

Port-Louis, Mauritius
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News release

Mauritians expect economic conditions to worsen over the coming year, Afrobarometer study shows

A large majority of Mauritians say that the country is going in the wrong direction and that the economic situation will probably worsen over the coming year, a recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

Mauritians perceive management of the economy as the top priority that the government should address, followed closely by unemployment and crime/security. COVID-19 also features on the list of the most urgent problems to be addressed.

Key findings

- Two-thirds (66%) of Mauritians say the country is going in the wrong direction, representing a 16-percentage-point increase since 2017 (Figure 1).
- More than six out of 10 Mauritians (63%) consider the current economic situation either “very bad” or “fairly bad,” a 26-percentage-point increase since 2017 (Figure 2).
- Almost two-thirds (63%) of citizens expect that the economic situation will worsen in the next 12 months (Figure 3).
- Management of the economy is the problem most widely seen as a top priority for government action, cited by almost half of Mauritians (45%). Unemployment (44%) and crime/security follow (41%), each cited by more than four in 10 respondents (Figure 4).
- The younger generation (62% of 18- to 24-year-olds) is more likely to say that unemployment is among the country’s most important problems (Figure 5).

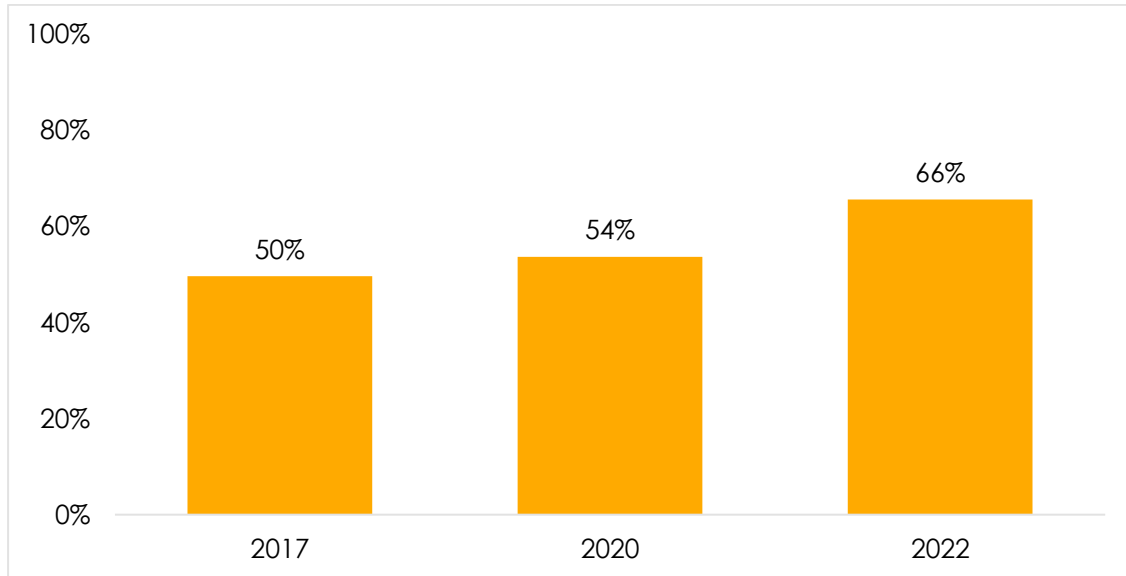
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer’s national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Mauritius, led by StraConsult Ltd., interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Mauritians in March 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Mauritius in 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2020.

