

Doing Business in Mauritius

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SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS



Department for
International Trade



UK Export
Finance

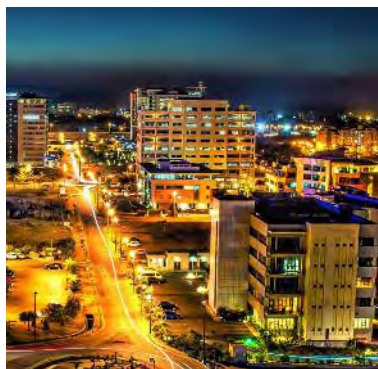




MAURITIUS

A Thriving Economic Powerhouse

The Economic Development Board is the leading government institution responsible for the promotion of Mauritius as an attractive investment and business centre, a competitive export platform, as well as a reputed and trusted International Financial Centre (IFC).



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Mauritius overview

Located off the southeast coast of Africa, the mountainous and volcanic island of Mauritius has a population of 1.3 million inhabitants. With the nation's exclusive economic zone (EEZ); covering about 2.3 million km² (890,000 mi²) of the Indian Ocean, Mauritius has successfully positioned itself as a regional business hub. Since its independence in 1968, Mauritius has undergone through various stages of economic transformation, transitioning from a sugar-based economy to a diversified and innovative economic model.

Today, Mauritius is a middle-income economy pursuing a liberal and open economic policy and welcomes foreign investment in nearly all sectors of the economy. The economy rests on financial services, tourism, sugar, textiles and canned tuna manufacturing. The country relies heavily on trade and investment with Europe and the US and also with markets like India, China and Africa.

Mauritius is considered one of the most business-friendly countries in Sub-Saharan Africa as a result of its political stability, good governance and independent judiciary. Out of 190 countries, Mauritius ranked as the 25th most favourable country for business in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index for 2018 and 1st for Africa. The country is also highly rated against many other related international benchmarks. For example, it ranks 1st in Africa and 45th worldwide on the World Global Competitiveness Index 2017-2018.

The country acts as a reliable platform for investment into India and has recently begun to establish itself as a gateway for investment into Africa.

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Welcome from Lesley Batchelor OBE, FIEx (Grad) – Director General, Institute of Export & International Trade

This Doing Business in Mauritius Guide looks at a market which has many opportunities for the UK's businesses. Despite being relatively small, with a population of just over 1.3 million, the Indian Ocean archipelago is seen by many as a model of stability and economic prosperity in the Southeast Africa region. Rated at 25th in the World Bank's 'Doing Business' Rankings, it is not hard to see why.

The island boasts a strong financial services sector and one of Africa's highest per capita incomes. It is viewed by investors all over the world as an ideal platform for investment into India and is now also seen as a gateway into Africa. It is a member of several trade agreements, including both the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Mauritius exports to the SADC and COMESA region have increased significantly over the past five years. Exports to the region were highly concentrated in textiles and clothing products. Mauritius also enjoys preferential market access to several export destinations through a wide network of trade agreements notably with the European Union and the USA.

UK exported goods to Mauritius were worth £68 million as recently as 2015 while, unsurprisingly given its strong financial services sector, the export of services to the island amounted to £262 million as recently as 2014. The UK typically exports vehicles and mechanical components, beverages and spirits, electrical and electronic components, and food products into Mauritius, while UK tourists alone spent £90 million in Mauritius in 2015.

There are plenty of British businesses already making their mark on the island, particularly in the financial services and education industries, with HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank, Middlesex University, Glasgow Caledonian University, and many more with a presence there. Given the similar business and legal practice, common language, and convenient time zone (GMT+4); this makes sense, especially given the country's strategic location.

The Institute is on hand to help you make the most of the opportunities in the Mauritius and the challenges that exporting to any country can bring. We can help you through our training, education, technical helpline and shipping office. So please get do get in touch if you want to be the next business making the most of Mauritius' great strategic location near Africa and India could make it an ideal next market for your business.

Lesley Batchelor OBE, FIEx (Grad)

Director General – Institute of Export & International Trade

www.export.org.uk



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**British High Commission
Port Louis**

Foreword from the British High Commissioner to Mauritius, Keith Allan

Mauritius is rightly known as a wonderful tourist destination and indeed around 150,000 British tourists enjoy visiting the island every year, but Mauritius offers much more, including as a serious destination for trade and investment. Mauritius is classified as an upper middle income country by the World Bank and has seen consistent strong economic growth in recent years.

Mauritius is becoming an increasingly important hub for business in Africa. It has its own strategy for investing in the African continent. Many companies see Mauritius as a stable and well-developed market to base their wider operations throughout the African continent. This is particularly the case in the financial services sector which has seen tremendous growth as the country looks to become a hub for FinTech. There are strong connections between the financial services sector in the UK and Mauritius, and this sector offers further opportunities for trade and investment. Education is another sector where we are seeing growing links between the UK and Mauritius. A number of UK universities and colleges have partnerships and have even opened their own campuses here in Mauritius.

Bilateral trade and investment is already strong. The UK is the number one export market for Mauritius. UK exports to Mauritius was worth £215 million in 2016 and two way trade totalled £572 million.

We have a Department for International Trade officer based at the High Commission in Port Louis who links in with the team based in Johannesburg. This team are ready and committed to helping companies develop trade and investment in both directions. We look forward to helping you do business with Mauritius.

Best wishes,

Keith Allan

British High Commissioner to Mauritius

<https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-high-commission-port-louis>



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**Department for
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Introduction from Deeptee Korlapu Bungaree-Gooheeram, Head of Trade and Investment Mauritius, Department for International Trade (DIT)

Mauritius has evolved over the years from a mono-crop sugar-dominated economy to become a sophisticated, diversified services orientated and a strategic global business centre in the region.

Mauritius has a unique business friendly environment along with a healthy investment climate that makes it an attractive business destination. The country's adoption of international best business practices and sustainable development policies has been acknowledged by international agencies such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the World Bank (WB). The country's aim is to boost its appeal to international investors and become the financial hub of the African region and an ideal springboard for investment and doing business in Africa, Middle East and Asia.

The Department for International Trade has been assisting in promoting the business interests of UK companies and works to strengthen trade and investment ties between the UK and Mauritius. UK companies can access expert support and advice from DIT and the British High Commission to develop their business in Mauritius. Working in close partnership with the local stakeholders, DIT can offer support and guidance to mitigate the risk factors of entering the Mauritian market.

I hope that this guide encourages you to explore and challenge the wealth of opportunities that await you and your organisation in Mauritius. I also invite you to take advantage of all that DIT, the British High Commission, and Mauritius has to offer.

Deeptee Korlapu Bungaree-Gooheeram

Head of Trade and Investment Mauritius, Department for International Trade (DIT)

<https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/departement-for-international-trade-mauritius>



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Department for International Trade

Department for International Trade (DIT)

(formerly UK Trade & Investment - UKTI)

DIT is the British Government department that helps UK-based companies succeed in an increasingly global economy. DIT also helps overseas companies bring their high quality investment to the UK's economy. DIT's range of expert services are tailored to the needs of individual businesses to maximise their international success. DIT provides companies with knowledge, advice and practical support.

Through a range of unique services, including participation at selected tradeshows, outward trade missions and providing bespoke market intelligence, DIT can help you crack foreign markets and get to grips quickly with overseas regulations and business practice.

With headquarters in London, DIT have professional advisers around the UK and staff across more than 100 countries.

Contact DIT

Contact your local International Trade Team or Scottish Development International (SDI), Welsh Government (WG) or Invest Northern Ireland (INI) offices to find out more about the range of services available to you.

You can find your nearest International Trade Team at:

www.contactus.trade.gov.uk/office-finder/

General enquiry number: +44 (0) 207 215 5000
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About International Market Advisor (IMA)

International Market Advisor (IMA) works with British and foreign government departments, Embassies, High Commissions and international Chambers of Commerce throughout the world. Our work helps to identify the most efficient ways for British companies to trade with and invest in opportunity-rich overseas markets.

During the last ten years IMA has worked with the British Government's overseas trade and investment department, the Department for International Trade (DIT) [formerly UK Trade & Investment (UKTI)], and has written, designed, produced, launched and distributed over one million copies of more than 100 country-specific print and multi-media based reports, guides and publications, including the internationally-recognised 'Doing Business Guide' series of trade publications. These are composed of market and industry sector-specific, multi-format print and digital trade reports, together with some of the internet's most visited international trade websites - all of which are designed to advise and assist UK companies looking to trade with and invest in overseas markets. These reports and guides are then distributed free-of-charge through the IMA and DIT global networks - over 500 distribution outlets in total. Further distribution takes place at global exhibitions, roadshows, conferences and trade missions, and IMA receives daily requests for additional copies of the guides from these networks and from businesses considering exporting.

Each of IMA's 'Doing Business Guides' is produced in three formats: a full colour, glossy, paper-based brochure; a supporting fully-interactive and updatable multi-media based website; and the website contents available as a free-of-charge downloadable smartphone/tablet app.

The guides' contents focus on the market in question, how to approach that market and the help and support available, and include informative market overviews, plus details of business opportunities, listings with website links to British and Foreign Government support services and essential private sector service-provider profiles.

Sponsoring a 'Doing Business Guide' therefore offers a unique opportunity to positively promote your products and services to high-profile business leaders, specific exporters, investors and effective business travellers who will be actively seeking out service providers to assist them in developing their business interests in the targeted markets.

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- Listings with links to up-and-coming trade shows
- Links to the Department for International Trade (DIT) support services.

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide aims to provide a route map of the way ahead, together with signposts to other sources of help.

The main objective of this **Doing Business in Mauritius Guide** is to provide you with basic knowledge about Mauritius; an overview of its economy, business culture, potential opportunities and to identify the main issues associated with initial research, market entry, risk management and cultural and language issues.

We do not pretend to provide all the answers in the guide, but novice exporters in particular will find it a useful starting point. Further assistance is available from the Department for International Trade (DIT) team in Mauritius. Full contact details are available in this guide.

To help your business succeed in Mauritius we have carefully selected a variety of essential service providers as 'Market Experts'.

The guide is available in 4 formats:

- website: www.Mauritius.DoingBusinessGuide.co.uk
- a 'free' downloadable 'mobile device-friendly' app
- this full colour hard-copy brochure
- PDF download/e-flipbook (available on the guide website)

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MAURITIUS

Mauritius is classified as an upper middle-income economy, and pursues a liberal and open economic policy and welcomes foreign investment in nearly all sectors of the economy.

Why Mauritius?

Summary

Full name:

The Republic of Mauritius

Area:

2,040 km²

Population:

1.3 million

Urban population:

39.5%

Population density:

622.4 people per km²

Population growth rate (change):

0.4%

Capital city:

Port Louis

Languages:

French, English and Creole

Currency:

Mauritian Rupee (MUR)

Nominal GDP:

US \$12.4 billion

Real annual GDP growth:

3.9%

GDP per capita:

US \$10,547.2 [Source – World Bank,
as provided by the EDB]

Annual inflation rate:

3.7%

Unemployment rate:

6.9%

General government gross debt:

60.2% of GDP

Fiscal balance:

-3.3% of GDP

Current account balance:

-6.0% of GDP/US \$-0.7 billion

Exports of goods to UK:

£171 million

Exports of services to UK:

£186 million

Imports of goods from UK:

£69 million

Imports of services from UK:

£146 million

[Source – mostly FCO Economics Unit,
Apr 2018]



Geography

Mauritius is an island nation situated in the southwest of the Indian Ocean about 800 km east of Madagascar. Together with Réunion and Rodrigues it belongs to the Mascarene Islands. It has an area of 2,040 km² and is densely populated with approx. 1.3 million inhabitants.

With the nation's exclusive economic zone (EEZ); covering about 2.3 million km² (890,000 mi²) of the Indian Ocean, Mauritius has successfully positioned itself as a regional business hub. Since its independence in 1968, Mauritius has undergone through various stages of economic transformation, transitioning from a sugar-based economy to a diversified and innovative economic model.

