

International Travel & Tourism

Year 1998

1. Passenger Traffic

(i) Total Passenger Traffic

Passenger traffic for the year 1998 totalled 1,473,400, made of 738,000 arrivals and 735,400 departures. Compared to 1997, these figures represent increases of 4.6% in arrivals and 5.1% in departures. Further details on monthly trends are given in Table 1.

Total arrivals included 7,929 "excursionists", i.e. passengers arriving and leaving on the same day. Of these excursionists, 2,468 (31%) came from Reunion Island and 1,477 (19%) from France. Total arrivals also included 12,806 "cruise excursionists" (7,344 passengers and 5,462 crews) who visited our port aboard 19 cruise ships during the year 1998.

(ii) Mauritian Residents

The number of Mauritians travelling abroad has increased by 8% from 131,600 in 1997 to 142,700 in 1998. Reunion Island remained their favourite destination with 47,200 departures followed by France with 17,800 departures. It is also observed that departures to European countries dropped by 11% while growths of 24% and 9% were registered on African and Asian countries respectively. Important growths were also noted on the following destinations: Malaysia (+176%), Kenya (+126%) and Seychelles (+116%). A more elaborate distribution of countries visited is presented in Table 2.

(iii) Tourist Arrivals

Tourist arrivals for the year 1998 reached 558,195 against a figure of 536,125 in 1997, representing an increase of 4%. This overall growth was the net effect of increase of 8% in arrivals from European countries counterbalanced by decline from Asian and African markets. Further details on tourist arrivals may be obtained from Tables 3 to 6.

Around 92% of the tourists came mainly for holidays while 4% were on business trips and another 3% were in transit.

Arrivals from Europe registered a growth of 8% during the year 1998 to reach a figure of 352,500 compared to 326,000 for the previous year. Thus the share of the European market has increased from 61% in 1997 to 63% in 1998. This was mainly due to growth from France (+12%) and United Kingdom (+14%) which were responsible in bringing an additional 23,900 arrivals, to stand at 162,800 and 52,300 respectively. The other major generating countries have known irregular trends with arrivals from Germany and Switzerland remaining nearly at the 1997 level while Italy posted a 4% growth. The performance of the other European countries was as follows: Spain (+24%), Netherlands (+8%), Belgium (+3%), Austria (-7%) and Sweden (-14%).

Tourist arrivals from Africa, with a share 29% of the total, regressed marginally by 0.6% during the year 1998. Our leading source country from this continent, Reunion Island grew slightly from 82,600 in 1997 to 84,000 in 1998 while arrivals from the Republic of South Africa decreased by 3% to a figure of 49,700 in 1998 compared to 51,200 in 1997. Changes from other African countries were as follows:- Kenya (+37%), Malagasy Republic (-9%), Seychelles (-5%) and Zimbabwe (-11%).

Arrivals from Asia have declined by 9% during the reference year. The main generating country, India showed a drop of 4.5% to stand at 12,600 for 1998. Trends from other Asian markets were as follows:- People's Republic of China (+12%), Singapore (+3%), Japan (-20%), Malaysia (-29%) and Hong Kong (-41%).

Arrivals from Oceania have declined by 6% as a result of a 6% drop in tourists from Australia.

Compared to the previous year, the American market recorded a growth of 6%. This was the net effect of a 10% increase from USA and a decline of 5% from Canada.

2. Tourist Nights

The number of nights spent in Mauritius in 1998 is estimated at 5.8 million, i.e. an increase of 6% over the previous year. The average length of stay of a tourist worked out to around 10.4 nights.

3. Hotel Statistics

At the end of December 1998, there were 90 registered hotels in operation, of which 28 were considered "Large", i.e. well-established beach hotels with more than 80 rooms. The total capacity for all registered hotels was 7,267 rooms with 14,995 bedplaces. For "Large" hotels the room capacity was 4,878 with 9,970 bedplaces.

