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INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES:  
SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED  
UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER. REPORT OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

Indian Ocean Territories<sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> Information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of France on Comoro Archipelago and Madagascar and by the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on Mauritius and Seychelles. The summary is also submitted to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Note: The symbols used in this document are as follows:

(...) data not available

( - ) amount nil or negligible

## COMORO ARCHIPELAGO

Information for the year ending 31 December 1954 on Comoro Archipelago was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of France on 1 August 1955. The following is a summary of the information under the headings of the Standard Form for the guidance of Members in the preparation of information to be transmitted under Article 73 e.

### AREA

The total area of the four islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan, Mayotte and Mohéli and of the various islets is 2,237 square kilometres. The area of the main island, Grande Comore, is 1,148 square kilometres.

### POPULATION

	31 December 1947 census
Indigenous and Malagasy )	152,072
Non-indigenous French )	
Non-indigenous aliens	<u>204</u>
Total	152,276

In 1951 the population was estimated at 166,000. According to a census of October 1951 there were 830 non-indigenous inhabitants, 665 of whom were French.

### GOVERNMENT

Since 1 January 1947, the Territory has been financially and administratively autonomous by virtue of the Act of 9 May 1946. In accordance with the Decree of 24 September 1946, it consists of four territorial subdivisions, each corresponding to one of the four main islands. Each subdivision is headed by an administrator, and there is a Chief Administrator who exercises the powers of Governor.

A territorial assembly consisting of 24 members, 20 of whom are elected by the indigenous inhabitants, takes part in the administration of the Territory;

in particular, it has deliberative functions, especially with regard to financial matters.

## E C O N O M I C   C O N D I T I O N S

The Territory's economy has traditionally depended upon four main products, which represented 94.8 per cent of the total value of exports in 1954 and 93.3 per cent in 1953. The prices of two of these products, vanilla and essential oils, are subject to extensive fluctuation.

The efforts to remedy the economy's vulnerability which were begun in 1952 by the more extensive planting of other valuable crops, such as cloves, coffee, cocoa and pepper, were redoubled in 1954, with good results. In addition, the economic infrastructure was improved with the help of funds from FIDES (Investment Fund for Economic and Social Development) which were spent on port facilities, airfields and, more particularly, the road network, which was extended by 17 per cent in 1953 and improved through the construction of many permanent bridges.

Exports in 1954 showed an increase of 34 per cent in value over the year 1953, whereas imports remained virtually the same in volume and value and in distribution among the various products.

## A G R I C U L T U R E   A N D   L I V E S T O C K

The Agricultural Department is directed by an engineer from the general overseas agricultural service, and its functions include both research and development. The chiefs of the Territory's subdivisions have since 1954 been responsible to the head of the Agricultural Department in all technical matters, and this has improved organizational efficiency. Between 1952 and 1954, 792,000 coconut palms were planted out, the productive area thereby being increased from 25,000 hectares in 1953 to 32,000 hectares in 1954. During 1954, 230,000 pepper cuttings were set out on a permanent basis, and as at 31 December 1954, 300,000 vines were in place. These vines will enable the Administration to provide some 700,000 cuttings at the next rainy season. Vanilla-growing in the Comoro Archipelago increased to the extent of nearly 1,300,000 plants, more than one-third of which were planted without any assistance from the Government, as a result of the current high prices for this product. Nearly 100,000 clove-tree saplings were planted out around the existing

plantation. In the coffee nurseries, as at 31 December 1954, there were 200,000 young shrubs in an excellent state of growth.

Use of land

As at 31 December 1954  
(in thousands of hectares)

Cultivated area	64.0
Area cultivable but unused (including fallow land)	56.6
Uncultivable area	61.5
Wooded area	<u>33.7</u>
Total	215.8

The main agricultural products are: plants from which essential oils for the manufacture of perfume are extracted - these covered an area of 3,000 hectares and accounted for a commercial output of 44 metric tons of oils in 1954 as compared with 18.7 metric tons in 1948; coconut palms grown over an area of 32,000 hectares and accounting for a commercial output of copra amounting to 2,600 metric tons in 1954 as compared with 2,200 metric tons in 1948; vanilla, grown over an area of 1,500 hectares, with a commercial output of 114 metric tons in 1954 as compared with 63.7 metric tons in 1948; and sisal, grown over an area of 2,000 hectares, with a commercial output of 2,100 metric tons in 1954 compared with 1,200 metric tons in 1948.

Livestock

	1947	1952	1953	1954
		(in thousands)		
Cattle	20.0	14.9	17.0	17.0
Sheep)		3.6	3.5	3.5
Goats)	40.0	86.7	85.0	90.0

## FORESTRY

During the year 1953-54, reafforestation and soil conservation efforts were devoted mainly to the island of Anjouan, where the land has deteriorated most. As a result, 200 hectares of this island were retimbered through the planting of 500,000 saplings. In addition, nurseries have been started so that a further 200 hectares may be reafforested in 1955. The agreement on the part of the people to these operations is the result of an educational campaign undertaken by the Administration. The manufacture and processing of forest products are carried on in the island of Grande Comore, which has the largest forest area, by a private company which in 1954 produced 5,500 cubic metres of firewood, 1,500 cubic metres of timber and 1,000 cubic metres of charcoal.

## FISHERIES

Total production (principally tunny, shark and sea-pike) is estimated at 1,425 tons a year and goes entirely to the local market. Studies made in 1952 with a view to improving on traditional fishing methods were not conclusive, the coral beds making the use of modern methods impossible.

## MINING

There are only a few small quarries, and these are used to meet the needs of the Public Works Department.

## POWER

Two centres in Mayotte are supplied with electricity through facilities under the supervision of the Public Works Department.

Studies are in progress with a view to the electrification of two other centres.

## INDUSTRY

In addition to the large number of plants for processing the principal local products, such as the copra kilns, perfume distilleries (production: 44 tons in 1954) and sisal fibre extractors (production: 1,225 tons in 1954),

there is a combined sugar refinery and rum distillery which produced 2,750 litres of pure alcohol and 72 tons of sugar in 1954, and a combined oil refinery and soap works which in 1954 produced 249 tons of coconut oil, 60 tons of croton oil and 40 tons of soap.

Handicrafts, which consist mainly of wood- and leather-working and rope manufacture, are encouraged, and efforts are made to preserve their original characteristics.

## TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Roads and railways

There are 507 kilometres of metalled roads, 357 kilometres of which are usable throughout the year and the remainder only during the dry season.

There were 313 vehicles of all kinds in the Territory in 1954, as compared with 265 in 1953 and 176 in 1952.

There is no railway.

### Air transport

There is regular air communications with Madagascar. Each of the four islands has an airfield.

### Commercial traffic

	1952	1953	1954
Number of journeys		467	481
Number of passengers carried	3,316	3,718	4,260
Goods carried (including mail) (metric tons)	129	125	147

### Sea-borne shipping

The improvement of port facilities in all four ports has been actively in hand since 1952. Expenditure for that purpose amounted to 53 million francs CFA in 1952.

Movement of ships  
(including coastal shipping)

	1952	1953	1954
Arrivals	528	515	611
Net tonnage of ships entering (1,000 tons)	220	197	242
Merchandise unloaded (metric tons)	15,047	13,212	13,335
Merchandise loaded (metric tons)	7,829	5,875	6,961
Number of passengers landed	3,189	2,853	4,774
Number of passengers embarked	5,293	4,450	3,971

Communications

There are five post offices, one equipped with a telephone and four with telegraph, and four wireless stations which are responsible for communications between the islands and Madagascar and for assisting air navigation.

PUBLIC FINANCE

The budget is prepared by the Chief Administrator of the Territory and is discussed and voted on by the territorial assembly.

Local budget

	1952	1953 (actual)	1954
	(in millions of francs CFA)		
Ordinary revenue	160.7	244.2	264.2
Extraordinary revenue	209.7	215.5	164.1
Total net revenue <u>a/</u>	370.4	<u>b/</u> 411.2	428.3
Operating expenditure	185.0	215.1	207.5
Capital expenditure	178.3	213.0	106.5
Total net expenditure <u>a/</u>	276.2	424.9	310.1

a/ After deduction of transfers and suspense items.

b/ Gross total.



Financial assistance from the metropolitan Government

	1948	1952	1953	1954
		(in millions of francs CFA)		
Contributions from metropolitan budgets to expenditure in the Territory	...	93.5	51.9	62.9
Contribution of the metropolitan Government to the costs of FIDES	40.7 <sup>a/</sup>	218.3	150.0	126.9

a/ Payments due in 1948/49.

Expenditure on carrying out FIDES programmes

The amount expended for this purpose in 1954 was 228.1 million francs CFA, representing a capital expenditure of 147.5 million for economic purposes and a capital expenditure of 80.6 million for social purposes.

In 1948/49 the total expenditure for FIDES purposes was 73.8 million francs CFA.

Taxation system

Male inhabitants, with certain exceptions, are liable to a local tax and a personal tax amounting, respectively, to 300 and 400 francs CFA.

In addition, a schedular tax on profits of various kinds - commercial, industrial and professional - is assessed at the rate of 7.5 per cent (8.0 per cent on the portion in excess of two million francs). A general income tax payable by all individuals with a net annual income of more than 126,000 francs CFA is assessed at a progressive rate ranging from 1.5 per cent on the lowest incomes to 25 per cent on incomes above six million francs.

Property taxes, licence fees and various other charges complete the fiscal system.

BANKING AND CREDIT

The Banque de Madagascar et des Comores acts both as a bank of issue and as a commercial bank and supplements the activities of the purely commercial banks in Madagascar.

The rate of interest is 5.75 per cent, and the discount rate ranges from 4.25 to 4.75 per cent per annum.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

### Special trade

	1949	1952	1953	1954
		(in millions of francs CFA)		
Imports	46.1	439.3	546.9	553.1
Exports	237.5	353.2	415.7	558.8
Principal imports				
Rice	...	89.0	124.1	138.0
Sugar	...	7.7	6.9	14.4
Mineral products	...	50.0	62.2	22.4
Paper and paper products	...	4.0	12.7	31.4
Textiles	...	54.0	87.4	77.0
Metals and manufactures of metal	...	46.0	51.6	48.6
Machinery and equipment (including electrical)	...	46.0	31.2	26.9
Transport equipment	3.2	22.0	24.2	21.6
Principal exports				
Vanilla	89.0	36.0	145.0	260.9
Essential oils	17.2	150.0	144.0	145.8
Copra	39.7	69.0	81.0	55.5
Sisal	36.8	50.0	18.0	67.5
Cocoa	6.5	4.0	6.0	3.3
Green coffee	...	3.0	4.0	3.4

### Direction of trade

	1952	1953	1954
	(in percentages of total value)		
Imports from:			
Franc area	92.7	92.5	88.6
Metropolitan France	55.0	57.6	47.4
Madagascar	36.9	33.2	39.2
Sterling area	3.9	3.9	5.1
Bahrein	0.6	1.6	2.2
Zanzibar	0.7	...	...
India	...	0.3	1.3

Direction of trade (continued)

	1952	1953	1954
	(in percentages of total value)		
Dollar area	0.9	0.9	0.3
United States of America	0.9	0.8	0.3
"Other currency" areas	2.5	2.7	6.0
Indonesia	...	1.3	3.0
Netherlands	...	0.3	0.7
Exports to:			
Franc area	90.1	96.6	81.0
France	75.3	83.4	70.4
Madagascar	14.8	13.2	10.6
Sterling area	1.4	0.5	0.3
Zanzibar	1.0	...	...
Dollar area: United States of America	3.7	2.2	17.7
"Other currency" areas	4.8	0.7	1.0
Western Germany	2.6	0.5	1.0

S O C I A L    C O N D I T I O N S

The people are Moslem by religion.

A study of the legal status of women in the Comoro Archipelago, undertaken in pursuance of a resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (11 (II)), shows that local custom and traditions have had a considerable liberalizing effect.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The large demand for workers resulting from the establishment in 1952 of public works undertakings and of numerous commercial firms, considerably affected the labour market and virtually solved the problem of unemployment. These conditions, which even resulted in the demand for labour continuously exceeding the supply, persisted during the years 1953 and 1954. There is, however, a certain amount of unemployment in the southern part of the island of Anjouan as a result of a high rate of increase in the population, but the excess manpower is being absorbed through organized recruitment by Madagascar commercial undertakings which make provision for the workers and their families to settle permanently in Madagascar.

A territorial Labour and Social Welfare Inspectorate was set up in 1954. It deals with all matters relating to labour and manpower and is authorized to consult the Central Labour Consultative Commission. This Commission which is responsible for the preliminary examination of legislation designed to give effect to the 1952 Labour Code, has set up a joint commission in each of the Territory's subdivisions for the purpose of studying the basic factors relating to subsistence minima, minimum wages and so on.

	<u>Number of wage-earners</u>			
	1948	1952	1953	1954
Public sector				
Public works	459	1,707	718	1,035
Agriculture, water supply, forestry		227	377	599
Other		67	263	268
Private sector				
Agriculture and forestry	...	6,655	8,010	5,893
Building and public works	...	682	763	892
Domestic servants	...	466	720	720
Other	...	747	776	353
Total in public sector	...	2,001	1,358	1,902
Total in private sector	...	8,550	9,506	7,958
Grand total	12,164 <sup>a/</sup>	10,551	10,864	9,760

a/ Including 848 specialized workers.

	<u>Wages</u>			
	(varying according to area)			
	1948	1952	1953	1954
		(francs CFA per day)		
Minimum wage of unskilled labourer	30 <sup>a/</sup>	40 to 56 <sup>b/</sup>	40 to 60	45 to 60
Foreman	63	94 to 128)		...
Skilled worker	45	67 to 91 )	75 to 300	...
Specialized worker	35	52 to 71 )		...

a/ Women and children: 25.

b/ Women and children: 34 to 48.

### Workers, and employers' organizations

There are no trade unions because of the workers' aversion to any form or kind of association. Preparations are, however, being made at present for the appointment of delegates to represent the workers before both the employers and the Labour Inspectorate.

Only one collective dispute has arisen in recent years. It occurred in 1953 and was settled by conciliation. Individual disputes are usually settled amicably by the Labour Inspectorate. Should this procedure not succeed, the dispute is brought before the courts.

Vocational training is given in three school-workshops conducted under the supervision of the Education Department.

### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Administration is making successful efforts to extend the co-operative system. A co-operative consisting of more than thirty indigenous producers of copra, coffee and rice has been in operation in Mayotte since 1951, and its turnover in 1952 was more than one million francs CFA.

### STANDARD OF LIVING

There has been little if any rise in the cost of foodstuffs and other commodities for several years.

The annual subsistence minimum for an unskilled labourer without a family, calculated on the basis of the average prices of foodstuffs and basic necessities was 14,913 francs CFA in 1954 as compared with 14,320.60 francs CFA in 1953 (an increase of 3.7 per cent). In practice, it rarely happens that all the foodstuffs included in this subsistence minimum are purchased, for all workers own plots of land which are cultivated by themselves or their families.

### TOWN AND RURAL HOUSING AND PLANNING

As the population is concentrated in large villages, there are, strictly speaking, no rural problems. The efforts in this regard are concentrated on roads, water supply and reservoirs.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

There is no social security system.

Social assistance is provided through the Social Welfare Bureau to the aged, the blind, chronic invalids and all indigent persons. This agency also assists private charitable organizations. Its expenditure amounted to 537,000 francs CFA in 1952 and 476,079 francs CFA in 1953 and is estimated at 300,000 francs CFA for 1954.

<u>Crime statistics</u>			
	1952	1953	1954
Offences for which sentences were imposed			
Serious offences	3	-	-
Less serious offences			
against the person	72	33	59
against property	221	87	225
against law and order	...	63	32
other	...	18	<u>73</u>
Total			389
Petty offences	...	...	622

<u>Sentences</u>			
	1952	1954	
	Adults	Minors	
Deprivation of liberty	321	4	333
Fine	<u>84</u>	-	<u>56</u>
Total	405	4	389 <sup>a/</sup>
Sentences with stay of execution	55	10	

<sup>a/</sup> Including 9 minors.

### Institutions

There is one prison in each of the four islands. There is no reformatory for juvenile delinquents.

#### Number of persons in prison on 31 December

	1952	1953	1954
Awaiting trial	28 <sup>a/</sup>	92	60
Convicted and sentenced	136 <sup>a/</sup>	154	136
of whom women	-	-	1

a/ Daily average.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

The health service is responsible for both hygiene and public health. The Territory is divided into three medical divisions each of which is headed by a doctor of medicine.

