



MAURITIUS

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**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS**

International Travel & Tourism, 1st Semester 1998

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) Total

Total passenger traffic for the first semester of 1998 amounted to 707,800, made up of 345,000 arrivals and 362,800 departures. Compared to the same period of last year, these figures represent an increase of 7% in arrivals and 8% in departures.

Total arrivals include 3,810 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 1,290 (34%) came from Reunion Island and 720 (19%) from France. Total arrivals also include 8,520 "cruise excursionists" (4,960 passengers and 3,560 crews) who visited our port aboard 12 cruise ships during the first six months of the year.

(ii) Mauritian Residents

The number of departures of Mauritian residents, for the first semester of 1998, reached a figure of 62,400, representing an increase of 4% over the corresponding period of last year. The main countries visited were: Reunion Island (32%), France (11%), United Kingdom(9%), Rep. of South Africa (9%) and India (8%). A more elaborate distribution of countries visited is given in Table 2.

(iii) Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals during the first semester rose by 8% from 245,300 in 1997 to 264,800 in 1998. This increase is mainly attributable to growths from some major markets mainly France, Italy and United Kingdom.

Most (91%) of the tourists came on holiday while 4% came on business and another 3% were in transit.

Arrivals from Europe, which accounted for 64% of our total tourist arrivals have registered an increase of 13% to stand at 168,700. Some 78,500 arrivals were registered from France during the first semester of 1998, representing an increase of 19% over the corresponding period of last year. Arrivals from the other major countries have also been significant: United Kingdom(+12%), Italy(+16%) whilst arrivals from Germany have registered a small increase from 21,800 to 21,900. Among the other countries, the following trends were noted: Switzerland(+13%), Spain(+33%), Belgium(+5%), CIS(+3%), Austria (-11%) and Sweden (-13%).

During the period under review, arrivals from the African continent, with a share 28% of our total tourist arrivals, registered a slight growth of 3%. Arrivals from Reunion Island have grown by 4% to reach 38,100. The South African market increased by 5% to stand at 24,200. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows:- Seychelles(+9%), Kenya(+24%), Malagasy Republic(-11%) , Zimbabwe(-6%) and Comoros (-10%).

Tourist arrivals from the Asian continent have known an overall decline of 13%. While increases were registered for Singapore(+10%) and People's Republic of China(+11%), arrivals from India dropped by 7% for the first semester of 1998. Similar trends were noted from the other Asian countries: Japan(-40%), Malaysia(-26%) and Hong Kong(-41%).

Arrivals from Oceania have known a growth of 6%, mostly influenced by Australia (+5%).

A growth of 13% was noted in arrivals from America. This was the result of a growth of 8% from USA together with an increase in arrivals from countries classified in Other American to 670.

Tables 5 & 6 show further details on tourist arrivals.

2. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first semester of 1998 is estimated at 2.7 million, that is 8% higher than the corresponding figure of 1997.

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of June 1998, there were 88 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 7,007 rooms with 14,475 bedplaces. For "Large" hotels the room capacity was 4,787 with 9,788 bedplaces.

The monthly room occupancy rates for the first semester averaged 71% for all hotels and 75% for large hotels only. The corresponding average bed occupancy rates were 62% and 66%. For further details on hotel statistics, refer to tables 7 to 10.

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Gross earnings from tourism for the first six months of the year is estimated at 5,568 million rupees, which is 21% higher than the figure of 4,610 million rupees for the same period of 1997. Thus the average earnings per tourist amounted to 21,000 rupees compared to 18,800 rupees for the same period of last year.

5. Employment

At the end of March 1998, direct employment in tourist establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 16,500 that is 7% higher than last year. Of this number, 11,200 or 68% were engaged in hotels. Table 11 shows the distribution of employment in tourism sector.

