

## MAURITIUS

### Business Conditions Snapshot

- Mauritius has a stable business environment, ranking 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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
- Two-way trade: A\$439 million (2019)
- Key goods and services traded: agriculture, manufacturing, education, financial services.
- Aid relationship: Direct Aid Program, Australia Awards

### 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.



- 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.
  - The government is in the process of addressing recommendations arising from its 2020 listing on the Financial Action Task Force’s Grey List, and the European Union’s Black List.
- 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.
- Further information on Mauritian trade agreements and business conditions is available at <http://www.mauritiustrade.mu/en/trade-agreements> and <https://www.edbmauritius.org/why-mauritius>.

### **Disclaimer**

*The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has taken great care to ensure the information contained in this publication is correct and accurate.*

*DFAT does not guarantee, and accepts no legal liability arising from or connected to the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of any material contained in this publication.*

*Readers should exercise their own skill and care in using the material contained in this publication and carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance of the material for their purposes.*

*Insight current as at December 2020.*