#### Expenditure

	1948	1952	1953	1954
	(in millions of francs CFA)			
Ordinary or operating expenditure	7.1	19.9	22.7	24.0
Extraordinary expenditure	1.0	3.1	-	-
FIDES expenditure	-	145.0	58.0	5.8

#### Medical and health staff

	1948	1952	1953	1954
Physicians				
registered	2	3	3	3
locally trained	8	7	6	6
Dentists	1	...	...	...
Midwives				
registered	2	1	1	1
locally trained	2	4	5	5

Medical and health staff (continued)

	1948	1952	1953	1954
Male nurses				
registered	(	(	1	1
locally trained	{ 27	{ 27	20	22
Locally-trained female nurses	(	...	3	3
Assistant male nurses	5	14	16	15
Public-health assistants	2	2	1	1
Laboratory and X-ray technicians ...		2	2	...

Institutions

	1951		1953		1954	
	Number	Beds	Number	Beds	Number	Beds
Hospitals	3	{ 220	7	(	6	(
Infirmaries	4		4	{ 300	2	{ 300
Clinics	15		15	(	19	(
Maternity clinics	5 a/		...		...	
Leper hospitals	2		2		...	

a/ Attached to other institutions.

Malaria, yaws and venereal disease are widespread. Malaria is the main cause of infant mortality. Syphilis is hereditary and of long-standing and is mainly in forms affecting the nerves and bones; it has not been eliminated because of the difficulty of persuading patients to attend regularly for treatment.

There has been no widespread increase in leprosy, but pulmonary tuberculosis, on the other hand, is fairly frequent.

The food situation varies considerably from island to island, and nutrition problems are greater during the wet season. The water-supply problem is difficult, particularly on the island of Grande Comore, where there are no permanent watercourses.



Vital statistics

	1948	1952	
	Declared	Estimated	Declared
Total births	2,002	3,524	1,856
Birth rate	9.5	...	...
Deaths under one year	105	347	96
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	52.4	53.6	47.6
Total deaths	1,444	2,108	1,150
Death rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)	13.2	11.7	6.3

The principal causes of death in 1954 were tuberculosis (eight) and syphilis, malaria and vitamin deficiency (three in each case).

The campaign launched in 1952 to stamp out leprosy was intensified in 1953 and 1954. The number of lepers registered and given treatment rose from 127 in 1952 to 198 in 1953 and 263 in 1954. On 31 December 1954 there were only 35 patients in hospital.

Each island is equipped with a pneumothorax unit as an aid in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis.

With the help of FIDES, a general anti-malarial campaign was successfully conducted in the islands of Mayotte and Mohéli.

EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Education is free. The programme in progress since 1952 for the extension of education will make it possible in a few years to introduce compulsory school attendance within a radius of three kilometres from each school.

The Education Department, which is responsible both for fundamental education and for sports, is directed by a metropolitan teacher who is both chief of the service and inspector of the elementary primary schools.

Expenditure

	1948	1952	1953	1954
	(in millions of francs CFA)			
Operating (or ordinary) budget	4.2	15.8	17.6	17.4
Capital (or extraordinary) budget	1.0	...	2.9	3.0
FIDES budget	3.7	...	38.7	18.9

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

There are primary schools with one class and with two classes, the period of schooling being from the age of six to the age of fourteen years. There is also a supplementary course providing instruction identical with that given in the metropolitan country from the top form of primary school to the third form of secondary school. Vocational training is given in apprenticeship centres. Teachers are trained in Madagascar at the Territory's expense, after passing the final examination of the supplementary course.

Schools

Type	1948		1952		1953		1954	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Primary schools	33	1	31	1	33	1	33	1
Secondary schools	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Vocational schools (apprenticeship centres)	-	-	3	-	3	-	3	-

Pupils

	1948		1952		1953		1954	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Public education								
Primary schools	1,965	79	2,306	152	2,310	87	2,446	149
Secondary schools		55	97	-	104	-	104	2
Secondary schools Madagascar		57	67	-	37	2	48	3
Vocational schools		73	95	-	95	-	92	-
Higher education								
Metropolitan country		2	2	-	...	...	2	-
Madagascar		-	2	-	...	...	4	-
Private education								
Primary schools		40	22	14	22	19	31	21

	<u>Teachers</u>							
	1948		1952		1953		1954	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Public education								
Primary schools	27	1(1)	31	4(3)	37		39(5)	
Secondary schools	...	...	5(4)	-	5		4(4)	-
Vocational schools	4	-	6	-			6	-

Private education

Primary schools	2	-	1(1)	2	2
-----------------	---	---	------	---	---

(Figures in brackets refer to the number of non-indigenous teachers)

### ADULT EDUCATION, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

As part of the programme of fundamental education, which has since 1952 been directed by a commission responsible for studying all aspects of this question, seven adult classes and three information centres are being conducted.

These centres have cinema and library facilities. In addition, since 1954, experimental plots have been started in the neighbourhood of the schools in order to encourage the cultivation of cloves and pepper.

Consideration is being given to the establishment of a sports organization so as to give an official status to the various associations in the Territory which are making rapid progress.

### CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

There are three public libraries attached to the information centres comprised in the programme of fundamental education, and also eight school libraries and one private library. Plans are being made for setting up a museum at Anjouan in the former palace of the sultans.

### MASS COMMUNICATIONS

No newspaper or periodical is published in the Territory, but many magazines and newspapers are available to readers in the information centres.

Film shows are given twice a week in two halls, and a third hall is to be opened soon.

There is no radio broadcasting station. The number of receiving sets in the Territory was estimated at 90 in 1951, 150 in 1952 and 170 in 1954.

## M A D A G A S C A R

Information for the year ending 31 December 1954 on Madagascar was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of France on 1 August 1955. The following is a summary of the information under the headings of the Standard Form for the guidance of Members in the preparation of information to be transmitted under Article 73 e.

### AREA

Madagascar and its dependencies (islands of Diego-Suarez, Nossi-Bé, Sainte-Marie, des Nattes, etc.) cover an area of 589,840 square kilometres.

### POPULATION

The population is made up of widely varying ethnic groups, of Melanesian, Indonesian, Malay and other origin, which have settled in the Island in the course of successive migrations. The largest group are the Mérinas (Hovas), of Malay origin, who at present number about 963,000.

#### Population statistics

	1949	1950 <sup>b/</sup>	1952	1953
Indigenous <sup>a/</sup>	4,142,800	4,233,692	4,389,400	4,460,900
French <sup>b/</sup>				
European	16,802	18,575	21,927	22,303
Réunion island	16,198	18,123	20,269	20,755
other	11,517	13,169	10,501	13,781
Total	44,517	49,867	52,697	56,839
Alien <sup>b/</sup>				
non-Asian	4,098	3,452	4,344	4,551
Asiatic	15,814	17,254	17,376	18,054
Total	19,912	20,706	21,720	22,605
Total population	4,207,229	4,304,265	4,463,817	4,540,344

<sup>a/</sup> Estimates, except 1950.

<sup>b/</sup> Census.

## E C O N O M I C   C O N D I T I O N S

Madagascar has about 7,000 kilometres of coastline and consists of various geographical regions differing widely in relief, soil geology, climate and vegetation.

It accordingly has a great variety of available resources. There is a comparatively wide range of export commodities, none of which represents more than a small percentage of total exports. This is a factor of great stability for the Madagascan economy.

On the other hand, the low density of population is a hindrance to economic expansion. Although the population, owing partly to a dynamic public-health policy, is steadily increasing at a rate of 70,000 to 80,000 annually, there are still only seven inhabitants per square kilometre. Internal communication difficulties and Madagascar's position away from the main lines of international communication constitute a heavy burden on the cost prices of both imports and exports.

This problem of cost prices, and hence also of competition on world markets, has been the dominant influence in the economy of Madagascar since 1952. With a few exceptions, resulting from an artificial rise in prices (e.g. in the case of coffee), almost all Madagascan commodities, both agricultural and mineral, have suffered either a check to their expansion or a slight drop as the result of an unfavourable market. Agricultural commodities represent 75 to 80 per cent of the Territory's exports.

Imports, after falling off somewhat in 1953 as the result of an oversupply of stocks built up the previous year, continued upward again in 1954, amounting to 432,000 tons by weight and 24,000 million francs CFA<sup>1/</sup> by value, compared with 384,000 tons and 22,000 million francs CFA in 1953. The increase in tonnage affected all commodity classifications and amounted to 28 per cent for foodstuffs, 11 per cent for consumer goods, 17 per cent for capital goods and 11 per cent for raw materials. The increase in value, which was only 6.2 per cent as against 12.4 per cent for tonnage, was due to lower prices for almost all imports. The average per ton price for imports rose from 56,885 francs CFA in 1952 to 58,900 francs CFA in 1953 but fell back to 55,600 francs CFA in 1954.

<sup>1/</sup> 1 franc CFA = 2 French francs.

Exports, on the other hand, after rising appreciably in 1952 and 1953, when the first effects of the capital-equipment plan and of the rice-growing policy followed for several years began to be felt, declined again in 1954 and amounted in that year to 169,000 tons, as against 191,000 tons in 1953, and to a value of 16,000 million francs CFA, as against 14,000 million francs CFA in 1953.

This decline was due mainly to a drop of 30,000 tons in rice shipments and of about 10,000 tons in sales of manioc and maize. This situation was, in turn, due partly to the fall in the market prices for these commodities, the destruction of 10,000 tons of rice during the cyclone of January 1954 and increased domestic consumption, but mainly to competition on the world markets. In the case of rice, for instance, stocks on hand at the end of the season were estimated at about 30,000 tons.

Special mention should also be made of the meat industry, which since 1952 has been in a slump that has caused several undertakings to close. This situation became worse in 1954. The domestic consumption of meat is steadily increasing, while the fall in international prices for beasts on the hoof has made foreign sales difficult. In 1948 the value of exports of meat and offal, preserved meats and hides was 1,764 million francs CFA, representing over 30 per cent of all exports, whereas by 1954 the percentage represented by all these commodities had fallen to 4 per cent (643 million francs CFA).

The considerable decline in sales of the less valuable commodities was partly offset by a rise in shipments of the valuable commodities such as cloves, tobacco and, in particular, coffee. The average price per ton of exports, which was 86,046 francs CFA in 1952 and 77,500 francs CFA in 1953, rose to 95,300 francs CFA in 1954. As a result, the deficit on the balance of trade increased only slightly, viz. from 7,800 million francs CFA in 1953 to 8,000 million francs CFA in 1954. It was 7,000 million francs CFA in 1952.

The modernization and equipment plan launched in 1947 is being actively carried out. Commitment credits granted by the Investment Fund for Economic and Social Development (FIDES) from the beginning of the plan up to 31 December 1954 have amounted to more than 20,000 million francs CFA.

Amount of commitment credits as at 31 December 1954

Production		(in millions of francs CFA)
Agriculture		1,052
Water supply		1,893
Forestry		213
Livestock		375
Fisheries		18
Mining		41
Manufacturing		4
Electricity		80
	Total	<u>3,676</u>
Infrastructure		
Railways		2,899
Roads and bridges		4,781
Harbours		2,725
Inland waterways		930
Air services		826
communications		716
	Total	<u>12,877</u>
Social investment		
Public health		1,690
Education		1,199
Housing		160
Urban and rural public works		294
	Total	<u>3,343</u>
Miscellaneous		184

Payment orders issued over the same period amounted to 14,106 million francs CFA

Value of payment orders

	Production	Infrastructure (in millions of francs CFA)	Social	Total
1948	56.5	470.5	147.8	674.8
1949	60.8	400.2	79.4	540.4
1950	220.9	1,021.1	295.5	1,537.5
1951	381.5	1,688.2	352.0	2,421.7
1952	521.0	2,571.0	474.9	3,566.9
1953	468.7	1,748.7	406.6	2,624.0
1954	557.2	1,813.1	370.9	2,741.2
Total	<u>2,266.6</u>	<u>9,712.8</u>	<u>2,127.1</u>	<u>14,106.5</u>

The main effort has been devoted to communications facilities, 68 per cent of the credits having been used for modernization and development of the economic infrastructure, as against only 16 per cent for the development of production and 16 per cent for social investment. As the improvement of communications progresses, the credits for production are being increased and are being used mainly for irrigation schemes, the widespread adoption of modern agricultural methods and seed improvement. The credits devoted to social investment are being maintained at about 20 per cent of the total available under the plan.

Public investment can be ascertained with tolerable accuracy on the basis of the capital expenditure under the general budget and provincial budgets and under the development plan. From 1947 to 31 December 1952, total capital expenditure was 22,000 million francs CFA, up to 31 December 1953 29,000 million francs CFA and up to 31 December 1954 35,000 million francs CFA.

The approximate volume of private investment can be determined by finding the total value of new investment, both public and private, in durable producer goods and in capital goods in the strict sense of the term and the total imports of capital goods and of certain raw materials and semi-finished products, and then deducting the amount of public investment. The items selected for this purpose are cement, iron and other metals, machinery and transport equipment.

Value of imports of selected items

	Cement	Metals	Machinery	Transport equipment
	(in millions of francs CFA)			
1947	11	111	507	259
1948	234	401	1,066	1,028
1949	197	626	1,443	1,144
1950	385	653	1,783	1,440
1951	571	940	1,643	1,888
1952	819	1,268	2,678	2,367
1953	630	1,047	1,669	2,338
1954	616	1,241	1,683	2,618
Total	3,468	6,287	12,472	13,082

On the assumption that three-quarters of the volume of building materials (cement and metals) is for new construction and the balance for maintenance,



the resulting figure, as well as the figure for machinery, must be doubled to allow for import duties, transport, labour and other charges so that the approximate investment cost can be obtained. Transport equipment is taken at three-quarters of its value so as to allow for imports of passenger vehicles. On this basis, the total value of new investment since 1947 comes out at 33,500 million francs CFA up to 31 December 1952, 41,200 million francs CFA up to 31 December 1953, and 49,500 francs CFA up to 31 December 1954. After deduction of the amount of public investment as given above, new private investment since 1947 appears to have been 11,500 million francs CFA up to 31 December 1952, 12,200 million francs CFA up to 31 December 1953 and 14,500 million francs CFA up to 31 December 1954. To obtain a more accurate approximation, there should be added to these figures the investments made over the past few years by such large companies as the Société sucrière de la Mahavavy, with a capital of 350 million francs CFA, and the Société cotonnière franco-malgache, with a capital of 256 million francs CFA.

#### AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The Departments of Agriculture, Livestock and Animal Industries come under the Directorate of Economic Services. Each Department comprises an Inspectorate-General at Antananarivo and a provincial branch in each of the island's five provinces (Antananarivo, Tamatave, Fianarantsoa, Majunga and Tulear).

The Inspectorate-General for agriculture comprises six general sections dealing with agronomic studies and research, rural engineering, inspection of processing, crop protection, locust control and agricultural education. The provincial branches of the Agriculture Department are responsible for disseminating information in farming, for the application of the findings of agronomic research (branch stations operate in each province) to local conditions, and for irrigation, locust control, agricultural industries, co-operatives, agricultural credit and, through their rural-engineering sections, the planning and carrying out of land improvement through irrigation and drainage.

The Livestock Department's working programmes are submitted to the Central Livestock Board (Conseil supérieur de l'élevage), which has been in existence

since 1953 and is responsible for considering and proposing measures relating to the conservation, improvement and utilization of livestock. The Board comprises one member representing European stock-breeders, five members representing indigenous stock-breeders, five members of the Representative Assembly, the Chairman of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, and representatives of all the Departments concerned.

The appropriations made in 1954 under the general budget and provincial budgets amounted to 666 million francs CFA for agriculture and 214.8 million francs CFA for livestock (1953: 528.4 million and 182.6 million francs CFA, respectively; 1952: 443.1 million and 125.6 million francs CFA, respectively). In addition, under the development plan for the financial year 1953-54, 120 million francs CFA were devoted to agriculture and 21 million francs CFA to livestock. From the inauguration of the plan in 1947 up to the financial year 1953-54, inclusive, these credits have totalled 522.6 million francs CFA for agriculture and 88 million francs CFA for livestock.

