



Mauritius

Sectoral Scenarios for Mauritius

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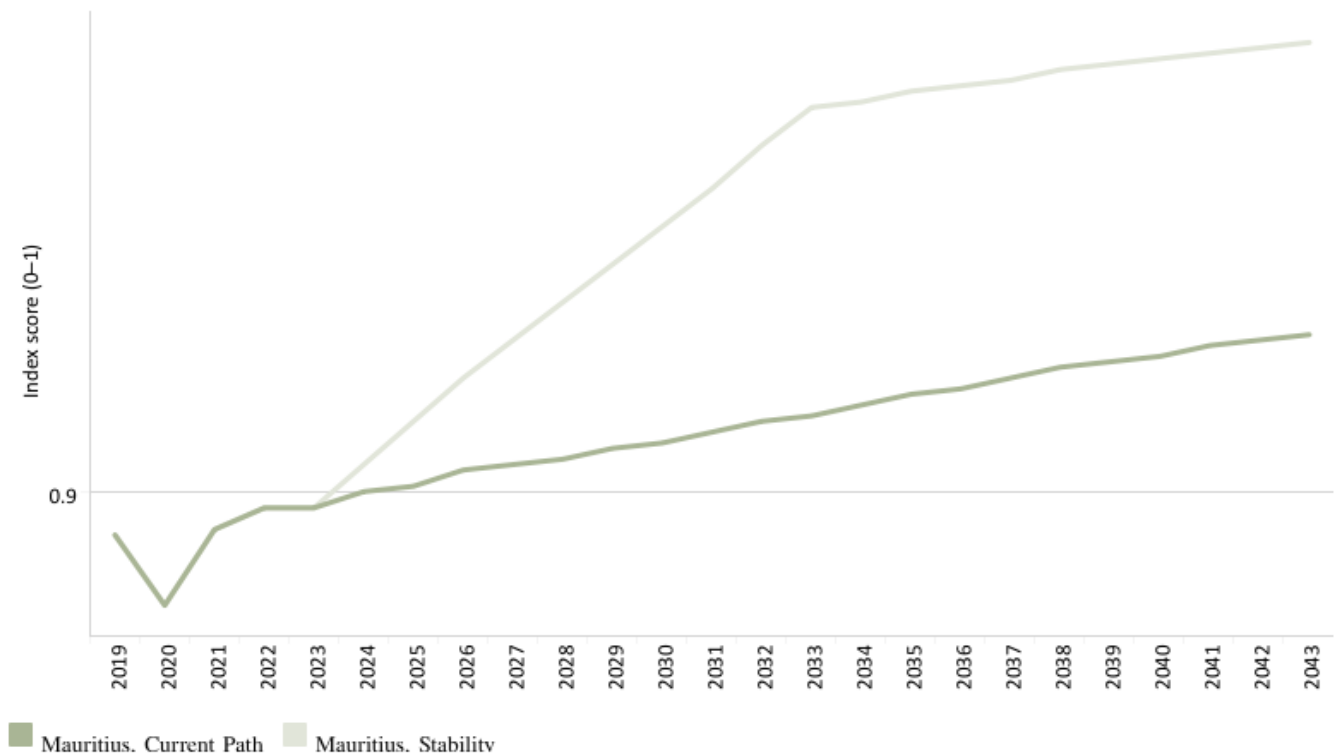


Stability scenario

Chart 13: Governance security in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
IFs index 0–1



Mauritius



Source: IFs 7.63 governance security index using internal war and government risk

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The Stability scenario represents reasonable but ambitious reductions in risk of regime instability and lower levels of

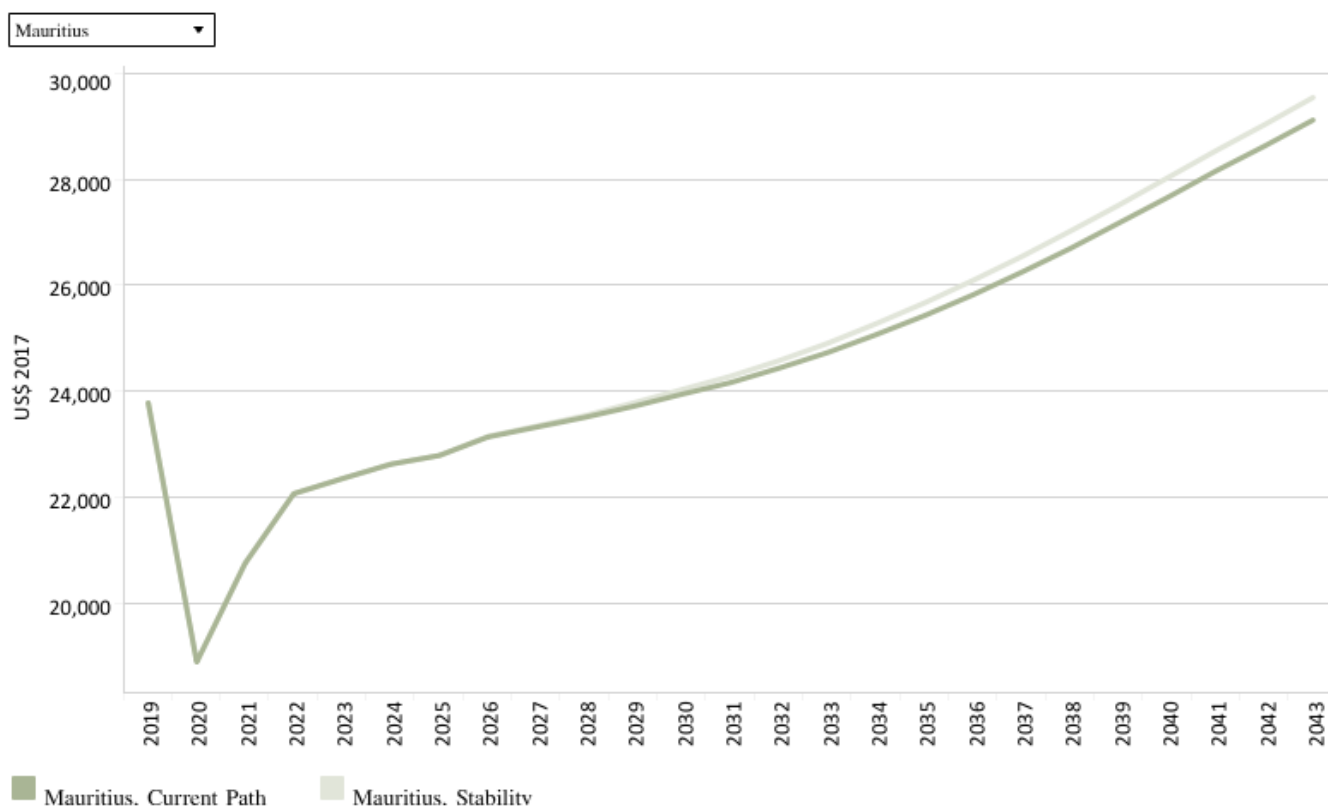
internal conflict. Stability is generally a prerequisite for other aspects of development and this would encourage inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) and improve business confidence. Better governance through the accountability that follows substantive democracy is modelled separately.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Mauritius has experienced a period of peace and untroubled political transitions since gaining its independence in 1968. Apart from one period of rioting in 1999, partly influenced by ethnic tensions, the country has benefitted from stability and no internal conflict. Wise investments, export-oriented economic policies, strong institutions and an emphasis on income redistribution are key factors in explaining the continued lack of conflict.

Chart 13 shows the level of governance security in Mauritius, with a higher score reflecting lower levels of instability and internal conflict. In 2019, Mauritius achieved a score of 0.89 out of 1, the highest in Africa. The Stability scenario increases the score to 0.98 by 2043, 0.05 higher than the Current Path forecast. The country considerably outperforms both COMESA and SADC: in 2019, the country's score was 0.22 points higher than COMESA's and 0.23 higher than SADC's. Upper middle-income Africa had a score of 0.72 in 2019. The Stability scenario widens the gap between Mauritius and the two RECs and upper middle-income Africa considerably to above 0.2 points.

Chart 14: GDP per capita in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

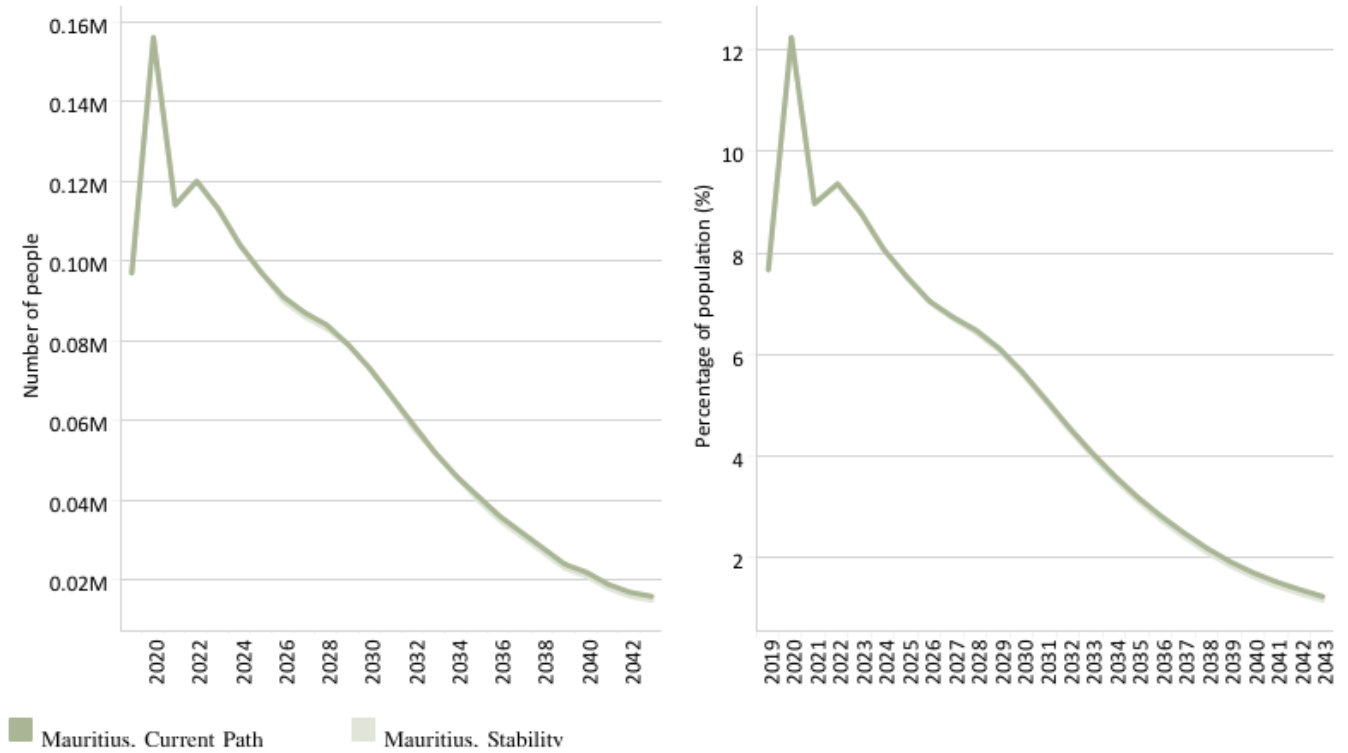
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The stable nature of Mauritius' political climate and lack of internal conflict means the Stability scenario's interventions affect small changes in the GDP per capita. By 2043, the scenario increases the GDP per capita by US\$425 above the Current Path forecast, a rise of 1.5%.

Chart 15: Poverty in CP and Stability scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Mauritius \$5.50



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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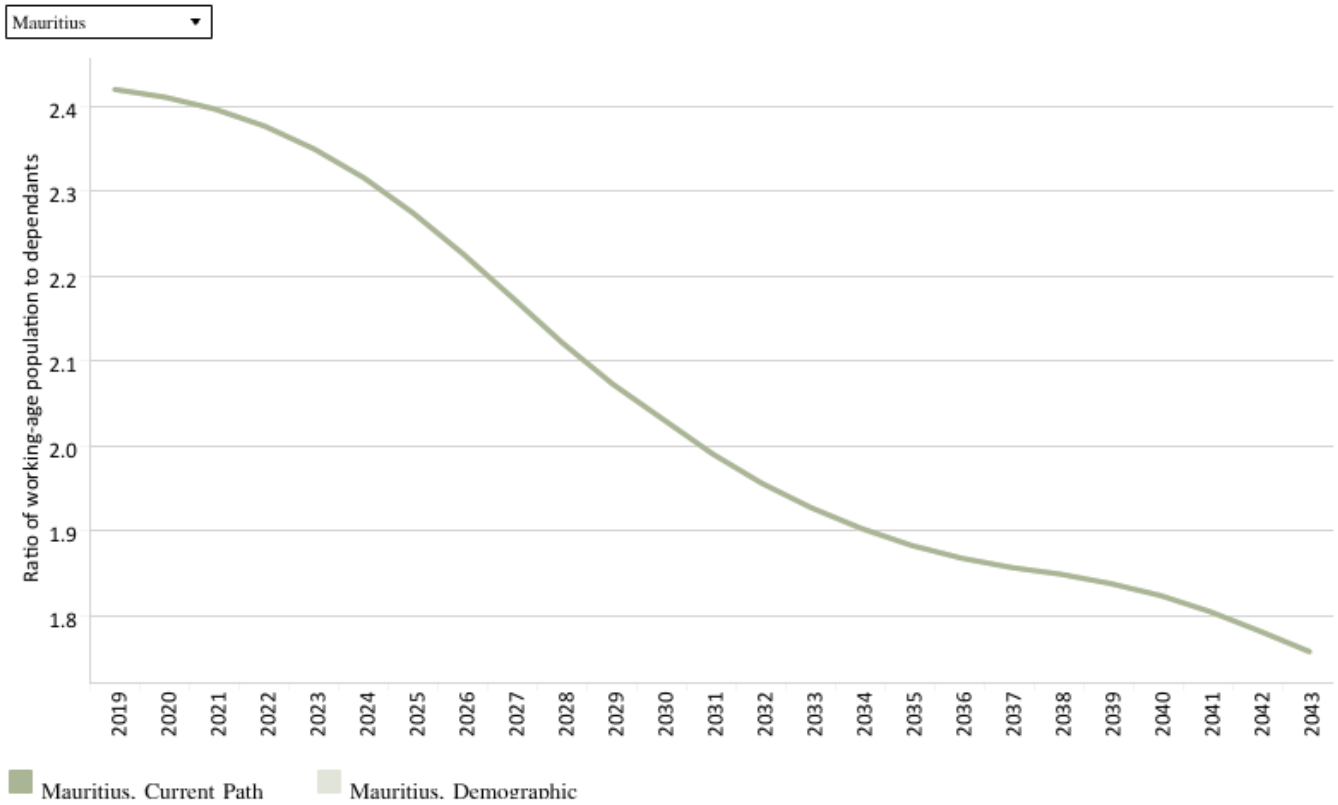
Mirroring the impact on the GDP per capita, the Stability scenario is projected to produce a minimal reduction in poverty. By 2043, the scenario would only reduce the number of poor people by 1 000 compared to the Current Path forecast. The poverty rate is also projected to be 0.07 percentage points lower, reaching a level of 1.17%.



Demographic scenario

Chart 16: Demographic dividend in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043

Ratio of working-age population to dependants



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects

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This section presents the impact of a Demographic scenario that aims to hasten and increase the demographic dividend through reasonable but ambitious reductions in the communicable-disease burden for children under five, the maternal mortality ratio and increased access to modern contraception.

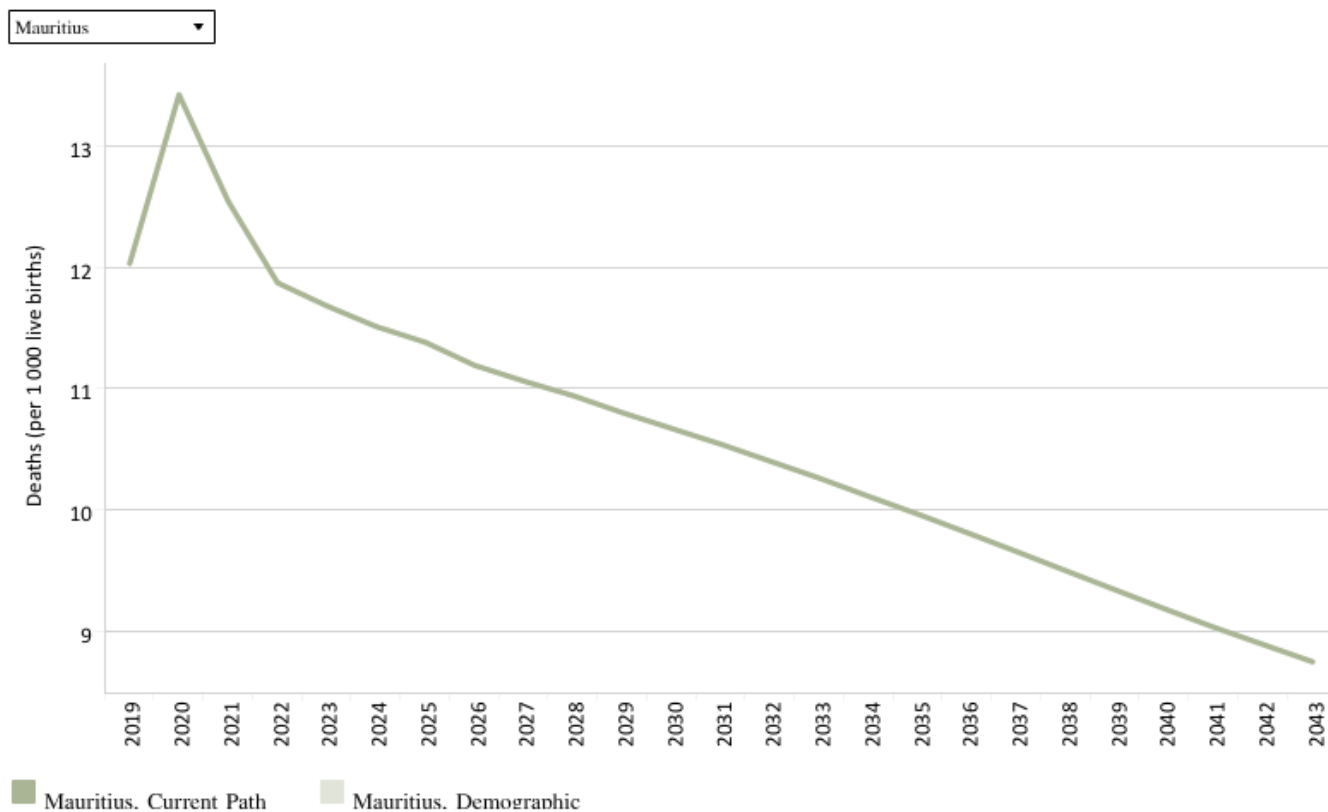
The intervention is explained in here in the thematic part of the website.

Demographers typically differentiate between a first, second and even a third demographic dividend. We focus here on the first dividend, namely the contribution of the size and quality of the labour force to incomes. It refers to a window of opportunity that opens when the ratio of the working-age population (between 15 and 64 years of age) to dependants (children and the elderly) reaches 1.7.

Mauritius has been experiencing a **demographic dividend** since 1984 and will continue to do so beyond 2043 in the Current Path forecast. The main reasons for this prolonged dividend are rapid declines in the total fertility rate and improved health outcomes in the years following independence. The period between 1965 and 1985 saw the total fertility rate decrease from 6.2 births per woman to 2.3, a decrease of 3.9 births per woman. This low fertility rate was achieved due to a concerted effort by government and religious groups to promote family planning methods and increase educational attainment.

The total fertility rate has continued to decrease, reaching 1.4 in 2019, and has contributed to a stagnation in population growth. Low levels of fertility over a prolonged period have meant the proportion of the working-age population to dependants is projected to decline from 2.4 in 2019 to 1.8 by 2043 along the Current Path forecast as the proportion of the population aged 65 years and older increases by 10.1 percentage points in that time. In the Demographic scenario, Mauritius' ratio of working-age persons to dependants is the same by 2043 as in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 17: Infant mortality in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Deaths per 1 000 live births



Source: IFs 7.63 initialised from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

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The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1 000 live births and is an important marker of the overall quality of the health system in a country.

