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1. ⇨ **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM**
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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTIVITY
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PORT LOUIS

MAURITIUS

IN MEMORIAM

The Director of Statistics, **Mr. Sooresslall Basant Rai**, passed away in the early morning of Sunday 1st August 1999 at the age of 55.

Late **Mr. Basant Rai** joined the Central Statistical Office in 1972 as Statistician and was appointed Director in 1994.

As head of this Office during the last five years, he has contributed a lot to expand the scope of activities of the office and to establish friendly contacts with suppliers and users of statistics.

Mr. Basant Rai will always be remembered as an affable and ever accessible colleague and friend.

August 1999

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM

1ST SEMESTER 1999

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) *Total Passenger Traffic*

Total passenger traffic for the first semester of 1999 amounted to 742,200, made up of 365,300 arrivals and 376,900 departures. Compared to the same period of last year, these figures represent increases of 6% in arrivals and 4% in departures. Table 1 shows monthly details of passenger traffic.

Total arrivals included 4,940 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 2,140 (43%) came from Reunion Island and 820 (17%) from France. Total arrivals also included 10,140 "cruise excursionists" (6,150 passengers and 3,990 crews) aboard 13 cruise ships which visited our port during the first semester of 1999.

(ii) *Departures of Mauritian Residents*

The number of Mauritian residents travelling abroad increased by 12% from 62,400 for the first six months of 1998 to 70,100 for the same period in 1999 and accounted for 19% of total departures. Growth was observed in departures to the following destinations: France (+29%), United Kingdom (+49%), Malagasy Republic (+23%), India (+23%), Singapore (+52%), Saudi Arabia (+24%) and Australia (+14%). On the other hand, declines of 66% to Kenya and 48% to Malaysia were also registered. A more detailed distribution by country visited is presented in Table 2.

(iii) *Tourist Arrivals*

Tourist arrivals for the first semester of 1999 rose by 3%, from 264,800 in 1998 to 271,900 in 1999. This was mainly due to increases in arrivals from some major generating countries like France, United Kingdom and Reunion Island. Further details on tourist arrivals are given in Tables 3 to 6.

Around 91% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 4% were on business trips and another 2% were in transit (Table 4).

Table 6 shows that arrivals from Europe have known a growth of 6% for the first semester of 1999 and accounted for 66% of total tourist arrivals. France, our leading European market, maintained its upward trend with an increase of 7% to reach a figure of 84,050 at the end of June 1999. Arrivals from United Kingdom progressed by 18% from 21,500 in the first semester of 1998 to 25,400 for the same period in 1999. Arrivals from Germany have increased marginally by 2% while those from Italy have known a decline of 6%. Trends among the other European countries were as follows: Austria (-3%), Belgium (+12%), Netherlands (+41%), Spain (+24%), Sweden (+28%), Switzerland (-7%) and CIS (-28%).

For the period January to June 1999 arrivals from Africa registered a decline of 4% and accounted for 27% of total tourist arrivals. Arrivals from Reunion Island, the major generating country of the region, recorded an increase of 3% while those from Republic of South Africa dropped by 12% compared to the corresponding period of last year. Changes in arrivals from other African countries were as follows: Kenya (+13%), Malagasy Republic (-10%), Seychelles (-12%) and Zimbabwe (-41%).

Tourist arrivals from Asia grew by 3% compared to the first semester of 1998 and accounted for 5% of total tourist arrivals. Arrivals from India, the largest market of the continent, have increased by 4%. Among other Asian countries the following trends were observed: Japan (+16%), Malaysia (+15%) and People's Republic of China (-6%).

Arrivals from Oceania have dropped by 24%, mostly influenced by Australia.

Arrivals from the continent of America declined by 9%. This is however the net result of a growth of 7% from USA and declines of 2% from Canada and 47% from other American countries.

2. Tourist Nights

Total tourist nights spent in the country during the first semester of 1999 is estimated at 2.8 million, representing an increase of 5% over the corresponding period of last year (Table 3).

