

Port-Louis, Mauritius
10 July 2024

News release

Growing number of Mauritians – but still a minority – see country as moving in the right direction, new Afrobarometer study shows

While a slim majority of Mauritians say the country is going in the wrong direction, the proportion who see the country as heading in the right direction has increased significantly since 2022, the most recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

Negative ratings of the country's economic condition have dropped by 20 percentage points compared to 2022, though pessimistic assessments of the Mauritian economy still outnumber optimistic ones.

The proportion of citizens who view their personal living conditions as good has also risen marginally compared to two years ago, but nearly half of citizens say their living conditions have worsened over the past 12 months. Poor respondents are markedly more likely to report deteriorating living conditions.

Mauritians perceive cost of living as the top priority that the government should address, followed by drugs, crime/security, and unemployment.

Key findings

- A slim majority (53%) of Mauritians say the country is going in the wrong direction, though the share who see Mauritius as moving in the right direction has increased from 29% in 2022 to 41% in 2024 (Figure 1).
- Similarly, the proportion of citizens who rate the country's economic condition as "fairly bad" or "very bad" has declined from 63% in 2022 to 43% (Figure 2).
- Nearly half (47%) of Mauritians say their personal living conditions are "fairly good" or "very good," while one-quarter (25%) describe them as bad (Figure 3).
 - Positive assessments of personal living conditions are twice as common among well-off citizens as among those experiencing high lived poverty (58% vs. 28%) (Figure 4).
- A plurality (41%) of citizens say their living conditions have worsened over the preceding year (Figure 5).
 - Poor citizens (69%) are by far the most likely to report deteriorating living conditions.
- The cost of living is the most important problem that Mauritians want their government to address, cited by more than four in 10 respondents (44%) as one of their top three priorities (Figure 6).
 - Second on the list is drugs, cited by 37% of respondents, followed by crime and security (27%) and unemployment (22%).

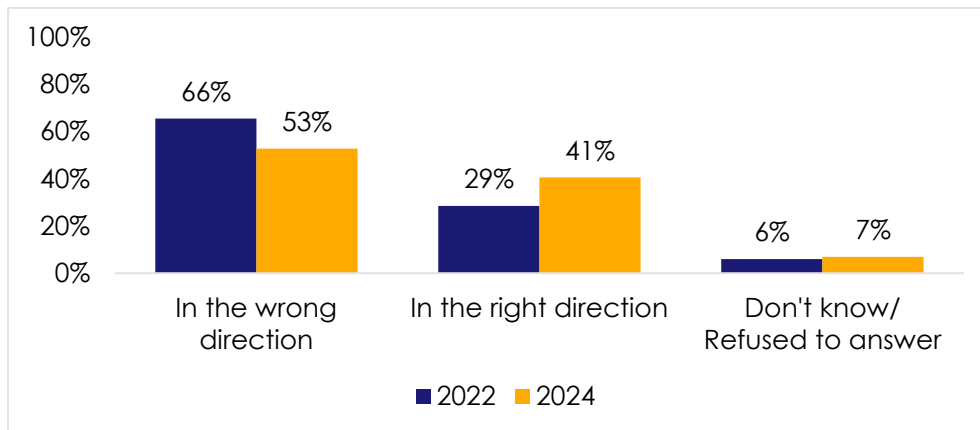
Afrobarometer surveys

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. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys 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, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Mauritians from 24 April to 11 May 2024. 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, 2020, and 2022.

