

# REPORT ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN MAURITIUS

July 2024

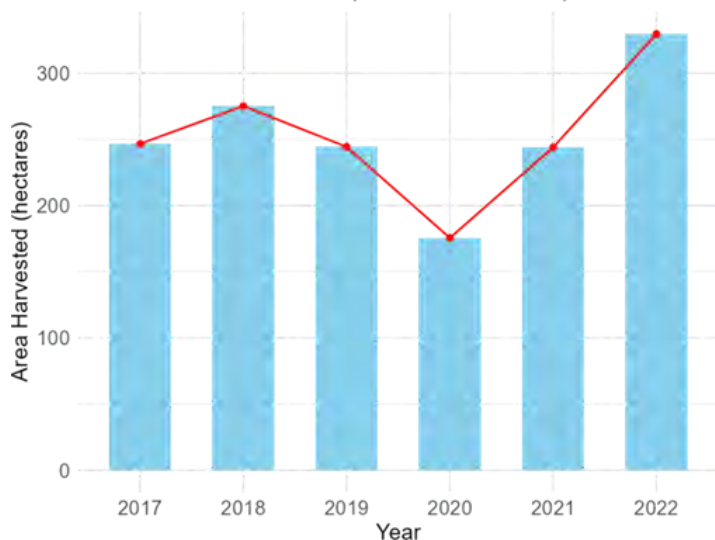


## FOOD AVAILABILITY

### Agricultural Production

#### Area harvested and production of onion

Area Harvested for Onion, Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022



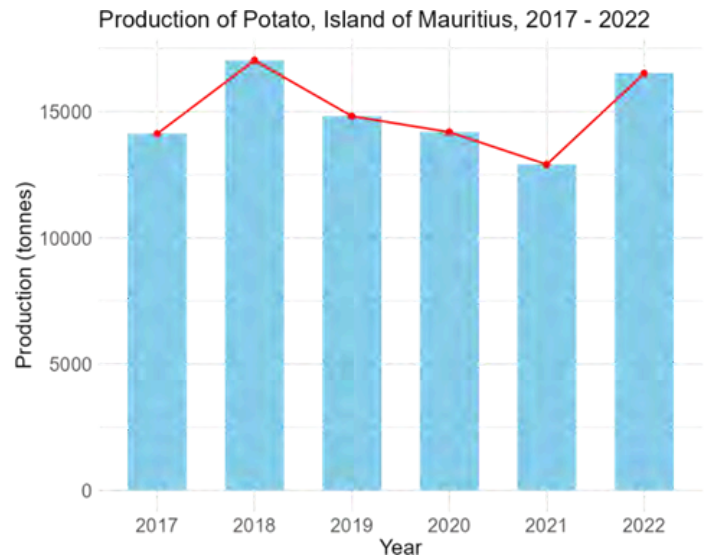
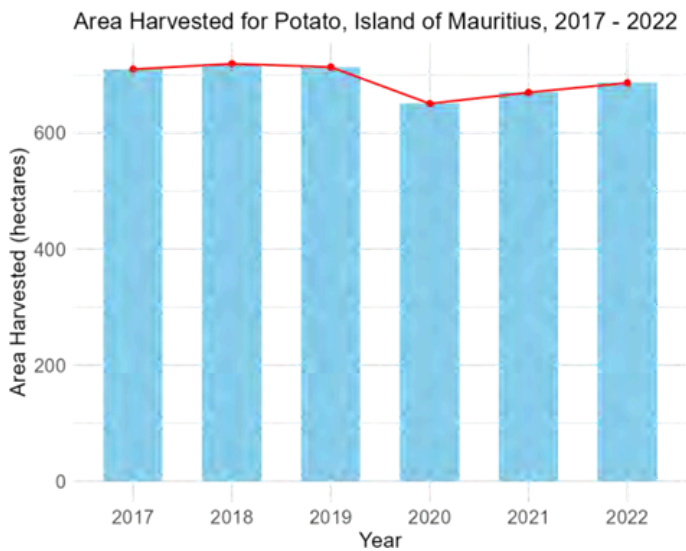
Production of Onion, Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022



Onion production saw considerable variability, with the lowest production of 3,219 tonnes in 2019 and the highest of 7,443 tonnes in 2022, despite fluctuations in the area harvested.

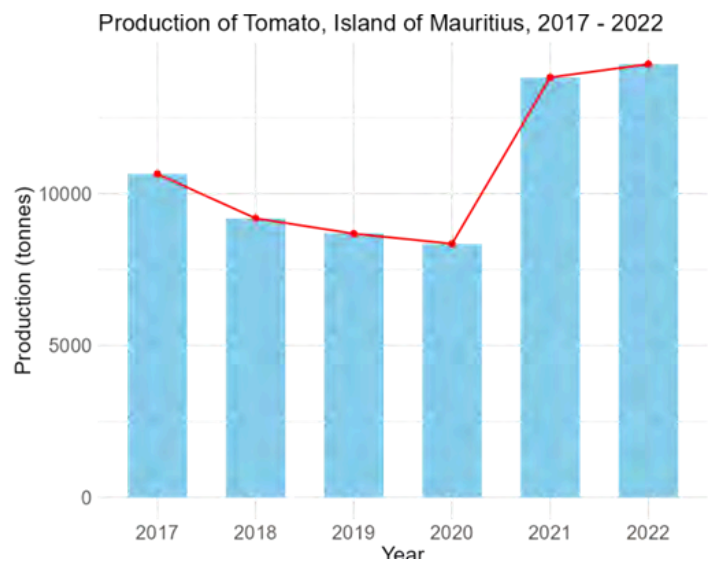
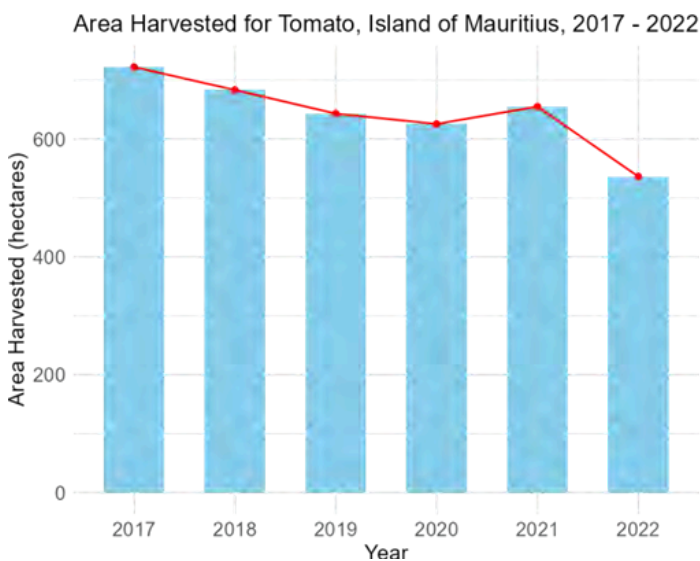
Source: Historical Series, Agriculture, FAREI and Statistics Mauritius

## Area harvested and production of potato



The area harvested for potatoes remained relatively stable compared to other main food crops. However, potato yields exhibited considerable fluctuations, peaking at 17,033 tonnes in 2018, dipping significantly to 12,910 tonnes in 2021, and then rising again to 16,519 tonnes in 2022.

## Area harvested and production of tomato



Tomato production experienced a significant increase in 2021 and 2022, with a notable rise in yield despite a decreasing trend in the area harvested over the years. This increase is mainly due to the inclusion of production under covered cultures from 2021 onward, whereas figures before 2021 refer to open field production only.

Source: Historical Series, Agriculture, FAREI and Statistics Mauritius

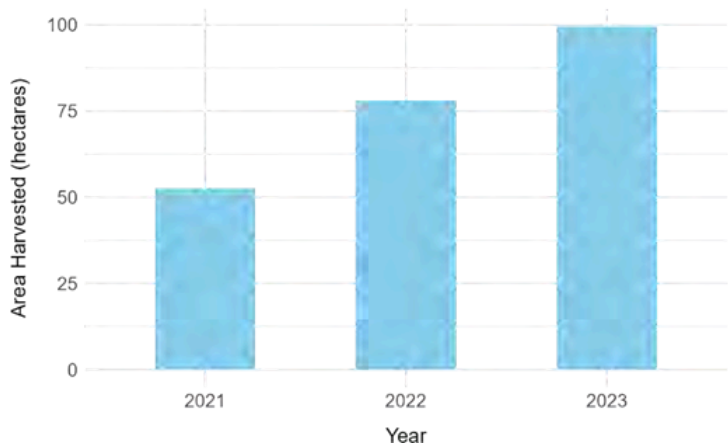




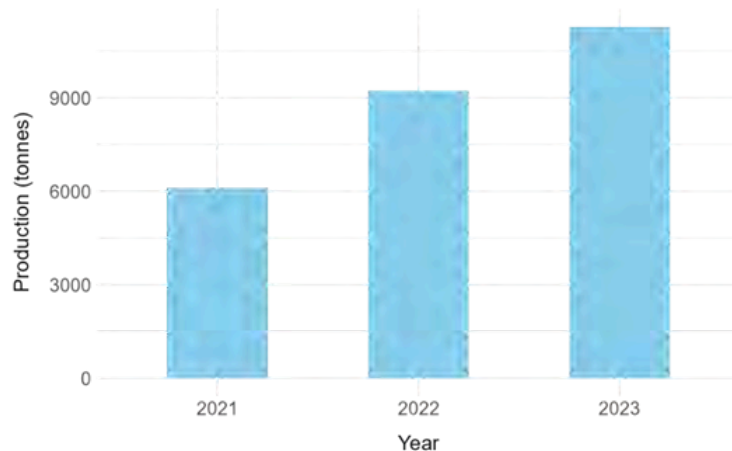
## Area harvested and production of food crops under covered cultures

The area harvested for food crops under covered cultures increased steadily from 53 hectares in 2021 to 100 hectares in 2023, resulting in a corresponding rise in production from 6,111 tonnes to 11,282 tonnes over the same period.

Area Harvested for Food crops, Island of Mauritius, 2021 - 2023



Production of Food crops, Island of Mauritius, 2021 - 2023

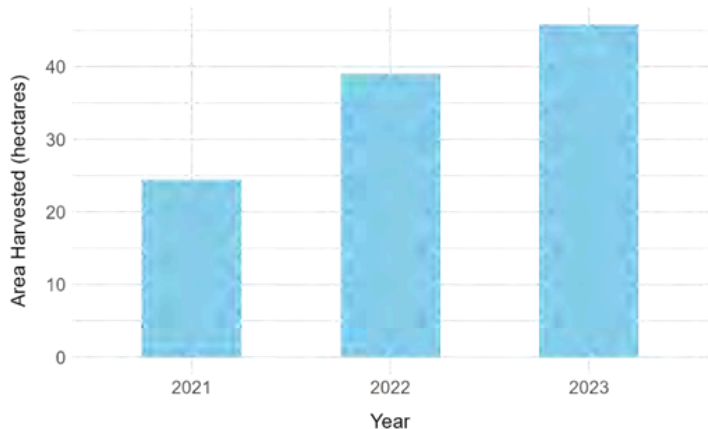


Note: Food crops include Beet, Broccoli, Carrot, Echalotte, Eddoes, Ladies Finger, Leek, Manioc, Petsai, Sweet Pepper, Groundnut, Chillies, Beans and Peas, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Brinjal, Bittergourd, Calabash, Chouchou, Courgette, Cucumber, Patole, Pipengaille, Pumpkin, Squash, Voehm, Brede Baton blanc/vert/de chine/Chouchou/Giraumon/Malabar/Tom pouce and Sweet Pepper, Tomato and Lettuce.

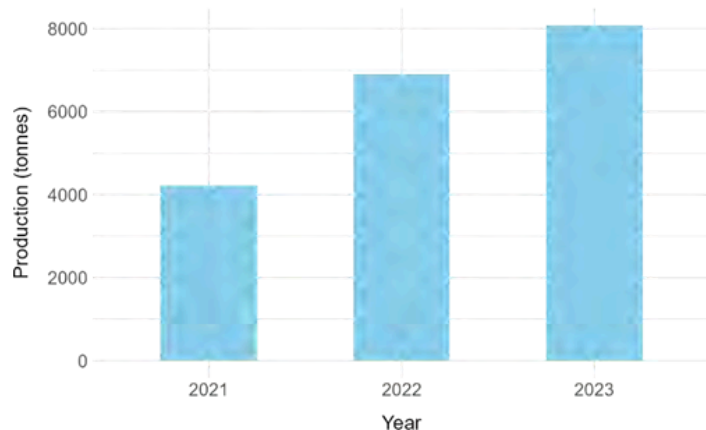
## Area harvested and production of food crops under covered cultures

The area harvested for tomatoes under covered cultures increased from 25 hectares in 2021 to 46 hectares in 2023, resulting in a rise in production from 4,229 tonnes to 8,086 tonnes.

Area Harvested for Tomato, Island of Mauritius, 2021 - 2023

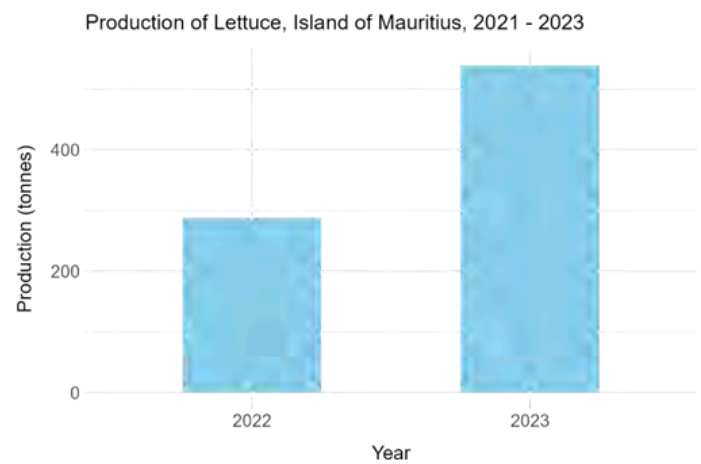
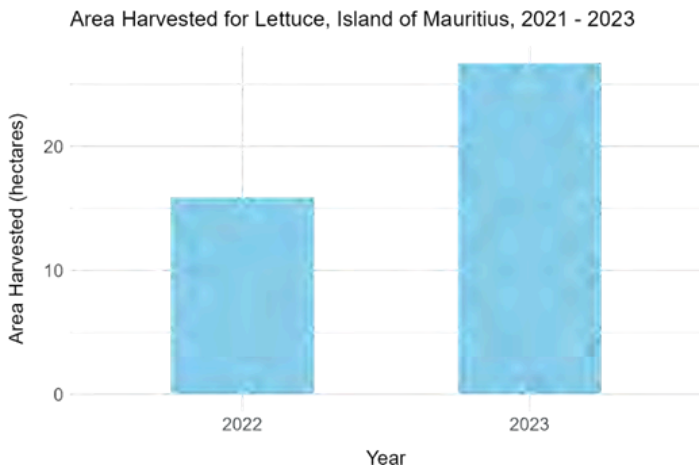


Production of Tomato, Island of Mauritius, 2021 - 2023



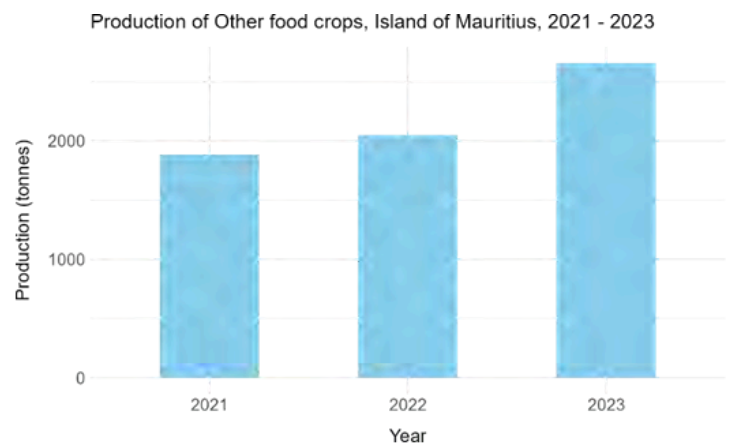
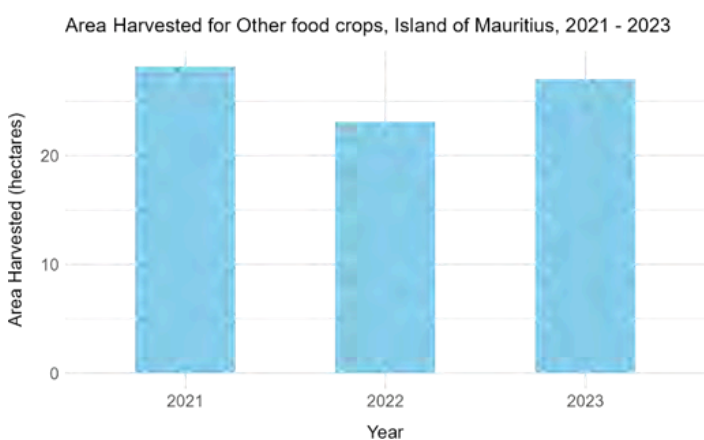
## Area harvested and production of lettuce under covered cultures

The area harvested for lettuce under covered cultures increased from 16 hectares in 2022 to 27 hectares in 2023, resulting in a rise in production from 288 tonnes to 539 tonnes.