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of March 1999, there were 89 registered hotels in operation, of which 29 were considered "Large", i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms. The total capacity for all registered hotels was 7,365 rooms with 15,167 bedplaces. For "Large" hotels the room capacity was 5,135 with 10,454 bedplaces (Table 3). Thus "Large" hotels, which represented 33% of all registered hotels, account for 70% of room capacity and 69% of bedplaces.

The monthly room occupancy rate for the first semester of 1999 averaged 70% for all hotels (Table 7) whereas bed occupancy rate was 61% (Table 8). For "Large" hotels, the corresponding figures were 75% for room occupancy rate (Table 9) and 66% for bed occupancy rate (Table 10).

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Gross receipts from tourism for the first semester of 1999 is estimated at 6,441 million rupees, i.e. an increase of 16% compared to 5,568 million rupees for the same period of last year. Quarterly figures of tourism receipts are given in Table 3.

5. Employment

According to the Survey of Employment and Earnings conducted at the end of March 1999, direct employment in travel and tourism establishments employing 10 persons or more stood at 17,111, that is 4% higher than last year. Of this number, 11,715 or 68% were engaged in hotels (Table 11).

6. Forecast Year 1999

Based on the trends during the first six months of the year and patterns of previous years, it is estimated that tourist arrivals for the year 1999 will be around 580,000, i.e. an increase of 4% over last year. Corresponding gross receipts from tourism are expected to reach 13,500 million rupees compared to 11,890 million rupees for 1998.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

Port Louis

August 1999

Explanatory Notes

1. Tourist

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

2. Transit

A transit passenger is one who stops 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 harbour.

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

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

3. Excursionist or Same-day Visitor

Excursionists are non-resident visitors, other than those who do not leave the airport, who stay in the country for less than 24 hours. They also include passengers as well as crews of *cruise ships*.

4. Tourist Nights

"Tourist nights" means the total number of nights spent in the country by tourists, as defined above, 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 1997 - 1999

Month	1997		1998		1999	
	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures	Arrivals	Departures
January	64,620	75,159	67,517	80,079	77,871	88,105
February	47,967	50,715	52,753	52,817	57,371	59,233
March	61,043	62,247	63,130	67,896	65,278	62,785
1st Quarter	173,630	188,121	183,400	200,792	200,520	210,123
April	52,463	52,592	60,745	60,376	58,456	63,172
May	52,191	51,419	56,977	59,203	54,703	52,609
June	45,240	44,457	43,904	42,384	51,604	51,034
2nd Quarter	149,894	148,468	161,626	161,963	164,763	166,815
1st Semester	323,524	336,589	345,026	362,755	365,283	376,938
July	55,178	48,877	56,918	47,300		
August	72,013	75,022	73,980	80,635		
September	52,814	54,316	52,789	53,822		
3rd Quarter	180,005	178,215	183,687	181,757		
October	58,074	55,871	62,674	57,243		
November	69,700	69,597	68,394	69,975		
December	73,974	59,486	78,240	63,620		
4th Quarter	201,748	184,954	209,308	190,838		
2nd Semester	381,753	363,169	392,995	372,595		
Whole Year	705,277	699,758	738,021	735,350		

**Table 2 : - Departure of Mauritian residents by country of disembarkation,
January - June of 1998 and 1999**

Country of disembarkation	Jan - June 1998	Jan - June 1999	% Change
EUROPE	15,980	20,611	29.0
Belgium	170	292	71.8
France	6,940	8,927	28.6
Germany	711	589	-17.2
Italy	1,159	1,151	-0.7
Switzerland	854	727	-14.9
United Kingdom	5,881	8,787	49.4
Other European	265	138	-47.9
AFRICA	31,885	31,569	-1.0
Kenya	2,187	752	-65.6
Malagasy Republic	2,035	2,497	22.7
Reunion	20,141	20,522	1.9
Seychelles	1,726	1,669	-3.3
S. Africa, Rep. of	5,417	5,462	0.8
Zimbabwe	351	487	38.7
Other African	28	180	542.9
ASIA	12,890	16,017	24.3
Hong Kong	940	910	-3.2
India	4,828	5,931	22.8
Malaysia	1,164	611	-47.5
Singapore	4,294	6,520	51.8
Saudi Arabia	1,641	2,026	23.5
Other Asian	23	19	-17.4
OCEANIA	1,603	1,826	13.9
Australia	1,603	1,826	13.9
Other Oceanian	-	-	-
AMERICA	34	63	85.3
U.S.A	14	14	0.0
Canada	20	49	145.0
Other American	-	0	-
NOT STATED	-	2	-
All Countries	62,392	70,088	12.3