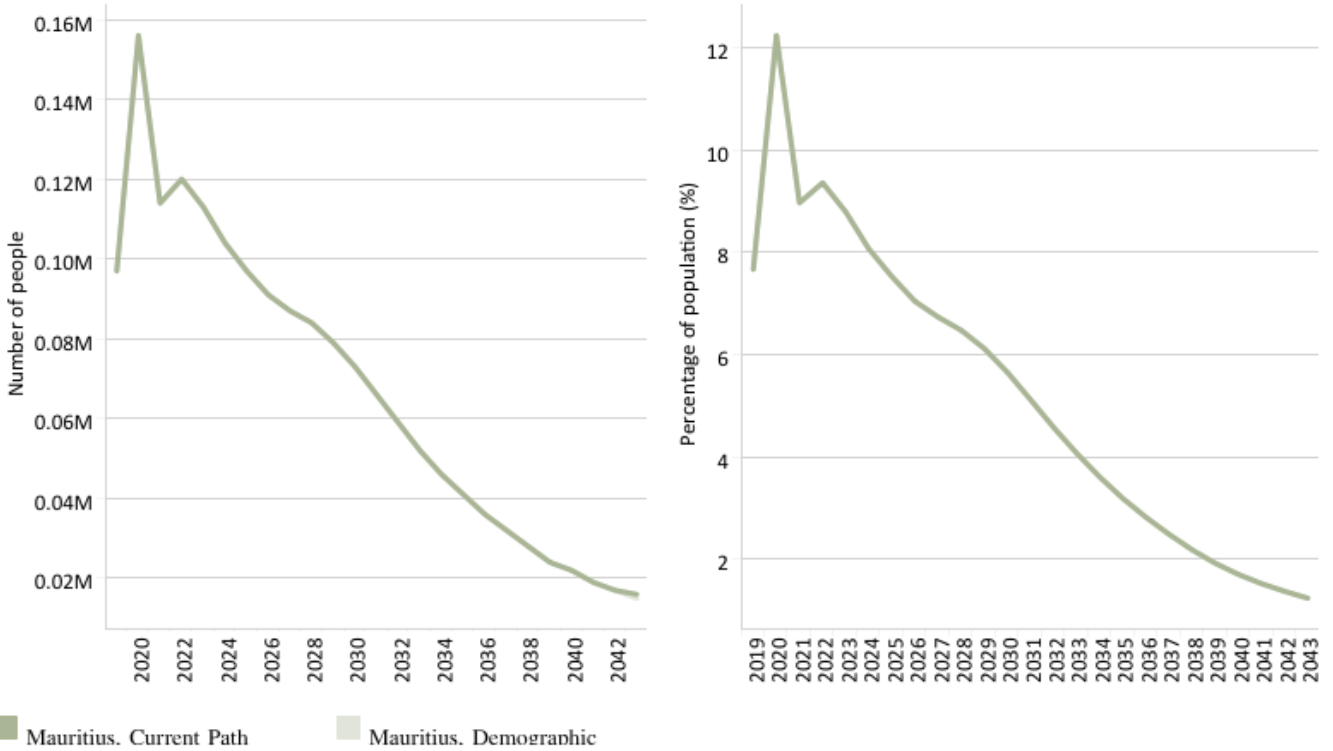
Health outcomes in Mauritius were positively impacted by increased access to improved water and sanitation infrastructure following independence, leading to a rapid decline in infant mortality. In 1968, the infant mortality rate was 69.2 deaths per 1 000 live births, a figure which decreased to 14.9 by 2000. Since then, a levelling off has occurred and the infant mortality was 12 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2019. This figure is well below the average for upper middle-income countries at 30.4 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2019.

The Demographic scenario thus has no effect on Mauritius' infant mortality rate as the rate is already low. By 2043, Mauritius' infant mortality rate is projected to be 8.7 deaths per 1 000 live births in both the Demographic scenario and Current Path forecast. The two RECs, coming from a high base, will see significant progress in the Current Path forecast and significantly close the gap between them and Mauritius by 2043. Upper middle-income Africa would see less progress and by 2043 would have an infant mortality rate higher than SADC.

Chart 19: Poverty in CP and Demog scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Mauritius \$5.50



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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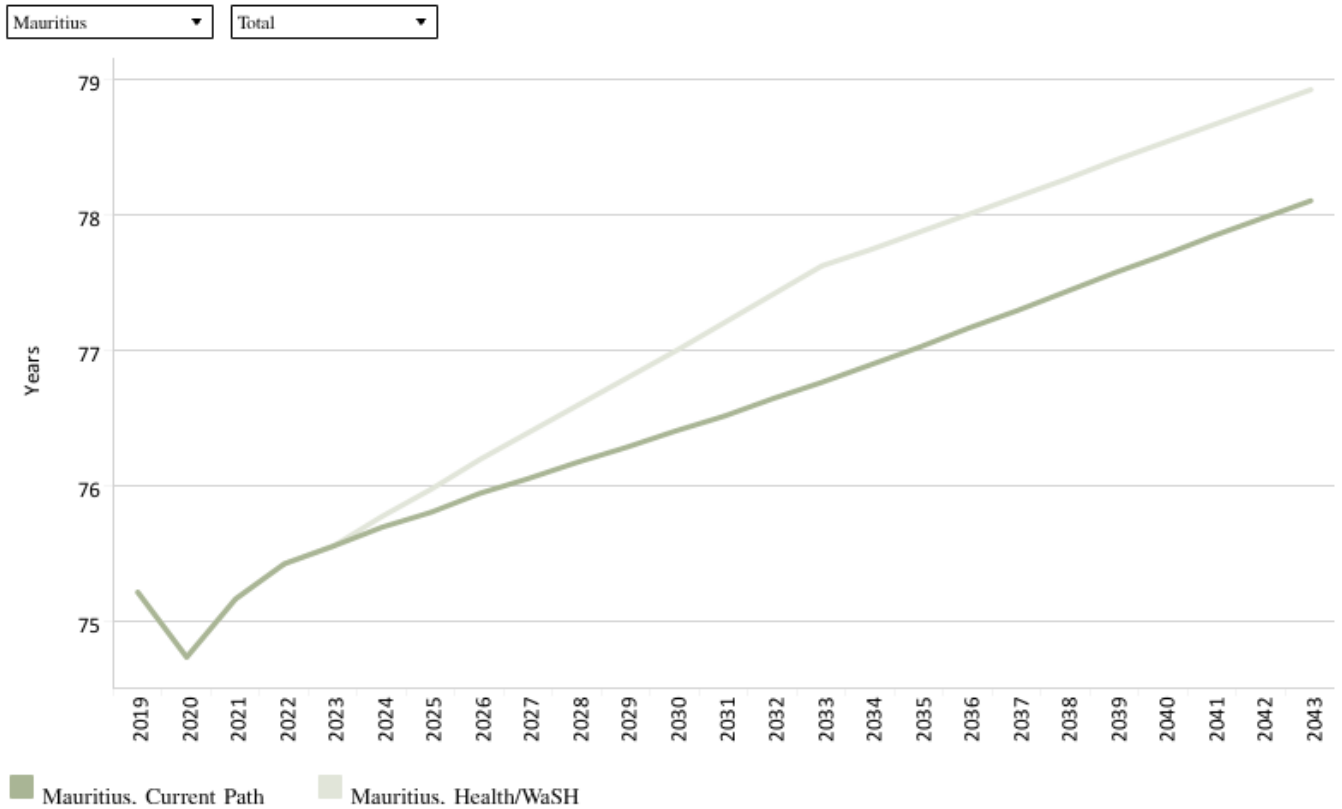
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Reductions in poverty follow the same trend as those for the GDP per capita. Mauritius sees a reduction of 1 000 people who are extremely poor by 2043 in the Demographic scenario compared to the Current Path forecast and no change in the share of the population who are extremely poor due to a decline in population size. Mauritius would still eliminate extreme poverty at the US\$5.50 poverty line by 2036.



Health/WaSH scenario

Chart 20: Life expectancy in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation GBD Foresight Tool data

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This section presents reasonable but ambitious improvements in the Health/WaSH scenario, which include reductions in the mortality rate associated with both communicable diseases (e.g. AIDS, diarrhoea, malaria and respiratory infections) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (e.g. diabetes), as well as improvements in access to safe water and better sanitation. The acronym WaSH stands for water, sanitation and hygiene.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

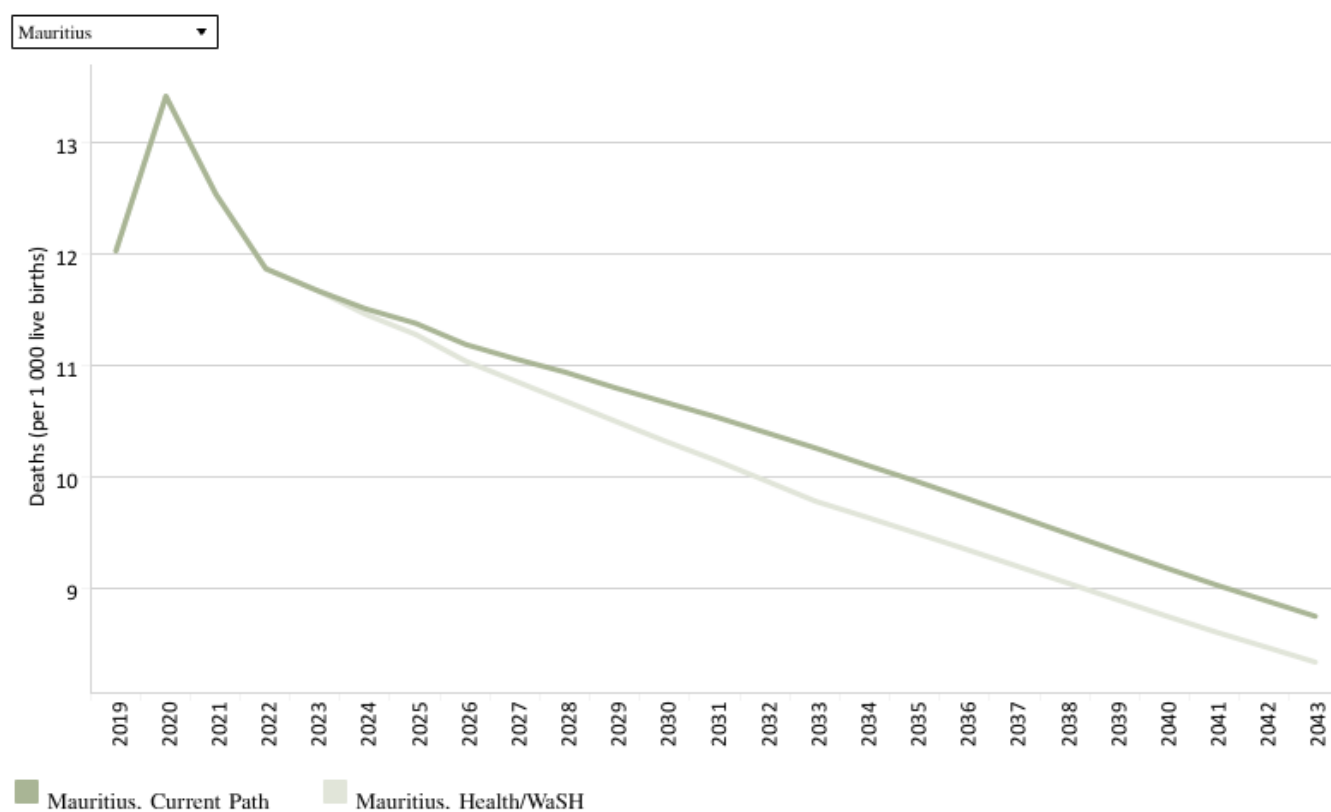
A key factor in improving the health of a country's population is access to WaSH infrastructure. Improved cleanliness helps reduce the spread of communicable diseases such as diarrhoea and respiratory infections. Access to improved water and sanitation infrastructure has been widespread in Mauritius since 2000: at that time, 99.3% of the population had improved water access while 90.1% had improved sanitation access. Consequently, deaths due to communicable disease have been low, accounting for 6.8% of deaths in 2000, 5% in 2019 and are projected to account for only 3% of deaths by 2043 in the Current Path forecast.

An increase in non-communicable diseases normally occurs as countries grow richer and older, with the causes of death ever more linked to lifestyle choices and less to the spread of infectious diseases. The priority for the healthcare sector in Mauritius is thus the treatment of non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and mental health. Non-communicable diseases accounted for 89.7% of deaths in 2019 and this is expected to grow to 93.1% by 2043.

Life expectancy in Mauritius has increased as WaSH infrastructure has become more widespread and healthcare expenditure has increased. In 2000, average life expectancy was 71 years, while by 2019 the figure had risen to 75.2 years. This figure is much higher than the income peers' average of 64.6 years in 2019. The percentage of GDP spent on healthcare also increased over that time, rising 2.9 percentage points from 2.9% of GDP in 2000 to 5.8% of GDP in 2018.

The Health/WaSH scenario improves life expectancy in Mauritius, combatting the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases. By 2043, life expectancy in Mauritius will be 78.9 years in the WaSH scenario compared to 78.1 in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 21: Infant mortality in CP and Health/WaSH scenario, 2019–2043
Deaths per 1 000 live births



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Mortality Visualization Tool data

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Mauritius has made good progress in combatting **infant mortality**, as discussed in the Demographic scenario section (Chart 17). In 2019, 12 infants died per 1 000 live births, a rate well below the average for African upper middle-income countries. Access to improved water and sanitation is widespread, a critical factor in improving health outcomes generally and infant mortality specifically. Other important factors are access to nutrients, skilled professionals for antenatal care, birth and postnatal care and access to immunisations. **Mauritius** does well in these areas: 99.8% of births were attended by **skilled healthcare staff** in 2017 and coverage of necessary vaccines for infant health was above 95% in 2019.

The Health/WaSH scenario does improve upon this already positive position. By 2043, infant mortality per 1 000 deaths is projected to be 8.3 in the Health/WaSH scenario, 0.4 deaths lower than in the Current Path forecast.

One area of concern related to infant mortality is maternal mortality, an area where progress has stalled over the last two

decades. There were 59 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births in 2000 compared to 61 in 2017. The Mauritian government recognised the problem and has endeavoured to enhance antenatal care and improve ICU facilities for complex pregnancies in their latest [health sector strategic plan](#).



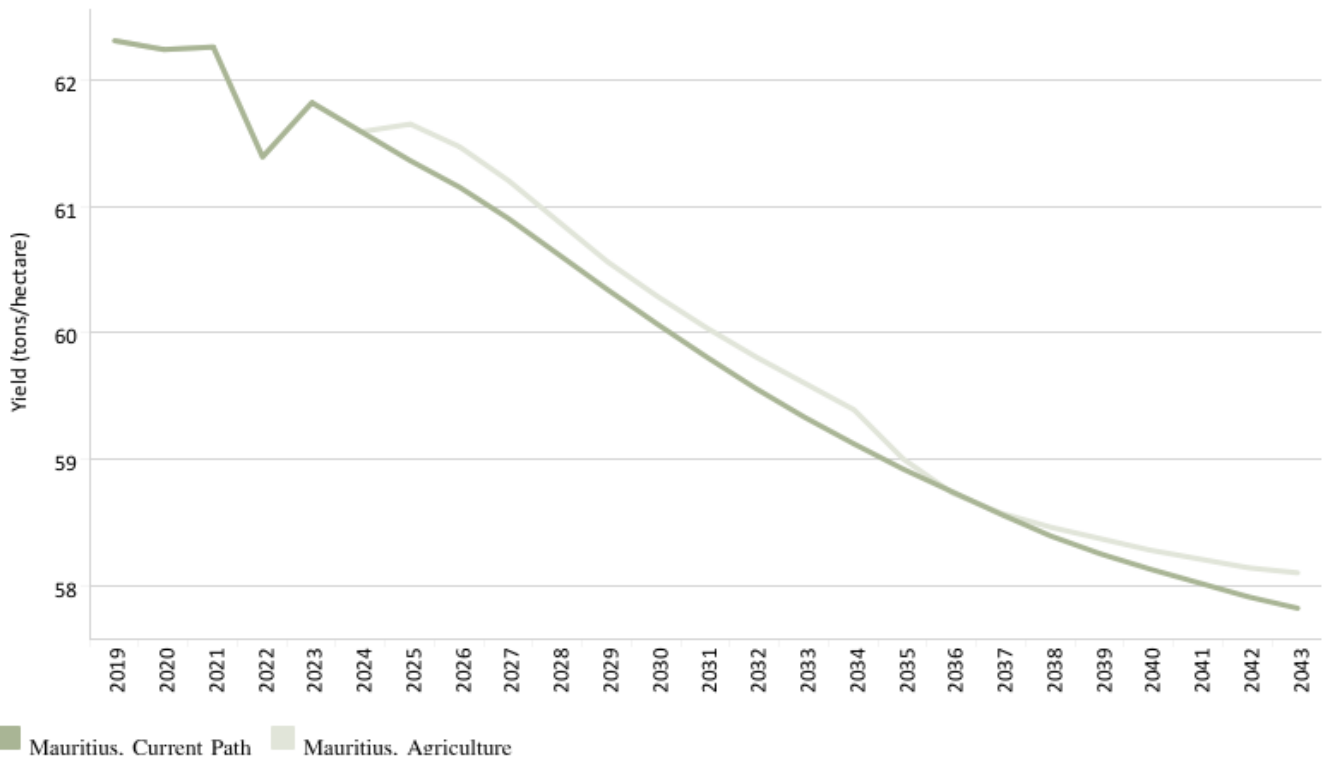
Agriculture scenario

Chart 22: Yield/hectare in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043

Pre-loss levels



Mauritius



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from FAOSTAT on-line statistical service data

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The Agriculture scenario represents reasonable but ambitious increases in yields per hectare (reflecting better management and seed and fertilizer technology), increased land under irrigation and reduced loss and waste. Where appropriate, it includes an increase in calorie consumption, reflecting the prioritisation of food self-sufficiency above food exports as a desirable policy objective.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The data on yields per hectare (in metric tons) is for crops but does not distinguish between different categories of crops.

The Agriculture sector in Mauritius is constrained by various factors unique to small island states: a small domestic market, unfavourable climate, limited area and lack of space to grow crops at economically viable levels. The sector is dominated by sugar cane production, which covers most of the cultivated land due to its comparative advantage and suitability to the local climate. Mauritius thus relies on food imports to satisfy agricultural demand, while sugar cane is the only agricultural export of notable size and serves as an important earner of foreign currency.

