

## International Travel & Tourism, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 1998

### 1. Passenger Traffic

#### *(i) Total*

During the first quarter of 1998, a total of 180,900 arrivals were registered against 198,300 departures, i.e. an excess of 17,400 departures over arrivals. Compared to the same period of last year, these figures represent an increase of 4% in arrivals and 5% in departures.

Total arrivals included 1,960 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 720 (37%) came from Reunion Island and 310 (16%) from France. In addition, 6 cruise ships had visited our port, bringing in a total of 2,360 passengers and 1,620 crews for the first quarter of 1998. This amounts to a total of 3,980 "cruise excursionists".

#### *(ii) Mauritian Residents*

The number of Mauritians travelling abroad has known a decline of 2% to stand at 30,200 for the first quarter of 1998. The major countries visited were: Reunion Island (30%), France (10%), Rep. of South Africa (10%) and India (9%). Table 2 presents a more elaborate distribution of departures of Mauritian residents.

#### *(iii) Tourist Arrivals*

Tourist arrivals for the first quarter in 1998 reached 145,200, representing an increase of 8% over the same period in 1997. This increase was mainly due to growths from some major generating countries like France, Italy, United Kingdom and Switzerland.

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

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 67% of total tourist arrivals, have increased from 83,800 in 1997 to 97,500 in 1998, equivalent to a 16% growth. This was mainly due to growths from our traditional markets : France (+28%), Italy (+29%) and United Kingdom (+16%). Arrivals from Germany have witnessed a decline of 8% for the first quarter of 1998. Changes in tourist arrivals from other European countries were as follows : Switzerland (+13%), Austria (-12%), Belgium (-5%) and CIS (+11%).

Arrivals from Africa, with a share 27% of total tourist arrivals, registered a drop of 6%. This was due to decline from nearly all markets from this continent with the exception of Seychelles (+11%) and Republic of South Africa (+1%). Arrivals from Reunion Island have dropped by 9% to reach 21,930 while those from Malagasy Republic declined marginally by 2% to 2,030. Following declines were noted from the other countries :- Zimbabwe (-16%), Kenya (-25%) and Comoros (-15%).

Tourist arrivals from the Asian continent have known a decline of 14%. While arrivals have remained at the same level at 2,500 for India, the main generating country of this continent, arrivals from Singapore registered a growth of 33% to 1,082 and People's Republic of China witnessed an increase of 37% to 539. On the other hand, declines were registered for arrivals from the following countries: Japan fell by 47% to 528, Hong Kong by 40% to 337 and Malaysia by 49% to 261.

Arrivals from Oceania have known a marginal growth of 2%, mostly influenced by Australia (+4%).

A growth of 14% was noted in arrivals from America. This was the result of an increase in arrivals from countries classified in Other American to 375 which has offset declines from USA (-1%) and Canada (-26%).

Tables 5 & 6 show further details on tourist arrivals.

## **2. Tourist Nights**

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first quarter of 1998 is estimated at 1.5 million, representing an increase of 8% over the corresponding period of last year.

### **3. Hotel Statistics**

At the end of March 1998, there were 87 registered hotels in operation of which 27 were considered "Large", i.e. well established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms. The total capacity for all registered hotels was 6,919 rooms with 14,343 bedplaces while for "Large" hotels the room capacity was 4,787 with 9,788 bedplaces.

The overall room occupancy rate in 1998 was estimated to be around 78% for all hotels and 82% for large hotels only. The corresponding bed occupancy rates were 68% and 72%.

For further details on hotel statistics, refer to tables 7 to 10.

### **4. Gross Tourism Receipts**

Gross tourism receipts for the first quarter is estimated at 3,040 million rupees, i.e. an increase of 17% compared to the same period of last year.

### **5. Forecast Year 1998**

Based on the favourable growth registered in tourist arrivals during the first quarter, indications are that total tourist arrivals for 1998 will be around 580,000 (+ 8%) and gross receipts of the order of 11,000 million rupees.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development and Regional Cooperation