6. Forecast Year 1998

Considering the trend during the first six months of the year, it is estimated that tourist arrivals for the year 1998 will be around 580,000, i.e. an increase of 8% over last year. Corresponding gross receipts from tourism is expected to be around 11,000 million rupees compared to 10,068 million rupees for last year.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development and Regional Cooperation

PORT LOUIS

August 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	63,130 ¹	67,896 ¹
1st Quarter	<u>152,095</u>	<u>160,151</u>	<u>173,630</u>	<u>188,121</u>	<u>183,400</u>	<u>200,792</u>
April	52,946	57,841	52,463	52,592	60,745	60,376
May	47,902	47,232	52,191	51,419	56,977	59,203
June	39,253	39,899	45,240	44,457	43,904	42,384
2nd Quarter	<u>140,101</u>	<u>144,972</u>	<u>149,894</u>	<u>148,468</u>	<u>161,626</u>	<u>161,963</u>
1st Semester	<u>292,196</u>	<u>305,123</u>	<u>323,524</u>	<u>336,589</u>	<u>345,026</u>	<u>362,755</u>
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		
3rd Quarter	<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		
4th Quarter	<u>187,524</u>	<u>168,160</u>	<u>201,748</u>	<u>184,954</u>		
2nd Semester	<u>350,504</u>	<u>329,249</u>	<u>381,753</u>	<u>363,169</u>		
Whole Year	642,700	634,372	705,277	699,758		

¹ revised

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

Country of disembarkation	January - June 1997	January - June 1998	% Change
EUROPE	19,108	15,980	-16.4
Belgium	370	170	-54.1
France	8,137	6,940	-14.7
Germany	586	711	21.3
Italy	1,416	1,159	-18.1
Switzerland	861	854	-0.8
United Kingdom	7,431	5,881	-20.9
Other European	307	265	-13.7
AFRICA	26,325	31,885	21.1
Kenya	722	2,187	202.9
Malagasy Republic	1,327	2,035	53.4
Reunion	17,528	20,141	14.9
Seychelles	670	1,726	157.6
S. Africa, Rep. of	5,457	5,417	-0.7
Zimbabwe	556	351	-36.9
Other African	65	28	-56.9
ASIA	12,468	12,890	3.4
Hong Kong	1,569	940	-40.1
India	5,133	4,828	-5.9
Malaysia	256	1,164	354.7
Singapore	3,759	4,294	14.2
Saudi Arabia	1,617	1,641	1.5
Other Asian	134	23	-82.8
OCEANIA	1,851	1,603	-13.4
Australia	1,850	1,603	-13.4
Other Oceanian	1	-	0.0
AMERICA	151	34	-77.5
U.S.A	37	14	-62.2
Canada	111	20	-82.0
Other American	3	-	0.0
NOT STATED	61	-	-100.0
ALL COUNTRIES	59,964	62,392	4.0

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1994 - 1998

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourist receipts ^{2/} (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	6,809 ¹	14,126 ¹	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 ¹	13,890 ¹	134,443	1,366	2,372
	4th Qr.	<u>87</u>	6,809 ¹	14,126 ¹	156,356	1,590	3,086
	<u>2nd Semester</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>6,809</u> ¹	<u>14,126</u> ¹	<u>290,799</u>	<u>2,956</u>	<u>5,458</u>
1998	1st Qr.	<u>87</u>	<u>6,947</u> ¹	<u>14,363</u> ¹	<u>145,207</u>	<u>1,480</u> *	<u>3,040</u> *
	2nd Qr.	<u>88</u>	<u>7,007</u>	<u>14,475</u>	<u>119,610</u>	<u>1,220</u> *	<u>2,528</u> *
	<u>1st Semester</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>7,007</u>	<u>14,475</u>	<u>264,817</u>	<u>2,700</u> *	<u>5,568</u> *

^{2/} Source: Bank of Mauritius

* Provisional

¹ Revised

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

Purpose of visit	Jan - June 1997	Jan - June 1998	% Change
Holiday	224,795	242,031	7.7
Business	9,277	9,976	7.5
Transit	5,891	7,592	28.9
Conference	2,417	1,901	-21.3
Sports	619	521	-15.8
Other & Not Stated	2,327	2,796	20.2
Total	245,326	264,817	7.9

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
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>115,349</u>	<u>134,684</u>	<u>145,207</u>
April	38,759	38,683	45,433
May	36,303	39,794	43,790
June	27,984	32,165	30,387
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>103,046</u>	<u>110,642</u>	<u>119,610</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>218,395</i>	<i>245,326</i>	<i>264,817</i>
July	35,656	39,716	
August	50,347	55,033	
September	36,681	39,694	
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>122,684</u>	<u>134,443</u>	
October	45,930	45,302	
November	46,130	55,424	
December	53,728	55,630	
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>145,788</u>	<u>156,356</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>268,472</i>	<i>290,799</i>	
Whole Year	486,867	536,125	

