

International Travel & Tourism, 1997

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) Total

Total passenger traffic for the year 1997 amounted to 1,405,000, made up of 705,000 arrivals and 700,000 departures. Compared to last year these figures represent increases of 10% in arrivals and 10% in departures. Movement by sea accounted for 3% of both arrivals and departures.

Total arrivals included 8,610 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 2,940 (34%) came from Reunion Island and 1,270 (15%) from France. In addition, 18 cruise ships had visited our port, bringing in a total of 13,300 "cruise excursionists" (8,100 passengers and 5,200 crews).

(ii) Mauritian Residents

The number of Mauritians travelling abroad has increased by 9% from 120,400 in 1996 to 131,600 in 1997. Reunion Island remained their favourite destination with 39,000 departures followed by France with 19,700 departures. However, substantial growths were noted on the following destinations : Seychelles(+81%), Canada(+63%) and Italy (+56%). A more elaborate distribution is presented in table 2.

(iii) Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals for the year 1997 reached 536,125 against 486,867 in 1996, representing an increase of 10%. This increase was mainly due to growths from some major generating countries like France, Italy and United Kingdom. The contribution of some small generating markets, namely Australia, Sweden, Netherlands and Zimbabwe have also been important.

For the year under review, 92% of the tourists came on holiday while 4% came for business and 2% were in transit. On a comparative basis, the holiday segment rose by 10% while business tourists increased by 8%. But the highest growth rate was noted for the conference component (+46%) and sports (+48%). This is illustrated in table 4.

Arrivals from Europe has known a growth of 16% to reach 326,400 in 1997. The traditional markets, with the exception of Germany, which registered a 3% decline, have shown appreciable growths. France, our leading market representing 27% of total tourist arrivals and 44% of European market, posted an increase of 11%. Tourist arrivals from United Kingdom grew by 31% in 1997 to position itself as the second major generating country on this continent but the highest growth (61%) was achieved by Italy. Growth in some small generating countries were as follows: Sweden(+54%), CIS(+33%), Netherlands(+32%) and Spain(+13%).

Tourist arrivals from Africa has known a marginal growth of 1% in 1997. This is mainly due to lower growths from the major sources of this region. Arrivals from our leading market of this continent, Reunion has been at the same level as last year with a figure of 82,600 while South Africa witnessed a slight growth of 2%. The performance of the other African markets was as follows: Malagasy Republic (-11%), Seychelles (-4%) and Zimbabwe (+25%).

The Asian market recorded a growth of 4% in 1997. India remains the major source with an increase of 1% to reach 13,200. The highest growth (46%) was registered by Malaysia. Performances of the other Asian countries were as follows: Singapore (+8%), People's Republic of China (+8%), Japan (-2%) and Hong Kong (-21%).

The Oceanian market maintained an upward trend with a growth of 22%. Arrivals from Australia grew by 22% to reach 9,500 at end of year 1997.

Arrivals from the American market have increased by 29% influenced mostly by growth from USA (22%) and Canada (12%).

For further details on tourist arrivals, refer to tables 5 & 6.

2. Tourist Nights

The number of tourist nights spent in Mauritius in 1997 is estimated to be around 5,630,000, i.e. an increase of 14% over last year. The average length of stay of a tourist worked out to be around 10.5 nights.

3. Hotel Statistics

The deregistration of two small hotels during the fourth quarter of 1997 brought the number of registered hotels to 87 at the end of December, out of which 26 were considered "Large", i.e. well established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms. The total capacity for all registered hotels was 6,800 rooms with 14,100 bedplace. For "Large" hotels the room capacity was 4,600 with 9,400 bedplaces.

The overall room occupancy rates in 1997 was estimated to be around 72% for all hotels and 78% for large hotels only. The corresponding bed occupancy rates were 64% and 70%.

Tables 7 to 10 give further details of hotel statistics.

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Gross earnings from tourism for the year under review is estimated at 10,068 million rupees, which is 11% higher than the figure of 9,048 million rupees registered for the year 1996. The average receipt per tourist was 18,800 rupees in 1997 compared to 18,600 rupees in 1996.

