

RAINFALL DATA

Mauritius with an area of about 1865 km² receives an average annual rainfall of 1993 mm, equivalent to a volume of 3700 Mm³ of water. Most of this rainfall is received in Summer, representing about 70 % of average annual rainfall (Fig 2.1) especially during cyclonic season that extend from December to April.

It can also be noted that there is a decrease in the annual long term mean rainfall over the island throughout time as shown in table below.

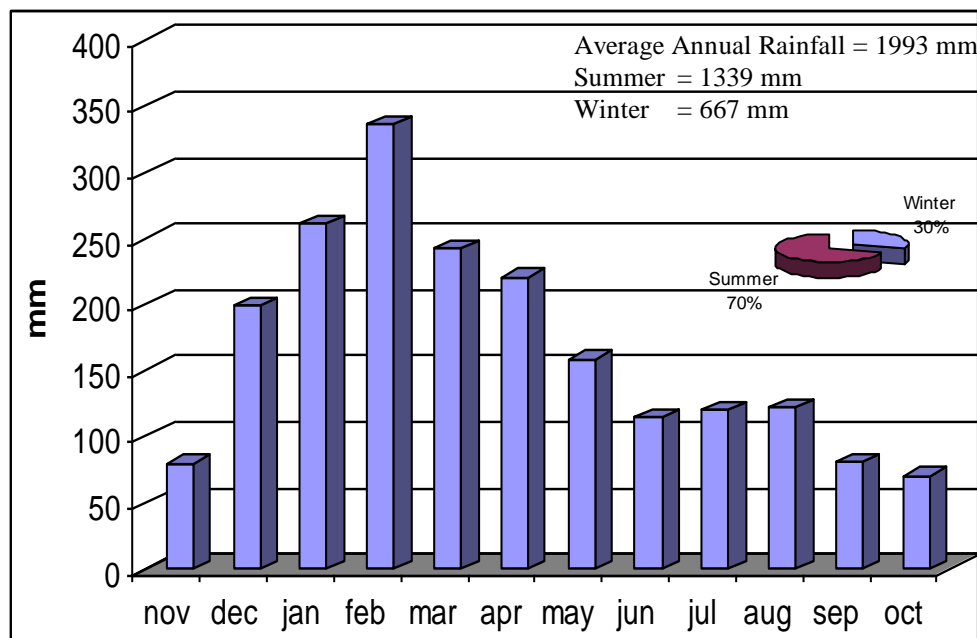
Period	Annual Long Term Mean Rainfall (mm)
1931-1960	2260
1961-1990	2100
1971-2000	1993

Table 2.1: Annual long term mean rainfall over Mauritius for different periods

Fig. 2.2, Fig. 2.3 and Fig. 2.4 show the Isohyetal maps for the period 1931-1960, 1961-1990 and 1971-2000 respectively

Although Mauritius occupies an area of only 1865 km², there is a high variation in rainfall over very short distances throughout the island owing to its topography. Annual mean rainfall varies from 1400 mm on the eastern coast to 4000 mm on the Central Plateau and 600 mm on the western coast as illustrated in the Isohyetal map for period 1971-2000, (Fig. 2.4).

The histogram below illustrates the average monthly rainfall pattern over the Mauritius for period 1971 to 2000.



Source: Meteorological Services

**Fig 2.1 Long Term Average Rainfall Over Mauritius
Period 1971 – 2000**

Rainfall is monitored at 250 stations spread over the island. 220 stations operated by the Sugar Estates are measuring the total daily rainfall. 30 continuous recording stations provide data about intensity and duration of rainfall. Data for 14 selected representative rainfall stations (Fig. 2.5) spread all over the island are presented in Tables 2.2 to 2.15 in which the monthly and annual rainfall for period 2001 to 2005 are compared with long term mean rainfall.