

BANK OF MAURITIUS



QUARTERLY REVIEW

Volume III.

No. 2 April - June 1971
and
No. 3 July - September 1971

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ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

April - September 1971

INTRODUCTION

In this issue a brief review of the economic and financial developments in Mauritius during the second and third quarters of 1971 is presented. On the basis of such a review, it has also been possible to indicate, in broad terms, the performance of the economy during the year 1971, as a whole. The regular statistical tables containing the detailed figures form a separate part of the Review.

Unlike the year 1970*, which witnessed only a fractional rise in national income, the year 1971 promises to show a significant growth. This is so basically because the production of sugar has recorded a rise of about 8 per cent, reaching a level of 620,000 metric tons. Similarly, production of tea is also expected to show a rise. The monetary and banking indicators also suggest that growth is taking place in sectors other than sugar. Such an encouraging picture of the performance of the economy is, however, marred by the transport bottle-neck created by the intermittent strikes in the harbour. As a result of this bottle-neck, it will not be possible to export the normal quantity of sugar during the calendar year 1971. This, in turn, has affected adversely the balance of payments position : as compared with the anticipated *surplus* of about Rs. 50 million, the year 1971 may actually witness a *deficit* of about Rs. 30 million. At the same time, it should be underlined that such a deficit is, in a way, artificial because the spill-over effect of the balance of sugar exports is bound to be reflected on the balance of payments position during 1972.

The prospects of growth during the future years have become brighter because of two recent developments : the negotiated price for sugar under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement will be substantially higher for the years 1972 to 1974; and secondly, the Mauritius quota for exports of sugar to the U.S. has been raised sizably. Both these factors will go a long way in improving substantially the balance of payments position.

The discussion of the main developments in certain selected sectors can now be taken up.

I. AGRICULTURE

The general level of economic activity in Mauritius follows closely the fluctuations in export earnings from sugar, which accounts for about 30 per cent of gross national product and contributes about 95 per cent of total export earnings. It is, therefore, appropriate to begin the review with the trends in sugar production.

* For a detailed discussion on the performance of the economy in 1970, reference is invited to the Bank's Annual Report for the year ended 1971.

SUGAR

In the previous Review*, the official estimate of sugar production for 1971 was placed at 675,000 metric tons. This had, however, to be brought down to 620,000 metric tons because of the severe drought which prevailed during the vegetative season. Further, both production and exports of sugar were also affected by the transport bottle-neck, resulting from strikes and stoppages of work by dock workers*. This means that the cane-crushing season in 1971 will be prolonged thereby affecting the sucrose content. As a result of these factors, therefore, the estimate of production was further revised downwards to 610,000 metric tons. Subsequently, however, in the light of the actual results obtained regarding yields and sucrose content, the estimate was revised upwards to bring it back to a level of 620,000 metric tons. On the basis of this final estimate, the exportable supplies can be worked out as follows :—

Table I. SUGAR: Exportable Supplies

	(Tons)
1970 Crop	102,622
1971 Crop (excluding local consumption and International Sugar Organisation Stock)	560,576
Total exportable supplies	663,198

During the second and third quarters of 1971, a total quantum of 188,290 tons of sugar was exported, as compared with 236,435 tons for the corresponding period of 1970. The decline in the volume of exports is wholly attributable to the transport bottle-neck referred to above. The destination of exports was as follows :—

Table II. Exports of Sugar

	(Tons)	
<i>Destination of Exports</i>	<i>March-Sept. 1971</i>	<i>March-Sept. 1970</i>
United Kingdom	96,750	173,300
Canada	74,840	63,135
U.S.A.	16,800	—
	188,390	236,435

* Quarterly Review, Vol. III, No. 1.

* Since September, the dock workers went on strike intermittently for fifteen times.

The dock workers went on strike again in December and therefore it is unlikely that Mauritius would be able to export the anticipated quantum of sugar by the end of the year. Thus, although, production of sugar in 1971 was significantly higher than that during the previous year and although the assured markets remained unchanged, exports are bound to be substantially lower. This will mean that export receipts on the sale of sugar will be sizably lower for 1971, thereby affecting adversely the overall balance of payments position.

The world market price of sugar tended to show a downward trend ; the prices as quoted on the London Terminal Market declined from £47 at the beginning of April to £42 at the end of September. The monthly average prices during the second and third quarters of 1971 were as follows : £46.55 for April, £44.98 for May, £43.11 for June, £42.80 for July, £43.38 for August and £41.22 for September.

The prospects of exports in future years have brightened up because of two factors. The Mauritius quota for export to the United States has been raised from the present level of about 15,000 tons to about 25,000 tons. Secondly, the negotiated price under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement will be substantially higher for the years 1972 to 1974. It is expected that the price per ton may rise from the present level of about £46.50 to between £57 and £61. This factor, by itself, will make a substantial difference to the overall balance of payments position.

TEA

Production of tea during the second and third quarters of 1971 amounted to 0.9 million kilos and 0.2 million kilos respectively ; the corresponding figures for the previous year were 0.6 million kilos and 0.2 million kilos respectively. Exports during these two quarters were also higher at 1.1 million kilos, as compared with 0.9 million kilos during the corresponding period of 1970. In particular, exports to South Africa are expected to show a significant rise in 1971-1972.

II. MONEY AND BANKING

At the end of the second quarter of 1971, money supply at Rs. 213 million recorded a decline of Rs. 2.2 million over the level in March 1971, reflecting the normal seasonal decline (see Table III). This declining trend was reversed during the third quarter, when money supply rose to reach Rs. 218.5 million towards the end of September. The rise in money supply during the third quarter was less than 3 per cent as compared with a 7 per cent rise witnessed during the third quarter of 1970. If the two components of money supply are considered separately, an interesting feature which emerges is that nearly the whole of the rise seems to have come about through the currency in circulation, the level of demand deposits remaining almost stagnant.

Table III. Money Supply

(Rs. million)

	<i>March</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Percentage Increase (+) or decrease (-) of (2) over (1)</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>Percentage Increase (+) or decrease (-) of (4) over (2)</i>
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1968	173.1	163.8	- 5.4	182.2	+ 11.2
1969	189.1	170.2	- 10.0	184.3	+ 8.3
1970	192.3	191.9	- 0.2	205.9	+ 7.3
1971	215.3	213.1	- 1.0	218.5	+ 2.5

The trends in credit to the private sector may now be reviewed briefly. Commercial bank credit to the private sector recorded a significant increase of nearly 22 per cent during the second quarter of 1971, as compared with an increase of only about 8 per cent during the corresponding quarter of 1970. (See Table IV). This substantial rise reflects a response to a sizable increase in the sugar crop as also some expansion which seems to have taken place in sectors other than sugar. Following the seasonal trend, credit to the private sector declined by nearly 5 per cent during the third quarter. The extent of the decline was much smaller than the decline of nearly 10 per cent witnessed during the corresponding quarter of the previous year. In part an explanation for the smaller decline has to be sought in the delay in the receipts of sugar exports caused by the transport bottle-neck.

Credit extended to the public sector rose significantly during both the second and third quarters of 1971, reaching a level of Rs. 70 million towards the end of September 1971. The rise is largely accounted for by the additional investment of the banks in Government Stocks.

Aggregate deposits of the private sector also showed substantial rises during the second and third quarters. Towards the end of September 1971, the deposits were of the order of Rs. 292 million, a level which is higher by nearly 17 per cent as compared with the level a year ago. More importantly, what needs to be highlighted is that time and savings deposits have been rising at a faster rate. As compared with the level a year ago, these deposits which stood at Rs. 181 million in September 1970 showed a rise of 28.8 per cent.

Table IV — COMMERCIAL BANKS : SELECTED INDICATORS

(Rs. million)

	1968		1969		1970		1971	
	<i>June</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>September</i>
1. RESERVES ...	12.4	14.0	13.4	25.0	12.6	13.7	15.2	16.0
(a) Cash in hand ...	9.5	8.3	6.8	8.4	8.1	8.6	7.2	8.8
(b) Balances with Bank of Mauritius ...	2.9	5.7	6.6	16.6	4.5	5.1	8.0	7.2
2. FOREIGN ASSETS ...	19.4	14.2	10.8	31.5	27.4	43.8	18.4	17.5
(a) Balances with banks abroad ...	16.7	12.0	8.5	29.2	24.7	41.3	15.6	14.9
(b) Foreign Notes and Coins ...	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.6
(c) Foreign Securities ...	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
3. CLAIMS ON GOVERNMENT ...	13.8	13.4	25.7	25.7	28.5	36.8	59.5	69.8
(a) Treasury Bills ...	—	—	5.4	4.2	2.6	7.0	—	8.8
(b) Investment in Government Securities ...	4.4	4.4	12.1	13.7	15.3	20.0	49.5	50.8
(c) Loans and Advances ...	9.4	9.0	8.2	7.8	10.6	9.8	10.0	10.2
4. CLAIMS ON PRIVATE SECTOR ...	208.1	217.6	212.9	187.5	199.1	180.7	230.6	220.2
(a) Loans and Advances ...	198.8	208.3	204.1	178.2	160.4	147.5	197.0	192.3
(b) Bills purchased and discounted ...	5.5	5.5	5.0	5.0	34.4	28.9	28.8	22.5
(c) Local investments ...	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.8	5.4
5. TOTAL PRIVATE SECTOR DEPOSITS ...	182.6	195.2	188.4	203.8	230.0	250.7	280.1	292.5
(a) Demand Deposits ...	86.6	99.3	90.1	98.7	104.1	110.4	112.8	111.8
(b) Time and Savings deposits ...	96.0	95.9	98.3	105.1	125.9	140.3	167.3	180.7

CAPITAL AND MONEY MARKETS

In the previous Review reference was made to the remarkable performance of the Bank in respect of the mobilisation of domestic resources to the public sector through the flotation of Government loans. The Capital Budget for 1971-1972 stipulates the raising of the domestic resources of the order of Rs. 70 million. As part of this target, the Bank issued, on behalf of the Government, the following three Development Loan Stocks in November 1971 :- (i) the 6½% Stock, 1976 for a total amount of Rs. 10 million; (ii) the 6¾% Stock, 1979 for a total amount of Rs. 15 million; and (iii) the 7½% Stock, 1986 for a total amount of Rs. 15 million. All these issues were well received and were virtually taken up by the private sector. In fact, one of these Stocks was actually oversubscribed, reflecting the general buoyancy of the market. If this experience is any indication, it should be easily possible to raise another Rs. 30 million during the remaining part of the current financial year.