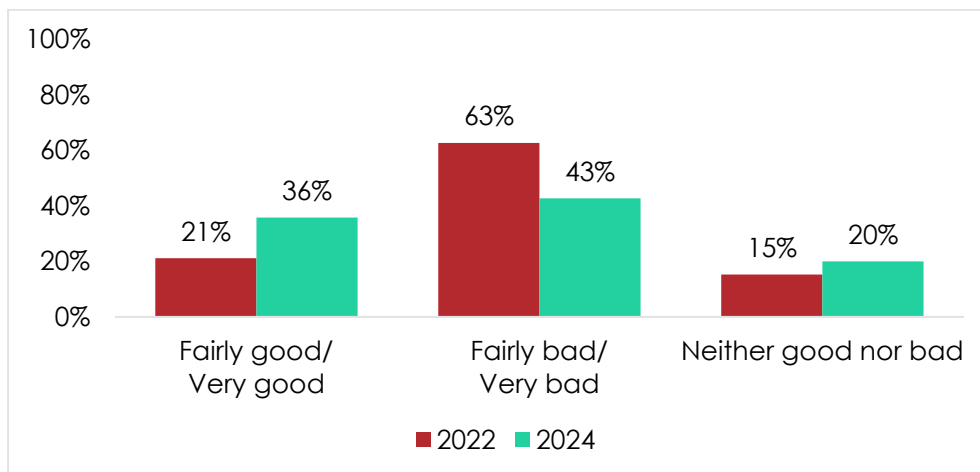
Charts

Figure 1: Country's overall direction | Mauritius | 2022–2024



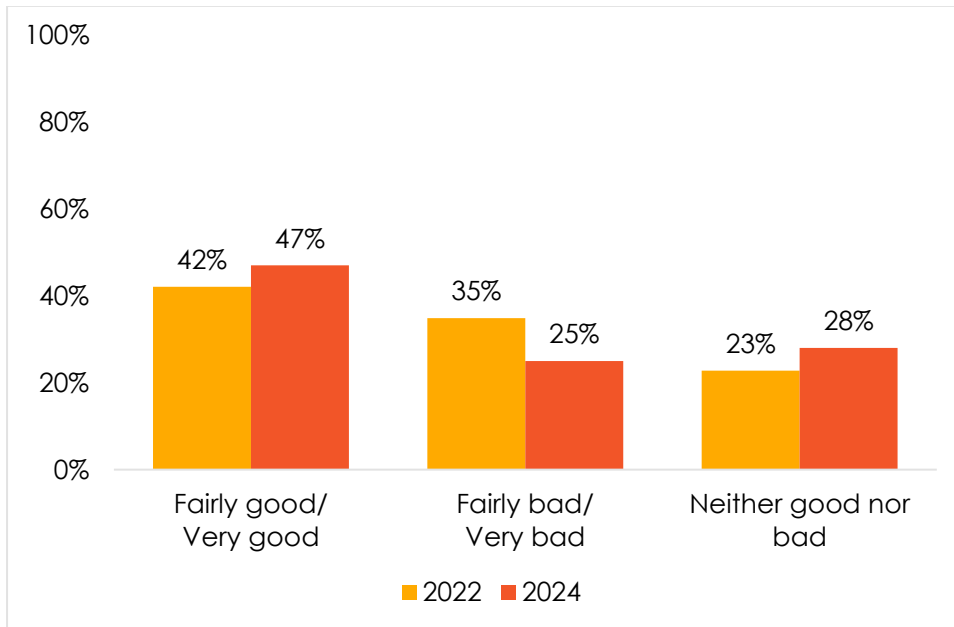
Respondents were asked: *Let's start with your general view about the current direction of our country. Some people might think the country is going in the wrong direction. Others may feel it is going in the right direction. So let me ask you about the overall direction of the country: Would you say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