Political situation

Mauritius is a stable democracy ranked 1st on the Mo Ibrahim Index for Good Governance in Africa. The island became independent in 1968 and free and fair elections are organised every five years. Transition of power is smooth and peaceful.

Mauritius is a unicameral parliamentary democracy modelled on the Westminster System. Executive powers lie with the Prime Minister and the President is the Head of State. The Judiciary operates independently from the legislative and executive branches.

Hon. Pravind Jugnauth became Prime Minister in January 2017 following the resignation of Sir Anerood Jugnauth who became a Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence and Minister for Rodrigues. Pravind Jugnauth is the leader of the Mouvement Socialiste Mauricien, the largest party in the ruling Alliance Lepep coalition which won the general election of December 2014.

The Alliance Lepep currently holds 45 out of 69 seats in Parliament. The next elections are scheduled for the end of 2019.

The new economic agenda announced in the Budget Speech 2016-17 made provision for a total planned public sector investment of £3.2 billion over the next five years to be directed towards the financing of large-scale projects aimed at upgrading road, water, energy, air and sea transport networks and telecommunications, as well as fostering inclusive socio-economic empowerment.

[Source – FCO Overseas Business Risk/gov.uk]

Business and human rights

The Mauritius Human Development Index value for 2017 was 0.781, which put the country in the high human development category, positioning it at 64 out of 188 countries and territories.

Chapter II of The Constitution of Mauritius guarantees the protection of fundamental rights and freedom of the individual.

A National Human Rights Commission was created under The Protection of Human Rights Act to deal with complaints of breaches of human rights listed in the Constitution and complaints against the police.

The Equal Opportunity Commission became operational under the Equal Opportunities Act of 2008 and it investigates allegations of discrimination and promotes equality of opportunity in both the private and public sectors. Mauritian law requires organisations employing more than 35 people to set aside at least 3% of their positions for persons with disabilities. Workers exercise their rights of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. The law prohibits the employment of children under 16 years of age and prohibits the employment of children between 16 and 18 years old in work that is dangerous, unhealthy, or otherwise unsuitable for young persons. The government introduced a minimum wage in January 2018.

Female participation in the Mauritius labour force is about 40%, with a growing prevalence of dual-income households. Women can enjoy an active social life without encountering any social or cultural restrictions and mixed-race marriages are not uncommon.

[Source – FCO Overseas Business Risk/gov.uk]

Economic overview

Economic Mauritius has transformed from a low-income economy based on agriculture (mainly sugar cane) to a diversified, middle-income economy.

With a per capita income of approximately US \$260 in the 1970's, Mauritius is today classified as an upper middle-income economy with a per capita GDP of US \$10,547.2 according to World Bank figures.

[Source – World Bank, as provided by the EDB]

Mauritius pursues a liberal and open economic policy and welcomes foreign investment in nearly all sectors of the economy and its nationals are not barred from investing elsewhere. The economy rests on financial services, tourism, sugar, textiles and canned tuna manufacturing. The country relies heavily on trade and investment with Europe and the US and also with markets like India, China and Africa.

In 2017, real GDP growth stood at 3.9% when measured at market prices and is estimated to be around 4% for 2018. The strong performance of the tourism and financial services sectors has impacted positively on the economic growth. Inflation rate stood at 3.7% and the unemployment rate was estimated at 6.9% for the same period.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Mauritius for the year 2017 amounted to MUR 17.491 billion, from the first preliminary estimate of MUR 14.228 billion, a 28.16% increase compared to 2016 FDI. Real estate activities, financial and insurance services, and construction attracted the most FDI. The top five FDI sources were France, Luxembourg, South Africa, China and the UK.

[Source – Bank of Mauritius, as provided by the EDB]

Mauritius wishes to position itself as a regional hub for investment into Africa. So far, Mauritius has concluded 44 Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAA) and 44 Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPA) worldwide, out of which 20 DTAA's and 23 IPPA's are with African countries. In February 2018, there were over 22,000 live Global Business companies operating in Mauritius. Total Assets for GBC companies increased from US \$521 billion in 2014 to US \$659 billion in 2017.

[Source – <http://www.mra.mu/index.php/taxes-duties/double-taxation-agreements/>]

Mauritius is also establishing itself as a knowledge hub for Africa attracting many international universities. There are over 35 UK universities and awarding bodies offering UK qualifications recognised in Mauritius and the UK. Following the success of this project on the local market, international marketing is being carried out to attract foreign students, especially from African countries.

[Source – *FCO Overseas Business Risk/gov.uk*]

The World Bank ranks Mauritius as the 25th easiest place to do business out of 190 economies, see: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings>.

The Heritage Foundation ranks Mauritius 21st in the world and first in Sub-Saharan Africa in their 2018 Index of Economic Freedom, see: <https://www.heritage.org/index/country/mauritius>.

Contact a Department for International Trade (DIT) export adviser at: <https://www.contactus.trade.gov.uk/enquiry/topic> for a free consultation if you are interested in exporting to Mauritius.

Contact UK Export Finance (UKEF) about trade finance and insurance cover for UK companies, see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-export-finance>. You can also check the current UKEF cover position for Mauritius at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/country-cover-policy-and-indicators#mauritius>.

[Source – *DIT/ UKEF/gov.uk*]

Business environment

Mauritius is considered one of the most business-friendly countries in Sub-Saharan Africa as a result of its political stability, good governance and independent judiciary.

Out of 190 countries, Mauritius ranked as the 25th most favourable country for business in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index for 2018 and 1st for Africa. The country is also highly rated against many other related international benchmarks. For example, it ranks 1st in Africa and 45th worldwide on the World Global Competitiveness Index 2017-2018.

Compared to other African countries, the risks of doing business in Mauritius are low. However, challenges have been reported in finding suitably qualified personnel e.g. in the IT, telecommunications, medical and other specialised sectors. Mauritius has a wealth of well qualified financial and legal personnel, most of them trained in the UK and it benefits from a bilingual French/ English workforce. Local labour law can be complex and companies are recommended to hire highly qualified human resource personnel.

Mauritius also benefits from access to international arbitration. As from the 27th July 2018 the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre (or MIAC), will commence operations as an independent arbitration centre, bringing the highest level of dispute resolution services to the international community, with a particular focus on disputes in and with relation to Africa. For more information about setting up business in Mauritius please refer to the Economic Development Board: <http://www.edbmauritius.org/>.

[Source – FCO Overseas Business Risk/gov.uk]

Growth potential

The country acts as a platform for investment into India and has recently begun to establish itself as a gateway for investment into Africa.

Trade agreements

- Mauritius has an investment promotion and protection agreement with the UK. See: <http://www.edbmauritius.org/africa-strategy/investment-promotion-and-protection-agreements/>
- Mauritius together with the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) States has established an interim Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union. See: https://www.mcci.org/media/1235/interim_economic_partnership_agreement.pdf
- Mauritius is a member state of the Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa (COMESA), see: <http://www.comesa.int/>. This agreement allows for trading on a full duty free and quota free basis among member states

- It is also a member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), members of which are largely exempt from customs duties. See: <https://www.sadc.int/>

UK and Mauritius trade

British business is strongly represented in sectors like financial services, education and renewable energy. UK organisations present in Mauritius include HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank, Middlesex University, University of Central Lancashire, Aberystwyth University, Glasgow Caledonian University, SANNE, Princes Tuna, AXA Africa Specialty Risks, British Airways, HIVE Energy and Videre Global.

Benefits for UK businesses exporting to Mauritius

Benefits for UK businesses exporting to Mauritius include:

- similar business and legal practices
- common language and historical ties (multilingual workforce)
- convenient time zone (GMT+4)
- availability of international arbitration

Strengths of the Mauritian market

Strengths of the Mauritian market include:

- political stability
- strategic location in the Indian Ocean
- secure investment location



- availability of legal, accounting and finance professionals

The UK exported goods worth £69 million to Mauritius in 2016. Export of UK services to Mauritius amounted to some £262 million in 2014.

The top UK export goods to Mauritius:

- vehicles and mechanical components
- beverages and spirits
- electrical and electronic components
- food products

Direct investment from the UK to Mauritius amounted to £16 million and UK tourists spent some £90 million in Mauritius in 2015.

[Source – DIT/gov.uk]

In addition:

- In 2017 Mauritius was ranked 54th out of 180 countries in Transparency International's latest Corruption Perceptions Index (the UK ranked 8th): https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2017#table
- The World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2017-18 ranks Mauritius 45th out of 137 (the UK is ranked 8th): <http://reports.weforum.org/global-competitiveness-index-2017-2018/countryeconomy-profiles/#economy=MUS>

Contact a DIT export adviser at: <https://www.contactus.trade.gov.uk/enquiry/topic> for a free consultation if you are interested in exporting to Mauritius.

Contact UK Export Finance (UKEF) about trade finance and insurance cover for UK companies. You can also check the current UKEF cover position for Mauritius at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/country-cover-policy-and-indicators#mauritius>.

[Source – DIT/UKEF/gov.uk]





MAURITIUS

Taking part in overseas exhibitions is an effective way for you to test markets, attract customers, appoint agents or distributors and make sales.



HELP AVAILABLE FOR YOU

Help available for you

Support from the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI)

The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) serves and promotes the interests of the business community in playing a leading role in the economic development of Mauritius.

Contact the MCCI at: <https://www.mcci.org/en/> for further information and membership details.

[Source – MCCI]

Support from the UK Department for International Trade (DIT)

The UK Department for International Trade (DIT) provides tailored support packages for companies who are:

- first time exporters (FTEs)
- small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- medium-sized businesses (MSBs)

Business opportunities

If you are a UK-registered company you can benefit from a unique programme 'Exporting is GREAT', presenting real-time export opportunities that you can apply for online. This is part of the drive to significantly increase the number of UK companies exporting.

'Exporting is GREAT' is part of the UK Government's GREAT campaign, and

presents live export opportunities to UK businesses across a range of media outlets and digital channels. Hundreds of these export opportunities, with a potential total value of more than £300 million, are hosted on: <https://www.great.gov.uk/>.

Selling online overseas


Use this service to help choose a suitable online marketplace to sell your products overseas. You can:

- find major online marketplaces in other countries
- see whether these online marketplaces are suitable to sell your products
- discover how to list your products on an online marketplace
- get information about costs of listing on the marketplace and how logistics are fulfilled
- access special terms negotiated by the UK Government

DIT E-Exporting Programme

DIT's E-Exporting Programme aims to help you get your brand to millions of global consumers and grow your business through online exports. DIT's E-Exporting Programme helps you if you are a UK company:

- new to selling online
- already selling online, but need help with specific issues
- experienced in online sales, but are looking to sell on multiple platforms globally



The programme enables you to:

- arrange a free meeting through your local DIT office to get expert international trade advice and support, and access to DIT's global network of contacts. See: <https://www.contactus.trade.gov.uk/office-finder>
- meet a Digital Trade Adviser where relevant, to help you develop and implement an international online strategy
- set up on e-marketplaces quickly and also identify new e-marketplaces around the world
- access better-than-commercial rates to list on some e-marketplaces, including lower commission fees and 'try for free' periods. See: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-exporting#preferentialrates>
- access the 'E-Expertise Bank', a community of over 175 B2B/B2C service providers offering free advice. See: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-exporting#eexpertise>
- join DIT's mailing list for opportunities to hear from industry experts, network with like-minded individuals and find out about e-commerce trends

DIT Find a buyer service

This is the place to let international buyers know all about your business – highlight the vital facts about your company to give buyers confidence to get in touch; show-off your company's experience and outstanding projects to give potential buyers more insight; get emails from international

buyers straight to your sales or business development teams; see relevant government-supported export development events where overseas buyers will be attending.

