



Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives
(Industrial Development Division)

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



Guide to the Annual Report

Part I: About the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division)

Part I sets out the vision and mission of the Industrial Development Division, its roles, functions and organisational structure.

Part II: Main Achievements

Part II describes the major achievements and reviews the performance of the Ministry and the manufacturing sector during the last Financial Year (FY). This Section also highlights the actions taken and systems put in place in relation to Risk Management, Citizen-Oriented Initiatives and Good Governance.

Part III: Financial Performance

Part III provides an overview of the financial highlights for FY 2023/24, including the statements of revenue and expenditure.

Part IV: Way Forward

Part IV details out the strategic directions of the Industrial Development Division as well as the trends and challenges having a bearing on the manufacturing sector.

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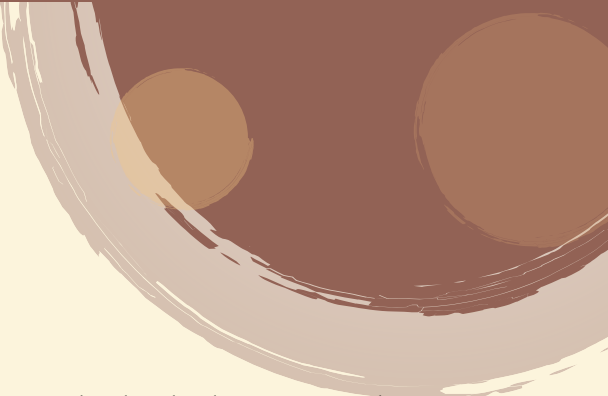
STATEMENT FROM MINISTER

I am pleased to be associated with the publication of the Annual Report (2023-2024) of the Industrial Development Division of my Ministry. I seize this occasion to again thank the Honourable Prime Minister for entrusting me the responsibility of the Ministerial portfolio of Industrial Development since February 2024. It is an honour and privilege to carry forward the legacy of my predecessor, Honourable S. Bholah, who has shaped the strategic orientations on which the manufacturing sector is leveraging today for its sustained development. On my part, I am committed to push further the frontiers of industrial development by formulating new ideas to fully unlock our growth potential.



May I reiterate that the contours of the current industrial policies were crafted back in 2015 with the coming into power of an MSM-led Government. These policy directions have been revamped, since 2019, with the renewed confidence of the population in the Government of the day. As we are nearing completion of our mandate, I feel it is the right moment to put into perspective the fundamental progress achieved over the past decade to firmly anchor the manufacturing sector as a powerful engine of growth.

Indeed, the figures speak for themselves. Manufacturing output which stood at Rs 134 billion in 2015 has escalated to Rs 176 billion in 2023. Contribution of manufacturing to Gross Value Added has surged from Rs 55 billion to Rs 73 billion. Gross Fixed Capital Formation, which includes investment in industrial infrastructure and plant & machinery, leaped from Rs 3.7 billion to attain Rs 6.2 billion. Foreign Direct Investment in the manufacturing sector, for the period 2015 to 2023, reached an impressive amount of Rs 9.1 billion. Local Value Addition per employee witnessed a remarkable stride to attain Rs 881,000 in 2023 as compared to Rs 542,000 in 2015. Domestic exports peaked at an all-time high figure of Rs 52.3 billion in 2022. All these achievements bear testimony that this Government has successfully re-aligned the manufacturing industry on a resilient and sustainable pathway for greater prosperity in line with our objective to become a high-income economy.



I believe it is a moment of satisfaction as all the economic fundamentals clearly demonstrate that the continued efforts of Government to elevate the manufacturing sector to new heights have paid dividends. It has been a long journey but we have succeeded in our mission. It is an undeniable fact that the industry is now evolving on more strong foundations driven by cutting-edge technologies, innovation, creativity & design and sustainable practices. Indeed, the stage is set for industry operators to move ahead with more optimism, confidence and determination in our endeavour to become a Centre of Excellence in manufacturing.

At this juncture, I wish to emphasise the fruitful collaboration with the industry partners and support institutions in achieving the desired goals to strengthen and broaden the manufacturing base. As usual, Government has played its essential role as a catalyst, pace-setter and facilitator. This is evidenced by the bold actions and innovative policy measures put in place to accompany the manufacturing sector in its long-term development process. As at now, manufacturing enterprises are being fully supported to face the challenges of trade liberalisation, globalisation and other daunting situations which have a major impact on their business operations.

I am aware that the future is unpredictable, particularly with the prolonged war between Ukraine and Russia and the devastating conflict in the Middle East that may have serious repercussions on our industrial growth trajectory. Nonetheless, let us think positive and appreciate the present moment by giving due recognition to our industry captains and their employees for their hard work that has culminated into the excellent performance and new milestones in the manufacturing industry.

To conclude, I wish to thank all staff who have participated in the preparation of this Annual Report which reflects the sincere commitment of the Ministry towards advancement of industrial development in the country. On a more personal note, I am grateful to everyone for supporting me in my Ministerial journey which will remain an enriching, exciting and exceptional experience.

Honourable (Ms.) Naveena Ramyad
Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives

STATEMENT FROM SENIOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

It is an honour to be associated with the eighth Annual Report of the Industrial Development Division, which offers a comprehensive account of its achievements during the Financial Year (FY) 2023/2024. This Report, in fact, encapsulates the endeavours of the Ministry to foster industrial growth by leveraging on the adoption of technology and sustainable development of Mauritius' industrial sector.

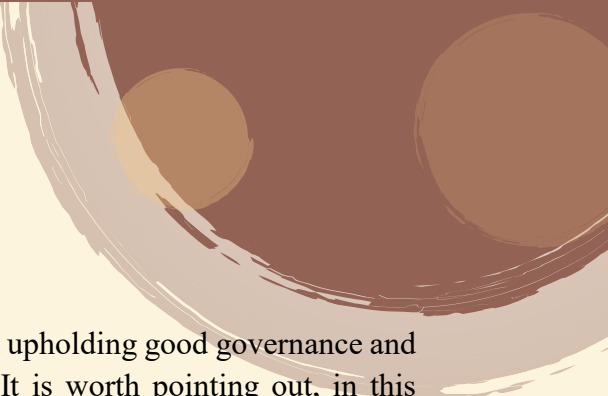
Despite the difficult international trading environment, the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war, and the recent devastating conflict in the Middle-East that are putting enormous pressure on the local manufacturing sector, our industry operators have demonstrated their usual sense of resilience by posting a satisfactory performance. This sector's ability to adapt and maintain productivity under these conditions reflects its importance in driving economic growth in Mauritius. As such, our efforts, during FY 2023/2024, were particularly focused towards enhancing the competitiveness of our manufacturing base, supporting operators in adopting cutting-edge technologies and embracing sustainable practices in their production processes.

The Division achieved significant progress in implementing the Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan 2020-2025, with 81% of its recommendations now fully executed. This exemplifies our unwavering commitment to driving advancement across various sectors of the manufacturing industry.

One of our flagship initiatives, the pilot Manufacturing 4.0 project, was implemented with the assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat, to support enterprises in modernising their operations through advanced technologies. The project has been instrumental in introducing beneficiaries to new technologies that can enhance their competitiveness.

Furthermore, a number of activities have been initiated in consonance with our objective to foster sustainable industrial development. This Division has been designated by the Government as the Lead Agency responsible for reporting on actions taken to fulfil the commitments outlined under UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. It is worth noting that Mauritius' performance under SDG 9 exceeds 50%. All efforts are being geared to ensure that targets set for 2030 are realised.

Moreover, in November 2023, we launched the Energy Efficiency Audit Scheme, which provides financial support to eligible enterprises to conduct energy audits, aligning with Mauritius' pledge to reduce its carbon footprint. We have also embarked on the "Accelerating the Transition to a Net-Zero Nature-Positive Economy in Mauritius" (NZNPA) initiative, a forward-thinking project aimed at decarbonising the manufacturing sector.



In addition to our support for the sector, much emphasis is laid on upholding good governance and ensuring the seamless continuity of the Division's operations. It is worth pointing out, in this context, that we were amongst the first Ministries to develop a Risk Management Policy. Furthermore, our Audit Committee has been instrumental in overseeing all aspects of governance within the Division. Significant progress has been made in enhancing control over non-financial assets, due to the regular updating of the Government Asset Register, ensuring precise accountability and optimal resource management.

A good team spirit and a well-equipped workforce are indispensable tools to the successful delivery of our services. To that end, we have invested in the development of our staff by, among others, providing training in innovative topics such as strategic thinking and emotional intelligence, which was very much appreciated by our officers.

On another note, it is worth noting that in our endeavours to provide a modern public service, we have introduced the Quick Response (QR) Codes on all Certificates of Registration issued to jewellers, as well as on Test Reports from the Assay Office. This enhancement significantly improves document security and authentication. In addition, we have overhauled our Customer Charter, offering clear and comprehensive information on the services we provide. We also have an efficient complaints management system ensuring that all tickets received via the Citizen Support Portal are promptly addressed, further demonstrating our commitment to timely customer service.

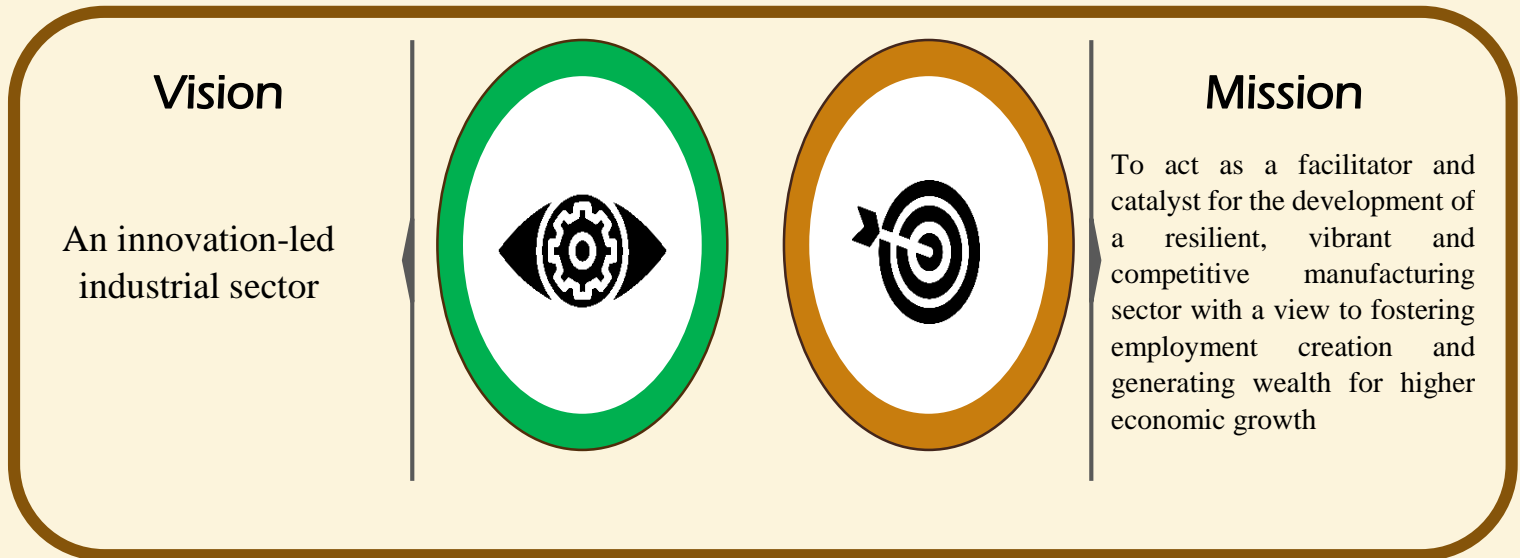
In conclusion, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all staff members of the Division for their steadfast dedication and their invaluable contributions towards fostering the long-term growth and resilience of Mauritius' industrial landscape. The Division remains resolute in its commitment to maintaining progress and ensuring that our policies and initiatives continue to meet the evolving needs of the sector.