In regard to Treasury Bills, the total amount of the monthly issue continued to remain at Rs. 5 million during the second quarter. Thus, the total amount outstanding at the end of June 1971 amounted to Rs. 15 million. Since the market continued to show signs of buoyancy, the total amount of the monthly issue was raised to Rs. 7 million from July 1971. At the end of September 1971, therefore, the total amount of Treasury Bills outstanding was Rs. 21 million, as compared with Rs. 15 million at the end of June 1971.

III. THE PRICE SITUATION

The consumer prices continued to show a remarkable degree of stability. The Consumer Price Index (Whole Island) which stood at 119.3 in March 1971 declined to 118.4 at end of June, recording a seasonal decline of slightly less than one per cent. During corresponding quarters of 1969 and 1970, the decline was of the order of 1 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively.

During the third quarter, the index rose slightly to reach 119.2 in September. When compared with the level a year ago, the index in September 1971 was only marginally higher by 0.4 per cent.

IV. GOVERNMENT FINANCE

BUDGET PERFORMANCE: 1970-71

In the sphere of public finance, the performance during 1970-71 was encouraging. The recurrent budget for the year 1970-71 closed with a surplus of Rs. 5.2 million, actual revenue amounting to Rs. 259.7 million and expenditure to Rs. 254.5 million. Both revenue and expenditure were higher than the original estimates by Rs. 6.7 million and Rs. 1.8 million respectively. The performance is encouraging in the sense that this revenue surplus was attained, over and above an amount of Rs. 4 million which was transferred to the capital budget. The increase in revenue is mainly accounted for by higher receipts from direct and indirect taxes, interests and royalties. The marginal increase in expenditure emanated from two items, education and external affairs. The relevant figures are given in the Table below :—

Table V. Government Budget : 1970-71

(Rs. million)

	1970-71 <i>Original Estimates</i>	1970-71 <i>Revised Estimates</i>	1970-71 <i>Actual</i>
Recurrent Revenue	252.9	261.5	259.7
Recurrent Expenditure	252.7	261.1	254.5
Balance	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	+ 5.2
Capital Revenue	89.8	89.3	99.1
Capital Expenditure	90.0	78.5	84.4
Balance	- 0.2	+ 10.8	+ 14.7

As for the capital budget, total revenue amounted to Rs. 99.1 million while expenditure was of the order of Rs. 84.4 million. These levels compare with the original estimates of Rs. 89.8 million and Rs. 90 million respectively. The narrowing down of the gap between the budgeted expenditure and the actual expenditure is indicative of the improvement in the capacity of the administrative machinery to prepare and execute development projects.

BUDGET ESTIMATES: 1971-72

A brief glance at the budget estimates for the financial year 1971-72 may now be taken. The recurrent expenditure is expected to be of the order of Rs. 262 million, which will be exactly matched by the recurrent revenue. Thus even after appropriating a sum of Rs. 4 million for the capital budget, the recurrent budget will be a balanced budget. A noteworthy feature of the budget is a substantial stepping up of capital expenditure to Rs. 150.5 million; such an increase of 67 per cent is explained by the fact that 1971-72 is the first year of the Four-year Development Plan. The impact of such a large expenditure is bound to reflect itself on the tempo of economic activity.

TRENDS DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER

Figures available for the quarter July-September 1971 indicate that recurrent revenue amounted to Rs. 62.7 million while recurrent expenditure was of the order of Rs. 56.4 million; the corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 54.2 million and Rs. 52.9 million respectively. The increase in revenue is accounted for mainly by higher receipts from direct and indirect taxes. In regard to expenditure the increase seems to have mainly emanated from the items education and health.

So far as the capital budget is concerned, while revenue amounted to only Rs. 2.8 million, expenditure was of the order of Rs. 12.6 million. The bulk of the capital revenue was accounted for by foreign loans.

V. EXTERNAL TRADE AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS: 1970

In the previous Review*, the estimate of the balance of payments surplus for the year 1970 was placed at Rs. 73 million. According to the final estimates, the surplus turned out to be Rs. 73.4 million. The level of the surplus realised in 1970 was substantially higher than the surplus of Rs. 57.5 million in 1969. In fact the surplus in 1970 is a record for the last ten years, with the sole exception of 1963. Further, it should be also emphasized that this is the third successive year in which the economy has been able to generate a sizable balance of payments surplus.

This substantial surplus is primarily attributable to, besides the allocation of Special Drawing Rights, an improvement in the services account and a larger inflow of loans and grants. For instance, in regard to the services account, the travel and investment accounts which were in balance in 1969 showed net surpluses of Rs. 7 million and Rs. 5 million respectively. Similarly, net grants received increased from Rs. 14.4 million in 1969 to Rs. 21.5 million, the rise being reflected both in the official and private accounts. Long-term official capital received rose from Rs. 4.7 million in 1969 to Rs. 10.5 million.

Lastly, a reference should be made to the creation of a new reserve asset, namely, the Special Drawing Rights in the International Monetary Fund. The first allocation to Mauritius effected in January 1970 was equivalent to Rs. 14.9 million. However, it should be stressed that even if the allocation of Special Drawing Rights is not taken into account, the balance of payments would have still shown a surplus of about Rs. 58 million.

ESTIMATES FOR 1971

Preliminary estimates for the year 1971 were also worked out on the basis of certain assumptions. The output of sugar during 1971 is expected to reach 620,000 tons. This factor coupled with a relatively large carry-over of stocks would enable Mauritius to fulfil her export quota commitments. It was therefore reasonable to presume that the value of exports in 1971 would be of about the same order as in 1970; a marginal increase of Rs. 4 million was assumed in respect of exports other than sugar. On these assumptions, it was anticipated that the year 1971 would end up with a balance of payments surplus of about Rs. 50 million (see Table VI).

However, due to the transport bottle-neck created by the intermittent strikes in the harbour, these estimates need to be now drastically revised. For instance, in regard to the main export, sugar, while during the year 1970 a total quantum of 572,000 tons of sugar was exported, during the period January to November 1971 only about 418,000 tons have been exported. In other words, if sugar exports in 1971 were to reach the level of the previous year, as much as 154,000 tons need to be exported in the month of December 1971 itself. This possibility has therefore to be obviously ruled out. Even assuming that about 54,000 tons could be exported in December, this would leave a margin of about 100,000 tons. On the basis of this assumption therefore if the previous estimates were to be revised, it looks as if the year 1971 would end up with an actual deficit of Rs. 30 million. (See Table VI). Of course, it should be underlined that such a deficit is in a way an *artificial deficit* because of the sheer physical inability to export sugar during the calendar year 1971. In fact, the spill-over of the 1971 sugar exports into the next year will be reflected in the balance of payments position for 1972. It would be therefore not far wrong to say that the balance of payments deficit in 1971 would be in this sense merely technical.

* Quarterly Review, Vol. III, No. 1.

Table VI. Summary of the Balance of Payments : 1969-71

(Rs. million)

	1969	1970	1971 (Original Estimates)	1971 (Revised Estimates)
Net goods and services	+ 26	+ 21	+ 4	- 71
Net transfer payments	+ 15	+ 21	+ 25	+ 20
Net long-term capital	+ 12	+ 8	+ 8	+ 8
Allocation of SDRs	—	+ 15	+ 13	+ 13
Other capital, errors and omissions	+ 4	+ 8	...	...
Basic Balance of Payments	+ 57	+ 73	+ 50	- 30

VI. CONCLUDING COMMENTS

This brief review of the developments in the economy indicates that the year 1971 will turn out to be, on the whole, a good year. Production of sugar rose to reach 620,000 tons, recording an increase of about 8 per cent over the level in 1970. Similarly, it appears that both production and exports of tea will be higher in 1971 than in the previous year. The monetary and banking indicators also appear to show that growth is taking place in sectors other than sugar, reflecting thereby the probable diversification of the economy. This encouraging picture of the performance of the economy was, however, marred by the transport bottle-neck created by the intermittent strikes in the harbour. Because of this bottle-neck, it will not be possible to export the normal quantity of sugar during the calendar year 1971. Thus, as contradistinguished from the anticipated balance of payments *surplus* of Rs. 50 million, the year 1971 may actually witness a *deficit* of about Rs. 30 million. The only consolation is that such a deficit is, in a way, artificial because the spill-over effects of the balance of sugar exports will be felt on the balance of payments position during 1972.

At the end, it is necessary to refer to another significant development which took place during the latter half of the year. In several sectors of the economy, there has taken place a substantial rise in wages in recent months; for instance, a 12 per cent rise in the port and harbour sector affecting about 3,200 workers, a 12 per cent rise in the sugar sector, affecting about 56,000 workers and a 15 per cent rise in the bus transport sector. Further the Government also granted a 12 per cent rise in salaries to all civil servant, and a similar rise in allowances to pensioners, widows and orphans etc. The Government has also requested all semi-governmental institutions and the private sector to grant a rise in wages of about the same order. Thus, an all-round rise of about 12 per cent in the wage-bill appears to be taking place. The question that arises in this context is whether this rise in wages, witnessed in different sectors of the economy, will have an adverse effect on the future balance of payments situation. Admittedly, as a result of the wage-rise, there might be some rise in domestic consumption. On the other hand, to the extent to which the additional wage-bill is met by reduction in the profits accruing to upper-income groups, this rise may be offset, partly at least, by the reduction in luxury-consumption. Moreover, part of the additional demand generated by the wage-rise may be neutralised if a national pension scheme, referred to in the Four-year Development Plan, is implemented in the immediate future. What is sought to be emphasized here is that the phenomenon of wage-rise should not be considered in isolation from other factors on which it will impinge. But as long as inflationary forces are contained — and this is of paramount importance — the country's balance of payments should remain in reasonable equilibrium.

Nor is the phenomenon of wage-rise an exclusive characteristic feature of Mauritius. In fact, the requirement of internal financial stability should be understood in a comparative sense. The fact is that inflationary forces have become almost universal in recent years. Therefore, a certain rate of domestic inflation is tolerable, provided it does not exceed the rate of inflation prevailing in the country's partners in the international trade. In fact, the price rise witnessed in Mauritius during recent years has been remarkably small. On the basis of these factors, it can be reasonably asserted that the economy is capable of absorbing the additional demand generated by the recent wage-rise.