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1995 - 1999

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourism receipts ¹ (Rs million)	
	Hotels	Rooms	Bedplaces				
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	14,126	536,125	5,451	10,068	
1998	90	7,267	14,995	558,195	5,568	11,890	
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
	1st Semester	90	6,727	13,950	245,326	2,495	4,610
	3rd Qr.	89	6,705	13,890	134,443	1,366	2,372
	4th Qr.	87	6,809	14,126	156,356	1,590	3,086
	2nd Semester	87	6,809	14,126	290,799	2,956	5,458
1998	1st Qr.	87	6,979	14,457	145,207	1,450	3,040
	2nd Qr.	88	7,039	14,569	119,610	1,192	2,528
	1st Semester	88	7,039	14,569	264,817	2,642	5,568
	3rd Qr.	89	7,074	14,639	134,579	1,340	2,714
	4th Qr.	90	7,267	14,995	158,799	1,586	3,608
	2nd Semester	90	7,267	14,995	293,378	2,926	6,322
1999	1st Qr.	90	7,426	15,289	152,246	1,550 *	3,543 *
	2nd Qr.	89	7,365	15,167	119,700	1,220 *	2,898 *
	1st Semester	89	7,365	15,167	271,946	2,770 *	6,441 *

* Provisional

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius**Table 4 :- Tourist arrivals by main purpose of visit,
January - June of 1998 and 1999**

Purpose of visit	Jan - June 1998	Jan - June 1999	% Change
Holiday	242,031	248,255	2.6
Business	9,976	11,635	16.6
Transit	7,592	6,765	-10.9
Conference	1,901	2,049	7.8
Sports	521	656	25.9
Other & Not Stated	2,796	2,586	-7.5
Total	264,817	271,946	2.7

Table 5:- Tourist arrivals by month, 1997 - 1999

Month	Number		
	1997	1998	1999
January	50,507	54,839	59,680
February	37,254	41,928	41,859
March	46,923	48,440	50,707
<i>1st Quarter</i>	<u>134,684</u>	<u>145,207</u>	<u>152,246</u>
April	38,683	45,433	41,536
May	39,794	43,790	42,254
June	32,165	30,387	35,910
<i>2nd Quarter</i>	<u>110,642</u>	<u>119,610</u>	<u>119,700</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>245,326</i>	<i>264,817</i>	<i>271,946</i>
July	39,716	40,700	
August	55,033	54,651	
September	39,694	39,228	
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>134,443</u>	<u>134,579</u>	
October	45,302	49,090	
November	55,424	52,563	
December	55,630	57,146	
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>156,356</u>	<u>158,799</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>290,799</i>	<i>293,378</i>	
Whole Year	536,125	558,195	

Chart 1 - Monthly Distribution of Tourist Arrivals, January - June of 1998 and 1999