## Area harvested and production of other food crops under covered cultures

The area harvested for other food crops under covered cultures showed some fluctuations as figures for 2021 also include lettuce but as from 2022, figures for lettuce are provided separately. An upward trend is observed in 4 production from 1,883 tonnes in 2021 to 2,657 tonnes in 2023.

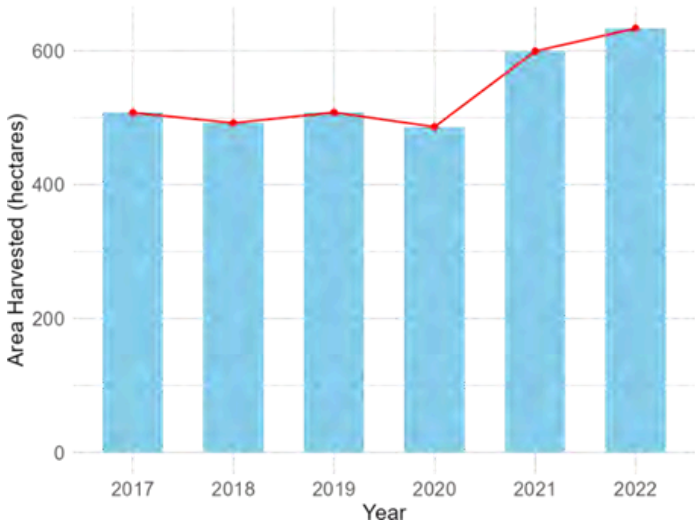


*Note: Other food crops include Beet, Broccoli, Carrot, Echalotte, Eddoes, Ladies Finger, Leek, Manioc, Petsai, Sweet Pepper, Groundnut, Chillies, Beans and Peas, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Brinjal, Bittergourd, Calabash, Chouchou, Courgette, Cucumber, Patole, Pipengaille, Pumpkin, Squash, Voehm, Brede Baton blanc/vert/de chine/Chouchou/Giraumon/Malabar/Tom pouce and Sweet Pepper.*

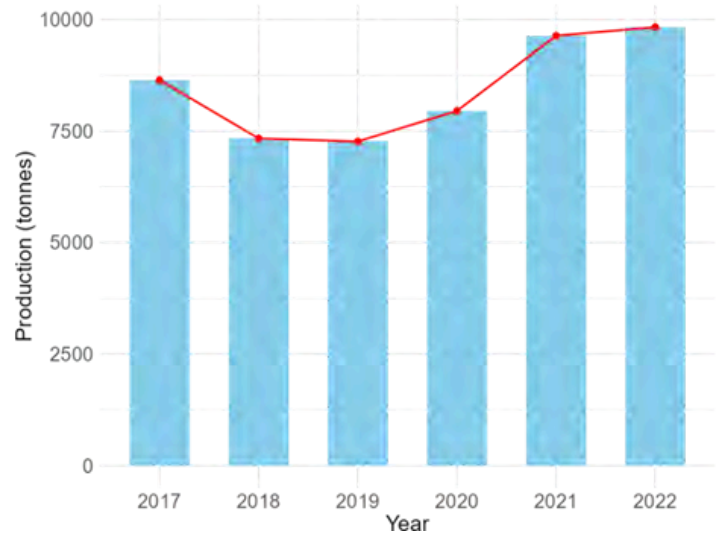
Source: Economic and Social Indicators, Agriculture, FAREI and Statistics Mauritius

## Area harvested and production of Banana

Area Harvested for Banana, Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022



Production of Banana, Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022

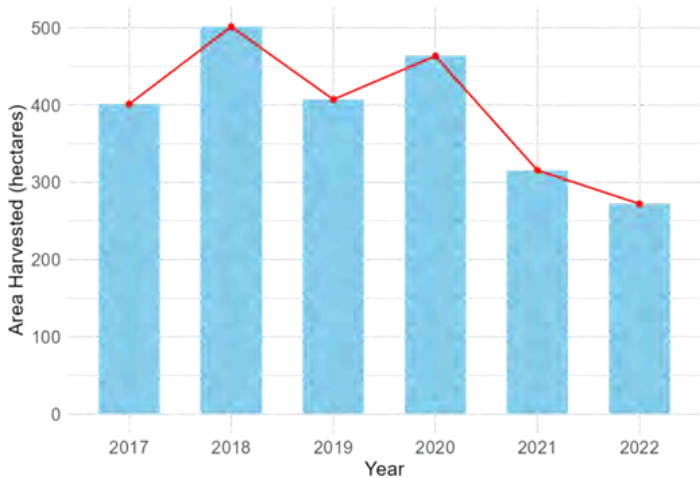


Banana production showed an upward trend from 2017 to 2022, with a substantial increase in both area harvested and production, peaking at 9,829 tonnes in 2022.

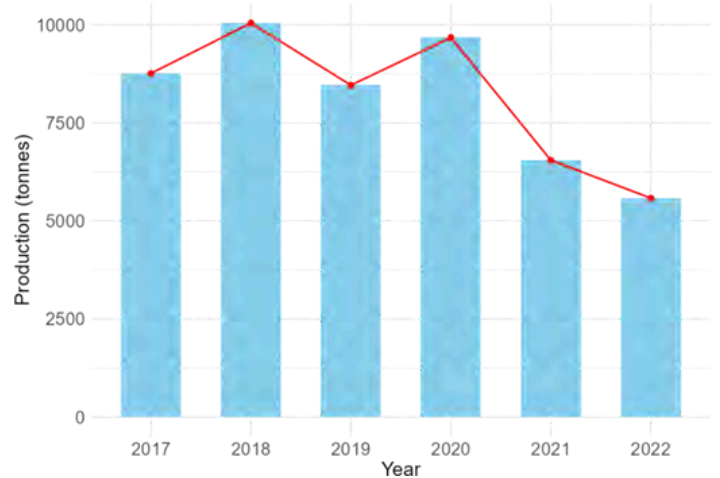
## Area harvested and production of Pineapple



Area Harvested for Pineapple, Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022



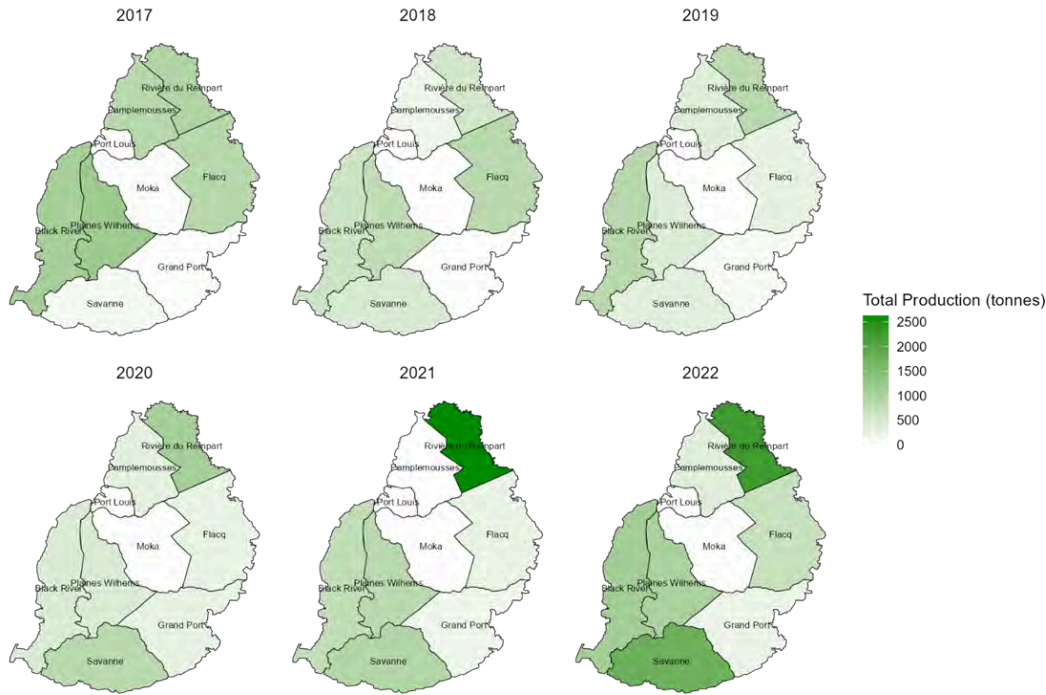
Production of Pineapple, Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022



Pineapple production experienced a strong decline from its peak in 2018 at 10,043 tonnes to 5,579 tonnes in 2022, reflecting a reduction in the area harvested over the years.

Source: Historical Series, Agriculture, FAREI and Statistics Mauritius

Geospatial Distribution of Onion Production, Island of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022

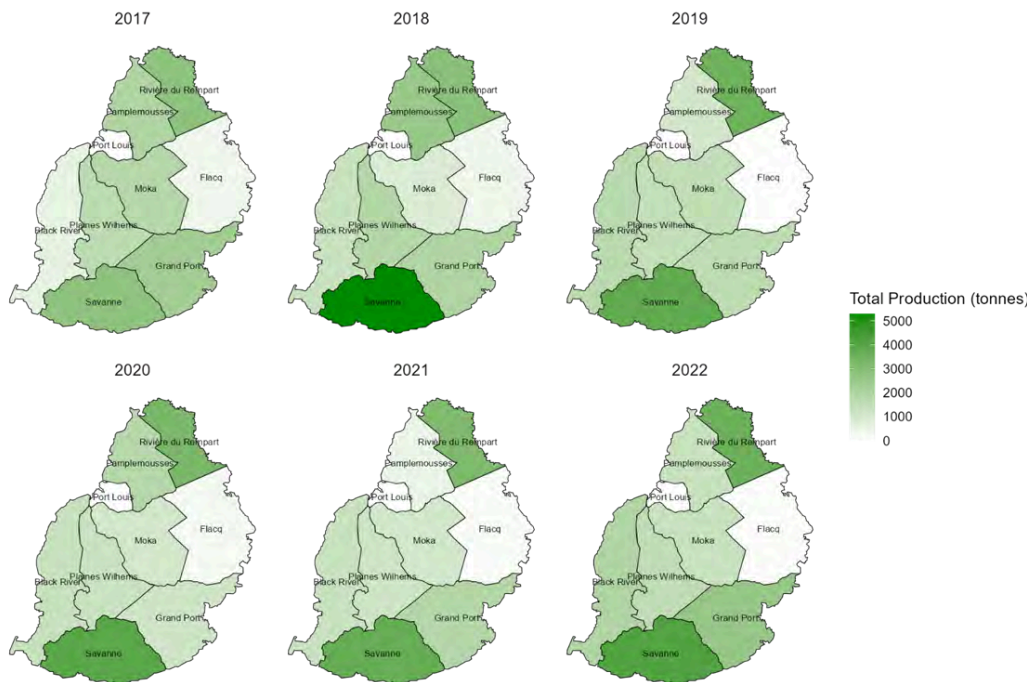


Savanne experienced the most significant increase in onion production, rising from 122 tonnes in 2017 to 1,774 tonnes in 2022. Rivière du Rempart saw a substantial increase in onion production, 954 tonnes in 2017 to 2,250 tonnes in 2022.

Source: Digest of Agricultural Statistics 2022, FAREI and Statistics Mauritius



Geospatial Distribution of Potato Production, Island of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022

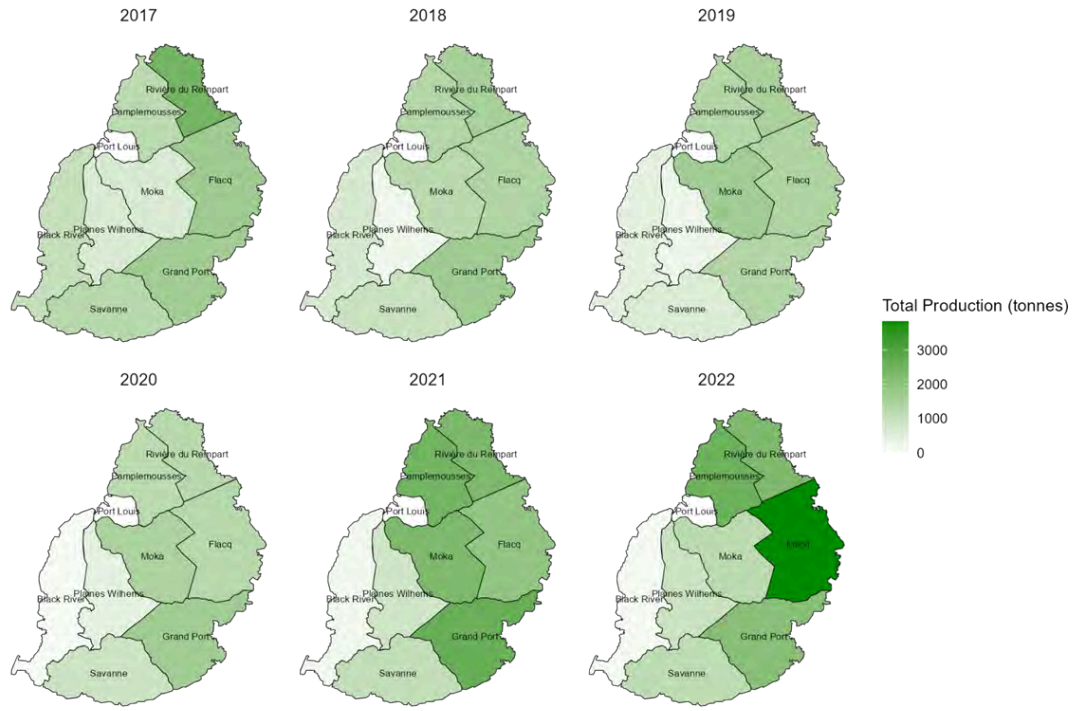


Savanne experienced the most significant increase in potato production, growing from 2,775 tonnes in 2017 to 4,154 tonnes in 2022.

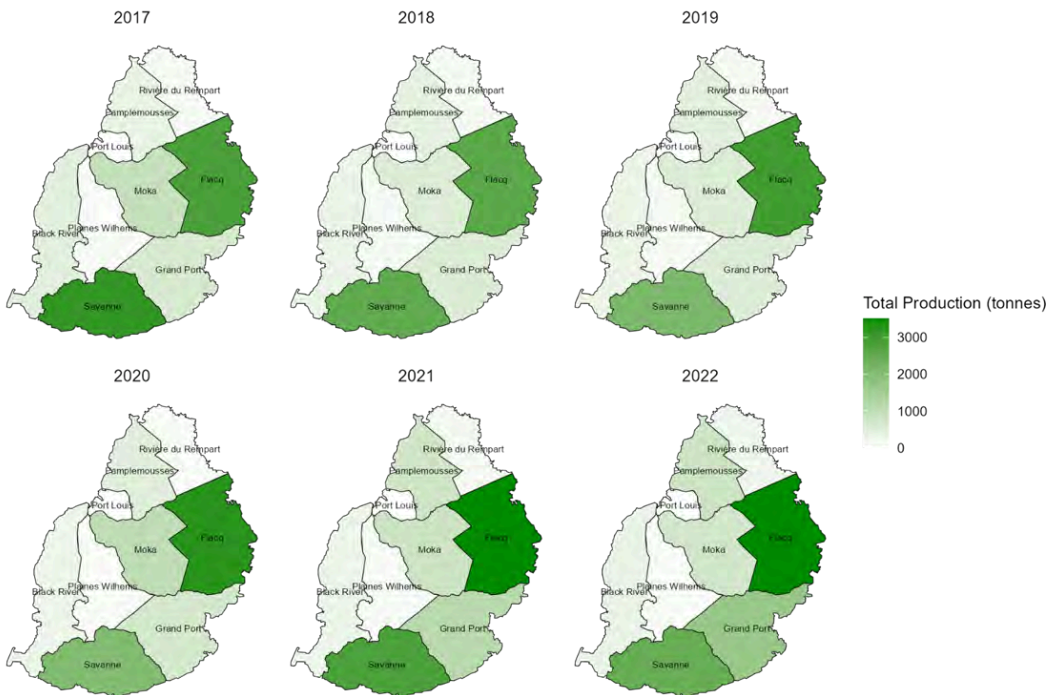
Source: Digest of Agricultural Statistics 2022, FAREI and Statistics Mauritius

Geospatial Distribution of Tomato Production, Island of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022

Flacq had the most notable rise in tomato production, increasing from 1,717 tonnes in 2017 to 3,835 tonnes in 2022.