Figure 2: Economic condition of the country | Mauritius | 2022–2024



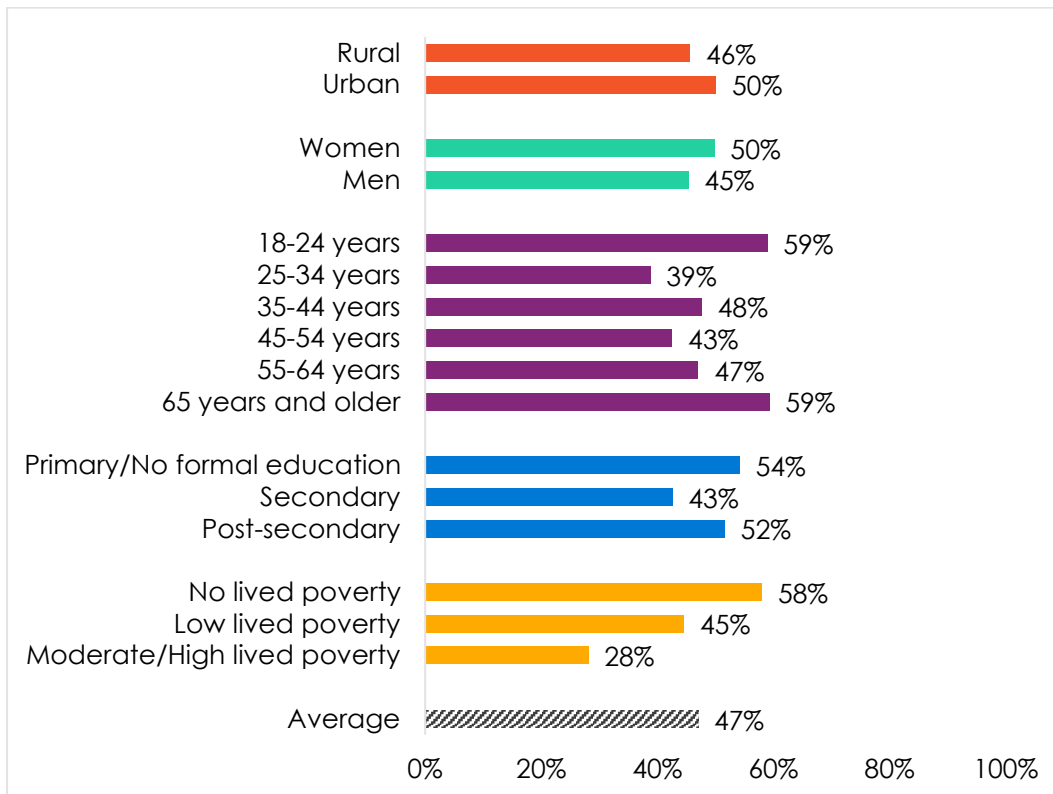
Respondents were asked: *In general, how would you describe the present economic condition of this country?*

Figure 3: Personal living conditions | Mauritius | 2022-2024



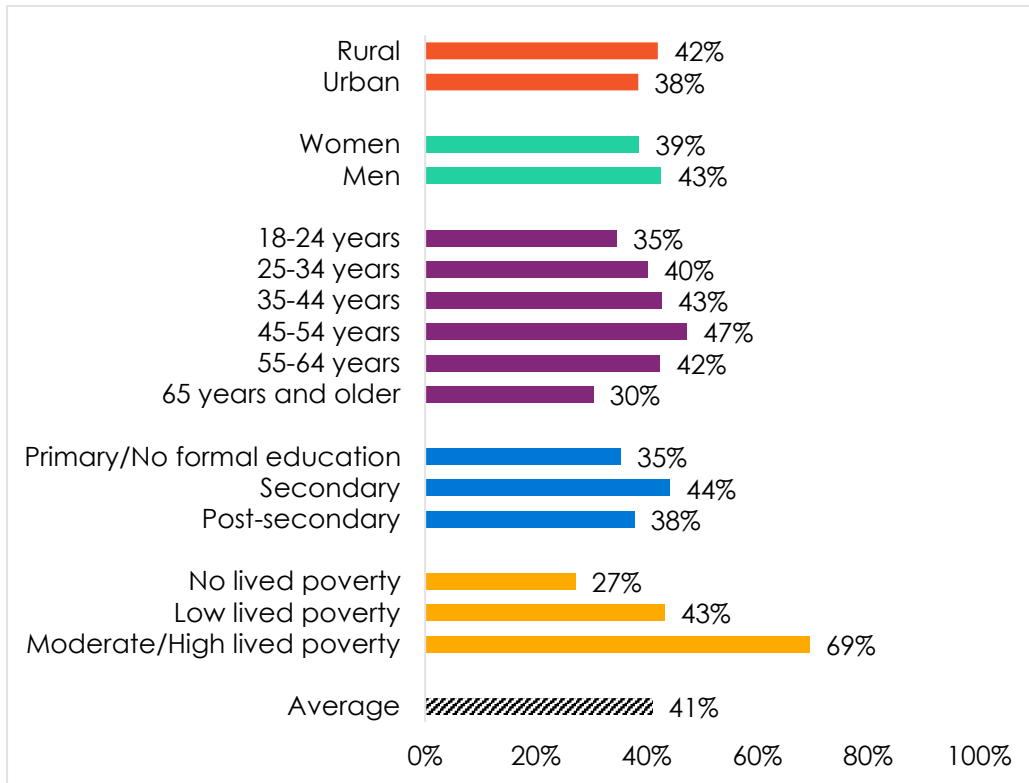
Respondents were asked: In general, how would you describe your own present living conditions?

