{D2} &= B = cte \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Q_{D1} is equal to 20 percent of the total world demand Q_D , and Q_{D2} constitute the remaining 80 percent.

On the supply side, the quantities supplied on both the liberalized and the preferential markets depend on weather conditions (WT). Nevertheless, prices in the liberalized market depend on the quantities supplied. Therefore,

$$P_1 = \alpha' Q_{S1} + \beta' \quad (15)$$

Since preferential prices are related to quotas and they are not related to the quantities supplied, it is safe to assume a fixed preferential price.

$$P_2 = C = cte \quad (16)$$

$$Q_{s1} = \delta + \gamma WT \quad (17)$$

$$Q_{s2} = \delta' + \gamma' WT \quad (18)$$

We can rewrite P_1 :

$$P_1 = \alpha' \delta + \alpha' \gamma WT + \beta' \quad (19)$$

25. The liberalization of the sugar market is expected to have adverse effects on high cost countries, and it will alter demand and supply functions, thus impacting prices.

Total world demand D will be the sum of the demands on the liberalized market D_1 and the preferential market D_2 . Total supply is projected to decrease, since prices on the previous preferential market are expected to collapse, and several sugar producers will find themselves unable to compete due to their high production costs.

26. As a result, the equilibrium price level after liberalization is expected to be slightly higher than the actual equilibrium price in the liberalized market and much lower than the actual price in the preferential market. In a liberalized sugar market, several producers in industrialized countries will shift from producing sugarcane or beet to the production of other sweeteners such as the HFCS⁵ because of its lower production costs. It is also expected that the total supply slope will be steeper than in the actual liberalized market since producers will become more sensitive to any change in price as it will have an impact on their profitability.

Liberalization impact

27. We consider two scenarios for the sugar sector. The first one is a gradual decrease in sugar prices in the coming years. The Mauritian economy will therefore have some time to adapt to the declining prices. The second scenario is a more extreme case and assumes a full liberalization of sugar prices beginning 2005.

28. In the moderate scenario, we assume that prices will be reduced in 2005 to the average world price of US\$0.16/lb. The price will then decrease to US\$0.13/lb in 2006, and US\$0.10-0.12/lb in 2007, and US\$0.10/lb in 2008. Recall from section B that the elasticity of GDP to exports is 0.13, and the elasticity of total exports to sugar exports is of 0.14. For the fiscal year 2004/05 (July-June), some caution is warranted, since it will depend on when the sugar crop is sold. If the prices are set to decrease starting 2005 and the stock of sugar is sold before the end of 2004, then the impact of the price decrease on fiscal year 2004/05 will be

⁵ HFCS is a synthetically sugar obtained from fructose which is a very sweet sugar derived from dextrose. Dextrose is a sugar derived synthetically from starch and most commonly from corn.

amortized, but if the bulk of the crop is sold in 2005, then there will be a full impact of the price decrease on exports and thus on GDP growth.

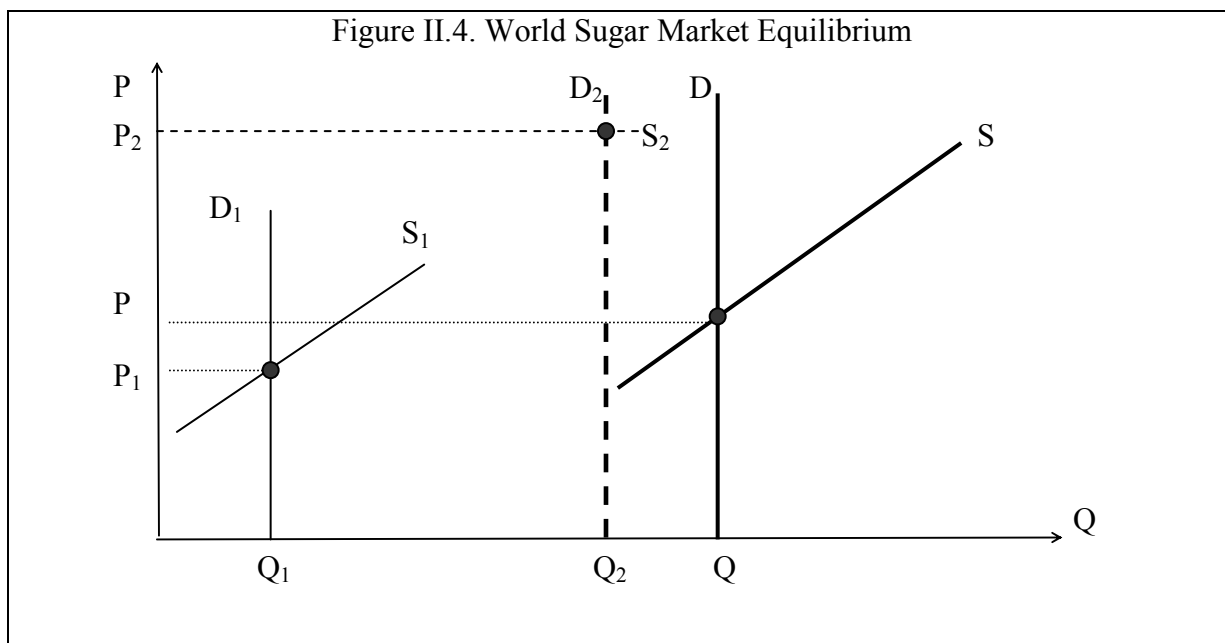


Table II.1. Growth Impact of Sugar Price Decline

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Price decline	30 percent	19 percent	15 percent
Decline of total exports	2-4 percent	3 percent	2 percent
Deviation of GDP growth from baseline	0.2-0.5 percentage point	0.4 percentage point	0.3 percentage point

29. **For Mauritius's sugar sector to compete on the world market, the strategy to reduce costs should be implemented without delay.** This will necessitate reducing the costs from US\$0.14 per pound in 2005 to US\$0.10 per pound in 2008. Costs reduction from US\$0.18 per pound in 2001 to US\$0.14 per pound in 2005 is expected to result in job losses of 7,900 jobs in the sugar sector, bringing the total working force to around 21,000 workers. Recalling equation (7) from section B, we computed $\alpha' = 0.65$. As a result, the reduction of the costs to US\$0.10 per pound by 2008, all other things being constant, will necessitate a decrease in the sugar sector labor force by up to an additional 2,800 workers.

30. **In the extreme scenario, the shocks would have a much stronger impact on the different sectors of the economy.** One assumption—although with low probability—would

be for the WTO panel to decide on the complete liberalization of the sugar trade in 2005. This would most likely cause world sugar prices to drop to around US\$0.10-0.12 per pound⁶ for raw sugar from the actual preferential prices between US\$0.20-0.24, and compared to an actual international price level of between US\$0.06 and 0.07 per pound. Only a few countries—Brazil, Australia, Thailand, and to some extent, South Africa—would be able to sell sugar at the current world prices.

31. **The equilibrium price level will depend on the reactions of industrial countries to trade liberalization.** If no direct subsidies are allocated to farmers in industrial countries, producers will likely abandon sugar cane or beet production and will move to other sweeteners such as the HFSC mentioned earlier.

32. **Under this scenario, the cost of sugar production in Mauritius would be some 40 percent higher than the world price and could lead to losses in the sector of around US\$60 million in 2005/06 for a total production of 600,000 tons.** These losses would continue until production costs are reduced to around US\$0.10 per pound in 2007/08, as called for under the sugar sector strategy.

D. Textile Sector

Textile agreements

33. **The Multi-Fiber Agreement (MFA) has had a marked impact on the global textile industry since its coming into force in 1974.** The MFA governed world trade in textiles and garments and provided the basis on which industrialized countries have been able to restrict imports from developing countries. Quotas have been negotiated on a country-by-country basis and have been established at different levels. This has affected the ability of industries to expand. For example, strict quotas generally operated on imports from Korea and Hong Kong, while the EU imposed no restrictions on textile and clothing imports from a group of least-developed countries (EBA initiative).

34. **In 1994, the ATC was introduced with the objective to phase out the MFA restrictions over a period of 10 years.** It outlines a program for the integration of all products into WTO rules by 2005, and applies to all WTO members, whether or not they were signatories of the MFA. The MFA and ATC cover trade in cotton, wool, and man-made fiber products. Existing quotas would be removed by progressively increasing permitted levels, although it has been heavily back-loaded to January 2005.

⁶ This assumption should be taken with caution since the reaction of the supply, in case of liberalization, is very uncertain due to the fact that a large proportion of world sugar producers have higher production costs, and a large portion of world sugar supply is subsidized.

35. **The ATC allows importing countries to integrate products that were not restricted in the first place, which is the reason why the integration has not made a big impact on international trade in textile and clothing.** The removal of quotas for the most sensitive products (e.g., T-shirts, men's shirts, ladies' blouses, and jeans) will take place only at end-2004. Therefore, none of Mauritius's main production lines have so far been affected by the phasing out of quotas under the ATC.

36. **In addition, by not stipulating proportions of the product types to be integrated, the ATC allows importers to liberalize largely in the lower value sectors,** thus maintaining discrimination against value-added imports and protecting their own value-added clothing industries. For example, in the first tranche of liberalization, 70 percent of the products integrated were yarns and fabrics.

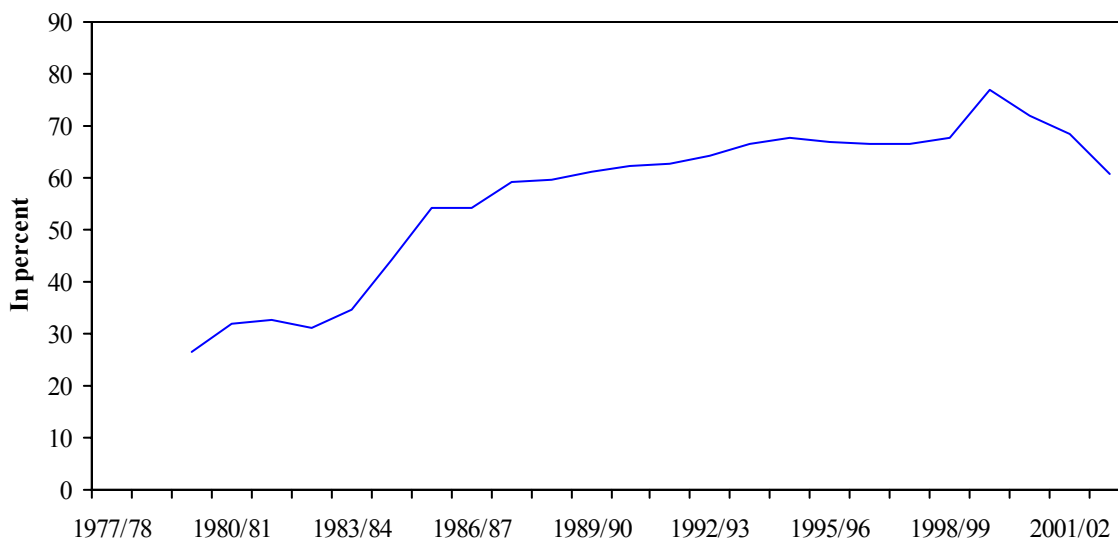
37. **Some countries will gain from the phasing out of textile quotas under the ATC while others will lose.** The expectation is that there will be an increase in the relocation of the garment industry from industrialized to developing countries. Moreover, the major relocations could be from one relatively poor country to another. The MFA did have the effect of guaranteeing developing countries with high production costs access to northern markets costs. Without the MFA there will be a more open market and the overall result is likely to be a concentration of the industry in a smaller number of low-cost locations. Marginal suppliers are likely to be squeezed out. Mauritius is an example of a country that it is likely to be among the losers, since its textile industry has higher unit labor costs than other countries such as China, Madagascar, and other Asian and African countries.

38. **Mauritius is also benefiting from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) that was promulgated in the United States in May 2000 for a period of eight years.** AGOA significantly liberalizes access to the U.S. market for 37 Sub-Saharan African Countries (out of a total of 48). However, recent amendments to AGOA (AGOA II) have resulted in the elimination of Mauritius from the list of Lesser-Developed Countries, and therefore Mauritius was unable to use non-qualifying third-country textile inputs in the manufacture of AGOA-eligible apparel exports. As a result, only 40 percent of Mauritius's exports in the "textiles and apparel" category qualify for AGOA benefits.

Current situation of the textile industry in Mauritius

39. Output of the Mauritian textile industry, which constitutes about 80 percent of the EPZ, has been declining in the last few years. The knitwear sub-sector has been adversely affected by the delayed resolution of whether garments that are "knitted to shape" qualify for preferential access under AGOA. Many of the Hong Kong based textile firms—which account for around 25 percent of textile employment (around 15,000 workers) and 30 percent of exports—are likely to leave in the next two to three years.

Figure II.5. Ratio of EPZ Exports to Total Exports of Goods



Sources: The Mauritian authorities and staff estimates.

40. **The authorities have been supporting the restructuring of EPZ textile firms in order to avoid a possible collapse of the sector.** These efforts have resulted in the establishment of the Textile Emergency Support Team (TEST) initiative in July 2003. The TEST has commissioned the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC) to carry out a diagnostic study of textile firms to assess their cost structure and point to areas for improvement. The government will provide funding for consultants to assist potentially viable firms to rehabilitate their operations. In addition, a corporate debt restructuring committee (CDRC)—chaired by the Managing Director of the Bank of Mauritius—has also been established to facilitate (in coordination with creditors) the restructuring of the debts of potentially viable firms.

41. **The NPCC performed the level one assessment on 42 firms and found that 16 of them are healthy, 6 promising, 11 vulnerable, and 9 at risk of closing.** In 2002, the healthy and at-risk firms each accounted for more than a third of textile employment, the vulnerable firms for 24 percent, while the promising companies for only around 3 percent. More troublingly, the at-risk firms are, on average, much larger than any of the other types of firms, being on average 80 percent larger than the healthy firms, the next largest.

42. **Another important development that could adversely affect the textile industry is the enforcement of the Ralph Lauren trademark following negotiations with manufacturers of the brand.** In 1992, the Mauritian Government granted a Ralph Lauren trademark to a local firm. This trademark was not renewed after it expired in 2000, which led a number of local firms (in the absence of a legal holder of the trademark), to start producing Ralph Lauren products. It is estimated that the firms employ around 7,000 workers. In the first quarter of 2004, Ralph Lauren enforced its trademark rights and reached a settlement agreement, whereby the concerned firms are required to dispose of their remaining stocks by

end-December 2004. A monitoring committee, headed by the Managing Director of the Bank of Mauritius, has been established to verify stocks on a monthly basis.

Empirical analysis

43. **The phasing out of textile quotas under the ATC could lead to the textile sector shrinking by 8 percent in 2004/05, 15 percent in 2005/06, 8 percent in 2006/07, and stabilizing thereafter (the moderate scenario).** These assumptions are based on the TEST initiative, which identified that the firms at risk of closing down employ around 8,700 workers and the vulnerable firms employ 5,700 workers. Given that the number of firms that chose to go through the TEST initiative is 42, and the total number of textile firms is above 280, it can be assumed that other companies at risk have not yet approached the TEST initiative. In addition, foreign firms employ more than 15,000 workers. Assuming that firms from Hong Kong will relocate and other domestic firms will also close down or relocate to Madagascar, especially in the “pull-over” sub-sector, this could represent up to 20,000 job losses in the textile sector in the coming two to three fiscal years. While textile quotas will be phased out by end 2004, it is expected that a large part of the closures will take place in 2005/06, since companies can still process orders by end 2004.

44. **Rising labor costs is a major reason for the decline in competitiveness of the textile sector.** In the EPZ sector, average compensation grew by nearly twice as fast as labor productivity—10.9 percent compared to 5.7 percent⁷.

45. **Given that textile exports constitute around 48 percent of total exports, the impact of a moderately severe textile shock on GDP growth is summarized in the following table.**

Table II.2. Growth Impact of Moderate Textile Shock

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Decrease in textile exports	8 percent	15 percent	8 percent
Decline of total exports	3.8 percent	7.2 percent	3.8 percent
Impact on GDP growth	0.5 percentage point	0.94 percentage point	0.5 percentage point

46. **The phasing out of textile quotas could have a more severe impact—although with lower probability—on economic growth in Mauritius.** An extremely severe scenario could involve the closure of all textile firms categorized as either vulnerable or at risk under the TEST initiative, in addition to the relocation of foreign and some local companies to

⁷ See the chapter on the labor market in Mauritius.

other countries with lower costs. The total impact would be a decline in the textile sector of more than 20 percent in 2004/05, 30 percent in 2005/06, and 10 percent in 2006/07. The impact on total exports and economic growth is illustrated in the table below.

Table II.3. Growth Impact of Severe Textile Shock

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Decrease in textile exports	20 percent	30 percent	10 percent
Decline of total exports	9.5 percent	14.4 percent	4.8 percent
Impact on GDP growth	1.24 percentage point	2 percentage point	0.6 percentage point

Impact of a combination of shocks

47. **The big challenge facing the Mauritian economy is the simultaneous occurrence of negative shocks in the sugar and the textile sectors.** When aggregated, these sectors constitute more than 60 percent of the total exports of goods. Therefore, the impact on economic growth from the combination of both shocks could be substantial. The largest impact would be felt in 2005/06. A combination of extreme shocks in both sectors could reduce economic growth by more than 2 percentage points. The estimates are summarized below.

Table II.4. Growth Impact of Combined Sugar and Textile Shocks

Impact on GDP growth (in percentage points)		Sugar Sector Shocks					
		Moderate shock			Extreme shock		
		2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Textile Sector Shocks	Moderate shock	0.6-1	1.34	0.5-0.8	1.1-1.4	1.1-1.45	0.5
	Extreme shock	1.75	2.4	0.9	1.85-2.15	2.2-2.5	0.65

E. Concluding Remarks

48. **Mauritius's medium-term economic prospects are clouded by the impending loss of trade preferences.** Baseline economic growth is expected to register an average of 4 per cent per annum, a 2 percentage points decline from the historical average. This growth rate could decrease to less than 2 percent, leading to substantial increase in the unemployment rate, depending on the severity of the impact of a liberalization of international trade in sugar and textiles.

49. **In anticipation of the coming shocks, the government has already started implementing reforms to adapt the economy to the new challenges.** The authorities

embarked on a restructuring plan for the sugar as well as for the textile sectors. They are also trying to diversify the economy through the promotion of the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector, financial services, and tourism. While ICT could present a potential source for development, it may take longer than expected in order for the new sector to have its full impact on the economy.

50. **However, a critical factor that constrains the restructuring and the diversification efforts is labor market rigidity.** Reforms in this area are discussed in a subsequent chapter, which focuses on the need to reform the centralized wage bargaining system and the current restrictions on the redeployment of labor. Reforms to the educational system and the need to address the skills mismatch in the economy were discussed in McDonald and Yao (2003).

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III. MAURITIAN LABOR MARKET INSTITUTIONS AND LOW-SKILL EMPLOYMENT⁸

A. Introduction

51. **Notwithstanding impressive economic growth, Mauritian unemployment has increased in every year since 1991, with the unemployment rate reaching 10.2 percent in 2003.** As in many countries, this unemployment is primarily experienced by low-skill workers.⁹ In response to this growing unemployment problem, the government has begun to address the problem of apparent skills mismatch through far-reaching educational reforms.¹⁰ However, as shown in this paper, educational reform can only be a partial solution to the unemployment problem.

52. **In the face of strong economic growth, such an increase in unemployment suggests the root of the problem could lie in Mauritius's labor market institutions.** These institutions—which compress the wage distribution and limit the ability of employer's to redeploy their workers—may have seriously impaired the functioning of the labor market. While they may not have resulted in significant unemployment in earlier decades, the increasing importance of (high-wage) service sectors in Mauritius, which have increased the impact of cross-market wage compression, as well as the gradual decline in the demand for low-skill workers, will probably exacerbate the impact of these institutions.

53. **The impact of these restrictions will become increasingly detrimental as Mauritius faces significant structural challenges—considerably changing the market for low-skill workers—in coming years.** The most significant of these challenges is the eventual loss of preferential arrangements for its sugar and textile exports. While it is still uncertain when the preferential sugar regime will end, Mauritius's quota under the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) is set to lapse by end-2004. Although the preferential access granted under the U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) may mitigate some of this impact, the Mauritian economy will undoubtedly go through a period of restructuring, as the textile sector adjusts to its new environment. As discussed in Section B, signs of adjustment are already evident in the textiles industry. Changes in the demand for sugar workers have already begun with the government's Sugar Sector Strategy,

⁸ Prepared by Nathan Porter.

⁹ The 2000 Census reported that 90 percent of the unemployed have not completed the high school certificate.

¹⁰ A common measure of mismatch in the labor market—the variance of relative unemployment rates across categories—suggests that mismatch may have actually declined between the 1990 and 2000 censuses. Using labor market data by educational category, the variance of relative unemployment rates has declined from 17 percent to 12 percent. The intuition for this measure is that the greater the dispersion in unemployment rates, the greater the mismatch in the labor market (Layard, Nickell, and Jackman, 1991, Ch. 6).

which has reduced employment by around a quarter. By delaying reform of its labor market institutions, Mauritius will exacerbate the pain involved in this adjustment, especially for those with few skills.

54. **In light of these challenges, this paper analyzes the market for low-skill workers, who risk being neglected as the government focuses on developing other sectors.** With the export processing zone (EPZ) being an important source of low-skill employment, the paper first investigates the evolution of this sector (in Section B). In Section C, a simple stylized model of the job creation and destruction processes is employed to assess the potential benefits of labor market reform. The results suggest that even relatively minor wage compression and restrictions on the redeployment of workers can have dramatic impacts on the fragility of jobs, and the extent of unemployment and labor market churning.¹¹

55. **As such, this paper complements the work of McDonald and Yao (2003), who looked at the impact of Mauritius's institutions on the prospects for developing new sectors, and the consequent labor market transition.** This paper concentrates on how these institutions impact on the prospects for low-skill workers by changing the incentives to create and destroy jobs—in both new as well as existing areas—that they are able to perform. With these workers the most likely to suffer from the structural transformation, deregulation could potentially improve the labor market conditions these workers face in a relatively short space of time.

Mauritius's labor market institutions

56. **The Mauritian labor market is highly regulated, with wages and conditions of employment determined centrally rather than at the firm level.** The government establishes a separate set of labor market regulations, called Remuneration Orders (RO), for each industry.¹² These regulations specify the exact duties of every type of worker in great

¹¹ In this context, the fragility of a job refers to the likelihood it is destroyed. By *relative wage compression* we mean that—possibly due to centralized wage determination—the wages paid to workers are artificially more similar than they would be if wages were the result of firm-level bargaining (Bertola and Rogerson, 1997). This means that differential wages do not fully reflect differences in productivity or working conditions. More specifically, this could mean that wages in a particular sector are “linked” to wages in a higher paying sector (cross-market compression), and/or that wages within an industry are closer to each other, although the average wage is much the same (within-market compression). Invariably, both of these types of compression occur.

¹² For example, the RO for the catering industry defines “assistant barman,” “barman,” and “head barman” as separate occupations, with each unable to perform the duties of the other—an “assistant barman” cannot prepare a drink if a “barman” is at the bar. These regulations do not cover the EPZ sector, and are not expected to cover new information, communications and technology (ICT) activity.

detail. With these regulations being aggressively enforced by the Ministry of Labor, worker redeployment is extremely difficult. Therefore, wages and conditions do not reflect the productivity or circumstances of individual firms. Moreover, terminations tend to be costly and time consuming, requiring approval of the Termination of Contracts Services Board, and often leading to delays on the order of four months.

57. **The centralized wage determination process tends to compress the wage distribution.** Basic wages for each occupation are set in the RO, with the annual tri-partite wage-setting process resulting in a new wage for all categories. In most years this process results in wage growth indexed to inflation, with lower wages rising by more than higher ones. Once every five years, the Pay Research Bureau establishes a catch-up wage increase for the public sector, which typically puts some additional pressure on private sector wages.

58. **The ability of the economy to adjust in the face of its structural challenges will be inhibited by these regulations** (Section C). With wages being compressed and workers unable to be redeployed as circumstances change, jobs become substantially more fragile. Moreover, the incentive to create new jobs can also be reduced significantly. Therefore, even with the government encouraging the creation of new industries, such as the information, communication, and technology (ICT) sector, many of these opportunities, at least for some time, may bypass much of Mauritius's low-skill workforce. Employment opportunities for these workers can be enhanced over the medium term by simply liberalizing the regulations that govern the labor market.

B. Evolution of Employment in the EPZ (Textiles) Sector¹³

59. **Textile production, especially in the EPZ sector, has contributed significantly to the Mauritian “growth miracle.”** Figure III.1 shows the decomposition of EPZ employment growth into its separate components—job creation and job destruction—since 1983.¹⁴ This figure shows the remarkable transformation that occurred in the early 1980s, before the extent of job creation and destruction stabilized around their longer-term values. This figure also shows that the creation and destruction of jobs is a persistent and continual process of renewal, with sizable job destruction occurring even during periods of high employment growth. This continual creation and destruction suggests substantial “reallocation” of activity across firms within the EPZ sector. Figure III.2, which depicts the job reallocation and excess job reallocation rates, shows that the exceptional job reallocation

¹³ With textiles accounting for almost 90 percent of EPZ sector employment, textiles and EPZ will be referred to interchangeably in this section.

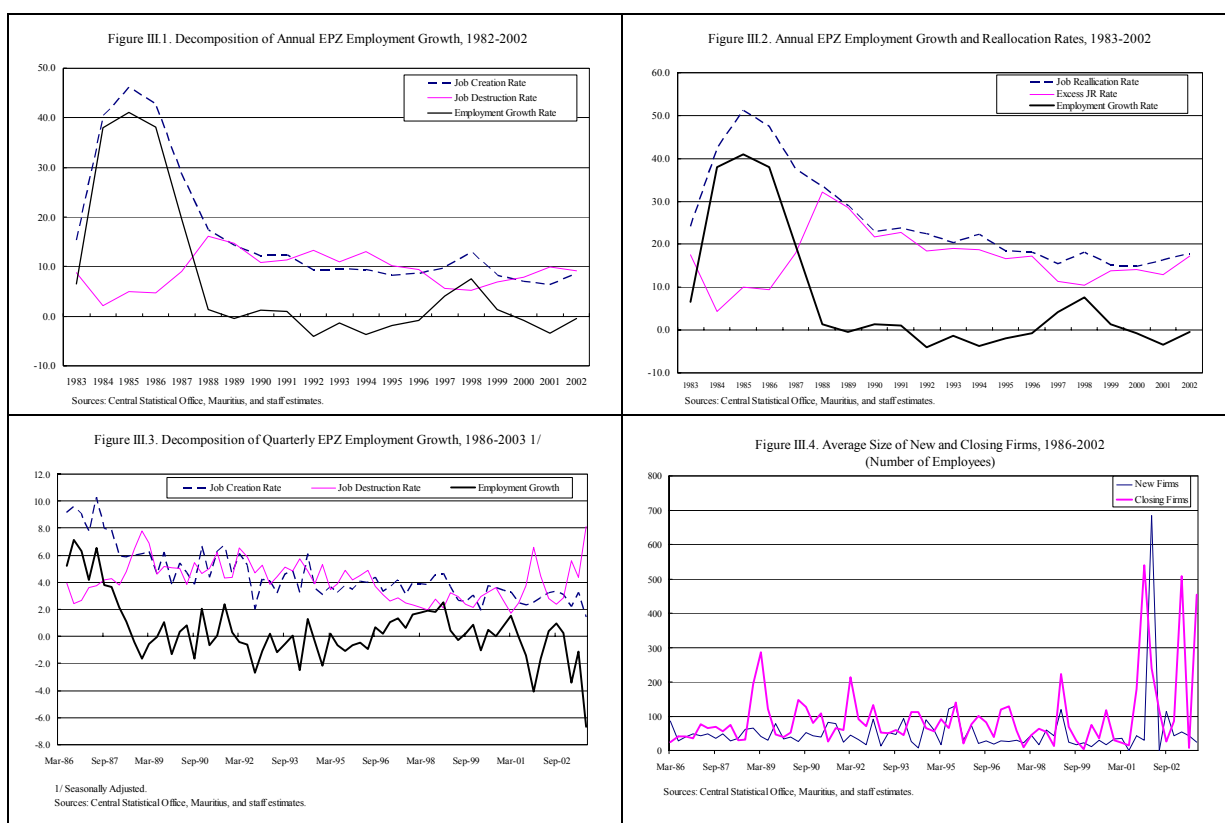
¹⁴ The job creation, destruction, and employment growth rates used in this section are calculated by dividing the change in employment between two periods by the average employment in those periods. While slightly different from the standard definition of growth rates, it is consistent with the definition typically applied in the job flows literature—see Davis, Haltiwanger, and Schuh (1997).

seen initially, reflecting the rapid creation of new EPZ sector jobs during the early-1980s, subsequently declined as the industry matured.¹⁵ As measured by the excess job reallocation rate, the extent of churning in the labor market also declined as the industry matured.

60. **Quarterly job creation and destruction data show signs of a weakening in textiles during 2003.** Figure III.3 shows the quarterly decomposition of employment growth (from March 1986 to September 2003), and is analogous to Figure III.1. This figure also shows the rapid growth in EPZ employment in the mid-1980s, before a moderation in employment growth took place throughout the 1990s. However, the data for the first three quarters of 2003 show a substantial decline in the rate of job creation (to its lowest level ever), and a rapid increase in the rate of job destruction. In addition, Figure III.4 shows a marked increase in the average size of firms closing down in the last two years. Although relatively recent, the dramatic nature of the increase in job destruction and the decline in job creation in the last year would be consistent with a rapid structural decline in Mauritian textiles. While the industry is unlikely to—even in the long-run—disappear completely, it could very well be much smaller in the coming years.

61. **Mauritius's restrictive labor market institutions mean that it shares many characteristics with other highly regulated labor markets, such as those in Western Europe.** In addition to Mauritius's relatively high unemployment, unemployed workers face exceptionally long spells, with an average (median) unemployment duration of 20 (9) months. Moreover, consistent with the stagnant nature of the unemployment pool, Mauritius has relatively low rates of job flows. Table III.1 compares the rates of job creation and destruction in the U.S., Portuguese manufacturing, and the Mauritian EPZ sector (which is predominantly textiles). The Mauritian and Portuguese labor markets tend to exhibit much smaller quarterly job flows than seen in the U.S., suggesting they are less dynamic than the relatively unregulated U.S. one. That is, flows of workers into and out of unemployment seem much less frequent, thereby leaving the unemployed stranded for longer.

¹⁵ Following Davis, Haltiwanger, and Schuh (1997), the job reallocation rate is defined as the sum of job creation and destruction rates. This definition reflects the fact that reallocation of jobs and workers from one type of activity to another typically requires the creation of jobs at expanding enterprises and destruction of jobs at contracting ones. Defined in this way, job reallocation also equals the maximal reallocation of workers induced by the reshuffling of employment opportunities across enterprises. The excess job reallocation rate is defined as job reallocation in excess of absolute employment growth, indicating the reallocation of jobs above the amount required to accommodate net employment changes, and may be also thought of as a measure of "churning."



C. An Assessment of the Impact of Wage Setting and Redeployment Restrictions

62. **This section investigates the impact of labor market institutions that compress wages and inhibit the redeployment of workers by using a calibrated version of a simple labor market-matching model.** It finds that even relatively small distortions can have substantial effects on employment. One advantage of the type of model employed here is that it explicitly captures the frictional nature of labor markets. The model used in this section is specifically chosen to emphasize the effect of institutions on the creation and destruction of jobs and unemployment. The structure of the model used in this exercise is fairly standard, being that developed by Pissarides (2000) and Mortensen and Pissarides (1994). The impact of Mauritius's labor market institutions will be assessed using a calibrated version of this model.¹⁶

63. **The structure of the model economy is one where a large number of entrepreneurs can create job openings whenever it is profitable.** Once created, the entrepreneur searches for a worker to fill the position which, depending on the extent of frictions in the market, may be very difficult and time consuming. When a worker and an entrepreneur meet, they, if allowed, bargain over the wage and decide whether to work together, thereby creating a job. However, if the government legally imposes the wage to be

¹⁶ The technical details of this exercise are outlined in the appendix.

paid, production only occurs if profitable at that given wage. The profitability of these jobs evolves in a persistent manner over time, reflecting changes in demand and technology. If, as a result of this evolution, the job becomes unprofitable, the entrepreneur will destroy it and possibly create a new job opening, while the worker becomes unemployed and is able to search again.