Chart 1 - Monthly Distribution of Tourist Arrivals, Jan - Jun 1997/98

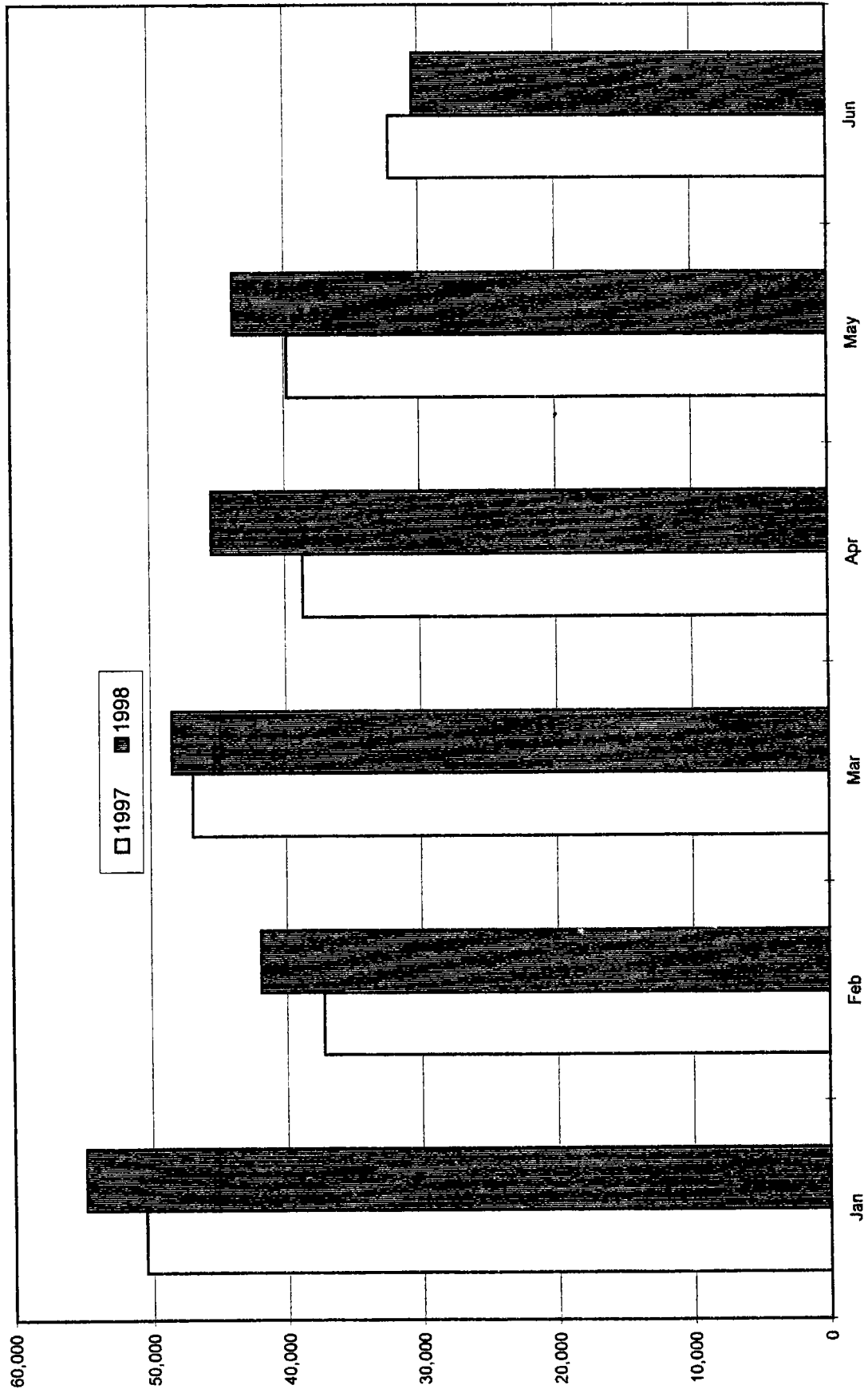


Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - June 1997/1998

Country of residence	1997		1998							% Change	
	Jan - June		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jan - June	1997/98	
	EUROPE	149,921	32,268	31,976	33,294	29,668	23,970	17,528	168,704	12.5	
Austria	4,701	981	988	643	614	591	354	4,171	-11.3		
Belgium	3,692	649	670	569	875	474	624	3,861	4.6		
France	65,773	15,343	14,809	16,357	14,209	11,201	6,604	78,523	19.4		
Germany	21,823	4,016	3,586	4,280	4,233	3,501	2,292	21,908	0.4		
Italy	17,116	4,831	4,744	4,272	2,359	1,749	1,915	19,870	16.1		
Netherlands	1,327	183	192	339	244	187	189	1,334	0.5		
Spain	1,417	230	195	222	452	339	441	1,879	32.6		
Sweden	2,164	466	565	314	312	114	107	1,878	-13.2		
Switzerland	6,488	1,695	1,440	1,118	1,420	945	704	7,322	12.9		
United Kingdom	19,172	2,553	3,442	3,983	3,672	4,218	3,616	21,484	12.1		
CIS	1,179	367	159	231	167	172	120	1,216	3.1		
Other European	5,069	954	1,186	966	1,111	479	562	5,258	3.7		
AFRICA	72,856	19,425	7,161	11,923	12,637	15,740	8,102	74,988	2.9		
Comoros	446	69	55	54	79	76	69	402	-9.9		
Kenya	561	42	67	100	267	117	101	694	23.7		
Malagasy Rep.	4,736	570	643	813	828	763	599	4,216	-11.0		
Reunion	36,784	14,023	2,066	5,839	3,821	9,905	2,458	38,112	3.6		