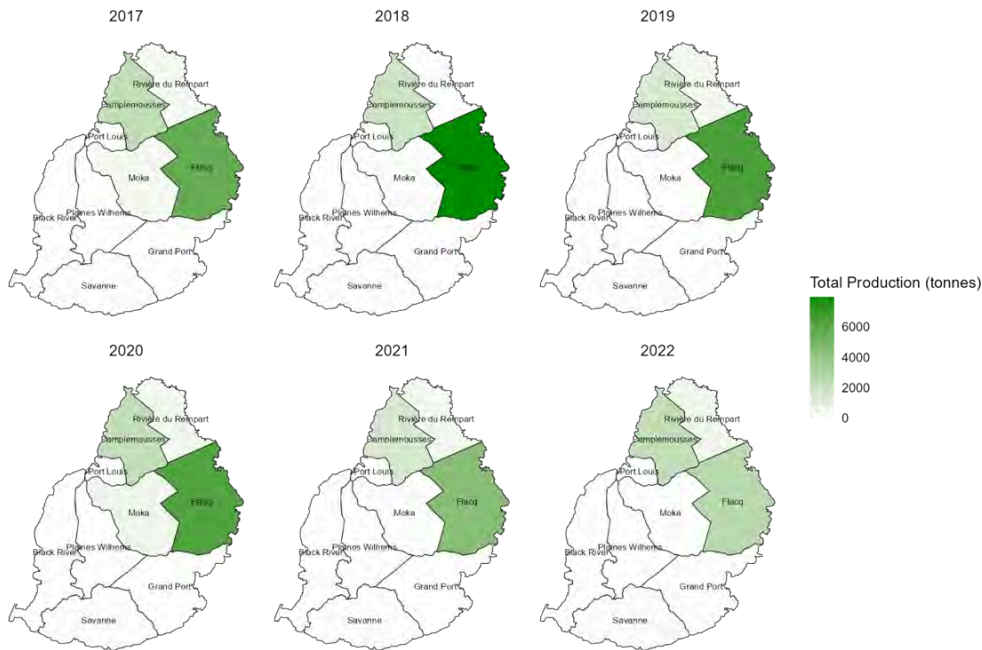


Geospatial Distribution of Banana Production, Island of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022



Flacq was the district with the highest production of bananas, peaking at 3,508 tonnes in 2022, while Savanne experienced a significant decline, from 3,154 tonnes in 2017 to 2,456 tonnes in 2022.

Geospatial Distribution of Pineapple Production, Island of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022

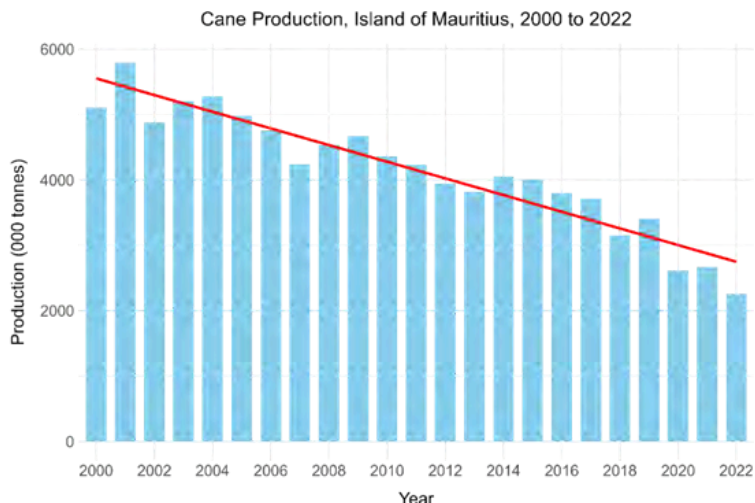
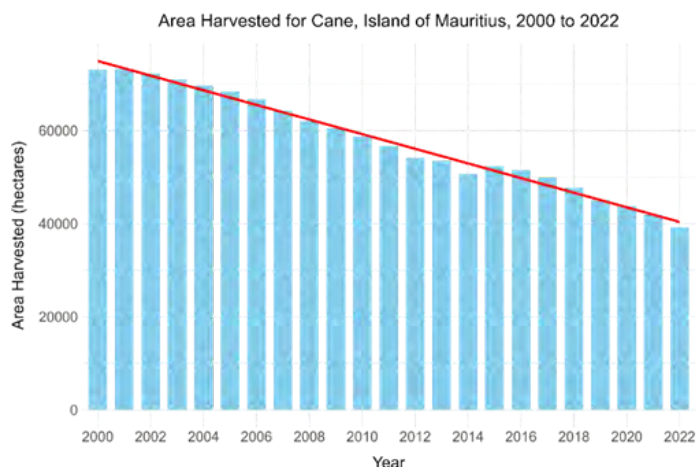


Pineapple production, primarily concentrated in Flacq and Pamplemousses, has declined over the last three years. Flacq experienced a dramatic decrease, with production peaking at 7,964 tonnes in 2018 but falling sharply to 2,589 tonnes by 2022.

Source: Digest of Agricultural Statistics 2022, FAREI and Statistics Mauritius



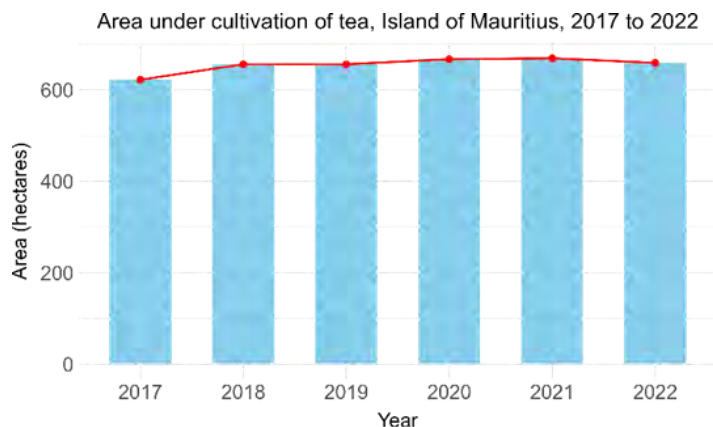
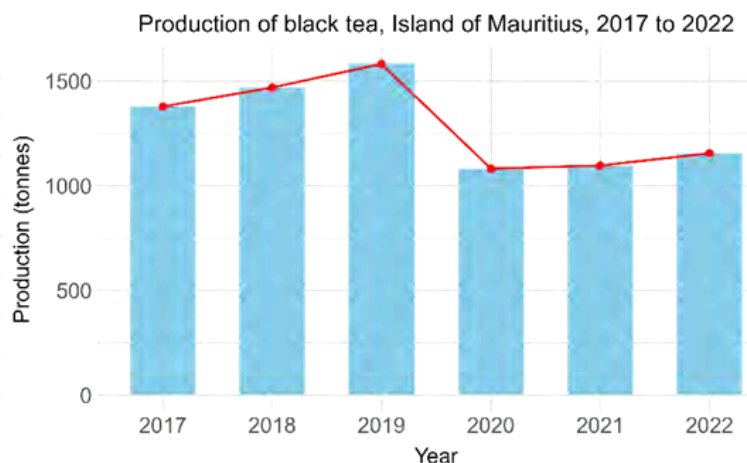
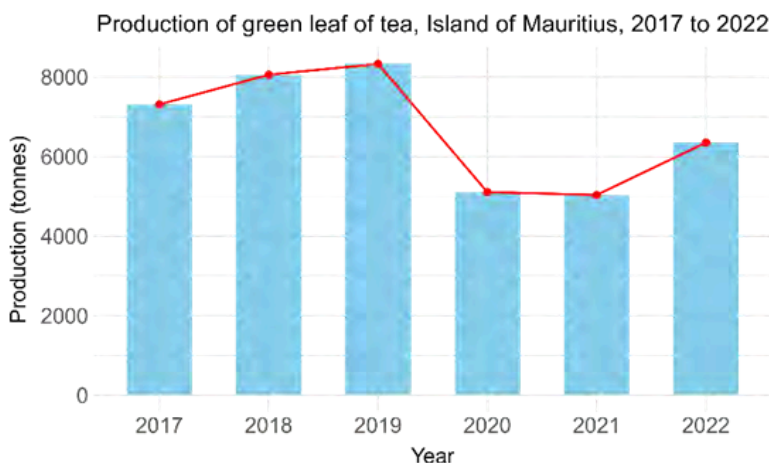
## Production of Cane and Cane Yield for the Island of Mauritius



The above diagram shows that area harvested for cane has decreased by 46% over the last two decades, dropping from 73,057 hectares in 2000 to 39,199 hectares in 2022. This reduction in cultivated land has had a significant impact on cane production, which has fallen by more than 50% during the same period, from 4,874 tonnes in 2002 to 2,257 tonnes in 2022.

Source: Historical Series, Agriculture, FAREI and Statistics Mauritius

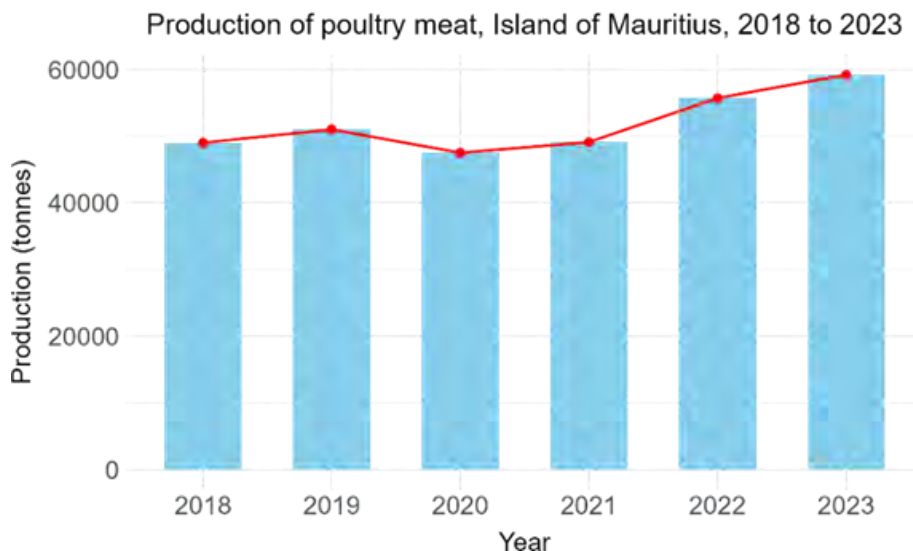
## Area under cultivation and production of tea for the Island of Mauritius



From 2017 to 2022, production of green leaf of tea has declined by 13%, from 7,309 tonnes in 2017 to 6,351 tonnes in 2022. A similar trend is observed for black tea, with production declining by 16%, from 1,379 tonnes in 2017 to 1,156 tonnes in 2022. On the other hand, the area under cultivation of tea has shown little variation over the years from 2017 to 2022, ranging between 622 to 669 hectares.

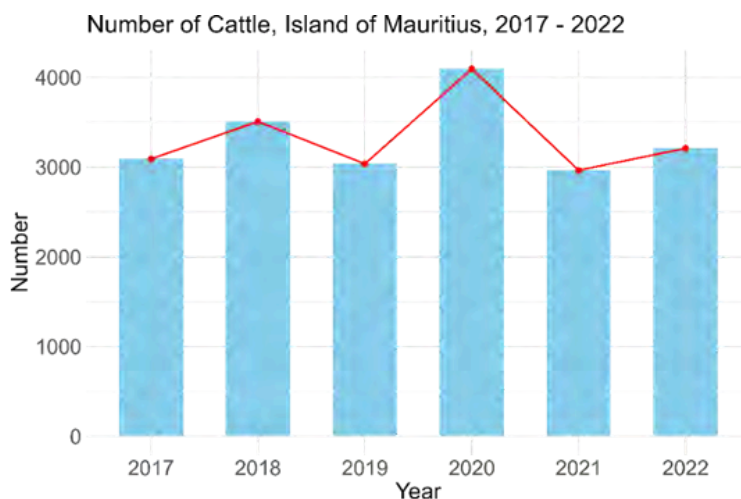
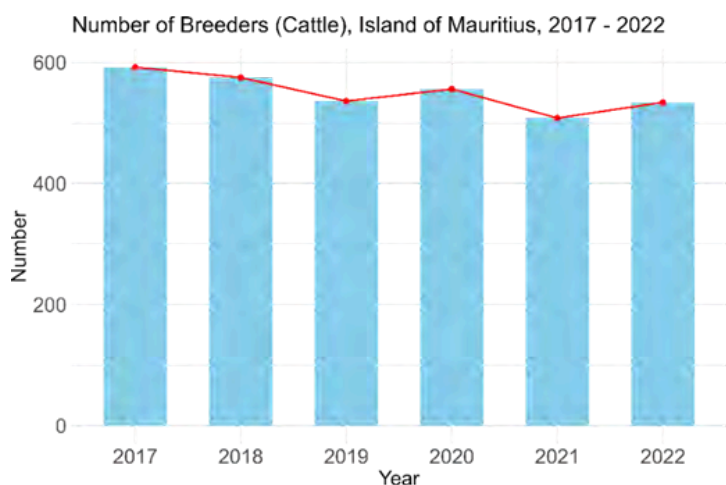
Source: Historical Series, Agriculture, National Agricultural Products Regulatory Office, as published by Statistics Mauritius

# Livestock production

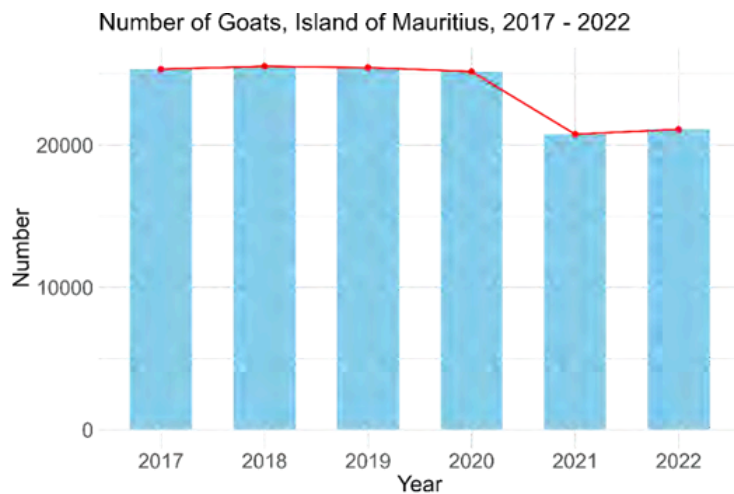
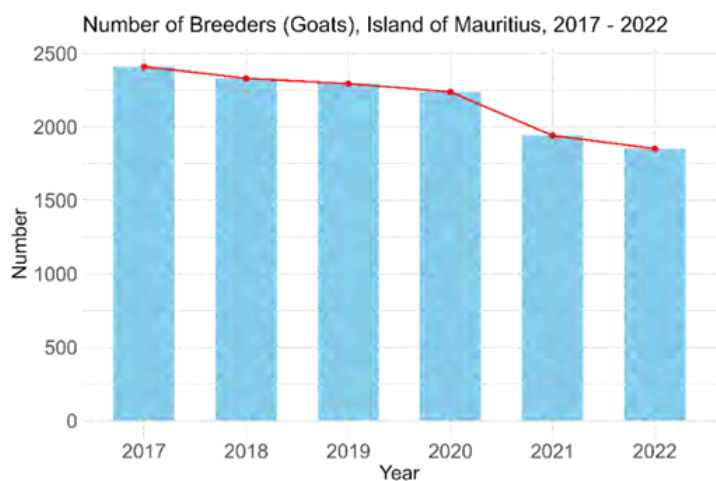


The production of poultry meat in Mauritius has shown a generally increasing trend from 2018 to 2023. Starting at 49,000 tonnes in 2018, it reached 59,200 tonnes by 2023, reflecting a steady growth in poultry meat production over this period.