This assertion is further reinforced by two recent developments affecting sugar exports. The most important of these is that the negotiated price of sugar exports under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement will be substantially higher by about £10 per ton for the years 1972 through to 1974. Such a sizable rise in the export price of sugar will strengthen the balance of payments position. Secondly, the United States has agreed to increase its quota to Mauritius from the present level of about 15,000 tons to about 25,000 tons. Since Mauritius realizes a relatively better price on sugar exports to the United States this will also mean a considerable addition to receipts from sugar exports. These two factors will go a long way in strengthening the balance of payments position in future years. The economy can therefore look forward to attaining the growth rates envisaged in the Four-Year Development Plan.

SPEECH OF GOVERNOR BEEJADHUR

INAUGURATING THE VACOAS BRANCH OF THE BANK OF BARODA, ON THE 17th JANUARY 1972.

I am here this morning to perform the pleasant duty of declaring open the Vacoas branch of the Bank of Baroda. The Bank of Baroda, in its own quiet way, has been providing excellent banking service in the Island. The appreciation of this service by the public is reflected in the rapid rate at which its deposits have been growing in recent years. Thus, from small beginnings it has grown into one of the important banks in the country. Recently, consequent on the nationalisation of banks in India, I am sure, its general approach to banking must have undergone a fundamental change with as much emphasis being laid on social return as on profitability. I do hope that the impact of this change will be felt on its operations in Mauritius, especially in respect of widening its coverage as well as in its lending policies.

What makes me particularly happy on this occasion is the fact that a Mauritian young-man Mr. Dindoyal will be in charge of the Vacoas branch. This is the result of intensive training which the Bank of Baroda has been able to provide both in its own Head Office at Port Louis and in India. That Mauritian young-men are rising to the occasion to shoulder such responsibilities in the financial world is indeed a matter of pride to us all.

Governors of Central Banks, by the very nature of their profession, shun publicity. It is rarely that they have an opportunity of speaking to the public, except on occasions like this. May I therefore utilise this opportunity to clear some unnecessary confusion which seems to surround a particular issue. Since the Honourable Prime Minister who incidentally is also acting as Finance Minister, is presiding over this function, it seems to me a highly appropriate occasion to refer to this important issue. It is surprising that some persons in Mauritius have recently thought it appropriate to advocate the devaluation of the Mauritian rupee. This is hardly a responsible way of interpreting the recent trends in the Mauritian economy. In all humility, I must say that this approach reflects an inadequate understanding of the context in which devaluation acquires some meaning in a policy-mix designed to promote economic growth.

Let me frankly say, once and for all, that devaluation of the Mauritius rupee is neither necessary nor desirable. Generally, devaluation is resorted to to correct what is called, "a fundamental disequilibrium" in the economy. To those who have glanced through the recent Annual Report of the Bank of Mauritius, it is quite clear that the economy is growing from strength to strength. In particular, the three successive years of balance of payments surpluses, from 1968 to 1970, provide a concrete evidence of the compatibility of the country's exchange rate with external equilibrium. Thus, the present state of the economy is far from being in dis-equilibrium.

Some developing countries may resort to devaluation with a view to encouraging their exports. This consideration is of hardly any relevance to Mauritius, whose main exports like sugar and tea are not price-elastic. In respect of both these commodities, Mauritius enjoys preferential and assured markets. In fact, in respect of the main export commodity — sugar — the prospects of exports have brightened significantly, because of a sizable rise in the negotiated price under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. Further, the Mauritius' sugar export quota to the U.S. has also been raised substantially. Thus, these two factors have considerably enlarged the resource base of the economy.

On the other hand, devaluation of the Mauritian rupee, if resorted to, will enlarge the country's import bill substantially. I need hardly add that in future imports will go on rising at a rapid rate because of the needs of the Development Plan. Already, available figures for 1971 indicate that imports have risen by more than 10 per cent. Under these conditions, devaluation will only mean that while exports cannot be increased, the value of imports will go on rising substantially. The net effect will therefore be damaging to the economy. From the long-term point of view also, devaluation will damage the stability and confidence of expectations, on the basis of which investment decisions are made.

The proof of the pudding, they say, is in the eating. A concrete evidence of the strength of the Mauritian rupee is provided by the manner in which Mauritius reacted to the recent dollar crisis. While many countries chose to link their currencies to dollar, thereby bringing about a *de facto* devaluation of their own currencies, Mauritius chose to peg its rupee to the pound sterling. In other words, with reference to the U.S. dollar, the Mauritian rupee has been actually up-valued in practice. No greater proof than this is necessary to demonstrate the strength of the Mauritian rupee. Viewed against this background, therefore, the talk of devaluation has hardly any meaning.

This has been a digression. May I now revert to the task on my hand this morning and declare open the Vacoas branch of the Bank of Baroda, wishing it all success ?

QUARTERLY REVIEW

April - September 1971

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Notes

The following conventional signs are used :

— Nil

... Negligible

N.A Not Available

Table 1. Selected Economic Indicators

	Unit/ Base	Sept. 69	Dec. 69	March 70	June 70	Sept. 70	Dec. 70	March 71	June 71	Sept. 71
<i>I. Bank of Mauritius</i>										
(1) Notes and coin in circulation	Rs million	92.6	106.6	97.4	94.4	101.8	114.7	105.7	104.9	112.8
(2) External assets	Rs million	155.5	183.6	218.1	197.3	199.7	246.6	242.3	195.1	209.9
(3) Government securities	Rs million	20.5	14.9	7.4	8.8	1.4	0.5	13.4	8.8	4.5
(4) Discounts and advances	Rs million	12.8	19.7	2.8	10.8	6.3	2.6	4.7	21.3	10.2
of which Government borrowing...	Rs million	9.7	9.6	—	2.4	5.7	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
<i>II. Commercial Banks</i>										
(1) Aggregate deposits	Rs million	210.9	249.1	231.6	236.5	255.2	297.4	283.0	283.2	294.5
(2) Bank credit	Rs million	186.0	193.2	181.4	171.0	157.3	177.4	169.6	207.0	202.5
(3) Cheque clearances	Rs million	98.1	104.1	92.3	104.0	116.1	148.1	112.0	111.9	136.1
<i>III. Post Office Savings Bank deposits</i>										
...	Rs million	26.5	26.7	26.8	27.2	27.4	27.7	28.0	29.0	29.5
<i>IV. Interest Rates</i>										
(1) Bank rate	%/annum	8	7½	7	7	6	6	6	6	6
(2) Prime rate (min)	%/annum	8½	8	8	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½
(3) Savings accounts (banks)	%/annum	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
<i>V. Money Supply</i>										
...	Rs million	184.3	219.0	192.3	191.9	205.9	231.4	215.3	213.1	218.5
<i>VI. Consumer Price Index (Whole Island)</i>										
...	Jan-June 1962=100	116.1	118.4	121.4	118.0	118.7	116.5	119.3	118.4	119.2
<i>VII. Foreign Trade</i>										
(1) Imports, c.i.f.	Rs million	91.4	102.1	87.6	106.8	104.3	121.2	103.8	119.4	N. A.
(2) Exports, f.o.b.	Rs million	150.2	136.7	83.1	21.6	136.6	143.3	61.0	31.2*	N. A.
<i>VIII. Employment Data</i>										
(1) Registered unemployed	Number	13,274	14,794	18,519	21,838	19,754	25,328	30,354	31,277	31,882
(2) Relief workers	Number	13,674	14,450	14,427	15,807	16,094	17,768	17,672	17,510	16,879

Note : All the data are as at the end of the month indicated, except for the following :

- II. (3) Cheque clearances : for the month
- IV. Interest Rates : Last week of the month
- VI. Consumer Price Index : for the month
- VII. Foreign Trade : for the quarter ended

* Provisional

N. A. Not Available

Table 2. Bank of Mauritius — Assets and Liabilities

A. Assets

(Rs 000)

End of Month		External Assets					Mauritius Government Securities	Discounts and Advances	Other Assets	Total Assets
		Balances with Banks	Treasury Bills	Eligible Securities	Ineligible Securities [§]	Special Drawing Rights in IMF				
1967	August ...	20,490+	—	36,843	10,100	—	67,433	34,043	5,113	119,744
	September ...	5,384	12,293	36,849	10,159	—	64,685	34,014	9,213	111,141
	December ...	4,928	25,770	36,487	6,544	—	73,729	34,010	6,900	116,658
1968	March ...	6,695	14,689	32,277	6,618	—	60,279	32,826	13,550	108,810
	June ...	11,846	20,904	32,145	5,502	—	70,397	36,267	—	108,055
	September ...	5,530	10,764	32,644	5,462	—	54,404*	28,332	22,275	106,446
	December ...	20,593	30,380	32,505	5,471	—	89,037*	24,024	15,883	130,677
1969	March ...	6,839	15,191	58,398	5,489	—	85,941*	28,769	22,880	139,407
	June ...	5,826	20,087	80,973	5,439	—	112,359*	23,981	15,208	154,812
	September ...	14,825	28,945	102,519	5,547	—	151,860*	20,526	12,773	190,658
	December ...	18,105	44,272	111,929	5,647	—	179,973*	14,892	19,702	218,981
1970	March ...	17,758	38,118	133,822	5,784	14,831	210,325*	7,420	2,841	230,609
	June ...	20,074	16,127	135,089	4,440	14,724	190,461*	8,809	10,787	221,646
	September ...	82,637	16,302	78,389	3,365	14,622	195,322*	1,432	6,294	210,642
	December ...	131,046	16,146	82,060	2,707	14,608	246,576*	493	2,600	253,448
1971	January ...	166,880	18,093	43,098	2,649	27,686	258,415*	10,251	2,971	275,720
	February ...	151,626	26,963	43,098	2,648	27,686	252,030*	7,907	3,905	268,066
	March ...	129,729	21,770	60,460	2,641	27,686	242,294*	13,420	4,757	264,726
	April ...	120,590	10,220	61,109	2,653	27,686	222,265*	13,080	14,276	256,067
	May ...	112,483	5,084	63,518	2,668	27,682	211,444*	10,924	9,900	239,191
	June ...	100,006	8,068	59,323	—	27,678	195,085*	8,826	21,331	236,858
	July ...	96,193	886	59,291	—	27,678	184,058*	9,453	26,676	230,516
	August ...	83,565	14,826	59,687	—	27,678	185,765*	10,520	24,420	229,959
	September ...	83,830	31,474	66,928	—	27,678	209,918*	4,494	10,240	233,384

+ Balance with Crown Agents

§ Vide Bank of Mauritius Ordinance Sec. 41.

