

International Travel and Tourism, 1st Quarter 1997

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) Total

During the first quarter of 1997, a total of 166,600 passenger arrivals were registered against 181,100 departures, i.e. an excess of 14,500 departures over arrivals. Compared to the same period of last year, these figures represented an increase of 15% in arrivals and 19% in departures.

Total arrivals included 1,900 "excursionists", i.e. persons arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these, 770 (41%) came from Reunion Island and 310 (16%) from France.

(ii) Mauritian residents

International movement of Mauritian residents was made up of 26,900 arrivals and 30,700 departures, representing 16% of total arrivals and 17% of total departures respectively during the first quarter. Compared to the first quarter of 1996, there have been increases of 16% in arrivals and 19% in departures of Mauritian residents. The major destinations were:- Reunion Island (28%), France (13%), United Kingdom (11%), Republic of South Africa (10%) and India (9%).

2. Tourist arrivals

Table 6 shows the breakdown of tourist arrivals by country of residence for the first quarter of 1997, compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Tourist arrivals during the first quarter increased by 17% from 115,300 in 1996 to 134,700 in 1997. This favourable performance is mainly due to sustained growth from all our established markets together with the exceptional growth (+82 %) from Italy.

Most (93%) of the tourists came on holiday while 3% came for business and 2% were in transit.

Arrivals from Europe, with a share of 62%, have known an increase of 20% from 69,700 to 83,800 for the period under review. The Italian market has shown a boost of 82% from 5,910 to 10,750 and has now positioned itself among the three major markets on this continent. This outstanding performance is mainly due to additional flights on this destination. Following aggressive marketing campaigns, arrivals from United Kingdom have known a significant growth of 37% to reach 8,600 for the first quarter. France and Germany have registered growths of 10% and 7% respectively. Among new markets being developed, remarkable growths have been noted as follows:- Netherlands (82%), Sweden (58%), Spain (23%), Austria (11%) and Belgium (8%).

Tourist arrivals from Africa, with a share of 30%, grew by 9%. There was an increase of 2,200 (10%) arrivals from our major short-haul market, Reunion Island from 22,000 to 24,200, while arrivals from South Africa went up by 4% to reach 11,600 by the end of March 1997. Seychelles and Malagasy Republic have known 17% and 10% growths during the same period.

The Asian market accounted for about 5% of total tourist arrivals for the first quarter of 1997. India remains the major source from this continent with 2,500 arrivals (+26%). Arrivals from Singapore went up from 700 to 800 while those from Japan have remained at around 1,000.

The Oceanian market maintained an upward trend with a growth of 27%. This performance is mainly attributable to Australia with an increase of 29% in arrivals from 1,280 to 1,640 for the first quarter.

The American market went up by 21% with 1,200 tourists for the first three months of 1997. The two major generating countries were USA and Canada with 650 and 410 arrivals respectively.

3. Tourist nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first quarter of 1997 is estimated at 1.35 million, representing an increase of 15% over the corresponding period of last year.

4. Hotel Statistics

At the end of March 1997, there were 90 registered hotels in operation of which 25 are considered large, i.e. well established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms. The total room capacity for all registered hotels was 6,661 and 13,818 bedplaces while for large hotels the room capacity was 4,430 and 9,056 bedplaces.

The average room occupancy rates during the first quarter of 1997 were estimated at 69% for all registered hotels and 82% for large hotels. Corresponding figures for bed occupancy rates were 61% and 73% respectively.

5. Gross Tourist Receipts

Gross tourism receipts for the first quarter is estimated at 2,593 million rupees, i.e. an increase of 12% over the same period in 1996.

6. Forecast Year 1997

Based on the favourable growth registered in tourist arrivals during the first quarter, indications are that total arrivals for 1997 will be around 550,000 (+13%) and gross receipts of the order of 10,500 million rupees.