Events and missions

Taking part in overseas exhibitions is an effective way for you to test markets, attract customers, appoint agents or distributors and make sales. DIT's Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP) provides grant support for eligible SMEs to attend trade shows overseas.

Participation is usually as part of a group – a great advantage for inexperienced businesses – and is usually led by one of DIT's Accredited Trade Associations (ATOs). ATOs work with DIT to raise the profile of UK groups and sectors at key exhibitions.

The DIT calendar of events has some 400 core events and missions, and 1,000 opportunities across the Trade Access Programme and the English national regions.

DIT Events Portal

The DIT Events Portal provides a single calendar view of all DIT events and missions, and has been developed to provide you with more-detailed information on each event in order to help you decide on the most appropriate event to attend. The calendar can be filtered and searched by sector and/or market.

There are also detailed events websites which include more information about each event, and also allow you to register for an event.

The DIT Events Portal is your central hub for business and networking opportunities. Search for future events and missions, register online and network with fellow delegates. See: <https://www.events.trade.gov.uk/>.

DIT webinars

The DIT webinar service runs hundreds of free hour-long internet events covering topics, sectors and countries around the world, helping you shape your export plan. These events allow you to interact with the experts in specific sectors and countries and allow you to ask questions to enhance your knowledge.

To see upcoming DIT webinars, please visit: <https://www.events.trade.gov.uk/> and search for webinars.

Other DIT services

DIT assists new and experienced exporters with information, help and advice on entering overseas markets such as Mauritius. These services include:

- an Export Health Check to assess your company's readiness for exporting and help develop a plan of action
- training in the requirements for trading overseas
- access to an experienced local International Trade Adviser
- help to grow your business through online exports
- specialist help with tackling cultural issues when communicating with Mauritian customers and partners
- advice on how to go about market research and the possibility of a grant towards approved market-research projects
- ongoing support to help you continue to develop overseas trade, and look at

dealing with more-sophisticated activities or markets

- information, contacts, advice, mentoring and support from DIT staff in the UK and their network of staff in Mauritius
- support to participate in trade fairs in Mauritius
- opportunities to participate in sector-based trade missions and seminars
- access to major buyers, local government and supply chains in Mauritius
- advice on forming international joint ventures and partnerships
- exploratory visits to Mauritius
- alerts to the latest and best business opportunities

To find out more about commissioning any of these services, contact a DIT Export Adviser at: <https://www.contactus.trade.gov.uk/enquiry/topic> for a free consultation, or see further details at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-trade/about-our-services>.

In-market support

If you already export, and have decided Mauritius is part of your business strategy, you are advised to contact DIT in Port Louis prior to your visit to discuss your objectives and what help you may need. See: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/department-for-international-trade-mauritius#contact-us>.

They can provide a range of Mauritius-specific services for you, including the provision of market information, validated lists of agents/potential partners, key market players or potential customers; establishing interest from such contacts; and arranging in-market appointments for you.

In addition, they can also organise events for you to meet contacts in Mauritius, or to promote your company and your products /services.

For further information about DIT services, see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departement-for-international-trade/about-our-services>.

[Source – DIT/gov.uk]

Support from the Institute of Export & International Trade (IOE&IT)

Raising the profile of international trade qualifications and experienced members is only part of how IOE&IT membership is essential for any individual or business involved with global trade.

Importantly, the IOE&IT also offer access to a unique range of benefits and services specific to international trade:

- Help with any export issues you come across. Our team of experts can help with questions on documentation, export controls, the UK Bribery Act, customs & VAT procedures, regulatory and compliance issues, insurance issues, payment terms, transport and logistics. Members get free access to our experts via a technical helpline. See: https://www.export.org.uk/page/Export_Helpline.
- A voice for your ideas and concerns. We represent your point of view and feed back to government, HMRC and other influencing bodies on issues that impact you, plus participate in Institute responses to central government with regard to proposed legislative changes.
- A complete range of international trade qualifications – for those that have no experience, up to those who wish to qualify themselves to take a business

degree. The Institute's qualifications are widely recognised as providing both employers and employees with the necessary international business practice linked to satisfying career planning and development. See: <https://www.export.org.uk/page/qualifications>.

- A range of short courses giving you the skills and expertise you need to gain a competitive advantage in the challenging and complex world of export, import and international trade. See: <https://www.export.org.uk/page/TrainingCourses>.
- An extensive events programme to help you share information and connect at every level in the international trade community, whether it is sector-specific or regional. See: https://www.export.org.uk/events/event_list.asp.
- Inclusion in surveys to research the attitudes and changes to world trade.

For more information on how the IOE&IT can help you, or on becoming a member, contact the IOE&IT at: <https://www.export.org.uk/page/about>.

Open to Export

Open to Export is the IOE&IT's free online advice service for UK companies looking to grow internationally. It offers free information and support on anything to do with exporting and hosts online discussions via its forum, webinars and social media, where businesses can ask any export question and learn from each other.

Open to Export can be accessed at: <http://opentoexport.com/>.

[Source – Institute of Export & International Trade]

MAURITIUS

A full British passport is required to travel and should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay. You do not need a visa. On arrival, your passport will be stamped allowing entry to the country for 60 days. If you intend to work in Mauritius, you must get a work permit.





Getting here and advice about your stay

Entry requirements

Visas

You do not need a visa to enter Mauritius. On arrival, your passport will be stamped allowing entry to the country for 60 days. You will need to be able to provide evidence of onward or return travel. If you intend to work in Mauritius, you must get a work permit.

Passport validity

A full British passport is required to travel and should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay. No additional period of validity beyond this is required. It should have at least one blank passport page.

UK Emergency Travel Documents

UK Emergency Travel Documents (ETDs) are accepted for entry, transit and exit from Mauritius.

Work permits

Non-residents must hold a valid Occupation Permit before they can work in Mauritius. The Economic Development Board website offers the full details for the application, see: <http://www.edbmauritius.org/work-and-live-in-mauritius/occupation-permitresidence-permit/>

Yellow fever certificate requirements

Check whether you need a yellow fever certificate by visiting the National Travel Health Network and Centre's TravelHealth-Pro website at: https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/145/mauritius#Vaccine_recommendations.

Money

ATM's are widely available in most towns in the island and at large shopping centres. Major credit and debit cards are accepted by most hotels, restaurants and large retailers.

[Source – DIT/FCO Travel Advice/gov.uk]

Local laws and customs

Punishments for drug smuggling can be severe. Trafficking and possession of any illegal drugs carry heavy sentences. Prosecutions take a year or more to come to court, with detention until the trial. Bail is not usually granted for drug-related crimes, regardless of the type of drug.

If you are under police investigation you will be provisionally charged and not allowed to leave the country without consent from a judge. Commonly it can take up to two years for the authorities to decide whether to issue a formal charge. You are not allowed to renew your occupation or resident's permit whilst you are under a provisional charge. If you are unable to support yourself financially you will be detained in prison while the police finish their investigation.

It is illegal to possess or import cigarette papers.



You can bring common medicines for your own personal use but you must carry a copy of the prescription and the drugs must have been obtained legally from a pharmacy. Other drugs like tranquillisers, hypnotics, narcotics and other strong painkillers will require prior authorisation. You can check details with the Mauritian Health Ministry, here: <http://health.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>. If in any doubt, you should seek advice from the Mauritian High Commission, here: <http://www1.govmu.org/portal/sites/mfamission/london/index.htm>.

The police sometimes ask foreigners to show identification. You should carry a photocopy of your passport and your driving licence and leave the original documents in a safe place.

Safety and security

Around 150,000 British tourists visit Mauritius every year. Most visits are trouble free.

Crime

Report any incidents to the Police du Tourisme (tourist police):
Tel: +230 210 3894 / +230 213 7878
Email: bdtourisme.mpf@govmu.org.

Road travel

You can drive using your UK driving licence, but you must have it with you at all times. The standard of driving varies and there are frequent accidents. Be particularly careful when driving after dark as pedestrians and unlit motorcyclists are serious hazards.

If you are involved in a road accident report it to the police.

Water safety

If you are taking part in any type of water sports, make sure that the operator holds a valid permit issued by the Ministry of Tourism, there are life jackets on board and the captain has a means to contact the coastguard if necessary.

Sea travel

Recent piracy attacks off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden highlight that the threat of piracy related activity and armed robbery in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean remains significant. Reports of attacks on local fishing dhows in the area around the Gulf of Aden and Horn of Africa continue. The combined threat assessment of the international Naval Counter Piracy Forces remains that all sailing yachts under their own passage should remain out of the designated high risk area or face the risk of being hijacked and held hostage for ransom, for more details view: <https://on-shore.mschoa.org/>.

For more information and advice, see our piracy and armed robbery at sea page: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sea-river-and-piracy-safety>.

Terrorism

There is a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals, from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.

To find out more about the global threat from terrorism, how to minimise your risk and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack, see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reduce-your-risk-from-terrorism-while-abroad>.

Natural disasters

The cyclone season in Mauritius normally runs from November to May. Cyclones can cause extensive damage to property. There is a well-structured system of phased warnings. You should follow advice issued by the local authorities.

During a cyclone you are not allowed to leave your accommodation and car insurance policies often cease to be valid.

Monitor local weather updates at Mauritius Meteorological Services (http://metservice.intnet.mu/?page_id=627) and from the World Meteorological Organization (<http://severe.worldweather.org/>). Information is also available on Telmet by dialling 8996 from land lines or 171 from mobiles. See the UK Government's tropical cyclones page for advice about what to do if you are caught up in a storm: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tropical-cyclones>.

Some areas are prone to landslides, especially during cyclones and torrential rains. Mauritius Meteorological Services distribute 5-stage landslide warnings and local authorities may organise evacuations of threatened areas if necessary: http://metservice.intnet.mu/?page_id=627.

Take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before you travel.

See the UK Government's advice page at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance>.

[Source – FCO Travel Advice/gov.uk]

Health


Visit your health professional at least four-to-six weeks before your trip to check whether you need any vaccinations or other preventive measures.

Check the latest country-specific information and advice from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) on the TravelHealthPro website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries> or by NHS (Scotland) on the FitForTravel website: <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations.aspx>.

Useful information and advice about healthcare abroad is also available on the NHS Choices website: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

Good private healthcare is available, but can be costly if you are not insured. More complex cases could require evacuation to Réunion or South Africa. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation.

Although there are no malarial mosquitoes in Mauritius, the Ministry of Health may ask you for a blood sample either at the airport or at a later stage during your stay if you have travelled from a country where malaria is common.



Cases of dengue fever transmitted by mosquitoes have been reported. You should take mosquito bite avoidance measures, see: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/636707/20170808_Mosquito_advice_sheet_V3.pdf for more information.

Stonefish stings are rare but can be fatal. Seek urgent medical attention if you are stung. Many hotels stock anti-venom serum.

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 999 or 114 and ask for an ambulance.

Private and state ambulance services are available, but are of variable quality and speed. If you can you should go directly to the hospital.

Otherwise, seek advice from your hotel reception. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you are referred to a medical facility for treatment.

[Source – FCO Travel Advice/gov.uk]

FCO travel advice

If you are travelling to Mauritius for business, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) website has travel advice to help you prepare for your visit overseas and to stay safe and secure while you are there.

For up-to-the-minute advice please visit the FCO Travel section pages on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/mauritius>.

Travel insurance

Take out comprehensive travel and medical insurance before you travel. See the FCO Foreign Travel Insurance guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance>.



MAURITIUS

There are abundant opportunities for UK business to get involved in sectors such as education/knowledge economy, financial services/fintech, infrastructure/smart cities, seafood and aquaculture/ocean economy, renewable energies and environment.



Sector-specific opportunities

There are abundant opportunities for UK business to get involved in sectors such as education/knowledge economy, financial services/fintech, infrastructure/smart cities, seafood and aquaculture/ocean economy, renewable energies and environment.