# Principal crops

	Area (in thousands of hectares)				Production <sup>a/</sup> (in thousands of tons)			
	1948	1952	1953	1954	1948	1952	1953	1954
Rice	567	675.0	697.5	703.0	744.4	1,021.6	1,025.0	1,010.0
Maize	82	78.7	83.3	69.0	67.6	70.9	72.5	56.0
Beans	28	35.7	36.0	36.0	13.5	19.9	20.1	19.0
Cape peas	18	19.8	13.7	18.0	14.5	12.5	12.2	15.0
Potatoes	28	18.9	21.7	20.0	91.0	71.6	79.0	50.0
Manioc	86	185.7	209.0	193.0	747.4	800.3	856.6	796.0
Sweet potatoes	76	109.0	110.5	100.0	201.6	376.6	378.6	303.0
Ground-nuts	13	25.4	27.3	35.0	8.7	23.4	22.3	25.0
Sugar-cane	12	14.1	16.5	17.0	293.5	392.6	377.0	446.0
Arabica coffee	...	3.3	3.3	(130.0	...	0.8	0.8	(44.0
Camphorous coffee	64	115.3	122.0	(130.0	23.9	40.5 <sup>b/</sup>	43.9	(1.0 <sup>b/</sup>
Cloves	20.0	22.4	26.0	28.0	5.0	0.14 <sup>b/</sup>	6.9	1.0 <sup>b/</sup>
Oil of cloves	...	...	...	...	...	0.48	0.65	1.0
Vanilla	2.4	2.7	2.7	4.0	0.46	0.12	0.26	0.17
Sisal	19.3	14.3	15.2	16.0	2.5	8.2	9.0	10.0

a/ Estimated.

b/ Practically no flowering.

Land use and land tenure

Land use, estimated in thousand of hectares, is as follows:

Cultivated areas	1,270
Wooded areas	12,000
Usable but unused areas:	
arable	300
wooded	2,430
Natural grazing	37,000
Built-up areas, roads	
airfields, etc.	200
Unusable areas	5,000
Lakes and ponds	500
Total	59,000

Since 1948 there has been a Soil Conservation Bureau (Bureau de conservation des sols) to deal with soil erosion, conservation and restoration problems. The organization of work along these lines was facilitated in 1954 through the establishment of a standing committee of the Bureau.

A valley of about 4,000 hectares near the Lake Alaotra agronomic station has been chosen as an experimental area for the development of soil conservation methods. Experimental work has been proceeding since the end of 1953 with a view to improving and extending agricultural land by means of anti-erosion techniques. When work in this valley has been completed, the scheme will be taken up in another pilot area so as to stimulate interest among the people in soil conservation methods.

The system of land tenure which has been in force since 1896 guarantees not only the occupant's right to ownership of the soil but also the State's right to unowned land. In addition, reserved areas have been set aside for the benefit of the indigenous communities, and members of these communities may acquire ownership of plots within these areas by cultivating them.

There are three classes of land: land registered under the Act of 1896, which was based on the Torrens Deed and embodies arrangements for making all existing property rights a matter of public record; land surveyed under a decree of 1929 as a means of offering small indigenous cultivators a simpler procedure than registration (fixing of boundaries throughout an entire area for the purpose of confirming the rights of landowners); and land not yet brought under either arrangement.

Apart from the State public domain, this unregistered and unsurveyed land represents the greater part of the land in the Territory. It includes the land under indigenous customary law, the ancestral property rights in which are recognized though they have not yet been registered or surveyed, and the unregistered State private domain (lands presumed vacant) on which the reserved areas have been established.

Land under indigenous law is transferred according to the custom, but land in the unoccupied domain may be transferred only under conditions, the breach of which voids the contract. These conditions are that the transferee is required to cultivate the land within a specified period and that there must be advance publicity and inquiries so as to safeguard the rights of the indigenous inhabitants.

#### Principal types of livestock

	Thousands of head <sup>a/</sup>				Number of slaughterings <sup>b/</sup>			
	1948	1952	1953	1954	1948	1952	1953	1954
Cattle	5,603.0	5,897.8	6,088.7	6,084.5	321,550	296,931	265,626	270,524
Pigs	400.0	247.6	209.6	229.7	129,814	75,675	72,030	87,784
Sheep	177.0	363.3	391.8	388.9	20,584	22,940	19,218	18,372
Goats	185.0	416.5	491.6	508.7	5,833	12,585	10,598	7,840

<sup>a/</sup> Estimated.

<sup>b/</sup> Includes only supervised slaughterings for domestic and industrial use.

#### Livestock products

	1948	1952	1953	1954
		(tons)		
Chilled meat	5,826.2	1,799.0	868.6	1,099.2
Meat preserves	9,938.0	4,759.0	2,749.8	2,124.7
Milk products	83.5	28.0	21.4	45.6
Hides and skins (exports)	5,881.2	4,110.0	3,796.0	3,012.0

The veterinary training school has been training veterinary assistants and indigenous veterinary attendants since 1926. Work will begin on a new school in 1955, and veterinary training will be given at three levels: the training by mobile teams of young people of school age and over and of the rural population;

the establishment of technical training centres; and the organization of instructional lectures.

Madagascar's insular situation has so far saved it from the great African animal epidemics. For additional security, the number of ports and airfields open for the importation of animals is limited to four and two, respectively. Furthermore, some animals, especially cattle and horses, are not admitted at all except under quarantine. The number of vaccinations against anthrax was 3.5 million in 1953 and 3.8 million in 1954.

Zootechnic research in experimental stations is carried on for the improvement of livestock (planned pig-feeding and improved methods of pig breeding, development of new strains by cross-breeding, etc.).

#### Agricultural assistance

The Caisse centrale de Crédit agricole provides credit to finance agricultural production. In 1954 this assistance amounted in all to 636 million francs CFA divided as follows: 541 million francs CFA in the form of 3,657 individual loans, 79 million francs CFA for 16 collective loans to co-operatives and indigenous rural communities, and 16 million francs CFA for 508 loans to cultivators who had suffered losses in disasters.

The gradual establishment of agricultural modernization areas is described under the heading "Community development".

The Agronomic Research Service has two main experimental stations (the central station at Lake Alaotra for research on rice, manioc, ground-nuts, fodder and vegetable manures, and the textile station at Bas-Mangoky, specializing in cotton-growing), laboratories (plant diseases, entomology and chemistry), a subsidiary station (vanilla improvement) and four sub-stations (three for coffee and one for rice).

#### FORESTRY

The Department of Water and Forestry comprises an Inspectorate-General and five provincial branches.

The budgetary funds available to the Department increased from 148 million francs CFA in 1953 to 179 million francs CFA in 1954, with a further 30 million

francs CFA under the equipment plan. The area being exploited amounted as at 31 December 1954 to 19,740 hectares, and timber production, which is wholly for domestic consumption and does not satisfy the demand, amounted in 1954 to 216,000 cubic metres of timber, 1.7 million cubic metres of firewood and 7,500 tons of charcoal.

### FISHERIES

Fish-breeding is carried on under the direction of the Department of Water and Forestry. A number of breeding-ponds have been established and fish (Tilapia and Black Bass fry) are supplied to communities and individuals.

The sections of the Merchant Marine responsible for sea fisheries come under the Directorate of Economic Services. Almost the entire catch (about 2,000 tons a year) is consumed locally.

### MINING

The Directorate of Mines and Geology, which has jurisdiction over mining and trade in minerals, comprises a general section, a mines section, a geology section and a laboratory for mineral analysis and industrial assays.

The mining regulations are embodied in the Decree of 20 December 1938. The right to quarry, except where nitrates, phosphates and allied salts are concerned, is determined by the ownership of the land. In the case of minerals not quarried, a permit in the name of the applicant previously issued by the High Commissioner is required for prospecting and working. The holder of a permit may apply for prospecting and working licences.

The prospecting and working of minerals are subject to a number of dues and charges. Fixed fees are charged for the issue, renewal and transfer of prospecting and working licences and for the granting of concessions. Mining royalties are payable annually on concessions and range from 1.50 to 4 francs CFA per hectare. In addition, the minerals extracted are subject to a 2 per cent ad valorem duty at the place of working. Indigenous inhabitants are entitled to work iron deposits under local customs without payment of fees or royalties.

The two minerals, graphite and mica, which are worked commercially account for more than 90 per cent of mining production and of mineral exports by value.

Principal minerals

	1948	1952	1953	1954
Gold (kg)	65.2	55.5	51.0	42.4
Mica (tons)	507.4	1,068.9	816.2	524.1
Graphite (tons)	7,684.0	18,478.0	13,469.0	12,051.3
Precious stones:				
jewellery (kg)	...	124.0	180.0	117.6
for bearings (kg)	...	392.0	1,493.0	1,006.2
Industrial beryls (tons)	9.1	397.0	468.3	587.5
Industrial garnets (tons)	133.0	472.0	10.8	10.2
Piezo-electric quartz (tons)	0.8	11.8	11.0	12.4
Quartz for decorative purposes and for smelting (tons)	...	18.9	18.4	14.9
Kaolin (tons)	40.6	71.0	50.5	47.0

POWER

The installed capacity of all electric power-stations amounts at present to 48,300 KVA. Of this, 25,400 KVA is accounted for by stations supplying power for public consumption, the production of which rose from 47.1 million kwh in 1953 to 50.6 million kwh in 1954, including 41.2 million kwh produced by hydro-electric stations.

The Société d'énergie de Madagascar, a semi-public corporation, was established in 1952 to develop the power resources of the Territory. Since 1953, it has been building dams on the Vasahino-Sud and harnessing the hydro-electric potentialities of the Mandraka Falls to supply the Antananarivo district.

INDUSTRY

Industry and handicrafts are carried on by private enterprises, which are organized in chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture and in associations of employers and workers. In co-operation with these bodies, the Directorate of Economic Services helps in solving problems of production, marketing and exporting. Supervision over the technical aspects of certain types of industrial production, such as electric power, is exercised by the Directorate of Public Works. Industrialization plans requiring FIDES aid come under the jurisdiction of the Planning Directorate.

Manufacturing generally takes the form of handicrafts or is restricted to foodstuffs industries processing local products - rice mills, sugar mills, distilleries, oil works and potato-starch works. The rice mills are flourishing, owing to the development of rice cultivation and the modernization of equipment (120,000 tons of paddy treated annually).

The production of sugar increased from 19,000 tons in 1953 to 30,000 tons in 1954 as a result of the opening at the end of 1953 of a new sugar mill with a capacity of 50,000 tons and of a refinery with a capacity of 20,000 tons. The output of the rum distilleries (expressed in hectolitres of pure alcohol) increased from 13,000 hectolitres in 1953 to 17,000 in 1954. The production of essence of cloves averages 700 tons a year and the production of tapioca 8,000 tons. With the completion of a 200-loom textile mill capable of producing 1,000 tons of cotton goods a year, the production of cotton fabrics rose from 954,000 metres in 1953 to more than 4 million metres in 1954.

A cement works is being re-equipped with a view to an annual production of 50,000 tons.

## TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Roads

The road network includes 26,000 kilometres usable throughout the year (800 kilometres having been tarred in 1954, as against 635 in 1953) and 3,261 kilometres usable in the dry season.

### Railways

The railway network consists of 860 kilometres in operation, and its dieselization was completed in 1954. The goods traffic amounts to 560,000 tons a year, representing 125 million ton-kilometres.

### Air transport

Ninety aerodromes are open to commercial and private air traffic.

Air traffic, on both domestic and foreign routes, is growing considerably. From 1948 to 1953 the number of passengers increased from 33,381 to 56,985, and goods traffic (freight and mail) from 1,686 tons to 5,934 tons.



### Inland waterways

Work was continued on the Pangalanes Canal along the east coast of Madagascar so as to permit the passage of 300-ton barges and allow Tamatave to be used as a principal maritime port serving the canal and the entire east coast.

### Sea-borne shipping

Principal attention has been given to the improvement of port facilities at Tamatave so as to provide secure harbourage and make possible a capacity of 500,000 tons a year. The total traffic at all the ports in 1954 was 639,000 tons. 463,400 tons landed and 175,400 tons shipped.

### Communications

The Postal and Telecommunication Service organizes and controls the operation of 205 post offices and agencies (106 main offices, 59 sub-offices and 40 postal agencies), 169 telegraph offices, 115 telephone exchanges (including one automatic exchange) serving 4,832 lines and 3,782 extensions, and 51 radio-telegraph stations (7 main stations, 8 primary stations, 25 secondary stations and 11 auxiliary stations).

## PUBLIC FINANCE

Since 1951 the budgetary system has included the general budget; five provincial budgets (to which is assigned the revenue from the income tax and the 2 per cent ad valorem tax on business transactions, otherwise known as the "economic development" tax); twenty communal budgets (involving a total of 1,807 million francs CFA in 1954 and supplied through the refund of one-tenth of the revenue from consumption taxes and import duties); eleven budgets of the chambers of commerce and the budget of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce (involving revenue of 360 million francs CFA and expenditure of 346 million francs CFA in 1954); the budgets of the social welfare offices (50.6 million francs CFA in 1954); and the budget of the Railway Administration (2,327 million francs CFA in 1954).

Budget revenue and expenditure<sup>a/</sup>  
(in millions of francs CFA)

	1952	1953	1954 <sup>b/</sup>
Ordinary revenue	11,903.0	13,658.1	16,386.1
Direct taxes	4,253.1	5,403.2	5,653.1
Import duties	1,907.4	1,977.0	2,125.0
Export duties	886.0	868.6	1,150.0
Consumption taxes	918.7	2,052.4	2,202.0
Ordinary expenditure	11,744.7	12,352.1	16,385.6
Economic services	927.2	1,003.1 c/	1,203.1
Public works	729.6	398.6 c/	1,653.6
Social services			
education	(		1,594.5
Public health	(		1,763.0
labour	(	2,590.2 c/	27.3
social welfare	(		282.0
Postal and telecommunication services	711.1	739.5 c/	818.1
Extraordinary expenditure	5,088.8	3,607.3	3,755.0

a/ The general budget and provincial budgets.

b/ Estimates. The gross total for ordinary revenue under the general budget and provincial budgets includes, under the general budget, 1,739 million francs CFA of revenue refunded to the provinces, and, under the provincial budgets, 15 million francs representing suspense items. The net total is therefore 14,632 million francs.

c/ Estimates.

At the close of the 1953 financial year on 31 May 1954, i.e. after seventeen months of operation, assets in the reserve funds amounted in the case of the general budget to 3,301 million francs CFA and in the case of the provincial budgets to 362 million francs CFA, exclusive of surpluses carried over from 1953.

Taxation system

The principal direct taxes are the regular personal tax, the rate of which varies from province to province; the schedular tax levied, at the rate of 15 per cent, on all profits (16 per cent in the case of that portion of profits in excess of 2 million francs); and the general income tax levied according to

the same principles as apply in metropolitan France (a graduated tax ranging from an initial rate of 1-1/2 per cent up to 25 per cent on income in excess of 6 million francs). Among the various other taxes and charges are licence fees, property taxes, land taxes, the 2 per cent economic development tax, etc.

#### Financial assistance from the metropolitan country

The direct contribution from the metropolitan budgets towards Madagascar's civil expenditures in 1954 was 2,793 million francs CFA, including about 2,000 million francs under the equipment plan. In addition, loans provided by the Caisse centrale de la France d'Outre-Mer amounted in 1954 to 2,110 million francs for the general budget (participation by the Territory in the equipment plan), 246 million francs for the communal budgets, and 65.9 million francs for the budgets of the chambers of commerce and in the form of loans to semi-public corporation concerned with economic development and the improvement of housing.

As at 31 December 1954, the funds made available under the equipment plan since its inception in 1947 amounted to 20,080 million francs in commitment credits and 17,924 million francs in disbursement credits, of which 10,279 million francs was provided by the metropolitan country.

#### BANKING AND CREDIT

Four banks have joined a "bankers' agreement" to exercise some measure of control over the distribution of credit. The volume of credit extended to commerce, industry and agriculture is now about 15,000 million francs CFA a year.

Credit is also provided by the Caisse centrale de crédit agricole (assistance to co-operatives, short-term loans - 636 million francs in 1954); the Centrale d'équipement et de modernisation du paysannet (medium- and short-term loans to rural organizations - 61 million francs in 1954); the Crédit de Madagascar (assistance to economically useful enterprises - 211 million francs in 1954); the Société immobilière de Madagascar (assistance to the building industry - 93 million francs in credit and 115 million francs for direct construction in 1954); and the Caisse centrale de la France d'Outre-Mer (advances to public and private agencies).

The operations of the Caisse d'épargne (savings bank) in 1954 amounted to more than 248 million francs CFA in deposits and 227 million francs CFA in withdrawals. The rate of interest on deposits is 3 per cent.

