The information contained in this report is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. While the information is accurate as at date hereof, there can be no guarantee that the information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act upon such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation.
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General Overview

- **Capital City:** Port Louis
- **Currency:** Mauritian Rupee (MUR)
- **Languages:** English, French, Creole, Bhojpuri
- **Government:** Parliamentary republic
- **President:** Rajkeswur Purryag GCSK GOSK
- **Population:** 1.296 million (2013 estimate)
- **GDP:** US$ 11.94 billion (2013 estimate)
- **Timezone:** GMT+4
Political Overview

Mauritius is a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The President is the head of state and the Prime Minister is the head of government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and a unicameral parliament. The Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority.

The Mauritian government is elected on a five-year basis. The most recent elections took place on 5th May 2010. Mauritius has a long tradition of political and social stability and is internationally recognised for its well-established democracy. According to the 2013 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, which measures governance using a number of different variables, Mauritius’ government earned the highest rankings among African nations for “sustainable economic opportunity”, as well as earning the highest score in the index overall for the seventh consecutive time.

Economic Overview

Mauritius has one of the most successful, competitive and diversified economies in Africa. The country’s success has been built on a free market economy. The economy is based on tourism, textiles, sugar, and financial services. With the 4th highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in Africa, Mauritius is one of only four African nations with a “high” Human Development Index rating. Mauritius also has a per capita income of US$ 8,570, one of the highest in Africa. According to the 2014 Index of Economic Freedom of the U.S. based Heritage Foundation, Mauritius leads Sub-Saharan Africa in economic freedom and is ranked 8th worldwide.

Regulatory Environment

During the last five years, the government significantly reformed trade, investment, tariff, and income tax regulations, simplifying the framework for doing business. Mauritius has a long-standing tradition of government and private sector dialogue which allows the private sector to effectively voice its views on the development strategy of the country. The Joint Economic Council, the coordinating body of the Mauritian private sector, is a key vehicle in this regard. A Central Procurement Board, established under the Public Procurement Act 2006, oversees all forms of procurement by public bodies. The World Economic Forum’s 2013-2014 Global Competitiveness Report places Mauritius 1st in Africa and 45th in the world in terms of competitiveness.
Bilateral and Multilateral Treaties

Mauritius is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, La Francophonie, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the African Caribbean Pacific-European Union Cotonou Agreement, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Southern African Development Community, the Indian Ocean Rim - Association for Regional Cooperation and the Indian Ocean Commission.

Bilateral trade agreements have been entered into with Central African Republic, Egypt, Hungary, Madagascar, Pakistan and Zimbabwe, Turkey and India. Mauritius has 23 Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPAs) in force with Barbados, Belgium/Luxembourg Economic Union, Burundi, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Pakistan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, U.K. and Northern Ireland, which are currently in force. IPPAs with the following countries are awaiting ratification: Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Republic, Kenya, Kuwait, Mauritania, Nepal, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Swaziland, Turkey and Zimbabwe. These IPPAs provide for free repatriation of investment capital and returns and guarantee against expropriation. They also provide for a most favoured nation rule with respect to treatment of investors, and compensation for losses in case of war, armed conflict. They also include arrangements for the settlement of disputes between investors and the contracting states.

Mauritius has concluded 38 double taxation avoidance treaties and is party to a series of treaties under negotiation. The 38 treaties currently in force are with the following countries: Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Croatia, Cyprus, Sri Lanka, France, Germany, India, Italy, Kuwait, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Qatar, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Six tax treaties with Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria, Russia and Congo are awaiting ratification and one tax treaty with Ghana is awaiting signature.

Investment Promotion

**Institutions Governing Investment Promotion**

A transparent and well-defined investment code and legal system have made the foreign investment climate in Mauritius one of the best in the region. Following reforms initiated in 2006, Mauritius has attracted more than US$ 1 billion from foreign investors. Foreign direct investment for the first half of 2013 was at US$ 157 million.