Source: Historical Series, Agriculture, FAREI and Statistics Mauritius



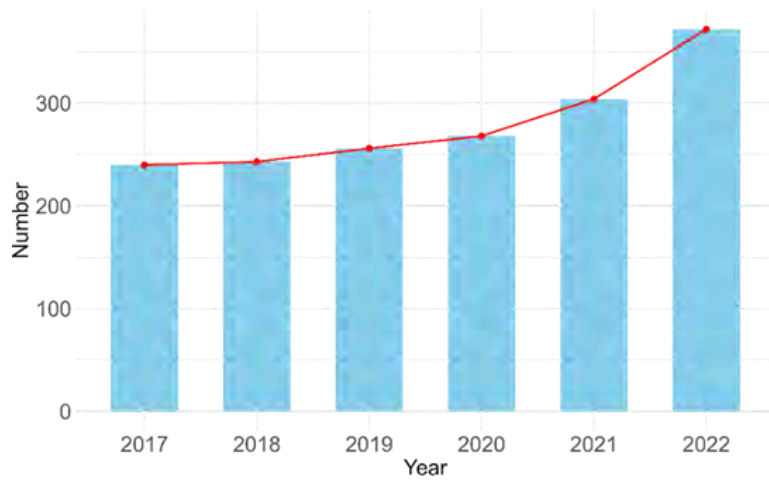
The number of breeders remained relatively stable around 500-600 throughout the years, while the number of cattle showed some fluctuation, peaking at 4,093 in 2020 and decreasing to 3,209 in 2022.



Both the number of breeders and goats showed a gradual decline from 2017 to 2022, with a notable decrease in breeders from 2,411 in 2017 to 1,852 in 2022, and in goats from 25,340 in 2017 to 21,110 in 2022.

Source: Digest of Agricultural Statistics 2022, FAREI as published by Statistics Mauritius

Number of Breeders (Sheep), Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022



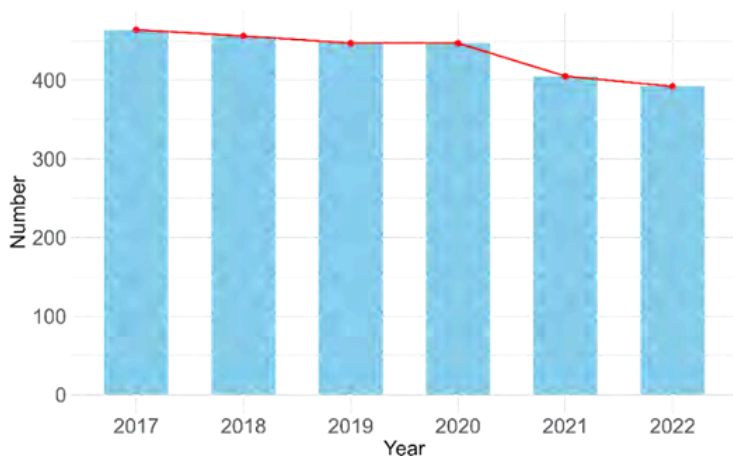
Number of Sheep, Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022



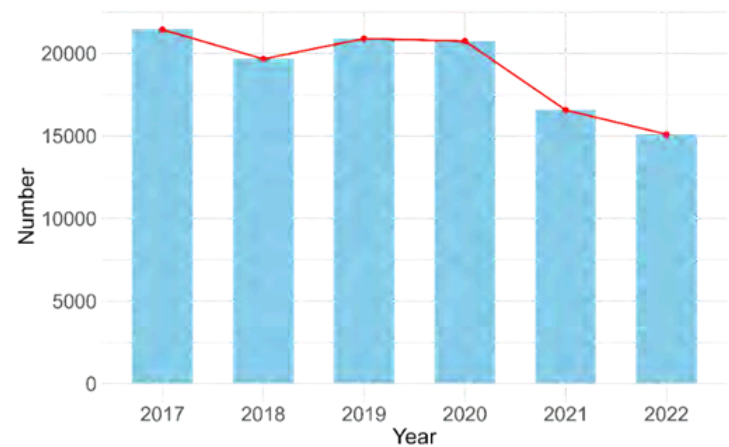
The number of breeders increased steadily from 240 in 2017 to 372 in 2022, reflecting a positive trend in sheep farming. Similarly, the number of heads rose from 2,882 in 2017 to 4,222 in 2022, indicating growth in the sheep population.



Number of Breeders (Pigs), Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022



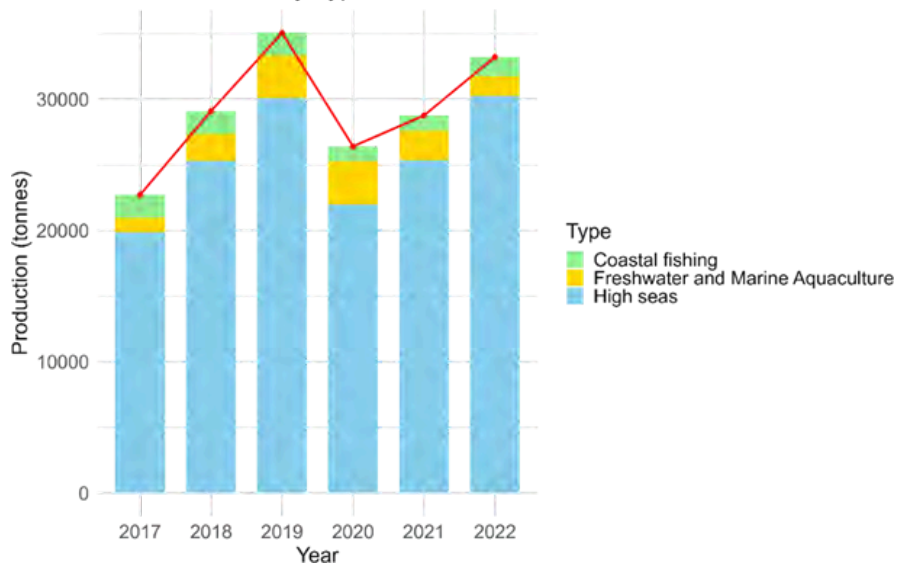
Number of Pigs, Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022



Both the number of breeders and pigs have shown a decreasing trend over the years. The number of breeders declined from 464 in 2017 to 392 in 2022, and the number of heads decreased from 21,445 in 2017 to 15,100 in 2022, indicating a reduction in pig farming activities.

Source: Digest of Agricultural Statistics 2022, FAREI as published by Statistics Mauritius

Fish Production by Type, Island of Mauritius, 2017 - 2022



The production of fish in Mauritius from 2017 to 2022 shows notable trends across different types of fishing. High-sea fishing, which includes fish caught in the canning industry, was on the rise prior to 2020, from 19,887 tonnes from 2017 to 30,099 in 2019. A decline is then observed before peaking at 30,261 tonnes in 2022. Coastal fishing experienced a decline from 1,758 tonnes in 2017 to a low of 1,133 tonnes in 2020, but partially recovered to 1,442 tonnes in 2022. Fresh water and marine aquaculture showed a marked increase from 1,087 tonnes in 2017 to a peak of 3,282 tonnes in 2020, before decreasing to 1,523 tonnes in 2022.

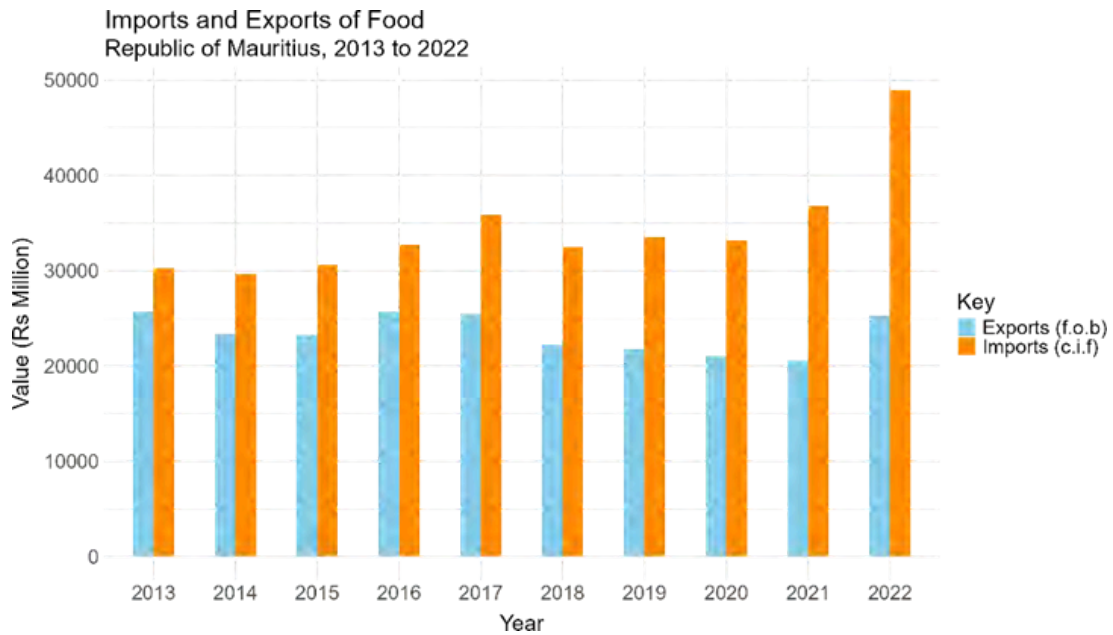
## Production of fish (tonnes, in wet weight equivalent), IOM, 2017 - 2022

Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
High seas	19,887	25,319	30,099	22,000	25,335	30,261
Coastal fishing	1,758	1,745	1,722	1,133	1,140	1,442
Freshwater and Marine	1,087	2,052	3,234	3,282	2,294	1,523
Total Production	22,732	29,116	35,055	26,415	28,769	33,226

Source: Historical Series, Agriculture, Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, as published by Statistics Mauritius



## Import and Export values of major food products



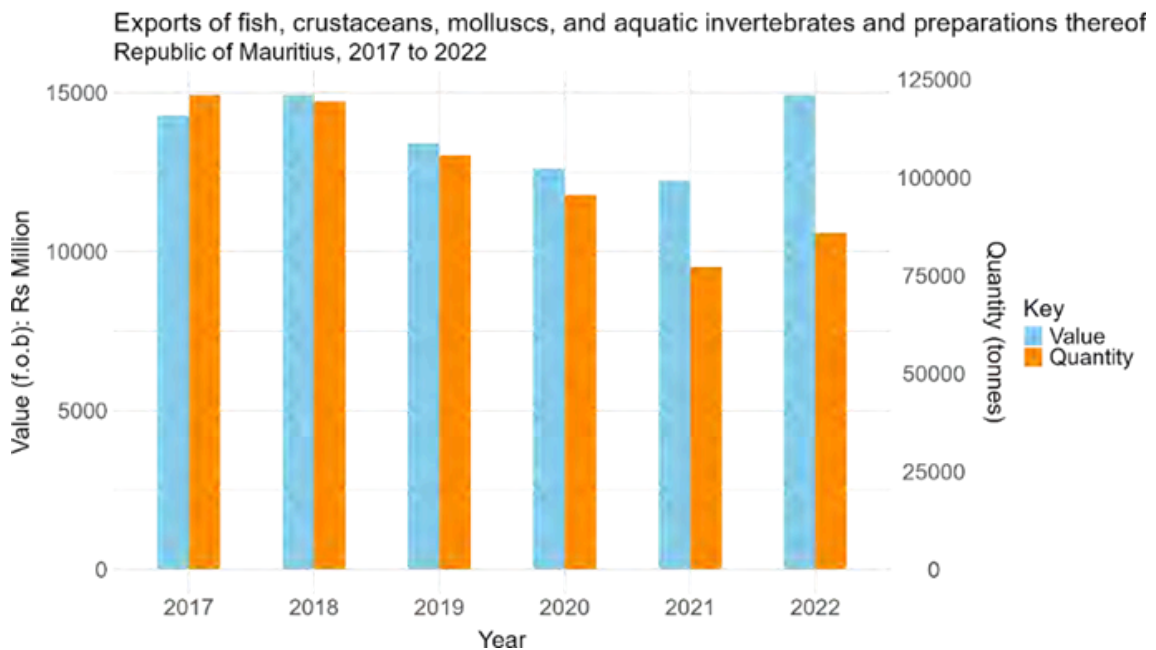
The number of breeders increased steadily from 240 in 2017 to 372 in 2022, reflecting a positive trend in sheep farming. Similarly, the number of heads rose from 2,882 in 2017 to 4,222 in 2022, indicating growth in the sheep population.

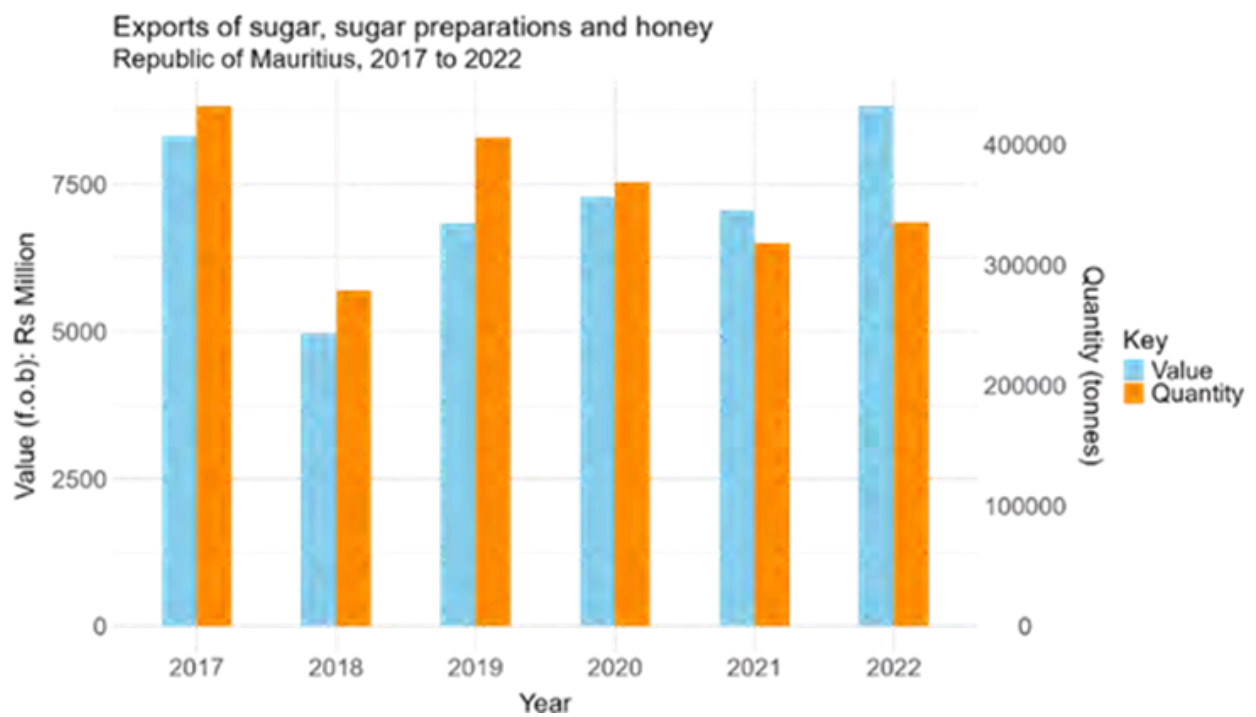
Over the period, imports have risen from Rs. 30,255 million in 2017 to Rs. 48,920 million in 2022. On the other hand, exports have slightly decreased from Rs. 25,732 million in 2017 to Rs. 25,293 million in 2022.

