MAURITIUS

Business Conditions Snapshot

- Mauritius has a stable business environment, ranking 13th in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Index (2019).
- Services account for 75 per cent of Mauritius’ GDP (tourism education, financial and professional services).
- Agriculture (sugar), manufacturing (textiles), ocean economy, ICT and property development make up the remainder.
- Tourism has been badly affected by COVID-19 (the country usually receives 1.3 million tourists annually). Two-week hotel quarantine paid on arrival is mandatory. One-year visas are available to encourage business travellers.
- More than 150 Australian companies are registered in Mauritius.
- Challenges include an ageing population, climate change and the country’s dependence on imported food.

Trade and Investment Opportunities

- Education services dominate Australia’s commercial presence in Mauritius.
  - Curtin University opened a campus on the island in 2018, and a number of other Australian education providers offer accredited courses through Mauritian institutions.
  - Mauritius aims to be an education hub for sub-Saharan Africa.
- Key export opportunities include providing premium food and beverage products to the tourism sector (post-COVID), and the blue economy.
  - Two Australian companies—Austral Fisheries and Australian Longline—use Mauritian port services for their operations.

Key facts and figures

- Population: 1.3 million (2018)
- GDP growth: 3.7 per cent (2019)
- GDP per capita: US$11,360
- Political system: Multi-party democracy
- Key goods and services traded: agriculture, manufacturing, education, financial services.
- Aid relationship: Direct Aid Program, Australia Awards
– Renewable energy and agribusiness also offer opportunities for Australia. The Mauritian Government wants to increase use of renewable energy and improve food self-sufficiency.

• Mauritius wants to grow its financial services and fintech sector.

• Two-way foreign direct investment between Australia and Mauritius is limited.
• Opportunities exist for investment through Mauritius into Sub-Saharan Africa and India (Mauritius is the number two source of FDI into India, after Singapore).

Trade Policy Focus

• Mauritius signed a Free Trade Agreement with China in October 2019 (the first African state to do so).

• It is a member of the AU Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement, and has bilateral trade agreements with the US, Turkey and Pakistan.

• Mauritius has ratified 23 Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements.

• It has signed 22 Double Taxation Agreements with African countries, and has established Special Economic Zones in Ghana, Senegal, Cote d’Ivoire and Madagascar.


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