AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION

Year 2004

Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicator presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius for the year 2004, as well as revised figures for year 2003. Table 1 shows area harvested and production in respect of the main agricultural crops while Table 2 shows production of the main agro-industrial products. Details on the sugar industry and foodcrops are given at Tables 3 and 6 respectively.

2. Sugar cane

The net favourable climatic conditions that prevailed in 2004 resulted in an increase of 1.6% in the production of cane: 5,280,370 tonnes in 2004 as compared to 5,199,384 tonnes in 2003. Total area harvested decreased slightly by 1,103 hectares (-1.6 %) from 70,998 hectares in 2003 to 69,895 hectares in 2004 while the yield per hectare went up by 3.2% from 73.23 tonnes to 75.55 tonnes.

The average extraction rate was 10.85% as compared to 10.34% in 2003, representing a rise of 4.9%. The increase in production of sugar cane in 2004 coupled with a higher extraction rate has led to an increase of 6.6% in the production of sugar: from 537,155 tonnes in 2003 to 572,408 tonnes in 2004.

3. Tea

The area under tea plantation in 2004 was 674 hectares, representing a drop of 1.0% as compared to 681 hectares in 2003. On the other hand, production of green tea leaves went up by 3.7%: 7,229 tonnes as compared to 6,973 tonnes for 2003.

Production of black tea rose by 3.2% from 1,436 tonnes in 2003 to 1,482 tonnes in 2004. More details on tea are given in Table 4.

4. Tobacco

An area of 407 hectares under tobacco cultivation was harvested in 2004, which is 7.4% higher than the 379 hectares in 2003. However, the production of tobacco leaves declined by 3.1% from 424 tonnes to 411 tonnes as a consequence of excessive rainfall and leaf necrosis disease.

5. Foodcrops

Data on foodcrops production are supplied by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). Figures are thereafter adjusted to take into account backyard production, namely banana, eddoes, manioc and sweet potato.

Compared to 2003, production of foodcrops in 2004 showed a rise of 9.4% from 103,455 tonnes to 113,164 as a result of favourable climatic conditions. Area harvested registered an increase of 4.1% from 7,228 hectares in 2003 to 7,526 hectares.

6. Livestock

The production of beef from live cattle decreased by 2.0% in 2004 to reach 2,456 tonnes against 2,505 tonnes in 2003. Beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle rose slightly by 0.7%, from 2,303 tonnes to 2,319 tonnes, whilst local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) dropped significantly by 32.2%, from 202 tonnes in 2003 to 137 tonnes. Local production accounted for 5.6% of total beef production.

Compared to 2003, the production of goat meat and mutton remained unchanged in 2004, that is 107 tonnes. The share of local production, inclusive of imports from Rodrigues, was 25.0%.

Production of pork decreased by 5.2% from 784 tonnes in 2003 to 743 tonnes in 2004.

7. Fish

In 2004, total fish production dropped by 2.0% from 9,709 tonnes in 2003 to 9,513 tonnes. Fresh coastal fish catch registered a drop of 5.8%, while other catch (tuna, bank, etc) declined by 1.0%.

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Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 2003 - 2004

Crops	2003 [1]		2004 [3]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Sugar cane	70,998	5,199,384	69,895	5,280,370
Tea (green leaves)	681 [2]	6,973	674 [2]	7,229
Tobacco	379	424	407	411
Foodcrops	7,228	103,455	7,526	113,164

[1] Revised
[2] Area under cultivation
[3] Provisional

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 2003 - 2004

Agro-industrial products	Unit	2003 [3]	2004 [4]
Sugar	tonnes	537,155	572,408
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,436	1,482
Beef [1]	"	2,505	2,456
Local (incl. imports from Rodrigues)	"	(202)	(137)
Imported	"	(2,303)	(2,319)
Goat meat and mutton [1]	"	107	107
Pork [1]	"	784	743
Poultry	"	30,000	30,900
Milk	000 Litres	4,000	4,000
Fish [2]	tonnes	9,709	9,513
Coastal	"	(2,116)	(1,993)
Other (tuna,bank,etc)	"	(7,593)	(7,520)

[1] Comprises abattoir slaughters only
[2] Fresh weight equivalent
[3] Revised
[4] Provisional

Table 3.1 - Sugar Industry - Field statistics, 2003- 2004

Ownership	2003 [1]			2004 [2]		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes per hectare)	Area harvested (hectares)	Cane produced (tonnes)	Yield (tonnes per hectare)
1. Estate	28,284	2,308,668	81.62	28,037	2,350,322	83.83
2. Metayers	1,041	52,107	50.05	1,013	48,540	47.92
3. Planters	41,670	2,838,607	68.12	40,845	2,881,507	70.55
TOTAL	**70,998**	**5,199,384**	**73.23**	**69,895**	**5,280,370**	**75.55**

Note: Totals may not add due to independent rounding

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional

Table 3.2 - Sugar Industry - Factory statistics, 2003 - 2004

Details	Unit	2003	2004 [1]
1. Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	5,196,844	5,277,137
2. Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	10.34	10.85
3. Average polarisation	degrees	98.50	98.50
4. Average yield of sugar	tonnes per hectare	7.50	7.69
5. Average tonnes of cane per tonne of sugar	tonnes	9.67	9.83
6. Production of sugar	"	537,155	572,408
- White	"	547	N.A
- Raw	"	467,750	498,000
- Special	"	68,858	74,408
7. Molasses	"	160,041	155,763

[1] Provisional

N.A : not available

Table 4 - Tea - Production of green leaves by type of producer, 2003 - 2004

(Tonnes)

Type of Producer	2003 [1]	2004 [2]
1. Estates	1,216	1,426
2. Metayers	2,266	2,228
3. Free planters	2,208	2,268
4. Planters in Co-operatives Societies	1,283	1,307
TOTAL	**6,973**	**7,229**

[1] Revised
[2] Provisional

Table 5 - Tobacco - Area harvested and production of leaf, 2003 - 2004

Variety	2003 [1]		2004 [2]	
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1. Virginia (flue-cured)	321	357	363	385
2. Amarello (air-cured)	58	67	44	26
TOTAL	**379**	**424**	**407**	**411**

[1] Revised
[2] Provisional

Table 6 - Foodcrops: area harvested, production and yield per hectare, 2003 - 2004

Foodcrops	2003 [1]			2004 [2]		
	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)	Area harvested (hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes)
Potato	588	12,359	21.0	637	13,639	21.4
Maize	27	177	6.6	57	369	6.5
Groundnut	255	893	3.5	209	602	2.9
Onion	158	4,183	26.5	181	4,678	25.8
Ginger	29	369	12.7	38	790	20.8
Garlic	8	63	7.9	9	76	8.4
Chillies	204	1,056	5.2	220	1,319	6.0
Tomato	1,044	13,247	12.7	943	14,263	15.1
Beans and Peas	406	2,022	5.0	401	2,132	5.3
Cabbage	267	6,279	23.5	284	6,476	22.8
Cauliflower	88	1,662	18.9	115	2,851	24.8
Brinjal	153	2,097	13.7	203	2,821	13.9
Creepers	2,323	29,644	12.8	1,078	15,026	13.9
Other vegetables	1,008	12,752	12.7	2,486	31,629	12.7
Banana	544	12,090	22.2	528	12,000	22.7
Pineapple	126	4,562	36.2	137	4,493	32.8
TOTAL	**7,228**	**103,455**	**14.3**	**7,526**	**113,164**	**15.0**

Source: Agricultural Research and Extension Unit(AREU) and CSO estimates

[1] Revised

[2] Provisional