*Note: Imports and Exports consist of meat and meat preparations, dairy products and bird's eggs, fish and fish preparations, cereals and cereal preparations, vegetables and fruits, sugar, sugar preparations and honey, coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof and miscellaneous edible products and preparations.*

## Imports and exports of major food products by value and volume

### Exports of major food products

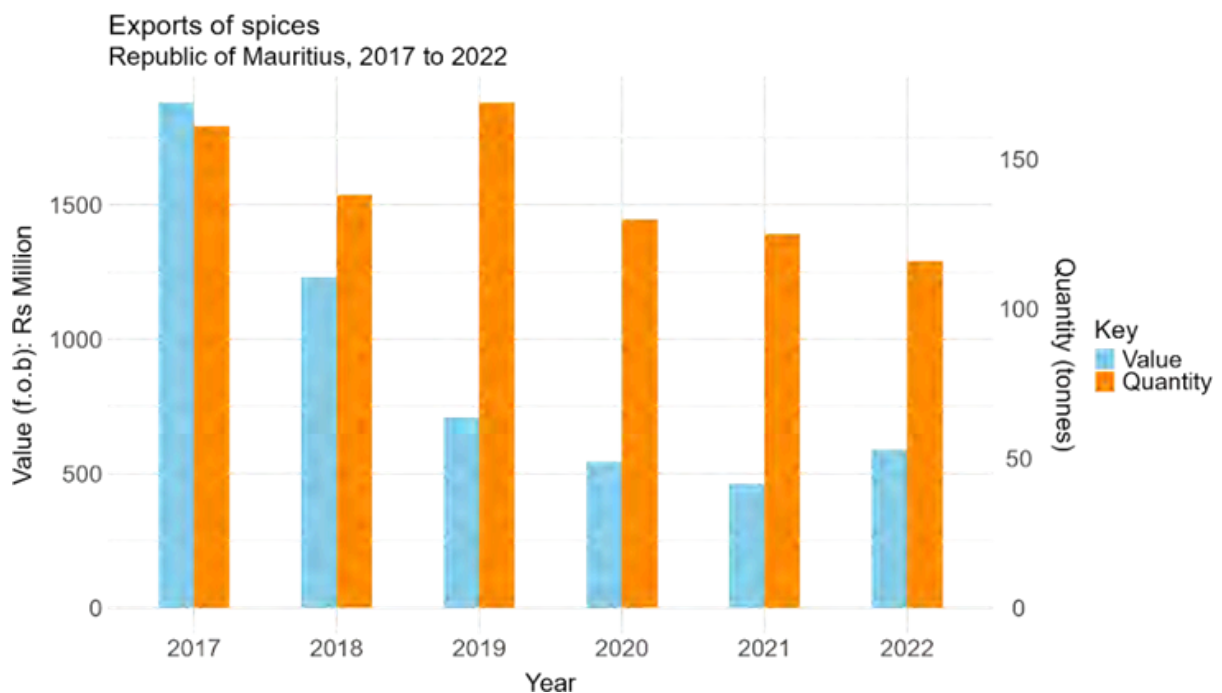




From 2017 to 2022, the Republic of Mauritius saw a fluctuating trend in the export of fish, crustaceans, molluscs, and aquatic invertebrates, with quantities peaking at 121,095 tonnes in 2017 and declining to a low of 77,204 tonnes in 2021 before rebounding to 85,978 tonnes in 2022. Despite the variations in quantity, the value remained relatively stable, ranging from Rs 12,210 million to Rs 14,922 million.

The export of sugar, sugar preparations, and honey experienced a significant drop in quantity from 431,956 tonnes from 2017 to 279,182 tonnes in 2018, followed by fluctuations, culminating in 334,922 tonnes in 2022. The value, however, showed an overall increasing trend, reaching Rs 8,829 million in 2022.

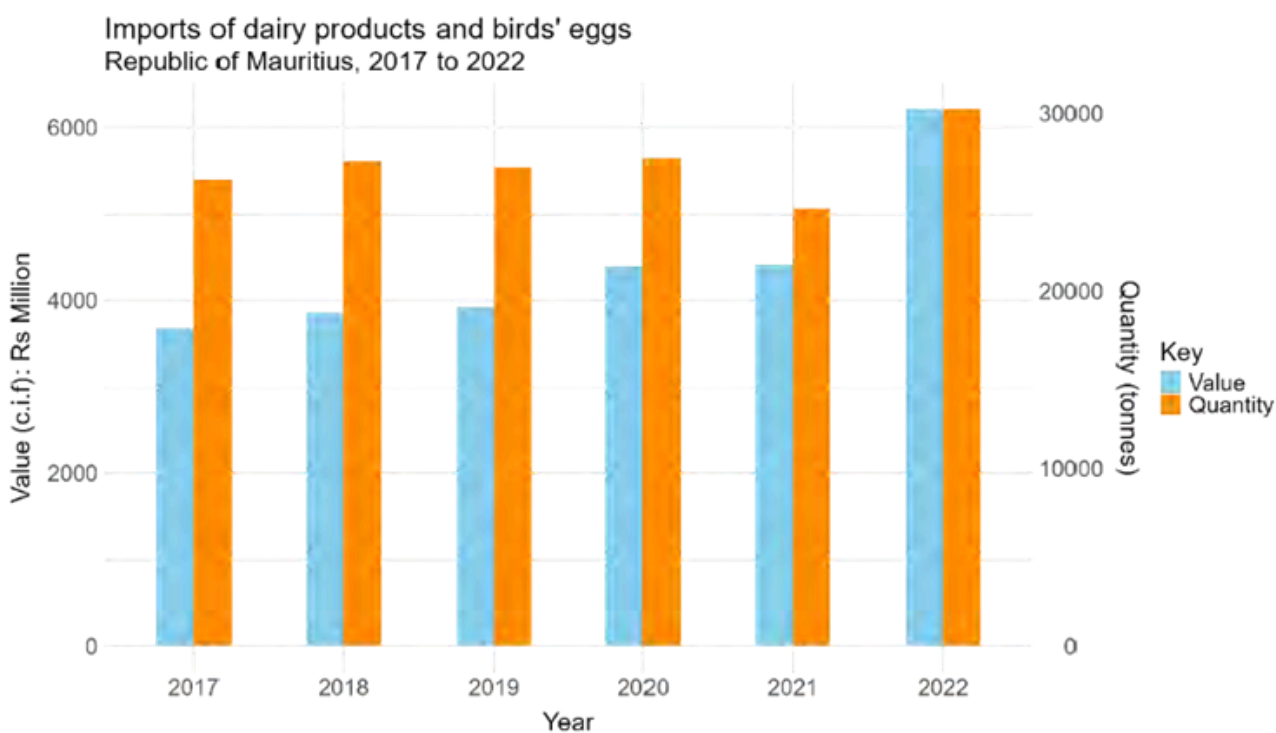
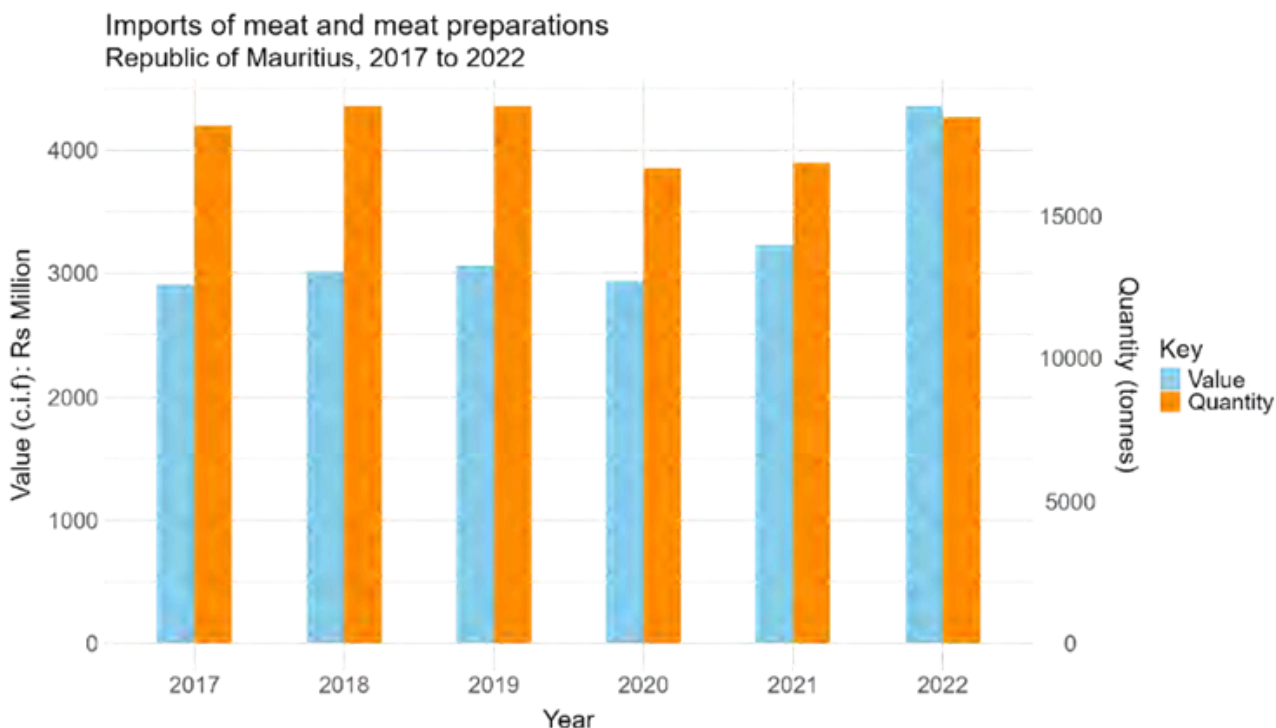
Source: Digest of External Trade Statistics 2022, Statistics Mauritius



The export of spices saw a consistent decline in both quantity and value, with quantities dropping from 161 tonnes in 2017 to 116 tonnes in 2022, and the value decreasing from Rs 1,882 million to Rs 590 million over the same period.

Source: Digest of External Trade Statistics 2022, Statistics Mauritius

## Imports of major food products

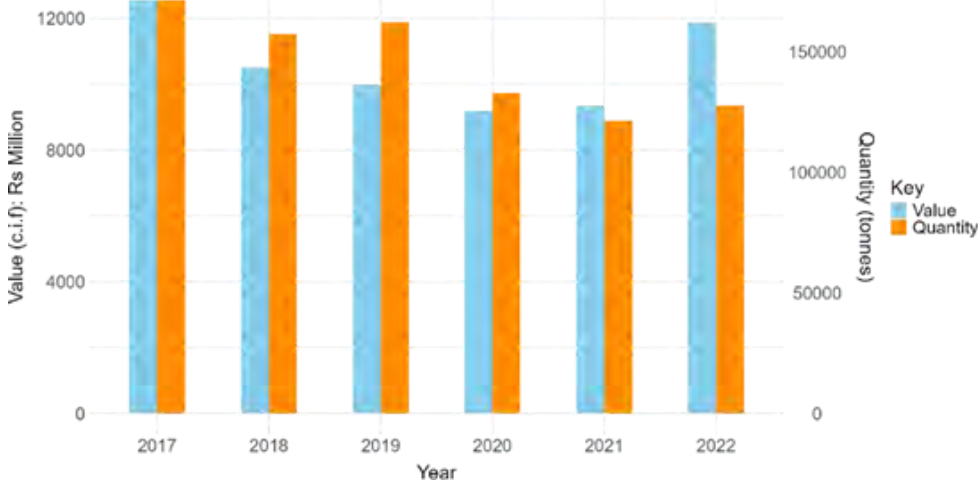


The import of meat and meat preparations fluctuated between 16,694 and 18,881 tonnes from 2017 to 2022, with a noticeable increase in value from Rs 2,904 million in 2017 to Rs 4,357 million in 2022, indicating rising costs.

Imports of dairy products and birds' eggs peaked at 30,235 tonnes in 2022. The value also increased significantly, from Rs 3,679 million in 2017 to Rs 6,210 million in 2022.

Source: Digest of External Trade Statistics 2022, Statistics Mauritius

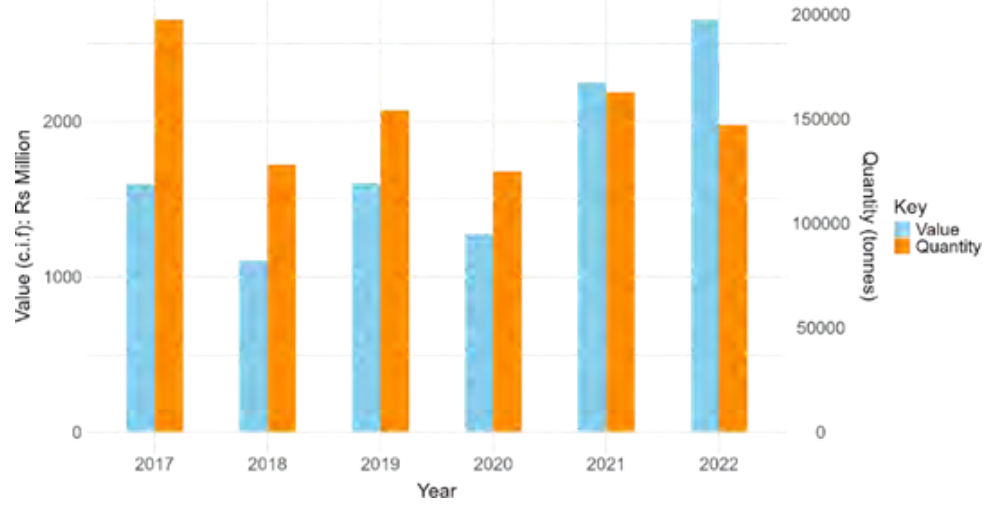
Imports of fish, crustaceans, molluscs, and aquatic invertebrates and preparations thereof  
Republic of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022



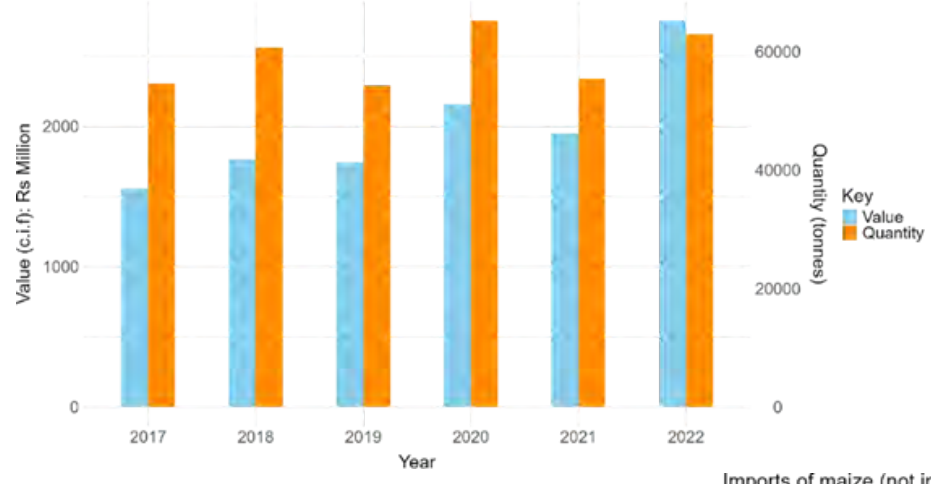
Imports of Fish, Crustaceans, Molluscs, and Aquatic Invertebrates decreased from 171,389 tonnes in 2017 to 127,781 tonnes in 2022. However, the value fluctuated, reaching a high of Rs 12,548 million in 2017 and Rs 11,875 million in 2022.

The import of wheat and meslin experienced variability, with quantities peaking at 197,301 tonnes in 2017 and then decreasing to 147,188 tonnes in 2022. The value increased from Rs 1,596 million in 2017 to Rs 2,653 million in 2022.