Niche activities such as in the creative industries, marinas and film-making, healthcare and medical travel, hospitality/property development/smart cities, information technology and business process outsourcing, logistics and distribution services, manufacturing and light engineering are also being considered.

Research

You should carry out as much market research and planning as possible before exporting to Mauritius, using both desk research and visits to the market. You need to determine if there is a market for your product or service and whether your pricing is competitive.

DIT's trade specialists can help you identify local representatives for your products in Mauritius. See: <https://www.gov.uk/overseas-customers-export-opportunities>.

DIT provides free international export sales leads from its worldwide network. Find export opportunities in Mauritius at: <https://opportunities.export.great.gov.uk/>.

Government tenders in Mauritius

The Mauritius Procurement Policy Office is responsible for public procurement. Their site at: <http://ppo.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx> includes bidding documents. Successful foreign bidders often choose to work with local partners when bidding for major contracts.

If you choose to have your tender bids submitted by a domestic company or consultant, you should check with DIT in Mauritius first, at: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/departement-for-international-trade-mauritius#contact-us> for assistance and information about third-party advisers.

Education and training

Providing all the facilities and amenities of a modern knowledge hub, Mauritius is today a leading provider of quality education in the region. The Economic Vision 2030 elaborates the ambition of the Government to revamp the higher education sector and to transform it into a strong pillar of the economy.

This will require improving the relevance of university studies to produce a quality labour force which will meet labour market demands and reduce the existing skills mismatch.

The tertiary education sector has developed rapidly in Mauritius. There are over 35 UK universities and awarding bodies offering UK qualifications in Mauritius. The government intends to make Mauritius a hub for UK tertiary learning institutions throughout the rest of Africa. The brand new Middlesex campus on the island is testimony to that.

Opportunities exist for UK education providers for:

- continuous professional development for practitioners consultancy in the development of relevant educational /training programmes
- provision of tailor made programmes for industry, e.g. career bridge programmes for the financial services sector, biotechnology, transport management among others
- articulation or franchise agreements

Investment opportunities also exist for the setting up of:

- world-class international pre-primary, primary and secondary schools
- polytechnic institutes
- specialised institutions/university campuses offering courses in fields such as maritime, renewable energy, ocean economy, biotechnology, biofarming, life sciences, fintech, cloud computing, robotics, amongst others
- research centres
- executive education
- academies

Contact: deeptee.bungaree-gooheeram@fco.gov.uk for more information about the opportunities in the education and training sector.

[Source – DIT/gov.uk]

Financial services

Mauritius has over the last decade built itself as an advantageous, safe and trusted location for the conduct of business. Furthermore, it has embraced the highest standards of international practice that

have made it among the most open and competitive economies in the world and offers a tax neutral environment for international business. Strategically located in the Indian Ocean at the crossroad of international investments, Mauritius has forged a strong reputation as a premier international financial centre.

At 11.9%, the contribution of the financial services sector to the gross domestic product is significant for the country, and is one of the most important pillars for the Mauritian economy. At the same time, the landscape of the financial services sector is changing due to international reforms in the taxation, including from the OECD.

In order to enhance Mauritius as a jurisdiction of reputation and substance, key measures were announced in order to safeguard the reputation of Mauritius as an International Financial Centre and also to open the economy further for prospective investors.

Below are the key measures which have been announced in the Budget 2017-2018:

- A blueprint will be devised by the Ministry of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms together with the Economic Development Board, the Bank of Mauritius, the Financial Service Commission and all key stakeholders in the financial services sector. The vision for the blueprint is for the sector to further adopt and meet international requirements on taxation over the next 10 years.
- Global business companies holding a category one licence (“GBC1”) will move away from merely fulfilling one of the six licensing criteria regulated by the Financial Services Commission. Moving forward, such GBC1 companies must now look to satisfy at least two of the six licensing criteria.

- The tax requirements for global business companies will be reformed in order to align to international standards.
- The legal obligations pertaining to special purpose funds will be aligned with GBC1 companies.
- The Stock Exchange of Mauritius, in collaboration with Euroclear, will have to transform the local bond market and set up an international capital market to attract African companies and governments.
- In order to benefit from the fintech revolution, the Economic Development Board will establish a Regional Fintech Association. The Financial Services Commission will develop the necessary legislation for fintech.
- Capital standards for banks will be increased from Rs 200 million to Rs 400 million. Banks will have 2 years to adjust, and the Banking Act 2004 will be amended accordingly.
- In a bid to extend monitoring on money laundering in Mauritius, specific mention is made of the nexus between the drug trade and illegal gambling. Amendments to the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act are to be made, whereby cash betting transactions above Rs 2,000 are to be banned, and licensees/operators earning more than Rs 10 million are to be required to file suspicious transactions reports.

Hence, the measures announced purport to enhance the financial services landscape in Mauritius, by striving to build resilience against global uncertainties and represent a gateway to opportunities on an international level. Moreover, the measures pertaining to the financial services provide a road map towards greater stringency. It is clear that the financial services sector lends itself towards a people strategy namely in employment creation and growth.

Opportunities for UK companies exist in:

- private banking
- investment and cross border investment
- captive insurance
- derivative trading
- Islamic banking
- international arbitration

Contact: deeptee.bungaree-gooheeram@fco.gov.uk for more information about the opportunities in the financial services sector.

Infrastructure and smart cities

Mauritius' infrastructure projects include:

- £240 million road infrastructure investment as part of a road decongestion programme
- £80 million social housing investment with construction of 10,000 units
- smart city projects

An estimated £2.2 billion investment will be made in 13 smart city 'mega projects'. Each smart city will be a large scale development which is self-sufficient in energy and water. It will also have its own integrated smart modern transportation.

These infrastructure projects offer opportunities for UK companies in:

- consulting
- design
- project management
- sale of appropriate technology and equipment

- PPP expertise

The Smart City Scheme is an ambitious economic development programme aimed at consolidating the Mauritian international business and financial hub by creating ideal conditions for working, living and spurring investment through the development of smart cities across the island.

The development of smart cities in Mauritius is opening up a plethora of opportunities for UK businesses in:

- a mix of commercial, leisure and residential uses that, as a whole, achieves physical and functional integration and creates a pedestrian-orientated urban environment
- a combination of office, light industrial, education, medical and tourism clusters
- high technology and innovation cluster
- infrastructure to service green-field sites with roads and inspiring landscaping
- clean technology aimed at carbon and waste reduction, efficient transport
- low-energy-consumption buildings
- digital solutions, urban sensing technologies and big data analytics
- energy production and water management and utilities
- high-end residential estate
- real estate investment management

Contact: deeptee.bungaree-gooheeram@fco.gov.uk for more information about the opportunities in the infrastructure sector.

For more information on incentives for developing and investing in a project under the Smart City Scheme, check the EDB website: <http://www.edbmauritius.org/schemes/smart-city-scheme/>.

[Source – DIT/gov.uk]

Ocean economy

Mauritius has a large exclusive economic zone of 2.3 million km² and a continental shelf of around 396,000 km² which is co-managed with the Republic of the Seychelles.

The 'ocean economy' has been highlighted as an important pillar strategy to diversify the economy, generating wealth and jobs – see: <http://www.edbmauritius.org/opportunities/ocean-economy/> for further information. The direct contribution of this sector to the GDP is expected to be around 20% by 2025. Around £1 billion PPP investment is expected between 2016 and 2020.

There are plans to transform the Port Louis harbour from a destination port to a regional hub. By 2025, container traffic in the port is expected to double and to exceed 1 million TEU. The port has the potential for a double-digit contribution to GDP in the long-term compared to the 3% it contributes at present.

It is expected that high value opportunities for UK businesses in fields of consultancy, training and design will open up in projects like:

- extension of the port area
- infrastructure work to accommodate larger container vessels
- a full-fledged marina
- bunkering activities

The ocean economy also offers opportunities in:

- seabed exploration for hydrocarbons and minerals
- fishing, seafood processing and aquaculture*
- deep ocean water applications
- ocean knowledge
- marine finance and information communications technology (ICT)
- marine services
- seaport-related activities
- marine renewable energies

(* for aquaculture specific sector)

Investment/business opportunities

Situated in one of the world's cleanest oceans, Mauritius offers investment/business opportunities in:

- lagoon cage culture with a production range of 300 to 500 tonnes per production unit
- offshore lagoon cage culture with an approximate production capacity of 2,000 tonnes per production unit
- inland aquaculture farms
- tuna ranching and fattening in cages
- hi-tech production techniques such as aqua pods

Contact: deeptee.bungaree-gooheeram@fco.gov.uk for more information about the opportunities in the ocean economy sector.

[Source – DIT/gov.uk]

Power/renewable energy

The government has launched a renewable energy programme and established the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency (MARENA). Mauritius aims to raise the share of renewable energy in the electricity generation mix to 35% or higher by 2025.

Electricity production from renewable sources such as municipal waste recycling, solar and wind energy will be used to reduce carbon emissions and reliance on non-renewable sources.

Various such projects operate on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis providing electricity to the national grid. 248 MW out of the 2,600 MW electricity consumed in 2015 were produced from renewable sources. The government intends to increase this share to some 900 MW in the coming years.

Opportunities for UK companies exist in:

- wind energy
- solar energy
- biomass energy
- marine renewable energies
- waste to energy

R&D in renewable energy

The micro-climate generated by the unique topology of Mauritius, its attractive investment climate and existing research institutions working on renewable energy projects, are the key assets of Mauritius as a test base for R&D projects that can be replicated on a regional scale. Moreover opportunities for collaboration exist for the use of the waters of Mauritius as a test base for marine renewable energy projects.

Other transformational energy projects

- Deep Ocean Water Applications (DOWA) that exploit deep sea water currents for cooling and other uses

- geothermal energy, currently under study, taps into the potential of heat generated by the earth
- offshore wind farms which, following preliminary results by the Mauritius Research Council, demonstrate the potential for large scale developments in the waters of Mauritius and Rodrigues
- offshore wave farms demonstrating conclusive results following preliminary studies by the Mauritius Research Council

Contact: deeptee.bungaree-gooheeram@fco.gov.uk for more information about the opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

[Source – DIT/gov.uk]

Other budding sectors where opportunities exist for UK businesses:

Healthcare

The healthcare sector in Mauritius has metamorphosed itself into an integrated cluster underpinned by a core group of high-value activities such as hi-tech medicine, medical tourism, medical education and wellness. Global healthcare companies have invested in multi-specialty and super-specialty centres of excellence to cater for the growing healthcare needs of both national and international patients. There are opportunities for the setting up of:

- multi-specialty and super-specialty centres
- specialised diabetes research and treatment centres
- specialised centres for elderly care and rehabilitative medicine
- specialised centres for novel treatments stem-cell therapies

- plastic reconstructive surgery clinics
- clinics for dental surgery and dento-facial orthopaedics
- convalescence and pain clinics providing specialised care to patients suffering from acute and chronic conditions
- wellness centres and health resorts

Attractiveness for Mauritius as a medical hub:

- highly-trained personnel with globally recognised qualifications
- state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities
- encouraging joint-ventures/alliances with firms of international repute

Medical travel

The medical tourism industry in Mauritius has witnessed a sustained growth over the last years. The Mauritian private healthcare sector now boasts state-of-the-art facilities and highly-qualified personnel providing comprehensive high-end medical care which has enabled Mauritius to position itself as a leading destination for medical travel.

Life sciences

Mauritius has, over the recent years, experienced growth in various fields of life sciences. The sector has tremendous opportunities in:

- pharmaceuticals
- medical devices
- clinical research
- agricultural biotechnology
- marine biotechnology

Why is the Real Estate Landscape changing in Mauritius?

Written by: Vanita Hooloomann, Executive Director, Hooloomann

As Mauritius celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence, few would have thought that the real estate landscape in this paradise island would have changed so much. For the Mauritian diaspora who left the island back in the 70's, the built environment today is noticeably different. So, what is fueling this boom in the construction industry?