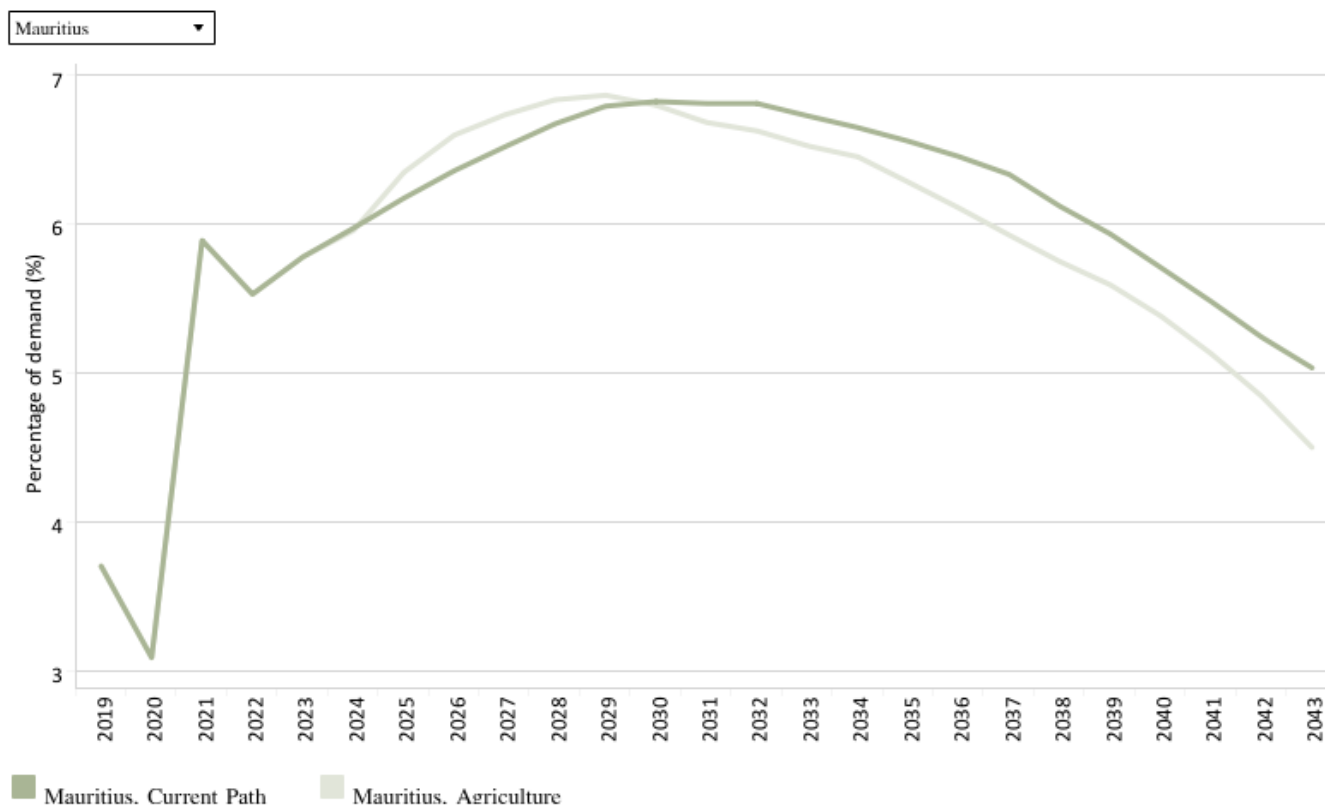
The sugar cane sector is however facing a number of challenges which threaten its productivity and competitiveness. Rising labour costs coupled with decreasing productivity, due to reduced milling capacity and a short milling season, have strained production. Additionally, the number of small and medium planters has dropped as land available for [sugar cane](#)

production continues to decrease.

Despite these challenges, Mauritius' yield per hectare is still the highest in Africa, and far above the average for upper middle-income Africa. Yields are expected to decline however, from 62.3 in 2019 to 58.1 in the Agriculture scenario and 57.8 in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 23: Agriculture imports in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043

Net imports for meat, crops and fish, % of demand



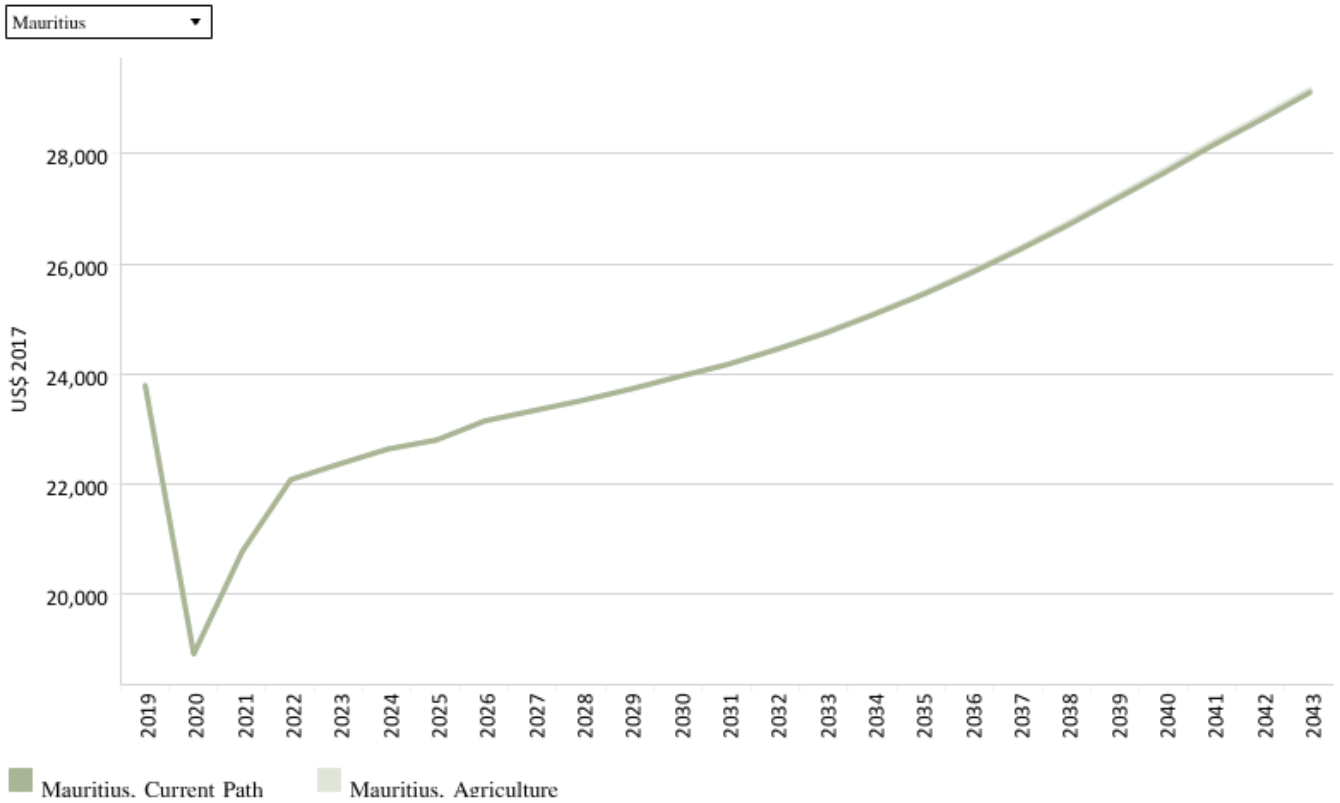
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Food and Agriculture Organization Food Balance Sheets data

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The lack of land available to grow food at suitable levels means Mauritius is a net food importer, with food imports accounting for 20.8% of total imports in 2019. Chart 23 shows net agricultural imports as a per cent of agricultural demand, highlighting Mauritius' import dependence for food. The percentage in 2019 of 3.7% is however somewhat misleading, as large amounts of food imports are offset by sugar cane exports, thus reducing net food imports. Mauritius is self-reliant in three food product sectors—fresh vegetables, poultry meat and eggs—with the rest of demand being met through imports.

In the Agriculture scenario, net agricultural imports are projected to amount to 4.5% of demand by 2043, 0.5 percentage points lower than the Current Path forecast. The improvement marginally widens the gap between Mauritius and the average for upper middle-income Africa, whose rate is projected to be 20.7% in 2043. SADC and COMESA are expected to see a sustained increase over the forecast horizon and surpass the 30% mark before 2043.

Chart 24: GDP per capita in the CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



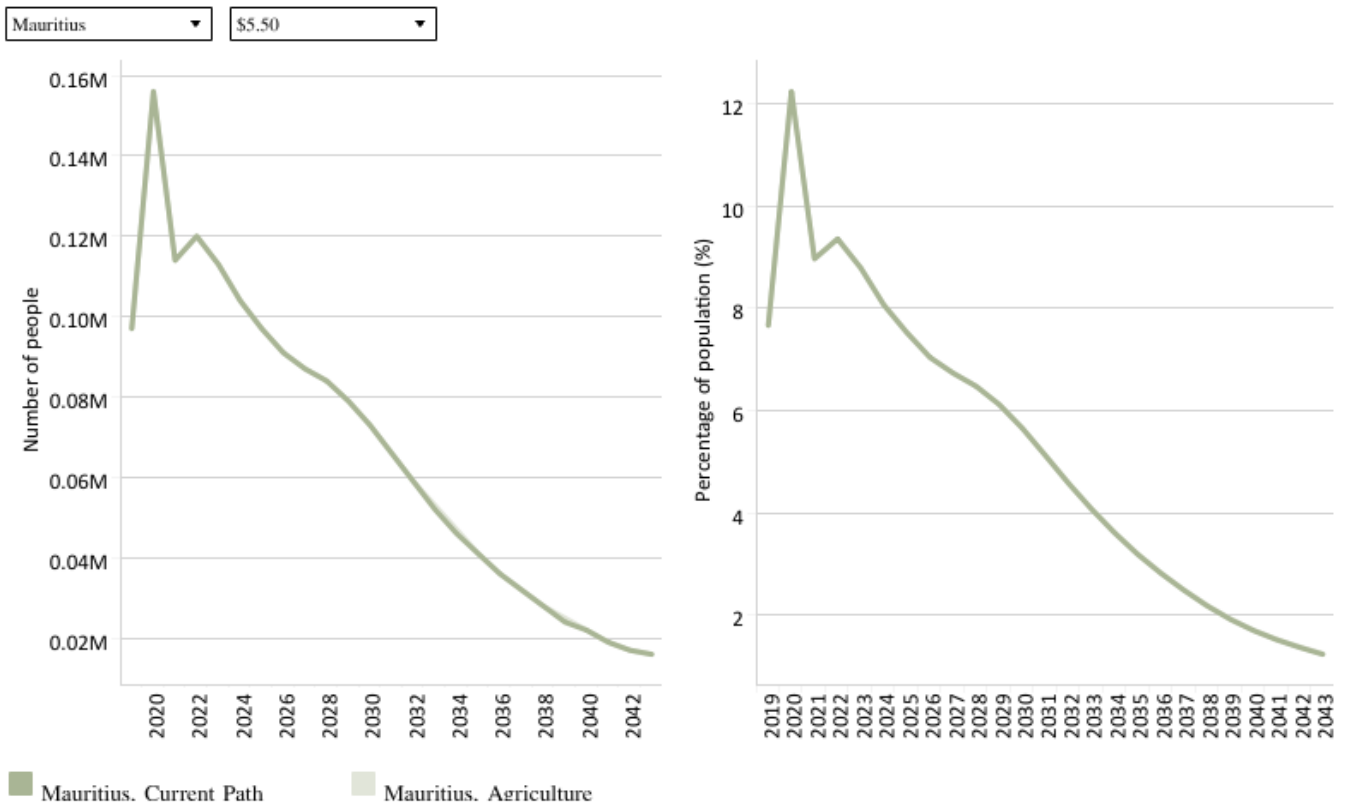
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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A minimal increase in yield per hectare and a small decrease in import dependence result in a limited increase in the GDP per capita for Mauritius in the Agriculture scenario compared to the Current Path forecast. By 2043, the GDP per capita is projected to be US\$60 more than in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 25: Poverty in CP and Agric scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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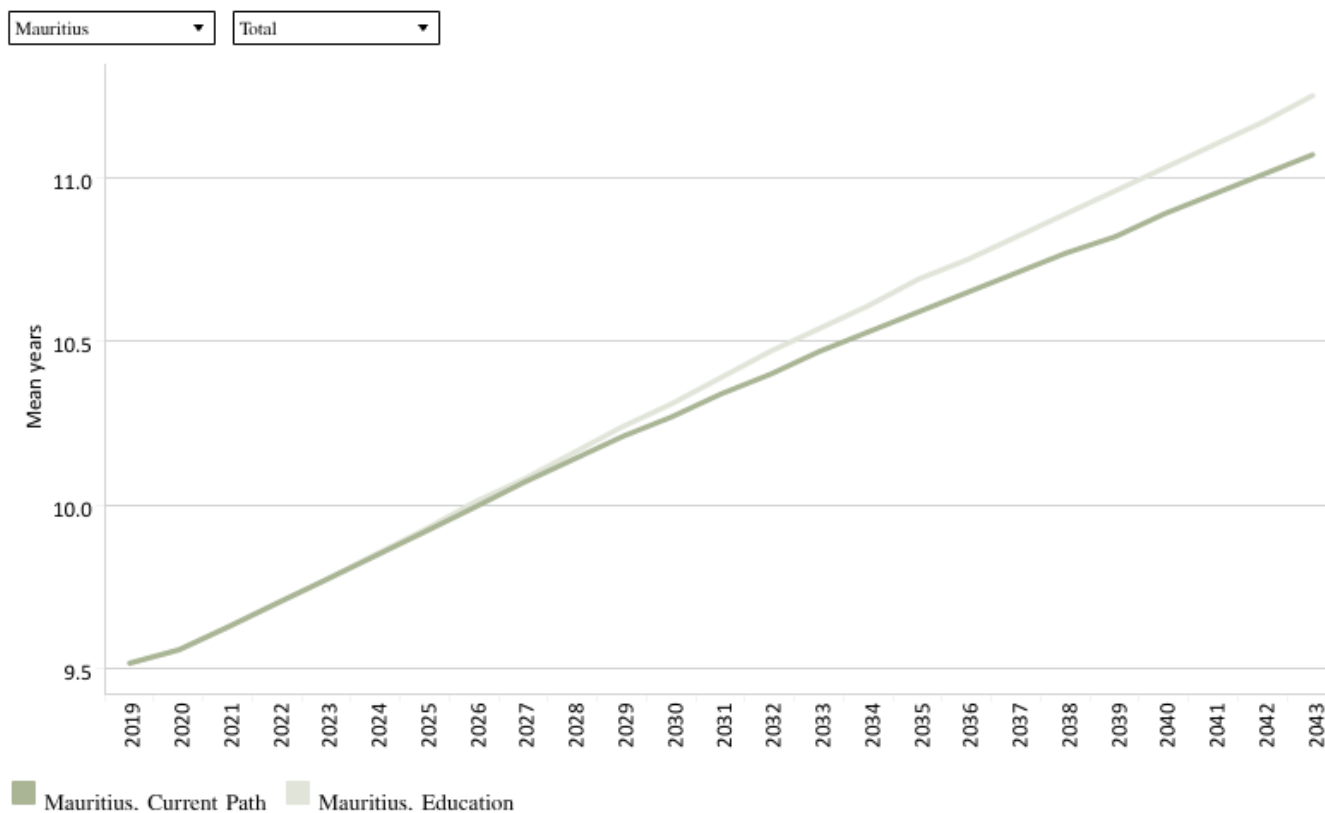
The effect on poverty alleviation is similarly small. Mauritius' poverty decreases by only 0.01 percentage points by 2043 in the Agriculture scenario compared to the Current Path forecast.



Education scenario

Chart 26: Mean years of education in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043

Mean years of adult (+15) education



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Barro-Lee data

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The Education scenario represents reasonable but ambitious improved intake, transition and graduation rates from primary to tertiary levels and better quality of education. It also models substantive progress towards gender parity at all levels, additional vocational training at secondary school level and increases in the share of science and engineering graduates.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

The Mauritian government has placed a strong emphasis on **educating its population** since independence, progressively making education free at all levels. Secondary education has been provided for free since 1976, with **tertiary education** following suit in 2019 at all public tertiary education institutions. Schooling has been made compulsory up to the age of 16, equating to 11 years of education. The result of these **policies** has been very high gross enrolment rates and positive gender parity indexes at both primary and secondary levels. Tertiary gross enrolment rates are also high, reaching 40.6% in 2017.

Chart 26 shows the mean years of education for adults aged 15 years and above and reflects the high rates of completion Mauritius has for primary and lower secondary schooling. In 2019, average education for both sexes was 9.5 years, with

the female average 0.4 years below the male average. The average for both sexes is expected to increase to 11.3 in the Education scenario, 0.2 years higher than the Current Path forecast. Gender parity would also have been reached, with the female average being 0.1 years higher than the male average by 2043 in the Education scenario.

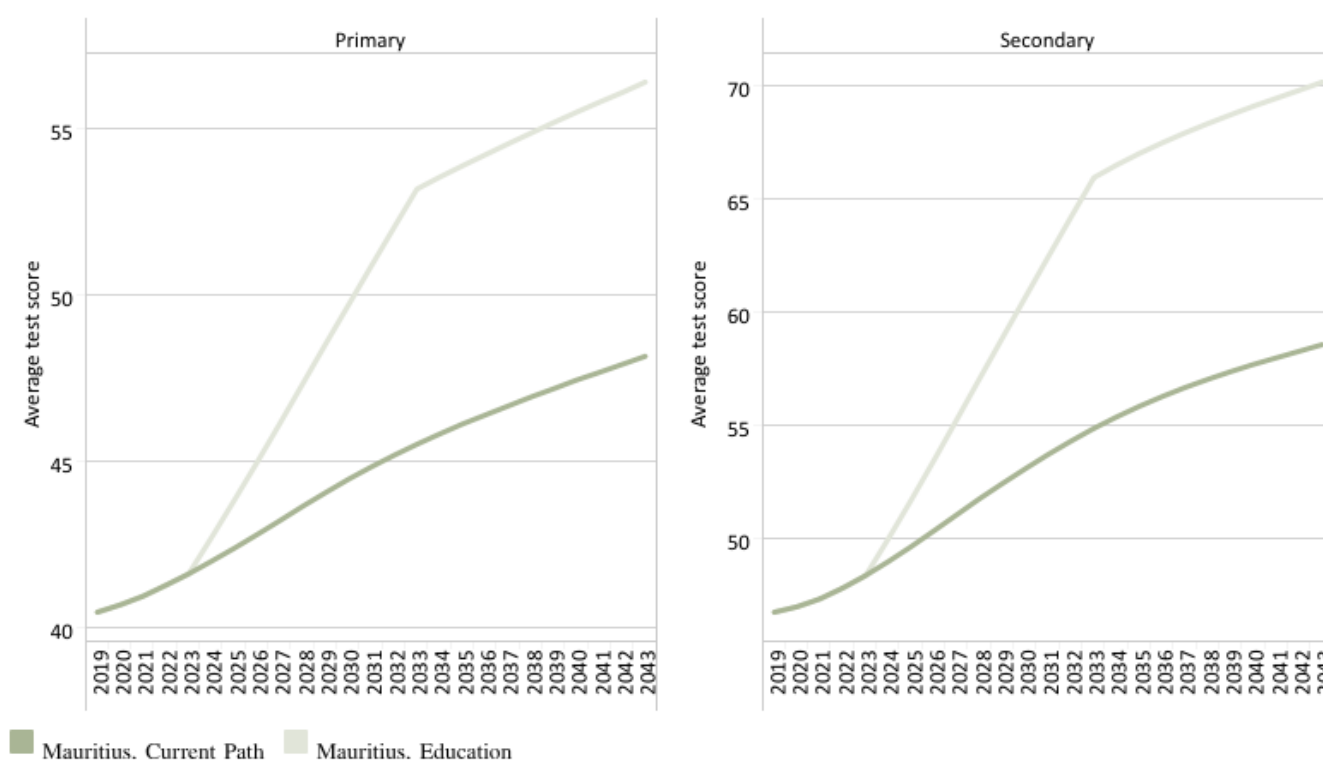
High averages for years of education do not however show the effectiveness of the schooling received. As noted earlier, the structural shift of the economy away from low-skilled agriculture and manufacturing work towards high-skilled manufacturing and services work has created a **labour supply shortage**. Youth increasingly do not have the skills employers are looking for, with the percentage of unemployed youth who had post-secondary or tertiary education equalling 39.5% in 2015.