Mohammad Salim Joomun
Senior Chief Executive

PART I: ABOUT THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



1.0 Vision and Mission



1.1 Roles and Functions of the Industrial Development Division

- Acts as a facilitator and catalyst through the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies, programmes and strategies for the emergence of a strong, modern and diversified manufacturing base.
- Promotes sustainable industrial development.

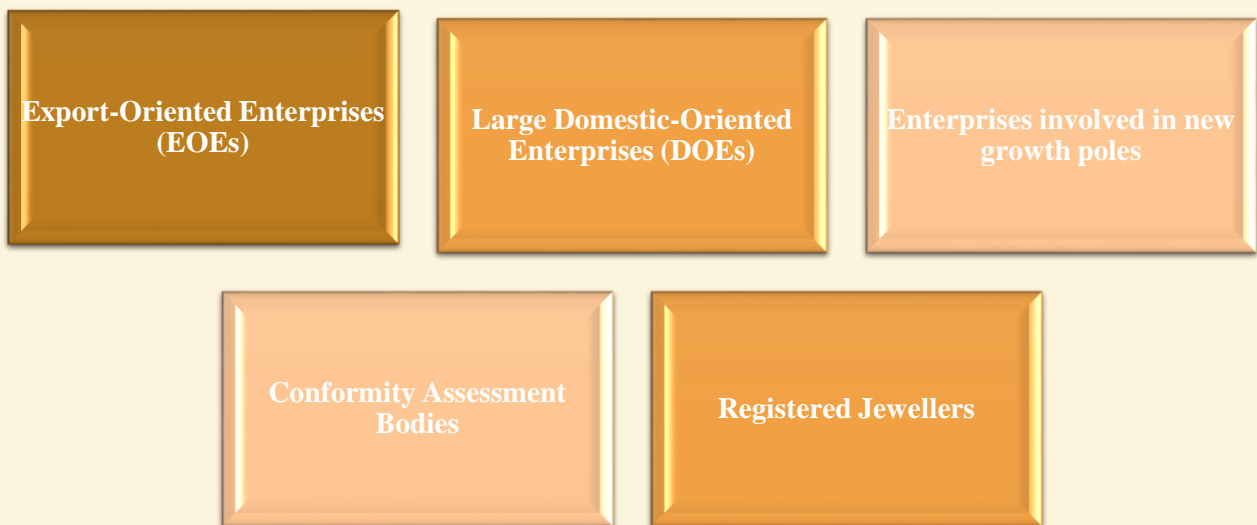
1.2 Main Objectives

- To promote globally competitive industries.
- To foster product and market diversification.
- To stimulate exports in existing and emerging markets.
- To support green, socially responsible and quality initiatives in enterprises.
- To enhance market access through internationally recognised standards.

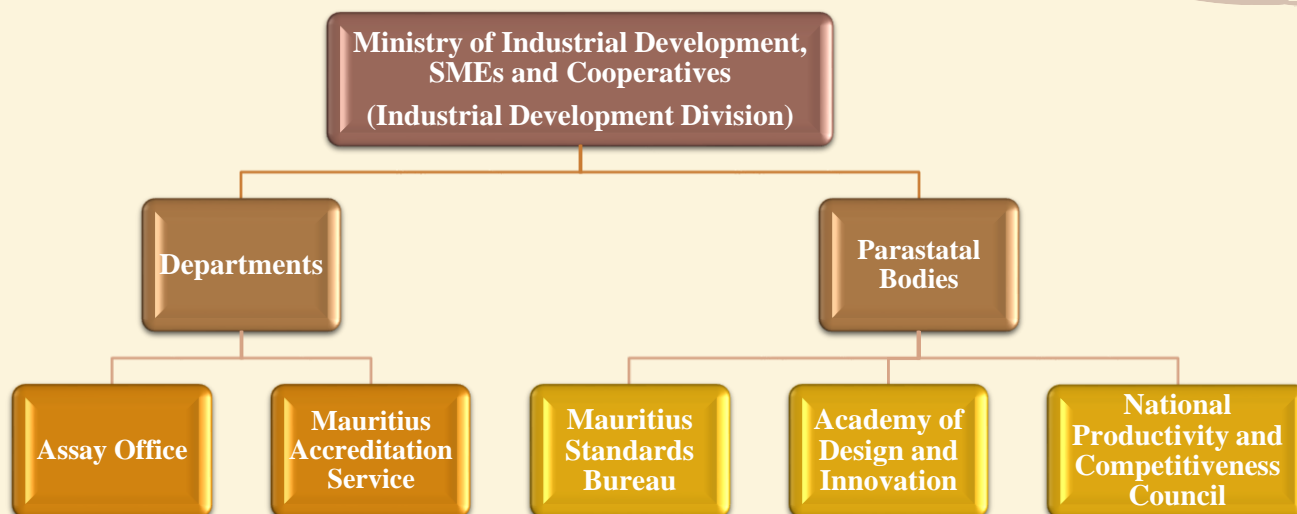
1.3 Government Programme 2020-2024

- Formulation and implementation of a 5-year Strategic Plan for the manufacturing sector focusing on innovation, technology and import substitution activities to foster export competitiveness.

1.4 Main Customers



1.5 Departments and Parastatals of the Industrial Development Division



1.5.1 Services Provided by Departments

Assay Office

- Registration of jewellers dealing in precious metals and jewellery made of gold, silver, palladium and platinum, and precious or semi-precious stones;
- Testing of gold, silver and platinum jewellery and their alloys for jewellers, government institutions and the public;
- Verification and identification of precious and semi-precious stones for jewellers, government institutions and the public;
- Grading of diamond for jewellers, government institutions and the public;
- Registration of Sponsor's Mark, Identification Mark and Importer's Mark for jewellers;
- Effecting inspection visits on business premises of jewellers to ensure compliance with the Jewellery Act 2007 and its Regulations;
- Endorsement of Ownership Declaration Form whereby the name and address of customers are certified against NIC and proof of address; and
- Valuation service whereby the gold content of jewellery is valued and a valuation certificate is delivered.

Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS)

- Provides a national unified service for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (e.g. laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies) to international standards;
- Responsible for the accreditation of:
 - Certification bodies to ISO/IEC 17021-1 for management systems.
 - Certification bodies to ISO/IEC 17065 for product certification.
 - Testing and Calibration Laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025.
 - Medical laboratories to ISO 15189.
 - Inspection bodies to ISO/IEC 17020.
- Establishes agreements on mutual recognition with other national, regional and international accreditation bodies and to obtain and maintain international acceptance of the competence of conformity assessment bodies accredited by MAURITAS.
- MAURITAS is a signatory member to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA).
- MAURITAS is also a signatory member to the African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and to the SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

1.5.2 Services Provided by Parastatal Bodies

Mauritius Standards Bureau

- Develops standards, conducts testing and calibration, certifies products and management systems and also provides training in quality related issues.
- Acts as the custodian of the national measurement standards and is the National Enquiry Point for WTO/TBT issues.
- Implements strategic directions provided by the Standards Council which ensures that the organisation meets its corporate objectives.

Academy of Design and Innovation

- An Awarding Body which promotes excellence in design education, fosters innovation, and provide consultancy and research services in the region.
- Offers courses in Fashion Design, Interior Design, Media and Communication and Jewellery Manufacturing at Certificate, Diploma, Degree and Postgraduate levels; and
- Assists industry operators through tailor-made programmes to enhance their design and innovation capabilities.

National Productivity and Competitiveness Council

- Fosters a productivity culture and stimulates productivity gains in all sectors of the economy through the organisation of capacity-building programmes, in-plant interventions, sensitisation campaigns and webinars.
- Endeavours to build productive and competitive enterprises through the “Enterprise Transformation Programme”.
- Undertakes research and analytical work on productivity-related matters to assist in policy-making.

1.6 Gender Statement

The Ministry is dedicated to advancing gender equality in entrepreneurship to support sustainable economic growth. It aims to empower women and ensure their equal participation across various sectors, including Manufacturing, SMEs, and Cooperatives, fostering innovation and competitiveness. The Industrial Development Division emphasises gender equality to build an inclusive workforce and drive sustainable industrial progress in Mauritius.

Gender mainstreaming is implemented, at the level of the Ministry, through two committees namely the Gender Cell and the Buddy Club. The role of the Gender Cell is to identify gender gaps within the Ministry and ways to address these effectively through implementation of appropriate policies and activities. The setting up of the Buddy Club was recommended in the National Strategy and Action Plan on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence in the Republic of Mauritius 2020-2024. It aims to create awareness on gender-based violence through positive role modelling from men leaders and creating a community of practice on positive messaging in the private sector.

Throughout the Financial Year 2023/2024, the Ministry participated actively in various initiatives, including review of SADC Gender Parity Framework for achieving Gender Parity in Politics and Decision-Making Positions and the Preparation of the 9th Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Report. Officers of the Ministry also attended workshops and awareness programmes on matters pertaining to Gender-Based Violence and Gender Mainstreaming.