Table III.1. Quarterly Job Flows Rates

Country	Sector	Job Creation	Job Destruction
U.S.		1972(2)-1993(4)	
	Manufacturing	5.07	5.47
	Apparel and Textiles	4.58	5.40
Portugal		1991(1)-1995(4)	
	Manufacturing	3.20	3.90
	Portugal/U.S. 1/	0.63	0.71
Mauritius		1989(1)-2003(1)	
	EPZ	3.96	4.02
	Mauritius/U.S. 2/	0.86	0.74

Sources: U.S.: Davis, *et. al.*, 2001, *Job Creation and Job Destruction*, 1997, MIT Press.
Portugal: Blanchard, O. and P. Portugal, "What Hides Behind the Unemployment Rate," *American Economic Review*, (March); Central Statistical Office, *National Accounts of Mauritius*; and staff estimates.

1/ Compared with U.S. manufacturing sector.

2/ Compared with U.S. apparel and textile ssectors.

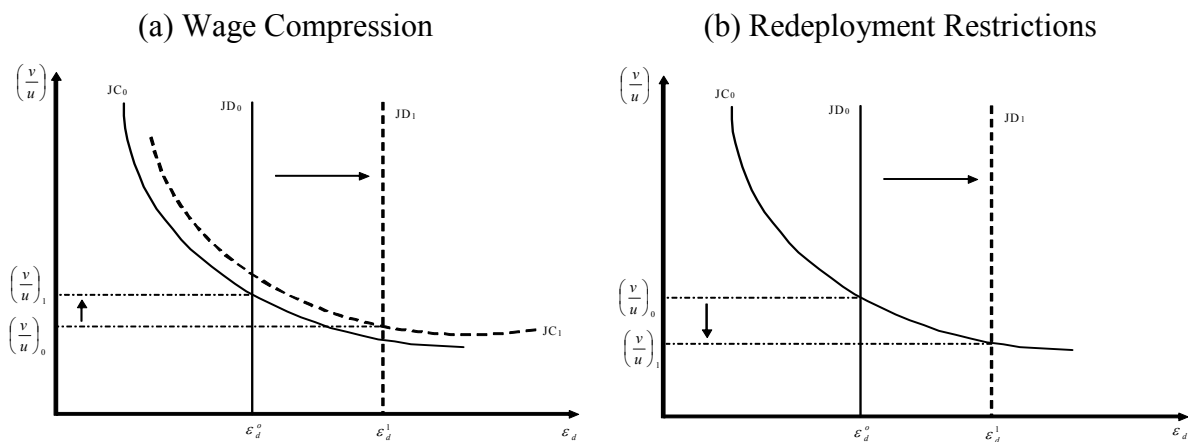
64. **The solution of this stylized model may be represented in a diagram.** The endogenous equilibrium creation and destruction decisions can be neatly summarized by two elements: the reservation productivity, below which the match is destroyed (ε_d); and the extent of labor market tightness—defined as the ratio of vacancies to the number of unemployed ($\frac{v}{u}$). The equilibrium decisions relating to job creation (JC) and destruction (JD) can then be summarized in Figure III.5, which represent feasible combinations of ε_d and $\frac{v}{u}$ that are consistent with the optimal creation and destruction of jobs. The negative relation between the “decision rules” that underlie the JC relation results from an increase in the tightness of the labor market leading to an increase in the expected cost of creating a new job—by reducing the chance a vacant position will be filled during this period—meaning that existing jobs will be more durable, and therefore less productive jobs will survive. When the wage is set by the government, rather than at the firm level, the reservation productivity

underlying the amount of job destruction is independent of the tightness of the labor market, and hence results in a vertical JD curve.¹⁷

65. **The simple nature of this stylized model means that the impact of policies and institutions can easily be studied.** For the questions considered in this section, two comparative statics are relevant: (i) the impact of an exogenous compression in the wages relative to the results of bargaining; and (ii) the impact of limits on the ability to redeploy workers.

66. **The qualitative impact of wage compression on the creation and destruction decisions of firms is clearly shown in Figure III.5(a).** First, raising the average wage paid to low-skill workers, especially the wages of the lowest paid, makes the most “marginal” jobs unprofitable, resulting in their destruction. Therefore, the productivity of the marginal job, ε_d , must rise, increasing the total amount of destruction (the JD curve moves right). There is a slightly off-setting effect on job creation. Since all new jobs are assumed to begin with high productivity in this model, and as relative wage compression reduces the relative wage paid in higher wage jobs, the incentive to create new jobs (at the same time as destroy old jobs) rises slightly (the JC curve moves right). In aggregate, more jobs are destroyed, and fewer jobs are typically created.

Figure III.5. The Impact of Labor Market Institutions



¹⁷ This differs from the solution in the standard Mortensen and Pissarides (1994) model where wages are bargained. In that model, there is a negative relation underlying the JD curve, which reflects that a tighter labor market (higher $\frac{v}{u}$) increases workers' bargaining power—and hence their wages—meaning that more marginal jobs will become unprofitable and hence will be destroyed.

67. **The impact of restrictions on the flexibility of workers have very intuitive effects, which are shown in Figure III.5(b).**¹⁸ By reducing the expected output of a worker in any given period, keeping workers in the more marginal jobs is no longer profitable (and so the JD curve moves right). Reflecting the increasing fragility of jobs, the destruction of jobs increases, as does the creation of new jobs.

68. **These effects are quite general and apply beyond the EPZ sector.** In particular, even if some sectors are granted a preferential regulatory environment, the opportunities for low-skill workers will still be unnecessarily restricted. Indeed, as the structure of the economy and the demand for low-skill workers changes over the coming years, the differential regulatory treatment could become increasingly detrimental.

69. **To make this analysis more concrete, this stylized model of job creation and destruction is calibrated to salient features of the Mauritian economy.** In particular, the model is calibrated to match the average EPZ job destruction rate following the establishment of the sector (1989-2002), and the unemployment rate for low-skill workers recorded in the 2000 census (of 9.6 percent).¹⁹ Finally, the parameters are chosen so that a reasonable degree of labor market tightness would result in a decentralized bargaining market. The baseline results are reported in Table III.2. While Mauritius's labor market institutions undoubtedly compress wages, there is unfortunately no concrete measure of the degree of this compression.²⁰ Therefore, in this baseline calibration, we assume a small amount of "bleeding" of wages from high-wage sectors to low-wage workers (i.e., average low-skill wages are about 2 percent higher than what they would be under decentralized wage bargaining), as well as some moderate compression of wages paid within low-skill industries consistent with the cross-market effect.

70. **Even with these minimal assumptions, there is a noticeable impact on unemployment, the average length of an unemployment spell, and—although to a lesser extent—unit labor costs.** All of the policy experiments are performed relative to an environment where firm-level wage bargaining is the norm. Table III.2 reveals a significant increase in unemployment, as well as the average length of unemployment spells. These changes reflect a significant reduction in the creation of new jobs—evidenced by the 17 per-

¹⁸ Since the ability of firms to redeploy workers reduces the value a firm can expect from a worker in any period, it is modeled as a reduction in the level of output expected in any period. That is, with some probability a worker may need to perform the duties of another occupational category. Since employment restrictions inhibit this redeployment, the worker is less valuable.

¹⁹ It is implicitly assumed that all low-skill jobs share the job destruction rate of the EPZ sector. In 2000 the overall unemployment rate was 8.8 percent.

²⁰ For example, Mauritius does not have estimates of traditional measures of wage dispersion, such as the 90-10 wage differential, or the cross-sectional variance of wages paid.

cent fall in the job finding rate—and an increase in job fragility—seen in the rate of job destruction. Even small amounts of wage compression can, therefore, lead to a significant reduction in the welfare of workers (and employers). A move to firm-level wage bargaining could bring significant benefits to these workers. While wage compression also tends to increase unit labor costs, it has a relatively minor impact because wage compression leads to the closure of the less productive jobs, raising average productivity.

Table III.2. Model Output: The Impact of Labor Market Restrictions

	Unemployment Rate	Unemployment Duration (mths)	Job Finding Rate	Job Destruction Rate	Unit Labor Costs	Excess Job Reallocation
No Wage Compression						
Benchmark	7.4	9.5	45.4	3.6	0.88	7.2
Wage Compression						
Benchmark	9.6	11.5	37.8	4.0	0.89	8.0
Percent Difference	30.2	20.2	-16.8	11.0	0.6	11.0
No Cross-Market Compression						
Benchmark	7.7	9.3	46.7	3.9	0.87	7.8
Percent Difference	4.3	-2.7	2.8	7.7	-1.0	7.7
No Within-Market Compression						
Benchmark	9.5	12.0	36.1	3.8	0.89	7.6
Percent Difference	28.6	25.7	-20.4	4.7	1.0	4.7
Redeployment Restrictions						
<i>No Compression</i>						
10 percent lower redeployment rate	7.7	9.9	43.8	3.7	0.88	7.3
Percent Difference benchmark	4.1	3.7	-3.5	0.8	-0.5	0.7
<i>Compression</i>						
10 percent lower redeployment rate	9.9	11.8	36.7	4.0	0.88	8.1
Percent Difference						
Benchmark	34.2	23.7	-19.2	11.6	0.1	11.6
Percent Difference no Compression	29.0	19.4	-16.2	10.7	0.6	10.8

71. **While both types of wage compression are costly, cross-market compression seems more harmful.** Removing the cross-market compression leads to a much larger reduction in unemployment, than removing the within-market compression. Reflecting its immediate effect on profitability, removing the cross-market compression leads to a big increase in the rate of job creation, and a small reduction in the job destruction. Removing the assumed amount of within-market compression has a smaller effect on the creation of new jobs, but leads to a bigger fall in the fragility of existing jobs as it has a bigger impact on the profitability of the most marginal jobs.

72. **A small reduction in the ability of firms to redeploy workers also leads to an increase in unemployment, and the length of average unemployment spells.** In this exercise it is assumed that such regulations result in a 10 percent reduction in the level of output. The increases in unemployment and unemployment duration reflect increases in the

fragility of jobs (an increase in job destruction), as well as a lower job finding rate given the fall in profitability. Table III.2 also shows that wage compression significantly worsens the impact of these employment restrictions, with these restrictions resulting in a 4.1 percent rise in unemployment in the absence of wage setting restrictions, and a 34.2 percent rise in unemployment with such restrictions.

73. **Figures III.6–III.8 show the consequences of various degrees of wage compression and employment restrictions for labor market outcomes**, as we move from an undistorted equilibrium in which firms and workers are free to bargain over wages. Figure III.6 shows the impact of cross-market compression up to a 5 percent increase in average wages. Figure III.7 shows the impact of increasing within-market wage compression, so that average wages remain relatively unchanged. Figure III.8 shows the effect of reducing the difficulty of redeploying workers, as reflected in an increase in expected output.

- Increases in the extent of *cross-market* wage compression lead to monotonic increases in unemployment and the fragility of jobs. Although not shown, they also increase the length of the average unemployment spell and the extent of inefficient churning.
- Increases in the extent of *within-market* wage compression tend to increase unemployment and the fragility of jobs. There is also an increase in the extent of inefficient churning, and the average duration of each job falls by over 10 percent. For very high amounts of wage compression, there is a slight reduction in unemployment reflecting the fact that—given the assumption that new jobs are created with the highest level of productivity—higher within-market wages tend to increase the job-finding rate.
- Increases in the *ability to redeploy* workers significantly reduce unemployment and job fragility. Although not shown, the average length of unemployment spells and the extent of inefficient churning also fall. Moreover, all these improvements are greater when wages are not compressed.

74. **Wage compression significantly worsens the impact of negative shocks.** As can be seen from Table III.2, the impact of a 10 percent reduction in the level of output significantly increases the extent of unemployment and the length of unemployment spells. With the main employers of low-skill workers undergoing significant changes in coming years, reform to these wage setting institutions will become increasingly important.

D. Conclusion

75. Sectors that intensively employ low-skilled workers, such as sugar and EPZ, have contributed significantly to the Mauritian “growth miracle” (Subramanian and Roy, 2001). The rapid economic transformation that resulted from the EPZ sector creation is clearly seen in Figures III.1 and III.2. However, in the face of impending changes in these markets, low-skill workers will face very different employment prospects in the coming years.

Figure III.6: Cross-Market Wage Compression: Unemployment and Job Destruction

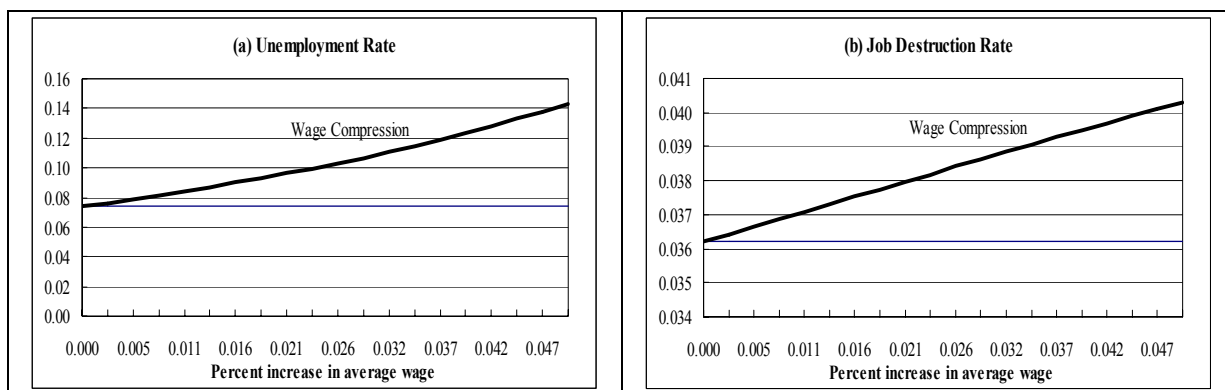


Figure III.7: Within-Market Wage Compression: Unemployment and Job Destruction

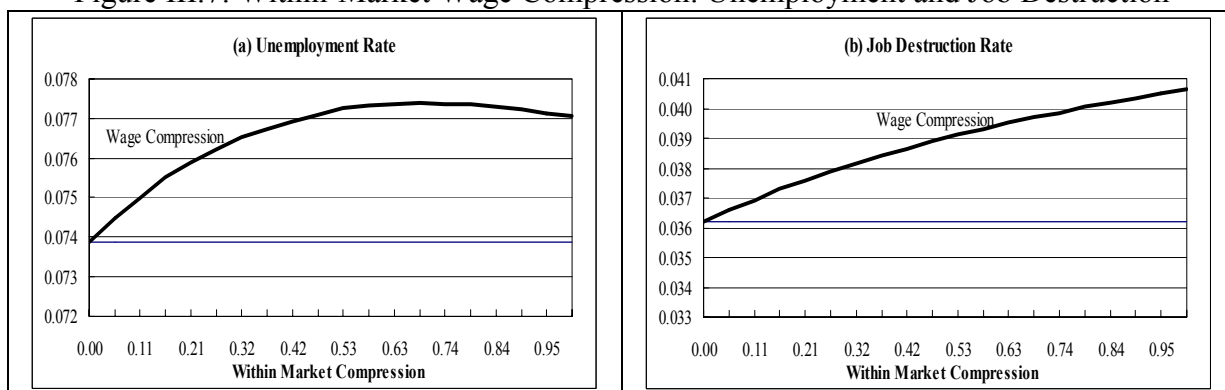
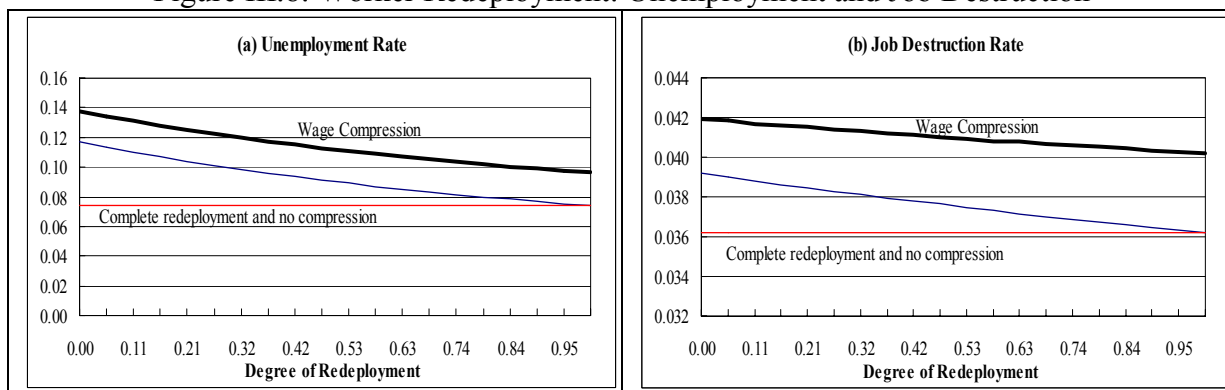


Figure III.8: Worker Redeployment: Unemployment and Job Destruction



Indeed, the evidence presented in Section B suggests these changes, at least for textile workers, have already begun. Therefore, the need for labor market reform is now urgent.

76. While several factors have contributed to the incidence of unemployment in Mauritius, **the results of a simple modeling exercise show that wage compression and re-deployment restrictions reduce the employment of the affected workers and increase the length of the resulting unemployment spells.** Moreover, all of these policies result in

excessive turnover in the economy, which will ultimately reduce the ability of workers to acquire skills when employed and hasten their atrophy when workers become unemployed. Indeed, the harm resulting from any of these distortions is intensified when other distortions coexist. Moreover, wage compression imposes costs beyond those discussed in this paper. As Haltiwanger and Vodopivec (2002, p. 5) find in their study on Slovenia, "... businesses with more compressed wages have ... greater excess turnover for high quality workers, ... [and] wage compression creates excessive instability of jobs and imposes additional worker dislocation costs, as well as reduces firms' ability to achieve quality firm-worker matches."

77. **Shielding some sectors from restrictive institutions may ameliorate the effects temporarily, but ultimately these distortions will harm the opportunities for low-skill workers and, more broadly, longer-term growth prospects.** By distorting the incentives to reallocate economic activity into new, unimagined areas, these institutions limit the opportunities for low-skill workers and inhibit the reshaping of the economy. This will become increasingly so, as the economy undergoes an enforced structural transformation in the coming years.

78. **While the government has embarked on a bold and essential series of educational reforms, general labor market reform remains crucial.** These educational reforms will undoubtedly help Mauritius move into other high-tech fields, but will not be able to assist all low-skill workers. First, these educational reforms will take some time to bear fruit. Second, with only 7.3 percent of Mauritians having their higher school certificate, it will take considerable time before these new endeavors can absorb much of Mauritius's low-skilled labor force. Therefore, educational reform can, at most, be only a partial solution to the unemployment problem.

Appendix

The model is populated with entrepreneurs, who are able to create jobs. In this paper we assume that entrepreneurs can choose *ex ante* to search for either a domestic low-skill worker, or separately for a foreign worker. This, in effect, segments the low-skilled labor market into two separate markets, meaning that the analytical structure is applicable to both, and the markets may be considered separately. An entrepreneur will attempt to create a job by posting a vacancy whenever it is profitable to do so, meaning that the equilibrium number of vacancies posted is determined by a zero profit condition

$$(A1) \quad -k + \beta q\left(\frac{v}{u}\right) J(\bar{\varepsilon}) = 0 ,$$

where k is the cost of posting the vacancy, $q(\cdot)$ is the rate at which entrepreneurs meet searching workers, β is the discount factor, and $J(\varepsilon)$ is the value received by the entrepreneur from being matched with a worker. As mentioned in the text, these jobs are subject to idiosyncratic uncertainty, captured by the shock ε , which makes its value change. However, all new matches begin with the highest value of $\bar{\varepsilon}$. The value of each match must satisfy the following Bellman equation:

$$(A2) \quad J(\varepsilon) = f(\varepsilon) - w(\varepsilon) + \beta(1 - \gamma)J(\varepsilon) + \beta\gamma E \max\{J(\varepsilon'), 0\},$$

where $f(\varepsilon)$ is the output generated by the match, $w(\varepsilon)$ is the negotiated wage, and γ is the probability that the job will be subject to a change in its output. If the value of continuing with the worker in this current position falls below zero, the match is destroyed. The shock, ε , is drawn from a distribution, $F(\varepsilon)$. Although somewhat nonstandard, the process for idiosyncratic productivity defines a persistent stochastic process.

The value of working for an employed worker is given by an analogous Bellman equation to (A2)

$$V^e(\varepsilon) = w(\varepsilon) + \beta(1 - \gamma)V^e(\varepsilon) + \beta\gamma E \max\{V^e(\varepsilon'), 0\},$$

where the Emax operator reflects the fact that the wage bargain means that the worker and entrepreneur agree on the whether the match should continue. An unemployed worker generates a value that reflects the value that accrues to forming a match with an entrepreneur

$$V^u = \beta \left[p\left(\frac{v}{u}\right)V^e(\varepsilon) + \left(1 - p\left(\frac{v}{u}\right)\right)V^u \right],$$

where $p(\cdot)$ is the probability that an unemployed worker receives a job offer.

The costly and time consuming matching process is assumed to be represented in a very stylized way, with the number of matches formed in any period being a function of the number of vacancies and unemployed workers, $m(u, v)$. As is common, we assume this is a constant returns-to-scale function, meaning the job- and worker-finding rates only depend on the tightness of the labor market. Given all of this, the finding rates can be represented by:

$$p\left(\frac{v}{u}\right) = \frac{m(u, v)}{u}, \text{ and } q\left(\frac{v}{u}\right) = \frac{m(u, v)}{v}.$$

The bargain process is assumed to satisfy the Nash axiomatic solution, meaning that wages paid must be sufficient so that workers receive their value for searching, plus a share (equal to their bargaining power, θ) of the “surplus” generated by the match, i.e.,

$V^e(\varepsilon) = V^u + \theta S(\varepsilon) = V^u + \theta [J(\varepsilon) + V^e(\varepsilon) - V^u]$. Using these conditions, one can derive the conditions for job creation and destruction in the case that wages are determined by decentralized bargaining, with the equilibrium resembling that in Figure 5, except that the JD relation is upward sloping (Mortensen and Pissarides, 1994). Hosios (1990) shows that, given the matching frictions, only when the elasticity of the matching function with respect to vacancies equals θ is the equilibrium efficient. The equilibrium creation and destruction

decision rules ($\frac{v^*}{u}$ and ε_d) satisfy (A3) and (A4),

$$(A3) \quad q\left(\frac{v^*}{u}\right) = \frac{k}{\beta(1 - \theta)S(\bar{\varepsilon})}, \text{ and}$$

$$(A4) \quad S(\varepsilon_d) = f + \varepsilon_d + \beta(1 - \gamma)S(\varepsilon_d) + \beta\gamma E \max\{S(\varepsilon'), 0\} - \beta p \theta S(\bar{\varepsilon}) = 0,$$

respectively.

In the case where the government imposes a wage schedule that is not bargained, $\tilde{w}(\varepsilon)$, (A2) is modified to become

$$(A5) \quad \tilde{J}(\varepsilon) = f(\varepsilon) - \tilde{w}(\varepsilon) + \beta(1 - \gamma)\tilde{J}(\varepsilon) + \beta\gamma E \max\{\tilde{J}(\varepsilon'), 0\}.$$

The resulting equilibrium creation and destruction decision rules, and the expressions underlying the JC and JD curves in Figure 5 are, therefore,

$$(A6) \quad q\left(\frac{\tilde{v}^*}{u}\right) = \frac{k}{\beta\tilde{J}(\bar{\varepsilon})}, \text{ and}$$

$$(A7) \quad \tilde{J}(\varepsilon_d) = f(\varepsilon_d) - \tilde{w}(\varepsilon_d) + \beta(1 - \gamma)\tilde{J}(\varepsilon_d) + \beta\gamma E \max\{\tilde{J}(\varepsilon'), 0\} = 0, \text{ respectively.}$$

It is easy to show that for linear production functions, the equilibrium wage function ($w(\varepsilon)$) will be linear in productivity: $w(\varepsilon) = w_0 + w_1\varepsilon$. The wage compression assumed in this paper assumes that, *for a constant distribution of productivity across jobs*, average wages grow by g percent and the slope of the wage schedule becomes flatter by a factor ϕ ($\phi = 1$ means no within-market compression). This means that the assumed compressed wage schedule is $\tilde{w}(\varepsilon) = \tilde{w}_0 + \tilde{w}_1\varepsilon$, where $\tilde{w}_1 = \phi w_1$ and $\tilde{w}_0(\varepsilon) = w_0(1 + g) + w_1(1 - \phi + g)E(w(\varepsilon))$. Using this

and (A6) and (A7) and the fact that $\left.\frac{\partial \tilde{w}(\varepsilon)}{\partial \phi}\right|_{\varepsilon=\varepsilon_d} < 0$, one can show that $\left.\frac{\partial \varepsilon_d}{\partial \phi}\right|_{JD} < 0$, and

$\left.\frac{\partial \varepsilon_d}{\partial g}\right|_{JD} > 0$. Similarly, $\left.\frac{\partial \varepsilon_d}{\partial \phi}\right|_{JC} < 0$ and $\left.\frac{\partial \varepsilon_d}{\partial g}\right|_{JC} = 0$, although job creation is affected in the

latter case though the rise in job destruction. Finally, steady state unemployment is given by

$u^* = \frac{\delta^*}{p(\cdot) + \delta^*}$, where δ^* is the steady state measure of jobs endogenously destroyed.

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IV. INFLATION TARGETING IN SMALL OPEN ECONOMIES: THE CASE OF MAURITIUS²¹

A. Introduction

79. **Along with remarkable economic growth and diversification, Mauritius has also achieved low and stable inflation.** Inflation (year-on-year) fell from around 8 percent in mid-1996, when Mauritius introduced its current *informal* inflation targeting regime, to around 4 percent in the year to March 2004 (Figure IV.1).²² Over the same period, output growth was high—averaging more than 5 percent per year—at rates comparable with those of the former Asian tigers. Therefore, Mauritius’s informal inflation targeting regime has, so far, been associated with a decline in inflation. Nonetheless, as this success has been won during a period of relatively subdued inflation worldwide, a true test of its inflation targeting regime will come if global inflation picks up in the future.

80. **Mauritius’s institutional environment suggests that inflation targeting could be successful there.** Mauritius has a long tradition of strong independent public institutions, and although it has relatively high government debt (estimated at almost 60 per cent of GDP in 2003/04), it has moderate (and declining) external debt.²³ The government has no history of extensively borrowing from the central bank, and is actively reducing its budget deficit.²⁴ In addition, Mauritius has both a highly developed (on-shore and off-shore) banking sector, as well as a primary dealer’s network to facilitate the trade in treasury bills. Although the central bank is not technically independent, the government has maintained “arms-length” transactions with the bank. Moreover, its central statistical office produces good and timely macroeconomic data. These factors are important prerequisites for the central bank to establish the credibility required for inflation targeting.²⁵

²¹ Prepared by Nathan Porter and James Yao.

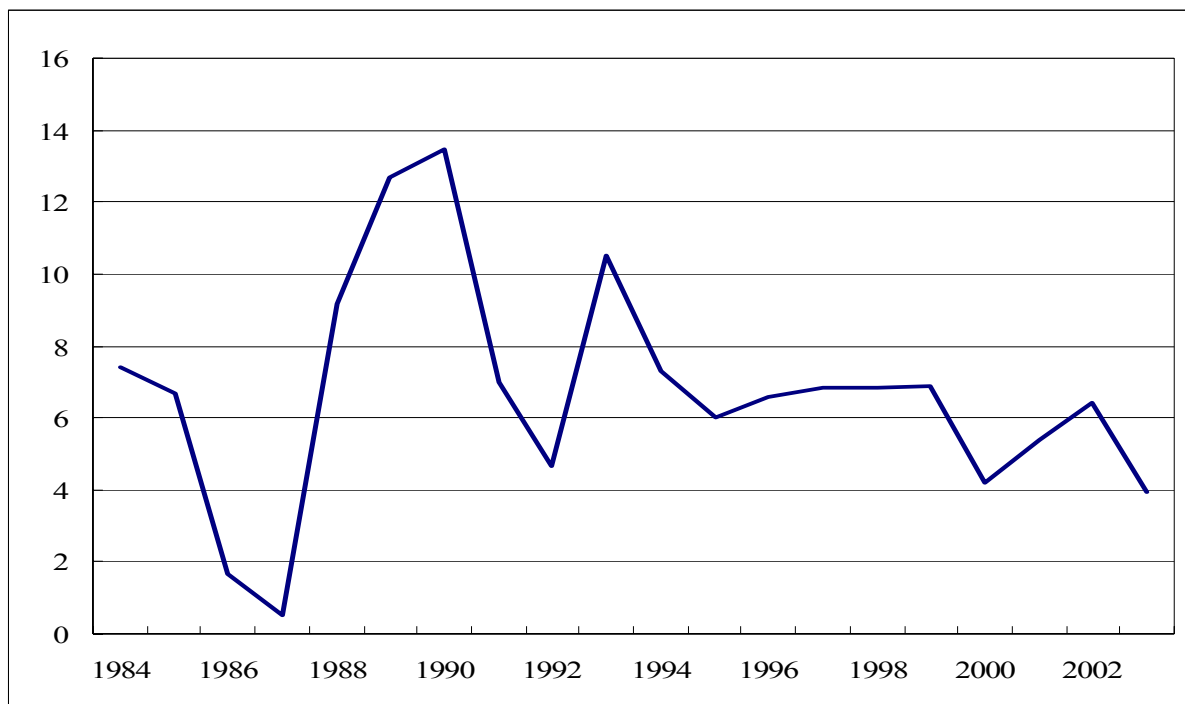
²² An inflation rate of 3 to 5 percent sustained over time is generally accepted in Mauritius as low inflation.

²³ According to the 2003 reports of the World Economic Forum and Transparency International, Mauritius is among the top five African countries for quality of public institutions and perceptions of corruption.

²⁴ In fact, since 2002 the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) has been a net debtor of the government—that is, the government has maintained substantial (net) deposits with the BOM.

²⁵ As such, Mauritius’s institutional setting contains many of the institutional factors Mishkin (2004) regards as essential to the success of inflation targeting.

Figure IV.1. Annual CPI Inflation
(In Percent)



81. **This paper investigates Mauritius's experience with inflation targeting and finds that inflation targeting has been associated with a fall in inflation, principally through the anchoring of expectations.** A series of financial sector deregulation measures in the 1980s and 1990s set the stage for the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) to pursue informal inflation targeting, through a de facto public commitment to low (CPI) inflation in the mid-1990s. Interestingly, this informal inflation targeting occurred against the backdrop of a managed (although relatively flexible) exchange rate. While the BOM's informal inflation targeting seems to have been generally successful, it took the BOM some time to earn the credibility required to anchor lower inflationary expectations.

82. **Mauritius's favorable experience jointly managing an informal inflation target and a managed exchange rate could provide a useful policy example for other small open island economies.** In attempts to provide credible nominal anchors, many small island economies have chosen hard pegs (through dollarization, monetary union, currency boards, and fixed pegs without bands). However, hard pegs can easily reduce an economy's flexibility in the face of real and external shocks, running the risk of overvaluation, and possibly resulting in balance of payments difficulties. For example, the countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) are facing balance of payments adjustment

challenges in the context of trade liberalization and the loss of trade preferences.²⁶ Mauritius's experience provides a "practical" example of a small island economy—with strong institutions and a lack of fiscal dominance—that has controlled inflation by using inflation targeting as a nominal anchor.

83. **Mauritius's experience may also provide an interesting case to compare with the recommendations of the theoretical literature on inflation targeting.** Some studies have suggested that including the prices of tradables in an inflation target may lead to policy responses that generate large output volatility (Ball, 1999; Svensson, 2000; Dennis, 2001).²⁷ Mauritius's successful targeting of aggregate CPI inflation suggests that these concerns may be overstated. Not only is aggregate CPI inflation a more transparent target than "domestic" inflation, Mauritius's experience suggests that by focusing expectations, successful inflation targeting may be able to influence the pace and extent of pass-through, thereby limiting the damage to the nontradables sector.²⁸ Moreover, by conducting monetary policy (indirectly) through the interest rate, at the same time as managing the exchange rate, the BOM has effectively followed Ball's (1999) recommendation that small open economies should conduct policy through some form of Monetary Condition Index (MCI) (based on both the interest rate and the real exchange rate).

84. **The methodology used to investigate the informal inflation targeting framework is based on a new open economy macrofinance model** that combines a no-arbitrage finance specification of the term structure, with a standard open economy empirical macroeconomic model. This allows the explicit modeling of the yield curve in a way that permits interactions between the macro economy and bond yields. While this paper's framework is similar to that of Hördahl, Tristani, and Vestin (2003) and Rudebusch and Wu (2003), it is the first to extend the framework to a small open economy.

85. **This approach has several strengths:** (i) it exploits information on the maturity structure of interest rates, leading to a direct link between policy interest rates and the longer-term interest rates that influence real activity and inflation; (ii) it separates the effects of the level and slope of the yield curve on activity and inflation; and (iii) it provides a direct link between inflationary expectations and the target inflation rate. This last aspect is especially useful, since it allows an investigation of the degree to which inflationary expectations have been anchored over the inflation targeting period.