Chart 27: Education quality in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043

Average test scores for primary and secondary learners



Mauritius



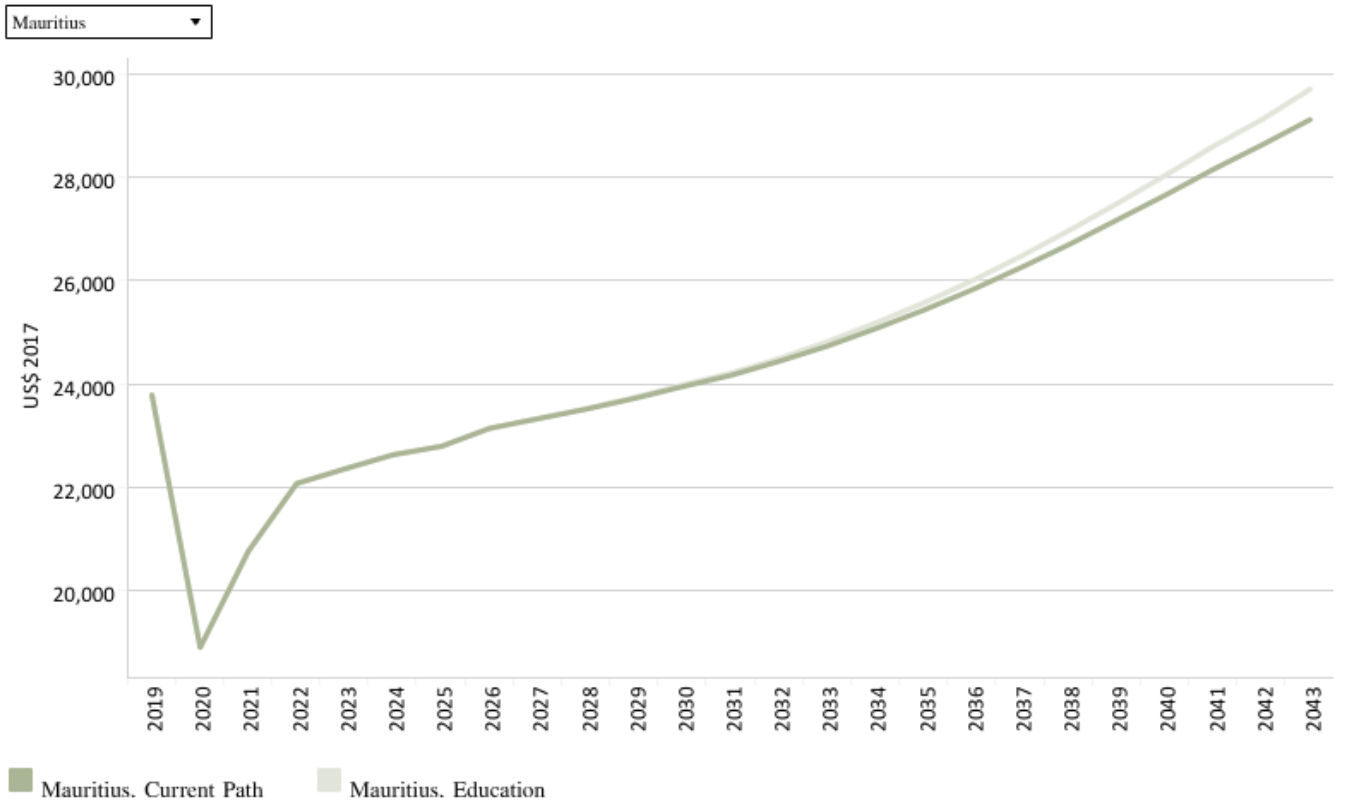
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Bank EDSTATS

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In addition to years of educational attainment, education quality is an important factor to consider. Mauritius performs well in average test scores for both primary and secondary learners when compared to the rest of Africa, ranking in the top 5 in both metrics. In 2019, primary school learners achieved an average test score of 40.5 and secondary school learners achieved a score of 46.7. Both these scores are higher than the averages for upper middle-income Africa, SADC and COMESA. The Education scenario's interventions improve these scores considerably: the primary level score increases to 56.4 by 2043, 8.2 higher than in the Current Path forecast, while the secondary level score increases to 70.2 by 2043, 11.6 higher than the Current Path forecast. Although these numbers are impressive for Mauritius, the gap between the skills provided through education and those demanded by employers remains problematic.

Chart 28: GDP per capita in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



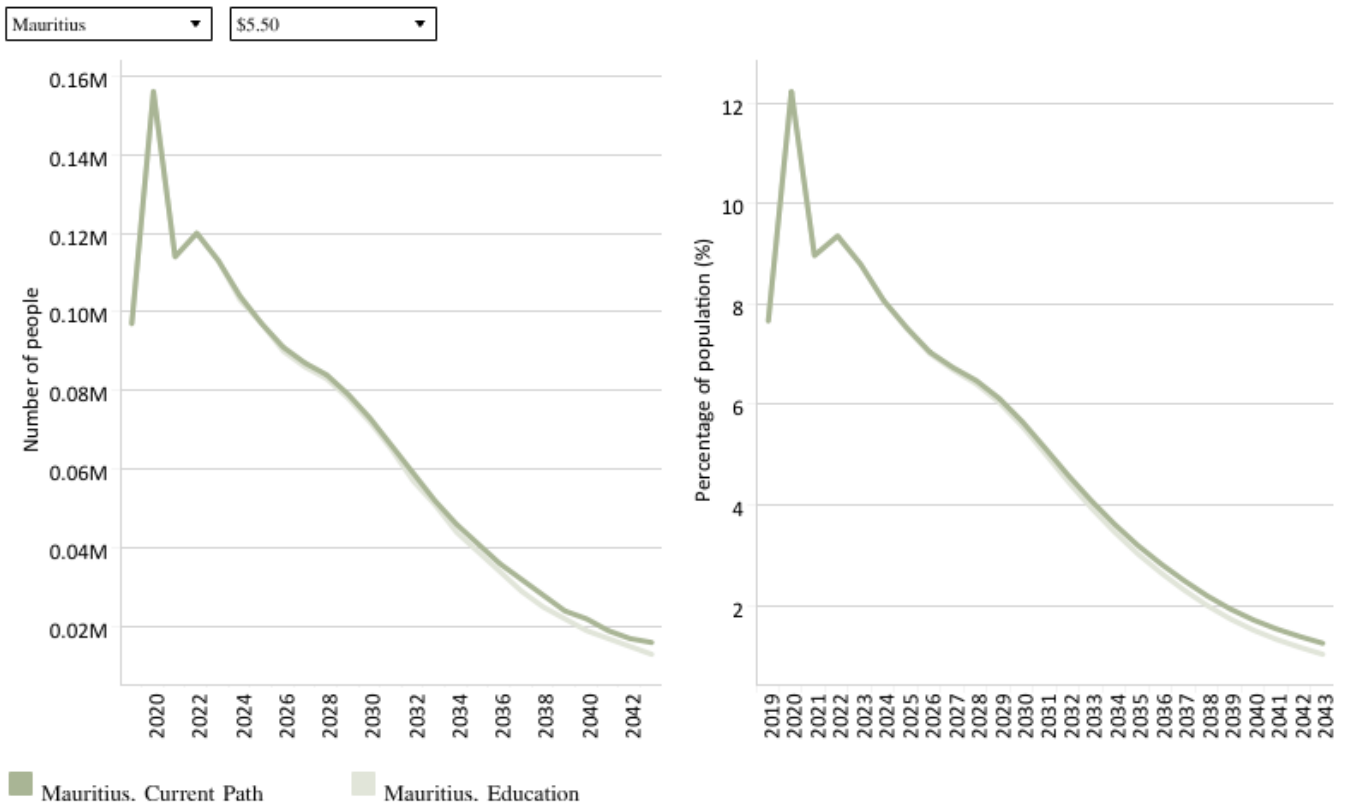
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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Chart 28 shows the impact that the Education scenario’s interventions could have on the GDP per capita compared to the Current Path forecast. By 2043, the GDP per capita would be US\$590 higher than in the Current Path forecast, equating to a 2% increase.

Chart 29: Poverty in CP and Educ scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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By 2043, Mauritius' poverty rate is projected to be 0.2 percentage points lower than in the Current Path forecast, equating to a reduction of 3 000 citizens. The country is projected to eliminate extreme poverty at the US\$5.50 poverty level by 2036, the same year as the Current Path forecast.

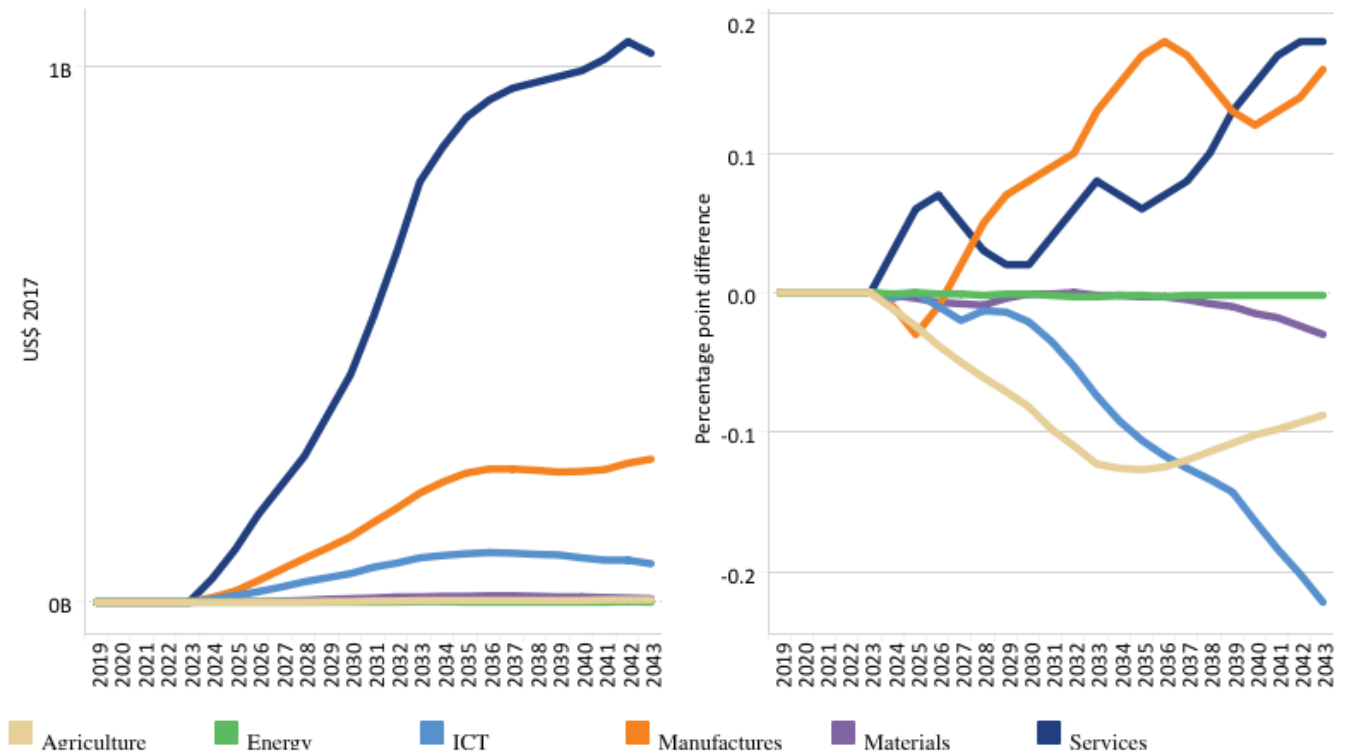


Manufacturing scenario

Chart 30: Value added by sector in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Absolute and % point difference GDP



Mauritius



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

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The Manufacturing/Transfers scenario represents reasonable but ambitious manufacturing growth through greater investment in the economy, investments in research and development, and promotion of the export of manufactured goods. It is accompanied by an increase in welfare transfers (social grants) to moderate the initial increases in inequality that are typically associated with a manufacturing transition. To this end, the scenario improves tax administration and increases government revenues.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

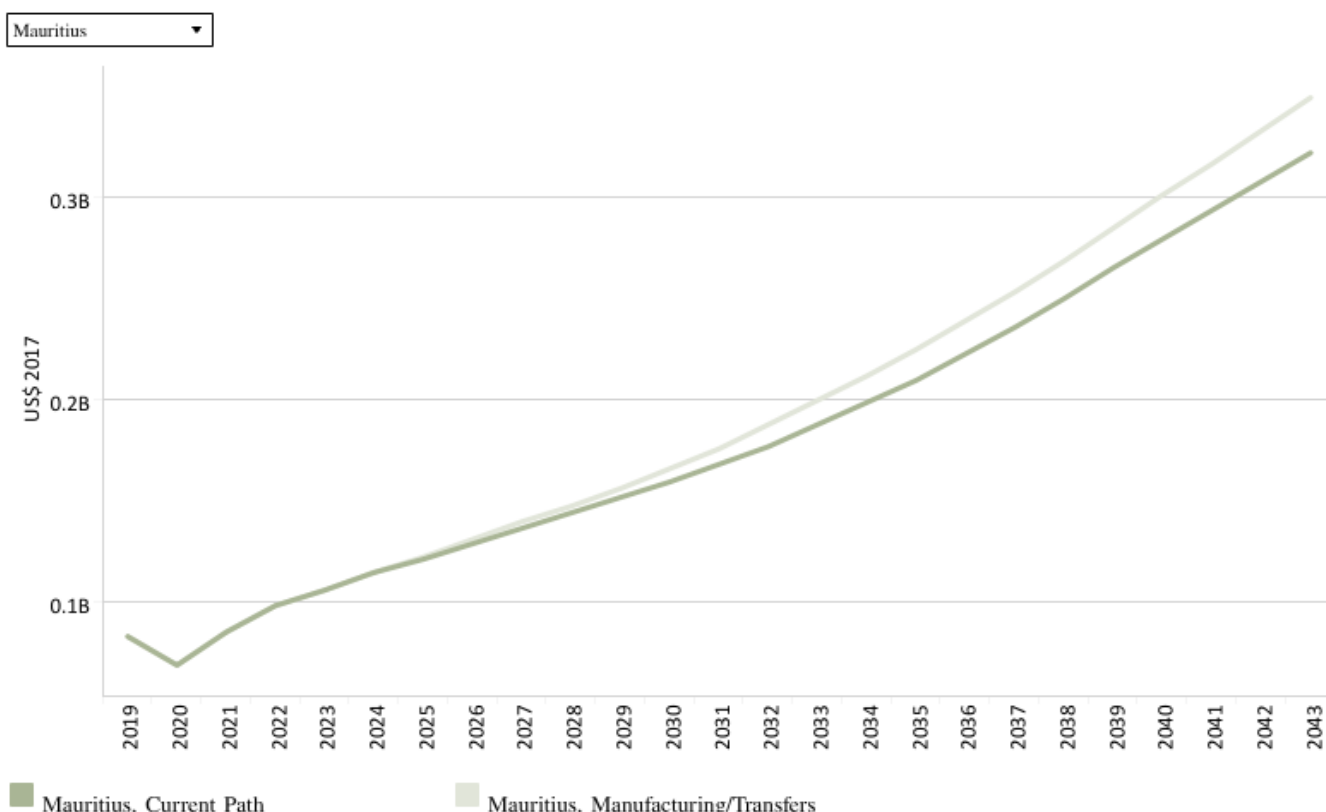
Chart 30 should be read with Chart 8 that presents a stacked area graph on the contribution to GDP and size, in billion US\$, of the Current Path economy for each of the sectors.

Mauritius' **manufacturing sector** has been steadily decreasing in size since 2001, from 20% value added to 16.6% of GDP in 2019 and is expected still to be 16% by 2043 in the Current Path forecast. When disaggregating the sector, non-export-oriented firms (excluding sugar milling) added 65% of the value and export-oriented firms added 35% in 2019. In the export-oriented sector, wearing apparel, accounted for 51.7% of value added at basic prices in 2017, while the non-export-oriented sector is dominated by the **production of food** and beverages and tobacco products. The manufacturing sector is also important for foreign exchange earnings as it represented 60.4% of **merchandise exports** in 2019.

In 2019, the **manufacturing sector** accounted for 23.8% of total employment, compared to 63.8% for the services sector. The wearing apparel segment of the manufacturing sector accounted for 45.6% of total employment, followed by 18% for food products and 7.7% in textiles. By 2043, employment in the manufacturing sector is projected to be 22.8% in the Current Path forecast, while services will account for 66.9% of total employment.

Chart 30 shows the difference in percentage value added of all six sectors in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario compared to the Current Path forecast. Although services continue to lead the way, manufacturing will add an extra 0.2 percentage points of GDP by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. In absolute terms, the sector is projected to be US\$270 million larger by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast, again only topped by services.

Chart 31: Gov welfare transfers in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Billions US\$ 2017



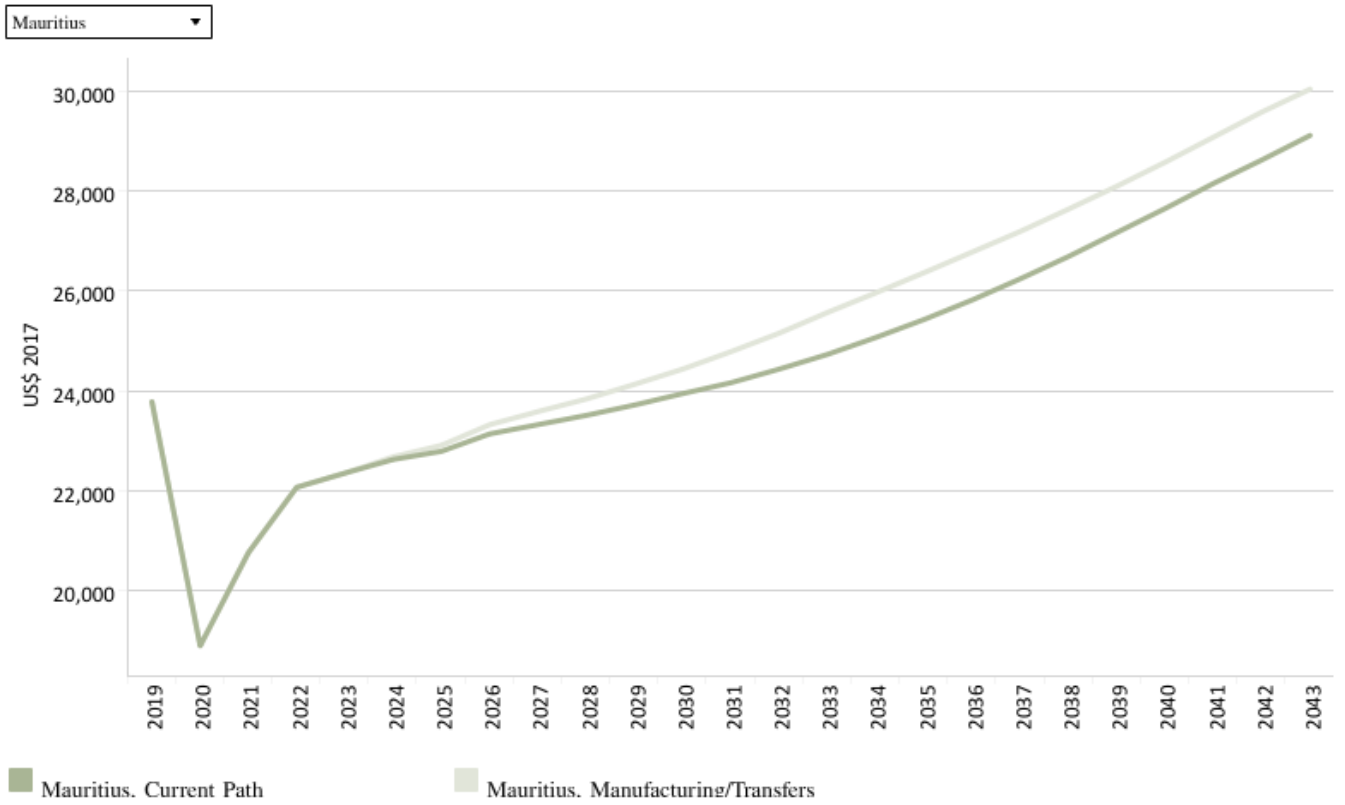
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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Chart 31 shows the increase in welfare transfers to unskilled workers affected by the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario to compensate for the negative effects of increased investment in the manufacturing sector. The transfers aim to address the rising inequality caused by a manufacturing transition, as those without the requisite skills suffer from unemployment. This trend, as discussed earlier, is already under way in Mauritius, with a supply shortage of adequately skilled labour affecting wage equality. In 2019, welfare transfers equated to US\$0.08 billion and would increase to US\$0.35 billion by 2043 in the Manufacturing/Transfers scenario, US\$30 million more than in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 32: GDP per capita in CP and Manufac/Transfers scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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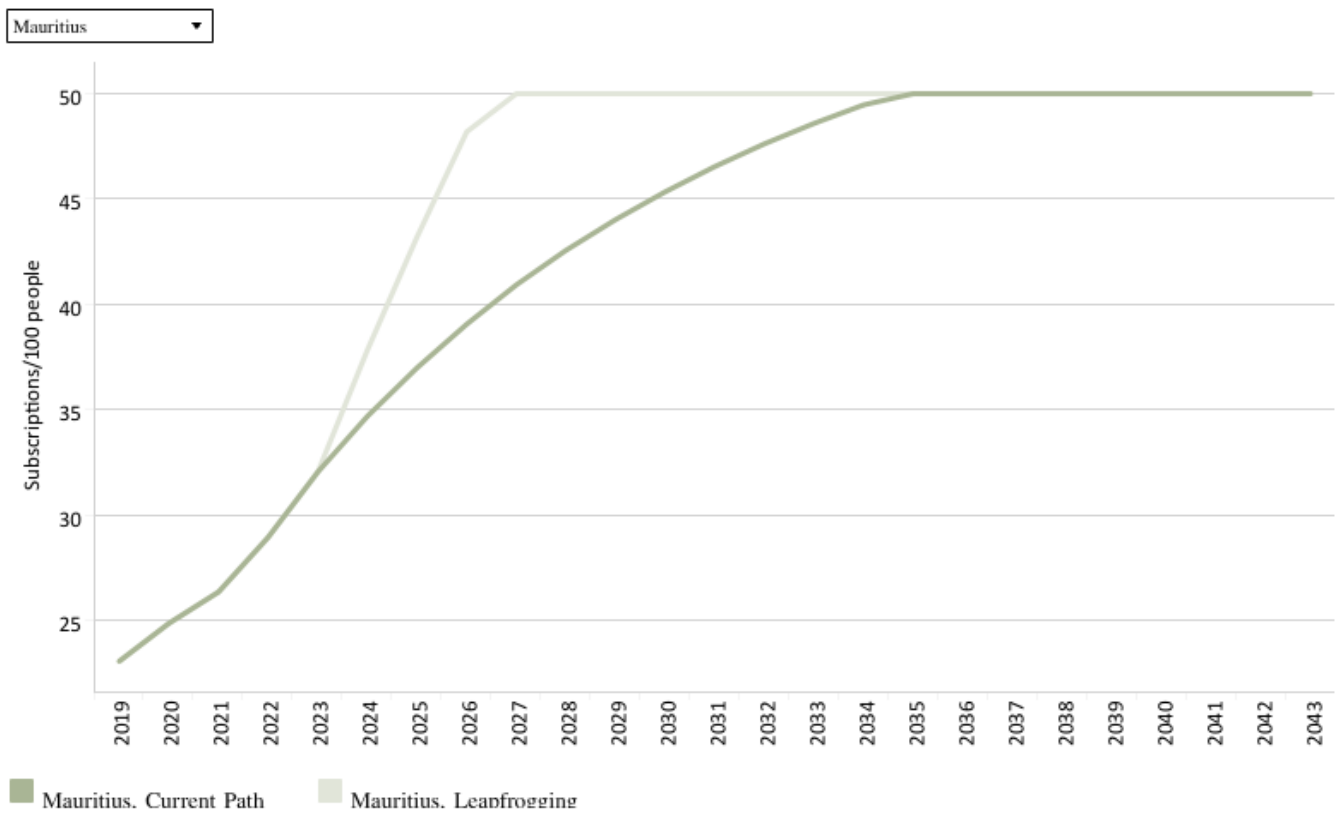
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The Manufacturing/Transfers scenario is projected to elicit an increase of 3.2% in GDP per capita by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast, equating to an extra US\$930 dollars per citizen. The scenario has the second largest potential to increase GDP per capita for the country, only topped by the Free Trade scenario.