The monthly room occupancy rates for the year 1998 averaged 72% for all hotels whereas bed occupancy rate was 63%. For large hotels, the corresponding figure was 77% for room occupancy rate and 68% for bed occupancy rate. For further details on hotel statistics, refer to tables 7 to 10.

4. Gross Tourism Receipts

Gross earnings from tourism for the year under review is estimated at 11,900 million rupees, which is 18% higher than the figure of 10,068 million rupees registered for the year 1997. The average earning per tourist amounted to 21,300 rupees compared to 18,800 rupees for last year. Quarterly figures of tourism receipts are given in Table 3.

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, 68% or 11,200 were engaged in hotels. Table 11 shows the distribution of employment in tourism sector.

6. Forecast 1999

Based on the trends of previous years, total tourist arrivals is expected to be around 590,000 with gross receipts of the order of 13,000 million rupees for the year 1999.

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

PORT LOUIS

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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 passenger is one who stops over in a 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 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

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	67,896
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<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
<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>140,101</u>	<u>144,972</u>	<u>149,894</u>	<u>148,468</u>	<u>161,626</u>	<u>161,963</u>
<i>1st Semester</i>	<i>292,196</i>	<i>305,123</i>	<i>323,524</i>	<i>336,589</i>	<i>345,026</i>	<i>362,755</i>
July	48,602	39,817	55,178	48,877	56,918	47,300
August	65,588	71,365	72,013	75,022	73,980	80,635
September	48,790	49,907	52,814	54,316	52,789	53,822
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>162,980</u>	<u>161,089</u>	<u>180,005</u>	<u>178,215</u>	<u>183,687</u>	<u>181,757</u>
October	57,262	51,312	58,074	55,871	62,674	57,243
November	58,536	59,987	69,700	69,597	68,394	69,975
December	71,726	56,861	73,974	59,486	78,240	63,620
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>187,524</u>	<u>168,160</u>	<u>201,748</u>	<u>184,954</u>	<u>209,308</u>	<u>190,838</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>350,504</i>	<i>329,249</i>	<i>381,753</i>	<i>363,169</i>	<i>392,995</i>	<i>372,595</i>
Whole Year	642,700	634,372	705,277	699,758	738,021	735,350

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

Country of disembarkation	1997	1998	% Change
EUROPE	42,185	37,630	-10.8
Belgium	763	546	-28.4
France	19,672	17,783	-9.6
Germany	1,396	1,607	15.1
Italy	3,149	2,630	-16.5
Switzerland	1,681	1,828	8.7
United Kingdom	14,970	12,754	-14.8
Other European	554	482	-13.0
AFRICA	57,322	71,088	24.0
Kenya	1,742	3,943	126.3
Malagasy Republic	3,163	4,224	33.5
Reunion	38,941	47,162	21.1
Seychelles	1,764	3,807	115.8
S. Africa, Rep. of	10,501	10,900	3.8
Zimbabwe	1,084	938	-13.5
Other African	127	114	-10.2
ASIA	28,103	30,539	8.7
Hong Kong	2,984	1,931	-35.3
India	12,987	12,809	-1.4
Malaysia	671	1,853	176.2
Singapore	9,250	11,993	29.7
Saudi Arabia	1,785	1,870	4.8
Other Asian	426	83	-80.5
OCEANIA	3,611	3,326	-7.9
Australia	3,610	3,326	-7.9
Other Oceanian	1	-	-100.0
AMERICA	292	124	-57.5
U.S.A	86	29	-66.3
Canada	202	94	-53.5
Other American	4	1	-75.0
NOT STATED	97	-	-100.0
All Countries	131,610	142,707	8.4