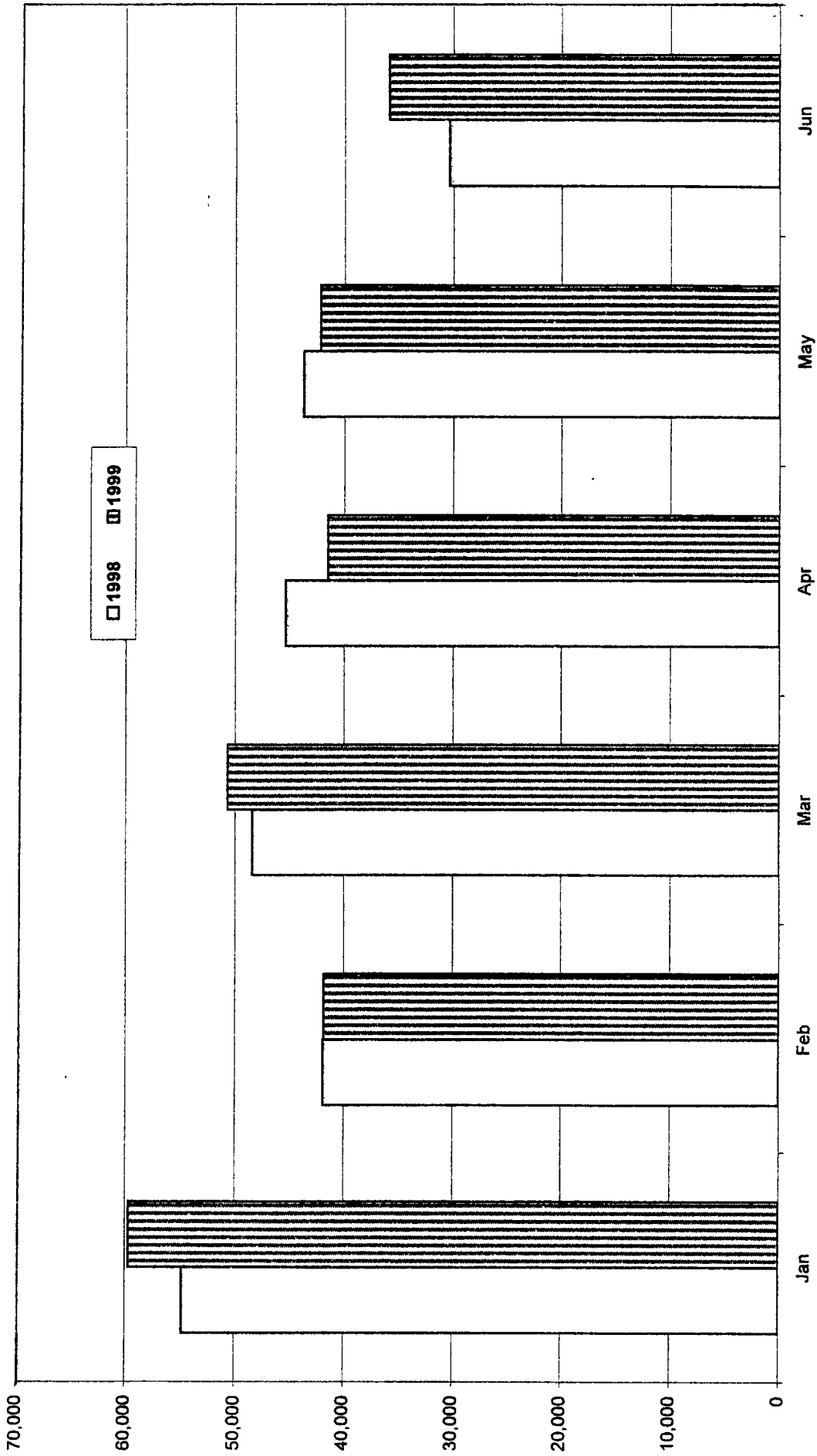


Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - June of 1998 and 1999

Country of residence	1998		1999							% Change 1998/99
	Jan - June	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jan - June		
EUROPE	168,704	36,079	32,131	34,854	28,247	26,782	21,391	179,484	6.4	
Austria	4,171	832	898	675	697	561	389	4,052	-2.9	
Belgium	3,861	653	718	724	867	651	691	4,304	11.5	
France	78,523	18,254	14,885	16,313	13,821	12,232	8,543	84,048	7.0	
Germany	21,908	4,604	3,535	4,703	3,265	3,565	2,564	22,236	1.5	
Italy	19,870	4,410	4,023	3,541	2,197	2,270	2,297	18,738	-5.7	
Netherlands	1,334	327	398	267	322	343	229	1,886	41.4	
Spain	1,879	251	292	536	321	408	523	2,331	24.1	
Sweden	1,878	532	732	512	272	144	205	2,397	27.6	
Switzerland	7,322	1,491	1,145	991	1,275	1,155	761	6,818	-6.9	
United Kingdom	21,484	3,145	3,956	5,112	4,182	4,674	4,352	25,421	18.3	
CIS	1,216	332	174	96	156	55	58	871	-28.4	
Other European	5,258	1,248	1,375	1,384	872	724	779	6,382	21.4	
AFRICA	74,988	20,972	6,640	12,695	10,227	11,472	10,318	72,324	-3.6	
Comoros	402	51	49	74	61	58	69	362	-10.0	
Kenya	694	88	70	192	158	125	151	784	13.0	
Malagasy Rep.	4,216	534	589	677	722	646	610	3,778	-10.4	
Reunion	38,112	16,190	2,447	6,451	3,491	6,399	4,245	39,223	2.9	
Seychelles	3,493	532	340	431	651	562	552	3,068	-12.2	
S/ Africa Rep. of	24,237	3,116	2,794	4,319	3,982	3,116	4,045	21,372	-11.8	
Zimbabwe	1,814	134	94	181	375	137	144	1,065	-41.3	
Other African	2,020	327	257	370	787	429	502	2,672	32.3	