With the subprime mortgage crisis hitting the US in 2008 and causing financial markets around the world to crash, few would have thought that 10 years later, the real estate sector would revive as a lucrative investment option.

It began with the Government's initiative to attract foreign investment through Integrated Resort Scheme (IRS). The demand from foreigners from South Africa, Europe, Middle East and other parts of the world to acquire a luxurious Villa, with the lifestyle it brings and access to a Residence Permit puts Mauritius on the map for a booming construction sector. In an attempt to further boost the construction industry, the Government introduced a plethora of policies and initiatives such as the Property Development Scheme (PDS) and Smart City Scheme for purchases of less than USD 500,000 coupled with fiscal incentives for the local mid-market residential buyers.

The quality of life, ease of doing business, competitive costs and fiscal advantages that the island offers to domiciled individuals and companies are the major drivers for interest in quality real estate. The investment opportunity in real estate cannot be overlooked in the light of the desire of the population of the island for better quality residential housing and the attractiveness of foreigners to invest or live in Mauritius.

www.hooloomann.com



The real estate sector has been a significant economic contributor both in terms of GVA (2016 - 5.9% and 2017 - 5.8%)¹ and FDI (2016 - 72.8% and 2017 - 59.4%)². On the construction front, 2018 is expected to witness a 9.5% growth rate. Private investment's contribution to this growth mostly revolves around smart cities. The challenge here will be to boost the demand and turn around projects fast enough to capture the market on time.

Investment funds from Africa are now focusing their outlook on the island and domiciled companies are investing in Mauritius. They have identified that Mauritian real estate in their asset portfolio could provide an attractive return on investment.

As one of the leading construction consultants in Mauritius Hooloomann's forte in the Leisure and Hospitality and Luxury Residential Sector on some of the landmark projects places it in a privileged position to assist new investors wanting to do business in Mauritius. Our unrivalled project and cost management expertise has been widely recognized by our existing clients and we are constantly sought after by international clients investing in Mauritius. Through the RLB African Alliance Initiative and as a partner in RLB SSA, we are now able to provide an array of Project and Cost Management Services to clients looking to invest in Sub-Saharan Africa.

30 Years
in
Mauritius

"Our forte and vision to be the benchmark for Construction Cost and Project Management Services in the Indian Ocean region has been achieved through our commitment to maximize value for our Clients, at all times."

*Navin Hooloomann, FRICS
Managing Director*

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1. Statistics Mauritius website - National Accounts, March 2018 *GVA - Gross Value Added

2. Bank of Mauritius website - Monthly Statistical Bulletin, February 2018 *FDI - Foreign Direct Investment





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RLB Pentad

have combined their 20 years of experience in Sub-Saharan Africa to offer international clients an unrivalled expertise and experienced teams to service their construction Projects throughout SSA.



- South Africa ▪ Mozambique ▪ Botswana ▪ Mauritius ▪ Ghana
- Seychelles ▪ Namibia ▪ Rwanda ▪ Zambia ▪ Nigeria ▪ Eritrea
- Tanzania ▪ Kenya ▪ Congo ▪ Sudan ▪ Madagascar ▪ Malawi
- Zimbabwe ▪ DRC ▪ Angola

RLB SSA - Mauritius

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Contact us on admin@hooloomann.com

The array of services we provide are as follows:

Project Management / Construction Management

- Project Initiation, Brief and Feasibility
- Project Planning & Strategy
- Coordinate Concept, Prepare Development and Documentation Programme
- Management of the Design and Documentation Programme and Construction Strategy
- Construction and Procurement Documentation & Programming
- Management of Tenders and Procurement Process
- Manage, Administer and Monitor Construction Contracts
- Scope, Time, Cost and Quality Management
- Risk Management
- Project Close-out and Handover
- Employer's Agent on Design & Build Contracts
- Construction Management
- Tenant Co-ordination

Quantity Surveying / Cost Management

- Feasibility studies
- Cost Planning & Cost Estimating
- Value Engineering and Management
- Bills of Quantities & Tender Documentation
- Engineering Services Cost Management
- Risk Analysis
- Tender Evaluation & Negotiation
- Contract Administration, Progress Claims & Variations
- Risk Management
- Final Account/Audit
- Employers & Funding Agents Independent Certifier Roles
- Expert Witness & Claims Analysis
- Due Diligence Reports
- Life Cycle Costing
- Insurance Valuations and re-instatement cost assessment

Project Monitoring

- Review of Internal Information Available and Site Visit
- Critical Appraisal of the Initial Budget and Cost Estimate
- Technical Audit of Construction Contracts and Finance Agreements
- Risk Analysis and Management
- Monthly Project Monitoring Reports

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MAURITIUS

Talking to other people in your industry and regularly visiting Mauritius will give you access to the most-current advice, and such experience can often lead to new insights and form the basis for further research.



Preparing to export

Consultation and bespoke research

Visit: <https://www.great.gov.uk/> for guidance on how to research overseas markets as well as a range of other important issues for exporters.

Researching the Mauritian market

Good local research is needed and you should consider market-entry requirements using both desk research and market visits.

You need to determine whether:

- there is a market for your product or service
- your pricing is competitive
- to adapt your business model

The questions listed here should help you to focus your thoughts. Your answers to them will highlight areas for further research and also suggest a way forward that is right for your company. You may then want to use this as a basis for developing a formal Mauritius strategy, although this may not be necessary or appropriate for all companies:

Your aims:

- Do you wish to buy from Mauritius, sell to Mauritius or both?
- Do you wish to establish your own company presence in Mauritius (for example setting up your own incorporated company, or direct sales, appointing a local agent, online selling or franchising)?

- Do you need to be involved in Mauritius at all?
- Do you see Mauritius as part of a wider plan including e.g. other African or South Asian markets now or in the future?

Your company:

- Can you carry out a detailed SWOT analysis of your company?
- Are your competitors already in Mauritius? If so, what are they doing?
- Can you carry out a detailed SWOT analysis of your competitors?
- What are the unique selling points (USP) of your product or service?
- Do you know if there is a market for your product or service in Mauritius?
- Do you know if you can be competitive in Mauritius?
- Do you have the time and resources to handle e.g. the demands of communication, travel, product delivery and after-sales service?

Your knowledge:

- Do you know how to secure payment for your products or services?
- Do you know where in Mauritius you should start?
- Do you know how to locate and screen potential partners, agents or distributors?

- Have you carried out any Mauritius-specific customer segmentation, and do you know how to best reach potential customers in-market?

It is unlikely that you will have answers to all these questions at the outset and these 'knowledge gaps' could form the basis for further research and investigation. Some of these questions may require quantitative research in your sector, while others involve more-qualitative contextual and cultural considerations.

Talking to other people in your industry and regularly visiting Mauritius will give you access to the most-current advice, and such experience can often lead to new insights and form the basis for further research.

There is also some useful guidance on developing a marketing strategy, customer segmentation, competitor and SWOT analysis, etc. on the <https://www.great.gov.uk/> site – and the IOE&IT can help too.

There may be trade shows held in Mauritius which could be useful to test product viability in the market. The Department for International Trade's (DIT's) Tradeshow Access Programme at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tradeshow-access-programme> provides funding in the form of grants for eligible businesses to attend overseas trade shows.

The funding helps your business gain:

- market knowledge
- experience in attending and getting the most from overseas trade shows
- advice and support from trade experts

Visit the DIT events portal at: <https://events.trade.gov.uk/> to find if there are any suitable upcoming events and missions in Mauritius.

Find out more about marketing your goods and services for Mauritius at: <https://www.great.gov.uk/>.

Contact DIT in Mauritius at: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/department-for-international-trade-mauritius#contact-us> for events and company launches at British Embassy locations.

Start-up considerations

Visit: www.great.gov.uk for guidance on how to research overseas markets as well as a range of other important issues for exporters.

Getting started in the Mauritian market

All businesses have to be registered and incorporated with the Corporate and Business Registration Department, see: <http://companies.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>. The proposed company name must be verified prior to registration and incorporation to avoid duplication. The types of companies which can be incorporated are:

- company limited by shares
- company limited by guarantee
- company limited by shares and guarantee
- unlimited company

- foreign company
- limited life company

A company incorporated in Mauritius can be 100% foreign owned with no minimum capital.

You must pay a trade fee with your respective local authority within 15 days of the start of operations.

You should seek legal advice as the tax and legal obligations of each business structure can differ.

A local lawyer can help you to avoid costly mistakes and ensure you start out in the way that is best suited to your sector of activity. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mauritius-list-of-lawyers> for a list of lawyers in Mauritius.

You should conduct due diligence checks once you have chosen your method of entry into the market. However, if you want to establish a business relationship that goes beyond exporting, you will need to carry out further research.

Direct exports and sales

Direct exports means you supply your products direct to the customer. You handle all the logistics of marketing, selling, sending overseas and getting paid.

You may wish to use local representation. Options include using an agent, distributor or wholesaler.

The DIT's trade specialists at: <https://www.gov.uk/overseas-customers-export-opportunities> can help you identify local representatives for your products in Mauritius.

Appointing an agent, distributor or importer

A foreign company will often appoint one or more agents or distributors. They can keep track of market regulations, which can change at short notice.

You should spend time taking local advice and assessing a range of potential agents before making a choice.

DIT in Mauritius can help you identify and meet potential agents and distributors. See: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/departement-for-international-trade-mauritius#contact-us>.

Online selling

Find out about DIT's E-Exporting programme at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-exporting>, which can help you export your products to Mauritius.

Check out online marketplaces in Mauritius at: <https://selling-online-overseas.export.great.gov.uk/>, where DIT has negotiated listings at better-than-commercial rates.

Franchising

Franchising in Mauritius is primarily in the fast-food sector.

Contact DIT in Port Louis at: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/departement-for-international-trade-mauritius#contact-us> for further information, and advice on franchise opportunities in Mauritius.

Visit the international section of the British Franchise Association at: <http://www.thebfa.org/international> for more information on franchising.



Financial considerations

Getting finance to fulfil an export contract

Globally, Mauritius ranks 25th out of 190 economies in the World Bank's "Doing Business – Ease of Getting Credit" report 2017-18. See: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/mauritius>.

To make it easier to fulfil an export contract and grow your business, schemes are available to UK companies selling products and services to Mauritius. Contact your bank or specialist financial organisation for assistance.



UK Export Finance (UKEF) has risk capacity to support exports to Mauritius. See: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/country-cover-policy-and-indicators#mauritius>. You can contact one of UKEF's export finance advisers at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/find-an-export-finance-manager> for free and impartial advice on your finance options.

Getting paid

You may wish to talk to a specialist about finance, including how to get paid in Mauritius. This could be a bank, an accountant or you can contact DIT in Mauritius at: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/departement-for-international-trade-mauritius#contact-us> for help to find a financial adviser in Mauritius.



MAURITIUS

Mauritius has a dual legal system based on the common and civil law of the UK and France. In some sectors, businesses may have to apply for permits and licences. Some sectors require foreign investors to partner with a local company.





How to do business in Mauritius

Legal considerations

Mauritius has a dual legal system based on the common and civil law of the UK and France.

In some sectors, businesses may have to apply for permits and licences. Some sectors require foreign investors to partner with a local company.

Business registration cards must be renewed every three years.

Contact DIT in Mauritius at: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/departement-for-international-trade-mauritius#contact-us> to help find tax and legal advisers before entering into agreements.

Standards and technical regulations

Mauritius' Consumer Protection Act specifies the standards and technical regulations governing the production and sale of goods. See: <http://attorneygeneral.govmu.org/English/Pages/A-Z%20Acts/C/Page-5.aspx>.

You should consider taking out product liability insurance if you manufacture or supply a physical product that is sold or given away for free. See: <https://www.abi.org.uk/products-and-issues/choosing-the-right-insurance/business-insurance/liability-insurance/product-liability-insurance/>.

