Republic of Mauritius

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS

An Occasional Paper

ISSUE NO. 33

12 October, 2000

1 ⇨ **AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION**
January - June 2000

2 ⇨ **PRODUCER PRICE INDEX - AGRICULTURE(PPI-A)**
April - June 2000

http://ncb.intnet.mu/medrc.htm

Price: Rs 30.-

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Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs
Port-Louis
Republic of Mauritius

Note: Readers are invited to make the distinction between official data which are published in the Economic Indicators and the analysis presented for the benefit of general readers. Differences of opinion may arise regarding the analytical part but these do not in any way, undermine the quality of the data. The Editors welcome constructive critical comments.

AGRICULTURAL AND FISH PRODUCTION
(January - June 2000)

Introduction.

This report presents data on agricultural and fish production for the Island of Mauritius during the first six months of 2000, as well as revised figures for year 1999. 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.

2. Sugarcane.

During the first semester of 2000, about 2,430 hectares under sugar cane were harvested, yielding 178,420 tonnes of sugar cane and 17,794 tonnes of sugar. Last year, because of the severe drought and the late harvest, no sugar cane was harvested during the first half year. The average extraction rate as at June 2000 stood at 9.97% compared to 9.19% in 1998. More details relative to sugar are given in table 3.

According to the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, the 2000 crop will most probably be of the order of 580,000 tonnes of sugar.

3. Tea

Following the diversification programme and the conversion of tea plots into sugar cane plantation, the area under tea plantation, which was around 3,000 hectares in 1994, now stands at 670 hectares only. Because of excessive rainfall in certain regions where tea is cultivated, production of green tea leaves during the first semester of 2000 was lower by 14.5%: 3,645 tonnes as compared to 4,263 tonnes for the same period of 1999. (table 4)

4. Tobacco.

An area of 192 hectares under tobacco was harvested during the first semester of 2000, which is 13.6% higher than the 169 hectares in the corresponding period of 1999. The production of tobacco leaves has also gone up by 14.0% and reached 294 tonnes compared to 258 tonnes during the first semester of 1999.

5. Foodcrops.

Foodcrops statistics are supplied by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). These figures are adjusted to take into account backyard production, namely banana, eddoes, manioc and sweet potato.

Overall favourable climatic conditions during the first semester of 2000 have led to increases in the production of foodcrops. Area harvested registered a rise of 30.6% from 2,353 hectares in January-June 1999 to 3,074 hectares and correspondingly, foodcrops production went up by 56.6% from 25,606 tonnes to 40,098 tonnes.

Compared to the same period of 1998 (instead of 1999 which was affected by the severe drought), area harvested and production in the first semester of 2000 have increased by 5.1% and 15.6% respectively. More details on selected foodcrops are given at table 5.

Total foodcrops production for the current year is estimated at around 93,000 tonnes compared to 91,618 tonnes in 1998.

6. Livestock.

During the period Jan-June 2000, the production of beef from live cattle increased by 3.0% to reach 1,150 tonnes against 1,117 tonnes in the corresponding period of 1999: beef production from the slaughter of imported cattle rose by 5.6%, from 1,006 tonnes to 1,062 tonnes. On the other hand, local beef production (including live cattle from Rodrigues) fell by 20.7%, from 111 tonnes in 1999 to 88 tonnes. Local production accounted for only 7.7% of total beef production.

The production of goat meat and mutton witnessed a 33.3% drop: 55 tonnes in January-June 2000 against 63 tonnes in January-June 1999. The share of local production inclusive imports from Rodrigues stood at 74.5%.

On the other hand, after recording continuous declines during the past four years, from 539 tonnes in 1997 to 331 tonnes in 1999, production of pork has increased by 21.8% and reached 403 tonnes.

7. Fish

During the period under review, total fish production dropped by about 30%, from 5,807 tonnes in the first half of 1999 to 4,076 tonnes. Following contraction in the activity of the enterprise engaged in tuna fishing, a severe drop of around 75% was recorded: only 417 tonnes of tuna fish was caught in Jan-June 2000 compared to 1,678 tonnes in Jan-June 1999. Fresh coastal fish production remained at 1,261 tonnes , almost the same level as in 1999.