**PORT LOUIS**

May 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 1996 - 1998**

Month	1996		1997		1998	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	55,795	65,494	64,620	75,159	67,517	80,079
February	41,864	44,443	47,967	50,715	52,753	52,817
March	54,436	50,214	61,043	62,247	60,622	65,388
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>152,095</u>	<u>160,151</u>	<u>173,630</u>	<u>188,121</u>	<u>180,892</u>	<u>198,284</u>
April	52,946	57,841	52,463	52,592		
May	47,902	47,232	52,191	51,419		
June	39,253	39,899	45,240	44,457		
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>140,101</u>	<u>144,972</u>	<u>149,894</u>	<u>148,468</u>		
<b>1st Semester</b>	<b>292,196</b>	<b>305,123</b>	<b>323,524</b>	<b>336,589</b>		
July	48,602	39,817	55,178	48,877		
August	65,588	71,365	72,013	75,022		
September	48,790	49,907	52,814	54,316		
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>162,980</u>	<u>161,089</u>	<u>180,005</u>	<u>178,215</u>		
October	57,262	51,312	58,074	55,871		
November	58,536	59,987	69,700	69,597		
December	71,726	56,861	73,974	59,486		
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>187,524</u>	<u>168,160</u>	<u>201,748</u>	<u>184,954</u>		
<b>2nd Semester</b>	<b>350,504</b>	<b>329,249</b>	<b>381,753</b>	<b>363,169</b>		
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>642,700</b>	<b>634,372</b>	<b>705,277</b>	<b>699,758</b>		

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian Residents by country of disembarkation, 1997/98**

<b>Country of disembarkation</b>	<b>1st Quarter 1997</b>	<b>1st Quarter 1998</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>9,250</b>	<b>7,182</b>	<b>-22.4</b>
Belgium	165	66	-60.0
France	3,942	3,110	-21.1
Germany	295	354	20.0
Italy	903	678	-24.9
Switzerland	460	434	-5.7
United Kingdom	3,311	2,490	-24.8
Other European	174	50	-71.3
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>13,232</b>	<b>14,627</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Kenya	293	996	239.9
Malagasy Republic	698	950	36.1
Reunion	8,597	8,929	3.9
Seychelles	279	577	106.8
S. Africa, Rep. of	3,095	3,033	-2.0
Zimbabwe	237	124	-47.7
Other African	33	18	-45.5
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>7,106</b>	<b>7,363</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Hong Kong	710	418	-41.1
India	2,668	2,644	-0.9
Malaysia	114	523	358.8
Singapore	1,960	2,138	9.1
Saudi Arabia	1,568	1,627	3.8
Other Asian	86	13	-84.9
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
Australia	1,029	1,010	-1.8
Other Oceanian	0	0	0.0
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-80.0</b>
U.S.A	20	6	-70.0
Canada	72	13	-81.9
Other American	3	0	-100.0
<b>NOT STATED</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-100.0</b>
<b>ALL COUNTRIES</b>	<b>30,726</b>	<b>30,201</b>	<b>-1.7</b>

**Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1994 - 1998**

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourist receipts <sup>1/</sup> (Rs million)	
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces				
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	5,451	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	1,370	2,593
	2nd Qr.	90	6,727	13,950	110,642	1,125	2,017
	<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>6,727</u>	<u>13,950</u>	<u>245,326</u>	<u>2,495</u>	<u>4,610</u>
	3rd Qr.	89	6,705	13,890	134,443	1,366	2,372
	4th Qr.	<u>87</u>	6,781	14,106	156,356	1,590	3,086
	<u>2nd Semester</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>6,781</u>	<u>14,106</u>	<u>290,799</u>	<u>2,956</u>	<u>5,458</u>
1998	1st Qr.	<u>87</u>	<u>6,919</u>	<u>14,343</u>	<u>145,207</u>	<u>1,480</u> *	<u>3,040</u> *

<sup>1/</sup> Source: Bank of Mauritius

\* Provisional

**Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit, 1997/98**

Purpose of visit	1st Quarter 1997	1st Quarter 1998	% Change
Holiday	125,466	134,452	7.2
Business	4,281	4,756	11.1
Transit	2,919	3,931	34.7
Conference	422	827	96.0
Sports	282	104	-63.1
Other & Not Stated	1,314	1,137	-13.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>134,684</b>	<b>145,207</b>	<b>7.8</b>

**Table 5:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1996 - 1998**

Month	Number		
	1996	1997	1998
January	42,743	50,507	54,839
February	30,870	37,254	41,928
March	41,736	46,923	48,440
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>115,349</u>	<u>134,684</u>	<u>145,207</u>
April	38,759	38,683	
May	36,303	39,794	
June	27,984	32,165	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>103,046</u>	<u>110,642</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	218,395	245,326	
July	35,656	39,716	
August	50,347	55,033	
September	36,681	39,694	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>122,684</u>	<u>134,443</u>	
October	45,930	45,302	
November	46,130	55,424	
December	53,728	55,630	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>145,788</u>	<u>156,356</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	268,472	290,799	
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>486,867</b>	<b>536,125</b>	



