

International Travel and Tourism - 1st Quarter 1996

Passenger Traffic

(i) Total

During the first quarter of 1996, Mauritius registered a total of 144,500 passenger arrivals against 152,500 departures, i.e. an excess of 8,000 departures over arrivals. Compared to the first quarter of 1995, these figures represented an increase of 12.1% in arrivals and 7.6% in departures.

(ii) Mauritian residents

International movements of Mauritian residents represented 16% of total arrivals and 17% of total departures, the respective figures being 23,100 and 25,900 respectively. These figures, compared to the first quarter of 1995, showed increases of 4% in arrivals and 2% in departures.

The major country visited was Reunion Island which accounted for 29% of total departures. Other major countries visited were, in order of importance: United Kingdom (13%), France (13%), India (10%), Republic of South Africa (10%), Singapore (7%) and Australia (4%).

Tourist Arrivals

Total tourist arrivals for the first quarter of 1996 numbered 115,300 compared to 102,200 for the corresponding period of 1995, i.e. an increase of nearly 13%. Besides, about 2,600 excursionists or "same day" visitors, i.e. those arriving and leaving on the same day, visited the country during that period.

"Holiday tourists" accounted for 93.1% of the total tourist arrivals, while 3.3% were attributed to business purposes and 2.6% to transit passengers.

Arrivals from Europe recorded an increase of 17.4% during the first quarter of 1996 compared to 1995. Nearly all European markets witnessed double-digit growth. Major markets such as France (+13.4%), United Kingdom (+7.2%) and Germany (+10.6%) registered encouraging performances during that period. Arrivals from Switzerland went up by 29.6% and from Italy by 19.7%. However, arrivals from Spain were fewer (-24.8%).

Among the minor and emerging European markets, arrivals from Austria nearly doubled (+97.9%) while those from Belgium and Sweden increased by 74.8% and 71.4% respectively.

Tourist arrivals from Africa rose by 4.6%, contributed mostly by a 24% increase from the Republic of South Africa. Positive performances were also recorded from two minor and neighbouring markets: Malagasy Republic (+53.6%) and Seychelles (+44.7%). On the other hand, fewer arrivals were registered from Reunion Island (- 4.5%), our major short haul market.

The Asian market grew by 8.9% with favorable performances from all countries except the People's Republic of China (a decline of 183 in tourist arrivals). The number of arrivals from India grew by 9.3%, from Hong Kong by 46.5%, from Malaysia by 32.1%, from Japan by 7.6% and from Singapore by 5.7%.

Oceania recorded a remarkable growth of 41.2% with an increase of 42.3% in arrivals from Australia.

Tourist arrivals from North America have shown signs of improvement in the first quarter of 1996 compared to 1995: the U.S. market went up by 16.6% while the Canadian market expanded by 23.4%.

Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first quarter of 1996 is estimated at 1.2 million, representing an increase of 13% over the corresponding quarter of last year.

Hotel Statistics

At the end of March 1996, there were 95 registered hotels in operation, with a total room capacity of 6,450 and 13,300 bedplaces.

The average room occupancy rates during the first quarter of 1996 were estimated at 69% for all hotels and 78% for large hotels. Corresponding figures for bed occupancy rates were 61% and 69% respectively.

Gross Tourist Receipts

Gross tourist receipts for the first quarter is estimated at 2,318 million rupees, i.e. an increase of 28% over 1995. The average expenditure per tourist was around Rs. 20,100 compared to Rs. 17,800 (+13%) for the first quarter of last year.

Forecast

Based on the favourable growth registered in tourist arrivals during the first quarter, indications are that arrivals for the year 1996 will be around 470,000, (+11%) with a total gross receipts of the order of 9,000 million rupees.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Planning and Development

PORT LOUIS

June 1996

Explanatory Notes

1. Tourist

A tourist is defined as a non-resident staying in the country for more than 24 hours but less than a year and is not involved in any gainful occupation during his/her stay.

2. Transit

Transit passengers are those who stop over in the country for flight connections to other destinations. There are two types of transit passengers:

Type I : Passengers who do not leave the transit area of the airport or the port.

Type II: Passengers who leave the airport or port and stay in the country for more than 24 hours for only flight connection purposes.

Only Type II transit passengers, as defined above, are included in the definition of "Tourists".

3. Excursionist or Same-day Visitor

An excursionist is a non-resident who stays in the country for less than 24 hours, other than those who do not leave the airport.