# INTERNATIONAL TRADE

## (Special trade)

	Amount				Value			
	1949	1952	1953	1954	1949	1952	1953	1954
	(tons)				(in millions of francs CFA)			
Imports	230,746	411,043	384,525	432,276	11,789	23,379.1	22,634.9	24,039.9
Exports	137,663	190,181	191,519	169,372	7,369	16,377.7	14,837.4	16,026.1

## Principal imports

	Amount			Value		
	(in thousands of tons)			(in millions of francs CFA)		
	1952	1953	1954	1952	1953	1954
Textile materials	5.5	8.3	10.3	3,190.8	3,727.5	4,375.4
Textile goods	1.9	3.6	3.1	815.3	1,205.9	976.4
Footwear (in thousands of pairs)	523.0	706.0	693.0	270.7	341.0	315.6
Transport equipment	9.5	9.4	13.2	2,366.9	2,358.2	2,624.0
Food products	35.1	44.4	53.2	1,788.8	2,288.7	2,521.3
Mineral products	243.3	213.0	228.0	2,988.9	2,328.6	1,810.4
Machinery and equipment	9.6	5.5	5.1	2,678.5	1,672.8	1,685.1
Chemical products	14.8	15.1	18.0	1,473.6	1,404.8	1,429.4
Metals	32.6	31.8	38.3	1,267.6	1,047.3	1,241.1
Metal products	18.3	10.9	12.6	1,741.6	1,276.5	1,401.1

## Principal exports

Coffee	41.8	36.2	41.5	7,255.3	6,417.9	7,670.6
Vanilla	0.4	0.4	0.2	353.1	578.9	728.4
Cloves	2.6	1.0	5.7	759.8	324.9	1,003.1
Rice	40.6	45.0	14.9	1,234.4	1,553.8	564.5
Tobacco, unmanufactured	3.4	4.1	4.7	961.2	1,124.4	1,158.2
Graphite	17.5	13.6	12.7	538.5	398.3	345.8
Mica	0.7	0.6	0.5	181.8	173.4	130.3
Essential oils	0.7	0.6	1.0	493.7	342.7	568.9
Hides and skins	4.1	3.8	3.0	458.6	443.8	311.7
Sisal	6.4	4.5	9.6	437.2	165.3	363.3
Maize	9.5	9.4	5.4	164.0	120.2	68.4
Manioc (whole and flour)	12.3	14.8	8.5	219.6	226.0	113.4
Tapioca	4.5	4.9	6.0	205.9	190.1	216.2

Direction of trade  
(in percentages of the total value)

	1949	1952	1953	1954
Origin of imports				
France	74.5	71.1	74.5	75.3
French Union (other countries)	7.6	4.4	5.0	6.7
Total franc area	82.1	75.5	79.5	82.0
Sterling area	6.9	9.4	7.7	5.7
Dollar area	7.2	5.0	3.7	3.5
Other areas	3.8	10.1	9.1	8.8
Destination of exports				
France	80.8	68.7	70.9	69.5
French Union (other countries)	11.0	15.2	6.9	11.5
Total franc area	91.8	83.9	87.8	81.0
Sterling area	3.7	8.3	3.8	2.6
Dollar area	3.3	5.0	6.1	10.9
Other areas	1.2	2.8	2.3	5.5

Customs régime

Customs duties on goods entering the Territory were suspended by an Order of 12 March 1953. Import duties, however, are still in force. These are ordinarily levied at the rate of 11 per cent ad valorem but are reduced to 9 per cent in the case of goods regarded as economically beneficial. All exports, irrespective of their destination, are subject to export duty at the rate, in most cases, of 5 per cent. The rate for coffee, vanilla and hides, however, is 10 per cent and for leaf tobacco 11 per cent, but for meat and meat preserves it is only 0.5 per cent, owing to the present difficulties of that industry. Exports are at present subject to an additional levy of 2 per cent ad valorem, known as the "economic development" tax.

S O C I A L   C O N D I T I O N S

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The labour policy is governed by the Labour Code, which was promulgated in the Territory on 30 December 1952.

The Inspectorate of Labour and Social Legislation comprises an Inspectorate-General at Antananarivo and one provincial inspectorate in the capital of each province, with the exception of Majunga province, which has two inspectorates.

The Inspectorate-General is assisted by two central advisory bodies: the Labour Advisory Commission (Commission consultative du travail) and the Technical Advisory Committee (Comité technique consultatif). The six regional inspectorates are assisted by twelve mixed advisory commissions.

The problem of unemployment does not arise outside the capital, where the number of unemployed is estimated at about 1,200 though it is difficult to arrive at an accurate figure owing to the return of workers to the country pending engagement. This unemployment is due to the increase in the population of the capital and to a slowing-down of economic activity. Crops of the more valuable kind are produced on the island's warm and humid slopes (coffee, vanilla, cloves, pepper, sugar-cane, plants used in perfumery). In connexion with these crops, extra labour in addition to the permanent workers, is required for periods varying from forty to a hundred days (pollination of vanilla; cutting of sugar-cane; harvesting of coffee, vanilla etc.). These seasonal workers are predominantly women, most of whom return to their villages at night. Their number is estimated at about 50,000. In the west and south, seasonal labour is used for about six months in connexion with the cultivation of tobacco, peas, beans and sisal (tobacco - 10,000 seasonal workers; other crops - 15,000).

Number of wage-earners

	1954
Public sector	
Railways, harbours and roadsteads	5,602
Other public services	49,741 <u>a/</u>
Private sector	
Agriculture and livestock	85,620
Forestry	7,610
Mining	12,920
Industry	25,312
Building and public works	11,138
Transport	7,677
Commerce and banking	16,900
Liberal professions	343
Domestic occupations	<u>36,997</u>
Total	259,860

a/ 17,553 permanent civil servants, 12,743 persons working under contract or in an auxiliary capacity, and 19,445 labourers.

### Conditions of employment

There is no difference in wages as between men and women.

The guaranteed inter-occupational minimum wage is fixed at an hourly rate and varies according to whether the workers are non-agricultural (subject to a forty-hour week) or agricultural (subject to a work year of 2,400 hours) and according to area (ranging from 9.50 francs CFA at Mananjary to 21 francs CFA at Antananarivo). The Territory is divided into ten wage districts.

The daily wage of the non-agricultural labourer varies from 66 francs CFA at certain places in the bush to 146 francs at Diego Suarez. At the large centres, the minimum wages are actually exceeded, and the average wages received range from:

- 70 to 175 francs CFA a day for labourers;
- 150 to 250 francs CFA a day for specialized workers;
- 190 to 550 francs CFA a day for skilled workers;
- 14,000 to 20,000 francs per month for foremen.

### Workers' and employers' organizations

At the present time there are fifty-eight employers' organizations and 123 trade unions. The trade unions, exclusive of one organization which exercised its legal right to withhold information concerning its membership, have more than 40,886 members.

### Labour disputes

	1952	1953	1954
Collective disputes	15	21	18
Workers affected	1,015	2,661	2,617
Working days lost	4,117	32,089	6,954

Sixteen of the eighteen disputes in 1954 were settled amicably by the labour inspectors, the other two being settled by the advisory commissions acting as conciliators.

In 1954 there were 2,457 individual disputes as against 1,417 in 1953. By 31 December 1954, 1,942 disputes had been settled amicably by the Inspectorate of Labour, 430 had been referred to the labour courts and 85 were in process of being settled.

### Vocational training

Pending the forthcoming establishment of centres, financed by FIDES, for accelerated vocational training, numerous apprenticeship centres are being conducted under the direction of the Inspectorate of Labour. The training consists for the most part of systematic courses of apprenticeship in private undertakings or at apprenticeship centres organized by the public services of the industrial type (Materials and Buildings Service, Armed forces, Diego-Suarez Dockyard, Railway Administration, etc.). The technical training, which is given in conjunction with general educational courses, lasts for three years. Candidates for this training must be between the ages of fourteen and eighteen years and are selected by competitive examination. Apprenticeship is attested by a certificate given upon completion of the training.

Vocational training is also given in vocational schools and in this case is attested by a certificate of occupational proficiency (certificat d'aptitude professionnelle).

### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Directorate of Economic Services is trying to develop co-operatives but is hampered by the individualism of the Malagasy farmers. To make up for the shortage of trained personnel, agricultural experts have been placed in charge of some co-operatives.

There are fifty-two production, processing and sales co-operatives. Six of these, dealing in coffee and cloves, rice, ground-nuts and mohair wool, are operating effectively and have 32,252 members. Their turnover in 1954 was more than 32 million francs CFA, not including stocks of paddy as yet unmarketed.

### STANDARD OF LIVING

In 1954, the index of retail prices of items for family consumption, which is based on the standard budget of a European family of four persons at Antananarivo, was broadened in scope through the inclusion of a greater number of goods and services (excluding rent) and was computed as an annual average rather than as a monthly index.



Index of retail prices

(1949 = 100)

(annual average)

	<u>General index</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Heat and light</u>	<u>Servants</u>	<u>Upkeep, clothing</u>	<u>Miscellaneous expenses</u>
1952	152.6	143.8	181.3	180.0	130.8	177.0
1953	166.4	155.6	187.8	217.2	138.3	190.0
1954	168.4	156.6	186.7	242.5	131.4	195.2

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

Problems of housing and town and rural planning come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Architecture, Housing and Town Planning and are dealt with by that Department in the Antananarivo and Tamatave areas and by the provincial public works services in the rest of the Territory.

In the matter of housing, two bodies, the Madagascar Office for Low-Cost Housing (Office des habitations économiques de Madagascar) and the Joint Building Society (Société mixte immobilière) are providing for the construction of low-rent housing for indigenous workers. The aim of town planning is to bring about the gradual decongestion of over-populated districts in large urban centres. Additional collective dwellings representing about one hundred dwelling units were put into use in 1954, as were 150 detached dwellings for indigenous civil servants. Rural planning is conducted in accordance with the principle of the "indigenous urban centre", each centre being provided with the necessary agricultural or industrial buildings.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Social protection takes the form of free medical assistance supplemented by the services of visiting nurses, aid to the needy through the social welfare offices, compensation for industrial accidents and occupational diseases, assistance to persons incapacitated owing to their occupation, old-age benefits (including two homes for the aged), and various forms of assistance to mothers and expectant mothers.

Since 1952, all matters relating to social protection have been under the jurisdiction of the Social Affairs Service, which also co-ordinates private social welfare activities.

There are seventeen social welfare offices responsible for giving occasional help to the various private charitable organizations and local residents and for supervising the work of the social welfare agencies established by the Administration.

All social welfare measures are discussed by the local assemblies, in which members representing the indigenous inhabitants are in the majority.

#### Community development

Madagascar's traditional village organization, the Fòkon òlona, has made it possible for the economic and the social development of the Territory to proceed at the same pace. The Administration's first efforts were directed towards reviving this social unit, wherever its traditions were weakening, by stressing the social and economic bonds between the members of the various indigenous communities (collective responsibility, jointly accepted discipline within the community, care of the aged and infirm, protection of public works, etc.). The Fòkon òlona have been given a legal status; they have become rural indigenous communities (collectivités autochtones rurales) (CAR) which since 1950 have been recognized as bodies corporate each with a budget of its own prepared by the chairman of the (indigenous) community council, voted by the community council (Conseil de collectivité) and approved by the district chief. These communities may obtain short- and medium-term loans, regulate rights of use and pasturage, undertake public works (schools, dispensaries), distribute community land, appoint the members of the social committees, etc. At the present time, there are about 300 of these rural indigenous communities.

At a subsequent stage, the Administration set about to modernize rural life by means of "modernization sectors". This was necessary because the inadequacy of the co-operative movement and the absence of providence societies made it impossible to adopt any of the solutions applied elsewhere. It was decided to base the modernization programme on the rural indigenous communities.

Two bodies have been set up. The first is the High Council for Peasant Agriculture (Conseil supérieur du paysannat), which draws up and supervises

the various programmes, which function on the basis of an equipment centre. The High Council consists of ten members of the Representative Assembly, ten members of the provincial assemblies, five representatives of the communities, the Chairman of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, the heads of the nine government services concerned and the chief administrative officers of the five provinces. The other body is the Agricultural Equipment and Modernization Centre, (Centrale d'équipement agricole et de modernisation du paysannat). This is a body corporate, and its function is to lend, sell, rent or lease to the communities all types of technical equipment and services suitable for modernizing agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry. In this way, modernized indigenous rural communities (collectivités rurales autochtones modernisées) (CRAM) have been gradually established. These are communities which have entered into an agreement with the Equipment Centre under which they obtain the technical equipment and services necessary for modernization.

At the end of 1954 there were twenty such modernized indigenous rural communities engaged in one or more of the following activities: the production and marketing of foodstuffs (rice, ground-nuts, sugar-cane, apples), stock-farming, soil conservation and re-afforestation. Some of the communities have started bringing extensive outlying areas under cultivation.

#### Prevention of crime and treatment of offenders

There are four types of penal institutions, and these have separate accommodation for women (who may keep with them their children under four years of age). Persons under pre-trial detention are segregated from convicts and work only if they wish to do so. Convicts are required to work either inside or outside of the prison, and they accumulate earnings which are paid to them on their release. A prison inspection commission is attached to each court and makes periodic inspections to ensure that the prison system is working properly. All premises are frequently disinfected and undergo frequent inspection by the medical authorities.

Crime statistics

	(a)	1953 (b)	(c)	(a)	1954 (b)	(c)
Serious offences						
Against the person	259	1,042	894	155	376	313
Against the public welfare	...	...	...	7	12	11
Against property	48	157	112	64	178	139
Other	<u>53</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	360	1,340	1,119	226	566	463
Less serious offences	7,817	12,111	10,209	10,498	14,222	12,063
Petty offences	1,095	1,323	1,259	1,322	1,427	1,332

- (a) Number of cases actually tries.
- (b) Number of persons detained pending trial.
- (c) Number of persons convicted.

Sentences

	1954		
	Serious offences	Less serious offences	Petty offences
Death	7	0	0
Deprivation of liberty	296	9,466	375
Fine	0	2,397	953

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Service consists of a central directorate at Antananarivo and a main office in the capital of each province. Each province has at least one joint provincial hospital (two in Majunga) or a general hospital (Antananarivo). The provinces are divided into medical districts (thirty-one for the entire Territory), and each medical district, which is under the direction of a medical inspector who is a registered physician, includes at least one district hospital (fifty-nine at present).

The central institutions at Antananarivo are: the School of Medicine and Pharmacy; the central hospitals - the colonial hospital (paying institution), the principal hospital of the Public Health Service (free-of-charge) and the children's hospital (free-of-charge); - the Institute of Social Hygiene

(comprising the anti-malaria, anti-tuberculosis, anti-leprosy and anti-venereal services, the school medical service and the visiting nurses school); and the Pasteur Institute, which includes a central anti-plague service and a central pharmacy.

The above agencies constitute the permanent health service. In addition, there are mobile units at the district level which carry out epidemiological research, provide clinic services and so on. There are also nine mobile health and prophylaxis units available at the provincial level. Each of these includes two lorries, one jeep with trailer, one X-ray machine with generating set and two laboratory kits with microscopes.

The health policy is concerned mainly with the development of prophylactic medicine so that the health condition of the people as a whole may be generally improved. In this connexion, maternal and child welfare and the school health programmes play an important part.

#### Expenditure

	1953	1954
	(in millions of francs CFA)	
General budget and provincial budgets	1,515.5	1,569.9
Assistance from the Metropolitan Government (FIDES)	<u>176.5</u>	<u>199.5</u>
	1,692.0	1,769.4

#### Medical and health staff

	1948		1952		1953		1954	
	Govt.	Private <sup>a/</sup>	Govt.	Private <sup>a/</sup>	Govt.	Private <sup>a/</sup>	Govt.	Private <sup>a/</sup>
Physicians								
registered	61	...	92	36	98	32	98	44
locally trained	295	...	315	109	290	101	292	129
Dentists								
registered	1	...	...	...	3	18	2	23
locally trained	21	...	...	...	19	20	19	20
Nurses (male and female)								
registered	62	...	50	...	87	...	90	...
locally trained	974	...	1,172	...	1,154	...	1,152	...

Medical and health staff (continued)

	1948		1952		1953		1954	
	Govt.	Private <sup>a/</sup>	Govt.	Private <sup>a/</sup>	Govt.	Private <sup>a/</sup>	Govt.	Private <sup>a/</sup>
Mid-wives								
registered	4	...	9	10	12	10	13	9
locally								
trained	336	...	337	95	345	102	356	109
Public-health								
assistants	27	-	...	-	25	-	25	-
Other technical								
staff	81	-	...	-	100	-	114	-
Pharmacists								
registered	8	...	11	26	14	29	14	29
locally								
trained	-	-	7	-	9	-	8	-

<sup>a/</sup> Missions, business undertakings and "private".