Imports of wheat (including spelt) and meslin, unmilled  
Republic of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022



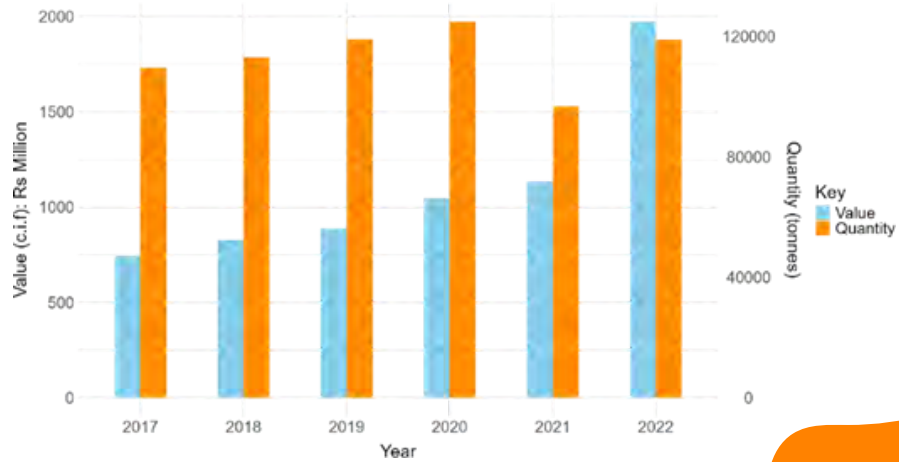
Imports of rice  
Republic of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022



Rice imports fluctuated from 54,632 tonnes from 2017 to 62,965 tonnes in 2022, with the value rising from Rs 1,556 million in 2017 to Rs 2,750 million in 2022.

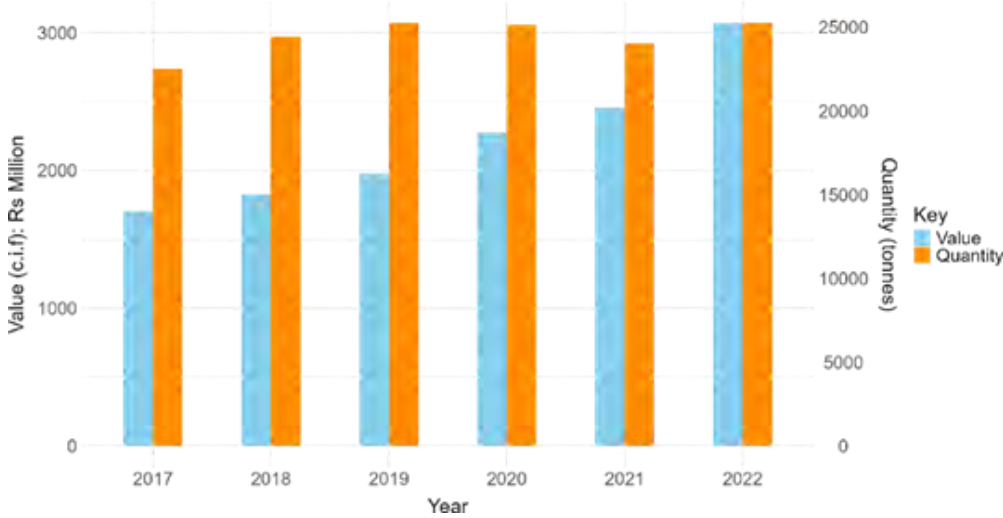
The import of maize showed an overall increasing trend in quantity, peaking at 124,787 tonnes in 2020 and slightly decreasing to 118,812 tonnes in 2022. The value increased continuously, from Rs 744 million in 2017 to Rs 1,971 million in 2022.

Imports of maize (not including sweet corn), unmilled  
Republic of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022



Source: Digest of External Trade Statistics 2022, Statistics Mauritius

Imports of other cereals and cereal preparations  
Republic of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022

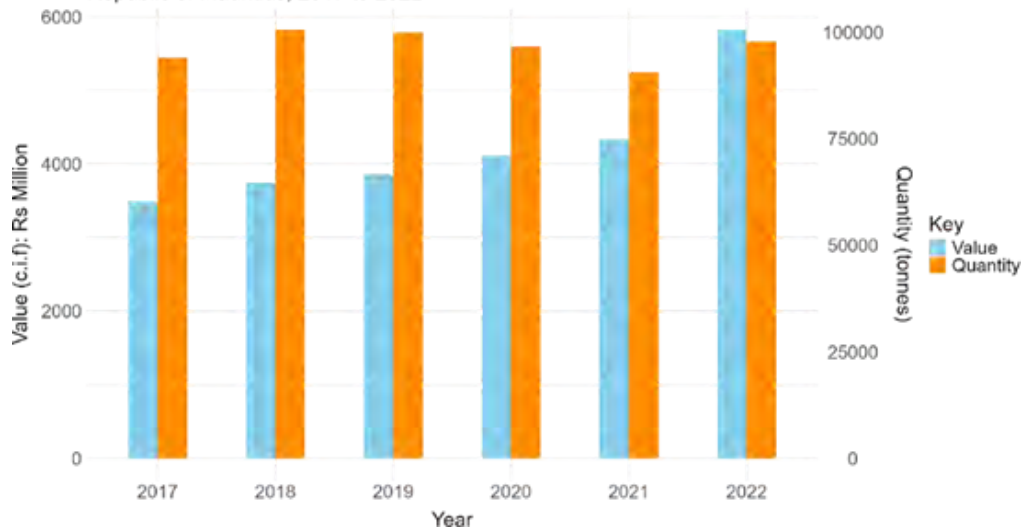


Imports of other cereals and cereal preparations increased in both quantity and value, from 22,539 tonnes valued at Rs 1,705 million in 2017 to 25,237 tonnes valued at Rs 3,070 million in 2022.



Imports of vegetables and fruit rose from 94,003 tonnes from 2017 to 97,857 tonnes in 2022, with the value increasing significantly from Rs 3,487 million in 2017 to Rs 5,823 million in 2022.

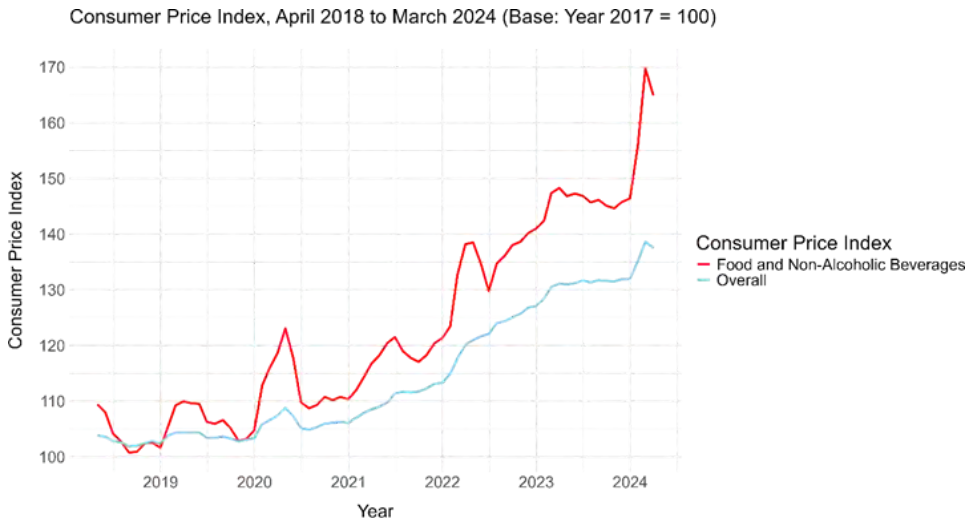
Imports of vegetables and fruit  
Republic of Mauritius, 2017 to 2022



# FOOD ACCESSIBILITY

## Markets & prices

### Consumer price Index: Overall CPI and Food and non-alcoholic beverages CPI, April 2018 to March 2024



The CPI for food and non-alcoholic beverages exhibited more pronounced fluctuations and a steeper overall increase compared to the overall CPI. Starting from April 2018, the food CPI began at 109.4 and showed significant drops and rises, particularly between mid-2018 and early 2020, reaching a peak of 169.8 in February 2024 before slightly decreasing to 164.9 in March 2024. This trend indicates substantial price volatility and an overall upward trend in food and non-alcoholic beverage prices.

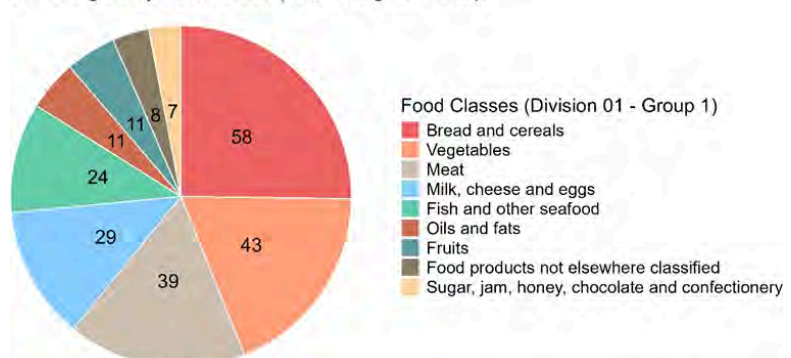
In contrast, the overall CPI demonstrated a more consistent and gradual increase from 103.8 in April 2018 to 137.6 in March 2024, with fewer extreme variations. The increase was gradual initially, with occasional minor fluctuations, but accelerated significantly from mid-2021 onwards, indicating a broader inflationary trend affecting the overall cost of living in the Republic of Mauritius. The peak of 138.6 in February 2024 highlights the inflationary pressures experienced recently.

Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages division has the highest weight in 248, indicating it has the most significant impact on the overall CPI, accounting for nearly a quarter of the total. This highlights the critical role of food prices in influencing the cost of living. Within this division, bread and cereals have the highest weight at 58, followed by vegetables and meat with weights of 43 and 39, respectively, indicating their substantial impact. The construction of these weights is the results of the 2017 Household Budget Survey.

CPI Weights by Division (Total Weights = 1000)



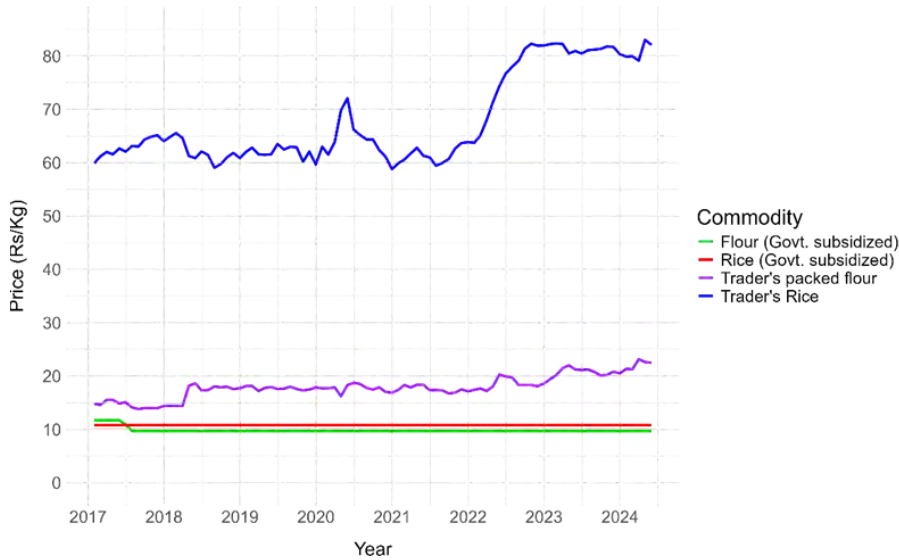
CPI Weights by Food Class (Total Weights = 230)



Source: Digest of External Trade Statistics 2022, Statistics Mauritius

## Food prices

Average prices of selected commodities, Republic of Mauritius, January 2017 to May 2024

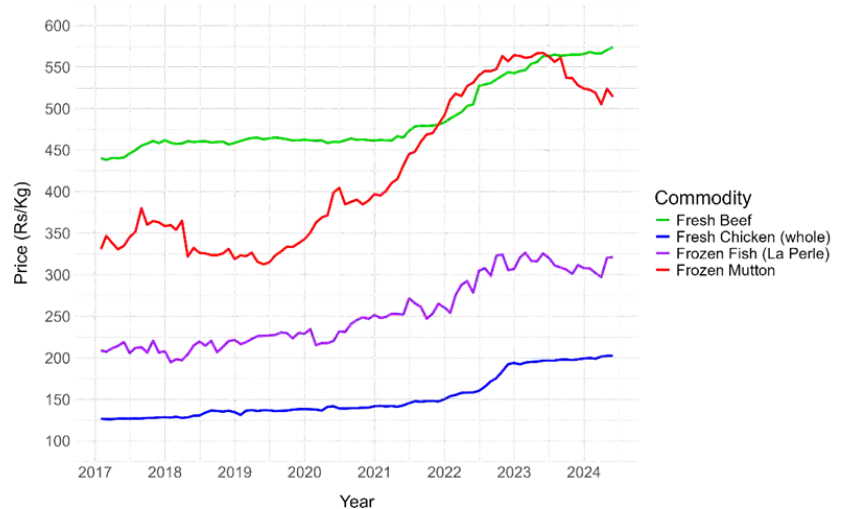


The prices for government-subsidized rice and flour remained stable at Rs 10.80 per kg and Rs 9.70 per kg, respectively, from mid-2017 to May 2024. This stability is attributed to the government-subsidized rice and flour prices being controlled under the Maximum Price by the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection. As a result, the prices have remained unchanged over this period, reflecting the effectiveness of government intervention in maintaining affordability for these staple commodities.

In contrast, the price of trader's rice fluctuated significantly, rising from Rs 60 per kg in January 2017 to a peak of Rs 83 per kg in April 2024.

The average price of frozen mutton fluctuated between Rs 331 and Rs 491 from Jan-17 to Dec 2021. Starting from Jan 2022, the price exhibited a steady upward trend, reaching a peak of Rs 567 in May 2023, before slightly declining to Rs 514 by May 2024.

Average prices of selected commodities, Republic of Mauritius, January 2017 to May 2024



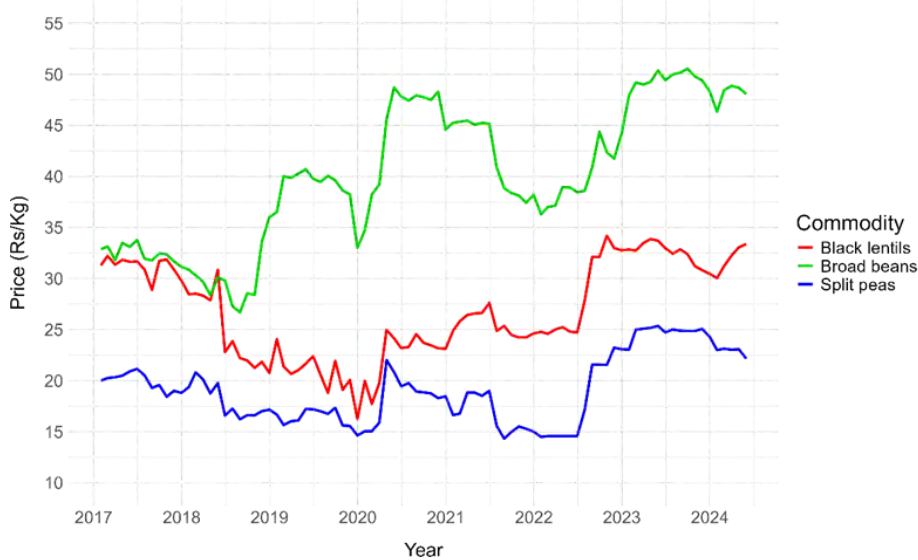
Fresh chicken prices showed a gradual increase from Rs 127 in Jan-17 to Rs 202 in May-24. Notable spikes were observed from Jun 2022 to Nov 2022, where prices surged from Rs 160 to Rs 192, and further increased to Rs 202 by May 2024.

Fresh beef prices remained relatively stable around Rs 440 to Rs 460 from Jan-17 to Mar-21. From Apr-21, prices began to climb steadily, peaking at Rs 574 in May 2024, indicating a consistent upward trend.

In recent years, the price of frozen fish (La Perle) has shown a significant upward trend. Notably, the price peaked in Feb 2023 at Rs 327. After this peak, the price saw a decline but remained relatively high compared to earlier years, with the most recent price being Rs 321 in May 2024.