Investment in Mauritius is governed by the Investment Promotion Act, 2000 (Investment Act). Investment regulations are consistent with the WTO’s Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures. The Mauritius Board of Investment (MBOI) is a government agency which aims to promote and facilitate investment in Mauritius. The MBOI acts as a one-stop agency for business registration, acts as the facilitator for all forms of investment in Mauritius and guides investors through the necessary processes for doing business in the country.
**Investment Incentives**

Investment incentives are applied uniformly to both domestic and foreign investors. Mauritius offers the following incentives to investors:

- a flat corporate and income tax rate of 15%;
- tax free dividends;
- no capital gains tax;
- up to 100% foreign ownership;
- exemption from customs duty on equipment;
- free repatriation of profits, dividends, and capital;
- no minimum foreign capital required;
- 50% annual allowance on declining balance for the purchase of electronic and computer equipment; and
- an extensive tax treaty network with several countries.

Investors can obtain freeport licences under the Investment Act, under which persons may be exempt from income tax or subject to tax at 15% under specified conditions.

The Real Estate Scheme (RES) introduced in 2007 allows non-citizens to acquire a residence with no minimum price set. Investors, their spouses and dependants are granted resident permits to live in Mauritius when a residential property is acquired for a price exceeding US$ 500,000.

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**Tax**

**Personal Income Tax**

Resident companies and businesses are taxed on worldwide income. Non-residents are taxed only on Mauritius-source income. A company is resident if it is incorporated in Mauritius or its central management and control is in Mauritius. An individual is resident if domiciled in Mauritius, spends more than six months of the tax year in Mauritius, or has a combined presence of at least 270 days in that tax year and the two preceding tax years.

Losses may be carried forward for five years, except for losses arising from annual allowances on capital expenditure incurred after 1st July 2006. The carry-back of losses is not permitted.

Income Tax is levied on resident companies as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Corporate Tax</th>
<th>15%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• General</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>• Tax incentive companies</td>
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<tr>
<th>Dividends</th>
<th>Dividends paid by a Mauritian-resident company are exempt from income tax. Foreign dividends are taxable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>Taxed as ordinary income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royalties</td>
<td>Taxed as ordinary income</td>
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Capital Gains Tax

No capital gains tax is levied in Mauritius.

Other tax

The basic rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) is 15%. Certain goods and services are subject to VAT at zero rate and certain are exempt from VAT. The registration threshold is MUR 4 million.

Employers are required to make pay-related social security contributions.

Transfer Pricing and Thin Capitalisation

Mauritius does not have transfer pricing regulations. However, the Income Tax Act, 1995 (ITA), provides that transactions between related parties should be at market value.

Similarly, Mauritius does not have thin capitalisation rules. However, the ITA provides that the Director-General may disallow interest expense payable to shareholders under certain conditions.

Stamp and Transfer Duty

Stamp duty of MUR 200 is levied on each document presented for registration to the Registrar General or Conservator of Mortgages. A duty of 5% is levied on share transfers of a company which includes in its assets any freehold or leasehold property while 20% is charged when a company has leasehold rights on state land. No duty is payable on the transfer of

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<th>Fees</th>
<th>Taxed as ordinary income</th>
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<th>Income tax is levied on non-residents as follows:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 1 global business licence companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dividends</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royalties</td>
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<td>Fees</td>
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<th>Withholding Tax</th>
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Interest and royalties are taxed as ordinary income, withheld at the source.

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<tr>
<th>Capital Gains Tax</th>
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No capital gains tax is levied in Mauritius.
shares quoted on the Stock Exchange of Mauritius and on the shares of a Category 1 GBL company. Transfer duty of 5% and land transfer tax of 5% is payable on the sale or transfer of immovable property.

Exchange Control

Exchange controls were suspended by the Finance Act, 1994. Consequently, no approval is required for the repatriation of profits, dividends, and capital gains earned by a foreign investor in Mauritius.

