

# Factsheet: Mauritius

Last update: 8 June 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

Mauritius' [National Youth Policy](#) (2010) defines youth as between 14 and 29 years of age and notes that "all persons within this age group are not homogeneous. A number of subgroups exist" depending on factors such as residence or religion.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **18**  
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Partially appointed.

**Upper House** **--**  
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Unicameral.

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	18	16	XX
Female	18	16	--

Male homosexual acts illegal, however female homosexual acts legal. No specific legislation for same sex marriage. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

### VOTING AGE

**18**  
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

### MAJORITY AGE

**18**  
Source: [FOSIGRID](#)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**14**  
Minimum Age  
Source: [Criminal Code of Mauritius \(1838\)](#)

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.72**  
39 out of 170 countries.  
Year: 2013  
Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

### LITERACY RATES

**98.72%**  
Both sexes (15-24) %  
**98.36%** **99.09%**  
Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %  
Year: 2015  
Source: [UNESCO](#)

### NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School  
**80.43%**  
Both sexes %  
**80.13%** **80.73%**  
Male % Female %  
Year: 2004  
Source: [UNESCO](#)

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### PREVALENCE OF HIV

**0.2%**  
Male (15-24) %  
**0.2%**  
Female (15-24) %  
Year: 2013  
Source: [World Bank](#)

### TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.  
**13.70%**  
Both sexes (13-15) %  
**20.30%** **7.70%**  
Male (13-15) % Female (13-15) %  
Year: 2010  
Source: [WHO](#)

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

The goal of the [national youth policy](#) (2010) is "to empower the youth of the Republic of Mauritius". Youth empowerment is defined as "an attitudinal, structural and cultural process whereby young people gain the ability and authority to make decisions and implement change".

The strategic areas of youth empowerment include education, health, substance abuse prevention, employment and access to ICT. The policy also recognises the [National Youth Council](#) as a "major implementing, supervisory and facilitating agency for youth development programmes".

As a member of the [Commonwealth of Nations](#), Mauritius is a signatory of [The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment \(PAYE\) 2006-2015](#). It lists 13 action points for member nations, including youth empowerment, participation and gender equality.

Is there a national youth policy?

**YES**

The [national youth policy](#) of Mauritius covers 2010-2014. A 2011 [briefing](#) is available.

### GDP PER CAPITA

**USD 9202.52**  
Year: 2013  
Source: [World Bank](#)

### HDI

**0.737**  
Year: 2013  
Source: [UNDP](#)  
63 out of 187 countries.

### GINI

**35.9**  
Year: 2012  
Source: [World Bank](#)

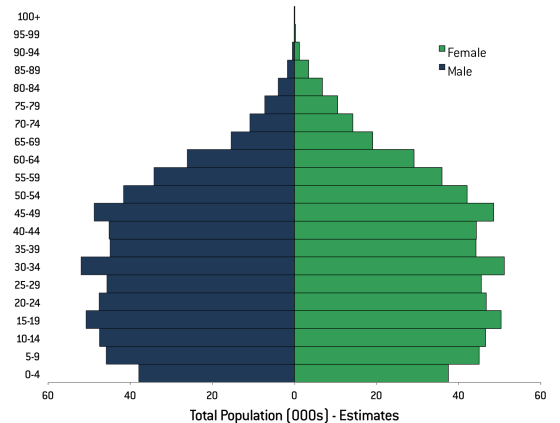
### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**54**  
47 out of 177 countries.  
Year: 2014  
Source: [Transparency International](#)

### PRESS FREEDOM

**27.69**  
70 out of 180 countries.  
Year: 2013  
Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010

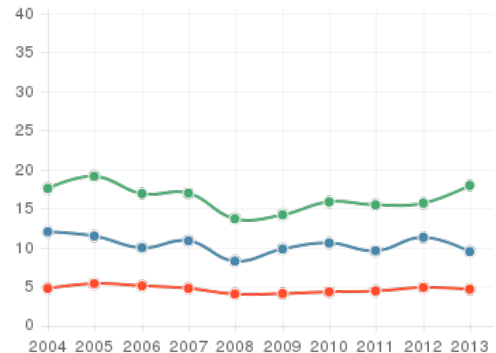


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Source: [United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division](#)  
2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

### Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

## BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The mission of the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) is "to create an enabling environment and act as a catalyst and facilitator for the promotion and development of youth and sports at regional, national and international levels". It has the overall responsibility for coordinating the [2010 national youth policy](#). The [Youth Section](#) within the ministry runs its programmes primarily through youth centres throughout the country. The section is led by a Director of Youth Affairs, and each of Mauritius' ten regions is under the responsibility of a Principal Youth Officer.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

**YES**

## YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

Mauritius' [National Youth Council \(NYC\)](#) is established by the [National Youth Council Act \(1998\)](#) and is made up of national youth organisations and regional councils. It is administered by a board that includes appointees by the minister of [Youth and Sports](#), a member elected by youth organisations and a representative nominated by regional youth councils. Its main objectives include maintaining effective communication between government and youth organisations, and ensuring coordination of youth organisations. The NYC is a member of the [Commonwealth Youth Council](#).

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

**YES**

## BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the [Summary Table of Expenditure by Programme \(2014\)](#) from the [Ministry of Finance](#), the revised estimate of expenditure for Youth Services within the [Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) in 2013 was MUR 70.5 million (USD 2.3 million). According to the [World Bank](#), Mauritius spent 14.96% of its government expenditure and 3.49% of its GDP on education provision in 2012.

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

**MUR 70.5 MILLION  
USD 2.3 MILLION**

youth programming?

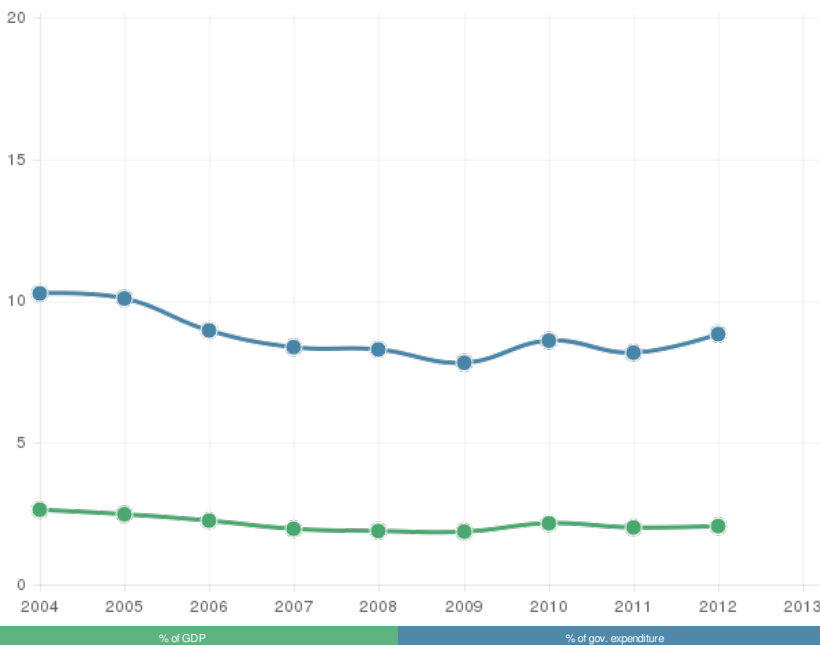
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

% of GDP

% of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)  
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## PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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[Documents about Mauritius](#)