Contact the DIT team in Mauritius at: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/departement-for-international-trade-mauritius#contact-us> to help find tax and legal advisers before entering into agreements.

Intellectual Property (IP) protection

IP rights are territorial, that is they only give protection in the countries where they are granted or registered. If you are thinking about trading internationally, then you should consider registering your IP rights in your export markets.

It is recommended that trademarks and/or IPs be registered to avoid fraudulent use. For more information on Intellectual Property and copyrights we suggest you read the information provided on the UK Government's Intellectual Property page at: <https://www.gov.uk/intellectual-property-an-overview>, and at the Intellectual Property Office – the UK Government agency providing free and impartial advice on protecting and registering your IP in the UK and abroad. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/intellectual-property-office>.

[Source – FCO Overseas Business Risk/gov.uk]

Export licences

You can find out about getting a licence to export dual use goods, services or technology to Mauritius at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/beginners-guide-to-export-controls>.



To find out which products will need certification or licensing before they can be exported to Mauritius, see: <https://www.gov.uk/starting-to-export/licences>.

Law on marketing and selling

If you are selling to consumers you must be aware of and comply with relevant Mauritian consumer protection legislation. See the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) site for a comprehensive list of these laws, at: <https://www.mcci.org/en/inside-mauritius/legislations/>.

[Source – MCCI]

Labelling your products

Labelling requirements are governed by the Legal Metrology Act. Contact the Mauritius Commerce Division at: <http://commerce.govmu.org/English/Departments/Pages/LEGAL-METROLOGY-SERVICES.aspx> for full details.

Taxation

There are a number of taxes in Mauritius, including:

- corporate tax – set at 15%
- income tax – set at 15%
- Value Added Tax (VAT) – set at 15%
- corporate social responsibility tax – set at 2% on book profits
- land transfer tax – set at 5%

There is no capital gains tax, no withholding tax on interest and dividends.

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) is responsible for collecting all tax revenues and for enforcing tax laws in Mauritius.

Double-taxation agreement

The UK and Mauritius have signed a double taxation agreement allowing some taxes paid in one country to be deducted in the other. However, an amendment to this agreement signed in February 2018 has not yet come into force. See: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/730579/TS_7.2018_Prot_UK_Mauritius_Tax.pdf.

Currently you can zero-rate the sale of your goods to Mauritius, provided you get and keep evidence of your export, and comply with all other laws. You must also make sure the goods are exported, and you must get the evidence within three months from the time of sale.

More information on GST in non-EU markets can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-exports-dispatches-and-supplying-goods-abroad>.

For more information on taxation in Mauritius, see the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) site at: <http://www.mra.mu/index.php/taxes-duties/corporate-taxation>.

Excise duty

You should check you have paid excise duty on any alcohol, alcoholic drinks, energy products, electricity or tobacco products you send to Mauritius.

[Source – DIT/ gov.uk]

Customs

A guide to the general process for importing goods into Mauritius, including registering your business with the Mauritius Companies Division, registering with the Mauritius Customs Department and registering with the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) (if your turnover is over Rs 6 million), is available on the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) site at: <https://www.mcci.org/en/inside-mauritius/imports-exports/guide-to-import/>.

[Source – MCCI]

Import licences

A number of products are subject to import control as per the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 (see: <https://www.mcci.org/media/165408/the-consumer-protection-control-of-imports-regulations-2017-1.pdf>). Import control is carried out mainly for health and security reasons as well as for protecting the environment and national interest.

See the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) site at: <https://www.mcci.org/en/inside-mauritius/imports-exports/guide-to-import/> for full details of the permits (licences) required for certain controlled products and the contact details of the body issuing the corresponding permit.

[Source – MCCI]

Tariffs

Contact the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) for information on tariffs, at: <http://www.mra.mu/index.php/import-export-others/tariff-information>.

You can find out about import tariffs at the EU's Market Access Database (MADB). See: <http://madb.europa.eu/madb/indexPubli.htm>.

The MADB also has a full list of procedures and formalities for Mauritius at: <http://madb.europa.eu/madb/datasetPreviewIFpubli.htm?countries=MU&hscode>.

Complying with HMRC regulations to export to Mauritius

You must make export declarations to HMRC through the National Export System (NES) to export your goods to Mauritius. See: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-declarations-and-the-national-export-system-export-procedures>.

You can find out how to declare your exports to Mauritius through the NES at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/export-declarations-and-the-national-export-system-export-procedures>. You must classify your goods as part of the declaration, including a commodity code and a Customs Procedure Code (CPC).

Commodity codes and other measures applying to exports in the UK Trade Tariff can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff>.

Contact the HMRC Tariff Classification Service at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notice-600-classifying-your-imports-or-exports/notice-600-classifying-your-imports-or-exports#list-of-useful-contacts> for more help.

You must declare any goods that you take with you in your luggage to sell outside the EU. See: <https://www.gov.uk/take-goods-sell-abroad> for further information.

Temporary export of goods

You can use an ATA (Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission) Carnet to simplify the customs procedures needed to temporarily take goods into Mauritius: <https://www.gov.uk/taking-goods-out-uk-temporarily>.

Use the SPIRE system at: <https://www.spire.trade.gov.uk/spire/fox/espire/LOGIN/login> to apply for a temporary export licence.

[Source – DIT/gov.uk]

Import documentation

A full list of import procedures and documents required (for example invoice, packing list, bill of lading, bill of entry, Certificate of Origin, import permit, etc.), is available on the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) site at: <https://www.mcci.org/en/inside-mauritius/imports-exports/procedures-documents/>.

[Source – MCCI]

You may wish to work with a Mauritian Customs Agent. Contact the DIT in Mauritius at: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/departement-for-international-trade-mauritius#contact-us> for further advice and lists of agents.

Shipping your goods

If you are not knowledgeable about international shipping procedures you can use a freight forwarder to move your goods. A forwarder will have extensive knowledge of documentation requirements, regulations, transportation costs and banking practices in Mauritius.

You can find freight forwarding companies to help you transport your goods to Mauritius via the British International Freight Association (BIFA) at: <http://www.bifa.org/home> or the Freight Transport Association (FTA) at: <http://www.fta.co.uk/>.

Posting goods

You can find out about sending goods by post to Mauritius at: <http://www.royalmail.com/mauritius>.

Shipping restricted, banned and dangerous goods

Special rules apply if you are shipping dangerous goods to Mauritius. See: <https://www.gov.uk/shipping-dangerous-goods/what-are-dangerous-goods> for more information.

You may wish to consider working with a local agent who can advise on the latest import licensing requirements. Contact DIT in Mauritius at: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/departement-for-international-trade-mauritius#contact-us> for assistance and information about third-party advisers.

Terms of delivery

Your contract should include agreement on terms of delivery using incoterms: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/international-trade-paperwork-the-basics#international-trade-contracts-and-incoterms>.

UK Export Finance

The UK Government can provide finance or credit insurance specifically to support UK exports through UK Export Finance (UKEF) – the UK's export credit agency. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-export-finance>.

For up-to-date country-specific information on the support available see UKEF's cover policy and indicators for Mauritius at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/country-cover-policy-and-indicators#mauritius>.

[Source – DIT/UKEF/gov.uk]

MAURITIUS

Mauritius is a multi-cultural island. French and English are spoken by the majority of the population, with French slightly more common, although most official and business documents are in English. The main spoken language, however, is Creole.

Port Louis viewed from Fort Adelaide



Business etiquette, language & culture

Overview

Mauritius is a multi-cultural island. French and English are spoken by the majority of the population, with French slightly more common, although most official and business documents are in English. The main spoken language, however, is Creole (pidgin French with a mix of other languages such as Hindi and Urdu).

The primary religion of Mauritius is Hinduism, followed by almost half of the people. About a third of the population are Christian (mostly Roman Catholic), and the rest are mostly Muslim.

The usual form of greeting, particularly between men, is a handshake, often saying "Bonjour". Kissing on both cheeks is not uncommon amongst friends and family, and between women.

Dress is normally informal although for business, a suit and tie are usually worn by men – as a general rule it is best to dress conservatively.

As a multi-cultural island, business etiquette varies between communities. However, the family is considered most important. Timings are fairly relaxed, but you should try to be punctual to create a good impression.

Relationships are most important. You should show long-term commitment to Mauritius and your Mauritian contacts – keep in touch between contracts or projects.

Mauritian public holidays

2018

Date:	Holiday:
Friday 2 nd November	Arrival of Indentured Labourers
Wednesday 7 th November	Divali
Tuesday 25 th December	Christmas



2019

Date:	Holiday:
Friday 1 st February	Abolition of slavery
Tuesday 5 th February	Chinese New Year
Monday 4 th March	Maha Shivaratree
Tuesday 12 th March	National Day
Saturday 6 th April	Ugadi
Wednesday 1 st May	Labour Day
Sunday 5 th May	Ramadan begins
Wednesday 5 th June*	Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)
Tuesday 3 rd September	Ganesh Chaturthi
Sunday 27 th October	Divali
Friday 1 st November	All Saints' Day
Saturday 2 nd November	Arrival of Indentured Labourers
Wednesday 25 th December	Christmas

(NB some dates may be subject to change)

**The exact date is subject to confirmation as its celebration depends on the visibility of the moon.*



> Clear, consistent content is vital to making your business understood overseas. **So don't leave it to chance.**

- > Well-known companies we already work with include: Serco, Experian, Intertek, IKEA and Caterpillar
- > For a structured approach to translation, please read the article that follows



Protecting your Reputation
Worldwide™

If you're reading this guide, the chances are you're either a seasoned exporter, or you're committed to investigating new export opportunities for your business. Whichever category you fall into, you'll have a good idea of the huge investment in time, effort and resources which is required for export success.

Your priority will be to get your product or service to market, and it's a fact of life that procurement of peripheral resources such as translation is often left to the last minute. In this article we'd like to demonstrate to you how building translation into the early planning stages of your export campaigns can pay dividends.

The internet, mobile connectivity and social media mean that now more than ever before customers, be they B2B or B2C, are buying goods and services within the context of a connected world of instant communication.

Buying decisions carried out in isolation of wider and constantly changing sector, economic or social contexts are a thing of the past. This means that increasingly any product or service has to be supported with professional technical, marketing or other contextual content.

As examples of this, exporters need their technical documentation to be easily assimilated, their marketing content to be compelling, and their website to be informative and memorable. Human resources departments on the other hand need sensitive localisation of policies & procedures in line with local legislation, corporate guidelines and house style. After all an international expansion strategy or company restructuring could easily be undermined by insensitive internal communication.

In non English-speaking markets, all of the above can be achieved by working with a reliable and professional translation partner.

So how can really good translation help build your export success:

- clear and accurate foreign-language branding and content will motivate foreign customers to buy from you
- consistent and harmonised messaging helps to convey and reinforce your company's values and ethos
- corporate and operational risk through poor quality communication and misunderstanding is eliminated
- overall brand integrity and reputation are enhanced



language services

Protecting your Reputation
Worldwide™

The following components are key to a successful translation project, and show how AST can make the process of internationalising outward-facing and internal communications simpler, more professional and more cost-effective:

Rigorous selection of translators

AST's ISO9001 certified and ISO17100 compliant processes mean that the company has approved sector-specialist translators whatever the language and deadline requirements, with experienced proofreaders to give the text precision and professionalism to really focus the reader's attention.

Translation memory technology

Client-facing documents produced periodically often contain sections which stay the same and sections which need updating. Similarly company websites and technical data or manuals can contain identical paragraphs and sections. Translation Memory technology is used in this situation to identify duplicate and legacy text. The duplicates are logged and reused – leading to reduced turnaround times and resulting

cost savings – with company wordings for products, processes, titles and descriptions translated consistently.