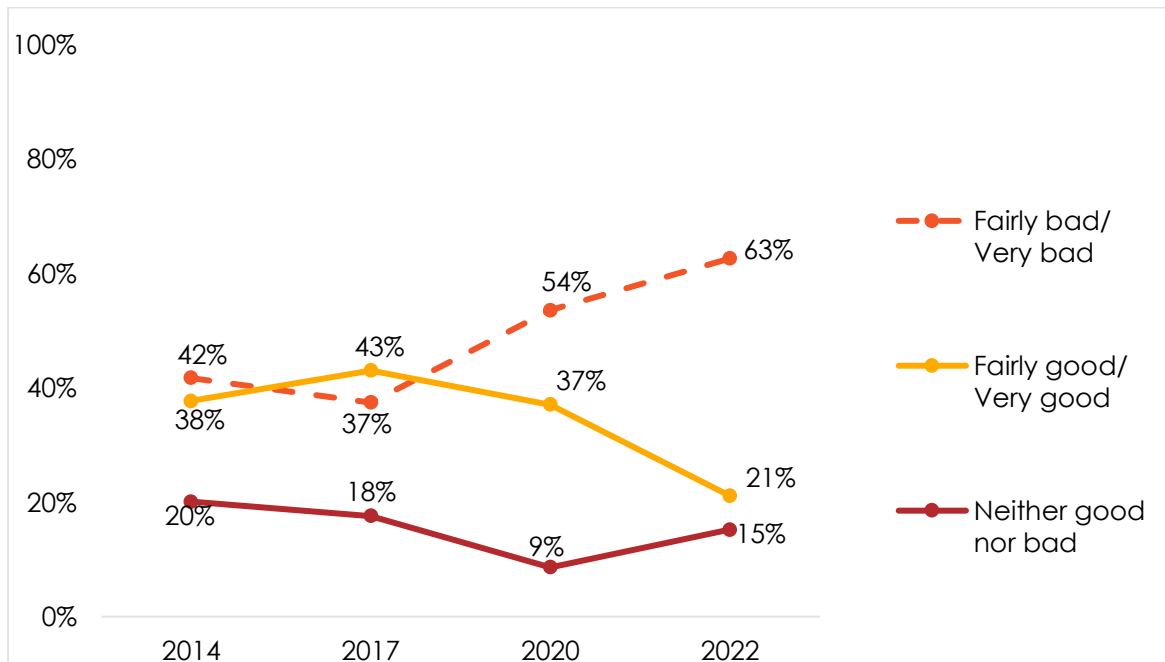
Charts

Figure 1: Country going in the wrong direction | Mauritius | 2017-2022



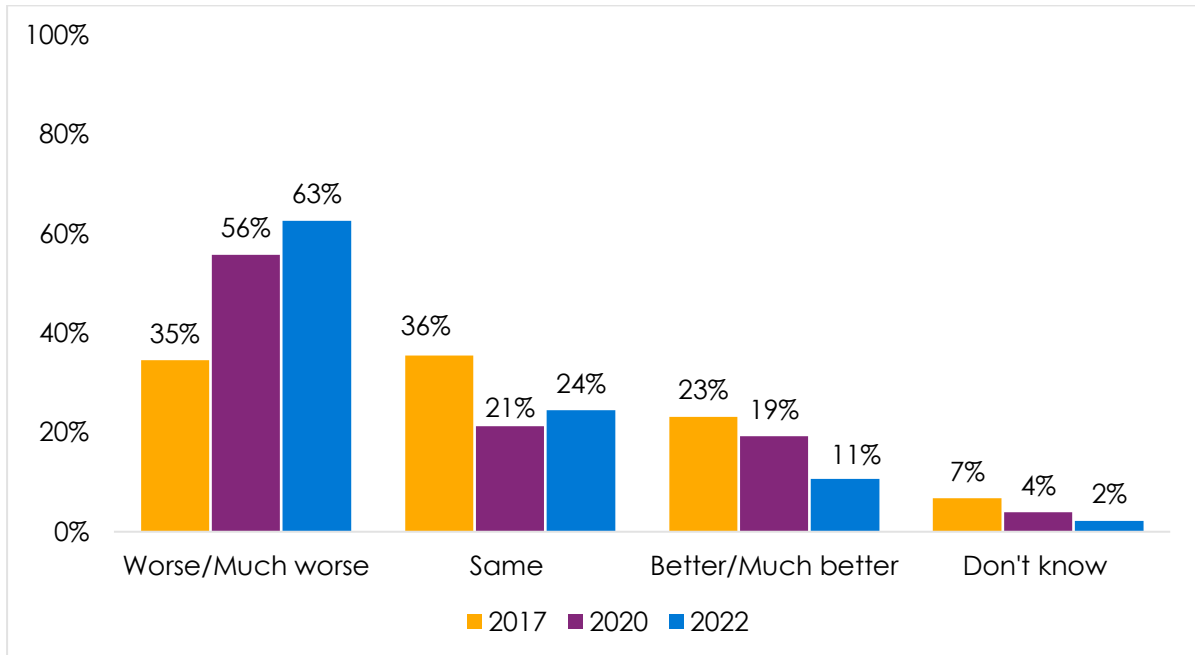
Respondents were asked: Let's start with your general view about the current direction of our country. Some people might think the country is going in the wrong direction. Others may feel it is going in the right direction. So let me ask you about the overall direction of the country: Would you say that the country is going in the wrong direction or going in the right direction? (% who say "going in the wrong direction").