Imports and Exports

From 1st July 2009, all permits relating to imports and exports, except those considered essential, have been suspended. The Mauritius Freeport (free-trade zone) was established in 1992 as a customs-free zone for goods destined for re-export.

Accounting Principles

Mauritius applies International Accounting Standards and International Financing Reporting Standards.

Industrial Relations

The Constitution and the law of Mauritius provide for the right of workers to form and join unions of their choice without prior authorisation or excessive requirements, and workers exercise this right in practice. Under the Industrial Relations Act, 1973, workers have the right to strike, but with some limitations. The National Remuneration Board (NRB) sets minimum wages for non-managerial workers, although most unions negotiate wages higher than those set by the NRB. In February 2009, the Employment Rights Act and the Employment Relations Act came into force. The new legislation provides for a Workfare Program under which workers who have been laid off will benefit from government financial assistance for up to twelve months and opportunities for training to increase their employability.

Mauritius participates actively in the annual International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference in Geneva, and adheres to ILO conventions protecting worker rights.

Work permits are required for expatriates seeking employment in Mauritius. In general, work permits are granted provided that a contract of employment is in place and local citizens do not possess the necessary expertise. An occupation permit
Real Property

The real estate market in Mauritius has emerged as a sector with competitive opportunities for investors, small landowners and non-citizens wishing to reside in the country. The legal environment guarantees protection of the rights of sellers and purchasers. Effective administration has simplified and facilitated the ease of business transactions related to residence permits and acquisition of property. Coupled with a low tax regime, political and financial stability, the country provides investors with a secure platform for property development.

The real estate sector in Mauritius provides an array of opportunities for both commercial and residential purposes.

Commercial Property

The commercial property market in Mauritius allows for the development of different property types such as:
- Hotels
- Shopping malls and duty free shops
- Office buildings
- Business and industrial parks

When acquiring property for business purposes or for the lease of immovable property for a period exceeding 20 years for business purposes, the investor needs to apply for approval from the MBOI.

A business purpose is considered to be the acquisition of property for:
- Development of active commercial buildings,
- Residential properties developed under the Integrated Resorts Scheme (IRS) and the Real Estate Scheme (RES),
- Any activity carried out with the purpose of profit excluding residential properties not developed under the IRS or RES and the acquisition for lease, resale or rental of a bare or serviced land.

Residential Property

The residential real estate market is also expanding through the development of luxury residential properties. In Mauritius, this market has been developed under two schemes. They are both in place to facilitate the acquisition of luxury residential property by non-citizens.

The IRS.
The IRS involves the construction and sale of luxurious residential property to foreigners with a high purchasing power. The IRS also includes high class leisure and facilities for instance, golf courses, shopping malls, wellness centres and sport facilities. Furthermore, contribution to the community is guaranteed. With the grant of a residence permit to foreigners on the purchase of a residence under the scheme, the IRS is an upcoming market.
The IRS requires only a short investment period and has no minimum restrictions on the selling price as well as a possibility for tax residency in Mauritius and is, therefore, considered to be a competitive investment opportunity.

The RES
The RES allows development of residence property in Mauritius but on a smaller scale than the IRS. This scheme is aimed at investors and professionals who wish to reside and work in Mauritius or to acquire a luxury second home.

Moreover, commercial and leisure facilities are also tied up to the residences. The fact that there is no minimum price for a residence is a facilitator for ownership and an opportunity for considerable profits.

Acquisition of Property by a Non-Citizen
Any foreigner who wishes to hold or acquire freehold or leasehold immovable property in Mauritius must obtain authorisation from either the Prime Minister’s Office or the MBOI.