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Port Louis

October 2000

Table 1 - Agricultural crops: Area harvested and production, 1999 - 2000

	1999						2000	
	Calendar year		January-June		July-December		January-June	
	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (Tonnes)
Sugar cane	72,563	3,882,597	-	-	72,563	3,882,597	2,430	178,420
Tea (green leaves)	689 [1]	7,134	689 [1]	4,263	671 [1]	2,871	671 [1]	3,645
Tobacco	402	710	169	258	233	452	192	294
Foodcrops	6,059	86,083	2,353	25,606	3,706	60,477	3,074	40,098

[1] Area under cultivation

Table 2 - Production of agro-industrial products, 1999 - 2000

Agro-industrial products	Unit	1999			2000
		Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Sugar	tonnes	373,294	-	373,294	17,794
Tea (manufactured)	"	1,473	867	606	729
Beef [1]	"	2,575	1,117	1,458	1,150
Local (including Rodrigues)	"	(279)	(111)	(168)	(88)
Imported	"	(2,296)	(1,006)	(1,290)	(1,062)
Goat meat and mutton [1]	"	125	63	62	55
Pork [1]	"	678	331	347	403
Poultry	"	20,900	N.A	N.A	N.A
Milk	'000 Litres	5,000	N.A	N.A	N.A
Fish [2]	tonnes	10,572	5,807	4,765	4,076
Coastal	"	(2,175)	(1,256)	(919)	(1,261)
Other	"	(8,397)	(4,551)	(3,846)	(2,815)

[1] abattoir slaughters only

[2] fresh weight equivalent

N.A = Not available

Table 3 - Sugar Industry : Factory Statistics, 1998 - 2000

	Unit	1999	1998	1999	2000
		Calendar year	January-June	January-June	January-June
Tonnage of canes crushed	tonnes	3,882,597	71,675	-	178,420
Extraction rate (commercial sugar recovered % cane)	%	9.61	9.19	-	9.97
Average polarisation	degrees	98.50	98.50	-	98.50
Average yield of sugar	tonnes/hectare	5.14	7.44	-	7.32
Average tonnes of cane for 1 tonne of sugar	tonnes	10.40	10.88	-	10.03
Production of sugar	"	373,294	6,586	-	17,794
(White)	"	(2,386)	N.A	-	N.A
(Raw)	"	(370,908)	N.A	-	N.A
(Special)	"	(-)	-	-	(-)
Molasses	"	124,712	-	-	5,300

N.A = Not available

Table 4 - Tea : Production of green leaves by type of producer (tonnes), 1999 - 2000

	1999			2000
	Calendar year	January-June	July-December	January-June
Estates	793	449	344	493
Metayers	2,357	1,358	999	1,284
Free planters	2,672	1,634	1,038	1,183
Planters in cooperative societies	1,312	822	490	679
Other	-	-	-	6
TOTAL	7,134	4,263	2,871	3,645

Table 5 - Foodcrops* : Area harvested and production, 1998 - 2000

Foodcrops	1999		1998		1999		2000 [1]	
	Calendar year		January - June		January - June		January - June	
	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)	Area harvested (Hectares)	Production (tonnes)
Potato	640	15,322	96	831	16	346	89	1,874
Maize	41	201	33	155	10	110	6	78
Groundnut	117	341	61	243	53	172	34	90
Onion	315	9,066	27	348	10	88	1	1
Ginger	34	116	4	58	7	29	11	173
Garlic	6	38	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chillies	190	795	95	436	92	377	83	364
Tomato	777	8,037	514	4,876	344	2,781	376	4,352
Beans & peas	296	1,301	188	880	117	461	154	676
Cabbage	395	8,206	151	2,775	183	3,064	190	4,139
Cauliflower	64	1,274	99	1,788	20	342	30	563
Brinjal	125	1,713	83	988	54	671	59	782
Creepers	1,762	20,023	954	11,437	855	8,700	1,145	13,279
Mixed vegetables	859	11,086	339	4,173	371	4,285	621	8,195
Banana	380	7,550	237	4,853	188	3,702	232	4,670
Pineapple	60	1,014	43	852	32	478	43	862
Total foodcrops	6,059	86,083	2,924	34,693	2,353	25,606	3,074	40,098

* Foodcrops statistics supplied by AREU after adjustment for backyard production

[1] Provisional