²⁶ ECCU countries consist of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

²⁷ Subsequent, more micro-founded analysis, suggests similar considerations (Galí and Monacelli, 2003 and Parrado, 2004).

²⁸ Miskin (2004) also argues that successful inflation targeting can, through expectations formation, lessen the affect of exchange rate fluctuations on the economy.

86. **This paper is organized as follows:** Section B describes the development of inflation targeting in Mauritius, including the main components of its inflation targeting framework. Section C introduces the macrofinance open economy model; Section D discusses the estimation of this model; while Section E describes the implicit behavior of inflationary expectations. Section F concludes.

B. Development of Inflation Targeting

A brief history of monetary policy

87. **This section briefly describes the history of monetary policy implementation in Mauritius.** The BOM was established as the central bank with the passage of the Bank of Mauritius Act in 1967. This enabled the BOM to act as the lender of last resort, as well as be the banker of the government. The powers of the BOM were further enhanced in 1971, when it was granted wide supervisory powers over banks, and given the authority to issue bank prudential regulations.

88. **Prior to the 1990s, the BOM conducted monetary policy mainly through direct instruments,** such as ceilings on commercial bank credit and administered interest rates. However, the financial reforms in the late 1980s brought some liberalization of exchange controls on both current and capital transactions.²⁹ The liberalization of capital controls, and the establishment of an interbank foreign exchange market were completed in 1994. The basket-peg regime was replaced with a more flexible exchange regime, although limited intervention continued. Reflecting the emphasis of monetary policy on exchange rates during this period, annual inflation averaged close to 9 percent over the years between 1989 and 1993, and was also considerably volatile. Credit ceilings were also abolished in July 1993.

89. **In line with the liberalization of the financial sector and exchange rate, the BOM reconsidered its monetary operations and objectives in the 1990s.** The BOM began conducting monetary policy through open market operations—in weekly treasury bill auctions—from 1991. The gradual floating of the exchange rate that commenced in 1994, required the BOM to choose a new nominal anchor. As a result, in 1996 the BOM introduced informal inflation targeting, while maintaining its intervention in the foreign exchange market.

90. **This liberalization has allowed Mauritius to develop a relatively large and comprehensive domestic financial system and a growing offshore sector.** The domestic banking system is sound and profitable. The basic financial sector infrastructure, such as payment, securities trading and settlement systems, is modern and efficient. There is also a primary dealers network to facilitate the trade in government securities. However, the development of the corporate capital market has lagged behind that of the banking sector.

²⁹ Mauritius accepted the obligations of Article VIII of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund in 1993.

Inflation targeting framework

91. **Mauritius’s informal inflation targeting regime encompasses five main elements:** (1) the public announcement of an annual target for aggregate inflation (CPI inflation) instead of nontradable inflation; (2) an express commitment to price stability as the primary goal of monetary policy; (3) an integrated operational strategy in which many variables, including foreign exchange intervention, are used to set the monetary policy instruments, while maintaining the managed float of the exchange rate regime; (4) a flexible monetary policy rule in which interest rate smoothing, inflation expectation, real exchange rate and output gap are included; and (5) transparent monetary policy operations. Therefore, although its inflation targeting regime is “informal,” its regime encompasses the main elements required for formal inflation targeting (Mishkin, 2004).

Public announcement of aggregate inflation targets

92. **The BOM began announcing an aggregate inflation target in its 1996/97 (June-July) annual report.** The BOM pursued a very gradual approach to lowering its inflation objectives. It began with targets of over 8 percent for 1996/97, and gradually lowered them to 4 percent—see Table IV.1. This gradualist strategy allowed the BOM to establish solid credibility in managing inflation by allowing the public to observe the achievement of a sequence of realistic targets. However, the BOM mainly gets its annual inflation target based on the available inflation expectation information. For example, the BOM increased its target from 6 percent in 1997/98 to 8 percent in 1998/99, so that it can accommodate the strong inflation expectation at that time and therefore preserve the credibility of inflation targeting.

Table IV.1. CPI Inflation Targets and Outcomes

	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Target inflation	8.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	5.0-5.5	6.0	6.0	4.0
Actual inflation	7.9	5.4	7.9	5.3	4.4	6.3	5.1	4.0

De facto commitment to price stability

93. **The original Bank of Mauritius Act established the BOM to “safeguard the internal and external value of the currency of Mauritius and its internal convertibility,” and to “direct its policy toward achieving monetary conditions conducive to strengthening the economic activity and prosperity of Mauritius.”** The 1988 amendment of this Act granted the BOM the responsibility for the formulation and execution of monetary policy consistent with price stability. Even though price stability was not established as the BOM’s overriding objective, the BOM has increasingly focused on this objective, and has declared its commitment to achieving this goal since 1996. In a number of speeches, the governor of the BOM has made it clear that price stability is the primary goal of the BOM. Nonetheless, the BOM also remains concerned about economic growth and competitiveness of the economy.

An integrated operational strategy

94. **As in many emerging market countries, Mauritius's secondary government bond market is relatively illiquid and underdeveloped.** Therefore, the BOM cannot easily target short-term interest rates directly through open market operations in this market. As an alternative, the BOM has used a mix of integrated policy instruments to *target short-term interest rates indirectly*, including through the primary government bond market. Underlying its choice of settings for these instruments is the BOM's detailed and information-inclusive reserve money program. The BOM publicly announced the existence of its reserve money program for liquidity management and forecasting purposes in 1996. The main objective of this is to maintain the monetary base on a path consistent with the BOM's inflation target, and the Central Statistical Office's economic growth forecast. However, as the BOM has found it difficult to achieve its reserve money target, it has never announced its reserve money and associated M2 targets.

Open market operations

95. **The BOM has increasingly relied on short-term interest rates as its operational target, despite maintaining the reserve money target as a complementary operational target.** In the primary government bond market, treasury (or, more recently, the BOM) bills of 3-, 6-, 12- and 24-month maturities are sold at weekly auctions.³⁰ This has tended to produce fairly stable yield curves, with the resulting price discovery likely to be relatively efficient. These auctions have been used to implement the reserve money program.³¹

- The BOM varies its sales of treasury and BOM bills in the *primary market auction* in order to influence the level of liquid reserves held by commercial banks. While the amount of treasury bills sold at the weekly auction is guided by the reserve money program, the interest rates resulting from these auctions have been used as an indicator of the stance of monetary policy.
- *Repurchase transactions* (repo) and reverse repo operations have also been used periodically since 1999 for fine tuning, complementing the primary auction of treasury bills.
- The BOM's *secondary market* cell (a portfolio of treasury bills) is occasionally employed in secondary market trading, allowing market participants to adjust their liquidity between the weekly primary auctions.

³⁰ The Development Loan Stock with maturities up to 15 years are issued annually, while five-year bonds are issued quarterly.

³¹ From July 2003, the BOM began to issue its own central bank bills.

The signaling role of interest rates

96. As the lender of last resort, the BOM provides a *Lombard facility* where banks can borrow overnight to meet reserve requirements. **The BOM mainly uses the Lombard rate to signal the stance of monetary policy**, since the market generally seems to have adjusted its rates in line with movements in the Lombard rate in the past. However, with the money market rate currently much lower than the Lombard rate, this facility has not been used extensively in recent times.

Foreign exchange intervention

97. **The BOM has gradually reduced its foreign exchange intervention, and has always denied any predetermined target path for the real exchange rate.** For example, the BOM's 2002 Annual Report only specifies that it aims at "reflecting the macroeconomic fundamentals of the country" (statement of the Governor, page 7), although the level of the real exchange rate has remained roughly unchanged throughout the inflation targeting period—see Figure IV.2. To keep its foreign exchange market interventions consistent with its inflation target, the BOM integrates its foreign exchange market interventions into its open market operations through its reserve money program. However, as its inflation targeting regime has increasingly gained credibility, the BOM has tended to reduce its intervention in the foreign exchange market—see Table IV.2. This reduction should further strengthen the BOM's credibility in anchoring aggregate inflation expectation. However, given Mauritius's very thin foreign exchange market, some intervention may remain necessary to smooth volatility.

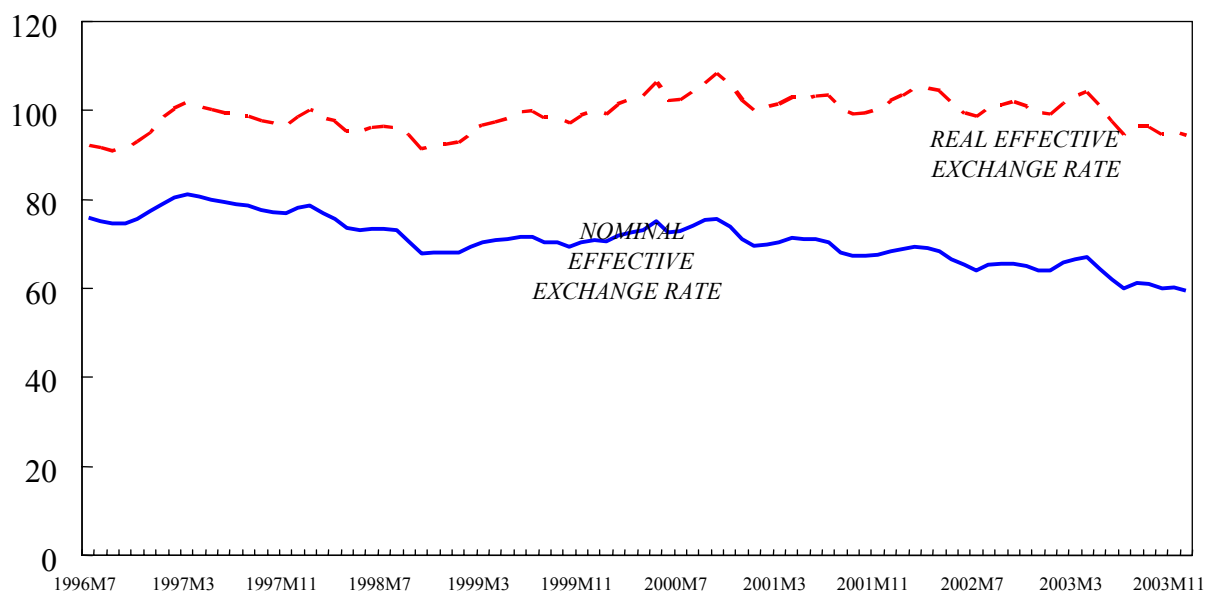
Table IV.2. Bank of Mauritius Foreign Exchange Market Intervention,
1996/97-2003/04

(In millions of U.S. dollars).

	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Sale	392.1	252.4	126.6	94.0	118.3	19.0	0	0
Purchase	38.9	37.0	11.0	15.7	0	21.1	189.0	68.0

Source: Bank of Mauritius Annual Reports.

Figure IV.2. Nominal and Real Effective Exchange Rates



A flexible monetary policy rule

98. **The main focus of the BOM's implicit monetary policy rule is targeting inflationary expectations.** However, the BOM clearly places some weight on the exchange rate. The 2001 BOM Annual Report stated that “the basic thrust of monetary policy continued to be directed toward the achievement of low inflation and a stable exchange rate” (statement from the Governor, page 6). This makes its rule similar to Ball's (1999) MCI—based on both the interest rate and the exchange rate. In addition, current inflation and output (gap) also influence policy (and the setting of the MCI) through the reserve money program.

Transparent monetary policy operations

99. **The transparent operation of monetary policy has benefited from frequent consultations between the BOM and commercial banks, as well as public statements by its Governor.** Commercial banks seem generally satisfied with their frequent dialogue with the BOM. The BOM also maintains an informative website, publishes a comprehensive annual report and a comprehensive monthly statistical monetary bulletin, and has a relatively open policy towards the media. The introduction of the Lombard facility, and the framework for repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions, were designed to increase transparency further.

C. An Open Economy Macrofinance Model

100. **This section formally investigates the informal inflation targeting framework described above.** To do this, a macrofinance model (similar to that of Hördahl, Tristani, and Vestin (2003), and Rudebusch and Wu (2003)), is combined with an empirical open economy model (similar to that of Svensson, 2000). This model integrates open economy macroeconomic and financial models, combining an affine model of the term structure (which imposes no-arbitrage constraints), with an open economy, new Keynesian model, where monetary policy is represented by a simple interest rate rule. By using the yield curve to extract inflation expectations, new information can be brought to bear on the performance of inflation targeting.

101. A relatively standard new-Keynesian representation of aggregate demand in an open economy is of the form:³²

$$y_t = \mu_y E_t y_{t+1} + (1 - \mu_y) [\beta_{y1} y_{t-1} + \beta_{y2} y_{t-2}] + \beta_{qy} q_{t-1} - \beta_r (i_{t-1} - L_{t-1}) + \varepsilon_{yt} \quad (1)$$

where y_t is output gap, $E_t y_{t+1}$ is the expected output gap at time t , q_t is real exchange rate, i_t is the short-term interest rate, and $\varepsilon_{yt} \sim N(0, \sigma_y)$ represents real demand shocks. The latent factor, L_t , represents the level of yield curves and is typically interpreted as the underlying rate of inflation (see Rudebusch and Wu, 2003). Consistent with this interpretation, L_t may be viewed as the inflation rate targeted by the central bank, and, ultimately, as the inflation rate expected by private agents. These expectations play a very important role in the context of Mauritius's annual centralized wage determination system, since they provide a focal point for the behavior of wage- and price-setters.³³ A depreciation of the real exchange rate also leads to an expansion in output with a lag, through its effects on net exports. The parameter μ_y measures the relative importance of the expected future output gap.

102. Agents are assumed to gradually modify their views about inflationary expectations, as represented by L_t , with actual inflation according to

$$L_t = \rho_L L_{t-1} + (1 - \rho_L) \pi_t + \varepsilon_{Lt}, \quad (2)$$

where ρ_L is the relative weight between the past inflation expectation to the actual inflation, and $\varepsilon_{Lt} \sim N(0, \sigma_L)$ represents other nonsystematic influences on expectations formation.

³² Micro-founded small open economy models produce a similar expression for the output gap (Galí and Monacelli, 2003; Parrado, 2004).

³³ Under Mauritius's centralized tripartite wage setting mechanism, there is automatic across-the-board wage indexation for any inflation above 5 percent in a year.

103. The open economy supply equation (Phillip's curve) is given by

$$\pi_t = \mu_\pi L_t + (1 - \mu_\pi)[\alpha_{\pi 1} \pi_{t-1} + \alpha_{\pi 2} \pi_{t-2}] + \alpha_q q_{t-1} + \alpha_y y_{t-1} + \varepsilon_\pi. \quad (3)$$

In this specification, current inflation, π_t , reflects a weighted average of the public's forward looking expectation of the inflation rate, which we identify as L_t , with backward looking expectations represented by two lags of inflation. A key parameter in (3) is μ_π , which measures the relative importance of forward- versus backward-looking pricing behavior. The output gap, as well as changes in competitiveness, are also assumed to influence inflation. The innovation, $\varepsilon_\pi \sim N(0, \sigma_\pi)$, represents stochastic cost-push factors.

104. Provided that the real interest parity condition holds, real effective exchange rate dynamics may be written as³⁵

$$q_t = E_t q_{t+1} - (i_t - E_t \pi_{t+1}) + \varepsilon_{qt}. \quad (4)$$

The current real exchange rate is determined by the expected future real exchange rate, $E_t q_{t+1}$, and the ex ante real interest rate $(i_t - E_t \pi_{t+1})$. Assuming some inertia in the formation of real exchange rate expectations, we assume that the real exchange rate is given by

$$q_t = E_t q_{t+1} + \beta_{q1} q_{t-1} + \beta_{q2} q_{t-2} - \beta_{qS} (i_t - L_t) + \varepsilon_{qt}, \quad (5)$$

where β_{qS} reflects transitional dynamics.

105. **Due to the underdeveloped secondary government bond market, the BOM is not able to conduct high frequency open market operations to directly control the short-term interest rate.** However, this rate is determined by both the monetary policy of the BOM (which influences the slope of the yield curve), and the inflationary expectations of participants in the primary bond market. As discussed above, while the BOM uses several instruments, its operational target is the short-term interest rate. Therefore, we take the short term interest rate as the policy variable, and following Rudebusch and Wu (2003), we assume that behavior of this rate may be captured by two latent term structure factors, L_t and S_t , in

$$i_t = \delta_0 + L_t + S_t. \quad (6)$$

One of these factors, S_t , represents the slope of the yield curve (i.e., the spread between the long-run interest rate and the short-run interest rate), while the other, L_t , represents the level

³⁴ Again, micro-founded small open economy models produce a similar Phillips' curve, although for domestic inflation (Galí and Monacelli, 2003; Parrado, 2004).

³⁵ This is similar to equation 2.11 in Svensson (2000).

of the yield curve. If, as we do, one interprets L_t as representing inflationary expectations, then S_t can also be interpreted as the real interest rate. Finally, the specification of longer-term yields is determined assuming that they satisfy an affine no-arbitrage formulation.³⁶

106. **The BOM's monetary policy rule is assumed to be similar to that recommended by Ball (1999) for small open economies.** It includes the output gap y_t , inflation expectation (as captured by L_t), the deviation between actual inflation and inflation expectation ($\pi_t - L_t$), the real exchange rate q_t , as well as a desire to smooth the real interest rate:

$$i_t = L_t + \rho_S(i_{t-1} - L_{t-1}) + (1 - \rho_S)[\gamma_q q_t + \gamma_\pi(\pi_t - L_t) + \gamma_y y_t] + u_{St} \quad (7)$$

$$u_{St} = \rho_u u_{S,t-1} + \varepsilon_{S,t}. \quad (8)$$

Equation (7) has the nominal policy interest rate centered about inflationary expectations, and captures the various possible monetary policy objectives of the BOM: to stabilize the real economy; to maintain an appropriate real exchange rate; and to close the gap between actual inflation and its inflation target. It also allows for some persistence in the setting of this rate. Using (6), equation (7) may be easily expressed in terms of the slope factor S_t as

$$S_t = \rho_S S_{t-1} + (1 - \rho_S)[\gamma_q q_t + \gamma_\pi(\pi_t - L_t) + \gamma_y y_t] + u_{St}. \quad (9)$$

The parameter estimates of equation (9) should reveal the relative importance of each of these objectives to the BOM. In addition, the dynamics of S_t allow for both partial adjustment, and (through (8)) serially correlated unanticipated monetary policy shocks. If $\rho_S = 0$, the dynamics of S_t arise from monetary policy partial adjustment. Conversely, if $\rho_S \neq 0$, the BOM's monetary policy choice exhibits persistence, and occurs in gradual adjustments. Using (1) and (6) we can obtain (1')

$$y_t = \mu_y E_t y_{t+1} + (1 - \mu_y)[\beta_{y1} y_{t-1} + \beta_{y2} y_{t-2}] - \beta_r S_{t-1} + \varepsilon_{yt}, \quad (1')$$

and using (5) and (6) we can obtain (5')

$$q_t = E_t q_{t+1} + \beta_{q1} q_{t-1} + \beta_{q2} q_{t-2} - \beta_{qS} S_t + \varepsilon_{qt}. \quad (5')$$

³⁶ The affine no-arbitrage term structure model is presented in Appendix I. We also assume that the price of the risk associated with the factors underlying the term structure may be represented as $\Lambda_t = \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 \begin{bmatrix} L_t \\ S_t \end{bmatrix}$. Since we use demeaned data in the following empirical exercise, we can, without loss of generality, normalize δ_0 and λ_0 to zero.

The dynamic structure of the transition for the state of the economy is determined by equations (1'), (2), (3), (5'), (8) and (9). The state space of the combined rational expectations open economy macrofinance model is outlined in Appendix I.

D. Model Estimation

107. **The above macrofinance model is estimated by maximum likelihood for the informal inflation targeting period—July 1996 to March 2004. Monthly data on government bond yields (for 3-, 6-, and 12-month maturities) provided by the BOM, annualized CPI inflation from the IMF's International Financial Statistics, and the real exchange rate from the IMF's Information Notice System are used to estimate the model.** Due to the unavailability of less than annual GDP (or even unemployment) data, we use detrended, seasonally adjusted, monthly credit to the private sector as a proxy for the output gap.³⁷

108. Appendix II presents the parameter estimates of the open economy macrofinance model. First, consider the dynamics of the latent factors. The factor representing inflationary expectations, L_t , is extremely persistent with ρ_L estimated at 0.9921. This means that inflation expectations are very persistent, potentially difficult to change, with actual inflation carrying a very small weight in inflation expectation formation. In short, once a good reputation is established, it should last a long time.

109. The estimated BOM's monetary policy rule is

$$S_t = 0.9958S_{t-1} + 0.0042[0.8172q_t + 0.3621(\pi_t - L_t) + 0.0084y_t] + u_{St}$$

$$u_{St} = \exp(-5)u_{S,t-1} + \varepsilon_{S,t}.$$

Since the estimated $\rho_S = 0.9958$, S_t is also highly persistent. This seems reasonable in terms of the considerable inertia seen in the BOM's monetary policy setting, represented by its gradual reduction in targeted inflation. However, this also implies that the BOM has relatively weak control over the short-term interest rate ($(1 - \rho_S) = 0.0042$), although this could be an artifact of the *indirect* nature of the BOM's interest rate targeting, and the relatively crude proxy for the output gap. The relative importance of the inflationary deviations, the output gap, and the real exchange rate are revealed by the estimates of γ_π , γ_q and γ_y —0.3621, 0.8172 and 0.0084, respectively. These estimates suggest that multiple monetary policy objectives influence policy, implying a flexible rather than strict inflation

³⁷ Since the constant term in latent factor models cannot typically be identified, we work with de-measured data. Also, as we are estimating two latent factors from three bond maturities, we assume that six-month bond yields are measured with error.

targeting in Mauritius. Unfortunately, though, all of these parameters are very imprecisely estimated (possibly because ρ_s is so large), with none actually being significant. There is also no autocorrelation in unanticipated monetary shocks, u_{st} (as $\rho_u = 1\exp(-5)$).

110. **The estimated parameters of the aggregate supply (Phillips curve) equation suggest that current inflation depends primarily (and weakly significantly) on inflationary expectations ($\mu_\pi = 0.9110$).** This indicates the importance of framing expectations throughout the setting of monetary policy, and suggests that central bank credibility is crucial. Surprisingly, all other explanatory variables, including real exchange rate and output gap, are much less important than expectations, and are insignificant. However, the weak impact of the real exchange rate may reflect the past reliance on (inflexible) administered prices for several imported goods, as well as the crude proxy of the monthly output gap. The preeminent role of inflationary expectations in Mauritius is relatively unsurprising, though, given the important role these expectations play in the centralized wage-setting process.

111. **The estimated parameters describing the aggregate demand equation suggest that, at a monthly frequency, there is a negligible weight on forward-looking output expectations ($\mu_y = 0.0223$).** The estimated value of $\beta_{qv} = 0.0004$ implies a very weak impact of real exchange rate changes on output. This could partially be explained by the relatively flat nature of the real exchange rate over the inflation targeting period.

E. Dynamics of Inflation Expectation

112. **Figure IV.3 presents the latent factor that represents the level of the yield curve, L_t , as well as the slope, S_t . Two observations are immediate:** (i) inflationary expectations in Mauritius are time-varying; and (ii) both the average level and volatility of expected inflation have declined significantly, especially since late-2000. This suggests that the BOM has earned credibility for its inflation targeting performance.

113. **However, as measured by expectations, the implementation of inflation targeting has not been even. Inflationary expectations increased rapidly in mid-1998 (following a couple of years of relatively large foreign exchange interventions), before subsequent falling in 2000.** The rapid decline could, in part, reflect the gradual reduction in foreign exchange interventions, but also follows a significant move by the BOM against inflationary pressures.³⁸ It also coincides with the introduction of the Lombard facility, which the BOM

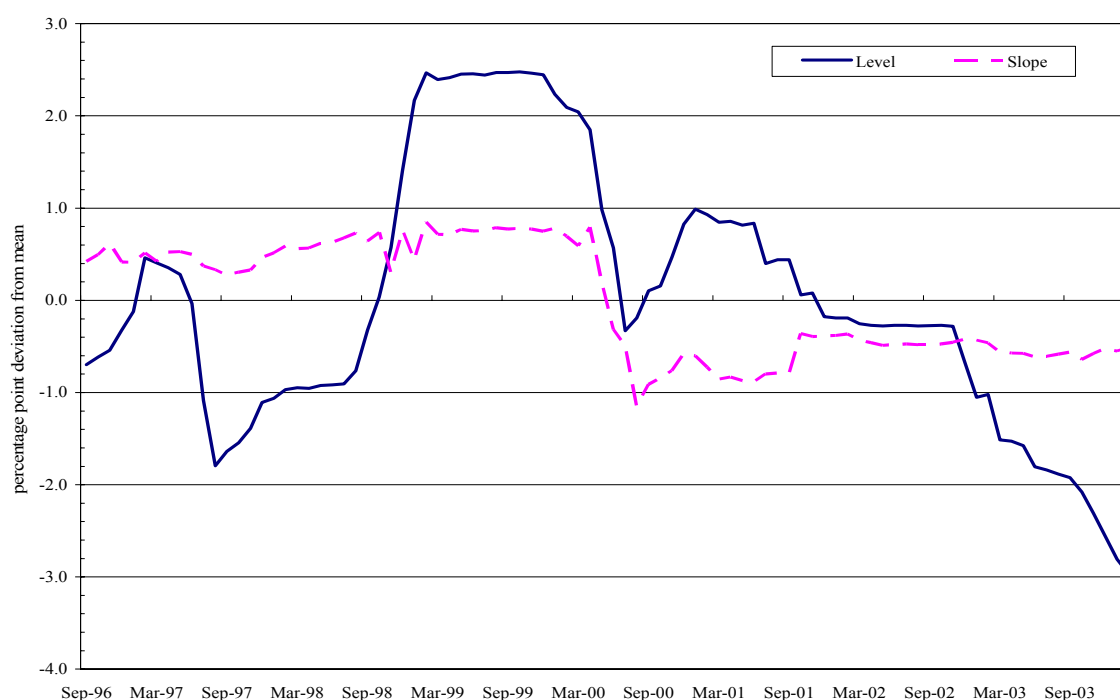
³⁸ In 1999, the BOM deliberately introduced a tight monetary policy to head off inflationary pressures during the recovery in 1998/99. Despite slow growth in 1999/00, the Lombard rate was raised to 12.0 percent, and to 12.5 percent in late-September and November 2000, respectively. The tighter stance was kept in place until May 2001, when the BOM began a series of easings, lowering the Lombard rate from 12.5 percent to 9.5 percent as of January 2004.

introduced to improve transparency and its ability to signal the stance of monetary policy. The behavior of the slope suggests that aside from one (or, possibly, two) episodes, the spread between short- and long-term securities has remained relatively flat. Its sudden decline during 2000 may reflect lower (real) returns available in more advanced economies, and, possibly, a revision of growth prospects, given uncertainty about the future of trade preferences.

F. Conclusion

114. Mauritius's informal inflation targeting regime has been associated with a fall in inflation, and—as seen in Figure IV.3—an impressive fall in inflationary expectations. That is, inflation targeting appears to have been able to provide a strong nominal anchor that has moderated inflationary expectations, and resulted in a steady reduction in actual inflation. These expectations are particularly important in the case of Mauritius, since they can provide a focal point during the centralized wage bargain process, thereby affecting inflation far into the future.

Figure IV.3. The Level and Slope of the Yield Curve



115. Although Mauritius does not yet have a fully fledged inflation targeting regime, **its experience to date suggests the potential value of informal inflation targeting.** Moreover, Mauritius has been able to anchor these expectations even while maintaining a managed exchange rate. By focusing on the aggregate CPI inflation expectation, the BOM has also anchored actual inflation, without generating excessive output volatility. Mauritius's

experience suggests that, if carefully applied, inflation targeting jointly with a managed exchange rate can be a feasible policy alternative to a hard peg for small island economies.³⁹

116. **However, Mauritius's experience can be taken only so far.** First, its experience comes against that backdrop of relatively subdued inflation worldwide. It remains to be seen how Mauritius's inflation targeting regime will fair if global inflation rises significantly. Second, it shows that even in a country with solid institutions, a lack of fiscal dominance, and low external debt, it can take a long time before the central bank has earned sufficient credibility to anchor expectations for low inflation.

Appendix I

State space representation

The dynamic system, (1'), (2), (3), (5'), (7), (8) and (9), can then be given the following state space representation $\Gamma_0 Y_t = \Gamma_1 Y_{t-1} + \Psi \varepsilon_t + \Pi \eta_t$, where the x^{th} of η_t is $\eta_{x_t} = x_t - E_{t-1}x_t$, or the expectational forecasting error, and where

$$Y_t = [\pi_t \ \pi_{t-1} \ q_t \ q_{t-1} \ y_t \ y_{t-1} \ L_t \ S_t \ u_{St} \ E_t y_{y+1} \ E_t q_{y+1}]', \ \varepsilon_t = [\varepsilon_\pi \ \varepsilon_{qt} \ \varepsilon_{yt} \ \varepsilon_{Lt} \ \varepsilon_{St}]' \text{ and}$$

$$\Gamma_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\mu_\pi & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \beta_{qS} & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\mu_y & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \rho_L - 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ (\rho_S - 1)\gamma_\pi & 0 & (\rho_S - 1)\gamma_q & 0 & (\rho_S - 1)\gamma_y & 0 & (1 - \rho_S)\gamma_\pi & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

³⁹ Indeed, Mishkin (2004, p. 25) concludes that in the context of inflation targeting "... there is a rational for central banks in emerging market countries to smooth exchange rates," provided they do not go too far.

$$\Gamma_1 = \begin{bmatrix} (1-\mu_\pi)\alpha_{\pi1} & (1-\mu_\pi)\alpha_{\pi2} & \alpha_q & 0 & \alpha_y & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta_{q1} & \beta_{q2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta_{qv} & 0 & (1-\mu_y)\beta_{y1} & (1-\mu_y)\beta_{y2} & 0 & -\beta_r & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \rho_L & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \rho_S & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \rho_u & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Psi = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \Pi = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Using the Sims (2001) algorithm for linear rational expectations models, the system can be transformed into the form $Y_t = \Gamma Y_{t-1} + \Omega \varepsilon_t$, with the state vector of the system following the law of motion $F_t = \rho F_{t-1} + \Sigma \varepsilon_t$, where the state is $F_t = [\pi_t \ \pi_{t-1} \ q_t \ q_{t-1} \ y_t \ y_{t-1} \ L_t \ S_t \ u_{St}]'$.

No arbitrage conditions

For an economy where the state evolves according to $F_t = \rho F_{t-1} + \Sigma \varepsilon_t$, and the price of the risk associated with the factors underlying the term structure is represented by $\hat{\Lambda}_t = \hat{\lambda}_0 + \hat{\lambda}_1 F_t$, Rudebusch and Wu (2003) derive a recursive structure for an affine no-arbitrage bond-pricing model. With the very short-term interest rate, i_t , expressed as a linear function of the state of the economy, $i_t^1 = -\bar{A}_1 - \bar{B}_1' F_t$, they show that the yield on other maturities ($i_t^j = -\bar{A}_j - \bar{B}_j' F_t$) must satisfy following recursive patterns for $j > 1$:

$$\bar{A}_j = \bar{A}_{j-1} - \bar{B}_{j-1}' \Sigma \hat{\lambda}_0 + \frac{1}{2} \bar{B}_{j-1}' \Sigma \Sigma' \bar{B}_{j-1} + \bar{A}_1, \text{ and}$$

$$\bar{B}_j = \bar{B}_{j-1}' (\rho - \Sigma \hat{\lambda}_1) + \bar{B}_1'.$$

Likelihood function of the macro finance model

As described in the paper, the authors use data on inflation, private sector credit, and the real exchange rate, as well as the yields on 3-, 6-, and 12- month treasury securities. We stack the observed values in a vector $z_t = [\pi_t \ q_t \ y_t \ i_t^3 \ i_t^6 \ i_t^{12}]'$. Since we are estimating two latent factors from three yields, we must assume that one yield is measured with error. Following common practice, we assume the yield associated with the middle maturity—6 months—is measured with error (and distributed $N(0, \sigma_6)$). Assuming that conditional on the first $t-1$ observations, the t th observation is Gaussian, then $z_t = \Gamma^z F_{t-1} + \Omega^z \xi_t$, where

$$\Gamma^z = \begin{bmatrix} \rho_{1,\cdot} \\ \rho_{3,\cdot} \\ \rho_{5,\cdot} \\ B\rho \end{bmatrix}, \Omega^z = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_{1,\cdot} & 0 \\ \Sigma_{3,\cdot} & 0 \\ \Sigma_{5,\cdot} & 0 \\ B\Sigma & B^m \end{bmatrix}, B^m = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \sigma_6 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \xi_t = \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_t \\ \varepsilon_t^m \end{bmatrix}, \text{ where } \varepsilon_t^m \text{ is the measurement error}$$

and where $B = [B_3 \ B_6 \ B_{12}]'$, $A_j = -\bar{A}_j / j$, and $B_j = -\bar{B}_j / j$. The log of the conditional density of the t th observation is

$$llh_t = -\frac{1}{2} \left[\ln(2\pi) + \ln(\det(\Omega^z \Omega^{z'})') + (z_t - \Gamma^z F_{t-1})' (\Omega^z \Omega^{z'})^{-1} (z_t - \Gamma^z F_{t-1}) \right],$$

with the conditional log likelihood being $L_{z_T, \dots, z_2 | z_1} (z_T, \dots, z_2 | z_1; \theta) = \sum_{t=2}^T llh_t$. Standard errors are computed using the outer product of gradients estimator.