Non-citizens must obtain authorisation from the Prime Minister’s office in respect of:
- Acquisition of shares in company holding freehold or leasehold immovable property;
- Acquisition of immovable property by a person not registered as investor with BOI;
- Lease of immovable property for more than 20 years by a person not registered as Investor with BOI; or
- Lease of immovable property for residence for a period exceeding 4 years.

The non-citizen shall first make a written application to the Prime Minister’s office to be delivered with a certificate authorising him to acquire the property. Such approval is also required in respect of an acquisition of shares in a Mauritian entity which has amongst its assets any freehold or leasehold property in Mauritius. Under the Non-Citizen Property Restriction Act, such approval would also be required where a non-citizen acquires shares in a company which in turn holds shares in a subsidiary whose assets include freehold or leasehold property in Mauritius.

However, no certificate is required where a non-citizen acquires shares in a Mauritian entity that holds any leasehold property, if such property is the subject of a lease agreement for industrial or commercial purposes for a term not exceeding 20 years.

The Prime Minister’s approval is not required, when the property is held or acquired in the following instances:
- Acquisition of immovable property for business purposes;
- Acquisition of residential property by holders of permanent resident permit;
- Acquisition of residential units under Integrated Resort Scheme, Real Estate Scheme or Invest Hotel Scheme; or
- Lease of immovable property for more than 20 years for business purposes.

In the above circumstances, non-citizens must obtain authorisation from the MBOI.

No authorisation is required in case of a non-citizen who:
- Holds immovable property for commercial purposes under a lease agreement not exceeding 20 years;
- Holds shares in companies which do not own immovable property;
- Holds immovable property by inheritance or effect of marriage;
- Holds shares in companies listed on the stock exchange; or
- Invests through a unit trust scheme or any collective investment vehicle.
All non-citizens who have acquired a property under the IRS or RES where the value of the residential property is not less than US$ 500,000 or its equivalent in any other freely convertible foreign currency in Mauritius are granted a residence permits for themselves and any spouses or dependents. The permits remain valid so long as the non-citizen still possesses the residence or until the company terminates the residency.

Corruption

Mauritius ranks 52nd worldwide, and 5th in Africa, in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 2013 behind Botswana, Cape Verde, Seychelles and Rwanda. However, corruption is not seen as an obstacle to foreign direct investment.


The Mauritian Financial Intelligence Unit (the FIU) was established under the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2002. It is the central Mauritian agency for the request, receipt, analysis and dissemination of financial information regarding suspected proceeds of crime and alleged money laundering offences as well as the financing of any activities or transactions related to terrorism to relevant authorities.

The FIU also plays an integral part in the investigation and detection of financial crimes. It collects, processes, analyses and interprets all information disclosed to and obtained by it in the process of combating money laundering and terrorist financing. The FIU became a member of the Egmont Group in July 2003 and has since been frequently elected as the regional representative of African FIUs on the Egmont Committee.

In 2002, the government adopted the Prevention of Corruption Act, which led to the setting up of an Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). ICAC consists of an anti-corruption unit, an anti-money laundering unit, and a corruption prevention and education division. It has the power to investigate any act of corruption and any matter that may involve the laundering of money or suspicious transaction referred to it by the FIU and can confiscate the proceeds of corruption and money laundering.

Competition

The Mauritius Competition Act, 2007, regulates competition law in Mauritius, and is aimed at preventing monopolistic pricing and restricting collusion in consumer markets. The Competition Commission (the Commission) reviews mergers in three instances:

- where all the parties to the merger, supply or acquire goods or services of any description, and will following the merger, together supply or acquire 30% or more of all those goods or services in the market;
- where one of the parties to the merger alone supplies or acquires prior to the merger, 30% or more of goods or services of any description in the market; or
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- where the Commission has reasonable grounds to believe that the creation of the merger situation has resulted in, or is likely to result in, a substantial lessening of competition within any market for goods or services.

Where the merger falls within the above categories, parties should apply to the Commission for guidance. There are no filing fees.

