

## MAURITANIA

**Region:** Western Africa

**Income group:** Lower-middle income

**Summary:** Mauritania has reported 2 metadata sources, which collect information on international labour migration statistics. These are the *General Population and Housing Census* and the *National Survey of Employment and Informal Sector*, which are carried out by the National Statistical Office.

Geographically all of the sources cover whole country and the following population groups:

- *Nationals (citizens) in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) employed in the country,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, and*
- *Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country.*

In addition to these population groups, the *General Population and Housing Census* examines the following four population groups:

- *Nationals (citizens) living abroad,*
- *Nationals (citizens) working living abroad,*
- *Refugees, and*
- *Asylum seekers.*

Periodicity of data collection varies depending on the type of sources. The *General Population and Housing Census* in Mauritania was last processed in 2013; the *National Survey of Employment and Informal Sector* was carried out once in 2012.

The *General Population and Housing Census* covers persons aged 10 years and older. In the *National Survey of Employment and Informal Sector* the age coverage depends on the module of the survey. For example, topics related to employment are addressed to persons aged six years and older; whereas the topics are related to nationality, country of residence persons of all ages are examined.

The five essential demographic characteristics covered by the sources are age, gender, marital status, educational attainment, and household size. The sources collect the data on international migration characteristics. For instance, the question on country of birth is asked in all the surveys. The *General Population and Housing Census* accumulates information of the household members who left to live abroad in the last five years, covering the characteristics of these persons.

Labour related characteristics such as employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, and status in employment are available in the all the surveys.

Definitions of “*international migrant workers*”, “*nationals living abroad*”, and “*employment*” are used in the sources. To classify occupation, industry, status in employment, and education the surveys apply nationally adapted classifications.

Micro data files from the sources are available for research and analysis outside the agency.

## Metadata sources:

Type of source	Name of the source	Agency Responsible	Periodicity of data collection	Year the source started	Year of the last source
Q1. Population Census	General Population and Housing Census	National Statistical Office	-	-	2013
Q2. Household Survey	National Survey of Employment and Informal Sector	National Statistical Office	Only once in 2012	2012	2012

## Findings:

The latest *General Population and Housing Census* in Mauritania was carried out in 2013 by the National Statistical Office covering the country's entire population. There are eight population groups examined in the *General Population and Housing Census*:

- *Nationals (citizens) in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) employed in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) living abroad,*
- *Nationals (citizens) living and working abroad,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country,*
- *Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country,*
- *Refugees, and*
- *Asylum seekers.*

The *General Population and Housing Census* obtains detailed data on demographic characteristics of these population groups. The questions raised in the assessment on the topic of international migration related characteristics, comprise of country of birth and country of citizenship. Statistics on household members that have left the country to live abroad in the last five years are collected and the following characteristics of these people are covered:

- Name,
- Sex,
- Month/year of departure,
- Main reason for departure,
- Age at the time of leaving household, and
- Education at present.

In addition to demographic characteristics, the *General Population and Housing Census* covers labour related characteristics of all current household members aged 10 years and older such as:

- Employment status,
- Occupation,
- Industry/economic sector,
- Status in employment, and
- Disability.

**“International migrant worker”** is defined as any person of foreign origin who lives in the country for at least 6 months or intends to stay there six months; these are people of working age and looking for work. The analysis criteria used is nationality. **“National living abroad”** is a currently residing abroad Mauritanian (at the time of the census), who was household member and who emigrated in the last five years, and will join the household on their return. **“Employed”** persons in the census are persons who reported employment during the last seven days before the interview.

To classify occupation, industry, status in employment, and education in Mauritania, nationally adapted classifications are applied. For example:

- National adaptation of ISCO (where four digits are used to release the data);
- National adaptation of ISIC (where four digits are used to release the data);
- National adaptation of ICSE; and
- National adaptation of ISCED.

Micro-data files on population groups covered by the **General Population and Housing Census** are available for research or analysis outside the agency.

