



# Mauritius – An International Financial Centre

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Situated in the 'golden triangle' connecting Asia, Africa and Australia, Mauritius is the converging point of global civilizations – a place where one can feel the cosmopolitan pulse of the world

Mauritius is also regarded by many as the Gateway into Africa.

Mauritius is continually reinventing itself. By leveraging its strategic position at the crossroads of Africa, Asia and Australia, Mauritius is gradually transforming itself into a hub and an international jurisdiction for investors in search of security, transparent regulation and high value-addition. Over the years, the economy has been successfully metamorphosed following a smart shift from a mono-agricultural model to a diversified, innovation-driven and knowledge-based economy, underpinned by a broad spectrum of business activities.

Mauritius offers excellent business opportunities in a number of industry sectors including financial services.

Mauritius offers a well-capitalized sophisticated banking sector comprising local and international banks which are actively servicing a wide range of retail, corporate, institutional and private client base. Services offered include traditional retail and corporate banking services, international remittance, internet banking, trade and loan finance, global business, investment banking, custodian services, treasury services and ecommerce among others.

Mauritius boasts a well-developed insurance sector offering life, general, reinsurance, captive business and private pension. Operating with high efficiency and generating stable and reasonable profits of the years, the total assets of Life and general insurance companies reached 33% of GDP as at December 2013.

Mauritius stands as one of the largest and most innovative capital raising markets of the African landscape. There are currently two securities exchanges licensed the Financial Services Commission, namely the Stock Exchange of Mauritius Ltd ('SEM') and the Bourse Africa Ltd ('BAL'), which complement each other to position Mauritius as one of the most powerful value-creation platform of the region.

The SEM offers shares, debentures, bonds, convertible instruments, depositary receipts, exchange traded funds among others. It facilitates international capital raising through multi-currency listing, trading & settlement platform in USD, EURO and GBP. Having adopted an internationalization strategy, the SEM has quickly positioned itself as a capital-raising hub for both regional and global players.

Bourse Africa Ltd is the first international multi-asset class exchange from Mauritius that offers trading on commodity derivatives, African and Global currency derivatives, African equity index derivatives and CFDs on commodities and currencies.

The global business sector was introduced in 1992 and has, since then, been established as one of the leading financial centre of the region. The reputation of Mauritius as an International Financial Centre rests on its global recognition, quality of its services and its pool of highly qualified professionals. Services offered include Company, Funds and Trust formation and administration, fund administration and management and trusteeship services among others.

In line with the Government vision, Mauritius is fast becoming a preferred centre for Regional and Global Headquarters as well as Regional Treasury management. Leading multinationals and regional companies are already setting up their operational, administrative and financial base in the country. Numerous benefits exists for setting up RHQs and RTCs in the country including a favorable fiscal environment and access to double taxation treaties, possibility to employ expats, no exchange control, proven and efficient regulatory system, access to internationally known service providers, and easy availability of highly efficient professionals, amongst others.

Mauritius offers the facilities for Aircraft and Ship Registration coupled with a host of advantages.



Mauritius offers a host of services that completes its financial eco-system, including:

- Corporate Services Providers
- Accountancy, tax and auditing services
- International legal services
- Investment advisory
- Asset Management
- Brokerage houses
- Consultancy

The Captive Insurance Act was passed before the National Assembly of Mauritius in December 2015 with the aim of establishing Mauritius as the domicile of choice in captive insurance.

## Quick Facts

- GDP (PPP) per capita: approx. USD 16,820 (2015 est.)
- Moody's Investors Service: BAA1 (2015)
- Population: approx. 1.3 million
- Political System: Democracy with free and fair elections held every 5 years
- Official Language: English
- Business Language: French
- Legal System: dual system (Common & Civil Law)
- GDP Growth: 3.4% (2015 est)
- Unemployment: 8% (2015 est)
- Inflation: 1.3% (2015 est)
- Repo Rate: 4.15% (as at date)
- Member of the World Trade Organisation, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the African Union, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Indian Ocean Rim, the Commonwealth of Nations, and La Francophonie.
- Strong ties to the European Union, the African States, China and India.

## Why Mauritius?

- Impressive track record, political stability and more than 3 decades of sustained economic growth
- Secure investment location with established rule of law
- Freest and most business-friendly country in Africa
- Peaceful, multiethnic with a unique lifestyle in a blend of cultures
- Flexible, bilingual (English/French) and skilled workforce
- Investment-friendly regulatory regime
- Open to foreign investors and talents
- Ocean State with one of the largest Exclusive Economic Zones in the world
- Preferential market access to Africa, Europe and the USA
- State-of-the-art infrastructure

Convenient time zone (GMT +4)



No	Index	Africa Rank	Global Rank
1	World Bank Doing Business 2016	1st	32 out of 189 countries
2	Global Competitiveness Index 2015-2016	1st	46 out of 140 countries
3	Corruption Perceptions Index 2015 (Transparency International)	5th	45 out of 168 countries
4	International Property Rights Index 2014	2nd	31 of 97 countries
5	Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance 2015	1st	-
6	Press Freedom Index 2014 (Reporters without Borders)	11th	70 out of 180 countries
7	The A.T. Kearney Global Services Location Index, 2016	3rd	30 out of 55 countries
8	2016 Index of Economic Freedom (Heritage Foundation)	1st	15 out of 178 countries
9	Economic Freedom of the World 2015 (Fraser Institute)	1st	6 out of 157 countries
10	Human Development Index 2015	1st	63 out 188 countries
11	The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2015	1st	18 out of 167 countries
12	Knowledge Economy Index 2012-World Bank	1st	62 out of 145 countries
13	Global Enabling Trade Report 2014 – World Economic Forum	1st	29 out of 138 countries
14	Environmental Performance Index 2014	1st	56 out 178 countries
15	Mercer's 2014 Quality of Living Survey	1st	82nd
16	Outsourcing Readiness Index (Africa) 2009	2nd	53
17	E-government development Index 2012	2nd	93 out of 192 countries
18	Global Information Technology Report 2015	1st	45 out of 143 countries
19	ITU – United Nations Agency for Information and communications. ITU's Digital Access Index 2012	2nd	74 out of 155 countries
20	Forbes Survey of Best Countries for Business 2014	1st	34 out of 145 countries
21	The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness 2015	3rd	56 out of 141 countries
22	Social Progress Index 2015	1st	36 out of 133 countries