5. Employment

At the end of March 1997, direct employment in tourist establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 15,400 which is 7% higher than last year. Of this number, 69% or 10,600 were engaged in hotels. Table 11 shows the distribution of employment in tourism sector.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development and Regional Cooperation

PORT LOUIS

March 1998

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. It also includes passengers as well as crews of *cruise ship*.

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.

6. CIS

CIS denotes the Commonwealth of Independent States which consists of the states of the former Soviet Union.

Table 1:- Passenger Traffic by month 1995 - 1997

Month	1995*		1996*		1997	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	54,028	64,415	55,795	65,494	64,620	75,159
February	34,696	35,639	41,864	44,443	47,967	50,715
March	43,437	45,007	54,436	50,214	61,043	62,247
1st Quarter	132,161	145,061	152,095	160,151	173,630	188,121
April	42,384	42,890	52,946	57,841	52,463	52,592
May	41,144	42,209	47,902	47,232	52,191	51,419
June	32,986	33,131	39,253	39,899	45,240	44,457
2nd Quarter	116,514	118,230	140,101	144,972	149,894	148,468
1st Semester	248,675	263,291	292,196	305,123	323,524	336,589
July	47,760	38,320	48,602	39,817	55,178	48,877
August	56,022	61,741	65,588	71,365	72,013	75,022
September	39,065	41,035	48,790	49,907	52,814	54,316
3rd Quarter	142,847	141,096	162,980	161,089	180,005	178,215
October	50,691	45,954	57,262	51,312	58,074	55,871
November	49,691	53,748	58,536	59,987	69,700	69,597
December	63,269	50,242	71,726	56,861	73,974	59,486
4th Quarter	163,651	149,944	187,524	168,160	201,748	184,954
2nd Semester	306,498	291,040	350,504	329,249	381,753	363,169
Whole Year	555,173	554,331	642,700	634,372	705,277	699,758

* - revised

Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian Residents by country of disembarkation, 1996/97

Country of disembarkation	1996	1997	% Change
EUROPE	39,541	42,185	6.7
Belgium	638	763	19.6
France	18,240	19,672	7.9
Germany	1,557	1,396	-10.3
Italy	2,014	3,149	56.4
Switzerland	1,681	1,681	0.0
United Kingdom	14,897	14,970	0.5
Other European	514	554	7.8
AFRICA	51,759	57,322	10.7
Kenya	1,439	1,742	21.1
Malagasy Republic	2,425	3,163	30.4
Reunion	36,127	38,941	7.8
Seychelles	975	1,764	80.9
S. Africa, Rep. of	9,615	10,501	9.2
Zimbabwe	929	1,084	16.7
Other African	249	127	-49.0
ASIA	25,051	28,103	12.2
Hong Kong	3,039	2,984	-1.8
India	11,141	12,987	16.6
Malaysia	812	671	-17.4
Singapore	8,663	9,250	6.8
Saudi Arabia	1,295	1,785	37.8
Other Asian	101	426	321.8
OCEANIA	3,800	3,611	-5.0
Australia	3,799	3,610	-5.0
Other Oceanian	1	1	0.0
AMERICA	196	292	49.0
U.S.A	72	86	19.4
Canada	124	202	62.9
Other American	0	4	-
NOT STATED	68	97	42.6
ALL COUNTRIES	120,415	131,610	9.3

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1993 - 1997

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourist receipts ^{1/} (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	
1997	87	6,781	14,106	536,125	5,630 *	10,068 *	
1996	1st Qr.	95	6,357	115,349	1,174	2,318	
	2nd Qr.	91	6,407	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	1st Qr.	90	6,661	13,818	134,684	1,350 *
	2nd Qr.	90	6,727	13,950	110,642	1,120 *	2,017 *
	<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>6,727</u>	<u>13,950</u>	<u>245,326</u>	<u>2,470 *</u>	<u>4,610 *</u>
	3rd Qr.	89	6,705	13,890	134,443	1,410 *	2,372 *
	4th Qr.	<u>87</u>	6,781	14,106	156,356	1,750 *	3,086 *
	<u>2nd Semester</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>6,781</u>	<u>14,106</u>	<u>290,799</u>	<u>3,160 *</u>	<u>5,458 *</u>