Appendix II

Mauritius: Parameter Estimates of the Macrofinance Open Economy Model⁴⁰

Aggregate demand curve

$$\mu_y = 0.0223 \ [0.4999] \quad \beta_{y_1} = 0.0171 \ [0.4996] \quad \beta_{y_2} = 0.1443 \ [0.4971]$$

$$\beta_{qy} = 0.0004 \ [0.4997] \quad \beta_r = 0.0064 \ [0.4971]$$

Aggregate supply curve

$$\mu_\pi = 0.9110 \ [0.1712] \quad \alpha_{\pi_1} = 0.0216 \ [0.4958] \quad \alpha_{\pi_2} = 0.3810 \ [0.4722]$$

$$\alpha_q = -0.1914 \ [0.4987] \quad \alpha_y = -0.0135 \ [0.49982]$$

⁴⁰ P-values are in square brackets.

Inflation dynamics

$$\rho_L = 0.9921 [1.4\exp(-64)]$$

Real exchange rate dynamics

$$\beta_{q1} = 0.996 [0.3860] \quad \beta_{q2} = 0.999 [0.0017]$$

$$\beta_{qS} = -0.0175 [0.3229]$$

Monetary policy reaction function

$$\rho_S = 0.9958 [2.7\exp(-13)] \quad \gamma_q = 0.8172 [0.4998] \quad \gamma_\pi = 0.3621 [0.4857]$$

$$\gamma_y = 0.0084 [0.4999] \quad \rho_u = 1 \exp(-5) [0.4999]$$

Risk pricing matrix

$$\lambda_1^{LL} = -0.1169 [0.3809] \quad \lambda_1^{LS} = 0.9903 [0.2398]$$

$$\lambda_1^{SL} = -0.0151 [0.4674] \quad \lambda_1^{SS} = -0.0259 [0.4870]$$

Standard deviations

$$\sigma_L = 0.2802 [0.0050] \quad \sigma_S = 0.1545 [0.2195]$$

$$\sigma_\pi = 4.9877 [9\exp(-22)] \quad \sigma_q = 0.0563 [0.2163] \quad \sigma_y = .0400 [0.1200]$$

Standard deviation of measurement error for the 6-month bond yield

$$\sigma_6 = 0.1690 [5.7\exp(-27)]$$

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V. DEVELOPING A CORPORATE BOND MARKET IN MAURITIUS: SOME LESSONS FROM EMERGING MARKET COUNTRIES⁴¹

A. Introduction

117. **Mauritius has an efficient and a relatively large financial system.** Its banking system is profitable and generally sound. It also has a well-developed insurance and pension sector, a number of nonbank financial institutions, and a stock market with capitalization of about 34 percent of GDP in 2003. The basic financial sector infrastructure, such as payment, securities trading and settlement systems, is modern and efficient. However, like many emerging market countries, the financial sector is dominated by banks (see Table V.1). The still growing offshore financial sector does not actively participate in local financial activities, and has yet to be fully integrated with the economy.

118. **The development of a corporate bond market could significantly enhance Mauritius's financial stability.** Credit to the private sector is highly concentrated in the onshore banking sector. The onshore banks' asset quality has presently come under pressure due to the economic difficulties facing the sugar and export processing zone (EPZ) sectors. Meanwhile, the pension and insurance companies are seeking longer-term assets that match the maturity structure of their liability portfolio. A well-functioning corporate bond market could improve the efficiency of the financial system by diversifying credit risk concentrated in the onshore banks, and can also provide a cheaper alternative to financing than bank loans for the corporate sector, which would ultimately facilitate growth in private investment.

119. **The purpose of this paper is to draw on lessons from other emerging countries' experience in developing a corporate bond market and highlight some important requirements for developing such a market in Mauritius.** Emerging market experiences indicate that developing a well-functioning corporate bond market is a complex and long-term task. It requires a series of well-designed reforms and assistance from the government in order to create the appropriate market environment to encourage the supply of corporate bonds, to build investor base, and to ensure a liquid market. High savings, investment-grade sovereign rating, strong institutions, and its position as an established off-shore financial center make Mauritius a good candidate for the development of a corporate bond market.

120. **This paper is organized as follows.** The next section reviews the financial system in Mauritius and identifies its main systemic risks. Section C discusses the benefits of developing an efficient corporate bond market. Section D identifies factors that contribute to the development of an efficient corporate bond market in emerging market countries. In light of the emerging market experience, this section also discusses key issues that would need to be addressed for the development of a corporate bond market in Mauritius. Section E concludes.

⁴¹ Prepared by Jung Yeon Kim and James Y. Yao.

B. The Financial System in Mauritius

Banking system

121. **The credit risk of the corporate sector is largely concentrated in the banking system, and the sectoral credit risk exposure is high.** Within the onshore financial sector, banks account for about two-thirds of total assets. Their share of credit to the private sector in total assets is about 50 percent (see Table V.2). The Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB) and State Bank of Mauritius (SBM), the two largest domestically owned banks, hold 70 percent of total assets and 77 percent of total loans in the domestic banking system, respectively.⁴² The sugar, tourism, and textiles industries account for some 40 percent of bank credit, and the sectoral distribution of credit is relatively skewed (see Figure V.1). Among the large sectors, manufacturing, including the EPZ, account for the second largest share of nonperforming loans (see Figure V.2).

122. The stress tests conducted by the Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) in 2003 indicate that credit difficulty is the main risk facing the Mauritian banking system, although the high levels of capital and profits of the system, and the practice of extensive collateralization, provide a comfortable buffer against high-probability shocks. The most important risk is that the onshore banking system is vulnerable to external economic shocks and a downturn in economic activity. To guard against deterioration in the quality of their portfolios, banks have been reducing their exposure to sectors where the risk is considered the highest (see Table V. 3). For example, growth of the credit to the EPZ declined by 15.6 percent in 2002/03.

123. **The offshore banking sector has grown rapidly since the second half of 1997, but it is weakly integrated with the domestic economy.**⁴³ The assets of the 14 “Category 2 banks”⁴⁴ amounted to 94 percent of GDP in 2002, marginally less than the assets of domestic banks (see Table V.4). Offshore banks are allowed to collect foreign-currency denominated deposits from residents and can lend in foreign currency to residents and domestic firms. However, they do not have significant retail activity in Mauritius and have limited their domestic operations mainly to public sector borrowers. The offshore banks provide a wide

⁴² In addition, there are three local operations of large international banks (HSBC, Barclays Bank and Bank of Baroda) holding 20 percent, and 5 small banks that hold 10 percent of total assets.

⁴³ The number of institutions doubled from 7 to 14 from 1997 to 2002, and assets rose from about US\$910 million to US\$4.14 billion during the same period. The offshore financial sector has developed in Mauritius largely due to the low tax environment, modern business-friendly legislation for global business, and policies favoring open trade, capital flows, and exchange convertibility.

⁴⁴ The Category 1 banks represent domestic banks and Category 2 banks represent the offshore banks in Mauritius.

variety of foreign-currency denominated services, including deposit taking, lending, foreign exchange dealing, trust fund management, asset financing, and securities custodial services.

Table V.1. Financial System Structure

(At the end of June 2002)

Total Assets				
	Number of institutions	Assets (MUR millions)	In percent of total assets	In percent of 2002 GDP
Onshore banks	10	134,675	37.8	97.6
Domestic	4	102,958	28.9	74.6
Foreign	6	31,717	8.9	23.0
Offshore banks	12	129,205	36.3	93.6
Insurance companies	22	27,160	7.6	19.7
Pension funds	1,095	42,978	12.1	31.1
Mauritius Housing Company	1	6,292	1.8	4.6
Development Bank of Mauritius	1	6,176	1.2	3.2
Post Office Savings Bank	1	1,032	0.3	0.8
Leasing companies	12	7,116	2	5.2
Asset management compaines	12	861	0.2	0.6
Credit finance companies	262	696	0.2	0.5
Stock brokers	11	438	0.1	0.3
Insurance brokers	8	210	0.1	0.2
Management companies	38	977	0.3	0.7
Corporate trustees	11	46	0.0	0.0
Captive managers	4	8	0.0	0.0
Total	1,500	359,870	100.0	258.0

Sources: The Mauritian authorities; and staff estimates.

Table V.2. Summarized Aggregate Balance Sheet of Category 1 Banks
as of February 29, 2004

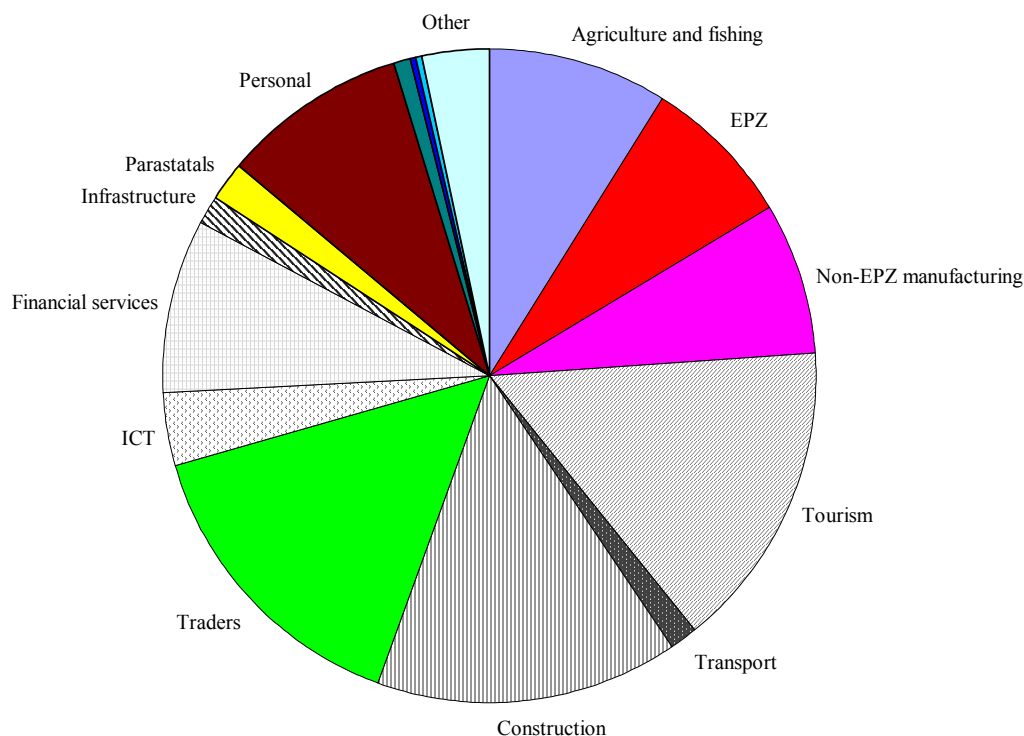
(In thousands of Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated) 1/

	Assets	In percent of total assets		Liabilities	In percent of total liabilities
Cash in hand	2,595,531	1.6	Capital	5,236,433	3.2
Balances with BOM	5,479,063	3.4	Reserves and surplus	10,416,499	6.4
BOM bills	6,489,434	4.0	Subordinated loans	125,000	0.1
Government securities	32,589,785	20.0	Shareholder loans	10,356	0.0
T-bills	30,228,164	18.6	Deposits	125,084,267	76.8
T-bonds	2,361,397	1.4	Private sector	119,723,405	73.5
Foreign assets	11,791,872	7.2	Government	153,994	0.1
Claims on private sector			Statutory and parastatals	5,202,013	
Loans	87,166,613	53.5	Category 2 banks		3.2
Stocks	78,822,004	48.4	Borrowings	4,856	0.0
Debentures	2,979,288	1.8	Of which: BOM	7,902,136	4.9
Claims on parastatals	5,365,320	3.3	Of which: interbank	1,893,266	1.2
Loans	1,629,702	1.0	Bills payable		0.0
Stocks	1,186,102	0.7	Other liabilities	185,039	0.1
Debentures	300	0.0		13,896,626	8.5
Claims on banks	443,300	0.3			
Category 2	1,956,254				
Fixed assets		1.2			
Other assets	8,322,520	5.1			
	4,821,663	3.0			
Total	162,856,355	100.0	Total	162,856,355	100.0

Sources: Bank of Mauritius; and staff calculations.

1/ The balance sheets have been adjusted from BOM data to show net loans rather than gross loans on the asset side.

Figure V. 1. Mauritian Onshore Banks: Sectoral Credit Distribution (as of Feb. 2004)

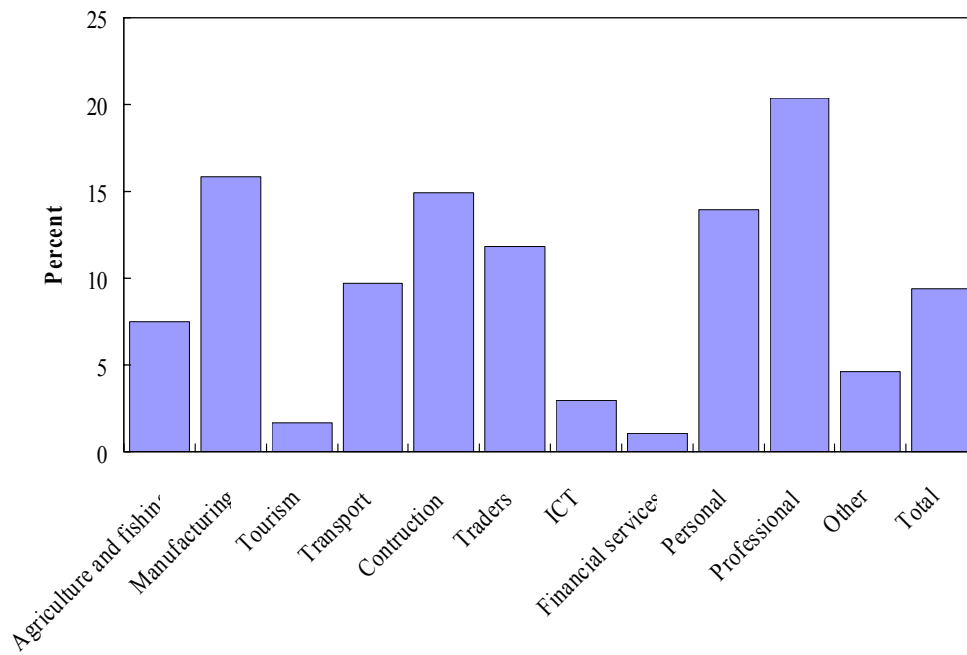


Sources: Staff calculations on the basis of BOM data.

Nonbanking financial institutions

124. **Nonbanking financial institutions (NBFIs) are well developed in Mauritius, but they face a maturity mismatch and reinvestment risks.** Contractual savings, represented by the total assets of pension funds and insurance companies, are large and amounted to MUR 70 billion (50 percent of GDP) in 2002. The sector covers the National Pensions Fund (NPF), the National Savings Fund (NSF), 22 active insurance companies, and 1,095 occupational pension funds created by statutory bodies and private sector companies. Savings institutions have a strong demand for long-duration assets to match the maturity structure of their liabilities. In particular, life insurance companies face considerable reinvestment risk arising from a persistent fall in interest rates.

Figure V.2. Nonperforming Loan Ratios Per Sector as of December 31,2003



Source: Staff calculations on the basis of BOM data

Table V.3. Sectoral Growth Rate of Credit to the Private Sector

(In percent)

Sector of Mauritian economy	June 2001-June 2002	June 2002-June 2003
Agriculture and fishing	19.9	10.2
EPZ	1.5	-15.6
Non-EPZ manufacturing	11.8	11.8
Tourism	16.4	17.8
Transport	10.8	-3.6
Construction	4.8	2.8
Traders	6.1	8.4
New economy (ICT)	34.7	77.3
Financial services	24.0	1.9
Infrastructure	-6.2	-7.4
Other	-4.6	4.5
Total	8.1	6.4

Source: Bank of Mauritius and staff calculations.

Table V.4. Summary Aggregate Balance Sheet of Category 2 Banks,
as of February 29, 2004

(In thousands of U.S. dollars, unless otherwise indicated)

	Assets	In percent of total assets		Liabilities	In percent of total liabilities
Cash in hand (foreign notes)	77	0.0	Capital	181,780	3.3
Amounts due from banks	2,487,834	44.7	Reserves	177,873	3.2
Investment	251,017	4.5			
T-bills of foreign government	0.0	0.0	Deposits of nonbank customers	2,352,966	42.3
Other foreign securities	1,614	0.03			
Other securities in Mauritius	1,046	0.02	Amounts due to banks	2,455,971	44.1
Bonds	0.0	0.0			
Notes	48	0.0			
Equity	0.0	0.0			
Other securities outside Mauritius			Bonds and debentures issued	0.0	0.0
	248,355	4.5			
Bonds	180,952	3.3			
Notes	3,306	0.1			
Equity	769	0.0			
Others	63,328	1.1			
Loans and advances	2,668,613	47.9	Other liabilities	397,857	7.1
Other assets	158,905	2.8			
Total	5,566,446	100.0	Total	5,566,446	100.0

Source: Bank of Mauritius.

Table V.5. Assets of Contractual Savings Institutions, 2001–02

(In millions of Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

	2001	2002
Self-administered funds	2,458	4,058
Sugar Industry Pension Fund	2,161	2,196
Insured/administered funds	8,904	10,922
Occupational pension funds	13,523	17,176
NPF	21,772	22,422
NSF	2,849	3,380
Insurance companies	23,972	27,160
Total	62,116	70,138
Less double counting 1/	8,904	10,922
Total contractual savings		
Assets	53,212	59,216
Total assets/GDP ratio	42.5	40.0

Source: FSC.

1/ Insured and administered pension funds.

Table V.6. Asset Allocation of Contractual Savings, 2000-02

	Percent of Total Assets		
	2000	2001	2002
Shares and debentures	35	35	38
Mortgage loans	25	23	21
Government securities	7	9	13
Deposits and securities	13	14	9
Land and property	5	5	4
Other loans	5	4	4
Other assets	10	10	11
Total			

Source: FSC.

Domestic capital market

125. **The development of the capital market has lagged behind that of the banking sector.** The short-term money market has been inactive, and there is some market

segmentation, with the major foreign banks not offering interbank credit to smaller local banks. The primary government bond market is functioning well.⁴⁵ Treasury bills at 3-, 6-, 12- and 24-month maturities are all sold at weekly auctions.⁴⁶ The yield curve is generally reliable. However, the secondary bond market is at early stages of development.

126. The institutional, legal, and technical infrastructure of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius (SEM) is well developed, but the market is characterized by low volume, poor liquidity, and lack of depth. The SEM, incorporated in Mauritius on March 30, 1989, as a private limited company, operates two markets: the Official Market, on which securities of listed companies are traded, and the Over-The-Counter (OTC) Market. Currently, there are 40 companies listed on the Official Market representing a market capitalization of nearly US\$2.1 billion as at March 31, 2004. However, since the late 1990s, activities in the SEM have slowed. From 1999 to 2003, market capitalization declined from 37 percent to 34 percent of GDP, and the average turnover hovered around 6 percent, indicating that the market is small.

127. The corporate bond market has been functioning on the SEM for several years. Corporate debentures are traded by both the SEM as well as an OTC board in Mauritius. However, there has been no new issuances and trading activities are very low, partly because the government reversed its tax policy on interest payments a few years ago. The number of corporate debentures was 18 and 11 in December 2001 and December 2002, respectively. Total turnover value was MUS 1.81 million and 0.4 million, for December 2001 and December 2002, respectively, which only accounts for one hundred times the turnover value of equities during the same period.

Corporate sector

128. Surprisingly, in this small island economy, the corporate sector has a relatively large number of firms and a significant number of large firms. Summary statistics of the Registrar of Companies Financial, Incorporation, and Object databases show that the total number of corporations is about 10,000 in 2004. The number of large firms is about 450 and the number of medium firms is about 1,380.⁴⁷ Although the main corporate source of financing is banking loans, the large firms may have an incentive to issue corporate bonds as an alternative corporate financing.

⁴⁵ A system of primary dealers (PD) was introduced in 2002. Four banks—SBM, MCB, HSBC, and Barclays—are the primary dealers.

⁴⁶ The Development Loan Stock with maturities up to 15 years is issued annually, while the five-year bond is issued quarterly.

⁴⁷ Firm size is defined as follows: *Small firms* as less than MUR 10 million turnover; *Medium firms* as greater than MUR 10 million and less than MUR 80 million turnover; and *Large firms* as greater than MUR 80 million turnover.

129. **Banks and financial institutions enjoy strong and enforceable creditor rights, but the legal framework governing corporate insolvency⁴⁸ needs to be updated.** Nearly all corporate lending in Mauritius is done on a secured basis. Banks and financial institutions benefit from strong, preferential rights with respect to security and fixed and floating charges, but enforcement procedures are often slow and inefficient.

130. **There is a need to improve creditor protection and increase the recovery rate of loans.** A recent assessment by the World Bank (2004) concludes that, while the systems for creditor protection and credit recovery in Mauritius offer modern protection, court proceedings do not respond to the needs of a dynamic industry. Constraints in the systems and illiquid markets typically result in low recoveries, even for secured creditors.

131. **The authorities have taken a number of measures to strengthen the governance of commercial entities.** The Companies Act 2001, the new Listing, Rules, and the consolidation of financial regulation within the Financial Services Commission (FSC) have enhanced shareholder protections and contributed significantly to corporate governance improvements. In several areas, however, further reforms are necessary to enable shareholders to exercise better control over management and help protect against abuse, particularly in those cases where there is one dominant family or group that owns a controlling interest in the company's stock.

C. Benefits of an Efficient Corporate Bond Market

132. **Advantages of a well functioning corporate bond market have been reviewed extensively in the literature.** Boot and Thakor (1997) show that a financial system in its infancy will be bank dominated, and that bank lending declines as the financial market becomes more sophisticated. Hakansson (1999) compares the development of the economic structure between an economy with a well-developed corporate bond market and an economy in which bank financing plays a central role, suggesting a corporate bond market as a better way to control financial risks. Noel, Rebello, and Wang (2003) suggest that bond financing is a highly desirable choice for an economy in the long run because agents learn about the structure of security returns through trading experiences, and gravitate toward strategies that generate the highest payoffs. This results in the emergence of a financing hierarchy in which securitized debt dominates bank loans and other financing choices. Herring and Chatusripitak (2000) also conclude that the absence of a bond market may render an economy less efficient and significantly more vulnerable to financial crisis.

133. **A corporate bond market can reduce the credit risk concentration in banks.** In the absence of a corporate bond market, a major proportion of debt funding for corporations has to come from the banking sector. With a corporate bond market, however, the credit risk

⁴⁸ The basic law governing business activity in Mauritius is the Companies Act of 2001. This is heavily based on the New Zealand Companies Act of 1993, but tailored to suit the legal and commercial context of Mauritius.

of the corporate sector could be born by a large number of market participants, including households, NBFIs, and foreign investment firms. A much cited quote by Alan Greenspan (2000) is that bond markets can act like a “spare tire,” substituting for bank lending as a source of corporate funding at times when banks’ balance sheets are weak and banks are rationing credit.⁴⁹

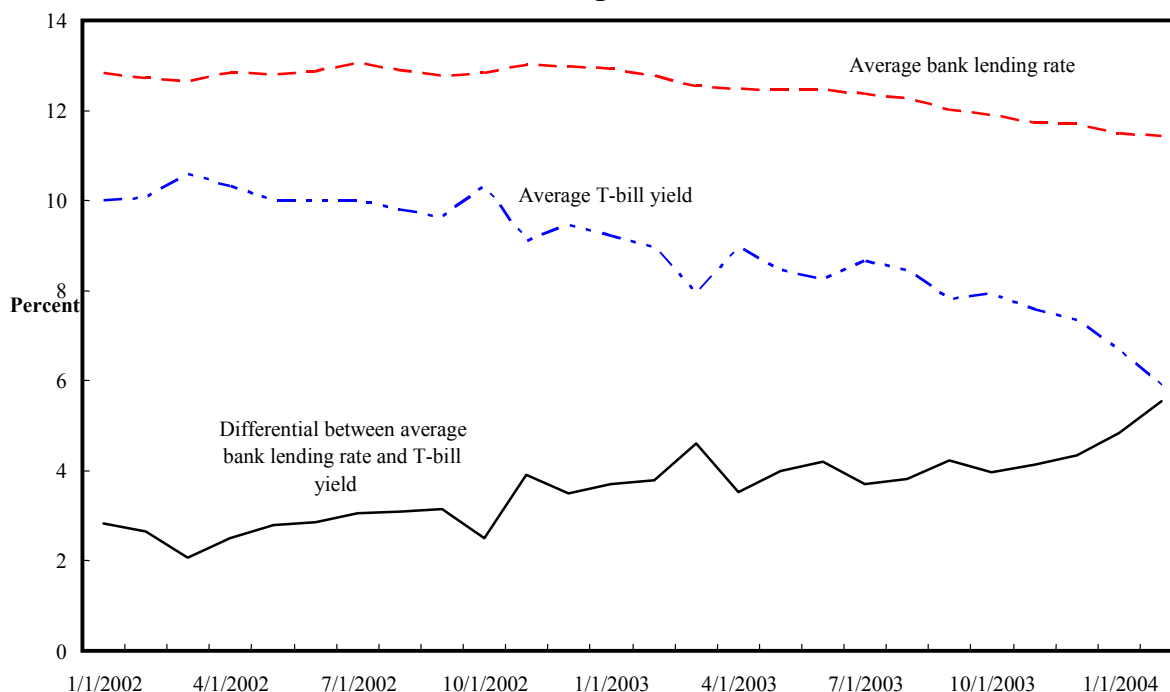
134. In the case of Mauritius, bank credit to the private sector has continued to decline during the last several years, and there is excess liquidity in the banking system, partly because of the cautious attitude of banks toward credit risk. Medium-term growth is likely to slow to around 4 percent per annum, relative to the historical average growth rate of 5.5 percent. To sustain economic growth in the medium term, it is necessary for the economy to diversify the credit risk currently concentrated in the onshore banks’ balance sheets.

135. For investors, an efficient corporate bond market provides long-term investment opportunities, and for the issuer, it lowers the cost of financing. The nonbank financial institutions, such as life insurance companies and pension funds, can reduce the maturity mismatch of assets and liabilities by investing in corporate bonds. For the issuer, by allowing firms to finance longer-term debts, corporate bonds enable the firms to invest in larger projects such as infrastructure and utilities, where substantial outlays may be required for some period of time before positive rates of return are realized. In addition, firms may reduce their financing costs by borrowing directly from investors, bypassing commercial banks. Also, while firms still go through underwriters, brokers and dealers to raise funds, the competition among these intermediaries is more intense compared to that of commercial banks, thus reducing intermediation costs.

136. The continued widening of interest rate differential between the average T-bill yield and the average bank lending rate increases demands for cheaper corporate financing in Mauritius (see Figure V. 3). Given balance sheet concerns, onshore banks are reluctant to reduce their lending rates, despite the presence of excess liquidity. In addition, the corporate bond market could potentially position itself between the government bond yields and the bank lending rate.

⁴⁹ Although an empirical study by Jiang et al (2001) indicate that bond issuance and bank lending are usually positively correlated, in both OECD and emerging economies, this positive relationship may take place at the early stage of the corporate bond market development with heavy bank involvement.

Figure V. 3. Differential between Average Bank Lending Rate and Average T-bill Rate



D. Factors Contributing to the Successful Development of a Corporate Bond Market

137. This section identifies a number of factors that appear to have been important in explaining the development (or lack of development) of corporate bond markets in emerging markets. The discussion is centered on six broad areas.

Institutional and legal framework

138. A crucial aspect of a well-functioning market is its legal framework and legal enforcement. Many successful countries, during their initial stage of development, adopted a legal system that incorporated an investor protection clause. Protection clauses define the limits of legal obligation for bankrupt issuers to repay their dues, and delineate procedures for enforcing them. Such a mechanism, similar to Chapter XI of the Bankruptcy Code in the U.S., gives companies protection from their creditors, while allowing investors to assess rationally the risks they face.

139. The legal framework should include information disclosure requirements on a regular basis. The authorities should ensure that corporate accounting standards are consistent with international practice, a lesson from the 1997 Asian crises. Even prior to the crises, these countries had operated large corporate bond markets. It was only revealed ex post that, due to the government's implicit guarantee to the corporate sector ("too big to

fail”), coupled with a poor credit rating mechanism, accounting standard, and reporting requirements, these bonds were mostly de facto bank loans.

140. **Sound corporate governance is also critical for corporate bond market development.** Better corporate governance can be implemented through several mechanisms, including improved laws, enhanced regulations and supervisions, and stronger enforcement of private contracts.

141. **In Mauritius, creditor protection should be given the top priority based on the lessons from emerging market countries.** The authorities need to improve the legal framework, which will address weaknesses mentioned in the 2004 ROSC assessment. In addition, sufficient creditor protection provisions and information disclosure requirements should be included in the current draft of the Security Act.

Developing the benchmark

142. **An efficient government bond market increases the efficiency of pricing of corporate bonds.** Market participants often use yields on certain “benchmark” issues to construct a term structure of risk-free returns, which are used in the pricing of a wider range of financial instruments, including and especially corporate bonds. Investors and issuers in such countries are more experienced with operations of securities markets, and are thus more likely to participate in the corporate bond market where a government bond market is active. The experiences of Asian countries indicate that the absence of an efficient government bond market could lead to a distorted corporate bond market development. In the case of Korea, the corporate bond market had been active prior to the crisis, despite a relatively underdeveloped government bond market. Without the benchmark yield curve provided by a large public debt market, especially in the shorter end of the curve, the pricing of corporate bonds was distorted, resulting in active trading of lower quality debts at high prices. This has been cited as one of the factors that triggered the financial crisis in 1997/98.

143. **The operation of an efficient money market is also an important precondition for developing corporate bond markets.** Schinasi and Smith (1998) argues that money markets provide an anchor to the short end of the yield curves and are critical for the pricing of bonds and bond derivatives.

144. **In the case of Mauritius, the authorities should attempt to build a yield curve on the money market and establish a connection with the primary bond market.** In doing so, the authorities should lengthen the maturities of current money market instruments from the existing one week to three months’ maturities. Also, further efforts are needed to improve the liquidity of the secondary government bond market. Along with the recent stock exchange listings of government bonds, efforts should be geared toward increasing competition by allowing more dealers to enter this market.

Credit risk assessment

145. **The presence of reputable international credit rating agencies is recognized as an important factor for the success of a bond market.** It contributes to eventual development of a well-functioning domestic credit rating system, which would increase the transparency of issuance and the transferability of corporate bonds, either in the primary or in the secondary market, and deepen the corporate bond market. Establishment and development of independent domestic credit agencies would provide sharper differentiation of credit risks within the domestic market.

146. **The pricing mechanism of corporate bonds can improve through measures such as the standardization of bond contracts, stock exchange listings, rating requirements and proactive ratings by some institutional investors in the market.** For example, since April 2000, the Thai authorities have required compulsory credit ratings for most corporate bonds to promote a credit culture and to discourage private placements from ending in the hands of unsophisticated retail investors. In the absence of credit rating agencies, as in the case of Chile, pension funds have played the role of rating agencies and have become the “price makers” in the market.

147. **In the case of Mauritius, the establishment of a credit information bureau would improve loan qualities by allowing lenders to assess better the credit risk of firms.** This should be followed by the eventual introduction of independent domestic credit rating agencies. Meanwhile, further efforts are needed to promote education and training on credit risk assessment. The presence of international rating agencies could contribute significantly during the early stages of developing credit risk assessment skills.

Building the investor base

148. **One of the major obstacles in building an investor base is the crowding out effect of government bonds.** In the case of Brazil, its debentures market faces major hurdles in becoming a reliable source of financing for the corporate sector because government securities are attractive to domestic investors (low credit risk, ample secondary market liquidity, high real yields, and in many cases, protection against exchange rate, inflation and interest rate risks through indexed bonds). Only local firms willing to pay rates in excess of 20 percent on three-year debentures are able to bid for domestic investors’ funds.

