

## Introduction

Mauritius is an island nation off the southeast coast of the African continent in the southwest Indian Ocean. It is located east of Madagascar. The main island is of volcanic origin and is almost entirely surrounded by a coral reef that poses maritime hazards. The government is a parliamentary democracy; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Although state monopolies exist, Mauritius has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Mauritius is a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

**Location:** Eastern Africa

**Capital City:** Port Louis (+4 GMT)

**Chief of State:** President Prithvirajsing Roopun

**Head of Govt.:** Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth

**Currency:** Mauritian rupee (MUR)

**Major Languages:** Creole 86.5%, Bhojpur 5.3%, French 4.1%, two languages 1.4%, other 2.6% (includes English, the official language of the National Assembly, which is spoken by less than 1% of the population), unspecified 0.1%

**Primary Religions:** Hindu 48.5%, Roman Catholic 26.3%, Muslim 17.3%, other Christian 6.4%, other 0.6%, none 0.7%, unspecified 0.1%

**Calling Code:** 230

**Voltage:** 230

## Key Websites

Main Government Page: [govmu.org](http://govmu.org)

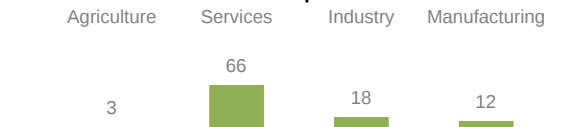
Commerce Ministry: [commerce.govmu.org](http://commerce.govmu.org)

Investment Promotion Agency: [edbmauritius.org](http://edbmauritius.org)

## Key Economic Facts

|                                                                      |                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Income Level (by per capita GNI):                                    | Upper Middle Income        |
| Level of Development:                                                | Developing                 |
| GDP, PPP (current international \$):                                 | \$33.97 billion (2022)     |
| GDP growth (annual %):                                               | 8.69% (2022)               |
| GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):                      | \$26,905.92 (2022)         |
| External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):                     | \$13,916,293,964.60 (2021) |
| Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):                               | 12.09% (2022)              |
| Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):                         | -\$1.58 billion (2022)     |
| Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):                               | 10.77% (2022)              |
| Labor force, total:                                                  | 618,531 (2022)             |
| Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate): | 7.23% (2022)               |
| Imports of goods and services (current US\$):                        | \$8.14 billion (2022)      |
| Exports of goods and services (current US\$):                        | \$7.24 billion (2022)      |

## GDP Composition %



\*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.

## Rankings

| Index                                           | Rank     |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Corruption Perceptions Index                    | 48 / 178 |
| Global Competitiveness Index                    | 52 / 141 |
| Global Enabling Trade Index                     | 39 / 136 |
| Global Services Location Index                  | 27 / 60  |
| Index of Economic Freedom                       | 25 / 176 |
| International Logistics Performance Index (LPI) | 78 / 160 |
| KOF Index of Globalization                      | 56 / 185 |
| Networked Readiness Index (NRI)                 | 49 / 139 |

## Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

**Country rating: A4** - A somewhat shaky political and economic outlook and a relatively volatile business environment can affect corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is still acceptable on average.

**Business Climate rating: C** - The business environment is difficult. Corporate financial information is often unavailable and when available often unreliable. Debt collection is unpredictable. The institutional framework has many troublesome weaknesses. Intercompany transactions run major risks in the difficult environments rated C.

### Strengths

- Stable democratic institutions and excellent business climate
- Strategic location between Africa and Asia, on the Suez Canal bypass route
- Thriving offshore financial sector
- Free trade agreements with China and India
- Bilingualism (English and French)
- Efforts to modernise infrastructure (water, electricity, roads, ports)
- Flat tax rate (15%)

### Weaknesses

- Commercial, economic and political dependence on Europe and Asia, especially China and India
- Extreme dependence on food and energy imports
- Insularity and small domestic market
- Lack of skilled workers and declining export competitiveness
- High youth unemployment (18.9% in early 2024 for the 16-24 age group)
- High vulnerability to climate change due to increasing number of hurricanes

## U.S. Embassy

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<https://mu.usembassy.gov>