Institutions

(public and private)

	1948	1952	1953	1954
General hospitals with maternity services	2	3	3	3
Joint hospitals with maternity services	4	5	5	5
Children's hospital	1	1	1	1
District hospitals with maternity services	52	57	59	61
Clinics with maternity services	229	164	161	194
Other clinics		34	35	92
Anti-venereal centres	11	11	11	11
Leper hospitals and leper colonies	20	24	24	23
Psychiatric centres	...	1	1	1
Quarantine stations (air, sea and land)	...	44	53	53
Lying-in stations	256	66	68	57
Mobile units	...	9	9	9

The principal causes of death are, in order of importance, respiratory ailments and diseases of the digestive tract. Malaria appears only in third place, owing to the anti-malaria campaign that has been conducted by a special service for four years. At present only hypo- and meso-endemic regions are still to be found. Campaigns for the eradication of malaria by means of residual insecticides are conducted by mobile health units and DDT teams. In addition, chemical prophylactic treatment against malaria is given to children of school

and pre-school age (up to about sixteen years of age). There are now 4,924 centres for the free distribution of nivaquine in operation throughout the Territory.

Incidence of principal diseases

Number of out-patients and hospital patients  
for each disease

	1950	1952	1953	1954
Diseases of the respiratory system	920,014	1,372,018	1,018,528	912,453
Diseases of the digestive tract	587,480	594,085	659,002	696,265
Malaria	818,477	592,771	592,110	514,387
Syphilis (all forms)	374,493	367,438	239,520	272,029
Helminthiasis	65,380	87,132	124,739	113,253
Schistosomiasis	1,565	2,417	2,294	3,993

Prophylactic treatment against serious endemic diseases other than malaria is also given.

Plague: In 1954 a total of 536,146 vaccinations were administered under an anti-plague campaign (Girard and Robic). Only twenty-three cases were discovered for the entire Island.

Leprosy: Known lepers are treated at home by means of Disulone and are no longer segregated once they have passed the contagious stage. The number of cases treated rose from 5,036 in 1953 to over 28,000 in 1954, including 1,147 hospital cases and nineteen deaths.

Tuberculosis: An anti-tuberculosis campaign has been instituted through the anti-tuberculosis dispensary and the mobile health-units. In 1954, 3,946 cases were treated, including 1,932 patients committed to hospital, of whom 209 died.

Among other health measures of importance were the organization of municipal health offices in the urban centres, the introduction of food inspection and, in particular, the provision of advice on the care and feeding of nursing infants given to mothers by all health centres and by the entire visiting staff of the Public Health Service with a view to reducing infant mortality.

### Training of medical staff

The School of Medicine and Pharmacy at Antananarivo selects students by competitive examination from among male and female applicants holding at least a secondary-school certificate and admits without examination applicants holding both parts of the baccalauréat (certificate of secondary education). The course lasts five years (four years for pharmacists) and includes lectures, practical work and a period of internship in hospital. End-of-the-year examinations are given annually, and the examination given at the conclusion of the course of studies serves as a final examination for the diploma of physician or pharmacist in the Medical Service.

The School of Midwifery admits for training as midwives students between seventeen and twenty-one years of age holding a secondary-school certificate who sign an undertaking to complete the School's course of studies and work for the Medical Service for five years. The three-year course of studies is concluded by an examination for the diploma.

Under the same conditions as apply to midwives, the school at Antananarivo trains visiting nurses.

Specialized male and female nurses and anti-malaria health assistants are trained at the Medical Service's principal hospital at Antananarivo by means of a course of specialized study lasting one year. Male and female nurses are trained through internships in the Island's various hospitals.

### Vital statistics<sup>a/</sup>

	1948	1952	1953	1954
Births	96,275	146,226	150,621	151,480
Total deaths	74,629	62,916	57,654	56,829
Excess of births over deaths	21,646	83,310	92,967	94,651
Death rate per 1,000 inhabitants	18.55	13.17	...	12.41
Deaths under one year	13,584	12,563	...	11,813
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births (up to one year)	141.1	85.91	...	77.98

a/ Compiled by the Public Health Service from data supplied by the Administration. Declarations of birth or death are mandatory, and, in addition, the Public Health Service verifies all deaths, even at health stations staffed only by one nurse, in order to detect possible focal points of contagious disease at the outset. Owing to this dual system of control, it may be assumed that all deaths have been recorded.



## EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Education is compulsory and free and is given to children from six to fourteen years of age in all public institutions of the local or metropolitan type. In the supplementary courses on administration and the schools of administration all students, both boarders and day students, hold scholarships. Training, beyond the primary-school level, for students proposing to enter the ranks of the indigenous civil servants has always been the financial responsibility of the Territory.

Compulsory school attendance, instituted in 1951, is enforced wherever school accommodations will permit.

The administrative organization of the educational system consists of a Directorate at Antananarivo (which includes the inspectorates of primary and vocational education and the General Bureau for Sports) and of a department of education in each province. The Directorate and the provincial departments are responsible for the technical supervision of private schools.

The inhabitants participate in the formulation and application of educational policy through their representatives in the provincial assemblies and in the Representative Assembly. In addition, there are an educational advisory board and an advisory board for technical and vocational training, which include representatives of the people.

The programme of educational reform that has been in progress since 1952 is designed to bring Malagasy education at all stages up to the level of metropolitan-type education. The reform is concerned principally with primary education so that by the end of the primary school studies Malagasy children, like European children, will have become qualified for the primary-school certificate (certificat d'études primaires) or for the examination for admission to secondary school.

Private education is largely under the control of religious missions which endeavour to organize the curricula in accordance with public-school standards. Prior authorization is required before any private institution may be opened. The administrative aspects and type and quality of the free education in these schools are supervised by the school authorities, and health conditions by the medical authorities.

	<u>Expenditure</u> <sup>a/</sup>					
	1949	1952	1953		1954	
	(b)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(c)	(d)
			(in millions of francs CFA)			
Administration	29.1	53.2	62.9	-	67.7	-
Primary education	311.3	459.3	504.3	34.8	708.6	54.6
Secondary and teacher- training education	133.0	269.7	284.5	116.9	350.2	27.4
Vocational education	18.8	43.7	126.0	34.5	216.5	32.9
Hygiene, youth and sports	...	...	...	-	42.1	-
Higher education	1.5	5.5	10.0	-	46.7	-
Specialized training <sup>e/</sup>	7.7	13.7	15.7	-	...	-
Subsidy to private schools <sup>f/</sup>	33.7	62.1	68.2	-	110.3	-
Miscellaneous	15.1	65.5	34.7	-	54.7	12.5
Total	550.2	972.7	1,106.3	186.2	1,596.8	127.4

<sup>a/</sup> General budget and provincial budgets.

<sup>b/</sup> Ordinary and extraordinary expenditure.

<sup>c/</sup> Ordinary expenditure.

<sup>d/</sup> Extraordinary expenditure.

<sup>e/</sup> Physicians, midwives, visiting nurses (the other schools for specialized study - Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry - are not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education).

Financial assistance from the metropolitan country to the Department of Education out of FIDES funds (which are allocated for the financial year 1 July - 30 June) totalled 124.3 million francs CFA for the financial year 1951-52; 211.1 million francs CFA for the financial year 1952-53 and 207.1 million francs CFA for the financial year 1953-54. These funds are used principally for the construction of schools.

#### EUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Primary education is given in two types of schools which differ according to the language of instruction. Metropolitan-type schools are conducted in the same way as in the metropolitan country and admit all children regardless of race who demonstrate that they possess an elementary knowledge of French. Optional instruction in the Malagasy language is given. Local-type or

"elementary primary" schools follow syllabi similar to those of the metropolitan-type schools, but instruction is given in the Malagasy language. Children are admitted to both types of schools from the age of six and continue to attend until the age of fourteen (or even fifteen upon special authorization). Primary education in the local-type schools includes three courses (preparatory, elementary and intermediate), each of two years' duration. Instruction in the French language is given from the first year of the preparatory course. The transition to reading in French is made during the second year, and the local language is gradually abandoned as the child proceeds through the primary cycle of studies. The study of the mother tongue continues, however, to be one of the subjects of the curriculum.

In both types of schools, which are almost always co-educational, the children sit for the same examinations, viz. the examination for the elementary primary certificate (certificat d'études primaires élémentaires) and the examination for admission to secondary school.

Secondary education is given in State-supported (lycées) and other secondary schools at Antananarivo and in the supplementary courses. The secondary schools prepare for both parts of the baccalauréat (certificate of secondary education). The supplementary courses consist of instruction in the subjects taught on the modern side of the first part of the lycée course of studies. All these institutions adhere in every respect to the curricula of the corresponding institutions in the metropolitan country. They are open to all children without distinction as to origin, status or race. Instruction is given entirely in French, but the Malagasy language is taught on the same footing as modern European languages and may be selected to satisfy one of the baccalauréat requirements for a modern language.

Secondary education equivalent to the first part of the lycée course and adapted to local conditions is also given in the fifteen supplementary courses on administration and in the four schools of administration (including one for girls). The special title of these institutions is due to the fact that thus far they have been recruiting scholarship students by competitive examination for training as civil servants. As from 1 October 1955, these institutions will merely provide a general education.

As regards the indigenous teaching staff, vocational instructors are trained in the industrial school at Antananarivo and teachers in the teacher-training sections of the schools of administration. The programme of educational reform provides for the progressive transformation of these teacher-training sections into teacher-training schools. In addition, a metropolitan-type teacher-training section has been opened at the Antananarivo lycée and prepares for the baccalauréat and the teaching diploma. At present, a number of Malagasy teachers are sent each year for a period of study at teacher-training schools in the metropolitan country.

Technical and vocational education is of three types: the school workshops at the district level providing in the main practical training; the provincial apprenticeship centres; and the technical school at Antananarivo which trains specialized workers, such as general mechanics, motor mechanics, electricians, industrial draughtsmen and master craftsmen, and prepares for the industrial arts certificate (brevet d'enseignement industriel). Divisions of specialized studies are being gradually opened in various centres.

Vocational education for girls is provided in three domestic-science schools and in a girls' apprenticeship centre. A business education section is in operation in the secondary school at Antananarivo, and this together with the vocational training courses organized by the Antananarivo Chamber of Commerce, will, as from the 1955/56 school-year constitute the nucleus of a co-educational school or business.

Courses of higher education are provided in Madagascar in law, science and letters. Two special courses organized in October 1954 prepare students for the National Institute of Agronomy and the National School of Overseas France, respectively.

#### Educational statistics

Children of school age constitute about 15 per cent of the total population, viz. 645,000 in 1953 and 674,426 in 1954. School enrolment was 272,378, or 42 per cent of the school-age population, in 1953, and 293,573, or 43.5 per cent, in 1954.

	<u>Schools</u> <sup>a/</sup>					
	1952		1953		1954	
	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>
Primary schools	1,205	665	1,235	626	1,282	744
Secondary <u>b/</u> and teacher-training schools	29	119	30	117	30	105
Vocational schools	128	7	128	8	132	16
Higher education	4	-	4	-	6	-

	<u>Teachers</u> <sup>a/</sup>					
	1952		1953		1954	
	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>
Primary schools	2,066	1,188	2,211	2,022	2,339	2,161
Secondary and teacher-training schools	71	32	71	35	136	27
Vocational schools <sup>c/</sup>	582	106	647	70	661	114
Higher education	4 <sup>d/</sup>	-	5 <sup>d/</sup>	-	29	-
Physical education	15	...	16	...	25	...

a/ As at 31 December.

b/ Includes public and private institutions preparing for the baccalauréat and local-type secondary institutions in which the curriculum does not go beyond the fourth form of the regular secondary school.

c/ Including sewing teachers who numbered 345 in 1952, 368 in 1953 and 363 in 1954.

d/ Exclusive of lecturers included under secondary and teacher-training schools.

Pupils<sup>a/</sup>

	1952		1953		1954	
	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private</u>
Primary schools						
Boys	108,245	...	106,125	36,495	113,137	50,581
Girls	71,163	...	65,208	28,213 <sup>b/</sup>	68,411	42,697 <sup>b/</sup>
Total	179,408	75,397	171,333	64,708 <sup>b/</sup>	181,548	93,278 <sup>b/</sup>
Secondary and teacher-training schools						
Boys	2,323	5,551	2,718	15,485	2,624	5,532
Girls	788	2,723	1,119	11,118 <sup>b/</sup>	1,191	2,948 <sup>b/</sup>
Total	3,111	8,274	3,837	26,603 <sup>b/</sup>	3,815	8,480 <sup>b/</sup>
Vocational schools						
Boys	5,345	192	4,607	306	4,750	386
Girls	535	258	501	124	664	227
Total	5,880	450	5,108	430	5,414	613
Higher education						
Boys	325	-	292	-	354	-
Girls	53	-	47	-	71	-
Total	378	-	339	-	425	-

a/ As at 31 December.

b/ The level of the classes in the private schools varies considerably and is difficult to ascertain. For 1953, all pupils in private institutions preparing for secondary-school examinations are shown as secondary-school pupils. For 1954 the figure for secondary-school pupils in private schools includes only those from the first form of secondary school and up, while pupils in the lower forms are listed as primary-school pupils. This explains the discrepancies in private school enrolments as between 1953 and 1954.

#### ADULT EDUCATION AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Education for persons over school age is provided through evening courses for adults in urban centres and rural areas.

The General Bureau for Sports and Youth, which is under the jurisdiction of the Director of Education, organizes, develops and supervises school sports and the activities of holiday camps. It assists and guides youth movements. It is represented in each province by a provincial commissioner. The Office of School

and University Sports deals in particular with school sports and publishes a monthly bulletin which has a circulation of 2,000. The inhabitants participate in the organization of these activities through the Higher Council of Physical Education, Sports and Youth, the Central Committee of the Office of School and University Sports, and the Central Committee for Sports.

The principal youth movement is scouting, in which all the metropolitan associations are represented. In 1954, there were 167 troops with 4,425 members. The Youth Home movement (Foyer de jeunes) is in process of development and includes both religious and lay groups.

#### CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Since 1919 the Bureau of Documents and its library have been an active centre for Malagasy and French culture. This library contains nearly 70,000 books as well as 200,000 pages of material compiled on the basis of local research. In addition, there are the libraries organized by the educational services, pedagogical libraries designed for the teaching staff, school libraries reserved for pupils, and many libraries organized by religious and lay groups.

The Musée du Palais de la Reine at Antananarivo is the former royal residence, and contains material relating to local civilizations. Other cultural institutions include the Malagasy Institute of Scientific Research, which comes under the Overseas Office of Scientific and Technical Research and conducts research in pedology, oceanography, ethnography, botany and the like; the Academy of Madagascar, founded in 1902 for the study of all matters affecting the Island; the Society of Friends of the Zoological and Botanical Garden; the Franco-Malagasy Alliance; the Malagasy Society of Medical Science; and the Franco-Malagasy Club (Cercle franco-malagache).

#### MASS COMMUNICATIONS

The General Information Service is in charge of communications media. In addition to the French and Malagasy language newspapers, there are seventy information centres where the public has access to local newspapers, French newspapers, magazines, news photographs and a radio receiving set. Among the

newspapers and periodicals which appear regularly in the Territory there are six daily papers, comprising one in French and five in Malagasy; twenty-seven weeklies, comprising six in French and twenty-one in Malagasy; and twenty-one monthly, bi-monthly and quarterly publications, comprising ten in French and eleven in Malagasy. There are forty cinemas and forty mobile projection units. Radio broadcasts originate from Radio-Tananarive, and the broadcasting schedule comprises forty-six hours weekly in the Malagasy service and sixty-three hours and forty-five minutes weekly in the French service.



## MAURITIUS

Information for the year ending 31 December 1954 on Mauritius was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on 29 June 1955. The following is a summary of the information under the headings of the Standard Form for the guidance of Members in the preparation of information to be transmitted under Article 75 e.

### AREA

The area, including dependencies, is 809 square miles (2,096 square kilometres).

### POPULATION

The population comprises an Indo-Mauritian group, which includes 77,000 Moslems; a Sino-Mauritian community; a white population, mainly of French origin, a few British officials, and a population of mixed French and African origin, known as the "general population".

	1944 <sup>a/</sup> census	1952 <sup>a/</sup> census	1954 <sup>b/</sup> estimates
General population	143,056	148,238	157,614
Indo-Mauritian	265,247	335,327	362,145
Chinese	10,882	17,850	19,159
Total	419,185	501,415	538,918

The population of the dependencies was 13,464 in 1944, and 15,085 in 1952.