149. **Low and stable inflation, supported by credible monetary policy, is also important in building the investor base.** When the government bond yields are sufficiently low under a stable, low inflation environment, the individual and institutional investors become motivated to invest in corporate bonds. However, if inflation is not stable, a reversal of the interest rate cycle might lead to excessive adjustments in bond prices, especially in the markets where hedging instruments are unavailable or highly illiquid.

150. **Governments have often been involved in broadening the investor base during the initial stages of corporate bond market development.** In the case of Korea, the government enacted the Securities Investment Trust Business Act, and presidential decrees

and enforcement ordinances to introduce contractual-type investment trust companies (ITC) as a vehicle to mobilize domestic capital to build investor base. Commercial banks in Korea also introduced an investment vehicle, the bank trust accounts, and employed this new tool to enter the trust businesses. As a complementary measure to developing an investor base, the Korean government devised a safety net to encourage investor confidence by adopting a bond guarantee scheme during the early stage of development. In the case of Malaysia, which has also one of the largest corporate bond markets in emerging markets, the government established the Cagamas Berhad, the national mortgage corporation, in 1987, to develop a secondary mortgage market and at the same time promote the development of the corporate bond market.

151. Banks can contribute to increasing demand for corporate bonds. In some countries, banks are major holders of corporate bonds. For example, in Indonesia, banks hold the majority of corporate bonds, and this was the case in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Malaysia. Banks may hold a smaller portion over time as institutional investors develop. Banks typically hold a large share of short-term government debt to meet liquidity requirements and they dominate the short-end of the bond market.

152. NBFIs, such as pension funds and insurance companies, also play an important part in the development of a corporate bond market in the medium term. For example, the Chilean pension reform in the early 1980s had a significant positive effect on the development of the long-term corporate bond market. This was so because pension funds (and also insurance companies) were in need of a larger asset base and longer term assets to reduce the mismatch of their asset/liability portfolio. The issuance of corporate bonds in Chile rose from less than US\$100 million in 1995 to over US\$10 billion in 2003.

153. It is also important to develop the retail investor base in the long run. In order to widen the retail investor base, both Hong Kong SAR and Singapore have initiated programs designed to place a portion of the assets of the mandatory provident funds in the hands of private fund managers. Hong Kong SAR's Mandatory Provident Fund trustees have received more inflows than expected when the system started in December 2000; one-third of the funds is invested in the bond market. In Singapore, demand for bonds has also been generated by farming out part of the assets of the Central Provident Fund to private asset managers, and by the placement of investment mandates of the government and other government-linked entities with private sector fund managers. Issuing bonds in smaller bills would also extend investment opportunities to individuals and enlarge the investor base, especially in Mauritius where the household saving rate is very high.

154. Measures such as favorable tax treatment for investors, and issuance of securitized bonds, are also effective in attracting investors. Singapore has implemented various kinds of tax incentives to participate in the debt market, that benefit both residents and nonresidents. In particular, foreigners have been allowed to borrow from domestic banks in order to invest in the domestic corporate bond market, and have been granted tax exemptions on interest income earned. With regard to securitized bonds, Chile has experienced a strong increase in these bonds, rising from an issuance of below US\$50

million in 1999 to over US\$1.4 billion in 2003, by starting with mortgage loans and expanding it to car loans, credit card, and university credit.

155. **In the case of Mauritius, the government should harmonize the tax treatment of interest income on all financial instruments, and aim to remove tax and other barriers that discourage the issuance of corporate bonds and the active presence of institutional investors in corporate bond markets.** Mauritius should also take advantage of its foreign clientele network from the OFCs, both as the issuer (as in the case of Switzerland) and as the investor to boost corporate bond market activities. Stock listings of corporate bonds can also be explored as a venue to expand the retail investor base.

Building the issuer base

156. **Various government strategies have been introduced to boost the supply of corporate bonds.** Attracting more issuers can be difficult for a small economy. It becomes even more difficult if the economic outlook is bleak, because firms are not willing to increase investments. Some countries facing similar limitations began by encouraging statutory boards and government-linked corporations to tap the bond markets rather than opt for direct bank lending. The financial centers of Hong Kong SAR and Singapore have encouraged statutory boards and government-linked corporations to issue local bonds to help develop the market.

157. **The government can play a proactive role in attracting foreign issuers.** In the case of Singapore, the government has been actively encouraging issues not only from Singapore but also from foreign issuers. After the development of the market infrastructure and the establishment of a benchmark yield curve, the Singapore authorities removed some of the remaining restrictions that prevented the internationalization of the Singapore dollar. The recent liberalization measures complement previous efforts to attract foreign asset managers and strengthen Singapore's position as the main Southeast Asian financial center. It has been emulating Switzerland, where foreign entities are active issuers of Swiss franc bonds.⁵⁰

158. **Banks can become a large issuer of bonds.** In several countries, such as Brazil, China, Germany, India, and Indonesia, banks use bond markets to supplement deposits as a source of funds. Banks may also act as underwriters for corporate bond issues, promising to take up any shortfalls if corporate bonds cannot be sold at an agreed minimum price

⁵⁰ It should be noted that opening the market to foreigners may entail foreign exchange rate risk. In the case of Singapore, the government required foreign issuers to convert or swap their Singapore dollar proceeds into a foreign currency before remitting abroad in order to limit Singapore dollars held outside of the country and preventing the possibility of its currency being used to attack the exchange rate. To compensate investors, the Singaporean authorities have opened the door for currency swaps, resulting in a "synthetic" foreign currency loan for foreign issuers.

(maximum yield). Banks then take on market risk rather than credit risk. Over 90 percent of bonds in Hong Kong are underwritten by banks.

159. **Credit guarantees can help issuers with low credit ratings to issue higher-grade bonds to gain access to the market.** Many countries have introduced bond guarantee schemes for credit enhancement purposes. In such cases, banks became the guarantors and earn fee income by guaranteeing full or partial repayment on corporate bonds.

160. **Asset securitization may allow private entities to free up more capital and financial resources.** In particular, the issuance of asset-backed securities (ABS), can prove useful to borrowers without a well-established track record to raise funds through the bond market, and which may be particularly relevant to young, second-tier companies new to the bond market and without a high credit profile. Many companies in Mauritius could fall under this category. The jurisdictions that have adopted a formal ABS issuance framework include South Africa and Singapore. Argentina has also seen strong growth in ABS issuance following introduction of securitization facilities, with ABS issues growing by six times over the period 1998-2000.

161. **In the case of Mauritius, the onshore banks can become the initial issuers of corporate bonds to finance their assets.** Consideration should be given to extend this privilege to the offshore banks. The development of asset-backed securities, including mortgage securitization, could provide liquidity to lenders. This would assist lenders in diversifying their credit risk and allow them to lend on a longer-term basis without maturity mismatches.

162. **A relatively large number of big firms in Mauritius's corporate sector can potentially become the main issuer base for the corporate bonds in the long term.** Credit enhancements, such as collateral and guarantees, could lower the costs of new issues and help firms access the corporate bond market. However, about 40 domestic firms listed in the SEM, which have already had some track records for assessing credit risk, could become the initial issuers of the corporate bond market.

Developing efficient primary and liquid secondary markets

163. **A successful launch of a primary corporate bond market depends heavily on the cost of issuance of bonds.** In Hong Kong SAR, for instance, the cost of public issuance is estimated to be four times that of the private placement, and this has been cited as one factor that constrains the development of corporate bond markets. In the case of India, the lengthy issuance procedure has contributed to the dominance of private placements.

164. **Many countries continue to face relatively inactive secondary markets, even after successful launch of bond markets.** Very often, the system lacks transparency in the market-making process, thus inducing institutional investors to hold securities to maturity. The secondary market is, thus, prone to experience low liquidity and market fragmentation, often together with information asymmetry, and the corporate bond market faces pricing anomalies. Regulatory restrictions that prevent banks from doing repurchase agreements with

corporate bonds are also seen as an obstacle for the development of a liquid secondary market. Many countries are tackling the problem by first fostering government bond markets to establish a solid benchmark yield curve and to familiarize market participants with bond trading. Some emerging markets have introduced credit derivatives markets to foster active trading in the secondary market. In the case of Singapore, the authorities opened up the liquid swap market to offshore banks and securities dealers, and provided market players with a hedging mechanism by launching the three-month Singapore dollar interest rate futures contract and Singapore Government Securities bond futures contract. The country has also made the infrastructure more conducive to market development by encouraging the use of e-bond technology and business.

165. To improve regulation of corporate bond markets, many jurisdictions are trying to encourage more organized, stock exchange-based trading of bonds, as it is viewed as being better regulated. A stock exchange listing can serve a useful function in secondary markets for bonds, even if most trading occurs on the OTC. Exchange listing provides an important safeguard for small investors, and therefore contributes positively to liquidity of the overall market. However, bond markets typically remain a wholesale market, and the OTC may play a more important role. In some countries, the authorities have taken steps to formalize OTC activities, with a view to achieving some benefits of exchange-based trading within an OTC setting.

166. In the case of Mauritius, issuance procedures for corporate bonds should be simplified and transparency strengthened in the current draft of the Security Act and other related laws. Although private placement has a low cost compared with public issuance, Mauritius should exercise caution on private placement, especially if it wants to develop a regional corporate bond market.

167. It is expected that Mauritius would have difficulties in increasing liquidity on the secondary corporate bond market. The standardization of the corporate bond contract is helpful for liquidity of the secondary market. In addition, developing a credit derivative market can contribute to increased liquidity.

E. Conclusion

168. Mauritius is both well placed and in need of developing a corporate bond market. The well-developed financial sector, the good legal system, sound corporate governance, a relatively large corporate sector, and strong public institutions serve as good foundations to develop such a market. In addition, institutional investors such as NBFIs are seeking long-term investment opportunities. Furthermore, Mauritius's corporate sector needs a lower-cost financing option than currently dominant bank loans. Also, the corporate bond market allows firms to issue longer-term debts for larger projects and other capital-intensive investments necessary for long-term growth. Finally, the development of a corporate bond market is also timely, given the current low interest rate environment and widening differential between average T-bill yield and average bank lending rate.

169. However, developing an efficient corporate bond market in Mauritius requires a well-designed strategy, long-term reform efforts, and an active government role. In light of the emerging market experiences discussed in the previous sections, the following factors are critical: (i) improving the legal framework; (ii) developing the benchmarks; (iii) improving credit risk assessment skills; (iv) enlarging the investor base; (v) building the issuer base; and (vi) developing efficient primary and secondary bond markets.

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Table 1. Mauritius: GDP Real Growth Rates by Industrial Origin, 1999-2003

(Annual change in percent)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing	-25.8	33.3	7.2	-14.4	1.4
Sugarcane growing	-43.9	64.5	9.9	-19.3	2.7
Other agriculture	3.1	9.4	4.3	-8.4	0.0
Mining and quarrying	3.0	3.0	3.0	-50.0	3.0
Manufacturing	2.0	7.9	4.4	-2.1	0.3
Sugar milling	-45.0	64.5	9.9	-19.3	2.7
Export processing zone	6.0	6.0	4.4	-6.0	-4.0
Other manufacturing	5.1	7.0	4.1	4.2	4.4
Electricity, gas, and water	8.6	23.2	11.2	2.3	5.4
Construction	8.5	7.5	1.5	7.6	12.0
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs and personal and household goods	5.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Wholesale and retail trade	5.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Other retail services	7.7	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Hotels and restaurants	4.0	13.5	1.0	3.2	2.7
Transport, storage, and communications	7.4	11.4	8.9	6.7	6.4
Financial intermediation	10.3	14.6	11.0	2.0	6.1
Insurance	6.0	5.0	10.0	8.0	6.2
Banking and other (including offshore)	12.2	18.5	11.4	0.0	6.1
Real estate, renting, and business activities	6.2	6.4	7.2	6.5	6.6
Ownership of dwellings	3.2	3.1	3.6	3.2	3.2
Other	9.7	9.9	10.8	9.5	9.4
Public administration, defense, and social security	3.6	4.5	3.9	6.3	4.8
Education	6.4	8.8	4.7	5.0	6.2
Health and social work	7.8	6.1	5.8	8.3	7.4
Other services	7.0	5.3	6.9	6.0	7.6
Imputed bank service charges	12.2	18.5	7.0	5.5	5.1
GDP at basic prices	2.3	9.3	5.6	1.9	4.4
Taxes on products (net of subsidies)	6.0	3.9	2.5	3.0	4.0
GDP at market prices	2.8	8.6	5.2	2.0	4.4

Source: Central Statistics Office, *National Accounts of Mauritius*.

Table 2. Mauritius: GDP at Current Prices by Industrial Origin, 1999-2003

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing	5,613	7,144	8,434	7,910	8,440
Sugarcane growing	2,433	3,742	4,646	4,102	4,500
Other agriculture	3,180	3,402	3,788	3,808	3,940
Mining and quarrying	134	142	150	75	80
Manufacturing	22,432	24,702	27,423	28,278	29,401
Sugar milling	546	840	1,436	1,268	1,390
Export processing zone	11,697	12,523	13,681	13,600	13,450
Other manufacturing	10,189	11,339	12,306	13,409	14,560
Electricity, gas, and water	1,412	1,820	2,634	2,971	3,365
Construction	5,620	6,225	6,540	7,319	8,450
Wholesale and retail trade and other retail services	12,312	13,010	13,745	14,715	16,025
Wholesale and retail trade	11,842	12,464	13,125	14,000	15,200
Other retail services	470	545	620	715	825
Hotels and restaurants	5,630	5,860	7,430	7,550	7,990
Transport, storage, and communications	11,314	13,577	15,124	16,844	18,735
Financial intermediation	7,607	9,555	11,472	11,901	13,485
Insurance	2,220	2,400	2,851	3,251	3,700
Banking and other (including offshore)	5,387	7,156	8,622	8,650	9,785
Real estate, renting, and business activities	8,431	9,372	10,517	11,743	13,144
Ownership of dwellings	4,358	4,672	5,034	5,406	5,805
Other	4,073	4,700	5,483	6,337	7,340
Public administration, defense, and social security	6,402	7,000	7,438	8,106	9,315
Education	4,300	4,833	5,222	5,661	6,460
Health and social work	2,754	3,032	3,311	3,722	4,340
Other services	3,723	3,952	4,407	4,868	5,515
Imputed bank service charges	-4,356	-5,707	-6,290	-6,968	-7,650
GDP at factor cost	93,328	104,517	117,558	124,696	137,094
Sugar	2,979	4,582	6,083	5,370	5,890
Nonsugar	90,349	99,935	111,475	119,326	131,204
Net indirect taxes	14,116	14,977	14,498	16,951	19,700
GDP at market prices	107,444	119,494	132,056	141,647	156,794

Source: Central Statistics Office, *National Accounts of Mauritius*.

Table 3. Mauritius: Real Growth Rates of Expenditure on GDP, 1999-2003

(Annual change in percent)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
Consumption	4.2	4.0	3.2	3.3	3.7
Private	3.9	3.5	2.8	2.8	3.6
Government	5.6	6.5	5.3	5.6	4.6
Gross fixed capital formation	22.1	-8.2	2.7	1.9	11.2
Private	10.6	0.8	-2.7	2.0	-5.5
Public 1/	53.1	-25.6	16.8	1.3	48.2
Exports	1.4	4.0	17.4	-7.0	-3.0
Goods excluding Freeport activities, f.o.b.	-3.7	0.1	11.7	-5.4	-4.7
Freeport activities, f.o.b.	-18.0	35.5	46.2	-13.1	-1.4
Nonfactor services	13.9	6.3	20.6	-8.0	-1.0
Imports	4.7	2.2	4.6	-4.3	-1.3
Goods excluding Freeport activities, f.o.b.	9.3	7.5	-0.6	-2.5	-1.3
Freeport activities, f.o.b.	-21.4	35.7	44.0	-23.1	-10.8
Nonfactor services	-3.1	8.8	11.1	-4.2	0.5
GDP at market prices	2.8	8.6	5.2	2.0	4.4

Source: Central Statistics Office, *National Accounts of Mauritius*.

1/ Includes purchases of ships and/or aircraft.

Table 4. Mauritius: Expenditure on GDP at Current Prices, 1999-2003

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
Consumption	82,903	89,521	96,864	106,240	117,050
Private	68,710	73,939	80,112	88,038	96,350
Government	14,193	15,582	16,753	18,202	20,700
Gross fixed capital formation	29,676	28,069	29,798	31,369	35,860
Private	19,590	20,340	20,463	21,590	20,965
Public 1/	10,086	7,729	9,335	9,779	14,895
Increase in stocks	-1,373	2,576	-2,434	-1,197	895
Net exports	-3,762	-672	7,827	5,233	2,990
Exports	69,099	73,841	90,463	88,301	89,080
Goods, f.o.b.	43,140	45,707	54,846	53,893	53,660
Nonfactor services	25,959	28,134	35,617	34,408	35,420
Imports	72,861	74,513	82,636	83,068	86,090
Goods, f.o.b.	55,498	54,483	59,037	59,326	61,045
Nonfactor services	17,363	20,030	23,599	23,742	25,045
GDP at market prices	107,444	119,494	132,055	141,645	156,794
Memorandum items:					
Domestic savings	24,541	29,973	35,190	35,405	39,745
Domestic investment	28,303	30,645	27,363	30,172	36,755
Resource gap	3,762	672	-7,827	-5,233	-2,990

Source: Central Statistics Office, *National Accounts of Mauritius*.

1/ Includes purchases of ships and/or aircraft in 1999 and 2001.

Table 5. Mauritius: Real Growth Rates of Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation, 1999-2003

(Annual change in percent)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
By type of capital goods	22.1	-8.2	2.7	1.9	11.2
Residential building	3.3	7.3	5.0	-5.6	15.2
Nonresidential building	25.9	11.2	-5.7	22.3	6.2
Other construction and works	4.8	6.0	10.0	11.4	25.6
Transport equipment					
Passenger cars	2.7	-2.5	-2.4	19.2	6.4
Other equipment 1/	191.0	65.1	108.2	47.2	45.4
Machinery and other equipment	17.9	-8.1	-11.0	5.1	1.1
By industrial sector	22.1	-8.2	2.7	1.9	11.2
Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing	4.1	-22.2	-9.5	23.9	-6.4
Manufacturing	5.6	0.0	-5.6	8.1	0.7
<i>Of which:</i> export processing zone	13.0	-5.8	-0.5	-18.5	6.4
Electricity, gas and water	11.7	-28.8	-19.6	-17.1	43.5
Construction	-4.2	8.0	-19.1	-49.9	108.2
Wholesale and retail trade	9.7	13.7	-8.5	15.6	-3.6
Restaurants and hotels	64.1	-0.2	-2.9	32.8	-35.8
Transport, storage, and communications 1/	86.0	-39.9	39.4	-31.0	28.1
Financial intermediation	-6.9	-16.0	21.4	33.8	-12.2
Real estate, renting, and business activities	4.4	8.4	0.1	-3.7	19.8
Ownership of dwellings	3.3	7.3	5.0	-5.6	15.2
Other	12.9	15.9	-32.1	15.1	114.8
Public administration, defense, and compulsory social security	36.6	-3.7	-13.1	41.8	16.3
Education	-16.6	9.7	-0.6	96.7	18.5
Health and social work	-28.3	45.8	-8.8	76.2	-5.6
Other services	-31.9	147.4	12.0	9.4	53.2

Source: Central Statistics Office, *National Accounts of Mauritius*.

1/ Includes purchases of ships and/or aircraft.

Table 6. Mauritius: Composition of Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation
at Current Prices, 1999-2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov
(In millions of Mauritian rupees)					
By type of capital goods	29,676	28,069	29,798	31,369	35,860
Residential building	5,460	6,035	6,525	6,408	7,605
Nonresidential building	5,066	5,802	5,635	7,170	7,845
Other construction and works	3,050	3,330	3,774	4,371	5,655
Transport equipment	5,417	2,792	4,511	3,297	4,215
Passenger cars	1,310	1,316	1,330	1,601	1,725
Other equipment 1/	4,107	1,476	3,181	1,696	2,490
Machinery and other equipment	10,683	10,110	9,353	10,123	10,540
By industrial sector	29,676	28,069	29,798	31,369	35,860
Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing	864	692	648	827	795
Manufacturing	4,332	4,464	4,372	4,872	5,045
Of which: export processing zone	1,755	1,702	1,758	1,475	1,615
Electricity, gas and water	2,616	1,918	1,594	1,371	2,025
Construction	545	606	509	260	555
Wholesale and retail trade, repairs and personal and household services	1,932	2,263	2,140	2,551	2,520
Hotels and restaurants	2,837	2,915	2,920	4,023	2,660
Transport, storage, and communications 1/	7,321	4,533	6,547	4,640	6,080
Financial intermediation	629	544	684	942	850
Real estate, renting, and business activities	6,219	6,941	7,162	7,159	9,260
Ownership of dwellings	5,460	6,035	6,525	6,408	7,605
Other	759	906	637	751	1,655
Public administration, defense, and compulsory social security	1,288	1,278	1,146	1,680	2,010
Education	440	497	510	1,041	1,270
Health and social work	235	353	334	607	590
Other services	418	1,065	1,232	1,396	2,200
(In percent of total)					
By type of capital goods	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Residential building	18.4	21.5	21.9	20.4	21.2
Nonresidential building	17.1	20.7	18.9	22.9	21.9
Other construction and works	10.3	11.9	12.7	13.9	15.8
Transport equipment	18.3	9.9	15.1	10.5	11.8
Passenger cars	4.4	4.7	4.5	5.1	4.8
Other equipment 1/	13.8	5.3	10.7	5.4	6.9
Machinery and other equipment	36.0	36.0	31.4	32.3	29.4
By industrial sector	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.2
Manufacturing	14.6	15.9	14.7	15.5	14.1
Of which: export processing zone	5.9	6.1	5.9	4.7	4.5
Electricity, gas and water	8.8	6.8	5.3	4.4	5.6
Construction	1.8	2.2	1.7	0.8	1.5
Wholesale and retail trade	6.5	8.1	7.2	8.1	7.0
Restaurants and hotels	9.6	10.4	9.8	12.8	7.4
Transport, storage, and communications 1/	24.7	16.1	22.0	14.8	17.0
Financial intermediation	2.1	1.9	2.3	3.0	2.4
Real estate, renting, and business activities	21.0	24.7	24.0	22.8	25.8
Ownership of dwellings	18.4	21.5	21.9	20.4	21.2
Other	2.6	3.2	2.1	2.4	4.6
Public administration, defense, and compulsory social security	4.3	4.6	3.8	5.4	5.6
Education	1.5	1.8	1.7	3.3	3.5
Health and social work	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.9	1.6
Other services	1.4	3.8	4.1	4.5	6.1

Source: Central Statistics Office, *National Accounts of Mauritius*.

1/ Includes purchases of ships and/or aircraft.

Table 7. Mauritius: Sugar Cultivation, Yields, and Output, 1999-2003

(Area in thousands of arpents; yields in metric tons per arpent harvested; and production, accruals, and consumption in thousands of metric tons, unless otherwise indicated) 1/

	1999	2000	2001 Rev.	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
Area under cultivation	187.1	182.3	181.2	178.9	...
Miller-planters 2/	86.6	91.9	91.6	76.6	...
Planters	100.5	90.4	89.6	102.3	...
Area harvested 3/	171.7	173.1	173.4	171.2	169.7
Miller-planters 2/	78.7	85.0	84.1	70.2	67.0
Planters	93.0	88.1	89.3	101.0	102.7
Percent harvested	91.8	95.0	95.7	95.7	...
Miller-planters 2/	90.9	92.5	91.8	91.6	...
Planters	92.5	97.5	99.7	98.7	...
Cane yield	22.6	29.5	33.4	28.5	30.6
Miller-planters 2/	28.0	33.9	37.3	32.7	34.5
Planters	18.1	25.3	39.7	25.6	28.1
Cane production	3,882.0	5,109.0	5,792.0	4,874.0	5,199.0
Miller-planters 2/	2,203.0	2,878.0	3,139.0	2,293.0	2,308.7
Planters	1,679.0	2,231.0	2,653.0	2,581.0	2,890.3
Commercial sugar recovered (percent of cane)	9.6	11.1	11.1	10.7	10.3
Sugar yield	2.2	3.3	3.7	3.0	3.2
Sugar production	373.4	569.3	645.0	520.9	537.2
White	2.4	3.1	5.0	7.1	0.5
Raw	371.0	566.2	640.0	513.8	536.7
Sugar accruals 4/	373.3	569.3	645.0	520.9	537.2
Planters	...	...	...	...	...
Miller-planters 5/	...	...	...	...	...
Millers	...	...	...	...	...
Molasses production	124.7	144.0	174.0	140.8	160.0
Memorandum items:					
Sugar production by fiscal year 5/ 6/	619.1	389.0	583.9	615.3	...
<i>Of which</i> : local consumption 5/ 7/	3.7	0.0	0.0	26.4	...

Sources: Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture; Central Statistics Office; and IMF staff estimates.

1/ One arpent = 1.043 acres, or 0.4221 hectare.

2/ Mills and estates, including legally separate companies under same ownership.

3/ Difference from area cultivated is attributable mainly to replanting and rotational/fallow periods.

4/ Reflects millers' 26 percent share of sugar produced as compensation for milling, as adjusted for mill efficiency.

5/ Fiscal-year data relate to 12-month period ending in June of current year.

6/ Total crop from harvest beginning approximately one month before the start of the fiscal year indicated, less the output in June immediately before the indicated fiscal year, plus the June output of the next crop, most of which is produced in the next fiscal year.

7/ During 2001/02, 17,050 tons of sugar were imported for local consumption.

Imports for the 2002/03 period were 32,000 tons for local consumption.

Table 8. Mauritius: Sugar Exports, 1998/99-2002/03 1/

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 Rev. Est.
(In thousands of metric tons)					
Volume shipped	628.5	378.5	565.0	589.9	515.0
European Union	524.8	368.8	540.0	520.0	484.9
United States	18.5	6.0	5.0	19.8	1.9
World market	4.5	3.7	6.0	6.5	6.4
Special Preferential Sugar Agreement 2/	80.7	0.0	14.0	43.6	21.8
(Mauritian rupees per metric ton)					
Unit value	14,691	14,267	12,844	14,657	16,061
European Union	15,166	14,284	12,900	14,877	16,232
United States	12,703	16,167	17,600	13,333	15,789
World market	9,111	9,459	9,667	10,769	11,188
Special Preferential Sugar Agreement 2/	12,367	0	10,357	13,211	13,716
(In millions of Mauritian rupees)					
Value, f.o.b.	9,233	5,400	7,257	8,646	8,272
European Union	7,959	5,268	6,966	7,736	7,871
United States	235	97	88	264	30
World market	41	35	58	70	72
Special Preferential Sugar Agreement 2/	998	0	145	576	299
(U.S. dollars per metric ton)					
Unit value	591.9	559.2	465.5	487.0	563.6
European Union	611.1	559.9	467.6	494.3	569.6
United States	511.8	633.7	637.9	443.0	554.0
World market	367.1	370.8	350.4	357.8	392.5
Special Preferential Sugar Agreement 2/	498.3	...	375.4	439.0	481.2
(In millions of U.S. dollars)					
Value, f.o.b.	372.0	211.7	263.0	287.3	290.2
European Union	320.7	206.5	252.5	257.1	276.2
United States	9.5	3.8	3.2	8.8	1.1
World market	1.7	1.4	2.1	2.3	2.5
Special Preferential Sugar Agreement 2/	40.2	...	5.3	19.1	10.5
(Mauritian rupees per U.S. dollars)					
Conversion factor	24.819	25.512	27.591	30.095	28.500

Sources: Mauritius Sugar Syndicate (MSS); and Bank of Mauritius.

1/ Fiscal year from July to June. Data differ somewhat from those presented by the MSS on a crop-year basis, which refer to disposal of a given year's crop (from June when harvest starts, to the following June).

2/ The Special Preferential Sugar Agreement was signed on June 1, 1995 between Atlantic, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) sugar-supplying countries and the European Union to compensate for the European cane refiners' deficit for a period of six years, to 2001. It provides Mauritius with the right to export a variable tonnage of approximately 80,000 tons of sugar.

Table 9. Mauritius: Ex-Syndicate Sugar Prices, 1998/99-2002/03 1/

(Mauritian rupees per ton)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03 Rev. Est.
Average sugar prices (ex-millers)	13,250	12,374	11,570	12,835	14,047
Average price, after taxes and crop insurance premiums	12,064	12,374	11,570	12,835	14,047
Memorandum items:					
Average SIFB insurance premiums	1,166	1,797	1,048	1,123	1,531
Bagasse proceeds 2/	66	120	97	100	125

Source: Mauritius Sugar Syndicate.

1/ Marketing years.

2/ Paid to planters but not to millers.

Table 10. Mauritius: Revenue and Expenditure of Sugar Estates with Factories, 1999-2003 1/ 2/

(In millions of Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Est.	2003 Prov.
Production and prices	(Production in thousands of metric tons; and prices in Mauritian rupees per metric ton)				
Sugar output (at 98.5 polarization)					
National total	374	569	646	521	537
Estates with factories	266	396	442	367	371
Sugar price, ex-syndicate 3/	12,374	11,602	12,875	14,097	15,200
Molasses output					
National total	127	146	175	141	160
Estates with factories	79	90	105	87	99
Molasses price	145	436	902	599	350
	(In millions of Mauritian rupees)				
Revenue	4,990	5,097	6,108	5,928	6,466
Sugar 3/	3,291	4,597	5,694	5,174	5,634
Molasses	11	39	95	52	35
Electricity, white sugar, and by-products	186	267	309	270	422
Crop insurance compensation	1,502	194	10	432	375
Operating expenditure	4,974	5,542	5,794	5,106	5,272
Wages and salaries	2,622	3,042	3,130	2,269	2,326
Agricultural workers	1367	1582	1627	1180	1209
Nonagricultural workers	690	791	814	590	605
Administrative staff	565	669	689	499	512
Supplies and other charges	1914	2071	2180	2330	2360
Supplies	759	806	846	955	965
Interest	371	461	496	458	468
Other charges	784	804	838	917	927
Centralisation costs	0	0	0	35	51
Crop insurance premium and levy	438	429	484	472	535
Operating surplus/deficit (-)	17	-445	315	821	1194
VRS - amortization	0	0	0	0	-400
Depreciation per accounts (-)	-492	-475	-481	-465	-469
Profit/loss (-) on sugar	-475	-920	-166	356	325
Net nonsugar income 4/	1104	641	2326	900	686
Receipts 5/	1329	914	2667	1200	986
Payments (-)	-225	-273	-341	-300	-300
Overall profit/loss (-)	629	-279	2160	1256	1011

Table 10. Mauritius: Revenue and Expenditure of Sugar Estates with Factories,
1999-2003 1/ 2/ (concluded)

(In millions of Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Est.	2003 Prov.
(In millions of Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)					
Transfer to modernization and agricultural diversification reserve 6/	-7	-33	-32	-175	-175
Special levy	0	0	0	0	0
Memorandum items:					
Income taxes	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0
Excess over accounts	0	0	0	0	0
Additions to fixed assets	0	0	0	0	0

Sources: Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture; Mauritius Sugar Authority; and IMF staff estimates.

1/ Based on companies' audited accounts, in which accounting practices vary somewhat, supplemented by questionnaire returns.

2/ Accounting-year basis. Mainly calendar years, except Illovo and Mon Trésor (April-March).

Revenues include receipts (partly estimated) from current year's crop through following June 30.

3/ Less Mauritius Sugar Syndicate marketing expenses and cesses; before export taxes and insurance premiums.

Reflects actual final price, whereas company accounts are closed using an estimate.

4/ Income on other crops and nonagricultural activities.

5/ Figure does not include additional receipts relating to the Illovo deal.

6/ Producers are requested to credit an aggregate amount of MUR 175 million to a modernization and agricultural diversification reserve for each of the years 1994-2003. Transfers from this reserve are allowed on approved investments.

Table 11. Mauritius: Nonsugar Agricultural Production, 1999-2003

(In thousands of metric tons, unless otherwise indicated)

	1999	2000	2001 Rev. Est.	2002 Prov.	2003 Prov.
Tea					
Area harvested (in thousands of arpents) 1/	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Production		7.6	8.9	8.4	8.3
Green leaf processed	7.0	6.3	7.4	7.0	6.9
Manufactured tea	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4
Green leaf yields (tons per hectare)	10.6	9.5	11.3	11.0	10.2
Food crops					
Area harvested (in thousands of arpents) 1/	14.3	17.4	18.9	18.0	...
Production	85.7	114.5	133.5	125.0	...
Potatoes	15.7	14.5	18.8	17.6	...
Irish	15.3	13.8	18.3	17.0	...
Sweet	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.6	...
Tomatoes	8.0	9.7	11.7	11.0	...
Eggplant (brinjal)	1.7	2.2	2.7	2.5	...
Bananas	7.6	8.5	10.1	7.0	...
Pineapples	1.0	3.4	6.0	6.0	...
Groundnuts	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	...
Maize 2/	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	...
Manioc	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	...
Ginger	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.0	...
Other 3/	51.0	74.5	82.4	78.9	...