Consumer Protection

The Consumer Protection Unit (CPU) is a specialised section within the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection of Mauritius which caters for the protection of consumers.

The CPU enforces Mauritius’ various consumer protection laws, and aims to provide overall consumer satisfaction and security, through:
- educating consumers of their rights and responsibilities through print media, public discussions etc;
- settling disputes between traders and consumers by mutual agreement or through the court process; and
- amending existing legislation and preparing new legislation where necessary.

Legal Forms of Incorporation in Mauritius

Businesses can be conducted in Mauritius in several forms, such as:
- a private limited liability company;
- a public limited liability company;
- a sole-proprietorship;
- a branch of a foreign company;
- a société; or
- a limited partnership.

The Companies Act, 2001 (the Act), governs incorporation of companies. The Act incorporates international best practices and promotes accountability, openness, and fairness. The Business Facilitation Act, 2006, simplified the business licensing process for business start-ups and allows businesses to start operations within three days of incorporation.

The Act creates several types and categories of companies, such as domestic companies, companies holding a Category 1 GBL and companies holding a Category 2 GBL.

These companies may be in the form of:
- a company limited by guarantee;
  A company limited by guarantee limits the liability of its members limited to such amount as the members may respectively undertake to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up.
- a company limited by shares;
  A company limited by shares limits the liability of its members to any amount unpaid on the shares respectively held by
the shareholder.

c. a company limited by shares and by guarantee;
   A company limited by shares and by guarantee means a company formed on the principle of having the liability of its
   members:
   i. who are shareholders, limited to the amount unpaid, if any, on the shares respectively held by them; and
   ii. who have given a guarantee, limited, to the respectively amount they have undertaken to contribute, from time to
   time, and in the event of it being wound up.

d. an unlimited company
   An unlimited company imposes no limit on the liability of its shareholders.

Public company / Private Company

A company incorporated under the Companies Act may be a public company or a private company. If it is not specified that
the company is a private company, it will be deemed to be a public company.

A private company is one which specifically states in its application for incorporation or its constitution that it is a private
company. The private company may restrict the transfer of its shares, which cannot be offered to the public. A private
company must have a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 25 shareholders. Where the number of shareholders exceeds 25,
it will be deemed to be a public company.

Limited Life Company

A company of any of the types of company referred to in 2.1 above may be registered as a limited life company where its
constitution limits its life to a period not exceeding 50 years from the date of its incorporation. However, this period may
by resolution alter its constitution extending the duration of the company to a maximum period of 150 years from the date
of incorporation of the company.

Global Business Licences (GBL) Companies

A public or private company set up under the Companies Act 2001 may apply to the Financial Services Commission (FSC)
for a licence to carry on global business. The FSC issues two types of licences namely GBL 1 and 2.

A GBL 1 company is a company registered in Mauritius and considered as resident in Mauritius for tax purposes. A GBL 1
company can conduct business both within and outside Mauritius and deal with a person resident in Mauritius. The central
management and control of a GBL 1 company must be vested in Mauritius. A GBL 1 company will also benefit from Double
Tax Avoidance (DTA) treaties between Mauritius and other states, subject to possession of a Tax Residency Certificate. It
also will have to file audited financial statements with the FSC. A GBL 1 Company is taxed at a flat rate of 15%, although
foreign tax credits will be allowed for taxes suffered at source where this can be evidenced. A system of deemed foreign tax
credits of 80% effectively reduces the income tax rate to 3% on the qualifying income of the company. The tax payable in
Mauritius can be less than 3%, where the actual foreign taxes are more than 12%.

A GBL 2 company is tax exempt in Mauritius and does not need to have audited financial statements nor have a company
secretary. It however, does not have access to the tax treaties network. The FSC provides certain restrictions on the business
activities that may be conducted by a GBL 2 company. No application for a GBL 2 company shall be made by a company
registered in Mauritius, unless it is a private company and proposes to conduct business activity other than the following:
i. banking;
ii. financial services;
iii. carrying out business of holding or managing or otherwise dealing with a collective investment fund or scheme as a professional functionary;
iv. providing of registered office facilities, nominee services, directorship services, secretarial services or other services for corporations; or
v. providing trusteeship services by way of business.