- a/ Mauritius: Census 1952 of Mauritius and of its dependencies, Part I, Port Louis, 1953, pp. 4, 6.
- b/ Mauritius: Report on the Working of the Registrar General's Department for 1954, p. 8.

## E C O N O M I C   C O N D I T I O N S

The relative prosperity which the island has enjoyed since the end of the war owing to increased sugar production and favourable prices continued in 1954. However, the rapid growth in the population, taken in conjunction with the limited natural resources, gave cause for concern, and great emphasis was laid on the need to foster economic development.

The economy is dependent on sugar, which accounted for 97 per cent of the exports in 1954. Production in 1954, at 498,569 metric tons, while lower than the record 1953 crop, was more than twice the figure of thirty years ago. Under an agreement between Commonwealth sugar producers and the United Kingdom Government, the latter has undertaken to provide a guaranteed market for 357,000 tons of Mauritius sugar each year until the end of 1962, at a price negotiated annually. The agreement has given the sugar industry a stability hitherto unknown. The production of the two main subsidiary crops, tea and aloe fibre, also increased considerably, tea reaching a production of 496 metric tons as compared with 280 tons in 1948.

Imports were valued at Rs. 214.4 million in 1954, as against Rs. 136.2 million in 1948, while exports increased from Rs. 145 million in 1948 to Rs. 267 million in 1954.<sup>1/</sup>

Expenditure under the Ten-Year Development Plan amounted by 30 June 1954 to Rs. 74.2 million. A further programme to cover the period 1955-1960 was under consideration during 1954.

## A G R I C U L T U R E   A N D   L I V E S T O C K

The Department of Agriculture works in co-operation with the Board of Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources. The Board was established in 1954 to advise on all matters of policy; it is representative of every section of the Island's agriculture.

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<sup>1/</sup> The Mauritius rupee = 1s. 6d. or US \$0.21.

	<u>Expenditure</u>			
	1947/48 <sup>a/</sup>	1951/52 <sup>b/</sup> (in thousand rupees)	1952/53 <sup>c/</sup>	1953/54 <sup>d/</sup>
Department of Agriculture	445	1,055	2,035	2,151
Expenditure under the Development Plan	<u>381</u>	<u>426</u>	<u>654</u>	<u>1,049</u>
	826	1,481	2,689	3,200

a/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1947/48, Port Louis, 1949, pp.7,64.

b/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1951/52, Port Louis, 1953, pp.7,68.

c/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1952/53, Port Louis, 1954, pp.7,70.

d/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1953/54, Port Louis, 1955, pp.7,69.

Of the Island's total area of 460,800 acres, 206,350 acres were under cultivation, for the most part in sugar-cane; 88,450 acres were forests, 111,700 acres were scrub and other lands, 45,700 acres were permanent waste lands, and 8,600 acres were built-up areas.

The Territory is well watered. The inland water bodies cover over 2,000 acres capable of storing about 2.3 million cubic feet, the various catchments yielding over twice that quantity of water per annum. An area of about 5,000 acres is irrigated for crop production from Government controlled waterworks.

Crown lands, including Crown forests and "Pas Géométriques"<sup>1/</sup> total 83,000 acres. Roughly 75 per cent of the rest of the land is owned by companies and private estates, the remainder being the property of small-holders. In addition to freehold tenure, land is also held leasehold and on share cropping agreements.

There has been considerable fragmentation of holdings due largely to the system of inheritance, which has hindered the development of more efficient methods of farming. Grouping of estates into companies has checked fragmentation to a certain extent. The rapid growth of population has accentuated the demand for land and forced up its price.

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<sup>1/</sup> Reserved belt 250 feet wide along the coast.

In recent years a pilot settlement scheme was started. There are four settlement areas totalling 578 acres.

Principal crops

	Area				Production			
	1948 <sup>a/</sup> (in thousand acres)	1952 <sup>b/</sup>	1953 <sup>c/</sup>	1954	1948 <sup>a/</sup> (in thousand metric tons)	1952 <sup>b/</sup>	1953 <sup>c/</sup>	1954
Sugar cane	154.6	181.8	184.5	189.0	392.0	468.0	512.0	498.6
Tea	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.8	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5
Tobacco	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.5
Aloe fibre <sup>d/</sup>	3.0	6.0	6.2	3.0	0.9	2.2	2.2	1.7
Food crops and vegetables <sup>e/</sup>	24.0	13.6	13.7	14.0	18.5	16.6	15.2	...

<sup>a/</sup> Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1948, pp. 50, 58

<sup>b/</sup> Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1952, p. 71.

<sup>c/</sup> Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1953, p. 64.

<sup>d/</sup> Estimated area.

<sup>e/</sup> Production figures are for food crops only.

The larger sugar plantations account for about 60 per cent of the crop. Some 15,000 peasant owners, often grouped in co-operative societies, cultivate about 20 per cent of the land under cane. The average yield of sugar during the years 1952-54 was 2.85 tons per acre.

The relative insignificance of the acreage under food crops makes the Territory to a large degree dependent on imported food.

The indebtedness of the sugar industry, by way of mortgages, amounts to about Rs. 55 million. Roughly one-third is due to Government; Rs. 25 million is due to the Agricultural Bank, while other mortgages total nearly Rs. 12 million. Loans for agricultural purposes by co-operative credit societies amount to Rs. 5 million.

Assistance is provided by the United Kingdom Government for the disposal of the sugar crop under the International and Commonwealth Agreements. A part of the proceeds from the sale of sugar is paid into a Rehabilitation Fund which provides a mechanical pool for planters. Seeds and planting material are supplied by the Department of Agriculture.

There are central boards for the marketing, storage and grading of sugar, tobacco and fibre. Tea is handled by the producers themselves under the control of the Director of Agriculture.

Research is carried out by the Department and by the Sugar Industry Research Institute established in 1953. Training in tropical agriculture is provided at the College of Agriculture. Field extension services cover the whole Island.

Development is concentrated on the extension of the tea industry, the improvement of land by removal of surface rock, and the increase in the production of foodstuffs.

Livestock  
(1950 census)

Dairy stock	32,100
Herd cattle	5,100
Draught cattle	3,100
Sheep	2,000
Goats	53,500
Pigs	4,000

The principal livestock products are milk and beef. Meat and milk production is below requirements and is supplemented by imports of cattle from Madagascar and of dried milk. Selective breeding of local Creole milk cattle is carried out by the Department of Agriculture.

FORESTRY

The staff of the Forestry Department comprises 3 senior European officers, 20 intermediate local officers, and 127 local foresters, forest guards and clerical staff. A forester completed a 4-year course in forestry at Bangor University, under a Colonial Development and Welfare scholarship.

Forest lands, including scrub and grass lands, occupy 187,850 acres. A scheme initiated in 1948 for the re-afforestation of Crown forests aims at the creation of 6,200 acres of new plantations by 1957; 3,852 acres had been replanted at the end of 1953, and 931 acres of new plantations were created during 1954.

Production

	1952	1953	1954
	(in thousand cu. feet)		
Timber (log volume)	432	621	597
Firewood (solid volume)	1,675	3,014	1,402

## FISHERIES

The controlled catch was 1,611 metric tons in 1954, as compared with 1,684 metric tons in 1953 and 1,648 in 1952. Mechanization is proving profitable in deep sea fishing, and loans from Development and Welfare funds are being used for the purchase of marine engines. In 1954 a programme of breeding of fresh-water fish was started.

## POWER

Electricity is provided by the Central Electricity Board established in 1952, and by the privately owned General Electric Supply Company of Mauritius, Ltd.. The total installed capacity amounted in 1954 to 8,910 kilowatts; the output was about 32 million kwh., as against 15.4 million kwh. in 1948. The Board has under construction a Diesel generating station which will have an installed capacity of 7,000 kilowatts.

## INDUSTRY

There are 27 sugar factories, 10 distilleries, 5 tea factories, 1 sack factory, 42 fibre decorticating plants, 2 tobacco factories, 4 soap factories, and a number of other industrial undertakings.

	<u>Production</u>			
	1948 <sup>a/</sup>	1952 <sup>b/</sup>	1953 <sup>c/</sup>	1954
Sugar (metric tons)	392,000	468,000	512,000	499,000
Rum (hectolitres)	10,000	15,150	18,140	...
Alcohol for export (hectolitres)	52,330	49,620	14,830	18,630
Tea (metric tons)	280	400	410	496
Tobacco (metric tons)	378	659	480	471
Cigarettes (metric tons)	450	575	540	...
Sacks, aloe fibre (units)	854,000	1,143,000	1,204,000	2,246,522
Cloth, aloe fibre (yards)	101,000	44,700	34,600	40,166
Aloe fibre, raw (metric tons)	852	2,254	2,200	1,750

a/ Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1948, p. 66.

b/ Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1952, p. 92.

c/ Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1953, p. 85.

Industrial development is envisaged under the Ten-Year Development and Welfare Plan under which an allocation of Rs.1 million has been made available for long-term loans to pioneer non-agricultural industries. Up to 31 December 1954, loans amounting to Rs.760,000 have been granted.

## TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Roads

There were 450 km. of roads in 1954, as against 420 km. in 1948. All roads are metalled and about 340 miles are bitumen coated. The number of buses increased from 179 in 1947 to 270 in 1954, the number of taxis from 519 to 916, and the number of private cars from 1,929 in 1947 to 4,962 in 1953.

### Railways

There are 132 km. of main line railway. The number of passengers decreased from 3.4 million in 1948 to 1.8 million in 1954. The deficit of the railway, which is a government undertaking, amounted to Rs.2.2 million in 1954, and it was decided to discontinue passenger services gradually.

### Air transport

The number of arriving and departing passengers amounted to 7,474 during 1954, as against 5,982 in 1953, 5,546 in 1952, and 3,481 in 1948.

### Sea-borne shipping

	1948	1952	1953	1954
Vessels entering Port Louis	203	275	326	346
Total net registered tonnage	627,615	957,339	1,179,985	1,281,102
Passengers entering by ship	2,505	2,834	3,530	5,232

### Communications

There are 76 post offices and postal agencies, 49 telegraph offices and 31 savings bank offices.

## PUBLIC FINANCE

### Revenue and Expenditure

(Financial Year, 1 July to 30 June)

	1947/48 <sup>a/</sup>	1951/52 <sup>b/</sup>	1952/53 <sup>c/</sup>	1953/54 <sup>d/</sup>
	(in thousand rupees)			
Revenue	39,857	82,613	90,006	97,778
Expenditure	49,147	73,861	88,930	94,045
Main heads of revenue				
Income Tax	-	27,113	29,820	30,868
Customs	10,221	20,753	21,616	24,842
Licences, excise and other internal revenue	18,949	20,579	23,360	26,220
Main heads of expenditure				
Education	2,160	5,577	12,125	12,375
Health	3,151	5,447	8,408	11,677
Emergency Services <sup>e/</sup>	16,672	20,242	5,890	5,131

a/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1947-48, Port Louis, 1949, pp. 7, 36.

b/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1951-52, Port Louis, 1953, pp. 7, 46, 47.

c/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1952-53, Port Louis, 1954, pp. 7, 46, 47.

d/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1953-54, Port Louis, 1955, pp. 7, 46.

e/ Mainly subsidization of staple foodstuffs and cost of living war bonus in 1947/48 and 1951/52; mainly subsidization of foodstuffs and food production scheme in 1952/53 and 1953/54.

The General Revenue Balance showed a surplus of Rs.29.9 million as at 30 June 1954, against Rs.5.4 million as at 30 June 1948. The Reserve Fund remained unchanged at Rs.12 million.

### Taxation

Income tax is levied at 10 cents for every rupee of the first Rs.5,000 of chargeable income, gradually increasing to 75 cents for every rupee of income over Rs.50,000. The rate of tax applicable to companies is 40 per cent of the chargeable income.

Tax on property and a tenants' tax are levied by the four local authorities (one municipality and three town councils).



## BANKING AND CREDIT

In addition to the Government Post Office Bank and the Mauritius Agricultural Bank, there are three private banks. Loans from the Agricultural Bank totalled Rs.45.4 million, in 1954, as compared with 27.9 million in 1948. Deposits at the Post Office Savings Bank amounted to Rs.31 million on 31 December 1954, as against Rs.17 million on 30 June 1948.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

### Value of imports and exports

	1948	1952	1953	1954
		(in thousand rupees)		
Imports, general	136,189	230,801	251,094	214,359
Exports, general	144,891	251,772	274,146	266,966
Principal imports				
Rice	19,605	35,511	60,180	31,966
Wheat flour	12,054	12,575	13,293	10,092
Iron and steel goods	6,267	14,637	14,132	17,154
Machinery	5,801	12,780	19,469	12,840
Cotton piece goods	8,490	11,266	10,667	9,705
Manures and fertilizers	5,789	13,916	9,758	9,474
Principal exports				
Sugar a/	132,438	232,873	258,634	252,054
Sugar molasses	...	5,950	4,641	4,512
Spirits	3,663	3,199	1,074	23
Tea	28	42	171	592

a/ Excluding value of sugar quota certificates which amounted to Rs.6.3 million in 1953, and to Rs.6.8 million in 1954.

### Direction of trade

	1952	1953	1954
	(percentage of total value)		
Origin of imports			
United Kingdom	41.2	38.3	37.5
Other preferential tariff countries	37.5	41.2	38.2
General tariff countries	21.3	20.5	24.3
Destination of exports			
United Kingdom	49.7	61.1	75.9
Other preferential tariff countries	48.6	37.8	23.0
General tariff countries	1.7	1.1	1.1

## S O C I A L   C O N D I T I O N S

Until recently, the various communities did not mix socially, but there is now a greater awareness that the Territory's problems will have to be solved on an all-community basis, and this, together with the spread of education, the emergence of a professional class drawn from all communities, and active work in social welfare, helps to remove social barriers.

Women may hold property. They bear responsibility for all their actions except that where a plaint is filed against a married woman, the husband is always joined as co-defendant, under the French system of community of goods of which the husband is the head. Women are not debarred from any occupation by law and all avenues of employment are open to them. In the Government service men and women receive equal pay for equal work. Women serve on many Government boards and committees, and on various welfare committees and cultural societies.

## LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

There is a Labour Department under a Labour Commissioner. There is also a Labour Advisory Board and a Minimum Wage Board.

The sugar industry employed on an average 48,000 workers during the 1954 intercrop period (January to June), and 58,000 workers during crop time (July to December). The extra workers engaged during crop time are normally self-employed as small planters during the intercrop period. Other secondary industries employed 13,933 workers, and 8,127 were employed by the public services. The number of unemployed varied from 1,818 in January to 1,044 in August.

<u>Number of wage earners<sup>a/</sup></u> (1952 census)	
Agriculture and forestry	72,976
Mining and quarrying	61
Manufacturing	22,804
Construction	14,435
Electricity, gas, water and sanitary services	1,197
Commerce	14,793
Transport and communication	8,791
Services	28,405
Activities not adequately described	446
Total	163,908

<sup>a/</sup> Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1952, p.57.

Factory workers work 45 hours a week and field labourers 36. Monthly workers, who have remained in the employment of the same estate during twelve months, are entitled to a 9-day leave with full pay.

Basic monthly wages in the sugar industry

	1948	1952 (in rupees)	1954
Skilled workers			
Artisans, grade I	61-120	95-147	95-147
Artisans, grade II and III	36- 65	60- 95	60- 95
Tractor drivers	35- 50	47- 55	47- 55
Field and factory labour			
Men	23- 30	33- 43	33- 43
Women, adolescents, and children	14- 20	20- 29	20- 29

In 1954, all workers received a cost-of-living bonus of 47.5 per cent of their basic wages.

Workers' and employers' organizations

	1954	
	Number	Membership
Workers' unions	7	11,832
Employees' associations	3	1,877
Government Nursing Association	1	66
Government Teachers' Union	1	278
Employers' associations	3	451

Registration of workers' and employers' organizations is compulsory. The Trade Union Congress of Mauritius is affiliated to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and maintains relations with the British Trade Union Congress.

Labour disputes

	1948	1952	1953	1954
Number of strikes	7	nil	1	1
Number of workers involved	849	nil	250	56
Number of man-days lost	8,158	nil	1,425	224

### Vocational training

There are apprenticeship schemes in the heavy engineering trade, the automobile repairs and the printing industry.

### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Department of Co-operation has a staff of 18 officers. At the end of 1954, the amount of Government monies on loan to co-operative societies was Rs.18,875.