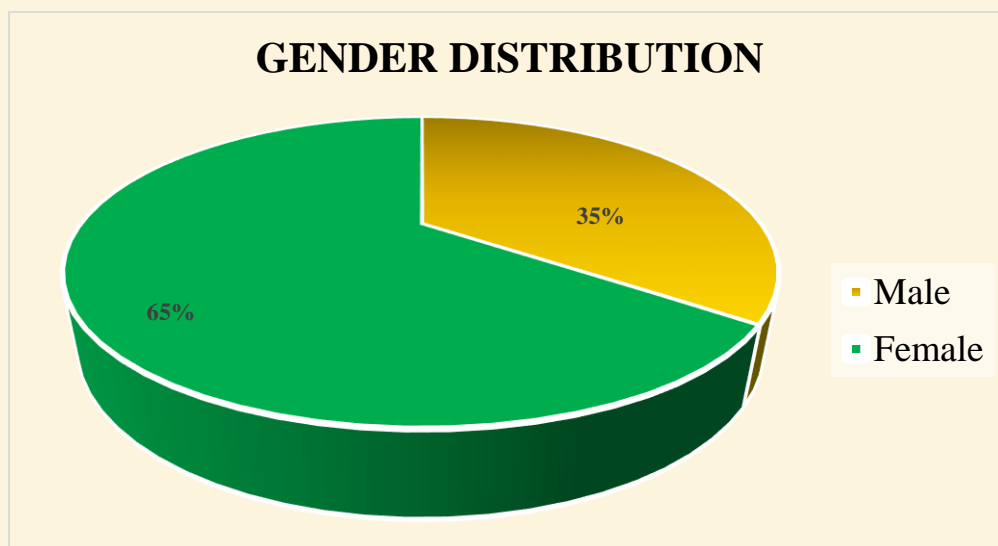
1.7 Industrial Development Division – Team Members

1.7.1 Our People

The Ministry is headed by a Senior Chief Executive who is assisted by a Deputy Permanent Secretary and two Assistant Permanent Secretaries. On the technical side, support is provided by the Director of Industry, the Director of MAURITAS and the Director of the Assay Office, who are supported by technical staff of their respective Cadre. Support services are provided by officers of the Human Resources Cadre, Finance Cadre, Procurement and Supply Cadre, General Services and the Workmen’s Group.

1.7.2 Workforce in terms of Gender

The gender distribution of staff of the Industrial Development Division is as follows:

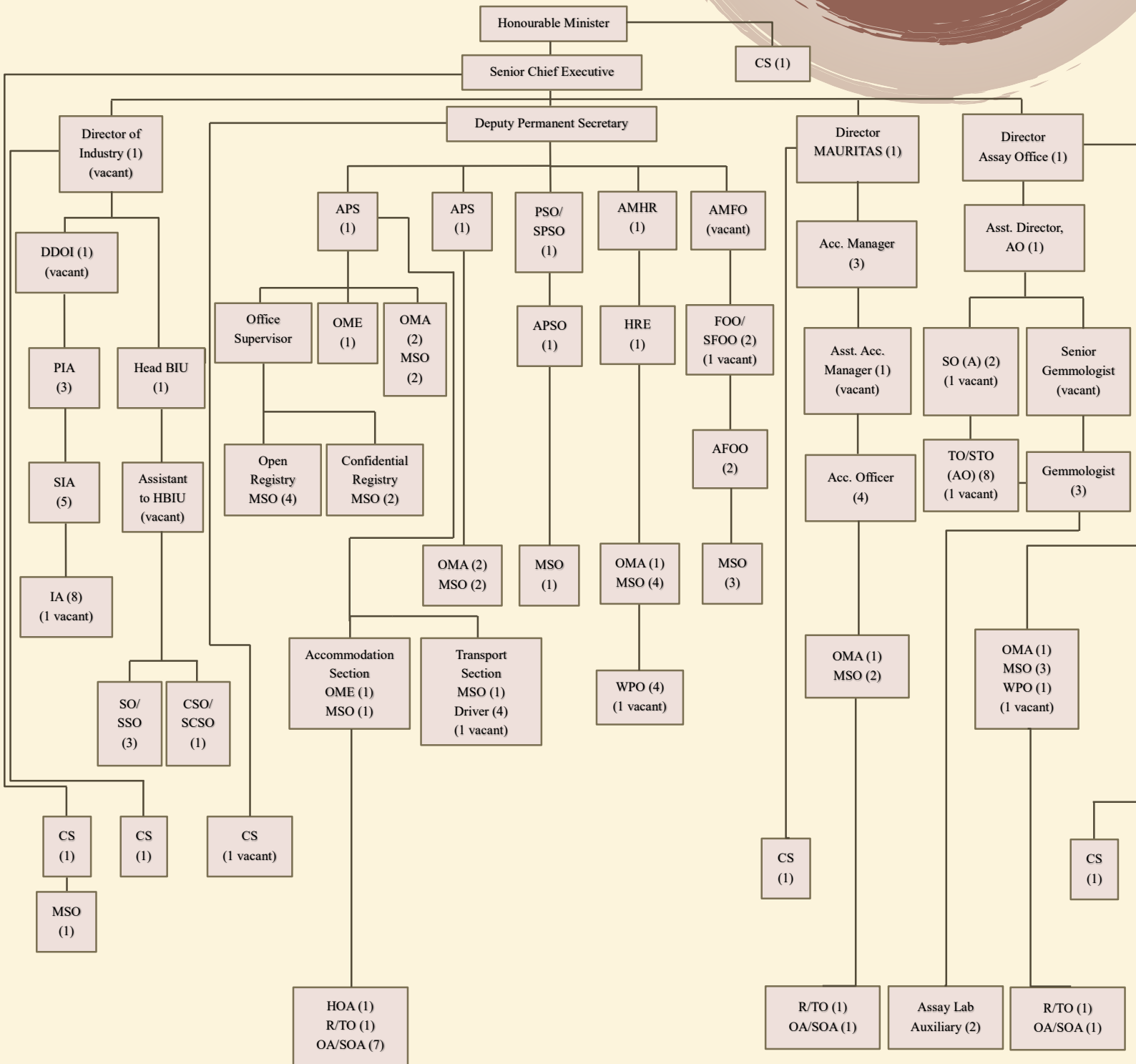


1.7.3 Human Resource & Gender Distribution

The classification of the workforce across hierarchy levels at the Ministry is as follows: -

Staff in Post (March 2024)	Number	Male	Female
Top Management (Salary \geq Rs 110,000)	1	100%	0%
Middle Management (Rs 47,000 \leq Salary <Rs 110,000)	22	57%	43%
Support (Salary <Rs 47,000)	81	28%	72%
Overall	104	35%	65%

1.7.4 Organisational Structure



APS – Assistant Permanent Secretary
AMHR – Assistant Manager, Human Resources
AMFO – Assistant Manager Financial Operations
Acc. Manager – Accreditation Manager
Acc Officer – Accreditation Officer
Asst. Acc Manager – Assistant Accreditation Manager
AFOO – Assistant Financial Operations Officer
APSO – Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer
Head BIU – Head, Business Information Unit
Asst. to HBIU – Assistant to Head Business Information Unit
Asst. Director, AO – Assistant Director, Assay Office
CS – Confidential Secretary
CSO/SCSO – Computer Support Officer/Senior Computer Support Officer
DDOI – Deputy Director of Industry
FOO/SFOO – Financial Operations Officer/Senior Financial Operations Officer

HOA – Head Office Auxiliary
HRE – Human Resource Executive
IA – Industrial Analyst
MSO – Management Support Officer
OME – Office Management Executive
OMA – Office Management Assistant
OA/SOA – Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary
PFOO – Principal Financial Operations Officer
PIA – Principal Industrial Analyst
PSO/SPSO – Procurement and Supply Officer/Senior Procurement and Supply Officer
R/TO – Receptionist/Telephone Operator
SO (A) – Scientific Officer (Assay)
SIA – Senior Industrial Analyst
SO/SSO – Statistical Officer/Senior Statistical Officer
TO/STO (AO) – Technical Officer/Senior Technical Officer (Assay Office)
WPO – Word Processing Operator

1.7.5 Training and Development

Training is a vital component of the Human Resource Development, which aims at improving performance of officers and ensures that they have the relevant skills and knowledge to provide quality services and that the objectives of the organisation are achieved.

During the Financial Year 2023/2024, a Training plan was prepared and implemented based on the training needs identified by each Section and taking into consideration weaknesses highlighted during the performance appraisal exercise. In this context:

- Fifty-seven (57) officers were trained by the Civil Service College Mauritius, Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms and other institutions in courses such as “Improving Public Sector Governance through Audit Committee”, “Government Asset Register”, “Mastering Telephone Skills”, “Standard Defensive Driving”, “Tender Preparation Evaluation”, among others;
- Forty-nine (49) officers were trained on Occupational Safety and Health by the Occupational and Health Unit of the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms; and
- Eighteen (18) officers also attended training/seminars/workshops abroad in countries such as India, Thailand, Singapore and People’s Republic of China.

Talks were also organised in collaboration with other Ministries for officers of the Ministry.

1.7.5.1 In-house Training Sessions

Officers of the Ministry attended in-house training sessions revolving around various thematic such as Code of Ethics, Conflict Management, First Aid at Work, Computerisation of Registry System, Emotional Intelligence and ISO 15189:2022 – Medical Laboratories.

Code of Ethics for Public Officers

In-house training sessions were held at the Ministry on two occasions in November 2023 for 17 officers on “Code of Ethics for Public Officers” to promote effective administration and responsible behaviour in the workplace.



Conflict Management

Seventeen (17) officers were trained on “Conflict Management” on 17 and 23 November 2023 to equip them with appropriate tools to maintain a positive work environment and foster a collaborative approach for higher productivity.



First Aid at Work

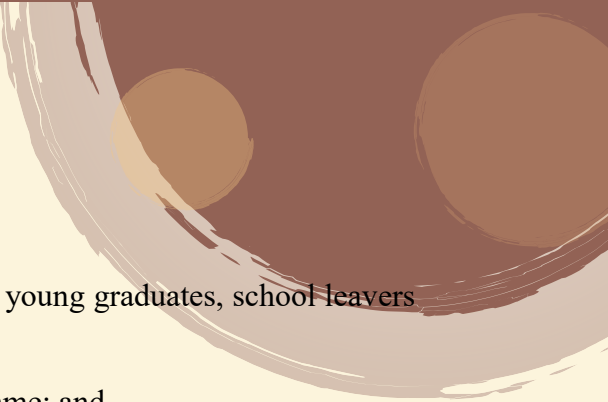
First Aid at Work is a key component of a comprehensive health and safety strategy, contributing to a safer and more responsive workplace. In this context, six (6) half-days in-house training course on “First Aid At Work” was delivered by St John Ambulance Mauritius for nine (9) officers.



1.7.5.2 Work Placement

Work placement is a valuable component of career development, providing both practical experience and insights that are essential for building a successful career.