* Provisional

^{1/} Source: Bank of Mauritius

Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, 1996/97

Purpose of visit	1996	1997	% Change
Holiday	450,936	494,563	9.7
Business	17,662	18,997	7.6
Transit	10,693	12,513	17.0
Conference	3,030	4,427	46.1
Sports	885	1,310	48.0
Other & Not Stated	3,661	4,315	17.9
Total	486,867	536,125	10.1

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	38,683
May	30,607	36,303	39,794
June	23,177	27,984	32,165
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>88,212</u>	<u>103,046</u>	<u>110,642</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>190,365</i>	<i>218,395</i>	<i>245,326</i>
July	33,833	35,656	39,716
August	42,985	50,347	55,033
September	28,928	36,681	39,694
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>105,746</u>	<u>122,684</u>	<u>134,443</u>
October	40,620	45,930	45,302
November	39,437	46,130	55,424
December	46,295	53,728	55,630
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>126,352</u>	<u>145,788</u>	<u>156,356</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>232,098</i>	<i>268,472</i>	<i>290,799</i>
Whole Year	422,463	486,867	536,125

Chart 1 - Monthly Distribution of Tourist Arrivals, January - December 1996/97

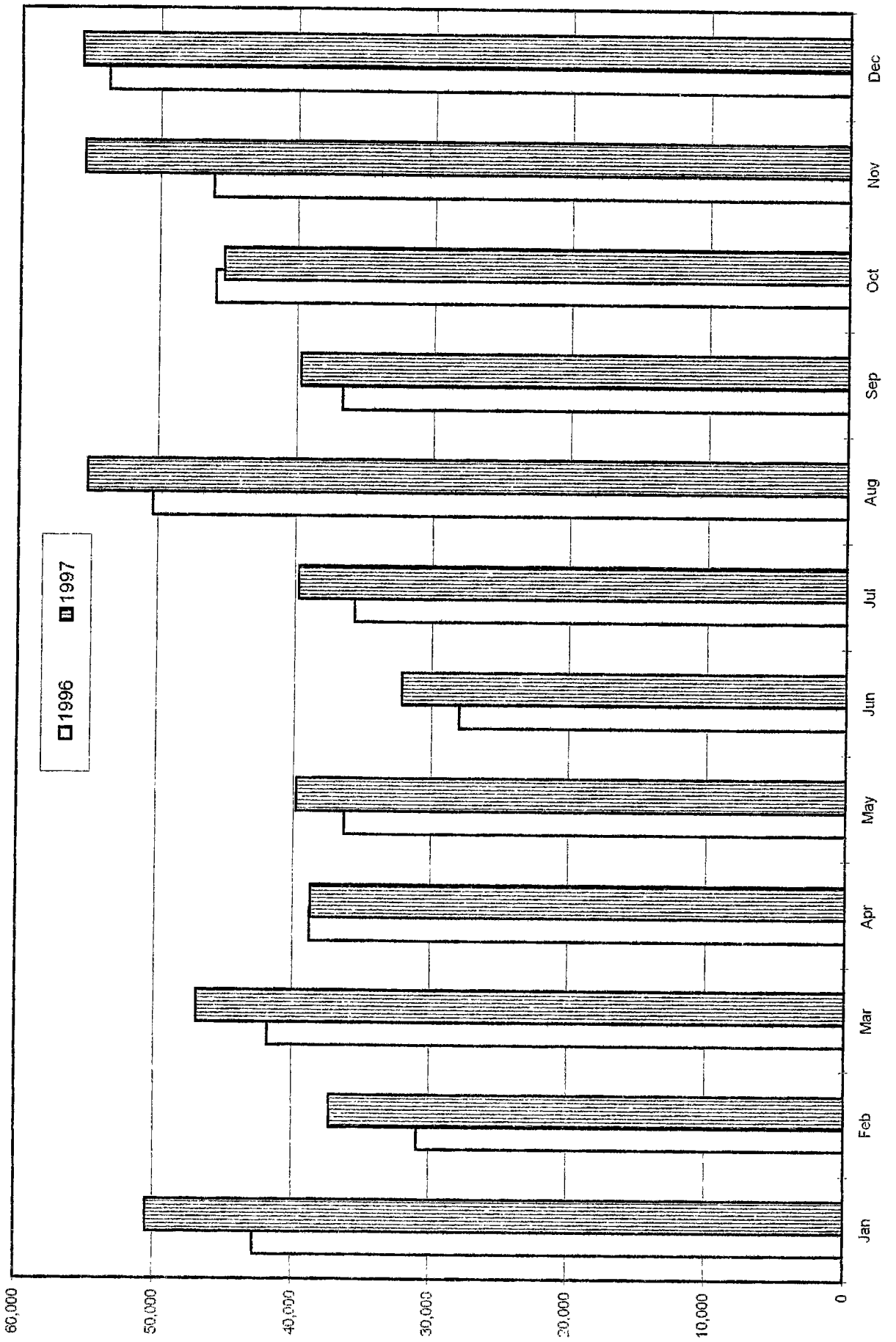


Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 1996/1997

Country of res.	1997												% Change 1996/97		
	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov		Dec	Year
EUROPE	281,817	28,076	26,861	28,827	25,442	21,883	18,832	23,321	25,867	24,919	32,412	37,982	31,957	326,379	15.8
Austria	8,484	1,181	1,046	751	639	718	366	502	454	462	658	951	589	8,317	-2.0
Belgium	8,060	571	679	738	765	456	483	841	442	758	811	848	770	8,162	1.3