Table 3:- Selected tourism statistics, 1995 - 1998

Year	Number as at end of period			Tourist arrivals (Number)	Tourist nights (000)	Tourist 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	5,800 *	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	1,480 *	3,040 *
	2nd Qr.	88	7,039	14,569	119,610	1,220 *	2,528 *
	1st Semester	88	7,039	14,569	264,817	2,700 *	5,568 *
	3rd Qr.	89	7,074	14,639	134,579	1,480 *	2,714 *
	4th Qr.	90	7,267	14,995	158,799	1,620 *	3,608 *
	2nd Semester	90	7,267	14,995	293,378	3,100 *	6,322 *

* Provisional

¹ Source: Bank of Mauritius

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

Purpose of visit	1997	1998	% Change
Holiday	494,563	512,746	3.7
Business	18,997	20,663	8.8
Transit	12,513	14,744	17.8
Conference	4,427	3,958	-10.6
Sports	1,310	946	-27.8
Other & Not Stated	4,315	5,138	19.1
Total	536,125	558,195	4.1

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>	218,395	245,326	264,817
July	35,656	39,716	40,700
August	50,347	55,033	54,651
September	36,681	39,694	39,228
<i>3rd Quarter</i>	<u>122,684</u>	<u>134,443</u>	<u>134,579</u>
October	45,930	45,302	49,090
November	46,130	55,424	52,563
December	53,728	55,630	57,146
<i>4th Quarter</i>	<u>145,788</u>	<u>156,356</u>	<u>158,799</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	268,472	290,799	293,378
Whole Year	486,867	536,125	558,195