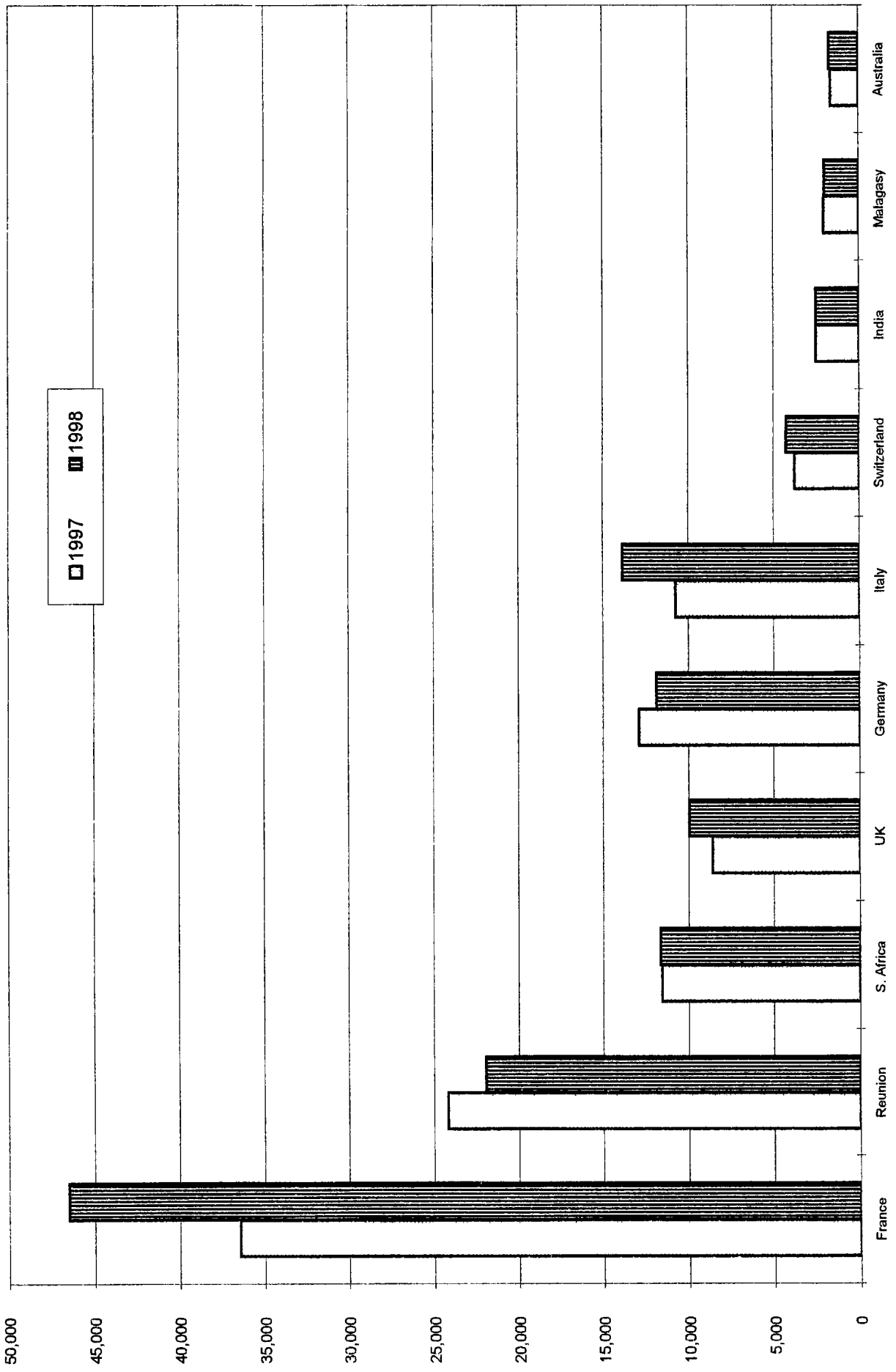
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<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>486,867</b>	<b>536,125</b>	

**Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 1st Quarter 1997/1998**

Country of res.	1997 1st Quarter	1998				1997/98	% Change 1997/98
		Jan	Feb	Mar	1st Quarter		
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>83,764</b>	<b>32,268</b>	<b>31,976</b>	<b>33,294</b>	<b>97,538</b>	<b>16.4</b>	
Austria	2,978	981	988	643	2,612	-12.3	
Belgium	1,988	649	670	569	1,888	-5.0	
France	36,473	15,343	14,809	16,357	46,509	27.5	
Germany	12,914	4,016	3,586	4,280	11,882	-8.0	
Italy	10,749	4,831	4,744	4,272	13,847	28.8	
Netherlands	622	183	192	339	714	14.8	
Spain	550	230	195	222	647	17.6	
Sweden	1,448	466	565	314	1,345	-7.1	
Switzerland	3,757	1,695	1,440	1,118	4,253	13.2	
United Kingdom	8,613	2,553	3,442	3,983	9,978	15.8	
CIS	683	367	159	231	757	10.8	
Other European	2,989	954	1,186	966	3,106	3.9	
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>40,985</b>	<b>19,425</b>	<b>7,161</b>	<b>11,923</b>	<b>38,509</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	
Comoros	209	69	55	54	178	-14.8	
Kenya	279	42	67	100	209	-25.1	
Malagasy Rep.	2,061	570	643	813	2,026	-1.7	
Reunion	24,162	14,023	2,066	5,839	21,928	-9.2	
Seychelles	1,128	441	382	434	1,257	11.4	
S/ Africa Rep. of	11,569	3,881	3,662	4,124	11,667	0.8	
Zimbabwe	709	194	146	258	598	-15.7	
Other African	868	205	140	301	646	-25.6	
<b>ASIA</b>	<b>7,021</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>6,054</b>	<b>-13.8</b>	
Hong Kong	562	245	37	55	337	-40.0	
India	2,523	649	989	886	2,524	0.0	
Japan	986	274	123	131	528	-46.5	
Malaysia	514	135	58	68	261	-49.2	
P. Rep. of China	393	137	155	247	539	37.2	
Singapore	815	493	329	260	1,082	32.8	
Other Asian	1,228	217	252	314	783	-36.2	
<b>OCEANIA</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>2.4</b>	
Australia	1,642	484	458	765	1,707	4.0	
Other Oceanian	91	27	21	19	67	-26.4	
<b>AMERICA</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>13.7</b>	
USA	649	184	193	269	646	-0.5	
Canada	410	101	93	111	305	-25.6	
Other American	107	200	82	93	375	250.5	
<b>OTHER &amp; NOT STATED</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-60.0</b>	
<b>All Countries</b>	<b>134,684</b>	<b>54,839</b>	<b>41,928</b>	<b>48,440</b>	<b>145,207</b>	<b>7.8</b>	

Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, 1st Quarter 1997/98



**Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1996- 1998**

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	72	76	84
February	67	68	78
March	69	64	72
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>78</u>
April	71	69	
May	61	65	
June	50	53	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>62</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	65	66	
July	55	63	
August	69	76	
September	70	78	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>73</u>	
October	77	73	
November	83	83	
December	76	73	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>76</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	71	74	
Whole Year	68	72	

\* Provisional

**Table 8:- Monthly bed occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1996 - 1998**

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	63	67	73
February	58	60	68
March	61	56	63
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>68</u>
April	62	60	
May	54	56	
June	43	46	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>54</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>58</i>	
July	48	56	
August	60	67	
September	60	68	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>64</u>	
October	69	64	
November	73	73	
December	66	64	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>65</i>	
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>64</b>	

\* Provisional

**Table 9:-Monthly room occupancy rates for large hotels, 1996 - 1998**

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	80	85	88
February	77	84	82
March	76	78	77
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>82</u>
April	76	76	
May	65	72	
June	53	58	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>69</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>76</i>	
July	60	69	
August	72	79	
September	77	85	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>78</u>	
October	83	81	
November	88	91	
December	79	78	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>84</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>80</i>	
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>78</b>	

\* Provisional

**Table 10 :- Monthly bed occupancy rates for large hotels, 1996 - 1998**

Month	Bed occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	71	75	77
February	68	74	72
March	67	69	68
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>72</u>
April	67	67	
May	57	63	
June	47	52	
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>61</u>	
<i>1st Semester</i>	63	67	
July	53	62	
August	63	70	
September	68	75	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>69</u>	
October	76	72	
November	79	81	
December	70	69	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>74</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	67	72	
<b>Whole Year</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>	

\* Provisional