

The information contained in this sheet has been compiled by [Jaume Portell](#), journalist specializing in economics and international relations, in an activity 85% co-financed by ERDF funds in the framework of the [AfricanTech](#) project (1/MAC/1/1.3/0088) within the INTERREG VI D MAC 2021-2027 initiative.

MAURITIUS

Macroeconomic Framework:

Mauritius' economy grew by over 7% per year in 2022 and 2023, according to the 2024 African Economic Outlook. In 2024 and 2025, it will continue to grow, although at a slower pace: 4.9% in 2024 and 3.7% in 2025. The main drivers of this growth are the service sector (construction and tourism) and consumption and investment. This means that the economy is heavily influenced by external demand and the international geopolitical developments: the rise in raw material prices caused inflation to exceed 10% in 2022. Since then, as energy and food prices have normalized, inflation has moderated.

Agriculture and the primary sector have been losing ground since 2001, both in terms of their contribution to GDP (from 6.1% to 3.5% in 2022) and employment (now accounting for only 5% of the total). Services (66% of GDP) have increased at the expense of industry, which fell from 26.7% of GDP to 18%. The report highlights this structural transformation but points to the need to prepare the country for climate change. In this way, it could move “up the value chain and become a high-income country,” it notes.

Mauritius' GDP in 2023 was \$14.64 billion.

Debt and currency:

Mauritius had an external debt stock of \$19.252 billion in 2023. In 2012, Mauritius' annual debt service payments totaled about \$85 million. In 2025, they were \$703 million.

Most of Mauritius' debt is held by private creditors (40%). Bilateral creditors account for approximately 37% of the debt, with France as the main player (14%), followed by India (11%) and Japan (6%). Multilateral creditors held the rest of the stock (23%), with the African Development Bank (20%) standing out above the rest.

The currency, the Mauritian rupee, has been steadily losing value since 2015. At that time, the exchange rate was 36 rupees to one US dollar. In the spring of 2025, it took 45 Mauritian rupees to buy one dollar.

Imports and exports:

In 2023, Mauritian exports reached a value of \$2.74 billion, with the main products being processed fish (11.02%), sugar (9.93%), diamonds (6.75%), men's knitwear (4.38%), and fertilizers (4.20%). The main destinations for these exports were the United States (10.91%), France (10.62%), Zimbabwe (9.74%), South Africa (7.26%), and Zambia (6.97%).

On the other hand, in 2023, imports totaled \$6.61 billion, with gasoline clearly in the lead (17.70%), followed at a lower level by motor vehicles (5.95%), coal (3.63%), unfilleted frozen fish (3.45%), and medicines (2.68%). In terms of the origins of imports, the main trading partners were China (14.51%), the United Arab Emirates (10.70%), India (9.77%), South Africa (9.27%), and France (6.31%).

Electricity:

Electricity generation in Mauritius increased between 2010 and 2023, with a mix dominated by fossil fuels. In 2010, the country generated 2.69 TWh of electricity: 38.66% came from coal, 37.17% from other fossil fuels, and the rest from renewable sources such as bioenergy (20.45% of the total) and hydroelectricity (3.72%).

In 2023, electricity generation was 3.27 TWh. The "other fossil fuels" category led generation with almost 49% of the total, followed by coal (33.64%). Renewables played a more modest role: 4.59% came from solar, 2.75% from hydroelectricity, and 0.31% from wind.

Defense:

Mauritius' annual defense spending was closely linked to maritime control, according to SIPRI, a Swedish institute specializing in trade in this type of product. Coastal and maritime surveillance accounted for 18% of the government's defense budget in 2023. India has been Mauritius' main supplier since 2000, with sales of transport aircraft, helicopters, and patrol boats.

Demographics:

Mauritius has experienced population growth that has remained steady in rural areas. In 1990, the country had 1.058 million inhabitants, with 56% living in rural areas. By 2023, the population had grown to 1.261 million, with 59% still living in rural areas. Life expectancy has increased from 69 years in 1990 to 74 years in 2022.

Half of the population is under 39.3 years old.

Technological innovation:

Mauritius has seen Internet access become widespread in just over a decade, rising from 28% of its citizens in 2010 to 80% in 2022. According to the 2023 ICT Development Index, 84.5% of citizens have a mobile phone.