The Industrial Development Division offered work placement to young graduates, school leavers and university students as follows:

- a) Three (3) Trainees under the Youth Employment Programme; and
- b) Seven (7) Interns under the Work Placement Programme from the University of Mauritius and University of Technology.

1.7.6 Workforce Planning/Succession Planning

Workforce planning and succession planning are crucial components of strategic human resource management. They help organisations ensure that they have the right people in the right roles at the right time. In this context, various posts have been filled to ensure quality service delivery at the Ministry. Where posts could not be filled, relevant officers have been assigned higher duties to ensure smooth running of activities of the Departments and Sections where the vacancies exist.

1.7.7 Safety and Health at the Workplace

The Ministry has, in accordance with Section 21 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005, established a Safety and Health Committee, which is chaired by the Director of MAURITAS.

A Safety and Health Officer from the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms is posted at the Ministry, providing assistance on matters relating to occupational safety and health.

During the period 01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, the Committee held four meetings to look into safety and health issues across all units of the Ministry. The recommendations and proposals of the Safety and Health Committee were given prompt attention to ward off any risk to the safety and health of officers.

PART II: MINISTRY/DEPARTMENTS ACHIEVEMENTS



2.0 Performance of the Manufacturing Sector

2.1 Manufacturing

- ✓ The manufacturing sector is a fundamental pillar of the Mauritian economy, contributing significantly to national output, gainful employment and foreign exchange earnings.
- ✓ The manufacturing sector comprises some **230** Export-Oriented Enterprises (EOEs) that are geared towards exports and around **300** large Domestic-Oriented Enterprises (DOEs) that cater principally for the local market.
- ✓ Manufacturing activities include textile & clothing, food processing, fish & fish preparations, jewellery & precious stones, medical devices, watches & clocks, light engineering, wood furniture, printing & publishing, optical goods, injection plastic moulding and paints & chemicals.
- ✓ In 2023, the manufacturing sector contributed around **12.7%** to Gross Value Added (GVA). In value terms, GVA amounted to **Rs 73.1 billion** in 2023 as compared to **Rs 68.4 billion** in 2022.
- ✓ Manufacturing output increased from **Rs 167.5 billion** in 2022 to reach **Rs 176.8 billion** in 2023.
- ✓ Employment in the manufacturing sector which stood at **82,900** in 2022 increased to **89,800** in 2023.

2.2 Exports

- ✓ Locally manufactured goods represent the bulk of domestic exports.
- ✓ In 2023, domestic exports (excluding sugar) stood at **Rs 50.1 billion**.
- ✓ At sectoral level, Textile & Clothing and Fish & Fish Preparations accounted for **37.8%** and **24.7%** to domestic exports, respectively. Other sub-sectors, namely, Medical Devices, Jewellery & Precious Stones and Watches & Clocks contributed **3.9%**, **3.8%** and **2.8%** to domestic exports, respectively.
- ✓ The main markets for locally manufactured products in 2023 were South Africa (**12.7%**), UK (**12.4%**), France (**10.9%**), USA (**10.8%**), Spain (**8.2%**), Madagascar (**8.1%**), Italy (**6.3%**), Netherlands (**4.9%**), India (**3.5%**) and Kenya (**2.6%**).

2.3 Market Diversification

- ✓ The long-term viability of the export manufacturing sector depends, amongst others, on effective market diversification to mitigate against negative economic conditions in traditional market destinations.

- ✓ In this vein, targeted export promotion activities were carried out in emerging markets with high potential and more efforts are being made to leverage fully on business opportunities under various trade agreements, such as Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between Mauritius and India, Mauritius-China Free Trade Agreement and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- ✓ In 2023, much progress was achieved in export to emerging market destinations such as Turkey (+562%), Poland (+239%), Hong Kong (+100.3%), Sweden (+64%), Armenia (+59.2%) and Japan (+74%).

2.4 Industrial Modernisation and Expansion

- ✓ One of the policy thrusts of Government rests on the broadening of the manufacturing base, through deepening of the industrial structure and emergence of new growth poles. Furthermore, the manufacturing sector has to keep pace with latest technological developments through an ongoing modernisation process which is likely to enhance its attractiveness as a competitive industry player.
- ✓ Gross Fixed Capital Formation, which includes investment in industrial infrastructure and plant & machinery, increased from **Rs 5.2 billion** in 2022 to **Rs 5.9 billion** in 2023.
- ✓ Foreign Direct Investment stood at **Rs 134 million** in 2023.
- ✓ New projects that have been implemented are in the fields of paints, paper, metal and solar PV recycling, glass processing, construction panels, essential oils and cosmetics.

2.5 Support to the Jewellery Sector

Assay Office

For the period July 2023 to June 2024, the Assay Office:

- registered **41** new jewellers bringing the total number of registered jewellers to **564**;
- verified **1,104** gemstones to ensure their authenticity and graded **244** diamonds;
- tested **1,816** jewellery/alloys made of gold, silver and platinum;
- evaluated the price of **222** gold jewellery certifying the gold contents in the jewellery items;
- endorsed **6,314** ownership declaration forms for sale of second-hand jewellery;
- carried out **502** inspection visits on the business premises of registered jewellers; and
- generated a revenue of **Rs 4.1 million**.

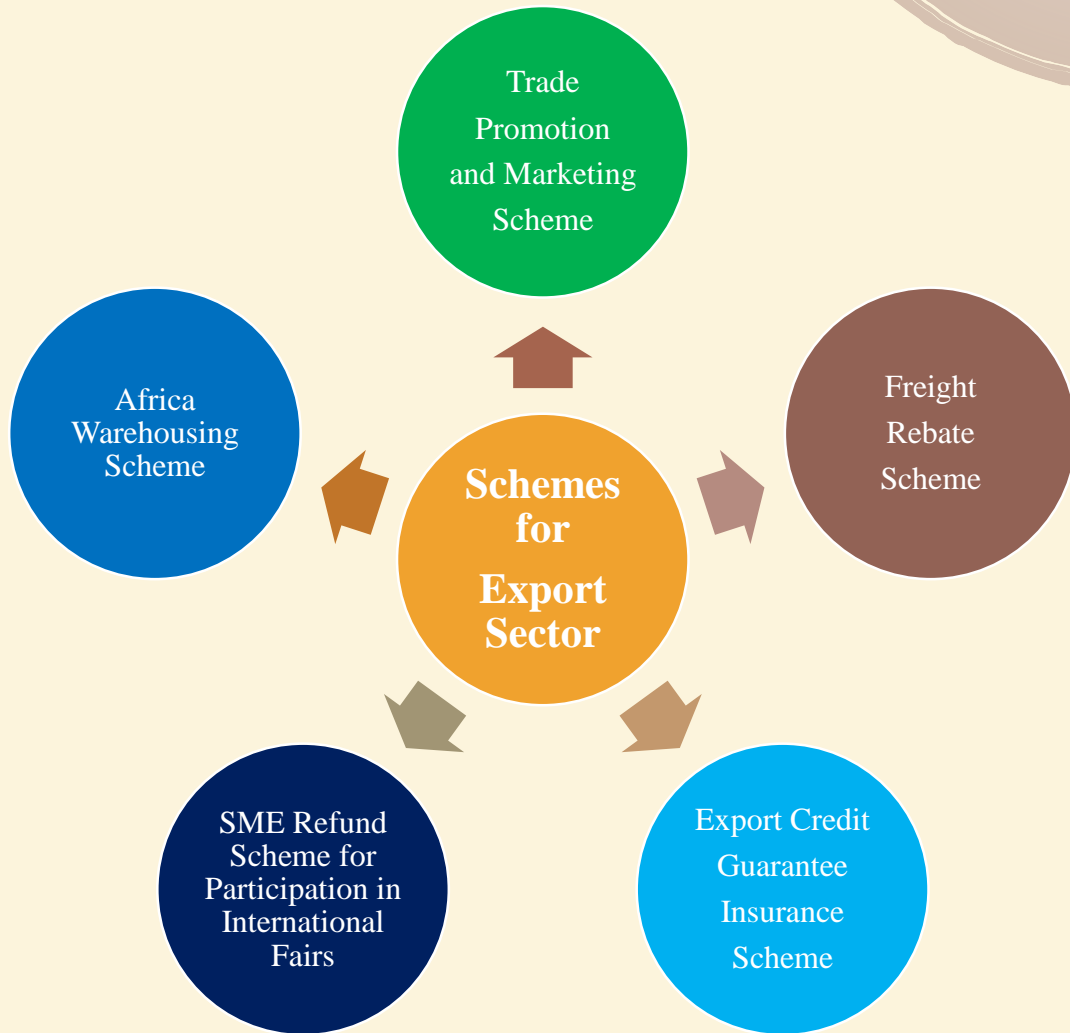
2.6 Accreditation Services

Mauritius Accreditation Service

During the Financial Year 2023/2024, Mauritius Accreditation Service (MAURITAS):

- extended the scope of **6** accredited laboratories, namely, Quantilab Ltd, Government Analyst Division (GAD), Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), C-Lab Darné and Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) Chemical Unit;
- accredited **36** conformity assessment bodies on **997** parameters and **36** scope sectors;
- maintained its international recognition with ILAC/IAF until June 2026; and
- generated revenue to the tune of **Rs 3.8 million**.