	1948	1952	1953	1954
Number of co-operative societies	130	250	275	290
Membership	8,272	18,526	23,431	26,421
Assets (in thousand rupees)	1,208	6,158	7,660	7,587
Turnover (in thousand rupees)	...	23,530	28,800	31,910

In 1954, co-operative societies included 151 agricultural credit societies, 57 thrift and savings societies, 68 co-operative retail stores, one wholesale consumer trade, two housing, one printing, seven transport, and two marketing societies, and one "better living" village society.

### STANDARD OF LIVING

#### Consumers' price indices

	Manual workers		Moderate income group		Higher income group	
	Unskilled	Skilled	Rs.100-300 (per month)	Rs.300-500 (per month)	Rs.550-1,000 (per month)	Over Rs.1,000 (per month)
1939	100	100	100	100	100	100
1949 (June)	318	289	278	262	248	237
1952 (June)	405	356	334	315	299	274
1953 (June)	411	361	338	318	303	278
1954 (June)	404	356	333	315	299	274

The indices cover the following main groups of items: food, beverages, tobacco, rent, fuel and light, household goods, clothing, transport, entertainments, dependents and charities, and other services.

The national income for 1953 was assessed at Rs.583 million, or Rs.1,082 per caput.

## TCWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

Overcrowding is prevalent in urban areas and rents are high. Urban housing is provided by local government with financial assistance in the form of loans from an allocation of Rs.10.6 million under the Ten-Year Development and Welfare Plan. Housing for workers in the sugar industry is financed by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund. During 1954, 228 houses were completed by local government and 50 houses were built by the Labour Welfare Fund. A Town and Country Planning Ordinance was enacted and a Town and Country Planning Board established.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION AND WELFARE

### Public Assistance

The Public Assistance Department is responsible for outdoor and indoor relief, the care of destitute children and old age pensions. A non-contributory old age pension scheme was introduced in 1950; in December 1954, 17,986 persons were in receipt of pensions, as against 12,304 in December 1952.

Outdoor relief was paid to 9,000 persons in 1954, as compared with 7,800 at the end of the preceding year. Indoor relief in orphanages and infirmaries was provided to 639 adults and 210 children. Expenditure on public assistance amounted to Rs.6.8 million in 1954, as compared with Rs.5.8 million in 1953, Rs.4.4 million in 1952, and Rs.0.9 million in 1948.

### Social Welfare

The Social Welfare Department was created in 1953 and is responsible for social welfare centres, community centres, probation, and the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Ten social welfare centres and fifteen community centres provide maternity and child welfare services, a simplified form of adult education, and recreational and cultural facilities. Each social welfare centre has a welfare officer and a midwife attached to it. A Blind Welfare Committee runs a small hostel and training centre in Port Louis, which was attended by 24 adults and 2 children in 1954.

Prevention of crime and treatment of offenders

	<u>Number of convictions</u>			
	1948 <sup>a/</sup>	1952 <sup>b/</sup>	1953 <sup>c/</sup>	1954
Offences against the person	1,874	3,237	3,084	1,627
Offences against property	2,408	2,476	2,375	941
Other offences under the Penal Code	(24,004	(35,076	(31,235	3,252
Statutory offences <u>d/</u>				18,355
Total	28,286	40,789	36,694	24,175

a/ Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1948, p. 30.

b/ Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1952, p. 40.

c/ Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1953, p. 37.

d/ Statutory offences included the following number of road contraventions: 15,236 in 1952, 19,611 in 1953, and 10,601 in 1954.

Treatment of offenders

	1952		1953		1954	
	Adults	Juveniles	Adults	Juveniles	Adults	Juveniles
Death sentence	3	-	1	-	1	-
Deprivation of liberty	546	135	591	115	732	155
Imprisonment for failing to pay fines	140	27	131	11	383	26
Borstal institution	-	72	-	49	-	46
Industrial schools	-	78	-	52	-	37

There is a central prison, with two hospital wards, workshops, and a separate women's prison. Delinquent youths are sent to the Borstal institution and to the industrial schools, where training in various trades is given. Remission of one-third of their sentences is open to all prisoners sentenced to imprisonment.

PUBLIC HEALTH

There is a Medical and Health Department under a Director of Medical Services.

Expenditure

	1947/48 <sup>a/</sup>	1951/52 <sup>b/</sup> (in thousand rupees)	1952/53 <sup>c/</sup>	1953/54 <sup>d/</sup>
Medical Department	3,151	5,447	8,408	11,677
Expenditure under the Development and Welfare Plan				
Health schemes <sup>e/</sup>	1,045	1,035	981	96
Medical buildings	432	315	329	937

<sup>a/</sup> Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1947-48. Port Louis, 1949, pp. 7, 66, 69.

<sup>b/</sup> Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1951-52. Port Louis, 1953, pp. 7, 69, 71.

<sup>c/</sup> Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1952-53. Port Louis, 1954, pp. 7, 71, 73.

<sup>d/</sup> Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1953-54. Port Louis, 1955, pp. 7, 70, 72.

<sup>e/</sup> Mainly expenditure on anti-malaria scheme financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Medical and Health Staff

	1948 <sup>a/</sup>		1952 <sup>b/</sup>		1954	
	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private
Registered physicians	29	56	38	53	41	49
Dentists	1	10	3	17	3	26
Nurses of senior training	...	-	7	-	5	-
Certified nurses	80	60	105	61	117	...
Registered midwives	6	35	48	25	69	...
Dressers	127	6	156	19	175	...
Sanitary inspectors	...	-	54	-	57	-
X-ray technicians	...	-	1	-	1	-
Pharmacists	...	...	1	35	1	43

<sup>a/</sup> Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1948, p.17.

<sup>b/</sup> Mauritius: Year Book of Statistics, 1952, p.23.

Doctors are required either to be eligible for registration in the United Kingdom or to hold a state degree in medicine conferred by a medical faculty in France. Training for nurses and midwives is provided at two hospitals. From 1952 to the end of 1954, 39 nurses, 37 midwives and 49 dressers completed their training. There are also facilities for the training of sanitary inspectors and pharmacists.

### Institutions

	1948		1954	
	Establishments	Beds	Establishments	Beds
Hospitals	8	1,108	8	1,194
Dispensaries	39	-	45	-
Leprosarium	1	52	1	62
Mental hospital	1	595	1	693
Polio-myelitis hospital	1	291	1	228
Maternity and child welfare centres	3	-	7	-
Mobile units				
Travelling dispensaries	2	-	4	-
Ante-natal clinic	-	-	1	-
Dental clinic	-	-	1	-

There were also 8 dispensaries and 33 hospitals with 738 beds on sugar estates, and 5 private clinics with 53 beds. During 1954, an orthopaedic hospital and a nurses' home were under construction.

### Vital statistics

	1948	1952	1953	1954
Total births	19,039	24,120	23,896	21,926
Birth rate per 1,000 population	43.1	48.1	46.3	41.3
Total deaths	10,518	7,447	8,299	8,462
Death rate per 1,000 population	23.8	14.8	16.1	16.0
Deaths under 1 year	3,546	1,948	2,235	1,778
Infant mortality per 1,000 living births	186.2	80.8	93.5	81.1

The natural increase in population in 1954 was 13,464; this increase was 4,014 in the General population (including the Chinese), and 9,450 in the Indo-Mauritian population.

The principal causes of death were: (1) diseases of the digestive system, (2) diseases of the respiratory system, (3) infective and parasitic diseases, and (4) diseases of early infancy.

Some protein deficiency occurs. There is anaemia among women in the child-bearing group, and malnutrition among children of the lowest income group.

Malaria has been reduced to a negligible level.

Tuberculin testing and vaccination of school children was continued. Maternity and child welfare work was carried out by the Health Department and by the Maternity and Child Welfare Society. The infant mortality rate fell from an average of 133.0 per 1,000 over the 10-year period preceding 1952 to 81.1 in 1954; the maternal



mortality rate fell from 4.13 in 1948 to 1.70 in 1954. The School Medical Service provided for 3 doctors, 4 dentists and 3 nurses. All primary school children received daily rations of sugared milk and cocoa, and vitamins were provided for special cases.

The municipal area of Port Louis has a sewerage system; in all other localities conservancy methods are resorted to. There is a water treatment works at La Marie, which distributes water to some townships and to Government buildings in Port Louis.

### EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

Education is free in Government and aided primary schools. In the post-primary state, fees amount to Rs.10-20 a month in Government colleges and to Rs.15-30 in private schools. Free secondary schooling is made available through scholarships. There is no racial or religious differentiation in schools; a condition which aided schools must accept on receiving a grant is that they do not refuse admission to any child on the grounds of race or religion.

There is a Department of Education under a Director. There are five Advisory Committees, almost exclusively composed of non-officials.

	<u>Expenditure</u>			
	1947/48 <sup>a/</sup>	1951/52 <sup>b/</sup> (in thousand rupees)	1952/53 <sup>c/</sup>	1953/54 <sup>d/</sup>
Education Department	2,160	5,577	12,125	12,375
Expenditure on educational buildings under the Development and Welfare Plan	408 <sup>e/</sup>	674	1,829	1,444

a/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1947-48, Port Louis, 1949, pp. 7, 65, 70.

b/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1951-52, Port Louis, 1953, pp. 7, 71, 72.

c/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1952-53, Port Louis, 1954, pp. 7, 73, 74.

d/ Mauritius: Financial Report for the year 1953-54, Port Louis, 1955, pp. 7, 72-74.

e/ Of this sum, Rs.126,746 was spent on buildings.

### Educational system

Entrance to the primary schools is at the age of 5 and most children leave at about the age of 13. Secondary education is provided for the age-group 12 to 20. The curricula tend to be formal and academic, though liberalizing influences are making progress, especially in the secondary schools.

Language is a particular problem in this multi-racial Territory. English and French are compulsory, and Hindu, Urdu, Tamil, Hakka and Chinese are optional in the schools. The population, whatever its origin, speaks a lingua franca of French origin, known as Creole, and although it is not officially encouraged, its use in the classroom as a vehicle of expression is common.

Technical education at post-secondary level is given in the College of Agriculture. A mechanical engineering apprenticeship scheme is run jointly by the Education and Railway Departments, and the Health Department runs training schools for its personnel. A number of primary schools are served by homecraft and handicraft centres.

There is a Government teacher-training college, which has trained 596 teachers in the last six years, including 124 in 1954. Extension classes in science subjects were given in 1954 at the laboratories of the Royal College, Royal College School and College of Agriculture to 106 students preparing for B.Sc. courses.

Special schools exist for children handicapped by poliomyelitis, for the blind, and for young delinquents.

Scholarships awarded in 1954 numbered 124; of these 90 were secondary-school entrance scholarships, 20 were free places granted needy students, 6 were senior scholarships, and 6 were "English" scholarships giving free university education overseas.

### Schools

	1948 <sup>a/</sup>		1952 <sup>b/</sup>		1954	
	Govt. and aided	Private	Govt. and aided	Private	Govt. and aided	Private
Primary schools	131	-	145	85	152	95
Secondary schools	8	28	12	35	11	48
Teacher training	1	-	1	-	1	-
Agricultural College	-	1	-	1	-	1

a/ Mauritius: Annual Report of the Education Dept. for the year ending 30 June 1948, Port Louis, 1949, pp. 16, 32, 43-45.

b/ Mauritius: Annual Report of the Education Dept. for the year 1952, Port Louis, 1953, pp. 95, 97, 104.

Pupils

	1948 <sup>a/</sup>		1952 <sup>b/</sup>		1954	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Primary schools	26,220 <sup>c/</sup>	17,145 <sup>c/</sup>	41,634	30,130	43,267	32,301
Secondary schools	3,906	2,243	4,500	2,084	5,513	2,585
Teacher training	48	47	79	95	60	63
Higher education						
Mauritius Agricultural College	34	-	75	-	55	-
in the United Kingdom and Eire	130 <sup>d/</sup>		208 <sup>d/</sup>		299 <sup>d/</sup>	

Teachers

	1948 <sup>a/</sup>		1952 <sup>b/</sup>		1954	
	Govt. and aided	Private	Govt. and aided	Private	Govt. and aided	Private
Primary schools	1,211	-	1,808	279	1,950	307
Secondary schools and teacher training	167	231	199	212	223	259
College of Agriculture	-	-	-	17	-	16

a/ Mauritius: Annual Report of the Education Dept. for the year ending 30 June 1948, Port Louis, 1949, pp. 16, 32, 43-45.

b/ Mauritius: Annual Report of the Education Dept. for the year 1952, Port Louis, 1953, pp. 95, 97, 104.

c/ Pupils in Government and aided schools only.

d/ Men and women.

ADULT EDUCATION, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

There are post-primary and post-secondary classes for young people, and adult literacy classes in English, French, Hindi and Urdu.

A Youth Organizer, assisted by eight youth officers, is responsible for the supervision of 156 boys' and 66 girls' organizations. In addition, there are 33 scout troops, 21 girl guide companies, and 11 Bluebird packs for younger children. International goodwill has been stimulated by exchange visits with a youth delegation from Madagascar and by representation at the World Assembly of Youth held in August 1954 at Singapore.

There are seven public libraries with an annual circulation of about 165,000 volumes. There are two museums, an art gallery, and five scientific and cultural societies.

## MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Three main daily papers are published in French and English, with an average circulation of 8,000 each. In addition, there are two French and 3 Chinese dailies and 23 periodicals of weekly, monthly and quarterly publication (20 in English or French, and 3 in Hindi, French and English).

There are two theatres, 37 permanent cinemas, 5 mobile cinema units, 46 film projectors and 27 filmstrip projectors.

During 1954, the Mauritius Broadcasting Station was on the air for an average of 57-1/2 hours per week, which represented an increase of nearly 10 hours over the figure for 1949. The number of radio licences has increased from 2,746 in 1944 to 18,849 in 1954.

## SEYCHELLES

Information for the year ending 31 December 1954 on Seychelles was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland on 17 July 1955. The following is a summary of the information under the headings of the Standard Form for the guidance of Members in the preparation of information to be transmitted under Article 73 e.

### AREA

Seychelles and its dependencies consist of ninety-two islands occupying an area of 156 square miles (405 square kilometres).

### POPULATION

The population, composed of descendants of early French settlers, Africans, Creoles, and a small number of Europeans, Indians, and Chinese, was estimated in mid-1954 at 37,391, as compared with 34,632 at the 1947 census.

### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The economy is almost exclusively dependent on agricultural exports, copra and essential oils. A Development Plan for the period 1946-1956 is in operation. It is practically completed and further capital works are being financed mainly from local funds. Public investment at the end of 1954 amounted to approximately 11 million rupees.<sup>1/</sup>

### AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The estimated government expenditure on agriculture, livestock and re-forestation in 1954 was Rs.357,070 as compared with Rs.384,688 in 1953, Rs.382,217 in 1952 and Rs.121,758 in 1948.

Land consists of flat plateaus and lower mountain slopes mostly planted with coconuts; middle slopes under cinnamon, fruit trees and timber, and upper slopes under forest. There is grazing land in most areas.

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<sup>1/</sup> The Seychelles rupee = 1s.6d. sterling or 0.21 U.S. dollars.

Land classification in square miles is as follows:

Arable land	1.2
Land for growing tree-crops, vines or shrubs	64.0
Permanent meadow and pasture	1.5
Wood or forest land	14.8
All other land	74.5

Legislation provides for the control and protection of Crown lands, river reserves and lighting of fires. All land, other than Crown lands, is held in freehold. There are 1,312 holdings of 5 acres and under, 369 holdings of 5-50 acres, 61 holdings of 50-100 acres, 42 holdings of 100-200 acres, 56 holdings of over 200 acres and 7 holdings of over 1,000 acres. More than half of the cultivable acreage is made up of estates of 200 acres or more. There are also six government-owned estates, known collectively as the Grand Anse estates, covering altogether about 4,000 acres, and on which coconuts, cinnamon, sugar-cane, vegetables and other crops are grown and experimental work is carried out.

Coconut plantations are estimated at 29,000 acres and cinnamon plantations at 12,000 acres. Patchouli is normally of little importance to the Territory's economy, but in times of high demand it tends to be grown at the expense of food crops and vegetables, which as a result have to be imported in larger quantity.

Most of the cereals consumed are imported, but other food products which are locally grown include cassava, yams, sweet potatoes, plantains and bananas, fruit, vegetables, and breadfruit.

Principal crops  
 (exports in metric tons)

	1948 <sup>a/</sup>	1952 <sup>b/</sup>	1953 <sup>b/</sup>	1954
Copra	7,712	6,589	6,150	6,576
Cinnamon bark	119	145	524	483
Cinnamon leaf oil	40	69	99	99
Patchouli dried leaf	6	42	54	68
Patchouli oil	2	3	2	0.3
Vanilla	4	6	6	1.4

<sup>a/</sup> Seychelles: Trade Report for the year 1952, Victoria, p. 19.