Average prices of selected commodities, Republic of Mauritius, January 2017 to May 2024



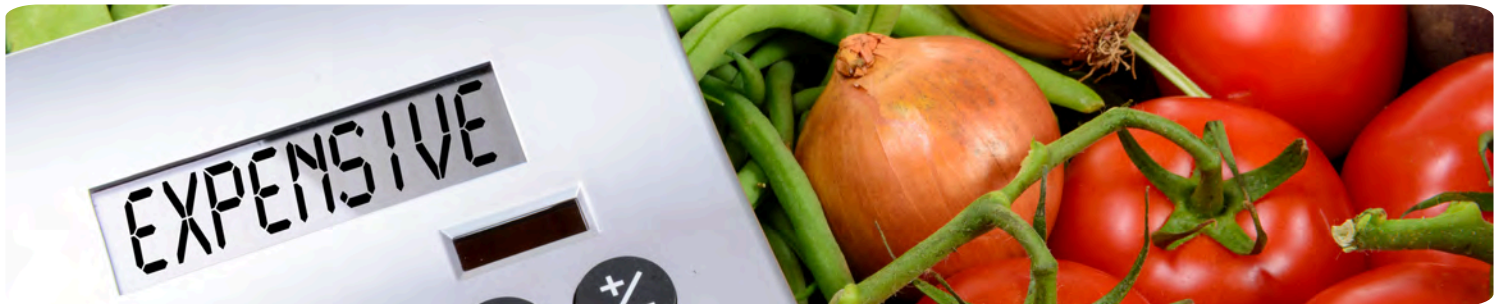
The average price of broad beans fluctuated throughout the years, with notable peaks in late 2018 and 2020. The price saw a significant increase in 2020, reaching as high as Rs 49 in May 2020. Prices have generally remained high since then, peaking again at Rs 51 in September 2023.

The price of black lentils showed a declining trend from January 2017 to the end of 2019, reaching a low of Rs 16 in December 2019. However, prices rebounded in 2020 and continued to increase, peaking at Rs 34 in October 2022.

The price stabilized around Rs 30 to Rs 33 in 2023 and early 2024.

Split peas experienced a notable price drop from mid-2017 to early 2020, with prices reaching a low of Rs 15 in December 2019. From 2020 onwards, prices rose, peaking at Rs 25 in May 2023. Prices have remained relatively high but started to decline slightly in early 2024.

Prices of all three commodities spiked in the first semester of 2020, coinciding with the COVID-19 lockdown in Mauritius.

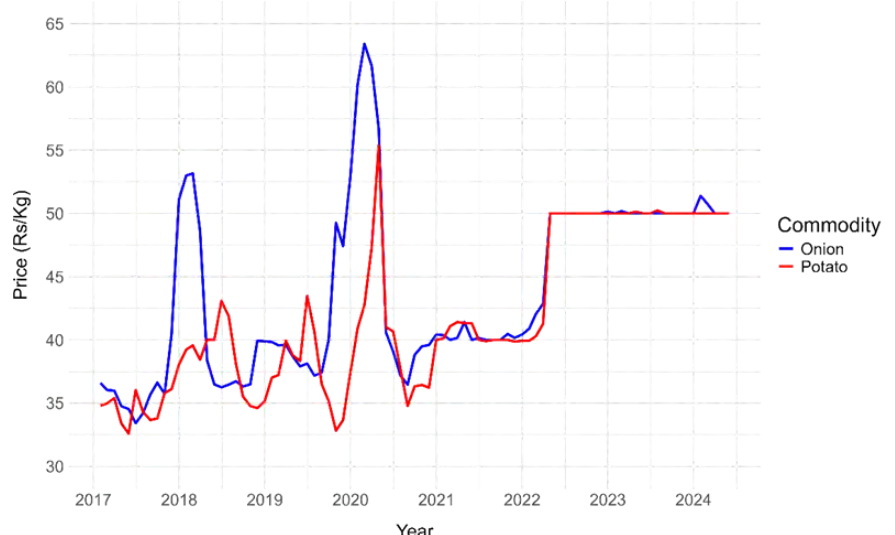


The average price of potatoes showed significant fluctuations from January 2017 to early 2020. The price peaked in April 2020 at Rs 55 during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Onion prices exhibited variability, with notable spikes in late 2017 and early 2020, peaking at Rs 63 in February 2020 and decreasing thereafter.

From April 2022 onwards, the prices of both commodities stabilized at Rs 50 per kg under the Maximum Price control by the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.

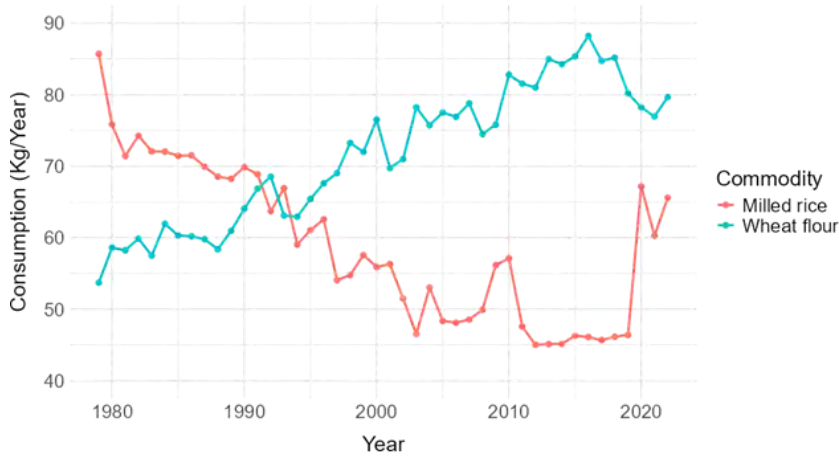
Average prices of selected commodities, Republic of Mauritius, January 2017 to May 2024



Source: Average prices of selected commodities, Consumer Price Index, Statistics Mauritius

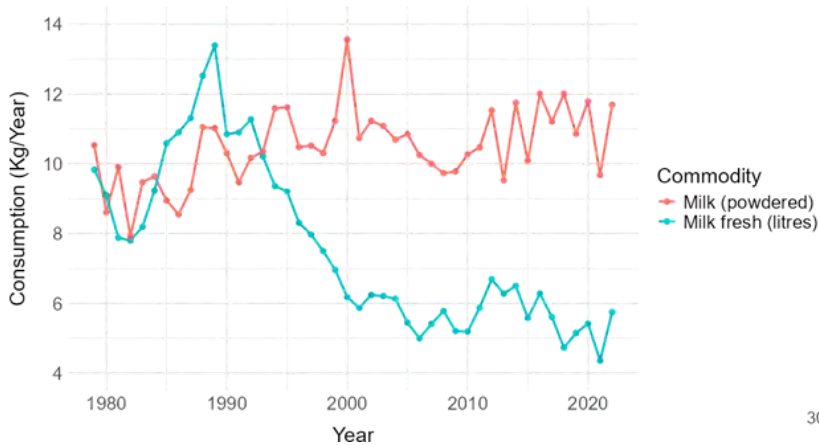
## Per capita consumption of selected commodities, 1979 – 2022

Consumption per capita for Cereals and Grains



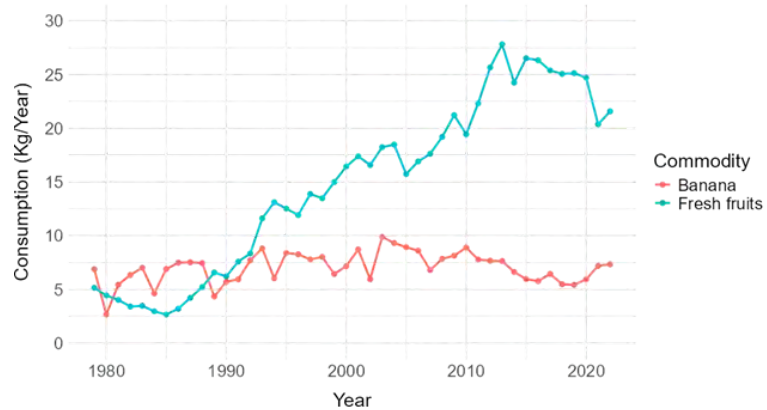
Consumption of wheat flour shows a general upward trend from 53.7 kg in 1979 to 79.7 kg in 2022. Consumption of rice declined from 85.7 kg in 1979 to 65.6 kg in 2022. Fresh milk consumption decreased from 9.8 liters in 1979 to 5.8 liters in 2022, with fluctuations over the years, while powdered milk consumption remained relatively stable around 10 kg, with minor fluctuations, ending at 11.7 kg in 2022.

Consumption per capita for Dairy Products

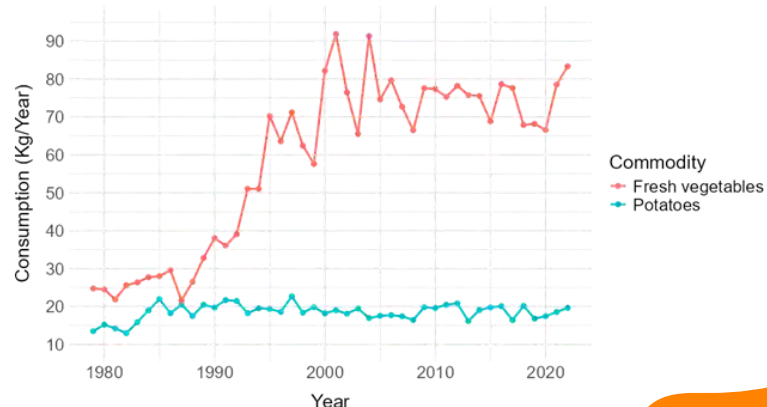


Consumption of bananas fluctuated, peaking at 9.9 kg in 2003, and ending at 7.3 kg in 2022 while consumption of fresh fruits showed a strong upward trend from 5.2 kg in 1979 to 21.6 kg in 2022. Consumption of fresh vegetables increased significantly from 24.8 kg in 1979 to 83.4 kg in 2022, with notable increases in the 1990s. Consumption of potatoes fluctuated, peaking at 22.7 kg in 1997, and slightly decreasing to 19.6 kg in 2022.

Consumption per capita for Fruits

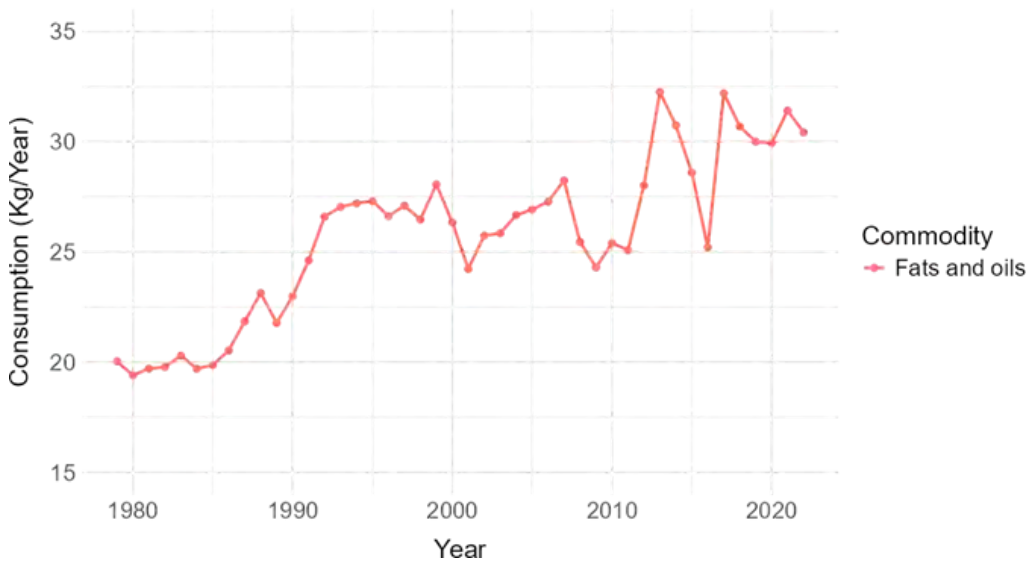


Consumption per capita for Vegetables



Fresh vegetables include beans, beet, brinjal, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, green peas, leek, lettuce, ladies finger, petsai, tomato and creepers

Consumption per capita for Fats and Oils

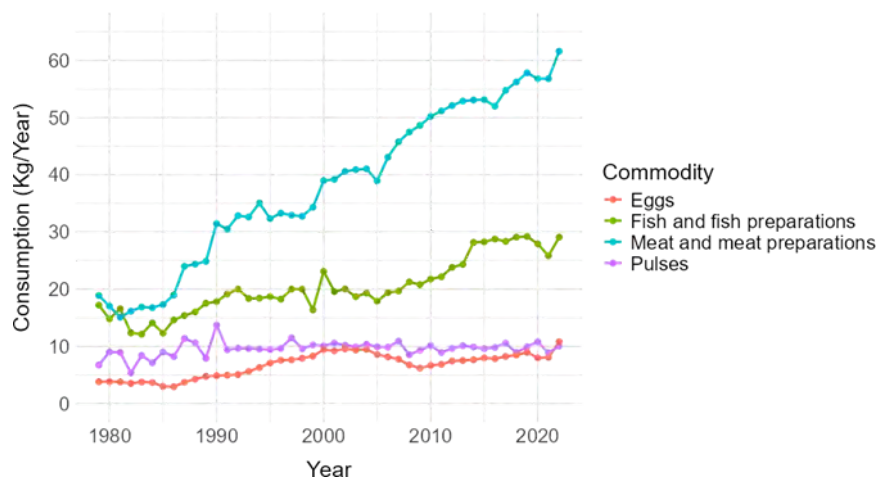


Consumption of fats and oils rose from 20.0 kg in 1979 to a peak of 32.3 kg in 2012, before slightly decreasing to 30.4 kg in 2022.

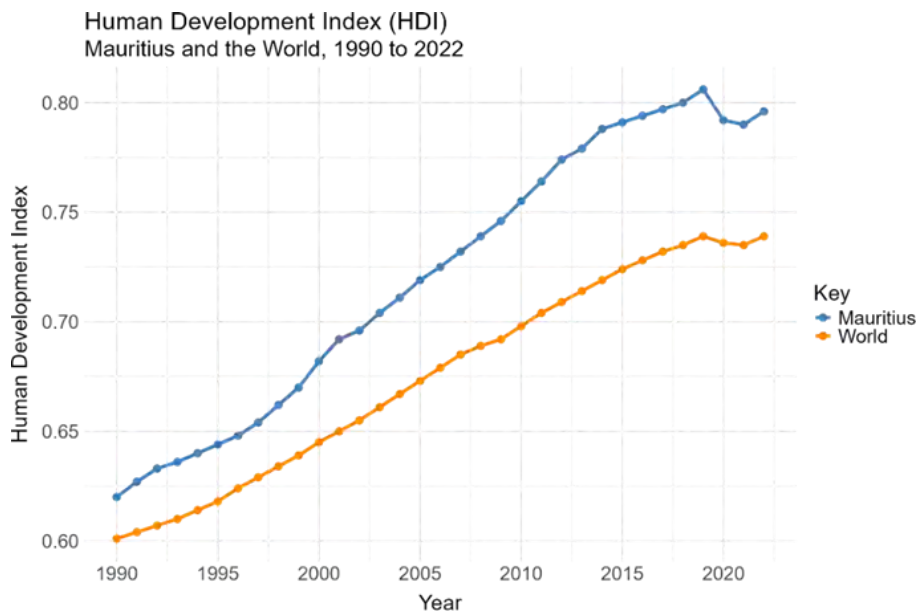


Egg consumption increased steadily from 3.8 kg in 1979 to 10.8 kg in 2022. Consumption of fish and fish preparations, measured in wet weight equivalent, increased steadily from 17.2 kg in 1979 to 29.1 kg in 2022, with notable growth since the 2000s. A consistent growth is also noted in the consumption of meat and meat preparations, from 18.9 kg in 1979 to 61.6 kg in 2022. Consumption of pulses showed minor fluctuations, ending at 10.0 kg in 2022, similar to 1980 levels.