2.7 Support Schemes for Export Sector



The Table below provides information regarding the number of beneficiaries and amount disbursed under different Schemes during the period July 2023 to June 2024:

Schemes	Support Provided	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed (Rs million)
Trade Promotion and Marketing Scheme (TPMS)	A 60% refund on air freight costs for exports of all agricultural and non-agricultural products produced/manufactured in Mauritius except for machinery, live animals and chemicals. The eligible markets are Africa (including Madagascar), USA, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, Japan, Middle East Countries, New Zealand and Vietnam. The Scheme is valid up to 30 June 2025.	251	328
Freight Rebate Scheme (FRS)	A subsidy of 25% on sea freight costs either to a maximum of USD 300 per 20 ft. container or to a maximum of USD 600 per 40 ft. container for export of locally manufactured goods to selected ports in Africa. The Scheme is valid up to 30 June 2025.	27	12.2
Export Credit Guarantee Insurance Scheme	A refund of 50% on the insurance premium paid subject to a maximum of 0.5% of the insurable declared turnover. The Scheme is valid up to 30 June 2025.	17	8.2
SME Refund Scheme for Participation in International Fairs	A refund of Rs 250,000 annually on the cost of participation (airfare and accommodation) for small and medium enterprises participating in international fairs.	155	20.3
Africa Warehousing Scheme	The Scheme provides for a 60% refund on annual warehousing costs incurred by Mauritian manufacturing entities operating warehouses in Tanzania. The Scheme is valid up to 30 June 2027.	2	0.67

2.8 Implementation of Budgetary Measures 2023/2024

The status of implementation of Budgetary Measures 2023/24 relevant to the manufacturing sector is provided in Table below:

Paragraph	Budget Measure	Implementing Agency	Remarks
71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Applications for work permits to be made online on the National E-Licensing System (NELS) of EDB; ✓ Online tracking on the status of Work Permit applications to be effective on the NELS; ✓ Introduction of a silent is consent principle of 4 weeks for work permits applications; and ✓ Removal of ratio of foreign to local employees in the Manufacturing Sector. 	Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development & Training /Economic Development Board	<p>Already Operational</p> <p>Ratio has been waived off only for Textile & Clothing enterprises.</p>
111 (b)	Allocation of a “Made in Moris” dedicated area at the Mauritius Duty Free Paradise at the airport.	Association of Mauritian Manufacturers	Actions being initiated to implement the project.
111 (c)	Procurement of at least 50% of all biscuits, uniforms, edible oil, margarine, tea, juice, and yogurt from local manufacturers .	Public Procurement Office	Already Operational (Directive No. 71)
112	Extension of the investment tax credit of 15% over 3 years to all manufacturing companies in respect of expenditure incurred on new plant and machinery (excluding motor cars).	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development	Already Operational (Annex B of Finance Act 2023)

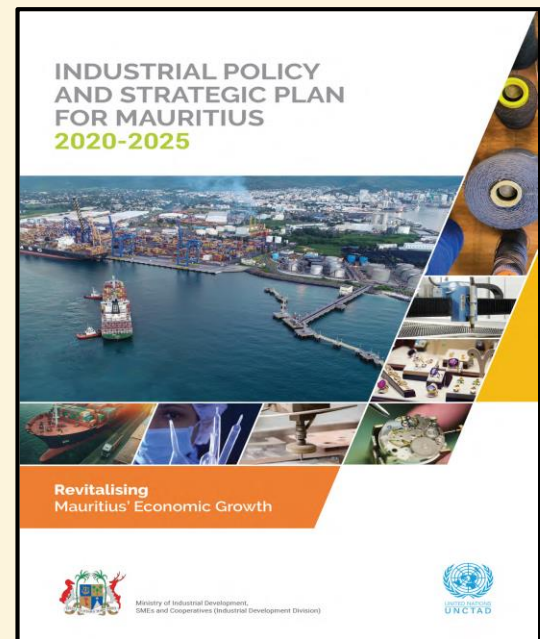
Paragraph	Budget Measure	Implementing Agency	Remarks
115-116	Renewal of Africa Warehousing Scheme for next 3 years.	Economic Development Board	Already Operational
117 (a)	Extension of support schemes such as: <i>Freight Rebate Scheme; Trade Promotion and Marketing Scheme; and Export Credit Guarantee Scheme.</i>	Economic Development Board	Already Operational
117 (b)	50% reduction in export port charges.	Mauritius Ports Authority	Already Operational
122	Provision of 50% waiver on the increase in electricity prices for the next two years for companies moving towards 100% renewable energy.	Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities/ Central Electricity Board	Already Operational
123	Provision of 75% subsidy to conduct energy audits for the manufacturing sector.	Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs & Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division)	Already Operational
134 (d)	3% corporate tax for medical devices companies.	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development	Already Operational
A.1. (g)	Double deduction of expenditure incurred on market research and product development for companies having an annual turnover not exceeding Rs 500 million .	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development	Already Operational (<i>Annex B of Finance Act 2023</i>)
B.1. (q)	Extension of Dual Training Programme up to a certificate level for workers in the Export Sector.	Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development & Training	Already Operational.

2.9 Major Projects & Activities

2.9.1 Implementation of Industrial Policy and Strategic Plan (IPSP) (2020-2025)

The IPSP was formulated in 2020 with technical and financial assistance from UNCTAD to boost development of the manufacturing sector and enhance industrial growth for greater economic prosperity. The IPSP comprises **194** projects focusing on **8** strategic pillars namely: Industry Foundations, Upgrading of Value Chains, Advanced Technology Absorption, Domestic Enterprises, Textile & Clothing, Food Processing & Fish Preparations, Medical Devices & Pharmaceuticals and Jewellery.

As at now, **159** projects, representing around **81%** of recommendations in the IPSP have already been implemented and **5%** of the recommendations are under implementation. These relate mainly to the implementation of the Commonwealth-funded Manufacturing 4.0 project, setting up of Modernisation and Transformation Fund, extension of export support schemes, re-dynamising of export and investment promotional campaigns, enhancing fiscal and financial regimes, improvement in the legislative framework, upgrading of skills, streamlining of work permit processes, increasing employability of the Mauritian workforce, accelerating development of supply side capabilities and adherence to sustainable practices, amongst others.



2.9.2 Manufacturing 4.0 Project

The Ministry in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, has successfully implemented a “Manufacturing 4.0” project, on a pilot basis, with the objective to assist enterprises adopt advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Automation, Robotics and Industrial Internet of Things. The project, which kickstarted, in January 2023 was completed in December 2023.

The first phase of the Project was completed in June 2023 and it involved the preparation of a Report by the Consultancy Firm namely, International Economics Consulting Ltd, selected by Commonwealth Secretariat, to assess the level of digitalisation attained by the manufacturing sector.

The Report highlighted, amongst others, that many enterprises in the manufacturing sector have already adopted basic automation capabilities and are gradually moving towards more advanced technologies into their operations.

The second phase of the Manufacturing 4.0 Project comprised a capacity-building programme for 8 manufacturing enterprises from cross-cutting sectors (*Food Processing and Beverages, Textile and Clothing, Jewellery, Medical Devices, Printing and Publishing and Tyre Retreading*) to assist them in identifying appropriate advanced technologies for greater competitiveness. The University of Warwick’s Manufacturing Group based in the United Kingdom was selected by the Commonwealth Secretariat to carry out this exercise.

A team of experts comprising Dr. Hamid Moradlou, Associate Professor in Supply Chain Management, Mr. Onur Eren, Technology Leader and Mr. Tarek El-Said, Supply Chain Business Consultant were in Mauritius from 11 to 15 December 2023 to implement Phase Two of the project. Mr. Niels Strazdins, Trade Specialist at Commonwealth Secretariat, who is the focal point for this Project, was also present in Mauritius during that period with the objective to cement the good collaborative partnership with the Ministry.

During the five days’ mission, the Consultants delivered tailored capacity building programmes at the premises of the 8 manufacturing enterprises to guide them embrace appropriate advanced technologies in their production processes.



Subsequently, each of the 8 beneficiary enterprises were provided with a customised Roadmap, together with cost estimates for acquisition of the technologies and the appropriate software/hardware suppliers to implement the recommendations made by the consultants.

The project has been an eye-opener in the sense that the beneficiary enterprises are now exposed to new technologies that they could invest into for greater competitiveness.

2.9.3 Accelerating the Transition Towards a Net-Zero Nature-Positive Economy in Mauritius (NZNPA)

In 2023, the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) provided a grant of USD 77,000 to this Ministry for preparation of a detailed NZNPA Project Document. The main objective of the project is to accelerate the greening of the manufacturing sector towards a carbon neutral development pathway for enhanced competitiveness. The Project is being implemented with the technical support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Office based in Kenya, which is also the interface of GEF for all operational and administrative matters.

As a first step, the Minister organised a Consultative Workshop in November 2023 to gather relevant inputs from public and private stakeholders for the drafting of the NZNPA Project Document. This process was supported by an International Expert recruited by UNEP and a Local Consultant.

On 27 February 2024, the Ministry organised another Workshop at The Ravenala Attitude Hotel, Balaclava to validate inputs gathered to draft the NZNPA Project Document, encompassing the detailed activities and institutional arrangements over the next four years of implementation.

The Honourable (Ms.) Naveena Ramyad, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives officially launched the opening ceremony of this Validation Workshop in the presence of Her Excellency (Ms.) Lisa Simrique Singh, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles. Some 70 participants, including representatives of institutions, academia, business associations and manufacturing enterprises, also attended the workshop.



*Honourable (Ms.) Naveena Ramyad during her
Keynote Address
Courtesy: GIS Mauritius*

The Honourable Minister emphasised the pertinent role of the project which would set the stage for sustained economic transformation with no adverse effect on nature and the environment. More specifically, she mentioned that the project would establish the national enabling environment to integrate nature-based solutions and to speed up the decarbonisation of the manufacturing sector.



*From left to right: Her Excellency (Ms.) Lisa Simrique Singh, the UN Resident Coordinator of Mauritius and Seychelles, Honourable (Ms.) N. Ramyad, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mrs. A. D. Poreema, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Mr. R. Bharosay, Acting Director of Industry.
Courtesy: GIS Mauritius*

Her Excellency Ms Lisa Simrique Singh, on her part, stressed on the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and pollution, as well as the resulting adverse impacts on Small Island Developing States like Mauritius. She briefly explained the crucial role of the NZNPA project in activating an enabling framework at national policy planning level to ensure sustained economic growth in the country. She concluded by thanking the Government and the Ministry for the different initiatives being taken to tackle environmental challenges and hoped that the NZNPA project would respond to the needs and requirements of the country and the manufacturing sector.

The Workshop was an ideal occasion for participants to share their ideas on the NZNPA project design to ultimately achieve a carbon neutral and sustainable industry. Many valuable suggestions, made by the stakeholders, were taken on board to achieve the objective of the Workshop.

The Project Document was submitted to the GEF Council in June 2024 to secure final approval for an amount of USD 3.6 million. Implementation of the NZNPA project is expected to kickstart in January 2025, upon approval from GEF.

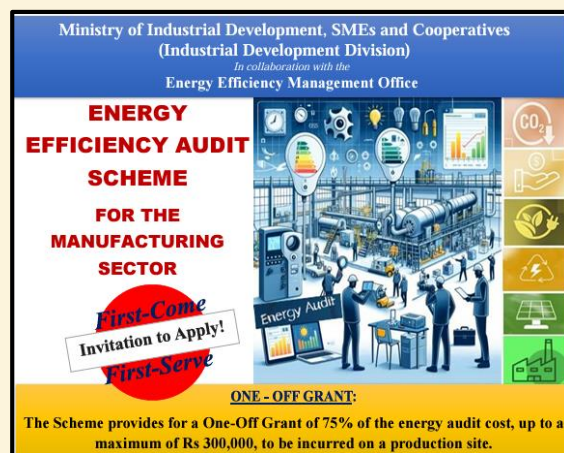


*Participants at the workshop
Courtesy: GIS Mauritius*

2.9.4 Energy Efficiency Audit Scheme

As announced in the Budget Speech 2023/2024, the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives (Industrial Development Division) launched an Energy Efficiency Audit Scheme for the Manufacturing Sector with the objective to support industry operators move towards a Carbon Neutral Industrial Sector. The Scheme has been further extended to Financial Year 2024/2025.

