



BANK OF MAURITIUS

website: <http://bom.intnet.mu>

PRESS RELEASE

FOREIGN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES SURVEY 2009

By virtue of Section 51A(1) of the Bank of Mauritius Act 2004, the Bank of Mauritius has responsibility for the preparation of the balance of payments accounts and the external assets and liabilities position of Mauritius.

The Bank conducted the 1st Foreign Assets and Liabilities Survey (FALS) in late 2007 and the survey was treated as an exploratory survey. The Bank is now proceeding to conduct the 2nd FALS. The FALS aims to gather information from resident enterprises on their claims on non-residents and their liabilities to non-residents. The survey is expected to improve the statistical coverage in the Balance of Payments and to compile a complete International Investment Position statement for Mauritius. Given the openness of the economy, the nature of transactions and positions between residents and non-residents has become much more complex and increasingly difficult to measure. Consequently, the Bank is moving towards a survey-based approach to collecting data for the compilation of external sector statistics.

The Bank benefited from technical assistance missions on balance of payments statistics from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which recommended the use of surveys for compiling balance of payments and international investment position statements. The missions also assisted the Bank in designing the questionnaire and drawing the survey frame.

This initiative is also in line with the recommendations of IMF on data dissemination standards and the Bank's commitments to the international community. The graduation of our country to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) in fact calls for data to be in conformity with internationally accepted methodologies, including concepts and definitions, and disseminated within a specific time frame.

This survey covers resident enterprises in diverse fields of economic activities. Information provided in the questionnaire will be treated with confidentiality and will not be accessible to any other person or organisation. The information supplied will only be published by the Bank in aggregated form. Once this exercise is completed, the findings of this survey will be communicated to the enterprises and will also be posted on the Bank's website.

An electronic version of the questionnaire is available on the Bank's website at <http://bom.intnet.mu>.

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Bank of Mauritius