Sources: Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture; and Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology, and Natural Resources.

1/ One arpent = 1.043 acres, or 0.4221 hectare.

2/ Includes maize that is sent to drying stations; does not include fodder.

3/ Includes beans and peas, eddoes (arouille), creepers (cucumber and squash), and mixed vegetables (beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chilies, garlic, onions, and lettuce).

Table 12. Mauritius: Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Activity, 1999-2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev.	2003 Prov.
	(Numbers)				
Total firms 1/	512	518	522	506	506
Textiles	285	286	286	274	272
Other	227	232	236	232	234
Total employees 1/	91,374	90,682	87,607	87,204	77,623
Textiles	80,960	80,001	77,003	76,570	67,251
Other	10,414	10,681	10,604	10,634	10,372
	(In millions of Mauritian rupees)				
EPZ investments	1,755	1,702	1,758	1,475	1,614
Plant and machinery	1,635	1,557	1,444	1,452	1,506
Buildings	120	145	314	23	108
EPZ value added					
Basic prices	11,697	12,523	13,681	13,600	13,450
Constant 1992 prices	7,474	7,922	8,271	7,774	7,463

Source: Central Statistics Office, *Digest of Industrial Statistics*.

1/ As at December.

Table 13. Mauritius: Electricity Production and Consumption, 1999-2003 1/

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
(In megawatts)					
Plant effective capacity	425.7	497.9	513.5	513.5	513.5
(In percent of total)					
Hydroelectric effective capacity	12.8	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.6
<i>Of which</i> : purchases 2/	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Thermal effective capacity	87.2	89.1	89.1	89.1	89.4
<i>Of which</i> : purchases 2/	21.2	27.2	27.2	27.2	29.4
(In millions of kilowatt-hours)					
Energy generated	1,422.6	1,564.9	1,657.1	1,715.1	1,840.0
Hydroelectric	29.6	95.3	70.4	85.6	117.7
Thermal	1,393.0	1,469.6	1,586.6	1,629.5	1,722.3
Energy purchased from sugar and other factories	343.8	601.2	710.2	746.6	729.4
Energy sold	1,229.3	1,358.5	1,450.0	1,502.0	1,607.0
(Annual growth in percent, unless otherwise indicated)					
Energy generated	4.2	10.0	5.9	3.5	7.3
Energy purchased from sugar and other factories	34.3	74.87	18.12	5.13	-2.30
Energy sold	4.5	10.5	6.7	3.6	7.0
Consumers at year's end (numbers)	304,029	313,963	323,213	330,323	338,563
<i>Of which</i> : domestic (percent of total)	89.2	89.1	89.2	89.2	89.3
Annual percentage increase of consumers	3.5	3.3	2.9	2.2	2.5
Average selling prices (Mauritian cents per kilowatt-hour)	211.0	230.0	269.0	304.1	306.0
(In millions of Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)					
Central Electricity Board indicators					
Revenue	2,659.0	3,300.4	4,136.9	4,842.8	5,179.2
Current expenditure	2,839.5	3,675.7	3,943.1	4,663.3	4,715.7
Persons employed (number)	1,854	1,830	1,807	1,779	1,739

Sources: Central Statistics Office; and Central Electricity Board (CEB).

1/ From sugar mills and other factories generating electricity.

Table 14. Mauritius: Building Permits Issued, 1999-2003 1/

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
Permits issued	(Numbers)				
Total	8,817	8,867	9,495	9,054	9,123
By building type					
Residential	8,280	8,331	8,999	8,671	8,712
New buildings	4,657	4,538	4,459	4,167	4,301
Additions	3,623	3,793	4,540	4,504	4,411
Nonresidential	537	536	496	383	411
By location					
Urban	4,437	3,856	3,903	3,689	3,723
Rural	4,380	5,011	5,592	5,365	5,400
Floor area	(Thousands of square meters)				
Total	1,546	1,510	1,504	1,542	1,638
By building type					
Residential	1,244	1,170	1,256	1,222	1,230
New buildings	865	785	794	758	769
Additions	379	385	462	464	461
Nonresidential	302	340	248	320	408
By location					
Urban	731	592	646	651	677
Rural	815	918	858	891	961

Source: Central Statistics Office.

1/ Includes new buildings and additions for which permits have been issued by municipalities and the central government.

Table 15. Mauritius: Tourist Arrivals, Capacity, and Earnings, 1999-2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
Arrivals by country of residence					
Africa	156,314	163,921	168,522	172,641	174,430
Kenya	1,655	1,801	1,734	1,507	1,510
Madagascar	7,880	7,057	6,674	9,417	11,044
Reunion (France)	83,749	86,945	91,140	96,375	95,679
Seychelles	7,893	9,229	10,687	13,468	9,869
South Africa	46,583	48,683	47,882	42,685	45,756
Zimbabwe	2,606	3,435	3,860	3,185	2,343
Other Africa	5,948	6,771	6,545	6,004	8,229
Europe	378,741	439,989	437,305	451,504	465,379
Belgium	9,586	10,998	10,398	10,579	10,170
France	175,431	198,423	197,595	202,869	200,229
Germany	45,206	52,869	50,866	53,762	53,970
Italy	36,675	39,000	37,343	38,263	39,774
Switzerland	16,281	20,473	18,427	17,371	17,929
United Kingdom	58,683	74,488	77,888	80,667	91,210
Other Europe	36,879	43,738	44,788	47,993	52,097
Other	43,030	52,543	54,491	57,503	62,209
Australia	8,076	8,771	8,790	8,387	9,103
India	13,583	17,241	18,890	20,898	25,367
Japan	2,324	2,389.00	1,589.00	1,958.00	1,572.00
Singapore	3661.0	4104.0	3431.0	3114.0	2102.0
United States	3345.0	3704.0	3923.0	4116.0	4505.0
Other	12041.0	16334.0	17868.0	19030.0	19560.0
All countries	578,085	656,453	660,318	681,648	702,018
Tourism capacity, occupancy, activity, and earnings					
Hotels	92	95	95	95	97
Rooms	8,255	8,657	9,024	9,623	9,647
Beds	16,947	17,776	18,350	19,597	19,727
Occupancy rates for all hotels (percent)					
Room	...	70	66	67	63
Bed	...	62	58	59	55
Nights spent (thousands)	5,729	6,413	6,528	6,769	6,952
Average stay (nights)	10	10	10	10	10
Gross earnings					
In millions of Mauritian rupees	13,668	14,234	18,166	18,328	19,397
In millions of U.S. dollars	543	542	624	612	695
Average earnings per tourist					
In Mauritian rupees	23,644	21,683	27,511	26,888	27,630
In U.S. dollars	939	826	944	897	974

Source: Central Statistics Office.

Table 16. Mauritius: Estimated Labor Force and Employment, 1999-2003 1/

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
(In thousands of persons)					
Population aged 12+ years 2/	925.9	937.6	951.2	963.7	977.0
Female	469.1	475.7	482.8	489.4	496.0
Male	456.8	461.9	468.4	474.3	481.0
Labor force	519.5	528.6	538.5	541.1	549.3
Female	177.1	181.4	186.4	187.4	190.3
Mauritian	168.6	171.8	175.7	176.8	180.0
Foreign	8.5	9.6	10.7	10.6	10.3
Male	342.4	347.2	352.1	353.7	359.0
Mauritian	338.0	342.2	346.3	347.3	351.1
Foreign	4.4	5.0	5.8	6.4	7.9
Employment	480.5	483.6	490.8	490.1	494.9
Large establishments 3/ 4/	297.4	297.7	301.0	296.2	295.9
<i>Of which:</i> foreign	12.9	14.6	16.5	17.0	18.2
Female	109.7	110.5	113.0	108.3	108.0
Male	187.7	187.2	188.0	187.9	187.9
Other firms and self	183.1	185.9	189.8	193.9	199.0
Female	52.2	54.4	56.2	57.8	59.6
Male	130.9	131.5	133.6	136.1	139.4
Employment in large establishments					
by economic activity 4/ 5/	297.7	297.0	301.2	294.4	298.5
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	34.3	32.7	31.3	25.3	23.4
<i>Of which:</i> sugar	0.0	24.8	23.5	17.6	15.5
Mining and quarrying	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	115.6	115.0	117.0	111.0	108.9
<i>Of which:</i> sugar	3.9	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.2
<i>Of which:</i> EPZ 6/	88.9	88.2	90.8	84.5	82.5
Electricity, gas, and water	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Construction	13.6	13.5	13.3	13.3	14.6
Wholesale and retail trade	16.4	16.5	16.5	16.5	17.7
Hotels and restaurants	13.0	14.5	16.3	17.1	18.2
Transport, storage, and communications	16.4	16.1	16.6	17.5	18.1
Financial intermediation	6.6	6.7	7.1	7.0	7.4
Real estate, renting, and business activities	8.3	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.9
Public administration and defense	34.8	34.9	35.7	37.8	38.9
Education	17.9	17.8	18.3	18.9	20.6
Health and social work	11.4	11.3	11.0	11.0	11.6
Other community, social, and personal service	6.2	6.0	6.2	7.1	7.0
Unemployment	39.0	45.0	47.7	51.0	54.4
Female	15.2	16.5	17.2	21.3	22.7
Male	23.8	28.5	30.5	29.7	31.7

Table 16. Mauritius: Estimated Labor Force and Employment, 1999-2003 1/ (concluded)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
	(In percent)				
Labor force participation rate	56.1	56.4	56.6	56.1	56.2
Female	37.8	38.1	38.6	38.3	38.4
Male	75.0	75.2	75.2	74.6	74.6
Unemployment rate	7.7	8.8	9.1	9.7	10.2
Female	9.0	9.6	9.8	12.0	12.6
Male	7.0	8.3	8.8	8.6	9.0
Employment growth rate	1.2	0.6	1.5	-0.1	1.0
Female	2.5	1.9	2.6	-1.8	0.9
Male	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.7	1.0

Source: Central Statistics Office, *Survey of Employment and Earnings and Digest of Labour Statistics*.

1/ Data are for the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

2/ Includes foreigners.

3/ Average of March and September survey results.

4/ Covers large establishments, i.e., nonagricultural establishments with ten or more employees, all government, sugar plantations of ten hectares or more, tea plantations of two hectares or more, all flue-cured tobacco, and other agricultural units with ten or more employees; excludes self-employed, piece-rate employees working at home, and unpaid family workers. Includes foreign workers.

5/ At March of each year.

6/ Excludes nonmanufacturing EPZ establishments.

Table 17. Mauritius: Average Earnings by Sector — Monthly Paid Employees, 1999-2003 1/

(Mauritian rupees per employee per month)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	6,146	6,818	7,910	8,527	9,374
<i>Of which:</i> sugar	5,625	6,268	7,116	7,753	8,826
Mining and quarrying	10,905	11,427	12,822	13,396	8,906
Manufacturing	7,105	7,703	8,127	8,566	9,430
<i>Of which:</i> export processing zone (EPZ)	6,423	6,944	7,194	7,821	8,542
Electricity, gas, and water	12,157	13,569	15,696	17,519	18,987
Construction	8,884	10,232	10,278	11,218	12,216
Wholesale and retail trade	9,098	9,787	10,780	10,958	11,486
Hotels and restaurants	7,099	7,437	7,819	8,056	8,444
Transport, storage, and communications	10,508	12,021	12,508	13,377	14,484
Financial intermediation	13,515	14,814	16,538	17,230	17,817
Real estate, renting, and business activities	9,937	11,321	12,301	12,499	13,682
Public administration and defense	9608.0	10208	10684	11022	11256
Education	10,608	11,256	11,235	11,682	12,458
Health and social work	10,137	11,290	12,396	12,128	12,900
Other community, social, and personal service	8,287	8,364	8,683	8,315	9,385
Total, large establishments	8,080	9,579	10,216	10,686	11,439
<i>Of which:</i> EPZ	6,428	6,955	7,242	7,850	8,617
Memorandum items:					
Daily paid employees 2/	4,810	5,174	5,460	5,668	6,162
<i>Of which:</i> EPZ 2/	3,926	4,134	4,498	4,628	4,914

Source: Central Statistics Office, *Survey of Employment and Earnings in 'large' establishments*.

1/ Covers large establishments. Employees paid monthly account for approximately two-thirds of such employment and four-fifths of earnings reported.

2/ Daily earnings converted to a monthly basis by assuming 26 working days in a month.

Table 18. Mauritius: Labor Costs and Productivity, 1999-2003 1/

(Indices, 1982=100)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
Labor cost (1)	859.0	923.5	993.0	1,059.0	1,174.4
Real output (2)	248.2	271.3	286.5	291.9	304.8
Employment (3) 2/	167.6	169.4	170.6	171.3	173.5
Consumer price index (4)	315.8	328.5	346.3	368.4	382.8
Unit labor cost (5) = (1)/(2)	346.1	340.4	346.6	362.8	385.3
Average real wage 3/ (6) = (1)/[(3)*(4)]	162.3	166.0	168.1	167.8	176.8
Labor productivity (7) = (2)/(3)	148.1	160.2	167.9	170.4	175.7

Source: Central Statistics Office, *Digest of Productivity and Competitiveness Statistics*.

1/ Total economy.

2/ Number of persons.

3/ Covers the overall compensation of employees, including wages, salaries, overtime, bonuses, and contributions to pension funds.

Table 19. Mauritius: Cost Structure and Prices of Petroleum Products, 1998/99-2002/03 1/

(In percent of the sales price, unless otherwise specified)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 Prov.	2002/03 Prov.
Premium gasoline					
Import cost, c.i.f.	25.1	49.4	37.0	29.6	37.1
Distribution costs and overheads	1.9	3.6	5.6	4.1	1.6
Taxes	55.2	109.5	63.0	46.2	59.7
Profits (loss -)	-5.7	-62.5	-5.7	20.1	1.6
STC sales price (Mauritian rupees per liter)	16.6	10.5	16.6 2/	16.6 2/	16.4 3/
Retail price (Mauritian rupees per liter)	14.2	12.8	19.50 2/	19.85 2/	20.40 3/
Imports for inland trade (in metric tons)	93,754	90,101	86,936	88,459	87,043
Diesel					
Import cost, c.i.f.	43.4	85.7	65.8	57.0	67.7
Distribution costs and overheads	3.6	5.6	9.1	6.4	1.7
Taxes	32.4	64.5	25.9	13.3	13.4
Profits (loss -)	20.6	-55.8	-0.8	23.3	17.2
STC sales price (Mauritian rupees per liter)	5.8	5.0	9.3 2/	9.3 2/	9.2 3/
Retail price (Mauritian rupees per liter)	7.7	6.7	11.40 2/	11.60 2/	11.90 3/
Imports for inland trade (in metric tons)	166,377	178,503	196,940	190,213	209,101
Kerosene					
Import cost, c.i.f.	62.1	135.8	93.43	71.99	86.39
Distribution costs and overheads	0.4	5.2	12.0	7.8	2.0
Taxes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Profits (loss -)	37.4	-41.0	-5.4	20.2	11.6
STC sales price (Mauritian rupees per liter)	4.6	3.5	7.7 2/	7.7 2/	7.5 4/
Retail price (Mauritian rupees per liter)	5.7	4.6	8.75 2/	8.75 2/	8.75 4/
Imports for inland trade (in metric tons)	54,119	29,186	13,159	15,571	18,722
Fuel oil					
Import cost, c.i.f.	55.4	103.4	118.3	56.8	71.6
Distribution costs and overheads	0.5	1.1	12.2	4.3	0.3
Taxes	42.9	74.3	78.0	34.3	28.6
Profits (loss -)	1.2	-78.7	-108.4	4.6	-0.4
STC sales price (Mauritian rupees per liter)	3.7	3.7	3.7	8.2 5/	7.0 6/
Imports for inland trade (in metric tons)	119,042	121,185	95,244	62,616	50,888

Source: State Trading Corporation.

1/ Fiscal year from July to June. Cost structure relates to that of the State Trading Corporation (STC).

2/ Effective September 30, 2000.

3/ Effective October 1, 2002.

4/ Effective March 18, 2003.

5/ Effective September 1, 2001.

6/ Effective July 1, 2002.

Table 20. Mauritius: Consumer Price Indices by Major Commodity Groups, January 2001-December 2003 1/

	Weights	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year (Avg.)
(July 1996-June 1997=100)														
2001														
Food and nonalcoholic beverages	36.4	120.9	121.3	120.8	121.2	121.6	123.4	124.0	124.4	124.6	125.2	126.3	127.3	123.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	8.7	160.3	161.3	161.7	161.7	161.9	166.6	173.0	173.4	173.6	174.0	174.0	176.0	168.1
Clothing and footwear	7.9	115.6	115.7	115.7	115.7	115.7	115.8	116.8	116.8	116.8	116.9	117.1	117.4	116.3
Fuel and light	4.4	121.9	121.9	121.9	121.9	121.9	121.9	121.9	121.9	121.9	121.9	123.8	125.5	122.4
Housing and household operations	13.2	119.3	120.8	121.1	121.1	121.3	121.5	123.0	123.1	123.2	123.6	123.8	124.1	122.2
Medical care and health expenses	3.8	124.6	124.7	125.0	125.4	126.2	127.0	127.4	127.6	127.9	129.4	129.6	130.2	127.1
Transport and communications	14.2	130.7	130.6	130.1	130.5	130.6	130.1	135.2	135.5	135.6	136.1	136.2	136.3	133.1
Recreation, entertainment, education, and cultural services	6.0	129.3	131.6	132.0	132.1	132.5	132.5	132.6	132.6	132.8	132.8	132.8	132.8	132.2
Miscellaneous goods and services	5.4	123.0	123.1	122.8	122.5	122.4	122.1	123.2	123.5	124.1	124.1	124.4	124.6	123.3
Total	100.0	125.9	126.5	126.3	126.5	126.8	127.8	129.7	129.9	130.1	130.5	131.1	131.8	128.6
Average for fiscal year ended June 30							124.9							
2002														
Food and nonalcoholic beverages	36.4	129.2	131.4	133.2	133.8	134.1	133.9							
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	8.7	176.0	176.0	176.0	176.1	176.1	176.1							
Clothing and footwear	7.9	117.5	117.5	117.7	117.8	117.8	117.8							
Fuel and light	4.4	135.8	135.8	135.8	135.8	135.8	135.8							
Housing and household operations	13.2	126.2	126.5	126.9	127.0	127.1	127.3							
Medical care and health expenses	3.8	130.4	132.1	132.3	132.7	133.4	133.6							
Transport and communication	14.2	136.0	135.7	135.8	135.6	135.7	136.1							
Recreation, entertainment, education, and cultural services	6.0	135.4	140.2	140.3	140.3	140.3	140.3							
Miscellaneous goods and services	5.4	126.8	127.2	127.4	127.7	127.9	128.1							
Total	100.0	133.5	134.7	135.4	135.7	135.9	135.9	137.8	139.3	139.6	140.4	140.7	140.7	
(July 2001-June 2002=100)														
	Weights													
Food and nonalcoholic beverages	29.9							103.2	103.2	103.8	103.8	103.6	103.2	
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	8.6							104.5	104.1	104.6	104.8	104.7	106.2	
Clothing and footwear	6							101.9	102.1	102.1	102.3	102.4	102.5	
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	9.6							101.8	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	8							103.7	103.4	104.2	104.0	104.3	103.6	
Health	2.8							103.8	105.5	105.9	106.8	107.2	107.7	
Transport	13.9							103.4	105.8	105.9	106.3	105.5	105.4	
Communication	3.1							101.2	101.2	101.1	122.6	122.6	121.2	
Recreation and culture	5.3							102.5	102.5	102.5	103.6	103.0	103.6	
Education	2.4							101.7	101.7	101.7	101.7	101.7	101.7	
Restaurants and hotels	5							102.9	103.3	103.5	103.9	105.4	105.6	
Miscellaneous goods and services	5.4							104.2	104.4	104.70	108.1	107.9	107.8	
	100							103.1	103.6	104.00	105.0	104.9	104.8	
2003	Weights													
Food and nonalcoholic beverages	29.9	103.9	104.2	104.1	104.2	105.5	106.2	106.6	106.5	107.4	107.1	107.2	107.7	105.9
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	8.6	106.6	106.5	106.4	106.9	108.0	110.0	110.8	110.6	110.6	112.2	112.2	115.7	109.7
Clothing and footwear	6.0	102.8	103.0	102.9	101.7	103.3	103.4	103.6	103.8	103.8	103.7	103.9	103.9	103.3
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	9.6	103.7	104.0	104.1	104.1	104.2	104.3	105.7	105.9	105.8	105.8	105.9	105.9	105.0
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	8.0	104.9	105.0	104.6	104.9	104.8	104.9	106.3	106.0	106.3	106.1	106.4	105.8	105.5
Health	2.8	107.9	108.2	108.3	108.6	108.6	109.1	110.0	109.9	110.9	112.6	113.1	113.5	110.1
Transport	13.9	106.0	106.0	105.6	106.2	106.3	106.6	107.2	105.8	105.4	106.0	106.2	106.7	106.2
Communication	3.1	122.0	122.4	123.3	122.5	122.5	121.3	121.7	121.7	128.7	133.9	133.9	133.3	125.6
Recreation and culture	5.3	103.9	104.1	103.9	104.3	104.5	104.5	105.1	105.1	105.2	104.8	104.5	104.7	104.6
Education	2.4	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	108.5	108.5	108.5	108.5	108.5	107.7
Restaurants and hotels	5.0	106.3	106.7	106.8	106.8	108.0	107.9	108.0	108.1	108.2	108.7	108.8	109.0	107.8
Miscellaneous goods and services	5.4	108.4	109.0	108.8	109.4	109.4	109.7	110.1	112.4	112.6	112.8	113.3	112.8	110.7
Total	100.0	105.5	105.7	105.6	105.8	106.5	106.9	107.5	107.4	107.9	108.3	108.4	108.9	107.0
Average for fiscal year ended June 30							105.1							

Source: Central Statistics Office.

1/ As from July 2002, a new series of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been introduced. A new basket of goods and services is used for the computation of this index following the 2001/02 Household Budget Survey. The commodities in the basket are classified according to the UN CCEP (Classification of Consumption Expenditure according to Purpose).

Table 21. Mauritius: Summary of Government Finances, 1998/99-2002/03 1/

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 Rev. Est.	2002/03 Prov.
(In millions of Mauritian rupees)					
Total revenue and grants	21,329	23,500	22,707	25,270	30,298
Tax revenue	17,900	20,373	20,189	21,519	25,879
Nontax revenue	3,294	2,966	2,318	3,435	4,056
External grants	135	161	199	317	363
Total expenditure and net lending	24,851	27,810	29,846	33,569	39,533
Current expenditure	21,847	23,379	26,786	27,881	31,538
Wages and salaries	7,457	7,763	8,181	8,854	9,366
Other goods and services	2,180	2,354	2,735	2,927	3,168
Interest payments	3,626	3,856	5,527	4,541	6,390
External interest	501	453	401	207	189
Domestic interest	3,125	3,403	5,125	4,334	6,202
Current transfers and subsidies	8,584	9,406	10,342	11,558	12,614
Capital expenditure and net lending 2/	2,129	3,548	2,325	5,688	7,995
Expenditure by the Privatization Fund	875	883	735	0	0
Overall balance after grants	-3,522	-4,310	-7,139	-8,299	-9,235
Financing	3,522	4,310	7,139	8,299	9,235
External (net)	-1,170	-510	-3,584	1,070	87
Disbursements	464	410	349	1,778	923
Amortization	-1,634	-920	-3,932	-708	-836
Domestic	4,009	3,815	5,652	7,229	9,299
Banking system (net)	-1,571	2,579	-959	1,314	2,496
Nonbank	5,580	1,236	6,611	5,915	6,803
Sale of equity in state-owned enterprises and residual 3/	684	1,006	5,071	0	-151
(Annual change in percent)					
Total revenue and grants	15.3	10.2	-3.4	11.3	-1.7
Total expenditure and net lending	12.3	11.9	7.3	12.5	-0.7
(In percent of GDP)					
Total revenue and grants	20.1	20.9	18.2	18.4	20.3
Of which: tax revenue	16.9	18.1	16.1	15.7	17.4
Total expenditure and net lending	23.4	24.7	23.9	24.5	26.5
Current expenditure	20.6	20.8	21.4	20.3	21.2
Capital expenditure and net lending 2/	2.0	3.1	1.9	4.1	5.4
Overall balance after grants	-3.3	-3.8	-5.7	-6.0	-6.2
Overall balance, excluding exceptional factors 4/	-4.6	-4.3	-7.1	-6.6	-6.2
External financing	-1.1	-0.5	-2.9	0.8	0.1
Domestic financing	3.8	3.4	4.5	5.3	6.2
Of which: banking system	-1.5	2.3	-0.8	1.0	1.7
Sale of equity in state-owned enterprises and residual 3/	0.6	0.9	4.1	0.0	-0.1

Sources: Ministry of Finance; and Bank of Mauritius.

1/ Budgetary central government, Government Finance Statistics basis; fiscal year from July to June.

2/ From 1996/97 to 1997/98, net lending includes the on-lending of the proceeds from an international floating rate note (FRN) issue of US\$150 million. In 1998/99, it includes the repayment of the FRN on-lending equivalent to 0.8 percent of GDP.

3/ Includes proceeds from the sale of government equity in state-owned enterprises, equivalent to 0.9 percent of GDP in 1996/97, and 5.7 percent of GDP in 2000/01.

4/ Exceptional factors include the on-lending of the proceeds from the FRN equivalent to 2.2 percent of GDP in 1996/97, and to 0.1 percent of GDP in 1997/98. They also include the repayment of the FRN on-lending equivalent to 0.8 percent of GDP in 1998/99, and 1.4 percent of GDP in 2000/01, as well as the proceeds from the sale of fixed assets equivalent to 0.5 percent of GDP in 1998/99 and 0.4 percent of GDP in 1999/2000.

Table 22. Mauritius: Revenue and Grants, Budgetary Central Government,
1998/99-2002/03 1/

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 Rev. Est.	2002/03 Prov.
Tax revenue	17,900	20,373	20,189	21,519	25,879
Taxes on net income and profits	2,700	2,881	3,039	3,494	4,014
Individuals	1,363	1,540	1,518	1,619	1,859
Corporate	1,337	1,341	1,521	1,875	2,155
Taxes on property	1,209	1,206	1,324	1,299	1,375
Land and real estate	213	218	279	250	306
Financial transactions	996	988	1,045	1,049	1,068
Registration fees	982	960	1,017	1,028	1,056
Incorporation and lodging fees	10	19	20	12	4
Mortgages	5	9	8	10	9
Taxes on domestic goods and services	8,005	9,339	9,466	10,821	13,957
Selective excises	1,776	2,160	2,107	2,299	2,332
Alcoholic beverages	769	946	927	996	1,008
Tobacco	1,006	1,213	1,178	1,302	1,323
Other	1	1	1	1	1
Taxes on services	1,136	1,099	957	979	1,069
Gambling and lottery profits	765	892	859	891	967
Tourism	371	206	98	87	101
Taxes on use of goods	455	476	477	490	744
Business licenses	141	143	126	112	162
Motor vehicles	314	334	351	378	582
Sales tax on goods/value-added tax	4,639	5,604	5,925	7,053	9,812
Taxes on international trade	5,973	6,935	6,349	5,893	6,523
Import duties	5,973	6,935	6,349	5,893	6,523
Customs duties	5,972	6,924	6,349	5,893	6,523
Stamp duties	1	11	0	0	0
Export duties	0	0	0	0	0
Other tax revenue (stamp duty)	13	12	11	13	12
Nontax revenue	3,294	2,966	2,318	3,435	4,056
Property income	2,246	1,862	1,660	1,774	2,861
Bank of Mauritius	825	800	800	1,200	1,500
Interest and royalties	585	448	351	294	840
Dividends	592	543	426	196	457
Operating surpluses	194	5	12	0	0
Rent and other	50	66	71	85	99
Other nontax revenue	548	604	658	1,052	1,172
Fees, charges, and sales	385	409	450	594	613
Fines and forfeits	46	65	76	97	104
Government pension fund	114	120	123	131	135
Miscellaneous	4	10	8	230	320
Total revenue	21,194	23,339	22,507	24,954	29,935
Foreign grants	135	161	199	317	363
Total revenue and grants	21,329	23,500	22,707	25,270	30,298

Source: Ministry of Finance.

1/ Fiscal year from July to June.

Table 23. Mauritius: Functional Classification of Expenditure and Net Lending,
Consolidated Central Government, 1998/99-2002/03 1/

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 Rev. Est.	2002/03 Prov.
Total expenditure	25,556	27,643	31,420	32,925	38,553
Public administration and security	4,608	4,767	5,363	5,718	6,319
General public services	2,384	2,524	2,917	2,931	3,115
Defense	216	239	253	270	299
Public order and safety	2,008	2,004	2,193	2,517	2,905
Social services	12,860	13,951	15,494	18,084	19,856
Education	3,866	3,987	4,357	4,755	5,578
Health and sanitation	2,132	2,256	2,547	2,884	3,151
Social security and welfare	5,140	5,563	6,160	6,698	6,988
Housing and community amenities 2/	1,298	1,704	2,023	3,255	3,323
Recreational, cultural, and religious	424	441	408	492	817
Economic services	3,649	4,192	4,175	3,666	4,231
Fuel and energy	23	25	23	44	34
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	1,389	1,260	1,329	1,276	1,275
Mining, manufacturing, and construction	155	174	198	157	155
Transport and communications	1,051	1,102	1,855	887	1,123
Other economic services	1,031	1,631	770	1,302	1,644
Other purposes	4,439	4,733	6,388	5,456	8,147
Public debt interest	3,626	3,856	5,527	4,541	6,390
Transfers to local governments	813	877	861	914	969
Other	0	0	0	0	787
Lending minus repayments 3/	-705	167	-1,574	645	980
Total expenditure and net lending	24,851	27,810	29,846	33,569	39,533

Sources: Ministry of Finance; and Central Statistics Office.

1/ Budgetary central government, Government Finance Statistics basis; fiscal year from July to June.

2/ Includes water supply.

3/ From 1996/97 to 1997/98, net lending includes the on-lending of the proceeds from an international floating rate note (FRN) issue of US\$150 million. In 1998/99, it includes the repayment of the FRN on-lending equivalent to 0.8 percent of GDP.

Table 24. Mauritius: Transfers and Subsidies by Budgetary Central Government,
1998/99-2002/03 1/

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 Rev. Est.	2002/03 Prov.
Subsidies and other current transfers	8,585	9,406	10,342	11,558	12,614
Local governments	741	762	790	851	904
Education	1,887	1,966	2,143	2,264	2,469
Secondary schools	1,004	1,047	1,116	1,202	1,313
University of Mauritius	430	194	208	210	230
Education Institute	0	80	78	91	96
Gandhi Institute	0	103	110	111	129
College of the Air	0	47	55	54	58
Block grant	148	137	142	145	162
Examination Syndicate	69	69	74	78	85
Other	236	290	361	373	396
Public service pensions	1,362	1,595	1,724	1,868	1,965
National Pension Fund	2,932	3,177	3,507	3,777	4,178
Rice and wheat flour	369	443	339	393	429
Domestic crops	99	53	64	0	0
Unemployment fund	0	0	1	0	0
Outdoor relief	41	0	0	0	0
Development Works Corporation (DWC) 2/	90	122	115	140	85
Other current transfers	1,063	1,287	1,660	2,265	2,583
Capital transfers	1,009	1,398	1,737	1,435	1,907
Local governments	1	0	0	63	65
Public financial institutions	222	191	225	194	192
Nonfinancial public enterprises	777	1,199	1,501	1,130	1,291
Aviation, PTT, 3/ and sewerage	344	687	851	0	0
Other	433	512	650	37	55
International organizations	2	2	8	11	37
Other	7	7	3	0	268
Total subsidies and transfers	9,593	10,804	12,080	12,993	14,521

Source: Ministry of Finance.

1/ Fiscal year from July to June.

2/ Includes mainly wages and salaries for government employees transferred to the DWC.

3/ PTT is the postal and telecommunications enterprise.

Table 25. Mauritius: Income and Expenditure of the National Pension Fund,
1998/99-2002/03 1/

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 Rev. Est.	2002/03 Prov.
Income	5,457	6,117	6,887	6,140	8,258
Government grant	2,941	3,267	3,606	3,741	4,182
Contributions from employers and employees	893	984	1,004	986	1,122
Investment income	1,405	1,718	2,071	1,253	2,800
Other income	218	148	206	160	154
Expenditure	3,271	3,662	4,107	4,236	4,821
Noncontributory (basic) pensions	2,929	3,262	3,598	3,728	4,132
Food aid allowance	11	6	16	12	10
Contributory and industrial injury pensions	242	280	342	382	558
Administration and other costs	89	114	151	114	121
Excess of income over expenditure	2,186	2,455	2,780	1,904	3,437
Balance in fund at end of year 2/	16,444	18,899	21,679	23,583	28,473

Source: National Pension Fund.