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

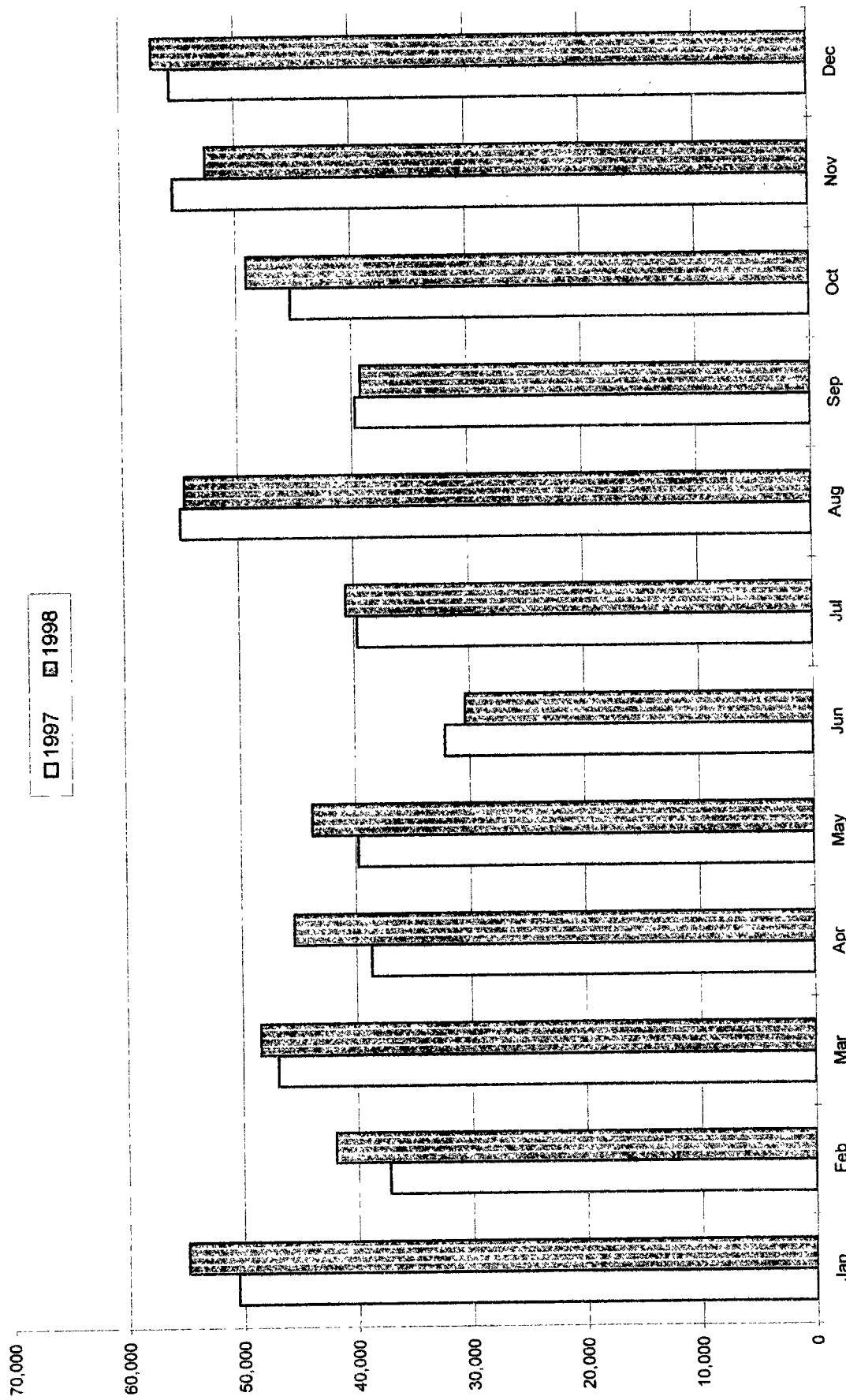


Table 6 : - Tourist Arrivals by Country of Residence, 1997/1998

Country of residence	1998												% Change 1997/98		
	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov		Dec	Year
EUROPE	326,379	32,268	31,976	33,294	29,668	23,970	17,528	24,602	26,843	25,160	34,302	38,651	34,268	352,530	8.0
Austria	8,317	981	988	643	614	591	354	625	355	565	514	919	608	7,757	-6.7
Belgium	8,162	649	670	569	875	474	624	640	456	739	852	982	835	8,365	2.5
France	145,173	15,343	14,809	16,357	14,209	11,201	6,604	10,942	12,612	8,791	15,208	19,654	17,045	162,775	12.1
Germany	43,993	4,016	3,586	4,280	4,233	3,501	2,292	2,450	2,954	3,367	4,205	5,283	3,659	43,826	-0.4
Italy	35,255	4,831	4,744	4,272	2,359	1,749	1,915	1,770	3,569	2,658	2,917	2,306	3,524	36,614	3.9
Netherlands	2,868	183	192	339	244	187	189	345	180	297	369	315	245	3,085	7.6
Spain	3,825	230	195	222	452	339	441	460	582	620	538	348	311	4,738	23.9
Sweden	4,660	466	565	314	312	114	107	117	63	145	725	494	600	4,022	-13.7
Switzerland	16,105	1,695	1,440	1,118	1,420	945	704	1,284	705	1,336	2,007	1,958	1,566	16,178	0.5
United Kingdom	46,022	2,553	3,442	3,983	3,672	4,218	3,616	5,194	4,544	5,664	5,884	5,147	4,382	52,299	13.6
CIS	2,151	367	159	231	167	172	120	101	128	147	107	76	264	2,039	-5.2
Other European	9,848	954	1,186	966	1,111	479	562	674	695	831	976	1,169	1,229	10,832	10.0
AFRICA	164,198	19,425	7,161	11,923	12,637	15,740	8,102	12,212	24,305	10,481	11,084	10,942	19,123	163,135	-0.6
Comoros	969	69	55	54	79	76	69	60	68	69	64	117	127	907	-6.4
Kenya	1,230	42	67	100	267	117	101	119	209	92	116	114	340	1,684	36.9
Malagasy Rep.	10,143	570	643	813	828	763	599	783	906	860	798	801	849	9,213	-9.2
Reunion	82,628	14,023	2,066	5,839	3,821	9,905	2,458	5,156	17,276	2,957	5,825	5,492	9,148	83,966	1.6
Seychelles	8,995	441	382	434	936	700	600	658	1,012	602	630	671	1,463	8,529	-5.2
S/ Africa Rep. of	51,249	3,881	3,662	4,124	5,220	3,556	3,794	4,815	3,838	4,650	3,010	2,845	6,281	49,676	-3.1
Zimbabwe	4,248	194	146	258	715	303	198	205	385	334	265	389	404	3,796	-10.6
Other African	4,736	205	140	301	771	320	283	416	611	917	376	513	511	5,364	13.3

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

Country of residence	1997	1998												% Change 1997/98	
	Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		Year
ASIA	30,094	2,150	1,943	1,961	1,896	2,859	2,754	2,532	2,376	2,329	2,402	1,789	2,288	27,279	-9.4
Hong Kong	1,629	245	37	55	71	71	50	121	72	55	74	39	79	969	-40.5
India	13,220	649	989	886	972	1,712	1,362	1,208	991	995	1,086	806	973	12,629	-4.5
Japan	3,140	274	123	131	140	144	211	218	341	255	205	166	297	2,505	-20.2
Malaysia	2,175	135	58	68	79	130	275	102	115	142	100	114	226	1,544	-29.0
P. Rep. of China	2,111	137	155	247	130	218	225	170	157	323	330	159	115	2,366	12.1
Singapore	3,404	493	329	260	193	240	294	329	266	183	264	298	366	3,515	3.3
Other Asian	4,415	217	252	314	311	344	337	384	434	376	343	207	232	3,751	-15.0
OCEANIA	9,896	511	479	784	773	841	1,398	789	717	886	728	644	799	9,349	-5.5
Australia	9,460	484	458	765	713	782	1,356	737	684	846	708	615	765	8,913	-5.8
Other Oceanian	436	27	21	19	60	59	42	52	33	40	20	29	34	436	0.0
AMERICA	5,509	485	368	473	455	376	597	560	406	369	566	526	661	5,842	6.0
USA	2,879	184	193	269	265	201	306	254	242	212	342	318	372	3,158	9.7
Canada	1,662	101	93	111	115	85	163	211	120	81	139	139	226	1,584	-4.7
Other American	968	200	82	93	75	90	128	95	44	76	85	69	63	1,100	13.6
OTHER & NOT STATED	49	0	1	5	4	4	8	5	4	3	8	11	7	60	22.4
All Countries	536,125	54,839	41,928	48,440	45,433	43,790	30,387	40,700	54,651	39,228	49,090	52,563	57,146	558,195	4.1