Leapfrogging scenario

Chart 34: Fixed broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Subscriptions per 100 people



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

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The Leapfrogging scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious adoption of and investment in renewable energy technologies, resulting in better access to electricity in urban and rural areas. The scenario includes accelerated access to mobile and fixed broadband and the adoption of modern technology that improves government efficiency and allows for the more rapid formalisation of the informal sector.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

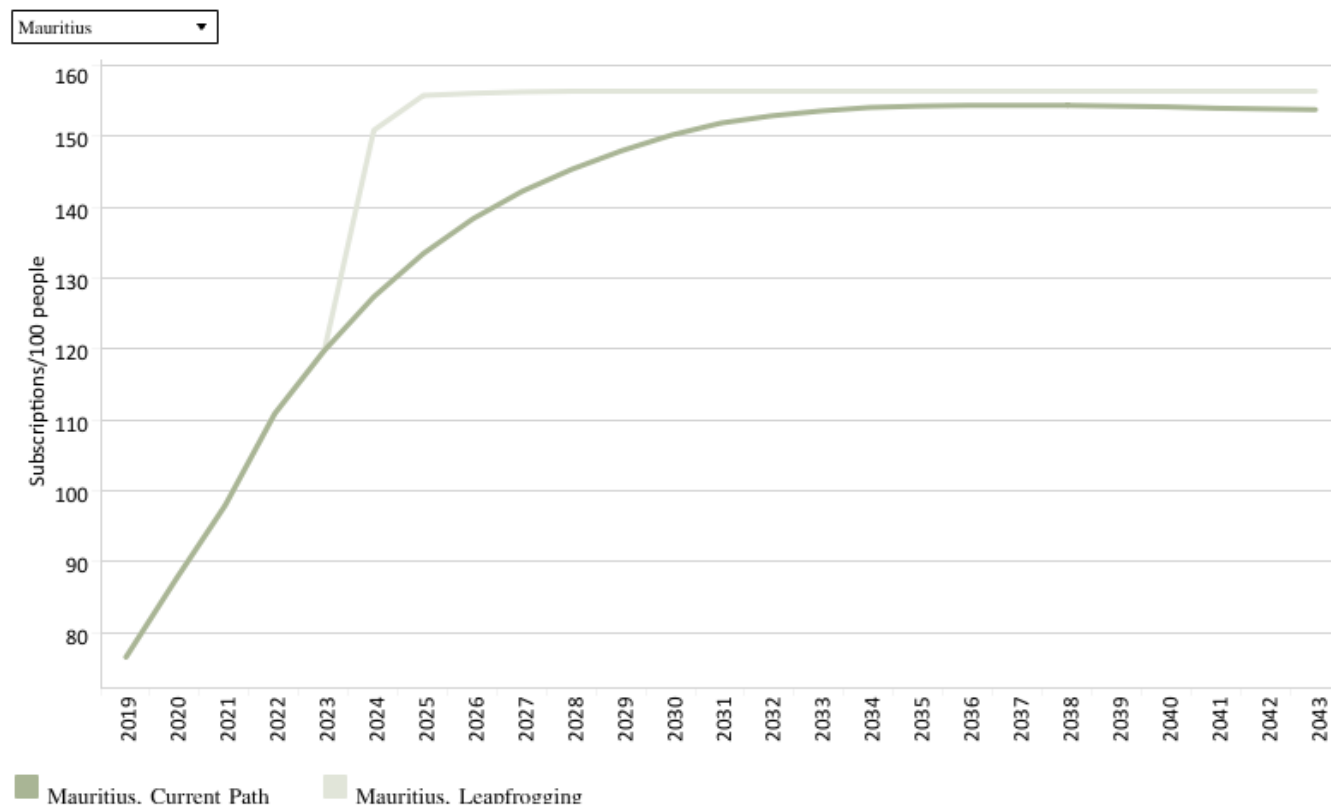
Fixed broadband includes cable modem Internet connections, DSL Internet connections of at least 256 KB/s, fibre and other fixed broadband technology connections (such as satellite broadband Internet, ethernet local area networks, fixed-wireless access, wireless local area networks, WiMAX, etc.).

Mauritius has the most fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 people and second highest percentage of the population connected to the Internet in Africa, behind only the Seychelles. High and equal levels of electricity access in both rural and urban areas help to explain these positive statistics. The government has also invested heavily in providing fibre to the whole island, reaching 100% [Fibre-to-the-Home coverage](#) in 2019. The liberalisation of the telecommunication sector in 2003 has ensured it benefits from healthy levels of competition. The 2019 Telecoms Maturity Index, published by BuddeComm, ranked the country as having the most mature telecoms market in Africa. [1]

Chart 34 shows how the already positive position can be improved upon by implementing the Leapfrogging scenario's interventions. In 2019, Mauritius had 23 fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 people and is projected to reach the saturation point of 50 by 2035 in the Current Path forecast. The Leapfrogging scenario accelerates this progress, with the country reaching saturation in 2027, eight years earlier.

Chart 35: Mobile broadband access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043

Subscriptions per 100 people



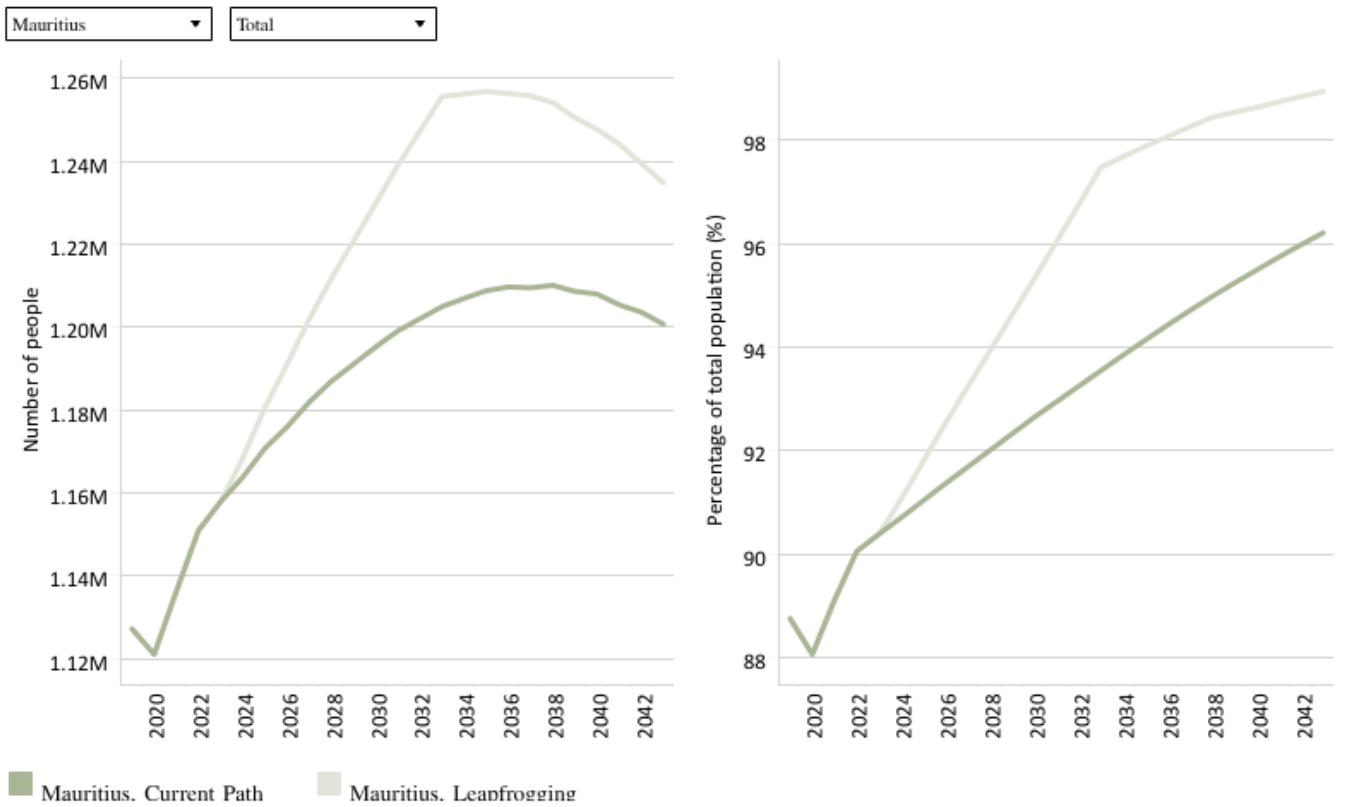
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Telecommunication Union data

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Mobile broadband refers to wireless Internet access delivered through cellular towers to computers and other digital devices.

Mobile network coverage is widespread with 4G being universally available to all inhabitants of the main island. In 2019, mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 people was 76.6, the 11th highest in Africa. The Current Path forecast projects rapid increases which the Leapfrogging scenario accelerates further, reaching 150 subscriptions per 100 people in 2025, compared to 2030 in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 36: Electricity access in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

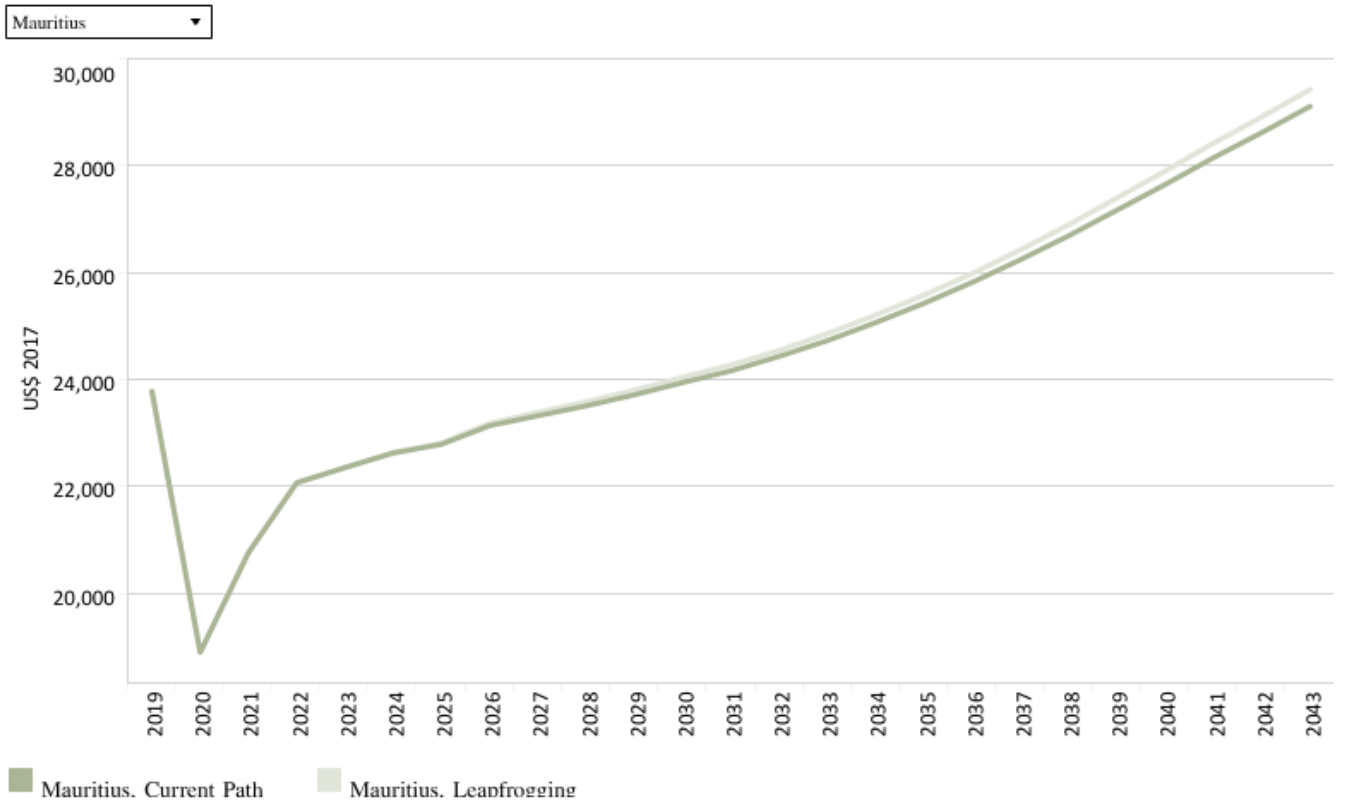
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The country has high and equal levels of electricity access in urban and rural areas. Mauritius is planning to increase the share of renewables in the energy mix, aiming for 35% by 2025. The country currently imports nearly all the energy sources it needs to generate electricity, while 55% of generation is undertaken by independent power producers.

The World Bank’s data pegged total electricity access at 100% in 2019, while IFs data showed 88.8%. There was no difference in access between rural and urban areas in 2019, and by 2043, IFs data projects access for both areas to be 96%. The Leapfrogging scenario increases total access by 2043 to 98.9%, 2.7 percentage points higher than the Current Path forecast, while rural access would reach 98.2% and urban access would equate to 100%.

Chart 37: GDP per capita in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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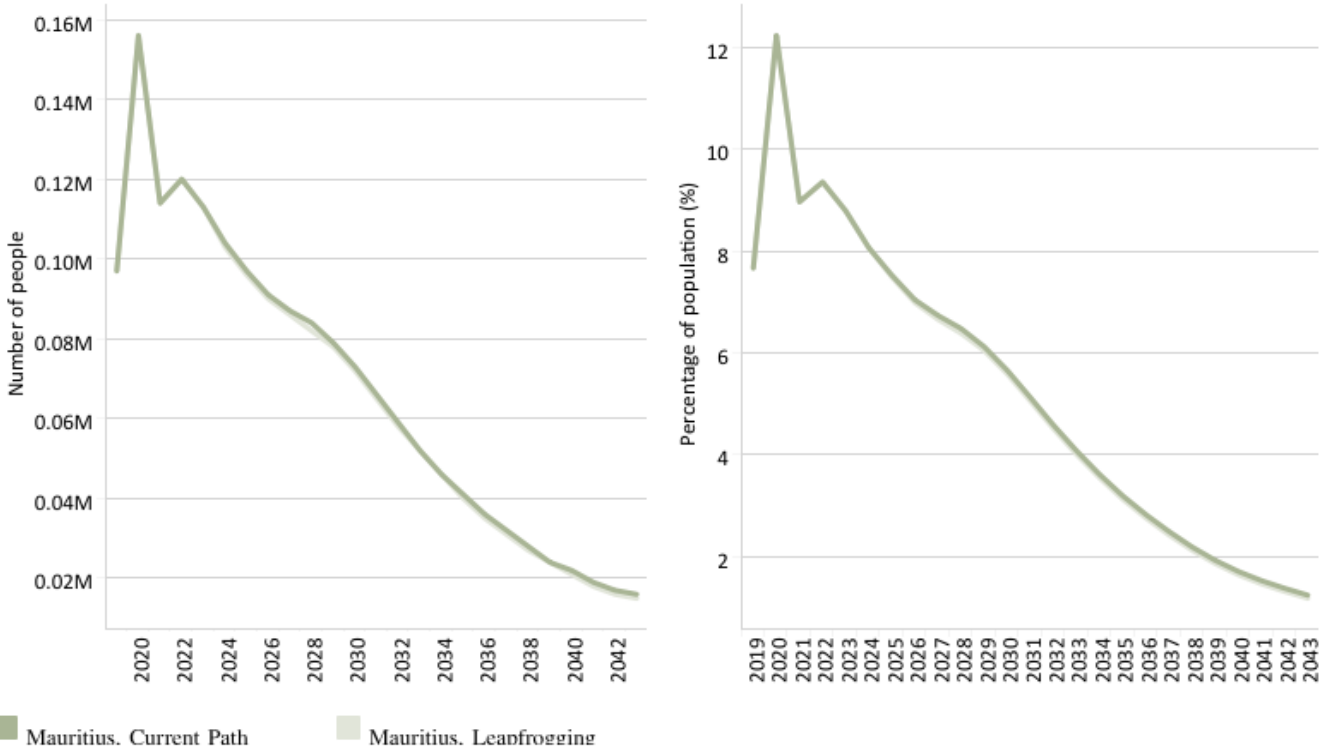
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Chart 37 highlights the positive impact that the Leapfrogging scenario would have on GDP per capita, raising it by US\$320 by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. Increased access to fixed and mobile broadband would enable more Mauritians to enter the digital work domain and benefit from online services.