4. Tourist Nights

Tourist nights are the total number of nights spent in the country by tourists during the period under review.

5. Large Hotels

Large hotels are well established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms.

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic by month 1994 - 1996

Month	1994		1995		1996	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	52,652	60,384	52,976	63,363	53,912	63,611
February	34,478	38,941	33,869	34,812	38,913	41,492
March	40,099	37,363	42,045	43,615	51,665	47,443
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>127,229</u>	<u>136,688</u>	<u>128,890</u>	<u>141,790</u>	<u>144,490</u>	<u>152,546</u>
April	40,446	44,779	41,549	42,055		
May	39,840	42,809	41,144	42,209		
June	33,226	30,724	32,986	33,131		
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>113,512</u>	<u>118,312</u>	<u>115,679</u>	<u>117,395</u>		
1st Semester	240,741	255,000	244,569	259,185		
July	44,863	37,654	47,760	38,320		
August	54,205	59,733	56,022	61,741		
September	38,611	39,332	39,065	41,035		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>137,679</u>	<u>136,719</u>	<u>142,847</u>	<u>141,096</u>		
October	48,980	45,904	50,470	45,733		
November	44,666	46,528	49,691	53,748		
December	56,499	44,181	61,871	48,844		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>150,145</u>	<u>136,613</u>	<u>162,032</u>	<u>148,325</u>		
2nd Semester	287,824	273,332	304,879	289,421		
Whole Year	528,565	528,332	549,448	548,606		

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian Residents by country of disembarkation,
1st Quarter 1995/1996**

Country of disembarkation	1st Quarter1995	1st Quarter1996	% Change
EUROPE	7,912	8,134	2.8
Belgium	98	109	11.2
France	2,982	3,351	12.4
Germany	477	362	-24.1
Italy	544	437	-19.7
Switzerland	333	362	8.7
United Kingdom	3,449	3,453	0.1
Other European	29	60	106.9
AFRICA	10,919	11,597	6.2
Kenya	253	328	29.6
Malagasy Republic	587	594	1.2
Reunion	7,458	7,603	1.9
Seychelles	104	297	185.6
S. Africa, Rep. of	2,264	2,497	10.3
Zimbabwe	182	208	14.3
Other African	71	70	-1.4
ASIA	5,321	5,147	-3.3
Hong Kong	508	540	6.3
India	2,808	2,611	-7.0
Malaysia	70	135	92.9
Singapore	1,789	1,780	-0.5
Other Asian	146	81	-44.5
OCEANIA	996	990	-0.6
Australia	996	989	-0.7
Other Oceanian	0	1	0.0
AMERICA	84	59	-29.8
U.S.A	24	23	-4.2
Canada	60	36	-40.0
Other American			
NOT STATED	129	5	-96.1
All Countries	25,361	25,932	2.3

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1992 - 1996

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourist receipts** (Rs Mn)	
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces				
1992	84	5,271	10,917	335,400	4,110	4,655	
1993	85	5,341	11,058	374,630	4,610	5,362	
1994	90	5,888	12,187	400,526	4,359 *	6,415	
1995	95	5,977	12,359	422,463	4,435	7,472 *	
1995	1st Qr.	90	5,888	12,187	102,153	1,072	1,815
	2nd Qr.	92	5,922	12,255	88,212	926	1,548
	<u>1st Semester.</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>5,922</u>	<u>12,255</u>	<u>190,365</u>	<u>1,998</u>	<u>3,363</u>
	3rd Qr.	94	5,977	12,359	105,746	1,110	1,868
	4th Qr.	95	5,977	12,359	126,352	1,326	2,241
	<u>2nd Semester</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>5,977</u>	<u>12,359</u>	<u>232,098</u>	<u>2,436</u>	<u>4,109</u>
1996	1st Qr.	95	6,444	13,304	115,349	1,210	2,318

* Revised

** Figures for 1995 and 1996 are provisional

**Table 4 : - Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,
1st Quarter 1995/1996**

Purpose of visit	1st Qr. 1995	1st Qr. 1996	% Change
Holiday	94,940	107,369	13.1
Business	3,395	3,791	11.7
Transit	2,946	2,985	1.3
Conference	215	635	195.3
Sports	119	225	89.1
Other & Not Stated	538	344	-36.1
Total	102,153	115,349	12.9