Terminology management

The key words used to describe your company's products, services and processes support your brand and identity. This is equally true in your foreign language communications. Unfortunately, once translated it is often easy to lose control of key terms, leading to uncertainty as to whether the translations are having the desired impact. AST's terminology management prevents this. Glossaries are maintained in multiple languages and client terminology is checked in each language by industry sector experts. As the glossary grows it can be reused with each new project, so client content is always on-message and brand integrity consistent.

So there's really no need for you to leave the "softer" aspects of your export campaign to chance. Using a professional translation company like AST provides a guarantee that your international content will be clear, consistent and effective. Whatever the language.

> YOU NEED YOUR SALES, TECHNICAL AND WEBSITE CONTENT TO BE **TRANSLATED BY EXPERTS!**

- > We're recognised as a UK leader for translating high profile, client-facing documents
- > All our translators are rigorously selected so your text will be translated by the best people in the business
- > We ensure you get premium quality translations every time, on time and within budget

No matter how urgent your assignment we can translate it.





MAURITIUS

You should consider whether the best option for you is to agree terms in Sterling (GBP) or Mauritian Rupees in any contract. You should also consider getting expert financial advice on exchange rates.



WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

What are the challenges?

Challenges when doing business in Mauritius

Compared to other African countries the risks of doing business in Mauritius are low. However, there may be some challenges finding suitably-qualified personnel in a few specialised sectors such as ICT.

Local labour law can be complex and it is recommended that you hire highly-qualified HR personnel. You may also wish to use a local partner when bidding for some large contracts.

You should ensure you take the necessary steps to comply with the requirements of the UK Bribery Act. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bribery-act-2010-guidance>.

[Source – DIT/FCO/gov.uk]

Business risk

Bribery and corruption

Bribery is illegal. It is an offence for UK nationals and bodies incorporated under UK Law, to bribe anywhere in the world. In addition, a commercial organisation carrying on a business in the UK can be liable for the conduct of a person who is neither a UK national or resident in the UK or a body incorporated or formed in the UK. In this case it does not matter whether the acts or omissions which form part of the offence take place in the UK or elsewhere.

In 2017, Mauritius was ranked 54th out of 180 countries in the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. The country is often cited as Sub-Saharan Africa's example of good governance and democracy. Mauritius is ranked first for good governance in Africa according to the 2017 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance. The 2017 Democracy Index compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit, that measures the state of democracy in 167 countries considers Mauritius as a full democracy ranking it 16th worldwide and first in Africa.

During the past years, Mauritian Governments have implemented anti-corruption measures, including the introduction of new legislation and the establishment of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in 2002.

You can find information on the UK Government's website on bribery and corruption at: <https://www.gov.uk/anti-bribery-policy>.

[Source – FCO Overseas Business Risk/gov.uk]



Payment risks

UK Export Finance (UKEF) helps UK companies to get paid by insuring against buyer default.

Be confident you will get paid for your export contract. Speak to one of UKEF's export finance advisers at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/find-an-export-finance-manager> for free and impartial advice on your insurance options, or contact one of UKEF's approved export insurance brokers at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-export-finance-insurance-list-of-approved-brokers/export-insurance-approved-brokers>.



Currency risks when exporting

If you have not fixed your exchange rate you have not fixed your price.

You should consider whether the best option for you is to agree terms in Sterling (GBP) or Mauritian Rupees in any contract. You should also consider getting expert financial advice on exchange rates (sometimes called FX).

[Source – DIT/UKEF/gov.uk]



MAURITIUS

Mauritius is an island nation with an area of 2,040 km², situated in the southwest of the Indian Ocean about 800 km east of Madagascar. It is densely populated with approximately 1.3 million inhabitants, and together with Réunion and Rodrigues it belongs to the Mascarene Islands.



INSTITUTE OF EXPORT

& INTERNATIONAL TRADE

What does membership of the Institute of Export & International Trade mean?

To most the Institute of Export & International Trade simply plods away providing much needed qualifications to professionalise the industry however, did you realise that our helpline is one of the busiest and best in the industry? It's all part of membership and, if you need more than a phone call, we can put together a project to fulfil your needs. 2015 saw the launch of our Technical Help for Exporters that recognises the volume of legislation and regulation that covers our industry and gives you the comfort of knowing that if you don't know, you know someone who does!



Innovation is key to the success of the Institute and new ideas include our New Exporter package. This allows a business to enter a new market secure in the knowledge that they have an understanding of how they will operate and comply with any specific regulations and standards. Practical help and assistance is always available from the Institute so any additional training can be tailored to the business and the team that needs the knowledge.

The work of the IOE&IT also extends to representing membership views. Knowledge gained from our members' feedback, those who get involved with

the forums and Special Interest Groups, and those who attend our training courses or study with us, enables us to represent the industry at government levels in both the process and delivery of policy for international trade. These views also help us to ensure that the training programmes are effective and pertinent to the industry needs. Our Diploma in World Customs Compliance and Regulation is testament to the way we listen to our members' needs. This was driven by Nissan, Adidas, John Lewis and many others and will neatly dovetail into any AEO work ensuring that quality standards are met at manager and junior staffing levels.

Starting in 1935, the Institute committed itself to building competence and growing confidence for businesses trading in goods and services, which at the time, was a far reaching remit. Over the years this remit has seen us develop from simply providing training in short course format over a day, or perhaps two, into a fully-fledged Ofqual Awarding Organisation that operates specifically to deliver international trade education.



This status allows our individual members and corporates alike to be sure that they are part of a quality organisation with plans for growth integrated with a sustainable future for the global prosperity of UKPIc.

Part of our work includes mapping existing qualifications to roles and producing training needs analyses to ensure staffing progression and continuity. The need to upskill our workforce to match those of our competitors is a key element vital for growth. Our focus is on recognising that International trade needs specific knowledge, coupled with a strong belief that we must start to talk to

our young people at an earlier stage. We need to engage the next generation in thinking about how world trade works and how it will be great for British businesses. They need to know how items arrive in the shops which, in turn, will begin to spark ideas. As these young people join companies they will bring a fresh outlook that all things are possible especially if you operate globally.



Why not call us and get involved?

It has never been more important that we act as an industry to help – we need experts and commitment to professionalising international trade from businesses large and small – help your institute to stay ahead of the curve.

Institute of Export & International Trade

Export House
Minerva Business Park, Lynch Wood,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
PE2 6FT, UK
Telephone: +44(0)1733 - 404400
Fax: +44(0)1733 - 404444



Lesley Batchelor OBE, FIEEx (Grad) –
Director General, Institute of Export & International Trade

Focusing on qualifications.

A focus on qualifications - but why do we need them?

I'd like to tell you about my story, it's ok it won't take too long but I think it's similar to a lot of people that work in international trade.

I left school with no ambition to do anything other than help my mum make ends meet. I wanted to be a seamstress but we couldn't afford the material for the interview so I went into an accounts department at a large pharmaceutical company. Luckily for me they recognised a hard worker and asked me to work in various departments. After a year they asked me which one I like the best and without even thinking I said "international", and that was my career set out for me.

Working in international trade I found that I needed to understand so many different things - from how trade agreements impacted a sale to the legal aspects of trade and how different systems worked in terms of contract and disputes. Getting paid brought about a whole new set of issues and this really made me learn and think about the implications of offering credit and how it can be used to your advantage.

Things I learnt about logistics and the paperwork that was needed to support a trade were empirical and slowly I became sure of my knowledge. The problem was, that when I wanted to move on to the next company, I had nothing to show I had that knowledge. It was frustrating to find that the knowledge that I had accumulated over 11 years wasn't evidenced in any way and that no-one knew exactly what I knew. I was lucky enough to get my next job with a well-known Japanese computer company but it made me realise that if I wanted a career, I needed to get qualified.

So I spent the next two years, two nights a week at night school honing my skills and building a knowledge and understanding of all aspects of the trade I had entered "by the back door". Finally, exhausted but with a full understanding of how planning and control worked, I passed and became a Graduate Member of the Institute of Export & International Trade, suffix MIEEx (Grad) in 1991.

Well, many things have changed since then, as after many years of working in international trade, I took over at the helm, steering the qualifications and the Institute towards a better place. We have now gained Ofqual Awarding Organisation status for the qualifications and have worked hard on ensuring we are ready for the next 80 years of representing the industry and standing as guardian of professional standards in international trade.

OFQUAL* awarding status is hard earned and we are proud to be the only professional body operating in this international trade environment.

IOE&IT Qualifications in brief

www.export.org.uk/page/qualifications

- Level 1 Young International Trader
(Available electronically)
- Level 2 International Trade Logistic Operations **
- Level 3 Certificate of International Trade
Certified International Trade Adviser
- Level 4 Advanced Certificate in
International Trade
- Level 5 Diploma in International Trade
Diploma in World Customs
Compliance and Regulations
- Level 6 Foundation Degree jointly
delivered with *** Anglia Ruskin
University
**Higher Apprenticeship in
International Trade - the first
so far.**

Our courses at level 3 onwards are delivered online using a blended learning technique which involves the support of an expert tutor for each topic. The IOE&IT online campus offers a range of learning tools, from power-point presentations and videos to online chats and forums for the students. The Institute has a success rate of 95% in helping our students through these academic programmes.

The Advanced Certificate in International Trade - Elective modules have been added to the level 4 Advanced Certificate syllabus. In addition to the three core modules of Business Environment, Market Research & Marketing and Finance of International Trade, students can now choose a fourth elective module from:

- a. International Physical Distribution
- b. Selling Services, Skills and Software Overseas
- c. Or one of:
 - i. Doing business & communicating in Arabic speaking markets
 - ii. Doing business & communicating in Spanish speaking markets
 - iii. Doing business & communicating in German markets
 - iv. Doing business & communicating in Chinese markets
 - v. Doing business & communicating in Russian markets

The series of modules above carry language skills training, the focus being on basic business language needed and business culture

Finally, eBusiness internationally will be launched summer 2016.

The Diploma in International Trade - level 5 is equivalent to the second year of a degree and is accepted as entry level for:-

BSc (Hons) in Management Practice - International Trade with Plymouth University
-Online 24 months

MSc International Trade, Strategy and Operations with Warwick University - 36 months part residential

www.export.org.uk/page/qualifications will give you more detail and a contact who will talk you through your options.

*The OFQUAL Register of Regulated Qualifications contains details of Recognised Awarding Organisations and Regulated Qualifications in England (Ofqual), Wales (Welsh Government) and Northern Ireland (Ofqual for vocational qualifications and CCEA Accreditation for all other qualifications).

** International Trade Logistic Operations is delivered through our approved centres

*** Anglia Ruskin University is Entrepreneurial University of the Year



British High Commission Port Louis

The British High Commission Port Louis maintains and develops relations between the UK and Mauritius.

Find out more on their UK and Mauritius news page, here: <https://www.gov.uk/world/Mauritius/news>. The British High Commission Port Louis provide services to British nationals living in and visiting Mauritius. You can access UK Government services while in Mauritius, here: <https://www.gov.uk/world/mauritius>.

Urgent assistance

If you are in Mauritius and you need urgent help (for example, you have been attacked, arrested or someone has died), call +230 2029400. If you are in the UK and worried about a British national in Mauritius, call 020 7008 1500.

Get an emergency travel document

You can apply for an emergency travel document if you are abroad and your passport has been lost or stolen, damaged or expired, and you cannot get a new or replacement passport in time to travel, here: <https://www.gov.uk/emergency-travel-document>.

If the person needing the emergency travel document is under 16, a parent or guardian should apply on their behalf.

If you are due to travel in the next 24 hours, contact the British High Commission Port Louis as soon as

possible, here: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-high-commission-port-louis#contact-us>.

If you are travelling in more than 3 weeks, check if you can get a new or replacement passport in time to travel here: <https://www.gov.uk/renew-adult-passport>.

If you are not a British citizen or have not had a British passport before

If you are not sure, check if you are a British citizen here: <https://www.gov.uk/check-british-citizen>.