Chart 38: Poverty in CP and Leapfrogging scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Mauritius \$5.50



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

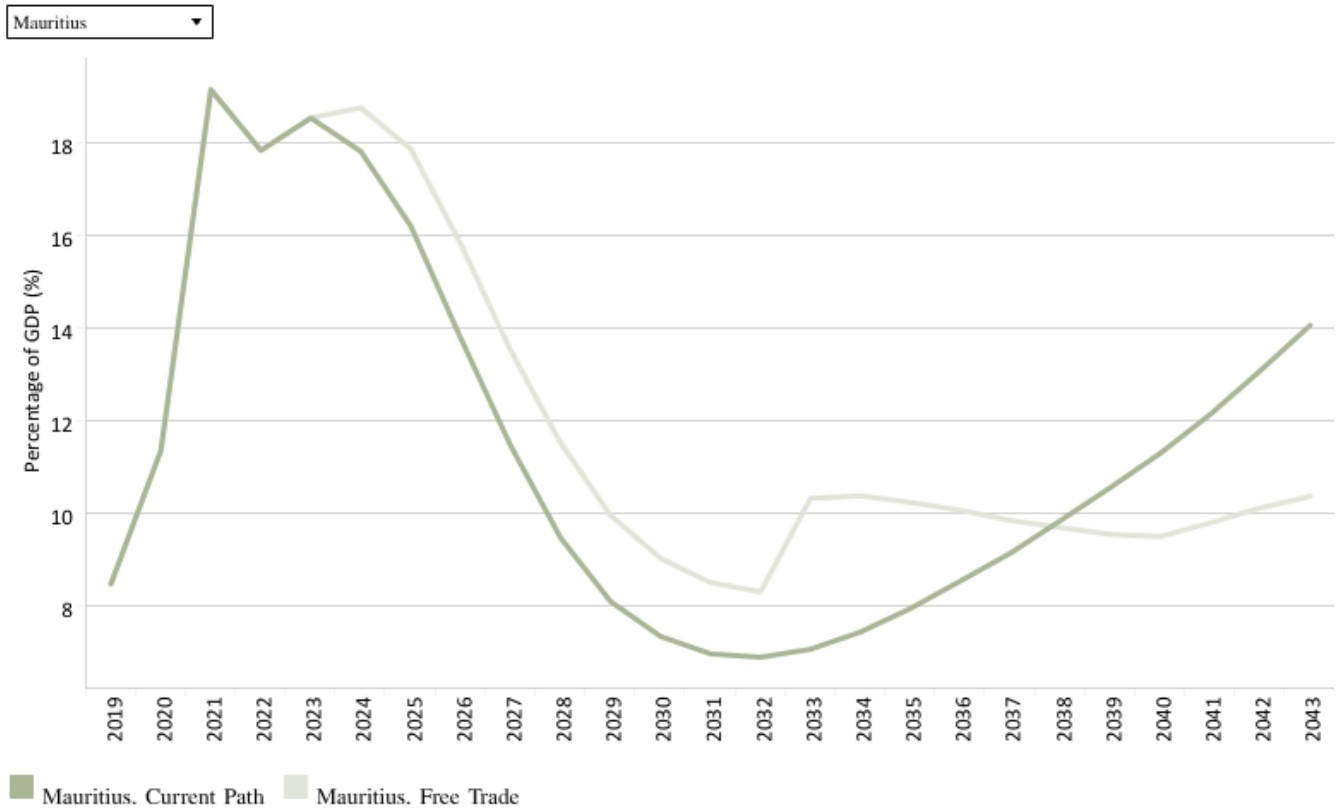
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Mauritius would have eliminated extreme poverty at US\$5.50 by 2036 in both the Current Path forecast and the Leapfrogging scenario, thus any gains from the scenario are minimal by 2043.



Free Trade scenario

Chart 39: Trade balance in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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The Free Trade scenario represents the impact of the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by 2034 through increases in exports, improved productivity and increased trade and economic freedom.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

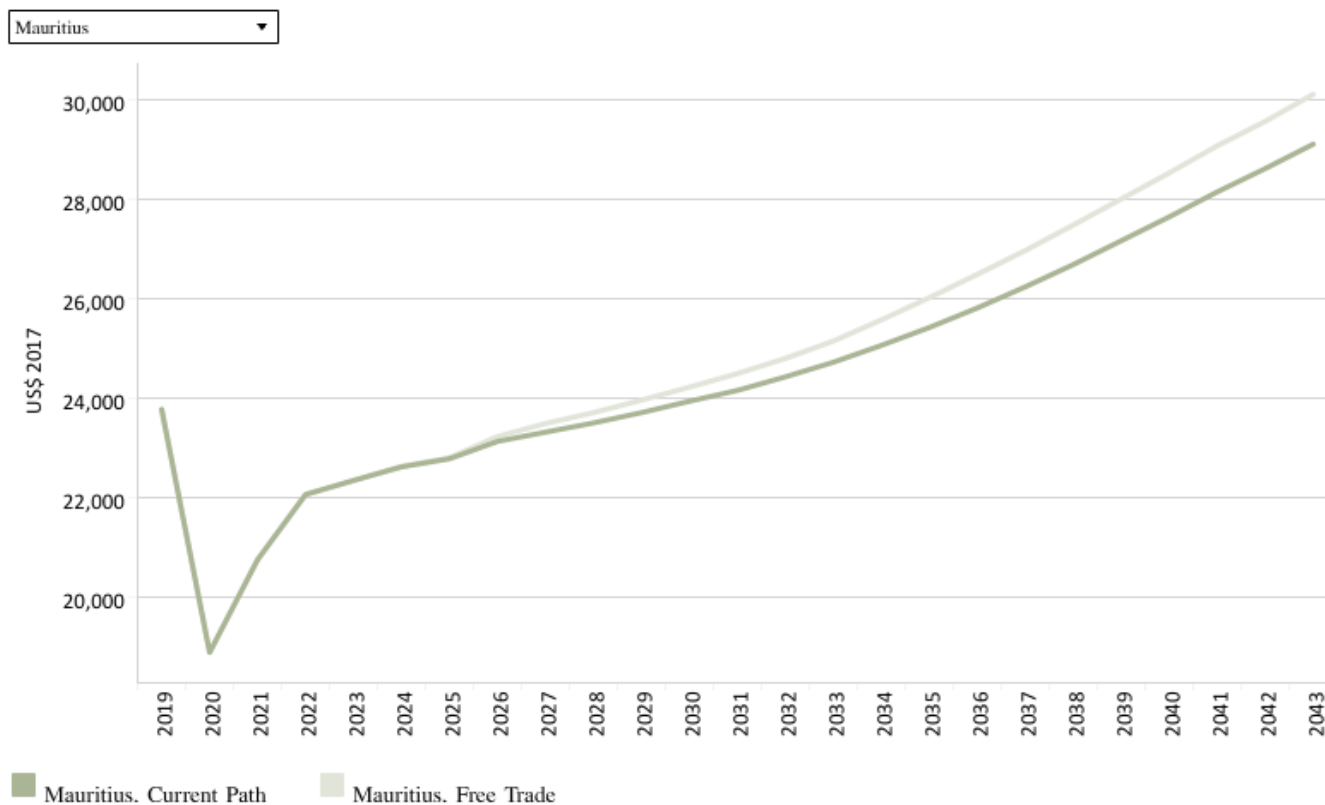
The trade balance is the difference between the value of a country's exports and its imports. A country that imports more goods and services than it exports in terms of value has a trade deficit, while a country that exports more goods and services than it imports has a trade surplus.

Mauritius has a mixed tracked record in regional integration, according to the [African Regional Integration Index](#), which measures progress along five forms of integration. The country performs well in macroeconomic integration, meaning its macroeconomic policy aligns well with regional partners and in infrastructural integration, reflecting Mauritius' well developed ICT and electricity infrastructure. Below average scores are achieved in productive and trade integration, the latter showing Mauritius' dependence on trade partners outside of Africa.

[Exports to Europe](#) constituted 45.4% of total exports in 2020, followed by 28.5% to Africa and 15% to Asia. Imports mainly originate from Asia and Europe, which constituted 54.4% and 26.6% of total imports in 2020. Wearing apparel and preserved fish constitute the largest proportion of exports, while energy imports make up a major share of [imports](#).

Trade data for Mauritius varies considerably between IFs and other sources such as the World Bank and the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The former is used in this analysis. In 2019, Mauritius had a positive trade balance of 8.5% of GDP driven by exports of services 23.6% of GDP and manufactures 15.1% of GDP. The Free Trade scenario increases trade in both these sectors, exports of services increasing by 15.2 percentage points and imports of manufactures by 9 percentage points. The latter increase would result in the trade balance being 3.6 percentage points below the Current Path forecast by 2043 compared to the Free Trade scenario.

Chart 40: GDP per capita in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

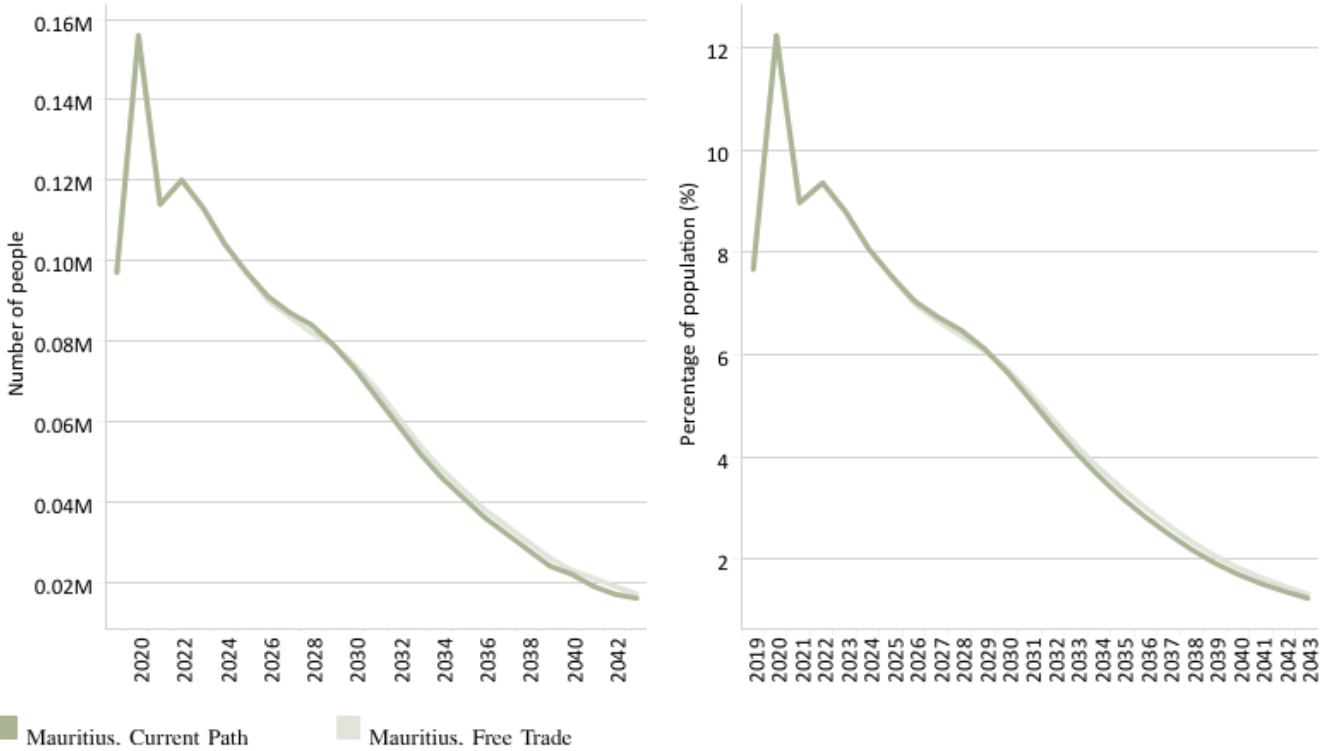
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The Free Trade scenario increases the GDP per capita the most of all the sectoral scenarios. By 2043, the GDP per capita would increase by US\$1 010 compared to the Current Path forecast, a rise of 3.5%.

Chart 41: Poverty in CP and Free Trade scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Mauritius \$5.50



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

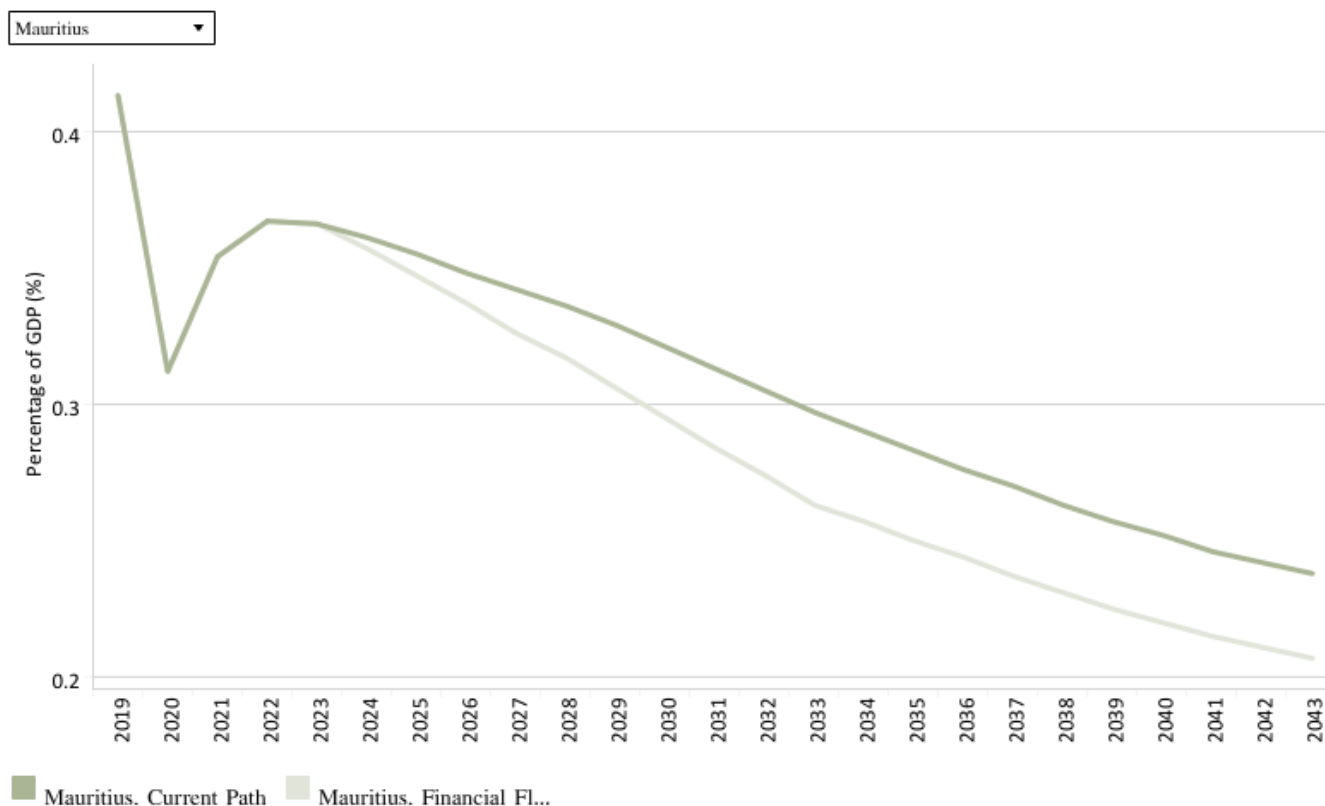
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The Free Trade scenario does increase the GDP per capita but the poverty rate remains largely unchanged, with a slight increase of 0.1 percentage points by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. Although contradictory, extreme poverty would still be eliminated at US\$5.50 by 2036. A possible explanation is the domestic Gini index rising by 0.01, meaning that the increase in GDP per capita is not shared equally among the population with a slight increase in income inequality.



Financial Flows scenario

Chart 42: Foreign aid in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Development Assistance Committee of the OECD data, and World Bank and OECD GNI estimates.

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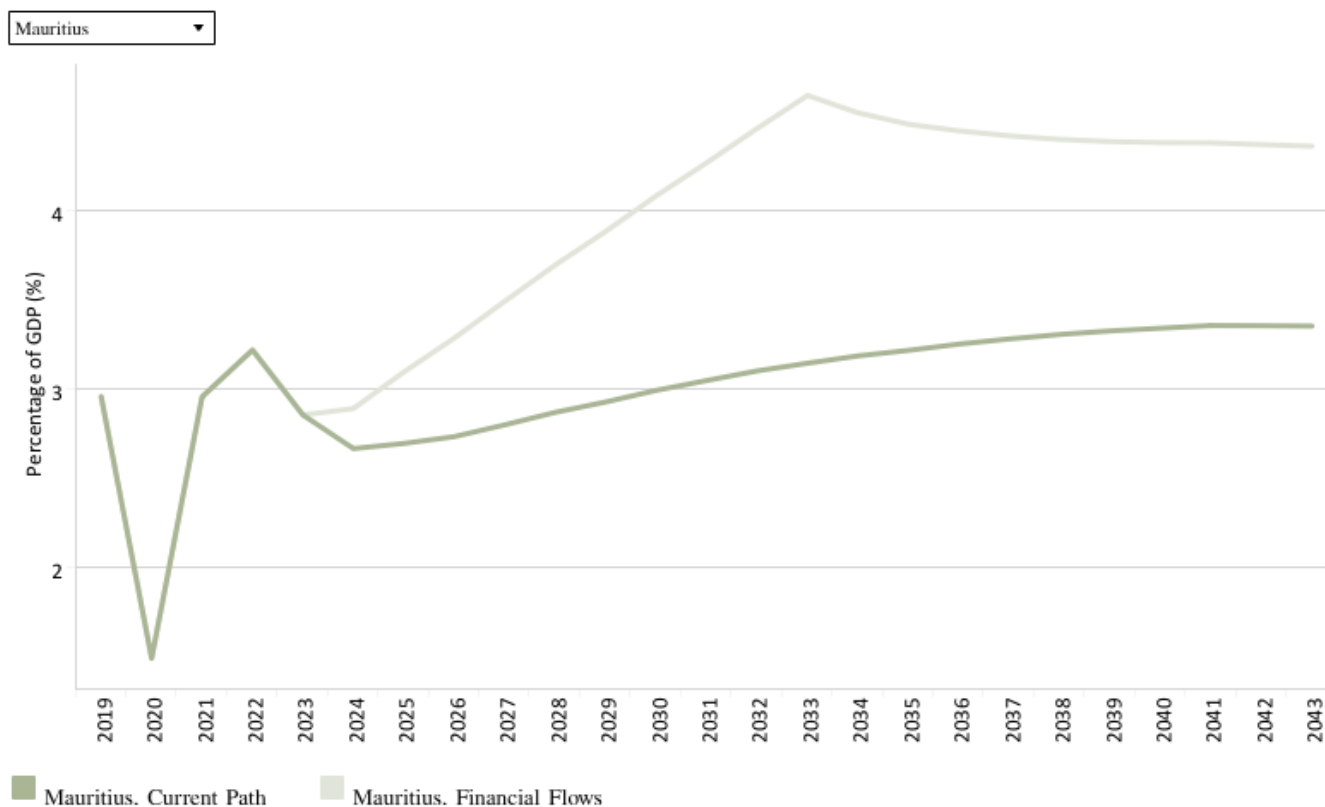
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The Financial Flows scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in worker remittances and aid flows to poor countries, and an increase in the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) and additional portfolio investment inflows to middle-income countries. We also reduced outward financial flows to emulate a reduction in illicit financial outflows.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Mauritius does not rely on foreign aid for its development or social spending, due to its high levels of GDP per capita, low poverty rates and low levels of inequality. The country has also been politically stable for a long time and is not suffering from internal conflict or instability. In 2019, foreign aid equated to 0.4% of GDP and 1.9% of government revenue, low levels which are projected to decline along the Current Path forecast. The Financial Flows scenario decreases foreign aid as percentage of GDP by 2043 by 0.03 compared to the Current Path forecast, reaching a level of 0.21%.