* Includes foreign notes and coin

Table 2. Bank of Mauritius — Assets and Liabilities

B. Liabilities

(Rs 000)

End of Month			Capital & Reserve	Currency in Circulation			Demand Deposits			Other Deposits +	Total Deposits	Other Liabilities	Total Liabilities
				Notes	Coin	Total	Government	Bankers	Other				
1967	August	...	5,000	87,399	5,850	93,249	—	831	—	—	831	20,664	119,744
	September	...	5,000	84,294	6,169	90,463	—	4,323	—	—	4,323	11,355	111,141
	December	...	5,000	94,118	6,156	100,274	—	506	—	—	506	10,878	116,658
1968	March	...	5,000	85,029	5,651	90,680	1,422	1,817	—	—	3,239	9,891	108,810
	June	...	6,000	81,023	5,779	86,802	2,023	2,948	28	—	4,999	10,254	108,055
	September	...	6,000	85,341	5,799	91,140	649	5,663	129	—	6,441	2,865	106,446
	December	...	6,000	91,095	6,005	97,100	1,443	1,574	141	21,000	24,158	3,419	130,677
1969	March	...	6,000	83,641	5,604	89,245	656	7,729	1,072	30,209	39,666	4,496	139,407
	June	...	7,250	80,540	5,410	85,950	563	6,645	1,027	26,367	34,602	27,010*	154,812
	September	...	7,250	86,786	5,836	92,622	1,620	16,642	1,572	44,850	64,684	26,102*	190,658
	December	...	7,250	100,493	6,155	106,648	2,955	3,487	3,128	67,067	76,637	28,446*	218,981
1970	March	...	7,250	91,469	5,958	97,427	2,942	5,608	2,046	82,144	92,740	33,192*	230,609
	June	...	9,500	88,575	5,828	94,403	1,901	4,510	1,980	64,479	72,870	44,873*	221,646
	September	...	9,500	95,626	6,176	101,802	2,646	5,146	2,326	75,933	86,051	13,289	210,642
	December	...	9,500	108,132	6,582	114,714	3,287	6,159	2,967	108,795	121,208	8,026	253,448
1971	January	...	9,500	99,806	6,306	106,112	3,804	8,487	5,236	120,793	138,320	21,788	275,720
	February	...	9,500	99,617	6,387	106,004	3,240	8,237	3,621	115,067	130,165	22,397	268,066
	March	...	9,500	99,443	6,278	105,721	3,035	6,000	6,370	110,070	125,475	24,030	264,726
	April	...	9,500	99,460	6,294	105,754	3,190	7,595	2,833	102,137	115,755	25,058	256,067
	May	...	9,500	98,593	6,384	104,977	2,794	6,876	2,654	86,854	99,178	25,536	239,191
	June	...	14,500	98,645	6,283	104,928	3,002	8,044	3,264	77,767	92,077	25,353	236,858
	July	...	14,500	100,043	6,508	106,551	2,655	8,618	6,040	66,458	83,771	25,694	230,516
	August	...	14,500	104,263	6,652	110,915	2,053	6,378	7,536	68,158	84,125	20,419	229,959
	September	...	14,500	106,072	6,688	112,760	1,656	7,151	2,820	72,837	84,464	21,660	233,384

+ Mainly due to semi-government bodies.

* Include Rs 22.2 million liability to the International Monetary Fund arising from a drawing of \$4.0 million, in Pound Sterling, on April 17, 1969.

Table 3. Commercial Banks — Assets and Liabilities

A. Assets

(Rs million)

End of Month	Cash in hand	Balances due from		Bills Discounted		Bills Receivable	Loans and Advances		Investments					Documentary Credits	Guarantees	Other	Total
		Other Banks in Mauritius	Banks Abroad	Local	Foreign		Private Sector	Public Sector	Treasury Bills	Govt. Securities	Foreign Securities	Other	Total				
1966																	
December	5.3	4.6	56.7	4.2	..	9.9	145.3	7.2	—	4.2	2.0	3.3	9.5	21.8	12.7	14.5	291.7
1967																	
March	11.0	3.0	41.0	4.4	..	7.8	152.2	7.3	—	4.2	2.0	3.9	10.1	25.3	13.3	13.3	288.7
June	9.2	2.9	10.5	5.0	0.1	10.2	181.3	7.8	—	3.8	2.0	3.7	9.5	28.5	13.0	14.5	292.5
September	9.6	6.0	23.9	5.3	0.1	10.6	165.9	8.7	—	3.7	2.0	3.7	9.4	28.0	13.8	13.8	295.1
December	7.0	2.9	52.3	4.5	..	10.7	167.5	8.9	—	3.5	2.0	4.7	10.2	27.6	13.6	18.1	323.3
1968																	
March	8.0	8.1	49.0	5.1	..	10.2	159.6	8.6	—	3.6	1.9	3.7	9.2	25.6	14.0	14.7	312.1
June	9.5	3.3	16.7	5.4	0.1	10.3	198.8	9.4	—	4.4	1.9	3.8	10.1	23.3	13.3	14.8	315.0
September	8.3	5.3	12.0	5.5	..	7.3	208.3	9.0	—	4.4	1.9	3.8	10.1	25.3	14.2	15.3	320.6
December	7.9	1.8	38.7	4.5	0.1	5.6	177.6	9.4	—	8.5	1.9	7.4	17.8	26.4	15.2	15.2	320.2
1969																	
March	6.5	0.1	32.6	4.6	0.2	6.1	170.8	8.1	—	6.6	1.9	7.3	15.8	27.0	12.5	31.0	315.3
June	6.8	0.5	8.5	4.9	0.1	8.4	204.1	8.2	5.4	12.1	2.0	6.3	25.8	23.1	11.3	27.5	329.2
September	8.4	1.0	29.2	5.0	..	6.0	178.2	7.8	4.2	13.7	2.0	6.8	26.7	26.1	12.1	36.7	337.2
December	9.5	0.5	45.2	4.3	0.1	7.2	184.8	8.4	3.1	18.0	2.0	8.8	31.9	28.4	14.0	24.2	358.5
1970																	
March	7.5	0.7	30.6	7.8	1.0	11.2	171.5	9.9	1.0	16.0	2.0	8.3	27.3	32.4	14.4	24.7	339.0
June	8.1	0.7	24.7	31.7	2.7	11.9	160.4	10.6	2.6	15.3	2.0	8.3	28.2	25.9	15.4	29.2	349.5
September	8.6	0.7	41.3	27.8	1.1	11.0	147.5	9.8	7.0	20.0	2.0	8.3	37.3	34.4	15.1	43.1	377.7
December	10.0	1.2	31.3	16.5	0.9	11.7	168.1	9.3	7.8	42.3	2.0	8.8	60.9	32.9	14.0	56.1	412.9
1971																	
January	7.5	1.8	31.0	17.7	1.1	11.5	157.0	9.1	6.2	55.3	2.0	8.8	72.3	26.9	14.4	51.6	401.9
February	7.2	0.8	28.1	21.5	1.1	11.2	154.8	8.5	4.5	55.8	2.0	8.3	70.6	30.7	16.5	51.5	402.5
March	9.1	0.5	24.8	22.8	1.7	10.3	160.5	9.1	2.5	52.7	2.0	8.3	65.5	36.4	19.0	48.6	408.3
April	6.7	0.3	21.1	18.5	1.0	12.4	179.6	9.4	—	51.1	2.0	8.3	61.4	35.6	17.1	47.7	410.8
May	8.0	..	21.9	22.8	1.2	13.9	169.8	9.6	—	51.1	2.0	8.3	61.4	35.3	16.1	39.8	399.8
June	7.2	0.5	15.6	27.8	1.0	14.3	197.0	10.0	—	49.5	2.0	8.9	60.4	38.6	16.7	41.8	430.9
July	6.6	0.9	14.5	29.1	1.5	13.7	206.3	8.4	0.8	50.0	2.0	8.9	61.7	43.8	18.2	38.0	442.7
August	8.7	0.8	10.1	21.7	1.7	13.6	227.6	9.6	—	51.0	2.0	8.7	61.7	37.7	20.0	37.1	450.3
September	8.8	0.4	14.9	21.2	1.3	13.2	192.3	10.2	8.8	50.8	2.0	9.4	71.0	36.9	19.2	44.3	433.7

Table 3. Commercial Banks — Assets and Liabilities

B. Liabilities

(Rs million)

End of Month	Capital & Reserve	Private Sector Deposits				Govern- ment Deposits	Balances Due to		Bills Payable	Docu- mentary Credits	Guaran- tees	Other	Total
		Demand	Time	Savings	Total		Banks in Mauritius	Banks Abroad					
1966													
December	...	15.2	126.9	25.3	32.2	184.4	24.4	4.0	3.5	0.7	21.8	12.7	291.7
1967													
March	...	15.5	98.9	40.3	35.1	174.3	20.1	2.6	16.1	0.4	25.4	13.3	288.7
June	...	15.6	82.6	21.0	37.5	141.1	26.0	3.5	40.2	0.3	28.5	13.0	292.5
September	...	15.6	90.9	24.5	42.8	158.2	19.0	3.2	32.8	0.5	28.0	13.8	295.1
December	...	15.7	130.2	26.4	44.8	201.4	17.2	5.4	16.3	0.2	27.6	13.6	323.3
1968													
March	...	15.9	90.4	46.1	47.2	183.7	28.7	3.4	14.8	0.8	25.6	14.0	312.1
June	...	16.0	86.6	49.7	46.3	182.6	16.4	2.7	32.7	0.2	23.3	13.3	315.0
September	...	16.0	99.3	48.9	47.0	195.2	9.6	1.6	28.6	0.6	25.3	14.2	320.6
December	...	16.1	102.1	55.3	46.7	204.1	6.8	1.9	19.2	0.3	26.4	15.2	320.2
1969													
March	...	16.5	105.3	53.2	48.6	207.1	8.4	0.2	7.4	0.6	27.0	12.5	315.3
June	...	16.6	90.1	50.5	47.8	188.4	8.5	—	45.8	0.6	23.1	11.3	329.2
September	...	16.6	98.7	56.1	49.0	203.8	7.1	1.3	34.5	0.7	26.1	12.1	337.2
December	...	16.7	118.8	75.3	51.2	245.3	3.8	0.8	6.0	0.8	28.4	14.0	358.5
1970													
March	...	17.0	100.5	72.7	54.9	228.1	3.5	0.9	8.1	1.0	32.4	14.4	339.0
June	...	17.1	104.1	69.5	56.4	230.0	6.4	2.3	10.8	0.5	25.9	15.4	349.5
September	...	17.7	110.4	79.8	60.5	250.7	4.5	—	13.6	1.3	34.4	15.1	377.7
December	...	17.8	123.8	105.7	65.4	294.9	2.5	1.4	10.6	1.2	32.9	14.0	412.9
1971													
January	...	17.8	121.3	102.6	67.8	291.7	3.3	1.0	9.1	0.7	26.9	14.4	401.9
February	...	18.2	111.4	101.0	68.9	281.3	3.4	1.1	13.6	0.9	30.7	16.5	402.5
March	...	18.2	112.4	96.6	70.9	279.9	3.1	2.8	10.6	1.3	36.4	19.0	408.3
April	...	18.3	102.1	93.7	71.4	267.2	3.4	6.5	19.8	0.7	35.6	17.1	410.8
May	...	18.3	98.6	91.1	72.5	262.2	3.2	7.2	20.5	0.6	35.3	16.1	399.8
June	...	18.3	112.8	94.1	73.2	280.1	3.1	6.4	18.9	0.8	38.6	16.7	430.9
July	...	18.3	105.3	96.7	75.0	277.0	2.5	8.8	17.3	0.7	43.8	18.2	442.7
August	...	18.3	108.6	100.5	75.9	285.0	2.4	6.2	21.8	0.9	37.7	20.0	450.3
September	...	18.3	111.8	102.0	78.7	292.5	2.0	4.7	12.3	1.0	36.9	19.2	433.7