Table 5:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1994 - 1996

Month	Number		
	1994	1995	1996
January	41,757	42,528	42,743
February	27,268	26,587	30,870
March	31,738	33,038	41,736
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>100,763</u>	<u>102,153</u>	<u>115,349</u>
April	30,350	34,428	
May	30,685	30,607	
June	22,537	23,177	
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>83,572</u>	<u>88,212</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>184,335</i>	<i>190,365</i>	
July	32,211	33,833	
August	40,319	42,985	
September	28,605	28,928	
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>101,135</u>	<u>105,746</u>	
October	39,139	40,620	
November	35,037	39,437	
December	40,880	46,295	
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>115,056</u>	<u>126,352</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>216,191</i>	<i>232,098</i>	
Whole Year	400,526	422,463	

Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 1995/1996

Country of residence	1st. Quarter		
	1995	1996	% change
EUROPE	59,373	69,704	17.4
Austria	1,351	2,674	97.9
Belgium	1,058	1,849	74.8
France	29,304	33,228	13.4
Germany	10,871	12,022	10.6
Italy	4,935	5,905	19.7
Netherlands	250	342	36.8
Spain	596	448	-24.8
Sweden	535	917	71.4
Switzerland	2,913	3,776	29.6
United Kingdom	5,860	6,283	7.2
Commonwealth of Independent States	n.a	478	-
Other European	1,700	1,782	4.8
AFRICA	35,807	37,468	4.6
Comoros	326	262	-19.6
Kenya	208	151	-27.4
Malagasy Rep.	1,221	1,875	53.6
Reunion	23,059	22,024	-4.5
Seychelles	667	965	44.7
S/ Africa Rep. of	8,972	11,121	24.0
Zambia	112	41	-63.4
Zimbabwe	620	344	-44.5
Other African	622	685	10.1
ASIA	5,094	5,546	8.9
Hong Kong	372	545	46.5
India	1,831	2,002	9.3
Japan	930	1,001	7.6
Malaysia	224	296	32.1
People's Rep. of China	501	318	-36.5
Singapore	684	723	5.7
Other Asian	552	661	19.7
OCEANIA	970	1,370	41.2
Australia	897	1,276	42.3
Other Oceanian	73	94	28.8
AMERICA	820	961	17.2
USA	482	562	16.6
Canada	248	306	23.4
Other American	90	93	3.3
OTHER & NOT STATED	89	300	237.1
All Countries	102,153	115,349	12.9

Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all hotels, 1994 - 1996

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1994	1995	1996*
January	75	72	72
February	67	62	67
March	65	64	69
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>69</u>
April	64	61	
May	63	64	
June	54	59	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>61</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>64</i>	
July	57	53	
August	66	69	
September	68	63	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>62</u>	
October	70	74*	
November	79	73*	
December	64	71*	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>73*</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>67*</i>	
Whole Year	66	66*	

* Provisional

Table 8:- Monthly bed occupancy rates for all hotels, 1994 - 1996

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1994	1995	1996*
January	68	65	63
February	57	57	58
March	60	57	61
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>61</u>
April	59	54	
May	57	55	
June	48	52	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>54</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>57</i>	
July	52	48	
August	61	64	
September	61	57	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>57</u>	
October	66	68 *	
November	69	68 *	
December	60	62 *	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>66 *</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>61 *</i>	
Whole Year	60	59 *	

* Provisional

Table 9:-Monthly room occupancy rates for large hotels, 1994 - 1996

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1994	1995	1996*
January	82	78	80
February	77	72	77
March	73	71	76
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>78</u>
April	74	72	
May	71	72	
June	61	58	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>68</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	73	71	
July	64	61	
August	70	75	
September	76	73	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>70</u>	
October	80	87*	
November	90	83*	
December	70	77*	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>83*</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	75	76*	
Whole Year	74	73*	

* Provisional

Table 10 :- Monthly bed occupancy rates for large hotels, 1994 - 1996

Month	Bed occupancy rate (%)		
	1994	1995	1996*
January	74	72	71
February	70	67	68
March	69	65	67
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>69</u>
April	70	66	
May	66	64	
June	56	51	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>61</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	67	64	
July	61	57	
August	66	71	
September	71	67	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>65</u>	
October	78	80 *	
November	81	80 *	
December	66	69 *	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>77</u> *	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	70	71 *	
Whole Year	69	67 *	

* Provisional