The Energy Audit Scheme aims to provide financial support to manufacturing enterprises willing to embark on an energy efficiency audit exercise at their production sites, with a one-off grant of 75 percent of the audit costs, up to a ceiling of Rs 300,000. This support measure is a step forward to encourage manufacturing enterprises become more environmentally responsible producers in an endeavour to reduce their carbon footprints for long-term sustainability.



2.9.5 Interactive Session with Export-Oriented Enterprises

On 19 September 2023, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, the then Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, had an interactive session with Export-Oriented Enterprises (EOEs) to discuss bottlenecks affecting their production operations and brainstorm on remedial actions to address the situation. Some 70 industry captains engaged in different fields of export manufacturing activities were present at the meeting.



*From left to right, Mr. G. Bucktowonsing, Director Industry, EDB, Mr. V.A. Putchay, the then Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives, Honourable S. Bholah, the then Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives and Mr. S. Beedassy, Technical Advisor, IFCM Ltd
Courtesy: GIS Mauritius*

Industry operators had the opportunity to voice out their concerns on matters that were impacting on the smooth operation of their businesses. The main issues raised revolved around difficulties encountered for loan repayment taken during the Covid-19 pandemic, renewal of work permits, absorbing the hike in electricity costs and participation in some specialised international trade fairs.

The then Honourable Minister took note of the apprehensions raised by the participants and gave them the assurance that remedial actions, where appropriate, would be taken to ensure that they operate in a seamless business environment.



*Participation of various stakeholders in an Interactive Session with Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives
Courtesy: GIS Mauritius*

2.9.6 AGOA Mission (02 to 08 August 2023)

From 02 to 08 August 2023, Honourable Soomilduth Bholah, the then Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives and representatives from Economic Development Board, conducted an important mission to the USA, with the objective to promote the Mauritian textile and apparel products and further strengthen the long-standing trade relations with the USA.

The Mission consisted of two legs, namely:

- high-level stakeholder's meetings in Washington DC as part of pre-consultations for the renewal of the AGOA that is due to expire in 2025; and
- participation in Sourcing at Magic Trade Fair at Las Vegas to promote and enhance the visibility of the Mauritian textile & apparel products.

During meetings that the then Honourable Minister had with key officials from the US Chamber of Commerce, US Department of State, African Coalition for Trade, US Africa Business Centre, Corporate Council of Africa, National Council of Textile Organisation, he stressed on the critical importance of AGOA for the Mauritian economy and its fundamental role in sustaining a regionally integrated supply chain. It should be highlighted that the response from the different organisations/associations to the call of Mauritius for early renewal of AGOA was positive.



The Honourable Minister also visited the Sourcing at Magic Trade Fair at Las Vegas where 7 local manufacturing enterprises had the opportunity to showcase their products. The Trade Show was beneficial to the exhibitors as they were able to secure new orders.

On the whole, the mission was very productive as it was an occasion to foster closer ties and collaboration with US key industry associations and enhance the image of Mauritius as a sustainable and reliable sourcing destination for textile and apparel products.

2.10 Status on Implementation of Key Actions in Budget 2023/2024 Relating to the Manufacturing Sector

Delivery Unit	Main Service	Key performance Indicator	Target 2023/24	Actual as at 30 June 2024	Remarks
Industrial Development Division	Facilitate the development of the manufacturing sector	Percentage increase in domestic exports (excluding sugar)	≥ 5%	-8.5% (2022)	Sub-sectors which witnessed a decline in exports include Wearing Apparel, Fish & Fish Preparations, Jewellery and Watches & Clocks. On the other hand, Textile Yarn & Fabrics and Medical Devices registered an increase in exports.
Mauritius Standards Bureau	Development of standards and provision of conformity assessment services	Number of standards developed	65	76	-
Academy of Design and Innovation	Provision of training in the field Design and Innovation	No of Students trained	325	343	-
National Productivity & Competitiveness Council	Promote productivity, quality and competitiveness	Number of productivity programmes carried out	148	207	Additional productivity programmes conducted pertain mainly to ILO-Score for Climate, Enterprise Go Digital and ECONO-Biz.

2.11 Risk Management, Citizen-Oriented Initiatives & Good Governance

The Industrial Development Division has put in place a number of measures for the safeguard of its assets, operation of the control processes and compliance with the principles of good governance.

2.11.1 Risk Management

A Risk Management Policy was adopted by the Ministry in September 2023 as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development.

As part of the Policy, the Ministry ensures that risks are identified and control measures are put in place to ensure, *inter-alia*, uninterrupted service delivery, reinforcement of confidentiality structures to avoid leakage of information, increased data protection, proper record-keeping and health & safety of staff.

The Ministry embraces an entity-wide approach to risk management, encompassing a structured and systematic risk management process for every significant risk across the organisation. In this context, the Policy specifies the mechanism to ensure its implementation through the roles attributed to the Accounting Officer, Audit Committee, Risk Management Committee, Heads of Sections/Departments and the staff.

The Ministry is committed to fundamental principles, including the efficient and economical allocation of resources, to:

- deliver the highest service standards;
- implement a Management System with elements designed to minimise risks and costs for all stakeholders;
- educate and train staff to continually enhance their knowledge, skills and capabilities, ensuring consistent adherence to stakeholder expectations; and
- cultivate an environment that fosters the right attitude and sensitivity toward satisfying both internal and external stakeholders.

A Risk Management Committee has been set up for the implementation and monitoring of Risk Management at the Ministry. The Risk Management Committee has compiled a Central Risk Register which is reviewed twice yearly.

Anti-Corruption Framework

In line with the implementation of the Public Sector Business Transformation Strategy, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms joined forces in 2009 to introduce the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework (PSACF).

As part of this initiative, the Ministry has established an Anti-Corruption Committee to uphold the principles of good governance and mitigate the risks of corrupt practices.

The Anti-Corruption Committee, which is chaired by the Accounting Officer, consists of members from operational and support departments, along with an ICAC officer serving as an ex-officio member.

For the Financial Year 2023-2024, the Committee was responsible for overseeing the completion of two (2) Corruption Risks Assessments (CRAs) by its Statutory Bodies in accordance with the established Key Performance Indicators. All the three (3) Parastatal Bodies falling under the aegis of this Ministry namely, the Mauritius Standards Bureau, the Academy of Design and Innovation and the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council have already completed the two (2) CRAs, which were subsequently validated by the ICAC.

Mauritius Accreditation Service

A Risk Management process has been put in place to manage risks related to impartiality, including any conflicts of interest with respect to accreditation of laboratories and Certification Bodies. Potential risks related to corruption have also been identified. All the risks are recorded in a Risk Register which are reviewed and updated every year.

Assay Office

Risk Management is a fundamental element for the Assay Office as the organisation is certified to MS ISO 9001 and the Assay Laboratory is accredited to ISO/IEC/17025. In this vein, the Assay Office ensures that proper risk assessment is carried out to provide a healthier workplace and to improve overall productivity.

One of the risks which has been identified pertains to testing of precious metals whereby officers performing tests are required to disclose conflict of interest, in case they are related to a customer.

Collection of revenue at the Assay Office constitutes another risk element. For this purpose, a money detector was procured to detect counterfeit notes at the time of payment.

2.11.2 Citizen-Oriented Initiatives

The Ministry aims at making public services more accessible, responsive and efficient, whilst fostering greater engagement with stakeholders and the public in general.

As part of its citizen-oriented initiatives, the Customer Charter, which is a document that outlines the various services offered by the Ministry, its Departments and Parastatal Bodies, was prepared in Financial Year 2023/24. The Customer Charter is available on the Ministry's Website for stakeholders and the public at large, to have up-to-date information on services provided by the Division, its Departments and Parastatal Bodies.

Websites

The Websites of the Ministry and its Departments are regularly updated with latest information on programmes, projects and schemes. Information is also disseminated through publication of the Annual Reports and the bi-annual E-newsletters, which can be downloaded from the Website of the Ministry.

Mauritius Accreditation Service

A Management System based on the requirements of the International Standard ISO/IEC 17011:2017 is operational to monitor and coordinate the delivery of accreditation services. MAURITAS is continuing with its annual feedback surveys among its clients' base, as well as internal meetings, to evaluate its service delivery and the targeted set of Key Performance Indicators. It also operates an online survey, through its Website, enabling clients and the public to give feedback on the accreditation services it provides.

Assay Office

The Assay Office has, since 03 June 2024, introduced Quick Response (QR) Codes on Registration Certificates and Test Reports to heighten document security and combat falsification. These QR Codes provide a robust and cost-effective means to verify the authenticity of documents through smartphone scanning, thereby enhancing overall security. This project has been possible due to the collaboration of the Central Information Systems Division (CISD).

Citizen Support Portal

The Ministry has in place an internal management process to efficiently address complaints received through the Online Citizen Support Portal of the Prime Minister's Office. Since the launching of the Portal in April 2017 up to June 2024, a total of 9 complaints were received and dealt successfully by the Ministry.

2.11.3 Good Governance

Government has, through the Office of Public Sector Governance (OPSG), recommended the setting up of Audit Committees in Ministries/Department to minimise the number of audit queries. The Audit Committee addresses criticisms and weaknesses raised by the National Audit Office, the Public Accounts Committee, and the Internal Control Unit as recommended by the Office of Public Sector Governance.

The Committee is required to hold a minimum of six meetings annually, with at least one meeting per quarter, and provide quarterly Status reports on identified risks for monitoring to the Accounting Officer and the OPSG.

Additionally, the Committee is tasked with reviewing the risk management systems within the Ministry/Department, with a focus on proper identification, management and disclosure of significant risks, including non-compliance with existing legislations and regulations. The Audit Committee is chaired by the Deputy Permanent Secretary and comprises two members and a Secretary, appointed by the Accounting Officer.

During the Financial Year 2023-2024, the OPSG assessed the Audit Committee for the Financial Year 2022-2023. No adverse report was submitted. In the same year, the Audit Committee submitted its Action Plan for the Financial Year 2023-2024 with a total of twenty-eight (28) items. During Financial Year 2023-2024, the Audit Committee met on six (6) occasions and with the assistance of the Internal Control, it completed twenty-three (23) items. Five (5) items were carried forward for monitoring in the Financial Year 2024-2025.