Table 4. Monetary Survey

		(Rs. million)								
End of Period		Net foreign assets of banking system	Net claims on public sector	Lending to private sector	Total	Currency in circulation	Demand deposits	Time deposits	Savings deposits	Other items net
1966	...	169.1*	10.5	162.7	342.3	93.0	126.9	25.3	66.1	31.0
1967	...	135.2*	36.1	186.4	357.7	93.3	130.2	26.4	74.1	33.7
1968	...	133.5*	27.7	191.5	352.7	89.1	102.2	55.3	73.7	32.4
1969	...	203.2	0.4	200.6	404.2	97.1	121.9	75.3	77.9	32.0
1970	...	269.9	— 9.0	200.6	461.5	104.7	126.7	105.7	93.1	31.3
1968—March	...	119.4*	28.5	178.6	326.5	82.7	90.4	46.1	76.4	30.9
June	...	80.5*	31.7	218.3	330.5	77.2	86.6	49.7	75.3	41.7
September	...	63.8*	53.2	224.9	341.9	82.8	99.4	48.9	74.5	36.3
December	...	133.5*	27.7	191.5	352.7	89.1	102.2	55.3	73.7	32.4
1969—March	...	136.3	26.7	185.3	348.3	82.7	106.4	53.2	75.3	30.7
June	...	78.2	27.8	221.2	327.2	79.1	91.1	50.5	74.5	32.0
September	...	130.2	22.9	193.5	346.6	84.2	100.1	56.1	75.5	30.7
December	...	203.2	0.4	200.6	404.2	97.1	121.9	75.3	77.9	32.0
1970—January	...	216.3	—19.0	188.0	385.3	90.5	109.2	76.0	79.3	30.3
February	...	235.9	—32.5	180.4	383.8	91.9	101.5	75.9	80.3	34.2
March	...	220.6	—33.0	194.8	382.4	89.9	102.4	72.7	81.7	35.7
April	...	241.5	—34.5	181.7	388.7	89.3	108.1	72.5	81.7	37.1
May	...	215.8	—11.1	195.7	400.4	87.6	106.3	71.7	82.0	52.8
June	...	191.7	—11.1	208.3	388.9	86.3	105.6	69.5	83.6	43.9
July	...	182.1	— 8.3	216.7	390.5	89.6	99.1	71.6	84.9	45.3
August	...	195.7	—	213.6	409.3	90.9	106.1	74.7	86.1	51.5
September	...	230.0	— 6.7	190.6	413.9	93.2	112.7	79.8	87.9	40.3
October	...	246.3	—24.0	199.5	421.8	96.4	111.2	92.7	89.5	32.0
November	...	264.4	— 1.8	180.9	443.5	96.0	118.6	102.0	91.1	35.8
December	...	269.9	— 9.0	200.6	461.5	104.7	126.7	105.7	93.1	31.3
1971—January	...	283.0	— 6.7	190.5	466.8	98.6	125.7	102.6	95.6	44.3
February	...	269.4	— 4.9	191.8	456.3	98.8	114.2	101.0	96.8	45.5
March	...	259.2	— 1.8	197.8	458.8	96.6	118.7	96.6	98.9	48.0
April	...	226.3	— 3.8	214.8	437.3	99.1	104.7	93.7	99.5	40.3
May	...	215.5	— 6.8	210.8	433.1	97.0	101.2	91.1	100.5	43.3
June	...	194.6	13.0	243.9	451.5	97.7	115.4	94.1	102.2	42.1
July	...	184.2	20.7	253.9	458.8	100.0	110.8	96.7	104.0	47.3
August	...	176.9	22.4	267.6	466.9	102.2	116.0	100.5	105.1	43.1
September	...	215.1	26.7	232.1	473.9	104.0	114.5	102.0	108.2	45.2

*Excluding Foreign Notes & Coins of commercial banks.

Table 5. Foreign Exchange Reserves

(Rs. million)

	1968				1969				1970				1971		
	March	June	Sept.	Dec.	March	June	Sept.	Dec.	March	June	Sept.	Dec.	March	June	Sept.
IMF Position : (net) ...	—	—	1.7	1.7	1.7	-20.5	-20.5	-20.5	-20.5	-20.5	1.7	10.0	10.0	13.6	13.6
Bank of Mauritius ...	60.3	70.4	54.4	89.0	85.9	112.4	155.4	183.6	218.0	197.3	199.7	246.6	242.3	195.1	209.9
Government ^(a) ...	49.3	39.3	37.3	41.5	45.5	34.6	25.8	27.7	10.5	20.8	24.5	23.5	22.9	19.9	18.5
Post Office Savings Bank ^(b) and Statutory Bodies ...	40.2	41.4	37.7	31.7	26.5	26.9	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.2	6.9	6.9	4.0	4.3
Commercial Banks : (net) ^(c) ...	36.1	-14.0	-14.7	21.4	27.4	-35.0	-3.0	41.8	24.9	16.6	30.2	23.2	16.9	-0.5	5.2
TOTAL ...	185.9	137.1	116.4	185.3	187.0	118.4	164.3	239.2	239.6	221.1	263.3	310.2	299.0	232.1	251.5

(a) Up to September 1968, the figures are taken from the Digest of Statistics and represent nominal values.

(b) Up to September 1968, figures for the Post Office Savings Bank are taken from the Digest of Statistics and represent nominal values. The external assets of the Post Office Savings Bank were surrendered to the Bank of Mauritius in August 1969. Figures for statutory bodies up to 1968 are estimates. The statutory bodies include the Development Bank of Mauritius, the Cyclone and Drought Insurance Board and the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund ; as from June 1970 the Central Electricity Board is also included.

(c) Foreign notes and coins are included from March 1969 only.

Table 6. Money Supply

(Rs million)

Quarter/Month				Notes and Coin in Circulation*	Demand Deposits with Commercial Banks	Other Deposits**	Total Money Supply
1966	March	...	...	82.6	74.6	—	157.2
	June	...	...	78.9	60.6	—	139.5
	September	...	...	85.9	74.8	—	160.7
	December	...	...	93.0	126.9	—	219.9
1967	March	...	...	85.2	98.9	—	184.1
	June	...	...	83.2	82.6	—	165.8
	September	...	...	80.9	90.9	..	171.8
	December	...	...	93.3	130.2	..	223.5
1968	March	...	...	82.7	90.4	..	173.1
	June	...	...	77.2	86.6	..	163.8
	September	...	...	82.8	99.3	0.1	182.2
	December	...	...	89.1	102.1	0.1	191.3
1969	March	...	...	82.7	105.3	1.1	189.1
	June	...	...	79.1	90.1	1.0	170.2
	September	...	...	84.2	98.7	1.4	184.3
	December	...	...	97.1	118.8	3.1	219.0
1970	January	...	...	90.5	108.4	0.8	199.7
	February	...	...	91.9	99.4	2.1	193.4
	March	...	...	89.9	100.5	1.9	192.3
	April	...	...	89.3	104.1	4.0	197.4
	May	...	...	87.6	104.3	2.0	193.9
	June	...	...	86.3	104.1	1.5	191.9
	July	...	...	89.6	96.8	2.3	188.7
	August	...	...	90.9	103.0	3.1	197.0
	September	...	...	93.2	110.4	2.3	205.9
	October	...	...	96.4	107.8	3.4	207.6
	November	...	...	96.0	116.1	2.5	214.6
	December	...	...	104.7	123.8	2.9	231.4
1971	January	...	...	98.6	121.3	4.4	224.3
	February	...	...	98.8	111.4	2.8	213.0
	March	...	...	96.6	112.4	6.3	215.3
	April	...	...	99.1	102.1	2.6	203.8
	May	...	...	97.0	98.6	2.6	198.2
	June	...	...	97.7	112.8	2.6	213.1
	July	...	...	100.0	105.3	5.5	210.8
	August	...	...	102.2	108.6	7.4	218.2
	September	...	...	104.0	111.8	2.7	218.5

* Net of cash held by the commercial banks.

