

# Poverty & Equity Brief

Sub-Saharan Africa

## Mauritius

April 2019

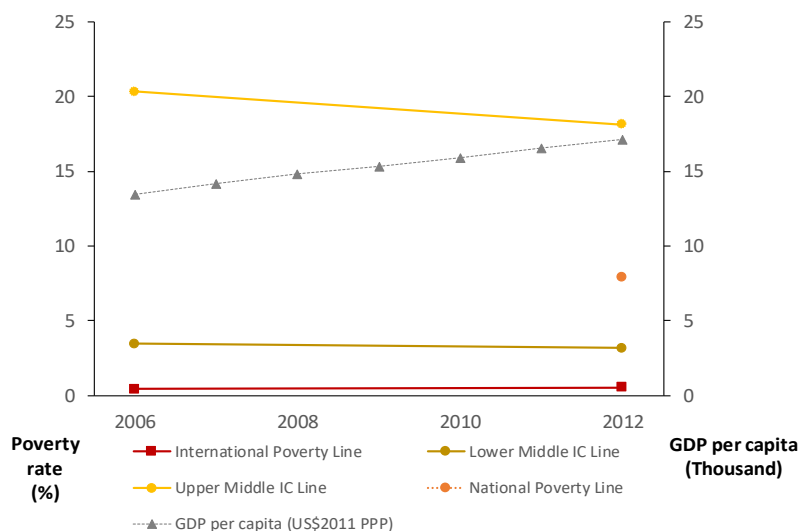
Between 2007 and 2012, Mauritius economic growth translated into moderate poverty reduction from 8.3 to 7.9 percent. The incidence of poverty measured at the lower middle-income class international poverty line (\$3.20 a day (2011 PPP)) is low: it is estimated at 3.2 percent in 2012 and projected to decline to 2.9 percent in 2019. Better-off individuals benefited from economic growth more than poorer ones. Indeed, the shared prosperity premium was negative between 2006 and 2012 (-0.1 percent), with the poorest households posting a negative consumption growth. Inequality in household consumption was stable between 2006 and 2012 (with the Gini index at about 35.8), while income inequality, particularly from labor, has expanded rapidly, and it is now threatening the standards of living of the poor.

The Gini index calculated on household labor income in per adult equivalent terms increased from 41.7 in 2001 to 50 in 2015. The main driver of surging household labor income inequality was the expansion of inequality in individual earnings, which can be attributed to the skills shortage associated with structural changes of the economy from traditional and low-skills sectors to services, notably professional, real estate, and financial services. This transformation generated a considerable increase in the demand for skilled workers. However, the supply failed to match the rising demand, notwithstanding the significant improvements in educational attainments of the Mauritian population. A well-targeted system of public transfers contributed to mitigate the rise in total income inequality.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (thousand)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	99.2	7.9	2012
International Poverty Line 36.1 in Mauritian rupee (2012) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	6.7	0.5	2012
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 60.8 in Mauritian rupee (2012) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	39.6	3.2	2012
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 104.4 in Mauritian rupee (2012) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	227.7	18.1	2012
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		0.76	2006-2012
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		35.8	2012
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		-0.10	2006-2012
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		4.1	2006-2012
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		0.86	2006-2012

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of March 2019, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

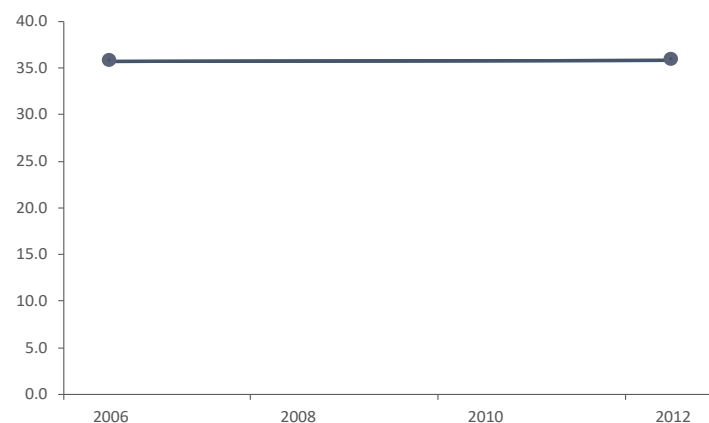
## POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2006-2012



Source: World Bank using HBS/SSAPOV/GMD

## INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2006-2012

### Gini Index



Source: World Bank using HBS/SSAPOV/GMD

## KEY INDICATORS (distribution among groups)

Upper Middle Income line (%)  
Non-Poor Poor

Relative Group (%)  
Bottom 40 Top 60

Year

	Upper Middle Income line (%)		Relative Group (%)		Year
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population					n.a
Rural population					n.a
Males					n.a
Females					n.a
0 to 14 years old					n.a
15 to 64 years old					n.a
65 and older					n.a
Without education (age 16 and older)					n.a
Primary education (age 16 and older)					n.a
Secondary education (age 16 and older)					n.a
Tertiary/post-secondary education (age 16 and older)					n.a

Source: World Bank using Global Monitoring Database

## POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Statistics Mauritius produces high-quality and comparable household budget surveys (HBS) at regular five-year intervals. Over the past 15 years, four surveys were conducted, and the most recent was in the field between January and December 2017. Increasing the frequency of the HBS from five to three years would be desirable in order to produce more frequent poverty and inequality updates. In addition to the HBS, Statistics Mauritius has carried out a continuous labor force survey (Continuous Multipurpose Household Survey—CMPHS) since 2001. CMPHS is the official source of high-quality labor market statistics, including individual earnings, and has been used to provide reliable measures of inequality for time periods in between HBS rounds.

Statistics Mauritius adopts an income-based measure of poverty and a relative poverty line. Disposable income includes employment income for both employees and the self-employed, property income (interests, dividends, and rent of buildings, land, etc.), transfer income (pensions, allowances, and other social benefits), other income derived from self-produced goods, and imputed rent for non-renting households. The relative poverty line adopted by Statistics Mauritius is the half median monthly household income per adult equivalent and is estimated at rupees 5,652 in 2012. However, for international comparison, poverty measures are based on consumption.

## HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 44 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The four countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Somalia and Zimbabwe. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.