The **National Survey on Employment and Informal Sector** in Mauritania was carried out once in 2012 by the National Statistical Office. It geographically measures the whole country and amasses information on the following four population groups:

- *Nationals (citizens) in the country,*
- *Nationals (citizens) employed in the country,*
- *Foreigners (non-citizens) living in the country, and*
- *Foreign workers (non-citizens) living in the country.*

Age coverage varies depending on the module of the survey. For instance, questions related to employment are addressed to persons aged six years and older and questions related to nationality, country of residence are addressed to persons of all ages.

The **National Survey on Employment and Informal Sector** retrieves the data on demographic characteristics, of each person in a household. Information on international migration related characteristics comprise of country of birth, country of previous residence for foreigners, nationality, foreign workers in the country, and country of origin. The data on labour related characteristics is available, particularly for:

- Employment status,
- Occupation,
- Industry/economic sector,
- Status in employment, and
- Wage or earnings rate per time period.

The survey questionnaire includes questions on the following possible benefits received from employer:

- Retirement pension,
- Subsidized housing,
- Health insurance or subsidized health care,
- Paid vacation, and
- End of the year premium, transport allowances.

The **National Survey on Employment and Informal Sector** applies the same definitions of **“international migrant workers”**, **“national living abroad”**, and **“employment”** as in the census. **“International migrant worker”** is defined as any person of foreign origin who lives in the country for at least 6 months or intends to stay there six months; these are people of working age and looking for work. The analysis criteria used is nationality. **“National living abroad”** is a currently residing abroad Mauritanian (at the time of the census), who was household member and who emigrated in the last five years, and will join the household on their return.

**“Employed”** persons in the census are persons who reported employment during the last seven days before the interview.

To classify occupation, industry, status in employment, and education nationally adapted classifications are used such as:

- National adaptation of ISCO (where four digits are used to release the data);
- National adaptation of ISIC (where four digits are used to release the data);
- National adaptation of ICSE; and
- National adaptation of ISCED.

Micro data is available for research and analysis outside the agency.

## Q1. Population Census

### *SOURCE*

**Title of source:** General Population and Housing Census

**Year of last census:** 2013

**Agency responsible:** National Statistical Office

### *COVERAGE*

**Geographical coverage:** Whole country

**Population groups covered:** Nationals (*citizens*) in the country, nationals (*citizens*) employed in the country, nationals (*citizens*) living abroad, nationals (*citizens*) living and working abroad, foreigners (*non-citizens*) living in the country, foreign workers (*non-citizens*) living in the country, refugees, asylum seekers.

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** Nationals (*citizens*) in the country, nationals (*citizens*) employed in the country, nationals (*citizens*) living abroad, nationals (*citizens*) living and working abroad, foreigners (*non-citizens*) living in the country, foreign workers (*non-citizens*) living in the country, refugees.

### *TOPICS COVERED*

**Demographic characteristics:** Age, marital status, household size, sex, educational attainment.

**International migration related characteristics:** Country of birth, country of citizenship.

- **Coverage for international migration related characteristics:** All persons
- **Exceptions for international migration related characteristics:** No

**Information about household members left to live abroad:** In the last 5 years

- **Information refers to the last time the person left:** Yes
- **Limited to certain age and work status:** No
- **Limited to those who left the household abroad within the last X years and have not returned:** No
- **Characteristics of persons who left to live abroad:** Name, sex, month/year of departure, main reason for leaving, age at time of leaving, education at present.

**Labour related characteristics of all current household members:** Employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, status in employment, disability.

- **Age coverage:** 10+

**Remittances related characteristics:** N.A.

**Information on immigrants and return migrants:** No

- **Information on the situation of the person prior to leaving the household last time is obtained:** N.A.

**Data collected and not published/disseminated:** No

### *CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS*

**Definition of international migrant workers:** Any person of foreign origin who lives in the country for at least 6 months or intends to stay there six months; these are people of working age and looking for work. The analysis criteria used is nationality.

**Definition of national (citizen) living abroad:** These are currently residing abroad Mauritians (at the time of the census), who were household member and who emigrated in the last five years, and will join the household on their return.

**Definition of employment:** Employed persons in the census are persons who reported employment during the last seven days before the interview.