Seychelles	3,215	441	382	434	936	700	600	3,493	8.6		
S/ Africa Rep. of	23,114	3,881	3,662	4,124	5,220	3,556	3,794	24,237	4.9		
Zimbabwe	1,936	194	146	258	715	303	198	1,814	-6.3		
Other African	2,064	205	140	301	771	320	283	2,020	-2.1		

Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - June 1997/1998 (Cont.)

Country of residence	1997		1998							% Change 1997/98
	Jan - June	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jan - June		
	ASIA	15,570	2,150	1,943	1,961	1,896	2,959	2,754	13,563	
Hong Kong	895	245	37	55	71	71	50	529	-40.9	
India	7,051	649	989	886	972	1,712	1,362	6,570	-6.8	
Japan	1,711	274	123	131	140	144	211	1,023	-40.2	
Malaysia	1,007	135	58	68	79	130	275	745	-26.0	
P. Rep. of China	1,003	137	155	247	130	218	225	1,112	10.9	
Singapore	1,647	493	329	260	193	240	294	1,809	9.8	
Other Asian	2,256	217	252	314	311	344	337	1,775	-21.3	
OCEANIA	4,507	511	479	784	773	841	1,398	4,786	6.2	
Australia	4,334	484	458	765	713	782	1,356	4,558	5.2	
Other Oceanian	173	27	21	19	60	59	42	228	31.8	
AMERICA	2,445	485	368	473	455	376	597	2,754	12.6	
USA	1,316	184	193	269	265	201	306	1,418	7.8	
Canada	830	101	93	111	115	85	163	668	-19.5	
Other American	299	200	82	93	75	90	128	668	123.4	
OTHER & NOT STATED	27	0	1	5	4	4	8	22	-18.5	
All Countries	245,326	54,839	51,926	48,440	45,433	43,790	30,387	264,817	-7.9	

Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, Jan - Jun 1997/98

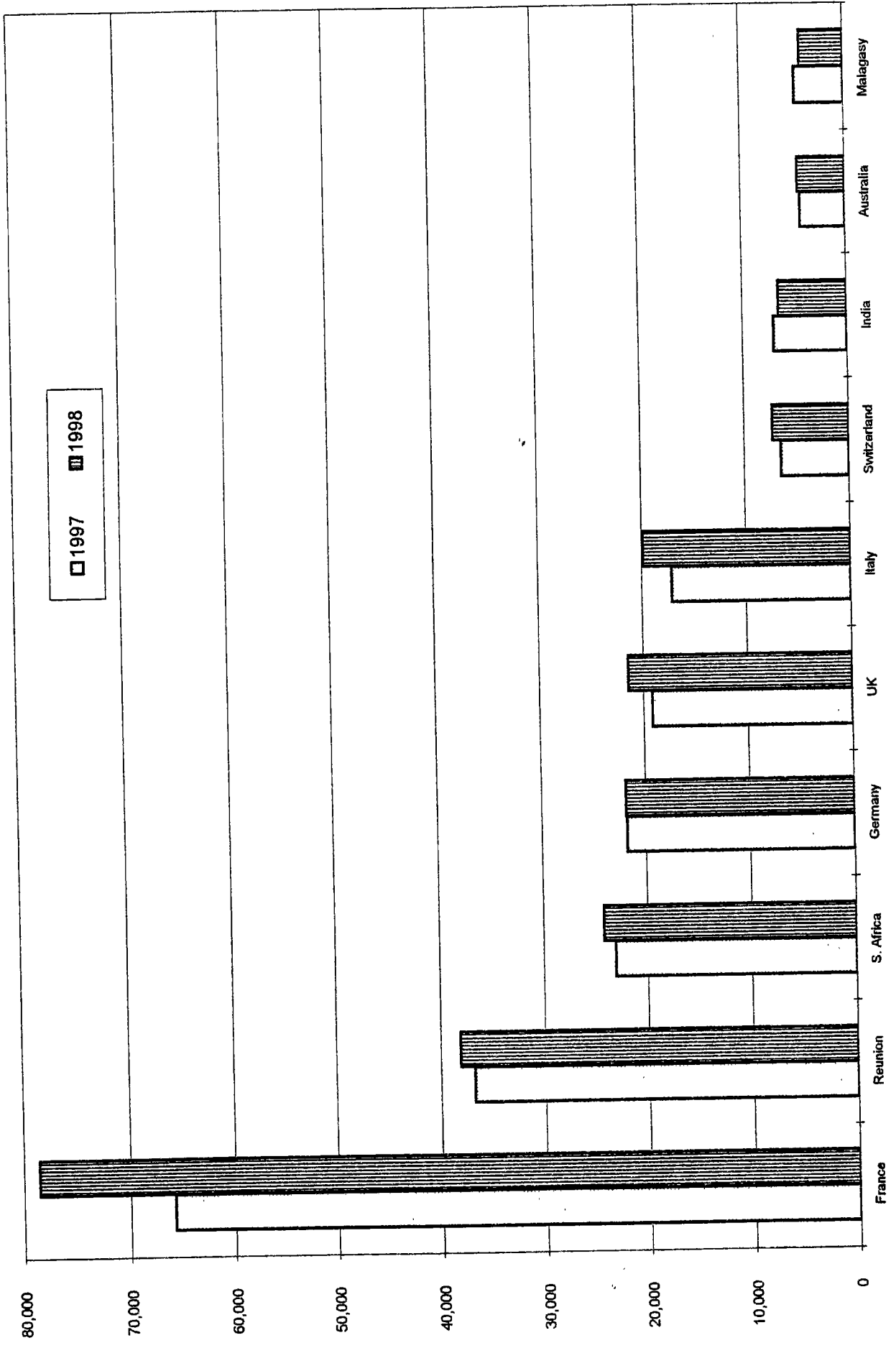


Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1996- 1998

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	72	76	84
February	67	68	79 ¹
March	69	64	73 ¹
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>79</u> ¹
April	71	69	70
May	61	65	67
June	50	53	50
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>62</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	65	66	71
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

¹ Revised

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

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	63	67	74 ¹
February	58	60	69 ¹
March	61	56	63
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>68</u>
April	62	60	61
May	54	56	59
June	43	46	44
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>55</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	57	58	62
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>	62	65	
Whole Year	60	64	

* Provisional

¹ Revised

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

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	80	85	89 ¹
February	77	84	83 ¹
March	76	78	78 ¹
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>83</u> ¹
April	76	76	75
May	65	72	71
June	53	58	55
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	71	76	75
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>	76	80	
Whole Year	74	78	

* Provisional

¹ Revised

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

Month	Bed occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	71	75	78 ¹
February	68	74	73 ¹
March	67	69	69 ¹
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>73</u> ¹
April	67	67	66
May	57	63	63
June	47	52	48
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>59</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	63	67	66
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	
Whole Year	65	70	

* Provisional

¹ Revised

Table 11:- Employment in the tourist industry as at March, 1994 - 1998

Establishments \ Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Restaurants	1,157	1,000	1,154	1,118	1,389
Hotels	9,082	9,340	9,666	10,575	11,177
Travel and Tourism	3,419	3,515	3,596	3,732	3,924
Total	13,658	13,855	14,416	15,425	16,490

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