Chart 43: Inflow of FDI in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
% of GDP



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook database

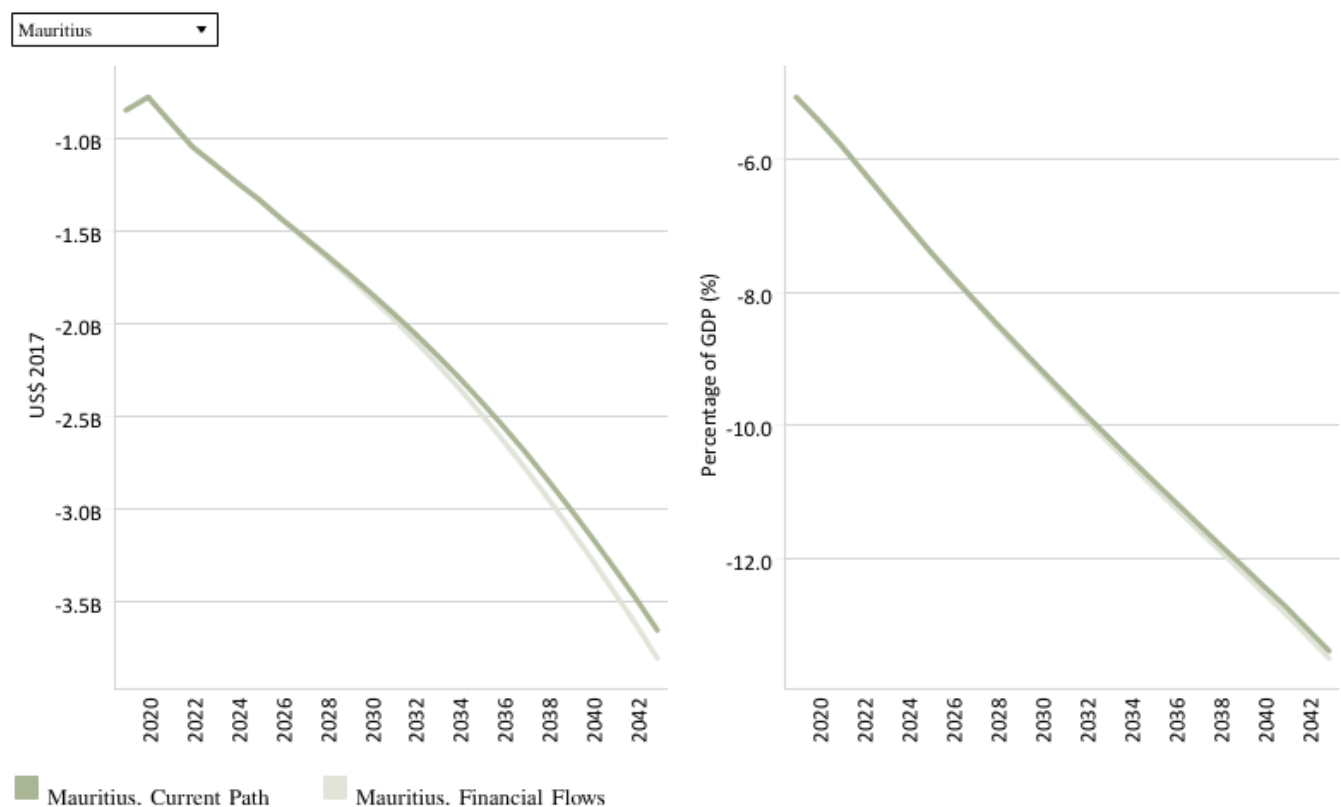
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Mauritius has low levels of foreign direct investment when compared to the rest of Africa. In 2019, FDI as a per cent of GDP stood at 3%, ranking the country 33rd on the continent. This is surprising as Mauritius is consistently ranked as the **most competitive economy** on the continent by the World Economic Forum and achieves a high score in the ease of doing business index, ranking 13th in the world in 2019.

Problematic factors include a rigid labour market, as described above, difficulty in attaining credit information and costs associated with **importing and exporting goods**. The Financial Flows scenario increases the inflow of FDI to 4.4% of GDP by 2043, 1 percentage point above the Current Path forecast. Mauritius has historically had low levels of FDI inflows and 4.4% would be in line with the trend of the last decade.

Chart 44: Remittances in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043

Billions US\$ 2017 and % of GDP



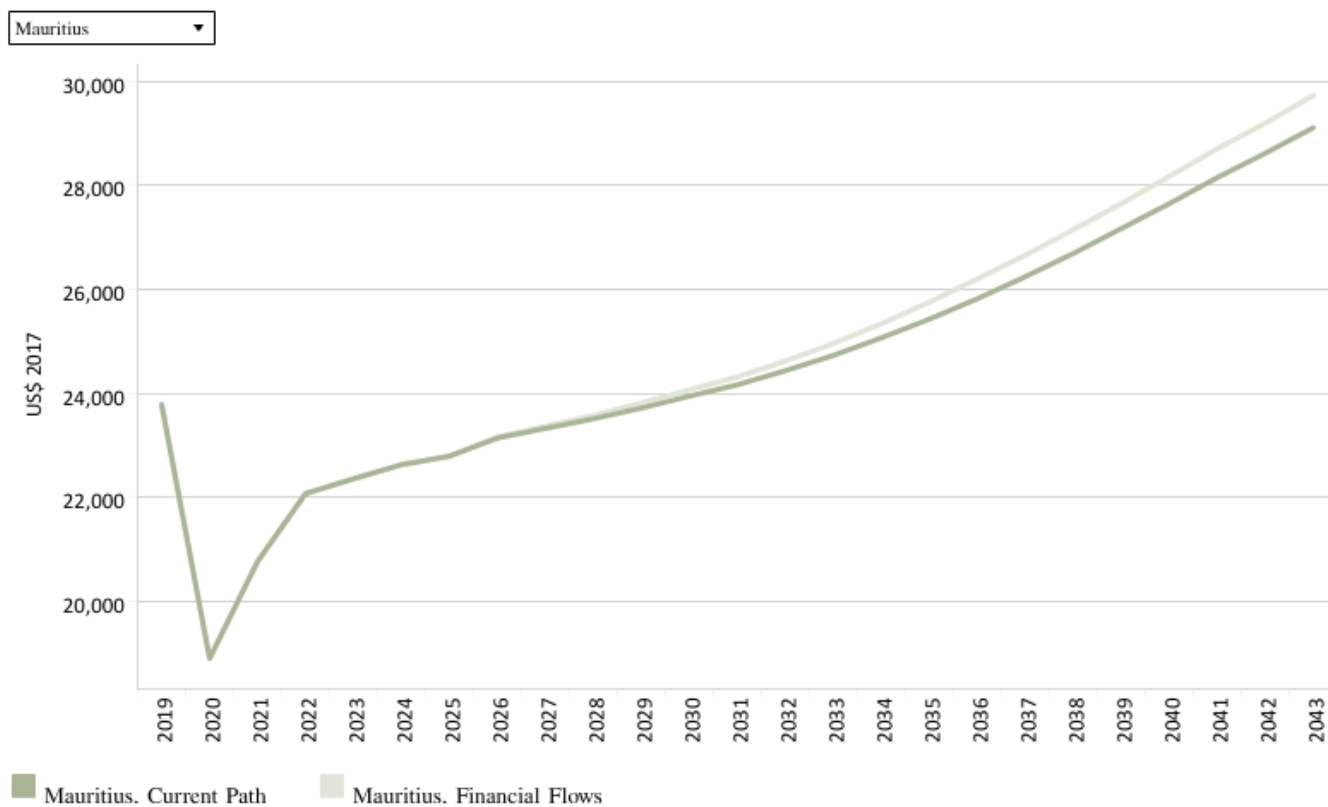
Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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Even though the Mauritian diaspora is large, equating to 10% of the population, Mauritius does not receive large amounts of remittances and is a net sender of remittance money. The **migrant population** living in Mauritius in 2020 was small however, totalling 28 000 thousand people. The Mauritian Economic Development Board launched a diaspora scheme encouraging the diaspora to return to the country rather than increase remittance flows. The aim is to increase the number of skilled labourers in the economy and address the skilled labour supply shortage developing in the country.

Net remittances were US\$-0.85 billion in 2019 and are projected to decrease further, reaching US\$-3.8 billion by 2043 in the Financial Flows scenario, a fall of US\$160 million compared to the Current Path forecast. The decrease equates to a 0.1 percentage point fall in remittances as a per cent of GDP by 2043.

Chart 45: GDP per capita in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

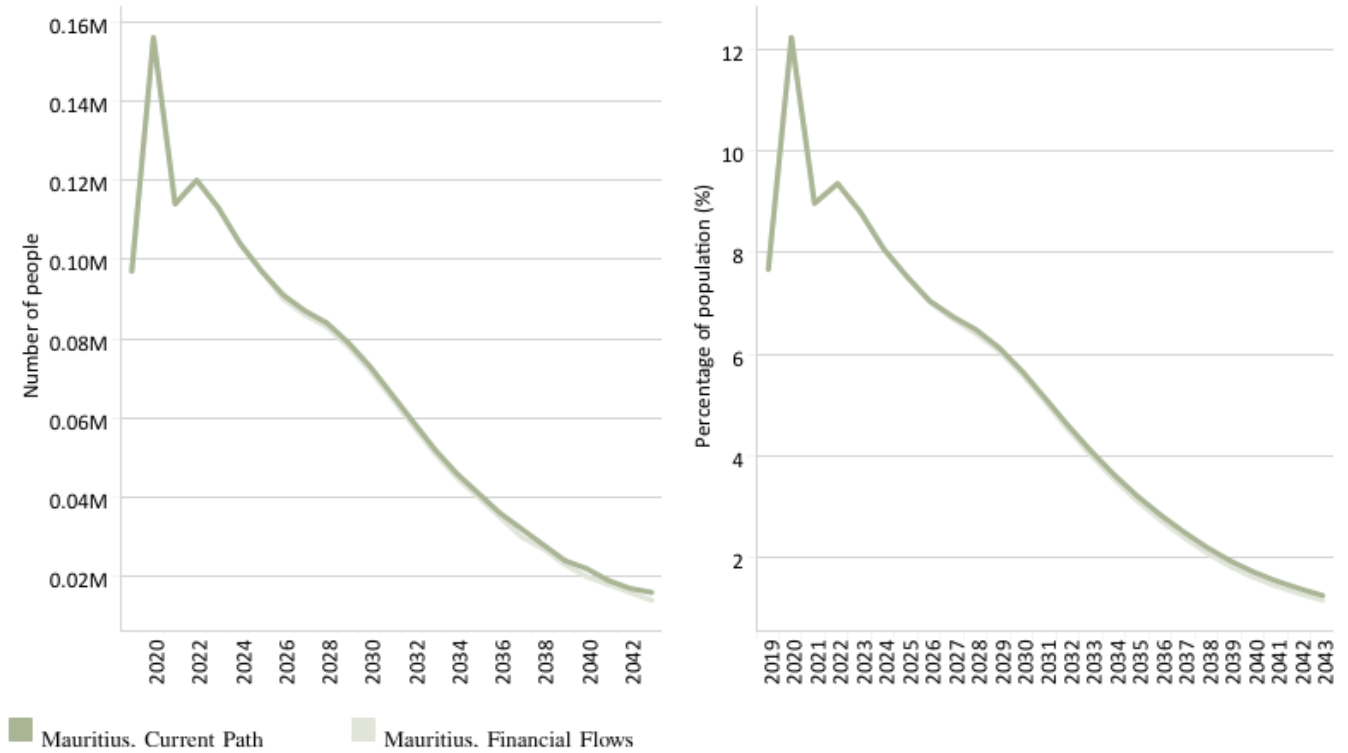
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The Financial Flows scenario is projected to increase the GDP per capita by US\$630 by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast. The increase of 2.2% will see the GDP per capita rise to US\$29 740 by 2043, up from a base of US\$22 390 in 2019.

Chart 46: Poverty in CP and Financial Flows scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Mauritius \$5.50



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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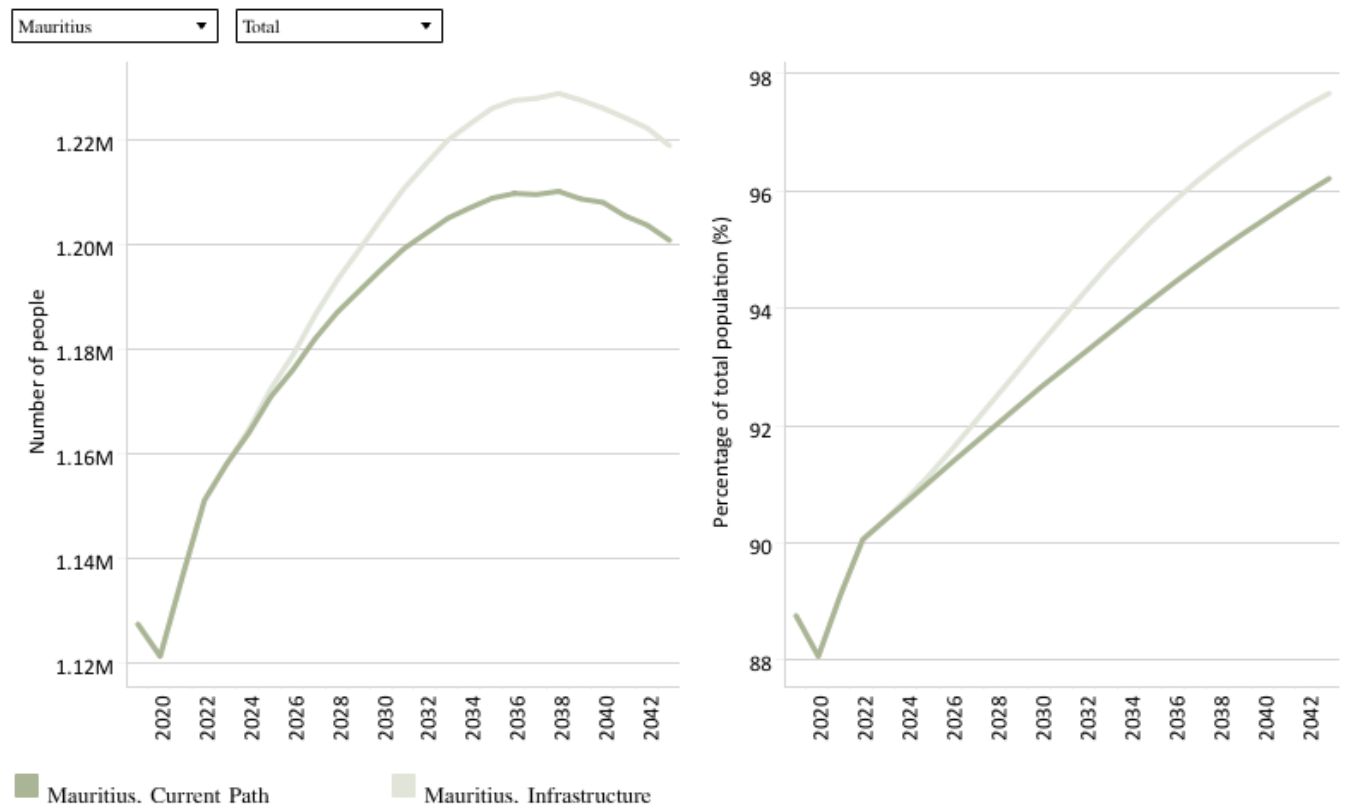
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The Financial Flows scenario reduces poverty marginally, with the poverty dropping by 0.09 percentage points to 1.15% by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast.



Infrastructure scenario

Chart 47: Electricity access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of population



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Development Indicators data

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The Infrastructure scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious increase in infrastructure spending across Africa, focusing on basic infrastructure (roads, water, sanitation, electricity access and ICT) in low-income countries and increasing emphasis on advanced infrastructure (such as ports, airports, railway and electricity generation) in higher-income countries.

Note that health and sanitation infrastructure is included as part of the Health/WaSH scenario and that ICT infrastructure and more rapid uptake of renewables are part of the Leapfrogging scenario. The interventions there push directly on outcomes, whereas those modelled in this scenario increase infrastructure spending, indirectly boosting other forms of infrastructure, including that supporting health, sanitation and ICT.

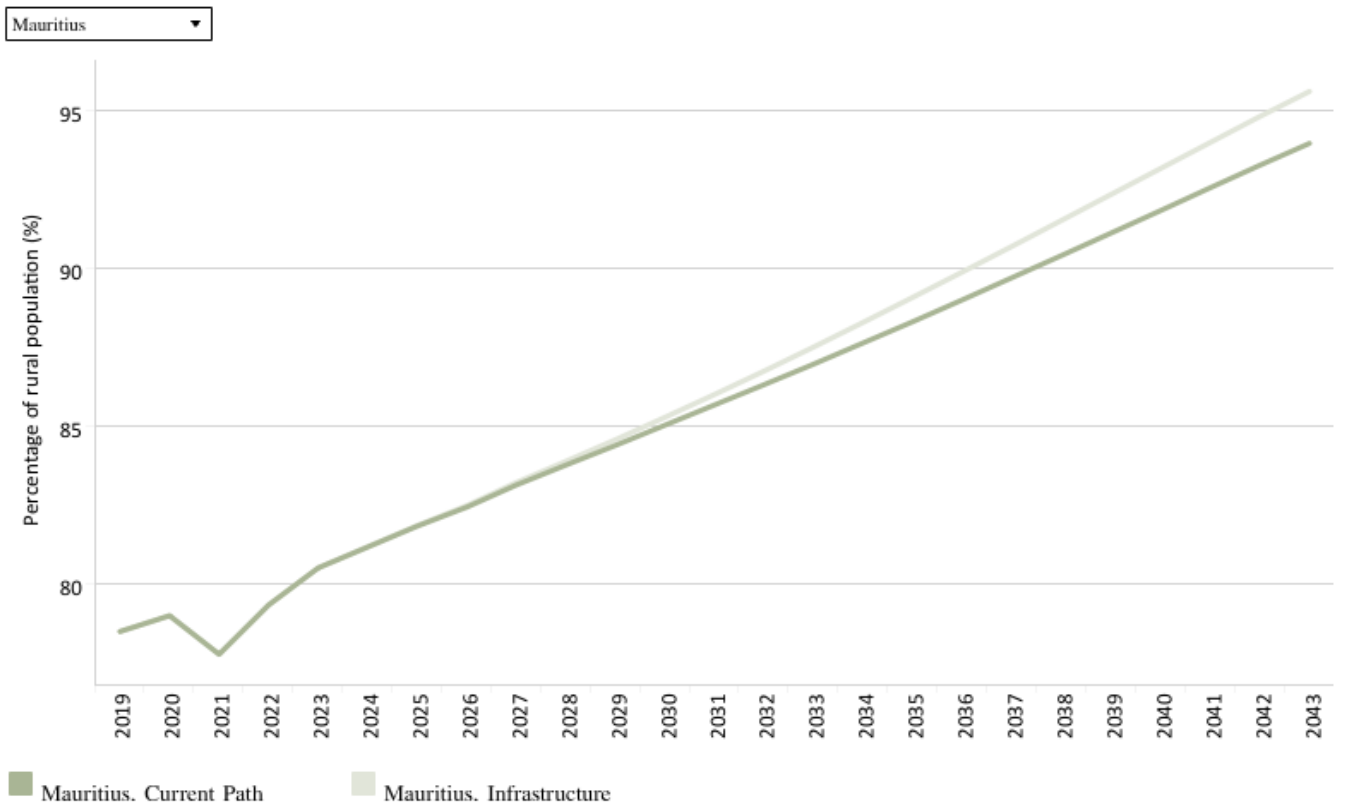
The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

Mauritius' basic WaSH and ICT infrastructures are well developed and explain the country's good health record and widespread access to wireless Internet. Road infrastructure is also well developed, with 98.9% of roads paved in 2019. The country does score low in the World Economic Forum's road connectivity index however, a measure designed to gauge the ease and speed with which one can travel between a country's major cities. Mauritius achieves a score of 36.3% and the low road connectivity index score is one of the reasons it has a low transport infrastructure score in the [Global Competitiveness Report](#). Furthermore, the cost of documentary compliance when importing and exporting negatively

affects port **efficiency**. These problems point to Mauritius needing to focus more on upgrading their advanced infrastructure as opposed to basic infrastructure, which is well developed.