Figure 2: Economic condition of the country | Mauritius | 2014-2022



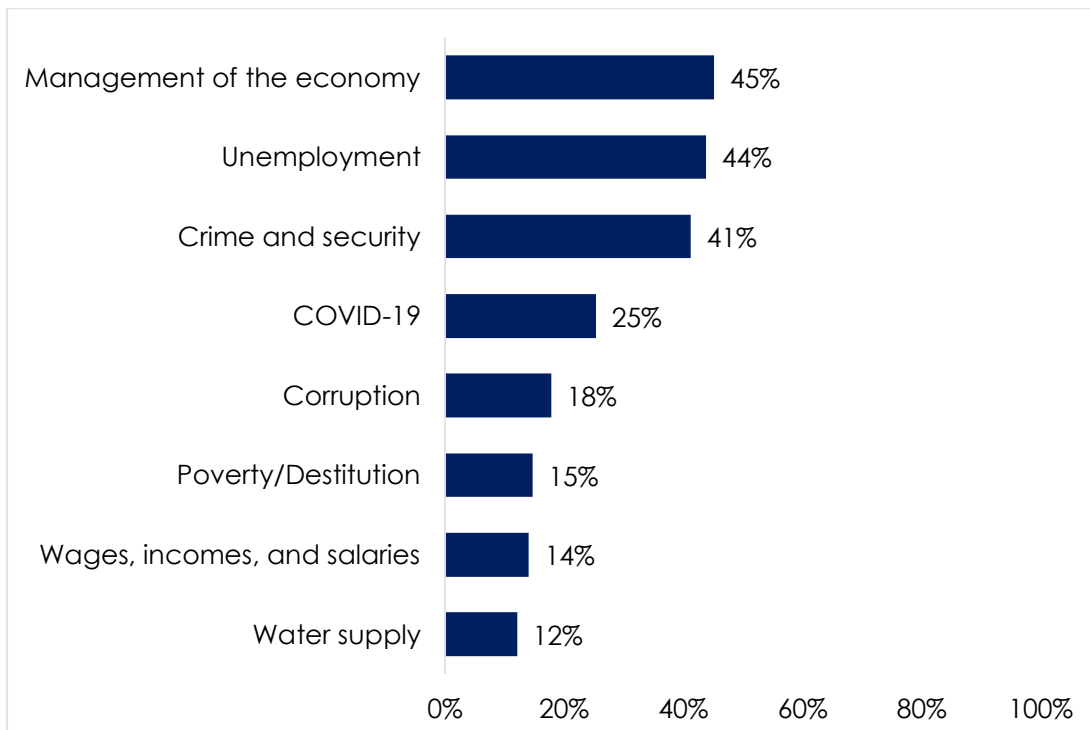
Respondents were asked: In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country?