Consumption per capita for Protein Sources



## Employment and Poverty



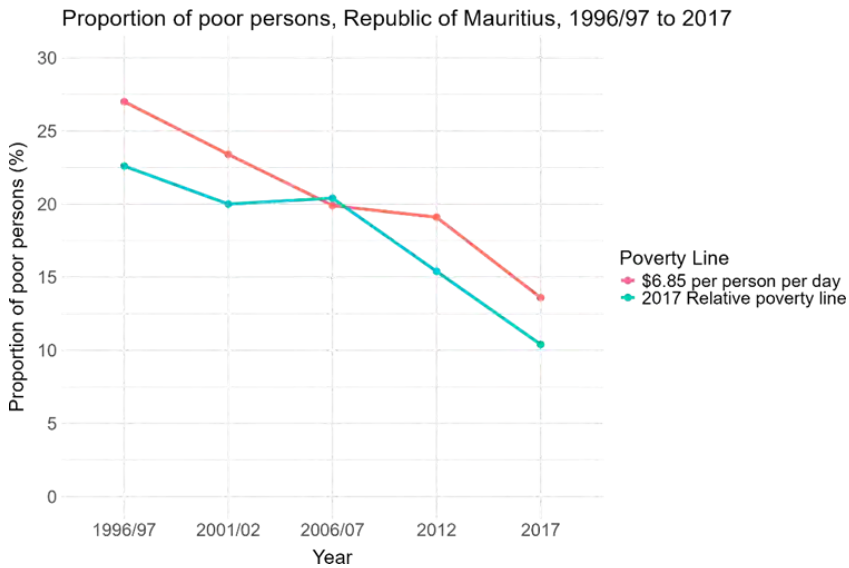
Source: Historical Series, Agriculture, Statistics Mauritius

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in three key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and having a decent standard of living. These dimensions are measured using specific indicators: life expectancy at birth for health, mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling for education, and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita for standard of living. By evaluating these indicators, the HDI provides an understanding of the average achievement in a country related to health, education, and income.

The HDI for Mauritius shows a steady increase from 0.620 in 1990 to a peak of 0.806 in 2019, indicating significant improvements in human development over the past decades. Despite a slight decline in 2020 and 2021, which coincides with the COVID-19 lockdown, Mauritius' HDI in 2022 was 0.796, remaining higher than the global average, which increased from 0.601 in 1990 to 0.739 in 2022. This consistent growth reflects advancements in health, education, and economic conditions in Mauritius relative to the global context.

An absolute poverty line is a threshold used to determine the minimum level of income necessary for individuals or households to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. It also allows tracking poverty over time, identifying those living below this line as being in absolute poverty and lacking sufficient resources to maintain a basic standard of living.



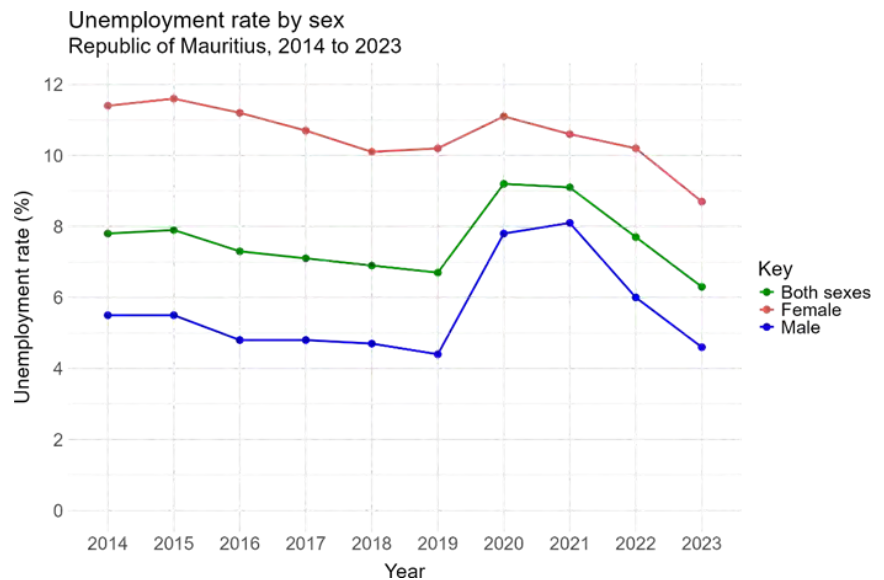


Source: Historical Series, Poverty, Statistics Mauritius

The diagram illustrates significant progress over time under both the \$6.85 per person per day poverty line for upper-middle-income countries and the 2017 Relative poverty line as a 'Fixed threshold' per adult equivalent per month, derived from the 2017 Household Budget Survey. From 1996/97 to 2017, poverty rates decreased notably under both measures. For instance, under the \$6.85 per person per day line, poverty decreased from 27.0% in 1996/97 to 13.6% in 2017. Similarly, under the 2017 Relative poverty line, poverty declined from 22.6% to 10.4% over the same period. These trends indicate improvements in income levels and living standards for the population of Mauritius over the past two decades.



The diagram illustrates the unemployment rates in Mauritius, derived from the Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey, with varying trends from 2014 to 2023. Overall, there was a notable decrease in unemployment from 2014 to 2019, with rates declining from 7.8% to 6.7%. However, the rates fluctuated in subsequent years, notably peaking at 9.2% in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic but then gradually declining to 6.3% by 2023.

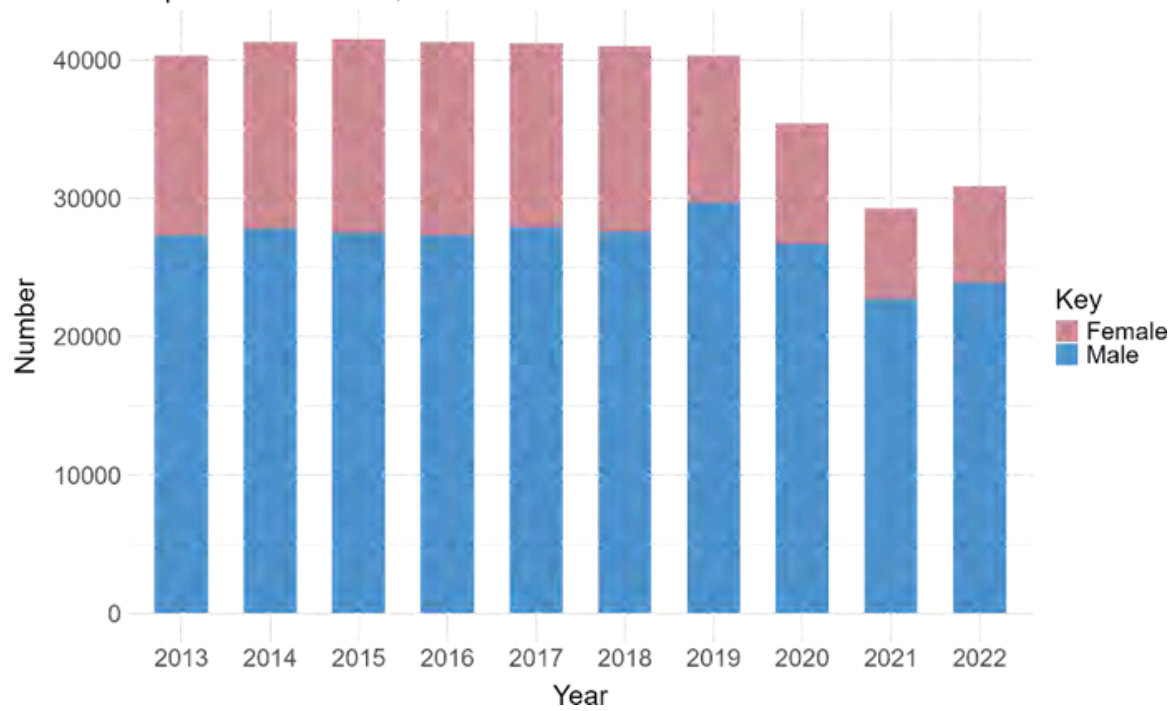


Source: Historical Series, Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, Statistics Mauritius

Male unemployment consistently remained lower than female unemployment throughout the period, indicating gender disparities in employment.

The trends highlight the impact of economic conditions and policy interventions on employment levels in Mauritius over the past decade.

### Employment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Republic of Mauritius, 2013 to 2022



Source: Historical Series, Labour force, Employment and Unemployment, Statistics Mauritius

The stacked bar chart illustrates employment trends in agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry from 2013 to 2022. Male employment in this sector shows a relatively stable level, peaking at 29,700 in 2019 and declining to 23,900 by 2022.

Meanwhile, female employment has steadily decreased over the years, starting at 13,000 in 2013 and dropping to 7,000 in 2022. These trends highlight a noticeable gender disparity in employment within the sector, reflecting ongoing shifts and challenges in agricultural labor dynamics over the past decade.



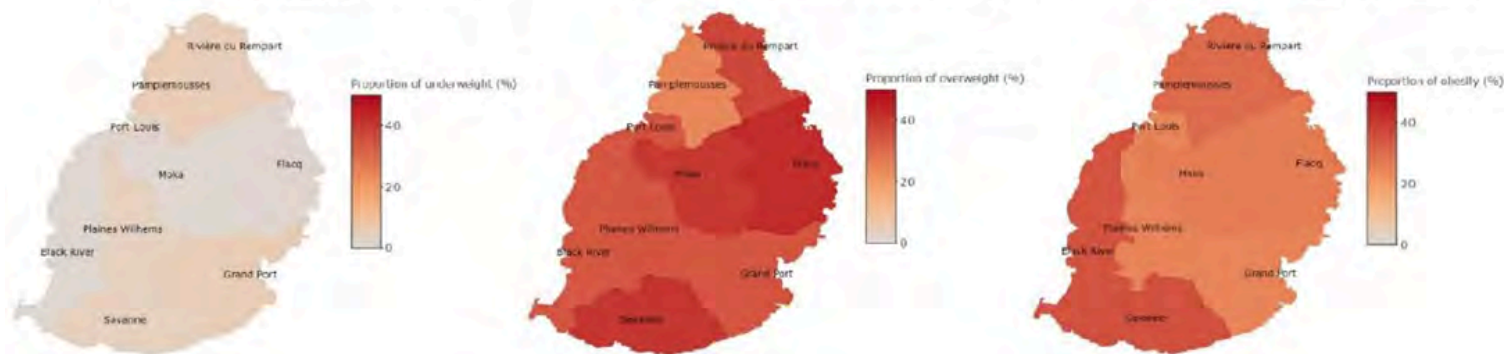
# FOOD UTILISATION – NUTRITIONAL STATUS

## Prevalence of underweight, overweight and obesity in women by district

Prevalence of underweight in women by district in Mauritius  
For women aged 25 to 74 years old, 2021 NCD Survey

Prevalence of overweight in women by district in Mauritius  
For women aged 25 to 74 years old, 2021 NCD Survey

Prevalence of obesity in women by district in Mauritius  
For women aged 25 to 74 years old, 2021 NCD Survey



District	Underweight (%)	Overweight (%)	Obese (%)	N
Port Louis	2.8	34.7	25.2	317
Pamplemousses	5.6	24.8	30.4	125
Rivière du Rempart	4.9	37.3	30.4	102
Flacq	2.0	42.6	26.7	359
Grand Port	5.3	34.4	25.2	131
Savanne	4.3	40.9	35.5	93
Plaines Wilhems	4.5	34.7	25.8	426
Moka	1.4	40.1	26.8	142
Black River	1.6	34.1	34.9	129

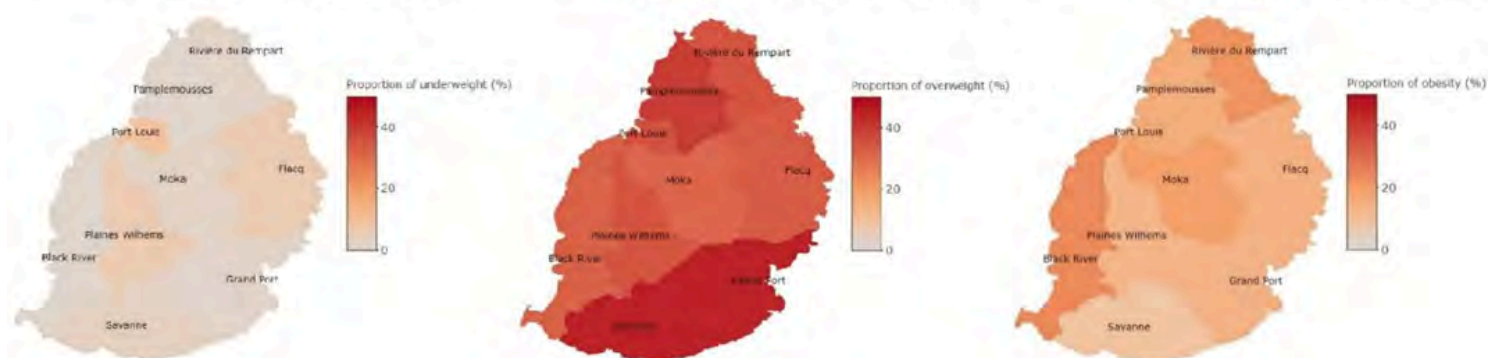
Interpretation example : In the district of Plaines Wilhems, 4.5% of women are underweight, 34.7% are overweight and 25.8% are obese.

## Prevalence of underweight, overweight and obesity in men by district

Prevalence of underweight in men by district in Mauritius  
For men aged 25 to 74 years old, 2021 NCD Survey

Prevalence of overweight in men by district in Mauritius  
For men aged 25 to 74 years old, 2021 NCD Survey

Prevalence of obesity in men by district in Mauritius  
For men aged 25 to 74 years old, 2021 NCD Survey



District	Underweight (%)	Overweight (%)	Obese (%)	N
Port Louis	9.1	35.1	16.5	242
Pamplemousses	2.1	39.4	16.0	94
Rivière du Rempart	2.9	34.8	21.7	69
Flacq	6.1	33.1	14.5	296
Grand Port	2.7	44.6	14.3	112
Savanne	4.0	45.0	9.0	100
Plaines Wilhems	6.4	34.8	13.7	408
Moka	3.4	31.4	19.5	118
Black River	2.0	32.0	24.0	100

Interpretation example: In the district of Plaines Wilhems, 6.4% of men are underweight, 34.8% are overweight and 13.7% are obese.

Source: Mauritius Non Communicable Diseases Survey 2021, Ministry of Health and Wellness

These results were calculated using data from the Non Communicable Diseases Survey (NCD) for the year 2021. For more information, visit <https://health.govmu.org/health/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Mauritius-Non-Communicable-Diseases-Survey-2021.pdf>

## Prevalence of underweight, overweight and obesity in children

	Underweight (%)	Normal weight	Overweight (%)	Obese (%)
Both sexes	14.6	57.0	14.6	13.8
Male	16.5	54.4	14.6	14.6
Female	12.4	60.1	14.6	12.9

Source: Mauritius Nutrition Survey 2022, Ministry of Health and Wellness

The above table presents the nutritional status of children aged 5–11 years in Mauritius based on the 2022 Nutrition Survey, segmented by sex. The results show that: 14.6% of children are underweight, 57.0% have normal weight, 14.6% are overweight and 13.8% are obese.

These figures indicate a relatively balanced distribution of normal weight among children, with a slight variation between males and females. However, there is a notable prevalence of both underweight and overweight/obesity, highlighting the dual burden of malnutrition in this age group. Boys tend to have higher rates of underweight and obesity compared to girls, who exhibit a higher prevalence of normal weight. These insights underscore the need for targeted nutritional interventions to address both ends of the malnutrition spectrum among children in Mauritius.



## STAT SANOI PROJECT AND THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PLATFORMS

The STAT SANOI project, funded by the European Union, is a regional initiative supporting the establishment of a network of information systems on agriculture and food and nutritional security in the Indian Ocean islands, including Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles. The project is implemented in partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The project's primary goal is to reduce malnutrition and food insecurity. It aims to create a decision-making tool by making data accessible online through national and regional platforms, enabling stakeholders to access, consult, and extract data in various formats (tables, graphs, maps). These platforms will support the identification, collection, and production of harmonized food security data, enhancing the capacity of national systems to produce and analyze data related to agriculture and food security.

The FAO leads the project implementation, coordinating activities through its office in Madagascar, with technical assistance provided in each country. The project involves setting up national steering committees to oversee data collection and publication of information on the digital platform. In Mauritius, the Steering Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, with the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) serving as the national focal point. Other key stakeholders include Statistics Mauritius, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, and the University of Mauritius.

The digital platforms are expected to be operational by the end of 2024, providing a valuable resource for policymakers and stakeholders to access comprehensive and harmonized data on agriculture and food security. This report includes examples of the information products that will be available online, demonstrating the project's potential impact on regional food and nutritional security.



Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute