

Tourism - Third quarter 1985

Tourist arrivals

The number of tourist arrivals for the third quarter of 1985 was 39,700, representing an increase of 13% over the total of 35,100 for the same period of 1984 (Table I). This rate of increase is almost twice as big as that noted between the third quarter of 1983 and the third quarter of 1984. The main reason for the sharp increase is that Mauritius hosted the second Indian Ocean Games in August, and during that month received the visit of about 3,500 more than would otherwise be expected.

Table II shows that the majority of the additional visitors came from Reunion Island. It also shows that tourist arrivals from most of the traditional suppliers continued on an upward trend, except in the case of the Republic of South Africa, for which a decrease of about 19% is observed relative to the third quarter of 1984. However, in spite of this decrease, South Africa continued to be the second most important short-haul market after Reunion: it had a share of 15% of all arrivals compared to 28% for Reunion. France remained the main long-haul market with 18% of total tourist arrivals being from that country.

Tourist nights

The number of tourist nights increased by 13% from 387,000 in the third quarter of 1984 to 437,000 in the corresponding period of 1985 - (Table 1). The average number of nights spent by a tourist in Mauritius was 11.0 for both periods.

Occupancy rates

The room occupancy rate for large hotels fell from 62% in the third quarter of 1984 to 59% in the same period of 1985. The corresponding fall in the bed occupancy rate was from 53% to 50%. The reasons for these declines are (i) the reduction in the number of tourists from South Africa, and (ii) an increase in the number of rooms available, from 1180 in 1984 to 1290 in 1985. It is to be noted that many of the visitors who came in connexion with the second Indian Ocean Games stayed in small hotels, boarding houses and private bungalows.

Tourist earnings

It is estimated that tourist earnings amounted to 216 million rupees for the period under review compared to 135 million rupees for the corresponding period of 1984. The average amount spent by a tourist was 5,455 rupees against 3840 rupees in 1984. Thus, total earnings increased by 61% whilst average expenditure per tourist increased by 42%.

Forecasts for 1985

The number of tourist arrivals for the first nine months of 1985 was 108,000 as compared to 101,000 for the same period of 1984. Recent trends indicate that tourist arrivals from all the traditional suppliers are slightly on the increase except for South Africa as noted before. In the light of these observations it is estimated that the total arrivals for 1985 will be around 147,000, and the corresponding tourist nights around 1.6 million. Tourist earnings for the year are estimated at around 850 million rupees.

Central Statistical Office
Rose Hill

November 1985

Table 1 - Selected Tourism Statistics, 1981 - 1985

Year	Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (Million)	Tourist earnings (Rs Mn)
1981	121,620	1.36	421
1982	118,360	1.39	450
1983	123,820	1.41	503
1984	139,670	1.54	630
1984: 1st Qr.	36,160	0.399	176.7
2nd Qr.	29,750	0.328	145.4
1st Semester	<u>65,910</u>	<u>0.727</u>	<u>322.1</u>
3rd Qr.	35,060	0.387	134.6
4th Qr.	38,700	0.426	173.3
2nd Semester	<u>73,760</u>	<u>0.813</u>	<u>307.9</u>
1985: 1st Qr.	36,650	0.403*	216.0
2nd Qr.	31,450	0.346*	187.9
1st Semester	<u>68,100</u>	<u>0.749*</u>	<u>403.9</u>
3rd Qr.	39,740	0.437	216.1*