The Companies Act contains specific provisions applicable to both GBL 1 and GBL 2 companies. The Act also contains specific exemptions for each type of company.

**Foreign Company**

The Companies Act enables the registration of a foreign company if it has a place of business or is carrying on business in Mauritius. It also provides for the migration of companies registered under the Companies Act to other jurisdictions.

Before starting operations, businesses must register with the Registrar of Companies. After receiving a certificate of incorporation from the Registrar of Companies, all companies must register their business activities with the MBOI. Registration with the MBOI enables companies to apply for an occupation permit and other facilities offered to investors. For a limited number of regulated activities in such sectors as tourism, sugar, and broadcasting, an application for the appropriate permit or licence must be made to the competent authorities prior to start of operations.


**Société**

A société can be set up under the provision of the Civil Code or Commercial Code. The participants’ interests are referred to as “parts sociales”. A société is fiscally transparent and the liability of the “limited partners” can be limited. A “société commerciale” needs to be registered with the Registrar of Companies.

**Limited Partnership**

Since 2011, with the enactment of the Limited Partnerships Act, limited partnerships can now be used to structure investments. A limited partnership can elect to have legal personality and is required to have at least one general partner who is liable for all the debts and obligations of the limited partnership, and one limited partner who is liable only up to the maximum amount of its commitment.

A limited partnership may elect to have a separate legal personality. Irrespective of whether a limited partnership has elected for legal personality, it retains its pass-through attribute such that the partners are liable for debts of the partnership (general partners having unlimited liability whereas limited partners are liable to the extent of their contribution or as they have agreed). Further, limited partnerships are fiscally transparent and in effect, a limited partnership will not be liable to tax (irrespective of whether or not it elects to have legal personality) but each partner will be liable to tax with its share of the income of the partnership. However a limited partnership which holds a GBL may opt to be fiscally opaque.
Industry Sectors

**Agriculture**

Since independence in 1968, Mauritius has moved away from being an agriculture-based economy. At one stage, sugar production was the backbone of the Mauritian economy; however, the economy has since diversified significantly. Agriculture now makes up 4.4% of GDP in Mauritius. Sugarcane remains the dominant crop, extending over 90% of the cultivated land surface of the country. 15% of export earnings come from sugar cane. Other crops include tea, tobacco, vegetables, fruits, flowers, cattle and fishing.

**Financial and Banking Services**

Mauritius has a well-developed and modern banking system, with 20 banks currently licensed to undertake banking business. The Banking Act, 2004, provides for banking business to be conducted under a single banking licence regime. Accordingly, all banks are free to conduct business in all currencies, including the MUR. There are also several non-bank financial institutions which are authorised to conduct deposit-taking business. Financial services account for 23% of GDP.

The Bank of Mauritius - the Central Bank, carries out the supervision and regulation of banks as well as non-bank financial institutions authorised to accept deposits. The Central Bank has endorsed the Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision as set out by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. The financial system has not been involved in sub-prime lending or any activity deriving directly or indirectly from that asset class. The sector is well regulated and has proven to be quite solid and highly profitable.

In January 2013, the Stock Exchange of Mauritius (SEM) had 76 companies listed on the Official Market and 53 companies on the Development and Enterprise Market (which is designed for small and medium enterprises). The SEM is a member of the World Federation of Exchanges, which reports that the SEM adheres to industry business standards. In November 2007, the SEM was included in the new Morgan Stanley Capital International Frontier Markets Indices, which is designed to track the performance of a range of equity markets that are now more accessible to global investors. Mauritius was among four countries in Africa to be included in the new indices. The SEM has also been included in the DOW Jones SAFE 100 Index which was launched in March 2009 by the South Asian Federation of Exchanges.