** Miscellaneous current accounts with Bank of Mauritius.

Table 7. Currency in Circulation

(Rs 000)

End of month	Bank of Mauritius Notes					Currency Board Notes	Coin									Total Notes & Coin
	Rs 5	Rs 10	Rs 25	Rs 50	Total		Re 1	50c.	25c.	10c.	5c.	2c	1c.	Total		
1967 December	32,750	41,159	8,925	6,951	89,785	4,333	3,326	707	1,006	264	333	189	127	5,952	100,274*	
1968 March	28,114	37,869	9,050	7,401	82,434	2,595	3,114	663	961	261	335	190	127	5,651	90,680	
June	25,850	36,214	9,329	7,700	79,093	1,930	3,221	686	960	260	333	191	128	5,779	86,802	
September	25,837	40,018	10,012	8,102	83,968	1,374	3,247	668	965	261	338	192	129	5,799	91,140	
December	27,209	42,613	10,687	9,633	90,142	953	3,417	669	984	269	342	193	130	6,007	97,100	
1969 March	24,065	38,659	10,210	9,855	82,789	852	3,098	636	949	258	338	194	131	5,605	89,245	
June	22,811	36,614	10,051	10,253	79,729	811	2,925	626	941	255	336	194	133	5,410	85,950	
September	24,146	40,204	10,503	11,160	86,013	773	3,231	653	1,005	270	348	195	134	5,836	92,622	
December	28,192	46,583	11,972	13,005	99,752	741	3,418	693	1,064	286	359	199	136	6,155	106,648	
1970 January	24,711	41,566	11,413	12,975	90,665	732	3,129	673	1,028	285	361	199	136	5,811	97,208	
February	24,715	42,252	11,472	13,367	91,805	727	3,239	684	1,029	285	362	200	137	5,935	98,468	
March	24,026	41,863	11,355	13,503	90,748	721	3,245	695	1,031	287	363	200	137	5,958	97,427	
April	23,559	41,287	11,097	14,205	90,148	715	3,128	669	1,014	288	364	202	138	5,803	96,666	
May	23,019	40,136	10,956	13,941	88,052	711	3,134	678	1,018	288	364	203	139	5,824	94,587	
June	23,123	39,814	10,897	14,036	87,870	705	3,128	673	1,030	289	365	204	139	5,828	94,403	
July	23,498	40,671	10,929	14,541	89,639	700	3,207	678	1,034	291	366	204	139	5,919	96,258	
August	23,513	41,847	11,268	14,994	91,622	687	3,317	699	1,050	297	367	206	142	6,078	98,387	
September	23,914	44,240	11,395	15,398	94,947	679	3,384	711	1,055	304	373	207	142	6,176	101,802	
October	24,579	44,463	11,376	15,616	96,034	675	3,511	727	1,063	311	379	209	142	6,342	103,051	
November	25,050	44,919	11,679	15,980	97,628	669	3,549	738	1,096	318	383	209	143	6,346	104,733	
December	27,683	49,210	12,933	17,641	107,467	665	3,607	764	1,145	323	388	211	144	6,582	114,714	
1971 January	25,225	43,653	12,401	17,865	99,144	662	3,360	757	1,123	323	388	211	144	6,306	106,112	
February	24,874	43,953	12,168	17,964	98,959	658	3,451	744	1,127	323	387	211	144	6,387	106,004	
March	24,626	43,749	12,172	18,243	98,790	653	3,333	753	1,131	320	384	212	145	6,278	105,721	
April	24,247	43,815	11,994	18,754	98,810	650	3,391	735	1,108	320	383	212	145	6,294	105,754	
May	23,328	43,091	12,019	19,508	97,946	647	3,455	748	1,120	320	384	212	145	6,384	104,977	
June	23,148	42,855	12,038	19,965	98,006	639	3,347	760	1,118	318	381	213	146	6,283	104,928	
July	23,401	43,372	12,145	20,490	99,408	635	3,542	774	1,131	320	382	213	146	6,508	106,551	
August	24,299	44,998	12,511	21,822	103,630	633	3,641	798	1,142	326	386	213	146	6,652	110,915	
September	24,708	46,238	12,528	21,967	105,441	631	3,634	826	1,153	327	387	214	147	6,688	112,760	

* Includes demonetised coins: Rs 204,000

Table 8. Principal Interest Rates in Mauritius

(per cent per annum)

	Sept. 69 (last week)	Dec. 69 (last week)	March 70 (last week)	June 70 (last week)	September 70 (15.7.70)	Sept. (1) 71
I — LENDING						
1. Bank rate ...	8	7½ (23.10.69)	7 (10.3.70)	7	6 (1.7.70)	6
Export finance — Bank of Mauritius Rediscount facilities Effective ...		7 (27.10.69)	6½ (10.3.70)	6½	Sugar : 6 Others : 5½ (1.7.70)	Sugar : 6 Others : 5½
2. Commercial banks						
(i) Prime rate (min.) † ...	8½	8	8	7¾	7½	7½
(ii) Fine commercial rate (min.) † ...	9	8½	8½	8¼	7¾	7¾
(iii) Commercial rate ...	9½	9	9	9	9	9
(iv) Other accounts ...	10	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½
(v) Export finance — Discount facilities ...		7½-8¼	7½-7¼	7½-7¼	Sugar : 6½-6¾ Others : 6¾-6¼	Sugar : 6½-6¾ Others : 6¾-6¼
3. Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank (min.) ...	8	8	×	×	×	×
II — DEPOSITS						
1. Post Office Savings Bank ...	4	4	4	4	4	4
2. Commercial banks						
(i) Deposit accounts:						
3 months * ...	5½	5½	5	5	4½	4½
6 months * ...	5¾	5½	5¼	5¼	4¾	4¾
12 months * ...	6½	6	5¾	5¾	5½	5½
Over 12 months ...	7-7½	6¾-7½	6¾-7½	6¾-7½	5½-6½ §	5½-6½ §
(ii) Savings accounts ...	4	4	4	4	4	4
3. Development Bank of Mauritius						
12-23 months ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
24-35 months ...	6	6	6	6	6	6
36 months ...	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½
4. Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank						
(i) Deposit accounts:						
3 months ...	5½	5½	5	5	4½	4½
6 months ...	5¾	5½	5¼	5¼	4¾	4¾
12 months ...	6½	6½	5¾	5¾	5½	5½
(ii) Savings accounts ...	4	4	4	4	4	4
III — MORTGAGES						
Up to Rs 6,000 (max.) ...	11	11	11	11	11	11
Over Rs 6,000 (max.) ...	9	9	9	9	9	9

† Restricted to Mauritius Sugar Syndicate, Sugar Mill Owners Transport Association and Sugar Mill Owners (Gunny account)

‡ Restricted to primary producers, sugar brokers and industrial concerns which hold a "Development Certificate". Also applicable to government or semi-government accounts.

× As from March 1, 1970, the lending rates for Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Limited are the same as those for the other banks.

* Between December 1968 and March 1969 deposits in excess of Rs 200,000 carried an extra 1/4% interest.

§ Between 15 and 24 months.

(1) Between July 70 and September 71, there has been no change in interest rates.

Table 9(a.) Purpose-wise Classification of Loans and Advances and Bills Discounted

(Rs million)

	September 1969	December 1969	March 1970	June 1970	September 1970	December 1970	March 1971	June 1971	Sept. 1971
Sugar industry ...	75.3 (39.4)	90.1 (45.6)	79.6 (41.8)	81.5 (39.7)	66.9 (35.9)	73.3 (37.6)	65.3 (33.6)	94.3 (40.0)	76.5 (34.0)
Other agricultural interests	2.9 (1.5)	3.4 (1.7)	2.8 (1.5)	2.2 (1.1)	3.0 (1.6)	3.2 (1.6)	3.3 (1.7)	4.0 (1.7)	5.3 (2.4)
Other industries & manufacturers ...	19.2 (10.1)	19.4 (9.8)	17.5 (9.2)	20.3 (9.9)	27.2 (14.6)	27.5 (14.1)	30.3 (15.6)	34.6 (14.7)	38.4 (17.1)
Traders ...	62.7 (32.8)	53.0 (26.8)	55.4 (29.1)	61.1 (29.8)	50.3 (27.0)	49.2 (25.3)	55.7 (28.7)	61.5 (26.1)	56.5 (25.1)
Personal & professional ...	17.2 (9.0)	17.7 (9.0)	17.7 (9.3)	17.8 (8.7)	17.7 (9.5)	20.7 (10.6)	19.4 (10.0)	21.0 (8.9)	25.0 (11.1)
Stockbrokers	— (—)	0.2 (0.1)	0.1 (.)	0.1 (.)	.. (.)	.. (.)	.. (.)	.. (.)	.. (.)
Government	— (—)	.. (.)	.. (.)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Public bodies	7.8 (4.1)	8.3 (4.2)	9.9 (5.2)	10.6 (5.2)	9.8 (5.3)	9.3 (4.8)	9.1 (4.7)	10.0 (4.2)	10.2 (4.5)
Financial institutions	1.3 (0.7)	0.7 (0.4)	0.9 (0.5)	0.7 (0.3)	1.0 (0.5)	0.8 (0.4)	0.9 (0.5)	0.8 (0.3)	1.0 (0.4)
Other customers	4.5 (2.4)	4.7 (2.4)	5.4 (2.8)	8.3 (4.0)	9.2 (5.0)	9.9 (5.1)	8.4 (4.3)	8.7 (3.7)	10.8 (4.8)
Foreign bills	0.1 (.)	0.1 (.)	1.0 (0.6)	2.7 (1.3)	1.1 (0.6)	0.9 (0.5)	1.7 (0.9)	1.0 (0.4)	1.3 (0.6)
TOTAL	191.0 (100.0)	197.6 (100.0)	190.3 (100.0)	205.3 (100.0)	186.2 (100.0)	194.8 (100.0)	194.1 (100.0)	235.9 (100.0)	225.0 (100.0)

Figures in brackets are percentages to the total.

Table 9(b). Value Range of Advances and Bills Discounted**SEPTEMBER 1971***(Rs. million)*

	<i>No. of Advances</i>	<i>Value of Advances</i>	<i>No. of Bills</i>	<i>Face Value of Bills</i>
Up to Rs. 10,000 ...	4,791	16.4 (8.1)	2,214	4.0 (17.8)
Over Rs. 10,000 and up to Rs. 100,000 ...	1,609	50.4 (24.9)	123	3.5 (15.5)
Over Rs. 100,000 and up to Rs. 1,000,000	333	96.7 (47.8)	23	7.4 (32.9)
Over Rs. 1,000,000 ...	16	39.0 (19.2)	3	7.6 (33.8)
TOTAL ...	6,749	202.5	2,363	22.5

Figures in brackets are percentages to the total.