* provisional

Table II - Distribution of tourist arrivals by country of residence, 1983 - 1985

Country of residence	N U M B E R											
	1983		1984						1985			
	Year	1984	Year	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	1st Semester	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	2nd Semester	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	1st Semester
France	22,050	25,460	6,840	4,260	11,100	6,400	7,960	14,360	6,880	5,570	12,450	7,050
Germany, Fed. Rep.	6,960	7,890	2,010	1,740	3,750	1,490	2,650	4,140	2,850	1,860	4,710	1,950
Italy	5,520	6,170	2,340	950	3,290	1,240	1,640	2,880	2,400	1,030	3,430	1,740
Switzerland	2,570	5,440	1,630	940	2,570	920	1,950	2,870	1,670	1,040	2,710	1,180
United Kingdom	5,860	5,760	1,470	1,840	2,510	1,270	1,980	3,230	1,420	1,340	2,760	2,000
Malagasy Republic	8,110	7,780	1,660	1,040	3,500	2,120	2,160	4,260	1,460	1,380	2,840	1,930
Réunion Island	30,180	32,300	8,510	7,360	15,870	9,790	6,640	16,430	8,390	7,570	15,960	11,190
Seychelles	560	340	80	50	130	90	120	210	90	130	220	180
Kenya	690	700	150	200	350	80	270	350	180	170	350	120
South Africa, Rep. of	27,210	31,560	7,850	7,310	15,160	7,520	8,880	16,430	7,100	5,890	12,990	6,070
Zambia	720	680	180	170	350	140	190	330	60	200	260	190
Zimbabwe	1,730	1,800	390	560	950	480	370	850	400	510	910	420
Australia	1,680	1,580	210	300	510	610	460	1,070	280	580	860	1,070
India	1,710	2,540	340	630	970	650	920	1,570	600	980	1,580	1,180
U.S.A.	1,020	1,130	330	230	560	230	340	570	330	390	720	310
Other countries	7,250	8,540	2,170	2,170	4,340	2,030	2,170	4,260	2,540	2,590	5,230	3,160
All countries	123,820	139,670	36,160	29,750	65,910	35,060	38,700	73,760	36,650	31,330	67,980	39,740

* provisional

Table III - Tourist arrivals by month, 1983 - 1985

M O N T H	N U M B E R		
	1 9 8 3	1 9 8 4	1 9 8 5
January	13,130	14,180	14,250
February	9,190	10,850	10,620
March	9,780	11,130	11,780
1st Quarter	<u>32,100</u>	<u>36,160</u>	<u>36,650</u>
April	8,570	11,080	11,480
May	9,550	11,080	11,470
June	6,370	7,590	8,380
2nd Quarter	<u>24,490</u>	<u>29,750</u>	<u>31,330</u>
1st Semester	<u>56,590</u>	<u>65,910</u>	<u>67,980</u>
July	9,750	10,430	9,840
August	12,970	13,650	17,600
September	10,070	10,980	12,300
3rd Quarter	<u>32,830</u>	<u>35,060</u>	<u>39,740</u>
October	10,020	11,360	
November	10,450	12,420	
December	13,930	14,920	
4th Quarter	<u>34,400</u>	<u>38,700</u>	
2nd Semester	<u>67,230</u>	<u>73,760</u>	
Whole Year	123,820	139,670	

Table IV - Monthly room occupancy rates in large hotels, 1983 - 1985

MONTH	PERCENTAGE		
	1983	1984	1985
January	67.9	79.3	79.4
February	69.5	80.9	80.6
March	66.3	78.0	75.6
1st Quarter	<u>67.8</u>	<u>79.4</u>	<u>78.6</u>
April	57.5	74.0	69.8
May	50.4	69.2	61.1
June	44.8	51.9	46.0
2nd Quarter	<u>51.0</u>	<u>65.1</u>	<u>59.0</u>
1st semester	<u>52.4</u>	<u>72.3</u>	<u>60.6</u>
July	49.0	56.1	52.1
August	57.7	65.7	64.7
September	60.9	65.9	61.9*
3rd Quarter	<u>56.1</u>	<u>62.4</u>	<u>59.4*</u>
October	66.8	73.9	
November	82.3	81.5	
December	73.2	72.3	
4th Quarter	<u>74.0</u>	<u>75.8</u>	
2nd Semester	<u>65.0</u>	<u>69.2</u>	
Whole Year	<u>62.3</u>	<u>70.7</u>	

*provisional

Table V - Monthly bed occupancy rates in large hotels, 1983 - 1985

MONTH	PERCENTAGE		
	1983	1984	1985
January	57.2	69.9	68.7
February	56.1	68.5	68.5
March	58.2	64.4	61.9
1st Quarter	<u>55.8</u>	<u>67.6</u>	<u>66.3</u>
April	48.8	64.6	59.2
May	40.1	57.3	50.1
June	35.0	41.8	36.3
2nd Quarter	<u>41.4</u>	<u>54.7</u>	<u>40.5</u>
1st Semester	<u>48.6</u>	<u>61.2</u>	<u>57.3*</u>
July	40.5	47.4	42.8
August	47.5	56.6	56.0
September	49.9	55.9	51.4*
3rd Quarter	<u>45.9</u>	<u>53.2</u>	<u>50.1*</u>
October	57.0	62.1	
November	66.3	67.9	
December	63.7	62.8	
4th Quarter	<u>62.3</u>	<u>64.3</u>	
2nd Semester	<u>54.1</u>	<u>58.8</u>	
Whole Year	<u>51.4</u>	<u>60.0</u>	

*provisional