Assay Office

Fit and Proper Test for Registration of New Dealers under the Jewellery Act 2007

To comply with the FATF requirement 28, the Jewellery (Dealer's Registration and Transactions) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 came into force on 23 September 2020. The objective is to enable the Assay Office to assess that new applicants and existing registered dealers are "fit and proper" persons based on the following criteria:

- a) financial soundness;
- b) competence and capability; and
- c) honesty, reputation and integrity.

Where the Director is satisfied that the applicant is a “fit and proper” person, he shall register the applicant as a dealer otherwise the application is rejected.

Details on Fit and Proper – Assessments carried out by the Assay Office, from September 2020 to June 2024, are provided hereunder:

	Total
Applications for Registration received	153
Applicants found Fit & Proper	126
Applicants found Not Fit & Proper	4
Applications withdrawn	8
Applications in process	15

2.11.4 Implementation Plan - Director of Audit Comments

There has been no comment on the Industrial Development Division in the Report of the Director of Audit for the Financial Year 2022-2023.

2.11.5 Adequacy of Control over Non-Financial Assets

The Office Accommodation Unit is responsible for Non-Financial Assets which are surveyed yearly. New Non-Financial Assets acquired are recorded in the Treasury Accounting System, internal registers and office inventories, including the Government Asset Register. Maintenance is carried out promptly on equipment which breaks down.

PART III: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



3.0 Financial Highlights

Budget allocation under Vote/Sub-Head 10-102 for Financial Year 2023-2024 pertaining to the Industrial Development Division was Rs. 267,900,000, out of which, expenses totalling Rs. 254,830,381 have been incurred, leaving an unspent balance of 4.8% of the total appropriation which represents mainly the non-filling of vacancies and amount unspent on training.

3.1 Statement of Expenditure & Revenue

3.1.1 Statement of Expenditure

The tables below show details of expenditure incurred under Sub-Head 10-102.

Sub-Head 10-102: Industrial Development

Table 1: Comparison of Expenditure under Vote/Sub-Head 10-102

Categories	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023-2024
	Actual (Rs.)	Estimates (Rs.)	Actual (Rs.)
Compensation of Employees	62,476,960	67,300,000	64,699,333
Goods and Services	23,404,350	26,700,000	22,834,642
Grants – Recurrent	144,250,000	155,000,000	155,453,678
Grants – Capital	5,859,765	18,500,000	11,450,055
Acquisition of Non - Financial Assets	1,865,352	400,000	392,673
TOTAL	<u>237,856,427</u>	<u>267,900,000</u>	<u>254,830,381</u>

Comparison of Expenditure under Vote/Sub-Head 10-102

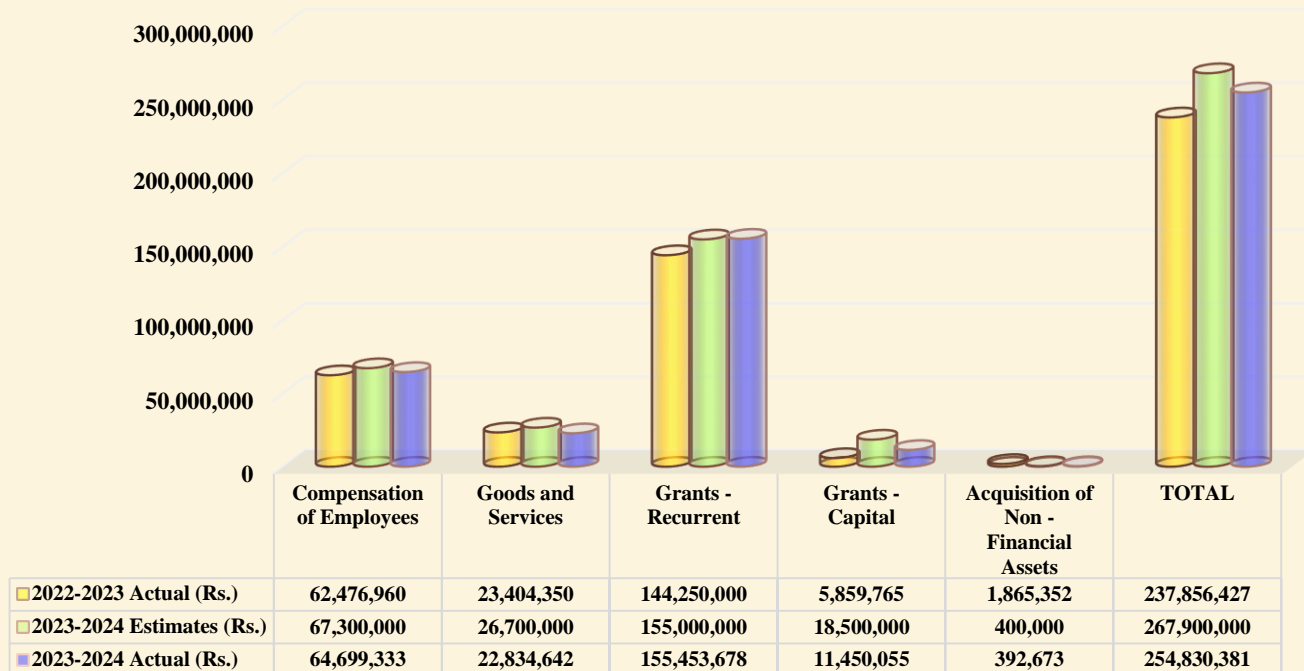


Figure 1: Comparison of Expenditure under Vote/Sub-Head 10-102

As a percentage of total expenditure incurred, each economic category is represented as follows:

Table 2: Percentage of Total Expenditure under Vote/Sub-Head 10-102

	Compensation of Employees	Goods and Services	Grants - Recurrent	Grants - Capital	Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets
%	25.4	8.9	61	4.5	0.2

Percentage of Total Expenditure incurred for 2023-2024

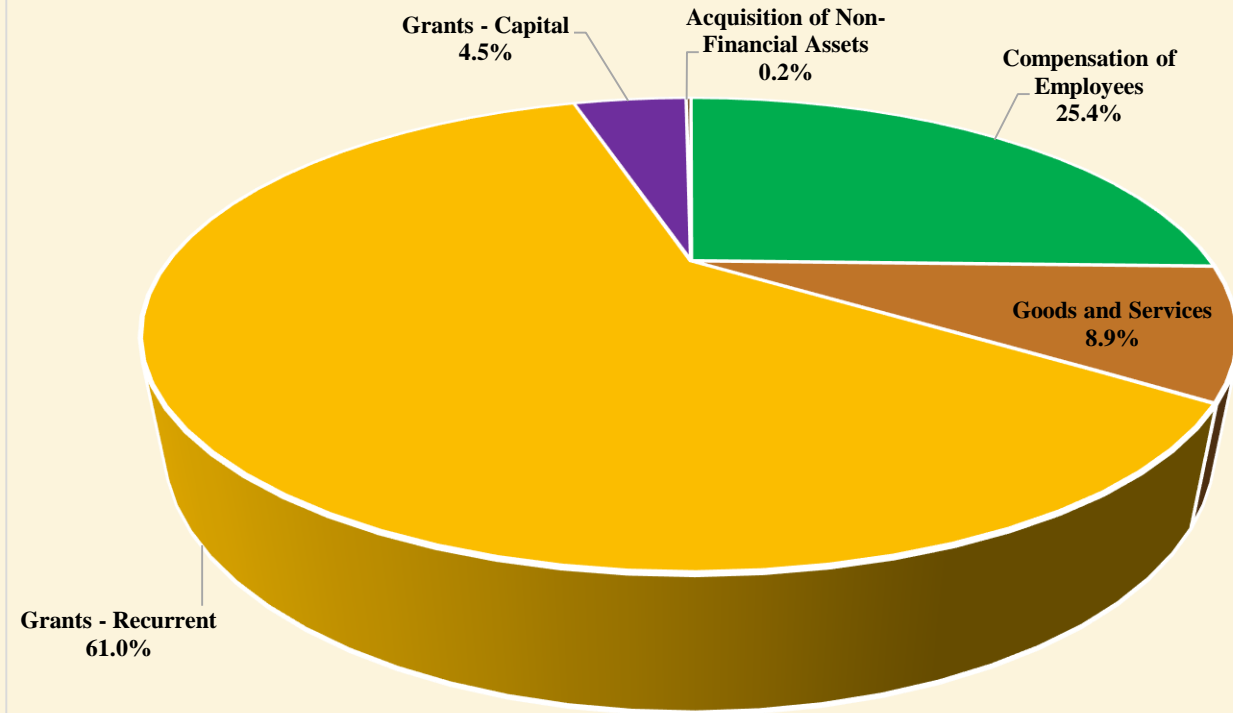


Figure 2: Percentage of Total Expenditure incurred for 2023-2024

“Grants – Recurrent” represents contributions to International Organisations and funds allocated to our three Extra-Budgetary Units, namely the Academy of Design and Innovation (ADI), the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) and National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC).

3.1.2 Statement of Revenue

Table 3: Statement of Revenue

Revenue	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023-2024
Categories	Actual (Rs)	Estimates (Rs)	Actual (Rs)
Sales of Goods and Services (Collection by Assay Office)	2,515,650	4,100,000	4,081,313
Miscellaneous Revenues (Collection by MAURITAS)	3,833,690	3,163,000	3,777,100
TOTAL	6,349,340	7,263,000	7,858,413