1/ Fiscal year from July to June.

2/ Change in balance at end of year may differ from excess of income over expenditure owing to valuation adjustments.

Table 26. Mauritius: State Trading Corporation —
Ration Rice and Flour Transactions, 1998/99-2002/03 1/

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 Rev. Est.	2002/03 Prov.
(In millions of Mauritian rupees)					
Sales revenue	528	544	534	516	512
Ration rice	187	195	187	166	151
Flour	341	350	347	350	361
Total cost	875	872	875	797	916
Ration rice	340	369	349	266	260
Flour	535	504	527	531	656
Purchasing cost	828	788	804	720	816
Ration rice	310	320	305	221	198
Flour	519	467	498	499	618
Other charges	46	85	72	77	100
Ration rice	30	48	43	45	62
Flour	17	37	28	32	38
Balance (deficit = -)	-347	-328	-341	-281	-404
Ration rice	-152	-174	-162	-100	-109
Flour	-194	-154	-180	-181	-295
Financing	347	328	341	281	404
Budgetary transfers	347	328	321	0	404
Other financing 2/	0	0	21	281	0
Memorandum items:	(In metric tons)				
Sales volume					
Ration rice	40,854	43,778	42,242	37,445	34,000
Flour	83,029	85,279	84,670	85,395	88,000
(In Mauritian rupees per metric ton)					
Rice unit values					
Fixed price, initial	4,420	4,420	4,420	4,420	4,420
Fixed price, final	4,420	4,420	4,420	4,420	4,420
Revenue	4,582	4,449	4,427	4,433	4,441
Cost	8,314	8,420	8,250	7,104	7,647
Subsidy	3,732	3,970	3,823	2,671	3,206
Flour unit values					
Fixed price, initial	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100
Fixed price, final	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100
Revenue	4,103	4,101	4,098	4,099	4,102
Cost	6,446	5,909	6,219	6,218	7,455
Subsidy	2,342	1,808	2,121	2,120	3,352
(Annual change in percent)					
Sales volume					
Ration rice	-4.1	7.2	-3.5	-11.4	-9.2
Flour	4.2	2.7	-0.7	0.9	3.1
(In percent)					
Revenue/total cost ratio	60.3	62.4	61.0	64.7	55.9
Ration rice revenue/cost	55.1	52.8	53.7	62.4	58.1
Flour revenue/cost	63.7	69.4	65.9	65.9	55.0

Source: State Trading Corporation.

1/ Fiscal year from July to June. Ration rice is a variety of rice.

2/ Residual; reflects extrabudgetary financing (overdrafts and acceptances, net of deposits) and timing discrepancies.

Table 27. Mauritius: Financing of Central Government Deficit,
1998/99-2002/03 1/

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 Rev. Est.	2002/03 Prov.
External financing (net)	-1,170	-509	-3,584	1,031	88
Eurocurrency (net)	0	0	0	0	0
Other external (net)	-1,170	-509	-3,584	-1,030	87
Disbursements by purpose	464	411	348	1,739	924
Nonproject loans	0	0	0	1,149	163
Project loans	464	411	348	590	761
Mixed project and suppliers' credits	0	5	34	18	134
Electric power	3	13	46	161	161
Water and irrigation	80	74	182	148	120
Other agriculture	18	0	0	0	0
Roads, highways, and bridges	0	0	0	0	0
Telecommunications	0	0	0	0	0
Housing projects	69	0	0	0	0
Urban development	0	0	0	0	0
Education	94	0	0	21	0
Environment	95	295	67	194	260
Other projects	105	25	20	48	86
Disbursements by source	464	411	368	1,738	923
Bilateral lenders	180	61	184	278	295
Multilateral agencies	284	350	184	1,500	465
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	-40	163
Repayments (-)	-1,634	-920	-3,932	-708	-836
Eurocurrency	0	0	0	0	0
Other loans 2/	-1,634	-920	-3,932	-708	-836
Domestic financing (net)	4,009	3,814	5,653	6,346	9,299
Banking system	-1,571	2,579	-958	1,402	2,496
Bank of Mauritius	1,893	-1,496	-651	-5,545	-7,787
Commercial banks	-3,464	4,075	-307	6,947	10,283
Nonbank	5,580	1,236	6,611	4,944	6,803
Short-term instruments	6,145	1,873	7,097	4,849	5,747
Long-term instruments	-565	-638	-486	95	1,056
Residual 3/	684	1,006	5,071	932	-151
Total financing	3,522	4,310	7,139	8,299	9,235

Sources: Ministry of Finance; Bank of Mauritius; and IMF staff estimates.

1/ Fiscal year from July to June.

2/ Includes the partial repayment of US\$33 million of the floating rate note in 1998/99.

3/ Reflects differences of coverage and valuation, as well as timing; includes proceeds from the sale of government equity in state-owned enterprises equivalent to 5.7 percent of GDP in 2000/01.

Table 28. Mauritius: Government Domestic Nonbank Debt Outstanding by Holder,
1998/99-2002/03 1/

(In millions of Mauritian rupees; end of period)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 Rev. Est.	2002/03 Prov.
National Pension Fund	8,385	8,535	12,820	14,707	18,355
Short term	4,166	4,418	6,937	8,885	12,377
Long term	4,219	4,117	5,883	5,822	5,978
Post Office Savings Bank	173	160	236	403	1,253
Short term	36	24	112	279	1,152
Long term	137	137	124	124	101
State Insurance Corporation of Mauritius (SICOM)	1,355	2,081	3,620	4,620	6,061
Short term	629	1,391	2,272	3,358	4,693
Long term	726	690	1,348	1,262	1,368
Insurance companies	940	679	1,489	2,143	3,162
Short term	695	494	1,298	1,990	2,689
Long term	245	185	191	153	473
Sugar Insurance Fund Board (SIFB) 2/	400	385	874	1,297	1,117
Short term	400	385	874	1,297	1,117
Long term	0	0	0	0	0
National Savings Fund (NSF) 3/	969	989	2,092	2,486	3,244
Short term	842	862	1,738	2,132	2,790
Long term	127	127	354	354	454
Employees' Welfare Fund (EWF) 3/	379	372	516	495	579
Short term	356	349	493	472	579
Long term	23	23	23	23	0
Independence and Republic bonds 4/	2,375	2,079	0	0	0
Short term	0	0	0	0	0
Long term	2,375	2,079	0	0	0
Consolidated Sinking Fund (CSF) 5/	2,018	2,074	323	558	964
Short term	500	700	0	0	1
Long term	1,518	1,375	323	558	963
Others	4,294	4,901	6,850	7,053	5,833
Short term	4,246	4,853	6,802	6,961	5,725
Long term	48	48	48	92	108
Total	21,287	22,523	29,134	34,036	41,005
Short term	11,870	13,743	20,840	25,648	31,560
Long term	9,417	8,780	8,294	8,388	9,445
Memorandum items:					
Changes during year (total)	5,580	1,236	6,611	4,902	6,967
Short term	6,145	1,873	7,097	4,808	5,911
Long term	-565	-638	-486	94	1,056

Sources: Ministry of Finance; and IMF staff estimates.

1/ Includes tax treasury bills and tax reserve certificates (short term) and government stocks, treasury certificates, and anonymous bearer bonds (long term). Fiscal year from July to June.

2/ The SIFB collects premiums from planters and insures sugar crops against natural disasters, such as cyclones and drought.

3/ The NSF and the EWF make deductions from salaries and accumulate funds to contribute to government employees.

4/ Only individuals and nonbank institutions, including the African Development Bank and petroleum companies, subscribe to the Independence and Republic bonds.

5/ Fund for payment of government debt.

Table 29. Mauritius: External Debt of Central Government — Disbursements,
1998/99-2002/03 1/

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
All bilateral lenders	179.7	60.6	184.3	278.0	295.4
Governments	176.9	34.5	46.3	40.5	210.4
People's Republic of China	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Flacq Hospital	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Housing	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Recreation center	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
France	107.0	18.0	3.4	37.8	57.0
Small-scale irrigation project	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Goodlands district water supply	49.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hotel catering school	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lycée Polytechnique, Rose Hill	30.0	0.0	0.0	20.9	0.0
Northern Plain irrigation project	22.2	15.5	0.8	4.2	5.3
Grand Baei sewerage project	5.0	2.5	2.6	12.7	51.7
India (lines of credit for development projects and supplies)	0.0	5.1	32.1	0.0	145.9
Japan	67.5	11.4	10.8	2.7	0.0
Telecommunications	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
La Butte drainage and soil consolidation project	67.5	11.4	10.8	2.7	0.0
Other bilateral agencies	2.8	26.1	138.0	237.5	85.0

Table 29. Mauritius: External Debt of Central Government — Disbursements,
1998/99-2002/03 1/ (Concluded)

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Multilateral agencies	284.2	349.9	161.8	1,482.3	437.9
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa	66.8	177.9	89.1	106.9	235.8
Industrial credit	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.9	45.6
Housing rehabilitation	66.8	133.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Water works	0.0	44.5	23.7	0.0	1.5
Midlands dam	0.0	0.0	65.4	67.0	57.0
Upgraing of Victoria Hospital	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
132 KV Transmission Line	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	131.7
African Development Bank/Fund	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bridge project	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rose Belle rehabilitation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Third highway project	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education project	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mauritius and Rodrigues sewerage	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Support to the National Health Plan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
European Development Fund	8.7	118.2	0.0	124.5	196.8
Prime Minister's rock removal scheme	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Agricultural and industrial credits	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Water projects	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Regional meteorological project	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Baei du Tombeau sewerage project	0.0	117.7	0.0	124.5	196.8
Plaines Wilhems sewerage project	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	202.7	53.8	72.7	1,250.9	5.3
Environmental program	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt and liquidity management improvement project	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.6
Agricultural management services	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sugar (bagasse) energy development project	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Third education project	46.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vocational training	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Technology development project	23.3	9.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Higher- and technical education project	16.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Freeport project	80.8	14.4	19.3	7.3	0
Sewerage and sanitation	11.4	29.6	53.1	54.1	4.1
Public Expenditure Reform Plan	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,189.0	0.0
Financial Sector Supervisory Authority	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Nordic Investment Bank/Development Fund	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Environmental program	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fort George power station	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous sources (international floating rate note)	0.0	0.0	2.2	17.5	26.7
Total disbursements	463.9	410.5	348.3	1,777.8	760.0

Source: Ministry of Finance.

1/ Fiscal year from July to June.

Table 30. Mauritius: Consolidated Monetary Survey, June 1999-December 2003

	1999	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	June	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.
(In millions of Mauritian rupees)									
Net foreign assets	22,556	25,204	33,535	31,748	35,754	40,531	44,027	48,301	48,874
Monetary authorities	15,784	17,950	25,347	23,077	25,763	30,469	36,178	40,317	41,626
Commercial banks	6,772	7,254	8,188	8,671	9,992	10,062	7,850	7,984	7,248
Domestic credit	77,541	88,128	85,972	92,821	98,689	100,323	105,634	107,517	117,315
Claims on government (net)	15,924	18,503	13,586	17,544	19,515	18,858	20,764	21,312	26,972
Monetary authorities	4,476	2,980	-1,225	2,329	1,453	-3,227	-7,650	-11,285	-5,182
Commercial banks	11,448	15,522	14,810	15,215	18,062	22,085	28,414	32,596	32,154
Claims on private sector 1/	61,618	69,626	72,387	75,277	79,175	81,465	84,871	86,206	90,343
Broad money (M2)	80,172	88,910	94,871	97,720	105,241	110,440	118,357	123,365	131,223
Money (M1)	10,905	11,065	13,297	12,711	15,452	15,131	18,157	17,437	20,401
Quasi money	69,267	77,846	81,574	85,009	89,789	95,308	100,200	105,928	110,822
Money market instruments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,947
Other items (net)	19,925	24,421	24,636	26,849	29,202	30,414	31,305	32,453	32,019
(Annual change in percent)									
Domestic credit	13.6	13.7	4.8	5.3	14.8	8.1	7.0	7.2	11.1
Claims on government (net)	-9.0	16.2	-23.3	-5.2	43.6	7.5	6.4	13.0	29.9
Claims on private sector 1/	21.3	13.0	12.6	8.1	9.4	8.2	7.2	5.8	6.4
Broad money (M2)	13.2	10.9	9.2	9.9	10.9	13.0	12.5	11.7	10.9
Money (M1)	7.4	1.5	10.8	14.9	16.2	19.0	17.5	15.2	12.4
Quasi money	14.1	12.4	9.0	9.2	10.1	12.1	11.6	11.1	10.6
(Annual change in percent of beginning-of-period broad money)									
Net foreign assets	1.7	3.3	8.6	7.4	2.3	9.0	7.9	7.3	4.6
Domestic credit	13.1	13.2	4.6	5.3	13.4	7.7	6.6	4.7	11.4
Claims on government (net)	-2.2	3.2	-4.8	-1.1	6.2	1.3	1.2	1.8	6.2
Claims on private sector 1/	15.3	10.0	9.3	6.4	7.2	6.3	5.4	2.9	5.3
Broad money (M2)	13.2	10.9	9.2	9.9	10.9	13.0	12.5	11.7	12.2
Velocity (GDP/M2)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

Sources: Bank of Mauritius; and IMF staff estimates.

1/ Including claims on public enterprises.

Table 31. Mauritius: Summary Accounts of the Bank of Mauritius, June 1999-December 2003

(In millions of Mauritian rupees; end of period)

	1999	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	June	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.
Net foreign assets	15,296	17,445	24,821	22,550	25,210	29,892	35,603	39,472	40,778
Foreign assets	15,314	17,455	24,840	22,561	25,220	29,917	35,621	39,583	40,850
Foreign liabilities	-19	-11	-19	-11	-10	-25	-18	-111	-72
Claims on government (net)	4,576	3,079	-1,128	2,427	1,548	-3,135	-7,557	-10,931	-4,801
Treasury bills	1,320	1,852	1,441	1,350	994	1,172	1,225	863	761
Government securities	3	47	46	984	1,178	770	479	42	39
Advances	3,162	1,089	671	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other 1/	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134
Government deposits	-42	-43	-3,421	-42	-758	-5,211	-9,394	-11,970	-5,734
						0	0	0	0
Claims on commercial banks	250	623	250	253	660	1,875	2,171	2,173	2,157
Reserve money	10,344	9,765	11,764	11,342	12,990	12,920	14,921	14,774	21,909
Currency outside banks	4,876	5,172	6,648	5,735	7,329	6,467	8,286	7,488	9,347
Currency with banks	2,000	1,557	2,506	1,727	3,063	2,067	3,182	2,100	3,715
Bankers' deposits	3,448	3,024	2,524	3,790	2,450	4,240	3,342	4,992	3,139
<i>Of which : non-interest-bearing deposits</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banks' holdings of Bank of Mauritius bills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,595
Private sector demand deposits	21	12	86	90	148	147	112	194	114
Money market instruments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,947
Other items (net)	9,777	11,382	12,180	13,888	14,428	15,711	15,296	15,940	13,278
Memorandum items:									
Monetary authorities									
Reserve position with the Fund	488	505	526	527	553	577	575	845	848
Claims on government (net) 2/	4,476	2,980	-1,225	2,329	1,453	-3,227	-7,650	-11,285	-5,182

Source: Bank of Mauritius.

1/ Use of SDRs (as shown in the accounts of the Bank of Mauritius) and Trust Fund borrowing.

2/ Including transactions with the Fund (based on Fund records).

Table 32. Mauritius: Summary Accounts of Commercial Banks, June 1999-December 2003

(In millions of Mauritian rupees; end of period)

	1999	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	June	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.
Net foreign assets	6,772	7,254	8,188	8,671	9,992	10,062	7,850	7,984	7,248
Reserves	5,448	4,582	5,030	5,516	5,513	6,307	6,523	7,092	12,449
<i>Of which</i> : holdings of Bank of Mauritius bills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Claims on government (net)	11,448	15,522	14,810	15,215	18,062	22,085	28,414	32,596	32,154
Government securities	3,883	3,422	3,034	2,503	2,037	1,946	2,183	1,965	2,361
Treasury bills	7,959	12,706	11,967	13,063	16,121	20,566	26,465	31,206	30,000
Loans and advances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Trading Corporation rice and flour credit	83	1	0	98	129	0	0	0	0
Government deposits	-477	-606	-191	-449	-225	-426	-234	-575	-208
Claims on private sector	60,106	67,272	70,570	74,016	77,892	79,976	83,977	85,080	88,424
Sugar industry	3,437	4,035	4,536	5,130	...	...	...	...	...
Export processing zone	5,958	6,037	6,292	6,713	...	...	...	...	...
Other industries	7,433	7,902	8,577	8,110	...	...	...	...	...
Personal, professional, and housing	12,955	13,413	13,993	14,527	...	...	...	...	...
Traders	9,815	8,990	9,285	9,778	...	...	...	...	...
Others	20,508	26,894	27,888	29,757	...	...	...	...	...
Claims on other banklike institutions	1,511	2,354	1,817	1,261	1,283	1,489	894	1,126	1,919
Demand deposits	5,293	5,881	6,564	6,885	7,975	8,518	9,759	9,755	10,941
Time and savings deposits	69,267	77,846	81,574	85,009	89,789	95,308	100,200	105,928	110,822
Credit from the Bank of Mauritius	250	623	250	253	660	1,875	2,171	2,173	2,157
Other items (net)	9,760	12,633	12,027	12,531	14,316	14,219	15,527	16,022	18,275

Source: Bank of Mauritius.

Table 33. Consolidated Assets and Liabilities of Category 2 Banks: 1999-2003

(In thousands of U.S. dollars; end of period)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Assets	3,120,873	4,024,800	3,710,400	4,320,500	5,802,400
Cash in hand and balance with banks	2,127,073	2,257,000	2,131,800	2,040,000	2,357,900
Investments in bonds and other securities	92,400	198,800	249,000	188,800	266,900
Loans and advances to non bank customers	879,100	1,531,900	1,282,700	2,054,900	2,739,100
Bills purchased and discounted	4,400	6,500	4,600	7,800	0
Other assets	17,900	30,600	42,300	29,000	438,500
Liabilities	3,121,100	4,024,800	3,710,400	4,320,600	5,802,400
Nonbank deposits	1,334,300	1,693,000	1,586,200	2,030,500	2,347,100
Amounts due to banks	1,287,700	1,687,700	1,681,300	1,794,900	2,382,700
Other liabilities	72,900	145,600	279,100	258,700	726,900
Capital and reserves	426,200	498,500	163,800	236,500	345,700

Source: Bank of Mauritius.

Table 34. Mauritius: Principal Interest Rates, 1999-2003

(In percent per annum)

	June 1999		June 2000		June 2001		June 2002		June 2003	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Lending rates										
Bank of Mauritius										
Bank rate	12.55	12.66	9.41	10.65	...	11.14	...	10.12	...	8.26
Rediscount facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	...	0.00	...
Lombard rate	...	...	...	11.50	...	12.00	...	11.50	...	10.25
Commercial banks										
Mauritius Sugar Syndicate	12.00	13.50	9.50	12.50	10.00	11.50	10.00	16.00	...	...
Sugar industry	10.00	18.00	9.63	17.50	10.25	17.50	10.00	21.00	8.75	19.75
Other agriculture	11.25	19.50	10.00	18.50	10.50	18.75	10.00	21.00	8.75	21.00
Export processing zone	10.00	20.00	10.00	18.50	10.00	18.50	9.00	21.00	7.75	21.00
Development certificates	11.75	17.00	10.00	17.00	10.50	17.00	10.00	14.75	0.00	0.00
Small-scale industries	12.50	20.00	10.00	20.00	10.50	20.00	10.00	21.00	...	...
Transport	11.00	19.50	11.00	19.50	11.00	19.50	10.00	21.00	8.75	21.00
Hotels	12.50	18.50	11.00	18.00	10.50	17.50	9.25	21.00	8.14	21.00
Other industries and manufacturers	10.75	20.50	10.00	19.50	10.50	19.50	8.50	21.00	7.75	21.00
Statutory and parastatal bodies	12.50	16.50	11.25	15.50	11.50	16.50	10.75	21.00	9.00	21.00
Housing	12.00	20.50	10.00	20.50	10.50	20.50	10.00	20.75	8.75	19.50
Traders	10.00	20.50	10.00	20.50	10.00	20.50	10.00	21.50	8.50	21.25
Stockbrokers	11.00	18.50	13.75	16.50	14.50	16.50	10.75	15.50	...	...
Financial institutions	12.00	18.50	12.00	17.00	11.00	16.50	10.00	21.00	8.75	21.00
Personal and professional	10.00	24.00	10.00	20.50	10.50	20.50	10.00	21.50	8.50	21.50
Other customers	10.00	20.50	10.00	20.50	11.00	20.50	10.00	21.00	8.75	21.00
Deposit rates										
Savings	9.00	9.00	6.50	8.50	...	7.00	6.50	6.50	5.25	6.00
Seven days' notice	8.25	10.00	5.75	9.25	7.00	9.00	6.50	10.00	5.25	9.75
Fixed deposits										
Up to 3 months	9.00	11.50	6.50	9.87	7.00	8.75	6.50	9.50	5.25	8.25
Exceeding 3 and up to 6 months	9.00	11.25	6.50	9.75	7.13	9.30	6.50	9.50	5.50	8.38
Exceeding 6 and up to 12 months	9.00	12.00	6.88	10.75	7.25	11.40	6.50	11.50	5.63	10.50
Exceeding 12 and up to 18 months	9.50	12.00	7.50	10.00	7.38	11.00	6.50	11.50	5.63	10.00
Exceeding 18 and up to 24 months	9.38	11.50	7.50	10.50	7.50	11.00	7.00	12.00	5.63	11.00
Exceeding 24 and up to 36 months	9.63	12.00	8.00	11.00	7.63	11.25	6.75	13.00	5.75	13.00
Exceeding 36 and up to 48 months	9.63	12.00	8.00	11.25	7.75	11.50	7.25	13.50	5.25	13.00
Over 48 months	9.75	11.25	8.75	10.00	8.00	11.50	7.25	13.25	6.00	13.00
Treasury bill rate 1/										
3-month	12.77		8.93		9.44		8.98		7.23	
6-month	12.98		10.25		9.99		9.54		7.86	
12-month	13.10		10.55		11.65		10.61		8.75	

Source: Bank of Mauritius.

1/ Rates quoted are the monthly weighted-average yields on treasury and/or Bank of Mauritius bills auctioned.

Table 35. Mauritius: Balance of Payments, 1998/99-2002/03 1/

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02 Rev. Est.	2002/03 Prov.
Current account	-1,620	-1,753	4,257	7,458	3,947
Goods	-9,071	-12,344	-6,977	-6,177	-8,288
Exports, f.o.b.	41,702	38,845	45,222	47,938	53,450
Sugar	9,226	5,446	7,529	8,950	7,828
Export processing zone (EPZ)	28,179	29,879	32,476	32,891	32,497
Other	4,297	3,520	5,217	6,097	13,125
Imports, f.o.b.	-50,773	-51,189	-52,199	-54,115	-61,738
Imports, c.i.f	-54,076	-55,049	-56,204	-58,151	-66,087
Rice and flour	-1,106	-1,245	-1,167	-1,339	-1,512
Petroleum	-2,700	-4,528	-5,891	-5,467	-6,166
EPZ	-16,175	-15,836	-16,771	-16,756	-16,226
Other	-34,095	-33,440	-32,375	-34,589	-42,183
Of which : aircraft and ships	-2,700	0	-398	-1,575	-1,073
Services (net)	5,771	9,037	9,159	11,908	10,040
Transportation	-1,006	-1,095	-1,003	-517	-1,733
Credit	5,060	5,335	6,401	7,238	8,915
Debit	-6,066	-6,430	-7,404	-7,755	-10,648
Travel	8,127	9,605	10,691	12,379	12,587
Credit	12,764	14,344	15,527	19,045	17,998
Debit	-4,637	-4,739	-4,836	-6,666	-5,411
Other services	-1,350	527	-529	46	-814
Credit	6,211	7,947	9,360	9,396	7,207
Debit	-7,561	-7,420	-9,889	-9,350	-8,021
Income	-589	-895	336	-248	-37
Credit	967	776	2,018	1,808	1,811
Debit	-1,556	-1,671	-1,682	-2,056	-1,848
Current transfers (net)	2,269	2,449	1,739	1,975	2,232
Capital and financial account	966	-477	2,488	-367	3,155
Capital account	-16	-12	-40	-30	-57
Financial account	307	-2,631	-2,600	-7,728	-6,636
Direct investment	466	323	5,443	1,458	1,651
Abroad	-292	-300	-129	-44	55
In Mauritius	758	623	5,572	1,502	1,596
Portfolio investment (net)	714	-590	-3,834	-600	-614
Other investment	-198	-198	919	-1,195	2,175
Assets	-2,799	1,499	492	-302	1,553
Liabilities	2,601	-1,697	427	-893	622
Long-term liabilities	552	-1,824	492	-1,121	-2,940
Government (net)	-372	-510	-458	1,070	-76
Other public sector (net)	1,354	-1,081	1,026	-1,554	-2,341
Other long-term liabilities	-430	-233	-76	-637	-523
Short-term liabilities	2,049	127	-65	228	3,562
Reserve assets (increase -)	-675	-2,166	-5,128	-7,391	-9,848
Net errors and omissions	654	2,230	-6,745	-7,091	-7,102

Sources: Bank of Mauritius; Ministry of Finance; and IMF staff estimates.

1/ Fiscal year from July to June.

Table 36. Mauritius: Principal Merchandise Trade, Price Indices,
and Terms of Trade, 1999-2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
(In millions of Mauritian rupees)					
Total exports, f.o.b.	39,160	39,072	45,622	51,679	52,120
Sugar	7,602	5,544	8,557	8,869	8,430
Export processing zone (EPZ)	29,131	30,961	33,695	32,683	32,059
Cut flowers (non-EPZ)	124	133	139	88	73
Chemicals (non-EPZ)	242	311	289	590	739
Other	606	660	996	792	1,147
Reexports /1	1,455	1,463	1,946	8,657	9,672
Total imports, c.i.f.	53,929	54,928	57,835	64,608	66,389
Food and live animals	6,761	6,948	8,237	11,289	10,311
Beverages and tobacco	527	369	302	491	620
Crude materials, except fuels	1,667	1,654	1,787	1,813	1,542
Mineral fuels, lubricants, etc.	4,046	6,450	6,504	6,634	7,169
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	569	455	472	625	638
Chemicals	3,882	4,260	4,780	5,012	5,779
Manufactured goods	17,036	17,570	17,616	18,744	18,817
Machinery and transport equipment	14,445	12,427	13,004	13,543	14,865
Miscellaneous manufactures	4,842	4,710	5,000	6,317	6,507
Other	154	85	133	140	141
(Index, 1992=100; in Mauritian rupees)					
Price indices					
Unit value of exports	158	157	160	174	184
Unit value of imports	156	161	173	182	195
Terms of trade	101	97	92	96	94
(In millions of Mauritian rupees)					
Memorandum items:					
Ships' stores and bunkers					
Exports, f.o.b.	865	1,810	1,937	2,214	2,044
Imports, c.i.f.	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Central Statistics Office.

1/ As from 2002 Mauritian trade statistics include transactions of the Mauritius Freeport under "Other exports."

Table 37. Mauritius: Pattern of Trade and Direction of Exports of the
Export Processing Zone (EPZ), 1999-2003

(In millions of Mauritian rupees)

	1999	2000	2001	2002 Rev. Est.	2003 Prov.
Total EPZ exports by commodities, f.o.b.	29,131	30,961	33,695	32,683	32,059
Clothing	23,003	24,590	25,626	25,315	24,704
Other textiles	1,829	1,914	2,473	1,225	1,137
Pearls and precious stones	624	822	853	1,047	1,121
Watches and clocks	585	498	407	333	395
Optical goods	204	178	186	149	120
Toys, games, and sporting goods	165	179	177	183	178
Jewelry, gold, and silver goods	361	443	578	850	634
Fish and fish preparations	952	945	1,800	2,018	2,001
Other	1,408	1,392	1,595	1,563	1,769
Total EPZ exports by direction of exports, f.o.b.	29,131	30,961	33,695	32,683	32,059
European Union (EU) countries	19,214	19,845	20,941	20,538	20,273
Belgium	833	809	643	727	674
France	6,911	7,510	7,872	7,637	7,315
Germany	1,567	1,339	1,463	1,132	1,191
Netherlands	886	602	744	752	757
Sweden	108	155	173	114	67
United Kingdom	6,289	6,622	7,169	7,635	7,957
Other	2,620	2,808	2,877	2,541	2,312
Non-EU countries	9,917	11,116	12,754	12,145	11,786
Hong Kong S.A.R.	98	124	85	109	66
United States	6,824	7,715	8,804	9,481	8,785
Other	2,995	3,277	3,865	2,555	2,935
Total EPZ imports by commodities, c.i.f.	15,735	16,399	17,140	16,909	15,559
Materials	13,891	14,700	15,637	15,251	14,061
Yarn and fabrics	8,931	9,313	9,319	8,536	7,834
Other	4,960	5,387	6,318	6,715	6,227
Machinery	1,844	1,699	1,503	1,658	1,498

Source: Central Statistics Office.

Table 38. Mauritius: Medium- and Long-Term External Debt, June 1999-December 2003 1/

(In millions of Mauritian rupees; end of period)

	1999	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	June	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec
Total	30,454	28,767	27,989	28,056	28,466	29,954	27,927	28,753	26,539
Public sector	26,938	25,483	24,687	24,848	25,649	27,382	25,620	26,703	24,602
Central government	10,037	9,891	6,795	6,816	6,998	8,785	8,338	9,074	8,350
International agencies	4,284	4,197	4,176	4,186	4,165	5,835	5,462	6,025	5,390
IMF credit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	4,284	4,197	4,176	4,186	4,165	5,835	5,462	6,025	5,390
Governments	2,701	2,541	2,538	2,547	2,750	2,871	2,801	2,977	2,897
Other lenders	3,052	3,153	81	83	83	79	75	72	63
Parastatal bodies	16,901	15,592	17,892	18,032	18,651	18,597	17,282	17,629	16,252
International agencies	1,953	1,899	1,940	1,996	1,978	1,665	1,537	1,513	1,413
Governments	5,846	5,159	5,234	5,019	4,946	4,997	4,903	4,246	3,742
Other lenders	9,102	8,534	10,718	11,017	11,727	11,935	10,842	11,870	11,097
Private sector	3,516	3,284	3,302	3,208	2,817	2,572	2,307	2,050	1,937

Source: Ministry of Finance.

1/ Disbursed debt outstanding with a maturity exceeding one year.

Table 39. Mauritius: External Debt–Service Payments, 1998/99-2002/03 1/

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
(In millions of Mauritian rupees)					
Government loans (1)	2,147	1,385	4,351	937	1,035
Principal	1,634	920	3,932	708	836
Interest and other charges	513	465	419	229	199
Parastatal bodies (2)	2,318	3,574	2,659	4,945	5,453
Principal	1,500	2,670	1,703	4,002	4,627
Interest and other charges	818	904	956	943	826
Total public debt (1+2)	4,465	4,959	7,010	5,882	6,488
Principal	3,134	3,590	5,635	4,710	5,463
Interest and other charges	1,331	1,369	1,375	1,172	1,025
Private sector debt (3)	505	264	505	1,170	709
Principal	469	256	490	1,152	679
Interest and other charges	36	8	15	18	30
Debt service, excluding IMF (1+2+3)	4,970	5,223	7,515	7,052	7,197
Principal	3,603	3,846	6,125	5,862	6,142
Interest and other charges	1,367	1,377	1,390	1,190	1,055
International Monetary Fund (4)	0	0	0	0	0
Principal	0	0	0	0	0
Interest and other charges	0	0	0	0	0
Total debt service (1+2+3+4)	4,970	5,223	7,515	7,052	7,197
Principal	3,603	3,846	6,125	5,862	6,142
Interest and other charges	1,367	1,377	1,390	1,190	1,055
(In percent of exports of goods and services)					
Debt-service ratios					
Total debt service (including IMF)	7.6	7.9	9.8	8.4	8.2
Principal	5.5	5.8	8.0	7.0	7.0
Interest and other charges	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.4	1.2
(In millions of Mauritian rupees)					
Memorandum item:					
Exports of goods and services	65,737	66,471	76,510	83,617	87,547

Sources: Ministry of Finance; and Bank of Mauritius.

1/ Service payments on medium- and long-term external debt; fiscal year from July to June.