Table 10(a). Ownership of Bank Deposits: SEPTEMBER 1971

(Rs. '000)

Category of Owner	Demand Deposits		Time Deposits	
	No. of Accts.	Amount	No. of Accts.	Amount
1. Sugar	532 (2.9)	10,972 (9.7)	192 (4.8)	5,440 (5.3)
2. Other Agriculture	27 (0.1)	744 (0.7)	2 (0.1)	166 (0.2)
3. Industry and Manufacturing	160 (0.9)	5,578 (4.9)	7 (0.2)	1,068 (1.1)
4. Public Utilities	75 (0.4)	3,040 (2.7)	11 (0.3)	3,103 (3.0)
5. Business and Trade	2,308 (12.4)	17,610 (15.5)	18 (0.4)	3,487 (3.4)
6. Financial Institutions	446 (2.4)	14,207 (12.5)	59 (1.5)	14,368 (14.0)
7. Government*	314 (1.7)	8,482 (7.5)	38 (0.9)	32,946 (32.1)
8. Professional and Personal	14,740 (79.2)	52,685 (46.5)	3,671 (91.8)	41,941 (40.9)
TOTAL	18,602	113,318	3,998	102,519

	Savings Deposits	
	No. of Accts.	Amount
1. Personal	74,995 (98.5)	74,218 (94.3)
2. Professional	150 (0.2)	712 (0.9)
3. Other	1,000 (1.3)	3,736 (4.8)
TOTAL	76,145	78,666

Figures in brackets are percentages to the total.

* Including local authorities and semi-government bodies.

Table 10(b). Value Range of Deposits: SEPTEMBER 1971

(Rs. 000)						
Value Range	Demand Deposits		Savings Deposits		Time Deposits	
	No. of Accts.	Amount	No. of Accts.	Amount	No. of Accts.	Amount
1. Up to Rs. 25,000.-	17,945 (96.5)	43,978 (38.8)	75,927 (99.7)	68,662 (87.3)	3,602 (90.1)	20,964 (20.5)
2. Over Rs. 25,000 and up to Rs. 50,000.- ...	346 (1.9)	12,006 (10.6)	175 (0.2)	5,997 (7.6)	198 (5.0)	8,228 (8.0)
3. Over Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 100,000.- ...	176 (0.9)	12,345 (10.9)	34 (0.1)	2,348 (3.0)	103 (2.6)	6,804 (6.6)
4. Over Rs. 100,000 and up to Rs. 500,000.- ...	125 (0.7)	25,626 (22.6)	9 (..)	1,659 (2.1)	70 (1.7)	13,876 (13.5)
5. Over Rs. 500,000 and up to Rs. 1,000,000.- ...	3 (..)	2,050 (1.8)	— (—)	— (—)	8 (0.2)	6,332 (6.2)
6. Over Rs. 1,000,000.-	7 (..)	17,313 (15.3)	— (—)	— (—)	17 (0.4)	46,315 (45.2)
TOTAL	18,602	113,318	76,145	78,666	3,998	102,519

Figures in brackets are percentages to the total.

Table 11. Bank of Mauritius : Monthly Financial Transactions

(Rs. million)

				Transactions in Govt. Stocks		Market Transactions in Treasury Bills		Rediscount of Export Bills	Advances to Commercial Banks		
				Sales	Purchases	Sales	Purchases		Total amounts advanced	Total No. of days on which advances were made	Total No. of days on which these advances were outstanding
1969	January	...	...	0.4	2.5				—	—	—
	February	...	...	0.2	6.0				0.6	1	1
	March	...	...	4.0	2.0				0.2	1	1
	April	...	...	5.8	2.0				2.4	1	3
	May	...	...	4.1	1.3		1.6		1.1	2	3
	June	...	...	0.7	—	3.2	0.2		0.7	2	5
	July	...	...	0.8	0.7	3.3	5.8		11.4	6	6
	August	...	...	1.7	1.0	4.6	1.4		5.5	7	31
	September	...	...	1.0	5.6	2.6	1.0		0.6	1	1
	October	...	...	9.3	4.4	1.0	1.6	—	3.2	2	9
	November	...	...	16.0	1.0	1.8	1.7	—	2.4	1	2
	December	...	...	5.4	11.4	5.1	6.7	—	13.9	10	31
1970	January	...	...	6.7	3.2	1.7	—	1.0	6.7	9	12
	February	...	...	17.9	2.1	2.0	1.6	—	6.2	12	18
	March	...	...	1.0	0.9	2.6	—	0.8	10.3	7	11
	April	...	...	—	2.1	0.6	—	1.3	0.3	2	3
	May	...	...	1.1	0.3	2.8	—	4.5	—	—	—
	June	...	...	..	..	3.1	1.2	4.2	1.0	3	5
	July	...	...	5.2	..	1.3	—	17.9	2.1	6	10
	August	...	...	..	1.8	0.4	—	5.3	6.6	8	14
	September	...	...	2.8	—	6.1	—	2.2	—	—	—
	October	...	...	..	2.6	3.6	4.5	7.4	12.3	13	26
	November	...	...	10.7	—	3.8	—	—	0.6	1	1
	December	...	...	5.1	2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1971	January	...	...	1.3	4.5	0.5	1.6	—	9.2	11	13
	February	...	...	3.7	—	7.1	8.4	0.1	6.5	11	11
	March	...	...	..	2.9	9.3	8.7	0.5	4.2	12	10
	April	...	...	1.4	1.7	0.3	2.5	5.7	66.8	25	29
	May	...	...	2.4	..	0.6	0.2	3.5	73.6	19	31
	June	...	...	3.1	1.8	0.2	—	1.9	84.2	23	30
	July	...	...	0.3	—	2.1	—	2.6	90.3	23	31
	August	...	...	..	..	3.3	1.4	5.9	239.3	26	31
	September	...	...	0.6	0.3	13.1	0.3	7.4	43.4	16	30

Table 12. Cheque Clearance

Year/ Month	No. of cheques	Amount (Rs 000)	No. of days	Daily Average	
				No. of cheques	Amount (Rs 000)
1968 December ...	57,557	129,607	24	2,398	5,400
1969 March ...	57,068	85,890	25	2,283	3,436
June ...	52,891	79,599	25	2,116	3,184
September ...	60,895	98,149	26	2,342	3,775
December ...	70,705	104,076	25	2,828	4,163
1970 January ...	59,698	83,117	25	2,388	3,325
February ...	54,323	90,423	21	2,587	4,306
March ...	62,824	92,296	24	2,618	3,846
April ...	62,629	103,013	26	2,409	3,962
May ...	60,108	95,785	25	2,404	3,831
June ...	63,798	103,952	25	2,552	4,158
July ...	72,538	96,112	27	2,687	3,560
August ...	59,002	87,674	26	2,269	3,372
September ...	64,313	116,062	26	2,474	4,464
October ...	70,772	116,178	26	2,722	4,468
November ...	62,566	97,906	25	2,503	3,916
December ...	76,826	148,140	25	3,073	5,926
1971 January ...	61,821	93,101	23	2,688	4,048
February ...	60,471	93,901	21	2,880	4,471
March ...	72,267	111,965	26	2,780	4,306
April ...	72,787	108,463	26	2,800	4,172
May ...	67,816	91,022	25	2,713	3,641
June ...	67,606	111,903	26	2,600	4,304
July ...	80,732	111,032	27	2,990	4,112
August ...	68,373	104,172	26	2,630	4,007
September ...	71,551	136,064	26	2,752	5,233

Table 13. Transactions in Treasury Bills

Date of Issue		Amount offered	Amount applied for	Excess applied for, over amount offered	Amount allotted	Lowest price at which tenders were accepted	Amount allotted at lowest price as percentage of total amount allotted	Average rate of discount on allotment per cent per annum
		Rs. mn.	Rs. mn.	Rs. mn.	Rs. mn.	Rs.		
1969	30th April	3.0	7.0	4.0	3.0	98.30	16.7	6.52
	30th May	3.0	5.1	2.1	3.0	98.26	4.2	6.63
	30th June	3.0	4.2	1.2	3.0	98.22	4.2	7.10
	30th July	3.0	4.7	1.7	3.0	98.25	49.2	6.69
	29th August	3.0	7.7	4.7	3.0	98.25	45.8	6.69
	29th September	3.0	7.8	4.8	3.0	98.36	50.0	6.54
	29th October	3.0	5.0	2.0	3.0	98.46	32.5	6.176
	28th November	3.0	11.3	8.3	3.0	98.60	100.0	5.695
	29th December	3.0	5.5	2.5	3.0	98.53	16.7	5.76
1970	28th January	3.0	4.8	1.8	3.0	98.52	57.5	5.888
	27th February	3.0	4.0	1.0	3.0	98.52	66.7	5.983
	30th March	3.0	4.8	1.8	3.0	98.52	40.0	5.827
	29th April	3.0	4.2	1.2	3.0	98.52	58.3	5.905
	29th May	3.0	3.0	—	3.0	98.52	100.0	6.025
	29th June	5.0	7.1	2.1	5.0	98.55	63.0	5.827
	29th July	5.0	5.7	0.7	5.0	98.58	90.0	5.749
	28th August	5.0	6.5	1.5	5.0	98.58	70.0	5.815
	28th September	3.0	4.8	1.8	3.0	98.56	40.0	5.761
	28th October	3.0	5.0	2.0	3.0	98.56	32.5	5.728
	27th November	5.0	9.5	4.5	5.0	98.56	10.0	5.708
	28th December	5.0	12.3	7.3	5.0	98.59	14.0	5.676
1971	28th January	5.0	6.1	1.1	5.0	98.56	78.5	5.891
	26th February	5.0	9.6	4.6	5.0	98.57	13.0	5.717
	29th March	5.0	5.0	—	5.0	98.57	100.0	5.819
	28th April	5.0	9.5	4.5	5.0	98.57	11.0	5.748
	28th May	5.0	5.3	0.3	5.0	98.57	100.0	5.819
	28th June	5.0	6.0	1.0	5.0	98.57	80.0	5.802
	28th July	7.0	10.6	3.6	7.0	98.57	48.6	5.654
	27th August	7.0	7.3	0.3	7.0	98.57	100.0	5.819
	27th September	7.0	8.0	1.0	7.0	98.64	100.0	5.530

Table 14. Government Finances : Recurrent Budget

(Rs. million)

	1969-70 <i>Actual</i>	1970-71 <i>Estimates</i>	1970-71 <i>Actual</i>	1971-72 <i>Estimates</i>	1971-72 <i>1st Qr.</i>
Revenue :					
Direct taxes	52	62	63	61	13.6
of which: Income Tax	(40)	(50)	(52)	(50)	(10.4)
Indirect Taxes	129	136	142	147	32.8
of which: Import duties	(64)	(67)	(74)	(77)	(20.0)
Export duties	(17)	(17)	(19)	(21)	(0.1)
Excise duties	(31)	(33)	(33)	(32)	(7.6)
Receipts from public utilities	21	23	23	25	6.0
Receipts from public services	7	10	9	9	1.4
Interest and royalties	9	11	13	12	7.3
Foreign aid	1	1	1	1	. .
Other	9	10	9	8	1.6
TOTAL ...	228	253	260	263	62.7
Expenditure :					
General administration	50	50	56	53	11.8
of which: Defence and Police	(13)	(15)	(15)	(16)	(3.8)
Economic services:					
Agriculture and natural resources	7	9	8	9	1.8
Transportation	3	4	3	4	0.8
Post and telecommunication	6	6	6	7	1.5
Other	21	24	25	25	6.5
Transfer to Capital Budget	—	4	4	4	—
Social expenditure:					
Education	31	35	36	40	8.8
Health	24	28	27	31	6.8
Social Security	30	30	31	31	7.1
Subsidy to rice and flour	(. .)	—	—	—	—
Public debt and pensions	47	55	51	51	9.8
of which: Public debt	(29)	(37)	(35)	(34)	(5.6)
Local Governments	8	8	8	8	1.5
TOTAL ...	227	253	255	263	56.4