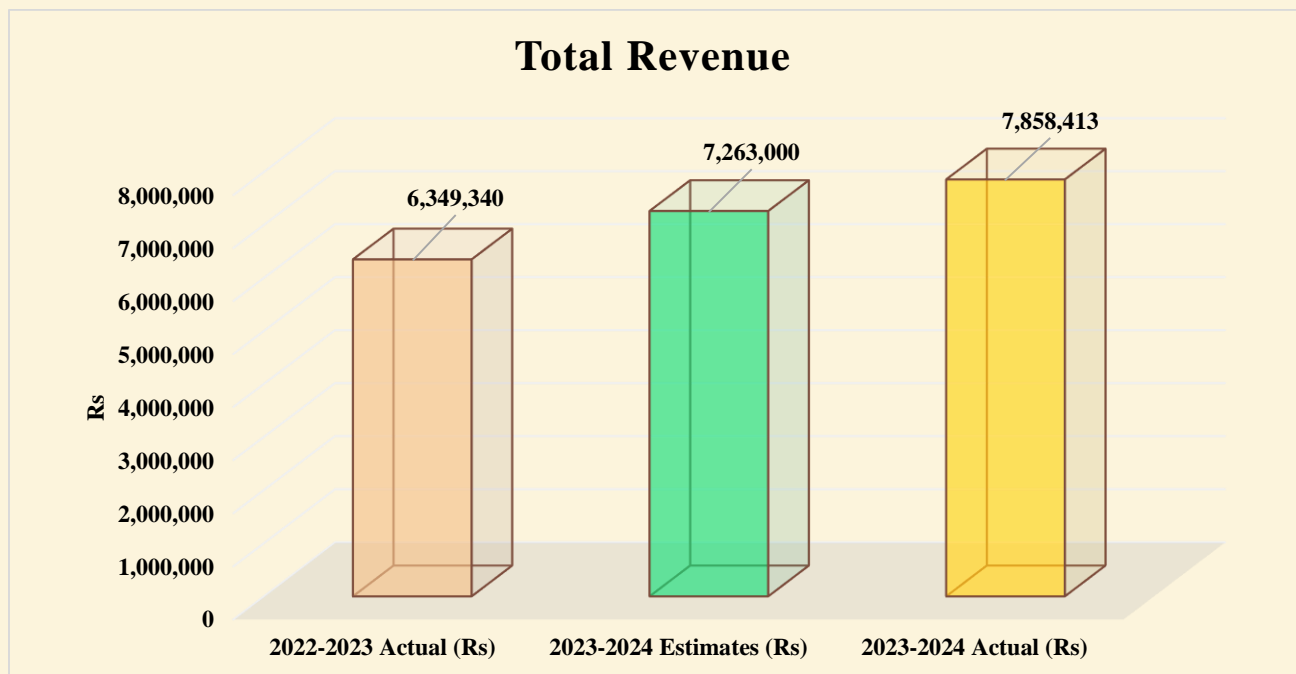


Figure 3: Total Revenue

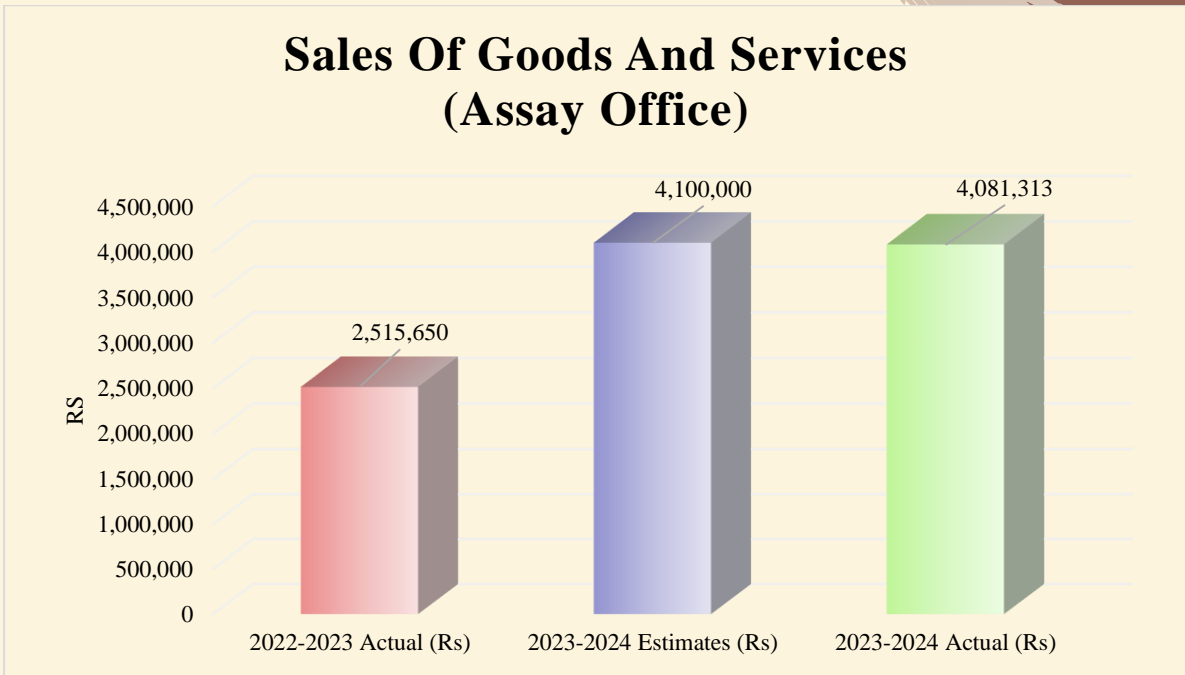


Figure 4: Revenue generated by Assay Office

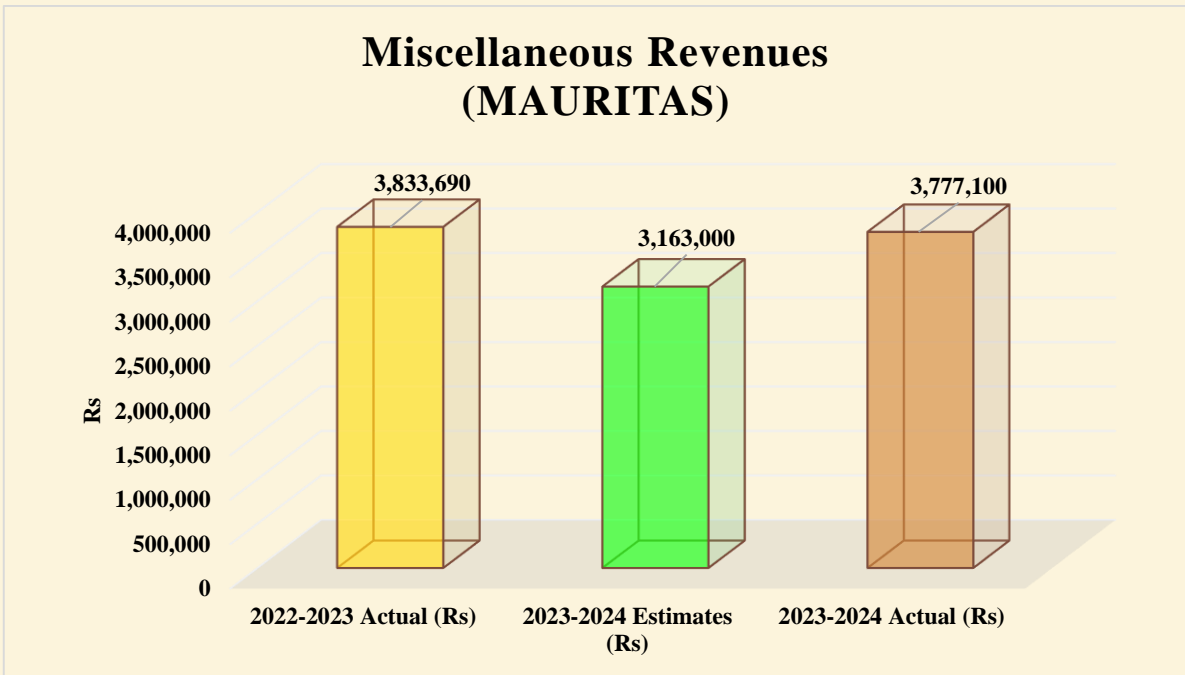



Figure 5: Revenue generated by MAURITAS



The main assumptions made for the revenue estimates 2023-2024 by MAURITAS were based on:

- ✓ An increase in the number of assessment exercises and in the number of new applications received, following the continued international recognition status of MAURITAS with ILAC and IAF since 2018; and
- ✓ No increase in the fees and charges.

PART IV: WAY FORWARD



4.0 Trends and Challenges

It is an undeniable fact that the manufacturing sector remains a backbone of the economy in view of its significant contribution to employment creation, foreign exchange earnings and local value addition. Over its successive phases of development, the sector has been prone to multiple challenges that have strengthened its intrinsic capabilities to adapt to changing situations and bounce back forcefully to stay on a positive growth trajectory.

The achievements of the manufacturing sector, as at date, clearly demonstrate that all industrial policies and strategies put in place by Government have been crucial to attain the set objectives. In brief, industry operators are now evolving in a more conducive business environment supported by a plethora of measures likely to boost their confidence for higher productivity and competitiveness. In this endeavour, the Ministry is fully playing its role as a facilitator and key enabler for enterprises to deliver services in a seamless manner.

It is reckoned that the manufacturing sector is an integral part of the economic architecture of the country. Its future orientation has been diligently shaped to ensure that it responds fully to the aspirations of Mauritius to generate adequate wealth in an objective to join the league of high-income nations. In this transformative journey, the manufacturing sector is bound to be confronted to all sorts of obstacles or unprecedented challenges. Nonetheless, the desire to persevere and overcome any hurdles remains vivid in the mind of industry operators and this is the overriding factor that will successfully steer the future pathway for industrial progress.

4.1 SWOT Analysis



STRENGTHS

- Conducive business environment
- Dynamic entrepreneurship
- Strong public/private sector dialogue
- Positive economic and social indices
- Versatile labour force



WEAKNESSES

- Exiguous domestic market
- Slow gains in productivity
- Overdependence on few exports markets
- Skills mismatch and shortage of labour
- Lack of R & D for commercial applications



OPPORTUNITIES

- Leveraging on multilateral trade agreements namely, interim EPA with EU, AGOA, AfCFTA, SADC and COMESA to consolidate and expand export markets
- Broadening market access by taking advantage of Trade Agreements such as CECPA, Mauritius-China FTA, Turkey and UAE.
- Adopting Industry 4.0 technologies to upgrade to smart manufacturing for greater competitiveness
- Focusing on sustainable manufacturing to cater for new wave of consumerism



THREATS

- Rising production costs
- Uncertainty on renewal of AGOA
- Ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia and rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East
- Intense competition from low-cost producers
- Resurgence of protectionist policies in major export markets.

4.2 Strategic Directions

In order to sustain development of the manufacturing sector, the following strategic directions were adopted during the Financial Year 2023-2024:

Strategic Direction	Enabler (s)
Promotion of import substitution strategies by encouraging local production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate level-playing field for imports and exports with regard to norms and standards to ensure that there is domestic market conformance Promote the culture of buying Mauritian products and provide greater visibility to locally manufactured goods through dedicated activities
Upgrade and modernise the manufacturing base for differentiated and higher value-added products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage enterprises to re-engineer and re-orient their business models focusing on green and Industry 4.0 technologies through support from the Industrial Finance Corporation of Mauritius Promote sustainable manufacturing through the implementation of relevant projects and schemes
Boost the export manufacturing Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct market surveys to identify products having export potential and intensify export promotion campaigns in new and emerging markets Strengthen regional and global market opportunities by leveraging on Free Trade Agreements and Preferential Trade Agreements Upgrade quality of products to focus on higher value-added supply chains to tap niche markets

*“Success is not final, failure is not fatal,
it is the courage to continue that counts.”*

-Winston Churchill





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