France	130,292	12,547	12,052	11,874	11,999	9,134	8,167	9,893	11,742	8,754	14,148	19,849	15,014	145,173	11.4
Germany	45,221	4,712	3,485	4,717	3,256	3,816	1,837	2,742	3,422	3,436	3,952	5,092	3,526	43,993	-2.7
Italy	21,848	3,464	3,611	3,674	2,903	1,297	2,167	2,605	3,530	3,183	3,161	2,124	3,536	35,255	61.4
Netherlands	2,170	177	171	274	286	216	203	269	147	254	370	288	213	2,868	32.2
Spain	3,384	131	151	268	175	487	205	432	595	381	395	320	285	3,825	13.0
Sweden	3,034	447	472	529	377	167	172	201	154	212	690	598	641	4,660	53.6
Switzerland	15,692	1,344	1,164	1,249	1,016	995	720	1,321	585	1,405	2,043	2,459	1,804	16,105	2.6
United Kingdom	35,271	2,148	2,913	3,552	2,968	3,915	3,676	3,738	4,055	5,320	5,254	4,332	4,151	46,022	30.5
CIS	1,621	387	123	173	121	121	254	97	155	68	96	149	407	2,151	32.7
Other European	6,740	967	994	1,028	937	561	582	680	586	686	634	972	1,021	9,848	46.1
AFRICA	163,435	19,742	6,331	14,912	9,854	13,456	8,561	12,412	25,854	10,421	8,953	14,010	19,692	164,198	0.5
Comoros	1,223	57	70	82	81	75	81	71	93	54	76	79	150	969	-20.8
Kenya	1,170	88	54	137	131	68	83	104	122	79	45	90	229	1,230	5.1
Malagasy Rep.	11,401	601	677	783	752	977	946	991	991	783	850	867	925	10,143	-11.0
Reunion	82,272	14,399	2,196	7,567	2,628	7,693	2,301	5,541	18,346	2,994	2,631	7,990	8,342	82,628	0.4
Seychelles	9,325	489	286	353	928	596	563	416	1,774	675	842	574	1,499	8,995	-3.5
S/ Africa Rep. of	50,361	3,685	2,626	5,258	4,256	3,372	3,917	4,527	3,568	5,039	4,029	3,648	7,324	51,249	1.8
Zimbabwe	3,402	188	163	358	675	329	223	275	501	313	204	378	641	4,248	24.9
Other African	4,281	235	259	374	403	346	447	487	459	484	276	384	582	4,736	10.6

Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 1996/1997 (ctd.)