### *CLASSIFICATION*

**Classification used for occupation:** National adaptation of ISCO

- **Number of digits used to release occupation data:** 4

**Classification used for industry:** National adaptation of ISIC

- **Number of digits used to release industry data:** 4

**Classification used for status in employment:** National adaptation of ICSE

**Classification used for status in education:** National adaptation of ISCED

### *DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION*

**Data collection method:** Face-to-face interview by census enumerator using paper questionnaire (PAPI).

**Compulsory participation of households:** Yes

**Official estimate of under-coverage rate:** Yes

**Dissemination of results:** Printed publications – 15 thematic reports are available; Electronic format; Web site – [www.on.mr](http://www.on.mr)

**Metadata has been prepared and disseminated:** No

**Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency:** Yes

- **Limitations:** N.A.
- **Cost of obtaining micro-data:** N.A.

## **Q2. Household Survey**

### *SOURCE*

**Title of survey:** National Survey on Employment and Informal Sector

**Agency responsible:** National Statistical Office

### **PERIODICITY AND COVERAGE**

**Periodicity of data collection:** Once in 2012

**Year the survey first started:** 2012

**Geographical coverage:** Whole country

**Population groups covered:** Nationals (*citizens*) in the country, nationals (*citizens*) employed in the country, foreigners (*non-citizens*) living in the country, foreign workers (*non-citizens*) living in the country.

- **Publication/dissemination of data on population groups covered:** Nationals (*citizens*) in the country, nationals (*citizens*) employed in the country, foreigners (*non-citizens*) living in the country, foreign workers (*non-citizens*) living in the country.

**Age coverage:** It depends on the module. For example, questions on employment are concentrated on persons aged 6 years and older. The questions on nationality, country of residence are concentrated on persons of all ages.

### **TOPICS COVERED**

**Demographic characteristics:** Age, marital status, household size, sex, educational attainment.

**International migration related characteristics:** Country of birth, country of previous residence for foreigners, nationality, foreign workers in the country, country of origin.

- **Coverage for international migration related characteristics:** All persons - country of birth, country of previous residence for foreigners.
- **Exceptions for international migration related characteristics:** No

**Information about household members left to live abroad:** No

**Labour related characteristics of all current household members:** Employment status, occupation, industry/economic sector, status in employment, wage or earnings rate per time period.

**Benefits received from the employer:** Retirement pension, health insurance or subsidized health care, paid vacation, subsidized housing, end of the year premium, transport allowances.

**Remittances related characteristics:** No

**Information on immigrants and return migrants:** No

- **Information on the situation of the person prior to leaving the country of residence is obtained:** N.A.

**Data collected and not published/disseminated:** No

**Information on persons who left to live or work abroad (*recruitment, communication, assistance etc.*):** No

### **CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS**

**Definition of international migrant workers:** Any person of foreign origin who lives in the country for at least 6 months or intends to stay there six months; these are people of working age and looking for work.

**Definition of national (citizen) living abroad:** These are currently residing abroad Mauritians (at the time of the census), who were household member and who emigrated in the last five years, and will join the household on their return.

**Definition of employment:** Employed persons in the survey are persons who reported employment during the last seven days before the interview.

### *CLASSIFICATION*

**Classification used for occupation:** National adaptation of ISCO

- **Number of digits used to release occupation data:** 4

**Classification used for industry:** National adaptation of ISIC

- **Number of digits used to release industry data:** 4

**Classification used for status in employment:** National adaptation of ICSE

**Classification used for status in education:** National adaptation of ISCED

### *DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION*

**Data collection method:** Face-to-face interview with interviewer using paper questionnaire (PAPI).

**Compulsory participation of households:** Yes

**Dissemination of results:** Printed publications – The report is available on the web site of ONS; Web site – [www.ons.mr](http://www.ons.mr)

**Metadata has been prepared and disseminated:** Yes

**Micro-data is available outside NSO/responsible agency:** Yes

- **Limitations:** The database does not know how long an individual is in the country and the reason why.
- **Cost of obtaining micro-data:** Cost of transmission.

### *SAMPLE DESIGN*

**Sample frame used:** Population census

**Completed sample size:** N.A.

**Evaluation of the overall response rate or refusal rate:** N.A.