Table 40. Mauritius: Effective Exchange Rate Indices, January 1990-December 2003

(1990=100; period averages)

	Nominal Effective Exchange Rate Index	Real Effective Exchange Rate Index	Consumer Price Index	Relative Price Index
1990	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1991	96.7	98.7	107.0	102.0
1992	94.9	97.0	112.0	102.2
1993	89.6	97.6	123.8	109.0
1994	87.2	98.6	132.8	113.1
1995	83.3	96.7	140.8	116.1
1996	77.3	93.0	150.1	120.4
1997	79.0	99.2	160.3	125.5
1998	72.7	95.5	171.2	131.5
1999	70.3	97.8	183.0	139.1
2000	73.2	104.0	190.7	141.9
2001	69.3	101.6	201.0	146.5
2002	66.4	101.8	214.5	153.2
2003	62.7	98.2	223.6	156.6
1998 I	0.0	98.7	165.7	128.1
1998 II	0.0	95.7	169.6	130.5
1998 III	0.0	95.8	172.6	132.3
1998 IV	98.4	92.0	177.1	135.3
1999 I	69.3	94.9	179.4	136.9
1999 II	71.1	98.5	182.0	138.6
1999 III	70.7	99.1	184.6	140.2
1999 IV	70.2	98.8	186.2	140.7
2000 I	71.6	101.2	188.1	141.2
2000 II	73.6	104.2	189.5	141.5
2000 III	74.2	104.6	190.1	141.0
2000 IV	73.4	105.8	195.3	144.0
2001 I	70.0	101.1	197.3	144.4
2001 II	71.2	103.2	198.6	145.0
2001 III	68.5	101.2	203.1	147.6
2001 IV	67.6	100.9	205.0	149.1
2002 I	69.1	104.4	210.3	151.1
2002 II	66.8	101.8	212.3	152.4
2002 III	64.9	100.1	216.3	154.2
2002 IV	64.9	100.7	219.1	155.1
2003 I	65.4	101.3	220.6	154.8
2003 II	64.4	100.8	222.3	156.4
2003 III	60.8	95.7	224.8	157.4
2003 IV	60.2	95.1	226.7	158.0
2004 I	63.2	100.5	229.7	158.9
2002 January	68.9	103.5	208.7	150.2
2002 February	69.4	104.9	210.6	151.2
2002 March	69.0	105.0	211.6	152.0
2002 April	68.4	104.3	212.0	152.4
2002 May	66.6	101.7	212.4	152.7
2002 June	65.4	99.4	212.4	152.1
2002 July	64.1	98.5	215.4	153.6
2002 August	65.3	100.7	216.4	154.3
2002 September	65.4	101.2	217.2	154.6
2002 October	65.5	101.9	219.3	155.4
2002 November	65.0	100.9	219.1	155.1
2002 December	64.1	99.3	218.9	154.9
2003 January	64.0	99.1	220.4	154.9
2003 February	65.7	101.8	220.8	154.8
2003 March	66.5	102.9	220.6	154.7
2003 April	67.0	104.2	221.0	155.5
2003 May	64.3	100.8	222.5	156.8
2003 June	62.1	97.5	223.3	157.0
2003 July	60.0	94.5	224.6	157.4
2003 August	61.3	96.4	224.3	157.1
2003 September	61.0	96.2	225.4	157.5
2003 October	59.9	94.4	226.2	157.6
2003 November	60.3	95.3	226.4	157.9
2003 December	60.3	95.5	227.5	158.4

Source: IMF, Information Notice System.

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Item	Rate
1. Taxes on income and profits (The Income Tax Act)	Income tax for companies and individuals is payable on income derived during the preceding year. A nonresident is liable only on income derived from Mauritius.	Income accruing to charitable institutions, various sugar industry funds, local authorities, trade unions, and benevolent associations is exempted.	General rate	25 percent
1.1 Companies	Corporate tax is applicable to companies, unit trust schemes, trusts, and nonresident <i>sociétés</i> .	For companies, capital expenditure for agricultural improvement is deductible in full. Companies are also entitled to generous capital allowances: 5-100 percent annual allowance on straight-line method. In addition, there is an investment allowance of 25 percent on the construction of industrial premises or on the acquisition of new plant and machinery, computer software, or a new bus of seating capacity of not less than 30. Previous year's losses; expenditure on repair of premises or plant; donations to approved charitable institutions up to a certain maximum; contributions to the National Pension Fund and Employee Share Scheme; and 100 percent investment allowance on the acquisition of new plant and machinery for investments in Rodrigues are all deductible.	Incentive rate	15 percent
	Chargeable income includes distributed dividends that are not subject to income tax in the hands of the recipient.		Incentives rate under the Investment Promotion Act, Financial Services Development Act, as well as authorized mutual fund, investment trust companies, trustees of unit trust and companies engaged in agricultural manufacturing, and tourism sectors, which do not hold an incentive certificate.	
	Nonresident <i>sociétés</i> are liable to income tax as if they were companies.		Incentive companies include companies engaged in the provision of preprimary and primary education as well as those licenced under Section 14 of the Financial Services Development Act 2001 to conduct business activity in the financial services sector, other than insurance business.	
	Resident <i>sociétés</i> are not liable to income tax, but the associates are taxable on their share of income from the <i>société</i> , whether the income is distributed or not.	Additional investment allowance of 25 percent is granted on capital expenditure incurred by manufacturing companies on the acquisition of state-of-the-art technological equipment and by ICT companies on the acquisition of new	Unit trusts A trust (a) of which the settler is a nonresident or holds a category 1 Global Business License (GBL) License or a Category 2 GBL License under the	15 percent

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
		plant and machinery or computer software.	Financial Services Development Act 2001 or another trust that qualifies and of which all beneficiaries appointed under the terms of the trust are qualified. Throughout an income year, non-residents or holds a Category 1 GBL or a Category 2 GBL under the Financial Services Development Act 2001 or which is a purpose trust under the Trust Act 2001 and whose purpose is carried out outside Mauritius.
		Unrelieved losses of a manufacturing company taken over by another company may under certain conditions be transferred to the acquirer.	Amendment has been brought in the method of taxation of Freeport companies engaged in different type of activities. 15 percent

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
	The following deductions are also available in respect of:		Less: Special tax credit up to 60 percent of investment in spinning companies.
	(a) investment in start-up companies for a period of three years;		
	(b) expenditure incurred by companies in the setting up of approved social infrastructure for the benefit of the community; and		Less: investment tax credit at 10 percent of the amount subscribed to share capital of tax incentive or stock exchange companies for three years (maximum credit of 300,000 per annum). The credit is limited to such an extent that the tax payable after the credit should not be less than 15 percent of the chargeable income.
	(c) contributions made by companies toward the provision of national ambulance services.		
	Exemptions are granted for		
	(a) royalties payable to nonresidents by offshore corporations; and		
	(b) for dividends from resident companies.		
	(c) income derived by companies engaged in spinning, subject to certain conditions.		
	(d) annual allowance of 10 percent is granted on capital allowance incurred on the settling up of golf courses.		

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Chargeable income	Tax Rate
1.2 Individuals	Income tax is payable on income derived from any source. In general, a resident domiciled in Mauritius is liable on income derived domestically or from abroad except for earned income, where only the amounts remitted to the taxpayer enter the tax base. A taxpayer having a foreign domicile but resident in Mauritius is liable to tax in Mauritius in respect of his foreign income, but will be entitled to credit for foreign tax.	<p>PAYE exemption threshold is 7,000, for field workers and for non-agricultural workers in the sugar industry the exemption is 5,700 during intercrop season and 9,100 during crop season.</p> <p>Exemption of severance allowance and retiring allowance is increased to 1.4M.</p> <p>Exemption of transport allowance is increased to 6,200.</p> <p>Exempt income includes death gratuities; gains from sale of units or securities quoted on the stock exchange; the first 75,000 of bank interest; dividends paid by resident companies; and income from the first 60 tons of sugar produced (i.e., by small planters).</p> <p>Deductions from income include interest paid on mortgage or secured loans; previous year's losses; pension contributions; life insurance premiums; premiums on personal pension schemes; and investment relief, which is a deduction of 40 per-cent (maximum 75,000) of the amount subscribed to share capital of tax incentive or stock exchange companies.</p>	<p>First 25,000</p> <p>Remainder percent</p>	<p>15 percent</p> <p>25</p>

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
		<p>Personal and family deductions are the following:</p> <p>for personal, 75,000; for dependent spouse, 60,000; and for children (maximum of three)</p> <p>(a) 25,000 per child under 18,</p> <p>(b) 30,000 per child attending vocational training (local),</p> <p>(c) maximum 8,000 per dependent child for education,</p> <p>(d) 50,000 per child at university (local), and extended to a child receiving full time post-secondary instructions of at least two years duration at the Industrial and Vocational Training Board or at a registered training institution.</p> <p>(e) 100,000 per child at university (abroad), plus</p> <p>(f) an additional 50,000 per dependent handicapped child.</p> <p>Additional deductions include:</p> <p>50 percent of net medical expenses; premiums on life insurance up to 80,000; premiums on personal pension schemes; on retirement annuity and contribution to medical schemes up to 20 percent of net income; interest relief on secured loans for purchase of land for construction or improvement</p>	

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
2. Taxes on property 2.1 Registration duty	The duty is levied upon registration or transfer of immovable property based on value of property transferred.	of residence or to finance tertiary ax incentive companies or companies listed on the stock exchange up to 50,000; and donations to charitable institutions up to 20,000.	Where value of immovable property transferred does not exceed 100,000, 10 percent plus 10 percent surcharge on value of immovable property transferred is charged. Where value of immovable property transferred exceeds 100,000, 12 percent plus 10 percent surcharge on value of immovable property transferred is charged.

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
		Under the Sugar Industry Efficiency Act 2001:	
		on certain conditions:	
		(a) where land under cane cultivation is transferred, registration duty at 2 percent and no surcharge is payable	
		(b) where land is transferred by a planter to a metayer, registration duty at 2 percent and no surcharge is payable.	
		(c) Where land is transferred to: (i) the Sugar Investment Trust or a body controlled by it; (ii) by the Sugar Investment Trust or a body controlled by it to shareholder of The Trust or a body controlled by it or a cooperative credit society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act.	
		Registration duty at 2 percent and no surcharge is payable.	
		(d) Where land is transferred: (i) an occupier of a former sugar estate company owned by a planter of a miller; (ii) an employee who has voluntarily terminated his contract of employment in the context of a factory closure taking place after July 1, 1997, pursuant to Section 24 of the Cane Planters and Millers Arbitration and Control Board Act, or the VRS, pursuant to Section 23 of the Act.	
		Total exemption of registration duty.	

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
	A deed containing the creation of a mortgage. An instrument containing creation of a fixed or floating charge or a pledge in accordance with Article 2112 to 2119 of the Code Napoleon.	Any transaction in respect of any sale conversion or acquisition of land pursuant to the Act by a Specified Entity – total exemption of registration duty.	2.475 percent on the amount of loan
	Document witnessing the creation of fixed and floating charges by a company specified in the Eighth Schedule of The Registration Duty Act or a company registered with the Small and Medium Industries Development Organization.		Rs 300
	Recording of the renewal of a <i>sûreté fixe ou flottante</i> under Articles 2202-10 and 2203-6 of the Code Napoléon.		RS 300
	Recording of Memorandum of Inventory under Article 2202-49 of the Code Napoleon.		Rs 50
	Registration of a notice under Article 2202-44 of the Code Napoléon.		Rs 300
	Registration of a document witnessing the creation of a <i>gage sans déplacement</i> in accordance with Article 2112 of the Code Civil Mauricien by a company specified in the Eighth Schedule.		Rs 300

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
	Registration of a document witnessing the creation of fixed and floating charges by a noncitizen on his assets, property and accounts sited in Mauritius in favor of another noncitizen, a company holding a Category 1 GBL, a company holding a Category 2 GBL or a bank holding a Category 2 Banking Licence.	<p>Under Act 19-of 1986</p> <p>On certain conditions specified under the Act :</p> <p>(a) a deed of transfer, for the construction of a residential building, of a lot excised from a larger portion of land, or a portion of land on which exists a house, by a partnership or a company registered with the Sugar Insurance Fund to a worker is exempt from registration duty.</p> <p>Under Act 25 of 1993 as amended by Act 18 of 1999, certain conditions are specified:</p> <p>(a) where bare land in a residential area is acquired for the construction of a building by an individual not already owner of a residential property, registration duty is reduced by 100,000;</p>	Rs 1,000

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
		(b) where a right to construct a building on top on an existing building (<i>droit de surélévation</i>) together with a fraction of the ownership of the ground, is acquired by an individual not already owner of residential property, registration duty is reduced by 100,000;	
		(c) where a residential lot in a building that has been subject to a duly registered and transcribed deed witnessing a <i>règlement de copropriété</i> in accordance with Article 664 and 664-1 to 664-94 of the Code Napoléon is acquired by an individual not already owner of a residential building, registration duty is reduced by 110,000; and	
		(d) where a portion of land, whether freehold or leasehold with a residential building thereon, is acquired by an individual not already owner of a residential building, registration duty is reduced by 110,000.	

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate																								
		Under Act 25 of 1994, where immovable property is transferred to a company holding a housing development certificate, duty is reduced by 75 percent.																									
		Registration of a deed witnessing the purchase of an immovable property from a company holding an investment certificate in respect of a project under the Integrated Resort Scheme prescribed under the Investment Promotion Act:																									
		(a) in the case of a noncitizen	U.S. \$ 70,000																								
		(b) in the case of a citizen or company incorporated under Companies Act of 2001.	Equivalent U.S. \$70,000																								
		Where property is transferred without consideration between parties other than ascendants and descendants.	<table><tr><th><u>Property value</u></th><th><u>Rate</u></th></tr><tr><td>Not exceeding 15,000</td><td>10 percent</td></tr><tr><td>Exceeding</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15,000 but not exceeding 20,000</td><td>12.5 percent</td></tr><tr><td>20,000 but not exceeding 50,000</td><td>15 percent</td></tr><tr><td>50,000 but not exceeding 150,000</td><td>18 percent</td></tr><tr><td>150,000 but not exceeding 250,000</td><td>21 percent</td></tr><tr><td>250,000 but not exceeding 500,000</td><td>24 percent</td></tr><tr><td>500,000 but not exceeding 700,000</td><td>27 percent</td></tr><tr><td>700,000 but not exceeding 1,000,000</td><td>30 percent</td></tr><tr><td>1,000,000 but not exceeding 2,000,000</td><td>35 percent</td></tr><tr><td>2,000,000 but not exceeding 5,000,000</td><td>40 percent</td></tr></table>	<u>Property value</u>	<u>Rate</u>	Not exceeding 15,000	10 percent	Exceeding		15,000 but not exceeding 20,000	12.5 percent	20,000 but not exceeding 50,000	15 percent	50,000 but not exceeding 150,000	18 percent	150,000 but not exceeding 250,000	21 percent	250,000 but not exceeding 500,000	24 percent	500,000 but not exceeding 700,000	27 percent	700,000 but not exceeding 1,000,000	30 percent	1,000,000 but not exceeding 2,000,000	35 percent	2,000,000 but not exceeding 5,000,000	40 percent
<u>Property value</u>	<u>Rate</u>																										
Not exceeding 15,000	10 percent																										
Exceeding																											
15,000 but not exceeding 20,000	12.5 percent																										
20,000 but not exceeding 50,000	15 percent																										
50,000 but not exceeding 150,000	18 percent																										
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1,000,000 but not exceeding 2,000,000	35 percent																										
2,000,000 but not exceeding 5,000,000	40 percent																										

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
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Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
		5,000,000	45 percent
		Plus surcharge on value of immovable property transferred	10 percent
		No duty is applied where a property is transferred	
		(a) by an ascendant to a descendant or the latter's spouse or surviving spouse;	
		(b) between the heirs of a deceased person when that property was acquired by inheritance from that person;	
		(c) between spouses;	
		(d) to a charitable trust under the Trust Act 2001;	
		(e) to a religious body under the Registration Duty Act; and	
		(f) by the Sugar Industry Labor Welfare Fund to a worker who is duly certified as such in the deed of transfer.	
		Under Act 19 of 1986:	
		on certain conditions specified in the Act, transfer of a lot excised from a larger portion of land by a partnership or company registered with the Sugar Insurance Fund to a worker, total exemption of registration duty.	
		Where the last transfer was affected prior to July 16, 1984, the value of 75,000 is exempted.	
2.2 Land transfer tax	This tax is payable on the transfer of immovable property based on the value of the property transferred.	<p><u>On value of immovable property</u></p> <p>If held five years or more</p> <p>If held less than five years</p>	<p><u>Rate</u></p> <p>5 percent</p> <p>10 percent</p>

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
			Where transfer is made after a period exceeding 5 years of date of acquisition. 5 percent of value of immovable property; Where transfer is made after a period not exceeding 5 years of date of acquisition. 10 percent of value of immovable property.
		Under the Sugar Industry Efficiency Act of 2001 total exemption of land transfer tax is granted. on certain conditions: (a) where land under cane cultivation is transferred; (b) where land is transferred by a planter to a metayer; (c) where land is transferred to the Sugar Investment Trust or a body controlled by it; or by the Sugar Investment Trust or a body controlled by it to a shareholder of the trust or a body controlled by it or a cooperative credit society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act;	

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
		(d) where land is transferred to an occupier of a former sugar estate company owned by a planter or a miller; or an employee who has voluntarily terminated his contract of employment in the context of a factory closure taking place after July 1, 1997, pursuant to section 24 of the Cane Planters and Millers Arbitration and Control Board Act, or the Voluntary Retirement Scheme pursuant to Section 23 of the Act; and	
		(e) where land is converted by sale or otherwise acquired pursuant to the Act by a Specified Entity, total exemption of land transfer tax.	
		Under Act 19 of 1986, on certain conditions specified under the Act, transfer of a lot excised from a larger portion of land by a partnership or company registered with the Sugar Insurance Fund to a worker is totally exempt from land transfer tax.	
		Total exemption of land transfer tax is also granted where property is transferred.	
		(a) by an ascendant to a descendant or the latter's spouse or surviving spouse;	
		(b) to a charitable trust under the Trust Act of 2001;	

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
		(c) to a religious body under the Registration Duty Act;	
		(d) by the Sugar Industry Labor Welfare Fund to a worker who is duly certified as such in the deed of transfer;	
		(e) by a company holding a housing development certificate;	
		(f) between spouses;	
		(g) in respect of a right to construct a building on top of an existing building (<i>droit de surélévation</i>), together with a fraction of the ownership of the ground, and where certain conditions under Section 45 A (2) are fulfilled; and	
		(h) by a transferor who has acquired the property to be transferred through inheritance from his spouse, an ascendant, a descendant, a brother, or a sister.	
2.3 <i>Morcellement</i> fee	This fee is levied on any lot of land parceled out.	Exemptions include land under sugar cane cultivation (up to 25 acres).	For residential, commercial, or industrial purposes Per sq. meter 6.00 For agricultural purposes Per sq. meter 2.50

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
2.4 Land conversion tax	A tax is levied on conversion of agricultural land to other uses.	Exemptions are granted for approved housing schemes, agroindustry, and community benefit. A housing development company pays half the rate.	Depending on area converted and category of conversion Per hectare 0–3.5 million
2.5 Campement site tax	This tax is levied on campement sites.	Under the Campement Site Tax (Exemption) Regulations of 1985, certain conditions are specified: (a) exemption is granted from payment of tax where the site is occupied as a sole residence or used exclusively for agricultural or grazing purposes; and (b) part of campement site is exempted from tax where the site is crossed by a public road.	Annual tax according to zone Per sq. meter 2.00–6.00
2.6 Campement tax	This tax is levied on campements.	Exemption is granted to an owner who uses the campement as his sole residence and the market value of which is less than 5,000,000	on value of campement (including value of campement site) 0.5 percent less campement site tax and general rate under Local Government Act.
2.7 Capital gains (morcellement) tax	This tax is imposed on the transfer of any lot in land parceled out.	The following are exempted: (a) immovable property within 500 meters from the high-water mark of the seacoast up to 1,000 sq. meters; (b) immovable property within the limits of a town, up to 2,000 sq. meters; and (c) other immovable property, up to 4,000 sq. meters.	<u>Surcharge</u> Between the selling price and the purchase price <u>Rate</u> 20–30 percent plus 20 percent surcharge

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
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Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
		Under the Sugar Industry Efficiency Act 2001 total exemption of capital gain tax	
		On certain conditions:	
		(a) where land under cane cultivation is transferred;	
		(b) where land is transferred by a planter to a metayer;	
		(c) where land is transferred to the Sugar Investment Trust or a body controlled by it, by the Sugar Investment Trust or a body controlled by it to a shareholder of the Sugar Investment Trust or a body controlled by it or a cooperative credit society registered under the Cooperative Societies Act;	
		(d) where land is transferred to an occupier of a former sugar estate company owned by a planter or a miller; or an employee who has voluntarily terminated his contract of employment in the context of a factory closure taking place after July 1, 1997, pursuant to Section 24 of the Cane Planters and Millers Arbitration and Control Board Act or the Voluntary Retirement Scheme pursuant to Section 23 of the Act; and	

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
		(e) where land is converted by sale or otherwise acquired pursuant to the Act by a Specified Entity, total exemption of capital gains Tax. Under Act 19 of 1986, on certain conditions specified in the Act, the transfer of a lot excised from a larger portion of land by a partnership or company registered with the Sugar Insurance Fund Board to a worker is totally exempt from the capital gains tax. Total exemption from capital gains tax is also granted where property is transferred (a) by an ascendant to a descendant or the latter's spouse or surviving spouse; (b) by the Sugar Industry Labor Welfare Fund to a worker who is duly certified as such in the deed of transfer; and (c) by a transferor who has acquired the property to be transferred through inheritance from his spouse, an ascendant, a descendant, a brother, or a sister.	

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
2.7 Taxes on transfer of leasehold rights in state land	This tax is levied on the transfer of lease contracts for state land from one lessee to another.	Under Act 9 of 1997 (Tax on Transfer of Leasehold Rights in State Land), no tax is applied where a property is transferred (a) by an ascendant to a descendant or the latter's spouse or surviving spouse; (b) between the heirs of a deceased person, when that property was acquired by inheritance from that person; (c) to a charitable trust under the Trusts Act 1989; or (d) to a religious body under the Registration Duty Act.	General rate on the value of the leasehold rights being transferred. 20 percent

3. Taxes on domestic goods and services

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
3.1 Value-added tax (VAT)	VAT was introduced in Mauritius as from September 7, 1998 in replacement of the sales tax on goods. A broadly based ad valorem tax is chargeable on the supply of goods and services in Mauritius, including the island of Rodrigues, and on the importation of goods and services into Mauritius. Exports are zero rated.	VAT borne on inputs is generally allowed to be set off against VAT on outputs, but there are some exceptions, like tax on motor cars, gas oil and fuel oil, and entertainment expenses. No input tax is allowed as credit in respect of goods or services used to make an exempt supply. Goods and services exempted from VAT include basic foodstuffs, unprocessed agricultural products, milk, journals and periodicals, medicines, medical and dental services, fishing vessels and aircrafts, fertilizers, animal feed, transport of passengers and goods by sea or air, educational and training services, the sale of land, and the sale or transfer of buildings for residential purposes, financial services except (a) services provided to merchants accepting a credit card or debit card as payment for the supply of goods or services (merchant discount), (b) services in respect of safe deposit lockers, issue and renewal of credit cards and debit cards; and (c) services for keeping and maintaining customers' accounts (other than transactions involving the primary dealer system) – these banking services were subject to VAT as from January 1, 2003.	Single rate of 15 percent.

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
		Persons in business whose annual turnover of taxable goods and services below MUR 3 million. As from October 1, 2002, the MUR 3 million registration to the Commissioner of VAT in case the annual turnover is exceed MUR 3 million are required to register for VAT. A person or business may also apply for a threshold would not apply to any person engaged in profession/business such as: Accountant and/or auditor, advertising agent, adviser, architect and or draughtsman, attorney and/or solicitor, barrister, clearing and forwarding agent, consultant, customs house broker, engineer, estate agent, land surveyor, marine surveyor, motor surveyor, notary, optician, project manager, property valuer, quality surveyor, sworn auctioneer, tour operator, and travel agent. A person dealing exclusively in zero-rated supplies may choose not to register even if his turnover exceeds MUR 3 million. Input VAT allowable is apportioned between taxable and exempt supplies. Since October 2000, electricity and water for household, and for agricultural irrigation are zero rated.	

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
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Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
3.2 Excise taxes 3.2.1 Tobacco & cigarettes	Cigarettes are taxed ad valorem.	<u>Item</u>	<u>Rate</u>
		Cigarettes	
		Locally manufactured	210 percent plus 210 per 1,000 cigarettes
		Imported	360 percent plus 360 per 1,000 cigarettes
3.2.2 Alcohol and alcoholic beverages	Locally produced alcohol and alcoholic beverages are taxed at different rates, both on a volume basis and ad valorem. Coverage includes products blended and bottled from imported stock.	Liquor (final product) imported in bottles is not excisable. Vinegar, nonbrewed condiments, alcohol for heating, and power alcohol are duty free.	<u>Item</u>
			<u>Rate</u>
			Alcohol compounded, spirits, and rum
			Per volume percentage per liter
			1.22
			Wine and country liquor, whichever is higher
			Per liter
			4.40
			Ad valorem
			30 percent
			Other liquors admixed
			Spirits, gin, etc.
			Per liter
			120.00
			Aperitif, liquor per liter
			30.00
			Spirits (whiskies) per liter
			200.00
			Beer and stout per liter
			12.10
			Shandy per liter
			2.40
			Alcohol for perfumes and cosmetics per liter
			5.50

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate																																				
3.2.3 Automobiles	This tax is chargeable on any car manufactured locally, depending on engine capacity.		17-157 percent																																				
3.3 Taxes on betting and gambling	Betting in casinos and gambling houses and on horse races, association football matches, and winnings from betting and sweepstakes is taxed.	<table><tr><td><u>Item</u></td><td><u>Rate</u></td></tr><tr><td>Casinos and gambling houses, gross takings</td><td>Up to 50 per-cent</td></tr><tr><td>Horse racing sweepstakes</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Amount collected</td><td>15 percent</td></tr><tr><td>Amount payable as winnings</td><td>2 percent</td></tr><tr><td>Bookmaker</td><td>Fixed duty of 9,000–18,000</td></tr><tr><td>Per race meeting</td><td>12 percent</td></tr><tr><td>Amount payable on winnings</td><td>2 percent</td></tr><tr><td>Amount payable on winnings</td><td>2 percent</td></tr><tr><td>Totalizator</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Amount collected on win and place bets</td><td>14 percent</td></tr><tr><td>Amount collected on other bets</td><td>16 percent</td></tr><tr><td>Pool betting</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pool promoter</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stake money collected</td><td>15 percent</td></tr><tr><td>Amount payable as winnings</td><td>2 percent</td></tr><tr><td>Agent of foreign pool promoter</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Amount of stake money</td><td>15 percent</td></tr></table>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Rate</u>	Casinos and gambling houses, gross takings	Up to 50 per-cent	Horse racing sweepstakes		Amount collected	15 percent	Amount payable as winnings	2 percent	Bookmaker	Fixed duty of 9,000–18,000	Per race meeting	12 percent	Amount payable on winnings	2 percent	Amount payable on winnings	2 percent	Totalizator		Amount collected on win and place bets	14 percent	Amount collected on other bets	16 percent	Pool betting		Pool promoter		Stake money collected	15 percent	Amount payable as winnings	2 percent	Agent of foreign pool promoter		Amount of stake money	15 percent	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Rate</u>																																						
Casinos and gambling houses, gross takings	Up to 50 per-cent																																						
Horse racing sweepstakes																																							
Amount collected	15 percent																																						
Amount payable as winnings	2 percent																																						
Bookmaker	Fixed duty of 9,000–18,000																																						
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Pool betting																																							
Pool promoter																																							
Stake money collected	15 percent																																						
Amount payable as winnings	2 percent																																						
Agent of foreign pool promoter																																							
Amount of stake money	15 percent																																						

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Within due date	After due date	Tax Rate
3.4 Incorporation fee	Includes search duty for every file; incorporation of private and public companies; registration of Commercial Partnerships; issue of certificates by the Registrar, certifying any copy or extract of any document; photocopy of documents pertaining to:				
	Incorporation Fees				
	(a) small private company at time of corporation;		2,000	3,000	
	(b) company holding a Category 2 Global Business license at time of corporation;		US\$65	US\$100	
	(c) foreign company at time of registration;		9,000	13,000	
	(d) dormant company;		2,000	3,000	
	(e) public company at time of incorporation;		9,000	13,000	
	(f) any other company at time of incorporation; and		2,000	9,000	
	Other fees				
	(g) commercial partnerships at time of registration.		6,000	9,000	
3.5 Company and Annual Registration Fees	Annual registration fees for:		With due date	After due date	
	(a) small private company;		2,000	3,000	
	(b) company holding a Category 2 Global Business licence;		US\$65	US\$100	
	(c) foreign company;		9,000	13,000	

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
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Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
	(d) dormant company;		2,000
	(e) public company;		9,000
	(f) any other company;		2,000
	(g) commercial partnerships.		6,000
		<u>Gaming house</u>	9,000
			<u>Annual fee</u>
		For casino license	500,000
		For license A	400,000
		For license B	100,000
		For license C	10,000
		Per coin-operated gaming machine	20,000
		Totalizator (annual)	2,000
		Pari-mutuel organizer (half-yearly)	1,000
		Local pool promoter (annual)	3,630
		Agent for foreign pool promoter (annual)	3,630
		Collector (annual)	151
		<u>Item</u>	<u>Rate</u>
3.6 Motor vehicle taxes	Motor vehicles are subject to annual road license fees, and special trading license fees are applied to contract cars and buses.	Motor vehicles used within the owner's premises and by embassies are exempt. Local authorities, parastatal bodies, and other institutions, by virtue of the Act constituting them, are exempted.	3,500–8,000 1,800–4,000 4,500–10,000 3,000–5,000 1,800–13,200 600–1000 1,000
		Any motor car belonging to a person on a temporary visit of not less than one week (per month)	500

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
4. Taxes on international trade			
4.1 Taxes on imports			
4.1.1 Customs tariff	<p>Mauritius maintains a one-column tariff schedule based on the Harmonized System (HS) Nomenclature. Since July 1994, import customs duties, which account for the bulk of customs duty revenue, vary by HS classification. An additional 10 percent of import duties are reliable on all imports from nonpreferential countries and which attract import customs duties at the rate of 55 percent or over, i.e., generally other than from the Commonwealth, the European Union, and the United States. Import customs duties are in general ad valorem on c.i.f. values.</p> <p>Goods originating from the following COMESA member states and covered by a proper certificate of origin are allowed duty free: Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. However, goods originating from the other COMESA member states attract duty at the rate of 10 percent of the national tariff schedule, wherever applicable.</p> <p>Goods originating in Madagascar are allowed 100% remission of import duties under the <i>Protocole sur les</i></p>	<p>Exemptions include most food items, agricultural capital goods and specialized spare parts, fertilizers, sporting goods, machinery for the textile, leather, furniture, jewelry, and printing industries; most primary and crude products used as raw materials (such as sheets, sections, and profiles of plastics, rubber, or metal) essential oils, plywood and particle boards; medical and laboratory equipment; energy-saving equipment, protective masks, burglar alarm and surveillance systems, fire fighting equipment, lifts and escalators, vending machines, generators, electric drills, automatic data processing machines and their peripheral units, etc. Imports by factories operating under the EPZ, ESZ, or Industrial Expansion Acts are exempt. For non-EPZ firms, duty drawbacks are permitted on raw materials and intermediate goods used to produce goods for export.</p>	<p>Import customs duties consist of nine tax rates: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 55, and 80 percent, respectively.</p>

Table 41. Mauritius: Summary of the Tax System as of February 29, 2004
(All amounts in Mauritian rupees, unless otherwise indicated)

Tax	Nature of Tax	Deductions and Exemptions	Tax Rate
	<i>règles d'Origine des Produits Echangés Entre les Etats Membres de la Commission de l'Océan Indien.</i>		
4.1.2 Import excise duty	Excise is levied on alcoholic beverages, spirits, tobacco products, petroleum products, motor cars, and furniture, and payable on customs clearance.	Exemptions are granted for returning residents and manufacturers of motor cars; exemptions or concessions are also granted for taxis, tour operators, and civil servants, as well as vegetable growers and religious bodies.	15-400 percent
5. Other taxes			
5.1 Stamp duty	Documents presented for registration with the Registrar-General or deposited with the Conservator of Mortgages for transcription, inscription, or erasure of inscription are taxed.		15 per sheet.
6. Environment protection fee	Tax is levied on the monthly turnover of hotels and boarding houses. Tax is also levied on monthly turnover of enterprises engaged in stone crushing and in the manufacture or processing of aggregates, concrete, blocks, precast units, coral sand, rocksand, and basalt sand.		On monthly turnover 0.75 percent

Source: Ministry of Finance.