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
PORT LOUIS
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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 1995 - 1997

| Month | 1995 | | 1996 | | 1997 | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Arrivals | Departures | Arrivals | Departures | Arrivals | Departures |
| January | 52,976 | 63,363 | 53,912 | 63,611 | 62,422 | 72,961 |
| February | 33,869 | 34,812 | 38,913 | 41,492 | 45,956 | 48,704 |
| March | 42,045 | 43,615 | 51,665 | 47,443 | 58,264 | 59,468 |
| <u>1st Quarter</u> | <u>128,890</u> | <u>141,790</u> | <u>144,490</u> | <u>152,546</u> | <u>166,642</u> | <u>181,133</u> |
| April | 41,549 | 42,055 | 49,825 | 54,720 | | |
| May | 41,144 | 42,209 | 46,396 | 45,726 | | |
| June | 32,986 | 33,131 | 39,253 | 39,899 | | |
| <u>2nd Quarter</u> | <u>115,679</u> | <u>117,395</u> | <u>135,474</u> | <u>140,345</u> | | |
| 1st Semester | 244,569 | 259,185 | 279,964 | 292,891 | | |
| July | 47,760 | 38,320 | 48,602 | 39,817 | | |
| August | 56,022 | 61,741 | 65,588 | 71,365 | | |
| September | 39,065 | 41,035 | 48,790 | 49,907 | | |
| <u>3rd Quarter</u> | <u>142,847</u> | <u>141,096</u> | <u>162,980</u> | <u>161,089</u> | | |
| October | 50,470 | 45,733 | 57,262 | 51,312 | | |
| November | 49,691 | 53,748 | 58,536 | 59,987 | | |
| December | 61,871 | 48,844 | 71,498 | 56,633 | | |
| <u>4th Quarter</u> | <u>162,032</u> | <u>148,325</u> | <u>187,296</u> | <u>167,932</u> | | |
| 2nd Semester | 304,879 | 289,421 | 350,276 | 329,021 | | |
| Whole Year | 549,448 | 548,606 | 630,240 | 621,912 | | |

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian Residents by country of disembarkation,
1st Quarter 1996/1997**

| Country of disembarkation | 1st. Quarter 1996 | 1st. Quarter 1997 | % Change |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| ALL COUNTRIES | 25,932 | 30,726 | 18.5 |
| EUROPE | 8,134 | 9,250 | 13.7 |
| Belgium | 109 | 165 | 51.4 |
| France | 3,351 | 3,942 | 17.6 |
| Germany | 362 | 295 | -18.5 |
| Italy | 437 | 903 | 106.6 |
| Switzerland | 362 | 460 | 27.1 |
| United Kingdom | 3,453 | 3,311 | -4.1 |
| Other European | 60 | 174 | 190.0 |
| AFRICA | 11,597 | 13,232 | 14.1 |
| Kenya | 328 | 293 | -10.7 |
| Malagasy Republic | 594 | 698 | 17.5 |
| Reunion | 7,603 | 8,597 | 13.1 |
| Seychelles | 297 | 279 | -6.1 |
| S. Africa, Rep. of | 2,497 | 3,095 | 23.9 |
| Zimbabwe | 208 | 237 | 13.9 |
| Other African | 70 | 33 | -52.9 |
| ASIA | 5,147 | 7,106 | 38.1 |
| Hong Kong | 540 | 710 | 31.5 |
| India | 2,611 | 2,668 | 2.2 |
| Malaysia | 135 | 114 | -15.6 |
| Singapore | 1,780 | 1,960 | 10.1 |
| Other Asian | 81 | 1,654 ^{1/} | 1942.0 |
| OCEANIA | 990 | 1,029 | 3.9 |
| Australia | 989 | 1,029 | 4.0 |
| Other Oceanian | 1 | 0 | -100.0 |
| AMERICA | 59 | 95 | 61.0 |
| U.S.A | 23 | 20 | -13.0 |
| Canada | 36 | 72 | 100.0 |
| Other American | 0 | 3 | |
| NOT STATED | 5 | 14 | 180.0 |

^{1/} including 1,568 from Saudi Arabia

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1993 - 1997

| Year | Number as at end of period | | | Tourist arrivals (Number) | Tourist nights (000) | Tourist receipts* (Rs million) | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| | Hotels | Rooms | Bedplaces | | | | |
| 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 | |
| 1996 | 90 | 6,668 | 13,833 | 486,867 | 4,958 ** | 9,048 | |
| 1996 | 1st Qr. | 95 | 6,357 | 13,133 | 115,349 | 1,174 ** | 2,318 |
| | 2nd Qr. | 91 | 6,407 | 13,308 | 103,046 | 1,050 ** | 1,932 |
| | <u>1st Semester</u> | <u>91</u> | <u>6,407</u> | <u>13,308</u> | <u>218,395</u> | <u>2,224 **</u> | <u>4,250</u> |
| | 3rd Qr. | 90 | 6,382 | 13,259 | 122,684 | 1,250 ** | 2,106 |
| | 4th Qr. | <u>90</u> | 6,668 | 13,833 | 145,788 | 1,484 ** | 2,692 |
| | <u>2nd Semester</u> | <u>90</u> | <u>6,668</u> | <u>13,833</u> | <u>268,472</u> | <u>2,734 **</u> | <u>4,798</u> |
| | 1997 | 90 | 6,661 | 13,818 | 134,684 | 1,350 | 2,593 |