Figure 4: Positive evaluations of personal living conditions | by demographic group | Mauritius | 2024



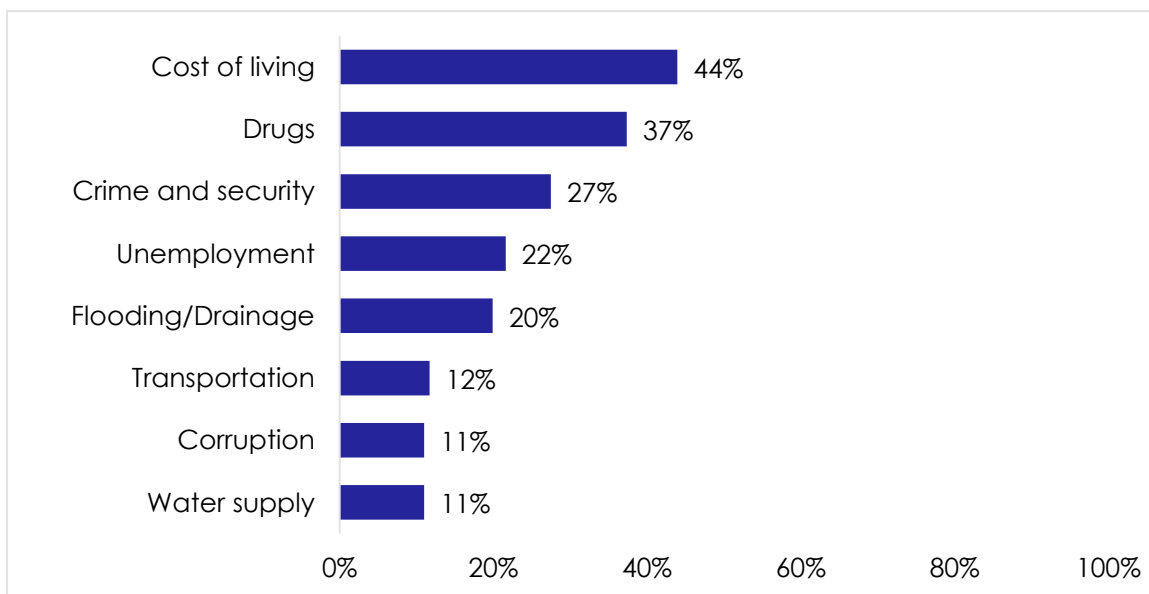
Respondents were asked: In general, how would you describe your own present living conditions? (% who say "fairly good" or "very good")

Figure 5: Living conditions are worse than 12 months ago | by demographic group
 | Mauritius | 2024



Respondents were asked: Looking back, how do you rate your present living conditions compared to 12 months ago? (% who say "worse" or "much worse")

Figure 6: Most important problems | Mauritius | 2024



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing this country that government should address? (Up to three answers per respondent were recorded. The figure shows the % of respondents who cite each problem among their three priorities.)

For more information, please contact:

StraConsult
L. Amédée Darga
Telephone: +230 210 70 33
Email: straconsult@intnet.mu

Visit us online at:
www.straconsult.com
www.afrobarometer.org

Follow our releases on #VoicesAfrica.