Country of res.	1996	1997												% Change 1996/97	
	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		Year
ASIA	28,818	1,876	3,094	2,051	2,188	2,940	3,421	2,505	2,083	2,761	2,644	2,196	2,335	30,094	4.4
Hong Kong	2,066	117	308	137	121	91	121	120	170	94	98	86	166	1,629	-21.2
India	13,075	794	1,041	688	886	1,882	1,760	1,004	840	1,107	1,051	1,095	1,072	13,220	1.1
Japan	3,192	230	516	240	291	208	226	194	312	290	194	166	273	3,140	-1.6
Malaysia	1,487	75	201	238	169	149	175	194	82	435	204	114	139	2,175	46.3
P. Rep. of China	1,953	96	125	172	190	171	249	175	133	218	238	178	166	2,111	8.1
Singapore	3,153	243	337	235	179	202	451	361	176	246	476	256	242	3,404	8.0
Other Asian	3,892	321	566	341	352	237	439	457	370	371	383	301	277	4,415	13.4
OCEANIA	8,144	471	583	679	762	1,080	932	978	767	1,136	825	762	921	9,896	21.5
Australia	7,762	438	542	662	741	1,055	896	950	730	1,072	770	727	877	9,460	21.9
Other Oceanian	382	33	41	17	21	25	36	28	37	64	55	35	44	436	14.1
AMERICA	4,265	339	377	450	430	431	418	497	456	453	464	469	725	5,509	29.2
USA	2,362	175	175	299	224	246	197	222	227	201	266	263	384	2,879	21.9
Canada	1,487	126	161	123	138	109	173	167	133	114	102	124	192	1,662	11.8
Other American	416	38	41	28	68	76	48	108	96	138	96	82	149	968	132.7
OTHER & NOT STATED	388	3	8	4	7	4	1	3	6	4	4	5	0	49	-87.4
All Countries	60,566	20,511	27,204	26,122	28,607	30,794	33,155	39,716	35,033	39,594	45,107	45,524	55,340	70,475	16.0

Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, January - December 1996/97