Electricity access is another basic infrastructure component Mauritius has excelled in. As discussed in the Leapfrogging scenario, the World Bank's data shows electricity access as being 100% in 2019, while IFs data shows 88.9%. Following the IFs estimation, in the Infrastructure scenario, electricity access is projected to be 97.7% of the total population by 2043, 1.5 percentage points higher than in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 48: Rural road access in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
 % of rural population within 2 km of an all-weather road



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from World Bank Rural Access Index data

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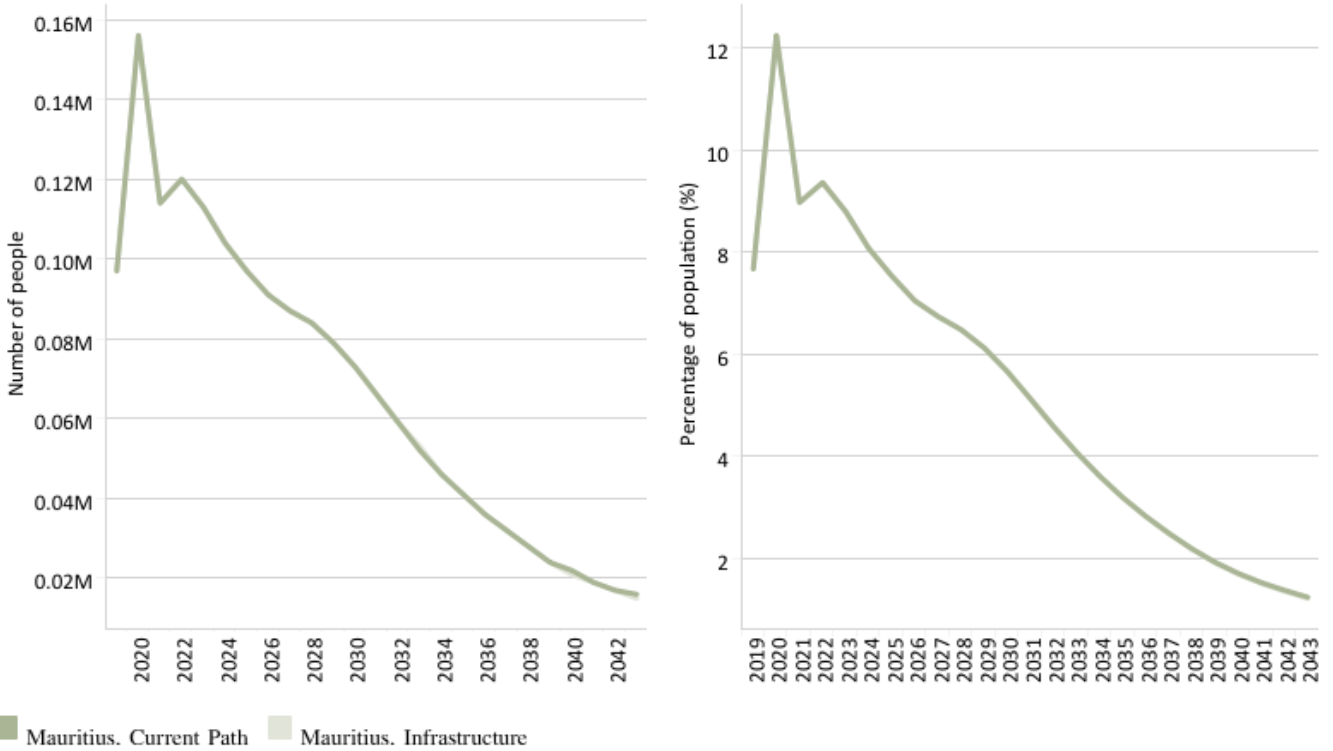
Indicator 9.1.1 in the Sustainable Development Goals refers to the proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road and is captured in the Rural Access Index.

Indicator 9.1.1 falls under Goal 9 and Target 9.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 9 aims for the building of resilient infrastructure that crosses borders and aids economic development and improves human well-being. Mauritius had a score in the Rural Access Index of 78.5% in 2019, a score aided by the country's small surface area and high levels of GDP per capita. Increased access to roads improves access to services for those living in rural areas and reduces transport costs. Ensuring the rural population is adequately connected to urban areas will remain a priority for Mauritius as urbanisation is projected to stagnate over the forecast horizon. The Infrastructure scenario increases the country's Rural Access Index score to 95.6% by 2043, 1.6 percentage points higher than in the Current Path forecast.

Chart 50: Poverty in CP and Infrastructure scenario, 2019–2043
 Millions of people and % of total population



Mauritius \$5.50



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

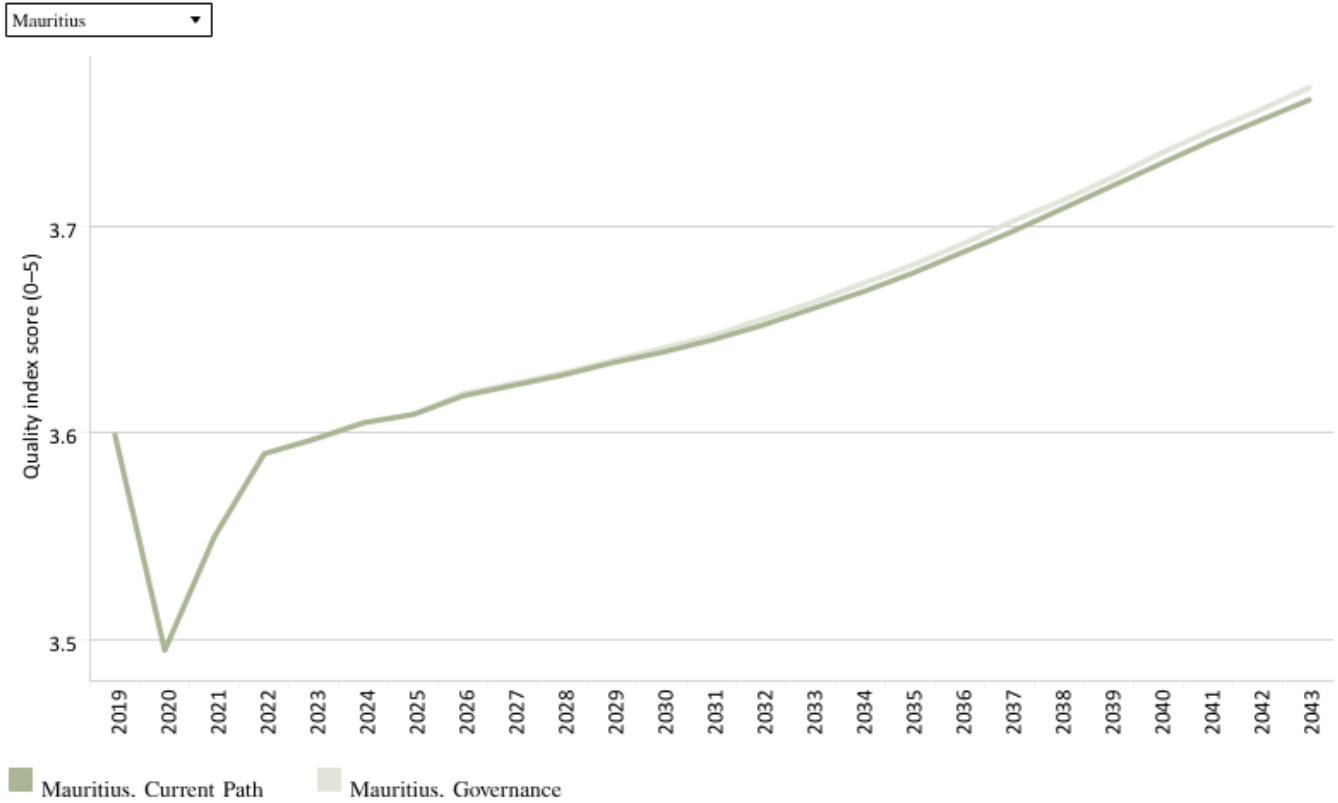
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The Infrastructure scenario’s impact on poverty is negligible, decreasing the poverty rate by 0.02 percentage points by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast.



Governance scenario

Chart 51: Gov effectiveness in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
World Bank quality index score for government effectiveness



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Kaufmann, Kraay and Mastruzzi (2010) data

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The Governance scenario represents a reasonable but ambitious improvement in accountability and reduces corruption, and hence improves the quality of service delivery by government.

The intervention is explained in [here](#) in the thematic part of the website.

As defined by the World Bank, government effectiveness ‘captures perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government’s commitment to such policies’.

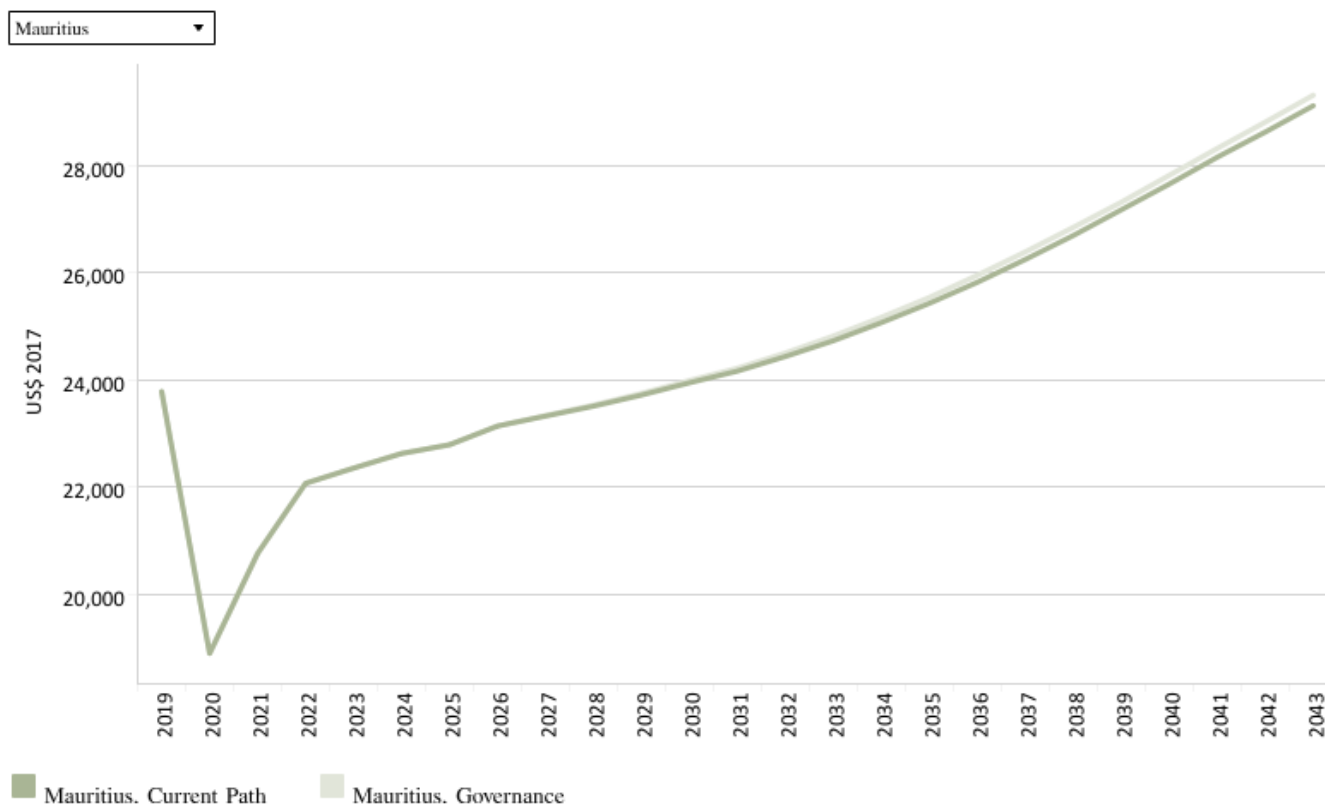
Government effectiveness is one of six indicators that the World Bank uses to measure governance. The bank investigates three dimensions of governance, i.e. political, economic and institutional respect, with two indicators detailed under each dimension. Together these indicators are used to gauge the quality of governance in a country.

Mauritius performs the best on the continent in the government effectiveness indicator, scoring 3.6 out of 5 in 2019. The country is also ranked on top when taking an average of all six indicators and has done so for the last 14 years. The country has experienced peaceful political transitions for much of its independent existence, increasing stability and

promoting efficient service delivery. In the Governance scenario government effectiveness remains largely unchanged due to an already high score, increasing by 0.01 percentage points by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast score of 3.76.

Mauritius does however have issues regarding corruption, particularly in its financial services sector. The country scores much lower in the World Bank's corruption indicator than in any other and its score in Transparency International's corruption index has decreased by four points since 2012. The country was identified as a **high-risk country** for international financial systems due to deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism regime. The opaqueness associated with its offshore financial industry was already identified as problematic by **Transparency International** in 2014.

Chart 52: GDP per capita in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
Purchasing power parity



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division World Population Prospects and World Development Indicators data

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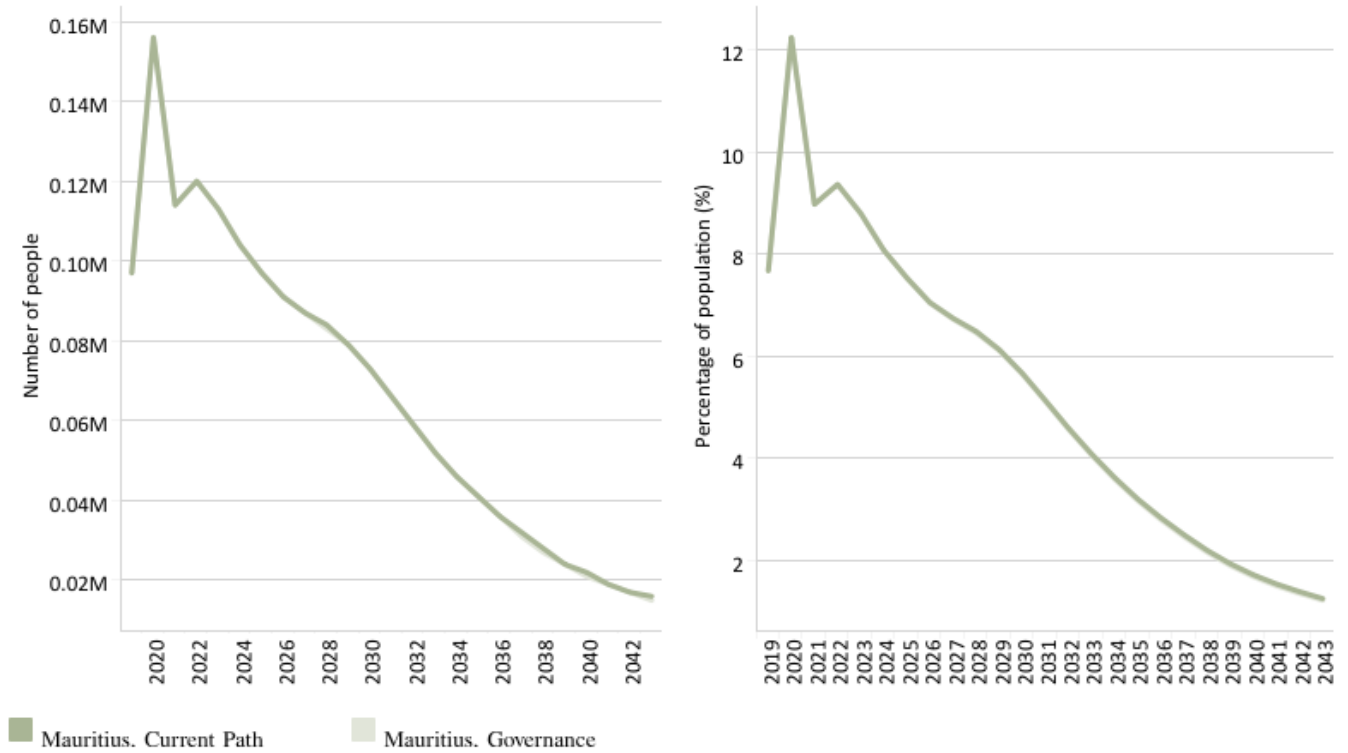
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The Governance scenario increases the GDP per capita by US\$200 by 2043 compared to the Current Path forecast, resulting in a projected income of US\$29 310. The rise in GDP per capita is attributable to a very small increase in government effectiveness.

Chart 53: Poverty in CP and Governance scenario, 2019–2043
Millions of people and % of total population



Mauritius \$5.50



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from UN Population Division Population Prospects estimate, World Development Indicators population data and PovcalNet World Bank data

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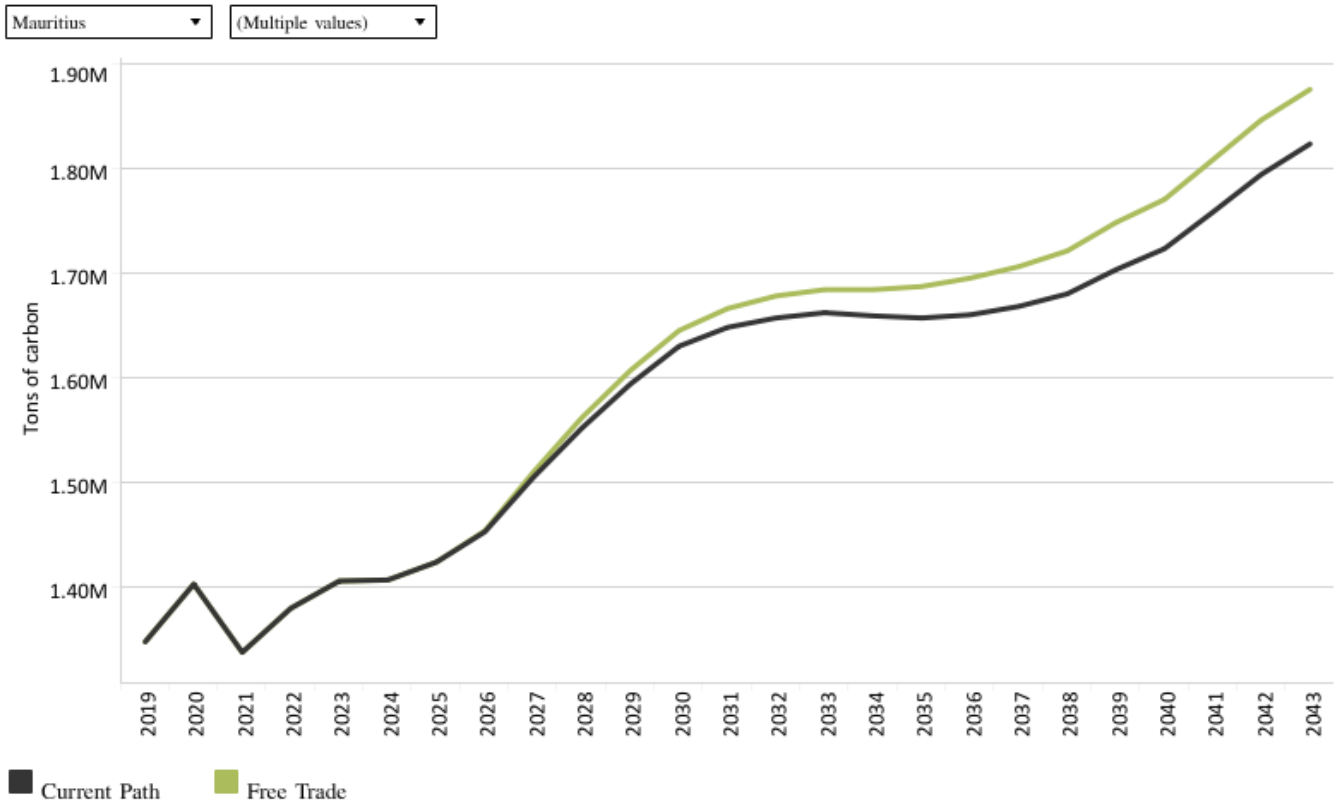
Mauritius will not experience a decrease in its poverty rate by 2043 in the Governance scenario. The country would have eliminated extreme poverty at US\$5.50 a day by 2036.



Impact of scenarios on carbon emissions

Chart 54: Carbon emissions in CP and scenarios, 2019–2043

Million tons of carbon (note, not CO₂ equivalent)



Source: IFs 7.63 initialising from Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center data

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This section presents projections for carbon emissions in the Current Path for Mauritius and the 11 scenarios. Note that IFs uses carbon equivalents rather than CO₂ equivalents.

Africa is a low emitter globally, and Mauritius emitted the 26th most carbon on the continent in 2019. On a per capita basis however, Mauritius ranks fifth in Africa at one ton per capita, 2.8 tons fewer than South Africa in 2019. The scenario that increases Mauritius' emission the most by 2043 is the Free Trade scenario, raising emissions by 0.06 million tons of carbon. The Manufacturing/Transfers scenario leads until 2041, after which the Free Trade scenario sees the full implementation of the AfCFTA taking effect. The Agriculture scenario as well as the Demographic scenario impact carbon emissions least. This is in contrast with other African states, where the Agriculture scenario has a much larger impact due to their agricultural sectors being less developed than Mauritius'.

Endnotes

1. The index considers the broadband, fixed and mobile markets of a country and benchmarks them against its region.

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