Table 6 (contd.) : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, January - June of 1998 and 1999

Country of residence	1998		1999							% Change 1998/99
	Jan - June		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jan - June	
	ASIA	13,563	1,534	2,366	2,132	2,119	2,814	3,004	13,969	
Hong Kong	529	36	157	57	63	67	52	432	-18.3	
India	6,570	654	1,037	1,003	998	1,496	1,615	6,803	3.5	
Japan	1,023	177	362	194	130	117	203	1,183	15.6	
Malaysia	745	77	109	119	155	173	224	857	15.0	
P. Rep. of China	1,112	108	107	238	148	248	198	1,047	-5.8	
Singapore	1,809	232	286	250	335	342	345	1,790	-1.1	
Other Asian	1,775	250	308	271	290	371	367	1,857	4.6	
OCEANIA	4,786	641	334	606	521	825	694	3,621	-24.3	
Australia	4,558	622	313	581	508	801	655	3,480	-23.7	
Other Oceanian	228	19	21	25	13	24	39	141	-38.2	
AMERICA	2,754	447	382	417	416	361	498	2,521	-8.5	
USA	1,418	242	235	278	245	222	292	1,514	6.8	
Canada	668	104	94	103	114	102	138	655	-1.9	
Other American	668	101	53	36	57	37	68	352	-47.3	
OTHER & N.STATED	22	7	6	3	6	-	5	27	22.7	
All Countries	264,817	59,680	41,859	50,707	41,536	42,254	35,910	271,946	2.7	