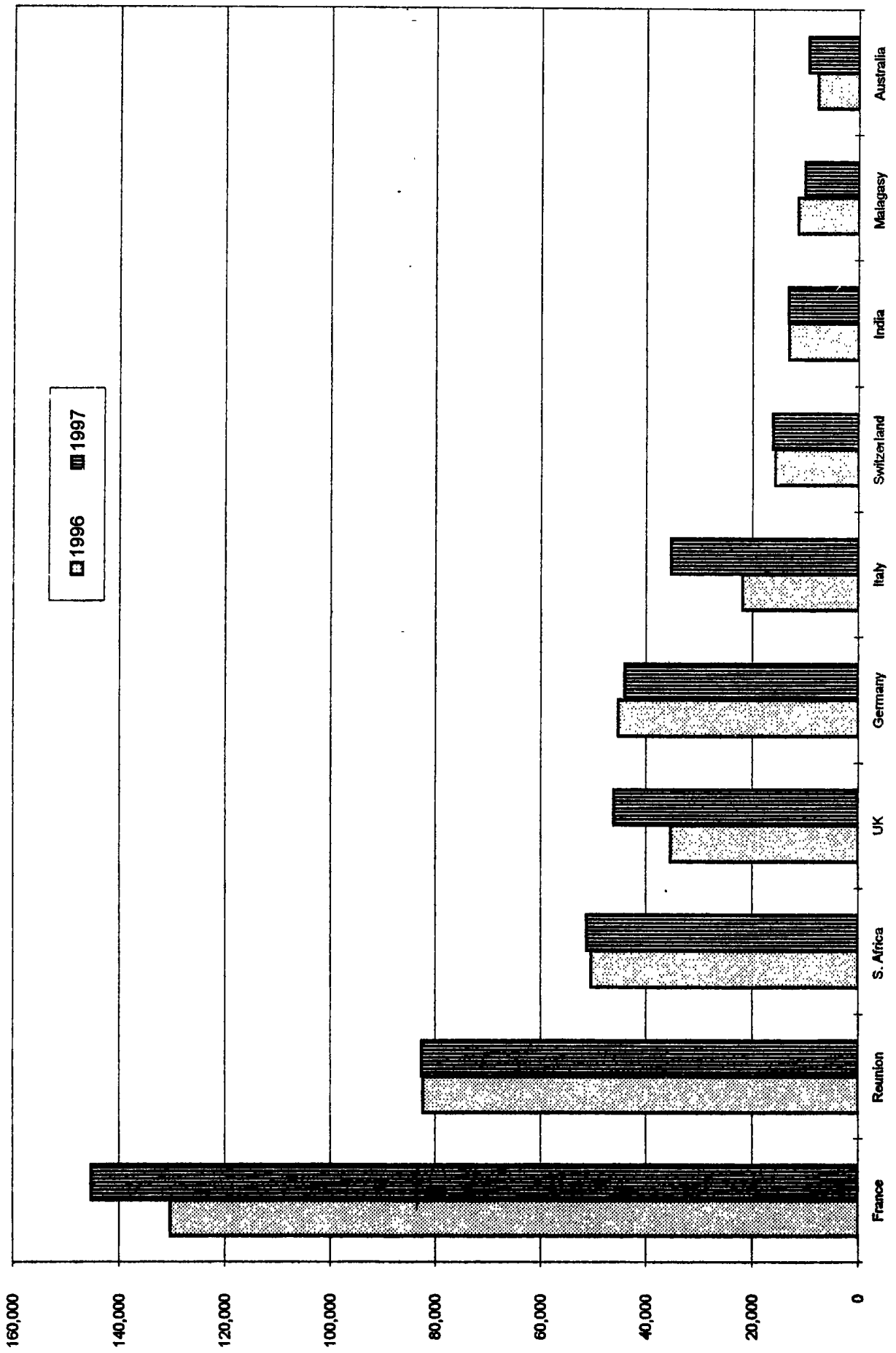


Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1995- 1997

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	69
May	64	61	65
June	59	50	53
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>62</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	64	65	66
July	53	55	63
August	69	69	76
September	63	70	78
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>73</u>
October	74	77	73
November	73	83	83
December	71	76	73
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>76</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	67	71	74
Whole Year	66	68	72

* 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	60
May	55	54	56
June	52	43	46
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>54</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	57	57	58
July	48	48	56
August	64	60	67
September	57	60	68
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>64</u>
October	68	69	64
November	68	73	73
December	62	66	64
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	61	62	65
Whole Year	59	60	64

* 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	76
May	72	65	72
June	58	53	58
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>69</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	71	71	76
July	61	60	69
August	75	72	79
September	73	77	85
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>78</u>
October	87	83	81
November	83	88	91
December	77	79	78
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>84</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	76	76	80
Whole Year	73	74	78

* 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	67
May	64	57	63
June	51	47	52
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>61</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	64	63	67
July	57	53	62
August	71	63	70
September	67	68	75
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>69</u>
October	80	76	72
November	80	79	81
December	69	70	69
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>74</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	71	67	72
Whole Year	67	65	70

* Provisional

Table 11:- Employment in the tourist industry as at March, 1993 - 1997

Establishments \ Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Restaurants	850	1,157	1,000	1,154	1,118
Hotels	8,271	9,082	9,340	9,666	10,575
Travel and Tourism	3,310	3,419	3,515	3,596	3,732
Total	12,431	13,658	13,855	14,416	15,425

Note: The above figures refer to large establishments only (i.e. employing 10 or more persons)