If you are not a British citizen but think you may be eligible, contact the British High Commission Port Louis to apply for an emergency travel document, here: <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-high-commission-port-louis#contact-us>.

Once you have contacted them, you will be advised to make an appointment to apply for an emergency travel document at the British High Commission Port Louis, here: https://www.consular-appointments.service.gov.uk/fco/#!/british-high-commission-port-louis/issuing-an-emergency-travel-document/service_list.

Other consular services

Notarial and documentary services

For legal reasons, they are unable to carry out notarial acts in Commonwealth countries. This includes certifying documents as true copies of originals, administering oaths or taking affidavits. For these or other notarial acts, you should contact a local notary, here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mauritius-list-of-lawyers>.

Consular fees

The British High Commission Port Louis charge fees for some of their services. See the full list of consular fees in Mauritius here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mauritius-consular-fees>.

Contact details

British High Commission Port Louis

7th floor, Cascades Building
Edith Cavell Street,
P.O. box 1063
Port Louis
Mauritius

Email: Bhcportlouis.general-enquiries@fco.gov.uk

Enquiries Telephone: +230 2029400

Enquiries Fax: +230 2029408

Office Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday:
7:45 am to 3:45 pm

Friday: 7:45 am to 1:45 pm

Consular Counter Opening Hours:

Monday to Thursday:
8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Friday: closed, except for genuine emergencies



The Institute of Export & International Trade

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Tel: +44 (0) 1733 404400

Website: www.export.org.uk



UK Export Finance

UK Export Finance is the UK's export credit agency, serving UK companies of all sizes. We help by providing insurance to exporters and guarantees to banks to share the risks of providing export finance. In addition, we can make loans to overseas buyers of goods and services from the UK.

In the past five years, we have provided:

- £14 billion worth of support for UK exports;
- direct support for more than 300 customers supported directly, with many thousands more benefiting through export supply chains;
- nearly 2000 individual guarantees, loans or insurance policies.

UK Export Finance is the operating name of the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD).

For more information and to arrange a free consultation with an Export Finance Adviser, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-export-finance>

New business enquiries:

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7271 8010
Email: customer.service@ukexportfinance.gov.uk



British Expertise

23 Grafton Street, London W1S 4EY

Tel: +44 (0)20 7824 1920

Fax: +44 (0)20 7824 1929

<https://www.britishexpertise.org/>



Department for International Trade

UK Department for International Trade (DIT):

If you have a specific enquiry about the Mauritian market which is not addressed by the information in this guide, you may contact:

Email: enquiries@trade.gsi.gov.uk

Enquiries: +44 (0)20 7215 5000

Otherwise contact DIT in Port Louis directly, for more information and advice on opportunities for doing business in Mauritius:

UK Department for International Trade Mauritius

7th floor

Cascades Building

Edith Cavell Street

PO Box 1063

Port Louis

Mauritius

Email: ditafricatrade@mobile.trade.gov.uk

Telephone: +230 202 9400



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Media enquiries

Newsdesk & out of hours

+44 (0) 1298 79562

Airline/Corporate Travel Service



Air Mauritius

HEAD OFFICE
Air Mauritius Centre
President John Kennedy Street
Port Louis
MAURITIUS

Tel: +230 207 7070
Fax: +230 208 8331

Email: contact@airmauritius.com

Language Services



AST Language Services Ltd

Unit 8, Ayr Street,
Nottingham NG7 4FX
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)115 970 5633
Fax: +44 (0)845 051 8780
Email: office@astls.co.uk

www.astlanguage.com

Government Economic Development and Investment Promotion Agency



Economic Development Board Mauritius

10th Floor
One Cathedral Square Building
16, Jules Koenig Street
Port-Louis
Republic of Mauritius

Telephone Number: +230 203 38 00
Email Address: contact@edbmauritius.org

Website Address: www.edbmauritius.org



Hooloomann & Associates Ltd

Navin Hooloomann

BSc (Hons) FRICS

Managing Director

Email: holmann@intnet.mu

Head Office Mauritius

Hooloomann & Associates Ltd

90 St Jean Road,

Quatre Bornes,

Mauritius

Telephone: +(230) 467 7000

Fax: +(230) 464 9615

Email: holmann@intnet.mu

Website:

<https://www.hooloomann.com/>

Linkedin: [http://www.linkedin.com/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/hooloomann-&-associates-ltd)

[company/hooloomann-&-associates-ltd](http://www.linkedin.com/company/hooloomann-&-associates-ltd)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/hooloomann>

Banking/Financial Services



HSBC Bank (Mauritius) Ltd

Telephone: (230) 403 8333

Email: hsbcmauritius@hsbc.co.mu

Useful links

Country information:

BBC Website:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

FCO Country Profile:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/mauritius>

Culture and communications:

ICC – The international language association:

<http://www.icc-languages.eu/>

Customs and regulations:

HM Revenue & Customs:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs>

Economic information:

The Economist:

<https://www.economist.com/topics>

Trading Economics:

www.tradingeconomics.com

Export control:

Export Control Joint Unit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/beginners-guide-to-export-controls>

Export finance and insurance:

British Insurance Brokers Association (BIBA):

www.biba.org.uk

UK Export Finance (formerly ECGD):

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-export-finance

Intellectual Property:

Intellectual Property Office:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/intellectual-property-office>

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO):

http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/text.jsp?file_id=288514

Standards and technical regulations:

British Standards Institution (BSI):

<https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/industries-and-sectors/import-export/>

Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/export-control-organisation>

Intellectual Property Office:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/intellectual-property-office>

National Physical Laboratory:

<http://www.npl.co.uk/>

Trade statistics:

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC):

<https://www.uktradeinfo.com/statistics/buildyourowntables/pages/table.aspx>

National Statistics Information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

Office for National Statistics:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/>

Trade shows:

British Expertise Events:

www.britishexpertise.org/events

EventsEye.com online database:
www.eventseye.com

DIT Events Portal:
<https://www.events.trade.gov.uk/>

Travel advice:

FCO Travel:
www.gov.uk/browse/abroad

FCO Foreign Travel Insurance:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance>

Healthcare abroad:

Travel health:
www.travelhealth.co.uk

TravelHealthPro:
<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>

NHS (Scotland):
<http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations.aspx>

NHS Choices:
<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/health-care-abroad/>

International trade:

British Chambers of Commerce (BCC):
www.britishchambers.org.uk

British Council:
www.britishcouncil.org

British Expertise:
www.britishexpertise.org

British Franchise Association:
<http://www.thebfa.org/international>

Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI):
<http://www.cpni.gov.uk/>

Confederation of British Industry (CBI):
www.cbi.org.uk

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-energy-and-industrial-strategy>

Department for International Trade (DIT):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-trade>

DIT e-exporting programme:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-exporting>

Export Britain:
<http://exportbritain.org.uk/>

Exporting is GREAT:
<https://www.great.gov.uk/>

Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO):
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office

Heritage Foundation Index of Economic Freedom:
<https://www.heritage.org/index/ranking>

Institute of Directors (IoD):
www.iod.com

Institute of Export & International Trade (IOE&IT):
www.export.org.uk

International Monetary Fund (IMF):
<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>

Market Access database:
<http://madb.europa.eu/madb/indexPubli.htm>

Open to Export:
<http://opentoexport.com/>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):
<http://www.oecd.org/>

Overseas business risk:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/overseas-business-risk>

Transparency International:
<http://www.transparency.org/>

UK Trade Tariff:
<https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff>

UK Visas:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>

World Bank Group economy rankings:
<http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings>

World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report:
<http://reports.weforum.org/global-competitiveness-index-2017-2018/preface/>

Mauritian websites:
Corporate and Business Registration Department (CBRD):
<http://companies.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI):
<https://www.mcci.org/en/about-us/our-institution/functions/>

Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA):
<http://www.mra.mu/>

Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security:
<http://agriculture.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Arts and Culture:
<http://culture.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Defence and Rodrigues:
<http://mdr.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research:
<http://ministry-education.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities:
<http://publicutilities.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development:
<http://environment.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development:
<http://mof.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International trade:
<http://foreign.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Health and Quality of Life:
<http://health.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection:
<http://industry.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands:
<http://localgovernment.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport:
<http://publicinfrastructure.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and Sustainable Development:
<http://socialsecurity.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation:
<http://mtci.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Tourism:
<http://tourism.govmu.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

Ocean Economy:
<http://www.edbmauritius.org/opportunities/ocean-economy/>

Republic of Mauritius High Commission, London:
<http://www1.govmu.org/portal/sites/mfamission/london/index.htm>



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SEMINARS LED BY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EXPERTS

CUTTING EDGE SUPPLIERS TO HELP YOU SET UP OVERSEAS

1-2-1 ADVICE & INTERACTIVE FEATURES

CO-LOCATED WITH **THE BUSINESS SHOW**



Going Global runs annually every May at the ExCeL London. For the dates of the next event, please visit www.goinggloballive.co.uk

Trade shows

A trade show is a method of promoting a business through the exhibition of goods and services, an organised exhibition of products, based on a central theme, where manufacturers meet to show their products to potential buyers.

Taking part in overseas exhibitions is an effective way for you to test markets, attract customers, appoint agents or distributors and make sales. DIT's Tradeshaw Access Programme (TAP) provides grant support for eligible SME firms to attend trade shows overseas.

Participation is usually as part of a group, a great advantage for inexperienced businesses, and is usually led by one of DIT's Accredited Trade Associations (ATOs). ATOs work with DIT to raise the profile of UK groups and sectors at key exhibitions. For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tradeshaw-access-programme>.

IOE&IT's events:

www.export.org.uk/events/event_list.asp

10 Times (formerly

BizTradeShows.com):

www.10times.com/mauritius

British Expertise Events:

<https://www.britishexpertise.org/events/>

EventsEye.com online database:

www.eventseye.com

DIT online events search facility:

www.events.trade.gov.uk



Enter the Open to Export Action Plan Competition for the chance **to win £3,000 cash** and further support towards your plans **for international growth**. Complete your plan using our online planning tool.



Who are Open to Export?

We are the free online information service from The Institute of Export & International Trade dedicated to helping SMEs through our:

Step-by-step guides covering the whole export journey from 'Selecting a market' to 'Delivery and documentation'

A comprehensive webinar programme covering all aspects of international trade

The online Export Action Plan tool helping businesses create a roadmap to successful new markets

Quarterly competitions for the chance to win £3,000 cash and further support

Plan to win - start your Export Action Plan today

Register for free on www.opentoexport.com
to start your plan and enter the competition

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Doing Business in Mauritius Guide **Quick Facts**

Location: Southern Africa, island in the Indian Ocean, about 800 km (500 mi) east of Madagascar

Area: 2,040 km²

Population: 1.3 million

Urban population: 39.5%

Capital city: Port Louis

GDP per capita: US \$10,547.2

Languages: Creole 86.5%, Bhojpuri 5.3%, French 4.1%, two languages 1.4%, other 2.6% (includes English, the official language of the National Assembly), unspecified 0.1% (2011 est.)

Religion: Hindu 48.5%, Roman Catholic 26.3%, Muslim 17.3%, other Christian 6.4%, other 0.6%, none 0.7%, unspecified 0.1% (2011 est.)

Government: parliamentary republic

Legal system: civil legal system based on French civil law with some elements of English common law

Currency: Mauritian Rupee (MUR)

Climate: tropical, modified by southeast trade winds; warm, dry winter (May to November); hot, wet, humid summer (November to May)

Natural resources: arable land, fish

Natural hazards: cyclones (November to April); almost completely surrounded by reefs that may pose maritime hazards

Time difference: UTC+4

Internet country code: .mu

National holiday: Independence and Republic Day, 12th March (1968 & 1992); note - became independent and a republic on the same date in 1968 and 1992 respectively

National symbols: dodo bird, Trochetia Boutoniana flower; national colours: red, blue, yellow, green

[Source: FCO Economics Unit, CIA World Factbook, World Bank (October 2018)]



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