Chart 2 - Tourist Arrivals from Top Ten Markets, January - June of 1998 and 1999

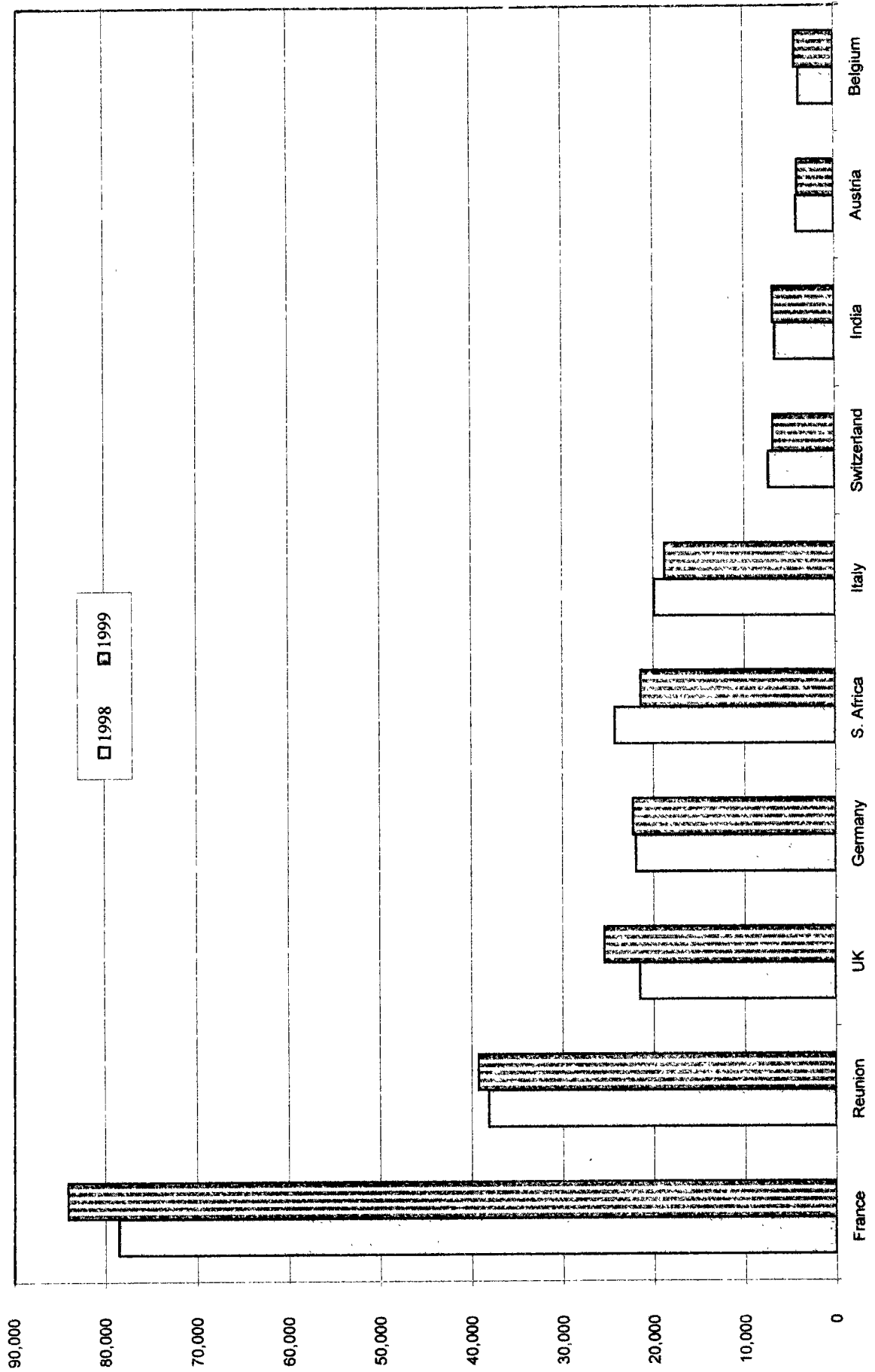


Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1997- 1999

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1997	1998	1999*
January	76	84	79
February	68	79	73
March	64	73	71
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>75</u>
April	69	70	68
May	65	67	67
June	53	50	60
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>65</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>70</i>
July	63	59	
August	76	74	
September	78	75	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>70</u>	
October	73	78	
November	83	84	
December	73	71	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>78</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>73</i>	
Whole Year	72	72	

* Provisional

Table 9:-Monthly room occupancy rates for large hotels, 1997 - 1999

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1997	1998	1999*
January	85	89	83
February	84	83	77
March	78	78	76
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>79</u>
April	76	75	74
May	72	71	73
June	58	55	64
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>70</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	76	75	75
July	69	64	
August	79	77	
September	85	82	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>74</u>	
October	81	83	
November	91	87	
December	78	74	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>82</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	80	78	
Whole Year	78	77	

* Provisional

Table 10 :- Monthly bed occupancy rates for large hotels, 1997 - 1999

Month	Bed occupancy rate (%)		
	1997	1998	1999*
January	75	78	74
February	74	73	68
March	69	69	67
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>70</u>
April	67	66	65
May	63	63	64
June	52	48	56
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>62</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	67	66	66
July	62	56	
August	70	68	
September	75	72	
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>65</u>	
October	72	74	
November	81	77	
December	69	65	
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>72</u>	
<i>2nd Semester</i>	72	69	
Whole Year	70	68	

* Provisional

Table 11:- Employment in the tourist industry as at March, 1995 - 1999

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Establishments					
Restaurants	1,000	1,154	1,118	1,389	1,288
Hotels	9,340	9,666	10,575	11,177	11,715
Travel and Tourism	3,515	3,596	3,732	3,924	4,108
Total	13,855	14,416	15,425	16,490	17,111

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