The SEM was opened to foreign investors following the lifting of the foreign exchange controls in 1994. No approval is required for the trading of shares by foreign investors unless the investment will result in the foreign investors of holding 15% or more of the voting capital in a sugar company.

**Energy**

Mauritius is dependent on imported fossil fuels to meet its energy needs. The Central Electricity Board is a parastatal body wholly owned by the government of Mauritius, reporting to the Ministry of Renewable Energy and Public Utilities. It produces around 40% of the country's total power requirements, the remaining 60% being purchased from independent power producers.

There is a 94% electrification rate, the 5th highest rate in Africa. Electricity is consumed in roughly equal proportions by commercial, industrial and domestic activities.
Manufacturing

Manufacturing accounts for 16.5% of GDP in Mauritius. Most goods are manufactured for the export market. The sector primarily incorporates the manufacture of labour-intensive goods, including textiles and clothing, light engineering goods, watches and clocks, jewellery, optical goods, toys and games, and cut flowers.

Mining

There are few mineral resources in Mauritius. Historically, mineral output consists of basalt construction stone, coral sand, lime for coral, and solar-evaporated sea salt.

Telecommunications

Mauritius has a small telecommunications system, with good service. As at 2008, Mauritius has a fixed-line teledensity of roughly 30%, and a mobile teledensity of 80%. There were also 380,000 internet users.

There is a strong legislative framework governing the Mauritian telecommunication sector. The Information Communication Technology Authority regulates the sector.

Tourism

Tourism is a big foreign exchange earner for Mauritius. The sector accounts for 7.1% of GDP, and revenues top US$ 100 million per annum. Most visitors come from Europe, South Africa and Reunion Island.

Intellectual Property

Mauritius is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organisation and party to the Paris and Berne conventions for the protection of industrial property and the Universal Copyright Convention. Intellectual property rights are protected by the Copyrights Act, 1997, and the Patents, Industrial Designs and Trade Marks Act, 2002, which are both in line with international norms and comply with the WTO's Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights agreement.

Trademark protection is available in Mauritius for both goods and services. A trademark is initially registered for 10 years and may be renewed for successive periods of 10 years. This protection may be cancelled if the trademark protection is not used for a period of three years or more from the date it is granted. On the sale of a business in Mauritius, trademark protection is assignable, but to the extent of goodwill only. Well-known international trademarks are protected, regardless of whether they are registered in Mauritius.

A patent is granted for 20 years and cannot be renewed.
Dispute Settlement

The Mauritian legal system is largely based on English common law and French civil law. The domestic legal system is generally non-discriminatory and transparent. Members of the judiciary are independent of the legislature and the government. The highest court of appeal is the judicial committee of the Privy Council of England.

Mauritius is a member of the International Court of Justice. The country is also a member of the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes. A Commercial Court was set up in early 2009 to expedite the settlement of commercial disputes.

International Arbitration

The International Arbitration Act came into force in January 2009 and sets out the rules applicable to an international arbitration based on the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration. The regime brought about under the International Arbitration Act is distinct from that of domestic arbitration which is primarily governed by the Mauritian Code on Civil Procedure.

The main objective of the International Arbitration Act is to promote Mauritius as an arbitration forum endowed with a comprehensive modern legal framework in international arbitration. This Act gives an important role to the Permanent Court of Arbitration of The Hague and also allows the parties to be represented by foreign law practitioners.

In line with the international consumer protection standards, the International Arbitration Act provides for specific consumer consent to arbitration agreements. The New York Convention, 1958 implemented in Mauritian laws by the Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards Act, 2001 (proclaimed in 2004) will apply to any award delivered under the Act. Given the role of Mauritius as an offshore regional business hub, the International Arbitration Act also makes specific allowances to global business companies and their shareholders.