<sup>b/</sup> Seychelles: Trade Report for the year 1953, Victoria, p. 19.

Since virtually all production is exported, the export figures provide an approximate measurement of agricultural production.

Agricultural indebtedness exists to some extent among small holders, but details are not available. The Agricultural Bank grants loans at 4 per cent up to 50 per cent of the value of property. However, with high copra prices over the last years, there has been little recourse to the Bank.

Marketing of copra is carried out by the Seychelles Copra Association founded in 1953; its membership, which is voluntary, was 122 at the end of 1954. All essential oils for export are sold through a single agency.

Seed plants, fertilizers, and pest-control materials are sold by the Government on a non-profit basis, and guano of high phosphate content is freely available. Experimental treatment of infected coconut trees was carried out.

There is no agricultural school. Selected candidates are sent overseas for training, while learners are trained by the Department of Agriculture.

The number of livestock, according to the 1950 census was as follows: cattle, 2,112; pigs, 2,328; goats, 1,200; poultry, 40,000. Approximately 50,000 gallons of milk, 60 tons of meat, including turtle meat, and 150,000 eggs are produced annually. Under the Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes, £11,000 is being spent over a five-year period on the importation of pedigree Friesian or Sindhi bulls to improve the local stock.

#### FORESTRY

The conservation of forest cover, the re-afforestation of denuded areas, and the protection of the principal watersheds are the main objectives of forest policy. One thousand five hundred and four acres of land have been re-afforested since the inception in 1950 of the five-year re-afforestation plan.

#### FISHERIES

The inshore fishing with an estimated production of 1,000 to 1,500 tons per annum is sufficient for local needs. The fishable area of about 25,000 square miles, within reach of exploitation from Seychelles, has been hardly touched.

Small quantities of dried and dry salted fish are produced for local consumption and export. During 1954, 86 tons of dry-salted fish and four tons of sharks' fins were exported. A privately-owned cold store provides facilities for storing fish.

The fishing base established by the Colonial Development Corporation on St. Anne Island closed, the catches having fallen below expectations.

#### MINING

There is no mining industry except for the exploitation of sea-bird guano (phosphate rock). The amount exported in 1954 was 11,864 tons as compared with 8,859 tons in 1953, 11,120 in 1952, and 21,379 tons in 1948.

#### POWER

Electric power is available in the Victoria area at night time only. In 1954, a licence was issued to a privately-owned firm which will provide a 24-hour electricity supply.

#### INDUSTRY

All distilling of patchouli oil is undertaken by the government-owned central distillery. A modern oil expeller capable of handling two tons of copra per day contributed largely toward the Territory's requirements in coconut oil both for human and animal consumption and for soap-making. A few privately owned modern expellers were also in operation during 1954, a step towards the replacement of the ox-drawn mills by mechanical extraction.

Manufacture of soap averages 200 tons a year. There is a small tobacco industry with an annual output of about 850,000 cigarettes. Small quantities of coir rope are made for local consumption.

#### TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

There is a motor road following the coast around the island of Mahé, and two motor roads across the island. There are a few miles of motorable road on Praslin and La Digue Islands. The number of motor vehicles of different types registered during 1954 was 414, as compared with 251 in 1948.



British India Line steamers provide a service to Seychelles of one steamer per month east bound and eight calls a year west bound. Cargo boats call once in three months. In addition, small sailing vessels occasionally sail between Mahé and Mombasa. A total of 77 ships entered and left Victoria in 1954.

	1952	1953	1954
Number of passengers embarked and landed	1,432	3,001	2,745
Tonnage of cargo landed	11,893	7,133	10,787
Tonnage of cargo shipped	20,581	6,412	6,932

There are postal services on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue Islands. Air mails to and from Seychelles are conveyed to Mombasa or Bombay by sea.

There is an automatic telephone service in Victoria and its environs, while a wireless telephone provides communication between Mahé and Praslin. Telegraph and cable communications are maintained with the outside world.

## PUBLIC FINANCE

### Revenue and expenditure

	1948	1952 <sup>a/</sup>	1953 <sup>b/</sup>	1954 (estimates)
	(in thousand rupees)			
Revenue	2,951	4,739	3,664	3,800
Expenditure	3,039	5,902	4,613	3,764
<u>Main heads of revenue</u>				
Customs	1,244	2,558	1,431	1,149
Licences, direct taxes	776	464	941	1,335
Post and Telephone	195	543	128	491
Fees of court or office	113	302	317	308
Colonial Development and Welfare grants	281	103	291	...
<u>Main heads of expenditure</u>				
Education	147	484	451	538
Medical Services	327	660	569	590
Development	345	370	422	...
Public Works Extraordinary	397	727	667	...

a/ Seychelles: Annual Report by the Treasurer for the year 1952, Victoria, pp. 6, 7.

b/ Seychelles: Annual Report by the Treasurer for the year 1953, Victoria, pp. 6, 7.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

### Value of imports and exports

	1948 <sup>a/</sup>	1952 <sup>a/</sup>	1953 <sup>b/</sup>	1954
	(in thousand rupees)			
Imports, General	4,793	8,744	8,351	8,087
Exports, domestic	5,178	7,463	8,168	9,082
<u>Principal imports</u>				
Rice	871	1,611	707	1,326
Sugar	404	710	534	426
Wheat flour	192	223	633	258
Maize	207	305	627	183
Other foodstuffs	572	942	847	857
Cotton piece goods	341	821	718	993
Mineral fuels and lubricants	186	358	401	390
<u>Principal exports</u>				
Copra	4,099	5,224	6,026	6,579
Essential oils	364	1,389	1,160	1,407
Guano	480	421	334	414
Patchouli leaves	13	74	149	271
Cinnamon bark	26	61	201	214
Vanilla	48	80	149	62

a/ Seychelles: Trade Report for the year 1952, Victoria, pp. 1, 2, 13-16, 19, 20.

b/ Seychelles: Trade Report for the year 1953, Victoria, pp. 1, 2, 13-16, 19, 20.

Exports of copra went to India; essential oils to the United Kingdom, Australia, India, Holland, the United States, and France.

## S O C I A L   C O N D I T I O N S

The Territory is populated mainly by peoples of European and African stock who first established themselves in Seychelles during the eighteenth century. There has been substantial mingling of these stocks and there is no discrimination between persons of varying religions, race and colour. The main social problems are medical and educational and have no relation to racial or cultural factors.

There is no discriminatory legislation affecting the status of women. They have equal rights with men in the Legislative Council and local government franchise.

## LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The basic policy is the promotion of fair wages and good employment conditions, and through it of a higher standard of living. The main problem is that of low output and of slow adaptation to new ideas and principles of management; considerable progress, however, has been made in recent years. There is a Labour Office in Victoria.

No accurate statistics of the principal categories of wage-earners are available. The majority of the population is employed in agriculture and in processing the product for export. The legal minimum wage is Rs.22.50 per month for men and Rs.11 for women for a 33-1/2 hour-week. Most employees double their income by piece work or by self-employment on fishing or cultivation. A regular attendance bonus is paid by several employers.

There is no regular unemployment. Labour is in demand on the coconut estates, and there is an overall labour shortage. Unemployment exists in certain skilled trades. There is no emigration of unskilled labour, and only on a very limited scale among the clerical and artisan class.

There are three registered trade unions:

Seychelles Building Trade Union, with 230 members  
Stevedores and Lighterage Workers Union, with 148 members  
General Workers Union, with 195 members.

The Seychelles Taxpayers and Producers Association with a membership of 405 looks after the interest of the employers.

A technical Centre trains carpenters, joiners and cabinet-makers, and the Public Works Department has an apprenticeship scheme for welders, blacksmiths and the building trades.

## CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

There are two small societies: The Co-operative Book Society, whose membership increased from 77 in 1952 to 101 in 1954, and the Co-Credit Society, a thrift and loan society for civil servants, with 81 members in 1954, as compared with 67 in 1951.

## STANDARD OF LIVING

### Cost of living index

	1947	1952	1953	1954
General	100	134	130	126
	1947	1954		
Housing	9.36	11.70		
Food	55.42	75.12		
Fuel	8.21	10.50		
Cleaning and washing	2.38	3.92		
Clothing	16.50	14.35		
Miscellaneous	8.13	10.17		

Surveys on cost of living cover rural and urban workers, and small salary earners.

The Territory's national income in 1951 was estimated at Rs.12,500,000, which gives a per capita income of about Rs.360.

## TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

Good progress has been made in the building of new hospitals, schools, offices and housing. Permanent buildings have now become the rule rather than the exception, and private enterprise is following the lead given by Government in using local granite.

With the help of a Colonial Development and Welfare grant, four villages were completed. Dwellings are let to workers at a very low rental. Under the Labour Housing Scheme the Government pays a 50 per cent subsidy to planters on the cost of building labourers' houses in accordance with certain specifications. Seventy-seven houses were built during 1951-52 and twenty-four in 1953.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

### Social security and Welfare

The Labour and Welfare Officer, assisted by voluntary Poor Relief Officers, supervises the allocation of poor relief grants. During 1954, 1,327 persons

were in receipt of relief amounting to Rs.73,000. A Government establishment provides home and care for the aged, destitute and infirm. Other welfare services include pre- and post-natal care for mothers, after-care for ex-hospital patients, and paid government farm employment for convicted juveniles. A day nursery and an orphanage for poor children are run by the Missions.

Crime statistics  
(cases taken to court)

	1948	1952		1953		1954	
		Adults	Non- adults	Adults	Non- adults	Adults	Non- adults
Murder	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other offences							
against the person	349	416	29	301	17	253	2
Offences against							
property	442	566	76	484	34	424	17
Statutory offences	1,374	1,504	70	1,021	30	1,148	16

The total number of cases reported during 1954 was 3,587, as compared with 3,810 in 1953, and 4,139 in 1952.

In 1954 the daily average of prisoners was thirty men and three women.

All prisoners are taught trades. On release from detention they are paid 90 per cent of the net profit on the sale of their work.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Expenditure

	1948	1952	1953	1954
	(in thousand rupees)			(estimates)
Recurrent expenditure	327	660	569	596
Capital expenditure	52	139	138	17
Expenditure from Colonial				
Development and Welfare funds	14	88	77	63

Medical and health staff

	1948		1952		1953		1954	
	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private	Govt.	Private
Doctors	7	2	7	2	7	2	8	2
Dentists	1	3	2	...	2	2	2	2
Nurses of senior training	6	-	5	-	5	-	5	-
Registered nurses	32	1	35	-	39	-	45	-
Registered midwives	9	1	51	-	56	-	54	-
Health inspectors	-	-	7	-	7	-	8	-
Laboratory technician	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
WHO Health Sanitarian	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

In addition, the staff includes mental hospital and leper station assistants, laboratory, clerical, and domestic personnel. Two women doctors give part-time free services both to the Government and to the public.

Institutions

	Number			Number of beds		
	1948	1952	1954	1948	1952	1954
General hospital	1	1	1	100	114	110
Cottage hospitals	2	3	3	26	42	44
Dispensaries with beds	-	-	1	-	-	2
Dispensaries for outpatients	-	3	2	-	-	-
Mental hospital	1	1	1	28	28	28
Leprosarium	1	1	1	...	4	4
Private maternity clinics	2	1	...	12	...	...

The number of establishments and beds in 1953 was the same as in 1954.

New buildings constructed during 1952 and 1953 included: the mental hospital, a dental and opthalmic clinic, a dispensary with an outpatient department and a ward for two maternity patients, and a home for thirty-four nurses in Victoria.

Vital statistics

	1948 <sup>a/</sup>	1952 <sup>b/</sup>	1953 <sup>c/</sup>	1954
Total births	996	1,037	1,185	1,206
Birth rate per 1,000	28.6	28.0	31.3	31.2
Total deaths	477	456	438	456
Death rate per 1,000	13.7	12.1	11.6	11.8
Deaths under 1 year	94	53	64	62
Infant mortality rate per 1,000	89.0	51.1	54.0	51.6

a/ Seychelles: Annual Report of the Medical and Health Department for 1950, Victoria, p. 8.

b/ Seychelles: Annual Report of the Medical and Health Department for 1952, Victoria, p. 14.

c/ Seychelles: Annual Report of the Medical and Health Department for 1953, Victoria, p. 11.

A campaign to reduce venereal disease was started in 1952 with assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, and by the end of 1953 syphilis had declined markedly. Ante-natal and infant clinics are held at Victoria and five out-stations.

E D U C A T I O N A L   C O N D I T I O N S

Primary education is free and open to all without distinction of race or religion. Compulsory education has been placed on the statute book, but has not yet been enforced. In 1954, about 75 per cent of the child population were enrolled in primary schools, as compared with 55 per cent in 1948. For those who complete the primary course satisfactorily, free education for another three years is available. The two secondary schools, at which fees are charged, prepare students for the Cambridge Oversea School Certificate. About 11 per cent of secondary school pupils receive education free; about 20 per cent of all school children receive one free meal a day.

Vocational training is given in a Technical Training Centre which trains apprentices in carpentry and other building trades for from three to five years. Training in domestic science is provided at the two government modern schools, and at the girls' secondary school.

The educational system is controlled by the Director of Education assisted by an Advisory Council composed chiefly of local inhabitants. Most of the primary schools were built by the missions which still manage them. All but two of these schools qualify for government aid which includes the payment of 100 per cent of the teachers' salaries. A Government grant of 50 per cent of approved cost is available to assist in the building of new schools. All schools are regularly inspected.

	<u>Expenditure</u>			
	1949 (in thousand rupees)	1952 <sup>a/</sup>	1953 <sup>b/</sup>	1954 (estimates)
Recurrent expenditure	370	534	524	...
Capital expenditure	185	59	203	...
Education Department	252	469	451	563
Funds raised locally	6	0.8	1	...
Metropolitan grant	233	39	135	210
Other government departments	4	4	6	...
Voluntary agencies	61	79	134	129

a/ Seychelles: Annual Report of the Education Department for 1952, pp. 27, 28.

b/ Seychelles: Annual Report of the Education Department for 1953, pp. 27, 28.

## EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

	<u>Schools</u>			
	1948		1954	
	Government	Independent	Government	Independent
Primary	1	31	2	32
Modern (post-primary) schools	-	-	2	-
Secondary schools	1	1	1	1
Technical centre	1	-	1	-
Teacher training	-	-	1	-
Continuation classes	-	-	1	-

There were 178 teachers in 1948, 240 in 1952 and 234 in 1953.



Pupils

	1948		1952 <sup>a/</sup>		1953 <sup>b/</sup>		1954
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys and Girls
Primary schools	1,940	2,144	2,297	2,425	2,465	2,519	4,659 <sup>c/</sup>
Modern (post- primary) schools	-	-	35	72	40	82	141
Secondary schools	88	69	97	87	113	97	182
Technical centre	10	-	16	-	22	-	...
Teacher training	-	-	-	50	-	25	...
Continuation classes	-	-	1	17	10	40	...

a/ Seychelles: Annual Report of the Education Department for 1952, p. 22.

b/ Seychelles: Annual Report of the Education Department for 1953, p. 22.

c/ Figures for 24 aided primary schools only.

The number of students following university, technical and vocational courses in the United Kingdom and elsewhere was 22 in 1954, 14 in 1953, 15 in 1952 and 11 in 1948. Of these, two, five and five were in receipt of assistance from public funds in the years 1954, 1953, and 1952 respectively.

Adult education in shorthand, typing, French and English, was provided at two centres.

Youth clubs together with the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements provide the main youth activities.

There are five libraries.

There is a voluntary organization for the encouragement and marketing of local handicrafts, and an annual exhibition of arts and crafts.

With regard to educational development, plans were accepted for extending teacher training by part-time courses leading to the Cambridge Oversea School Certificate, and by lengthening the course for the teaching certificate to two years. During 1952 and 1953, three new primary schools and the boarding house at Seychelles College were completed and work was started on new buildings for the Girls' Convent Secondary School.

#### MASS COMMUNICATIONS

The Government publishes a daily bulletin, with a circulation of 430 copies. A weekly newspaper is published by the Taxpayers' and Producers' Association, with a circulation of about 700 copies. The Roman Catholic Diocese issues twice monthly a sheet with a circulation of 2,350.

The Education Department's mobile information unit shows educational, documentary and newsfilms. Commercial films are shown twice weekly in Victoria. The local radio station broadcasts for one hour daily.

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