

The Print media

The press enjoys a long tradition of freedom and pluralism. The Mauritian press is among the oldest in the world. The first paper, *Annonces, Affiches et Avis divers pour les Colonies des Isles de France et de Bourbon*, was printed in 1773.

Since then, more than one thousand newspapers and periodicals have appeared. This figure may seem fairly high for a small island like Mauritius, but it should be pointed out that a large number of these publications have had relatively short lives. About two-thirds of them have been in existence for less than five years.

Today the country has nine dailies (six in mainly French with a number of articles in English), and around 20 weeklies as well as a number of periodicals appearing at less frequent intervals. These papers reflect the plurality of ideas and interests of the varied social structure of the country, and represent one of the active elements of a lively democracy. The freedom they enjoy is clearly evidenced by the wide coverage and vigorous editorial comment on varied issues of public interest. There is no state control or censorship of the press, but it is subject to the general laws on publications (notification, reproduction of printers imprint, sedition, defamation, right of reply etc).

Broadcasting

Radio services are provided throughout the country by the national broadcaster, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), and three private radio stations. Television is provided by the MBC as well as by satellite television and broadband operators.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation is a corporate body set up under an Act of Parliament in June 1964. It is independent in the conduct of its day to day business and other activities. It is administered and controlled by a board which is appointed by the Government.

From 1944 to 1964 broadcasting had been under the control of a government department, the Mauritius Broadcasting Service. Prior to the Second World War, broadcasting operations were carried out by a small commercial station known as Radio Maurice. At the outbreak of the war, Government assumed partial control over the station.

Television was inaugurated on 8 February 1965. Widely considered as a means of diffusion of information, education and entertainment and intercultural cohesion, television has penetrated almost every home in Mauritius and Rodrigues. Colour television became a reality in December 1975 and since March 1981, international news are illustrated by daily satellite feeds. Today, many international events, including sports are shown live. Since 1999, there is a round the clock transmission of television programmes on the MBC channels.

Digital terrestrial television was introduced in September 2005. At present, the MBC broadcasts its wide array of programmes on 17 TV channels and on six Radio channels. Eleven out of the 17 TV channels are satellite fed. MBC Television stopped broadcasting on analog on 17 June 2015.

New players joined the local audiovisual landscape following the liberalisation of the airwaves in 2002. Along with MBC radio, three private radio stations offer a wide range of entertainment and news programmes throughout the island.

According to Statistics Mauritius, the percentage of households with a television set in 2014 was 97.1 (with 14.3% possessing more than one television set and 27% subscribing to paid television channels).

Radio/Television Stations

Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation

Radio One

Radio Plus

Top FM