* Figures for 1996 & 1997 are provisional

** Revised

Table 4 : - Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, 1996/1997

| Purpose of visit | 1st. Quarter 1996 | 1st. Quarter 1997 | % Change |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Holiday | 107,369 | 125,466 | 16.9 |
| Business | 3,791 | 4,281 | 12.9 |
| Transit | 2,985 | 2,919 | -2.2 |
| Conference | 635 | 422 | -33.5 |
| Sports | 225 | 282 | 25.3 |
| Other & Not Stated | 344 | 1,314 | 282.0 |
| Total | 115,349 | 134,684 | 16.8 |

Table 5:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1995 - 1997

| Month | Number | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
| January | 42,528 | 42,743 | 50,507 |
| February | 26,587 | 30,870 | 37,254 |
| March | 33,038 | 41,736 | 46,923 |
| <u>1st Quarter</u> | <u>102,153</u> | <u>115,349</u> | <u>134,684</u> |
| April | 34,428 | 38,759 | |
| May | 30,607 | 36,303 | |
| June | 23,177 | 27,984 | |
| <u>2nd Quarter</u> | <u>88,212</u> | <u>103,046</u> | |
| <i>1st Semester</i> | <i>190,365</i> | <i>218,395</i> | |
| July | 33,833 | 35,656 | |
| August | 42,985 | 50,347 | |
| September | 28,928 | 36,681 | |
| <u>3rd Quarter</u> | <u>105,746</u> | <u>122,684</u> | |
| October | 40,620 | 45,930 | |
| November | 39,437 | 46,130 | |
| December | 46,295 | 53,728 | |
| <u>4th Quarter</u> | <u>126,352</u> | <u>145,788</u> | |
| <i>2nd Semester</i> | <i>232,098</i> | <i>268,472</i> | |
| Whole Year | 422,463 | 486,867 | |

Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 1996/1997

| Country of residence | 1st Quarter 1996 | 1st Quarter 1997 | % change |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| All Countries | 115,349 | 134,684 | 16.8 |
| EUROPE | 69,704 | 83,764 | 20.2 |
| Austria | 2,674 | 2,978 | 11.4 |
| Belgium | 1,849 | 1,988 | 7.5 |
| France | 33,228 | 36,473 | 9.8 |
| Germany | 12,022 | 12,914 | 7.4 |
| Italy | 5,905 | 10,749 | 82.0 |
| Netherlands | 342 | 622 | 81.9 |
| Spain | 448 | 550 | 22.8 |
| Sweden | 917 | 1,448 | 57.9 |
| Switzerland | 3,776 | 3,757 | -0.5 |
| United Kingdom | 6,283 | 8,613 | 37.1 |
| Commonwealth of Independent States | 478 | 683 | 42.9 |
| Other European | 1,782 | 2,989 | 67.7 |
| AFRICA | 37,468 | 40,985 | 9.4 |
| Comoros | 262 | 209 | -20.2 |
| Kenya | 151 | 279 | 84.8 |
| Malagasy Rep. | 1,875 | 2,061 | 9.9 |
| Reunion | 22,024 | 24,162 | 9.7 |
| Seychelles | 965 | 1,128 | 16.9 |
| S/ Africa Rep. of | 11,121 | 11,569 | 4.0 |
| Zimbabwe | 344 | 709 | 106.1 |
| Other African | 726 | 868 | 19.6 |
| ASIA | 5,546 | 7,021 | 26.6 |
| Hong Kong | 545 | 562 | 3.1 |
| India | 2,002 | 2,523 | 26.0 |
| Japan | 1,001 | 986 | -1.5 |
| Malaysia | 296 | 514 | 73.6 |
| People's Rep. of China | 318 | 393 | 23.6 |
| Singapore | 723 | 815 | 12.7 |
| Other Asian | 661 | 1,228 | 85.8 |
| OCEANIA | 1,370 | 1,733 | 26.5 |
| Australia | 1,276 | 1,642 | 28.7 |
| Other Oceanian | 94 | 91 | -3.2 |
| AMERICA | 961 | 1,166 | 21.3 |
| USA | 562 | 649 | 15.5 |
| Canada | 306 | 410 | 34.0 |
| Other American | 93 | 107 | 15.1 |
| OTHER & NOT STATED | 300 | 15 | -95.0 |

Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1995- 1997

| Month | Occupancy rate (%) | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1995 | 1996* | 1997* |
| January | 72 | 72 | 76 |
| February | 62 | 67 | 68 |
| March | 64 | 69 | 64 |
| <u>1st Quarter</u> | <u>66</u> | <u>69</u> | <u>69</u> |
| April | 61 | 71 | |
| May | 64 | 61 | |
| June | 59 | 50 | |
| <u>2nd Quarter</u> | <u>61</u> | <u>61</u> | |
| <i>1st Semester</i> | 64 | 65 | |
| July | 53 | 55 | |
| August | 69 | 69 | |
| September | 63 | 70 | |
| <u>3rd Quarter</u> | <u>62</u> | <u>64</u> | |
| October | 74 | 77 | |
| November | 73 | 83 | |
| December | 71 | 76 | |
| <u>4th Quarter</u> | <u>73</u> | <u>79</u> | |
| <i>2nd Semester</i> | 67 | 71 | |
| Whole Year | 66 | 68 | |

* Provisional

Table 8:- Monthly bed occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1995 - 1997

| Month | Occupancy rate (%) | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1995 | 1996* | 1997* |
| January | 65 | 63 | 67 |
| February | 57 | 58 | 60 |
| March | 57 | 61 | 56 |
| <u>1st Quarter</u> | <u>60</u> | <u>61</u> | <u>61</u> |
| April | 54 | 62 | |
| May | 55 | 54 | |
| June | 52 | 43 | |
| <u>2nd Quarter</u> | <u>54</u> | <u>53</u> | |
| <i>1st Semester</i> | <i>57</i> | <i>57</i> | |
| July | 48 | 48 | |
| August | 64 | 60 | |
| September | 57 | 60 | |
| <u>3rd Quarter</u> | <u>57</u> | <u>56</u> | |
| October | 68 | 69 | |
| November | 68 | 73 | |
| December | 62 | 66 | |
| <u>4th Quarter</u> | <u>66</u> | <u>69</u> | |
| <i>2nd Semester</i> | <i>61</i> | <i>62</i> | |
| Whole Year | 59 | 60 | |

* Provisional

Table 9:-Monthly room occupancy rates for large hotels, 1995 - 1997

| Month | Occupancy rate (%) | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1995 | 1996* | 1997* |
| January | 78 | 80 | 85 |
| February | 72 | 77 | 84 |
| March | 71 | 76 | 78 |
| <u>1st Quarter</u> | <u>74</u> | <u>78</u> | <u>82</u> |
| April | 72 | 76 | |
| May | 72 | 65 | |
| June | 58 | 53 | |
| <u>2nd Quarter</u> | <u>68</u> | <u>65</u> | |
| <i>1st Semester</i> | 71 | 71 | |
| July | 61 | 60 | |
| August | 75 | 72 | |
| September | 73 | 77 | |
| <u>3rd Quarter</u> | <u>70</u> | <u>69</u> | |
| October | 87 | 83 | |
| November | 83 | 88 | |
| December | 77 | 79 | |
| <u>4th Quarter</u> | <u>83</u> | <u>83</u> | |
| <i>2nd Semester</i> | 76 | 76 | |
| Whole Year | 73 | 74 | |

* Provisional

Table 10 :- Monthly bed occupancy rates for large hotels, 1995 - 1997

| Month | Bed occupancy rate (%) | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1995 | 1996* | 1997* |
| January | 72 | 71 | 75 |
| February | 67 | 68 | 74 |
| March | 65 | 67 | 69 |
| <u>1st Quarter</u> | <u>68</u> | <u>69</u> | <u>73</u> |
| April | 66 | 67 | |
| May | 64 | 57 | |
| June | 51 | 47 | |
| <u>2nd Quarter</u> | <u>61</u> | <u>57</u> | |
| <i>1st Semester</i> | 64 | 63 | |
| July | 57 | 53 | |
| August | 71 | 63 | |
| September | 67 | 68 | |
| <u>3rd Quarter</u> | <u>65</u> | <u>61</u> | |
| October | 80 | 76 | |
| November | 80 | 79 | |
| December | 69 | 70 | |
| <u>4th Quarter</u> | <u>77</u> | <u>74</u> | |
| <i>2nd Semester</i> | 71 | 67 | |
| Whole Year | 67 | 65 | |

* Provisional