Table 15 : Consumer Price Indices

Base : January - June 1962=100

Month	RURAL				URBAN				WHOLE ISLAND			
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1968	1969	1970	1971	1968	1969	1970	1971
January	112.0	116.4	120.3	117.8	110.6	114.3	117.5	116.8	111.4	115.5	119.1	117.4
February	113.6	117.7	121.1	120.6	112.5	115.7	118.2	118.9	113.2	116.8	119.9	119.9
March	115.6	118.1	122.7	120.0	114.2	116.2	119.7	118.5	115.0	117.3	121.4	119.3
April	115.3	117.4	121.5	118.8	113.4	115.2	119.8	117.3	114.5	116.5	120.8	118.1
May	113.6	118.2	120.9	118.7	111.8	115.9	119.2	117.3	112.8	117.2	120.2	118.1
June	114.7	116.8	118.6	119.0	112.6	114.8	117.3	117.6	113.8	115.9	118.0	118.4
July	116.8	116.4	117.3	119.2	114.5	114.4	116.1	118.3	115.8	115.5	116.8	118.8
August	115.9	117.0	116.8	119.6	113.7	115.1	115.7	118.5	115.0	116.2	116.3	119.1
September	115.5	117.0	119.1	119.6	113.4	115.0	118.2	118.7	114.6	116.1	118.7	119.2
October	115.3	117.6	118.1		113.2	115.5	117.3		114.4	116.7	117.8	
November	115.4	119.8	117.4		113.3	117.5	116.5		114.5	118.8	117.0	
December	115.2	119.4	116.9		113.0	117.1	116.0		114.2	118.4	116.5	
Average	114.9	117.6	119.2	119.3	113.0	115.6	117.6	118.0	114.1	116.7	118.5	118.7
Percentage Change (Yearly)	+ 7.8	+ 2.3	+ 1.4		+ 6.0	+ 2.3	+ 1.7		+ 6.9	+ 2.3	+ 1.5	

Table 16. Sugar Statistics*(metric tons)*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Local Consumption</i>	<i>Exports</i>	<i>Average Sugar Price Ex-Syndicate* Rs / per ton</i>
1962	532,817	27,251	514,729	445.21
1963	685,597	27,019	580,348	590.89
1964	518,994	28,074	559,959	433.13
1965	664,403	28,333	578,374	409.32
1966	561,762	29,123	570,518	421.50
1967	638,322	29,675	531,381	424.40
1968	596,549	28,837	577,978	428.39
1969	668,672	30,976	591,607	445.27
1970	576,204	31,947	581,559	471.69

* Local sales and exports.

Source : The Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture.

Table 17. Imports and Exports : Major Commodity Groups

(Rs. million)

Imports				1967	1968	1969	1970	1st Qr. 1970	1st Qr. 1971
Food and live animals	...	...	...	118.5	135.5	132.6	124.3	27.2	29.9
Beverages and tobacco	...	...	...	4.8	5.7	5.3	5.2	1.2	1.0
Crude materials, inedible except fuels	...	...	...	7.1	7.8	5.6	10.3	2.6	2.7
Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials	...	...	...	25.4	35.8	31.7	29.7	3.7	9.3
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	...	...	...	18.3	18.5	12.5	21.0	5.9	5.4
Chemicals	...	...	...	42.6	49.0	43.0	47.6	9.5	10.4
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	..	...	...	78.5	77.6	72.4	95.3	18.9	22.2
Machinery and transport equipment	...	...	..	43.7	56.5	44.7	55.7	12.5	15.6
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	...	...	...	32.1	34.6	27.9	30.5	6.1	7.0
Commodities and transactions not classified according to kind	...	...	...	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	..	0.2
TOTAL				371.1	421.1	376.0	419.9	87.6	103.8
Exports									
Sugar	...	...	...	281.3	320.7	326.0	340.1	69.0	47.6
Molasses	...	...	...	8.5	11.9	10.0	10.6	6.2	2.8
Tea	...	...	...	8.4	9.6	14.6	14.1	5.6	5.6
Other	...	...	...	2.4	4.1	7.5	11.5	1.0	3.4
Re-exports	...	...	...	6.2	7.7	7.0	8.2	1.2	1.6
TOTAL				306.8	354.0	365.2	384.5	83.0	61.0

* As from 1970, imports are classified under the revised SITC, and are therefore not strictly comparable with the earlier years.

Table 18. Imports — Main Sources of Supply

(Rs million)

		1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1st Qr. 1970	1st Qr. 1971
United Kingdom	...	79.1	77.8	99.6	74.4	88.0	21.5	20.8
Burma	...	23.1	27.0	42.3	7.7	23.1	6.9	9.1
Republic of South Africa	...	27.3	30.6	31.4	31.3	37.8	8.1	6.7
Federal Republic of Germany	...	19.7	25.9	27.9	17.1	20.5	2.7	4.8
Australia	...	23.9	28.0	25.7	27.1	30.4	7.3	5.9
France	...	20.2	20.3	23.8	24.8	29.5	5.9	7.1
Japan	...	14.2	16.8	14.3	14.6	21.8	4.2	7.0
Iran	...	11.4	17.8	12.6	19.9	14.9	0.6	6.9
India	...	9.9	9.4	11.5	10.2	12.8	3.3	2.6
Thailand	...	14.3	16.1	10.7	43.8	12.8	0.2	0.7
United States of America	...	7.5	7.3	8.8	6.0	23.9	5.5	7.4
Hong Kong	...	8.8	10.4	8.7	8.8	10.2	1.9	2.0
Malagasy Rep.	...	5.3	7.1	9.0	9.0	8.4	1.6	1.6
Other	...	68.5	76.6	94.8	81.4	85.8	17.9	21.2
Total	...	333.2	371.1	421.1	376.0	419.9	87.6	103.8

Table 19. Exports — Principal Countries of Destination

(Rs million)

		1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1st Qr. 1970	1st Qr. 1971
United Kingdom	...	275.7	271.4	272.2	260.5	260.3	56.8	42.7
Canada	...	30.9	9.5	44.1	63.2	77.6	16.9	7.5
United States of America	...	16.4	15.8	21.6	18.4	21.1	4.3	2.3
Republic of South Africa	...	1.3	3.4	6.9	9.6	12.1	3.5	5.1
Malagasy Republic	...	1.1	1.7	1.9	2.5	2.6	0.2	0.3
Réunion	...	2.9	1.3	2.5	3.3	3.9	0.3	1.1
Australia	...	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.3	..
Other	...	9.1	3.4	4.2	6.8	6.1	0.8	2.0
Total	...	337.6	306.8	354.0	365.2	384.5	83.1	61.0

Table 20. Balance of Payments

(Rs. Million)

Item	1966 r		1967		1968		1969		1970	
	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit
A. GOODS AND SERVICES										
1. Merchandise ...	338	297	306	325	359	359	367	328	388	360
2. Non-monetary gold ...	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	..
3. Freight and insurance on merchandise ...	1	41	1	48	8	51	5	46	14	54
4. Other transportation ...	18	18	27	21	39	25	48	35	56	59
5. Travel ...	10	24	14	23	13	21	18	18	27	20
6. Investment income ...	11	13	10	16	12	15	14	14	17	12
7. Government, not included elsewhere ...	13	5	15	6	14	5	14	5	17	7
8. Other services ...	12	13	15	14	19	17	23	16	29	15
Net goods and services ...	—	9	—	66	—	30	26	—	21	—
B. TRANSFER PAYMENTS										
9. Private ...	5	14	5	12	6	11	8	6	13	6
10. Central Government ...	46	2	15	2	33	4	17	4	18	4
Net transfer payments ...	35	—	6	—	24	—	15	—	21	—
C. CAPITAL AND MONETARY GOLD										
<i>Non-monetary sectors</i>										
11. — 14. Private ...	—	—	—	3	—	3	15	—	4	—
15. Central Government ...	12	—	15	—	18	—	23	—	4	—
ALLOCATION OF SDRs ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—
<i>Monetary Sectors</i>										
16. Commercial banks : liabilities ...	—	10	13	—	3	—	—	11	6	—
17. Commercial banks : assets ...	1	—	4	—	11	—	—	7	14	—
18. Central institutions : liabilities ...	7	—	18	—	—	19	17	—	—	22
19. Central institutions : assets ...	—	30	31	—	—	16	—	82	—	71
OTHER CAPITAL, ERRORS AND OMISSIONS ...	—	6	—	18	12	—	4	—	8	—

Summary of Balance of Payments

	1966 r	1967	1968	1969	1970
Net goods and services (items 1-8) ...	- 9	- 66	- 30	+ 26	+ 21
Net transfer payments (items 9-10) ...	+ 35	+ 6	+ 24	+ 15	+ 21
Net long-term capital (items 11-15) ...	+ 12	+ 12	+ 15	+ 38	+ 8
Allocation of SDRs ...	—	—	—	—	+ 15
Other capital, errors and omissions ...	- 6	- 18	+ 12	+ 4	+ 8
Basic balance of payments ...	+ 32	- 66	+ 21	+ 83*	+ 73
Monetary movements (items 16-19) (increase in assets shown by a — sign)	- 32	+ 66	- 21	- 83	- 73

* It should be pointed out that a part of the increase in this figure is in a sense statistical, arising from the transfer of external assets from the Central Government and the Post Office Savings Bank to the Bank of Mauritius. The surplus proper was of the order of Rs. 57 million.

r revised.

Copies of the Review are available at the
Research Department of the Bank of Mauritius,
Post Box 29, Port Louis.

Single copy : Rupees 2.00.

The Standard Printing Establishment
(HENRY & Cie.)
Port Louis — Mauritius
1972