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

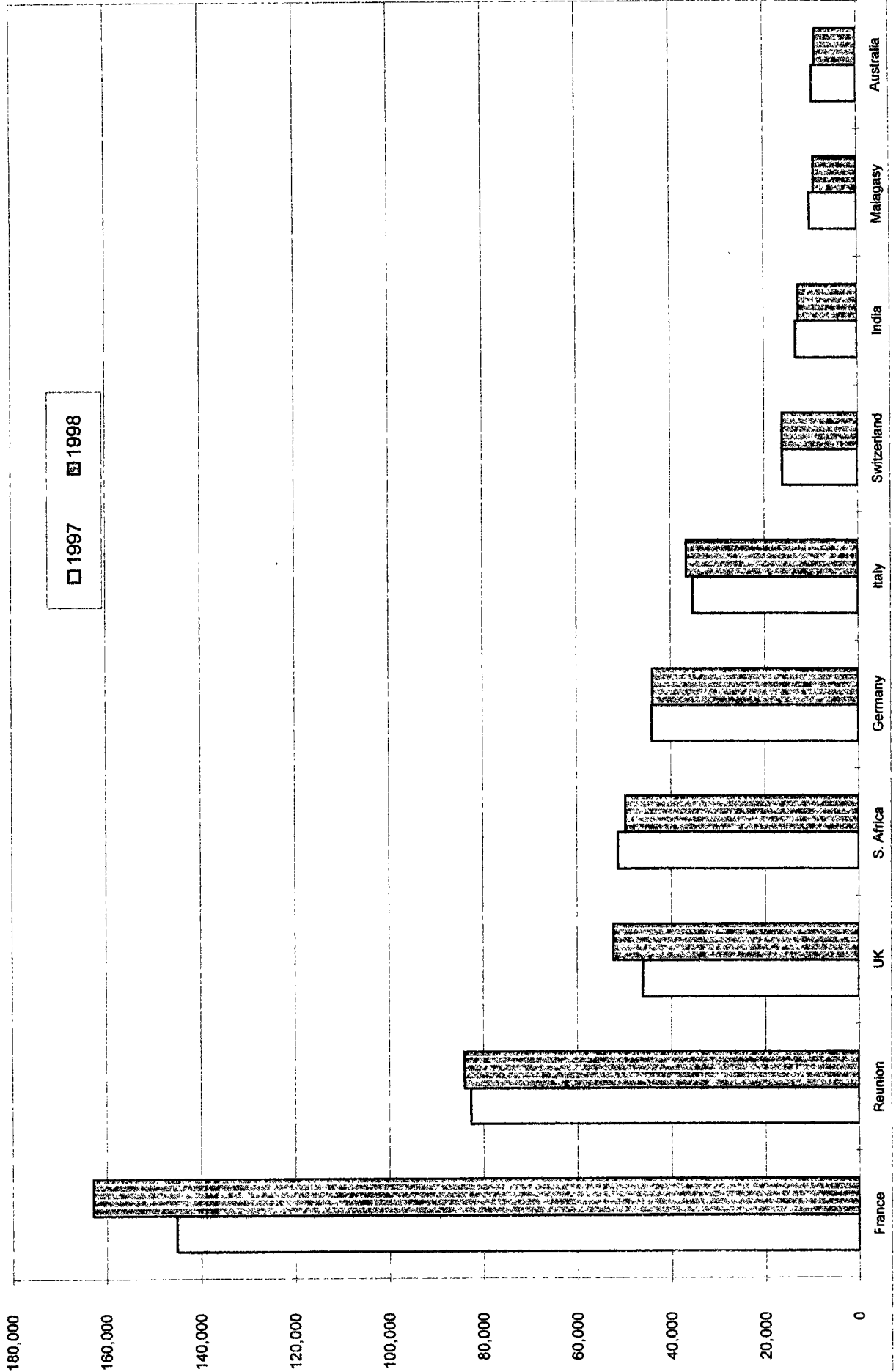


Table 7:- Monthly room occupancy rates for all registered hotels, 1996- 1998

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	72	76	84
February	67	68	79
March	69	64	73
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>79</u>
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	59
August	69	76	74
September	70	78	75
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>70</u>
October	77	73	78
November	83	83	84
December	76	73	71
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>78</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	71	74	73
Whole Year	68	72	72

* Provisional

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

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	63	67	74
February	58	60	69
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>	<i>57</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>62</i>
July	48	56	51
August	60	67	65
September	60	68	65
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>61</u>
October	69	64	69
November	73	73	73
December	66	64	62
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>68</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>64</i>
Whole Year	60	64	63

* Provisional

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

Month	Occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	80	85	89
February	77	84	83
March	76	78	78
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>83</u>
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	64
August	72	79	77
September	77	85	82
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>74</u>
October	83	81	83
November	88	91	87
December	79	78	74
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>82</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	76	80	78
Whole Year	74	78	77

* Provisional

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

Month	Bed occupancy rate (%)		
	1996	1997	1998*
January	71	75	78
February	68	74	73
March	67	69	69
<u>1st Quarter</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>73</u>
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	56
August	63	70	68
September	68	75	72
<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>65</u>
October	76	72	74
November	79	81	77
December	70	69	65
<u>4th Quarter</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>72</u>
<i>2nd Semester</i>	67	72	69
Whole Year	65	70	68

* Provisional

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

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Establishments					
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)