Figure 3: Economic conditions in 12 months' time | Mauritius | 2017-2022



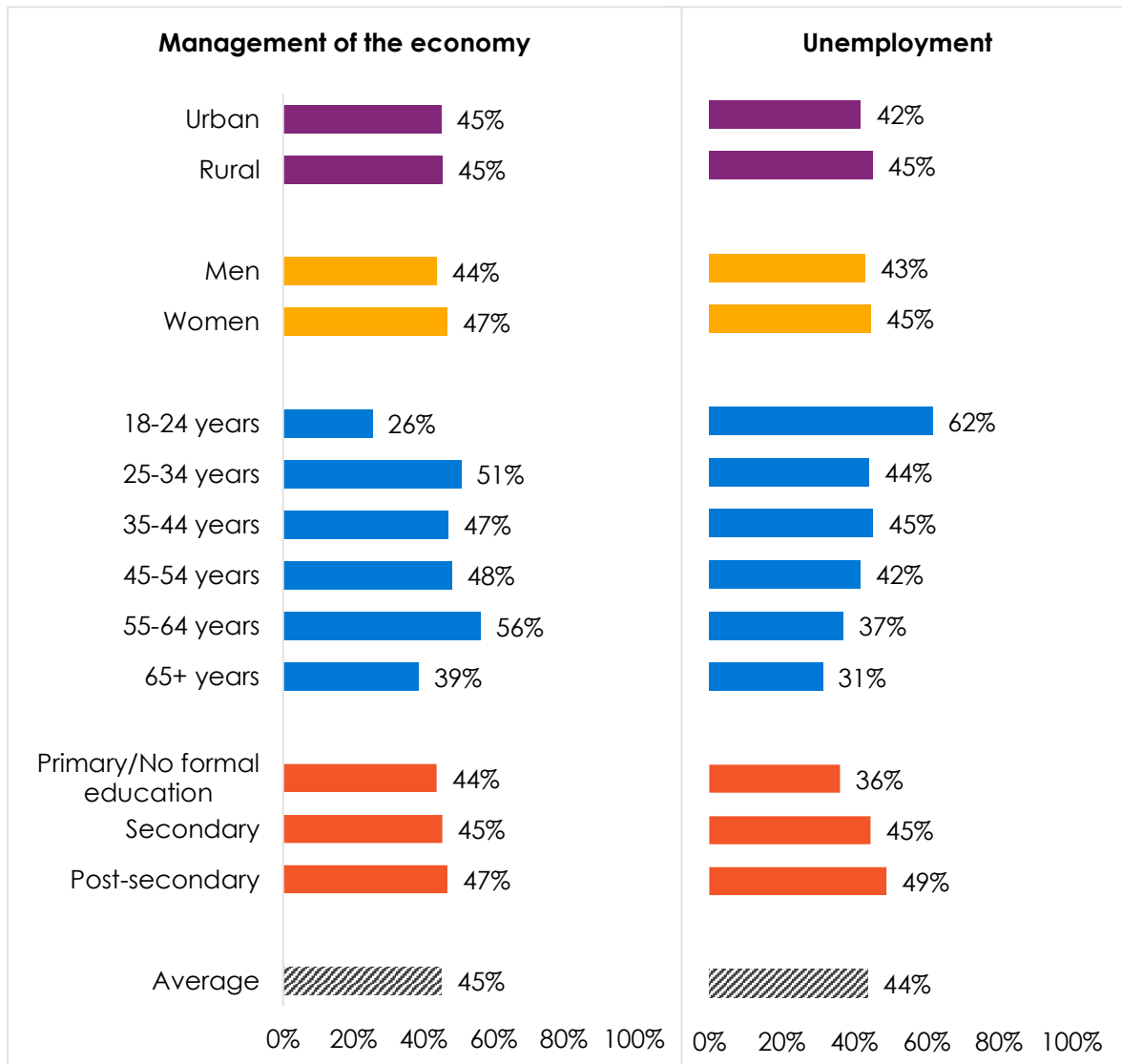
Respondents were asked: Looking ahead, do you expect economic conditions in this country to be better or worse in 12 months' time?

Figure 4: Most important problems | Mauritius | 2014-2022



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (up to three answers accepted per respondent)

Figure 5: Top 2 most important problems | by socio-demographic group | Mauritius
 | 2022



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